

# Evening Standard

### AJ READY TO HEAD FOR NEW YORK

JOSHUA COULD FACE TITLE BOUT WITH US FIGHTER MILLER » SPORT PAGE 62



### THE HOTTEST WAY TO BEAT THE CHILL

WRAP UP IN A DUVET SCARF THIS WINTER » FASHION STARTS ON PAGE 35



# 2 WEEKS TO KILL NO DEAL BREXIT OR WE'RE OFF

## » NEW WARNING TO MAY AHEAD OF VOTE

Joe Murphy and Nicholas Cecil

THERESA MAY was handed a public ultimatum today by one of her ministers to let MPs rule out a no-deal Brexit within two weeks – or face a rebellion.

Business minister Richard Harrington indicated

he was ready to break a three-line whip if the Prime Minister failed to give such an "irrevocable undertaking" today in the House of Commons.

Speaking on BBC radio ahead of tonight's critical votes on Brexit, the minister indicated he was

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Recovery: Andy Murray posted this picture after having a metal hip resurfacing operation SPORT: Back Page

## MURRAY'S HIP OP TO SAVE CAREER

### No new HIV cases in Britain after 2030: pledge by minister

### AIDS FREE

Evening Standard Charity Appeal for the ELTON JOHN AIDS FOUNDATION

Oliver Poole

HEALTH Secretary Matt Hancock will tomorrow commit to making the UK the first country in the world to have no new cases of HIV.

Speaking at the Evening Standard's AIDSfree Cities Global Forum, the Secretary of State is to announce the Government's commitment to reaching the target by 2030, and will pledge to direct funding to reduce the risk of people contracting or passing on the virus.

Mr Hancock has also committed a further £15 million in funding to the Elton John AIDS Foundation through the Standard's AIDSfree campaign to help end the HIV epidemic. This is in addition to government support for the appeal through UK Aid Match, which is doubling all donations. UK Aid Match funding is provided by the Department for International Development.

"HIV and AIDS are challenges that we must rise to," Mr Hancock is expected to say. "The injustice, the

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## Malkovich returns to West End in play inspired by Weinstein

Alistair Foster Showbusiness Editor

JOHN MALKOVICH is to star in a West End play inspired by disgraced Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Bitter Wheat is being written by Pulitzer prize-winning David Mamet, who will also direct.

Malkovich, who is returning to the West End after nearly 30 years, admitted the play may "upset" some people.

The 65-year-old described it as "a black farce about a very badly behaved media mogul" and said Weinstein was the "starting point" for the play.

Malkovich, inset, will play Barney Fein, a depraved Hollywood producer, in the production which will open at the Garrick Theatre in June.

The actor, whose last West End appearance was in A Slip Of The Tongue at the Shaftesbury Theatre in 1992, told the BBC Radio 4 Today programme:

"Of course it might upset people who've experienced the kind of treatment that the play contains and describes. A lot of people may not like it. But what can I do about that? I think it's a terrific piece of writing. A lot of people will laugh. A lot of comedy exists at the crossroads between pain and farce."

Malkovich starred in the film Rounders, which was financed by Weinstein, but said that beyond that "I didn't really have any connection with him".

He added: "They say everyone in Hollywood knew [about his behaviour]. But that's not true. It was never a topic of conversation on any time the name Harvey Weinstein came around with me."

Scores of women have accused Weinstein of rape or sexual assault, and the allegations led to the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein denies any claims of non-consensual sex and has described allegations against him as "patently false".

● *Previews for Bitter Wheat will start on June 7 with press night scheduled for June 19*



REUTERS

## Freud's muse Big Sue cast in Nicole Farhi's solo sculpture show

Robert Dex Arts Correspondent

LUCIAN FREUD'S unlikely muse Sue Tilley has been tempted out of retirement for one last modelling job – for designer turned artist Nicole Farhi.

Tilley, who was the subject of Freud's Benefits Supervisor Resting, which sold for £35.8 million three years ago, posed for a set of sculptures which go on show this week. Farhi said the pair bonded over their mutual friendship with Freud, widely regarded as one of the great painters of the 20th century. He died in 2011.

The designer, who left the fashion business seven years ago to devote herself to sculpture full time, was put in touch with Tilley, now 61, after asking a friend to recommend "curvaceous models". She said: "Sue had stopped modelling and was now a painter. Still she decided to come and meet me."

"We met, we got on well, I liked her spirit enormously. I think she liked the portrait I had done of Lucian Freud... we had him in common, not that I had known him as well as she had. She agreed to sit for me but will only show me her breast. It was fine with me as the breast has such an important place in human thought. It has been regarded as a sex object or a source of nurturance and I wanted to show it in its glorious primal beauty."

Tilley, who moved from Bethnal Green to East Sussex two years ago, was a regular on the capital's

Mutual friend: Sue Tilley, below, was persuaded to model again by Nicole Farhi, above with one of the sculptures

avant garde clubbing scene in the Eighties and was introduced to Freud by her friend, performance artist Leigh Bowery. She worked for many years at Charing Cross job centre and was paid £33 a day to sit for Freud, who nicknamed her Big Sue and painted and sketched her dozens of times.

Another of his paintings of her, Benefits Supervisor Sleeping, once held the record for the most expensive painting by a living artist when Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich paid £17 million for it in 2008. Farhi, 72, who is married to

I wanted to explore the powerful beauty and sexual energy large women have  
Nicole Farhi



playwright David Hare, cast her models' bodies in plaster to create life-sized replicas of their curves, before casting them in jesmonite and bronze. She added: "Following my last exhibition focusing on the human hand, I wanted to continue looking at parts of the human body, this time exploring the powerful beauty of flesh, curves and the sexual energy large women have."

● *Folds is at the Beaux Arts gallery in the West End from Thursday to March 2*

A&C ARTS & CULTURE TODAY MELANIE MCDONAGH ON THE GENIUS OF RUSKIN Page 40

FINAL WEEKS - MUST END 23 FEB

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