



OLNEY THEATRE CENTER

London Tour

October 14-20, 2019

Photo by Veliko Karachiev on Unsplash

For two seasons now, Olney Theatre has produced plays we first saw on our London Tour – including two American Premieres!

Join us this fall.

You might help shape an upcoming season!

5 Exceptional Shows

With Olney Theatre Artistic Director Jason Loewith to curate the experience and the team at Insider Cultural Tours to make the arrangements, we'll get the best seats available to the top shows in London. We look for new plays that take an artistic risk and speak to a diverse audience. Since most U.K. companies don't announce far in advance, we finalize our roster of 4 included shows and 1 optional about 90-70 days before departure. Besides the West End, we will focus on booking shows at the following theaters: Almeida, Bush, Donmar, Finborough, Hampstead, Menier Chocolate Factory, National Theatre, Royal Court, Soho, and Tricycle. A sampling of shows for past Olney tours include: *A Very Very Very Dark Matter*; *Every Brilliant Thing*; *Company*; *Follies* (with Patti LuPone); *King Lear* (starring Sir Ian McKellen); *Labour of Love*; *Stories*; *Oil*; *The Lie*; *Wings*; *Wise Children*; and *Young Marx*.

4 Discussions with Arts Professionals

Our intimate discussions with London arts professionals make this tour truly unique. You'll rub shoulders with working actors, directors, artistic directors, critics, and playwrights. They'll provide you with

invaluable context and knowledge about the British culture, and the inside scoop on the latest U.K. theatre trends. We aim to enlist guest speakers who will be collaborating with the Olney in the future and this is your chance to be there from the beginning of these partnerships. For instance, James Graham and Ella Hickson each joined us for a private discussion before Olney produced their plays *Labour of Love* and *Oil*. A partial list of other participants include: Michael Billington (*Guardian* critic), Jonny Donahoe (*Every Brilliant Thing*), Christopher Hampton (*Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *Sunset Boulevard*), Emily McLaughlin (National Theatre, Head of New Work Department), Emma Rice (Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe and Kneehigh), and Juliet Stevenson (Olivier Award for *Death and the Maiden*, BAFTA nomination for *Truly, Madly, Deeply*, *Mary Stuart*) We expect to finalize the discussion series 60-30 days before departure.

Private Post-Performance Discussions

We'll have a lively post-performance discussion at the Waldorf Hilton for every show we see.

Exhibitions

The exhibition or tour will also be finalized about 90 days before departure. Whenever possible, we book a private tour with an expert or docent.

Private Coach

For shows, exhibitions, group dinners, etc., which are not within reasonable walking distance of the hotels, we will provide a private coach for the group.

Meals

This tour includes a daily full English breakfast and a Welcome and Farewell Dinner. All meals will be finalized 60-50 days before departure. We will also offer two optional dinners. Restaurants on past tours have included Brumus at the Haymarket Hotel, House at the National Theatre, Homage at the Waldorf Hilton, Eneko at One Aldwych, Sarastro and The Laughing Gravy.

Gratuities

We will generously tip all service staff on your behalf.

Cost

The cost of this tour is \$4,949, which includes a \$350 donation to Olney Theatre Center. A deposit of \$1,200 per person is due to Olney Theatre Center no later than June 12, 2019. A final payment of \$3749 for each tour member is due no later than July 22, 2019. The single room supplement is \$1,135. The tour price is based upon double occupancy.

Tour Leadership:

Jason Loewith, Tour Curator and Leader

Jason has been the Artistic Director of Olney Theatre since 2013. At Olney, he's directed *On the Town*, *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Angels in America*, *Part I-Millennium Approaches*, *Marjorie Prime*, *Carousel*, *Rancho Mirage*, *Avenue Q* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Later this season he will direct his adaptation of *Mary Stuart*. He won Lucille Lortel, Outer Critics Circle and Jeff Awards for Best New Musical *Adding Machine: A Musical*, which he co-wrote with Joshua Schmidt and has been produced all over the world, including last year's production at the Finborough Theatre in

London. He's directed more than 30 plays, written a handful, managed or produced hundreds and done just about every other job there is to do in a theater. He's a three-time grantee from the NEA for Artistic Excellence, a recipient of support from the Rockefeller MAP Fund and MacArthur's International Connections Fund and a TCG New Generations Future Leaders Grant. In 2015, he received the Montgomery County Executive's Award for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities. He serves on the Board of Governors for theatreWashington and is a mentor at Best Kids.

Debbie Ellinghaus, Co-Tour Leader

Debbie has been Managing Director of Olney Theatre since 2014. Before then, she held positions at the University of Maryland/College of Arts and Humanities, Yale Repertory Theatre/Yale School of Drama, Jean Cocteau Repertory Theatre and the Guggenheim Museum. She also had a brief stint as an actress and trained with master teachers George Morrison, Mike Nichols and Paul Sills at the New Actors Workshop in New York, NY. At Olney Theatre, she partners with Artistic Director Jason Loewith to lead the staff and execute the mission and vision of the Theater. She also serves as a liaison to Olney Theatre's Board of Directors, of which she is an *ex officio* member. Since 2013, Debbie has served as Chair of the Downtown Columbia Arts and Culture Commission, a not-for-profit organization with a mission to preserve the cultural significance of Merriweather Post Pavilion. Additionally, she serves on the boards of Medstar Montgomery Medical Center and the Olney Chamber of Commerce.

Maureen McNeill, Tour Coordinator

A lifelong theatre-lover, Maureen became Olney Theatre's Development Director in 2017. As Development Director, she leads a team that inspires investment in the artistry and ambition of Olney Theatre. On this tour, she'll be your point of contact for each day's events.

James Ryan, Insider Cultural Tours, Tour Host

James Ryan is a playwright, screenwriter and film director, and founder of Insider Cultural Tours. The former Chair of the Graduate Dramatic Writing Program at the Actors Studio/New School University, Ryan taught for 15 years at the graduate dramatic writing program at Rutgers University. He is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, McKnight Foundation, and the Drama League Award.

Monday, October 14

Arrive today at the **Waldorf Hilton**, a luxury 5-star hotel in Theatreland, and check in. Waldorf Hilton, Aldwych, London, United Kingdom WC2B 4DD Tel: +44-207-836-2400. Your accommodation includes breakfast. We have worked with the hotel to ensure only the best rooms are selected for your stay.

Tuesday, October 15

Late Morning

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Michael Billington of *The Guardian* will give us an overview of the shows we'll be seeing this week, in a discussion moderated by Jason Loewith: Mackenzie Suite.

Welcome Dinner

Our Welcome Dinner will be at an exceptional restaurant either near the Waldorf Hilton or our show.

Evening Performance 1

We might see a West End satire by an emerging playwright.

Wednesday, October 16

Late Morning

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Join us for a discussion moderated by Jason Loewith, with perhaps the playwright whose play we saw last night: Mackenzie Suite.

Optional Dinner 1 (\$80 per person)

If you're free, please join us for a fun get-together, a pre-theater fête at a top-notch restaurant.

Evening Performance 2

Perhaps we'll take in a drama at the National Theatre.

Thursday, October 17

Late Morning

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Our discussion might be with a distinguished U.K. actor: Mackenzie Suite.

Optional Dinner 2 (\$80 per person)

You're invited to join us for a pre-theatre dinner tonight close to our show.

Optional Performance (cost TBD)

We might take in a play at the Hampstead or Almeida Theatre tonight.

Friday, October 18

Late Morning

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Jason Loewith moderates a discussion with a leading U.K. artistic director or producer: Mackenzie Suite.

Afternoon

We'll take a private tour of an exceptional exhibit, perhaps at the V & A or Serpentine.

Evening Performance 3

Perhaps we'll take in an edgy new play at the Bush Theatre.

Saturday, October 19

Morning

Your morning is free.

Farewell Dinner

We'll toast each other goodbye at an outstanding restaurant very near our show tonight.

Evening Performance 4

Perhaps we'll enjoy another West End must-see.

Sunday, October 20

Individual departures.