



Overview

This is your opportunity to join the Olney Theatre's leadership team – Jason Loewith, Artistic Director, and Debbie Ellinghaus, Managing Director – for an exceptional, behind-the-scenes theater tour of London. With exclusive discussions, tickets to some of the most daring shows, and the company of like-minded theater enthusiasts and friends of the Olney Theatre Center, this is an experience not to be missed. Insider Cultural Tours, which will host this tour, has nearly a decade of experience creating unique London theater tours – no two are ever the same – that align perfectly with the mission and aesthetic expectations of their clients.

5 Exceptional Shows

We'll get the best seats available to the top shows in London, with an eye to new plays that take an artistic risk and speak to a diverse audience. Since most U.K. companies don't announce very far in advance, especially theatres that produce new plays, we finalize our roster about 60-90 days before departure. Besides the West End, we will especially focus on booking shows at the following theaters: Almeida, Arcola, Bush, Donmar, Finborough, Hampstead, Menier Chocolate Factory, National Theatre, Royal Court, Soho, Theatre 503, Tricycle, and White Bear. A partial list of shows curated by Insider Cultural Tours for its London tours (well before they traveled to the U.S.) include: *One Man, Two Guvnor*; *Red*; *War Horse*; *3 Winters*; *King Charles III*; *Behind the Beautiful Forevers*; *The Habit of Art*; *The Pitmen Painters*; *Yes, Prime Minister*; *Season's Greetings*; *The Master Builder*; *The Animals and Children Took to the Streets*; *Jerusalem*; *Collaborators*; *The Father*; *Farinelli and the King*; *Amadeus*; *This House*; *The Entertainer*; *Oil*; *Art*; *Wild Honey*; and *The Play That Goes Wrong*, among others.

3 or More Discussions with Arts Professionals

Our intimate discussions with London arts professionals make this tour truly unique. You'll rub shoulders with working actors, directors, artistic directors, critics, and playwrights. They'll provide you with invaluable context and knowledge about the British culture, and the inside scoop on the latest U.K. theatre trends. A partial list of past participants includes: Sir Arnold Wesker, Kristin Scott Thomas, Nicolas Kent, Michael Billington, Sir Derek Jacobi, Alfred Molina, Richard Griffiths, Tom

Stoppard, Christopher Hampton, Indhu Rubasingham, Richard Bean, Roger Allam, Jose Rourke, Simon Russell Beale, Dame Harriet Walter, Frances Barber, Stephanie Street, Richard Goulding, Margot Leicester, James Graham, and Ella Hickson, among others.

1 Exhibition or Private tour

The exhibition or tour will also be finalized about 90 days before departure. Whenever possible, we book a private tour with an expert or docent. Ideally, this component will dovetail with a play we'll be seeing or perhaps a play Olney Theatre Center will produce for a future season.

Hotel – 6 nights

The Waldorf Hilton has an illustrious history and rich heritage, dating back to its opening in 1908. Set in the heart of London's theatreland, close to Covent Garden, Sir Thomas Beecham, Elizabeth Taylor, Pavarotti, Pierce Brosnan and Dame Judi Dench are just a handful of show business icons that have stayed at the hotel. It is home to a tranquil indoor pool, a well-equipped gym, a striking new 1920's themed bar - Good Godfrey's - and the stylish Homage Restaurant.

DETAILS

Private Coach

This tour requires walking up to 10-15 blocks from the hotel to theaters/meals/exhibits. We'll provide a private coach for any event not within a reasonable walking distance from the hotel.

Meals

This tour includes a daily full English breakfast. The welcome, farewell and optional dinners will be perfectly coordinated with the shows we'll be seeing that evening, finalized 90 days before departure. Restaurants on past Insider tours have included Brumus at the Haymarket Hotel, House at the National Theatre, Homage at the Waldorf Hilton, and Eneko at One Aldwych.

Gratuities

We generously tip all service staff on your behalf – you'll never have to worry about it.

Cost

The cost of this tour is \$4,950, based upon double occupancy, and includes a \$500 tax deductible donation to the Olney Theatre Center (\$4,450 + \$500 donation). A deposit of \$1,200 is due no later than **July 10, 2017**, and the final payment of \$3,750 is due by **August 19, 2017**. The single supplement is \$1,046.

SCHEDULE

Monday, October 23

Today is reserved for individual arrivals at the **Waldorf Hilton**, a luxury 5-star hotel in Theatreland, Aldwych, London. For those who arrive early, you'll receive a complimentary Afternoon Tea at the Waldorf – unwind with a glass of champagne and an exceptional variety of teas, finger sandwiches, scones and pastries, and meet your fellow tour members.

Tuesday, October 24

Late Morning

Join us in the Mackenzie Suite at the Waldorf Hilton, where Michael Billington of *The Guardian* will give us an overview of the shows we'll be seeing this week, in a discussion moderated by Jason Loewith.

Welcome Dinner

We'll have a chance to introduce ourselves at a great restaurant near this evening's performance.

Evening Performance 1

Wednesday, October 25

Late Morning

Join a discussion about the London theater scene, moderated by Jason Loewith, with perhaps a playwright whose play we'll see this week.

Optional Dinner 1

You're invited to join us for a pre-theatre dinner tonight close to our show.

Evening Performance 2

Thursday, October 26

Morning

Perhaps we'll have an intimate discussion with a leading actor from a play we'll be seeing this week, moderated by Jason Loewith.

Optional Dinner 2

If you're free, please join us for another fun get-together, a pre-theater fête at a top-notch restaurant.

Evening Performance 3

Friday, October 27

Morning and Afternoon

You're free today to do something on your own. You might want to take in the Churchill War Rooms or a tour of Borough Market (great for foodies). Then again, there are some fabulous shopping tours in London.

Dinner

We encourage guests to organize dinners on their own depending on their choice of activity during the day. If there is an interest in a group dinner, we will be happy to coordinate.

Optional Evening Performance 4

Saturday, October 28

Morning

Our discussion today will be your chance to weigh in, share your thoughts, questions and insights about all the shows we've seen so far.

Farewell Dinner

Join us for a great dining experience at a restaurant near our last show, and toast new and old friends goodbye.

Evening Performance 5

Sunday, October 29

Individual departures.

TRIP LEADERS

Jason Loewith, Co-Tour Leader

Jason has been the Artistic Director of Olney Theatre since 2013. At Olney, he's directed *Sweeney Todd*, *Angels in America, Part I: Millenium Approaches*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Carousel*, *Rancho Mirage*, *Avenue Q*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He won Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle, and Jeff Awards for Best New Musical *Adding Machine: A Musical*, which he co-wrote with Joshua Schmidt and has been produced all over the world, including last year's production at the Finborough Theatre in London. He's directed more than 30 plays, written a handful, managed or produced hundreds and done just about every other job there is to do in a theater. He's a three-time grantee from the NEA for Artistic Excellence, a recipient of support from the Rockefeller MAP Fund and MacArthur's International Connections Fund, and a TCG New Generations Future Leaders Grant. In 2015, he received the Montgomery County Executive's Award for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities. He serves on the Board of Governors for theatreWashington and serves as a board member for Dog & Pony Theatre Co.

Debbie Ellinghaus, Co-Tour Leader

Debbie has been Managing Director of Olney Theatre since 2014. Before then, she held positions at the University of Maryland, Yale Repertory Theatre, Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre, the Guggenheim Museum, and International Management Group (IMG) where she began her career as a Marketing Assistant. She also had a brief stint as an actress and trained with master teachers George Morrison, Mike Nichols and Paul Sills at the New Actors Workshop in New York, NY. At Olney Theatre, she partners with Artistic Director Jason Loewith to lead the staff and execute the mission and vision of the Theatre. She also serves as a liaison to Olney Theatre's Board of Directors, of which she is an ex-officio member. Since 2013, Debbie has served as Chair of the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission, a not-for-profit organization that helps to preserve the cultural significance of Merriweather Post Pavilion. She was recently elected to the boards of Medstar Montgomery Medical Center and the Olney Chamber of Commerce.

James Ryan, Insider Cultural Tours, Tour Host

James Ryan is a playwright, screenwriter and film director. The former Chair of the Graduate Dramatic Writing Program at the Actors Studio/New School University, he teaches in the graduate dramatic writing program at Rutgers University. He is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, McKnight Foundation, and the Drama League Award. He studied acting with Uta Hagen, and playwrighting with Curt Dempster, Romulus Linney and Irene Fornes.