

## The Great Escape 2026 | 13–16 May 2026, Brighton

### Delegate Profiles

#### Abderrahman Daghay (Abdou) – Morocco



**Abdou** is a Tangier-based producer and cultural entrepreneur at the forefront of Morocco’s contemporary music and arts scene. As the founder and creative director of **The Local Sessions**, he has developed one of the country’s most dynamic platforms for showcasing Moroccan artistic talent, amplifying voices across music, performance, and cultural production. Under Abdou’s leadership, **The Local Spring Festival** has grown into Tangier’s vibrant international celebration of music, art, and culture. This multi-day festival bridges tradition and contemporary creativity, strengthening local cultural identity while connecting Moroccan talent to global audiences.

#### Ahmad Faris Bin Abdul Hamid – Malaysia



**Ahmad Faris** is the founder and creative director of **TAPAU**, an independent music and culture platform rooted in Malaysia’s indie scene. Over the past decade, TAPAU has evolved into a multi-platform brand supporting the regional indie movement through a range of initiatives, including **TAPAUfest**, an annual regional indie music festival; **TAPAUawards**, a platform celebrating local independent artists; and **TAPAUkon**, a conference dedicated to the indie creative community. His current focus is **TAPAUasia**, an evolving digital platform envisioned as the online home of the Southeast Asian indie community. The platform aims to connect artists, audiences, and industry players across borders, strengthening regional networks and amplifying independent voices throughout Southeast Asia.

## Gülşah Güray – Turkey



**Gülşah Güray** is a Turkish radio host, broadcast director, music journalist, and curator with over 25 years of experience in the alternative music scene. She is the Broadcast Director at **Radio Eksen** and the host of the station's long-running flagship morning show.

A graduate of **Yeditepe University's Radio, Television, and Cinema Department**, Gülşah has conducted numerous in-depth interviews with local and international artists and has written for publications including **Rolling Stone Turkey** and **Billboard Magazine**.

In recent years, her work has expanded to include short-form radio documentaries and curated YouTube programmes focused on music presentation, curation, and international exchange, alongside her ongoing responsibilities in broadcast leadership and live radio production.

## Miro Grgić – Philippines



**Miro Grgić** is a musician, sound engineer, and concert promoter whose journey began with guitars, drums, mixing desks, and turntables long before he founded the **Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival**, Southeast Asia's pioneering destination music and arts event, now marking over 15 years.

Malasimbo has served as a launchpad for international talent, introducing artists such as **Jacob Collier, FKJ, and Jordan Rakei** to the region at the early stages of their international careers.

Beyond Malasimbo, Miro is the **Director of Funktion-One Philippines**, representing the prestigious British loudspeaker brand in the region.

## Mohamed Ben Saïd – Tunisia



**Mohamed Ben Saïd** is a Tunisian cultural entrepreneur, festival director, and music producer with over 20 years of experience working across North Africa, Europe, and the Middle East. He is the founder of **Akacia Productions**, a company active in artist booking, international touring, and the development of cross-border cultural projects.

Mohamed serves as **Executive Producer of the International Festival of Dougga**, where he led its strategic repositioning as an international music platform that connects heritage sites with contemporary music scenes. Within this framework, he has developed partnerships with international platforms, including **English Folk Expo**, supporting artist mobility, exchange, and long-term collaboration. His work focuses on building sustainable cultural ecosystems, strengthening links between emerging and established markets, and supporting artists' international careers.

## Rafael Pereira – India



Rafael serves as **Executive Trustee of the India Music Exchange**, India's only multilateral music trade and investment office. In this role, he organises the **India International Music Week**, facilitating dialogue, trade, and collaboration between Indian and international music industries.

**Rafael Pereira** is an impresario working at the intersection of law, business, and technology. He is also Managing Partner of **TINNUTS**, a full-service law firm, where he advises and represents leading creators, artists, producers, publishers, labels, studios, agencies, funds, and entrepreneurs across the global creative economy. Rafael's expertise in international trade and public policy has led him to advise governments and international organisations on topics including traditional knowledge, cultural expression and intellectual property, development financing, upskilling, creative economic mobility, in-country value generation, and sustainable impact investing.

## British Council Staff

### Joel Mills, Music Director – UK



As Director of Music, Joel oversees the music portfolio for British Council, leading on key partnerships and programmes. With a background of over 25 years in the music and arts sector, that bridges both the commercial and funded sector, Joel joined the British Council in 2009. She has developed numerous programmes that support international collaboration, residencies and professional exchange opportunities. Having worked extensively with teams in South Asia, East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, she spent several months in South Africa as Interim Director Arts, Sub-Saharan Africa. As well as leading the global Music portfolio for British Council, she has championed and led many cross-disciplinary work with music and film, arts and tech such as British Council's work at SXSW.

### Tom Sweet, Senior Relationship Manager Music – UK



Since joining the British Council music team in 2015, Tom has worked extensively developing music programmes in Europe and south Asia. He led on the creation of: 'Envision Sound', a film scoring programme for emerging composers; Selector PRO, a music industry capacity building programme; and 'Creative Producers', a project to develop cross-sectoral arts practice and ecosystems across Europe. Tom has played a key role in the shaping and delivery of large-scale programmes, grant schemes and British Council 'seasons' in countries including Ukraine, Pakistan, India and many others.

Since 2022, Tom has taken on the relationship management role of our very own Selector Radio and overseen the partnership delivery of the new Selector Presents live events at The Great Escape festival in Brighton and South by Southwest (SXSW) in Texas, USA.