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What's New | March 2016

London's 2016 calendar of events is packed with blockbuster exhibitions, world-class performing arts and much more. Please read on for our March highlights...

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Exhibitions

Rockarchive's A Chunk of Punk

Barbican Music Library, 2 March – 28 April

Rockarchive founder and world renowned music photographer, Jill Furmanovsky, opens her archive to share her mainly unseen collection of anarchic Punk images. Featuring The Buzzcocks, The Clash, The Sex Pistols and many more. A Chunk of Punk is a photographic celebration of 1970's subversive culture. For more information contact press@barbican.org.uk

Venturing Beyond: Graffiti and the Everyday Utopias of the Street

Somerset House, 3 March – 3 April

Arguing against the belief of graffiti as a dystopian movement or 'glorified vandalism', the exhibition will showcase the specially-commissioned work of eighteen street artists from around the globe, including Shepard Fairey, Swoon and REVOK, to critically acclaimed artists such as Brad Downey, Eltono and Filippo Minelli. A number of artists, including Horfee, Nano4814, Petro and Russell Maurice, will create works on site over the course of the exhibition, providing visitors with an insight into the processes of the practice. For more information contact press@somersehouse.org.uk

Botticelli Reimagined

V&A Museum, 5 March – 3 July

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 will include around 50 original works by Botticelli, from 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

In the Age of Giorgione

Royal Academy of Arts, 12 March – 5 June

This fascinating exhibition seeks to unravel the complex web of influences that shaped the work of many of the most celebrated names in Renaissance art. Masterpieces by Giorgione will be displayed side by side with works by Giovanni Bellini, Albrecht Dürer, Titian, Sebastiano del Piombo and Lorenzo Lotto, among others. Visitors will also have the opportunity to rediscover Giovanni Cariani, a great but now unfamiliar artist in their midst. Together these important works chart the development of the idealised beauty, expressive force and sensuous use of colour that we recognise today as the hallmarks of Venetian Renaissance painting. For more information contact press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

Strange and Familiar: Britain as Revealed by International Photographers

Barbican Art Gallery, 16 March – 19 June

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. Strange and Familiar presents a vibrant portrait of modern Britain, and includes works by renowned 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

The Clangers, Bagpuss & Co.

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

The Clangers, Bagpuss & Co will be the first major retrospective of Smallfilms, the influential production company from Firmin and Postgate's – and will 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

Paul Strand: Photography and Film for the 20th Century

V&A, 19 March – 3 July

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

Dennis Morris: PiL - First Issue to Metal Box

Institute of Contemporary Art, 22 March – 17 May 2016

As the designer of the iconic (Public Image Ltd) PiL logo, as well as their first single, album and famous Metal Box, this exhibition focuses on the seminal work Dennis Morris undertook with John Lydon's PiL between 1978 and 1979. For more information contact naomi.crowther@ica.org.uk

Events & Activities

UCI Track Cycling World Championships 2016

Lee Valley VeloPark, 2 – 6 March

The best cyclists in the world will converge on London to prove their speed, strength and tactical superiority in a series of races and time trials. Watch as the best in the world compete in the Sprint, Keirin, Scratch Race and other events. For more information contact aarongales@britishcycling.org.uk

The Dreadful Visitation: Pepys's City and the Great Plague Walking Tour

Location confirmed on booking, 4 March

Explore the London of Samuel Pepys and discover how 17th-century Londoners dealt with disease, death and burial. After the walk, join Museum of London Archaeology Human Osteologist, Don Walker, as he reveals what archaeology has uncovered about the Plague and the lives of the people it claimed. For more information contact egough@rmg.co.uk

Spring birdwatching walk

London Wetland Centre, 5 March

Spring is a wonderful time to visit WWT London Wetland Centre, with the colourful winter birds decked out in their finest plumage. A warden will guide visitors around the wildlife reserve to see what's about and give them tips on field-craft and bird ID. Flocks of beautiful wigeon graze on the grass banks; listen out for their evocative whistle. The elusive bitterns hide out in the reed beds, but with up to six spending the winter here each year you stand a good chance of seeing one. For more information contact maria.zuckschwert@wwt.org.uk

Big London Night Walk

St Johns Church, 11 March

Starting off in central London at St John's Church, Waterloo this unique charity event will take walkers on a tour of the iconic sites of London at night. Groups or individuals looking to a different side of London and also an alternative Friday night out are welcome to join the fundraising event for The Big Issue Foundation. For more information contact esme_collins@dennis.co.uk

Women of the World Festival (WOW)

Southbank Centre, 11 – 13 March

Returning for its sixth year, the week-long WOW festival takes place in the week of International Women's Day (8 March) and features over 150 events, including talks, debates, music and workshops. Hear thought leaders, trailblazers, activists and innovators, and join the debate on wide-reaching topics such as politics, love, war and peacekeeping, gay rights and the media. For more information contact harriet.black@southbankcentre.co.uk

BNY Mellon Boat Race and Newton Women's Boat Race

West London, 27 March

The BNY Mellon Boat Race and Newton Women's Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge Universities on the Thames between Mortlake and Putney and cheer on the row. Up to 250,000 people flock to the river each year to join in the celebrations and watch the Oxford and Cambridge University crews as they race over the famous four-and-a-quarter mile course. For more information contact maria@profsports.com

An Evening with the Stars

Royal Observatory Greenwich, 18 - 19 March

This popular after dark experience at the Royal Observatory Greenwich includes a show in London's only public planetarium and the chance to look through the gigantic Great Equatorial Telescope at what the night sky has to offer. Plus, on the Greenwich Meridian visitors will be able to enjoy a hot drink, with an amazing view and astronomers on hand to answer all of their space-related questions. For more information contact egough@rmg.co.uk

Where's Wally Fun Run

Clapham Common, 22 March

The Where's Wally run is back, taking place for the first time on Clapham Common. Participants can walk, jog or run around Clapham Common and help raise money for disadvantaged children and help give them the literacy skills they need to succeed. For anyone under the age of 12 there's a 1k route so that everyone can get involved in the fun. For more information contact suzie.curran@literacytrust.org.uk

Entertainment**Immortal Tango**

Peacock Theatre, 1 – 19 March

Immortal Tango brings alive the glamour of vintage Hollywood in a new dance spectacular. Brimming with smouldering dance moves, sultry energy and authentic Argentinian tango, Cornejo, internationally-renowned dancer, and partner Gisela Galeassi lead a cast of world tango champions, accompanied by a live band playing the rhythm of Buenos Aires. For more information contact georgia.mckay@sadlerswells.com

Silver Screen Sci-Fi Showing – 2010: The Year We Make Contact (1984)

Royal Observatory Greenwich, 5 March

In this sequel to 2001: A Space Odyssey, a joint American-Soviet expedition is sent to Jupiter to discover what happened on the first doomed mission, Discovery, to the mysterious planet. Set against a backdrop of growing global tensions, the team must work quickly to discover why Discovery's sentient computer disobeyed orders, and what the appearance of a huge, black monolith in Jupiter's orbit means for their survival. Following the movie there will be a talk from an astronomer on the science behind the film. For more information contact press@rmg.co.uk

Barbican Shakespeare Weekender: Play On

Barbican Centre, 5 – 6 March

A weekend filled with playful experiences, interactive workshops, insightful talks, fun installations, performances and even Shakespeare-themed food, Play On offers something for everyone. Shakespeare is the starting point but featured artists and their modern responses to the playwright's world take centre stage. For more information contact freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk

A Hum About Mine Ears

Barbican Hall, 6 March

A Hum About Mine Ears is a new nine-movement song cycle for solo voice, mixed choir and orchestra, written by internationally acclaimed vocalist and composer Clara Sanabras. The song cycle is based on some of William Shakespeare's most famous texts from *The Tempest* and juxtaposes them with new songs, inspired by the characters in the play. First commissioned by Ruth Whitehead for her community choir Chorus of Dissent in 2014, a recording of A Hum About Mine Ears will be released in 2016, to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. For more information contact sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

Golden Hours (As You Like It)

Sadler's Wells Theatre, 8 – 9 March

Contemporary dance icon Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her influential Rosas Company return to Sadler's Wells with its UK premiere of *Golden Hours (As You Like It)*. Loosely structured around Shakespeare's *As You Like It*, the latest creation from Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker seeks to transpose the musicality of the Bard's language through movement and expression. The rhythms and poetic imagery of the play take on a new life through dance in a delicate balance between formal abstraction and concrete gesture. For more information contact georgia.mckay@sadlerswells.com

Country to Country Festival

The O2 Arena, 11 – 13 March

Country To Country, the UK and Ireland's largest country music festival is back and for the first time, will run across three consecutive days. Taking to the stage will be some of America's biggest stars including Miranda Lambert, Carrie Underwood, Eric Church, Dwight Yoakam, Little Big Town, Kacey Musgraves and many more. For more information

contact barnaby.hooper@theo2.co.uk

Golgota

Sadler's Wells Theatre, 14 – 21 March

Uniting equestrian theatre with art, music and dance, acclaimed French artist Bartabas returns to the Sadler's Wells stage accompanied by contemporary flamenco dancer Andrés Marín, presenting the UK Premiere of Golgota. Famous for his use of horses as a means of artistic expression, Bartabas is a world-renowned rider, director and stage designer. Inspired by the theatricality of sacred rituals, Golgota navigates the bodies of its human and animal performers through a dramatic environment of Gregorian chants and physical poetry. For more information contact caroline.ansdell@sadlerswells.com

People Places and Things

Wyndham Theatre, 15 March

The highly acclaimed production of Duncan Macmillan's new play will transfer to Wyndham's Theatre. Denise Gough will re-create her performance as Emma, an actress whose life has spun recklessly out of control because of addiction to drink and drugs. Directed by Jeremy Herrin it is the latest collaboration between Headlong and the National, following Mike Bartlett's Earthquakes in London and Lucy Prebble's The Effect. For more information contact nzakula@nationaltheatre.org.uk

The Deptford Diaries

National Maritime Museum, 18 March

Performed by the Trinity Laban Contemporary Music Group and written by emerging composers from Trinity Laban for the Daryl Runswick Composition Prize, this small orchestra will play new music created especially in response to the exhibition, Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution. For more information contact egough@rmg.co.uk

Haçienda Classical

Royal Albert Hall, 23 March

For the first time, the DJs who shaped the Haçienda sound, Graeme Park and Mike Pickering, will perform a continuous set of Haçienda classics alongside the Manchester Camerata orchestra and special guests. Taking the euphoria of the Haç nights to a whole new level, Haçienda Classical will be a unique meeting of styles which will transform the Royal Albert Hall. For more information contact rickb@royalalberthall.com

Snow White & Digitopia

Sadler's Wells Theatre, 25 - 26 March

Following the award winning and critically acclaimed Rapunzel, balletLORENT brings its latest dance theatre fairytale production, Snow White to Sadler's Wells theatre. This production takes inspiration from the original Brothers Grimm fairytale, where Snow White's real mother, rather than her stepmother, becomes consumed by jealousy for her beautiful daughter. For more information contact georgia.mckay@sadlerswells.com

The Caretaker

The Old Vic, 26 March – 14 May

When it premiered in 1960, The Caretaker changed the face of modern theatre. Now Harold Pinter's 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

The Importance of Being Earnest

Barbican Theatre, 29 March — 3 April 2016

Irish composer Gerald Barry's wildly inventive, operatic, reimagining of Wilde's classic play The Importance of Being Earnest has enchanted audiences with its high-energy madcap humour since 2011. For more information contact freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk

Restaurants

Sosharu

Clerkenwell, opening March

The latest venture from celebrated chef Jason Atherton, Sosharu, which name translates as 'social', 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 robatayaki dishes. Upstairs there will be a small restaurant-within-a-restaurant called Kisetu, '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

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