

# JULY 2012

Before the biggest show on earth gets started at London 2012 we have music festivals galore in Hyde Park, plus The Proms, Titian and Rhod Gilbert.



*The Olympic Stadium at London's Olympic Park*

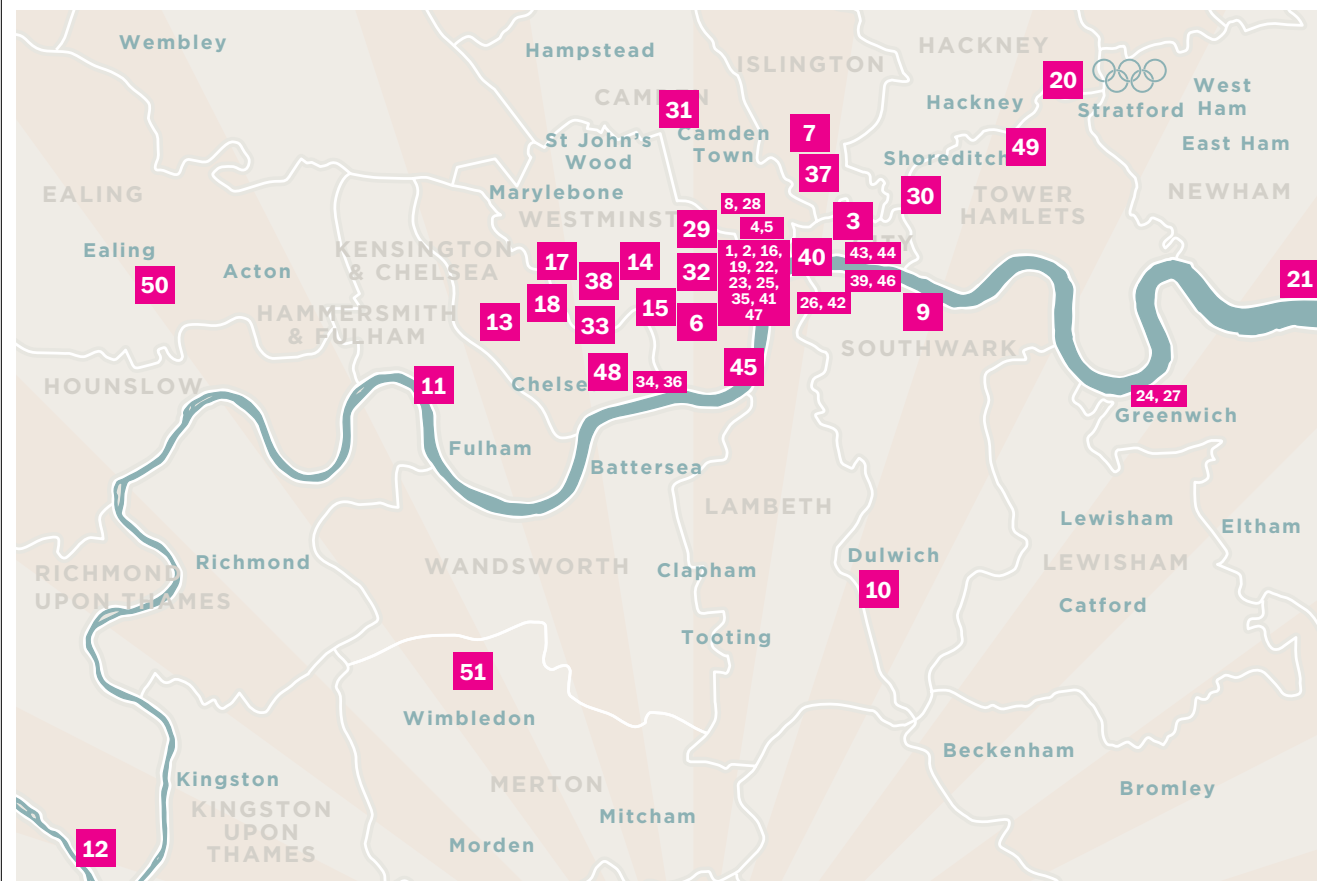
IMAGE COURTESY OF LONDON 2012



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## July

The small matter of the London 2012 Olympics should set summer temperatures soaring

**1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>**

### The iTunes Festival 2012

*1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012*

**Roundhouse, Camden Town, London NW1 8EH**

The line-up for this month-long series of free gigs is always kept under wraps until the last moment – but last year saw 62 bands perform over 31 days in the iconic Camden venue. In the past the festival has featured some stellar acts, including Coldplay, Foo Fighters, Adele, Manic Street Preachers and Bruno Mars. Tickets for these intimate gigs are free but to apply you must enter a competition by going to the festival's official website or special Facebook page. Last year there was a surprise performance by Amy Winehouse in what turned out to be the late singer's last public appearance.

**From 1<sup>st</sup>**

### Somerset House Summer Series

*First two weeks of July 2012*

**Somerset House, London WC2R 1LA**

Some of the best current live acts drop into the central courtyard of Somerset House for this year's Summer Series. It's an idyllic, intimate, calming, escapist location for a concert on a summer's evening, surrounded by one of eighteenth century London's most spectacular buildings. If last year's line-up is anything to go by then this year looks set to be a highlight in any music-lover's summer season: the likes of Eels, Blondie, Ellie Goulding, Liam Gallagher's Beady Eye and Professor Green all featured. Keep a close eye on the website if you want to grab one of these sell-out tickets.

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

### East End Film Festival

*3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Various East End locations**

The East End Film Festival at Rich Mix and a host of other venues has its roots in poor artists flocking east for cheap rents and the multi-cultural buzz.

This gave rise to a burgeoning arts scene - bands, film-makers, artists - and the festival came about in 2001 as a response to the creative spark in East End



*Britain's Mark Cavendish wins the Olympic cycling test event*

**From 27<sup>th</sup>**

### London Olympics

*27<sup>th</sup> July - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012*

**Various venues throughout London and nationwide**

**A**LL EYES ARE ON LONDON this summer as the city hosts its third Olympic Games and millions of visitors descend upon the capital to watch the world's greatest athletes compete to win medals for their countries. The proceedings kick off with an opening ceremony of epic proportions on July 27<sup>th</sup>, and an estimated 15% of the world's population are expected to tune in; so the pressure is well and truly on for director Danny Boyle who is rumoured to be putting a Shakespearean slant on the ceremony. Once officially opened the drama really begins with a huge range of sporting events taking place across the country, with table tennis, taekwondo and everything in between. The 2012 Games are a serious occasion for London, and everyone is hoping it will be third time lucky as we get another shot as Olympic hosts. The first time the Games arrived in the capital was in 1908, after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius disrupted plans for them to be held in Rome. We got another opportunity in 1944 but were forced to cancel after World War II broke out. Finally, four years later London welcomed 59 nations to compete in the Games, with Germany and Japan notably not invited. It's been 54 long years since the torch last landed in London, and after tireless campaigning to secure the 2012 bid and much anticipation, it's finally time for Britain to show the world what it's made of. Expect mass chaos, controversy and a whole lot of hysteria: it's going to be a truly unforgettable summer.



*Superb setting: the Somerset House Summer Series returns this July*



movie-making. There's now more of an international vibe to the festival and this year promises to be their best yet with a potent blend of contemporary British and world cinema. Expect a stunning line-up of premieres, talks and summery outdoor screenings.

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

### Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

*3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Hampton Court Palace, Surrey KT8 9AU**

Henry VIII built one of the finest gardens in the world at Hampton Court Palace, so it is only fitting that the world's largest horticultural show should take place there, with displays from over 150 specialist nurseries. Some are beautiful, complex works of living art, filled with rare blooms and water features. However, many are on a smaller scale, and should give you ideas for improving your own garden. The Festival of Roses is Britain's largest annual display of roses in full bloom; the sweet scent is overwhelming, as is the sight of thousands of stunning roses blooming all under one roof. During the final afternoon many of the exhibitors sell off their plants at bargain prices - you can bet the gardening gloves come off for this free-for-all.

**4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

### Dance GB: The Olympic Project

*4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10 9LW**

The UK's three national dance companies come to town to perform in a Big Top in the grounds of Greenwich Old Royal Naval College. The English National Ballet, National Dance Company Wales and Scottish Ballet join forces for the first time to perform works specially choreographed by Martin Lawrence, Christopher Bruce and Itzik Galili. Each piece has been inspired by the Olympic ideal - 'faster, higher, stronger'. The historic and beautiful grounds will be pulsating with energy throughout the day with masterclasses, demonstrations, workshops and even a cabaret.

**5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**

### Rhod Gilbert

*5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Hammersmith Apollo, London W6 9QH**

Welsh comedian Rhod Gilbert regularly uses his stand-up shows to vent his frustrations but in *The Man with the Flaming Battenberg Tattoo*, we see a more laid-back attitude. He may have let someone tattoo a Battenberg on him but that's all the flaming the new, chilled-out Rhod is doing. A regular on TV and radio shows, he has his own BBC series 'Ask Rhod Gilbert' and has begun filming Series 3 of Rhod Gilbert's *Work Experience*, which sees him take on jobs such as a zoo keeper and a primary school teacher. His latest nationwide tour comes to London's Hammersmith Apollo for three dates in July.

**5<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**

### London Literature Festival

*5<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Southbank Centre, London SE1 8XX**

A delectable array of spoken word performances, exciting new collaborations, workshops

and talks from major writers and thinkers from around the world descends upon the Southbank with this annual literary celebration. This year the focus is very much on youth, and young literary enthusiasts from across the UK will be offered the chance to gain inspiration from leading performance poets and to share their own stories through poetry and a series of slam events. Previous speakers at the festival, now in its sixth year, include literary greats such as Philip Pullman, Bret Easton Ellis, Andrea Levy, Barbara Kingsolver and Jeanette Winterson.

**6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>**

### Bloc

*6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**London Pleasure Gardens, Royal Victoria Docks, London E16 2BS**

2012 sees the arrival of a new festival on the Bloc, set against the dramatic backdrop of London's docklands. If you like your festivals to come with a slightly apocalyptic edge and an atmospherically charged setting (and who doesn't?) then this should be right up your street. With post-industrial derelict buildings looming ominously above the 30m geodesic dome stage on the water's edge and an exciting line-up of dance and electronic acts Bloc 2012 is certainly

worth a look. Veteran dance act Orbital make their comeback to the UK festival scene and headline at Bloc alongside Snoop Dogg, Gary Numan, Hudson Mohawke, Squarepusher and Detroit exports Jeff Mills and Carl Craig. Although Bloc is now in its sixth year it has previously been located in Butlin's or Pontin's holiday resorts. The festival sprung from the minds of the Glastonbury party people behind Shangri-La. Promising a 'rock-solid sense of community and togetherness', plus a totally unique setting and a stellar line-up, this is an exciting addition to the festival calendar.

**From 6<sup>th</sup>**

### Stadia: Sport and Vision in Architecture

*6<sup>th</sup> July - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012*

**Sir John Soane's Museum, Holborn, London WC2A 3BP**

Exploring the origins of the world's great sporting arenas and the momentous events that have been housed within their stadium walls, this exhibition is a unique chance for sport and architecture enthusiasts alike. From the violent and bloody Roman games to the religious inspired competitions of ancient Greece, it couldn't be more relevant with London in its Olympic year. The wonderful Sir John Soane's Museum offers visitors the chance to journey through time and understand the architectural developments which have influenced the creation of the current Stratford stadium.

**6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

### Wireless Festival with Barclaycard

*6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Hyde Park, London W2 2UH**

Celebrating its eighth consecutive year, Wireless with Barclaycard returns to Hyde Park with a bang in 2012; Rihanna will be taking to the main stage. The sexy Barbadian has had us hook line and sinker ever since that frustratingly catchy single *Umbrella* back in 2007, and with her feisty attitude and chameleon appearance we've been obsessed with her ever since. With an outrageous show guaranteed, the sale of tickets for this one-off

live performance is bound to send mouse-clicking into overdrive. Some of last year's biggest stars will be joining Rihanna in the line-up, including Jessie J, Labrinth and Calvin Harris.

**7<sup>th</sup>**

### World Pride 2012

*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DS**

Gay or straight, you can join in the heady mix of fun, fabulous costumes, colourful floats, live concerts and politics at the famous Pride London parade. This year Pride London also hosts the World Pride Festival for 2012 (23<sup>rd</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> July), with two weeks of festivities and more than a million visitors expected to flock to the capital and celebrate. The main parade promises to be bigger, better and longer than ever before; with the space being extended from Oxford Street to Shaftesbury Avenue, a stage in Leicester Square and an extended parade by half a mile to allow a spectacular route past London's finest landmarks.

**7<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>**

### Big Dance 2012

*7<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Various venues all over London**

The biennial Big Dance festival is back, turning London into

the dance capital for nine days in July, and this year they will be limbering up with a seven week countdown period as part of the London 2012 Festival. Taking place at a variety of unusual venues across the city, the scale of this frenzy of dance activities is huge with events organised through a series of 'hubs' including shopping centres, galleries, parks and lidos. Don't be surprised if - when venturing into any public space in London during this period - it turns out to have a troupe of female Morris dancers, a posse of head-spinning hip-hoppers, or a whirlwind of spinning capoeiristas gyrating around. Audience participation and free classes means if you're a closet groover this is your chance to strut your stuff.

**From 7<sup>th</sup>**

### Dance Al Fresco

*7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July & 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> July*

**Regent's Park, London NW1**

Dancers leave behind the safety of the ballroom and take their moves outdoors as Dance Al Fresco returns to Regent's Park. Since making its debut back in 1998 with an emotionally charged open-air Argentine Tango, Dance Al Fresco has become a much loved summer highlight, capturing the minds of picnickers and dog-walkers

alike with a great line-up of professional dancers, including, in the past, Strictly Come Dancing's Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace. The shows are free for spectators, but if you're after a bit more excitement then get your dancing shoes on and join in with one of the ticketed dance classes: all proceeds go towards tree planting in the park.

**8<sup>th</sup>**

### The British 10k London Run

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**Hyde Park Corner, London SW1X 7TA**

Now in its twelfth year, this huge annual fundraiser - which is expected to attract 30,000 runners - has made the second Sunday in July all its own. Starting at Hyde Park Corner the course heads down Piccadilly and Pall Mall to Trafalgar Square, along the Embankment to the City, taking in St Paul's and Tower Bridge, and finally back to Whitehall, looping past the London Eye on the way. The runners are joined by a bunch of celebrities and athletics champions; both Steve Cram and Haile Gebrselassie have participated in previous races. Last year, the event was won by Bernard Rotich logging an impressive time of 29 minutes.



*Over the rainbow: London hosts the World Pride Festival in July*

### From 11<sup>th</sup> Metamorphosis: Titian 2012

*11<sup>th</sup> July - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2012*

**National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2N 5DN**

Bringing together contemporary artists with paintings by Renaissance master Titian, *Metamorphosis: Titian 2012* will see choreographers, composers, poets and visual artists responding with inspiration to create their own masterpieces; their work will be displayed at the National Gallery and performed by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House. Considered 'The Sun Amidst Small Stars' by his peers, the versatile Titian evoked a great influence on Italian Renaissance painters with works of landscapes, portraits and backgrounds all of equal quality. Three of the artist's major paintings at the centre of the exhibition - *Diana and Actaeon*, *The Death of Actaeon and Diana and Callisto* - will be the inspiration behind three British contemporary artists - Chris Ofili, Conrad Shawcross and Mark Wallinger - creating new settings for the ballets at the Royal Opera House.

**11<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>**

### Rushes Soho Shorts Festival

*11<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012*

**ICA, Hospital Club, BAFTA, Deluxe Soho, Apollo Cinema & throughout Soho**

Proving that great things come in small packages, the Rushes Soho Shorts festival celebrates UK and International filmmaking with 10 days of exciting visual treats throughout Soho and beyond. London's screens will be graced by a variety of



*Titian's Diana and Actaeon is one of three major paintings behind the National's Metamorphosis show*





Madonna, the queen of pop, will play to thousands in Hyde Park

contemporary delights ranging from live action to animation, fiction to factual, and a whole lot of experimental action to boot. The festival awards new and established filmmakers for their work and also offers viewers the chance to join in a range of discussions and debates. Plenty of familiar faces and recognisable names feature in the programme and in the films themselves.

### From 12<sup>th</sup> Matthew Bourne's Play Without Words

12th July - 5th August 2012

**Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebury Avenue, London EC1R 4TN**

The sounds of the swinging sixties hit Sadler's Wells as Matthew Bourne's wickedly satirical dance drama Play Without Words returns for its first revival since it premiered at the National Theatre ten years ago. This sexy and thrilling play tells the story of domestic social order in a suave 1965 Chelsea household, revolving around the master of the house, his beautiful fiancée and their new servant Prentice. With a jazzy score and Olivier-nominated production this production should get the summer off to a swingingly seductive start.

### From 13<sup>th</sup> The Proms 2012

13th July - 8th September 2012

**Royal Albert Hall, Kensington, London SW7 2AP**

The most popular season of classical music in England continues to go from strength to strength with a varied but accessible programme that draws huge audiences, concluding on the last night with seas of Union Jack-waving Brits belting out their national anthem. The aim, for the past 100 years, has been to mix the popular and familiar with the surprising and innovative, so if you go to a concert to hear some favourite piece, you may leave having discovered a whole new composer. Five hundred standing tickets for each concert are available on the door for just five pounds, so top international orchestras and soloists, programmes that mix the adventurous and the accessible, and a real sense of fun can all be had for half the price of a central London cinema ticket. There are also chamber music concerts and Saturday matinees in Cadogan Hall and outdoor events throughout the country. You should turn up early for the biggest stars - and queue overnight if you want to get into the fabled Last Night of the Proms.

Alternatively, join Terry Wogan and thousands of revellers in the annual Proms in the Park closing party in Hyde Park.

### 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Hard Rock Calling

13th - 15th July 2012

**Hyde Park, London W2 2UH**

Following their unforgettable performance in 2009 Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band return to Hyde Park's Hard Rock Calling this July. Usually found sporting a familiar double-denim ensemble, Springsteen (aka The Boss) is known for his emotive brand of heartland rock, notching up more than 120 million album sales worldwide and picking up an impressive collection of Grammys during a career that has spanned five decades. Last year, the three-day festival saw more than 150,000 fans flock to one of the capital's best loved parks for three days of superb entertainment and live music. Recent performers at the festival include Bon Jovi, Stevie Nicks, Pearl Jam, Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney.

### 17<sup>th</sup> Madonna

Tuesday 17th July 2012

**Hyde Park, London W2 2UH**

Madonna comes to London's Hyde Park on July 17th 2012, one of only two UK dates on her World Tour 2012 which takes in arenas, stadiums and outdoor sites from the Plains of Abraham in Quebec to South America and Australia where she hasn't performed in 20 years. Expect a raft of recent material from her latest album, MDNA, plus the whole back-catalogue of former classics. These will no doubt be sung by an energetic Madonna, surrounded by topless hunks and a spectacular set. Madge really needs no introduction - she's a pop phenomenon, the master of reinvention whose longstanding success is marked in Number 1 hits (a record breaking 40), and albums sold - over 300 million and counting. She also holds the record for the most successful tour by a solo artist. Showing no signs of slowing down, her last CD 'Hard Candy' debuted at Number 1 in 37 countries including the US, UK, Canada, France and Australia. This latest tour is Madonna's 9th since her first

Virgin Tour in 1985 and Hyde Park is a wonderful open air location to see the queen of pop play live.

### From 18<sup>th</sup> Sports vs Design

18th July - 18th November 2012

**Design Museum, Southwark, London SE1 2YD**

It's no longer the case that athletes can simply pull on a pair of trainers and see who runs the fastest or jump on a bike and pedal across the line first; these days it's as much about the equipment and technology as it is about the sports itself. Sports vs Design will be exploring how science, technology and athletes working together in harmony can enable competitors to push the boundaries and reach limits never met before. The show will feature the notorious Speedo LZR swimsuit, with ultrasonically welded material, and the Shimano Di-2 electronic bicycle, which allows cyclists to change gear electronically.

### From 19<sup>th</sup> BT Road to 2012

19th July - 23rd September 2012

**National Portrait Gallery, London WC2H 0HE**

Share the story of the games so far with the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition of portraits, featuring sporting, cultural and political figures in behind-the-scenes shots of the build up to the London Olympics. The show includes portraits of Sebastian Coe, Phillips Idowu and Danny Boyle, as well as local residents from the five Olympic Host Boroughs. Photographers include Brian Griffin, Emma Hardy and Finlay MacKay.

### From 19<sup>th</sup> Shakespeare: Staging the World

19th July - 25th November 2012

**The British Museum, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 3DG**

The British Museum has teamed up with the Royal Shakespeare Company this year to gain some insight into the nation's favourite playwright. There's no doubt that his work has dramatically shaped Britain's identity, and the British Museum now goes about bringing Shakespeare's London back to life through a series of contemporary performances and

a selection of objects from the Museum's impressive collection. Items will include maps, prints, drawings, paintings, armour, coins and medals and they will all be displayed to offer visitors a deeper understanding of the great man, his iconic stories and their continuing context. From Shylock and early modern Jewish culture, to Othello, Africa and the New World, the exhibition arrives as part of the World Shakespeare Festival which runs throughout 2012 and includes a tremendous line-up of events at various venues across town.

### 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Desdemona at the Barbican

19th & 20th July 2012

**Barbican Hall, London EC2Y 8DS**

Nobel-prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison, director Peter Sellars and singer/songwriter Rokia Traoré are collaborating to bring Desdemona to the stage. The intimate performance offers an alternative and deeper view into the character from Shakespeare's Othello. With close reading of Shakespeare, Morrison's imagination began to roam and she initiated the idea of inventing the stories that Desdemona may have heard to inspire her yearning for a wider

world. Sellars evolved this concept with the idea of using Desdemona's maid, Barbary, as the character these stories came from. As a result this play presents an insightful conversation between the Venetian beauty and her African nurse from beyond the grave.

### 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> Daniel Barenboim & West-Eastern Divan Orchestra: Beethoven's Symphonies

20th - 27th July

**Royal Albert Hall, Kensington, London SW7 2AP**

Daniel Barenboim will bring the West Eastern Divan Orchestra - the group, largely made up of young Arab and Israeli players, he founded with the late Edward Said over 10 years ago - to the BBC Proms in 2012, performing all nine of Beethoven's symphonies and culminating with a performance of Beethoven 9 on the opening day of the Olympics on 27th July. The concerts will also feature works by living French composer Pierre Boulez, one of the most influential figures in contemporary music for the past 60 years. The Proms is an annual highlight of the classical music calendar (see also: The Proms, Royal Albert Hall, 13th July - 8th September 2012 [PAGE 98](#) ).



Who's the boss: Bruce Springsteen headlines for Hard Rock Calling

### 21<sup>st</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> London 2012 Torch Relay

21st - 27th July 2012

**Throughout London**

Travelling all over the UK on a 70-day journey, the Olympic Torch Relay will be carried by 8,000 "inspirational" people in a bid to spread a message of peace, unity and friendship in the lead-up to the London 2012 Olympic Games. The Torch will arrive at Land's End in the most south-westerly tip of UK on Friday 18th May before starting its long journey. Covering 110 miles a day, the Torch Relay will visit a different town or city in the UK every evening, from Plymouth on 19th May to Westminster on 26th July. After six days all around London, the relay will conclude when an as-yet-unknown athlete or sporting personality will be entrusted with lighting the Olympic Flame at the Opening Ceremony at the new Olympic Stadium to mark the start of the Games.

### 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> BT River of Music

21st & 22nd July 2012

**Various venues along the Thames**

How about some world class music from around the globe to get you warmed up for the London Olympics? BT has teamed up with the London 2012 Festival to put together a jam-packed line-up of free live music acts in the capital to celebrate the diversity and spirit of the Games. There will be six stages representing five continents: you will find a taste of Asia in Battersea Park, Africa in Jubilee Gardens, Europe in Trafalgar Square and Somerset House, the Americas at the Tower of London and Oceania in the Greenwich Old Royal Naval College. Artists confirmed are Scissor Sisters, Wynton Marsalis, Naturally 7 and Baaba Maal. A host of regional work will represent the eclectic and eccentric musical tastes of the UK. Projects include Coastal Voices - which will bring together vocal groups from Devon and Dorset's coastline to sing Nick Cave songs, and Saxophone Massive - which will feature a staggering 200 saxophonists all blasting out a tune

at Somerset House. Kenny G, eat your heart out... Tickets are free but some sites will require ticketed entry.

### 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Chap Olympiad

21st & 22nd July 2012

**Bedford Square Gardens, Bloomsbury, London WC1B**

Not so much a sporting occasion as a Pimm's-drenched celebration of buffoonery and sporting ineptitude, The Chap Olympiad is a spiffing sporting event orchestrated by The Chap magazine, for gentlemen (and gentlewomen) of good taste. Bedford Square Gardens, centred on one of the best preserved set pieces of Georgian architecture in London, is a fitting backdrop for such a distinguished event. The ten Olympic races can all be entered by members of the public - as long as they're not wearing sportswear. Sporting events include Umbrella Jousting, using bicycles and brollies instead of horses and lances, and the Tug of Hair in which a rope is substituted for a lengthy handlebar moustache. Yikes!

### From 24<sup>th</sup> Tino Sehgal 2012

24th July - 28th October

**Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London SE1 9TG**

Ground-breaking installation artist Tino Sehgal takes on the annual commission for the Tate Modern's Turbine Hall as part of the Cultural Olympiad finale in 2012. His work has previously explored social encounters through sound, dance and movement, whilst offering philosophical and economic debates. London-born Sehgal is best known for his critically reflective creations, which often rely on live and physical interactions between artists and visitors. His 2002 This is Propaganda show included a female museum attendant who sang the titles of the work as visitors entered the room.

### From 26<sup>th</sup> Camp in London

26th July - 13th August 2012

**Walthamstow Low Hall Sports Ground, London E17 8AX**

London is the place to be in the summer of 2012 but the question is where to stay during all the





Another London: a child waits ahead of the Queen's coronation

fun and games? There's no doubt that the capital has an array of hotels available, but how about camping. "Tents in London?" we hear you cry - and, yes, Camp in London is offering exactly that. Just a ten minute commute from the Olympic Village lies this community of tents at Walthamstow Low Hall Sports Ground, pitched especially to celebrate the Olympics 2012. There will be a choice of pitch-your-own, ready pitched or luxury bell tents as well as camper vans, a bar, a stage, kids' area, toilets, showers and even Wi-Fi! Throw in live music, cultural displays and interactive sports tournaments, and two festivals - the Eat Festival (1st - 5th August) and the See Do Hear Festival (8th - 12th August).

## 27<sup>th</sup> London Olympics Opening Ceremony

Friday 27th July 2012

**Olympic Stadium, Olympic Park, London E20 2ST**

An estimated worldwide audience of one billion should tune in to watch the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony from the new state-of-the-art Olympic Stadium on July 27th - that's 15 per cent of the world's population. The organisers have called on the artistic expression of Danny Boyle, the Oscar-winning director of *Slumdog Millionaire*, and given the vast scale of Beijing's opening ceremony in 2008, you pity Boyle the sheer size of his task. The latest rumour is that a 27-ton bell inscribed with a line from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* - "Be not afeard: the isle is full of noises" - will form the centrepiece of the £81m

ceremony. Opening ceremonies are a chance for the host nation to wow the world with their own culture and values - and London, with its double-decker buses, bowler hats, Union Jacks, and black cabs, has a whole raft of inspirations to draw from. All in all, don't expect anything as overtly expensive (or political) as Beijing 2008 - but do still expect a jolly good show.

## From 27<sup>th</sup> London Live Hyde Park

27th July - 12th August 2012

**Hyde Park, London W2 2UH**

London Live Hyde Park will provide unparalleled coverage of the London Olympic Games via six giant screens, including the UK's largest at 144 square metres. Then, each evening, the main screen will transform into an exceptional live music stage bringing headline performances to the masses. Every Olympic medal competed for at the Games will be broadcast on the large screens. In addition to the evening headline music performances from 5.30pm onwards, there will also be live music throughout the day in smaller, more intimate performance spaces as well as outdoor arts performances with performers from the London Outdoor Arts Festival. There will also be six specially created 'have a go' areas where those of all ages and abilities will be able to try out a range of sporting activities from handball and hockey to athletics and equestrian simulators. There will be two large-scale concerts on the 27th July and 12th August to mark the

opening and closing ceremonies of the Games, with Britpop rockers Blur set to headline the closing ceremony concert, with support from The Specials and New Order.

## 27<sup>th</sup> Martin Creed's Work No 1197

Friday 27th July 2012

**Various venues in London & nationwide**

All the Bells in a Country Rung As Quickly and As Loudly As Possible for Three Minutes Turner Prize-winning artist Martin Creed invites everyone to join in the celebration of the start of the Olympics by ringing a bell As Quickly and As Loudly As Possible for Three Minutes. For his Work No. 1197 everyone will be invited to ring a bell, any bell - hand bell, door bell, school bell, tower bell, or even a last orders bell in a pub - between 8.00am and 8.03am BST on Friday 27th July 2012. Events, big and small, will be taking place on that day including the ringing of church bells in prominent London locations at St Paul's Cathedral, St Mary-le-Bow (probably the most famous bells in the world), St Martin in the Fields and St George the Martyr in Southwark. If you want to take part visit the Allthebells.com website and see the interactive map to find a planned bell ringing event near you.

## From 27<sup>th</sup> London 2012 Olympic Games

27th July - 12th August 2012

**Various venues throughout London and nationwide**

SEE PAGES 110 - 111

## From 27<sup>th</sup> The Olympic Journey: The Story of the Games

27th July - 12th August 2012

**Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9DD** To help London embrace the 2012 Olympics, The Royal Opera House will be collaborating with BP and The Olympic Museum to host The Olympic Journey: The Story of the Games to coincide with the Games themselves. With the aid of graphics, film and audio this two week exhibition will be looking back at the

history of the Games and telling the Olympic story right back from ancient Greece, the home of the Games, then through the vision of Baron Pierre de Coubertin who was responsible for bringing them back to life centuries later. It will also explore the best Olympic moments through the years, covering stories and memorable feats from iconic Olympians in a Hall of Champions, as well as showcasing all the Olympic Medals since 1896 and Olympic Torches since 1936.

## From 30<sup>th</sup> Camden Fringe

30th July - 26th August 2012

**Camden People's Theatre, Camden Town, London NW12PY**

Bringing together comedy, theatre, poetry, dance and much more, the Camden Fringe boasts 400 performances of 100-odd (and some very odd) shows across five venues in north London throughout August. Whether you want to catch some of the edgiest stand-up around or witness a new twist on Shakespeare or watch a group of OAPs rap, the Camden Fringe has become the metaphorical David, ready "to challenge the Edinburgh Goliath" (THE GUARDIAN).

## From 31<sup>st</sup> Another London

31st July - 16th September 2012

**Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1P 4RG**

The Tate Britain presents the work of around 150 twentieth-century photographs that focus on London as their key subject, featuring images by leading international photographers, including Bill Brandt, Henri Cartier Bresson, Bruce Davidson and Elliot Erwitt. Many aspiring photographers came to London between 1930 and 1960 to take inspiration from the capital's communities and culture; the result was a unique collection of iconic images which capture the distinct spirit and intricacies of London. This is a fascinating opportunity to see how the city was viewed from a foreign perspective, through the eyes (and lenses) of visiting tourists, newly arrived residents and curious spectators. Ideal for lovers of London and photography alike.

# LONDON'S ANNUAL FESTIVALS

From burlesque bonanzas to festivals of film and from curry celebrations to the cult of the coffee or cocoa bean, London boasts the very best in specialist annual festivals.

ANNUAL EVENTS



## London Chocolate Festival

30<sup>th</sup> MARCH | SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Easter comes early for chocolate lovers for 7th annual celebration.



## London Coffee Festival

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL | TRUMAN BREWERY

International baristas and coffee lovers descend upon Brick Lane.



## Cheese and Wine Festival

27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL | SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Taste, take home and learn about cheeses and wines from 30 stalls.



## London Burlesque Festival

7<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> MAY | VARIOUS VENUES

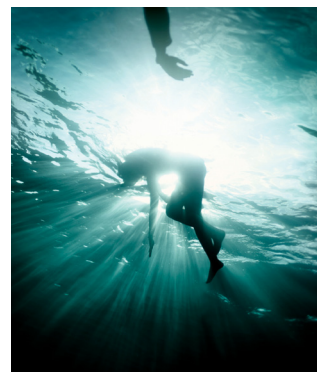
Sixth annual flesh fest dubbed the World Burlesque Games for 2012.



## Brick Lane Curry Festival

8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> MAY | BRICK LANE

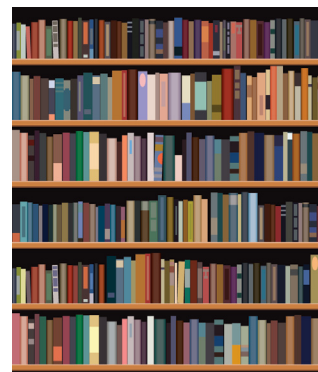
Indian delight in East London at the official 'Olympic curry village'.



## Festival of Theatre

12<sup>th</sup> JUNE - 15<sup>th</sup> JULY - VARIOUS VENUES

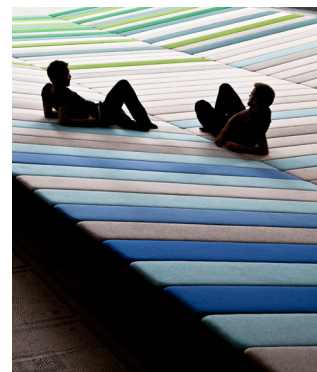
LIFT is 30 this year and includes West End venues for the first time.



## London Literature Festival

5<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> JULY | SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Performances, workshops and talks at this annual book bonanza.



## London Design Festival

15<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> SEPT. | VARIOUS VENUES

Multiple events across the city showcase various design disciplines.



## Raindance Film Festival

26<sup>th</sup> SEPT. - 7<sup>th</sup> OCT. | APOLLO CINEMA

The UK's Sundance is the nation's largest independent film festival.



## Real Food Festival

28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> SEPT. | SOUTHBANK CENTRE

UK's finest small producers gather outside the riverside arts venue.



## BFI London Film Festival

LATE OCTOBER | VARIOUS VENUES

UK's largest public film event screens more than 300 global offerings.



## Udderbelly Festival

NOVEMBER | SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Eight week riverside summer festival of hilarious comedy, circus and cabaret acts.





The state-of-the-art 'Pringle' Velodrome is one of the architectural delights of the new Olympic Park in Stratford, East London

SPORT LONDON

# THE LONDON OLYMPICS

The Olympics come to London for a record third time in history. By Felix Lowe

IT SEEMS LIKE AN AGE AGO THAT LONDON PIPPED PARIS to host the 2012 Olympic Games. What then felt like a distant pipe dream is now creeping tantalisingly close, with the fabled Olympic flame all but lit.

Since Trafalgar Square erupted with euphoria on learning of London's triumph on Wednesday 6th July 2005, it's fair to say a lot has happened. London has been through two mayors – Ken Livingstone and Boris Johnson – and may yet have a third before the Games begin; Tony Blair, the then-Prime Minister who allegedly “danced a jig” on hearing the result, has long gone; even Pat from EastEnders has moved on to pastures new.

“This is our moment,” said Lord Coe, chairman of the London

Organising Committee for the Olympic Games, after winning the hardest race of his career. Years of eager preparation now in the past, London's real Olympic moment is coming right up – and the world awaits what could be the best Olympics ever.

For a record-breaking third time in history – after 1908 and 1948 – the modern Olympic Games comes to London. There have been some ups and downs (the vastly inflated budget, for instance, or the recent synchronised swimming ticket fiasco); there have been some false starts (will Boris' grand cable car project ever get off the ground, let alone across the river? [PAGE 128](#)). But with all the sporting venues completed well on time and the Olympic Park in Stratford shaping up nicely [PAGE 43](#), morale is high for all those

concerned: the 10,000+ athletes, LOCOG, Wenlock and Mandeville – the official mascots – and, most importantly, Londoners and those who visit this great city.

On 27th July 2012, all eyes (an expected global TV audience of two billion) will be on London as the Games get under way with the Opening Ceremony [PAGE 100](#) at the new state-of-the-art Olympic Stadium. But the big kick-off actually takes place two days earlier with the start of the first round of football matches taking place in various stadia throughout the UK. Earlier still, the Olympic Torch Relay arrives in London on 21st July after touring the British Isles for more than two months, starting in England's most south-westerly tip, Land's End, on 19th May.

For those of you who have missed out on Olympic tickets – or for those who simply cannot hold on until the summer – there's still an array of London 2012 Test Events taking part in various venues, including shooting and synchronised swimming (April) [PAGE 36](#), and hockey, athletics and various Paralympic events (May) [PAGES 55, 57 & 58](#).

Although not actual London 2012 events, these Test Events are the next best thing – and will allow athletes and spectators to sample the new venues ahead of the Games. The diving competition, for instance, will be the first competitive sporting event to be staged at the eye-catching Aquatics Centre. Designed by Iraq-born architect Zaha Hadid, the iconic wave-shaped centre is one of almost a dozen new or temporary venues to be built in the Olympic Park in London's East End [PAGE 43](#), the focal point of which will be the 80,000-capacity Olympic Stadium, London 2012's beating heart.

For many, the most impressive of new Olympic venues is the magnificent Velodrome; shaped like a giant Pringle crisp, it's a stunning architectural and environmental feat. And don't forget the ruby red 115-metre-high Orbit sculpture, designed by the Turner Prize-winning artist Anish Kapoor [PAGE 52](#). The helter skelter-style, looping lattice of tubular steel incorporates the five Olympic rings and – standing 22 metres taller than New York's Statue of Liberty – will offer visitors unrivalled views of London's incredible skyline.

The Orbit should be finished by May, so be sure to head down and see what all the fuss is about in person. Visitors can already access large parts of the Olympic Park, which with construction over, is being filled with 2,000 trees and 300,000



Aerial view of the Olympic Park

wetland plants. The Greenway path boasts impressive views over the park, while the View Tube, also reached by Hackney Wick or Pudding Mill stations, offers a brief history of the London 2012 Games, as well as interactive maps and photos of all the construction phases.

Visiting the Olympic Park cannot be easier following a complete redevelopment of Stratford Regional and International Rail and Tube, including the construction of the new Westfield – the largest urban shopping centre in Europe. During the Games, a special Javelin train service will shuttle 25,000 spectators an hour between King's Cross and Stratford, making the Olympic Park reachable in just seven minutes from Central London.



Stella McCartney designed Team GB's kit

Of course, not all the action will be taking place in the Olympic Park, with numerous other events split between the River Zone around Greenwich (primarily at The O2 Arena and ExCeL), the Central Zone [PAGE 44](#), and numerous venues outside London [PAGE 45](#), such as Weymouth (sailing), Eton Dorney (rowing) and Lee Valley (canoeing). While many will be excited about the prospect of experiencing the Olympic Park in action, for others the real thrill of London 2012 will come in seeing incongruous events such as beach volleyball being played in some of the capital's most historic locations – Horse Guards Parade in this case.

Cyclists and runners finishing in the shadow of Buckingham Palace on The Mall; triathletes running, swimming and pedalling their way through Hyde Park and the Serpentine; horse riders show jumping at the Old Royal Naval College and eventing around Greenwich Park; shooters hitting the target at the Royal Artillery Barracks; Andy Murray having a second pop at Wimbledon with Olympic tennis at the All England Club; archers firing arrows across the hallowed square at the historic Lord's Cricket Ground: all these scenarios are what will make London 2012 unlike any Olympic Games before [PAGE 110](#).

Incorporating the whole of London makes London 2012 one of the most accessible Olympic Games ever. What's more, London 2012 is not simply about sporting feats: even those people with very little interest in the events will be swept up by the magic of the Games thanks to the London 2012 Festival [PAGE 79](#), the climax of the 30th Cultural Olympiad.

Running alongside both the Olympics and Paralympics for 12 weeks this summer, the London 2012 Festival will bring leading artists from all over the world to London as part of the UK's biggest ever festival. The likes of David Hockney, Lucian Freud, Yoko Ono, Damon Albarn, Cate Blanchett, Akram Khan, Tracy Emin, Mike Leigh, Shakespeare, Alfred Hitchcock, Titian – as well as every venue, minor or major, across the capital – are all involved.

Whether you're into dance, music, theatre, poetry, literature, history, sport, the visual arts, film or digital innovation, there's something for you. Venues and event organisers across the capital have raised their game, making London the most important destination worldwide this summer. So: on your marks, get set, go! London 2012 is a race that no one can lose.