

What's new in London for October 2016

Attractions

Wonderlab: The Statoil Gallery

Science Museum of London, 12 October 2016

A new interactive gallery will engage visitors in the drama and spectacle of maths and science. The new gallery will be 60% larger than Launchpad, the previous interactive gallery, and will feature live event spaces, hands-on experiments and state of the art interactive exhibits. Visitors will be able to walk through a giant Orrery with a canopy of stars, take part in live chemistry experiments and whizz down the friction slide. For more information contact pressoffice@sciencemuseum.org.uk

Exhibitions

Opus Anglicanum: Masterpieces of English Medieval Embroidery

V&A Museum, opening 1 October 2016

This exhibition will display over 100 hand-made objects associated with some of the most notable figures of the Middle Ages, from Edward I and his Queen Eleanor of Castile, to Edward the Black Prince and the sainted martyr Thomas Becket. Latin for 'English work', the phrase 'opus anglicanum' was first coined in the 13th century to describe the highly-prized and luxurious embroideries made in England of silk and gold and silver thread, teeming with elaborate imagery. The V&A holds the largest collection of these works in the world and the exhibition will shed significant new light on the tools, materials and makers behind these sumptuous embroideries. For more information contact press@vam.ac.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

Game Plan: Board Games Rediscovered

V&A Museum of Childhood, 8 October 2016 - 23 April 2017

The exhibition will present some of the most iconic, enthralling and visually-striking games from the V&A's outstanding national collection of board games. Alongside current family favourites such as Cluedo and Trivial Pursuit, and traditional games such as chess, the exhibition will also look at historical board games such as The Game of the Goose and beautifully-designed games from the 18th and 19th centuries. For more information contact press@vam.ac.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 his 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

Rodin & Dance: The Essence of Movement

Courtauld Gallery, 20 October 2016 – 22 January 2017

This is the first major exhibition to explore Rodin's fascination with dance and bodies in extreme acrobatic poses. It focuses on the series of small scale experimental sculptures known as the Dance Movements, which were found in the artist's studio after his death. These leaping twisting figures in terracotta and plaster are presented alongside a series of remarkable drawings in which Rodin explored movement and new forms of dance. For more information contact courtauld@kallaway.com

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

South Africa: the art of a nation

British Museum, 27 October 2016 – 26 February 2017

Hosting the first major UK exhibition on South African art that explores a 3 million year long history through archaeological, historic and contemporary artworks, the British Museum look at the long and rich artistic heritage of the country. The exhibition will use art to tell the story of the region's deep history, the colonial period, apartheid, the birth of the 'rainbow nation' and South Africa today. For more information contact communications@britishmuseum.org

Entertainment

Carlos Acosta

Royal Albert Hall, 3 – 7 October 2016

After an unparalleled career as one of the world's leading classical ballet dancers, superstar Carlos Acosta prepares to retire his ballet shoes with a farewell performance at the Royal Albert Hall. Famed for his impressive leaps, graceful strength and Cuban flare, ex-Royal Ballet Principal Guest Artist has danced some of the biggest roles in ballet alongside some of the greatest names. For this very special programme, he will perform with his closest contemporaries from The Royal Ballet with accompaniment from a live orchestra. For more information contact rickb@royalalberthall.com

Out of Asia 2

Sadler's Wells, 3 October – 3 December 2016

Building on the success of its first season in 2011, this is another rare opportunity to experience outstanding dance from Asia's vibrant and rapidly developing performing arts world. This season showcases a range of works by established and emerging companies,

including UK Premieres from China and Taiwan, as well as four independent choreographers from Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia and India, in a special collaboration with an artist from Singapore. For more information contact dan.macarthur@sadlerswells.com

The Red Barn

National Theatre, 6 October – 19 November 2016

Telling the story of two couples trapped in the snow during the 1969 snow blizzard in Connecticut, David Hare's play is an adaptation of 'La Main', Georges Simenon's psychological thriller. Directed by one of the most current and hotly-tipped directors, Richard Icke, this production is sure to be a stylish interpretation of a dark tale, likely to be told through Icke's trademark flare of exploiting and overloading the senses. For more information contact press@nationaltheatre.org.uk

OIL

Almeida Theatre, 7 October – 26 November 2016

From black gold to oil's exhaustion, Ella Hickson's new play is a drama about man's epic relationship that flies from 1889 to 2016 – and beyond. Directed by Carrie Cracknell, known for her modern and avant-garde British theatrical style, this explosive new play drills deep into the world's relationship with this finite resource. Confirmed actors are Anne-Marie Duff, Leo Bill, Nabil Elouahabi, Yolanda Kettle and Sam Swann. For more information contact snewbery@almeida.co.uk

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

Burn the Floor: Fire in the Ballroom

Peacock Theatre, 18 October – 5 November 2016

The production is a rebellious, high-energy ballroom dance spectacle with an infectious sense of fun, featuring 14 champion dancers breathing new life into classics such as the Viennese waltz, foxtrot, samba, tango and jive. Backed by a live band, singers cleverly re-interpret a diverse range of music from Santana to Led Zeppelin. The show takes the wonderful social traditions of ballroom dancing to a whole new level, breaking new ground, and rules, as a contemporary melting pot of dance styles, energy and excitement. For more information contact dan.macarthur@sadlerswells.com

Lazarus

Kings Cross Theatre, 25 October – 22 January 2017

Inspired by the book and cult-classic film, *The Man who Fell to Earth*, this avant-garde musical spectacle, co-written by the late David Bowie, alongside Enda Walsh, follows Thomas Newton, a 'man' unable to die, despite his drinking addiction and broken heart, before he meets another lost soul who might finally set him free. Fans of Bowie's final record, 'Blackstar' will recognise the musical title track as the elegiac centrepiece of the show, as well as songs from the breadth of his long career. For more information visit www.lazarusmusical.com

Michael Morpurgo's War Horse

Royal Albert Hall, 27 October 2016

Michael Morpurgo reads his poignant and emotionally-charged novel accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, featuring a specially-arranged score by Adrian Sutton and John Tams. Drawing live on stage, Olivier, Tony and OBIE award-winning British designer Rae Smith will create animated illustrations of Morpurgo's book. Young Albert's beloved horse Joey is sold to the cavalry and shipped to France where he witnesses the brutality of World War I from both sides. For more information contact

rickb@royalalberthall.com

Eastman – Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui – Fractus V

Sadler's Wells, 27 – 28 October 2016

Associate Artist **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** returns to perform on stage at the venue for the first time since 2011 in his latest creation *Fractus V*. The production, from his company Eastman, is inspired by the writings of American philosopher Noam Chomsky and features an all-male cast of performers, including Cherkaoui himself. Exploring the production and manipulation of information in contemporary society, this expanded version of the piece features five dancers, four live musicians and a variety of different stylistic influences, including circus, flamenco, Lindy hop and breakdance. For more information contact

dan.macarthur@sadlerswells.com

The Best of John Williams

Southbank Centre, 29 October 2016

As the most Oscar-nominated man alive, John Williams has unleashed the power of the film score in over seventy-five blockbuster classics, creating one of the greatest film composer/director collaborations ever with the great Steven Spielberg. The London Concert Orchestra will perform a handful of these superb orchestrations and legendary melodies, including: Star Wars®, Indiana Jones, E.T., Harry Potter, Jurassic Park and Schindler's List. For more information contact press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Events & Activities

The Sky Tonight

The Royal Observatory Greenwich, throughout October 2016

Presented by a Royal Observatory astronomer, this live show takes visitors on a tour of what can be seen in the night sky on the day of their visit and the months ahead. Feel transported to the depths of far-away space, as the journey takes in stars, constellations, planets and moons, and includes a fly-out to the edge of the visible universe. For more information contact egough@rmg.co.uk

London Literature Festival 2016: Living in the Future

Southbank Centre, 5 – 16 October 2016

Celebrating the world's most visionary writers and artists including HG Wells, Margaret Atwood, Richard Dawkins and the late David Bowie, the London Literature Festival will gather writers, futurologists and transhumanists to face the fast-approaching future, and examine the power of the imagination to take us beyond our expectations as a species. With a range of family events, poetry readings and talks, London Literature Festival has a galaxy of events for curious explorers of all kinds to enjoy. For more information contact

press@southbankcentre.co.uk

BFI London Film Festival 2016

Various locations across London, 5 – 16 October 2016

London Film Festival – the biggest and brightest in the capital's film calendar – hits cinemas across the city this October. Screening everything from major Hollywood movies to the very best in world cinema, the festival centres on Leicester Square but also branches out to local movie houses all over London. There are also opportunities for film buffs to attend masterclasses with filmmakers, as well as short films, talks and workshops. For more information contact ffpress@premiercomms.com

Frieze London 2016

Regent's Park, 6 – 9 October 2016

Frieze London Art Festival brings together 160 of the world's leading galleries, from New York to Berlin and Shanghai to São Paulo, to showcase works by newly discovered artists alongside some of the most respected names in contemporary art. Highlights also include a non-profit programme of new artist commissions, a lively series of talks, guided tours, impressive large-scale works in the Frieze Sculpture Park, and a selection of pop-ups from London's favourite restaurants. For more information contact infolondon@frieze.com

The Chocolate Show

Olympia, 14 -16 October 2016

This year marks the fourth year of The Chocolate Show in London, celebrating the UK's most talented chocolatiers and the most delectable sweet treats. For the first time, a panel of experts will decide on the 'Chocolate Dessert of the Year', the first competition of its kind to grace the UK scene, particularly highlighting the role of the pastry chef. Catch up with chocolate lovers, industry leading food writers and chocolate experts in one extremely popular event. For more information contact sarah@nudgepr.co.uk

Hackney Wonderland

Various locations across Hackney, 15 – 16 October 2016

Hackney Wonderland is the UK's best indoor music festival. This year promises to be the biggest and best festival yet, with events spread across five of Hackney's most iconic live music venues, including Oval Space and London Field's Brewery. Confirmed acts in the line-up across both days include Lucy Rose, Stealing Sheep and Kitty, Daisy & Lewis. For more information contact alan@hackneywonderland.com

Diwali in London

Trafalgar Square, 16 October 2016

Diwali celebrations are brought to Central London each year by the Mayor of London and the Diwali in London Committee (DIL) as an organising partner. The festival of lights is enthusiastically celebrated by all religions, nationalities and races, embracing good over evil and the glory of light over darkness. Make sure you pay a visit to the square for a day of music, dancing, culture and celebration. For more information contact ben.mcknight@london.gov.uk

Bloomsbury Festival

Venues across Bloomsbury, 19 – 23 October 2016

Established in 2006, this is an annual creative explosion of arts, culture and science in the centre of London. For five days each October, the streets, parks, museums, galleries, laboratories and public and private buildings of this vibrant cultural quarter play host up to 130 events. Bringing together artists and academics, scientists and dancers, the festival aims to be enlightening, engaging, entertaining and fun! For more information contact info@bloomsburyfestival.org.uk

Rough Trade 40

Barbican Hall, 22 October 2016

This October the Barbican hosts a special event to celebrate 40 years since the opening of the first **Rough Trade** shop in West London. The concert features three brand new collaborations between some of Rough Trade Record's earliest artists and similarly adventurous musicians that have emerged in more recent years. There will also be spoken word and pop-up performances and a **Rough Trade pop-up shop**. For more information contact sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

Museums at Night: Mystery at the Museum Late

National Maritime Museum, 29 October 2016

The National Maritime Museum turns their late night evening to a spooky mystery task. Trust your instinct, and solve the mystery to find the director and one of the museum's most precious objects. With a tot of rum in tow, allow your nerves to be settled as you wander through the museum after hours. For more information contact egough@rmg.co.uk

Hotels & Restaurants

London Restaurant Festival

Various restaurants across London, 1 – 31 October 2016

This festival is divided into two main elements to highlight the diversity of London's thriving foodie scene: Restaurant Experiences and Festival Menus. The first aims to create the most memorable and creative events that take place inside a restaurant, from personal chef-hosted lunches, to restaurant-hopping tours. Festival Menus offers promotion in over 200 restaurants, with menus ranging from £10 to £60, providing a fantastic excuse to try out that restaurant you've always wanted to enjoy. For more information contact info@londonrestaurantfestival.com

The Ivy Café

St John's Wood, October 2016

The familiarity and charm of The Ivy heads North this autumn, as St John's Wood becomes the latest fashionable area to house the well-known, sophisticated dining brand. A relaxed yet stylish dining experience offering an accessible all-day menu will allow you to sample their range of café-style menus at leisure from breakfast until late, whether you are a local resident or work close by. For more information contact ldicker@caprice-holdings.co.uk

Macellaio RC

Union Yard Arches, 100 Union St, Southwark, Autumn 2016

Italian steakhouse group Macellaio RC, known for their high quality cuts and fresh breads, pasta and pastries will open their third restaurant in Southwark this Autumn. Specific to this new location will be an in-house butchery and a Ligurian bakery. Keep up-to-date with their news and for more information follow [@macellaiorc](https://twitter.com/macellaiorc)

Sakagura

8 Heddon Street, Mayfair, Autumn 2016

A new Japanese restaurant is heading to Mayfair, and it's the latest London restaurant from The Japan Centre Group (they're also behind Shoryu Ramen). This new place also sees them linking up with some other partners - including The Araki so it'll be a much more high-end venture for them than before. It's going to be serving a Southern Japanese menu, primarily serving 'Washoku' which uses rice, miso and fish in each meal. They'll also have Hakata yakitori, grilled skewers, hand-made udon and soba noodles and freshly made sushi. For more information follow [@sakaguraldn](https://twitter.com/sakaguraldn)

Veneta

St James's Market, Autumn 2016

Salt Yard Group are opening another restaurant this Autumn. Veneta, inspired by a typical Venetian cuisine will have a menu overseen by Chief Director Ben Tish and Head Chef Jamie Thickett, who plan to impress seafood lovers with a raw bar, serving up seasonal British and Venetian seafood. Artisan charcuterie and cheese from the Veneto region and a completely Italian wine list are also guaranteed. For more information visit

<http://www.veneta-stjames.co.uk/>

Bodean's

348 Muswell Hill Broadway, Autumn 2016

Iconic Kansas City BBQ joint Bodean's is bringing the authentic taste of the Mid-West to the leafy heart of Muswell Hill this October. As London's original BBQ smokehouse, this meat lover's paradise will offer everything from burnt ends to perfectly pulled pork, using Boss Hog's home-smoking techniques. Expect stand-out favourites, paired perfectly with sensational sides of BBQ beans, cornbread muffins and oozing macaroni cheese. For more information contact alice.bland@rochecom.com