

What's new in London for 2016



Lumiere London, 14 – 17 January 2016. Credit - Janet Echelman.

Attractions

ZSL London Zoo - Land of the Lions

ZSL London Zoo, opened 17 March 2016

Land of the Lions will provide state-of-the-art facilities for a breeding group of endangered Asiatic lions, of which only 400 remain in the wild. Giving millions of people the chance to get up-close to the big cats, visitors to Land of the Lions will be able to see just how closely humans and lions live in the Gir Forest, with tantalising glimpses of the lions' habitat appearing throughout a bustling Indian 'village'. For more information contact Rebecca Blanchard on rebecca.blanchard@zsl.org / 020 7449 6236

New Tate Modern

Southbank, opening 17 June 2016

The new Tate Modern will be unveiled with a complete re-hang, bringing together much-loved works from the collection with new acquisitions made for the nation since Tate Modern first opened in 2000. With 60% more display space, this popular gallery of modern art will now feature over 250 artists from around 50 countries. It will offer a variety of spaces for visitors and for art, from the raw industrial Tanks to a panoramic roof terrace overlooking the London skyline. There will also be new urban spaces to the south and west of the building, completing the site's transformation from a closed, industrial ruin to an open, public space. For more information contact Helen.Beeckmans@tate.org.uk / 020 7887 4939.

Arcelor Mittal Orbit giant slide

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, opening 24 June 2016

Anish Kapoor has invited Belgian artist Carsten Höller to create a giant slide for the ArcelorMittal Orbit. This is a unique collaboration between two of the world's leading artists and will be a major new interactive art installation for the capital. The slide will be the world's longest and tallest tunnel slide, measuring approximately 178m long and 76m high. There will be transparent sections on the slide so you can marvel at the view. For more information contact Victoria Coombes at Mango PR on victoria.coombes@mangopr.com / 020 7421 2500

Goldsmiths Art Gallery

New Cross, opening autumn 2016

Over the last 25 years Goldsmiths graduates have been instrumental in turning contemporary art into one of the most dynamic art forms in British culture, with seven Turner Prize winners and 24 shortlisted Turner Prize artists coming from Goldsmiths. Ambitious plans for a new art gallery at Goldsmiths, University of London, will come to fruition in 2016. The gallery will run a programme of exhibitions, projects and residencies by leading artists and curators from the UK and abroad. For more information contact Peter Austin at Goldsmiths on p.austin@gold.ac.uk

London's Design Museum

Kensington High Street, 24 November 2016

2016 will see London's Design Museum relocate to the Commonwealth Institute building in Kensington. The move will give the museum three times more space than in its location at Shad Thames, with vastly improved learning facilities and a dedicated gallery to display its permanent collection, which will be accessible free of charge, as well as bringing the museum into Kensington's cultural quarter. For more information contact the Design Museum Press Office on media@designmuseum.org

Mathematics: The David and Claudia Harding Gallery

Science Museum of London, 2016

Mathematics: The David and Claudia Harding Gallery will be curated by David Rooney, who previously curated the award-winning Codebreaker exhibition about the life and legacy of Alan Turing. The gallery will tell stories that place the subject at the heart of our lives, exploring how mathematicians, such as Turing, and their tools and ideas have helped to shape the modern world. For more information contact the Science Museum of London Press Office on pressoffice@sciencemuseum.org.uk

Anniversaries

400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death

2016 commemorates 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare and this special anniversary year is a truly unique opportunity to visit his London haunts. To mark this special occasion, take a tour of the Globe Theatre – one of the most iconic and atmospheric performance venues in London – including the newly opened Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The Bard's most avid bookworms can take a look at 107 copies of his plays from 1624 at the British Library. For more information on celebrations across London see the official website: <http://www.shakespeare400.org/>

100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth

Born on 13 September 1916, Roald Dahl captured the imagination of children around the world with his tales including James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, The Witches, Fantastic Mr Fox, The Twits and The BFG. To celebrate his life and works, indulge in a Matilda-themed afternoon tea at Scoff & Banter following a matinee of the award-winning musical at the Cambridge Theatre. For more information on Matilda the Musical contact Chloe at the Corner Shop PR on chloe@thecornershoppr.com / 020 7494 3665 and on the Matilda afternoon tea, LAMBAS@edwardian.com

350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London

Starting in a small bakery on Pudding Lane, the infamous Great Fire of London swept across the City of London over three days 350 years ago. Climb inside Sir Christopher Wren's flame-topped Monument which stands in the City today, offering panoramic views over London, or visit the Museum of London's War, Plague and Fire gallery to mark the occasion. For more information contact the City of London Press Office on press@cityoflondon.gov.uk

100th anniversary of Battle of the Somme

Commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the British and French offensive launched against German lines during the First World War. At the Imperial War Museum First World War Gallery, discover the story of the Great War through the lives of those who experienced it both on the front line and at home. For more information contact Nina Smetek at the Imperial War Museum Press Office on nsmetek@iwm.org.uk

50th anniversary of the English World Cup victory

50 years on from the first English victory since football's World Cup began, take a tour of Wembley Stadium to remember this great moment. The guided tour includes access to Wembley's historical treasures such as the 1966 World Cup crossbar, the England changing rooms, the Jules Rimet Trophy commemorating England's World Cup glory and a chance to take Roy Hodgson's hot seat in the Press Box. For more information contact Adam Burrage on adam.burrage@wembleystadium.com

Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday

London has a whole host of events designed to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. From the Pret-a-Portea Afternoon Tea on offer at the Berkeley Hotel, modelled on her most iconic fashion staples, to the exhibition *Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe* at Buckingham Palace, London will certainly be celebrating the Queen's birthday in style. For a Royal-themed London itinerary, visit our website:

<http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/sightseeing/one-day-itineraries/london-day-out-royal-attractions>

Exhibitions

It's a Hard World for Little Things

V&A Museum of Childhood, 9 January – 17 July 2016

Children Carrying Heavy Objects is a series of six large-scale drawings that depict children and the burdens that they carry. The graphite drawings by C A Halpin show children carrying physical, societal and political loads such as: water; a blackboard; each other; in grief and love, or in the loneliness of a runaway boy. The images explore children's absolute will to survive in a sometimes-hostile adult world and reflects the plight of children on a global and domestic scale; the show features local children and others from around the world. For more information contact mocpress@vam.ac.uk

Otherworlds

Natural History Museum, 22 January - 15 May 2016

This exhibition of 73 composite images by artist, curator and writer Michael Benson represent a joining together of art and science: raw data provided by NASA and ESA missions has been painstakingly processed and assembled for public display. This exhibition will explore the beauty of our Solar System and demonstrate that the visual legacy of six decades of space exploration constitutes a visually stunning, important chapter in the history of photography. An audio guide complements the striking visuals with insights into the work of leading Museum scientists such as Dr Joe Michalski, who is investigating the geological processes that shaped Mars to better understand the early life of our own planet. For more information contact press@nhm.ac.uk

Electronic Superhighway

Whitechapel Art Gallery, 29 January – 15 May 2016

Exploring the impact of computer and networked technologies on artists from the mid-1960s to the present day, Electronic Superhighway includes new and rarely seen multimedia works, film, painting, sculpture, photography and drawing by over 60 artists including Cory Arcangel, Roy Ascott, Jeremy Bailey, Judith Barry and James Bridle, telling the story of an interconnected global culture marked by mass social and political change. For more information contact alexoneill@whitechapelgallery.org

Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse

Royal Academy, 30 January — 20 April 2016

Trace the emergence of the modern garden through a period of great social change and innovation in the arts. Monet, arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art, once said he owed his painting "to flowers". But Monet was far from alone in his fascination with the horticultural world, which is why the exhibition will also feature paintings by Renoir, Cezanne, Pissarro, Manet, Sargent, Kandinsky, Van Gogh, Matisse, Klimt and Klee. For more information contact press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

Painting Norway: Nikolai Astrup

Dulwich Picture Gallery, 5 February - 15 May 2016

Best known in Norway for his paintings of the country's famous Midsummer Eve bonfires, Astrup's landscapes evoke the atmosphere and mood of the changing seasons in his home district of Jølster. Over 90 oil paintings and prints, including works from private collections never exhibited before, will bring Astrup's Norway to Dulwich, exploring key influences and the artist's distinctive style as printmaker. For more information contact

l.bee@dulwichpicturegallery.org

Curtain Up: Celebrating 40 Years of Theatre

V&A Museum, 9 February – 31 August 2016

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Olivier Awards in April 2016, Curtain Up showcases material from multi-award-winning productions such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, *A Chorus Line* and *Wolf Hall* and highlights outstanding theatre practitioners. Through this theatrical experience by acclaimed stage designer Tom Piper, Curtain Up invites you to glimpse behind the scenes and immerse yourself into the world of artistic collaboration to discover how all aspects of a production come together in great theatre. For more information contact press@vam.ac.uk

Leonardo da Vinci: The Mechanics of Genius

Science Museum of London, 10 February – 4 September 2016

A visually stunning and interactive exhibition will highlight the immense talent that cemented Leonardo's reputation as an exceptional mind and enduring inspiration in the fields of engineering and art. The exhibition takes the machines that Leonardo drew and reinterprets them in three-dimensional models, including weapons, diving apparatus and flying machines. For more information contact pressoffice@sciencemuseum.org.uk

Vogue 100: A Century of Style

National Portrait Gallery, 11 February – 22 May 2016

Vogue 100: A Century of Style will showcase the remarkable range of photography that has been commissioned by British Vogue since it was founded in 1916. Over 280 prints from the Condé Nast archive and international collections will be shown together for the first time to tell the story of one of the most influential fashion magazines in the world. For more information contact sross@npg.org.uk

Pre-Raphaelites on Paper: Victorian Drawings from the Lanigan Collection

Leighton House Museum, 12 February – 29 May 2016

Illustrating the broad evolution of draughtsmanship and the new appreciation for the art of drawing that emerged during the reign of Queen Victoria, from 1837 to 1901, the selection of artworks ranges from preparatory sketches to highly finished drawings intended as works of art in themselves. Highlights are the works of the foremost Pre-Raphaelite artists, John Everett Millais, William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, as well as exceptional drawings by artists such as Edward Burne-Jones, Simeon Solomon, George Frederic Watts, and Frederic Leighton himself. For more information contact ana.garcia@rbkc.gov.uk

Delacroix and the Rise of Modern Art

National Gallery, 17 February – 22 May 2016

The first major presentation of Delacroix's art in Britain for more than 50 years will survey his dynamic career and then move beyond it, to assess the influence he exerted for five decades following his death until the early years of the 20th century. Delacroix is credited with liberating colour and technique from traditional practices, paving the way for new styles of painting. Following Delacroix's death in 1863, generations of artists continually turned to him to find new directions for their art. For more information contact press@ng-london.org.uk

Performing for the Camera

Tate Modern, 18 February – 12 June 2016

From capturing performances to creating a new kind of stage for performers, this exhibition looks at the interactions between photography and performance across 150 years, from the invention of the camera in the 19th century to the emergence of the selfie. On display are photographs documenting the performance works by Yves Klein, Eleanor Antin and Yayoi Kusama, and photographic work by Charles Ray, Erwin Wurm and Boris Mikhailov, capturing performances staged exclusively for their cameras. For more information contact pressoffice@tate.org.uk

Botticelli Reimagined

Victoria and Albert Museum, 5 March - 3 July 2016.

This innovative exhibition will explore the variety of ways artists and designers from the Pre-Raphaelites to the present have responded to the artistic legacy of Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510). The largest Botticelli exhibition in Britain since 1930, it will include around 50 original works by Botticelli from great collections across the world shown alongside more recent masterpieces of art and design including work by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, René Magritte, Elsa Schiaparelli, Andy Warhol and Cindy Sherman. For more information contact press@vam.ac.uk

Strange and Familiar: Britain as Revealed by International Photographers

Barbican Art Gallery, 16 March – 19 June 2016

Curated by the iconic British photographer Martin Parr, this exhibition is a timely consideration of how international photographers from the 1930s onwards have captured the social, cultural, political and topographical identity of the UK through the camera lens. Designed by Stirling Prize winning London based architects Witherford, Watson, Mann, Strange and Familiar presents a vibrant portrait of modern Britain. The exhibition includes works by some of the leading lights of 20th century photography such as Henri Cartier-Bresson (France), Edith Tudor-Hart (Austria), and Tina Barney (USA). For more information contact ariane.oiticica@barbican.org.uk

Paul Strand: Photography and Film for the 20th Century

Victoria and Albert Museum, 19 March – 3 July 2016

Strand was one of the greatest and most influential photographers of the 20th century whose images have defined the way fine art and documentary photography is understood and practiced today. The exhibition will present around 200 objects spanning Strand's entire career, including his breakthrough trials in abstraction and candid street portraits. For more information contact press@vam.ac.uk

The Clangers, Bagpuss & Co.

V&A Museum of Childhood, 19 March – 9 October 2016

Created by Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin, and filmed in a barn in rural Kent, these characters brought new life to children's television. The Clangers, Bagpuss & Co will be the first major retrospective of Smallfilms – Firmin and Postgate's influential and much-loved production company – and include films not seen for decades. Postgate's voice and Firmin's puppets and artwork are cornerstones of 20th century British culture and their quirky and inventive programmes shaped the childhood memories of millions. As well as telling the story of Bagpuss and The Clangers, the exhibition will go behind the scenes of some of their other creations: Pogles Wood, Noggin the Nog and Ivor the Engine. For more information contact rebecca@rebeccaward.co.uk

EXHIBITIONISM

Saatchi Gallery, 5 April – 4 September 2016

The first international exhibition on the Rolling Stones will take over the entire two floors of the Saatchi Gallery with 9 thematic galleries. EXHIBITIONISM combines over 500 original Stones' artefacts, with striking cinematic and interactive technologies offering the most comprehensive insight into the band's fifty year history. For more information contact press@saatchigallery.com

Shakespeare in Ten Acts

British Library, 15 April – 6 September 2016

This landmark exhibition takes visitors on a journey through the 400 year history of William Shakespeare, such as the first production of Hamlet and demonstrates how Shakespeare's plays have been transformed for new generation theatre-goers. Shakespeare in Ten Acts, showcases over 200 unique and rare items such as the only surviving play-script in

Shakespeare's hand, an authentic Shakespeare signature, the earliest printed edition of Hamlet from 1603 and Shakespeare's First Folio. For more information contact press@bl.uk

Maria Merian's Butterflies

The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace, 15 April – 9 October 2016

In 1966, Maria Sibylla Merian spent two years living in Suriname in South America, to study animals and insects, exploring the life-cycle of the insects which was relatively unknown at the time. Maria Merian's Butterflies tells Merian's story through her works in the Royal Collection, acquired by George III. Over 300 years since they were made, some of the finest images of the natural world ever produced will go on display, showing brilliant partially printed and hand painted works. For more information contact press@royalcollection.org.uk

Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear

Victoria and Albert Museum, 16 April 2016 – 5 February 2017

Addressing the practicalities of underwear and its role in the fashionable wardrobe whilst highlighting its sensual appeal, this exhibition will explore dress reformers and designers such as Paul Poiret, who argued for the beauty of the natural body, as well as entrepreneurs and innovators who have played a critical role in the development of more effective and comfortable underwear. On display will be around 140 garments and accessories for men and women together with fashion plates, photographs and film, advertisements and packaging to introduce changing concepts of the ideal body. For more information contact press@vam.ac.uk

Pick Me Up: Graphic Art Festival

Somerset House, 21 April – 2 May 2016

The festival displays all forms of graphic art including illustrations, animation, 3D installations and more, from top emerging artists and established industry names. This year, Pick Me Up will host a retrospective exhibition of works by typographer and printmaker Alan Kitching and feature over 100 prints, showing his journey from apprentice to world-renowned designer. Visitors will be able to meet some of the artists, designers and illustrators plus create their own work at hands-on workshops and events that run throughout the 12-day festival. For more information contact press@somerset.org.uk

Sicily: culture and conquest

British Museum, 21 April – 14 August 2016

The British Museum will open the first exhibition in the UK to explore 4000 years of history of the island of Sicily. The exhibition will provide insight into the vibrant past of the Italian island and shed light on the remarkable artistic and architectural achievements of the island. Over 200 objects will be brought together from the British Museum's own collection, along with loans from Sicily and around the world. For more information contact

lfox@britishmuseum.org

Art and Photography from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Modern Age

Tate Britain, 11 May – 25 September 2016

The first major exhibition to celebrate the spirited conversation between early photography and British art will bring together photographs, paintings and sculptures including Pre-Raphaelite, Aesthetic and British Impressionist works. Spanning 75 years across the Victorian and Edwardian ages, the exhibition opens with the experimental beginnings of photography in dialogue with painters such as J.M.W. Turner and concludes with its flowering as an independent international art form. Stunning works by John Everett Millais, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, JAM Whistler, John Singer Sargent, John William Waterhouse and others will for the first time be shown alongside photographs which they inspired and which were inspired by them. For more information contact Kate.Moores@tate.org.uk

Photo London

Somerset House, 19 – 22 May 2016

Photo London is a unique festival of photography, centred around a major international photography fair featuring over 80 exhibitors. Running over five days at Somerset House, the fair showcases the broad range of photographic practice, from vintage to contemporary. Photo London also features an innovative public programme supported by the LUMA Foundation, which includes talks and lectures, exhibitions, performances and installations. For more information contact sid.motion@candlestar.co.uk

Unseen: Photographs by Wolfgang Suschitzky, Dorothy Bohm and Neil Libbert

Ben Uri Gallery & Museum 20 May – 27 August 2016

The gallery's first exhibition to bring together three major twentieth-century photographers, presenting their artistic responses to three great world cities across three crucial decades. Today, London, Paris and New York are so familiar that it is hard for a modern viewer to imagine them without the visual expectations fostered by art, film and advertising in the digital age. The exhibition includes works never previously exhibited in the UK, and each series presents an opportunity to view an aspect of the work of a renowned photographer in real depth. For more information contact barron@dircon.co.uk

Above and Beyond

National Maritime Museum, 27 May – 29 August 2016

Explored through five key themes that define flight and space travel – Up, Faster, Higher, Farther, and Smarter – Above and Beyond is a hands-on journey that provides visitors of all ages and interests with both retrospective and forward-thinking views on the innovation and science behind flight. The exhibition produced in collaboration with NASA will feature interactive experiences made possible using flight simulation, augmented reality, and virtual reality, including a simulated space elevator ride. The exhibition will also span Boeing's centennial date of July 15, 2016, following the founding of the company by Bill Boeing. For more information contact press@rmg.co.uk

Mary Heilmann

Whitechapel Art Gallery, 8 June – 21 August 2016

Born in California in 1940, Heilmann studied ceramics and poetry before moving to New York in 1968 and taking up painting. Her vibrantly coloured, abstract canvases reference popular culture, particular places and personal experiences with a good dose of humour. The exhibition will feature paintings, works on paper, furniture and ceramics from Heilmann's five-decade career. For more information contact alexoneill@whitechapelgallery.org

David Hockney RA: 77 Portraits, 2 Still Lives

Royal Academy, 2 July – 2 October 2016

Embracing portraiture with a renewed creative vigour, Hockney offers an intimate snapshot of the LA art world and the people who have crossed his path over the last two years. His subjects – all friends, family and acquaintances – include office staff, fellow artists, curators and gallerists such as John Baldessari and Larry Gagosian. Each work is the same size, showing his sitter in the same chair, against the same vivid blue background and all were painted in the same time frame of three days. Yet Hockney's virtuoso paint handling allows their differing personalities to leap off the canvas with warmth and immediacy. For more information contact press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

Georgia O'Keeffe

Tate Modern, 6 July – 30 October 2016

The summer of 2016 brings the first large-scale, monographic show of Georgia O'Keeffe's work, a founding figure of American modernism, to the UK for more than twenty years. This ambitious and wide-ranging overview will reassess O'Keeffe's place in the canon of modern art, charting her progression from early abstract experiments to late work. The serialised,

increasingly economic and stylised paintings of the southwestern locations called the 'Black Place' and the 'White Place', will be at the heart of the exhibition. For more information contact Ruth.Findlay@tate.org.uk

Fire! Fire!

Museum of London, 23 July 2016 – 17 April 2017

350 years ago one of the most infamous disasters struck London – the Great Fire of London. Discover the city before, during and after the blaze in this interactive family exhibition. Find out how the fire started and spread, and discover the personal stories of the people who were there at the time. View rarely seen artefacts from 1666, compare modern and contemporary firefighting techniques and learn how the city we know today rose from the ashes. For more information contact ljackson@museumoflondon.org.uk

Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe

Buckingham Palace, 23 July - 2 October 2016

Constituting the largest display of The Queen's dress ever mounted, this exhibition will chart significant events in The Queen's life and the nation's history through an unprecedented collection of dress, jewellery and accessories designed for these occasions, from childhood to the present day. The Queen's support of British couture and millinery will be highlighted through important pieces created for a world stage by renowned designers, including Sir Norman Hartnell, Sir Hardy Amies and Ian Thomas. For more information contact press@royalcollection.org.uk

Abstract Expressionism

Royal Academy, 24 September 2016 — 2 January 2017

For the first time since 1959, the Abstract Expressionism movement as a whole will be represented in one landmark show in London. It is an opportunity to re-evaluate an artistic phenomenon, and make the case that far from being unified, Abstract Expressionism was in fact far more complex. In addition to featuring work of the most celebrated artists associated with the movement: Kline, Pollock, Rothko, Newman, Still, and de Kooning, work by lesser-known – but no less influential – artists will also be displayed to reveal the breadth of a movement that gave New York City an artistic identity. For more information contact press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

Adriaen van de Velde: Master of the Dutch Golden Age

Dulwich Picture Gallery, 12 October 2016 - 15 January 2017

Van de Velde died at the early age of 35, and yet he produced a great number of masterpieces that earned him posthumous fame in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, when he was one of the most sought-after names among collectors in Germany, France and England. The exhibition will bring together some 60 works including some of the artist's most famous paintings, many of which will be reunited for the first time with their preparatory studies in red chalk or pen and ink. The exhibition will offer not only a survey of the artist's oeuvre but also a rare glimpse of a seventeenth-century Dutch landscape painter at work, from conception to completion. For more information contact l.bee@dulwichpicturegallery.org

Paul Nash

Tate Britain, 26 October 2016 – 5 March 2017

Known as a landscape artist, who engaged with the downland and coastal landscapes of southern England and its ancient past, those landscapes also provided a stage for Paul Nash's engagements with an international modernism, specifically Surrealism. The exhibition presents the artist's major works from his early Symbolist manner, through to the iconic works of the First World War, as well as his landscapes of the interwar period. For more information contact Kate.Moores@tate.org.uk

Portrait of the Artist

The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 4 November 2016 – 23 April 2017

The first exhibition to focus on images of artists from within the Royal Collection, Portrait of the Artist not only showcases self-portraits by world-renowned artists including Rembrandt, Rubens, Artemisia Gentileschi, Lucian Freud and David Hockney but also features images of artists by their friends, relatives and pupils, including the most reliable surviving likeness of Leonardo da Vinci by his student, Francesco Melzi. Well-known self-portraits intended to advertise the artist's talents will be shown alongside more intimate and personal works. For more information contact press@royalcollection.org.uk

Seduction and Celebrity: The Spectacular Life of Emma Hamilton

National Maritime Museum, opening November 2016

From humble origins, Emma Hamilton rose to international fame as a model, performer and interpreter of neo-classical fashion, but is remembered simply as the mistress of Britain's greatest naval hero, Admiral Lord Nelson. Emma's story will be told through over 200 objects: exceptional fine art; antiquities that inspired Emma's famous 'attitudes'; costumes that show her impact on contemporary fashions; prints and caricatures that carried her image to a mass audience; her personal letters and those of Nelson and William Hamilton; and the uniform coat that Nelson wore at Trafalgar, retained by Emma until destitution forced her to part with it. For more information contact press@rmg.co.uk

Robert Rauschenberg

Tate Modern, 1 December 2016 – 2 April 2017

The first posthumous retrospective of Robert Rauschenberg, also his first comprehensive exhibition in the UK for almost thirty-five years will take place in London. Co-organised with MoMA in New York, each chapter of Rauschenberg's long career will be represented by important works, among which will be a stellar selection of his legendary *Combines* – hybrids between painting and sculpture – as well as his graphic screen prints whose depiction of the assassinated US president John F Kennedy signal the artist's early commitment to political activism. For more information contact Ruth.Findlay@tate.org.uk

You Say You Want a Revolution? Records & Rebels 1966-70

Victoria and Albert Museum, 10 September 2016 – 26 February 2017

This major exhibition will explore the era-defining significance and impact of the late 1960s upon life today. From global civil rights, multiculturalism, environmentalism, consumerism, computing, communality to neoliberalist politics, the world we live in has been vitally influenced by five revolutionary years 1966 – 70. Mapping a shift in the mindset of the Western world, the exhibition will investigate the upheaval, the explosive sense of freedom, and the legal changes that took place. For more information contact press@vam.ac.uk

The EY Exhibition: Wifredo Lam

Tate Modern, 14 September 2016 – 8 January 2017

Wifredo Lam's work lies between East and West, Surrealism and tradition, Africa and the Caribbean, Europe and America. Lam's career covers academic training in 1920's Madrid, an encounter with Cubism and Surrealism in Paris, collaboration with André Breton and others in Marseille in 1940–1, and his engagement with Caribbean intellectuals in Martinique, Haiti and Cuba during and after the Second World War. His work which defined new ways of painting for the New World, was greeted with consternation and acclaim in New York. For more information contact Ruth.Findlay@tate.org.uk

Picasso Portraits

National Portrait Gallery, 6 October 2016 – 5 February 2017

Picasso's portraits epitomise the variety and innovation of his art. This major exhibition of over eighty works focuses on the artist's portrayal of family, friends and lovers and reveals his creative processes as he moved freely between drawing from life, humorous caricature

and expressive painting from memory. On display will be portraits from all periods of Picasso's career and in all media, from the realist paintings of his boyhood to his later ultra-spontaneous canvases. For more information contact amellor@npg.org.uk

Beyond Caravaggio

National Gallery, 12 October 2016 – 15 January 2017

With their eye-catching, dramatic lighting and intense naturalism, Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio's paintings inspired a multitude of artists during his lifetime and in the decades immediately after his untimely death. Beyond Caravaggio is the first major exhibition in the UK to explore the impact of Caravaggio's work both on the art of his contemporaries and followers. For more information contact press@ng-london.org.uk

The Vulgar

Barbican Art Gallery, 13 October 2016 – 5 February 2017

Potent, powerful and sometimes shocking, the word vulgar conjures up strong images, ideas and feelings in us all. The Vulgar is the first exhibition to chart this inherently challenging but utterly compelling territory of taste. It both questions notions of vulgarity in fashion while revelling in its excesses, inviting the visitor to think again about exactly what makes something vulgar and why it is such a sensitive, contested and provocative term. For more information contact press@barbican.org.uk

Entertainment

Mrs Henderson Presents

Noel Coward Theatre, 9 February - 18 June 2016

Based on the acclaimed film that starred Dame Judi Dench and Bob Hoskins, this glitzy production tells the colourful wartime story of London's Windmill Theatre. The eccentric and recently-widowed Laura Henderson is looking for a new project on which to focus her time and money. She takes a liking to a run-down cinema on Great Windmill Street where she puts on a variety show. As the Second World War breaks out, something with a bit more pep is needed to boost morale. Mrs Henderson presents a new idea: The Windmill Girls, exotic and glamorous women who pose on stage as nude statues. Causing uproar, mayhem and joy, the show takes off and The Windmill becomes a refuge from the war. For more information contact delfont@delfontmackintosh.co.uk

Motown the Musical

Shaftesbury Theatre, 11 February - 22 October 2016

Already a huge hit on Broadway, having won a Tony Award and many fans, the electrifying show makes its long awaited debut in London. With just \$800 borrowed from his family, Berry Gordy founded Motown records and launched the careers of music greats including Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and even Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5. Boasting hits such as Dancing in the Street, I Heard it Through the Grapevine, Ain't No Mountain High Enough and My Girl, the show uncovers the story of the legendary record label that changed music history. For more information contact Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com

The Maids

Trafalgar Studios, 20 February – 21 May 2016

Orange is the New Black's Uzo Aduba makes her London stage debut, starring alongside Downton Abbey's Laura Carmichael. It is a tale of two French sisters who serve as maids to a wealthy and beautiful woman, and their constant fantasising each time she is away about the ways they would murder her. Based on a true story, Jean Genet's play premiered in 1947, 13 years after the actual murder took place, an act he interpreted as a compelling symbol of class relations. For more information contact info@thecornershoppr.com

The Caretaker

The Old Vic Theatre, 26 March – 14 May 2016

When it premiered in 1960, The Caretaker changed the face of modern theatre. Now Harold Pinter's groundbreaking classic comes to The Old Vic in a new production directed by Matthew Warchus. Disturbed handyman Aston has invited an irascible tramp to stay with him at his brother's jumbled London flat. At first it seems that the manipulative guest will take advantage of his vulnerable host. But when Aston's brother Mick arrives, an enigmatic power struggle emerges between the three men that is in equal parts menacing, touching and darkly comic. For more information contact office@joallanpr.com

Sunset Boulevard

London Coliseum, 1 April – 7 May 2016

Glenn Close will make her West End debut as Norma Desmond, the faded silent movie star, in Sunset Boulevard. The full English National Opera orchestra will appear on stage alongside the cast in this semi-staged production. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and book and lyrics by Don Black and Christopher Hampton, Sunset Boulevard is not to be missed. For more information contact Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com

Udderbelly Festival

Southbank Centre, 7 April – 17 July 2016

This extravaganza of comedy, circus and family entertainment returns to the Southbank Centre, in the iconic upside down purple cow. Enjoy stand-up performances from some of the brightest talent as 'Best of the Comedy Store' returns, plus see who wins the title of best stand-up at the English Comedian of the Year Grand Final. Grab a drink at one of the biggest outdoor bars in London and enjoy delicious food in the pasture, which is completely free to enter. For more information contact press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Funny Girl

Savoy Theatre, 9 April – 10 September 2016

After a sold out run at the Menier Chocolate Factory, Funny Girl, starring multi-award-winning stage and screen star Sheridan Smith, will transfer to Savoy Theatre. This modern classic is based on the bitter-sweet story of Fanny Brice and her rise to Broadway fame amidst a stormy relationship with gambler Nicky Arnstein. Prepare to sing your heart out as the iconic score returns with songs including Don't Rain on My Parade, People, and You Are Woman, I Am Man. For more information contact julia@katemorleypr.com

The Flick

The National Theatre, 13 April - 14 May 2016

The award winning play by Annie Baker arrives at the National Theatre from New York. The production directed by Sam Gold, sees three employees mopping the floor at a run-down movie theatre in central Massachusetts. Following their battles and heartbreak in a gripping production, The Flick is a hilarious and heart-rending cry for authenticity in a fast-changing world. For more information contact press@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Gilberto Gil + Caetano Veloso

Barbican, 4 May 2016

Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso reunite for an intimate acoustic duo performance, continuing a series of musical collaborations, and a friendship, that's weathered revolution, exile and more. Leading lights of the provocative Tropicalia movement that swept Brazil in the late 1960s, both artists went from being two of Brazil's biggest pop stars to prisoners under house arrest ordered by their country's military dictatorship. Later they became exiles living in London, jamming around the city's underground scene. 50 years on, their music still recalls the radical spirit of the time, blending Brazilian and African rhythms with elements of psychedelia, rock and funk. For more information contact sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan: Songs of the Wander

Sadler's Wells, 4 - 7 May 2016

Acclaimed for its unique fusion of ancient and modern traditions and its exquisite choreography inspired by the spiritual practices of Asia, Songs of the Wanderers is a visually stunning tribute to pilgrimage. Evocative movements, set to a soundtrack of soulful Georgian folksongs sung by the Rustavi Choir, find life on a simple but striking set, including over three tonnes of shimmering golden grains of rice falling to the floor. For more information contact Jolene.Dyke@sadlerswells.com

Romeo and Juliet

The Garrick Theatre, 12 May – 31 August 2016

Reuniting the stars of his celebrated film Cinderella, Kenneth Branagh directs Richard Madden as Romeo, Lily James as Juliet and Derek Jacobi as Mercutio in Shakespeare's heartbreaking tale of forbidden love. One of Shakespeare's most famous and often performed plays, Romeo and Juliet is the story of young love and the devastating tragedy that unfolds when tenderness and naivety is met with violence and pride. For more information see their website: <http://www.branaghtheatre.com/about-the-season.php>

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Barbican Theatre, 17 - 21 May 2016

In 2016, the RSC and amateur companies around the UK will take audiences on a very special Midsummer adventure with a unique production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The nation's favourite Shakespeare play is performed as never before; magically intertwining professional and amateur actors, deep in an enchanted wood on Midsummer's night. For more information contact amy.belson@rsc.org.uk

The Damned

Royal Albert Hall, 20 May 2016

UK punk legends The Damned will be celebrating their 40th anniversary with a special performance at the Royal Albert Hall. True pioneers, the band are famed for being the first punk band from the United Kingdom to release a single, *New Rose*, in 1976, an album, *Damned Damned Damned*, in 1977, as well as being the first to tour the United States. Their breakthrough success undoubtedly paved the way for British punk rock for years to come. For more information contact rickb@royalalberthall.com

The Merchants of Bollywood

Peacock Theatre, 24 May – 11 June 2016

The glamour and glitz of Bollywood bursts onto the stage in 2016. A theatrical dance spectacular starring a large cast and an extravagant array of costumes, *The Merchants of Bollywood* is a riot of swirling colours and sensational dance numbers choreographed by one of Bollywood's top choreographers, Vaibhavi Merchant. For more information contact georgia.mckay@sadlerswells.com

Aladdin

Prince Edward Theatre, 27 May – 1 October 2016

London's West End will welcome Disney's Tony Award-winning musical *Aladdin*, with Broadway cast member Trevor Dion Nicholas making his London stage debut as Genie. Featuring music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice & Chad Beguelin, the musical is based on the hit 1992 animated Disney film of the same name. The stage production keeps many of the songs from the film including "Friend Like Me", "Prince Ali" and the Oscar and Grammy award-winning "A Whole New World", as well as featuring new songs written specifically for the stage. For more information see their website: <http://www.aladdinthemusical.co.uk/>

English National Ballet: Swan Lake

Royal Albert Hall, from 1 - 12 June 2016

Dancers from English National Ballet will perform in Derek Deane's critically acclaimed production of *Swan Lake*. True love triumphs over evil in this powerful story set to Tchaikovsky's memorable score played by the English National Ballet Philharmonic. With 60 swans, stunning costumes and sensational lighting, experience a choreographic kaleidoscope as the Royal Albert Hall is transformed into a magical lake for this unrivalled dance event. For more information contact rickb@royalalberthall.com

King John

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, 1 - 27 June 2016

The remotest in time of all Shakespeare's English history plays, *King John*, with its cynical allegiances and ruthless politicking, now feels his most abrasively modern. This is a first for the Globe and a rare opportunity to see some vividly memorable characters brought to life on the stage – especially the wildly outspoken Faulconbridge, one of Shakespeare's most thrillingly caustic political commentators. For more information contact francesca.m@shakespearesglobe.com

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I and II

The Palace Theatre, 6 June – 30 July 2016

Based on an original new story by J.K. Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child will receive its world premiere in London's West End. Featuring a cast of over 30, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is the eighth story in the Harry Potter series. While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus struggles with the weight of his family legacy. As past and present fuse, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places. For more information contact Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com

Phaedra(s)

Barbican Theatre, 9 – 18 June 2016

French screen and stage actress Isabelle Huppert makes a rare London appearance to play Greek mythology's Phaedra, her story relocated to a modern world. Krzysztof Warlikowski, Artistic Director of Warsaw's Nowy Teatr, bases his new production on the provocative text of Sarah Kane's *Phaedra's Love* and incorporates extracts from J M Coetzee's novel *Elizabeth Costello*. He also introduces fresh material in collaboration with the Lebanese-Canadian playwright Wajdi Mouawad. For more information contact freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk

The Shadow King

Barbican Theatre, 22 June – 2 July 2016

Transporting King Lear to northern Australia, The Shadow King reimagines Shakespeare's tragedy as a blood-soaked tale of two indigenous families divided by land, identity and legitimacy. Told through modern English, Kriol languages and a score, including Aboriginal 'dreamtime' songs, performed live by an onstage band, The Shadow King fuses music, new text and video to create provocative and epic theatre. Following a Best Direction win for Michael Kantor at the 2014 Helpmann Awards, the production brings together Australia's foremost Indigenous actors led by Tom E. Lewis. For more information contact freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Theatre Royal Haymarket, 29 June – 17 September 2016

Truman Capote's classic tale about Holly Golightly, 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' returns to the West End's Theatre Royal Haymarket in a sparkling and sophisticated new production starring singer-songwriter Pixie Lott in the iconic role made famous in the 1961 film by Audrey Hepburn. With memorable songs from the era, this stylish production on the New York socialite is set to capture the hearts of audiences all over again. For more information contact ben@thecornershoppr.com

BBC Proms 2016

Royal Albert Hall, 15 July – 10 September 2016

Each year the BBC Proms host two months of concerts, including the famous Last Night performances, world premieres of contemporary works and shows by a diverse range of artists. In a continuing effort to promote artists from across the musical spectrum, the Proms continues to welcome singers and artists from various genres; as well as classical favourites. For more information contact Caitlin.Benedict@bbc.co.uk

The Entertainer

The Garrick Theatre, 20 August – 12 November 2016

Archie Rice, played by Kenneth Branagh, is a pathetic music-hall performer who is as much a failure in his domestic life as he is at his comedy act. Blending the fading world of British music hall with a domestic family drama, the play uses song, music and dance to tell the bitter-sweet story of Archie and the explosive examination of public masks and private torment. For more information see their website: <http://www.branaghtheatre.com/about-the-season.php>

School of Rock

London Palladium, 1 September 2016 – 1 September 2017

Based on the hit 2003 film starring Jack Black, School of Rock follows wannabe rock star Dewey Finn as he poses as substitute teacher at Horace Green. Discovering that he is surrounded by talented child-musicians, he decides to form his own band – the School of Rock. Featuring revamped songs from the original film such as 'Teacher's Pet', the musical includes a barrage of new rock-inspired songs with music by Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Glenn Slater, such as 'Stick it to the Man' and 'You're in the Band'. With a book by Downton Abbey's Julian Fellowes, the musical will showcase some extremely talented youngsters. For more information contact emorrissey@konnnect-pr.com

Pride and Prejudice

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, 2 – 17 September 2016

As the Bennet sisters haplessly search for love in Jane Austen's ultimate romantic comedy, it is Mr Darcy who unwittingly finds his match. Following its sell-out run in 2013, Pride and Prejudice returns to the Open Air Theatre ahead of a UK tour. For more information contact office@joallanpr.com

The Emperor

Young Vic Theatre, 9 – 24 September 2016

A despotic ruler's regime is beginning to crumble. We witness the downfall and debris through the eyes of his staff: a catalogue of characters created by award-winning actor Kathryn Hunter. Based on the book by Polish journalist Ryszard Kapucinski, The Emperor explores the artifice of absolute power. For more information contact charlottebayley@youngvic.org

The Two Gentlemen of Verona

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, 20 September – 1 October 2016

Part of the Globe's Wonder Season, this riotous new production is led by a joyful ensemble of players who will delight with songs, romance and chaos, and hurl Shakespeare's anarchic comedy into the 21st century. For more information contact imogen.g@shakespearesglobe.com

No Man's Land

Wyndham's Theatre, 20 September – 1 December 2016

One summer's evening, two ageing writers, Hirst and Spooner, played by Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart, meet in a Hampstead pub and continue their drinking into the night at Hirst's stately house nearby. As the pair become increasingly inebriated, and their stories increasingly unbelievable, the lively conversation soon turns into a revealing power game, further complicated by the return home of two sinister younger men. For more information contact Ben@thecornershoppr.com

The Libertine

Theatre Royal Haymarket, 22 September – 2 December 2016

Dominic Cooper returns to the stage to play the notorious Earl of Rochester in this major revival of The Libertine, directed by Terry Johnson. Stephen Jeffreys' play tells the true story of John Wilmot, the second Earl of Rochester – a charismatic poet, playwright and rake with a legendary appetite for excess. This most ardent of hedonists is forced to reconsider everything he thinks and feels when a chance encounter with an actress at the Playhouse sends him reeling. Full of flair and wit, this brilliant play is both a wild period piece and an incisive critique of life in an age of excess. For more information contact Ben@thecornershoppr.com

Murder Ballad

Arts Theatre, 29 September – 29 October 2016

The thrilling new musical of love, obsession and murderous desire heads to the Arts Theatre with West End and Broadway star, Kerry Ellis. *Murder Ballad* is a razor-sharp tale of modern relationships, abandoned dreams and treachery in the big city. Written by the award-winning Julia Jordan with music and lyrics by singer-songwriter Juliana Nash, audiences will be thrilled by this explosive new musical. For more information contact daniel@thesoundcheckgroup.com

Ragtime

Charing Cross Theatre, 8 October – 16 November 2016

Based on the novel by E.L Doctorow, *Ragtime* weaves together the story of three groups in America, represented by Coalhouse Walker Jr, a Harlem musician; Mother and her white, middle class family in New Rochelle; and Tateh, a Jewish immigrant who has come to America with his daughter seeking a new life. Their fictional lives become dramatically intertwined with one another as well as with historical figures including Harry Houdini, Booker T. Washington, JP Morgan and Henry Ford. For more information contact info@charingcrosstheatre.org.uk

Dreamgirls

Savoy Theatre, 19 November 2016 – 11 March 2017

Inspired by R&B music acts in 1960s America, *Dreamgirls* transports you to a revolutionary time in American music history. *Dreamgirls* charts the tumultuous journey of a young female singing trio, from Chicago, Illinois called 'The Dreams', as they learn the hard lesson that show business is as tough as it is fabulous and features the classic songs 'And I Am Telling You I'm Not Going', 'I Am Changing' and 'One Night Only'. For more information contact ben@thecornershoppr.com

Hunger Games Live

Wembley, 2016

A stage adaptation of the hit novels and films will open at a new purpose-built venue near Wembley Stadium in 2016. Producers include Robin de Levita, who created a rotating auditorium for the Dutch musical *Soldier of Orange* and a rotating set for the Anne Frank play *Anne*. Fans of *Katniss* and co. can expect a night of thrilling adventure and combat. For more information see the Imagine Nation website: <http://www.imagination.nl/Live-entertainment/the-hunger-games.html>

Finding Neverland

Location to be announced, 2016

Finding Neverland is based on the Academy Award-winning film of the same name and follows playwright J.M. Barrie as he summons the courage to become the writer – and the man – he yearns to be. With songs penned by Take That star Gary Barlow, the audience will be able to let their imaginations run away with them for the evening. For more information see their website: <http://findingneverlandthemusical.com/>

Events & Activities

Goosebumps Alive at the Vault

The Vaults, Waterloo, 6 April – 29 May 2016

From the acclaimed designer of Alice's Adventures Underground, explore Goosebumps Alive at the Vault and immerse yourself in pure fear. This immersive theatre experience taking place in the abandoned underground world of Waterloo might just bring back nightmarish childhood memories you wish you had forgotten. Be warned, with a haunting score from The Tiger Lilies, Stine's creations might seem almost alive. For more information, contact lja@riotcommunications.com

British Basketball League Playoff Finals

The O2 Arena, 8 May 2016

The BBL and WBL Play-Off Finals promise to be a historic occasion in London with a fantastic double-bill of British basketball. Riding on the landmark and historic high of a near 15,000 record breaking crowd in 2015 between Esh Group Eagles Newcastle and the hometown London Lions, the season finale will once again be held in the capital. The last two teams standing in the BBL will compete for the last piece of silverware on offer for the year, so the stakes are high. For more information contact Barnaby.hooper@theo2.co.uk

Transit of Mercury

Royal Observatory Greenwich, 9 May 2016

From around 12.00 until 19.45, the planet Mercury will pass in front of the Sun, known as the Transit of Mercury and the Royal Observatory will be providing the public with opportunities to see the rare event through a range of telescopes. There will be free telescope viewings next to the Astronomy Centre and special ticketed sessions to view the event through the largest lensed telescope in the United Kingdom. For more information contact egough@rmg.co.uk

LEN European Aquatics Championships 2016

London Aquatics Centre, 9 - 22 May 2016

The continent's best swimmers, divers and synchronised swimmers will battle for champion status less than three months before the start of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Absent from the UK for 23 years – and London for 78 – only the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games better the LEN European Aquatics Championships in size and scale for an event held at the London Aquatics Centre. For more information contact ryan.bangs@swimming.org

London Photo Festival

Borough, 19 – 21 May 2016

The festival returns in 2016 with the theme of '4 elements: Earth, Water, Air and Fire'. The festival often serves as a stepping stone to greater things for many photographers, so if you want to spot the best of emerging talent in London then this is the place to be. For more information contact info@londonphotofestival.org

FA Cup Final in London

Wembley Stadium, 21 May 2016

The FA Cup is English Football's biggest competition. The FA Cup Final, played at London's iconic Wembley Stadium, brings the nation to a standstill and attracts millions of viewers from around the globe. If you're lucky enough to get tickets to the event, you're in for a real treat – watching a moment of English football history from the stands at the iconic Wembley Stadium. For more information contact commercial@wembleystadium.com

London Wine Week

Various venues across London, 23 – 29 May 2016

Following the storming success of the first two years, more great vintages are set to be decanted in celebration of London Wine Week. Attendees can purchase a £10 wristband to enjoy self-guided wine tours, events and tasting sessions across London. The capital's many knowledgeable sommeliers have put together a trail that leads intrepid drinkers on a journey to discover new grapes, varieties and vintages. The trips cover many enticing venues, covering everything from leading restaurants and small, lesser-known eateries to dusty wine vaults and renowned hotel bars. For more information contact press@drinkup.london

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016

Royal Hospital Chelsea, 24 - 28 May 2016

Every year the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea are transformed into show gardens, inspirational small gardens and vibrant horticultural displays for the famous flower show. The show has become an important venue for watching emerging gardening trends. New plants are launched and the popularity of older varieties are revived. Alongside the gardens, you'll find a host of retailers who are returning with their garden goodies, outdoor products and green-fingered advice. For more information contact aimeereilly@rhs.org.uk

Trooping the Colour: The Queen's Birthday Parade

Horse Guards Parade, 11 June 2016

Trooping the Colour is an annual event that takes place on Horse Guards Parade near London's St James's Park, marking The Queen's official birthday. The ceremony is one to watch in 2016 as London celebrates The Queen's 90th birthday. The ceremony of Trooping the Colour is full of military pomp and pageantry as The Queen carries out an inspection of the troops from the Household Division. The Queen then leads the troops down the Mall to Buckingham Palace, one of London's most famous landmarks, before she joins other members of the Royal Family on the balcony to watch the RAF flypast. For more information contact Kirsty.oram@royal.gov.uk

West End Live

Trafalgar Square, 18 – 19 June 2016

Get ready for outdoor dancing and sing-a-longs with the best of the West End's musical theatre stars. An annual outdoor extravaganza where casts of some of London's best shows emerge blinking into the open-air for a weekend of free alfresco performances. The line-up is yet to be announced, but you can safely expect extracts from most major West End musicals. For more information contact mediateam@westminster.gov.uk

Open Squares Weekend

Various locations across London, 18 – 19 June 2016

Open Garden Squares Weekend (OGSW) will mark the opening of over 200 hidden and little known gardens to the public. Gardens are located across 27 London boroughs and range from the historic and traditional to the new and experimental, and include private gardens, roof gardens, community allotments, gardens belonging to historic buildings, institutions, cafes, schools and shops. The full list of participating gardens for 2016 will be released in February 2016. For more information contact sarah@opensquares.org

Pride in London 2016

Central London, 18 – 26 June 2016

Join the party as thousands of people take part in the week-long Pride in London festival, a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) community across London. The culmination of the week-long event is the Pride in London Parade, which follows a route from Baker Street to Whitehall via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Pall Mall and Trafalgar Square on 25 June. It features more than 250 community groups, dancers and performers. For more information contact mediacentre@prideinlondon.org

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships 2016

Wimbledon, 27 June – 10 July 2016

The world of tennis descends on Wimbledon in South West London every summer for two weeks of tennis, strawberries and cream, and good-natured queuing. Almost uniquely for a major sporting event, Wimbledon offers spectators the chance to buy premium tickets on the day – but be prepared to queue! Several thousand ground admission tickets are also available each day. These give you the chance to watch games from the No.2 Court standing enclosure and from unreserved seating and standing on the outside courts, and on the big screen at Henman Hill. For more information contact press.operations@aeltc.com

Big Dance Week 2016

Various locations across London, 2 – 10 July 2016

Big Dance Week returns in 2016 with special projects like Big Dance Shorts, a touring Big Dance Bus and Big Dance events in local areas of London. One of the stand-out events of the week includes the Big Dance Pledge, where you can learn 3 minutes of choreography at home and take part in numerous performances across London. For more information contact info@bigdance.org.uk

Star Wars Celebration

ExCeL Centre, 15 - 17 July 2016

Star Wars Celebration is the ultimate four-day Star Wars fan experience filled with entertainment, celebrity appearances, stage shows, panels, interactive events, screenings and exclusive Star Wars first looks and sneak peeks. From seasoned saga veterans to young Padawan learners, there's something for everyone at Star Wars Celebration. Attendees relive favorite Star Wars memories with great friends while making new memories and new friends too. For more information contact starwarsinquiry@reedexpo.com

RideLondon

Various locations, 30 – 31 July 2016

The Mayor of London's 2016 RideLondon festival of cycling will take place over the weekend of 30-31 July 2016 with the 100-mile sportive on Sunday 31 July. RideLondon is the world's greatest festival of cycling with more than 95,000 riders participating in five separate events: the [RideLondon FreeCycle](#), the [RideLondon Grand Prix](#), the [RideLondon-Surrey 100](#), the [RideLondon Handcycle Classic](#) and the [RideLondon-Surrey Classic](#). Find out more at www.RideLondon.co.uk or contact pennyd@ridelondon.co.uk

Fashion and Design Month

Regent Street, 1 – 30 September 2016

Fashion and Design Month comes to Regent Street for the month of September. To celebrate fashion and design Regent Street will be transforming into a fashion and design hotspot, encompassing the cultural events taking place in London through September. For more information contact chelsea.cook@sisteris.com

Totally Thames Festival

Various locations across London, 1 – 30 September 2016

This year's Totally Thames will once again bring the river to life in a celebration of all things arts, cultural, river-related Thames. There are plenty of opportunities to get on and into the water, from paddle steamers to paddle boarding, cruising on a Tall Ship to wild swimming. Those not wishing to dip their toes in the water can stay bankside as the festival includes live art in various iterations along the entire 42-mile stretch through the capital. For more information contact Rosie.Beaumont-Thomas@fourcolmangetty.com

Aviva Tour of Britain

Central London, dates to be announced

Taking place from 4 - 11 September 2016 across the UK, the Aviva Tour of Britain is Britain's national Tour and the UK's highest ranked cycle race. The 2016 race takes in eight stages, from the start in North Wales to the finish in central London. Catch cyclists racing in front of London landmarks to the finish in this exhilarating event. For more information contact peterh@thetour.co.uk

London Design Festival

Various locations across London, 17 - 25 September 2016

First staged in 2003, the London Design Festival is one of the world's most important annual design events. The Festival programme is made up of over 400 events and exhibitions staged by hundreds of Partner organisations across the design spectrum and from around the world. For more information contact admin@londondesignfestival.com

Bonfire Night: London Firework Displays

Various locations across London, 5 November 2016

The anniversary of Fawkes' arrest on 5 November is celebrated each year with fireworks and bonfires. Visitors and Londoners alike can look forward to firework displays across the city. One of the capital's most popular displays will take place in Battersea Park on 5 November. Expect colourful pyrotechnics set in time to music, along with food stalls and family fun. For more information please visit our website:

<http://www.visitlondon.com/tag/bonfire-night>

NFL International Series

Wembley Stadium, 2016

Usually reserved for England's national football team and important FA Cup matches, Wembley is the second largest stadium in Europe with 90,000 seats. Next year's Wembley games will feature the New York Jets vs. the Miami Dolphins, the Buffalo Bills vs. the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Detroit Lions vs. the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs, Jaguars and Dolphins sacrifice a home game to play in London. Wembley will host the very first divisional game, the Jets vs. the Dolphins, on foreign turf. 2015's games will allow fans to see NFL games in consecutive weeks for the first time on British soil. For more information visit their website: <http://www.nfl.com/international>

Hotels

InterContinental at the O2

Opened 26 January 2016

The InterContinental London – The O2 will feature 453 bedrooms, a conference centre with 20 multi-functional meeting rooms and a 3,000sqm ballroom, which will hold up to 3,000 delegates. Other facilities will include a spa, two restaurants, a hotel bar and an 18th-floor Sky Bar, offering views across the Thames to Canary Wharf and beyond. For more information contact Zoe.Cosby@daviestanner.co.uk

Park Plaza Park Royal

Opening 2016

The £15 million Park Plaza Hotel on Western Avenue, Park Royal, in west London - the conversion of a former office building into a 168-room hotel - is expected to open in 2015. Occupying a two-acre site opposite Park Royal underground station, the 6,750sqm hotel offers four-star accommodation over six storeys. On the ground floor there will be a bar, restaurant, gym and conference facilities. For more information contact lwoodman@pphe.com

Go Native Southbank

Opening 2016

Go Native Southbank will bring stylish apartment stays to the vibrant heart of the world-renowned hub of culture and art that hugs the Thames. Built on the remains of the bear baiting pit from which Bear Gardens street takes its name, the converted Empire Warehouse has undergone a multimillion-pound refurbishment to offer sleek and stylish apartments, each with modern furnishings that complement the building's historic features and industrial heritage. Communal facilities will include a gym, café and an art gallery. For more information contact rebecca@dovetail-agency.co.uk

The Curtain Hotel and Members Club Shoreditch

Opening 2016

The Curtain Hotel will offer 120 warm and spacious guest rooms including six suites, each with natural light, tin ceilings, hardwood floors and steam showers, and bespoke and original artwork from some of London and New York City's leading contemporary artists. Perfect for the summer months, the hotel will also feature a 1,600sqm rooftop with a Moroccan-inspired swimming pool, bar, and café. For those looking to get away from the bustle of the City, there will be a chance to relax in the luxurious hammam, or work up a sweat in the fitness centre. The members club will be integrated within the hotel but have a range of separate facilities, including a whiskey bar and private courtyard. For more information visit their website: <http://www.thecurtain.com/>

Four Seasons Trinity Square

Opening 2016

Following a restoration by a team of experts commissioned by Reignwood, the former Port of London Authority building has been redeveloped as part of a vision to establish one of the most exclusive addresses in London. With 98 guestrooms and suites, the site of Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square will also include 41 private residences. The spa will also be operated by Four Seasons and will feature comprehensive health and wellness services and treatments, as well as a luxury hammam and sauna. For more information contact tom.bates@fourseasons.com

Starboard Hotel*Opening 2016*

The new 18-storey hotel with up to 500 bedrooms will overlook the former London 2012 Athletes' Village, now known as East Village. It will be directly adjacent to Westfield Stratford City, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Stratford International station, providing hotel guests with a unique retail, leisure, entertainment and workplace destination benefiting from unrivalled access to the City, West End and Canary Wharf. For more information contact treid@goodrelationsproperty.co.uk

Adagio Aparthotel, Whitechapel Road*Opening 2016*

Accor Hotels will be opening a 217-room property on Whitechapel Road in 2016 following the conversion of the Black Lion House office building. The 217 apartment property will be located in the heart of East London with good connections to the City as well as the cultural and creative heartland of Brick Lane, providing a perfect place for the more independent traveller to stay. For more information contact rita@mason-williams.com

Nobu Hotel, Shoreditch*Opening 2016*

Nobu's first London hotel will house 143 bedrooms and a statement restaurant: a dramatic 5 metre high space in the basement. The five storey hotel includes its own garden, while rooms are clustered around a central bathroom screened off by a full-height curved unit. This will be the first UK building by Ron Arad, the designer responsible for the stunning design museum in Holon, Israel. For more information contact pr@nobuhotels.com

Park Plaza London Waterloo*Opening 2016*

Park Plaza London Waterloo will have 494 rooms and offer a swimming pool, spa, restaurant and bar. The hotel is set in an ideal location to enjoy many of London's top activities, including the Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe and the Coca Cola London Eye. For more information contact lwoodman@pphe.com

Aloft Tobacco Dock and Element London Tobacco Dock*Opening early 2017*

Scheduled to open in early 2017, the new-build Aloft and Element hotels will offer an exciting range of accommodation in the heart of the historic Tobacco Dock area of East London. The new Aloft London Tobacco Dock will feature 251 urban-influenced rooms, all with signature loft-like ceilings, oversized windows and ultra-comfortable plush platform beds as well as walk-in showers and complimentary Bliss® amenities. The opening of Element London Tobacco Dock will mark the debut of the much anticipated eco-wise Element brand in the UK. In keeping with the tenets of the Element brand, Element London Tobacco Dock's 77 studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites will be stylish, sustainable and designed for comfort. For more information contact frank.tigani@starwoodhotels.com

Restaurants

Le Bab

Soho, opened January 2016

Headed by the kitchen team from the renowned Le Gavroche, Le Bab will offer a highly seasonal menu focussing on individual and sharing kebabs. The winter menu will feature quirky options for diners such as Roe Deer Shish with Damson Jam, artichoke crisps, chicken crackling, turban squash hummus and much more. Designed by Angus Buchanan, the interior of the restaurant will combine the Middle Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean heritage which influences its menu. For more information visit www.twitter.com/EatLeBab

The Lighterman

Granary Square, King's Cross, opened 22 March 2016

Spanning the entire eastern side of the Square in a brand new building, the second site from Open House will offer all-day drinking and dining across three floors with outside seating areas set overlooking both Regents Canal and Granary Square. Designed by award-winning architects, Stanton Williams, expect lots of different areas, from bars to restaurants to private dining - and panoramic views from the top floor. They'll also have some canal-side alfresco dining. All-day menus throughout The Lighterman will be overseen by Executive Chef Diego Cardoso (formerly of Murano) who joined Open House in 2014. For more information contact despina@anteaterpr.com

Joe Public Pizza

Clapham Common, opened 26 March 2016

This pizza joint is all about pizza by the slice. Seasonal toppings including fresh fig, gorgonzola, prosciutto, pine nuts, roasted lamb, purple potato, feta and black olives will be on offer. Located in a reclaimed London Victorian lavatory space, there will be 14 diner style seats by a counter top and 25 more seats on a terrace. For more information follow them on Twitter [@JoepublicSW4](https://twitter.com/JoepublicSW4)

Pharmacy 2

Newport Street Gallery, opened March 2016

Damien Hirst's new gallery space, the Newport Street Gallery, plays host to his new restaurant venture, Pharmacy 2. The space works as a canteen for visitors to the gallery during the day and offers a fine-dining experience in the evening, while Hirst's 'pill' pictures decorate the walls. For more information contact info@newportstreetgallery.com

Sosharu

Clerkenwell, opened March 2016

The restaurant's name translates as 'social', and will take the form of a 75-seat izakaya – an informal Japanese restaurant that serves tapas-style Japanese food to go with drinks. The menu will span sashimi, teppanyaki and robata-yaki dishes. Upstairs there will be a small restaurant-within-a-restaurant called Kisetsu, 'seasonal' in Japanese, offering a "super-fine dining experience" based on seasonal ingredients, while downstairs guests can dance until dawn in a hip-hop basement bar serving sake cocktails. For more information contact natalie@saucecommunications.com

Padella

Borough Market, opened March 2016

Tim Siadatan and Jordan Frieda, the duo behind Trullo, will be opening their second restaurant in 2016. Padella will be serving up eight handmade pasta dishes – including beef shin pappardelle, tagliarini with brown shrimps, green and yellow courgette and ravioli of pumpkin and marjoram with sage butter. The two floor restaurant will have room for 50 with counter dining on both floors. For more information, follow them on Twitter [@Padella_Pasta](https://twitter.com/Padella_Pasta)

Walter and Monty

Aldgate, opened 14 April 2016

A street food stall which has grown its roots, Walter and Monty will focus on meat and fish charcoal cooking with Eastern flavours. The menu will include beef picanha sourced from Smithfield and butterflied leg of lamb marinated in mint, garlic and lemon. You can have those wrapped in a flatbread or with rice and salad. Plus the six sauces on the side include Scotch Bonnet or Feta and Garlic. The restaurant which feature banquet seating banquet seating - each with its own premium beer on tap if you want instant access to beer at all times of your meal. For more information follow them on Twitter [@walterandmonty](#)

The Stable

Whitechapel, opened 21 April 2016

Specialising in pizzas and pies, The Stable will be the UK chain's first outpost in the capital. Pizza recipes are created using locally sourced ingredients, while cider (draught, bottled, or boxed) has its own dedicated menu. For more information follow them on Twitter

[@ TheStable](#)

Swingers Crazy Golf

Brown's Buildings, opening 27 May 2016

A huge hit when it opened for a brief time in Shoreditch, Swingers is on its way back so it's time to brush up on your crazy golf skills. Players will be able to enjoy two new 9 hole crazy golf courses, three street vendors including Pizza Pilgrims and Patty & Bun, four cocktails bars plus a gin terrace. Entry to the venue will be free of charge, so feel free to swing by to grab a bite before playing the course. For more information follow them on Twitter

[@SwingersLDN](#)

New restaurant by Shaun Rankin

Flemings Mayfair Hotel, opening May 2016

Flemings Mayfair Hotel is investing £14 million in an impressive refurbishment plan, alongside a brand new restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Shaun Rankin, their new Executive Chef. The 80-cover restaurant and 40-cover bar will offer a modern British menu, along with a Chef's Table and two private dining rooms. Shaun Rankin has been Jersey-based for twenty years and has held a Michelin star for 11 years, with Bohemia and now his own Jersey restaurant, Ormer. For more information contact emma@rochecom.com

Bone Daddies

Old Street, opening June 2016

The third Bone Daddies in London will offer diners a combo of bar counter and 60 seats. Expect lots of the usual Bone Daddies favourites - all manner of ramen (Tonkotsu, Tantanmen, Kimchee, Spicy Miso), snacks & sides (fried chicken, sashimi, and soft shell crab.) At this no reservations restaurant just walk in, sit down, and enjoy the food. For more information follow them on Twitter [@BoneDaddiesLdn](#)

Boondocks

Old Street, opening spring 2016

The menu will feature a brunch, burgers, buttermilk chicken and peach cobbler. On top of that, there's a takeaway space for hungry passers-by. Diners can expect American fare including monkey bread, cinnamon buns, fruit pies and lots of donuts all available for ordering online, pickup or delivery. There will also be space for events with cinema clubs and comedy nights. For more information follow them on Twitter [@StaxDiner](#)

The Botanicals by Tom Aikens

Location to be announced, opening spring 2016

Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens is set to open a new flagship restaurant in London serving 'British tapas' and featuring a botanicals bar, though a site has not yet been confirmed. Featuring a central bar to divide the restaurant into more and less formal spaces, cocktails will be a large part of the offering, with mixologists making syrups and tonics from scratch. For more information visit www.tomaikens.co.uk

The Other Room

Bethnal Green, opening summer 2016

From the owners of the Bermondsey Arts Club comes a 40-cover bar serving 50 different beers and Californian-inspired food. Beer-lovers can expect different brews from all over the world and from various breweries in London. For more information visit www.twitter.com/OtherRoomBar

D&D at Nova Victoria

Victoria, opening autumn 2016

The latest addition to D&D London's portfolio will be housed over two floors of the Nova South building on Victoria Street, adjacent to the Victoria Palace Theatre. The new development will include a café, bar, terrace and a restaurant on the first floor, while the interior will be designed by Russell Sage Studio which was behind their Quaglino's and Avenue restaurants. For more information contact sophier@danddlondon.com

Biblioteka

King's Cross, opening 2016

Russian Leonid Shutov, founder of Bob Bob Ricard will open a 250-seat restaurant, serving English classics and Russian delicacies, a private dining room for up to 75 and a vintage champagne bar. Its 20,000 square feet will make the restaurant one of the largest in central London. Biblioteka is Russian for library, and will display its huge wine collection like books. Diners can expect fine wines, vintage Champagnes and rare spirits to accompany their meal. For more information contact info@joriwhitepr.co.uk

Barbecoa St James

St. James's, opening 2016

The new 9,000 sq. ft. restaurant will sit within an iconic new space at the historic Prince's House and will be able to accommodate more than 300 guests over two floors. Barbecoa's menu focuses on flames and fire-based cooking methods and has been widely praised for its original, smoke-filled flavours. The restaurant uses only the finest cuts of meat, all hand selected by in-house butchers who search the length and breadth of the UK to find the very best produce for the restaurant's distinctive dishes. Barbecoa St James will feature a striking bar area and open kitchen. For more information contact themedialounge@jamieoliver.com

Fatty Crab

Soho, opening 2016

The first UK branch of the US restaurant will offer dinners plenty of delicious options. The menu is Indonesian-based, so expect steamed buns, Nasi Lamark (chicken curry with coconut rice and slow poached eggs), and their signature Dungeness crab with chilli sauce. Expect to get down and dirty - this is a finger-pulling, chewing, crunching sort of crab dish rather than anything too polite. For more information visit www.twitter.com/FattyCrab