

THE PEAK



PEWTER, PASSION, LEGACY

FROM TRADITIONAL WORKSHOPS TO A NEW FLAGSHIP SPACE, ROYAL SELANGOR'S CUSTODIANS **DATUK YONG YOON LI** AND **CHEN TIEN YUE** ARE REDEFINING HOW A 140-YEAR HERITAGE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP IS PRESERVED.



A STAGE ON RAILS

Launching in summer 2026, Celia — a private dining and events carriage conceived by Baz Luhrmann and Catherine Martin — brings cinematic storytelling, Shakespearean romance and exemplary British craftsmanship to the storied carriages of the British Pullman.



01 Part theatre, part dining room, part dreamscape — Celia brings Shakespearean romance and British craftsmanship to the golden age of rail.

02 A new act for the British Pullman. A 1932 carriage transformed by Baz Luhrmann and Catherine Martin into a private stage on rails.

03 Marquetry, velvet and hand-painted ceilings echo a West End inspired motif.

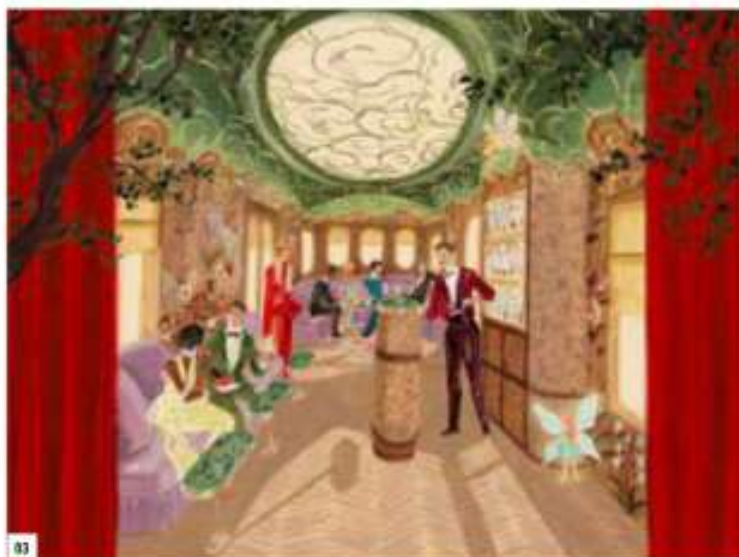
In the world of heritage rail, preservation is often the ultimate goal. With *Celia*, the British Pullman, a Belmond Train, the ambition is not simply to conserve the past, but to transform it. Launching in early summer 2026, the new private dining and events carriage — imagined by filmmaker Baz Luhrmann and Oscar-winning costume and production designer Catherine Martin — reframes the historic train not simply as a vehicle of nostalgia, but as a stage perpetually in motion.

Housed within an original 1932 Pullman carriage, *Celia* is neither replica nor restoration. It is a narrative environment: a fully self-contained suite accommodating up to 12 guests, complete with cocktail bar, lounge, dining room, pantry and kitchen. Dedicated stewards preside; a private chef can be commissioned to compose bespoke menus drawn from the finest seasonal British produce. Yet the true luxury here lies not in exclusivity, but in authorship.

“For Catherine and I, creating *Celia* was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, allowing us to push the boundaries of creativity, luxury and uniqueness,” says Luhrmann. “Stepping inside the carriage is like being transported into another world — one in which guests are invited to become part of the story. *Celia*, at its heart, is a magical mystery tour.”



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INSPIRED BY HISTORY

The carriage draws upon the theatrical heritage of 1930s London. In crafting it, Luhrmann conjured a fictional muse – an imagined leading lady who was gifted her own Pullman carriage in 1932 following an era-defining performance

as Titania. The conceit allows every design detail to operate as both set and storytelling device.

Martin, whose work is defined by its meticulous layering of period reference and fantasy, approached the commission as she might a film. "Celia gives travellers

the rare opportunity to inhabit the nostalgia of another era," she says. "The carriage offers the ultimate luxury — the time and space to truly connect with the journey itself — and it allows the mind to decelerate."

The material palette is unapologetically theatrical. An elaborate fabric ceiling crowns the carriage, hovering above veneered marquetry panels and custom timber parquet flooring. Floral motifs — a tribute to British flora — are inlaid into oak wood and echoed in upholstery, embroidery and hand-painted surfaces. The colour story is saturated and romantic: deep greens, burnished yellows, claret reds and twilight purples, layered in thick velvets and tactile trims.

Heavy, theatre-style curtains divide the space, choreographing reveal and concealment. Drawn back, they expose dreamlike tableaux etched into the interiors; closed, they create an intimacy more akin to a private box than a railway carriage. Even the powder room becomes part of the *mise-en-scène*, with mosaic and hand-painted walls unfolding in flowers and mystical motifs.



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BAZ LUHRMANN

QUINTESSENTIALLY BRITISH

British craftsmanship underpins the spectacle. Martin worked with marquetry artisans Dunn & Son, bespoke furniture designer Bill Cleynert, glass studio Tony Sandles, embroiderers Hand & Lock and interior specialists J.K. Interiors. Duchess China collaborated on fine Bone China tableware; David Mellor supplied cutlery; Tom Dixon the glassware. The result is a carriage that feels composed rather than decorated — each element considered, contextual and resolutely British.

Operating across all British Pullman journeys from London Victoria, *Celia* functions as an entirely private carriage within the train. It can host grand banquets, milestone celebrations or intimate dinners. At a moment's notice, the dining space can evolve into a performance venue or dance floor.

In Luhrmann's words, “a travelling dining experience for friends or an intimate celebration, filled with food, music, wine, laughter and performance — all unfolding as you drift through

the countryside, feeling as though you've stepped inside *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.”

If traditional luxury rail leans on memory, *Celia* leans into imagination. It invites guests not merely to observe history but to inhabit fiction — to dine within a moving set, to toast within a narrative, to let the British landscape slide past as though projected beyond a proscenium arch.

“Onboard I imagine people eating, dancing and falling in love, taking



A carriage ceiling as a mosaic; wall-lounged tables, oak marquetry and a palette drawn from twilight and theatre curtains.



“Celia gives travellers the rare opportunity to inhabit the nostalgia of another era. The carriage offers the ultimate luxury — the time and space to truly connect with the journey itself”

CATHERINE MARTIN



photographs, celebrating life's great moments and adventures," Martin reflects. "Celia offers a moment of respite. A moment of celebration. A small, luminous bubble of light and love."

Exclusive hire of the carriage starts from £15,000, including transfers within Greater London. Yet its significance lies less in price than in proposition. With *Celia*, the British Pullman suggests that the future of heritage may not rest in faithful restoration alone, but in bold reinterpretation. Where craftsmanship, authorship and storytelling combine to create a world within a world, rolling quietly through the English countryside. 🌿

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04 An era-defining chapter for the British Pullman — intimate, theatrical, and unapologetically decorative.

05 Not merely restored, but reauthored. Celia reimagines heritage travel as immersive storytelling.

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