

**WESTON PLAYHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY**  
**LONDON THEATRE TOUR**  
**November 7 - 16, 2017**

**DRAFT ITINERARY**

*All events subject to change, owing to performance schedules and availability of guest speakers.*

**Tuesday 7 November**

- 8:10am *We recommend Flight BA238/AA6175, departing Boston Logan for London Heathrow. Steve Stettler will be on this flight and will meet all tour members at the gate. Members arriving at other times/from other airports must arrange their own transport to the hotel.*
- 7:30pm **Arrive** at Heathrow Terminal 5 and transfer by private coach to **The Montague on the Gardens**, a 4-star hotel adjacent to the famed British Museum in tranquil, park-filled Bloomsbury. With its historic Georgian architecture and handsomely landscaped private gardens, the Montague offers maximum comfort and superior service within easy access of London's main attractions. Rooms available for **check-in** upon arrival.
- 10pm **Welcome**: We gather in the conservatory with Tour Director Giles Ramsay for drinks and a late bite to eat, as he distributes tickets and welcome packets and provides a **briefing** on all aspects of the tour.

**Wednesday 8 November**

- 10:30am **Lecture**: Giles will present a brief introduction to some of the theatre we will be seeing over the next week, followed by an optional **walking tour** of the neighborhood, pointing out ATM's, tube stations, shops, cafes, and other favorite spots.
- 1:30pm Coach departs for **Performance One**: Perhaps a production at the **Almeida Theatre** in Islington or the **Hampstead Theatre**, former fringe companies that are now the hottest tickets in town, often transferring their latest hits to the West End and Broadway. The Almeida and the Hampstead attract major artists and a hip, vibrant audience to their intimate and contemporary spaces and tony London neighborhoods. Followed by a brief **post-performance discussion** with a member of the cast.
- 7:30pm Coach departs for a convivial **Welcome Dinner**, perhaps at **Cinnamon Bazaar**. This is the latest posh restaurant opened by Indian chef Vivek Singh who mixes real Indian heritage with urban London. We will enjoy a tasting menu in their upstairs private room in the heart of Covent Garden (plenty of choices for the spice-challenged palate!).

**Thursday 9 November**

- 10am **The State We Are In**. We meet in the conservatory with a **leading political journalist** to discuss British, European, and American politics, including Brexit and the recent British General Election – always a lively and thought-provoking exchange.

*AFTERNOON FREE – a perfect time to take in an exhibition at a favorite museum.*

6:30pm Coach departs for **Performance Two: OF KITH AND KIN** at the smartly renovated **Bush Theatre**, a famed home for new plays in Shepherd's Bush. Daniel and Oliver are about to have their first baby with their best friend, Priya, as surrogate. When Daniel's mother gatecrashes the baby shower with a few home truths, the cracks in their relationship begin to show. Are they as ready for this as they think they are? And more important, is Priya? Everyone knows you can choose your friends. Chris Thompson's gripping new comedy explores what happens when we choose our family, too.

### **Friday 10 November**

9:45am Coach departs for a private tour of **Highgate Cemetery** in North London. A stunning extravaganza of high Victoriana, this Grade I listed site of historic interest is now the home of Karl Marx, George Elliot, and George Michael. We will enjoy **a sandwich lunch** in one of London's oldest pubs, **The Spaniards Inn** on Hampstead Heath, which has been the drinking hole of the city's great and good including Dickens and Keats. In the afternoon we take a private tour of one of London's hidden gems – **Kenwood House** – with its stunning art collection, tranquil gardens, and a Robert Adam library.

6:30pm Coach departs **Performance Three: YOUNG MARX** at London's newest theatre, **The Bridge**. It's 1850, and Europe's most feared terrorist is hiding in Soho. Broke, restless and horny, the thirty-two-year-old revolutionary is a frothing combination of intellectual brilliance, invective, satiric wit, and child-like emotional illiteracy. His writing blocked, his marriage dying, his friend Engels in despair at his wasted genius, his only hope is a job on the railway. But there's still no one in the capital who can show you a better night on the piss than Karl Heinrich Marx. *Young Marx* reunites the creative team behind Richard Bean's smash hit *One Man, Two Guvnors*, with direction by Sir Nicholas Hytner.

### **Saturday 11 November**

10am **Discussion Session with Steve Stettler**. A chance to talk with members of the group about the first three productions we have seen. Compare opinions and sharpen your critical skills in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere. Followed at 11am by a **Guest Speaker**, an actor, director, playwright or designer from one of our chosen productions.

1:00pm Coach departs for **Performance Four: The National Theatre Production of OSLO** at the **Harold Pinter Theatre** on the West End. In 1993, in front of the world's press, the leaders of Israel and Palestine shook hands on the lawn of the White House. Few watching would have guessed that the negotiations leading up to this iconic moment started secretly in a castle in the middle of a forest outside Oslo. Based on the true story of the groundbreaking Oslo Peace Accords, Bartlett Sher's acclaimed production of this new play by J.T. Rogers sets a deeply personal story against an epic historical landscape.

*EVENING FREE – perhaps enjoy a special dinner at one of London's fine restaurants and/or a West End hit of your own choosing.*

### **Sunday 12 November**

10:30am Depart by coach for an 11:30am Sunday morning **Coffee Concert** at the famed **Wigmore Hall**, an exquisite Renaissance style concert hall built by the Bechstein piano family. Your choice of complementary coffee or sherry following the concert.

*AFTERNOON and EVENING FREE – we'll provide a list of attractions, exhibits and performances available at this time.*

### **Monday 13 November**

*MORNING & AFTERNOON FREE – a good time for a quick day trip out of London.*

6:00pm Coach departs for **Performance Five: THE SUPPLIANT WOMEN** by Aeschylus in a new version by David Greig at **the Young Vic**, one of London's most vital fringe theatres. Fifty women leave everything behind to board a boat in North Africa. They are escaping forced marriage, hoping for protection and assistance, seeking asylum in Greece. Written 2,500 years ago, one of the world's oldest plays speaks to us through the ages with startling resonance for our troubled times.

### **Tuesday 14 November**

10:30am Meet with a **Guest Speaker** linked to one of the productions that we will be seeing.

*AFTERNOON FREE – perhaps to visit an historic site or enjoy a London Walk.*

6:30pm Coach departs for **Performance Six: The Royal Shakespeare Company's CORIOLANUS at the Barbican Centre**. A full-throttle war play that revels in the sweat of the battlefield, Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* transports us back to the emergence of the republic of Rome. Caius Martius Coriolanus is a fearless soldier but a reluctant leader. His ambitious mother attempts to carve him a path to political power, but he struggles to change his nature and do what is required to achieve greatness. In this new city state struggling to find its feet, where the gap between rich and poor is widening every day, Coriolanus must decide who he really is and where his allegiances lie.

### **Wednesday 15 November**

10:30am **Discussion Session with Steve Stettler** a chance to discuss the last three plays we've seen. Followed by the ever-popular **Critical Round-Up**, where you can compare your views with one of London's leading reviewers (finish 12:30pm).

*AFTERNOON FREE – a last chance to shop, take in a matinee, or begin to pack.*

6:45pm We travel by coach for a sumptuous **Farewell Dinner**, perhaps at **The Goring Hotel**, the last remaining family-owned hotel in London, **located** in the shadow of Buckingham Palace in elegant Belgravia. With its Michelin starred restaurant, the 5-star Goring is the only hotel to have been awarded a Royal Warrant by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Enjoy a final opportunity to share the company of friends both old and new and to toast a memorable time together in London.

### **Thursday 16 November**

8:00am **Departure for US** (*coaching guaranteed only to coincide with the recommended group flight*). Luggage outside rooms at 7am for porter pick-up, then an 8am coach departure for the airport, with check-in assistance from Giles and Steve. Group flight BA213/AA6164 departs 11:20am for Boston, arriving 2:00pm.

**LONDON THEATRE TOUR**  
*prepared expressly for the*  
**WESTON PLAYHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY**

**SUMMARY**

- DATES** November 7 - 16, 2017
- ACCOMMODATION** 9 nights in classic doubles at The Montague on the Gardens, London
- FOOD & DRINK** Full English breakfast daily  
Welcome dinner  
Lunch at the Spaniards Inn  
Farewell dinner
- PERFORMANCES (6)** A production at the Almeida or Hampstead Theatre  
OF KITH AND KIN at the Bush Theatre  
YOUNG MARX at the Bridge Theatre  
The National Theatre's OSLO on the West End  
THE SUPPLIANT WOMEN at the Young Vic  
The RSC's CORIOLANUS at the Barbican Centre
- DISCUSSIONS (8)** Lecture with Giles Ramsay  
The State We Are In: Journalist TBA  
2 Group Discussions with Steve Stettler  
3 Meetings with actors and other theatre artists  
Critical Round-Up
- OTHER EVENTS (2)** Concert TBA  
Private Tours of Highgate Cemetery and Kenwood House
- COACHING** To and from London airport for one recommended group flight only, all sight-seeing excursions, and all events not within easy walking distance of the hotels. Please note we do not provide coaching to optional events, or to or from the airport for flights other than the recommended flight.

**ABOUT OUR TOUR GUIDE**

*Our professional tour guide will again be **Giles Ramsay**. A former director of London Arts Discovery Tours, Giles runs independent cultural tours for North American non-profit theatres and for the U.S.-based Elderhostel/Road Scholar. He is the Founding Director of Developing Artists which specializes in creating new work with artists in developing countries. A Fellow of St. Chad's College, Durham University, Giles is Course Leader in Theatre at The Victoria and Albert Museum in London.*

[www.gilesramsay.co.uk](http://www.gilesramsay.co.uk)