

A band takes over London's favourite festival for the first time...

SOUTHBANK CENTRE ANNOUNCES LINE-UP FOR  
**MASSIVE ATTACK'S MELTDOWN**

Saturday 14 – Sunday 22 June 2008, Southbank Centre, London

Between **14–22 June**, one of the most influential bands of the past 20 years take control of one of the UK's most unique festivals. For eight days in June, **SOUTHBANK CENTRE's** riverside venues and spaces will buzz with unmissable concerts, provocative films, hard-hitting talks, interactive sound and light installations and rocking soundsystems - all programmed by **MASSIVE ATTACK**, the first *band* to take the helm in this prestigious festival's 15 year history.

MASSIVE ATTACK's era-defining music has provided the soundtrack for a generation. Their instinctive embrace of technology, groundbreaking use of live visuals and distinctly dystopian vision has had a pervasive influence on contemporary culture. And, while they have increasingly used their international profile to draw attention to global issues close to their heart, their reputation for throwing a rocking party is legendary - sealing their credentials as perfect candidates to curate SOUTHBANK CENTRE's annual MELTDOWN FESTIVAL.

The MELTDOWN programme for 2008 gives us a fascinating insight into the aesthetic, stylistic, thematic, political and musical influences that drive the band that emerged from Bristol collective The Wild Bunch at the end of the 1980s. From roots legend **HORACE ANDY** to hip hop futurists **DALEK**. From rising stars **FLEET FOXES** and **ALOE BLACC** to peerless international diva **GRACE JONES**. From firebrand punks **STIFF LITTLE FINGERS** to legal action charity **REPRIEVE**, with whom MASSIVE ATTACK have formed a close alliance in recent months. REPRIEVE provides frontline investigation and legal representation to prisoners denied justice by powerful governments across the world. (More information on REPRIEVE in Notes To Editors)

**MELTDOWN LINE-UP:**

**MASSIVE ATTACK** will open and close SOUTHBANK CENTRE's MELTDOWN FESTIVAL with two different concerts in the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday 14 & Sunday 22 June. Meanwhile, over in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, mythic, proto-trance collective **GONG**, make a very rare appearance on Saturday 14 June. The following night sees a performance in the Royal Festival Hall by revered Japanese 'technopop' pioneers **YELLOW MAGIC ORCHESTRA**. This will be the first UK performance by the band (recently voted No. 2 in HMV's list of Japan's top 100 musicians) since 1980, and will feature the original line-up of **Harry Hosono**, **Yukihiko Takahashi** and **Ruichi Sakamoto**.

On Saturday 15 June, Meltdown Directors for 2008 introduce the **REGGAE ACOUSTIC SONGBOOK**, a very special night in the Queen Elizabeth Hall of unplugged performances by renowned roots and reggae artists **JOHNNY CLARKE**, **EARL 16**, **PRINCE MALACHAI** and long time MASSIVE ATTACK collaborator, **HORACE ANDY ELBOW**, renowned for their uncompromising approach and thrilling live performances, play on Monday 16 April. On Tuesday 17 June, MASSIVE ATTACK live mix a unique

performance in the Queen Elizabeth Hall by **HERITAGE ORCHESTRA** of Vangelis' majestic, glacial soundtrack to dystopian classic **BLADE RUNNER** – a thematic and stylistic influence on MASSIVE ATTACK albums *Mezzanine* and *100<sup>th</sup> Window*. On Thursday 19th June, in the Royal Festival Hall, **ROBERT DEL NAJA** and **GRANT MARSHALL** pay their respects to the returning queen of electro-soul and all-round international style diva, **GRACE JONES**, whose stunning turn as The Snake in Jarvis Cocker's Disney tribute was one of the unforgettable highlights of MELTDOWN in 2007.

**TERRY CALLIER** – hero to the 70s Northern Soul scene and 90s dance hall revival – received 5-star reviews for his recent gig at The Jazz Café. On Friday 20 June, the jazz, folk and blues guitarist, vocalist and MASSIVE ATTACK collaborator plays the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Given MASSIVE ATTACK's genius at creating deeply affecting electronic textures, it is no surprise that the mighty alchemists of pastoral electronica, **TUNNG** have been invited to play on 21 June in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, or that psych-pop eccentrics **SHORTWAVE SET** play a double bill with Mercury-nominated, fellow Bristolian **MARTINA TOPLEY BIRD** in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Wednesday 18 June.

Also on Wednesday 18 June, Belfast punk legends **STIFF LITTLE FINGERS** share a bill on the Royal Festival Hall stage with **MARK STEWART AND THE MAFFIA** - an explosive combination of Mark's wayward genius and ex Sugar Hill musicians. While Nick Cave and Daddy G have recently stated that Mark is their all time favourite artist, Tricky tellingly says of the godfather of Bristol's trip hop scene: "he's chaos". Add to that **GANG OF FOUR**, whose urgent delivery and defiant stance has influenced everyone from Red Hot Chilli Peppers to Franz Ferdinand, and the hugely influential **TOM TOM CLUB**, and it becomes clear that MASSIVE ATTACK's MELTDOWN is as much about attitude as musical genres.

MASSIVE ATTACK's idiosyncratic take on hip hop is well known. On Thursday 19 June, in The Queen Elizabeth Hall, the band present their pick of some of the most innovative hip hop around today, including **DALEK**, currently hot US sensations **COOL KIDS**, **SHAPE OF BROAD MINDS** and **FLYING LOTUS**.

MELTDOWN is renowned for showcasing emerging talents. The Polyphonic Spree, Fischerspooner and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs in DAVID BOWIE's MELTDOWN (2002). Brian Jonestown Massacre in PATTI SMITH's MELTDOWN (2005). While the talk of this year's SXSW, **FLEET FOXES**, support ELBOW on Monday 16 June, and the hotly tipped **ALOE BLACC** supports TERRY CALLIER, the Clore Ballroom Stage will be the place to see rising stars in pre and post show sets throughout the festival.

#### **MELTDOWN FILMS AND DEBATE:**

Between Thursday 19 and Sunday 22 June, there will be a series of **MELTDOWN FILMS**, including several screened at **BFI Southbank**, who partner MELTDOWN for the first time in 2008. The series includes the first London screening of **SHANE MEADOWS' Somers Town**, an acclaimed film following the friendship of two young boys in North London due for release in the autumn; *In Prison My Whole Life*, William Francome's remarkable investigation into the case of a death row prisoner Mumia Abul Jamal; **BUG – Massive Attack Special**, gives festival-goers a rare chance to see some of the band's iconic videos on the big screen, including *Unfinished Sympathy* and the stunning *Tear Drop*, as part of BFI SOUTHBANK's hugely popular music video strand. And, in a real treat for fans of Ridley Scott's neo-noir masterpiece, **BFI IMAX** will be screening *Blade Runner: The Final Cut*.

Showing in the Purcell Room on 15 June will be *Taxi To The Dark Side*, the Academy Award-winning documentary on the controversial death of an Afghan taxi driver, programmed in conjunction with legal action charity **REPRIEVE**. This special event will

include a post screening discussion with ex-Guantánamo Bay prisoner **MOAZZAM BEGG** and Reprieve's director and founder **CLIVE STAFFORD SMITH**.

#### **MELTDOWN PARTY:**

While there are issues of serious import to debate, let us not forget that MELTDOWN is also a week long PARTY, and *the* place to hang out by the Thames this summer. While the excellent **TROJAN SOUNDSYSTEM** will set up for several pre-concert sets, **SAXON SOUNDSYSTEM** and guest MCs will take over the Riverside Terrace on Sunday 22 June. And, for five nights during the festival, **SILENT DISCO** – a huge hit during SOUTHBANK CENTRE'S opening celebrations - will include sets by guest DJs including **Daddy G** (13<sup>th</sup>), **James Lavelle** (14<sup>th</sup>), **Peaches** (19<sup>th</sup>), **Kieron Hebdon aka Four Tet** (20<sup>th</sup>), and **Andrew Weatherall** (21<sup>st</sup>).

MASSIVE ATTACK have commissioned long-time collaborators **UVA** (United Visual Artists) to transform the exterior of the Royal Festival Hall with a powerful and possibly controversial series of projections conceived in collaboration with campaigning charity REPRIEVE. UVA's visionary, award-winning interactive light and sound installation **VOLUME** will be set up on the Riverside Terrace.

**For fuller press information contact Miles Evans on 0207 921 0676, 07812 985 993 email: [miles.evans@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:miles.evans@southbankcentre.co.uk)**

**Or, contact Sabine Kindel on 0207 921 0917 or email: [Sabine.kindel@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:Sabine.kindel@southbankcentre.co.uk)**

Programme updates will be posted on Southbank Centre web site  
Web address: [www.southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown)  
Meltdown number: 0871 663 2520

Tickets on sale to Southbank Centre Members 9am, Thursday 24 April.  
Tickets on sale to all at 9am, Friday 25 April  
For more information about joining the Southbank Centre membership scheme please visit [www.southbankcentre.co.uk/membership](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/membership)

**Meltdown 2008 will be Partnered by Eurostar**

**The Observer is Media Partner of Meltdown 2008**

#### Notes To Editors:

**Southbank Centre** is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 *Festival of Britain*. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and The Hayward as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. The Hayward manages Hayward Touring exhibitions; and the Arts Council Collection on behalf of Arts Council England.

**Reprieve** uses the law to enforce the human rights of prisoners, from death row to Guantánamo Bay. Reprieve investigates, litigates and educates, working on the frontline, to provide legal support to prisoners unable to pay for it themselves. The organization promotes the rule of law around the world, securing each person's right to a fair trial and saving lives. Clive Stafford Smith is the founder of Reprieve and has spent 25 years working on behalf of people facing the death penalty in the USA and now represents more than forty prisoners held in Guantánamo Bay.

**Previous Southbank Centre Meltdown Directors are** Jarvis Cocker (2007), Patti Smith (2005), Morrissey (2004), Lee 'Scratch' Perry (2003), David Bowie (2002), Robert Wyatt (2001), Scott Walker (2000), Nick Cave (1999), John Peel (1998), Laurie Anderson (1997), Magnus Lindberg (1996), Elvis Costello (1995), Louis Andriessen (1994) and George Benjamin (1993). The roster of artists who have taken part in earlier Meltdowns includes: Jeff Buckley, Radiohead, Elliot Smith, Nina Simone, David Gilmour, Coldplay, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Macy Gray, Alan Bennett, Nancy Sinatra, New York Dolls, Tori Amos, Lee Hazlewood, Fuckhead, Rachid Taha, Yoko Ono, Sinead O'Connor, Beth Orton, Kristin Hersh, Billy Bragg, Steve Earle, Melanie, Roky Erickson, Pete Doherty, Motorhead, Iggy Pop and The Jesus and Mary Chain.

## **MASSIVE ATTACK'S MELTDOWN LISTINGS**

Saturday 14 June – Sunday 22 June 2008

### **MASSIVE ATTACK**

Royal Festival Hall, Saturday 14 June, 8pm, Tickets £35 £30 £25

This year's Directors perform songs from their wide-ranging career live on stage.

### **GONG**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Saturday 14 June, 7.45pm, Tickets £22.50 and £19.50

Gong weave their unique magic with an imaginative mix of psychedelic jazz fusion, Eastern world music, synths, loops and deep space funk. Forty years on, their underground influence is massive.

### **REPRIEVE: FOURTEEN DAYS IN MAY SCREENING**

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sunday 14 June, 6.30pm, Tickets £7

The documentary Fourteen Days in May recounts the final days before the execution of Edward Earl Johnson, an American prisoner convicted of rape and murder. The screening will be followed by a discussion between director Paul Hamann, Clive Stafford Smith and Nick Yarris.

### **YELLOW MAGIC ORCHESTRA**

Royal Festival Hall, Sunday 15 June, 7.45pm, Tickets £35 £30 £25 £20

Seminal Japanese trio, Yellow Magic Orchestra, brought synth-pop to the world along with Kraftwerk in the 1980s. Now they play their first UK show since 1980.

### **REGGAE ACOUSTIC SONGBOOK:**

**HORACE ANDY, JOHNNY CLARKE, EARL 16 & PRINCE MALACHAI**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sunday 15 June, 7.30pm, Tickets £20 £17.50

Massive Attack host this special performance by renowned names in roots and reggae.

### **REPRIEVE: TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE SCREENING WITH CLIVE STAFFORD SMITH**

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sunday 15 June, 6.30pm, Tickets £7

This screening of Academy Award-winning documentary on the controversial death of an Afghan taxi driver while in the custody of American troops is followed by post-screening discussion with US-based civil rights lawyer **Clive Stafford Smith** and former Guantánamo Bay inmate **Moazzam Begg**. (Further Reprieve talks TBA)

### **ELBOW**

**PLUS FLEET FOXES**

Royal Festival Hall, Monday 16 June, 7.45pm, Tickets £22.50 £20 £17.50

Top 5 album artists and critical godheads continue their forceful return to the UK scene with this exclusive show.

## **THE NIGHT JAMES BROWN SAVED BOSTON**

### **Screening**

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Monday 16 June, 7.45pm, Tickets £7

This new documentary about James Brown's Boston concert in 1968, which happened directly after Martin Luther King Jr's assassination, and is credited with quelling the riots around the city.

## **VANGELIS' BLADE RUNNER SOUNDTRACK**

**performed live by the HERITAGE ORCHESTRA, mixed by MASSIVE ATTACK**

Royal Festival Hall, Tuesday 17 June, 7.45pm £20 £17.50

The retro-future score for the iconic science fiction film *Blade Runner* is played live by the Heritage Orchestra, with live mixing by Massive Attack.

### **Studio Rockers presents:**

## **THE DUBSTEP CHRONICLES**

The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Tuesday 17 June, 7pm – 1.30am,

Tickets £12.50

The line-up includes DJs Mala (Digital Mystikz), Kode9, Scream, Pinch, Horsepower, The Moody Boyz and Live: Jazz Stepper.

## **STIFF LITTLE FINGERS + MARK STEWART & THE MAFFIA + ADRIAN SHERWOOD**

Royal Festival Hall, Wednesday 18 June, 7.45pm, Tickets £20 £17.50 £15

Explosive Belfast punk band Stiff Little Fingers perform *Inflammable Material*. The darkly post-punk Mark Stewart & The Maffia perform their album *Edit*. Adrian Sherwood just confirmed.

## **THE SHORTWAVE SET + MARTINA TOPLEY BIRD**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Wednesday 18 June, 7.30pm, Tickets £15

Sample-based popsters and self-described masters of Victorian funk, The Shortwave Set, bring their distinctive sound to Meltdown. Mercury Prize-nominated Martina Topley Bird, known for her collaborations with Tricky, performs songs from her new album *The Blue God*.

## **GRACE JONES**

Royal Festival Hall, Thursday 19 June, 8pm, Tickets £45 £35 £25

The statuesque and seemingly ageless Grace Jones performs, including songs from her as yet untitled new album.

### **Massive Attack Presents**

## **FUTURE SOUND OF HIP HOP:**

**DALEK + COOL KIDS + SHAPE OF BROAD MINDS + FLYING LOTUS**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thursday 19 June, 7.30pm, Tickets £15 £12.50

Dalek, Cool Kids and Shape of Broad Minds come together in this showcase of new hip-hop talent.

## **GANG OF FOUR + TOM TOM CLUB**

Royal Festival Hall, Friday 20 June, 8pm, Tickets £22.50 £20 £17.50

Fueled by radical politics and punk rock fury, Gang of Four is one of the seminal post-punk bands, their stripped-down sound going on to inspire and influence everyone from The Rapture to Bloc Party. Support comes from hugely influential New Wave band Tom Tom Club.

## **TERRY CALLIER + ALOE BLAC**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Friday 20 June, 7.30pm, Tickets £22.50 £20

American jazz, soul and folk guitarist Terry Callier has collaborated with UK musicians since the 1990s. His vocals feature on Massive Attack's 'Live With Me' and Beth Orton's 'Central Reservation' and 'Dolphins'.

### **GEORGE CLINTON & PARLIAMENT / FUNKADELIC**

Royal Festival Hall, Saturday 21 June, 8pm, Tickets £35 £30 £25

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### **TUNNG**

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Saturday 21 June, 7.30pm, Tickets £15 £12.50

Tunng are a musical collective, combining folk, electronica and underground art music to make darkly beautiful pastoral pop.

### **REPRIEVE: THE RENDITION MONOLOGUES**

Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Sunday 15 June, 7.30pm, Tickets £7

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### **MASSIVE ATTACK**

Royal Festival Hall, Sunday 22 June, 7.45pm, Tickets £35 £30 £25

This year's Meltdown Directors close the festival with a special performance.

### **PRIMAL SCREAM AND THE MC5 TBC**

Royal Festival Hall, Tuesday 24 June, Time tbc, Tickets £27.50 £25 £22.50

Copy TBC

### **UNITED VISUAL ARTISTS AT MELTDOWN**

#### ***VOLUME***

Riverside Terrace, Saturday 14 June – Sunday 22 June, Admission FREE

Meltdown curators Massive Attack have invited United Visual Artists to create an installation at Southbank Centre as part of Meltdown. *Volume* is a luminous array of light and sound emitting columns on Riverside Terrace. The facade of Southbank Centre is also transformed by light and the projection of a new collaboration with the charity organisation Reprieve.

### **SILENT DISCO**

Outdoors with guest DJs

Riverside Terrace, Friday 13 June, Saturday 14 June & Thursday 19 – Saturday 21 June

Following on from a successful New Year's Eve Party at The Front Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall, Silent Disco returns to Southbank Centre for five nights during Meltdown. Guest DJs include **Daddy G** (13<sup>th</sup>), **James Lavelle** (14<sup>th</sup>), **Peaches** (19<sup>th</sup>), **Kieron Hebdon aka Four Tet** (20<sup>th</sup>), and **Andrew Weatherall** (21<sup>st</sup>).

### **DAY OF THE FIGURINES**

Thursday 19 June - Saturday 12 July, Level 1 Foyer at Royal Festival Hall, 12 noon – 8pm, Admission FREE

*Day Of The Figurines* is an SMS game set in a grimy English town by internationally renowned artists' group **Blast Theory**. Sign on at Royal Festival Hall and choose a figurine, then explore the town day by day. Fancy the death metal gig at the Locarno, or will you hang out at the cinema? From the Gasometer to the Rat Research Institute, up to 1,000 players roam the streets.

### **MELTDOWN FILM SCREENINGS**

BFI Southbank, BFI IMAX, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room

Meltdown screenings include Shane Meadow's *Somers Town*, *In Prison My Whole Life*, *BUG: Massive Attack's Videos* at BFI Southbank, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* at BFI IMAX, *The Night James Brown Saved Boston* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and *Taxi to the Dark Side* and *Fourteen Days In May* at the Purcell Room.

BFI Southbank 020 7928 3232

BFI IMAX Office 0870 787 2525

[www.bfi.org.uk/meltdown](http://www.bfi.org.uk/meltdown)

#### **PRE AND POSTSHOW SETS & OUTDOOR STAGE**

There will be a number of pre and post show DJ sets, including pre-show sessions with **Trojan Sound System** and **Saxon Sound System** on the Outdoor Stage on Sunday 22 June. Further details tba.

**More artists and events to be confirmed soon. Check website**  
[www.southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/meltdown) for programme updates.