



PRESS RELEASE
17 July 2026

Watermans Launches Free French Outdoor Arts Festival: Roller-Skating Hip-Hop, Jaw-dropping Acrobatics and a Nine-strong Accordion Choir

24 – 27 September | Bell Square, Hounslow | All events free

Watermans today announces the launch of **Bell Square Calling**, a new annual festival dedicated to showcasing exceptional outdoor artists from a single country or region and creating opportunities for international artistic exchange.

The inaugural edition, **Bell Square Calling: France**, takes place from **24–27 September 2026**, bringing some of France's most exciting outdoor performance companies to Bell Square in Hounslow. The festival will present an eclectic programme of dance, circus, music and theatre, alongside **Artist Q&As**, **Conversations** and audience discussions exploring contemporary outdoor performance practice.

Inspired by the creative communities and collaborations that flourish across towns, cities and regions of France, including Montpellier, Marseille, La Rochelle and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, **Bell Square Calling** invites audiences to slow down at Bell Square, discover new artists and engage more deeply with outdoor performance. All performances and discussions are free to attend.

Highlights of the programme include:

- **Fièvre** (Fever) by **Cie Point.Bart** - an electrifying contemporary dance work inspired by the 1518 dancing plague in Strasbourg.
- **Assemblée** (Assembly) by **Sauf le Dimanche** - a unique site-responsive performance created from encounters and observations gathered in Bell Square on the day of the performance.



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- **Top Down** by **La Triochka** - breath-taking contemporary acrobatics that playfully explore power, hierarchy and human relationships.
- **Reffet** (Reflection) by **Cie Xuan Le** - a striking fusion of hip-hop, contemporary dance and roller skating.
- **CoraSon** by **Cie Les Rustines de l'Ange** - an exuberant and theatrical accordion performance celebrating collective movement and music.

The festival will also feature post-show **Artist Q&As** and **Bell Square Calling Conversations**, offering artists, practitioners and audiences opportunities to exchange ideas and explore the evolving role of outdoor arts.

Jan Lennox, Director of Watermans, said:

"Bell Square Calling enables us to introduce UK audiences to artists who are shaping the future of outdoor performance in their own countries but remain little known here. International exchange is essential to artistic development and we are delighted to launch this new festival with an exceptional programme from France."

Bell Square Calling will return in 2027 with a new country of focus.

For more information please contact:

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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:

Bell Square Calling: FRANCE

Thu 24 – Sun 27 September 2026

A festival of outdoor performance from France

Thurs 24 Sept, 7pm (55 mins)



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Cie Point.Bart – Fièvre (Fever)

Post-show meet the artists/Q&A, 8pm

Company based: La Rochelle

“They dance endlessly, until they are exhausted.”

Fièvre (Fever) is inspired by the real events of Strasbourg in 1518, when hundreds of people were gripped by an uncontrollable compulsion to dance. Six performers allow themselves to be carried away in continuous excitement; a common pulse, almost crazy. Together, they create, fall, get up, support each other, exhaust each other, merge into each other. The individual dissolves into the energy of the group, beauty is born in a shared chaos.

Friday 25 Sept, 7pm (60 mins)

Sauf le Dimanche – Assemblée (Assembly)

Engagement with the public - 11.00 - 17.30

Post-show meet the artists/Q&A at 8.15pm

Company based: Fontenay-aux-Roses & Montpellier

Following their street research during the day, Sauf le Dimanche, bring together the material they will have gathered in the form of gestures, setting, music and choreography to create a uniquely powerful, energetic and emotional performance, just for Bell Square.

Sat 26 Sept, 1pm & 3.30pm

La Triochka - Top Down (50 mins)

Company based: Montpellier

Top Down takes a very different look at power, status, and the roles we play every day — literally turning things upside down through jaw-dropping acrobatics. Three performers constantly shift the balance, lifting, flying and catching one another while questioning who holds power at any given moment. Through extraordinary strength, precision and Icarian games, they blur the lines between control and chaos.

Sat 26 Sept, 4.15pm

Bell Square Calling Conversations 1:

Public conversation with artists and practitioners.

Sat 26 Sept, 7pm (60 mins)

Cie Xuan Le - Reflet (Reflection)

Company based: Marseille



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Replet is a hybrid and multidisciplinary performance mixing contemporary dance, hip hop and roller skating. Two dancers blur the line between reality and reflection in a mesmerising hip-hop duet where every movement asks who is leading, who is following, and which version of ourselves is real.

Sun 27 Sept, 2pm

Cie Les Rustines de l'Ange – CoraSon

Company based: Gigors-et-Lozerrons (Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes)

CoraSon celebrates the collective power of a nine-strong accordion choir. Moving and playing as one, the performers invite audiences into an immersive bubble of sound that steadily grows, pulses and gathers momentum.

Sun 27 Sept, 3pm

Bell Square Calling Conversations 2

Public Conversation with artists and practitioners.

About Bell Square:

Bell Square is Hounslow's permanent outdoor performance space. Between April and November each year, Bell Square presents a high-quality programme that is surprising and sometimes 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 demonstrates how storytelling, performance and visual installations created for public spaces can bring communities together like few other artforms – and it remains completely free for audiences to enjoy.

About Watermans

Watermans' mission is to bring communities together through cultural practice and to enrich lives through the arts and creativity.

It acts as a producer, curator, and connector, bringing together artists and audiences to present a programme that includes: international outdoor performance at Bell Square; New Media Art commissions, residencies and exhibitions; a programme for Disabled children and young people - which is both accessible and aspirational - and a programme of large-scale projects and micro-interventions – in different locations, engaging different communities, across Hounslow.

Watermans is funded by Hounslow Council and Arts Council England.



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