



Press release: Weds 30 November 2011

## **SOLT works with TfL to ensure London's theatres remain 'open for business' during Games-time**

- **Society of London Theatre has worked with Transport for London to produce Games-time travel guide for London's theatre goers**
- **Proximity of West End theatres to mainline rail stations coupled with later running Tube trains during Olympic Games will make it easier than ever for people to enjoy a night out at London's theatres**
- **29 shows are already taking bookings for next summer**

The Society of London Theatre (SOLT) and Transport for London (TfL) have today (30 November) released a special travel guide for theatre goers during next summer's Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is available on the Official London Theatre website ([www.officallondontheatre.co.uk/theatre2012](http://www.officallondontheatre.co.uk/theatre2012)) and on the TfL website ([www.tfl.gov.uk/2012](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/2012)) and will be rolled out across the theatre industry.

The guide, which features top tips for journey planning, ordering tickets and making the most of a trip to the theatre, has been made available on the same day that TfL has released key London 2012 Games transport 'hotspot' information and advice. Taken together, they will help both theatres and theatre goers consolidate their plans for next summer's fantastic spectacle of sporting *and* cultural opportunities.

Julian Bird, Chief Executive of the Society of London Theatre, said: "I am delighted to be working closely with Transport for London to ensure that audiences have the most accurate information possible for planning their trip to the theatre during the Olympic period. Twenty nine productions have already announced that they will be playing next summer and advances for 2012 are looking strong. A trip to one of London's world famous shows is a great addition to any Olympic itinerary or the perfect antidote to a summer of sport."

The detailed analysis published by TfL today gives a very clear picture of how London will be affected during the Games. The analysis reveals that the impacts on transport networks and stations will be at certain times and in certain locations. Key stations serving the West End will be open with no additional disruption expected for the vast majority of the day. By careful planning customers should be able to avoid these 'hot spot' areas at their most pressurised points during the day. A trip to the theatre after work or following a Games event could be the perfect way for London's commuters and visitors to avoid the most affected areas.

London's Transport Commissioner, Peter Hendy, said: "We have two clear objectives at TfL; to support the delivery of a great London 2012 Games and ensure we keep London moving and open for business next summer. With 95 per cent of West End theatres a 15 minute walk, or less, from

mainline stations, and with Tube trains running an hour later during the Olympics, there's every reason for people to head to the theatres in their droves next summer."

## Ends

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### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. The Society of London Theatre (SOLT) is the association which represents the producers, theatre owners and managers of the 52 major commercial and grant-aided theatres in central London. The organisation exists in order to promote theatregoing, develop audiences, and to serve, protect and promote the interests of those engaged in theatre across London, through activities including The Olivier Awards with MasterCard, **tkts** ticket booth, the Official London Theatre guide, Theatre Tokens and the annual promotions Kids Week in the West End and Get Into London Theatre.
2. The Official London Theatre and TfL 'London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games travel guide' is available on the Official London Theatre website ([www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/theatre2012](http://www.officiallondontheatre.co.uk/theatre2012)) and on the TfL website ([www.tfl.gov.uk/2012](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/2012)) and will be rolled out across the theatre industry.
3. A list of shows taking bookings for summer 2012 can be found here: <http://officiallondontheatre.co.uk/theatre2012/shows/>
4. The road and public transport 'hotspot' information and travel advice published by TfL is available at [www.tfl.gov.uk/2012](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/2012);
5. An updated set of this information, including weekend data for stations, will be released by TfL in January, following confirmation of the detailed impact of road events;
6. Around 70 per cent of road traffic in Greater London will be unaffected and two thirds of Tube stations will see no impact, in terms of additional time taken to board a train. However, on the busiest days, there will be an additional three million journeys in London as people watch the Games and attend cultural events, meaning the road and public transport networks will be much busier than usual in certain locations.
7. The road and Tube station 'hotspot' maps and accompanying travel advice are based on the latest data and information on which TfL is developing its own operational transport plans. On the roads, the maps show the impact for each day of the Games and on the days immediately preceding, including the Torch Relay. Alongside the road 'hotspot' maps, TfL has developed an online road journey planning tool, available at [www.tfl.gov.uk/2012](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/2012), which shows the additional journey time for those road journeys that really must be undertaken at the busiest times and in the busiest locations, such as the delivery of perishable goods.
8. 95 per cent of West End theatres are 15 minutes walk or less from mainline rail stations:

Theatre	Nearest mainline station	Walking time
Apollo Victoria	Victoria	>1 min
Victoria Palace	Victoria	1 min
London Coliseum	Charing Cross	2 mins
Playhouse	Charing Cross	2 mins

Trafalgar Studios	Charing Cross	2 mins
Duke of York	Charing Cross	3 mins
Garrick	Charing Cross	3 mins
Old Vic	Waterloo	3 mins
Adelphi	Charing Cross	4 mins
Theatre Royal Haymarket	Charing Cross	4 mins
Vaudeville	Charing Cross	4 mins
Her Majesty's	Charing Cross	5 mins
National Theatre	Waterloo	5 mins
Noel Coward	Charing Cross	5 mins
Savoy	Charing Cross	5 mins
Wyndham's	Charing Cross	5 mins
Comedy	Charing Cross	6 mins
Prince of Wales	Charing Cross	6 mins
Lyceum	Charing Cross	7 mins
Ambassadors	Charing Cross	8 mins
Criterion	Charing Cross	8 mins
Duchess	Charing Cross	8 mins
Novello	Charing Cross	8 mins
St Martin's	Charing Cross	8 mins
Cambridge	Charing Cross	9 mins
Theatre Royal Drury Lane	Charing Cross	9 mins
Queen's	Charing Cross	9 mins
Royal Opera House	Charing Cross	9 mins
Aldwych	Charing Cross	10 mins
Apollo	Charing Cross	10 mins
Donmar Warehouse	Charing Cross	10 mins
Fortune	Charing Cross	10 mins
Gielgud	Charing Cross	10 mins
Lyric	Charing Cross	10 mins
Palace	Charing Cross	10 mins
Piccadilly	Charing Cross	10 mins
Phoenix	Charing Cross	11 mins
Prince Edward	Charing Cross	11 mins
Shakespeare's Globe	London Bridge	11 mins
New London	Charing Cross	13 mins
Peacock	Charing Cross	13 mins
Shaftesbury	Charing Cross	13 mins
Dominion	Charing Cross	15 mins
Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park	Marylebone	18 mins
London Palladium*	Charing Cross	21 mins

\*The closest Tube station to the London Palladium is Oxford Circus and TfL is predicting very little additional disruption at this station during Games-time.