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## SMITH COLLEGE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

### 3rd THEATRE INSIGHT TOUR

#### LONDON

16 – 22 March 2008

#### PROPOSED ITINERARY

***Please Note:** All events are subject to change due to performance schedules and availability of guest speakers.*

#### Sunday 16 March

- am **Individual Arrivals.** Check into **The Cavendish Hotel**, 81 Jermyn Street SW1Y 6JF, a four-star luxury hotel in the heart of St. James's , the most elegant part of the West End, with easy access to theatres and restaurants. In the late 19th Century, the hotel was run by Rosa Lewis - the famous "Duchess of Duke Street" and sometime acquaintance of Edward VII - and today, having been completely refurbished, offers a discreet and stylish service within a moments walk of Piccadilly Circus or Green Park.
- 5:00pm **Reception and Briefing.** A detailed look at the Itinerary, and the highlights of the week; how to enjoy London in the best possible way, from extra performances, exhibitions, and recommended restaurants. In the Stratus Meeting Room at the hotel.  
Followed by

## Sunday 16 March

### **Introductory Lecture** by *Professor LUC GILLEMAN*.

7:30pm **Welcome Dinner**, in the private room Quaglino's, Terence Conran's dazzling recreation of the haunt of high society.

## Monday 17 March

10:00am **Britain Now**. An in-depth look at the country you are visiting, and especially its relations with USA. What difference has Gordon Brown made, now that he is Prime Minister? What of the Presidential hopefuls in USA? A fascinating discussion with *DAVID WALKER* of The Guardian and the BBC.

### *AFTERNOON FREE*

5:00pm **Wine and canapés**, with alumnae guests from the Smith London theatre group  
**Lecture2: Professor LUC GILLEMAN** introduces **THE HOMECOMING**. In the Electra Meeting Room at the hotel. Ends at 6.30pm.

7:30pm **PERFORMANCE 1: THE HOMECOMING** by Harold Pinter.  
Michael Attenborough directs Kenneth Cranham, Neil Dudgeon, Nigel Lindsay and Anthony O'Donnell in Pinter's chilling classic, which was premiered at the RSC in 1965.  
At the Almeida Theatre.

## Tuesday 18 March

11:30am **Hidden Spaces of St Paul's Cathedral**. An insider's tour of parts of the Cathedral not normally open to the public, including the beautiful Wren Library, the Geometric Staircase, and the Great Model Room. Arranged by Smith alumna, Kim Albright.

### *AFTERNOON FREE*

7.30pm **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING** by William Shakespeare. Directed by Nicholas Hytner, with Zoe Wanamaker and Simon Russell Beale as Beatrice and Benedick. In the Olivier Theatre, National Theatre.

## Tuesday 18 March

10:50pm **Post-performance Discussion** with **ZOE WANAMAKER** who plays Beatrice in the production. In the Ashcroft Room at the NT.

## Wednesday 19 March

am **Private Visit to Southside House.** This private family house was built in the Dutch style in 1687 by Robert Pennington who fought for the Cavaliers in the English Civil War and is still lived in by his descendants. An extraordinary home in south London, Southside has hosted guests ranging from Nelson to the Hanoverian Prince of Wales to the widowed Queen of Serbia as well as numerous escapees from the French Revolution. Decorated in the most eccentric and eclectic manner imaginable the house is lit by candle light and log fires which adds to its totally unique atmosphere.

**Lunch TBD.**

3pm Tea by kind invitation of Liz Pinto '58, whose home, situated in a building designed by award winning architect Sir Norman Foster, affords stunning views across the Thames to Chelsea.

## Thursday 20 March

*MORNING FREE*

3pm **Lecture 3** by *Professor LUC GILLEMAN*. Followed by

4pm **Celebrity Tea.** Traditional afternoon tea with as special guest one of the **LEADING ACTORS** from one of the plays in our programme.

7:30pm **SPEED-THE-PLOW** by David Mamet  
Jeff Goldblum joins the Old Vic's Artistic Director Kevin Spacey to play greedy Hollywood producer Bobby Gould who, in planning his next film, is torn between making art versus money in a battle involving fellow producer Charlie Fox (Spacey) and a beautiful secretary (Laura Michelle Kelly). Directed by Matthew Warchus.  
At the Old Vic.

## Friday 21 March

10:30am **Critical Round-up** : a chance to compare your views of what we have seen this week with one of London's leading theatre critics, **MICHAEL BILLINGTON** of The Guardian. In the Stratus Meeting Room at the hotel.

*AFTERNOON FREE*

7:30pm **PERFORMANCE 4: THE GOD OF CARNAGE** by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton  
Matthew Warchus (Art) directs Ralph Fiennes (Stage : Hamlet, Richard II, Brand; Film : Schindler's List, The Constant Gardener, The English Patient) in this new comedy , in which he plays the lawyer father of a 9-year-old boy who has hit another child in the playground. The victim's parents have invited the lawyer and his wife round to discuss the matter. With Tamsin Greig, Janet McTeer and Ken Stott.  
At the Gielgud Theatre.

**Farewell Drinks** in the Stratus Meeting Room at the hotel.

## Saturday 22 March

am **Individual Departures for USA.**

*25 February 2008*