



Manchester  
International  
Festival  
2019 4-21 July  
mif.co.uk

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images, quotes and  
interview requests  
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Page 1 of 10

PRESS RELEASE – Embargoed until 12:30pm, Thursday 7 March 2019

## FULL LIST OF ARTISTS REVEALED FOR MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2019

ARTISTS FROM OVER 20 COUNTRIES PRESENT WORLD AND UK PREMIERES IN MANCHESTER FROM 4-21 JULY

- **Yoko Ono** opens MIF19 with *BELLS FOR PEACE*, a mass-participatory artwork which invites thousands of people to ring and sing out for peace
- Legendary filmmaker **David Lynch** takes over HOME for the duration of the Festival with his largest UK exhibition of visual art to date, alongside film screenings, Lynch-inspired gigs and more
- **Idris Elba** and **Kwame Kwei-Armah** collaborate for the first time on *Tree*, a journey into the soul and spirit of contemporary South Africa which blends music, drama and dance
- The legacy of Nico, the legendary Velvet Underground singer and muse, is celebrated in *The Nico Project*, a theatrical immersion into her sound and identity from **Maxine Peake** and **Sarah Frankcom**
- Director **Leo Warner**, choreographer **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** and **Rambert** present *Invisible Cities*, a visually stunning collaboration inspired by the renowned 1972 novel and adapted by **Lolita Chakrabarti**
- Grime star **Skepta** takes us beyond the music gig to present *DYSTOPIA987*, a futuristic take on the history of rave culture at a secret Manchester location
- **Philip Glass** and **Phelim McDermott** team up for their most personal collaboration yet: *Tao of Glass*, a meditation on life, death and wisdom
- The world premiere of a major two-part commission to mark the 200th anniversary of **Peterloo**, a landmark in Manchester's history, including a new work by composer **Emily Howard** and poet **Michael Symmons Roberts**, performed by the **BBC Philharmonic**, the **BBC Singers** and three **Hallé** choirs
- **Adam Thirlwell**, **Hans Ulrich Obrist** and **Rem Koolhaas** construct an extraordinary language laboratory featuring new work by **Patrick Chamoiseau**, **Sayaka Murata**, **Adania Shibli**, **Sjón**, **Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o**, **Dubravka Ugrešić** and **Alejandro Zambra**
- **Janelle Monáe**, **Abida Parveen**, **Chrysta Bell** and an all-female line-up of electronic artists curated by **Mary Anne Hobbs** lead MIF19's music programme

Manchester International Festival today unveils its 2019 programme, which takes place across 18 extraordinary days (4-21 July 2019). Internationally-acclaimed artists from over 20 countries - many working in one-off creative collaborations - will present 20 UK and world premieres at the cross-art form biennial festival, the second with John McGrath as Artistic Director.

With most of the work created especially for the Festival, MIF19 provides a unique snapshot of contemporary preoccupations, from identity and language, and borders and migration, to the power of collective action, technology and utopian/dystopian visions of the future.

**John McGrath**, MIF Artistic Director and Chief Executive says: "At MIF19 we see a whole host of artists looking to the future - some with hope, some with imagination and some with concern. We never impose themes on the artists we work with, but it's striking how this



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Page 2 of 10

*year's programme reflects our complicated times in often surprisingly joyous and unexpected ways. Featuring artists from more than 20 countries, the Festival also has strong local roots, with several commissions featuring the people of Manchester as participants. MIF19 will be a feast of energy, which I hope will inspire debate and delight for the festival's 18 days and far beyond."*

**Sir Richard Leese**, Leader of Manchester City Council, says: "Since its early beginnings in 2005 MIF has attracted thousands of visitors from around the world that bring with them a huge economic boost to the city. The Festival is unrivalled in terms of the calibre of internationally renowned artists, musicians and performers that take part, whilst also inspiring local people themselves to get involved.

*"These are exciting times for culture in Manchester. As we look ahead to the opening of the city's landmark new cultural venue The Factory in a couple of years' times, MIF19 is once again set to place Manchester centre-stage and showcase it as the vibrant centre of innovation, culture, and creativity that it undoubtedly is."*

Following the success of MIF17's award-winning *What Is the City But the People?*, MIF19 will open with **Yoko Ono's** new mass-participatory event *BELLS FOR PEACE*, a gathering of thousands of people coming together to ring and sing out for peace in Cathedral Gardens, in the heart of the city. 50 years after her early bed-in collaborations with John Lennon, this is a major new commission from an artist who has boldly communicated her commitment to social justice throughout her career.

Continuing MIF's innovative use of the city's found spaces, *Invisible Cities* sees **Leo Warner** of 59 Productions (*War Horse*, *David Bowie Is*), acclaimed choreographer **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**, writer **Lolita Chakrabarti**, **Rambert** dance company and an all-star creative team, collaborate for the first time on a wholly original mix of theatre, choreography, music, architectural design and projection mapping created for Mayfield, Manchester's iconic former railway depot. Inspired by the renowned 1972 novel, which is centred on the relationship between Kublai Khan and explorer Marco Polo, this extraordinary new, site-specific work reimagines the possibilities of live performance.

Also working together for the first time, **Idris Elba** and **Kwame Kwei-Armah's** *Tree* is the story of a young man on a journey of healing, told through dance, music and film - the fulfilment of the pair's long-held ambition to make a piece of work together inspired by South Africa. Directed by Kwei-Armah, with music inspired by Elba's album *Mi Mandela*, *Tree* is an exhilarating show about identity, family and belonging.

Further continuing the Festival's tradition of creative partnerships: composer **Philip Glass** and actor-director **Phelim McDermott** have collaborated on acclaimed opera productions in London, New York and beyond, but *Tao of Glass* is their most personal project yet. Inspired by a dream, this world premiere marries meditations on life, death and wisdom with ten brand new pieces of music from Glass, presented in the round by McDermott, with an ensemble of musicians and puppeteers.

In *The Nico Project* at The Stoller Hall **Maxine Peake**, **Sarah Frankcom**, and an all-female creative team, pay tribute to the legendary musician with a stirring theatrical immersion into Nico's sound and identity, inspired by her stark, bleak and beautiful 1968 album *The Marble Index*. With text by award-winning playwright **EV Crowe** and music by acclaimed composer **Anna Clyne**, *The Nico Project* brings us closer to the ghosts that haunted Nico and celebrates the potency of female creativity in a field dominated by men.



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Page 3 of 10

Grime star **Skepta's** *DYSTOPIA987* steps beyond the live music experience, reimagining the rave culture of the past in an uncertain future with a series of intimate and immersive events held in a secret Manchester location. Skepta will perform along with guest appearances from hand-picked performers, DJs, and a wealth of new technology inhabiting a hidden netherworld.

The legendary **David Lynch** is taking over HOME for the duration of MIF19. In the gallery *My Head Is Disconnected* is the first major UK exhibition of his large-scale paintings, drawings and sculpture. In the theatre Lynch collaborator **Chrysta Bell** will host a one-off series of live shows from Lynch-inspired musicians, while the cinema will feature screenings of his classic movies, short films, conversations and more.

At Manchester Art Gallery **Tania Bruguera**, fresh from her Tate Modern commission, invites audiences to join her *School of Integration* and consider why integration is always the responsibility of the immigrant in a powerful, provocative and inspiring new work. Local people originally from countries around the world will give free classes on a curriculum that includes languages, culture, ethics, politics, economics and many other forms of knowledge in a new shared learning experience.

At the Whitworth, the half-forgotten history of Ghana, is explored in *Parliament of Ghosts*, a major installation from artist **Ibrahim Mahama**. This new commission for MIF19 features abandoned train parts, documents from governmental archives and a haunting assemblage of lost objects, rescued and repurposed to form a vast parliamentary chamber in the heart of the gallery.

In dance, acclaimed American choreographer **Trajal Harrell** places Tennessee Williams' *Maggie the Cat* centre-stage in his magnetic new dance work - a provocative fusion of high art and pop culture, with multiple influences ranging from ancient Greek theatre to the Harlem voguing underground, and a soundtrack that crosses genres, from electro and pop to classical music.

**Claire Cunningham's** *Thank You Very Much* looks at identity through the prism of the Elvis tribute artist as the choreographer and her ensemble of leading disabled performers take to the floor in witty and revealing fashion in a new dance work which takes apart the myth of how bodies should be and have been trained to be.

Women pushing the boundaries of music are a highlight of the MIF19 programme, including an exclusive show from Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, producer and actress **Janelle Monáe** on the opening night of MIF19 and a unique collaboration between Sufi superstar **Abida Parveen** and Kathak dancer **Nahid Siddiqui**. For *Queens of the Electronic Underground* **Mary Anne Hobbs** (BBC Radio 6 Music) brings together five of the most exciting electronic acts for an evening of bleeding-edge sounds and breath-taking visuals: **Jlin**, **Holly Herndon**, **Aïsha Devi ft. MFO**, **Klara Lewis** and **Katie Gately**.

*Studio Créole* sees **Adam Thirlwell** and **Hans Ulrich Obrist** construct an intimate language laboratory, specially designed by **Rem Koolhaas** and **Cookies**, to present new stories by **Patrick Chamoiseau**, **Sayaka Murata**, **Adania Shibli**, **Sjón**, **Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o**, **Dubravka Ugrešić** and **Alejandro Zambra** - written for MIF19 and read live by their authors while simultaneously translated and interpreted into performance.

Language is also a key preoccupation of acclaimed Mexican-Canadian artist **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's** immersive installation *Atmospheric Memory*, a series of 'Atmospheric Machines' that attempt to 'materialise sound' - inspired by computing pioneer Charles



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Page 4 of 10

Babbage’s proposal that the air is a ‘vast library’ holding every word ever spoken - in a fascinating fusion of daring artwork and sensory performance.

Manchester’s own history is centre-stage in *The Anvil: An Elegy for Peterloo*, which marks the landmark 200th anniversary of the Peterloo massacre in a major two-part commission. **ANU**, one of Europe’s most daring theatre companies, will take to the streets for a day-long series of immersive performances inspired by the stories of those who died at St Peter’s Field. The evening sees the world premiere of a major new musical work by composer **Emily Howard** and poet **Michael Symmons Roberts**, performed by the **BBC Philharmonic** and a massed chorus featuring the **BBC Singers** and three **Hallé choirs**.

The places and spaces of the city become the stage for two immersive works: The Berlin-based company **Rimini Protokoll’s** *Utopolis Manchester* is a visionary new work that transforms our view of the city as we discover the people and places that create Manchester’s daily life, in a journey inspired by Thomas More’s Utopia. The Manchester cholera epidemic of the 1830s is the unlikely inspiration for *The Drunk Pandemic*, the first major UK project by **Chim↑Pom** from Tokyo, one of the world’s most playful and provocative art collectives, who come to MIF19 at the invitation of **Contact Young Curators**.

*Animals of Manchester* (including **HUMANZ**) imagines what life might be like if animals lived with us not as our pets but as our peers in an interactive Live Art experience created by Hamburg-based artist **Sibylle Peters** (Theatre of Research) and **London’s Live Art Development Agency** (LADA), featuring installations, performances and encounters from artists, including **Joshua Sofaer** and **Marcus Coates**. Elsewhere, for families, **Studio ORKA’s** *Tuesday*, is a beautifully staged exploration of the milestones of life in a Grade I-listed Victorian church in Salford.

With MIF set to operate and create the artistic programme for The Factory, the landmark cultural space being developed in the city, several MIF19 works are presented as pre-Factory events, offering a preview of the range and calibre of work planned.

**Ivo van Hove**, one of the world’s most acclaimed directors, brings his Internationaal Theater Amsterdam ensemble to Manchester to perform *The Fountainhead*, a gripping adaptation of Ayn Rand’s uncompromising 20th-century classic, which has been a major inspiration for libertarian politicians on both sides of the Atlantic. This passionate hymn to individualism is presented alongside another project directed by Van Hove, *Re:Creating Europe*, which considers the notion of Europe through some of the speeches and texts that have shaped, traced and defined its history.

Creative pioneer **Laurie Anderson** will present *To The Moon*, an expanded virtual reality work she is developing with the artist **Hsin-Chien Huang**, featuring a VR experience and an immersive installation. Cape Town-born artist **Kemang Wa Lehulere**, will be joining us for a Festival-long residency at Manchester Central Library, exploring the city and its libraries as he begins researching and creating a future Festival commission.

**Sir Mark Elder**, Musical Director of the Hallé, and **Johan Simons**, the acclaimed Dutch theatre director, are also developing a new work for The Factory, inspired by composer Dimitri Shostakovich and the writer Vasily Grossman. They will be discussing this new work before a performance of Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7, *Leningrad*.

Other highlights include a new collaboration between Brooklyn’s **Reggie ‘Regg Roc’ Gray** (*FlexN Manchester* at MIF15) and Manchester-based spoken word collective **Young Identity**; a new iteration of **Karl Hyde’s** MIF17 hit *Manchester Street Poem*; and a series of



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intimate discussions and public debates under the banner of *Interdependence*, the ideas strand of MIF's public programme.

MIF19 also sees the return of a new look **Festival Square**, featuring a large new stage hosting a packed, free programme of live acts, DJs, talks and performances. There will also be food and drink on offer, as well as the popular MIF Supper Clubs, featuring a series of Michelin-starred chefs. Media partners the BBC, the Guardian and Manchester Evening News will all have a presence on Festival Square. Full programme details will be announced in due course.

*My Festival*, MIF's creative engagement programme, will be central to this year's Festival, as it was in 2017. With a year-round programme of activity, including *Festival in My House*, a series of micro international festivals curated by local people and hosted in their own homes, bursaries for up-and-coming Greater Manchester-based artists supported by Jerwood Arts, and *Breathe*, a programme blending dance and spoken word for local young people, *My Festival* is a full-time presence in the city. For the Festival itself, the programme includes a range of ways to participate in international commissions, a volunteer programme involving 500 people from the region, and opportunities to showcase talent in festival square.

MIF works closely with many venues, festivals and cultural organisations around the world. The financial and creative input from these partners helps to make many MIF projects possible, and guarantees they have a life after the Festival has ended. For MIF19, we have worked with over 30 commissioning partners on eight new shows which will be seen in cities ranging from Hong Kong to Berlin. In addition, over the next six months, MIF projects from Björk, Akram Khan, Thomas Ostermeier, Jeremy Deller, Olafur Eliasson, Wayne McGregor and more will be presented across the globe.

## Ends

Images can be downloaded from [press.mif.co.uk/mif19](http://press.mif.co.uk/mif19)

## Listings

### **BELLS FOR PEACE**

#### **Yoko Ono**

Cathedral Gardens, M4 3BG

Thursday 4 July, 6pm

Free, no ticket required

Get involved: Visit [mif.co.uk/getinvolved](http://mif.co.uk/getinvolved) or email [bellsforpeace@mif.co.uk](mailto:bellsforpeace@mif.co.uk)

Watch live online: [mif.co.uk/live](http://mif.co.uk/live)

### **Tree**

#### **Idris Elba & Kwame Kwei-Armah**

Upper Campfield Market Hall, Campfield Avenue Arcade, M3 4FN

Thursday 4 July – Saturday 13 July, 8pm

Saturday 6, Sunday 7 & Saturday 13 July, also 4pm

Previews Saturday 29 June – Wed 3 July, 8pm

Tickets £35 / £30 previews & concessions /

£10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage

Recommended 14+ / under-18s must be accompanied by an adult

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**Janelle Monáe**

Castlefield Bowl, Duke Street/Liverpool Road, M3 4JR  
Thursday 4 July, 7pm  
Tickets £35 / £10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
Under-14s must be accompanied by an adult  
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**Invisible Cities**

Mayfield, Baring Street, M1 2PZ  
Friday 5 July – Sat 13 July, 8pm  
Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 July, also 2.30pm  
Previews Tuesday 2 – Thursday 4 July, 8pm  
BSL performance: Thursday 11 July  
Captioned performances: Wednesday 10 & Sunday 14 July  
Tickets £35 / £30 previews & concessions /  
£10 Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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**School of Integration**

**Tania Bruguera**  
Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, M2 3JL  
Friday 5 – Saturday 20 July  
10am–5pm daily, except 11am–5pm Monday  
Admission free. Some events will require a ticket; see [mif.co.uk/integration](http://mif.co.uk/integration)

**Parliament of Ghosts**

**Ibrahim Mahama**  
The Whitworth, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M15 6ER  
Friday 5 – Sunday 21 July  
10am–5pm daily, except 10am–9pm Thursday  
AD tours: Tuesday 9 & Tuesday 16 July, 2pm  
CAP tour: Tuesday 16 July, 4pm  
Admission free  
Continues after MIF19 until 29 September

**Abida Parveen with Nahid Siddiqui**

The Lowry, Pier 8, The Quays, Salford M50 3AZ  
Friday 5 July, 7.30pm  
Tickets £18–£55 / £13–£50 concessions /  
£10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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**Alphabus**

**FlexN & Young Identity**  
Unit 5, Great Northern Warehouse, 235 Deansgate, M3 4EN  
Friday 5 July, 7pm  
Saturday 6 July, 7pm & 9pm  
Sunday 7 July, 3pm & 7pm  
Tickets £10  
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**David Lynch at HOME**

HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place, First Street, M15 4FN  
Exhibition: Saturday 6 – Sunday 21 July

Page 6 of 10



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12–8pm daily, except 12–6pm Sunday

BSL tour: Saturday 20 July, 3pm

Admission free

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Information about film screenings, music events, masterclasses and discussions will be announced in due course

*My Head Is Disconnected* continues in the gallery after MIF19 until 29 September 2019

### ***Atmospheric Memory*** **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer**

Science and Industry Museum, Liverpool Road, M3 4FP

Saturday 6 – Sunday 21 July 2019

10am–5pm daily, except 10am–9pm Thursday

Relaxed opening: Tuesday 9 & Sun 14 July, 10.30am–12.30pm

Tickets £8 / £5 concessions / £1 under-18s

Age 8+ / under-16s must be accompanied by an adult

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### ***A Drunk Pandemic***

**Chim↑Pom & Contact Young Curators**

Friday 5 – Sunday 21 July

A secret location

Times and ticket information to be announced

Age 18+

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### ***Interdependence***

Saturday 6 July, 10am–1pm, 2–5pm: Utopia Now!

The Whitworth

Saturday 13 July, 10am–noon, 1–4pm: Future Myths

Albert Hall

Saturday 20 July, 10am–1pm, 2–5pm: Life Hacked

HOME

Tickets £8

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### ***The Anvil: An Elegy for Peterloo***

**ANU**

Locations throughout Manchester

Sunday 7 July, all day

Admission free

mif.co.uk

### ***The Anvil: An Elegy for Peterloo***

**Emily Howard, Michael Symmons Roberts, BBC Philharmonic**

The Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street, M2 3WS

Sunday 7 July, 6pm

Tickets £10

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### ***Tuesday***

**Studio ORKA**

Saint Augustine's Church, 380 Bolton Road, Salford M27 8UX

Wednesday 10, Thursday 11, Saturday 13, Wednesday 17 – Saturday 20 July, 7pm



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Page 8 of 10

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Tickets £15 / £10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
Age 8+ / under-16s must be accompanied by an adult  
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### ***Leningrad***

**The Hallé**  
The Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosley Street, M2 3WS  
Thursday 11 July, 7.30pm  
Tickets £13–£34 / £8–£29 concessions /  
£10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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### ***Utopolis Manchester*** **Rimini Protokoll**

Multiple locations, Manchester city centre  
Wednesday 10 – Saturday 13 July, 6–10.30pm  
Tickets £20 / £15 concessions / £10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
Recommended 12+ / under-16s must be accompanied by an adult  
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

### ***The Fountainhead***

The Lowry  
Pier 8, The Quays, Salford M50 3AZ  
Wednesday 10 & Thursday 11 July, 6.30pm  
Saturday 13 July, 2pm  
Tickets £18–£35 / £13–£30 concessions /  
£10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
Presented in Dutch with English surtitles  
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### ***Re:Creating Europe***

The Lowry  
Pier 8, The Quays, Salford M50 3AZ  
Friday 12 July, 8pm  
Tickets £18–£35 / £13–£30 concessions /  
£10 Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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### ***Maggie the Cat***

**Trajal Harrell**  
The Dancehouse, 10 Oxford Road, M1 5QA  
Thursday 11 July, 7.30pm  
Friday 12 & Saturday 13 July, 7.30pm & 10pm  
Sunday 14 July, 6pm  
Tickets £20 / £15 concessions / £10 Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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### ***The Nico Project***

**Maxine Peake & Sarah Frankcom**  
The Stoller Hall, Chetham's School of Music, Hunts Bank, M3 1DA  
Friday 12, Saturday 13, Tuesday 16, Thursday 18 & Saturday 20, 7.30pm  
Saturday 13 & Saturday 20 July, also 3pm  
Wednesday 17 & Friday 19 July, 6pm & 9pm



# Manchester International Festival

2019 4–21 July  
mif.co.uk

For more information, images, quotes and interview requests please contact:

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Page 9 of 10

Previews Wednesday 10 July & Thursday 11 July, 7.30pm  
Press night: Friday 12 July, 7.30pm  
BSL performance: Tuesday 16 July, 7.30pm  
AD performance: Wednesday 17 July, 6pm  
Tickets £35 / £30 concessions / £10 Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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**Studio Créole**

Manchester Academy 1, Oxford Road, M13 9PR  
Friday 12 – Sunday 14 July, 7.30pm  
Tickets £25 / £20 concessions / £10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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**Tao of Glass**

**Philip Glass & Phelim McDermott**  
Royal Exchange Theatre, St Ann's Square, M2 7DH  
Thursday 11 – Saturday 20 July, 7.30pm  
13, 18 & 20 July, 2.30pm  
Tickets £18–£41 / £13–£30 concessions / £13–£33 previews  
£10 Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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**Thank You Very Much**

**Claire Cunningham**  
Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 31 Smedley Lane, M8 8XB  
Wed 17 – Sat 20 July, 7.30pm  
Press night: Wed 17 July  
Tickets £20 / £15 concessions / £10 Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
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**DYSTOPIA987**

**Skept**  
A secret location  
Wednesday 17 – Friday 19 July, 7pm  
Tickets £35 / £30 concessions / £10 Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
Over-16s only / under-18s must be accompanied by an adult  
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**Queens of the Electronic Underground**

**Mary Anne Hobbs, Jlin, Holly Herndon, Aisha Devi ft. MFO, Katie Gately, Klara Lewis**  
O2 Ritz, Whitworth Street West, M1 5NQ  
Saturday 20 July, 8pm-2am  
Age 18+  
Tickets £22 / £17 concessions / £10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage  
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

**Laurie Anderson in Residence: To the Moon**

The Studio, Royal Exchange Theatre, St Ann's Square, M2 7DH  
Thursday 11 – Saturday 20 July  
Times and ticket information to be announced  
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**Animals of Manchester (including HUMANZ)**

The Whitworth & Whitworth Park, The University of Manchester,



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Page 10 of 10

Oxford Road, M15 4FN  
Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 July, 10am–5pm  
Admission free  
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#### ABOUT MIF

Manchester International Festival (MIF) is the world's first festival of original, new work and special events, staged every two years in Manchester, UK. MIF launched in 2007 as an artist-led festival presenting new works from across the spectrum of performing arts, visual arts and popular culture. The next Festival takes place from 4 – 21 July 2019.

MIF has commissioned, produced and presented world premieres by artists including **Marina Abramović, Damon Albarn, Björk, Boris Charmatz, Jeremy Deller, Elbow, Wayne McGregor, Steve McQueen, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, Thomas Ostermeier, Maxine Peake, Punchdrunk, The xx, Robert Wilson** and **Zaha Hadid Architects**.

These and other world-renowned artists from different art forms and backgrounds create dynamic, innovative and forward-thinking new work, staged in venues across Greater Manchester – from theatres, galleries and concert halls to railway depots, churches and car parks. MIF works closely with venues, festivals and other cultural organisations globally, whose financial and creative input helps to make many of these projects possible and ensures that work made at MIF goes on to be seen around the world.

MIF supports a year-round [Creative Engagement](#) programme, bringing opportunities for people from all backgrounds, ages and from all corners of the city to get involved during the Festival and year-round, as volunteers, as participants in shows, through skills development workshops and a host of creative activities, such as Festival in My House.

MIF will also be the operator for **The Factory**, the new world-class cultural space being developed in the heart of Manchester, designed by internationally-renowned architects Rem Koolhaas' OMA. Due to open in 2021, the Factory will commission, present and produce a year-round programme, featuring new work from the world's greatest artists and offering a space to make, explore and experiment. Attracting up to 850,000 visitors, The Factory will add £1.1 billion to the economy and create 1,500 jobs. Its pioneering programme of skills, training and engagement will benefit local people and the next generation of creative talent from across the city, whilst apprenticeships and trainee schemes are already underway during the construction phase.

MIF's Artistic Director and Chief Executive is John McGrath.

MIF is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. [mif.co.uk](http://mif.co.uk)