

SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR BLACK CAB DRIVERS AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

Regular readers of Taxi Globe will recall that drivers on The Cab Guide course run by The Worshipful Company of Hackney Drivers recently enjoyed a trip to the Science Museum. Now the Museum is inviting all cab drivers to visit The Wallace and Gromit exhibition free of charge. For this special one-off weekend, black cab drivers can get a free family ticket of up to four people which usually costs up to £30. Wallace and Gromit present a World of Cracking Ideas is located on the second floor of the Science Museum, but tickets can be obtained from any ticket desk. Entry to the exhibition is timed, so to avoid waiting we advise that you get tickets as early as possible in the day. Drivers will need to present their identity badges at ticket desks to claim free tickets.

For this special one-off weekend on the 16 and 17 May, black cab drivers can get a free family ticket of up to four people, which usually costs up to £30. Wallace and Gromit present a World of Cracking Ideas is located on the second floor of the Science Museum, but tickets can be obtained from any ticket desk. Entry to the exhibition is timed, so to avoid waiting we advise that you get tickets as early as possible in the day. Drivers will need to present their identity badges at ticket desks to claim free tickets.

WORLD OF CRACKING IDEAS

This fun, family-orientated show aims to appeal to all ages by telling the story of invention and innovation to inspire creativity and flair. The exhibition, which is a result of a partnership between the Science Museum, Aardman Animation and the Intellectual Property Office, takes visitors on a tour of 62 West Wallaby Street, the famous home of Wallace & Gromit. Here visitors can



take in objects from the Science Museum's collections, which reflect the spirit of innovation, whilst interacting with some of Wallace's own cracking contraptions such as the Tellyscope II, the Piella Propellor and the Blend-o-Matic. Visitors are encouraged to come up with their own creative ideas, which they can jot down and leave at 'Ideas Stations' located in the Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen,



Bathroom, Workshop and Garden. Each room in the house, from the kitchen to the garden shed, looks at a different aspect of the thinking process behind ideas and shows visitors how they can protect their intellectual property through patents, trademarks, designs and copyright, ensuring they derive maximum value from their ideas.



VISITING THE SCIENCE MUSEUM

To make the most of a visit to the Science Museum you can find out what else is on offer by looking at the website www.sciencemuseum.org.uk prior to your trip. The Science Museum is home to more than 15,000 objects spread over seven floors in a building ¼ mile long. It provides a fascinating insight into the worlds of science, technology, medicine and industry, and has a giant IMAX cinema and exhilarating simulator rides to make the Science Museum a thrilling day out. The Science Museum is free to enter and open seven days a week between 10.00 and 18.00.

LONDON'S THEATRE INDUSTRY WOOS TOURISTS

Taxi drivers often get passengers who just tell them the name of the show they are going to see. This summer will see lots of new shows coming to town, helping make sure the capital's theatre scene remains a key attraction for visitors to the UK, as well as those from home. A series of discounting, special packages and a major season of new productions and star names are set to attract millions of tourists. London theatre website Westendtheatre.com reports that big hitting stars and large scale musicals are lined up to showcase a range of new productions, including performances by Jude Law, Helen Mirren, Ethan Hawke, Gillian Anderson and Ian McKellen.

In drama, Jude Law will be taking to the stage in Shakespeare's most famous play, Hamlet, directed by Michael Grandage as part of his Donmar in the West End season, from 29 May at the Wyndham's Theatre. Helen Mirren returns to the London stage in Racine's tragic play Phedre at the National Theatre, and stage legends Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart are reunited after their onscreen roles in the X-Men movies to perform Waiting for Godot, now running at the Haymarket Theatre.

Talents from New York and London will converge at The Old Vic from 23 May for The Bridge Project - a three year partnership between The Old Vic, the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Neal Street Productions. Academy Award-winning director Sam Mendes will direct a new version of The Cherry Orchard plus Shakespeare's The Winter's Tale, in a cast that features Ethan Hawke, Simon Russell Beale, Sinead Cusack and recent star of Woody Allen's Vicky Christina Barcelona, Rebecca Hall.

Other notable players making their way to London include Gillian

Anderson, who will star in Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House at the Donmar Warehouse, joining a stellar cast that includes former Doctor Who Christopher Eccleston, Toby Stephens, Tara Fitzgerald and Anton Lesser. Musical theatre is firmly "based on a film" this year as a blockbuster stage production of Sister Act joins a West End brimming with adaptations of movies, including recent new show Priscilla Queen of the Desert starring Jason Donovan and long-runners such as Hairspray and Dirty Dancing. Running from 7 May at the London Palladium, Sister Act is produced by the film's original star Whoopi Goldberg and features Sheila Hancock and rising star Patina Miller, with music courtesy of Alan Menken (Disney's Beauty & The Beast).

Other movie-to-stage shows on the horizon include the Broadway production of Legally Blond opening at the Savoy Theatre at the end of the year and a stage adaptation of Oscar winning film Ghost, directed by Matthew Warchus, set for 2010. Chief amongst the new musicals opening in London in the later part of 2009 will be Andrew Lloyd Webber's world premiere of The Phantom of the Opera sequel Love Never Dies at the Adelphi Theatre in early November. The show is set to star current London Phantom Ramin Karimloo and will follow its London opening with productions in Toronto, Shanghai and Broadway. A number of shows that have run successfully in other venues are also making their way into the West End including the acclaimed production of Steven Sondheim's A Little Night Music starring Maureen Lipman at the Garrick Theatre, and smash-hit Broadway musical Spring Awakening - in a new UK production at the Novello Theatre.