

PRESS RELEASE: 10am, Thurs 19 September 2024

ALL OF THIS UNREAL TIME AND BLUE NOW: FACTORY INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES WEEKEND DOUBLE BILL OF ONE-OFF SCREENINGS

- ***All of This Unreal Time*, the standout film by Aoife McArdle, Cillian Murphy and Max Porter from MIF21 returns to the big screen, followed by live performances of new music inspired by the film from composers Jon Hopkins, Aaron & Bryce Dessner and a Q&A – 7 December.**
- **Derek Jarman’s masterpiece BLUE reinvented as live performance BLUE NOW, with star-studded cast – Travis Alabanza, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Jay Bernard and Joelle Taylor – 8 December.**

Factory International is delighted to announce a weekend double bill of two exclusive new film events as part of its winter programme at Aviva Studios

The world premiere of All of This Unreal Time, starring Cillian Murphy, written by Max Porter, directed by Aoife McArdle and with music by Aaron Dessner, Bryce Dessner and Jon Hopkins, was first presented as an immersive installation at Manchester Central during the 2021 edition of Manchester International Festival. On Saturday 7 December, audiences will have another chance to see the standout film on the big screen, followed by live performances of new music inspired by the film from composers Jon Hopkins, Aaron & Bryce Dessner and a Q&A.

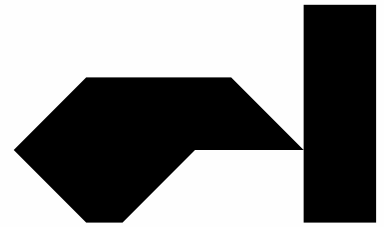
Described by the Guardian in its 5* review as “not just a film, but an exorcism”, the film follows the journey of a man – any man, everyman – as he walks alone through night and the city. From subway to pavement to wide open marshland, he confesses his failings: emotional, physical, political. To whom, and for what? Ashamed and alarmed, he considers both the smallness of human life and the scale of the world, and ultimately our most pressing obligation: to care for those alongside us, and for the earth that sustains us.

Cillian Murphy says: “*All of This Unreal Time is a project I have deep affection for.... It was made in the bleak depths of a pandemic, yet comes from a place of pure collaboration and love. We wanted to make a visual poem that scratches at concerns about masculinity, society, and personal responsibility... all of that knotty difficult stuff, but make it with an open and a broken heart.*” -

All of This Unreal Time returns to Manchester for one night only after making its London premiere at Royal Festival Hall (Southbank Centre). The screening is followed by a Q&A with members of the creative team and live performances of new work inspired by the film from composers Jon Hopkins and Aaron & Bryce Dessner. The events in London and Manchester also mark the publication of

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Rough Trade Books' edition of *All of This Unreal Time*, with a new foreword by Cillian Murphy. Book and ticket bundles will be available.

Thirty years since the original release of Derek Jarman's seminal film **BLUE**, Factory International presents **BLUE NOW**; a live performance reimagined by Neil Bartlett and testament to its enduring legacy on Sunday 8 December.

Created in 1993, just months before his death from AIDS-related illnesses, *BLUE* is Jarman's masterpiece – an unchanging shot of celestial blue accompanied by a monologue on his illness, mortality and lost loved ones. As AIDS progressively steals his sight, Jarman experiences the world through shades of blue, inviting the viewer to join him for 74 minutes.

BLUE NOW brings together a star-studded cast – **Travis Alabanza, Julie Hesmondhalgh, Jay Bernard** and **Joelle Taylor**. Together they perform Jarman's powerful words (previously voiced by Nigel Terry, John Quentin, Tilda Swinton and Jarman himself) alongside a new score, performed live by original composer **Simon Fisher Turner** in collaboration with cellist and composer **Lucy Railton**.

After a sell-out tour across the UK last year, the show arrives at Aviva Studios on 8 December, a unique opportunity to reflect on the impact of the AIDS epidemic and create space for compassion, rage, and poetry in the face of prejudice.

LISTINGS

7 December: All of This Unreal Time – film screening, Q&A, New Music

8 December: BLUE NOW live

ENDS.

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About Factory International

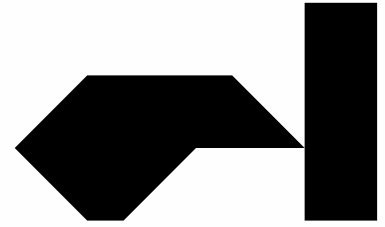
Factory International is the organisation behind Manchester International Festival (MIF) and the city's landmark new cultural space, Aviva Studios.

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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.

A space for invention and discovery, Aviva Studios was designed by the world-leading practice Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), with Ellen van Loon as lead architect – their first major public building in the UK. Its development was led by Manchester City Council, with backing of £99.05m from HM Government and £7m National Lottery funding from Arts Council England.

Ultra-flexible in design, 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.

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.

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About Arts Council England

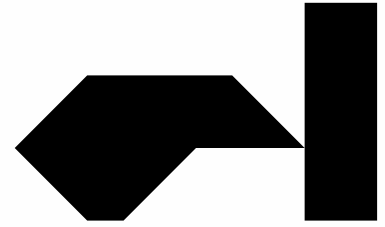
Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467

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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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