



Without Walls announces exceptional outdoor programme for 2023, touring to leading festival partners

Without Walls have announced the 13 artists included in this year's programme, who are due to tour throughout England this summer. Without Walls is committed to making vital and accessible work for public space. The programme is filled with work from some of the UK's most highly regarded outdoor arts and performance specialists, and brings together some of the most exciting new companies and street artists.

The artists included in the programme will tour concurrently this summer to Without Walls festivals partners which include **Brighton Festival, Hat Fair (Winchester), Norfolk & Norwich Festival, Stockton International Riverside Festival, Timber Festival (Staffordshire), Certain Blacks – Ensemble Festival (London), Just So Festival (Cheshire), Greenwich+Docklands International Festival** and **Leeds 2023**.

The programme explores multiple themes, including: protest, darkness and light, family, food heritage, imagined futures and ballroom culture. In these challenging times, it gives much needed breathing space to complex yet important issues, while providing warmth and hope for better days ahead.

Five shows in the programme are by artists and companies of South Asian heritage. *Pravaas* from **Akademi** is a performance inspired by the climate migration of people from the Sundarbans across India and Bangladesh. The piece explores the beauty and poignancy of South Asian dance forms and classical Carnatic vocals. Through this promenade performance

audiences will follow an evocative experience of migration, witnessing the lyricism, fluidity and symmetry of ancient South Asian dance forms.

Nominated for the National Dance Awards in 2022, **Amina Khayyam Dance Company** returns this year with **You&Me**, which contains short Kathak dance pieces, realised from a South Asian feminist perspective.

Beeja (the name means 'seed' in Hindi) will bring **choogh choogh** to audiences. Conceptualised by one of the most exciting exponents of Bharatanatyam, Anusha Subramanyam, the piece is inspired by the train which *chooghs chooghs* on. In this show for all the family, Beeja aims to generate new ideas and new understandings through Indian classical and folk dance forms.

Trigger brings **TEABREAK** which serves as a portal into an experiential world of tea drinking and performance. From producers of large-scale epics PoliNations & The Hatchling, **TEABREAK** aims to shine a spotlight on the contested history and story of the apparently quintessential English cup of tea. Putting audiences and togetherness at the heart of their work, freshly brewed tea will be served from Trigger's Tuk Tuk, offering companionship and stimulation.

The season is completed by **Sonia Sabri Company** with **Mughal Miniatures**, a vibrant outdoor performance event celebrating and taking inspiration from the exquisite traditional art of Indian and Persian miniature painting. A series of pop-up, living pictures evoke scenes of Indian princely courts and lush gardens, and the glory of the Mughal period with a contemporary twist.

With a stark decline in programmes aimed to engage young people in the arts, Without Walls have made sure their 2023 programme includes work specifically for family audiences.

Thingumajig Theatre will tour a collection of pop-up puppet stages built onto the back of electric tricycles **A la Puppet Carte**. Suitable for all ages, each show is full of surprises, fun and a heart-warming story of friendship and home.

Just More Productions' ethos is to educate and entertain through food, bringing families and cultures together. This year the team will tour **Fussy Foodies: Battle of The Pans**, an interactive cooking game show where you have the chance to win a grand prize, play games and take part in the ultimate celebration of food, music, roots, and culture. A kitchen party where the audience joins in on the fun!

Ghetto Fabulous is a dance and visual arts company that aims to excite, entertain and have fun. Bringing glamour, glitz and grace, **Family Catwalk Extravaganza** is a fabulous celebration of self-expression. Four dancers will go head to head in a dance, fashion and lip sync competition in an interactive event where the audience decides the winner.

To complete the family offering, **Working Boys Club** will bring **Serving Sounds**, a multi-sensory sound installation that creates connection through music – a bar that serves bass rather than

drinks. The installation is an interactive work, playful and joyful with spaces for up to four people of all ages to interact with the bar at any one time, each experience lasting up to the length of a song.

Dance, circus and physical theatre is seen throughout the programme. **Upswing and Unlimited's** outdoor spectacular **Ancient Futures** blends contemporary circus and storytelling with Sound System culture and West African folklore. Both a headline festival experience and a pop-up installation, the show fuses dance, circus, parkour, music and storytelling with design inspired by West African masquerade and Afrofuturism.

Avanti Display has developed a performance designed for twilight into darkness as well as a roving musical act in the daytime. **Crow** features video projection, live music and fascinating gadgetry and is created by Bill Palmer in collaboration with two hugely experienced outdoor artists, Chris Squire and Paschale Straiton, and the extraordinary musical talents of Seaming To and Semay Wu.

Following on from the success of their previous outdoor duets, **Candoco Dance Company** is a world-leading inclusive company of disabled and non-disabled dancers that commissions and produces work by world-class choreographers. Their new work in the 2023 programme is directed by **Jamaal Burkmar** and is set to popular music, providing an opportunity for audiences to expand their idea of who can dance.

Gorilla Circus is a contemporary circus production company specialising in large scale outdoor circus shows that specialise in high-octane works with strong narratives surrounding global issues. **UNITY** is a reflection on community, an act of protest, a call for change and a dream for the future. This large-scale, aerial-spectacular production features wire-walking, dance trapeze, hair hanging and hydraulics. Each show is focused around a poem which has been commissioned by a local artist of each location the show is touring too making each unique and relevant.

Brighton Festival returns with a joyful celebration of collaboration and community taking place across the city between 6 May – 28 May. Their **A Weekend Without Walls** series of events takes place on 27 & 28 May and is free to audiences and includes: **Pravaas** from **Akademi**, **You&Me** from **Amina Khayyam Dance Company**, **choogh choogh** from **Beeja**, new work from **Candoco Dance Company** and **Jamaal Burkmar**, **Mughal Miniatures** from **Sonia Sabri Company**, **Ancient Futures** from **Unlimited Theatre/Upswing** and **TEABREAK** from **Trigger**.

Norfolk & Norwich Festival is the flagship arts festival in the East of England. For 17 days each May, the Festival transforms public spaces, city streets, performance venues, parks, bringing people together to experience brilliant and inspirational events. The world-class programme spans music, theatre, literature, visual arts, circus, dance and free outdoor events. The outdoor programme takes place on 12 & 13 May, including: **Pravaas** from **Akademi**; **Crow** from **Avanti**

Display; new work from **Candoco Dance Company** and **Jamaal Burkmar**; **UNITY** from **Gorilla Circus**; **Fussy Foodies: Battle of the Pans** from **Just More Productions**; **TEABREAK** from **Trigger** and **Serving Sounds** from **Working Boys Club**.

Jo Burns, Chair of Without Walls, comments, *“The 2023 programme sets a new bar in the breadth, and quality of work we are supporting. We are particularly happy to be presenting a strong body of South Asian led shows and seeing this new work presented at partners festival events located widely across the country.”*

Ralph Kennedy, Director of Without Walls, comments, *“Without Walls commissions have a track record for high-quality new work that explores important societal issues - and for successfully putting this work into public space. Our 2023 programme continues this, with exciting new work from established names in outdoors arts, as well as the most exciting new artists coming into the sector.”*

Without Walls annually invests commissioning funds into a programme of new outdoor shows that go on to tour across the UK and internationally. These works range from the intimate to the epic, aiming to create high-quality arts experiences that are accessible to all, regardless of personal, social or economic circumstances. The organisation consists of the **Artistic Directorate (AD)**, which delivers the artistic policy of the company by supporting and presenting new work; the **Touring Network Partnership (TNP)**, which is made up of organisations who are committed to touring Without Walls shows to neighbourhoods, towns and cities across England with low arts engagement; and the **Creative Development Network (CDN)**, which is made up of organisations and freelance professionals developing an outdoor arts programme and who receive mentorship, training and *support*.

Without Walls will announce artists and companies selected for the Blueprint R&D programme, which supports the development of new innovative outdoor touring work, later in 2023. The organisation will also add more details on further festival dates for the programme from **Just So Festival**, **Hat Fair**, **Stockton International Riverside Festival**, **Greenwich+Docklands International Festival**, **Leeds 2023**, **Certain Blacks – Ensemble Festival** and **Timber Festival**.

Notes to Editors

Website	https://www.withoutwalls.uk.com/
Twitter	@WWConsortium
Instagram	@withoutwallsconsortium
Facebook	/WithoutWallsUK

Without Walls

Without Walls is a consortium of over 30 festivals and arts organisations that brings fantastic outdoor arts to people in towns and cities across England. Since its formation in 2007, Without Walls has developed and toured over 200 new shows by UK companies and supported the Research and Development of over 70 projects. Without Walls commissions have toured widely both in the UK and internationally across 22 countries.

The Without Walls 2023 Programme

Akademi – [Pravaas](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Norfolk & Norwich Festival (NNF), Brighton Festival

Amina Khayyam Dance Company – [You&Me](#)

Co-commissioners credit: Certain Blacks

Avanti Display – [Crow](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF)

Beeja – [choogh choogh](#)

Candoco Dance Company and Jamaal Burkmar –

[New work](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Brighton Festival

Gorilla Circus - [UNITY](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Norfolk & Norwich Festival (NNF), Certain Blacks

Ghetto Fabulous – [Family Catwalk Extravaganza](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Hat Fair

Just More Productions- [Fussy Foodies: Battle of The](#)

[Pans](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Norfolk & Norwich Festival (NNF), Just So Festival and Certain Blacks

Sonia Sabri Company - [Mughal Miniatures](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Brighton Festival, Hat Fair and Certain Blacks

Thingumajig Theatre - [A la Puppet Carte](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Timber Festival and Just So Festival

Trigger - [TEABREAK](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Timber Festival

Unlimited Theatre/Upswing– [Ancient Futures](#)

Co-commissioners credits: Leeds 2023, Brighton Festival, Stockton International Riverside Festival (SIRF) and Greenwich+Docklands International Festival (GDIF)

Working Boys Club- [Serving Sounds](#)

Without Walls Artistic Directorate Festival Partners

Timber Festival (Staffordshire)

Festival Dates: 7th – 9th July

Programme announcement Date: TBC

<https://timberfestival.org.uk/>

Brighton Festival

Festival Dates: 6th May – 28th May

Programme announcement Date: Announced

<https://brightonfestival.org/>

Norfolk & Norwich Festival (NNF)

Festival Dates: 12th – 28th May

Programme announcement Date: Announced

<https://nnfestival.org.uk/>

Certain Blacks – Ensemble Festival (London)

Festival Dates: 21st - 23rd July

Programme announcement Date: TBC

<https://certainblacks.com/>

Hat Fair (Winchester)

Festival Dates: 30th June - 1st July

Programme announcement Date: TBC

<https://www.hatfair.co.uk/>

Leeds 2023

Festival Dates: Year-round

Programme announcement Date: N/A

<https://leeds2023.co.uk/>

Stockton International Riverside Festival

Festival Dates: 3rd - 6th August

Programme announcement Date: TBC

Based in: <https://www.sirf.co.uk/>

Just So Festival (Cheshire)

Festival Dates: 18th- 20th August

Programme announcement Date: TBC

<https://justsofestival.org.uk/>

Greenwich+Docklands International Festival

Festival Dates: 25th August - 10th September

Programme announcement Date: TBC

<https://festival.org/>

101 Outdoor Arts

Festival Dates: N/A

Programme announcement Date: N/A

<https://101outdoorarts.com/>

Arts Council England

Without Walls is supported by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation. Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030, we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where every one of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from the government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision.



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Image Credit: *Sonia Sabri Company - Mughal Miniatures*