



Brian Blessed, Stephen Mangan, Angellica Bell, Nish Kumar and many more to star in Museum of London's next major show

PRESS RELEASE

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Beasts of London

Museum of London

5 April 2019 - 5 January 2020

Family tickets from £20

The Museum of London today reveals some of the cast for its upcoming experience, **Beasts of London**, opening on 5 April 2019. In this family-friendly show, you will be able to come face to face with the animals that helped shape the city we know today. **Brian Blessed, Pam Ferris, Nish Kumar, Stephen Mangan, Angellica Bell** and **Joe Pasquale** will be voicing some of the animals who once roamed this city. **Beasts of London** is created in partnership with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, with students from the school voicing other characters; its production artists are designing the experience and its composers creating the musical soundtrack.

Brian Blessed, who has voiced Grampy Rabbit in *Peppa Pig*, Enormo Dad Eduardo in *Henry Hugglemonster* for Disney and 'The Nekross King' in *Wizards v Aliens* for the BBC, will voice the Bacterium in **Beasts of London**. Not just any bacterium though, this bacterium was fundamental in spreading the plague across London and caused outbreaks such as the Black Death and the Great Plague of the 17th century.

Pam Ferris, known for her roles as the Trunchbull in *Matilda* and Aunt Marge in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, will voice the Eagle. This Eagle was around during the Roman rule and creation of Londinium. The eagle was a prominent symbol throughout the Roman Empire and this particular character has been inspired by objects in the Museum of London's permanent collection.

A whole episode in **Beasts of London** will be dedicated to the hardest working beast in London, the horse. Londoner, comedian and host of the *Mash Report*, **Nish Kumar**, will play Thomas the horse, who represents the military horses of London. **Stephen Mangan**, who has voiced Postman Pat in *Postman Pat: The Movie*, and is



known for his roles in Green Wing and Episodes, will voice Governatore. This horse was the steed to King Henry VIII.

King of the Jungle **Joe Pasquale** will play a dormouse, opposite Pam Ferris's Eagle, who was around in Roman London. Television and Radio presenter, **Angellica Bell**, who has just launched her first children's cookbook 'Fantastic Eats' as well as being known for her appearances on The One Show will voice a rat who was used for entertainment during the times of animal baiting.

Beasts of London will immerse visitors into an interactive animal kingdom where you will be guided by a series of animal narrators on a journey through time, from before the city of London was created through to the present day. Inspired by objects in the museum's collection, the museum will use video projection mapping, created by the Guildhall School, to highlight the history of animals in the capital.

Lauren Parker, Senior Curator at the Museum of London, said: "We are thrilled to have such a fantastic line-up of people voicing these fascinating animals for Beasts of London. We are keen to have voices that represent London as well as those that resonate with a family audience. We look forward to working with all involved and to bringing to life the animals of London's past and present."

Beasts of London is part of the Culture Mile programme.

Further information: www.museumoflondon.org.uk/beastsoflondon
#BeastsofLondon

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Notes for editors

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About The Museum of London

The Museum of London tells the ever-changing story of this great world city and its people, from 450,000 BC to the present day. Our galleries, exhibitions, displays and activities seek to inspire a passion for London and provide a sense of the vibrancy that makes the city such a unique place.

The museum is open daily 10am – 6pm and is FREE to all, and you can explore the Museum of London with collections online – home to 90,000 objects with more being added.

www.museumoflondon.org.uk.

About the Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Guildhall School is a vibrant, international community of young musicians, actors and production artists in the heart of the City of London. Rated Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework and ranked as the UK's top conservatoire in the Guardian University Guide 2019 for Music, the School is a global leader of creative and professional practice which promotes innovation, experiment and research, with over 1,000 students in higher education, drawn from nearly 60 countries around the world.

The School delivers a BA in Video Design for Live Performance programme for students interested in the fast-changing and exciting world of digital video design and production. Led by multi award-winning director, designer and audio/visual specialist Dan Shorten, the programme specialises in large format projection shows within Guildhall productions and with external partners such as Waddesdon Manor, Glastonbury Festival, Shakespeare400 Festival, British Museum, Walthamstow Garden Party, Lux Festival and Tower Bridge. Part of the Production Arts department, the course has been shaped by the School's practical, hands-on ethos and is recognised as providing progressive vocational training through practical and production-based teaching. www.gsmd.ac.uk/video

About Culture Mile

Culture Mile is a corner of London's working capital, where creativity is fast becoming the most valuable currency. It's led by the City of London Corporation, together with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and the Museum of London. www.culturemile.london