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Visit London What's New Press Briefing

28 December 2007

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Enjoy a light-hearted January in London with The Comedy Festival at the Science Museum's Dana Centre, or examine the role of laughter in art at The Hayward Gallery. Other highlights include the performing arts extravaganza Afrika! Afrika! at The O2 and rejuvenating packages from The Berkeley Spa and the Spa at Bluebird. See our website for more listings www.visitlondon.com

Hotels

'Ready Set Rejuvenate' at The Berkeley Spa

'Ready Set Rejuvenate' at [The Berkeley Spa](#) is the new start every festive season casualty is in need of. The package includes body brushing, an exfoliating aromatherapy scrub and lymphatic drainage and can be tweaked to suit individual needs. It also includes a facial cleanse and massage. For more information contact [Zae Greenwood](#) on +44 (0)20 7201 1618.

Shop in style with Myhotels

[Myhotels](#) have created a luxurious one-night shopping package for those who want to make the most of London's incredible range of boutiques, shops and department stores. The package includes one night's bed and breakfast accommodation, a welcome cocktail, private transport to and from a local shopping area and a calming or Indian head massage. Available at myhotel Bloomsbury and myhotel Chelsea from £99.50 per person. For more information contact [Ben Groom](#) on +44 (0)20 7436 1111.

Attractions

Collect at the V&A

[Collect: the international art fair for contemporary objects](#) will be staged at the V&A from 25 to 29 January. Organised by the Crafts Council UK, it provides a unique opportunity to view and buy the most desirable and collectible contemporary craft from around the globe within the distinguished setting of the V&A, the world's largest museum of decorative arts. For further information please contact [Sue Bond Public Relations](#) on +44 (0)1359 271085 or [Jill Read](#), Crafts Council Press Office on +44 (0)20 7806 2549.

Exhibitions

Art In The Garden at The Hospital Club, Endell Street

[The Hospital Club](#) is to host an exhibition of art by people living or working in the Covent Garden area. Showcased in the club's gallery, paintings, drawings, sculpture, fabrics, photography and video are all eligible. The exhibition runs from 30 January to 10 February. For more details contact Katie Blanch on +44 (0)20 7436 3633.

Anti-Gravity at Forster

Young British urban artist Andrew McAttee will be launching his much anticipated riotous new work in an ambitious solo show Anti-Gravity at the end of January at Forster. The artist's work delicately balances dreamy other-worldly landscapes with his trademark psychedelic palette in vast pop art canvases that will dominate the east London gallery. The exhibition runs from 31 January to 8 March. For more information contact [Zoë Franklin](#) on +44 (0)20 7749 6850.

Cracks in Time, Geraldine Swayne at The Aquarium

London based painter Geraldine Swayne will be launching her first solo exhibition Cracks in Time at The Aquarium from 31 January to 1 March. Painter, writer, musician, photographer and film maker, Geraldine Swayne makes darkly seductive paintings, which take the viewer into a weird and emotive world. For further information please contact [Liz Barrett](#) on +44 (0)20 7749 6853.

Laughing in a Foreign Language at The Hayward Gallery

This new exhibition at [The Hayward](#) explores the role of laughter and humour in contemporary art. Can humour only be appreciated by people with similar cultural, political or historical backgrounds and memories, or can laughter act as a catalyst for understanding the unfamiliar? Laughing in a Foreign Language investigates the whole spectrum of humour, from jokes, gags and slapstick to irony and satire from 25 January to 13 April. For more information contact [Elinor Hughes](#) on +44 (0) 20 7921 0888.

Events**SAGA Insurance Masters snooker tournament**

Ronnie O'Sullivan, Stephen Hendry, Steve Davis and John Higgins will be among snooker's top stars at Wembley Arena for the sport's most prestigious invitation tournament - the SAGA Insurance Masters. Around 10,000 fans are expected to visit the event, which runs from 13 to 20 January. For more information contact [Ivan Hirschowitz](#) on +44 (0)207 5800 185.

Sampled 2008 Dance Weekender

[Sadler's Wells'](#) groundbreaking dance weekend, Sampled, returns on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 January providing audiences with an exceptional opportunity to experience a diverse range of dance styles, all for only £10 a night. Sampled features dance performances from seven contrasting artists including ballet dancers, hip hop breakers and flamenco divas. Audience members can also participate in beginners' workshops. For more information contact [Erin Crivelli](#) on +44 (0)20 7863 8125.

Comedy festival at the Science Museum's Dana Centre

Get ready for a mind-expanding giggle and to explore science through comedy at the [Dana Centre's](#) first comedy festival. Take part in a humour survey with Chris Green (10 January), join award-winning comedian John Ryan for Hurt Until it Laughs (24 January) and discover the answers to the trickiest of questions with Dana's comedy regulars Punk Science (29 Jan). For more information contact [Kerry Law](#) on +44 (0)20 7942 4328.

Bars & Restaurants**Re-invigorate and relax at Bluebird**

Kickstart the New Year with [Bluebird](#) restaurant. Executive Chef Mark Broadbent has created a super foods enriched menu, packed with nutrients such as Omega 3, antioxidants, iron and vitamins, available during January and February. The Bluebird Bar will be serving a selection of healthy fruit and vegetable based cocktails. Visitors to the Spa at Bluebird will enjoy a complimentary nutritional and skincare consultation and a 10% discount on their first treatment. For more information contact [Annabelle Tilley](#) or [Alpana Deshmukh](#) on +44 (0) 20 7716 7811/7893.

Beat the January blues at Lucky Voice

[Lucky Voice](#) private karaoke is offering 50% off room hire this January so you and your friends can sing the night away in one of their beautifully designed private rooms for a fraction of the usual cost. The offer is available every day in January from 6pm to 1am. Contact [Emma Gordan](#) on +44 (0)20 7307 7767 for more information.

Theatre & Film**Get Into London Theatre**

[Get Into London Theatre](#) offers everyone the chance to experience the glitz and glamour of London's world famous theatreland for as little as £15. Enjoy unbelievable ticket offers for a host of top London shows, including Lord of the Rings and Mamma Mia, for performances from 3 January to 8 February. For more information contact [Gemma Fordham](#) or [Susanna Underwood](#) on +44 (0) 20 7284 5911.

Afrika! Afrika! at The O2

A stunning fusion of performing arts from the continent of Africa, this 'magical circus' has already wowed 1.5 million people worldwide. [Afrika! Afrika!](#) features dance, music and over 100 artistes. It takes place from 17 January to 19 April at specially crafted 'tented palaces' on the O2 site. For further information contact [Natalie Whorms](#) or [Cassie Jenkins](#) on + 44 (0)20 7436 3633.

High School Musical at Churchill Theatre, Bromley

This first-ever UK tour of [High School Musical](#) will begin at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley in January and then visit over 30 venues across the UK throughout the year. This new stage adaptation of the hit movie includes all the songs from the original chart topping soundtrack. For more information contact [Ryan Petersen](#) on + 44 (0)20 7494 3665.

Cirque du Soleil's Varekai, Royal Albert Hall

[Cirque du Soleil](#) brings its amazing new show to London this January. Varekai (meaning 'wherever' in Romany) engages the spirit and art of the circus tradition with jaw-dropping acrobatic choreography set to beautifully crafted music. The show will run from 6 January to 3 February. For further information contact [Jo Fiddy](#) on +44 (0)20 7419 7335.

Happy Now? at the Cottesloe Theatre

A new play by Lucinda Coxon. A chance encounter at a conference hotel plays on Kitty's mind as she struggles to balance personal freedom with family life, fidelity and a testing job. Previews from 16 January. For more information contact Jennifer Reynolds on +44 (0)20 7452 3233.

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