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Visit London What's New Press Briefing

25 April 2008

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This month's highlights include a chance to explore Kew Gardens from the roots to the treetops during its Summer Festival of Trees; Or enter the gruesome world of Jack the Ripper in the new exhibition at Museum in Docklands. See our website for more listings www.visitlondon.com



Hotels

Sex and the City weekends at The Berkeley

The Berkeley hotel is launching a new weekend package to celebrate Sex and the City: The Movie. Enjoy your favourite episodes while sipping a Cosmopolitan served in your room. Have your favourite beauty spa treatment and take a trip to Jimmy Choo, Sloane Street where you'll get access to the VIP area of the store. Available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from £415 per person inc vat. For press information contact [Zae Greenwood](#) on +44 (0)20 7201 1618.

Burlesque Soiree at The Gore Hotel

Bar 190 at The Gore Hotel presents an intimate Burlesque Soirée with Miss Polly Rae and the Hurly Burly Girlys, on Friday 16 May. There will be 6 performances throughout the evening, as well as a 'supper club' for those who wish to book dinner. Burlesque attire is encouraged! From 8pm-1am. Entry free of charge. For press information contact [Verena Neumayr](#) on +44 (0)20 7288 0800.

The Cavendish goes green

The Cavendish has announced a 50% discount on valet parking for environmentally friendly vehicles including hybrid, alternative fuel and electric cars. The hotel is also bringing in a range of environmentally friendly measures such as energy efficient lightbulbs, recycling everything (including bedding, paper, batteries and cooking oil) and a new low water volume dishwasher. The Cavendish is also working with Green Tourism for London to implement a green meeting room product. For press information contact [Kate Bell](#) on +44 (0)20 7288 0800.

Hay Fever Happiness facial at the Spa at Chancery Court

The award winning spa is launching a special facial for allergy sufferers, in time for start of the pollen season. Designed to soothe the effects of intense hay fever and allergic reactions to pollen, the facial includes aromatherapy oils and treatment with ESPA products to address symptoms such as congestion and discolourisation. Treatment costs £90 for 55 minutes. For press information contact [Dan Corfield](#).

Attractions

Summer Festival of Trees at Kew Gardens

Kew's Summer Festival of Trees will take visitors on a thrilling, innovative and educational journey around the gardens, from deep underground to the unseen, green world of the tree top canopy. The pinnacle of this festival will be the new Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop Walkway, which give visitors the opportunity to journey from the fascinating root system, learning about the tree's life underground, to the tree canopy where you can explore biodiversity from above. From 24 May – 28 September. For press information contact the [press office](#).

BBC Broadcasting House tours

Discover the inside story of BBC Broadcasting House with a fascinating tour of the first ever purpose-built broadcast centre in Britain. The tours, conducted by the BBC's award-winning guides, are likely to include art-deco highlights, such as the famous main reception with its original mosaic floor and visits to the newly restored Radio Theatre. Pre-booking essential. For press information contact [Kelly Barnes](#).

Fat Tire Bike Tours

Offering tours 7 days a week, Fat Tire Bike Tours provide a safe, green and active way to see London. Spend 4 hours with an experienced guide and explore some of London's most famous landmarks. Tours are family-friendly and safe, using Royal Parks and bike lanes for the majority of the tour. For more information contact info@fattirebiketourslondon.com

Exhibitions

Jack the Ripper and the East End at Museum in Docklands

Museum in Docklands is returning to the scene of London's most infamous crimes, with its major new exhibition, Jack the Ripper and the East End. The exhibition will look at the human stories behind the accounts, bringing together the surviving original documents for the first time, including police files, photographs and letters from the public. From 15 May – 2 November. For press information contact [Stacey Witter](mailto:Stacey.Witter) on +44 (0)20 7814 5511.

SHOW RCA

The Royal College of Art's annual graduate summer shows will take place over four exhibitions this year and will include work by over 400 art and design students. Part I will be open from 30 May - 8 June and will feature work by students from the Fine Art courses including Painting, Photography and Printmaking. For press information contact [Sue Bradburn](mailto:Sue.Bradburn) on + 44 (0)20 7590 4114.

Psycho Buildings – The Hayward Gallery

As part of its 40th birthday celebrations, The Hayward is giving 10 artists from around the world the opportunity to transform its indoor and outdoor spaces. The works include an eerie display of over 250 dolls houses, an exploding room and a 30-seat cinema showing films about artists and architecture. From 28 May-25 August. For press information contact Alison Cole on +44 (0)20 7921 0901.

The Ramayana: Love and Valour in India's Great Epic

The Ramayana is an ancient Sanskrit epic which follows Prince Rama's quest to rescue his beloved wife Sita from the clutches of a demon king with the help of an army of monkeys. For the first time nearly 120 paintings from the British Library's lavishly illustrated 17th century manuscripts of the story will go on public display in its forthcoming summer exhibition: The Ramayana: Love and Valour in India's Great Epic, 16 May – 14 September. Free entrance. For press information contact [Catriona Finlayson](mailto:Catriona.Finlayson).

Esquire magazine Cover Versions exhibition

Esquire magazine, in partnership with The Hospital Club, marks 75 years with an exhibition of iconic covers reinterpreted by some of today's leading photographers. Bringing together the worlds of fashion and art, Esquire has collaborated with ten leading fashion designers, each appearing in a unique selection of images which pay homage to covers from one of the most exciting periods of magazine design. From 2-7 May, entry free. For press information contact [Katie Blanch](mailto:Katie.Blanch).

Paul Catherall: Shaping the City at Oxo Tower Wharf

Leading illustrator and linocut artist Paul Catherall presents his new solo show, Shaping the City. He draws much of his subject matter from London's more characterful landmarks, with a broad focus on modernist designs and including those whose aesthetics divide opinion, such as South Bank and the soon-to-be-demolished Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre. Free entrance. From 1-18 May. For press information contact [Louise King](mailto:Louise.King).

A Century of Olympic Posters at V&A Museum of Childhood

To coincide with the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the build up to London 2012, the V&A Museum of Childhood's summer exhibition, A Century of Olympic Posters, is the first exhibition in the UK to bring together a large range of Olympic Games posters from the 1900 Paris Games to the present day. From 17 May – 7 September. For press information contact [Eleanor Hutchins](mailto:Eleanor.Hutchins).

Events

Breakin' Convention at Sadlers Wells

International hip hop dance artists from Brazil, Austria, Korea, Japan and France have been announced as part of the line-up in this year's Breakin' Convention weekend at Sadler's Wells. The annual festival, which takes place this year from 3-5 May, showcases the best of hip hop and street dance from the UK and around the world through performances, workshops, screenings and exhibitions. For press information contact [Erin Crivelli](mailto:Erin.Crivelli).

May Fayre at the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich

Enjoy a variety of free events for all the family in Greenwich on 5 May. The Green Man stilt walker will provide the traditional centrepiece to the Fayre. There will also be a maypole and Morris dancing with dance workshops for children. This year's Fayre will see the launch of Discover Greenwich, the new education and interpretation centre for the Old Royal Naval College and Maritime Greenwich. For press information contact [April Hollier](mailto:April.Hollier) on +44 (0)20 8269 4791.

A Taste of Spain

On 25 May Regent Street will be closed to traffic as shoppers and dancers join together to witness an attempt to break the world record for the largest Sevillanas dance. There will also be dance

lessons, interactive demonstrations, dance, food and drink tasting, and a fiesta atmosphere. The Spanish theme will last until 8 June including events with a Spanish feel in Regent Street's shops and restaurants. For press information contact [Sister PR](#) on +44 (0)20 7287 9601.

Museums and Galleries Month

This month, Londoners have the chance to discover the new, unique and unexpected in their local museum or gallery. Highlights include Museums at Night Weekend when many galleries and museums will open their doors after hours. There will also be a range of debates, workshops and special activities. From 1-31 May. For press information contact [Sarah Watson](#).

Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE

Delve into your family tree this May as Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE comes to Grand Hall, Olympia. There will be workshops, seminars and a speaker programme including Natasha Kaplinsky and Alistair McGowan. 2-4 May. For press information contact [Gurpreet Baich](#).

Canalway Cavalcade 2008

This colourful annual spectacle brings together a boat rally, trade show, stalls and music to fill the picturesque Pool of Little Venice at the Regency heart of the capital. From 3-5 May. For press information contact [Henrietta Ross](#).

Grand Designs LIVE London

Source ideas and inspiration for your home at this huge consumer show. Enjoy interactive exhibitions, celebrity experts and free advice. Held over 9 days from 3-11 May at ExCel. Tickets from £10. For press information contact the [press office](#).

Bars & Restaurants

Brown's Hotel launches The Albermarle

Executive Chef Lee Streeton and Director of Food Mark Hix have recently relaunched Brown's Hotel's restaurant as The Albermarle (formerly The Grill). The new menu features great British classics - all using carefully sourced seasonal ingredients. For press information contact [Nina Colls](#) on +44 (0)20 7518 4169.

Great British Dessert Cocktail Menu at Pearl

Pearl's cocktail mixologist and head pastry chef have collaborated to combine two British favourites – cocktails and desserts! Try a raspberry sherry trifle or bramley apple pie in a glass. There are five delicious dessert cocktails to choose from, priced at £11.50 each. For press information contact [Alison Hull](#).

ViVO opens in Soho

Stylish new cocktail bar ViVO provides a relaxed environment to drink, eat and catch up with friends. With a luxurious bar downstairs and a restaurant upstairs serving South American cuisine, it's an ideal venue for lunchtime dining or after work drinks. For press information contact [Sarah Roberts](#) on +44 (0)20 7392 2664.

Theatre & Film

Never Forget at The Savoy Theatre

A feel-good comedy about love, friendship, ambition and betrayal featuring the songs of Take That. With an original story written by BAFTA award-winner Danny Brocklehurst (Shameless, Sorted, Clocking Off) and Guy Jones and Ed Curtis, Never Forget is a brand new musical about the unlikely of Take That tribute bands. Opens 7 May. For press information contact [Katherine Camps](#).

Pygmalion at The Old Vic

Henry Higgins (Tim Pigott-Smith) is the arrogant Professor of Phonetics who makes a bet with his friend Colonel Pickering that he can turn Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle (Michelle Dockery), into a duchess. From 7 May – 2 August. For press information contact [Jo Allan](#) on +44 (0)20 7361 1555.

The Common Pursuit at Menier Chocolate Factory

This sharp comedy charts the progress of a group of Cambridge undergraduates who launch a literary publication – The Common Pursuit. Fresh, determined and gifted, their joint venture brings them together in friendship, hope and the promise of a bright future. But as the years go by the friends find it hard to stay true to the ideals of their youth in the world beyond. Starring Ben Caplan, James Dreyfus, Nigel Harman, Robert Portal, Reece Shearsmith and Mary Stockley. From 9 May-20 July. For press information email info@thecornershoppr.com.

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