

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Southbank Centre announces Spring / Summer 2025 Performance & Dance programme

Featuring **Dewey Dell**, **Holly Blakey**, **Khashabi Theatre**, **Nature Theater of Oklahoma**, **Robyn Orlin** and previously announced new collaborations with **Rambert x (La)Horde**, and **Sasha Waltz & Guests x London Sinfonietta**



L-R: Rambert x (La)Horde: *Bring Your Own 2025*, Image © Kibwe Tavares, Armando Elias and Vianney Le Caer, Khashabi Theatre: *MILK*, Image © Christophe Raynaud de Lage, Nature Theater of Oklahoma: *No President*. Image © Heinrich Brinkmüller-Becker/ Rhurtriennale 2018

Images: [HERE](#)

Listings: [HERE](#)

The Southbank Centre today announces its Spring / Summer 2025 Performance and Dance programme, offering audiences the unique opportunity to see brave, groundbreaking new work and contemporary collaborations from a multitude of international artists, many presenting work in the UK for the very first time.

The Spring / Summer 2025 international programme highlights include:

- One of the most significant American theatre companies of the past decade, New York based collective **Nature Theater of Oklahoma**, present their audacious story ballet ***No President*** (9 - 11 Jul)

- Hot off the back of its World Premiere in Paris, choreographer **Holly Blakey** returns to the Southbank Centre to present a double bill of new dance works in the UK Premiere of **A Wound with Teeth & Phantom** (9 - 11 Apr)
- Southbank Centre and Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels present the UK Premiere of South African choreographer **Robyn Orlin**'s joyous **We Wear Our Wheels with Pride** performed by Moving Into Dance Mophatong (21 - 22 Mar) as part of Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels Festival in London (12 Mar- 8 Apr)
- Palestine's **Khashabi Theatre**, present a striking visual masterpiece with the UK premiere **MILK** **مilk** as part of Shubbak Festival (24-25 May)
- Previously announced collaborations include **Rambert X (La)Horde: Bring Your Own**, and **Sasha Waltz & Guests x London Sinfonietta: In C**.

Aaron Wright, Head of Performance & Dance at the Southbank Centre, says:

"I'm pleased to announce this punchy new season of vibrant, distinctive and truly contemporary work, which not only pushes the definitions of dance and theatre but also offers UK audiences unique opportunities to see a wave of thought provoking UK debuts and premieres. We've brought together a topical programme of world class artists to innovate and entertain across the Southbank Centre stages. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the conversation!"

Tickets for the newly announced shows go on sale to Southbank Centre's Members on Thursday 10 October, 10am and to the general public on Friday 11 October, 10am www.southbankcentre.co.uk / 0203 879 9555.

SPRING / SUMMER PROGRAMME SHOW DETAILS

[Dewey Dell: The Rite of Spring](#)

Thu 23 - Sat 25 January, Purcell Room (London Premiere)

The leading Italian collective Dewey Dell brings their award-winning production **The Rite of Spring**, presented with MimeLondon to the Purcell Room for a mesmerising fusion of dance and performance theatre. Drawing inspiration from art history and animal behaviour, the piece delves into the eternal cycle of life and death and reimagines Igor Stravinsky's revolutionary music score with raw, primal energy. The programme contains an additional prologue and epilogue of a soundscape curated by Demetrio Castellucci solely for this choreography. This astonishing new contemporary work offers audiences a fresh perspective on a timeless masterpiece. **The Rite of Spring** won the Danza&Danza award as the best Italian dance production in 2023.

Press night: Thursday 23 January 2025

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[Robyn Orlin: We Wear Our Wheels with Pride](#)

Presented by Southbank Centre and Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels

Fri 21 - Sat 22 March, Queen Elizabeth Hall (UK Premiere)

Leading South African choreographer Robyn Orlin with the Moving Into Dance Mophatong ensemble from Johannesburg share an explosive array of dance, song and costume with their 'rickshaw dance', **We Wear Our Wheels with Pride**, as part of the Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels Festival. This UK premiere is a homage to the rickshaw drivers of South Africa's past. In South Africa of the 1970s, at the height of apartheid, white masters were transported from place to place by Zulu men pulling brightly coloured rickshaws, a feat requiring a mixture of great strength and dexterity. Watching them, the young Robyn Orlin observed the ornate

decoration of their vehicles and headdresses, as well as their sprightly, dance-like steps. The period also coincides with the creation of Moving into Dance Mophatong, a company nourished by Zulu traditions and a flagship for contemporary dance in South Africa. Audiences can expect vibrant costumes and visceral movement alongside a live performance of breathtaking singing from Anelia Stuurman in collaboration with the composer, Yogin Sullaphen.

Press night: Friday 21 March 2025

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Find out more about the 2025 Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels Festival [HERE](#)

Holly Blakey: A Wound with Teeth & Phantom

Wed 9 - Fri 11 April, Queen Elizabeth Hall (UK Premiere)

London-based choreographer Holly Blakey returns to the Southbank Centre with two UK premieres *A Wound With Teeth and Phantom* this April. *A Wound With Teeth* looks at the impact of losing one's memory and Blakey's own experience with forgetting. Her choreography brings to the fore the strength of our imagination and how it allows us to be creative and inventive when we struggle to remember. Meanwhile, 10 dancers perform a meticulous ritual in *Phantom* to a rich soundscape of gauzy electronics and hypnotic beats composed by the musician Gwilym Gold. In collaboration with Emma Chopova and Laura Lowena, this tender and honest piece explores Blakey's painful experience of experiencing a miscarriage.

Press night: Wednesday 9 April 2025

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Sasha Waltz & Guests x London Sinfonietta: In C

Tues 29 & Wed 30 April, Queen Elizabeth Hall (UK Premiere)

As part of Multitudes, the Southbank Centre's brand-new arts festival showcasing spectacular experiences where world-class orchestras join with some of the most ambitious and exciting artists, Salza Waltz joins the London Sinfonietta to present Terry Riley's foundational minimalist work, *In C*, the revolutionary piece originally premiered in 1964. Sasha Waltz and her dancers develop choreographic material that follows a similarly variable structure, deliberately designed not to be fixed.

Press night: Tuesday 29 April 2025

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Rambert X (La)Horde: Bring Your Own

Wed 7 - Sat 10 May, Queen Elizabeth Hall (World Premiere)

Rambert presents the world premiere of 'Bring Your Own', a brand new programme in collaboration with the incandescent French choreographic trio (La)Horde. With two restagings of (La)Horde's most iconic pieces - *Weather is Sweet* and *Room with a View* - along with a fresh commission especially created for the Rambert dancers, the programme promises grit, sensuality, and a fierce encounter with ourselves. Drenched in neon lights and inspired by the LA club scene, *Weather is Sweet* catapults audiences into very contemporary questions over intimacy, consent and sex-positivity. Visceral and punchy, *A Room with a View* forces us to look in the mirror and ask - what do I care about?

Rambert's collaboration with (La)Horde is made possible by support from Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and funds raised by Vogue World London.

Press night: Wednesday 7 May 2025

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[Jaha Koo: Haribo Kimchi](#)

Tue 13 - Wed 14 May, Purcell Room

In his typical hybrid style, combining music, cutting-edge video and robotic performers, the Jaha Koo reflects on cultural assimilation with all its conflicts and paradoxes. In a performance that plays with all the senses, he alters our perception of food for good. In *Haribo Kimchi*, we find ourselves in a pojangmacha, a typical late-night snack bar that can be found scattered across the streets of South Korea. There we meet several lost souls: a YouTuber, an eel, a toad and a rice cooker. They take us on a culinary journey, exploring food culture as a form of language that reveals the structure of a society.

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[Khashabi Theatre: MILK](#)

Presented in collaboration with Shubbak Festival

Sat 24 - Sun 25 May 2025, Queen Elizabeth Hall (UK Premiere)

The independent Palestinian Khasabi Theatre under the directorship of Bashar Murkus and Khulood Basel showcase their visual masterpiece *MILK* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall this spring. Presented in collaboration with Shubbak Festival, the piece examines the cause and impact of a disaster. Bashar Murkus brings to light how time becomes blurred before and after a devastation. The past becomes the present, and the future loses all meaning other than becoming endless repetition? As this fractured catastrophe takes place, a group of women look everywhere for their lost motherhood.

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[Nature Theater of Oklahoma: No President. A Story Ballet of Enlightenment in Two Immoral Acts](#)

Wed 9 - Fri 11 July, Queen Elizabeth Hall (UK Premiere)

The New York-based, award-winning collective Nature Theater of Oklahoma presents their long awaited London debut with *No President. A Story Ballet of Enlightenment in Two Immoral Acts* to the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall for its UK Premiere. This fiercely political piece blends ballet, silent film, slapstick and contemporary dance to Tchaikovsky's famous score *The Nutcracker*. The story unfolds at a theatre where former actors compete against ex-ballet dancers to protect a precious theatre curtain. It is not long before conflicts are resolved through violence, love, hope and redemption. Nature Theatre of Oklahoma is directed by Pavol Liska and Kelly Copper.

No President is a production of Nature Theater of Oklahoma with Rhurtriennale and Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus. With additional touring support provided by HAU Hebbel am Ufer, Berlin, and commissioning support from Fischer Center LAB, the Fisher Center at Bard's residency and commissioning program. (fishercenter.bard.edu). Nature Theater of Oklahoma's work on this project has also been made possible in part by the Doris Duke Performing Artist Awards program.

Press night: Wednesday 9 July 2025

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ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Full event listings [HERE](#)

Performance and Dance at the Southbank Centre

In April 2023, Aaron Wright joined the Southbank Centre as Head of Performance and Dance, beginning work on leading the long-term strategy for Performance and Dance, including dance,

theatre, comedy and live art and building relationships and partnerships with artists, producers and organisations to develop innovative projects and programmes. Previously Artistic Director at Fierce in Birmingham, Aaron reports to Mark Ball, Artistic Director. For more information on Aaron's appointment please see [here](#).

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor 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.

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

