



Celebrating African culture this weekend

TRAFALGAR Square is the focus for the Black History Month celebrations this Saturday, when everyone is invited to attend the free Africa on the Square event.

The stage line-up reflects the diversity of London's African communities with performers from Nigeria, Morocco (Gwana Griot band pictured), Gambia, Somalia,

Zimbabwe and West Africa. There's a fashion show featuring designers from London Africa Fashion Week and the Simplicious lifestyle company, as well as stalls selling a range of African themed products including fashion, food and arts and crafts, plus plenty of activities for children and families to get involved in.

A highlight will be Africa on the Square Celebrates Talent, giving aspiring performers aged 25 and under the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience as well as a panel of judges who will select the overall winner.

Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: 'London is home to a large

and diverse number of African communities, who contribute to the cultural and economic life of the capital and reinforce the historic ties we have to that great continent.

'As we mark Black History Month I am delighted to be welcoming this celebration of African culture to Trafalgar Square. This will be an opportunity for all Londoners to explore Africa's rich heritage and traditions.'

■ **Nearest Tube stations are Embankment and Charing Cross. Find your quickest route at tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner**

Underground leader wins Black Business Award

DAVID Waboso, the Tube's capital programmes director has been named as Leader of the Year in the Manufacturing and Infrastructure section of 2014's Black British Business Awards.

David is responsible for delivering the multi-billion pound upgrade of the Underground that will provide more capacity for London's rapidly growing population.

The Black British Business

Awards celebrate and promote the often unsung contributions by black professionals in businesses in Britain, uncovering inspirational role models and ambassadors from across the UK.

End of the line

WITH contactless payments, it's now easier than ever to explore the capital. Why not stay on the Tube for a few extra stops and find out what's at the end of the line.

Brixton – Victoria line

Check out the growing arts and culture scene in Brixton with a visit to the Brixton Art Gallery. Brixton is an eclectic poetry performance night held at regular intervals throughout the year with the next taking place this Saturday. If you see yourself as a more hands-on artistic type, the gallery will also be hosting the Big Draw on Wednesday October 15. It's a chance to try a number of different workshops in life drawing, portraiture and urban environment. Head to Brixton Market for quality



fruit and vegetables, live music and an exotic array of street food. There are also farmers' and flea markets on different weekends throughout the year, so check out brixtonmarket.net to find something that suits you.

Walthamstow Central – Victoria line

For a slice of village life without leaving Zone 3, head to the picturesque Walthamstow Village, a thriving creative hub with regular boutique exhibitions and displays by

local artists. There's also plenty of live music with a jazz band at The Nags Head on Sunday afternoons and stand-up comedy and local theatre at the Ye Old Rose & Crown Theatre Pub on Hoe St. If you're curious about the history of this corner of London, the Raids, Rationing and Riots: Waltham Forest and the Great War exhibition runs at the Vestry House Museum until spring. The museum also has regular family events throughout the year.

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