

For immediate release: Wednesday 22 July 2020

## Subject to Change returns to the Barbican

Young Poet and drummer **Remi Graves** today releases *On Breathing*, a powerful new poem exploring the process, privilege and politics of breathing as part of **Subject to Change: New Horizons** from Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning.

Each month for a year, Young Creatives will be commissioned to produce new and powerful artistic work responding to the uncertain times we are living in. Graves' performance of the poem, the first of the twelve creative responses, has just been released [here](#). New work will be shared every month on the Barbican's website and social media channels from today until June 2021. As with all Creative Learning programmes, each participant is provided with support throughout the process to help them deal with sensitive issues that may arise.

**Remi Graves said:** *'Writing this piece was unsurprisingly challenging, not least because of how emotionally trying the last few months have been (for myself, my family and friends) but also because of the lack of fitting language to discuss the particular exhaustion of having the right to breathe (in all senses of that word) revoked at every turn. Everything I needed to say has been said before, and yet I still needed to say it. This piece is a fragile attempt at archiving this exhaustion and refusal to give up.'*

**Lauren Monaghan-Pisano, Senior Producer for Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, said:** *'Remi's performance – released today – takes the disproportionate number of deaths of black people from Covid-19 as its starting point. It asks: who today is allowed to breathe easy, and who isn't? It is an incredibly powerful and moving poem from a very talented poet.'*

*'When we first ran Subject to Change with twelve of our Young Creatives back in 2018 we were astounded, although not at all surprised, by the quality of their work. The response from our audiences was fantastic, proving that people have a real appetite for art that confronts and addresses what's going on in the world today.'*

*'One of the best things about Subject to Change: New Horizons is how topical it is – the Young Creatives choose the subject their work will focus on just a few weeks prior to publication, meaning there is a relevance and urgency to this work. For our young artists, there is a need to articulate their thoughts on the world around them in a creative form, and the results are profound.'*

Subject to Change: New Horizons is commissioned by Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning, which supports people of all ages and backgrounds to develop creative skills for life. Over the past ten years, they have supported over 100,000 people to find and develop their creative voice.

Young Creatives is a Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning programme providing talent development opportunities that give 14 to 25-year-olds the skills and confidence needed to progress in today's creative industries. The programme includes Young Poets, Young Programmers, Young Visual Arts Group, the Youth Panel and Creative Careers. To find out more, visit <https://www.barbican.org.uk/take-part/young-creatives>

## ENDS

### Press Information

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## Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at [www.barbican.org.uk/news/home](http://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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## About Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Ranked as one of the top ten performing arts institutions in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020), and recently awarded top conservatoire in the [Complete University Guide Music League Table 2020](#), the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world. Guildhall School is also the UK's leading provider of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and the Centre for Young Musicians, as well as a joint Creative Learning division with the Barbican which seeks to create inspiring arts experiences for all.

Guildhall School's Drama programmes are highly regarded in the industry for the passion, quality and rigour of the teaching, and are also renowned for the integration of craft training, the care and attention given to individual student development and the strong ensemble ethic shared by both staff and students. Guildhall School offers state-of-the-art facilities to match the talent within its walls, including three theatres and a world-class concert hall at Milton Court, and has a distinguished list of acting graduates, including Daniel Craig, Michelle Dockery, Lennie James, Lily James, Paapa Essiedu, Ewan McGregor, Nikesh Patel, Michaela Coel and Jodie Whittaker.  
[www.gsmd.ac.uk/acting](http://www.gsmd.ac.uk/acting)