



## Visit London What's New Press Briefing

March 2007

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The Ideal Home Show comes to Earls Court this month. As well as this, London has a large number of new openings, exhibitions, events and shows to enjoy in March.



## Hotels

### Suite seduction at the May Fair

The May Fair has come up with the ultimate package for romance and decadence. For £2,000 per night, guests can enjoy complimentary car pick up (within the M25), a one-night stay in a one-bedroom Signature Suite, a bottle of champagne on arrival, Jo Malone oils/essences, an Agent Provocateur 'accessory', in-room dining for two, chocolate-dipped strawberries, a dozen roses and breakfast for two the next morning. Packages are valid on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. For further information contact [Anna Reid](#) on +44 (0) 20 7812 7326.

### Bespoke Engagement package launched at the Landmark

To take the stress out of choosing an engagement ring, the Landmark London has launched a new Bespoke Engagement Package, which will be available throughout 2007. The package includes a personal appointment with HIRSH, a specialist jeweller, and can be arranged in the privacy of the newly engaged couple's suite at the Landmark. Also included in the package is an overnight stay at the Landmark, a bottle of chilled Champagne and a bouquet of roses, dinner for two at the Winter Garden Restaurant and breakfast in bed the next morning. The package costs £560 per couple. For further information contact [Alison Hull](#) on +44 (0) 20 7837 8808.

### Cheval Apartments

Knightsbridge based Cheval Apartments is offering a 10% discount on all apartments along with complimentary wireless broadband throughout March. Discount prices start from £1,435 for a week long stay (£205 per night) in a two bedroom apartment. For further information contact [Helen Foster](#) on +44 (0) 20 7837 8808.

### A girls night in that's poles apart

myhotel Chelsea is offering a new package that is perfect for a special girl's night in. mySex & the City weekend package includes overnight accommodation with continental breakfast, an inclusive two-hour pole dancing lesson within one of the hotel's event spaces, a facial or back, head and shoulder massage at jinja, myhotel's dedicated treatment room, a bottle of Moutard Prestige Rose NV champagne, a chocolate fountain in the room with marshmallows and fresh fruit, and a range of on-loan DVDs including the complete Sex & the City series and some other girly movies. This package starts at £149.50 per person based on two people sharing a double room. For further information contact [Ben Groom](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

### **Mother's Day at Jumeirah Carlton Tower**

The Jumeirah Carlton Tower has come up with a pampering Mother's Day package. The offer includes overnight accommodation, afternoon tea for two in the Chinoiserie, a special floral bouquet for Mum on arrival, a luxurious Jo Malone gift, chocolate dipped strawberries and a bottle of champagne on arrival. The package starts at £309 per room per night. For further information contact [Haifa Brewer](#) on +44 (0) 20 7235 1234.

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## **Attractions**

### **Banjo Lake opens**

Banjo Lake in Stanstead Abbots will be officially opened on 16 March. Extensive regeneration work has been carried out on Banjo Lake over the last twelve months and with just over five acres this mature gravel pit is a new Lee Valley Regional Park day ticket fishery for carp anglers. The Lake has eleven formal swims available and is primarily stocked with Carp plus Rudd, Perch and Tench. The water also has many underwater features including gravel bars, plateaus, gullies, tree stumps and expansive weed beds.

For further information contact [Jenny Plested](#) on +44 (0) 1992 709 830.

### **Lectures at Shakespeare's Globe**

Educational lectures taking place at Shakespeare's globe in March include 'Veiled Women and Men of Dignity' on 13 March from 7-8pm. Farah Karim-Cooper and Jenny Tiramani will explore issues relating to Venetian dress, cosmetic luxury and English self-fashioning on the Renaissance stage. Tickets cost £5 or £3 for students.

For further information contact [Louise Curran](#) on +44 (0) 20 7902 1492.

### **London Glassblowing Spring 2007 open weekend**

From 30 March to 1 April London Glassblowing will be holding its open weekend where visitors will be able to purchase new designs and original pieces to suit every taste and budget. The gallery will be open throughout the weekend with drinks and nibbles for all visitors, as well as glassblowing demonstrations.

For further information contact [Sylvie Marks](#) on +44 (0) 20 7403 2800.

### **Mothers Day at the Royal Air Force Museum**

On the 17 and 18 March children will have the chance to write an Evacuee style letter to their mums and make a 21st century Mother's Day card. With the children busy creating their gifts, parents can enjoy displays which include copies of letters from WWI and WWII to Mothers from Evacuees and copies of Mother's Day cards from WWI and WWII. Sessions take place on both days between 11am-1pm and 2-4pm.

For further information contact [Ajay Srivastava](#) on +44 (0) 20 8358 4896.

### **Mother's Day Mississippi cruise**

On 18 March the Dixie Queen, London's largest cruising five-star riverboat will be hosting a Mother's Day cruise. Guests board at Tower Pier at 12.30pm for a welcoming drink and a 'magic' reception. Entertainment will consist of a Jazz band along with magicians and characterists who will mingle with the guests. Tower Bridge will be raised especially for the occasion and every mother will receive a special gift. A three-course silver served lunch will be served as the cruise takes in the Thames for a cost of £49 for adults and £25 for children.

For further information contact [Nigel Scandrett](#).

### **Kew Palace Reopens**

On Saturday March 24 Kew Palace, the countryside retreat of King George III and his family, will reopen its doors to the public after a brief winter closure period. After a hugely successful opening season in 2006, when this petite royal palace opened its doors following a decade-long £6.6 million conservation and restoration project, visitors will once again be able to enjoy this most modest and unexpected of royal residences. Entrance to Kew Palace is £5 for adults, £3 for children and £4 concessions.

For further information contact [Sarah Watson](#) on +44 (0) 20 3166 6166.

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## Exhibitions

### **Leon Kossoff: Drawing from Painting**

Leon Kossoff is one of Britain's most significant and respected artists. This exhibition, which takes place from 14 March to 1 July at the National Gallery's Sunley Room, explores the artist's deep relationship with the Old Masters and with the pictures in the National Gallery in particular. About 60 works will be on display - including paintings, drawings and prints - most of which have never been seen in public before.

For further information contact [Nansi O'Connor](#) on +44 (0) 20 7747 2596.

### **A Slap in the Face at Estoric Collection**

From 28 March to 10 June the Estoric Collection of Modern Italian Art will host the first exhibition in England to focus on the complex and fascinating relationship between Russian and Italian Futurism. A Slap in the Face! Futurists in Russia explores the energetic, creative and occasionally violent encounter of East and West in the arena of avant-garde art. Admission is £3.50 or £2.50 concessions.

For further information contact [Sue Bond](#) on +44 (0) 1359 271085.

### **A New World, England's First View of America**

John White sailed with the earliest expeditions to Virginia in the 1580s and produced a series of watercolours that documented the complex and sophisticated culture of the North Carolina Algonquin Indians and the local flora and fauna. All of White's drawings will go on public display as a group for the first time in forty years. The exhibition will take place from 15 March until 17 June in Room 5 of the British Museum, admission is £7.

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

### **Surreal Things: Surrealism and Design**

The V&A's major spring exhibition, Surreal Things, will be the first to explore the influence of Surrealism on the world of design - theatre, fashion, film, architecture and advertising. Alongside paintings by Magritte, Ernst and Dali will be some of the most extraordinary objects of the 20th century, from Dali's Mae West Lips sofa and Lobster Telephone to Elsa Schiaparelli's dramatic 'Tear' and 'Skeleton' dresses, and Meret Oppenheim's Table with Bird's Legs. The exhibition will take place from 29 March to 22 July, admission is £9, £7 for senior citizens and £5 for students.

For further information contact [Michael Murray](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 2503.

### **The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings**

The first exhibition to be devoted to Monet's drawings and pastels will open at the Royal Academy of Arts on 17 March. The Unknown Monet: Pastels and Drawings will offer a revolutionary new interpretation of the artist's life and works with around 80 works drawn together from private collections and museums in the USA, Europe and Japan, that will make the link between the works on paper and on canvas. Admission is £8 with concessions from £2.

For further information contact [Lara Raymond](#) on +44 (0) 20 7300 5614.

### **In Stores Now**

An 'In Stores Now' series of exhibitions and events will take place throughout central London during 2007, starting in March. Organised by artist Graham Carrick, the events are intended to expose art to a wider audience. Each exhibition will be displayed in a different area of central London beginning with Covent Garden. The shows utilise storefronts and vacant commercial spaces to create an unusual and interesting viewing experience, complete with a map for a mini art treasure hunt. The exhibition takes place from 1-14 March and participating stores include Coffee Cake and Kink, the UK's only erotic cafe gallery, Paul Smith, Coco De Mer, Russell and Shapple and L and V.

For further information contact [Sonia Cassidy](#) on +44 (0) 20 7419 2996.

### **Britian on View**

Britian on View is a photographic exhibition of British countryside and coastline that takes place from 1-18 March at The Gallery, Oxo Tower Wharf. The exhibition features images of England, Wales,

Scotland and Northern Ireland taken by some of Britain's finest landscape photographers including Rod Edwards, David Sellman, Charlie Waite and the award winning landscape photographer Joe Cornish. Entrance to the exhibition is free.

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

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## Events

### Daily Mail Ideal Home Show

The Daily Mail Ideal Home Show will take place at Earls Court from 9 March to 1 April and brings together the very latest in home design, must-have products and accessories, exciting innovation and expert advice from the UK's interior design world all under one roof. This year's central feature is a whole town which includes three environmentally-friendly house designs as well as a two square, green spaces and even a pub.

For further information contact [Marie Cox](#) on +44 (0) 20 8515 2117.

### The Baby Show

The Baby Show will take place at Excel from 9-11 March. It is the biggest event of its kind and is designed to keep parents and parents-to-be up to date with the latest products and innovations and provide them with everything needed for pregnancy, birth, baby and beyond. Tickets are £9.50 in advance and £10.50 on the door.

For further information contact [Katie Creagh-Barry](#) on +44 (0) 20 7801 1630.

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## Bars & Restaurants

### Benja

Benja has recently opened in Soho's Beak Street, introducing a new type of Thai cuisine to the London restaurant scene. Drawing its inspiration from the flavours and tastes of royal Siam, Benja's philosophy is based on traditions going back over 200 years. Benja seats 60 and is spread over three floors with each floor offering a unique and distinct dining experience. Set lunch costs £12.50 with A la Carte at £35.

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

### Afternoon tea at the Orangery, Kensington Palace

The Orangery, Kensington Palace is serving Britain's only home grown tea from the Tregothnan estate in Cornwall. The afternoon tea includes a flute of Chiltern Valley sparkling wine, fruit scones with Cornish clotted cream, fresh fruit tarts, pastries and cakes. This all costs £24.95 per person.

For further information contact [Claudia Kellermann](#) on +44 (0) 20 7483 0030.

### Bespoke Shochu launches

Shochu Lounge on Charlotte Street has launched Bespoke Shochu, a new service that promises to take shochu tonics to a different level. Originally served in Northern Japan, and prized for its medicinal attributes, shochu tonic has been compared to gin or vodka. Following a consultation with the shochu master, who will gauge the exact preferences of the client, guests will then be presented with a large jar or bottle of 'Bespoke Shochu', complete with its own label, which can then be kept on the premises for future visits, enjoyed at home or given as a gift. The package costs £110.

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

### The Westbridge Public House and Dining Rooms

The Westbridge Public House and Dining Rooms has recently opened just South of Battersea Bridge. The menu combines English public house classics such as beer-battered cod with minted mushy peas and hand-cut chips, next to more ambitious fare such as pan-fried skate wing with caramelised chicory. The Westbridge has a large comfortable bar as well as a private dining room, ideally suited for large dinners of up to 60 people and The Bridge Bar, which can accommodate up to 100 for drinks and dancing.

For further information contact [Jasmin Pelham](#) on +44 (0) 20 8969 3959.

### **New Chef and menu at Lanes Restaurant and Bar**

Liam Cooper has recently been appointed as head chef at Lanes Restaurant and Bar, Middlesex Street, E1. The new menu that Liam has brought to the restaurant combines British and Modern European influences and features black pudding and poached rainbow trout with mustard and nettle sauce; roasted partridge with morel and lardon risotto; and herb-crusted fillet of turbot with 'Anna' potatoes and Madeira sauce.

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

### **The Temperance**

The Temperance, a new public house and dining room has opened on York Street in Marylebone. With traditional pub bar space on the ground floor and an informal first floor dining room, The Temperance is open for drinks, lunch and dinner daily, as well as for weekend brunch and Sunday lunch. The Temperance serves quality pub food, hand poured ales and Old World wines and is a non-smoking environment.

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

### **Beatles coffee shop opens close to Abbey Road**

A new Beatles coffee shop has opened in St John's Wood, just yards away from Abbey Road studios and the famous crossing. Owner Richard Pirter has been a Beatles and rock and roll tour guide for the past 15 years. The coffee shop sells hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and pastries and a wide range of Beatles and Abbey Road Studios merchandise.

For further information contact [Richard Porter](#) on +44 (0) 20 8960 2092.

### **Ristorante Semplice opens in Mayfair**

Two Italians - chef Marco Torri and manager Giovanni Baldino - will open their first independent restaurant in Mayfair on 7 March. Ristorante Semplice will be a 55-seat site just off Bond Street, at 10 Blenheim Street. It will focus on Italian food with modest prices and Italian ingredients sourced directly from small regional Italian producers. Typical items on the launch menu include Home cured duck breast with rocket, pea shoots and Sardinian bread; Grilled octopus with a salad of carrot, ginger and Sarawak pepper and Ravioli filled with Taleggio and aubergine. A la carte prices start from £6.50 for starters and £7.50 for pasta/ risotto, £13 for mains and £6 for deserts.

For further information contact [Maureen Mills](#) on +44 (00 20 8947 4474).

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## **Theatre & Film**

### **Five Guys Named Moe**

Sir Cameron Mackintosh's smash hit West End and Broadway musical Five Guys Named Moe returns to the UK stage in a new performance for 2007 starring James Bellamy from ITV's The X Factor as Little Moe. The production will run from 23-31 March at the Ashcroft Theatre, Fairfield, Croydon. The musical by Clarke Peters features the greatest hits of Louis Jordon, with instantly recognisable classics such as Early In The Morning, Don't Let The Sun Catch Your Crying and Is You Is Or Is You Aint My Baby. Tickets cost from £19.50.

For further information contact [Laura Roberts](#) on +44 (0) 20 8603 3931.

### **Face Value - The Diary of a Menopausal Diva**

Face Value is a topical comedy about society's obsession with youth, beauty and transformation. It is a one-woman play, populated by a 'cast of thousands'....all played by Louise Jameson. Taking place at the Hackney Empire from 1-17 March. Tickets cost £12.50 or £9 concession.

For further information contact [Allan Watson](#) on +44 (0) 20 8510 4505.

### **Dido and Aeneas at Sadlers Wells**

Sasha Waltz has adapted Purcell's Dido and Aeneas bringing dance and opera together in a work for over 40 dancers, singers and musicians. Waltz, a leading light in German tanztheater is celebrated for her striking choreography and staging. This production brings a sense of the spectacular to Sadler's Wells with a vast transparent water tank in which the dancers take part in an exquisite underwater dance. Tickets cost between £13 and £55. Performances take place from 14-

18 March.

For further information contact [Abigail Desch](#) on +44 (0) 20 7863 8119.



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