

XTRAX

MANCHESTER

AT LA MERCÈ BARCELONA

23–28 SEPTEMBER 2025

#MCRx
LaMercè
2025



Manchester UK is the Guest City at La Mercè, Barcelona's biggest free annual outdoor festival. The programme of Manchester work includes:

- New collaborations between Manchester and Barcelona artists
- Street Arts + Dance + Installations + Fire + Music + Parades
- International Street Arts Meetings



INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

www.xtrax.org.uk/MCRxLaMerce2025



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Manchester is the Guest City for La Mercè 2025, Barcelona's biggest annual festival, in a landmark cultural collaboration that brings two powerhouse cities together in a spectacular celebration of outdoor performance, diversity, and artistic innovation.

Curated and produced by Manchester-based international outdoor arts organisation XTRAX, in collaboration with Without Walls; Manchester at La Mercè 2025 will showcase some of Manchester's trailblazing outdoor artists across six days of parades, installations, music, dance, and performance in public spaces throughout Barcelona.

23–28 September: Manchester at La Mercè

- 13 street arts projects by over 18 UK artists and companies
- 3 new commissions
- A music programme presented by Manchester Music City, led by Brighter Sound

25 & 26 September: International Street Arts Meetings

- 2 days of meetings for promoters, producers and artists interested in work in public space
- For more information and to register for the International Street Arts Meetings: www.xtrax.org.uk/MCRxLaMercè2025



NEW XTRAX COMMISSIONS



Bee for Barcelona Carnival arts specialists Global Grooves (MAN) and Catalan artists Pau Reig and Dolors Sans present ***Bee for Barcelona*** at La Mercè. Inspired by Manchester's symbol, the bee; two giant bees ***Queen Bee Gigante*** and ***Worker Bee***, celebrate industrial heritage and cultural pride.



The Ultimate Player's Handbook Manchester's Company Chameleon and Barcelona dance duo Clémentine & Lisard premiere their dynamic dance performance at La Mercè. Exploring everyday games, shifting roles of winner and loser, and the balance between competition, cooperation, and breaking rules.



Barcelona Beehive Artizani, one of Europe's leading street theatre companies, presents ***Bees! The Colony***, including a new hive commissioned especially for La Mercè, featuring Mancunian bees participating in Catalan festivities.



Front cover image: **The Ultimate Player's Handbook**, Company Chameleon and Clémentine & Lisard, Photo © Joel Chester Fildes **Bee for Barcelona**, Global Grooves and Pau Reig, Photo © Dolors Sans **The Ultimate Player's Handbook**, Company Chameleon and Clémentine & Lisard, Photo © Joel Chester Fildes **Bees! The Colony**, Artizani, Photo © Callum Arnott

DANCE AND CIRCUS



Born to Protest Joseph Toonga (Just Us Dance Theatre) presents an all-female Hip Hop work confronting racial bias and misrepresentation of Black women's bodies. Part of a trilogy on race and mental health, it prompts reflection and support.



IRMĀ-sister DamaeDance explore what it takes to truly connect with another person and what that connection reveals about us, inspired by the personal experiences of dancers Alice Bonazzi and Sara Marques.



RO-TES JSI: Stopgap Dance Company present the choreographic debut of disabled artist Nadenh Poan, inspired by his Cambodian heritage and childhood, together with Stopgap's diverse world-class dancers.



Umbra Company Chameleon present a powerful dance trio exploring light and shadow within us, what we hide and reveal, and how behaviour shifts in different contexts.



WILD Multi-award winning Motionhouse present dynamic acrobatics and movement around towering poles, exploring our relationship with nature, in a striking and high-energy spectacle.



INSTALLATIONS, POETRY, AND FASHION



Fire Garden Walk the Plank UK outdoor arts specialists will transform Parc de la Trinitat into a glowing landscape of fire and metal, with music by local musicians.



Warning Notes Mark Anderson in collaboration with Liam Walsh present a durational shifting soundscape using mechanical instruments, inviting reflection on social and ecological themes.



OUR CITY SPEAKS Showcasing some of Manchester's diverse leading poetry performers in a captivating, curated selection of short films, working with Catalan poetic translators. This highlights the cultural connection between Barcelona and Manchester, both UNESCO Cities of Literature.



Family Catwalk Extravaganza! Ghetto Fabulous present a family-friendly competition of dance, fashion, and lip sync, where four performers go head-to-head and the audience crowns the winner. Co-hosted by esteemed actor and drag artist Xavier Palomino.

Born to Protest, Just Us Dance Theatre, Photo © Harrison Dante **IRMÄ-sister**, DamaeDance, Photo © Daniel Phung Photography **RO-TES 1st**, Stopgap Dance Company, Photo © Chris Parkes **Umbra**, Company Chameleon, Photo © André Wirsig **Wild**, Motionhouse, Photo © Dan Tucker **Fire Garden**, Walk the Plank, Photo © Vipul Sangoi **Warning Notes**, Mark Anderson and Liam Walsh, Photo © Giles W Bennet **OUR CITY SPEAKS**, The Streets Remember, Photo © Ricardo Vilela, Sagitta Media **Family Catwalk Extravaganza!**, Ghetto Fabulous, Photo © Adrienne Photography

MUSIC



Mr Wilson's Second Liners Blending New Orleans brass with 90s club classics, this roving brass band celebrate Manchester's rave scene from world-famous club, The Hacienda.



Manchester Music City (led by Brighter Sound) will present a showcase at La Mercè 2025 featuring **Children of Zeus**, **Chloe Slater**, **Porij**, **Riognach Connolly & Honeyfeet**, and **Space Afrika**. A new collaboration between **Werkha** (MAN) and **Queralt Lahoz** (CAT) will also premiere. The programme will celebrate Manchester's rich music scene, strengthen creative exchange with Barcelona, and highlight the city's international musical outlook.

25 & 26 SEPTEMBER: INTERNATIONAL STREET ARTS MEETINGS

Friday 26 September 2025, 09:30–17:30

Community, diversity, and representation in public space.

International speakers from across the cultural sector explore the role of street arts festivals in bringing people together and giving visibility to different cultural communities.

Places are free, register in advance: bit.ly/StreetArtsMeets



Thursday 25 September, 10:30–14:00

Unlimited Connects

A day of discovery and networking focused on disabled-led arts practice, led by global leaders in commissioning disabled work, Unlimited. Free – Limited Places, contact bron@weareunlimited.org.uk

Mr Wilson's Second Liners Photo © Duncan Elliott

Werkha and Queralt Lahoz Photo © Ajuntament de Barcelona



MANCHESTER AT LA MERCÈ STREET ARTS PROGRAMME

Bee for Barcelona by Global Grooves (MAN), Pau Reig and Dolors Sans (BCN) will appear in various parades and events in the traditional programme.

Some **Bee for Barcelona** appearances will be accompanied by 30 diverse performers and musicians from groups including Saddleworth Women's Morris & Clog, and The Indian Association Oldham Dancing Diyas.

23 September

12:00: City Hall Naming Ceremony Plaça Sant Jaume

Bee + Gigante

19:00: Toc D'Inici (Parade) Plaça Sant Jaume

20:00: Performance Plaça Sant Jaume. *Bee, Gigante, core band + supporting Catalan musicians*

24 September

17:30: Cercavila de Gegants Parade from Carrer de Pelai to Sant Jaume. *Core band + Gigante*

26 September

21:00–22:30: Passejada de Bèsties Parade from Ei Born. *Bee + Band + Dance*


27 September

10:30: Mati Bastoner Parade from Plaça Sant Jaume. *Gigante + Dance + Band*

27 September

20:30: Correfoc Parade from Gracia. *Bee + Band*

Download La Mercè App for full programme details.

Facebook  [@barcelonacultura](#)

Instagram  [@bcncultura](#)

In Parc de l'Estació de Nord

24, 27 & 28 September

11:00–14:00 & 16:00–19:00: **Barcelona Beehive**, Artizani

11:00 & 15:30: **Mr Wilson's Second Liners**

11:45: **Family Catwalk Extravaganza!** Ghetto Fabulous

13:30–15:00: **OUR CITY SPEAKS**

16:45: **IRMÀ-sister** DamaeDance

17:15: **Born to Protest** Joseph Toonga, Just Us Dance Theatre

18:00: **The Ultimate Player's Handbook** Company Chameleon x Clementine & Lisard

19:00: **Umbra** Company Chameleon

In Parc de la Trinitat

26, 27 & 28 September

19:30–22:30: **Fire Garden** Walk the Plank (Sunday until 21:30)

27 & 28 September

11:30–14:00: **Warning Notes** Mark Anderson & Liam Walsh

12:15: **RO-TES 1911** Stopgap Dance Company

13:30: Workshop by Stopgap Dance Company

16:30–19:00: **Warning Notes** Mark Anderson & Liam Walsh

In Parc del Fòrum

27 & 28 September

12:00 & 16:15: **WILD** Motionhouse



Previously supported by Without Walls

Music programme

Date	Time	Artist	Location
23 Sept	23:15–00:45	Porij	<u>Jardins del Doctor Pla i Armengol</u>
	00:00–00:45	Space Afrika	<u>Teatre Grec</u>
26 Sept	22:00–23:30	Chloe Slater	<u>Avinguda de la Catedral</u>
	00:00–01:30	Queralt Lahoz & Werkha	<u>Avinguda de la Catedral</u>
	00:30–01:30	Children of Zeus	<u>La Rambla del Raval</u>
28 Sept	13:00–14:30	Ríoghnach Connolly & Honeyfeet	<u>Parc de la Ciutadella</u>

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Image credit: Lluís Danés, Artistic Director
of the 2025 La Mercè poster

La Mercè is delivered by
ICUB/Barcelona City Council.



**Manchester at La Mercè is produced by
XTRAX, and co-curated by Without Walls.
The music programme is presented by
Manchester Music City, led by Brighter Sound.**



Supported by Manchester City Council, Arts
Council England and Unlimited. Additional
funding for Bee for Barcelona from GMCA,
GMArts, Oldham Council and Tameside
Borough Council.



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



In collaboration with ICEC/Catalan Arts,
British Council and British Embassy in Spain.



Catalan Institute for
Cultural
Companies



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government
of Catalonia



WIN! A weekend break in Manchester for 2
people to experience Manchester Day in July
2026 (flights and accommodation). Terms
and conditions apply.

Brochure produced by XTRAX 2025
Designed by Eva Pola | evapola.com



Information and
Registration:
www.xtrax.org.uk/
MCRxLaMercè2025