



Press release: For immediate release

SAMPHA ANNOUNCES TWO SPECIAL SHOWS AT FACTORY INTERNATIONAL'S AVIVA STUDIOS



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The incredible singer, songwriter and producer, **Sampha** has announced two very special performances for Factory International at their landmark new cultural venue Aviva Studios in Manchester, taking place from **15 and 16 of February 2024**.

The Mercury-prize winning artist's first shows in Manchester in 7 years, these shows will take place in the vast Warehouse of Aviva Studios, where Sampha will perform in the round, creating a unique sense of intimacy in the immense space. The show is a new addition ahead of his world tour and sold-out show at London's Alexandra Palace.

Tickets will go on general sale for the Aviva Studios performances this **Friday 19 January, at 10am**.

Sampha's second album **LAHAI** was released late last year via Young to widespread acclaim. Taken from his paternal grandfather's name, which is also Sampha's middle name, **LAHAI** revels in the awe and magic of our existence, synthesizing the exquisite chaos that one experiences confronting the cycle of life and the beyondness. Spanning 14-tracks, it features contributions from some of Sampha's closest friends, peers and collaborators including **Yaeji, Léa Sen, Sheila Maurice Grey (Kokoroko), Ibeyi, Morgan Simpson (Black Midi), Yussef Dayes, Laura Groves and Kwake Bass**. In contrast to his



Mercury Prize-winning debut album ***Process***, *LAHAI* is a communal affair seeing Sampha explore the many ways in which we as humans connect to each other, and to something bigger than ourselves. If *Process* was an artist figuring out his own place in the world, engulfed in the shadows of grief and loss, *LAHAI* is an exercise in the radical acceptance and joy in the human condition, and the beauty in the journey itself.

Recently Sampha made his directorial debut, writing and co-directing *LAHAI: Time Travels Memories with filmmaker Caleb Femi*. The short film is a dreamlike visual accompaniment to *LAHAI*, capturing the essence of its journey of spiritual self-exploration, generational discovery and familial connection. Prior to that he announced his new Apple Music 1 radio series 'Wave Therapy,' which is an exclusive window into the making of his new album. He'll also welcome friends, collaborators and artists he admires onto the show in a mix of live sessions, conversations, back-to-back mixes and genre deep-dives: [listen here](#). He's recently graced the cover of [i-D Magazine](#), [Kaleidoscope](#), [EPOCH Review](#), [Office Magazine](#) and [Music Week](#), was profiled in the [New York Times](#) and performed "Only" on the German late-night show ZDF Magazin Royale.

Programmed and operated by Factory International, the organisation behind Manchester International Festival, Aviva Studios hosts a year-round programme of original productions and special events across all art forms – from major exhibitions to intimate performances and immersive experiences. Aviva Studios adds to the city's thriving music scene, with a broad range of gigs, including in-house concerts and collaborations with local and national promoters.

LISTINGS

Sampha

15-16 February 2024, doors 7pm

Aviva Studios, Water Street, Manchester, M3 4JQ

Ticket prices: Thursday 15 February £35, Friday 16 February £40

<https://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/sampha-in-the-round>

Praise for LAHAI:

"This is music making of real ambition, poignancy and beauty" - **Sunday Times**

"We know who Sampha is: a generational talent who has once again delivered a rich, emotional work for us to process. Lahai is phenomenal." - **The Line Of Best Fit**

"Still a real beauty, complex and beautiful"- **Evening Standard**

"Sublime" - **The Guardian**

"a beautiful new record" - **DAZED**

"It casts Sampha as a 21st century Stevie Wonder, hurtling skywards, eyes wide open, searching for transcendence" - **MOJO**

"The sound of a true master at work." - **Dork**

PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDERS



Aviva Studios
Water Street, Manchester M3 4JQ
factoryinternational.org



“Sampha’s voice might be the most instantly recognisable piece of magic in the arsenal but its his patience and craft that makes LAHAI such a stunning experience” - **DIY Magazine**

"This is complex music, with no clear melodies or conventional song structures, but Sampha’s gentle delivery and peaceful ambience makes it soar nonetheless." - **The Times**

Sampha has made a record that isn’t afraid of complexity yet which is straightforward in its expression of pure euphoria." - **The i Newspaper**

“Lahai presents (Sampha’s) most pristine transmission yet” - **Rolling Stone**

“Lahai is a knockout” - **Brooklyn Vegan**

“Lahai is a transformative album” - **Paste Magazine**

“LAHAI extends Sampha’s virtuosic career with a showcase of his limitless pool of influence, his songwriting ability, and, inevitably, his soul.” - **Under the Radar**

“Sampha is a kind of emotional secret weapon for artists hoping to transmit something deeper to their listeners.” - **Rolling Stone**

ENDS.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MEDIA REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT:

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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



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 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.

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 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 and also benefit from peer-to-peer support, access to Factory International's talent development programmes and networking opportunities. With no restrictions on what the project can be, previous Sounds alumni have created music management companies, financed the release of singles, EPs and albums, fitted out recording studios, run production workshops, and supported artists to tour. Currently open for applications, the next cohort will be selected in February 2024.

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.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

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