

# What's On

Jan - Apr 2025

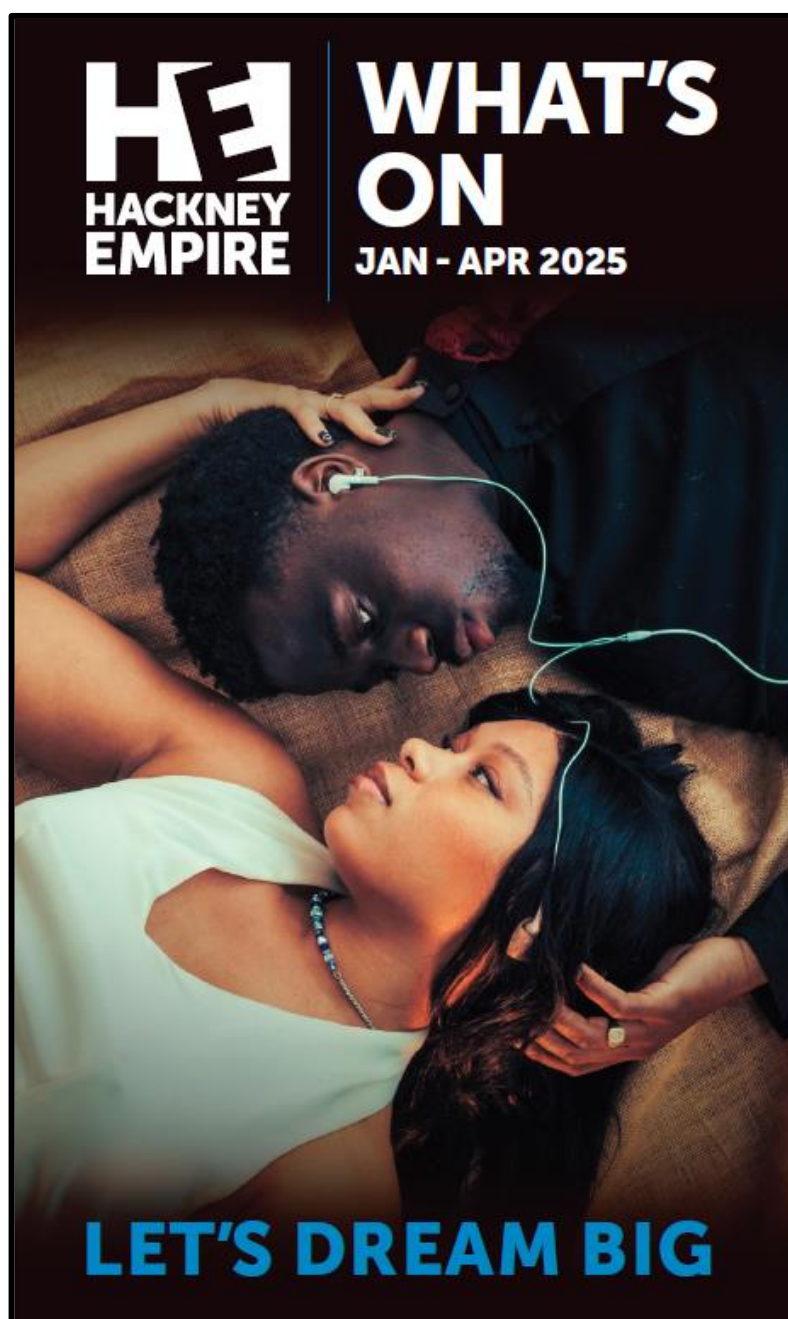
Hackney Empire

Let's Dream Big



Large Print version

Transcribed by A2i Transcription Services



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**01179 44 00 44 info@a2i.co.uk www.a2i.co.uk**

We welcome feedback please quote ref number: 41295

## Memories 2025: Past, Present and Future

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**Sat 18 Jan, 7pm**  
**£10**

Join us as we commemorate the 20th anniversary of Robert Levy's passing and honour young lives lost to knife crime. This evening celebrates the achievements of **RISE.365, Inspired Futures**, and our local community partners.

## TEDxLondon Festival of Ideas

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**Sun 26 Jan, 10am**  
**£12 - £79**

Ideas shaping tomorrow. This January **TEDxLondon** is back. You can expect the same great TEDx talks from the world's most inspiring and innovative speakers. Join us and be part of a community exploring how we can reshape our city and our world to build a more joyful, just and sustainable future – together.

Age guidance: TEDxLondon does not allow any children under 12 to attend this event. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Tickets sold via TEDxLondon.

## Live at The Empire with Sam Campbell

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**Fri 31 Jan, 8pm**  
**£18.50 - £27.50**

Live at the Empire returns in January 2025 with an all-timer line-up, headlined by 'Taskmaster' and Edinburgh Comedy Award winner **Sam Campbell**. Cambo is joined by **Bridget Christie**, **Ivo Graham**, **Dan Tiernan**, and with **Michelle De Swarte** as your host for the night.

Age guidance: 16+

## Feb

### **Gary Stevenson: The Trading Game**

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**Thu 6 Feb, 7.30pm**  
**£22 - £40**

Previously the youngest and most successful trader in the city, **Gary Stevenson** has traded the trading floor for real-world change. Through his popular YouTube channel, media appearances and #1 Sunday Times bestselling book, 'The Trading Game', he's dedicated to teaching the truth about how money really works—and how it can work for everyone.

Age guidance: 14+

## **Munawar Faruqui: Dhandho**

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**Fri 7 Feb, 7.30pm**  
**£43.80 - £53.80**

Join stand-up comedian, rapper and online sensation **Munawar Faruqui** for a captivating two-hour journey that blurs the lines between comedy, storytelling, and raw truth.

Age guidance: 18+

## **Soul and Qawwali – Chand Ali Khan and Leo Twins**

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**Sat 8 Feb, 7pm**  
**£23.50 - £74.50**

Witness the mesmerising vocals and Qawwali mastery of the legendary **Chand Ali Khan** and Ensemble in collaboration with the illustrious **Leo Twins**! This concert promises a sensational evening of soulful classics and spiritual renditions, combining the timeless essence of Qawwali with modern musical artistry.

Age guidance: 7+

## **Boroughs United 2025**

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**Sun 9 Feb, 5pm**  
**£7**

Uniting over 1,000 young people, families and friends from across the capital, come and celebrate 25 years of young London's number one urban variety show.

## Into The Woods

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**Fri 28 Feb and Sat 1 Mar, 7.30pm**

**£10 - £50**

Join us for a magical journey as **A&O Shearman's Music Network** proudly presents **Stephen Sondheim's** beloved musical, 'Into the Woods'.

Experience the enchanting world where fairy tales collide and wishes come true, but with unexpected consequences.

## English Touring Opera Bellini's The Capulets and The Montagues

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**Sat 22 Feb, 7.30pm**

**£10 - £45**

A tale of two households at war and of two lovers in over their heads, doomed by the conflict between their families. **Vincenzo Bellini's** gritty re-working of 'Romeo and Juliet' remains a fresh, vital take on a well-loved story that brings the warring families' emotional and political struggle to life with devastating power.

Performed in the original Italian, English Touring Opera's new production is directed by **Eloise Lally**, who returns to ETO after directing 2023's sumptuous 'Lucrezia Borgia'.

## Ballet Black: Shadows

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Thu 13 – Sat 15 Mar, 7.30pm  
£15 - £42

**Cassa Pancho's Ballet Black** makes its return to Hackney Empire with an exciting new double bill including Pancho's darkly comic adaptation of Oyinkan Braithwaite's international bestselling novel, 'My Sister, The Serial Killer' and a piece by Brooklyn-born, award-winning choreographer **Chanel DaSilva**, making her British choreographic debut.

Ballet Black has transformed the landscape of British ballet, creating a prominent platform for dancers and artists of Black and Asian descent, as well as establishing a new canon of ballet repertoire that resonates with audiences around the world.

## Jimbo's Drag Circus

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Thu 20 Mar, 8pm  
£37 - £150

Get ready for an evening of outrageous characters and adult humour starring Canada's own **Jimbo** from 'RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 8' and 'Canada's Drag Race'.

Age guidance: 16+

## Have a Word: Murderers Row

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**Fri 21 and Sat 22 Mar, 7.30pm**  
**£22.50 - £26.50**

The 'Have A Word' Podcast presents two nights of stand-up comedy hosted by **Adam Rowe** and **Dan Nightingale** - two of the best comedians in the game. Guest comics include superstars and rising talents. The one thing they have in common: they all absolutely kill on stage. This is Murderers Row.

Age guidance: 16+

## Live at The Empire

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**Fri 28 Mar, 8pm**  
**£18.50 - £27.50**

Live at the Empire returns in March with another all-killer, no-filler line-up featuring two 'Taskmaster' and 'Live at the Apollo' stars **Phil Wang** and **Fern Brady**. They'll be joined by two-time Edinburgh Comedy Award winner and 'Taskmaster' star **John Kearns**, two-time Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee **Janine Harouni**, and 'Live at the Apollo' star **Laura Smyth**.

Age guidance: 16+



## Touch of Class 2025: Mother's Day Special

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Sun 30 Mar, 8pm  
£22.50 - £35

Touch Of Class returns with the yearly Mother's Day Special. Featuring comedians **Slim, Curtis Walker, White Yardie, Christopher Savage** and **Kayleigh Loudmouth**, music by **The Marley Experience** and with **Stamina** as your host.

Age guidance: 14+. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult.

**Apr**

## 201 Dance Company: Sad Book

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Wed 2 Apr, 7.30pm  
£20

Featuring live narration by **Michael Rosen**, the award-winning 'Sad Book' is adapted for the stage, retelling the story through theatre, dance and animation with stunning original music.

Age guidance: 12+

## Two Dykes and A Mic

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**Fri 4 Apr, 7.30pm**

**£30 - £37.50**

‘Two Dykes and a Mic’ is a weekly comedy podcast and internationally touring live show. Comedians and IRL BFFs **McKenzie Goodwin** and **Rachel Scanlon** host the world’s greatest and gayest show of all time.

Age guidance: 18+

## Sisters in the City Live

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**Wed 9 and Thu 10 Apr, 8pm**

**£30 - £80**

Get ready to laugh, cry and vibe with the ‘Sisters in The City’ as they hit the road for their first-ever podcast tour! Expect unfiltered chats and hilarious stories as **Anna** and **Mandi** bring their feel-good energy to Hackney.

Age guidance: 16+

## Eshaan Akbar: Can’t Get No Satisfakshaan

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**Sat 12 Apr, 7.30pm**

**£19.50**

**Eshaan Akbar** is back doing jokes on tour! Eshaan’s previous tour, ‘The Pretender’, was described by The Times as “pretty sick” (not an actual quote) so this one is likely to be mad good. As seen on ‘Sex Education’ (Netflix), ‘Mock The Week’ (BBC), ‘QI’ (BBC), ‘Live At The Apollo’ (BBC), ‘Comedy Central Live’ and many more.

Age guidance: 14+

## **Aurie Styla: The Aurator Tour**

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**Thu 17 Apr, 8pm**  
**£18.50**

Join award-winning comedian **Aurie Styla** as he talks about this wild world, and his journey to make sense of it. As seen and heard on; 'Mo Gilligan's Black British and Funny' (C4), 'On The Other Foot' (film), 'Aurie Styla's Tech Talk' (BBC R4), 'You're Part Of The Problem' (BBC R4), 'Respectfully...' (Podcast) and more.

Age guidance: 16+

## **London Community Gospel Choir: Out of Many, One Voice**

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**Sat 19 Apr, 7pm**  
**£35 - £40**

Celebrate the power and joy of gospel music in a soul-stirring concert by the renowned **London Community Gospel Choir**, plus special guest performances.

# A Hackney Empire, Belgrade Theatre and Bristol Old Vic Co-Production

## Romeo and Juliet

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**Wed 23 – Sat 26 Apr, 2pm and 7.30pm**  
**£16 - £46**

Shakespeare and Rap. A love story. The original play, originally scored – with rap and R&B.

Some aspects of this new, innovative co-production of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ aren’t new at all. Everything that makes Shakespeare’s play so well loved is here. The rich, feuding families. The intense, forbidden passion. And the flash of violence that tears the young lovers apart, sending them spiralling towards tragedy.

Directed by **Corey Campbell**, creative director of the Belgrade, the play springs from our communities. Together, we’ve created something unique. A Shakespearean lyrical love story – for people who love the music of the spoken word of every generation.

Age guidance: 11+

## Coming soon

### **Kerry Godliman: Bandwidth**

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**Thu 22 May, 7.30pm  
£21**

Comedian, actor, writer, podcaster and broadcaster **Kerry Godliman** returns to the stage with her straight-talking charm and quick wit. The life of a middle-aged woman who hasn't got the bandwidth for any of this.

Age guidance: 14+

### **Nish Kumar: Nish, Don't Kill My Vibe**

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**Sat 24 May, 5pm and 8.30pm  
£15**

**Nish Kumar** is back with his brand new politically-charged stand-up show, with extra dates now added due to phenomenal demand. Following an election year – with the country in turmoil – there's only one comedian who can kill the mood even further...

Age guidance: 14+

# Creative Futures

Free events and projects for young people aged 14-25.

## Young Producers: Create Your Own Events

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**Every Tuesday, 6pm - 8pm. See website for details**

A free training opportunity to create and organise your own events such as 'River Stage', 'Pure Vibez' and 'Alter Ego'. These free workshops will help you develop the creative and practical skills needed to put on the event that you want to see.

## Alter Ego Auditions 2025

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**Sat 18 Jan 2025, 10am - 7pm**

East London's biggest talent showcase is back in 2025. Whatever your talent, we want to see it!

We're looking for 14 - 19 year old rappers, singers, spoken word poets, and dancers of any genre and style to perform alongside headline acts and compete for the title of Alter Ego 2025.

**Check out our website or follow @hefutures to find out about all the latest projects you can take part in!**

# Information

## Box Office

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**Book tickets at: [hackneyempire.co.uk](http://hackneyempire.co.uk)**

Our phone lines are open: **Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (except Bank Holidays)**

**020 8985 2424**

Our Box Office window is open for in person bookings: **Mon-Fri 10am-6pm (except Bank Holidays)**

Booking fees: £1.20 per ticket online, £1.40 per ticket over the phone. No booking fees if booked in person.

**291 Mare Street, London E8 1EJ**

### **Follow us:**

- Instagram
- X
- Facebook
- YouTube
- TikTok

**@HackneyEmpire**

For all of our shows, we don't allow unaccompanied children under the age of 14 into Hackney Empire and all under 14's must be accompanied by an adult (18+). Our Gallery has unreserved bench seating and is not recommended for under 14s.

## **Getting To Hackney Empire**

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- **Underground and National Rail:** Hackney Central (just over 200m), Hackney Downs and London Fields (700m) all have frequent and direct links to the tube network.
- **Buses:** 30, 38, 55, 106, 253, 254, 276, 394, D6, W15.

## **There's a bar on every level**

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We have a bar on every floor of the theatre, serving a range of drinks and snacks, **Come and visit us!**

- Wheelchair access
- Sign Language interpreting available
- Access for people with Visual Impairment
- Guide Dogs are welcome
- Access for people with Hearing Impairment

Hackney Empire is a registered charity in England and Wales No. 1062085.

All details were correct when we sent this to print. For the latest information including any changes or updates, please check our website.

### **Empire Local Hackney Empire Community Choir**

**Every Thu 7pm - 9pm**

**Check website for current term dates**

**£5**

**£3 concs**

Our choir meets weekly and anyone can join to sing and have fun. Led by Joseph Roberts.



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(Community)
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(Comedy)
- Thu 6 Feb, 7.30pm: **Gary Stevenson: The Trading Game**  
(Podcasts/Talks)
- Fri 7 Feb, 7.30pm: **Munawar Faruqui: Dhandho**  
(Comedy)
- Sat 8 Feb, 7pm: **Soul and Qawwali – Chand Ali Khan and Leo Twins**  
(Opera/Live Music)
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(Comedy)

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(Comedy)

## **Become a Friend**

**As a registered charity Hackney Empire depends on the support of the people who love it.**

From **£5 per month** you'll receive a range of benefits that will take you right to the heart of our legendary venue.

**Join us today!**

**[hackneyempire.co.uk/friends](http://hackneyempire.co.uk/friends)**



- Instagram
  - X
  - Facebook
  - YouTube
  - TikTok
- @HackneyEmpire**

**020 8985 2424**

- Hackney
- Art Councils England Lottery Funded Supported using public funding by Arts Council England
- Widely Recycled