



## NEW SEASON OF SPECIAL EVENTS AT CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM

Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London

- **Museum introduces timed ticketing due to popular demand**
- **Dickens's own prompt copy of *A Tale of Two Cities* to feature in new performance**
- ***The Other Dickens: Discovering Catherine* continues until 20 November**

8 June 2016 -- The **Charles Dickens Museum at 48 Doughty Street**, the London townhouse where Dickens completed *The Pickwick Papers* and wrote *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, has confirmed a new season of special events inspired by the author's stories, characters and family life.

As a result of the growing popularity of the Museum and increased numbers of visitors, it will be introducing a new system of timed entry from 1 July. Timed entry every fifteen minutes will ensure that all visitors are able to explore each of Dickens's rooms with plenty of time and space for reflection and to absorb the objects, exhibits and design details which combine to make a powerful evocation of Dickens's life at Doughty Street.



The schedule for the next few months features regular extended opening hours, theatrical performances and tours of the house. The Museum's current special exhibition, *The Other Dickens: Discovering Catherine*, which throws the spotlight on Dickens's wife, whom he met when she was in her teens and whose own character and achievements have remained in his shadow, continues until 20 November.

### **TICKETS, EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS**

**From 1 July 2016: Timed tickets** - Entry to the rooms of the Museum every 15 minutes between 10am and 4pm. Booking: [dickensmuseum.com](http://dickensmuseum.com) or 020 7405 2127

### ***The Other Dickens: Discovering Catherine* - Until 20 November 2016**

A new exhibition aiming to debunk a series of myths surrounding the life of Catherine Dickens, wife of Charles Dickens, adds significant detail to a name only known through the achievements and

actions of her husband. Guest curated by **Prof. Lillian Nayder** and based on her 2011 biography of Catherine, the exhibition uses a combination of rarely-seen exhibits, including many personal items and letters, to present an accurate picture of Catherine. Among the key exhibits are rarely-seen pieces of Catherine's jewellery, including her engagement ring, snake design ring and bracelet, and chain design purse; Charles and Catherine's Draft Deed of Separation, drawn up in 1858; and illuminated extracts from Catherine's Last Will and Testament. With the support of a Grant for the Arts from Arts Council England, the Museum also features **Hearing Catherine**, a series of six new sound installations by artist **Felicity Ford**, which emerge in each historic room and bring Catherine's voice back to Doughty Street.

**A Tale of Two Cities - read by Dominic Gerrard** - On the eve of Bastille Day, Dominic Gerrard returns to the Museum to perform one of Dickens's most famous and popular novels. Set during the violent upheavals of the French Revolution, this performance is based on Dickens's own adaptation of his novel which he renamed *The Bastille Prisoner*. Despite completing the text, Dickens never actually performed it; his prompt copy survives, however, in the collection of the Museum. This performance is a rare chance to hear Dickens's own prompt copy performed, with extra chapters from the full novel completing the epic story.

**Dates:** Wednesday 13 July. **Times:** 3pm and 6pm. **Tickets:** £15 (includes Museum entry).

**Booking:** dickensmuseum.com or 020 7405 2127. Suitable for ages 12+. Running time: 60 minutes  
The Museum will be open from 10am-8pm on the day of the performance; visitors may redeem their tickets for the Museum before or after the performance.

**Doctor Marigold's Prescriptions** - Following huge success at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, performer Ian Pearce brings Doctor Marigold's breathless sales patter to the Museum and this heart-warming Dickens tale to life. Named after the doctor who delivered Dickens, Marigold is a 'cheap-jack' who hawks sundries from a travelling cart he inhabits with his wife and daughter, Sophy. The story follows his fortunes, love, loss and hope, delivering wonderful twists and turns in true Dickensian style.

**Date:** Thursday 11 August at 3pm & 6pm. **Tickets:** £15 (including Museum entry).

**Booking:** dickensmuseum.com or 020 7405 2127.

**The Housemaid's Tour** - Step back in time to 1839; Dickens and his family have left for a relaxing holiday in Broadstairs. While the family enjoys the Kentish air, their housemaid takes a break from her duties and invites you to step through the original door of 48 Doughty Street to discover their secrets. Walk in the footsteps of the celebrated young author on an exclusive tour of Dickens's 'house in town', his only surviving London townhouse.

**Dates:** Third Sunday of each month - 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September, 16 October, 20 November, 18 December at 10am, 10.45am & 11.30am.

**Tickets:** Adults £15, Concs £12, Children (6-16) £8. **Booking:** dickensmuseum.com or 020 7405 2127

**Extended opening hours:** 10am-8pm on 9 June, 13 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October and 10 November.

**Cindy Sughrue, Director of Charles Dickens Museum,** said, “We’re looking forward to welcoming more visitors than ever to the Museum in the next few months. Our move to timed entry will mean that everybody can spend time poring over the original artefacts with plenty of time and elbow room. For example, if you want to linger in Dickens’s study at the desk at which he wrote *Great Expectations*, *Our Mutual Friend* and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* or to examine the gifts that Dickens and his wife Catherine exchanged when they married, you won’t be stuck in a queue waiting to do so. Combined with extended opening hours each month, we are aiming to make it as convenient as possible to pop into Dickens’s home.

#### **VISITOR INFORMATION**

**Opening hours:** Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm (last admission 4pm). Closed on Mondays.

**Museum admission prices:** Adults £9; Concessions £6; Children (6-16) £4; Under 6 free.

**Address:** Charles Dickens Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N 2LX

**More information:** [www.dickensmuseum.com](http://www.dickensmuseum.com) 020 7405 2127 [events@dickensmuseum.com](mailto:events@dickensmuseum.com)

-ends-

**Issued by *The Press Office*. For further information and images, please contact Michael Barrett on 020 8295 2424, 07813-558772 or [mb@thepressoffice.uk](mailto:mb@thepressoffice.uk)**