



Press Release

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Images: available to download [here](#)

Listings: available [here](#)

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Parties, pop-ups and Paris: late night programme and more announced for Christine and the Queens' Meltdown



L-R: Katya Zamolodchikova © Andrew Yang; BitterSuite © Olivia Williams; Le Chateau © courtesy of the artist

The **Southbank Centre** today announces additional performances and the lineup of exciting late night events and parties, as part of **Christine and the Queens' Meltdown**, taking place this summer **Friday 9 June until Sunday 18 June**. Exploring Christine and the Queens' roots in performance and underground culture, as well as the Southbank Centre's ongoing support of pioneering artists and creators, the latest names celebrate bold expression, unbridled joy and London's unique diversity.

A ten-day celebration in the heart of London, Meltdown curators often invite the most ambitious and creative party-starters to keep the proceedings going until the early hours. For the opening night of his Meltdown, Christine and the Queens has enlisted legendary South East London pop-up queer nightclub, **The Chateau**, who will present *SE_ XCELLENCE* in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer (Friday 9 June). The Chateau's first show since closing in 2020, *SE_ XCELLENCE* will bring together leading collectives from the scene, pairing old and new crews in epic B2B moments that encapsulate the spirit of queer South London, including **Qwe're**, **The Spice Boys**, **WET**, **Let's Have A Kiki** and **UOKHUN?** as well as DJs **Amor Ante**, **Rabz**, **Rita Lin**, **Jay Jay Revlon**, **Lagoon Femshayma**, **Tom Rasmussen**, **Mo Probs** and **Victoria Peckham**, with visuals from **Sweatmother**.

In the final weekend of Meltdown, iconic collective and arts platform **Pxssy Palace** presents *London x Paris* which will take place in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer and the Royal Festival Hall Clore Ballroom following Christine and the Queens' first performance during the festival (Saturday 17 June). Flying the flag for Paris in the Clore Ballroom, there will be DJ sets from **Syndrome Premenstruel**, **Sucre Salete** and **Amor Satyr** while **MikeQ**, **TAAHLIAH**, **River Moon**, **Cosmic Caz** and **Ryan Lovell** make up some of London's finest selectors in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer.

Turning up the dial on sensory exploration, **BitterSuite** Presents: *Tilted Bodies*, taking over the Clore Ballroom throughout the festival (Sunday 11, Monday 12, Wednesday 14 and Sunday 18 June). Set to a live and bespoke arrangement influenced by Christine and the Queens' discography, each audience member will be blindfolded and guided one-on-one through the set by a dancer for an intimate journey, radically altering the gig going experience.

In the Purcell Room, Christine and the Queens' close collaborator and dancer **Taos Bertrand** will present two performances of *brutal syntax*, a brand new Southbank Centre commission especially for Meltdown (Wednesday 14 June). Meanwhile, rising talent and 'OUCH!' singer **Nxdia** makes her Southbank Centre debut (Sunday 11 June) while singer-songwriter **Riff Cohen**, who garnered popular attention with her 2012 debut *A Paris*, will take to the stage on Thursday 15 June.

Drag queen, actor, author, and recording artist **Katya Zamolodchikova** takes over the Queen Elizabeth Hall auditorium for an afternoon tea of 'controversy and chaos' with a conversation and Q&A sure to be unlike anything you've heard before (Saturday 17 June). Over in the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer that evening, Danny Brown collaborator **Petite Noir** will also perform. On the final day of the festival, maximalist sensation **Girli** joins as support for **Lynks** on Sunday 18 June.

For the first time ever, the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer will feature **Beat Blocks**, which will radically enhance the concert experience for everyone, particularly hearing and visually impaired and other disabled and neurodiverse audiences. A powerful multi-sensory interactive flooring system, Beat Blocks translates any sound source into felt vibration, creating a truly immersive sensory event.

General on sale for tickets will be Thursday 20 April at 10:00am via:
<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/meltdown>

These new acts join an ever growing line-up for Christine and the Queens' Meltdown. There will be show stopping performances in the Royal Festival Hall from **Django Django**, **Warpaint**, **Yemi Alade** with support from **Moonchild Sanelly**, **Sigur Rós** with the **London Contemporary Orchestra**, **Oxlade**, **KOKOROKO** as well as two shows by **Christine and the Queens**. The Queen Elizabeth Hall will host **Sqürl** with director Jim Jarmusch, Chromatic and Glass Candy's **Johnny Jewel** and **Bat For Lashes** while the Queen Elizabeth Hall Foyer will be transformed for evening gigs from **Serpentwithfeet**, **Let's Eat Grandma** and electronic producer **Totally Enormous Extinct Dinosaurs**.

Adem Holness, Head of Contemporary Music at the Southbank Centre, said: "*Meltdown is an unrivalled party in the centre of London, open to everyone. With Christine and the Queens' curation, there will be so much opportunity for expression and joy, whether as part of the high energy parties of Le Chateau or the incredible line-up of artists he's invited.*"

Christine and the Queens joins a truly historic cast of previous Meltdown curators. In 2022, Grace Jones battled through disruption and delay to host her edition of Meltdown, the second highest grossing edition in the festival's 27 year history after The Cure's Robert Smith in 2018. Other legendary artists to have curated the festival include David Bowie, Yoko Ono, Patti Smith, Nick Cave, Lee Scratch Perry and Jarvis Cocker.

ENDS

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IMAGES

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

Grace Jones' Meltdown (2022) images: available to download [here](#)

NOTES TO EDITORS

Meltdown, 1993 – present

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: 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* was nominated for Music Week Awards Festival of the Year and won the AIM Independent Music Awards 'Act of Independence' Award.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of 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. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The 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).

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