

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE MELTDOWN

## Press Release

**Date:** Monday 7 March, 14:00

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**Images:** available to download [here](#)

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**Grace Jones adds second performance plus additional acts for Meltdown at the Southbank Centre this summer**



Top: Grace Jones © Andrea Kalrin  
Bottom: Angélique Kidjo © Fabrice Mabillot; Desire Marea © Sir Zanele Muholi;

- **Grace Jones to open Meltdown with new performance backed by an orchestra**

- Newly confirmed artists include **Angélique Kidjo**, **John Grant**, **Sky Ferreira**, **Hot Chip** and the **Kasai Allstars**, **Desire Marea** and **Honey Dijon** — tickets on sale 10:00am, Friday 11 March
- They join existing line-up of **Peaches**, **Skunk Anansie**, **Meshell Ndegeocello**, **Oumou Sangaré**, **The Love Unlimited Synth Orchestra**, **Lee Fields**, **Baaba Maal** and a special tribute to Lee 'Scratch Perry' by **Adrian Sherwood**
- The 27th edition of the festival makes its eagerly awaited return Friday 10 to Saturday 19 June 2022

**The Southbank Centre** and **Grace Jones** have today revealed the next wave of artists who will be performing during this year's eagerly anticipated **Meltdown** festival, running Friday June 10 until Saturday 19 June. Spanning hard hitting punk to folk and experimental electronica, the latest additions capture Grace Jones' unparalleled influence and connection to the world's music scene.

By popular demand, **Grace Jones** has added a new date during her curatorship of Meltdown, in addition to her already sold-out closing show on Saturday 19 June. An unmissable night of style and spectacle, Grace Jones will now open the festival on Friday 10 June with '**Grace Jones: Up Close and Orchestral**', featuring grand reimaginings of her hit classics such as 'Slave To The Rhythm' and 'Pull Up To The Bumper' with a backing orchestra.

### ***New acts for Meltdown 2022***

In the Royal Festival Hall, 'Africa's premier diva' **Angélique Kidjo** will present her new work, *Mother Nature*, on Sunday 12 June. The acclaimed musician and revered activist has garnered global acclaim for her unique blend of West African traditional music and the soul and R&B sounds of her childhood idols, such as James Brown, Nina Simone and Jimi Hendrix. With *Mother Nature* at Meltdown, Kidjo will bring her cross-cultural creativity to the heart of London for an unmissable, kaleidoscopic night of infectious rhythms, beats and a pure party atmosphere.

Also in the Royal Festival Hall, on Tuesday 14 June, there will be a special one-off concert and a unique collaboration between members of **Hot Chip** and the Congolese collective **Kasai Allstars**. 'Hot Congotronics' will also feature some of the African guests who Grace Jones has recently been collaborating with on sessions for her next album.

From the vibrancy of Kidjo to the candid king of alternative folk, **John Grant** will illuminate the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Friday 17 June 2022 with his tender lyricism and eclectic soundscapes in a beautifully intimate setting. Meanwhile, in partnership with Brilliant Corners, **Dave Okumu**, formerly of the Mercury Prize nominated band The Invisible, will be joined by luminaries and friends to perform reinterpretations of two iconic and unexpected albums in ways you've never heard them before. Full details about the Tuesday 14 June show, including musicians and music, will be released soon.

During the festival, the Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer will be open until the early hours, buzzing with late night performances and DJ sets. Kicking off Meltdown's parties with a grooveful blend of house, disco and funk, **Honey Dijon** will host proceedings on Friday 10 June

alongside London's own **Sippin' T**, while **Hercules and Love Affair** will step up to the decks the following night, Saturday 11 June. In a rare appearance in the capital, the elusive and enigmatic **Sky Ferreira** will invite fans to experience her darkly delightful synth-pop close-up as part of Grace Jones' Meltdown on Thursday 16 June.

The Southbank Centre's Purcell Room has a storied history of celebrating boundary-pushing talent, and Meltdown will be no exception. Breakthrough star **Desire Marea**, whose 2021 solo debut *Desire* turned heads with its haunting melodies, emotional depths and club-ready edge, will make his first Southbank Centre appearance on Sunday 12 June 2022. In a very special collaboration, producer extraordinaire **Kevin Richard Martin**, AKA The Bug, will perform with Japanese vocalist **Hatis Noit** on Monday 13 June. The pair first met in 2018 for what would become a landmark performance for BBC Radio 3's Late Junction and their show at Meltdown will no doubt capture their hypnotic, spectral magic. With a heavy dose of righteous vigour, **Big Joanie** will bring all the excitement and energy of London's DIY punk scene to bear on the Purcell Room on Wednesday 15 June while the legendary front woman and bassist from the platinum selling band Noisettes, **Shingai**, will perform Friday 17 June.

Other highlights in the Purcell Room include electronic experimenter **Cut Hands**, who will test the boundaries of the genre on Saturday 11 June, indie dance pair **Two Another** on Tuesday 14 June and rising musical polymath **Skinny Pelembe** on Thursday 16 June. **Ben Hayes and Hector Plimmer's** AI-inspired work will close out the Purcell Room on Sunday 19 June.

Tickets for the new shows will be on sale from 10:00am, Friday 11th March.

In the coming months, Southbank Centre will also reveal its free programme of events and concerts which will transform the Southbank Centre and become an integral part of the unique festival spirit of Meltdown.

Commenting on the new wave of artists and her excitement ahead of this summer, **Grace Jones** said, *"In the face of adversity, there is no pandemic in the world that will stop me from curating the Meltdown festival. It is my mission to present to you many exciting and gifted artists from various sectors of the music world. Come, see and listen; experience this dazzling plethora of talent at the Southbank Centre."*

**Mark Ball, Southbank Centre's Artistic Director**, added, *"The truly global and diverse line-up that Grace has curated is testament to her unparalleled international influence and her iconic status as one of culture's most daring provocateurs. Following two long years of uncertainty the wait is nearly over and we are excited to welcome everyone to experience Grace's selection of some of the world's greatest performers and to celebrate the anticipated return of Meltdown in style."*

These latest editions to Grace Jones' Meltdown join the originally announced line-up, which was revealed in 2020. Excitingly, nearly all of the artists will be appearing this summer including a very special performance by **Peaches** in the Royal Festival Hall (Saturday 11 June), celebrating the 20th anniversary of her riotous debut *The Teaches Of Peaches*, as well as a tribute to the late Lee 'Scratch Perry' by **Adrian Sherwood Time Boom x The Upsetter Dub Sessions** (Friday 10 June).

Meanwhile, the Songbird of Wassoulou **Oumou Sangaré** will showcase her beautiful Malian melodies on Wednesday 15 June while, on Saturday 18 June, Senegalese singer and guitarist **Baaba Maal** will perform his globe-trotting musical fusions. Radical outfit **Skunk Anansie** will channel over 25-years of their adrenaline-fueled furore on Friday 17 June for a sold-out show in the Royal Festival Hall.

Flying the flag for funk and soul, appearances by **The Love Unlimited Synth Orchestra**, featuring members of the **Paraorchestra**, **Ibibio Sound Machine's Eno Williams** and **Nadine Shah**, will celebrate the 'The Walrus of Love' Barry White (Wednesday 15 June), the mercurial, masterful **Meshell Ndegeocello** (Thursday 16 June) and North Carolina legend **Lee Fields** (Saturday 18 June) will ensure everyone has a cause to dance at this year's Meltdown.

Unfortunately, **Solange** will no longer appear, citing the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which has made it increasingly difficult for artists to travel from the USA. All ticket holders for her concert on Friday 10 June will be contacted in order to arrange refunds.

## # ENDS #

For further press information please contact:  
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**Join the conversation**  
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## NOTES TO EDITORS

Images: available to download [here](#)

Full Meltdown 2022 Programme [here](#).

## WAVE TWO LINE-UP

### GRACE JONES: UP CLOSE AND ORCHESTRAL

*Friday 10 June 2022, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall*

### HONEY DIJON + SIPPIN' T + SPECIAL GUESTS TBA

*Friday 10 June 2022, 11:00pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer. 18+*

### CUT HANDS

*Saturday 11 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

### HERCULES AND LOVE AFFAIR (DJ SET)

*Saturday 11 June 2022, 11:00pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer. 18+*

### DESIRE MAREA

*Sunday 12 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

### ANGÉLIQUE KIDJO: MOTHER NATURE

*Sunday 12 June 2022, 7:30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall. 14+. Under 18s to be accompanied by an adult*

**KEVIN RICHARD MARTIN & HATIS NOIT**

*Monday 13 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

**HOT CONGOTRONICS: HOT CHIP & KASAI ALLSTARS**

*Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7:30pm, Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall*

**TWO ANOTHER**

*Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

**BRILLIANT CORNERS & DAVE OKUMU PULL UP TO THE BUMPER**

*Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7:30pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall*

**BIG JOANIE**

*Wednesday 15 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

**SKINNY PELEMBE**

*Thursday 16 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

**SKY FERREIRA**

*Thursday 16 June 2022, 11:00pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer. 18+*

**JOHN GRANT**

*Friday 17 June 2022, 7:30pm, Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall*

**SHINGAI**

*Friday 17 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

**BEN HAYES & HECTOR PLIMMER**

*Sunday 19 June 2022, 7:45pm, Southbank Centre's Purcell Room*

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Grace Jones**

Grace Jones is one of the most recognised figures of contemporary culture with an influence spanning genres and generations. After taking the world by storm as one of the first black supermodels, Jones signed to Island Records in 1977 and with her first few singles - and mould-breaking fashion - became a star of New York City's Studio 54-centered disco scene. The 1980s saw her move to a new-wave hybrid of reggae, funk, pop and rock, as she worked with superstar producers such as Trevor Horn and Nile Rodgers and released a string of internationally acclaimed and enduring albums including *Warm Leatherette* (1980), *Nightclubbing* (1981), and *Slave to the Rhythm* (1985). The decade also saw her big-screen takeover with leading roles in hit movies such as *Conan the Destroyer* (1984), *A View to a Kill* (1985), and *Vamp* (1986). Her bold, androgynous image defined the visual landscape of the 1970s and 1980s making her a muse to the most exciting artists and designers of the era from Issey Miyake and Thierry Mugler to Andy Warhol, Basquiat and long-time collaborator Jean-Paul Goude. Through her enduring influence on countless artists from Bjork to Lady Gaga, and with her status quo-defying attitude, her legacy is one of fierce individuality and fearless self-expression. She continues to perform globally, captivating audiences with her musicianship, extravagant outfits and wild performances.

## ***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: 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. It has been overseen by the Southbank Centre's former Head of Contemporary Music, Bengi Ünsal, and continues to be produced by long-term *Meltdown* producer Rhodri Jones.

## **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 four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).



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