

# MIIF Manchester International Festival

## Animals of Manchester – Press Highlights



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**BBC 1 North West**

21/07/19: 6pm & 10pm

22/07/19: 7am

TV Broadcast





## Manchester International Festival creates city where 'all species are equal'

An "alternative city in which all species are equal" has been created in Manchester as part of an arts festival.

Animals of Manchester aimed to bring together humans and animals to explore what life might be like if dogs, cows, mice and other beasts lived alongside people as peers.

Held in Whitworth Park as part of Manchester International Festival, it included mice palaces, a beetle film studio and an animal conference led by cows.

Artist Joshua Sofaer said it was an attempt to get parents to think about the creatures "the same way that they would think about their kids."

🕒 22 Jul 2019



The exhibition formed part of Manchester International Festival.

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🕒 22 Jul 2019

**BBC Radio Lancashire**

Arts and Culture Show – 15/07/19

Radio Broadcast

**BBC**  
**RADIO LANCASHIRE**

**Manchester Confidential**

07/03/19

Online

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**ANIMALS OF MANCHESTER | The Whitworth | 20-21 July**

Animals of Manchester (including HUMANZ) imagines what life might be like if animals lived with us...not as our pets but as our peers. On the festival's final weekend, trace a trail through the Whitworth's galleries and Whitworth Park and take part in some absorbing animal encounters: from a university where dogs do the teaching, an edible Arndale Centre for squirrels and birds, a film studio run by beetles, an interspecies family centre with rescued hedgehogs, a conference of animals led by a cow and a living memorial for extinct species.

*The Whitworth & Whitworth Park, The University of Manchester,  
Oxford Road, M15 6ER*

## **I Love Manchester**

24/06/19

Online



### **Family friendly**

#### **Animals Of Manchester – Whitworth Art Gallery**

On the Festival's final weekend, trace a trail through the Whitworth's galleries and Whitworth Park and take part in some absorbing animal encounters as part of Animals of Manchester (including HUMANZ) (20th and 21st July, 10am–5pm). At this free event, there'll be a university where dogs do the teaching, an edible Arndale Centre for squirrels and birds, a conference of animals led by a cow and much else besides to get involved in.

*Where: The Whitworth & Whitworth Park, The University of Manchester,  
Oxford Road, M15 4FN*

*When: Sat 20th – Sun 21st July, 10am–5pm*



**Client:** Manchester International Festival Yellow News  
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# Join Yoko Ono's Bells For Peace

By **LUCY HILTON**

TAKING place from Thursday, July 4 to Sunday, July 21, this year's Manchester International Festival is just around the corner and people from across the region are being encouraged to be a part of the opening event.

Bells For Peace will take place in Cathedral Gardens in the city centre at 6pm on Thursday, July 4.

It's created by one of the world's most influential artists, Yoko Ono, who is inviting people to bring bells and join thousands of others for this one-off event.

Following 2017's What Is the City but the People?, Bells For Peace is another chance for people from across Greater Manchester to come together, this time to ring out and send a message of peace to the world.

Also just announced, actors Alfred Enoch, star of the BBC's Trust Me and the Harry Potter series, and award-winning Sinéad Cusack, who recently featured in the BBC's MotherFatherSon, star in Tree, an electrifying blend of drama, music and dance created by Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, which has its world premiere in the historic Upper Campfield Hall (Thursday, July 4 to Saturday, July 13).

This exciting event is not to be missed and tickets are on sale now from [mif.co.uk](http://mif.co.uk), starting at £10 for Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage.

As well as reduced price tickets for locals on a lower wage, MIF19 has plenty of free events and activities, from exhibitions at HOME, Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth, to Animals of Manchester, a family-friendly encounter between humans and other creatures happening in Whitworth Park during MIF19's final weekend (Saturday, July 20 to Sunday, July 21).

Also free is the programme of top-notch entertainment in Festival Square,

which takes over Albert Square from Friday, July 5 to Sunday, July 21, with

live music, cabaret, DJs and more, plus tasty food and drink on offer.

Festival Square is the beating heart of MIF, the place to hang out, meet friends and pick up information.



Yoko Ono



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# A PIECE OF MIF FOR FREE

THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WITHOUT PAYING A PENNY

**By DAISY JACKSON**

**M**ANCHESTER International Festival will sprawl right across Manchester, with events taking place in traditional arts spaces - The Whitworth, HOME, The Lowry - and less expected venues such as Cathedral Gardens and the tunnels beneath Victoria Station.

In a bid to be as inclusive as possible, MIF will once again offer discounted tickets for some of the festival's key events to Greater Manchester residents on a lower wage.

In even better news, a lot of this year's events are completely free - so no excuses to miss out on the action.

The beating heart of the festival is Festival Square, which will take over Albert Square outside the Town Hall for the duration of MIF19.

As well as street food and pop-up bars, the square boasts a lengthy line-up of music and DJs, all of which will be free to attend.

The bill features the likes of The Black Madonna, DJ Yoda, Children of Zeus, The Orielles, and Horace Andy, with ex-Hacienda DJ Dave Haslam curating many of the late-night free parties.

Beyond Festival Square, here are some free events to check out at MIF between July 4 and 21.

#### **Yoko Ono, Bells for Peace**

Internationally renowned artist and peace activist Yoko Ono will be behind MIF's opening event, her first major work for the city of Manchester.

People across Greater Manchester are currently creating ceramic bells at a series of workshops, which will be rung at Bells for Peace in a huge (and free) public performance.

Those who have missed out on workshops are invited to bring their own bells along to join in.

There will be a choir of diverse voices joining the people's orchestra of bells, ringing and singing out for peace together.

● *Where: Cathedral Gardens*

● *When: July 4, 6pm*

● *Tickets: None required, just turn up on the day*

#### **Animals of Manchester**

Taking place at The Whitworth and in Whitworth Park, this free event will show what life would be like if dogs, hogs, cats, bats and other creatures lived alongside us - not just as our pets, but as our peers.

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That means dog lecturers, beetle film directors, a conference led by a cow and an edible Arndale for squirrels and birds.

It's been specially curated by MIF for the closing weekend of this year's festival.

- *Where: The Whitworth and Whitworth Park*
- *When: July 20 and 21, 10am to 5pm*
- *Tickets: Free admission, no tickets required*

#### David Lynch at HOME

The phenomenal David Lynch - American filmmaker, painter, musician, actor, and photographer - will take over HOME for the bulk of this year's festival.

Best known as the director behind Blue Velvet, Mulholland Drive and Twin Peaks, the celebration of his work will see his other mediums exhibited for the first time.

Although many of the events at HOME require a ticket purchase, the art exhibition - titled My Head Is Disconnected - will be free to visit.

It's the first major exhibition of Lynch's paintings, drawing and sculpture.

- *Where: HOME*
- *When: July 6 to 21*
- *Tickets: Admission for art gallery free; Q&A, film screenings and music events vary*

#### Performance art - School of Integration

Cuban artist Tania Bruguera inverts the status quo with a new work questioning why integration is always the responsibility of the immigrant. The 'provocative and inspiring' work will see Manchester residents who have moved to the city from around the world pass on their experiences to visitors in free classes touching on languages, culture, ethics, politics and economics. Open and free to all, the shared learning experience aims to build cultural understanding across communities.

- *Where: Manchester Art Gallery*
- *When: July 5 to 20, 10am to 5pm daily (except Mondays, 11am to 5pm)*
- *Tickets: Free entry, some events will require tickets from [mif.co.uk/integration](http://mif.co.uk/integration)*

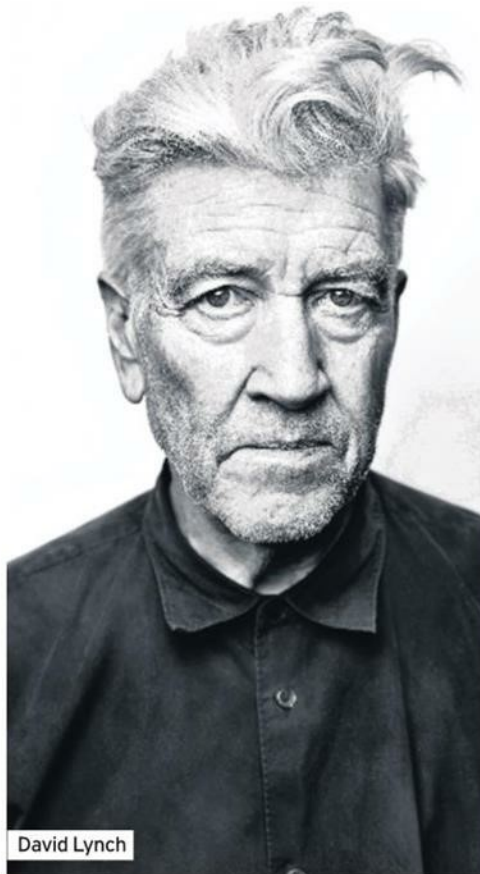
#### Parliament of Ghosts

Abandoned train seats, faded railway sleepers, bygone government documents and scrapped school furniture - all of these items will be assembled for the haunting art piece Parliament of Ghosts. The work comes from artist Ibrahim Mahama and reflects on the half-forgotten history of his native Ghana, a country asserting its independence after decades of British colonial rule. Alongside the lost objects will be paintings, photography, sculpture and film.

- *Where: The Whitworth*
- *When: July 5 to 21, 10am to 5pm daily (until 9pm on*

*Thursdays). Exhibition continues after MIF until September 29*

- *Tickets: Free admission, no tickets required*



David Lynch





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## Summer Days Out

# Summer fun for all the family...

### OUR BRILLIANT GUIDE TO MAKING THE HOLIDAYS A TIME TO REMEMBER...

By **EMMA GILL**

emma.gill@trinitymirror.com  
@FamilyManc

SCHOOL'S almost out for another year so you'll soon find yourself with six weeks of summer holidays to fill.

Before you start worrying what on earth you'll do to fill the time - don't worry, we've got it sorted.

We've put together a mammoth list of fun days out and events to keep the whole family happy over the school summer holidays.

And because we know how expensive it is keeping the kids entertained, we've made sure it includes loads of free and cheap ones to make the most of too.

## MANCHESTER

### Terrific Tuesdays at Manchester Cathedral

There's free circus-themed fun and craft activities at Manchester Cathedral every Tuesday during the school holidays.

Families can drop in any time between 10.15am and noon between July 23 and August 27 for the 'Come Alive' sessions.

Visit [www.manchestercathedral.org](http://www.manchestercathedral.org) for more details.

● Manchester Cathedral, Victoria

Street, Manchester, M3 1SX.

### Power Up and more at Science and Industry Museum

The popular Retro video games festival Power Up is back in Manchester all summer.

The annual festival gives gamers a chance to play on classic consoles,

as well as the newest tech around.

● The event runs until September 1.

Ticket prices vary. For more information, and to book your visit, go to [msimanchester.org.uk/powerup](http://msimanchester.org.uk/powerup).

There's loads more happening at the museum as it hosts its Summer of Fun between July 20 and September 1.

There are family shows, activities and events, including games and challenges to coincide with the new exhibition The Sun, to which children go free with a paying adult.

Although many of the activities are free, places are often limited, so book at the front desk when you arrive.

● Museum of Science and Industry, Liverpool Road, Manchester, M3 4FP.

### Beach at the Great Northern

There's no need to travel to get

some sand between your toes as there's a beach right here in Manchester this summer.

Great Northern's amphitheatre has been transformed into a giant sandpit and it's free for families to enjoy. The sandpit, complete with 50 tonnes of sand along with a giant deckchair, was visited by thousands of families when it first arrived last summer.

Little ones will also be able to enjoy the venue's Playhouse, also housed in the amphitheatre and featuring an animal hospital for teddies, a pretend cafe and a mini library.

● Great Northern, Deansgate, Manchester, M3 4EN.

### GMP Museum

The Greater Manchester Police Museum is hosting open days every Tuesday and Thursday from July 23.

The events, from 10.30am to 3.30pm, focus on different units within the police force, from the North West Underwater Search and Recovery Unit to the Tactical Dog Unit, plus the North West Ambulance Service.

● 57A Newton Street, Manchester, M1 1ET.

### The Whitworth



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The free fun at The Whitworth starts with the Animals of Manchester event, which is part of the Manchester International Festival, and takes place from 10am to 5pm this weekend.

Trace a trail through the Whitworth's galleries and Whitworth Park and take part in some 'absorbing animal encounters' - including everything from a university where dogs do the teaching, to a film studio run by beetles.

Playtime will also be running at The Whitworth throughout the holidays. Families are encouraged to have a wander and find things to do both indoors and out between 11am and 3pm daily between July 27 and September 1.

There's a Splash Studio - an open studio to experiment and play with water walls, tables and channels - giant garden games, a sensory area for babies and lots more.

On National Play Day, August 7, there'll be the added fun of water pistol painting and bubble art between 11am and 3pm and on August 21 there's a Family Bug Hunt between 11am and 1pm where families can find out about the tiny creatures living in Whitworth Park.

● *The Whitworth, The University of*

*Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER.*

### Free summer fun days, North Manchester

There are free activities for kids at these summer fun days taking place at different venues across north Manchester.

The events - tomorrow and then every Wednesday afternoon until August 28 - feature a wide range of sports and activities.

All ages are welcome and the fun days run from noon to 3pm. There's no need to book.

### Manchester Museum

There are workshops and sessions taking place over the summer.

Family learning workshops are on daily from 10.30am to 12.30pm between July 22 and 26, focusing on either the ocean or the garden.

Summer Friendly Fridays then run on August 16, 23 and 30 in the museum's fossils gallery where Stan the T-Rex is based.

The autism-friendly sessions run from 9.15am to 11.30am.

● *Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL.*

### Wythenshawe Games

Wythenshawe Games is a free, fun, sports and activities festival for all ages. Based in Wythenshawe Park, the games runs over five days in the summer holidays between 11am and 5pm, from July 24 to 28.

There are loads of different sports to try, with activities for all abilities and some of the days have specific themes such as Sport for all Day and This Girl Can.

And there's also an under-fives zone running daily between 11am and 4pm. There is no need to book.

● *Wythenshawe Park, Wythenshawe, M23 0AB.*

### Peterloo 2019 at People's History Museum and more

A programme of events is taking place at the museum and other attractions, including Dunham Massey and Quarry Bank, to mark the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre.

Visitors to the People's History Museum can meet Hope, a life-sized suffragette made entirely from Lego, who will be there until September.

There'll also be creative Make Your Mark drop-in workshops from 1pm to 3pm every Wednesday between July 24 and August 28, introducing different print techniques and inspiring ideas for

peaceful protest.

Other events will take place at Manchester Central Library and on August 16 there'll be a Peterloo Picnic at HOME.

Featuring food, music, screenings and a line-up of performances on the Manchester Histories Soapbox, it will mark the moment that 200 years ago a peaceful protest turned into an event that would become a milestone in Britain's democracy.

Elsewhere, at Dunham Massey and Quarry Bank, films will be shown, created specifically for each place to delve into their individual Peterloo stories and those whose lives were affected at the time.

Glorious Phantoms comprises two films, created by artist family Grace Surman and Gary Winters and their children Hope and Merrick, and they'll be shown between now and September 29.

For more information about Peterloo 2019, visit [/manchesterhistories.co.uk/projects/peterloo2019](http://manchesterhistories.co.uk/projects/peterloo2019).

● *People's History Museum, New Ct St, Spinningfields, Manchester, M3 3ER.*

### Simply Cycling

Cyclists of all ages and abilities are welcome to try out the wide range of bikes available at Simply Cycling sessions.

Sessions are held across three sites - Wythenshawe Park Athletics Track, Longford Park Athletic Stadium and Boggart Hole Clough Athletics Track.

It costs £2.50 per person to ride for two hours, with sessions also open to children and adults with disabilities, with different types of bikes available.

Simply Cycling is a not-for-profit organisation incorporating Wythenshawe Wheelers and Trafford Wheelers.

Sessions are on the following days and times:

Wythenshawe Park Athletics Track, Wythenshawe Road, M23 0PH

Tuesdays - 9am to 3pm

Wednesdays - 9am to noon



# Manchester Evening News

20/07/19

Online

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COMMENTS

There's loads of free fun at The Whitworth this summer.

It starts with the Animals of Manchester event, which is part of the Manchester International Festival, and takes place from 10am to 5pm on the weekend of July 20 and 21.

Visitors are asked to 'imagine a city where animals of all kinds, including human beings, live together as equals'.

Animals of Manchester pictures what life might be like if dogs, hogs, cats, bats and other creatures lived alongside us, not just as our pets, but as our peers – our companions.



Trace a trail through the Whitworth's galleries and Whitworth Park and take part in some 'absorbing animal encounters' - including everything from a university where dogs do the teaching, to a film studio run by beetles.



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## Five great free events to enjoy at the MIF

### **Bells for Peace Cathedral Gardens July 4, 6pm**

THE inaugural event of the festival is a world premiere in which renowned artist Yoko Ono invites you to join in sending out a message of peace to the world. Up to 8,000 people are expected to take part. Bring your own bell or pick up one of the 4,000 bells specially-made for the event,

### **Animals of Manchester The Whitworth July 20 - 21, 10am to 5pm**

A trail through the Whitworth's galleries and nearby Whitworth Park imagining a city where all animals, including humans, live together as equals. Expect some animal encounters along the way.

### **Festival Square Albert Square, July 5 - 21, noon to late, daily**

THE home of the festival featuring world class musicians and DJs

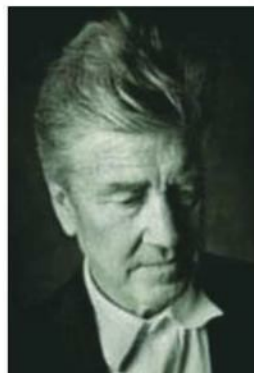
performing alongside rising stars - all for free. The square is also home to food and drink specially selected for the festival. Among the artists you may catch are Nitin Sawhney, Stealing Sheep, reggae legend Horace Andy and DJ The Black Madonna

**The Anvil**  
**Various locations, July 7**  
 ANU, one of Europe's most daring theatre companies take to the streets for a series of immersive

performances inspired by the lives and stories of those who died at Peterloo

### **David Lynch Home July 5-21, noon to 8pm (6pm Sun)**

ENTER the world of one of the world's most influential film-makers and artists featuring the first UK exhibition of David Lynch's paintings, drawings and sculptures plus special screenings of his movies and one-off live shows from Lynch-inspired musicians



**David Lynch**  
(Picture: Mark Berry)



**Client:** Manchester International Festival Yellow News  
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**Keyword:** Manchester International Festival  
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**Value:** 347.99



From Yoko Ono's BELLS FOR PEACE on the Festival's opening night to Animals of Manchester (including HUMANZ) on the closing weekend, there are plenty of free and family-friendly events throughout the 18 extraordinary days of MIF19.

There are only a few days to go until Manchester International Festival returns with 18 extraordinary days of world premieres and special events (4–21 July 2019).

The Festival is presenting shows from internationally-acclaimed artists including Maxine Peake, Laurie Anderson, Yoko Ono, Janelle Monáe and David Lynch all over the city – everywhere from theatres and galleries to stations, former market halls and secret locations. There's a wide range of fascinating, participatory events on the MIF19 programme – including a great free line-up in Festival Square.

Festival Square is the home of MIF in the heart of the city, open noon till late in Albert Square during the Festival and always free. It's a lively gathering place for visitors, redesigned for MIF19 with a large new stage, refreshed interiors for the two Glass Houses, and tiles for

the bars and food barns created by the people of Manchester. As well as the Square's stellar array of chefs and eateries, the New Pavilion is hosting an amazing free programme of live acts, DJs and performances, featuring Nitin Sawhney, House Gospel Choir, Stealing Sheep, DJ Yoda, Swing Ting and many more.

MIF19 officially opens on Thursday 4 July at 6pm with the world premiere of BELLS FOR PEACE. Yoko Ono, one of the world's most renowned and respected artists, is inviting the people of Manchester to be part of this free, mass event, kicking off MIF19 in celebratory style. Join thousands of voices and an orchestra of bells in Cathedral Gardens as the city rings and sings out for peace – and welcomes the world to Manchester.

At the Science and Industry Museum, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's Atmospheric Memory (6–21 July) is a breathtaking interactive art environment where you can see, hear and even touch the sounds that travel through the atmosphere. In a custom-built chamber at the museum, an array of 'Atmospheric Machines' mine the air for turbulence caused by speech, then transform it into trails of vapour, ripples on water, epic 360-degree projections. Atmospheric Memory is also accompanied by a programme of talks, walking tours and conversations exploring ideas related to digital futures, heritage, inclusion and ownership.



On the Festival's final weekend, trace a trail through the Whitworth's galleries and Whitworth Park and take part in some absorbing animal encounters as part of Animals of Manchester (including HUMANZ) (20 & 21 July, 10am–5pm). At this free event, there'll be a university where dogs do the teaching, an edible Arndale Centre for squirrels and birds, a conference of animals led by a cow and much else besides to get involved in.

To buy tickets for Atmospheric Memory and plan your visit to the other free shows, head to the MIF website.

*Manchester International Festival takes place from 4–21 July. Visit [mif.co.uk](http://mif.co.uk) for more information and to buy tickets.*





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A TRAIL through the Whitworth's galleries and nearby Whitworth Park imagining a city where all animals, including humans, live together as equals. Expect some animal encounters along the way.

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Albert Square, July 5 - 21,  
noon to late, daily  
THE home of the festival featuring world class musicians and DJs



### David Lynch (Picture: Mark Berry)

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ENTER the world of one of the world's most influential film-makers and artists featuring the first UK exhibition of David Lynch's paintings, drawings and sculptures plus special screenings of his movies and one-off live shows from Lynch-inspired musicians

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## Manchester International Festival

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Share this event



# MIF19: Animals of Manchester at The Whitworth

Gemma Gibb, Associate Editor

Last Updated 19 July 2019



Image courtesy of The Whitworth

Animals of Manchester at The Whitworth at [The Whitworth](#), Manchester, 20–21 July 2019, free entry - [Visit now](#)

Head to *Animals of Manchester*, a cultural experiment, for some wild times like no other as artists, scientists, musicians and theatre-makers take over The Whitworth and Whitworth Park for [Manchester International Festival](#)'s final weekend.

Step into a world where all animals live alongside each other as equals on a rambunctious and transformative live art trail.

Expect a Mouse Palace (for both mice and humans), Human School where dogs do the teaching, an edible Arndale Centre for squirrels and birds, a film studio run by beetles, Hedgehog Hospital, a conference of animals led by cows and workshops taught by pets.

Expect familiar spaces and places to be transformed into a new *Animals of Manchester* realm. Explore curious goings-on from creatures and humans alike at Pigadilly, Dogsgate and Beastiary Beauty Parlour across the weekend.

A fine way to end the festival and celebrate the start of the school holidays alike. *Animals of Manchester* takes a weekend walk in the park to another level.

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Animals of Manchester at The Whitworth at [The Whitworth](#), Manchester

20–21 July 2019

Free entry

[Visit now](#)



## Interview with John McGrath of Manchester International Festival



JLife speaks to John McGrath, artistic director of Manchester International Festival, ahead of the star-studded citywide event from 4th to 21st July.

It's John McGrath's second time at the helm of Manchester International Festival (MIF). As artistic director and chief executive, he shoulders the responsibility of having the final say on what makes the cut in a festival which has evolved to accommodate an immensely diverse 18-day programme of events across the city.

"Because it's a biennial festival, people often ask me: 'but what do you do for the rest of the time?' I have to convince them that it's a full-time job nurturing projects on this scale. We're already in conversation about some of our bigger works in 2021.

"You're following your nose, but it's not only about trying to decide which projects are going to be right for this festival, but which are going to be ready – many are three, or even four years in the making."

John trained as a theatre director at Columbia University, working in New York for nine years before heading to Manchester to head the reopening of Contact Theatre. This redevelopment at the end of the 1990s bore many of the hallmarks of MIF as a young, ambitious venture, as John established a new kind of theatre with a focus on up-and-coming artists.

In 2009, he left to take up the role of founding artistic director for National Theatre Wales, bringing theatre to non-traditional locations across the country, from taking over Port Talbot with actor Michael Sheen, to inviting 1,000 local residents (and sheepdogs!) to perform halfway up Snowdon.

Eight years later, John brought this spirit of experimentation back to Manchester, building on MIF's reputation for taking work into new spaces and redefining perceptions of what performance can be. Since it was founded 11 years ago, MIF has cultivated line-ups to rival some of the world's biggest festivals: "We've always been really ambitious to show Manchester can play host to some of the best artists in the world. We're really pleased with our line-up, bursting with household names like Idris Elba and Laurie Anderson – but we try to strike a balance between names people recognise and those we're confident are ready to take the leap to the next level, such as Ibrahim Mahama and Tania Bruguera."

All the projects showcased at MIF are new works which encourage artists to explore uncharted territory: "It's a completely different process to a traditional festival where you're booking finished work. In our case, the team are working with the artists to bring works to life that no-one has ever seen before. People can't just go to another festival in Vienna or New York and see the same piece."

With the artists' projects constantly morphing, John and his team often don't know what the finished product will look like until the day itself: "New things are being imagined in rehearsals as we speak. Sometimes during the festival, artists will be changing work as it's presented. That can be scary and thrilling – depending on which way you look at it!"

This experimental ethos has nurtured an adventurous audience, willing to embrace risk taking: "People are willing to come along and give something a try because it sounds intriguing, even if they're unclear of what it's going to be – and the reason they're not clear, is because we're not quite clear yet either?"

There are no set themes for commissions, yet despite works being created across continents and disciplines, common strands will often emerge: "Our ethos is always what would you like to do as an artist, that you've not had a chance to do before? Yet despite the absence of a framework, you still find crossovers arising, as artists respond to global situations. An interesting theme that we've seen this year is utopia, as artists imagine different worlds in the future."

John and his team make a conscious effort to present work that attracts a range of communities and demographics, shunning the idea of simply catering to a traditional audience: "Older people tend to go to arts festivals in cities and younger people go to festivals in fields, but we're trying to mingle those audiences. We've got classical music elements, such as our Shostakovich project in Bridgewater Hall, family activities in our free Animals of Manchester project in Whitworth Park, as well as chart-topping grime acts like Skepta."

It has also stepped up its efforts to make the festival as accessible as possible – every festival now kicking off with a free public performance: "We want to make sure it's easy for people to take the first steps into the festival. This year, Yoko Ono's Bells for Peace invites people from across the city to ring bells together in Cathedral Gardens, while the festival hub in Albert Square will host music and performance throughout the festival from major acts like Horace Andy and Janelle Monáe – that's completely free for people to just turn up and be part of."

While the festival continues its partnership with traditional arts venues, from director David Lynch at HOME to composer Philip Glass at the Royal Exchange, the festival has become renowned for exploring the hidden corners of the city. An underground beer factory is currently being constructed in the hidden tunnels beneath Victoria Station while Mayfield, the former railway depot, will become the court of Kublai Khan.

"Manchester has a fascinating, unexpected and chaotic architectural mix and for artists that's terribly exciting. We spend a lot of time early on taking them to look at spaces, which will often inspire their final work. These projects are built around Manchester – they simply couldn't happen anywhere else."

To find out more about the unique events taking place across the city, visit [Mif.co.uk](http://Mif.co.uk).



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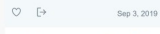
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## Il meglio del Manchester International

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Dal 4 al 21 luglio, torna per la settima edizione il Manchester International Festival, che riunisce il meglio dell'arte in tutte le sue forme e accezioni, dal cinema alla musica

Diciotto giorni straordinari all'insegna dell'arte in tutte le sue forme e accezioni. Sono quelli proposti dal **Manchester International Festival (4-21 luglio 2019)**, che torna con l'appuntamento biennale che è già diventato cult per gli appassionati e i semplici curiosi.

Artisti di fama internazionale provenienti da venti Paesi presentano le loro opere, molte delle quali in anteprima, al Festival che per la seconda edizione consecutiva vede **John McGrath** nel ruolo di **direttore artistico**. Nato nel 2007 per dare spazio all'arte in tutte le sue declinazioni (dalle arti visive alla performing art), il **MIF19** si concentra su una serie di tematiche fortemente contemporanee (l'identità, il linguaggio, i confini e le migrazioni, il potere dell'azione collettiva, la tecnologia e le visioni utopiche/distopiche del futuro).



BellsforPeace at MIF19 © Danny Lawson

“Al MIF19 partecipano un gruppo di artisti che guardano al futuro, chi con speranza, chi con fantasia, chi con preoccupazione – ha spiegato il direttore artistico del Festival, John McGrath. – **Non abbiamo mai imposto tematiche**, agli artisti che lavorano con noi, ma colpisce il modo con cui il programma di quest'anno rifletta i tempi complessi che stiamo vivendo, in modi anche gioiosi e inaspettati.

Nonostante la presenza di artisti provenienti da diversi Paesi del mondo, il Festival ha anche **profonde radici locali**, con diverse opere che vedono partecipare gli abitanti di Manchester. Quello che ci auguriamo è che il MIF19 sia una festa di energia, che possa magari anche aprire dei dibattiti su tematiche importanti”.

Dopo il successo di “What Is the City But the People?” (apertura del MIF17), ad aprire il Festival 2019 è stata **Yoko Ono**, con il suo evento partecipativo **“BELLS FOR PEACE”**. Migliaia di persone si sono unite all'artista per cantare e suonare per la pace nei Cathedral Gardens, nel cuore della città. A cinquant'anni dalle prime collaborazioni artistiche con John Lennon, Yoko Ono torna ancora una volta a schierarsi in battaglie di rilevanza sociale e planetaria.





Parliament of Ghosts, Ibrahim Mahama al MIF19 © Michael Pollard

Proseguendo l'uso innovativo degli spazi cittadini del MIF, **"Invisible Cities"** vede Leo Warner dei 59 Productions (War Horse, David Bowie Is), l'acclamato coreografo Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, la scrittrice Lolita Chakrabarti, la compagnia di danza Rambert e un team di creativi di primo livello collaborare per la prima volta a un progetto che unisce **teatro, coreografie, musica, design architettonico e mappature**. Ispirata dal famoso romanzo omonimo di Italo Calvino del 1972 (*Le città invisibili*), incentrato sul rapporto tra Kublai Khan e l'esploratore Marco Polo, questa nuova performance reinventa i canoni del genere, e si inserisce in modo straordinario nel contesto urbano.

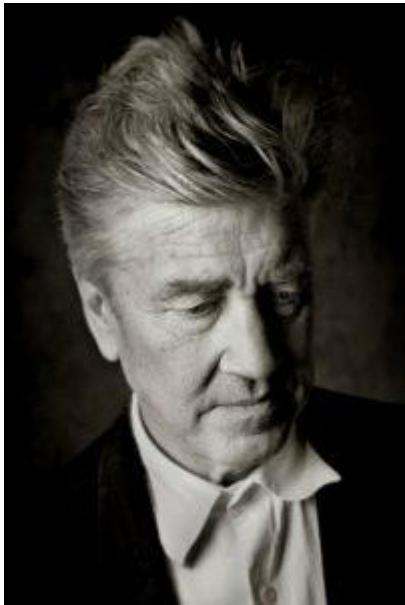
Proseguendo la tradizione di grandi collaborazioni del Festival: il **compositore Philip Glass** e il **regista e attore Phelim McDermott** hanno lavorato insieme a produzioni operistiche acclamate a Londra, New York e via dicendo, ma **"Tao of Glass"** è il loro progetto più personale fino a oggi. Ispirato da un sogno, questo progetto presentato in anteprima mondiale unisce meditazioni sulla vita, la morte e la saggezza con dieci nuovi pezzi musicali realizzati da Glass. McDermott presenta il tutto, insieme a un gruppo di burattinai e musicisti.



Un frame dello spettacolo teatrale "Tree" © Marc Brenner

A lavorare insieme per la prima volta sono anche l'**attore Idris Elba** e il **regista Kwame Kwei-Armah**. **"Tree"** racconta il viaggio di un ragazzo, attraverso danza, musica e video – ed è anche la realizzazione di un'ambizione di vecchia data di Elba e Kwei-Armah, ovvero realizzare un progetto insieme ispirato al Sud Africa.

In **"The Nico Project"**, allo Stoller Hall Maxine Peake, Sarah Frankcom e un tram creativo tutto al femminile rendono omaggio alla leggendaria cantante tedesca, conosciuta anche con il soprannome di "Sacerdotessa delle tenebre", con una performance teatrale immersiva e coinvolgente, ispirata dalle sonorità dell'album del 1969 di Nico "The Marble Index". Con testi del drammaturgo EV Crowe e musiche della compositrice Anna Clyne, "The Nico Project" porta il pubblico ad avvicinarsi ai fantasmi che perseguitavano Nico e celebra la potenza della creatività femminile in un campo tradizionalmente dominato dagli uomini.



David Lynch © Josh Telles

Il leggendario regista, produttore e sceneggiatore americano **David Lynch** è protagonista di **“HOME”**, per tutta la durata del Festival. **“My Head Is Disconnected”** è la prima grande mostra allestita nel Regno Unito e dedicata ai suoi dipinti su grande scala, ai disegni e alle sculture. A teatro sono organizzati una serie di spettacoli live di musica a lui ispirati; nei cinema è previsto un ricco programma di proiezioni di sue film, cortometraggi, interviste e altro.

**“DYSTOPIA987”** del rapper **Skepta** supera l'esperienza della musica dal vivo, reimmaginando la cultura rave del passato in un futuro incerto, con una serie di eventi intimi e immersivi allestiti in una location segreta di Manchester. Skepta si esibisce insieme a diversi ospiti tra performer e DJ, utilizzando tutta una serie di nuove tecnologie che abitano questo mondo sotterraneo.



Tania Bruguera

Alla **Manchester Art Gallery** **Tania Bruguera**, fresca di commissione alla Tate Modern, invita il pubblico a unirsi alla sua **“School of Integration”** e considerare per quale motivo l'integrazione viene sempre considerata responsabilità di chi arriva, in un nuovo lavoro potente, provocatorio e stimolante. Gli abitanti di Manchester originari di altri Paesi tengono anche lezioni gratuite che spaziano dalla lingua alla politica, dalla cultura all'economia, per quella che si configura come una nuova esperienza di apprendimento condiviso.

Il linguaggio è invece il fulcro dell'installazione immersiva dell'acclamato artista messicano-canadese Rafael Lozano-Hemmer **“Atmospheric Memory”**, una serie di macchine atmosferiche che cercano di **“materializzare il suono”**, ispirandosi all'idea pionieristica di Charles Babbage, secondo cui l'aria non era altro che una **“vasta biblioteca”**, contenente ogni parola mai pronunciata. L'opera unisce in modo affascinante arte audace e performance sensoriali.



Ibrahim Mahama © White Cube George Darrell

Alla **Whitworth Art Gallery**, la storia del Ghana, in larga parte dimenticata, viene raccontata in **“Parliament of Ghosts”**, una grande installazione dell’artista **Ibrahim Mahama**. Questa opera realizzata appositamente per il MIF19 utilizza pezzi di treni abbandonati, documenti provenienti dagli archivi governativi e tutto un’insieme di oggetti perduti, recuperati e riutilizzati, per dare vita a una camera parlamentare nel cuore della galleria.

La storia di Manchester è invece al centro di **“The Anvil: An Elegy for Peterloo”**, che celebra il 200° anniversario del massacro di Peterloo in una commissione articolata in due parti. **ANU**, una delle compagnie teatrali più audaci d’Europa, scende in strada con una serie di performance immersive ispirate alle storie di coloro che hanno perso la vita a St Peter’s Field. Alla sera è possibile ascoltare e ammirare il nuovo lavoro della compositrice Emily Howard e del poeta Michael Symmons Roberts, interpretato dalla BBC Philharmonic e da una serie di cori.



A Drunk Pandemic, Chim↑Pom © Michael Pollard

I luoghi e gli spazi cittadini diventano il palcoscenico per altre due opere immersive. **“Utopolis Manchester”** della compagnia con base a Berlino Rimini Protokoll è un nuovo lavoro che trasforma la nostra visione della città, mentre scopriamo le persone e i luoghi che danno vita alla quotidianità di Manchester, in un viaggio ispirato dall’Utopia di Tommaso Moro. L’epidemia di colera di Manchester degli anni ‘30 dell’Ottocento è invece l’improbabile spunto per **“The Drunk Pandemic”**, il primo grande progetto inglese dei **Chim↑Pom di Tokyo**, uno dei più giocosi e provocatori collettivi artistici al mondo.

**“Animals of Manchester”** (di cui fa parte anche **“HUMANZ”**) immagina come potrebbe essere la vita se gli animali vivessero con noi non come animali domestici ma come compagni, in un’esperienza interattiva di Live Art creata dall’artista con base ad Amburgo Sibylle Peters (Theatre of Research) e dalla London’s Live Art Development Agency (LADA). Installazioni, performance e incontri con artisti – tra cui Joshua Sofaer e Marcus Coates. Per le famiglie c’è invece **“Tuesday”** dello Studio ORKA.



Sybille Peters © Margaux Weiss

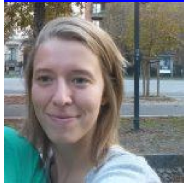
Torna al MIF19 con un nuovo look **Festival Square**, con un grande palco che ospita un ricco programma gratuito di spettacoli dal vivo, DJ set, conferenze ed eventi. Ci saranno anche cibo e bevande, con la presenza di una serie di Chef stellati.

**Diciotto giorni di arte, musica, spettacoli**, performance dal vivo, nel segno dell'innovazione e delle riflessioni sul futuro ma anche della storia di Manchester e della riscoperta del passato. Sul sito del Festival il programma completo e tutti gli approfondimenti.



Festival Square al MIF19 © Louis Reynolds

### [About Roberta Turillazzi](#)



[Giornalista per passione e professione dal 2015. Mamma e moglie giramondo, che](#)

[www.canalearte.tv/news/il-meglio-del-manchester-international-festival-2019/](http://www.canalearte.tv/news/il-meglio-del-manchester-international-festival-2019/)