



## Visit London What's New Press Briefing

May 2007

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News for May includes the relaunch of the YHA Earl's Court (see image), family days out at the Design Museum, a huge range of new exhibitions, events as well as several exciting bar and restaurant openings.



## Hotels

### YHA Earl's Court relaunches

The YHA Earl's Court has undergone a £1.7million modernisation scheme adding extra features that will appeal to the more affluent and mature travellers. As well as adding more en suite facilities, double rooms, a new heating system, and cafe, the property has been re-styled and redecorated with hard floors installed throughout. See image above.

For further information contact [Paul Fearn](#) on +44 (0) 1629 592775.

### East End Contemporary Art Tour at the Great Eastern Hotel

Revealing the hidden secrets of the art world, guests will have the opportunity to experience life at the cutting edge of contemporary art with artist-led tours of London's vibrant East End scene. The guides use their insider knowledge to offer a rare glimpse of the world that very few people see. The package is available on Friday and Saturday nights and includes brunch for two at Terminus restaurant, accommodation in a deluxe room on a double occupancy basis, East London art tour for two and luxury transportation for the duration of tour. The package costs from £198.

For further information contact [Alycia Wilson](#) on +44 (0) 20 7618 5080.

### Petal power at the Spa at Chancery Court

Chancery Court has launched a Rosey Cheeks treatment which has been created to leave the skin glowing and replenished. This specialised facial uses the benefits of rose to soothe the neck, decollète, arms and scalp as well as the face, to leave guests feeling fresh. The one hour 15 minute treatment costs £105 and includes a bottle of ESPA Hydrating Cleansing Milk and Floral Spafresh splash to take home.

For further information contact [Clementine Hancox](#) on +44 (0) 20 7829 7085.

### New pilates studio opens at the Club and Spa at the London Marriott Hotel, County Hall

The Club and Spa at London Marriott, County Hall opened its brand new dedicated Pilates studio last month providing a calm and inviting space in which to practice this hugely effective discipline. The studio allows for both mat and equipment work and classes are lead by a full time Pilates instructor. The Spa opening times are 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 6pm at weekends. For further information contact [Leon Trayling](#) on +44 (0) 20 7902 8021.

### Madness in May at myhotels

myhotels are offering some May Bank Holidays accommodation offers in both their hotels. May Bank Holiday rates at myhotel bloomsbury start from £129 per room per night and at myhotel Chelsea rates start at £149 per room per night. Both include a continental breakfast.

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

### **Park Inn Heathrow launches late night entertainment venue**

The new Park Inn Heathrow Conference Centre has launched the first airport business venue with nightlife. Bravo! Bravo! is the centrepiece of the new design-driven venue. Using different floor levels, screens, lighting effects, and colour and furniture-themed areas, the huge space is subtly transformed into smaller, sociable areas, for changing moods and needs throughout the day.

For further information contact [Marie Sterry](#) on +44 (0) 20 7915 4777.

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## **Attractions**

### **New London Pass Guidebook**

The New London Pass guidebook has 101 attractions and extra benefits. Customers will receive a multi lingual guidebook and special offers booklet, with a total value of more that £650 in entrances and offers. The new attractions that have been added are Twickenham Stadium Tours & Museum of Rugby and the Foundling Museum. The new tours that have been added are Photo Tours of London and National Theatre backstage tour.

For further information contact [Jay Michell](#) on +44 (0) 20 7907 1527.

### **Family Day at the Design Museum**

To celebrate Museums and Galleries Month, the Design Museum will throw open its doors to families for an exciting day of fun, family friendly activities during half-term. Highlights include family exhibition trials, drop-in design workshops, 'Meet the Designer' sessions, children's exhibition tours and even the chance to design - and eat your own gingerbread men. Entrance to the family day is free with purchase of a regular museum ticket at £7 for adults, £4 for students and concessions. Under 12s go free.

For further information contact [Josephine Gaffikin](#) on +44 (0) 20 7940 8771.

### **mobi-guides launch**

On 5 April the first downloadable to mobile video guides in the UK are launched, with TV Historian Dan Snow taking you on a personal guided tour of some of London's sites. Mobi-guides are video guides that can be downloaded onto your mobile phone or video i-pod, PSA or PSP and watched anywhere. The first guides to be launched are for the Tower of London, Trafalgar Square, the Southbank plus Whitehall and Westminster. Each guide costs £2.99, the guided walk takes about 1.5 hours and consists of 5-8 short films.

For further information contact [Stephanie Fox](#) on +44 (0) 7720 884317.

### **Dinosaurs come alive in a new film at the Science Museum IMAX 3D cinema**

The Science Museum IMAX 3D cinema in South Kensington will play host to the new film, Dinosaurs Alive! 3D on Thursday 17 May at 6pm and Saturday 19 May at 10.40am. The film follows leading palaeontologists from the American Museum of Natural History as they embark on a major expedition, ranging from the sand dunes of Mongolia's Gobi Desert to the dramatic sandstone buttes of New Mexico, to find some of the greatest dinosaur remains in history. Tickets cost £7.50 for adults and £6.00 for children.

For further information contact [Laura Singleton](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 4364.

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## **Exhibitions**

### **The Falklands**

To mark the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War, the Imperial War Museum is launching a new exhibition which tells the story of the war through the unique first-hand accounts and personal memorabilia of those involved in the war. Admission is free and the exhibition will take place from 14

May to 6 January 2008.

For further information contact [Victoria Main](#) on +44 (0) 20 7416 5497.

### **Antony Gormley: Blind Light**

The Haywood Gallery, as part of the relaunch season of the Southbank Centre, will host an exhibition presenting the first major London showing of the work of Turner Prize winner Antony Gormley, running from 17 May to 19 August. The exhibition will feature a series of brand new works specially conceived for the Haywood Gallery's distinctive spaces. It includes one of the largest ever urban public art commissions, Even Horizon, which will feature sculptural casts of the artist's body on rooftops and public walkways across central London, dramatically transforming the city skyline. Entry costs from £4 to £8.

For further information contact [Sarah Davies](#) on +44 (0) 20 7921 0887.

### **Living with the Edwardians**

The Museum of Brands has a new exhibition which runs until 31 August. Living with the Edwardians: 1901 to 1910 looks back at life a hundred years ago, captured through over a thousand contemporary items of the age. Song sheets, souvenirs, posters, products, magazines, comics, toys and games, all come together to conjure up the flavour of this forgotten era. Entry costs £5.80 for adults, £3.50 concessions and £2 for children.

For further information contact [Anna Mellows](#) on +44 (0) 20 7908 0881.

### **Collecting to Impress: Inspirations in Silver**

The London Silver Vaults, housing the world's largest selection of silver for sale, is running a special exhibition Collecting to Impress: Inspirations in Silver this summer, with an emphasis on decorative pieces, both modern and antique. Over 85 items will be on display, and all are for sale. Prices range from £100 to £30,000. There will be 30 or more dealers to visit and talk to about collecting, the history of silver, how to understand hallmarks, and how to care for your silver once you own it. The exhibition is on in the foyer of the vaults and will run from 1 May to 30 September during opening hours of 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday, Saturday 9am to 1pm. Admission is free.

For further information contact [Pippa Roberts](#) on +44 (0) 1707 262089.

### **Ice Station Antarctica**

Ice Station Antarctica, taking place at the Natural History Museum from 25 May until 6 April, uses a combination of high quality visual imagery, interactive activities and real Antarctic objects. The exhibition will create a series of mini-environments for visitors to explore. Families will get to grips with a variety of Antarctic challenges (under the guidance of the Base Commander), including coping with sub-zero temperatures and riding a snowmobile. Entrance is £7.

For further information contact +44 (0) 20 7942 5000.

### **Dark Heritage**

Dark Heritage explores the horrors of the 18th Century slavery in a touring installation to mark the 2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade. The Dark Heritage installation is a pitch black space where a powerful and dramatic three dimensional soundscape immerses visitors in a story set in the dark days of the 18th Century when British ships and British finance controlled the global slave trade. Dark Heritage will be at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich from 8 May to 15 June. Entry is free.

For further information contact [Katie Owen](#) on +33 (0) 20 7591 6036.

### **Ghetto Warriors - Minority Boxers in Britain**

Ghetto Warriors - Minority Boxers in Britain charts the story of minority boxers in Britain from Daniel Mendoza to Lennox Lewis and Amir Khan. The exhibition, which runs at the Jewish Museum from 9 May to 2 September, will highlight how boxing has not only been a way out of the ghetto, but also a means of gaining acceptance, respect and in some cases, riches and fame. Admission is £3.50 for adults and £1.50 for children and concessions.

For further information contact [Dina Wosner](#) on +44 (0) 20 7284 1997.

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## **Events**

### **First Thursdays**

Launching on Thursday 3 May, First Thursdays opens up some of the most cutting-edge contemporary art galleries and popular museums across East London until 9pm on the first Thursday of every month. For more information go to [www.FirstThursdays.co.uk](http://www.FirstThursdays.co.uk) or contact [Rachel Mapplebeck](mailto:Rachel.Mapplebeck@firstthursdays.co.uk) on +44 (0) 20 7522 7880.

### **Free Range 2007**

Europe's largest graduate art and design show comes to the Turman Brewery from 31 May to 23 July. During its two months duration, the show takes up most of the available space within this 11 acre site, now considered to be one of London's premiere arts and events sites. 3,000 students from all over the UK take part, staging over 60 shows from the top art and design Universities and colleges covering furniture and product design, photography, fashion, jewellery and textiles courses. For further information contact [Alison Johnson](mailto:Alison.Johnson@free-range.co.uk) on +44 (0) 7976 529 853.

### **Art Deco Fairs**

Art Deco Fairs return to Eltham Palace, Greenwich on 13 May. The fair gives visitors the chance to buy original 1930s objects, from jewellery to furniture, whilst enjoying the Art Deco surroundings of Eltham Palace. The fair takes place from 10am to 5pm. Entrance is £7.90 for adults and £4 for children. English Heritage Members enter for free. For further information contact [Kate Woods](mailto:Kate.Woods@artdecofairs.co.uk) on +44 (0) 117 922 7799.

### **England Netball Test Series**

International netball comes to Earls Court on 17 May, when England face Australia as both teams start to prepare for the 2007 World Championships in November. Fans will also have the chance to see the current world champions and Commonwealth Gold Medalists, New Zealand in action as they line up against England A side. Tickets cost £22.50 for adults and £12 for under 16s. For further information contact [Krissy Attridge](mailto:Krissy.Attridge@netball.org.uk) on +44 (0) 20 7370 8838.

### **Electric Empire presents Magic Night at Soho Review Bar**

Electric Empire presents Magic Night at the Soho Review Bar on Friday 4 May. Britain's best madcap escape artist Jonothan Goodwin along with comic magician Danny Buckler and mind reader Philip Escoffey take to the stage for a contemporary cabaret night with cutting edge magic acts along with up close magicians. Tickets cost £8 or £6 concession. For further information contact [Jacinta Francis](mailto:Jacinta.Francis@electricempire.co.uk) on +44 (0) 20 7255 8611.

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## **Bars & Restaurants**

### **White Asparagus Season at Four Seasons Hotel**

The Four Season Hotel's Executive Chef, Bernhard Mayer, will be celebrating White Asparagus season with a special menu that will be available from 14 May to 8 June. Dishes include Marinated white asparagus with crabmeat salad, poached egg and lemon-chive mousseline sauce or White asparagus soup with potato-herb fritters (Cassoulet of veal with white asparagus May morels and Perigord truffle).

For further information contact [Charlotte Allen](mailto:Charlotte.Allen@fourseasons.com) on +44 (0) 20 7907 5365.

### **Locale restaurant launches Spring Menu**

Locale restaurants in Fulham and Blackheath have launched their spring menu in conjunction with the launch of their new restaurant at County Hall. New antipasti dishes include Asparagi Mimosa (grilled spears of asparagus served with egg mimosa) and Carpaccio di Manzo Rucola e Grana (thinly sliced beef fillet served with rocket, capers and shaved parmesan). Several new main dishes and salads have also been added.

For further information contact [Leanne Baker](mailto:Leanne.Baker@locale.co.uk) on +44 (0) 1276 63598.

### **Gilgamesh launches Opera nights**

On Tuesday 8 May Gilgamesh introduces weekly Opulent Opera Nights, where a trio will perform live classical opera in the restaurant. Two 20-minute performances by the renowned Oyster Opera

will take place at 8.30 and 9.30pm. A special Opera Menu priced at £59 per person will include five-courses and a glass of Champagne.

For further information contact [Sheyda Rajabi](#) on +44 (0) 20 7482 5757.

### **Aubaine opens its second outlet on Heddon Street**

The French bistro Aubaine on Brompton Road opens its second branch on Heddon Street, off Regent Street, on 14 May. Located over two floors, Aubaine will be open from 8.30am to midnight. The ground floor will house a 60-cover restaurant and additionally a stylish patisserie that will transfer to a functioning bar for the restaurant in the evening. From 5pm to 12pm, Aubaine will open its second entrance to the intimate and cosy restaurant bar downstairs, that has additional seating for 35.

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

### **Gaucha restaurants open two further restaurants**

Gaucha restaurants, which serve only Argentine Aberdeen Angus beef, are opening two new sites, one in Richmond and one at Tower Bridge. Gaucha Richmond opens at the end of April and has a capacity for 100 inside and additional outside seating area for 150. The Tower Bridge restaurant will open at the end of May and there will be seating for 140 with an al fresco space for 24.

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

### **Bistro 51 launches pre-theatre menu**

Just in time for the Theatre season in London, Bistro 51 has launched a pre-theatre menu which is perfect for visitors to Billy Elliott, which is just around the corner. Two courses and a glass of champagne costs £20 and available from 5.45pm to 6.45pm every evening. The set pre-theatre menu will change every month.

For further information contact [Hetty Bright](#) on +44 (0) 20 7769 7766.

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## **Theatre & Film**

### **Construct by Tanja Liedtke**

From 11 to 13 May the Southbank Centre will host the world premiere of Construct by Tanja Liedtke, an award winning international contemporary dancer. In Construct, which will be at the Purcell Rooms, Liedtke and her dancers expose the sometimes dark underbelly of relationships, exploring with humour the curious work that often goes into the act of building a relationship, a home and a dream. Tickets cost £13.

For further information contact [Tim McKeough](#) on +44 (0) 20 7403 0599.

### **The Drowsy Chaperone**

Elaine Paige makes a welcome return to the West End stage in the title role of the comedy The Drowsy Chaperone. Theatre Breaks Ltd is offering packages with a three star central London hotel including a double or twin room, breakfast, service and VAT at 17.5% from just £99 per person.

For further information contact [Barbara Scott](#) on +44 (0) 1727 834422.

### **Othello opens 2007 theatre season**

Othello will play for the first time at the new Globe this year as part of the Renaissance and Revolution theatre season which includes Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice and Love's Labour Lost, the return of last year's smash hit, In Extremis, and two world premieres, Holding Fire! and We The People. Performances of Othello take place from 4 May to 19 August and tickets cost from £5 to £35.

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

