

A festival of unity,
creativity,
and expression

RISE UP

FESTIVAL

2023

CABARET
KEYNOTE
LIVE PODCAST
MUSIC
PANELS
WORKSHOPS

ABERDEEN | 5 & 6 MAY

WWW.ABERDEENPERFORMINGARTS.COM



WE ARE HERE SCOTLAND




Rise Up!, a weekend festival celebrating Black and People of Colour creatives in Aberdeen and Scotland, returns in May for its second year with a host of events at the Music Hall and the Lemon Tree.

Curated by We Are Here Scotland and commissioned by Aberdeen Performing Arts, Rise Up! will bring an exciting programme of unity, creativity and expression.

Friday 5 May

KEYNOTE



5pm - 6.30pm | The Lounge, The Lemon Tree



The official launch for Rise Up! 2023 Our keynote speaker is Leader and Consultant in Culture, Heritage and the Creative and Screen Industries Yahyah Barry. He is the Community Development Lead (Scotland & Northern Ireland) for the Film and Television Charity, and a Member of the Board of Creative Scotland.

Yahya will be delivering a keynote and accompanied by refreshments and catering courtesy of Aberdeen Performing Arts and Rudy Kanhye.

(Please note that attendance is via invitation)





Friday 5 May

CABARET



7pm - 10pm | The Lounge, The Lemon Tree

Join us for an exciting opening night of Rise Up for artistic exploration and expression! Our cabaret evening will feature a diverse array of performances, including poetry, spoken word, dance performance, and a captivating theatre performance.



Courtney Stoddart
SPOKEN WORD



Courtney Stoddart is an acclaimed Scottish poet, writer and performer. In June 2019, Courtney took part in the BBC Radio 1xtra and BBC Contains Strong Language Festival Word's First Talent Scheme, making it to the final 12. She was selected to be published in an anthology by Own It! London and edited by Jude Yawson, co-writer of Stormzy's Rise Up: The Story So Far. Stoddart starred in Hannah Lavery's 'Lament for Sheku Bayoh' for 3 years running at the Lyceum Theatre and has represented Scotland at FLUP! literary festival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, whilst also being named as one of YWCA's 30 under 30 in 2020.



Dorine Mugisha
DANCE

Dorine Mugisha is a dancer, choreographer and instructor. She performed and competed across the UK and internationally with London based The Archetype (World of Dance UK, World of Dance LA, Hotstepper, Breakin' Convention, Dancers Delight, Move it). Then following her move to Scotland, she joined A.K.O, training, teaching, choreographing and performing at events such as UEFA Euro 2021, Elevate dance and more. She continues to learn, develop, share and unapologetically rediscover her love for dance and the infinity of freedom in movement. She advocates that everyBODY can dance.



Sara Sharaawi
PLAYWRIGHT

Sara Sharaawi is a playwright from Cairo, living in Glasgow. Her work has been performed across Scotland and the UK, as well as Egypt, Uganda, and South Africa. She has written work for the stage as well as audio drama, and has recently worked with companies such as Wonderfools and Imagine Festival to create work with and for young people. She enjoys working in a variety of contexts and finds the diversity in writing for performance thrilling.



Safeena Rashid
COMEDY

Safeena is a fully qualified Scottish advocate who delved into the world of comedy after thinking about a racist comment made to her. When she thought about the stupidity of it in the cold light of day, it dawned on her that she could probably turn it into stand-up. In 2019 she contacted different open mic places, performed and enjoyed it so much that the comedy dream was born. As a So You Think You're Funny 2022 semi-finalist, she's quietly contemplating her future of law vs comedy.



Saturday 6 May

PANELS

Venue: Music Hall



All panels with British Sign Language Interpreter

11am - 12pm

A Sonic Hug Presents: How do we improve the mental health and wellbeing of BPoC creatives in Scotland

[BOOK NOW](#)

Featuring creative practitioners and a healthcare professional, this panel will look at ways we can protect our mental health and wellness while working in the industry. This panel will be also recorded as part of a live podcast.

12.20pm - 1.20pm

Generational Experiences as a BPoC Creative

[BOOK NOW](#)

Creatives from different generations discuss their experiences growing up and working in Scotland and how their journeys compare.

HALINA RIFAI

BRENDA VENGESA

SHAUN NOTEMAN

SHIRIN KARBOR

ARUSA QURESHI

AMANJIT UPPAL

1.40pm - 2.40pm

Uncomfortable Conversations in Safe Spaces

[BOOK NOW](#)

Exploring how we encourage and foster conversations around diversity, inclusion, equality and more in the creative industries.

ICA HEADLAM

ADJEI AMANING

NASIM REBECCA ASL

SALMA FARAJI

JIDEFOR MUOTUNE

ELAINE CHENG

Saturday 6 May WORKSHOPS

Venue: Music Hall

Creative Writing with Andrés N. Ordorica

3pm - 4pm

BOOK NOW



*An Ode to Friendship
"Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone."
—Maya Angelou, Alone*

In this 60-minute workshop, led by Andrés N Ordorica, participants will explore the power of friendships and how writers across time have attempted to capture the intimate subtleties of this unique type of human relationship. Through a series of free-writes and structured exercises, participants will be invited to reflect on friendships, both new and old, those we have just met and those we have lost touch with. Together, we will craft work that is personal while delving into deeper societal understandings of friendships and communities. Although, we will look closely at the work of poets, participants are invited to write in any style that suits them (poetry, prose, memoir, etc). This workshop is aimed at all levels of writers as well as those new to writing.

Anti-racism with Ravideep Kaur

1.45pm - 2.45pm

BOOK NOW

"The beauty of anti-racism is that you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist. Anti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward."

—Ijeoma Oluo

Join us in this intentional (un)learning workshop where we aim to deep dive and examine the ways in which we have been conditioned to uphold supremacist and oppressive ways of being and how these continue to manifest systemically.

In order to move towards a more equitable society we must understand how the dynamics of power operate, who has access and how we go about redistributing power that moves away from tokenistic and reductionist representation politics.

We must collectively understand how much of our human experience is tied up within colonial structures, statuses and enforced forms of domination.

Please note that this is only a 60-minute session so is essentially a toe dip in supporting individuals on their unlearning journey so that they can continue to implement a culture shift which incorporates anti-racist practices.

This space is suitable for anyone no matter where they are on their anti-racist journey. It aims to ground, move and encapsulate safety and non-judgement. However, this space deliberately and specifically centres the narrative and experiences of Black, POC & minoritised communities.



Saturday 6 May

RISE UNDER

Venue: Music Hall

The first Rise Under which is part of Rise Up! Festival and aimed at 12-17 year olds will see a series of workshops running exploring filmmaking, music and screenprinting. There will also be an Open Mic to help showcase new talent in the field of music, spoken word, poetry and creative expression.

REGISTER!
NOW!



Finishing the Song

with Chef the Rapper 2.15pm - 3.15pm

Join Chef The Rapper for "Finishing The Song," the ultimate workshop for taking your music to the next level. This workshop is perfect for artists of all skill levels who are looking to enhance their creative process and complete their musical projects. Not only will you learn valuable techniques for writing and restructuring your music, but Chef The Rapper will also provide you with expert advice on collaboration, choosing the best collaborators, and what to do with your music once it's complete.

REGISTER!
NOW!



Filming on a Budget

with Sara Stroud 1pm- 2pm

A short introduction with Sara Stroud to the basics of filmmaking using your phone or iPad. Create a film through games and play. Learn to create a story from random objects and sounds. You will need an iPhone, iPad or android device for filming. If you need to borrow a device please let us know and we can provide you with one. This short course will teach you how to film and edit. You will learn the basics of filmmaking on a budget using your mobile device.

REGISTER!
NOW!



Screenprinting 11.45am - onwards

with Caitlin Dick & Phoebe McBride

Aberdeen-based visual artists Caitlin Dick and Phoebe McBride will be facilitating a screen-printing workshop for Rise Up. Participants will have the exciting opportunity to have a taster experience of screen-printing as well as printing their own We Are Here Scotland tote bag.

REGISTER!
NOW!



Open Mic 4pm - 5.30pm

with Mae Diansangu

Join us for an exciting open mic event hosted by Mae Diansangu, exclusively for young performers aged 12-17! This is an opportunity for musicians, singers, poets, and other performers to showcase their talents in front of a supportive audience.

Saturday 6 May

REGISTER!
NOW!

LIVE PODCAST

Venue: Music Hall | 3pm - 4pm

Join best friends turned co-hosts of Black Scot Pod Suzie Mwanza and Shirley Mcpherson for a live podcast with guest Muslim Alim (Commissioning Editor, BBC Daytime TV).

In this special live episode of Black Scot Pod, we will be exploring the important topic of diversity and inclusion in the creative industries, the focus here on TV.

BLACK SCOT POD

SUZIE MWANZA & SHIRLEY MCPHERSON



Launched due to a lack of Black Scottish voices in mainstream media, best friends turned co-hosts Suzie Mwanza and Shirley Mcpherson share their experiences and opinions of growing up in Scotland in this ground-breaking podcast. The two also offer commentary on a wide range of topics from cultural to current events- to the latest trends taking social media by storm- all delivered with a side of traditional Scottish banter!

MUSLIM ALIM

COMMISSIONING EDITOR, BBC DAYTIME TV



Muslim has been with the BBC for 21 years producing award-winning content across radio, tv and digital. Starting as a Researcher in TV Entertainment he went on to produce programmes for BBC Radio 1 and was the co-creator of digital youth brand BBC The Social where he commissioned multi-genre content including partnerships with News, a YouTube drama set in Edinburgh and a slew of viral hits with digital creators.

6

Saturday 6 May

LOVED SEEDS

Venue: Look Again Project Space | 2pm



Multimedia artist Helen Love and poet Noon Salah Eldin use art as a form of activism.

Combining clay, poetry and projection in this performance, they will make a three dimensional family tree of the nine children of an enslaved woman from 1832 Jamaica who have connections to Aberdeen.



Noon Salah Eldin



Noon Salah Eldin is a poet and spoken word artist based in Aberdeen, Scotland. Born and raised in Sudan, she moved to the UK in 2015 to pursue postgraduate medical training in child health. Writing and performing poetry has become an increasingly important part of her life. It has empowered her to process and discuss experiences of childhood traumas, political upheaval, migration and motherhood. She believes that art can be a powerful tool for personal and social transformation and has been asked to share her poems by governmental, NGO, and civil-society organizations. Part of art and activist duo Eldin&Love since 2020.

Helen Love

Helen Love is a multimedia artist (film, ceramics, glass), of immigrant parents (Denmark, South Africa) but rooted in Aberdeen. She been a community artist and art school ceramics technician for many years and has exhibited installations in Denmark and the Faroes. She is mother of four and after losing her street artist son to overdose, sees her art interventions around the city as a continuity of his legacy. Having met Eldin at a protest they joined words with visualisations to show the unseen behind Aberdeen's built legacies of slavery and tell their own intimate stories of identity connected to the local rivers.





CLICK FOR SLIDING SCALE TICKETS

Saturday 6 May LIVE MUSIC

Venue: The Lemon Tree | 7.30pm - 11.30pm

A night to celebrate and champion an array of Black and People of Colour talent from across Scotland, who are changing the narrative within the country's music scene.



4TUNE

When four different Scottish backgrounds collided, 4TUNE came to life. A new, young, and fresh pop/R&B girl group formed of four completely different girls who are all chasing the same dream. The group wish to be Scotland's first successful and next generation band whilst making a change in the music industry for young girls. Hope, Tia, Tamara, and Calla wish to make this change with their upbeat yet relatable pop/ R&B sound, partnered with their unique identities. 4TUNE have a lot planned for 2023 and they can't wait to show you what they've been working on!



RUE COOPER

Rue Cooper is a singer and songwriter from Nassau, Bahamas. Now based in Edinburgh, Rue's love for music was apparent from age 2 when she frequently communicated with her parents through song. Fortified by childhood piano and saxophone lessons, Rue's musicality led her to musical theatre and orchestra in grade school and to begin songwriting as a young teenager. Classic gospel chord influences are evident in Rue's style as an emerging vocalist bringing a reimagined, modern take on Funk, Soul, and Disco to Edinburgh and beyond. Rue's musical influences include Lauryn Hill, Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, and Adele, as she believes singing's true beauty lies in its ability to express intimate and authentic messages. Currently, Rue is the vocalist and songwriter for Groove Down, an Edinburgh-based disco-soul band whose original music proves that funk lives on, and we're all part of its beautiful legacy.



DJANA GABRIELLE

A 2019 Celtic Connections Danny Kyle Stage Winner, and one of the "most note-worthy performances" at the 2019 Kintyre Songwriters' Festival, Djana Gabrielle is a French-Cameroonian singer-songwriter who has been honing her craft on the Scottish music scene for a few years now. She released her debut EP, recorded in Glasgow, in late 2015 and toured around the UK and Europe to promote it. In 2018, she took on the challenge to write, record and release a brand-new song each month, which earned her a "New & Notable" feature on the American music platform Noisetrade. She is now working on various theatre projects as well as her next release, hoping to introduce her soulful, soothing, and melodious sound to new audiences in Scotland and beyond.



POOYAN SAADATI (DJ SET)

Pooyan is an Iranian DJ/Producer based in Aberdeen. In 2011 he gravitated towards a diverse array of musical styles, as demonstrated by his music collection. As he used to play video games, got enthusiast to games sound track hence between 2011-2013 he was interested in contemporary Classical, electronica and ambient by Jesper Kyd, sumptuous piano-led electronic music by Yoko Shimomura.



5 & 6 MAY RISE UP FESTIVAL

Locations



Music Hall

Union St
Aberdeen
AB10 1QS

The Lemon Tree

Union St
Aberdeen
AB10 1QS

Look Again

Garthdee
Road
Aberdeen
AB10 7QD

Commissioned by



Aberdeen Performing Arts is a multi-award winning, multi-site, arts charity right at the centre of North-east of Scotland. They have three iconic city centre venues; His Majesty's Theatre, the Music Hall and the Lemon Tree, are all on a national and international touring circuit for the performing arts and a vital part of Aberdeen and Scotland's cultural landscape.



Curated by



We Are Here is a Community Interest Company with an aim to amplify the voices BPoC (Black People and People of Colour) in particular Artists and Creatives who reside in Scotland with opportunities to share their work, connect with each other, and have their voices heard within the wider art community. The presence of BPoC artists and creatives working within Scotland's creative industries are significantly underrepresented.



Contact:

For all questions about Rise Up! Festival email hello@weareherescotland.com