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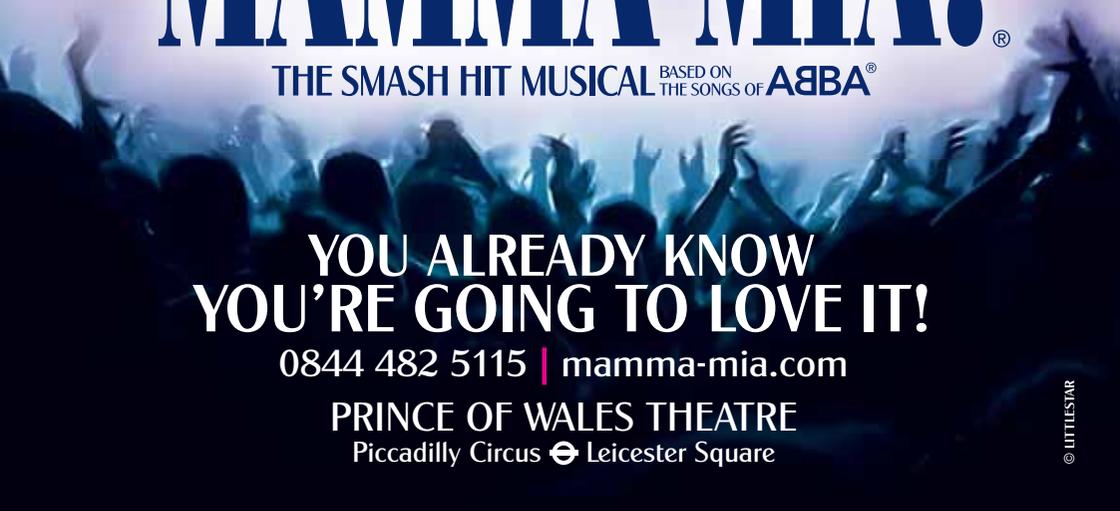
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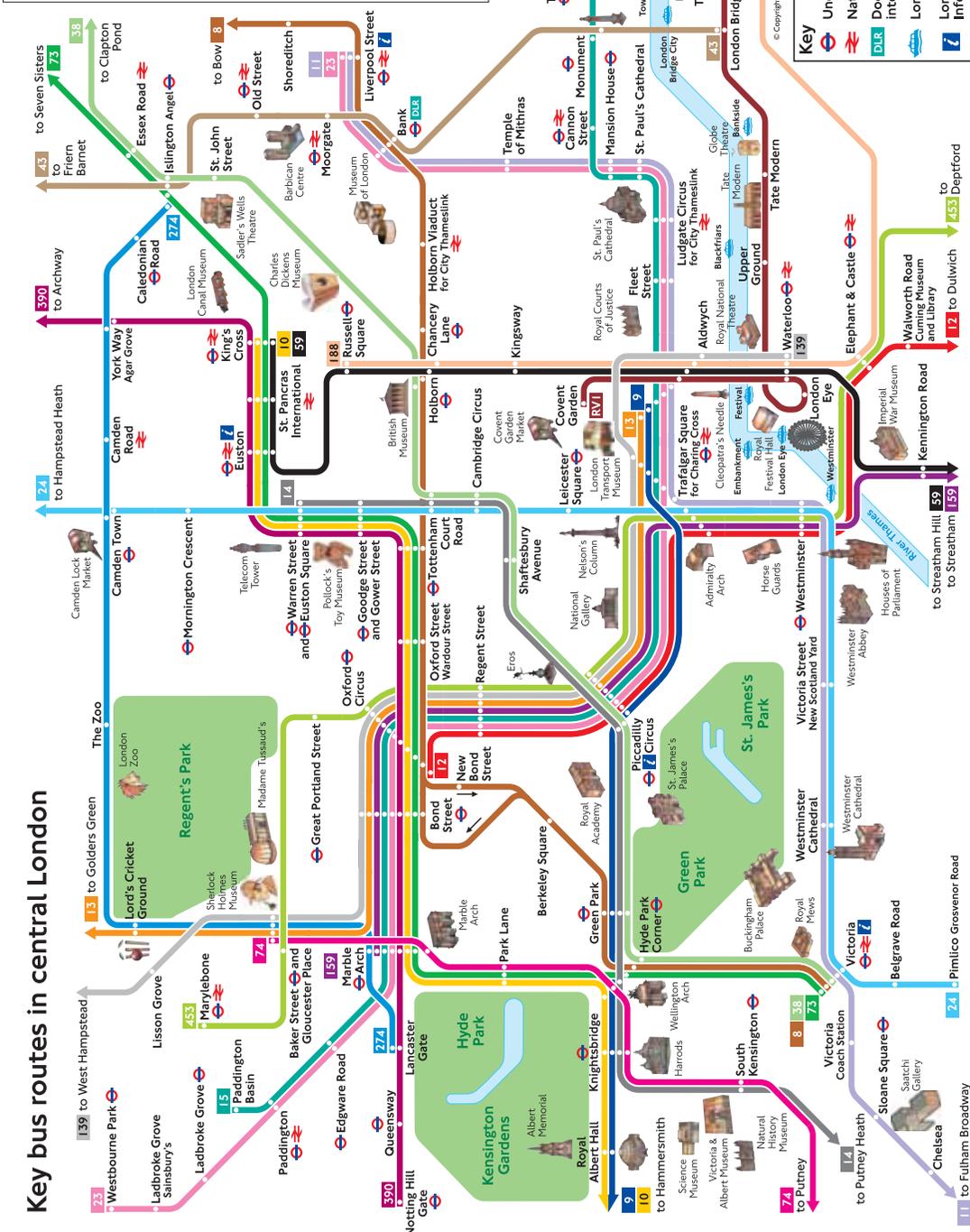
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- Underground interchange
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- Docklands Light Railway interchange
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## CONTENTS

<b>Events</b>	<b>4</b>
MotoGP at Silverstone	
MCC v Lords & Commons at Lord's	
<b>Music</b>	<b>8</b>
Sir Willard White in Verdi Requiem	
Albek Duo at St James's Piccadilly	
<b>Exhibitions</b>	<b>14</b>
David Anthony Hall Solo Show	
Homeopathy Awareness Week	
<b>Theatre</b>	<b>18</b>
Mamma Mia! new cast	
One Man, Two Guvnors	

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## Welcome to London

Fish and chips – the great British institution! Fresh cod, battered, fried and served piping hot with plenty of salt and vinegar. It's the traditional treat that generation after generation of British families have enjoyed. And as a visitor to London, no doubt you'll be trying it out while you are here too.



But what would you think if I told you that the seas are running out of the cod that makes the nation's favourite Friday night supper? And the eel that makes London's famous jellied eels. .... and haddock, and herring and hake, and many more varieties of fish that we've all taken for granted over the years.

The fact is that if we continue to use the oceans as we do, by 2050 there will only be jelly fish left. It's a thought that we just can't bear. So here at Selfridges, the store on Oxford Street where I am Creative Director, we have done something about it. We created Project Ocean, a huge campaign to encourage everyone to eat sustainably and help to save the ocean.

Come into our Food Halls, you won't find any endangered fish on our fish counters or in any of our restaurants. In our restaurants, we've got top chefs serving up delicious dishes with fish that you might never have tried before. In our Fashion Department, iconic 'fashion activist' designer Katharine Hamnett has created a range of exclusive t-shirts to tell the world 'Save the Sea' and 'Stop and Think', because if we don't, we'll end up with jelly fish on the menu!

But it doesn't stop at Selfridges' doors. We offer all of our customers a Selfridges Fish Guide that you can take with you to the market or favourite restaurants, so you can make a difference by making sustainable choices every day. We've also developed a free iPhone app, which gives you all the info you need to eat sustainable fish around the West End and beyond. Just search for 'Selfridges fish' in the AppStore and you can download it for free.

So pop by, learn more about the beauty of the ocean and how you can make a difference. We hope you try something new and help us save the seas for generations to come!

### Alannah Weston

Creative Director of Selfridges  
 www.selfridges.com



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## MCC V LORDS & COMMONS RETURNS TO LORD'S

MCC will play against Lords and Commons at Lord's on Friday 10 June, the first time that the Home of Cricket has hosted this annual fixture since 12 July, 1939.

MCC will be led by the former Kent and England all-rounder, Matthew Fleming, whose team includes Clare Connor, the former England Women's captain. James Morris MP, who has played first-class cricket for Oxford University, captains a cross-party Lords & Commons team that also features the Minister for Sport, Hugh Robertson MP, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP and the Shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls MP.



*Lord's – the Home of Cricket.*

The match will be followed by a reception in the Long Room, to raise awareness of 'Chance to Shine supported by Brit Insurance', the Cricket Foundation's initiative to reinvigorate state school cricket. Throughout the day, approximately 100 children from Chance to Shine schools will compete in a Kwik Cricket Tournament on the Nursery Ground.

MCC can boast 36 victories in this annual fixture; Lords & Commons eight, with 21 drawn matches. Lords & Commons Cricket Club were last successful in 2003.



## LONDON IN BLOOM

*London is bursting with the most beautiful blooms in borders all around the Royal Parks, a feast for the eyes in Regent's Park, St James's Park and Hyde Park. An oasis of calm in the busy city.*

*Photo: Roger Stansfield.*

## THE GREENWICH FAIR

From Greenwich to Woolwich, Mile End to Canary Wharf, the 2011 Greenwich+Docklands International Festival will present a 9 day programme, from 24 June to 9 July, of outdoor performing arts, including world class theatre and dance, family entertainment, two extraordinary theatre spectacles and, for the first time since 1857, a Greenwich Fair.

Until 150 years ago, when it was closed down for being too boisterous and unruly, Greenwich Fair was the largest and most uproarious gathering of outdoor entertainment in the country. Loved by Charles Dickens, William Thackeray and Nathaniel Hawthorne, amongst many thousands of Victorian devotees, the activities included sideshows, dancing booths, travelling menageries and melodramas which boasted 3 murders and a ghost in 25 minutes. The Greenwich Fair is coming back to life 2011 style as 35 performing arts companies will present a non-stop schedule of events over 3 days from 24- 26 June.

## VERDI'S MACBETH RETURNS TO THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Phyllida Lloyd's dramatic production of the epic tragedy *Macbeth*, the first of Verdi's great Shakespearean operas, returns to the Royal Opera House stage this week, for the first time since 2006, with performances on 10, 13 & 15 June at 19.30, and 18 June at 19.00.

This thrilling tale of murder, treachery, greed and insanity unfolds through the powerful designs of Anthony Ward. *Macbeth's* dagger soliloquy and Lady *Macbeth's* sleepwalking scene are just two of the play's famous moments brought to life by Verdi's wonderfully atmospheric music.

Singing the title role of *Macbeth* is British baritone Simon Keenlyside, the first time he has undertaken this role at the Royal Opera House. Ukrainian soprano Liudmyla Monastyrskya returns to the Covent Garden stage, following her critically acclaimed performances of *Aida*, to sing the role of Lady *Macbeth*.



*Clive Barcla.*

American tenor Dimitri Pittas makes his Covent Garden debut in the role of *Macduff* and American bass Raymond Aceto sings the role of *Banquo*. Antonio Pappano, Music Director of The Royal Opera, conducts all performances.

On 13 June, this production will also be broadcast live into over 400 cinemas around the world.

Tickets from the Box Office telephone: 020 7304 4000.



### **VENGEANCE: THE UK'S FIRST 5D LASER RIDE**

An entirely new, adrenaline-charged ride is now open at the London Dungeon – Vengeance: the UK's first 5D Laser Ride. Taking scare to a whole new level, this technologically groundbreaking 5D ride is a full scale assault on the senses. Set in Victorian times at London's most

haunted address, 50 Berkeley Square, Vengeance takes guests on the ultimate ghost hunt. As a séance spirals out of control, riders will shoot it out against twisted, vengeful spirits whilst completely disorientated in the dark and spinning at high speeds.

A UK first, Vengeance is only the third 5D ride in the world, combining stunningly realistic high definition 3D film with fully immersive '4D' special effects – and the fifth dimension of rider interactivity in a fast paced laser shoot-out.

Vengeance joins two other thrill rides and an action-packed mix of twisted experiences bringing to life history's horrible bits. From close shaves with Sweeney Todd to a public execution by order of Bloody Mary Tudor there's plenty of scary family fun.

Tickets for the London Dungeon in Tooley Street, SE1, are available by telephone on 0871 423 2240 or from the website at [www.thedungeons.com](http://www.thedungeons.com)

## **Art for Survival**

**Mall Galleries  
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### LIL' ROCKERS PARTY AT THE HARD ROCK CAFE

The world famous Hard Rock Cafe London celebrates its 40th anniversary this year and is celebrating with a host of events to appeal to their customers.

On Sunday 12 June, they are holding a special event for the Lil' Rockers – a 70's party for kids aged 10 and under featuring stilt walkers, face painters, balloon artists and a disco. Private music lessons will be held in The Vault, the old bank vault under The Rock Shop which houses the best of the Cafe's rock 'n' roll memorabilia collection, where the kiddies will get the unique chance to sing and play along with the Vaultmasters.

70's fancy dress is highly encouraged with the coolest rocker of the day winning a fantastic prize – the ultimate family day out in London including tickets to the London Aquarium, dinner at the Hard Rock and tickets to see a West End Show.

The party is from 11.00–14.00 and spaces are limited. To make a reservation, call 020 7297 4334.

### TOURS OF PARLIAMENT'S PORTCULLIS HOUSE

The stunning architecture of Portcullis House and the unique art collection hung on its walls are highlights of a new 75 minute guided tour of the parliamentary building.

Available, initially, for two days a month from May to July, the tours offer a rare opportunity to view Portcullis House, the only new building commissioned by Parliament since the Palace of Westminster in the 19th century. It was designed by leading British architect Michael Hopkins and officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen in February 2001 providing offices for Members of Parliament and their staff.

Portcullis House is the home of the House of Commons contemporary portrait collection. This unique collection of art, records leading Parliamentarians in paintings, works on paper and photographs. The collection reflects a diversity of styles and approaches by leading UK based artists working over the last 50 years, all the works were commissioned or acquired by the Works of Art Committee.

Guided tours of the main parliament buildings, the Houses of Parliament, are available every Saturday and during Summer Opening which this year will be from 29 July to 3 September and from 19 September to 1 October. Bookings on 0844 847 1672 or at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

### WORLD PREMIERE OF 1888 AT UNION THEATRE

From the producers of 'The Remains of the Day', 'Purlie', 'Ruthless' and 'Elegies' comes the World premiere of a new musical by Gerry Ware.

Set against the vibrant, chaotic and colourful backdrop of London, horrific incidents occurred during the hot summer of 1888 that gripped the East End from Whitechapel to the 'Bohemia' of Hoxton. Behind a series of events, which almost brought this mighty metropolis to the brink of imploding in a social and media fuelled frenzy of fear and dread, hid the face of someone who was to become one of history's most infamous serial killers.



Michael Brydon.

## The Guards Museum

Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk, London SW1E 6HQ

Open 7 days a week, 10am-4pm last ticket sold 3.30pm

Admission £4 adults, children under 16 **free**



See over 350 years of Foot Guards history and their relationship with the Sovereign. From the English Civil War to Afghanistan.

Detective Constable John Beck and house maid Rosie Walker, two young lovers who themselves are forced to confront their own demons, must work together in an attempt to end a spree of carnage that would challenge and ultimately change the face and attitudes of this great city forever. 1888 a dark era of change ...

The production runs at The Union Theatre until Saturday 2 July. Box Office telephone 020 7261 9876 or go to [www.ticketsource.co.uk/uniontheatre](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/uniontheatre) or [www.uniontheatre.biz](http://www.uniontheatre.biz)

The Union Theatre is at 204 Union Street, London SE1 0LX.



## A UNIQUE VISITOR VIEW OF LONDON – KAYAK TOURS

London has two sides to its personality, the 'big and bold side', defined by the hustle and bustle of tubes, cabs and crowded streets but little did we know there is a 'sensitive, calm side' to our City which I had the pleasure of exploring recently kayaking on the Hampton Court Tour.

The Hampton Court Tour is situated opposite Hampton Court Palace next to Molesey Lock. It is fun from the start ... just trying to get the buoyancy aid on correctly! First, visitors learn the basic knowledge of how to kayak and manipulate the boats and, more importantly, stay balanced. There is then a safety briefing from an expert British Canoe Union Instructor who, in our case, was the quintessential New Zealander. Dan had a friendly, warm but practical approach.

We waded through 'rollers' which are a type of see-saw lock paddling downstream at Molesey Lock. Having paddled gently along at a steady walking type pace and admired the stately houseboats and English countryside within the urban metropolis, we meandered further downstream, which was relatively easy, towards Ravens Ait, working our muscles and gaining an appetite for our pub lunch. Great exercise for the bingo wings!



This was definitely the best seat in the house in terms of viewing the main attractions without the crowds and queues. It felt like being upgraded from stalls to a private box. Although I was part of a group of 12 participants, my seat was first class the whole way. The Tour is perfect for anyone who wants to play tourist for a day avoiding the chaos for some well-deserved 'R and R'. It is truly a unique way to visit London from a slightly lower level without venturing near the underground!

*Beth Jones*

## SILVERSTONE GEARING UP FOR THE ULTIMATE MOTOGP FESTIVAL

The FIM MotoGP World Championship returns to Silverstone on 10–12 June, when Valentino Rossi, Jorge Lorenzo, Casey Stoner and Britain's Cal Crutchlow will go head-to-head with the best riders in the world at the 2011 AirAsia British Grand Prix.

With spectacular on-track action guaranteed, Silverstone has developed a world class line-up of free off-track entertainment, which will run over all three days of the UK's premier motorcycle racing event. The entertainment ranges from stunt shows, concerts and aerobatic displays, to interactive experiences that include off-road riding sessions, pillion rides and 'first-time' taster sessions.

Two interactive zones will run over all three days of MotoGP. New for this year is the Honda Off Road Experiential Zone which will offer Trials riding, an Enduro off-road school and a MotoX off-road school. Whether you're an experienced off-road rider or a complete novice, the Experiential Zone will provide an ideal opportunity to practice and improve your riding skills.

On the Saturday night (11 June), the Honda Off Road Experimental Zone will host a Flat Track Party. A purpose built flat track will stage flat track racing, including the 2011 Pozzani Grand National UK Flat Track Championship series, which will be making its first appearance at Silverstone. The 'Party' will also feature a Big Air Jam Freestyle

competition, rider appearances, including Graziano Rossi demonstrating his Zaeta Flat Track bike, and the Red Bull DJ truck, ensuring there's something for everyone.

The Get On! Zone at Stowe Circuit will also provide a host of interactive entertainment for fans of all ages – from two year olds to adults. Activities include Kiddi Moto for 2 – 5 year olds, My First Licence for 5 – 11 year olds, Silverstone's Rookie Ride Experience for teenagers aged 13 years or older and Kiddi Quads for children of all ages. For adults there's the Craig Jones Skills School, as well as a Wheelie machine. Stowe Circuit will also feature racing from the Supermoto British Championship.

Elsewhere, the legendary Dougie Lampkin MBE and Craig Jones will be wowing the crowds with regular stunt riding displays, while the Silverstone skies will be busy over the MotoGP weekend with the Red Devils, Red Bull Matadors, and Blades Aerobatic Team performing death-defying air displays on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Further entertainment on offer throughout the three-day event includes pillion ride experiences around Stowe Circuit with the California Superbike School; live music, rider interviews and competitions on the Arena Main Stage; interactive and bike displays in the Manufacturer Village; as well as a Funfair featuring rides for all the family.

All of the MotoGP entertainment is free of charge to anyone purchasing a ticket for the 2011 AirAsia British Grand Prix. For tickets, visit the website at [www.silverstone.co.uk](http://www.silverstone.co.uk), or telephone 0844 3750 740.

*James Booth*



## VERDI REQUIEM AND TCHAIKOVSKY PIANO CONCERTO NO 1

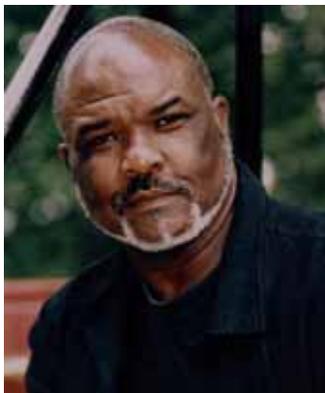
Sir Willard White and Susan Gritton head the star cast of soloists in Verdi's exciting and much-loved Requiem at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Wednesday 22 June (19.30).

Sir Willard White is one of the most eminent names both in the world's most prestigious opera houses and on the concert platform, and is known to wider audiences through his appearances at the Last Night of the Proms and his hugely popular tributes to Paul Robeson. Susan Gritton, who has established a global reputation and career since winning the Kathleen Ferrier Competition in 1994, has recently worked with Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Colin Davis, and Antonio Pappano in venues from Tokyo to Milan and Sydney to Venice.

One of the most interesting of the younger generation of pianists performing on 22 June is Tom Poster, a former BBC Young Musician of the Year keyboard winner and winner of the Scottish International Piano Competition. Now a frequent recitalist for Radio 3, and described by The Guardian as 'a young lion', Tom's interpretations of popular repertoire are characterised by a passionate virtuosity. His Tchaikovsky 1 at the QEH will be an experience not to be missed.

Marking as it does the thirtieth anniversary of The English Arts Chorale, the concert opens with a performance of Parry's I Was Glad, fresh in many minds from the recent Royal Wedding, conducted by the Chorale's newly-appointed President, the conductor and broadcaster Brian Kay. Brian will also give a free pre-concert talk at 18.15.

Tickets available from the Southbank Centre Box Office on 0844 875 0073, or [www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk).



*Sir Willard White.*

## BARBICAN AT HEART OF LONDON'S 2012 CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Juliette Binoche, Cate Blanchett and Luc Bondy, Toni Morrison, Rokia Traoré and Peter Sellars, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis and Sir Simon Rattle, Simon McBurney, Nico Muhly, and a major new Bauhaus exhibition head up the unmissable arts projects to be presented by the Barbican throughout 2012 – its 30th birthday year.

An engine room of creativity, the Barbican will bring together a dazzling array of international and local collaborations throughout the year when the eyes of the world will be on London for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The world-class events puts the Barbican at the heart of the London 2012 Festival – a UK-wide festival which will bring leading artists from all over the world together in the summer of 2012.

[www.london2012.com/culture](http://www.london2012.com/culture)

## CANARY WHARF CELEBRATES THE SUMMER IN STYLE

Those looking to make the most of the long summer evenings should pay a visit to Canary Wharf for some of the best music and dance performances in the Capital. This dynamic and cosmopolitan destination has an array of world-class cultural events over the summer months, ranging from the ever-popular Twilight Delights outdoor concerts and Dancing City performances to a series of exciting collaborations with the Royal Opera House, Barbican Blaze, the City of London Festival and some of London's top West End shows.

Highlights include Dancing City which returns with leading British and international dance companies and artists. This year features the acclaimed Spanish Producciones Imperdibles performing La Mirada Transparente from Thursday 30 June to Saturday 2 July.

The audience sits on reclining seats beneath a transparent stage drawing them into the heart of the performance framed by the Canary Wharf skyline.

On Saturday 2 July, the international flavour continues with performances from leading French dance company Compagnie Pied en Sol, the English National Ballet and a UK premiere from an Italian contemporary dance company, Ballo Publico.

Opera enthusiasts can also indulge at The BP Summer Big Screens live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden series at Canada Square Park. On Monday 4 July, Madam Butterfly brings the drama, musical richness and sheer enjoyment of this great opera to the heart of Canary Wharf. Then for the first time ever, The Royal Opera presents the story of Cinderella as told in Massenet's opera on Wed. 13 July. Screenings at free, just turn up with a picnic!



*Sir Harrison Birtwistle.*

### RAY DAVIES' MELTDOWN FESTIVAL

Southbank Centre's Meltdown festival 2011, curated by Ray Davies and part of Festival of Britain celebrations, highlights the link between convention-breaking popular music and the iconoclastic side of classical music, as Southbank Centre Resident Orchestra London Sinfonietta performs the works of two of UK's most innovative composers, Sir Harrison Birtwistle and Sir Peter Maxwell-Davies.

Birtwistle and Maxwell-Davies started their careers together as students in Manchester in the mid-1950s. They later teamed-up to form The Pierrot Players (then re-named the Fires of London), writing cutting-edge works for the 1960s. To this phase belongs Maxwell-Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King*, which was premiered in 1969. The monodrama is based on the disconnected words of King George III, who in the later part of his life suffered from a recurrent, and eventually permanent, mental illness. The soliloquy, an extremely demanding part spanning five octaves, will be performed by British baritone Leigh Melrose.

Birtwistle's *Virelai* and *Secret Theatre* are also featured in the programme. The first work, premiered in 2008, continues the composer's fascination with ancient music and presents a structure that is inspired by medieval French verse.

Admirers of each other's work, Birtwistle and Ray Davies were both

winners at the 2006 Ivor Novello Awards. The memorable occasion saw Birtwistle asking a number of winning pop and rock performers, 'Why is your music so f'ing loud? It's all about false energy.'

Ray Davies said: 'I see Birtwistle and Maxwell-Davies as the pioneers of that non-conventional approach and spirit of mischievous British rebellion that influenced so much of my own career. Presenting their works is an opportunity to mark the links between past, present and future in British music.'

### THE MERCHANTS OF BOLLYWOOD

The Merchants of Bollywood brings the glamour and glitter of Bollywood back to the West End's Peacock Theatre running until 3 July, following a sell-out international tour and packed houses at the Peacock Theatre last summer.

A theatrical dance extravaganza, The Merchants of Bollywood charts the history of the world's largest and most prolific film industry, and the dynasty of stars that have lit its way over generations. Written and directed by Toby Gough, the show has been seen by over two million people.

*"These twin sisters from Switzerland offer a dazzling blend of beauty, passion and musicianship."*

## ALBEK DUO



*Ambra Albek, violin and viola  
Fiona Albek, piano*



St. James's Church, Piccadilly  
LONDON

Thursday, 16 June 2011  
7:30 PM



Tickets: £15    £10 Concessions    £6 students

To reserve: [sjp.concerts@virgin.net](mailto:sjp.concerts@virgin.net) 020 7381 0441

## MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

Wyndhams

I have never seen a production of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* in which the audience seemed programmed for indiscriminate laughter from the moment they walked into the theatre until the moment they walked out.

This, of course, has everything to do with the pairing of Dr Who's David Tennant and Catherine Tate, who, in Josie Rourke's self-consciously rollicking production milk the bantering Benedick and Beatrice for every guffaw they possibly can. From the very outset, the sparring couple go for broke not only on every line Shakespeare gives them, but every syllable as well. Funny voices and facial expressions aren't exactly in short supply either.

Even when laughter isn't called for – as in the heart-stopping moment when Beatrice demands that Benedick 'kill Claudio' after he abandons his bride to be, Hero, at the altar, the audience (at least on the night I was there) fell about laughing.

This cannot be right. In Shakespeare's play of two distinct halves there's time for frivolity and time for solemnity, and

Rourke's take on it, updated to the 1980's and set in a naval base in Gibraltar, too often blurs the contours in its dogged, anything-goes determination to have a laugh.

And while Tennant, who makes his first appearance in a golf trolley dressed in navy whites and dark glasses, is an obvious crowd-pleaser, a little less mugging and gallery playing might give his comic turn an added dimension. A case of less being more.

Subtlety isn't exactly Tate's strong point either. She also believes in the anything-for-a-laugh school of comedy and Rourke's direction clearly encourages this.

The twin scenes – and the comic highlight of the play – in which both Beatrice and Benedick fall prey to a ruse in which they 'accidentally' overhear a conversation that leads them to believe each is in love with the other, are two of the funniest scenes Shakespeare ever wrote.

But they're so broadly and implausibly staged – with Tennant covered in white paint and Tate covered by a decorator's sheet while being harnessed upwards – they play like silent-screen slapstick.

And while updating the action to the permissive 1980's is a shrewd commercial manoeuvre, allowing for a more contemporary music track as well as a pre-nuptial party, whose appurtenances include a sex doll and a sailor stripogram – not to mention some raunchy sex action – it makes no sense whatever in the context of a play whose dramatic fulcrum pivots on whether or not Claudio's intended bride Hero is a chaste virgin!

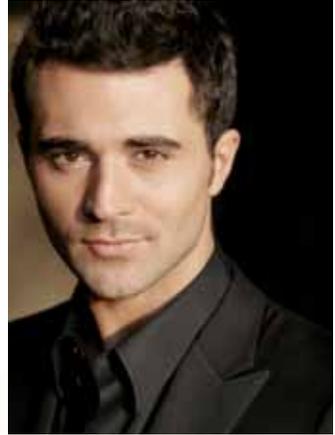
On a more affirmative note, there are excellent performances from Tom Bateman as Claudio, Sarah Macrae as Hero, John Ramm as Master Constable Dogberry and, best of all, Jonathan Coy as Hero's father Leonato.

This is certainly not the best *Much Ado* you'll ever see – but it's well geared to the West End in general and fans of its two stars in particular. Notch it up as a commercial success but an artistic failure.

CLIVE HIRSCHHORN

## OPERA POP STAR DARIUS HEADLINES AT KEMPTON PARK

Darius Campbell will be headlining the entertainment on British Big Band Night at London's premier racecourse, Kempton Park on 22 June. The concert is one of the top events in the recently launched 'Kempton Live' series of quality racing followed by live music this summer. This high energy swing show will be sure to get everyone tapping their feet and clapping along, as Darius and the band perform famous tunes from the world's greatest big band leaders.



Darius, who leapt to fame after winning ITV1's *Popstar* to *Operastar*, has had five UK Top Ten singles and supported Shakira on her world tour. The popular West End leading man has been performing in some of the biggest operatic productions in the UK and made a guest appearance at the Beatles 50th Anniversary Concert at the Royal Albert Hall. He has also starred in several West End productions including 'Gone with the Wind', 'Guys and Dolls' and Chicago.

On this special night, Kempton Park will welcome representatives from ABF The Soldiers' Charity, whose work supports the men and women who put everything on the line to defend Britain.

Live horse racing action takes place under the floodlights at Kempton Park before the action on the stage kicks off.

For further information and tickets, telephone 0844 579 3008.

### Duruflé *Requiem*

### Howells *An English Mass*

St John's, Smith Square

London SW1P 3HA

Thursday 23 June

7.30pm

Tickets £10-£24

020 7222 1061

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

City of London Choir  
London Mozart Players  
Hilary Davan Wetton  
*conductor*

[www.cityoflondonchoir.org](http://www.cityoflondonchoir.org)

## ALBEK DUO AT ST JAMES'S CHURCH PICCADILLY

The dazzling Albek Duo, identical twin sisters from Lugano, Switzerland, have been captivating audiences throughout Europe, North and South America and Australia. And now, Ambra (violin, viola) and Fiona (piano) will be making their first appearance in London at St. James's Church, Piccadilly on Thursday, 16 June at 19.30.

Reviewers have been lavish in their praise of Ambra and Fiona's high level of musicianship and their ability to charm audiences and communicate the sheer joy of music-making. As one critic wrote: *'The enchanting and delightful performance by the Albek twins was full of grace, bravura and originality in a demanding program. These sisters from Switzerland from the very beginning have captured the public's attention with their spontaneous freshness and interesting program choices.'*

Their programme at St. James's Piccadilly includes colorful music by Joaquín Turina, sonatas by Leoš Janáček and Edvard Grieg, and the Romanian Folk Dances of Béla Bartók in a rare arrangement for viola and piano edited by the composer's son. The concert also features the UK premieres of two pieces specially composed for the Albek Duo: The Nightingale in the Park by American composer William Perry and Alessandro Lucchetti's Fantasy on Themes from Puccini's Tosca.

Some of this music appears on the Albek Duo's recent and widely-praised Eroica CD called 'South of the Alps,' presenting music from Italy, France and Spain. In August, Naxos Records will release their performance of the Gemini Concerto, another piece written for them by William Perry and recorded with the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland.

Tickets for next Thursday's concert can be reserved by telephoning 020 7381 0441 or sending an email to [sjp.concerts@virgin.net](mailto:sjp.concerts@virgin.net).



The Albek Duo.

Wednesday 22nd June 2011 at 7.30pm  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

# Verdi Requiem

Susan Gritton  
Jennifer Johnston  
John Hudson  
Sir Willard White

## Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No.1

Tom Poster, piano

The English Arts Chorale  
Camerata of London  
Leslie Olive, conductor

Brian Kay introduces the concert and  
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*The City of London Choir and Hilary Davan Wetton being filmed for Tony Palmer's 2011 documentary on Gustav Holst, 'In the Bleak Midwinter'.*

*Clive Barba*

### **CITY OF LONDON CHOIR AT ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE**

*'at their sublime best, the close-textured voices soared to the chancel roof'* – The Observer, describing the City of London Choir in 2009.

Durufié's Requiem is deservedly one of the most popular choral works of the twentieth century. Rooted in Gregorian chant, it creates a timeless, mystic soundworld of intense luminosity. Like Fauré, Durufié rejected the hellfire and brimstone model of the Requiem Mass and preferred instead a more contemplative, ethereal evocation. Richly varied choral and orchestral writing is

illuminated by moments of intense drama and the eloquent mezzo-soprano solo in the Pie Jesu.

Durufié's exact contemporary Herbert Howells also drew inspiration from the church in which he worked. His writing owes much, not just to the Tudor predecessors he so admired, but to the very architecture of the English cathedral and the effect of voices in resonant spaces.

The music finds a perfect setting in St. John's, Smith Square on Thursday 23 June (19.30). Situated in the heart of Westminster, St John's is one of London's major concert venues and favourite historic buildings, famed for its superb

acoustic. Built in 1728, and restored after damage in the Second World War, it is one of the finest examples of English Baroque architecture and is considered a masterpiece of this style.

Conductor Hilary Davan Wetton brings together again the City of London Choir – 'a leader among non-professional choruses' (Times) – with the 'superb' London Mozart Players (Independent). They will be joined by organist Mark Williams, currently Director of Music at Jesus College Cambridge, described by the international press as 'nothing short of brilliant' and 'the shooting star of the international organ scene'. The mezzo-soprano soloist will be emerging talent Marta Fontanals-Simmons: '*... an intense, expressive and attractive voice which reminded me keenly of Susan Gritton's*' (BBC Music Magazine).

This will be a concert to nurture the soul.

Tickets from the box office telephone 020 7222 1061. [www.sjss.org.uk](http://www.sjss.org.uk)

### **A NEW ORATORIO – RE:CREATION AT METHODIST CENTRAL HALL**

Re:Creation is a new oratorio retelling the Bible story for the 21st Century for soloists, chorus and orchestra. It will be performed on 11 June at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster SW1 at 19.30.

The inspiration for Re:Creation comes from the great oratorio tradition which has delighted and inspired singers, players and audiences over the centuries. Re:Creation is a new work designed to bring to the 21st century these same responses and follows the Biblical story of creation and redemption across the breadth of human history using contemporary language and music.

Soloists include Noel Tredinnick, who is in demand internationally as an inspirational conductor and Christian workshop leader. Heidi Pegler is soprano, with Sarah Stroh (mezzo-soprano), Stuart Overington (tenor), Peter Barber (baritone) and John Langley (Voice of God).

Box office telephone 0844 477 1000.

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**A WEEKEND OF BRITISH LIGHT MUSIC AT SOUTHBANK CENTRE**

A major highlight of Southbank Centre's Festival of Britain celebrations, Light Fantastic Weekend on 24–26 June is the culmination of BBC Radio 3's nation-wide festival of light music. The Weekend will see the entire Southbank Centre site steeped in some of the nation's most melodious and beloved music that accompanied Britain through the difficult post-war years of austerity. A constellation of stars including soprano Lesley Garrett and conductor John Wilson join the BBC Symphony and Concert Orchestras, the John Wilson Orchestra, the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, and the 'world champion' Cory Band to bring back into limelight the music of Ivor Novello, Noël Coward, Billy Mayerl and Eric Coates.

With its evocation of the British landscape, seaside holidays and tea dances, British light music is now best associated with popular film, radio and television programmes from the 1950s and 60s. Composer of the Dambusters March and the Desert Island Discs music, Eric Coates is under the spotlight at the Royal Festival Hall on 25 June in a special televised gala event where John Wilson leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra in performances of his Three Elizabeths Suite, London Calling and Knightsbridge from London Suite. The previous evening Gavin Sutherland, Chairman of the Light Music Society, conducts a special edition of Friday Night Is Music Night, as 'the diva next door' Lesley Garrett joins the BBC Concert Orchestra to sing favourites from the golden age of musical theatre. The Weekend concludes with a Sunday afternoon Tea Dance where John Wilson leads his orchestra in a celebration of classic dance band numbers.

Complementing the glitz and glam at the Royal Festival Hall, the Queen Elizabeth Hall hosts two of the nation's finest brass bands over the Light Fantastic Weekend. Current World and European Brass Band Champion, South

Wales's Cory Band joins conductor Robert Childs and euphonium virtuoso David Childs for a diverse British programme ranging from Elgar and Coates to Karl Jenkins. Following their scene-stealing performance at the Royal Wedding, the Central Band of the Royal Air Force performs the music of Coates, Ernest Tomlinson, and other wind band favourites from the light music repertoire. A unique and prized British tradition rooted in village, church and military, the brass band movement was a response to industrialisation and reached its peak in the early twentieth century when over 20,000 players were estimated to play in brass bands in the UK.

Celebrating perhaps the best known of all light music, Southbank Centre

calls out to all musicians, amateur and professional, to join The Archers Big Busk, conducted by John Wilson, outside the Royal Festival Hall on the Riverside Terrace at 11.15 on Sunday 26 June.

Throughout the weekend, Southbank Centre welcomes on site a series of flagship BBC Radio 3 programmes including Nightwaves, Music Matters with Petroc Trelawny, and Sunday Morning with Suzy Klein. BBC Radio 3 is additionally organising more than 20 national events for Light Fantastic, from Radio 3's Discovering Music with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to Radio 3 Requests live from BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Cardiff.

Ticket Office: 0844 875 0073

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## CHILDREN'S AMBULANCE SERVICE DONATION BY ARTIST'S BLUEBELLS

Bluebell Woodland, a photograph displayed as part of an urban garden at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, by contemporary landscape artist David Anthony Hall, has raised £12,820 for the London charity, Children's Acute Transport Service (CATS).

Andy Petros, Director of CATS said, *'We are enormously grateful to David for this extremely generous donation. It is humbling to realise that other people value us enough to support us to this extent.'* Hall, who each year offers at



David Anthony Hall at Chelsea Flower Show.

least one of his images as a donation to a charity close to his heart, was especially touched by the work CATS do. *'With two small children of our own we were so taken with the passion and dedication of the CATS team.'* said Hall. *'As a parents it is something we could relate to despite, thankfully, never having had any direct need of their assistance. There is nothing greater than the gift of life passed to us by our parents and yet as parents ourselves, what could be more overwhelming than the fear and helplessness felt when dealing with a sick child. It's impossible to comprehend the pain a mother must feel at the loss of a child. CATS can make that lifesaving difference and we wanted to support it.'*

Hall's solo show runs until 24 June at Thompson's Gallery in London and is showcasing 20 images from his latest body of work. Hall's work is always of nature and represents the strong emotional connection he feels to a place.

He says *'In a society battling with over civilisation, it is easy to lose touch with nature and each other in its simplest sense. My work constantly reminds me of how fleeting our presence actually is on the planet and how precious our relationships with our environment and our loved ones are in this context.'*

Hall dedicates this donation in memory of his natural mother Maura O'Connor, who lost her battle with cancer on 18th May 2011. Thompson's Gallery Solo Show is on view until 24 June at 15 New Cavendish Street, W1. For more details about the exhibition, visit [www.thompsonsgallery.com](http://www.thompsonsgallery.com)

## 20th ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL GALLERY SAINSBURY WING

In March 1985, as a gift to the nation, three brothers – John, Simon and Timothy Sainsbury offered to commission a new building on the vacant site to the west of the National Gallery. The Sainsbury Wing, designed by Venturi Scott Brown Associates of Philadelphia, USA was opened on 9 July 1991 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Twenty years later, it's as if the Sainsbury Wing has always been there but what is the story behind this extension and why did Prince Charles feel the need to say one of the designs was a 'monstrous carbuncle'? The result was the Sainsbury Wing, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this June.



1961: Yuri's Heathrow Departure.

## RARE PHOTO EXHIBITION AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

RIA Novosti, Russia's leading news agency and Science Photo Library have collaborated for an exclusive photo showcase which tells the story of Yuri Gagarin's life – from his birth until his untimely death in 1968.

This intimate exhibition runs at London's Royal Albert Hall as part of their Reflect exhibition series and features a wealth of iconic and previously unseen images from the photographic archives of RIA Novosti. There are three free public viewing days on 25 June, 2 & 3 July, where the collection is open to all.

Gary Evans, Manager of Scientific Relations at Science Photo Library said: *'On 12 April 1961, Cosmonaut Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin became the world's first space man. Today, his name is recognised around the world and his legacy has changed the exploration of space forever. This collection provides a fascinating snapshot of Gagarin's life - both in front of the worlds' lenses and in private.'*

## TREASURE CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY EXHIBITION

More than 120 jewellers and designer-makers will be showcasing their latest collections at Treasure, the contemporary jewellery exhibition, to be staged from 9–12 June at Victoria House in Bloomsbury, WC1. From fine high-end, luxury jewellery to statement pieces made from surprising materials, Treasure offers something for everyone whether you're an avid jewellery collector or an impulse shopper. What's more, Treasure is a showcase for some of the hottest emerging talent in the jewellery world today.

Treasure will also host the Goldsmiths' Company Pavilion for the first time, featuring collections from jewellers who exhibit at the highly acclaimed annual Goldsmiths' Fair, the perfect way to get a small taste of Goldsmiths' Fair before it comes back for two weeks in the autumn.

For the second year running, Treasure will also be hosting Essence, the ethical jewellery pavilion, the only showcase of its kind for jewellers using sustainable materials in an ethical context.

## BONHAMS SELL GLASS REPUTED TO HAVE BELONGED TO NAPOLEON

A wine glass that is thought to have belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte is to be part of the auction of Fine British and European Glass and Paperweights on 15 June at Bonhams, New Bond Street.

The glass is offered in a red-leather coated wooden case with gilded toolwork, and attached to the case is a handwritten note that reads Wine Glafs of 1st Emperor Napoleon given to James C. Fyler Esqr. by the Count Strasoldo Governor of Elba in 1818 A.D. It is unusual for a liquor glass to be encased in such a fine manner, strongly suggesting that the owner may have been a senior military commander on campaign.

In 1814, Napoleon was exiled to the Italian island of Elba following his abdication at Fontainbleau and he lived in a house that was subsequently inhabited by the Governor of the island. In 1817, James Chamness Fyler (1790-1858), to whom the label on the glass case is thought to refer, visited the island with his friend John Singleton as part of their Grand Tour travels around Europe.



On the letter attached to the case it refers to Count Strasoldo as the Governor of Elba, however, Giulio Giuseppe di Strassoldo von Graffenberg (1771-1830) was actually in Milan at this time serving as the representative of the Holy Roman Empire. After leaving Elba, Singleton and Fyler continued travelling around Italy before returning to England, and so it is possible that Fyler acquired the glass either whilst visiting Elba or from elsewhere in Italy through a meeting with Strassoldo.

The glass is estimated to sell for £2,000-3,000. [www.bonhams.com/glass](http://www.bonhams.com/glass)



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Ranjni Janda.

### FREE ADVICE FROM NELSONS FOR HOMEOPATHY AWARENESS WEEK

Nelsons Homeopaths will be available every day during Homeopathy Awareness Week to provide free homeopathic advice on healthcare queries. The online advisory service is available to all members of the public at [homeopathyhelp@nelsons.net](mailto:homeopathyhelp@nelsons.net) and enquiries will be answered by a registered homeopath within 24 hours of receipt.

The theme for this year's Homeopathy Awareness Week is sleeplessness. A recent YouGov survey, commissioned by Nelsons, highlighted that a staggering 77 per cent of those surveyed experience sleeplessness at some time. Ranjni Janda, registered Homeopath based at Nelsons Pharmacy said: *'We have seen a dramatic increase in people coming into the pharmacy asking for advice on sleeplessness over the past few years. If the reasons are known, they are usually associated with everyday pressures occurring in their lives at that time.'*

*'We have found more and more people are looking for a natural sleep aid, and there are many homeopathic remedies which can be used to help. Chamomilla can help if you are feeling tired but cannot sleep and Cocculus can help if sleeplessness is caused by mental and physical exhaustion. Coffea may be beneficial for those suffering from restless sleep that regularly wake during the night, especially when too many thoughts are running through the*

*mind, and Nux Vomica is useful for those that overindulge in food, drink and smoking to counter mental strains and worries resulting in sleeplessness.'*

The UK's Homeopathy Awareness Week takes place from 14-21 June. To support the millions of people suffering from sleeplessness this year, natural healthcare specialist Nelsons online site [www.HealThroughHomeopathy.com](http://www.HealThroughHomeopathy.com) features jargon-free, practical information and advice on how homeopathy can help.

Homeopathic remedies are widely available and can be found in many good pharmacies and health food stores including Nelsons Homeopathic Pharmacy via the website at [www.NelsonsHomeopathy.com](http://www.NelsonsHomeopathy.com).



Made to order remedies are available via mail order at Nelsons Homeopathic Pharmacy on 020 7079 1288. Nelsons Homeopathic Pharmacy is situated at 87d Duke Street, W1.

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*N.B. If you are taking any medicines, including those obtained without a prescription, consult your doctor before taking other medicines.*

### KENNINGTON: PORTRAITS OF THE BRITISH AT WAR

The Royal Air Force Museum London is to celebrate the re-opening of its Art Gallery to the public on Friday 10 June with the installation of an exhibition of portraits by renowned wartime artist Eric Kennington. The guest curator of the exhibition is the Senior Research Fellow in History of Art at Kingston University, Jonathan Black, who has mounted two other shows about Kennington in the last decade.

For much of his distinguished career, Kennington was counted amongst the ranks of exceptional portraitists such as: Hans Holbein the Younger; Albrecht Dürer; Franz Hals; Van Gogh and Augustus John. Many of his artistic contemporaries rated him as the finest draughtsman of his day, while he enjoyed the admiration of prominent public figures such as Winston Churchill, George Bernard Shaw and T.E. Lawrence.

The exhibition will present about three dozen works covering all of the Armed Services, the Auxiliary Services, London Transport and some notable civilians.

Kennington was among a handful of British artists who distinguished themselves as official war artists in both World Wars. His portraits were widely hailed not only as works of art, but also as capturing the indomitable spirit of British and Allied Servicemen in the struggle for victory.

This exhibition, the first to focus specifically on his Second World War Art, seeks to re-assess Kennington's significant contribution to British War Art and to acknowledge his undoubted standing as one of the great British portraitists of the Twentieth Century. In a 'People's War', he produced unforgettable images of ordinary men and women who displayed extraordinary courage and resilience under exceptional circumstances.

The Royal Air Force Museum is in Grahame Park Way, NW9.

## 'THE ARTISTS' VIEW – 7 ARTISTS IN YEMEN' AT THE RGS

Seven European artists are to share their experiences of Yemen at an exhibition in London later this month. The event, presented in collaboration with the Royal Geographical Society, will take place at the Royal Geographical Society between 20 June and 8 July.

It is with consternation that the artists follow the on-going events in Yemen where they met many people from a wide range of backgrounds, and who extended kindness and hospitality at every opportunity. For many of the people that welcomed the artists to Yemen, life was not easy, and it is hoped that the future will offer the peace and prosperity. The exhibition aims to highlight Yemen's astounding cultural heritage set against a rich tapestry of humanity.

The artists, including two Brits, spent three weeks in the country's extraordinary capital, Sana'a, as well as visiting the Hadhramaut, Taiz and the Haraz mountains in July 2010 following an invitation from the Yemeni



*Sana'a, watercolour by Charles Foster-Hall.*

Government. Yemen overwhelmed the artists with inspiration. Although one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, it has the richest surviving cultural history of the region and presented a deep vein of subject matter at every turn; unspoilt landscapes stretch for miles, frankincense and myrrh permeate the air and thousand year old mud-brick skyscrapers sprout out of mountainsides. At least as striking as their architecture are the Yemenis themselves, hospitable and cultured, maintaining strong traditions that lend soul and authenticity to Yemen's ancient culture.

David Anthony Hall  
SOLO SHOW  
24<sup>TH</sup> MAY - 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE



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## NEW LONDON CAST FOR 'MAMMA MIA!'

The new London cast for the global smash hit musical **MAMMA MIA!** at the Prince of Wales Theatre will start performances on Monday 13 June.

The cast will be headed by Sally Ann Triplett as 'Donna Sheridan', with Joanna Monro as 'Rosie' and Kim Ismay as 'Tanya'. William Tapley will play 'Sam Carmichael', Oliver Senton 'Harry Bright', Mark Gillis 'Bill Austin', Dani De Waal 'Sophie Sheridan', Craig Fletcher 'Sky', Hannah Fairclough 'Ali', Rachel Sargent 'Lisa', Warren Sollars 'Pepper' and Alex Jessop 'Eddie'.

From the West End to global phenomenon, **MAMMA MIA!**, which has just celebrated its 12th Anniversary in London, is Judy Craymer's ingenious vision of staging the story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs with an enchanting tale of family and friendship unfolding on a Greek island paradise.

**MAMMA MIA!** has more productions running simultaneously around the world than any other show (currently 8), it has opened in more cities (280) faster than any other show in theatrical history, 45 million people have seen it, the

London production has now been seen by more than 1 in 10 of the UK population, and the show has grossed over \$2 billion. Since opening in London in 1999, **MAMMA MIA!** has been translated into 14 languages and will become the first ever global musical produced in Chinese. The show which opens in Shanghai in July will be a landmark production beginning a new era of musical theatre in China.

**MAMMA MIA! The Movie**, the film inspired by the stage show and produced by Judy Craymer, starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Julie Walters, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard, Christine Baranski, Dominic Cooper and Amanda Seyfried, is the highest grossing musical film of all time. The film grossed over £69m at the UK Box Office and one in four homes across the UK has the DVD.

Prince of Wales Theatre Box Office:  
0844 482 5115. [www.mamma-mia.com](http://www.mamma-mia.com)

## DAVID MAMET'S MR HAPPINESS & THE WATER ENGINE

Theatre6 are showing, in association with MokitaGrit Productions, a double bill of the award-winning playwright David Mamet's thrilling period dramas, *Mr Happiness* and *The Water Engine*. This hotly anticipated double bill will take place at The Old Vic Tunnels underneath Waterloo Station, SE1 from 10 June.

Originally written as radio plays, both stem from a 1930s radio station where *Mr Happiness* is the agony uncle of Old Time Radio. This 25 minute monologue takes the audience on an emotional journey as *Mr Happiness* helps solve problems from across the country, some tragic, some funny, but all of them compelling. *The Water Engine* is a radio thriller where young inventor Charles Lang creates a machine so brilliant that it will change the world forever; an engine that runs on water. Looking only to protect his invention and provide a better life for his sister Rita, Charles must triumph over the life-threatening Oberman and his conglomerate to give this marvel to the world, but at what price?



Anna Maguire. Photo: Veronika Lukasova.

The double-bill will be the inaugural performance in the brand new 125-seater space The Screening Room, within The Old Vic Tunnels. This new space is run by The Old Vic Tunnels Volunteers to showcase new writing, new productions, new work and new producer collaborations.

For tickets, telephone 0844 871 7628 or visit [www.oldvictunnels.com](http://www.oldvictunnels.com)



James Corden (*Francis Henshall*) and Jemima Rooper (*Rachel Crabbe*).

## ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS

National Theatre

If the thought of Commedia dell'Arte, with its silly servants and gratuitous slapstick, its bosoms and buffoonery, makes you groan, think again. Richard Bean, one of our most talented and certainly funniest working playwrights, has re-worked Goldoni's *The Servant of Two Masters* into a 1960s seaside romp. The result will make you gasp with delight.

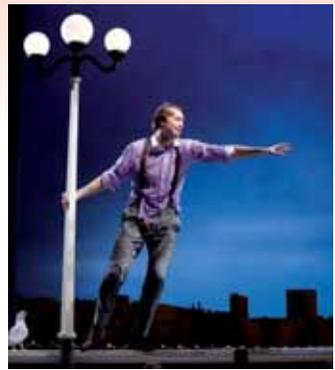
Centre stage is James Corden as porcine underling, Henshall, whose obsession with food is only trumped by the base ambition to 'get his leg over'. Henshall arrives in Brighton as the supposedly menacing minder of one of the Crabbe twins (any similarity to the Krays wholly understandable), but it is hard to take him seriously when his deadliest trick is to catch peanuts thrown up in the air, even if that means falling over backwards in an armchair. He is not what he seems – nor is his diminutive boss, who turns out to be the dead twin's sister in disguise – and when he is simultaneously hired by the girl's boyfriend, Henshall's fate as the duplicitous servant of two masters is sealed.

Corden is a revelation in this role, revealing himself as chubby athlete, competent musician and master of improvisation. He chases, he cajoles, he squirms in confusion and in between acts he plays the xylophone alongside a cheerful Beatles-style quartet called *The Craze*. Members of the audience are press-ganged into assisting him with his food thefts (beware sitting in the front row unless you enjoy fetching and

carrying and being roughly bundled into hiding on set), their humiliation providing more hilarity for the rest of us.

But *'One Man...'* is by no means a star vehicle. Bean has written some brilliantly comic characters, including Alan Dangle (Daniel Rigby) a would-be thespian who woos his dim fiancée with lines from Shakespeare delivered sideways-on, in strangulated, sub-Olivier tones. The traditional bawdy wench is here a book keeper with feminist leanings, whose physical presence is uncannily like that of Barbara Windsor in the *Carry On* films, but whose intellect presages a female prime minister at Number Ten 'one day' who will embrace the poor and put an end to foreign wars...

Oliver Chris is excellent as the second master, a tall toff called Stanley Stubbers whose role is to exemplify boarding school brutality got up as middle class manners. Finally, the award for best clown goes to Tom Edden as Alfie, an octogenarian waiter who is able to punctuate violent shaking of crockery



Oliver Chris (*Stanley Stubbers*).

Photographs by Johan Persson

with falling fifteen feet downstairs, a cartoon character who is regularly flattened behind opening doors, only to stagger on again.

Nicholas Hytner and Cal McCrystal direct the action at breakneck speed, so that there is hardly a moment to catch your breath between gales of laughter. This is possibly the best comedy ever staged at the National.

Sue Webster

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CRITERION THEATRE

*Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0844 847 1778)*

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DUCHESS THEATRE

*Catherine Street, WC2 (0844 412 4659)*

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LYTTELTON THEATRE

**ROCKET TO THE MOON**

Written in 1938 by Clifford Odets, the American master of dazzling, acerbic New York repartee, the story puts opportunity in the way of a quietly desperate man and waits.

**ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS**

In Richard Bean's English version of Goldini's classic Italian comedy, sex, food and money are high on the agenda. James Corden returns to the National for the first time since *The History Boys*.

COTTESLOE THEATRE

**THE HOLY ROSENBERGS**

Ryan Craig's new play explores tribal loyalties, the culpability of family and the consequences of standing up for what you believe to be right.

**LONDON ROAD**

Adam Cork and Alecky Blythe's experimental and challenging work based on the discovery of five women's bodies in rural Ipswich in 2006.

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)*

**RICHARD III**

Shakespeare's play opens with one of his most famous lines 'Now is the winter of our discontent'. This production reunites Kevin Spacey and Sam Mendes for the first time since their 1999 film *American Beauty*, for which the actor and director both won Oscars.

OLD VIC

*The Cut, Waterloo, SE1 (0844 871 7609)*

**ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL**

Shakespeare's comedy defies all expectations in this story of love and magic and a fantastic cast of frauds, cynics, sentimentalist and buffoons.

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Driven along by a romance all the more charming for being unacknowledged, a miracle of comic and dramatic suspense with two of Shakespeare's wittiest pair of lovers.

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

*New Globe Walk, SE1 (020 7401 9919)*

**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)*

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Shakespeare's great play reminds us all of the failings and triumphs or the human condition in our never ending search for perfect love. Starring David Tennant and Catherine Tate.

WYNDHAMS THEATRE

*Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0844 482 5120)*

## MUSICALS

**LOVE NEVER DIES**

Andrew Lloyd Webber's long awaited sequel to *The Phantom of the Opera*, the show is a rollercoaster ride of obsession and intrigue, in which music and memory can play cruel tricks.

ADELPHI THEATRE

*Strand, WC2 (0844 412 4651)*

**DIRTY DANCING**

Based on the '80s movie, this famous tale involves a daddy's girl and a dance instructor at a New York holiday resort during the long, hot summer of 1963. Until 9 July.

ALDWYCH THEATRE

*Aldwych, WC2 (0844 847 2330)*

**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)*

**CHICAGO**

A dazzling mixture of sinuous bodies, tough broads, murder and fickle fame, the Ebb-Fosse musical goes from strength to strength.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE

*Earlham Street, WC2 (0844 412 4652)*

**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 Rd, W1 (0844 847 1775)*

**LEND ME A TENOR THE MUSICAL**

It's 1934 and the world's greatest tenor Tito Merelli has come to Cleveland, Ohio, to save its Grand Opera Company by singing Verdi's *Otello*.

GIELGUD THEATRE

*Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0844 482 5130)*

**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)

**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.  
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)

**MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET**

Electrifying new musical tells the story of the night in 1956 when Elvis, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis came together to make music and ended up making history.  
NOEL COWARD  
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0844 482 5140)

**BETTY BLUE EYES**

It's 1947 and belts are being tightened, Britain is staggering under the burden of acute rationing, unemployment and the coldest winter for decades. The only bright spark on the horizon is the impending royal wedding...  
NOVELLO THEATRE  
Aldwych, WC2 (0844 482 5170)

**PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT**

Based on the Oscar award winning film, a glamorous Sydney based performing trio takes their show to the Australian outback.  
PALACE THEATRE  
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0844 755 0016)

**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)

**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, with all the favourite songs.  
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  
Old Compton Street, W1 (0844 482 5115)

**LES MISERABLES**

A spectacularly staged version of Victor Hugo's epic novel about an escaped convict's

search for redemption amidst the tumult of Revolutionary France.

QUEENS THEATRE  
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0844 482 5160)

**LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL**

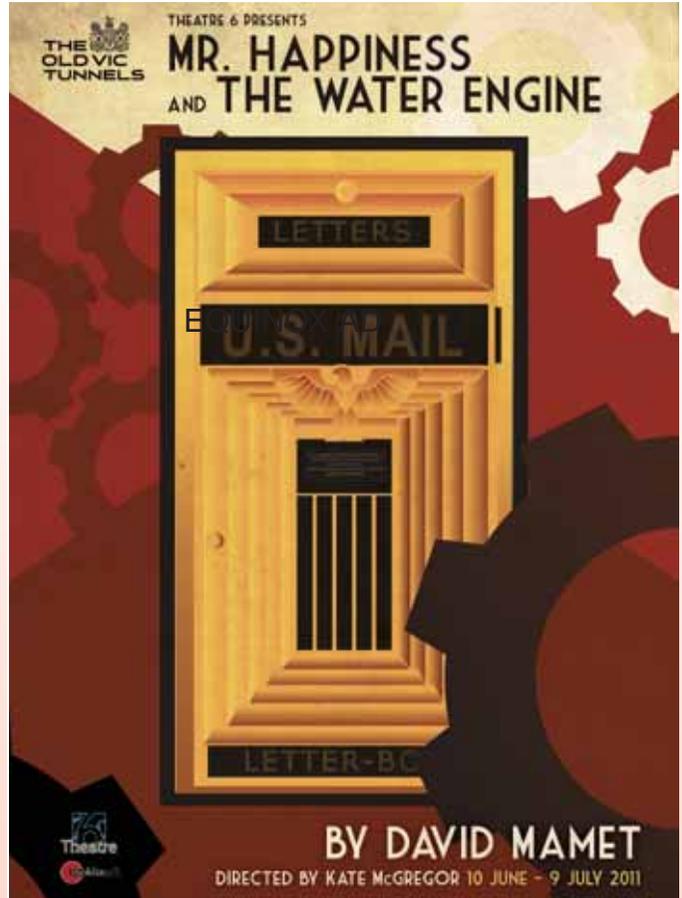
Based on the 2001 film which starred Reese Witherspoon as Elle Woods, the multi award-winning musical has stormed into London.  
SAVOY THEATRE  
Strand, WC2 (0844 871 7687)

**SHREK THE MUSICAL**

New stage musical comedy, the first chapter in the much loved series of irreverent fairytales. Previewing, opens 13 June.  
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.  
VICTORIA PALACE  
Victoria Street, SW1 (0844 811 0055)





## RESTAURANT CHEZ GERARD SPRING MENU

I have to declare an earlier interest in restaurants Chez Gerard – I'm a long time fan of these chic Gallic eateries serving the real classics. From the eternal soupe a l'oignon, escargots and foie gras to their famous steak frites and boeuf bourgignon, confit de canard, moules marinieres and a superb tartiflette, this is authentic French cooking at its very best.



Steak frites.

The favourites are augmented by daily specials. Plats du jour on the day I had lunch were grilled rib eye steak served with wild mushroom sauce or, for fish, king prawns and king scallops served with red pepper sauce and leek mash. The starter choice was mushroom soup or grilled duck breast salad with green beans and mixed leaves, tasty strips of rich duck yet a pleasingly light appetiser.

My companion pronounced the scallops perfectly cooked and pretty as a picture on the plate with a sprinkling of pomegranate seeds and marinated cauliflower florets. The magret de canard main dish was perfectly pink breast of duck accompanied by celeriac mash and honey roasted pear in a red wine jus. Absolutely delicious.

Cheese is traditionally taken before pudding in France, here it's a feast of regional dairy delights in every shape and size. After two leisurely courses, dessert seemed a struggle until we spied another classic – tarte au citron, understated, zesty, the ideal foil to the savouries.

We drank a recommended and eminently drinkable Beaujolais right through the meal which accompanied the duck well but didn't overwhelm the subtlety of the scallops.

Chez Gerard Charlotte Street is in the midst of the media world, good for Oxford Street shoppers and just a stone's throw from the British Museum, while the Dover Street restaurant enjoys a central location for the art galleries in and around Cork Street, close to the Park Lane and Piccadilly hotels and for visitors to Buckingham Palace.

As part of the new look, feel and taste of Chez Gerard, the new prix fixe menu is now available at not only the Charlotte Street restaurant, but at all eight locations across the capital.

It features new lighter dishes which are perfect for summer dining, whether you are looking for a three course meal, or a light, quick bite. The Salade au Saumon Fume and the Supreme de Volaille Farci aux Champignons are already proving popular, especially when teamed with a tempting starter or mouth-watering dessert.

Don't be mistaken into thinking that Chez Gerard has changed, it hasn't. It's just getting better and better!

*Jemma Court*

CHEZ GERARD  
Charlotte Street, W1  
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