

factory  
international  
presents

11 – 19 NOV



THE

WELCOME

NINE DAYS OF  
LIVE MUSIC & DJs  
CIRCUS & DANCE  
WORKSHOPS  
& PERFORMANCES

AVIVA studios

# THE WELCOME

**11 – 19 NOV**

Many activities are free and drop-in  
Others are paid and pre-booking is required

We're celebrating the opening of our new home, Aviva Studios, with a spectacular series of special events and performances

chosen by the people of Greater Manchester – and you're welcome!

Taking place from 11–19 November, the programme includes the best of circus, music, workshops, film screenings, exhibitions and so much more.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FACTORY ASSEMBLY

'The Welcome is a cultural celebration to mark the opening of Aviva Studios – curated by us, the Factory Assembly. We're a diverse group of people from across Greater Manchester aged 17 to 70, who've come together to bridge gaps, inspire creativity and foster connections.

For the past two years, we've worked with the best local and international talent to create a programme that welcomes everyone into Aviva Studios.

Whether it's a skate demonstration or a circus sharing the beauty, youth, and artistry of African culture, we want to bring people from different communities together to experience something they haven't seen or tried before.

This is the start of an exciting journey for Greater Manchester and Factory International – and everyone's invited. Come and see what we've been working on!'

For full listings and to book free and ticketed events:  
[factoryinternational.org/whats-on/the-welcome](https://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/the-welcome)



# KALABANTÉ PRODUCTIONS: AFRIQUE EN CIRQUE

**11 – 15 NOV**

Pre-booking required

Standard tickets £8–£16

Founded by multidisciplinary artist Yamoussa Bangoura, Kalabanté Productions celebrates African culture, youth, joy and the diaspora.

We wanted to bring the circus to Manchester for *The Welcome* – but not your average circus. We searched far and wide for one with a difference; modern and for everyone, with a dash of the unexpected. Enter Kalabanté Productions...

Get lost in colourful costumes and scenery, as daring acrobats perform gravity-defying moves and dancers take you on a journey through Guinea – all to the sounds of live Afrojazz and traditional West African instruments, from percussion to kora.

‘Like many of our Assembly group, I thought their performance was sensational. I was blown away by the incredible energy, athleticism and beautiful authentic depictions of life in Guinea. Their electrifying live music was perfect for the stunning circus performance. A kind of African jazz fusion with the awesome power of drums and beautiful kora.’

– Nakib Narat, Factory Assembly member





## INSIDE OUT: **THIS IS MANCHESTER**

**11 – 19 NOV**

Free, no booking required

Celebrate the faces who make Manchester with over 200 larger-than-life portraits taken by local photographers Ngozi Ugochukwu, Rebecca Lupton, The Mancorialist and Audrey Albert. When we think about Aviva Studios opening, that's what we want to shout from the rooftops. We want to put the people of Greater Manchester front and centre – to say this is a place that belongs to us, right from the very start.

Inside Out is a global art platform created by French artist JR. Over the past decade more than 500,000 people have taken part in an Inside Out project in over 152 countries and territories.

'One of the amazing things about this project is how it shows the true range of people who identify Greater Manchester as their home. It's these people and all their wonderful differences, who make this city and region such an exciting place to live.'

– Josef Minta,  
Factory Assembly member

## LEEROY NEW: **BALETE SPACECRAFT**

**11 – 19 NOV**

Free, no booking required

How much plastic do you reckon you've used today? How much have you chucked away? Where does it all go anyway?

We want this new installation from Filipino artist Leeroy New to get you thinking. This sprawling spaceship-like sculpture takes waste materials and transforms them into a colourful tangle of roots, inspired by the sacred Balete tree of the Philippines. You're invited to add your own creations – guided by online and in-person workshops.

'I'm so looking forward to seeing Leeroy New's new vibrant creation, taking over the spaces of Aviva Studios. Infecting it almost! There's two things that I love about the project: 1) the involvement from our communities to produce this work and 2) the locally sourced material, including using willow from Prestwich Clough. Come enjoy!'

– Candice Hull,  
Factory Assembly member



# STREET CULTURE TAKEOVER

18 NOV

Many activities are free  
Others are paid and pre-booking is required

Street culture is a massive part of the talent that makes up Manchester; so we're inviting the city's hottest street artists and creatives into Aviva Studios to make it their own.

During the day, artists go head-to-head in rap battles and skateboarders land that perfect kickflip across the building. The day culminates in a big celebration in the Warehouse, featuring music, BMX / Skate demos and BBoy Champion performances, plus much more.

Whether it's the first ever British basketball player in the NBA, being home to amazing BMX and skateboarding scenes, fantastic hip hop events or the incredible graffiti murals throughout the city - street culture thrives in Manchester. We want to give it a platform in *The Welcome* to celebrate this.'

- Ushiku Crisafulli,  
Factory Assembly member



# MING DE NASTY: UNDER CONSTRUCTION

11 - 19 NOV

Free, no booking required

*Under Construction* is all about paying tribute to the people behind the scenes. Over the course of the Aviva Studios build, iconic photographer Ming de Nasty captured portraits of the workers bringing the space to life.

As part of *The Welcome*, a selection of these portraits are displayed in full size across Aviva Studios, as close to the original spot they were snapped as possible.

'Ming de Nasty topped my selection. Their portraits reveal character and self-identity. I can't wait to see the Aviva Studios' portraits!'

- Nakib Narat,  
Factory Assembly member





## COMPANY CHAMELEON: **DEEP FLOW**

**19 NOV**

Free, pre-booking required

### **WORKSHOPS**

We have two free *Deep Flow* workshops during the day on Sunday 19 November for you to join. Inspired by tai chi and qigong, learn the moves alongside local dance stars Company Chameleon.

Beginners are welcome. You don't need to be an expert to get involved and you don't have to take part in the evening performance.

'We chose this project for The Welcome to bring people from Manchester together in a series of gentle movements to recharge the mind and body. I love the idea of a collaborative piece with people from across the city moving their bodies individually and in harmony. Our dance partners, Company Chameleon, are passionate about the positive impact of dance on health and wellbeing so are perfect to deliver this project.'

– Josephine Glass, Factory Assembly member

### **PERFORMANCE**

Following on from workshops, join us in the evening and be part of the *Deep Flow* mass, group performance and embrace the connection between mind and body.

Of course, if you'd rather sit back and soak up the energy, that's all good too – there's no pressure to participate. With light art from Josh Tomalin and an eclectic soundtrack, there's plenty for everybody to tune into and enjoy.





# COMMUNITY TAKEOVER

**11 – 19 NOV**

Free, pre-booking required for some

For our community takeover, we're platforming some of Greater Manchester's incredible, creative and community-focused organisations. Drop-in any time, and you'll be welcomed by a bumper series of free interactive activities and music from the best local artists.

Try a new skill with one of our free workshops led by local creatives. Learn about radical artists with the inclusive Art History Club, or give your old belongings a new life with our upcycling fashion workshops. Song writing, poetry or Brazilian drumming – we've got you covered.

There are plenty of activities to occupy the kids too – from storytelling to yoga and circus skills. Let us entertain them with an animal puppet theatre featuring a very cheeky squirrel.

# SOUNDTRACK

**11 – 19 NOV**

Free, no booking required

What would a welcome be without an epic soundtrack?! And ours is coming to you live. At the heart of our programme is an exciting showcase of music from across Greater Manchester and beyond. It's a celebration of exceptional talent across lots of backgrounds, genres, and musical styles. From hip hop to soul, afro-funk to punk – we're shining the spotlight on incredible vocalists, instrumentalists, DJs, bands and more. This includes the soulful sounds of Dija Bhlue, reggae and hip hop from rapper J.Chambers and Indian jazz-rock band Wingspread.



# PLAN YOUR VISIT

## WHEN IS IT?

Saturday 11 – Sunday 19 November

## WHERE IS IT?

Aviva Studios, the home of Factory International. The full address of the venue is **Factory International, Water Street, Manchester, M3 4JQ** and what3words is chop.feeds.chase.

## WHAT'S ON WHEN?

Find full listings at [factoryinternational.org/whats-on/the-welcome/](https://factoryinternational.org/whats-on/the-welcome/)

## DO I NEED TO BOOK?

You'll need to book for some events, but many others don't require tickets, see individual listings.

## HOW MUCH ARE TICKETS?

Many events are free. For others, tickets are available from £8 so everyone can experience *The Welcome* at affordable prices.

## WHERE CAN I BOOK?

Online: [factoryinternational.org](https://factoryinternational.org)  
By phone: **0333 322 8679**

## DO YOU HAVE ACCESS PERFORMANCES?

Yes, across *The Welcome* we have a range of captioned, audio-described, BSL-interpreted and Relaxed performances and presentations. We also offer free tickets for personal assistants, and a range of other access provisions at the venue. Find out more at [factoryinternational.org/aviva\\_studios/visit/access](https://factoryinternational.org/aviva_studios/visit/access)

## HOW DO I GET THERE?

All events take place at Aviva Studios, which you can reach:

**BY TRAIN** To Manchester Piccadilly, Victoria, Deansgate or Oxford Road stations – check routes and times at [nationalrail.co.uk](https://nationalrail.co.uk)

**BY METROLINK** All tram routes pass through the city centre – plan your journey at [tfgm.com/plan-a-journey](https://tfgm.com/plan-a-journey)

**BY BUS** Use the journey planner at [tfgm.com/plan-a-journey](https://tfgm.com/plan-a-journey) – and get around the city centre on TfGM's free Metroshuttle bus service.

**BY BIKE** There are cycle lanes on many local roads offering a safe route into the city centre – see [beeactive.tfgm.com/cycling](https://beeactive.tfgm.com/cycling)

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Sign up here to receive the latest news, offers and opportunities:  
[factoryinternational.org/newsletter-sign-up-new](https://factoryinternational.org/newsletter-sign-up-new)



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