

Press Release

NORTHERN WRITERS, MANCHESTER MUSIC ARTISTS AND MORE SUPPORTED BY FACTORY INTERNATIONAL'S LATEST TALENT DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **STEAM RADIO, Rumbi Tauro, J.Chambers, RenzNiro and more have been selected for this year's Factory Sounds, Factory International's annual programme to support Manchester's music scene**
- **Factory International have commissioned eight emerging fiction writers from the North to respond to a new stage show at Aviva Studios starring Maxine Peake**
- **Two artist collectives from the North West have been selected to take over the vast warehouse space of Aviva Studios this summer**
- **Six Factory International Fellows based in the North have been selected to go behind the scenes at Aviva Studios**

Factory International announces some of the artists benefitting from a selection of development opportunities, as it looks to support the next generation of creatives across the North of England.

FACTORY SOUNDS

Factory International runs a development programme for those in Manchester's music scene called Factory Sounds. Successful applicants are offered 1,000 of financial support towards the creation of a new project, peer-to-peer support, a series of regular masterclasses in artist management, promotion and fundraising demystifying the industry – plus access to Factory International's talent development programmes and networking opportunities.

The Factory Sounds 2024 cohort includes the artist and producer **RenzNiro**, community station **STEAM Radio MCR**, the soulful R&B performer **Rumbi Tauro**, Reggae rap artist and spoken word poet **J.Chambers**, electronic producer and vocalist **Caitlin LM**, DIY rapper and producer **Algernon Cornelius**, the drone band **Thraa**, DJ and Radio host **CHARMS**, singer-songwriter **Saint Harmony**, artist, producer, composer **Danny H**, and queer electronic night **FLUFF**.

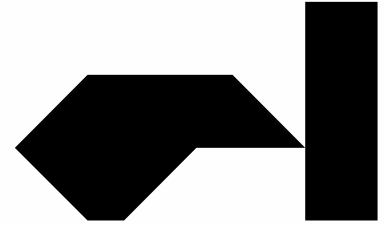
Through the step change programme they will create new music, mix, master and press albums, produce films, invest in recording and studio equipment, collaborate with other artists and musicians, and run workshops and spaces that will help Manchester's scene even further.

NEW WRITERS

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Water Street, Manchester M3 4JQ
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Factory International has selected eight emerging fiction writers based in the North, from Greater Manchester, Leeds, County Durham and Blackpool, to respond to some of the themes of John Bowen's 1970s cult horror classic *Robin Redbreast*.

They include **Porcelain Delaney, Alice Godliman, Beth Barker, Abby Walker, Jack Coop, Anita Ezeh, Ethan O'Connor** and **Jane Harrison**. The successful writers will be paid for their flash fiction entries and published on Factory International's online content platform *Factory+* and offered the opportunity to do a reading of their work at an event at Aviva Studios.

The writing series runs alongside the premiere of the stage adaptation *Robin/Red/Breast* (15 – 26 May) retold by **Maxine Peake, Sarah Frankcom** and **Imogen Knight**, with Booker Prize-shortlisted writer **Daisy Johnson** and acclaimed electronica artist **Gazelle Twin**.

ARTIST TAKEOVERS

Following an open call to all artists in the North ready to scale-up their practice, two Manchester-based artist collectives have been selected to take over the vast warehouse space of the city's landmark new cultural venue, Aviva Studios this summer. The artists will be offered financial support of up to £10,000 to explore and realise their idea as well as dedicated guidance from industry experts within the Factory International team.

Jennifer Jackson, an accomplished Latinx Anglo-Bolivian artist who gained acclaim for her sports-based performance work, *ENDURANCE*, collaborates with established co-lead artists **Rosie Elnile** and **Craig McCorquodale** for the first Artist Takeover. This new collaboration will experiment with malleable materials like clay to transform Aviva Studios into a mock Roman gladiatorial arena. The trio hopes to bring together 100 professional and non-professional performers including: wrestlers, marching bands and a male choir for this live art experiment.

A collective of Black multidisciplinary artists from Manchester and the North West, have been selected for Factory International's second Artist Takeover. **54: Manchester** made up of **Joshua Inyang, Joshua Tarelle, Tibyan Mahawah Sanoh**, and **Jaqhira Henry** plan to create an immersive audio-visual installation, investigating the interconnections of their heritage and culture. Using archive film materials, sound and material design, the collective hope to present a contemporary and authentic representation of the Black British experience in the North West.

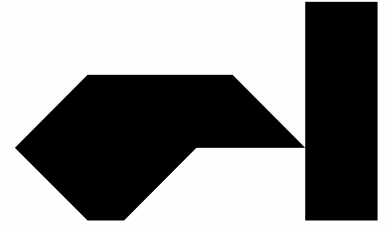
Applications for the autumn Artist Takeover will open later this month.

Jennifer Jackson, Rosie Elnile and Craig McCorquodale said, "*We are thrilled to be Factory International's first Artist Takeover collective. The initiative marks a critical intervention into performance in the UK, by pushing genre-defying, non-narrative, radical work into large stages.*"

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The artist collective 54 said, *"The chance to begin this collaboration in our hometown is a blessing and we look forward to developing an immersive installation at Aviva Studios this summer, encapsulating the interconnections of our cultures and specifically the Northern Black British experience."*

FACTORY INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Factory International has selected six Fellows based in the North with a variety of artistic practices and all at a transitional stage in their career, to go behind-the-scenes during the creation of some of the large-scale productions taking place at Aviva Studios this year. As part of the Fellowship programme **Elkanah Wilder, Flematu Sessay, Gemma Lees, Maya Chowdry, Seren Marimba, and Tommy Ryoma Hannaway** will have exclusive access to Factory International commissions and creative teams and develop their practice through mentoring, observational placements, and peer-to-peer learning.

Factory International have offered Creative Fellowships for Greater Manchester-based artists every two years since MIF17, with the 2017 and 2019 cohort of Fellows supported by Jerwood Arts. The beneficiaries who work as comedians, theatre-makers, dancers, musicians, photographers and more, have gone on to exhibit and perform across the UK, take up artist residencies overseas, be featured in national press, and secure artistic commissions from major funders including Sky Arts, BBC Arts, BFI, Arts Council England, British Council and the Princes' Trust.

As well as supporting up-and-coming and emerging artists, Factory International also presents new work from some of the North West's most established names including: a brand-new stage production by **Maxine Peake**, Sarah Frankcom and Imogen Knight (*Robin/Red/Breast*, 17-26 May); a specially commissioned programme of work celebrating acclaimed Manchester-based artist **David Hoyle** (*Please Feel Free To Ignore My Work*, 10 – 28 April); and three nights of runway performances showcasing the city's underground clubland and nu-wave cabaret scene curated by the infamous vogue artist and choreographer **Darren Pritchard** and long-time collaborator **Rikki Beadle-Blair** (*House of MCR*, 20-22 June).

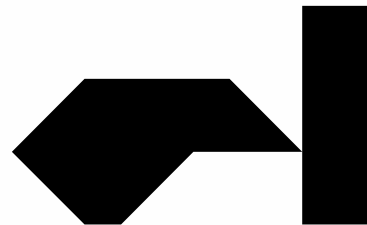
Kee Hong Low, Creative Director of Factory International said, *"At Factory International we create spaces for artists to do extraordinary things, things they always dreamed of doing, things they might not be able to do anywhere else. It's so exciting to see the range of artistry from the North supported by Factory International initiatives this year and I can't wait to see all these brilliant artists take their practice to the next level."*

Sarah Maxfield, Area Director North, Arts Council England said *"We want the North to be a place where artists can live, work and forge a career so I'm really pleased to see these initiatives from Factory International providing invaluable experience and opportunities for Northern artists. And with*

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Factory Sounds, the Factory International Fellows and opportunities for writers, it's great to see that Factory International is prioritising skills development and supporting emerging artists in the North. Aviva Studios has already staged some fantastic ground-breaking work since it opened last year and I'm sure that the artist collectives will rise to the challenge this summer."

Councillor Lutfur Rahman OBE, Deputy Leader Manchester City Council, said: "Culture and the arts play an important part in both the life and the economy of Manchester and are what help make the city such a great place to be. Supporting artists and others working in the creative sector to help them develop their skills and hone their craft is a key priority for us. It's brilliant therefore to see the new opportunities that are being created through Factory International and the opening of Aviva Studios - opportunities that are already making a real difference, helping to inspire creativity and nurturing careers in the arts."

Find out more about Factory International's programme and Talent Development opportunities at <https://factoryinternational.org>

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Factory Sounds bios and high-resolution images can be downloaded at the [Factory International media page](#). Password: F@ctoryIntPR355

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Factory International

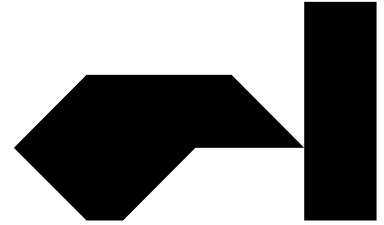
Factory International commissions, produces and presents a year-round programme of original creative work and special events at Aviva Studios, its landmark new home in Manchester, online, and internationally through its network of co-commissioners and partners. It also stages the city-wide Manchester International Festival every other year.

Factory International builds on the legacy of Manchester International Festival, one of the world's leading arts festivals, and the first to be entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work. Staged every two years in Manchester since 2007, world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work in venues and spaces across Greater Manchester.

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The design of Aviva Studios is led by Ellen van Loon of the world-leading practice Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA). Built with flexibility in mind, the building is based around large, open, adaptable spaces that can be constantly reconfigured, enabling artists to develop and create large-scale work of invention and ambition of a kind not seen anywhere else in the world.

A unique canvas to make, explore and experiment, audiences can enjoy the broadest range of art forms from major exhibitions and concerts to intimate performances and immersive experiences. The venue's development is led by Manchester City Council, with backing of £99.05m from HM Government and £7m National Lottery funding from Arts Council England.

Factory International plays an important role in the lives of Greater Manchester residents, bringing jobs, skills, training and creative opportunities. Through the Factory Academy, Factory International is training the creative workforce of the future, while its pioneering creative engagement and artist development programmes create year-round opportunities for local people to get involved, from participating in flagship commissions to shaping the organisation through involvement in its public forums.

Factory International is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

factoryinternational.org

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

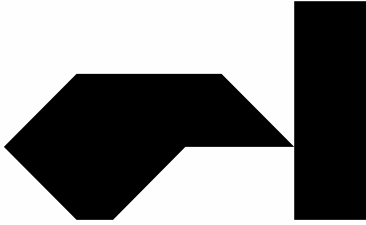
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