
Press release

New music and video installation highlighting vital role played by migrants in the NHS for its 75th anniversary to make London premiere at Outernet



SPEAK, a new music and film installation commissioned by the Migration Museum exploring the relationship between care and migration to mark the 75th anniversary of Britain's National Health Service (NHS), will make its London premiere at Outernet London on 4 July.

Created by artists Emmanuel Sugo and Kaia Laurielle, *SPEAK* features the voices and perspectives of seven first- and second-generation migrant NHS workers. Through song and storytelling, these personal experiences form the emotional centre of the installation, exploring how their experience as migrants has informed their work, the challenges and sacrifices they have made, and the rewards they have found.

It offers a unique perspective on the complex relationship between care and migration, inviting audiences to question: who are the people who care for us? And do we care enough about them?

SPEAK will make its London debut on Tuesday 4 July at the Now Pop One space at Outernet London, an immersive entertainment district located in the heart of the West End. It will be on display throughout the NHS 75th anniversary week as part of *NHS 75: Passages on Migration and Care*, an exhibition at Outernet bringing together projects relating to migration and care within the NHS.

SPEAK also forms the centre-piece of the Migration Museum's new national touring exhibition [Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS](#), opening at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery on 30 June 2023.

"In moments of worry or grief, music has the ability to connect with our emotions in ways that words often can't. This is true both for patients and for the people who care for us," says Aditi Anand, Artistic Director at the Migration Museum.

"Bringing together these strands of singing and healing, SPEAK explores themes of care and migration, the vital role that migrants have always played in the NHS and the extent to which, just like the NHS, migration is central to the very fabric of who we are in Britain – as individuals, as communities and as a nation. Now more than ever, this is a story that needs to be told."

Dr Adil Akram, a psychiatrist working in the NHS who is one of the performers in and co-creators of *SPEAK*, says: "My father came over from Pakistan in the 1960s to practise as a doctor in the NHS – and I've followed in his footsteps.

"This project is close to my heart – it's about the contributions of people like my father who came to this country and spent their lives and careers helping to build the NHS into the fantastic institution it is today, that symbolises all the good things about the UK."

ENDS

For more information, please contact Matthew Plowright

Email: matthew@migrationmuseum.org Mobile: +44 (0)7585 117 924

Notes for editors

Where and when

SPEAK will be showing in the Now Pop One Space at Outernet London from Tuesday 4 July until Sunday 9 July, as part of *NHS 75: Passages on Migration and Care*, an exhibition at Outernet bringing together projects relating to migration and care within the NHS.

Outernet London
Charing Cross Rd
London WC2H 8LH

Opening hours: 8am–11.30pm

Admission: Free – no booking

Speak also forms the centrepiece of [Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS](#), a new national touring exhibition from the Migration Museum opening to the public at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery Museum on 30 June 2023 and running until 29 October 2023 – the first leg of a national tour. Future confirmed locations include Trinity Leeds in November 2023 and London in 2024.

[View the full press release for Heart of the Nation: Migration and the Making of the NHS](#)

Website and social media

Website: www.migrationmuseum.org

Twitter: [@MigrationUK](https://twitter.com/MigrationUK)

Facebook: [MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.facebook.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

Instagram: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://www.instagram.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

Media images

A selection of stills from the video can be found [here](#).

About Kaia Laurielle

[Kaia Laurielle](#) is a singer/songwriter from South East London dedicated to pushing the boundaries of storytelling through music. As a champion for Black love, her lyrics tell the stories of those forgotten or overshadowed. Over the years she has performed at venues such KOKO Camden, Earth Hackney, the Southbank Centre and recorded sessions for BBC Radio 1's Live Lounge.

About Emmanuel Sugo

[Emmanuel Sugo](#) is an interdisciplinary artist and producer exploring how cultural rituals and traditions inform our sense of belonging, and their role in shaping our emotional landscape. His work sits within art installation and performance art. He has produced exhibitions featuring at 180 Strand and was responsible for the first ever SD Experience, an immersive arts and sports events in partnership with Nike and Sports Direct. He was also artist in consultation for the rebrand of the Sports Direct flagship store.

SPEAK Credits

Director and Producer: Emmanuel Sugo

Co-Director: Kaia Laurielle

Cinematographer: Adenike Oke

Editor: Juanita Apanari

Music Director: Kaia Laureille

Score and Sound Design: Aron Kyne

Composers: Kaia Laureille, Aron Kyne

Performers and Storytellers: Adil Akram, Andrew Meyerson, Jessica Cruz-Hutchings, Lisbeth Cyriac, Neena Jha, Nicola Turner, Yaneise Ramos

Artistic Director: Aditi Anand

Production Crew

1st Assistant Camera: Sam Hotson

2nd Assistant Camera: Teddy Udsholt-Clayton

1st Assistant Director: Jolade Olunsanya

Grip: Josh Harrison

Gaffer: Tupac Carroll

Spark: Dylan Schultz-Soo

Head of Costume: Delores Oblitey

Costume Assistant: Renata Hoga

Hair: Rhonda Oblitey

Makeup: Adwoa Busia

Production Manager: Wofai JE

Production Coordinator: Kassandra Gordon

Special thanks: Sophie Henderson, Migration Museum, Chavez Shillingford, Thao Nguyen, NHS, Blundell Street Studios

About the Migration Museum

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has shaped who we all are – as individuals, as communities and as nations. We stage interactive, story-led exhibitions and a wide range of events, alongside high-profile digital campaigns and an education programme delivering workshops to thousands of young people each year and reaching millions more across the country via teacher training and partnerships. We also convene a knowledge-sharing Migration Network of museums and galleries across the UK.

The Migration Museum is currently based in a dynamic temporary venue in a busy shopping centre in Lewisham, south-east London. Longer-term, we aim to open at a new permanent home in the City of London in 2026, allied to a digital storytelling hub and a network of venues across the UK.

Find out more at: www.migrationmuseum.org.

About Outernet London

Outernet London is a new culture, arts and media district in Soho, London. At the heart of the Outernet district is the most advanced immersive screen technology in the world and as of February this year, average daily footfall across the whole Outernet district stood at 223,000. Every day, and for free, Outernet's screens display immersive arts and cultural programming and high-impact advertising, creating unparalleled communal experiences and a platform for brands and creators to engage with consumers in a way never previously possible. www.outernetglobal.com.

Supported by:

SPEAK is supported by Arts Council England and the Garfield Weston Foundation. *Heart of the Nation* is supported by: Arts Council England, Garfield Weston Foundation, Rumi Foundation, Alfred Caplin Charity Settlement, The Dorfman Foundation and Unbound Philanthropy. This work has been made possible by an award from People's Postcode Trust, a grant-giving charity funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery.



THE RUMI FOUNDATION



For more information, please contact Matthew Plowright:

Email: matthew@migrationmuseum.org

Mobile: +44 (0)7585 117 924

Lead image: A still from *SPEAK*, directed and produced by Emmanuel Sugo and co-directed by Kaia Laurielle. Commissioned by the Migration Museum