



**london
transport
museum**

LAST STOP

**A photographic exhibition
of the Routemaster bus
London Transport Museum
16 May–27 July 2008**

Ralf Obergfell presents Last Stop, a photographic celebration of one of London's most famous icons – the Routemaster bus, at London Transport Museum. The exhibition opens on 16 May 2008 and builds

upon the Museum's new focus on design innovation. It is the first in a programme of events that will explore different aspects of urban culture, art and social history.

The vibrant images capture moments during the Routemasters' final eighteen months of regular service and also social portraits of staff and passengers. They pay tribute to the bus's warm, weighty yet elegant design features.

German born, Ralf has been drawn to London ever since he saw a Routemaster on television in his teens. He was struck by the bright red, the curves and the powerful design. He said, "Last Stop is not an exercise in protest, or even nostalgia; it is a tribute to the unique and dynamic role the Routemaster played in London life".

A fully illustrated book with hundreds of Ralf's Last Stop images will appeal to all urban design junkies. It includes contributions from former Time Out deputy film editor, Ben Walters, and Travis Elborough, author of 'The Bus We Loved'. It is available in London Transport Museum's shop and online at www.ltmuseum.co.uk. It is also available at selected bookstores. Designed by David Azurdia at Magpie Studio, it retails for £14.99.

A number of special events have been organised to coincide with the exhibition; further information about these can be found at www.ltmuseum.co.uk.

Last Stop takes place in the Museum's CBS Outdoor gallery and admission is included in the main Museum ticket price. It runs until 27 July 2008.

Ends

For more images, review copies of the book and information about London Transport Museum and Last Stop exhibition please contact Rachel Beddow on 01332 384235 or email rachel.beddow@breedonpublishing.co.uk or Wendy Neville on 020 7565 7266 or email wendy.neville@ltmuseum.co.uk.



MAYOR OF LONDON

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Notes to editors

- ♦ Last Stop is Ralf's first book and first solo exhibition
- ♦ Ralf was born in Freiburg, Germany, on the edge of the Black Forest, and now lives in London. He graduated from the London College of Printing. His photographs have appeared in Art Review, Creative Review, Grafik, Time Out, and Korean Vogue, as well as Der Spiegel and BBC Online. He has received UNESCO support for a project documenting the lives of the 'Urak Lawoi' (People of the Sea) of southern Thailand and Borneo. In 2007 he was nominated for the Paris Photography Award, and in 2008 he was semi finalist in the Hasselblad Masters Award. Further information about Ralf's work is at ralfobergfell.com.
- ♦ The photographs were mostly taken on routes 19 and 38, running from Finsbury Park in the north and Hackney in the east through the heart of the West End and on to Knightsbridge and Chelsea.
- ♦ The book Last Stop, which is sponsored by Arriva, has been published by Breedon Publishing and retails at £14.99. It is available in the Museum shop and online at www.ltmuseum.co.uk. For press review copies, please contact Wendy Neville at wendy.neville@ltmuseum.co.uk or telephone 020 7565 7266.
- ♦ The Last Stop website www.routemasters.co.uk has been permanently archived by the British Library in the name of national heritage.
- ♦ Arriva is one of London's largest bus operators. They still operate Routemasters for special events. For more information visit www.theheritagefleet.com.
- ♦ Routemasters continue to run on special Heritage Routes along the central sections of bus routes 9 and 15. They were taken out of regular service at the end of 2005 as they are not accessible to everyone, with their high, open platforms and steep stairs. The Capital now has a fleet of 8,000 low-floor, wheelchair accessible buses, so the ten per cent of Londoners who have some kind of mobility problem, and others who found step-access difficult, now have access to the full bus network.
- ♦ The prototype Routemaster (RM-type) bus was built in 1954 and first entered passenger service two years later. Production models were in service from 1959, and they replaced all London's trolleybuses by 1962. The RM followed a similar style to the earlier RT bus, but with improvements. It was lighter, having an aluminium body and no separate chassis, which reduced costs and improved fuel efficiency



- ♦ Highlights of the Museum's future exhibitions and events programme include:
 - Event: talk by Wayne Hemingway as part of London Festival of Architecture – 7 July 2008
 - Exhibition: advertising posters – 15 August – 1 October 2008
 - Events: London Design Festival – 15 – 23 September 2008
 - Exhibition: London transport posters: The art of good design – 15 October 2008 – 31 March 2009
 - Conference: The art of the poster – October 2008
- ♦ The Museum opened on 22 November after a two-year closure and a £22.4 million revamp. New galleries include Design for travel, World cities and London's transport at war
- ♦ London Transport Museum Admission:
 - Gift Aid admission: Adults £10.00; Senior citizens £8.00; Students £6.50
 - Standard admission: Adults £8.00; Senior Citizens £6.50; Students £5.00
 - Freedom Pass holders and under 16s free
- ♦ London Transport Museum Ltd is a subsidiary company of Transport for London with charitable status. The Museum's charity number is 1123122
- ♦ Opening hours:
 - Saturday to Thursday 10.00–18.00 (last admission 17.15)
 - Friday 11.00–21.00 (last admission 20.15)
- ♦ Public information:
 - Talks & events bookings: +44 (0)20 7565 7298
 - Switchboard: +44 (0)20 7379 6344 – general information
 - 24 hour information: +44 (0)20 7565 7299
 - Address: Covent Garden Piazza, London WC2E 7BB
 - www.ltmuseum.co.uk
- ♦ Ralf's work can be seen at www.ralfobergfell.com and www.routemasters.co.uk.

