

# the court

November/December 2016

## The Design of Things to Come

Design Museum ready to open its doors in Kensington

*The  
Festive  
Issue*

### FESTIVE FROLICS ///

Join us at the Earl's Court  
Christmas Illuminations

### THE COURT THIS CHRISTMAS ///

Christmas community  
events for all

### EVENTS LISTINGS ///

#### GREAT THINGS TO DO & SEE

Your bi-monthly digest of the  
best of the area



Keeping  
Life Local

# Better by Design

**The Design Museum** opens the doors to its Kensington High Street home on November 24. An extraordinary addition to the Kensington Cultural Quarter, the museum houses a large, permanent, free-entry exhibition, as well as hosts designers-in-residence and a kaleidoscope of special exhibitions throughout the year. *The Court* caught up with its Deputy Director, Alice Black, to discover in what directions the museum will take us.

## *What do you hope for the future of the museum?*

I want to see the museum firmly established as the leading *Design Museum* in the world. I want people to come to us to understand the world around them, how it is changing, and how they can contribute to making it a better place. Our exhibitions, talks and learning activities are asking important questions about how we use the resources that we have, and how we can tackle pressing issues – from the refugee crisis, to water shortages to digital futures.

## *Do you feel design awareness is more widespread these days?*

There is certainly more awareness of design today, if only exemplified by the increased number of design exhibitions around. In the capital, Somerset House, the Barbican, the V&A are all actively programming design and architecture exhibitions. And on our screens, we have an increasing number of programmes dedicated to design in our homes, from *Grand Designs* to home renovation projects. The Design Museum has witnessed this rise in interest, with an ever growing attendance at our exhibitions, talks and learning programmes. My personal highlight? When Jonathan Ive came to the Design Museum last November to talk to a raptured audience about his work at Apple. I think we could have filled



a stadium with the number of people keen to attend!

## *Is there room for new talent in design?*

Of course, is there a limit to human creativity? Our designers in residence programme focuses on young design practitioners, and seeks to give them a platform for exploration and a leg up in their professional lives. One of our first designers in residence, Asif Kahn is now making his mark globally, with a number of Olympic commissions – he has also just been selected as the architect for the new Museum of London as part of a team with Stanton Williams.

## *How much do you rely on artists and designers from abroad? Or is home grown design in a good place?*

We see design as borderless, many designers working in Britain have



come here to establish themselves from other countries. They enjoy the great design education, amazing networks and creativity which exist in Britain. We need to make sure we preserve this fragile ecosystem. Currently we are concerned about the changes in the secondary school curriculum which demote design and artistic disciplines. At the Design Museum, we will continue to deliver hands on learning activity, geared at all learners – from school children to adults – to help inspire the next generation of designers.

## *Are there any distinct trends in design this year emerging from the competition?*

This year there is a real move towards socially conscious, community engagement projects. Better Shelter, a project realized in collaboration with the Ikea Foundation, is a meaningful response to the refugee crisis that we are facing today. Using Ikea's flat pack technology, an easy to assemble and well-designed shelter can be sent

to refugee camps around the world to provide better living conditions for displaced populations. The world around us is both fascinating and complex; the Design Museum shines a light on our world and offers ways to tackle the multiple challenges we face.

## **Opening weekend extended**

**hours** Thu 24-Sat 26 November; 10am-8pm; Opens daily thereafter; 10am-6pm (last admission 5pm); free entry to permanent exhibition, visit [designmuseum.org](http://designmuseum.org) for advance tickets to other exhibitions or contact the Bookings Office (Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm) on +44 20 3862 5937 or +44 20 3862 5900 **A** 224-238 Kensington High Street, London W8 6AG; **W** [designmuseum.org](http://designmuseum.org)

## **Self-guided visits for learning groups**

The Design Museum welcomes schools, colleges and universities for self-guided visits to all exhibitions. See [designmuseum.org/learning/self-guided-visits-for-learning-groups-for-details](http://designmuseum.org/learning/self-guided-visits-for-learning-groups-for-details) ☘



# Trippin' The Lights Fantastic

**Free Wassail** (mulled English cider), Weihnachtsstollen (German Christmas fruit cake), and locally sourced sausages – all provided by the stalwart stall holders of the Earl's Court Farmers' Market – will give the 2nd Earl's Court Christmas Illuminations a distinctively ancient feel this year. Taking place at the corner of Kenway Road and Earl's Court Road, the festive frolics start at 5.15pm on December 1.

Add in the angelic tones of the Our Lady of Victories' School Choir, and we will have you feeling super-Christmasy in no time. Last year these local cherubs captured our hearts.

"At around 6pm, 25 seven-foot Christmas trees will illuminate the Earl's Court Road. It is so lovely to

see the area that we live and work in come alive with light. This is an event for all the community to enjoy," says Jamie Coronna, local business owner and event organiser.

The custom made Christmas trees, with their thousands of mini lights, will add a special festive twinkle from Cromwell Road to Old Brompton Road, along the full length of the Earl's Court Road. This local initiative has been realised with the support of Capco, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Transport for London. ❀

*The 2nd Earl's Court Christmas Illuminations event is free of charge and all are welcome. Date: December 1 Time: 5.15-7.30pm Location: Corner of Kenway Road and Earl's Court Road*



## Eastern Happenings

**This Autumn, Earl's Court and its environs have their eyes and ears firmly fixed on Eastern culture**

**Residents were** treated to a sublime concert of Sufi-inspired music at St Cuthbert's Church on October 29. The famous poetry of the Sufi mystic Rumi was the source of inspiration, featuring the oud (or short necked lute to a Western audience), oboe and cello. The recital was part of the Music for the Seasons concerts which take place four times a year at St Cuthbert's. The next concert will feature music inspired by the Russian-French artist Chagall, also influenced by the East.

The annual Kensington and Chelsea Nour Festival of Middle Eastern and North African culture – featuring music, art, theatre, puppetry, story telling and talks in venues around the Earl's Court area – got underway on 22 October, with the internationally famous trumpeter Amir El Saffar playing at the Royal Albert hall. There is still a chance to catch important events until 6 November, including at the Mosaic Rooms on Earl's Court Road.

The Nour Festival music programme this year was put together by Arts Canteen, known for its



exciting music events at Rich Mix in Shoreditch.

And finally, it has been announced that Leighton House in Holland Park, home of the famous and stunning Arab Hall, is about to undergo major works courtesy of the Lottery Fund. The moment you step into the house you are transported to a far away time and place with beautiful 14th, 16th and 17th century tiles, mosaics, lattice work from Damascus, a wonderful golden domed ceiling, beautiful fountain and stunning garden. It is a lovely place to while away a Sunday afternoon. Keep an eye on *The Court* listings (see pages 5-7) for events regularly held there. ❀



## Hitchcock's Historic Cinema Under Threat

**Stars like** Benedict Cumberbatch, Sir Ian McKellan and Queen guitarist Brian May have already spoken up on its behalf. But despite this, and in spite of 28,000 K&C residents rallying together in support of the Odeon High Street Kensington, this stunning art-deco cinema is still under imminent threat of demolition by property developers.

Neither this wave of local outrage, nor the fact that it was Alfred Hitchcock's local cinema (where he premiered his own films), have convinced English Heritage to extend protection to this cultural landmark.

In a bid to maintain at least the facade and part of the building as a local cultural centre, celebrated interior designer Guy Oliver, of the Friends of The Kensington Odeon, is trying to form a consortium to purchase the site.

If he is not able to do so, however, the developers, Minerva-Delancey,

have declared their intention to demolish the building, first opened in 1926, in the coming weeks.

In 2015, the council refused planning permission for a scheme which would have seen a new cinema, 63 luxury flats – including a large penthouse and 20 'affordable' homes – built on the site.

In February of this year, however, following an appeal by the developers, that decision was overturned.

"Which means," said Mr Oliver, "that time is running out for the Kensington Odeon."

He added, "In a city in which an alarming number of 'Assets of Community Value' are disappearing or being transformed into luxury homes, losing the Odeon would be another major blow, not just to Earl's Court's identity as a community which proudly cherishes and supports the arts, but also to London's cultural landscape." ❀

## Hidden Gem #1

London's only winery just made your Christmas brighter

**Did you know** that you are a stone's throw away from the sole winery in London? Tucked down a little alleyway in SW6, London Cru follows the city's tradition of fine wine trade, innovation and eccentricity to bring wine-making to the heart of the capital. Grapes are hand selected to showcase new European vineyards, and are transported carefully to London where they are nurtured into great wines. After just two vintages, London Cru wines have won IWC medals, great critical acclaim, and have been selected by numerous Michelin star restaurants and serious London eateries.

The winery stands just on the Fulham side of Old Brompton Cemetery. It houses state-of-the-art

fermentation tanks with precision temperature control and 90 oak barrels from forests and producers across France. All wines are made in small batches: 600 cases at most and sometimes as few as 80, as is the case with Rosaville Rd - the latest Rosé made from Barbera grapes, using the traditional Saignee method.

As a unique Christmas gift, London Cru offers tours and tastings of the winery, or a full Winemaker for a Day experience, where guests have the opportunity to taste, smell and blend wines, perfecting their own personal blend. And of course, London Cru's award-winning wines are both a generous Christmas gift and the perfect accompaniment to your seasonal fare. (Browse to [www.londoncru.co.uk](http://www.londoncru.co.uk) for details). 🌿



## London Cru Competition

London Cru has partnered with *The Court* to offer you the chance to win two tickets to its 'Winemaker for the Day' event – worth £250. The winemaker day is hugely popular: guests are tutored in the winemaking and blending processes, fed and watered at lunchtime at local gastro-pub The Atlas across the road, and then given the chance to blend their own wine to take home. The session finishes with a tasting of London Cru wines – a perfect send-off!

To enter, email [djclondon.com](mailto:djc@djclondon.com) with 100 words on why you think you deserve this Christmas treat. The best entry will be published in our next edition! Connect with London Cru on the web: [londoncru.co.uk](http://londoncru.co.uk); on Facebook: [fb.com/LDNCRU](https://www.facebook.com/LDNCRU), and on Twitter: @LDNCRU

## Hidden Gem #2

Lebanese food doesn't come any better than this



In a city filled with excellent Arab eateries, Meejana has had its work cut out as a relative newcomer to the West London dining scene. But the Old Brompton Road restaurant (at number 241 to be precise) stands out with some of the highest quality and most diverse food you can imagine.

It has one of the widest selection of mezze available. Traditional favourites such as hummus, moutabbal and tabbouleh jostle for attention with more exotic dishes such as frogs' legs and lamb sweetbreads that hark back to a French Colonial past. There is also an exceptional selection of 'family dishes' drawn from the owner's experience of dining with her own Lebanese family, which is a genuine rarity in the capital.

Traditional yakhnes such as Kibbeh Labaniyeh and Kharouf Ouzi (Lamb Shank with Ouzi Rice) sit alongside house specialities such as Dje Meejana (12-spiced chicken). Desserts include baklava, artisan ice creams and homemade crepes.

The wine list has been hand-picked to compliment the food, and there is something for every palette, from the Lebanese house red through to classics such as Chateau Talbot. Meejana offers wines from many Lebanese producers, as well as classics from the old world and new. 🌿

Address: 241 Old Brompton Road, London. SW5 9HP Call: 020 7835 0050 Email: [london@meejana.co.uk](mailto:london@meejana.co.uk)



## St Cuthbert's Day Centre And Plan Zheroes Feeding People In Need

**Local charity** St. Cuthbert's Centre serves free and subsidised hot meals, Monday to Friday, to people who are living on the poverty line. The charity provided meals for more than 750 people last year, who visited the centre 13,000 times.

Given a limited budget, St Cuthbert's has begun working with another local charity, Plan Zheroes – the heroes of zero food waste – to source good food that businesses cannot sell and would otherwise be sent to landfill. By joining Plan Zheroes' free network, St Cuthbert's now receives notifications about surplus food donations from local businesses by email. It recently accepted its first donation of eight

kilograms of salads from an upscale cafe on Brompton Road. Stephen Milton, Manager of St Cuthbert's Centre said, "We are excited to be working with Plan Zheroes. Not only will it help us to save money on our food budget and offer a more varied and nutritious menu, which improves health and wellbeing, but we also feel we are doing something positive for the environment by rescuing good food from going to waste." 🌿

To get involved with St Cuthbert's Day Centre, email [dropin@stcuthbertscentre.org.uk](mailto:dropin@stcuthbertscentre.org.uk). To help Plan Zheroes with its mission to put surplus food to better use, email [laura.hopper@planzheroes.org](mailto:laura.hopper@planzheroes.org)

# the court

## CALENDAR

### November & December

For further listings details, please check [www.thecourt.london](http://www.thecourt.london) and with the venue or organiser to confirm dates and times. All listings correct at time of going to press. If you'd like to see your event below, please send listings in the same format to [listings@thecourt.london](mailto:listings@thecourt.london).

#### ARTS

##### FERHA FAROOQUI

GALLERY 286

**TUESDAY 8 TO WEDNESDAY 30 NOVEMBER**

This exhibition of recent work comprises a series of 'timescapes' which aim to convey the shifting communities and disappearing landmarks of a particular part of East London.

**Open** Private Views: Tue 8 November, 6.30-8.30pm, Thu 10 November, 6.30-8.30pm, Sun 13 November 12 midday-3pm; Open Day Weds 12 midday-6pm, viewing by appointment at other times **A** 286 Earl's Court Road SW6 9AS **T** 07747 807576/020 7370 2239 **W** [gallery286.com](http://gallery286.com)

##### BRING ON THE BAROQUE! PAINTED POTS BY CLAUDIA CLARE

GALLERY 286

Claudia Clare is known for her large-scale, slip-painted, earthenware jars depicting everyday scenes showing the impact of major events on the lives of ordinary people.

**Open** Days Weds 12 midday-6pm, viewing by appointment at other times **A** 286 Earl's Court Road SW6 9AS **T** 07747 807576/020 7370 2239 **W** [gallery286.com](http://gallery286.com)

##### FLAMING JUNE: THE MAKING OF AN ICON

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

**FRIDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2016 TO 2 APRIL 2017**

A landmark exhibition for Leighton House Museum, returning Leighton's most famous and celebrated work to the artist's house from the Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico. Frederic, Lord Leighton (1830-1896), was one of the pre-eminent artists of his day. President of the Royal Academy from 1878 to 1896, he achieved great fame and influence as a figurehead for art in late Victorian society; a period when art enjoyed unprecedented public interest and appreciation.

**Open** Daily except Tues, 10am-5pm; £7/£5 **A** 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ **T** 020 7471 9153 **W** [rbkc.gov.uk](http://rbkc.gov.uk)

##### FLAMING JUNE: TOURS OF THE HOUSE & EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

**MONDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2016 6.30PM - CURATOR LED TOUR**

**THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER 2016 12.30PM - PUBLIC GUIDED TOUR**

Entry £20/£15 **A** 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ **T** 020 7471 9153 **W** [rbkc.gov.uk](http://rbkc.gov.uk)



##### NOUR FESTIVAL OF ARTS

AT VENUES ACROSS THE BOROUGH **TO SUNDAY 6 NOVEMBER**

Nour Festival illuminates the best in contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa, in venues across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Showcasing a broad spectrum of arts and culture - including film, food, music, literature, poetry, performance, urban development and visual art. Advance Booking essential.

**W** See [rbkc.gov.uk/nour/welcome](http://rbkc.gov.uk/nour/welcome) for full details

##### WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU SPEAK STRANGER? BY KATIA KAMELI

THE MOSAIC ROOMS

**TO SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER**

The Mosaic Rooms present the first UK solo exhibition of French-Algerian artist Katia Kameli. Drawing together both new

and recent work, it takes the audience on a journey through some of the artist's central concerns: issues of dual identities, multiplicity, and the potential for residing in this 'in-between' space.

**Open** Tue-Sat, 11am-6pm **A** 226 Cromwell Road, SW5 0SW **T** 0207 370 9990 **W** [mosaicrooms.org](http://mosaicrooms.org)

##### WONDERLAB: THE STATOIL GALLERY SCIENCE MUSEUM

**FROM WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER**

A new interactive gallery. Revealing the beauty in the science and maths that shape our everyday lives, this unmissable experience will ignite your curiosity and stir your imagination, inspiring you to see the world around you differently.

**Open** Daily, 10am-6pm, £6-£8, discounts available for families, groups **A** Exhibition Road, SW7 2DD **T** 0870 870 4868 **W** [sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://sciencemuseum.org.uk)

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**YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION?  
RECORDS AND REBELS 1966-1970**  
VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM  
**TO FEBRUARY 2017**

This major exhibition will explore the era-defining significance and impact of the late 1960s, expressed through some of the greatest music and performances of the 20th century alongside fashion, film, design and political activism. The exhibition considers how the finished and unfinished revolutions of the time changed the way we live today and think about the future

**Open** Daily, 10am-4pm, Adult tickets £16, concessions available **A** Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL **T** 020 7942 2000 **W** vama.ac.uk

**MUSIC**

**LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM**

**FRIDAY 18 NOVEMBER:** Late night + live music: Phelan Burgoyne Quartet

**FRIDAY 13 JANUARY:** Late night + live music: Katy Jungmann & Chris Jerome  
Visit the Museum and exhibition until 9pm (last entry 8.30pm) with a free drink. Exhibition admission fee applies; tickets on the door only.

**LOVE AWAKENED: AN EVENING  
RECITAL OF MUSIC AND POETRY  
WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER**

**Open** 7-9pm; doors open at 6.30pm; £35, ticket price includes programme and interval glass of wine **A** 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ **T** 020 7471 9153 **W** rbko.gov.uk

**THE TROUBADOUR CLUB – LIVE MUSIC  
VENUE**

**WEDNESDAY 2 NOVEMBER:** Rob Picazo  
Rhythm & Blues singer and guitarist born in Madrid. 8pm

**SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER:** **Becca Stevens Band:** North Carolina bred, Brooklyn based singer/composer/multi-instrumentalist. 8pm

**WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER:** **Blind Boy Paxton:** Paxton seems to effortlessly embody the spirit of early music including ragtime, 20s jazz and Dust Bowl-era blues, delivering them through a dizzying display of virtuosity on guitar, piano, banjo, and fiddle. 8.30pm

**FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER:** **TOLD AMERICANS:** From the home of innovative pop music – Nub Music – comes the Debut EP from UK Experimental Jazz Collective 'Told Americans'. An atmospheric, poetic collection of themed moods which touch on the political and social aspects of modern life and how it affects the human condition. 8pm

**SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER:** **Gerry Jablonski & The Electric Band:** Live music that will put a swagger in your step and rock 'n' roll in your soul! 8pm

**MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER TROUBADOR  
COFFEE HOUSE POETRY: GUEST HOST  
EDITION:** First in a series of guest-hosts, Troubadour associate Dom Bury selects/ highlights what's new in poetry. 7.30 pm  
**SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER: KATE LOMAS THE HALLOWS:** The Hallows is an alternative three piece that specialises in melodic and atmospheric pop. Utilising sequencing, sampling and sublime musicianship the band creates a sound that is both original and beautifully nostalgic. 8pm

**SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER: KEVIN DAVY  
WHITE + GUESTS:** Let the soul come out with the smooth, warm and powerful musical styling of French born musician Kevin Davy White. 8pm

**MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER: COFFEE  
HOUSE POETRY: 'WHAT WE SHOULD  
HAVE SAID':** Poetry, harmony & wit on a roll... in the Troubadour's unique words-&-music rollercoaster featuring three poets: Luke Kennard, Louis Jenkins, and Martina Evans. 7.30pm

**TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER:  
SONGWRITER'S SHOWCASE: CHRIS  
TAVENER:** Chris Tavener is a satirical singer-songwriter known for his comedy, witty lyrics and a folk sound. Having performed over 250 times, undertaken two national tours and sold hundreds of copies of a BBC 6 Music acclaimed EP in 2016 alone, he is one of the most hard-working musicians in the UK. 8pm

**THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER: THE  
TROUBADOR PRESENTS: ABSOLUTE  
KINKS;** The UK's #1 Kinks Tribute Act. 8pm  
**MONDAY 12 DECEMBER: COFFEE  
HOUSE POETRY: HERE COMES THE  
NIGHT:** Enjoy a little night-music, test your night-knowledge with our Hard Day's Night not-too-literary prize-quiz and join in the excitement of hearing who gets chosen as winning 'Night-Poem' of the Night. 7.30pm  
Prices vary from £4 to £15 (cheaper in advance online, see below) **A** 263-267 Old Brompton Road, SW5 **T** 020 7370 1434 **W** troubadourlondon.com



**CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT  
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH,  
KENSINGTON**

**WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER**  
In aid of the international children's charity Hope and Homes for Children. A special evening of music and celebration followed by wine and mince pies.

**Open** 7-8.15pm; Ticket price £20 adults £8 children **A** St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington Church Street, W8 4LA **T** For tickets call 01722 790111 or book online at **W** www.hopeandhomes.org

**MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS  
LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM  
THURSDAY 8 DECEMBER**

An evening of Christmas music and carol singing, introduced by musician and broadcaster Sandy Burnett, who will conduct the audience through a varied programme of English and continental Christmas music performed by leading singers and musicians. With opportunities for audience participation in some of our best-loved carols, the evening is a perfect way to start your Christmas festivities.

**Open** 7.15-9.30pm; adults £20, children under 16 £10, ticket price includes a glass of wine **A** 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ **T** 020 7471 9153 **W** rbko.gov.uk

# EARLS COURT FILM FESTIVAL

**1 - 11 NOVEMBER 2016**  
**WWW.FILMEARLSCOURT.COM**

**FILM**

**Earl's Court Film Festival 2016**

The Earl's Court Film Festival 2016 is now officially on a roll at some of Earl's Court's most iconic entertainment venues, so get online and book your tickets. Tickets are £10 or £5 concessions available. Go to [www.filmEarlscourt.com](http://www.filmEarlscourt.com) to order. Alternatively, you can call Toby Brown on 020 7370 4000 for festival details or to reserve your tickets.

**The Troubadour - 1 November, 7.30pm**

Paul Simon, Led Zeppelin, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix have all played here, so the team at The Troubadour are no stranger to hosting exceptional talent. Based on last year's event, EOFF 2016 at The Troubadour is expected to be a sell out and thoroughly entertaining screening and Q&A. Film buffs are unlikely to head home for cocoa once the credits roll. The restaurant and bar upstairs are the perfect venue for your very own after-show party.

**The Finborough Theatre - 7 November, 7.30pm**

The Finborough will host two screening nights at the theatre at the beginning of November, something we are excited about as last year's screenings there were excellent. Audiences will enjoy a selection of shorts where Earl's Court is truly the star, and where better to do this than in beating heart of the area's theatre scene. 6 November screening is now sold out.

**St. Cuthbert's - 11 November, 7.30pm**

St. Cuthbert's will host the Earl's Court Film Festival's Gala and Award Night. The church hosts many community and cultural events during the course of the year, but the Film Festival Gala is a very special evening, bringing together a wonderfully diverse audience, and giving the people of the area a superb chance to interact and get involved in a positive and productive cultural project. The Gothic Victorian architecture adds greatly to the sense of drama and occasion. We can't wait to see Suspense and Sci Fi short films from our perfectly padded pew, and for a suggested donation of just £5, the promised buffet seems like an excellent deal. All food and beverage proceeds will be donated to Earl's Court Community Trust ([www.thecourt.london](http://www.thecourt.london)). This generous donation by Film Earl's Court, the festival organisers, helps to support arts and culture initiatives in our area, as well as part fund The Court, so don't miss it.

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

**SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER**

St Cuthbert's hosts its annual Carol Service in aid of charity. The retiring collection is this year divided between the St Cuthbert Restoration Fund and the Mayor's Charity for the year, the Kensington and Chelsea Foundation, which helps local businesses, schools and people create relationships with local charities. The service will last about an hour.

**A** St Cuthbert's Church, 50 Philbeach Gardens, SW5 9EB

**THEATRE**

**JE SUIS UN MERLE BLANC**

DRAYTON ARMS THEATRE

**TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY  
03 DECEMBER**

Alfred de Musset, the author of "Lorenzaccio" and "On ne badine pas avec l'amour", has just ended his passionate liaison with George Sand. He doubts, he aches, he loses the plot... This highly entertaining tale throws us into his ups and downs in an utterly farcical world. Musset is the merle blanc –

the white blackbird – cast off by all, hopping from glory to solitude, from joy to gloom. In this one woman show, Edith Vernes shifts from one character to the next, taking us to the heart of this 'road-movie', funny, poetic and terribly modern. Performed in French with English subtitles.

**Open** Tues to Sats 8pm; £12-£18 **A** 153 Old Brompton Road SW5 0LJ **T** 020 7835 2301 **W** thedraytonarmstheatre.co.uk

**MAGNIFICENCE BY HOWARD BRENTON  
FINBOROUGH THEATRE**

**TO SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER**

London, the early '70s. Poverty, homelessness, rising inequality, unemployment, industrial disputes. Five young activists squat a disused building and try to make a stand against it all.  
**Open** Tues to Sats evenings 7.30pm, Sun Matinees at 3pm, Sat Matinees 3pm from 5 November; £14-£18 **A** 118 Finborough Road SW10 9DE **T** 020 7244 7439 **W** finboroughtheatre.co.uk

**VIBRANT 2016 - A FESTIVAL OF  
FINBOROUGH PLAYWRIGHTS**

Curated by Finborough Theatre Artistic

Director Neil McPherson  
FINBOROUGH THEATRE  
**SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER TO THURSDAY  
16 NOVEMBER**

Now in its eighth year, the multi-award-winning Finborough Theatre presents its annual celebration of new writing. This year's festival also includes the Earl's Court Film Festival 2016, and the European premiere of the After Orlando International Theatre Action, 70 short plays inspired by the Orlando nightclub shooting earlier this year. As always, this year's festival features an eclectic and idiosyncratic selection of staged readings of new works by UK and international playwrights, both established and new, discovered, developed or championed by the Finborough Theatre.  
**Open** Sun and Mon evenings 7.30pm, Thu matinees 3pm; £5 except After Orlando International Theatre Action: tickets £2 for each individual play **A** 118 Finborough Road SW10 9DE **T** 020 7244 7439 **W** finboroughtheatre.co.uk



**AFTER OCTOBER BY RODNEY  
ACKLAND**

FINBOROUGH THEATRE  
**TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER TO  
THURSDAY 22 DECEMBER**

From the acclaimed writer of *Absolute Hell* and *Before the Party*, *After October* is Rodney Ackland's most autobiographical play, both a bittersweet homage to the theatre and a fascinating portrait of an impoverished family on the brink of a glamorous new life. This rediscovery marks the first Central London production since its premiere in 1936.

**Open** Tue to Sat evenings at 7.30pm, Sun Matinees at 3pm, Sat Matinees 3pm from 3 December; £14-£18 **A** 118 Finborough Road SW10 9DE **T** 020 7244 7439 **W** finboroughtheatre.co.uk

**DR ANGELUS BY JAMES BRIDIE**  
FINBOROUGH THEATRE  
**SUNDAYS, MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS,  
27-29 NOVEMBER, 4-6, 11-13, 18-20  
DECEMBER**

On 25 March 1911, someone yelled 'Fire' on the eighth floor of a factory in New York. An emotional and heartfelt insight into the lives of those who paid the ultimate price for seeking a new life across the ocean.

**Open** Sun and Mon evenings 7.30pm, Tue matinees 2pm; £16/£18 **A** 118 Finborough Road SW10 9DE **T** 020 7244 7439 **W** finboroughtheatre.co.uk

BARONS COURT THEATRE  
**THE GOOD PERSON OF SZECHWAN BY  
BERTOLT BRECHT**

TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY 5  
NOVEMBER

**CONCRETE ISLAND BY JG BALLARD**

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER

**CINCINATUS BY VLADIMIR NABOKOV**

TUESDAY 8 NOVEMBER - SUNDAY 27

NOVEMBER

**THE IMPROVISED PANTOMIME BY VERY  
SERIOUS PEOPLE**

(for ages 15 and up)

MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER - SATURDAY 3  
DECEMBER

**IOLANTHE BY GILBERT AND SULLIVAN**

TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER - SUNDAY 18  
DECEMBER

**Open** 7.30pm/8pm/Matinees, check website below for all times and details; £8/£10/£12/£16 **A** Curtains Up Pub, 28a Comeragh Road, W14 9HR **T** 020 8932 4747 **W** offwestend.com

**THE MAGIC CAVERN**  
BARONS COURT THEATRE  
**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER**

Richard Leigh opened at The Barons Court Theatre with 'The Magic Cavern' in 2002. It has become London's longest running weekly theatrical magic show. Wherever you sit in this atmospheric venue, you are only a few feet away from the magic which happens literally under your very eyes. This show is interactive and suitable for all the family. (6 years to 106)

**Open** Sun 13 & 20 November, 2.30pm; Sun 11 & 18 December, 2.30pm, Wed 21, 2.30pm; Fri 23 at 2.30pm; Wed 28 at 2.30pm; Sunday 1 January, 7pm; £9-£12 **A** Curtains Up Pub, 28a Comeragh Road, W14 9HR **T** Call the box office on 020 8932 4747 or book online at **W** www.falseimpressions.co.uk



**LOVE LEARNING**

**ANNUAL COMMONWEALTH FAIR**  
KENSINGTON TOWN HALL  
**SATURDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2016**

Colourful and vibrant stalls reflect the richness and diversity of the Commonwealth providing visitors with a great experience – from food to craft, music and entertainment, the day provides an enriching journey through many Commonwealth countries.

**Open** 11.30am; Free **A** Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street W8 7NX **W** www.rbkc.gov.uk

**THE LONDON HISTORY FESTIVAL 2016**  
KENSINGTON CENTRAL LIBRARY  
**MONDAY 14 TO THURSDAY 24  
NOVEMBER**

The range of subjects runs from the relatively familiar WW1 to the exotic Silk Road. Speakers include Sophie Ambler, Peter Frankopan, Sarah Gristwood, Dan Snow, Hugh Sebag-Montefiore, Michael Jones, Juliet Barker and Paul Jay.



**SEASON'S  
GREETINGS**



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**SPITALFIELDS: THE HISTORY OF A NATION IN A HANDFUL OF STREETS BY DAN CRUICKSHANK**

FRIENDS OF ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH AUTUMN LECTURE

**TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER**

Religious strife, civil conflict, waves of immigration, the rise and fall of industry, great prosperity and grinding poverty – the handful of streets that constitute modern Spitalfields have witnessed all this and much more. In *Spitalfields*, one of Britain's best-loved historians tells the stories of the streets he has lived in for four decades.

**Open** 7.15pm; £10 (£8 Concessions and Friends) **A** St Cuthbert's Church, 51 Philbeach Gardens, London SW5 9EB **W** [saintcuthbert.org/friends](http://saintcuthbert.org/friends)

**Open** Kensington Central Library, Phillimore Walk, W8 7RX; £5 per event (£3 concessions) advance Booking essential **T** 020 7361 3010 **W** [www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/libraries) or [www.londonhistoryfestival.com](http://www.londonhistoryfestival.com)

**LECTURE: MY LOVE TO THE ACADEMY: LEIGHTON'S LAST WORKS**

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

**WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER**

Art historian Elizabeth Prettejohn explores Flaming June and the other paintings in Leighton's last Royal Academy submission, featured in the upcoming exhibition. It places Leighton's paintings in the wider context of the RA exhibitions of the 1890s.

**Open** 7-8.15pm, door opens at 6.30pm; £15, includes access to museum & exhibition **A** 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ **T** 020 7471 9153 **W** [rbkc.gov.uk](http://rbkc.gov.uk)

**LIFE - DRAWING IN LEIGHTON'S GRAND STUDIO**

LEIGHTON HOUSE MUSEUM

**TUESDAYS 15 NOVEMBER, 13 DECEMBER 2016**

Sessions, led by London Fine Art Studios founder and artist, Ann Whiteridge, consist of a mixture of short exercises and longer poses, with reference to the temporary exhibition.

**OPEN** 1-4pm; £30, open to artists of all levels **A** 12 Holland Park Road, W14 8LZ **T** 020 7471 9153 **W** [rbkc.gov.uk](http://rbkc.gov.uk)

**THE MOON & NUDE: LIFE DRAWING THE CELLAR, THE FINBOROUGH ARMS EVERY SUNDAY**

A relaxed evening of drawing, drinks and music. Friendly untutored sessions for all abilities. Materials available, no need to book.

**Open** 6-8pm, £10 **A** 118 Finborough Road SW10 **T** 020 7244 7439 **W** [finboroughtheatre.co.uk](http://finboroughtheatre.co.uk)

**ADULT AND CHILDREN REGULAR EVENTS**

BROMPTON LIBRARY

**ADULTS WEEKLY EVENTS**

Tuesdays - Book Break 10.30am-12.30pm; Over 50's IT help session (drop in) 2pm-4pm; Reading Group first Tuesday of the

month 6.30pm-7.30pm  
Saturdays - IT training 10am-12 noon  
(booking required)

**CHILDREN WEEKLY EVENTS**

Mondays - Baby Rhyme Time, 2-2.30pm;  
2nd Monday of the month Chatterbooks 3.45-4.45pm  
Thursdays - Children's Storytime, 10-10.30am  
Saturdays - Saturday Storyland, 10-10.40am;  
Story & Craft, 1st Saturday of the month 10.30-11.30am

**A** 210 Old Brompton Road London SW5 OBS **T** 020 7361 3010 **W** [rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events](http://rbkc.gov.uk/libraries/news-and-events)

**OUT AND ABOUT**

**SKATING**

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM ICE RINK  
**TO 8 JANUARY 2017**

**Open** times vary, but core hours 11am-9pm, closed 25 December; adults from £12.65, children from £8.80, families from £39.60  
**A** Cromwell Road, SW7 5BD **T** 020 7942 5555 **W** [nhm.ac.uk](http://nhm.ac.uk)

**FUNGI FORAY**

HOLLAND PARK ECOLOGY CENTRE

**SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER**

Search the Wildlife Area and other enclosures with expert Mark Spencer from the Natural History Museum to find the fungi on display at this time of year. Learn how to identify common species and hopefully discover some great specimens.  
**Open** 2pm-4pm; Free, booking essential

**TERRIFIC TREES: ECOLOGY CENTRE**

**OPEN DAY**

HOLLAND PARK ECOLOGY CENTRE

**SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER**

Come and celebrate National Tree Week with us. Make decorations for tree dressing and help the Conservation Volunteers with tree planting.

**Open** Drop-in 11am-3.30pm, Free  
**A** Holland Park Ecology Centre, W8 6LU, near the Adventure Playground **E** [ecology\\_centre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecology_centre@rbkc.gov.uk) **T** 020 7938 8186 **W** [rbkc.gov.uk](http://rbkc.gov.uk)



**YOUTH OUTREACH**

EARL'S COURT YOUTH CLUB

**DAILY**

Earl's Court Youth Club works with young people aged 9 to 19 years old – and up to 25 years old with disabilities. Activities include dance classes, digital art, design and printing, arts and crafts, cooking, football, fitness, music production, studio engineering courses, computer games, pool, table tennis and more.

**A** 120 Ifield Road, SW10 9AF **T** 020 7373 7970 **W** [EarlsCourtYouthClub.co.uk](http://EarlsCourtYouthClub.co.uk)

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