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## Visit London What's New Press Briefing

October 2007

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This October sees a jam-packed season of events and openings in London including brand new arts venue Rivington Place, Tate Britain's Turner Prize Retrospective (pictured), Diwali and Simcha on the Square, and new theatre shows including Rent, Swimming With Sharks and Hairspray.



### Hotels

#### The Levin now open in Knightsbridge

Following a multimillion pound investment, The Capital Group has launched its second Knightsbridge hotel, The Levin, a stylish and sophisticated twelve room hotel in Basil Street which is a member of Small Luxury Hotels of The World. The Levin is owned and operated by David Levin, who founded the well established Capital Hotel next door 36 years ago. For more information contact [Julie Kemp](#) or [Louise Ashmore](#) on 020 7602 6953 or visit [thelevinhotel.co.uk](http://thelevinhotel.co.uk).

#### Plaza On The River and Fortnum & Mason

Luxurious five star suites-only Plaza on the River has teamed up with Fortnum & Mason to give its guests the ultimate fridge and larder stocking service. Guests can now order the finest fresh ingredients and provisions from Fortnum & Mason's grand new food hall, which will be stocked in their suite on arrival. For more information contact [Cass Helstrip](#) on 020 7953 8779.

### Attractions

#### Rivington Place - brand new arts centre

[Rivington Place](#), a new £8m public building, will be the first permanent space dedicated to culturally diverse visual arts in the UK when it opens on 5 October. It will celebrate the 20 year vision of two organisations: inIVA (the Institute of International Visual Arts) and Autograph ABP. The building, by award-winning architect David Adjaye OBE, is the first new-build public gallery in London since the Hayward Gallery opened in 1968. For more information contact [Anna Cusden](#) on 020 7221 7883.

#### Concerts and Café return to St Martin-in-the-Fields

After a five month period of closure the sound of outstanding music and the smell of award-winning food return to St Martin-in-the-Fields this month. While the finishing touches to the renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields are being completed, the renowned Concerts by Candlelight, Lunchtime Concerts, Jazz Nights, Shop in the Crypt and the Café in the Crypt re-open for business from 1 October. For more information contact [Julie Emig](#) on 020 7766 1115 or visit [smitf.org](http://smitf.org).

#### Winter gentle cycling trips

Capital Sport will be running gentle cycling day trips from London throughout the winter and spring this year. These traffic-free rides, starting in the heart of London, follow the River Thames for much of their route and lead to Greenwich or Richmond with a leisurely boat trip back. There is also a shorter ride through the heart of London and its many parks. Rides cost £35 per person and include bike hire for the day. For more information contact [Wendy Carter](#) or visit [capital-sport.co.uk](http://capital-sport.co.uk).

#### Playboy opens London flagship store

Playboy has opened its Playboy London Flagship Store, the first in Europe and the ninth in the world, on Oxford Street. Spanning 4,000 square feet, the store is the largest and first multi-level store in the world, revealing the UK debut of 'Playboy Icon' luxury eveningwear from Australian designer Christopher Chronis, 'Playboy Physical' activewear and the 'Playboy Legacy Collection' of vintage artwork. For more information contact [Lisa Hagendorf](#) on 020 7427 2710 or visit

[playboystyle.co.uk](http://playboystyle.co.uk).

#### **Shoe queen Beatrix Ong comes to Burlington Arcade**

Burlington Arcade is a fitting home for the new flagship store of renowned designer, Beatrix Ong. A connoisseur of her art, trained under the master Jimmy Choo, she has been named one of the world's 10 leading shoe designers. Her bijoux boutique, opening this month, will feature a beautiful central chandelier, spiral staircase and serve cakes and tea to bridal and private clients. For more information contact [Caroline Parrish](mailto:Caroline.Parrish@burlington-arcade.co.uk) on 020 7630 1411 or visit [burlington-arcade.co.uk](http://burlington-arcade.co.uk).

#### **Amora workshops programme**

Amora, the world's first visitor attraction dedicated to love, sex and relationships, is running a series of workshops during October including 'Sensual Massage and the Art of Touch', 'Burlesque for Beginners' and more. For more information contact [Aline Estevam](mailto:Aline.Estevam@amora.co.uk) on 020 7749 6854.

#### **Hampton Court Palace Halloween ghost tours**

From 31 October, the spookiest night of the year, you can walk in the historic footsteps of Kings, Queens and thousands of courtiers to discover eerie tales of hundreds of years of hauntings at Hampton Court Palace. Ghost tours begin on Halloween night and continue every Friday and Sunday until March 2008. For more information contact [Amy Wright](mailto:Amy.Wright@hamptoncourt.org) on 020 3166 6166.

#### **Kids go free this October Half Term at Hampton Court Palace**

This October Half Term week (20-28 October) kids go free at Hampton Court Palace. Traditional Tudor fun will be on offer with a range of entertaining activities and events for kids to enjoy at King Henry VIII's former pleasure palace. For more information contact [Amy Wright](mailto:Amy.Wright@hamptoncourt.org) on 020 3166 6166.

#### **Scare Tactics at ZSL London Zoo**

There's fiendish fun to be had in the run up to Halloween at ZSL London Zoo this October with a range of activities to thrill your little horrors. Investigate scare tactics of the creatures of the rainforest as they forage for food, establish their territories and look for love; explore the brain of a bug and discover why creepy crawlies are nothing to be scared of; or take a trip to the wild side to find out how the wildlife living in your very own back garden frighten their foes. For more information contact [Joanna Green](mailto:Joanna.Green@zsl.org) on 020 7449 6236.

#### **The Courtauld Gallery's 75th anniversary**

The Courtauld Gallery is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. On 6 October (the official anniversary date) the gallery is holding a special 'Talks, Tours & Treasures' event and entrance to the collection will be just 75p. For more information contact [Katie Rix](mailto:Katie.Rix@courtauld.org) on 01359 271085.

#### **Best of British at Madame Tussauds**

Madame Tussauds celebrates the very Best of British this October Half Term. Meet the Pearly King and Queen and have a right old knees up with the cockney crooners. Once you've learned a bit of cockney rhyming slang from the experts, get in your own black cab and see London's history brought to life on the 'Spirit of London' ride. Then have a lovely cup of 'Rosy Lee' with the Queen on a luxurious green lawn before you go out and meet Britain's most loved celebrities. For more information contact [Linda Blissing](mailto:Linda.Blissing@madame-tussauds.co.uk) on 020 7487 0235.

#### **October Half Term fun at Museum of London**

Step back in time at Museum of London this October Half Term. The Romans loved fashion and made footwear, jewellery, helmets and toys from bones, leather and metal. See what they made, try on their clothes and have a go at making something beautiful yourself. For more information contact [Stacey Witter](mailto:Stacey.Witter@museumoflondon.org) on 020 7814 5511.

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## **Exhibitions**

#### **Turner Prize: A Retrospective**

This definitive Turner Prize exhibition at Tate Britain from 2 October 2007 to 6 January 2008 features works by winning artists since the Turner Prize began in 1984. From Anish Kapoor to Damien Hirst, and Gilbert & George to Grayson Perry, it presents a snapshot of British art over the last 24 years. For more information contact the [Tate Britain press office](mailto:Turner.Prize@tate.org.uk) or visit [tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk).

#### **The Painting of Modern Life**

The work of major international artists including Andy Warhol, David Hockney, Gerhard Richter, Martin Kippenberger, Luc Tuymans, Liu Xiaodong, Peter Doig and others will be featured in The Painting of Modern Life at The Hayward from 4 October to 30 December 2007. This is the first major museum survey to explore the use and translation of photographic imagery. For more information contact [Gillian Fox](mailto:Gillian.Fox@haywardgallery.org) or [Sarah Davies](mailto:Sarah.Davies@haywardgallery.org) or visit [southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk).

#### **Rebound- Two decades of notes on HIV in London**

The UK's first exhibition examining the changing perception of HIV in London will be on at the Wellcome Collection from 11 to 28 October. This solo exhibition is the first to explore the changing perception of HIV in the UK's capital city over the last 20 years. For more information contact [Mike Findlay](mailto:Mike.Findlay@wellcomecollection.org) or visit [wellcomecollection.org.uk](http://wellcomecollection.org.uk).

**Unfinished Symphony**

The Fine Art Society presents Unfinished Symphony (10 October to 10 November). Seven leading contemporary artists are exhibiting works which, owing to political or logistical constraints, financial or personal pressures, limitations on time or space, art world convention, or just sheer idleness, have never been completed. Participating artists include Jake & Dinos Chapman, Keith Coventry, Tony Heywood, Gavin Turk, Oliver Marsden, Conrad Shawcross and Keith Tyson. For more information contact [Liz Barrett](#) or [Marta Bogna](#) on 020 7749 6853.

**Matthew Williamson - 10 Years in Fashion**

Matthew Williamson is a unique success story within the British fashion industry. Setting out on his career as a fashion graduate with no financial backing in 1997, he now has his own store in the heart of Mayfair, and his acclaimed collections are worn by international celebrity clients. 2007 marks ten years of Matthew Williamson's career in fashion, and to celebrate the Design Museum will hold an exhibition of his work from 17 October 2007 to 31 January 2008. For more information contact [Amelia Webb](#) on 020 7940 8787.

**Walter Sickert: The Camden Town Nudes**

The paintings of the female nude produced by Walter Sickert in and around Camden between 1905 and 1912 are among the artist's most significant contributions to 20th century British art. This exhibition at the Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery, Somerset House, from 25 October 2007 to 20 January 2008, is the first of three exhibitions which celebrate the Institute's 75th anniversary. For more information contact [Sue Bond Public Relations](#) on 01359 271085.

**Home and Garden: Domestic Spaces in Paintings from 1960 to the present**

This major exhibition at the Geffrye Museum from 16 October 2007 to 4 February 2008 is the final in a four-part series. It will conclude the fascinating exploration of paintings of English urban domestic interiors and gardens from 1675 to the present day. For more information contact [Nancy Loader](#) on 020 7739 9893.

**Richard Meier: Art And Architecture**

This solo exhibition at the Louise T Blouin Institute from 12 October presents Richard Meier's extraordinary versatility as an artist, designer and architect. He remains the youngest recipient of the Pritzker Prize (1984) which is considered to be architecture's highest accolade. For more information contact [Ashley Eldridge-Ford](#) on 020 7287 3070.

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**Events****Times BFI 51st London Film Festival**

The Times BFI 51st London Film Festival opens on 17 October. The Festival will host seven World, 29 European and 128 UK premieres, welcoming both familiar faces and newcomers, and showcasing established and emerging talent throughout the 16 day cinematic celebration. For more information [click here](#).

**Diwali celebrations to light up Trafalgar Square**

Trafalgar Square will host celebrations to mark Diwali, the Festival of Light, on Sunday 28 October. The celebrations, organised by the Mayor of London in association with the Diwali in London Committee, will see the Square transformed by magical light displays, floating lanterns, and music and dance performances. For more information [click here](#).

**London to host biggest one day Jewish cultural festival in Britain**

Mayor of London Ken Livingstone is working with Jewish Culture UK and a range of Jewish organisations to fund and stage, for the second year in a row, the biggest one day festival of Jewish culture in the UK. The free event, Simcha on the Square, takes place on Trafalgar Square on Sunday 14 October. Entertainment will include Jewish music, live performance, food and activities for people of all ages. For more information contact [Geraldine Auerbach](#) on 020 8909 2445.

**Black History Month**

Events will be happening across London during October to celebrate Black History Month. For London listings [click here](#) or contact [Isabel Appio](#) on 020 7407 7747.

**The Big Draw**

The Big Draw is a month-long celebration of drawing. There will be events all over London aimed at encouraging adults and children to discover the joy of drawing. For more information contact [Jo Williamson](#) on 020 7221 7883 or visit [campaignfordrawing.org](#).

**Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2007**

Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year takes place at the Natural History Museum from 26 October 2007 to 27 April 2008. It is the most prestigious, innovative photographic competition of its kind and an international leader in the artistic representation of the natural world. For more information contact [Sam Roberts](#) on 020 7942 5156 / 5654 or visit [nhm.ac.uk](#).

**The Bloomsbury Festival**

The Bloomsbury Festival (19 to 21 October) is back and this year it is bigger and better than ever.

For the second year running, the streets and buildings of Bloomsbury will come alive with a host of events and activities including music, dance, theatre, film, photography, literature and debate. For more information contact [Amber Massie-Blomfield](#) or visit [bloomsburyfestival.org](http://bloomsburyfestival.org).

#### **The Wine Show 2007**

Each year London's Wine Show attracts 15,000 wine lovers and wannabe wine buffs to Islington's Business Design Centre. This year's show, from 25 to 28 October, is a chance to get nose to nose with wine experts Oz Clarke, Matt Skinner, Tim Atkin, Robert Joseph, Susy Atkins, Sarah Jane Evans and Joanna Simon. For more information contact [Claire Southern](#) on 020 7689 5914 or visit [wineshow.co.uk](http://wineshow.co.uk).

#### **Frieze Art Fair**

Frieze Art Fair takes place from 11 to 14 October in Regent's Park, London. The fair showcases new and established artists to visitors from around the world. For more information visit [friezeartfair.com](http://friezeartfair.com).

#### **Hillingdon's Bigfest 2007**

The London Borough of Hillingdon's annual street carnival, BIGFEST will be returning to Uxbridge for the fifth year on October 7. There will be a packed programme of street art and performances, culminating in a carnival parade through the town centre. The event is completely free and has something for everyone, from the weird and wacky 'caravan of desires' to a five-metre dragon, Bollywood dancing and martial arts. For more information contact [Jack Mundy](#) on 01895 250534.

#### **Join Cookery School in pursuit of chocolate happiness**

Whether you are a confirmed chocoholic or looking to wow family and friends with your new found skills, head to Cookery School on Little Portland Street on 17 October for 'Fun with Chocolate', a cookery class dedicated to everyone's favourite indulgence. In honour of Chocolate Week (15 to 21 October) this fun and informative class will teach you everything you need to know about cooking with luxurious chocolate. For more information contact [Roche Communications](#) on 020 7436 1111.

#### **St Paul's Cathedral celebrates childhood**

Sunday evening services throughout October 2007 at St Paul's Cathedral celebrate the child in all of us and the importance of childhood as a foundation for living a good adult life. In 1996, the BBC Special Correspondent Fergal Keane broadcast a letter to his newborn son about the world he had entered. 'A Letter to Daniel' captured the public imagination and evoked a remarkable response. Eleven years on, Fergal Keane looks back at that letter and how Daniel sees the world in which he is growing up. For more information contact [Polly Robertson](#) on 020 7246 8321.

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## **Bars & Restaurants**

#### **Axis at One Aldwych**

The award-winning Axis at One Aldwych restaurant and bar in One Aldwych hotel has re-opened with a stunning new design by Mary Fox Linton and a new Modern British menu from recently appointed Executive Chef Tony Fleming. For more information contact [Howard Rombough](#) or visit [onealdwych.com](http://onealdwych.com).

#### **Hibiscus launches in London**

Chef Claude Bosi and his wife Claire are moving their award-winning Hibiscus restaurant from Ludlow, Shropshire, to central London, opening on 24 October. The seven-year old business earned its second Michelin star in 2004. The new site will be located at 29 Maddox Street, W1. For more information contact Maureen Mills, Jessica Dillon or Michelle Ganner at [Network London](#) on 020 8947 4474.

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## **Theatre & Film**

#### **Rent at the Duke of York's Theatre**

Denise Van Outen will play the role of Maureen in a new version of Rent by Jonathan Larson, previewing at the Duke of York's Theatre from 2 October. For more information contact [Amy Barder](#) on 020 7 492 0635 or visit [myspace.com/rentremixed](http://myspace.com/rentremixed).

#### **Swimming With Sharks**

Christian Slater, Helen Baxendale and Matt Smith will star in the world premiere of Swimming With Sharks. The remarkable cast has been assembled for Michael Lesslie's stage adaptation of this classic cult movie, which starts previewing at the Vaudeville Theatre on 5 October. For more information contact [Anna Arthur](#) on 020 7637 2994 or visit [swimmingwithsharks.co.uk](http://swimmingwithsharks.co.uk).

#### **Hairspray opens at the Shaftesbury Theatre**

Michael Ball will star as Edna Turnblad, Mel Smith as Wilbur Turnblad, Leanne Jones as Tracy Turnblad and Ben James-Ellis as Link Larkin in the smash hit multi-award winning Broadway musical Hairspray, which will open at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Tuesday 30 October, following previews from 11 October. For more information contact [Peter Thompson Associates](#) or visit

[hairspraythemusical.com](http://hairspraythemusical.com).

**Tintin comes to Richmond**

The first major UK stage adaptation of Hergé's legendary cartoon hero Tintin comes to the Richmond Theatre for one week only prior to the West End. From 23 to 27 October join Tintin, his loyal dog Snowy and the curmudgeonly Captain Haddock as they battle to rescue their friend lost in a plane crash in the high Himalayas. For more information contact [Melissa Gerbaldi](#) on 020 8939 9228 or [click here](#).

**New packages to see English National Ballet this Christmas**

Theatre Breaks Ltd is offering packages to see the English National Ballet perform The Nutcracker and Swan Lake at the London Coliseum this Christmas season. The package, including best available seats for either ballet and an overnight stay, are from £99 per person. For more information contact [Barbara Stott](#).

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