

Where to go, what to see

Exhibitions

CHOSEN BY

ALASTAIR SOOKE

Treasures of Heaven

The medieval habit of venerating the fragmentary body parts of the saints may seem unutterably strange today - but you don't have to be a devout Catholic to appreciate the intricate beauty of the bejewelled reliquaries which house the various splinters of bone and sundry scraps of hair, designed by the finest craftsmen of the age. The BM's exhibition features more than 150 objects, including (supposedly) three thorns from the Crown of Thorns, as well as some of the Virgin Mary's breast milk, and the foot of St Blaise.

British Museum, London WC1 (020 7323 8299), until Oct 9

Robert Rauschenberg: Botanical Vaudeville

Late works by the prodigiously prolific and hard-drinking American master Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008), whose work, according to his friend, the artist Roy Lichtenstein, encompassed "the whole world". As the godfather of many of the avant-garde movements of the Sixties and Seventies, Rauschenberg is a giant of 20th-century art - and this is the first large-scale exhibition of his work in Britain for three decades.

Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (0131 248 2971), until Oct 2

René Magritte: the Pleasure Principle

Lucky Liverpool: this summer, Tate's northern outpost has bagged an important retrospective of work by the Surrealist artist René Magritte (1898-1967), who demonstrated the absurdity of existence, despite masquerading as a bland, bourgeois Belgian.



PRIVATE COLLECTION/TATE

Face value Magritte's 'The Great War', 1964, at Tate Liverpool

More than 100 of his deadpan paintings are on display, including masterpieces such as *The Menaced Assassin* (1927), *Time Transfixed* (1938) and *Golconda* (1953).

Tate Liverpool (0151 702 7400), until Oct 16

Tony Cragg: Sculptures and Drawings

Impressive retrospective from the past 15 years by the British sculptor who was born in Liverpool in 1949. Cragg belongs to the same generation as Antony Gormley and Anish Kapoor, yet his profile in his homeland isn't as high, perhaps because he's lived in Germany since 1977. Cragg's first museum show in

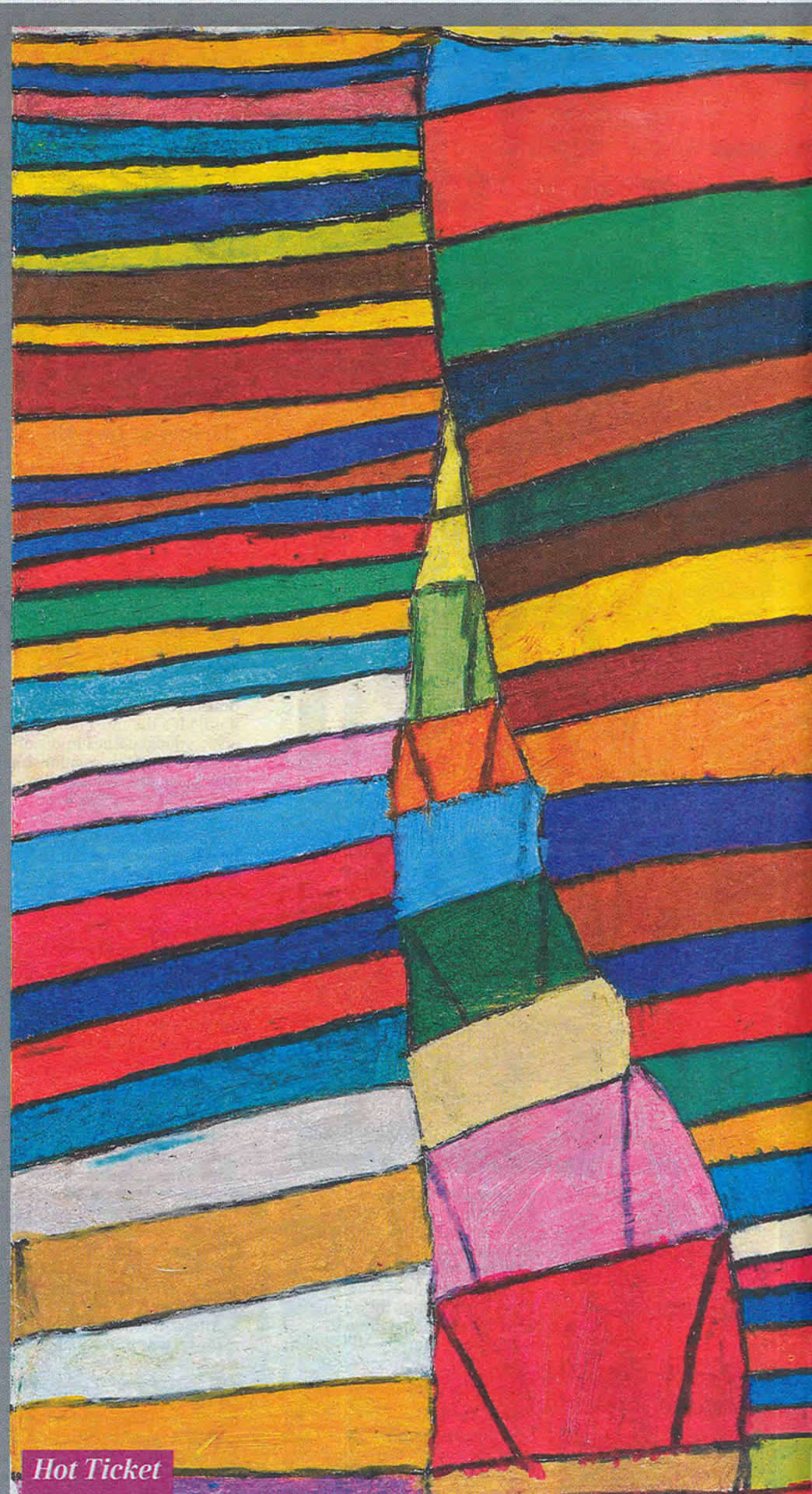
Britain for more than a decade should help change that.

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh (0131 624 6200), until Nov 6

Thomas Struth: Photographs 1978-2010

Retrospective of more than 70 photographs taken by the German artist who started out in the late Seventies making black-and-white photographs in Düsseldorf and New York before graduating onto large-scale colour photography. His epic panoramas are as complex and beautiful as vast oil paintings.

Whitechapel Gallery, London E1 (020 7522 7878), until Sept 16



Hot Ticket

Art Museum of Everything: Exhibition #4

SELFRIDGES, LONDON, W1 | SEPT 2 - OCT 25;
MUSEUMOFEVERYTHING.COM

The latest art project at Selfridges in Oxford Street will display 200 works by 50 artists from the Museum of Everything, the nomadic "outsider" art collection formed by filmmaker James Brett, who trawls the

world, visiting workshops for the physically and mentally disabled. In one window, a wonky modernist house on stilts has been built by Stefan Hafner, who is unemployable, but is building an imaginary city with fully

Pop

CHOSEN BY

HELEN BROWN

Arcade Fire

The seven-piece Canadian indie-rock band scooped the Album of the Year award at the 2011 Grammys and Best International Album at the Brits for *The Suburbs*: a record with nods to medieval folk, modern jazz and French chanson.

MEN Arena, Manchester (0844 847 8000), Wed; Edinburgh Castle Edinburgh (0871 220 0260), Thurs



Startling Joan as Policewoman

Joan as Policewoman

Smooth, startling, imaginative, deep and daft by turns, American indie violinist and vocalist Joan Wasser has come a long way since she was best known as the most glamorous member of Rufus Wainwright's backing band.

The Duchess, York (01904 641413), Thurs and then touring

Van Morrison

The original blues brother is now back on the road, peddling his uniquely beautiful and belligerent blend of soul shouting, Celtic sorcery and brass-backed romance.

Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121 780 3333), Friday and then touring

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Where to go, what to see

Theatre

CHOSEN BY

CHARLES SPENCER

South Pacific

The Lincoln Center revival of this Rodgers and Hammerstein classic won a fistful of Tony awards when it opened in New York in 2008. Now, in a slimmed-down version, and with a couple of members of the original cast, Bartlett Sher's deeply felt, fresh-as-paint production comes to the UK, offering romance, humour, a serious study of racial prejudice and a superb collection of beautifully performed songs. No lover of musical theatre should miss it.

● *Barbican Theatre London EC2* (020 7638 8891), until Oct 1

Crazy for You

The annual musical in the park is one of the great summer treats in London. This year's revival, with *Crazy for You*, proves completely irresistible.

● *Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park, London NW1* (0844 826 4242), until Sept 10

Anna Christie

Jude Law and the superb Ruth Wilson star in this powerful Eugene O'Neill play depicting a moving relationship between a woman driven to prostitution, her sea-going father and a young stoker who may offer her a chance of redemption. Rob Ashford's fine production has the tang of the sea and the smell of sex, love and despair about it.

● *Donmar Warehouse, London WC2* (0844 871 7624), until Oct 8

Ghost

The musical version of the hit film is blessed with terrific illusions, thrilling hi-tech designs, humour and suspense in its beyond-the-grave love story between a banker and his bereaved girlfriend.

● *Piccadilly Theatre, London W1* (0844 871 7675)

Comedy

CHOSEN BY

MARK MONAHAN

Doug Stanhope

Hailed as a latter-day Bill Hicks, Stanhope's material can get ugly but it aspires to leave the world a more ruthlessly honest, less phoney place. Unsettlingly good.

● *Leicester Square Theatre, London WC2* (08448 733433), tonight, Tues-Sat

Adam Riches

Bring Me the Head of Adam Riches is a set of wildly inspired character



Blink and you'll miss it 'Blink Margate' is a one-off theatre, music and dance spectacle on the seafront

Yes, Prime Minister

The stage version of the much-loved television sitcom returns to London with a new cast including Richard McCabe as the PM and Simon Williams as the Cabinet Secretary.

● *Apollo Theatre, London W1* (0844 412 4658), until Sept 17

Road Show

Sondheim's musical receives as compelling a showing as it's ever likely to get. Starring Michael Jibson and David Bedella.

● *Menier, London SE1* (020 7378 1712), until Sept 17

LAST CHANCE

The Beauty Queen of Leenane

Joe Hill-Gibbins's gloriously funny revival of a modern classic. A slew of fine performances is crowned by Rosaleen Linehan as the manipulative crone.

● *Young Vic, London SE1* (020 7922 2922), tonight, Mon-Sat, until Sept 3

comedy, with (be warned) lots of audience participation. It's wonderfully, tear-inducingly funny, with many deft turns of phrase adding linguistic spice to the knockabout mayhem.

● *Pleasance Upstairs, Edinburgh* (0131 556 6550), until Mon

Nathan Caton

A highly appealing hour of largely racially inclined observations from this Londoner of Jamaican descent. He wears his intelligence lightly and knows when to prick the seriousness with some light-hearted self-deprecation. Highly recommended.

● *Pleasance Baby Grand, Edinburgh* (0131 556 6550), until Mon

Regional Theatre

CHOSEN BY

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

Blink Margate

Choreographer Wayne McGregor, German theatre ensemble Pan Optikum and a team of 100 local volunteers create a one-off theatre, music and dance spectacle on the seafront.

● *Margate seafront, www.blinkmargate.org*; tonight

The Rise and Fall of Little Voice

Touring revival - from Hull Truck - of the Jim Cartwright beauty about a painfully shy girl (Lisa Riley) who escapes, through superb mimicry, into the starchy world of Judy Garland and Shirley Bassey.

● *Oxford Playhouse* (01865 305305), tonight; *Fairfield Halls, Croydon* (020 8688 9291), Tues-Sat

A Midsummer Night's Dream

An exuberantly entertaining production, with a hippy-dippy Sixties charm and cracking performances. Lucy Briggs-Owen shines especially brightly as Hermia.

● *Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon* (0844 800 1110), Mon, Wed, Thurs

As You Like It

An enjoyably inventive production, set in a Victorian world of early photography and proto-feminism, with Emma Pallant as a withering female Jacques.

● *Georgian Theatre Royal, Richmond, Yorkshire* (01748 825252), Tues-Sat

The Pitmen Painters

Lee Hall's richly assured play about the Ashington Group - a bunch of pitmen from a colliery village who astounded the Thirties art world.

● *Grand Opera House, Leeds* (0844 848 2702), tonight; *Theatre Royal, Brighton* (0870 060 6650), Tues-Sat

Classical & Jazz

CHOSEN BY

IVAN HEWETT

This Week's Prom: Budapest Festival Orchestra

Seize the chance for a double dose of one of the world's great orchestras. In their 7pm concert, the Budapest Festival Orchestra offers two fine specimens of romantic diablerie by Liszt, plus Mahler's First Symphony. For their second concert at 10pm, the audience chooses the programme.

● *Royal Albert Hall, London, SW7* (0845 401 5040), Fri; and live on BBC Radio 3

Bamberg Symphony Orchestra

Bamberg may be only a modest-sized town in Germany's Black Forest region, but its orchestra is top class. In the first of their two Edinburgh Festival concerts, they play two pieces by Messiaen, *Chronochromie* and *Sept Haikai*, alongside Bartók's once-notorious ballet *The Miraculous Mandarin*.

● *Usher Hall, Edinburgh* (0131 473 2000), Fri, Sat

Music at Plush

Most of Plush's final weekend is sold out, but there are a few tickets left for Friday night's concert, which features a brilliant gathering of young string players plus pianist Tim Horton. Their programme mingles Ligeti and Kagel with Brahms and Kodály.

● *St John's Church, Plush, Dorset* (020 3286 1885), Fri

JAZZ

Darius Brubeck at Boisdale's

Darius Brubeck carries the mantle of his father Dave, but also strikes a distinctive note of his own. At this gig in Boisdale's Canary Wharf restaurant he is joined by a quartet including sax player Frank Griffith.

● *Boisdale's Canary Wharf, London* (020 7715 5818), Tues

Naz Osmanoglu

Osmanoglu's mildly uneven but overall strong set sees him tackle his Anglo-Turkish heritage with buckets of wit and charm, launching with a long but excellent riff on Bear Grylls and closing with his own coronation.

● *Underbelly Wee Coe, Edinburgh* (0844 545 8252), until Mon

Idiots of Ants

Foul-mouthed bees; a wedding proposal at gunpoint; an air-guitar complete with air-groupies. Such is the inspired malarkey in the four-strong sketch troupe's new show, *Model Citizens*.

● *Pleasance Forth, Edinburgh* (0131 556 6550), until Mon



Losing his head Adam Riches's knockabout mayhem at Edinburgh

Opera

CHOSEN BY

RUPERT CHRISTIANSEN

Semiramide

Flemish Opera's production of one of Rossini's grandest works, focused on the tale of a mythical queen of ancient Babylon and her incestuous passion for her son, visits the UK in a production directed and designed by Nigel

Lowery and conducted by Alberto Zedda. Myrto Papatanasius sings the title role.

● *Festival Theatre, Edinburgh* (0131 473 2000), tonight

Die Frau ohne Schatten

As part of the Edinburgh International Festival, Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal's most spectacular and philosophically complex collaboration is performed at the Festival theatre in the Mariinsky Opera's much-praised production.

Directed by Jonathan Kent and conducted by the legendary Valery Gergiev.

● *Festival Theatre, Edinburgh* (0131 473 2000), Thurs and Fri

Don Giovanni

Opera UpClose attempts to cap the huge success of its shoestring, piano-accompanied version of *La Bohème* with Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Robin Norton-Hale has made a new translation of da Ponte's libretto and she also directs the production.

● *Soho Theatre, London W1* (020 7478 0100), until Sept 17

LAST CHANCE

The Turn of the Screw

Jonathan Kent's powerful production of Britten's masterly adaptation of Henry James's ghost story is revived with an excellent cast led by Miah Persson as the neurotic governess and Toby Spence as the ghost Peter Quint. Jakub Hruša conducts.

● *Glyndebourne, near Lewes* (01273 813813), tomorrow

Dance

CHOSEN BY

SARAH CROMPTON

Drought and Rain (re-creation 2011)

Edinburgh International Festival continues with French Vietnamese choreographer Ea Sola's meditation on war and imperialism.

● *King's Theatre* (0131 473 2000), Thurs-Sat

Re-Triptych

Shen Wei brings his dance arts company to Edinburgh with three works that reflect his time spent in Tibet, Cambodia and China.

● *Edinburgh Playhouse* (0131 473 2000), Thurs-Sat

Deloitte Ignite

Mike Figgis curates, bringing flamenco star Eva Yerbabuena and commissions from Laura Caldwell and Ann van der Broek.

● *Royal Opera House, London WC2* (020 7304 4000), Fri-Sun

functional architectural models in his workshop in Germany. Erin Punzel from California cannot communicate verbally, but obsessively produces vivid, clearly controlled grids of colour as seen above. **Colin Gladell**