

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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Images: [HERE](#)

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Season of sparkle: Southbank Centre's Winter Festival returns for 2023

- **Saturday 28 October 2023 – Sunday 7 January 2024**
- Packed programme of Winter shows for everyone, including *Nutcracker* and *Christmas Actually*
- Annual *Winter Light* exhibition sets the Southbank Centre site aglow
- Free events, from choir showcases to dance workshops for all
- New *Pay It Forwards* initiative allows visitors to lend a helping hand this winter
- The popular Winter Market returns with even more delicious food, drink and gifts



Credit line top left to bottom right: *Nutcracker* © Mark Senior, *Dichroic Sphere*, Jakob Kvist © Christoffer Askman, Kids Countdown with Len Blanco © Alice Boagey, Southbank Centre Winter Market © India Roper-Evans

The Southbank Centre's **Winter Festival** is back for 2023 and bigger than ever before, showcasing a programme bursting with festive family fun. Visitors can come together this winter and experience magical dance, cabaret, music and comedy performances from the likes of **Nutcracker** and **Christmas Actually**, alongside free workshops, dazzling **Winter Light** art installations and a variety of food and gift markets. There is something for everyone this season.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Southbank Centre's Open Foyer Policy, the Southbank Centre remains a welcoming, designated warm space for everyone to enjoy, as well as introducing a new **"Pay it Forwards"** initiative in collaboration with Company of Cooks. Visitors can purchase an additional food and/or drink item from the Riverside Terrace Café which can be redeemed via voucher, no questions asked, by someone who needs it this winter.

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, says: "Our Winter Festival is back with a real joyous bang and as the nights get darker we are a welcoming home for everyone to enjoy some festive treats, including some truly exciting new productions. This year's ambitious programme expands across the realms of cabaret, comedy, music and dance as well as numerous art exhibitions and free events. The Winter Festival encapsulates what the Southbank Centre does best, bringing everyone together with diverse and joyful cultural experiences."

Winter Shows

This winter, the Southbank Centre presents a packed programme of exciting new shows with something for everyone. Underbelly, Francesca Moody Productions and the Southbank Centre with Rachel Edwards and Winkler Smalberg, present the world premiere production of **Nutcracker**, and the opening of a brand new pop-up venue - the Tuff Nutt Jazz Club. Wild-spirited, mischievous and a lot of fun, this reinvention of **Nutcracker** is for anyone who wants to live life in full technicolour. Brought together by Olivier Award-winning choreographer Drew McOnie and Mercury Prize-nominated jazz artist Cassie Kinoshi, **Nutcracker** sees premier dancers of The McOnie Company performing to Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score, reimagined for a live onstage jazz band. Following performances of **Nutcracker** on Thursday to Sunday, audiences are invited to continue their evening at the Tuff Nutt Jazz Club with **Nutcracker Nights**, live sessions from leading music artists playing into the night.

For little ones, **Bluey's Big Play** comes to the Royal Festival Hall for the first time. The playful Blue Heeler puppy is brought to real life in the UK premiere of a theatrical adaptation of the smash-hit children's TV show.

Les Enfants Terribles and HOME Manchester present the London Premiere of **The House with Chicken Legs**. Based on Sophie Anderson's much-loved novel, the story follows Marinka, a young girl trying to find her feet when her home is quite literally pulled from under her. Featuring puppets, projection and live music, this show is perfect for families, and for children aged 9+.

For adults, award-winning international sensation **Reuben Kaye** takes up residency in the Purcell Room with ***The Butch is Back***, providing London audiences with the last chance to see this hit comedy cabaret show.

Senbla and Roast Productions in partnership with Comic Relief present ***Christmas Actually*** a brand-new festive variety show curated by Richard Curtis. This witty and enchanting evening captures all of the fun and laughter of Christmas through a treasure trove of entertainment, as a starry line-up performs live music, Christmas stories, poetry and comedy.

For more information on all shows and one-night classical music and comedy events, see the [press release here](#).

Music Performances

Experience film like never before as **E.T. in Concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra** brings John Williams' timeless score to the Royal Festival Hall, whilst film critic Mark Kermode guides you through **Christmas in Tinseltown**; winter movie classics played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Sing along to festive favourites in uplifting concert **Christmas Classics** performed by the Southbank Centre's resident orchestras, or experience Bach's winter masterpiece **Christmas Oratorio** in an energetic new production brought to you by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and acclaimed conductor Masaaki Suzuki.

Free Events

During the busy festive season, take some time for yourself with the **Weekday Wind Down** (Wednesday 13 December), a multi-sensory workshop where you can create your own calming aromatherapy pouch using dried flowers, fruits and essential oils. Trial new creative ideas with like-minded people and Counterpoints Arts at **About Us! Artists' Scratch Showcase** (Saturday 2 December), or engage in literary conversation with **shado's bookshelf** bookclub (Wednesday 20 December).

Welcoming all abilities to the dancefloor, **Heart n Soul's Winter Rave** (Friday 22 December) and **Five Go Jiving** (Sunday 24 December) return for a celebration of music and moves, whilst Bollywood dance company **Bollyqueer** (Sunday 10 December) invites you to feel empowered through dance, recognising those who exist beyond the gender binary. To party into the night, **Pxssy Liquor's Office Christmas Party** (Thursday 21 December) provides high energy and camp entertainment for one night only.

The **Southbank Centre Youth Voices Winter Showcase** (Saturday 9 December), and **Fab-YULE-ous Voices** (Saturday 9 December) fill the site with beautiful harmonies from young people and London choirs. Kick-start New Year celebrations at family favourite **Kids' Countdown** (31 December), a daytime party counting down to midday with brand new host, Len Blanco. The Ceilidh Liberation Front for **New Year's Day Ceilidh** (Monday 1 January), provides a raucous, musical entry into 2024 for all to enjoy.

Winter Light

13 Nov 2023 – 7 Jan 2024, 4pm – 11pm, Free

As the dark draws in, the Southbank Centre lights up with a series of free outdoor artworks from contemporary artists that play with light and colour, including five new works for 2023.

Illuminating the windows of the Queen Elizabeth Hall is a brand new installation by Year 6 students from local school Oasis Academy Johanna, in collaboration with Brixton-based architecture practice, Squire & Partners. **Squire & Partners x Southbank Centre Winter Windows 2023** transforms the drawings produced during workshops into bespoke, winter-themed neon shapes.

Visitors can encounter **Marinella Senatore's** large-scale decorative light sculpture *We Rise by Lifting Others* and hypnotic, intricate patterns in **Leo Villareal's** generative digital installation *Cosmic Bloom*. Produced by Outland Art, the work is accompanied by tracks from international electronic music artist Kode9. **Tim Etchells'** intriguing pair of neon light artworks *Suddenly (Morning and Night)*, provide a moment to ponder over the perceived passage of time. Stand in the red glow of **Kendell Geers' *Hope Is A Four Letter Word* (2017)**, combining language and light to explore power and truth and incite positive change.

David Ogle's fluorescent light canopy *Loomin* (2020) returns to the South Bank riverside, as well as **David Batchelor's** glowing chromatic roof installation *Sixty Minute Spectrum* (2017), **Fred Tschida's** giant rotating orb *SPHERE* and **Jokob Kvist's** glimmering *Dichroic Sphere* (2020). Continuing into the winter months from its summer residency is pocket meadow *Haven* by **Denman + Gould w/ Maeve Polkinhorn**, a wildlife sanctuary nestled in the brutalist concrete of the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

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.

Winter Exhibitions

The Hayward Gallery presents **Hiroshi Sugimoto: Time Machine** (11 October 2023 - 7 January 2024), the largest survey to date of the pioneering Japanese artist. Renowned for creating some of the most alluringly enigmatic photographs of our time, the exhibition features key works from all of the artist's major photographic series, highlighting Sugimoto's philosophical yet playful inquiry into our understanding of time and memory.

Visitors can head down to the Spirit Level of the Royal Festival Hall for the annual Koestler Arts exhibition, this year curated by 2021 T.S. Elliot Prize-winning poet Joelle Taylor. **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY** (2 November - 17 December) features nearly 200 artworks made by individuals affected by the criminal justice system across the UK. Having worked in prisons for over twenty years, Joelle Taylor's motivation for this year's exhibition is to showcase the talent and imagination that springs from secure settings.

In the HENI Project Space, South Korean artist and filmmaker Heecheon Kim presents his first UK exhibition. Developed in collaboration with Seoul's Art Sonje Center, **Heecheon**

Kim: Double Poser (1 December 2023 to 7 January 2024) includes a new moving image commission, with the artist's work exploring how technology affects our perception of society, culture and the world at large.

Explore the design and history of the Royal Festival Hall foyers with never-before-seen materials in the free Archive Studio exhibition **Foyer Archives: A Great Sense of Space** (23 November 2023 – 17 February 2024). Open to the public since 1983 through the Open Foyer Policy, these spaces have remained a constant through the changing histories of London and the arts.

Winter Market and Pop-Ups

2 November – 26 December, from 11am

Stroll along the Thames riverside to get your festive fix at the Southbank Centre's well-loved **Winter Market**, where visitors can sample indulgent drinks, scrumptious street food and unique gifts made by independent creatives.

There's more to discover at the site's winter pop-ups, which this year include the fondue-tastic **Fire & Fromage**, winter warmers from **The Thirsty Farrier** and **Beltane & Pop** and **Choco Fruit's** tempting desserts.

The Curling Club is back by popular demand for another year under the Hungerford Bridge. You don't have to travel all the way to the mountains for a night of molten cheese treats and competitive games when this Alpine-themed pop-up is right here on the Thames riverside.

The Southbank Centre Winter Market is open from Thursday 2 November until Tuesday 26 December, with some of the pop-ups staying into the new year.

Southbank Centre Shops

Those in pursuit of presents can find unique gifts at the Southbank Centre this winter. Shop the Christmas collection, with 10 perfect present ideas for culture-lovers everywhere including limited-edition prints, a Grayson Perry tea towel, unique lighting, textiles and jewellery.

When visitors buy at the Southbank Centre shops, every penny will directly support the centre's pioneering programme championing emerging talent and renowned creatives.

Browse the three shops [on site](#) and [online](#), as well as the 2023 Christmas gift guide [here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Link to Winter Festival webpage [here](#)

More information on *Winter Light* [here](#)

More information on the Winter Market 2023 [here](#)

More information the Southbank Centre's Winter Performances [here](#)
More information the Southbank Centre's Winter Literature season [here](#)

For further press information please contact:

Press Office, press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Join the conversation:

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

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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