

LONDON ARTS DISCOVERY

WESTON PLAYHOUSE
TOUR ITINERARY

6 - 15 NOVEMBER 2018

Tuesday 6 November

- 6.55pm **Group Arrival on BA238 London Airport Terminal 5.
Transfer to The Montague on the Gardens Hotel
15 Montague Street, London WC1B 5BJ**

A superbly comfortable four-star boutique hotel - where attentive caring service, luxurious décor and beautiful private gardens, yield a magical blend of contemporary metropolitan energy and old-world charm. Located close to the world-renowned British Museum, in the quieter part of London's West End and one of the most fashionable of neighbourhoods, and within easy access of London's famous theatres, fashion attractions and the west end.

- 9.30pm **Welcome by Tour Director.**
We meet in the bar before moving to the conservatory for drinks and sandwiches.

Wednesday 7 November

- 10.15am Walk from hotel to **Truckles**, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

- 10.30am **Briefing on all aspects of the tour followed by:
Lecture – *Shakespeare: The Birth of Modern Show-Business***
Poet, playwright and theatre entrepreneur, William Shakespeare became one of the wealthiest celebrities of the Elizabethan age. He also wrote some of the most brilliant plays the world has ever known. Giles examines how theatre moved into the modern era.

Optional orientation walk of the neighbourhood.

- 1.30pm Coach departs for **The Bridge Theatre**, 3 Petters Fields Park, SE1 2SG

- 2.30pm **A VERY, VERY, VERY DARK MATTER** by Martin McDonagh
In a townhouse in Copenhagen works Hans Christian Andersen, a teller of exquisite and fantastic children's tales beloved by millions. But the true source of his stories dwells in his attic upstairs, her existence a dark secret kept from the outside world.

Coach pick up - return to hotel

- 7.15pm Coach departs for **York and Albany**, 127-129 Parkway, Camden, NW1 7PS

- 8.00pm **Welcome Dinner at York and Albany**
Gordon Ramsay's York and Albany is perfectly positioned between trendy Camden and beautiful Regent's Park. This wonderful new restaurant is located in a former 1820's coaching inn which was originally designed by historic British architect John Nash and now boasts interiors courtesy of Russell Sage.

Coach pick up - return to hotel

Thursday 8 November

10.15am Walk from hotel to **Truckles**, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

10.30am **The State We Are In! – with leading political journalist Denis Staunton**

Denis Staunton has been London Editor of The Irish Times since August 2015, reporting on British politics and society and leading the newspaper's coverage of Brexit and its consequences. He has previously served as correspondent in Washington, Brussels and Berlin and as Foreign Editor and Deputy Editor.

AFTERNOON FREE

6.30pm Depart for **The Gielgud Theatre**, 35-37 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1D 6AR

7.30pm **COMPANY** by George Furth & Stephen Sondheim

The legendary Broadway musical as you've never seen it before.

Marianne Elliott directs COMPANY, Stephen Sondheim and George Furth's legendary musical comedy about life, love and marriage. At Bobbie's (Rosalie Craig) 35th birthday party all her friends are wondering why isn't she married? Why can't she find the right man and why can't she settle down and have a family? Featuring Stephen Sondheim's award winning songs Company, You Could Drive a Person Crazy, The Ladies Who Lunch, Side by Side and the iconic Being Alive.

Post Show discussion with Rosalie Craig

Rosalie Craig is noted for her performances in musical theatre. She first starred in the West End as Arwen in the musical stage adaptation of The Lord of the Rings. She has appeared at the National Theatre in The Light Princess for which she was nominated for an Olivier Award, and won an Evening Standard Award. More recently Rosalie has appeared in the National Theatre productions of London Road, As You Like It and The Threepenny Opera.

Coach pick up – return to hotel

Friday 9 November

10.00am Coach departs for **Linley Sambourne House**

11.00am **Guided tour of Linley Sambourne House**

Linley Sambourne House, 18 Stafford Terrace, London, is a unique example of a late Victorian townhouse. Home to the cartoonist Edward Linley Sambourne and his family from 1874, it survives with almost all of its furniture and fittings intact. The first meeting of the Victorian Society was held here in 1958, and for a number of years the Society ran the house as a museum.

Coach pick up – return to hotel

AFTERNOON FREE

6.00pm Coach departs for Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1 1TA

7.30pm **THE WILD DUCK** by Henrik Ibsen

Almeida Associate Director Robert Icke stages a new version of Ibsen's masterpiece about the nature of truth.

Coach pick up – return to hotel

Saturday 10 November

10.00am Meet in **The Woborn Suite** with Steve Stettler to discuss the shows we have seen.

12.00pm Coach departs for **The Rose Theatre**, Kingston

2.30pm **DON CARLOS** by Friedrich Schiller

Don Carlos faces the most profound of dilemmas. In a cruel twist of fate, his former fiancé and the love of his life, Elizabeth, has recently become his stepmother. His father and usurper is the tyrannical Philip II. Abandoned by both man and decree, Don Carlos must fend for himself. But one man, Rodrigo, Marquis of Posa, has never forgotten the childhood act of sacrifice that the Prince made on his behalf. Dreaming of freedom for his people, Rodrigo becomes an unlikely power broker in the King's duplicitous court.

Coach pick up – return to hotel

EVENING FREE

Sunday 11 November

MORNING & AFTERNOON FREE

6.00pm Coach departs for **The Royal Festival Hall**

7.00pm **Brahms: A German Requiem**

To mark Armistice Day, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment performs Brahms' epic German Requiem, the landmark moment in the composer's career.

Coach pick up - return to hotel

Monday 12 November

MORNING & AFTERNOON FREE

6.45pm Coach departs for Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2H ODA

7.45pm **THE HEIGHT OF THE STORM** by Florian Zeller

A beautifully compelling family drama by Florian Zeller, 'the most exciting playwright of our time' (The Guardian). André and Madeleine have been in love for over fifty years. This weekend, as their daughters visit, something feels unusual. A bunch of flowers arrives, but who sent them? A woman from the past turns up, but who is she? And why does André feel like he isn't there at all? Starring two of the greatest actors of their generation, Dame Eileen Atkins and Jonathan Pryce, this major new play from the writer of Olivier Award-Winning The Father is a searing exploration of love, family and the fragility of life.

Coach pick up - return to hotel

Tuesday 13 November

10.15am Walk from hotel to **Truckles**, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

10.30am **We meet with Christopher Hampton**

Christopher Hampton is a British playwright, screenwriter, translator and film director. From 1968 to 1970, he worked as the Resident Dramatist at the Royal Court Theatre and also as the company's literary manager. He continued to write plays, *Total Eclipse*, about the French poets and lovers Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine, was first performed in 1967 and at the Royal Court in 1968. *The Philanthropist* (1970) transferred to London's West End and ran for three years before reaching Broadway in 1971. Hampton won the Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 1988 for the screen adaptation of his play *Dangerous Liaisons*. He was nominated again in 2007 for adapting Ian McEwan's novel *Atonement*.

AFTERNOON FREE

5.00pm Coach departs for **The Young Vic**

6.00am **Pre-show talk with Kwame Kwei-Armah in The Club Room at The Young Vic**

Kwame Kwei-Armah is the Artistic Director of The Young Vic and the Director of *Twelfth Night*. He was previously the Artistic Director of Baltimore Center Stage where he directed: *Jazz*, *Marley*, *One Night in Miami*, *Amadeus*, *Dance of the Holy Ghosts*, *The Mountaintop*, *An Enemy of the People*, *The Whipping Man* and *Things of Dry Hours*. Other work as a director include: *Twelfth Night*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Detroit '67* (Public Theatre, New York), *The Liquid Plain* (Signature Theatre, New York and Oregon Shakespeare Festival), *Porgy and Bess* (Baltimore Symphony Orchestra), the Olivier Nominated *One Night in Miami* for Best New Play 2016 (Donmar Warehouse), and *One Love* (Birmingham Repertory Theatre). As a playwright his credits include *One Love* (Birmingham Repertory Theatre), *Beneath's Place* (Baltimore Center Stage, *Elmina's Kitchen*, *Fix Up*, *Statement of Regret* (National Theatre), *Let There Be Love* and *Seize the Day* (Tricycle Theatre). Kwame is an Associate Director of the Donmar Warehouse and has served on the boards of the National Theatre, Tricycle Theatre and Theatre Communications Group. Kwame was the Chancellor of the University of the Arts London from 2010 to 2015, and in 2012 was awarded an OBE for Services to Drama.

7.30pm **TWELFTH NIGHT** by William Shakespeare

Conceived by Kwame Kwei-Armah and Shaina Taub

Shakespeare gets a shake-up as soulful melodies and R&B beats weave through this enchanting musical adaptation of *Twelfth Night*. Viola and her twin brother Sebastian wash up on the shores of Illyria and when she disguises herself as a man, a joyous whirlwind of gender-bending and unrequited love begins. This celebration of love in all its forms features an awe-inspiring community chorus from Southwark and Lambeth with music and lyrics by the critically acclaimed songwriter Shaina Taub.

Coach pick up - return to hotel

Wednesday 14 November

10.15am Walk from hotel to **Truckles**, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

10.00am Meet in **The Woborn Suite** with Steve Stettler to discuss the shows we have seen.

11.00am **We meet with leading theatre critic Kate Bassett**

As an arts journalist and theatre critic, Kate Bassett has written for The Times, Daily Telegraph, Independent on Sunday, New Statesman, TLS and other publications. Her book *In Two Minds: a Biography of Jonathan Miller* – shortlisted for the HW Fisher Best First Biography Prize, the Theatre Book Prize, and Sheridan Morley Prize for Theatre Biography – is now in paperback. She has served on many theatre, comedy and literary awards panels, and been an associate professor of Creative Writing at the University of Reading. She is now a script consultant and dramaturg for theatre and film companies, and Literary Associate at Chichester Festival Theatre.

AFTERNOON FREE

6.45pm Coach departs for **The Goring**

7.30pm **Farewell Dinner at The Goring**

The last remaining family-owned hotel in London, located in the shadow of Buckingham Palace in elegant Belgravia. With its Michelin starred restaurant and its century-old reputation for impeccable manners and a subtle streak of wit and wonder, The Goring is the only hotel to have been awarded a Royal Warrant by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We dine in the private Garden Room – a sumptuous space that features its own conservatory with a sliding wall of glass, leading out to The Goring Gardens. Enjoy a final opportunity to share the company of friends both old and new and to toast a memorable time together in London.

Coach pick up - return to hotel

Thursday 15 November

7.30am Bags to reception and loaded onto the coach

8.00am Depart for London Heathrow Airport Terminal 5

11.15am Departure of Flight BA213