

For immediate release: Thursday 21 May 2020

Barbican announces new digital content and launches new music album made by young Londoners

Inspired by the Barbican's international arts programme, a curated mix of podcasts, playlists, films, videos, talks and articles enables audiences to continue to enjoy the Centre's rich and varied programme.

Highlights of new digital content announced today include:

- The launch of a new album of original music created and recorded by young people as part of the Barbican's flagship schools programme **Barbican Box**
- The fourth and final episode of the ***Nothing Concrete*** podcast series ***The Art of Change with Stephen Fry*** on music, art, isolation, mental health and the healing power of art
- [BBC FOUR](#) to broadcast ***Ballet Black: The Waiting Game*** on Wednesday 27 May at 7.30pm, a programme which follows choreographer Mthuthuzeli November as he creates a new ballet, co-commissioned by the Barbican
- ***Grace Banks: The Other Half*** – an audio recording of a talk which was part of the public programme for 2018 exhibition *Modern Couples: Art, Intimacy and the Avant-garde* – will be released on [Mixcloud](#)
- A mix of 'Coming of Age' films curated by the **Barbican's Young Programmers**; a selection of **Architecture on Film** titles by **Justin Jaeckle**; and family favourites chosen by Barbican Cinema Curator **Susie Evans** to keep the over 8s entertained during lockdown
- #ThrowbackThursday continues with a focus on **Le Corbusier: The Art of Architecture** (2009), a major survey of one of the most influential architects of the 20th century

All digital content is available for everyone to read, watch and listen to for free at barbican.org.uk/readwatchlisten and via the Barbican's social channels. In addition, podcasts can also be accessed by subscribing to the ***Nothing Concrete*** podcast via [Acast](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

New Digital Content – full details below

Music

***The Art of Change* series continues on the *Nothing Concrete* podcast, featuring Stephen Fry**

The final episode of ***The Art of Change with Stephen Fry*** – a series on the Barbican's ***Nothing Concrete*** podcast – is live on Wednesday 27 May. In this concluding episode, Stephen Fry and journalist **Chris Gunness** discuss how Fry approaches social justice, advocacy, and how

art can have the power to change society. All four episodes, spanning topics from Beethoven and art's healing qualities to mental health and gay rights, will be available on the Barbican's [Read, Watch & Listen](#) page or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes 1-3 are available now.

Barbican launches music album

On Friday 29 May, the Barbican's flagship schools programme **Barbican Box** will be launching a new music album on [Mixcloud](#), featuring original music created and recorded by young people aged 14-16 years about their experiences growing up in east London. The launch of the music album will also be accompanied by an illustrated interview with music producer **Semothy Jones**, as well as a short montage film showing behind the scenes of the recording process.

Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning worked with over 100 young people from seven schools in east London, each receiving a box, curated by artists **Hunt & Darton** and filled with the ingredients and tools to learn about lyric writing and instrumental composition. The students explored the Box alongside their teachers and Artist Mentors: artist **Bellatrix** and composer **Omar Shahryar**. They created their own original tracks in a live recording studio with the help of **Semothy Jones** who has worked with the likes of Lily Allen, Professor Green, Wretch 32, Plan B and Boy Better Know. The seven songs on the album cover different music genres and take inspiration from the young people's tastes including Jazz, Gospel, Experimental, Pop and Rap.

While the Barbican is temporarily closed the Barbican Box project has continued, providing the students involved in the programme with online sessions with Semothy Jones and Bellatrix so they can continue to learn more about the process of producing a music album.

Moog competition winner announced on International Synthesizer Day

23 May marks International Synthesizer Day, which falls on Moog Music founder Robert Moog's birthday. The Barbican will announce the winner of our Moog competition on 23 May, which ran until 28 April and saw the Barbican partnering with Moog Music, inviting participants to download the Minimoog Model D app and create a track inspired by their favourite synth. The tracks will be uploaded to the Barbican's [Mixcloud](#) page on the day the winner is announced.

Cinema

Curators' Picks and a post-screening talk at Birds Eye View's *Never Rarely Sometimes Always* Special Event (USA 2020, Dir Eliza Hittman)

This week's Curators' Picks comes from the Barbican **Young Programmers**, the **Architecture on Film** programmer **Justin Jaeckle**, and **Susie Evans**, who curates films for the Barbican's popular **Family Film Club** and the **Family Film Weekender**. All titles are available on mainstream viewing platforms (some charges may apply).

Barbican Cinema New Release Curator **Sonia Zadurian** will take part in a **Birds Eye View** (BEV) special screening of the highly anticipated ***Never Rarely Sometimes Always*** (USA 2020, Dir Eliza Hittman); preceding this is a Q&A with BEV Director **Mia Bays** and the film's producers **Adele Romanski** and **Sara Murphy**. (This takes place at 7pm on Wednesday 27 May, to view please go to: www.facebook.com/BirdsEyeViewFilm/)

The Barbican Young Programmers (aged between 16-25) who curate the **Chronic Youth Film Festival**, present an exciting series of 'coming of age' films, championing films from an all all-female director shortlist, including gems such as: ***Water Lilies*** (France 2007, Dir Céline Sciamma), ***Persepolis*** (France/ Iran 2007, Dir Marjane Satrapi), ***Mustang*** (Germany/ Turkey 2015, Dir Deniz Gamze Ergüven), ***Beach Rats*** (USA 2017, Dir Eliza Hittman) and ***Atlantics*** (France/ Senegal 2019, Dir Mati Diop). This content goes live Friday 22 May.

Film Curator and writer **Justin Jaeckle** for the **Architecture Foundation** celebrates **Architecture on Film**, a popular strand in the Barbican Cinema programme that explores how architecture and the city are represented in film. Justin's selection (available from Tuesday 26 May) includes: ***Dark Days*** (US 2000 Dir Marc Singer 94 min), about an underground community living in the tunnels beneath NYC, ***Code 46*** (UK 2003), **Michael Winterbottom's** love story set in a world of locked down 'megacities'; and ***Koolhaas House Life*** (France 2008 Dir. Ila Bêka), a behind-the-scenes tour of **Rem Koolhaas'** design icon, Maison à Bordeaux, through the eyes of its cleaner.

For those juggling with keeping children entertained at home, Barbican Cinema curator **Susie Evans** recommends the best films for children aged 8 years plus; these include: ***Danny the Champion of the World*** (UK 1989, Dir Gavin Millar) (U), the faithful adaptation of the much loved **Ronald Dahl** story, ***Spirited Away*** (Japan 2001) (PG) a good way to introduce your children to animé through **Hayao Miyazaki's** fantastic visuals, and Ron Howard's ***Willow*** (USA 1988) (PG), an exciting adventure in which a young farmer is chosen to undertake a perilous journey. This content will be available from Saturday 30 May.

The Barbican's Creative Learning team also offer the regular **Family Film Club Workshops** online now. These workshops are designed by guest artists specifically to do at home.

This month we're releasing a **James and the Giant Peach Workshop** (going live Saturday 30 May) which is inspired by the much-loved children's book, and which will show viewers how to make their own animation with a 'how-to video' by the artist **Shelly Wain**.

All Barbican cinema content is available [here](#).

Theatre and Dance

***Ballet Black: The Waiting Game* available to watch**

On Wednesday 27 May at 7.30pm [BBC FOUR](#) broadcasts ***Ballet Black: The Waiting Game***. The film features interviews with the company's artistic director **Cassa Pancho** and follows South African dancer and choreographer **Mthuthuzeli November** as he creates a new ballet, ***The Waiting Game***. After the broadcast, the programme is available on BBC iPlayer for one month.

The Waiting Game was originally co-commissioned by the Barbican. It was scheduled to receive its world premiere in the Theatre in March 2020 as part of a double bill with William Tuckett's newest work, ***Then Or Now***. A special edition podcast featuring the score for *Then Or Now* with poems by Adrienne Rich, voices including Natasha Gordon and violin played by Daniel Piore was released last week by [The Poetry Exchange](#). The Barbican is working on plans to reschedule the double bill in the future. November's first full-length choreographic debut for Ballet Black, *Ingoma* (2019), was co-commissioned by and premiered at the Barbican, receiving an Olivier Award nomination this year for Best New Dance.

***The Encounter* available to stream**

Complicité's award-winning production of ***The Encounter*** (2015), directed and performed by **Simon McBurney**, which was co-produced with and filmed at the Barbican, is now available to stream [here](#) until Monday 25 May at 10pm, its availability having been extended due to demand.

Visual Arts

From the archive

On Tuesday 26 May, the Barbican releases an audio recording of **Grace Banks: The Other Half** on [Mixcloud](#). Part of the public programme for 2018 exhibition ***Modern Couples: Art, Intimacy and the Avant-garde***, editor and writer Grace Banks explores the women artists ahead of their time – including **Frida Kahlo**, **Virginia Woolf** and **Barbara Hepworth**.

Every Thursday the Barbican Instagram channel [@barbicancentre](#) delves into the archives to look at some of the standout exhibitions of the last 15 years. This week focuses on ***Le Corbusier: The Art of Architecture*** (2009), a major survey of one of the most influential architects of the 20th century whose radical ideas for reinventing modern living still resonate today. #ThrowbackThursday

Other digital content now available

The Barbican has just been announced as one of the partners supporting [Our City Together](#), a new collaborative campaign and online platform showcasing inspiring art, culture and London history from cultural organisations and attractions in the City of London. Launching during

Mental Health Awareness Week (18 - 24 May 2020), the free programme will feature an exciting mix of archive and contemporary digital content that supports mental health and well-being, including podcasts, playlists, artworks, photography, films, talks and museum collections.

Also, [Culture Mile](#), the City of London's cultural district stretching from Farringdon to Moorgate will go hyper-local during the lockdown with [Radio Local](#) – a daily live broadcast, bringing the sounds and stories of the City into people's homes. Radio Local, created by performance artists Hunt & Darton, will be an hour-long show streamed live every day from 1 – 2pm, Saturday 30 May – Friday 12 June on [Radio Local](#) and on community radio [East London Radio](#). It will be built with, by and for residents of Golden Lane and Barbican estates in the City of London. The Barbican is a core partner in Culture Mile, alongside Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and Museum of London, and led by the City of London Corporation.

Previously announced digital highlights include:

- Various playlists are available on the Barbican's [Read, Watch & Listen](#) page - from a tribute to the late drummer [Tony Allen](#), to [Music for Healing and Head Space](#), to introductions to the works of some of the greatest composers
- [Two short films](#) commissioned for the cancelled ***The Lark Ascending: People, Music, Landscape*** concert
- **How Do We Build a New Masculinity?**, a BBC Radio 3 Free Thinking panel discussion prompted by the Barbican exhibition ***Masculinities: Liberation through Photography***, is available on the [BBC website](#). The conversation features exhibition curator Alona Pardo, photographer **Sunil Gupta**, authors **CN Lester** and **Tom Shakespeare** and host **Matthew Sweet**
- **Michael Clark Company's** Olivier Award-nominated *to a simple, rock 'n' roll . . . song*. (2016), filmed at the Barbican in 2017 is still available on BBC iPlayer for another month

BARBICAN TEMPORARY CLOSURE INFORMATION

The Barbican is temporarily closed until further notice due to UK Government advice on Coronavirus/Covid-19. All events taking place until Tuesday 30 June 2020 have now been cancelled or postponed. Everyone who has booked a ticket for a Barbican event during this period is eligible for a full refund. Information on how to claim this is published [here](#). Anyone who has tickets up until the end of June has been contacted by the Box Office.

The Barbican is encouraging audiences to [make a donation](#) so it can keep investing in the artists and organisations with whom it works. Audiences are also being asked to [consider donating to the Centre's Resident and Associate companies](#) to support them through these difficult times.

ENDS

Press information

For further information and images please contact the Barbican's Communications office:

Angela Dias, Senior Communications Manager for Theatre and Dance,
+44 (0)20 7382 7168 or angela.dias@barbican.org.uk

Annika Vainio-Miles, Senior Communications Manager for Music,
+44 (0)20 7382 7090 or annika.vainio-miles@barbican.org.uk

Public information

www.barbican.org.uk

Barbican newsroom

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

About the Barbican

A world-class arts and learning organisation, the [Barbican](#) pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does. Over a million people attend events annually, hundreds of artists and performers are featured, and more than 300 [staff](#) work onsite. The architecturally renowned centre opened in 1982 and comprises the Barbican Hall, the Barbican Theatre, The Pit, Cinemas 1, 2 and 3, Barbican Art Gallery, a second gallery The Curve, public spaces, a library, the Lakeside Terrace, [a glasshouse conservatory](#), conference facilities and three restaurants. The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre.

The Barbican is home to Resident Orchestra, [London Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Orchestra, [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#); Associate Ensembles the [Academy of Ancient Music](#) and [Britten Sinfonia](#), Associate Producer [Serious](#), and Artistic Partner [Create](#). Our Artistic Associates include [Boy Blue](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), Deborah Warner, [Drum Works](#) and [Michael Clark Company](#). The [Los Angeles Philharmonic](#) are the Barbican's International Orchestral Partner, the [Australian Chamber Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble at Milton Court, and [Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra](#) are International Associate Ensemble.

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