

WAKA WAKA AFRICA NORTH EAST

THE STORY OF REGGAE IN BRITAIN

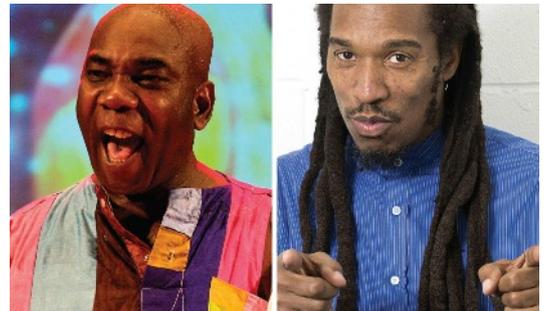
<http://sagegateshead.com/event/dennis-bovell46800/>

You may know the artists, but do you know the story behind them? A great new production called **The Story of Reggae** is premiered at **Sage Gateshead on 5th December**. With an evening of music, spoken word and film, renowned dub reggae master Dennis 'Blackbeard' Bovell will take the audience on an immersive journey through the first three decades of Reggae in Britain, from the 1950's – 1980's.

This vibrant story-telling performance will include live musical performances by Dennis Bovell and his band and recorded spoken word by 'Dub Poet' **Benjamin Zephaniah** and others.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Presented by Waka Waka Africa North East and with support from Arts Council England, **The Story of Reggae** is a rare opportunity to hear the sounds and national history of this beloved music genre from the mouths of those who helped make it great.

Our main message throughout the show is that reggae deserves its rightful place in the music hall of fame and in history as the foundation of different musical genres, crossovers and hits. We chart its movement in Britain and its engulfing of different cultures and people – for example the rock and reggae genres fuelling each other in the 1960's and 1970's.

The Story of Reggae will depict all of this chronologically with key events and figures in a vibrant performance of live music, various interviews and film – commentated and performed by reggae authority, historian and legend Dennis Bovell

The Story of Reggae features live interviews with Linton Kwesi Johnson, Don Letts, Benjamin Zephaniah, Janet Kay, Suggs (Madness), Ranking Rodger (The Beat), Carol Thompson, Karen Wheeler and Jazzy B. The show will also include the music of Jimmy Cliff, Desmond Decker, Bob Marley, Dennis Brown, Janet Kay, Toots and the Maytals, Assad, Steel Pulse, Althea and Donna, Millie Small, Prince Buster, the Skatalites, Ken Booth, UB40, The Specials and more.

Tickets are £13 and are available from the Sage Gateshead website or from the ticket office on 0191 443 4661. <http://sagegateshead.com/event/dennis-bovell46800/>

Waka Waka Africa North East is an organisation based in the north east of England that celebrates and promotes African and African-Caribbean music and culture.
<https://wakawakaafrikanortheast.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/wakawakaafrikanortheast/>



Friday 18 November, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead Mapping 100 years of England's history from the perspective of Black and Asian people. **"ANOTHER ENGLAND"** tells the story of the country's rich multicultural heritage. <http://www.anotherengland.co.uk/> Join the organisers for an afternoon of performance, debate and workshops - see below for programme. ring your photos, stories and memories of the spaces and places that have had an impact on your life. Help build a map of the North East's Black and Asian heritage.

Programme: 1pm – 6pm: Screening through the day of The Boarding House, a documentary produced in collaboration between photographer Peter Fryer and David Campbell highlighting aspects of the Yemeni community in South Shields, on the River Tyne; 2pm – 2.15pm: Another England Introduction; 2.15 – 2.45pm: Newcastle Tamil Academy; 2.45 – 3.30pm: My Knowledge Increase, My Memories Reflects Performance created to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King's visit to Newcastle; 3.30 – 5pm: GEM Arts will run a participatory African Drums workshop

Another England is a national project commissioned by Historic England and being delivered by a team led by Pidgin Perfect. It celebrates 100 years of our Black and Asian heritage and seeks to explore the ways in which it has been integral to England's identity and aims to highlight the nation's historic environment from the perspective of People of Colour. From 1918 - 2018, the project spans the period from the end of the Great War through to what will in 2018 be the 70th anniversary of the British Nationality Act.

Covering the break-up of the Empire and the devastation of the country through two World Wars, the project expands out to understand England's recent history from the perspective of people of African, Caribbean and Asian heritage, who form a dynamic part of the country's population. Another England draws attention to the role that Black and Asian people have always played in the building of the nation into a vibrant multicultural society whilst recognising the challenges they have faced and continue to face. Exploring the themes of Origins, Home, Work, Culture, Racism & Resistance and Place, Another England charts the places in which Black & Asian people settled, worked, and socialised that have too often gone under documented as an integral part of our heritage



UNSUNG SHEROES & HEROES OF AFRIKAN HERITAGE

Dynamix Skatepark Gateshead, celebrates the lives and achievements of sheroes and heroes of Afrikan heritage, giving context and inspiration for the work of artists and activists engaged in challenging racism today.

An exhibition (lead curator Layla Gaye) will run from 16 November to 31 May at Dynamix (see <http://www.dynamixcic.org/unsung/>) and includes large-scale murals portraits of Afrikan heritage people by artist Dreph, and rotating installations, projections and panels depicting less known stories.

From 13-16 November, Ghanaian-born London-based artist D'sane

Neequay Dreph will be painting large scale murals. There will be an opportunity to meet the artist and for him to share his approach and practice with other artists/aspiring artists. Dreph has been painting since age 12, and his work has taken him around the world, but his work has recently been picked up and celebrated by the UK media, following a series of large scale



murals he has painted around London, depicting women of Afrikan/Afro-Caribbean heritage who are making significant contributions to their communities.. There are many opportunities for students and other young people to get involved with the exhibition, and with the project as a whole, including various workshops. Check out via the website. Entrance to exhibition and related events is free.

A CHOICE OF WEAPONS

As its contribution to Tyneside's Freedom City 2017 Side Gallery presents an exploration of key works by the great African American photographer Gordon Parks. The works selected for this exhibition, highlight the struggle African Americans endured whilst fighting for equality in America, a struggle that concerned Parks throughout his long and astonishing photographic career. **Until 17 December.**

Also Rock Against Racism - Syd Shelton photographs.



<http://www.amber-online.com/.../gordon-parks-weapons-choice/>

KUSOMA - Our Book Club run by Pauline Hughes for NEEACA and Waka Waka Africa North East. The next book club event is on **5 December**, meeting in the cafe at the city library, New Bridge Street at 6 pm to discuss the current book, short stories by Jamaican writer, **Olive Senior**.



Saturday 18 November - **THE SELECTER** and **THE BEAT**

O2 Academy, Westgate Road, Newcastle, A co-headline tour featuring the two of the original 2-Tone ska acts who both formed in the late 1970s.

www.o2academynewcastle.co.uk

Tuesday 21st November at Sage, Gateshead

SECKOU KEITA AND OMAR SOSA **"TRANSPARENT WATER"**

Transparent Water is an exquisitely beautiful new collaboration between the seven-time GRAMMY-nominated pianist, composer and bandleader Omar Sosa from Cuba, and the award-winning Senegalese kora master and singer Seckou Keita.



Following the worldwide release of their debut album Transparent Water, the pair are taking to the road in together this November with percussionist Gustavo Ovalles. Sosa and Keita are both acclaimed musical adventurers with a rich global heritage that spans jazz, latin and African influences, and the combination of both artists on stage together is an incredibly exciting prospect. <http://www.sagegateshead.com/event/omar-sosa-and-seckou-keita/>



Saturday 2nd December, Live Theatre, Newcastle

THE VOICES OF VIRTUE GOSPEL CHOIR

Drawn from churches across the north east the repertoire of the choir includes classic and contemporary gospel songs 'Amazing Grace, Oh Happy Day, Joyful Joyful as well as songs from the civil rights era such as 'A Change is Gonna Come' to "Heaven Help Us All" and "I'll Take You There". One of the north's leading gospel choirs.

<http://www.live.org.uk/whats-on-book/an-evening-with-the-voices-of-virtue-gospel-choir>

Thursday 7th December Hoochie Coochie Club, 54 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle NE1 6SF **KHAKI SUIT AND TINGS** Monthly reggae, dub, ska, rock steady, calypso, African played by DJs Rod and Spencer

Thurs 21/ Fri 22 December - Wylam Brewery Palace of the Arts, Exhibition Park, Newcastle NE2 4PZ

Paul Simon's **GRACELAND**

LONDON AFRICAN GOSPEL CHOIR

A return to the venue where they performed Graceland to great acclaim earlier in the year. <http://www.wylambrewery.co.uk/events/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfbG35Yt1zo>



Sat 17 February at The Cluny, Newcastle - **THE HEMPOLICS** - the UK's finest cutting edge reggae. Plus local rapper **KEMA KAY**, who featured in the film "I Daniel Blake")



Thursday 22 February at Sage Gateshead

Chouk Bwa Libète - Drums, poetry and trance from Haiti's voodoo heartlands. A traditional Haitian Mizik Rasin ('roots music') ensemble bringing together the essence of Haitian Vodou, with deep roots in the religious rites of West African Vodún. Their music rises in waves of percussion, vocals and dance. The celebratory power of their sound has already ignited audiences at major festivals around the world, including Roskilde, WOMAD and Amsterdam Roots.

<http://www.sagegateshead.com/event/chouk-bwa-libete/>

Sat 21 April at Sage Gateshead - **The best of Madagascar:** Stunning guitar work of D'Gary, accordion wizardry from Regis Gizavo and soulful vocals from Monika Njava. Honoured at home and acclaimed abroad, these heroes of Madagascan music come together as **TOKO TELO** ('group of three').



Freedom City 2017 takes its inspiration from Dr. Martin Luther King and the themes of the speech that he made at Newcastle University 50 years ago when accepting his honorary degree - the only such honour that was granted him outside the USA in his lifetime.

<https://youtu.be/VIM390ERGpE>



Until 30 November, 08:30- 20.00, Newcastle University Philip Robinson Library NE2 4HQ *Free admission*
www.ncl.ac.uk/library/special-collections/collections/

TO HONOUR A GREAT AND GOOD MAN. Drawing on material from the archives of the University's Special Collections, this exhibition tells the story of Dr King's visit to Newcastle. It looks at what led to his nomination for an honorary degree, the communications and preparations for the visit and what happened on the day itself, as well as the visit's aftermath and legacy.

Until 1 December 10:00 -17.00, Great North Museum Hancock, Barras Bridge NE2 4PT

NOT AS IT IS WRITTEN: BLACK PITTSBURGH IN VOICE AND IMAGE



This exhibition depicts the civil rights struggle in Pittsburgh, USA, by combining the spoken recollections of black Pittsburghers with historic photos from the Charles Harris archive held by the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh. Free admission.

<http://freedomcity2017.com/events/exhibition-martin-luther-kings-visit/>

Until 1 December, Great North Museum Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle NE2 4PT

Great North Museum: Hancock presents **FREEDOM!** a new work by filmmakers Ian McDonald and Geetha Jayaraman, a conceptual three-screen installation that is a response to his honorary degree acceptance speech. Freedom! deliberates on the three interlinked evils of capitalism that he spoke about. Archival footage is combined with footage from original shoot with an immersive soundscape to weave into the story of racism, poverty and war, portrayals of protests and activism in the UK and USA today. Acclaimed filmmaker and artist, **John Akomfrah** is an adviser to the project.

Friday 24 November - Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books Lime Street, Ouseburn, Newcastle NE1 2PQ

DIVERSE VOICES - Curating a national history of children's books. As the National Centre for Children's Books, Seven Stories' mission is to save, share and celebrate Britain's literary heritage for children. But how are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic voices represented in our national story of children's literature? This one-day symposium brings together Seven Stories staff, children's literature practitioners, publishers, academics, librarians and museum professionals to consider issues around children's literature and race. Confirmed speakers: Sita Brahmachari, Darren Chetty, Pam Dix, Candy Gourlay, Jake Hope, Catherine Johnson (right), Patrice Lawrence, SF Said, Professor Karen Sands O'Connor, Alex Wheatle, Verna Wilkins. A limited number of spaces are available for the general public. Please contact rachel.pattinson@newcastle.ac.uk if you are interested in attending this event



Exhibition - **STARLESS MIDNIGHT** **Until 21 January 2018** - BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, NE8 3BA <http://balticmill.com/whats-on/exhibitions/starless-midnight>

In the impromptu acceptance speech Dr Martin Luther King gave for his honorary degree from Newcastle University he spoke of three urgent problems throughout the world: 'the problem of racism, the problem of poverty and the problem of war.' Despite advancements of civil rights since this speech, his words still ring true today and are set against a backdrop of political populism, post-truth and so-called 'fake news'. This major group exhibition, presented within BALTIC's Level 3 gallery, will bring together leading international artists whose work, in very different ways, each sheds light upon this contemporary condition within a framework of the important legacies of Dr. King. Some new work has been commissioned especially for the exhibition.

Co-curated by leading artist Edgar Arceneaux, whose installation *Until, Until Until...2015* will simultaneously be presented on Level 3, the exhibition will include painting, drawing, video, sculpture and installation. Participating artists include Barby Asante, Louis Cameron, Season Butler, Karon Davis, Charles Gaines, Micol Hebron, Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, Ashley Holmes and Cauleen Smith.

BEING HUMAN – CARIBBEAN-GEORDIE JOURNEY



All at Old Low Light Heritage Centre, Clifford's Fort, Fish Quay, North Shields NE30 1JA

PATHS ACROSS THE WATER Embark on a journey across the seas, oceans and rivers that revives the shared history between Tyneside and the West Indies. This interactive and multimedia exhibit charts the “lost” connections between the two regions through artworks, images, sounds, and performances. Add your own memories to our story-telling booth and join us as we explore history in the making – from slaves and the Caribbean shipseamen who fought in two world wars, to the sailors who left the North East to cross the Atlantic Ocean and more recent travellers, plus all those who loved them and lived alongside them. The exhibit raises awareness of Tyneside’s international heritage to ask: what memories, objects and understandings of this history remain in the North East? What has been lost? And what can we learn from our history as a maritime region?

Free Admission to this exhibition between **17 – 26 November**.

<http://oldlowlight.co.uk/events/being-human-festival-paths-across-waters-shared-histories-between-tyneside-and-the-caribbean/>

4pm on **23rd November** - A must for food lovers. Explore the culture of Caribbean cuisines with Peggy Brunache from the University of Dundee. She will show how slavery and the slave trade have influenced food and identity (especially for women) using her innovative archaeological research in the Caribbean, West Africa and the United States.

<http://oldlowlight.co.uk/events/being-human-caribbean-food-journeys/>



11am on **25th November** - Tyneside is not a region often associated with the Caribbean. And yet, people, histories and ideas have long linked and tied the two regions. Vanessa Mongey, co-curator of the ‘Paths Across Waters’ exhibit, will talk about the historical research and the tactics of display behind the exhibit. The audience will be encouraged to share their own stories and discuss the region’s global history.

<http://oldlowlight.co.uk/events/caribbean-geordie-journeys/>

2pm on **25th November**: Drums are coming to the Fish Quay. Garifuna music has its roots in Africa, grew up in the Caribbean, and travelled to the Central American coast. The music is drum-dominated, accompanied by shakers and claves, beating out rhythms that pervade daily life in Garifuna culture. Lindel Solis Zenon, a musician and performer from Nicaragua, will give us a flavour with video clips and a live performance.

<http://oldlowlight.co.uk/events/being-human-caribbean->

