**Press Release
16 August 2023
For immediate release**

**Inua Ellams returns to the Barbican with five cross-arts performance events convening poets, journalists, novelists, playwrights, actors and more**

***05Fest* presents new work and intimate sharings with special guests and a spotlight on the next generation of UK artists**

**[Inua Ellams – 05Fest](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/series/inua-ellams-05fest)The Pit & The Conservatory, Barbican Centre
26 – 30 September 2023**



Multi-award-winning poet and playwright **Inua Ellams** (*Barber Shop Chronicles*, *The Half-God of Rainfall*) will return to the Barbican this autumn to curate and host a new iteration of his acclaimed festival, showcasing the power of words and forging cross-cultural connections. His latest ***05Fest*** brings together artists working at the cutting edge of poetry, theatre, live music, film and literature. In five creative and thought-provoking performance events across five days, they will spark fresh ideas, perform new micro-commissions, and share insight through stories and conversation, all drawing on the theme of ‘belonging’.

The line-up includes provocative and passionate voices from the next generation of creative talent, including several alumni from the **Barbican Young Poets** programme: **Gabriel Akamo**, **Esme Allman**, **mandisa apena**, **Jeremiah ‘Sugar J’ Brown**, **Troy Cabida**, **Sarah McCreadie**, **Tatenda Naomi Matsvai** (aka 2tender), **Gboyega Odubanjo**, **Antosh Wojcik**, **Jinhao Xie** and **Fathima Zahra**.

Further panellists will feature artists including feminist writer and campaigner **Laura Bates** (Everyday Sexism Project), poet and educator **JJ Bola** *(The Selfless Act of Breathing)*, actor **Ṣọpẹ́ Dìrísù** (*Gangs of London*), writer **Joe Dunthorne** (*Submarines*), bestselling poet and novelist **Nikita Gill** *(These Are the Words)*, former Young People's Laureate for London **Cecilia Knapp**, screenwriter **Lily Loveless** *(Line of Duty)****,*** sound artist and musician **Darius McFarlane** (AKA Latekid), poet and journalist **Bridget Minamore,** author **Courttia Newland** (*A River Called Time*), playwright **Rabiah Hussain** *(Word Play)* and poet and writer **Derek Owusu** (*That Reminds Me*)**.**

**Inua Ellams, Founder, Curator and Host** **of 05Fest, says:**

*“Art isn’t created in a vacuum. I developed 05Fest because I’m interested in bringing together artists from a wide range of disciplines to form something original, create new happenings. In this process, our audiences will be treated to new ways of thinking and seeing. The number five is hugely significant for me, an intersection of philosophical, secular, spiritual, creative yet playful notions that resonate through my life. As a curator, whenever I am looking for brilliant writers to feature, the Barbican Young Poets programme offers a wealth of talent and creativity. I simply reach for their anthologies sitting on my desktop! To work with them in this way is an honour and I hope they enjoy working with me as much as I will working with them.”*

**Anna Dominian, Assistant Producer at the Barbican, says:**

*“Over the last few years, we have hosted several of Inua Ellams’ brilliantly curated cross-arts events, from an initial* Pit Party *takeover to* Poetry + Film Hacks *in-person and online. After these extremely popular one-night events, we are delighted to welcome back Inua to the Barbican to present his latest* 05Fest*. He has a unique skill of exploring the deep and rewarding connections between people and language, and this autumn he brings together the most exciting voices across poetry, journalism, literature, theatre, TV & film, including emerging artists and alumni from our Barbican Young Poets programme, to encourage fresh perspectives and ideas.”*

The programme will include two UK premieres of new performance formats as well as three of Inua Ellams’ most popular events:

*-* ***Redacted!*** (26 Sept, UK premiere); using Blackout poetry, a method of creating new pieces inspired by the words revealed from redacting found texts.

*-* ***Anonyms*** (27 Sept, UK premiere); a rich, personal and poignant exploration into our names.

*-* ***Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit***(***Poetry + Film / Hack***, 28 Sept); a watch-party with a literary twist, where a line-up of poets will be specially commissioned to create a response to the cult classic 1992 film.

*-* ***Search Party*** (29 Sept); a chaotic and entirely unique, audience-led, poetry mash-up where Inua performs a selection of works from his back catalogue.

- ***R.A.P Party*** (30 Sept); and a nostalgic night of hip-hop-inspired poems - Inua gathers voices from contemporary poetry and spoken word movements to chat about hip-hop's past, present and future, featuring live DJs.

See listings for full programme information.

Born in Nigeria, **Inua Ellams** is a writer, designer and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. He explores reoccurring themes in his work – Identity, Displacement and Destiny – in accessible, enjoyable ways for participants of all ages and backgrounds. His awards include The Liberty Human Rights Award, The Live Canon International Poetry Prize and The Hay Festival Medal for Poetry. His *05Fest* concept puts poetry centre stage, uniting separate strands of his work in different styles, and has been presented at Abbey Theatre (Dublin), The Albany (part of Lewisham Borough of Culture) and the New York Theatre Workshop. Inua returns to the Barbican, building on his successful Pit Party in 2018 and Poetry + Film Hacks in 2020 and 2021. In 2023 he was honoured with an MBE for Services to the Arts and a doctorate from the University of the Arts London.

 **ENDS**

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

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Sumayyah Sheikh, Communications Assistant (Theatre & Dance and Cinema) sumayyah.sheikh@barbican.org.uk

 **Images**

Images can be downloaded here:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/7ohdrcz9rfzjfju/AABwo-L85tu8J7Gj095kA80Ta?dl=0>

 **Listings**

**Inua Ellams - 05Fest**26 - 30 Sept 2023

Press accreditation available upon request

Presented by the Barbican

Tickets £18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available
[barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/series/inua-ellams-05fest](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/series/inua-ellams-05fest)
Twitter: @InuaEllams / @BarbicanCentre

Instagram: @05events / @BarbicanCentre

Facebook: /InuaEllamsOfficial /BarbicanCentre

[**Redacted!**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/inua-ellams-05fest-redacted) **- Inua Ellams - 05 Fest (UK premiere)**

**Tues 26 Sept, 7:45pm**

**The Pit**

2 hours / no interval

Age Guidance: 14+ (Concentration)
Tickets £18 plus booking fee; £5 Young Barbican tickets available

Wildly diverse writers debut new pieces of work created using a unique blackout poetry method in this new event hosted by poet and playwright Inua Ellams.

Blackout poetry is created when you take text from a book, newspaper, or magazine and by redacting words and entire sentences, reveal hidden poetry. The possibilities are innumerable, and the room for individuality endless!

The line-up for ***Redacted!*** will include poet **Mona Arshi**, feminist writer and campaigner **Laura Bates**, poet and educator/ youth worker **JJ Bola**, writer **Joe Dunthorne**, sound artist and musician **Darius McFarlane** (AKA Latekid), author **Courttia Newland**, poet **Rebecca Perry** andBarbican Young Poets alumni **Esme Allman** and **Antonia Jade King.**

[**Anonymns**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/inua-ellams-05fest-anonyms) **- Inua Ellams - 05 Fest (UK premiere)**

**Weds 27 Sept, 7:45pm**

**The Pit**

2 hours / no interval

Age Guidance: 12+ (Concentration)

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

What’s in a name? Dive into the fascinating world of names with ***Anonymns,***as writer **Inua Ellams** invites a panel of guests to dig deep and explore the story and meaning behind their own names. The line-up will include playwright **Rabiah Hussain,** poet and journalist **Bridget Minamore,** screenwriter **Lily Loveless,** author **Leone Ross**, actor **Ṣọpẹ́ Dìrísù,** creative producer **Jack Prideaux,** poet and writer **Derek Owusu** and **Barbican Young Poets Fathima Zahra** and **Gabriel Akamo,**

In parts of West Africa it is believed children grow to embody their names; that a child named Peace will grow up to create serenity wherever they go. Other West Africans think this is nonsense, but how do we come to be named? What then do we inherit? Do names change us? Who cares? And why should we?

Held before a live audience, Inua Ellams guides intelligent, funny and insightful guests through *Anonyms*, a rich, invasive and poignant exploration into what we are called, and why. Audience members are invited to come along with the story and meaning behind their own names.

[**Poetry + Film / Hack – Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/inua-ellams-05fest-poetry-film-hack) **- Inua Ellams - 05 Fest**

**Thu 28 Sept, 7.45pm**

**The Pit**

2 hours 15 mins including 15min interval

Age Restriction: PG (Film classification)

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

Watch a screening of this beloved classic film, before joining **Inua Ellams** as a line-up of poets share new work - their words and verses responding to the themes of this hilarious musical comedy.

The sequel to *Sister Act*, this cult classic 1992 film co-starring Lauryn Hill, sees Whoopi Goldberg reprising her role as Deloris van Cartier, as she finds herself coming to the aid of her nun friends who need her help to save her old school.

Joining Inua Ellams for this film hack are established poets who tour nationally and internationally, **Nikita Gill, Richard Scott** and **Cecilia Knapp**, their collective experience ranging from storytelling and theatre to radio and television. They are joined by the provocative and passionate voices of **Barbican Young Poets** alumni, **Tatenda Naomi Matsvai** (aka 2tender) and **Gboyega Odubanjo**. Following the screening of the film, the artists are invited to share specially commissioned poetry responding to the film's themes, with live video mixing from VJ **Zainab Amina.**

**Please note, following the sad passing of Gboyega Odubanjo, this event will be a celebration of his life and work.**

[**Search Party**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/inua-ellams-05fest-search-party) **- Inua Ellams - 05 Fest**

**Fri 29 Sept, 4pm & 7.45pm
Barbican Conservatory**

1 hour / no interval

Age Guidance: 15+ (Concentration and possible strong language)

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

Deeply personal and deeply hilarious. **Inua Ellams** opens up his personal writing archive in *Search Party,* an interactive poetry event where you call the shots.

Pick a word, any word. Prompted by audience suggestions, award-winning writer Inua Ellams will search through his extensive archive of work and perform a reactive and spontaneous selection. Set in the Barbican’s luscious green conservatory, this intimate show is always unique, chaotic and special.

[**R.A.P Party**](https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2023/event/inua-ellams-05fest-the-r-a-p-party) **- Inua Ellams - 05 Fest**

**Sat 30 Sept, 7.45pm**

**The Pit**

2 hours no interval

Age Guidance: 15+ (Concentration)

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

What might eloquent voices from contemporary poetry and spoken word movements have to say about hip-hop's past, present and future?

Come chill and find out at **Inua Ellams**’ *Rhythm and Poetry Party*, a nostalgic, no-clutter, no-fuss, night of hip-hop-inspired poems and favourite hip-hop songs.

Inua Ellams invites / commissions fresh new perspectives from Barbican Young Poets alumni and multi-disciplinary artists **Jeremiah Brown**, **Troy Cabida**, **Jinhao Xie**, **Fathima Zahra**, **Esme Allman**, **Tatenda Naomi Matsvai** (aka 2tender), **Sarah McCreadie** and **mandisa apena**. They each perform a new work, and after each, DJ Alex Session will play two songs of the poet’s choosing linked to the poem.

**Notes to Editors**

**Biographies**

**Gabriel Akamo** is a Nigerian-British multi-disciplinary creative, working as a poet, actor, facilitator and creative producer. Spanning both page and stage, his work draws heavily on themes of faith, identity, heredity, loneliness, and the body. He has been commissioned by institutions such as the Royal Academy of Arts and St. Paul’s Cathedral, with festival performances including Lovebox, Bestival, and Festival Kometa in Riga, Latvia. He has also been published in a number of anthologies (including flipped eye publishing's *Before Them, We)* and released his debut pamphlet, *At the Speed of Dark* in 2020. His work has also recently been translated into Arabic in collaboration with British Council Tunisia.

He is currently appearing in the London production of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, marking his West End debut. He is an alumnus of Barbican Young Poets and the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, and a former Roundhouse Resident Artist. Twitter: @GabrielAkamo Instagram/Threads: @gabrielakamo\_

**Esme Allman** is a poet, writer, theatremaker and facilitator based in South East London. She is an interdisciplinary artist whose work explores blackness, desire and (hi)story-making in individual and collective contexts. Esme is a Roundhouse Resident Artist. As part of her residency at the Roundhouse, she wrote and performed her one-woman show *Delectably Red* in June 2022.

Esme has a background in participatory theatre, with experience working at Cardboard Citizens, Clean Break and the Young Vic. She also has experience as a theatremaker and facilitator with several notable organisations including the Hammersmith Lyric, Fevered Sleep, Sydenham Arts, Talawa Theatre Company, The Bunker Theatre, Nuu Theatre and ArtsEd.

Esme’s poetry has been featured in the anthology *Articulations for Keeping the Light In* published by flipped eye in July 2022, Roundhouse Poetry Collective Anthology *We Have Never Seen Something Like This*, POSTSCRIPT, Barbican Young Poets Anthology 19/20 and The Skinny. Twitter: @\_esmeallman

**Zainab Amina** is a London-based British-Nigerian visual and audio artist. Her work focuses on the Black British experience as well as diasporic communities beyond. She received a BA (Hons) Digital Film Production at the SAE Institute. Zainab Amina co-produces a podcast show titled Ldn Girls, in which topics of identity and popular culture are discussed critically. zainabamina.com

**mandisa apena** is a cancer sun from south london. they write poems and are currently learning to do the splits. they run a fundraising night called 'soft requisitions' and they also dj. mandisaapena.tumblr.com

**Mona Arshi**’s debut collection *Small Hands* won the Forward Prize for best first collection in 2015. Her second collection *Dear Big Gods* was published in 2019 (both books published by Liverpool University Press’s Pavilion Poetry list). Her writing has been published in The Times, The Guardian, Granta, The Yale Review and The Times of India as well as on the London Underground. She was writer in Residence at Cley Marshes in Norfolk and during lockdown she spent time in the area working on poems that were transformed into digital assets and embedded in the landscape. In 2020 she was appointed Honorary Professor at the University of Liverpool and she is currently a fellow in creative writing at Trinity College, Cambridge a position she will hold until September 2024. Her debut novel *Somebody Loves You* was published by And Other Stories in 2021 and has been shortlisted for the Goldsmith Prize and Jhalak Prize. Twitter: @arshi\_mona Instagram:@monaarshipoetry

**Laura Bates** is a feminist activist and writer. She is the founder of the Everyday Sexism Project and her campaigning and advocacy work has seen Facebook change its policies on sexual violence, helped British Transport Police to transform its approach to sexual assaults, and contributed to putting consent and healthy relationships on the national curriculum.

Laura works with bodies from the United Nations to the Council of Europe as well as governments, schools and police forces to tackle gender inequality. She writes regularly for the Guardian, Telegraph, New York Times, Glamour and others. She is a bestselling author of many books, including *Everyday Sexism, Men Who Hate Women* and *Fix the System Not the Women*. She is contributor at Women Under Siege, a New York-based project dedicated to ending the use of rape as a weapon of war in conflict zones worldwide. Twitter: @everydaysexism Instagram: @laura\_bates\_\_

**JJ Bola** is a Writer, Poet, and Educator, born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, and raised in London. His debut novel, *No Place to Call Home*, was first published in 2017. His second novel, *The Selfless Act of Breathing*, was published in 2021.

JJ Bola’s non-fiction book, *Mask Off: Masculinity Redefined*, was published in 2019. JJ Bola also has three previous poetry collections, *Elevate* (2012), *Daughter of the Sun* (2014), and *WORD* (2015) – all of which were published in a definitive called *Refuge* (2018). His work has been translated and published into multiple other languages. He is currently working on his third novel.

JJ Bola is also an ambassador for the United Nations High Council for Refugees. And has an MA in Creative Writing from Birkbeck University. JJ Bola also works as a Mental Health Social Worker, in a community mental health team, after qualifying through the Think Ahead accelerated training programme. Twitter: @JJ\_Bola

**Jeremiah Brown** is a Black British-Jamaican writer and actor based in Croydon. He’s a Royal Court Writers Group, Soho Theatre’s Writers Lab, and Barbican Young Poet alum. His debut solo show *Likkle Rum with Grandma* had a sold out run at the Albany in 2019. Jeremiah’s commissions include Nationwide Building Society, St Paul’s Cathedral, UNESCO and The Poetry Society. His Sugar Shots newsletter comes out every Wednesday where he offers you a likkle suttin suttin every week to make you think and feel. Twitter and Instagram: @sugarjpoet

**Troy Cabida** (he/him) is a Filipino poet, producer, and librarian from south-west London. His recent poems appear in fourteen poems, bath magg, and 100 Queer Poems by Vintage. His debut pamphlet, *War Dove*, was published in 2020 by Bad Betty Press and he was shortlisted for The Bridport Prize for Poetry 2022. A Barbican Young Poet alumnus, Troy has served as producer for the London-based open mic night Poetry and Shaah and currently works for the National Poetry Library, Southbank Centre. Twitter and Instagram @troycabida

**Ṣọpẹ́ Dìrísù** is a Nigerian British actor with credits across film, TV and theatre. In 2021, he was nominated for a BAFTA for his role as Bol in the movie *His House,* as well as for the Rising Star Award. Currently, he stars as Elliot Finch in the Sky Atlantic series *Gangs of London*, which is now in its second season. Twitter and Instagram @sopedirisu

**Joe Dunthorne**’s debut novel, *Submarine*, was translated into twenty languages and made into an award-winning film. His second, *Wild Abandon*, won the RSL’s Encore Award. His debut poetry collection, *O Positive*, was published in 2019 and his latest novel is *The Adulterants*. He lives in London. Twitter: @joedunthorne

**Nikita Gill** is a bestselling poet and playwright who lives in the south of England. Her work predominantly explores folklore and mythology. She has written 7 collections of poetry and her novel in verse has been optioned for television by Peephole and Boatrocker Studios. She is a 3x Goodreads choice shortlisted writer, 2x CLIPPA shortlisted writer and has also been longlisted for the Jhalak prize. Instagram and Threads: @nikita\_gill Twitter: @nktgill

**Rabiah Hussain**’s*Word-Play* premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in July 2023. Her debut full-length play, *Spun*, premiered at Arcola Theatre in July 2018, toured Canada in 2019, and won the German Baden-Wuttemberg Youth Theatre Prize and the German Youth Theatre Award in 2020. Rabiah was selected as a writer for the Kudos TV and Royal Court Theatre Fellowship Programme 2019 and wrote on the third edition of the Royal Court Living Newspaper. She was also commissioned by the Royal Court to write a monologue as part of their One Night Stand programme in 2022. Rabiah co-wrote *We Are Shadows*, an audio drama tour of Brick Lane for Tamasha Theatre in 2020. Her other plays include *Where I Live and What I Live For* written for Theatre Absolute in 2017. Rabiah was selected to be part of the BBC TV Drama Writers’ Programme 2020 and the BBC Drama Room programme in 2018. [www.rabiahhussain.com](http://www.rabiahhussain.com/) Twitter @hussnr

**Antonia Jade King** is one of the hosts of Boomerang Club and a previous Hammer & Tongue finalist. She has featured at Poetry and Shaah and Heaux Noire and was part of Apples and Snakes Writing Room programme in 2018. She has performed at numerous events including Love Supreme festival and *Rallying Cry* at Battersea Arts Centre. She was also a Barbican Young Poet and her debut pamphlet *She Too Is a Sailor* is out with Bad Betty Press. Twitter: @antoniajadeking

**Cecilia Knapp** is a poet and novelist and the Young People’s Laureate for London 2020/2021. She was shortlisted for the 2022 Forward prize for best single poem. She is the winner of the 2021 Ruth Rendell award and has been shortlisted for the Rebecca Swift Women’s prize. Her debut poetry collection *Peach Pig* was published by Corsair in 2022 and was the Observer’s poetry book of the month for October. Her poems have appeared in The Financial Times, Granta and The White Review. She curated the anthology *Everything is Going to be alright: Poems for When you Really Need Them*, published by Trapeze in 2021. Her debut novel *Little Boxes*, published by The Borough Press, was longlisted for The Authors Club Best First Novel Award 2023. Twitter and Instagram: @ceciliaknapp

**Lily Loveless** is a screenwriter who originally made her name as an actor, working across TV, theatre and film. In 2018 she was accepted onto the prestigious Channel 4 Screenwriting course and has since gone on to work with various production companies such as the Bafta award winning World Productions (*Line of Duty, Save Me*) Emmy Award winning Avalon (*Catastrophe, Starstruck*) and ITV, as both writer and executive producer. Currently in various stages of development on original television projects, Lily has also just joined new and exciting immersive story telling platform Scriptic as a writer and creative. Scriptic’s Bafta nominated original interactive dramas are due to premier on Netflix in the coming months.

**Sarah McCreadie** is a poet, performer and lesbian heart-throb from Cardiff. She’s performed her poetry from Newport to New York. Sarah’s poetry was published in 2022 by flipped eye publishing in *Articulations for Keeping the Light In* and she was named as one of Craig Charles’ Poets of 2022. Sarah is a Barbican Young Poet, a BBC 1Xtra ‘Words First’ poet and former resident artist at the Roundhouse theatre. Her collaborations range from Vanity Fair to Match of the Day. Twitter: @Girl\_Like\_Sarah

**Latekid** (**Darius McFarlane)** is a self-taught, anti-disciplinary Sound Artist, Musician, Writer and Vocalist who aims to find the colours within the shaded spaces of Art and postmodern expressionism. Latekid has collaborated with artists and producers such as Caleb Femi, Avenhue (also of @fwrdmtn), Tobi Kyeremateng + the SXWKS collective. Having worked with and performed at institutions such as Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Jazz Cafe + Complicité, Latekid always aims to bring an alternative angle to music performance, gig theatre or public sonic experimentation.

**Tatenda Naomi Matsvai** (aka 2tender) is a facilitator and devised performance maker, working with spoken word poetry in theatrical and non-theatrical performance contexts. Tatenda's work is mainly bio mythical, infusing their lived experience with myth, to challenge colonial cosmologies. Their performances are joyful, participatory, and multidimensional. They are currently developing their co-written show *Hot Orange* with Halfmoon Theatre to tour the UK in the Autumn.

Tatenda’s work has won the Vault Origins award, been Offie nominated, and performed as part of Theatre Peckham, Roundhouse, The Cockpit for Voila Europe! festival and Between.Pomiędzy literary Festival (Poland).

**Bridget Minamore** is a British-Ghanaian writer from south-east London. *Titanic* (Out-Spoken Press), her debut pamphlet of poems on modern love and loss, was published in 2016. She is currently working on a new collection, while working in film & TV. Instagram @bridgetminamore

**Courttia Newland** is the author of nine books including his debut, *The Scholar*. A story collection, *Cosmogramma*, was published in 2021. His short stories have appeared in many anthologies and broadcast on BBC Radio 4. As a screenwriter he has co-written two episodes of the Steve McQueen BBC series *Small Axe*, and an episode of *The Woman in the Wall* for BBC/Showtime. His latest novel, *A River Called Time*, was shortlisted for the Arthur C. Clarke Award Science Fiction Book of the Year 2022. Twitter: @courttianewland

Instagram: @courttia

**Gboyega Odubanjo** was born and raised in east London. He is an editor of bath magg and the author of two poetry pamphlets: While I Yet Live (Bad Betty Press, 2019) and Aunty Uncle Poems (Smith|Doorstop, 2021). Twitter: @OdubanjoGboyega

**Rebecca Perry** has written two full-length poetry collections – *Beauty/Beauty* and *Stone Fruit* – both published by Bloodaxe Books (2015, 2021), as well as four pamphlets. Her poetry has been shortlisted for awards including the T S Eliot Prize and her first collection won the Michael Murphy Memorial Prize. Her first work of creative non-fiction – *On Trampolining* – was published by Makina Books in 2023. She is from London, where she also lives. Twitter and Instagram: @poorsasquatch

**Jack Prideaux** is a London-based creative producer who works with artists, organisations, and brands to create and deliver boundary-pushing work spanning live performance, film and campaigns. Jack's work with clients including Tate, National Theatre, Tommy Hilfiger, Rankin, The British Council, PRS Foundation, Serious and Sage Gateshead often has a strong focus on artist development and seeks to support the development of work which reflects, responds to and influences the societies we live in. Jack is currently Senior Producer at the Roundhouse. Twitter: @JackPrideaux

**Leone Ross** was born in England and grew up in Jamaica. Her first novel, *All the Blood Is Red*, was longlisted for the Orange Prize, and her third novel, *This One Sky Day*, was longlisted for the Women's Prize, the Ondaatje Prize and shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize. Her short fiction has been widely anthologised and her first short-story collection, *Come Let Us Sing Anyway*, was nominated for the Edge Hill Short Story Prize, the Jhalak Prize, the Saboteur Awards and the OCM BOCAS Prize. She is the editor of the first black British anthology of speculative fiction, *Glimpse*. Ross has taught creative writing for twenty years, at University College Dublin, Cardiff University and Roehampton University in London. She is the winner of the Manchester Writing Competition 2021. Prior to writing fiction, Ross worked as a journalist. Leone Ross lives in London but intends to retire near water.

**Alex Session** is one of London's best loved party DJ's, with an eclectic selection that blends the best of old and new music with no bias, as long as it's good.

Bandcamp - https://alexsession.bandcamp.com/

Soundcloud - www.soundcloud.com/alex\_session

Instagram - www.instagram.com/alex\_session/

Mixcloud - https://www.mixcloud.com/Alex\_Session

**Antosh Wojcik** is a poet, drummer and sound designer. His writing explores memory, time, heritage and glitches. His drumming and spoken word show, *How To Keep Time* was produced by Penned in the Margins and toured internationally in 2019, supported by Arts Council England. He co-wrote and sound designed the BFI short film *Alo* with Xenia Glen in 2023. His poems have been published in bath magg, Anthropocene and anthologised by Bad Betty Press and Colliding Lines. Instagram: @\_weirdtoday Twitter: @antoshwojcik

**Jinhao Xie** is a Barbican Young Poet and a member of Southbank Centre New Poets Collective 2021-2022. They are currently making their first pamphlet collection. Their work is in POETRY, Poetry Review, Harana, Bath Magg, Gutter Magazine and fourteen poems and anthologies, including *Articulations for Keeping the Light In, Slam! You're Gonna Wanna Hear This* edited by Nikita Gill, *Instagram Poems for Every Day* by National Poetry Library, and *Re.Creation*. They are interested in nature, the mundane, and the interpersonal. They love to cook for their beloved. Instagram: @xie.jin.hao

**Fathima Zahra** (she/her) is an Indian poet and performer based in London. She is an alum of the Barbican Young Poets and Roundhouse Poetry Collective. Her debut pamphlet *sargam / swargam* (ignitionpress, 2021) was selected for the PBS Pamphlet Choice. Instagram: @zeeforzahra3.0 Twitter: @zeeforzahra

**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 are 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 partners and associates: the Academy of Ancient Music, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boy Blue, Britten Sinfonia, Cheek by Jowl, Drum Works, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Serious and We Are Parable.

For more information, visit our [website](https://www.barbican.org.uk/) or connect with us on [Instagram](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=C_LcOAEiFammbcN9d1wzlvoHUG8xMgN2gk7cf_jV4xIpHT95q2b6MaPezKubdtjUv9KuzanntN-XIbhgPcJBOghIullKzV_GSVpR8S8h8Zfj55rzJuxylUDBjIDazGl451iGlU5PMBrqGMVCCeYb-X81) | [Twitter](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=YxrwqmAN_KwTHCUchykvioTVUqRlwwQD1WgP9a6Bj75xTE0UeQyN8f6wgDjeX56yGP_rafq4dqkYLjzufj7wYs10j8IVmxcmX2_sVZmjpnJklwNPtkG3ihECmGYKiNYQyA1KwzcIZO3iSwllImukBkI1) | [Facebook](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=mmA_GD5bDhOpy5-M7Y6kk2acIYZN8ZnldsWxhHuZRLqA0GgYtCnsgxeTvdDg2z7B4ITpUiu3fAH__oev9hOtQh_B-Uid4qMhSOC8wrH0cKPtJj_yWzuLO7v1EZauV3MtYtjvb_Cf7GlnbTFuN-w3uto1) | [YouTube](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=jFmMraam-JwFLgKGhaj32XSaxwHFpnx8Byr7moU_VQJQUEhYRLbhyDuyQ7-Alk7VqWsdIdpgSKQU4HcRDhIMbwFTGqq_ldChg4D9h1JrZoOuZsslrXnqyQBLegGH1v8FlxxQ6XBivIP0eC88d089QZA1) | [Spotify](http://tracking.barbican.org.uk/tracking/click?d=VCc8iBn6M3M5uUQekGBfYpWGwEIyVm8LiiNfYleR_xUsg0dLgVUHXZ8NCVZNUd4pVaClYi4qElv8RaRzkL-LlCLkwXqSXbYNB9vBi-JFrbYpWrYd58kpYwLlIK2xHYmw-_oge8cZbEmc94bIAGbhixOhkpihXYgBrPxMWuh-6GFq0) | [LinkedIn](https://uk.linkedin.com/company/barbican-centre)