

AI Arts Festival 2026

22 March 2026, The Arc and The Theatre Royal, Winchester



BOOK YOUR PLACE

The festival is a mix of free and ticketed events. All events require registration via the website. aiartsfestival.soton.ac.uk or scan the QR code

Time	Event
10:00 – 10:45	 RoboPaws Live! → The Arc, Performance Hall <i>Step into the future: meet robotic dogs, learn how they work, and see how AI shapes companionship and creativity.</i>
10:00 – 11:00	AI Co-Creation Lab → Theatre Royal Atrium <i>A collaborative AI art lab that invites audiences to co-create live—transforming ideas into images, video, text, audio, and music.</i>
10:00 – 12:00	Exhibition: Copilot Cats and Parklife → The Arc, ARC Space 3 <i>An entertaining look at Microsoft Copilot's attempt to correctly label part of a cat, while highlighting that Generative AI outputs are not reproducible. Parklife - An Investigative Journey into Post-documentary Photographic Imagings and the Unexpected Beauty in AI's Intriguing Flaws.</i>
10:30 – 11:30	Ghost in the Machine → The Arc, ARC Space 1 <i>An immersive exploration of horror, technology, and consciousness. Is the "ghost in the machine" real, imagined, or simply our own projection onto technology?</i>
10:45 – 11:00	 Listen to Buddy: Telling Stories for Climate Action → The Arc, Book Nook <i>In this interactive workshop, participants listen to stories written by local school students and told by Buddy the robot. Working together, they are invited to adapt, and reshape the stories, exploring how technology, imagination, and human insight can work together.</i>
11:00 – 12:00	 Improbatics Kids! How To Train Your Robot Boyd Branch → Theatre Royal Auditorium <i>Award-winning AI improv pioneers present an interactive comedy exploring real technology, boosting AI literacy while celebrating human creativity.</i>
11:45 – 12:00	 Listen to Buddy: Telling Stories for Climate Action → The Arc, Book Nook <i>In this interactive workshop, participants listen to stories written by local school students and told by Buddy the robot. Working together, they are invited to adapt, and reshape the stories, exploring how technology, imagination, and human insight can work together.</i>
12:00 – 13:00	 Global Smart Lab Live Project: 'New New World' Workshop Global Smart Lab Live Project student groups → Theatre Royal Atrium <i>This hybrid workshop, collaborating with the Communication University of China, led by ongoing Global Smart Lab Live Project student groups, explores AI-driven arts technologies themed around 'New New World'.</i>

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12:15 – 13:15	 Human and Machine = Art Fusion → The Arc, ARC Space 1 <i>Explore playful AI that mixes ideas, colours and stories, inspiring curiosity about where ideas come from and who authors art.</i>
12:30 – 13:30	AI Mozart → The Arc, Performance Hall <i>Matthew Shiel's AI Mozart presents eclectic piano works composed by artificial intelligence, culminating in an interactive audience-driven finale.</i>
12:45 – 13:00	 Listen to Buddy: Telling Stories for Climate Action → The Arc, Book Nook <i>In this interactive workshop, participants listen to stories written by local school students and told by Buddy the robot. Working together, they are invited to adapt, and reshape the stories, exploring how technology, imagination, and human insight can work together.</i>
13:30 – 14:30	 WSA Global Smart Lab x The AI in Media Institute: Responsible AI-Driven Creativity → The Arc, ARC Space 3 <i>Join us for an engaging public roundtable discussion on Responsible AI Media Practice and Context-aware Creativity, exploring ethics, accuracy, and impact in today's GenAI visual arts.</i>
13:45 – 14:00	 Listen to Buddy: Telling Stories for Climate Action → The Arc, Book Nook <i>In this interactive workshop, participants listen to stories written by local school students and told by Buddy the robot. Working together, they are invited to adapt, and reshape the stories, exploring how technology, imagination, and human insight can work together.</i>
13:45 – 14:45	AI Otherwise → The Arc, ARC Space 1 <i>An exploration into how we do (and don't!) see ourselves represented in AI-generated content - and how we might 'encourage' AI tools to do things differently.</i>
13:45 – 15:00	AI & Broadcasting Learning from Unity 101 Community Radio → Theatre Royal Atrium <i>Meet the participants of Unity 101's AI & Broadcasting workshops - see, hear, and experience their creations!</i>
14:10 – 15:10	Electric Sheep Tales → The Arc, Performance Hall <i>Improv comedy inspired by Human memories and AI hallucinations. Watch live improvised scenes sparked by language models' monologues. Reflect with our panel on AI's impact on the creative process.</i>

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14:30 – 16:00	AI Stand-Up Comedy Showcase 12+ → Theatre Royal Auditorium <i>AI and stand-up comedy collide with smart jokes and nerdy brilliance! Featuring three of the funniest minds from the University of Southampton - Les Carr, Will Hunt and Lucy Hodgins - with guest headliner Ted Hill.</i>
14:45 – 15:00	 Listen to Buddy: Telling Stories for Climate Action → The Arc, Book Nook <i>In this interactive workshop, participants listen to stories written by local school students and told by Buddy the robot. Working together, they are invited to adapt, and reshape the stories, exploring how technology, imagination, and human insight can work together.</i>
14:45 – 15:45	 Dynamic Student-led Showcases Winchester School of Art (WSA) → The Arc, ARC Space 3 <i>Dynamic student-led showcases on Critical Practices on the Algorithms and Artificial Intelligence with photography, videos, sound, 3D modelling, 3D animation from MA Digital Media Practices of Department of Art and Media Technology, WSA.</i>
16:00 – 17:00	 Robot Filmmaking: A Lo-Fi Sci-Fi Adventure Improbatics Kids Creators → Theatre Royal Atrium <i>From Improbatics Kids creators, Robot Filmmaking lets kids jam with AI—chaotic, funny, hands-on, glitch-friendly, human-led playbuilding AI literacy through improv.</i>
17:00 – 18:00	Feedback Loops → The Arc, Performance Hall <i>Feedback Loops brings together five exciting improvising musicians to explore intersections between AI, electronica, jazz and contemporary classical music through grooves and loops that aim to make your body move!</i>
19:30 – 21:30	Music for the Singularity: Plus-Minus with Special Guests Robert Laidlow and Stephanie Lamprea → Theatre Royal Auditorium <i>Experience bold contemporary music as Plus-Minus, Robert Laidlow and Stephanie Lamprea blend live performance with AI to create imaginative, future-shaping soundworlds.</i>

KEY



Family Friendly



The Arc



Theatre Royal