

PRESS RELEASE

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Southbank Centre
Belvedere Road
London
SE1 8XX

Press Office: +44 (0)20 7921 0888
Ticket Office: +44 (0)844 847 9910
press@southbankcentre.co.uk
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

SOUTHBANK CENTRE APPOINTS SENIOR CONTEMPORARY MUSIC PROGRAMMER

- **Bengi Ünsal joins London's Southbank Centre from the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV)**

Southbank Centre today appoints **Bengi Ünsal** as Senior Contemporary Music Programmer, leaving her previous role as Director of Salon at the **Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV)**. She will lead on programming Southbank Centre's wider gigs programme, including the arts centre's hallmark contemporary music festival, Meltdown.

Ünsal brings a wealth of experience to the role, having held a number of positions in Istanbul's music industry: as the Associate Director, **Istanbul Jazz Festival**; Senior Product Manager, **Universal Music Group** (UMG); Director of Foreign Music, Turkish music television station **Number 1 TV**; Managing Director, Pozitif Music's **Doublemoon Records**; Director, **36:42 Events Company**; and General Manager at Europe-wide artist agency **Charmenko**.

Ünsal has been the Director of İKSV's performance venue Salon for six and a half years and over this time she successfully presided over the creation and development of the Salon brand, the establishment of the venue's artistic programme, as well as the formation of its marketing and communications strategies. Alongside the Salon team Ünsal brought music lovers together with the world's leading musicians and artists, and will continue to do so in her new position at the Southbank Centre.

Ünsal begins on 7 March and replaces Southbank Centre's previous contemporary music programmer, Jane Beese, who moved last year to her current position as Head of Music at Roundhouse, after 15 years at the centre.

For further PRESS information please contact Hugo Mintz, Press Manager on 020 7921 0917 / hugo.mintz@southbankcentre.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying a 21-acre site that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is home to the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and the

Hayward Gallery as well as The Saison Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. For further information please visit www.southbankcentre.co.uk. We are carrying out vital restoration work on the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room to make the buildings fit for future generations to enjoy, more information can be found here: letthelightin.southbankcentre.co.uk.