THE 11TH OCCIDENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION’S LONDON THEATER TOUR

DEAR TIGERS,

Omar Paxson ’48, Professor Emeritus, Theater Arts and Rhetoric, created the first Oxy seven years ago. Sadly, Oxy’s much loved professor passed away in December. In honor of Omar and the tradition he started, we have planned this stress-free London tour will offer the best seats available to exceptional shows and cultural events, and private meetings with leading artists and theater practitioners. This trip will sell out fast, so please join us in London over the New Year, and reserve your spot today!

Exploring London
We’ll take 2 private tours of exceptional London venues that will give you a greater insight into the city’s cultural scene. In the past, we have chosen must-see exhibitions at the National Gallery, Saatchi Gallery, Tate Modern and the British Museum, among others.

Roundtable Discussions
We’ll have 5 intimate roundtable discussions with established London theatre professionals. There are bound to be differences of opinion about any show we see together, and we encourage our tour members to share their different opinions with an open mind. Rest assured our discussions will be fun and lively, and they just might help you learn something new and unexpected.

Our exciting tour is sure to provide a transformative experience that offers fresh perspectives, an insider connection to the London cultural scene, and lasting memories.

Dining
We’ll have a festive dinner to welcome in the New Year with a champagne toast and celebration at the Waldorf Hilton’s Homage restaurant (Winner of Trip Advisor’s Certificate of Excellence 2013). And welcome and farewell dinners at other exceptional restaurants in London. Your hotel accommodations include a hearty, Full English breakfast each day.

Private Coach
A private coach will be available for all the scheduled shows, exhibitions and other events. Insider Cultural Tours organizes for this London tour.

Airfare
In the past, many tour members preferred to use their airline rewards and other advantages to book their own flights to London. We will offer the same flexibility on the London 2014 tour. At the same time, Insider Cultural Tours will organize a group flight from Los Angeles to London. The current quote for an economy roundtrip flight from Los Angeles to London is $1,257. Please contact us for further information if you’d like to participate in this group flight option.

The Shows
We’ll get the best seats available to 5 of the hottest shows in London. If you choose the optional show we offer, you’ll feast on a total of 6 productions while in London. Past hit shows on Insider London Theater Tours have included War Horse, Ralph Fiennes in Oedipus, Sir Derek Jacobi in Twelfth Night, Michael Gambon in No Man’s Land, Richard Griffiths in Twelfth Night, among other exceptional productions at venues such as the Royal Court, The National Theatre, The Old Vic, Minerva Chocolate Factory, Almeida and Tricycle Theatres.

Since most London theatres don’t announce their shows until 90 days before previews, we’ll be making our final selections later on in the year. But rest assured we’ll have our ear to the ground, secure the best London has to offer, and keep you updated.

Tour Leadership
Alan Freeman, an Emeritus Professor of Theater at Occidental College where he continues to direct plays and teach courses. Freeman holds an MFA in Film Directing from the American Film Institute (AFI), and A.B., 1966, M.A., 1967, Occidental College. Freeman has directed over seventy plays, musicals and operas; acted in more than sixty plays and films; written two full-length plays and directed short films; and pursues a career as a director, writer, actor, producer and filmmaker.

The Master Builder, Twelfth Night, Red, The Pitman Painters, One Man, Two Guvnors, Mark Rylance and Stephen Fry in Twelfth Night, among other exceptional productions at venues such as the Royal Court, The National Theatre, The Old Vic, Minerva Chocolate Factory, Almeida and Tricycle Theatres.

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TRIP ITINERARY

Sunday, December 28
Arrive today at the Waldorf Hilton, a luxury 5-star hotel in Theatreland, and check in.

Monday, December 29
In the late morning, we’ll have a discussion with a leading London theatre critic, who will give us an overview of the shows we’ll see in London. This evening, we’ll have a welcome dinner, and then perhaps head across the Waterloo Bridge to the National Theatre to see a new play or hit revival. We’ll return to the hotel for our post-performance discussion.

Tuesday, December 30
After breakfast, we’ll have a discussion with perhaps actors from a production we’ll be seeing this day. Afterwards, perhaps we’ll head over to the Tate Modern to see late Turner. Painting Set Free the first major exhibition to survey the achievements of the last works of J.M.W. Turner. This evening, perhaps we’ll go to the Royal Court Theatre, Britain’s leading company dedicated to new works, to see a world premiere. Then we’ll cap off the evening with another post-performance discussion.

Wednesday, December 31
With a return visit to the London theatre professional – perhaps the Artistic Director of an exciting company. You can take advantage of the optional show today – perhaps a West End musical. Then this evening, join us for a New Year’s Eve dinner and celebration at the Homage in the Waldorf Hilton – and let’s dance the night away.

Thursday, January 1
The morning is free, and today we’ll see our 3rd play on this trip, perhaps at the Menier Chocolate Factory, which the London Evening Standard calls “one of the most dynamic fringe venues in London.” After the show, we’ll have a post-performance discussion at the hotel.

Friday, January 2
Today we might explore what it’s like for an emerging playwright in UK with our morning discussion. This afternoon, we’ll see another exceptional exhibition, perhaps at the National Portrait Gallery or the British Museum. Our show tonight might be a West End hit, which will be followed by a lively post-performance discussion.

Saturday, January 3
Our morning discussion today will be all about you. You get to chime in after reflecting on your viewing feast in London this week, and share your thoughts with your fellow tour members. In this final discussion, it’s always interesting to see how many tour members have altered or completely reversed their opinions about shows they saw in London. Tonight, we’ll gather for a wonderful farewell dinner at a great restaurant near the show we’ll be seeing – perhaps at the Almeida or the Bush theatres.

Sunday, January 4
Individual departures for the U.S.

A private coach will take those on the group flight to the airport.

Terms and Conditions

Payment Schedule
$4,395 per person based on double occupancy. Add $1,358 per person if requesting a single room. Deposit of $1,000 per person due before July 15, 2014. Final payment of $3,195 due NO LATER THAN October 15, 2014.

What is Included
- 7 nights at the Waldorf Hilton
- Daily Full English Breakfast
- Welcome dinner
- New Year’s Celebration Dinner and entertainment at the Waldorf Hilton’s Honigton Grand Salon
- A Farewell fete at an outstanding London restaurant
- Best seats available to 5 London shows (tickets to an optional show will be available for purchase)
- Private tours of 2 exceptional London exhibitions
- 5 roundtable discussions with leading London critics, playwrights, directors, actors and arts professionals
- 5 post-performance discussions
- Private coach to and from each theater
- Pre-tour luncheon at Occidental College
- All tips and gratuities
- 24/7 assistance by Insider Cultural Tours

What is Not Included
- The COST DOES NOT INCLUDE GROUP AIRFARE, or any optional tickets, events, exhibits or services; meals not specified; any upgrades or changes to itinerary; personal items such as wines, liquors, a-la-carte entries, room service, and laundry/dry cleaning; charges incurred by Insider Cultural Tours in respect of any unaccompanied departures before or after the program; credit card transactions, and any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Gratuities and Service Charges
In order keep your trip hassle-free, all gratuities and service charges are included in the final price of this tour. Travelers will not be responsible or required to tip anyone at anytime.

Fares and Rates
All prices indicated in this brochure are final. Insider Cultural Tours will not increase the price under any circumstance.

Tour Manager
24/7 assistance from Insider Cultural Tours.

Group Airfare
Upon request, and pending the minimum requirements are met for a group flight, Insider Cultural Tours will provide you with a discounted group flight from Los Angeles to London (current quote is $1,257).

Baggage
The baggage is limited to one suitcase per person, not to exceed 29x14x10 inches. No garment bags or car sacks should be carried. It is recommended that you carry baggage insurance. Free baggage allowance includes up to 50 lbs. per person. One carry on is permitted. Carry on must be handled by passenger at all times.

Itinerary Changes/Guest Speakers
While every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, due to unforeseen schedule changes, the arrangement of guest speakers, guides, or other parties outside our control, any changes as described is subject to modification and change by Occidental College and Insider Cultural Tours.

Health Issues
- To fully enjoy the tour you should be in good physical and mental health. There is some walking required for this tour, and those with any infirmity, mental or physical condition, such as a heart condition or requiring walking aids, should take this into account before booking. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diets, or treatment must be reported in writing when the reservation is made. We reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a tour participant should such a person’s health, mental condition, physical condition, or any other reason preclude the operation of the tour or the enjoyment of other participants.

Responsibility
Occidental College Alumni Association is the sponsor of the tour. Insider Cultural Tours is its agent. Insider Cultural Tours and Occidental College Alumni Association act only as agents for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotels, and all matters of reservation and tour operation. We and our agents accept no responsibility for loss, damage, injury, accident, delay or irregularity, expense or liability caused by the defect of any vehicle or negligence or default or any independent contractors, their employees, agents, or representatives. Nor do we accept responsibility for any losses or damages arising from sickness, pilferage, acts of terrorism, weather conditions, acts or God’s. All such losses or expenses shall be borne by the tour participant at any time without notice. We reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We likewise reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any tour participant at any time without being under any obligation to assign any reason therefor. In the event of the exercise of this right, we shall be under no liability to such person(s) except to refund such amount as our absolute discretion deems reasonable to attribute to the uncompleted portion of the tour. Baggage is carried at the holder’s own risk. It is understood that air, ship, or train tickets when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the carrier concerned. All transportation and accommodation companies involved in this tour are not to be held responsible for any loss, omission, or event during the time the passenger is not on board their conveyances. The tour participant agrees on behalf of himself, his dependents, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the above conditions and to release and hold harmless, Insider Cultural Tours, Occidental College Alumni Association, and any of their representatives from any and all liability for any delays, damage, loss, injury or death occurring in relation to the tour.

Cancellations and Refunds
All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Insider Cultural Tours, and are subject to 50% of deposit ($500) to cover administrative costs and handling regardless of reason for cancellation. If cancellation is within 31 days of departure, it may result in additional fees, to cover liquidated damages, penalties, and arbitration costs incurred by Insider Cultural Tours on your behalf. Cancellation any time after 1st day of tour (December 28, 2014) no refund. Cancellation on the day of departure or after tour departs, no refund. No refund for unused portions of tour, including, but not limited to, missed meals, hotel rights, and sightseeing. Cancellation by Occidental College Alumni Association and Independent Cultural Tours after departure: full refund of all land fees, less the cost of service up to the time of the group’s return. In the event an insufficient number of participants desire to take the tour (minimum 20 paying passengers), Occidental College Alumni Association, or Insider Cultural Tours reserves the right to cancel the tour and refund all deposits without penalty. We strongly urge applicants consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance.

Single/Shared Rooms
A limited number of single rooms are available at extra cost ($3,158) on a first-come, first-served basis until availability cannot be guaranteed.