

Throwing Light on the Subject

A NEW launch from the etc.venues stable opened in September adjoining conference property Prospero House. **Illuminate** (tel: 020 7105 6010, squaremeal.co.uk/illuminate) holds up to 280 theatre-style and can be divided into two. It has its own entrance but is also connected to Prospero House via interconnecting doors, making hire of both spaces an attractive option for meetings during the day followed by drinks or dinner in the evening. AV equipment is hi-spec, as is its sophisticated lighting system.



Park It

IN THE heart of the West End and opposite Selfridges lies **Parklife Oxford Street** (tel: 0845 054 2230, squaremeal.co.uk/parklife), one of the most exciting new spaces we've come across recently. Available for exclusive or part dry hire, with or without full event management, the huge site has a mighty 4,000sq m of usable event space. Bookings are now being taken for events in a new semi-permanent structure opening in January. It'll have capacity for 500 with an on-site kitchen, plumbed-in loos and decked alfresco areas. The space is only available for hire for a limited period (currently until the end of May) so get in quick.

Take it to the Bridge

CURRENTLY undergoing a three-year restoration project, event organisers will be pleased to hear that **Tower Bridge** (tel: 0845 166 4375, squaremeal.co.uk/towerbr) will be scaffolding-and-workmen-free from November to next October 2010, with all areas completely accessible.



MOVIE MOMENT IN THE LOOP AT ONE GREAT GEORGE STREET

One of the wittiest films of the summer was Armando Iannucci's *In The Loop*, starring Peter Capaldi as Malcom Tucker, loosely based on Alistair Campbell. The film was inspired by the original BBC series *In the Thick of It*, a cult satire on Blair's government, with a story hinging on the determination of a British prime minister and American president to start a war. Westminster venue One Great George Street plays a starring role throughout as the Foreign Office. Now out on DVD, you can spot Tom Hollander in the ornate Great Hall taking a call, James Gandolfini in a meeting on 'interim anglo resources' in the Smeaton Room, and various civil servants milling about in the stunning Rotunda foyer area. 'Regretfully, staff didn't really get to speak to any of the actors - they just wanted to be left to it,' says Lisa Fisher, sales and marketing manager at the venue. Not a million miles away from New Labour's current relationship with the media perhaps...

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