

For immediate release: 15 May 2025

# barbican

## **Summer 2025 at the Barbican**

Today, Monday 19 May, Barbican launches its summer 2025 programme packed with events across its venues, public spaces, outdoors and even in its car park. The season includes **Frequencies**, a programme exploring the power of sound and sonic experience, Barbican's iconic **Outdoor Cinema**, a series live music events and concerts including a **Summer Jazz Series**, two major shows kicking off the summer theatre season with multiple Olivier-Award winning **Fiddler on the Roof**, brand new exhibition **Encounters: Giacometti**, and much more.

## **PROGRAMME**

### **FREQUENCIES**

**Frequencies** is a packed cross arts programme exploring the power of sound and sonic experience to shape how we move, think, feel and to inspire change. Featuring a packed programme of film screenings, concerts, events, workshops and talks, the season kicks off in May and explores how the power of sound moves more than just the body, and how it continues to inspire generations to rebel and create change.

**The Frequencies programme includes:**

- **Feel the Sound, Thu 22 May – Sun 31 Aug**, Barbican's bold new multi-sensory immersive exhibition exploring our relationship to sound and new ways to experience it through a series of installations including new commissions and UK premieres.
- **In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats, Thu 22 May—Sun 3 Aug**, the world premiere of a new version of the award-winning Virtual Reality experience – a nostalgic immersive adventure of finding an Acid House rave in 1989 that pushes the technology even further to create a truly collective experience, where friends share the same virtual space.
- **Rebel Radio, Sun 1—Mon 30 Jun**, a month-long programme of broadcasts, talks, workshops, late night party and screenings celebrating London's Pirate Radio story and exploring radio as a space for community, creativity, and subversion. Highlights of the programme include:
  - A month-long residency by **Reprezent Radio**, broadcasting live from a custom-built studio in the Barbican's foyer. Special guests include legendary figures shaping UK music culture from **DJ Spoony** and **Norman Jay** to **Daddy Ernie** and **Shabba D**
  - Sharing memories through music in weekly co-curated communal listening events **Sunday Selecta with DJ Bid (Reminisce)**
  - **Interactive Listening Posts** in the Barbican foyer (available until 31 August)
  - An exclusive **Club Night** hosted by **Rinse FM** with older and newer generations going back-to-back

- Talks programme curated by **Tobi Kyeremateng** from **Them Ones Presents** offering opportunities to hear from pioneers of pirate radio and contemporary thinkers on the legacy of the rebel community
- **Gaps in the Dial**: a new, **six-episode podcast** by **DJ Tayo Popoola** about the history of Pirate and Community Radio, commissioned by the Barbican
- A series of **archive films** exploring the rebellious world of pirate and community stations: **Breaking the Silence: Pirate Radio, Black Media, and Voices of Resistance**, **Airwaves of Rebellion: Youth, Identity, and the Fight for Community Radio**, plus a screening of Isaac Julien's seminal **Young Soul Rebels**
- Two-day audio storytelling masterclass, **'Make Yourself Heard'**
- **Live music events and concerts** including:
  - **Actress x Suzanne Ciani present Concrète Waves**, **Fri 30 May**, a groundbreaking live music collaboration between two titans of avant-garde electronic music.
  - **Moi**, **Sat 31 May**, making their Barbican debut with music from their new album *You Never End*, as well as guest features and classics from their back catalogue.
  - **A Warp Happening**, **Sat 14 Jun**, a special day of music, screenings and performances led by the pioneering record label. The first Warp label-based event in over a decade will take place across the Barbican in an exclusive all-day, featuring Warp Vision: a feature length trip through the music video archives of the label, a host of Warp artists and culminating in a grand finale in the Barbican Hall.
  - **Rampage: Carnival Classics 2**, **Fri 20 Jun**, joined by the 30-piece Nu Civilisation Orchestra returning to the Barbican to reimagine Carnival classics and celebrate over three decades of iconic tracks that define the sounds of Notting Hill Carnival.
  - **Ligeti Quartet: Nuc**, **Sat 21 Jun**, performing tracks from their 2023 album *Nuc*, fusing acoustic and electronic music for string quartet by Mercury-nominated composer Anna Meredith alongside visual projections.
  - **Jeff Mills + London Symphony Orchestra: Blue Potential**, **Sat 28 Jun**, making his much-awaited return with the Barbican's Resident Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra for a very special evening marking the 20th anniversary of *Blue Potential*, Mills' groundbreaking 2005 project and 2006 album combining electronic and symphonic music.
- **Cinema screenings** including:
  - **God Bless the Child. A Performance Lecture by Christopher Harris**, **Tue 27 May**, a performance by the filmmaker around his work in progress film, delving into themes of memory, history, and the materiality of film itself, challenging traditional storytelling with striking soundscapes and layered sonic textures.
  - **Refugee Week: Haiyu (18) + ScreenTalk**, **Wed 18 June**  
Winner of the Sheffield Doc Fest Youth Jury Prize, *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.

- **Good Vibrations:** Barbican Emerging Film Curator Alumna Lillian Crawford curates two events exploring neurodivergent responses to sound and music within a cinema space:
  - **Good Vibrations: The Sound of Neurodivergence:** Eden + introduction by curator, **Wed 2 Jul**, Mia Hansen-Løve's electronic music drama
  - **Good Vibrations: The Sound of Neurodivergence:** Shorts programme + ScreenTalk, **Tue 8 Jul**
- **Outdoor Cinema, Wed 20 Aug – Sun 31 Aug**, returns this summer with a sparkling selection of films to watch under the city's stars, in the Barbican Sculpture Court. The *Frequencies* line-up, with films notable for their inventive and immersive soundscapes, include ***Dune***, ***Uncle Boonmee***, ***The Return of Godzilla***, ***Babymother***, ***Beau Travail*** and ***Björk's Cornucopia***.

## VISUAL ARTS

- **Encounters: Giacometti x Huma Bhabha, Thu 8 May— Sun 10 Aug**  
Inaugurating a new, intimate space within the Barbican, figurative sculptures from across Bhabha's career are displayed alongside iconic works by Giacometti made mostly in the aftermath of World War II. Spanning nearly a century of artmaking and encompassing a range of media, this exhibition considers what occurs at the meeting point of works responding to the anguish and despair of a wounded world.

## THEATRE & DANCE

*Part of a three-year partnership between the Barbican and Trafalgar Theatre Productions:*

- **Fiddler on the Roof, Sat 24 May—Sat 19 Jul**, triumphant winner of three Olivier Awards for Best Musical Revival, Best Sound Design and Best Set Design ***Fiddler on the Roof*** transfers to the Barbican following a sold-out season at Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.
- **Good Night, Oscar, Thu 31 Jul—Sun 21 Sep**, written by Pulitzer Prize-winner Doug Wright, ***Good Night, Oscar*** is a dazzling, darkly funny drama about Oscar Levant; Hollywood actor, concert pianist and infamous wit. **Sean Hayes** (*Will & Grace*) who won a Tony Award for his performance, reprises his acclaimed Broadway role, reuniting with **Ben Rappaport** for the London premiere. Also starring **Rosalie Craig** (*Company*).

## MUSIC

- **Khatia Buniatishvili & Friends, Thu 12 Jun**, the finale to Khatia Buniatishvili's Barbican residency, the pianist invites friends from the performing world to join her for an intimate evening of music and words.
- **Classical Pride 2025: Voices of Pride, Fri 27 Jun—Thu 10 Jul**, returns for its third year, featuring Barbican Resident Orchestra the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Oliver Zeffman, and a world premiere by Jake Heggie commissioned by Classical Pride, alongside a line-up of star soloists, plus a free performance by emerging musicians in the Hall at 6pm on 4 July.

- **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra - Orchestral Qawwali with Abi Sampa, Sun 20 Jul**, East meets West as *The Orchestral Qawwali Project* joins the CBSO, CBSO Chorus, and University of Birmingham Voices for a spellbinding performance.
- **Summer Jazz Series, Mon 16 Jun – Sat 26 Jul**, running across June and July, the Summer Jazz Series features a selection of jazz artists including **Tigran Hamasyan** (Mon 16 Jun), **Brad Mehldau Trio** (Tue 24 Jun), and **Take Me to the River All Stars** (Sat 12 Jul). The series closes with a three-night residency from **Herbie Hancock** (Thu 24 – Sat 26 Jul), marking his 85th birthday.

## CINEMA

- **Queer 70s: LGBTQ+ Cinema in the Decade after Stonewall, Wed 11 Jun—Wed 16 Jul**, a season inviting audiences to travel back to the 1970s, when LGBTQ+ lives were shown on screen with an unapologetic gusto unthinkable a decade before.
- **Outdoor Cinema, Wed 20 Aug – Sun 31 Aug**, returns this summer with a joyful programme of films to watch under the city stars, in the cinematic surroundings of the Barbican Sculpture court. Screenings include ***Love & Basketball***, ***Fantastic Mr. Fox***, ***Grave of the Fireflies***, ***Fire of Love*** and ***Little Shop of Horrors***.

## BARBICAN ARCHITECTURE TOURS

Running daily, Barbican's 90-minute **Architecture Tours** cover the vast, bold and brutal Barbican estate. Led by expert guides, the tour covers the Barbican Centre and surrounding Brutalist estate, exploring the site's little-known nooks and crannies, venturing through highwalks, leafy courts and sweeping crescents, giving visitors an insight into the vision and ambition behind the complex's design and its past, present and future.

**Devyani Saltzman, Director of Arts & Participation at the Barbican, said:** *"This summer, we invite you to pause and attune your body, your memory and your senses. I hope our summer 2025 season – and our special programme Frequencies – opens new ways of sensing, feeling and thinking across disciplines and perspectives, and offer space for quiet reflection, collective energy, and radical possibility. Whether you're here for a brief visit or for the whole day, I'm certain that your experience will echo with you long after you leave. So tune in, to sound, to feeling, to the frequencies that connect us all."*

Access the **Barbican's full Summer 2025 programme**.

## ENDS

## NOTES TO EDITORS

Follow this link for the **Spring/Summer 2025 Classical Music programme press release**

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

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## **LISTINGS**

### **FREQUENCIES**

#### **Feel the Sound**

**22 May–31 Aug 2025**

**Barbican Centre**

@barbicancentre

Co-produced by **MoN Takanawa: The Museum of Narratives**, Takanawa Gateway City, Tokyo, Japan.

**Tickets from £20**

**On sale 2 April Members, 3 April General Public**

**Read full press release [here](#)**

Barbican's new multi-sensory immersive exhibition, ***Feel the Sound*** invites audiences to use their bodies as listening devices to explore new ways to experience sound. Through a series of installations including new commissions and UK premieres, *Feel the Sound* takes place in spaces across the Barbican Centre, from the entrance on Silk Street, in The Curve, the public foyers, to outdoors on the Centre's Lakeside Terrace. For the first time, the Centre's underground Car Parks will also be part of the exhibition experience.

#### **In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats**

**22 May-3 Aug 2025**

The Pit

Tickets from £25

**On sale 2 April Members, 3 April General Public**

Step into the heart of the Acid House Movement with *In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats*, an internationally acclaimed, award-winning interactive VR adventure. Created by immersive artist Darren Emerson and produced by East City Films, this groundbreaking experience takes audiences on a multi-sensory journey back to 1989, immersing them in the euphoric rave scene that revolutionised music and society. With the world premiere of its newest version at the Barbican, for the first time groups of up to four people will be able to join in the experience together and share the same virtual space.

***In Pursuit of Repetitive Beats*** is created by Darren Emerson and produced by East City Films, with the original version funded by the BFI awarding National Lottery funding and Coventry City of Culture Trust. The tour is jointly supported by Arts Council England and BFI National Lottery Audience Projects Fund. East City Films also received funding from Innovate UK, which is all about helping innovative ideas to flourish.

#### **Rebel Radio**

**1-30 Jun 2025**

*Rebel Radio* explores and celebrates London's Pirate radio story. Since the 1970s to the

present, these unique and precarious institutions have broadened London's cultural bandwidth and have long been the spaces where new subcultures and genres emerge, communities of interest are served, and the next generation of artists and broadcasters are formed.

*Rebel Radio* explores Britain's relationship to dance music, community and counterculture through podcasts, a club night, cinema screenings, talks, workshops, and a radio residency broadcasting live from the Barbican's foyers. *Rebel Radio* celebrates the breadth and range of pirate radio cultural tribes, challenging what is considered art in establishment art institutions.

### **Rebel Radio Listening Hub**

The Hub exhibition space, Level G

1 Jun-31 Aug 2025

Free

### **Gaps In The Dial podcast**

**By DJ Tayo Popoola**

6-part original series, available from Jun 2025

Free

Commissioned by the Barbican

### **Rebel Radio Live Broadcasts, in collaboration with Rezz Radio**

Broadcast weekly, live from a custom-built studio in the Barbican

Studio, Level G

Sat 7, Sat 14, Fri 20, Sat 28 Jun 2025

The full broadcasts run from 12noon-6pm

Free

Tune in live using our wireless headphones by reserving them or bring your own and listen on your phone via [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk). Seating and headphones are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. Walk-ins are welcome. If you have access requirements, please contact: [info@barbican.org.uk](mailto:info@barbican.org.uk)

### **'Make Yourself Heard' Audio Storytelling Masterclass**

Creative Collaboration Studio, Level 2

Sat 7 and Sun 8 Jun 2025

Each day will run from 11am - 6pm. You must be available to attend both days of this workshop

Ages 18+

Tickets £10 plus booking fee, £6 Young Barbican tickets available

### **Rebel Radio Talks: Rebel Archivists**

**Curated by Tobi Kyeremateng from Them Ones Presents**

Frobisher Auditorium 1, Level 4

Wed 11 Jun 2025

7.30pm-9pm

Ages 14+

Tickets £10 plus booking fee, £6 Young Barbican tickets available

Live captions by Clear Text, meaning the spoken words will be displayed in real-time for attendees to read.

### **Rinse FM: Dial Shift**

**Rebel Radio Club Night**

ClubStage, Level -1

Fri 13 Jun 2025  
10.45pm – 2am \*Last entry 12.30am  
Ages 18+  
Contains haze and flashing lights/strobe effects  
Tickets £15 plus booking fee, £6 Young Barbican tickets available

**Sunday Selecta with DJ Bid (Reminisce)**

FreeStage, Level G  
Sun 15, 22, 29 Jun 2025  
12noon-3pm  
All ages are welcome  
Free  
Seating is first come, first served  
To request a song in advance, please select a ticket and time slot and in the free text box let us know what song you'd like to hear.  
If you have access requirements, please contact: [info@barbican.org.uk](mailto:info@barbican.org.uk)

**Rewinding the Airwaves: An Archive Mixtape of Pirate Radio and Black Media:  
Breaking the Silence: Pirate Radio, Black Media, and Voices of Resistance**

Mon 16 Jun 2025  
6.30pm-8.40pm  
Barbican Cinema 2  
Age / cert 15\*  
Tickets: Standard: £13 plus booking fee, Barbican Members: £10.40, Concessions: £11,  
Under 18s: £6, Young Barbican: £6  
With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive, Matthew Harle and Ian Greaves

**Rebel Radio Talks: Elijah & Geeneus In-Conversation: 30 Years of Rinse FM and the future of radio**

**Curated by Tobi Kyeremateng from Them Ones Presents**

Frobisher Auditorium 1, Level 4  
Wed 18 Jun 2025  
7.30pm – 9pm  
Ages 14+  
Tickets £10 plus booking fee, £6 Young Barbican tickets available  
Live captions by Clear Text, meaning the spoken words will be displayed in real-time for attendees to read.

**Rebel Radio Talks: Where are all the house parties?**

**Curated by Tobi Kyeremateng from Them Ones Presents**

Frobisher Auditorium 1, Level 4  
Wed 25 Jun 2025  
7.30pm – 9pm  
Ages 14+  
Tickets £10 plus booking fee, £6 Young Barbican tickets available  
Live captions by Clear Text, meaning the spoken words will be displayed in real-time for attendees to read.

**Young Soul Rebels + ScreenTalk with actor Mo Sesay hosted by Tobi Kyeremateng**

UK/France/Germany/Spain 1991, dir Isaac Julien, 105min  
Thu 26 Jun 2025  
6.15-8.30pm  
Barbican Cinema 3  
The film is screened with Audio Description and HOH captions for the D/deaf and the talk will

be live captioned too

Age / cert 18

Tickets: Standard: £13 plus booking fee, Barbican Members: £10.40, Concessions: £11, Young Barbican: £6

**Rewinding the Airwaves: An Archive Mixtape of Pirate Radio and Black Media:**  
***Airwaves of Rebellion: Youth, Identity, and the Fight for Community Radio***

Mon 30 Jun 2025

6.30-8.40pm

Barbican Cinema 2

Age / cert 15\*

Tickets: Standard: £13 plus booking fee, Barbican Members: £10.40, Concessions: £11, Under 18s: £6, Young Barbican: £6

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

Special thanks to Roger Shannon, Steve Sklair and Rob Burkitt

**SUMMER PROGRAMME**

**Encounters: Giacometti x Huma Bhabha**

Thu 8 May — Sun 10 Aug

Tickets: £8

Opening hours: Mon, closed; Tue–Sun 12pm–8pm

**Fiddler on the Roof**

Barbican Theatre

24 May – 19 Jul 2025

Press Night: 3 Jun 2025

From 24 May - 7 Jun: Mon - Sat at 7.30pm and matinees Thu & Sat 2.30pm

From 9 Jun - 19 July: Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat at 7.30pm and matinees Tue, Thu & Sat at 2.30pm

BSL Interpreted: Wed 25 Jun, 7.30pm

Audio Described: Sat 28 Jun, 2.30pm

Captioned: Wed 2 Jul, 7.30pm

Running time: Approx 2 hours 40 minutes (inc. interval)

Age guidance: 12+

Tickets from £25 plus booking fee, £15 Young Barbican tickets available

Presented in association with the Barbican

Produced on the New York stage by Harold Prince

Original New York stage production directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins

**Good Night, Oscar**

Barbican Theatre

London premiere

31 Jul – 21 Sep 2025

Press Night: 6 Aug 2025

Wed – Sat at 7pm, Thu and Sat at 2.30pm, Sunday at 3pm. Additional performance Tue 5

Aug at 7pm BSL Interpreted: Sat 23 Aug, 2.30pm

Audio Described: Fri 5 Sep, 7pm

Captioned: Wed 27 Aug, 7pm

Running time: 1 hour 40 minutes (no interval)

Age guidance: 12+



Tickets from £25 plus booking fee, £15 Young Barbican tickets available

Presented in association with the Barbican

### **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](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

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