

L O N D O N A R T S
D I S C O V E R Y
R E P E R T O R Y T H E A T R E O F S T L O U I S
London Theatre Tour
Itinerary
Saturday 17 - Sunday 25 May, 2025

Saturday, 17 May

AM	Arrive at London airport	TRANSFER SELF-ARRANGED
	THE MONTAGUE HOTEL 15 Montague Street, London WC1B 5BJ T: 020 7637 1001 E: montague@rchmail.com	Around the corner from the British Museum, The Montague on The Gardens is a 4-star hotel in tranquil, park-filled Bloomsbury. With its historic Georgian architecture and a view of handsomely landscaped gardens, The Montague offers maximum comfort and superior service within easy access of London's main attractions.
	Full English and Continental breakfast (The Blue Door Bistro)	Monday - Friday 7.30 - 10.00am Saturday and Sunday 7.30 - 11.00am
11:30 am	WELCOME AND TOUR BRIEFING (Great Russell Suite)	A welcome by Patrick Knox and Rosie Armstrong, London Arts Discovery tour directors. The briefing covers all aspects of the tour from extra performances and major exhibitions to recommended restaurants.
PM	Afternoon free	

6:15 pm **Transfer to Apollo Theatre**
Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1D 7EZ

7:30 pm **PERFORMANCE 1: RETROGRADE**
by Ryan Calais-Cameron

Ten years before he becomes the first black man to win the Oscar for Best Actor, this gripping drama captures the moment a young Sidney Poitier prepares to sign a career-defining Hollywood contract that could make him a star. But there's a catch. Will he put his career before his principles? In a time of betrayals, will he name names? Will he sign his life away? Inspired by real events, this 'exceptional' (*The Guardian*) play directed by the Kiln Theatre's Artistic Director Amit Sharma, features Ivanno Jeremiah (*Constellations*) reprising his 'tremendous' (*Time Out*) performance as Sidney Poitier, opposite Stanley Townsend (Netflix's *Kaos*) and Oliver Johnstone (*Antigone*). **R/T 1h45** (no intermission)

9:15 pm **Transfer to Montague Hotel**

10:00 pm **POST-SHOW DISCUSSION**
(Great Russell Suite)

We meet **Ivanno Jeremiah** who plays Sidney Poitier in *Retrograde*.

Sunday, 18 May

AM **Morning free**

1:45 pm **Transfer to Criterion Theatre**
218-223 Piccadilly, London W1J 9HR

3:00 pm **PERFORMANCE 2: TITANIQUE**
book by Tye Blue, Marla Mindelle and
Constantine Rousouli

When the music of Céline Dion makes sweet Canadian love with the eleven-time Oscar®-winning film Titanic, the result is *Titanique*, New York's award-winning splash hit that turns one of the greatest love stories of all time into a hysterical musical fantasia. Featuring powerhouse voices and show-stopping numbers, such as *My Heart Will Go On*, *All by Myself* and *To Love You More*, this is a one-of-a-kind theatrical voyage bursting with nostalgia, heart and campy chaos. See you aboard the Ship of Dreams! **R/T 1hr40**

4.40pm **Transfer to Montague Hotel**

PM **Evening free**

Monday, 19 May

10:30 am **GILES RAMSAY LECTURE**
(Great Russell Suite)

Terence Rattigan

One of the most celebrated British playwrights of the 20th Century, Rattigan's writing career spanned the 1930s to the 1970s, a period of immense social and economic change - not least the effect these times had on the "well made play".

11:45 am **THE STATE WE'RE IN**
(Great Russell Suite)

The US has a new president, whilst the UK has almost completed a year of a Labour Government. We invite **Lord Kinnock** to discuss topical events in the UK and US. A Welsh politician who was Leader of the Labour Party from 1983 to 1992, Lord Kinnock was Vice-President of the European Commission and now serves as a member of the House of Lords.

PM **Afternoon free**

5:45 pm **Transfer to Harold Pinter Theatre**
Panton Street, London SW1Y 4DN

7:00 pm **PERFORMANCE 3: GIANT**
by Mark Rosenblatt

A world-famous children's author under threat. A battle of wills in the wake of scandal. And one chance to make amends... it's the summer of 1983, *The Witches* is about to hit the shelves and Roald Dahl is making last-minute edits. But the outcry at his recent, explicitly antisemitic article won't die down. Across a single afternoon at his family home, and rocked by an unexpectedly explosive confrontation, Dahl is forced to choose: make a public apology or risk his name and reputation. Inspired by real events, Rosenblatt's debut play explores with dark humour the difference between considered opinion and dangerous rhetoric. Directed by Nicholas Hytner, *Giant* won Best New Play, Best Actor for John Lithgow and Best Supporting Actor for Elliot Levey at this year's Olivier Awards. **R/T 2h20**

9:20 pm **Transfer to Montague Hotel**

Tuesday, 20 May

AM **Morning free**

1:45 pm	Transfer to the Royal Albert Hall (RAH) Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP	
2:45 pm	PRIVATE TOUR OF RAH	Supported by gate receipts from the wildly successful Great Exhibition of 1851, the RAH opened in 1871. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, died a decade earlier in 1861, and the RAH along with the Albert Memorial (directly opposite in Kensington Gardens) and the Victoria & Albert Museum stand as memorials to his great ingenuity. With its vast rotunda, the RAH is one of the most recognisable buildings in the UK and has even been referred to as 'the nation's village hall'. Its stage has hosted some of the world's leading artists, and since 1941, it has been home to the BBC's Promenade Concerts.
5:00 pm	Walk short distance to Ognisko restaurant 55 Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PG	
5:15 pm	DINNER	Housed in a beautiful 19th century townhouse, Ognisko serves traditional dishes from Eastern and Central Europe, including Polish cuisine. The restaurant is part of the historic Polish Hearth Club which was founded in 1940 for the use of Officers and emigres during the war. It has been at the heart of Polish and West London life for past 80 years.
7:00 pm	Walk short distance back to RAH	
7:30 pm	PERFORMANCE 4: ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA	Under their celebrated music director, the dynamic Vasily Petrenko, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performs a programme including Richard Strauss's <i>Alpine Symphony</i> , a huge symphonic canvas ideally suited to the RAH's spacious acoustic. R/T 2h15
9:45 pm	Transfer to Montague Hotel	
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	Wednesday, 21 May	
11:00 am	Transfer to South Bank	
12:00 pm	Free time for lunch	

1:50 pm	Meet in foyer of National Theatre South Bank, London SE1 9PX	
2:00 pm	PERFORMANCE 5: DEAR ENGLAND by James Graham (Olivier Theatre)	The Olivier Award-winning smash hit returns in an updated post-European Championship version. The country that gave the world football has since delivered a painful pattern of loss. Why can't England's men win at their own game? The team has the worst track record for penalties in the world, and manager Gareth Southgate knows he needs to open his mind and face up to the years of hurt to take team and country back to the promised land. Writer James Graham (<i>Punch</i> Nottingham Playhouse; <i>Sherwood</i> BBC) and director Rupert Goold (<i>Patriots</i> , <i>Cold War</i> Almeida Theatre) bring this 'thrilling' (<i>Sunday Times</i>) examination of both nation and game up to date. R/T 2h50
5:00 pm	POST-SHOW DISCUSSION IN THE THEATRE (The Gielgud Room)	We meet Liz White who plays Pippa Grange, the sports psychologist in <i>Dear England</i> .
5:25 pm	Walk short distance to Lasdun restaurant	
5:30 pm	DINNER	Located at the National Theatre, Lasdun is a modern British restaurant. It serves brasserie-style dishes made from seasonal and locally sourced ingredients.
7:30 pm	PERFORMANCE 6: HERE WE ARE by Stephen Sondheim (Lyttelton Theatre)	Leo and Marianne Brink have found the ideal spot to take their friends. With great reviews, impeccable service and an extensive menu, it seems like nothing could go wrong. But after a series of strange events interrupt their meal, they soon realise they've bitten off more than they can chew. Stephen Sondheim's 'cool, and impossibly chic' (<i>New York Times</i> Critic's Pick) final work is directed by two-time Tony Award-winner Joe Mantello (<i>WICKED</i> , <i>Assassins</i>) with book by Tony Award-nominee David Ives (<i>All in the Timing</i> , <i>Venus in Fur</i>). R/T 2h30
10:00 pm	Transfer to Montague Hotel	
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	Thursday, 22 May	
AM/PM	Morning and afternoon free	

6:15 pm	Transfer to Old Vic 103 The Cut, London SE1 8NB	
7:30 pm	PERFORMANCE 7: THE BRIGHTENING AIR by Conor McPherson	The family home is more than merely a building. It can be a destination of pilgrimage, an inherited investment, a repository of memory or even magic. And, for brother and sister, Stephen and Billie, home is all they have. Mucking along in their decaying farmhouse, they're doing just fine. That is, until the arrival of an ex-clergyman uncle with an unscrupulous plan, a sister-in-law seeking a miracle, and a prodigal brother hell-bent on trouble. A world premiere from Olivier Award-winning writer and director Conor McPherson (<i>The Weir</i> , <i>Girl from the North Country</i>), <i>The Brightening Air</i> is an entrancing tale of fate, family and unseen forces in 1980s Ireland. R/T 2h30
10:00 pm	Transfer to Montague Hotel	
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	Friday, 23 May	
10.30 am	CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS (Great Russell Suite)	Kate Bassett , writer and script consultant for stage and screen, casts opinion on the plays we have seen this week.
PM	Afternoon Free	
6.15 pm	Transfer to Wyndham's Theatre 32-36 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0DA	
7:30 pm	PERFORMANCE 8: MY MASTER BUILDER after Henrik Ibsen	Ewan McGregor stars in a new play by Lila Raicek, marking his first London stage appearance in 17 years. Inspired by Ibsen and set on the eve of Independence Day in the Hamptons, <i>My Master Builder</i> follows Elena Solness, a publishing magnate, and her architect husband, Henry Solness, as their marriage is disrupted by the arrival of Mathilde, a former student of Henry's with whom he once shared a connection. The play explores themes of love and vulnerability and draws inspiration from Ibsen. Directed by Michael Grandage. R/T 2h
9:30 pm	Transfer to Montague Hotel	

Saturday, 24 May

9.30 am	Transfer to All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) 3 Church Road, London SW19 5AG	
11.15 am & 11.30 am	PRIVATE TOUR OF WIMBLEDON	The world's most famous tennis club, the AELTC is the home of The Wimbledon Championships, the oldest of tennis's four Grand Slams and the only one still played on natural grass. Since the first Championships in 1877, it has played host to some of the most legendary matches in tennis history, opening to professional players in 1968; Rod Laver of Australia and Billie Jean King of the United States won the singles events that year. The Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum chronicles the history of the sport.
1.45 pm	Onward transfer to Richmond	
2.30 pm	Free time in Richmond	
4.50 pm	Meet at Bacco restaurant 39-41 Kew Road, Richmond, London TW9 2NQ	
5.00 pm	FAREWELL DINNER	Located next to the Orange Tree Theatre, Bacco is a family-run restaurant. It serves authentic Italian food using seasonal ingredients.
7.20 pm	Walk short distance to Orange Tree Theatre 1 Clarence Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2SA	
7.30 pm	PERFORMANCE 9: IN PRAISE OF LOVE by Terence Rattigan	England, 1973. Estonian refugee Lydia and her Marxist literary critic husband Sebastian both worked in wartime intelligence. They excel at keeping secrets – from friends, from each other, and even from themselves. But their world is crumbling. The arrival of Lydia's admirer, a best-selling American author, sparks their complex deceptions into an explosion of family truths. A perceptive and deeply moving drama, <i>In Praise of Love</i> is Rattigan's penultimate play, and loosely based on the relationship between the actor Rex Harrison and his wife Kay Kendall. R/T est. 2h30
10.00 pm	Transfer to Montague Hotel	

Sunday, 25 May

DEPART FOR USA

TRANSFER SELF-ARRANGED

REPERTORY THEATRE OF ST LOUIS

London Theatre Tour

PARTICIPANT LIST

Al Anderson	Joan Lipkin
Bob Anderson	Marykay Marchman
Cathy Augustin	Nick Marselos
Margaret Augustin	Mike Mascus
Christy Beckman	Helen McFadden
Kate Bergstrom	Jill McGuire
Stephanie Boyd	Christy Nickel
Sara Burke	John Nickel
Sharon Dantzler	Nanette Niven
Carmen Davis	Mary Rohr
Leslie Eaton	Pat Schutte
Jan Greenberg	Ken Schutte
Ron Greenberg	Ann Scott
Peggy Holly	Janet Shatz
Mark Holly	Bob Stover
Barbara Jacobitti	Kate Warne
Steve Kratchman	Mei Welland
Joan Lazzara	Danny Williams

TOUR DIRECTORS

PHILL WARD

For the past fifteen years, Phill has been devising and running cultural tours. Previously, he spent two decades working in the performing arts as a manager and producer. At home working in both theatre and music, he has held positions in large institutions, including Royal Festival Hall and the V&A's Theatre Museum. He also managed London's oldest pub theatre, The King's Head, alongside maverick American artistic director Dan Crawford, maintaining a delicate balance between running the venue and transferring productions to the West End. In charge of cultural affairs for the English Speaking Union, Phill ran a programme of scholarships, cultural seminars and fundraising events, including interviews with actors, writers, musicians and politicians. As opera and music-theatre funding specialist at the Arts Council England, he developed an overview of the work of all the UK's opera companies, and when not on duty, sneaked into regional theatres to catch season-highlights on their way to the West End. Phill also worked on Liverpool's successful bid to become European Capital of Culture 2008. As a critic of opera and classical music, he contributed to various music publications, writing travel features on festivals and cultural hotspots in Europe and America.

PATRICK KNOX

While studying Law and English Literature at Cambridge University, Patrick fell in with a bad crowd and became an actor. He trained at Mountview and then, for many years, spent much of his life on tour. So far he has performed in India, Nepal, Lebanon, Turkey, Germany, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Denmark and Pakistan, as well as most corners of the UK. He spent a couple of summers touring Sweden in a six-person Romeo and Juliet. His work has mostly been in the theatre with occasional excursions into film, television and radio. A great deal of it has been in the classics and he has played Hamlet, Richard III, Macbeth, Puck and all Seven Deadly Sins. Most recently he was on tour in The Trials of Oscar Wilde, playing Wilde's lawyer. He takes part in communication training programmes for business and medical clients and presents corporate training films. He helped to set up the Education Department at Shakespeare's Globe and for several years led workshops, lectured and directed scenes, as well as undertaking education work for a number of other theatres. Outside acting, he has led guided walks in London, as well as writing and recording audio walks. He is a keen cyclist and has devised many architectural bicycle tours of London.

ROSIE ARMSTRONG

Rosie graduated with a BA (Hons) in Acting from Rose Bruford College. She has worked on BBC TV and radio comedies but is most at home in the theatre where credits include: *A Sherlock Carol* at The Marylebone Theatre; *Henry V* for Shakespeare at The Tobacco Factory; *Chimerica* in the West End; *A Small Family Business* at The National Theatre, and *Dangerous Corner* directed by Michael Attenborough. Rosie was a research assistant on the book *100 Plays to Save the World* by Elizabeth Freestone and Jeanie O'Hare. In 2023, a special edition was published for sale in the USA.

NIGEL HOWELLS

Educated at Cambridge University, Nigel studied Music and was a Choral Scholar in King's College Choir. In addition to singing at the famous annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, he recorded, broadcast and made many recordings with King's College Choir. Living between London and the historic university city of Oxford, Nigel runs culture-related educational programmes, visiting English historic houses, gardens, theatre, opera and ballet, and places of architectural interest. Nigel continues to sing professionally, performing with groups such as Polyphony, Tenebrae, The Maida Vale Singers and the John Wilson Orchestra. Appearances include BBC Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall (*The Warner Brothers' Story*, *Celebration of The Gershwin Brothers*, *Bernstein Stage and Screen*, *A Celebration of Rogers and Hammerstein*), national tours with Danny Elfman (*Music from the Films of Tim Burton*), recent concerts with John Mauceri and BBC Concert Orchestra (*Nightmare Before Christmas*) and performances with Arnie Wroth and the RPO (*Distant Worlds*, *Alice in Wonderland*), as well as *Messiah* and *St Matthew Passion* at the London Handel Festival.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS AND ARTISTS

IVANNO JEREMIAH

Ivanho Jeremiah, a Rwandese and Ugandan South Londoner, studied at the BRIT School of Performing Arts before a scholarship at RADA.

Theatre includes: *The Suit* (Peter Brook international tour); *The Convert*, *Measure for Measure* (Young Vic); *A Soldier's Tale* (City of London Sinfonia); *The Nether* (Headlong/Royal Court); *Truth and Reconciliation* (Royal Court); *Julius Caesar* (RSC); *Constellations* (Donmar) and *Retrograde* (Kiln).

Television includes: *Halo* (season two), *Humans*, unaired *Game of Thrones* prequel, *Lockwood and Co*, *Discovery of Witches*, *Cold Feet*, *Counterpart*, *Black Mirror*, *Injustice*, *The Jury*, *Julius Caesar* and *The Hollow Crown*.

Film includes: *Woken*, *The Flood*, *Bees Make Honey*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Veteran*, *A Few Miles South*, *No More Wings* (TriBeCa winner), *Last Words*, *Limbo*, *The Agreement* (Producer) and *Ozi: Voice of the Forest*.

GILES RAMSAY

An independent theatre producer, director and lecturer, Giles specialises in creating new work with artists in developing countries. He is Founding Director of the charity Developing Artists, a former Fellow of St. Chad's College, Durham University and Course Leader in Theatre at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Educated at the universities of Cambridge, London and Durham (where he was President of the Union), Giles spent a year at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. After university, he led The British National Debate Team on its annual tour of America. Giles has previously produced international work at venues ranging from Riverside Studios, British Museum, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club, Young Vic and National Theatre, as well as at The Pleasance, Assembly Rooms and The King's and Traverse Theatres in Edinburgh. He has also run theatre projects in Botswana, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Kosovo, Palestine, Mexico, Thailand and Zimbabwe, as well as regularly lecturing on Cunard's Queen Mary 2.

LORD KINNOCK

Lord Kinnock, is a Welsh politician. He served as a Labour Party Member of Parliament from 1970 until 1995, first for Bedwellty and then for Islwy. He was leader of the Labour Party from 1983 to 1992 and led the Party into the elections defeats of 1987 at the hands of Margaret Thatcher, and 1992 at the hands of John Major. For over a decade, he was one of Britain's most recognisable politicians. He helped soften the Labour Party's image in the late 1980s and many credit him for laying the groundwork for Tony Blair's 'New Labour'. After leaving Parliament, Lord Kinnock became European Commissioner for Transport (1995-1999) and then Vice-President of the European Commission (1999-2004).

LIZ WHITE

Liz White trained at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts.

Theatre: For the National Theatre: *Dear England* (2025), *Dixon and Daughters*, *Port and A Woman Killed with Kindness*. Other theatre includes: *Beyond the Horizon* and *Spring Storm* at Royal & Derngate and the National Theatre; *Shadowlands* at Chichester; *Road*, *The One With the Oven* and *Plasticine* at the Royal Court; *Electra* at the Old Vic; *Kissing Kate Barlow* at New Wimbledon; *Dying for It* at the Almeida; *Project E* for the Work Theatre Collective at BAC; *References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot* at the Arcola; and *The Woman Who Walked into Doors* at Stephen Joseph.

TV: *The Long Shadow*, *Dalglish*, *Tell Me Everything*, *Anatomy of a Scandal*, *Unforgotten*, *From There to Here*, *Brexit: The Uncivil War*, *Ackley Bridge*, *Eric*, *Ernie and Me*, *The Halcyon*, *Grantchester*, *Line of Duty*, *The Paradise*, *Doctor Who: Christmas Special*, *The Crimson Petal and the White*, *Miss Marple*, *Empress' New Clothes*, *Life on Mars*, *The Street*, *A Thing Called Love* and *Ultimate Force*.

Film: *On the Sea*, *The People Before*, *Pride*, *The Woman in Black*, *Wild Bill*, *Vera Drake* and *Franklin*.

KATE BASSETT

Kate Bassett is a British journalist, writer, dramaturg and script consultant for stage and screen. For twenty years she worked as a feature writer and theatre reviewer for the *Independent on Sunday*, *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*. Her book *In Two Minds: A Biography of Jonathan Miller* was shortlisted for the Sheridan Morley Prize for Theatre Biography, the Theatre Book Prize and the HW Fisher Best First Biography Prize. From 2016 to 2023, Kate was Chichester Festival Theatre's Literary Associate and since then has worked as a script consultant and verbatim playwright for companies including the BBC and Royal Court Theatre.