

TRAMWAY

Blue Now

2nd November 2024

7:30 pm - 9:15 pm

Running time: 105 mins

AUDIENCE NOTES | Contains Mature Themes

ACCESS | BSL Interpreted, Particularly good for Subpacs (three available).

*If I lose half my sight, will my vision be halved? –
Derek Jarman*

This performance coincides with the [Digging in Another Time: Derek Jarman's Modern Nature exhibition](#), open at the Hunterian Art Gallery from 2 November 2024.

Blue Now, in this live event version, was commissioned by WePresent by WeTransfer, first presented by WeTransfer in association with Fuel and Basilisk Communications, and originally produced by Fuel.

SHOW CREDITS |

Directed by **Neil Bartlett**

Produced by **James Mackay**

MUSIC |

Composition by **Simon Fisher Turner**
in collaboration with

Composer and Cellist **Lucy Railton**

VOICES |

Joelle Taylor

Jay Bernard

Russel Tovey

Travis Alabanza

BSL Interpreted by **Karen Forbes**

Tramway is a renowned international arts venue with an interdisciplinary spirit whose mission is to enrich and inspire our communities by providing ambitious, innovative and culturally relevant contemporary visual art and performance.

For more information visit: www.tramway.org

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ABOUT THE SHOW |

Blue was Derek Jarman's final film, completed shortly before his death in 1994. A single unchanging shot of celestial blue is accompanied by a kaleidoscopic soundtrack of voices and music, and we hear Jarman reflecting on his own AIDS-related illnesses, on his mortality, and on loved ones lost to the virus. As AIDS progressively steals his sight, he searches for a vision that 'transcends the solemn geography of human limits.'

Reimagined as a one-off live event, *Blue Now* will bring together an incredible live cast and a new score by Simon Fisher Turner, creator of the original soundtrack, performs the new live score created in collaboration with cellist and composer Lucy Railton. *Blue Now's* cast includes actor Russell Tovey, poets Joelle Taylor and Jay Bernard and writer and performer Travis Alabanza who together deliver Jarman's powerful words.

Blue Now is a unique opportunity to reflect on the impact of the AIDS epidemic, and the importance of creating space for compassion, rage and poetry in the face of prejudice and oppression.

PRODUCTION NOTES |

Blue Now, produced by James Mackay, is co-presented in Glasgow by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and Tramway. It is a part of the programme for [Digging In Another Time: Derek Jarman's Modern Nature](#). The exhibition runs to 4 May 2025 at the Hunterian Art Gallery. Exploring the resonances of Jarman's connection to Glasgow c. 1989, the exhibition features work from across his career that demonstrate his experimental approach to different mediums. Alongside works by Jarman, the exhibition features the work of five contemporary artists: Andrew Black, Luke Fowler, Thomas J Walker, Matthew Arthur Williams and Sarah Wood. A sixth artist, Jade de Montserrat will present a new commissioned performance work to mark May Day in 2025. The first major exhibition of Jarman in Scotland since 1992, *Digging In Another Time* seeks to reconsider the artists and political significance of his practice today, as an inspirational and generative act of creative resistance. Curated by Dominic Paterson, in collaboration with James Mackay and with the cooperation of Amanda Wilkinson Gallery / The Keith Collins Will Trust.

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BIOS |

Director Neil Bartlett's performance work includes pieces for the National Theatre (*In Extremis, Or You Could Kiss Me*), the Glasgow Citizens (*Neil Bartlett Reads*), The Abbey in Dublin (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*) and the Manchester Royal Exchange (*Twenty-Four Hours Of Peace, Everybody Loves A Winner*). Most recently, he provided the script for Emma Corrin's re-incarnation of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* in the West End of London. His books include the novels 'Ready To Catch Him Should He Fall', 'The Disappearance Boy' and 'Address Book'. In 2018, he wrote the introduction for the paperback re-issue of Derek Jarman's final volume of diaries, 'Smiling In Slow Motion'.

Composer Simon Fisher Turner is renowned for his film soundtrack work which started with Derek Jarman, for whom he scored many feature films - from *Caravaggio* (1986), through to Jarman's final work *Blue* (1993). *Caravaggio* began a long relationship with the BFI, and more recently Fisher Turner composed the score for restorations of three silent films, *Un Chant D'Amour* dir. Jean Genet (1950), *The Great White Silence* dir. Herbert Ponting (1924) and *The Epic of Everest* dir. Captain John Noel (1924), winning a prestigious Ivor Novello Award for the soundtrack to *The Epic of Everest*. He has also composed film music for Mike Hodges, Michael Almareyda, Isao Yamada. His various

collaborators over the years include Ruicki Sakamoto, Gina Birch, Deux Filles, The Derek Jarman Lab, and The Elysian Collective. With a career as varied and diverse as his current projects, Simon Fisher Turner began as a young actor in Tom Brown's *Schooldays*, and in between then and now has released records under his own name and as The King Of Luxembourg and Deux Filles.

Lucy Railton is a British cellist and composer whose work bridges experimental electronic and electroacoustic practices with the conventions of new music. As a composer-performer, her work often employs a deep consideration of sound and its properties, implementing an array of sound sources—cello and antiquated string instruments, analog and digital synthesizers, drum machines and voice—and explores alternate tuning systems, psychoacoustic phenomena, and timbral control. She has performed in a variety of contexts since graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in 2008: composed for installations at the Tate Modern and the ICA, collaborated with electronic producers Peter Zinovieff and Beatrice Dillon, interpreted solo and chamber music works by Morton Feldman, Iannis Xenakis, and Catherine Lamb, and appeared on recordings by Ellen Arkbro, Laurel Halo, and many others. She currently performs with Soundwalk Collective and Patti Smith, and Stephen O'Malley and Kali Malone.

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VOICES |

Joelle Taylor is the author of 4 collections of poetry. Her most recent collection 'C+NTO & Othered Poems' won the 2021 T.S Eliot Prize, and the 2022 Polari Book Prize for LGBT authors. 'C+NTO' is currently being adapted for theatre with a view to touring. She is a co- curator and host of Out-Spoken Live at the Southbank Centre, and tours her work nationally and internationally in a diverse range of venues, from Australia to Brazil. She is also a Poetry Fellow of University of East Anglia and the curator of the Koestler Awards 2023. She has judged several poetry and literary prizes including Jerwood Fellowship, the Forward Prize, and the Ondaatje Prize. Her novel of interconnecting stories 'The Night Alphabet' was published by Riverrun in Spring of 2024 and was named Guardian Book of the Month. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and the 2022 Saboteur Spoken Word Artist of the Year. She was recently honoured with a DIVA Award for Excellence and was also included in the Independent's 2024 Pride Power list.

Jay Bernard (FRSL, FRSA) is an interdisciplinary writer and artist from London whose work is rooted in social histories. Jay was named Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year 2020 and winner of the 2017 Ted Hughes Award for their first collection Surge. Recent work includes *My Name is My Own*, a physical performance piece in response to June

Jordan premiered at Southbank Centre's Poetry International, *Joint*, a poetic-play about the history of joint enterprise, *Crystals of this Social Substance*, a sound installation at the Serpentine pavilion, and *Complicity*, a pamphlet based on the collection at the Tate. Jay was a 2022-2023 DAAD literature fellow in Berlin.

Russell Tovey is an award-winning British actor with an extensive background in film, television and theatre. He is also a passionate art collector and co-hosts art podcast, "Talk Art", with friend and gallerist Robert Diament, in which they interview leading artists, curators, gallerists, and celebrities. Their first book "Talk Art: Everything You Wanted To Ask About Contemporary Art But Were Afraid To Ask" has been listed as one of The Sunday Times's Top Ten Bestsellers, and their second book will be released soon. In 2023, Russell was announced as the WePresent Guest Curator, working with them on two film projects about Derek Jarman and David Robilliard, respectively.

Travis Alabanza is a writer, performer and theatre-maker from Bristol whose writing, performance and public discourse centres on trans and Black identities. Travis has written, toured and performed in numerous highly regarded shows and is currently developing projects for screen. Their debut book, "None of the Above: Reflections on Life Beyond the Binary" was published in 2022.

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