



Meet the animals that shaped London in a new immersive world

A major new experience will bring to life the history of animals in the city, told from the unique perspective of the animals themselves.

PRESS RELEASE

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Beasts of London

Museum of London

5 April 2019 - 7 January 2020

Family tickets £20

The Museum of London is set to open **Beasts of London** in April 2019; an immersive digital world that will take you on a journey through time where you come face to face with the animals that once called this city home. **Beasts of London** will be delivered in partnership with Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

It's hard to imagine a time when animals roamed freely in the city we know today, but Londoners once shared their home with all kinds of animals, whether they were pets, cattle or for entertainment. From exotic beasts imported from all over the world to the humble pigeon, from the majestic lion to pesky fleas, **Beasts of London** will present a time when the city was once filled with a multitude of animals.

Visitors will begin their journey before the city of London was created, and be guided through to the present day by a variety of animal narrators. Each episode will tell the story of the capital from an animal's perspective and highlight iconic moments in the city's history such as the arrival of the Romans and The Plague.

Inspired by objects in the museum's collection, **Beasts of London** will be a fully interactive digital installation that will use video projection mapping to immerse the visitor into the world of animals. Working in partnership with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama a vivid new space will be created that is surprising, multi-sensory and visually striking. The exhibition will be led by multi award-winning director, designer and audio visual specialist Dan Shorten who is the video projection lead at the Guildhall School. The School's most recent projects led by Shorten include *Blackout* at Tower Bridge's Bascule Chamber and *Waddesdon Imaginarium* at Waddesdon Manor.



Lauren Parker, Senior Commissioning Curator at the Museum of London said:

“Animals have played a vital and fascinating role in shaping the city we live in and we’re excited to welcome families and adults alike to our new immersive animal kingdom in April 2019. This is the first time the Museum of London and Guildhall School of Music & Drama have worked together in this way and by using cutting edge technology we will be able to create a visually arresting world which will present an alternative and fresh insight into London’s past.”

Dan Shorten, creative director for Beasts of London and video projection lead at the Guildhall School, said: “We are delighted to be working with the Museum of London to bring to life the story of animals throughout history in London and its streets using the latest video mapping technology. Video design is a fast growing area of the Guildhall School’s work, and our production artists are regularly engaged for high profile public facing work. We can’t wait to animate Beasts of London in an immersive and spectacular way.”

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