



Visit London What's New Press Briefing

July 2007

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

July sees some exciting new openings including the indoor beach at The O2, the Household Cavalry Museum and the new production of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat (see image). New exhibitions include Scratch the Surface at the National Gallery and Rush Hour at the Museum in Docklands. Events this month include the Lovebox Weekender and Ignite Season at the Royal Albert Hall.



Hotels

Kids parties at myhotels

myhotel Chelsea have started kids party packages to take the stress out of organising an event to remember. The packages include party food including a range of sandwiches, muffins, marshmallows and fresh juices. Hotel staff will also be on hand to take the stress out of planning and clearing up. There is the choice of a grown up 'escape room' where parents can appreciate the day as much as the kids and where they can enjoy afternoon tea with a glass of champagne in the private conservatory. The basic kids party package costs £25 per child (minimum 10 children) and includes room hire, party food and drink as well as staff to make sure everyone is looked after. For further information contact [Ben Groom](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

New umi hotel

Umi, a new concept in hotels located in Notting Hill and Bayswater, has created a five star service in a three star hotel. With doubles from £30 per person, the hotel boasts services such as a concierge, it's own "yumi" coffee shop, a cocktail bar sponsored by Absolut Vodka, wi-fi and plasma screen TVs in all the rooms and access to an umi massage therapy service. For further information contact [Steve Lowy](#) on +44 (0) 20 7221 9131.

The Pimms pedicure at Rocco Forte's Brown's Hotel

The Spa at Brown's Hotel is offering 90 minutes of indulgence with a Pimms pedicure. Each guest relaxes with a glass of Pimms whilst enjoying a soothing sweet cherry syrup leg massage, which is followed by an invigorating exfoliation using brown sugar, lemon and orange. The feet are then soaked in warm lemon water with orange zest, before a second soothing foot massage and a cooling cucumber foot wrap. The cost is £85, which includes a manicure and is available until 31 August.

For further information contact [Nina Colls](#) on +44 (0) 20 7518 4169.

The Royal Suite at the Baglioni Hotel

The Baglioni Hotel has announced the opening of the Royal Suite, a new space within the hotel with

expansive views over Hyde Park and Kensington Palace. The suite covers 240 square meters and includes three bedrooms, four bathrooms, two reception rooms and a large terrace. All rooms have plasma screen TVs and state-of-the-art sound systems. The four luxury appointed bathrooms feature either black marble or dark wood floors, hand beaten silver wash basins and limestone lined walk in shower or deep jacuzzi baths. Guests will benefit from round the clock personal butler service and use of the hotel's Maweati courtesy car. Rates start from £4,500 plus VAT per night. For further information contact [Maggie Garratt](#) on +44 (0) 7767 883 303.

Durley Lane Hotel

Durley House hotel in Knightsbridge has launched a new package which consists of four nights for the price of three, just in time for the summer sales as the hotel is situated near to Knightsbridge's international fashion houses. The package starts at £349 per night in a one bedroom suite. For further information contact [Nina Gardiner](#) on +44 (0) 20 7096 2953.

London's first easyHotel franchise opens in Victoria

The first easyHotel in London has officially opened. Situated on Belgrave Road, SW1, the hotel is conveniently located near to Victoria station making it ideal for a one night stopover. Prices start at £25 per night and the hotel has 77 private en-suite rooms. Additional facilities include flat-screen TVs which can be operated by purchasing a remote control from reception (£5 for 10 channels). For further information contact [Ben Anderson](#) on +44 (0) 74830030.

Summer madness at the Egerton House Hotel

The Egerton House hotel have lunched a summer madness package which includes a daily pass to a local gym, welcome drink in the bar, daily newspaper, twice daily maid service, butler to help unpack guests' bags and a champagne picnic basket. The summer madness package is available throughout July and August and costs £250 for a Classic Double, based on double occupancy. For further information contact [Arnelle Kendall](#) on +001 (561) 659 2174.

Memories of The Savoy

The Savoy has put together a new package called Memories of The Savoy which gives guests the opportunity to reflect and enjoy the splendour of The Savoy. The package includes a personally guided history tour of the iconic property together with full English Breakfast for two people daily, two cocktails from the American Bar and a Savoy gift as a memento of their stay. Rooms start at £189 per night excluding VAT.

For further information contact [Pam Carter](#) on +44 (0) 20 7420 2329.

Attractions

London's first indoor beach arrives at The O2

During July and August 1,000 tons of sand will transform the London Piazza section of The O2 into a full size paradise Island. During the day the area will act as a kids' paradise with entertainment peddlers helping children play creatively whilst parents can take advantage of activities that include kids and parents yoga and Tai Chi. In the evening the beach will become an after work destination with volleyball and other sports on Monday nights, cult films on Wednesday and Sundays, DJs spinning 'desert island discs' on Thursdays and Fridays and live music on Saturdays. There is also a bar. The beach is free to visit.

For further information contact [Stephanie Jones](#) on +44 (0) 20 7536 2600.

Summer holiday activities at the Geffrye Museum

The Geffrye Museum is hosting three weeks of activities for children aged 3 to 15, exploring animals and plants that live in our gardens in summer. Zoo Lab will show some of the unusual mini beasts from around the world and kids can create animal finger puppets, floral print t-shirts and creepy crawly soaps. The first two weeks take place from 24 to 27 July and 31 July to 3 August.

For further information contact [Nancy Loader](#) on +44 (0) 20 7739 9893.

The trams are back in town

Now in its nineteenth year, the Festival of Model Tramways, returns to the Kew Bridge Steam

Museum from 21 to 22 July. The show features over twenty working models, a one fifth size tramway, offering free rides to passengers around the museum grounds. Visitors can indulge their hobby or interest further with a variety of stalls supplying the modeller with all the necessary materials for model tram building. Admission to the festival is £8 for adults and £7 for concessions. For further information contact [Nicola Osmond-Evans](#) on +44 (0) 7985 800108.

Zoo night at ZSL London Zoo

On Friday 27 July ZSL London Zoo will be hosting a Zoo Night from 6.30pm to 10pm. Guests will have the opportunity to spend an evening with some of the most fascinating animals on earth, enjoy the Animals in Action demonstrations and see a host of climbing, leaping and jumping animals showing off their natural skills. In addition there will be keeper talks and feeds and guests can even watch the hippos have their teeth cleaned. Booking on-line at www.zsl.org ensures a 10% discount off the regular ticket price of £16 for adults and £12.50 for children. For further information contact [Joanna Green](#) on +44 (0) 20 7449 6236.

London Glassblowing summer open house and sale

From 13 to 15 July from 1-5pm the London Glassblowing Workshop will be celebrating its 30th anniversary with music, refreshments, drinks, a free raffle and great prizes plus the opportunity to view recent glass creations by Peter Layton and his colleagues. Entry is free. For further information contact [Sylvie Marks](#).

New museum opens to the public

The Household Cavalry Museum will open on 9 July at Horse Guards, Whitehall. The museum provides an opportunity for a unique behind the scenes look at the work that goes into the ceremonial duties and operational role of the Household Cavalry Regiments. Guests can watch troopers working with their horses in the original 18th century stables and hear first hand accounts of their rigorous training. The museum's collection of treasures represents over 300 years of military history and each item on display has its own compelling story to tell. Admission to the museum costs £6 for adults and £4 for concessions. For further information contact [Helen Williamson](#) on +44 (0) 1483 415890.

Exhibitions

Scratch the Surface

Marking the bicentenary of the Act of Parliament abolishing the transatlantic slave trade, Scratch the Surface explores the role that the slave trade played in the creation of two works that have subsequently entered the National Gallery's collection. This two-part exhibition will feature two paintings from the Gallery's collection, Johann Zoffany's Mrs Oswald and Sir Joshua Reynolds's Colonel Tarleton, plus an installation by 2004 Turner Prize-shortlisted artist Yinka Shonibare MBE, created especially for this event. The exhibition runs from 20 July to 4 November and entry is free. For further information contact [Ken Hunt](#) on +44 (0) 20 7747 2532

Rush Hour at the Museum in Docklands

The Museum in Docklands is offering visitors the chance to discover a different kind of commuting experience with Rush Hour, a powerful video installation which runs from 6 July to 1 November. Across three huge screens, the work, by artists David Matthews and Paul Howard, uses a montage of real time/still time photography, and a bustling soundtrack centred around a phone-in radio show, to capture a rush hour moment in Sierra Leone. Admission is free with the year admission fee to the Museum in Docklands of £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. For further information contact [Stacey Witter](#) on +44 (0) 20 7814 5511.

The ultimate festival of all things Star Wars is coming to London

Star Wars Celebration Europe will bring the best of the Star Wars universe together with fans from all over the world gathering to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the saga and get a glimpse of what the future holds for the galaxy far far away! Star Wars Celebration Europe will run from Friday, July 13 through to Sunday, July 15, at London's ExCeL exhibition centre. Day tickets cost £21.75 for adults and £11.25 for children.

For further information contact Gemma Parkhouse on +44 (0) 20 7069 4739.

Dali and Film

Dali and Film is an exhibition on at the Tate Modern until 9 September which brings together more than one hundred works including paintings, photographs, drawings and films by Salvadore Dali in an unprecedented exploration of the role of cinema in his work. Tickets cost £11 for adults, £9 for children and £28 for families.

For further information contact [Valentina Diamanti-Fox](#) on +44 (0) 20 7928 3998.

Jerwood Applied Arts Prize; Jewellery

The Jerwood Space at Bankside is hosting an exhibition of contemporary jewellery by the short-listed artists for the Jerwood Applied Arts Prize. In 2007 the £30,000 prize is awarded in recognition of outstanding creativity, craftsmanship and significant contribution to the discipline of jewellery. The exhibition is free and runs until 22 July.

For further information call +44 (0) 20 7654 0171.

The Science of Singing at the Science Museum's Dana Centre

The Dana Centre is running a series of evening classes to celebrate Sing London. On Thursday 12 July, in the third of five singing events, guests can learn how to keep their voice healthy. Opera singer Nick Ransley and Laryngologist Charlie Hall will run a voice gym where they will reveal the healthiest and safest ways to give the voice a work out. The event is free but places need to be pre-booked.

For further information contact [Sally Clark](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 4328.

Sailor Chic - fashion's love affair with the sea

From 27 July to 2 December the National Maritime Museum Greenwich opens a stylish new exhibition entitled Sailor Chic which brings together material from the trend's early beginnings as a fashion essential for affluent Victorian children to present day catwalk couture. Admission is £5 for adults, £4 concessions and under 16s are free.

For further information contact [Lisa Pender](#) on +44 (0) 20 8312 6790.

Countdown to Freedom

To mark the 60th anniversary of Indian Independence and the birth of Pakistan the British Library is hosting the exhibition Countdown to Freedom where a selection of material, much of which was banned by the British Government in India between the 1920s and the 1940s, is on display for the first time. The books, newspapers, leaflets, posters, party membership forms and handbills are interspersed with relevant photographs and correspondence from the Indian Office collections to offer a unique and panoramic overview of the Indian freedom movement in the crucial decades leading up to the summer of 1947. Admission is free.

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

Events

Gibson Guitartown London

30 10-foot guitars designed by music legends including Paul Weller, Kaiser Chiefs, Noel Gallagher, Ozzy Osbourne and many more are currently being displayed at More London outside City Hall. The exhibition has been organised by Gibson Guitars and runs throughout July and August. Further hand painted guitars are on display at The O2. The guitars will be auctioned off in October with the proceeds going to The Princes Trust, Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy and Teenage Cancer Trust.

For more information see londonguitartown.com.

Picnic Rocks!

On 22 July, humanitarian organisation Action Against Hunger presents Picnic Rocks!, a gourmet indoor picnic, complete with live music at the Embassy Club in Mayfair. Some of London's top chefs have joined forces to raise money for the charity. On arrival guests will be greeted with a glass of Taittinger Champagne and then go on to the Embassy 'picnic grounds' where they can mix and match food prepared by each chef. Guests will also be able to bid at the charity auction and enjoy an

evening of live music and late night drinking and dancing at Embassy's private members club. Tickets are £85.
For further information contact [Rosie Myres](#) on +44 (0) 20 8293 6133.

Lovebox Weekender

Hosted by Groove Armada, The Lovebox Weekender festival takes place on 21 and 22 July at Victoria Park in East London. Main stage performances will include Sly & The Family Stone, Blondie, The B-52's, The Rapture, Super Furry Animals, Junior boys and of course Groove Armada. As well as performances from some big stars there will also be street theatre, circus, comedy, film, multimedia performance and beach volleyball. Tickets cost £35 for the day of £60 for the weekend.
For further information contact [Amy Rackman](#) on +44 (0) 20 7360 7878.

Free open air music

Throughout July, as part of the More London Free Festival, there will be free music in the scoop every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime and evening. The free music festival showcases a huge variety of musical talent outdoors in the open air amphitheatre. The concerts offer everything from Exotic Cabaret to Jazz and Ragga, Mowtown, Soul and Funk. Lunchtime shows take place from 12.30pm to 2pm and evening shows from 6.30pm to 9.30pm.
For further information call +44 (0) 20 7403 4866.

Spice Festival

The Spice Festival - Hackney's arts showcase, features over seventy events in and around the Hackney Empire including music, art, comedy, drama, fashion, film, clubbing, games, literature, food, talks, cabaret, puppetry, poetry and dance. This year for two weeks only the festival will also include the Spice House Roller Disco as well as an arts cafe and the Empress Tea Room. Once again the eco "Spice on the Square" will be back, this time on Sunday 15 July featuring a huge market of work from designers and makers from Hackney with fantastic food and entertainment from all over the world.
For further information contact [Allan Watson](#) on +44 (0) 20 8510 4505.

Friday Late - Village Fete

The V&A's annual Fete is a completely new take on the traditional British summer fair. The John Medejski Garden will be filled with stalls showcasing the best in contemporary British design, and with a fancy dress competition, a tombola with stylish prizes, music and refreshments there will be something for everyone. Entry to the Village Fete is £1 with children under 12 free.
For further information contact the [press office](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502.

The world's smallest festival

Those who are interested in live music but who'd rather not spend a weekend in a waterlogged field, away from clean amenities will be delighted to hear about the world's smallest festival, which takes place over three Sundays in July, bringing the festival experience to Shoreditch. The next dates are 8 and 15 July and visitors can enjoy cutting edge bands, DJs, food stalls, live performers, acoustic sets, drink deals and much more. The events take place in Cargo in Shoreditch from 1pm to midnight and tickets cost £12.50.
For further information contact [Paul Stix](#) on +44 (0) 20 7247 4121.

Waterside fun in Brentford

A summer of waterside festivity and fun comes to Brentford Lock on the Grand Union Canal in West London from July with a series of free family events which include live music, boat trips, farmers' markets, craft stalls and angling sessions. The events will be held on consecutive Sundays from 29 July.
For further information contact Matthew Whitbread on +44 (0) 20 7985 7215.

Canary Wharf summer series

This year the Canada Square Park BBC screen in Canary Wharf will show some of the summer's major sporting events including Wimbledon and Ascot, the World Sailing Championships, and World Cup Rowing.
For further information contact [Julia Denman](#) on +44 (0) 20 7418 2322.

Ignite Season 2007

The Royal Albert Hall proudly presents the next Ignite season of 2007. Ignite is a free lunchtime music series taking place most Fridays from July to September. The series takes place from 12 noon until 1.30pm and features talented young ensembles in the relaxed atmosphere of the Café Consort. Visitors can come and hear some fantastic music for free whilst enjoying great food and drink. This series is crammed full of fantastic music from flamenco to Latin jazz. It features some exciting new groups as well as some ignite favourites including The Huckleberries and Plastic Chairs.

For further information contact [Jodie Jenkins](#) on +44 (0) 20 7959 0511.

Urban Regatta

Finsbury Square will be host to an Urban Regatta on 26 July at 4pm, where competitors race in bottomless boats. The event is put on by Pimms, who will be providing everyone with their first drink of the afternoon for free. This is a free event and everyone is welcome to participate, there will be a variety of two and four person races with several obstacles to test competitors skills.

For further information contact [Jo Seymour-Taylor](#) on +44 (0) 20 7025 7500.

Bars & Restaurants

Jewel Covent Garden relanches

Jewel Covent Garden has been extensively modernised and updated and has recently reopened. The front bar - Jewel Bar, which has a capacity of 200, now has more space to move around, including a reception cocktail bar with a stand-alone curved bar with high seating. The 80 capacity Long bar is ideal for private functions, the upstairs high ceilinged Crystal Bar is reminiscent of an Italian palazzo and the downstairs Bar Blanca now includes several booths with white leather banquettes, trompe-l'oeil walls and LCD colour changing light boxes.

For further information contact [Guy Monkhouse](#) on +44 (0) 20 7255 8611.

Piada

The first Piada restaurant opened in Smithfield market in September 2006 and a second restaurant is now opening on Soho's Frith Street in July. Piade - or piadine as they are also known - are a unique Italian flatbread hailing from the Emilia- Romagna region of Northeast Italy and considered by many to be one of the country's most delicious forms of street food.

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

Enjoy a culinary Tour De France at The Wallace

The Wallace, Oliver Peyton's modern brasserie situated in the Wallace Collection, has launched a series of monthly changing three-course regional menus demonstrating the gourmet landscape of France. Throughout July The Wallace will concentrate on the unique cuisine from the warm and sunny region of Cote D'Azuur, characterised by its staple Mediterranean flavours, high-quality fruits and vegetables and famed for its delicious local lamb. The regional menu is available on Friday and Saturday evenings and costs £36 per person.

For further information contact [Marie Spanou](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

William IV

The William IV pub in Hoxton has refurbished its first floor Geography room into a proper pub dining room with a menu to match. Starters include grilled English asparagus with parmesan, sardines on toast, and queen scallop and mussel chowder. Main courses feature grilled lamb cutlets served with roasted cherry tomatoes and watercress, slow roast pork belly with spinach and boulangere potatoes. The dining room menu is complemented by a brand new wine list featuring European and new world wines, all of which are under £30 per bottle.

For further information contact [Kate Lester](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

La Petite Maison launches in London

Arjun Waney, the principle owner of Zuma and Roka restaurants, will open La Petite Maison in Mayfair on the site of Teca at 54 Brooks Mews, W1. The original Petite Maison in Nice is a regular haunt for celebrities such as Bono, Elton John, Roger Moore and Liz Hurley. The London restaurant will adopt the flavours of Nice and use products local to the area. Typical dishes on the menu include

artichoke salad; warm prawns with olive oil; baked langoustines; pissaladiere with caramelised onions and smoked anchovies and seabass in salt crust with girolles, fried architokes and tomatoes. The 80 seat restaurant also features a small bar and there is an al fresco seating area in the quiet mews street.

For further information contact [Maureen Mills](#) on +44 (0) 20 8947 4474.

Peyton and Byrne café opens at Wellcome Collection

Following the success of his acclaimed British bakery Peyton and Byrne at Heal's on Tottenham Court Road, Oliver Peyton has opened his second branch at Wellcome Collection - a new £30 million public venture from the Wellcome Trust. The 45 cover self-service café is situated in the ground floor lobby of Wellcome Collection and has a menu that is available to eat-in or take-out which includes terrines and tarts as well as pies, soups and salads. The food is complemented by Peyton and Byrne's own range of exclusively blended teas.

For further information contact [Rochelle Cohen](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

A complimentary night of pampering and preening at Doon

Doon has joined forces with celebrated hair and beauty salon, Hebe, to present 'The Powder Room' - a host of nights for girls, dedicated to pampering and preening. Girls that attend will receive a complimentary cocktail on arrival followed by their choice of therapies which include manicures head, shoulder and neck massages, express makeup and hair styling and all are free. They will all also leave with a complimentary goody bag. Entrance to the Powder Room is free for girls and after 10pm is £7 for men on the guest list or £10 on the door.

For further information contact [Marie Spanou](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

Summer menu launched at Kasturi

Kasturi restaurant on Algate High Street in the city has launched a summer menu of Indian dishes suited to the summer months. The new menu offers light dishes for meat eaters, seafood lovers and vegetarians alike and will be available until the end of October. Kasturi specialises in Pakhtoon cuisine, from the north-west of India and diners can experience flavours that are rarely found in British Indian restaurants.

For further information contact [Leanne Baker](#) on +44 (0) 870 7669 658.

The Rosendale opens in West Dulwich

The Rosendale in West Dulwich has recently opened, comprising of an informal bar and grill area, smarter restaurant space, outside terrace and two private rooms on the first floor. The menu incorporates the finest produce of neighbouring Kent and Sussex farms as well as The Rosendale's own organic kitchen garden. This garden benefits from the use of the 'companion planting' technique, ensuring the best possible results.

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

Theatre & Film

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, starring Lee Mead, the winner of the BBC's "Any Dream Will Do", has announced a new five month booking period. The show opens on 17 July and tickets are now on sale to 7 June 2008 at the Adelphi Theatre.

For further information [click here](#).

New Crowned Hope

Californian theatre director, Peter Sellars returns to the Barbican with New Crowned Hope, a multi-arts festival of new work by international choreographers, composers, filmmakers and visual artists, all inspired by Mozart's beliefs and hopes in the dawn of a new era of social change. First seen in Vienna in November 2006, this festival brings together contemporary dance, world music, films, opera, food and political debate. The festival takes place at the Barbican Centre from 4 July to 12 August. Tickets to the events range from £7 to £35.

For further information contact [Nicky Thomas](#) on +44 (0) 20 7382 7089.

Kirsty Besterman takes on the role of Portia in Merchant of Venice

Kirsty Besterman, who's theatre credits include The Rivals (Theatre Royal, Bath), Othello (Cheek by Jowl) and King Lear (RSC Academy), has taken up the role of Portia in Rebecca Gatward's production of the Merchant Of Venice at the Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, running until 6 October. Tickets cost £5 to £32.

For further information contact [Kate Morley](#) on +44 (0) 7970 465 648.

The Pain and the Itch

The Pain and the Itch extends two weeks to 4 Aug at the Royal Court Theatre Downstairs. Directed by Dominic Cooke, the cast includes Matthew Macfadyen & Amanda Boxer.

For further information [click here](#).



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