

barbican

Barbican announces further Theatre & Dance productions, completing its spring 2025 programme

Barbican Theatre

- **Clod Ensemble** and **Nu Civilisation Orchestra** return with ***The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady*** after last autumn's sold-out run (16-19 Apr)
- London premiere of ***Hamlet*** by Peruvian company **Teatro La Plaza**, performed by a cast of artists with Down's Syndrome (London premiere, 24-27 Apr)
- Legendary Irish stage and screen actor **Stephen Rea** stars in **Samuel Beckett's** haunting solo masterpiece of ***Krapp's Last Tape*** in **Landmark's** new production, directed by **Vicky Featherstone** (UK premiere, 30 Apr-3 May)
- Barbican Associate Artist **Boy Blue** returns with another sensational hip-hop dance theatre showcase ***A Night with Boy Blue – Generation Blue*** in Centre-wide takeover (9-11 May)

The Barbican Centre today announces four further productions, presented by the Barbican Theatre, to complete its spring season drawing on themes of gathering and renewal. The Theatre & Dance programme of ground-breaking new work, major anniversaries and spellbinding live performance runs from 14 Jan - 11 May 2025. These four productions follow the previously announced world premiere of ***THE SEAGULL*** starring **Cate Blanchett** and **Tom Burke** in **Chekhov's** classic, adapted by **Duncan Macmillan & Thomas Ostermeier**, directed by **Thomas Ostermeier** (world premiere, 26 Feb-5 April).

Tickets for the full spring season are now on sale to Barbican Premier Patrons, Principal Patrons, Director's Circle Patrons and Barbican Patrons, and will go onsale to Barbican Members Plus and Barbican Members from 10am tomorrow. Tickets for general sale will be available from Fri 17 Jan from 10am via barbican.org.uk.

Toni Racklin, Barbican Head of Theatre & Dance, says:

"I am excited to share more details of our spring season today, bringing the inspiring work of international and London-based artists to our unique stage, connecting our audiences with companies who create new and unforgettable experiences, helping us to feel our shared humanity and navigate the world around us."

Samuel Beckett's works have always had a particularly profound resonance when performed at the Barbican and we welcome back Landmark Productions following their previous compelling productions which have celebrated important Irish playwrights on our stages. We are delighted to present Teatro La Plaza's work in London for the first time, their focus on community and inclusion while developing ground-breaking theatre which questions today's world aligns closely with our values at the Barbican. And we look forward to celebrating the meeting of Dance and Music, with our Associates Boy Blue, and Clod Ensemble and Nu Civilisation Orchestra finding thrilling ways to connect across generations."

Celebrated Irish actor **Stephen Rea** makes his Barbican Theatre debut in a new, captivating production of one-act masterpiece ***Krapp's Last Tape***, continuing the Barbican Centre's longstanding connection with Nobel prize-winning playwright **Samuel Beckett** and contemporary Irish theatre. Transferring from Dublin after two sold-out runs, Landmark's production is directed by **Vicky Featherstone** and features recordings Rea made as a younger man. Almost 50 years on from working with Beckett on another of his seminal works, *Endgame*, these layers of personal history

resonate profoundly with the play's themes of memory, loneliness and lost love as the performer is confronted by his own past onstage night after night.

The first Peruvian company to perform in the Barbican Theatre, **Teatro la Plaza**, make their London debut with their joyful and enigmatic reinvention of *Hamlet*. From visionary Director **Chela De Ferrari**, eight actors with Down's Syndrome take centre stage, weaving in their own desires and frustrations with text from Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

Also on the main Barbican Theatre stage will be the return of two wildly popular fusions of dance and music by some of the UK's most talented young artists. There's an extended opportunity to catch **Clod Ensemble** and **Nu Civilisation Orchestra**'s jazz-club restaging of **Charles Mingus**' seminal album in *The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady*. And the season culminates with an almighty, roof-raising hip-hop takeover by Barbican Associate Artist **Boy Blue**. The Sky Arts Award-winning company bring all ages of the hip hop community together with their sensational signature showcase, *A Night with Boy Blue*, part of a three-day series of events including a panel discussion, free performances in the foyers and a dance battle, spotlighting the next generation of dancers at the beating heart of the future of hip hop.

The four new productions announced today complete the Barbican's spring Theatre & Dance programme celebrating bold new work in the Theatre and in The Pit, the Barbican's award-winning experimental studio venue. The season launches today with extraordinary visual performances by four astonishing international companies as part of **MimeLondon**, followed by **Belarus Free Theatre**'s UK premiere of *KS6: Small Forward*, **HighRise Entertainment**'s world premiere of *Lil.Miss.Lady*, and ambitious works in progress from inspiring artists **Racheal Ofori**, **Will Adamsdale**, **Jay Bernard** and **Melanie Wilson** under the umbrella of *FuelFest*. Later on, a new production of **Dior Clarke** and **Stephanie Martin**'s original drama *Passion Fruit* directed **Rikki Beadle-Blair**, and Queer East Festival platforms the work of Singaporean artists in the UK premiere of *When the Cloud Catches Colours*.

Further programme information

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/series/theatre-and-dance-winterspring-2025>

Clod Ensemble and Nu Civilisation Orchestra: *The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady*

Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19 April 2025

Barbican Theatre

BSL-interpreted performance: Thu 17 Apr, 7.45pm. BSL-interpreted by Jacqui Beckford

Celebrate the sensuality and power of jazz as the award-winning Clod Ensemble and world-class Nu Civilisation Orchestra return with their perspective on American bassist and composer Charles Mingus' iconic 1963 recording of 'The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady', widely considered to be one of the greatest albums of all time. After a sold-out run last autumn, described by The Stage as "*mesmerising...a tonic for the soul*", audiences have a second chance to experience the production at the Barbican Theatre, as the two companies exquisitely transform the unique stage into a vibrant jazz club for a limited run this spring.

Clod Ensemble's dancers bring Mingus' music to life, delivering dense-knit choreography and passages of improvisation which honour his vision for dance to accompany his provocative masterpiece. Shows also feature contemporary compositions from Clod Ensemble's Artistic Director Paul Clark, Nu Civilisation Orchestra musical director Peter Edwards, and drummer/composer Romarna Campbell. The live orchestra and dynamic dancers perform amongst audiences, who can join them on the dancefloor or take a backseat while soaking up the atmosphere.

Since 1995, Clod Ensemble's Suzy Wilson and Paul Clark have developed a highly original performance language, blending movement, dance, music and theatre. Their ambitious and finely crafted performance and participation projects have been delivered at renowned venues across the world (Tate Modern, Southbank Centre, Public Theater New York, Venice Architecture Biennale, Serralves Museum Porto) to critical acclaim; including the iconic *Red Ladies* and the visually stunning *Under Glass* (Total Theatre Award Winner).

Formed in 2008 by Artistic Director, and Co-Founder of Tomorrow's Warriors, Gary Crosby OBE and led by musical director Peter Edwards, Nu Civilisation Orchestra is a shapeshifting, cutting edge ensemble. NCO has toured and performed extensively across the UK and highlights include their BBC Proms debut (2019), and a 50th anniversary national tour of Marvin Gaye's masterpiece, *What's Going On* (2021).

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Teatro La Plaza: [Hamlet](#)

London premiere

Thursday 24 – Sunday 27 April 2025

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Thu 24 Apr, 7.45pm

“audacious...an exhilarating piece of serious fun” - The Herald

Peruvian theatre company Teatro La Plaza bring their joyful and enigmatic reinvention of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, *Hamlet*, to the Barbican Theatre for the London premiere. Inspired by the famous monologue 'To Be or Not To Be', artists with Down's syndrome now take centre stage, when historically they have been relegated to the background. Rather than telling one man's story, director and writer Chela De Ferrari's interpretation of the 16th century play highlights the importance of community and challenges wider societal prejudices and discrimination.

De Ferrari stays true to the spirit of the original while finding new meaning in the 21st century and asks how can those with Down's syndrome exist in a world that continually sets out to exclude them? Told with playfulness, humour and fighting spirit, the enchanting production weaves together a free version of the traditional text with personal anecdotes from each of the eight performers, telling their stories through compelling words, protest songs, rap, video design, and soaring choreography.

Peruvian-born Chela De Ferrari founded Teatro La Plaza in Lima in 2003, to connect with its community through theatre that questions, provokes and surprises. The company has since produced over 120 plays and is known for pushing boundaries and creating bold new versions of Shakespearean dramas. The world premiere of *Hamlet* was presented at the Teatro La Plaza in 2019. The company have since been invited to perform at over 40 major venues and international festivals including Barcelona, Paris, Santiago, Sao Paulo, Brussels, Krakow, Hong Kong, Heidelberg and Edinburgh (EIF 2024, winning the inaugural Bestie Award for Inclusivity).

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Landmark Productions: [Krapp's Last Tape](#)

UK premiere

Wednesday 30 April – Saturday 3 May 2025

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Thu 1 May, 7pm

Audio Described performance: Fri 2 May, 7pm. Audio described by Caroline Burn. Touch Tour at 6pm

Stephen Rea (Academy Award-nominated for *The Crying Game*, *V for Vendetta*, *The Honourable Woman* BAFTA award winner) will make his Barbican Theatre debut this spring in the triumphant revival of Samuel Beckett's solo masterpiece about memory, loneliness and lost love. Directed by Vicky Featherstone (*The Outrun* at EIF, *X* and *Shoelady* at Royal Court), who reunites with Rea after the pair's critically acclaimed *Cyprus Avenue* (Abbey, Dublin/ MAC, Belfast/ Royal Court, London/ Public Theater, NYC/ BBC Four), *Krapp's Last Tape* makes its UK premiere following two sold-out runs in Dublin last year and an upcoming engagement at the 2025 Adelaide Festival.

We meet Krapp, a man in his late sixties. Every year, on his birthday, Krapp records a new tape – a review of the year just gone. But on this occasion – his 69th birthday – he listens back to a tape he recorded three decades before.

The production features tapes pre-recorded by Rea over a decade ago, allowing audiences to watch as he listens to his younger self, realising the vast chasm between the man he was and the man he has become. One of Samuel Beckett's greatest dramatic achievements, *Krapp's Last Tape's*

introspective narrative and sharp wit offer a compelling reflection on our own journeys of self-discovery and the inevitable march of time.

Stephen Rea on Krapp's Last Tape *"I had no certainty that one day I might play Krapp, but I thought it a good idea to pre-record the early tapes so that the voice quality would differ significantly from that of the older character, should the opportunity ever arise to use it."*

Stephen Rea is one of the foremost actors of his generation. He has enjoyed great acclaim on Irish and international stages throughout his theatre career, including many leading roles at the National Theatre (*The Playboy of the Western World*), establishing the ground-breaking Field Day Theatre Company with playwright Brian Friel in the 1980s, and longstanding collaborations with Sam Shepard (*Kicking a Dead Horse*) and Enda Walsh (Landmark Productions and Galway International Arts Festival's *Ballyturk*). Highlights from his film and television career include his Academy Award nominated performance in *The Crying Game*, *Breakfast on Pluto*, *Michael Collins*, *The End of the Affair* and *Black '47*. Most recently he appeared in *The Stranger*, *War and Peace*, *Flesh and Blood*, Emmy-nominated *Counterpart*, and *The English* for BBC/Amazon.

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Boy Blue: [A Night with Boy Blue - Generation Blue](#)

Sat 10 – Sun 11 May 2025

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Sat 10 May, 7.45pm

BSL-interpreted performance: Sat 10 May, 7.45pm. BSL-interpreted by Ali Gordon

Mixing exuberant hip hop dance displays, a joyful sense of community and the heart-thumping rhythms of an eclectic score, Barbican Artistic Associate Boy Blue return to the Barbican's main stage with another signature, large-scale and wildly popular showcase.

A Night with Boy Blue - Generation Blue is presided over by host, choreographer and co-artistic director Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy and guests, with beats composed by co-artistic director Michael 'Mikey J' Asante. The evening assembles the entire Boy Blue company, from the youngest pupils to dancers in the company's internationally touring productions. Over 100 performers flood the stage in ensembles and solos that match taut choreography with empowering movement and irresistible musicality. Whether polished routines or politically edged pieces, you'll be carried along by the infectious energy, vitality and wit.

Embodying Boy Blue "at its warmest and most inclusive" (Independent), the family-friendly evening celebrates every member of the pioneering hip hop dance theatre company – and their creative mission to 'Educate, Enlighten, Entertain'.

Beyond their blistering showcase, Boy Blue continue to celebrate the legacy and potential of the hip hop dance community through a series of further events across the Barbican Centre from Fri 9 May to Sun 11 May, including: **free performances** in the foyers (Fri 9 May and Sat 10 May, 5.30-7pm); [Hip Hop Matters](#) (£7, Fri 9 May, 7.30-9.30pm, Frobisher Auditorium 1), an exciting and thought-provoking conversation on the future of hip-hop, from where we are in 2025 to what the future holds; and [BB - Frontline Battle](#) (£7, Sun 11 May at 12noon–4pm), an explosive 2vs2 All Style Dance Battle event for artists, dancers and freestylers to express themselves through movement. Hosted in the Barbican Theatre by Boy Blue, pairs of dancers will showcase their skills by competing to various styles of music for a cash prize. A fierce line-up of guest judges and DJ's is guaranteed to rev up the electric atmosphere before that evening's final performance of ANWBB.

Boy Blue is an Olivier, Sky Arts and Black British Theatre Award-winning hip hop dance theatre company that continues to define the potential and power of hip hop across the UK. It is a multi-generational, multicultural community, with performers ranging from five to 40+. As a core element of the company's work since its inception in 2001, Boy Blue has consistently created opportunities for all its company members to express themselves professionally, alongside developing original, boundary-pushing conceptual productions such as *Blak Whyte Gray*, *REDD* and *Cycles*, which will open at Lincoln Center (New York) in March with further UK dates to be announced in 2025.

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Previously announced:

MimeLondon

La Pendue: [La Manéquine](#)

UK premiere

Tue 14 – Sat 18 Jan 2025

The Pit

Press performance: Tue 14 Jan, 7.45pm

Blending puppetry, storytelling and a live one-man orchestra, **La Pendue** brings the UK premiere of **La Manéquine** to The Pit, Barbican, this January as part of MimeLondon 2025. Created and directed by master puppeteer-performer **Estelle Charlier** and musician **Martin Kaspar Orkestar**, who had been haunted by a medieval tale for many years, their latest production is a dark and timeless fable of true love and female emancipation.

Based on the Grimm Brothers', *The Girl Without Hands*, this striking production tells the story of a poor miller who naively makes a deal with the devil, unwittingly promising him his daughter. The Devil, finding that he cannot possess her, demands the miller's help to claim his prize – and that's just the start of this thrilling tale of deception, disappearance, love and finally, happiness ever after.

Founded by Estelle Charlier and Romuald Collinet in 2003, La Pendue creates distinctive puppetry performances that tackle complex narratives. Based in Grenoble, the company has toured all over the world with acclaimed productions including *Tria Fata* (Jackson's Lane/LIMF 2020) and *Poli Degaine* (inspired by the anarchic classical hand puppet tradition of Polichinelle (Punch)). Estelle and Romuald hold residencies at several prestigious organisations including the International Festival of Puppet Theaters in Charleville-Mézières and are also behind the striking puppetry created for Leos Carax's Cannes award-winning feature film, *Annette* (2021).

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MimeLondon

Brú Theatre: [Not a Word](#)

UK premiere

Tue 21- Sat 25 Jan 2025

The Pit

Press performance: Tue 21 Jan, 7.45pm

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ “An artistic and theatrical triumph” The Arts Review

“An evocative heart-rending piece about yearning and forgotten lives that weaves a spell” Irish Times

Galway-based **Brú Theatre** marks its first appearance in the UK with **Not a Word** in The Pit, part of MimeLondon 2025. Merging mask, music, and movement, this new piece of physical theatre is dedicated to the forgotten Irish navvies who worked hard, faltered and slowly faded from memory. Devised with performer **Raymond Keane** and onstage fiddle and viola player **Ultan O'Brien**, the production is directed by **James Riordan**, with mask design by **Orla Clogher**.

A day's labouring done, in a place that has never quite felt like home, a silent man plays a beautiful old tune as memory dances amongst his workman's boots and few cherished trinkets.

Celebrating those who 'took the boat', a forgotten class of Irish emigrants who helped build countries that were not their own, this poignant production offers a moving portrait of one emigrant that echoes many people's stories today. An ode to a self-exiled labourer, which seeks the beauty in the banal and the poetry between the cracks.

Established by theatre maker James Riordan and producer Jill Murray in 2018, Brú Theatre produces work that explores the intersection between contemporary theatre forms and the languages, literature and landscapes of the West of Ireland. Their bilingual, multidisciplinary work incorporates mask, Virtual Reality, dance, original music and new writing, showcasing the vibrancy of the region through a modern lens. They tour nationally and internationally, including at Galway International Arts Festival,

Brightening Air Festival (Dublin), Solas Nua (Washington D.C), Canada Ireland Foundation (Toronto), Green Season (Montreal) and Children's Festival (Ottawa).

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MimeLondon

Plexus Polaire: [Moby Dick](#)

London premiere

Wed 22 – Sat 25 Jan 2025

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Wed 22 Sep, 7.45pm

Returning to the UK following critically acclaimed appearances at the London International Mime Festival, **Plexus Polaire** make their Barbican debut with their 'exquisite' (New York Times) production of **Moby Dick**, filled with large-scale puppetry, live action, video projection and music. The company's artistic director, Yngvild Aspeli, directs this spectacular stage adaptation of Herman Melville's classic about ambition, obsession and the power of nature, drawing inspiration from her own family's seafaring heritage.

Featuring seven actors, fifty puppets, a drowned orchestra and a whale-sized whale, Plexus Polaire's award-winning show offers a contemporary perspective on the epic tale of redemption, an expedition into the inner storms of the human heart and the unexplained mysteries of life.

Plexus Polaire is a French-Norwegian theatre company who, through the use of life-sized puppets, acting, music, light and video, develop visual worlds that bring our most buried feelings to life. On tour, *Moby Dick* has been celebrated across Europe (including the UK's Brighton Festival), South & North America and Asia, and received awards including Norway's prestigious Hedda Award (Best Audiovisual Design 2022). Director, actress, puppeteer and puppet-maker, Yngvild Aspeli, has directed seven shows for the company including *Ashes* and *Chambre noire* (Jackson's Lane/ LIMF 2017 & 2019), and current touring productions *A Doll's House* and *Dracula – Lucy's Dream*.

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MimeLondon

Frau Trapp: [Five Lines](#)

UK premiere

Tue 28 Jan – 1 Feb 2025

The Pit

Press performance: Tue 28 Jan, 7.45pm

Frau Trapp make their UK debut at the Barbican with their first production, *Five Lines*, exploring human nature through the lens of one couple's relationship in a dystopian world shaped by today's extreme greed. Led by founders **Mina Trapp** (designer) and **Matteo Frau** (musician), the company's micro cinema-theatre hybrid style of performance brings together miniature models, music, acting and projection. Questioning their role as artists, in an era dominated by political, social and climatic insecurity, they found even in the darkest of situations we can imagine and create better worlds.

Narrated by a disembodied voice off-stage, *Five Lines* transports us to a stark reality, where resource scarcity threatens our freedom and people retreat into their cocoons, forgetting that change is possible. Driven by love and an unquenchable lust for life, this intimate production challenges us to consider whether our relentless pursuit of dreams leads to a better life or blinds us to what truly matters.

Frau Trapp company was established in 2021 and *Five Lines* is its first production. The company is deeply fascinated by miniature worlds that can be brought to big screens and reflect our current era. Founders Matteo Frau (musician) and Mina Trapp (designer) met at a Micro-Cinema-Theatre workshop in 2016. Since then, they have played together in several music bands, created a street theatre piece and together they run the cultural centre Can Pink i Boogie (Mataró, Barcelona). *Five Lines* is a co-production between FrauTrapp and Bern's Schlachthaus Theatre (CH), which premiered at Barcelona's IX Puppet Festival 'Rombic' in 2023 and has since toured across venues and festivals throughout Europe.

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Belarus Free Theatre: [KS6: Small Forward](#)

UK premiere

Wednesday 5 - Sat 8 Feb 2025

The Pit

Press performance: Thu 6 Feb, 7.45pm

KS6: Small Forward is theatre turbocharged with the electrifying energy of a basketball match, inviting audiences into sports phenomenon **Katsiaryna (Katya) Snytsina's** world. It traces the stratospheric highs of twenty years on the court and the events that set her on a new path as an activist, political dissident and "extremist lesbian".

Directed by Olivier Award-nominated **Belarus Free Theatre's** co-founding Artistic Directors **Natalia Kaliada** and **Nicolai Khalezin**, this new production launches their 20th anniversary in 2025, a landmark year to celebrate two decades on the world stage challenging dictators and building a movement for democracy, human rights and artistic freedoms.

Delivered in BFT's iconoclastic, expressionistic style, Katya tells her own story alongside clubland's rising star, **DJ Blanka Barbara** in this soul-shaking show about being fearlessly true to yourself. Performances follow a successful premiere at La MaMa Experimental Theater Club in New York and the show will continue its world tour with performances in June 2025 at Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg.

Originating some of the world's most provocative and breathtakingly physical theatre, internationally acclaimed **Belarus Free Theatre** are the only theatre company in Europe banned by its government on political grounds. *KS6: Small Forward* marks BFT's return to the Barbican following the critically and publicly acclaimed stage productions *Dogs of Europe* (2022) and *King Stakh's Wild Hunt* (2023).

Katya Snytsina is a women's basketball star, the first and only popular sports figure in the history of Belarus to have openly come out as gay, and who now lives in exile as an outspoken, frontline activist against the dictatorship in her native country. She was part of the Belarusian team that won a bronze medal at the 2007 European Championships and placed sixth in the 2008 Olympic Games. This production depicts Katya's bravery and determination as she experienced tremendous highs and crushing lows while smashing sporting records, stood up to dictators in the wake of widespread protests in Belarus in 2020, and came out as a lesbian when she fell in love with a longtime BFT company member.

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HighRise: [Lil.Miss.Lady](#)

World premiere

Wed 12 – Sat 15 Feb 2025

The Pit

Press performance: Thu 13 Feb, 7.45pm

BSL-interpreted & Relaxed performance: Fri 14 Feb 7.45pm. BSL-interpreted by Grace Buckle

Following the success of the award-winning *The UK Drill Project* in 2022, **HighRise Entertainment** celebrate their 10th anniversary with a return to The Pit before a nationwide tour of this immersive exploration of the history of Grime starring **MC Lady Lykez**, revealing what it takes for a female MC to navigate her way through a heavily male-dominated industry in the early 2000s.

Part rave, part drama, this bold piece of gig theatre takes audiences on a journey through the sounds and visuals of Black-British bass music culture, from the early stages of Jungle, through UK Garage, Sub-Low, Funky House, Dubstep and Grime.

Featuring original music from by **Lady Lykez and Dominic Garfield**, mixed by live DJs including **DJ Kaylee Kay**, and inspired by a series of interviews with influential women in the Grime scene (Lady Stush, Lioness, Queenie, Baby Blue), **Lil.Miss.Lady** celebrates Grime and its women while holding a bass-fuelled microscope over one of Britain's biggest sub-cultures.

Following sold-out R&D performances of *Lil.Miss.Lady* in 2018 at The Roundhouse and Latitude Festival, this genre-defying production is written and directed by HighRise's Artistic Director **Dominic Garfield**. His practice blends playful, immersive and thought-provoking theatre with Hip Hop and Grime music to connect and inspire young audiences and participants. His previous work includes hit shows *The UK Drill Project* (Barbican), *The Concrete Jungle Book* (ArtsDepot / The Pleasance) and *Merryville* (Camden People's Theatre) as well as collaborations with The National Theatre, Royal Exchange Manchester and the V&A.

For a decade **HighRise** have used music, theatre and first-hand testimonies to represent unheard voices in inner-city Britain. The cross-arts collective won the Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award in 2022 with *The UK Drill Project*, which challenged myths about the genre. Partners have included Nike, HOODRICH, The National Theatre and the Barbican Centre as well as specialised art conservatoires including East 15 Acting school, Italia Conti and Central School of Speech and Drama.

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Wessex Grove: [THE SEAGULL](#)

World premiere

Tue 26 Feb – Sat 5 Apr 2025

Barbican Theatre

Press performance: Thu 6 Mar, 7pm

Audio Described performance: Tue 18 Mar, 7:15pm. Touch Tour at 6pm

Captioned performance: Wed 19 Mar, 7:15pm

Directed by **Thomas Ostermeier**, this new production of **Anton Chekhov's** classic *The Seagull*, adapted by **Duncan Macmillan** and **Thomas Ostermeier**, marks a return to the Barbican stage for **Cate Blanchett**, following her performance in Botho Strauss' *Big and Small* (*Gross und Klein*) in 2012.

Academy-award winning actor **Cate Blanchett** stars as Arkadina, a celebrated actress whose larger-than-life presence dominates both the stage and her personal relationships. Arriving at her family's country estate for the weekend, she finds herself caught up in a storm of conflicting desires. Her playwright son, Konstantin (**Kodi Smit-McPhee**), struggles to step out of her shadow as he pursues his own artistic ambitions and her lover Trigorin (**Tom Burke**), becomes the object of affection for the aspiring young actress Nina (**Emma Corrin**).

As their lives entwine and they each grapple with their desires, ambitions, and disappointments, Chekhov's timeless story unfolds in a gripping tale of vanity, power, and the sacrifices made in the name of art.

The Seagull marks a return to the Barbican Theatre for **Thomas Ostermeier**, following the critically acclaimed 2014 run of *An Enemy of the People*, and for **Duncan Macmillan**, following *The Forgotten Zone* in 2016.

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Fuel: [FuelFest](#)

Works in Progress

Monday 10 – Saturday 22 March 2025

The Pit

All performances: Pay What You Can

Award-winning independent producer **Fuel** takes over The Pit this spring with a celebration of 20 years of fresh work for adventurous people by inspiring artists. Marking the Barbican's first collaboration with Fuel, **FuelFest** will comprise four new ambitious and fresh works from some of the UK's most exciting theatremakers. Spanning multiple artforms, each piece grapples with the big questions of our time.

Racheal Ofori presents *Beauty is the Beast*, a brand new satire exploring the cost of beauty. **Will Adamsdale** presents *AI, AI, Oh... (or how I wrote a hit sitcom with ChatGPT but we're not talking now)* – a sharp and witty look at how AI is becoming ever more present in everyday life.

Award-winning poet **Jay Bernard** presents a new live show *Joint* which examines the controversy that surrounds the law of Joint Enterprise in particular regarding racial discrimination. And **Melanie Wilson** presents *Oracle Song*, a performance with a score developed in collaboration with AI that takes an intricate look at humans' relationship with the natural world.

"Pioneering production company Fuel pushes the boundaries of form and scale" - The Stage
"The maverick theatre group pushes new boundaries and makes theatre production sexy" - The Guardian

Co-founded by Artistic Director Kate McGrath in 2004, the company has collaborated with artists and produced imaginative, boundary-pushing work that has travelled around the globe. The two-week festival forms part of the company's 20th anniversary season, creating space for artists and audiences to experiment and innovate. The Pit is the Barbican's Peter Brook Empty Space Award-winning venue that has long supported artists to test new ways of working, create bold new projects and reimagine what live theatre can be.

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[Moving Eastman](#)

London premiere
Thu 3 – Fri 4 Apr
The Pit

Moving Eastman is a new dance and sonic performance led by movement artist, experimental vocalist and composer **Elaine Mitchener**, with original concept and choreography by director **Dam Van Huynh**. Taking inspiration from the intersectional life of the Black American composer Julius Eastman, staging is informed by found materials such as images, notes, interviews and sounds.

Eastman, who died in 1990 aged just 49, is a key figure in late 20th century American music but was marginalised during his lifetime. A black, gay, contemporary music composer, he lived every aspect of his identity to its fullest. His attitude was a total assault on the status quo. Inspired by his life and legacy, *Moving Eastman* responds to Mitsuye Yamada's quote, "invisibility is not a natural state for anyone", sparking a discussion on who controls the narrative and who tells these stories.

The work combines improvisation, contemporary music theatre and performance art, drawing from multiple global vocal traditions, both traditional western classical, and embodies Eastman's unconventional approach to making art across genres and disciplines in a quest for artistic freedom. Elaine Mitchener is joined onstage by long-time collaborators, saxophonist **Jason Yarde**, bassist **Neil Charles** and **Xhosa Cole** on saxophone and percussion (together they form the ongoing performance project **The Rolling Calf**).

Elaine Mitchener's previous full scale staged works include commissions *On Being Human as Praxis* (2020), *the then + the now = time* (2019) and *SWEET TOOTH* (2017), all collaborations with Dam Van Huynh, and orchestra work *b r e a d t h b r e a t h* (2018). Works researched, developed and produced by Elaine Mitchener Projects arise out of Elaine's philosophy of encounter-enact-engage to create intimate and experimental music theatre performance pieces.

Dam Van Huynh is an award-winning dancer, choreographer and director. He has collaborated with Elaine Mitchener since 2009, exploring the possibilities of performance through the use of sound and body. His choreographic works have been performed internationally, and he has worked with a variety of artists including Merce Cunningham, Richard Alston, and Tom Morris & Lee Hall. He founded the Van Huynh Company in 2008, is Director of the Hackney-based charity Centre 151, and Associate Director of the biennial Dance Bridges Festival (Kolkata, India).

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Queer East: [When the Cloud Catches Colours](#)

UK premiere
Thu 24 – Sat 26 Apr 2025
The Pit
Press Night: Thu 24 Apr, 7.45pm

When the Cloud Catches Colours is a thought-provoking piece of verbatim theatre about the experience of two queer Singaporeans as they grow older. Delving into relationships, family, insecurity, kindness and safety, the show is written and directed by **Chng Yi Kai**, based on true accounts contributed by many people in queer communities across the country, interviewed by Chng Yi Kai over several years. The production was first staged in 2023 by Drama Box in Singapore.

Qing & E are navigating life as queer individuals in their fifties. Qing is struggling to deal with the aftermath of a relationship ending after 20 years, and E is the sole-caregiver to a mother who doesn't fully accept her. On a shifting, technicolour landscape (set design by **Lim Wei Ling**), performers **Julius Foo** and **Judy Ngo** explore what lies ahead for people who have spent most of their lives in the margins.

When the Cloud Catches Colours is part of Queer East, a festival that showcases boundary-pushing LGBTQ+ cinema, live arts, and moving image work from East and Southeast Asia and its diaspora communities. For a sixth year, Queer East will be screening a selection of films in the Barbican Cinemas. The full programme will be announced in the new year.

Chng Yi Kai is a theatre artist who aspires to create socially-conscious theatre works that extend our capacities as humans and communities. A graduate from Yale-NUS College with a major in Anthropology, his foray into theatre began as an actor on the second cohort of Drama Box's youth wing ARTivate, after graduating from Singapore Polytechnic's Diploma in Applied Drama and Psychology. He was previously the Resident Artist at Drama Box theatre company as a playwright, director and ARTivate co-lead facilitator.

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Dior Clarke and Stephanie Martin: [*Passion Fruit*](#)

Wed 30 Apr – Sat 3 May 2025

The Pit

Press Night: Wed 30 Apr, 8pm

BSL-interpreted & Relaxed performance: Thu 1 May, 7.45pm. BSL-interpreted by Grace Buckle

Written by **Dior Clarke and Stephanie Martin**, Black British Theatre Award-winning play ***Passion Fruit*** returns to the stage in a new production, directed by **Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE** for The Pit, following an acclaimed run and rapturous audience responses at the New Diorama Theatre in 2022.

Brimming with joyful movement and music, brutal honesty and tender insight, this coming-of-age comedy-drama follows the life of Romeo (performed by Dior Clarke), a Black, Gay, Working Class, British-Jamaican boy growing up in North London.

Passion Fruit is a self-love story about finding yourself and staying true to your roots. From the first teenage moments of lust, surviving adolescent violence, family struggles, falling in love for the first time to the thrills and spills of the hedonism of the gay scene. Romeo's arrived at this moment: vibrant, bruised, fiercely ambitious and ready to share his story.

Dior Clarke is an actor, writer, director and producer, whose recent works include *Batty Boy* (Sky Arts), TV pilot *The Prince* (produced by Clarke's production company, Loquaciously Unfiltered), feature film *This Love Isn't Taught* and its stage production (currently in development at Cambridge Junction). He returns to the Barbican following his work with The PappyShow, including performing in the award-winning *BOYS* (2022) and 10th Birthday Pit Party (2023).

Stephanie Martin's debut play *Joy* is currently in development as a feature film with the BFI (working title *Girl Almighty*). Further playwrighting for the stage includes *Alkaline* (Park Theatre), *Juniper and Jules* (Theatre 503, Vault Festival 'Show of the Week', Soho Theatre), *Rage, but Hope* (Summerhall, Streatham Space Project), and Shakespeare's Globe short play commission *Letter to Bathsheba*. Recent work includes a commission from Soho Theatre for a new play co-written with Dior Clarke and award-nominated *Thirsty* (Vault Festival).

Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE is a writer, director, composer, choreographer, designer, producer and performer working in film, theatre, television and radio. He has written and directed 40+ plays over the last 20 years along with several feature films, shorts, TV episodes and series. Awards include a Sony

Award, Los Angeles Outfest Screenwriting and Outstanding Achievement awards, and he has received an MBE for contributions to drama and an honorary doctor of letters from the University of Warwick. As well as annually hosting UK Black Pride, Rikki has hosted Voguing balls around the country for the last 15 years.

*

ENDS

Press Information

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:

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HBL@barbican.org.uk or +44 20 3834 1187 / +44 7546 763 250

Sumayyah Sheikh, Communications Officer (Arts & Participation)

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Images

Images can be downloaded here:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/798o2q1d5px9lrczjfmw6/ABeoBTQeEZ_zTiNbbkj3X5c?rlkey=6he9t25mx4se1jrsbisuc1vfx&st=v208zu8s&dl=0

LISTINGS

Barbican Centre

London, EC2Y 8DS

Box Office: 020 7870 2500 (Monday-Friday 12noon - 5.30pm)

Barbican Centre's ticket sales team can also now help via [WhatsApp](#), or send a text on 07380 975000

Accessible ticketing line: [020 7101 1188](tel:02071011188) (Monday–Sunday 10am–4pm), via [WhatsApp](#), or send a text on [07710 854085](tel:07710854085)

Full programme here:

MimeLondon

La Pendue: *La Manéchine*

UK premiere

The Pit, Barbican

Tue 14 – Sat 18 Jan 2025 (6 performances)

Tue 14 – Sat 18 Jan at 7.45pm, and Sat 18 Jan at 2.30pm

Press performance: Tue 14 Jan 2025, 7.45pm

Post-show talk, Thu 16 Jan, 7.45pm. BSL-interpreted by Samuel Rojas. Free to same-day ticket holders

Running time: 70mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 10+

From £18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available

Performed in French, with English surtitles

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/mimelondon-la-manekine>

Creative team

With Estelle Charlier and Martin Kaspar Orkestar

Estelle Charlier Concept, artistic direction, puppets and masks

Martin Kaspar Orkestar Music

Estelle Charlier and Romuald Collinet Stage direction

Romarc Sangars Adaptation and texts

Anthony Lopez Light and technical manager

Andi Luchsinger Sound management

Anthony Lopez, Andi Luchsinger, Estelle Charlier, Martin Kaspar Orkestar & Romuald Collinet Set and props

Estelle Charlier & TMG - Atelier de confection de costumes Costumes

Sarah Charlier Collaboration on choreography

Pavĺina Vimmrova Video editing

Presented by the Barbican

MimeLondon

Brú Theatre: *Not a Word*

UK premiere

The Pit, Barbican

Tue 21- Sat 25 Jan 2025 (6 performances)

Tue 21 – Sat 25 Jan at 7.45pm, and Sat 25 Jan at 2.30pm

Press performance: Tue 21 Jan, 7.45pm

Post-show talk, Wed 22 Jan, BSL interpreted by Lorna Patterson. Free to same-day ticket holders

Running time: 1 hour (no interval)

Age guidance: 12+

From £18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/mimelondon-not-a-word>

Creative team

James Riordan Director

Raymond Keane Performer

Ultan O'Brien Musician

Sarah Jane Shiels Lighting design

Andrew Clancy Set design

Saileóg O'Halloran Costume design

Orla Clogher Mask design

Jill Murray Producer

Jenny O'Malley Sound design

Presented by the Barbican

MimeLondon

Plexus Polaire: *Moby Dick*

London premiere

Barbican Theatre

Wed 22 – Sat 25 Jan 2025 (5 performances)

Wed 22 – Sat 25 Jan at 7.45pm, and Saturday 25 Jan at 2.30pm

Press performance: Wed 22 Jan 2025, 7.45pm

Post-show talk, Fri 24 Jan, 7.45pm BSL-interpreted. Free to same-day ticket holders

90mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 12+

From £16 plus booking fee; £10 Young Barbican tickets available

Performed in English

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/mimelondon-moby-dick>

Creative team

Yngvild Aspeli Director

Julian Spooner, Sarah Lascar, Daniel Collados, Alice Chéné, Viktor Lukawski, Maja Kunsic, Andreu Martinez

Costa Actors and puppeteers

Vera Rozanova, Yann Claudel, Olmo Hidalgo, Cristina Iosif, Scott Koehler, Laëtitia Labre. Alternating with

Guro Skumsnes Moe, Ane Marthe Sørlien Holen and Havard Skaset Music

Lou Renaud-Bailly, Georgia Wartel Collins et Emil Storlækken Åse Alternating with

Polina Borisova, Yngvild Aspeli, Manon Dublanc, Sébastien Puech, Elise Nicod Puppet makers

Elisabeth Holager Lund Scenography

Xavier Lescat and Vincent Loubière Light designer

David Lejard-Ruffet Video designer

Benjamin Moreau Costume designer

Vincent Loubière or Marine David Light technicians

Hugo Masson, Pierre Hubert or Emilie Delforce Video technicians

Raphaël Barani, Simon Masson or Damien Ory Sound technicians

Benjamin Dupuis, Xavier Lescat or Margot Boche Stage technicians

Benoît Seguin Assistant director (on tour)

Pierre Tual Assistant director (creation)

Pauline Thimonnier Dramaturg

Clair Costa Production Director and Tour Booking

Anne-Laure Doucet and Gaedig Bonabesse Administration

Noémie Jorez Producer

Presented by the Barbican

MimeLondon

Frau Trapp: *Five Lines*

UK premiere

The Pit, Barbican

Tue 28 Jan - Sat 1 Feb 2025 (6 performances)

Tue 28 Jan – Sat 1 Feb at 7.45pm, and Sat 1 Feb at 2.30pm

Press performance: Tue 28 Jan, 7.45pm

Post-show talk, Wed 29 Jan, 7.45pm. BSL-interpreted by Anna Kitson. Free to same-day ticket holders

Running time: 1 hour (no interval)

Age guidance: 14+

£18 plus booking fee, £5 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/mimelondon-frau-trapp>

Creative Team

Matteo Frau/Natalia Barraza/Mina Trapp Script

Natalia Barraza Direction

Matteo Frau/Natalia Barraza/Mina Trapp/Sebi Escarpenter/Ariel F. Verba Interpretation and manipulation

Matteo Frau Original music

Sebi Escarpenter/Ariel F. Verba Camera/Technique/Editing

Mina Trapp Miniature/Scenography

Mina Trapp Costume

Ivan Tomasevic Light design

Sebi Escarpenter Miniature light design

The Frau Trapp Company Production

Mina Trapp/Matteo Frau Promotion

Presented by the Barbican

Belarus Free Theatre: *KS6: Small Forward*

UK premiere

The Pit, Barbican

Wed 5 - Sat 8 Feb 2025 (5 performances)

Wed 5 – Sat 8 Feb at 7:45pm, Sat 8 Feb at 2:30pm

Press performance: Thu 6 Feb, 7:45pm

Post-show talk: Fri 7 Feb following 7:45pm performance, moderated by journalist Stephen Sackur. Free to ticket holders for that evening's performance.

90 mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 14+

Content guidance: contains loud noises, sounds of explosions, smoke, haze and strobe lighting. References to adult themes including swearing, violence, use of weapons, and discussions of homophobia and sexual abuse

From £18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available

Performed in English

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/belarus-free-theatre-ks6-small-forward>

Creative team

Directed by Natalia Kaliada and Nicolai Khalezin

Original Play by Nicolai Khalezin

Javier De Frutos Movement Director and Choreographer

Anthony Matsena Consultant Choreographer

Nicolai Khalezin Set Design

DJ Blanka Barbara Composer and Sound Design

Peter Small Lighting Design

Dmytro Guk Video Design

Darya Andreyanova, Mikalai Kuprych, Raman Shytsko Creative Associates

Michael Attenborough CBE. D Litt. Performance Mentor to Katsiaryna Snytsina and Script Editor

Daniella Kaliada Translator

Penny Dyer, Barbara Houseman Voice Coach

Performed by: Katsiaryna Snytsina, DJ Blanka Barbara, Raman Shytsko, Darya Andreyanova, Mikalai Kuprych, Jay O. Sanders (Voice Over), Tahir Hajat MC (Voice Over)

Presented by the Barbican

KS6: Small Forward is a Belarus Free Theatre production based on conversations with Katsiaryna Snytsina, and dramaturgically adapted for the stage by Natalia Kaliada and Nicolai Khalezin

BFT turns 20: democracy and human rights on the world stage

A pre-show, in-conversation event

Fountain Room

Thu 6 Feb 2025, 6pm

Running time: 1 hour

Age guidance: 14+

£6 tickets (no booking fee) will support the ongoing charitable work of BFT

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/bft-turns-20-democracy-and-human-rights-on-the-world-stage>

HighRise Entertainment: *Lil.Miss.Lady*

World premiere

The Pit, Barbican

Wed 12 Feb - Sat 15 Feb 2025, 7:45pm (4 performances)

Press performance: Thurs 13 Feb, 7:45pm

BSL-interpreted and Relaxed performance: Fri 14 Feb, 7:45pm. BSL-interpreted by Grace Buckle

BSL-interpreted post-show talk: Fri 14 Feb, 7:45pm. Free to same-day ticket holders

90 mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 14+

From £18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available

Performed in English

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/event/highrise-entertainment-lil-miss-lady>

Creative team:

Writer and Director: Dominic Garfield

Lyrics: Lady Lykez, Dominic Garfield and Company

Company Producer: Elizabeth Peace

Production Manager (HighRise): Cai Taylor

Content and Social Media management (HighRise): Oliver Tunstall and Mary Melodies

Tracks and beats: Duncan Burton, Row.d Beats and JR Productions

Video Design: Oliver Hunter

Research Partners: Lioness, Queenie, Stush, Baby Blue and Girls of Grime

Vocal Coach: Toni 'Reese' Robinson

Outgoing Head of Programmes: Libby Liburd

Executive Director: Janet Tam

Performers:

Lady Lykez: Lil.Miss.Lady

DJ Harmony: DJ Kaylee Kay

Blanka: Fahad Shaft

DJ Rat: Gerel Falconer

Presented by the Barbican

HighRise are supported by Arts Council England, Vogue World Foundation & Something To Aim For (Slight changes here to confirmed support at this stage)

***THE SEAGULL* By Anton Chekhov**

A new version by Duncan Macmillan & Thomas Ostermeier

World premiere

Barbican Theatre

Wed 26 Feb—Sat 5 Apr 2025 (see website for times as these vary)

Press performance: Thu 6 Mar, 7pm

Audio Described performance: Tue 18 Mar, 7:15pm. Touch Tour at 6pm

Captioned performance: Wed 19 Mar, 7:15pm

Running time: approx. 2 hours 30 minutes (with interval)

Age guidance: 12+

£20 plus booking fee

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/the-seagull>

Creative Team:
Adapted by Duncan Macmillan and Thomas Ostermeier
Conceived & Directed by Thomas Ostermeier
Tom Gibbons: Sound Designer
Magda Willi: Set Designer
Marg Horwell: Costume Designer
Jim Carnahan CSA and Liz Fraser CSA: Casting

Cast

Cate Blanchett: Arkadina
Priyanga Burford: Polina
Tom Burke: Trigorin
Emma Corrin: Nina
Zachary Hart: Medvedenko
Paul Higgins: Shamrayev
Tanya Reynolds: Masha
Kodi Smit-McPhee: Konstantin
Jason Watkins: Sorin

Presented by Wessex Grove and Gavin Kalin Productions in association with the Barbican

Fuel: *FuelFest*

Works in progress
The Pit, Barbican
Pay What You Can
March 2025
Presented by the Barbican
<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/series/fueelfest>

Beauty is the Beast

Written and performed by Racheal Ofori
Mon 10 – Wed 12 March 2025, 7:45pm
Post-show talk: Tue 11 Mar, 7.45pm. Free to same-day ticket holders
Running time: approximately 50-60 minutes (no interval)
Age guidance: 12+
<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/fueelfest-beauty-is-the-beast-by-racheal-ofori>

Co-commissioned by Fuel and Women in Theatre Lab and produced by Fuel
Presented by the Barbican

AI, AI, Oh...

Written and performed by Will Adamsdale
Thu 13 – Sat 15 March 2025, 7:45pm
Post-show talk: Fri 14 Mar, 7.45pm. Free to same-day ticket-holders
Running time: approximately 60-70 minutes (no interval)
Age guidance: 12+
<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/fueelfest-ai-ai-oh-by-will-adamsdale>

Produced by Fuel and Will Adamsdale
Presented by the Barbican

Joint

Written by Jay Bernard
Mon 17 – Wed 19 March 2025, 7:45pm
Post-show talk: Tue 18 Mar, 7.45pm. Free to same-day ticket holders
Running time: Approximately 60-70 minutes (no interval)
Age guidance: 12+
<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/fueelfest-joint-by-jay-bernard>

Directed by Jo Tyabji
Commissioned and produced by Fuel
Presented by the Barbican

Oracle Song

Written and composed by Melanie Wilson

Thu 20 – Sat 22 March 2025, 7.45pm

Post-show talk: Fri 21 Mar, 7.45pm. Free to same-day ticket holders

Running time: approximately 50 minutes (no interval)

Content guidance: Contains strong language and mature themes

Age guidance: 14+

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/fuefest-oracle-song-by-melanie-wilson>

Commissioned and produced by Fuel and funded by Arts Council England, Sound and Music, The RNCM Centre for Practice & Research in Science & Music (PRISM), Hosking Houses Trust
Presented by the Barbican

Moving Eastman

London premiere

The Pit, Barbican

Thu 3 – Fri 4 Apr 2025, 7.30pm

Running time: tbc

£20 plus booking fee, £5 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/moving-eastman>

Performers

Elaine Mitchener vocals, movement and music direction

Dam Van Huynh concept, choreography and direction

The Rolling Calf:

Jason Yarde saxophone, electronics

Neil Charles bass, electronics

Xhosa Cole saxophone, percussion

Supported using public funding from Arts Council England

Moving Eastman was commissioned by Fruitmarket as part of Deep Time, Fruitmarket's festival of new music.

With further development support from Barbican, Hellerau – Dresden, Musical Utopias – The Hague, Britten

Pears Arts, Centre 151 and EMProjects.

Produced by the Barbican

Clod Ensemble & Nu Civilisation Orchestra: *The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady*

Barbican Theatre

Wed 16—Sat 19 Apr 2025, 7.45pm

Press performance: Wed 16 Apr, 7:45pm

BSL-interpreted performance, Thu 17 Apr, 7:45pm. BSL-interpreted by Jacqui Beckford

Running time: approx. 1 hour 50 minutes (inc 20 min interval)

Age guidance: 14+

This performance contains haze

£38.50 plus booking fee, £10 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/the-black-saint-and-the-sinner-lady>

The Black Saint and The Sinner Lady by Charles Mingus

Featuring new compositions by Romarna Campbell, Peter Edwards and Paul Clark

Suzy Willson Artistic Director Clod Ensemble / Director

Peter Edwards Musical Director Nu Civilisation Orchestra / Composer / Piano

Gary Crosby Artistic Director Nu Civilisation Orchestra / Upright Bass

Paul Clark Artistic Director Clod Ensemble / Composer

Hansjörg Schmidt Lighting design

Marianthi Hatzikidi Costume design

Sarah Blenkinsop Set design

Created & Produced by Clod Ensemble in association with Nu Civilisation Orchestra

Clod Ensemble & Nu Civilisation Orchestra are supported by Arts Council England

Presented by the Barbican

Queer East: *When the Cloud Catches Colours*

UK premiere

The Pit, Barbican

Thu 24 – Sat 26 Apr 2025 (4 performances)

Thu 24 Apr 7:45pm, Fri 25 Apr 7:45pm, Sat 26 Apr 2:30pm & 7:45pm

Press Night: Thu 24 Apr, 7:45pm

Post-show talk: Fri 25 Apr, 7:45pm. Free to same-day ticket holders

Running time: approx. 1 hour 10 mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 14+

£18 plus booking fee, £5 Young Barbican tickets available

Performed in English, Mandarin and Singaporean Hokkien, with English surtitles.

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/queer-east-when-the-cloud-catches-colours>

Cast

Judy Ngo as E

Julius Foo as Qing

Company

Chng Yi Kai Playwright and Director

Kok Heng Leun Dramaturg

Sarah Tang Executive Producer (UK)

Jo Lam Producer (Drama Box)

Lim Wei Ling Set Designer

Cheng Xin Rui and Hang Qian Chou Translator (interviews)

Presented by the Barbican

Teatro La Plaza: *Hamlet*

London premiere

Barbican Theatre

Thu 24—Sun 27 Apr 2025 (4 performances)

Thu 24 Apr 7:45pm, Fri 25 Apr 7:45pm, Sat 26 Apr 7:45pm, Sun 27 Apr 3pm

Press performance: Thu 24 Apr, 7:45pm

Running time: 1 hour and 35 minutes (no interval)

Age guidance: 12+

This performance contains strobe lighting

£16 plus booking fee, £10 Young Barbican tickets available

Performed in Spanish with English surtitles

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/hamlet-teatro-la-plaza>

Cast

Octavio Bernaza

Jaime Cruz

Lucas Demarchi

Manuel García

Diana Gutierrez

Cristina León Barandiarán

Ximena Rodríguez

Álvaro Toledo

Creative team

Based on the play by William Shakespeare

Chela De Ferrari Playwright and Director

Jonathan Oliveros, Claudia Tangoa, Luis Alberto León Associate Directors and Associate Playwrights

Alessandra Rodríguez Vocal Training

Mirella Carbone Choreography

Lucho Soldevilla Visuals

Jesús Reyes Lighting design

Allyson Espinoza Stage manager

Marvin Calle Lighting Director

Jhosimar Sullon Sound

Dennis Hilario Video Technician

Rocío Puelles Cast Coordination and Accompaniment

Roxana Rodríguez Tour Director

Presented by the Barbican

Produced by Teatro La Plaza

Dior Clarke/ Stephanie Martin: *Passion Fruit*

The Pit, Barbican

Wed 30 Apr – Sat 3 May 2025, 8pm (4 performances)

Press performance: Wed 30 Apr, 8pm

BSL-interpreted & Relaxed performance: Thu 1 May, 8pm. BSL-interpreted by Grace Buckle

Running time: 2 hours (inc. interval)

Age guidance: 16+

£18 plus booking fee, £5 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/passion-fruit>

Creative team

Written by Dior Clarke and Stephanie Martin

Directed by Rikki Beadle-Blair MBE

Full cast and creative team to be announced

Presented by the Barbican

Supported by The PappyShow and New Diorama

Landmark Productions: *Krapp's Last Tape*

UK premiere

Barbican Theatre

Wed 30 Apr—Sat 3 May 2025

Wed 30 Apr 7pm, Thu 1 May 7pm, Fri 2 May 7pm, Sat 3 May 2:30pm & 7pm

Press performance: Thu 1 May, 7pm

Audio Described performance: Fri 2 May, 7pm. Audio described by Caroline Burn. Touch Tour at 6pm

Post-show talk: Fri 2 May, 7pm. Free to same-day ticket holders

Running time: 55 mins (no interval)

Age guidance: 11+

£18 plus booking fee, £5 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/krapps-last-tape>

Cast

Stephen Rea as Krapp

Creative team

Samuel Beckett Author

Vicky Featherstone Director

Jamie Vartan Set Designer

Katie Davenport Costume Designer

Paul Keogan Lighting Designer

Kevin Gleeson Sound Designer

Stephen Wright Audio Director

Presented by the Barbican.

Supported by [Cultúr Éireann | Culture Ireland](#).

Boy Blue: *A Night with Boy Blue - Generation Blue*

Barbican Theatre

Sat 10—Sun 11 May 2025 (2 performances)

Sat 10 May 7.45pm, Sun 11 May 6pm

Press performance: Sat 10 May, 7:45pm

BSL-interpreted performance: Sat 10 May, 7:45pm. BSL-interpreted by Ali Gordon

Running time: 2 hours and 20 minutes (inc. 20min interval)

Age guidance: 6+ (family friendly)

Contains loud music and haze

£18 plus booking fee, £5 Young Barbican tickets available

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/generation-blue-a-night-with-boy-blue>

Creative team

Michael 'Mikey J' Asante Composer and Co-Artistic Director

Kenrick 'H2O' Sandy Choreographer and Co-Artistic Director

Produced by Boy Blue

Presented by the Barbican

Boy Blue: FreeStage performances

Level G foyer

Fri 9 May & Sat 10 May, 5.30pm–7pm

Free

Boy Blue: *Hip Hop Matters*

An in-conversation event

Frobisher Auditorium 1

Fri 9 May 2025, 7:30pm

Running time: 2 hours (including interval)

Age guidance: 6+ (family friendly)

This event contains loud music

£7 (no booking fee)

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/boy-blue-hip-hop-matters>

Produced by Boy Blue

Presented by the Barbican

Boy Blue: *BB - Frontline Battle*

Barbican Theatre

Sun 11 May 2025, 12noon

Registration for Battlers will start from 11am

Running time: 4 hours (attendees are welcome to come and go throughout the event)

Age guidance: 6+ (family-friendly) with minimum age of 16yrs required to compete

This event has loud music

£7

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/event/boy-blue-bb-frontline-battle>

Produced by Boy Blue

Presented by the Barbican

Supported by Arts Council England

NOTES TO EDITORS

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](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)