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What's New in London | July 2017

London is packed with blockbuster exhibitions, world-class performances, and brand new openings. Please read on for our highlights...

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Exhibitions

Franco Grignani: Art as Design 1950 – 1990

Estorick Collection, 5 July – 10 September 2017

Franco Grignani was an influential artist and graphic designer, whose works anticipated the unique style of optical art and illusions. This exhibition will feature one hundred and thirty paintings and works on paper, including his graphic design projects, many of which are on loan from the Grignani family collection. While his experimental work was briefly affiliated with the Futurist movement, his later work turned toward geometric abstraction, so there a range of styles to uncover. For more information contact alison@alisonwrightpr.com

Alma-Tadema: At Home in Antiquity

Leighton House Museum, 7 July – 29 October 2017

This is the museum's largest ever exhibition, and will showcase the work of Leighton's contemporary, Lawrence Alma-Tadema. Organised by the Fries Museum in The Netherlands, which was the artist's home town, there will be more than one hundred works to explore. Their placement in Leighton's home will provide a fascinating insight into the work of Alma-Tadema as one of the great Victorian artists. For more information contact charlotte@suttonpr.com

Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power

Tate Modern, 12 July – 22 October 2017

This exhibition will explore how 'Black Art' was defined, rejected and redefined by artists across the United States in the period 1963–83. It will highlight how debate raged among African-American visual artists, about who the art was for, what its message conveyed and how it related to the Civil Rights movement, and other campaigns that strove for racial empowerment. Many of the works will be on display in the UK for the first time, and introduce audiences to prominent American artists, including Romare Bearden and Lorraine O'Grady. For more information contact daisy.taylor@tate.org.uk

Death in the Ice: The Shocking Story of Franklin's Final Expedition

National Maritime Museum, 14 July – 7 January 2018

Explore the mysterious fate of Sir John Franklin and his crew on their final expedition. More than two hundred objects will be on display, some of which will be on show in Europe for the first time, including finds from the ship on which they set sail, HMS Erebus. Britain's biggest hope of finally traversing the entire North-West Passage failed after Franklin and his 128-man crew disappeared with no news or clues as to their whereabouts. Prompting huge public attention at the time, this exhibition will strive to advance our understanding of the expedition and its uncertain conclusion, and reveal the Victorian fascination with the Arctic. For more information contact rdavies@rmg.co.uk

Plywood: Material of the Modern World

V&A, 15 July – 12 November 2017

Plywood is the material behind some of today's most groundbreaking designs and structures. This exhibition will showcase over one hundred and twenty objects, including the fastest and highest-flying aeroplane of WWII, and explore the material's global impact and history from the 1850s to the present day. It will bring together significant new research with acquisitions that have never before been on public display. For more information contact I.mitchell@vam.ac.uk

Wizards Wardrobes

Warner Bros Studio Tour, 21 July – 4 September 2017

Thousands of costumes were created during ten years of filming the Harry Potter films, from Hogwarts school robes, to ghost costumes that could appear transparent with visual effects. Visitors can discover the incredible craftsmanship and artistry that went into creating the visual world of the magical film series, and see some of the best costumes, from their initial designs to the finished product. For more information contact press@wbstudiotour.co.uk

Royal Gifts

Buckingham Palace, 22 July – 1 October 2017

The Palace will be open to visitors over the summer months, so they can explore the magnificent State Rooms and this special exhibition. Telling the story of Her Majesty The Queen's reign through a wide-ranging display of official gifts presented to Her during the past sixty-five years, see how they vary in style and craftsmanship. There are gifts representing every continent, including those from world leaders such as former US president Ronald Reagan and former South African President Nelson Mandela. For more information press@royalcollection.org.uk

Entertainment

Voices of the Amazon

Sadler's Wells, 4 – 8 July 2017

'Sisters Grimm' return to London to present this dance musical, which will be narrated by acclaimed actor, Jeremy Irons. Follow the story of Beleza, a water spirit from the Amazon, whose search to cure her dying sister takes her on a life-changing journey. With a sensational music score, containing sounds recorded from the rainforest, and music and songs performed in both English and Portuguese, enjoy this fusion of ballet, contemporary and capoeira, which will uncover its important hidden message. For more information contact info@amandamalpass.com

Summer Series

Somerset House, 6 – 16 July 2017

Set in one of central London's most iconic gig locations, Summer Series at Somerset House with American Express returns this year, as an established part of London's festival scene. The eleven-night line-up reflects a commitment to showcasing world-class talent alongside homegrown and emerging artists. This year, see Norah Jones take to the stage, as well as Goldfrapp, The Cinematic Orchestra, Birdy and many more. For more information contact press@somersehouse.org.uk

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

Young Vic, 13 July – 7 October 2017

This production sees acclaimed actress Sienna Miller taking the lead role as Maggie, alongside Jack O'Connell, playing her husband, Brick. As the tale unfolds, the secrets and sexual tensions between the two characters becomes clear, and threatens to destroy their marriage and their family dynamic. Benedict Andrews returns to the stage as Director, making this troubling story about a family's fight for survival a twenty-first century masterpiece. For more information contact janine.shalom@premiercomms.com

Ezra Furman: That's When It Hit Me

The Barbican, 13 July 2017

Eccentric musician and songwriter Ezra Furman will present with friends, an evening of vicious songs, bold experiments and bizarre epiphanies. Furman's breakout album achieved great critical acclaim, as it revealed his raw personality and most honest feelings. This was followed by a six track EP, which he dedicated to refugees all over the world. As Furman is currently writing and recording his next album, you may have the chance to hear a special preview of his new material. For more information contact sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

Tanguera

Sadler's Wells, 19 July – 6 August 2017

Telling a story of unrequited love in early twentieth century Buenos Aires, this classic tango production returns to London as part of a European tour. The cast, with over thirty dancers and singers will transport you to exotic Argentina, as you see how Giselle's quest for love changes, once she delves further into the complicated underworld of the busy capital city. For more information contact dan.macarthur@sadlerswells.com

Trajal Harrell: Hoochie Koochie

The Barbican, 20 July - 13 August 2017

This performance exhibition will present a survey of Harrell's entire body of work. As one of the most prominent choreographers and dancers of his generation, Harrell has created this dance exhibition to foreground a collection of work which was developed during his two year residency at New York's Museum of Modern Art. Expect belly dance-like spectacles performed to your favourite chart-toppings songs. For more information contact freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk

Laura Mvula and The London Symphony Orchestra

The Barbican, 21 July 2017

This special concert will see double Mercury Prize nominee composer, singer and songwriter Laura Mvula perform with the Barbican's Resident Orchestra. Her striking vocals and unpredictable compositions have captivated audiences, and together, they will present a selection of her material, from both her critically acclaimed studio albums. The orchestral versions have been arranged by Guildhall School of Music & Drama alumnus, Troy Miller. For more information contact sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

Events & Activities

Art Night 2017

Across East London, 1 July 2017

This event, now in its second edition, presents a free programme of contemporary art, performance, music and architecture for one night only. See the East End of London transformed by some of the world's leading artists and explore a hub of creativity and culture. Highlights include a major new multi-media installation at the Whitechapel Gallery, and a sculptural installation by Do Ho Suh on Commercial Street. For more information contact hello@art-night.london

Christopher Nolan Presents

BFI Southbank, 1 – 31 July 2017

Throughout the month, catch a series of films which have been personally curated by the award-winning director Christopher Nolan, offering audiences a unique insight into the films which influenced his take on one of the key moments of WWII. The season will include a special preview screening of his new feature 'Dunkirk', which will be presented by the director himself and shown in 70mm. For more information contact liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships 2017

The All England Club, Wimbledon, 3 - 16 July 2017

The renowned, annual Grand Slam tennis tournament returns in July, ready to showcase the best from the international tennis tour. Games are still played on the original grass surface, and no trip to The Championships is complete without a bowl of strawberries and cream to hand. For more information contact public.relations@aeltc.com

The MLB Battlegrounds Extravaganza

Hyde Park, 4 July 2017

This free event will mix sport, street food and music, with representatives from two of the Major League Baseball's most popular teams. See the 'Boston Red Sox' go head-to-head with the 'L.A. Dodgers' in a rapid, quick-fire format of the game, never before seen in Europe, and perfect for traditional 4th July celebrations. The event will also bring the best music from Boston and LA to the heart of Central London, keeping the party atmosphere alive throughout the day. For more information contact matthew.fletcher-jones@wcommunications.co.uk

Shakespeare in the Squares

Connaught Village, 5 July 2017

Catch a live, open-air theatre performance in one of London's most unique shopping and socialising destinations, as this new, not-for-profit, touring theatre company stages a production of Romeo and Juliet. Directed by Tatty Hennessy, this production has been tailored to the space, and the group have worked with garden committees and local organisations, which will create a unique community celebration around the play. For more information contact sophie.morgan@sisterlondon.com

Pride in London 2017 Parade

Trafalgar Square, 8 July 2017

Celebrate the LGBTQ community, as this year's parade and fortnightly festival promises to be bigger and better than ever. This year, 'Love Happens Here' is the theme, and the festival will showcase performances, dancing, colour and more than forty thousand representatives from the community. The full programme is still to be announced. For more information contact jamesh@prideinlondon.org

IPC World ParaAthletics Championships 2017

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, 14 – 23 July 2017

London's competitive sporting flare and energy is set to return this summer, as the world's best para-athletes descend on the Olympic Stadium for this prestigious competition. London is the first city to host this championship as well as the IAAF World Athletics Championship in the same year. Re-create the memories of the 2012 games, and enjoy a summer of sport. For more information contact ipc.media@paralympic.org

The Chap Olympiad

Bedford Square Gardens, 15 July 2017

Enjoy this annual, day-long celebration of eccentricity, set to the backdrop of a traditional summer garden party. Leave the competitive spirit at home and embrace the encouraged slower pace, as traditional game rules change to encourage minimal physical exertion. You can play a game of tennis while seated in an armchair, or revel your position as a spectator rather than a participator, with a cocktail to hand. For more information contact mb@bandhgroup.com

Prudential RideLondon

Events across London and Surrey, 28 – 30 July 2017

This world-class festival of cycling is returning to the capital for a fourth year. It gives thousands of cycling fans the opportunity to cycle through clear roads, and soak up the atmosphere and the sights of the city. There is no other closed-road event like it that combines the fun and accessible element of a free family ride in central London with the excitement of watching the world's best professional cyclists race in the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey Classic and Prudential RideLondon Classique. For more information contact media@ridelondon.co.uk

New Restaurants

Iyoki

1 St. James's Market, 15 July 2017

This restaurant will offer a unique take on West African cuisine, with Head Chef Jeremy Chan using innovative cooking techniques and modern presentation to interpret the authentic flavours of the region. Expect a selection of high quality and carefully selected meat main course dishes, as well as sharing dishes which include jollof rice with smoked bone marrow and groundnut miso. For more information contact tori@gerbercomms.com

Mother

Battersea Power Station, July 2017

Enjoy Italian cuisine, paired with Danish design. As one of Denmark's most popular pizzerias, this is the first outside of its home country, and will be based in the re-developing Battersea Power Station area, with a large outdoor space. While the pizzas are cooked in a traditional wood-fire oven, the sourdough base is purified with seawater, which they claim offers the lightest pizza base yet. Try it for yourself, alongside pasta dishes and a buffet counter. For more information visit [@Mother_Idn](https://twitter.com/Mother_Idn)

Parlez

16 Coulgate Street, Brockley, July 2017

This new restaurant will remind visitors why home-cooked food tastes so great. The menu will have something for vegans and meat-lovers alike, and with a focus on community spirit, it plans to become Brockley's favourite neighbourhood restaurant. From simple pies, to pastrami sourdough sandwiches, only seasonal ingredients are used, alongside a well-sourced cocktail menu. For more information contact info@parlezlocal.com

Nobu Shoreditch

10 – 50 Willow Street, July 2017

Known around the world, Nobu cuisine is an innovative interpretation of Japanese, Peruvian and other South American elements, pioneered by Chef Nobu Matsuhisa. Influenced by his years of studying Japanese cuisine in Tokyo and other extensive travels, the Shoreditch menu will feature many of Nobu's most popular dishes, including black cod miso and yellowtail sashimi with Jalapeno. Enjoy alfresco dining on the charming Nobu Terrace, and take your limited edition vintage sakes and whiskies with you. For more information contact kate.bell@purplepr.com

New Hotels

Nobu Hotel Shoreditch

10 – 50 Willow Street, July 2017

This hotel, located in the heart of London's trendy, artistic neighbourhood, will offer a dynamic blend of Nobu's signature East-meets-West philosophy, and the creative, yet industrial energy of Shoreditch. There are over one hundred and forty guest rooms, including seven suites, for guests to enjoy luxury in comfort, and interior design by local designers, Studio Mica. Guests can also take advantage of an exclusive spa and fitness area, and a stunning pocket garden, which will create a calm oasis in the heart of East London. For more information contact kate.bell@purplepr.com

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