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WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ALFIE?

We review Boe and Katherine Jenkins' West End musical Page 19



Russia points the finger at Britain

UK wrecking Syria peace hopes to keep in with US, says diplomat

by DANIEL BINNS

A RUSSIAN diplomat accused Britain of trying to undermine peace efforts in Syria during a furious row at the United Nations yesterday.

Vladimir Safronkov jabbed his finger at UK ambassador Matthew Rycroft and said 'look at me when I'm talking' as he accused him of trying to stop the US co-operating with Moscow.

It came after G7 nations, including the US, turned down a call from foreign secretary Boris Johnson (pictured) for co-ordinated sanctions against senior Russian and Syrian

Listen here, you: Russia's Vladimir Safronkov talks tough at the UN yesterday PICTURE: GETTY

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■ Trump sends 'armada' to North Korea ■ President's chocolate cake surprise for Chinese leader Pages 4-5 >>

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MY LONDON... BEN TURNBULL

The pop artist loves walking to Richmond Park and is a fan of the Imperial War Museum, but would like to ban joggers

What's your London gem?
One of the great things about being a true Londoner is you get to explore the city over many years and discover gems. My current favourite is the River Café, not the posh one – a greasy spoon opposite Putney Bridge Tube. It's a proper 1960s Italian café with all walks of life nipping in, with a fantastic 1960s interior. I'm sure it'll be used in a groovy music video.

Where do you go to escape the madness?
I walk with my best friend – he's a German Pointer called Buzz – along the Beverley Brook river (inset), through Putney Common and end up in Richmond Park. You can find pockets along there where you won't see another human being for two hours. Before returning to the man cave, we stop off for a ploughman's at The Plough, outside Sheen Gate at Richmond Park. If I'm in the centre of town, you'll find me escaping the hubbub in Foyles in the true crime section. When I was younger, I used Foyles as a reference library and would spend hours in the product design section. I think that's why I'm so happy in there now.

What galleries and museums would you recommend?
I'm not much of a gallery goer but Cork Street in Mayfair was a big influence when I was growing up; most of it's been destroyed but a few good galleries remain, such as The Redfern. It was a big influence because it had strong representation of pop art from the 1950s but lots of the galleries of gone and when I nipped down there recently, there were big open holes where buildings used to be – it's devastating to see. The Imperial War Museum is a really impressive museum and gallery – you think it's all war porn, but it's not. There are also anti war shows – I saw one by anti war artist Peter Kennard who was very influential – design shows, historical shows and an amazing in-house exhibition on amateur painters during war time.

Where would you take a first-time visitor to London?
Because I'm a huge horror fan, it would have to be the London Dungeon for special effects and gore, followed by a Jack The Ripper tour and then finish off with a pub crawl of the most haunted pubs in London. It would take in The Grenadier in Belgravia, which was a pub for officers in nearby barracks and is haunted by the ghost of an officer who was caught cheating at cards and was flogged to death. There are numerous accounts of ghostly visions of him, the sounds of footsteps and cries of pain in the part of the pub where it happened.

What's your favourite building or structure?
This is all about my youth and when I bought the Who's Quadrophonia on vinyl – the inlay artwork is of Jimmy on a scooter in front of Battersea Power Station. I idolised that shot and it was my dream to live in Battersea. I managed to do it and lived there for ten years. As they say, once a mod, always a mod. I remember going to a rave there in the 1990s which was amazing. I hope the traditional beauty of the power station survives; – it's iconic and is the cover art for Pink Floyd's Animals – another record I played to death as a kid.

What would you do if you were mayor for the day?
I'd ban joggers, because they are a menace. They are arrogant and believe because they're exercising, they've more right to the pavement than walkers. We're all the same – we're both on two legs!

■ Ben's exhibition *No Guts No Glory* is at the Saatchi Gallery until May 8, saatchigallery.com



EXHIBITION: I AM LONDON

I AM London is a photography exhibition and project – organised by Historic England (formerly English Heritage) and the Mayor's Office – celebrating the everyday people who make our capital city.

The premise is simple yet powerful, with photographer Chris Redgrave taking portraits of Londoners in locations special to them: for example, John Walters, Pearly King of Finsbury represents the 150-year-old working-class tradition of Pearly Kings and Queens and their charity fundraising and is photographed in his dazzling suit in City Road burial ground Bunhill Fields. Eighty-something Sterling Betancourt, one of the founders of Notting Hill Carnival, is captured standing proudly with his steel pan drum in Powis Square.

Originally displayed in the windows of Central Saint Martins last summer, 30 of these warm portraits are on show by the river at More London – with Tower Bridge in view – and also inside City Hall, and offer an opportunity to reflect on how we, individually and collectively, stitch the fabric of this city.

■ Until Apr 28, More London Riverside & City Hall, historicengland.org.uk RAHUL VERMA

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