

# National Theatre

Monday 1 July 2024

## GREENWICH+DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL TAKE OVER THE SECOND WEEKEND OF NATIONAL THEATRE'S RIVER STAGE FESTIVAL



Image link available [here](#).

London's largest free outdoor arts festival, River Stage, returns to the National Theatre for the eighth year this summer, over four weekends from **5 - 28 July 2024** with an exciting programme of live music, theatre, dance and more, curated by some of the UK's leading arts venues. The South Bank will come to life once again with performances alongside a delicious selection of independent food and drink from street food suppliers **KERB**.

This year's River Stage partners are **The Glory** (5-7 July), **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival** (12-14 July) and **Rambert** (19-21 July). The **National Theatre** (26-28 July) will host the closing weekend of River Stage.

**Greenwich+Docklands International Festival** bring their much-loved mash-up of vibrant, inclusive and disruptive summer fun to the second weekend of River Stage, a month before launching their 2024 festival.

Opening their weekend on **Friday 12 July**, soul singer and poet **Jordan Charles** will guide you through GDIF's joyful programme. Roll up and experience a gasp-inducing, hilarious, and joyful battle on roller skates with **Les Patineurs** who combine impressive circus skills with the music of the Skaters Waltz. Join in the **Family Catwalk Extravaganza** for some runway fashion, ballroom dance and lip syncing in this celebratory contest of self-expression for all ages. Get ready to hit the dance floor as London-based DJ and artist **Dibs** explores a rich blend of genres to end the night on a high note.

On **Saturday 13 July**, glamorous hostess **Sadie Sinner the Songbird** will bring the party with her unrivalled vocals and vibe, inviting audiences to dance and celebrate the joys of Summer. Explore Caroline Cardus' celebrated disability protest installation with new signs created exclusively for GDIF titled **The Way Ahead**. Catch **Frock** for suits, tea and a celebration of dance, all performed to an original punk soundtrack. Renowned choreographer **Jeanfer Jean-Charles MBE** will present **Black Victorians** offering a look at the complex and often forgotten Black presence in pre-Windrush Britain. **Perhaps Contraption** bring their multi-award winning, progressive brass band party to the River Stage to add a bit of jazz and pop to your day. Making it a day to remember, legendary stand-up **Variety D** will take the mic to host the evening of GDIF's Saturday line-up. Catch a performance of **Patois** a showcase of traditional Caribbean choreography,

contemporary dance to an original music score. **Caroline Parker** will bring her renowned inclusive signed performances to the South Bank and learning disabled artists **DJ Prince King** and **DJ Yosife** will bring the night to a close with irresistible bangers.

On **Sunday 14 July**, musical host **John Kelly** will show you through the fabulous finale line-up for the GDIF weekend. **The Journey** invites you to embark on a musical parade that celebrates the power of community. **Roll Play** brings together three performers who blur the boundaries between hip hop dance and circus cyr wheeling. Fresh from her tour with Ed Sheeran, **Fletch@** bridges the gap between Deaf and hearing audiences as she signs her way through a hit list that will captivate and delight audiences from all backgrounds in this lively performance.

Behind the scenes, the River Stage team is joined by the **National Theatre Young Technicians** in the delivery of the GDIF weekend for the festival. Launched in 2017, Young Technicians is the NT's flagship technical training programme for young people aged 14-18, taking place both at the NT and nationwide to offer in-depth training for free to young people from groups currently underrepresented in the technical theatre industries. Participants work with the NT's production team to develop practical skills across a variety of backstage roles, including lighting, sound, video and more.

Alongside **The Understudy** and the riverside bar, **KERB** will be serving up a range of London's most exciting street food. **Baba Dhaba**, **Mexclub**, **Chicken Bandits**, **Oh My Dog** and **Poke Nom** bring an array of delectable flavours whilst **Hackney Gelato** serve delicious, refreshing ice-cream. **KERB** will be partnering with **Two Tribes** on the bar for some of the finest cold beer, and **Sen Noods**, **Meltdown Cheeseburgers** and **Sireli** will be serving up mouth-watering delicacies at The Understudy

The River Stage festival will run from 5-28 July. All events are free. For more details and the full programme with schedule, please visit the [website](#).

### **Ends**

For further press information contact NT Press Coordinator: [achakrapani@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:achakrapani@nationaltheatre.org.uk)

Image link available [here](#).

### **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival**

Recently described in the Guardian as “one of the best free festivals in the UK” and an event “whose annual contribution to the happiness of the people of London is unrivalled”, Greenwich+Docklands International Festival is London’s leading free festival of outdoor theatre and arts which takes place in public spaces across the Royal Borough of Greenwich, East London and the City of London each Summer. In 2023 GDIF became the first festival in the UK to be awarded the Platinum level for accessibility by Attitude is Everything, recognising the festival’s profound commitment to removing barriers between audiences and arts.

Founded in 1996, GDIF is the flagship annual event produced by FESTIVAL.ORG, one of the UK’s leading outdoor arts producing organisations and charities, renowned for producing ambitious, inclusive and accessible outdoor events in the UK and beyond.

### **About the National Theatre**

The National Theatre makes theatre that entertains and inspires using its creativity, expertise and unique reach. The National Theatre shares unforgettable stories with millions of audience members across the UK and around the world – on its own stages, on tour, in schools, on cinema screens and streaming at home.

World-leading artists make their best work at the National Theatre with the widest possible audience and impact. The National Theatre invests in talent and innovation on stage and off, taking seriously its role as the nation’s theatre. Of the new productions developed each year with a wide range of theatre companies, a third of that research and development resource is dedicated to shows staged at theatres outside London.

Through touring our work to local theatres and schools and nationwide education and community programmes, we are active in 71 of the 109 levelling up priority areas in the UK. A registered charity with deeply embedded social purpose, the National Theatre works with hundreds of schools and communities across the UK to fire imagination and inspire creativity, and to develop skills and pathways for careers in theatre.

For more information, please visit [nationaltheatre.org.uk](https://nationaltheatre.org.uk)

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