Barbican - Mar 19

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now

Hello!

Rapid developments in technology touch all aspects of our lives, from when we're born to our last days. But what does it mean to grow older in today's rapidly-changing world? This is something we're exploring with a fascinating installation which draws together personal stories from a diverse group of Londoners, plus cutting edge research by UCL. Discover what's behind the installation on page 12. Elsewhere, renowned author Peter Chadwick shares his favourite spots around the Centre (p41), actor Marieke Heebink gets to the bottom of complex character Medea (P28) and acclaimed conductor Simon Halsey explains the impact of a choir of 500 voices (P9). Bringing us into the future is Oxford Professor Marcus du Sautoy, who's exploring whether a machine could write music to rival Bach (P7). It's a technologically thought-provoking programme to get your teeth into.

My favourite coming-of-age films

Ahead of the Chronic Youth Film Festival, Young Programmer Meenu Sureshlal shares the movies that resonated with her.

Run by and aimed at young people, Chronic Youth Film Festival is the culmination of work by the Barbican Young Programmers – a group of cinephiles aged 18-25 who are developing their film programming skills through mentorship with filmmaker Suzy Gillett.

Sureshlal, 23, is studying for a Masters in global cinema at SOAS, and is a particular fan of coming-of-age films, 'although they can be quite male dominated and white,' she notes.

'Stand-out films for me are things like Bullet Boy (2014), which I think is a good representation of London. Also, Pressure (1975), which as well as dramatising the tensions between first and second generation West Indian immigrants in Notting Hill, is also a great coming-of-age story.

'Girlhood (2014) really resonated with me because it's about a young black teenager in the suburbs of Paris. Inner city films are really important to me because I grew up in London.'

The festival focusses on telling young people's stories. Sureshlal says the way young people are represented on film used to succumb to tropes, 'but in recent years, as it's become easier to make films whatever your age, there are more young people telling their own stories. We live in a really interesting time for film because more and more people are allowed to make films and are getting funding, so there's better representation. There's still a long way to

go – people of colour are still not well represented, but it's improving and we're seeing exciting new narratives, especially from America.'

Chronic Youth Film Festival

23-24 Mar See page 18 for details

Find out how to become a Young Programmer at barbican.org.uk/take-part

Grief is the Thing with Feathers

Cillian Murphy delivers a riveting performance in Enda Walsh's adaptation of Max Porter's award-winning novel Grief is the Thing with Feathers, a heart-wrenching meditation on love, loss and living. In a London flat, two young boys face the unbearable sadness of their mother's sudden death. Their father, a scruffy romantic, imagines a future of well-meaning visitors and emptiness. In this moment of despair, they are visited by Crow (see page 28 for details). Porter will discuss his best-seller in a special members-only pre-show talk on 4 April.

To become a member and enjoy a programme of exclusive events and discounts, see barbican.org.uk/membership

Gaming tech brings history full circle

Why artist Daria Martin used computer game designers from her grandmother's former home city to create a powerful opening for her exhibition in The Curve.

Tonight The World takes inspiration from dream diaries written by Martin's grandmother, who fled Brno to escape the Holocaust. The installation is made up of several elements, including atmospheric live action film but it starts with a computer game sited in the Czech home the family left behind.

Martin worked with Brno's thriving gaming industry to create the experience. 'The city used to be an industrial capital,' she says. 'My great-grandparents were textiles manufacturers there, but today it's become what many call the Silicon Valley of Europe.'

'The game encompasses a fast-forwarding of history, from my great-grandparents' past to the IT culture that dominates now. But my decision to use this game design – in which the user is bodiless, without an avatar – was also a way to express my grandmother's lingering dissociation from her body, a residue of her trauma. Of course, dreams and games both represent virtual worlds, and can be imagined as ways of processing lived experience.'

Discover more about Jarman Award-winning Martin in a series of events to accompany the exhibition, including a

discussion between the artist and feminist film theorist Laura Mulvey. Full details on page 33.

Tonight The World

Until 7 Apr See page 33 for details Part of Life Rewired

Poetry powerhouse marks 10 year

Over the last decade, the Barbican Young Poets programme has seen dozens of talented aspiring writers from a variety of disciplines hone their skills through mentoring from poet Jacob Sam-La Rose.

While they may describe themselves as performance poets, page poets, spoken word artists, or even rappers, over each six-month course, they work with Sam-La Rose and other poets to push their creativity.

Alumni from the programme have gone on to have glittering careers, including Victoria Adukwei-Bulley, who has completed multiple residencies in the US, Brazil and at London's V&A Museum; Travis Alazabanza, whose performance, writing and theatre work have made them one of the most exciting new queer artistic voices in London; Aisling Fahey, who became Young Poet Laureate for London (2014–2015); and Theresa Lola, whose debut full-length poetry collection is being published February 2019.

Discover some of the most exciting new voices of the future at a showcase of this year's cohort of young poets.

Barbican Young Poets Showcase

22 Mar See page 27 for details

The mathematics of Bach's music

In a fascinating fusion of maths, creativity and the mind, mathematician Marcus du Sautoy will examine the algorithmic qualities of the great composer's work.

The music of Johann Sebastian Bach is often said to have a mathematical quality about it, but what does that mean?

Oxford University Mathematics Professor and Fellow of the Royal Society, Marcus du Sautoy has been fascinated by the link since he read Douglas Hofstadter's influential book Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid, as a student.

'It really goes to the heart of my motivation in life which is to synthesise ideas from science, maths, art and philosophy,' explains du Sautoy. 'Hofstadter uses ideas linking the music of JS Bach, art of MC Escher and maths of Kurt Gödel to unlock what may be the key to making the brain conscious: the idea of the strange loop. This is the strange ability that the brain has that it can think about itself – what we call consciousness. Hofstadter's idea is of a system of hierarchies that comes back to the beginning again. It's like Escher's pictures of a hand drawing a hand. You think you understand the hierarchy, but then you're back to the beginning again.'

To explain the link between these three intellectual titans, consciousness, and artificial intelligence, du Sautoy has created a three-part series called Strange Loops. The first part, The Eternal Golden Braid, is a performance lecture with harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani and composer Robert Thomas. Together they'll examine the algorithmic qualities of Bach's work to try to understand machine learning and the nature of creativity.

'The most famous example is Bach's The Musical Offering. The story goes that Frederick the Great challenged Bach to improvise a three -part fugue based on a complicated royal theme,' explains du Sautoy. 'Bach is able to sit down and do it immediately because he applies little algorithms to a theme which sees it evolve into something more complex. The King then pushes him further and challenges him to improvise a six-voice fugue on the same theme. Bach goes away and comes back with a six-voice fugue, ten canons and a sonata.'

In the performance lecture, du Sautoy, Esfahani and Thomas will aim to unlock how the composer was able to do this so quickly, by showing Bach's algorithms at work. 'Much of the human creative process is already algorithmic, but we're not aware of it,' says du Sautoy, whose forthcoming book The Creativity Code looks at how effective AI is at creating pieces of literature and music. 'Music often depends on structural analysis and expansion, and the feelings comes out of that. Emotion emerges because of our love of structure.'

In The Eternal Golden Braid, Bach's works will be fed into an algorithm which uses the structures it finds to compose its own version of Bach. Will you be able to tell the difference between a machine that's learned from Bach, and Bach himself?

Strange Loops

9–23 Mar See page 27 for details Part of Life Rewired

A chorus of inspiration

Ahead of an ambitious UK premiere, conductor Simon Halsey explains what it's like corralling a mass choir of 500 voices.

Composer David Lang's the public domain will see 500 people from all walks of life and differing abilities fill the Barbican foyers for a once-in- a-lifetime performance of the 30-minute work. 'It's hugely impressive for audiences,' says Halsey. 'You come into the space and discover a

tremendous number of people there. After a while some of your neighbours start performing and you find yourself right in the middle of it.

'The extent of the piece is amazing. You're really immersed in it. You can move around it, inside it, outside it and choose to experience it from any angle. It's like an interactive experience.'

American composer Lang wrote the music in 2016, two years after his first piece for 1,000 voices called Crowd Out, inspired by a visit to an Arsenal football match. The public domain is about 'what we share with each other, things we all have, that we all do, that we all need, and need from each other,' the composer says in his programme note, explaining that the text is all from autocompleted search engine results to the sentence 'one thing we all have is our...'.

But it's much more than an impressive experience for audiences, says Halsey, one of the world's leading conductors of choral music. He oversaw the two previous performances of the work (New York and Berlin) before this, its UK premiere as part of the London Symphony Orchestra's LSO Futures concert. Those earlier performances produced some unexpected results, he notes. 'Because some of the music is repetitive and quite simple, we found that audiences were joining in, and this can inspire them to discover singing for themselves,' says Halsey. 'I'm a great believer that if you can take part in something, you're much more likely to want to have a

second taste than if you simply sat and watched it. It's a great way to inspire new people to enjoy singing and choral music', he enthuses.

The piece is written for singers of varying abilities, and people from across London are taking part. 'We have fantastically experienced conductors involved and it will be immaculately organised, so people are welcome whatever their ability,' says Halsey. 'The notes are easy to learn, there's quite a lot of speech, so you've just got to let your inhibitions go a bit and enjoy it. It's the most fantastic treat.'

With 500 voices performing, the prospect could be considered daunting for a conductor. Not Halsey though, who says he's overcome the potential pitfalls. Describing himself as 'like a traffic policeman', he says organisation is key to the success of the work. 'There are five groups, each of 100 people. They each have their own conductors and sub-conductors. I'm in the middle of it all, directing.'

LSO Futures

24 Mar See page 25 for details

Watch - BarbicanSessions

Live after-hours gigs in our iconic architectural spaces from artists including Gazelle Twin, Keaton Henson and Soumik Datta – uploaded onto our YouTube channel monthly. Watch them at youtube.com/barbicancentre

Tune in to Access

Explore how technology and audience participation can reimagine music performance as we celebrate Disabled Access Day. We'll be premiering works by five emerging disabled artists from Drake Music, all of which experiment with the role of the audience in a performing environment. The day will end with a panel discussion on Accessible Music Technology for Performance. Founded by Euan's Guide in 2015, Disabled Access Day focuses on highlighting access that already exists and creating opportunities for people to try something new. There will also be access screenings on in our cinemas throughout the day.

Tune in to Access

Mar 16 See page 32 for details

The age-old question

By 2040 a quarter of the UK will be aged over 60. As our population gets older, we often hear of this demographic change as being a cause for concern. But there's very little meaningful public discourse about what it means, or how it feels to grow old in our society. How do we experience and consider ageing in relation to our sense of self, each other and our wider society? And what impacts will technological and scientific changes have on the total experience of ageing in the future?

A new installation on Level G invites us to explore this topic in a fascinating way. Combining personal stories of over-70s from diverse London communities, and leading academic research from UCL's gerontology team, it examines what it means to age in today's society.

Unclaimed takes inspiration from lost property offices. It's somewhere you can pick up items and discover the surprising, illuminating or 'unclaimed' stories that emerged from UCL's research, led by Dr Dan Davis. It's a blend of cultural, academic and public engagement practice that sheds new light on ageing.

Davis says, 'I've just turned 40. It's quite easy for me to look back and think about what I would say to my 20-year-old self. But it's much harder to project yourself forward and imagine what you'd say to 80-year-old you. Yet it's important that we think about these things and start making decisions now that will affect our future selves.'

'I would like people to go away from it giving deeper consideration to what they want from their own ageing,' says Sarah Douglas, director of The Liminal Space, the creative public engagement agency which led the project.

Zooming in from UCL's large epidemiological study to a personal level enables the project to tell the complex personal stories of older people, who are often 'lumped together as one homogenous category', says Douglas. 'That prevents us from thinking about our own ageing and what we might need to do as a society to make those longer lifespans richer and more enjoyable.'

Davis adds, 'I'm often asked to comment on what technology will do in the future to help us with ageing. In fact, what's more important is having a discussion about what social changes need to take place that mean the experience of old age is not a narrative of living in a nursing home, that it is in fact something much better. We're living longer, but are we living healthier? There's things we can do in our earlier lives that will effect this, but not talking or thinking about ageing can prevent us from taking action.'

Confronting societal taboos about growing older is familiar ground for performer and writer Ursula Martinez, whose A Family Outing was a huge success at the 1998 Edinburgh Festival. In a seemingly ramshackle (but actually tightly-structured) format she interviewed her parents. On one level it looked at families and their relationships, but on another it was about theatre and the boundaries of where real life ends and theatre begins. Now, 20 years on, she's reviving A Family Outing, and the intervening two decades highlight the passage of life.

'Now I'm in my 50s, my dad has passed away and my mum's memory isn't what it used to be. That's what can happen over 20 years – you get older, you might not function as well, or you might die,' says Martinez. 'I thought it would be interesting to revisit the show with that in play, because that's the reality of life.

'The show is the same format as the first one – it's my mum and I chatting. However, it's not particularly about

getting older, nor is it about grief. It's not about anything other than "this is us now".'

At the heart of Unclaimed is this 'ordinary' journey through life that everyone experiences as 'ageing', yet it's often not how we think about it.

One of the personal stories you can find in the lost property office is Eve's. She says: 'Sometimes I look at myself, and I just think, "God, I wonder how people see me". Other times, I'm just that child running round the park that I always was.

'Nothing changes and everything changes. It's like there's this rock of who you are at the most elemental and it doesn't really change, but you think other people looking at you will think you're different because you're older.'

Unclaimed

Until 3 May See page 34 for details Part of Life Rewired

A Family Outing: 20 Years On

27-30 Mar See page 28 for details Part of Life Rewired

Cinema

New releases

From Fri 1 Mar Foxtrot 15

Samuel Maoz directs a devastating portrait of a couple as they discover their son has been killed in the line of duty as a soldier.

From Fri 8 Mar Captain Marvel

Academy Award-winner Brie Larson stars in Marvel's first female superhero led film as Carol Danvers, who must step in when Earth is caught in a galactic war.

From Fri 8 Mar Everybody Knows

Asghar Farhadi (A Separation) directs Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem as a couple whose family trip is turned upside-down when unexpected events bring long buried secrets into the open.

From Fri 8 Mar The Kindergarten Teacher

In Sara Colangelo's drama a teacher (Maggie Gyllenhaal) becomes obsessed with protecting her 5-year-old student's talent, believing him to be a child prodigy.

From Fri 15 Mar

Us#

Jordan Peele's (Get Out) hotly anticipated second feature stars Lupita Nyong'o and Elisabeth Moss, in a beach holiday gone very wrong.

From Fri 29 Mar Dumbo

The owner of a struggling circus enlists a man and his two children to care for a newborn elephant that can fly in Tim Burton's take on the Disney classic.

Special events and seasons

Tue 5 Mar 6.30pm, Cinema 2 Adrian Wootton's Hollywood Legends: Sammy Davis Jr

Members' event

Sammy Davis Jr was a legendary impressionist, singer and actor on stage and screen. Adrian Wootton OBE explores his life and career in the first of his dynamic talks for 2019.

Tue 5 Mar 8.35pm, Cinema 2

Ocean's 11 PG + introduction by Adrian Wootton

Adrian Wootton's Hollywood Legends

This is the original, super stylish 60's Rat Pack movie. Starring Frank Sinatra and his gang, including of course Sammy Davis Jr, they play a group of ex-army friends planning a heist.

6-31 Mar, Cinema 1 & 2

Love and Anarchy: The Films of Lina Wertmuller

Hidden Figures

Our first focus in this new series, which shines a light on forgotten filmmakers, is Italian director Lina Wertmuller, a unique voice whose satires and black comedies deserve to be revisited.

Tue 12 Mar 8.30pm, Cinema 3 UK Premiere: Communion Los Angeles ∪* + ScreenTalk

Architecture on Film

Tracing the route of California's oldest freeway, stunning images in a tapestry of sound offer a different kind of road movie; a mesmeric, psychogeographic trip down 35 miles of blacktop into LA.

14-21 Mar, Cinema 1 & 2 Human Rights Watch Film Festival

Human Rights Watch Film Festival returns for its 23rd edition, offering fresh perspectives and critical insights on human rights concerns impacting people around the world.

23-24 Mar, Cinema 2 & 3 Chronic Youth Film Festival

The Barbican Young Programmers return with a selection of screenings and events that explore the concept of coming-of-age through the lens of 'escape'.

Thu 28 Mar 6.30pm, Cinema 3 Film-work as Dream-work

Writer and art critic Dr Maria Walsh curates a programme of artists' films and speaks to filmmaker Daria Martin, whose installation Tonight the World is in The Curve, about translating dreams into film.

Event Cinema

Sat 2 Mar 5.55pm, Cinema 1 La Fille du Régiment

Met Opera Live in HD

Full of wit and invention, Donizetti's comic opera is a delight. Bel canto stars Pretty Yende and Javier Camarena take on the challenging vocal fireworks in Laurent Pelly's hilarious staging.

Thu 14 Mar 2pm, Cinema 2 Stage Russia: Onegin 15

Afternoon Arts

Timofey Kulyabin brings a fresh perspective on Pushkin's classic, leaving its historical context behind and focusing on the love story at its heart.

Thu 28 Mar 2pm, Cinema 2 Exhibition on Screen: Young Picasso

Afternoon Arts

Three cities play a key role: Malaga, Barcelona and Paris. Young Picasso visits each and explores their influence on Picasso, focusing on specific artworks from these early years.

Sat 30 Mar 5.55pm, Cinema 1 Die Walküre

Met Opera Live in HD

The second of the four operas that comprise Richard Wagner's Ring cycle, this spectacular opera is a story of monsters, gods, and humans on a superhuman scale.

Families

Every Saturday 11am, Cinema 2 Family Film Club

This month, we celebrate the best films adapted from and inspired by books. Plus, look out for our regular show and tell introductions and free monthly workshop.

Parent and Baby Screenings

Enjoy the best new films every Monday and Saturday morning with your little ones of twelve months and under, at our specially tailored screenings. Sign up to the mailing list at barbican.org.uk/parentandbaby

Access

Relaxed Screenings

One Friday afternoon in every month, we screen a film in a specially tailored environment for adults who may be on the autistic spectrum, have Tourette Syndrome, anxiety, sensory or other learning difficulties. Friends and carers go free.

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Access Screenings

Every Tuesday or Wednesday we screen a new release film with both audio description for the visually impaired and captions for D/deaf and hard of hearing audiences.

Highlighting forgotten filmmakers

This month we launch a new strand celebrating filmmakers who, despite directing ground-breaking films, have been neglected in the canon of world cinema. Hidden Figures opens with a celebration of the work of Italian director Lina Wertmuller, who made a string of brilliant satires and black comedies in the 1970s and was the first woman to be nominated for the Best Director Oscar®. Despite her early success, her work is almost unknown in the UK, and this is a rare opportunity to see some of her best films on the big screen.

We will continue to explore unjustly neglected voices in world cinema, including a selection of films from Israeli director Amos Guttman later this year.

Love and Anarchy: The Films of Lina Wertmuller 6–31 Mar

For programme information and dates and times of new release films visit **barbican.org.uk**Details of prices are available online. Barbican Members receive 20% off, Business Members receive 25% off Join Young Barbican and get tickets to new releases for just £5

Classical Music

All concerts take place in the Hall unless otherwise stated

Sat 2 Mar

BBC SO Total Immersion: Ligeti

The BBC Symphony Orchestra explore the many moods of György Ligeti's multifaceted, often disconcertingly beautiful music with a day of performances, talks and a film screening.

Sat 2 Mar 7.30pm BBC Symphony Orchestra/Oramo

A kaleidoscopic concert of shifting colours and shimmering textures explores some of Ligeti's greatest orchestral works, plus his concertos for violin and piano.

Sun 3 Mar 10am-5pm LSO Discovery Day: Italian Vocal Music

Sir Antonio Pappano conducts an LSO rehearsal, followed by an afternoon discussion with Choral Director Simon Halsey and live chamber music.

Sun 3 Mar 7pm London Symphony Orchestra/Pappano

Sir Antonio Pappano conducts the LSO and Chorus in Puccini's Messa di Gloria, along with rare and beautiful music by Ponchielli and Verdi – composers who taught Puccini his craft.

Thu 7 Mar 7.30pm Arcadi Volodos in recital

Russian pianist Volodos masterfully sets Schubert's Sonata in B-flat major against the brooding passions of Scriabin and Rachmaninov in a recital to illuminate and astound.

Fri 8 Mar 1pm, LSO St Luke's ECHO Rising Stars: Josep-Ramon Olivé

Spanish baritone Josep-Ramon Olivé is swiftly emerging as one of the finest lieder singers of his generation. His programme includes a new collaboration with composer Raquel García-Tomás.

Sun 10 Mar 11am-4.30pm, LSO St Luke's LSO Choral Singing Day: Vaughan Williams & Ireland

Spend a day immersed in great music of the English choral tradition with the LSO's Choral Director Simon Halsey. Some sight-singing ability required.

Sun 10 Mar 7pm

London Symphony Orchestra: Haitink at 90

Bernard Haitink conducts Bruckner's Fourth Symphony in a celebration of two decades conducting the LSO. Till Fellner joins the Orchestra as soloist in Mozart's Piano Concerto No 22.

Thu 14 & Thu 21 Mar 7.30pm London Symphony Orchestra: Haitink at 90

The LSO celebrate the conductor's 90th birthday with music that has been at the heart of his 60-year career: Mahler's Fourth Symphony and Dvorák's Violin Concerto with violinist Isabelle Faust.

Sun 17 Mar 7pm London Symphony Orchestra/Hannigan

Barbara Hannigan is both conductor and soprano in this high-energy concert featuring Ligeti's Concert Românesc, Berg's Lulu Suite and Hannigan's sharp-eared, swinging arrangement of Gershwin's show tunes, Crazy Girl.

Tue 19 Mar 7pm

Les Arts Florissants: Bach's St John Passion

William Christie leads the vivacious and imaginative Les Arts Florissants in a Lent performance of J S Bach's profound retelling of Christ's passion.

Wed 20 Mar 7.30pm Guildhall Symphony Orchestra/Sinaisky

Russian conductor Vassily Sinaisky leads Guildhall musicians through Shostakovich's Tenth Symphony – written shortly after the death of Stalin as a portrait of the dictator – and Dvorák's spirited Eighth Symphony.

Fri 22 Mar 12.30pm, LSO St Luke's LSO Discovery: Free Lunchtime Concert

A string quartet and virtuoso electric guitarist come together in this concert of new music curated by Daniel Kidane and presented by Rachel Leach. Free event

Sun 24 Mar 6pm LSO Futures: Poem of Ecstasy

Hear the UK premiere of David Lang's the public domain for 500 voices before Philippe Manoury's Ring for scattered, 'spatialised' orchestra. The concert finishes with Scriabin's Fourth Symphony.

Mon 25 Mar 10am & 2.30pm, LSO St Luke's LSO Futures: Panufnik Composers Workshops

Witness a pivotal point in the creation of new orchestral music as the LSO work with early-career Panufnik Composers under the guidance of François-Xavier Roth.

Wed 27 Mar 6.30pm LSO Half Six Fix: Shostakovich & Strauss

A one-hour concert where Gianandrea Noseda introduces and conducts two tumultuous masterpieces by Richard Strauss and Shostakovich. Bring in your drink, sit back and enjoy the music.

Thu 28 Mar 7.30pm, Milton Court Academy of Ancient Music: Spirit of Adventure

Few make the cello's uniquely human voice sing with more baritonal warmth than Nicolas Altstaedt, who directs a programme of Haydn, Boccherini and C P E Bach from the cello.

Thu 28 Mar 7.30pm London Symphony Orchestra/Noseda

An all-Russian concert featuring Shostakovich's First Symphony – written by the extravagantly gifted composer in his teenage years – alongside Balakirev's Islamey and Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3 with soloist Seong-Jin Cho.

Sun 31 Mar 7pm London Symphony Orchestra: Diana Damrau sings Strauss

A journey from Strauss's Don Juan to Capriccio – the opera written at the end of his life – in a concert also featuring Iain Bell's evocative song cycle The Hidden Place.

Visit our website for full programme information, including concerts from the Barbican Presents series, London Symphony Orchestra and our other associate orchestras, or contact the Box Office to be posted our current Classical Music brochure. Resident Orchestra - LSO

Theatre & Dance

28 Feb-2 Mar 7.45pm, Theatre Charles Atlas/Rashaun Mitchell/Silas Riener Tesseract

Life Rewired. This dance show explores the relationship between the human form and technology, with a 3D film and a live performance offering new perspectives on the intricate choreography.

2—3 Mar 10.30am, Venue TBC Weekend Lab: Ursula Martinez

Life Rewired. Join writer and performer Ursula Martinez for a weekend workshop in response to A Family Outing – 20 Years On.

6-9 Mar 7.45pm, Theatre Internationaal Theater Amsterdam Medea

Simon Stone adapts Euripides's Greek tragedy with the renamed Toneelgroep in this modern exploration of a mother trapped on the brink of losing everything.

14-17 Mar, Theatre Ballet Black - Double Bill

This Double Bill features Ingoma, a new piece by one of their leading dancers Mthuthuzeli November that images the struggles of black South African miners in 1946.

21—23 Mar, The Pit Marcus du Sautoy/Victoria Gould I is a strange loop

Life Rewired. One of three shows making up the Strange Loops project, this narrative focuses on two figures, X and Y, alone in a cube, to investigate consciousness, mortality and artificial life.

Fri 22 Mar 7pm, Frobisher Auditorium 1 Barbican Young Poets Showcase 2019

We celebrate 10 years of the Barbican Young Poets programme with an evening of poetry and spoken word from the 2019 cohort, plus special guests.

25 Mar—13 Apr 7.45pm, Theatre Wayward Productions Grief is the Thing with Feathers

Cillian Murphy stars in Enda Walsh's adaption of Max Porter's award-winning novel, a heart-wrenching meditation on love, loss and living.

27—30 Mar 7.45pm, The Pit Ursula Martinez A Family Outing – 20 Years On

Life Rewired. Twenty years after its opening in Edinburgh, Ursula Martinez attempts to recreate the show, without her father, and with a mother who struggles to remember her lines.

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

22—27 Mar, Silk Street Theatre Orestes

A brother and sister face a death sentence for the murder of their mother. Disenfranchised and without shelter, they hatch a terrible plot to alter their fate.

Can we ever find empathy for Medea?

Actor Marieke Heebink admits she had to overcome an inner conflict when she was asked to play the lead role in Simon Stone's rewrite of the Greek tragedy.

The climax of Euripides' notorious play sees Medea murder her own sons, as well as the woman her husband Jason has run off with, leaving him without a partner nor any children.

'Before I was asked to do this part I begged the universe that I would never have to play Medea because I thought it would be impossible for me to play her,' says Heebink. 'I have two children of my own and I didn't want to go into that mental space. I felt a lot of fear about playing her because what she does is awful. I couldn't kill anybody, and it's even more wrong to kill your own children, because you're supposed to nurture them, look after them, and bring them up in safety. 'But when I was asked, I thought: OK, I have to do it. I will see what happens.'

'When you dig very deep you find a way to understand her. In the end I think I've found the reason why she does it: she's excluded from her children, from her job which is very important to her identity, and excluded from her life. She panics and the rage comes over her about all the things she's given up.'

Stone's rewriting of the play for Internationaal Theater Amsterdam (formerly Toneelgroep Amsterdam) relocates the action from 431 BC Greece to modern times. Drawing on the true story of an American doctor who killed her two children after setting fire to her own house following a difficult divorce, the parallels with Euripides' tragedy are obvious. And it makes it just as relatable two and a half millennia later, asking us if we can find any empathy for such a shockingly tragic act.

'The thing about Medea is she stands up for herself,' says Heebink, who won a Theo D'Or award for her portrayal of the tragic anti-heroine. 'She is much more intelligent than Jason, but he takes her away from her children, rejects all the sacrifices she's made for him and all the things they had together, and just throws them away. He doesn't think what it means to her.'

Medea

Internationaal Theater Amsterdam 6–9 Mar

For full programme information, including artist line ups, please visit **barbican.org.uk**

Full details of prices are available online. Barbican Members and Business Members enjoy discounts on selected events. Join Young Barbican and get tickets for selected events for just £5, £10 or £15

Contemporary Music

All concerts take place in the Barbican Hall unless otherwise stated

Fri 1 Mar 7.30pm, EartH Late Junction Festival Day Two

The experimental BBC Radio 3 programme now hosts a festival with the Barbican, featuring some thrillingly innovative talents. The second day features art punks This is Not This Heat, Mica Levi's CURL and Seb Rochford's Pulled By Magnets.

Fri 1 Mar 8pm The Branford Marsalis Quartet

Reinventing jazz classics or whipping up new sounds in their whirlwind live performance, Marsalis's Quartet is made up of masters of improvisation, Joey Calderazzo, Eric Revis and Justin Faulkner.

Sat 9 Mar 8pm Marcus du Sautoy: The Eternal Golden Braid

Life Rewired

Can an algorithm write better music than Bach? The British mathematician hosts a remarkable performance lecture with harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani and composer Robert Thomas. Let the audience decide between man and machine.

Wed 13 Mar 7.30pm Tangerine Dream

The long-standing and influential electronic ensemble reference a 50-year career in this dynamic live show, performing a mix of old classics and new compositions.

Fri 15 Mar 8pm Anouar Brahem

With pianist Django Bates, bassist Dave Holland and drummer Nasheet Waits, Brahem takes his oud playing across genres and continents as the group perform their acclaimed record, Blue Magams.

Sat 16 Mar 7.30pm Brad Mehldau with Britten Sinfonia

One of the great improvisers of jazz piano premieres his new piano concerto and improvises around a famous classical piece, finding new joy in the music.

Sat 16 Mar, on Level G Tune in to Access

Artists from Drake Music premiere new works, overcoming the boundaries to music-making, alongside performances from the Britten Sinfonia Academy and a talk about accessible music technology. Free event

Mon 18 Mar 7.30pm Phantom of the Opera

Jazz pianist Roy Budd's original symphonic score to the 1925 silent horror The Phantom of the Opera is performed by the Docklands Sinfonia live to a screening of the film.

Sat 30 Mar 8pm Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali

Pioneering a hypnotising and sacred sound using traditional instruments, Rizwan and Muazzam – tutees and nephews of the great Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan – bring the Qawwali music of the Sufi mystics to the world.

Art & Design

Exhibitions

Until Sun 7 Apr, The Curve Daria Martin - Tonight the World

Life Rewired

Drawing upon dream diaries kept by her grandmother over a 35 year period, London-based artist Daria Martin creates a new installation for The Curve using atmospheric film and gaming technology.

Events

Thu 7 Mar 7pm, Frobisher Auditorium 2 In conversation: Daria Martin with Laura Mulvey Daria Martin discusses her Curve commission Tonight the World with celebrated feminist film theorist Laura Mulvey. Both share an interest in psychoanalysis, experimental filmmaking and challenging the male gaze.

Mon 18 Mar 7pm, Frobisher Auditorium 1 Architecture on Stage Lütjens Padmanabhan

Oliver Lütjens and Thomas Padmanabhan established their Zurich-based practice in 2007. They have gone on to realise a series of residential projects, most recently an apartment building in Zurich (2018).

Thu 28 Mar 7pm, Frobisher Auditorium 1 Architecture on Stage Benson + Forsyth

Having worked on pioneering 60s housing projects for the London Borough of Camden, Gordon Benson & Alan Forsyth formed their practice in the 1980s. Subsequent projects include the National Gallery of Ireland's extension.

Installations

Until Fri 3 May, Level G Unclaimed

Life Rewired

Uncover surprising, insightful and 'unclaimed' stories exploring the future of aging through everyday objects.

For full programme information, including opening times, visit **barbican.org.uk**

Details of prices are available online. Barbican Members and Business Members get free entry to Gallery exhibitions. Join Young Barbican and get tickets to selected events for just £5.

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soon

16 May-26 Aug AI: More Than Human

Life Rewired

How does artificial intelligence learn? That's one of the questions being explored in our major summer exhibition – an unprecedented survey of creative and scientific developments in the relationship between humans and technology. One of the highlights of the exhibition is Circuit Training, a new interactive installation by German artist Mario Klingemann. It will capture images of participants to

create a dataset used to train a neural network. Visitors select from the visuals produced by the network, teaching it what they find interesting. The machine constantly learns from this human interaction to create an evolving artwork that it understands to be a composition of the most appealing images.

18-19 May Sound Unbound

Spilling out of the Barbican for the first time, Sound Unbound is the free festival for classical music discovery. Performances take place in all sorts of intriguing spaces across Culture Mile, from the Barbican itself to a 14th-century almshouse. If you're new to classical music and want to see your first performance, or you're looking for some weird and wonderful sounds, this weekender is your passport to a new musical experience.

20 May-25 Jun Bebop New York

Like Abstract Expressionists, like the Beat writers, filmmakers in 1950s New York were breaking free of convention in search of real feeling. They demanded a cinema liberated from professionalism, from Hollywood, from 'the system', and for films that were, in the words of director and film critic Jonas Mekas, 'less perfect, but more free'. This season, responding to the Lee Krasner exhibition in the Gallery, presents a selection of this work, including John Cassavetes' landmark indie Shadows (1959).

4 Jul-24 Aug Jesus Christ Superstar

Following two sell-out seasons at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera comes to the Barbican for a limited summer run. Whether you're a JCS fan or have never seen this giant among musicals, discover why this revival was so acclaimed by the critics as you enjoy hits such as I Don't Know How to Love Him, King Herod's Song and the anthemic Superstar.

12 May, LSO St Luke's Daniel Blumberg: Vagabond

Agnès Varda's award-winning 1985 film Vagabond, tells the powerful story of Mona, a young female drifter whose non-conformist life unsettles all she encounters. The film was revived last year as part of a retrospective to mark the director's 90th birthday, proving that it's lost none of its potency. Now, musician and composer Daniel Blumberg, who found renown with Cajun Dance Party and Yuck, has written a new soundtrack for the film. We'll be showing the film with Blumberg playing the Varda-approved work live.

Be the first in line when it comes to booking. Become a Barbican Member today.

Visit barbican.org.uk/membership

always

Celebrate concrete creativity

Call us biased, but we think Brutalism is brilliant. To celebrate our love of the movement, a spring season of workshops and events will explore how it has influenced everyday life in more ways than we realise.

Highlights of Make! The New Brutal include a course on sculptural ceramics with Matthew Raw, workshops on vase casting and lino printing, a series of book clubs on the novels of author JG Ballard, and photography and walking tours looking at the architecture of the Barbican and the surrounding area.

There will also be a range of items inspired by the season available in our shop on Level G, including homeware, clothing and accessories. A selection of books on the topic will help you to find out more about the Barbican itself, its architecture, and the movement that shaped it.

Make! The New Brutal

Until 18 May Find the full list of events at barbican.org.uk/newbrutal

New perspectives

Photographer Sam Boyle (@sakribo) shared this architectural detail of the Barbican on Instagram.

Sam says, 'This photo to me, captures the colour and strong lines of the Barbican Centre. The overlapping lines make people think and use their imagination to interpret the image as they want.'

Discover the history of the area and find out the design themes that run through the Centre for yourself on one of our Architecture Tours.

Start your journey at barbican.org.uk/tours

Exploring a treasure trove

This photo by Peter Bloomfield of the Barbican's Lakeside being built is just one of a rich collection of items about the history of the Centre and estate in our Archive. As part of a long-term plan to make the Archive accessible to the public, we're running a one-year project that will see young people from east London and older people from the City learning about our heritage through exhibitions and workshops. Funding has come from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Archive is expected to open to the public in 2022.

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My Barbican: Peter Chadwick

The author of This Brutal World shares his favourite spots around the Centre.

'Of the three towers, I have a real soft spot for Lauderdale Tower. It feels more dynamic with its position right on the corner and there's a wonderful triangular view if you stand in the underpass and look up.

'You can find an old original map of the Barbican if you go to the end of the walkway at Mountjoy House. It's made out of metal. If you don't know it's there you'd never see it.

'The walkway by Wood Street has great views of the old Roman wall, as well as the modern buildings, plus you can see across St Giles Cripplegate church to the City of London School for Girls.'

Chadwick will be leading a photography walk as part of Make! The New Brutal.

G

Always open - Always free

Everyone's journey starts on Level G, where you can relax, meet, eat and enjoy our iconic building. Our Level G programme offers free installations and events in our public spaces, all year round.

This month

Life Rewired Hub

An experimental platform housing an exhibition of new writing and short films in addition to a full programme of talks, events, and residencies in response to our season.

Troika: Borrowed Light

An infinite loop of gradually changing colours inspired by the shifts you can witness at sunset and sunrise.

Squish Space Various dates, 10am-4pm A sensory launch pad for children under five and their families to play, touch and think with tactile objects.

Unclaimed

What will be strange and familiar about us living longer lives? Everyday objects collide with unexpected stories in this installation exploring the future of ageing.

INSULAE (Of the Island)

Nye Thompson's video installation contemplates the impact of island geography on national identity, in a perpetually looping virtual tour of the British coastline.

Behind a Façade of Order From 7 Mar

Influenced by M C Escher, Ben Kreukniet's installation responds to the Barbican's architecture and the movements of passers-by in a continual loop of feedback.

We Will Replace All Men With Machines 9–16 Mar A reflective platform for conversation which draws upon the aesthetics and politics of 1970s and 80s feminism and feminist art.

Pick up a Level G map from the Advance Ticket Desk

Calendar - March 2019

Fri 1	event	venue	tickets	p
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.30pm	Late Junction Festival: This is Not This Heat + CURL + O Yama O	EartH	£22.50	30
7.45pm	Tesseract	Theatre	£16-30*	26
8pm	Branford Marsalis	Hall	£15-35*	31
Sat 2				
10.30am- 4.30pm	Weekend Lab: Ursula Martinez	Frobisher Rooms	£85*	27
11am	Family Film Club	Cinema 1	£3.50*	20
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
11am-	BBC SO Total	Hall	£37-60	22
9.30pm	Immersion: Ligeti			
5.55pm	Met Opera: La Fille du Régiment	Cinema 1	£37*	19
7.30pm	BBC SO/Oramo	Hall	£12-40	22

7.45pm	Tesseract	Theatre	£16-30*	26
Sun 3				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
10am-5pm	LSO Discovery Day: Italian Vocal Music	Hall & LSO St Luke's	£20*	22
7pm	LSO/Pappano	Hall	£16-56*	22
Mon 4				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.30pm	London Concert Choir – Brahms: A German Requiem	Hall	£16-35*	22
Tue 5				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
6pm	Adrian Wootton's Hollywood Legends: Sammy Davis Jr	Cinema 2	£9	17
8.35pm	Adrian Wootton's Hollywood Legends: Ocean's 11	Cinema 3	£10.50*	17
Wed 6				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
6.10pm	Lina Wertmuller: Seven Beauties + ScreenTalk	Cinema 1	£13.50*	18
7.45pm	Internationaal Theater Amsterdam: Medea	Theatre	£16-40*	27

Thu 7				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7pm	In conversation: Daria Martin with Laura Mulvey	Frobisher Auditorium 2	£10*	33
7.30pm	Arcadi Volodos in recital	Hall	£15-40	23
7.45pm	Internationaal Theater Amsterdam: Medea	Theatre	£16-40*	27
Fri 8				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
1pm	ECHO Rising Stars: Josep-Ramon Olivé	LSO St Luke's	£12	23
7.45pm	Internationaal Theater Amsterdam: Medea	Theatre	£16-40*	27
Sat 9				
11am	Family Film Club	Cinema 2	£3.50*	20
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.45pm	Internationaal Theater Amsterdam: Medea	Theatre	£16-40*	27
8pm	The Eternal Golden Braid: Gödel Escher Bach	Hall	£17.50- 22.50*	31
Sun 10				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
11am- 4.30pm	LSO Choral Singing Day	LSO St Luke's	£20*	23

6.20pm	Lina Wertmuller: Behind the White Glasses + ScreenTalk	Cinema 2	£13.50*	18
7pm	LSO: Haitink at 90	Hall	£16-56*	23
Mon 11 11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
Tue 12				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.30pm	City of London School for Girls: 125th Celebration Concert	Hall	£10-20*	23
8.30pm	Architecture on Film: Communion Los Angeles	Cinema 3	£12*	18
Wed 13				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
6.20pm	Lina Wertmuller: The Seduction of Mimi	Cinema 2	£12*	18
7.30pm	Tangerine Dream	Hall	£25-35*	31
Thu 14				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
2pm	Afternoon Arts: Stage Russia: Onegin	Cinema 2	£10.50*	19
8.30pm 7.45pm	LSO: Haitink at 90 Ballet Black: Double Bill	Hall Theatre	£16-56 £16-30*	24 27

Fri 15				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.45pm	Ballet Black: Double Bill	Theatre	£16-30*	27
8pm	Anouar Brahem: Blue Maqams	Hall	£20-30*	31
Sat 16				
11am	Family Film Club	Cinema 2	£3.50*	20
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.30pm	Brad Mehldau with Britten Sinfonia	Hall	£25-35*	21
7.45pm	Ballet Black: Double Bill	Theatre	£16-30*	27
Sun 17				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
3pm	Ballet Black: Double Bill	Theatre	£16-30*	27
7pm	LSO/Hannigan	Hall	£16-56	24
Mon 18				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7pm	Architecture on Stage: Lütjens Padmanabhan	Frobisher Auditorium 1	£15*	33
7.30pm	Roy Budd's Phantom of the Opera	Hall	£29-39*	32
Tue 19				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33

7pm	Les Arts Florissants	Hall	£15-65	24
Wed 20				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.30pm	Guildhall Symphony Orchestra	Hall	£10-15	24
Thu 21				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.30pm	LSO: Haitink at 90	Hall	£16-56	24
7.45pm	Marcus du Sautoy & Victoria Gould: I is a strange loop	The Pit	£18*	27
Fri 22				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
12.30pm	LSO Discovery: Free Lunchtime Concerrt	LSO St Luke's	Free	25
7.45pm	Marcus du Sautoy & Victoria Gould: I is a strange loop	The Pit	£18*	27
Sat 23				
11am	Family Film Club	Cinema 2	£3.50*	20
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
2.30pm & 7.45pm	Marcus du Sautoy & Victoria Gould: I is a strange loop	The Pit	£18*	27

Sun 24				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
6pm	LSO Futures: Poem of Ecstasy	Level G & Hall	£16-56*	25
Mon 25				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
10am &	LSO Futures:	LSO St	Free	25
2.30pm	Composers Workshops	Luke's		
7.45pm	Wayward Productions: Grief is the Thing with Feathers	Theatre	£16-60*	28
Tue 26				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
6.20pm	Lina Wertmuller: Love and Anarchy	Cinema 2	£12*	18
7.45pm	Wayward Productions: Grief is the Thing with Feathers	Theatre	£16-60*	28
Wed 27				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
6.30pm	LSO Half Six Fix	Hall	£12-36*	25
7.45pm	Ursula Martinez: A Family Outing-20 Years On	The Pit	£18*	28
7.45pm	Wayward Productions: Grief is the Thing with Feathers	Theatre	£16-60*	28

Thu 28				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
2pm	Afternoon Arts: Exhibition on Screen: Young Picasso	Cinema 2	£10.50*	19
7pm	Architecture on Stage: Benson + Forsyth	Frobisher Auditorium 1	£15*	34
7.30pm	Academy of Ancient Music	Milton Court	£16-56	25
7.30pm	LSO/Noseda	Hall	£16-56*	26
7.45pm	Ursula Martinez: A Family Outing-20 Years On	The Pit	£18*	28
7.45pm	Wayward Productions: Grief is the Thing with Feathers	Theatre	£16-60*	28
8.45pm	Film-work as Dream- work	Cinema 3	£10.50*	19
Fri 29				
11am-9pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
7.45pm	Ursula Martinez: A Family Outing-20 Years On	The Pit	£18*	28
7.45pm	Wayward Productions: Grief is the Thing with Feathers	Theatre	£16-60*	28
Sat 30				
11am	Family Film Club	Cinema 2	£3.50*	20

11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
5.55pm	Met Opera: Die Walküre	Cinema 1	£37*	20
7.45pm	Ursula Martinez: A Family Outing-20 Years On	The Pit	£18*	28
7.45pm	Wayward Productions: Grief is the Thing with Feathers	Theatre	£16-60*	28
8pm	Rizwan-Muazzam Qawwali	Hall	£20- 27.50*	32
Sun 31				
11am-8pm	Daria Martin: Tonight the World	The Curve	Free	33
6pm	Lina Wertmuller: Swept Away	Cinema 2	£12*	18
7pm	LSO: Diana Damrau sings Strauss	Hall	£16-56*	26

^{*}Booking fees apply

The following booking fees are applicable per transaction: £3 online, £4 by telephone. There is no booking fee when tickets are purchased in person from the Box Office. For certain shows – and all film screenings – reduced booking fees of 60p online, 70p by telephone apply.

Booking

Online booking with seat selection and reduced booking fee at barbican.org.uk

By telephone 0845 120 7511

Open 10am-8pm, Mon-Sat; 11am-8pm, Sun and bank holidays

In person

Barbican Centre Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS

Ticket Information Desk

Open 10am-9pm, Mon-Sat; 12 noon-9pm, Sun and bank holidays

New release films

On Wednesdays, new release film screenings are announced for the following week. Visit our website or sign up to our email newsletters to be the first to know about new release films and additional special events.

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Barbican Members get free entry to our art gallery, priority booking across our programme and enjoy discounted tickets to cinema screenings and selected concerts, gigs and theatre shows (subject to availability) among many other benefits. To find out more visit **barbican.org.uk/membership**

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