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barbican

Poetry in Practice: A Celebration of Poetry and Barbican Young Poets

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2024/event/barbican-young-poets-poetry-in-practice>

Thu 3 – Mon 21 Oct 2024

Barbican Level G Hub Space

- Read, listen-to or write poetry in a space that inspires poetry in practice
- Take-part in lunch-time pop-up poetry sessions with Barbican Young Poets
- Become a powerful creative voice – applications for the free Barbican Young Poets' 24/25 programme are open



credit Betty Lauren Zapata

From today until 21 October, marking **National Poetry Day**, the Barbican will celebrate poetry in practice with inspirational work by Barbican Young Poets (BYP) alumni. The 15th anniversary events will include multi-media artistic and video installations featuring BYP performing their original poetry and spoken word, plus publication of two anthology editions including ***To Be Languaged Thus*** by the 2023 cohorts, dedicated to Barbican Young Poet **Gboyega Odubanjo** (1996-2023), edited by Artistic Director and Lead BYP Facilitator Jacob Sam-La Rose.

Visitors to the Level G Hub Space can browse a library of books recommended by BYP alumni and take part by creating their own poetic exploration of what the Barbican means to them.

On October 3, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 21, during lunch break hours (12.30-2pm) visitors to the Barbican can also take part in pop-up poetry sessions given by BYP alumni **Cameron Bray**,

Christy Ku, Annie Hayter, Phoebe Wagner, Sumia Jaama and Fathima Zahra, who will write a poem, personal to the visitor, to take home.

On 17 October, two Barbican Young Poet anthologies will be published by flipped eye: [From The Ground to the Birdsong](#) featuring the work of 2024 cohort, and [To Be Languaged Thus](#) featuring the work of the 2023 cohort. Both editions will be available to buy from the Barbican Bookshop.

Aspiring poets who want to explore what's possible for their poetry and creative expression can apply for the Barbican Young Poets' 24/25 programme, applications now open until 28 October. The free, 6-month long programme, which has run since 2009, is led by Artistic Director and Lead Facilitator **Jacob Sam-La Rose**. The programme – which is part of a wider Young Creatives strand - has fostered a collective of poets to become the next generation of powerful creative voices, including **Gabriel Akamo, Travis Alabanza, Victoria Adukwei Bulley, Tice Cin, Amina Jama, Therese Lola, Gboyega Odubanjo** (the Gboyega Odubanjo Foundation for low-income Black writers was established in 2023 to honour his legacy), **Laurie Ogden, Eleanor Penny, Kieron Rennie, Warsan Shire, Yuan Yang**.

Details about [how to apply for Barbican Young Poets 24/25 programme can be found here](#).

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

About Barbican Young Creatives

The Barbican Young Creatives is a free, talent development initiative for early-career artists aged between 16-29 years old. The programmes, which currently include Barbican Young Poets and Barbican Young Film Programmers, foster creative communities and offer participants real-world experience and opportunities to hone their skills, gain confidence, and connect with industry experts, preparing them for success in today's competitive creative industries. Through collaborative projects and mentorship, young creatives are equipped with the tools and networks they need to thrive.

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [the BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Entertainment](#).

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