

BACKSTAGE TRAVELS

boutique arts & culture tours

London Theater Tour June 23rd-July 2nd, 2019 Itinerary

Please note, all events and times are subject to change

Departure Day!
Sunday June 23rd



5:57pm Depart Portland via Delta flight 36 nonstop to London Heathrow Airport.

Day One

Monday June 24th

12:10pm Arrive London Heathrow Airport

We'll meet just outside of the customs area. Nate Watson will greet us as we exit and direct us to arranged transportation.

1:30pm Motor coach to central London

3:00pm Arrive Amba Hotel, Charing Cross & Welcome Reception

After checking into rooms, we'll have a welcome reception available to relax and gather. The evening is yours to rest and acclimate to the time zone.

As one of the most well placed 4 star hotels in London, Amba Charring Cross is within walking distance from many of the city's most famous landmarks and nearby tube stations.



Set inside Charing Cross station, this upscale Victorian railway hotel is a 3-minute walk from Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery and Victoria Embankment Gardens.

The well-sized stylish rooms with contemporary decor all feature flat-screen TVs, Nespresso machines and complimentary Wi-Fi, plus rainfall showerheads and complimentary min-

ibar snacks. Some rooms have views of the Strand, Trafalgar Square, or the river Thames. A full English breakfast is provided each morning in the dining room or can be delivered to your room at no extra charge.

Dinner at Leisure.



Day Two

Tuesday June 25th

Full English breakfast at leisure in dining room: 6:30am-10:30am

10:15am Walking Tour from our hotel to the Royal National Theatre

Karen Pierce-Goulding will be our guide, as we learn of the famous and infamous in the theatre, giving us context for what's ahead. Near the old theatre district, we glimpse back in time to the great stars of the English stage. Dames, mistresses and scandals of society abound in this neighborhood. We cross the River Thames and onto the South-bank until reaching the famous Royal National Theatre, founded and championed by Sir Laurence Olivier.

11:30am Backstage tour of the Royal National Theatre

This in-depth tour sets the stage for our week of London theatre, going behind the scenes of one of the most vibrant cultural centers in the world. The Royal National theatre produces over 20 new productions a year, and this special access gives us a glimpse at props, scenery, and costume-making facilities and the bustling, day-to-day, backstage life of a working theatre in London

1:30pm Group Lunch at Balthazar in Covent Garden

Remainder of afternoon at leisure

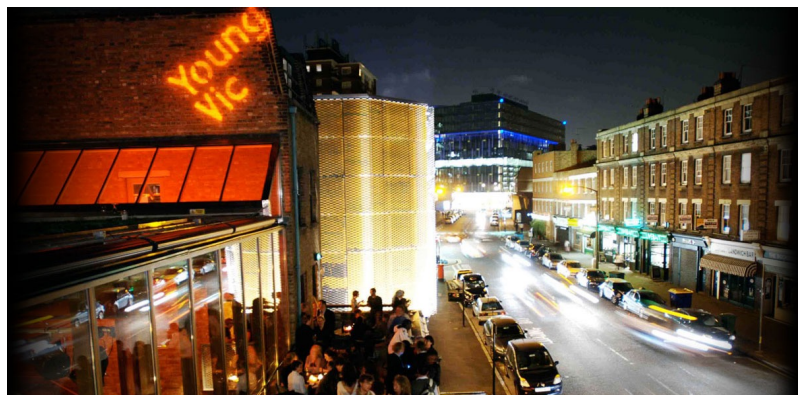
6:30pm Depart for Young Vic Theatre

7:30pm Performance of Arther Miller's, *Death of a Salesman* directed by Marianne Elliott and Miranda Cromwell starring Wendell Pierce.

Following her recent award-winning success of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* and *Angels in America*, Marianne Elliott co-directs with Miranda Cromwell, bringing a unique vision to one of the greatest plays of the twentieth century, seen through the eyes of an African American family.

Wendell Pierce (*The Wire*, *Suits*, *Selma*) makes his UK stage debut as Willy Loman, with Olivier Award-winning Sharon D. Clarke as Linda Loman.

Return to the hotel for post-show discussion



Day Three **Wednesday June 26th**

Full English breakfast at leisure in dining room: 6:30am-10:30am

2:30pm Matinee, *Starry Messenger*, at Wyndhams Theatre directed by Sam Yates

Mark Williams is lost. An astronomer at New York City's Planetarium. After a chance meeting with Angela, a young single mother, Mark feels starry-eyed. But when a catastrophic event rips through their lives, Mark is forced to re-evaluate his life, his faith and his place in the universe itself.



Matthew Broderick makes his West End debut reprising a role he played to critical acclaim in 2009 off-Broadway. *Downton Abbey*'s Elizabeth McGovern co-stars in this heartfelt, comedic play that is an exploration of love, hope and understanding our place in the universe. Written by Ken Lonergan (Academy Award, Original Screenplay for *Manchester by the Sea*, *Lobby Hero* produced at ART).

5:30pm Dinner at Barrafina

8:00pm Evening performance, *SIX* directed by Lotte Wakeham at the Arts Theatre

Divorced. Beheaded. From Tudor Queens to Pop Princesses, the six wives of Henry VIII take to the mic to tell their tales, remixing five hundred years of historical heart-



break into a 75-minute celebration of 21st century girl power. These Queens may have green sleeves but their lipstick is rebellious red.

Return to the hotel for a post-show discussion

Day Four
Thursday June 27th

Full English breakfast at leisure in dining room: 6:30am-10:30am

Entire day free to explore London



Recommended Plays:

Fiddler On the Roof at the Playhouse Theatre

Toast at The Other Place Theatre

Sweat at Gielgud Following a sold-out run at the Donmar Warehouse, **Lynn Nottage's** Pulitzer Prize-winning, and Olivier Award-nominated, play **Sweat** is transferring to the West End's Gielgud Theatre for 50 performances only.

Henry IV, Part 1 and/or part 2 at Shakespeare's Globe

Day Five **Friday June 28**

Full English breakfast at leisure in dining room: 6:30am-10:30am

10:00am Motor coach departs for English countryside

11:30am Arrive Goring Lock. Thames riverboat ride.

Glide along the beautiful countryside of England on this historic waterway. We will travel through small, working locks and picturesque villages before mooring at the Beetle and Wedge Boathouse.



1:00pm Lunch at Beetle and Wedge Boathouse

2:30pm Depart for Stratford-upon-Avon.

4:30m Arrive in Stratford

Get an overview of the area from our guide, Karen Pierce-Goulding. We'll give you ample free time to explore at your leisure. We advise that you grab a small bite to last into the evening.

7:15pm Performance, *Measure For Measure*, Swan Theatre directed by Gregory Doran, Artistic Director

When a young novice nun is compromised by a corrupt official who offers to save her brother from execution in return for sex, she has no idea where to turn for help. When she threatens to expose him, he tells her that no one would believe her. Shakespeare wrote this play in the early 1600s, yet it remains astonishingly resonant today.



9:30pm Motor coach return to London hotel

Return journey to London with discussion on the coach. Approx return: Midnight

Day Six **Saturday June 29th**

Full English breakfast at leisure in dining room: 7am-11am

Day at leisure to explore

5:00pm Group dinner at **The House Restaurant**, 2nd Floor, National Theatre

7:00pm Performance of *Peter Gynt*, in the **Olivier Theatre (Royal National Theatre)** directed by **Jonathan Kent**

Peter Gynt has always set his heart on being special, on being a unique individual, on being unlike anyone else. When he steals the bride from a local wedding, he sets off on a lifetime journey, which will take him to Florida, to Egypt, to a mountain of trolls, and finally, only when death approaches, back to his home in Scotland.



In this radical new version, **David Hare** kidnaps Ibsen's most famous hero and runs away with him into the 21st century. **James McArdle** (Mary Queen of

Scotts) takes the title role in this epic story of transformation.

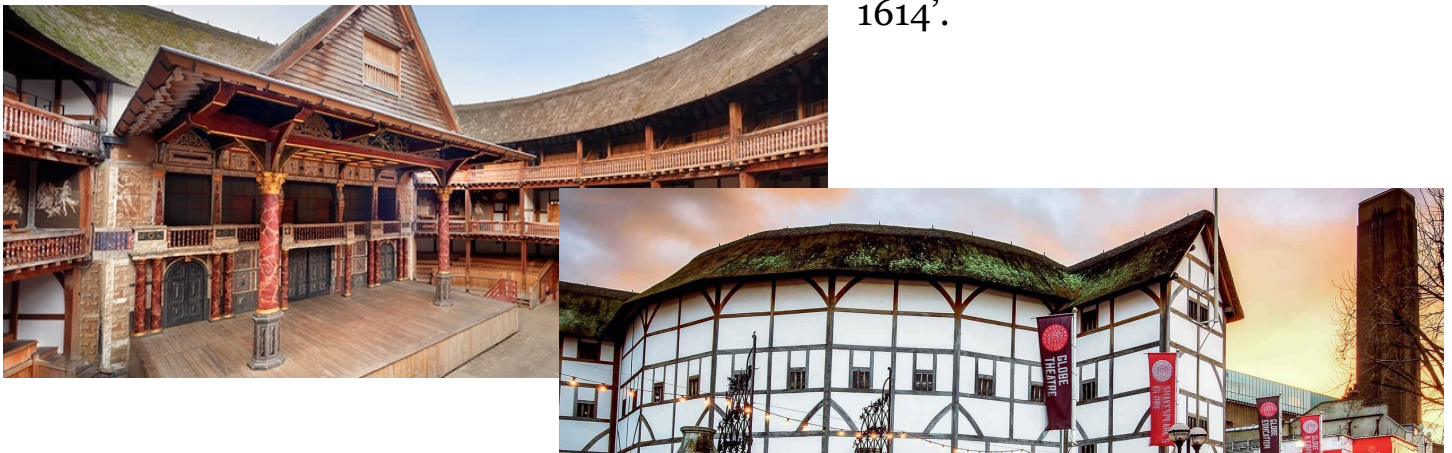
Return to the hotel for post-show discussion

Day Seven

Sunday June 30th

Full English breakfast at leisure in dining room: 7am-11am

1:00pm Coach departs. Tour of old London, Dickens and Shakespeare
We discover the city that held Shakespeare in her thrall - his inspiration and his workshop - a vibrant chaotic medieval muddle - where all the world really was a stage! Traces of the 16th century still echo through narrow alleyways and cobbled courtyards as we explore the ancient square mile and over the Millenium Bridge to the Liberty of Southwark the historic entertainment district along the River Thames, culminating at The Globe Theatre a beautiful working replica of the original theatre destroyed by fire in 1614'.



3:30pm Theatre Performance, *Orpheus Descending* by Tennessee Williams at Menier Chocolate Factory

Lady is trapped in a loveless marriage, surrounded by a dying husband and intolerant people, living a boring small-town life. But when a wild-eyed charismatic drifter appears, a new life of love and passion suddenly seem possible. Everything will change as certainty, conformity and tradition are ripped apart.

Tennessee Williams' Deep South drama, *Orpheus Descending* began its life as *Battle of Angels* in 1940. It was first performed on Broadway in 1957. In 1959, Sidney Lumet directed the film adaptation, *The Fugitive Kind*, starring Marlon Brando and Anna Magnani.

***Return to the hotel for post-show discussion.
Remainder of evening at leisure.***

Day Eight **Monday July 1st**

Full English breakfast at leisure in dining room: 6:30am-10:30am

10:00am ****Optional walking tour with Karen and Nate.***

Mayfair, Oscar Wilde and Royalty

Starting at St. James Church in stylish Mayfair on the famous Piccadilly. A gorgeous small church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. From here, we'll make our way through the specialty shops of the arcades. From Oscar Wilde to modern day Oligarchs, the rich and famous have made Mayfair their home and playground for over 200 years. Karen gives insight and stories into some of the more naughty facts of the Victorian high society. Continuing on the tour, we head through Green Park, past the world famous Buckingham Palace, through St. James Park and ending back at the Amba Hotel. 2 hours total.

1:00pm **Lunch in the gorgeous art deco room at The Ivy.** We'll wrap up our tour and get a critical round up before seeing our final play at this iconic restaurant. Special guest discussion.



7:30pm **Performance at Garrick Theatre, *Bitter Wheat*, Starring John Malkovich, written and directed by David Mamet**



Money, sex, Power. Barney Fein, is a bloated monster – a studio head, who like his predecessor, the minotaur, devours the young he has lured into his cave. His fall from power to shame in this new drama is inspired by the allegations against Harvey Weinstein, will be Malkovich's first return to the West End in 30 years.

Final post-show discussion and a farewell reception!

Day Nine, Departure
Tuesday July 2nd

Full English breakfast from 6:30am-checkout



8:00am Check out of hotel

8:30am Coach departs for London Heathrow Airport

9:30pm Arrive at terminal

12:35pm Depart London Heathrow Airport via Delta Airlines **flight 37** to Portland International

3:18pm Arrive PDX **3:15pm**

PEOPLE



Dámaso Rodríguez is a Cuban American director based in Portland, Oregon, where he serves as artistic director of Artists Repertory Theatre. Prior to joining Artists Rep, he served as the associate artistic director of the Pasadena Playhouse and a co-artistic director of Los Angeles' Furious Theatre. Dámaso is a recipient of the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, the Back Stage Garland Award, the NAACP Theatre Award, and the Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown Award. He was honored as a Finalist for the Zelda Fichandler Award by the SDC Foundation and was named a Knowledge Universe Rising Star by Portland Monthly. He is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society



Sara Hennessy is an award-winning actor and theatre producer based in Portland, OR. She is a two-time Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award winner, the recipient of the Pasadena Arts Council's Gold Crown Award, and an LA Weekly Theatre Award nominee. She is a Co-Founder and Ensemble Member of Los Angeles' acclaimed Furious Theatre Company, where she served as Co-Artistic Director from 2001-2010.

In Portland, you may have seen her on stage at Artists Repertory Theatre in *Everybody*, *Magellanica*, *Caught*, *Feathers and Teeth*, *The Skin of Our Teeth*, *Cuba Libre*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Intimate Apparel* and *Foxfinder* or in Corrib Theatre's *How to Keep an Alien* and *Little Gem*. She is a proud member of Actors Equity Association and SAG/AFRTA.

Sara has been organizing and leading theatre tours for Artists Repertory Theatre since 2015 to cities such as New York, Chicago, Ashland and Los Angeles and looks forward to future trips in 2019/2020 to Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Humana Festival of New Plays and New York City.



Karen Pierce-Goulding is a specialist London Blue Badge guide with a passion for theatre and literature. Voted one of the World's Best Tour Guides by U.S Travel & Leisure Magazine she also won Blue Badge Guide of the Year award. A former actress Karen spent 10 years appearing in repertory theatre up and down the country - a regular at the Cheltenham Everyman, The Redgrave Farnham and Perth Theatre, Scotland before changing direction and training as a guide. She has been

guiding for 17 years and is also a published author, her book 'Royal London' explores the haunts and hideouts of former monarchs - Karen relishes telling a juicy story! Recently Karen found herself back in the limelight presenting a 13 part in-depth travel show for Canada's Discovery TV 'London Next Stop'. Karen is married to Adam and lives in North London with 10 year old daughter Isobella.