

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

MELTDOWN

Press Release

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Artist images: available to download [here](#)

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First artists announced for Little Simz' Meltdown at the Southbank Centre



L-R: Lola Young © Sophie Jones; Little Simz © Thibaut Grevet; Jon Batiste © Jen Rosenstein

The **Southbank Centre** has announced the much-anticipated first wave of artists performing at **Little Simz' Meltdown**. Taking place this summer from **Thursday 12 - Sunday 22 June**, Little Simz is assembling an outstanding line-up of artists that defy genre, forge new musical ideas and reflect the expanse of Little Simz' captivating body of work.

Little Simz, the curator of the 30th edition of Meltdown, will play a unique, one-off special performance in the **Royal Festival Hall** on Sunday 22 June and perform alongside Southbank Centre Resident Orchestra **Chineke! Orchestra**. Reputed for her inimitable live performances, Simz will play hits from her stellar catalogue of music including material from her upcoming sixth studio album *Lotus*, set for release on 9 May via AWAL Recordings.

Kicking off this year's Meltdown in the Royal Festival Hall will be the legendary Mike Skinner-led project **The Streets**, performing on Thursday 12 June. The Royal Festival Hall will also welcome 2025 BRIT Award nominee with the number one hit "Messy" **Lola Young** (17 June), MOBO Award-winning London-born rapper **Ghetts** (18 June), and the multi-GRAMMY® and Academy Award® winner **Jon Batiste** (21 June). In addition, the **Queen Elizabeth Hall** will host the British-Colombian singer-songwriter **Sasha Keable** with Flames Collective (14 June), and the vocalist and co-founder of Swedish group Little Dragon, **Yukimi** (18 June).

London's youth clubs have birthed incredible talent such as Little Simz, and this tradition will be carried on at Meltdown as the Southbank Centre will build a unique one-off young producers project for the festival. Over the next three months in the lead up to Meltdown, a selection of young producers hailing from all corners of London will prepare to transform the site's public spaces into a playground of curated activity, events and showcases that will run during the festival. The programme will spotlight young people at the heart of the events, and reflect Little Simz' ongoing mission into supporting new talent.

Commenting on curating this year's Meltdown, Little Simz said: *"My team and I are preparing eleven days of art, music, workshops and more. So many incredible artists have curated this festival so it's a true honour to be a part of it. Thank you to the Southbank Centre for having me. Meltdown 2025 the Simz way is going to be epic. I'll see you there."*

Jane Beese, Head of Contemporary Music, Southbank Centre said: *"Little Simz' first taste of what's to come from her Meltdown hugely embodies the wealth of influences and inspirations across her work. Ranging from jazz, hip hop, R&B, electronic and soul with a line up of both renowned legends alongside the creators of the future, this is only the start for what's going to be London's go-to festival this summer."*

Mark Ball, Artistic Director, Southbank Centre added: *"It's hugely exciting to see a lineup that stretches from our home in London, with multiple artists from across the city, to global names coming to the Southbank Centre for one of our true highlights of the summer. Little Simz' passions and curation showcase the Southbank Centre as an engine of creativity and a cultural playground. I can't wait to see what else Little Simz has in store."*

Tickets will go on sale to members on Wednesday 26 March at 10:00am, and to the general public on Friday 28 March at 10:00am via southbankcentre.co.uk.

Further artists performing at Little Simz' Meltdown will be announced in due course, along with details of the free public programme during the festival.

ENDS

EVENT LISTINGS

[The Streets](#)

Thursday 12 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

[Sasha Keable](#)

Saturday 14 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

[Lola Young](#)

Tuesday 17 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

[Ghetts](#)

Wednesday 18 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

[Yukimi](#)

Wednesday 18 June, Queen Elizabeth Hall, 7pm

[Jon Batiste](#)

Saturday 21 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

[Little Simz & Chineke! Orchestra](#)

Sunday 22 June, Royal Festival Hall, 7pm

For more information:

Press Office – press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: available to download [here](#)

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#meltdownfest

About Meltdown

The Southbank Centre's award-winning Meltdown festival has been running annually since 1993 and is the longest-running artist-curated festival in the world. Each year the Southbank Centre invites a different cultural figure to act as curator and select performers and events of their choosing. Previous curators are: Chaka Khan, Christine and the Queens, Grace Jones, Nile Rodgers, Robert Smith, M.I.A., Guy Garvey, David Byrne, James Lavelle, Yoko Ono, Anohni, Ray Davies, Richard Thomson, Ornette Coleman, Massive Attack, Jarvis Cocker, Patti Smith, Morrissey, Lee Scratch-Perry, David Bowie, Robert Wyatt, Scott Walker, Nick Cave, John Peel, Laurie Anderson, Magnus Lindberg, Elvis Costello, Louis Andriessen and George Benjamin. Previous performers include Philip Glass, Lou Reed, Ivor Cutler, Sonic Youth, Suicide, Nina Simone, Blur, Radiohead, David Gilmour, Coldplay, Mercury Rev, Television, The Dandy Warhols, The Polyphonic Spree, The Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Nancy Sinatra, Bert Jansch, Jeff Beck, John Cale, Iggy & The Stooges, Motorhead, Massive Attack, Moby, Nine Inch Nails, The Libertines, The Cure and Femi Kuti. Meltdown has a reputation for staging one-off performances and collaborations by legendary artists. Patti Smith performed *Horses* in full for her Meltdown; Ray Davies re-staged the TV pop show 'Ready Steady Go!'; Jeff Buckley played his final UK show at Elvis Costello's Meltdown; The New York Dolls reunited for Morrissey; Nick Cave, Grace Jones and Pete Doherty sang Disney songs with Jarvis Cocker; and a rare live performance from Cocteau Twins' Elizabeth Fraser was part of Anohni's Meltdown. Robert Smith's 2018 Meltdown and Grace Jones' 2022 Meltdown were both nominated for Music Week Awards Festival of the Year with Smith's also winning the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). www.southbankcentre.co.uk



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