

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE'S PERFORMANCE & DANCE SPRING/SUMMER 2026 PROGRAMME

FORWARD PLANNER: Tuesday 2 December 2025

Contact: louise.gilbert@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: [HERE](#)



L-R clockwise: Hofesh Shechter: *IN THE BRAIN* © Hofesh Shechter Company; *Farm Fatale* © Martin Argyroglo; *GROOVE* © Emile Vrolijk; *COLOSSUS* © Bryony Jackson

The 2026 Performance & Dance Spring/Summer season coincides with the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary. The original 1951 Festival of Britain embraced the future and the power of culture to shape it. In this spirit, the Southbank Centre's anniversary programme considers what it is to be the arts centre of the future, representing the creative pulse of London with a programme as wide-reaching and boundary-pushing as the city around it.

The Performance & Dance season is at the heart of the anniversary's celebratory line-up, platforming international choreographers and radical new works. The programme will spotlight creatives shaping the future of dance, from the next generation of trailblazing choreographers to large-scale and ambitious productions from award-winning artists.

Highlights include:

- The centrepiece of the anniversary is **You Are Here** (3–4 May) – a spectacular two-day takeover celebrating British youth culture and the impact of its music, fashion and rebellious politics over the past 75 years. Created, directed and designed by Danny Boyle, Gareth Pugh, Carson McColl and Paulette Randall, *You Are Here* will involve thousands of participants, taking over the Southbank Centre site across the May Bank Holiday weekend. This weekend marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Festival of Britain, and the birth of the Southbank Centre itself. More information about *You Are Here*, including how to get tickets, will be released in early 2026.
- The Southbank Centre's Spring / Summer 2026 programme showcases UK and London premieres from leading international choreographers, including the world-renowned French artist and director **Philippe Quesne**, who brings his visionary masterpiece **Farm Fatale** to London for the first time. Set in a post-apocalyptic world, *Farm Fatale* delivers urgent ecological commentary in a light-hearted, absurdist style (15–16 May).
- The world's leading breaking crew and winners of Battle of the Year Crew Championships 2025, **The Ruggeds** and the **Ghetto Funk Collective** perform the UK premiere of **GROOVE**. Audiences are taken on a journey back in time to the era of James Brown, Nina Simone and Herbie Hancock. Expect a jam-packed evening of soul, funk and hip hop (4–6 June).
- The multi award-winning choreographer **Stephanie Lake's** UK debut **COLOSSUS** sees 60 dancers performing as one for a spectacular, visual piece of hypnotic movement and complex patterns. A co-production with London Contemporary Dance School at The Place and the Southbank Centre (25–27 June).
- Hofesh Shechter's exhilarating new, full-length work for his company Shechter II, **IN THE BRAIN**, is a raw, electrifying dive into movement, rhythm, and collective energy. Audiences are transported to the depths of consciousness, to a dreamlike, club-like, timeless state where movement takes over and euphoria unfolds (22–25 July).

Aaron Wright, Head of Performance & Dance at the Southbank Centre, said: *"The Southbank Centre may be celebrating 75 years at the centre of the UK's cultural landscape, but next year's festivities look to the future, featuring artists brimming with new ideas. Our 2026 Spring/Summer season celebrates youth culture alongside the next generation of leading contemporary dance artists taking the UK dance scene by storm. Always fresh, always unexpected, this season brings a number of performers who have never showcased their work on the London stage before."*

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, said *"Next year's performance and dance programme responds to our 75th anniversary with real verve and ambition, with spectacular immersive takeovers of our site alongside a programme of performances*

created by some of the most exciting international choreographers and directors. It embodies the ethos of the Southbank Centre: from nurturing and supporting the next generation of artistic talent to bringing communities together for extraordinary and unique experiences.”

SHOW DETAILS

Ballet de Lorraine: Acid Gems and a Folia (UK Premiere)

Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 March, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Discover a high-spirited, kaleidoscopic dance work by Marco da Silva Ferreira set in a powerful visual landscape, and a piece inspired by Portuguese fertility rituals. Adam Linder's *Acid Gems* looks to Balanchine's *Jewels* for inspiration, updating Balanchine's idea of imbuing (balletic) forms with the qualities of gem stones: the multiple facets, processes of crystallization and radiance.

Together with the dancers of the company, Linder continues his research into hybrid forms of dance, treating these rare physical evolutions like precious jewels. Of particular interest is how the vocabulary of ballet can adapt its DNA through absorbing influences that are street, somatic and theatrical. Shortlisted for The Rose International Dance Prize 2025 with a *Folia*, Marco da Silva Ferreira takes inspiration from a 15th century Portuguese phenomenon to explore the concepts of ecstasy, euphoria and collective rebellion, as a driver of cultural, political and artistic construction. *Folia*, a musical pillar of the Renaissance, has its origins in popular fraternisation, where shepherds and shepherdesses danced quickly and confusedly, carrying men dressed as women on their shoulders. Of rural origin, linked to fertility rituals, festivals, music and dance, it quickly ended up also marking court festivities. Based on this historical context, the choreographer has created a fictional encounter between the Portuguese festivals of yesteryear and contemporary dances.

You Are Here (World Premiere)

Sunday 3 – Monday 4 May, Site Wide

A spectacular weekend celebrating British youth culture and the impact of its music, fashion and rebellious politics over the past 75 years. Created, directed and designed by Danny Boyle, Gareth Pugh, Carson McColl and Paulette Randall, *You Are Here* will involve thousands of participants, taking over the Southbank Centre site over the May Bank Holiday weekend – marking the 75th anniversary of the opening of the Festival of Britain, and the birth of the Southbank Centre itself.

On Sale Soon.

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Farm Fatale (London Premiere)

Friday 15 – Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

In Philippe Quesne's vision of a post-apocalyptic, near-future, a group of poet scarecrows run an independent radio station, discussing their strange reality. Having lost their jobs due to climate change, the scarecrows remain undeterred by the difficult conditions: rendered redundant, they focus on making demo signs and slogans, and blowing pop music into the airwaves via pirate radio. In *Farm Fatale*, world-renowned French artist and director Philippe Quesne – celebrated for his hybrid, strikingly visual performances – envisions an absurdly

charming universe, inhabited by gentle dreamers and activists who have an urgent ecological message for our times. Philippe Quesne is one of France's most internationally renowned theatre makers, having trained as a visual artist and worked as a stage and costume designer. His performance group Vivarium Studio, founded in 2003, consists of actors, visual artists, musicians and dancers. His productions have toured worldwide.

Blizzard (London Premiere)

Wednesday 27 – Sunday 31 May, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

What if winter has taken over? Not just outside, in the streets and in the fields, but also in the houses, in the bedrooms, underneath our clothes, and even right into our hearts? Go on a wild, poetic and gentle journey with FLIP Fabrique in this acrobatic performance that invites you to lose yourself in a moment of wonder. Featuring outstanding visual poetry and performers at the peak of their art, *Blizzard* promises to blow away everything in its path.

GROOVE (UK Premiere)

Thursday 4 – Saturday 6 June, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

In a lively dance concert, The Ruggeds and Ghetto Funk Collective guide us on a journey through the 50 year evolution of funk, soul, hip-hop, house and everything in between. Uniting some of the world's best dancing crews, *GROOVE* leans on both dance and music, with multi-disciplinary artists taking you back to the era of James Brown, Nina Simone and Herbie Hancock for one unforgettable night out. Now's a good time to put on your shiny shoes or heels and join our Bus Stop! With a passion for creating and sharing dance, music and art that sets people in motion, Ghetto Funk Collective from Amsterdam is a family of creative individuals. They come together to form a unique movement, sound, and experience within their shared love for funk culture. The Ruggeds strive to continually challenge themselves in the theater, aiming to surprise their audience. Remaining true to themselves, they draw inspiration from hip-hop and street culture, unapologetically bringing it to the theatre.

COLOSSUS (UK Premiere)

Thursday 25 – Saturday 27 June, 7:30pm & 2pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

60 dancers move as one in the UK debut of one of Australia's leading choreographers, Stephanie Lake. From darkness they emerge, a dizzying mass of pulsating bodies. The push and pull of humanity is embodied by this heaving throng of life, but can a crowd be more than the sum of its parts? As complex patterns ripple through the flood of figures, a single movement triggers a chain reaction wheeling the fragile whole from chaos to order. This riveting, hypnotic dance work explores relationships between the individual and the collective, solitary striving and joyous union, with a cast of 60 performing as one. Stephanie Lake is a multi award-winning choreographer, dancer and artistic director of Stephanie Lake Company. She was appointed Resident Choreographer of The Australian Ballet in 2024 and Artist in Residence (AiR) of Semperoper Ballet, Dresden in 2025. A co-production with London Contemporary Dance School at The Place and the Southbank Centre.

PR Contact: Suzanne.Frost@theplace.org.uk

Hofesh Shechter: IN THE BRAIN (London Premiere)

Wednesday 22 – Saturday 25 July, 7:30pm & 2pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Hofesh Shechter's new full-length work for his company Shechter II, *IN THE BRAIN* is an invitation to surrender to the music and be swept away in rhythm. Part rave, part ritual, this performance sees dancers shattering the barrier between stage and audience, pulling you into a fevered, all-consuming experience that leaves you craving more. Brought to life by the fierce, unstoppable energy of dance company Shechter II, this is a space to break free, where only the beat rules. Developed from *CAVE*, which was originally produced by Martha Graham Company and Studio Simkin, *IN THE BRAIN* celebrates the spark, connection and unity found in dancing together.

Press Night: Thursday 23 July 2026

PR Contact: cliona@crpr.co.uk

Dog Man: The Musical

Thursday 30 July – Sunday 16 August, various timings, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Dog Man: The Musical is a hilarious new musical based on the worldwide bestselling book series from Dav Pilkey, the creator of *Captain Underpants* and *Cat Kid Comic Club*. Best friends George and Harold have been creating comics for years, but now that they're ten, they figure it's time to level up and write a musical based on their favourite character, Dog Man, the crime-biting sensation who is part dog, part man and ALL HERO! How hard could it be? With the head of a dog and the body of a policeman, Dog Man loves to fight crime... and chew on the furniture. But while trying his best to be a good boy, can he save the city from Flippy the cyborg fish and his army of Beastly Buildings? Can he catch Petey, the world's most evil cat, who has cloned himself to exact revenge on the doggy do-gooder? And will George and Harold finish their show before lunchtime?

PR Contact: chloe@aboutgracepr.com laura@aboutgracepr.com

Who Are We? (UK Premiere)

Wednesday 14 - Thursday 15 October, 7.30pm; Friday 16 October, 6.30pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Baro d'èvel makes circus for the 21st century. As a bold and brilliant series of dream images that set out to capture the very essence of us, *Who Are We? (Qui Som?)* is a joyful journey into our inner worlds, into the very idea of what it is to be a human. A high-energy explosion of humour and playful self-reflection and an explosion of colour and form, the show brings together actors, dancers, musicians, acrobats, clowns and ceramists. In the words of Camille Decourtye and Blaï Mateu Trias, the directors of the company: 'We like to think of the show as a ceremony, a re-enchantment, inviting all these disciplines, having these animals, these children, these artists on stage, to create shows that take the viewer into an inner labyrinth, into a waking dream.' Presented in collaboration with MimeLondon.

ENDS

Press Images [HERE](#). This forward planner is available in a range of formats. Please email press@southbankcentre.co.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information about the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations, visit southbankcentre.co.uk/our-75th-anniversary

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) and 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

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