

# thelondonstage

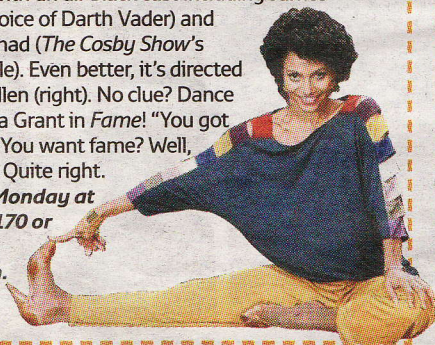
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## >> curtain up!

### ■ HOT CATS IN THE WEST END

Heading our way this winter is the smash hit Broadway production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. The Tennessee Williams classic opens at the Novello in November, with an all-black cast including James Earl Jones (voice of Darth Vader) and Phylicia Rashad (*The Cosby Show*'s Clair Huxtable). Even better, it's directed by Debbie Allen (right). No clue? Dance teacher Lydia Grant in *Fame!* "You got big dreams? You want fame? Well, fame costs." Quite right.

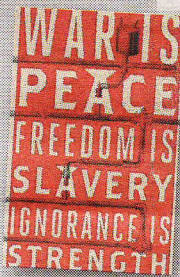
**Book from Monday at 0844 482 5170 or delfontmackintosh.co.uk**



## >> what else?

### ■ ORWELL CRAZY

It's been 60 years since the publication of George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. So don't sit at home watching *Big Brother 10* – get to Trafalgar Studios, where a trio of actors is staging a distillation of Orwell's classic texts. Among them, a "chilling" evocation of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*'s Ministry of Love interrogation scenes, and comic Hal Cruttenden playing henpecked George Bowling in a monologue of *Coming Up for Air*. Plus Penguin is releasing a spanking new edition of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (£12, out Monday, pictured). **Orwell: A Celebration, Trafalgar Studios, 8 Jun-4 Jul, Whitehall, SW1, 0870 060 6632, orwellcelebration.org, £22.50**



### ■ TWITTER COMEDY CLUB

Too darn lazy to get off the sofa but stuck for laughs? Comic Tiernan Douieb has a solution: Twitter Comedy Club. Next Monday, he and nine stand-up buddies, including Mitch Benn and Rob Heeney, will get together for Twitter-edition 10-minute sets. Anyone planning to "attend" should follow the stream. Douieb got the idea after a miserably tiny gig: he tweeted his disappointment and his followers suggested he do the gig for them instead. "Comics have a lot of time to procrastinate and Twitter's perfect at making you feel like you're doing something." **Twitter Comedy Club, 8 June, 8pm, twitter.tiernandouieb.co.uk**

## THE BIG SHOW | PETER PAN

# Lost B

The inspiration behind *A Pan*, Kensington Gardens host to a dazzling new show, writes **Alistair S**

**N**ever mind Neverland – the Boy Who Never Grew Up has come home to London.

For the first time, *Peter Pan* will be performed in the place that inspired its creation, Kensington Gardens, in a blockbuster production that's set to be one of the major theatrical events of the year.

Author JM Barrie used to live just outside the park, and took regular walks around its ponds and rivers while telling impromptu yarns of Peter and Wendy to his adopted children – sparked by the sights they would see.

"We like to think we're following in Barrie's imaginative footsteps," explains top Brit theatre designer

William Dudley, who is bringing Neverland to life in a huge, dazzling production that is about to influence the special occasion to perform.

Dudley, an award-winning Broadway, film and television costume designer, will be projecting degree screen make the audience fly.

Just like Barrie's inspiration, Kensington Gardens is a guide to the sites.

**Peter Pan, to 30 Aug, Kensington Gardens, visitlondon.com/peterpan, £22.50 – £45**

### ■ King William III (Captain Hook)

The curled wig, over-the-knee boots, flamboyant hat... it's a statue of William of Orange outside Kensington Palace. "We think it was Barrie's inspiration for Hook," says Dudley. "It's late 17th-century clothing – big hat, big sword, cavalry boots. He looks straight out of a romantic story."