

easy read



Princess

PICNIC PROMENADE

Thursday 14 & Friday 15 July

Love Pikaniks

Hate Empire

About the event



Princess Picnic Promenade is happening at Birmingham Botanical Gardens

**7.00
o'clock**



You can arrive after 7pm

7.30



Performances will start at 7:30pm

**10.00
o'clock**



The event will finish by 10pm.



You have to be over 18 to come to this event.



The event is about the British Empire, gender expression and sexuality



Before the British Empire, in a lot of countries it was normal and even celebrated to be LGBTQ+

hijra
muxa
two-spirit
bakla

Lots of cultures had their own names for LGBTQ+ people, but many have been lost



They had their own music, dances and traditions. They were important parts of their communities



This event is about remembering what the British Empire did to LGBTQ+ around the world.



It's about remembering the British Empire was not long ago.



It still affects what people are allowed to wear, do, say, or who we should love.

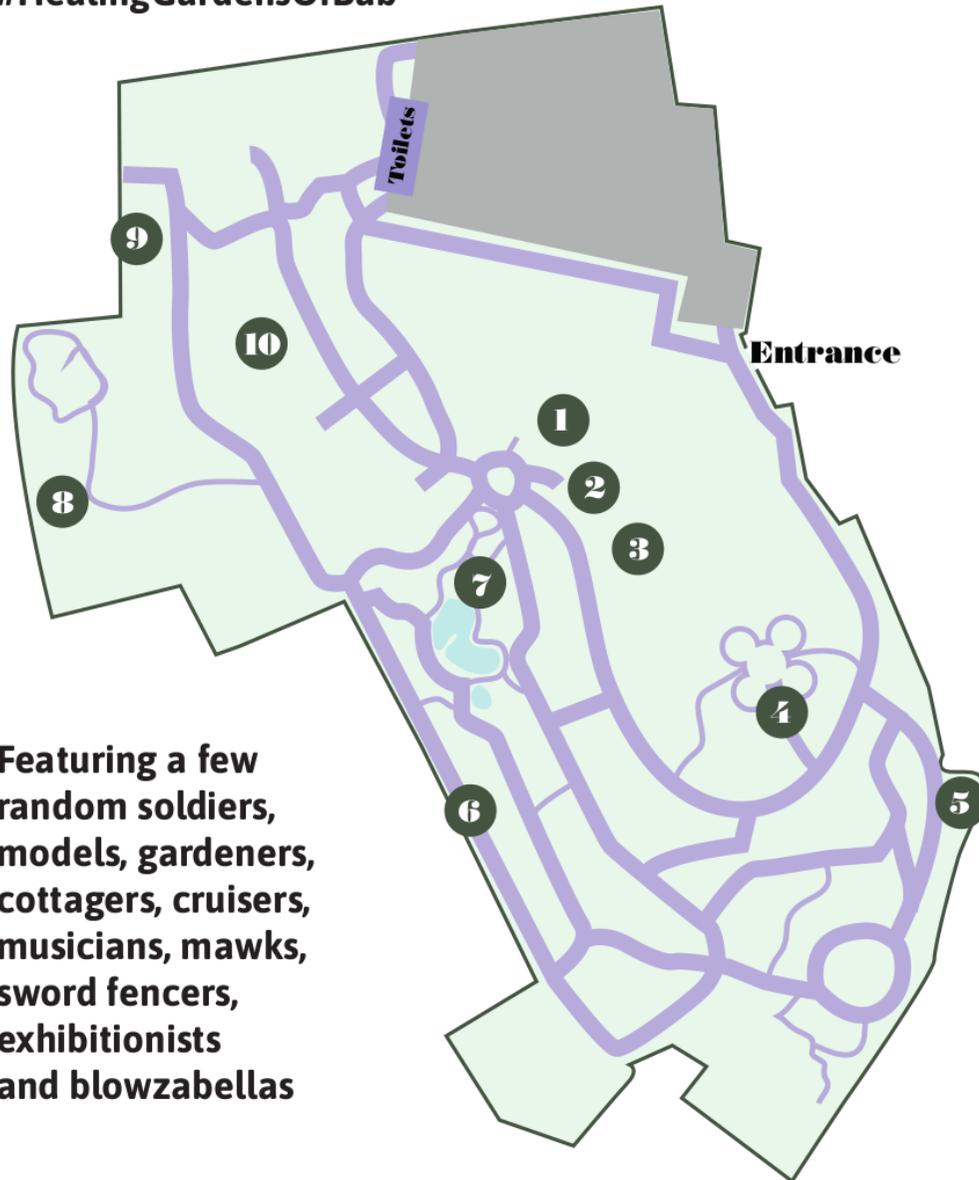


Some people will be wearing fancy clothes, costumes, and bringing picnics.

You can do this if you want to, but you don't have to.

Here is a map to help you find each performance

#HealingGardensOfBab



Featuring a few random soldiers, models, gardeners, cottagers, cruisers, musicians, mawks, sword fencers, exhibitionists and blowzabellas

TEN SIDESHOWS

- 1. Bird la Bird**
on the back of a truck
- 2. Ginny Lemon**
on the grass
- 3. Jaivant Patel**
on the bandstand
- 4. George Chakravarthi**
in the birdcage
- 5. E-J Scott**
in the bamboo maze
- 6. Kieron Jina**
around the cameron catwalk
- 7. craziniST artist**
in the waterfall
- 8. Francesca Millican-Slater**
beside the wishing well
- 9. Ange Loft & alaska B**
within the walled gardens
- 10. Krishna Isthā,
Tamir Amar Pettet
& Felix Mufti**
on the west lawn

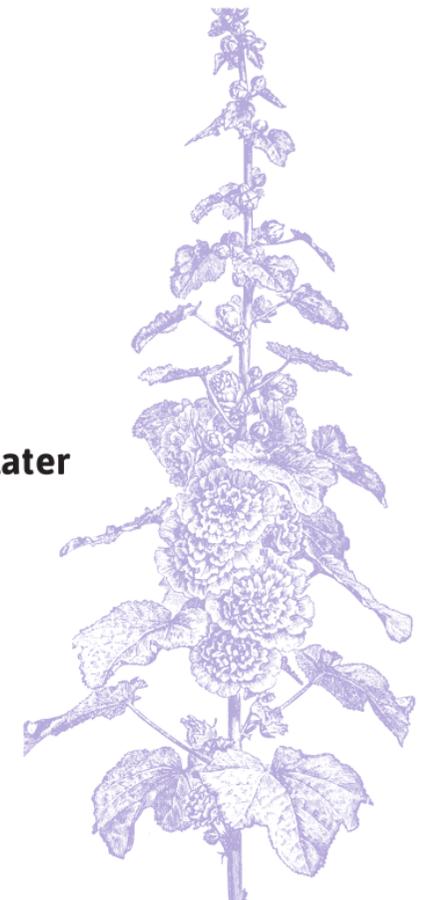
Access:

 BSL interpreted on Friday only

 Step free venue and shows

Easy read guide available

Access workers on site



2. Here to Help



At the entrance, there will be someone to check your tickets and give you directions.



It will probably be one of the "wardens". They will be wearing grey & brown coats.



There are 3 wardens at the event.



They can help give you directions, or answer questions about the event



There are two "access hosts" who are here to help. They will be wearing pink.



They can tell you things about the event and performances - like if there's loud noises, scary moments, and how long each performance is.



They will have backpacks with things you might find useful:

- Ear defenders
- Fidget toys
- Water
- Tissues
- Hand gel, wipes, face coverings, etc.
- Map of the gardens
- Running times
- Copies of the easy read guide



There are two medics at the event. They will be wearing green vests

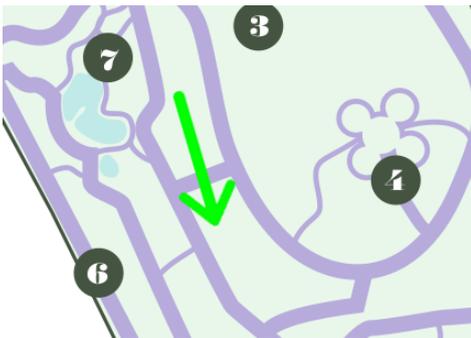


They have bandages & medicine.

They will help if someone gets hurt.



They will be based at the medical station.

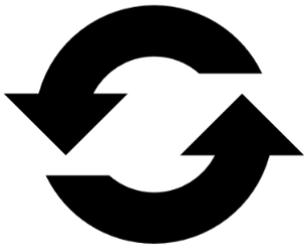


This is on Wilson's Walk, close to the Aviary

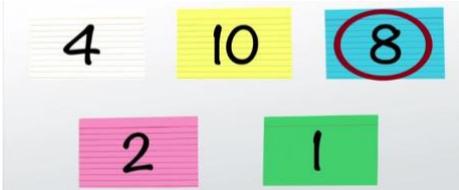
3.The Performances



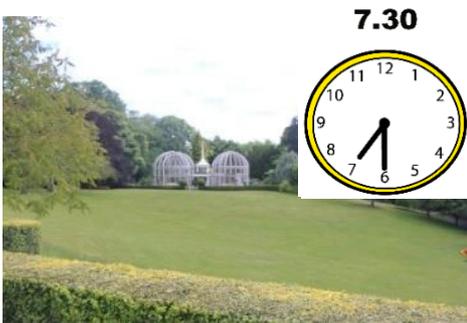
There are 10 performances happening at the event.



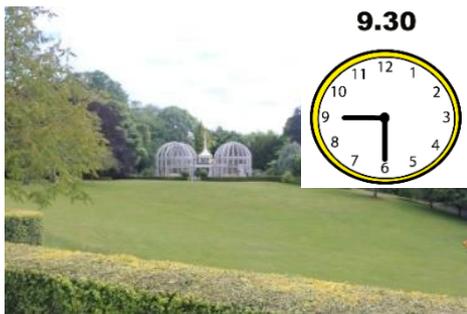
Most of them happen more than once.



You can watch them in any order.



2 performances are only happening once. At 7:30 Bird will perform on the Main Lawn



And at 9:30pm Ginny Lemon will perform on the Main Lawn

Bird la Bird

1



The first performance will happen at 7:30pm on the Main Lawn



This is a performance you watch, but don't touch.



Bird makes a grand entrance on the back of a truck dressed as a fucked up Rule Britannia.

Bird gives the audience a fun history lesson about the gardens, queerness and the British Empire.



The performance is about the history of the song Rule Britannia.



The music for the song was written by composer Thomas Arne.



Arne was the resident composer of the Vauxhall Gardens – a very famous site of queer history.

Jaivant Patel

3



This performance happens in the Bandstand.



This is a performance you watch, but don't touch.



Jaivant will be dancing to famous songs from Indian Cinema which are important to the South Asian Queer Community



Jaivant will be wearing a veil.



This is to remind us about the different ways South Asian Queer people were forced to hide, or were left out of queer history during the British Empire.



It's also to remind us of how this still happens in queer communities today, in the UK and around the world.

George Chakravarthi

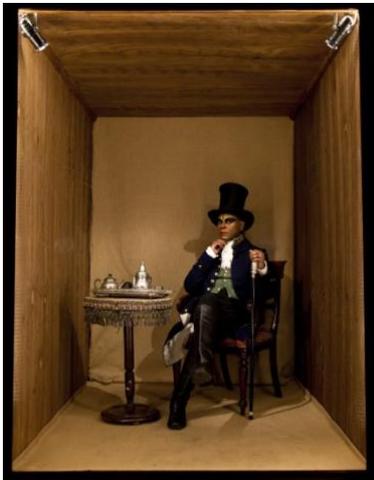
4



This performance happens behind the Aviary.



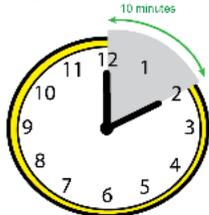
This is a performance you watch, but don't touch



This performance happens in a small space, for a few people at once.

You may have to wait before you can see it.

10 minutes



5 minutes



The performances last 10 minutes.

There are 5 minute breaks between performances.



The performance is inspired by Human Zoos



Human Zoos were real things during the British Empire.



They were spaces where white British people would look at black & brown people from around the world.

The performance reminds us how horrible this was.



It also asks us to think about how black and brown people are still looked at as different or exotic today.

E-J Scott

5



This performance happens in the Bamboo Maze.



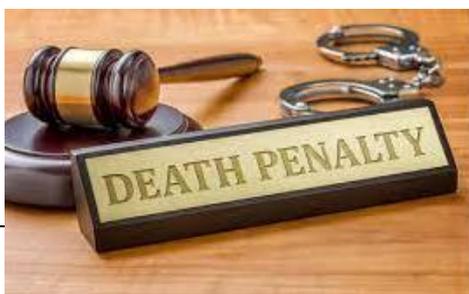
This is a performance you watch, but don't touch.



EJ Scott will be retelling the famous story of Princess Serafina.



She was famous for appearing in court attempting to sue a man who robbed her.



Despite being assigned male at birth, she acted lady-like throughout her trial.

This risked the death penalty.

Kieron Jina

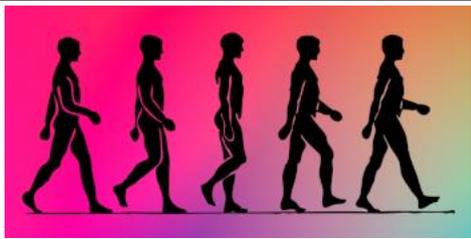
6



This performance happens on Cameron Walk.



This is a performance you watch, but don't touch



Kieron creates a ritual from walking.



Kieron changes into different costumes.

This represents the body in transformation.



This performance explores migration and love.



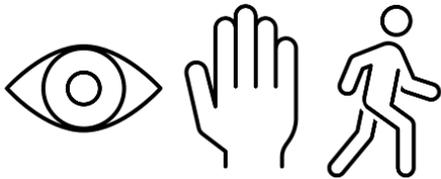
It asks the audience to think about how to create rituals to help us heal.

crazinist artist

7



This performance happens in the Rock Garden & Pool



This is a performance you watch, touch and move in.



The performance is a ritual mass wedding.



The audience will pick a text from a Jar and read that to each other in pairs, like wedding VOWS.



After being “married” the audience will share a glass of wine as a symbolic seal and kiss and hug.

Francesca Millican-Slater

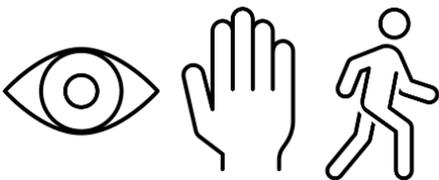
8



This performance happens in the Cottage Garden



This will include close contact and different textures, sexually explicit language and behaviour.



This is a performance you watch, touch and move around in



Francesca will be wearing a large skirt decorated with plants.



They will talk to the audience about English Country Plants, Trees and female pleasure, and the links between them.



The audience will be invited to reach inside Francesca's skirt and find a large fake clitoris to stroke.



The audience will be invited to hug a tree along with other people



The performance talks about Female Pleasure & anatomy, propagation, history of plants and trees and what is considered 'English'.

Krishna Ishta, Tamir Amar Petter & Felix Mufti

9



This performance happens on the West Lawn.



This is a performance you watch but don't touch



Krishna Isha's performance tells a story through sword fighting and music.



The story is about Chavalier D'eon, a French spy who was famous in London for being "half-man, half-woman".



After living as both a man and a woman at different points in their life, they died as a woman.

Ange Loft and Alaska B

10



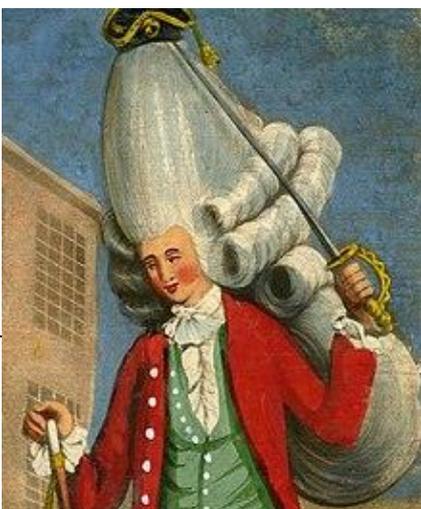
This performance happens in the Historical Gardens.



This is a performance you watch but don't touch.



This performance tells the story of three scheming macaronis



A macaroni was an English gentleman who wore incredibly elaborate costumes, make-up

and hairstyles.



The three macaronis are jealous of someone who just became very rich.



They want to stay the most fabulous and well-dressed - so they plan a visit to a faraway Island of Flowers & Furs.



The performance reminds us our clothes are still made by people making very little money in other countries.



It's also a warning about how trying really hard to stay important makes things worse - like the British Empire.

Ginny Lemon

2



This performance happens on the Main Lawn.



This is a performance you watch but don't touch.



Ginny Lemon closes the show in a mournful song dressed as Princess Victoria



Ginny will be singing the song 'Heaven Have Mercy' on a loop station



Ginny will gather all to reflect on the queer spirits we have lost, the fight we have fought and the fight we have yet to begin. The song is a spell to remember and to remind.