

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

Date: Tuesday 15 November 2022

Contact: jasper.watkins@southbankcentre.co.uk and louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

Artist images: downloadable [here](#)

This press release is available in a range of accessible formats. Please email press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Southbank Centre announces anticipated return of Holly Blakey's 'Cowpuncher My Ass' featuring LCO



Cowpuncher My Ass © Daniele Fummo

The **Southbank Centre** today announces the return of ***Cowpuncher My Ass***, the genre-defying performance piece commissioned by the Southbank Centre with choreographer **Holly Blakey**, original score by **Mica Levi** and costume design by **Andreas Kronthaler** for **Vivienne Westwood**.

An expanded ***Cowpuncher My Ass*** arrives for one night only on **Wednesday 15 February 2023** to the Royal Festival Hall, following the sell-out success of its previous stagings in the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 2018 and 2020. Originally commissioned by the Southbank Centre, 2023's production of ***Cowpuncher My Ass*** has been developed by the creative team to transform the Royal Festival Hall into Blakey and Levi's visceral Western-inspired world, alongside the **London Contemporary Orchestra** for the first time.

Cowpuncher My Ass explores the vibrant, and often violent, tale of the Wild West genre. Cowboys wrestle with gender stereotypes, identity and sexual politics as they venture into the territory between high art and popular culture. A centrepiece of the production, the bold costumes are again designed by **Andreas Kronthaler** for **Vivienne Westwood**. From corseted dresses to oversized shirts and western belts, these raw, unisex designs evoke a modern spirit of punk.

On the return of *Cowpuncher My Ass*, **choreographer Holly Blakey** said: *"It has been four years of playing with this sequel of ideas, unearthing and retelling and driving somewhere new. I am honoured and excited to close this journey at the Royal Festival Hall with collaborators I so love and admire."*

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, commented: *"This is such a glorious, genre-defying collaboration by artists fizzing with creative ideas and we're excited to see Holly and Mica's truly bold creative vision grow from strength to strength. After sell-out runs in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the grandeur of the Royal Festival Hall will be a fitting setting for such a daring, and newly expanded, cross-artform work. Their return to the Southbank Centre in February will be an early highlight of 2023's performance and dance programme."*

Tickets go on sale to the general public on Wednesday 16 November at 10:00am via <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/gigs/holly-blakey-presents-cowpuncher-my-ass>

Holly Blakey's choreography refreshes contemporary dance by creating movement that brings an eruption of constantly shifting diverse visual languages. Her work explores empowerment, trust, instinct and vulnerability. Recently, she has worked with Rosalia (2022), Jeremy Deller (2022), which features Gwilym Gold, Dave Okumu, Olly Coates, Neil Charles and Tom Skinner, and on *Triptych* (2021) a film commissioned by CHEERIO of the Francis Bacon Estate. Further choreographic credits include fashion films for Gucci, Dior, and Paul Smith, and music videos including Coldplay's 'Adventure of A Lifetime' (2015), Young Fathers' 'Shame' (2015), and Florence and the Machine's 'The Odyssey' (2016), for which she won Best Choreography In a Video at the UK Music Video Awards in 2016. In 2017, she collaborated with Gwilym Gold and Darkstar on *Some Greater Class* in the Clore Ballroom at the Southbank Centre.

Alongside Blakey's fearless, boundary breaking movement, her long-time collaborator Mica Levi brings their electronic psychedelia music, rooted in South London's DIY scene. The synergy is electric; as both movement and sound interweave to create shapeshifting compositions that build with intensity. Levi's iconic score for Jonathan Glazer's *Under the Skin* won the European Film Award, the Los Angeles Film Critics Award and was nominated for a BAFTA for Best Music. Mica was also the youngest artist in residence at the Southbank Centre and has performed at major art institutions worldwide including the Getty, MoMA PS1 and the Barbican. Beyond the screen and stage, they have released a bounty of music as a recording artist, including 2021's critically acclaimed *Blue Alibi* and with their group, Good Sad Happy Bad.

A regular collaborator at Southbank Centre events, the London Contemporary Orchestra is a leading global orchestral group focused on playing, commissioning and developing new music and artistic output. Alongside working with well-known artists, the LCO focuses on developing a diverse next generation of players, conductors and composers by creating opportunities for them to work at the highest professional level. Formed in 2008 by co-artistic Directors Robert Ames and Hugh Brunt, the LCO has collaborated with a wide array of musicians, artists, creative figures, platforms and venues such as: Radiohead, Frank Ocean, Jed Kurzel, Jonny Greenwood, Steve Reich, Justice, Terry Riley, Thom Yorke, Mica Levi, Actress, Beck, William Basinski, Richard Reid Parry, Goldfrapp, and Vivienne Westwood.

#ENDS#

Images: Available to download [here](#)

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Twitter: @southbankcentre

Instagram: @southbankcentre

Facebook: @southbankcentre

@Hollytlakey #cowpunchermyass

@viviennewestwood @ndreaskronthaler

#Viviennewestwood #Andreaskronthaler

For further press information please contact:

Press Manager: Music - Jasper Watkins — jasper.watkins@southbankcentre.co.uk / 07974897119

Press Manager: Literature & Spoken Word, Performance & Dance, Comedy - Louise Gilbert-
louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk / 020 7921 0780

NOTES TO EDITORS

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). www.southbankcentre.co.uk/



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

