

WORDS: SARAH SHANNON

WE PUT TOGETHER A PANEL OF EXPERTS ON EVERYTHING FROM COSMETIC SURGERY TO CLASSICAL MUSIC, FASHION TO FOOTBALL. AND WE ASKED ONE SIMPLE QUESTION...

What will

2008 mean for London?



**DAVID WILLIAMS,
MOTORING EDITOR,
EVENING STANDARD**

'If Ken Livingstone is re-elected as mayor this year, he'll change the rules on congestion charging so that it's based on vehicle emissions. That will have a seismic effect on the cars Londoners buy because they will want to avoid the charge. The cars that will be popular will be small, well-designed and trendy. I think the Mini Diesel will be big this year and there'll also be the new Fiat 500 (pictured), a remake of their classic little bubble car. Meanwhile, people will begin to sell their big cars if they end up being charged £25 to go into the congestion zone. Not everyone, of course: the luxury car that people are talking about is the Jaguar XF, which goes on sale in March. I think that'll go down pretty well in the smarter parts of town.'



**TANIA HUGHES, FORMER ORGANISER,
LONDON FASHION WEEK**

'This year's spring/summer collections have lots of floral, horticultural and botanical prints that are big and fabulous. Look out for Balenciaga's gorgeous florals. Even though the fashion world is predicting that the smock and empire line are dead they will endure because the public love them. They hide all our lumps and bumps and are incredibly flattering. So even if the high-end shops snub them, the chains will still stock them.'

The biggest fashion news for this year is shoes. You've got fabulous platforms and these incredibly high heels but then you've also got clunky biker boots. It's a real case of extremes. We'll be wearing the boots right into the summer with floaty dresses.'



INTERIOR DESIGNER NICK FORTE

'In the luxury interiors market there's a growing sense that style, quality and large price tags are not enough. People want their homes to be inspired by travel. They don't want to show off the label but to tell the story of the piece and what it means to them personally. Of course, labels won't disappear. We'll see an increasing number of designers from other fields becoming involved in the interiors market. Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren have already successfully branched out from fashion to interiors. Even car designers like Porsche have collaborated with Poggenpohl to produce fabulous kitchen designs (pictured). In 2008 we'll watch this trend grow.'



**MARK FORREST,
PRESENTER, CLASSIC FM**

'The big performer at the moment is the Norwegian classical pianist Leif Ove Andsnes. He's been performing Mozart concertos around the world and he's releasing an album next month that will be huge in the classical world. He'll be performing in London in the spring. And Nicola Benedetti (pictured), the beautiful Scottish violinist, is releasing a disc of Bach's violin music this year and backing that up with performances. Meanwhile, Andras Schiff and Maurizio Pollini are both working their way through Beethoven's piano sonatas and will be releasing new Beethoven CDs, which will be big news.'



**JIM ROSENTHAL,
ITV SPORTS PRESENTER**

'At football's top level, I reckon Arsenal are likely to reclaim the Premier League title and I expect Chelsea to make a big impact in the Champions League.'

I'm not confident about our cricketers, who seem to have lost their way. New Zealand and South Africa arrive here next summer and our major hope is that we haven't played Andrew Flintoff into the ground.

Having spent a lot of time covering athletics, I'm despondent about the state of sport in this country. It's unlikely we'll pluck a load of competitive athletes out of the air in time for the Beijing olympics this year.

But in boxing, I expect Amir Khan (pictured) will be ready for a world title fight by the end of the year. And the other shining young star of British sport, Lewis Hamilton, will definitely make a big push. Time's on his side. Mind you, I remember saying that about Jenson Button.' >



**NIGEL TISDALL,
TRAVEL EDITOR,
MARIE CLAIRE**

'I think Londoners should try to visit Liverpool because it's the European Capital of Culture this year. They could go to the concert that's going to reunite Sir Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.'

In Europe, Alain Ducasse, the multiple Michelin-starred French chef, has hotels in Provence and Tuscany where you are guaranteed excellent food and there are some great deals on offer.

There's lots going on in Brazil at the moment. The economy is thriving, there's the carnival next month and they have restored the Maracanã stadium.

In the Caribbean, St Lucia (pictured) has really upped its game with several exciting new hotels, including the Cap Maison. Barbados might have better beaches but St Lucia has greater natural beauty with the twin peaks of the Pitons.'

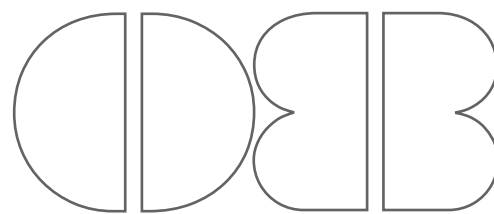




CRISPIN LEYSER IS AN LA-BASED TV EXECUTIVE

'Geeks are a big trend in the States right now with shows like Big Bang Theory, which is coming to Channel 4 this year. The show is about two physics nerds who live together when a hot girl moves in next door, and it features three members of the original Roseanne cast. Then there's a show on NBC called Chuck about a geek who accidentally gets all of the government's secrets downloaded into his head so all the spies are chasing him.

The other theme will probably be wealth and power, which is reflected in a couple of shows, including Dirty Sexy Money (pictured), starring Donald Sutherland as part of an incredibly rich but highly dysfunctional family. If I say one of the brothers is running for Senate while having a secret relationship with a transsexual, you'll get the picture. That's coming to Channel 4. Then there's Cane, starring Jimmy Smits, about a wealthy Southern family in control of the sugar cane industry and that's been bought by ITV.'



GEOFF SEELEY, DIGITAL MARKETING CONSULTANT

The big news online this year is the massive increase in penetration of mobile phone internet handsets. I wouldn't be surprised if Westminster council wi-fied the whole borough. It's already been done in the City of London. In the same way now that we roam in and out of different areas of mobile phone coverage, we'll be able to roam between different wi-fi areas. We'll be a totally wi-fi broadband nation. So if you're meeting mates on the corner of Oxford Street but you haven't decided where to have dinner you'll get out your phone, google Japanese restaurants in W1, get instructions on how to get there and book it online. Then two minutes later you can walk in and take your table.'



ALI PETTIT, GALLERY OWNER

'New collectors are swinging further towards contemporary art as opposed to the old masters. At one level, as a reaction to flux and uncertainty, people want something stable and solid, with a simplification of imagery and a return to painting and illustration. Conversely there is also a reaction to turbulent times with guerrilla art such as Banksy.'

Chinese art, particularly "cynical realism" and "political pop", is huge now: one name to look out for is Yue Minjun, whose The Massacre of Choi (above) recently sold at auction for £2 million.'

Ali Pettit owns Northcote Gallery, in Battersea and Chelsea

ALISTAIR SMITH, THE STAGE NEWSPAPER

'On the musical front, there are three very big openings this year which should prove popular: Jersey Boys, a new show about the 1960s band The Four Seasons; Trevor Nunn's new musical version of Gone with the Wind; and Marguerite, a musical set in the Second World War from the makers of Les Miserables.'

Meanwhile, Kevin Spacey returns to the Old Vic stage in January in David Mamet's Hollywood satire Speed-the-Plow and Kenneth Branagh's making a welcome return to West End theatre direction with a new version of Ivanov.

Elsewhere, the RSC is bringing all eight plays in Shakespeare's history cycles (including Richard II, right) to Camden's Roundhouse. It should be a quite an occasion.'



Photography: Masterfile/Chris Moore/Rex/Sotheby's

JOEL RICKETT, THE BOOKSELLER MAGAZINE

'Richard T Kelly's debut novel The Crusaders, set in 1990s Newcastle, is already being talked about as the British book of the decade. And there's a new Hanif Kureishi novel, Something to Tell You, set in London, which will be big news.'



PATRICK MALLUCCI, PLASTIC SURGEON

'I think breast augmentation will remain the most popular procedure. In Texas they have started doing it as a day procedure and it will be interesting to see if that takes off here.'

Lip implants are quite a new procedure, and I think they will grow in popularity in 2008. Rather than having to come back every few months for regular collagen injections, this is a more permanent solution, hence its name - Permalip. Collagen fades, so people tend to get over-pumped at the start and end up looking as if they've been punched in the mouth by Mike Tyson. But Permalip is an instant solution.

In terms of face lifting we're seeing more people veering towards short scar lifts. This means we avoid the long scars that go up into the hairline or behind the ears. Instead you have to be a bit cleverer, gathering the skin up through the shorter scar, almost like a dressmaker with material.'

Patrick Mallucci is a consultant plastic surgeon at London Plastic Surgery Associates