Factory International Presents

Women of the World Festival: Manchester

24–26 May

ABOUT WOW

WOW – Women of the World is a global movement. Since 2010, WOW Festivals have reached five million people in more than 45 locations across six continents. Fresh from Festivals in Pakistan, Istanbul, Athens and Rotherham, WOW is taking over Aviva Studios with inspirational activists, speakers and performers as we bring you the very first WOW Manchester!

The WOW Foundation is a UK charity and our small London team works with amazing organisations and individuals across the globe to create events, projects and festivals alongside education and leadership programmes to improve the lives of women, girls and non-binary people. We raise awareness, platform new voices, celebrate their achievements and take a frank look at the obstacles still faced as we seek and share solutions for change.

WOW is the world’s biggest, most comprehensive and significant festival celebrating women, girls and non-binary people. WOW is for everyone and you’re invited to join the global movement. Head to **thewowfoundation.com** to find out more.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON WOW!

WOW’s third annual survey is now open and will help us discover if WOW is making the difference that we want to, in the ways that we aim to. Thousands of people around the world have had their say and we want to hear from as many people as possible, including those who might not have been to a WOW event. Please complete our anonymous survey at the link below and share with your friends and family. Every response will help us on our journey to tackle gender inequality.

WOW Manchester commissioned and produced by Factory International and The WOW Foundation. WOW Festival was originally produced and presented by Southbank Centre.  
  
WOW is supported by its Global Founding Partner Bloomberg.

ABOUT FACTORY INTERNATIONAL

Factory International is the organisation behind Manchester International Festival (MIF) and the landmark new cultural space Aviva Studios. Helping to put Manchester on the map as a global destination for arts, music and culture, Factory International invites the world’s most exciting artists to invent tomorrow together.

MEMBERSHIP: EXPERIENCE EXTRAORDINARY, ALL YEAR ROUND

Support the art of tomorrow, become a member today. It’s just £45 for 12 months of benefits. Factory International Members get priority booking, special invitations and discounts, plus exclusive digital content and other perks, while also helping us to deliver our year-round community engagement, education and training programmes.

Visit our website to find out more.

AGED 16–26? JOIN YOUNG FACTORY

Young Factory is our community for 16 to 26-year-olds. Join for free to connect with other young people from across Greater Manchester and get discounted tickets for gigs, exhibitions, theatre, talks and other arty adventures.

GET INVOLVED

Our goal is to put art at the heart of Greater Manchester, within reach of anyone regardless of their background or ability. All you need is curiosity and a little imagination.

There are loads of ways to get involved, create together or take the lead. Through an eye-opening programme of performances, collaborative projects, public forums and learning opportunities, we’ve got something for everyone to take part in.

VISITING AVIVA STUDIOS

WHEN IS WOW Manchester?

Friday 24 May to Sunday 26 May

WHERE IS IT?

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

WHAT’S ON WHEN?

To find full listings and book online visit:

**avivastudios.co.uk**

**factoryinternational.org**

DO I NEED TO BOOK?

To enjoy the festival to the fullest, book a weekend or day ticket. To go to one of our evening headline events, you’ll need to buy a separate ticket. There’s also a free programme in the Social that doesn’t require tickets

WHO IS WOW MANCHESTER FOR?

While it’s an event celebrating and   
focused on women, girls and non-binary people, WOW is for everyone of all genders. WOW believe we will only achieve gender equity if we’re working together, whatever our gender

WHERE CAN I FIND ACCESS INFORMATION?

For access information, please visit **factoryinternational.org/access**

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS PERFORMANCES?  
With wheelchair access, BSL interpretation, and free tickets for personal assistants, everyone can enjoy WOW Manchester to the fullest. For more information on access performances and how to book tickets, visit **factoryinternational.org/access** or call us on **0161 817 4531** (Monday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm)

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**  
  
By Metrolink All tram routes pass through the city centre – plan your journey at **tfgm.com/plan-a-journey**

By bus Use the journey planner at **tfgm.com/plan-a-journey** – and get around the city centre on TfGM’s free Metro shuttle 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**

Please note the programme is correct at the time of production and May be subject to change. Printed on 100% recycled paper.

WOW MANCHESTER

**Celebrate women, girls and non-binary people with the first WOW – Women of the World Festival in Manchester.**

The first ever WOW Manchester Festival is your chance to be part of a global movement and see world-class speakers, activists,

musicians and comedians.

Join us for an energising and uplifting weekend of important conversations, hands-on workshops and joyful performances, as well as exploring some brilliant businesses and organisations making change in Manchester.

Come and explore our bustling **Marketplace**, get stuck into a creative **Workshop** or have your say at our **Conversation Station**.

From leaving toxic relationships to celebrating sisterhood, and from better boyhoods to championing creativity and motherhood, nothing is off the cards at WOW – the world’s biggest, most comprehensive festival celebrating women, girls and non-binary people.

The line-up includes music icons **Mel B** and **Jordan Stephens**, comedian and author **Sara Pascoe**, Australia’s first woman Prime Minister **Julia Gillard**, WOW Founder **Jude Kelly**, actors **Maxine Peake** and **Zawe Ashton**, author and former hostage **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**, Manchester legend **DJ Paulette**, activist **Dr Leyla Hussein** and authors **Chimene Suleyman** and **Aja Barber**.

EVENING EVENTS

**BRUTALLY HONEST:**

**AN EVENING WITH MEL B**

**24 May, 7.30–9PM, The Hall, 14+**

**Mel B** joins WOW Manchester for a frank discussion on her bestselling memoir, *Brutally Honest*. Mel and journalist and co-author **Louise Gannon** join us for an unfiltered discussion on her journey from Spice Girl and global icon to Women’s Aid patron and champion for survivors of abuse.

**£25** Standard Tickets, **£12.50** Affordable Tickets   
Aviva **£10** Tickets. Subject to availability.

**WEIRDO: AN EVENING WITH SARA PASCOE**

**25 May, 6–7.30pm, The Hall, 14+**

Step into the hilarious world of acclaimed comedian and writer **Sara Pascoe** as she joins WOW Founder and CEO **Jude Kelly** for an evening of conversation and readings from her debut novel *Weirdo*. Filled with insights, laughs and more, Sara gives us a glimpse into what it takes to craft comedic and captivating stories on the page in an evening filled with gags, entertainment and inspiration.

**£15** Standard Tickets, Aviva **£10** Tickets  
**£7.50** Affordable Tickets. Subject to availability.

**MASCULINITY, ADDICTION AND LEARNING TO LOVE: AN EVENING WITH JORDAN STEPHENS**

**26 May, 6–7.30PM, The Hall, 14+**

Ahead of his forthcoming memoir, WOW Manchester presents a very special evening with musician and broadcaster **Jordan Stephens**, in conversation with broadcaster and friend, **Miquita Oliver**. Famed for Rizzle Kicks, Jordan talks masculinity, addiction and learning to love yourself. What does it mean to be a man and open yourself up to new ways of understanding love and trauma? How can this inform the relationships you have with women?

**£22** Standard Tickets, **£11** Affordable Tickets  
Aviva **£10** Tickets. Subject to availability.

WHAT’S ON

**WOW BUS**

All weekend, 10-6pm, The Undercroft

Bringing the family? Hop onto the WOW Girls Festival Bus and take part in a creative exploration of gender equity. The WOW Girls Festival Bus is an interactive space created with and for young people, working with Getaway Girls in Leeds and artist/designer Emma Hardaker.

Parked up outside Aviva Studios all weekend, the WOW Bus will offer free drop-in workshops for people of all ages and genders. Get crafty in our workshop area, have an unexpected conversation in the recording studio, dive into a digital experience and leave your mark to shout about the things which matter to you.

FREE PROGRAMME

Stumble upon a free WOW Pop-Up and get involved with an amazing range of activities in the Social. There’ll be WOW Bites, poetry, artwork and much more including the below:

WOW Speed Mentoring

25 & 26 May, 10.15-11.15am  
Lower Foyer

Share challenges, exchange stories and meet a whole range of incredible women and non-binary people, including WOW speakers. *Online booking required.*

Women in the Footnotes

25 & 26 May  
11.30am-12.45pm & 2.30-3.45pm  
Undercroft Assembly Point

Discover the sidelined women of Manchester in a walking tour led by Philippa Vishnyakov.  
*Online booking required.*

to DYE for

25 & 26 May, Undercroft

Get stuck in making dyes from natural ingredients and learn about the benefits of nature foraging for dye plants and the impact industry dyes have on the environment. *This workshop is run by a collective of organisations and artists from WOVEN in Kirklees, Stitched Up Manchester and the University of Manchester.*

A Different Kind of Dragon’s Den

25 May, 4-5pm, The Social

We’re calling out to female and non binary-led North West social businesses with a product to sell! Join ethical retailer Different Kind for a different, kinder type of Den. Come and pitch your idea to our judges and win the opportunity to become a Different Kind producer and get support from fellow women founders.

My City My Voice: from Istanbul to Manchester

25 May, 5.30-6.30pm, The Social

Brighter Sound and Kreşendo connect musicians from Istanbul and Manchester to remix tracks originally composed and produced in Istanbul for WOW Turkey, to create new music that weaves in live recordings from across Manchester.

WOW Bites

25 & 26 May, 12-2pm, The Social

Hear from inspirational local activists and speakers about the issues that matter to them and how you can get involved in what’s happening across Greater Manchester and beyond.

WOW FESTIVAL DAY PLANNER

INFORMATION

A day ticket or a weekend ticket gets you into our brilliant and buzzing day programme. Take a look at what’s happening each day and plan what to come along to.

ON ALL WEEKEND

PODIUM, SOUTH WAREHOUSE  
MOMENTS OF UNITY

Spontaneous moments throughout the festival – two or three times a day – where Aviva Studios will come to a standstill for a moment of magic! Watch this space.

ROAMING  
HYPEHUNZ   
Don’t be surprised when **Girl Gang Manchester’s HYPEHUNZ** come and gas you up! Providing laughter, glitter, giggles, compliments and confidentiality, they’ll hear you out, hype you up, get to the heart of the issue, glitter your face and send you soaring on your way in a series of fleeting impromptu interactions around the building.

THE MARKETPLACE, SOUTH WAREHOUSE   
TOTAL BLOCK OUT!

Join Manchester textile non-profit **CDM UK** for a full day of drop-in block printing. Materials provided.

THE MARKETPLACE, SOUTH WAREHOUSE   
CLAYLIFE

Get creative with **ClayLife**. Take on free clay modelling or learn how to make a plant pot, guided by a facilitator.

SATURDAY

11–11.30am   
Podium, South Warehouse

WAST Choir – Women Asylum Seekers Together

The **WAST choir** open WOW with joy! Bringing together women from different cultures and backgrounds, WAST use their voices to raise awareness about injustices they have experienced while going through the asylum system.

11am–12.30pm   
The Hall

HERcienda: Live

**Eves’Drop Collective** host a family-friendly day rave filled with eclectic selections, good vibes and plenty of nostalgia. Open to all ages and genders. DJs include **Andrea Trout**and **Ruby Swallow**.

11.30am–12.15pm  
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

“I will not be lectured about misogyny by this man” – In conversation with Julia Gillard

Join WOW Founder **Jude Kelly** and former Australian Prime Minister **Julia Gillard** as they open Saturday at WOW Manchester.

11.30am–12.15pm   
Workshop Area, South Warehouse

Tatreez: Embroidery for Wellbeing

Learn about Tatreez – traditional Palestinian embroidery – its history and conservation, and give it a go with your very own cross stitch. All materials are provided.

1–1.45pm   
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

HERcienda: Women, Music and Manchester

Join Manchester legend **DJ Paulette**, one of only two women DJs to have had a regular residency at The Haçienda, Factory International’s Head of Music **Rivca Burns**, and Chief of Programming at Band on the Wall **Santana Guérout**, for a conversation on Manchester’s rich musical past, present and future, and women’s place in it.

1–2pm   
Workshop Area, South Warehouse

Recycled Me! by Yamina Peerzada

Learn how to repurpose beautiful materials and offcuts from Pakistan to create a rod  
puppet with **Yamina Peerzada** from  
WOW Pakistan.

1.15–2pm   
The Hall

Katumba: Music, Movement & Mindfulness

Feel uplifted and empowered through this music and mindfulness workshop inspired by Afro-Brazilian dance and body percussion from **Katumba**.

2.30–3.15pm, 18+  
Lower Foyer

Pole dancing against the algorithm: what can pole dancers teach us about social media?

Pole dancing academic, performer, activist and blogger with a PhD in digital criminology, **Dr Carolina Are**, (a.k.a. @bloggeronpole) discusses online censorship and its relationship with the patriarchy. *Please note this session discusses sex work, sexual health and includes images of pole dancing.*

2.30–3.15pm   
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

WOW Big Ideas

Hear from speakers on a range of fascinating topics, including:

**Dr Layal Liverpool** on how racism is making us ill

**Gift Sally Akinyi O** on Everyday Feminism, presented in partnership with Womankind Worldwide

**Taslima Ahmad** from CDM UK on navigating a late life autism diagnosis as a South Asian woman

**David Bartlett** on why better boyhoods are good for everyone, presented in partnership with Equimundo

**Mel Johnson** on solo parenting

2.30–3.15pm   
Workshop Area, South Warehouse

All Cisterns Go

Learn the basics of plumbing with **Hattie Hasan MBE**, founder of **Stopcocks Women Plumbers**. DIY doesn’t need to be a pipe dream!

4–5pm   
The Hall

Who cares? Women on TV

Award-winning writer, actor and star of *Alma’s Not Normal* **Sophie Willan** joins actress and disability activist **Liz Carr**, known for *Silent Witness*, to discuss the challenges and triumphs of being women on TV, and why representation matters.

4–4.45pm, 16+   
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

The Chain: Sisterhood, Sex and Storytelling

What happens when the person you love is not who you thought? Explore toxic relationships with *The Chain* author **Chimene Suleyman**, author and activist **Charlie Craggs** and **Dr Leyla Hussein**.

*This talk discusses coercive control.*

4–4.45pm   
Workshop Area, South Warehouse

Zine Making with Take Up Space Manchester

Join local feminist zine makers **Take Up Space Manchester** for a fun and creative session on storytelling and learn how to express yourself through zine making.

SUNDAY

11am–1pm   
The Hall

Scream into the Void

Do you struggle to find the time to fit your uncontrollable rage into your busy schedule? Join us for **Girl Gang Manchester’s Scream into the Void**: a bookable experience where you can let it all out. Sign up on the day for an individual or group screaming into the void experience.

11–11.30am   
Podium, South Warehouse

Maxine Peake in conversation

Join actor **Maxine Peake** and WOW Founder **Jude Kelly** as they discuss Manchester, the arts, hopes, dreams and the optimism that keeps them going.

11.30am–12.15pm   
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

The Girl Generation

Hear from **The Girl Generation** – **Support to the Africa-led Movement to End Female Genital Mutilation or Cutting (FGM/C)** alongside their Global Advocacy Director **Dr Leyla Hussein** and young people who are leading the fight against gendered violence in their communities across East Africa. Presented in partnership with The Girl Generation. *Please note this session discusses FGM/C and gender-based violence.*

11.30am–12.15pm   
Workshop Area, South Warehouse

Drawing your Inner Self

Discover the power of art as a tool for self-discovery and introspection in this drawing workshop with **Promina Srestha** from WOW Nepal.

1–1.45pm   
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

Sisters not Systems: Zawe Ashton and Gemma Cairney on art, abstraction and authentic selves

How do identity and creativity intersect? Actor **Zawe Ashton** and broadcaster **Gemma Cairney** join forces for an open discussion touching on race, gender and new motherhood.

1–1.45pm   
Lower Foyer

Black Joy

Through discussions, activities and shared experiences, explore the resilience, strength and beauty inherent in Black joy and make your very own care plans exploring what that looks like for us as individuals. *Please note this session is for Black people only.*

2.30–3.15pm   
Lower Foyer

Safe Space Sisterhood

Award-winning arts practitioner, podcaster and broadcaster **Audrey Hall** facilitates a sharing circle for women creatives over the age of 35 as part of her **Safe Space Sisterhood** community.

2.30–3.15pm   
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

WOW Big Ideas

Hear from a range of fascinating speakers including:

**Helen Pankhurst** on why she can’t give it a rest!

**Nazir Afzal** on why organisational culture matters

**Leanne Yau** on radical connections through relationship anarchy

**Dr Mona El-Farra** on why Gaza is a feminist issue

**Noor Kanoo** on why representation on screen matters

2.30–3.15pm   
Workshop Area, South Warehouse

crash and burn

Learn some practical strategies to take care of your mental wellbeing and address burnout with psychotherapist **Dr Leyla Hussein**.

3–4pm   
The Hall

Angst Aerobics

Let off some physical, mental and emotional steam in a workshop that’s somewhere between boogieing in your bedroom, a 3am dancefloor and a drama workshop, but all in an exercise class setting! Brought to you by **Girl Gang Manchester**. *Please bring or wear clothes you can move freely in.*

3.45–4.45pm   
Workshop Zone, South Warehouse

Menstrual Mood Mapping

Menstrual Mood Mapping is a calming, playful and creative workshop exploring the different phases and moods of menstrual cycles using collage techniques. *Please note there is a limited capacity for this workshop. Arrive early to secure a place.*

4–4.45pm   
Conversation Station, South Warehouse

The worlds we weave: fashion, freedom and choice

Join author and former hostage **Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe**, curator and art historian **Rachel Dedman** and author on sustainable fashion **Aja Barber** to discuss the transformative power of garments, needlework and our clothing choices through hard times, healing and survival.

4.45–5pm   
Podium, South Warehouse

Closing Session

WOW Founder **Jude Kelly** closes the festival – join for a joyous send off!

WOW MARKETPLACE

The WOW Marketplace is at the heart of every WOW Festival across the globe. Head to the South Warehouse to explore stalls, shop from amazing businesses and social enterprises, and take part in workshops. Here’s a taste of what you can expect to find:

THE British Council PAVILION  
Meet artists from across the globe in our South Asian Showcase in partnership with the British Council. Share a chai and be WOWed by beautiful textiles, artworks, photography and film from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Join the Movement: Championing Equality for Women & Girls Worldwide  
Did you know that only 1.9% of all donations go to organisations dedicated to women and girls? Global Fund for Women are changing that and invite you to ‘Join the Movement’ and immerse yourself in an interactive space. Share your stories and priorities and learn more about what ‘the Movement’ means.

**Lucy & Yak**  
Get comfy and explore Lucy & Yak’s ethically made and size inclusive clothing. Join one of their Re:Yak workshops where you can learn how to upcycle and breathe new life into your favourite clothes, keeping them in circulation for longer.

**WANT BY Gillian Anderson**  
To celebrate the launch of Gillian Anderson’s new book *Want*, dive into a world of secret fantasies and unspoken desires. *Want* collects the letters of hundreds of women sharing their deepest fantasies and reveals how women feel about sex when they have the freedom to be totally themselves.

**Womankind Worldwide**  
Pull up a seat and join Womankind Worldwide to celebrate their Everyday Feminism campaign with screenings of their newly released short film *Everyday Feminism Beyond Borders*. The film features five feminists from across the world, exploring what it means to be a feminist and how we can all build a feminist future.

**My Stomping Ground**  
See brand-new photography from young people from Factory International and Football Beyond Borders’ schools partnership programmes. Responding to a brief set by photographer Alina Akbar, *My Stomping Ground* brings together photography from young people from across Greater Manchester in an exhibition in the Marketplace as well as a photobook.

**Youth Zone**  
Our corner of the WOW Marketplace, where creativity and activism meet. Join a mini drop-in workshop and create something that could change the world. Whether it’s art that makes a bold statement or words that could move millions, no matter how you express yourself, your ideas are important and we want to see and hear them!

ARTIST INSTALLATIONS

**Ina-Maria Shikongo**

Namibian artist and activist **Ina-Maria Shikongo** presents a new piece *Womenity* which uses old clothing to tell the journey of a woman through Mountain, Water, Tree and Air. Commissioned by the Commonwealth Foundation.  
  
Join Shikongo in the Marketplace for 45-minute workshops to create a shared art piece at 11.30am, 1pm, 2.30pm and 4pm.

**Tania Kovats**Artist **Tania Kovats** creates *MOONMOTH*, a new commission that explores the legacy of 17th-century woman naturalist Maria Sibylla Merian in relation to the current biodiversity crisis. Curated by Invisible Dust, Kovats is working in collaboration with Diana Arzuza Buelvas, Curator of Entomology at Manchester Museum, Dr Jenna Ashton from the University of Manchester, humanities students, and Jeanne Robinson, Curator of Entomology at the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.

THE HOPE BRIGADE

Step outside Aviva Studios and head to Selfridges Exchange Square to check out our very special Manchester edition of *The Hope Brigade*. Originally conceived in 2020, *The Hope Brigade* is a photography series profiling incredible women working at the forefront of their fields in 10 essential areas from conflict to climate justice, from Ake to Athens and Beijing to Brisbane.  
  
Working in partnership with Selfridges, WOW Manchester has added a further 10 portraits to the collection, profiling incredible leaders, activists and experts living and working in the North West.