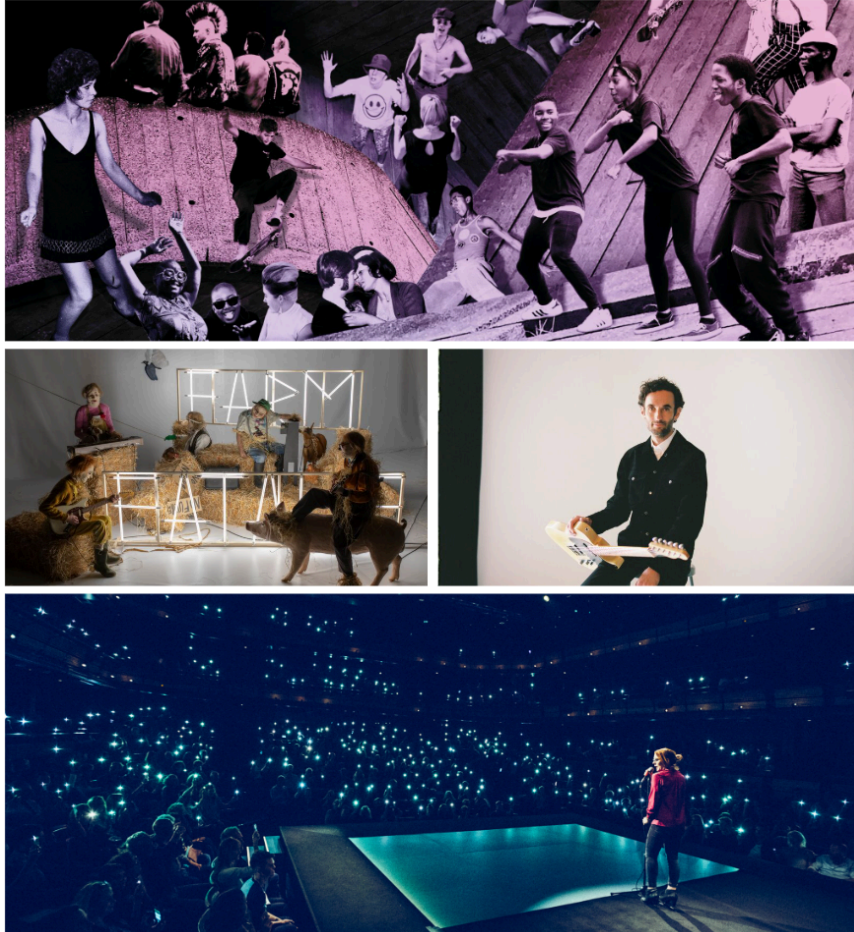


SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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May 2026 Listings



Clockwise L-R: *You Are Here*, Image © Courtesy of the Southbank Centre; *Julian Lage*, Image © Alysse Gaffken; *The Moth London GrandSLAM Championship*, Image © The Moth; *Farm Fatale*, Image © Martin Argyroglo.

In May, marking the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Royal Festival Hall, the only permanent cultural building born from the 1951 Festival of Britain, the Southbank Centre presents ***You Are Here***, an epic, one-off full site takeover created, directed and designed by **Danny Boyle, Carson McColl, Gareth Pugh** and **Paulette Randall**, with **Sabrina Mahfouz** and **Natasha Chivers** (3 May). As the centrepiece of the Southbank Centre's anniversary celebrations, *You Are Here* brings together hundreds of performers to create an exhilarating journey through 75 years of British music, dance, theatre, fashion and film.

In the Queen Elizabeth Hall, *Farm Fatale* presents acclaimed director **Philippe Quesne's** absurdly charming vision of a post-apocalyptic, near-future inhabited by a

group of poet scarecrows who unpick their strange reality on their independent radio station (15 & 16 May). FLIP Fabrique take audiences on a wild, poetic and gentle journey in an acrobatic performance of **Blizzard** (27 - 31 May).

Spring Family Fun continues over the May half-term with a series of events that are sure to entertain and inspire young people and their adults. Iconic author and poet **Michael Rosen** celebrates his 80th birthday with a free event packed full of silly rhymes, storytelling, special guests and birthday fun (23 May), while *The Maker* whisks up a wonderful world of physical comedy and visual surprises (30 & 31 May).

In the Royal Festival Hall, **Bronski Beat's** seminal 1984 debut album *The Age of Consent* is re-energised and reimagined through the voices of queer and trans artists including **Bishi**, **Planningtorock** and **Tom Rasmussen** (24 May). Guitar virtuoso and composer **Julian Lage** takes over our biggest stage (15 May), and British acid jazz legends **Incognito** take to the stage to celebrate over 45 years of their distinctive blend of jazz, funk and soul (8 May).

The Spring Literature Season continues, bringing the best in global literature to the Southbank Centre. **The International Booker Prize Tenth Anniversary** (8 May) celebrates a decade of the world's most influential prize for translated fiction and Women's Prize for Fiction winner **Ruth Ozeki** discusses her latest work, *The Typing Lady* (22 May).

The Classical Music season offers performances from acclaimed international soloists including **Pierre-Laurent Aimard** (9 May), Resident artists **Sean Shibe** (10 May) and **Alisa Weilerstein** (17 May), and a celebration of the music of two of the greatest film composers of all time, **Hans Zimmer** and **John Williams** (30 May), among much more.

In the Hayward Gallery, **Yin Xiuzhen: Heart to Heart** and **Chiharu Shiota: Threads of Life** conclude, offering a final chance to experience the innovative and immersive exhibitions (17 Feb – 3 May). **Skate 50** continues in the Southbank Centre's Undercroft, utilising photography, moving image, animation and sound to tell the story of what is widely considered the birthplace of British skateboarding (30 Apr – 21 Jun).

Throughout May, expert guides continue **Southbank Centre Tours**, offering an exclusive-access journey through the iconic architecture of our buildings, uncovering accounts from the people who brought them to life.

From 23 April, the Queen's Walk will come alive with a vibrant selection of food and drink pop-ups for the summer season. Indulge in delicious bites from Truffle Burger and enjoy returning crowd favourites like The Thirsty Farrier and Jimmy's BBQ Club.

EXHIBITIONS

Visual Arts | [Yin Xiuzhen: Heart to Heart](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 3 May, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays, Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £19.

Visual Arts | [Chiharu Shiota: Threads of Life](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 3 May, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays. Hayward Gallery. Tickets from £19.

Visual Arts | **Free Programme** | [Samuel Laurence Cunnane: Blue Road](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 10 May, Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm, Closed on Mondays. HENI Project Space, Hayward Gallery. Free.

Visual Arts | **Free Programme** | [Quentin Blake: The Southbank Parade](#)

Tue 17 Feb – Sun 8 Nov, 10am – 11pm, Tue – Sun, Site wide. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | **Free Programme** | [Our Freedom: Then and Now](#)

Wed 18 Mar – Sat 25 Apr, 10am – 11pm, Tue – Sun, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For all ages.

Visual Arts | [Skate 50](#)

Thu 30 Apr – Sun 21 Jun, Tue – Sun, 12pm, (Closed Mondays & 19 – 21 May), Undercroft, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Pay what you can / Free for skateboarders with their board. For all ages.

EVENTS

Tours | [Southbank Centre Tours](#)

Wed 8 Apr – Fri 26 Jun, Various Times, Across the site (starts at Royal Festival Hall). Tickets from £20 + £3.50 booking fee. For all ages.

Performance & Dance | [You Are Here](#)

Sun 3 May, entry every 15 mins from 2pm, Site wide. Tickets from £35 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 12+.

Open Doors | **Free Programme** | [Creative Encounters: Spice-Blending Stories](#)

Wed 6 May, 6pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 16+.

Classical Music | **Talks & Debates** | **Free Programme** | [Philharmonia Debates... Music & Mentoring](#)

Thu 7 May, 6pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 11+.

Classical Music | **Free Programme** | [Music of Today: Composers' Academy](#)

Thu 7 May, 6pm, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [Kavakos Conducts Dvořák, Schumann & Brahms](#)

Thu 7 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Literature & Spoken Word | [The Moth London GrandSLAM Championship](#)

Thu 7 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £27 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

Literature & Spoken Word | Families & Young People | [Rug Rhymes: Summer](#)

Fri 8 May, 11am, National Poetry Library, Level 5, Blue Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets £4 (admits one adult and one child). For ages 0 – 5.

Gigs | [Incognito](#)

Fri 8 May 2026, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £39 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Literature & Spoken Word | [The International Booker Prize Tenth Anniversary](#)

Fri 8 May 2026, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £20 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

Classical Music | [Pierre-Laurent Aimard: Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier](#)

Sat 9 May, 3pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [United Strings of Europe: Send Back the Echo](#)

Sat 9 May, 8pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £37 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [Sean Shibe & Aidan O'Rourke: Lùban](#)

Sun 10 May, 4pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [BBC Concert Orchestra: Brahms](#)

Sun 10 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Literature & Spoken Word | [John Robins: Thirst - In Conversation](#)

Wed 13 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £24.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

Open Doors | [Free Programme](#) | [Mix & Move: Bollywood Groove](#)

Fri 17 Apr, Fri 15 May & Fri 19 Jun, 3pm – 6pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Performance & Dance | [Farm Fatale](#)

Fri 15 May & Sat 16 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 12+.

Gigs | [Julian Lage](#)

Fri 15 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £32 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Gigs | Families & Young People | [Flow: Live in Concert](#)

Sat 16 May, 4.15pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £32 + £3.50 booking fee. For all ages.

Classical Music | Families & Young People | [OAE TOTS at LPO FUNharmonics: A Musical Adventure](#)

Sun 17 May, 10.15am, 11.15am & 12.15pm, Level 5 Function Room, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £13 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 2 – 5.

Classical Music | Families & Young People | [FUNharmonics: Stan and Mabel and the Race for Space](#)

Sun 17 May, 12pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £18 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 5+.

Classical Music | [Alisa Weilerstein: Fragments – Emergence](#)

Sun 17 May, 3pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £37 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [Alisa Weilerstein: Fragments – Labyrinth](#)

Sun 17 May, 5pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £37 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [Wagner & Taneyev](#)

Sun 17 May 2026, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £18 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [Mahler's Fifth](#)

Sun 17 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £12 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [Miloš Karadaglić & Andreas Ottensamer](#)

Fri 22 May, 7pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Literature & Spoken Word | [Ruth Ozeki: The Typing Lady](#)

Fri 22 May, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £15 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

Spring Family Fun | **Free Programme** | [Architecture Explorers Family Trail](#)

Sat 23 – Sun 31 May, 10am, Blue Side Foyer, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For all ages.

Spring Family Fun | **Free Programme** | [Michael Rosen's Birthday](#)

Sat 23 May, 11am, Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. For ages 5+.

Gigs | [Rodrigo y Gabriela](#)

Sat 23 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £37 + £3.50 booking fee. Under-14s must be accompanied by an adult.

Gigs | [Belle Chen](#)

Sat 23 May, 8pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £18 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Literature & Spoken Word | **Courses & Workshops** | [Out-Spoken Masterclass: May](#)

Sun 24 May, 1pm, Sunley Pavilion, Level 3, Green Side, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £27 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 18+.

Classical Music | [Corinthian Orchestra: Passion & Transcendence](#)

Sun 24 May, 3pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Gigs | [The Age of Consent](#)

Sun 24 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £27 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Gigs | [zerOclassikal: This Is Not Random...](#)

Sun 24 May, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £12 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Classical Music | [The Bach Choir: Bach's Mass in B Minor](#)

Tue 26 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £12 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7

Open Doors | **Free Programme** | [Creative Encounters: Beyond the Algorithm](#)

Wed 27 May, 6pm, The Clore Ballroom, Level 2, Royal Festival Hall. Free. For ages 16+.

Classical Music | [The Creation](#)

Wed 27 May, 7pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £17 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Spring Family Fun | **Performance & Dance** | [Blizzard](#)

Wed 27 May – Sun 31 May, various times, Queen Elizabeth Hall. Tickets from £18 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 6+.

Gigs | [Naruto Symphonic Experience](#)

Thu 28 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £57 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 12+.

Spring Family Fun | **Free Programme** | [DanceDanceDiscoPartyFunShow](#)

Sat 30 May, 11.30am & 2.30pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2. Free. For ages 2+.

Spring Family Fun | **Performance & Dance** | [The Maker](#)

Sat 30 May & Sun 31 May, various times, Purcell Room. Tickets from £18 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 5–10.

Classical Music | [Karl Jenkins Conducts: The Armed Man](#)

Sat 30 May, 3pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £21.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Classical Music | [The Music of Zimmer vs. Williams](#)

Sat 30 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £21.50 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 7+.

Gigs | [Space Station Earth](#)

Sun 31 May, 7.30pm, Royal Festival Hall. Tickets from £22 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 14+.

Literature & Spoken Word | [Counterpoints x Footnote Prize Readings](#)

Sun 31 May, 7.45pm, Purcell Room. Tickets from £5 + £3.50 booking fee. For ages 15+.

FOOD, DRINK & SHOPPING

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Seventy5th Balcony Bar](#)

Tues – Sun: 10am – 10.30pm, Royal Festival Hall, Level 5, closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Southbank Centre Food Market](#)

Fri – Sun, 12pm, Southbank Centre Square.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Roof Garden Bar & Kitchen](#)

Reopens 1 April 2026, Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Festival Bar & Kitchen](#)

Tue - Sun 10am – 10.30pm. Royal Festival Hall, Level 2, Closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Southbank Centre Shops](#)

Find gifts for lovers of art, music and big ideas. Shop in-store or online. Royal Festival Hall, Mandela Walk, Hayward Gallery. Tue – Sun: 11.30am – 7pm. Closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | [Hayward Gallery Shop for Yin Xiuzhen and Chiharu Shiota](#)

Tue 17 Feb, Hayward Gallery Shop and Online: Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm, Sat, 10am – 8pm, Sun, 10am – 6pm. Closed Mon.

Food, Drink & Shopping | **Summer Food & Drink Pop-ups**

23 April – 20 September 2025. Monday – Sunday: 11am – 11pm. Queen's Walk.

HAYWARD GALLERY TOURING EXHIBITIONS AROUND THE UK

Visual Arts | [Paula Rego: Visions of English Literature](#)

Fri 30 Jan – Sun 10 May, The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum, Cheltenham; Fri 22 May – Sun 6 Sep, Newlands House Gallery, Petworth For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles](#)

Fri 30 Jan – Sun 3 May, Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [Eduardo Paolozzi: General Dynamic F.U.N](#)

Fri 13 Mar – Sun 7 Jun, Lincoln Museum and Usher Gallery, Lincoln. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [Georgia O’Keeffe: Memories of Drawings](#)

Sat 28 Mar – Sat 23 May, Beverley Art Gallery, Beverley. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

Visual Arts | [Joan Miró: Painting and Poetry](#)

Sat 18 Apr – Sun 14 Jun, Ushaw Historic House, Durham. For timings and tickets, please see venue website.

#ENDS#