

# The people will open the Bergen International Festival on a yellow catwalk

About 150 well-known and unknown people make a vibrant portrait of the city for the Bergen International Festival opening ceremony.

The project is called [What Is the City but the People?](#) and will be performed in the city centre. Here a yellow 60-meter catwalk will be built, and on it will walk people and groups handpicked from the population of Bergen. They will all be presented with photographs and a short, personal story while on the catwalk.

'I can't imagine a better opening of my first Bergen International Festival.

International artists are connected with a local artistic team and great representatives of different sides of the city. All together it will become a touching portrait of who we are,' says Lars Petter Hagen, who assumed the position of Festival director last year.

The performance had its world premiere in Manchester in 2017, and director Richard Gregory works with the team in Bergen to convey the city's story and soul. The music is created by Gisle Martens Meyer, and Finn Tokvam, Thor Brødreskift and Linda Børnes will provide text, images and content.

The whole opening day takes place [in the presence of Their Majesties King Harald and Queen Sonja of Norway](#), and will continue with [Tosca in Grieghallen the same evening, featuring Lise Davidsen, Freddie De Tommaso and Bryn Terfel](#).

The opening ceremony marks the beginning of the 15 days of the Festival. The event is free and open for all.

## What Is the City but the People? – Opening Ceremony

Festplassen

Wednesday 24 May at 12:30

Photo: From *What Is the City but the People?* in Manchester in 2017. Photo: Jon Super. [Click here for press photos.](#)

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