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Visit London What's New Press Briefing

2 June 2008

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June is packed with events in London; highlights include the London Festival of Architecture, the Blackheath Bike and Kite Festival and free theatre as part of West End Live in Leicester Square. Alternatively, spend an evening at one of the capital's museums or galleries as part of the Mayor's Lates festival. For more listings, go to visitlondon.com



Hotels

Sofitel London Heathrow opening

Opening this June, the Sofitel London Heathrow is set to become one of the largest luxury airport hotel, meeting and events venues in Europe. Directly connected to Terminal 5 via a link-bridge, the 605-bedroom hotel is situated at the heart of one of the most strategically important locations in the UK and is destined to attract international acclaim. For press information contact [Deborah Parritt](#) on +44 (0)20 7483 0030.

SATC package at K West Hotel & Spa

You might never get your hands on Carrie's to-die-for wardrobe, but now you and your Mr Big can live life SATC-style with K West's hot new package, including a night in a K Suite featuring a variety of erotic treats from the 'Nookii Drawers', champagne breakfast in bed, a cocktail in the K Lounge and a pampering spa treatment. £250 per person per night, based on two people sharing. For press information contact [Verena Neumayr](#) on +44 (0)20 7288 0800.

Inspired by Pearl Lowe at The Spa at Chancery Court

This summer, the Spa at Chancery Court launches a new range of treatments in collaboration with British style icon, designer and reformed rock chick Pearl Lowe. Using ESPA products, the Inspired menu consists of four treatments including the 'Black Pearl' massage, a gothic inspired massage experience; and the luxurious 'Rock and Rose' treatment, designed to leave guests glowing and refreshed. Prices start from £95. For press information contact [Dan Corfield](#) on +44 (0)20 7829 7085.

Culinary Days at Brown's Hotel

Rocco Forte's Brown's Hotel will be hosting a series of Culinary Days, focusing on creating the finest seasonal dishes with the freshest of specially-sourced produce. Each class will have a maximum of 6 people, offering participants the perfect environment in which to soak up the knowledge of one of London's most talented executive chefs, Lee Streeton. The class on 14 June will focus on summer seasonal ingredients such as lobster, asparagus and strawberries. Price £150 per person. For press information contact [Nina Colls](#) on +44 (0)20 7518 4169.

Jack the Ripper Weekend Package

To mark the opening of the new 'Jack the Ripper and the East End' exhibition at Museum in Docklands, the five-star London Marriott West India Quay Hotel has introduced a brand new weekend package. The package includes an overnight stay in an Executive guestroom, complimentary access to the hotel's Executive Lounge, plus two tickets to the Jack the Ripper exhibition which is just 2 minutes walk from the hotel. Costs from £136 per room per night (exc. VAT). For press information contact [Linsey Brown](#) on +44 (0)20 7288 0800.

Attractions

New Maritime Greenwich Observation Wheel

This summer sees a new addition to the landscape of Greenwich – a 180ft (55m) observation wheel. The wheel offers panoramic views past St Paul's Cathedral, Canary Wharf and, of course, a fantastic view of Maritime Greenwich World Heritage Site. The wheel will be situated within the grounds of the Old Royal Naval College in front of the Pepy's Building Visitor Centre and will be open to the public from Saturday 21 June to Sunday 28 September. Ticket prices: adult £7, child £4.50. For press information contact [Pat Edgar](#) on +44 (0)1494 764932.

Exhibitions**The Courtauld Cézannes**

For the first time, The Courtauld Gallery will be showing its entire collection of the works of Paul Cézanne. The gallery is known to have the finest collection of Cézanne works in Britain, including paintings, drawings and watercolours from the artist's long career. The Courtauld also holds an important group of 9 hand-written letters in which Cézanne reflects upon the fundamental principles of his art. From 26 June – 5 October. For press information contact [Sue Bond Public Relations](#).

The Last Debutantes at Kensington Palace

The Last Debutantes exhibition will draw visitors into the world of the debutante and the detailed preparations required for 'coming out' and The Season. The exhibition will feature accessories and stunning examples of couture dresses by Christian Dior, Pierre Balmain, Jacques Heim and Worth, worn by the debutantes for evening engagements and their official court presentations at Buckingham Palace. Opens 11 June. For press information contact [Catherine Steventon](#).

Raising the Roof: The Creation of Centre Court

The new exhibition at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum allows visitors to get close to Centre Court and trace its history back to 1921. The exhibition also looks at what the future might hold for Centre Court. Other highlights include samples of the famous grass for visitors to touch, details of the current roof project and wicker chairs from the Royal Box. Enquiries contact +44 (0)20 8946 6131.

Events**LATES**

The Mayor of London brings together the city's leading cultural institutions for a month-long festival of late-night events throughout June. Highlights include a tour of the Hayward Gallery's Psycho Buildings exhibition, followed by a party in the bar; a marathon screening of the Matrix Trilogy at the BFI IMAX; and a late Friday night at the Royal Academy of Arts Summer Show with live jazz and a Pimms bar. For press information contact [Ffion Williams](#).

London Festival of Architecture

London Festival of Architecture 2008 will be a major celebration of architecture and the built environment, inviting visitors to take a fresh look at London. Events range from lectures to exhibitions to a Jelly Banquet featuring dancing desserts and jelly architecture! The activity will move through 5 hub areas over 5 weekends, focusing on the theme of 'fresh'. From 20 June -20 July. For press information contact [Sarah Mclean](#) on +44 (0)20 7734 4800.

Blackheath Bike & Kite Festival

Watch the skies of Blackheath come alive with kites of all shapes, sizes and colours at the Blackheath Bike and Kite Festival. With free entry, the weekend long entertainment features mountain bike stunt displays, synchronised 'kite ballet' and kite traders giving everyone the chance to buy their own kite. Takes place 14 and 15 June, 11am-4pm. For press information contact Zoe Davies on +44 (0)20 8314 9042.

Prince Caspian premiere at The O2

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian will be the biggest film premiere ever in the UK. A giant cinema screen will be installed in the arena, which seats 10,000 people allowing the biggest shared audience experience ever. A host of the film's stars will attend the red carpet event on 19 June, including Liam Neeson, Ben Barnes and Anna Popplewell. The event will help to raise money for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. Tickets on sale now. For press information contact [Stephanie Jones](#) on +44 (0) 20 7536 1626.

Coutts London Jewellery Week

Coutts London Jewellery Week will be the first time that the jewellery industry has united to showcase the UK's status as one of the leading centres of global excellence for jewellery. From Hatton Garden to Knightsbridge, Bond Street to Green Street, the event will offer the public a journey of discovery into the wonderful world of jewellery across London, from established designers to undiscovered treasures exhibiting at numerous locations across the capital, including the Tower of London and Cockpit Arts. From 11-15 June. For press information contact [Charlotte](#)

Hastings on +44 (0)20 7630 1411.

Jazz in Regent's Park

Following last year's hugely popular free summer jazz concerts in Regent's Park, The Royal Parks is collaborating again with the 606 Club to present another sizzling 9 weeks of world class music on Sundays from 2.30-5pm. The internationally acclaimed Jim Mullen's Organ Trio kicks off the season on 22 June, and Julian Stringle's 'Dreamband' featuring Jacqui Hicks will perform on 29 June. For press information contact **Lucy Skipper** on +44 (0)20 7298 2145.

Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair

The Grosvenor House Art & Antiques Fair, one of the leading art and antiques fairs in the world, showcases the best examples of an extraordinary range of artefacts from the past 5000 years. Jewellery, furniture, paintings, silver, textiles, glass, contemporary art and antiquities are just some of the disciplines on sale at this prestigious fair, which takes place from 12-18 June at Grosvenor House on London's Park Lane. For further information call +44 (0)20 7399 8100.

Bars & Restaurants

Taste of London

A celebrated event in the food calendar, this year Taste of London will host over 40 of the capital's top restaurants in Regent's Park. Restaurants covering every kind of cuisine will be serving up their signature dishes. Flavours will include Indian (Tamarind and The Cinnamon Club) and French (Le Cercle) amongst others. Also this year the festival will host Taste of China as part of the China Now festival, including acclaimed Chinese restaurants China Tang and Lan. From 19-22 June. For press information contact Alex Irving on +44 (0)20 7257 6470.

Theatre & Film

West End Live

The energy and glamour of the West End will hit the streets again this summer as London's biggest free theatre festival returns to Leicester Square. Now in its fourth year, West End Live will feature world-class acts from musicals such as Avenue Q, Buddy, Chicago, Dirty Dancing, Grease The Musical, The Sound of Music, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Mamma Mia! Stomp and The Lord of the Rings. More than 150,000 people are expected to attend this year's event. It will take place from 11am to 6pm on Saturday 21 June and 12 noon to 6pm on Sunday 22 June. For press information contact Jenny Legg on +44 (0)207 641 2259.

BP Summer Screens

The Royal Opera House presents this summer's free BP Summer Big Screen performances of Romeo and Juliet, Don Carlo and The Marriage of Figaro, 3 contrasting masterpieces in the ballet and opera repertory. Starting with Romeo and Juliet on the 1 June, which will be broadcast live from Covent Garden to Trafalgar Square and Canary Wharf in London, as well as other destinations in the UK. For press information contact **Simon Magill**.

Zorro The Musical

Crackling with action and adventure, this multi-million pound musical thrillingly brings to life the legend of the masked Spanish hero, the original crusader of justice. Featuring a score by popular Latin musicians the Gipsy Kings, choreography by Spanish dancer and choreographer Rafael Amargo and a cast of 30 actors and flamenco dancers, Zorro The Musical promises aerial acrobatics, sword-fighting and traditional flamenco designs. Previews from 30 June. For press information contact **Charlotte Franklin**.

The Peony Pavilion at Sadler's Wells

One of China's oldest and most revered operas visits Sadler's Wells this summer. First performed at the end of the 16th Century (c.1598 – 99), and stemming from the considerable artistic heritage of the Ming Dynasty, The Peony Pavilion tells a moving tale of love, beauty, and marriage that resonates with modern audiences more than 400 years after its creation. From 3-8 June. For press information contact **Abigail Desch**.

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