

ROYAL BALLET & OPERA

After Hours

Programme

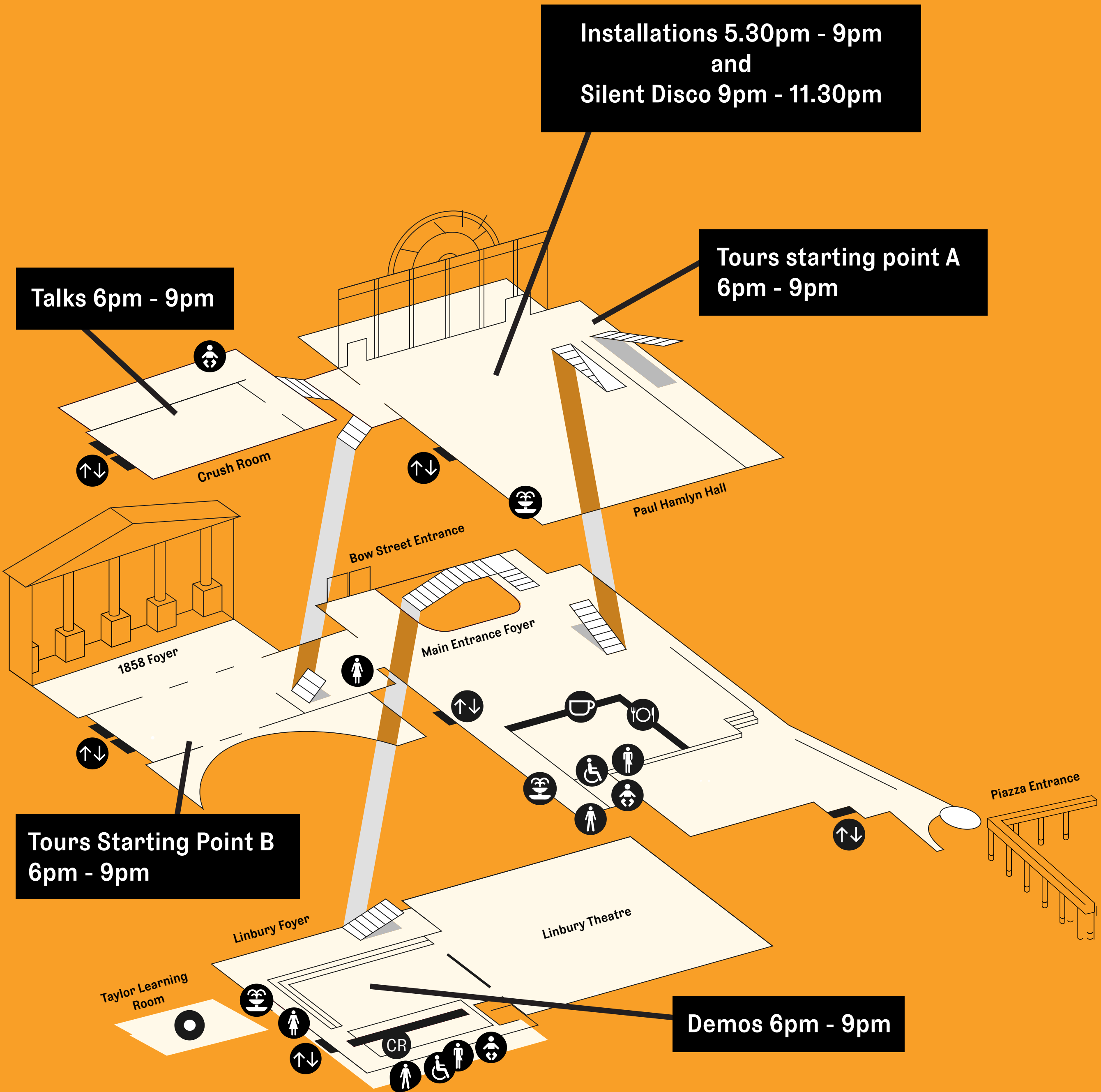


LOTTERY FUNDED



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Map



- MEN'S TOILETS
- WOMEN'S TOILETS
- ACCESSIBLE/GENDER NEUTRAL TOILETS
- BABY CHANGING
- WATER FOUNTAIN
- CLOAK ROOM
- CAFÉ
- BAR
- FOOD
- LIFT
- QUIET SPACE

Info

Friday 21 August 2026

Welcome to **After Hours**, an evening of talks, demonstrations, tours and installations.

Choose your path through the night by following one of our four themes, or dip into a little of everything as you explore the links between opera, ballet and pop culture.

- STORIES
- STAGES
- SCREEN
- STYLE

See how productions have been inspired by literature, how artists and designers have worked across different creative disciplines, and how film, fashion, music and design continue to influence and be influenced by the work created on our stages.

Round off the evening beneath the glass canopy of the Paul Hamlyn Hall with a silent disco featuring live DJs and multiple music channels, giving you the chance to choose your soundtrack and dance the night away.

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5.30pm
Doors open
Welcome drink on arrival

6pm-9pm
Talks, Demos and Tours

9pm-11.30pm
Silent Disco

Food and additional drinks are not included in your ticket price but will be available to purchase throughout the evening in the Paul Hamlyn Hall, including cichetti (small plates) from Cicoria.

Themes

STORIES

Discover how literature, mythology and real-life events inspire the operas and ballets brought to our stages.

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STAGES

Explore the craft, creativity and technical expertise that transform ideas into live performance.

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SCREEN

See how opera and ballet connect with film, television and digital media, both on and off the stage.

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STYLE

Uncover the influence of fashion, design and visual culture on the worlds we create and the audiences we inspire.



Hear from artists, creatives and specialists as they explore the connections that shape ballet, opera and the culture around them. Discover how storytelling, film, fashion, design and music come together through the experiences of the people who bring our work to life.

6pm — 6.30pm

Page to Stage

Uzma Hameed
Writer, Director and Dramaturg

How do you transform a novel into a ballet? Join writer, director and dramaturg Uzma Hameed as she explores adapting literature for the stage, drawing on her work for Wayne McGregor on *Wolf Works* and *MADDADDAM*.

STORIES STAGES

6.30pm — 6.40pm Break

6.40pm — 7.20pm

Popcorn and Puccini

Dan Dooner and Patrick Milne
Royal Opera Company Staff Director and Répétiteur

What makes a film feel truly operatic? Join Dan Dooner and Patrick Milne as they explore opera in cinema, using live musical examples to reveal how music heightens emotion, shapes storytelling and creates unforgettable moments on screen.

SCREEN STAGES

7.20pm — 7.30pm Break

7.30pm — 8.10pm

Beyond Balletcore

Olivia Cowley
Royal Ballet Soloist

From rehearsal studios to high-street fashion, discover ballet’s influence on style. Royal Ballet Soloist Olivia Cowley explores the rise of balletcore, why dancers wear what they wear and how function continues to inspire fashion.

STYLE STAGES

8.10pm — 8.20pm Break

8.20pm — 8.50pm

Designing the Main Stage

Esther Bialas
Costume Designer

Hear from costume designer Esther Bialas as she explores the creative process behind designing costumes for our Main Stage, revealing how ideas develop from initial concepts into spectacular costumes.

STORIES STYLE

See creativity in action as our teams and collaborators reveal the skills, techniques and processes behind performance. From costume and movement to music and making, discover how ideas travel across creative worlds and become something you can experience on stage.

6pm — 6.30pm

Costume Breakdown

Jess Bishop and Kirsten Roberts
*Dye Workshop Assistant Manager
and Dye Workshop Senior Technician*

Watch the Dye Workshop team in a live breakdown of a costume. Jess Bishop and Kirsten Roberts reveal the craftsmanship, materials and specialist techniques used to create, transform and maintain costumes for the theatre, TV and film.

STORIES SCREEN

6.30pm — 6.40pm Break

6.40pm — 7.20pm

Designed to Last

Rosie Blackshaw & Leila Ransley
*Costume Logistics and Hires Manager
and Assistant Manager*

Costumes at the Royal Ballet and Opera are made to last. Discover how creativity and sustainability go hand in hand as Rosie Blackshaw and Leila Ransley explore costume making across theatre, film and television.

SCREEN STYLE

7.20pm — 7.30pm Break

7.30pm — 8pm

Finding Your Voice

William Spaulding
Chorus Director

Step into the world of the Royal Opera Chorus with Chorus Director William Spaulding. Discover how the chorus helps drive the story forward and experience the power of singing together as part of an opera ensemble.

STORIES STAGES

8pm — 8.10pm Break

8.10pm — 8.50pm

The Art of Action

James Dance, Rich Gittins & Lockhart Ogilvie
Senior Armoury Technician & Actors/ Fight Directors'

Experience an action-packed demonstration comparing stage combat with screen fighting. Discover the techniques behind creating thrilling, convincing action safely for both live audiences and the camera.

SCREEN STAGES

Tours

Join us for a tour behind the scenes and discover the people, spaces and processes that bring the Royal Opera House to life. Through our themes, each tour offers a different perspective on how creativity, craftsmanship and collaboration come together.

Stories Tour

Starting from Paul Hamlyn Hall Entrance

Step into the world of storytelling as you explore the Props Department, a Ballet Studio and the Flys. Discover how everything from handcrafted props and movement notation to stage effects helps bring unforgettable stories to life.

Stages Tour

Starting from 1858 Foyer

Explore the hidden world behind the curtain, from the Opera Rehearsal Room to side-stage areas rarely seen by audiences. Discover the machinery, technical ingenuity and backstage expertise that make some of our most spectacular stage moments possible.

Booking your tour

When you arrive, you will have the opportunity to sign up for up to two backstage tours taking place throughout the evening, as part of your ticket. Tour sign-ups will be available in the 1858 Foyer when you collect your welcome drink.

Each of the four tours will run repeatedly between 6pm and 9pm, giving you plenty of opportunities to join the tours that interest you most.

Tours depart from two different locations across the building. Please refer to the event map or ask a member of staff, who will be happy to direct you to the correct starting point.

Please arrive at your tour starting point five minutes before the scheduled start time so your guide can begin the tour promptly.

Screen Tour

Starting from 1858 Foyer

Explore how ballet and opera have captivated audiences beyond the stage, from iconic films and fairy tales to cinema broadcasts. Discover connections between productions in the Helpmann Studio and learn how Royal Ballet and Opera shares performances with audiences around the world in our Sound and Broadcast department.

Style Tour

Starting from Paul Hamlyn Hall Entrance

Step into the world of theatrical design as you visit two of our costume-making spaces: the Costume Production Department and Hats and Jewellery. Discover how costumes, accessories and bespoke creations help bring unforgettable characters to life.



Timetable

STORIES	STAGES	SCREEN	STYLE
5.30pm	Doors open Welcome drinks on arrival		
5.30pm — 9pm	Installations in Paul Hamlyn Hall		
5.30pm — 9pm	Cicoria small Plates available to order		
6pm — 9pm	Tours will be happening regularly throughout this time slot		
6pm — 6.30pm	Page to Stage Talk in the Crush Room		
6pm — 6.30pm	Costume Breakdown Demo in the Linbury Foyer		
6.40pm — 7.20pm	Popcorn and Puccini Talk in the Crush Room		
6.40pm — 7.20pm	Designed to Last Demo in the Linbury Foyer		
7.30pm — 8.10pm	Beyond Balletcore Talk in the Crush Room		
7.30pm — 8pm	Finding your voice Demo in the Linbury Foyer		
8.10pm — 8.50pm	The Art of Action Demo in the Linbury Foyer		
8.20pm — 8.50pm	Designing the Main Stage Talk in the Crush Room		
9pm — 11.30pm	Silent Disco in the Paul Hamlyn Hall		
11.30pm	Event Ends		