

ANNA KARENINA

By **Lesley Hart** after Leo Tolstoy
Directed by **Polina Kalinina**



TOLSTOY'S MASTERPIECE REIMAGINED

A Bristol Old Vic and Royal Lyceum Edinburgh co-production

**BRISTOL
OLD VIC**

7 – 24 Jun

Tickets from £8

📱📺📺📺 #AnnaKareninaBOV

bristololdvic.org.uk



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Festival fever

Immersive theatre, skate ramps,
woodland banquets... there's
something for everyone at this
summer's festivals

Words — Clemmie Millbank

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PRESS PLAY





Shindig



Warmduscher at Shindig

Best for the whole family

Shindig Festival

Somerset

May 25-28

Sister Sledge, Dawn Penn, Eva Lazarus and Warmduscher perform in the grounds of this stunning 16th-century house in Somerset. Kids are more than catered for with their own breakdancing, graffiti, DJing and MCing workshops, a cinema, inflatables sessions and climbing wall. Dressing up? The theme is Mad Hatters, so look out for Alice, the March hare and plenty of dormice. shindigfestival.co.uk

Best for rising talent

Dot to Dot

Bristol

May 27

For one day only, Bristol city centre is overtaken by hordes of roaming revellers, zipping around this multi-venue event to pick from the tastiest buffet of musical talent. Yard Act, Alvays, Cryalot and BEKA have already been announced, with many more names yet to be added to the bill. Don't forget your wristband and comfiest dancing shoes for a rammed day of musical revelations. dottodotfestival.co.uk

Best blast from the past

Love Saves the Day

Bristol

May 27-28

Fatboy Slim, Sugababes, Kelis, Shy FX, Andy C, Four Tet – no, this isn't the early 2000s, but a snippet of the nostalgic menu for Bristol's biggest festival. Set across the late May bank holiday, LStD is returning to last year's Ashton Court site, with ten high-production stages presenting over 175 artists, including plenty of new sounds too, with tunes from Nia Archives, Folamour and SG Lewis. lovesavestheday.org



Love Saves the Day



BUILDING A FESTIVAL

Behind-the-scenes with Rebecca Fitzgerald, creative producer at Love Saves the Day

Our stages take five to 12 days to build

Because of site licensing, crew and infrastructure costs, the aim is to get things built as quickly as possible. This also minimises disruption to the local community who use the areas that typically become festivals once a year.

A team of up to ten people is involved in stage-building

Carpenters, riggers working at height, plant operatives, scenic artists... There's a broad range of talented people with some serious skill-sets. It can be high risk, so an experienced team is essential. Every stage design and build is very much a team achievement.

Genosys' Block 9 stage at Glastonbury was iconic

I could look at it for ages and still notice new things – so much detail, yet conceptually so simple. I was also blown away by Metropolis at Boomtown, by how immersive a set could be at a four-day festival. People always push the boundaries of creativity in this industry. It's exciting to see what's coming next.

Highlights of Love Saves the Day 2023?

Has to be the same spot every year – the secret ball pool, surely! →

Best street and skate scene

NASS

Somerset

July 6-9

BYOB (bring your own board, that is) to this unique four-day festival, where you can sweat out your hangover on the custom-built amateur skate and ride park, as well as watch world-class skate and BMX pros compete at the NASS pro park. Attendees are in for a treat as hip-hop royalty Wu-Tang Clan and the awesome Little Simz, along with Chase & Status, hit the stage.

nassfestival.com

Best for families with little kids

Standon Calling

Hertfordshire

July 20-23

Standon Calling has a little something for everyone in your family (including the dog), from baby sensory to immersive kids' theatre, teen DJ workshops to the Sunday dog show. You can party together to headliners like Self Esteem and Bloc Party – or book the littlest ones into the onsite nanny service, where the experienced team hosts 'stay up late' sessions and kids can get cosy in snuggle pods.

standon-calling.com

Best for big laughs

Latitude Festival

Suffolk

July 20-23

Alongside a fantastic music lineup featuring Pulp, Metronomy, Paolo Nutini and Young Fathers, Latitude is committed to tickling your funny bone with an endless roll call of modern comedy greats: Romesh Ranganathan, Sara Pascoe and Ed Gamble will be bringing their best material – and all their quick-witted friends – to this sunny celebration.

latitudefestival.com

FESTIVAL PLANNER



Best for learning a new skill

WOMAD

Wiltshire

July 27-30

Ever wanted to try your hand at Brazilian folk dance or Palestinian singing? With over 80 free workshops to try, here's where to do it. Swing by the Hip Yak Poetry Shack for some spoken word or pop over to the Physics Pavilion to stimulate the grey matter. WOMAD has a suitably varied lineup, with headliners Femi Kuti & the Positive Force, Bombay Bicycle Club and Kate Rusby.

womad.co.uk

Best for outdoor activities

Wilderness Festival

Oxfordshire

August 3-6

A banging lineup featuring The Chemical Brothers, Christine and the Queens, Arlo Parks and Fatboy Slim. Plus, as the name suggests, this beautiful nature-filled festival with its own onsite lake, is a haven for outdoor lovers. There's boating, horse riding, SUP and wild swimming all on offer. Your taste buds will also be catered for at the legendary Long Table Banquets, with a five-course feast from some of the world's best chefs. →

wildernessfestival.com



Best for off-the-wall stages

Big Love Festival

South Wales

July 14-16

Party the days and nights away at this whimsical, fiercely independent three-day festival. With over 130 DJs and live acts (yet to be announced), you're guaranteed to find your tribe at this weekend escape. Choose where to drop your craziest moves – among the trees in the Forest Dome, under the glitter ball in the Disco Barn, or follow the call of the hottest live drum and bass to the Fire Engine stage.

biglovefestival.co.uk

Best for posh camping

The Secret Garden Party

East Anglia

July 20-23

Not really into sleeping on a deflated mattress with the smell of overflowing toilets seeping in? There is a festival for you! Secure your spot in the boutique area at Secret Garden Party and choose from pre-assembled yurts, bell tents and Airstreams, with access to the fabulous cabaret restaurant, champagne bar and free showers. All this plus a sci-fi futuristic theme, with music from The Libertines, Underworld and Fat Freddy's Drop to help you party like it's 2999.

secretgardenparty.com

Best to expand your mind

Bluedot

Cheshire

July 20-23

A festival like no other; this simmering mix of music – Róisín Murphy, Leftfield, Young Fathers and Pavement – also features mind-bending science lectures from exciting thinkers and theorists. Appropriately situated at Jodrell Bank Observatory (which transforms into a light-based artwork), prepare for a cosmic adventure in the labyrinthine Luminarium or visit the Outer Space area for an out-of-this-world experience of light and ambient sound.

discoverthebluedot.com

Best for food + drink

Valley Fest

Chew Valley

August 3-6

It's not every festival that includes a lineup of top chefs alongside its music headliners, but Valley Fest sticks unashamedly to its Somerset roots by putting good food, music and cider front and centre. While bopping along to Soul II Soul, Ibibio Sound Machine and The Kooks, you can sample food offerings put together by the likes of Josh Eggleton (Pony Chew Valley) and Rob Howell (Root), including an indulgent Friday feast and Sunday roast.

valleyfest.co.uk



Ethical cocktails
and activist
training anyone?

Best for off-gridding

Green Gathering

Chepstow

August 3-6

This celebration of low-impact living is 100% powered by wind, sun and people, with 90% of its waste reused, recycled or composted. There are five stages and over 100 acts (like Satin Beige, The High Breed, and Nuala), along with eco extras, including activist training, radical cinema and a permaculture community sharing knowledge and skills. Not to mention plenty of vegan food, ethical cocktails and alcohol-free choices. → greengathering.org.uk

FINDING ZEN

Balance all-nighters with moments of serenity at three of the best festival spas

Into the wild

Tucked away in a hidden glade on the Wilderness site, you'll stumble across a cluster of wood-fired hot tubs and a wooden sauna. Book yourself a massage or join an anti-gravity immersive yoga class to ease those airbed mattress aches.

wildernessfestival.com

Worldly calm

At WOMAD you can add a spa ticket to your booking and spend the weekend dipping into an oasis of tranquility, with all-day yoga, wood-fired hot tubs, saunas, Jacuzzis and therapies from around the world.

womad.co.uk

Wheel wellness

How about a little moment of calm and clarity in the Zen Den at Latitude – aka a converted American school bus? Follow with some reiki therapy at the spa or sunset story-sharing at the Mystical Tree of Life.

latitudefestival.com

Boomtown Fair



Best for wellbeing

We Out Here

Dorset

August 10-14

Crafted by BBC Radio 6 broadcaster Gilles Peterson, expect an eclectic mix of jazz, soul, hip-hop, house, Afro and electronica from the UK club scene, with headliners Knucks, Roisín Murphy and Ezra Collective. This year, at a new Dorset site, there will be an extended wellness programme to restore tired bodies with an itinerary of mindfulness workshops, yoga, guided sessions, art therapy, meditation and much more.

weoutherefestival.com

Best for free spirits

Boomtown Fair

Winchester

August 9-13

Part music festival, part living theatre, this unique experience follows an ongoing adventure narrative with hundreds of roaming characters. As for the music, Boomtown is a smorgasbord of reggae, ska, metal, house, jungle, hip-hop, gabba, hardcore and psytrance. The lineup is kept secret until just before the festival, but past headliners have hit the giddy heights of Orbital, Wu-Tang Clan and De La Soul.

boomtownfair.co.uk



Best for beach lovers

Boardmasters

Cornwall

August 9-13

Set in the cove of Watergate Bay, the sounds of the sea mix with the unsurprisingly laid-back lineup, featuring Lorde, Ben Howard, Liam Gallagher and Florence + the Machine. Trundle along the coast path (or catch the shuttle bus) to Newquay's world-famous Fistral Beach for the Boardmasters Open surf competition, plus beach bar, shopping village and loads more. →

boardmasters.com



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americanmuseum.org



Best for surprise performances

End of the Road Festival

Dorset

August 31 – September 3

A little gem of a festival, the pleasure garden-style Larmer Tree site is dotted with magical art installations and decorative pieces. Not to mention hidden intimate stages, which often provide a platform for short, spontaneous surprise performances, (look out for Wilco, Future Islands and Angel Olsen – who are all on the bill this year). EotR also boasts green initiatives, including a Drastic on Plastic campaign, upcycled tents, green traders and support for a tree-planting scheme.

endoftheroadfestival.com



FESTIVAL PLANNER



No, you're not imagining it. There's a distinctly noughties vibe to this year's lineups. See also:

Sean Paul and Fabio and Grooverider at Siren (July 27-29, Bristol Harbourside)
sirenbristol.com

Aphex Twin and Erykah Badu at Forwards Festival (September 1-2, The Downs, Bristol)
forwardsbristol.co.uk