

An Evening with John Blanke

Imagine the black Tudor trumpeter
 Knowledge Centre The British Library 96 Euston Road London NW1 2DB
 Friday 3rd November 2017, 19:15 - 20:30

Welcome to John Blanke Live! event at the British Library.

A celebration of John Blanke the black Tudor trumpeter to the courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII. Over 50 artists, historians, rappers, musicians, poets have made a contribution to the project, tonight some of them will share how they imagined John Blanke.

Michael Ohajuru - Historian

Devised and developed the John Blanke Project through commissioning works from visual and spoken word artists, writers, rappers and historians.

Randolph Matthews - Musician

Singer songwriter and multi vocal instrumentalist his performance was described by Jazz Fm as "Flawless and World class" spans over two decades which has brought him international recognition and followers everywhere.

Miranda Kaufmann - Historian

Miranda is a senior research fellow at the University of London's Institute of Commonwealth Studies. Her recent book *Black Tudors* was widely acclaimed including a 5 star review from the Telegraph.

Holly Graham - Artist

Holly has exhibited widely and held a residence at La Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris. She is a graduate of The Ruskin School of Art, University of Oxford and Chelsea College of Art and holds an MA in Printmaking from the Royal College of Art.

David Nieta - Poet

Dave is known as the People's Lawyer, thru his legal practice he represents the excluded individuals and marginalized communities and is the People's Poet thru his grassroots treatment of social issues in his poetry.

Valentine Ogunba - Rapper

Valentine is London based writer and rapper who specialise in interpreting the condition of urban black youth.

John Agard - Poet

Afro-Guyanese award winning poet including the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, playwright, and children's writer, his work is now a longstanding feature on the National Curriculum.

Mark Thompson - Poet

Mark "Mr T" Thompson is an actor, teacher, facilitator and poet. Author of *Mixed Messages*, founder of The Cultural Chameleon Press, founder of The Cultural Chameleon Press and Lipped Ink.

Fowokan - Artist

Jamaican born sculptor George 'Fowokan' Kelly, an icon and 'Elder' of the Black British arts movement. Examples of Fowokan's work are held in many public and private art collections.

Ebun Culwin - Artist

Ebun is a Buddhist whose beliefs are fundamental to her artistic practice. Transferring spiritual beliefs to form, light, colour and a visual language easily understood and inspiring to others.

Rohan Clarke - Artist

Rohan's work largely autobiographical, surrealist drawings depict the artist's story and life of most Africans living in the diaspora. He has exhibited in London and New York.

Charmaine Watkiss - Artist

Charmaine is currently doing an MA in drawing at UAL Wimbledon. Her practice is about mapping history on the body through life sized drawings and has just finished her first residency in Italy.

Adelaide Damoah - Artist

Adelaide is a British artist of Ghanaian descent whose earlier work combined African and Western influences while highlighting social issues.

To find out more about tonight's contributors go to <http://JohnBlanke.com>

Internet <http://JohnBlanke.com>
 Facebook <http://Facebook.com/WholsJohnBlanke>

Twitter [@WholsJohnBlanke](https://twitter.com/WholsJohnBlanke) [#JohnBlanke](https://twitter.com/JohnBlanke)
 Mailto JohnBlanke1511@gmail.com

I imagined John Blanke as....

a **Jazz musician** a man who was proud and confident

a strong minded individual **Shabaka Hutchings**

a talented career musician **not as an image I hear**

him A REFLECTION OF MYSELF *a bold and brassy leader a*

powerful force of sound a talented, proud yet sad man

a seasoned traveller **a Cheerful fellow** someone who

strived to use his skills to succeed **both self-assured and soulful**

a fellow diaspora musician and parent HAVING A STRONG SENSE

OF DETERMINATION, PERHAPS QUITE FEARLESS a lone black

person in the white context of the Royal Court **a learned**

man a man *a graphic crowbar* a musician **a survivor** an

exceptional musician **a Jazz musician** **a real person not**

fragmented to fit in a box or category of inclusiveness

a man of courage a man who blew a medieval fanfare

a time traveller an individual in possession of

exceptional talents **physically and**

emotionally strong *a "trump card"* a talented man

in his own right the firstborn son of Nana Damoah

A CONFIDENT AND ASSERTIVE CHARACTER a man who might

have felt he was a stranger in many strange lands.