



Visit London What's New Press Briefing

January 2007

[Hotels](#) | [Attractions](#) | [Exhibitions](#) | [Events](#)
[Bars & Restaurants](#) | [Theatre & Film](#)

Welcome in the New Year and visit some of the many new additions to our Capital this month.

Please note that to email the PR representative, just click on the name given in red.



Hotels

Swanning around Clerkenwell

The Zetter has come up with a package to coincide with the launch of Michael Bourne's Swan Lake. The package includes overnight accommodation at the Zetter Hotel with a free upgrade to a St John's Superior room, a cocktail upon arrival in the Atrium Bar, Tapas style dinner for two at Moro Restaurant with a glass of red or white wine, two tickets in the first circle to Swan Lake at Sadler's Wells plus a glass of Champagne in the interval. This package costs £270 including VAT and is available on weekends only up until the end of February.

For further information contact [Renay Logan](#) on +44 (0) 20 7324 4422.

Get stirred not shaken at The Capital

The Capital Hotel in Knightsbridge is launching cocktail masterclasses, where guests mix and sample cocktails with expert instruction from The Capital's own Bar Manager, Cesar da Silva, making and tasting five classic cocktails. Each masterclass lasts 2 1/2 hours and guests will receive a gift of a full stylish bar which includes a cocktail strainer, ice tongs and waiter's corkscrew; a wooden pestle (for mojitos and caiparinhas), an optimiser, a lemon peeler, a bottle of angostura bitter and a recipe booklet of all the cocktails created in the class. Classes run from 5.00-7.30pm and places are available on 9 February, 4 May, 1 June, 5 October and 7 December 2007. Tickets cost £115 per person.

For further information contact [Anita Raben](#) on +44 (0) 20 7016 6740.

Coach House London

From 3 January to 24 February, Coach House Rentals, specialists in short stay rentals, are offering 20% off the normal rental price on a selection of their London properties for stays of seven nights or more. For example, five people could stay in a riverside apartment for just £23 per person per night, or for £28 per person per night, customers can stay at The Coach House - a unique bed and breakfast experience. Coach House Rentals also offer a personal service with representatives who will show you into the property, tell you about the local area and answer any questions you may have.

For further information contact [Harley Nott](#) on +44 (0) 20 8772 1939.

Attractions

Chinese New Year at the Museum in Docklands

Guests are invited to celebrate the coming of the Year of the Pig at Museum in Docklands with a range of films and activities around Chinese New Year; beginning on Sunday 28 January with an afternoon exploring the first Chinatown in Limehouse and culminating on Sunday 28 February with the Chinese New Year Festival.

For further information contact [Sarah Wilson](#) on +44 (0) 20 7814 5502.

Islamic Art: Motifs of Nature

Visitors to the Natural History Museum can get up close to plants and minerals and look carefully at their natural patterns. The Museum's Muslim artist will help you use these patterns to create your own motifs for Al-Hijra, the Islamic new year. Suitable for adults and children of all ages.

For further information contact [Chloe Kembery](#) on +44 (0) 20 7941 5881.

Somerset House Skate School

Skate School at Somerset House will provide exciting opportunities to learn how to skate with expert teachers including taster sessions throughout January for beginners, kids classes, an early-bird course for those that want to get some fun exercise before work, free skating for schools and free skating for community and disabled groups.

For further information contact [Amy Edmunds](#) on +44 (0) 20 7845 4692.

Exhibitions

Italian Prints 1875 to 1975

The British Museum is hosting an exhibition from 11 January to 6 May of Italian Prints from 1875 to 1975. The 100 years after Italy achieved independence in 1861 saw a remarkable revival of high quality printmaking. The exhibition will include more than 110 works by 45 different artists and is the first exhibition of its kind to be attempted anywhere in Europe. Admission is free.

For further information contact [Hannah Boulton](#) on +44 (0) 20 7323 8522.

Under the influence: William Blake

Under the influence pays tribute to the world of English poet, artist and visionary, William Blake, in the 250th anniversary of his birth. This small exhibition at the British Museum's Sir John Ritblat Gallery features unique items left or donated by writers and artists who have been inspired in some way by Blake's life and work, including Tracy Chevalier, Philip Pullman and Patti Smith. The exhibition lasts from 11 January to 21 March, entry is £6 for adults and £4 for concessions.

For further information contact [Ruth Howlett](#) on +44 (0) 20 7412 7112.

Neil Bailey: Curtains

Neil Bailey's bright bold graphic style has been influenced as much by Patrick Caulfield and Marcel Duchamp as by his parallel career as a sign writer. Curtains presents 20 large scale pieces using canvas and resin offering a delightfully English take on surrealism. The exhibition takes place at the Gallery at Oxo Tower Wharf from 4 January to 4 February. Admission is free.

For further information contact [Louise King](#) on +44 (0) 20 7401 4250.

Italian wartime satire at The Estorick Collection

Barbed Wit: Italian Satire of the Great War, on view at the Estorick Collection of Modern Art from 10 January to 18 March, presents rarely viewed original artwork for postcards produced in Italy during the Great War. The exhibition displays bold designs, biting satire, and a specifically Italian slant on wartime propaganda. Admission is £3.50 or £2.50 for concessions.

For further information contact [Sue Bond](#) on +44 (0) 1359 271 085.

Events

London Boat Show to celebrate nation's maritime heritage

The London Boat Show will take place at ExCel London between 5-14 January. Visitors to the show will enjoy a completely revitalised visitor experience with developments coming under the theme of 'Island Nation'. The ten day event will bring together the largest and most varied collection of boats in the UK as well as attracting an interesting and exciting array of boating personalities and marine experts. Tickets cost £12.50 for adults. Children under sixteen go for free. For further information contact [Gillian Stark](#) on +44 (0) 20 7492 0977.

New Year's Day Parade

This American style extravaganza taking place through the streets of London on New Year's Day consists of 10,000 musicians, dancers, acrobats, cheerleaders, clowns and floats which will march and drum their way from Parliament Square, via Whitehall, Pall Mall, Lower Regent Street, along Piccadilly, finishing in Berkeley Street. This is the biggest parade of its kind in the world. [Click here](#) to read more.

New Year New You

The Dana Centre, the Science Museum's adults-only bar and cafe, is holding a New Year New You event on Tuesday 9 January from 7.00-8.30pm. Professor Richard Wiseman heads up the event with a look at New Year health resolutions and the notion of self-improvement through new research he's conducted. He'll be joined by a panel of experts to discuss the resolutions made and why they're often so difficult to keep. The event is free to attend. For further information contact [Lauren Gildersleve](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 4328.

Friday Late at the V&A

January's Friday Late will be the last opportunity for visitors to experience Volume, an interactive audio-visual installation in the V&A's John Madejski Garden. During the evening choreographer and dancer Rosemary Lee will perform a specially commissioned dance in response to the installation; design team rAndom International, will create temporary images and text using light; and a new commission by Simon Periton for the V&A tunnel will be unveiled. Visitors will still be able to enjoy the usual late evening bars and DJs. For further information contact the [press office](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502.

Thrill Me at Turnmills

Thrill Me, a brand new concept night at Turnmills, launches on Saturday 20 January. Thrill Me is built around the talents of house music's most prolific producers, with house music Mafioso Junior Jack and his partner Kid Creme taking centre stage. Supporting DJ sets will be provided by Stephen Lee, Steve Mac, Funk Agenda and the Promised Sound System. Tickets cost £15 in advance and £20 on the door. For further information contact [Paul Stix](#) on +44 (0) 20 7247 4121.

Living in the Warsaw Ghetto- event at the Jewish Museum

The Jewish Museum in Camden will be hosting a special talk for Holocaust Memorial Day by Janina Bauman, author of Beyond These Walls, on her experiences in the Warsaw ghetto. Artist Itzhak Belfer will speak on his personal experiences in Janusz Korczak's orphanage. The event will be chaired by Professor Zygmund Bauman, emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Leeds. Admission is £5. For further information contact [Dina Wosner](#) on +44 (0) 20 7284 1997.

Bars & Restaurants

Rainfirst Café launches new forest floor animals

The Rainfirst Café has launched a selection of new animatronic animals to its forest floor. The new

animals include a mother Orang-utang and her tiny baby, a Crocodile, Tree Jaguar, Gorillas and Boa Constrictor. All now join the existing animals and special effects which include thunder, lightning storms and tropical rain showers.

For further information contact [Amber Steventon](#) on +44 (0) 845 226 7577.

Artesian bar opens at the Langham Hotel

Artesian, opening in early January, is the new cocktail bar at the Langham Hotel. Designer David Collins has transformed the old bar with interiors that combine Orientalism, the romance of new nostalgia and some contemporary touches. Artesian, named after the 360ft deep artesian well under the hotel, will offer an extensive list of cocktails and will specialise in rum.

For further information contact [Lucinda Buxton](#) on +44 (0) 20 7421 2500.

A taste of France for under £10

Le Vacherin restaurant in Chiswick will be offering two France for Under £10 promotions in the New Year. Customers can enjoy delicious classic French dishes for just £9.95 available between 3 January and 25 February (excluding Valentines day). Between Monday and Thursday and on Sundays, the promotion offers Steak Frites and a glass of wine from 6pm to 7.30pm. The Sunday lunch promotion offers diners a choice of three options accompanied with a glass of wine - Pumpkin, Sage and Pine Nut Ravioli, Oxtail Ravioli and Rabbit with Agen Prunes Ravioli between 12pm and 4pm.

For further information contact [Leanne Baker](#) on +44 (0) 1276 63598.

Sitaaray opens on Drury Lane

Sitaaray (meaning stars in Hindi) is a new Indian dining concept from the owner of Chor Bizarre in Mayfair. The restaurant, at 167 Drury Lane, combines two of India's greatest exports - its cinema and its cuisine. Sitaaray is a tribute to 75 years of Hindi cinema, and is an upbeat and lighthearted restaurant in which to enjoy good quality, well priced food in a convivial cinematic atmosphere.

For further information contact [Antony Rettie](#) on +44 (0) 20 8968 0202.

Mocoto

The Brazilian restaurant Mocoto will finally open its doors in Knightsbridge on 24 January on the site previously occupied by Isola. A casual ground floor boteco will sit above a smart modern Brazilian restaurant serving dishes such as sauteed prawns with yucca galette and coconut sauce and rack of lamb with fava beans, rice and cachaca sauce.

For further information contact [Danielle Procter](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 1010.

Taste Britain Winter at One Aldwych

Guests are invited to rediscover great British regional produce with the new Taste Britain Winter menus at One Aldwych hotel. The menus emphasise the hotel's commitment to seasonality and provenance. The focus is on quality regional produce with a comforting appeal, with dishes such as mini game pie as a starter and a braised Hardwick lamb shank with potato, cabbage and ham broth as a main.

For further information contact [Howard Rombough](#) on +44 (0) 20 7300 1077.

The Arbiter Pub

Set over two floors, The Arbiter, on North End Road in Fulham, is a pub serving good quality, substantial food in a relaxed and comfortable environment. The food is mainly British with a handful of Scandinavian dishes included. The drink offering consists of five of everything with an emphasis on quality. Five draft beers, including lager, stout and real ale, a rotation of five bottled beers and five red and five white winies, all available by the glass. The Arbiter is licenced seven days a week from 10am until 1am.

For further information contact [Meri Mance](#) on +44 (0) 20 7636 9709.

Raviolo to launch in Balham

Raviolo, a new restaurant concept, is opening in January on Balham Station Road. The restaurant will be open seven days a week serving an affordable menu predominantly made up of ravioli - with numerous variations available. Raviolo will have a neighbourhood feel with a contemporary interior and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. Set over two floors, the upstairs dining room can be taken over for private parties of up to 50 guests, and offers an al fresco terrace.

For further information contact [Gaby Riley](#) on +44 (0) 20 7722 5466.

Barrafina to open in January

In January, Sam and Eddie Hart - owners of London's leading Spanish restaurant, FINO - will open Barrafina on Soho's Frith Street. The no reservations tapas bar will seat 23 customers at its counter and will be open from Monday to Saturday from Noon until Midnight. Head chef Nieves Barragan will oversee a menu of tapas dishes, familiar to customers at FINO, but adjusted to be both simpler and more affordable for Barrafina. Tapas will include Spanish cold meats, Seafood from the Plancha and Pimientos de Padron. The menu will change on a daily basis to reflect the seasons and available seafood.

For further information contact [Danielle Procter](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 1010.

Hat and Feathers Dining Rooms opens on Clerkenwell Road

The Hat and Feathers Dining Rooms, situated on the fringe of the City, is split over two floors and serves a modern European menu which includes starters such as Smoked haddock risotto with saffron and chives, main courses include Venison, celeriac, toffee and chocolate and deserts including chocolate jelly and white chocolate ice cream.

For further information contact [Louisa Monro](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 1000.

Theatre & Film

Get Into London Theatre

From 10 January until 17 March, Get Into London Theatre offers the chance to buy theatre tickets to over 60 London shows starting at as little as £10. Shows participating in the promotion include smash hit musicals Monty Python's Spamalot, Mary Poppins, Porgy and Bess and Evita; plays include The History Boys, Amy's View and productions by the RSC and National Theatre; Giselle by English National Ballet and English National Opera's newly launched The marriage of Figaro.

For further information contact [Louise Drabwell](#) on +44 (0) 20 7483 2500.

The Rocky Horror Show

The Rocky Horror Show returns to the West End for a limited season at the Comedy Theatre, 6 Panton Street, from 21 December to 27 January. The show stars Olivier Award-winning West End and Broadway star David Bedella as Frank N Furter and former Hear'Say singer Suzanne Shaw as Janet. Brian Capron - Coronation Street killer Richard Hillman - Steve Pemberton from the League of Gentlemen and award-winning DJ Danny Baker are to be the guest narrators. Tickets cost from £15.

For further information contact [Kevin Wilson](#) on +44 (0) 20 7430 2060.

Cirque du Soleil's Alegria

Alegria from Cirque du Soleil will be performed at the Royal Albert Hall throughout January until 8 February. Alegria is a blend of astonishing acrobatics, awe-inspiring aerial acts, spectacular sets and eccentric character with flamoyant costumes. The show has been seen by 9 million people worldwide. Tickets cost from £16 to £55.

For further information contact [Jodie Jenkins](#) on +44 (0) 20 7589 3203.

Lange back in Menagerie

Jessica Lange is to star in a new production of Tennessee Williams's The Glass Menagerie at the Apollo from 31 January. Premiered on Broadway in 1945, The Glass Menagerie is set in St Louis in the 1930s and follows the story of the Wingfield family and the troubled relationship between aging, overbearing mother Amanda and frail daughter Laura. It is told in recalled memories by Tom Wingfield, who is torn between his obligation to his mother and sister and his desire to break away from them.

For further information [click here](#).

Run, Chicken, Run

Award-winning Danish theatre company Gruppe 38 bring their distinctive dark humour and vivid imagination to the Unicorn theatre for a season of plays which include Run, Chicken, Run, taking

place from 23 January to 26 January. Poul tells anarchic stories with the help of his invisible assistant and a succession of bizarre objects that pop through the trap doors of his ingenious set. He brings to life a farmyard full of pigs, a hot-air balloon-ride high over lakes and forests, and a miniature disco packed with hundreds of partygoing mice that comes to a disgustingly sticky end! Tickets cost £9.50 for adults and £6.50 for children.

For further information contact [Sally Wrench](mailto:Sally.Wrench@visitlondon.com) on +44 (0) 20 7645 0545.



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