FREEDOM TO REIMAGINE
SHOWCASE | 18 - 20 Mar 2026

What is Freedom to Reimagine?

Freedom to Reimagine is a three-day celebration where people come together to share stories, creativity, and ideas. It's a chance to see and experience work that has been created with young people, families, community members, and artists over the past few months.

The event also gives a first look at the journey toward our future stage production *Nanny of the Maroons* (2027), and includes work developed through our Media Academy, education programmes, and community projects.

Who Was Nanny of the Maroons?

Nanny of the Maroons was an 18th-century freedom fighter, military leader, and spiritual figure who led communities of formerly enslaved Africans in Jamaica.

Nanny's legacy represents courage, leadership, and wisdom passed down through generations, and the fight for freedom. She is honoured as a National Hero of Jamaica, and her story continues to inspire us to think about how we have important conversations today; especially conversations about justice, leadership, resilience, and how we support one another.

Her story encourages us to think about freedom, imagination, and how communities can shape their own futures.

Welcome to our *Freedom to Reimagine* showcase. We invite you to be part of the conversation.

BELGRADE THEATRE   **NANNY OF THE MAROONS**

18 Mar – Digital Media Academy Showcase

An evening in celebration of the talented people completing the *Digital Media Academy* programme. Hosted by ALYA FLEYFEL, a former participant, this screening and exhibition features original short films, podcasts, and written work created in response to the theme *Female Heroes*. Each piece reflects the unique voices, perspectives, and creative talents of our participants.

What is Digital Media Academy?

Belgrade's *Digital Media Academy* is a free, 20-session programme, led by industry professionals, built to take aspiring filmmakers, podcast enthusiasts, and storytellers from first draft to digital release. It offers practical insight into the world of freelancing, media careers and digital content production, as well as opportunities to work-shadow on professional productions.

The People Behind The Work

Before the World	Md Azizur Rahman
Fallen	Abi Grizzle
L'dor V'dor	Ashley Hayward
Last Breath	Judea Jess
Manifesto	Judea Jess (available online)
The 3 Spires Podcast	Hasina Begum, Kaira-Lily Jerzyszek-Marren & Judea Jess (full episode available online)
The Goddess of Wholeness	Veer Singh
The Hero Within	Gifty Theresa Masaki
The Ideal Woman	Enyo Idachaba

For more information about the *Digital Media Academy* and to view the work, please head to:

www.belgrade.co.uk/media-academy-showcase

BELGRADE THEATRE **NANNY OF THE MAROONS**

19 Mar – The Schools and Communities Behind the Work

A platform for performance, conversation, and reflection. It highlights the creative and emotional contributions of young people from schools, colleges, and churches, centering their voices, stories, and experiences.

Through exploring ideas of freedom, power, storytelling, and collective strength, the young people have created original pieces in poetry, dance, and theatre. These performances are supported by newly created music, co-created with *Nanny of the Maroons* composer CORAH FOWLES.

Hosted by DANIELA OLANREWAJU a member of the Belgrade's *Creative Youth Forum* and FEMI THEMEN, a previous *Black Youth Theatre* member.

Femi is a British-Surinamese artist based in Coventry and London. Primarily working in sculpture and sound, her practice draws from a politic of waywardness to negotiate processes of social and personal grief.

BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Over the past 10 weeks, students from the school have been exploring big questions about the future and what freedom means through creative outlets. The work they're sharing today was created in just 5 weeks and shaped by their thoughts, feelings, and bold ideas. Here are some of their reflections:
"We are free but don't have freedom."
"Does freedom mean safety?"
"Freedom sounds like a heart beat."
"Freedom is being able to take a deep breath."
"Do we have freedom or free will?"

Performers: Eliane Asare, Kimberly Boadi, Janelle Ediagbonya, Princewill Irabor, Elijah Nike Kan, Saffi Kety, Louisa Kwarteng, Yamoh Shieh, Emmanuel Ogbeide, Noah Tarka, Praise-Kenaya Tshiteya. Contributor: Sean

HEREWARD COLLEGE

"You Will Not Destroy Me!"
This dance performance focuses on the moment we choose to rebel. It draws on three elements: Nanny's story; who or what would lead us into battle today; and words and movement inspired by The Woman King. The soundtrack celebrates our resilience, resistance, and respect for those who fight for a better world in any time or place.

This work has been generated by the performers working with artist **LOUISE KATEREGA**.

Performers: Hannah Cullen, Isabel Darbyshire, Roman Dipple, Imogen Hopkins, Joe Lynch, Tara Myatt, Josh Powis, Nicole Randall, Phoenix Sherriff, Nathaniel Stevens, Callum Swan, Brody Turner, Jada Vaughn-Belle, Emily Whittaker

BLUE COAT GOSPEL CHOIR & COMMUNITY CHOIR

Over the past few months, we've collaborated with West Midlands Youth Revival, a Coventry-based church group, and the Blue Coat Gospel Choir, alongside Nanny of the Maroons composer **CORAH FOWLES**.

Drawing on themes from the story of Queen Nanny, the group helped shape both the sound and lyrics of their songs, using the ideas being developed for our production as inspiration for their original pieces.

Gospel Choir Creators: Angel Fazaldin, Christabel Fakae, Jolene Kisebe, Margarut Mvula, Laura-white James, Zalie Higgins, Gloria Tankoano, Kaylee Yose, Folasade Odofin, Feanmi Odusanya
West Midland Youth Revival Creators: Prisca Ekoko, Victoria Kamono, Daniela Kamono, Lesley Takasongo, Kerene, Obed K, Roberto

BELGRADE THEATRE **NANNY OF THE MAROONS**

Spoken word by **DIAMOND KAYODE-OSUNLANA**.

We invited Diamond, Coventry's Young Poet Laurette (25–27), to create an original spoken word piece in response to the theme *Freedom to Reimagine*. They have crafted work that reflects their thoughts and experiences, and we hope you enjoy their response.

Production Credits

Company Stage Manager	Amie Davies
Sound Design	Jasraj Singh Sahota
Nanny of the Maroons Composer and Choir Lead	Corah Fowles
Blue Coat School Facilitator and Director	Jay Zorenti-Nakhid
Hereward College Artists and Choreographer	Louise Katerega

Thank you to everyone for being part of today's celebration. This work is at the heart of our co-created practice, where young people, community members, and artists come together to make and share work that is people-led. By centring their voices, experiences, and creativity, we are shaping a space where imagination and collaboration help us reimagine the future.

BELGRADE THEATRE **NANNY OF THE MAROONS**

20 Mar – Nanny to Now: Black Women Reimagining The Future

In celebration of International Women's Month, this event brings together Black women artists, thinkers and leaders to reimagine leadership, culture and community through a live panel inspired by the legacy of Queen Nanny.

The discussion will be hosted by SANDRA GRIFFITHS, Founder and CEO of *Red Earth Collective*.

She will be joined by an inspiring panel of speakers: NISSY TEE, a qualified insurance specialist and founder of *Powerclass Masterclass*, a platform dedicated to supporting women in rebuilding confidence and reclaiming their personal power; LAVINYA STENNETT, writer, activist and Founder and CEO of *The Black Curriculum,* which champions the teaching of Black history all year round; and CHINONYEREM ODIMBA, playwright, screenwriter and director, and Artistic Director and CEO of tiata fahodzi.

Together, they will explore what it means to lead with courage, creativity and community in today's world.

Panel Discussion 7pm

Followed by opportunity for drinks and an open space to continue the conversation.

We hope you can join us for this event. Book now at:
www.belgrade.co.uk/nanny-to-now

BELGRADE THEATRE **NANNY OF THE MAROONS**

Thank you for being part of Freedom to Reimagine.

We hope you've enjoyed this series of events and the conversations, creativity, and community it has sparked. This programme marks an important step in our journey toward the production of *Nanny of the Maroons* in 2027.

To stay connected and be the first to hear about upcoming events, developments, and opportunities to be involved, please sign up to our mailing list using the link here:

Join The Belgrade Mailing List

We also invite you to explore our visual podcast series, Nannys of Today, hosted by Justine Themen, featuring conversations with Nova Reid, Charlene Hunter, and Lorna Phillip. Watch it here:

Episode 1 (Spotify) (PodBean) (YouTube)

A short film inspired by *Nanny of the Maroons* will also be released soon. Stay connected through our mailing list to be the first to watch and follow the journey as it unfolds.

Thank you for reimagining with us.

BELGRADE THEATRE **NANNY OF THE MAROONS**

THE BIG GIVE

Donate today to support our work in Coventry's communities and see your gift doubled.

This week we are delighted to be taking part in the BIG GIVE Arts for Impact campaign. Until Tues 24 March all donations made to the Belgrade Theatre via the BIG GIVE webpage will be doubled.

That means if the public donation target of £5,500 is reached, we will receive £11,000!

The money raised will go directly to support our work in the community, supporting projects contributing to the creation of *Nanny of the Maroons*, our award-winning *Digital Media Academy* which introduces young people to all aspects of film/video production, and projects like *Next Steps* which develops theatre skills for people with learning disabilities.

Your generous support will ensure we can reach more people across Coventry, increasing opportunity, and changing lives; and remember at this time your gift can make double the difference, so please donate if you can.

To donate please visit: <u>A Stage For All: Big Give</u>

Arts For Impact
BigGive

17 - 24 March

BELGRADE

1 week only

Double the impact of every donation
Please donate today!