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Visit London What's New Press Briefing

22 July 2008

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Welcome to What's New for August, which now includes shopping news and a Top 5. There's plenty to choose from this month, including new attraction Ripley's Believe It Or Not and lots of events to celebrate the Beijing Olympics and countdown to the Olympic handover. For more listings go to www.visitlondon.com



Top 5

1. [Ripley's Believe It Or Not](#) - New museum of the odd and bizarre.
2. [Carnaval del Pueblo](#) - The spirit of Latin America in South London.
3. [National Youth Theatre 2008 season](#) - A bold programme on the theme of 'worlds apart.'
4. [Fashion V Sport at the V&A](#) - Explore the relationship between fashion and sportswear.
5. [Get Loaded in the Park](#) - Top musical line-up on Clapham Common.

Attractions

Ripley's Believe It Or Not opens in London

America's famous exhibition of the odd and bizarre, Ripley's Believe It Or Not, will open in the Trocadero in August. It will fill 5 floors with unusual exhibits, including a 4-metre long model of Tower Bridge made out of matchsticks and a 16th-century iron maiden from Germany. Ripley's attractions are already a global success with over 13 million visitors annually. For press information contact [Joanne Shepherd](#) on +44 (0)207 067 0415.

Best of British at Madame Tussauds

Madame Tussauds is planning a celebration of all things British. Take afternoon tea with the Queen or pick up some cockney rhyming slang as the venue launches a month of themed entertainment. 4-31 August, tickets from £12.50. For press information contact [Lucy Howell](#).

London Wetland Centre

London Wetland Centre is running a series of events over August, including night-time safaris for children; 'big batty walks' where participants can venture out with a bat detector under guidance of an expert; and Wild Harvest Weekend where visitors can learn about the free and abundant wild food grown at the centre. For press information contact [Stasa Veroukis](#).

London Zoo by night

For one night only London Zoo will open its doors after hours to give a unique view of the animals up close as the sun goes down. Watch the zoo come alive and enjoy music from a Caribbean steel band, as well as a dance troupe with a fire-dancing finale. 1 August 6.30-10pm, tickets from £12.30. For press information contact [Lynsey Ford](#) on +44 (0)20 7449 6288.

New Chocolate Ecstasy Tour

After more than 2 years of showing locals and tourists the best chocolate shops in Piccadilly and

Marylebone, Chocolate Ecstasy Tours have launched a second chocolate walking tour in Chelsea and Knightsbridge. Tour the finest chocolate boutiques and sample their best chocolates. The tour is a delicious and indulgent way to learn about London and chocolate. Guests receive exclusive discounts in all the shops visited along the way. Tickets £65 per person. Tour runs from 10am-3pm, various dates. For press information contact [Jennifer Earle](#).

Exhibitions

Fashion V Sport at the V&A

This new exhibition explores the relationship between contemporary fashion and global sportswear brands; two industries that have increasingly collaborated in recent years. On display will be over 60 outfits and work by designers, such as Stella McCartney, who have designed sports ranges. There will also be drawings, photographs and film to examine the products in more detail. 5 August -14 December. Admission £5. For press information contact [Meera Hindocha](#).

Zhou Jun – Bird’s Nest Project

Photographer Zhou Jun's works are to be displayed in Europe for the first time. Zhou Jun's work emerges from construction sites and testifies to his ambivalent feelings about the exciting expansion of Chinese cities that inevitably erodes and subverts traditional architecture. He has developed his own unique narrative language using black and white images on which certain areas, particularly the scaffolding, are highlighted in red. 7-29 August. Free entry. For press information contact [Annie Roper](#).

Britain United

Adidas is celebrating the Beijing Olympic Games with a giant outdoor exhibition in Central London. The photographic and digital exhibition, entitled Britain United and situated on London's Southbank, features 20 Olympic and Paralympic athletes on 2.5m high back-lit frames, which can be seen from across the Thames. The athletes showcased include British diving prodigy Tom Daley, Olympic and Commonwealth Games gold medalist Marlon Devonish, London Marathon winner and Paralympian Shelley Woods and World Champion track cyclist Victoria Pendleton. 1 August-17 September. For press information contact [Deborah Hughes](#) on +44 (0)20 7413 3407.

Events

Carnaval del Pueblo

Europe's largest free Latin American festival brings the streets of South London to life this August. The event kicks off at City Hall, at midday and proceeds to Burgess Park, Camberwell. There will be entertainment in the park all day including Mexican Mariachi and Brazilian Samba. There will also be food, arts and crafts, and children's activities, including a fun fair. 3 August. For press information contact [Monica Bergos](#).

Shoreditch Festival

The Shoreditch Festival returns with a programme of events, activities and performances around the East End. Twinning the themes of arts and sports in the run up to the Olympic handover, the festival will feature physical as well as cultural activities. The festival includes a free party in Shoreditch Park, a mass cycling event (Tour de Hackney) and the Hackney Handover - a 1948-themed party. The festival also incorporates the LIFT festival, a mobile arts venue. From 16-24 August. For press information contact [Jacqui Roberts](#).

The Best of Bollywood at The O2

Stars of Bollywood are heading to the UK for The Unforgettable Tour on 24 August. Treating Indian film fans to a night of sizzling Bollywood entertainment, the tour features some of Bollywood's biggest stars including Amitabh, Abhishek and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. The London date will also feature a special guest appearance from Shilpa Shetty. As well as entertain, the show aims to educate fans on the issue of climate change. Tickets from £38.50. For press information contact [Natasha Mudhar](#) on +44 (0)20 7801 0077.

Trafalgar Square Festival

From 7-23 August, Trafalgar Square will host 3 weeks of spectacular street arts and performance. The festival takes place over the 3 weekends prior to the Olympic Handover, when London will officially become the host city. To celebrate, each week will have a different theme: Week 1 - China Inspires, Week 2 - Olympic Aspirations, Week 3 - Images of London. For media information contact the [press office](#).

Get Loaded in the Park

A huge line-up of top musical acts head to Clapham Common this August for the 5th annual Get Loaded in the Park. This year's headliner is the legendary Iggy Pop alongside Iggy & The Stooges. Other acts include Supergrass, Kate Nash, The Hives, The Maccabees, Reverend and The Makers and lots more. 24 August from 12-9pm. Tickets £35. For press information contact [Paul Stix](#).

London Mela

Celebrate Asian culture and creativity at London Mela 2008. With artists and entertainment from classical to contemporary, Mela is open to people from all communities. The main stage will be hosted by BBC Asian Network's best known DJs and will feature a fantastic line-up of Asian artists. 10 August, noon-8.30pm. Free entry. For press information contact press@londonmela.org.

Sue Ryder Care's Beat the Baton

Raise money for charity and take part in a run with a difference on 25 August. Beat the Baton made history last year as the first running event set to live music. This year it's back at Battersea Park, featuring The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, conducted by Anthony Inglis, to inspire and encourage runners around the course. All fitness levels are welcome and participants can choose between a 5k or 10k run. All money raised will go to Sue Ryder Care and help people living with conditions such as stroke, Parkinson's disease and cancer. For press information contact [Alice Clements](mailto:Alice.Clements) on +44 (0)7795 801 479.

IGLFA World Championships 2008

The International Gay and Lesbian Football Association World Championships are being hosted in London's Regent's Park this summer. It will be one of the largest ever tournaments, with over 50 squads competing. There will also be events and ceremonies to compliment the event, including an exhibition exploring the history of gay football in the UK. 24-30 August. For press information contact [Tom Price](mailto:Tom.Price).

Liberty - London's Disability Rights Festival

This free festival celebrates the contribution of deaf and disabled people to London's culture. The programme features a line up of street dance, circus, music, comedy and children's activities. The festival aims to be inclusive and accessible and available services on the day include disability aware stewards, induction loops and wheelchair loan. 30 August, 1pm-6pm. Free entry. For more information email liberty@london.gov.uk.

Visa London 2012 Party

To celebrate the handover of the Olympic flag from Beijing to London, there will be a free concert in London for over 40,000 people on 24 August. The party will take place on The Mall and there will also be giant screens so people can watch the Handover Ceremony taking place in Beijing. Performers will be announced in coming weeks. Tickets were allocated via a free ballot. For press information contact the London 2012 Press Office on +44 (0)20 3201 2100.

Shopping**New stores opening in Carnaby**

Carnaby has 3 new stores opening this month to add to its diverse shopping experience: Dahlia, an eccentric British fashion house, opens in Foubert's Place offering feminine jackets and cute gingham dresses inspired by mixing retro eras; designer boutique twosee opens, bringing global fashion talent to Carnaby; and Hurwundeki is launching an exclusive new collection of menswear and womenswear to Carnaby. For press information contact [Sarah Mole](mailto:Sarah.Mole).

Luxury shopping at The Lanesborough

Luxury hotel The Lanesborough has launched an online shopping service, allowing customers to take home The Lanesborough experience. Products include accessories, children's toys and a selection of glasses. To view the range go to www.lanesborough.com/shop

Bars & Restaurants**RS Lounge – new luxury venue opens**

The RS Lounge is a new luxury 2-floor venue between East London and Epping Forest. There are 3 main areas in the bar: the Al Fresco Terrace, the Lounge Bar and the Main Bar. Already becoming a celebrity favourite, each room has a different ambience – from the LED lit ceiling of The Main Bar to the wooden decked terrace outside. The RS Lounge features a cocktail menu using premium brands and an extensive wine list. There is also a full food menu. Open now. For press information contact [Sarah Roberts](mailto:Sarah.Roberts) on +44 (0)20 7392 2664.

New Al Fresco menu at Curve

Curve Restaurant & Bar in Canary Wharf has launched a new "Al Fresco Menu", featuring a range of exciting summery dishes and delicious ice-creams, perfect for enjoying on Curve's outside dining terrace. The new menu offers an enticing selection of nine "Light Bites" and four "Large Bites" using market-fresh fish and seafood. Dishes include crab and avocado salad with butter bib lettuce and goji berry dressing and flame grilled king prawns with white wine and garlic. Prices start from £4.50. For press information contact [Linsey Brown](mailto:Linsey.Brown).

Theatre & Film

Gigi at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park

Lerner and Loewe's classic musical returns to London. Set against the Belle Epoque of Paris, Gigi is unwittingly groomed in the family tradition as a courtesan, but challenges convention when she captures the heart of a rich bon vivant. Both witty and charming, Gigi includes the songs "Thank Heaven for Little Girls", "The Night They Invented Champagne" and "I Remember It Well". The musical stars Topol as Honoré, Millicent Martin as Mamita and Lisa O'Hare as Gigi. From 14 August. For press information contact [The Corner Shop PR](#) on +44 (0)20 7494 3665.

National Youth Theatre 2008 Season

The National Youth Theatre opens a programme of events around the theme 'worlds apart.' The programme includes bold political comedy, *Tory Boyz*; brave new play *Out of Me*, which explores the abortion debate from the perspective of four young women; and *Sick Room*, an evening of sketches and comedy based around the 60th birthday of the NHS. From 15 August-13 September. For more information www.nyt.org.uk

Forty at the Hackney Empire

Five women meet for the first time in 25 years to celebrate Carol's 40th birthday. What starts out to be an entertaining reunion is interrupted with issues of the past that come home to roost. These friends arrive with great expectations of each other. How will they live up to them? Is the night going to be a complete disaster for Carol? Starring Angie Le Mar. From 2-17 August. Tickets £17.50. For press information contact [Allan Watson](#) on +44 (0)20 8510 4505.

Hotels**Guest Hotels open Nest**

Guest Hotels brings its 'art meets accommodation' philosophy to Bayswater with the opening of Nest. It boasts 5 floors of continually changing photographic exhibitions, and all guests are granted membership of the hotel's Concierge Club which allows guests exclusive access to the London arts scene. This includes priority access, promotions and special events featuring the best of creative London. For press information call +44 (0)20 7747 6894.

Families go 'duck crazy' at Chancery Court

The Renaissance Chancery Court Hotel has launched a new duck-themed package for families. This includes a Duck Tour (on the famous DUKW vehicle), a welcome pack for kids featuring the Chancery Court duck family, a 'duck passport' to collect stamps during the stay and homemade duck lollies and cookies. From £395.00 per room for a 2 night stay for up to 2 adults and 2 children with a full English breakfast. For press information contact [Dan Corfield](#).

'Shop in the City' at the Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel

Shopaholics will be in heaven with the new package at the Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel. It launches just in time for the Harvey Nichols sale and includes: a personal shopping service, Knightsbridge shopping guide, a Pevonia foot care pack, complimentary use of the spa and one night's accommodation with breakfast for two. Guests will also receive a £50 Harvey Nichols voucher. From £276+VAT per room per night based on 2 people sharing. For press information contact [Beth Cooper PR](#).

Re-launch of Spa at 51 Buckingham Gate

The Spa at 51 Buckingham Gate, Taj Suites & Residences is re-launching and introducing Parisian "haute couture" spa and beauty brand Anne Sémonin. It is set to become a firm favourite with guests, members and Londoners alike. The treatments are bespoke for each client, following a full consultation. A range of facials and spa treatments are available. For press information contact [Linda Petrie](#).

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