

LIBERTY FESTIVAL

A free festival celebrating the work of
D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists

Easy Read Guide



(Image Credit: Scallywag)

Lewisham
22 - 23 - 24 July



London Borough of Culture is
a Mayor of London initiative

MAYOR OF LONDON

Presented by



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



Liberty is a festival put on by the Mayor of London.



The festival celebrates D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists.



D/deaf has 2 meanings:

- D – Deaf means people who have no hearing.
- d – deaf means people who have some hearing loss.



Neurodiverse means people whose brains work differently.

What you will find in this guide

When and Where

How to get there

What to expect

Access information

The Festival

Schedule: Friday 22 July

Schedule: Saturday 23 July

Schedule: Sunday 24 July

When and Where

Liberty is on Friday 22, Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 July

The Festival takes place in many venues and public spaces in Lewisham.



1. The Albany

Douglas Way, SE8 4AG



2. Deptford Lounge

9 Giffin St, SE8 4RJ



3. Giffin Square

SE8 4RJ



4. Deptford X

Lewisham Art House, 140 Lewisham Way, SE14 6PD

When and Where



5. Goldsmiths CCA

St James's, SE14 6AD



6. Music Room London

116-118 New Cross Road,
SE14 5BA



7. Lewisham Shopping Centre - Unit 17

Molesworth St, SE13 7HB



8. St Margaret's Church

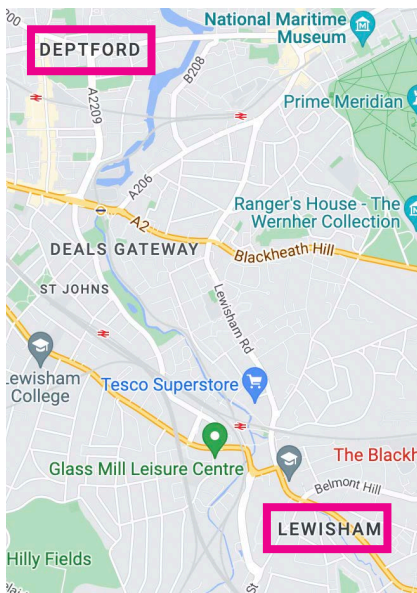
Lee Terrace, Blackheath,
SE13 5DL



9. Ladywell Fields

Off Ladywell Road

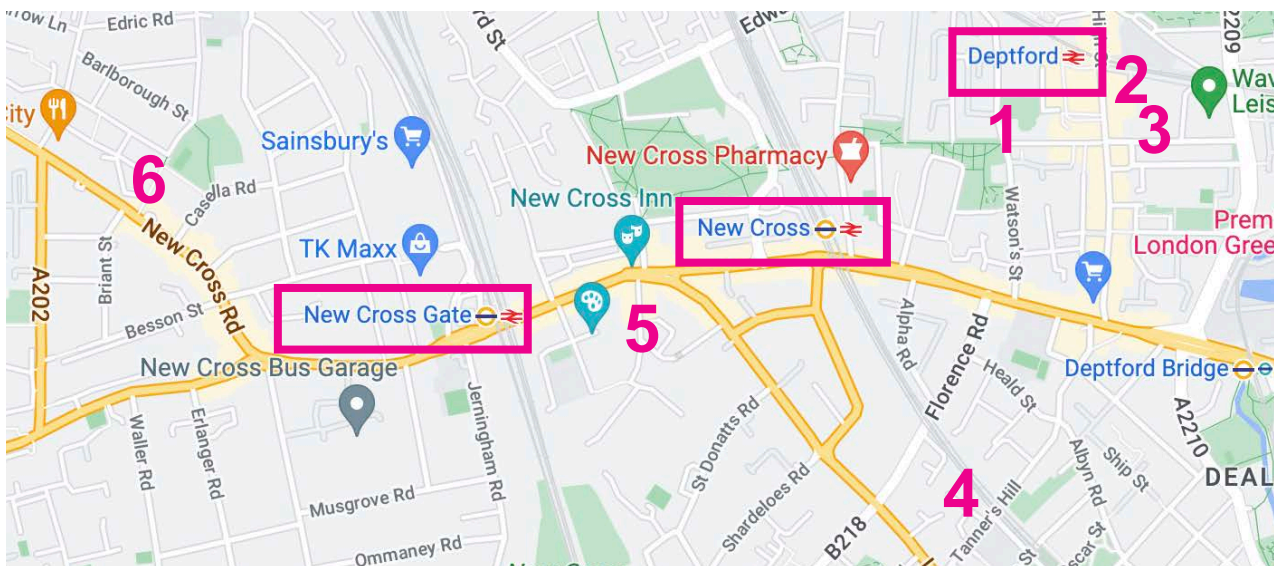
When and Where



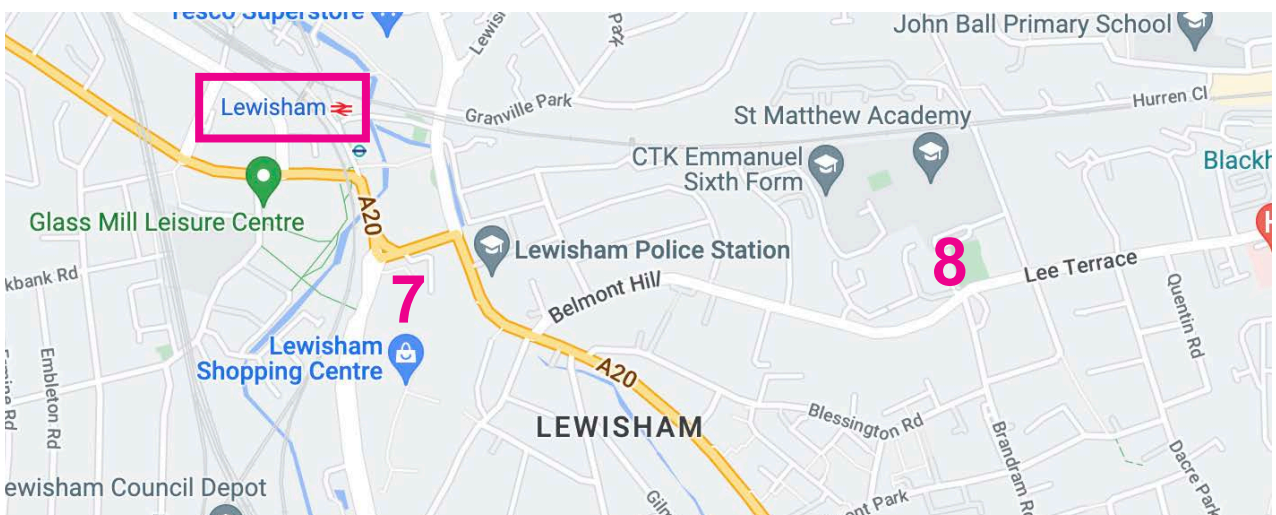
Many of the venues are in the Deptford area.

Deptford is in the North of Lewisham

Deptford Area (all the venues are close by)



Lewisham Area



How to get there



Deptford, New Cross and New Cross Gate are the closest stations to the Deptford area. They are step free.

Lewisham station is South of Deptford. It is also step free.



Deptford (rail) station is

- 3 minutes walk to the Albany
- 2 minutes walk to Deptford Lounge
- 3 minutes walk to Giffin Square
- 13 minutes walk to Deptford X
- 16 minutes walk to Goldsmiths CCA



New Cross (rail & overground) station is

- 6 minutes walk to the Albany
- 8 minutes walk to Deptford Lounge
- 9 minutes walk to Giffin Square
- 9 minutes walk to Deptford X
- 8 minutes walk to Goldsmiths CCA
- 19 minutes walk to the Music Room.



How to get there



New Cross Gate (rail & overground) station is:

14 minutes walk to the Albany
15 minutes walk to Deptford Lounge
16 minutes walk to Giffin Square
12 minutes walk to Deptford X
3 minutes walk to Goldsmiths CCA



Lewisham (rail) station is

6 minutes walk to the Shopping Centre
17 minutes walk to St Margaret's church.



Ladywell (rail) station is

3 minutes walk to the entrance of
Ladywell Fields

How to get there



Buses:

To the Albany: 177, 21, 225, 453, 47.

To Deptford Lounge and Giffin Square:
177, 21, 225, 453, 48

To Deptford X/Lewisham Art House:
21, 136, 321, 436

To Goldsmiths CCA: 21, 53, 136, 171, 172,
177, 321, 436, 453

To Lewisham Shopping Centre: P4, 21, 47,
54, 75, 108, 122, 129, 136, 180, 181, 185, 199,
208, 225, 284, 380, 436, 484

To Music Room London: 21, 36, 53, 136, 171,
172, 177, 343, 436, 453

To St Margaret's Church: 54, 89, 108

To Ladywell Fields: 122, 284, p4, 484



Parking:

Limited accessible parking is available at the back of the Albany building.

Free parking for Blue Badge holders is available in Frankham St car park. There is free on-street parking on Watson St and Octavius St.

Franklin St car park is closest to Deptford Lounge with seven bays. The pay-and-display accessible parking bays are 77 steps from Deptford High St.

What to expect



Liberty Festival is free

Some events need to be booked.



You can book by phone on
020 8692 4446

Or you can book online on the website:
www.thealbany.org.uk/liberty



Everyone is welcome to Liberty Festival.

It is suitable for all ages, including
families and young audiences.



The Festival presents art in
many forms such as:

Music and dance

Theatre

Visual art installations

Film

Virtual Reality

What to expect



The festival is being documented. This means people will be taking photos and videos.



Some venues take place at indoor venues and some take place outside.

If it's sunny you might need a hat, sunglasses and sun-cream.



If it rains, you will need a waterproof coat and maybe an umbrella.



There will be different food places around the festival area selling hot food, snacks and drinks.

Access Information



There will be a quiet chill-out area at the Albany. You can go there to take a break, rest and relax.



Every indoor venue has accessible toilets. Outdoor events in Giffin Square will have an accessible Mobiloo.



All the artworks at Liberty Festival will have audio description for those who cannot see.



Performances and workshops will be British Sign Language (BSL) interpreted or have captions for those who cannot hear. Some performances will also have audio descriptions.

Access Information



All events and performances will be Relaxed. This means you can leave and re-enter, tic and move as you please.



Touch Tours will allow you to touch the set of a performance or the artworks.



If you have questions or need more information about access, or about events in the festival, a Liberty Hub will be located in the garden of the Albany. This will be open across the three days.



There will also be stalls in the garden of The Albany. These will give out information about support services that are local and relevant to D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse people.

Access Information



This is the symbol for Audio Description



This is the symbol for British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation.



This is the symbol for caption (subtitles).



This is the symbol for Relaxed Performance.

There will be a relaxed approach to movement and noise. You will be able to leave and re-enter, tic and move around.

Sensory adjustments have **not** been made.



This is the symbol for Touch Tours.

The art below is free to experience across the three days

Sanctuary Cafe

David Johnson

 Deptford Market Yard

AD)))



This sculpture is made of a life sized human figure sitting at a picnic table. The person is a well known person called Stella Headley who is a community worker in Lewisham. The figure is shown drinking, eating and engaged in conversation.

The other seats around the table are empty. Visitors are invited to sit with Stella and enjoy refreshments and a conversation.

Sunday 24 July, midday (12pm):

There will be an 'in conversation' event with the artist and Stella Headley. Audiences are invited to ask questions.

The 'in conversation' event will be BSL interpreted.

Mapping in Lewisham

Local Senses

 Deptford area



Five walks of 1 hour led by Local Senses collective. The walks will explore how the local environment is shaped by sound, smell and terrain.

1. Friday, 11am: The Albany to Giffin Square
2. Friday, 3pm: Creekside Discovery Centre to Creek viewing platform
3. Saturday, 11am: The Albany to St Pauls churchyard
4. Saturday, 3pm: Creekside Discovery Centre to Creek viewing platform
5. Sunday, 11am: Creekside Discovery Centre to Creek viewing platform

Freedom

Yinka Shonibare



between Giffin Square and the Albany

AD)))



A new visual art commission on the pavement of Deptford High Street by internationally renowned artist Yinka Shonibare CBE.

Yinka Shonibare is an interdisciplinary artist. This means he uses different art forms. He makes visual art that explores cultural identity. His works comment on the interrelationship between Africa and Europe, and their respective economic and political histories.

The art below is free to experience across the three days

[Captioning Lewisham]

Nina Thomas



Starting: Deptford train station

Ending: Giffin Square

AD)))



A series of sound captions placed in public spaces. The sound captions also form a map and discovery trail for visitors to explore, uncovering the local history of Lewisham.

Maps for the discovery trail will be available online at www.captioninglewisham.com

Maps will also be available at the starting point and arrival destinations of the trail.

The art below is free to experience across the three days

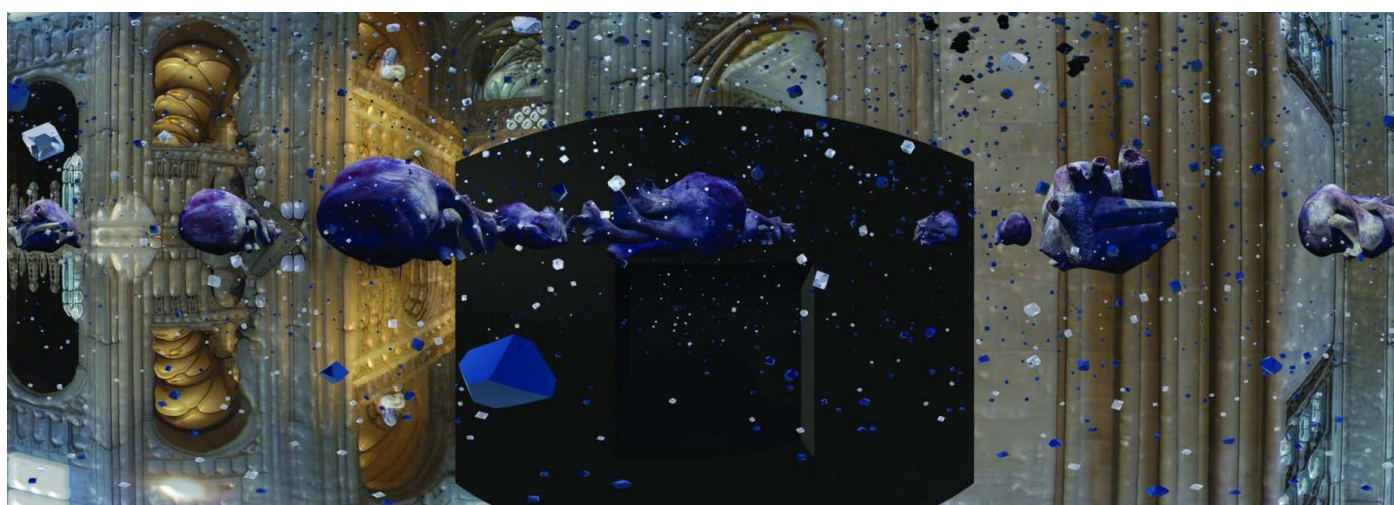
Mixed Reality Hub

Curated by DYSPLA

📍 Deptford Lounge



🕒 Friday 10am to 9pm
Saturday 10am to 6pm
Sunday 11am to 6pm



Lindsey Seers, D-Fuse, Jason Wilsher-Mills,
George Jasper Stone, Natalia Skobeeva,
Lennie Varvarides and Kazimir Bielecki

DYSPLA produces work by neurodiverse artists. They are showing work by 6 artists working with immersive technology including film, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality.

Immersive technology means using computers to change our environment into real or imaginary places. Virtual Reality (VR) does this by making people feel like they are somewhere else using sounds, images and other senses. Augmented Reality (AR) is different because it shows the real place people are in but adds or changes that place.


To experience some of this work you will need to wear goggles.

The art below is free to experience across the three days

Who We Are

**Curated by Precious Akindele , Morgan,
Henny Shaw**

 Deptford X at Lewisham Art House

 11am to 6pm



David Bassadone, Susanna Dye, Ashley Knight,
Yangdzom Lama, Serafina Mbasogo,
Chris Pavlakis, Jameisha Prescod, Derek Williams

‘Who We Are’ is an exhibition of multimedia artworks by London-based D/deaf and disabled artists. The artworks explore ideas at the intersection of art, disability, and inclusion.

The exhibition is curated by Precious Akindele, Morgan and Henny Shaw. A panel of Lewisham-based young people. The artworks were selected through an Open Call.

BSL Tour: Saturday, 11am

Touch Tour: Saturday, 1pm

Liberty Symposium

 The Albany (theatre) and livestreamed

 11am to 6pm. Doors open at 10:15am

BOOKING REQUIRED



Content warning:

The event will include presentations talking about the impact of mental health and other forms of structural violence, ableism and discrimination.


Symposium means a series of presentations and conversations by experts and people working in the sector.

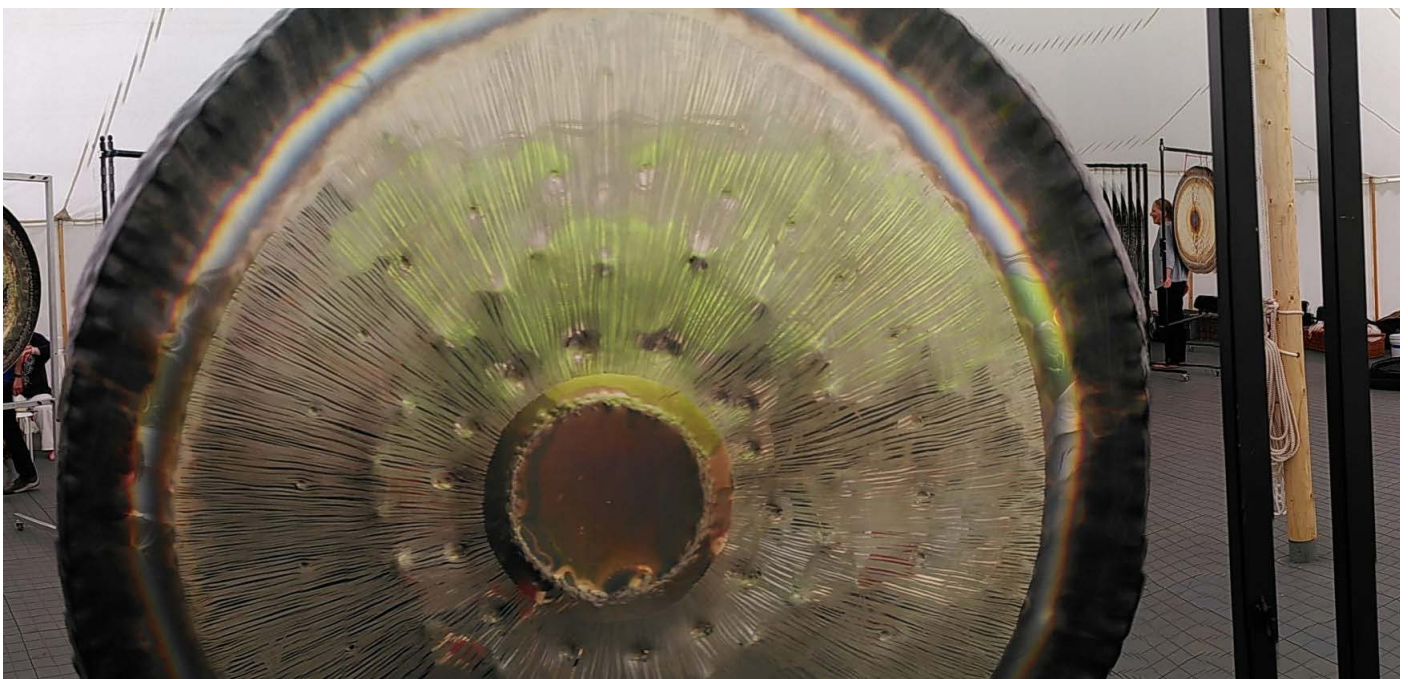
- 11am** Welcome
- 11:10am** Tilly Milburn to introduce the day
- 11:20am** Suzanne Alleyne: The Power of Difference
- 11:50am** Power Tool by Access Power Visibility (APV) collective
- 12:30pm** Lunch break
- 1:45pm** Jamie Hale: building accessible, sustainable projects
- 2:15pm** Ono Dafedjaiye: how media represents people with a disability
- 2:45pm** A Manifesto for 2.8 Million Minds
- 3:15pm** Break
- 3:30pm** Raymond Antrobus
- 4pm** DYSPLA & the Neurodivergent Aesthetic
- 4:30pm** Break
- 4:45pm** Local Senses
- 5:15pm** An antiablist vital pedagogy
- 6pm** End

GONG Giving

Agata Kik and Tim Byford

 The Albany (studio)

 11am to 6pm




This performance uses gongs to explore sound, movement, touch and gesture. The performance will be non-stop so guests can come in and out. This performance is an invitation to experience the present moment in a safe space and let go.

Film screening

Conversations with Carers

Yoga for the Feet

 The Albany (Red Room)

 10am to 6pm



Two films will be screened throughout the day.

Conversations with Carers duration: 15 minutes

Yoga for the Feet duration: 20 minutes


Conversations with Carers is a film with 5 dances. The films are inspired by the stories of carers in the UK and performed by disabled and non-disabled artists, some of whom are also carers. Each story begins with the words of a carer and interprets themes connected with caring.

Yoga For the Feet is a film about reconnecting with our bodies in the real and digital world. Bea first attempts yoga through the youtube channel 'Yoga With Annie' in preparation for walking the Camino de Santiago. Bea embarks on a journey of redefining her relationship with herself through her feet. Starring Megan Kirk and Ciara Pouncett the film incorporates integrated audio description and captioning throughout.

Heart n Soul

Too Hot for Candy Sam Castell-Ward Choir

 Giffin Square

 6pm to 8pm



An evening of music by Heart n Soul artists and musicians.

6pm to 6:40pm - Too Hot For Candy

6:45pm to 7:25pm - Sam Castell-Ward

7:30pm to 8pm - Choir

Stand up Comedy

Touretteshero

 Giffin Square

 8:15 to 8:35pm



Jess Thom is a writer, performer, artist and part time superhero. Jess has Tourettes Syndrome and co-founded Touretteshero in 2010 as a creative response to her experience of living with the condition.

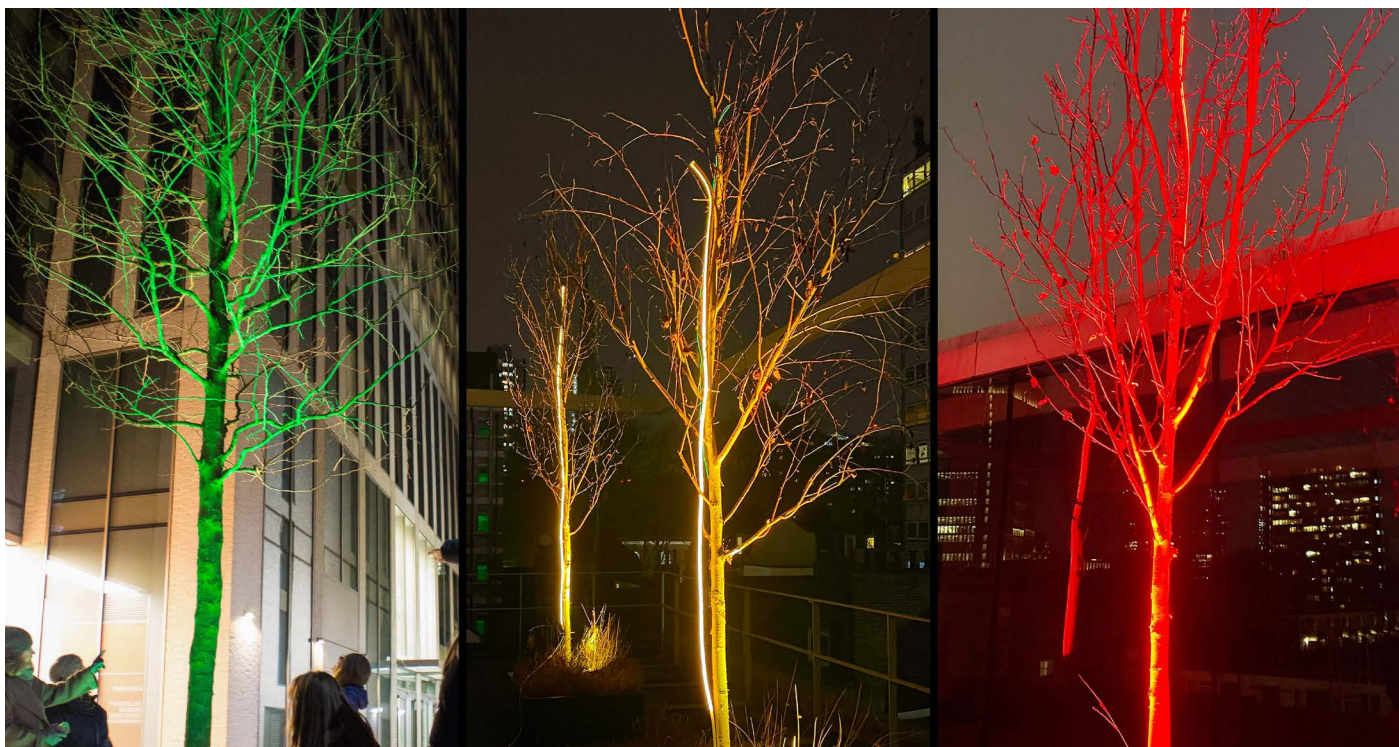
Jess has written in the mainstream and disability press including The Guardian, The Observer and Disability Now. In 2012, she published her first book 'Welcome to Biscuit Land – A Year In the Life of Touretteshero', with a foreword by Stephen Fry.

Respira-Trees Walk

D-Fuse

📍 starting at Ladywell Fields entrance (Ladywell Road)

🕒 6:30pm to 8pm



Respira-Trees is an environmental art project that uses portable sensors to make invisible air pollution visible. Trees have the potential to glow as air pollution levels change.

This event will take you on a walking tour through Ladywell Fields and highlight trees and distinct aspects of urban spaces. With the assistance of an arboricultural and creators of Respira-Trees, you will learn how real-time data is used to measure air pollution in different locations. The walk is a chance to discuss the relationship between our transport choices, air pollution and health. It aims to encourage greater eco-responsibility and promote environmental improvements in Lewisham and beyond.

Work In Progress Sharing

Vijay Patel

Stephen Bailey

BOOKING REQUIRED



The Albany (theatre) and livestreamed



11am to 1pm



Both sharings will be followed by a Q&A.

Vijay & Jaiden Patel present 'Brotherly, Otherly, Disorderly' a show by two autistic siblings, an access rider in the form of a neurodivergent pop concert. It's a joyous and celebratory theatrical toolkit for supporting themselves and each other. It is a love letter to sibling care and neurodivergent solidarity, a theatrical access rider and a dream of a better world.


Stephen Bailey presents his findings from his Liberty Research Grant project LIFEdream on behalf of ASYLUM. LIFEdream uses the narrative of prophecy as a commentary on the institutionalisation of the neurodivergent and those with perceived learning disabilities. The performance merges social criticism and magic realism. Stephen will talk through the findings with some footage and discuss the themes and intentions of the ongoing work.

Content warning: mild discussion of institutionalisation and discrimination against disabled/neurodivergent.

SATURDAY 23 JULY

DRAG SYNDROME

 The Albany (theatre) and livestreamed

 6pm to 7:30pm


BOOKING REQUIRED




Drag Syndrome is a groundbreaking, internationally acclaimed drag collective featuring highly addictive drag Queens and Kings with Down Syndrome. They are fierce, versatile, hard-working, professional artists who know how to put on a spectacular show and are committed to honing their craft.

Journey to a Better World

Touretteshero

 The Albany (Red Room)

 12pm to 5pm



Touretteshero invites disabled and non-disabled astronauts of all ages to join them on board the Starship Biscuit on its journey through time and space.

What should a world post-COVID look like?

In creative encounters, conversations, and interactive experiences, we will plan a future that includes all bodies, minds, and experiences. Everyone is welcome to help shape our journey to a better world.

Free Movement Lab

Spare Tyre



Deptford Lounge



Saturday, 2:30pm to 4pm

Sunday, 2pm to 3:30pm




A work in progress sharing as Spare Tyre collaborates with a small group of D/deaf, disabled, learning disabled and non-disabled artists in response to the title 'Freedom of Movement'.

Spare Tyre brings its blend of creative anarchy and support to a safe creative space starting from the point of inclusion. In these days of identity, individual definition and collective action, what does it mean to move freely as yourself and together as a movement?

The Art of Dying

Poppy Nash

 The Albany (Studio)

 10am to 7:30pm


AD)))



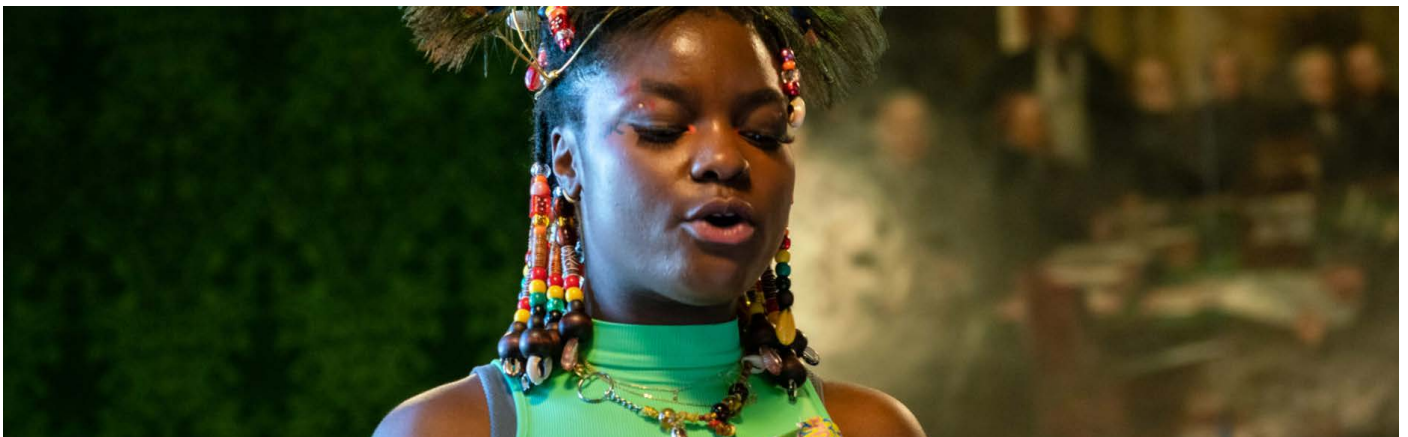
Poppy Nash's *The Art of Dying* (2019–) explores the experience of chronic illness. A textile installation is modelled on the interior of Poppy's flat, where she was confined alone as a “vulnerable” patient during the pandemic.

This unique 35 metre print was cut into over 200 pieces and reassembled to map Poppy's isolation space. It reflects on the disjointed nature of traumatic memory, both during and after the experience.

A Manifesto for 2.8 Million Minds

 Lewisham Shoppin Centre, Unit 17

 2 to 5pm



“How can young people use art and culture to create change in their mental health and change how mental health care is imagined, delivered and funded?”

Young Londoners invite you to join them for the public launch of ‘A Manifesto for 2.8 Million Minds’ - an Action Plan for young people, mental health and art.

2pm: A Manifesto for 2.8 Million Minds - Public Launch

A series of performances and provocations from young people from Haringey and Tower Hamlets, along with artists Becky Warnock, Simon Tomlinson, Tyreis Holder, Yomi Sode (and more).

4pm: A Network for 2.8 Million Minds - Network & planning session

Everyone who wants to get involved in building a movement for young people, art and mental health is invited to this hour-long event.


Content warning: The event will include material about the impact of mental health and other forms of structural violence. We predict the space will be busy and noisy with a lot of sensory input. A quiet decompression space is available but it's up a staircase.

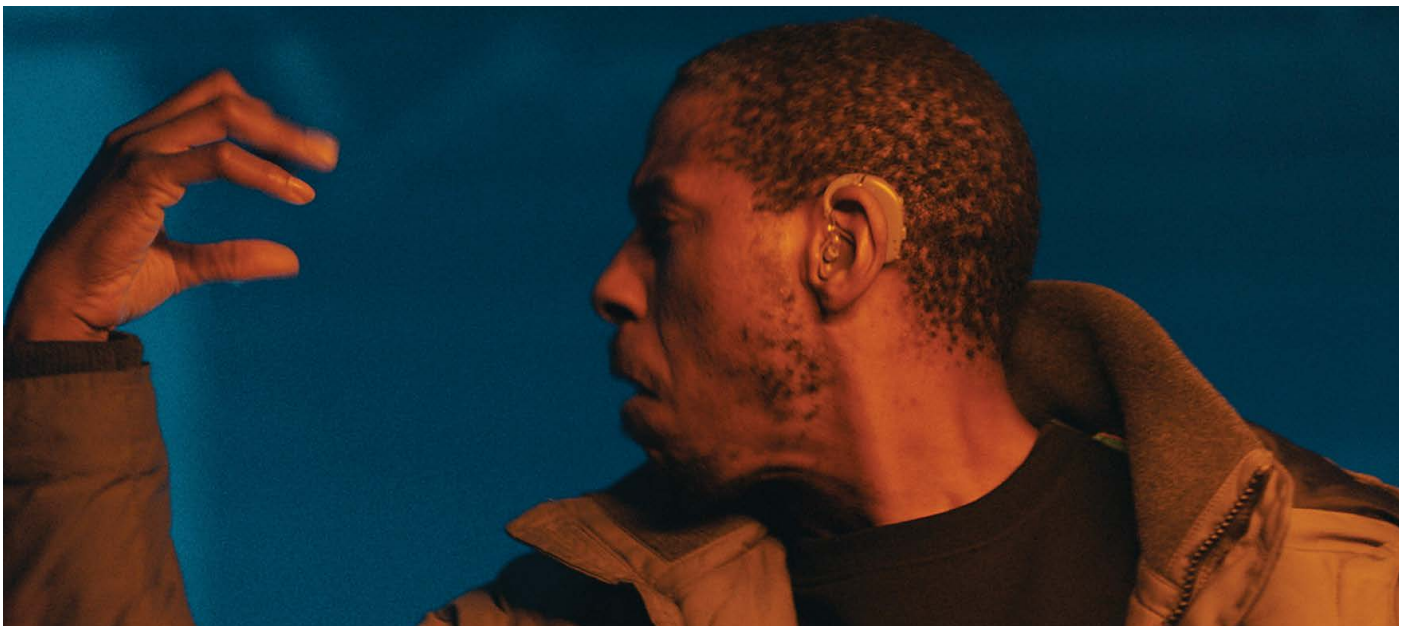
Here/Not Here

Bim Ajadi

BOOKING REQUIRED

 The Music Room

 12pm to 8pm



Here/Not Here is an immersive and site-specific performance exploring Krump dance, Visual Vernacular (a visual signed poetry), and street football trickery. Each of these visual and physical languages provides a different way of communicating for both Deaf and hearing performers and audience.

Performances at

12pm, 2.30pm, 5pm, and 7pm.

Duration: 45 minutes

Workshop at 10:30am to 11:15am

Discussion at 3:30pm to 4:15pm


Audiences are required to move around different rooms.

SATURDAY 23 JULY

Multi-sensory happening

Ambient Jam Collective

 Goldsmiths CCA

 2pm to 4pm

BOOKING REQUIRED



The magical, funny, profound, and healing Ambient Jam Collective invite you to join them at Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA). Expect the unexpected with an immersive multi-sensory happening by a vibrant community of differently abled people and artists.

Ambient Jam improvisations are playful, mindful, surreal, and sometimes wondrously messy, conjuring sensory ways of being that benefit us all. Enjoy an unfolding evolving landscape where you can hang out and just be, or join in and improvise with us, or a bit of both.

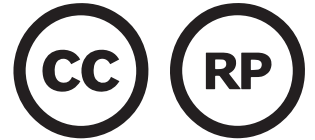
salt:dispersed

Selina Thompson

 St Margaret Church

 9 to 10pm. Doors open at 8:30pm

BOOKING REQUIRED



A journey to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

In February 2016, two artists got on a cargo ship, and retraced one of the routes of the Transatlantic Slave Triangle – from the UK to Ghana to Jamaica, and back.

This show is what they brought back. The original stage show *salt.* was performed as part of the British Council Showcase 2017. *salt: dispersed* is artist Selina Thompson's film adaptation of her award winning show about grief, Black British identity and colonialism in a powerful and intimate screen experience.

Content warning: The film discusses topics including grief, trauma, racism, colonialism.

111

Joel Brown and Eve Mutso



The Albany theatre and digital adaptation



2:30 to 3:10pm

BOOKING REQUIRED




111 is a powerful duet between two exceptional dancers – Joel Brown (Candoco Dance Company) and Eve Mutso (former Principal Dancer of Scottish Ballet) as they explore their different strengths and vulnerabilities.


111 is the number of vertebrae Joel and Eve have between them... hypothetically. Eve moves like she has a hundred, Joel's spine is fused and he jokes he only has 11.

A Touch Tour is available at 2:15pm.

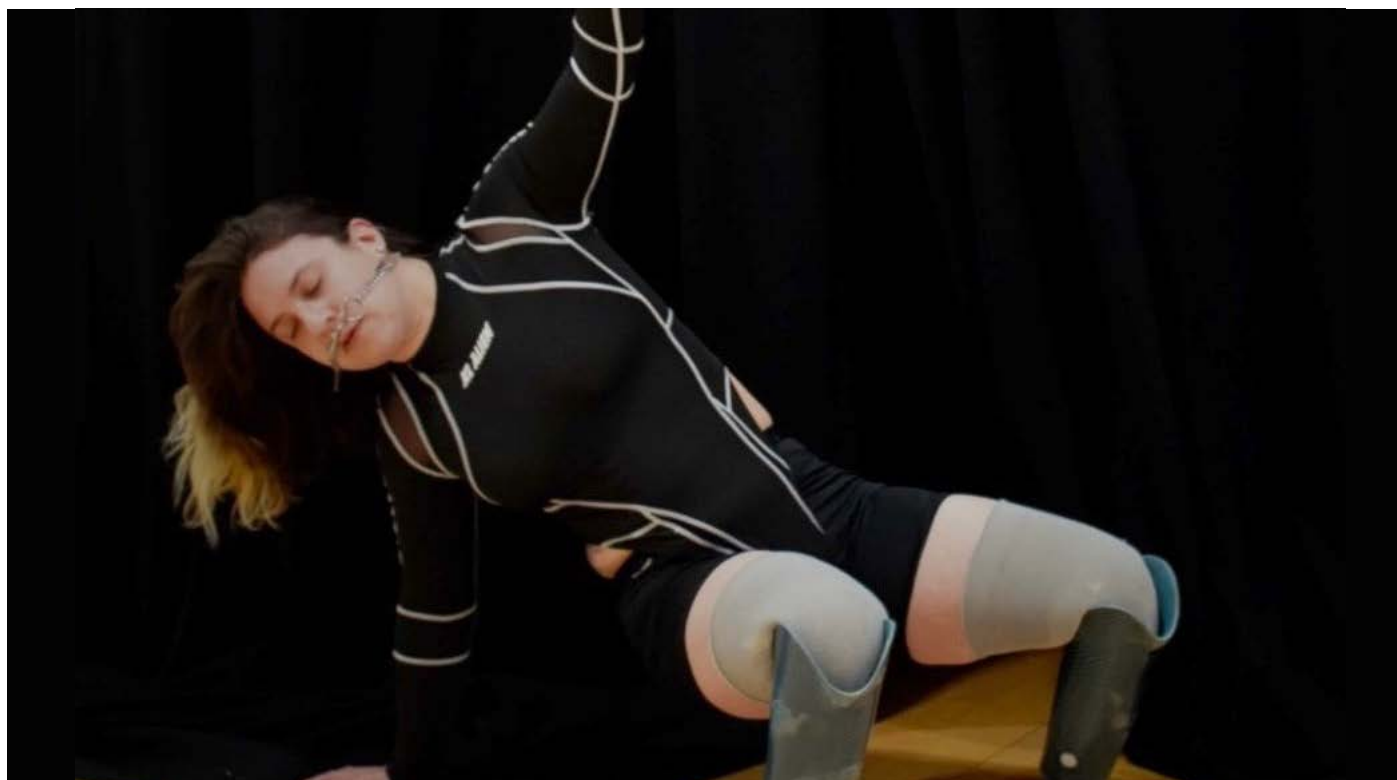
Object Permanence

Kat Hawkins

 The Albany (theatre)

 4pm to 4:40pm

BOOKING REQUIRED



Object Permanence is a solo dance presentation by Kat Hawkins' that asks questions about the time it takes to do things.

Building a landscape of cripness, Kat takes us intimately into the relationship between the disabled body and assistive devices, revealing a world of joy, companionship and sensuality.

Working with different physicalities, Kat reframes the relationship to their assistive devices, bringing care, aggression and ecstasy into movement.

Content warning: Brief references to sexual imagery and references to pain. Age guidance: 15 +

Who Plays Who?

Stephen Bailey

BOOKING REQUIRED



The Albany theatre and livestreamed



6:30pm to 7:15pm



A satirical performance exploring why crippling up gets you praise and acclaim but being disabled gets you unemployment. Three performers try to navigate the casting industry to win their spots in Oscar Winning roles - The Theory of Everything, The Scent of a Woman, Million Dollar Baby, The Shape of Water.

But when they get there, they have to ask themselves - are these our stories? What does disability mean to you, the audience? Can they justify demunanising themselves into narratives or pity and hardship on screen to be successful in real life?

Content warning: Anti-disability bias in film and media, suicide, depression, stigma around physical disability.

SUNDAY 24 JULY

Creating an Access Rider

Vijay Patel

BOOKING REQUIRED



The Albany Red Room



12pm to 2:30pm



A workshop on developing tools to figure out what your support needs are and how to ask for them.

Vijay and his younger brother Jayden deliver a workshop on creating an access rider.* There will be activities and live music.


The workshop is aimed at neurodiverse young people (aged 12-19) and adults. It may also be of interest to students, parents and educators.

*An access rider is a document that outlines your disability to let people you work with know how to ensure you have equal access to work

Leave the Light on for Me

Mind the Gap

 Giffin Square

 3pm to 3:40pm and 5pm to 5:40pm



In the not-too-distant future, when eco rules are in force, two sisters work hard to keep their carbon footprint under control. When the Planet Inspectors arrive to see how they're getting on, everything is going well until one mistake means they could be evicted... The sisters now have two options: pay up to offset their carbon footprint or successfully complete a series of eco challenges. Will the sisters get to stay or will they face eviction?

Leave the Light on for Me is a joyous and rebellious outdoor performance that explores climate change and justice from a fresh perspective.