

WELCOME TO BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL 23!

Birmingham means a lot to us both – as the inspiration for original stories like Peaky Blinders and as the host city for the most amazing Commonwealth Games in memory.

We can't wait for another summer of live music, dance and performance celebrating the magic all of us made here last year. Experience Birmingham's energy and diversity with an irresistible blend of live acts, fun activities, and big screen entertainment.

WE'LL SEE YOU ON THE SQUARE!

AMA ACBEZE MBE
STEVEN KNIGHT CBE

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL 23 PATRONS

We are so pleased to have commissioned this wonderful festival. It is going to be a fantastic celebration of all that is great about our city and region, showcasing the amazing creativity of our communities. Birmingham Festival 23 is 10 days of brilliant free entertainment that everyone can enjoy - so come and celebrate with us!

CLLR SAIMA SULEMAN
Cabinet Member For Digital, Culture, Heritage & Tourism - Birmingham City Council.



ENJOY THESE STRANDS OF PERFORMANCES AND ACTIVITIES THROUGH THE WEEK.

SENSE WELLBEING SOUND BATH
Each Monday to Friday at 11am, with our friends at Sense (the charity for people with complex disabilities), enjoy an amazing sensory experience. We'll be ready to help with any access requirements.

PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC
He's back! Did you meet Perry last year? Come say 'hello' and join in a fun party picnic. Bring a packed lunch or pick up something nearby.

MADE IN BRUM
Our amazing city is packed with inspiring international talent. We've got a line-up just for you of the best local performers including dance, music, poetry, and a few surprises.

POWER HOUR
A fun workout for everyone. Take a deep breath and join in any way you feel, from a bit of Drum and Bounce to a burst of boxing Bhangra.

TWILIGHT TAKEOVER
As the summer sun sets, grab a drink, grab your friends, and soak up the sounds and atmosphere of some amazing free performances.

YOUR VISIT

Centenary Square is accessible by bus, metro, canal towpath, and on foot. For accessible parking, visit www.birmingham.gov.uk/bluebadgeparking

Neighbouring venues shown have fully accessible, family-friendly toilet and changing facilities (opening times vary).

English summers can be a bit unpredictable, so keep an eye on the forecast and updates on the day.

For more access information, please see brochure back cover. All details are subject to change, so stay up to date on our social media channels and visit our website for the latest programme information.



ACCESS

Please visit the Access page on our website for full access information.

BSL-INTERPRETED
All on-stage performances are BSL-interpreted.

AUDIO DESCRIPTION
Audio Description is available across the Festival site. Headsets can be picked up from the Accessible Viewing area.

ACCESSIBLE VIEWING
There is an Accessible Viewing area opposite the Stage for wheelchair users and those less able to stand.

Our Festival includes a range of events for all ages, abilities, and interests. We've come up with badges to help show how the performances will look and feel on our website.

YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD OUR DAILY SCHEDULES IN LARGE PRINT
birminghamfestival23.co.uk
hello@birminghamfestival23.co.uk

FEELING PECKISH?

There's something to suit every taste and budget at Birmingham Festival 23, or just bring a picnic and enjoy the atmosphere. Pop in to any of the surrounding buildings on Centenary Square like The Exchange - University of Birmingham, The Rep Café Bar, or Symphony Hall's B:Eats café. Just ask what specials they might have for Festival-goers. Drinking water will be free all day - remember your water bottle.

We've also teamed up with Birmingham Restaurant Festival and you can choose from 10 of their participating restaurants nearby. Find out more here and maybe try out somewhere new: birminghamrestaurantfestival.co.uk

1	Recess	6	Rosa's Thai
2	Hotel du Vin	7	Isaacs
3	Qavali	8	Chung Ying
4	Dishoom	9	The Oyster Club
5	Malmaison	10	Côte

FRI 28 JULY 7PM

(DJs FROM 6PM) CENTENARY SQUARE

REMEMBER HOW GOOD IT FELT IN BIRMINGHAM LAST SUMMER?

When we welcomed the world with high-fives and sunshine smiles, and filled the city with our stories and creativity?

Well, this year, at the Festival's opening night event, we want to welcome YOU and everyone who wants to relive some of the magic and memories made during the 2022 Games.

Join award-winning BBC presenter Ayo Akinwolere and Radio 1Xtra's Kaylee Golding - 'Your favourite Gyal from Brum!' - for a packed evening of entertainment to celebrate what Birmingham achieved, exactly one year on from the Games' spectacular kick-off at Alexander Stadium.

Expect broadcast highlights and newly-commissioned films, interviews with guest creatives and athletes, a dynamic parade and rousing musical performances, ahead of a never-seen-before live performance from Birmingham Music Archive's 'sonic love letter' to Birmingham, *On Record*.

OPENING EVENT

- ### HELP GET THE FESTIVAL STARTED IN TRUE BRUMMIE STYLE WITH THIS FREE EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
- Soulful house DJ Echo Juliet and BBC Asian Network's Bobby Friction
 - Commonwealth Games mascot Perry with Birmingham Bhangra legends, Dhol Blasters
 - Team England Commonwealth Games medal-winning Athletes
 - Mezzo-Soprano Samantha Oxborough, with the Choir with No Name and community BSL Choir, Music in Motion
 - Singer, dancer and multi-instrumentalist, Bambi Bains
 - Urban Music award-winner and rapper, SANITY
 - 'It's A Brum Ting' stars, Friendly Fire Band

When we wrote It's A Brum Ting, we knew it was a catchy song but we had no idea that Brummies would take it so much to their hearts... What a way to start 10 days of fun in Brum!

Robin Giorno, Friendly Fire Band



SAT 29 JULY

Get ready for some amazing dance and music from Festival Partners Sampad and friends. Based in Brum for over 30 years, Sampad connects people with world-class South Asian and British Asian Arts and Heritage. www.sampad.org.uk

- 11AM RELAXED WELCOME AND STRETCH**
Mindful movement accompanied by soothing South Asian melodies.
- 12PM PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
Join all-female Dhol drumming and dancers Eternal Taal for an explosive lunch - and learn a fun routine with Perry.
- 1PM POETRY & DANCE**
Young poets Anam Hussain and Sana Rashid will read from 'My City My Home', before three local dance groups (from India and Bangladesh) come together for a celebration of their homes.
- 2PM MIDDAY MANTRA - CHAND ALI KHAN QAWWAL & PARTY**
Fiery and compelling Qawwali music from this local group with Pakistani origins. Experience music that resonates with their ancestral homeland's Sufi soul.
- 3PM MUSIC AND DANCE**
Celebrating regional Indian culture, Stoke-on-Trent based all-female Bhangra group Vakhri-Tohr get the next hour started. Then join a South Asian dance party with Dharmesh and Jaya, before renowned Opera singer Abigail Kelly performs 'Jamaican Suite' on the theme of home.
- 4PM SOWETO KINCH**
The award-winning saxophonist and MC is back in his hometown. One of the most exciting and versatile musicians in jazz and hip hop - give him a big Brummie welcome.
- 4.30PM NATASHA ROSE SETH**
You heard her on The Voice - popular English and Hindi songs.
- 5PM MADE IN BRUM**
Enjoy some Bharatanatyam, one of the most spectacular and ancient Indian Classical dance styles from Chitraleka Dance Academy. Then India Island Academy dance their way round an epic journey through film.
- 5.30PM DEVIKA RAO**
Devika Rao and her dancers perform Yakshagana, a story of good overpowering evil.
- 6PM ULTIMATE BHANGRA**
Get your heart pumping as Parm from Ultimate Bhangra leads a workout for everyone!
- 7PM NO PLACE LIKE HOME - QUEER-SIDE**
A joyful celebration of pride and togetherness in a colourful extravaganza.
- 8PM APACHE INDIAN - BOOM SHACK-A-LAK!**
Apache Indian returns home to Brum from a worldwide tour to close Sampad's Festival day with pure 90's magic, celebrating the 30th anniversary of this banging classic.

SUN 30 JULY

Celebrate the city with an exciting day of dance for 'every body' from festival partner FABRIC, the Midlands' strategic dance development organisation. www.fabric.dance

- 11AM RELAXED WELCOME AND STRETCH**
Warm up in this inclusive workshop led by Sense, offering calming movement and sound for all bodies.
- 12PM PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
With special guests LYNNEBEC'S infectious and energetic disco-inspired routines.
- 1PM YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DANCE**
Contemporary and Afro-fusion styles in What The Eye Sees by Linden Youth Dance, plus the world premiere of The Twelve by Future Shift & FABRIC's Centre of Advanced Training; and journey into the captivating realm of Bollywood dance with Aspire Dance.
- 2PM EVERYBODY DANCING**
Afro-Contemporary to Parkour to Disco. Highlights include Parade - The Giant Wheel by Autin Dance Theatre, plus Linden Dance Company's thought-provoking Unboxed. Hip hop theatre company O'Driscoll Collective bring live music and a multigenerational all-male cast, while the athletic 2FacedDance present Where All Paths Lead. And LYNNEBEC's You're Out Of This World will be looking for recruits.
- 4PM DANCE BATTLE**
Show off, work with others and keep the energy high.
- 4.15PM BIG GAY DISCO BIKE**
Fatt Projects bring a feel-good D-I-S-C-O directly to you. Because anywhere can be a dance floor!
- 5PM SOLARA - CRITICAL MASS DANCE COLLECTIVE**
Enter the world of Solara, our unique star. Feel the power of connection, community, and dancing together. ZoieLogic Dance Theatre and the inclusive Critical Mass Dance Collective are back after last year's Commonwealth Games spectacular. Solara is a FABRIC commission.
- 5.45PM THE BIG FATT DANCE PARTY**
A fabulous dance party to get our inhibitions lowered, hearts racing, and bodies moving with a killer soundtrack, live vocals, and accessible interactive dance routines from Fatt Projects.



MON 31 JULY



11AM **SENSE WELLBEING SOUND BATH**

12PM **PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
Big ones, small ones, some as big as your head... Join Perry for a bubble disco party. Foam-tastic fun!

1PM **MADE IN BRUM**
On-screen magic live on stage from Bollywood Dreams Dance Company, while Gem's Dance Academy brings us upbeat, happy moves. Got 2 Sing performs chart-topping hits and golden oldies before RCCG Instrumental Hub deliver a multi-lingual showcase.

3PM **THE COMMONS**
A sanctuary for safe, playful yet challenging discussions about our connected past, present and future. A gathering of minds and hearts led by Festival Artistic Associate, Zeddie Lawal, dedicated to forging a more beautiful, just, and equitable future. (Also on Tue, 3pm)

3.10PM **CELEBRATING SANCTUARY**
Be wowed by the highly danceable 'sunshine Afro-roots' of TwoManTing, before Ukraine's Iryna Muha & Latvia's Dmitry Fedotov fuse many cultures with traditional Slavonic roots. Celebrating Sanctuary support artists from refugee and migrant backgrounds.

4.30PM **MADE IN BRUM**
Bringing a contemporary sound to traditional Gospel, BImm Birmingham Gospel Choir sing with real inspiration. No wonder they were finalists in BBC's Gospel Choir of the Year and featured on Jools Holland's Christmas Special.

5PM **COMMONWEALTH COLLECTIVE PARTY**
14,000+ volunteers made the summer of '22 an unforgettable experience for athletes, visitors and residents. One year on, everyone's invited back to share their community spirit with music and dancing for a party that celebrates togetherness. (Iconic balti-orange and blue uniforms - and any Games outfits - welcome!)

6PM **LINE DANCING**
Two-left-feet? This friendly class is guaranteed fun for all ages and abilities. Dance along to some classic tunes!

7PM **BIRMINGHAM IRISH ASSOCIATION / CEOL AGENCY: WE BUILT THIS CITY**
A grand line up of Irish musicians and performers embodying the spirit of Irish culture, from rousing renditions of traditional tunes to a finale showcasing some of the finest Irish artists in Birmingham. Bring your besties, your meimeó and your dancing shoes, as we throw a ceilidh the likes of which Centenary Square has never seen before!

23 VISIT OUR WEBSITE BIRMINGHAMFESTIVAL23.CO.UK

TUE 1 AUG



11AM **SENSE WELLBEING SOUND BATH**

12PM **PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
Bring your small people and join B'Opera for an animal-themed musical picnic! Soar with the birds, buzz with the bees, march with the animals, and help Incy Wincy get back up again.

1PM **MADE IN BRUM**
Voices Entwined, a natural voice community choir who learn everything by ear, sing songs from around the world. 'Journey of Light' from The Seekers brings us the colours of Sufi tradition fused with jazz, exotic rhythms, live poetry and enchanting dance.



2PM **A HOLOGRAM MAZE**
Warm, open-hearted, lyrical jazz led by pianist and composer David Austin Grey with five of the UK's finest improvisers. Enjoy gently weaving turns and dynamic sweeps as the band navigates different moods and emotions - from sweet and tender, to frenetic and assertive.

3PM **THE COMMONS**
Another opportunity to explore the big questions and look towards the world we wish to leave for generations to come. (See Mon, 3pm)

4PM **BIMM BIRMINGHAM ROCK & METAL SHOWCASE**
From the home of rock and heavy metal, Insurgent blend soaring vocals and crushing instrumentation. Santù, the untamed Alternative-Rock disruptors, pave the way for newly reformed 'Rock n Roll'. Their jaw-dropping live shows merge pure passion and controlled chaos.

5PM **NEIGHBOURHD**
Neighbourhd, a music community for some of the best emerging artists and musicians in Brum, showcase acts from all walks of life coming together through music.

6PM **SO FUNK DANCE FITNESS**
Sofunk® is a dance fitness session of choreographed routines set to uplifting soul, funk and disco music. Get your energy up and body moving!

7PM **BIRMINGHAM REP: GRIMEBOY**
Another chance to see a concert version of this huge hit last year by writer Casey Bailey, recreated especially for the Festival.
"I know what it takes: shell down raves, spin the opposition and never take my foot off the pedal."

WED 2 AUG



11AM **SENSE WELLBEING SOUND BATH**

12PM **PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
The circus is in town! For one day only, acrobats, jugglers, hula hoopers and comedians share tips and tricks for all ages and abilities.

1PM **MADE IN BRUM**
Original arrangements of pop, rock and indie from SHE Choir Birmingham, a community for women and non-binary people. Singer-songwriter Natty Ola brings some crazy jazz scatting with her amazing band. And Moving Tu Balance present traditional African and Caribbean dance and drumming with renowned artist Sandra Golding and a fantastic community cast.

1.50PM **SHE SWIMS - SHELLEY EVA HADEN**
Dance film premiere. A 50-strong all-female cast of professional and volunteer dancers (including 'Bull Chain Women' from B2022 Opening Ceremony), re-convened for this inspirational feminist film project. Exploring notions of sinking, swimming and surfacing to remind us of the distance we still have to go to reach global equality.

2.45PM **WHAT IS IT TO BE A GIRL?**
Amplify Sounds explores the female experience in all of its beautiful, messy and vulnerable forms through poetry, song, dance and live electronic percussion.

4PM **SHINE GIRL SHINE**
A celebration of Black female talent in the underground music scene from IAM. A true sharing of black girl magic from three artists and a live band.

5PM **SELEKTORHOOD**
A one-hour DJ set with a bk2bk, bringing the energy up with some top selectors in support of women and gender minority DJs and producers.

6PM **ALL ABOUT THE FIGHT**
An empowering and innovative project embracing the culture and spirit of boxing, grime music and dance from Flexus Dance Collective.

7PM **GIRL GRIND UK / ELOQUENT DANCE COMPANY / VOCAL NOVA ACADEMY: WHAT IF**
Three journeys: Petta-gay on Empire Windrush, Jada and her life-changing decisions, and Blessing who needs to take a leap of faith. Birmingham's music, nightlife and culture combine with places, sounds and food joints, giving you that true Brummie pride in this street musical.



THU 3 AUG



11AM **SENSE WELLBEING SOUND BATH**

12PM **PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
Capoeira blends dance and martial arts, so Perry will be trying some acrobatic moves...

1PM **MADE IN BRUM**
Forró Tempo bring us Brazilian beats, melodies and lyrics, combining pandeiro, zabumba, cavaquinho, and piano accordion. Wan Sheung dance group from Birmingham's Chinese Community Centre follow with a traditional Tibetan mountain dance and a dragon dance.

2PM **MUGHAL MINIATURES - SONIA SABRI COMPANY**
(REPEATED AT 4PM)
A fun, upbeat family show inspired by the exquisite art of Indian and Persian miniature painting. Enjoy vibrant and colourful mini worlds of dance, music and puppetry.

2.30PM **COG IN THE WHEEL - DEF MOTION**
A street dance storybook about tech and hustle culture from Billy Read and Def Motion (both deaf and hearing dancers). Simultaneously celebrating and dismissing the individual, are these characters with stories and personalities or gears in a machine?

3PM **CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN SHOWCASE**
The Czech & Slovak Club UK takes us on a journey through folk songs and dance. Performed by Slovak Ensemble BREZA, Latvian Community Sakta and R.U.D.A. Romanian and Moldovan community.

4.30PM **MASQUERADE ZIMBA LION PERFORMANCE**
African arts specialists Yaram Arts create an exciting lion masquerade dance with drumming for an incredible visual and audio experience.

5.15PM **AZAD KASHMIRI FOLK GROUP**
'Sher Khawani' traces its roots back to the spiritual folk songs of the rugged hill tracks of Pothohar in Pakistan. Azad Kashmiri take inspiration from Sufi wisdom to relay universal messages.

6PM **DRUM & BOUNCE + SURPRISE SPECIAL GUEST**
Brum's very own uplifting dance fitness class to drum & bass music, created by Emma Smallman, will feature an exclusive special guest DJ - keep your eyes peeled!

6.45PM **NOMAD: A TENT FOR REFLECTION - SOUL CITY ARTS**
Be inspired by a special screening of people's hopes, thoughts, and du'as (prayers) shared in the 'nomadic reflection booth' at The Exchange. Part of University of Birmingham's Culture Forward initiative.

7PM **AMERAH SALEH: LANGUAGES BETWEEN STRANGERS**
Two souls converge in a metropolis, defy the ordinary, and experience a spectacular connection. But in a language-less rendezvous, where do you find your voice? And what do you turn to when words fall short? Urdu, Ndebele, Arabic and English intertwine with poetry, rap, melodies, beats and movement in a symphony crafted by a triumvirate of Birmingham storytellers. Co-written and performed by Raza Hussain and Siphon Ndlovu.

FRI 4 AUG



11AM **SENSE WELLBEING SOUND BATH**

12PM **PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
It's the biggest parachute party Birmingham has ever seen!

1PM **COREY BAKER DANCE**
(REPEATED AT 3.30PM)
ZeroG is a spectacular performance for two dancers with a clever zero-gravity effect. Inspired by the sense of the beauty and fragility of our planet viewed from space.

1.20PM **MADE IN BRUM**
Tell It To The Music, an experimental open mic merging poetry and live improvisation, is followed by a showcase from the Creative Collective and the Simmer Dance team from G.A.P Entertainment - some of the best young dancers in town.

2.15PM **THE LIVE VIBE TAKEOVER - PASSING THE BATON**
Singers, MC's and dancers attempt to shorten the generation gap by working together, sharing skills and experiences to enable growth and opportunities. From VNS Productions.

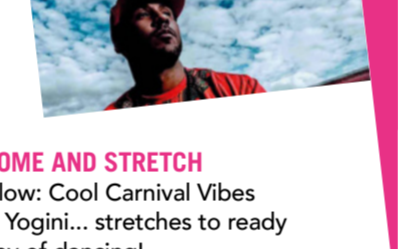
3.30PM **SECOND CITIES**
A five-piece emo band with a message of strength in diversity. Pop Metal Punk for sad teens with happy faces. Plus a repeat of ZeroG (see 1pm).

4PM **BBC ASIAN NETWORK**
Our friends at BBC Asian Network showcase the best of Brum's new and upcoming British Asian talent, including artists supported and championed by their New Music shows along with fire DJ mixes - get ready for the weekend!

6PM **BBC ASIAN NETWORK MOTIVATION**
An hour of cultural dance workouts and good positive vibes. Expect high energy, mood boosting Bollywood, Bhangra and Asian Beats!

7PM **93:00 COLLECTIVE: 2093**
In a post-apocalyptic 2093, Birmingham has fallen into disarray after a catastrophic event, 'The Blackout'. In an effort to reclaim their voices, the city's resilient communities use music, fashion, and dance to promote unity and express their aspirations for a better world.

SAT 5 AUG



11AM **RELAXED WELCOME AND STRETCH**
Special Yogini Flow: Cool Carnival Vibes with Black Rose Yogini... stretches to ready us ahead of a day of dancing!

12PM **PERRY'S PARTY PICNIC**
Oya Batucada create Saturday Samba beats. Join Perry's parade, try some percussion, and party like it's Rio!

1PM **MADE IN BRUM**
Revel in the sounds of the five-piece Sweetpan Promotions SteelBand (aged 10 - 60!) who play everything from Calypso to Classical. Then get moving and grooving with FITZELLES - a fun dance-along for all abilities.

2PM **CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS**
A Family Garage Special - bring your little ones for a carnival dance like no other.

3PM **CUTCH-I AND THE NUCHAPTA**
Multi-genre music with uplifting, positive vibes to get you off your seat. Join in with the dancers for a special moment to remember.

4PM **ACE DANCE & MUSIC: SOCA RAM-JAM**
Feel the energy of the Caribbean in this colourful collage with the rhythms of Trinidad. A community mass choir led by Black Voices and Dutch marching band Eternity Percussion, present the extravaganza of Soca music ('Soul of Calypso') in full swing.

6PM **BOXOUT**
Prepare to sweat in this fiery dance-party by Boxout DJs and dancers fresh from their regular night in Digbeth where community-spirit and good vibes rule. With easy routines and fun instructions, getting it wrong just adds to the party!

7PM **KALABORATION ARTS: MAST QALANDAR DANCEHALL MASHUP!**
This awe-inspiring international mashup from Festival Artistic Associate Mukhtar Dar with music by Simon Duggal celebrates solidarity and resilience in a uniquely blended "Glokal" experience. From the sublime spirituality of Arieb Azhar and soul-stirring Sufi music, to the pulsating bass and infectious dancehall vibes of Clare Angel and Myki Tuff.

9PM **RESURRECTION: AFRICAN RHYTHMS**
Surrender to the irresistible Afrobeat rhythms of Ras King Bobo, and experience the power of Banner Theatre's English Folk music for an unforgettable evening of exhilarating performances.

SUN 6 AUG (12PM - 7PM)

Have a lie-in and join us slightly later than usual for the final day of the Festival when we'll be celebrating and moving confidently into the future. All types of families and friendship groups are welcome to join us for a dance-party, ahead of a bumper afternoon of Birmingham's best and brightest wordsmiths and musicians in not one, but TWO live shows. Stay all day to dance or chill, and let the lyrics carry you away...



12PM **MADE IN BRUM**
Rainbow Voices, the West Midlands community choir for LGBTQIA+ people and their friends, are united by their love of song. Headquarters of Groove will bring a selection of feel-good Acid Jazz, Neo-Soul and dance tunes.

1PM **SCHOOL'S OUT DISCO PARTY**
Celebrate the summer holidays with moments of joy and cabaret PLUS a special guest host.

3PM **JASMINE GARDOSI: DANCING TO MUSIC YOU HATE (FESTIVAL EDITION)**
Poetry. Beatbox. Celtic dubstep. Jasmine Gardosi, Birmingham's Poet Laureate, is an award-winning spoken word artist, beatboxer and multiple slam champion of international renown. Dancing to Music You Hate premiered to standing ovations, and was shortlisted twice for Best Spoken Word Show in the Saboteur Awards.

FRESH FROM A NATIONAL TOUR, THIS ENHANCED EDITION RETURNS TO BIRMINGHAM, ADAPTED FOR THE FESTIVAL WITH SURPRISE SPECIAL GUESTS.
Expect explosive dubstep bass-lines and soaring folk violin blowing apart the boundaries of gender and musical genre alike.

5PM **B:MUSIC: NEXT TRACK**
Following 2022's Beyond the Bricks of Brum, Next Track sees Casey Bailey working Brum, Next Track sees Casey Bailey working Brum, Next Track sees Casey Bailey working Brum, alongside Musical Director, Ashley Allen, and a range of regional music, poetry and spoken word artists bringing Birmingham Festival 2023 to a close.
Celebrating the city as it is now, where it came from and where it might be in future, this performance will take audiences on a journey looking at acceptance, arrival and appreciation.

ACROSS THE FESTIVAL

29 JUL - 5 AUG **PAUL RAMIREZ JONAS / FIERCE: PUBLIC TRUST**
How serious are the promises we make to one another, the vows we take, or the pledges made by our civic leaders? This interactive artwork by the New York-based artist behind 2022's brilliant 'Key To The City' asks participants to examine the value of their word. Anyone can declare their promises on a monumental installation (beneath the Library of Birmingham canopy) exploring what is important to each of us. wearefierce.org

ELIZABETH 'ZEDDIE' LAWAL: ALL IN THE NAME OF A BEAUTIFUL, JUST AND EQUITABLE FUTURE
Our Festival Artistic Associate presents two newly commissioned companion projects that explore the space between truth, justice, reconciliation, and innovation. No booking required for either project but see website for details on where to meet and how to access.

EMPIRES, PIONEERS AND THE NEW RADICALS
Take yourself on an AR tour which maps Birmingham's cultural and economic journey from empire to innovation in ten defining moments around Centenary Square. (Guided tours 4 & 5 Aug, 1.15pm & 3.45pm, and 6 Aug, 1.15pm)

WHAT'S ON THE BIG SCREEN?
Take a seat in front of our Festival Big Screen. In between live relays from the main stage, we'll share hours of film and digital content with live introductions and interviews. Highlights include Overlap, Birmingham's best animation night, Bertz Associates and Birmingham Royal Ballet. See daily schedules for times and details.

HAVE-A-GO ZONE
Feeling athletic? Our Have-a-Go Zone, delivered in partnership with United By 2022, has something for everyone! Challenge your family to a game of table tennis, work up a sweat in the boxing ring, take part in an impromptu squash tournament, and even learn how to wield a cricket bat. Activities are open to all ages and skills. Pop in every day for a different activity and get moving!

THE EXCHANGE - UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM
Join the University of Birmingham at The Exchange for free exhibitions, activities, family trails and talks, including the thought-provoking exhibition 'A Place to Call Home' - and get close to the iconic Queen's Baton. Craft a sports medal, uncover hidden stories, and don't miss Soul City Arts' reflection booth inviting the public to scribe their most cherished thoughts and du'as (prayers). Professor Alice Roberts' captivating family talk marks the launch of her new children's novel, Wolf Road. More details: www.birmingham.ac.uk/the-exchange

