



A Festival of  
Two Cities  
17-21 May 2016

## LONDON PLAYS HOST TO DADA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS WITH PERFORMANCE MARATHON, FILM SCREENINGS, LIVE MUSIC AND A BOXING TOURNAMENT

***Zürich meets London: A Festival of Two Cities***  
**Multi-venue, citywide festival, London, 17-21 May 2016**

- *Celebrating 100 years of the Dada movement*
- *Partner organisations include Cabaret Voltaire, Zurich University of the Arts, Central Saint Martins, London Short Film Festival, Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Place, Serious Space Shoreditch, Shacklewell Arms*

“The spirit of Dada re-emerges in the puberty of every artistic generation...Dada’s most genuine successor was punk rock. David Bowie was a consummate Dadaist, creating his own personas. Lady Gaga continues the tradition of absurd self-creation. The idea of embracing your inner freak is pure Dada. Don’t put on a mask. Develop your personal spirit.”

***Adrian Notz, director of Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich, where Dada was born.***

**News for release, 30 March 2016:** As the City of Zurich celebrates the 100th anniversary of its seminal homegrown art movement Dada, it has announced a multi-venue festival in London on 17-21 May 2016. ***Zürich meets London*** will explore the contemporary relevance of the visionary movements and scientific discoveries in the two cities, and showcase the diversity of creative life through a series of cultural, business, science and culinary events.

The cultural programme of events will explore the legacy of Dada and its influence on artists today, 100 years after First World War refugees founded the movement in Zurich. Taking centre stage in this celebration is ***Instant City Reloaded (ICR)***, an innovative four-day series of artistic interventions brought to the festival by **Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)** and **Cabaret Voltaire**, the café club for artists and legendary birthplace of Dada.

*ICR* will see artists and performers infiltrating art spaces across London on 18-20 May with their inflatable ‘Dada on Tour’ tent and mobile museum, before a 12-hour event-marathon finale on 21 May at Central Saint Martins, West Handyside Canopy, King’s



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Cross where artists, lecturers, poets and performers from all over the world, will trade metaphorical as well as physical blows inside a very real boxing ring.

**Hayat Erdogan, one of the creative brains behind this celebratory event, explains:**

“The event-marathon forms a tribute to the proto-Dadaist, pugilist and poet Arthur Craven. His parents were British, his language was French, his passport was Swiss. He was the self-proclaimed nephew of Oscar Wilde and he believed passionately that art was not just a matter of the mind, but also of heart and guts.”

Arthur Cravan famously took on the reigning world champion boxer Jack Johnson in 1916 in a staged fight to raise money for his passage from Paris to America in an attempt to avoid WW1 military conscription. As agreed, Cravan went down in the 6<sup>th</sup> round and received his payment for the show.

Key curators and performers taking part in the *ICR* events include **Adrian Notz**, Director of Cabaret Voltaire; **Hayat Erdogan**, Lecturer Theatre at ZHdK; dramatist and director **Kevin Rittberger**; celebrated artist **Stefan Burger**; performance artists **Jessica Goes & Rafael Ablada**; and creative activists **The Yes Men**.

Also on the *Zürich meets London* festival programme, the Institute of Contemporary Art will host a film screening and panel discussion **100 years of Dada: In Dialogue with the Present**. Presented in partnership with the **London Short Film Festival** and **Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur**, films by Dadaists Marcel Duchamp, Oskar Fischinger, René Clair and others will be juxtaposed with experimental works by contemporary authors like Mónica Savirón and Mirai Mizue.

The screenings will be followed by a discussion about the legacy of Dada in cinema with the curators and UK guests, including speakers **Gareth Evans**, Film Curator at the Whitechapel Gallery, **Aline Juchler**, Curator Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur; **John Canciani**, Artistic Director Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur; and Dada expert **Juri Steiner**.

The cinematic part of the *Zürich meets London* festival will be rounded off with a screening of the best entries in a competition for filmmakers and artists to devise a short film exploring their perception of Dada today. The winner will be announced on the night and awarded a prize of £1,000.

A rich and varied cultural programme will include jazz gigs by Nik Bärtsch / Sha and OY at Rich Mix (as part of Serious Space Shoreditch) as well as Ingrid Lukas and Fai Baba at the Shacklewell Arms. There will also be a presentation at The Place of a co-



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production between British choreographer James Cousins and students from ZHdK, facilitated by the London Contemporary Dance School.

**Tickets and pricing:**

To register or purchase tickets for all events please visit:  
[www.zurichmeetslondon.org/events](http://www.zurichmeetslondon.org/events).

**Press enquiries:**

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Zürich meets London – A Festival of Two Cities**

As the City of Zurich celebrates this year the 100th anniversary of its seminal home-grown art movement Dada, it has announced a multi-venue festival in London on 17-21 May that will include cultural, science and culinary events. Performing artists and visual artists, scientists, philosophers, top chefs, and musicians all come together to examine and showcase the far-reaching creative influence of two of Europe's greatest cities, London and Zurich. It celebrates the crucial role of intercultural cooperation in artistic, scientific and culinary innovation.

The festival is jointly presented by the City of Zurich, Canton of Zurich and Zurich Tourism, the University of Zurich (UZH) and the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) and kindly supported by the Embassy of Switzerland in the UK and the ETH Zurich – The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. *Zürich meets London* locations include Borough Market, Rich Mix, Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Place, University College London, Central Saint Martins, Imperial College London, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Google UK, Corsica Studios and many more.

**Cultural events at Zürich meets London**

*Instant City Reloaded* – event-marathon

- Saturday 21 May, midday – midnight
- Free admission: Register [here](#)
- Central Saint Martins, West Handyside Canopy, Handyside Street, King's Cross, London N1C
- Presented by Zurich University of Arts in partnership with Cabaret Voltaire, Connecting Spaces Hong Kong – Zurich and Central Saint Martins

*100 years of Dada: In Dialogue with the Present*

- Friday 20 May, 18.30 – 20.00
- Admission: £11 – 15 – buy tickets [here](#)
- Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1Y 5AH



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- Presented in partnership with the Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur and London Short Film Festival

*Film is Dead – Long Live Dada: A Short Film Competition*

- Friday 20 May, 20.30 – 22.00
- Admission: £7 – 11 – buy tickets [here](#)
- Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London SW1Y 5AH
- Presented in partnership with the Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur and London Short Film Festival

*Nik Bärtsch / Sha and OY*

- Friday 20 May, Doors at 19.30
- Admission: £15 (+booking) – buy tickets [here](#)
- Rich Mix, 5–47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA
- Presented in partnership with Serious Space Shoreditch

*Ingrid Lukas and Fai Baba*

- Thursday 19 May, Doors at 20.00
- Free admission, but reservation essential [here](#)
- Shacklewell Arms, 71 Shacklewell Lane, London E8 2EB
- Presented in partnership with Shacklewell Arms

*Robert Cousins presents: Contemporary Dance ZHdK*

- Tue, 17 May, 15.00 – 16.00
- Admission: Booking to open shortly
- The Place 17, Duke's Road, London WC1H 9PY
- Presented by Zurich University of the Arts in partnership with The Place



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