
Gulbenkian
Arts Centre
SEASON
26/27
LIVE MUSIC | THEATRE & DANCE
FAMILY | COMEDY
University of Kent
Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries
iCCi
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Supported by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

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Gulbenkian Arts Centre is run by the Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries (iCCi) at the University of Kent. Each year around 100,000 people attend our events, including students, our University colleagues, members of our local community and beyond.

We hope you can join us this year.


## Gulbenkian Membership

**Save 40%** on selected theatre

**Save 20%** on all films

**Save 10%** in the Gulbenkian Café

**4 FREE** cinema tickets when you join

\+

PLUS no booking fees! AND your discounts apply to you and 5 guests each booking!

In the brochure and on the website look for the red button to see where members save.




Front cover: The Butterfly Who Flew Into The Rave © Matt Hurley

# Hello!

And welcome to the 26/27 Season - a huge year for the Arts Centre, iCCi and the University.

In December 2026, the Institute (iCCi) will open the doors to Docking Station, our brand new state-of-the-art digital facility situated in The Historic Dockyard Chatham.

A centre for industry, research, teaching and outreach, it's an exciting new chapter for the Institute as we expand into future technologies and their potential for the creative industries.

And it's a massive season here at the Arts Centre too - our biggest season yet - as we welcome new Associate Artists, our first 'Thinker in Residence', introduce 'Gulb Lab', an exciting new strand offering you the opportunity to experience works in progress from major artists; and we end the year with the launch of a brand new international adventurous music festival, 'Shadowlands'.

All of this alongside the mix of superb music, theatre, dance, comedy and film that we proudly present each year.

And the return of some of the outstanding highlights of the past few seasons: John Hegley, Pussy Riot, Ekleido, Blockheads, Nouvelle Vague, The Unthanks - all massively successful - and hugely exciting to have them back.

It's all in here - please dig in and discover for yourselves.

I look forward to welcoming you back often through the year - and do please consider becoming a member - it's a great deal for you and a big help for us!

Enjoy the year!



**David Sefton**
Director: Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries
Artistic Director: Gulbenkian Arts Centre

# Access Symbols

We are trialling new symbols on events this brochure to highlight accessible events, or sometimes limits to access.

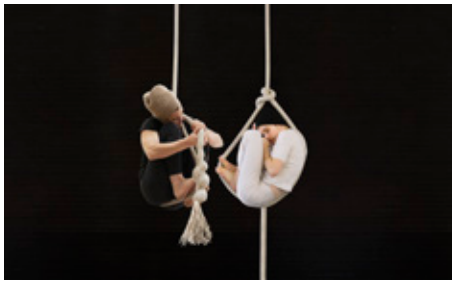
We hope they help you make an informed choice and would appreciate your feedback to boxoffice@kent.ac.uk

| | |
|---|---|
| AD | Audio Description |
| CAP | Captioned |
| REL | Relaxed Performance |
| | BSL Interpreted |
| | Denotes an event that is mainly visual, with little or no dialogue |
| | Denotes an event that is mainly audio, so dialogue or music rich |
| ! | Denotes an access warning on an event (eg a standing event) |
| TT | Denotes Touch Tour before the show |

# Associate Artist Programme

Our Associate Artist programme draws on a diverse pool of extraordinary artists to work with our campus and community in a range of different ways.

## Improbable



Improbable occupies a vital space in the landscape of UK theatre. Pioneering improvisers, theatre makers, conversation facilitators and winners of the Producer of the Year in The Stage Awards 2023.

Improbable are back with us once again in our 26/27 season, presenting a new work in development, Lifelines.

## Sacha Wares



Sacha is founder of Trial and Error Studio, whose extended reality (XR) drama and documentary work includes collaborations with the Young Vic, Bristol Old Vic, the Donmar Warehouse, ETT and National Theatre.

Sacha takes up a new post of Thinker in Residence, looking at script writing and storytelling for new creative formats.

## And our Associates who will be back again in future:

- Stan's Cafe
- Societas
- A&E
- 1927

# Ekleido



Ekleido is a duo made up of Hannah Ekholm and Faye Stoeser choreographing for live performance and film. Their work combines contemporary dance with underground club dance styles, in collaboration with musicians at the forefront of the electronic music scene.

Ekleido return to Gulbenkian this autumn with new work, Femina.

# Ramin Gray



Ramin is a leading British theatre director who has toured work extensively nationally and abroad, previously at Gulbenkian with The Suppliant Women (2021), Egyptians (2023) and Danaïds (2025).

This season Ramin returns with Broken Nose Theatre Company in a new production of Oscar Wilde's satirical, political comedy, An Ideal Husband.

# Jasmin Vardimon MBE



A leading force in British dance theatre for twenty five years, Jasmin has built a reputation for challenging, exciting and visually stunning dance.

Jasmin Vardimon Company have a long-standing relationship with Gulbenkian, and this season we host work by JV2, Jasmin's professional training programme.

# Krzysztof Garbacewski



Krzysztof is a theatre director and the founder of Dream Adoption Society. His work combines live actors with virtual 3D environments, creating mixed-reality experiences for online platforms and live audiences.

Krzysztof is presenting a new work in progress, Solaris, as part of our 26/27 season.

# OFFICES AND CO-WORKING SPACES

## A WORKING BASE FOR THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Opening in Chatham in 2027, Docking Station brings together advanced studio technology, flexible workspace, and a community of creative professionals under one roof.

For more information and enquiries visit:
**www.docking-station.co.uk**

# DOCKING STATION



# Gulbenkian
Arts Centre | Film




**Canterbury's independent cinema, Gulbenkian shows Kent's most diverse mix of film, from blockbuster to art house and international releases.**

Join our mailing list to get regular updates:

thegulbenkian.co.uk
boxoffice@kent.ac.uk

Member discount

**'This show proves he's as good as ever'**
★★★★
Entertainment Now

# John Hegley's Biscuit of Destiny

## With special guests Rachel Pantechnicon & Diego Brown and the Good Fairy

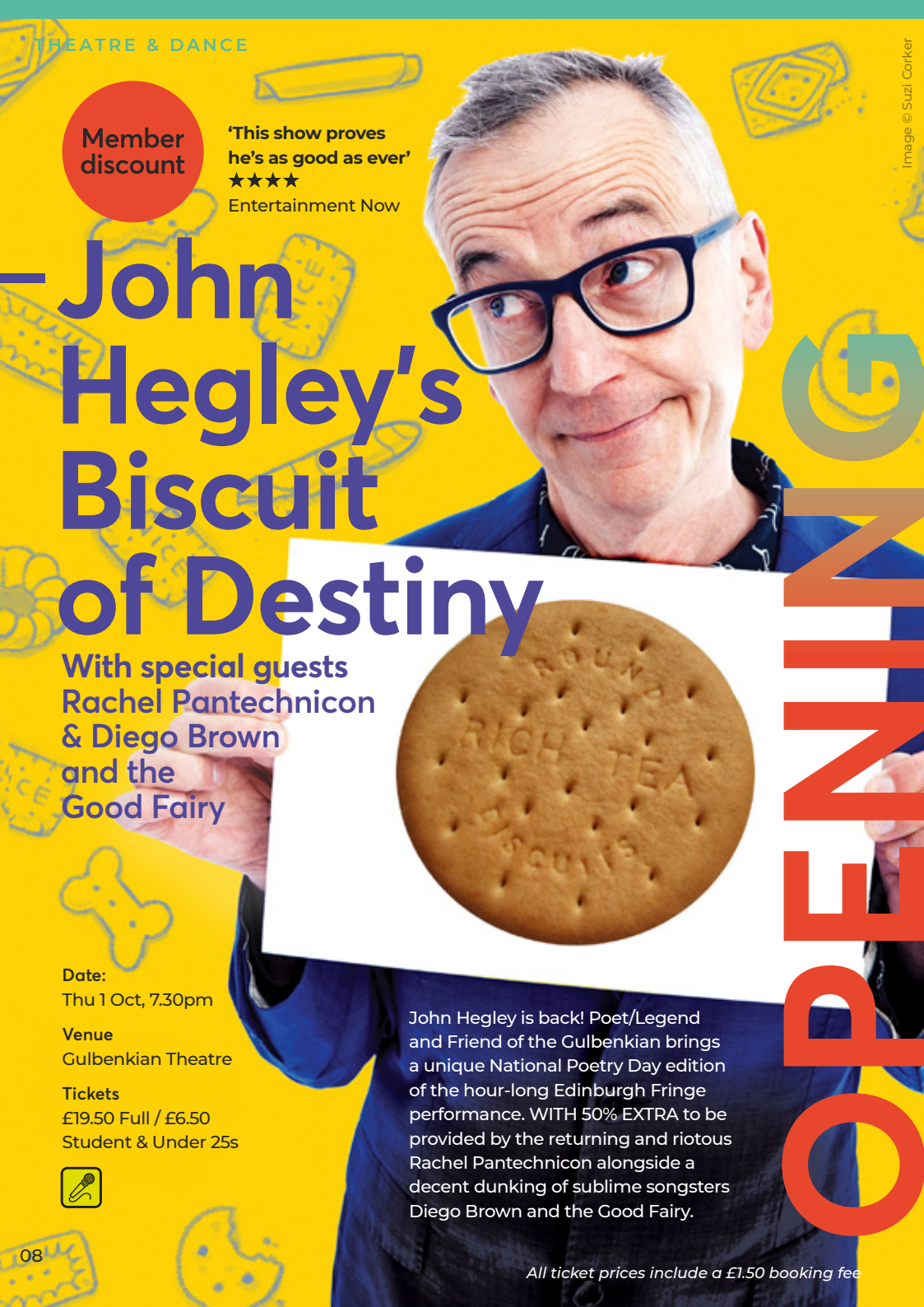



Image © Suzi Corker

OPENING

**Date:**
Thu 1 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£19.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

John Hegley is back! Poet/Legend and Friend of the Gulbenkian brings a unique National Poetry Day edition of the hour-long Edinburgh Fringe performance. WITH 50% EXTRA to be provided by the returning and riotous Rachel Pantechnicon alongside a decent dunking of sublime songsters Diego Brown and the Good Fairy.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

WEEKEND

Member discount

**Date**
Sat 3 Oct, 8pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£15 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s



# Daniel Kitson
# Thrum

There's the sound of somewhere else and the permanence of a plant pot and the ubiquity of a phrase and the heartbreaking brevity of a very long time. There's figs and worms and an old dog rejecting a blanket. There's a woman, on a train, wearing a badge. There's the first beep of a smoke alarm and there's a daffodil in December and there's the condition of fruit. There's a hand in bed and there's stuff on the stairs and there's a mark on my jumper and there's a massive tree in storage on a farm in Kent. There's nothing to say and there's the thought of rotting and there's the name of a feeling and there's the smell of tobacco. There's the twelfth floor of a hotel and the far end of a platform at Tamworth train station. There's a duty to act and there's a resistance to growth and there's a new place up the road and there's a completely redundant volume control. There's a toilet in Hong Kong and a coffee shop in Melbourne and the passage of light through a building and deliberately making things much more difficult than they actually need to be.

And.

There's music, more or less throughout, at least two funny voices and upwards of three jokes.

A New Comedy Show by Daniel Kitson.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

ASSOCIATE ARTIST

Member discount

## Broken Nose Theatre

# An Ideal Husband

## by Oscar Wilde





*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Oscar Wilde's wittiest and most politically charged play receives a bold contemporary reimagining from Gulbenkian Associate Artist, acclaimed director Ramin Gray (Suppliant Women/ Danaids).

Bringing together actors from major Russian theatres and eminent British drama schools, this production explores the tension between power and authenticity, the perils of cancel culture, and the problem of sexism. Gray's direction goes to the very heart of Wilde's satire and finds issues that could not be more urgent.

"The play emerges fresh and clear and alive. The uniformly excellent cast perfectly match truth with style. One of the best pieces of theatre I've seen in years"- Mark Ravenhill, playwright.



**Date**
Thu 15 – Sat 17 Oct, 7.30pm plus 2.30pm on Sat

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£21.50 Full / £6.50 Student

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Image © Alina Saffron

Member discount

Over twenty-five years ago, fresh out of circus school, Matilda made an aerial-theatre solo called Lifeline. It was based on the simple metaphor of the vertical line of the rope as the timeline of a life – she went from birth to death, through every age. Now in her fifties, as a mother and older woman, as she navigates her recovery from leukaemia, she is returning to this work - to the rope, the air, the themes of age, time and change – but with a new vision. Now 'lifeline' refers not only to the length of a life, but to explore how telling a life, just might be one way of saving it.

Join us for an exclusive 'work in progress' development sharing of this powerful and important new project. This is the first of our our new Gulb Lab performances.

**Date**
Sat 10 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£11.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

REL




ASSOCIATE ARTIST

# Improbable Lifelines



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount



ASSOCIATE ARTIST

## Ekleido

# Femina

### Music by Floating Points, Ela Minus and Stella Mozgawa

After their stunning Gulbenkian debut last year, Ekleido return as new Associate Artists.

The highly anticipated new work from choreographic duo Hannah Ekholm and Faye Stoeser, Femina celebrates the power of the feminine through their signature fusion of contemporary, club, and street dance styles in a vibrant, electronic-driven world where feminine voices reclaim space and power on their own terms.

Femina is a visual spectacle featuring six dancers, set to an original score by world-renowned musicians Floating Points (Mercury Prize nominee), Ela Minus and Stella Mozgawa.

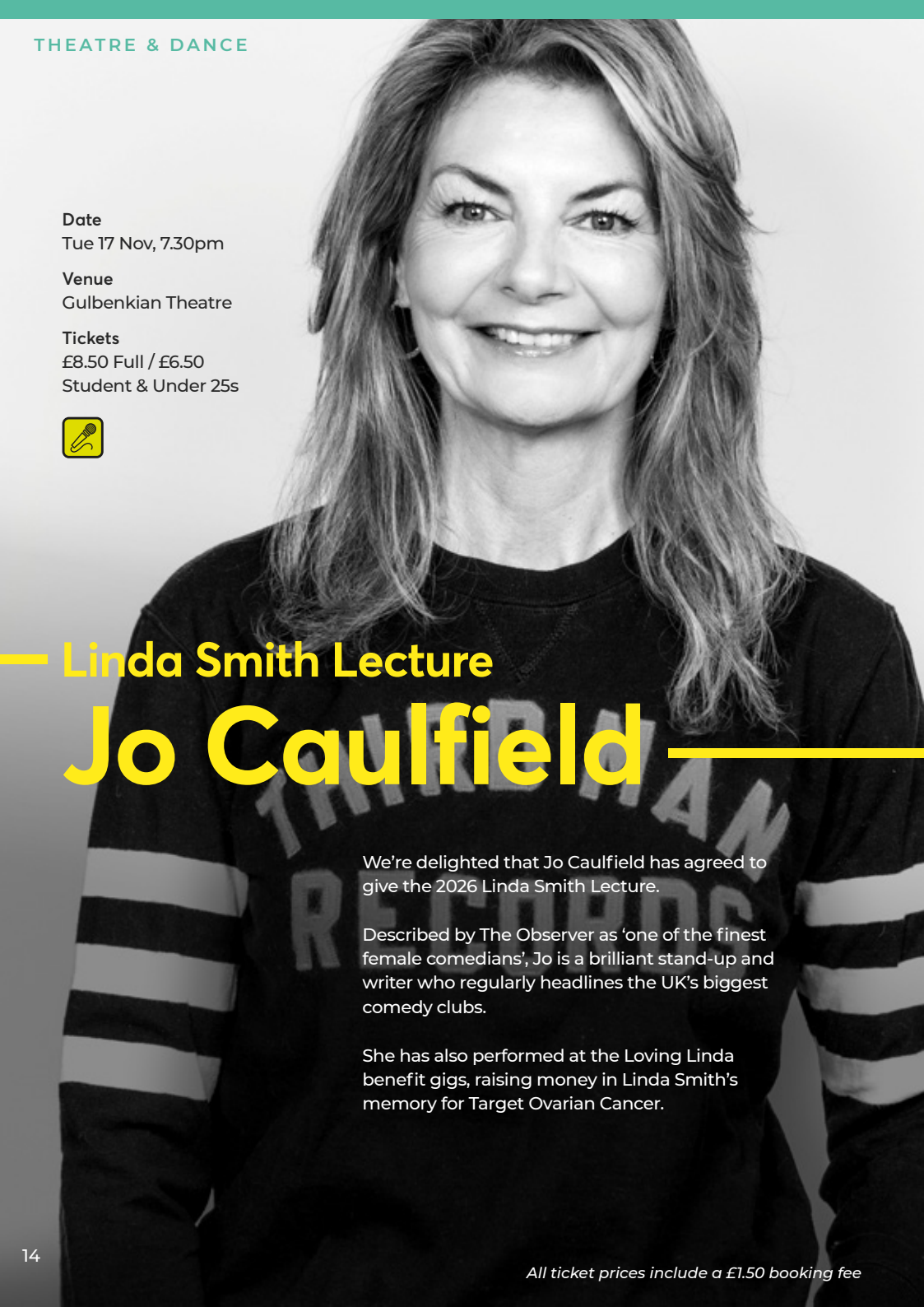
**Date**
Thu 29 & Fri 30 Oct, 8pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£21.50 Full / £6.50 Student

Mainly visual, but with music throughout.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



**Date**
Tue 17 Nov, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£8.50 Full / £6.50
Student & Under 25s

## Linda Smith Lecture

# Jo Caulfield

We're delighted that Jo Caulfield has agreed to give the 2026 Linda Smith Lecture.

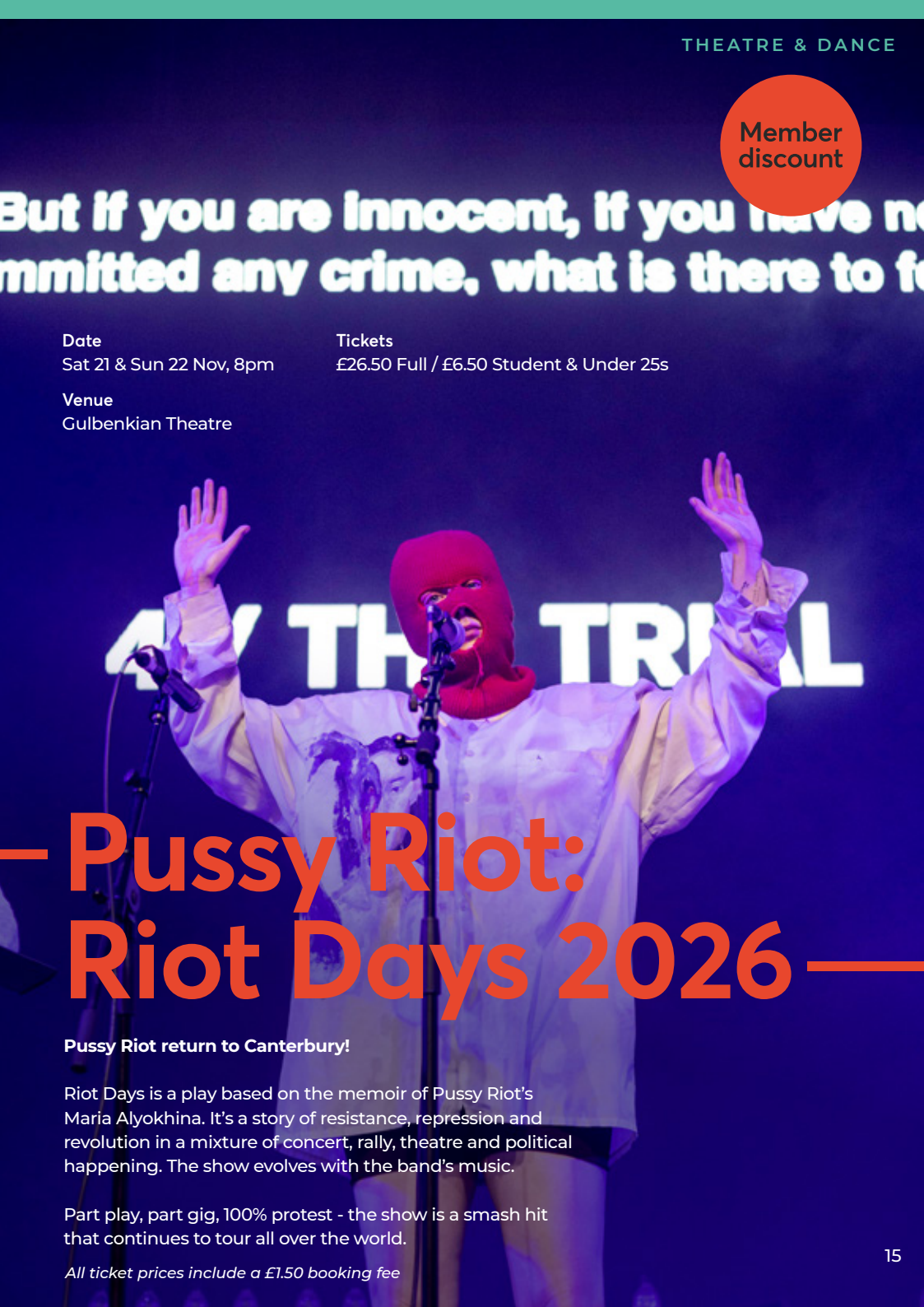
Described by The Observer as 'one of the finest female comedians', Jo is a brilliant stand-up and writer who regularly headlines the UK's biggest comedy clubs.

She has also performed at the Loving Linda benefit gigs, raising money in Linda Smith's memory for Target Ovarian Cancer.



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount




**Date**
Sat 21 & Sun 22 Nov, 8pm

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

# Pussy Riot: Riot Days 2026

**Pussy Riot return to Canterbury!**

Riot Days is a play based on the memoir of Pussy Riot's Maria Alyokhina. It's a story of resistance, repression and revolution in a mixture of concert, rally, theatre and political happening. The show evolves with the band's music.

Part play, part gig, 100% protest - the show is a smash hit that continues to tour all over the world.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount

During Isabel Perón's time in power (before she was overthrown in a military coup), Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice were writing their blockbuster musical about her dead husband's even deader ex-wife.

And now, nobody remembers Isabel. Coincidence?

Sh!t Theatre are here to right that wrong. Evita Too tells Isabel's story – and the story of Sh!t Theatre, who travel across Argentina and Spain in search of the mysterious former president.

Riotous, anarchic and hilarious, cult faves Sh!t Theatre make their much-anticipated Gulbenkian debut.

Produced by Judith Dimant Productions.

## Sh!t Theatre

# EVITA TOO



**Date**
Fri 27 & Sat 28 Nov, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

Image © Christa Holka

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount



## Half Moon

# Bones in the Desert

From the deserts of 1915 to the chaos of today, Bones in the Desert explores the legacy of genocide and the lives it still touches. With raw honesty and urgency, it also confronts mental well-being, racism in contemporary Europe and the cost of silence.

The performance lasts one hour followed by a Q&A.

**Date**
Tue 1 Dec, 5.30pm & 8pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£19.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

! This is an immersive performance during which the audience remain standing.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

## Oli Mathiesen with Lucy Lynch and Sharvon Mortimer

# The Butterfly Who Flew Into The Rave



The standout hit of Edinburgh 2025 is here!

An award-winning endurance-based dance work to the booming techno album *Nocturbulous Behaviour* by Suburban Knight captures the atmosphere of a 3-day rave condensed into an hour. Relentless movement, seamless without pause, detailed down to every beat.

Exploring the movement used in techno and rave culture, witness the destruction of 3 humans. Indulge in the pain, the sweat; a display of pure endurance to achieve a goal. A spectacle of the human body as a victim to music, to passion, to our endless desire to achieve more.

An extraordinary, intense and truly powerful performance – you've never seen anything like it before. Unmissable.



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount



**Date**
Fri 19 & Sat 20 Feb, 8.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£21.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

Mainly visual, but with music throughout.

Image © Matt Hurley

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount

## Le Navet Bête

# Oh Zeus!





*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



**"There's a lot to love about Oh Zeus!"**
★★★★
The Stage

When the stability of Olympus is threatened by the marriage of Zeus's daughter to a mere mortal, the King of the Gods hatches a plan to derail the wedding. Three actors play 40 characters in this mythical farce through Ancient Greece, the Underworld and back. Expect sensational physical comedy, outrageous jokes and more togas than you can smash a plate at.
For lovers of Fawlty Towers, Bottom and The Play That Goes Wrong, Oh Zeus! is a riotous, hilarious ride through Greek mythology.

**Date**
Fri 2 & Sat 3 Apr, 7.30pm, plus 2.30pm on Sat

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

Image © Mark Senior Photography

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount

An explosive dance ensemble of young international dancers showcasing an exhilarating and energetic mix of inventive choreography and exceptional new talent. JV2 2026 will premiere brand-new powerful works from Jasmin Vardimon Company associates.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

## Jasmin Vardimon Company

# JV2

**Date**
Mon 5 Apr, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£16.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

With music

Image © Bill Knight







## South by South East 2026

**22 & 23 Sep**

South by South East is a window into the wealth of performing arts creativity in Kent & Essex, including dance, drama, music and comedy.

Curated by 1DegreeEast in collaboration with Gulbenkian Arts Centre, South by South East combines panel discussions & workshops, premieres, touring work, projects in development and new commissions.



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount

## Apphia Campbell

# Black is the Color of My Voice

Inspired by the life of Nina Simone and featuring many of her most iconic songs performed live. A smash hit of Edinburgh Fringe 2025.

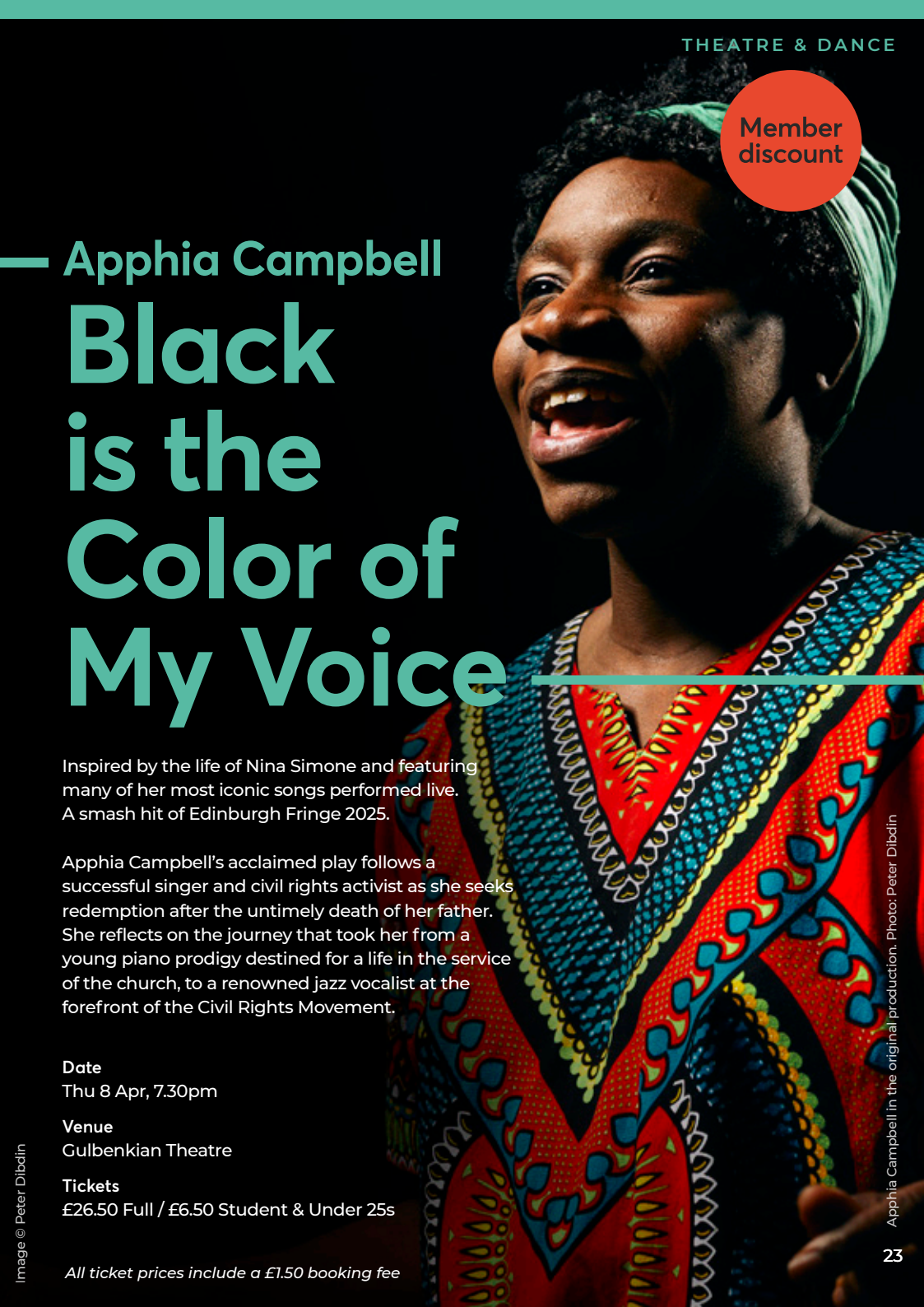
Apphia Campbell's acclaimed play follows a successful singer and civil rights activist as she seeks redemption after the untimely death of her father. She reflects on the journey that took her from a young piano prodigy destined for a life in the service of the church, to a renowned jazz vocalist at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement.

**Date**
Thu 8 Apr, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



Apphia Campbell in the original production. Photo: Peter Dibdin

Image © Peter Dibdin

Member discount



## Paul Ready

# Little Animals

The story of a life-long friendship, set in a culture that can't stop consuming. As Richard's climate concern grows more extreme and his friend struggles with mortgages and parenthood, it drives a wedge between them. Because it's not like one bag of pre-chopped carrots is what's destroying the entire planet. Is it?

A funny and inventive one-man show, written & performed by Paul Ready (National Theatre, Motherland, Utopia) about stories we tell ourselves and the chance to write a new one.

A rare chance to experience this major theatrical talent in such intimate circumstances.

Fern Culture co-produced with Penatbus, in association with Gulbenkian Arts Centre.

**Date**
Thu 13 - Sat 15 May
7.30pm, plus 2.30pm Sat

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£21.50 Full / £6.50 Student & Under 25s



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount

ASSOCIATE ARTIST

## A Dream Adoption Society Project

# SOLARIS

Inspired by Stanisław Lem's classic novel, SOLARIS is an experimental performance and installation project exploring the encounter with a radically non-human intelligence. Rather than a conventional adaptation, the project treats Lem's ocean as a responsive system: an environment that observes, remembers and generates presences from human traces. Developed through research and workshop, SOLARIS will investigate how immersive technologies, AI, virtual scenography and live performance can create a space where memory, projection and agency become unstable.

Led by Krzysztof Garbaczewski, with dramaturgical collaboration from Rébecca Pierrot.

**Date**
Thu 29 & Fri 30 Apr, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£11.50 Full / £6.50 Student




*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*




OPENING

# Laibach

Cult legends Laibach, renowned for their utterly unique take on popular culture and extraordinary live shows make a first ever appearance in Canterbury in a not to be missed, never to be forgotten start to the 26/27 season at the Gulbenkian.

Since their formation in 1980s Slovenia, the group have used pastiche, satire and appropriation to address the bombast and contradictions of society. Presenting themselves as a uniformed, anonymous collective, their multi-disciplinary practice spans music, performance, visual art and installation.

**Date**
Fri 2 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£36.50 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s

But with projections and dancers

This is a standing gig



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

WEEKEND

# –Jazz Sabbath

Jazz Sabbath is a trio comprised of ex members of Black Sabbath/ Ozzy Osbourne playing new jazz arrangements of their classic material.

Helmed by 2026 Grammy Award Winner and pianist Adam Wakeman, Jazz Sabbath explores the boundaries between jazz and the songs that defined heavy metal, revisiting existing jazz riffs and discovering new ones.

**Date**
Sat 3 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£29 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s




Image © Jason Gilchrist

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# Mary Coughlan



Mary Coughlan is often described as the greatest female vocalist that Ireland has ever produced, standing alongside some of the world's most iconic jazz singers.

She is unique in blending whisky-blurred, smoke-seared, husky notes with the laconic wit of Billie Holiday and Peggy Lee. She draws the line of deep, down and dirty blues singers back to Bessie Smith with the sardonic, bitter-sweet defiance and despair of Edith Piaf.

**Date**
Fri 9 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£31.50 Full /
£16.50 Student

# The Long Ryde




The Long Ryders, pioneers of the Alt-Country movement, return to the stage with the same fiery spirit that first made them legends.

Fusing punk energy with country-rock harmonies, the band bridged the gap



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



**Date**
Sat 17 Oct, 8pm

**Venue**
Colyer- Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£29 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s

## rs

between Gram Parsons and today's Americana heroes, influencing acts such as Wilco, The Jayhawks, and Uncle Tupelo. Still a thrilling live force, The Long Ryders deliver shows packed with history, heart, and unrelenting energy.

# Kayhan Kalhor & Erdal Erzincan

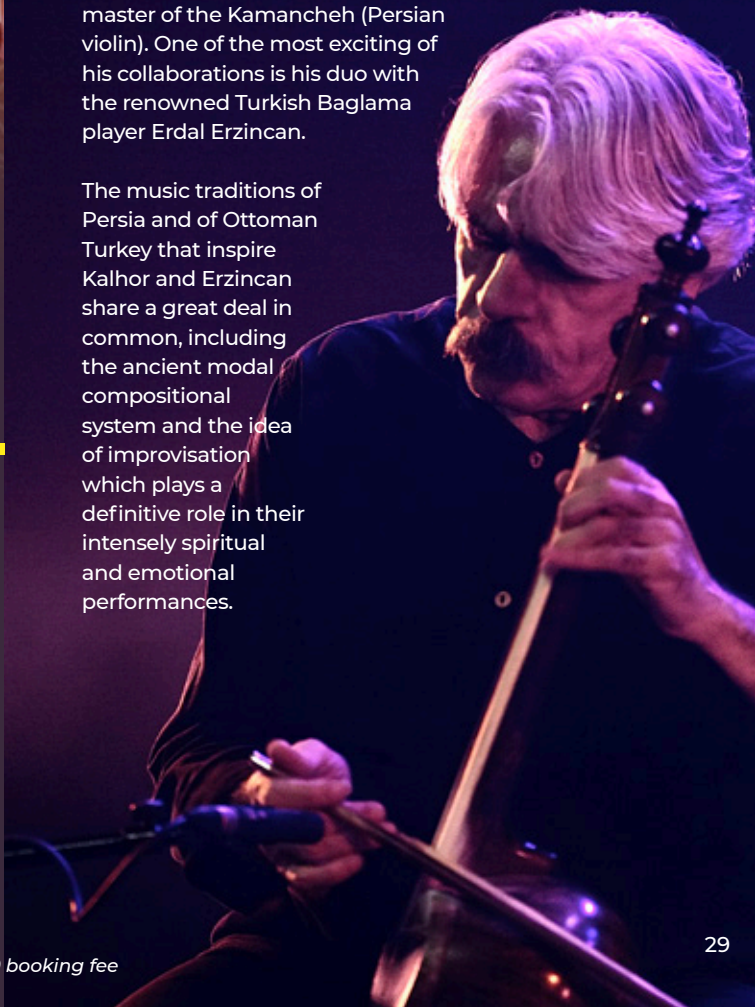
**Date**
Fri 30 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£36.50 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s

Grammy Award winner Kayhan Kalhor is regarded as the world's greatest master of the Kamancheh (Persian violin). One of the most exciting of his collaborations is his duo with the renowned Turkish Baglama player Erdal Erzincan.

The music traditions of Persia and of Ottoman Turkey that inspire Kalhor and Erzincan share a great deal in common, including the ancient modal compositional system and the idea of improvisation which plays a definitive role in their intensely spiritual and emotional performances.



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

**Date**
Sat 24 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£29 Full / £16.50 Student

This is a standing gig

DOUBLE BILL

# ExTC + The Monochrome Set

# THIS IS POP

Two of the undisputed legends of original British pop music on one outstanding double bill.

For almost four decades, XTC fans could only dream of witnessing the sensational XTC classic songbook played live. That dream has now become a reality as XTC's legendary drummer, Terry Chambers, is back on the road.

The Monochrome Set formed in 1978 and were heavily influential in the post-punk scene that evolved after the initial scorched earth of punk.

Intelligent, witty and timeless, see these pop icons in their Canterbury debut.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



# Courtney Pine

## Out of the Ghetto: A Modern Day Jazz Story

No musician more fully embodies the dramatic transformation of the British jazz scene over the past four decades than Courtney Pine CBE. A groundbreaking saxophonist and multi-instrumentalist, Pine has led a generation of innovative players who have broadened jazz's reach and connected it with wider audiences.

This special live show brings together key moments from Pine's remarkable catalogue, alongside previously unreleased material reimagined with the fire and freedom that have made his performances legendary.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

**Date**
Sat 7 Nov, 8pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£31.50 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s

Image © Alexis Maryon

# Grace Petrie

**Date**
Sat 31 Oct, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£22.50 Full / £19.50 Student

For a decade and a half, Grace Petrie has been one of the UK's most urgent and passionate songwriters. Coming of age amidst the coalition government, her politically charged folk music quickly gained national attention and propelled her to the main stages of folk festivals around the world.

Grace will be performing a show of two halves that encompasses both an intimate solo set, and a career-retrospective full band performance featuring songs from across her sixteen-year catalogue.




*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



Presented by Free Range

# John Zorn's Bagatelles

A rare opportunity to hear John Zorn's Bagatelles arranged for a stunning big band featuring 13 of the best improvising musicians in the UK. Trumpeter, composer and bandleader, Sam Eastmond arranges and conducts. This same band recorded these pieces on Zorn's Tzadik label in 2023 to rave reviews.

This event is promoted by Free Range in collaboration with Gulbenkian Arts Centre.

**Date**
Fri 20 Nov, 8pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£16.50 Full / £11.50 Student & Under 25s



**Date**
Thu 26 Nov, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £16.50 Students & Under 25s

Colosseum came to fame in 1969 when the band led by legendary drummer Jon Hiseman released its debut album Those Who Are About To Die Salute You. Best-selling studio albums followed, notably Valentyne Suite (1969) and The Daughter of Time is Truth (1970).

Though Colosseum disbanded in 1971, their legacy is immense. This is progressive music at its most fearless, virtuosic and vital—essential listening, and an unmissable live experience for fans of classic rock, jazz and beyond.

# Colosseum

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# The Unthanks in Winter

**Date**
Sat 12 Dec, 2.30pm & 8pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£36.50 Full / £16.50 Student

After a sell-out 2025 concert, The Unthanks return to Gulbenkian with a heart-warming Christmas show, In Winter.

In their typical magpie style, The Unthanks collect and reimagine, at once unique and familiar, inventive but natural and effortless. Hear a Tyneside band playing a German Christmas song in the style of The Beach Boys; a Spanish carol performed by English folkies through the filter of Tom Waits; traditional wassails and old stories coloured with folk noir and traces of Vincent Guaraldi's Merry Christmas Charlie Brown.



**"In Winter is an absolute gem, one of the finest albums the Unthanks have given us yet and guaranteed to soundtrack Christmases for a long time to come."**
★★★★★ NARC

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



# Soft Machine

Soft Machine is one of the greatest UK avant/jazz-rock bands of all time. Their work, from their earliest performances as a psychedelic band who were contemporaries of, and shared stages with, Syd Barrett's Pink Floyd and the Jimi Hendrix Experience, all the way to being one of Europe's best known 'fusion' groups, has influenced several generations of bands, and continues to be name-checked by today's hip experimentalists.

**Date**
Fri 19 Feb, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# The Rezillos
## & Support

The Rezillos are a punk/ new wave band formed in Edinburgh in 1976. Their independent debut single, 'I Can't Stand My Baby' shot them to underground fame, discovered by and championed by the legendary John Peel.

Always famously one of the best live bands on the punk rock circuit, The Rezillos continue to be as witty, powerful and energetic as ever.

**Date**
Fri 12 Feb, 8pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s





*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*




# The Blockheads – 50th Anniversary

Starting out as the band behind Ian Dury, the Blockheads are a legendary outfit that has grown in stature from the early days of the Stiff tour in 1977, right up to the present day. Backing up Ian Dury's poetic lyrics, this is the band that brought you 'Hit Me with your Rhythm Stick', 'What A Waste', 'Reasons to be Cheerful (Part 3)', and 'Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll', among many others.

Touring to mark the 50th Anniversary of the timeless classic 'New Boots and Panties', the Blockheads return to the Gulbenkian – expect another sell-out stunner!

**Date**
Fri 26 Feb, 8pm

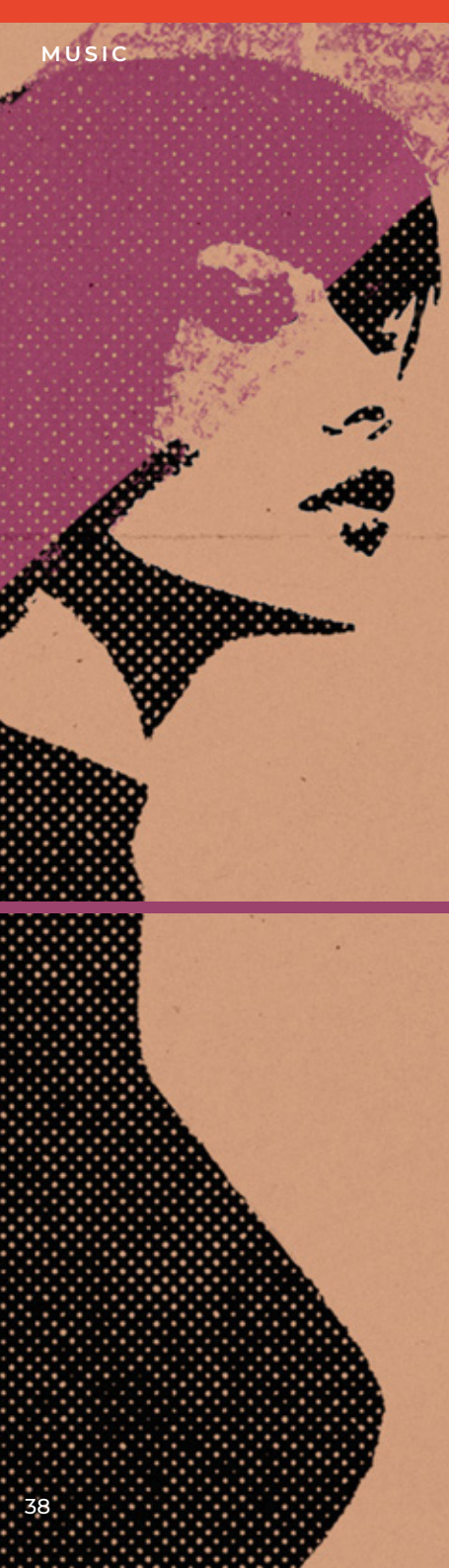
**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£29 Full / £16.50 Students & Under 25s

This is a standing gig

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Image © Peter Surcombe



Following their sell-out show at Gulbenkian in 2024, Nouvelle Vague return with their new tour.

Nouvelle Vague, the renowned bossa nova project founded by Marc Collin and the late Olivier Libaux in 2003, has become a musical phenomenon over the past two decades. The band's unique fusion of melancholic post-punk and bossa nova, coupled with their daring French reinterpretation approach, set them apart.

This show is part of their tour for their brand new album – A Date with Depeche Mode. A massive hit with the Gulbenkian audiences last time, this stunning live show is sure to be another sell out.

# Nouvelle Vague

**Date**
Fri 12 Mar, 8pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£34 Full / £21.50 Student & Under 25s

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# Hejira - A Celebration of Joni Mitchell

Hejira is a formidable, highly successful 7-piece touring band, set up in 2023 to celebrate the 'greatest songs' of Joni Mitchell. Since late 2025, they have been drawing from a pool of 3 outstanding singers/guitarists: Hattie Whitehead; Jana Varga; and Immy Churchill.

In particular, the band performs the masterpiece works that Mitchell recorded from 'Court & Spark' to 'Wild Things Run Fast'; expect to hear such classics as 'Amelia', 'Help Me', 'Hejira', 'Song For Sharon', 'A Case Of You, 'Free Man In Paris', 'Coyote' 'Hissing of Summer Lawns' etc..

**Date**
Sat 20 Mar, 8pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £21.50 Student & Under 25s



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Member discount

# FB Pocket Orchestra

## Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1941) stars Spencer Tracy, Ingrid Bergman and Lana Turner. The film was nominated for three Academy Awards and remains an iconic adaptation of the 1886 Gothic novella by Robert Louis Stevenson. The FB Pocket Orchestra are bringing the classic film to life with a performance of the score alongside a screening of the film.

Featuring live music and sound effects performed by FB Pocket Orchestra, this production seamlessly blends classic cinema with the energy of live music.

**Date**
Thu 25 Mar, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£21.50 Full / £16.50 Student& Under 25s

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# Spiers & Boden

Spiers & Boden have been at the forefront of the English traditional folk scene for 25 years both as a groundbreaking duo and as founder members of folk phenomenon Bellowhead.

After a seven-year hiatus, Spiers & Boden returned in 2021 with the critically acclaimed album Fallow Ground (Hudson Records) and have been taking their brand of high octane, no nonsense acoustic folk song and music to packed UK venues ever since.

**Date**
Sat 17 Apr, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£25 Full / £16.50
Student & Under 25s



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# You Are Here Music Festival




You Are Here is back!

After a hugely successful debut festival last year, over a dozen Grassroots music promoters from across East Kent once again take over every space in the Gulbenkian Arts Centre presenting artists from a huge range of genres.

**Date**
Fri 9 – Sun 11 Apr

**Tickets**
£ TBC

**Venue**
Across venues

# Kentronica

Coastal Electronauts' Kentronica Festival with their fifth annual International Drone Day concert brings together a diverse lineup of local and international artists exploring the fringes of sound. From deep ambient drones and modular synthesis to glitchy beats and cinematic textures, this is a day for sonic adventurers and curious listeners alike.

Expect a day of performances, live hardware sets, collaborative drone pieces, film, live visuals, workshops and theatre —all curated to celebrate innovation, atmosphere, and community in electronic music.

**Date**
Sat 29 May

**Venue**
Across venues

**Tickets**
£ TBC



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Presented by Outsider Artists

# John Bramwell of I Am Kloot

As the singer-songwriter in I Am Kloot, John Bramwell achieved a Mercury Prize nomination for 2010's The Sky At Night, a Top 10 chart position for 2013's Let It All In, numerous UK and European tours and a triumphant farewell at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with an orchestra in 2014.

As a solo artist, he's travelling a different path - darker clouds have been banished, there are now strings and four-part harmonies and a dozen gloriously exhilarating, beautifully crafted songs about life, humanity, the universe and everything else.

**Date**
Sat 22 May, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£26.50 Full / £16.50 Student & Under 25s

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

Image © Anthony Harrison


Membership
Gulbenkian
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Amazing savings when you become a member:
Just £40 for 12 months
Uni Staff £10 / Student £5
40% off selected theatre
20% off all films
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PLUS – no booking fees!
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University of Kent
Institute of Cultural and Creative Industries
iCCi
Image: The Devil Wears Prada 2

# In Association with Folk in the Barn

## Ranagri



With five studio albums under their belt, Ranagri have built a formidable reputation on the global stage. Now, they turn inward, for what promises to be their most evocative and personal tour to date.

**Date**
Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£19.50 full /
£10.50 Student

## Richard Shindell with Danny Bradley



Shindell is a writer whose songs paint pictures, tell stories, juxtapose ideas and images, inhabit characters, vividly evoking entire worlds along the way and expanding our sense of just what it is a song may be.

**Date**
Sun 8 Nov, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£21.50 Full /
£11.50 Student

## Gary Stewart's Graceland



Scottish singer songwriter Gary Stewart and his versatile six-piece band have been delighting audiences far and wide with their faithful rendition of Paul Simon's classic album, 'Graceland'.

**Date**
Sun 15 Nov, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£24 Full /
£12.50 Student

## SHOWCASE SCOTLAND: Hannah Rarity & Heron Valley




A special showcase event, Hannah Rarity earns comparisons to the likes of Eva Cassidy and Cara Dillon, whilst Heron Valley have remained a driving force in the new generation of Scottish folk music since their 2014 inception.

**Date**
Sat 21 Nov, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£19.50 Full /
£10.50 Student

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

## Steve Knightley & The Winter Yards Band



Following a hugely successful run of shows, Steve Knightley and the Winter Yards Band return in Autumn 2026.

**Date**
Sun 29 Nov, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
Full £29.50 / Student £15.50

## Albion Christmas Band



The band return for this heart-warming, festive show – an unmissable annual tradition.

**Date**
Sat 19 Dec, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£27.50 Full / £14.50 Student

## Graham Fitkin: Treeline

Treeline is a unique European musical and cycling venture joining countries and communities together on a 2500-mile arboreal journey. Devised by maverick composer Graham Fitkin, this concert tour focuses on trees and biodiversity and has been produced with communities in ten different countries (including a tree sampled on the campus here at the University of Kent).

**Date**
Wed 25 Nov, 1.10pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
Free

## A Concert Band Christmas: Meet the Band!

**A family-friendly concert, and a chance to meet the University Concert Band!**

Encounter super-heroes and music from film and television, with a sprinkling of Christmas music on top; find out about the different instruments in the band and sit with the players in the final piece to experience what it's like to be part of the music! Dress up as your favourite character and chat to some of the players afterwards.

**Date**
Fri 4 Dec, 5.15pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£5 adults / free (children)

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# Our Music Department



Based at the award-winning Colyer-Fergusson Hall on the Canterbury campus, our Extra-Curricular Music Department presents a vibrant programme of music-making, open to all students and staff at the University, and to the local community, throughout the academic year.

From orchestral works to big band swing, choral concerts, Musical Theatre, chamber opera and more, there are plenty of opportunities to rehearse and perform, whatever you study. Music Performance Scholarships are also open to talented instrumentalists and singers, and practice-rooms are available for use throughout the year, including a dedicated band-room for amplified instruments.

For details about our Extra-Curricular Music Department activities and Music Performance Scholarships, please visit kent.ac.uk/music.

## Tales at Christmas!

**University Chorus, Orchestra and soloists**

The second concert in our festive weekend brings University Chorus and Orchestra together in Chilcott's retelling of the tale of King Wenceslas, along with Johann Strauss II's popular Tales from the Vienna Woods, a visit to a wintry Frost Fair, and a trip to the North Pole aboard the Polar Express...

**Date**
Sat 5 Dec, 7.30pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets**
£15 / £8 Student

## Christmas Swingalong!

**The University Big Band, directed by Ian Swatman**, presents its annual Christmas cracker of a gig.

**Date**
Wed 9 Dec, 5.15pm

**Venue**
Colyer-Fergusson Hall

**Tickets:**
£15 / £8 Student

Proudly sponsored by furley page

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# Canterbury Music Club

The Gulbenkian Arts Centre are delighted to welcome Canterbury Music Club back for their 85th Anniversary Season of Chamber Music concerts.

They mix artists with established reputations with the best of those building their careers and aim to attract a wider audience than their membership itself.

CMC Tickets for people Under 25 are available FREE as part of CMC's commitment to taking classical chamber music to students and all young people.

Full concert details will be on the Gulbenkian and Canterbury Music Club websites.

All Canterbury Music Club events are primarily audio.



## Dogoda Wind Quintet

The Dogoda Wind Quintet was formed at the Royal Academy of Music in 2023 after all five members had previously played together as principals in the National Youth Orchestra.

Sun 27 Sep, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



## Daniel Schultz and Sejin Yoon

Direct from the Royal Academy of Music, the award winning Tillett Trust 2026 Debut Artist Daniel Schultz, cello and The Musicians' Company's Carnwath Piano Scholar Sejin Yoon.

Sun 24 Jan, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



## Sarah Small, Viola da Gamba

Sarah is travelling by bike with her viol through Europe in the summer, writing and composing. Her pieces will include 'A Response' and the collection she is working on now, 'Lachrimae for the Land'.

Sun 25 Oct, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



## Cordelia and Mirari String Quartets

The brilliant Cordelia and Mirari String Quartets, fresh from masterclasses with the Sacconi Quartet, perform Haydn and Mozart quartets respectively in part 1 and together Mendelssohn's Octet in part 2.

Sun 22 Nov, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



## Ode to Joyce

Cheryl and Paul Knight bring their award-winning tribute to Joyce Grenfell to Canterbury. In this gem of nostalgia, which recreates the setting of one of Joyce's stage shows, Cheryl Knight 'absolutely captures her spirit' (Everything Theatre).

Sun 13 Dec, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



## Pelléas Ensemble

Comprised of Oliver Wass, harp, Luba Tunnicliffe, viola and Henry Roberts, flute, the Pelléas Ensemble have made a name for themselves through their intimate, honest music-making and ambitious programming.

Sun 21 Feb, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



## Haim Choi and Matthew Roberts

Prize winning South Korean violinist Haim Choi will be accompanied by experienced pianist Matthew Roberts in a programme including sonatas by Cesar Franck and Reynaldo Hahn.

Sun 21 Mar, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



## The Sacconi Quartet at 25

The Sacconi Quartet at 25 bring Canterbury Music Club's 85th Anniversary celebrations to a triumphal conclusion with a programme to include a new quartet by Freda Waley-Cohen.

Sun 18 Apr, 3pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£25 (Under 25s – FREE)



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



**ART31 is a creative revolution made by young people, for young people!**

We believe creativity is a human right. That means every 13–25-year-old in Kent deserves genuine access to the best creative and cultural opportunities.

Whether you're trying something creative for the very first time or building towards a career in the creative industries, ART31 is here for you.

We start by listening. The things you want to make or say shape everything we do. Along the way, you'll find a community of people who get it and make lasting connections, as well as something creative to feel proud of.

ART31 has been based at Gulbenkian Arts Centre for nearly 15 years, and this year we are growing - with more activities and opportunities coming to Docking Station Medway.

## To get involved:

Follow @ART31KENT on Instagram

Email creativeengagement@kent.ac.uk to sign up

All images © @misterEB






## What's on at Gulbenkian Arts Centre & Docking Station Medway

*Everything is completely free.*

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**YOUTH THEATRE** — Because mid-week needs more drama! Two groups for 13–15 and 16–18 year olds, meeting on Wednesdays in term time.

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**GULBENKIAN YOUNG COMPANY** — Audition for our 13–19s company creating original work for the National Theatre Connections Festival.

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**GULBENKIAN THEATRE MAKERS** — Monday evenings for 18–25s. Two hours of games, skills, theatre-making, and performance opportunities.

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**GENERATE** — Giving voice to young perspectives, this is a programme of workshops, support, and performance opportunities across a range of creative disciplines to connect young creatives to our mainstage programme.

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**KRAN FAM** — A drama group for Kent Refugee Action Network members, where every story is heard.

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**TECH31** — Learn the technical craft behind live theatre. Open to all skill levels, ages 13–25.

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**SCREEN31** — Filmmaking workshops where your ideas get made. Whatever you want to say, we'll help you say it on screen.

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**FACILITATOR TRAINING** — Professional development for those who want to inspire others and carry the ART31 ethos forward.

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**SQUARE PEGS ARTS** — Weekly drama for 16–25s with learning disabilities, autism, or anyone who feels mainstream activities aren't quite the right fit. Plus monthly singing (14+) and relaxed film screenings.

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**ART31 MEDWAY** — Digital arts, filmmaking & creative technology coming to Medway ahead of the Docking Station opening. More details soon.

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## Rude Science
# The Utterly Revolting Science Show

Brace yourselves for the Rude Science team's hilarious, high-tech, highly-explosive journey through the human body, packed with burp biology, fart physics and revolting edible chemistry. Expect enormous bottoms, burp machines, edible fireworks, ridiculous games and the world's loudest fart in this riotous science spectacular, all designed to inspire young audiences.

**Date**
Wed 28 Oct, 11.30am & 3pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£18.50 Full / £16.50 Child / 20% off group 4+

**Ages**
5+

REL

# Dear Zoo

Dear Zoo the timeless children's classic book by Rod Campbell returns to the stage!

See our characters write to the Zoo. Who will be delivered? A cheeky monkey, a jumpy frog and of course a perfect puppy.

Help your children learn as the book leaps onto the stage and share a magical experience as the story unfolds with child-engaging puppets, music and lots of audience interaction.

**Date**
Wed 4 – Fri 6 Nov, times vary

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£17 Full / £15 Child / £14.50 Group 4+

**Ages**
2+

REL

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# There's a Monster in Your Christmas Show

Member discount





**Date**
Thu 3 – Sat 12 Dec, times vary

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£17.50 Full / £15.50 Child / £14.50 Group 4+

**Ages**
3+

REL

BSL Show: Date TBC at time of print.

A group of performers are preparing to start their show but discover they are not alone. Little Monster wants to be part of the fun too!

Tom Fletcher's interactive adventures for big imaginations are leaping from page to stage, as the beloved Who's in Your Book? series makes its debut as a brand-new musical show. Expect plenty of playful fun for your littlest ones as their favourite characters come to life in a festive show that is packed with interactive moments to enjoy together.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

## Full House and Half Moon

# Big Red Bath

Member discount

It's the end of a busy day and it is almost time for bed, and Ben and Bella are in the bath. Come with us on a bubbly, barmy bath time adventure around the world and home again celebrating all things bath time.

Adapted from Julia Jarman and Adrian Reynolds' popular children's picture book, this quirky, vibrant and humorous tale features music by Evergreen, an alternative indie-electro-pop trio who bring a blend of folk melodies, electro beats and vocal harmonies.

**Date**
Tue 16 Feb, 2pm & 4.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
Full £11.50 / £9.50 Group 4+

**Ages**
2-5

REL

Image © Stephen Beeny

## Sonrisa Arts

# Dance in the Dark

Member discount

A captivating dance and music show with fun interaction for families. Come in your favourite PJs for a slumber party in a giant sleepover den. Let's giggle as we get ready for bed and explore spooky shadows. There will be wind, rain and night-time sounds as we discover the magic of the dark and learn to be brave at bedtime.

Co-created with children, this show is multi-sensory and inclusive. The audience is on stage with the performers.

**Date**
Sun 28 Feb, 12.30pm, 2.30pm & 4.30pm

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£13.50 Full / £10 Group 4+

**Ages**
3+

REL

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

## Tall Stories

# Room on the Broom



**Date**
Mon 22 - Wed 24 Mar, times vary

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£16 Full / £14 Child / £56 Group 4+

**Ages**
3+

TT AD REL Check web for details

Jump on board the broom in a fun-filled adaptation of the best-selling picture book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

The witch and her cat are travelling on their broomstick when they pick up some hitch-hikers – a friendly dog, a beautiful green bird and a frantic frog. But this broomstick's not meant for five and – CRACK – it snaps in two... just as the hungry dragon appears!

Will there ever be room on the broom for everyone? Find out in the magical Olivier Award-nominated show.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# Piglet and Pooh – The Musical

A new family musical inspired by A. A. Milne's classic tales. Guided by Christopher Robin, the audience are special guests at a surprise party for Pooh-Bear and as the celebration unfolds, his friends bring to life their funniest and most heartfelt adventures.

**Date**
Tue 1 & Wed 2 Jun, times vary

**Venue**
Gulbenkian Theatre

**Tickets**
£16.50 Full /
£14.50 Child /
£13.50 Group 4+

**Ages**
3+

REL

BSL Show:
Wed 2 June, 2pm




*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



## Janet Street-Porter is Still Off the Leash at 80!

From a bolshy child with a Welsh-speaking budgie to National Treasure, Janet Street-Porter's life (and language) has always been colourful.

Tue 15 Sep, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£26.50



## John Kearns: Tilting at Windmills

Tilting at Windmills is the brand-new stand-up show from Taskmaster alumni and double Edinburgh Comedy Award Winner, John Kearns.

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£26.50
16+



## Michael Spicer: Hope All's Well

Michael Spicer, the online sensation who brought you the award-winning viral hit The Room Next Door, brings another hilarious and brilliantly entertaining satirical stage show.

Tue 22 Sep, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£21.50
16+



## Jason Byrne: 30 Years Byrning

Jason Byrne is back and "Byrning" brighter than ever, celebrating 30 glorious years of stand-up with his brand-new show, 30 Years Byrning.

Sun 27 Sep, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£31.50
16+



## Rhys James: Chop Logic

A fast, forensic show of big ideas and gag-dense overthinking from one of the nation's sharpest stand-ups.

Wed 7 Oct, 8pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£21.50
14+



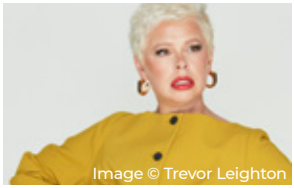

## Lava Elastic

Lava Elastic started out as the UK's first openly Neurodiverse night and has since become known for its generous, fun events for audience and performers alike.

Fri 9 Oct, 8pm
The Platform Stage
£11.50 Full / £9.50 Student & Under 25s

REL

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*




## Laura Smyth: Born Aggy

Laura Smyth has had a meteoric rise in comedy! Her debut tour 'Living My Best Life' sold out up and down the country.

Sun 18 Oct, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£24
14+



## Larry Dean: Hellbent

Recently married, emotionally feral. The Gallus Glaswegian Goon returns with a riotous show about refusing to grow up.

Tue 20 Oct, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£24.50
16+




## Mark Thomas: 40 in Stand Up Years

What?! Mark Thomas has been 'standing up' for 40 years? Impossible!! But how old does that make you...?

Wed 4 Nov, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£21.50 / £15.50 Student
16+




## Chumps Comedy Club

East Kent's leading Comedy Club return for a night of laughter. Line up to be announced.

Sat 7 Nov, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
TBC
TBC



## Scott Bennett – Blood Sugar Baby

Scott Bennett tells the true story of how his daughter fell ill with a rare genetic condition. Yes, it's a story about an ill baby, but it's a very funny one with a happy ending.

Wed 25 Nov, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£23.50
14+




## Scummy Mummies Christmas Show

Comedians Helen Thorn and Ellie Gibson are bringing their special Christmas themed comedy show to Gulbenkian Arts Centre. Expect scummy carols and yuletide sketches.

Wed 16 & Thu 17 Dec, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£26.50
18+



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



## Rachel Parris: Songbook

The BAFTA-nominated comedian is back on the road, bringing some of her favourite songs from the last fifteen years of her comedy career.

21 Feb, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£21.50
16+



## Aurie Styla: Maverick

One of the most naturally charismatic comedians around. In his new show, Aurie hilariously explores his bad work-life balance, family influence, relationships, health and more.

Wed 7 Apr, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£20.25
14+

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

FUNNY RABBIT COMEDY·CLUB



Gulbenkian's monthy comedy club – radical and exciting, but also warm and snuggly as a bunny rabbit.

**Fri 25 Sept**
**Headliner: Joe Wells**
Opener: Spring day

**Fri 23 Oct**
**Headliner: Yuriko Kotani**
Opener: Sally Firth

**Fri 13 Nov**
**Headliner: Pete Selwood**
Opener: Leslie Gold

**Fri 11 Dec**
**Headliner: James Barr**
Opener: Kathryn Mather

**Fri 12 Feb**
**Headliner: Andrew White**
Opener: Sarah Iles

**Fri 12 Mar**
**Headliner: Peter Brush**
Opener: Holly Hudson

**Fri 16 Apr**
**Headliner: Michael Shafar**
Opener: Sydney May

**Fri 14 May**
**Headliner: Patrick Monahan**
Opener: Charmain Hughes

**All events:**

| Tickets | Time | Age | Venue |
|---|---|---|---|
| £8.50 / £7.50 / £6.50 | 8pm | 16+ | The Platform |

# Director's Circle: Kent Businesses Supporting our Programme

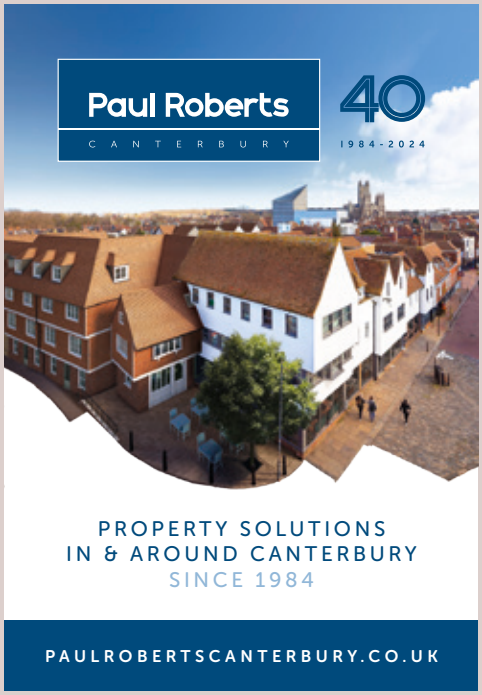
**Join the Director's Circle and align your brand with our innovative high-quality arts programme.**

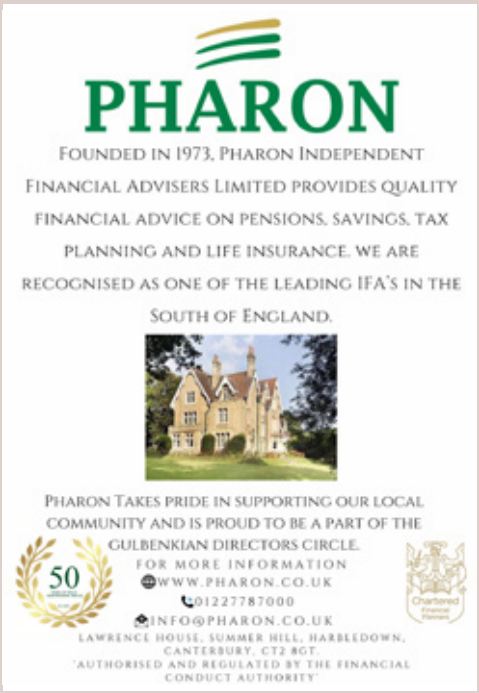
For an annual membership fee of £1000+VAT, our Director's Circle enjoy a close relationship with Gulbenkian and the University.

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

**Benefits include:**

- Reserved access to tickets (on most shows, subject to availability)
- Exclusive invitations to our Season Launch and Opening Night Events
- Unique opportunities to network with fellow members and industry special guests
- Branding in all three venues, foyers, online and in our brochures
- Expert membership support from Development Team

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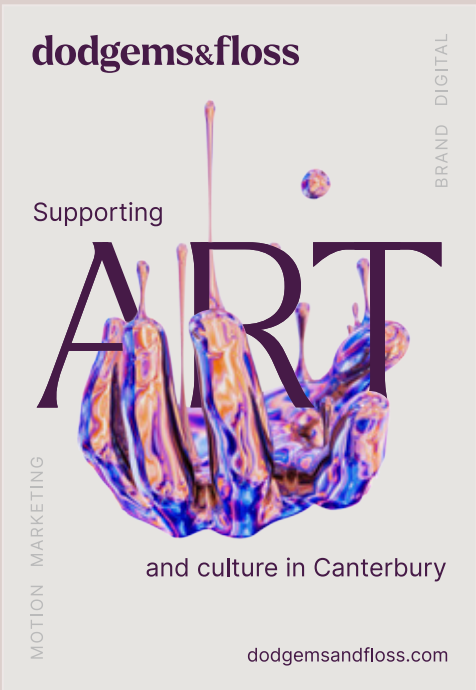
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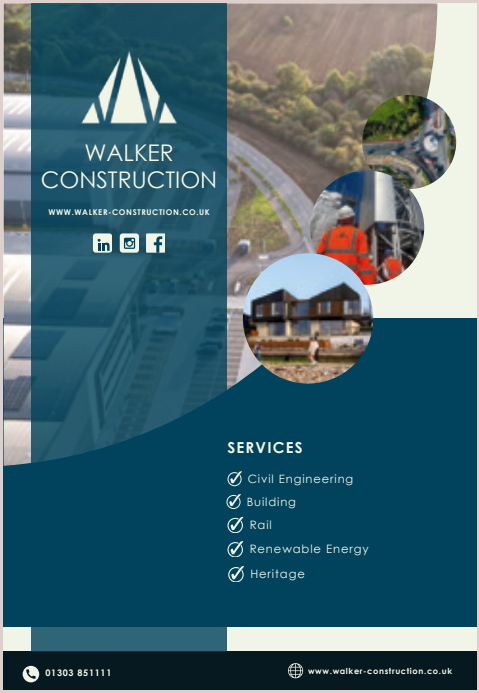





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## The Carpenters Experience

The UK's leading Carpenters show, featuring the amazing voice of Maggie Nestor and eight top-class musicians.

Sat 8 Aug, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£28.50



## The Searchers and Hollies Experience

Experience the unforgettable sound of two of the greatest harmony bands of all time in one sensational tribute show. Enjoy jangling guitars and feel-good energy.

Sat 15 Aug, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£25




## Canterbury Musical Theatre Society - The Pirates of... Penzance?

Confused pirates. Fierce daughters. Incompetent police. Misunderstandings by the bucket-load.

Thu 10 – Sat 12 Sep, times vary
Gulbenkian Theatre
£21.50 / £19



**JGH Academy**

## Into the Spotlight

Step into a night of energy, elegance, and unforgettable performances with 'Into the Spotlight' - an evening of incredible song and dance.

Sun 13 Sep, 7pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£ 21




## Kent Unity Arts: Dear Evan Hansen

Dear Evan Hansen is an emotional musical that follows Evan, a socially anxious 17-year-old who is trying his best to navigate high school and make friends.

Fri 18 – Sat 19 Sep, 2.30 & 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£15.50



## Sing with Gareth

Join Gareth Malone for an inspirational day singing Fauré's Requiem. Hosted by Canterbury Choral Society.

Sun 20 Sep, 11am
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£46.50



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



## The Bohemians: Queen Tribute

The Bohemians are one of the UK's longest-running and internationally renowned Queen Tribute bands.

Sun 20 Sep, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£25.50 (Concession Available)




**Canterbury Festival's**

## School's Poetry Competition Showcase

Join us in celebrating the exceptional standard of work created by local young poets.

Thu 1 Oct, 3.30pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
Free



## The Space Race Here on Earth

Join Tom Heap (Countryfile, BBC Radio 4) for an inspiring talk on how we can best use land to give both Humanity and Nature the space to thrive.

Thu 8 Oct, 6pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
FREE



## Lemn Sissay: Let the Light Pour In

Spend an evening with a master of the spoken word, BAFTA award-winning author, activist, performer and number one bestseller, Lemn Sissay OBE.

Sun 11 Oct, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£31.50




## Uptown Joel

Supported by a 5-piece live band, the outstanding Darren Reeves brings his all-new hit musical production, Uptown Joel to Gulbenkian Arts Centre.

Sun 18 Oct, 7.30pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£28.50



## DS:UK...ON AnoTHEr NIGHT

This will be DS:UK's most packed and exciting set yet... are you and your friend gonna come around?

Fri 23 Oct, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£26.50



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



**Lewes Music Group**

## Fleetwood Mac's Greatest Hits

Join us for an evening as our live 8-piece band performs all of Fleetwood Mac's greatest hits.

Sun 25 Oct, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£21.50



## Oasiz 2026 UK Tour

To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the record breaking Oasis shows at Knebworth, OASIZ are embarking on their third UK tour.

Sun 1 Nov, 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£17.50



**East Bridge Chorale**

## Johannes Brahms: A German Requiem

This beloved, soul-stirring masterpiece was written to heal the living and celebrate the resilience of the human spirit.

Sun 8 Nov, 6pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£24 (Concessions available)



**Simon Langton Girls**

## An Evening of Musical Fusions

Join us for an evening of Fusions — a concert exploring the meeting of musical worlds, where genres, cultures and traditions intertwine.

Fri 13 Nov, 7pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£11



**Canterbury Cantata Trust and The Langton**

## Handel's Messiah

Start your Christmas celebrations with the much-loved favourite Handel's Messiah by Canterbury Cantata and Simon Langton Boys.

Sat 14 Nov, 6pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£16.50 / £11.50




## MTS Autumn Showcase

MTS is the musical theatre society here at the University of Kent.

Fri 27 & Sat 28 Nov, 8pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
TBC

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*



## CSO: Elgar Celebrated

An unforgettable evening celebrating the music of Elgar, featuring the internationally acclaimed cellist Raphael Wallfisch.

Sun 29 Nov, 6pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£19.50 / £7.50 Student



## The Nutcracker

Back by popular demand, the award-winning Let's All Dance Ballet Company is thrilled to return with their fun festive sparkling production of The Nutcracker.

Sun 13 Dec, 11am, 1pm & 3pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£18.50 / £16.50 Student & Under 18



**Simon Langton Boy's School**

## Rural Schools Christmas Concert

A night of music performed by over 150 local primary school pupils and the Simon Langton Brass Band.

Tue 15 Dec, 7pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£8.50



**East Bridge Chorale**

## Handel's Messiah

Join us for a centuries-old tradition at Christmas experiencing the awe-inspiring majesty of this timeless masterpiece.

Sun 20 Dec, 6pm
Colyer-Fergusson Hall
£24 / £19.50 Concession




**AMJ Theatrical**

## Shrek Jr.

AMJ Academy of Performing Arts are celebrating 10 years with their production of Shrek Jr.

Sat 30 Jan, 4 & 6.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£18 / £15 Child



## G2 Definitive Genesis

From the 1970 Trespass album to 1980's Duke, G2 faithfully recreate some of the finest progressive rock ever written.

Sat 27 Feb. 7.30pm
Gulbenkian Theatre
£29.50 (Concessions available)



*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

# About Your Visit

Gulbenkian, University of Kent,
Canterbury, CT2 7NB

Tel: 01227 769 075 during opening hours only

Tickets: thegulbenkian.co.uk

Email: Boxoffice@kent.ac.uk

**Ticket Office open 1 hour before events.**

## Discounts

**Concessions**
Where advertised apply to children aged under 12, young people aged 12-25, full and part time students, registered unemployed, senior citizens, disabled person and a companion. Proof of status may be required.

**Schools**
Gulbenkian offers creative engagement opportunities for school students and staff, including discounted tickets for specific events. Please contact creativeengagement@kent.ac.uk for more information.

**Family shows**
Gulbenkian welcomes children with a valid ticket and accompanied by an adult at all times. Age ranges are provided as a guide and we ask you to consider whether the show is suitable for your child. Baby-on-lap-tickets - £1 tickets for age 0-18 months are available on selected family shows.

## Booking Fee

We charge a booking fee of £1.50 (from 3 Aug 26) per ticket across most events. This is for tickets purchased online, by phone or in person at the Box Office.

## Access

We now have a dedicated Access Membership Scheme, with members able to book access, wheelchair spaces and carer tickets for free online (when available).

We offer wheelchair spaces in all our venues (booking essential), dedicated parking spaces, level access through automatic doors to the theatre, foyer and bar, disabled accessible toilet.

Assistance dogs are welcome.

We offer an infrared audio system for audience members who are hard of hearing. Headsets available from the Ticket & Information office.

More access information on our website.

*All ticket prices include a £1.50 booking fee*

## How to find us

thegulbenkian.co.uk/your-visit

## Parking

Free parking is available to Gulbenkian customers after 5pm on weekdays and all day at weekends in any University car park.

For Gulbenkian customers attending events between Monday and Friday 8am to 5pm please park in the Visitor Pay and Display car parks on Campus. The nearest Visitor Pay and Display is the Central Visitor Car Park.

When attending events we strongly recommend customers to allow extra time to find your space and park in designated parking spaces only. Please be advised that yellow lines on campus are enforced and we advise customers to park in designated car parking spaces.

**Coach/Mini bus parking**
Safe, convenient drop off points are available close to the Gulbenkian. Please contact the Tickets & Information team boxoffice@kent.ac.uk and let us know in advance how many vehicles/coaches and what size they are so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

**Bus Service**
There are buses every 10 minutes from Canterbury bus station to campus: either the Unibus 1, Unibus 2, or the Triangle services. This journey takes approximately 15 minutes. Please see www.stagecoachbus.com

**Trains**
The University is just a short bus or taxi ride direct from Canterbury East and Canterbury West railway stations.
Please see www.southeasternrailway.co.uk

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If you would like a text copy of this brochure in large type please email boxoffice@kent.ac.uk.

All information and dates correct at time of printing, but due to the nature of our programme we strongly recommend checking the website for the latest information before attending.

# Season 26/27 Calendar

Details of events are correct at time of print (May 2026).
Please check thegulbenkian.co.uk for latest events and details.

## August

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sa | 8 | The Carpenters Experience |
| Sa | 15 | The Searchers and Hollies Experience |
| Sa-Su | 29-30 | bOing! Family Festival |

## September

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| We | 9 | FIB Ranagri |
| Th-Sa | 10-12 | MTS: The Pirates of...Penzance? |
| Su | 13 | JGH Associates: Into the Spotlight - An Evening of Song and Dance |
| Tu | 15 | Janet Street-Porter is Still Off the Leash at 80! |
| We | 16 | John Kearns: Tilting at Windmills |
| Fr-Sa | 18-19 | Kent Unity Arts: Dear Evan Hansen |
| Su | 20 | Sing with Gareth |
| Su | 20 | The Bohemians - Queen Tribute |
| Mo-We | 21-23 | South by South East Festival |
| Tu | 22 | Michael Spicer - Hope All's Well |
| Fr | 25 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Su | 27 | CMC: Dogoda Wind Quintet |
| Su | 27 | Jason Byrne: 30 Year Byrning |

## October

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Th | 1 | Canterbury Festival's School's Poetry Competition Showcase |
| Th | 1 | John Hegley's Biscuit of Destiny |
| Fr | 2 | Laibach |
| Sa | 3 | Daniel Kitson |
| Sa | 3 | Jazz Sabbath |
| We | 7 | Rhys James: Chop Logic |
| Th | 8 | Space Race Here on Earth |
| Fr | 9 | Lava Elastic |
| Fr | 9 | Mary Coughlan |
| Sa | 10 | Improbable: Lifelines |
| Su | 11 | Lemn Sissay |
| Th-Sa | 15-17 | An Ideal Husband |
| Sa | 17 | The Long Ryders |
| Su | 18 | Laura Smyth: Born Aggy |
| Su | 18 | Uptown Joel |
| Tu | 20 | Larry Dean: Hellbent |
| Fr | 23 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Fr | 23 | DS:UK |
| Sa | 24 | Double Bill: ExTC + The Monochrome Set |
| Su | 25 | CMC: Sarah Small |
| Su | 25 | Fleetwood Mac's Greatest Hits |
| We | 28 | The Utterly Revolting Science Show |
| Th-Fr | 29-30 | Ekleido: Femina |
| Fr | 30 | Kayhan Kalhor and Erdal Erzincan |
| Sa | 31 | Grace Petrie |

## November

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sa | 1 | OASIZ - 2026 UK Tour |
| We | 4 | Mark Thomas: 40 in Stand-Up Years |
| We-Fr | 4-6 | Dear Zoo |
| Sa | 7 | Chumps Comedy Club |
| Sa | 7 | Courtney Pine |
| Su | 8 | East Bridge Chorale perform Johannes Brahms: A German Requiem |
| Su | 8 | FIB: Richard Shindell with Danny Bradley |
| Fr | 13 | Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School Music Department: An Evening of Musical Fusions |
| Fr | 13 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Sa | 14 | Canterbury Cantata Trust and The Langton: Handel's Messiah |
| Su | 15 | FIB: Gary Stewart's Graceland |
| Tu | 17 | Linda Smith Lecture: Jo Caulfield |
| Fr | 20 | John Zorn's Bagatelles |
| Sa | 21 | FIB: Hannah Rarity & Heron Valley |
| Sa-Su | 21-22 | Pussy Riot: Riot Days |
| Su | 22 | CMC Cordelia and Mirari String Quartets |
| We | 25 | Scott Bennett: Blood Sugar Baby |
| Th | 26 | Colosseum |
| Fr-Sa | 27-28 | MTS Showcase |
| Fr-Sa | 27-28 | Sh!t Theatre: EVITA TOO |
| Su | 29 | Canterbury Symphony Orchestra - Elgar |
| Su | 29 | FIB - Steve Knightley & The Winter Yards Band |

## December

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tu | 1 | Bones in the Desert |
| Th-Sa | 3-12 | There's A Monster in Your Christmas Show |
| Fr | 11 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Sa | 12 | The Unthanks Christmas Show |
| Su | 13 | The Nutcracker |
| Su | 13 | CMC: Ode to Joyce |
| Tu | 15 | Langton Music Christmas Choir Festival |
| We-Th | 16-17 | Scummy Mummies Christmas Show |
| Su | 20 | East Bridge Chorale perform Handel's Messiah |

## January

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Su | 24 | CMC: Daniel Schultz & Sejin Yoon |
| Sa | 30 | AMJ Theatrical: Shrek Jr |

## February

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fr | 12 | The Rezillos |
| Fr | 12 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Sa | 13 | Fashion Show 2027 |
| Tu | 16 | Halfmoon & Full House Theatre: Big Red Bath |
| Fr | 19 | Soft Machine |
| Fr-Sa | 19-20 | The Butterfly Who Flew Into The Rave |
| Sa | 20 | Kent Gospel Choir |
| Su | 21 | Rachel Parris |
| Su | 21 | CMC: Pelléas Ensemble |
| Fr | 26 | The Blockheads - 50th Anniversary |
| Sa | 27 | G2 Definitive Genesis |
| Su | 28 | Sonrisa Arts: Dance in the Dark |

## March

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fr | 12 | Nouvelle Vague |
| Fr | 12 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Sa | 20 | Hejira - A Celebration of Joni Mitchell |
| Su | 21 | CMC: Haim Choi & Matthew Roberts |
| Mo-We | 22-24 | Tall Stories: Room on the Broom |
| Th | 25 | FB Pocket Orchestra: Strange case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde |

## April

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fr-Sa | 2-3 | Le Navet Bête: Oh Zeus! |
| Mo | 5 | JV2 |
| We | 7 | Aurie Styla: Maverick |
| Th | 8 | Black is the Colour of my Voice |
| Fr-Su | 9-11 | You Are Here |
| Fr | 16 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Sa | 17 | Spiers & Boden |
| Su | 18 | CMC: The Sacconi Quartet at 25 |
| Th-Fr | 29-30 | SOLARIS |

## May

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sa | 1 | Cloudbusting |
| Su | 9 | PQA 2027 |
| Mo-Sa | 10-15 | Paul Ready: Little Animals |
| Fr | 14 | Funny Rabbit Comedy Club |
| Sa | 22 | John Bramwell |
| Sa | 29 | Kentronica |

## June

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tu-We | 1-2 | Piglet and Pooh: The Musical |

## July

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Th-Su | 1-4 | Shadowlands Music Festival |
| Fr | 30 | DS:UK - 50 years of Fender |

KEY

- Theatre & Dance
- Music
- Comedy
- Family
- Guestlist
- Festival
- Other


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