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Press release — 14 September 2017

## MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL APPOINTS NINE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

### APPOINTMENTS STRENGTHEN SKILL SET ON THE JOURNEY TO THE FACTORY

Manchester International Festival announces the appointment of nine new members to its board.

They are:

**Maria Balshaw** – Director, Tate

**Richard Bell** – North West Senior Partner, Deloitte

**Sir Howard Bernstein** – former CEO, Manchester City Council 1998 – 2017

**Alan Bishop** – former CEO, Southbank 2009 – 2017

**Jamil Khalil** – CEO and Founder, Wakelet

**Amy Lawrence** – Young Person's board representative, Artist

**Malcolm Press** – Professor and Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan University

**Lemn Sissay** MBE – Author and Broadcaster

**Cathryn Wright** – Managing Director, Stonewall

Tom Bloxham, Chair of the Board: *"With the addition of these nine names the board is now ready to take Manchester International Festival forward into its second decade. The next few years will be momentous for the organisation and the region as The Factory is built and inaugurated. In this board we have real expertise from across the arts and creative, academic, business, digital and public sectors – skills we will be drawing on to make the most of the possibilities The Factory offers."*

John McGrath, Artistic Director and CEO: *"We are delighted to welcome these nine wonderful individuals to our board. The breadth of their experience is remarkable and I know they will bring great energy to MIF as we head towards the opening of The Factory in 2020."*

The Factory is a new £110 million theatre and arts venue due to open its doors in 2020 on the old Granada Studios site, designed by Rem Koolhaas's OMA. Ground-breaking took place at this year's MIF, in a ceremony led by artist Laurie Anderson. MIF will continue to run the biennial festival, making use both of The Factory and its usual wide range of venues and found spaces.

MIF is currently recruiting for a Chief Operating Officer. For details visit [mif.co.uk/work-with-us](http://mif.co.uk/work-with-us)

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## Notes to Editors

The full MIF Board at September 2017 is:

**Tom Bloxham MBE, Chair**

Founder of Urban Splash, Trustee of Manchester United Foundation  
Previously trustee of Tate, Chair Arts Council NW, Chair Centre for Cities

**Maria Balshaw** – Director, Tate

**Richard Bell** – North West Senior Partner, Deloitte

**Sir Howard Bernstein** – former CEO, Manchester City Council 1998 – 2017

**Alan Bishop** – former CEO, Southbank 2009 – 2017

**Jeremy Deller** – Artist

**Jamil Khalil** – CEO and Founder, Wakelet

**Amy Lawrence** – Young Person's board representative, Artist

**Sir Brian McMaster CBE** – Former Artistic Director and CEO, Edinburgh  
International Festival

**Chris Oglesby** – CEO, Bruntwood

**Richard Paver** – Treasurer, GM Combined Authority

**Malcolm Press** – Professor and Vice-Chancellor, Manchester Metropolitan  
University

**Cllr Luthfur Rahman** – Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure,  
Manchester City Council

**Peter Salmon** – Chief Creative Officer, Producer and Distributor of Endemol Shine  
Group

**Lemn Sissay MBE** – Author and Broadcaster

**Kully Thiarai** – Artistic Director, National Theatre Wales

**Cathryn Wright** – Managing Director, Stonewall

**Manchester International Festival (MIF)** is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events. The Festival was first launched in 2007 and is staged every two years in Manchester. MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists as diverse as Björk, Steve McQueen, Robert Wilson, Wayne McGregor, Maxine Peake, The xx, Zaha Hadid Architects, Marina Abramović, New Order, Thomas Ostermeier and Jeremy Deller, among many others.

MIF brings together artists from different art forms and backgrounds to create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work, which are staged in a rich tapestry of venues across Greater Manchester – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks. The organisation works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations around the world, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of the projects possible and guarantees that they have a life after each Festival. MIF shows have travelled to more than 20 countries around the world. The Festival also works in a range of innovative ways with local communities and artists, including initiatives such as Festival in My House, and the Jerwood Creative Fellowships.