

# This is London®



**57 Years** The No 1 Magazine for International Visitors

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Friday 20 April, 2012

OLYMPIC CITY 2012

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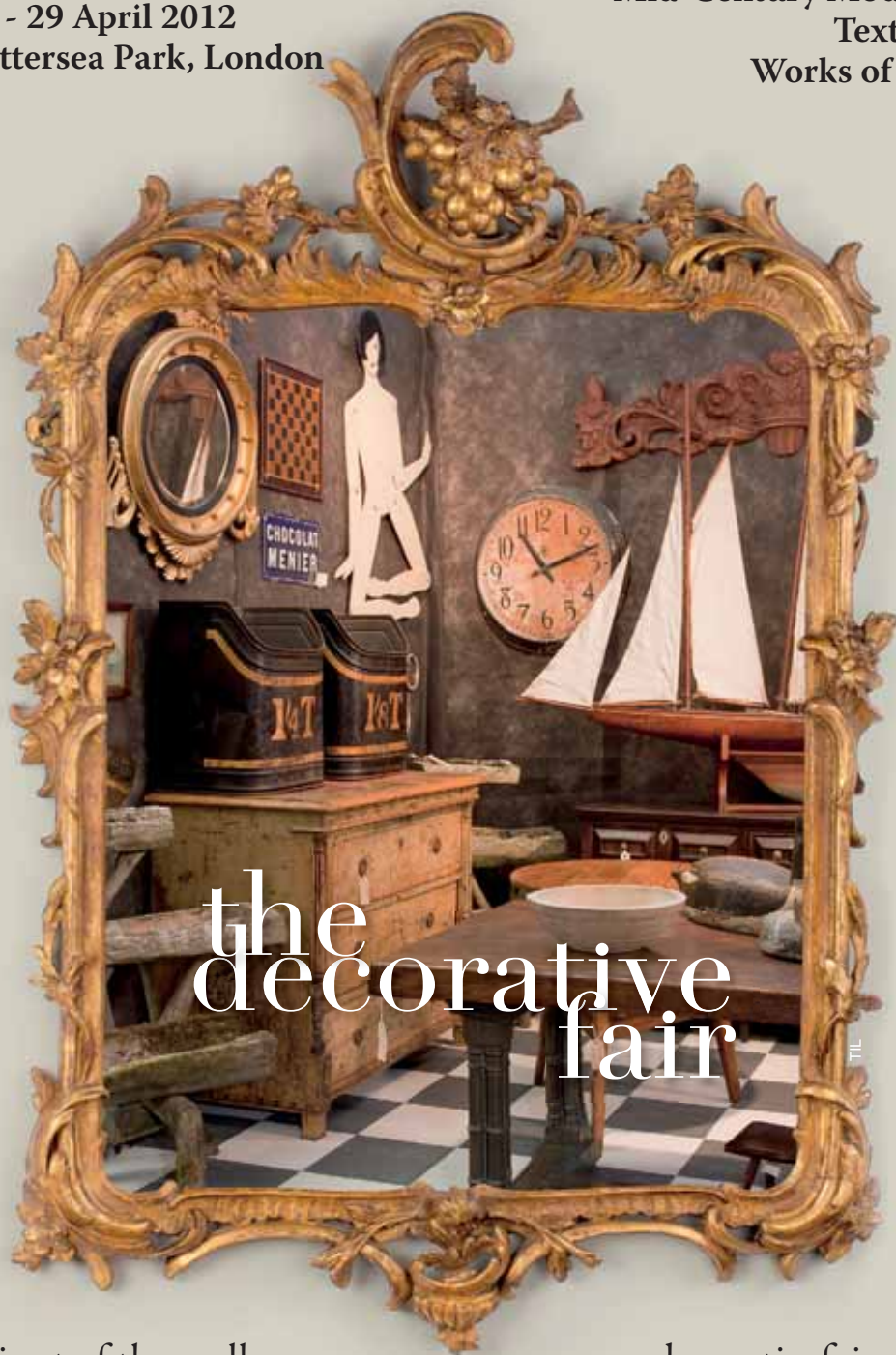


# Spring Fair

24 - 29 April 2012

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## VISITOR INFORMATION

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## Welcome to London

In a year in which London welcomes the world, Shakespeare's Globe is proud to be at the heart of the Olympic celebrations.

Our Globe to Globe festival, running from 21 April to 9 June, is a truly global event embodying the spirit of the Games bringing together 37 outstanding theatre companies from around the world to perform all of Shakespeare's plays each in a different language. From prestigious national theatres to underground companies working in difficult conditions, it demonstrates the power of Shakespeare's work not just as one of Britain's greatest exports but as a playwright who can bring nationalities together. The Globe to Globe Festival is part of the World Shakespeare Festival for the London 2012 Festival.

Following the festival, we look forward to a magnificent summer of theatre in the Globe's wooden embrace. From our artistic director Dominic Dromgoole's new production of the stirring Henry V, through high comedy in The Taming of the Shrew, to the welcome return of Mark Rylance, the Globe's first Artistic Director, who plays the title role in Richard III – our 2012 Theatre Season, The Play's The Thing, promises to thrill and entertain as only the Globe can. 700 grounding tickets are available for each performance for only £5.00.

Taking Shakespeare to the world is at the heart of our charitable mission and though the new Globe is only 15-years young, more people encounter with Shakespeare here than any other theatre in the world. Alongside our performances you can engage further with his work with our Globe Education programme of talks, seminars and readings. Our Exhibition & Tour offers another way to find out about our remarkable building and Shakespeare's world; the Exhibition is open every day of the year and do check our website for details of swordfighting, Elizabethan costume dressing and printing demonstrations.

If you are looking to relax and soak up the atmosphere, then do visit The Swan, our brasserie restaurant and bar with stunning views of the River Thames, for anything from a restorative afternoon tea to a top quality dining experience.

We hope that you will make the Globe a part of your visit to London. Whatever the reason for your visit, as Shakespeare writes in Coriolanus you can be assured of 'A hundred thousand welcomes' here.

## Neil Constable

Chief Executive  
 Shakespeare's Globe







## PRINCE HARRY AT VIRGIN LONDON MARATHON 2012

There'll be a Royal bonus and an Olympian send-off for the runners in this year's Virgin London Marathon on Sunday 22 April. Legendary British Olympic medallist Dorothy Tyler will be this year's official race starter while Prince Harry of Wales will be the event's official 2012 trophy presenter.

Prince Harry, who became patron of the London Marathon Charitable Trust this year, will hand trophies to the first three finishers in the men's and women's races, and those in the men's and women's wheelchair events. He will also present prizes to winners in the Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon, races over the final three miles of the course involving young runners from across the country aged 11 to 17.



*'We are delighted to have Prince Harry with us to present awards to our runners this year,' said Virgin London Marathon joint race director David Bedford. 'Prince Harry is a great supporter of the event and it is especially fitting to have a Royal presence during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year.'*

The 36,000 runners will also be given a memorable send-off on their 26.2-mile journey through the capital when Dorothy Tyler sets them on their way from Blackheath. Tyler won silver medals in the high jump at the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936, when she was only 16, and at the London Games in 1948, making her the only woman to to win Olympic athletics medals before and after the Second World War. She also competed at the 1952 and 1956 Olympic Games.

THIS IS LONDON veteran runner Bob Mundy, has been training hard for the Marathon and is hoping for a time of around 4 hours. So, hit the streets anywhere between Greenwich and The Mall on Sunday 22 April to enjoy the elite athletes, fun runners and everything in between – just don't miss it!

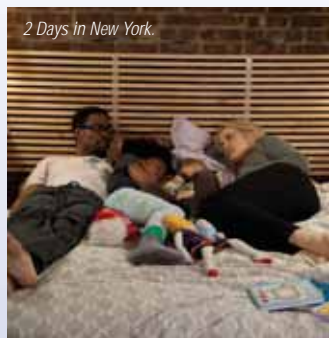
[www.virginlondonmarathon.com](http://www.virginlondonmarathon.com)

## SUNDANCE LONDON

Robert Redford is to bring the first-ever Sundance London Festival to The O2 Arena from 26-29 April.

Drawing on the programme of the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah – the premier independent film festival in the US – Sundance London will feature the UK premieres of 14 narrative and documentary feature films, including *2 Days in New York*, directed by and starring Julie Delpy.

In addition to film screenings, Sundance London will host live music performances and events each evening, including the Opening Night event, *An Evening With Robert Redford And T Bone Burnett*, chaired by Nick Hornby and featuring BRIT Award-nominated pop band Guillemots and Academy Award-winning musician/actor Glen Hansard. Other events include Placebo in concert and Tricky and Martina Topley-Bird performing Maxinquaye.



*2 Days in New York.*


Audiences will also have opportunities to attend panels and hear guest speakers talk about the part they play in making films, documentaries and the role of music in modern cinema.

For programme information and ticket packages, visit the website at [www.sundance-london.com](http://www.sundance-london.com)

*Ben Stevens*

**EDUARDO NIEBLA**  
**Friday 20 April 7.30pm**

*"Spellbinding flamenco jazz  
 bursting with passion & verve"*  
THE SPECTATOR



with **Carl Herring** (guitar)  
**Dharmesh Parmar** (India tabla)  
 & **The Pavao String Quartet**  
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### ARSENAL EMIRATES STADIUM TOURS

Let Robin van Persie, Jack Wilshere and a host of Arsenal stars share their match-day experiences with you as you explore behind-the-scenes at Arsenal with new audio tour. Hear from the boss as you take your place in the changing room, listen to the roar of the crowd as you walk down the tunnel, explore the museum and test your Arsenal knowledge against one of the Arsenal experts.

To make the visit to Emirates Stadium truly unforgettable, why not join a Legends Tour, where you will be shown around by a hero from Arsenal's glittering past who will reveal his thoughts on the current team, his playing days and any news from the inner sanctum of Arsenal Football Club.

You will also receive a personalised signed photo of the Legend and a limited edition Legends Tour gift. Both self-guided

and Legend tours includes a trip to the spectacular, interactive Arsenal Museum which includes exclusive exhibits including Michael Thomas' boots from Anfield '89, Charlie George's 1971 FA Cup final shirt and Alan Smith's shirt from 1994's European Cup Winners Cup Final.



There are no tours on match days. To book tickets for any of the Emirates Stadium Tours, telephone 020 7619 5000. Underground: Piccadilly Line to Arsenal.

*The Emirates Stadium at night.*



### OLYMPIC AND WORLD CHAMPION MARK HUNTER POPULAR IN POPLAR

Olympic and World Rowing Champion Mark Hunter took a trip down memory lane when he visited Poplar Blackwall and District Rowing Club in the Isle of Dogs, East London. Hunter, who as a child lived in East Ham, spent his formative rowing years at Poplar coached by his father Terry. Since then, with the help of sponsor British Airways, his journey has seen him fly around the world, famously winning Gold in the lightweight double sculls at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.



Hunter rowed at the East London rowing club from the age of 14 to 20 and has seen the area undergo huge change since his childhood. The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has further increased the focus on East London and Hunter is proud of his heritage. His rowing career has seen him travel the world and he has confidence in rowing's next generation making a global impact too.

British Airways is the official airline partner of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is dedicated to helping British talent fly. As part of its ongoing commitment and support of British athletes, including Mark Hunter, Team GB and ParalympicsGB and sporting bodies, the airline also supports a number of athletes through a UK Sport partnership.

Luisa Fernandez, British Airways sponsorship manager, said: 'Mark is such an inspiration to the next generation: we're delighted to have played our part in supporting him on his journey. We're very excited about the London 2012 Games and what the future holds.'



## THE DECORATIVE ANTIQUES & TEXTILES FAIR AT BATTERSEA

The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair takes place each year in January, April and October. It is a friendly, relaxed and approachable event, and draws a crowd of regular customers including interior designers, antiques trade buyers, private buyers renovating houses and younger couples seeking out a select piece of art or modern design to bring an individual accent to their home. And, it is full of fabulous finds which make perfect gifts or a souvenir of a visit to London. You will find everything from quality vintage photographs to sculptural meteorites, fine European and English furniture, lots of 20th century design items, country pieces and chic art deco... the list is endless.

Launched in 1985 to cater especially to the needs of interior designers, the Fair is now one of London's largest antiques fairs, and the only event of its kind in the country. Around 140 antiques dealers and specialists in 20th century design gather from around the UK and Europe to exhibit a well-curated selection of stock with the emphasis on pieces for interior decoration. Their search for the best examples saves customers' time in trawling the countryside or internet for choice vintage or antique design.



Affordable decorative accessories rub shoulders with fine Georgian furniture. Visitors can find unusual and practical, well-priced antiques for country and town houses; elegant glassware; pictures and works of art of all periods; textiles and cushions: mirrors and lighting are particular specialities.

The Spring Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair at Battersea this week presents a wealth of opportunities to search out unusual antique and vintage garden ornament. Stone architectural fragments, carefully placed, create an air of antiquity and intrigue. Elegant marble statuary brings an element of classicism to urban and country gardens, large or small.

Works of art dealer Robert Barley will create one of his popular garden displays celebrating the Jubilee. Expect a traditional idea, but with a difference; he will be incorporating quirky objects and elements of sculpture from around the world in to the display. The centrepiece will be a larger-than-life regal sculpture robed in flower-strewn greensward!

The Spring Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair will take place from 24-29 April at Battersea Evolution (The Marquee), in Battersea Park, SW11. [www.decorativefair.com](http://www.decorativefair.com)

## THE CAPITAL HAS IT DOWN TO A TEA!

As the quintessentially English hotel, The Capital certainly knows how to serve a scrumptious afternoon tea. Over the years, this perennially popular offering has become a firm favourite with hotel guests and weary shoppers alike.

It seems however that word has spread, with the news that this Knightsbridge favourite has received the Tea Guild's Award of Excellence for Top London Afternoon Tea 2012, alongside other hallowed institutions as Claridge's, The Savoy and The Ritz.

The Capital is at 22-24 Basil Street, Knightsbridge, SW3. For reservations, telephone 020 7591 1202 or visit [www.capitalhotel.co.uk](http://www.capitalhotel.co.uk)





Sim Canetty Clarke.



## BP SUMMER BIG SCREENS 2012 FROM ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Building on the success of the last 25 years of free live Big Screen broadcasts, this year's BP Summer Big Screen performances will be The Royal Opera's *La bohème* and *Falstaff*, and The Royal Ballet's *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012*.

These world-class productions of opera and ballet will be beamed live from Covent Garden to a record 27 locations up and down the UK, including Trafalgar Square and Canary Wharf in London. *Falstaff* and *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012* both feature as part of the London 2012 Festival.

The Royal Opera House first screened a live performance on a Big Screen in Covent Garden Piazza 1987. From those humble beginnings, where hundreds of people saw Plácido Domingo perform in *La bohème*, it is fitting that 25 years later this most famous of operas will be broadcast to 27 different venues.

The Royal Opera's *La bohème* will be screened on Thursday 17 May, *Falstaff* on Wednesday 30 May and The Royal Ballet's *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012* will be screened on Monday 16 July, all performances starting at 19.30.

Opera's greatest love story, *La bohème* returns to the Royal Opera House on 30 April, 3 and 5 May, plus the screened performance on 17 May, in a beautifully detailed traditional production starring Carmen Giannattasio and Joseph Calleja under the baton of Semyon Bychkov. The story of a struggling poet whose life changes forever after meeting a beautiful fragile young woman, is perfect for new opera audiences.



*Italian soprano, Carmen Giannattasio.*

*Falstaff* is part of the World Shakespeare Festival, which is produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company for London 2012 Festival, the culmination of the Cultural Olympiad where leading artists from all over the world will come together in the UK's biggest ever nationwide festival including dance, music, theatre and the visual arts.

Tony Hall, Chief Executive of the Royal Opera House and Chair of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad Board, said: *'The BP Summer Big Screens are still the best way to introduce friends and family to the Royal Opera House and to world-class opera and ballet – and it's all absolutely free. We are very proud to be able to celebrate 25 years of such great quality al fresco screenings. With the generous support of BP, we're providing the opportunity for people to enjoy unforgettable experiences in a range of wonderful venues across the UK, working in partnership with the BBC City Centre Screens, LOCOG and councils across the UK. With BP Summer Big Screens, our cinema programme, BBC TV and Radio broadcasts, live YouTube streaming and our involvement in London 2012 Festival we're reaching new audiences across the country and beyond and offering a unique insight into our world at the Royal Opera House.'*

To find out more about both the Royal Opera House and London 2012 Festival visit [www.roh.org.uk/2012](http://www.roh.org.uk/2012)

## THE OLYMPIC JOURNEY

A free exhibition entitled The Olympic Journey: The Story of the Games will be hosted at the Royal Opera House for the duration of the London Olympics telling the story of the great Olympians through the ages, with many artefacts being shown in London for the first time.





# Orpheus Sinfonia: A Viennese Affair

Thursday 26 April, 7.30pm

Sponsored by Mace

St George's Church, Hanover Square, London W1S 1FX

## Orpheus Sinfonia

**Thomas Carroll** *Conductor*     **Anthony Hewitt** *Piano*

**Schubert** Rosamunde Overture

**Beethoven** Piano Concerto No. 1 in C

**Brahms** Symphony No. 2 in D

**Tickets: £25, £15, £5 telephone 020 7734 6650**

[www.orpheusfoundation.com](http://www.orpheusfoundation.com)     [info@orpheusfoundation.com](mailto:info@orpheusfoundation.com)

Anthony Hewitt – *'a remarkably gifted artist'* – The Gramophone

*'An exciting rendition of the Beethoven'* – New York Times

*'The Orpheus Foundation deserves all the support we can give it. As a charity it is immensely deserving, as a musical enterprise it is utterly inspiring and as a mission it is absolutely unique.'*

– Dame Judi Dench CH DBE

*'Carroll is an artist to watch'* – The Daily Telegraph





## ORPHEUS FOUNDATION: A VIENNESE AFFAIR

Dedicated to serving some of the finest musicians in central London, the Orpheus Foundation aims to provide intense professional experience and a broad range of transitional opportunities to exceptionally talented young people of immense promise. As Patron of the Foundation, Judi Dench CH DBE has said, *'The Orpheus Foundation deserves all of the support we can give it. As a charity it is immensely deserving, as a musical enterprise it is utterly inspiring and as a mission it is absolutely unique'*.

The Orpheus Foundation has also just announced the appointment of Thomas Carroll as its new artistic director. Carroll brings to this role a wealth of experience. Since being one of only two artists ever to secure prestigious supportive management from both YCAT UK (Young Classical Artists Trust) and YCA (Young Concert Artists) in New York, he has gone on to perform in venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Vienna Konzerthaus and New York's Lincoln Centre, with orchestras and chamber musicians world wide. He

made his conducting debut in the Berlin Philharmonie in 2006 and has worked with and conducted many orchestras in major concert halls in the UK and abroad.

David Shaw, Chairman of Orpheus Foundation comments, *'We warmly welcome Thomas Carroll as our new artistic director. We received a large number of high quality applicants for this role; Thomas Carroll stood out in terms of his substantial experience, his creative ideas as to how to take the*



Anthony Hewitt, piano.

*Orpheus Sinfonia to the next level and his passion to do the job – we are delighted that Thomas will be leading Orpheus Sinfonia into an exciting future.'*

The Orpheus Sinfonia will perform *A Viennese Affair* at St George's Hanover

Square on 26 April (19.30), conducted by Thomas Carroll, with Anthony Hewitt on piano, in a programme of Schubert, Beethoven and Brahms.

For tickets to the concert, telephone the box office on 020 7734 6650 or, for further details on the concert and the Foundation itself, visit the website at [www.orpheusfoundation.com](http://www.orpheusfoundation.com)

## OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST ROBIN COUSINS TO STAR IN CHICAGO

Anyone who has been unable to secure tickets to the Olympic Games this year can now see Olympics Gold Medallist Robin Cousins star on the West End stage as Billy Flynn in the musical *CHICAGO* at the Garrick Theatre from 17 July, 10 days ahead of the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony. He will be in the show until 8 September, the day before the final day of the Paralympics.

Robin won Gold in the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York, also picking up the coveted BBC Sports Personality of the Year the same year. This was followed by a successful career as a professional skater, before finally being forced through injury to hang up his skates in 2000, when he became a full-time choreographer.

Prior to Robin joining *CHICAGO*, David Bedella has returned to the role of Billy Flynn for a limited season until 12 May, a role David originally played at the Cambridge Theatre early last year.

Now the most successful Broadway export ever and the world's longest running American musical, as well as the West End's longest running revival, the multi award-winning musical *CHICAGO* opened at the Garrick Theatre on 7 November 2011.



Robin Cousins.





Ealing Choral Society

## WALTON BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST AND MORE TEMPTING DELIGHTS

Music to whet any appetite will come to the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre on Saturday 28 April (19.30), when two of London's finest choirs, Ealing Choral Society and the London Orpheus Choir will be joined by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra to present a feast of music, conducted by Dr Jonathan Williams. Also in the line up are the acclaimed soloists, soprano Emily Rowley Jones and baritone David Stout.

More than just an amuse-bouche for the feast ahead, the concert will begin with Debussy's wonderfully evocative *Prélude à 'L'Après-midi d'un faune'*. This is a piece whose individuality, intensity and influence enable it to stand along side any other. It is considered by many to be the awakening of modern music.

The next course will be Poulenc's *Gloria*, criticised at the time for being irreverent, but exuberant with freshness and vivacity. It is the work of an older man shrugging off the up-to-date in favour of a style grounded in his early experiences playing the piano in a bar. It is imbued, with ravishing effect, with insight and maturity.

And finally, we have the sumptuous Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*. In contrast to the intimacy and sensuality of Debussy, it is dramatic, unrestrained and richly orchestrated with rhythms and harmonies reflecting Walton's interest in jazz. It tells of the 'writing on the wall' at the Babylonian king's sacrilegious feast, the fall of his kingdom and the release of the Jews from exile.

An unmissable concert in a fabulous venue – tickets £12-£25 on 0844 847 9910 or [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

## LONDON PREMIERE OF PASS THE SPOON AT SOUTHBANK CENTRE

After the sold-out world premiere in Glasgow in November 2011, artist David Shrigley's first 'sort-of-opera', *Pass the Spoon*, will be staged at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall on 5 and 6 May. The opera coincides with the final week of Shrigley's first major UK exhibition, *David Shrigley: Brain Activity*, at the Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre. Spanning the upper galleries, the survey covers the full range of Shrigley's diverse practice from the past two decades of the artist's career, including drawing, animation, painting, photography, taxidermy and sculpture. Information and tickets on 0844 847 9910.

**The Elysian Singers**  
*bring you*

## The American Connection

*Classical and popular music  
by Gershwin, Rodgers,  
Whitacre, Tippett and others*

### St Martin-in-the-Fields

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**Tuesday 1st May**  
7.30pm

**Sam Laughton, conductor**  
**Rupert Egerton-Smith, piano**

**Tippett:** *Five Negro Spirituals*  
**Eric Whitacre:** *Three Songs of Faith*  
**Jonathan Dove:** *The Passing of the Year*  
**Randall Thompson:** *Alleluia*  
**Gershwin:** *Summer Time*  
**Rodgers & Hart:** *Blue Moon*  
*plus songs by*  
**Fats Waller, Johnny Mercer**  
**and Harold Arlen**

Tickets £10-£20 on 020 7766 1100  
[www.smift.org](http://www.smift.org)  
[www.elysiansingers.com](http://www.elysiansingers.com)

## Walton Belshazzar's Feast

**28 April 2012 7.30pm QEH**

**Conductor Jonathan Williams**  
**Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra**



**Ealing Choral Society**  
**50th Anniversary Season**

£25, £22, £16, £12

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### THE ELYSIAN SINGERS IN AMERICAN CLASSICS AND SHOW SONGS

The Elysian Singers, one of the UK's top chamber choirs, will be returning to St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, on Tuesday 1 May at 19.30, with an American-themed programme of classical and popular music, including settings of Negro spirituals, music by Eric Whitacre, and show songs including Gershwin's 'Summer time', Fats Waller's 'Ain't Misbehavin'', and Rodgers & Hart's 'Blue Moon'.

The programme ('The American Connection') is the brainchild of conductor Sam Laughton, and explores the ways in which the culture of the United States became such an enormous influence on 20th century music. For example, the English composer Michael Tippett included Five Negro Spirituals in his wartime oratorio 'A Child of Our Time'. Another choral classic from the 1940s is 'Alleluia' by Randall Thompson.

More recently, Eric Whitacre has become the United States' most celebrated choral composer, and the choir will be performing his Three Songs of Faith, based on poems of E E Cummings. America's biggest impact on the Western classical tradition has probably been the minimalism of Philip Glass and Steve Reich; and this has influenced Jonathan Dove's 'The Passing of the Year', a song cycle in

which the choir are joined by pianist Rupert Egerton-Smith.

The Elysian Singers close with a tribute to the greatest Americanism of them all: musical theatre. The choir will perform arrangements of show-stopping (and foot-tapping) classics from the Great American Songbook, including Gershwin's 'Summer time' and Harold Arlen's 'Somewhere over the rainbow'.

The concert will take place at the beautifully restored St Martin-in-the-Fields, a church which has one of the finest choral acoustics in the country. And with 'The American Connection', the Elysian Singers will put a swing in your step!

*'Subtle, disciplined and radiant.'* (Gramophone). *'Sam Laughton's Elysian Singers perform with captivating intensity'* (Classic FM Magazine).

Tickets for the concert can be booked at St Martin's on 020 7766 1100 or via the website at [www.smitf.org](http://www.smitf.org)

### LONDON HANDEL FESTIVAL

For a dramatic finale to this year's London Handel Festival, the 1742 Dublin version of Messiah will be performed on Tuesday 24 April at St George's Hanover Square to celebrate 270 years of this glorious work.

Soloists will be Sophie Bevan, soprano, Christine Rice, mezzo-soprano, Stuart Jackson, tenor, and Lisandro Abadie, bass. For tickets, telephone 01460 54660.

### HOWARD SHELLEY PERFORMS WITH LONDON MOZART PLAYERS

Acclaimed chamber orchestra The London Mozart Players will be joined by its long-time collaborator, celebrated British pianist Howard Shelley, who in a rare treat conducts three orchestral greats, as well as performing solo, in a concert in the heart of Westminster as part of LMP's brand new residency at St John's Smith Square.

One of the most prominent English pianists of his generation, Shelley gave his first concert on BBC television at age 10, before going on to create a remarkable career that includes several hundred broadcast concerts for the BBC, becoming one of the best-known pianists ever to the British public.

Shelley plays the celebrated Grieg piano concerto in his LMP programme, one of the most famous works in the piano repertoire, written at a time when Grieg had re-immersed himself in his native Norway's folk music – its characteristic inflections can be heard in every melody. In 1867, when writing the concerto, Grieg was in love with his cousin, Nina Hagerup, who he was to marry that year. Something of his state of mind can be heard in the tender, radiant, yearning and instantly recognisable first movement.

Shelley also conducts the orchestra in Beethoven's overture to the tragic drama Coriolanus. Brahms' dramatic first symphony, a labour of love written over 21 years, completes the programme.

The London Mozart Players is one of Britain's finest chamber orchestras, committed to engaging internationally renowned soloists that in the 2011/12 season also included violinist Tasmin Little, rising star pianist Cordelia Williams, and Viennese violin master Benjamin Schmid.

The M&G Series 2011/12 concert will take place on 25 April (19.30), at St John's Smith Square. Tickets are available from the box office telephone 020 7222 1061.



### EDUARDO NIEBLA IN QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL FRIDAY CONCERT

The electrifying flamenco jazz guitar virtuoso Eduardo Niebla will appear at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank on Friday 20 April. Hailed by The Guardian for his 'exquisite' playing, Eduardo is one of the most potent forces in flamenco jazz fusion

today – a technically brilliant, fantastically creative player and phenomenal live performer.

At this concert, he will be joined by Carl Herring on guitar, Dharmesh Parmar on Indian tabla and The Pavão String Quartet for an exhilarating night of fabulous music:

*'The versatility with which he imbues his guitar is truly breathtaking, whether performing his poignantly poetic melodies or accompanying a truly fabulous transcontinental performance.'*

– The Scotsman

During his acclaimed career, Eduardo has worked with some of the top names in jazz, pop and world music including Lol Coxhill, George Michael, Craig David, the Dante String Quartet and Nishat Khan and has a wealth of international appearances to his name including the Cairo Jazz Festival last month where he received a standing ovation.

Eduardo's career started from very humble beginnings. He was born in Morocco to Andalusian parents in 1955, the 7th of 11 children and grew up in



*The Pavão String Quartet.*

Girona, Spain, where he formed the cult symphonic rock band 'Atila'. In 1974, he was rated alongside Paco de Lucía as one of the best guitarists in the Hispanic Peninsula, later moving to Paris and then London, where he has since been regarded as one of the outstanding guitarists of his generation.

Tickets for the Queen Elizabeth Hall concert can be purchased by calling the box office on 0844 847 9910 or logging onto [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)



Alison Guill,  
Soprano



Clare Presland,  
Mezzo



Nicky Spencer  
Tenor



Leslie MacLeod-Miller  
Bass-baritone



Vicky Yannoulis  
Piano



Keith Beresford  
Piano



WE ARE  
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CANCER SUPPORT

## Talent Unlimited presents Songs of Love and Seduction

*from Opera and Musical Theatre*

Thursday 26th April 2012 at 19.00 pm  
St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL

Ticket price: Adults £15 | Students £8 Concert & Reception: £30  
Ticket info: [cananr@hotmail.com](mailto:cananr@hotmail.com)

Telephone: 020 7935 1805 or Mobile: 0776 764 2092

Tickets can be obtained from: 8 Gloucester Gate, London NW1 4HG

## TALENT UNLIMITED IN SONGS OF LOVE AND SEDUCTION

A programme of evocative duets and more from the great moments in opera and musical theatre will be performed by Alison Guill (soprano), Clare Presland (mezzo-soprano), Nicky Spence (tenor) and Leslie MacLeod-Miller (bass-baritone), accompanied by pianists Vicky Yannoula and Keith Beresford, at St James's Church, Piccadilly, on Thursday 26 April (19.00).

The programme includes Puccini, Verdi, Monteverdi, Gershwin, Mozart, Wagner, Lehar, Kern, Bernstein, Lloyd Webber and Rodgers with the emphasis on the music on romance, love and seduction.

Proceeds will be distributed between Macmillan Cancer Support and Talent Unlimited, for the continuing musical education of talented music students at leading music colleges in London. Talent, past performance and financial



*Nicky Spence, tenor, will perform with Talent Unlimited in Songs of Love and Seduction at St James's next Thursday.*

background are taken into consideration when assessing those who are selected for help and support.

Lack of funding leads many talented young individuals to abandon the field of music as it becomes impossible or at least crippling difficult to maintain their studies whilst working in various part-time jobs to survive. Students have to pay exceptionally high fees when attending prestigious music schools and colleges in London and on many occasions by the time they reach post-graduate levels their resources have all but dried up.

This is the point at which a charity like Talent Unlimited can be called upon for help, through donations, concerts, conferences and other events aimed at creating an environment conducive to the development of young musical talent. Further information available at [www.talent-unlimited.com](http://www.talent-unlimited.com)

Tickets for next Thursday's concert are available from 020 7935 1805 or on 0776 764 2092. St James's Piccadilly is a beautiful Wren church situated two minutes' walk from Piccadilly station.

## COMPASS – WORLD PREMIERE AT SADLER'S WELLS

This week, Sadler's Wells Creative Learning department, Connect, will present a new production for the main stage, inspired by London's diversity in its Olympic year. The compelling new work, Compass, premiering on 23 April, brings together a team of choreographers, a writer, a film maker, composers and musicians with a cast of over 100 dancers, encompassing all ages and levels of experience.

An original score of live and recorded vocal and instrumental music, by composers Donna McKeivitt and Hannah Peel, is accompanied by arresting visual imagery created by BAFTA winner Tal Rosner. The company combine their talents and draw on their rich cultural heritage to create a thought provoking performance, exploring themes that celebrate unity, diversity and the meaning of 'home' within the many worlds of this capital city.



The choreographers working with the cast to create new works along Compass' themes, represent some of Sadler's Wells' finest associate and visiting companies. The 100+ dancers range in age from 8-88 include the critically lauded Company of Elders.

Compass follows the critically acclaimed 2011 main stage production Sum of Parts, which was praised at its premiere for being: 'Groundbreaking. Pulsing with life-affirming energy and enthusiasm this is a shining example of how outreach programmes such as Sadler's Wells Connect make a contribution to the nation's social health while avoiding po-faced institutional do-goodery.' – (Daily Express).

Ticket Office: 0844 412 4300.

St John's Smith Square  
020 7222 1061  
[www.sjss.org.uk](http://www.sjss.org.uk)

**LONDON  
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**Grieg** Piano Concerto

**Brahms** Symphony No. 1

**Howard Shelley** Conductor/piano

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St. John's, Smith Square

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Prince Edward Theatre



Johan Persson.



## MONICA MASON – A LIFE WITH THE ROYAL BALLET

A wonderful exhibition currently on view at The Royal Opera House features costumes and photographs from the unique career of Monica Mason and her 54 years with The Royal Ballet. From her early days as a member of the corps de ballet in 1958 through to her decade as Director of The Royal Ballet, the exhibition is a comprehensive overview of her exceptional achievements within the Company.

The earliest costume on view is for one of the six princesses or fiancées in *Le Lac des cygnes*, which Mason first

wore on 4 December 1958, five months after joining the company, aged 16, as its youngest member. Another is her costume for The Chosen Maiden in Kenneth MacMillan's *The Rite of Spring* in 1962.

Other costumes reflect the range of repertory Mason danced including classical roles in *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Raymonda Act III*, Frederick Ashton's *Birthday Offering*, *Cinderella* and *Enigma Variations* and twentieth century classics such as Bronislava Nijinska's *Les Biches*, Jerome Robbins's *Dances at a Gathering*, Hans van Manen's *Adagio Hammerklavier* and MacMillan's *Song of Earth*.

The costumes are supplemented by a rich display of over 80 images which span the whole of her career with The Royal Ballet from 1958 to the present. The photographs illustrate the many roles she danced as well as highlighting her work behind the scenes. Monica Mason has lent material for the exhibition including a full length portrait of her as a dancer in practice clothes by June Mendoza, a set of scrapbooks of press cuttings lovingly compiled by her mother, Sue Fabian, and photo albums showing Mason and her Royal Ballet colleagues on overseas tours.

There is a unique tour of the exhibition most days at 11.00 which adds background detail to the exhibits, interesting anecdotes and first hand stories of Monica Mason's career with The Royal Ballet. Book in person at the Box Office or call 020 7304 4000.

Monica Mason received a special prize at the Olivier Awards last Sunday for her outstanding contribution to theatre.

*La Traviata* 1964-65 revival – Monica Mason, Alexander Grant, Georgina Parkinson.  
Photo: Donald Southern. © ROH Collections 1.



## THE LONDON ORIGINAL PRINT FAIR

The 27th London Original Print Fair will open its door at the Royal Academy of Arts with an evening dedicated to the 80th birthday celebrations and printmaking accomplishments of Sir Peter Blake. Blake will give a special talk on 19 April which will reveal his longstanding dedication to print media and underline his status as one of Britain's most influential artists.

Within the fair, CCA Galleries will stage a special retrospective of Blake's iconographic works, spanning the six-decade printmaking career that has seen him work in woodcut, etching, lithography and, more recently, digitally.

Blake's dedication to printmaking goes hand in hand with his belief that art should be accessible to a wide audience. With his paintings often fetching six figure sums, his prints represent an opportunity to collect Blake at an affordable price.

This year, there will be etchings by the legendary Lucian Freud; Damien Hirst; Picasso and modern British artists; Grayson Perry and German Romantic prints. The London Original Print Fair provides an unrivalled opportunity for broadening your knowledge of art and starting or expanding your own collection.

The Fair will also be picking up on the Jubilee theme this year, with a number of galleries bringing works that relate to Queen and country.

Over fifty exhibitors will show works ranging from £100 to £100,000 at what is now the world's longest running specialist print fair.

The Royal Academy of Arts is in Burlington House, Piccadilly. For further information, telephone 020 7439 2000 [www.londonprintfair.com](http://www.londonprintfair.com)

## WILL THERE BE KNIGHTS AND DRAGONS?

Are there knights and dragons at Windsor Castle? Is the Round Tower really round? Are there any secret passages? How can you tell if The Queen is at home? A new children's book about the world's oldest occupied castle answers all these questions, explaining the 1,000-year history of the royal residence and how it is used by the Royal Family today.

A knight takes two children on a tour of the Castle, guiding them through the State Apartments and showing them the treasures from the Royal Collection along the way. He also reveals a secret passage under the building.

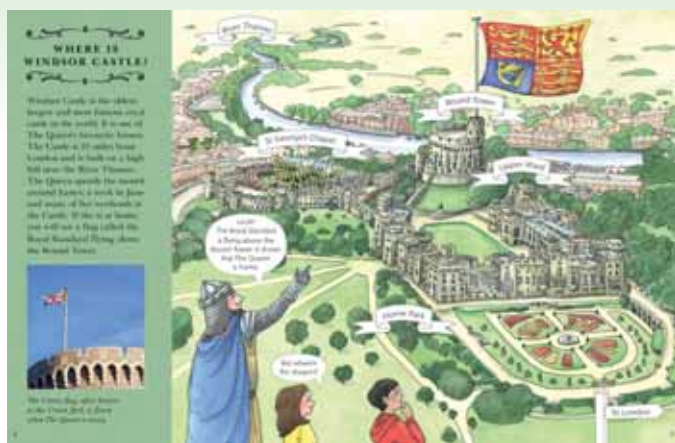
The children discover that the famous Round Tower was built in that shape because round towers are more difficult to knock down than square ones, as they have no corners. The children also learn that if the Royal Standard is flying from the Round Tower, The Queen is in residence. The Union Flag is only flown when she is away.

During their tour, the children stand to attention in front of the Guard Room with some of the Guardsmen who protect the Castle day and night. They also help out in the Great Kitchen, where food is prepared for State Banquets. As they make jam tarts, they see the enormous mixer that can whisk 500 eggs at once. The pair play with the corgis and learn about The Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Jemima Rellie, Director of Publishing and New Media at the Royal Collection, said, 'This book introduces children to centuries of British history as encapsulated in the biggest and oldest occupied castle in the world. It is packed with wonderful photographs and fascinating facts about the building and its use by The Queen today.'

Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen and has been the family home of British monarchs for almost 1,000 years.

[www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)



*Will There Be Knights and Dragons?* is published by Royal Collection Publications, price £3.95. The book is available from [www.royalcollection.org.uk/shop](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/shop) and the Royal Collection shop at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

# Piccadilly Market

## Perfect for Gifts

Piccadilly Market is held in the charming setting of the courtyard at St James's Church – just yards from Piccadilly Circus. A popular destination for over 20 years, the market offers an exciting selection of antiques, arts & crafts, jewellery, souvenirs, fashions, furnishings and more.

Craft Market open  
Wednesday – Saturday  
10am-6pm

St James's Antiques and Collectables Market open  
Tuesday 10am-6pm

Good Food Market open  
Monday 11am-5pm

**St James's Church**  
197 Piccadilly  
London W1J 9LL  
Tel: 020 7734 4511

Tube: Piccadilly Circus/  
Green Park





### UK PREMIERE OF BALLET REVOLUCIÓN AT PEACOCK THEATRE

Making its UK Premiere at the West End's Peacock Theatre from Wednesday 25 April to Saturday 19 May, Ballet Revolución is an explosive fusion of ballet, contemporary dance and hip hop from a company of supremely talented Cuban dancers and live musicians, co-choreographed by former lead dancer for Cher and original Tap Dog Aaron Cash, this sensational production will have London audiences on their feet!

The Ballet Revolución live band perform popular hits from Shakira, Ricky Martin, Beyoncé and many more, while the dancers display their versatility in dance styles from classical ballet to contemporary dance and hip hop, combined with the unique blend of Cuban, African and Spanish influences. Ballet Revolución is choreographed by Aaron Cash and Roclan Gonzalez Chavez.

The show, with some of the world's most talented classical and contemporary dancers from the Escuela Nacional Cubana de Arte and the most prominent dance groups in Cuba, is a

unique dance production full of pure emotion and relentless power and using a combination of different dance styles, creating an exciting new show straight out of Havana.

*'An absolutely brilliant show by an astonishingly talented and committed company! If you see one dance show in your life, see this. Then see it again and again.'* – Ben Elton.

For tickets, telephone the box office on 0844 412 4322 or visit the website at [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com)



### JOHN BARROWMAN AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE FESTIVAL

Historic Royal Palaces and PWR Events have announced that showman John Barrowman will provide a spectacular finale to this year's Hampton Court Palace Festival on 24 June.

John Barrowman, the multi-talented star of stage and screen on both sides of the Atlantic had an incredible 2011 with Torchwood making him a prime time star in the US. He also released a Greatest Hits album with Sony, presented a new series of Tonight's The Night for the BBC, toured the UK in his sell out concert and wrote a children's book, Hollow Earth, which received great critical acclaim.



John will join the legendary Liza Minnelli, Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, Katie Melua, James Morrison, Caro Emerald, Van Morrison, Jools Holland and His Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, Squeeze and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra who will perform a special 20th Anniversary Gala, which will be followed by spectacular fireworks over the Palace.

In addition to the music, Hampton Court Palace Festival is renowned for creating a truly unforgettable experience. Artists perform in the historic main courtyard of the magnificent Tudor Palace providing an intimate atmosphere for an audience of 3,000.

## BARRY MCGUIGAN CHARITY FUNDRAISER AT SADLER'S WELLS

On 29 April, former boxing champion Barry McGuigan MBE will be joining singers from top City firms and schools to showcase their talent at Sadler's Wells in a night of entertainment to raise funds and awareness for the Anchor House Home and Hope Appeal. The Appeal aims to transform Anchor House, an award-winning residential and life skills centre for the homeless, into a 21st century facility and fit-for-purpose complex to enable them to continue to turn around the lives of East London's homeless.

As well as an appearance by the Anchor House residents' choir, the event will feature the National Symphony Orchestra; choirs from Allen & Overy LLP, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, The Financial Times and Royal Bank of Canada; as well as pupils from 4 city schools: Stepney Greencoat Primary School, Sir John Cass Primary School, Christchurch CofE Primary School and Haggerston School.



*Former boxing champion Barry McGuigan.*

Performances will include O Fortuna from Carmina Burana, Vivaldi's Gloria and Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen, as well as original pieces written by the Anchor House choir – Forever Yours (3 mins), One Day, and the Anchor House Anthem. Also, Anchor House Patron Barry McGuigan MBE will be performing with his band on the night.

For tickets, telephone Sadler's Wells box office on 0844 412 4300 or online <http://www.sadlerswells.com/show/Gala-Concert-for-Anchor-House>.

## IRVING BERLIN'S TOP HAT OPENS AT THE ALDWYCH

Nominated for four Academy Awards, Top Hat is widely regarded as one of the greatest dance musicals of all time and the most successful picture of the nine movies Astaire and Rogers made together. Currently previewing at the Aldwych Theatre, Top Hat opens on 9 May, with Tom Chambers and Summer Strallen in the lead roles of Jerry Travers and Dale Tremont.

Performed by a cast of 31 and accompanied by a live band of 15, this new musical comedy includes Irving Berlin classics from the movie such as Cheek to Cheek, Isn't It a Lovely Day to be Caught in the Rain and Top Hat White Tie and Tails. In addition, from Berlin's 1200 strong back catalogue, a further ten numbers have been interpolated including Let's Face the Music and Dance and Puttin' On the Ritz. Based on the RKO motion picture, the screenplay by Dwight Taylor and Allan Scott has been adapted for the stage by Matthew White and Howard Jacques.

### A GALA CONCERT FOR EAST LONDON HOMELESS CHARITY AT SADLER'S WELLS

**Sunday 29 April, 2012 at 6.30pm—Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, Islington**

Featuring Barry McGuigan MBE, Freshfields, Royal Bank of Canada, Allen & Overy and The Financial Times choirs, The National Symphony Orchestra, children from four East End schools and joined by the Anchor House choir.

All money raised from the event will go to Anchor House—an award winning and nationally acclaimed residential and life skills centre for homeless people in East London. For more information about Anchor House please visit

**[www.anchorhouseuk.org](http://www.anchorhouseuk.org)**

*Tickets ranging from £10-£39. To buy tickets please phone 0844 412 4300 or visit [www.sadlerswells.com](http://www.sadlerswells.com)*



**LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT**

Eugene O'Neill's compelling family drama between James and Mary Tyrone and their sons, Jamie and Edmund, as they battle their demons, their pasts, and one another, in four extraordinary personal struggles.

APOLLO THEATRE

Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (020 7492 9968)

**THE 39 STEPS**

Maria Aitken's tongue-in-cheek adaptation of John Buchan's whodunnit has four actors playing 150 parts and includes all the legendary scenes from Hitchcock's movie.

CRITERION THEATRE

Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0844 847 1778)

**WRITTEN ON THE HEART**

Gregory Doran's powerfully involving production for the Royal Shakespeare Company brings the Reformation and its ideological conflicts into sharp focus.

DUCHESS THEATRE

Catherine Street, WC2 (0844 412 4659)

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK**

An innocent outsider, a suspicious rural community, a gothic house and a misty marsh are the ingredients of this Victorian ghost story.

FORTUNE THEATRE

Russell Street, WC2 (0844 871 7626)

**SOUTH DOWNS/THE BROWNING VERSION**

Following a critically acclaimed run as part of the Chichester Festival in 2011, the double bill of Terence Rattigan's one-act masterpiece and David Hare's specially commissioned companion piece transfers to the West End.

HAROLD PINTER THEATRE

Panton Street, SW1 (0844 871 7622)

**Royal National Theatre** Plays in repertoire

OLIVIER THEATRE

**COLLABORATORS**

John Hodge's blistering new play set in Moscow 1938 depicts the appalling humiliations inflicted on any artist by those in power.

**SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER**

One of the great, generous-hearted and ingenious comedies of the English language, Goldsmith's play offers a celebration of chaos, courtship and the dysfunctional family.

LYTTTELTON THEATRE

**TRAVELLING LIGHT**

Nicholas Wright's new play is a funny and fascinating tribute to the Eastern European immigrants who became major players in Hollywood's golden age.

**MISTERMAN**

Inishfree might seem like a quaint Irish town, but fierce evangelist Thomas Magil knows better. Cillian Murphy plays the population of an entire town in a tour-de-force solo performance of epic proportions.

COTTESLOE THEATRE

**MOON ON A RAINBOW SHAWL**

Errol John's play, written in 1953, depicts a vibrant, cosmopolitan world that is as harsh as it is filled with colour and warmth.

**THE BLACK T-SHIRT COLLECTION**

Inua Ellams' new story about two foster brothers building a global t-shirt brand, who discover the consequences of success.

NATIONAL THEATRE

South Bank, SE1 (020 7452 3000)

**WAR HORSE**

The National Theatre's epic based on the celebrated novel by Children's Laureate, Michael Morpurgo. Actors work with magnificent life-size puppets on a gruelling journey at the time of the First World War.

NEW LONDON THEATRE

Drury Lane, WC2 (0844 412 4654)

**HAY FEVER**

Howard Davies directs Lindsay Duncan in Noel Coward's play, reuniting director and actor who together received seven major international theatre awards for their 2001 collaboration on Coward's *Private Lives*.

NOEL COWARD THEATRE

St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0844 482 5140)

**NOISES OFF**

A major new revival of Michael Frayn's award-winning backstage comedy features Janie Dee and Celia Imrie. A glorious comic romp offering two plays for the price of one.

NOVELLO THEATRE

Aldwych, WC2 (0844 482 5170)

**THE SUNSHINE BOYS**

A hilarious comedy by Neil Simon set in the early days of television. A Vaudevillean double act is reunited for a television special on the history of comedy, despite years of bitter rivalry between them.

SAVOY THEATRE

Strand, WC2 (0844 871 7687)

**THE MOUSETRAP**

Agatha Christie's whodunnit is the longest running play of its kind in the history of the British theatre.

ST MARTIN'S THEATRE

West Street, WC2 (0844 499 1515)

**ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS**

Highly acclaimed National Theatre transfer of Richard Bean's English version of Goldoni's

classic Italian comedy – sex, food and money are high on the agenda.

THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET

Haymarket, SW1 (0845 481 1870)

**MASTER CLASS**

Cagney and Lacey's Tyne Daly plays Maria Callas in a piece looking back on the career of the famous operatic diva.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE

Strand, WC2 (0844 412 4663)

**THE KING'S SPEECH**

The story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it.

WYNDHAMS THEATRE

Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0844 482 5120)

**MUSICALS****SWEENEY TODD**

Jonathan Kent's acclaimed Chichester production of Stephen Sondheim's musical masterpiece depicts Sweeney Todd's savage quest for justice and retribution after years of false imprisonment.

ADELPHI THEATRE

Strand, WC2 (0844 412 4651)

**WICKED THE MUSICAL**

Hit Broadway story of how a clever, misunderstood girl with emerald green skin and a girl who is beautiful and popular turn into the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch in the Land of Oz.

APOLLO VICTORIA THEATRE

Wilton Road, SW1 (0844 826 8000)

**MATILDA**

Critically acclaimed Royal Shakespeare Company production of Roald Dahl's *Matilda* with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin, directed by Matthew Warchus.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE

Earlham Street, WC2 (0844 800 1110)

**WE WILL ROCK YOU**

A unique collaboration between the legends of rock and Ben Elton, reflecting the scale and spectacle that marked Queen's live performances.

DOMINION THEATRE

Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0844 847 1775)

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**

Long running epic romance by Andrew Lloyd Webber, set behind the scenes of a Paris opera house, where a deformed phantom stalks his prey.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Haymarket, SW1 (0844 412 2707)





Siobhan Dillon and Mark Evans in *Ghost the Musical* at the Piccadilly Theatre.

Photo: Matt Crockett.

### THE WIZARD OF OZ

Magical stage version of the unforgettable film presented by Andrew Lloyd Webber and starring Michael Crawford.

LONDON PALLADIUM  
Argyll Street, W1 (0844 412 2704)

### THRILLER – LIVE

Spectacular, high octane show celebrating the career of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

LYRIC THEATRE  
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0844 412 4661)

### THE LION KING

Disney's phenomenally successful animated film is transformed into a spectacular stage musical, a superb evening of visual delight which goes from strength to strength.

LYCEUM THEATRE  
Wellington Street, WC2 (0844 844 0005)

### STOMP

This British theatrical sensation has enthralled audiences across the world with its combination of theatre, dance, comedy and percussion.

NEW AMBASSADORS  
West Street, WC2 (0844 811 2334)

### SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

Jonathan Church's new Chichester production has all the charm, romance, comedy and tinsel town glamour of one of the world's best-loved films, including the legendary Singin' in the Rain.

PALACE THEATRE  
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0870 890 0142)

### BLOOD BROTHERS

Willy Russell's powerful musical about twins from Liverpool, separated at birth, whose paths cross in friendship and finally in bloodshed.

PHOENIX THEATRE  
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0870 060 6629)

### GHOST THE MUSICAL

A new musical stage version based on the hugely popular 1990 film, a timeless fantasy about the power of love.

PICCADILLY THEATRE  
Denman Street, W1 (0844 412 6666)

### DREAMBOATS & PETTICOATS

Inspired by the smash hit million selling compilation albums which featured some of the greatest hits of the rock 'n' roll era.

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE  
Northumberland Ave, WC2 (0844 871 7631)

### JERSEY BOYS

Rags to riches tale of four blue collar kids working their way to the heights of stardom as Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons.

PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE  
Old Compton Street, W1 (0844 482 5152)

### MAMMA MIA!

Hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, set around the story of a mother and daughter, on the eve of the daughter's wedding.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE  
Coventry Street, WC2 (0844 482 5115)

### LES MISERABLES

A spectacularly staged version of Victor Hugo's epic novel about an escaped convict's search for redemption in Revolutionary France.

QUEENS THEATRE  
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0844 482 5160)

### ROCK OF AGES THE MUSICAL

Justin Lee Collins and Shayne Ward in the hit Broadway musical which tells the story of a small town girl and a big city rocker falling in love to the great rock music of the 80's.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE  
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (020 7379 5399)

### SHREK THE MUSICAL

The first chapter in the much loved series of irreverent fairytales where Shrek and his loyal steed Donkey set off on a quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Fiona.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE  
Drury Lane, WC2 (0844 847 1722)

### BILLY ELLIOT – THE MUSICAL

The hit British film is transformed into a thrilling stage musical by its original director, Stephen Daldry, with music by Elton John.

A talented young boy becomes torn between his unexpected love of dance and the disintegration of his family.  
VICTORIA PALACE  
Victoria Street, SW1 (0844 811 0055)

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# Eating Out

## LA PORTE DES INDES

If someone asked you what you most liked about Indian food, and then what you liked least, would your answer be a) lots of variety and subtle spicing and b) food so hot it makes your eyes water?

Say yes, and I say you will be pleased to discover La Porte des Indes. For in addition to its self-consciously exotic setting – real palm trees in pots, a waterfall running down one wall, a mezzanine with iron balustrade and lots of painted elephants – this West End eatery has a Franco-Indian theme, which seems to tone down much of the chilli beloved in other Indian restaurants.

It is a mildly amusing tangent in the many stories which make up India's culinary history. Pondicherry was the one French colony in India, dating from the nineteenth century, and some of its classic dishes have been blurred together in a delicious confusion of East and West.

Highlights among the starters are the 'Demoiselles de Pondichéry', grilled scallops sitting in the shell with a creamy sauce – spiced up by saffron



and garlic. Rasoul are curry 'puffs' stuffed with lamb and peas, quite traditional but served with a sweet Creole sauce. Parsee fish is another winner – fillets of Sole steamed in banana leaves, which the waiter was careful to point out should be removed (how thoughtful!), made tangy inside by mint and coriander chutney.

So far, so delicious. The only real disappointment of the meal was the platter of vegetarian starters served to the companion. Apart from a crunchy chard and water chestnut pakora, the little assembly of things – made no doubt from gramflour, ground rice, lentils etc – was bland and dry, and some looked like a cross between an overbaked Victoria sponge and a child's jam sandwich.

This was a Road to Damascus moment: the companion decided there and then that she was no longer a vegetarian and called the waiter over to

change her order to the menu maison. Thankyou very much.

When I had stopped laughing – though I wanted to seem sympathetic – we enjoyed together tastings of Barra lamb chops – British lamb marinated in caramelised onions and garam masala, 'poulet rouge', a shredded chicken in red spices which was wonderful, and a smoked aubergine dish which was every bit as tasty as Middle Eastern versions.

Meanwhile a small party of Arabian ladies was brought some sort of pudding with candles in it, to a chorus of Happy Birthday by the staff and much applause from the other diners. This happened a few times. It's a party sort of place: perhaps too much so on occasions, we observed, as a group of Scandinavian men, who may or may not have been record producers, or footballers, or any profession which tolerates long hair, became quite drunk.

Well! We supposed they were enjoying themselves a lot in a foreign city. La Porte de Indes is so close to Marble Arch, it must have quite a following from international visitors staying in the smart hotels nearby. From our side we were satisfied with a bottle of Gewurztraminer – perhaps one of few occasions when you can enjoy such robust wine and lots of masala chai, the spicy tea which is clearly home made here. Count on spending £50 each and you will feel you had a feast. Or try the new 'light lunch' at £19 per person including a glass of freshly squeezed juice. Wholesome and exotic.

*Sue Webster*

LA PORTE DES INDES  
32 Bryanston Street, W1H 7EG  
Telephone: 020 7224 0055  
[www.laportedesindes.com](http://www.laportedesindes.com)



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