



Press Release: Wednesday 16 March 2011

## Theatreland Walking Tours – booking now open!

**An exciting opportunity to hear the history of some of London's best loved theatres**

Booking is now open for the Society of London Theatre's popular annual season of Theatreland Walking Tours, offering the public a wonderful opportunity to learn about the history of some of London's best-loved performance venues.

Led by Blue Badge Guide Diane Burstein, and covering London's theatrical history from court masques to the present day, the brand new route for 2011 starts south of the river in what was once a centre of music halls and variety theatres. Discover how the Old Vic's formidable manager Lilian Baylis brought Shakespeare and the classics to South London before moving on via the Young Vic to the National Theatre via some atmospheric Georgian backstreets. Then cross the Thames to Covent Garden, the West End's first Theatreland.

Featured sites include London's oldest playhouse, the theatre which was once the home to actor/composer Ivor Novello, another which played host to London's shortest lived play and the one where a bag of sweets gained you admission!

The tours will take place on the following Sundays: 17 April, 22 and 29 May, 12 and 19 June, 3 and 10 July, 14 August, 11 and 25 September. The tour starts at 2.30pm at a central location and last approximately two hours. It costs £9.50 per person and payment must be made in advance by credit/debit card or cheque. No refunds or exchanges will be given.

The tours on 22 May and 14 August will be accompanied by sign-language interpreter Stephen Hudson, Director of Hudson Interpreting Services Ltd.

To make a booking email [walkingtours@soltma.co.uk](mailto:walkingtours@soltma.co.uk) or telephone the Society of London Theatre on 020 7557 6700.

<http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/activities-events/theatreland-walking-tours/>

**\* SPECIAL OFFER\***

**Book three or more places in one booking before 31 March & receive a £10 Theatre Token.**

– ENDS –

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

- The tours are led by London Blue Badge Guide Diane Burstein. She made a name for herself with her Secret London feature on London's principal talk radio station LBC 97.3 FM and is the author of a successful book 'London Then and Now'. [www.secretlondonwalks.co.uk](http://www.secretlondonwalks.co.uk)
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- The tours on 22 May and 14 August will be accompanied by sign-language interpreter Stephen Hudson, Director of Hudson Interpreting Services Ltd. [www.hudsonis.biz](http://www.hudsonis.biz)
- The tour is wheelchair accessible – please let us know at the time of booking.
- Each tour has a maximum of 30 places and is recommended as suitable for ages 12+.
- The tour does not involve backstage tours of any of the theatres and will go ahead if it rains.