

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Date: Monday 21 October 2024

Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: [HERE](#)

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A festive celebration for all: Southbank Centre's Winter season is back for 2024

- **Friday 1 November 2024 – Sunday 5 January 2025**
- Joyful programme of Winter shows for everyone, including *1927: Please Right Back*, *Circa's: Duck Pond*, *Carlos Acosta's Nutcracker in Havana* and *Tom Fletcher's The Creakers*
- The magical *Winter Light* exhibition illuminates the Southbank Centre
- Free events, from dance workshops to community activities for everyone to enjoy and the beloved *Winter Market* returns with even more scrumptious food, seasonal tipples and unique gifts



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

The Southbank Centre's **Winter Season** makes a welcome return with a packed programme for everyone to enjoy. A highlight in the cultural calendar, visitors can step into the glittering world of the Southbank Centre to experience dazzling circus, theatre, music and comedy performances from the likes of **Acosta Danza**, and **Circa**, alongside free workshops, glimmering **Winter Light** art installations and the return of our wondrous **Winter Market**.

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, says: “Alongside guaranteed festivity, our Winter Season brings uplifting and inspiring experiences created by world-leading artists, from bright and bold new dance performances to unique musical retellings of iconic Christmas classics. With plenty of free family friendly activities and our fabulous Winter Market, the Southbank Centre invites all to come together, try something new and enjoy the seasonal cheer.”

Winter Shows

There’s something for everyone this Winter, with an array of new performances presented across the Southbank Centre’s stages. The story of *Swan Lake* is told like never before through the magic of Australia’s leading circus company Circa’s soaring skills in [Duck Pond](#) (19 - 30 Dec). For dance lovers, Carlos Acosta presents simmering choreography and brings a new Cuban spirit to *The Nutcracker* in [Carlos Acosta’s Nutcracker in Havana](#) (10 - 15 Dec). Surprises, silliness, scares and rocking new songs feature in a brand new magical, musical adventure for all the family in [Tom Fletcher’s The Creakers](#) (18 Dec - 5 Jan). Combining handcrafted animation and bold storytelling, [Please Right Back](#) (21 Dec - 5 Jan) sweeps audiences into a magical, mischievous world, in this poignant coming-of-age tale inspired by a true story.

Music Performances

Music is integral to the festive season and this year’s Winter season features incredible musicians and singers. Join the [London Gay Men’s Chorus: Christmas Bop](#) (6-7 Dec) for an energetic arrangement of festive classics that capture the dance halls of the 1950s and 1960s, or revel in the choral majesty of [Handel’s Messiah](#) performed by the **Philharmonia Orchestra** and **Philharmonia Chorus** (13 Dec). [Christmas Classics](#) returns for 2024 with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** (14 Dec) and the **Philharmonia Orchestra** (15 Dec) performing a selection of traditional carols alongside popular contemporary Christmas favourites. Meanwhile, legendary Welsh bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel** hosts [Bryn’s Christmas](#) featuring festive carols in English and Welsh, as well as orchestral pieces (16 Dec).

For One Night Only

Comedian and writer **Adam Buxton** and his old friend director Joe Cornish, host a live recording of [Adam Buxton Podcast: Christmas with Joe Cornish](#) (5 Dec). Royal Festival Hall hosts the London film premiere of [All of This Unreal Time](#) (6 Dec) starring Oscar-winning Cillian Murphy, followed by a Q&A and live music composed by the scores’ composers Aaron and Bryce Dessner, and Jon Hopkins.

Free Events

An incredible range of free events bring cheer to the community across the winter season. [Five Go Jiving](#) (24 Dec) returns, inviting dancers of all ages and abilities to jive and swing dance around the Clore Ballroom. Also returning is the raucous [New Year’s Day Ceilidh](#) (1 Jan) celebrating the new year with a day of dancing and music steeped in Gaelic tradition.

Discover what we all can do to celebrate the festive period sustainably with **Winter Re-Imagined: Re-use, Re-vive and Sing** (14 Dec), an afternoon of craft workshops utilising old and waste materials accompanied by a giant festive sing-a-long from one of London's most iconic choirs. **Winter Re-Imagined: Family Morning**, gives children and families the opportunity to join in on the fun, with a morning of workshops and music ending in an uplifting sing-a-long.

Ring in the new year, **Kids' Countdown** (31 Dec) lets little ones join in on the New Year's Eve celebrations with a family-focused party and a countdown to 12 at midday. Monthly dance programme **Mix and Move** rounds out the year with the **Winter Special** (13 Dec), a party-style class inviting all to try new routines from a medley of dance styles accompanied by a live band.

From **Creative Encounters, December Survival Kit** (11 Dec) provides a playful evening combining warm and funny stories from Nick Cassenbaum with live music, while **Stacy Makishi** (18 Dec) presents an array of artistic rituals, drawing inspiration from her Hawaiian and Ryukyuan heritage. The **About Us! Artists' Scratch Showcase** (15 Dec) invites artists over 18 from an immigrant background to share their ongoing artistic endeavours in a creative and supportive environment full of discussion and like-minded artistic experimenters.

Winter Light

1 Nov 2024 – 2 Feb 2025, 4pm – 10pm, Free

Marvel in the warm glow of the Southbank Centre's free outdoor exhibition trail, with five new works adorning the site for 2024. Look up, and **Nathaniel Rackowe's** *Desire Lines* illuminates the Thames tree canopy, whilst projections by **Aoife Dunne** and **Mat Collishaw** beam high against the Royal Festival Hall, exploring the intersection of technology, nature and the human psyche. **Sophia Al Maria's** *Act One, Scene One*, combines film, colour and poetry to navigate an uncertain future, and **Erdend Tait's** wondrous, mythology inspired installation incorporates the traditional technique of glass painting.

The Queen Elizabeth Hall windows light up once again with even more joyful neon creations designed by Lambeth school children as part of the **Squire & Partners x Southbank Centre Winter Windows** project. **Marinella Senatore's** large-scale decorative light sculpture *We Rise by Lifting Others* returns, as well **David Batchelor's** *Sixty Minute Spectrum*, **Fred Tschida's** glowing *SPHERE*, **Jokob Kvist's** glimmering *Dichroic Sphere* and **Denman+Gould with Maeve Polkinhorn's** pocket garden. **Tavares Strachan's** neon affirmation *You Belong Here* also continues to stand proud upon the Hayward Gallery.

Specially curated **guided tours** provide a unique insight into the artworks and artists (5 and 12 Dec), as well as the opportunity for families to make their very own Winter Light artwork (19 Dec).

Winter Exhibitions

There's plenty more art this winter at the Southbank Centre. Head inside to the Hayward Gallery for [Haegue Yang: Leap Year](#) (9 Oct 2024 — 5 Jan 2025), a major UK survey of the internationally celebrated artist. Haegue Yang's multifaceted and boundary pushing work often transforms everyday domestic items and industrial objects into distinctive sculptures and multimedia installations that are exuberant and festive.

Over in the HENI Project Space, visitors can explore the free exhibition [Huang Po-Chih: Waves](#) (9 Oct 2024 - 5 Jan 2025), the first solo exhibition in the UK from the Taiwanese artist. Featuring new video and text-based work alongside installation, photography and sculpture, Huang Po-Chih reflects on the socio-political impacts of the globalised garment industries in East Asia.

Winter favourite **Koestler Arts** returns to the Southbank Centre for the 17th edition of its annual, free exhibition presenting works made by people in the criminal justice system (1 Nov – 15 Dec). Titled [No Comment](#), the exhibition features 200 artworks across a variety of mediums with curators **Jeremy Deller** and **John Costi's** intention being to 'let the art speak for itself.'

Winter Market and Pop-Ups

Fri 1 Nov – Thu 26 Dec, Queen's Walk

The beloved Southbank Centre [Winter Market](#) lines the Thames-side with twinkling lights and traditional alpine-style chalets where visitors can sample indulgent drinks and scrumptious street food, or shop for gifts from independent craft traders.

Fire & Fromage is back with unlimited raclette and fire pits to toast-your-own marshmallows, whilst **The Thirsty Farrier** brings warming winter drinks and cocktails mixed in a vintage horsebox bar. For chocoholics **Choco Fruit** offers fruit kebabs laden with Belgian chocolate.

Sliding into the Christmas spirit earlier (on 10 October) [The Curling Club](#) returns to the Builder's Yard, under Hungerford Bridge. This alpine-themed pop-up is a chance to enjoy casual curling with seasonal cocktails, indulgent food and festive music - with a light dusting of competition.

Southbank Centre Shop

Festive season has arrived at the Southbank Centre Christmas Shop, with glitter galore, festive decorations, design-led ranges, unique prints and gifts for culture lovers.

[Shop online](#), or visit one of our three shops at the Southbank Centre; Hayward Gallery Shop, the newly refurbished Royal Festival Hall Shop and Mandela Walk Shop.

Become a [Southbank Centre Member](#) and enjoy 20% off in our shops among other benefits such as presale tickets for all of our events and unlimited free entry to all Hayward Gallery exhibitions.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Image credits (clockwise, L-R)

- Marinella Senatore, *We Rise by Lifting Others* © Todd-White Art Photography, London. Courtesy of the Artist and Mazzoleni, London - Torino.
- *Circa's Duck Pond* © Pia Johnson
- *Southbank Centre Winter Market*, © Adam Luszniak

Link to Winter Festival webpage [here](#)

Link to Winter Market 2024 [here](#)

Link to the Southbank Centre Shop [here](#)

Winter Light

Winter Light is curated by Cedar Lewisohn, Curator of Site Design at the Southbank Centre, with Assistant Curators Mark Healy and Madeleine Lynch, and Curatorial Assistant Helena Adalsteinsdottir.

Further information on *Winter Light* energy consumption is available upon request.

For further press information please contact:

Press Office, press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Join the conversation:

#WinterFestival

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PR Contacts

Carlos Acosta's Nutcracker in Havana

10 – 15 Dec

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

From £20

Contact: info@buchananpr.co.uk

Christmas Classics

14 & 15 Dec, various times

Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

From £30

Contact for LPO: kath.trout@lpo.org.uk; Georgie.Blyth@lpo.org.uk

Contact for Philharmonia: clair@breadandbutterpr.uk; skye@breadandbutterpr.uk

Tom Fletcher's The Creakers

18 Dec 2024 – 5 Jan 2025

Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall

From £20

Contact: david.bloom@storyhousepr.co.uk nada.zakula@storyhousepr.co.uk

Circa's Duck Pond

19 – 30 Dec, various times

Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall

From £30

Contact: chloe@aboutgracepr.com; laura@aboutgracepr.com;

1927: Please Right Back

21 Dec – 5 Jan 2025

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room

From £16

PR Contact: susannah.browning@southbankcentre.co.uk

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today.

The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) and 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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