

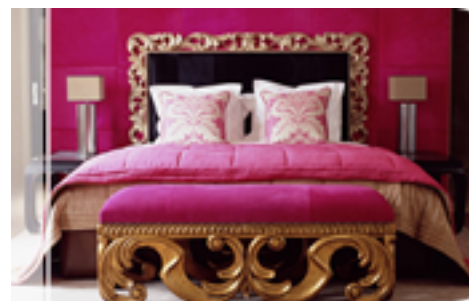


## Visit London What's New Press Briefing

October 2006

[Hotels](#) | [Attractions](#) | [Exhibitions](#) | [Events](#)  
[Bars & Restaurants](#) | [Theatre & Film](#)

This October the May Fair hotel re-launches after a £75 million refurbishment, there are several restaurant and bar openings including Ozu, Piazza and Mizu, some great new exhibitions and events, plus celebrity shop appearances.



## Hotels

### Re-birth of an icon

The May Fair Hotel dates back to the Twenties and is renowned for its royal connections, October sees the hotel's re-birth of (see image above) after a £75 million plus refurbishment. Impressive 'must-see' individual parts include the Crystal Room, with the largest Baccarat chandelier in Europe, the 201-seat private cinema/theatre, the May Fair Bar, which has become a favourite local in the area, plus the May Fair Spa.

For further information contact [Anna Reid](#) on +44 (0) 20 7534 6080.

### Ytsara launches in London at K West hotel and K Spa

14 new treatments are being launched at K Spa, which introduces the luxury Thai spa brand Ytsara, an organic skin care line with treatments based on traditional Thai principles. The new treatments include five facials and five massages, and combine Thai Accupressure, Royal Thai Massage and Asian Aromotherapy.

For further information contact [Emma Thomas](#) on +44 (0) 20 7837 8808.

### Fashion tea for two at the Mandeville Hotel

The Mandeville Hotel is serving a 'Fashion tea for two' served on Zandra Rhodes' crockery in the DeVille Restaurant. Zandra was the inspiration for the selection of cakes and table settings and the tea consists of finger sandwiches, scones and clotted cream as well as delicate cakes and treats, all presented on Zandra's new fashion bone China series. There is also a selection of black teas and infusions, from 'Zandra's Pink Meringues' to the 'Queen of Hearts Tarts'. This traditional afternoon tea costs £22.50 per person.

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

### Baby shower tea parties at The Berkeley

A 'Baby Shower' afternoon tea service has been launched at The Berkeley in Knightsbridge. The baby shower is held in one of the hotel's suites for up to 10-15 guests with the tea consisting of cupcakes and fondant fancies, baby themed biscuits and tea sandwiches, complemented by coffee, tea, juices and pink champagne. A Berkeley Spa therapist can also be on standby in the suite to provide guests with hand massages and to paint fingers and toes. The expectant mother will also receive a goodie box full of Mama Mia baby treats. Prices start from £95 per person.

For further information contact [Paula Fitzherbert](#) on +44 (0) 20 7201 1607.

### **Copthorne Tara Hotel opens second Bugis Street brasserie**

Following on from the success of the Bugis Street Brasserie at the Millenium Gloucester Hotel, The Copthorne Tara has launched a second branch in-house. Bugis Street offers a selection of authentic Singaporean, Malaysian and Cantonese food, with the restaurant situated on the hotel's ground floor. For further information contact [Erika Manasse](#) on +44 (0) 20 7872 2008.

### **Sleep over at Millennium Hotel Mayfair**

For £200, the Millennium Hotel, Mayfair is offering a package that can be either a girls night in or a romantic overnight stay for two. The package includes a deluxe double room on a Sunday night, chocolates on arrival, a meal for two from a specially compiled room service menu, a bottle of Champagne, movie rental, ice cream and popcorn delivered to the room, plus breakfast for two in Brian Turner restaurant the next morning. In addition guests will also receive discounted treatments from Elizabeth Arden to be booked seperately.

For further information contact [Annie McKale](#) on +44 (0) 20 7596 3140.

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## **Attractions**

### **Redstone Telecom and Visit London slash call rates for visitors to the capital**

Restone Telecom and Visit London have launched a new dedicated phonecard for visitors to London, which offers huge savings over mobile roaming and hotel call rates. Visitors to the capital will be able to purchase the 'Totally London' phonecard online, via the dispensing machine located in the Britain and London Visitor Centre near Piccadilly and in the future from visitor attractions across London.

For further information contact [Jenna Parker](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 4444.

### **A morsel of medieval life**

From October until Christmas, visitors to the Medieval Palace at the Tower of London will be able to step back to the 13th century and mingle with courtiers of King Edward I to learn about Royal life in his lavishly decorated private rooms. In addition, visitors will also be able to meet the servants who made the beds and did the laundry, and the squires, grooms, valets and sergeant on whom the king depended.

For further information contact [Natasha Woollard](#) on +44 (0) 20 7488 5662.

### **Tudor life at Hampton Court**

Visitors can discover what Tudor life was like at Hampton Court. From 7-8 October and 4-5 November in the newly re-presented Tudor Kitchens, the only remaining kitchens of their kind in Europe, food archaeologists will experiment with Tudor receipes, ingredients, utensils and traditional cooking methods, preparing a traditional meal and giving visitors an exclusive look at the historic kitchens up-and-running as they would have been used when King Henry VIII lived at the palace.

For further information contact [Sarah Watson](#) on +44 (0) 20 7488 5662.

### **Madame Tussauds goes hip-hop**

The waxwork figure of legendary hip-hop artist Tupac Shakur is in Madame Tussauds, London until Christmas to mark the 10th anniversary of the star's death. The figure is on loan from Madame Tussaud's in Las Vegas. Fans can pay their respects in a tribute book which will then be presented to Tupac's mother when the figure returns to Las Vegas.

For further information contact [Lucy Howell](#) on +44 (0) 20 7402 9966.

### **The Indian Army 1939-1945**

On 24 October from 2.00-3.00pm at the Imperial War Museum, curator Alan Jeffreys talks about the important contribution made by the Indian Army during the Second World War. This will be followed by a screening of the BBC documentary The Forgotten Volunteers.

For further information contact [Diana Morley](#) on +44 (0) 20 7416 5498.

### **Friday Late: Twilight at the V&A**

On 27 October, the V&A's Friday Late event is inspired by the contemporary exhibition 'Twilight: Photography in the Majic Hour' and will include twilight inspired photography workshops and installations. Also featured is a commission from artist Giles Round who will produce neon sculptural pieces for the Norfolk House Music Room within the British Galleries. Visitors can download an audio guide to take a twilight tour of the collection, as well as enjoy the usual late evening bars and DJs.

For further information contact the [Press Office](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502.

### **HMS Belfast to launch inclusive audio tour service**

HMS Belfast launches an inclusive audio tour service to its visitor experience from October. The audio tour provides separate guides for both adults and families, as well as German, French and Spanish versions of the audio tour - at no extra cost to the visitor. The tour will provide a new, added dimension to the ship's interpretation, not only does the guide describe the ship's history and how it works, it also uses both archive and new oral testimony from the HMS Belfast's veterans, to really bring the ship to life for visitors.

For further information contact [Nick Hewitt](#) on +44 (0) 20 7940 6343.

### **Exmouth Market announces new food market**

Every Friday from 11am to 6pm and Saturday from 9am to 4pm the pedestrianised road of Exmouth Market will house an eclectic mix of producers, farmers and cottage food companies. Alongside edibles, the market will also display the talents of Clerkenwell's best designers and artisans.

For further information contact [Lizzie Oxtrom](#) on +44 (0) 7841 407 401.

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## **Exhibitions**

### **David Hockney Portraits**

From 12 October to 21 January 2007, the National Portrait Gallery will be holding an exhibition of portraits by David Hockney. This exhibition offers the opportunity to see many works together for the first time. David Hockney Portraits provide insights into the artist's intense observations of the people he has charted over many years. These include his parents, fabric designer Celia Birtwell, art director John Kasmin and some of the leading cultural figures of the twentieth century such as Andy Warhol, Man Ray and W H Auden. Entrance to the exhibition costs £9 and £6 for concessions.

For further information contact [Neil Evans](#) on +44 (0) 20 7312 2452.

### **In the Face of History: European photographers in the 20th century**

One of the first major exhibitions to chart European photography from 1900 to the present day, In the Face of History features classic photographers such as Josef Sudek and Brassai alongside contemporary artists such as Boris Mikhailov and Wolfgang Tillmans. The exhibition includes a number of photographers from the former Eastern bloc, with many works shown in the UK for the first time.

For further information [click here](#) or contact [Miles Evans](#) on +44 (0) 20 7382 7166.

### **Abayudaya: The Jews of Uganda**

The Jewish Museum presents an exhibition of photographs by Rena Pearl on the remarkable story of the Abayudaya (children of Judah) whose knowledge and practice of Judaism developed in isolation over several generations. This exhibition is accompanied by a wide-ranging programme of talks and discussions.

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

### **Towards the Contemporary Sublime**

This exhibition by photographer Mark Watts, taking place at the Scarlet Maguire Gallery (104 Cromer Street, WC1H 8BZ), looks at the notions of landscape in two similar, but different, bodies of work; 'Untitled' and 'Imprints'. 'Untitled' is a selection of works inspired by eighteenth century philosophical texts on the sublime and also the work of the great landscape painters of Europe and America but put into a modern context. 'Imprints' seeks to examine the evolution of space, questioning whether industrialised earth can still retain a pure essence of beauty. The exhibition runs from 2-7 October.

For further information contact [Mark Watts](#) on +44 (0) 7867 530 942.

### **Francis Picabia: The nudes**

Paintings by Francis Picabia will be exhibited from 4-28 October in Hauser & Wirth's new premises within the Colnaghi building on Old Bond Street. Picabia's career was characterised by his irreverent wit and his iconoclastic attitude towards tradition and high art. This exhibition will focus on Picabia's nudes from the 1940's.

For further information contact [Claire Walsh](#) on +44 (0) 20 7428 4949.

### **Velázquez**

For the first time in Britain, a major exhibition will trace the career of Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez (1599-1660). The exhibition will run from October 18 to January 21, 2007 at the National Gallery and will follow the artist from his beginnings in Seville, through his move to Madrid and appointment as court painter to Philip IV, his two trips to Italy, to his final days and his knighthood.

For further information contact [Tracy Jones](#) on +44 (0) 20 7747 2512.

### **Cézanne in Britain**

October 2006 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Paul Cézanne. The National Gallery celebrates the artist and his work with Cézanne on Britain, a retrospective focussing entirely on works held in British collections. The exhibition runs from October 4 to January 7, 2007 and admission is free.

For further information contact [Louise Butler](#) on +44 (0) 20 7747 2596.

### **Paul Karslake 'Survivors' exhibition**

Paul Karslake, award winning artist and brother in law of Ronnie Wood, will be exhibiting his latest collection 'Survivors' at the Artisan Gallery, Royal Exchange from 30 October to 30 November. Inspired by famous personalities whose imagery, persona or music has survived, the exhibition collates eighteen oil and acrylic on canvas portraits. Images include those of Twiggy, Sir Winston Churchill, Jimmy Hendrix and John Lennon.

For further information contact [Jane Fearnley](#) on +44 (0) 20 7360 7878

### **Brent Museum's 'Toyastic' exhibition**

Punch 'n' Judy, the traditional children's puppetry show will feature in 'Toyastic', an exhibition about past and present toys at Brent Council's newly opened museum from 15 September. A live Punch 'n' Judy show will be available to visitors. The exhibition will appeal to adults with a penchant for nostalgia as well as play-mad children. 'Toyastic' will map an historic route through classic toys from the 18th century to contemporary offerings such as Barbie. Entry is free.

For further information contact [Jason Grimsley](#) on +44 (0) 20 8937 5430.

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## **Events**

### **Bloomsbury Festival**

The cultural, intellectual, artistic and social diversity of Bloomsbury will be celebrated in a new arts festival to be held from 20 to 22 October in the 'Bloomsbury Quarter', an area which has been home to artists and intellectuals for generations and is still at the forefront of artistic and cultural innovation today. The three day Bloomsbury Festival will throw the spotlight on the artists, musicians and dancers in the area with activities and performances organised by the area's institutions.

For further information contact [Roz Hanna](#) on +44 (0) 20 7287 9770.

### **Hatty the Friendly Witch visits Richmond upon Thames**

Hatty the Friendly Witch will be returning to Richmond upon Thames on Thursday 26, Friday 27 and Saturday 28 October. There are a variety of children's events planned around her visit.

For further information go to [www.visitrichmond.co.uk](http://www.visitrichmond.co.uk).

### **The complete Bach Cello Suites at St Martin-in-the-Fields**

St Martin-in-the-Fields continues fundraising for its £36 million Renewal Project with a concert by the

distinguished cellist Raphael Wallfisch performing the Complete Bach Cello Suites on Tuesday October 17, 6.30pm- 9.30pm. Widely regarded as one of the greatest challenges in the cello repertoire, it is rare to hear all six suites performed in one concert. Tickets cost £25, £22, £18, £14 and £6.

For further information contact [Truda Spruyt](#) on +44 (0) 20 7631 2666.

### **The London Bierfest**

On 12,13,18,19 and 20 October the London Bierfest takes place at Old Billingsgate Market. The traditional German Oktoberfest will be brought to life with flags, banners, stage acts, traditional food and of course, unlimited steins of Paulaner beer.

For further information contact [Katie Leach](#) on +44 (0) 20 7349 4963.

### **2nd International London Tattoo Convention**

Showcasing 150 of the best tattoo artists in the world including live tattooing, light-shows and music to form a festival like atmosphere. The convention takes place from 6-8 October at the Old Truman Brewery on Brick Lane. A one day ticket costs £15 and a 3 day pass is £40.

For further information contact [Tamsin O'Hanlon](#).

### **Singapore in the city**

The Simply Singapore Food Festival in Kensington's Royal Garden Hotel offers visitors the opportunity to sample this exciting cuisine. From 12 to 22 October guests can feast on a vast buffet selection that will change daily, including a range of traditional dishes such as Char Kway Teow, Black Pepper Crab, Beef Rendang, Hainanese Chicken Rice and Satay. Lunch is available for £22.50 and dinner is £28.

For further information contact [Cara McCarthy](#) on +44 (0) 20 7404 6777.

### **Whitecross Street Food Festival**

Celebrating the best of British produce, the Whitecross Street Food Festival in Islington takes place from 6-8 October with over 50 specially selected food and drink producers from all over the UK, selling everything from fresh bread and meat, to fish and charcuterie. The festival aims to kick start the revival of the ancient Whitecroft Street Market, in a similar fashion to the successful revival of Borough Market across the river.

For further information contact [Emma French](#) on +44 (0) 20 7355 0655

### **Autumn Ideal Home Show**

The Autumn Ideal Home Show takes place at Earls Court from 6-15 October. Visitors to the show can see how they can add interior inspiration to their home and find out all the latest trends in home design, interiors and DIY, as well as finding out how to become more energy efficient with first hand energy saving tips from the Energy Savings Trust.

For further information contact [Lucy Hotson](#) on +44 (0) 20 8515 2045.

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## **Bars & Restaurants**

### **Afternoon tea at mybar Chelsea**

myhotel Chelsea has come up with an Afternoon Tea menu, which consists of a choice of teas, including Earl Grey Lavender, Tropical Green and White Tangerine, freshly cut English sandwiches, traditional scones and cakes. Afternoon tea is served daily between 2.30pm and 6pm and costs £17.95 per person with unlimited tea or £25.90 per person with unlimited tea and a glass of Devaux Rose Champagne.

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

### **Ozu opens on the Thames**

Ozu restaurant has opened in County Hall, Queen's Walk, SE1, serving a traditional Japanese menu in contemporary surrounds. The menu has been created by Chef Stephane Shoji and includes starters such as iwashi no isobe age, sardine filet tempura wrapped in nori sheet, main courses such as unagi no tempura, fresh water eel tempura with small yaki onigiri. Ozu is open seven days a week, lunch is served from 12 noon to 2.30pm and dinner from 5.30pm to 11pm.

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

### **St German**

St German, a brasserie and bar in Farringdon, opens its doors in October. Located in a 19th Century print house, near to Smithfield Market, St German will serve lunch and dinner as well as more leisurely brunch at weekends. The concept is to take the best of the traditional Parisian brasserie and combine it with New York's vibrant dining scene. The menu is to be well priced, with starters ranging from £5.50 to £8 and all main courses under £17.00.

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

### **Mizu bar opens at Yakitoria**

Yakitoria Mizu is the brand new lounge bar in the large and airy downstairs space of Yakitoria, at 25 Sheldon Square - the vibrant new community of Paddington Central. Mizu is a stylish bar, private dining and event space with one of its most important aspects being its sake collection.

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

### **Diwali at the Cinnamon Club**

Diwali, the annual Hindu festival of light that takes place on 21 October, will be celebrated at the Cinnamon Club, at the Old Westminster Library, from 16-31 October in the form of a refined Indian menu that pays homage to traditional cuisine and encapsulates the essence of the festivities.

The menu includes the highly original Prasad dessert. The Diwali set menu starts at £35 per person. For further information contact [Rochelle Cohen](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 1111.

### **The Italian Piada has come to London**

Piada, a new restaurant situated by Smithfield Market, gives Londoners what many Italians consider to be their most delicious street food. The piada, or piadina, is a flatbread, traditionally cooked on a hot stone and stuffed with a variety of fillings. By keeping things simple, the food takes centre stage, with each piada cooked to order in minutes before the customer's eyes.

For further information contact [Andy Butcher](#) on +44 (0) 7930 520 649.

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## **Theatre & Film**

### **The 24 Hour Plays Celebrity Gala**

The 24 Hour Plays Celebrity Gala takes place at The Old Vic on Sunday October 8. This is an annual fixture in The Old Vic's season and provides a unique opportunity to see work by some of the best international actors, writers and directors. They will come together to create and perform six short plays- all within 24 hours.

For further information contact [Jasmin Pelham](#) on +44 (0) 20 8962 9478.

### **ok2b's big smile**

Comedians Jo Brand, Arthur Smith, Ricky Grover, Shappu Khorgandi and Rufus Hound are to headline ok2b's big smile, the launch event for a new health charity, at Hackney Empire on Sunday 8 October. Tickets cost £10, £12.50 and £15 in advance.

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

### **Summer and Smoke**

Rosamund Pike will star as Alma Winemiller in a major new revival of Tennessee Williams' classic drama, Summer and Smoke. This lesser known masterpiece directed by Adrian Noble, will open in London at the Apollo Theatre on Wednesday 18 October.

For further information contact [Jo Allan](#) on +44 (0) 20 7351 1555.

### **Shaolin monks at the Peacock Theatre**

Back by popular demand from their sacred home in the foothills of the Songshan mountains, the legendary warrior monks of China's Shaolin Temple return to wow audiences with their insane feats of physical dynamism and painstaking brilliance. Their smash-hit spectacle Kung Fu Masters takes place at the Peacock Theatre from 4-29 October.

For further information contact [Anna Wilson](#) on +44 (0) 20 7863 8114.

**New Theatre Breaks packages**

Theatre Breaks Ltd has launched new four star packages for revivals of Cabaret, Evita, Porgy and Bess plus The Sound of Music with top price tickets and a night at the Washington Hotel with English breakfast starting at £99.50 per person.

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



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