



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

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images, quotes and
interview requests
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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 **Skept**a 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 year's programme reflects our complicated times in often surprisingly joyous and



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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' time, 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 pupeteers.

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.

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



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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 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.



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



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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

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 or email bellsforpeace@mif.co.uk

Watch live online: 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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

David Lynch at HOME

HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place, First Street, M15 4FN
Exhibition: Saturday 6 – Sunday 21 July
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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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+
mif.co.uk

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0) 333 320 2890

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
Saturday 13, Sunday 14, Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 July, also 3pm
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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
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



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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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

DYSTOPIA987

Skeptá

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
mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

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

mif.co.uk / +44 (0)333 320 2890

Animals of Manchester (including HUMANZ)

The Whitworth & Whitworth Park, The University of Manchester,
Oxford Road, M15 4FN

Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 July, 10am–5pm

Admission free

mif.co.uk



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

For more information,
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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