

Saturday 12 January

7.35pm Group Arrival at London Airport Terminal 5.

You will be met by taxi and transfer to the Grange White Hall Hotel and The Montague Hotel.

Both hotels are uniquely located close to the world renowned British Museum, in the quieter part of London's West End and the most fashionable of neighbourhoods, and within easy access of London's famous theatres, fashion attractions and the west end.

Sunday 13 January

10.30am Coach departs for Wigmore Hall - 36 Wigmore Street, W1U 2BP

11.30am Cassard/Grimal/Gastinel Trio
Faure: Piano Trio in D minor Op.120
Ravel: Piano Trio in A minor

Fauré completed his only piano trio at the age of 78, the work's lyrical style influenced by its creator's lifelong experience as a composer of song. The spirit of the dance is central to Ravel's Piano Trio in A minor, no doubt energised by its composer's headlong rush to finish the score and enlist in the French army. 'Yes, I am working on the Trio with the sureness and lucidity of a madman,' he wrote in August 1914.

1.00pm Coach direct to Les Deux Salons in Covent Garden

1.30pm Sunday Lunch at Les Deux Salons

In October 2010 Les Deux Salons, the third venture from Michelin-starred duo Anthony Demetre and Will Smith, opened its doors to the public. The two-floor Grand Parisian brasserie situated in Covent Garden, in the heart of theatre land, reflects the same ethos, quality and great value as its two sister restaurants Arbutus and Wild Honey. Here you can enjoy robust French cooking delights in a décor of dark green leather banquettes, mosaic marbled flooring, aged mirrors and globe

lights. The feel is very much of a traditional brasserie on the Boulevard Montparnasse in Paris — busy, bustling and French.

4.30pm Coach pick up. Return to hotel.

Evening Free

Monday 14 January

10.30am Walk from hotel to Truckles, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

10.45am The State We Are In: We meet with leading political journalist Steve Richards.

Steve Richards is Chief Political Commentator for the Independent. He also presents a weekly TV programme on politics on Sunday mornings on ITV and The Week in Westminster on BBC Radio 4. Steve Richards was a BBC Political Correspondent for six years. He has written on politics for several British newspapers and the weekly magazine, the New Statesman.

Afternoon free

6.30pm Coach departs for Vaudeville Theatre, The Strand, London WC2R 0NH

7.30pm Uncle Vanya by Anton Chekov
Starring Ken Stott (Vanya), Anna Friel (Yelena), Samuel West (Astrov), Laura Carmichael (Sonya) and directed by Lindsay Posner.

Vanya, Yelena, Astrov and Sonya are all in love, with the past, with ideals and with each other. As their universe shifts around them they struggle to keep their emotions at bay.

10.10pm Coach pick up. Return to hotel.

Tuesday 15 January

11.15am Walk from hotel to Truckles, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

11.30am We meet with guest Samuel West, star of Uncle Vanya

Samuel West made his London stage debut in February 1989 playing Michael in Cocteau's Les Parents Terribles. Since then, he has appeared

frequently on stage and spent two seasons with the Royal Shakespeare Company playing the title roles in Richard II and Hamlet, both directed by Steven Pimlott. In 2002 he made his stage directorial debut with The Lady's Not for Burning. He was appointed artistic director of Sheffield Theatres - succeeding Michael Grandage - in 2005. During his time as artistic director West revived the controversial The Romans in Britain and also directed As You Like It as part of the RSC's Complete Works Festival. West left Sheffield when the theatre closed for refurbishment in 2007 and made his West End directorial debut with the first major revival of Dealer's Choice following its transferral to the Trafalgar Studios. He also continued his acting career: in 2007 he appeared alongside Toby Stephens and Dervla Kirwan in Betrayal at the Donmar Warehouse, in November 2008 he played Harry in the Donmar revival of T. S. Eliot's The Family Reunion^t and in 2009 he starred as Jeffrey Skilling in ENRON by Lucy Prebble. His 2008 production of Waste at the Almeida Theatre was chosen by The Times as one of its "Productions of the Decade".

2.00pm Coach departs for The National Gallery

2.30pm The National Gallery

Special Exhibition: Seduced By Art

View Old Master painting through a new lens with 'Seduced by Art', the National Gallery's first major exhibition of photography. This groundbreaking show explores the relationship between historical painting, early photography of the mid-19th century, and some of the most exciting work being done by photographers today - including Sam Taylor-Wood, Tacita Dean and Richard Learoyd.

The exhibition includes almost 90 photographs alongside selected paintings from the National Gallery's collection. It features new photography and video especially commissioned for the exhibition and on public display for the first time, plus works rarely seen in the UK.

Paintings and early and contemporary photographs are presented together according to traditional genres - portraiture, still life, the nude, and landscape. The show contrasts beautiful and provocative religious imagery by 19th-century photographer Julia Margaret Cameron and contemporary artist Helen Chadwick, with spectacular battlefield tableaux by Horace Vernet from 1821 and Luc Delahaye's work of 2001. Martin Parr's acerbic work is displayed alongside Thomas Gainsborough's Mr and Mrs Andrews, while photographs by Craigie Horsfield and the Victorian artist David Wilkie Wynfield show the Baroque influence of Anthony van Dyck.

6.30pm Coach pick up at National Gallery for The Old Vic, 103 The Cut London SE1 8NB

7.30pm Kiss Me Kate
Starring Alex Bourne (Fred Graham/Petruchio), David Burt (Gangster 1), Adam Garcia (Bill Calhoun/Lucentio), Clive Rowe (Gangster 2) Hannah Waddingham (Lilli Vanessi/Kate) and directed by Sir Trevor Nunn.

Kiss Me, Kate is a show-within-a-show, bringing together the worlds of gun-toting gangsters, sparring actors and Shakespeare's original characters from The Taming of the Shrew. Songs include Too Darn Hot, Brush Up Your Shakespeare, Another Op'nin', Another Show, So In Love Am I and Always True To You (In My Fashion).

10.30pm Coach pick up – return to hotel

Wednesday 16 January

10.45am Walk from hotel to Truckles, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

11.00am We meet with Sir Trevor Nunn

Sir Trevor Robert Nunn, CBE has been the Artistic Director for the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre, and, currently, the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. He has directed musicals and dramas for the stage, as well as opera. His well-known musicals are Cats (1981) and Les Misérables (1985). His dramas include Nicholas Nickleby and Macbeth. He has been nominated for the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical, the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play, the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Director, and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Director of a Musical, winning the Tony Award (Musical) for Cats and Les Misérables and the Olivier Award for Summerfolk / The Merchant of Venice / Troilus and Cressida; and The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby.

Afternoon free

6.30pm Coach departs for National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1

7.30pm The Magistrate by Arthur Wing Pinero
Starring John Lithgow, Nancy Carroll, Joshua McGuire and directed by Timothy Sheader.

With his louche air and developed taste for smoking, gambling, port and women, it's hard to believe Cis Farrington is only fourteen. And that's because he isn't. Agatha his mother lopped five years from her true age and his when she married the amiable Posket. The imminent arrival of Cis' godfather sends Agatha incognito to the Hotel des Princes to warn

him of her deception. But it's also where her son has cajoled his otherwise staid stepfather into joining him for a binge. High-spirited carousing leads to a police raid and a night of outrageous mishap as the trapped guests make desperate attempts to conceal themselves from the law and from each other. Indignities escalate at court the next day where Posket, the police magistrate, must preside.

10.20pm Coach pick up – return to the hotel

Thursday 17 January

10.30am Walk from hotel to Truckles, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

10.45am We meet with guest Josh McGuire, from The Magistrate

Josh McGuire is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Prior to graduation, he had been a member of Playbox Theatre Company, and was involved in minor radio dramas and Shakespearean productions. While still a drama student, McGuire first came to attention for his role in the premiere of Laura Wade's satirical play Posh in which he portrayed a student member of the "Riot Club", a parody of the Bullingdon Club at Oxford University. He has made cameo appearances in a number of BBC sitcoms and drama series and is a cast member in the 2011 BBC Two series The Hour. He also starred as assistant to Stephen Fry's character in the comedy series The Bleak Old Shop of Stuff, a parody of Charles Dickens' works

Afternoon and evening free

Friday 18 January

Morning free

2.45pm Walk from hotel to Truckles, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

3.00pm We meet with Hannah Waddingham from Kiss Me Kate.

Hannah Waddingham has had a successful career in the London theatre, including her portrayal of Suzanne Valadon in Lautrec. However, it is for her portrayal of the Lady of the Lake in Spamalot (a role she originated in London) for which she is best known, and for which she received an Olivier Award nomination. She was given good reviews for

her portrayal of Desirée Armfeldt in Trevor Nunn's acclaimed revival of A Little Night Music. She subsequently received a further Olivier Award nomination in 2010 for Best Actress in a Musical for her performance in Night Music.

Afternoon Free

6.30pm Coach pick up from hotel for Duke of York's Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2

7.30pm The Judas Kiss by David Hare
Starring Rupert Everett (Oscar Wilde), Freddie Fox (Lord Alfred Douglas), Cal Macaninch (Robert Ross) and directed by Neil Armfield.

An insight into Oscar Wilde's relationship with Lord Alfred Douglas. The play focuses on two critical moments in Wilde's last years – the eve of his arrest at the Cadogan Hotel and a night in Naples after his release from two years imprisonment; The Judas Kiss speculates on the consequences of his self-destructive fatalism, betrayal and love without trust.

10.15pm Coach pick up – return to the hotel

Post Performance we meet with actor Freddie Fox in the bar of the Montague Hotel

Freddie Fox is an English actor and a member of the Fox acting dynasty. His early screen career highlights include roles as singer Marilyn in a biopic about Boy George, King Louis XIII in The Three Musketeers, and Edwin Drood in The Mystery of Edwin Drood. He is the son of actor Edward Fox and his second wife actress Joanna David. His elder sister is the actress Emilia Fox. He trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and graduated in 2010.

Saturday 19 January

10.30am Walk from hotel to Truckles, Pied Bull Yard, WC1A 2JR

10.45am Meet with leading theatre critic Kate Bassett

Kate Bassett is the theatre critic for the Independent on Sunday and has previously worked in that capacity for both The Times and the Daily Telegraph. Other publications have included the Guardian, Time Out, City Limits, the TLS and the New Statesman where she has written features and reviews on film, books, dance and comedy. She chaired the Perrier Comedy Awards twice. She studied English at Cambridge

University and has an MA in Drama from RADA and King's College, London.

1.15pm Coach departs for The Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London SW1

2.30pm In the Republic of Happiness
Starring Anna Calder-Marshall, Emma Fielding, Seline Hizli, Ellie Kendrick, Stuart McQuarrie, Paul Ready, Michelle Terry, Peter Wight and directed by Dominic Cooke

A family Christmas is interrupted by the unexpected arrival of Uncle Bob. Who is he? Why has he come? Why does his wife stay out in the car? And what is the meaning of his long and outrageous message? All we can be sure of is that the world will never be the same again.

4.15pm Coach pick up – return to the hotel

7.00pm Coach departs for The Naval and Military Club, St James' Square

7.30pm Farewell Dinner at The Naval and Military Club

The Naval and Military Club is a gentlemen's club in London. It was founded in 1862 because the three then existing military clubs in London - the United Service, the Junior United Service and the Army and Navy - were all full. The membership was long restricted to military officers. This is no longer the case, but it still has a predominantly military and ex-military membership. Like many London gentlemen's clubs it has also opened its membership to women. The club was once based at Cambridge House in Piccadilly and came to be known as the "In and Out" on account of the prominent signs on the building's vehicle entrance and exit gates. The club purchased its current premises at 4 St. James's Square in 1996, and after a programme of refurbishment it took up occupancy in 1999. The house, originally built in 1679, was the London home of Nancy Astor and her husband from 1912 to 1942. In order to commemorate its previous nickname the words "In" and "Out" appear on either side of the entrance.

10.30pm Coach pick up – return to hotel

Sunday 20 January

11.30am Taxis will depart to take main group to London Heathrow Terminal 5 for flight BA213 departing 1.50pm for Boston.