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#MERGEBANKSIDE

MERGE line-up

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Welcome to MERGE 2015

Now in its fifth year, immersive arts festival MERGE returns to Bankside with a programme set to transform the London riverside destination.

This year's diverse line-up includes major names and emerging talent from the UK and international art world. Using the rich heritage and contemporary culture of Bankside they will stage interactive installations, experimental theatre and live music; reinventing historic buildings and open spaces.

Make a wish in a bioluminescent wishing chamber, focus your mind to control a light and sound installation, enjoy live music on the Riverside Stage, take a look at never before seen images of the biggest stars from the 60s to the present day, and keep an eye out for a blue bunny.

MERGE Bankside is curated and produced by Illuminate Productions and is supported by Tate Modern and Better Bankside.

BANKSIDE TRANSFORMED

Colourful Crossings

Adam Frank, Morgan Silk and Office for Crafted Architecture

Various points along Southwark Street, SE1 (see map on page 20 for locations)

Southwark / London Bridge

18 September – 13 December

7 days a week

FREE

Colourful Crossings sees Southwark Street transformed into an outdoor gallery with a series of on-street artworks which will bring pedestrian crossings to life. These commissions made through the Avenue of Art initiative, will take art out of its traditional gallery contexts to transform public spaces, bringing colour and animation to the street. Commissioned by Better Bankside and part funded by Transport for London.

18 September – 13 December
Beneath the railway bridge on the junction of Southwark Street and Redcross Way. New York based artist **Adam Frank** will bring his work 'Performer' to the UK. This interactive installation encourages participants to perform under a bright spotlight in which a computer controlled audio audience applauds as you become more active. The installation uses a real-time audio audience simulation and movement sensor to produce an illusion of a 500-member audience applauding just for you.

28 September – 13 December
Award winning artist **Morgan Silk** will be creating a large-scale anamorphic scene using photography. This illusionary interactive artwork, where the road will appear to reveal a hidden world beneath and will then disappear when the viewer moves from the vantage point, celebrates the rich history and culture of Bankside.

28 September – 13 December
A neighbourhood isn't just a physical environment; the architecture of our cities is nothing without the people who live in them. We imbue memory, stories and emotions in these places and share them with others when we relay our day. 'Crossing Stories' by **Office for Crafted Architecture** is an invitation to wander the city with your own memories and impressions.

BANKSIDE TRANSFORMED

The Chamber of Wishes

Bompas & Parr

88 Borough High Street, SE1 1LL

London Bridge / Borough

24 September – 18 October

Wednesday – Sunday 12 – 7pm

FREE

Bompas & Parr invite you to make a wish in the 'The Chamber of Wishes' – an immersive interactive installation in which visitors will be able to focus on their hopes and dreams, while also experiencing one of the ocean's great mysteries up-close and personal.

By unveiling the lost rich history of springs, wells and grottos in London's Bankside, and the rare phenomenon of bioluminescent sea water, Bompas & Parr aim to facilitate a truly unique merger between art, science, folklore and the mystery of the natural world. They have enlisted the help of Microbiologist Dr Simon Park to bring one of the ocean's great secrets to light.

Bompas & Parr's work focuses on the interrelationship between performance and setting. They collaborate with specialist technicians, engineers, artists, scientists, musicians and many other disciplines to create experiential exhibitions and events.

"Experienced at firsthand, bioluminescence is a remarkably powerful type of light with a unique ability to attract and engage the curious. The algae Pyrocystis is extraordinary in its ability to sense movement in water, and to convert this into a dazzling light display."

– DR PARK

BANKSIDE TRANSFORMED

On Your Wavelength

Marcus Lyall in collaboration with Rob Thomas

Railway Arch, 37 America Street SE1 0NJ

London Bridge / Southwark

18 September – 18 October

Wednesday – Sunday, 12 – 7pm

See mergefestival.co.uk

On Your Wavelength is a mind-powered laser and sound installation created by Marcus Lyall, the British artist behind award-winning stage visuals for the Chemical Brothers and Metallica, with a soundtrack by Rob Thomas. Become part of the installation by wearing a headset that uses the latest technology to transmit brain activity into spontaneously choreographed digital artwork on an architectural scale. Or visit the installation, located in a dark railway arch, and experience the epic light and sound show.

A new commission for MERGE 2015, this site-specific artwork will be created from intersecting thought patterns, via an EEG headset. The laser and sound will then amplify participants' brain activities to create a large-scale immersive light and sound installation. The installation highlights participants' minds as tangible objects and generates a unique 'brain signature' for each user.

Marcus has created experimental film and interactive projects for the last 20 years and now works on a range of moving-image projects. He has collaborated with sound artist Rob Thomas to write the custom software that translates EEG signals into data to drive the real-time audio; and with Alex Anpilogov who created the visual synthesizer, which translates the data into a real-time visual composition, to feed the laser.

"The aim is to reach a focused 'state of mind', that can only be achieved through their ability to 'let go'."

EMOTIV

COMMISSIONED BY

Southwark Council

BLACKFRIARS STORIES

Time To Be Late

Various performers

- Various bus stops on Blackfriars Road
- Southwark
- 24 September – 25 September
- 8 – 9am, 12.30 – 1.30pm, 5.30 – 7pm
- FREE

Keep your eyes peeled when 'Time to be Late' takes to the street. Part evocative bus journey, part theatrical experience, the public's daily journey to and from work will come alive through a series of energetic and humourous scenes taking place at bus stops along Blackfriars Road. Performers include the award winning Natural Theatre Company who have been making people laugh in nearly 80 countries for over 40 years, and Scotty the Blue Bunny who will be performing his unique cabaret show.

"Wouldn't it be good if extraordinary things happened when you were late! A time when what is real, becomes unreal. Imagine: it's your Friday morning routine, you gather with a group of strangers for a fleeting moment to wait for your London bus. In transience, with time to kill, suddenly you find yourself in the midst of something unimaginable - a policeman hands you a cup cake whilst in pursuit of a wanted blue bunny. Didn't Alice say, "Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality?"

In celebration of TV Times' 60th anniversary, we are showcasing a selection of exclusive images from its vast archives.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Interplay

Curated by Illuminate Productions for TV Times' 60th Anniversary

- Platform Southwark, 1 Joan Street, SE1 8DA
- Southwark / Waterloo
- 18 September – 18 October
- Wednesday – Sunday, 12 – 7pm
- FREE

Never before seen images of the biggest stars of music from the 60s through to the early 80s, including James Brown, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Muddy Waters, Marlene Dietrich, Kate Bush, The Small Faces, The Beatles, The Doors and many more. These photographs show both the hype and excitement that occurred around star's appearances – in unguarded moments, both behind the scenes and in the spotlight. An exclusive insight into iconic musicians and their interaction with audiences and each other.

PHOTOGRAPHY

60 Years, 60 Iconic Images

Curated by TV Times

- In and around Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark St, SE1 0SU (the home of TV Times)
- Southwark
- 17 September – 18 October
- Monday – Friday, 10am – 7pm
- FREE

Showcasing TV Times' incredible access to the stars of music, entertainment and sport over six decades including images of Peter Sellers, Woody Allen, Liza Minnelli, The Beatles, Bobby Moore, David Bowie, Cilla Black, Diana Rigg and many more.

As the only title to host ITV's listings, TV Times had exclusive access to their stars throughout one of the most exciting periods of British entertainment, and this continued after de-regulation. Both exhibitions demonstrate that since the launch of TV Times in 1955, it has been at the heart of British television continuing to the present day. Visit whatsontv.co.uk

THEATRE

Caravan Theatre

Programmed by Robin Linde Productions

Booking essential
For tickets visit
mergefestival.co.uk

Gold Caravan on the River Walkway outside Tate Modern, SE1 9TG

Blackfriars / London Bridge

1 – 18 October

Thursday – Sunday, 1 – 7pm

FREE – to book a ticket visit mergefestival.co.uk

Working with emerging writers, directors and actors, Caravan Theatre brings mysterious and immersive theatre productions to a small intimate audience of four people at a time. Performers in the 70s gold safari caravan this year include: Sammy Kissin, Natalie Smith and Croft and Pearce.

WEEK 1

The Ever Expanding Tale Of Travelling

Created and performed by Annemiek van Elst
1 – 4 October

Hitch a ride in the caravan and create your own journey, with a little help from a friend. Annemiek van Elst tells stories of adventurous travels through London and beyond. You will become part of this ever-expanding tale....

WEEK 2

The Alan Key

Written by Sammy Kissin. Performed by Judith Amsenga
8 – 11 October

This story plunges us into the tragi-comic reality of what it means to be a human, searching for love and meaning in the assemble-it-yourself age of Ikea. Jo's bed is falling apart. When she goes to Ikea to buy a new one, it seems her life is on the verge of doing the same. What she doesn't factor in is how everything is about to change.

WEEK 3

BY GEORGE

Created and performed by Sammy Kissin. Performed by Sammy Kissin on 15 and 18 October and Robin Steegman on 16 and 17 October

The other week a complete stranger shouted across the dock and asked "Do you own this boat?" I said "Yes". He said "Then you must be Sammy". He said "George, who used to fish here. He asked me to pass on a message. He wanted to say Goodbye". The exchange was so simple. I said "Oh". I wanted to say "Please, say bye back to George." I'd like to say bye. This is an attempt at a reply.

BANKSIDE TRANSFORMED

Chain Reaction

TROPE (Carol MacGillivray and Bruno Mathez)

Kirkaldy Testing Museum, Southwark Street, SE1 0JF

London Bridge / Southwark

25 September – 18 October

Thursday – Sunday, 1pm – 7pm

FREE

TROPE, designers in choreographed time, will become artists in residence at the Kirkaldy Testing Museum, taking inspiration from the 1874 building made to house the first tensile testing machine in the world. 'Chain Reaction' explores the fluid nature of time through action and re-action, in a series of playful, interactive and mechanical artworks. Visitors will journey through an immersive world where the basement space of Kirkaldy Testing Works is re-animated in a unique, ghostly ballet.

TROPE blend animation, audio and music with computing, arts and engineering. They will create a site-specific interactive kinetic artwork using latest technology and a Grade 2 listed Chain testing machine in the Museum.

The artists have been working alongside engineering students from City of London University and practicing engineers from Kirkaldy Testing Museum.

Sponsored by The Royal Academy of Engineering, and in partnership with Kirkaldy Testing Museum, AJTEquipment and City University London.

THEATRE

Nursery Original Series

Nursery Theatre

Edric Theatre, 103 Borough Road, SE1 0AA

Southwark / Waterloo

2 October – 17 October

7.30 - 10pm

£8 – To book tickets go to thenurserytheatre.com

The Nursery Originals series will be a European first; a season of new improvised shows with the production values of theatre, and the joy and unpredictability of live comedy. Based on a programme running at the Hideout Theatre in Austin, Texas, the Nursery Theatre is bringing top quality spontaneous shows to Bankside.

Friday 2 October

Opening party, jam and selection night

Celebrating the opening of the new Nursery season, we are proud to present a smorgasboard of the best improvisers in London and the UK. With performers from groups including Peablossom Cabaret ("Uproarious laughter" Edfringe Review), the Maydays (5* Fringe Guru), The Oxford Imps (5* Three weeks), Katy and Rach (5* Remote Goat), C3Something (5* Remote Goat) and Impromptu Shakespeare ("Outstanding" Broadway Baby), the opening ceremony will be a whistle-stop tour of improvisation at the Nursery and in London, with opportunities for the audience themselves to play as well!

Saturday 3 October

Ten Thousand Million Love Stories

Two person, multi character improvised theatre with Jules Munns and Heather Urquhart. Taking audience's lives and loves and weaving them into a show that changes every time, this is a show about love, what it means and how we succeed and fail in it. Winner - Best Female Performer, Brighton Fringe. "The future of comedy" (Fringe Guru). "The perfect balance between realism and comedy slapstick." (Brighton's Finest).

Friday 9 October

The Wunderkammer

Join improv group Do Not Adjust Your Stage as they create stories, scenes and characters, inspired by leading experts, academics, and all-round huge brains. In each edition, The Wunderkammer invites different expert speakers to deliver a short TED-style talk the audience hasn't seen before on their passions and expertise, providing the springboard for improvised comedy theatre." Breakneck speed, slick...a thinking person's improv night" (Remote Goat)

Saturday 10 October

Role Play Cabaret

The Interactive Roleplaying Show from Jolly Boat. Two Gamesmasters take the stage. The audience offers ideas, and together, they create a new world, give life to characters - and chuck a giant D20 about the room. Then the Gamesmasters begin to weave a story: a unique story, in which YOU are the hero. Roleplay Cabaret is a unique live roleplaying show featuring actual play from experienced comedians and a large audience. (Praise for Jollyboat: ***** Broadway Baby. ***** Three Weeks. *****)

Friday 16 October

The Peablossom Cabaret

Mr Pea and Miss Blossom perform a brand new set of toe-tapping cabaret numbers at every show. Be part of the show as they improvise lyrics on the spot about your hobbies, your grandma, your cat... anything at all! Slick, improvised lyrics are combined with joyful character comedy and a cavalcade of musical styles. They perform at comedy clubs, parties and functions, festivals and brawls. "Devastatingly funny", (EdFringe Review)

Saturday 17 October

[Emotion] Play

Set on the same patch of land over thousands of years, [Emotion] Play starts in a patch of woodland during Roman times and progresses through a temple to a Victorian building that then gets renovated to become a trendy office space. What happens on that plot of land during that time? What loves and deaths and delights? Directed by Chris Mead, this is the first of the new Nursery Originals shows, created specifically for the Edric Theatre.

THEATRE

Food Demonstration Gone Wrong

Created by Robin Linde Productions in collaboration with Jonathan Peck

The Market Hall, Borough Market, Borough High Street, SE1 1TL

London Bridge

3 October

On the hour 12 – 4pm (show lasts 15 minutes)

FREE

Two chefs present their newest food creation together in a site-specific performance for Borough Market's food demonstration kitchen.

By trying too hard, having a different approach to team work and by changing the recipe last minute by mistake, all will go unexpectedly wrong.

Keeping up appearances during a live food demonstration, whilst trying to save the dish of the day, will escalate in this interactive physical slapstick comedy.

BOROUGH MARKET SE1

MUSIC

Resonance

Radio shows and live events

resonancefm.com/listen

9 September – 16 October

Wednesdays, 5.30 – 6.30pm

MERGE will be collaborating with Resonance fm to produce six hour-long programmes featuring artists, musicians and performers from the festival. Artists will talk about their work, musicians will play live, and there will be discussion on topics such as history and engineering.

Resonance 104.4fm is the world's first radio art station, established by London Musicians' Collective. It started broadcasting in 2002 to provide a radical alternative to the universal formulae of mainstream broadcasting. It features programmes made by musicians, artists and critics who represent the diversity of London's arts scenes.

DAB Originals

Presented by Resonance fm

2, 9 and 16 October

7.30pm (doors)

£9 (season tickets £21)
To book your ticket go to mergefestival.co.uk

"The best radio station in London" (The Guardian) just got better.

From September 2015, to coincide with MERGE, Resonance broadcasts on DAB in Greater London. To mark this launch and that of a new, additional station, Resonance Extra, on DAB in Brighton & Hove, MERGE Festival is proud to host DAB Originals a showcase for musicians who are genuinely redefining new music. Using such diverse sources as the human bloodstream and iPhone apps, and with all the complex musical concerns of both digital natives and post internet refuseniks, DAB Originals is a channel hopping tour of sound as art today. Programmed by Resonance Extra's Peter Lanceley.

DAB Originals is a series of cutting edge concerts in an intimate setting, including performances by the universally acclaimed Hidden Orchestra and Berlin audio flaneur RKSS, LSO alumnus Robert Szymanek and a return visit to MERGE by last year's palpable underground hit HOLOVR.

The Riverside Stage

The Riverside Stage on the river walkway by the Millennium Bridge will showcase live music throughout the festival. The stage is curated to showcase and promote original song writing and musical talent. Bands this year will include winner of the BBC 2 Folk awards 'Stick in the Wheel' and the adventurous seven piece band 'Mishaped Pearls', nominated for Best Song-Folk Singer in The Independent Music Awards 2014.

River walkway outside Tate Modern, Bankside, London SE1 9TG

Southwark / Blackfriars

19, 20, 26 and 27 September

12 – 6pm

FREE

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

12pm Jack Harris
1pm Iyatra Quartet
2pm Shama Rahman
3pm Ma Polaine's Great Decline
4pm Self Help Group
5pm Mishaped Pearls

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

12pm Ned Roberts
1pm Quest Ensemble
2pm Alice Phelps
3pm Adam Beattie
4pm Jones
5pm Son of Kirk

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

12pm Robert Chaney
1pm Jenny Wren
2pm Hallelujah Trails
3pm Lounge Cat Ideals
4pm Bouche
5pm Simon Stanley Ward

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

12pm Nic Dawson Kelly
1pm James McArthur and the Head Gardeners
2pm Samantha Whates
3pm Lords of Thyme
4pm Dana Immanuel and the Stolen Band
5pm Stick In The Wheel

MUSIC

The Song and the Bottle

Live music by Adam Beattie, Brooke Sharkey and guests

Laithwaite's, 219-222 Stoney Street, SE1 9AA

London Bridge

15 October

7.30 – 9pm

£25. Book tickets by emailing thearch@laithwaiteswine.com or call 0207 4076378

Does music change the taste of wine? Will a Sancerre seem zestier with Nouvelle Vague being played? Or will your Chianti appear more refined after listening to Tchaikovsky or folk?

Join Laithwaite's for a unique live musical wine tasting experience, where two favourite things come together to charm and sway your senses.

By pairing great music with great wines, you will experience how music can both alter and complement a wine's essence – and vice versa.

The event will be held in the beautiful Laithwaite's Arch store. Laithwaite's are a family owned independent wine merchant who, for over the last 50 years, have been finding some of the most exciting and enjoyable wines in the world. Their tasting table is the longest in the world and they pride themselves on knowledge and expertise in wine. They have been awarded Winner of the IWC Merchant of the Year in 2015.

> "She's sure to stop you in your tracks…Really is so beautiful"
>
> – BBC RADIO 6 MUSIC

Musician Brooke Sharkey has lured a considerable audience with her intense and expressive style, drawing the listener into her ever more narrative songs with a spacious backdrop of chanson, blues, folk and Latin music. Adam Beattie's distinctive voice and direct lyrical style ties together an eclectic mix of 'folk stews, dirty blues and groovy minor swing'. They will be joined by guests.

MUSIC

Tunesday

Various musicians at Mondrian London

Dandelyan, Mondrian London, 20 Upper Ground, SE1 9PD

Blackfriars / Southwark

22 and 29 September, 6 and 13 October

Tuesdays, 7 – 9.30pm

FREE

For Tunesdays at Mondrian London, MERGE will be in residence at the Dandelyan each Tuesday evening for a series of live music events to showcase and promote original song writing and musical talent. Dandelyan bar transports guests to a place where they can lose themselves in exotic flavours and magnetic conversation. You will be taken on a journey of discovery to experience and enjoy new tastes and unexpected combinations in an interior designed by Tom Dixon.

22 September

Live music by Rory More, DJ set by Geoff Leonard

Not since the days of Georgie Fame, 1960s clubland Soho, and black and white B-movie soundtracks, has the electric organ sounded this good. Hip, hot and swingin' describe the sounds of the Rory More Electric Organ Duo – some would say a little big band is more accurate, such is the range of their sound. The authentic rhythm-and-groove organ duo is rare these days, so thanks for Rory More and his 1962 Lowrey Heritage Deluxe organ. Geoff Leonard is a rising mover on the specialist vinyl scene, championing mega-rare early disco, sell-out nights at the world famous Bethnal Green Working Men's Club, and groovy oddities and library recordings for a growing fan base of London listeners at Back2Back radio.

29 September

A Wonderfulsound evening featuring live music by Shawn Lee, DJ set by Miles Copeland

Shawn Lee is one of the most prolific musicians of his generation; a multi-instrumentalist, producer, singer songwriter and composer who has released 34 albums as an artist to date. He has played, produced and written on hundreds of records, and has worked with a diverse range of artists including Jeff Buckley, Kelis, Money Mark, Amy Winehouse and Princess Superstar. Lee's music has been used extensively in both film and TV, including Monuments Men, Oceans 13, Eastbound & Down, Ugly Betty and Confessions of a Shopaholic.

When Miles Copeland isn't creating electronic tinged budget beat soulful pop influenced by the sun-dappled songsmiths of California old in his Wonderfulsound studios or releasing artists on his Wonderfulsound record label, he DJs his infamous Wonderfulsound Libraries which reflects his unique passion and obsession for melody, sound and atmosphere all smothered in a pop sensibility.

Go to mergefestival.co.uk for further details of Tunesday events on 6 and 13 October.

THEATRE

Rendezvous at Midnight

At The Rose Playhouse – Midnight performances

The Rose, 56 Park St, Southwark, London SE1 9AR

London Bridge / Southwark

18 and 25 September, 2, 9 and 16 October

Every Friday at Midnight

£5. To book your ticket, visit rosetheatre.org.uk

ENCOUNTER ONE

First Night Out!

18 September, duration: 80 mins

Heady Conduct Theatre presents scenes from Reckless being performed in the first ever midnight performance at The Rose. Directed by Rebecca Rogers.

ENCOUNTER TWO

A Night With The Elizabethans

25 September, duration: 1 hour

Mystic and madness at midnight with scenes from Shakespeare's Hamlet and Macbeth, Christopher Marlowe's Dr Faustus and Ben Jonson's The Alchemist. Directed by Pamela Schermann.

ENCOUNTER THREE

Lovers and Enemies

2 October, duration: 1 hour

Tonight focuses on the power struggle between lovers and enemies with scenes from Shakespeare's Othello, The Taming of the Shrew, Coriolanus and Antony & Cleopatra. Directed by Pamela Schermann.

ENCOUNTER FOUR

Shakespeare and Classical Music

9 October, duration: 1 hour

An evening with classical music and Shakespeare. Directed by Pamela Schermann.

ENCOUNTER FIVE

Twelfth Night – A Gender Experiment

16 October, duration: 1 hour

A gala of scenes… The only chance to see all four gender castings of Twelfth Night on the stage in one night. Directed by Natasha Rickman.

Happenings

The Joke's on You Comedy at Heeltap

18 October, 7pm. Free.

Jayde Adams, Funny Women 2014 winner and just back from Edinburgh Fringe will be at Heeltap for one-night only. ("Future of British Comedy" Diva Mag, "Fearless force of nature" The Independent). Jayde will work into her performance jokes that have been added by the public to an interactive mural created by local artist Sean Murphy. Visit Heeltap during MERGE to read the mural of jokes and add your own, and then see Jayde perform her interactive set at the end of the festival.

Porky's

Every Wednesday

18 New Globe Walk SE1

Porky's will be hosting live Blues every Wednesday during MERGE. Porky's brings a taste of the deep south to Bankside with authentic American BBQ dishes, Americana-inspired cocktails and a range of bourbons, rye whiskies and craft beers.

The Union Jack

Every Saturday and Sunday from 8pm

225 Union Street, SE1

Traditional pub, The Union Jack, will host live music, including Jazz, Soul, Funk and Rock Jazz on Saturday and Sunday nights from 8pm.

Golden Hinde

Thursday 24 September

JAZZ NURSERY, The Golden Hinde,
1 Pickfords Wharf, SE1

Rick Simpson "Klammer" and Alex Haines Trio. More info at jazznursery.com

Bedales

Sunday 4 October

5 Bedale Street, SE1

Don't miss this Sunday Session at Bedales wine bar in Borough Market. Live music and half price bottles of wine – the perfect combination.

Contemporary Applied Arts

19 September, 3pm

89 Southwark Street, London SE1

Architectural glass artist Kate Maestri will discuss the commissioning process and how to successfully collaborate with architects. Kate's central precept is that her work should be site specific and large glass installations should be integrated into the structure; responding harmoniously to architecture. Tickets £5. Places are limited, call 020 7620 0086 to book.

Camino

5 Canvey St, SE1

Given the luminescence of the 'The Chamber of Wishes', Camino Bankside will have a special flight of cava on offer throughout MERGE with a luminescence of its own…

MERGE Bankside is curated and produced by Illuminate Productions and is supported by Better Bankside and Tate Modern

Thanks very much to all our supporters: