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May Bank Holiday 2017

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Orchestra

Vivace
Chorus

Monday
1st May 2017
7.30 pm

vivacechorus.org

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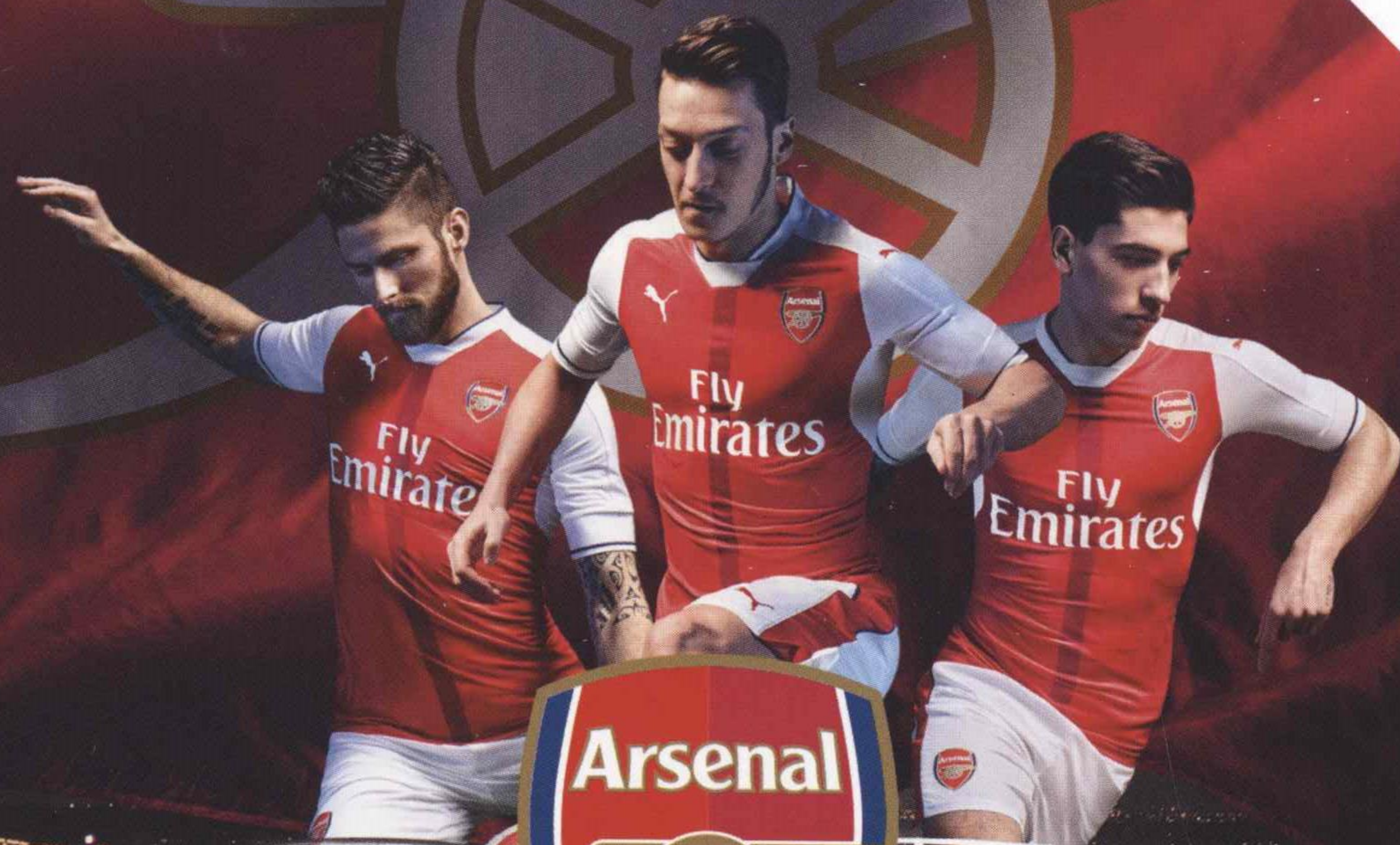
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Welcome to London

The 2017 International Opera Awards, sponsored by Mazars, take place at 6.30pm on Sunday 7 May at the historic London Coliseum in the heart of the West End.

Opera's answer to the Oscars, the annual red-carpet ceremony honours outstanding achievement, with awards including Singer of the Year, Opera Company of the Year and Lifetime Achievement.

The evening will feature live performances by some of opera's greatest names, including Bryan Hymel, Anita Rachvelishvili, Louise Alder and Stuart Skelton, as well as appearances from winners, opera world luminaries and celebrity guest presenters. Tickets: londoncoliseum.org

With more than 20,000 nominations made, the finalists for this year's Awards were selected by an international jury chaired by John Allison, editor of Opera magazine and classical music critic with The Daily Telegraph.

BBC Radio 3 will broadcast highlights from the awards ceremony in a special 90-minute programme on Sunday 21 May.



Harry Hyman

Founder, International Opera Awards



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RECORDS GALORE AS LONDON CELEBRATES ITS #REASONTORUN

After a record number of runners crossed the Start Line of the Virgin Money London Marathon on 23 April, more than 39,400 completed the gruelling 26.2 mile journey from Blackheath to Westminster, making the 37th edition of the race the biggest in its history by 347 runners.

Of the 39,487 who crossed the Finish Line in The Mall, one established two new world records, one broke a course record, one took a record-breaking seventh London win and 39 broke Guinness World Records, making the 2017 event the greatest ever London Marathon.

Mary Keitany ran alone for all but two of the 26.2 miles, powering clear of the greatest field ever assembled to take her third London title in a world record time of 2:17:01. Only Paula Radcliffe has run faster, when she set the mixed-race world record in 2003, but she had to watch from the commentary box as Keitany smashed her women-only record of 2:17:42.

The Kenyan party continued as Daniel Wanjiru held off Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele in a thrilling finish to take his

first major marathon win at the age of 24. His countryman Bedan Karoki finished third on his marathon debut in 2:07:41 to add to Kenya's medal haul.

The first elite wheelchair racer across the Finish Line in The Mall on Sunday was Great Britain's David Weir, sprinting ahead of his long-time rival Marcel Hug to clinch a record-breaking seventh London Marathon title. His magnificent seven victories make him the most successful elite athlete in the race's history.



Then came the masses, a record field of 40,048 runners sent on their way by Prince Harry and The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, many of them sporting Heads Together headbands to support the 2017 Official Charity, as the race celebrated every runner's inspirational #ReasonToRun the marathon.

The royal trio started the race, following Helen Glover and Heather Stanning as the Olympic champion rowers performed starter duties for the elite women and para-athletes.

It was London man Joe Spraggins who was fastest Guinness World record-breaker of all, the London man clocking 2:42:24 to complete the fastest marathon dressed as a swimmer. In his wake came elves, Vikings, chilli peppers and monks, while records fell for toilet rolls, nuns, Wellington boots and Banana Man.

The Virgin Money London Marathon also celebrated the incredible sportsmanship witnessed on The Mall. David Wyeth was struggling to make it to the famous Finish Line when Rees came to his aid (*pictured below*), putting his own race on hold to help Wyeth to cross the line.

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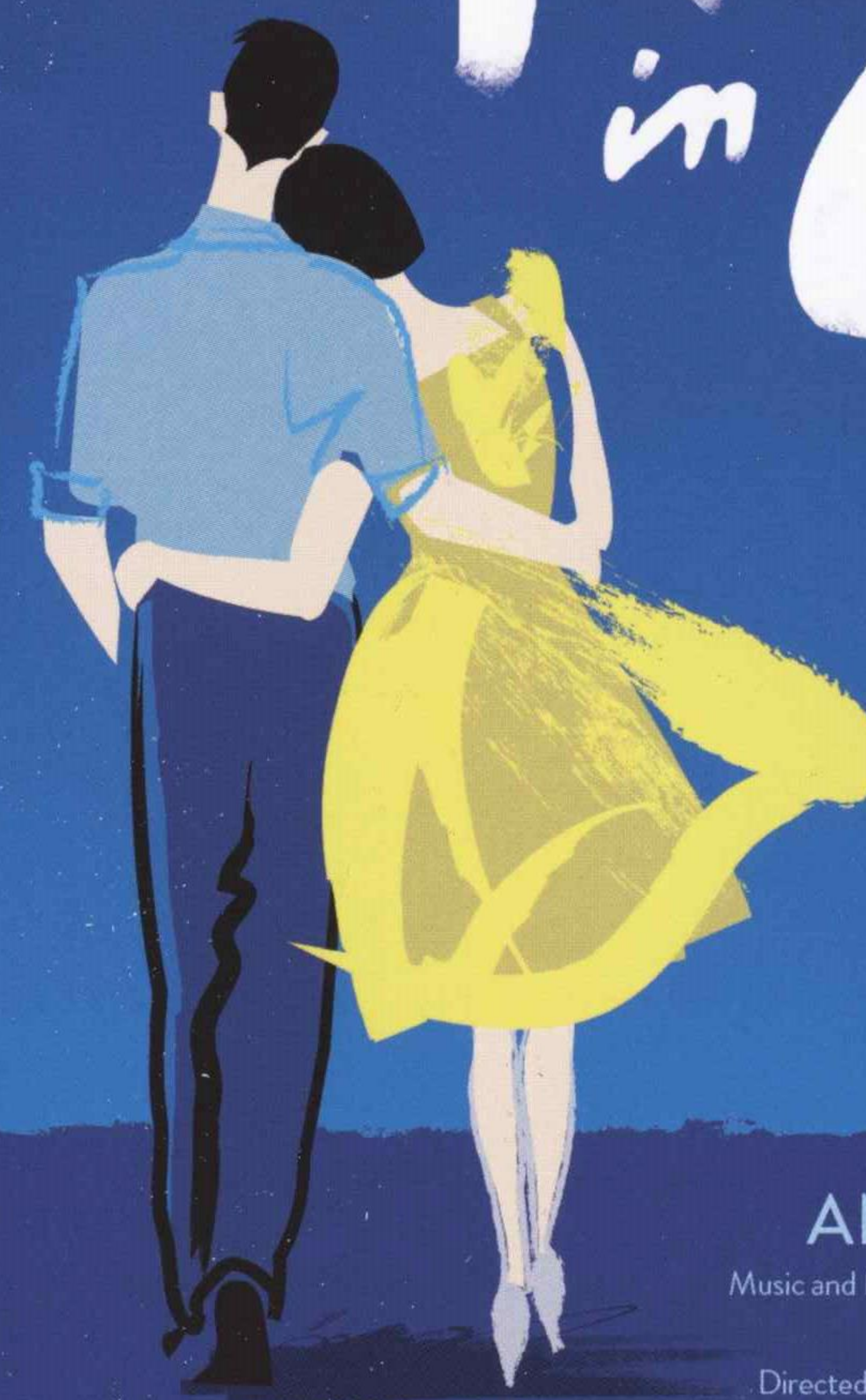
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Neil Frost: *The Story of the Nervous Man.*

LONDON CLOWN FESTIVAL

Clowning has been growing in popularity and its reputation changing over the last few years, with a number of high profile and award winning performers coming to the forefront of the comedy industry, moving away from stereotypes of red noses and squirty flowers and towards the sophisticated silliness of physical comedy at its greatest. In its inaugural year in 2016, London Clown Festival, the first of its kind in London, set out to celebrate the rise of modern clowning, bringing amazing physical performers who could make people laugh with a twitch of their eyebrows into one place.

Following on from the success last year, seeing 34 shows performed in 10 days, London Clown Festival returns from 11-21 May and has moved into the Art Deco splendour of Hornsey Town Hall, N8, to bring a multitude of shows to four venues within the building. Featuring highly acclaimed artists, alongside up and coming new talent from across the globe, London Clown Festival will maintain its founding principles remaining a celebration of physical comedy and clown influenced contemporary performance, exploring various forms of clowning and sharing the joy, exhilaration and surprise with a wide breadth of audiences both young and old and to ignite a new passion in audiences.

ZSL LONDON ZOO NIGHTS

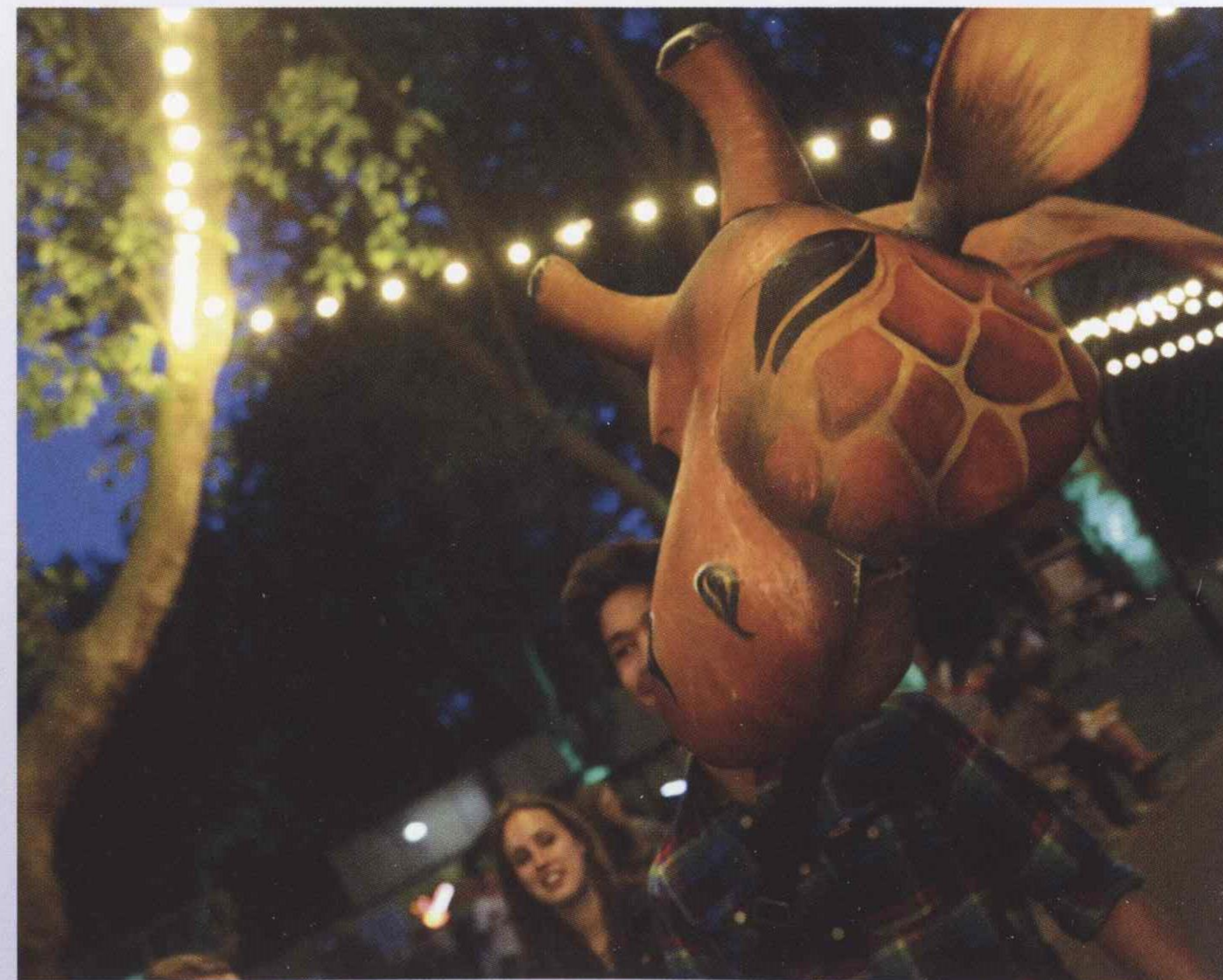
Thought a trip to the zoo was just for kids? ZSL London Zoo is set to change your mind this year – with the launch of its brand new Zoo Nights.

With an array of after-hours explorations for night-owls to embark on, live music, and more than 17,000 animals to visit, Zoo Nights will be a unique way for grown-ups to celebrate summer in the city.

If you know your tigers from your tapirs, prove it by taking part in Zooniversity Challenge, an interactive quiz show that will test guests on their animal knowledge. Or master your forensic investigation techniques as you help zoo experts tackle a case of illegal wildlife trade in a whodunit-style crime trail around the park.

Find out what animals really get up to after dark in *The Birds and the Bees – Uncut*, where expert guides will help unravel the mysteries of sex in the animal kingdom. Embark on a self-guided tour before the sun goes down, where you'll see all the magnificent animals and take in a packed programme of feeds and talks.

Feeding time is not just for the animals at ZSL London Zoo – visitors will love browsing the Zoo's Street Food Festival, where an array of treats will be on offer



from London's finest food vendors, including Indian nibbles, Mexican snacks and delicious cakes.

As the sun finally sets over the Zoo, set up camp with your fellow explorers to listen to live music on the lawn, providing an idyllic end to what promises to be a unique evening.

A limited number of Zoo Nights tickets are also available for upgrade, giving guests the opportunity to sleep within roaring distance of the lions at the Gir Lion Lodge. Comprising nine colourful cabins in the heart of the Zoo, the lodge offers a unique overnight experience. Dedicated hosts will guide guests around on exclusive evening and morning tours, sharing their insider tips on spotting species and fascinating facts about some of the Zoo's 17,000 residents. Sleeping within roaring distance of the pride of majestic Asiatic lions, guests will be treated to an evening meal and breakfast, and each private lodge comes fully equipped with home comforts, including cosy beds and an en suite.

Tickets are on sale now for Zoo Nights, giving visitors the chance to experience the oldest scientific zoo in the world as day turns into night.

Book tickets online at the website www.zsl.org/zoonights

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Photos: Ash Mills

STUNNING MUSIC ON LONDON'S SOUTHBANK

What better way to finish off the first day of May than with a spectacular concert on London's famous Southbank? There's nothing quite like the buzz that live music gives you – and with 250 singers, a world-famous orchestra and some of the most sublime music in existence, the May Day concert at the Royal Festival Hall (19.30) is an evening to remember.

This year, the Philharmonia Orchestra is joined by the Vivace Chorus and The London Chorus to sing the beautiful, powerful and moving Brahms Requiem. This is a piece of music that alternates between sending shivers down your spine and bringing tears to your eyes, and with some of the best musicians in the world to listen to, it's the ideal way to round off a holiday weekend.

It's also a rare chance to hear a world premiere, right on your doorstep. This concert celebrates the 70th birthday of the Vivace Chorus, which is based just outside London and has already sold out the Royal Albert Hall on two occasions.

To mark this special birthday, the choir has commissioned a brand new piece by internationally acclaimed composer Francis Pott. Cantus Maris is a wonderful piece for orchestra, choir and soloist, and

mezzo-soprano Sarah Fryer is flying to the UK from Canada to sing in the premiere performance.

This is the perfect opportunity to experience London's classical music scene at its best and all in the iconic setting of the Southbank. That means you can start the day with a trip on the London Eye, visit the London Aquarium or the London Dungeon, sample some of the great food and drink on the Southbank walkways and finish your day with an amazing concert – and all without having to criss-cross the river.

Tickets are available from £16 - £39, purchase at www.southbankcentre.co.uk or telephone 020 7960 4200. The Southbank Centre is a short walk from Waterloo or Charing Cross stations.



WILTON'S MUSIC HALL PLAY HOST TO ACCLAIMED OTHELLO

There is less than a month to go before one of Shakespeare's most contemporary plays, *Othello*, plays at Wilton's Music Hall for a limited number of performances, following on from a critically acclaimed run at the renowned Tobacco Factory Theatre in Bristol. A masterful depiction of a life torn apart by racism and the destructive nature of prejudice, this modern retelling takes the timeless tale of love, jealousy and injustice and reimagines it in the present day. Richard Twyman's urgently relevant production focuses on anti-Muslim prejudice and 'alternative facts'.

The tale of a Muslim general employed by a western colonial power to lead their army against Turkish invasion, the tragic play sees *Othello* face the difficulties of assimilating into a society riven by discrimination, fear and mistrust. Manipulated by Iago and his whispered mistruths, this begins to take its toll and his life quickly unravels as he turns on all he holds dear as paranoia and delusion take over.

The stellar cast includes two outstanding RADA graduates, Abraham Popoola and Norah Lopez Holden as the 'electrifying' fated lovers and Mark Lockyer who 'plays the dance of nuance that haunts Iago with dazzling deftness' with the 'wonderful' Katy Stephens as Emilia.

Director Richard Twyman says '*Othello* is one of Shakespeare's plays that speaks most directly to our world today. This production interrogates one of the burning tensions of our age, the fear of the 'other' and the perception that their identity may threaten our own.'

Performances will take place from 16 May – 3 June. For tickets telephone the box office on 020 7702 2789.



THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC HARLEM QUARTET RESIDENCY

The Royal College of Music has launched a three-year residency by the Grammy Award-winning Harlem Quartet. The New York-based ensemble, renowned for their genre-crossing approach, will begin their tenure as Quartet in Residence by performing in the Royal College of Music's annual Super String Sunday extravaganza. The ensemble will also host their own concert, performing innovative arrangements of jazz standards alongside the last of Beethoven's Rasumovsky quartets.

The Royal College of Music will welcome a host of internationally acclaimed musicians to share their vast knowledge and experience in a masterclass series, including violin virtuoso Maxim Vengerov (Polonsky Visiting Professor of Violin) and distinguished flautist James Galway.

Veteran Proms conductor Jac van Steen also returns to lead the RCM Symphony Orchestra in performances of Bartók's virtuosic Concerto for Orchestra and Dvorák's enduring Cello Concerto. Also in May, Rafael Payare, Chief Conductor of the Ulster Orchestra, will conduct Shostakovich's defiant Tenth Symphony.

The RCM Festival of Percussion is back with a special guest, international rock, jazz, funk and fusion drummer Benny Greb. Performances from top

percussion quartet Armadinda, O Duo with the Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment and the RCM Big Band with Benny Greb complete the day of celebration.

There will be ground-breaking performances with the return of the student-led Great Exhibitionists series. These multi-genre events are a mixture of contemporary dance, music and surround-sound live experiences. Each of the five concerts in the series will take up the spirit of the 1851 Great Exhibition, enticing audiences with innovative and unusual music-making.

The RCM International Opera School stages two productions in the summer, presenting Poulenc's *Les mamelles de Tirésias* alongside Chabrier's *Une éducation manquée*. This double-bill of French comic operas, led by acclaimed theatre director Stephen Unwin, will round-off the summer season, each opera in its own way casting a bizarre and witty look into the stories of a husband and wife.

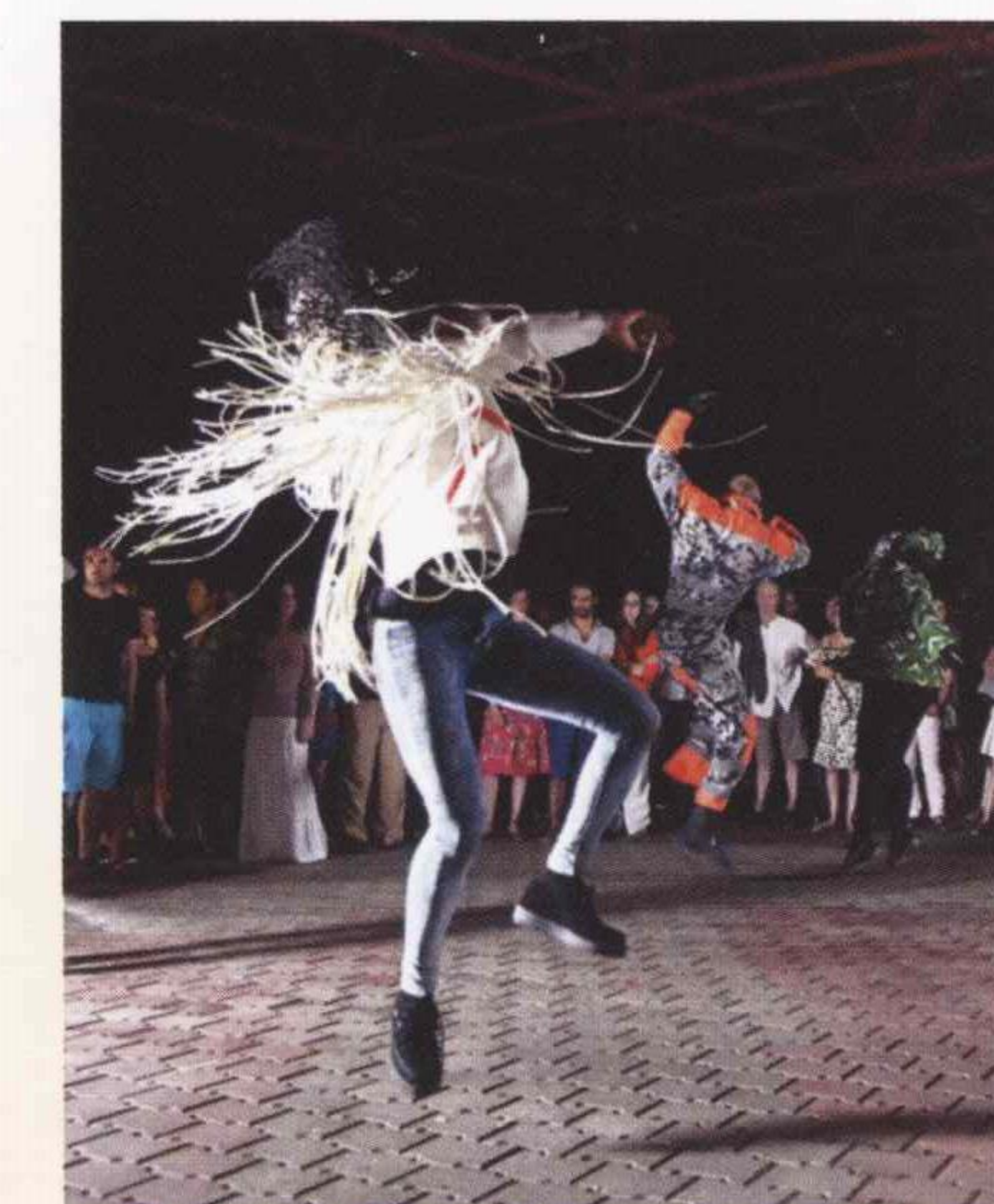
As well this activity at the College's historic home in South Kensington, RCM students will be performing at two other prestigious London venues this season. There will be a new series at Cadogan Hall with a range of chamber music concerts around an Austro-Hungarian theme and a programme of string music inspired by dance themes at Wigmore Hall.

UK PREMIERE: BORIS CHARMATZ MUSÉE DE LA DANSE

Dancer, choreographer and agitateur Boris Charmatz returns to London from 17- 20 May with the UK premiere of *danse de nuit*. Having previously presented work at Tate Modern and the Hayward Gallery, this is Charmatz's third visit to London under the auspices of Sadler's Wells.

Made after the Paris terrorist attacks of 2015, Charmatz' most recent work reflects on the political art of the cartoon and on humour and danger. Renowned for subverting forms of dance and movement with his work, Charmatz presents *danse de nuit* in a location that interconnects with the city, at the top of a multi storey car park in Stratford.

It features six dancers moved by a palpable sense of urgency, giving the sense of playing truant after hours when we should be safely at home. An intensely physical, urban night dance that challenges the established order, *danse de nuit* invites the audience not to play it safe. The intensity of the dance is underpinned by the performers' use of text, voice and verbal improvisations.



Later this summer, Charmatz's 10000 Gestures will be unveiled at Manchester International Festival from 13 - 15 July, in a co-production with Sadler's Wells. The work will premiere at the Volksbühne Berlin 14-17 September and will be presented at Sadler's Wells in 2019.

UGLY LIES THE BONE

Lyttelton Theatre

Virtual Reality as psycho-therapy is a concept new to me, but that's the use to which it is being put in American playwright Lindsey Ferrentino's awkwardly titled *Ugly Lies the Bone*.

The recipient of its benefits is Jess (Kate Fleetwood) who, after three terms of combat duty in Afghanistan, has returned home to Titusville near Cape Canaveral in Florida so physically scarred (it took three operations to replace an eyelid), and covered in unsightly skin-grafts, that each step she takes or movement she makes is excruciatingly painful.

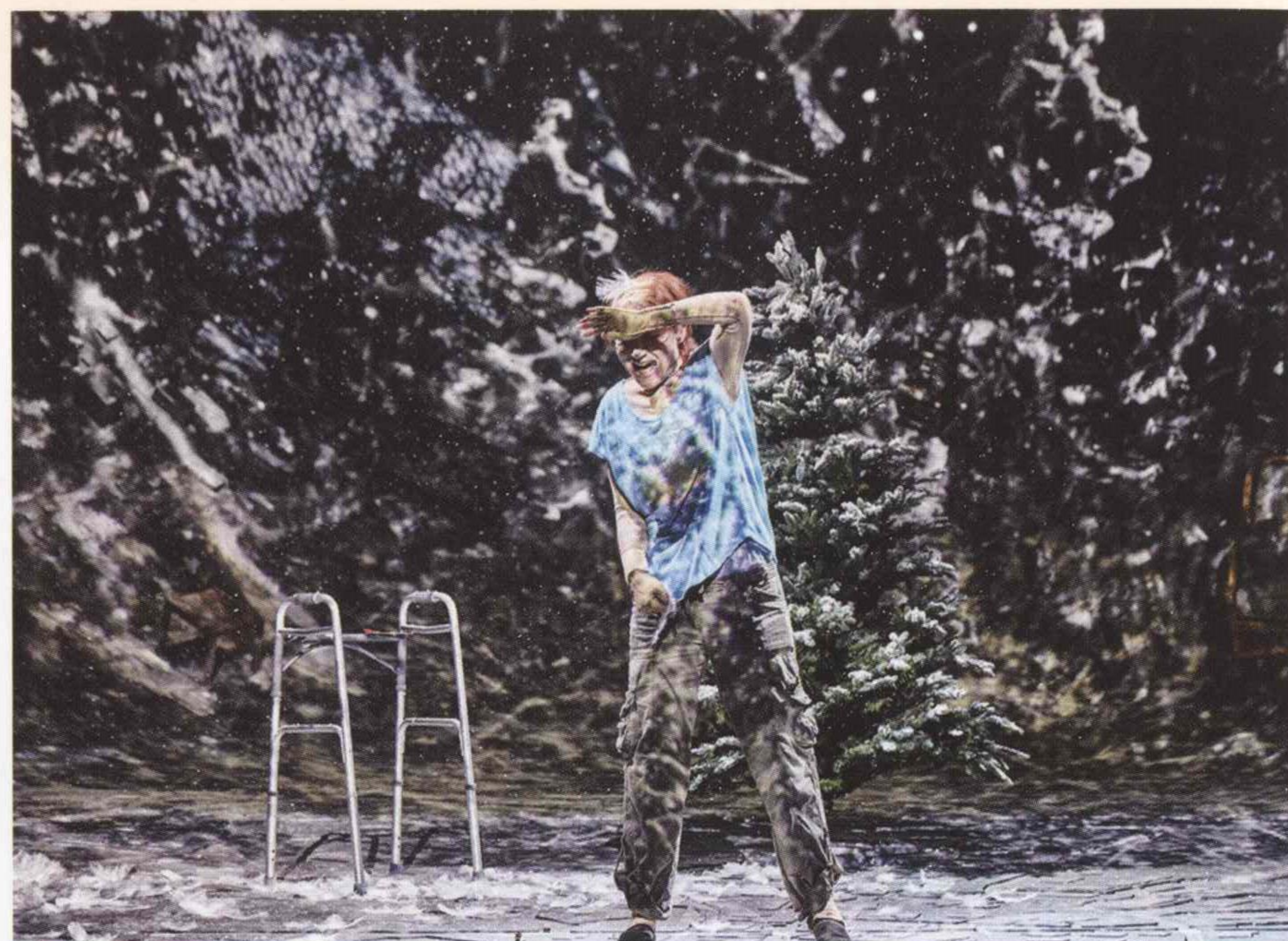
Jess is emotionally damaged as well, suffering from post traumatic stress disorder – a condition mirrored by the shell-shock suffered by her small home town and its diminished community in the wake of NASA's cutbacks to its space programme.

The VR experiments she undergoes have been designed to give her more mobility through much-needed exercise and to divert her mind away from her pain by following an avatar as it passes through a dream-like, snowy landscape.

In tandem with these sessions are her attempts to rehabilitate herself domestically. She lives with her caring sister Kacie (Olivia Darnley) who herself is trying to cope with the stress of Jess's problems without outwardly showing the strain; and with Kacie's boyfriend Kelvin (Kris Marshal), an oaf but with hidden sensitivities.

She also re-acquaints herself with Stevie (Ralf Little) an erstwhile boyfriend now running a gas station convenience store. Though Stevie is married, he has never forgiven Jess for choosing a third term in Afghanistan over him. As it turns out, he's still emotionally attached to her even though he literally can't bear to look at her physically.

The nearest thing to a love scene between them takes place when, from the top of her house, they both watch the very last space-shuttle launch. It's a rare and moving moment of intimacy, which ends



Ugly Lies the Bone at the National.

Photo: Mark Douet.

badly after Jess suffers a relapse and has to be hospitalised. Moving too, is the moment when Jess makes the physically painful effort to put on a new, more appealing blue dress in place of the clothes she usually wears.

Despite its liberating VR vistas of a world where anything seems possible, this is a bleak and uncomfortable play to watch.

Ferrentino does, however, provide a ray of hope. In the play's final moments we get to meet Jess and Kacie's mother, who has dementia and lives in a home. She has deliberately been kept away from Jess because of the distress seeing her daughter so horribly scarred might cause.

The mother, however, doesn't at all register what has happened to her daughter and sees her as she once was. This uncompromising acceptance gives Jess the kind of therapy with which her VR treatment could never compete.

Ugly Lies the Bone is a small play whose larger context – the nature of the on-going war in the middle East, its purpose and political implications, the role played by women in it – are marginalised. Nor, really does it make a particularly convincing case for VR as therapy.

For this reason, it might have resonated more strongly had it been staged in the smaller, intimate Dorfman

theatre. The cost of the trade-off would certainly have impacted on Luke Hall's Cinerama-like landscapes, but as they're only a vague assimilation of what VR is like anyway, that would not have been a problem.

By putting a wide-angle lens on what is basically a chamber piece and mounting it in the more demanding Lyttelton, intimacy has been sacrificed for the kind of production values it could have survived without.

A pity as Ms Ferrentino's writing is very good indeed. And so are the performances with Kate Fleetwood, though physically encumbered by the restrictions demanded of her character, in total command of the role's spectrum of fluctuating emotions.

Olivia Darnley effectively delineates both Kacie's outward and inner selves where her sisterly feelings are concerned; and, as Stevie, Ralf Little articulates through inarticulacy the pain and confusion caused by circumstances too complex for him to understand or control.

In the end, though, I just wonder whether, by giving the playwright the most prestigious exposure of her promising career to date, the National are doing her or her play a favour.

CLIVE HIRSCHHORN

IDINA MENZEL UK LEG OF HER 2017 WORLD TOUR

After releasing her fifth solo studio album *idina.* last autumn, Tony Award-winning superstar Idina Menzel will return to the UK as part of her 50+ city global spring and summer tour.

Called 'the Streisand of her generation' by The Denver Post, Idina has captivated audiences at sold-out concerts around the world with her irresistible charm, wit and unparalleled vocal prowess. Throughout the tour, she will lead audiences through a special journey of songs from *idina.*, as well as other classic pop, musical theatre favourites and her own personal catalogue.

Tony Award-winning icon Idina Menzel has a diverse career that traverses stage, film, television and music. Idina's voice can be heard as Elsa in Disney's global box office smash *Frozen*, in which she sings the film's Oscar-winning song 'Let It Go,' and in the follow up short, *Frozen Fever*.

After Idina's performance of the multi-platinum song at the 86th annual Academy Awards, she made history as the first person with both a Billboard Top 10 hit and a Tony Award for acting. She capped 2016 with the release of her fifth original solo studio album *idina.*, and filmed Lifetime's remake of *Beaches*, in which she portrays the role of 'CC,' made famous by Bette Midler. Idina earned her first Tony nomination as Maureen in the Pulitzer Prize Winner *Rent*, and won the award for her performance as Elphaba in *Wicked*.

Idina also performed the National Anthem at Super Bowl XLIX in February 2015, which was the most-watched television programme in U.S. history. For further information on Idina and her career, visit www.idinamenzel.com

Idina Menzel will be performing at the Royal Albert Hall on 15 June, with other dates across the UK throughout June.

Tickets for the London concert are available at www.livenation.co.uk



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Tower Bridge

View of Tower Bridge under construction with river traffic in the foreground, c.1901



Tower Bridge LMA Panels Complete © City of London, London Metropolitan Archives.

TOWER BRIDGE EXHIBITION CELEBRATES UNSUNG HEROES

To commemorate the living legacy of the most famous bridge in the world, Tower Bridge Exhibition are presenting a brand new focus on the human history behind the Bridge, celebrating some of the unsung heroes throughout its 120-year history. Starting with the installation of a 'Walk of Fame' on the Bridge, this celebration of the fascinating living heritage and the faces behind one of London's best-loved symbols will continue into the redevelopment of the historic Victorian Engine Rooms, revealing some of the personal stories behind this iconic landmark.

From its cooks to coal stokers, labourers to bridge drivers and everyone in between, the names of 40 workers – selected especially to illustrate the diversity of roles at Tower Bridge – have been cast onto plaques, and a further 40 decorative plaques been designed and cast by local school pupils from City of London Academy, Southwark and the London Sculpture Workshop and laid into the south east pavement as a

permanent tribute to some of the workers from across the nation who both built and ran the Bridge, celebrating their extraordinary contribution to the history of the capital.

Visitors will meet cook Hannah Griggs, who joined Tower Bridge as the first female worker in 1911 alongside the first Bridgemaster Bertie Angelo Cator and many more for a unique glimpse of the people behind the iconic Bridge. Uncover some of these workers' personal stories in the historic Engine Rooms' new permanent interpretation, unveiled this April. Set among the original steam engines that once powered the mighty bridge lifts, the new permanent exhibition will feature life-size photographs of five of the workers, alongside oral histories from their relatives and stories told by more former Bridge staff.

The new content will also explain the pioneering process behind an iconic bridge lift, showing how it worked then and also how the modern mechanics work, through an innovative bespoke process model, interactive displays, games and original objects.

ZEE JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL TO TRANSFORM BRITISH LIBRARY

On 20 and 21 May, the British Library will be transformed as the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival animates its iconic spaces for the first time into a sumptuous showcase of South Asia's literary heritage, oral and performing arts, music, cinema and illusion, books and ideas, dialogue and debate, Bollywood and politics in the context of this broader view of India and its relationship to the UK.

2017 marks the fourth London edition of the Festival, which is rooted in the Pink City of Jaipur, India. Held every January, this year commemorated the 10th anniversary of the flagship event.

Programme highlights include Oscar-winning British director Stephen Frears who will be in conversation with journalist and writer Shrabani Basu to discuss Basu's book *Victoria and Abdul* which is soon to be released as a major motion picture directed by Frears and starring Judi Dench as Queen Victoria, *You've Got Magic* from illusionist and new-age mentalist Neel Madhav whose tricks include criminal psychology and neuro-linguistic programming. *The Beatles in India: The Rishikesh Trip* sees writer, playwright and music historian Philip Norman in conversation with leading Indian journalist Ajoy Bose in a fascinating session that explores the magic and mystery of the Beatles in India nearly 50 years since their trip to Rishikesh and an evening of vibrant musical celebration with Kabir Café.

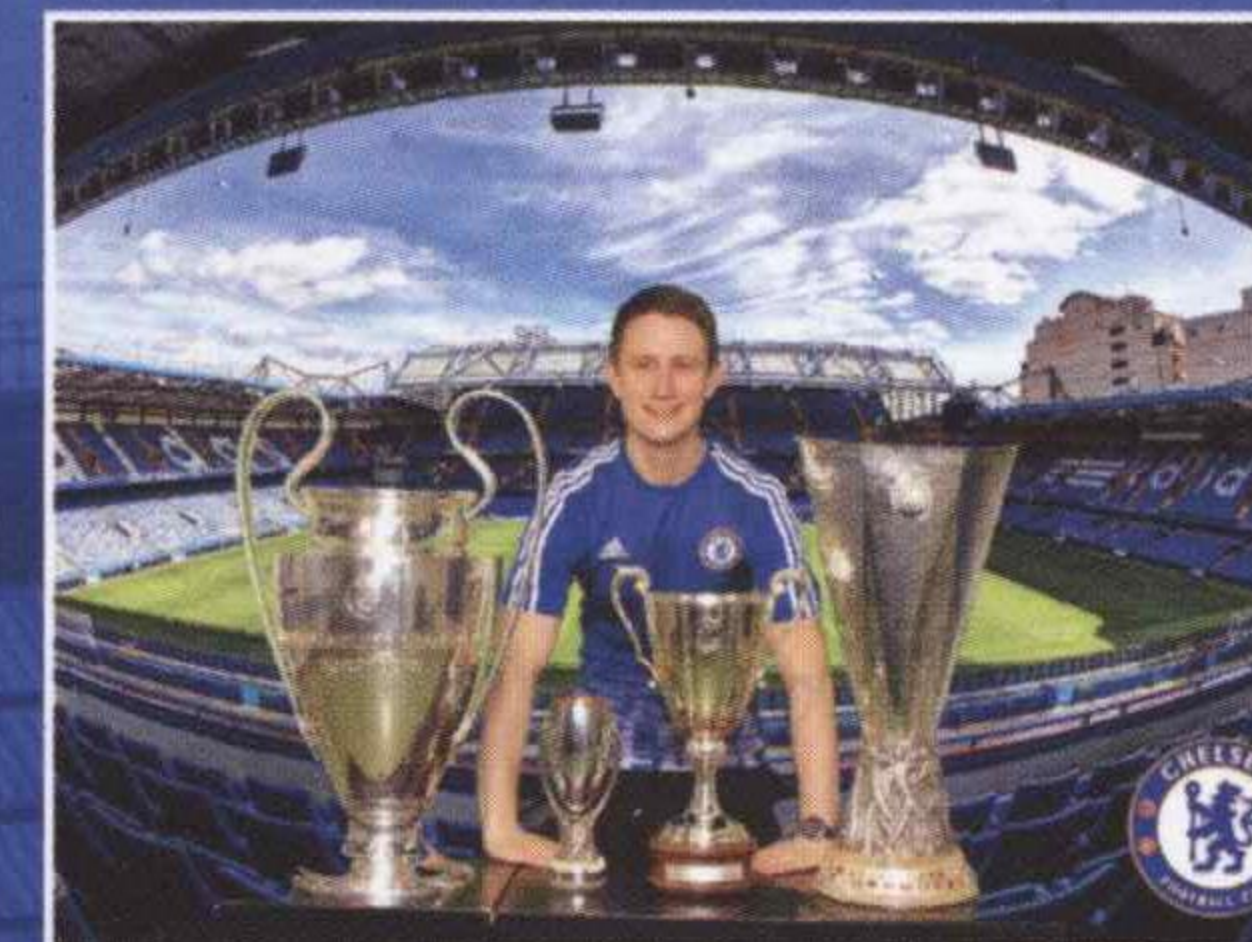
Festival co-director, writer and publisher Namita Gokhale will be in conversation with panellists Tahmima Anam, Sarvat Hasin, Amit Chaudhuri and Kunal Basu as they share their insights on the art of the novel in *The Reading Room: Reshaping the Novel*.



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WEMBLEY STADIUM TOURS

During May Bank Holiday, go behind-the-scenes of the UK's largest sports and music venue. Wembley Stadium Tour takes visitors deep into the heart of the stadium and into areas usually reserved for the biggest and best names in sport and music such as Beckham, Messi, Ronaldo, Tom Brady, Anthony Joshua, Ed Sheeran and Beyonce. The award-winning, 75 minute, guided tour includes access to the Dressing Rooms, Press Room, Players' Tunnel, Pitchside and the iconic Royal Box to have a photograph taken with a replica of the world-famous FA Cup.

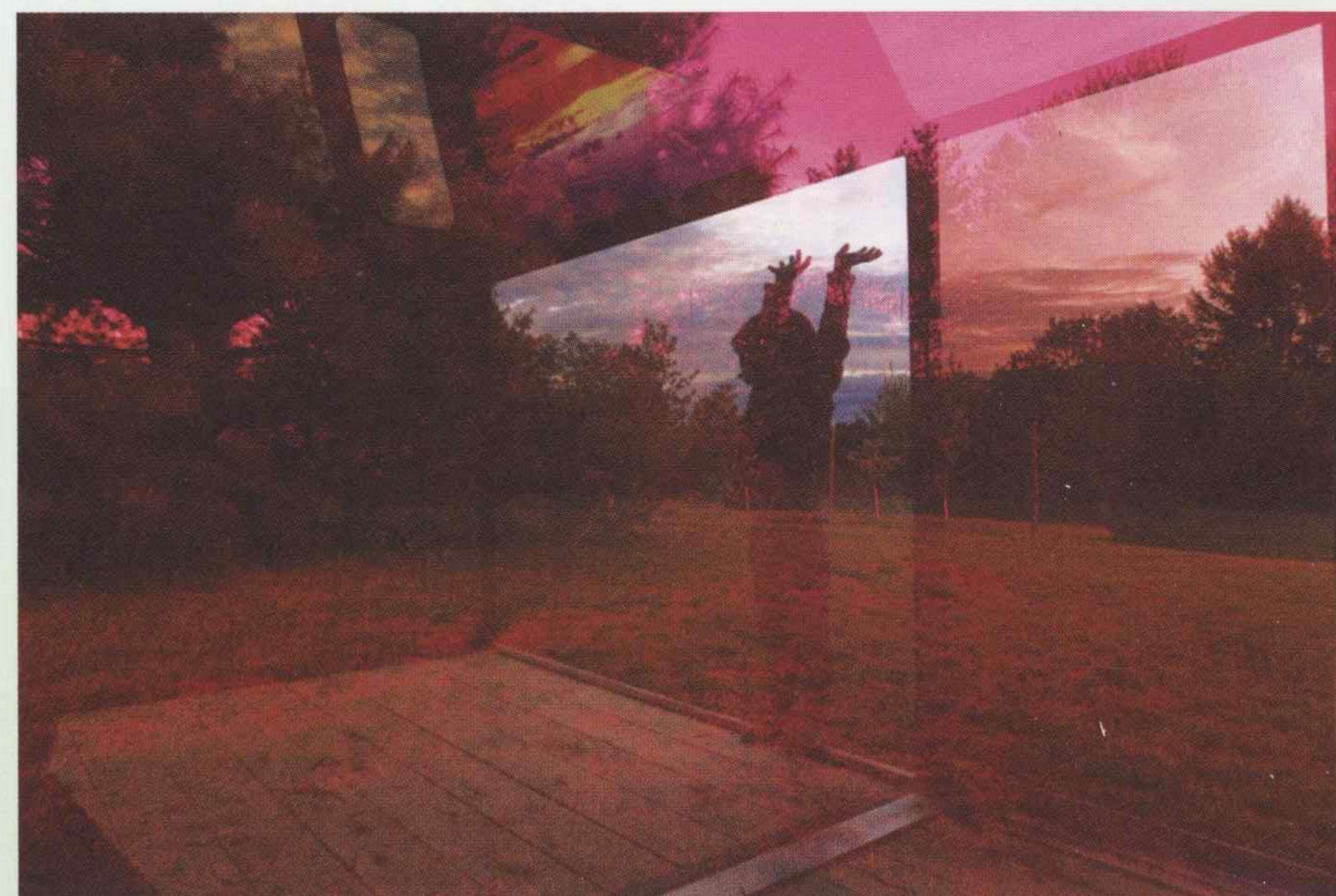
Wembley is the perfect location for families and visitors of all ages. With multiple accessible train routes, ample parking, a café, plentiful restroom facilities and the London Designer Outlet shopping centre next door, the Wembley Tour caters for all visitor needs. Wembley Stadium Tour is open 12 months a year and 7 days a week with the exception of certain event dates in the calendar. Tours depart at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00 with pre-booking advised.

All tours are conducted in English. Printed translation guides are available in 9 languages. Book your Tour now by visiting www.wembleystadium.com/tours or telephone 0800 169 9933.

SARAH BRAMAN AT MARLBOROUGH CONTEMPORARY

Marlborough Contemporary is presenting an exhibition of sculpture by the American artist Sarah Braman. Her first solo in the UK, the show highlights Braman's signature commitment to infusing the recent art historical canon with distinctly American vernacular traditions and the suggestion of their dissolution.

Refined fabricated materials such as tinted glass and welded steel are used in combination with lowly stumps and logs, salvaged doors (from both bedroom and car), and discarded mattresses. The permanent yard sales and 'free stuff' offerings that litter the countryside of Braman's native New



Sarah Braman, Here.

England become source material, both formally and in spirit, engaging their desperation and perseverance. In this manner, webbed folding chairs piled atop a raw wooden plinth simultaneously retain the persistent echo of Modernist design and the throwaway ethos of deck furniture.

The colours of the sunset – painted, dyed and also depicted in photographs affixed to the sculptures – carry a seductive allure, but also a melancholy note that reminds us that all days must come to an end. This unexpectedly emotive and painterly quality fuses object and surface, tying the disparate sculptural components together, as well as lending a quiet power to the wall-mounted plywood colourfields.

Braman addresses the great triumph and albatross of Minimalism and its antecedents, infusing them with light and the casual spirit and humility of the found object. Her sculptures succeed in tracing a line between Donald Judd and chainsaw art without any loss of gravity or humor.

Sarah Braman was born in 1970 in Tonawanda, New York. She currently lives and works between New York and Amherst, Massachusetts and is also one of the founders of the artist-run Canada gallery in New York. Braman received a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and an MFA from Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia.

THE CARDINAL

BY JAMES SHIRLEY

STARRING STEPHEN BOXER & NATALIE SIMPSON

DIRECTED BY JUSTIN AUDIBERT

**SOUTHWARK
PLAYHOUSE**

26 APRIL - 27 MAY

Box Office: 020 7407 0234
southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

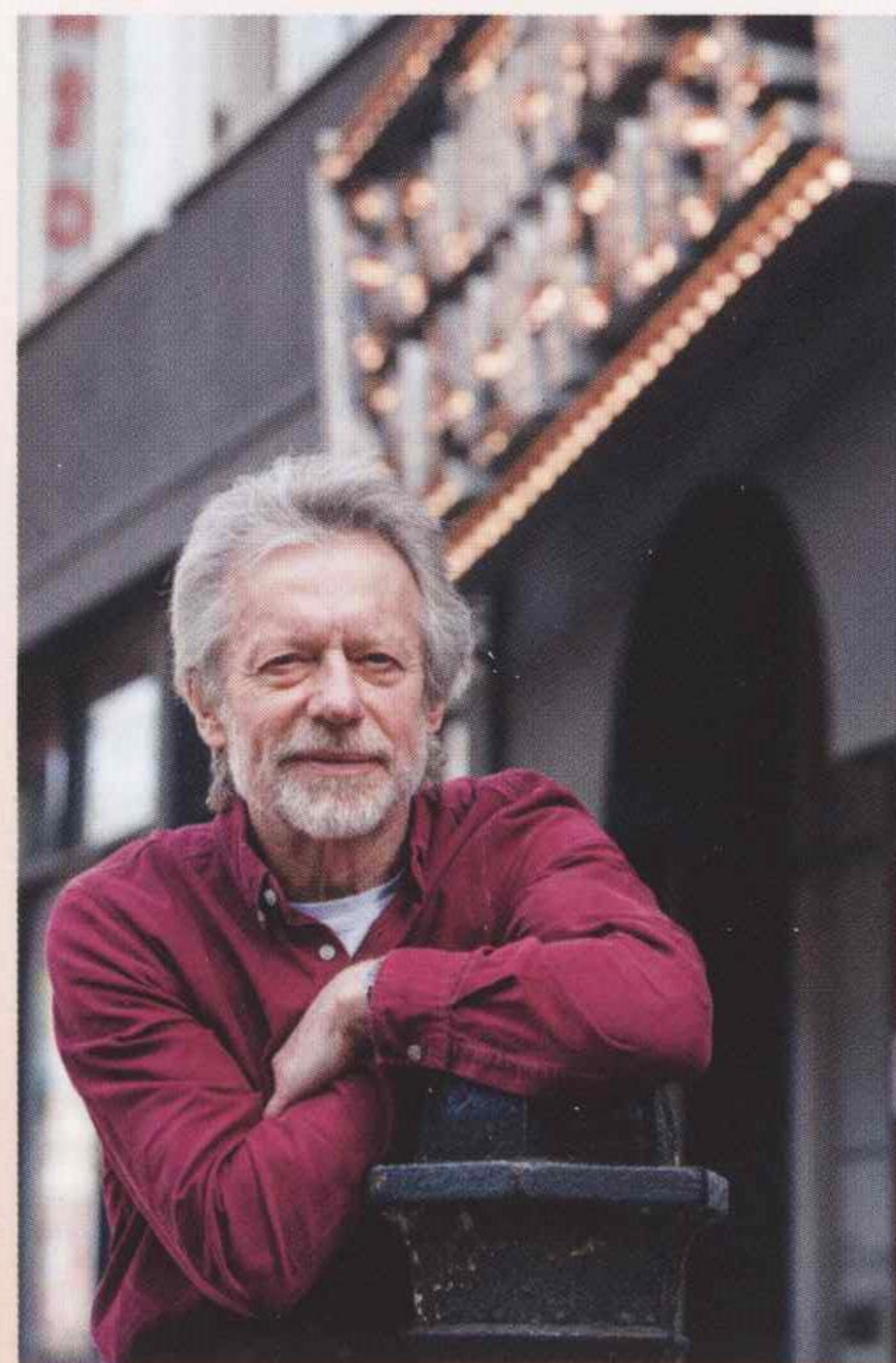


Stephen Boxer, Natalie Simpson and Justin Audibert.



THE CARDINAL AT SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE

Currently playing at Southwark Playhouse is *The Cardinal*. With an eleven-strong cast in stunning period costume, this revenge drama is full of sword fights, thwarted love, dark humour and political intrigue. Stephen Boxer (*Titus Andronicus*, Royal Shakespeare Company and *King Lear*, National Theatre) plays the title role and Natalie



Simpson (*King Lear*, *Hamlet* and *Cymbeline*, Royal Shakespeare Company) is Duchess Rosaura. Justin Audibert (*The Jew of Malta* and *Snow in Midsummer*, Royal Shakespeare Company) directs.

The state of Navarre is in crisis. An unscrupulous Cardinal has the ear of the King and is hungry for power. The Duchess Rosaura longs to marry the Count D'Alvarez, but the Cardinal wants her for his brutish nephew. To tighten his grip on the Kingdom, the ruthless Cardinal will stop at nothing to secure the marriage. But in the Duchess it seems he has finally met his match.

Hailed as James Shirley's tragic masterpiece, *The Cardinal* (1641) was one of the last plays staged in England before Oliver Cromwell's ban on theatre. With remarkably lucid and fast-paced dialogue, it is the captivating story of a religious monster and his relentless pursuit of power.

The Cardinal will play from 26 April – 27 May. Southwark Playhouse is located near Elephant & Castle station, which is on the Bakerloo and Northern lines.

For tickets, telephone 020 7407 0234 or visit www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

MAMMA MIA! CELEBRATES ITS 18TH LONDON BIRTHDAY

Fresh from playing Donna Sheridan in the first ever UK Tour of global hit musical *Mamma Mia!*, Sara Poyzer (pictured below) is to play the role at London's Novello Theatre from 12 June, along with fellow *Dynamos*, Kate Graham as Tanya and Jacqueline Braun as Rosie.

From West End to global phenomenon, *Mamma Mia!* is Judy Craymer's ingenious vision of staging the story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs with an enchanting tale of family and friendship unfolding on a Greek island paradise. To date, it has been seen by over 60 million people in 50 productions in 16 different languages grossing more than \$2 billion at the box office.

The show originally opened in London at the Prince Edward Theatre on 6 April 1999, before transferring to the Prince of Wales Theatre in 2004. The London production of *Mamma Mia!* has been seen by nearly 8 million people, played over 7,500 performances and has broken box office records in all three of its London homes.

The booking period in London has been extended to 3 March 2018.



Photo: Brinkhoff & Moegenburg.

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Imelda Staunton in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* at Harold Pinter Theatre until end May.

Photo: Johan Persson.

PLAYS

LOVE IN IDLENESS

Following a sold out run at the Menier Chocolate Factory, Terence Rattigan's brilliant comedy *Love in Idleness* transfers to the Apollo Theatre for 50 performances only. APOLLO THEATRE
Shaftesbury Av., W1D (020 7851 2711)

THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY

One enormous diamond, eight incompetent crooks and a snoozing security guard. What could possibly go right? CRITERION THEATRE
Piccadilly Circus, (020 7492 0810)

THE PLAY THAT GOES WRONG

A Polytechnic amateur drama group are putting on a 1920s murder mystery and everything that can go wrong... does! DUCHESS THEATRE
Catherine Street, WC2 (0330 333 4810)

OUR LADIES OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR

The uplifting and moving story of six Catholic choir girls from Oban, let loose in Edinburgh for one day only. A glorious anthem to friendship, youth and growing up disgracefully. DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (020 7492 1552)

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

An innocent outsider, a suspicious rural community, a gothic house and a misty marsh are the ingredients of this Victorian ghost story. FORTUNE THEATRE
Russell Street, WC2 (0844 871 7626)

THE MISER

Actor, writer, and two-time Olivier award-winner Griff Rhys Jones returns to the West End in a hilarious new adaption by Sean Foley and Phil Porter of Moliere's classic comedy. GARRICK THEATRE
Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0330 333 4811)

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME

Based on Mark Haddon's best-selling novel, the play follows a 15 year-old maths genius who tries to unravel the mystery of his neighbour's murdered dog. GIELGUD THEATRE
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (020 7452 3000)

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Imelda Staunton and Conleth Hill star in a new production of multi Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee's landmark play, directed by James Macdonald.

HAROLD PINTER THEATRE
Panton Street, SW1 (0844 871 7627)

Royal National Theatre Plays in repertory

OLIVIER THEATRE.

TWELFTH NIGHT

Simon Godwin directs this joyous new production of the Shakespearian classic, with Tamsin Greig as a transformed Malvolia.

SALOME

Internationally acclaimed director Yaël Farber draws on multiple accounts to create her urgent, hypnotic production.

LYTTTELTON THEATRE

UGLY LIES THE BONE

Award-winning American playwright Lindsey Ferrentino makes her UK debut with this honest and funny new drama, directed by Indhu Rubasingham.

ANGELS IN AMERICA

Tony Kushner's multi-award-winning two-part play is directed by Olivier and Tony award-winning director Marianne Elliott.

DORFMAN THEATRE

CONSENT

Nina Raine's powerful, painful, funny play sifts the evidence from every side and puts justice herself in the dock.

NATIONAL THEATRE

South Bank, SE1 (020 7452 3000)

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

The play that made a young Tom Stoppard's name overnight, returns in its 50th anniversary celebratory production.

OLD VIC THEATRE

The Cut, SE1 (0844 871 7628)

HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD PARTS I & II

A brand new stage play based on the Harry Potter franchise written by Jack Thorne, based on an original story by J.K Rowling. PALACE THEATRE
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0844 412 4656)

THE MOUSETRAP

Agatha Christie's whodunnit is the longest running play of its kind in the history of the British theatre.

ST MARTIN'S THEATRE
West Street, WC2 (0844 499 1515)

THE PHILANTHROPIST

A major revival of Christopher Hampton's play starring Matt Berry, Simon Bird, Lily Cole, Charlotte Ritchie and Tom Rosenthal. TRAFALGAR STUDIOS
Whitehall, SW1

STEPPING OUT

Amanda Holden heads a starry cast in this wonderfully funny and heart-warming comedy which charts the lives of seven women and one man attempting to tap their troubles away. VAUDEVILLE THEATRE
The Strand, WC2 (0330 333 4814)

DON JUAN IN SOHO

Loosely based on Molière's tragicomedy, this modern update transports the action to contemporary London. Starring David Tennant. WYNDHAM'S THEATRE
Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0844 482 5120)

MUSICALS

KINKY BOOTS

Inspired by a true story and based on the Miramax film, the show tells the story of Charlie Price who has reluctantly inherited his father's Northampton shoe factory. ADELPHI THEATRE
Strand, WC2 (020 3725 7060)

STOMP

This multi-award winning show continues to astound audiences across the world with its universal language of rhythm, theatre, comedy and dance.

AMBASSADORS THEATRE
West Street, WC2 (020 7395 5405)

WICKED

Hit Broadway story of how a clever, misunderstood girl with emerald green skin and a girl who is beautiful and popular turn into the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch in the Land of Oz. APOLLO VICTORIA THEATRE
Wilton Road, SW1 (0844 826 8000)

BEAUTIFUL: THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL

This new musical is the untold story of her journey from school girl to superstar, featuring the Carole King classics. ALDWYCH THEATRE
Aldwych, WC2 (0845 200 7981)

MATILDA

Critically acclaimed Royal Shakespeare Company production of Roald Dahl's book, directed by Matthew Warchus. CAMBRIDGE THEATRE
Earlham Street, WC2 (0844 800 1110)

AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

The award-winning, thrillingly staged and astonishingly danced Broadway Gershwin musical featuring some of the greatest music and lyrics ever written. DOMINION THEATRE
Tottenham Court Rd, W1 (020 7927 0900)

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Long running epic romance by Andrew Lloyd Webber, set behind the scenes of a Paris opera house where a deformed phantom stalks his prey. HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE
Haymarket, SW1 (0844 412 2707)

THE LION KING

Disney's phenomenally successful animated film is transformed into a spectacular stage musical, a superb evening of visual delight. LYCEUM THEATRE
Wellington Street, WC2 (0844 871 3000)

THRILLER - LIVE

High octane show celebrating the career of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Over two hours of the non-stop hit songs that marked his legendary live performances. LYRIC THEATRE
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0330 333 4812)

SCHOOL OF ROCK

Andrew Lloyd Webber's new stage musical with lyrics by Glenn Slater and book by Julian Fellowes, adapted from the film. NEW LONDON THEATRE
Drury Lane, WC2 (020 7492 0810)

HALF A SIXPENCE

The first West End revival of the classic 1960s musical transferring from an acclaimed season earlier this year at the Chichester. NOEL COWARD THEATRE
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0844 482 5141)

MAMMA MIA!

Hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, set around the story of a mother and daughter on the eve of the daughter's wedding. NOVELLO THEATRE
Aldwych, WC2 (0844 482 5170)



Trevor Dion Nicholas as Genie in *Aladdin*, playing at the Prince Edward Theatre.
Photo: Deen van Meer © Disney

THE GIRLS

Gary Barlow and Tim Firth's new musical comedy, based on the true story about the Women's Institute's Calendar Girls. PHOENIX THEATRE
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0844 871 7627)

ALADDIN

The classic hit film has been brought to thrilling life on stage by Disney, featuring all the songs from the Academy Award winning score. PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE
Old Compton Street, W1 (0844 482 5151)

LES MISERABLES

A spectacularly staged version of Victor Hugo's epic novel about an escaped convict's search for redemption in Revolutionary France. QUEEN'S THEATRE
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0844 482 5160)

DREAMGIRLS

West End premiere, starring Amber Riley. Set in the USA during the late 1960s and early 1970s, it follows a young female singing trio as they become music superstars. SAVOY THEATRE
Strand, WC2 (020 7492 0810)

MOTOWN THE MUSICAL

Featuring all the much loved classics from Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, and the Jackson 5, the show tells the story behind the hits. SHAFTESBURY THEATRE
Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (020 7492 0810)

42ND STREET

The song and dance, American dream fable of Broadway returns to the West End. Featuring a score by Harry Warren and Al Dubin and book by Michael Stewart and Mark Bramble. THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE Drury Lane, WC2 (020 7492 0810)

THE BAND IS FASTEST SELLING THEATRE TOUR EVER

The UK Tour of David Pugh & Dafydd Rogers and Take That's production of Tim Firth's new musical, with the music of Take That, went on sale on 3 April and within the first two hours, the Box Office took £2 million, making it the fastest selling theatre tour ever.

The Band is a new musical about what it's like to grow up with a boyband. For five 16 year-old friends in 1992, 'the band' is everything. 25 years on, the audience are reunited with the group of friends, now 40-something women, as they try once more to fulfil their dream of meeting their heroes.

The Band will be played by AJ Bentley, Nick Carsberg, Yazdan Qafouri Isfahani, Curtis T Johns and Sario Watanabe-Soloman, who won BBC's Let It Shine.



Photo: Jay Brooks.



A scene from *Consent* by Nina Raine.

Photo: Sarah Lee.

CONSENT

Dorfman Theatre

Playwright Nina Raine (who has already made rewarding forays into sexual politics, disability and the NHS) now turns her attention to rape, the legal system and smooth-talking barristers who casually acquaint themselves with the bare bones of a situation before presenting the case for the defence – or for the prosecution – in the courtroom.

Yet most of her extremely accomplished tragi-comedy (a co-production with *Out of Joint*) takes place in a domestic setting, where the same tactics – and, it transpires, issues – infiltrate the social interaction between new parents Kitty and her barrister husband Ed (and yes, we do get to meet their tiny new-born) and his colleagues – Rachel and her secretly philandering spouse Jake (Adam James – full of confident bluster) and perennially single Tim whom they try to matchmake with Kitty's friend Zara, a ditzzy struggling actress with a frantically ticking biological clock.

In Roger Michell's deft and extremely well-acted production (played out on Hildegard Bechtler's traverse stage which, symbolically, neatly divides the audience) Raine constantly subverts expectations. Relationships flounder, infidelity takes its toll and the confident,

mocking banter of these middleclass professionals can't always protect them when things become personal rather than just a legal game to be won by the most tactical player.

Anna Maxwell Martin's Kitty is touchingly credible as a woman who has, seemingly, forgiven past injuries, whilst Ben Chaplin is cool, confident and unpredictable as a not very nice Ed.

It's currently only booking until mid May, but this witty, intelligent and layered new play really deserves a longer run – not just for what it says about justice and the law, but for the skilful way in which it says it, too.

Louise Kingsley

CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Ross Noble, Lesley Joseph and Hadley Fraser will lead the cast of Mel Brooks' (pictured right) *Young Frankenstein*, the classic comedy musical based on the Oscar-nominated smash hit movie, which opens in the West End on Thursday 28 September at the Garrick Theatre.

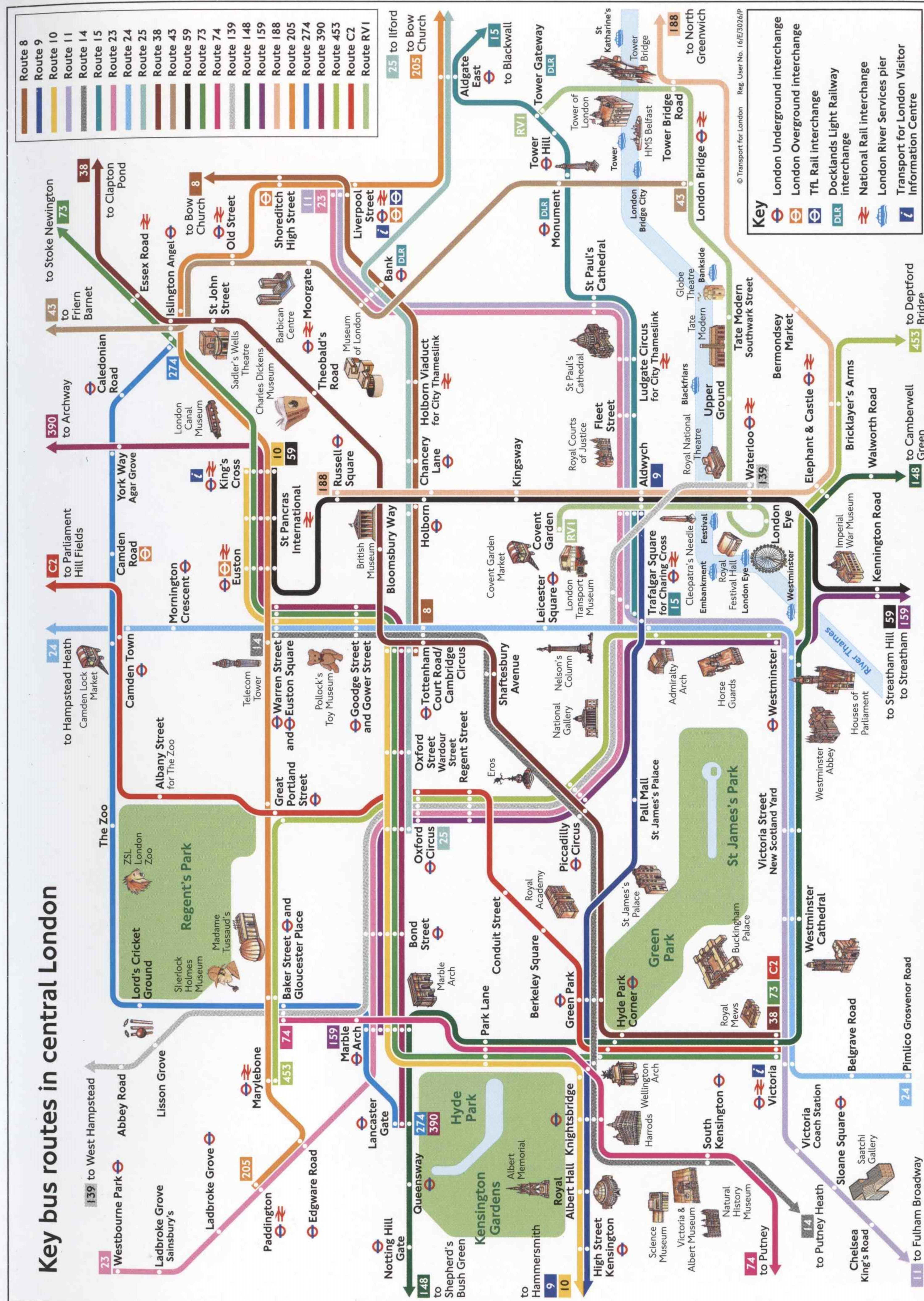
Hadley Fraser will play the title role of Dr Frederick Frankenstein, grandson of the infamous Dr Victor Frankenstein, immortalised by Gene Wilder in the 1974 movie. Hadley's widely acclaimed stage credits include Marius in the West

End production of *Les Miserables*, a show to which he returned in the role of Javert. He was a member of the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company for *The Winter's Tale* and *Harlequinade* at the Garrick Theatre and starred alongside Tom Hiddleston in the Donmar Warehouse production of *Coriolanus*, and performed there again in *City of Angels*, *The Vote* and *Saint Joan*.

Ross Noble will play the hilarious role of the hunchbacked, bug-eyed servant Igor. Ross is one of the UK's most original and exciting performers: a stand-up comedian since the age of 15, his countless accolades include Time Out award winner for best live stand-up, Barry Award winner, Perrier Award nominee and several Chortle Awards. Unveiling a new sell-out show every year for the last 20 years, Ross is one of the most successful comedians of our time with an on-stage presence unlike any other.



Young Frankenstein, the wickedly inspired re-imagining of the Mary Shelley classic, sees Frederick Frankenstein, an esteemed New York brain surgeon and professor, inherit a castle and laboratory in Transylvania from his deranged genius grandfather, Victor Von Frankenstein. He now faces a dilemma – does he continue to run from his family's tortured past or does he stay in Transylvania to carry on his grandfather's mad experiments reanimating the dead and, in the process, fall in love with his sexy lab assistant Inga?





STOUR SPACE CAFE

*'The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.'*

Philip Larkin

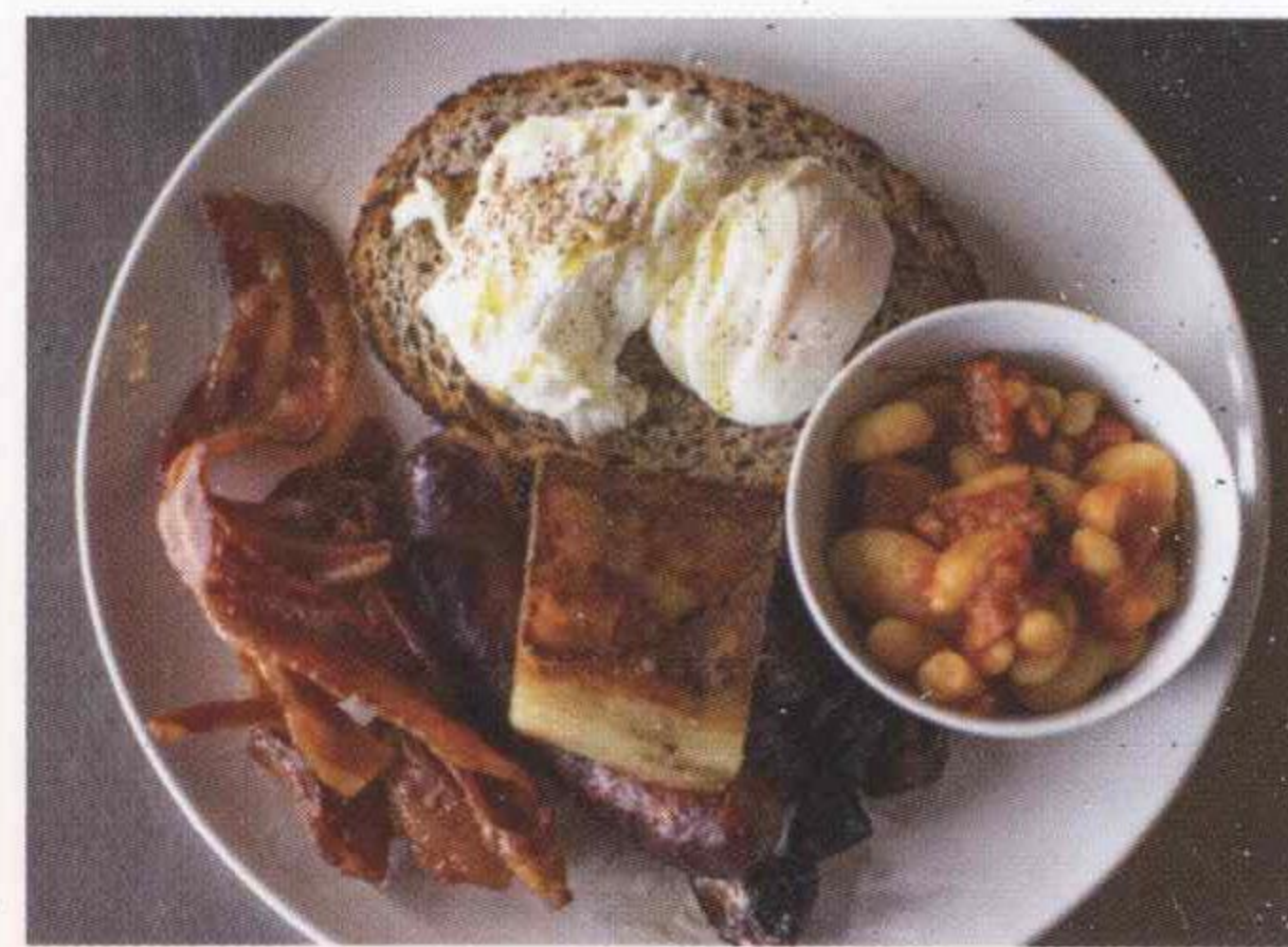
It's a wonderful time of year to explore London's fringes – the places where the grit and grime of urban living meld into Nature at its loveliest. Nowhere is this more apparent than on the canals. You might see a bobbing trail of ducklings; verdant towpaths; the random cultivated daffodils of 'boaters' – people passing through on their narrowboats who seem to be Londoners, albeit temporary ones. Head out from the inner city – even from as central a start point as, say, Angel – and you can walk for miles along the Lea Valley to the east of London.



It's here that the Olympic Park was built in 2012. Now home to a fabulous swimming pool, velodrome, tunnel slide and myriad other entertainments, the park is an excellent goal for such a walk. Is it naughty of me then to suggest that just mosey-ing along by the water, peering at the narrowboats and taking in the town-and-country sights is just as entertaining? If you come out of the park to see the water, or if you arrive at Hackney Wick to start on a journey of exploration, there is a small corner of Stratford which remains relatively unknown but should not be missed.

On the backstreets of E3 you will find a quietly exciting community of artists and like-minded people – a few of them accommodated at Stour Space. This former industrial building is home to two floors of creative types in their studios, plus a large café space. Some days there is yoga. Other days dance. It is described by its founders, Neil McDonald and Rebecca Whyte, as a social enterprise. Whenever I have been there, you could sense the energy of so much youthful ambition. And in terms of relaxation, the old barge-turned-sun-deck on the canal at the back of the building is a perfect chilling out zone.

Food is both eclectic and wholesome. The home-made pies are wildly popular (I've never got there early enough to try one.) But another favourite has to be the poached eggs on top of mushrooms braised in Port, with lemony feta all on top of sourdough. Vegetarians do well here but meat eaters are not spurned either. My Asian pork broth with greens and rice noodles made a light, fragrant lunch. All the better to indulge in matcha tea-infused cake (so green and sweet!) and lemony sponge with gin icing. You could always make yourself feel healthier with one of the green veg juices – so good for you they are topped with tiny viola flowers. Their menu is offered alongside London roasted speciality coffee (Dark Arts), Tea (Good and Proper) and raw, cold pressed juices (Rejuce).



From 4 May, the Stour Bar will be open from Thursday to Sunday, 17.00 until late. Carefully chosen, locally produced beverages are served next to a menu presented by resident pop-up Sood family; a southern Italian menu by Michele Pompili, who previously worked under Nuno Mendez at Chiltern Firehouse.

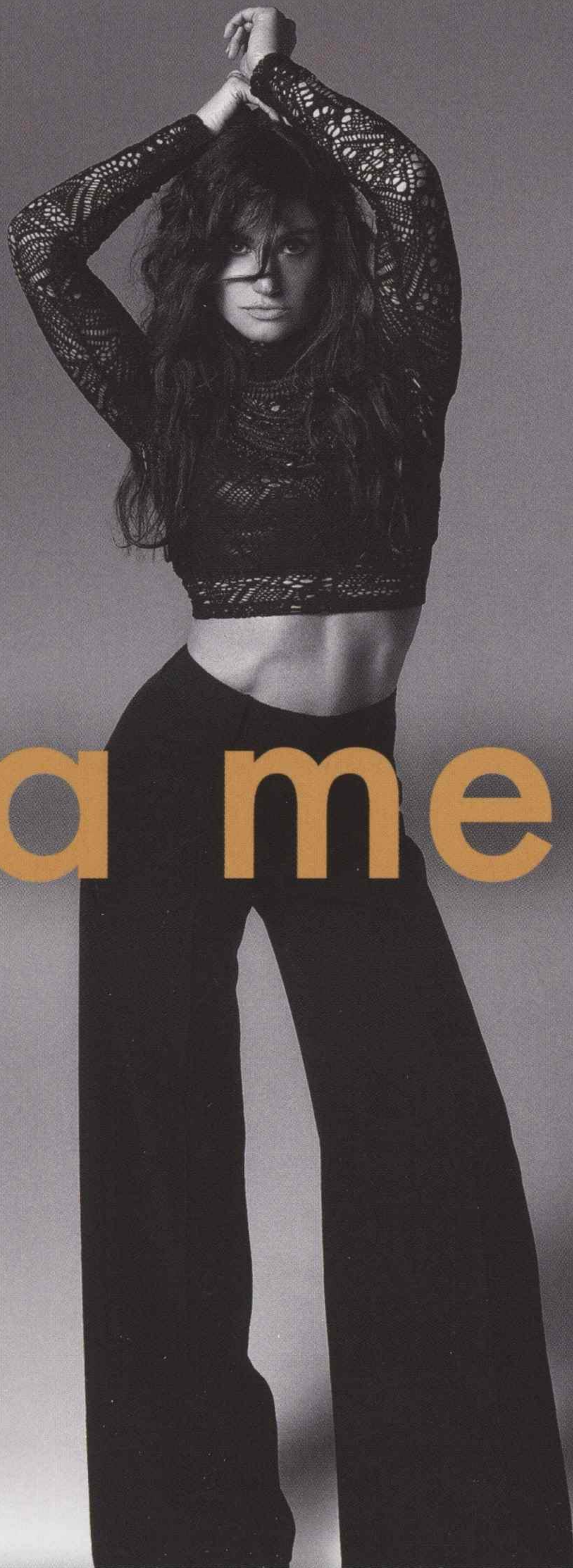
In any case, if you walk the several miles along the canal you will deserve plenty of cake. Ditto if you have arrived by tube at Stratford and walked the length and breadth of the Olympic Park. Take a break and imbibe some of London's most picturesque local life.

Sue Webster

this is drinking
this is eating
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idina menzel

THE INCREDIBLE VOICE BEHIND SMASH HIT "LET IT GO" FROM
DISNEY'S FROZEN AND THE STAR OF WICKED, GLEE AND RENT

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017
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