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Press Briefing | Feb 2014

What's New April & May 2014

An exciting array of new hotels, exhibitions, events and entertainment awaits for visitors to the capital in the spring months. Please read on for our highlights.

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Henri Matisse

Major exhibition Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs at the Tate Modern this April is dedicated to the leading figure of modern.

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Carnaby Shopping Party

The successful shopping event is back with a bang this May, featuring 20% discounts, live music, giveaways and much more. [Read more...](#)



Shangri-La Hotel London

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts will open a new 18-floor luxury hotel with 202 rooms at The Shard on 6 May this year..

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Attractions

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park: South Park Opening

Opening, 5 April 2014

Visitors will soon be able to explore more of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as the newly landscaped south of the Park opens to the public for the first time since the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Visitors will be able to enjoy beautiful parklands, fountains and waterways, world-class sporting venues, arts and events and children's play areas. For more information contact the press team on 020 3288 1777 / press@queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk

ArcelorMittal Orbit

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, opening 5 April 2014

Design by Turner Prize winning artist Sir Anish Kapoor and structural designer Cecil Balmond, the ArcelorMittal Orbit is the UK's tallest sculpture, offering a totally new perspective of London with unrivalled views of its newest, must-see destination – Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. At 114.5 metres high, the ArcelorMittal Orbit gives visitors views of over 20 miles across London from two spacious viewing galleries. Tickets go on sale in February 2014. For more information contact Victoria Coombes on 020 7421 2505 / victoria.coombes@mangopr.com

New audio tours and extended guided tours

Houses of Parliament, from April 2014

The Houses of Parliament are enhancing the experience offered to visitors by introducing brand new audio tours as an alternative to the guided tours. Both tours run most Saturdays throughout the year and selected weekdays during

holiday periods. As visitors explore highlights including the Royal Gallery, Lords Chamber and Westminster Hall, the audio commentary brings to life the history, architecture and artworks of this iconic building. The audio tours will initially be available in English, Spanish, Italian, French, German, Russian and Mandarin. Simultaneously, the popular guided tours will be extended to provide visitors with a more in-depth experience. There will be additional sit down stops in the Grand Committee Room, Moses Room and the 'Aye' voting lobby, and opportunities to find out more about Parliament from the expert guides. For more information contact Ian Lacey on 020 7219 4565 / laceyir@parliament.uk

Exhibitions

The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk

Barbican, 9 April - 17 August 2014

The theatrically-staged exhibition will bring together more than 140 cutting-edge couture and ready-to-wear garments including iconic costumes for film and performance from the early 1970s to the present day. The infamous conical bra and corsets Madonna wore during her 1990 Blonde Ambition World Tour are showcased alongside stage costumes designed for Kylie Minogue. For more information contact Ann Berni on 020 7382 7169 / ann.berni@barbican.org.uk

Unlocking Lovelock: Scientist, Inventor, Maverick

Science Museum, from 9 April 2013

A new exhibition celebrating the life and 70-year career of British scientist and inventor James Lovelock will open at the Science Museum this spring. The free exhibition will feature highlights from a remarkable archive of material acquired by the Science Museum in 2012 – providing the public with a unique insight into Lovelock's creative mind and achievements. Prominent in the exhibition is the electron capture detector – one of Lovelock's most important inventions. Other notable items include Lovelock's school reports and James Bond-style stories, written from Lovelock's imagination. For more information contact Laura Singleton on 0207 942 4364 /

laura.singleton@sciencemuseum.ac.uk

The First Georgians: Art & Monarchy 1714-1760

The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 11 April - 12 October 2014

The First Georgians: Art & Monarchy 1714-1760 explores the reigns of George 1 (r.1714-27) and his son George II (r.1727-60). Through over 300 works from the Royal Collection, it tells the story of Britain's emergence as the world's most liberal, commercial and cosmopolitan society, embracing freedom of expression and the unfettered exchange of ideas. For more information contact the Royal Collection Trust Press Office on 020 7839 1377 /

press@royalcollection.org.uk

Guiding Lights: 500 Years of Trinity House and Safety at Sea

National Maritime Museum, 16 April 2014 - 4 January 2016

This April, the National Maritime Museum opens a small exhibition showcasing centuries of invaluable work by the Corporation of Trinity House to help sailors navigate safely at sea. Coinciding with the five hundred year anniversary of Trinity House, the gallery displays 70 rarely seen objects from Trinity House and the museum's own collection, telling stories of the heroic and the extraordinary from throughout the organisation's history as well as looking to its future. For more information contact the Royal Museums Greenwich Press Office on 020 8312 6789 / press@rmg.co.uk

Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs

Tate Modern, 17 April - 7 September 2014

Henri-Émile-Benoît Matisse (1869 – 1954) is one of the leading figures of modern art and one of the most significant colourists of all time. This major exhibition is the most comprehensive exhibition ever devoted to the artist's paper cut-outs made between 1943 and 1954. It brings together around 120 works, many seen together for the first time, in a ground-breaking reassessment of Matisse's colourful and innovative final works. The show will include the largest number of Matisse's Blue Nudes ever exhibited together. For more information contact Jeanette Ward on 020 7887 8730 / pressoffice@tate.org.uk

useful + beautiful: contemporary design for the home

Geffrye Museum, 29 April - 25 August 2014

This exhibition will showcase a selection of the best cutting edge design for the home by both well-established industry figures and emerging talent. A broad range of domestic products, from furniture to wallpaper and textiles, lighting to

technology, will be on show, spilling out into the museum's gardens with a display of the best in garden furniture design. As well as highlighting local design from Hackney and London, the exhibition will look further afield and include work by leading national and international designers. For more information contact Nancy Loader on 020 7739 9893 / press@geffrye-museum.org.uk

The Years of La Dolce Vita

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, 30 April - 29 June 2014

This exhibition explores one of the most fertile periods in contemporary Italian cinema and the simultaneous explosion of celebrity culture. The eighty photographs capture the dolce vita (literally 'sweet life') enjoyed by Italian movie stars and Hollywood 'royalty' working in Rome during the 1960s. Together, these photographs vividly evoke an era of extraordinary glamour, creativity and decadence, and also allows viewers to consider the media's obsession with celebrity. For more information contact Sue Bond on 01359 271085 / info@suebond.co.uk

Architecture in Italian Renaissance Painting

National Gallery, 30 April - 21 September 2014

This exhibition is the first in Britain to explore architecture in Italian Renaissance painting. It considers the ways in which Italian painters of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries including Duccio, Botticelli and Crivelli represented architecture. It will also examine how architecture was used to frame figures and to construct the illusion of space. Architecture in Italian Renaissance Painting is focused upon pictures in the National Gallery, with a few loans from other collections in the UK including the National Galleries of Scotland. For more information contact the press office on 020 7747 2865 / press@ng-london.org.uk

Longitude Punk'd

Royal Observatory Greenwich, April 2014 - February 2015

Opening for Easter 2014, Longitude Punk'd celebrates the wacky inventors, star-gazing scientists and extremely elegant explorers of the eighteenth century. Royal Museums Greenwich has commissioned eight British steampunk artists to create works inspired by the technical inventions that were presented to the Board of Longitude between 1714 and 1828. The exhibition features both fantastical inventions and real historic objects - blurring the boundaries between art and science, fiction and fact. The exhibition includes specially created pieces by steampunk luminaries Robert Rankin, Herr Döktor, Dr Geof, Emily Ladybird, Major Thaddeus Tinker, Lady Elsie, Yomi Ayeni and Wyn Griffiths. For more information contact Jenny Stewart on 020 8312 6790 / jstewart@rmg.co.uk

Kenneth Clark: Looking for Civilisation

Tate Britain, 20 May - 10 August 2014

The career and impact of Kenneth Clark (1903 - 1983), one of the most influential figures in British art, will be explored in Kenneth Clark: Looking for Civilisation. The exhibition will explore Clark's role as patron, collector, art historian, public servant, and broadcasting impresario, the first to bring the art of the 20th century to a mass television audience. From work by the British artists he championed to highlights from his own eclectic collection, the exhibition of around 200 objects will include works by Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland, drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, prints by Hokusai, and paintings by Constable, Degas, Seurat and Cézanne. For more information contact Kate Moores on 020 7887 4906 / kate.moores@tate.org.uk

Events

BNY Mellon Boat race

Putney Bridge, 6 April 2014

April 6 2014 will see the 160th Boat Race between crews from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. First raced in 1829, The Boat Race is one of the oldest sporting events in the world. Watched by thousands along the banks of The Tideway, between Putney and Mortlake in London and by millions more on TV around the world, The Boat Race is a unique sporting event. With two very strong squads of athletes, expect to see another great race this year. For more information contact Liz Box on 07702 884009 / liz@profsports.com

Virgin Money London Marathon

Across London, 13 April 2014

The Virgin Money London Marathon will see over 45,000 runners from 150 different countries attempt the gruelling 26

mile course that takes in some of London's most scenic sights. Those just planning to spectate can pick out a spot and soak up the race atmosphere anywhere between the start in Greenwich Park, a Royal Park, to the finish at Buckingham Palace. For more information contact Nicola Okey on 0207 902 0182 / nicolao@london-marathon.co.uk

Feast of St George

Trafalgar Square, 23 April 2014

St George is the patron saint of England. His name is most commonly associated with the legend of St George and the Dragon. London celebrates St George's Day with a whole host of free events including parades, food festivals, children's activities and more. A highlight is the annual Feast of St George in Trafalgar Square. For more information visit london.gov.uk/get-involved/events

Grand Designs Live London

ExCeL London, 3 - 11 May 2014

With over 500 exhibitors across seven different sections you'll find everything you need to turn your dream home into a reality. This year's show offers you the very best ideas and inspiration for renovating your home, as well as advice for those planning a build project. Plus, shop from 100's of items not available on the high street and find plenty of free talks, workshops and expert advice at the UK's top contemporary home show. For more information contact the press team on granddesignslive@publicasity.co.uk

FA Cup Final

Wembley Stadium, 17 May 2014

The FA Cup Final with Budweiser will return to having its own day in the football calendar next year - a week after the Premier League season has concluded. For more information visit thefa.com

Chelsea Flower Show

Royal Hospital Chelsea, 20 - 24 May 2014

Come and experience the greatest flower show in the world at London's Royal Hospital Chelsea. Every year the grounds of the Royal Hospital are transformed into show gardens, inspirational small gardens and vibrant horticultural displays for the world's most famous flower show. The Chelsea Flower Show is attended by 157,000 visitors each year. New plants are launched and the popularity of older varieties revived. For more information contact the press office on 020 7821 3043 / pressoffice@rhs.org.uk

Theatre, Music & Film

A Small Family Business

National Theatre, 1 April - 31 May 2014

Alan Ayckbourn's A Small Family Business, returns to the National where it premiered in 1987. Directed by Adam Penford, the cast is led by Nigel Lindsay as Jack McCracken. Moments after taking over his father-in-law's business, Jack McCracken is approached by a private detective armed with some compromising information. Jack's integrity fades away as he discovers his extended family to be thieves and adulterers, looting the business from their suburban homes. For more information contact Mary Parker on 020 7452 3234 / mparker@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Lest We Forget

Barbican Theatre, 2 - 12 April 2014

Award-winning British choreographers Akram Khan, Russell Maliphant and Liam Scarlett create works honouring the 100th anniversary of the Great War. Completing the programme is George Williamson's Firebird, premiered by the Company in 2012. Firmly rooted in the classical tradition are the younger choreographers, Royal Ballet Artist in Residence Liam Scarlett and English National Ballet's own Associate Artist George Williamson. For more information contact Nicola Osmond-Evans on 020 7590 2933 / nicola.osmond-evans@ballet.org.uk

The Pajama Game

Shaftesbury Theatre, opens 1 May 2014

Richard Eyre's sensational production of the Broadway classic The Pajama Game will transfer to the Shaftesbury Theatre for a limited season. In 1950s America, love is in the air at the Sleep-Tite Pajama Factory as new Superintendent Sid Sorokin falls head-over-heels for feisty Union rep Babe Williams. A blissful blend of romance and

comedy, The Pajama Game's golden age score includes the hit songs Hey There (You With The Stars In Your Eyes), Hernando's Hideaway and Steam Heat. For more information contact Jessica McCrorie on 020 7836 4747 /

jessicamccrorie@akauk.com

Damon Albarn to perform in QM Great Hall

Queen Mary University of London, 1 May 2014

Damon Albarn will play the iconic art-deco Great Hall at Queen Mary University of London for one of just two intimate dates in London to mark the launch of his first solo album. The multi-purpose 770 seat Great Hall reopened in 2013 following a multi-million pound refurbishment to restore it to its 1930s art-deco glory and will host the live show on the 1st May 2014. For more information contact Bridín Mitchell on 020 8749 7999 / bridin@rmlplondon.co.uk

Miss Saigon

Prince Edward Theatre, from 3 May 2014

Miss Saigon will return to the West End in May 2014 to the Prince Edward Theatre.

Set in 1975 during the final days of the American occupation of Saigon, Miss Saigon is an epic love story about the relationship between an American GI and a young Vietnamese woman. Since its London premiere in 1989, the show has become one of the most successful musicals in history and has won over 40 awards including two Olivier Awards and three Tony Awards. For more information contact Simon Raw on 020 7637 8866 / simon@rawpr.co.uk

My First Ballet: Coppélia

Peacock Theatre, 5 - 25 May 2014

My First Ballet: Coppélia tells the comic tale of an eccentric toymaker and his mechanical doll, in a beautifully adapted version for young audiences. The My First Ballet series brings young audiences their first taste of ballet, with captivating music and beautiful dance. Léo Delibes's melodic score is accompanied with narration to ensure that everyone enjoys this classic story. For more information contact Nicola Osmond-Evans on 020 7590 2933 / nicola.osmond-evans@ballet.org.uk

All My Sons

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, 15 May - 7 June 2014

Arthur Miller's 20th Century classic is a moving story of denial, guilt and social responsibility. As the spectre of war overshadows a summer's day, long-forgotten secrets strike at the heart of the Kellers' family life. Timothy Sheader directs following his critically acclaimed production of The Crucible in 2010 (Best Director, Whatsonstage.com Awards). For more information contact Chloe Pritchard-Gordon on 020 7831 7657 / chloe@thecornershoppr.com

Explorations: The Sound of Nonesuch Records

Barbican and across London, 17 - 18 May 2014

The Barbican's marathon weekend celebrates Nonesuch Records - one of the most respected, innovative and diverse record companies around - in their 50th anniversary year. This curated weekend of events includes five concerts taking place in LSO St Luke's, Guildhall School's new Milton Court Concert Hall and the Barbican Hall, featuring Jonny Greenwood and soprano Jessica Rivera performing with the BBC Concert Orchestra and conductor André de Ridder – and much more over the weekend. The marathon weekend is part of a wider Nonesuch celebration at the Barbican which will include further one-off concerts and collaborations throughout May 2014, featuring a breadth of artists associated with the label. For more information contact Sabine Kindel on 020 7382 6199 / sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

Shopping, food & nightlife

The Ritz Paris's Bar Hemingway

The Connaught, 7 - 14 April 2013

This spring, two of the world's most iconic hotel bars will come together when the Ritz Paris's Bar Hemingway takes up a week-long residency at The Connaught Bar in Mayfair. Representing their legendary venues, two cocktail geniuses – Colin Field of the Bar Hemingway and Agostino Perrone, director of mixology at the Connaught Bar – will work together to create a specialised drinks menu that blends their respective styles. Every night during the week's residency the pair will mingle with guests, explaining their creations and imparting a wealth of knowledge and great stories. For more information contact Paula Fitzherbert on 020 7201 1607 / pfitzherbert@the-berkeley.co.uk

Carnaby Shopping Party

1 May 2014

Carnaby's biggest fashion event is back and bigger than ever. Over 100 fashion brands, restaurants and bars are uniting to create the ultimate shopping experience, including live music, DJs, trend talks, a pop up bar and 20% discount on new season collections. The Carnaby area has boasts a mix of flagships, independent boutiques, heritage brands and unique concepts. Brands taking part include Scotch & Soda, American Apparel, Diesel, AQ/AQ Women's, Dr Martens, Paul Smith Soho and more. Ticket holders can enjoy a complimentary drink on the night. All ticket registrations will be entered into a prize draw to win £500 to spend in Carnaby. For more information contact Scarlett Engineer on 020 7287 9601 / india.bennett@sisteris.com

City Social

Tower 42, opening May 2014

Jason Atherton continues his takeover of the London restaurant scene with his first City restaurant. Expect a design by Russell Sage and a more high-end experience with fantastic views. For more information contact Natalie Dunbar on 020 8600 3608 / natalie@saucecommunications.com

Hotels

Shangri-La Hotel London opening at The Shard

Opening 6 May 2014

Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, will open a new 18-floor high-end hotel at The Shard, London. The 202 deluxe guestrooms will be amongst the largest in London with highlights including the Shangri-La Bed, featuring patented body-contouring technology. Food and beverage outlets will include a lobby lounge and bar, a gourmet lounge café with artisan crafted foods and a themed bar situated on level 52 with spectacular views across London. For more information contact Virginia Webb on 020 7637 3220 / virginia.webb@massey.co.uk

The Mondrian Sea Containers House, South Bank

Opening Spring 2014

Sea Containers House, on the South Bank, is being developed into the Mondrian London by the Morgans Hotel Group. Situated on the banks of the River Thames, Sea Containers House holds a striking presence between the OXO Tower and Blackfriars Bridge. The building was built in the 1970s and intended as a luxury hotel, but ended up being used as offices instead. The hotel will embody the elegance of a transatlantic 1920s' liner, combined with a healthy dose of 1980s post-modernism reference. The main lobby will feature a giant, external and internal copper-clad wall, inspired by the hull of a ship that will run from outside the building and glamorously lead guests to the entrance hall within. The vast, 1500 m2, ground floor area includes two river-side restaurants and a breakfast bar. For more information contact Stevie King on stevie@purplepr.com

The Hoxton Hotel, Holborn

Opening May 2014

The award-winning Hoxton Hotel in east London is heading central to High Holborn, where the Hoxton Holborn will open its doors in May 2014. The new site, located within a Grade II-listed building, will house 174 bedrooms over five floors in three different categories; comfy, cosy and tiny. Every guest can take advantage of the complimentary healthy breakfast bags by hanging a special paper bag outside the room door, filled over night with a granola yoghurt, banana and OJ. Its restaurants will include the Hoxton Grill, serving American classics, and the Chicken Shop. Hox Holborn will adhere to the brand's "no rip-off" policy with free WiFi throughout, one hour of free phone calls to landlines (and US mobiles) in Britain, USA, Australia and most of Europe, a supermarket-priced lobby shop for everything from confectionery to champagne while fresh milk and mineral water will be free. Room rates are priced from £69. For more information contact Julia Pearson on jules@thehox.com

Ham Yard Hotel, Soho

May 2014

The Ham Yard hotel is situated on a ¾ acre vacant site off Great Windmill Street in Soho that is being constructed from the ground up and is due to open in May 2014. Its 90 bedrooms and suites are individually designed by Kit Kemp, plus it will offer 24 residential apartments, 13 speciality retail stores, two drawing rooms, a restaurant and bar all centred

around a leafy garden. There will be a small spa and several private event rooms including a 175-seat theatre/cinema with a stage and VIP balcony, plus a four-lane 1960s-style bowling alley along with a bar and dance floor. Up on the roof will be a Kitchen Garden growing seasonal produce including tomatoes, melons and blueberries, as well as a chicken coop! For more information contact Jodie Tice on jodietice@firmdalehotels.com

Cheval Three Quays

Opening Spring 2014

A collection of new luxury serviced apartments located next to the Tower of London, Cheval Three Quays will afford incredible views across the Thames towards Tower Bridge and City Hall. Designed for both short and extended stays, there will be a choice of 159 serviced and residential luxury apartments and penthouses. For more information contact Sarah White on sarah.white@fourbgb.com

Dorsett Shepherds Bush

Opening Spring 2014

Dorsett Shepherds Bush will be the newest addition to the Dorsett Hospitality International portfolio, and the company's first hotel in the United Kingdom and indeed Europe. The hotel is set within a Grade II listed building and will offer 317 Chinese inspired bedrooms designed with a light and modern feel, including 187 standard Dorsett rooms, and 24 suites. Dorsett Shepherds Bush will offer two restaurants, the first showcasing a contemporary brasserie style menu; complimented with a selection of handpicked Asian inspired dishes. The second restaurant at the hotel will be an innovative new venture for an established restaurateur bringing a fine dining Chinese Restaurant concept to Shepherds Bush. The hotel will be offering a special introductory rate of £123 per night until the end of August - inclusive of VAT and breakfast. For more information contact Charlie Fox 020 7385 7090 / charlie@grifcopr.com



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