

HISTORY OF THE LOCATIONS FROM THE NOTTING HILL MOVIE 1999

Notting Hill

Notting Hill has been the filming location of many movies such as Love Actually, the Paddington movies, Spectre and of course, Notting Hill. Notting Hill isn't just famous for the movies filmed there but also Portobello Market, its yearly carnival and unfortunately, The Notting Hill riots of 1958.



Although Notting Hill is now a place that is celebrated for its diversity, it wasn't always like that. In 1958, a mob of 300 to 400 white people (known as the Teddy Boys) stormed the streets of Notting Hill displaying hostility to the Black Community in the area. People were assaulted, seriously injured, harassed, chased ect. The violence began on the 20th August when property owned by Caribbean immigrants was vandalised and the owners were

physically harassed. The violence escalated rapidly on the 24th August when 9 Teddy Boys attacked 5 black men, three of which were seriously injured. The violence spread to Nottingham where there were riots that lasted two weeks. These actions acted as a stimulant for the Notting Hill riots. On August 30th, a swarm of white youths chased a number of black immigrants through the streets, launching milk bottles and petrol bombs. Some were armed with butcher knives and iron bars. But the black community did act in response,

armed in self-defence. After a week the rioting finally stopped, on average a total of 140, mainly white, youths were arrested.



In response to this terrible event, the Notting Hill Carnival was created. The first Carnival was organised by social worker and local resident, Rhaune Laslett-O'Brien, for the local children in 1965.

Rhaune Laslett-O'Brien was born in 1919 to a Russian Father and a Native American Mother in London's East End. She ran a 24-hour legal advice service for local residents, the homeless and immigrants from the ground floor of her

home in Tavistock Crescent.

Rhaune Laslett was a community activist who was determined to address and ease intercultural tension and so she set out to include the West-Indian residents into her event. Many local residents attended and the Carnival was a grand success. Rhaune Laslett-O'Brien's street festival blossomed into the world famous Notting Hill Carnival. Full of colour, music and celebrating the cultures the Carnival is still ongoing today and happens on the 26-28th August.



The Savoy Hotel



The Savoy Hotel is a luxury hotel opened in 1889. But, before it was a 5 star hotel it was a palace, the palace was turned into a hospital for the needy by King Henry VII. Although, in 1702, the hospital went out of use and later on, in 1864 everything except the chapel burnt down. The property wasn't used until purchased by Richard O'Dyle Carte, who turned it into the building it is now.

There are many interesting facts about the Savoy Hotel, for example, before César Ritz went on to open rival hotel - The Ritz - he was the manager of The Savoy Hotel, but he was fired by Carte in 1898 for fraud after Ritz allegedly stole £250,000 worth of wine!

In 1898 Woolf Joel held a party for 14 guests, one of the guests cancelled at the last minute, leaving Joel with 13 guests. There is an old superstition that claims that 13 dinner guests means that the first one to get up from the table would soon die. Joel rejected this and was the first to rise from the table - two weeks later, he was shot dead. Since then, whenever there were 13 guests, a member of staff would be seated with the party, to avoid any other deaths, that was until 1927, when an art deco sculpture of a cat, by the name of Kaspar, was introduced, from then on any diner parties with 13 guests had Kaspar join them.

But what does the Savoy have to do with the Notting Hill Movie? Well, it's where William publicly proposes to Anna posing as a reporter from horse and hound during her press conference, which was held in the Lancaster room of the Savoy!



Empire Leicester Square



The Empire Leicester Square opened in 1884. Over the years, it has become a symbol of cinema culture in London. It has hosted countless movie premieres and has been a favourite spot for film enthusiasts. It was designed and built by the renowned theatre architect Thomas Verity. Thomas was an architect well known for the vast number of theatre's he designed. His career began in the department of the War Office and from there he went on to assist on the construction of Royal Albert Hall and South Kensington Museum. The (now) cinema still has some of its original characteristics but has since been modernised to fit its role as a cinema instead of a theatre. In Notting Hill, The Empire Leicester Square is featured as the venue of a premiere that Anna attends.

Ritz Hotel

The Ritz opened on the 25th of May 1906 and was known as one of the most prestigious hotels in the world. It attracted famous, fashionable and wealthy guests. It hosted the likes of King Edward VII, Winston Churchill and Queen Elizabeth II, who hosted her 80th birthday at the Ritz in 2006. Fun fact, The Ritz was the first hotel that allowed young unmarried women to enter unchaperoned!



César Ritz was born on the 23rd of February 1850 in Switzerland and was originally named Cäsar Ritz. He was the youngest of 13 children of a poor peasant family. At the age of 15 he began his Hotel career in Switzerland, but acquired his skill in the capital of France. After being let go from his job at a Hotel in Switzerland for having a lack of flair for the hotel business, he travelled to Paris and worked in the restaurant Voisin. Voisin was the most fashionable restaurant and was crammed with celebrities. Ritz worked there as a waiter until later returning to Switzerland to manage the Rigi Kulm Hotel and the Grand Hotel National where many admired his attention to detail. He managed Swiss Hotels during the summer and then in the winter he would follow Europe's high society down to the Mediterranean, where he managed Hotels in Monte Carlo, San Remo and Nice.

During his time in Monte Carlo, he met a French chef Auguste Escoffier and offered him a job to run the kitchens in the new Grand Hôtel. Then in 1887 they opened a restaurant in Germany and moved to London for ten years, where he worked for the Savoy. And as mentioned before, he was fired for stealing £250,000 worth of wine!



In 1898, he opened the first Hôtel Ritz in Paris, then opened another in London 1906 and another in Madrid a year later.

However, Ritz suffered from depression. His French wife, Marie-Louise, wrote that he felt as if he hadn't achieved anything. After a nervous breakdown in 1902, he hardly worked for 15 years.

He then passed away at the age of 68 on October 26, 1918, in a clinic in Küssnacht in Switzerland. He was buried in Paris but his remains were transported to his birth place in Niederwald. He was the first to say "the customer is always right".

When we visited the Ritz, we briefly interviewed a chauffeur and a manager at the Ritz. The manager had worked there for 16 years and loved it all and the Chauffeur had worked at the Ritz for 4 years and meeting people from all around the world!

In the movie, Anna invites Will to see her but forgets that she is getting interviewed by many newspapers so when Will arrives he pretends to be a journalist for Horse and Hound and awkwardly has to interview the rest of the cast.

Nobu Restaurant



Nobu is a restaurant founded in 1994 by Nobu Matsuhisa, Robert De Niro, Meir Teper. In 1994, Matsuhisa, De Niro, restaurateur Drew Nieporent, and investor Meir Teper agreed to a joint venture and on 17 September 1994, the first Nobu opened. Nobu's famous signature dish is black cod with miso. The secret behind the iconic dish is partly the level of precision written into the recipe, where every detail—from the exact weight of the fish, to the 72 hours each piece is marinated for—is precisely maintained.

By 1997 the first Nobu opened outside of the United States, in London. By 2018, the chain has expanded to 38 restaurants and currently (December 2021) counts 50 restaurants. The first Nobu Hotel opened inside Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, Nevada in 2013. Two years later, in May 2015, Nobu opened a hotel in the City of Dreams, Manila, Philippines. By October 2020, the chain had 13 hotels. In late November 2022, the first Nobu Hotel in the Southeast

opened in Atlanta, Georgia. In Notting Hill, Nobu is featured when Will and Anna are dining and hear a group of men talking about Anna in a derogatory manner. We had planned to have lunch there but unfortunately when we arrived, it was closed.



The Coronet Theatre

The Coronet Theatre was a beautiful building to visit, the Theatre was opened in 1898 and was built by Walter Wallis based on designs by architect William George Robert Sprague, costing an estimation of £25,000 to construct. W.G.R Sprague was born in Australia in 1863 to actress Dolores Drummond, he became a prolific Theatre architect who built around forty Theatres in England, however thirteen are standing. The Coronet Theatre hosted the likes of Edward VII and John Gielgud (known for his role in the Murder on The Orient Express 1974). From 1923, film became popular so the Coronet Theatre was renamed the Coronet Cinema until 2014 where the new artistic director and CEO restored it back to performances. In the movie, Will and Anna go on a date to watch Anna's newly released movie 'Helix' but William can't find his glasses so ends up wearing prescription Scuba goggles!



91 Lansdowne Road W11 2LE

91 Lansdowne Road is home to William's younger sister, Honey's house, where he goes with Anna to celebrate her birthday with their friends. When we went to find the house, it seemed to be under construction so we got no pictures, however we saw a "photoshoot" outside of a lady and a vintage V-Dub!

Rosmead Gardens, Rosmead Road, W11



This garden was made famous because of Notting Hill when the couple climbed a fence to sneak into the private communal gardens at night. It is part of the Ladbroke Estate, which also includes Arundel Gardens and St John's Gardens. In 1823, prominent London architect Thomas Allason planned out these generous communal gardens. They were organised in a concentric layout of crescents with the outer crescents dating from the 1860's. As it is private we were unable to enter however we peered through the gate and saw that the famous bench wasn't there! It was in fact a prop.

142 Portobello Road, W11 (travel bookshop)

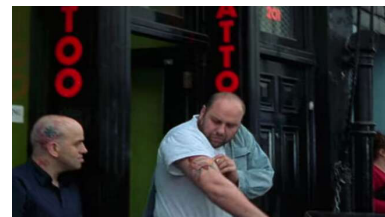


Richard Curtis, one of the writers of the Notting Hill movie, owned / owns the House with the Blue Door and when walking around Notting Hill would pass by the Notting Hill Bookshop. The bookshop inspired the set for the film however when Curtis approached the owners of the Bookshop they refused his offer. However he was set on the idea of Will working in a bookshop so he recreated the bookshop which is now a tourist attraction full of Notting Hill themed souvenirs. The bookshop that the one in the movie was based off is still around today, however it isn't owned by the same people! In 2011, the family that owned the Bookshop went through some hard times and ended up closing the bookshop. A company called 'The Book Warehouse' then bought the shop and since then it has been a hotspot for tourists, it is also popular for the amount of proposals that have happened in the shop! When we visited Notting Hill, we visited the Bookshop that Richard Curtis based Will's bookshop off and there were so many people that it was difficult to move around the shop!



201 Portobello Rd, W11

In the opening sequence, Saint's Tattoo Studio, in Portobello Road was featured and referred to as the 'The Tattoo Parlour' and showed a man coming out with a tattoo that says 'I Love Ken'. It is no longer open.

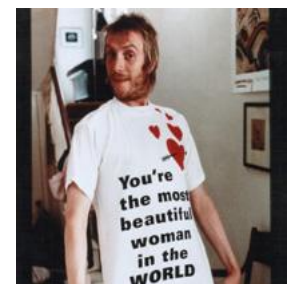


303 Westbourne Park Rd, W11

In the movie, this location is a coffee shop local to William. As he walks back home after getting an orange juice from the café and bumps into Anna! This location is now a barbershop.

280 Westbourne Park Road (Will's house)

On the 9th of December 1999 the iconic blue door in front of William Thatcher's house was auctioned off for £5,750! It is a very popular



tourist attraction in Notting Hill, however it was rather underwhelming because the door (not the original but still blue) was not in a very good condition. The house belonged / belongs to film writer Richard Curtis and the house is estimated to be worth £5,000,000. Will lived there with his Welsh flatmate Spike. Spike is known for his out of pocket behaviour, such as his date t-shirts and going out to see the paparazzi in his underwear!

Portobello market

London's Portobello Road & Golborne Road Market is probably the world's best known street market with a history stretching back over 150 years. The market began as many other London markets did and mainly sold fresh-food in the 19th century; antiques and wares dealers arrived in the late 1940s and '50s, and gradually antiques have become the main attraction of this market, having a substantial number of them trading mainly on Saturday mornings. It is the largest antiques market in the UK. It has been a popular destination for locals and tourists alike for over 150 years. The movie Notting Hill features the market in several scenes, showcasing its unique charm.



105 Golborne Road, W10 (Will's friend's unsuccessful restaurant)

In the movie this is known as Tony's failed restaurant, now it is Portfolio Ltd which sells a range of cards, posters, gifts and frames.

Zen Garden of The Hempel Collection, 31-35 Craven Hill Gardens, W2

When we arrived at the Hempel Gardens we could see through the gate, however it is a private property for the locals so you could only enter a code to enter the gardens. But a lovely local lady allowed us to go inside to look around. The Hempel gardens is a residential development in Bayswater, London W2. The site was developed into apartments and townhouses by Amazon Properties. All of the apartments were sold out in 2017. Hempel Gardens apartments are 7 story Victorian buildings. The interior was designed by Brady Williams.



Kenwood House

Another beautiful place to visit was Kenwood House, we had a picnic and explored the House and its impressive collection of art. Kenwood House is known for its variety of art collections, that includes paintings by artists such as Hals, Rembrandt and Vermeer. The first building on site was most likely a brick structure built by King James I's printer, John



Bill. The house was kept in his family until his Grandson sold the house in 1690 to Brook Bridges for £3,400. It is thought that around 1700, Brook Bridges' son, William who owned Kenwood at the time made some significant changes to the house. During the early 18th Century, many people owned Kenwood (Dukes, Earls, Aristocrates and Merchants). In 1754, Kenwood House was acquired by William Murray, Lord Mansfield. Him and his wife, Betty, used it as their weekend holiday villa and the couple were very fond of the house. William expanded the estate and demolished Bute's gardens. Although the couple were childless, Betty and William accommodated their niece, Anne



Murray, their two grand-nieces, Elizabeth Murray and Dido Elizabeth Belle. Dido was the child of Sir John Lindsay (Mansfield's nephew) and ex-slave Maria Bell. It was an anomaly that a mixed race child would have been raised by the aristocratic British family and not have been raised a servant.

Dido E Belle was born to former slave Maria Bell and Royal Navy Officer, Sir John Lindsay. Her Mother, Maria Bell was an enslaved Black woman in the British West Indies. She was released on the 22nd August 1774. In the same year (1774) she gave birth to Dido and is thought to have been 15. Dido (now 5) was baptised at St George's Church, Bloomsbury. Her Father was not on the records of Dido's baptism however, likely supported Maria during Dido's life. However, Lindsay fathered many illegitimate children. Dido was the oldest of 5 children of 5 different mothers, four of which were from African Heritage.



Dido and Elizabeth - picture can be seen in the house

Dido then lived at Kenwood House alongside her close companion Elizabeth Murray. Dido was thought upon as an equal to Elizabeth and was taught how to read, write, play music and be graceful. She was also given an allowance. The London Chronicle stated that Dido had gained great respect for all of her accomplishments. Dido also supervised the dairy and poultry yard, which was a very common hobby of the upper class women at the time. However, after the death of Lord Mansfield's wife, Betty, Dido cared for Mansfield in his old age. Once he died in 1793, he left money for Dido in his will. It was a smaller amount than Elizabeth Murray but it is unclear what Lord Mansfield's reasoning for this was.

Later that year, she married a senior servant (John Davinier) who was originally from France. They went on to have 3 boys, two twins (Charles and John) and their youngest son, William. They lived in Pimlico, London, where the boys went to school, until Dido's death in 1803. She was 43. Dido was buried in the place she had been Baptised, St George's Church, Bloomsbury.

In the movie, William visits Anna at her new set for a period piece, however he overhears her speaking about him. This leads to an argument between the pair.

What did we learn from doing the Henry Morris project?

From completing the Henry Morris project, we have learnt many skills that will help us in the future. We have a deeper understanding of how to budget and plan ahead of time effectively. Although at times it wasn't easy to plan a day where everyone is free, we learnt that it is important to set a date as early as possible so people don't make plans.

I think that the Henry Morris project also helped us to understand how much work goes into planning and how much detail there is to put in. For example, finding the best priced tickets for transport, planning a date, organising the locations so they are time effective and planning around the weather.

If I was to do this project again, I feel as if I would know what would need to be done to make everything go smoothly and I would be confident that I could complete all that needed to be done.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity, we really enjoyed the project! It allowed us to create so many memories and explore a variety of places we may have never visited if we hadn't applied for the project.