

Town Hall Theatre

Giles Ramsay London Theatre Tour

Tuesday 10 – Tuesday 17 September 2013

Tuesday 10 September

7.35pm Group Arrive at London's Heathrow Airport Terminal 5

You will be met and transferred directly to the Grange White Hall 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 are within easy access of London's famous theatres, fashion attractions and The West End.

We meet with Giles Ramsay in the bar for a drink and a general briefing on all aspects of the tour.

Wednesday 11 September

9.15am Coach departs for Palace of Westminster

10.00am The State We Are In - Inside Parliament

An insider's view of the political hot-house that is the "Westminster Village". A fascinating discussion of the topics of the day with leading parliamentary lobbyist James Winston and a serving member of The House of Lords, Lord Kennedy of Southwark.

This will be followed by a private tour of The Palace of Westminster.

2.45pm Rendezvous at The Gielgud Theatre, 35 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 6AR

3.00pm Private Lives by Noel Coward

Elyot and Amanda, glamorous, rich and reckless, are divorced. Five years later, they meet again on the adjoining balconies of a Riviera hotel. Each is on honeymoon. Their passion instantly rekindled through this chance encounter, they fling themselves headlong into love and lust once more, without a thought for their new partners or what drove their marriage apart.

- 5.15pm** Coach pick up – return to hotel
- 6.45pm** Coach departs for Les Deux Salons in Covent Garden
- 7.30pm** Welcome Dinner 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.

- 10.30pm** Coach pick up – return to hotel

Thursday 12 September

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

- 10.45am** We meet with Anna Chancellor and Toby Stephens, stars of last night's production of Private Lives.

Anna Chancellor is well known for her performance as "Duckface" in Four Weddings and a Funeral opposite Hugh Grant. She has also been noted for her work as Caroline Bingley in the 1995 BBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, and as Questular Rontok in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. In 2005, she joined the cast of the popular BBC One television drama series Spooks as a new regular character, Juliet Shaw. Her theatre credits include Chichester Festival Theatre's South Downs and The Browning Version, which transferred to the West End in 2012, The Last of the Duchess (Hampstead Theatre), Creditors (Donmar Warehouse and Broadway)

Toby Stephens has gained acclaim as a stage actor of distinction, notably playing the title role in a Royal Shakespeare Company production of Coriolanus shortly after graduation from LAMDA; that same season he played Claudio in Measure for Measure for the RSC. He also played Stanley Kowalski in a West End production of Tennessee Williams' A Streetcar Named Desire, and Hamlet in 2004. He has appeared on Broadway in Ring Round the Moon. He played the lead in the film Photographing Fairies and played Orsino in Trevor Nunn's film of Twelfth Night. In 2002 he took on the role of Gustav Graves in the James

Bond movie Die Another Day and in 2006 he starred as Edward Rochester in the BBC television adaptation of Jane Eyre.

Afternoon free

6.45pm Coach departs for The Old Vic Theatre, The Cut, London SE1 8NB

7.30pm Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

While young lovers Claudio and Hero threaten to have their imminent nuptials thwarted by the resentful scheming of a Prince, marriage seems inconceivable for reluctant lovers Beatrice and Benedick.

10.30pm Coach pick up – return to hotel

Friday 13 September

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

10.45am We meet with Nicolas Kent, Producer of Much Ado About Nothing.

From 1984-2012 Nick was Artistic Director of the acclaimed Tricycle Theatre in London. He has directed production around the world including the West End and New York as well as for major UK companies such as The Royal Court, The Donmar Warehouse, The National Theatre and The Royal Shakespeare Company. He is best known for his creation of political dramas on topics such as Northern Ireland, Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo and the history of the nuclear bomb. Two of these plays were performed by request in the Houses of Parliament and on Capitol Hill.

Afternoon free

6.15pm Coach departs for The Bush Theatre, The Old Shepherd's Bush Library, 7 Uxbridge Road, London W12 8LJ

7.30pm The Herd by Rory Kinnear

It's Andy Griffith's 21st Birthday. Not that he's counting. But his mother Carol is. Counting the minutes until he arrives, counting the unexpected guests, counting the times that this has happened before.

10.00pm Coach pick up – return to hotel

Saturday 14 September

10.00am Meet with leading theatre critic Matt Wolf

Matt is London theatre critic of the International Herald Tribune (on the net at nytimes.com) and London correspondent for the Broadway.com website; he spent 21 years as London arts and theatre critic for the Associated Press and over 13 years as Variety's UK critic. In 2009 he joined the judging panel of the Evening Standard Theatre Awards.

1.15pm Coach pick up for The Harold Pinter Theatre, Panton Street, London SW1Y 4DN

2.00pm Chimerica by Lucy Kirkwood

Tiananmen Square, 1989. As tanks roll through Beijing and soldiers hammer on his hotel door, Joe – a young American photojournalist – captures a piece of history. In New York, 2012 Joe is covering a presidential election, marred by debate over cheap labour and the outsourcing of American jobs to Chinese factories. When a cryptic message is left in a Beijing newspaper, Joe is driven to discover the truth behind the unknown hero he captured on film. Who was he? What happened to him? And could he still be alive?

5.30pm Coach pick up – return to hotel

Evening free

Sunday 15 September

Free day

Monday 16 September

9.30am Coach departs for Kirby House

11.15am Private visit to Kirby House in Berkshire

*Kirby House is a "Stately Home in Miniature". Built in 1733, it is a fine example of Queen Anne architecture and possesses all the grandeur of a large Country House. Its owner, Richard Astor, is the great grandson of William Waldorf Astor, who emigrated from the USA in 1891. **KATHERINE ASTOR** will show us the house and we shall then be entertained to **lunch** in their extremely elegant dining room.*

- 3.00pm** Coach departs for Stratford upon Avon
- 4.00pm** Free time in Stratford upon Avon
- 5.30pm** We meet with David Farr, Director of tonight's production of Hamlet.

David began directing theatre at University and won the Guardian Student Drama Award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1991 with Slight Possession starring Rachel Weisz. His professional directorial debut came at The Gate Theatre, Notting Hill under Stephen Daldry. Farr became Artistic Director of The Gate Theatre at the age of twenty five and had that role from 1995 to 1998. He was also Artistic Director of Bristol Old Vic from 2002 to 2005[2] and Lyric Hammersmith[3] from 2005 to 2009. In 2009 he joined Royal Shakespeare Company as Associate Director.

- 7.00pm** RSC production of Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Hamlet's father is dead. He suspects his uncle of murder but has no proof. He fears his mother's involvement but dare not confront her. If his suspicions are correct he has a duty to avenge his father, but if he strikes down an innocent man he risks eternal damnation.

- 11.00pm** Coach pick up – return to London

Tuesday 17 September

- 7.00am** Bags to reception
- 7.45am** All bags loaded for departure
- 8.00am** Coach departs for Heathrow Airport Terminal 5
- 11.20pm** Depart Flight BA1502