

# barbican

**A SUMMER OF CINEMA EVENTS EXPLORING SOUND AND SONIC EXPERIENCE  
22 MAY – 31 AUGUST 2025**

Images available here: [FREQUENCIES](#)

Throughout summer 25, the Barbican presents [Frequencies: the sounds that shape us](#), a cross-arts programme which explores the power of sound and sonic experience to shape how we move, think, feel and to inspire change.

Highlights within *Frequencies* include [Feel the Sound](#) a bold new multi-sensory exhibition experience that examines our relationship to sound; the world premiere of a new version of the award-winning Virtual Reality experience [In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats](#); live music events and concerts, a film series, and [Rebel Radio](#) a month-long programme of broadcasts, talks, workshops, club experience and screenings celebrating London's Pirate Radio story and exploring radio as a space for community, creativity, and subversion.

Among the cross-arts programme, *Frequencies* are an exciting line-up of events on the Barbican's cinemas, including events in [Experiments in Film](#), [Deeper Into Movies: WARP VISION](#); [Rebel Radio](#), [Refugee Week](#), [Good Vibrations](#), [Relaxed Screenings in The Sound of Neurodivergence](#) and [Outdoor Cinema](#).

- **Experiments in Film: *God Bless the Child* + Conversation** – Tue 27 May
- **Deeper Into Movies: *WARP VISION*** – Sat 14 June
- **Rebel Radio: *Rewinding the Airwaves: An Archive Mixtape of Pirate Radio and Black Media*** – Mon 16 & Mon 30 Jun
- **Refugee Week: *Haiyu*** – Wed 18 Jun
- **Rebel Radio: *Young Soul Rebels* + ScreenTalk** – Thu 26 Jun
- **Good Vibrations: *The Sound of Neurodivergence*** – Wed 2 Jul & Tue 8 Jul
- **Outdoor Cinema** – Wed 20 Aug – Sun 31 Aug

*Frequencies* is part of Barbican's Summer 2025, a programme packed with unmissable events in Theatre, Music, Cinema, Visual Arts and more, including [Encounters: Giacometti](#); [Fiddler on the Roof](#) and [Good Night, Oscar](#) in the Barbican Theatre; Concerts [Khatia Buniatishvili & Friends](#) and [CBSO Orchestral Qawaali with Abi Sampa](#); as well as the [Summer Jazz Series](#), featuring [Herbie Hancock](#) celebrating his 85th birthday; film season [Queer 70s: LGBTQ+ Cinema in the Decade after Stonewall](#) and special concert series [Classical Pride 2025](#) celebrating PRIDE in June; and more. The full programme is [available here](#).

## [Experiments in Film](#) ,

***God Bless the Child* (15 \*)**

**A multi-media presentation and discussion with Conversation between Christopher Harris and Kodwo Eshun**

**Tuesday May 27, 6.30pm**

**Cinema 2**

Experiments in Film presents *God Bless the Child* a multi-media, work-in-progress screening that delves into the filmmaker Christopher Harris' first autobiographical project; comparing the US care system to life in Senegal, blending personal history, archive, and 16mm footage.

Drawing on his experience in foster care, Harris weaves together photographs and official records with film material from Senegal. He examines the structures of social welfare and child services along with Black childhood in the US.

Harris will be joined by Kodwo Eshun to explore the themes of his work and discuss the archival materials that are the foundation of his upcoming experimental essay film: records from the Archdiocese of St. Louis, family photographs, his childhood adoption listing. An open conversation and audience ScreenTalk offer a chance to engage directly with Harris. This event has been developed in collaboration with Valentine Umansky and the Tate Modern. Special thanks to Christopher Harris and Kodwo Eshun.

### **DEEPER INTO MOVIES: WARP VISION**

**Sat 14 June, 2.30pm**  
**Cinema 1**

WARP VISION: Selected Video & Experimental Shorts digs deep into the Warp archives to present a curated selection of iconic and rare music videos, shown from original master tapes. Spanning the label's history, the collection includes work by Chris Cunningham, The Daniels, Andrew Norman Wilson, Jarvis Cocker, Alex Rutherford, Hiro Murai, and more, celebrating how Warp helped turn the music video into an art form and finally presented on the big screen - as they were meant to be seen. French-born, New York-based digital artist and self-described "creative mercenary" Freeka Tet will also present work as part of the Barbican programme, expanding the event's engagement with the experimental and the uncanny.

### **Rebel Radio**

**Sun 1 – Mon 30 June**

Across June and across the Barbican, the sound of resistance and reinvention is explored in this celebration of pirate radio and its lasting impact on music, culture and community. Pirate radio was a rebellious force that gave Black British music and underground sounds a platform when mainstream stations wouldn't. It shaped UK culture then, and its influence continues today.

The radical influence of pirate radio is explored through a programme of live radio broadcasts, a Rinse FM party, Sunday Selecta listening sessions, talks, workshops, a 6-part podcast series and two film programmes - ***Rewinding the Airwaves: An Archive Mixtape of Pirate Radio and Black Media*** - plus a screening of Isaac Julien's seminal debut feature ***Young Soul Rebels***.

***Rewinding the Airwaves: An Archive Mixtape of Pirate Radio and Black Media*** is a curated archive mixtape that dives deep into the rich, rebellious world of UK pirate radio and ground-breaking Black media from the 1980s and 1990s. This collection unearths rare documentaries and broadcasts that explore the untold histories behind the pirate airwaves, shining a light on the DJs, activists, and cultural pioneers who risked legal repercussions to amplify sounds and perspectives that would otherwise go unheard. From the thumping beats of jungle and reggae to urgent debates on race, identity, and representation, these films capture the raw energy and radical spirit of a movement that shaped the cultural landscape of the UK.

### **Breaking the Silence: Pirate Radio, Black Media, and Voices of Resistance (15\*)**

**Mon 16 Jun, 6.30pm**  
**Cinema 2**

Two documentaries capturing the spirit of resistance and creativity that defined 1980s underground broadcasting.

These screenings delve into the radical impact of Black-led pirate radio in the UK, spotlighting its role in amplifying unheard voices and challenging mainstream narratives.

Featuring a full episode from The Bandung File, a bold Channel 4 series edited by Darcus Howe and Tariq Ali, and an episode of Bacchanal, the programme explores how Black media tackled race, representation, and activism head-on.

Highlights include coverage of the JBC raid, exposing the struggles Black communities faced in asserting control over their own narratives and media spaces. Also, a look into the work of DBC, showcasing how pirate radio served not just as entertainment but as a vital form of cultural resistance. With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive, Matthew Harle and Ian Greaves.

### [Airwaves of Rebellion: Youth, Identity, and the Fight for Community Radio](#) (15\*)

**Mon 30 Jun, 6.30pm**

**Cinema 2**

A programme of films diving into the energy and impact of youth-led pirate radio in 1980s–90s Britain, showing how young broadcasters defied mainstream media to amplify underrepresented voices. In this programme: *Black and White Pirate Show* (1987), features a rare exchange between veteran white pirate broadcasters and rising Black DJs. It explores their shared love for radio while exposing cultural divides and differing motives behind pirate broadcasting in London. From a broader lens, *Ebony Pirates* (1983) delves into debates over the criminalisation of non-commercial radio, with voices from the Dread Broadcasting Company and BBC's John Peel. A decade later, *Pirates* (1993) reflects on pirate radio's lasting impact and the ongoing struggle of unlicensed broadcasters.

Featuring an introduction from Rob Burkitt, producer for 'Black and White Pirate Radio Show'.

With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive, Matthew Harle and Ian Greaves.

Special thanks to Roger Shannon, Steve Sklair and Rob Burkitt.

### [Young Soul Rebels](#) (18) (AD) + ScreenTalk with actor Mo Sesay hosted by Tobi Kyeremateng

UK/France/Germany/Spain 1991, Dir Isaac Julien, 105min

**Thu 26 Jun, 6.15pm**

**Cinema 3**

Isaac Julien paints a unique perspective of Black British masculinity in his bold and stylish debut feature *Young Soul Rebels*. Youth culture meets identity politics in this part-thriller, part-gay love story set in London in 1977, in the hedonistic world of pirate DJs Chris and Caz which is shattered when a close friend is killed.

The film will be followed by a ScreenTalk with actor Mo Sesay hosted by Tobi Kyeremateng.

### [Refugee Week](#)

16-22 June

### [Haiyu](#) (18) + ScreenTalk

Sweden / Western Sahara 2024, Dirs Alex Veitch, Brahim B. Ali, Mohamedsalem Uered and Anna Klara Åhrén, 90min

**Wed 18 Jun, 6.20pm**

**Cinema 2**

*Haiyu* focusses on one of Western Sahara's greatest singers, Mariem Hassan, whose life and music have given comfort and hope among the ongoing tragedy committed to the Sahrawis throughout the colonial era continuing up to this very day and has been used as a tool in the fight for independence in Africa's last colony.

In the Sahara desert, the voice of one of North Africa's greatest singers still echoes. A voice that has engaged and given hope to a forgotten struggle. Mariem Hassan's life and music have been deeply affected by the ongoing tragedy committed to the Sahrawis throughout the colonial era continuing up to this very day. Her songs have been given comfort and hope and have been used as a tool in the fight for independence in Africa's last colony, Western Sahara.

This year marks 50 years since the Sahrawis people were forced into exile. *Haiyu* will be followed up by a Q&A with the filmmakers and Danielle Smith, founder of Sandblast, an organisation dedicated to building awareness and solidarity for the indigenous Saharawis of Western Sahara.

### [Relaxed Screenings: Good Vibrations: The Sound of Neurodivergence](#)

Curator, co-founder of Stims Collective and Barbican Emerging Film Curator Alumna, Lillian Crawford curates two events exploring neurodivergent responses to sound and music within a cinema space:

### Relaxed Screening: *Eden* + introduction by curator Lillian Crawford (15)

France 2014, Dir Mia Hansen-Løve, 131mins

**Wed 2 Jul, 6.10pm**

**Cinema 3**

An immersive odyssey of a DJ's rise and fall set at the height of French rave culture in the 90's, from director Mia Hansen-Løve.

Inspired by her brother Sven's musical life and career, Mia Hansen-Løve recreates the spirit and atmosphere of a formative era through a pulsating soundtrack including music by Daft Punk. It is a story of trying to make the big time, and never quite making it.

The film pushes the boundaries of what is expected of 'relaxed screenings', considering the positive sensations and emotions audiences may experience through sound and music.

Eden features an international cast, including Félix de Givry, Pauline Etienne, Greta Gerwig, and Brady Corbet.

### Relaxed Screening: Good Vibrations Shorts Programme + ScreenTalk (18\*)

**Tue 8 Jul, 6.30pm**

**Cinema 3**

From silence to dissonance, neurodivergent relationships to sound are explored in this diverse shorts programme featuring animated and experimental depictions of hypersensitivity.

Neurodivergent responses to sound and music vary greatly, often producing powerful images and feelings both positive and negative. This programme of short films goes on a journey through worlds of silence and noise, mirroring radical and dynamic soundscapes with powerful imagery crafted through experimental techniques and vivid animation. It presents a sonic journey through neurodiverse experience.

The screening will be followed by a ScreenTalk with curator and co-founder of Stims Collective, Lillian Crawford, plus a panel of filmmakers exploring questions about hypersensitivity and differing relationships to sound. Screened in a relaxed screening context, the panel asks if the volume should be turned down or up.

Curated by Lillian Crawford with Jonathan Gleneadie

#### ***[sound of subtitles]***

UK 2021 Dir: Seo Hye Lee 2 min

Silent throughout, this short film invites the audience to imagine the nature of soundscapes through the art of captioning.

#### ***A is for Autism***

UK 1992, Dir: Tim Webb, 11 min

The first British film to feature the voices of autistic people describing their sensory experiences of the world.

#### ***Music & Clowns***

UK 2020, Dir: Alex Widdowson, 7 min

An animated documentary exploring the director's relationship with his brother Jaimie, a person with Down syndrome, and his connection to music and comedy.

#### ***A Brief History of Circles***

UK 2023, Dir: Georgia Kumari Bradburn, 8 min

An experimental video essay which uses circles and waves to explore neurodivergent experience by creating a rich voiceover soundscape which intensifies and calms itself.

#### ***One Thousand and One Attempts to Be an Ocean***

France 2022, Dir: Yuyan Wang, 12 min

A representation of the experience of perceiving the world without depth perception, consisting of internet 'satisfying videos' and a soporific sound design.

### **Outdoor Cinema 2025**

**Film nights under the stars**

**Wed 20 Aug – Sun 31 Aug**

**Barbican Sculpture Court**

*Outdoor Cinema 2025 is supported by Associate Partner Mastercard and Destination Partner Culture Mile BID.*

Barbican Cinema's **Outdoor Cinema** returns this summer with a specially curated programme of films to watch under the city stars, in the dramatic surroundings of the Barbican Sculpture court, complete with a selection of food stalls and bars. A number of films in this year's programme, including David Lynch's ***Dune***, Apichatpong Weerasethakul's ***Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives***, Koji Hashimoto's ***The Return of Godzilla***, Julian Henriques' ***Babymother***, Claire Denis' ***Beau Travail*** and Björk's ***Cornucopia*** are notable for their inventive and immersive soundscapes.

***Dune* (12A)**

USA 1984, Dir David Lynch, 131min

**Wed 20 Aug, 8.45pm**

**Barbican Sculpture Court**

In the year 10,191 Paul Atreides (Kyle MacLachlan), the son of a Duke, is embroiled in a life-and-death struggle with the merciless Harkonnens for control of the invaluable 'spice' in David Lynch's wildly ambitious imagining of Frank Herbert's 1965 story.

Decades after its mixed reception, *Dune* can now be reevaluated as a truly unique and thrilling sci-fi extravaganza by one of cinema's most exciting visionaries. The production design and visual effects, not least the scenes with the gigantic sandworms, and the extraordinary, Oscar-nominated sound design make for an incredible cinematic spectacle.

***Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (12A)**

Thailand 2010, Dir Apichatpong Weerasethakul, 109min

**Thu 21 Aug, 8.30pm**

**Barbican Sculpture Court**

A mere plot synopsis cannot do justice to Apichatpong Weerasethakul's hypnotic marvel about a dying man who moves to the countryside for his last days, where the apparition of his dead wife and his estranged son, in the form of a hairy jungle spirit, reunite with him.

Exploring themes of memory, afterlife and reincarnation, this is an intense, dreamlike journey into another world, including a memorable encounter with a forlorn princess and a talking catfish. Haunting and moving, the film boasts otherworldly sound design from Akritchalerm Kalayanamitr, creating a tangible and immersive encounter with the spiritual world. The film deservedly won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

***The Return of Godzilla* (12A\*) + recorded intro by kaiju expert Steven Sloss**

Japan 1984, Dir: Koji Hashimoto, 103min

**Sat 23 Aug, 8.30pm**

**Barbican Sculpture Court**

Nine years after the last of the Showa-era *Godzilla* films, the iconic kaiju made a triumphant movie return in 1984. Ignoring all the previous films save the 1954 original, Koji Hashimoto's reboot returned to the dark roots of the first film, updating the film's sociopolitical commentary for the late Cold War era. Here, the radioactive monster returns to wreak destruction on Japan and subsequently inflames tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The imaginative special effects and 1980s aesthetics update *Godzilla* for a new era, while the thunderous sound effects, from the monster's chilling roar to Reijiro Koroku's stirring score, make for an intense and exciting cinema experience.

**Babymother (15)**

UK 1998, Dir Julien Henriques, 82min

**Barbican Sculpture Court**

Shot on location in Harlesden, North London, Anita (Anjela Lauren Smith) is a young mother who dreams of becoming a dancehall star. Living on a council estate and raising two children alone means that money is tight, but she has all the talent and ambition she needs to make it big – plus the support of her two best friends with whom she forms her vocal group, Sharon (Caroline Chikezie) and Yvette (Jocelyn Esien).

The rhythms of London's reggae scene are woven through Julien Henriques' stylish and pioneering film, featuring bold and energetic musical numbers that speak to the legacy of dancehall culture in the capital.

**Beau Travail (15)**

France 1998, Dir Claire Denis, 93min

**Fri 29 Aug, 8.30pm**

**Barbican Sculpture Court**

Claire Denis reimagines Herman Melville's Billy Budd in her extraordinary masterpiece, in which passions simmer in the male environment of the French Foreign Legion.

Voted one of the 10 best films of all time in a recent Sight & Sound poll, **Beau Travail** delves into the tensions within a French Foreign Legion regiment in the former colony of Djibouti, when the arrival of a handsome young soldier provokes a crisis in Galoup, a grizzled sergeant-major (Denis Lavant). Jealous and inexplicably shaken, Galoup resolves to destroy the younger man.

**Björk's Cornucopia (12A)**

Portugal 2025. Dir Ísold Uggadóttir, 98min

**Sat 30 Aug, 8.30pm**

**Barbican Sculpture Court**

Björk's latest concert film is an electrifying experience; one that is underscored by a poignant socio-political message about the need for climate change action. A fantastical, fungi-inspired set design, wild floral and aquatic visuals and stunning costumes designed by Balmain's Olivier Rousteing and Iris van Herpen are the backdrop to her unique voice, as she performs songs including "Mouth's Cradle", "Sue Me" and "Isobel". The set also includes two songs, "Ovule" and "Atopos", performed live for the first time.

See [here](#) for the full Outdoor Cinema programme press release.

**ENDS****Notes to Editors**

Images available here: [FREQUENCIES](#)

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Box Office: [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

Young Barbican: £6

Standard: £13

ScreenTalk: £15

Members: £10.40

Concessions: £11



There is £1.50 booking fee for purchases made online

\* This film has been locally classified by the City of London Corporation

### **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/our-story/press-room](http://www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room)

### **About the Barbican**

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

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