

London Evening Standard



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WEST END FINAL

MILIBAND IN DEAD MIGRANTS STORM

LABOUR ACCUSED OF USING MED DROWNING VICTIMS TO LAUNCH ATTACK ON CAMERON

Nicholas Cecil Deputy Political Editor

ED MILIBAND was today accused of trying to "weaponise drowning migrants" in a row over David Cameron's handling of the Libya crisis.

Labour issued a briefing that its leader, in a speech on foreign policy, would say the refugee crisis and recent tragic scenes in the Mediterranean were in part a "direct result" of the failure of post-conflict planning for Libya after the overthrow of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

It said Mr Miliband was due to add: "David Cameron was wrong to assume that Libya's political culture and institutions could be left to evolve and transform on their own."

That led the BBC to report: "Ed Miliband is to accuse David Cameron and world leaders of failing to 'stand by' Libya, contributing in part to the crisis in the Mediterranean."

Hundreds of migrants, desperately seeking to cross from Libya to Italy or other European countries, have drowned in recent weeks after boats sank.

Senior Tories swiftly condemned Mr Miliband, who backed UK military action in Libya in 2011, for his comments.

Chancellor George Osborne said: "To try to score political points out of the deaths of migrants in the Mediterranean is pretty demeaning and shows a real lack of judgment." He claimed it showed that Mr Miliband was "not up to the job" of being Prime Minister, if victorious on May 7.

Cabinet minister Liz Truss called for an apology and branded Mr Miliband's remarks "outrageous and disgraceful". She added: "Actually accusing the Prime Minister of



SISTER ACT

Gemma Arterton, 29, right, poses with sister Hannah, 26, after the Royal Ballet's *La Fille Mal Gardée* at Covent Garden

Inside THEY'RE RUNNING LONDON

The stars and City bosses set for Sunday's marathon

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Friday Sport

Paula Radcliffe exclusive interview

Can Wenger finally get the better of Mourinho?

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Family love letters inspired new epic by Corelli author

Louise Jury
Chief Arts Correspondent

THE author of Captain Corelli's Mandolin has written a new war and romance epic inspired by the story of his own family in south-east London.

Louis de Bernières said he had been thinking about the trilogy for two decades – but began writing it only three years ago. The first volume, *The Dust That Falls From Dreams*, will be published on July 2. It is his first saga since *Birds Without Wings* in 2004.

The writer, pictured, said: "It's based roughly on the history of my own family except I don't know enough about the history and it wasn't interesting



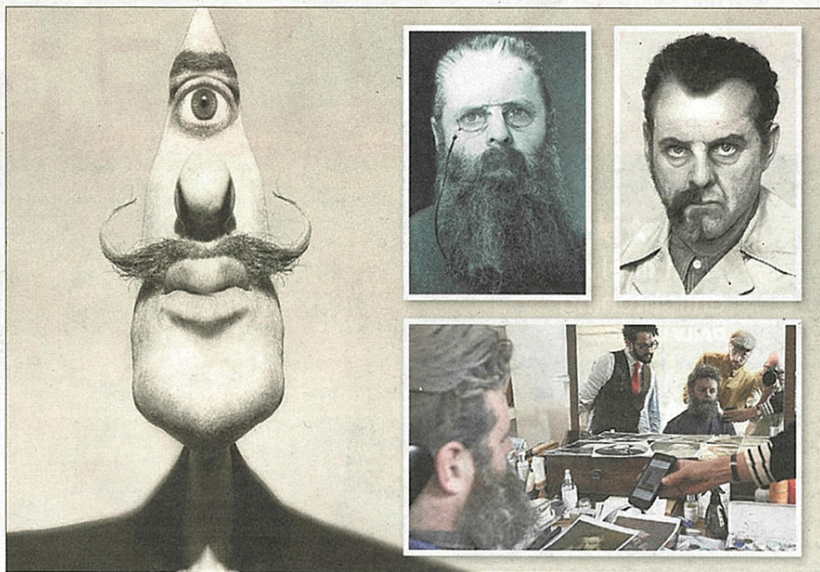
enough so I've completely fictionalised it and told a vast pack of lies."

De Bernières, 60, found primary sources in his grandmother's love letters for his saga of three neighbouring families in Eltham whose fortunes are changed by the First World War.

He said: "My father grew up there. His mother had lost her fiancé in 1915 and never got over it, but she did marry and that didn't work out."

The London-born author said "everything went totally mad" after Captain Corelli's Mandolin became a hit in 1994. But he said he was happier now, having won shared custody of his two children after a "painful split". "They are more important to me than anything," he added. @LouiseJury

BEARD IMITATING ART GAVIN TURK'S CLOSE SHAVE WITH PAST



ESTER KEATE

AFTER 18 months of growing an impressive beard, artist Gavin Turk felt it was time to shave it off – but not without being a little creative.

Assisted by male grooming experts Murdock he removed the hair in stages to emulate Auguste Rodin, top, William Morris, Henri Matisse, Paul Cézanne, the photographer Man Ray, top right, and finally a mustachioed Salvador Dali, above. He asked photographer Ester Keate to document the process. His poses, turned into prints and posters, will raise money for his art education charity, the House of Fairy Tales.

Posters will be available for £50 and prints for £350 at The Other Art Fair in London from April 23 to 26. **Louise Jury**

Air pollution 'can raise risk of dementia'

Kiran Randhawa

BREATHING polluted air in cities can raise the risk of dementia and stroke, scientists have warned.

A study of more than 900 adults found those living near major roads suffered cerebral shrinkage.

This aged their brains by the equivalent of one year and increased their dementia risk.

They were also almost 50 per cent more likely to have a type of silent stroke – caused by a blockage in the blood vessels supplying the brain – which increases the chance of the degenerative disease.

The study was published in the journal *Stroke*.

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