THEATRE

Behind The Scenes

The newly opened Hoxton Hotel in Holborn will play host to the immersive play *The Backstage Tour* in a cynical, satirical look at the world of show business (October 17). Tickets to the show include a room for two at the hotel for the night plus breakfast the next morning—so once the play starts, the audience is in it for the long run. Written by Amy Gadney and directed by Mimi Poskitt, the play features a cast who will remain secret until the night. hoxtonhotels.com

EXHIBITION

PAOLO SCHEGGI

The Milanese artist Paolo Scheggi died in 1971, aged just 31, so he was still in his early 20s when he developed the multi-dimensional works that characterise his art. By superimposing cut-outs he created mesmerisingly complex canvases to pleasingly confuse the observer. Get lost in these visual mazes in the first solo exhibition of his work to be exhibited in London at Robilant + Voena (October 1–November 4). robilantvoena.com

Max Chafkin, Katherine Stirling, and Betsy Kenny Lack

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, *Vanity Fair*’s annual New Establishment list (page 118) has for two decades reflected the shifts of power across many dimensions—among them, industry, age, and gender. Tech companies, which now dominate the list, were for years second fiddle to the media and communications industries; it was 15 years before someone in his or her 20s first appeared, and the number of women on this year’s list is up 400 percent from 1994.

What is most notable is that the pace of change and innovation, in those intervening years, has moved at an exponential rate, far faster than could have been imagined when the list was created,” says contributing editor Betsy Kenny Lack. Lack, articles editor Katherine Stirling, and journalist Max Chafkin are the magazine’s arbiters of those shifts in power, and not only in the macro view. Over the last year, they were witness to one remarkable acquisition and one remarkable rejection: Facebook’s $19 billion purchase of WhatsApp, the free message service, and its $3 billion offer turned down by Snapchat, the free ephemera-message service. “Tech investors tend to have a hard time distinguishing between trends and fads, and it seems possible that Snapchat and WhatsApp could wind up falling into the second category rather than the first,” says Chafkin. “But these big deals aren’t bold bets on the future; to my mind, they’re defensive plays.” While there are those whose inclusion reflects a whirlwind success (Pharrell Williams, No. 22), the mainstays, says Stirling, demonstrate the ability to foresee cultural changes and pivot accordingly. “Elon Musk is a fitting No. 1,” she adds. “Following the chain of his companies is instructive and recapitulates much of what we see on the list. A lot of these people have come to prominence through tech, but their ambitions and interests multiply and diversify over the years. Sometimes that’s inspiring, sometimes it’s scary, but it always keeps things interesting.”