

The background is a complex, layered composition of architectural sketches and abstract elements. It features various line weights, including thin black lines for structural details and thicker, bold lines in black, red, blue, and purple. The sketches include architectural plans, elevations, and sections, some with hatching and shading. The overall color palette is muted, with greys, beiges, and light blues, punctuated by the vibrant colors of the overlaid lines.

bon vivant

/bɔ̃ vi: 'vɔ̃, French bɔ̃ vivã/ {n};

A person who devotes themselves to a sociable and luxurious lifestyle

MAY – AUGUST 2017

summer guide

Platinum



Cover image: Julie Mehretu, *Babel Unleashed* 2001, whose work is on show from 19 May 2017 in *Julie Mehretu: Palimpsest* at Museo Serralves, Portugal. Courtesy of Collection Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

Summer 2017

Dear Friends,

It's great to be back with another season of BON VIVANT. The year has gotten off to a fantastic start. I recently flipped through the editions from the first four months of the year, and was struck by how amazing it is to be alive in the world today – with so much artistic accomplishment from a range of cultures, and across virtually every discipline.

Highlights for me were Maurizio Pollini performing Chopin at the Royal Festival Hall and singer / songwriter Salif Keita, whose performance at Barbican brought the warm, soulful spirit of West Africa to a very cold London in February. Another standout was Aakash Odedra at Sadler's Wells, whose classical Indian dance was prayerful, spiritual, and ancient – a wonderful celebration of South Asian civilisation.

In addition to the music and dance, there were amazing art exhibitions (Kerry James Marshall's distinctly African-American celebration of love and beauty through painting!), new restaurants opening (every item at David Muñoz's StreetXO's menu is gastronomic perfection), and events for the family (many of you wrote to me about *The Velveteen Rabbit*).

The summer months will bring even more to do, across even more places. Because European cities tend to slow down in the summer months, we're coming to you with a single BON VIVANT Summer Edition – to cover the months of May, June, July and August. But because the summer is a time of travel and adventure, we've also included a separate Summer Festivals edition as well – which we hope will give you some nice summer holiday inspiration!

Bon voyage!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rafael Mason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yours sincerely,
Rafael Mason
Vice President
Head of Product, Marketing & Brand
American Express, UK

Platinum

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LONDON



BERNARD
HAITINK
DOES
MAHLER
SYMPHONY
N°9

MAHLER SYMPHONY N°9
LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Barbican, 23 May 2017

Mahler's final symphony is one of the most extraordinary musical farewells in the history of Western classical music. As with all of Mahler's symphonies, this isn't easy listening: Mahler's approach to musical storytelling is big and wandering; his melodies are so fragmented and subtle that one often develops a taste for them over many years, and after much listening. But for those who love this music, it rarely gets better than this. The much loved final movement of this final symphony by Mahler is one of the most rich and complex musical expressions ever; it suggests that in the end, man's search for understanding and meaning is quixotic, quiet and ultimately elusive. Bernard Haitink, one of the great conductors of all time, joins the LSO to direct what is sure to be one of the highlights of the year.

Image © Hiroyuki Ito

LONDON

CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH DOES BEETHOVEN'S 9TH

BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY N°9
LONDON PHILHARMONIC /
CHRISTOPH ESCHENBACH
Royal Festival Hall, 6 May 2017

The final years of Beethoven's life were characterised by deafness and loneliness. His music from that time mostly reflects this darkness. But his Symphony N°9 is a beacon of hope; it has some of the most tender and loving music of Beethoven's entire body of work. No one will ever know why Beethoven wrote this symphony, which many would call the single greatest achievement within the classical tradition, but it does show how context and biography can only take us so far in understanding the secrets of the human spirit. And who better to interpret such a momentous work than the always masterful Christoph Eschenbach?

Image © Eric Brissaud



BACH BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS

ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT
St. John's Smith Square, 2 May 2017

Nothing in this world reveals the miracle that is music better than Bach's six *Brandenburg Concertos*, which, in addition to exploring the themes of sound and structure, also express every emotion known to man. There is lots of joy: the horns in the opening of the first Brandenburg conjure up feelings of abundance and celebration, and the fourth concerto's fluttering recorders are as playful and innocent as youth. But the violin and oboe in the slow middle movement of the second Brandenburg amble with a relentless, beautiful sense of grieving. That's what one gets with Bach: everything. And nobody does Bach better than the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, who use instruments from the period to bring this miraculous music to life.

Image © Eric Richmond



IAN BOSTRIDGE / LARS VOGT IN RECITAL

SCHUBERT SCHWANENGESANG
BEETHOVEN AN DIE FERNE GELIEBTE
Wigmore Hall, 10 May 2017

Schwanengesang, written just before Schubert died (and only published posthumously), is actually three sets of songs that were later combined into a single cycle. In the original manuscript in Schubert's hand, the first 13 songs were copied in a single sitting, with hardly any edits. Such is the work of true genius. And *Schwanengesang* is pure lyrical genius indeed, with the typical Schubertian themes: longing, man in nature, a certain glorification of the quotidian, and of course, an obsession with one central theme – romantic love (in all its forms and stages). Ian Bostridge is the Schubert muse of our time, and of course the occasion to see him with Lars Vogt at Wigmore is not one to pass up.

Image © Sim Canetty-Clarke

LONDON



MICHAEL TILSON
THOMAS DOES
THE PATHÉTIQUE

**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
TCHAIKOVSKY SYMPHONY N°6, "PATHÉTIQUE"
4 June 2017, Barbican**

**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA / YUJA WANG
BRAHMS PIANO CONCERTO N°2,
8 June 2017, Barbican**

Michael Tilson Thomas once said that the mission of every great musician is to play in a way that says: "This is how life *feels*". Wise words from the 'soul whisperer' of classical music, and the conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. You cannot miss Michael Tilson Thomas (known by his cult following as 'MTT') directing the LSO in Tchaikovsky's devastating Symphony N°6. The *Pathétique* is Tchaikovsky's final symphony, and it is one of the most regretful artist expressions known to man – a weeping, sighing dirge of a farewell to a spiritually heavy life.
Image © Eric Thayer



UK

LONDON

MAHLER SYMPHONY N°3

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA / DANIEL HARDING
Barbican, 25 June 2017

The Symphony N° 3 offers one of the most complete musical statements of Mahler's complex, lyrical and conflicted world view. The monumental symphony in six movements of distinctive character, spanning some 100 minutes, occupies the entire concert under the baton of the LSO's Principal Guest Conductor. "This is a work of such magnitude," Mahler wrote, "that it actually mirrors the whole world [...] In my symphony the whole of nature finds a voice." The final movement is Mahler's attempt to articulate love – not romantic love, but the love of man for another, and with it Mahler creates a work of art that is almost unbelievably subtle and profound.



LONDON



STEVEN ISSERLIS & JOSHUA BELL

MENDELSSOHN
Wigmore Hall, 24, 25 July 2017

Mendelssohn, from a wealthy Jewish family, was for a long time sidelined as a serious composer. His youth, background and beautiful melodies did not befit the prevalent image of the suffering artist. However, as these two concerts – in which Joshua Bell and friends come together to perform Mendelssohn's chamber music – show, Mendelssohn was a composer of genius, his music both lyrical and passionate. Among the works performed over these two days is the *Piano Trio in D Minor*, which Schumann described as "the master trio of the age," and a once-lost *Violin Sonata* which was revived by Yehudi Menuhin in the 1950s.

Image © Polyák Attila

SCOTLAND



BEETHOVEN & BRAHMS IN SCOTLAND

BRAHMS SYMPHONY N°3
BEETHOVEN PIANO CONCERTO N°3
ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA
Usher Hall, Edinburgh, 5 May 2017
Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, 6 May 2017

Beethoven's Piano Concerto N°3 is one of those works that helps convert newcomers to classical music into die-hards. It's playful and prancing (the Allegro and Rondo), but also sublime and moving too (the Largo). So this is a great programme for someone looking to dip their toes into classical. The more challenging Brahms Symphony N°3 is also on the bill. Brahms is always big and demanding, but the *Poco Allegretto* (third movement) feels like a small lullaby. In short, this is a programme with something for everyone – so those in Scotland should not miss out.

Image © Royal Scottish National Orchestra

BEYOND THE CAPITAL



BOOK NOW

DUBAI

BRYN
TERFEL
IN DUBAI

Dubai Opera House, 3 December 2017

Germany may have Jonas Kauffman, but Britain has Bryn Terfel – arguably the most commanding male voice alive. 25 years since his 1990 debut at the Welsh National Opera, Terfel continues to demonstrate that he is a national treasure. With the world still in awe from his Wagner cycle at The Metropolitan Opera some years back (which had the New York Times speechless), the Grammy winner comes to Dubai for a one night performance. Those who want any chance of seeing this will book now.

Image © Rolex

NEW YORK



MURRAY PERAHIA
AT CARNEGIE

**BACH, FRENCH SUITE N°6
SCHUBERT, FOUR IMPROMPTUS
MOZART, RONDO IN A MINOR
BEETHOVEN, PIANO SONATA N°32 IN C MINOR
Carnegie Hall, 19 May 2017**

There are many difficult decisions in life – but if you're in New York City this May, to see Murray Perahia at Carnegie Hall in a programme of Bach, Schubert, Mozart and Beethoven is not one of them. Perahia is always a masterclass in erudition and luminescence, but this programme promises to be a particularly strong showcase of his gift for song. Hopefully you've got a business meeting in New York in late May. If not, make one up.

Image © Felix Broede

BIRMINGHAM



VAUGHAN
WILLIAMS

**FANTASIA ON A THEME BY THOMAS TALLIS
FIVE TUDOR PORTRAITS
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Symphony Hall, 10 May 2017**

As part of the orchestra's 'Spirit of England' series, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra presents an all-Vaughan Williams programme. The founder of the nationalist movement in English music, Vaughan Williams consciously cut ties with the dominant classical tradition of the continent and instead sought inspiration closer to home in Elizabethan music and folksong. The programme will include Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*, which is lyrical pastoralism at its best: gentle and magical, but also innovative and bold. Warning: the *Five Tudor Portraits* is not as lush and lyrical as Vaughan Williams typically is, but the *Fantasia* alone will make you dream.

BEYOND THE CAPITAL



MILAN

MOZART'S DON GIOVANNI AT LA SCALA

PAAVO JÄRVI, DIRECTOR

La Scala, 6 May – 6 June 2017

The great Paavo Järvi will make his La Scala debut in one of the most loved of operas by one of the most loved of operatic composers. *Don Giovanni* tells the story of the famously libertine womaniser who eventually has to pay for his sins. Mozart's genius for vocal writing, and for interwoven parts, is fully on display – and Paavo Järvi is sure to bring out the rich and complex orchestral colours as well. This isn't one to miss.

Image © Julia Bayer

NEW YORK



EMERSON STRING QUARTET & YEFIM BRONFMAN

BRAHMS PIANO QUINTET
Carnegie Hall, 7 May 2017

The highly accomplished Yefim Bronfman, who has received much critical acclaim for his interpretation of Brahms' massive Piano Concerto N°2, returns to Carnegie Hall in a rare opportunity to hear him perform alongside other chamber musicians – and not just any chamber musicians: in this case, the Emerson String Quartet, arguably the most venerable string quartet the world over. On the programme: Brahms' intense, stormy and perfect Piano Quintet. It's not often that one gets to see so many stars together on such a celebrated stage, so if you make it to New York for this you should consider yourself lucky.

Image © Lisa-Marie Mazzucco

PARIS



BERLIOZ'S SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

TCHAIKOVSKY VIOLIN CONCERTO
BERLIOZ'S SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE
ORCHESTRE NATIONAL DE LYON / LEONARD SLATKIN
Philharmonie de Paris, 9 May 2017

French composers Debussy, Ravel and Satie are beloved for their particularly French brand of musical impressionism, but it all started with Berlioz's *Symphonie fantastique*. This music is elegant, charming and idiosyncratic, but also trippy and (to borrow from Leonard Bernstein's famous description) "psychedelic and hallucinatory." Berlioz may have written it while high on opium, but this work is one of the finest examples of symphonic orchestration ever, and it unequivocally sits within the classical pantheon of 'great works.' The hallucinogenic quirks are part of what make the *Symphonie fantastique* so charming (and so much fun!).

Image © W. Beaucardet

LONDON & BEYOND

LONDON



CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE

Ronnie Scott's, 19 – 21 July 2017

One of the most dazzling double bassists of the modern era, Christian McBride has worked with artists such as Sonny Rollins, Diana Krall, Paul McCartney and Sting. While you might have heard him on numerous jazz and rock recordings without even knowing it, McBride's own music really works best when he's firing on all cylinders on stage with his band. Blurring the lines between Ray Brown, Paul Chambers and Ron Carter, like all the very best jazz players, McBride somehow manages to sound tight but loose at the same time.

Image © Andrea Rotili

NEW ORLEANS



NEW ORLEANS
JAZZ FESTIVAL

28 April – 7 May 2017

The organisers bill it as “the world's biggest backyard barbecue”, and while that may sound like marketing speak, this being New Orleans, there's a palpable sense of joie de vivre about this truly unique festival. With 12 stages and hundreds of artists ranging from huge headliners such as Stevie Wonder and Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers through to lesser-known gems from the worlds of jazz, gospel and blues, this festival is sort of like an older, more amazing version of Glastonbury, and it has to be said that the food is infinitely better and there's much less chance of getting stuck in the mud.

Image © Getty Images

UK



TONY BENNETT

Royal Albert Hall, 27, 28 June 2017

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, 1 July 2017

Symphony Hall, Birmingham, 3 July 2017

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, 5 July 2017

While the legendary singer is popularly known as a crooner, he is a jazz man at heart. The man hailed by Frank Sinatra as “the best singer in the business” is now the last of the old-school legends and, although his voice has maybe thinned a little over recent years, at the age of 90 he continues, astonishingly, to perform with more élan than anyone else in the world.

Image © Bryan Adams/Trunk Archive

NEW YORK



RON CARTER 80TH
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Blue Note, 2 – 7 May 2017

Having worked with everyone from Bill Evans and Miles Davis to Gil Scott-Heron and BB King, the legendary Ron Carter is undoubtedly one of the most important double bass players in the history of music. He may be celebrating his 80th birthday, but anyone who has seen him live in recent years will know that he is still at the very top of his game. Carter usually performs in much larger venues, so this six-night stand at New York's finest and most intimate jazz club is a rare opportunity to be able to see his fingers do the talking as they float across the strings.

Image © Herman Leonard

BEYOND THE CAPITAL



NEW ORLEANS / NEW YORK

CHUCHO
VALDÈS



New Orleans Jazz Festival, 7 May 2017

Blue Note, 9 – 14 May 2017

Valdès is a true legend of Cuban music, who learned his craft in the hotels of Havana.

Thumping out block chords and playing thrilling flourishes with a dexterity nobody apart from Buena Vista Social Club pianist, Rubén González, could match, Valdès and his barnstorming band play a heady cocktail of authentic Cuban grooves and modern jazz with a breathtaking swagger that you won't find anywhere outside Havana.

Image © Rachel Murray

LONDON



ABIDA PARVEEN

Royal Festival Hall, 28 May 2017

One of the finest Sufi singers in the world, Abida Parveen's voice packs such an emotional punch that it is not uncommon to see people openly weeping in the aisles at her concerts. Accompanied only by percussion and harmonium, she sings in Urdu, Sindhi, Saraiki, Punjabi and Persian. This hypnotic form of devotional music has the power to transcend all cultural barriers, so you don't actually need to understand these languages to be able to appreciate the art.

Image © Royal Festival Hall



SEU JORGE

Royal Albert Hall, 30 May 2017

Best known for playing the David Bowie-obsessed sailor, Pelé dos Santos, in Wes Anderson's 2004 film *The Life Aquatic With Steve Zissou*, Brazilian singer Seu Jorge established a big international fan base when he released his critically acclaimed album of bossa nova Bowie covers the following year. Although the idea sounds kitsch, Jorge is a charismatic performer who somehow manages to shine new light through old windows with his gentle, ineffably moving take on the Thin White Duke's iconic songbook.



CELINE DION

The O2, 20, 21 June 2017

Celine Dion has arguably one of the most iconic pop voices of the 21st century. It's her trademark powerful pipes and huge vocal range that initially brought in the crowds, but it's her broad diversity that has kept them coming back for more – some of her hits are sung in French, some in English; some have influences of rock and R&B, some of gospel or classical. It's no wonder then that tickets for her European tour, Celine Dion Live 2017, sold out within minutes of being released, consequently forcing the Québécoise beauty to launch eight additional dates in venues across Europe. As part of her 12th concert tour, Dion will be performing songs from her 2016 French-language studio album, *Encore un Soir*, as well as her upcoming English-language studio album due for release later this year.

Image © Charley Gallay

LONDON & BEYOND

DUBAI / DUBLIN / UK

JUSTIN BIEBER

Autism Rocks Arena, Dubai, 6 May 2017
RDS Stadium, Dublin, 21 June 2017
Principality Stadium, Cardiff, 30 June 2017
BST-Hyde Park, 2 July 2017

Like many pop idols before him, former teen star Justin Bieber has done all of his growing up in public. He is now 23 years old and has already been famous for more than a third of his life. Interestingly, his fans have remained fiercely loyal to the cause, which is almost unheard of in the ephemeral world of pop. While it may often seem like the media is out to get him, even the most cynical critics would have to admit that he produces good music. And for the Brits, it's also great how he inadvertently but beguilingly resurrects the English Renaissance tradition where introspection and melancholy are the ultimate badges of studliness. Dubious? Listen to *Cold Water* or *What Do You Mean?*, and you'll probably agree.

Image © Eric Ray Davidson



LONDON / NEW YORK



ERIC CLAPTON

Royal Albert Hall, 22, 24 & 25 May 2017
Madison Square Garden, 7, 8 September 2017

Eric Clapton plays guitar with a fire in his belly that belies his age, and while he's certainly no showman, the fans that used to call him 'God' come to hear his unmistakable liquid licks rather than watch him grandstanding like many of his peers. If you have never witnessed a Clapton concert, his recent announcement that he intends to drastically reduce his touring schedule should be enough of an incentive to catch this genuine guitar genius while he's still at the peak of his considerable powers.

Image © Julian Broad

UK



ELBOW

Various locations, 15, 21, 24, 25, 29 June 2017

While Elbow's recently released album, *Little Fictions*, maintained the gradual shift away from the anthemic songs with which they made their name, the band's rich, sophisticated music is as moving as ever. Undoubtedly the most consistently brilliant British group to emerge this century, Elbow have that rare ability to make even the largest venue seem intimate, so this tour of idyllic English forests is sure to be one of the highlights of the summer.

Image © Andrew Whitton

LONDON

AKRAM
KHAN'S
DESH

Sadler's Wells, 31 May – 3 June 2017

Since it first opened in 2011, Akram Khan's *DESH*, with its magical interweaving of speech, story and profoundly affecting dance, has been a massive hit with audiences around the world. It is inspired by a visit to his parents' birthplace in Bangladesh, and brings together myth and memory as the British-born choreographer explores his heritage and his family homeland. What's extraordinary about *DESH* is that though it is a solo piece, by the end you will be convinced that the stage has been full of people, so vivid is the story telling, aided by Tim Yip's designs, Michael Hulls' lighting and Jocelyn Pook's music.

Image © Richard Haughton



LONDON

THE VERTIGINOUS THRILL OF EXACTITUDE / STRAPLESS

THE ROYAL BALLET

Royal Opera House, 18, 20, 23, 24, 25, 31 May 2017

The Royal Ballet took *The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude* into its repertory as a vehicle for the great Sylvie Guillem, but this wonderful piece choreographed by William Forsythe to Schubert has always made the entire company shine. It's odd then that it has been out of the repertory for 15 years and thrilling that it is now returning in a bill that also features Christopher Wheeldon's *Strapless*, a semi-narrative ballet about the portrait painter John Singer Sargent, a revival of George Balanchine's *Tarantella* and the world premiere of *Symphonic Dances*, a new ballet by the company's artist in residence Liam Scarlett set to Rachmaninoff's final work.

Image © Angela Sterling



BALLET RAMBERT

Sadler's Wells, 16 – 20 May 2017

A classic and a brand new work come together in this programme by Britain's leading contemporary dance company. Christopher Bruce's *Ghost Dances* has been a hit for the company ever since it was created in 1981 as a haunting tribute to the victims of oppression in South America. Now, its poignant mixing of the living and the dead takes on even wider relevance. It is matched with Didy Veldman's elegant *The 3 Dancers*, a work that tells the story behind one of Picasso's most famous paintings and a new work by rising star Aletta Collins to Arturo Márquez's *Danzones*.

Image © Chris Nash



SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS

THE ROYAL BALLET

Royal Opera House, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10 June 2017

It's 70 years since Frederick Ashton's *Symphonic Variations* premiered as his first work for the Royal Ballet after it moved to its new home at the Royal Opera House. The piece, a master work of early 20th century classicism, still looks as fresh and lovely as ever. This welcome revival comes as part of an all-Ashton triple bill which also features his charming Shakespearean *The Dream* and the always-dramatic *Marguerite and Armand*.

Image © Tristram Kenton

LONDON & BEYOND



LONDON

MICHELLE DORRANCE'S TAP DANCE

Sadler's Wells, 12 – 15 July 2017

Michelle Dorrance might just be the future of tap. With musical collaborator Nicholas Van Young, this New York-based dancer and choreographer won a 2014 MacArthur Foundation 'Genius' grant for her efforts, but more importantly she is winning new audiences and pushing dance in exhilarating new directions.

ETM: Double Down brings tap into the age of electronic music with electronic tap boards that make the stage talk back, becoming a musical instrument in its own right, responsive to every move by the eight dancers.

Image © Christopher Duggan

NEW YORK



ABT'S TCHAIKOVSKY SPECTACULAR

AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE
Metropolitan Opera, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 July 2017

American Ballet Theatre bring their season at the Metropolitan Opera to a close with a sparkling bill of ballet set to the music of the great 19th century Russian composer. The highlight is probably the company premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's beautiful *Souvenir d'un Lieu Cher*, set to Tchaikovsky's composition for piano and violin of the same name, but there's also Balanchine's *Mozartiana* and the radiant Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux to enjoy plus more from Ratmansky and Marcelo Gomes' *AfterEffect*.

Image © Rosalie O'Connor

PARIS



ROBBINS / BALANCHINE / CHERKAOUI, JALET

PARIS OPERA BALLET
Palais Garnier, 2 – 27 May 2017

The music of Maurice Ravel provides the common thread uniting this unusual triple bill. It sets George Balanchine's tumultuously passionate version of *La Valse*, choreographed in 1951, alongside Jerome Robbins' *En Sol* to the Piano Concerto in G Major, which was adapted by Paris Opera Ballet from the original piece made in 1975. Finally the programme comes bang up to date with a take on the famous *Boléro* with choreography by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Damien Jalet and a setting and conception provided by the achingly hip modernist artist Marina Abramovic.

Image © Palais Garnier

LONDON



WOYZECK

The Old Vic, 13 May – 24 June 2017

One of the most extraordinary plays ever written – unfinished on the author’s death, it has been ‘completed’ several times by other writers – *Woyzeck* is set in 1980s Berlin. With the Cold War world still poised between the conflicting doctrines of Capitalism and Communism, this bitter, burning play shows the costs paid by those seeking to escape poverty and ruin, and the bleakly tragic consequences for those people that history leaves behind.

Image © The Old Vic



THE FERRYMAN

Royal Court, 24 April – 20 May 2017

Ahead of its transfer to the West End in the early summer, director Sam Mendes makes his Royal Court debut at last, with a new play by Jez Butterworth, creator of the multi-award winning *Jerusalem*. Set in 1981 on an isolated farm in rural Derry, the Carney family’s preparations for the annual harvest – a day of relentless hard work followed by a night of feasting and celebrations – are interrupted by a visitor.

Image © Jez Butterworth



ROMEO AND JULIET

Shakespeare’s Globe, 22 April – 9 July 2017

Where better than this evocative riverside recreation to witness the plight of history’s most tragic lovers? Set in Verona, this violent, engaging drama centres on an ancient feud between rival families, the story underscoring how their wealth and greed impact on the inescapable fate of two children. Daniel Kramer, English National Opera’s Artistic Director, brings a new energy and exuberance to Shakespeare’s brilliantly timeless exploration of love, hate and death.

Image © Eric Page



BRODSKY / BARYSHNIKOV

Apollo Theatre, 3 – 7 May 2017

Performed in Russian with English subtitles, this one-man show was conceived and is directed by the acclaimed Latvian director Alvis Hermanis. Based on the complex, visceral poetry of Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky, and performed by the former ballet star, this mesmerising work tells the story of one man’s incredible, emotional journey. Promising to draw new truth and meaning from Brodsky’s poignant and eloquent oeuvre, its London run is strictly limited.

Image © Janis Deinats

LONDON

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark fedora, a white shirt, a red tie with small white patterns, and a dark pinstriped suit jacket. He is standing in a bar with shelves of bottles in the background. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting his face and suit.

THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI

Donmar Warehouse, 20 April – 17 June 2017

Brecht's tale, the story of a fictional Chicago gangster's bid to corner the cauliflower market by disposing of his rivals, is in reality an examination of the rise of Hitler and the Nazis in pre-war Germany. Brecht, who fled the country in 1933, spent just three weeks writing this complex and intriguing play. It is presented here in a new translation (by Pulitzer, Olivier and Tony Award-winning playwright, Bruce Norris) with Sir Lenny Henry in the lead role.

Image © Donmar Warehouse

LONDON



SALOMÉ

National Theatre, 2 May – 15 July 2017

A new production of Wilde's powerful one-act drama brings the beauty of this lyrical masterpiece to the National Theatre. Following her acclaimed production of *Les Blancs*, director Yaël Farber returns with a genuinely radical retelling of this biblical tale, placing Salomé at the centre of a revolution where her celebrated dance could change the world. First seen in Washington DC, and produced by the Shakespeare Theatre Company, the strong cast includes the highly accomplished Olwen Fouéré.

Image © National Theatre



ANATOMY OF A SUICIDE

Royal Court, 3 June – 8 July 2017

"I have Stayed. I have Stayed – I have Stayed for as long as I possibly can." Arts Foundation Award-winning writer Alice Birch continues her successful collaboration with director Katie Mitchell in a searing examination of the lives of three generations of women as each of them struggles with the painful legacy of past chaos and past choices.

Image © Royal Court



CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF

Apollo Theatre, 13 July – 7 October 2017

Starring Sienna Miller and Jack O'Connell, this Young Vic production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning Tennessee Williams classic is directed by Benedict Andrews, whose previous credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Gillian Anderson. In Miller's first West End appearance since *Flare Path* (2011) she is cast as Maggie, wife of an American former pro football player. As the play unfolds during the course of a family celebration one steamy night in Mississippi, secrets and sexual tensions threaten to destroy their marriage.

Image © Charlie Gray



GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

The Old Vic, 10 July – 7 October 2017

Featuring the music of Bob Dylan, the world premiere of an electrifying new drama by Conor McPherson (who also directs) sees family members adrift in Duluth, Minnesota at the height of the Great Depression. Their future is finely balanced on a knife edge, the action examining these lost, lonely individuals as they wander through the rooms of a failing guesthouse. As Dylan rarely gives permission for his material to be used in this way, the play promises to be a treasured experience.

Image © Philip Vile



THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE

Release 26 May 2017

Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki has been called the “miserabilist’s miserabilist”. This is his first film since the much-admired *Le Havre* of 2011, about a shoe shiner trying to help a child refugee from Africa, and it’s another ‘asylum fairytale’. Two stories intertwine, that of Syrian asylum-seeker, Khaled (Sherwan Haji) and Helsinki businessman Wikström (Sakari Kuosmanen) who is homeless too – until he buys a ludicrously deadbeat restaurant, ‘The Golden Pint’. There he gives Khaled a job and a helping hand. In Kaurismäki’s highly stylised films the actors speak little, the sets are stark and the camera barely moves. But this minimalism allows you to discover for yourself not just the humour, but also the humanity, the fellow feeling and basic kindness that can exist in the bleakest world. A treasure.

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

17 May – 28 May 2017

The 70th Cannes Film Festival is directed by Thierry Fremaux, with Pedro Almodóvar serving as President of the Jury. The programme won’t be announced until mid-April but already there’s feverish speculation about the possible highlights. They include new films from Michael Haneke at last (*Happy End*), Todd Haynes (*Wonderstruck*), Roman Polanski (*Based on a True Story*), Andrey Zvyagintsev, the director of *Leviathan* (*Loveless*), Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Killing of a Sacred Deer*), Michel Hazanavicius, Francois Ozon, Leos Carax, Luc Besson and Wim Wenders among others. Nor has Cannes ever shied away from Hollywood. Maybe Christopher Nolan’s *Dunkirk* will premiere here? Cannes hasn’t lost any of its cachet. Your only problem? Accreditation.





KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD

Release 19 May 2017

An event one way or another: Guy Ritchie reinvents himself as a sword 'n' sorcery director. Charlie Hunnam plays Arthur, Àstrid Bergès-Frisbey (a mermaid in *Pirates of the Caribbean*) his moll Guinevere, and Jude Law is the sneery tyrant Vortigern whom Arthur must overthrow to claim his birthright. It's violent, digitally supersized and has a *Lord of the Rings* vibe, but Ritchie hasn't entirely left behind geezerishness. Laddish young Arthur runs with his crew on the rough streets of Londinium, knowing nothing of his royal lineage, until he draws the superpower sword Excalibur from the stone and has to decide whether to take on its challenge... and that's not to mention a cameo from Ritchie's pal David Beckham as 'Blackleg leader'.



ALIEN: COVENANT

Release 12 May 2017

The creativity of Sir Ridley Scott, now 79, continues to amaze. A couple of years ago, *The Martian* proved to be the highest-grossing film of his already hugely successful career. Now he is back with the sixth instalment of the *Alien* series, three of which, including the first, *Alien* of 1979, he has directed himself. *Alien: Covenant* is a sequel to the prequel *Prometheus*, with Michael Fassbender returning as an advanced rebuild of the android David, and Katherine Waterston playing a terraforming expert aboard the colony ship, *Covenant*, captained by Billy Crudup. They think they have found a new paradise and it all goes to hell, quite terrifyingly and tremendously violently. Full fang and tentacle. Eviscerations have come a long way since John Hurt's classic, you know.

THE SECRET SCRIPTURE

Release 19 May 2017

Sebastian Barry is as fine a writer as Ireland now possesses and *The Secret Scripture*, the life story of an elderly woman, Rose, who has passed 50 years in an asylum since the upheavals of the 1920s, is one of his best novels. Rooney Mara plays Rose as a young woman – and Vanessa Redgrave is Lady Rose in old age. Eric Bana is the psychiatrist Dr Grene who uncovers her story. The film, directed by Jim Sheridan (*My Left Foot*, *In the Name of the Father*), has been lovingly shot in Dublin and County Kilkenny, offering tranquil scenes of rural Ireland, in contrast to the backdrop of religious and political upheavals.





THE BEGUILED

Release 23 June 2017

Clint Eastwood starred in the original 1971 adaptation of this Southern Gothic novel about a wounded Union soldier, John McBurney, seeking sanctuary in an all-girls boarding school in Civil War Mississippi and stirring up deadly passions – and, with him thus being cast against type, it was not a hit in America at the time. Now Sofia Coppola (*Lost in Translation*, *The Virgin Suicides*) has adventurously re-made the story with Colin Farrell as the soldier, alongside Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst, Elle Fanning and Angourie Rice as the women who fight over him. “What have you done to me, you vengeful bitches!” screams hapless John. Sweeping white gowns, candlelight and deadly shadows add to the dreamy, spooky and perverse atmosphere.



AMERICAN MADE

Release 25 August 2017

Tom Cruise stars in a real-life story about a former TWA pilot called Barry Seal who worked for the Medellin cartel in Colombia in the 1980s. After being arrested, he was recruited by the CIA to counter the communist threat in Central America, an operation that ended up in the embarrassing Iran-Contra affair – and Seal’s assassination. Accomplished action specialist Doug Liman (*The Bourne Identity*, *Mr and Mrs Smith*, *Edge of Tomorrow*) directs.



THE DARK TOWER

Release 28 July 2017

Here, at last, is a long-awaited adaptation of Stephen King’s series of much-loved fantasy novels about the menacing Man in Black (Matthew McConaughey) being pursued across the desert by Roland Deschain, The Gunslinger (Idris Elba). Model-turned-actress Abbey Lee (*Mad Max: Fury Road*, *The Neon Demon*) plays sexy, dangerous Tirana and the movie, which King’s legions of fans will be monitoring closely, has been made by Danish director Nikolaj Arcel. It could be the start of a whole new franchise.



ATOMIC BLONDE

Release 11 August 2017

This Cold War spy thriller, set in Berlin in 1989, is based on a graphic novel by Antony Johnston. An undercover MI6 operative has been killed while carrying information that a list exists of every undercover agent in the city. Her Majesty's Secret Service send in their best, Agent Lorraine Broughton (Charlize Theron), to sort the mess by whatever means possible: seduction or violence. The impressive cast includes James McAvoy, Toby Jones, Eddie Marsan, John Goodman and Sofia Boutella (alien warrior Jaylah in *Star Trek Beyond*) and is the promising directorial debut of David Leitch, who originally got into the business as a stuntman for Brad Pitt and Jean-Claude Van Damme, and is now lined up to make *Deadpool 2*.

DUNKIRK

Release 21 July 2017

This epic tale about the evacuation of the beaches in 1940, written, directed and produced by Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Knight Trilogy*, *Inception*, *Interstellar*) is summer's biggest film. Tom Hardy, Mark Rylance, Cillian Murphy, Kenneth Branagh – and Harry Styles! – star and, although this is Nolan's first film based on real-life events, he hasn't lost his appetite for mind-bending spectacle, organised here as a triptych: air, sea and land. Nolan calls it, "a sensory, almost experimental movie." Exquisitely photographed by Hoyte van Hoytema (the cinematographer of *Interstellar* and *Spectre*) with a score by the master, Hans Zimmer, it is being shown in a variety of formats, including 70mm and IMAX.



LONDON



British Museum, 25 May – 13 August 2017

Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849) is considered by many to be Japan's greatest artist. In 1831, at the age of 70, experimenting with European perspective and imported Prussian blue pigment, he created his most famous image, *The Great Wave*. This exhibition takes us far beyond that beautiful print, focusing on the prints and paintings of his latter years, filled not only with waves and mountains but teeming with birds and animals, dragons, Chinese lions, phoenixes and eagles, mythological figures and holy men.

Image © MFA Boston

HOKUSAI: BEYOND THE GREAT WAVE

LONDON

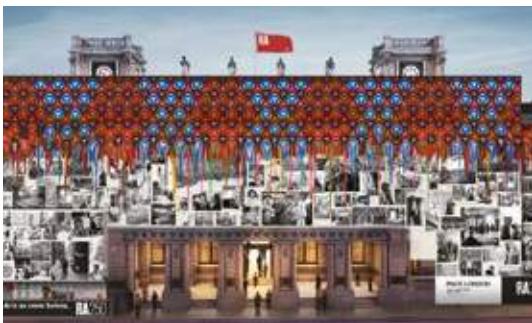


BALENCIAGA: SHAPING FASHION

V&A, 27 May 2017 – 18 February 2018

Unmissable by lovers of fashion, this is the first UK exhibition exploring the audacious perfectionism of influential Basque designer Cristóbal Balenciaga, a century after the opening of his San Sebastián shop. The show will focus on Balenciaga's glory years, the 1950s and 1960s, when he dressed Ava Gardner, Gloria Guinness and Mona von Bismarck and invented revolutionary shapes – the tunic, the sack, the shift dress – which are still staples today. The V&A has even used x-ray technology to snoop at the hidden details inside his ground-breaking garments.

Image © Balenciaga



RA FAMILY ALBUM

The Royal Academy, From 16 May 2017

Yinka Shonibare became a Royal Academician in 2013, joining this venerable institution on the cusp of its 250th birthday. As building work began, to reconfigure the vast rooms on the Burlington Gardens side of the Royal Academy ready for its quarter millennium, Shonibare was invited to design a tarpaulin that would reflect his impressions of the Royal Academy's character and history. A vast panel of 160 images is topped by one of Shonibare's colourful fabric designs. Created to be enjoyed on the street, each image can also be explored at home, digitally.

Image © The Royal Academy

ALBERTO GIACOMETTI

Tate Modern, 10 May – 10 September 2017

Now renowned for the astonishing prices his elongated standing figures achieve at auction – including the record-breaking \$141.3 million paid for his 1947 *Pointing Man* in 2015 – this show reveals Giacometti's true value. It is the first major UK retrospective for 20 years, covering the artist's entire development from the cubist sculpture of the 1920s to his moving figurative evocations in paintings, drawings and bronzes of post-war alienation and despair. One highlight is the bringing together of six plaster figures, *The Women of Venice*, recently restored, which were last exhibited in 1956.

Image © Tate Modern



LONDON



GRAYSON PERRY: THE MOST POPULAR ART EXHIBITION EVER!

Serpentine Gallery, 8 June – 7 September 2017

The irrepressible Grayson Perry, whether in his own persona or dressed as his alter ego, the story-book shepherdess Claire, will take over the Serpentine Gallery in London's Kensington Gardens this June with a show of new work. His delicately crafted objects – prints, ceramics, tapestries or bronzes – often tackle indelicate themes such as sex, violence, prejudice and snobbery. This summer, however, he is putting art itself in question: "What kind of art do people like? What subjects? Why do people like going to art galleries these days?" Don't miss this opportunity to find the answers...

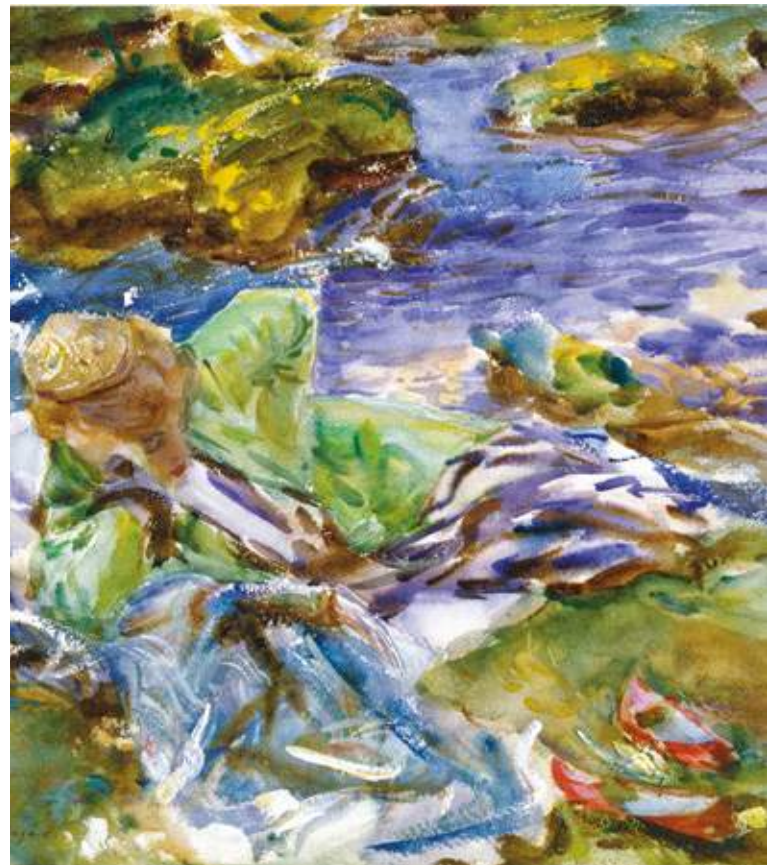
Image © Grayson Perry

SARGENT: THE WATERCOLOURS

Dulwich Picture Gallery, 21 June – 8 October 2017

John Singer Sargent, best known for his glamorous oil paintings of Edwardian high society, was also a formidable watercolourist. He mastered the medium while travelling in southern Europe and the Middle East, using watercolour to experiment *en plein air* with his radical compositions and to capture the fleeting visual complexities of light and water. This exhibition, which includes more than 80 figure paintings, landscapes and details of architecture, is full of light and movement, displaying all Sargent's exhilarating fluency and the sensuality of his palette.

Image © V&A



BEYOND THE CAPITAL



NEW YORK

FAST FORWARD:
PAINTINGS FROM
THE 1980S**Whitney Museum of American Art, Until 14 May 2017**

Catch this if you can: a snapshot, from the Whitney's own collection, of the thrilling 1980s New York contemporary art scene, with its starring figures such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Sherrie Levine, David Salle and Julian Schnabel, and a rich supporting cast of less well known names. New galleries popped up all over downtown Manhattan, video and installation art began their rise to prominence, and yet, this show argues, many artists chose instead to reclaim painting – rediscovering, as we see here, its power to shock and move.

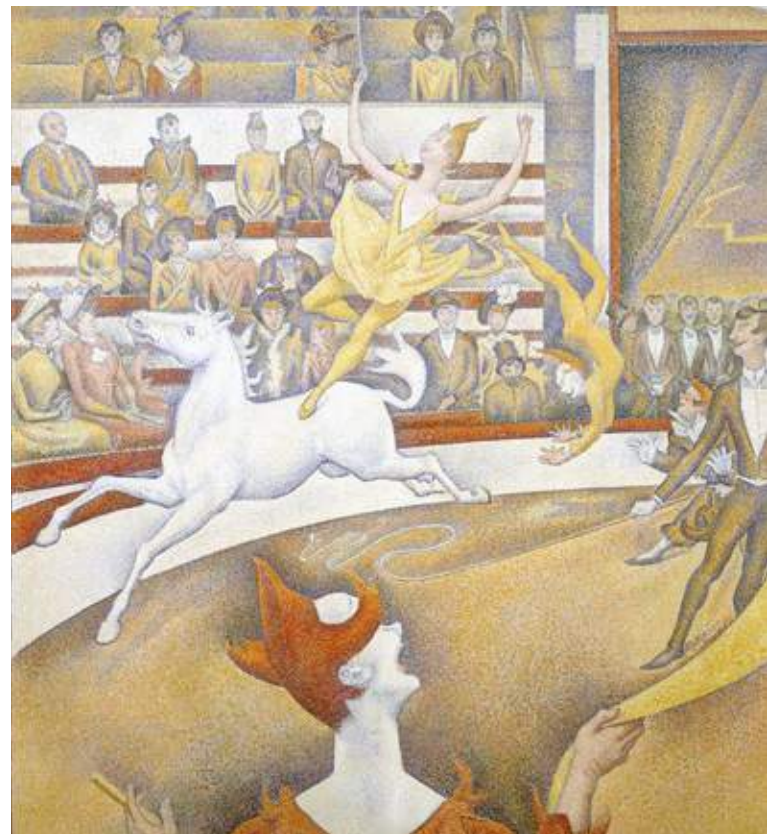
Image © Basquiat

NEW YORK

SEURAT'S CIRCUS
SIDESHOW**The Met, Until 29 May 2017**

It was at the Salon des Indépendants in 1888 that Seurat first exhibited his magical, mysterious *Circus Sideshow*. A night-time outdoor scene in artificial light, it depicts one of the free musical side-shows used to lure a paying audience for the Circus Corvi at Paris' annual Gingerbread Fair. It was a virtuoso demonstration of his pointillist technique, but, as this exhibition reveals through 100 paintings, drawings, prints, period posters, and illustrated journals, its subject matter drew also on a contemporary fascination with side-shows shared by many artists, including Picasso.

Image © Seurat



BEYOND THE CAPITAL

DUBLIN

LUCIAN FREUD

Irish Museum of Modern Art, Until October 2017

Last September, the Irish Museum of Modern Art announced that it had secured the long-term loan of 50 works by Lucian Freud, one of the greatest realist painters of the 20th century. Installed in the newly dedicated Freud Centre, this first exhibition features all 50 – 30 from among the artist’s finest paintings and 20 works on paper. The works date mainly from 1970 onwards and include his scrutinising self-portraits, portraits of familiar sitters, and studies of animals and plants. Often visceral and unsparing, there is tenderness too in these brilliant works.

Image © Lucian Freud



VENICE

VENICE BIENNALE

Various locations, 13 May – 26 November 2017

This is the art world’s most joyful and least commercial annual festival, in the unmatched setting of La Serenissima. This 57th edition, titled ‘Viva Arte Viva’, promises to avoid too much arcane curatorial direction in favour of celebrating artists as the vital mediators in our society. With contributors such as Kader Attia, winner of the 2016 Prix Marcel Duchamp, Philippe Parreno, whose large-scale commission is on view at Tate Modern and Anri Sala, who had a major survey at the New Museum in 2016, it promises a feast of excellence.

Image © Venice Biennale



BEYOND THE CAPITAL

FLORENCE



BILL VIOLA: ELECTRONIC RENAISSANCE

Palazzo Strozzi, Until 23 July 2017

In the mid 1970s Bill Viola, one of the world's acknowledged masters of video art, lived and worked in Florence, steeping himself in the city's history and culture. Now he returns with a solo exhibition at the magnificent Palazzo Strozzi, showing major works from throughout his career, alongside the Renaissance masterpieces that inspired him. While technologically innovative, using sound, space and image, his immersive digital installations address some of the simplest and most profound of human emotions and experiences: birth, death, grief and joy, suffering and acceptance.

Image © Bill Viola

PARIS



ART/AFRIQUE, LE NOUVEL ATELIER

Fondation Louis Vuitton, 26 April – 28 August 2017

Catering to the current high level of interest in African art, the Fondation Louis Vuitton is mounting a three-part survey. Pioneering collector Jean Pigozzi is lending works by 15 of the continent's best-known artists, including Beninese artist Romuald Hazoumè. There will be a show of South African art by senior figures like William Kentridge, as well as a younger, post-apartheid generation. These will be complemented by selections of work by African artists from the diaspora and Afro-American artists, from the Fondation's own collection. Worth a detour.

Image © Chéri Samba

BASEL

ART BASEL EUROPE

Messe Basel, 15 – 18 June 2017

The global commercial success of the Art Basel brand should not detract from the serious appeal of this annual art-world get-together. Here you can catch up with what is hot and what is brand new from the globe's best modern and contemporary art galleries. Organised with Swiss efficiency, even the most out-sized or anarchic work will find a home in one of its many sections, which cover everything from film and prints to sculpture, performance and collectible design. And don't forget the exhibitions in the city's excellent museums while you're there.

Image © Getty Images



LONDON

THE WIND
IN THE
WILLOWS

London Palladium, 16 June – 9 September 2017

Though not the first musical adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's classic story, this one has the chutzpah to fill the London Palladium – in every sense. Ratty, Badger, Mole and Toad have been re-imagined by Oscar-winning *Downton Abbey* writer Julian Fellowes in an exuberantly choreographed show that still manages to pick up some of the nuances of the original book. Music and lyrics are by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, who also recently dusted down *Half a Sixpence* for the West End. Together the characters (and the writers, come to that) journey through a series of riotous adventures that stem from Toad's insatiable need for speed. Go home with a spring in your step.

Image © Marc Brenner



LONDON



MUSEUM OF MUSIC

Wigmore Hall, 1 July 2017

Not just for the grown-ups, the historical Wigmore Hall also offers an extensive programme of workshops for the whole family to enjoy, including the Museum of Music. Led by orchestral player Hannah Opstad, this workshop invites you to explore the treasures of the Royal Academy of Music Museum, creating your very own compositions for a performance at the end of the day.

Image © Wigmore Hall



RED RIDING HOOD AND THE WOLF

Little Angel Theatre, 27 April – 16 July 2017

The emotionally intelligent version of *Red Riding Hood*, naturally, tells the story from the wolf's perspective. In this engaging puppet-theatre production, for ages five and over, the wolf is the good guy, albeit hungry, having strayed from the path and lost his friends. He's neither big nor bad; and he definitely won't gobble up grandma or tell lies. The story will ignite children's imagination whether or not they happen to have heard the original fairy-tale, and the everyday moral – never to judge anyone by how they look – is plain for all to see.

Image © Little Angel Theatre



OLIVER TWIST

**Regent's Park Open Air Theatre
17 July – 5 August 2017**

With a completely uncovered auditorium and stage set in a royal park, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre is the oldest professional, permanent outdoor theatre in Britain. This summer, one of its four main productions is – to give it its full title – *Oliver Twist created for everyone aged six and over*, an adaptation by Anya Reiss of the original Dickens novel. Given that Oliver was originally depicted as a nine-year-old, one can expect the new rendering of the story to have much in common with its target audience; at any rate, it promises to have them sitting on the edge of their seats with excitement. As for the vagaries of the weather, it's amazing how often the rain clears for the start of a performance, and cancellations are rare.

Image © Mark Douet



ORCHESTRA OF THE AGE OF ENLIGHTENMENT FOR 'TOTS'

Royal Festival Hall, 31 May 2017

OAE's Tots are 45-minute sessions designed to introduce two to five-year-olds to classical music and sow the seeds for a life of music-making and appreciation. So far so admirable: but the twist is that the tots will also get to meet some pretty singular instruments. As specialists in music from the 17th to early 19th centuries (the innovative 'Age of Enlightenment'), played on period instruments that are either originals or authentic copies, the orchestra contains wonderful things like sackbuts, theorbos and hunting horns. Tots won't necessarily pick up the gentle subtleties of tone that go hand-in-hand with these instruments, but they'll get the shapes, sounds and stories.

Image © Royal Festival Hall

LONDON & BEYOND



UK

THE LUNA CINEMA

Various locations, 14 June – 8 October 2017

The Luna Cinema offers the novel, and wonderful, opportunity to enjoy a moonlit screening of a classic film while reclining in a picnic chair. It embraces a deceptively simple formula of combining iconic movies with interesting locations – including castle barracks, stately homes and parks, across the UK. The 2016 season saw 150 screenings of films from *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* to *Grease* and this year promises an equally star-studded line-up. It's the perfect excuse to pack a picnic, get cosy and make the most of those long summer evenings.
Image © The Luna Cinema

SURREY

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC AND STORYTELLING

Winkworth Arboretum, 14, 21, 28 August 2017

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise. Or at least that's what the nursery rhyme suggests and it might well be true of the Teddy Bear's Picnic and Storytelling event, taking place at Winkworth Arboretum. The fun-filled occasion invites young and old to an afternoon of singing, story readings and of course, lots of marvellous things to eat.

Image © Beardy Vulcan



BEYOND THE CAPITAL

LIVERPOOL



ANCIENT EGYPT GALLERY

World Museum, From 28 April 2017

Hello mum! In fact, hello to nine mummies – of the ancient Egyptian variety – on display in Liverpool’s famous Ancient Egypt galleries, recently reopened after a multi-million-pound redevelopment. World Museum has some 16,000 artefacts of ancient Egyptian and Nubian origin, dating from 5,000BC: a collection started in 1867 when Joseph Mayer, a local goldsmith and antiquarian, donated thousands of Egyptian antiquities. Other donors followed, and the collection grew to be the most important in England next to the British Museum. Expect imaginative displays of coffins, amulets, papyrus scrolls, statues and hieroglyphics, worthy of the Queen of the Nile.

Image © World Museum

PARIS



PARIS PLAGES

Various locations, Mid July – Mid August

Every summer, Paris experiences a mass exodus, with *citoyens* leaving the French capital in favour of more attractive climes in the South. For those few who remain, and those visiting the city of lights during the warm months, the Paris Plages offer a beach-side atmosphere in the heart of the metropolis. The ‘urban beaches’ appear in three locations: on the banks of the Seine, the forecourt of the Hôtel de Ville and at the La Villette canal basin, where there are also pedalos, kayaks and martial arts lessons for visitors of all ages to enjoy. Whether you’re a sun-worshipper or a shade-bather, the Paris Plages are worth visiting purely for the novelty of feeling the sand between your toes in the city.

Image © Alexandre Rosa

WEST SUSSEX

AS YOU LIKE IT!
A SHAKESPEAREAN
FAMILY TRAIL

Petworth House, Until 5 November 2017

Unleash your inner thespian at the As you like it! Shakespearean Family Trail, taking place throughout the spring and summer months in the palatial grounds of Petworth. The trail offers visitors of all ages the chance to get inside the mind of an apprentice playwright; exploring the possibilities of a plot riddled with twists and facinorous characters, and deciding the fate of fellow play-feres. It’s all in good nature when it’s *As you like it!*

Image © The National Trust



BEST ALFRESCO DINING



BOULESTIN

5 St. James's Street, St. James's, London SW1A 1EF

"Long live the long liquid lunch!" cries Boulestin's Parisian-style courtyard, where Dover Sole Meunière swims past on platters as suit jackets are shrugged off. It feels as if you've travelled back in time in this corner of St James's, though that might have more to do with the original panelling from Henry VIII's tennis court than the power lunch vibe. The courtyard is also the site of the last duel fought in England, and they'd like to keep it that way, so fingers on the buzzer at 7am when reservations open if it's going to be a scorcher.



RIVER CAFÉ

Thames Wharf, Rainville Road, London W6 9HA

Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray had been championing seasonality and simplicity long before the rest of us could identify a bunch of kale, educating Londoners in authentic Italian fare since 1987. Come summer, the produce is at its best and tastes twice as good on the sunny terrace with buckets of rosé. Book your table as soon as the five-day weather report is published, for half of west London will be here on a hot day.



PETERSHAM NURSERIES

Church Lane, Petersham Road, Richmond TW10 7AB

Don't scoff at the prospect of a garden centre in Zone Four being at the top of your London bucket list. It was here that Skye Gyngell made a name for herself, winning a Michelin star for the café. Now she has new digs at Somerset House, HIX's ex-head chef Damian Clisby is running the show, working with gardener and food writer Lucy Boyd to create a menu that tirelessly champions the slow food movement. The flower-festooned greenhouse feels miraculously summery, even in the darkest depths of winter, but come summer, the café spills out the door.



DALLOWAY TERRACE

16-22 Great Russell Street, Fitzrovia, London WC1B 3NN

Virginia Woolf's character Mrs Dalloway was, frankly, a bit of a bore. Fortunately, this refuge in the heart of Bloomsbury, home of Woolf's literary circle, doesn't take after its miserly namesake. With decent outdoor space so hard to come by in this part of town, Dalloway Terrace provides welcome relief when the mercury rises and is realistically well heated given the usual nature of the great British summer. While the setting brings to mind continental café culture, the menu is upmarket and classic, using largely British-sourced ingredients.

JUST OPENED

HENRIETTA

14-15 Henrietta Street, London WC2E 8QH

Ollie Dabbous and The Experimental Group (Experimental Cocktail Club, Joyeux Bordel, Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels and Grand Pigalle in Paris) make the perfect bedfellows, working together to launch the lauded chef's first hotel in Covent Garden. While the hotel has only 18 rooms, you might have more luck getting a spot in the 80-cover restaurant, with a no-fuss, subtly French menu that will be ingredient-led. Don't miss the cocktail list curated by drink historians Jared Brown and Anistatia Miller.



NOBU SHOREDITCH

10-50 Willow Street, London EC2A 4BH

Another celebrity chef with his eye on the London hotel market is Nobu Matsuhisa, who is opening his first European hotel in Shoreditch. And naturally the food is at the heart of the offering, with a sizeable 240-cover restaurant dishing up his signature blend of Japanese, Peruvian and South American flavours. The architecture is bound to become as instantly-iconic as his black cod miso (which will most definitely feature on the menu), and the open-air terrace will be the place to be this summer.

JUST OPENED

LONDON

THE NED

27 Poultry, London EC2R 8AJ

While you might not associate Nick 'Soho' Jones with the City, Soho House's latest opening embraces London's financial district with open arms – quite literally – by reviving the old Midland Bank HQ with Sydell Group. Designed by 20th-century starchitect Sir Edwin 'Ned' Lutyens, the 252-room hotel will draw upon the building's 1920s heritage. The Grand Banking Hall has been transformed into a food court with eight restaurants: Cecconi's for Italian; 'raw and cured' Malibu Kitchen; British and American classics at Millie's; Zobler's, a New York-style Jewish deli; The Lutyens Grill (does what is says on the tin); Kaia for poke; and Parisian Café Sou. If you do, however, want to mooch around the 3,000 deposit boxes that inspired the design of Fort Knox in Goldfinger, you'll have to apply for membership to Ned's Club.



JUST OPENED



LONDON

CLAUDE BOSI AT BIBENDUM

81 Fulham Rd, Chelsea, London SW3 6RD

Having recently closed the door on his two-Michelin-starred restaurant Hibiscus, French chef Claude Bosi is taking over the site at London's Bibendum. Initially constructed as the first UK headquarters for Michelin Tyres Ltd in 1911, the historic building is a stalwart of the Royal Borough. Bosi's new restaurant venture is in collaboration with Sir Terence Conran, who established the iconic space back in the 80s as one of the city's most fashionable haunts. Bosi's interpretation of Bibendum will remain loyal to the restaurant's past, serving robust and unfussy dishes adapting the flavours to each season, promoting the best of British produce. Without speaking too soon, it seems as though Michelin stars are already on the cards and surely it would only be fitting?

MAY 2017 CALENDAR

MAY

ONGOING

**As you like it!
A Shakespearean
Family Trail**
Petworth House,
West Sussex
Until 5 November 2017

**Bill Viola: Electronic
Renaissance**
Palazzo Strozzi, Florence
Until 23 July 2017

**The Resistible Rise
of Arturo Ui**
Donmar Warehouse
20 April – 17 June 2017

Romeo and Juliet
Shakespeare's Globe
22 April – 9 July 2017

The Ferryman
Royal Court
24 April – 20 May 2017

**Art/Afrique, le nouvel
atelier**
Fondation Louis Vuitton,
Paris
26 April – 28 August 2017

**Red Riding Hood
and the Wolf**
Little Angel Theatre
27 April – 16 July 2017

Ancient Egypt Gallery
World Museum, Liverpool
From 28 April 2017

New Orleans Jazz Festival
New Orleans
28 April – 7 May 2017

**Fast Forward: Paintings
from the 1980s**
Whitney Museum
of American Art, New York
Until 14 May 2017

Seurat's Circus Sideshow
The Met, New York
Until 29 May 2017

Lucian Freud
Irish Museum
of Modern Art, Dublin
Until October 2017

BOOK NOW

Eric Clapton
Madison Square Garden,
New York
7, 8 September 2017

Bryn Terfel
Dubai Opera House, Dubai
3 December 2017

MONDAY

01

08

15

22

29

Eric Clapton
Royal Albert Hall

TUESDAY

02

**Bach Brandenburg
Concertos**
St. John's Smith Square

**Robbins / Balanchine /
Cherkaoui, Jalet**
Palais Garnier, Paris
Until 27 May 2017

Ron Carter
Blue Note, New York
Until 7 May 2017

Salomé
National Theatre
Until 15 July 2017

09

**Berlioz's Symphonie
fantastique**
Philharmonie de Paris, Paris

Chucho Valdès
Blue Note, New York
Until 14 May 2017

16

Ballet Rambert
Sadler's Wells
Until 20 May 2017

RA Family Album
The Royal Academy
Ongoing

23

Bernard Haitink
Barbican

**The Vertiginous Thrill of
Exactitude / Strapless**
Royal Opera House

30

Seu Jorge
Royal Albert Hall

WEDNESDAY

03

Brodsky / Baryshnikov
Apollo Theatre

10

Ian Bostridge / Lars Vogt
Wigmore Hall

Vaughan Williams
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Alberto Giacometti
Tate Modern
Until 10 September 2017

17

Cannes Film Festival
Cannes
Until 28 May 2017

24

**The Vertiginous Thrill of
Exactitude / Strapless**
Royal Opera House

Eric Clapton
Royal Albert Hall

31

Akram Khan's DESH
Sadler's Wells

**Orchestra of the Age
of Enlightenment for 'Tots'**
Royal Festival Hall

**The Vertiginous Thrill of
Exactitude / Strapless**
Royal Opera House

MAY 2017 CALENDAR

THURSDAY

04

Brodsky / Baryshnikov
Apollo Theatre

11

18

The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude / Strapless
Royal Opera House

25

Hokusai: Beyond The Great Wave
British Museum
Until 13 August 2017

The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude / Strapless
Royal Opera House

Eric Clapton
Royal Albert Hall

FRIDAY

05

Beethoven & Brahms
Usher Hall, Edinburgh

Brodsky / Baryshnikov
Apollo Theatre

12

Alien: Covenant
Film release

19

Murray Perahia
Carnegie Hall, New York

The Secret Scripture
Film release

King Arthur: Legend of the Sword
Film release

26

The Other Side of Hope
Film release

SATURDAY

06

Christoph Eschenbach
Royal Festival Hall

Beethoven & Brahms
Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

Mozart's Don Giovanni
La Scala, Milan
Until 6 June 2017

Brodsky / Baryshnikov
Apollo Theatre

Justin Bieber
Autism Rocks Arena, Dubai

13

Woyzeck
The Old Vic
Until 24 June 2017

Venice Biennale
Various locations, Venice
Until 26 November 2017

20

The Vertiginous Thrill of Exactitude / Strapless
Royal Opera House

27

Balenciaga: Shaping Fashion
V&A
Until 18 February 2018

SUNDAY

07

Emerson String Quartet & Yefim Bronfman
Carnegie Hall, New York

Chucho Valdès
New Orleans Jazz Festival, New Orleans

Brodsky / Baryshnikov
Apollo Theatre

14

21

28

Abida Parveen
Royal Festival Hall

JUNE 2017 CALENDAR

JUNE

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

05

Symphonic Variations
Royal Opera House

06

07

Symphonic Variations
Royal Opera House

12

13

14

The Luna Cinema
Various locations
Until 8 October 2017

19

20

Celine Dion
The O2

21

Celine Dion
The O2

Justin Bieber
RDS Stadium, Dublin

Elbow
The Marquee, Cork

Sargent: The Watercolours
Dulwich Picture Gallery
Until 8 October 2017

26

27

Tony Bennett
Royal Albert Hall

28

Tony Bennett
Royal Albert Hall

JUNE 2017 CALENDAR

THURSDAY

01

Akram Khan's DESH
Sadler's Wells

08

Michael Tilson Thomas
Barbican

Symphonic Variations
Royal Opera House

Grayson Perry: The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!
Serpentine Gallery
Until 7 September 2017

15

Art Basel Europe
Messe Basel, Basel

Elbow
Westonbirt Arboretum,
Tetbury

22

29

Elbow
Thetford Forest, Brandon

FRIDAY

02

Symphonic Variations
Royal Opera House

Akram Khan's DESH
Sadler's Wells

09

16

Art Basel Europe
Messe Basel, Basel

The Wind in the Willows
London Palladium
Until 9 September 2017

23

The Beguiled
Film release

30

Justin Bieber
Principality Stadium, Cardiff

SATURDAY

03

Symphonic Variations
Royal Opera House

Anatomy of a Suicide
Royal Court
Until 8 July 2017

Akram Khan's DESH
Sadler's Wells

10

Symphonic Variations
Royal Opera House

17

Art Basel Europe
Messe Basel, Basel

24

Elbow
Dalby Forest, Pickering

SUNDAY

04

Michael Tilson Thomas
Barbican

11

18

Art Basel Europe
Messe Basel, Basel

25

Daniel Harding
Barbican

Elbow
Sherwood Pines Forest,
Mansfield

JULY 2017 CALENDAR

JULY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

03

Tony Bennett
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Metropolitan Opera, New York

04

05

Tony Bennett
Bridgewater Hall,
Manchester

Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Metropolitan Opera, New York

10

**Girl From the
North Country**
The Old Vic
Until 7 October 2017

11

12

Dorrance Dance
Sadler's Wells

17

Oliver Twist
Regent's Park
Open Air Theatre
Until 5 August 2017

18

19

Christian McBride
Ronnie Scott's

24

**Steven Isserlis
& Joshua Bell**
Wigmore Hall

25

**Steven Isserlis
& Joshua Bell**
Wigmore Hall

26

JULY 2017 CALENDAR

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

06

Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Metropolitan Opera, New York

13

Dorrance Dance
Sadler's Wells

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Apollo Theatre
Until 7 October 2017

20

Christian McBride
Ronnie Scott's

27

07

Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Metropolitan Opera, New York

14

Dorrance Dance
Sadler's Wells

Paris Plages
Various locations, Paris
Until Mid August 2017

21

Christian McBride
Ronnie Scott's

Dunkirk
Film release

28

The Dark Tower
Film release

01

Tony Bennett
Glasgow Royal Concert Hall,
Glasgow

Museum of Music
Wigmore Hall

08

Tchaikovsky Spectacular
Metropolitan Opera, New York

15

Dorrance Dance
Sadler's Wells

22

29

02

Justin Bieber
BST-Hyde Park

09

16

23

30

AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

AUGUST

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	01	02
07	08	09
14 Teddy Bear's Picnic and Storytelling Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey	15	16
21 Teddy Bear's Picnic and Storytelling Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey	22	23
28 Teddy Bear's Picnic and Storytelling Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey	29	30

AUGUST 2017 CALENDAR

THURSDAY

03

10

17

24

31

FRIDAY

04

11

Atomic Blonde
Film release

18

25

American Made
Film release

SATURDAY

05

12

19

26

SUNDAY

06

13

20

27

CONTRIBUTORS

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Rafael Mason is Vice President, Head of Product & Marketing for American Express UK, and a graduate of Harvard University, and Yale Law School. Rafael is passionate about travel and food, and has a deep love for classical music and the performing arts. He is committed to leveraging these personal passion points to creatively curate an ever more exciting and special American Express lifestyle.

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Rebecca Seal is a food and drink writer and Channel 4 television presenter. She is working on her third cookbook, due out in summer 2017, her previous books were *Istanbul – recipes from the heart of Turkey*, and *Postcards from Greece – recipes from across the Greek seas*. Her journalism has been published in the Financial Times, The Guardian, Observer, Times and Sunday Times, as well as glossy magazines like Grazia and Olive.

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Anastasia Bernhardt is the Food and Features Editor for Country & Town House magazine, where she covers most elements of luxury lifestyle, from food and travel to culture and interiors, whether that be the rise of farm-to-fork ethics in five-star establishments or charting the cultural agenda for the year ahead. Over the last three years she has travelled the length and breadth of the UK to write about the best restaurants in the country.

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David Sexton is a freelance journalist and editor, specialising in film and theatre. His reviews on the latest literature and cinema releases are published in The Evening Standard and The Spectator. David also writes commentaries on contemporary society for both publications and frequently travels to the major cinematic events around the globe.

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KATE PATRICK

Kate Patrick is an experienced editor, writer and copywriter who started at Condé Nast as chief sub editor at Vogue, before moving to the Telegraph Group for five years, where she worked on the Telegraph Weekend Magazine, Sunday Telegraph Review and Telegraph Weekend as commissioning travel editor. Now a freelancer, Kate edits and oversees the weekly concierge newsletter produced by Maybourne Hotel Group, which is circulated throughout Claridge's, The Connaught and The Berkeley.

SARAH CROMPTON

Sarah Crompton is a freelance journalist and Dance critic at The Telegraph. During a fifteen-year career as the Arts Editor-in-Chief at the Daily Telegraph, Sarah reviewed performances across all genres of dance and now writes features on performing arts for The Guardian, British Vogue, Intelligent Life and the Evening Standard among others. She also served as a long-time judge for the South Bank Show awards and is a trustee of the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

