

# TAKE FIVE

## Summer of Love: Sizzling Seasonal Treats by Judith Schrut



Family friendly, wonderful WOMAD, photo courtesy Dee McCourt, Borkowski Arts&Ents

Unbelievably, it's fifty years since the **Summer of Love**. For those young enough to remember, that's when American tennis great Billie Jean King beat Britain's Ann Jones at Wimbledon, the Beatles released their groundbreaking Sergeant Pepper album, and 100,000 long haired, flower strewn, hippy-hued youth converged on San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury district for a memorable season of peace, love and music.

Now, we welcome the Great British Summer of 2017, with plenty to love and to celebrate. Outdoors, in tents or underground, whatever the weather, you'll find the coming weeks packed with strawberries and cream, fetes and fairs, wellies, macs and more music, festivals and cultural events than you can shake a beaded headband at. Let us help you make the most of these glorious long days and late, light nights with our **Take Five** summer arts preview.

### 1. Around The World With WOMAD

Roll up for the biggest international festival on the planet! The 35th **WOMAD**– or World of Music, Art and Dance– takes place at the end of July, bringing together hundreds of performing artists from dozens of countries and around 40,000 world music fans to its beautiful open air site in the heart of rural Wiltshire.

If you've ever been to WOMAD you'll know what a unique and joyous festival it always is. Topping this year's stunning lineup are South Africa's *Ladysmith Black Mambazo Band*. Three decades ago, the world fell head over heels for Ladysmith Black Mambazo when they famously backed Paul Simon on his Graceland album. Many years, tours and awards later, Ladysmith Black Mambazo are back with their uplifting voices and spellbinding rhythms. From Eastern Europe comes *Emir Kusturica and his No Smoking Orchestra* with its irreverent, anarchic, genre-defying gypsy sound. From West Africa, there's legendary, jubilant dance band, *Orchestra Baobab*. Australia is lending us the *Spooky Men's Chorale*, mesmerising and

hilarious in equal doses, and inventive and adventurous *Eliza Carthy and her Wayward Band* will be taking traditional folk music to places it has never been before. The brilliant *BBC Introducing Stage* and Cerys Matthew's live Sunday radio simulcast will also be back.

A diversity of American musicians will be strongly represented, with charismatic *Las Cafeteras* flying in from East LA for its UK and European debut, the energetic *Orkestra Mendoza* bringing its 'Indie Mambo' sound, and sweet and soulful *Leila McCalla* sharing her Haitian-Creole roots music.

Fabulously family-friendly, WOMAD is free for under 13s and welcomes young people of all ages and abilities to its dedicated Kids Zone, *World of Children*, numerous workshops and annual Children's Parade.

Traipsing from stage to stage in the fresh country air is hungry work, and WOMAD is well-prepared for this. Not far from the multiple performing stages and beneath hallmark giant

flags waving majestically in the breeze, is the *Global Market*, where you can eat your way around the world from a mouthwatering range of international food and drink. Try savoury sambar from the *Madras Cafe*, hot cheese raclette from *le Rac Shack* ("Masters of Melting"), smoky gourmet burgers from *Holy Cow* and handmade falafels from *Chai Shop Organic*, but remember to leave room for a scrumptious slurp of *Shepherds* sheepmilk ice cream.

Although WOMAD's music is its main draw, you'll find loads of other imaginative events to tickle your festival fancy.

*Taste the World* serves up a popular combo of food, music and conversation under one intimate tent, as WOMAD artists take time out to cook, chat and share a favourite dish from their homeland. Breathe deeply in the cool shade of the *Arboretum*, sip tea and munch homemade cake in the shade of the giant turkey oaks and discover myriad ways to bathe body, mind and soul in the *World of Well Being*. This is your



Something for everyone in the Global Village WOMAD, photo JS



chance to sample sunrise yoga, gong baths, holistic massage, shamanic healing, butterfly life coaching and back inversion therapy (hanging upside down to you and me). Debate and discuss in the *World of Words*, check out a book from the *Human Library* and indulge in spoken word shenanigans in the *Hip Yak Poetry Shack*.

There's also opportunity for much blissful browsing amongst WOMAD's huge selection of crafts, clothing, musical paraphernalia and worthy causes on display.

For a little extra indulgence, invest in a weekend pass to the *La Di La Loos* or the *WOMAD Spa*, an oasis of pampering treatments set in a sumptuously-decorated oriental tent, replete with coffee and cocktail bar, Spa gardens with wood-fired hot tubs, Finnish barrel saunas, jacuzzis and hammocks, and that luxury of festival luxuries, hot showers!

#### Further information

[www.womad.co.uk](http://www.womad.co.uk)

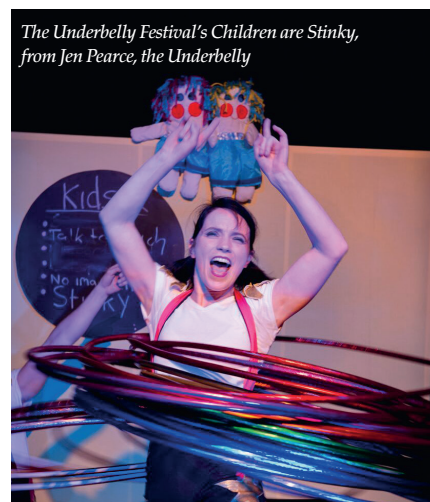
## 2. Family Fun

Families with school-agers will certainly want to make the most of Britain's notably shorter summer vacations.

As well as WOMAD, there are many other UK festivals ideal for family relaxation and enjoyment; our favourites include **Camp Bestival**, **Port Eliot** and the **Big Feastival**.

For the best in ferociously family-friendly music, magic, circus and comedy, head to London's Southbank riverside for the summer-long **Underbelly Festival**. Underbelly proudly presents affordable live entertainment for all ages, with many shows priced at £10 or less, along with plenty of street food and refreshment bars. Look out for *Monski Mouse's Baby Disco Dance Hall*, the *Amazing Bubble Man*, *Comedy Club 4 Kids* and "acts that don't seem humanly possible" from Quebec's *Flip FabriQue*. There's also *Children are Stinky*, the award-winning Australian circus sensation featuring incredible acrobatics, lightning fast hula hoops and loads of laughs, Metta Theatre's spectacular hip-hop *Jungle Book*, high energy comedy and song from *Four Femmes on the Thames* and evenings of hilarious nonsense and interactive madness with *Margaret Thatcher's Queen of Gameshows*.

Not far away, in the cool and mysterious Vaults



The Underbelly Festival's *Children are Stinky*, from Jen Pearce, the Underbelly



A Relaxed Prom for all, photo credit, Betina Skovbro, courtesy BBC Proms

beneath Waterloo Station, you'll find more kicks for kids as *Les Petits Theatre Company* stages an extraordinary, immersive **Alice in Wonderland**. Set in multiple, magical rooms, this version of the beloved classic tale is an award-winning, push-the-boundaries theatre experience for 5-10 year olds, who will follow the White Rabbit down the rabbit hole, choose between 'eat me' and 'drink me', tumble with the Tweedle Twins and take tea at the biggest unbirthday party with the maddest of Hatters. But do heed the Company's warning: *Don't be late! Logic will fail you! Nonsense will overwhelm you!*

Toddlers in tutus as well as seasoned dance lovers will be equally enchanted by **My FirstBallet: Cinderella**. This beautifully-staged joint production by the *English National Ballet* and *English National Ballet School*, turns everyone's favourite rags-to-riches story into a charming show for children aged 3 and up. Based on our recent visit in the company of a transfixed two year old, this Cinderella is guaranteed to have young audiences crawling, skipping and twirling in the aisles by intermission.

For a wonderful way to introduce your youngsters to classical and other great music, take your pick from several family focussed **BBC Proms** this summer. *Ten Pieces: Sir Henry's Magnificent Musical Inspirations* Prom will lead audiences on a splendid musical adventure, whilst the *BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra* Prom offers an exciting intergalactic journey featuring the lively sounds of Holst's *The Planets*. There's a *Relaxed Prom* filled with colour, laughter and audience participation, suitable for everyone, but especially children and adults with mental, physical or sensory disabilities. Always utterly fabulous is the *John Wilson Orchestra*, with a joyful semi-staging of *Oklahoma!* bursting with timeless tunes like *Oh, what a Beautiful Morning!* and *Surrey with the Fringe on Top*. The Proms also hosts lots of free family workshops and *Prom Extras*, where you are encouraged to bring your instrument or your voices, whatever your ability.

#### Further information

[www.underbellyfestival.com](http://www.underbellyfestival.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/proms](http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms) [www.ballet.org.uk/production/my-first-ballet-cinderella](http://www.ballet.org.uk/production/my-first-ballet-cinderella)

[www.alice-underground.com](http://www.alice-underground.com)



Kool for Kids, the Underbelly Festival, Southbank, photo courtesy of Borkowski Arts&Ents

## 3. Gorgeous Gardens

In the Summer of Love, all beautiful people wore flowers in their long hair and everything went floral. But for the British gardening world, every season is a Summer of Love. In a land where so much conversation revolves around the weather, where a deep relationship with nature has been celebrated through the centuries by poets, painters, philosophers and kings and recited in the most familiar of nursery rhymes, this seems, well, only natural.

A seemingly insatiable appetite for all things botanical extends to TV and other media. BBC2's hugely popular *Gardeners World* is in its Golden Jubilee Year, whilst *Love your Garden*, *Garden Rescue* and the *Edible Garden* are all massive hit shows. *Gardeners' Question Time* has been pitting BBC Radio listeners against celebrity gardeners from village halls around the UK weekly since 1947. *Vertical Veg*, *Guerilla Gardening*, *Real Men Sow* and *Potting Shed UK* are amongst hundreds of dedicated magazines, websites and blogs.

The nation's passion for plants thrives year round, but it's a love with particular potency in the summer season. Is there anything more quintessentially British than our gardens in summer, fragrant with roses, lavender and jasmine; floribundant with hollyhocks, peonies and delphinia? The **Chelsea Flower Show**, **Hampton Court Palace Flower Show**, **National Garden Competition** and **Shed of the Year**, are ever-flourishing annual summer events. Newsstand magazines are awash with garden tips and treats, recipes for homegrown fruit and veg





Charleston House and Gardens, Sussex,  
licensed under Creative Commons



Beth Chatto Gardens in Essex photo credit, Grahamec,  
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and ads for inventive garden paraphernalia.

If you'd like to share in the nation's horticultural hysteria, you'll find an infinite variety of wonderful gardens around the country open to view, from stately homes and castles to wildflower meadows, urban parks and neighbourhood allotments, all proud to show off their rainbow wares this summer.

Amongst our favourites are **Wisley Gardens**, Surrey, a magical paradise of the formal and the wild, **Westonbirt Arboretum**, Gloucestershire, with its matchless collection of trees and breathtaking treetop walkway, and **Mottisfont**, Hampshire, home to the national collection of old fashioned roses. In summer, it's a vast bouquet of colour and fragrance displaying over 500 types of scented, climbing, rambling and bush. Add a romantic medieval house, art gallery and beautiful riverside gardens and you have the recipe for a total feast of the senses. Mottisfont also warmly welcomes children, with devoted wild play areas and plenty of space to run, play and bike.

We highly recommend a visit to remarkable **Beth Chatto Gardens** in Essex. In 1960, plantswoman Chatto took an overgrown wasteland of bramble, bog and dry gravel, and transformed it into inspirational gardens, using her successful mantra of "the right plant for the right place". Lush themed areas include never-watered gravel gardens, splendid and serene water gardens and cooling canopied woodlands. There's an imaginative programme of activities like *Bee Safaris*, *Pond Detectives* and *Mini Beasts Rule* days, a *Wildlife Fair* in August and a *Great Pumpkin Hunt* in October, a wonderful plant nursery and quaint tea room with homemade scones and tantalising cakes. Now aged 94, Beth Chatto still oversees her

world famous and award-winning gardens, and can often be seen zipping about the grounds on her mobility scooter.

Bloomsbury fans will want to make pilgrimage to **Charleston House** in Sussex and **Sissinghurst Castle Gardens** in Kent. At various times a Saxon pig farm, Elizabethan mansion, prison and Victorian poorhouse, Sissinghurst was transformed by Vita Sackville West in the 1930s to its current magnificence, attracting garden lovers from all over the world. Charleston House, former home of 20th century artists and creative partners **Vanessa Bell** (Virginia Woolf's sister) and **Duncan Grant**, is celebrating its 100th year. Treat yourself to its special centenary house and garden tour to get up close and personal with Charleston's fabulous decorated interiors and magical walled 'artists gardens' created by Bell and Grant: intense and colourful, filled with sculpture, mosaics, tile-edged pools and touches of Bloomsbury humour.

Poldark fan or not, you'll find Cornwall's abundant and varied gardens the very best of British, from the world's largest greenhouses of the Eden Project to more intimate gardens like **Trelowarren**, **Glendurgan**, **Tresco Abbey** and **Tregothnan Botanic**. We especially love the **Lost Gardens of Heligan**, with its exuberant subtropical jungle, romantic pleasure grounds, pioneering wildlife conservation projects, awesome setting and exclusive handmade walnut and honey ripple ice cream.

**Further information**  
[www.greatbritishgardens.co.uk](http://www.greatbritishgardens.co.uk)  
[www.bethchatto.co.uk](http://www.bethchatto.co.uk)  
[www.charleston.org.uk](http://www.charleston.org.uk)  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont)

## 4. Jazz At 100

The Summer of Love may be feasting its fiftieth, but it's a mere babe next to the world of jazz, which this year celebrates its first 100 years. Not only is 2017 the centenary of the first ever jazz recording—*Livery Stable Blues* by the *New Orleans' Dixieland Jazz Band*—but would have seen the 100th birthdays of three of jazz's best-loved stars, *Ella Fitzgerald* (25 April), *Thelonius Monk* (10 October) and *Dizzy Gillespie* (21 October).

For all these reasons, **Jazz 100** has curated a year-long programme to mark the musical milestones, kicking off with International Jazz Day at the **Cheltenham Jazz Festival** in spring and partying on through the year with loads of incredible gigs and events.

A summer jumping with jazz jewels opens with a rare public performance from **Woody Allen** and his New Orleans band, playing London's Royal Albert Hall in July. As well as a long and illustrious filmmaking career, Woody Allen has a legendary devotion to his beloved clarinet and sax, famously missing acceptance of the 1978 Academy Award for Best Picture because he was busy playing at his weekly Dixieland jazz gig. In the jazz spirit of improvisation, Woody's upcoming show will have no playlist and none of his musicians know in advance what he will ask them to play.

The weeklong **Manchester Jazz Festival** heats up at the end of July with over 100 concerts, films and other electric events. Festival highlights include the *New York Brass Band* and *the Haggis Horns*, and the Festival's full sensory experience will be abetted and refreshed by jazz brunches and afternoon teas.

As ever, this year's **BBC Proms** (14 July - 9 September) are rich with jazz sounds. Prom 27 pays a delectable double tribute to Ella and Dizzy's 100th birthdays; the music of jazz giant Charles Mingus is honoured at Prom 53 by the rocking *Metropole Orkest* and its dynamic young conductor *Jules Buckley*, and Prom 57's *Swing No End* matinée promises blues, boogie-woogie, bebop and a slice of musical action from the



Woody Allen and his New Orleans  
Jazz Band, photo courtesy BaxterPR



The Doobie Brothers, appearing at Bluesfest 2017,  
photo courtesy BaxterPR



1930s and 1940s. Charismatic singer and radio presenter *Clare Teal* will officiate at its rip-roaring battle of the bands, led by bandleaders extraordinaire *Guy Barker* and *Winston Rollins*.

**BluesFest**, the brilliant annual jazz, blues and roots festival, caps off October (27-29), this year headlined by exclusive classic gold appearances from *Steely Dan* and *the Doobie Brothers*. Last but not least, the **25th EFG London Jazz Festival** will shatter the chill of late autumn with two full weeks of gigs by a diverse range of artists in concert halls, clubs and stages across the capital. Chief amongst this year's thrills will be renowned South Africans *Abdullah Ibrahim* and *Hugh Masekela*, the *Jazz Voice* opening gala, the effervescent *Harlem Gospel Choir* and mindblowing piano-mandolin duets from *Brad Meldau* and *Chris Thile*.

#### Further information

[www.bbc.co.uk/proms](http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms)

[www.manchesterjazz.com](http://www.manchesterjazz.com)

[www.bluesfest.co.uk](http://www.bluesfest.co.uk)

## 5. Get Thee To The Globe

How do I love thee Shakespeare? This summer, you can count many ways, as **Shakespeare's Globe Theatre** re-invents the Summer of Love in the Bard's image.

The Globe, on London's Southbank, is a faithful-to-the-fingertips re-construction of the Elizabethan playhouse which once stood nearby, where Shakespeare worked and where many of his greatest plays were performed for the very first time. The original Globe enjoyed huge success, until one fateful evening in 1613 when a stage cannon misfired into the theatre's thatched roof mid-performance. It took less than an hour for the glorious Globe to be reduced to a pile of smouldering straw and ash.



*Twelfth Night* at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre,  
photo by Hugo Glendinning

Astonishingly, there were no serious casualties, although one theatregoer's breeches were reported to have caught fire. Luckily, flames were swiftly extinguished with a swash of ale.

Today's rebuilt Globe is in its 20th year, the triumphant result of American expatriate actor and activist Sam Wanamaker's decades of tireless fundraising, research and planning battles. It's historically accurate, right down to the lime-washed walls, oak beams and water reed-thatched roof, London's only permitted thatch since the Great Fire of London in 1666—but don't worry, it's packed with modern fireproofing and real cannons are no longer allowed on stage.

The Globe's themed, open-air season runs from April to October each year. This year it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Summer of Love with portrayals of love in its many forms, from the star-crossed ill-fated love of *Romeo and Juliet* to the cross-dressing, gender-bending romance of *Twelfth Night*; from wit-

pitting, comic love in *Much Ado About Nothing* to love torn apart in *King Lear*. You can also glimpse forbidden desire in *Tristan and Iseult* and thrilling, illicit love in *Nell Gwynn*, actress and mistress of King Charles II.

Globe seats sell out fast, but 700 'groundling' tickets are always available for £5 on the day of every performance, giving you a standing spot in front of the stage and the best and most authentic way to see a show. Audiences are forewarned that the theatre is virtually open to the elements and the show goes on in all weathers. But come rain or shine, we guarantee your Globe visit will be one to remember.

#### Further information

[www.shakespearesglobe.com](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com)

**Take Five** is our quarterly feature bringing the best of British to Americans in Britain. Did you or anyone you know experience the Summer of Love? You can email Judith at [judith0777@gmail.com](mailto:judith0777@gmail.com)



Shakespeare's Globe Theatre,  
photo by John Wildgoose,  
courtesy Globe Press Office