

factory
international

**WHAT'S
ON
OCT 26
-
FEB 27**

AVIVA studios

St. John's, Manchester avivastudios.co.uk



WELCOME TO FACTORY INTERNATIONAL

We have an exciting few months ahead starting with Black History Month – featuring a celebratory programme of live music, art and free events.

Autumn means gig season is back! With Underscores, Nia Archives, Manchester Collective, Bloc Party and Interpol, there's something for all tastes.

Lightroom returns for the festive period with two immersive experiences for the whole family. And to round off the winter, we team up with Rambert for the world premiere of *It's a Sin*.

We are Factory International – producers of extraordinary art from Manchester's rising stars to world-renowned figures. Every two years, we run Manchester International Festival (MIF) – the festival of brand-new art that's animated the city since 2007. The rest of the time? Find us at Aviva Studios.



Large print versions of this guide are available on request at access@factoryinternational.org

Image: Aviva Studios, home of Factory International.
Image by Kieran Irvine



PORTRAIT OF BLACK BRITAIN

Cephas Williams' powerful photography exhibition documenting contemporary Black Britain returns to Manchester, exploring the question: 'What does it mean to be Black, living in the UK?'

Focusing not just on high-profile people and success stories but on as many people from as wide a range of society as possible, *Portrait of Black Britain* aims to make more Black people visible and to offer the next generation and wider society a holistic picture of the African diaspora in the UK and the 21st century.

2 OCT – 1 NOV
The Social

FREE

AGE GUIDANCE
Suitable for all ages



ARTIST TALK
SAT 17 OCT, 3PM

Free, booking required
Suitable for ages 14+

Commissioned by Factory International.
Co-Produced by Factory International
and Cephas Williams.

Image credit: Courtesy of the artist

COMMON FREQUENCY

Explore a free exhibition on the transformative power of music. Curated by the adidas Originals Creator Network North cohort – a group of 20 young creatives from across the North West – *Common Frequency* traces the influential presence of music in our lives.

On select days, the exhibition transforms into an event space hosting a workshop, live music and chance to meet the cohort. Together, *Common Frequency* asks, who do you become when the music begins?

SAT 3 – TUE 6 OCT

North Warehouse

TICKETS

Free, booking required

SAT 3 OCT

Live performance with Manchester Camerata

SUN 4 OCT

Be an Original workshop

TUE 6 OCT

Meet the cohort

AGE GUIDANCE

Suitable for all ages



THE IMMORTAL SISTERHOOD LIVE

Gemma Cairney's *The Immortal Sisterhood* is transformed into a genre-blending show. Fusing sound, opera, movement, live cello, violin and poetry, *The Immortal Sisterhood LIVE* presents an intuitive, futurist perspective on the themes of honour and grief.

THU 8 OCT

The Social

TICKETS

From £16.50

Concessions available

AGE GUIDANCE

Suitable for ages 14+



FUNNY WEATHER

See clouds, birds and kites unfold as the weather changes in *Funny Weather* – a live simulation and screen-based artwork on the Media Wall by artist Theo Triantafyllidis.

Visuals slowly transition from quiet cloud formations into epic sunsets while migrating flocks transform into colourful kites. Combining real-time atmospheric data with recent bird sightings, *Funny Weather* is a generative and constantly evolving picture of the skies above us.

Funny Weather is the first commission by Behind the Screen – a brand-new initiative to support the development of digital art and the evolution of screen-based practices.

11 NOV – 6 DEC 2026

19 JAN – 26 MAR 2027

The Social

TICKETS

Free, drop-in

AGE GUIDANCE

Suitable for all ages



ARTIST TALK

WED 11 NOV, 6PM

Free, booking required

Suitable for ages 14+



Produced by Factory International.
Commissioned by Factory International,
ACMI, Onassis ONX and M+.





APPLICATION 39

What if Gaza were no longer rubble and siege – but a site of global gathering, resistance and renewal?

A sharply satirical, future-facing black comedy, *Application 39* imagines a Gaza risen from ruin, unexpectedly awarded the right to host the 2048 Olympic Games, exactly 100 years after the Nakba.

Written by Palestinian theatre maker and writer Ahmed Masoud, *Application 39* is bold, irreverent and rooted in lived testimony as well as hope.



THE GUARDIAN

FRI 9 & SAT 10 OCT
The Hall

TICKETS
From £25
Concessions available

AGE GUIDANCE
Suitable for ages 14+

ARTIST TALK
FRI 9 OCT, 6.30PM

Free, booking required
Suitable for ages 14+



An ETT, Matthew Schmolle Productions
and Stratford East Co-Production.

A LIGHTROOM PRODUCTION

DAVID BOWIE: YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Be transported into the many worlds of David Bowie. Through iconic performances, rarely-seen interviews and never-before-exhibited material, discover the creative mind, spirit and soul of one of the world's greatest, most visionary artists.

Featuring Bowie himself as its sole voice, *David Bowie: You're Not Alone* is both a multimedia spectacle and an intimate self-portrait.

FESTIVE PARTIES
Enjoy a festive celebration unlike anything else in the city with a private, after-hours viewing of the production. Visit factoryinternational.org/festive-parties

**8 DEC 2026 –
10 JAN 2027**
North Warehouse

TICKETS
From £20
Concessions available

AGE GUIDANCE
Suitable for all ages.
Under 14s must be accompanied by an adult aged 18+. Children aged 2 and under go free. Please note times from 6pm onwards are for adults only.



David Bowie: You're Not Alone is produced by Lightroom and designed by 59, a Journey studio, and directed by 59's Mark Grimmer (Creative Director for the V&A's *David Bowie Is* exhibition) and Tom Wexler.



PREHISTORIC PLANET DISCOVERING DINOSAURS

A LIGHTROOM PRODUCTION

See Earth transformed by the age of dinosaurs in *Prehistoric Planet: Discovering Dinosaurs* – a new immersive Lightroom experience narrated by Damian Lewis.

Stand face-to-face with the greatest dinosaurs in history. Witness life-sized dinosaurs at the most dramatic moments of their lives – traversing dangerous deserts, soaring skies and mysterious ocean depths.

Prehistoric Planet: Discovering Dinosaurs is directed and designed by 59 Studio in close collaboration with the makers of *Prehistoric Planet*, Apple TV and Executive Producer and BBC Studios Natural History Unit Creative Director Mike Gunton.

**8 DEC 2026 –
6 JAN 2027**

North Warehouse

TICKETS

From £20

Concessions available

AGE GUIDANCE

Suitable for all ages
Under 14s must be
accompanied by an adult
aged 18+. Children aged 2
and under go free.



RAMBERT and FACTORY INTERNATIONAL present

IT'S A SIN

Russell T Davies' landmark series transforms into a powerful dance story of love and survival – directed and choreographed by Artistic Director Benoit Swan Pouffer.

In the heart of '80s London, Ritchie, Roscoe, Colin and Jill are chasing identity, connection and a life on their own terms. When day spills into night, they find a world of abandon, music and friendship where bodies move freely and life feels limitless.

But as the AIDS crisis begins to unfold, their lives are irrevocably changed. Love, fear and defiance collide as they fight for each other in a world that is rapidly shifting around them – and increasingly hostile to their existence.

Presented by Rambert and Factory International. Co-produced with Wales Millennium Centre (Cardiff), Capital Theatres (Edinburgh), Sadler's Wells (London), and Les Théâtres de la Ville (Luxembourg). Made possible thanks to major support from the Colwinston Charitable Trust and supported by Arts Council England Incentivising Touring: Repayable Grants for Theatre and Dance.

Executive Producers: Russell T Davies, Pet Shop Boys, Glyn Fussell.
This production is inspired by the television series "It's a Sin" created by Russell T Davies and produced by Red Production Company

16 – 27 FEB 2027

North Warehouse

TICKETS

From £21.50

Concessions available

AGE GUIDANCE

15+ only



MUSIC

Intimate gigs. Warehouse raves. Unbeatable sound.
For full listings, visit factoryinternational.org/gigs



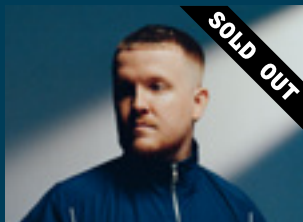
BILL CALLAHAN
FRI 2 OCT
The Hall

American singer-songwriter Bill Callahan tours in celebration of new album *My Days of 58*.



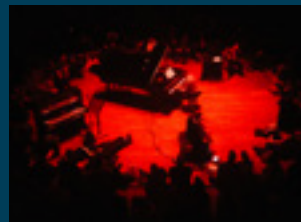
GRACE PETRIE
SAT 3 OCT
The Hall

Folk singer-songwriter Grace Petrie performs a stripped-back solo set and full band retrospective.



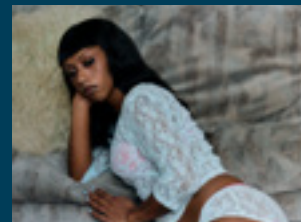
CHRIS STASSY PRESENTS USS
FRI 9 & SAT 10 OCT
The Warehouse

Chris Stassy brings his acclaimed USS event concept to Aviva Studios.



JON HOPKINS
WED 25 NOV
The Hall

Jon Hopkins brings his instrumental live show to Manchester, centred around his longform piano performance.



NIA ARCHIVES
SAT 28 NOV
The Warehouse

Nia Archives brings trailblazing new album *Emotional Junglist* to the Warehouse.



MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE: BLACK GOLD
FRI 4 DEC
The Hall

The shape-shifting ensemble return for a tectonic journey through the elements.



COURTNEY BARNETT
SAT 17 OCT
The Hall

Courtney Barnett celebrates fourth studio album *Creature of Habit*.



UNDERSCORES
SAT 14 NOV
The Hall

Hyperpop star underscores brings the GALLERIA tour to Manchester.



BLOC PARTY & INTERPOL CO-HEADLINE TOUR
MON 23 & TUE 24 NOV
The Warehouse

Bloc Party and Interpol stop in Manchester on their 2026 UK and EU co-headline tour.

BECOME A MEMBER

We're a registered charity, so your support will help change lives, creating opportunities for everyone to participate in and be inspired by art and culture.

In return, Members receive priority booking plus a whole host of other benefits.

Be part of something extraordinary, become a member today.

Find out more at factoryinternational.org/become-a-member

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

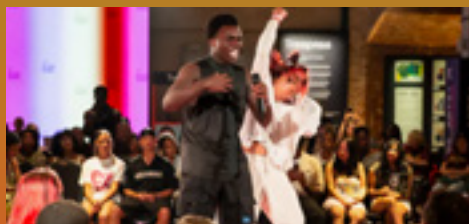
Celebrate Black History Month this October with live music, poetry, exhibitions and free events in the Social. All events are free with booking required, unless stated.



POETRY PLACE: IN THE BEGINNING

THU 1 OCT

The Poetry Place marks Black History Month and World Poetry Day with a dynamic showcase featuring Griot Gabriel, Maureen Onwunali and Guy Kelton Jones.



BREATHE: DANCE & POETRY SLAM 2026

SAT 3 OCT

BREATHE competition returns for 2026 – an electrifying fusion of spoken word and dance. Tickets are £8 (Pay What You Can), booking required.



AMC GOSPEL CHOIR

SUN 18 OCT

One of the UK's top gospel choirs returns to Aviva Studios for a foot-stomping afternoon of music.



MUSEUMMISHA PRESENTS: STAY IN THOSE COLOURS

SUN 18 OCT

An immersive exhibition, workshop, performance and live experience curated by Misha B.



SHAPING REALITY

THU 15 OCT

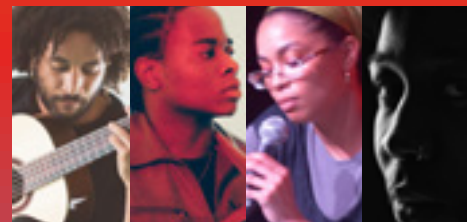
Enjoy an evening of community and feel-good music curated by Rumbi Tauro.



SIP AND PAINT: HONOURING OUR COMMUNITIES

FRI 16 OCT

Immerse yourself in creativity and culture at our Sip and Paint night. Tickets are £8, booking required. Free tickets are available for those who need them.



FACTORY REMIX: CALL AND RESPONSE

THU 22 OCT

Celebrate the influence of Black diasporic art with an evening of stories, sounds and traditions – curated by Azora.



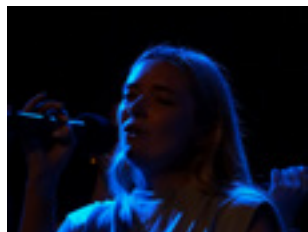
FACTORY SPOTLIGHT: LIBERATION TOWN

TUE 27 OCT

Dee Kolo curates an evening of African and Caribbean poetry, music and dance.

FREE EVENTS

From artist talks to DJs, craft workshops to buzzing socials, our ground floor foyer and café bar the Social is the place to be. Visit our website for all the latest listings.



FACTORY HOUSE CHOIR

SAT 17 OCT &
SAT 12 DEC

Enjoy some singing for the soul in our Factory House Choir workshops.



FACTORY SOUNDS TAKEOVER

SAT 24 OCT

Factory Sounds takes over the Social, showcasing the incredible musical talent of the Class of 2026.



MELODIES ON THE MIC

TUE 3 NOV

A showcase of up-and-coming R&B, Afro-fusion and melodic wave artists based in Manchester and the North.



CRIPPLED WITH LAUGHTER

TUE 10 NOV

A disabled-led comedy night curated and hosted by Wheels and the Legman.



FACTORY MOVES: FLAMENCO

SUN 22 NOV

Experience a traditional Flamenco fiesta with workshops, showcases and live music.

 All events are wheelchair accessible

COMEDY, TALKS & PODCASTS



SUSAN CALMAN: TALL TALES

SUN 4 OCT, THE HALL

Join stand-up comedian Susan Calman for an evening of barely believable stories, laughter and (probably) dancing.



SERENA TERRY: THERAPY

TUE 6 OCT, THE HALL

The comedian, author and creator of online sensation 'Mammy Banter' presents her biggest stand-up tour to date.



ALL KILLA NO FILLA: LIVE - AT HALLOWEEN!

SUN 25 OCT, THE HALL

Join acclaimed stand-ups Kiri Pritchard-McLean and Rachel Fairburn for a live edition of All Killa No Filla.

DREAM SPACE LIVE



15 OCT, SELFRIDGES

Join Eunice Olumide for a special live episode of Factory International's podcast Dream Space – hosted by Gemma Cairney.

More live episodes coming this autumn!

ARTISTS IN TIME OF UPHEAVAL

Our talk series continues with an exciting line-up of speakers focusing on artists in and from some of the areas most exposed to current global forces.

JEWISH ARTISTS IN TODAY'S UK
SUN 11 OCT, 3PM

Yael Bartana
SAT 21 NOV, 3PM

THREATS TO DISABLED LEADERSHIP
SAT 5 DEC, 4PM

SELFRIDGES & CO
official partner

 **factory international**

AVIVA £10 TICKETS

Everyone should have the chance to experience great art, music and culture. Our Aviva £10 Tickets help make this possible for those who can't afford full-price or concession tickets. Every pound helps us continue bringing world-class artists to Manchester. Tickets are limited and available first come, first served across our own shows and events, for those who need them.

Sign up now to access £10 Tickets at factoryinternational.org/aviva-10-tickets

COMING SOON

EINSTEIN ON THE BEACH

Einstein on the Beach is a new experiential production of Philip Glass's iconic 1976 opera. A collaboration between English National Opera, Factory International, Park Avenue and Improbable, it premieres at Aviva Studios in 2027.



EXPLORE FACTORY+

From artist talks and introductions to virtual games and new writing, explore it online at factoryinternational.org/factoryplus

Catch up on the third season of our podcast Dream Space hosted by Gemma Cairney, head behind the scenes of our productions with In the Studio and read our latest editorial residency by Zing Tsjeng.

Featuring interviews with Ai Weiwei, Marina Abramović and the leading artists of today.

GET INVOLVED

Here at Factory International, there are lots of ways to get involved, create together or take the lead – from volunteering to public participation. For the latest opportunities, visit factoryinternational.org/get-involved



ARTIST DEVELOP- MENT

Artistic ambition and experimentation sit at the heart of Factory International. We offer artists the space to dream big and venture boldly into collaborations and artistic conversations not possible elsewhere.

For the latest opportunities, visit factoryinternational.org/artist-development

FOOD AND DRINK

Grab a bite to eat, a coffee or a cold one – there's something for all tastes at Aviva Studios. Just drop by the Social for our seasonal menu made from locally sourced produce.

Whether you're catching up with friends over dinner or wanting a quick bite before a show, the Social is the perfect place to eat, drink and unwind.



FACTORY ACADEMY

From the basics of sound and lighting to the ins and outs of content creation, Factory Academy offers practical learning, skills-based training and first-hand industry experience.

Join an exciting cohort of fellow students at Aviva Studios and meet creatives from across Manchester and beyond. The best part? It's all free!

Since its launch in 2018, Factory Academy has trained over 1000 Greater Manchester residents. You could be next.

Sign up to the Factory Academy newsletter at factoryinternational.org/factory-academy

Principal Partner



FREE SCHOOL TRIP TRAVEL BY TRAM

From museums to galleries, theatres to heritage sites, there is so much to explore across Greater Manchester! Aviva are proud to support making Bee Network tram travel for school trips completely free. This gives pupils the chance to experience learning beyond the classroom.

How to book:

1. Choose your destination and travel date.
2. Visit beenetwork.com/school-trips and complete the online form with your details. Make sure you do this at least seven days before travel.
3. We'll confirm your booking and provide instructions on your next steps.



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES AN IMPACT

We believe in a world that is more equitable, accessible and representative. For us, this means pushing the boundaries of art in all its forms, throwing open the doors to our sector, challenging established ways of thinking about skills development and refusing to accept the status quo.

With your support we transform this bold vision into reality. Your support makes an impact.

Visit factoryinternational.org/support to find out more

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The Savannah Wisdom Foundation**

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Emma Almond**

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YOUR VISIT

WHERE ARE WE?

Our full address is Aviva Studios,
St. John's, Manchester M3 4JQ and
what3words is **chop.feeds.chase**.

OPENING HOURS

With a venue like ours, every night is
different. Make sure to check our opening
hours on our website ahead of your visit
to get the most up-to-date times.

DO I NEED TO BOOK?

Entry to Aviva Studios is free.
You'll need to book for some events, but
many others don't require tickets. See our
full What's On listings on our website for all
ticketed and free events, and how to book.

HOW MUCH ARE TICKETS?

Many events are free. For others, tickets
are available for a range of prices.
We believe that everyone should get to
experience great art and events. With
affordable ticketing options across all
our own programme, including Aviva £10
Tickets, we want to make sure there's
nothing stopping you from coming along.

DO YOU HAVE ACCESSIBLE PERFORMANCES?

With step-free access, free tickets
for essential companions via our
Access Scheme, and audio described,
BSL interpreted and captioned
performances scheduled throughout the
year, there's something for everyone.
Got questions? Please get in touch at
access@factoryinternational.org or
call us on 0161 817 4531

WHAT'S ON WHEN?

Find full listings at:
avivastudios.co.uk
factoryinternational.org

FOOD AND DRINK

A range of food and drink options are
available throughout the day in our ground
floor foyer and café bar, the Social.

FREE WIFI

Public wifi is available to use for free
throughout the building. Please connect
to 'avivastudios'.

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**



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ENGLAND

All information correct at the time of going to print



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news, offers and opportunities