

Two for one tickets for late debate

ENJOY an evening of circuit training for the brain on Thursday at London Transport Museum's Late Debate.

Guests will have the opportunity to take part in a range of debates, as well as enjoy drinks, music and the Museum's new 'Designology' exhibition.

During the evening, guests can also join a range of interactive workshops, which give them a chance to explore the Museum. The aim is for visitors to leave with a clearer understanding of the complex designs for public transport in London.

The Late Debate is part of the new 'Designology' exhibition, celebrating London's internationally-recognised iconography and explores the influence that thoughtful design has on our daily experiences and our perception of the urban environment. This event gives visitors the chance to enjoy this latest exhibition after hours.



Tickets to the Late Debate cost £12 (£10 concessions) and are for adults only. To book, visit www.ltmuseum.co.uk/whats-on

■ **London Transport Museum is offering exclusive 2-for-1 tickets to Thursday's Late Debate event through the Museum's new mobile app. Simply download and receive the promo code via the app inbox**

On the buses

Richard Pinkman has more than 15-years' experience behind the wheel of a London bus and is fronting a new campaign running across the capital. MetroTravel hopped aboard to find out more.

THE new advertising initiative is designed to show Londoners that their bus driver does more than simply get them safely to their destination. With a radio advert currently playing on stations across London and a series of posters going up from today, Richard has become a man in demand.

Tell us about this promotion and what your involvement has been?

As bus drivers we do a lot more than simply pick up passengers and get them to where they want to go. We are often asked for travel advice, we also help people with any mobility difficulties and, because we can talk to customers, can offer them a bit of a personal service. This new campaign helps demonstrate this and the extra work we do to make journeys more pleasant.

There are posters in bus shelters and on buses that feature myself and my colleagues. I took part in a photoshoot to create the artwork and also recorded a radio advert that is currently being played on Capital, Heart, Kiss and talkSPORT. The adverts are also running in the Metro Travel section (pictured left).

How was the experience of swapping your bus for the recording booth?

It has been fantastic. It is very different to what I'm used to as you can imagine. I had some photos while I was recording, which I've shown the kids. It's great to be able to share it with them and they have been really interested in how the campaign came together.

Sometimes people hear these adverts and don't necessarily believe that they are listening to a real person. Hopefully people can hear that I'm not a professional voiceover artist or anything, although as a driver I do like to talk and I'm used to hearing my voice when we make announcements.

What has the response been like?

It's been great. My colleagues have been really supportive. You can



imagine the sort of banter we have, but they have all taken to it well. I think my family thought I was making it up until they heard me on the radio. My mum heard it recently and was delighted, although my teenage son texted me the other day to say he was fed up of hearing me when he's listening to the radio.

Funnily enough, it was my garage manager who was the first person to hear the advert. She was driving on the M11 and was shouting at the radio that this is one of her drivers. She is really proud.

What is a normal day for you when you are not doing this?

I like to get into work early before my shift. We have a notice board at the garage listing any diversions on the roads so it's useful to get a picture of how things are running. We have a stringent checklist for the buses before we take them out, so I have to go through it and talk to engineers on site if I spot any problems.

When I am driving, I get to know my regular passengers and I will notice if I pull up to a stop and somebody isn't there. I will sometimes wait a moment

and then you can see them running down the road, so I will wait for them to get on.

You get different groups of people throughout the day, from the commuters first thing in the morning, followed by the schoolchildren and after that I get the older passengers. I am quite an observant person so I know whether I will need to lower the bus at certain stops to help them get on.

What is the best part of your job?

My favourite part of the job is the interaction with people. I am definitely a people person and this job is suited to that. It's great when someone recognises me - I will often be driving through the high street and notice one of my regular passengers, who will give me a wave.

I get a lot of people saying thank you, which really does make my day. A thank you can go a long way, so whenever someone shouts thanks as they are getting off the bus, it is really appreciated.

■ **For more information and to find your nearest bus route, visit tfl.gov.uk/buses**

Richard does more than just drive a bus

En route to Ealing Broadway he helped an elderly man get a priority seat and also woke up the gentleman at the back in time for his stop.



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 tfl.gov.uk

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   tfl.gov.uk/socialmedia

London Travelwatch
London's transport watchdog
call 020 3176 2999, or visit
www.londontravelwatch.org.uk

*Service and network charges apply.
See tfl.gov.uk/terms for details.



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Take your newspaper with you or put it in a recycling bin.

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