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Press Briefing

What's New March 2012

Spring has sprung in the capital, bringing with it plenty of exciting events, new attractions and entertainment certain to dazzle visitors in March 2012.

For more information on what's on in London go to visitlondon.com



Harry Potter Studio



Step into the magical world of Harry Potter at the Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter. [Read more.....](#)

Christian Louboutin



Visit the Design Museum for a glamorous and exciting exhibition dedicated to the celebrated shoe designer. [Read more.....](#)

Sweeney Todd



The terrifying demon barber of Fleet Street returns to the West End, starring Michael Ball and Imelda Staunton. [Read more.....](#)

Attractions

If you are interested in exploring London's wonderful attractions and areas, why not organise a Blue Badge Guide to show you the sights? GUIDE LONDON has just launched its website promoting the tours and services of London's Blue Badge Tourist Guides, and will assist visitors who are looking for top-quality, professionally-led tours. As well as a wide range of group tours, GUIDE LONDON also offers daily public walking tours. For more information visit www.guidelondon.org.uk or email aptg@unitetheunion.org

Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter

Warner Bros. Studios, Leavesden, opening 31 March 2012

This amazing new tour will offer visitors for the first time ever a unique behind-the-scenes tour of the most successful film series of all time. Guests will be able to see firsthand the sheer scale and detail of the actual sets, costumes, animatronics, special effects and props used in all eight of the Harry Potter films. This unique walking tour will showcase the British artistry, technology and talent that went into bringing this beloved film series to life. Visitors will see some of the film series' most iconic sets within the attraction including the Great Hall, Dumbledore's office, the Ministry of Magic, Harry Potter's famous cupboard under the stairs and many more. Tickets must be booked in advance via www.wbstudiotour.co.uk or through approved tour operators. For more information contact Stu Frith on 020 7148 3749 / stu@romleydavies.com

Kensington Palace

Reopens 26 March 2012

Kensington Palace is set to become 'a palace for everyone'. A £12 million major project to transform the palace will be completed in March, which will improve accessibility, introduce new education and

community facilities, reconnect the palace with the surrounding park through new public gardens, and enable the team to present exciting exhibitions inspired by the palace's rich past and unique collections. For more information contact the press team on 020 3166 6166 / press@hrp.org.uk

Britons at War 1938

Churchill War Rooms, 17 - 18 March 2012

In this informal session visitors are encouraged to consider the fear felt by Britons before war even broke out. While many of us know about the evacuation of children from major towns and cities, there were also plans to move the Civil Service to safety. This engaging session explores the motivations and preparations involved. As well as discussing the topic with experts, visitors will have the chance to examine genuine objects relating to the topic. Entry included in general admission price. For more information contact Nina Smetek on 020 7091 3069 / nsmetek@iwm.org.uk

Exploring the Human Limit

Natural History Museum, 30 March 2012

'For God's sake look after our people'. These were the last words in the diary of Captain Scott before he died on his return trip from the South Pole. But what happens to you physically and psychologically when you know you are facing death? What makes someone risk their life to explore our planet? In the pursuit of exploration and adventure, when we have made the wrong decision and death is imminent, does everyone react in the same way? For more information email e.williamson@nhm.ac.uk

War Horse Lates

National Army Museum, 30 March 2012

View the stunning new exhibition War Horse: Fact & Fiction at a relaxing evening viewing, running on the last Friday of the month. This hands-on interactive exhibition for all the family will bring to life this compelling story using exclusive material from Michael Morpurgo and the stage production by the National Theatre. The touching stories of the horses and men who depended on them will be illustrated through the museum's rich collection encouraging visitors to think about the millions of war horses who have supported the British Army across centuries. Visitors can unwind and enjoy a fun evening at this exciting equine exhibition or indulge in a range of delicious drinks and food at the museum's café until 9pm. For more information contact 020 7730 0717 / pr@nam.ac.uk

Exhibitions

Cloud Cuckoo Land

Outline Editions, 1 - 29 March 2012

Britain's leading graphic art outfit will soon be launching Cloud Cuckoo Land at a new temporary space in London's West End, Newburgh Street, which will display a riotous collection of pie-in-the-sky fantasias from artists at the forefront of music, fashion and pop culture. These will include limited edition prints by Noma Bar, and Kristjana S Williams and Patrick Thomas and graphic art maestro Anthony Burrill. From tropical wonderlands, to hallucinatory maps and dream dogs, the affordable art on show will be a visual assault on the everyday. The space itself will be transformed into a suitably wondrous art palace, with front windows designed by internationally renowned graphic art wunderkind Kate Moross. For more information contact Camilla Parsons on 020 8451 3400 / camilla@outline-editions.co.uk

Suzanne Treister – HEXEN 2.0

Science Museum, opens 7 March 2012

Visit the Science Museum for the brand new exhibition HEXEN 2.0 by celebrated British artist Suzanne Treister. This is an exhibition of large-scale drawings or diagrams and a set of re-imagined Tarot cards, which charts the coming together of diverse scientific and social sciences through the seminal Macy Conferences of 1943 – 56. The works represent links identified by artist Suzanne Treister's research into the development of cybernetics, social engineering, the history and future of computing and the internet, the rise of Web 2.0 and mass intelligence gathering. Treister's HEXEN 2.0 takes us to a hypnotic, mesmerising space of early technological fantasy to hallucinate feedback from the past, from where one may imagine and construct possible alternative futures. For more information contact Susanne White on 020 7942 4353 / susanne.white@sciencemuseum.org.uk

Titanic Remembered

National Maritime Museum, 8 March - 30 September 2012

This small exhibition and events programme will mark the centenary of the sinking of RMS Titanic with stories of some of those who survived the tragedy and exploring how that fateful night in 1912 has become the most famous maritime disaster in history. The exhibition showcases a small selection of letters, photographs and objects – highlights from a unique collection gathered by Walter Lord during his research for his bestselling 1955 book A Night to Remember, many of which are on display to the public

for the first time. For more information contact Jenny Orton on 020 8312 6545 / press@nmm.ac.uk

Johan Zoffany RA: Society Observed

Royal Academy of Arts, 10 March - 10 June 2012

This exhibition will constitute a radical re-evaluation of the extraordinary life and career of this brilliant and enigmatic German artist, Johan Zoffany. Adapting to the indigenous art culture and patterns of patronage, he created virtuoso portraits and subject pictures that proved to be highly desirable to a wide range of patrons. The exhibition will feature oil paintings, and a selection of drawings and prints from British and international public and private collections, a number of which have been rarely or never exhibited before. The works testify to the central importance of Zoffany to the artistic culture of eighteenth century Europe. For more information contact the press office on 020 7300 5615 / press.office@royalacademy.org.uk

Turner Inspired: In the Light of Claude

National Gallery, 14 March - 5 June 2012

The artist whom Turner admired most deeply of all the Old Masters was undoubtedly the French artist Claude Lorrain. Though Claude's reputation was at its height among English collectors and critics in the first half of the 19th century, no other artist of Turner's generation strove so consistently to confront the earlier landscape painter's achievement and legacy. This exhibition will be the fullest examination to date of Turner's experience of Claude's art, bringing together closely related paintings and works on paper by both artists, many of which share the same themes. The show is a collaboration between the National Gallery and Tate. For more information contact the press office on 020 7747 2865 / press@ng-london.org.uk

At Home with the World

Geffrye Museum, 20 March - 9 September 2012

At Home with the World asks the question: how English are our homes? This new exhibition will tell a fascinating story about how a myriad of the domestic designs, decorations, materials and social customs we consider to be 'English' in fact originate elsewhere. The cosmopolitan nature of London homes over the past 400 years will be explored, and the way in which they have embraced cultural exchange, making an impact on the spaces in which we live and on the value and meanings with which we imbue 'home'. From Chinese porcelain and the craze for taking tea in the 18th century, to the use of Islamic and Indian patterns in the 19th century, the museum will show that homes in England have been shaped by many diverse cultures. For more information contact Nancy Loader on 020 7739 9893 / press@geffrye-museum.org.uk

Victoria Revealed

Kensington Palace, from 26 March 2012

A new permanent exhibition exploring Queen Victoria's life and reign in her own words. Visitors will learn about Victoria's first day as Queen at the Palace, the romance of her early relationship with Prince Albert and their family life, as well as aspects of Prince Albert's involvement in the 1851 Great Exhibition. Set within the very rooms Victoria lived as a child, exhibits include paintings by Franz Xaver and Sir Edwin Landseer, gifts that Queen Victoria exchanged with Prince Albert during their engagement in 1839 and her wedding dress. Glamorous jewellery, poignant morning clothes and other personal objects will sit alongside replica Victorian children's toys, try-on clothing and fun interactive displays for all visitors. For more information contact the press team on 020 3166 6166 / press@hrp.org.uk

Patrick Keiller's new installation

Tate Britain, to be unveiled 27 March 2012

Renowned artist and film-maker Patrick Keiller, will create an ambitious new project for the Tate Britain Commission 2012, supported by Sotheby's. His unique installation, developed especially for the neoclassical Duveen galleries at the heart of Tate Britain, will be unveiled on 27 March 2012. The Tate Britain Commission invites an artist to develop a new work in response to the Tate Collection, highlighting the continuum of visual and intellectual ideas between historic and contemporary art. Patrick Keiller is one of Britain's most critically acclaimed independent film-makers. For more information contact Selina Jones on 020 7887 4906 / pressoffice@tate.org.uk

Christian Louboutin

Design Museum, 28 March - 1 July 2012

The Design Museum presents the first UK retrospective of iconic French shoe designer Christian Louboutin, celebrating a career which has pushed the boundaries of high fashion shoe design. Louboutin's exquisite shoes, with their instantly recognisable glossy red soles, are a unique fusion of fashion, craftsmanship, engineering and sculpture. This exhibition celebrates Louboutin's career to date and showcases twenty years of designs and inspiration, revealing the artistry and theatricality of his shoe design from stilettos to lace-up boots, studded sneakers and bejewelled pumps. Drawing from

Christian Louboutin's personal archive, the exhibition presents his celebrated shoe designs, referencing the origins of the iconic red sole, through to the latest Louboutin collections. For more information contact Ashley Woodfield on 0207 940 8787 / Ashley@designmuseum.org

British Design 1948-2012

Victoria & Albert Museum, 31 March - 12 August 2012

To coincide with the 2012 Olympics, this exhibition will showcase 60 years of British creative talent. It will document the transformation of design in Britain since the post-war 'Austerity Games' of 1948. Drawing on the V&A's unrivalled collections, the exhibition will include product design, fashion and textiles, furniture, ceramics and glass, theatre design, graphics, photography, architecture, fine art and sculpture, and will examine concepts of tradition and modernity, subversion, and innovation. For more information contact the press team on 020 7942 2502 / press.office@vam.ac.uk

Events

WOW – Women of the World

Southbank Centre, 7 - 11 March 2012

WOW – Women of the World, Southbank Centre's festival, returns for a second year to present, recognise and celebrate women with live music, talks, debates, theatre, film and comedy. The festival will feature some of the best female musicians and performers including Sinéad O'Connor and Emmy the Great. Festival goers can also watch Mirth Control – March of the Women 2012, featuring comedian Jo Brand and a women-only orchestra. Theatre will also be provided by a one woman-play, and producers Fuel, who will be sharing stories of inspiring women through a participatory installation and performances. For more information contact Katie Toms on 020 7921 0926 / katie.toms@southbankcentre.co.uk

The BADA Antiques & Fine Fair

The Duke of York Square, 21 - 27 March 2012

The country's leading art and antiques fair celebrates its 20th anniversary this year in the heart of Chelsea. For one week, 100 specialists offer quality art and antiques for collectors and first time buyers. The Cellini Restaurant, Taittinger Champagne Bar and Duke of York Brasserie ensure quality catering within the Fair. For more information visit www.bada-antiques-fair.co.uk

Entertainment

Mozart with Puppets

Little Angel Theatre, 2 - 3 March 2012

Discover the extraordinary music of Mozart, as marionettes, glove and rod puppets are brought to life by his works performed by the award winning Aurora Orchestra. It's a perfect introduction to both puppetry and classical music! For more information contact Anne Mayer on 020 7254 7391 / annemayer@btopenworld.com

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

Adelphi Theatre, 10 March - 22 September 2012

Widely acknowledged as Stephen Sondheim's musical masterpiece, Sweeney Todd will transfer to the West End this March. The show sees distinguished musical performer Michael Ball's return to the West End as the eponymous demon barber of Fleet Street and Oscar-nominated actress Imelda Staunton as the devoted Mrs Lovett. Set amongst Victorian London's seedy side streets and laced with Sondheim's brilliant wit and dark humour, the musical depicts Sweeney Todd's savage quest for justice and retribution after years of false imprisonment. For more information please contact Sophie Anderson on 020 7257 8186 / sophieanderson@akauk.com

Miss Fortune

Royal Opera House, 12 March 2012

A major event of 2012 will be the UK premiere of a new opera by Judith Weir, co-commissioned by the Royal Opera and the Bregenz Festival. Miss Fortune is directed by theatre, opera and film director, Shi-Zheng Chen and leading the cast are UK soprano Emma Bell and South African baritone Jacques Imbrailo. The story is a retelling of an old Sicilian folktale that concerns the daughter of Lord and Lady Fortune, whose loss of their family wealth leads to hardship, suffering and a crucial meeting with Fate. For more information contact Ann Richards on 020 7212 9132 / ann.richards@roh.org.uk

St Martin's Chamber Music Competition

St Martin in the Fields, 12 - 27 March 2012

Now in its third year, the St Martin's Chamber Music Competition has become a highlight in the discerning concert-goer's diary. There are three semi-finals featured in St Martin's lunchtime concert programme on 12, 13 and 16 March at 1.00pm and a ticketed final on 27 March at 7.00pm. The concerts are a fantastic opportunity to hear and support some outstanding musicians at the beginning of their professional careers. For further information contact karen.price@smitf.org

The Master and Margarita

Barbican Theatre, 15 March - 7 April 2012

Complicite return to the Barbican with a new English language adaptation of The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov. The Devil pays a visit to Stalinist Moscow in the guise of a professor of black magic and wreaks havoc in the city, exposing the hypocrisy, greed and corruption of its citizens. The ensemble cast of Complicite performers includes David Annen, Thomas Arnold and Josie Dexter to name a few. Set design is by award-winning Es Devlin, who will be designing the closing ceremony for the London 2012 Olympic Games. For more information contact Bridget Thornborrow on 020 7382 7168 / bridget.thornborrow@barbican.org.uk

The Most Incredible Thing

Sadler's Wells, 25 March - 7 April 2012

Following its sell-out success in 2011, pop legends Pet Shop Boys and choreographer/director Javier De Frutos return with their hugely popular Sadler's Wells collaboration. This modern fairytale based on Hans Christian Andersen's fable, adapted by Matthew Dunster, centres on a battle to produce 'the most incredible thing', with a prize of half the kingdom and marriage to the princess at stake. Created by a team including long-time Pet Shop Boys collaborator Sven Helbig, award-winning designer Katrina Lindsay, and BAFTA-winning film animator, Tal Rosner, The Most Incredible Thing also features a talented cast of 16 dancers and a live orchestra. For more information contact Abigail Desch on 020 7863 8119 / abigail.desch@sadlerswells.com

Shopping, Restaurants and Nightlife

The Regent Street Food Safari

1 - 15 March 2012

Many of Regent Street's acclaimed restaurants will be offering an exciting 'graze and go' experience where customers can sample many types of food enabling them to eat their way around the world. Regent Street and its two food quarters; Heddon Street and Swallow Street offer a variety of cuisines from Italian to Indian, modern European to Asian. Whether you prefer the classics or the more adventurous and contemporary, there is something for everyone on the Regent Street Food Safari. For more information contact Lucia Ruz on 020 7287 9601 / lucia.ruz@sisteris.com

New fashion in Carnaby Street

March 2012

Swedish brands Cheap Monday and Monki will be launching their first UK flagship stores in March. Cheap Monday is a Swedish jeans and fashion brand founded in 2004. The company's business concept is to offer high fashion clothing at a good price. The store will offer the complete Cheap Monday range, with womenswear, menswear, jeans and in-season collections, as well as baby, accessories and underwear. Monki is the feisty, quirky little sister of Cheap Monday. Founded in 2006, Monki has exploded in to the international fashion scene and is known for on-trend affordable pieces for men and women. For further information please contact Sarah Mole on sarah.mole@sisteris.com

Hotels

Moët Movies on the Menu

One Aldwych, dates throughout March 2012

For the eighth season running, contemporary luxury hotel One Aldwych, London, has partnered with the champagne of film and celebration, Moët & Chandon, to create another sensational Moët Movies on the Menu dinner and a movie experience. Since September 2009, One Aldwych has offered food and film fans the opportunity to enjoy a glass of champagne, a delicious three course meal and a private screening of a much loved film as part of a special evening package. Sip a glass of champagne, indulge in a three-course dinner in the hotel's restaurant, Axis and enjoy a great movie in the hotel's luxury 30-seat screening room... you'll even be given popcorn to enjoy! Movies available during March are, Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Beginners, Crazy, Stupid Love and Adjustment Bureau. For more information contact Howard Rombough on 020 7300 1077 / HowardRombough@onealdwych.com



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