

# THE ART OF LIVING

MARIANKA SWAIN SHARES HER CAPITAL CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

## EXHIBITION MONET & ARCHITECTURE

The first purely Monet exhibition staged in London for more than 20 years considers the great artist in terms of architecture: everything from Parisian bridges to London landmarks.

Featuring more than 75 works, covering the mid 1860s up to 1912, it's a fascinating opportunity to see the role that buildings played in Monet's output – whether as records of locations, like the church of village Varengeville, or tantalising glimpses of modernity: Gare St-Lazare's glass-roofed interior.

The collection also demonstrates Monet's uncanny facility with colour and light, whether a red-tiled roof contrasting with rural green or multiple paintings showing the passage of time.

Highlights include the Houses of Parliament series – from eerie fog to golden sunset – as well as Venice's Grand Canal, Rouen Cathedral, and the vibrant Le Boulevard des Capucines, Paris, which aroused controversy when it was shown at the first Impressionist exhibition in 1874.

Until July 29  
National Gallery,  
Trafalgar Square WC2N  
Adults £18, under-12s free  
[www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)



'The Grand Canal', 1908



'The Boulevard des Capucines', 1873

## COMMUTER CORNER

A Somerset village priest is tasked with investigating the drowning of a wealthy landowner in Samantha Harvey's medieval whodunnit *The Western Wind* (hardback £16.99, Kindle £9.99). Dogged by an officious dean, the would-be detective wades through the locals' unreliable memories, religious rivalries, jealousies, affairs and conflicting desires. Harvey's luminous prose, tight plotting and rich characterisation make this a riveting read.

How are you living up your commute?  
Let us know via Twitter @Move\_To



## FILM BLACK PANTHER

The slew of superhero films has left many feeling super-fatigued, but two recent entries have re-energised the form: the empowering *Wonder Woman*, and now Ryan Coogler's Marvel-ously diverse *Black Panther*.

Chadwick Boseman stars as Prince T'Challa, who returns home to become King of Wakanda following his father's death. But he's soon assembling a team to do battle with Andy Serkis's evil arms dealer, while navigating a path for his country.

Unlike most superhero films, this one has something thoughtful to say: about cultural tradition, colonialism, racial and economic disparity, governance and activism. But it doesn't sacrifice entertainment – there's also gripping chases, kickass female warriors, funky gadgets and great gags.

Most of the latter two come from scene-stealing Letitia Wright as Q figure Shuri, and there are also great turns from Danai Gurira, Lupita Nyong'o, Forest Whitaker, Michael B. Jordan, Daniel Kaluuya and Angela Bassett. Super stuff.



## THEATRE BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Emma Rice revives her gorgeous Kneehigh production at the Empire Cinema Haymarket. Her synthesis of Noël Coward's play, *Still Life*, and the iconic David Lean film isn't just the best of both worlds, but a potent meditation on storytelling and the all-consuming dream of romance.

Alec and Laura, both married, meet illicitly in a railway station café – and, crucially, visit the cinema. Their suppressed passion is sometimes poetically expressed; at one point, they're literally swinging from chandeliers.

But Isabel Pollen and Jim Sturgeon are also the necessary still centre amidst the puppetry, projections, singing and dancing. They're heartbreakingly believable as the very epitome of love denied.

In bittersweet contrast, we see two other romances blossoming. There's marvellous work from the supporting cast in multiple roles – Lucy Thackeray, Dean Nolan, Beverly Rudd and particularly Jos Slovic, who plays an impressive variety of instruments and croons Coward's numbers beautifully.

Jon Driscoll and Gemma Carrington's projections combine with Neil Murray's set to create both a love letter to the silver screen, and ravishing theatre magic.

Until September 2  
Empire Cinema Haymarket,  
Piccadilly SW1Y  
Tickets from £20  
[www.oldvictheatre.com](http://www.oldvictheatre.com)

