

V&A East

16 May 2026  
11:00–21:00

# *back2back*

Up Ya Archives  
x Rendezvous  
Projects

Part of The Music is Black  
Festival from East Bank

V&A

# back2back: Up Ya Archives x Rendezvous Projects

Taking the Amen break as a connective thread, Up Ya Archives reimagines the archive as something living, collective and in motion. Co-curated with Rendezvous Projects, the programme explores how music travels across time and geography, and how histories are constructed, circulated and contested.

Through DJ sets, talks, workshops and screenings, this back2back will trace the past, present and future of jungle, foregrounding the hyper-local infrastructures of East London that have sustained the genre and its wider ecosystems, from pirate radio and record shops to visual culture and community-led archiving.

Developed in dialogue with *The Music is Black: A British Story*, this takeover moves through a constellation of sonic encounters beyond display, honouring originators while amplifying the voices shaping what comes next.

#back2back

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# V&A East Storehouse



**V&A East Storehouse**

## **Talks**

### **Jungle: DIY Lineage – Precursors to Future Forms with DJ Warlock**

*Creative Studios: GF05*

Drop-in. Limited capacity

12:00–13:45

A presentation by DJ Warlock tracing jungle's roots from sound system culture to rave, highlighting sampling, pirate radio and dubplates. A panel featuring Wayne George, Chris Hansen, Kenny 'Sting' King, Selecta Cee and NAINA. The panel brings first-hand perspectives across production, dubplates, pirate radio, club promotion and contemporary practice, connecting past infrastructures to present-day jungle culture.

@warlockdj

@originaldjdlux

@telepathy\_jungle\_dnb

@selectacee

@naina\_ldn

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**Naz Hamdi:**

### **Archiving the Everyday**

*David Bowie Archive*

Drop-in. Limited capacity

14:00–15:00

Heritage and music professional Naz Hamdi also known as Naz from Newham reflects on contemporary archival practice through physical media, representation and storytelling. Drawing on the expansive Black British music archive and collection she is building, the session explores how we can use our personal archives and collections to inform how we document and preserve the present and future together.

@nazfromnewham

**V&A East Storehouse**

## **Films**

### **Amen Brother: King of the Beats Preview & Q&A**

*Creative Studios: GF06*

Drop-in. Limited capacity

11:00–12:00

An exclusive preview of Amen Brother (extended trailer) followed by a Q&A with director DJ Proto J. The film traces the cultural journey of the Amen break and its lasting impact across global music, raising questions of authorship, recognition and value.

@amenbrotherfilm

@djprotoj

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### **Bowie Archive Video Programme**

*David Bowie Centre, Level 1*

Drop-in

10:00–21:00

Duration 1:07 minutes

A curated video programme connecting David Bowie's work with jungle-era culture from the David Bowie Archive. A selection of interviews, archival footage and music videos, the programme traces unexpected intersections between mainstream and underground sonic worlds.

Featuring NIA ARCHIVES with DJ RON (2025)

@djron\_film



**V&A East Storehouse**

## **Workshops**

### **Cassette Covers & Zines**

*Creative Studios: GF02*

Drop-in

11:00–14:00

A hands-on workshop led by Cassia Clarke exploring DIY music culture through cassette artwork and zine-making. Participants create their own visual responses to pirate radio and rave culture, drawing on underground aesthetics and distribution practices.

@cassia\_clrk

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### **OctaMED: Building Jungle from the Amiga**

*Creative Studios: GF04*

Drop-in. Limited capacity

14:00–15:45

A live demonstration led by Bizzy B, Dlux and Equinox, exploring how early jungle was produced using Commodore Amiga systems and OctaMED software. A rare insight into the technical processes that shaped the sound of East London.

@thebizzybscience

@marlon\_equinox\_sciwax

@originaldjdlux

# V&A East Museum



**V&A East Museum**

## **Talks**

### **Inclusive Histories with Julia Thee Junglist Historian**

*Creative Studio, Level UG*

Drop-in. Limited capacity

16:15–18:15

Chaired by Julia Toppin, this discussion brings together artists, producers and researchers to address the erasure of marginalised voices within jungle history. Moving beyond conversation, the session asks how documentation can become an active, collective practice that leaves no one behind. A panel featuring Nia Archives, Dejuan Desiree, Dr Cheraine Donalea Scott, DJ Flight and Dizzy from Rave Archive UK.

@miss\_toppin\_

@archives.nia

@thebooksdem

@goldielocs16

@djflight

@ravearchive

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## Films

### Jungle Film Programme

*Why We Make Gallery, Level UG*

Drop-in

10:00–21:00

A continuous screening programme of short documentaries exploring jungle culture, from pirate radio to record labels and club spaces. Featuring titles spanning three decades, the films offer multiple entry points into the scene's histories and ongoing influence:

**All Junglists: A London**

**Somet'ing Dis (1994)**

Director: Rachel Seely

Producer: Jo Wiser

Duration: 26 minutes

**Brain Records &**

**Dungeons (2020)**

Director: Lewis Brooker

Duration: 13 minutes

**Music Nation:**

**Jungle Fever (2014)**

Dazed Productions

for Channel 4

Director: Ollie Evans

Producer: Tai Thittichai

Duration: 23 minutes

**What Makes Something**

**Jungle? (2024)**

RA Films

Producer: Sophie Misrahi

Writer: Julia Toppin

Duration: 13 minutes

**Crate Digging  
(Immersive Film)**

*Why We Make Gallery, Level 1*

Drop-in

16:00–21:00

A 360° film recreating Forest Gate's De Underground Records, a key site in the development of jungle and drum and bass. Combining archive and digital reconstruction, the work immerses audiences in a foundational moment of East London's music history. Directed by Peter Collis.

Produced by Hyperactive Developments with Rendezvous Projects

@rendezvousprojects

**HYPER: The Stevie Hyper D Story**

*Event Space, Level 3*

Drop-in. Limited capacity

16:15–18:15

Duration 1:31 minutes

Rated 15

A rare screening of this portrait of one of jungle's most influential MCs. Through archival footage and Darrell's emotional journey the film captures the energy of London's club and sound system culture. Directed by Jamie Ross-Hulme and written by Darrell Austin.

@mcsteviehyperd

**V&A East Museum**

## **Installation**

**Build the Sound:**

### **E1T1 Sound System Sessions**

*Entrance to Why We Make Gallery, Level UG*

Drop-in

10:00–21:00

Activation from 16:00

Each One Teach One (E1T1) brings together youth-led sound system collectives developed by Felt Sound System. Young people from East London present and play on systems they've built, sharing music and knowledge through a live, collaborative activation rooted in sound system culture.

@feltsoundsystem

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## Deja Vu FM

*Entrance to Why We Make Gallery , Level 1*

Drop-in

10:00–21:00

Activation from 16:00

An installation showcasing the original infrastructure behind one of East London's most influential pirate radio stations. Founded in 1995, Deja Vu FM has continuously broadcast for decades, shaping the evolution of UK garage and grime through its DIY ethos and community-led practice.

@dejavufm

## Local Frequencies

*Museum Circulation Spaces*

Drop-in

10:00–21:00

Curated by Rendezvous Projects, a distributed selection of archival footage, radio recordings and printed material is presented across the building, tracing the hyper-local infrastructures that shaped rave and jungle in East London. Drawing on venues, record shops and pirate radio stations that operated around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park prior to its redevelopment, the work surfaces local histories and material beyond the gallery display, situating the museum within a longer history of transmission, circulation and collective production. Design by Inés Miño Izquierdo and Mon Cano.

@rendezvousprojects

**V&A East Museum**

## **Music**

### **back2back**

*Event Space, Level 3*

Drop-in. Limited capacity

19:00–21:00

back2back transforms the space into a club environment anchored in jungle's past and present. Headlined by Nia Archives, with DJ Flight, NAINA and Selecta Cee, the session brings together artists connected through Felt Sound System in a collective celebration of sound system culture.

@archives.nia

@djflight

@feltsoundsystem

@naina\_ldn

@selectacee

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# About back2back

back2back is V&A East's annual artist-led takeover, a one-day programme shaped in response to our exhibitions. This edition unfolds across V&A East Museum and Storehouse, responding to *The Music is Black: A British Story* and the David Bowie Centre.

Across both sites, artists activate the spaces through DJ sets, live music, participatory workshops and other live formats, bringing the exhibitions into dialogue with lived, collective experience.

Rooted in east London, *back2back* celebrates and amplifies east London's creative talent, platforming emerging and underrepresented practitioners through a programme shaped with and for the communities it sits within.

All events are free, and places are designated on a first come, first-served basis unless stated otherwise. Filming and photography will take place at this event. If you have any access requirements, please let us know in advance by emailing [accessibility@vam.ac.uk](mailto:accessibility@vam.ac.uk)

Please note if V&A East or any of the activations reach capacity, we will allow access on a one-in, one-out basis.

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V&A East is dedicated to creative opportunity and its power to bring change. Two free cultural destinations – V&A East Storehouse and V&A East Museum – open up the V&A collection for all, celebrating making in all its forms and creating new possibilities for everyone.

V&A East sits on East Bank, the UK's newest cultural quarter at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, made up of V&A East Museum and V&A East Storehouse, Sadler's Wells East, London College of Fashion, UAL, UCL East and the new BBC Music Studios.

# Cover artwork

Image credit: Iris Luz

# Also on tonight

## **The Music is Black: A British Story**

Until January 2027

*Level 2, V&A East Museum*


Discount for under 26s

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/the-music-is-black-a-british-story>

# Keep in touch

To hear more about V&A East sign up to our newsletter for more updates

[V&A East \(vam.ac.uk\)](https://www.vam.ac.uk)

 vam\_east

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