

WESTON PLAYHOUSE
LONDON THEATRE TOUR
TUESDAY 7TH - THURSDAY 16TH
NOVEMBER 2017

TUESDAY 7 NOVEMBER

6.50PM **GROUP ARRIVAL ON BA238 LONDON AIRPORT TERMINAL 5. TRANSFER TO THE MONTAGUE ON THE GARDENS HOTEL, 15 MONTAGUE STREET, LONDON WC1B 5BJ**

YOU WILL BE MET BY OSCAR BLUSTIN AND A COACH WILL TRANSFER YOU TO THE MONTAGUE HOTEL. 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 *We meet in the bar before moving to the conservatory for drinks, sandwiches and a briefing on all aspects of the tour.*

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER

10.30AM **THE STATE OF THE NATION: BREXIT, SCOTLAND, TRUMP! – WE MEET WITH LEADING POLITICAL JOURNALIST DAVID WALKER**

David Walker is contributing editor at the Guardian and author with Polly Toynbee of the recently published book Dismembered. David was an editorial writer at The Times and the Guardian and has worked for The Economist and the BBC. His other books include Sources Close to the Prime Minister and (with Polly Toynbee) Unjust Rewards and Cameron's Coup.

MEET IN THE FRONT LOBBY FOR OPTIONAL ORIENTATION WALK OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

1.00PM **COACH DEPARTS FOR HAMPSTEAD THEATRE, ETON AVENUE, SWISS COTTAGE, NW3 3 EU**

2.30PM **THE SLAVES OF SOLITUDE BY NICHOLAS WRIGHT**

1943, Henley-on-Thames. Miss Roach is forced by the war to flee London for the Rosamund Tea Rooms boarding house, which is as grey and lonely as its residents. From the safety of these new quarters, her war now consists of a thousand petty humiliations, of which the most burdensome is sharing her daily life with the unbearable Mr. Thwaites. But a breath of fresh air arrives in the form of a handsome American Lieutenant and things start to look distinctly brighter... Until, that is, a seeming friend moves into the room adjacent to Miss Roach's, upsetting the precariously balanced ecosystem of the house...

4.45PM COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL

7.15PM COACH DEPARTS FOR CINNAMON BAZAAR

8.00PM WELCOME DINNER AT CINNAMON BAZAAR

Cinnamon Bazaar is inspired by bazaars in antiquity and in the modern day. In India and across the world, the bazaar is the place to buy, sell, exchange, entertain and be entertained. For centuries the vibrant energy of these marketplaces has inspired us to explore new flavours and new possibilities and Cinnamon Bazaar aims to capture this and bring it to London; an innovative dining concept that mixes real Indian heritage with urban London. The cross cultural dining experience embraces the democratic spirit of a bazaar, making us a real cultural melting pot – the perfect place to eat, drink, relax and celebrate.

COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL

THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER

10.00AM WE MEET WITH NICHOLAS WRIGHT, WRITER OF SLAVES OF SOLITUDE

Olivier award winning playwright Nicholas Wright play include, Vincent in Brixton (Olivier Award for Best New Play, NT), His Dark Materials (NT), The Last of the Duchess and A Human Being Died That Night (Hampstead), Rattigan's Nijinsky (Chichester Festival Theatre) and Travelling Light (NT). His television credits include The Little Prince (BBC), Man on the Moon (Channel 4) and The No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency (BBC).

11.30AM LECTURE: OSCAR WILDE: UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL - AN INFORMAL LECTURE WITH GILES

"I put all my genius into my life; I put only my talent into my works." I examine the public and private life of one of the world's most original and controversial artists. Born into a moderately respectable Dublin family Oscar Wilde recreated himself as an international celebrity and wrote a series of short stories and plays that charmed the world. In 1890 he also published the last of the great myths - The Picture of Dorian Gray. Ten years later Wilde, devoured by his fame, his demons and his decadence, would be dead.

AFTERNOON FREE

6.15PM DEPART FOR THE BUSH THEATRE

7.30PM OF KITH & KIN BY CHRIS THOMPSON

Sheffield Theatre's Artistic Director Robert Hastie directs Chris Thompson's new comedy, which asks the question what does family mean in the 21st century?

COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL

FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER

9.00AM COACH DEPARTS FOR HIGHGATE CEMETERY

10.30AM HIGHGATE CEMETERY

Designated Grade 1 on the Register of Historic Park and Gardens, Highgate Cemetery is the resting place of Karl Marx, George Eliot and, more recently, Malcolm McLaren and George Michael together with other famous poets, artists and musicians.

1.00PM LUNCH AT THE SPANIARD'S INN

*As one of London's oldest pubs, The Spaniards has earned itself a place in the history books, quite literally. Dickens immortalised it in *The Pickwick Papers*, and it's said that Keats wrote *Ode to a Nightingale* here over a claret or two. Indeed, our characterful 16th century inn is a romantic idyll in itself, with a few tales of its own to tell.*

2.30PM KENWOOD HOUSE

Kenwood House, on the edge of London's Hampstead Heath, was probably first built in the early 17th century. Between 1764 and 1779 Robert Adam transformed it into a neoclassical villa for William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, and the interiors include some of Adam's finest surviving schemes. Kenwood is now home to the 1st Earl of Iveagh's renowned collection of Old Master and British paintings, which includes works by Rembrandt and Vermeer.

4.00PM COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL

6.45PM COACH DEPARTS FOR LONDON'S NEWEST THEATRE, THE BRIDGE

7.45PM YOUNG MARX BY RICHARD BEAN AND CLIVE COLEMAN

*1850, and Europe's most feared terrorist is hiding in Dean Street, Soho. Broke, restless and horny, the thirty-two-year-old revolutionary is a frothing combination of intellectual brilliance, invective, satiric wit, and child-like emotional illiteracy. Creditors, spies, rival revolutionary factions and prospective seducers of his beautiful wife all circle like vultures. His writing blocked, his marriage dying, his friend Engels in despair at his wasted genius, his only hope is a job on the railway. But there's still no one in the capital who can show you a better night on the piss than Karl Heinrich Marx. Rory Kinnear plays Marx and Oliver Chris, Engels. The production reunites the creative team behind Richard Bean's smash hit *One Man, Two Guvnors*, with direction by Sir Nicholas Hytner.*

COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

10.00AM MEET WITH STEVE STETTLER TO DISCUSS THE FIRST SHOWS WE HAVE SEEN.

11.00AM WE MEET WITH OLIVER CHRIS, STAR OF YOUNG MARX

*Oliver Chris attended the Central School of Speech and Drama. He has played one of the leading roles in the National Theatre production of *One Man, Two Guvnors* alongside James Corden. From 2014 to 2016, Chris played Prince William in the play *King Charles III*, appearing in the West End and on Broadway. In May 2017, he appeared in the same role in the BBC Two film adaptation. February to May 2017 Chris was playing Orsino in a new production of *Twelfth Night* at the Royal National Theatre. He is currently playing Friedrich Engels in *Young Marx*,*

1.00PM COACH DEPARTS FOR THE HAROLD PINTER THEATRE

2.00PM THE NATIONAL THEATRE PRODUCTION OF OSLO BY BARTLETT SHER

In 1993, in front of the world's press, the leaders of Israel and Palestine shook hands on the lawn of the White House. Few watching would have guessed that the negotiations leading up to this iconic moment started secretly in a castle in the middle of a forest outside Oslo. Oslo tells the true story of two maverick Norwegian diplomats who coordinated top secret talks and inspired seemingly impossible friendships. Their quiet heroics led to the groundbreaking Oslo Peace Accords. Bartlett Sher's acclaimed production of this new play by J.T. Rogers (Blood & Gifts, The Overwhelming, NT) sets a deeply personal story against an epic historical landscape.

COACH PICK UP, RETURN TO HOTEL

EVENING FREE

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER

10.30AM COACH DEPARTS FOR WIGMORE HALL, 36 WIGMORE STREET, W1U 2BP

11.30AM TAMSIN WALEY-COHEN (VIOLIN); HUW WATKINS (PIANO)

Violinist Tamsin Waley-Cohen, lauded by The Strad for her 'potent rhetorical style', and composer and pianist Huw Watkins enjoy a duo partnership tempered by their long experience together in concert and the recording studio.

COACH PICK UP, RETURN TO HOTEL

AFTERNOON AND EVENING FREE

MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER

MORNING AND AFTERNOON FREE

6.30PM COACH DEPARTS FOR THE VAUDEVILLE THEATRE, 404 STRAND, LONDON, WC2R 0NH

7.30PM A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE BY OSCAR WILDE

Set in the nineteenth century, Oscar Wilde's A Woman of No Importance follows a group of guests at party at Lady Hunstanton's estate in the lavish English countryside. The party's guests, which include the widow Mrs Arbuthnot, her son Gerald and American outsider Hester, uncover truths about themselves and each other that will alter their lives forever.

COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER

10.30AM **WE MEET WITH LYDIA LEONARD STAR OF OSLO**

Lydia Leonard trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. She has performed with the Royal Shakespeare Company as Anne Boleyn in Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall and Bring Up The Bodies. This production transferred to Broadway as Wolf Hall Parts One & Two and earned Lydia a nomination for the 2015 Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in a Play. In addition to successful film and television work, Lydia has had starring roles in the National Theatre's production of Time and the Conways, Frost/Nixon at The Donmar and also played Jackie Onassis in Martin Sherman's Onassis.

AFTERNOON FREE

6.00PM **COACH DEPARTS FOR THE BARBICAN THEATRE, SILK STREET, EC2Y 8DS**

7.15PM **CORIOLANUS BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

Caius Martius Coriolanus is a fearless soldier on the battlefield, but he is a reluctant leader. His mother wants the best for him and looks to push him down a route to political power, but he finds it difficult to go against his nature and achieve greatness.

COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER

10.30AM **MEET WITH STEVE STETTLER TO DISCUSS THE SHOWS WE HAVE SEEN.**

11.30AM **WE MEET WITH LEADING THEATRE CRITIC MICHAEL BILLINGTON OBE**

Michael Billington has been drama critic of The Guardian since 1971 and of Country Life since 1986. He is also the author of several books including biographies of Harold Pinter and Peggy Ashcroft and a survey of post-war British theatre called State of the Nation. He broadcasts and lectures frequently and has been teaching a course in London theatre to students from the University of Pennsylvania for the past 30 years. He was made an OBE in the New Year's Honours List in 2013.

AFTERNOON FREE

7.00PM **COACH DEPARTS FOR CORRIGAN'S MAYFAIR**

7.30PM **FAREWELL DINNER AT CORRIGAN'S MAYFAIR**

Corrigan's Mayfair is home to acclaimed celebrity Irish chef, Richard Corrigan. He opened Corrigan's Mayfair in 2008. Corrigan's Mayfair has been awarded London Restaurant of the Year by the Evening Standard and had three AA Rosettes within the first three months. It was also awarded 'AA London Restaurant of the Year', and gained one of the highest new entries in the National Restaurant Awards at number five. Corrigan's Mayfair redefines the concept of quintessential British and Irish cuisine. Fusing seasonal produce with Richard's unmistakable flair, the menus are inspired by Richard's humble, rural upbringing- combining 21st century luxury and style with down-to-earth, home-inspired cooking.

10.30PM **COACH PICK UP – RETURN TO HOTEL**

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER

7.30AM BAGS TO RECEPTION

7.45AM ALL BAGS TO BE LOADED ONTO THE COACH

8.00AM DEPART FOR LONDON HEATHROW AIRPORT TERMINAL 5

11.15PM DEPARTURE OF FLIGHT BA213