



PRESS RELEASE

14 August 2025

Theatre is Freedom | Teatr to Wolność festival at Bell Square, Hounslow. - part of the UK/Poland Season 2025.

Watermans presents ***Theatre is Freedom / Teatr to Wolność*** an outdoor theatre festival at Bell Square as part of the **UK/Poland Season 2025**, which will run from 5 - 21 September.

The official launch event for Theatre is Freedom / Teatr to Wolność takes place on **Friday 5 September at 8pm** 2025 with the UK premiere of ***Bal (The Ball)*** by **Teatr KTO**. The festival includes contributions by five other companies, including ***Lost Dream*** by **Teatr Osmego Dnia** and a new show inspired by Shakespeare's ***The Tempest***, by **Teatr Biuro Podróży**.

The festival features productions by some of the most established Polish companies, renowned for their spectacular outdoor performances. Many of these companies, established in the 1960s-1990s, have toured widely and have developed London audiences at Bell Square over the last 10 years. The festival will bring a significant focus on the world-class quality of this work and provide the opportunity for audiences to witness the extraordinary and spectacular range of their productions.

Theatre is Freedom / Teatr to Wolność also promotes a new generation of Polish outdoor theatre with performances by younger, emerging companies. Each developing company has been recommended by one of the established companies to be presented in the Festival.

Watermans has developed the festival in partnership with **Teatr KTO** who last visited Bell Square in 2023 with their show, *Arcadia*. Watch the trailer for [***Bal \(The Ball\)***](#)



Initiated by the British Council and realised in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institute in London and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw, the **UK/Poland Season 2025** brings together a vibrant and dynamic programme of over 100 events in both countries. The season offers a unique opportunity to discover the work of the most exciting talent across both nations' artistic scenes, from film, theatre, and visual arts to design and music. Further information about the UK / Poland Season 2025 is available.

Watermans is especially grateful to the Adam Mickiewicz Institute for their support for Theatre is Freedom | Teatr to Wolność.

Olga Brzezińska, Deputy Director at the Adam Mickiewicz Institute said:

"Outdoor theatre is a democratic artform. It meets people where they are – in city centres, on street corners, in the open air. It speaks across languages, cultures, and directly to the heart. Thanks to the "Theatre is Freedom | Teatr to Wolność" festival, audiences at Bell Square in London have the chance to experience the energy and diversity of Polish outdoor theatre. For us at the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, this is cultural diplomacy at its most powerful, rooted in mutual exchange, generous, and accessible. We believe in the transformative power of these performances – not only to delight, but to spark dialogue, build trust, and forge connections."

Jan Lennox, Watermans' Director commented:

"Watermans is delighted to be presenting a selection of some of the most remarkable contemporary Polish outdoor theatre at Bell Square as part of the UK/Poland Season 2025. Theatre is Freedom / Teatr to Wolność will present new work by established companies and introduce the work of some of the most acclaimed emerging companies. As usual, audiences will be able to enjoy the performances free of charge."

Jerzy Zoń, Director of Teatr KTO adds:

"In these times of growing social and national divisions, the power of theatre should be recognised for its ability to show reality from the perspective of different audiences. Theatre productions showing the power of unity in diversity create a space in which many difficult topics can be discussed, leading to understanding and empathy. In this context, the Theatre is Freedom / Teatr to Wolność festival in London cannot be overestimated."

Magdalena Grabianowska, Deputy Director of the Polish Cultural Institute in London, adds:



"Poland is a vibrant and dynamic force in the European cultural landscape, with a cutting-edge and progressive sector leading the way. Watermans' festival offers an unparalleled opportunity to show audiences in the UK exactly what makes contemporary Polish theatre so remarkable."

Cllr Salman Shaheen, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Public Spaces, said:

"We are delighted to be part of delivering this magical celebration of Polish theatre, marking the culmination of our Summer of Culture programme and welcoming many world class Polish theatre companies to Bell Square. After a summer packed with more than 100 events, this spectacular finale will dazzle audiences, bringing diverse communities from across our One Hounslow together and attracting people to our borough from far and wide."

Watermans is grateful to Arts Council England, London Borough of Hounslow, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Polish Cultural Institute, London, Global Streets and the City of Krakow for supporting Theatre is Freedom / Teatr to Wolność.

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Bell Square is programmed and produced by

Watermans www.watermans.org.uk

Bell Square's programme is supported by Arts Council England, London Borough of Hounslow and Mayor of London - presenting world-class international outdoor performances since 2014.

Editors' Notes



Listings:

Theatre is Freedom | Teatr to Wolność

Bell Square

Friday 5 & Saturday 6 September 2025, 8pm

Teatr KTO – BAL (The Ball)

A tale written in steps. One night, one dance floor and hundreds of stories. Which one will you dance?

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 September, 1pm

Teatr Migro – DROM (In the Footsteps of the Roma)

A show without words that tells the story of the Roma using music from around the world – from lively swing to melancholic violin tunes, from czardas to flamenco.

Friday 12 – Saturday 13 September, 8pm

Teatr Osmego Dnia - Lost Dream

A performance dedicated to all the hungry in the world, to the creatures unworthy of life, the human garbage, the unnecessary ballast of a 'healthy' society.

Sunday 14 September, 8pm

Teatr HOM - Monsieur Charlie

A charming physical theatre tribute to the UK's most loved silent movie star, Charlie Chaplin, famous for films such as *The Kid*, *City Lights* and *Modern Times* as well as a look at the world of silent cinema, all accompanied by live music.

Friday 19 & Saturday 20 September, 8pm

Teatr Biuro Podróży – The Tempest

Adapted from Shakespeare's classic play, *The Tempest* – about magic, betrayal, love and forgiveness - is given a completely new direction by the acclaimed Polish theatre company.

Sunday 21 September, 3pm

Konin Dance Theatre - Sztetl

The Konin Dance Theatre's show, *Sztetl* tells the story of the Konin Jewish community based on Theo Richmond's book *Konin: A Quest*.

About UK/Poland Season 2025:



The UK/Poland Season 2025 is more than a celebration of the creative, innovative and ongoing collaboration between two countries. It offers possibilities to individuals and organisations to be the catalyst of the things to come, forging our joint future based on long-term cultural partnerships and shared values. It will be exploring them through the four themes: dialogue; diversity; digital and diaspora.

<https://www.britishcouncil.pl/en/programmes/uk-poland-season-2025>

About Bell Square:

Bell Square is Hounslow's permanent outdoor performance space. Between May and November each year, Bell Square presents a high-quality programme that is surprising and often challenging with audiences often coming back week after week to experience explosive acrobatics, powerful dance, beguiling theatre, highly skilled circus and mesmerising street performance by international as well as UK artists. Bell Square is a powerful reminder of the way story-telling performance, visual installations designed for the streets can bring communities and audiences together like nothing else – and it is **free** for everyone to watch.

About Watermans

Watermans' mission is to bring communities together through cultural practice and to enrich lives through the arts and creativity. It presents a programme of international outdoor performance at **Bell Square London** from May to November, including in 2025 the **Theatre is Freedom / Teatr to Wolność** festival as part of the UK/Poland Season and delivers an extensive programme of participative arts activities in the community, where it is also lead partner for **Creative People and Places Hounslow**. It is also a partner in the EU funded project **Artcast4D**, an innovative pan-European project that combines art and immersive technology to enable people to interact with culture.