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MAYOR OF LONDON



Press Briefing | December 2014

What's New in London - January 2015

Another exciting year begins in the capital, bringing plenty of new experiences and entertainment for visitors of all ages. From brand new exhibitions to special events and shows, January in London will not disappoint. Please read on for our highlights...

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Rubens and His Legacy

Head to the Royal Academy to discover how Rubens' work influenced other major artists throughout the years.

[Read more...](#)



London Mime Festival

The London International Mime Festival is now in its 37th year and is the longest-running festival of its kind.

[Read more...](#)



Swan Lake

Derek Deane's Swan Lake and The English National Ballet return to the London Coliseum after touring around the UK. [Read more...](#)

Exhibitions

Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society 1915 – 2015

Whitechapel Gallery, 14 Jan – 6 Apr 2015

A landmark exhibition tracing a century of abstract art from 1915 to today, major solo shows for artists Christopher Williams and Emily Jacir, and The London Open triennial exhibition showcasing art being made across the capital will all go on display at the Whitechapel Gallery next year. In January over 100 works by 80 modern masters and contemporary artists including Carl Andre, David Batchelor, Dan Flavin, Andrea Fraser, Piet Mondrian, and Andrea Zittel will fill six spaces across the Gallery. The exhibition takes a fresh look at this new art for a modern age, and asks how art relates to society and politics. For more information contact Rachel Mapplebeck on 020 7522 7880 / rachelmapplebeck@whitechapelgallery.org

Houses of Parliament exhibition

20 January – November 2015

A large-scale banners exhibition will hang in the medieval Westminster Hall which will commemorate an 800 year history, covering 18 themes related to the movements and moments which made an impact on how we live today. Themes include the emergence of Parliament, the Civil War, Suffrage Acts, groups such as the Chartists and Levellers, as well as the development of civil and human rights. Nine artists have been commissioned to create two banners each, through the Speaker's Art Fund, offering a contemporary response to the historical subjects. The artists are: Alinah Azadeh, Maria Amidu, Dr Ross Birrell, Ruth Ewan, Rachel Gadsden, Joel Millerchip, Ross Sinclair, Paula Stevens-Hoare and Jason Wilsher-Mills. For more information contact Sophia Linehan on 020 7219 2283 / linehans@parliament.uk

Churchill's Scientists

Science Museum, 23 January 2015 – January 2016

The exhibition will look at the triumphs in science during Winston Churchill's period in power, both in war and in the post-war era. The exhibition will coincide with the 50th anniversary of Winston Churchill's death in January 2015. For more information contact Eleanor Blanchette on 020 7942 4118 /

eleanor.blanchette@sciencemuseum.ac.uk

Rubens and his Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne

Royal Academy of Arts, 24 January – 10 April 2015

The Royal Academy of Arts will present the first major exhibition in the UK to examine Rubens' influence on art history. Ruben and his Legacy: Van Dyck to Cézanne is an exploration of the artistic legacy of Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), the most influential of Flemish painters. The exhibition will bring together masterpieces by Rubens and the artists who were inspired by him, during his lifetime and up until the twentieth century, including Van Dyck, Watteau, Turner and Delacroix, as well as Manet, Cézanne, Renoir, Klimt and Picasso. Rubens and his Legacy will present over 160 works, comprising paintings, drawings and prints drawn from some of the finest collections world-wide. Each work has been carefully considered for its significance to Ruben's' legacy. For more information contact the press team on 020 7300 5615 /

press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

Events

London International Mime Festival 2015

Across London, 8 - 31 January 2015

From aerial acrobatics to psychedelic puppetry, London's annual celebration of contemporary visual theatre provides eye-popping entertainment in venues across the capital. Now in its 38th year, the festival brings together talented performers from across the globe. For more information contact Pete on 020 7836 7660 /

peter@arthurleone.com

London Short Film Festival

Across the capital, 9 – 18 January 2015

A wide selection of cinematic gems grace the silver screen as the London Short Film Festival flickers into life at venues across the capital. Now in its 12th year, this celebration of the short film is widely considered to be one of the best showcases for cutting-edge UK independent film makers. Famed for its bold cross-arts programming, the festival attracts some of the best raw talent in the film industry. Along with the many screenings, intrepid cinema audiences are also treated to a wide range of talks and discussions, with some of the talent from behind the camera keen to share their film knowledge and expertise. With numerous films being screened and additional standalone events to choose from, film fans are spoiled for choice in the quality viewing stakes. For more information contact info@shortfilms.org.uk

CWM FX London Boat Show at ExCeL

9 - 18 January 2015

London's biggest and best-loved boat show is returning to ExCeL to give visitors the chance to experience the best in boating, watersports and shopping. Whether you're a seasoned boater or looking to dip your toe into the water for the first time, the CWM FX London Boat Show offers an action-packed day out with more than 500 exhibitors showcasing the best in watercraft innovations, equipment and holidays. For more information contact Camilla Colborne on 01784 223614 /

pr@britishmarine.co.uk

London Art Fair 2015

Business Design Centre, 21 - 25 January 2015

The London Art Fair, the largest in the UK, sets up shop at the Business Design Centre for some high-end artistic wheeling and dealing. Boasting works from the early twentieth century to the present day and covering everything from photography and sculpture to painting and ceramics, there's guaranteed to be something here to thrill art lovers of all tastes. For more information contact James Douglas on 020 3697 4267 /

james.douglas@fourcolmangetty.com

Snowdrop Days 2015

Chelsea Physic Garden, 31 January - 7 February 2015

Get up close and personal with Chelsea Physic Garden's beautiful snowdrops. This year take the unique opportunity to view snowdrops at eye level, in a range of quirky new displays that allow you to appreciate their minutiae and subtle complexities. As the snowdrops take centre stage, other late winter beauties such as wild primulas, miniature iris and delicate crocus make up the supporting cast. Many of the beautiful bulbs, shrubs and perennials on display will be available to buy from the marquee where volunteers and experts will be on hand to guide you through choosing the best of these winter delights. The event also includes a variety of walks, talks and workshops with garden specialists with warming lunches, mulled wine and other winter treats on offer from the Tangerine Dream Café. For more information contact Lynn Scrivener on 020 7349 6472 /

lscrivener@chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

Theatre, Music & Film

Donkey Heart

Trafalgar Studios, from 7 January 2015

When a country has changed as radically and as rapidly as Russia, you can read its history through a single family. Written by Moses Raine – brother of 'Tribes' playwright Nina, who directs – 'Donkey Heart' maps societal shifts through a single Moscovite family, all living under one roof. Each generation reflects its environment like the rings of a tree trunk. For more information contact info@belkaproductions.co.uk

Swan Lake

London Coliseum, 7 - 18 January 2015

English National Ballet return to the London Coliseum with Derek Deane's critically acclaimed Swan Lake, following a UK tour. Arguably one of the most popular ballets created, Swan Lake tells the story of Prince Siegfried's love for the Swan Queen, Odette, their battle against the evil magician, Rothbart and an encounter with the manipulative Odile. Continuing to work with the very best talent from around the world, Swan Lake will see Guest Artists, Ivan Vasiliev, Alban Lendorf and Vitor Luiz perform alongside Alina Cojocaru, Tamara Rojo and Fernanda Oliveira respectively. For more information contact Robert James on 020 7590 2933 /

robert.james@ballet.org.uk

Bull

Young Vic Theatre, from 8 January 2015

A razor-sharp play about the fine line between office politics and playground bullying, Bull offers ringside seats as three employees fight to keep their jobs. Don't miss this London premiere from award-winning playwright Mike Bartlett and directed by Clare Lizzimore. For more information contact Charlotte Bayley on 020 7922

2979 / charlottebayley@youngvic.org

The Royal Danish Ballet – Soloists and Principals

The Peacock, 9 - 10 January 2015

Ten years since The Royal Danish Ballet's last visit to Sadler's Wells, principals and soloists from the company will perform a programme featuring excerpts from works by August Bournonville, the acclaimed 19th century Royal Danish Ballet choreographer and ballet master who created more than 50 works for the company. For more information contact Ulrik Birkkjaer on +45 51683556 / ulbi@kgiteater.dk

Young Men

Sadler's Wells, 14 - 18 January 2015

Young Men is a new full-length production from BalletBoyz, winners of the National Dance Awards Best Independent Dance Company 2013. In an intensely moving portrayal of love, friendship, loss and survival, Young Men explores the theme of war and the bonds that develop between the men consumed by it. Choreographed by rising star Iván Pérez, the production is a compelling hybrid of dance, theatre and screen performance from the ever-inventive BalletBoyz and their all male dance company theTalent. Young Men is a co-production with Sadler's Wells and 14-18 NOW WW1 Centenary Arts Commissions. For more information contact Judy Lipsey on 020 7292 8366 / Judy.Lipsey@premiercomms.com

The Changeling

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, from 15 January 2015

The 340-seat Jacobean theatre named after the leading figure in the Shakespeare's Globe reconstruction reopened just a year ago in January 2014. This January it welcomes a ferocious tale of madness and passion. Betrothed to Alonzo but in love with Alsemero, Beatrice-Joanna enters a bloody pact with De Flores, who agrees to murder her fiancé, but then demands her virginity in recompense. When Alsemero begins to

question his beloved's chastity, she concocts a byzantine scheme to avoid detection that ultimately undoes her. For more information contact Claudia Conway on 020 7902 1492 / claudia.c@shakespearesglobe.com

Taken at Midnight

Haymarket Theatre Royal, from 15 January 2015

Hayhurst casts light on a universal theme as the mother of brilliant German Jewish lawyer Hans Litten fights for his release against the seemingly impossible might of the Nazi regime. Fearless and indomitable she confronts his captors at enormous personal risk. The unquestionable love of a mother for her son is put centre stage in Hayhurst's study of the horrors of pre-war Nazi Germany. For more information contact Giles Rowland on giles@markgoucher.com

Trafalgar Studios

From 16 January 2015

BAFTA Award winner James McAvoy will star in this first ever revival of this classic cult comedy by Peter Barnes. The Ruling Class tells the story of Jack, a possible paranoid schizophrenic with a Messiah complex, who inherits the title of the 14th Earl of Gurney after his father passes away in a bizarre accident. Singularly unsuited to a life in the upper echelons of elite society, Jack finds himself at the centre of a ruthless power struggle as his scheming family strives to uphold their reputation. Bubbling with acerbic wit and feverish energy, Barnes' razor-sharp satire combines a ferocious mix of hilarity and horror whilst mercilessly exposing the foibles of the English nobility. For more information contact info@emmahollandpr.com

My Night with Reg

Apollo Theatre, from 17 January 2015

At Guy's London flat, old friends and new gather to party through the night. This is the summer of 1985 and, for Guy and his circle, the world is about to change forever. Kevin Elyot's comedy captures the fragility of friendship, happiness and life itself. For more information contact office@joallanpr.com

Di and Viv and Rose

Vaudeville Theatre, from 22 January 2015

Following its sell out success at Hampstead Theatre, the heart-warming play Di and Viv and Rose transfers to the West End's Vaudeville Theatre, starring Tamzin Outhwaite, and Olivier Award winners Samantha Spiro and Jenna Russell. Aged eighteen, three women join forces at university. Life is fun. Living is intense. Together they feel unassailable. Di and Viv and Rose is an exploration of friendship's impact on life, and life's impact on friendship. For more information contact Sharon Kean on 020 7697 8453

Dara

National Theatre, previews from 20 January 2015

Dara, adapted by Tanya Ronder from Shahid Nadeem's play, originally performed by Ajoka Theatre, Pakistan, opens in the Lyttelton Theatre on 27 January, directed by Nadia Fall. Mughal India (1659), the imperial court, a place of opulence and excess; music, drugs, eunuchs and harems. Two brothers, whose mother's death inspired the Taj Mahal, are heirs to this Muslim empire. Now they fight ferociously for succession spanning the princes' lives from cradle to grave. For more information contact Susie Newbery on 020 7452 3061 / snewbery@nationaltheatre.org.uk

The Hard Problem

National Theatre, previews from 21 January 2015

A new play by Tom Stoppard, The Hard Problem, premieres at the Dorfman Theatre on 28 January, directed by Nicholas Hytner. It will be designed by Bob Crowley, with lighting by Mark Henderson and sound by Paul Arditti; the cast includes Vera Chok, Jonathan Coy, Damien Molony, Lucy Robinson, Parth Thakerar and Olivia Vinall (as Hilary). Hilary, a young psychology researcher at a brain science institute, is nursing a private sorrow and a troubling question at work, where psychology and biology meet. If there is nothing but matter, what is consciousness? This is 'the hard problem' which puts Hilary at odds with her colleagues. Is the day coming when the computer and the fMRI scanner will answer all the questions psychology can ask? For more information contact Mary Parker on 020 7452 3234 / mparker@nationaltheatre.org.uk

The Nether

Duke of York's Theatre, from 30 January 2015

Following a sold-out run at the Royal Court Theatre, Jennifer Haley's critically-acclaimed, multi-award-winning play The Nether transfers to London's Duke of York's Theatre for a limited 12-week run. The Nether offers complete freedom - a new virtual wonderland providing total sensory immersion. Just log in, choose an identity and indulge your every desire. An intricate crime drama and a haunting thriller set in the year 2050, The Nether follows an investigation into the complicated, disturbing morality of identity in the digital world, and explores

the consequences of making dreams a reality. For more information contact office@soniafriedman.com

Hotels & Restaurants

Z Hotel Shoreditch

The Bower, January 2015

Z Shoreditch will have everything you need for a couple of nights in town. Concentrated style, an out-of-town price, in the heart of London's Silicon roundabout. The Hotel is a designer conversion of a former office building, with 111 bedrooms arranged over lower ground, ground and three upper floors. Z Shoreditch is situated within The Bower, a new landmark quarter for Old street comprising beautifully designed, modern and inspiring offices, restaurants and retail units. For more information contact Michael Webb on 020 7494 6913 /

Michael.Webb@cwm.co.uk

The Mayfair Antiques & Fine Art Fair

Mayfair, 8 Jan – 11 Jan 2015

For the third year in a row, The Mayfair Antiques & Fine Art Fair takes place at the London Marriott Hotel Grosvenor Square from Thursday 8 until Sunday 11 January 2015. Organised by The Antiques Dealers Fair Limited and held in association with Mayfair property specialist Wetherell, this London event is the first of several fairs held around England in 2015. All 44 exhibitors are members of the British Antique Dealers' Association and LAPADA The Association of Art & Antiques Dealers. For more information contact Gail McGuffie on 07885 103353 / mgailmcg@aol.com

Sky Garden at 20 Fenchurch Street

The City, 5 January 2015

Following its soft opening in December 2014, the Sky Garden will open its doors to the general public on 5 January 2015. Level 35 will be home to Sky Pod, a contemporary bar serving an all-day menu from breakfast through to light bites in the evening. The space transforms into a destination bar at night serving classic cocktails and craft ales in a chic environment that offers 360 degree panoramic views of central London. The Darwin Brasserie will be located on level 36. The restaurant will be offering classic European cuisine using seasonal ingredients. The concept is inspired by nature and the setting is modern and stylish. A semi-exposed kitchen and large bar provide food theatre. Those heading to level 37 will be able to dine at Fenchurch Seafood Bar & Grill. The restaurant will be serving the finest seafood such as oysters, fish and crustacean from responsibly caught sources as well as seasonal game, meat and vegetarian dishes. For more information contact 020 8812 3200 / info@rhubarb.net

Chai Wu at Harrods

Knightsbridge, 18 January 2015

Chai Wu, a new modern Chinese restaurant, will open on the fifth floor of the famous luxury department store. The restaurant will be able to accommodate 90 guests. The menu at Chai Wu was created by Chef Bihu Xie, who specialises in Chinese cookery, and overseen by Ian Pengelley, Group Executive Chef, one of the UK's leading experts in Asian cuisine. Together they have created a diverse menu incorporating speciality and luxury ingredients. Starters include soups, dim sum and small dishes such as Chilean sea-bass dumplings with gold leaf, and a Wagyu and black pepper puff. For mains, diners have the option of à la carte dishes or fresh meat, fish and vegetables grilled to order. Signature plates and specialities will include Beijing duck, Alaskan king crab with soy glaze, and lotus root and lily bulb in a spicy toban sauce. For more information contact Pooja Sharma on 020 7225 6884 / pooja.sharma@harrods.com

Jinjuu

Soho, January 2015

Korean-American chef and TV personality Judy Joo is opening her first London restaurant at 15 Kingly Street this January. Upstairs will be all about Korean street and comfort food with the likes of tacos, fried chicken, sushi rolls and pajeon pancakes alongside soju cocktails and Asian beer; downstairs will be a more food-focused affair with sharing platters and side dishes such as barbecued meats wrapped in lettuce and slow-cooked pulled pork with kimchi-on fries from an open kitchen grill. For more information contact

sara@bacchus-pr.com

Sticks'n'Sushi

Greenwich, January 2015

Two decades ago, Danish brothers Jens and Kim Rahbek created a unique cuisine that combines two culinary traditions – Sushi and Yakitori from the charcoal grill. Sticks'n'Sushi now have ten branches in Denmark, and

following their first two openings in London, in Covent Garden and Wimbledon, the franchise will be opening its third restaurant in Greenwich in January 2015. For more information contact Natalie on natalie.birk@sushi.dk

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