

News from London's Theatreland for the travel trade industry

Produced by The Society of London Theatre www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk


Welcome to the first edition of the quarterly travel trade newsletter from The Society of London Theatre (SOLT). The links in the text take you to our Official London Theatre website, which contains comprehensive information about shows and how to book tickets.

London theatre is buoyant, with attendances for the first quarter of this year up 16% on the same period last year. This continues the trend of 2006, a record-breaking year which closed with sales topping 12.3 million tickets and income of over £400 million. Year-end advance bookings were £57 million, double what they were a year earlier.

April

- * Kim Medcalf (TV's EastEnders) and Honor Blackman (The Avengers, Goldfinger) replace Anna Maxwell Martin and Sheila Hancock in [Cabaret.. More...](#)
- * A comic adaptation of Sherlock Holmes's [The Hound Of The Baskervilles](#) comes to the Duchess from 16 April. [More...](#)
- * Meera Syal and Bollywood actor Harish Patel star in [Rafta Rafta](#) by the author of East Is East, Ayub Khan-Din, at the National.
- * The Tricycle stages a play which examines whether British Prime Minister Tony Blair should be indicted for the crime of aggression against Iraq. [Called To Account](#) is based on real-life evidence gathered by top British lawyers. From 19 April-19 May.
- * Former Royal Ballet principal Adam Cooper stages Sondheim revue Side By Side By Sondheim at The Venue from 26 April. [More...](#)
- * English National Opera's 2005 revival of Leonard Bernstein's [On The Town](#), with book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green, runs from 20 April-25 May. June Whitfield (Absolutely Fabulous, Terry And June) joins the cast. [More...](#)

May

- * [Fame](#) begins a short summer season at the Shaftesbury on 4 May, until 1 Sept. The show stars Ian Watkins, better known as H from 90s British pop group Steps. [More...](#)
- * The Tony Award-winning [The Drowsy Chaperone](#) begins previews at the Novello on 14 May. The UK production stars Elaine Paige, returning to the West End stage. [More...](#)
- * [Fiddler On The Roof](#) comes to the Savoy on 19 May following the closure of The Gershwins' Porgy And Bess, which plans a Broadway transfer in 2008. Fiddler On The Roof is the Sheffield Theatres production that ran at the Crucible last Christmas season and stars Henry Goodman as Tevye. [More...](#) 

- * [The Lord Of The Rings](#) starts previews on 9 May at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Some of the cast of the Toronto premiere production recreate their roles in London, including James Loye, Michael Theriault, Peter Howe and Owen Sharpe
- * The season at Shakespeare's Globe kicks off with [Othello](#), continuing with [The Merchant Of Venice](#), [Love's Labour's Lost](#), plus two new plays, [Holding Fire!](#) and [We The People](#), and the return of last year's Howard Brenton play [In Extremis](#).
- * The Open Air, Regent's Park, begins its summer season with [Macbeth](#). Other productions in the season are [A Midsummer Night's Dream](#), the musical [Lady be Good!](#), children's show [Fantastic Mr Fox](#), and musical [The Boy Friend](#).
- * Sir Antony Sher stars in [Kean](#) at the Apollo from 30 May. The play, by Jean Paul Sartre, adapted from the book by Dumas, tells of Edmund Kean, a British 19th century Shakespearean actor. [More...](#)

June...and beyond

- * Blue Man Group closes at the New London on 24 June. The show has been running in London since November 2005.
- * Anne-Marie Duff (TV's Shameless) stars as Joan of Arc in Saint Joan at the National from 11 July
- * [Grease](#) opens at the Piccadilly on 8 August. The show will be cast through reality TV show Grease Is The Word, starting 7 April on ITV, produced by Simon Cowell's (American Idol) production company Syco. [More...](#)
- * Andrew Lloyd Webber brings his hit show Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat back to the West End in July. The part of Joseph will be cast through reality television show Any Dream Will Do, on BBC TV from 31 March. [More...](#)
- * Zoe Wanamaker and Simon Russell Beale are to star in Much Ado About Nothing at the National in Dec. [More...](#)

The Theatre List

The Theatre List is a fortnightly printed industry publication produced by SOLT containing detailed show information, press and marketing contacts, for every London show at a SOLT member theatre. A year's subscription costs £45 (UK), £55 (Europe) or £75 (rest of world), including postage. To subscribe, email enquiries@solttma.co.uk

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