

PRESS RELEASE – 08 June 2026

Complicité

Complicité announces new production *Questions for John*, premiering in Switzerland at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne in Autumn 2026 before embarking on a tour of the UK and Europe in 2027



Credit: Hannes Flaschberger

Complicité's latest production, [*Questions for John*](#), will premiere this Autumn at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, Switzerland before touring the UK and Europe in 2027; which includes stops at MC93, Paris and Les Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon next Spring. Further tour dates for 2027 will be announced soon.

This new solo work from the company's Artistic Director and Co-founder, Simon McBurney marks his first appearance on stage since the ★★★★★ 'tour de force' (The Financial Times) *The Encounter*.

Following two work-in-progress performances at last year's Edinburgh International Festival, *Questions for John* explores McBurney's friendship with the late writer, critic and storyteller,

John Berger. McBurney and Berger conversed, collaborated, freely supported and intimately shared their collective processes for 25 years, from 1992 to 2017.

Around the kitchen table in Berger's house in the Haute-Savoie, in McBurney's flat on the Holloway Road, and in rehearsal rooms across Europe, their conversations circled the same questions that now press in on us with renewed force: how to remain human in the face of violence, how to keep faith with the dead, how to look without turning away, and how to act when answers are no longer enough. The pair collaborated on numerous projects including *Mnemonic*, *A Disappearing Number* and *The Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol*, a stage adaptation of Berger's text *Into Their Labours*.

The premiere of *Questions for John* will coincide with the centenary of Berger's birth, a moment which will be celebrated through a programme of events at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne in the Autumn, including a screening of *The Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol*, and throughout the year across Europe. [You can find out more here.](#)

Conceived, written and performed by McBurney, *Questions for John* is directed by Omar Elerian (*Misty*, *ECHO*, *Nowhere*), with dramaturgy by Max Porter (*Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, *Shy*, *Steve*) and set and costume design by Tim Hatley (*The Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Endgame*).

Simon McBurney, Complicité Artistic Director and Co-founder said: *"John had a very extraordinary way of looking at the world; a way of listening, a way of commenting which joined the political with the spiritual, the artistic, the philosophical. The work is a lot about John, but it's also about the state of the world and the very difficult place we find ourselves in. And of course the question for all of us is what can we do about it? And what is art's place in all of this?"*

Questions for John is a Complicité co-production with Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, Edinburgh International Festival, Les Nuits de Fourvière, festival international de la métropole de Lyon, MC93 – Maison de la Culture de Seine-Saint-Denis and Les Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon, in association with the Barbican, London.

[Find out more](#)

John Berger Book Club

Complicité productions are crafted from years of sustained research, discussion and exploration. As the company continues to develop *Questions for John*, we want to share deeper insights into this process alongside celebrating the works of John Berger, to mark his centenary. We are launching our version of a monthly book club, focusing on a different Berger text each month. We'll highlight the text we're currently thinking about, and share how it has shaped the development of *Questions for John*.

Launching in July, this series is an exclusive offer for our membership programme which brings supporters closer to the company, our influences and the creation of our work.

You can join as a Complicité member from £100 annually, which will also grant you early access to tickets for future UK tour dates and an exclusive annual event programme. [Find out more here.](#)

If you would like to find out more about additional ways you can directly support the creation of *Question for John*, including our invite-only commissioning circle, [please get in touch.](#)

Lecoq 70th Anniversary Workshop

As part of the coming year's activity, reflecting on and celebrating key influential figures in Complicité's history, the company will run a week-long masterclass in the Autumn to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Ecole internationale de théâtre Jacques Lecoq, in partnership with the school.

Lecoq's practice was hugely influential for the founding members of Complicité, with many of the company's ensemble having studied directly under him, and the school's methodology continues to shape the company's work to this day.

Titled *The Masks of the Jacques Lecoq School - Toward the Structures of Play* the masterclass will be aimed at theatre professionals (theatre makers, directors, choreographers, etc.) and led by Jos Houben; long-time Complicité collaborator and former student, now teacher at Lecoq and François Lecomte, fellow teacher at Lecoq. There will also be a special day of collaborative exchange featuring Simon McBurney and members of the Lecoq team.

Applications will open later this month.

Venues & Dates

Questions for John

Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne

Performances: 31 Oct - 8 Nov, 2026

Premiere: 31 Oct

MC93 – Maison de la Culture de Seine-Saint-Denis

Performances: 2 - 6 Jun, 2027

Les Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon

As part of Les Nuits de Fourvière, festival international de la métropole de Lyon

Performances: 10 - 12 Jun, 2027

Lecoq 70th Anniversary Workshop

London, location TBC

28 Sep - 3 Oct, 2026

[LINK FOR IMAGES](#)

ENDS

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Biographies:

Complicité

Complicité is an international touring theatre company led by Artistic Director and co-founder, Simon McBurney. Complicité creates work that strengthens human interconnection, using the complicity between performer and audience that is at the heart of the theatrical experience. Complicité works across art forms, believing theatre, opera, film, radio, installation, publication and participatory arts can all be sites for the collective act of imagination.

Complicité's recent work includes: the dance trilogy *Figures in Extinction* (in co-creation with Crystal Pite and co-produced by Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT)), the reimagined *Mnemonic* which played at the National Theatre in 2024, *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*, *Can I Live?* and *The Encounter*, as well as *The Dark is Rising*; an audio drama for BBC World Service and BBC Sounds based on Susan Cooper's cult novel and a production of Anne Carson's one-act radio play *I Don't Do Innocents* for The Paris Review.

Founded in 1983, the company has won over 50 major theatre awards worldwide, and played in more than 40 countries.

Alongside Simon McBurney's work, Complicité supports artists through its 'Mudlarks' strand; widening access and pro-actively seeking to support talented artists who are under-represented in the theatre sector.

Learning and engagement are central to Complicité's work and its award-winning creative engagement programme includes professional development, work in schools and colleges, and participatory projects with a range of communities.

The company is committed to responding to the climate and ecological emergency. It is a founding member of Culture Declares Emergency and a member of a working group of UK Touring Theatre Companies to share best sustainable practice and to develop the Theatre Green Book Touring Guidance.

2026 marks the company's 43rd year.

To find out more about Complicité, visit complicite.org

Find Complicité on [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne

The Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne is a space open to all and dedicated to contemporary creation. Its programming combines strong artistic loyalty with internationally renowned artists and renewed attention to younger generations of artists, thus ensuring Vidy's role as a trailblazing institution as well as a place for discovery focused on the future. It offers artists an exceptional working environment only a few steps from Lake Lemman, in addition to the multiple skills and expertise of its teams. It provides its audiences with powerful artistic experiences, furthered by a bookshop, meetings with artists, intellectual and scientific debates, and exhibitions to deepen an understanding of the connections between the performances and the issues our society is currently facing. Each season Vidy produces, co-produces and hosts theatre and dance performances by Swiss and international artists. It also manages the distribution and touring of the shows that it produces and co-produces.

Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh International Festival is the original festival. It's the one that started it all, the igniting spark that established Edinburgh as the world's Festival City.

The next International Festival takes place 7–30 August 2026, under the direction of Festival Director and Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti. Benedetti's vision for the Festival is to create the deepest level of experience, through the highest quality art, for the broadest possible audience.

The Edinburgh International Festival was founded in 1947, the inspired idea of Rudolf Bing, a cultural pioneer and Jewish refugee, working with a group of civic and artistic leaders. Together, they created a festival that transcends political boundaries through a global celebration of the performing arts.

Over the following 79 years the International Festival's hand-picked programme of world-leading dance, opera, music and theatre has continued to bring people of different cultures and viewpoints together every August. Meanwhile, the International Festival's sister festivals have grown up around it – each of them contributing to the atmosphere of unparalleled excitement that transforms the city each summer.

Shining far beyond what you see on stage, the Festival also offers year-round pathways for people of all ages and backgrounds to discover and participate in live performance. Learn more at eif.co.uk/about

Les Nuits de Fourvière

Every summer, Les Nuits de Fourvière brings together audiences, artists and the local area through more than 60 shows spanning music, theatre, dance, circus and cabaret.

While the heart of the festival beats within the Roman theatres of Fourvière, its stages spread far beyond. Many venues across the metropolitan area host performances, each offering its own distinctive setting: from Les SUBS to the Musée des Confluences, from the

Halle Tony Garnier to the Théâtre Théo Argence, from the Radiant-Bellevue to the Maison de la danse, and on to the Lacroix-Laval estate in Marcy-l'Étoile, where the circus village is set up. As a public body of the Lyon Metropolitan Authority, the festival also goes out to meet local residents. Parks, community centres and secondary schools in turn become stages and spaces for creation.

True to an openness across all disciplines of the performing arts - inseparable from its history - Les Nuits de Fourvière welcomes artists who draw on reality and transform the way we see it. Through music, words, movement and image, these singular perspectives build something shared and bring us together. Les Nuits de Fourvière stands largely without equal today among major international festivals, having offered, for 80 years, across two months and within an exceptional historic setting, bold and inclusive programming rooted in contemporary creation.

MC93

MC93 is a public multicultural venue with an international outlook, both venue and producer of performing arts. Our institution is part of the ambitious maison de la culture network founded by the French state in 1961 that has evolved into a group of national theatres.

Director since 2015, Hortense Archambault leads our project to take theatre to the people of Seine-Saint-Denis and beyond, focusing on the issue of the commons, our shared cultural resources. At MC93, audiences, artists, teachers, and communities come together to weave a rich tapestry of experiences and outlooks we call La Fabrique d'expériences. Our users form the fabric of our institution workshops and residencies. Our meet ups are an open invitation to local people and their contributions ensure we remain in step with our environment. This institution is a place for creativity and expression where imagination is the watchword.

Les Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon

An ambitious, committed and open house of creation, Les Célestins, Théâtre de Lyon presents contemporary works that address the issues of our time. Led since 2023 by Pierre-Yves Lenoir, it supports artists, new writing, and emerging forms of live performance, fostering creation and encounter.

Founded in 1792, the theatre has two complementary venues: a 697-seat Italian-style main venue and the 170-seat studio called la Célestine. Each season, it stages nearly 50 productions and welcomes over 100,000 spectators.

VIDY THÉÂTRE
LAUSANNE

**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

MC93
maison de la culture
de Seine-Saint-Denis
Bobigny

Les
Célestins,
*Théâtre
de Lyon.*

les **nuits**
de fourvière