

The List

What's on in October and November

COMPILED BY
CLEMMIE MILLBANK



IN THE DRONE

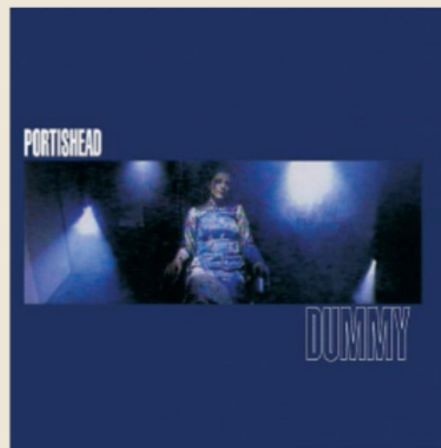
Bristol music legend **Adrian Utley** talks sonic exploration, the unhurried beauty of drone music and Portishead's *Dummy*

My early life in jazz was when I first started thinking about drones. We used to call them pedal tones, where it stayed on one note. I'm attracted to Indian music; Ravi Shankar and the flute player Hariprasad Chaurasia were a huge part of my listening for a long time, and that's based in kind of one tonality.

Drone can be really exciting. It doesn't have to be meditative. It's the acceptance of something staying still or expanding slowly. No tonality, and not too much action notes-wise.



Drone really suits electronic music and synthesisers because it's interesting to think about not using diatonic and chromatic harmony, or fixed scale. You can think about quarter tones, and in between quarter tones there's eighth tones and frequency modulation, which are the beats



you hear when notes are not quite in tune. Just that alone is enough to listen to for a long time. It's kind of brain candy.

I love Éliane Radigue. She's 92 and still working in Paris making drone music. I love La Monte Young, too. You can't record him, because his pieces go on for days, but his influence can be heard elsewhere, like with the Velvet Underground, for instance. John Cale put drones in their music because he'd been working with La Monte Young in New York.

Drones for the Dark Months is at St George's Bristol. It's part of a series of curations I'll be doing, which will all be different, and will include people I really admire.



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I've picked people who really understand this kind of music.

There will be some tunes. Stefano [Pilia] writes beautiful ones based on drones and on the Fibonacci sequence. We're also going to be looking into and reinterpreting some early choral music. It's very much an improvisational evening, sometimes based on written music underpinned by a drone.

The world is changing musically. There's the reunion of Oasis and the enormous Taylor Swift gigs. It's not that I don't like them, but I think a lot of young people are looking beyond that, trying to find something that has some relevance and makes sense in this completely bonkers world we've got, politically, ecologically and economically.

I can't believe 30 years have passed since the release of *Dummy*. It was an epic adventure, all the Portishead stuff. I'm still very pleased when people come up to me and say it changed their life. I love the fact my kids' friends are really into our albums; there's a new generation listening to them. I feel it still has a relevance for some people.

I find inspiration constantly by listening and searching, and accidentally hearing things and talking to other musicians. It's what I've always done; just being open to stuff. My kids bring me things that are really cool, too.

Catch Drones for the Dark Months at St George's Bristol on October 24. nfd.io/utdrones

thenearfield.com

Photos: @laurenluxenberg



Tatty Macleod Tobacco
Factory, Bristol
October 13, 24;
Komedia, Bath
November 27

Didn't make it to Edinburgh Fringe? Well you're in luck, because festival highlight Tatty is bringing her certain *je ne sais quoi* to the southwest. In this debut comedy tour, Macleod navigates the nuances of life as a French-British comedian and asks, is he a f**kboi or is he just French?
nfd.io/tattymac

The Windrush Secret
Pound Arts, Corsham
October 25

This unflinching production spotlights three men: a far-right leader, a Black Caribbean diplomat and a white Home Office official – all played by playwright Rodreguez King-Dorset. Join each of them as they mobilise an invisible audience to their cause – and start to question what they believe in.
nfd.io/windsec

The Necks
Strange Brew, Bristol
November 15

The best live band in the world return to the region. The Australian avant-jazz trio of Chris Abrahams, Tony Buck and Lloyd Swanton never fail to hypnotise with their slow-building, cyclical improvisations that start with a shake and a rattle, and grow into transcendent locked grooves.
nfd.io/thenecks

Naima Bock
The Tree House, Frome
November 17

Experience the intricate mix of traditional folk, indie influences and alt-rock sounds that got Bock – formerly of Goat Girl – signed by the legendary Sub Pop label. Drawing on themes of nature, memory and the complexities of human relationships, Bock's music has a vulnerability that'll draw you in completely.
nfd.io/nbock



Shabaka
St Mary Redcliffe, Bristol
November 28

Linchpin of the UK jazz scene Shabaka Hutchings – who recently swapped sax for various flutes from around the world – brings his contemplative new sound to a magical setting with the help of a five-piece ensemble, including two harps.
nfd.io/shabaka



NEON DREAMS

Chila Kumari Singh Burman

Until 12 January 2025

Festival of Light

Friday 25 October 5-9pm | FREE

Join us for a celebration of all things light and joyful to mark Diwali

- Colourful creative workshops
- Pop-up food stalls
- Live performances, including a finale of fire dancing!

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Great Pulteney Street, Bath

Chila Kumari Singh Burman, 'My Tiger Janu', 2022. Photo Matthew Andrews



Kimono: The Making of a Cultural Icon

Museum of East
Asian Art, Bath
Until December 14

Translated into English as 'thing to wear', the kimono is an icon of Japanese culture. Explore the garment's incredible history through this carefully curated series of woodblock prints and photographs, and trace its development from traditional everyday wear to high fashion.

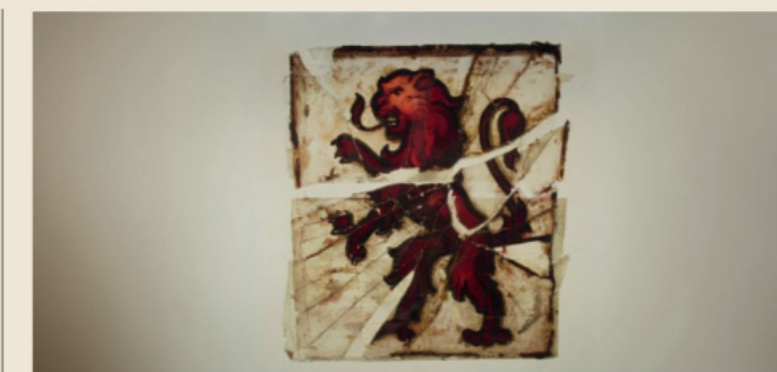
nfid.io/kimono

Bath Society of Artists 119th Annual Open Exhibition

Victoria Art
Gallery, Bath
October 13 to
January 11

Browse and buy art from some of the region's top artists, including paintings, sculptures, drawings, print and mixed media works. This year's featured artist is Peter Randall-Page. He'll be showcasing his nature-inspired sculptures.

nfid.io/bsaopen



Sophia Al-Maria and Lydia Ourahmane: Grey Unpleasant Land

Spike Island, Bristol
Until January 19

A two-person exhibition from Al-Maria and Ourahmane – both immigrants to the UK – featuring pre-existing works and a commission exploring the idea of the 'right to remain' in the context of semi-feudal property laws.

nfid.io/greyland

Lionheart (2016-2024). Image courtesy the artists

Photo: RBG Kew, © Hurvin Anderson, Matthew Andrews



Here Today, Here Tomorrow: Works from the Jerwood Collection

Arnolfini, Bristol
November 23 to
February 2

A selection of 22 works from the Jerwood Collection, delving into the cycles of life and our relationship to nature, place and the spaces we inhabit. The exhibition features work by Hurvin Anderson, Patrick Caulfield, Maggi Hambling, David Hockney and Yinka Ilori, among others.

nfid.io/htoday

Chila Kumari Singh Burman

The Holburne
Museum, Bath
Until January 12

Challenge your preconceptions of Britishness in art history with a visit to this spectacular show at the Holburne Museum. Two of Burman's dazzling, large-scale light installations take centre stage: a multi-coloured neon work on the façade of the museum, and a life-size neon tiger in the ballroom.

nfid.io/burman

Tessa Campbell Fraser: Whales

Messums West,
Tisbury
October 5 to
January 13

Look up in awe at three monumental sculptures of sperm whales hanging from the roof of the tithe barn. Climate change advocate Campbell Fraser used recycled ghost netting, silk chiffon, latex and synthetic (recycled) paper to create these magnificent creatures and highlight the plight of our oceans.

nfid.io/whales



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**After Dark:
Nights To Die For**
Mary Shelley's
House of
Frankenstein, Bath
October 11-31

Feeling brave enough to face your inner monster (and maybe some outer ones, too)? Wander the museum after dark in this notorious experience inspired by Shelley's horror classic. Prepare for disorientating total darkness, crawl spaces, gruesome scenes and unsettling surprises.
nfd.io/diefor

**Bristol Film Festival:
Halloween Screenings**
Various venues,
Bristol
October 16-31

Bristol Film Festival has lined up some Halloween classics in a whole host of spooky locations. Test your scare threshold with everything from *The Lost Boys* at Arnos Vale Cemetery to an aptly claustrophobic viewing of *The Descent* in Redcliffe Caves (check the exits, people).
nfd.io/brisfilm



FEAR Scream Park
Avon Valley Wildlife and Adventure Park
October 11-12, 18-20, 25-27, 31; November 1-2

The most twisted theme park you'll ever visit. Once the sun goes down, this family-friendly attraction transforms into a park of nightmares, with chainsaw-wielding clowns and nightmarish ghouls around every corner. Navigate scare mazes and witness a live exorcism.
nfd.io/screamp



Haunt, Pray, Love
Tobacco Factory, Bristol
October 31 to November 2

Delving deep into purgatory, this dark, imaginative comedy follows the story of Gary, a happily dead person who doesn't care about anyone very much... until, that is, Clare comes crashing into his afterlife. Satanic rituals, musings on the afterlife and spooky live music await.
nfd.io/hplove

Ghost Hunt
Shepton Mallet
Prison, Somerset
November 2

Fancy a sleepover in the most haunted prison in the UK? Brothers and Spirit Paranormal Investigations are inviting you to bring a sleeping bag (and nerves of steel) to Shepton Mallet Prison – once home to the incarcerated Kray twins – and spend the night with some of the criminal underworld's most troubled spirits.
nfd.io/ghunt

The Three Snake Leaves: Fairytales From the Grimm Forest
The Cube, Bristol
November 14

Interweaving Grimm's lesser-known stories, this fairytale for grown-ups chronicles the dark and unexpected pasts of three travellers lost in a forest. Combining evocative music with masterful, contemporary storytelling, this is a show about what it is to be a human.
nfd.io/bgrimm



HEY PUNK!

Director **Nida Manzoor** is creator of the hit series *We Are Lady Parts*, about an all-female, all-Muslim punk band. Here, she talks early influences, authenticity and industry challenges, ahead of a Q&A and screening of her film, *Polite Society*, at the FilmBath Festival



Photos: Saima Khalid



I grew up in Singapore and watched these amazing Singaporean sitcoms; they were very slapstick. There's one called *Happy Belly*, and another called *Under One Roof*, which were very formative. I also grew up on American and British TV, so shows like *Malcolm in the Middle* and *Blackadder* were a huge influence.

I also have a great love of music. I grew up playing guitar. There's a kind of through-line between loving music and loving comedy. It's all about rhythm and timing. My brother, Shez Manzoor, scored *Polite Society*. We grew up making music together.

Pitching shows was always quite hard. I would get feedback

like, "Oh, sorry, we've already got our show about women of colour." You're always treated as your 'identity' rather than the tone, the style, your point of view; you're just seen to be doing a woman-of-colour show... People saw me as a label, which makes you feel like you're competing for one slot rather than opening the industry to contain multiple stories.

The industry needs to commission more underrepresented voices. There are schemes, and there's money going into it, but it's the belief that is missing – the belief that these shows are actually worth making, and these stories are worth telling. We need more diversity within commissioning,

production companies, producers, the people who fight to make the shows – not just the creatives.

Saima Khalid runs a collective for Muslim creatives to come together and share their work; music, poetry or writing. It's called Makrooh. That was the scene I was most inspired by when it came to creating my own work, because I saw such diversity and humour and vulnerability in those spaces.

For me, success is getting to create work with authenticity, which I've been able to do with *Polite Society* and *We Are Lady Parts*. They authentically represent the things I want to say, and that has been so creatively fulfilling. You get that great feeling of catharsis from it, and you get to collaborate with people you genuinely love and respect, who can make the work excel beyond your own vision.

Next, I want to do a big historical action movie set in ancient Iraq. A real kind of 'swords and sandals' vibe. I want to do a super-violent feminist movie. I'd also love to do a full out-and-out musical. There's something about musicals that is so hard to pull off and do well, but I love them. I also want another excuse to write a bunch of music with my siblings!

Watch *Polite Society* and join in a Q&A at The Little Theatre, Bath, on October 22. FilmBath Festival runs from October 18-27. Check out the full programme. nfd.io/filmbath

thenearfield.com



Second Life Markets The Prospect Building, Bristol October 13

Fulfil your vintage and secondhand needs at this preloved sale. With a focus on local sellers, you'll find fashion, art and homewares to add to your personal edit.

nfd.io/seclife

Celebrate Samhain The Wise Woods Project, Corsham October 27

Celebrate the Celtic New Year with a day in the forest. Led by experts in their field, you'll engage in meditation, mindful movement, rituals, nature crafts and journaling, and expand your own spiritual growth by reconnecting with nature in this stunning woodland space. nfd.io/cshain

Weston-super-Mare Carnival Italian Gardens, Weston-super-Mare November 8

The quintessential Somerset experience. These free, annual night-time processions take place across the county and are made up of bonkers illuminated floats and lively performers. Check our website for locations and dates. nfd.io/somcarn

Acid House Cabaret: Rave New World Komedia, Bath November 11

Through a hi-NRG mix of beats, 303 squelches and retina-frying visuals, Kirk Field's Acid House Cabaret explores the cultural impact of rave. Embrace the glorious absurdity of old rave flyers and learn all the words to your favourite club anthems. nfd.io/ravenew

Unforgettable Behaviour American Museum, Bath Until December 31

This selection of 39 powerful images from previous Wildlife Photographer of the Year collections will showcase exciting, rarely seen and extremely cheeky animal behaviour. The family-friendly exhibition also features a dig pit, hide and animal height chart.

nfd.io/unforget