

What's new in London for 2016



Lumiere London, 14 – 17 January 2016. Credit - Janet Echelman.

Attractions

ZSL London Zoo - Land of the Lions

ZSL London Zoo, opening spring 2016

Land of the Lions will provide state-of-the-art facilities for a breeding group of endangered Asiatic lions, of which only 400 remain in the wild. Giving millions of people the chance to get up-close to the big cats, visitors to Land of the Lions will be able to see just how closely humans and lions live in the Gir Forest, with tantalising glimpses of the lions' habitat appearing throughout a bustling Indian 'village'. For more information contact Rebecca Blanchard on 020 7449 6236 / rebecca.blanchard@zsl.org

Arcelor Mittal Orbit giant slide

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, opening spring 2016

Anish Kapoor has invited Belgian artist Carsten Höller to create a giant slide for the ArcelorMittal Orbit. This is a unique collaboration between two of the world's leading artists and will be a major new art installation for the capital. The slide will be the world's longest and tallest tunnel slide, measuring approximately 178m long and will be 76m high. There will be transparent sections on the slide so you can marvel at the view. For more information contact Victoria Coombes on 020 7421 2500 / victoria.coombes@mangopr.com

New Tate Modern

Southbank, 17 June 2016

The new Tate Modern will be unveiled with a complete re-hang, bringing together much-loved works from the collection with new acquisitions made for the nation since Tate Modern first opened in 2000. With 60% more display space, this popular gallery of modern art will now feature over 250 artists from around 50 countries. It will offer a variety of spaces for visitors and for art, from the raw industrial Tanks to a panoramic roof terrace overlooking the London skyline. There will also be new urban spaces to the south and west of the building, completing the site's transformation to an open, public space. For more information contact Helen Beeckmans 020 7887 4939 / Helen.Beeckmans@tate.org.uk

Goldsmiths Art Gallery

New Cross, opening autumn 2016

Over the last 25 years Goldsmiths graduates have been instrumental in turning contemporary art into one of the most dynamic art forms in British culture, with seven Turner Prize winners and 24 shortlisted Turner Prize artists coming from Goldsmiths. Ambitious plans for a new art gallery at Goldsmiths, University of

London, will come to fruition in 2016. The gallery will run a programme of exhibitions, projects and residencies by leading artists and curators from the UK and abroad. For more information contact Peter Austin on p.austin@gold.ac.uk

London's Design Museum

Kensington High Street, opening late 2016

2016 will see London's Design Museum relocate to the Commonwealth Institute building in Kensington. The move will give the museum three times more space than in its location at Shad Thames, with vastly improved learning facilities and a dedicated gallery to display its permanent collection, which will be accessible free of charge, as well as bringing the museum into Kensington's cultural quarter. For more information contact the press team on media@designmuseum.org

Mathematics: The David and Claudia Harding Gallery

Science Museum of London, 2016

Mathematics: The David and Claudia Harding Gallery will be curated by David Rooney, who previously curated the award-winning Codebreaker exhibition about the life and legacy of Alan Turing. The gallery will tell stories that place the subject at the heart of our lives, exploring how mathematicians, such as Turing, their tools and ideas have helped to shape the modern world. For more information contact the press team on pressoffice@sciencemuseum.org.uk

Anniversaries

400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death

2016 commemorates 400 years since the death of William Shakespeare and this special anniversary year is a truly unique opportunity to visit his London haunts. To mark this special occasion, take a tour of the Globe Theatre - one of the most iconic and atmospheric performance venues in London – including the newly opened Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The Bard's most avid bookworms can take a look at 107 copies of his plays from 1624 at the British Library. For more information on celebrations across London see the official website: www.shakespeare400.org

100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth

Born on 13 September 1916, Roald Dahl captured the imagination of children around the world with his tales including James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, The Witches, Fantastic Mr Fox, The Twits and The BFG. To celebrate his life and works, indulge in a Matilda-themed afternoon tea at Scoff & Banter following a matinee of the award-winning musical at the Cambridge Theatre. For more information on Matilda the Musical contact chloe@thecornershoppr.com / 020 7494 3665

350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London

Starting in a small bakery on Pudding Lane, the infamous Great Fire of London swept across the City of London over three days 350 years ago. Climb inside Sir Christopher Wren's flame-topped Monument which stands in the City today, offering panoramic views over London, or visit the Museum of London's War, Plague and Fire gallery to mark the occasion. For more information contact the press team on press@cityoflondon.gov.uk

100th anniversary of Battle of the Somme

Commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the British and French offensive launched against German lines during the First World War. At the Imperial War Museum First World War Gallery, discover the story of the Great War through the lives of those who experienced it both on the front line and at home. For more information contact Nina Smetek on nsmetek@iwm.org.uk

50th anniversary of the English World Cup victory

50 years on from the first English victory since football's World Cup began, take a tour of Wembley Stadium to remember this great moment. The guided tour includes access to Wembley's historical treasures such as the 1966 World Cup crossbar, the England changing rooms, the Jules Rimet Trophy commemorating England's World Cup glory and a chance to take Roy Hodgson's hot seat in the Press Box. For more information contact Adam Burrage on adam.burrage@wembleystadium.com

Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday

London has a whole host of events designed to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. From the Pret-a-Portea Afternoon Tea on offer at the Berkeley Hotel, modelled on her most iconic fashion staples, to the exhibition *Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe* at Buckingham Palace, London will certainly be celebrating the Queen's birthday in style. For more information visit www.royal.gov.uk.

Exhibitions

Otherworlds

Natural History Museum, 22 January - 15 May 2016

This exhibition of 73 composite images by artist, curator and writer Michael Benson represent a joining together of art and science: raw data provided by NASA and ESA missions has been painstakingly processed and assembled for public display. This exhibition will explore the beauty of our Solar System and demonstrate that the visual legacy of six decades of space exploration constitutes a visually stunning, important chapter in the history of photography. An audio guide complements the striking visuals with insights into the work of leading Museum scientists such as Dr Joe Michalski, who is investigating the geological processes that shaped Mars to better understand the early life of our own planet. For more information contact the press team on press@nhm.ac.uk

Electronic Superhighway

Whitechapel Art Gallery, 29 January – 15 May 2016

Exploring the impact of computer and networked technologies on artists from the mid-1960s to the present day, Electronic Superhighway includes new and rarely seen multimedia works, film, painting, sculpture, photography and drawing by over 60 artists including Cory Arcangel, Roy Ascott, Jeremy Bailey, Judith Barry and James Bridle, telling the story of an interconnected global culture marked by mass social and political change. For more information contact Alex O'Neill on 020 7539 3360

alexoneill@whitechapelgallery.org /

Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse

Royal Academy, 30 January — 20 April 2016

Trace the emergence of the modern garden through a period of great social change and innovation in the arts. Monet, arguably the most important painter of gardens in the history of art, once said he owed his painting “to flowers”. But Monet was far from alone in his fascination with the horticultural world, which is why the exhibition will also feature paintings by Renoir, Cezanne, Pissarro, Manet, Sargent, Kandinsky, Van Gogh, Matisse, Klimt and Klee. For more information contact the press team on

press.office@royalacademy.org.uk / 020 7300 5615.

Vogue 100: A Century of Style

National Portrait Gallery, 11 February – 22 May 2016

Vogue 100: A Century of Style will showcase the remarkable range of photography that has been commissioned by British Vogue since it was founded in 1916, with over 280 prints from the Condé Nast archive and international collections being shown together for the first time to tell the story of one of the most influential fashion magazines in the world. For more information contact Sylvia Ross on

sross@npg.org.uk

Laurie Lee – The Artist

Works on Paper Fair, South Kensington, 11 – 14 February 2016

After the death of Cider with Rosie author Laurie Lee, his wife Kathy and daughter Jessy found a folder hidden under his bed in his study. The previously unseen paintings and sketches in the folder revealed that, as well as being a leading poet and writer, Lee had been a prolific and talented artist throughout his life. 25 of the pictures from that folder will be exhibited in a special loan exhibition at the Works on Paper Fair in South Kensington. For more information contact the press team on press@worksonpaperfair.com

Pre-Raphaelites on Paper: Victorian Drawings from the Lanigan Collection

Leighton House Museum, 12 February – 29 May 2016

Illustrating the broad evolution of draughtsmanship and the new appreciation for the art of drawing that emerged during the reign of Queen Victoria, from 1837 to 1901, the selection of artworks ranges from preparatory sketches to highly finished drawings intended as works of art in themselves. Highlights are the works of the foremost Pre-Raphaelite artists, John Everett Millais, William Holman Hunt and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, as well as exceptional drawings by artists such as Edward Burne-Jones, Simeon Solomon,

George Frederic Watts, and Frederic Leighton himself. For more information contact Ana Garcia on ana.garcia@rbkc.gov.uk / 020 7471 9153

Botticelli Reimagined

V&A, 5 March - 3 July 2016.

This innovative exhibition will explore the variety of ways artists and designers from the Pre-Raphaelites to the present have responded to the artistic legacy of Sandro Botticelli (1445-1510). The largest Botticelli exhibition in Britain since 1930, this will include around 50 original works by Botticelli from great collections across the world shown alongside more recent masterpieces of art and design including work by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, René Magritte, Elsa Schiaparelli, Andy Warhol and Cindy Sherman. For more information contact the press team on press@vam.ac.uk / 020 7942 2502

Paul Strand: Photography and Film for the 20th Century

V&A, 19 March – 3 July 2016

Strand was one of the greatest and most influential photographers of the 20th century whose images have defined the way fine art and documentary photography is understood and practiced today. The exhibition will present around 200 objects spanning Strand's entire career, including his breakthrough trials in abstraction and candid street portraits. For more information contact the press team on press@vam.ac.uk / 020 7942 2502

EXHIBITIONISM

Saatchi Gallery, 5 April – 4 September 2016

The first international exhibition on the Rolling Stones will take over the entire two floors of the Saatchi Gallery with 9 thematic galleries. EXHIBITIONISM combines over 500 original Stones' artefacts, with striking cinematic and interactive technologies offering the most comprehensive insight into the band's fifty year history. For more information contact the press team on press@saatchigallery.com

Undressed: A Brief History of Underwear

Victoria and Albert Museum, 16 April 2016 – 5 February 2017

Addressing the practicalities of underwear and its role in the fashionable wardrobe whilst highlighting its sensual appeal, this exhibition will explore dress reformers and designers such as Paul Poiret, who argued for the beauty of the natural body, as well as entrepreneurs and innovators who have played a critical role in the development of more effective and comfortable underwear. On display will be around 140 garments and accessories for men and women together with fashion plates, photographs and film, advertisements and packaging to introduce changing concepts of the ideal body. For more information contact the press team on press@vam.ac.uk / 020 7942 2502

Art and Photography from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Modern Age

Tate Britain, 11 May – 25 September 2016

The first major exhibition to celebrate the spirited conversation between early photography and British art will bring together photographs, paintings and sculptures including Pre-Raphaelite, Aesthetic and British Impressionist works. Spanning 75 years across the Victorian and Edwardian ages, the exhibition opens with the experimental beginnings of photography in dialogue with painters such as J.M.W. Turner and concludes with its flowering as an independent international art form. Stunning works by John Everett Millais, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, JAM Whistler, John Singer Sargent, John William Waterhouse and others will for the first time be shown alongside photographs which they inspired and which were inspired by them. For more information contact Kate Moores on Kate.Moores@tate.org.uk / 020 7887 4906.

Photo London

Somerset House, 19 – 22 May 2016

Photo London is a unique festival of photography, centred around a major international photography fair featuring over 80 exhibitors. Running over five days at Somerset House, the fair showcases the broad range of photographic practice, from vintage to contemporary. Photo London also features an innovative

public programme supported by the LUMA Foundation, which includes talks and lectures, exhibitions, performances and installations. For more information contact Sidonie Motion on sid.motion@candlestar.co.uk / 020 7759 1176.

Above and Beyond

National Maritime Museum, 27 May – 29 August 2016

Explored through five key themes that define flight and space travel – Up, Faster, Higher, Farther, and Smarter – Above and Beyond is a hands-on journey that provides visitors of all ages and interests with both retrospective and forward-thinking views on the innovation and science behind flight. The exhibition produced in collaboration with NASA will feature interactive experiences made possible using flight simulation, augmented reality, and virtual reality, including a simulated space elevator ride. The exhibition will also span Boeing's centennial date of July 15, 2016, following the founding of the company by Bill Boeing. For more information contact the press team on press@rmg.co.uk / 020 8312 6732.

Mary Heilmann

Whitechapel Art Gallery, 8 June – 21 August 2016

Born in California in 1940, Heilmann studied ceramics and poetry before moving to New York in 1968 and taking up painting. Her vibrantly coloured, abstract canvases reference popular culture, particular places and personal experiences with a good dose of humour. The exhibition will feature paintings, works on paper, furniture and ceramics from Heilmann's five-decade career. For more information contact Alex O'Neill on alexoneill@whitechapelgallery.org / 020 7539 3360

David Hockney RA: 77 Portraits, 2 Still Lifes

Royal Academy, 2 July – 2 October 2016

Embracing portraiture with a renewed creative vigour, Hockney offers an intimate snapshot of the LA art world and the people who have crossed his path over the last two years. His subjects – all friends, family and acquaintances – include office staff, fellow artists, curators and gallerists such as John Baldessari and Larry Gagosian. Each work is the same size, showing his sitter in the same chair, against the same vivid blue background and all were painted in the same time frame of three days. Yet Hockney's virtuoso paint handling allows their differing personalities to leap off the canvas with warmth and immediacy. For more information contact the press team on press.office@royalacademy.org.uk / 020 7300 5615.

Georgia O'Keeffe

Tate Modern, 6 July – 30 October 2016

The summer of 2016 brings the first large-scale, monographic show of Georgia O'Keeffe's work, a founding figure of American modernism, to the UK for more than twenty years. This ambitious and wide-ranging overview will reassess O'Keeffe's place in the canon of modern art, charting her progression from early abstract experiments to late work. The serialised, increasingly economic and stylised paintings of the southwestern locations called the 'Black Place' and the 'White Place', will be at the heart of the exhibition. For more information contact Ruth Findlay on Ruth.Findlay@tate.org.uk / 020 7887 8888.

Fire! Fire!

Museum of London, 23 July 2016 – 17 April 2017

350 years ago one of the most infamous disasters struck London – the Great Fire of 1666. Discover London before, during and after the blaze in this interactive family exhibition. Find out how the fire started and spread, and discover the personal stories of the people who were there at the time. See rarely seen artefacts from 1666, compare modern and contemporary firefighting techniques and learn how the city we know today rose from the ashes. For more information contact Laura Jackson on ljackson@museumoflondon.org.uk

Fashioning a Reign: 90 Years of Style from The Queen's Wardrobe

Buckingham Palace, opening August 2016

Constituting the largest display of The Queen's dress ever mounted, this exhibition will chart significant events in The Queen's life and the nation's history through an unprecedented collection of dress, jewellery

and accessories designed for these occasions, from childhood to the present day. The Queen's support of British couture and millinery will be highlighted through important pieces created for a world stage by renowned designers, including Sir Norman Hartnell, Sir Hardy Amies and Ian Thomas. For more information contact the press team on press@royalcollection.org.uk / 020 7839 1377.

Abstract Expressionism

Royal Academy, 24 September 2016 — 2 January 2017

For the first time since 1959, the Abstract Expressionism movement as a whole will be represented in one landmark show in London. It is an opportunity to re-evaluate an artistic phenomenon, and make the case that far from being unified, Abstract Expressionism was in fact far more complex. In addition to featuring work of the most celebrated artists associated with the movement: Kline, Pollock, Rothko, Newman, Still, and de Kooning, work by lesser-known – but no less influential – artists will also be displayed to reveal the breadth of a movement that gave New York City an artistic identity. For more information contact the press team on press.office@royalacademy.org.uk / 020 7300 5615.

Paul Nash

Tate Britain, 26 October 2016 – 5 March 2017

Known as a landscape artist, who engaged with the downland and coastal landscapes of southern England and its ancient past, those landscapes also provided a stage for Paul Nash's engagements with an international modernism, specifically Surrealism. The exhibition presents the artist's major works from his early Symbolist manner, through to the iconic works of the First World War, as well as his landscapes of the interwar period. For more information contact Kate Moores on Kate.Moores@tate.org.uk / 020 7887 4906.

Portrait of the Artist

The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 4 November 2016 – 23 April 2017

The first exhibition to focus on images of artists from within the Royal Collection, Portrait of the Artist not only showcases self-portraits by world-renowned artists including Rembrandt, Rubens, Artemisia Gentileschi, Lucian Freud and David Hockney but also features images of artists by their friends, relatives and pupils, including the most reliable surviving likeness of Leonardo da Vinci by his student, Francesco Melzi. Well-known self-portraits intended to advertise the artist's talents will be shown alongside more intimate and personal works. For more information contact the press team on press@royalcollection.org.uk / 020 7839 1377.

Seduction and Celebrity: The Spectacular Life of Emma Hamilton

National Maritime Museum, opening November 2016

From humble origins, Emma Hamilton rose to international fame as a model, performer and interpreter of neo-classical fashion, but is remembered simply as the mistress of Britain's greatest naval hero, Admiral Lord Nelson. Emma's story will be told through over 200 objects: exceptional fine art; antiquities that inspired Emma's famous 'attitudes'; costumes that show her impact on contemporary fashions; prints and caricatures that carried her image to a mass audience; her personal letters and those of Nelson and William Hamilton; and the uniform coat that Nelson wore at Trafalgar, retained by Emma until destitution forced her to part with it. For more information contact the press team on press@rmg.co.uk / 020 8312 6732.

Robert Rauschenberg

Tate Modern, 1 December 2016 – 2 April 2017

The first posthumous retrospective of Robert Rauschenberg, also his first comprehensive exhibition in the UK for almost thirty-five years will take place in London. Co-organised with MoMA in New York, each chapter of Rauschenberg's long career will be represented by important works, among which will be a stellar selection of his legendary *Combines* – hybrids between painting and sculpture – as well as his graphic screen prints whose depiction of the assassinated US president John F Kennedy signal the artist's early commitment to political activism. For more information contact Ruth Findlay on Ruth.Findlay@tate.org.uk / 020 7887 8888.

Entertainment

La Traviata

Royal Opera House, 16 January – 19 March 2016

Verdi's tragic opera of a Parisian courtesan who sacrifices all for love is vividly told in Richard Eyre's production, with three world-class casts led by Venera Gimadieva, Maria Agresta and Nicole Cabell. For more information contact Celia Moran on celia.moran@roh.org.uk / 020 7212 9149.

Expiry Date

Barbican Theatre, 19 - 23 January 2016

Dominoes topple and an hourglass is overturned. Time is ever-present in this retrospective of one man's life. Assisted by her father, an inventor by trade, Swedish-born artist Anna Nilsson has devised a set where a ball bearing spins around weird and wonderful machinery and pendulums wave. It provides a backdrop for an abstract tale about time running out, characterised by four performers and their mix of wordless acting, juggling, singing and an incredible hand-balancing act. For more information contact Freddie Todd Fordham on freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk / 020 7382 7399.

Il Ritorno

Barbican Theatre, 27 - 31 January 2016

Ulysses desires to return home after twenty years of wandering and war. His wife Penelope hangs on in the belief he might one day arrive. Il Ritorno is distilled from Monteverdi's opera The Return of Ulysses (Il ritorno d'Ulisse) and layered with themes from Primo Levi's The Truce – a memoir by a Second World War refugee. Drawing on mythology to explore states of exile, this production fuses live singing and music with the thrilling physicality of contemporary circus. For more information contact Freddie Todd Fordham on freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk / 020 7382.

The Magic Flute

London Coliseum, 5 February - 19 March 2016

A jewel in English National Opera's repertoire since 1988, this staging of Mozart's final opera returns complete with giant serpent, dancing bears and live performing birds. A mix of fairy-tale adventure, knockabout farce and marvellous music - including the thrilling Queen of the Night aria, will engage audiences of all ages. Sarastro battles for wisdom and reason against the Queen of Night, while young Prince Tamino undertakes initiation rites in his search for acceptance and true love. With its panto-like storyline, catchy tunes, and broad comedy, The Magic Flute is the perfect introduction to opera. For more information contact Sara Parsons on sparsons@eno.org / 020 7845 9433.

Motown the Musical

Shaftesbury Theatre, 11 February - 22 October 2016

Already a huge hit on Broadway, having won a Tony Award and many fans, the electrifying show makes its long awaited debut in London. With just \$800 borrowed from his family, Berry Gordy founded Motown records and launched the careers of music greats like Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson and even Michael Jackson and the Jackson 5. Boasting hits such as Dancing in the Street, I Heard it Through the Grapevine, Ain't No Mountain High Enough and My Girl, the show uncovers the story of the legendary record label that changed music history. For more information contact Janine Shalom on Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com / 020 7292 8330.

Giselle

Royal Opera House, 26 February —15 April 2016

The greatest of all Romantic ballets, Peter Wright's production of Marius Petipa's classic is a tale of betrayal, the supernatural and love that transcends death. Giselle transformed the dance world when it was first performed in Paris in 1841 and remains at the centre of the classical repertory. For more information contact Gareth King on gareth.king@roh.org.uk / 020 7212 9241.

Immortal Tango

Peacock Theatre, 1 – 19 March 2016

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

The Caretaker

The Old Vic Theatre, 26 March – 14 May 2016

When it premiered in 1960, The Caretaker changed the face of modern theatre. Now Harold Pinter's groundbreaking classic comes to The Old Vic in a new production directed by Matthew Warchus. Disturbed handyman Aston has invited an irascible tramp to stay with him at his brother's jumbled London flat. At first it seems that the manipulative guest will take advantage of his vulnerable host. But when Aston's brother Mick arrives, an enigmatic power struggle emerges between the three men that is in equal parts menacing, touching and darkly comic. For more information contact Jo Allan PR on office@joallanpr.com / 020 7520 9392.

The Importance of Being Earnest

Barbican Theatre, 29 March - 3 April 2016

Irish composer Gerald Barry's wildly inventive, operatic, reimagining of Wilde's classic play The Importance of Being Earnest has enchanted audiences with its high-energy madcap humour since 2011. For more information contact Freddie Todd Fordham on freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk / 020 7382 7399.

Sunset Boulevard

London Coliseum, 1 April – 7 May 2016

Glenn Close will make her West End debut as Norma Desmond, the faded silent movie star, in Sunset Boulevard. The full English National Opera orchestra will appear on stage alongside the cast in this semi-staged production. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and book and lyrics by Don Black and Christopher Hampton, Sunset Boulevard is not to be missed. For more information contact Janine Shalom on Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com / 020 7292 8330.

Romeo and Juliet

The Garrick Theatre, 12 May – 31 August 2016

Reuniting the stars of his celebrated film Cinderella, Kenneth Branagh directs Richard Madden as Romeo, Lily James as Juliet and Derek Jacobi as Mercutio in Shakespeare's heartbreaking tale of forbidden love. One of Shakespeare's most famous and often performed plays, Romeo and Juliet is the story of young love and the devastating tragedy that unfolds when tenderness and naivety is met with violence and pride. For more information visit www.branaghtheatre.com/about-the-season.php

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Barbican Theatre, 17 - 21 May 2016

In 2016, the RSC and amateur companies around the UK will take audiences on a very special Midsummer adventure with a unique production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. The nation's favourite Shakespeare play is performed as never before; magically intertwining professional and amateur actors, deep in an enchanted wood on Midsummer's night. For more information contact Amy Belson on amy.belson@rsc.org.uk

The Damned

Royal Albert Hall, 20 May 2016

UK punk legends The Damned will be celebrating their 40th anniversary with a special performance at the Royal Albert Hall. True pioneers, the band are famed for being the first punk band from the United Kingdom to release a single, New Rose, in 1976, an album, Damned Damned Damned, in 1977, as well as being the first to tour the United States. Their breakthrough success undoubtedly paved the way for British punk rock

for years to come. For more information contact Rick Burin on rickb@royalalberthall.com

The Merchants of Bollywood

Peacock Theatre, 24 May – 11 June 2016

The glamour and glitz of Bollywood bursts onto the stage in 2016. A theatrical dance spectacular starring a large cast and an extravagant array of costumes, The Merchants of Bollywood is a riot of swirling colours and sensational dance numbers choreographed by one of Bollywood's top choreographers, Vaibhavi Merchant. For more information contact Georgia McKay on georgia.mckay@sadlerswells.com

Aladdin

Prince Edward Theatre, 27 May – 1 October 2016

London's West End will welcome Disney's Tony Award-winning musical Aladdin, with Broadway cast member Trevor Dion Nicholas making his London stage debut as Genie. Featuring music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice & Chad Beguelin, the musical is based on the hit 1992 animated Disney film of the same name. The stage production keeps many of the songs from the film as well as featuring new songs written specifically for the stage. For more information visit www.aladdinthemusical.co.uk

English National Ballet: Swan Lake

Royal Albert Hall, from 1 - 12 June 2016

Dancers from English National Ballet will perform in Derek Deane's critically acclaimed production of Swan Lake. True love triumphs over evil in this powerful story set to Tchaikovsky's memorable score played by the English National Ballet Philharmonic. With 60 swans, stunning costumes and sensational lighting, experience a choreographic kaleidoscope as the Royal Albert Hall is transformed into a magical lake for this unrivalled dance event. For more information contact Rick Burin on rickb@royalalberthall.com

King John

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, 1 - 27 June 2015

The remotest in time of all Shakespeare's English history plays, King John, with its cynical allegiances and ruthless politicking, now feels his most abrasively modern. This is a first for the Globe and a rare opportunity to see some vividly memorable characters brought to life on the stage – especially the wildly outspoken Faulconbridge, one of Shakespeare's most thrillingly caustic political commentators. For more information contact francesca.m@shakespearesglobe.com

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Parts I and II

The Palace Theatre, 6 June – 30 July 2016

Based on an original new story by J.K. Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child will receive its world premiere in London's West End. Featuring a cast of over 30, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child is the eighth story in the Harry Potter series. While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus struggles with the weight of his family legacy. As past and present fuse, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places. For more information contact Janine Shalom on Janine.shalom@premiercomms.com / 020 7292 8330.

Breakfast at Tiffany's

Theatre Royal Haymarket, 29 June – 17 September 2016

Truman Capote's classic tale about Holly Golightly, 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' returns to the West End's Theatre Royal Haymarket in a sparkling and sophisticated new production starring singer-songwriter Pixie Lott in the iconic role made famous in the 1961 film by Audrey Hepburn. With memorable songs from the era, this stylish production on the New York socialite is set to capture the hearts of audiences all over again. For more information contact Ben Chamberlain on ben@thecornershoppr.com / 020 7831 7657.

The Entertainer

The Garrick Theatre, 20 August – 12 November 2016

Archie Rice, played by Kenneth Branagh, is a pathetic music-hall performer who is as much a failure in his domestic life as he is at his comedy act. Blending the fading world of British music hall with a domestic family drama, the play uses song, music and dance to tell the bitter-sweet story of Archie and the explosive examination of public masks and private torment. For more information visit

www.branaghtheatre.com/about-the-season.php

Hunger Games Live

Wembley, opening summer 2016

A stage adaptation of the hit novels and films will open at a new purpose-built venue near Wembley Stadium in 2016. Producers include Robin de Levita, who created a rotating auditorium for the Dutch musical *Soldier of Orange* and a rotating set for the *Anne Frank* play *Anne*. Fans of Katniss and co. can expect a night of thrilling adventure and combat. For more information see the Imagine Nation website:

www.imaginenation.nl/Live-entertainment/the-hunger-games

Finding Neverland,

Location to be announced, 2016

Finding Neverland is based on the Academy Award-winning film of the same name and follows playwright J.M. Barrie as he summons the courage to become the writer – and the man – he yearns to be. With songs penned by Take That star Gary Barlow, the audience will be able to let their imaginations run away with them for the evening. For more information visit <http://findingneverlandthemusical.com/>

Events & Activities

New Year's Day Parade 2016

Central London, 1 January 2016

Featuring more than 8,000 performers representing the London boroughs and countries from across the globe, this is the biggest event of its kind in the world. London's New Year's Day Parade is expected to attract more than 500,000 spectators with live television broadcasts in the UK and abroad. Watch the parade along its route between Piccadilly at noon and Parliament Square at 3.30pm, via Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, Cockspur Street, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall. For more information contact Dan Kirkby dan@lndp.com / 07785 392735.

The London International Mime Festival

Various venues across London, 9 January – 6 February 2016

The London International Mime Festival, directed by Helen Lannaghan and Joseph Seelig, is a once a year chance to see the very best and newest contemporary visual theatre, including cutting edge circus-theatre, animation and puppetry, mask, physical and object theatre. Over 29 days, 18 invited companies will give 112 performances of productions that are almost all UK or London premieres. Artists from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, New Zealand, Spain and Sweden will be joining some of Britain's fast emerging talents as well as established names. For more information contact Emma at Arthur Leone PR on emma@arthurleone.com

NBA Global Games

The O2 Arena, 14 January 2016

See some of the world's best basketball players take to the court at London's O2 Arena, as Orlando Magic take on the Toronto Raptors as part of the 2016 NBA Global Games. The Toronto Raptors are coming off a franchise best year, recording 49 wins to advance to the Playoffs, thanks to their pair of All-Star guards Kyle Lowry and DeMar DeRozan. For more information contact Barnaby Hooper on Barnaby.hooper@theo2.co.uk

Lumiere London

Central London, 14 – 17 January 2016

The biggest-ever light festival to hit the capital, produced by Artichoke and supported by Mayor of London, will see a host of international artists illuminate the city. See iconic architecture transformed with 3D projections, interactive installations and other extraordinary light works. For more information contact the press team on lumiere@artichoke.uk.com

London Super Comic Con Convention

ExCeL Centre, 20 – 21 February 2016

L.S.C.C. is the UK's biggest comic convention. The show floor plays host to the latest and greatest in comics, comic related memorabilia, superheroes and graphic novels. The panels and autograph sessions give fans a chance to interact with their favourite creators and there are a large amount of comic items on sale from numerous exhibitors as well as publishers of your favourite comic books. For more information contact press@londonsupercomicconvention.com

London Fashion Weekend

Saatchi Gallery, 25 – 28 February 2016

London Fashion Weekend, a biannual event run by the BFC takes place in February and September showcasing the best of British and international fashion; helping to secure the relationship between the high-end designer fashion industry and consumers from around the world. From discussions and talks with fashion editors, stylists and designers; health and beauty pop ups; trend and designer catwalk shows to designer shopping at exclusive prices, London Fashion Weekend interacts and engages 32,000 visitors a year. For more information contact Lucy Hirsch on Lucyhirsch@thisission.com

UFC Fight Night

The O2 Arena, 27 February 2016

UFC Fight Night will return to The O2 following continued demand from fans for a reappearance after the 2014 event, with 14,000 fans watching. Bouts will be announced in due course however fighters including the No. 8 ranked UFC middleweight Michael “The Count” Bisping, fan-favourite Brad “One Punch” Pickett and lightweight Ross “The Real Deal” Pearson have already discussed their desire to compete in front of home fans on the London fight card. For more information contact Barnaby Hooper on Barnaby.hooper@theo2.co.uk

UCI Track Cycling World Championships 2016

Lee Valley VeloPark, 2 - 6 March 2016

See the best cyclists in the world as they converge on London to prove their speed, strength and tactical superiority in a series of races and time trials. Watch as the best in the world compete in the Sprint, Keirin, Scratch Race, Points Race, Madison, Individual Pursuit, Team Sprint, Team Pursuit, Omnium and Time Trials. For more information contact Aaron Gales on aarongales@britishcycling.org.uk

Barbican Shakespeare Weekender: Play On

Barbican Centre, 5 – 6 March 2016

A weekend filled with playful experiences, interactive workshops, insightful talks, fun installations, performances and even Shakespeare-themed food, Play On offers something for everyone. Shakespeare is the starting point but featured artists and their modern responses to the playwright’s world take centre stage. For more information contact Freddie Todd Fordham on freddie.todd-fordham@barbican.org.uk / 020 7382 7399.

Country to Country Festival

The O2 Arena, 11 – 13 March 2016

Country To Country, the UK and Ireland’s largest country music festival is back and will be headlined by some of America’s biggest stars; Miranda Lambert, Carrie Underwood, Eric Church, Dwight Yoakam, Little Big Town, Kacey Musgraves, Thomas Rhett, Sam Hunt and Chris Stapleton plus Maddie and Tae, Andrew Combs and Ashley Monroe. For more information contact Barnaby Hooper on Barnaby.hooper@theo2.co.uk

Women of the World Festival

Southbank Centre, 11 – 13 March 2016

Returning for its sixth year, the week-long WOW festival takes place in the week of International Women’s Day (8 March) and features over 150 events, including talks, debates, music, workshops, performances, our smash-hit WOW Speed Mentoring and the WOW Market. Hear from outstanding thought leaders, trailblazers, activists and innovators, and join the debate on wide-reaching such as politics, love, relationships, consent, war and peacekeeping, the refugee crisis, gay rights, the media, black women’s bodies, older women’s voices, and whether we feel complicated about Beyonce. For more information contact Harriet Black on harriet.black@southbankcentre.co.uk

BNY Mellon Boat Race and Newton Women's Boat Race

West London, 27 March 2016

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

The Menuhin Competition 2016

Southbank Centre, 7 - 17 April 2016

The Menuhin Competition is the world's most prestigious competition for young violinists, with juniors under 16 and seniors up to the age of 21 competing. The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of Menuhin's birth, one of the greatest violinists of the 20th century, and will include an array of activities to celebrate his life. Taking place over 10 days the programme for this biennial event includes formal competitions, recitals and much more. The competition is hosted in a different country every two years so don't miss this rare opportunity to watch it in London. For more information contact Harriet Black on harriet.black@southbankcentre.co.uk

British Basketball League Playoff Finals

The O2 Arena, 8 May 2016

The BBL and WBBL Play-Off Finals promise to be a historic occasion in London with a fantastic double-bill of British basketball. Riding on the landmark and historic high of a near 15,000 record breaking crowd in 2015 between Esh Group Eagles Newcastle and the hometown London Lions, the season finale will once again be held in the capital. The last two teams standing in the BBL will compete for the last piece of silverware on offer for the year, so the stakes are high. For more information contact Barnaby Hooper on Barnaby.hooper@theo2.co.uk

LEN European Aquatics Championships 2016

London Aquatics Centre, 9 - 22 May 2016

The continent's best swimmers, divers and synchronised swimmers will battle for champion status less than three months before the start of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Absent from the UK for 23 years – and London for 78 – only the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games better the LEN European Aquatics Championships in size and scale for an event held at the London Aquatics Centre. For more information contact Ryan Bangs on ryan.bangs@swimming.org

London Photo Festival

Borough, 19 – 21 May 2016

The festival returns in 2016 with the theme of '4 elements: Earth, Water, Air and Fire'. The festival often serves as a stepping stone to greater things for many photographers, so if you want to spot the best of emerging talent in London then this is the place to be. For more information contact info@londonphotofestival.org

FA Cup Final in London

Wembley Stadium, 21 May 2016

The FA Cup is English Football's biggest competition. The FA Cup Final, played at London's iconic Wembley Stadium, brings the nation to a standstill and attracts millions of viewers from around the globe. If you're lucky enough to get tickets to the event, you're in for a real treat – watching a moment of English football history from the stands at the iconic Wembley Stadium. For more information contact media-accreditation@fifa.org

London Wine Week

Various venues across London, 23 – 29 May 2016

Following the storming success of the first two years, more great vintages are set to be decanted in celebration of London Wine Week. Attendees can purchase a £10 wristband to enjoy self-guided wine tours, events and tasting sessions across London. The capital's many knowledgeable sommeliers have put together a trail that leads intrepid drinkers on a journey to discover new grapes, varieties and vintages. The trips cover many enticing venues, covering everything from leading restaurants and small, lesser-known eateries to dusty wine vaults and renowned hotel bars. For more information contact the press team on press@drinkup.london

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016

Royal Hospital Chelsea, 24 - 28 May 2016

Every year the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea are transformed into show gardens, inspirational small gardens and vibrant horticultural displays for the famous flower show. The show has become an important venue for watching emerging gardening trends. New plants are launched and the popularity of older varieties are revived. Alongside the gardens, you'll find a host of retailers who are returning with their garden goodies, outdoor products and green-fingered advice. For more information contact Aimee Reilly on aimeereilly@rhs.org.uk

Trooping the Colour: The Queen's Birthday Parade

Horse Guards Parade, 11 June 2016

Trooping the Colour is an annual event that takes place on Horse Guards Parade near London's St James's Park, marking The Queen's official birthday. The ceremony is one to watch in 2016 as London celebrates The Queen's 90th birthday. The ceremony of Trooping the Colour is full of military pomp and pageantry as The Queen carries out an inspection of the troops from the Household Division. The Queen then leads the troops down the Mall to Buckingham Palace, one of London's most famous landmarks, before she joins other members of the Royal Family on the balcony to watch the RAF flypast. For more information contact Kirsty Oram on Kirsty.oram@royal.gov.uk

Pride in London 2016

Central London, 18 – 26 June 2016

Join the party as thousands of people take part in the week-long Pride in London festival, a celebration of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) community across London. The culmination of the week-long event is the Pride in London Parade, which follows a route from Baker Street to Whitehall via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Lower Regent Street, Pall Mall and Trafalgar Square on 25 June. It features more than 250 community groups, dancers and performers. For more information contact the press team on mediacentre@prideinlondon.org

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships 2016

Wimbledon, 27 June – 10 July 2016

The world of tennis descends on Wimbledon in South West London every summer for two weeks of tennis, strawberries and cream, and good-natured queuing. Almost uniquely for a major sporting event, Wimbledon offers spectators the chance to buy premium tickets on the day – but be prepared to queue! Several thousand ground admission tickets are also available each day. These give you the chance to watch games from the No.2 Court standing enclosure and from unreserved seating and standing on the outside courts, and on the big screen at Henman Hill. For more information contact the press team on press.operations@aeltc.com

Big Dance Week 2016

Various locations across London, 2 – 10 July 2016

Big Dance Week returns in 2016 with special projects like Big Dance Shorts, a touring Big Dance Bus and Big Dance events in local areas of London. One of the stand-out events of the week includes the Big Dance Pledge, where you can learn 3 minutes of choreography at home and take part in numerous performances across London. For more information contact info@bigdance.org.uk

Star Wars Celebration

ExCeL Centre, 15 - 17 July 2016

Star Wars Celebration is the ultimate four-day Star Wars fan experience filled with entertainment, celebrity appearances, stage shows, panels, interactive events, screenings and exclusive Star Wars first looks and sneak peeks. From seasoned saga veterans to young Padawan learners, there's something for everyone at Star Wars Celebration. Attendees relive favorite Star Wars memories with great friends while making new memories and new friends too. For more information contact starwarsinquiry@reedexpo.com

Fashion and Design Month

Regent Street, 1 – 30 September 2016

Fashion and Design Month comes to Regent Street for the month of September. To celebrate fashion and design Regent Street will be transforming into a fashion and design hotspot, encompassing the cultural events taking place in London through September. For more information contact Chelsea Cook on chelsea.cook@sisteris.com / 020 7287 9601

Totally Thames Festival

Various locations across London, 1 – 30 September 2016

This year's Totally Thames will once again bring the river to life in a celebration of all things arts, cultural, river-related Thames. There are plenty of opportunities to get on and into the water, from paddle steamers to paddle boarding, cruising on a Tall Ship to wild swimming. Those not wishing to dip their toes in the water can stay bankside as the festival includes live art in various iterations along the entire 42-mile stretch through the capital. For more information contact Rosie Beaumont-Thomas on Rosie.Beaumont-Thomas@fourcolmangetty.com

London Design Festival

Various locations across London, 17 - 25 September 2016

First staged in 2003, the London Design Festival is one of the world's most important annual design events. The Festival programme is made up of over 400 events and exhibitions staged by hundreds of Partner organisations across the design spectrum and from around the world. For more information contact the London Design Festival team on admin@londondesignfestival.com

Bonfire Night: London Firework Displays

Various locations across London, 5 November 2016

The anniversary of Fawkes' arrest on 5 November is celebrated each year with fireworks and bonfires. Visitors and Londoners alike can look forward to firework displays across the city. One of the capital's most popular displays will take place in Battersea Park on 5 November. Expect colourful pyrotechnics set in time to music, along with food stalls and family fun. For more information please visit www.visitlondon.com/tag/bonfire-night

NFL International Series

Wembley Stadium, 2016

Usually reserved for England's national football team and important FA Cup matches, Wembley is the second largest stadium in Europe with 90,000 seats. Next year's Wembley games will feature the New York Jets vs. the Miami Dolphins, the Buffalo Bills vs. the Jacksonville Jaguars and the Detroit Lions vs. the Kansas City Chiefs. The Chiefs, Jaguars and Dolphins sacrifice a home game to play in London. Wembley will host the very first divisional game, the Jets vs. the Dolphins, on foreign turf. 2015's games will allow fans to see NFL games in consecutive weeks for the first time on British soil. For more information visit www.nfl.com/international

Hotels

InterContinental at the O2

Opening early 2016

The InterContinental London – The O2 will feature 453 bedrooms, a conference centre with 20 multi-functional meeting rooms and a 3,000sqm ballroom, which will hold up to 3,000 delegates. Other facilities will include a spa, two restaurants, a hotel bar and an 18th-floor Sky Bar, offering views across the Thames to Canary Wharf and beyond. For more information contact Zoe Davies on Zoe.Cosby@daviestanner.co.uk

Park Plaza Park Royal

Opening early 2016

The 15 million pound Park Plaza Hotel on Western Avenue, Park Royal, in west London - the conversion of a former office building into a 168-room hotel - is expected to open in 2015. Occupying a two-acre site opposite Park Royal underground station, the 6,750 square metre hotel offers four star accommodation over six storeys. On the ground floor there will be a bar, restaurant, gym and conference facilities. For more information contact Lisa Woodman on lwoodman@pphe.com

Go Native Southbank

Opening early 2016

Go Native Southbank will bring stylish apartment stays to the vibrant heart of the world-renowned hub of culture and art that hugs the Thames. Built on the remains of the bear baiting pit from which Bear Gardens street takes its name, the converted Empire Warehouse has undergone a multimillion-pound refurbishment to offer sleek and stylish apartments, each with modern furnishings that complement the building's historic features and industrial heritage. Communal facilities will include a gym, café and an art gallery. For more information contact Rebecca Thomas on rebecca@dovetail-agency.co.uk

The Curtain Hotel and Members Club Shoreditch

Opening 2016

The Curtain Hotel will offer 120 warm and spacious guest rooms including six suites, each with natural light, tin ceilings, hardwood floors and steam showers, and bespoke and original artwork from some of London and New York City's leading contemporary artists. Perfect for the summer months, the hotel will also feature a 1,600 square meter rooftop with Moroccan-inspired swimming pool, bar, and café. For those looking to get away from the bustle of the City, there will be a chance to relax in the luxurious hammam, or work up a sweat in the fitness centre. The members club will be integrated within the hotel but have a range of separate facilities, like a whiskey bar and private courtyard. For more information visit www.thecurtain.com

Four Seasons Trinity Square

Opening 2016

Following a restoration by a team of experts commissioned by Reignwood, the former Port of London Authority building has been redeveloped as part of a vision to establish one of the most exclusive addresses in London. With 98 guestrooms and suites, the site of Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square will also include 41 private residences. The spa will also be operated by Four Seasons, which will feature comprehensive health and wellness services and treatments and a luxury hammam and sauna. For more information contact Tom Bates on tom.bates@fourseasons.com

Starboard Hotel

Opening 2016

The new 18-storey hotel with up to 500 bedrooms will overlook the former London 2012 Athletes' Village, now known as East Village. It will be directly adjacent to Westfield Stratford City, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and Stratford International station, providing hotel guests with a unique retail, leisure, entertainment and workplace destination benefiting from unrivalled access to the City, West End and Canary Wharf. For more information contact Tim Reid on treid@goodrelationsproperty.co.uk

Adagio Aparthotel, Whitechapel Road

Opening 2016

Accor Hotels will be opening a 217-room property on Whitechapel Road in 2016 following the conversion of the Black Lion House office building. The 217 apartment property will be located in the heart of East London with good connections to the City as well as the cultural and creative heartland of Brick Lane, providing a perfect place for the more independent traveller to stay. For more information contact Sarah Wilson on sarah.wilson@mason-williams.com

Nobu Hotel, Shoreditch

Opening 2016

Nobu's first London hotel will house 143 bedrooms and a statement restaurant: a dramatic 5 metre high space in the basement. The five storey hotel includes its own garden, while rooms are clustered around a central bathroom screened off by a full-height curved unit. This will be the first UK building by Ron Arad, the designer responsible for the stunning design museum in Holon, Israel. For more information contact pr@nobuhotels.com

Park Plaza London Waterloo

Opening 2016

Park Plaza London Waterloo will have 494 rooms and offer a swimming pool, spa, restaurant and bar. The hotel is set in an ideal location to enjoy many of London's top activities, including the Tate Modern, Shakespeare's Globe and the Coca Cola London Eye. For more information contact Lisa Woodman on lwoodman@pphe.com

Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square

Opening 2016

Built a century ago with its great tower and a grand Portland stone rotunda, the existing structure of Ten Trinity Square will have been meticulously restored and upgraded. Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square will occupy the lower ground to the third levels, with 100 guest rooms and suites, restaurants, bars, meeting salons and spa. The spectacular Rotunda Lounge will serve light and casual fare all day, while the French restaurant will be under the direction of a Michelin-star chef. The spa will also be operated by Four Seasons, featuring comprehensive health and wellness services and treatments, a luxury hammam and sauna, and its own spa café and boutique. For more information contact mediaenquiries@tentrinitysquare.com

Aloft Tobacco Dock and Element London Tobacco Dock

Opening early 2017

Scheduled to open in early 2017, the new-build Aloft and Element hotels will offer an exciting range of accommodation in the heart of the historic Tobacco Dock area of East London. The new Aloft London Tobacco Dock will feature 251 urban-influenced rooms, all with signature loft-like ceilings, oversized windows and ultra-comfortable plush platform beds as well as walk-in showers and complimentary Bliss® amenities. The opening of Element London Tobacco Dock will mark the debut of the much anticipated eco-wise Element brand in the UK. In keeping with the tenets of the Element brand, Element London Tobacco Dock's 77 studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom suites will be stylish, sustainable and designed for comfort. For more information contact Sarah Zezulka on sarah.zezulka@starwoodhotels.com / 020 7290 7107.

Restaurants

Le Bab

Soho, opening January 2016

Headed by the kitchen team from the renowned Le Gavroche, Le Bab will offer a highly seasonal menu focussing on individual and sharing kebabs. The winter menu will feature quirky options for diners such as Roe Deer Shish with Damson Jam, artichoke crisps, chicken crackling, turban squash hummus and much more. Designed by Angus Buchanan, the interior of the restaurant will combine the Middle Eastern and Eastern Mediterranean heritage which influences its menu. For more information visit

www.twitter.com/EatLeBab

Biblioteka

King's Cross, opening early 2016

Russian Leonid Shutov, founder of Bob Bob Ricard will open a 250-seat restaurant, serving English classics and Russian delicacies, a private dining room for up to 75 and a vintage champagne bar. Its 20,000 square feet will make the restaurant one of the largest in central London. Biblioteka is Russian for library, and will display its huge wine collection like books. Diners can expect fine wines, vintage Champagnes and rare spirits to accompany their meal. For more information contact Jori White PR on info@joriwhitepr.co.uk / 020 7734 7001

Barbecoa St James

St. James's, opening early 2016

The new 9,000 sq. ft. restaurant will sit within an iconic new space at the historic Prince's House and will be able to accommodate more than 300 guests over two floors. Barbecoa's menu focuses on flames and fire-based cooking methods and has been widely praised for its original, smoke-filled flavours. The restaurant uses only the finest cuts of meat, all hand selected by in-house butchers who search the length and breadth of the UK to find the very best produce for the restaurant's distinctive dishes. Barbecoa St James will feature a striking bar area and open kitchen. For more information contact

themedialounge@jamieoliver.com

Fatty Crab

Soho, opening early 2016

The first UK branch of the US restaurant will offer dinners plenty of delicious options. The menu is Indonesian-based, so expect steamed buns, Nasi Lamark (chicken curry with coconut rice and slow poached eggs), and their signature Dungeness crab with chilli sauce. Expect to get down and dirty- this is a finger-pulling, chewing, crunching sort of crab dish rather than anything too polite. For more information visit

www.twitter.com/FattyCrab

Bone Daddies

Old Street, opening early 2016

The third Bone Daddies in London will offer diners a combo of bar counter and 60 seats. Expect lots of the usual Bone Daddies favourites - all manner of ramen (Tonkotsu, Tantanmen, Kimchee, Spicy Miso), snacks & sides (fried chicken, sashimi, and soft shell crab.) At this no reservations restaurant just walk in, sit down, and enjoy the food. For more information visit www.twitter.com/BoneDaddiesLDN

Sosharu

Clerkenwell, opening March 2016

The restaurant's name translates as 'social', and will take the form of a 75-seat izakaya – an informal Japanese restaurant that serves tapas-style Japanese food to go with drinks. The menu will span sashimi, teppanyaki and robata-yaki dishes. Upstairs there will be a small restaurant-within-a-restaurant called Kisetu, 'seasonal' in Japanese, offering a "super-fine dining experience" based on seasonal ingredients, while downstairs guests can dance until dawn in a hip-hop basement bar serving sake cocktails. For more information contact Natalie on natalie@saucecommunications.com

New restaurant by Shaun Rankin

Flemings Mayfair Hotel, opening March 2016

Flemings Mayfair Hotel is investing £14 million in an impressive refurbishment plan, alongside a brand new restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Shaun Rankin, their new Executive Chef. The 80-cover restaurant and 40-cover bar will offer a modern British menu, along with a Chef's Table and two private dining rooms. Shaun Rankin has been Jersey-based for twenty years and has held a Michelin star for 11 years, with Bohemia and now his own Jersey restaurant, Ormer. For more information contact Emma Hawley on emma@rochecom.com / 020 7436 1111

The Botanicals by Tom Aikens

Location to be announced, opening spring 2016

Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens is set to open a new flagship restaurant in London serving 'British tapas' and featuring a botanicals bar, though a site has not yet been confirmed. Featuring a central bar to divide the restaurant into more and less formal spaces, cocktails will be a large part of the offering, with mixologists making syrups and tonics from scratch. For more information visit www.tomaikens.co.uk

The Other Room

Bethnal Green, opening summer 2016

From the owners of the Bermondsey Arts Club comes a 40-cover bar serving 50 different beers and Californian-inspired food. Beer-lovers can expect different brews from all over the world and from various breweries in London. For more information visit www.twitter.com/OtherRoomBar

D&D at Nova Victoria

Victoria, opening autumn 2016

The latest addition to D&D London's portfolio will be housed over two floors of the Nova South building on Victoria Street, adjacent to the Victoria Palace Theatre. The new development will include a café, bar, terrace and a restaurant on the first floor, while the interior will be designed by Russell Sage Studio which was behind their Quaglino's and Avenue restaurants. For more information contact Sophie Ralls on sophier@danddlondon.com

Pharmacy 2

Newport Street Gallery, 2016

Hirst's new gallery space, the Newport Street Gallery, will soon play host to his new restaurant venture, Pharmacy 2. The space will work as a canteen for visitors to the gallery during the day and offer a fine-dining experience in the evening, while Hirst's 'pill' pictures will decorate the walls. For more information contact info@newportstreetgallery.com / 020 3141 9320.