SIMPLY LONDON

THE COACH GROUPS GUIDE TO LONDON BROUGHT TO YOU BY COACH MONTHLY AND LONDON & PARTNERS

Issue 6 January 2015



COACH MONTHLY

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THE STORY THAT INSPIRED THE SOUNDTRACK OF A GENERATION

Beautiful The Carole King Musical

WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A NATURAL WOMAN TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY BABY YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE UP ON THE ROOF LOCOMOTION BEAUTIFUL



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Happy New Year

elcome to the January issue of Simply London - packed with ideas and inspiration for your upcoming group tours to make the most of what this spectacular city has to offer.

On the year that marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo and the continuation of the commemoration of 100 years since the First World War, we invite you to check out the impressive new displays at the Household Cavalry Museum and the Royal Air Force Museum.

There's also a chance to discover London's industrial past at the London Canal Museum, take a sneak peek at what's happening at the BBC with a tour of BBC's Broadcasting House or feel like a football star while visiting Wembley Stadium.

For the thrill-seekers, why not abseil down the UK's tallest sculpture at the ArcelorMittal Orbit? Or you can also opt for a wide range of tours, from traditional coach tours with Premium Tours to a trip down the Thames on the Thames Clippers. And if you are in the West End, make sure to see the enchanting *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, a delightful show that adults and children will love. Plus you can benefit from a special offer from Talk Tourism, turn the page to find out more.

Have an excellent 2015 and see you in London!



Patricia Mediavilla Leisure Marketing Executive, London & Partners E: pmediavilla@londonandpartners.com www.londonandpartners.com/traveltrade

London & Partners

London & Partners is the official promotional organisation for London. Our company attracts and delivers value to business, students and visitors. London & Partners is a not-for-profit public private partnership, funded by the Mayor of London and a network of commercial partners.

Our remit is to drive leisure and business visitors as well as bidding to secure major events in London, to unlock the city for overseas businesses who want to set up or expand in London and to promote the capital's world class universities to international students.

Our intention is to work in partnership with organisations in London and across the world to deliver our goal - that London is globally recognised as the best big city on earth.





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200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo at the Household Cavalry Museum



or the first time in 200 years, the sound of the bugle (exhibited) on which the charge of the 1st Life Guards was sounded at Waterloo will be heard, on the MP3 touchscreen guide included in the admission charge.

From 1 April 2015 the guides will be available in three new languages (Russian, Mandarin and Portuguese) in addition to English, German, French, Italian and Spanish.

Visits to one of Visit England's Top Twenty Paid London Attractions are best combined with the colourful hourly guard changes at Horse Guards, with their uniquely British ceremonial.

Continue your visit at other Waterloo themed attractions nearby (Apsley House / Wellington Arch / Guards Museum) or highlight The Household Cavalry's Royal connections as HM The Queen's Mounted Bodyguard or indeed enjoy it as an enduring and iconic part of the London experience.

Early Evening Private Tours (1hour) are popular and can now been extended to include wine and canapés.

Current admission charges stay the same until 1 April 2016. We offer a 10% discount to one off group of 8+ guests - Adults £6.30 (£7) Concessions £4.45 (£5) and negotiate more generous terms with intending series operators and regular suppliers.

> Visit householdcavalrymuseum.co.uk for further details or contact Martin Westwood – Director on 0207930 3090 / 07795 097237 / com@householdcavalry.co.uk

Discover the story of a different London at London Canal Museum

ondon is a city of many contrasts and the busy streets can be left behind for the contrasting tranquillity of the capital's canals. The London Canal Museum will surprise you with its location; just a short walk from King's Cross station, it adjoins a peaceful colourful canal basin shared by numerous canal boats and wild water

The museum tells the story of a different London, in fact two stories, because the canals were once used to bring ice to what is now the museum en route from Norway, to be used to keep food cool in summer and to make ice cream!

The ice trade is the museum's second theme. There are two huge ice wells under the museum's floor, built by Swiss entrepreneur Carlo Gatti in Victorian times. The canals of London have a colourful past, as the routes of industry, carrying raw materials and coal. The exhibitions tell their story.

Groups can drink tea watching archive film, and the museum can organise boat trips and guided walks along the towpath. It is fully accessible, so the less agile can enjoy learning about horses, locks, and the lives of those who lived on narrow boats as easily as others.







First World War in the Air exhibition



leven years after the first powered flight, aviation emerged as a force capable of changing the face of battle. In 1914 the Royal Flying Corps numbered just 1,500 people. By 1918, when the Royal Air Force was created, this had grown to more than 205,000. The full strategic value of air power had become all too evident - both on the battlefield and on the Home Front.

This compelling story of the First World War in the Air has been revealed in a new exhibition by the Royal Air Force Museum London. Discover the vital work of the Service men and women on the ground as well as the changing roles of those in the air as the essential use of 'eyes in the sky' for reconnaissance was complemented by the introduction of new technologies for bombing and fighting high above the ground.

Many personal artefacts including medals, letters and uniforms will be displayed alongside the finest collection of First World War aircraft bringing both moving and inspiring stories to life - and ensuring that the bravery and sacrifice of these aviation pioneers will never be forgotten.

Admission to this exhibition is free of charge. Guides for groups available on request. For further details please visit rafmuseum.org

New offers for groups at the Arcelor Mittal Orbit

t 114.5 metres high, the ArcelorMittal Orbit is the UK's tallest sculpture, conceived and designed by Turner Prize winning artist Sir Anish Kapoor and structural designer Cecil Balmond to mark the London 2012 Games.

Groups can enjoy a bespoke menu at EastTwenty Bay & Kitchen in The Podium. There are a selection of teas and cakes from £5 per person and delicious dishes to choose from for lunch from £10 per person.

Group tickets are £6 for children, £12 for adults and £11 for concessions (students and 60 years and over). Standard group prices are available for any group of 15+ individuals booked onto the same timed entry at least 5 days in advance.

New for groups in 2015 are the abseiling experiences, which will cost £85 per person or £130 per person to include a GoPro to record the descent and a t-shirt. Go on an 80 metre adrenaline-fuelled ride down to ground whilst seeing London from a totally new perspective.

➤ For group tickets, please contact 0333 600 6099 or tickets@arcelormittalorbit.com. The ArcelorMittal Orbit Abseiling Experiences can be booked by telephone - 0333 800 8099, online or from the ticket office at the base of the ArcelorMittal Orbit. Booking in advance is required. Find out more at arcelormittalorbit.com



A new special group visit at Windsor Castle



rom January, a special display at Windsor Castle, Waterloo at Windsor: 1815 – 2015, will mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. Incorporating an exhibition in the Drawings Gallery and a themed trail through the Castle's State Apartments, the special display brings together prints, drawings, and archival material, as well as artefacts retrieved from the battlefield.

New and for 2015 only, a special group visit, A Prince, A Duke and An Emperor is part of the programme of events marking the bicentenary of the battle. This special visit begins in the Castle's Winchester Tower with refreshments and an expert talk by a member of Royal Collection Trust staff. Groups will then have the opportunity to enjoy the special exhibition in the Drawings Gallery and follow the themed trail through the Castle's State Apartments with a multimedia tour.

The special visit A Prince, A Duke and An Emperor is available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the year.

> For more information and to make a booking please visit royalcollection.org.uk or email us at groupbookings@royalcollection.org.uk





Premium Tour Groups

remium Tours & Premium Coaches welcome both leisure and corporate private hire enquiries and our experienced team of specialists can save you both time and stress by putting together great packages including transportation and entrances to some of the top visitor attractions and events in and around London.

They'd be delighted to assist you in designing bespoke packages for your group requirements - whether it's an outing to Stonehenge, a



visit to The Making of Harry Potter at Warner Bros Studios, or maybe an exploration of London's dark side on our Jack the Ripper & Haunted London Open Top Bus Tour.

They are also able to provide competitive quotes for any extended tours in the UK you are putting together. Their prices are based on owning our own fleet of vehicles, ranging from 8 seat Mercedes Vianos to 79 seat coaches, and obtaining excellent rates from a broad range of accommodation providers, thus enabling them to work with both ends of the spectrum depending on your specific budget requirements.

Their excellent database of professional guides enables them to offer our sightseeing products in a wide range of languages so please get in touch with your request.

▶ Please contact groups@premiumtours.co.uk or find out more at premiumtours.co.uk

Talk-Tourism. It's in our name...

ourism – We are your inbound to London tourism partner. Experienced working with national and international coach and transport operators, corporate event organisers, group travel operators and educational establishments when delivering value added 'days out' in the Capital. From Greenwich and the Olympic Park in the east to Hampton Court in the west we are your London partner.

Agency – We provide expert multi-lingual tour guides and managers, prebooked entry to events, accommodation, refreshments, walks and tours. Plus river, canal, rail and cable car trips. We create your complete package or support to your bespoke London event. We can provide your promotional literature and handle bookings and payments in your name.

London – Select from our list of places visited or tell us where your customers or groups wish to visit we will create that bespoke event by providing detailed guide notes which are shared with you. These notes include information on event timings, advice on coach drop off and pickups, parking and access, detailed maps, event ticketing and voucher information. **Knowledge** – "No one knows London better" than the Talk-Tourism team.

Book now -10% on first order placed before 1 March 2015; Quote London & Partners.



Call 02031371109, email info@talk-tourism.co.uk or find out more at talk-tourism.co.uk



Free parking with River Roamers

iver Roamers are the perfect way to explore all London has to offer. You can hop-on and hop-off all day between our central London piers including London Eye, Bankside, Tower Millennium, Greenwich and North Greenwich. Experience London's sights from a river perspective and get through the city in style.

> The offer is available for a minimum of 20 passengers per coach, or 15 passengers per minibus. Please call 020 7001 2201 to book. Find out more at thamesclippers.com





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GREAT GROUPS RATES AVAILABLE!

MONDAY - FRIDAY Groups of 6 + £45 Groups of 10 + £35 Groups of 20 + £29.50 SATURDAY Groups of 10 + £45

Group discounts apply to top price seats usually £69.50 and are valid at Monday - Saturday performances at 7,30pm and Wednesday and Saturday performances at 3,00pm.
Cast, dates, limes and prices are subject to change without prior notice. Group rates are subject to availability and exclusion weeks apply.

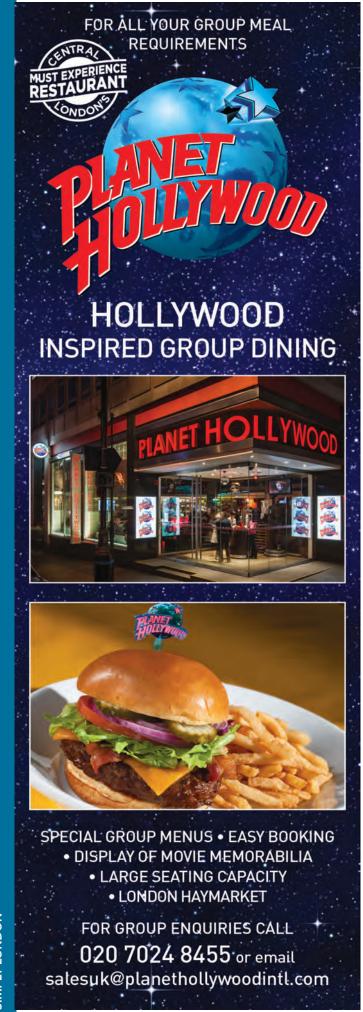


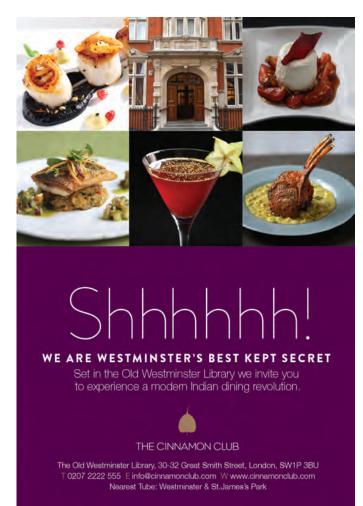
Royal Museums Greenwich National Maritime Museum • Royal Observatory Greenwich • Cutty Sark • The Queen's House

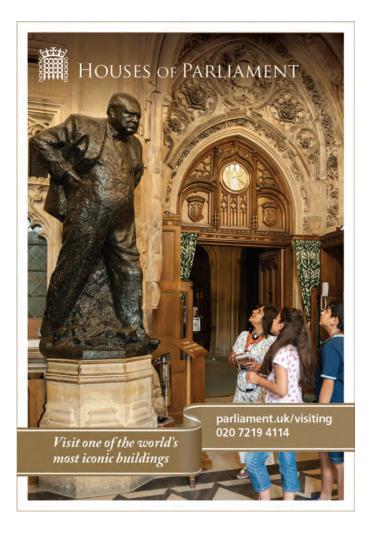
Four world-class attractions at the heart of spectacular Maritime Greenwich



- ROYAL MUSEUMS GREENWICH
- · Group rates available
- Exclusive early morning access to the Royal Observatory available upon application
- Find out more at rmg.co.uk/groups or to speak to our bookings team call 020 8312 6608 or email bookings@rmg.co.uk
- Outty Sark, Zone 2
- ← Greenwich, Zone 2
- Greenwich Pier









Book a tour of the worldfamous Wembley Stadium

ow taking bookings into summer 2015, The Wembley Stadium Tour welcomes groups of all sizes to experience behind-the-scenes of arguably the most famous sports and music venue in the world.

Most famous for England's glorious World Cup victory in 1966, the tour champions the past, present and future of the national stadium with translation now available in 9 different languages to both enhance and complement its award-winning guided tours.



Tour visitors follow in the footsteps of legends by experiencing Wembley's Dressing Rooms, Press Room, Players Tunnel, Pitchside and The Royal Box for a photograph with The FA Cup. There is also spacious Store and Café space to relax both before and after the tour.

Tours run 12 months a year and 7 days a week but are closed on event days (please check website for details). All tours last 75 minutes with groups of 25+ receiving a 15% discount (more favourable rates for trade partners). Wembley Stadium boats excellent transport links, has its own car park and sits beside The London Designer Outlet which boasts over 50 shops, 20 restaurants & coffee shops, a 9 screen cinema and a play park.

To book a tour or discuss becoming a trade partner, please contact Mita Raichura at 02087959616 or mita.raichura@ wembleystadium.com. Find out more at wembleystadium.com

Take your group on one of the behind-the-scenes BBC Tours

ave you ever wondered what happens behind-the-scenes at the BBC's headquarters, Broadcasting House? Why not visit our central London building for a wonderful insight into world of BBC broadcasting.

Our entertaining guides will take you on a fun and informative tour around our exciting building. Some of the things you're likely to experience on your visit include a view over Europe's largest newsroom along with a chance to try your hand at reading the news and weather yourself on our interactive news set. You'll also get to venture into the One Show studio (production schedules permitting) where our

guides will explain how our nightly topical magazine programme is put together (weekday tours from 15.30 onwards generally won't have access). We'll also tell you how Radio Drama is made and you'll be able to put theory into practise by making your own radio play complete with music and sound effects. Broadcasting House is a working building so every day is different and you never know who you might see on your visit!

We run up to 15 tours a day and can accommodate up to 25 people per tour. Tours run 15 minutes apart and last approximately 90 minutes.

For group bookings of 15 people or more please call our group bookings and access needs line on 0370 901 1227. For bookings for fewer than 15 people please visit bbc.co.uk/tours





Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

oald Dahl's deliciously dark tale of young Charlie Bucket and the mysterious confectioner Willy Wonka comes to life in the brand new West End musical *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, directed by Academy Award winner Sam Mendes.

Perfect for groups, the magical production features a chocolate garden, an army of squirrels and the curiously peculiar Oompa-Loompas that must be believed to be seen. This gigantic new musical is choc-full of fantastical treats to dazzle your group's senses!

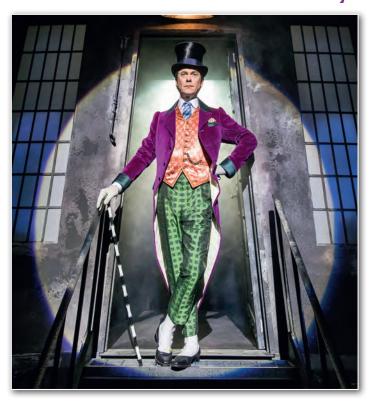
Utilising ingenious stagecraft, the wonder of the original story that has captivated the world for almost 50 years is brought to life with music by Marc Shaiman, and lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman (Grammy winners for *Hairspray; Smash*), a book by award-winning playwright and adaptor David Greig (*The Bacchae; Tintin In Tibet*), set and costume designs by Mark Thompson (*Mamma Mial; One Man, Two Guvnors*) and choreography by Peter Darling (*Billy Elliot The Musical; Matilda The Musical*).

Groups of 40+ just £35 per ticket

Monday – Thursday at 7.30pm and Wednesday at 2.30pm Groups of 12+ Just £45 per ticket

Monday - Friday at 7.30pm and Wednesday at 2.30pm

▶ Book your group tickets now by calling See Tickets on 0844 412 4650



Her name is Carole King, her story is Beautiful

eautiful – The Carole King Musical is coming to London from February 2015.

Long before she was Carole King, the chart-topping music legend, she was an ordinary girl with an extraordinary talent.

She fought her way into the record business as a teenager and sold her first hit, Will You Love Me Tomorrow, when she was just 17. By the

her first hit, Will You Love Me Tomorrow, when she was just 17. By the time she reached her 20s she had the husband of her dreams and a flourishing career writing hits for the biggest acts in rock 'n' roll from Aretha Franklin to the Monkees, the Drifters, to the Shirelles. But it wasn't until her personal life began to crack that she finally managed to



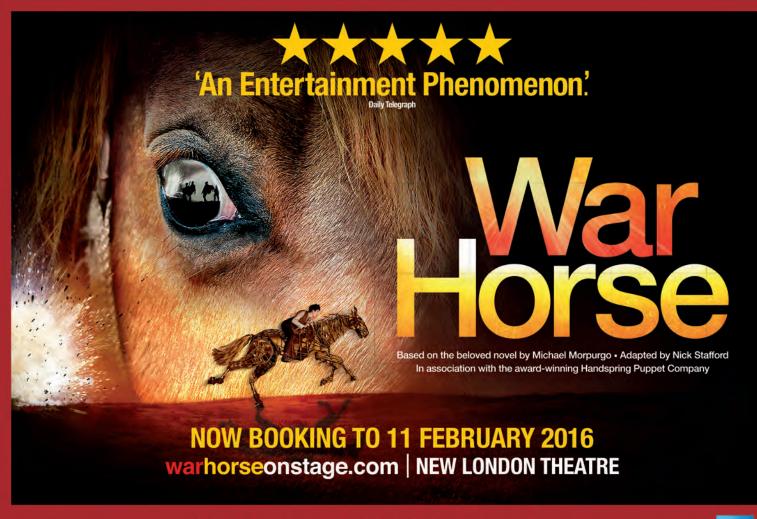


find her true voice.

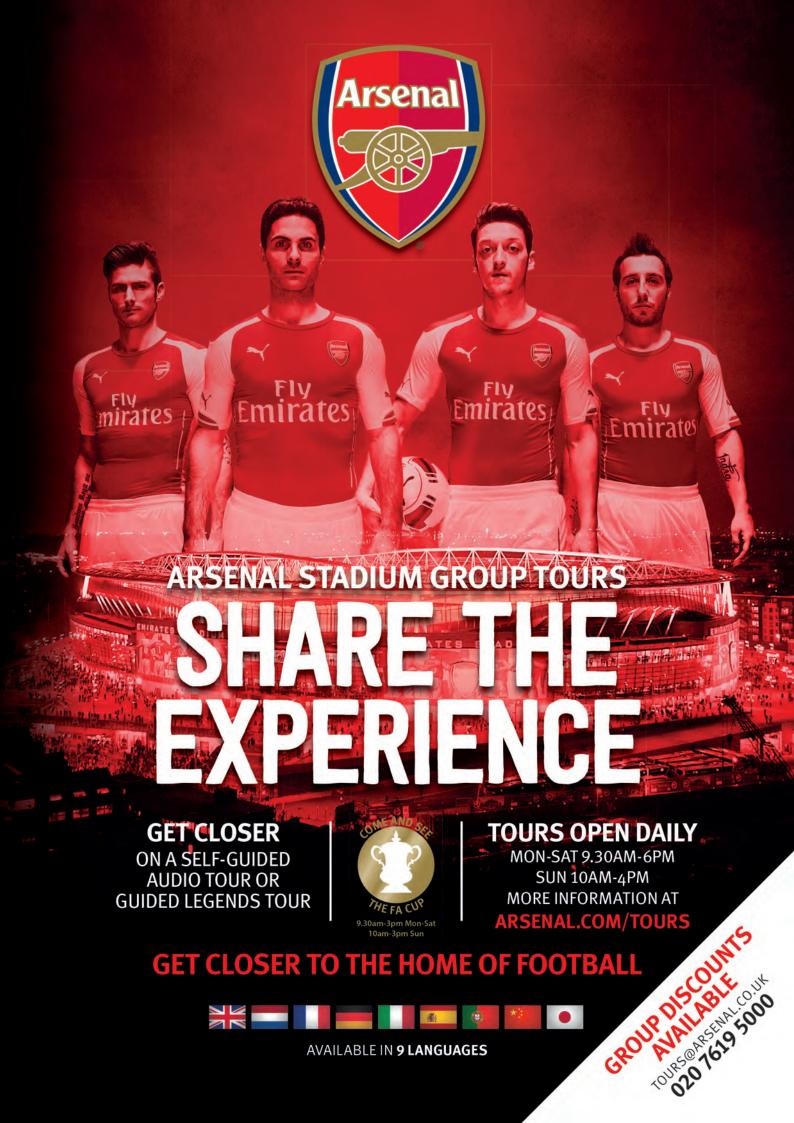
Beautiful tells the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation, with countless classics such as You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman, Take Good Care of my Baby, You've Got a Friend, So Far Away, It Might As Well Rain Until September, Up on the Roof, and Locomotion.

Contact AKA on 020 7836 4747 or visit akauk.com for further details.











Jersey Boys – a spectacular show



iscover the true story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons in *Jersey Boys*. Now a major Hollywood film directed by Clint Eastwood, *Jersey Boys* goes from strength to strength across the globe. Experience it live at the Piccadilly Theatre.

Discover how four New Jersey boys from the wrong side of the tracks invented their own unique sound, were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and sold 100 million records worldwide. With spectacular performances of all their hits, *Jersey Boys* is the electrifying true life story of *Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons*; the mob, the heartaches, the triumphs and the music.

'The best West End musical for years' (BBC Radio 2) features many of the band's worldwide hits, including: Beggin', Can't Take My Eyes Off You, Oh What A Night, Walk Like A Man, Bye Bye Baby (Baby Goodbye), Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry and many more.

Contact AKA on 020 7836 4747 or visit akauk.com for further details.

War Horse – winner of 25 awards

inner of 25 international awards, War Horse is now celebrating its seventh year in London. Nick Stafford's adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's book continues to play at the New London Theatre, where it has been seen by over 2 million people. With a world-wide audience of 5.7 million, War Horse is directed by Marianne Elliott and Tom Morris, designed by Rae Smith, with puppet direction, design and fabrication by Basil Jones and Adrian Kohler for Handspring Puppet Company, lighting by Paule Constable, and movement and horse choreography by Toby Sedgwick, with video design by Leo Warner and Mark Grimmer, songmaker John Tams, music by Adrian Sutton and sound by Christopher Shutt.

Now booking at the New London theatre until 24th October 2015.

➤ Contact AKA on 020 7836 4747 or visit akauk.com for further details.



The Curious Incident of the Dog in



the Night-Time

he National Theatre's acclaimed production is now on sale throughout 2015. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is based on the best-selling novel by Mark Haddon, adapted by Olivier Award-winning playwright Simon Stephens and directed by Olivier and Tony Award*-winning director Marianne Elliott.

Christopher has an extraordinary brain, exceptional at maths while ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched and he distrusts strangers. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes Christopher on a frightening journey that upturns his world.

Contact AKA on 020 7836 4747 or visit akauk.com for further details.





Miss Saigon returns

iss Saigon was the last of producer Cameron Mackintosh's three 1980s blockbuster musicals – after The Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables. In its original format it ran at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane from September 1989 to October 1999, clocking up more than 4,000 performances.

In May, after a 15-year gap, it returned to the West End, this time at the smaller Prince Edward Theatre in Old Compton Street. Cameron Mackintosh has reinvented it for a new generation, reinvesting it with an even bigger sense of scale.



Let's make no mistake about this, as an example of the West End putting on a spectacular theatrical production, Miss Saigon is up there among the best. From the opening scenes set in a (very) sleazy Saigon brothel – and be aware that this really isn't a show for children - through to the celebrated helicopter landing on the stage, this is a visual treat.

At its heart, Miss Saigon is a love story, telling the tale of a doomed relationship between a Vietnamese prostitute and a US marine. It's important then for the audience to feel empathy for them. Eighteenyear-old Eva Noblezada plays Kim ('Miss Saigon') with a mix of innocence, bewilderment, and then, as things get really bad, with an impressive strength and resolve. The US marine, Chris, is played to good effect by Alistair Brammer, giving a solid, if not altogether outstanding, performance.

Miss Saigon is currently booking at the Prince Edward Theatre until 25 April 2015. For more information, go to www.miss-saigon.co.uk

Planet Hollywood, a Hollywood dining experience like no other

at, drink and feel famous at Planet Hollywood on London's Haymarket; just steps away from Theatre Land, Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly, this modern, contemporary restaurant is home to a wealth of original film memorabilia showcasing over 60 pieces of iconic and authentic Hollywood history.

Whether you're dining in the daytime, or late into the evening, Planet Hollywood always has a friendly, buzzing atmosphere and offers groups a Hollywood inspired dining experience like no other. Hollywood movie clips are shown, and mixed with music videos of all genres on the

thoughtfully placed plasma screens which, with a welcome message displayed for every group booked plus a discount voucher off purchases in the merchandise

Look out for one of Charlie Chaplin's trademark canes, Pierce Brosnan's 007 outfit from Golden Eye, Halle Berry's famous 'Jinx' orange bikini from Die Another Day, Captain Kirk's communicator from the Star Trek TV series and even 'The Hoff's' red shorts from Baywatch!

The group set menus offer great choice and value and are easy to book and the restaurant has capacity for groups from 10 to 200 plus at extra cost private dining options.

> For further details email salesuk@ planethollywoodintl.com, telephone +44 (0)207 024 8455 or look online at planethollywoodlondon.com



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THE STORY OF FRANKIE VALLI & THE FOUR SEASONS



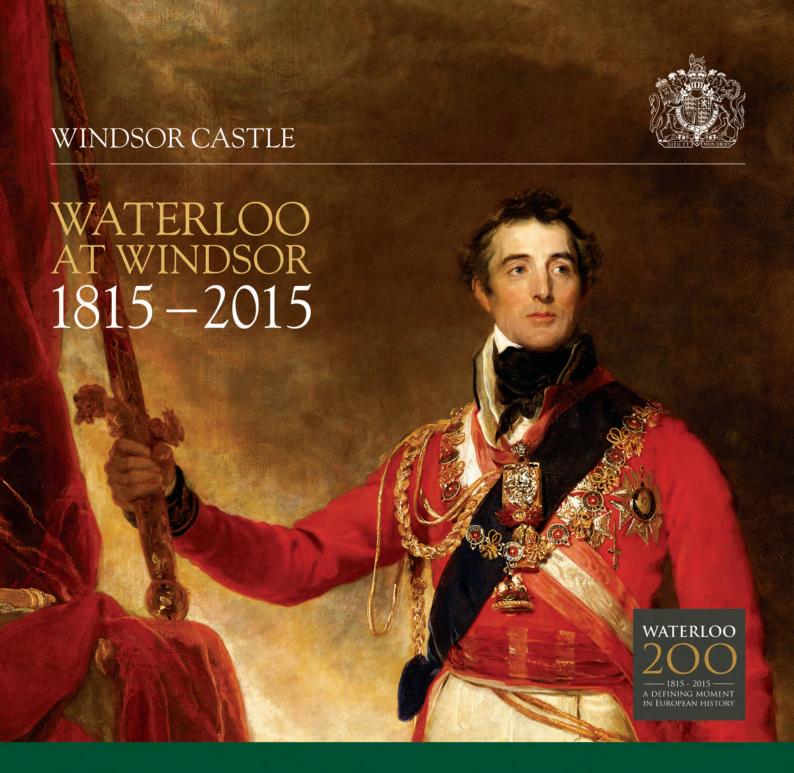
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FRIDAY & SUNDAY £32.50 FOR GROUPS 40+ £37.50 FOR GROUPS 10+

VALID ON BEST AVAILABLE SEATS, USUALLY £67.5



A Prince, A Duke and An Emperor

Windsor Castle, The Queen's favourite weekend home, offers groups an extraordinarily rich and varied day out. Visit the magnificent State Apartments, the gothic splendour of St George's Chapel, and the miniature masterpiece of Queen Mary's Dolls' House.

NEW for 2015, as part of the programme of events marking the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, groups may enjoy A Prince, A Duke and An Emperor, a brand new special visit combining an expert talk with a themed trail through the State Apartments.

