

TimeOut

LONDON



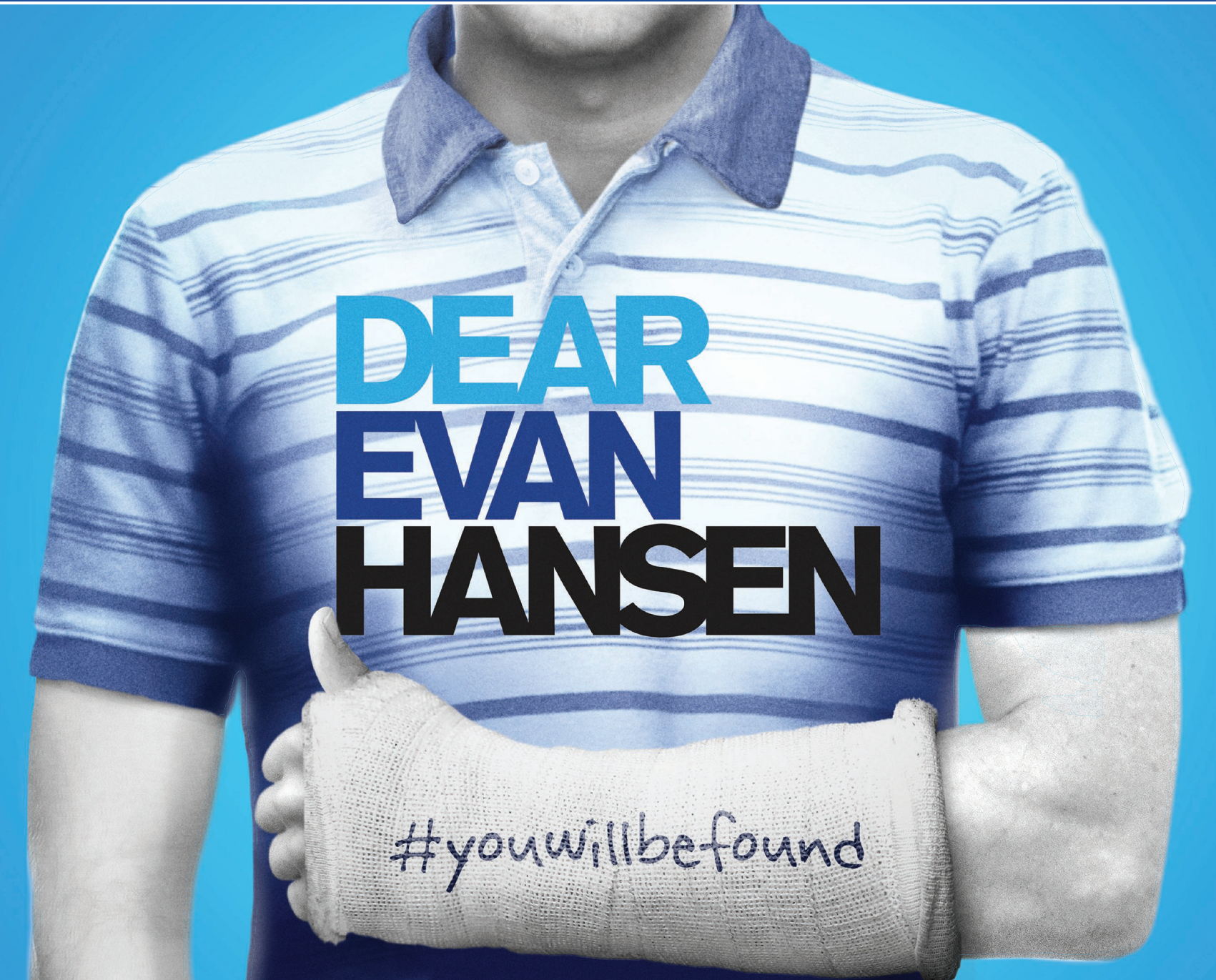
Spring?

Don't mind if I do

Highlights of the season (including alpacas, obviously)

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The Washington Post



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A DELFONT MACKINTOSH THEATRE

Inside

This week's Time Out
in no time at all

Simply the Bess

See a true drag queen this Friday
when Christopher Green (below)
cruises up the Thames as Elizabeth I

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'I'd speak in a Glaswegian accent and try to order a bag of chips'

Jessie Buckley trained hard to star in
country music movie 'Wild Rose'

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Grain check

None of the wheat, all of the taste.
That's what you'll find in our round-up
of great gluten-free restaurants

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Five-star feminism

Go see the National Theatre's revival of Caryl
Churchill's 1982 mistresspiece 'Top Girls'.
It's a once-in-a-lifetime staging

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The Drumsheds

London's getting a gargantuan new music
venue in June. We head to Meridian Water
in Enfield for a first look – and to feel small

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Hello, London

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LONDON

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Screw you, winter! You're done. No more dismal days when everyone's too fat or sad or sleepy to get out, and the only light you ever see is the one above your desk. There's a new season in the city. It's got blossom. So much blossom! Few cities in the world have magnolia, cherry and wisteria in every other garden the way we do in London. It's got culture: epic new events and trends sprouting up all over the place. And – sorry to break it to you, countryside – it's got cute, furry animals too (including alpacas, apparently). Turn to p20 for where and when to experience all of the above. Hello, spring, you big naff beautiful miracle. What took you so long?

YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

When the Tower of London decided to project a faux aurora borealis art installation over the Thames, many readers had high hopes for it. One spotted the chance to save some cash on a Norwegian pipe dream. **'Do you think I can cross Northern Lights off my bucket list if I see it?'**

Agnieszka T via Facebook

Last week we passed on the relief-giving news that it's now free to pee in all the big London train stations. John here was quick to point out the irony of the pre-2019 situation.

'If any station needs to drop the toilet charge, it's Water-LOO!'

John C via Facebook

We also flagged up niche foodie events in London. A scotch egg challenge, with lager in the photo, sure grabbed this reader's attention.

'Would straight up scarf everything in this pic before work if it was within 100 miles of me right now. Thursday is gonna be a bitch and I need proper fortification to beat it into submission.'

@AnEnglandinCali via Twitter

Giant boobs popped up across Shoreditch in the name of breastfeeding last week. Looks like Andy already has the image burned on to his retina.

'Thanks for the mammaries.'

Andy E via Facebook

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

On April Fool's Day, we covered the launch – at a pop-up in Brick Lane – of Creme Egg mayo, a surprise collaboration between Cadbury and Heinz. It was no yolk! We even got the Mayor of London on board.

'Hey, Sadiq Khan, we saw you liked the look of our curious concoction. How about being the official MAYO-r of our tasty pop-up at the Truman Brewery with Cadbury Creme Egg and coming down for a taste? :D'

Heinz UK via Facebook

Having dared to sample the stuff, we can now confirm the existence of something more divisive than Brexit.

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Representative example	Duration of agreement	Upfront cost	Monthly Device Payment	Total Credit Amount	Total amount payable for device	Interest Rate (Fixed)	Representative APR	Device Cash Price	Airtime Plan, today to March 2020	Airtime Plan, April 2020 to March 2021	Airtime Plan, April 2021 to March 2022
Huawei P30 Pro	36 months	£30	£22.75	£819	£849	0%	0%	£849	£26	£26 + RPI announced in Feb 2020 = Price A	Price A + RPI announced in Feb 2021

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City life

Edited by James Manning
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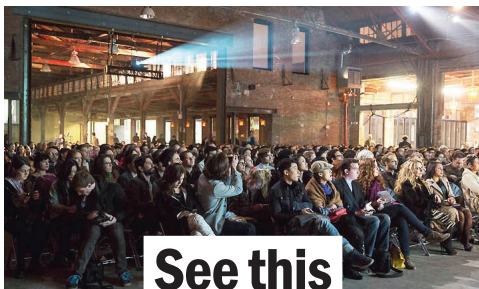
Bess in show

JUST WHEN YOU thought that London couldn't take on any more drag queens, the mother of them all deigns to grace us with her presence. No, not RuPaul – Elizabeth I. This Friday, performer Christopher Green will be lacing up in regal garments based on the famous 'Armada Portrait', donning a ginger wig and tackling the role of the original Liz for the one-off performance piece **'Elizabeth I: Construction of an Icon'**. Starting at 10.30am at the site of Greenwich Palace, where the monarch was born in 1533, the 'Queen' will cruise upstream on a Thames Clipper and proceed in state from the London Eye to the National Portrait Gallery, accompanied by 'ladies of the bedchamber' – members of the Amies Freedom Choir, survivors of human trafficking who use their music to raise cultural awareness. Between the costumes, the pomp, the powerful message of the choir and the whole performance, you won't ever have seen anything like this before. ■ *Paula Akpan*
→ Begins at the Queen's House, Greenwich. Fri Apr 12.
www.rmg.co.uk/armada



THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



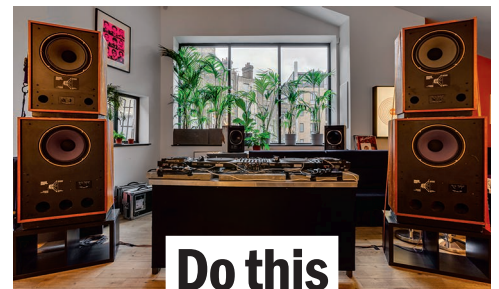
See this

Dust off your gladrags for **Lost Lectures: Curiosity Kino**. This glitzy '30s-inspired affair in a secret cinematic location pairs cocktails and popcorn with creative talks on all things film.



Eat this

This month and next, gourmet chippie Poppies is teaming up with its neighbours Gunpowder and Som Saa for a **Curry Sauce Takeover**. Head to Spitalfields to spice up your Friday night takeaway.



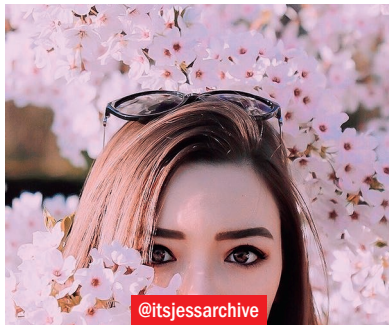
Do this

Throughout April, soothe your troubled soul at **Earth Sessions** in Dalston. It's a new vinyl-based DJ series at the shiny Earth Kitchen, rich with disco, jazz, afrobeat and more ace grooves.

Discover more cool things to do at timeout.com/news

THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out readers have been Instagramming this week



@itsjessarchive

'Let's get lost in an endless sea of cherry blossoms.'



@wildwindblows

'Are you a museum person? Art makes me feel alive.'



@abduressat

'One of the greatest journeys in life is learning to truly not give a shit.'



@claudschmid

'The #FreeTheFeed campaign raising awareness of public breastfeeding.'



@wulf.willis

'Waiting to cross the road gives you time to think about how time is relative.'



@jan.kriz.cz

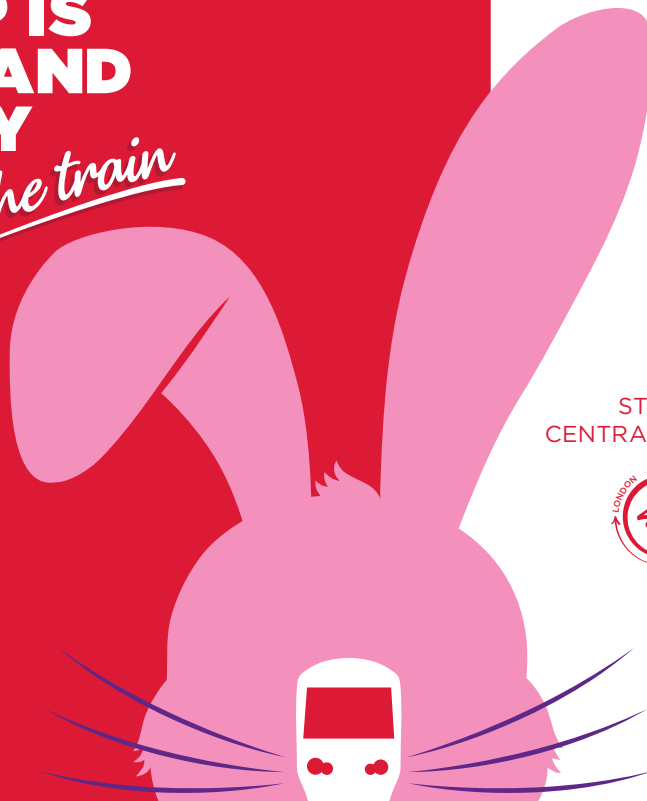
'Go to Chiswick to see this unique house. It's really worth it.'

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WORD
ON THE
STREET

The most ridiculous things we've overheard in London this week

THINGS YOU
**ONLY
KNOW**
IF YOU'RE A...

Tower block window cleaner

Jordan Edge, 27

There's more glass to clean in London than ever before

'All the tall new structures being built are great news for anyone in my job. The Broadgate Tower in the City is 33 storeys high, so by the time we've finished cleaning it, it's time to start it again. Other sites, like the Nova Building in Victoria, take a while because of their odd shapes. You can spend three hours rigging up the ropes, and just 15 minutes actually scrubbing the windows.'

Being an adrenaline junkie helps

'The first time I saw one of the buildings we were going up, I pretty much ran a mile. But you quickly lose that fear and get excited about going higher and higher. I love getting to look over London early in the morning when the city's nice and quiet.'

You find some rare wildlife on London's high-rises

'Once you're experienced on the abseil, Londoners come to you asking for all kinds of help. I once got asked by a bird protection agency to go down the side of a building to rescue an egg in a nest, while a falcon was trying to peck at me!'



Window-cleaning can be the safest job in the world - or the riskiest

'People do get hurt sometimes, because there are some dodgy companies out there that take risks, but my company, NJC, is not one of them. Part of my job is to make sure everything is safely attached to the building at all times. The only thing I've ever seen fall was years ago and it was my own wallet. It had £200 in it and a homeless gentleman down below helped me pick up every last note.' ■ Interview by James FitzGerald

'As you get older, you can't trust farts.'

'It's a bit early for crack, isn't it?'

'That wasn't a dad joke. It was a very serious question.'

'To be honest, mate, what did you expect from a fetish night?'

'I'm just going to quickly get a picture of the theatre or we'll forget what we saw.'

'If I stop eating avocados, my breasts will get smaller.'

'I was in Gloucestershire... I was fine.'

'It is a well known fact that vegans taste better.'

'But if you put salt on a mollusc, surely it feels discomfort?'

'I'd definitely be fine to eat a pigeon after Brexit. I'd roast it over a fire in the street.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us! #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

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HEADS UP

You can now pee for free at every major London station

HALLE-LOO-JAH! We're flushed with pride to announce that you no longer need to spend a penny to spend a penny at any of London's major railway stations.

Network Rail revealed last year that travellers had paid a total of £24 billion over the previous ten years to use toilets at five of London's busiest stations. Having already stopped charging at London Bridge, Charing Cross and Victoria, the public body announced that it would phase out the fee to pee at its other main hubs too.

Paddington went free in January, followed by Waterloo and Euston last month. Now Liverpool Street

and King's Cross have finally joined the gratis bog club, making it easier than ever to get some sweet relief while out and about in London. (Sadly, the smaller Marylebone and Blackfriars stations aren't included in the great station toilet liberation, as they aren't run by Network Rail.)

As part of its 'passenger first' programme, Network Rail is also introducing water fountains at most of its stations and bringing in more seating. But it's the scrapping of the draconian 30p charge at Liverpool Street that makes us happiest. Do pop in for a celebratory slash next time you're in the area. ■

James Manning



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Paddington and Bayswater

More than just the namesake of a famous bear, this pocket of W2 is packed with good stuff old and new. Explore it with local tips from Time Out Tastemakers

→ ⇨ Paddington. www.timeout.com/paddington



BEST BREAKFAST

'Pastries from **Granier Bakery Café**. If you're around in the evening, it does freshly baked baguettes too!' *Lee Hiang Seah*

BEST LUNCH

'Make your NYC pizzeria dreams come true at **Mulberry Street**, with either a thin-crust slice or the famous 20-inch giant pie.' *Annette Boateng*
'The lobster noodles at **Mandarin Kitchen** hit the spot every time! It's best at lunch as there's less of a crowd.' *Lee Hiang Seah*
'**Coco di Mama**'s gluten-free pasta is my go-to Friday treat! Don't forget the added truffle oil.' *Stephanie Chan*

BEST DINNER

'**Four Seasons** for its legendary roast duck. I also love **Gold Mine** for delicious and authentic Chinese food.' *Edelyn Brawidjojo*
'The best vegan spot is **Café Forty One**. It offers classics with a vegan twist, based on seasonal and sustainable ingredients, and it even has vegan French patisserie.' *Evie Möller*

BEST CHEAP EAT

'**Fresco** in Westbourne Grove. It has a predominantly Lebanese menu and can get busy at lunchtime.' *Marianna Meloni*

BEST THING TO INSTAGRAM

'**Paddington Basin** and its moving footbridges. Find out when the **Merchant Square Bridge** (aka the Fan Bridge) is in action, or go spot the **Rolling Bridge!**' *Ioanna Laskari*
'**Darcie & May Green** is a café and floating piece of pop art by Peter Blake. After taking pics there, have a knees-up or an Aussie-style brunch.' *Annette Boateng*
'The **Paddington Bear statue** at Paddington station. It's an iconic thing to see for small and big kids.' *Edelyn Brawidjojo*

BEST THING TO DO

'Rent a **GoBoat** – it can be for up to eight people – and sail down the canal. So fun.' *Joanne Mortlock*
'Just hang out in **Sheldon Square** amphitheatre on a sunny day with friends.' *Stephanie Chan*

BEST PLACE FOR A DATE

'**Queens Skate Dine Bowl** has 12 bowling lanes, curling and karting on ice, as well as skating. If you're feeling peckish, dine at **Meat Liquor** afterwards. It's a win-win!' *Annette Boateng*
'At **Pergola Paddington** you can have some cocktails, take your pick of what you want to eat – from burgers to noodles (or have a taste of them all) – and soak up a great view! Can't go wrong.' *Leena Shah*

BEST STREET TO WALK DOWN

'**Radnor** and **Bathurst Mews** for photogenic houses and the horses from **Ross Nye Stables** (based in Bathurst).' *Duygu Cook*
'**Leinster Gardens**, where you can challenge your friends to spot where the fake houses are.' *Marianna Meloni*

BEST GREEN SPACE

'Surprise – it's **Kensington Gardens**. Its north side is often overlooked but has nice landscapes and gardens. It's also more relaxed.' *Ioanna Laskari*

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FREE LONDON

Put your money away! Here are the week's best free events



DON'T MISS

IN THE CAN

'In and Out of Warhol's Orbit'

Photojournalist Nat Finkelstein spent three years as in-house photographer at Andy Warhol's Factory studio in the 1960s. This exhibition showcases his candid photos of the artists, producers and musicians who worked and hung out in NYC back then. Expect snaps of Bob Dylan, The Velvet Underground and Warhol himself.

→ Proud Central. ⊕ Charing Cross. Thu Apr 11-Jun 9.

COOL NEWS

Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day

It's that time of year again where Ben & Jerry's hands out free ice cream, because why not? Find out where you can scoop up a freebie on the Ben & Jerry's website and then get down there between noon and 8pm. You can totally go back for seconds, too.

→ Various locations. Tue Apr 9.

FREEZE!

Halo Top ice cream

One day of free ice cream not enough? There's more cool treats up for grabs this Thursday and Friday in Russell Square, where Halo Top is turning a phone box into an ice-cream freezer stuffed with goodies. Sounds like a pretty sweet deal.

→ Russell Square. ⊕ Russell Square. Thu Apr 11-Fri Apr 12.

PASTRY PARTY

Maitre Choux giveaway

The South Kensington branch of Maitre Choux is celebrating four sweet years. To mark the occasion, it's giving away 50 chouquettes (mini pastries, FYI). It kicks off at 10am so get there early for a sugar rush.

→ Maitre Choux. ⊕ South Kensington. Mon Apr 15.

FUN SALUTATIONS

Free yoga

Richmond and Islington are two of London's most stressed-out areas according to a recent survey. To help residents get some zen, MoreYoga is hosting free sessions every Wednesday this month in various boroughs. Book a spot online.

→ Various locations. Wed Apr 10.

99 problems? Try 101 things to do at timeout.com/thingstodo

K H A L I D

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*RIGHT
HAND*



The days are brighter and the cultural calendar's bulging. *Isabelle Aron* and *Kate Lloyd* round up the best ways to spend the next couple of months. Illustrations *Louise French*



April 11 **'Smoke and Mirrors: The Psychology of Magic'**
 The Wellcome Collection's new exhibition explores the magic of magic. Learn about the vital role of the magician's assistant and try out a ghost-detection kit. *Cue spooky music*.
 → Wellcome Collection. Apr 11-Sep 15. Free.

April 15 **'All My Sons'**
 It seems spring is unofficial Arthur Miller season. First up, Sally Field, Bill Pullman, Jenna Coleman and Colin Morgan star in this tasty revival of his great tragedy about a shattered family in postwar America.
 → Old Vic. Apr 15-Jun 8. £12-£65.

May 1 **'Death of a Salesman'**
 Here's another Miller stunner. With the excellent Marianne Elliott directing a phenomenal cast headed by 'The Wire' star Wendell Pierce, this is a unique take on one of the great plays of the last century.
 → Young Vic. May 1-Jun 29. From £10.

May 4 **LondonCats International Show and Expo**
 Move over mutts, this season's all about felines. The cat equivalent to Crufts pounces on Tobacco Dock in a few weeks, with cat agility trials to weep with joy at. *A purrfect* day out.
 → Tobacco Dock. May 4-5. From £26.

April 13 **Chihuly: 'Reflections on Nature'**
 See the stunning glass sculptures of Dale Chihuly (the chap behind the chandelier in the V&A's entrance hall) explode out of the foliage in the wonderland of Kew Gardens.
 → Kew Gardens. Apr 13-Oct 27. Included in entry to Kew Gardens.



April 28 **London Marathon**
 Running the marathon this year? We salute you, you steely souled, strong-legged legends! If not, get yourself down to the route, which runs from Blackheath to The Mall, and cheer on the tough guys. You can even do this with a pint at The Buckingham Arms near the finish line.
 → Multiple locations. April 28.

May 13 **London Wine Week**
 What's better than a nice bottle of wine? A corking *seven days* of wine, obvs. Raise a glass to the return of London Wine Week and its pop-ups, dinners, tastings, masterclasses and, well, loads of red, white and rosé.
 → Various locations. May 13-19. Free entry.



CHIHLUY: SUMMER SUN; MAKER'S MARK DISTILLERY; LORETO, KY; © CHIHLUY STUDIO; IMBINATION; BIKEWORLDTRAVEL/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM.

MAY!



May

16

'AI: More Than Human'

This massive interactive exhibition shows that the cleverest (or maybe stupidest) thing humans have ever done is to create machines that can outwit us all.

→ Barbican. May 16-Aug 26. From £15.



May

17

'Museum of the Moon'

Luke Jerram's six-metre glowing sculpture has Nasa-inspired detail. It's lighting up the Natural History Museum for the fiftieth anniversary of Apollo 11. We have lift-off!

→ Natural History Museum. May 17-Sep 8. Free.



May

18

Chelsea Fringe

Chelsea Flower Show's brattier little sister is putting on one hell of a get-together this year. Think workshops in how to create an edible Eden, a Matisse-inspired garden and more. Get down there if you're feeling... seedy.

→ Multiple locations. May 18-26. Prices vary.



May

24

All Points East

This great ten-dayer returns to Victoria Park in May to ring in the festival season with Chemical Brothers, Bon Iver and Chris (formerly Christine And The Queens.) Expect free comedy and film screenings too. Now, all we need is the sun, eh?

→ May 24-Jun 2. Victoria Park. From £59.95.

May

30

Lee Krasner: 'Living Colour'

Expect vivid canvases that explode in fireworks of colour at this retrospective of innovative abstract expressionist Lee Krasner. It's the visual equivalent of one of those Pret ginger shots – a proper kickstart to spring. ■

→ Barbican. May 30-Sep 1. From £15.



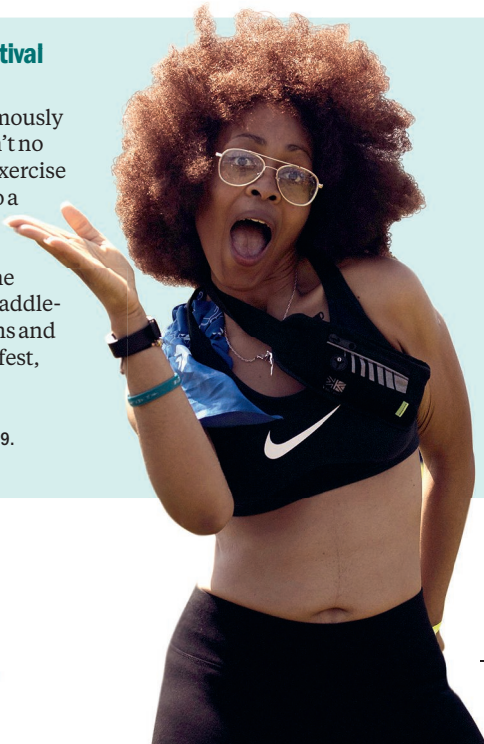
May

17

Hackney Festival of Fitness

As S Club 7 famously (almost) said, there ain't no party like an outdoor exercise party in the build-up to a half marathon – and Hackney's putting on the biggest one in the UK. Do climbing and paddleboarding taster sessions and more at this three-day fest, culminating in the Hackney Half.

→ Hackney Marshes. May 17-19. Prices vary.



May

18

'Food: Bigger Than the Plate'

Which of our culinary habits are screwing up the earth? Can urban farming save the planet? What weird foods will we end up eating in the future? The V&A's new show about what we eat and the ways we eat *really* is food for thought.

→ V&A. May 18-Nov 17. £17.



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The GREAT outdoors

Spring means cute animals, wisteria hysteria and alfresco boozing. *Kate Lloyd* picks the best places to embrace the new season

Seven prime bloom views

1 There are 33 types of camellia in **Chiswick House's** conservatory. They're at their best until mid-April and can also be found in **Kenwood Garden** and Richmond Park's **Isabella Plantation**.
→ Burlington Lane. Chiswick rail.

2 Kensington & Chelsea is pretty in pink as ombre petals beautify the area's magnolia trees. Get a glimpse in **Chesson Road, Victoria Road** and **Earls Court Gardens**.
→ Multiple locations.

3 **Queen Mary's Rose Gardens** in Regent's Park isn't just about the roses, you know. In spring, tulips stand confident in the flower beds. Boost their egos by gawping at them throughout April.
→ Chester Rd. ☉ Regent's Park.

4 If you go down to **Highgate Wood** in May, you're in for a big floral surprise. The north London wood gains a carpet of bluebells from mid-April onwards.
→ Muswell Hill Rd. ☉ Highgate.

5 **Green Park** might not have flower beds but that doesn't stop the Royal Park from having a serious glow up after winter. Around a million bold daffodils shoot up there every spring.
→ ☉ Green Park.

6 Wisteria hysteria kicks in around now and goes on till June. One of the best places to spot the lilac-and-white hanging blossoms is **Peckham Rye Park**. Hampstead Heath Pergola and Holland Park rank highly too.
→ Straker's Rd. Nunhead rail.

7 There's a Japanese-style cherry blossom tunnel in **Greenwich Park**, and from April to May it's in brilliant blushing bloom. You'll find it on the path to the rose garden from Blackheath Avenue.
→ Blackheath Avenue. Blackheath rail.



Five really wild spots

1 The lakes, meadows and gardens at **WWT London Wetland Centre** near Barnes provide proper respite from urban living. Daily guided walks to see the resident otters getting fed are a big draw too.
→ Queen Elizabeth's Walk. Barnes rail.

2 **Hampstead Heath** is probably London's most famous patch of nature. Nothing screams 'spring is here!' like a slightly too-early dip in the chilly Ponds before the summer crowds descend.
→ Hampstead Heath.

3 Following an old railway line that ran between Finsbury Park and Highgate, **Parkland Walk** is London's longest nature reserve. It's home to more than 200 species of wild flower and is a perfect place for foraging come spring.
→ Florence Rd. Hampstead Heath.

4 Hidden for nearly 200 years, **Woodberry Wetlands** was reopened by eco legend Sir David Attenborough in 2016. The waters are visited by buzzards and red kites in April and May.
→ Lordship Rd. Manor House.

5 Ten-hectare **Sydenham Hill Wood**, and its 200 species of trees, is the last remaining tract of the ancient Great North Wood. A trip here feels like a visit to a fairytale kingdom.
→ Crescent Wood Rd. Sydenham Hill rail.

Six cute animal photo ops

1 On the east bank of Long Water, just before you get to **Henry Moore's 'Arch' sculpture** in Kensington Gardens, you'll find a flock of parakeets who are more than happy to land on your hand. Just don't get in a flap if they do.
→ Kensington Gardens. Lancaster Gate.

2 More than 40 pretty pelicans have been calling the rocks next to Duck Island Cottage in **St James's Park** home for hundreds of years. They were given to Charles II in 1664 by the Russian ambassador.
→ 69 Horse Guards Rd. St James's Park.

3 Lambs? Tick! Ducklings? Tick! Head to **Vauxhall City Farm** for the cutest baby animals in town. You'll even meet the alpacas that appeared in 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens'. Try not to get too starstruck.
→ 165 Tyers St. Vauxhall.

4 **Hackney City Farm** has chickens, goats and even a donkey, but the real star of the show at this east London animal hangout is the gigantic pig. Oink!
→ 1a Goldsmiths Row. Hoxton Overground.

5 If there's one thing **Spitalfields City Farm** is known for, it's goats. Last weekend they raced against each other in the annual Oxford & Cambridge Goat Race. Go toast the winner and give the loser a cuddle.
→ Buxton St. Shoreditch High St Overground.

6 Looking for the Easter Bunny? You'll find the biggest, fluffiest rabbit in town at the **Horniman Museum & Gardens**. Plus a whole petting zoo of other critters (including more alpacas).
→ 100 London Rd. Forest Hill Overground.

Four rooftop bars that are already open

1 Waterloo party place **Bar Elba** offers swoonsome views of the London skyline, but that's not what it's most famous for. Come here for frozen cocktails so refreshing they'd turn Mr Slushie green with envy.
→ Rooftop, Mercury House. Waterloo.

2 On the twelfth floor of the **Sea Containers** hotel you'll find **12th Knot**. It's a swish rooftop bar where you can sip champagne cocktails while admiring St Paul's. Fancy!
→ 20 Upper Ground. Blackfriars.

3 Remember how **The Culpeper** had a giant pickle on the roof last year? It's back for one last stint before summer. The greenhouse bar is open too, serving drinks packed with herbs from the vegetable patch.
→ 40 Commercial St. Liverpool St.

4 Hackney hotspot **Netil360** reopened for 2019 mere days ago. This sky-scraping bar also hosts yoga, workshops and street food.
→ 1 Westgate St. London Fields Overground.

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7 The Pink Chihuahua
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Tia Maria



The hay life

Do you have to leave town to find rural bliss? *Bobby Palmer* spends a day trying to live his most rural life in the city. Photography *Andy Parsons*



→ 10am Beekeeping in Euston

It's a scorching morning, and I arrive in Euston with no desire to squeeze myself into a boiler suit. But it has to be done. Panting in a mesh helmet and a pair of white gloves on a rooftop, I'm about to meet the frisky bees of central London. Showing me the ropes is Camilla Goddard, director of Capital Bee. 'You're often working at height,' she says of the challenges of beekeeping in the middle of a city. 'And people are more worried about swarms.' Before I can ask if I should be 'worried about swarms', the beehive lid comes off and I'm handed a contraption to smoke out

the residents. Afraid of making enemies, I lightly blow a couple of puffs. I'm sweating now, not helped by the fact that I'm literally covered in bees. But Camilla (who isn't even wearing gloves) does this every day, going from rooftop to rooftop, helping bees thrive. It's noble work and the bees aren't always on their best behaviour – she once had to extract an unwanted colony from an armchair in Catford.

→ www.capitalbee.co.uk

HOW RURAL IS IT? 🐝🐝🐝



> 11.30am Horse riding in Lee Valley

Near Lea Bridge station, scrapyards and building sites give way to a wealth of greenery that 83 horses call home. Nicky Ward, manager of the Lee Valley Riding Centre, introduces me to a few. There's Carrie ('friendly'), Billy ('bites') and Chunky ('a dude'). My noble steed is Cider, a 16-year-old cob cross with the shaggy hooves of a shire horse and the patience of a saint. I have zero riding experience: it takes me five minutes just to mount and my quads are already burning

by the time Nicky starts teaching me how to trot. I'll have a severely bruised behind tomorrow, but for now I'm focusing on not being trampled by Cider's huge hooves. But suddenly, it clicks: I ease into the rhythm of the trot, wind in my face, out on the open plains. I feel a true wild freedom, and I haven't even left Zone 3. Then I mess up, and I'm bouncing around like a rag doll again.

→ Lee Valley Riding Centre. Lea Bridge rail.

HOW RURAL IS IT? 🐎🐎🐎



> 1pm Birdwatching in Walthamstow

It's a short train ride to Walthamstow Wetlands, a reservoir that provides 30 percent of London's fresh water. Since it opened in 2017, it's become a haven for birdwatchers. It's a good day for it, it seems. According to nature reserve manager Emma Tuckey, someone spotted a little ringed plover earlier. I've no idea what that is, but I'm told it's rare. For now, I'm observing an Egyptian goose. 'They're notoriously terrible parents,' Emma tells me. The city is a perfect habitat for some birds, she explains. Take peregrine falcons – they make nests on top of buildings and swoop down after prey. Birdwatchers actually come to London from the countryside to see them. 'Is that a peregrine?' I ask, pointing at something in the sky. 'No,' Emma says. 'That's a pigeon.' Perhaps this isn't my calling. Then it happens. A little ringed plover. No, two little ringed plovers. Emma jumps for joy, and I'm caught up in the excitement. I still don't know what a plover is.

→ Walthamstow Wetlands. ☺ Tottenham Hale.

HOW RURAL IS IT? 🐦🐦🐦

3pm Farming in Vauxhall <

At the other end of the Victoria line at Vauxhall City Farm, I meet Iris – the largest sheep I've ever seen. She's pregnant, which explains her size. Or not. 'It's funny, because she's not actually showing,' says Michelle Frank, my host. 'Her wool is just arm-deep thick.' I'm handed a five-day-old lamb, so young it hasn't even got a name yet. It bleats, adorably. At closing time, I put three alpacas to bed, rounding them up into their pen, filling their trough and shutting them in. Afterwards, I head home, tweed jacket covered in sheep slobber. I probably wouldn't do it all again in one day, but I'm surprised by how rural I feel. Being on the tube feels bizarre. Fellow commuters might be wrinkling their noses, but I have a big old grin on my face. Green and pleasant land, eat your heart out. ■

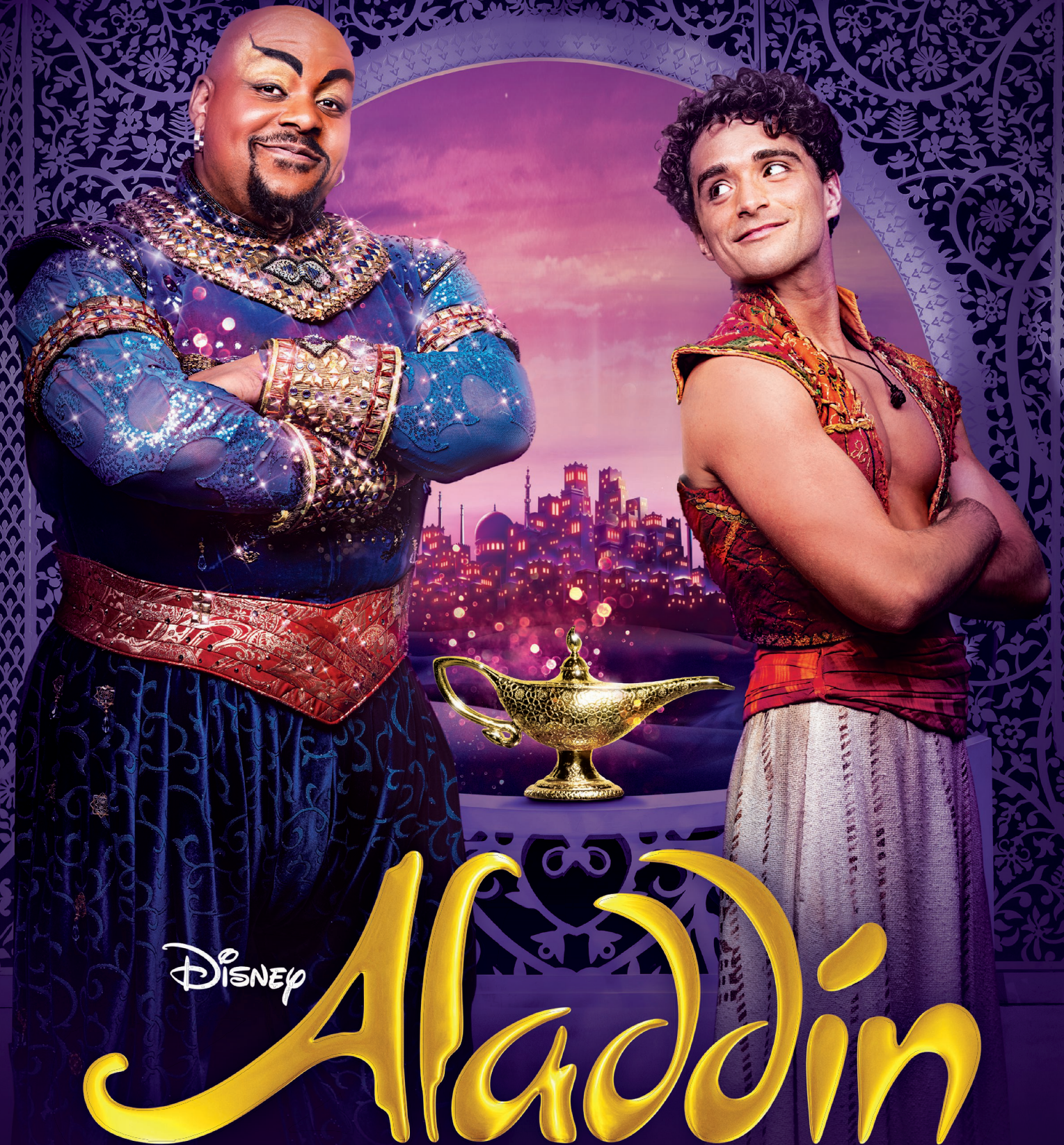
→ Vauxhall City Farm. ☺ Vauxhall.

HOW RURAL IS IT? 🐏🐏🐏



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timeout.com/countryside

MAGIC AWAITS



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Circus

What is it? Nibbles and bubbles at this West End cabaret venue.

Why go? Not many London spaces are quite like this. Small plates are complemented by a new breed of cabaret act, with a banqueting table doubling as a catwalk-cum-stage for fire eaters, burlesque performers and dancers.

What's exclusive? A selection of dishes and fizz for two is just £50.

→ Circus. ⊕ Covent Garden. Until Aug 29.

www.timeout.com/circus19



DON'T MISS

The Ends Festival

What is it? Weekend tickets to Croydon's hottest new music fest.

Why go? The Ends will see 15,000 music-heads gather this summer for an epic celebration of tunes and food. Nas, Damian 'Jr Gong' Marley and Wizkid are among the dozens of world-class acts lined up to perform.

What's exclusive? You can only buy multi-day tickets through us. Entry on two days of your choice is £89.

→ Lloyd Park. South Croydon rail. May 31-Jun 2.

www.timeout.com/theends

London Comedy Allstars

What is it? Saturday night comedy at this year's Underbelly Festival.

Why go? To enjoy a fun-filled evening consisting of some of the finest comedy in London. Plus, with the brilliant riverside location, these shows make for a perfect summertime evening. Just add cocktails.

What's exclusive? Tickets are 30 percent off: now just £12.95 each.

→ Underbelly Festival. ⊕ Waterloo. Select Saturdays until Jul 13. www.timeout.com/allstars

Affordable Art Fair Hampstead

What is it? Tickets to the annual showcase of contemporary art.

Why go? Home is where the art is, so head to this fair if your crib is lacking a little pizzazz. There's something for everyone, and most importantly, the art here on Hampstead Heath is – yep – affordable!

What's exclusive? It's 50 percent off. Tickets start at £6.

→ Lower Fairground Site. ⊕ Hampstead. May 9-12. www.timeout.com/affordable19

Springfest

What is it? The Bavarian-style beerfest at Ally Pally.

Why go? You can clink steins with fellow lederhosen-wearers in the Bier Keller, and scoff German sausages and pretzels. Oh, and there'll be live music from – drum roll, please – Stuttgart's hottest oompah band.

What's exclusive? Our tickets are just £12.50, down from £20.70.

→ Alexandra Palace. Alexandra Palace rail. Apr 19. www.timeout.com/springfest19

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la linea 19

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- 28 **Celso Piña** + **Arriba la Cumbia DJs**
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- 28 **João Bosco** + **Gui Tavares**
Jazz Café

MAY

- 2 **Maravillas de Mali** Barbican
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+ **Silvio DJ** Electric Brixton
- 3 **LoLa MC: London Latin Music**
Conference Bush House
- 4 **Antonio Sánchez**
Birdman (Live) Barbican
- 4 **Dino D'Santiago** Rich Mix
- 5 **Carla Morrison**
+ **Luzmira Zerpa** EarthH

Tickets & Info lalineafestival.com

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Things to Do

Edited by Alexandra Sims
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It's a kind of magic



As the Wellcome Collection opens its new exhibition, 'Smoke and Mirrors: The Psychology of Magic', we venture into the most magical place in London



IF HARRY POTTER has taught us anything, it's that magical places are hidden in the most unlikely and mundane corners of London. And fittingly, if you want to make like a real magician, there's only one place to go: the depths of Charing Cross station, where you'll find Davenport's.

Opened in 1898 by 16-year-old music hall performer Lewis Davenport, this institution now holds the Guinness World Record as the world's oldest family-run magic shop. Since 1984, Davenport's has been tucked away in the rather unglamorous underground arcade below the Strand, alongside a fancy dress shop and a deserted gym.

Bill Davenport is the latest of Lewis's descendants to run the family business and has been working in the shop since he was a kid. As you'd expect, the small shop stocks boxes of colourful silks and ropes, metal rings, fake

thumbs, and of course the classic cups and balls. But the best-selling item is a good old-fashioned deck of cards. 'The popular style of magic is constantly evolving,' says Bill. 'In Victorian times the focus was on "parlour magic", using weird and wonderful apparatus to mystify the audience. Today, the focus is more on magic with normal objects that people can relate to more easily.'

Props aside, Davenport's is all about educating aspiring Houdinis young and old: its cabinets are full of instructional DVDs and books and it holds beginners' courses in the studio next door. 'I do feel a great sense of responsibility to help people of all backgrounds learn magic the right way,' says Bill. 'Often, people starting are quite confused, so we try to guide them and make sure they're not overwhelmed by the variety of magic available.'

And it's not all just for kids' entertainers, street performers and wannabe Penn & Tellers. 'What is especially refreshing is the increasing use of

magic as therapy, and to empower people who may have disabilities,' says Bill. 'As magic can be very interactive and personal, it is used by people who have a role that involves breaking down social barriers, such as people who work with gang members and medical professionals.'

Of course, there are millions of YouTube tutorials out there, but according to Bill, people still find the face-to-face experience invaluable. 'Most of our customers prefer to meet us in person. Often they'll just come in for a chat about the latest goings-on in the magic world.' Never mind Diagon Alley: if you want to meet some real conjurers, this is where the magic happens. ■

→ 'Smoke and Mirrors', Wellcome Collection. Thu Apr 11-Sep 15. Free.



By Sonya Barber
Who has plenty of tricks up her sleeve.

ANDY PARSONS



Sleight of hand
Daniel Young (left) and Daniel Stanbridge at Davenports Magic

WHAT IS IT...

The world's oldest family-run magic shop in the depths of Charing Cross station.

WHY GO...

To get spellbound by tricks, tips and magic know-how.

→ Davenports Magic, 7 Charing Cross Underground Arcade. ☺ Charing Cross.



Miscellaneous magical paraphernalia at Davenports's shop counter

PAXTON & WHITFIELD: ANDY PARSONS

THREE OF THE BEST

Ancient London shops



James Smith & Sons

Come rain or shine, this Victorian-era shop on New Oxford Street has been keeping Londoners dry with its handmade umbrellas since it opened in 1830.

→ 53 New Oxford St. ☺ Tottenham Court Rd.



Arthur Beale

In need of any marine equipment? Arthur Beale has been London's one-stop shop for all your nautical needs for more than 400 years.

→ 194 Shaftesbury Avenue. ☺ Tottenham Court Rd.



Paxton & Whitfield

Fromage fans, if you want to know who to thank for bringing stilton to London, this 222-year-old artisan cheesemonger in Piccadilly is the place.

→ 93 Jermyn St. ☺ Piccadilly Circus.

Advertisement feature



If you could drop everything right now, where would you go and what would you do?

That's the question we're asking readers all over the UK – and the best response will win a fabulous weekend away in a new SEAT Tarraco. Here are some of our favourites so far...

Craving a break from your everyday routine? The best cure for monotony is embracing the spontaneous, which is why we've teamed up with SEAT – and their new seven-seater Tarraco SUV – to give one lucky person the chance to win a four-day mini-break in one of four jaw-dropping locations. Our winner will have a SEAT Tarraco delivered to their door; from there, they'll take three friends to either the Jurassic Coast, Bath and Bristol, Galloway Forest Park or the Lake District.

The competition closes on April 21, and we've decided to inspire you by revealing some of the best answers we've had so far.

If I could drop everything right now...

'I would go to Iceland (the country) and watch the aurora borealis.'

'Where would I go in my Tarraco? A road trip to Cornwall, or across Morocco. Twisting, turning roads and lanes, beautiful seaside to desert plains.'

'I would go on a road trip to Loch Awe with my three sons. Fishing, campfires a starry sky and not a tablet or phone in sight.'

'I would go to Bude in Cornwall and spend quality time with my grandparents to hear all their wonderful life stories whilst I still can.'

'I would grab my dog and head off to the Lake District, so he can run free and we can enjoy some quality time together.'

For a chance to win, visit www.timeout.com/whynotwin.

STOP MAKING EXCUSES!

Here are five spur-of-the-moment adventures you could jump into this weekend

CLOSE TO HOME

Soar above London on the Emirates Air Line

Make waves at Lee Valley White Water Centre

Cycle from Richmond Park to Box Hill

Frolic through wild flowers at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent

Take a stunning train journey to Lille

WAY OUT THERE



SEAT

→ Find more swoon-worthy UK itineraries at www.timeout.com/whynotnow

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



The Wildlife Walk

Turn off your phone and take a stroll around the Rainham Marshes Nature Reserve. It's guided by RSPB experts, who'll be able to help you tell your mallards from your moorhens. If you can't make it, walks will be taking place throughout spring and summer. Extra points if you don't post about it on Instagram.

→ RSPB Rainham Marshes. Purfleet rail. Fri Apr 12. £5.

OGLE BFI TV Festival

Meet the casts and crews of some of the UK's best-loved shows. Guests this year include Helen Mirren, David Walliams and 'Bodyguard' and 'Line of Duty' creator Jed Mercurio.

→ BFI Southbank. ☉ Waterloo. Fri Apr 12-Sun Apr 14. £5-£30.

SHOP Portobello Road Designers' Pop-Up

Local artists and independent fashion designers take over a space on Portobello Road, selling plenty of one-off items exclusive to the shop.

→ 199 Portobello Rd. ☉ Ladbroke Grove. Until Sun Apr 14. Free.

Saturday

SIP FesTeaVal

Raise a mug to National Tea Day at this two-day festival dedicated to brewing and boiling. Expect flowing infusions, hands-on workshops, plus yoga and mindfulness sessions.

→ Tobacco Dock. Shadwell Overground. Sat Apr 13-Sun Apr 14. £15.

MUNCH Chocolate Market

Chelsea's annual sweet celebration is back in town. Wear your stretchiest trousers.

→ Duke of York Square. ☉ Sloane Square. Sat Apr 13. Free.



The London Hot Sauce Society

Great balls of fire! London's first hot sauce festival brings together more than 30 spicy markets from around the UK for scorching tasters, red hot beer pong and saucy prizes.

→ Copeland Park. Peckham Rye Overground. Sat Apr 13. Free.

Sunday

Under the Stars with Embers Collective

Folk storytellers the Embers Collective are taking on the sun, moon and stars in an evening of songs, myths and spokenword performance.

→ Balabam. South Tottenham Overground. Sun Apr 14. £10.



BROWSE The London Artisan

Brick Lane will be flooded with jewellers, ceramicists, textilers, graphic artists and heaps more creative types. Get your mitts on lovely bits for your home, or commission one-off gifts direct from the makers.

→ Old Truman Brewery. Shoreditch High St Overground. Sat Apr 13-Sun Apr 14. Free.

LISTEN North End Road Sunday Market

Hit up the inimitable market's first ever Sunday session, featuring live music from 20 new bands.

→ North End Rd. ☉ Fulham Broadway. Sun Apr 14. Free.

Hate wildlife *and* hot sauce? Find more ideas at timeout.com/thingstodo



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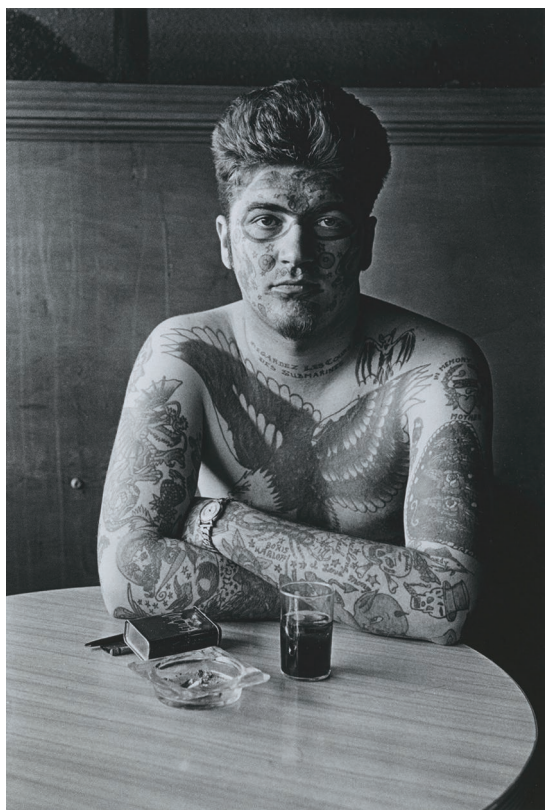
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The Guardian



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Jack Dracula at a bar, New London, Conn. 1961. Courtesy The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Copyright © The Estate of Diane Arbus, LLC. All Rights Reserved. The exhibition is organised by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.



JUST OPENED

Gringotts WIZARDING Bank



MAGIC'S BEEN A-BREWING at the Warner Bros Studios. After the arrival of the spider-filled Forbidden Forest and a gleaming Hogwarts Express, it's now the turn of Gringotts' goblins to slytherin to action at Leavesden's Harry Potter studio tour. In the attraction's biggest expansion to date, visitors can now walk through a perfect replica of Gringotts WIZARDING Bank. The bombastic banking hall has been designed and built by many of the film's original crew and it's packed with wooden desks loaded with inkwells and quills, piles of galleons, sickles and knuts, towering marble pillars and huge crystal chandeliers. There are special displays explaining how the monied goblins were brought to life for the films. Each of the prosthetic masks took weeks to create, with every hair individually inserted and every vein carefully handpainted. You'll find props here that haven't been seen since filming of the magical franchise ended in 2010, including the eye-popping Lestrangle vault where you can try your luck at spotting the Sword of Gryffindor and Helga Hufflepuff's cup hidden among 38,000 pieces of rubberised wizarding treasures. But it's when you reach the dust and rubble-filled set of the destroyed banking hall from 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' that you'll get seriously spellbound by a life-size (and very realistic) Ukrainian Ironbelly dragon. The all-new WIZARDING Bank is a permanent 16,500 sq ft expansion to the existing tour. And while the miserly Gringotts goblins might flinch at the entry price, there's enough filmmaking magic here to convert more than a few muggles. ■
Alexandra Sims

WHAT IS IT?

A painstakingly built replica of Harry Potter's opulent bank.

WHY GO?

To ogle the treasure-filled Lestrangle vault and jump at a life-size fire-breathing dragon.

→ Warner Bros Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter. Watford Junction rail then shuttle bus. £43, £35 child.

More magical experiences at timeout.com/thingstodo

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Things to Do

EAT

N Scotch Egg Challenge

A panel of eggs-perts are conducting a blind taste test to find which of the city's top chefs have cracked it in the scotch egg game. Grab a good spot to nab an oozy treat – those nearest will get the leftovers.

→ The Canonbury Tavern.
 ↻ Highbury & Islington.
 Wed Apr 10. Free.

E Heinz Creme Egg Mayo Pop-Up

Cadbury's Creme Egg and Heinz Mayonnaise have joined forces to bring you a Creme Egg Mayo that, frankly, nobody would ever have asked for. Best served with fresh waffles, apparently.

→ Old Truman Brewery.
 ↻ Liverpool St. Thu Apr 11-Sat Apr 13. Free.

N Italian Alley

This is a new dining concept bringing the alfresco atmosphere of a Neapolitan piazza to five restored railway arches in Camden. Some of the top-quality munch available will include charcoal-grilled sardines and a whole stand for meatballs. Buon appetito!

→ Stables Market. ↻ Camden Town. Opens Thu Apr 11.

TO DO

The best events in your area

C Central **N** North **S** South **E** East **W** West

SHOPS

E Tits London Pop-Up Shop

The female-centred pop-up returns with 10 percent of all proceeds going to the CoppaFeel! breast cancer awareness charity.

→ The Hackney Shop.
 Hackney Central Overground.
 Mon Apr 15-Apr 22. Free.

S Flea at Vinegar Yard

Formerly Flea at Flat Iron Square, this weekly vintage and makers' market has moved to Vinegar Yard in SE1, bringing its heaps of antiques, clothing, homeware, books, bikes and cameras with it. Can't make it this weekend? Its pop-up shops are open every weekday.

→ St Thomas St. ↻ London Bridge. Until Sep 1. Free entry.

C Frock Me! Vintage Fair

Frock Me! returns to Chelsea Town Hall with some of the best vintage gear the capital has to offer, catering to

everyone from serious collectors to retro enthusiasts. Expect swing coats, cashmere and enough flapper dresses to keep the cast of 'Downton' clothed. On the first floor, the jewellery fair will stock pieces from the Georgian era onwards, plus vintage watches, accessories and more.

→ Chelsea Old Town Hall.
 ↻ Sloane Square.
 Sun Apr 14. £4.

CAR BOOT SALES

S Little Nan's Carless Deptford Car Boot Sale

If you're looking to fill up your living room with quirky knick-knacks, rummage through bric-à-brac and grab a bite to eat, there'll be more than 50 pitches at this 'carless' car boot sale, plus live music.

→ Arch 14, 4 Deptford Market Yard. Deptford rail. Sun Apr 14. Free.

S Night Car Boot Sale

London has plenty of car boot sales to keep your bargain-hunting self busy, but this evening affair will let you enjoy a late-night tittle while browsing pre-loved clobber.

→ Peckham Springs.
 Peckham Rye Overground.
 Thu Apr 11. Free entry.

LEARN

S Women & Cocaine

A Cinema Museum series celebrating the fierce and liberated women of early-1930s cinema. This time, see screen legend Joan Crawford in 'Paid', about a wrongly imprisoned woman seeking revenge.

→ The Cinema Museum.
 ↻ Kennington. Fri Apr 12. £9.

C LGBTQ+ History Workshop

Get clued up on LGBT+ history at this mind-expanding workshop at the London Metropolitan Archives. You'll get to feast your peepers on some of the LMA's earliest records, dating from 1395 and spanning more than 600 years right through to the end of the twentieth century, learning some new facts about queer history in the process.

→ London Metropolitan Archives. ↻ Farringdon.
 Sat Apr 13. £5.

E A Conference of Ice and Fire

Winter has arrived, so join this day of 'Game of Thrones'-themed talks, panels, screenings and quizzes and chew the fat over the Seven Kingdoms. There'll be short lectures from academics and a variety of panel discussions on key topics. Expect challenges, cocktails and a fair bit of Daenerys cosplay.

→ The Book Club. ↻ Old St.
 Sun Apr 14. £5-£15.

WALKS

S Chimneys and Tunnels Along the Thames

Learn about industrial history, Dick van Dyke-style, on this tour. It includes a Clipper ride and a sub-Thames tunnel excursion.

→ Greenwich Pier. Cutty Sark DLR. Sat Apr 13. £15.

S RiverWalk to Crossness Pumping Station

An artist and a photographer take you on a four-mile stroll along the Thames Path to the beautifully ornate Crossness Pumping Station, with added sketching.

→ Meet at Woolwich Arsenal DLR. Sun Apr 14. £15.

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DRINK

C Punch and Puddings

Find out all about weird and wonderful Victorian grub from a food historian, and tuck into tasty cakes and Dickens's punch in the author's very own kitchen.

→ Charles Dickens Museum. ⊕ Russell Square. Thu Apr 11. £20.

S London Spring Cider Festival

Sometimes you don't need anything fancy. Sometimes you just need 30 different varieties of cider and perry (made from pears), with pies to soak it all up. No added fruit, and it's all 'proper stuff' from the West Country and London.

→ Matchstick Piehouse. Deptford rail. Sat Apr 13. £3.

E The Chocolate Cocktail Club

Love chocolate and cocktails? Then prepare for a serious sugar rush at this pop-up which combines the two. Your ticket includes a chocolate martini, which you can chuck back while you check out the menu of chocolatey twists on classic cocktails. Or sip on chocolate beer and chocolate wine.

→ 202 Brick Lane. Shoreditch High St Overground. Until May 28. £10.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

N Handmade in Highgate

This year's fair includes a whole host of new exhibitors selling a variety of unique designs and crafts to brighten up your gaff.

→ Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution. ⊕ Highgate. Fri Apr 12-Sun Apr 14. Free entry.

W Easter Wreath Masterclass

Forget Christmas wreaths, it's all about Easter ones at this time of year. Hackney's Rebel Rebel florists will show you how to fashion your very own, using textured clematis, witch hazel and cute decorative adornments.

→ Soane's Kitchen. ⊕ Ealing Broadway. Thu Apr 11. £65.

BE INSPIRED

C LionHeart: Saatchi Poet in Residence

The Saatchi's first Poet in Residence Rhael 'LionHeart' Cape will explore mental health and vulnerability in a warm, honest and expressive way through these poetry readings.

→ Saatchi Gallery. ⊕ Sloane Square. Mon Apr 15-Apr 23. £10.

E magCulture Edit: Our Neighbourhood

Magazine editors discuss how they tap into lesser-known pockets of London, featuring Time Out's very own City Life editor James Manning.

→ The Hoxton. ⊕ Old St. Tue Apr 9. £7.



Hip Hop Karaoke at Tate Modern

C Peculiar London Literary Pub Tour

A pint of ale or a dram of whisky is as historically important to the British writer as a pen, typewriter or dictionary. The last was invented by Samuel Johnson, whose house is just one of many things you'll see on this whistlestop guided tour of London's writing (and drinking) history. There's a quiz at the end to test your knowledge, so try to go easy on the absinthe.

→ Starts in Bernard St. ⊕ Russell Square. Wed Apr 10. £10.

C Rounders in Regent's Park

Bring your friends and make new ones at this social game of rounders in the park. Meet the group outside the station at 1.45pm, and wear your comfy trainers.

→ ⊕ Regent's Park. Sun Apr 14. Free.

E Show Me Your Moves! Video Game Burlesque

Leave your joystick at home and prepare to see more than eight bits at this evening of 'nerdlesque', where body-positive performers will be taking Sonic and Bowser to places you've never seen them before. There'll be a ballpit too, and the chance to have a go at dancing yourself (if you're feeling especially brave).

→ Looking Glass Cocktail Club. Hoxton Overground. Thu Apr 11. £12.50.

S Record Store Day at Pop Brixton

Container Records is hosting a site-wide takeover of the jumble of shipping containers, featuring an ace independent record label market from top dogs like Awesome Tapes from Africa and Rhythm Section. When the sun goes down, there are DJ sets from Slimzee and Wallwork, as well as street food, drinks and a craft market.

→ Pop Brixton. ⊕ Brixton. Sat Apr 13. Free.

DANCE

C Hip Hop Karaoke at Tate Modern

Make some noise in a place where you're normally told to keep it down, with beers courtesy of the brilliant Fourpure Brewery.

→ Tate Modern. ⊕ Southwark. Sat Apr 13. £10.

E London City Voices '70s Spring Concert

Right between the Queen and Elton John biopics comes this choral show, which will focus on the *decade du jour* of 2019. Expect: platform heels and plenty of renditions of disco bangers by everyone from Abba to ELO. Don't expect: to stay seated.

→ Troxy. Limehouse DLR. Fri Apr 12. £16.50-£27.50.

SWEAT

E 5km Street Art Running Tour

If you like your lessons fast and your sightseeing even faster, have a crack at Secret London Runs' spray-can-strewn race through east London. Spot works by artists such as Banksy, Zabou and more as you work up a sweat while you learn about their art, lives and inspirations along the way.

→ Starts at Dorsett City Hotel. ⊕ Aldgate. Wed Apr 10. £17.

EXCLUSIVE

Get tickets to **RA Lates: Summer Pleasure Garden** and experience unbridled fun at the Royal Academy after-hours. Expect light shows, secret bars, live music and more. From just £25.

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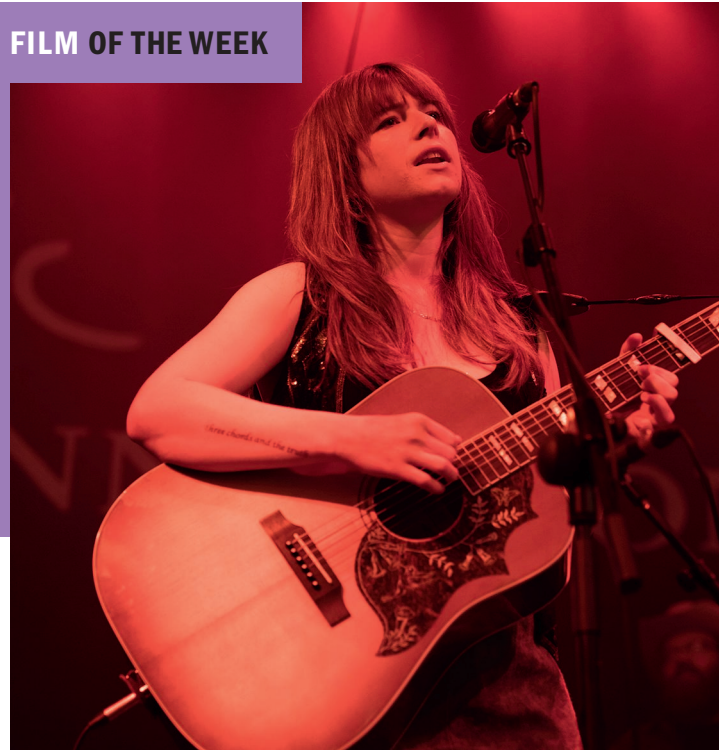
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TIME OUT MEETS

Jessie Buckley

The star-in-the-making
on her new country music
drama, London life and
unleashing her inner squirrel.
Portrait *Andy Parsons*

**'Some local
women
brought me
gin on set,
so it was
only right to
get them in
the movie'**



JESSIE BUCKLEY FIRST appeared on the BBC at 17. Not as an extra in a period drama but in the talent show 'I'd Do Anything'. She came second. 'It feels like a whole other life,' she admits. Twelve years on and the Irish actress has now made period epics for the Beeb ('Taboo', 'War & Peace') as well as the leap into movies with last year's ace thriller 'Beast'. In her latest film, 'Wild Rose', she plays a single mum from Glasgow chasing her musical dreams. Turns out coming second opens plenty of doors.

You play a wannabe country star in 'Wild Rose'. Ever met any of your music heroes?
 'When we wrapped in Nashville, me and a friend did a road trip and I met Bonnie Raitt. I sat in the audience and wailed. When I went backstage to meet her, I couldn't even string a sentence together.'

What was your favourite scene to shoot in the film?
 'I really loved singing [Chris Stapleton's] "Outlaw State of Mind". It just was a massive party. All the hen party extras were having a blast.'

Who were the hen party extras?
 'Women we'd met on the estate in [Glasgow suburb] Maryhill. I was going to set one day and they were all hooking themselves up to Irn-Bru and vodka. They were like, "Come and have a drink!" When I came into work the next day, they'd brought me doughnuts and gin. It was only right I brought them down.'

Was it hard to master the accent?
 'I was really scared so I worked on it for three or four months, including a month based in Glasgow, before filming. I'd speak in a Glaswegian accent and hope that I'd be able to order a bag of chips.'

Did you pull off the subterfuge?
 'I think so. They didn't go: "You're lying!"'

There's a lot of talk about you being on the verge of something big. Do you ever think about stuff like that?
 'I don't really know what that is. I feel like I've had loads of moments – like

when I got into Rada or getting the part in "Beast". Everything adds up.'

What do you think about fame – do you want to be in the spotlight?
 'I don't want to be anywhere near a spotlight! Only if I'm performing. It doesn't really affect my life. I cycle, I go swimming, I cook with my flatmates, I go out dancing. I live a pretty normal life.'

You grew up in Kerry. Do you get homesick?
 'Yeah. I'm very close to my family and it can be lonely if you're travelling around on jobs. We live in a very natural, really beautiful place with mountains and lakes and stuff. I really miss that rootedness.'

Do you think of London as home now?
 'I do. But I miss nature and being by myself sometimes. I live near the canal in east London, so I like running there. I don't know if it will be my home for ever.'

Any favourite places in London?
 'There's a bench outside a restaurant on Columbia Road called Brawn which does excellent Aperol spritzes. I've spent many an afternoon on that bench.'

You have loads of films coming out, including 'Judy' with Renée Zellweger. What was the best moment on set?
 'We filmed a scene in a theatre in Hackney and she was singing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow". I was standing beside [co-star] Michael Gambon and he was streaming with tears. I was crying too.'

You're also in 'The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle'. Are you voicing an animal?
 'No, I'm playing Queen Victoria. I was only on set for two weeks.'

Did you want to be one of the animals?
 'Yeah. What would I be? Probably a squirrel. I'm quite squirrely. I like eating nuts [laughs]. ■
 → 'Wild Rose' opens Fri Apr 12.



By Isabelle Aron
 Who is less of a wild rose and more of a stressed-out succulent.

Wild Rose



IN CONTRAST TO Lady Gaga's Ally in 'A Star Is Born', the wannabe singer at the centre of this sparky and hugely likeable zero-to-musical-hero country fable is frequently her own worst enemy.

On parole, working-class Glaswegian single mum Rose-Lynn Harlan (Jessie Buckley) is desperate to kickstart her dream of making it in Nashville, whatever the cost to family and friends. Country music, proclaims the gobby singer, is 'three chords and the truth' – a mantra she's had tattooed on her arm. While blessed with talent and ambition, what she doesn't have is the cash for a plane ticket. A job as a cleaner for Sophie Okonedo's wealthy stay-at-home mum helps, but Rose-Lynn's self-destructive tendencies – as evidenced by her fractious relationship with her despairing mum (Julie Walters) and her two young children – keep getting in the way.

Buckley, so good in serial-killer thriller 'Beast', is sensational here. A gifted singer-songwriter (she co-wrote most of the songs), her committed performance wrings every drop of raw emotion from her scrappy, flighty rebel in white cowboy boots and an electronic ankle tag. Director Tom Harper wisely stands back and lets his star shine. And she burns up the screen, whether singing or not. Walters and Okonedo offer fine support, while Nicole Taylor's script is heartfelt and honest, striking few bum notes en route to the crowd-pleasing musical finale. You will cheer. You will cry. You may even tap your toes. The film's terrific, Buckley remarkable. A star is born? More like a supernova. ■ **Mark Salisbury**

WHAT IS IT...
 A Glaswegian 'A Star Is Born'.

WHY GO...
 For the stellar Jessie Buckley.

→ Director Tom Harper (15)
 101 mins.

WILD ROSE: AMEE SPINKS

*"Smells absolutely gorgeous
and leaves you with
soft bouncy shiny hair. Definitely
a new favourite in my house"**

Fionawebster



Average score
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4,950 reviews**



*Consumer feedback on supersavvy.me.co.uk, December 2018.
**Consumer feedback on supersavvy.me.co.uk, July 2018.



CLASSICS CORNER

Monty Python's Life of Brian (1979)

Python co-founder Michael Palin remembers the 40-year-old comedy classic – and Biggus Dickus

'UNLIKE "HOLY GRAIL", "Life of Brian" got a reputation for being quite a naughty film. Some people in the church had a kneejerk reaction to it, and claimed comedy and Christ could never mix, but I always dispute that. Jesus was a charismatic speaker so he must have been able to tell a joke.

I would have liked to have played Brian, our accidental Messiah. I understood Brian and what he was but Graham [Chapman] had played Arthur so well in "Holy Grail" and the same requirements were needed: someone going through the world, totally mystified by what's going on around him, telling people not to be stupid when they *are* stupid. Whoever wrote a sketch would usually be chief contender to play the main part, which is why I played Pontius Pilate.



'People love to quote "Biggus Dickus" to me most. That was a hard scene to film. I would whisper a name in someone's ear before a take so that when they yelled "action" that person would have to suppress a laugh. I think Incontinentia Buttocks came out of one of those ad-libs. At one point, I couldn't do it without smiling myself and Terry Jones kept the moment in, which I'm slightly embarrassed by, but the hardest scene to film was being crucified. That was unpleasant.

'I think it's aged pretty well, and I see a reference to Monty Python every day. A Ukrainian presidential candidate recently said that he's a fan. So we're not dead yet.' ■

Interview by Hanna Flint

→ 'Monty Python's Life of Brian' is in cinemas on Apr 18 for one day only. Head to www.wewantbrian.com to find your nearest screening.

Mid90s



A Deal with the Universe



WHAT IS IT...

The directorial debut from Jonah 'Superbad' Hill.

WHY GO...

For some gentle, sun-kissed Californian vibes.

→ Director Jonah Hill (15) 85 mins.



MICHAEL PALIN: KEN JACK-CORBIS.

IN CELEBRATING THE teenage Californian skate rats he idolised as a kid, Jonah Hill has crafted a sweetly stoned wisp of a movie for his directorial debut. The actors – notably pint-sized lead Sunny Suljic – look like the kids they are. You cringe at their casual meanness, then smile when popularity shines on our hero, Stevie (Suljic), who's wiped out repeatedly falling off his board in his driveway. He's growing up to Pixies and Cypress Hill, gathering his posse, honing his ollies and, in a reversal of fortune, eclipsing the status of his scary older brother (Lucas Hedges).

Some dangerous-looking skating tricks are attempted, but nothing really bad happens, not even during the movie's out-of-nowhere manufactured climax. Hill isn't doing straight autobiography (Stevie's mum is single and you get the subtle sense that finances are dire); the film's gentle sympathy is rare, if not audacious. You can hear the 'Superbad' star's voice most in the dialogue: reams of pot-addled patter barely disguising the constant jockeying for status.

Yet even charitable viewers won't confuse 'Mid90s' for something deeper like 'Lady Bird', also the directorial debut of an established star, Greta Gerwig, but one trying to make sense out of a keenly observed point of transition. Hill, who also wrote the film, is content to coast, like Stevie, toward a pink-hued horizon, hoping the pavement isn't too bumpy. The movie is nostalgia, pure and simple, unfettered by examination. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

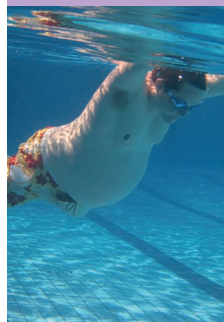
WHAT IS IT...

A doc following a transgender filmmaker's attempts to conceive.

WHY GO...

For the likeable central couple and their scene-stealing cat, Kenneth.

→ Director Jason Barker (15) 90 mins.



YOU WON'T REGRET spending an hour and a half with the couple at the centre of this scratchily homemade-feeling but refreshingly candid and warm doc. It's the work of transgender director Jason Barker, a filmmaker with a sideline in stand-up comedy, and his partner Tracey. They have spent 15 years recording their efforts to have a baby together – enduring breast cancer scares and endless gruelling courses of IVF along the way.

If paring all that footage down must have been akin to sorting through the world's biggest family photo album, what emerges isn't just the sun-kissed Insta-ready moments. Instead, we get a warts-and-all story of a loving relationship in flux. It's also an unvarnished but oddly cheerful meditation on the challenges of transgender identity, set against a very English backdrop of London Fields tower blocks, caravanning holidays, trips to the seaside and the odd rogue pigeon. It's a film of little moments and big heart.

The secret sauce, though, is Barker's own stand-up routines, recorded by Tracey in the audience. From reflecting on the foibles of cis men in changing rooms ('Have you ever seen a woman use a hairdryer on her feet?') to his own menstrual cycle confessions ('There's this very small window in the month where I really, really, really fucking fancy Gordon Ramsay'), they're a perception-busting and often very funny complement to a film set on draining the dread from life's scarier corners. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

“a different kind of coming-of-age story”

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“the film of the year right here”

justin staple, vice

“straight-outta-the-gate masterpiece”

the globe and mail

“bristles with fun, feeling and exhilaration”

rolling stone

“funny,
observant
and true”

empire

“a...sense of
adolescent
energy”

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mid90s

written and directed by jonah hill

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mid90s.film



LONDON ON SCREEN

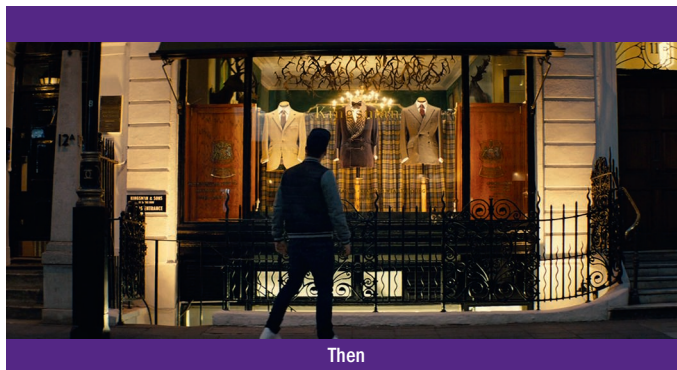
The tailors from **Kingsman: The Secret Service**

The location 11 Savile Row, Mayfair.

The scene Teenage waster Eggsy (Taron Egerton) spends his days stealing cars before dapper spy Harry Hart (Colin Firth) offers him a way out as a member of the Kingsman, a secret intelligence service. They meet at an inconspicuous tailor's that turns out to be its secret HQ.

Then Director Matthew Vaughn would regularly buy suits from Savile Row's famous Huntsman tailors, which has been running since 1849 and was frequented by Winston Churchill. When his producing partner and friend Pierre Lagrange bought the shop in 2013, he fixed on the idea of using it in his new spy caper. 'He was looking at our mirrors and hangers and imagining secret weapon caches,' says Lagrange.

Now Tourists regularly stop to take selfies next to the gold plaque by the door that reads 'Kingsman'. 'It's been the best marketing we could hope for,' Lagrange says. In the sequel, 'Kingsman: The Golden Circle', the shop was blown to smithereens. But Lagrange hints that it could be back for further 'Kingsman' films: 'They are making a prequel, so it's good news for us.' ■ *Thomas Hobbs*



Then



Now

Yuli: The Carlos Acosta Story



WHAT IS IT...

A docu-drama about the life of Cuban ballet genius Carlos Acosta.

WHY GO...

For the moment where he watches his younger self dancing on a big screen.

→ Director Iciar Bollain
(15) 111 mins.



SUPERSTAR CUBAN BALLET dancer and choreographer Carlos Acosta takes us through his life in unusual style in this mix of drama and dance, fiction and reality. A little like 'Pina', Wim Wenders' brilliant film about the late German dancer Pina Bausch, 'Yuli' swings between the art and the person. But here we have the added interest of the artist still very much alive and trying to make sense of his past.

For most of this film, by Spanish director Iciar Bollain and British writer Paul Laverty ('1, Daniel Blake'), we see vivid recreations of Acosta's life: growing up poor in Cuba; facing down racism; travelling to London to become a principal dancer at the English National Ballet; the deteriorating health of his schizophrenic sister back home; the push and pull of family and career. Occasionally, we drift out of the memories to see Acosta now, dancing or directing other dancers to perform moments in his life. He sometimes even steps in to play his own father, a determined, loving and sometimes brutal presence.

'Yuli' – the nickname given to him by his dad – is part biopic, part dance as autobiography. It really works, making the dance accessible for those not so familiar with the discipline, and yet also rooting Acosta's mission to understand his life firmly in his chosen art form. ■ *Dave Calhoun*

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Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
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FIRST LOOK

The Drumsheds

The people behind Canada Water's Printworks are opening a huge new venue in Enfield. Strap on your hard hat for this exclusive look inside



PICTURE THE SCENE: Enfield. A cloudy Tuesday. An industrial estate close to the motorway. A whiskery old man steps out of a beat-up van and seems unsure how to react to the group of hipsters gingerly stepping round piles of rubble to save their Air Force 1s.

I'm taking a tour of The Drumsheds, London's biggest new music and cultural venue and the surprising new location of Field Day, the genre-spanning alternative music fest which previously took place in Hackney's Victoria Park and then Herne Hill's Brockwell Park. An abandoned Enfield gasworks isn't necessarily the first place you'd expect to find a major culture and nightlife destination but Broadwick Live, the developers behind both this and Canning Town's Printworks, have huge plans – four giant interconnected warehouses, ten acres of space, a huge field out the back...all that, and there's an Ikea down the road.

The warehouses are vast. There are four linked together where the organisers hope to throw clusters of late-night events, rather than regular weekly club nights, and they estimate they can fit 10,000 punters in at a time. And because it's indoors, previously open-air events like Field Day can run into the small hours – Field Day has a 3am license, for example – saving revellers the effort of finding somewhere to carry on the sesh nearby. Also good to know: it's close to Zone 3's Tottenham Hale and new Overground station Meridian Water, which is due to open in June. It adds up to a more European approach to festivals, compared to the early curfews we're used to here in the UK.

Admittedly, the warehouses are pretty basic right now: big, empty halls that make the AphexTwin barn at Field Day 2017 look like a garden shed, with cranes and wall rigging still in place. 'We're leaving them pretty much as is,' Broadwick Live MD Bradley Thompson tells me, before hastily adding: 'Aside from, obviously, making them safe.' It's the same design approach that the team took to Printworks, where killer programming and inventive lighting among the printing presses have helped to create a shining beacon of London nightlife. But before opening The Drumsheds, they'll need to move the hordes of pigeons currently squatting in the warehouses.

JAKE DAVIS



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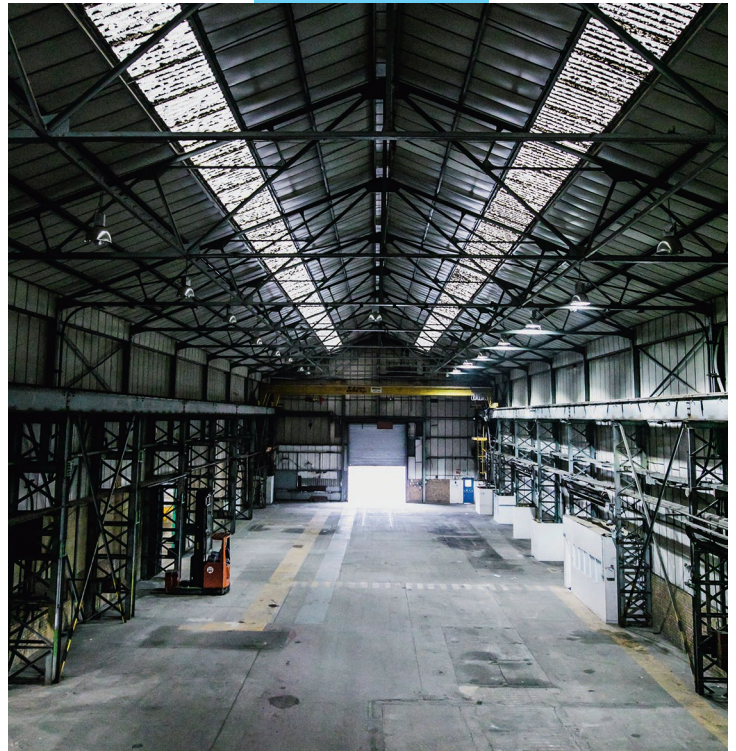
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Music & Nightlife



Field Day will be the first event to take place on this gargantuan site, but it doesn't really have an actual field yet, more a scrubland with ideas above its station. 'The second stage will be over by that pylon on the left,' a rep helpfully explains from our vantage point on the main stage – currently a pile of earth out behind the warehouses. He's making some fairly hefty asks of my imagination but it just about works – I can picture rolling lawns, 75-metres'-worth of bar front, bag checks over by the River Lea and even experimental hip-hop band Death Grips echoing out between the diggers.

Seasoned festival-throwers and venue-redevelopers, the folks at Broadwick Live know the importance of toilet provisions too. Thompson agrees that if you don't have enough loos, you're screwed. Noise is another major problem for London venues, and The Drumsheds has made the canny move of avoiding residents altogether. The nearest homes are currently 1km away and with the venue at the heart of the Meridian Water redevelopment plans, one would hope problems like these can be avoided even as more housing is built (although quite how that will work, no one is sure). But for now, I'm excited by the possibilities. Huge outdoor gigs, proper parties, cultural events, a late-night London venue that's actually opening rather than closing – and minimal loo queues. Walking into the warehouse on a Tuesday morning I swear I hear a distant thump of bass, a harbinger of things to come. ■

→ Field Day is at Meridian Water on Jun 7-8.



By **Kate Solomon**
Who might be rocking an Ikea bag at Field Day.



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WHAT'S THE
DEAL WITH
Amyl & The
Sniffers

So, who are this lot, then?

Well, these Aussie rockers are making three-chord punk songs sound like the freshest thing in the world.

But simplistic punk is the oldest trick in the book.

Exactly, and that's what makes these mulleted mad-hatters so exciting. They're breathing new life into something that should feel stale and overdone – two words you definitely won't be using after an Amyl gig. They've got humour, whiplash-inducing riffs and charismatic leader Amy Taylor delivering pithy lyrics that'll make you spit out your drink with glee.

So they're pretty lively, then?

Their song 'Shake Ya' says it best: 'We come out and we got rowdy.' Don't wear anything to their gigs that you don't want ripped, soaked or stained, because it's pretty much guaranteed that there

**They'll make
you spit out
your drink
with glee**

will be sweaty moshing chaos within seconds of the band coming on.

Wow, that's fast...

Everything about Amyl & The Sniffers is fast, from their songs, which usually clock in around the two-minute mark, to their genesis itself. The story goes that the four members returned to their shared house one day after work, set up some gear, wrote four songs, recorded them, decided on an EP title and a band name, and released them within 12 hours. It's almost insulting that said EP, 'Giddy Up', is actually good.

They don't hang around at all. Where can I see them?

Dig out your scruffiest sneakers because they're playing Test Pressing Festival (a sweet multi-venue one-dayer in Hackney Wick) on April 27. Then their self-titled debut album drops on May 24. Boom! ■ *Rhian Daly*

Discover more new artists at timeout.com/music

GIGS AND CLUBS

Robyn

Last year, Robyn finally dropped 'Honey', her first full-length album in eight years. Now, the super-Swede continues her comeback with a pair of huge Ally Pally shows. You'll be dancing for sure, but not on your own.

→ Alexandra Palace.
Fri Apr 12-Sat Apr 13.

Glitterbox

The twenty-first-century disco inferno returns to Elephant & Castle for a dazzling anything-goes party featuring DJ sets from Mousse T, Louie Vega and more. It's sold out but keep an eye out for resale tickets.

→ Ministry of Sound.
Sat Apr 13.

10 Queer Years

Put this in your diary: game-changing LGBT+ venue Dalston Superstore is celebrating its first decade in epic style.

→ Dalston Superstore.
May 5.

Estelle

Now based in Brooklyn, the west London-born R&B queen is jetting back for a relatively rare hometown show.

→ O2 Academy Islington.
May 28.

All Points East

The Bon Iver-headlined day of the east London fest has announced cool new support acts including Ezra Furman and Ry X.

→ Victoria Park. Jun 2.

Pixies

This one's not just big, it's gigantic. The super-influential US indie band have announced an autumn tour in support of their new album, due in September. This London date is sure to supply blast after blast of righteous guitar noise.

→ Alexandra Palace, Sep 20.

Louise

Let's go round again? The former Eternal singer and current West End leading lady has just announced her first album in 19 years (!) - 'Heavy Love', due October - and now she's booked in a 2020 UK tour.

→ O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire.
Mar 26 2020.



Miranda Presents: Kiddy Smile

One of the leading lights of the Paris ballroom scene is hopping on the Eurostar to deliver an Easter Thursday DJ set in Shoreditch. Frankly, it already sounds like one of this month's fiercest nights.

→ Ace Hotel. Apr 18.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL PRESENTS

CARL CRAIG WITH CHINEKE! WITH ORCHESTRA

SUNDAY 28 APRIL

The Detroit techno pioneer takes his music from the club to the concert hall



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Theatre & Dance

Edited by **Andrzej Lukowski**
timeout.com/theatre @timeouththeatre

Why so many new theatres?

You thought London had enough theatres? You thought wrong. Check out the many, many new stages opening this year

IN 2019, SIX MAJOR theatres are scheduled to open in London. Toss in Alexandra Palace Theatre, which has only just staged its first major show, and that is a hell of a lot of stages: probably the most to ever spring up in our city in a year. But why? Don't we have enough already? And who is actually going to go to them?

The cop-out answer is that it's kind of a coincidence: they're very different venues that exist for different reasons, from the boom in immersive productions (Space 18) to Soho Estates just wanting a theatre (the Boulevard).

The bolder answer is that a lot of it can surely be chalked up to London's ongoing gentrification: most of these openings are connected to some redevelopment or other, be it the endless upgrade of London Bridge (Southwark Playhouse) or the transformation of the old BBC HQ into an upmarket new neighbourhood (Troubadour White City). And due to that unending gentrification boom, expect more – there are several lined up beyond 2019.

Will they all find audiences? Who knows? But we wish them all the best of luck. Here's a round-up of the ones we know about right now.

Alexandra Palace Theatre

What is it? Not, in fact, a new venue but a restoration of an atmospheric old Victorian one. It was no longer used as a theatre after the BBC moved into the Palace in 1935.

What's the capacity? 1,300.

What can you see? Not a lot: its financial model doesn't require continuous programming. But what they do put on looks pretty great: Headlong's recent 'Richard III' was thrilling, and the ENO will be taking its acclaimed 'Paul Bunyan' there from May 9 to 13.

Troubadour Wembley Park Theatre/ Troubadour White City Theatre

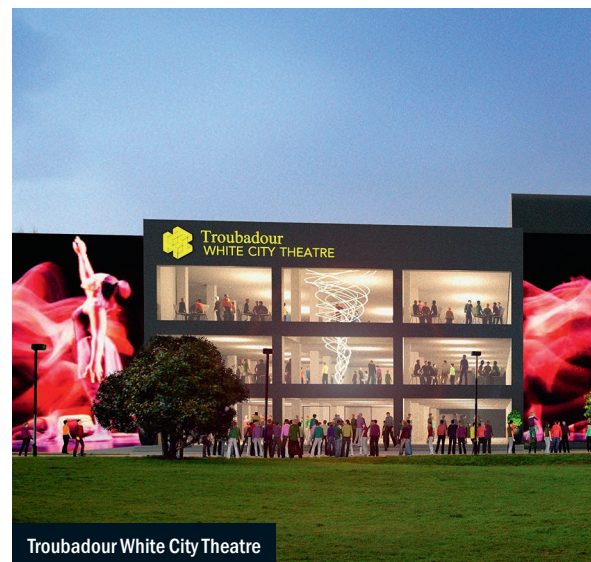
What are they? Two huge, flexible venues being opened as part of a new London development, operated by the team behind the excellent temporary King's Cross Theatre. Both are due to open this summer.

What's the capacity? Wembley Park: 1,000-2,000; White City: 1,200 and 800.

What can you see? Wembley Park has a couple of popular pre-existing shows booked in ('Dinosaur World Live' and 'War Horse'); White City we know



Alexandra Palace Theatre



Troubadour White City Theatre

Find more theatre features at timeout.com/theatre



Southwark Playhouse

What's the capacity? Quantifying the capacity of a non-seated venue is difficult, but basically it'll be an awful lot.

What can you see? Space 18 is specifically being built as the home of immersive horror show 'Variant 31', which is due to open in September. Whether it will host further immersive shows after that is probably a question for another day.

Southwark Playhouse Elephant/ Southwark Playhouse London Bridge

What are they? Fringe powerhouse Southwark Playhouse is scheduled to move into not one but *two* new venues, with at least one opening by the end of 2019.

What's the capacity? Elephant: 300; London Bridge: 200 and 150.

What can you see? Elephant will be the flagship building and roughly analogous to the current main house, playing host to musicals and the like. London Bridge will focus more on new and up-and-coming talent.

Coming in 2020/2021 King's Head Theatre

The campy Islington theatre-pub is expected to move out of its well-worn 110-seat premises in 2020 into a new purpose-built venue with a 250-seat auditorium and an 85-seat studio.

New Nimax Theatre

Work has begun on the site of the old Astoria for a redevelopment that will include a new, in-the-round, 650-seat venue, operated by the Nimax group. It will be the first large theatre to open in the actual West End since the '70s.

Bridge Theatre 2

Nicholas Hytner and Nick Starr have made no secret of the fact that they want to build another venue to follow on from their swanky Bridge Theatre, which opened in 2017. The word is it'll be in King's Cross, will have 600 seats and will open in 2021. ■

nothing about, other than it has two large spaces to fill. Exactly how the Troubadour proposes to fill such vast spaces year-round is one of the great mysteries of London's new crop of theatres.

Boulevard Theatre

What is it? A hi-tech, boutique theatre (taking the name from a venue that used to be on the same site) in the middle of Soho, with an upmarket attached restaurant. It essentially exists because Fawn James of Soho Estates – who own much of Soho – decided she really wanted a theatre.

What's the capacity? 165.

What can you see? Plays, plus late-night cabaret. Artistic director Rachel Edwards will announce her first season in May for an autumn start.

Space 18

What is it? This vast multi-building space on New Oxford Street is billed as London's first purpose-built immersive theatre.



ALEXANDRA PALACE THEATRE: RICHARD BATTYE. SOUTHWARK PLAYHOUSE: SARVEE



By Andrzej Lukowski
Who thinks most of these people are mad, but is delighted they're trying.

The Crucible



WHAT IS IT...
A trippy, haunting take on Miller's classic.

WHY GO...
For a dazzlingly weird look at a collapsing community.

→ Yard Theatre.
Hackney Wick Overground.
Until May 11. £10-£20.



HACKNEY WICK'S TEMPLE of leftfield theatre has literally never staged a revival until now. But Arthur Miller's Red Terror-era witchcraft drama 'The Crucible' makes total sense as a place to start. The Yard's biggest weakness has been a tendency for directors to overdirect, obscuring the play underneath. But 'The Crucible' is built like a brick shithouse. Yard boss Jay Miller throws everything he has at it. And 'The Crucible' absorbs it all, because it's the bloody 'Crucible'.

It takes a while to warm up. The first scene, in which the seated cast narrates the opening of Miller's play – stage directions and all – before slowly transitioning to American accents and 'proper' acting, is not unenjoyable, but feels like a warm-up exercise. And although she's a fine actor, Caoilfhionn Dunne feels miscast as bloodied hero John Proctor: angsty, but indistinct.

But the show gets better as it goes on. Josh Anio Grigg's sound design is remarkable, especially in the disorientating courtroom scene. Here, Jacob James Beswick gives a brilliantly original take on Judge Hathorne, playing the witchfinder-in-chief as a small, petty bureaucrat. Meanwhile, scary figures in masks start wandering around the stage. Why? Dunno. But it's atmospheric as hell, and for all its flaws, Miller's hyperinventive production is stunning, startling stuff. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

Top Girls



WHAT IS IT...
Caryl Churchill's iconic feminist masterpiece.

WHY GO...
Lyndsey Turner's massive production is a once-in-a-lifetime staging.

→ National Theatre,
Lyttelton. ☉ Waterloo.
Until Jun 22. £15-£68.



RECENTLY, THE NATIONAL THEATRE sparked a furious backlash when its season announcement included no new plays by women. This week, it opens a revival of a twentieth-century feminist classic. This is a coincidence, and one doesn't cancel out the other, but at the very least, it's handy timing.

Astonishingly, Lyndsey Turner's revival is only the fourth professional UK production ever of Caryl Churchill's 1982 masterpiece 'Top Girls'. It's more famous than performed, so this mega-budget revival feels like a sort of vindication.

If you know the play, you'll know it for the virtuosic opening scene, in which power-suited Thatcherite businesswoman Marlene (Katherine Kingsley) enjoys a boozy dinner to celebrate her recent promotion at work with a series of women from history. It is, no question, a completely singular piece of writing. It is surreal. It is serious. And it's funny.

But the dinner party isn't the whole play. Turner's production is probably the first to not require actors from that scene to play later roles. This is good: it decentralises the dinner party's role and shifts the focus on to the slowly unfurling tragedy of the excellent Kingsley's brittle Marlene. The sweep from epic opening to intimate end is both poignant and awesome. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

EXCLUSIVE

SHIT-FACED SHAKESPEARE: 'THE TAMING OF THE SHREW'



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Going Through



WHAT IS IT...
A moving narrative of child migration.

WHY GO...
To see the power of sign language.

→ Bush Theatre.
☉ Shepherd's Bush.
Until Apr 27. £10-£20.



DESCRIBING A SHOW as 'quiet' could seem like the ultimate barbed compliment. But in an era of theatre that's all about flashy lighting and furious energy, French playwright Estelle Savasta's story is quiet in the best possible way. It's a measured, moving migration narrative that centres on Nour, a girl who grows up in a tiny house with her mother-figure Youmna, who is D/deaf. Played by Charmaine Wombwell and Nadia Nadarajah, the pair joyfully itemise everything they own like it's the contents of Noah's Ark, both in sign language and in projected handwriting that covers the stage.

You know that feeling of watching a foreign-language film and seeing a whole speech distilled into a few bald English subtitles? Well, watching Nadarajah's signing is that, multiplied by 100. Her expressiveness challenges you to pay attention and to understand, even before Wombwell steps in to translate.

Savasta's text, translated by Kirsten Hazel Smith, mixes poetic otherness with Nour's wittily naive outlook on the people-smugglers who lead her from taxi to forest to lorry. Director Omar Elerian makes the locations feel vividly real, with help from video footage and the projections. This is a production that shows the richness of communicating using sign language and the losses, as well as the gains, of integration into a new kind of life. ■ *Alice Saville*

More theatre reviews at
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THE CRUCIBLE: HELEN MURRAY; TOP GIRLS: JOHAN PERSSON; GOING THROUGH: ALI WRIGHT

NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Collisions

This explosive virtual reality piece explores nuclear testing in the deserts of Western Australia.

→ Barbican Centre. ⇨ Barbican. Wed Apr 10-Apr 20. £10.

A German Life

Acting legend Maggie Smith stars in Christopher Hampton's new play about Joseph Goebbels's secretary.

→ Bridge Theatre. ⇨ Tower Bridge. Until May 11. £15-£69.50.

Rooms

Irish playwright Enda Walsh has created this lyrical immersive experience.

→ Barbican Centre. ⇨ Barbican. Thu Apr 11-Apr 19. £30.

A Simple Space

Underbelly Festival opens for the summer with this sweat-soaked circus show from Gravity & Other Myths.

→ Underbelly Festival. ⇨ Waterloo. Until May 5. From £16.50.

Where Is Peter Rabbit?

This puppet-filled kids' musical is

hopping into the West End for Easter.

→ Theatre Royal Haymarket. ⇨ Piccadilly Circus. Until Apr 28. £15-£32.50.

OFF-WEST END

Queereteria TV

A bonkers-sounding post-apocalyptic queer comedy starring Andy Bell, of Erasure fame.

→ Above the Stag Theatre. ⇨ Vauxhall. Wed Apr 10-Apr 28. £28.

Sitting

After an ill-fated Edinburgh premiere last summer, 'The IT Crowd' star Katherine Parkinson's play is getting a London run.

→ Arcola Theatre. Dalston Kingsland Overground. Wed Apr 10-May 11. £10-£22.

LAST CHANCE

Home, I'm Darling

Catch Laura Wade's retro-tinged domestic satire before it hangs up its swooshy skirts for good.

→ Duke of York's Theatre. ⇨ Leicester Square. Until Sat Apr 13. £18-£95.

EXCLUSIVE

Get 30 percent off tickets to 'A Simple Space' – an epic acrobatic show at Underbelly Festival Southbank. Tickets now just £12.25.

→ TIMEOUT.COM/SIMPLE

TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Betrayal

Tom Hiddleston stars in Pinter's haunting play.

→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Until Jun 8.

2 Come from Away

The adorably folksy hit musical from Canada.

→ Phoenix Theatre. Until Sep 14.

3 Wicked

This long-running hit is still enchanting West End crowds.

→ Apollo Victoria. Until May 23 2020.

4 Book of Mormon

A swearsy box office smash from the 'South Park' boys.

→ Prince of Wales Theatre. Until Jul 20.

5 Home, I'm Darling

A couple glamorously implodes in Laura Wade's hit.

→ Duke of York's Theatre. Until Sat Apr 13.

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Collisions

24 Apr-12 May
Fertility Fest

27 Apr-12 May
Maxine Peake in
Avalanche: A Love Story by Julia Leigh

Life Rewired
A season exploring what it means to be human when technology is changing everything
barbican.org.uk/liferewired

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Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

THE BIG REVIEW

Edvard Munch: 'Love and Angst'



LONELINESS, ANXIETY, JEALOUSY, fear and torment: Norwegian artist Edvard Munch (1863-1944) probably wasn't much fun at parties, but he sure had a knack for art. This exhibition doesn't make for easy viewing: it's heavy, dour stuff that'll hang over you like a dark cloud.

But don't come here expecting a massive in-depth show of his iconic paintings – this is all about his prints. Munch worked extensively with woodcuts, lithographs and etchings, and the results are often lovely.

Everything that's in Munch's paintings – except for colour – is also in his prints. There are lovers whose bodies merge, couples tearing themselves apart in separation, solitary figures lost in unbearable anguish, beautiful unattainable women. 'The Kiss' is filled with a naked lust that's almost shockingly intense; the eyes of the lovers in 'Attraction I' are sunken and hollow; and 'The Scream' – yes, it's here, relax – is colourless, stark and almost more haunted than the painted version.

There are lots of stunning prints here. 'Madonna' and 'Lovers in the Waves' are gothic and dark, and the pain of the hangover in 'The Day After' is so real you can almost feel the nausea and migraine. But the show's still a bit of a mess.

WHAT IS IT...
Prints from art's greatest miserabilist.

WHY GO...
It screams with pain, and it will haunt you for days.

→ British Museum.
⊖ Russell Square. Thu Apr 11-Jul 21. £17, £14 concs.

It starts with so much unnecessary biographical context that you're almost bored before you even get going. Munch also did so many versions of all these images that the works can get repetitive. Having a couple of his paintings in the show just makes you realise what you're missing by being stuck with his prints, while the inclusion of works by Degas and Max Klinger doesn't bring much to the party.

But Munch's work is iconic for a reason. When he hits you with all that pain and torment, you stay hit. The eyes of his works follow you around the room, and they'll haunt you when you leave. It might not be pleasant, but it is proof of how brilliant he could be. ■



By Eddy Frankel
Who is lonely, anxious, angsty and tormented, but damn he looks good.

EDVARD MUNCH, 'THE LONELY ONES', 1899. EDVARD MUNCH (1863-1944), MUNCHMUSEET, 'VAMPRETT', 1896. THE SWANNS BANK FOUNDATION (PRINT ON LEANTO) / THE SWANNS BANK CENTER, USA.

BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



↑ Mike Nelson: 'The Asset Strippers'

Nelson has filled the Tate's Duveen Galleries with giant machines symbolising the death of industrial Britain. It's overwhelming and poignantly sad.

→ Tate Britain. ⊕ Pimlico. Until Oct 6. Free.



↑ 'How Chicago! Imagists 1960s & 70s'

This group show of little-known cartoon-inflected psychedelia is utterly brilliant, filled with grotesque imagery, pop art aesthetics and bawdy humour.

→ Goldsmiths CCA. New Cross Gate Overground. Until May 26. Free.



↑ Phyllida Barlow: 'Cul-de-Sac'

Big, imposing sculptural assemblages of concrete and fabric: Barlow knows how to dwarf a viewer, but something about it is totally and perfectly calming.

→ Royal Academy of Arts. ⊕ Piccadilly Circus. Until Jun 23. £12, £10 concs.

Monster Munch 'The Lonely Ones' (below); 'Vampire II' (bottom)



MIKE NELSON IMAGE: TATE (MATT GREENWOOD); GLADYS NELSON: A COLD MOUTH, 1966 © THE ARTIST, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND CARTH GREENAWOOD; NEW YORK, PHYLIDA BARLOW: WORK; COURTESY THE ARTIST AND HAUSER & WIRTH. © PHYLIDA BARLOW PHOTO: © ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, LONDON. PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID PARRY



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Joan Cornellá



WHAT IS IT...
 Surreal, grotesque cartoons with a horrible sense of humour.

WHY GO...
 What it lacks in tact, it more than makes up for in hilarity.

→ Public Gallery, Rectory Rd rail. Until May 4. Free.

IN A WORLD of mindful affirmations and positive reinforcement, Spanish artist Joan Cornellá is the negative kick in the shins we need, and probably deserve. This little show finds him flexing his art muscles, rather than the cartoon strips he's known for, with a series of drawings, paintings and one ridiculous sculpture.

He's a precise drawer. Every face has the same half-moon smile, the same dead eyes, all with classic cartoon silhouettes, presented neatly, precisely. But the aesthetic is only part of it; Cornellá's real weapon is his subject matter.

Two kids smile over a birthday cake that says 'nobody loves you', women play basketball with a baby, a man's ears bleed while a woman plays acoustic guitar to him. And everyone's smiling. The one sculpture shows a man hanging himself while taking a selfie. Jeez, Cornellá is nasty, critical, cynical, misanthropic: it's great.

It feels like he's reaching into your head, plucking out your grimmest thoughts and presenting them back to you with a smile. 'I'm full of shit' says one work. 'You are a fat piece of shit' says another. I mean, come on, that's just what every sensible, intelligent person says when they look in the mirror in the morning, isn't it? Cornellá is exposing the blackened, horrible, negative heart of modern living, pumping its vile bile through society's veins.

These are surreal, grotesque, vicious non-sequiturs – visual gags with offensive punchlines. But when you look at a painting that says 'remember: your life sucks', at least you know you're not alone. And there's some comfort in that, really. ■ Eddy Frankel

JOAN CORNELLÁ COPYRIGHT THE ARTIST, COURTESY PUBLIC GALLERY.

Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
[@timeouteatdrink](http://timeout.com/eatdrink)

FIVE OF THE BEST

Places to go gluten-free

Cutting out the starch in London is easier than ever. Here are our fave places to sack off the grains in style



Ardiciocca

Après Food Co

The owners of this gorgeous-looking (and totally gluten-free) Clerkenwell joint want us all to 'make friends with food'. We're certainly sold on the idea and the place, with its low-key backstreet vibe, pretty plants in pots and cleverly contrived GF cooking. Owner Catherine is a fully qualified nutritional therapist, so everything here is not just delightful, it's nutritionally balanced, from the frittata muffins and sweet potato hash to the luscious cakes made with coconut sugar. It's now open during the evenings, too.

→ 72 St John St, EC1M 4DT. ☎ Barbican.

Ardiciocca

Gluten-free, dairy-free and sugar-free... that's the schtick at this Italian joint from the team behind the Macellaio RC mini-chain. Produce comes exclusively from indie artisan outfits and the kitchen rolls out plenty of decent GF stuff, from arancini balls and Sardinian gnocchi to surprisingly good pizzas with super-thin, flat bases and loads of toppings (try the version with stracchino cheese and Genoese pesto).

→ 461-465 North End Rd, SW6 1NZ. ☎ Fulham Broadway.

Farmstand

Don't expect strawberries in December at Farmstand, a clean-lined minimalist diner inspired by the namesake roadside produce stalls of America's Midwest. Sustainable and seasonal are its watchwords, and plenty of stuff is free from gluten and dairy. Go wild on salad boxes bursting with veg, fish and marinated meats. A standard serve is around £7 and allows you two salads and your protein of choice – make a beeline for the tender strips of chicken drenched in spicy harissa or the warming, slow-cooked beef curry.

→ 42 Drury Lane, WC2B 5AJ. ☎ Covent Garden.

Leggero

Leggero means 'light' in Italian, but dinner at this easy-going Soho spot will be anything but, judging by the amount of hearty pasta on the menu. Most of the food here is veggie or vegan (apart from the occasional lamb meatball and the salmon ravioli) and everything is allergy-friendly and totally gluten-free. Get your kicks from the likes of chestnut pappardelle or butternut squash flan with parmesan fondue.

→ 64 Old Compton St, W1D 4UQ. ☎ Leicester Square.

Pearl & Groove

Healthy baker Serena Whitefield's café is a safe haven for those with an intolerance as well as a sweet tooth. Ground almonds help make treats such as raspberry and almond loaf totally gluten-free and pretty damn good – especially when washed down with a matcha latte. Vegan salads and soups help things along come lunchtime. ■

→ 341 Portobello Rd, W10 5SA. ☎ Ladbroke Grove.



Pearl & Groove

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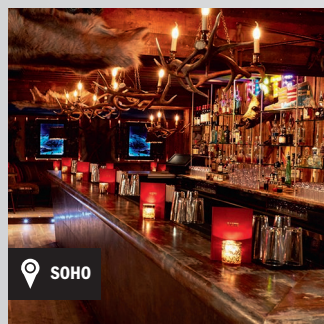
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HOLBORN

LUCKY VOICE HOLBORN SAYS:

'The first new Lucky Voice venue in almost a decade, Lucky Voice Holborn is an immense all-singing, all-dancing combination of private karaoke rooms, cocktail bar and late-night party venue. With fancy-dress boxes, live weekend DJs, thirsty buttons for drinks service in every room and a disco toilet... what more could you want?'
84 Chancery Lane, WC2A 1DL.



SOHO

ARCHER STREET SOHO SAYS:

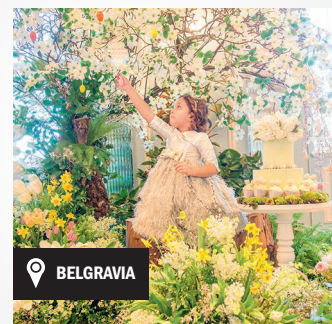
'An experiential cocktail bar, Archer Street is a destination for discerning Londoners looking for a night of riotous fun in Soho. We serve refined cocktails in luxurious decor combined with high-energy entertainment from West End performers and seasonal pop-ups, to guarantee a night of good memories in a charmingly discreet environment.'
3-4 Archer St, W1D 7AP.



BOROUGH

APPLEBEE'S FISH SAYS:

'We love fresh fish, and since 1998 we've tried to share that love with all of our guests through our fishmongers, restaurant and street food. Like our entire business, our restaurant focuses on getting the best fish (prioritising sustainability), keeping things simple and sourcing all of our other products from the market.'
5 Stoney St, SE1 9AA.



BELGRAVIA

CÉLESTE SAYS:

'This Easter we are transforming Céleste into an enchanted wilderness for an afternoon of exploring and egg hunting. Expect rabbit tunnels, rope swings, entertainers, La Stupenderia goody bags and cakes from Elizabeth's Cake Emporium. Parents can enjoy a glass of champagne and canapés on the balcony.'
The Lanesborough London,
1 Lanesborough Place, SW1X 7TA.

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

Barrafina Coal Drops Yard

→ Bagley Walk, N1C 4AB. ↻ King's Cross.



THERE ARE LOADS of copycats dotted around the city now, but Barrafina was the original high-quality tapas joint. Arriving on Frith Street in Soho back in 2007, it transformed Spanish food from drab and touristy to top-notch and exciting. New branches have opened since then (and the original has been relocated), but despite the changes it remains a reliable place to eat: always buzzing, with lovely food and just the right amount of waiting time for a table to make you feel like you're in the right place.

This outpost is on the top floor of Coal Drops Yard in King's Cross and, in a Barrafina first, it has a few tables for four inside and some decent space for outdoor dining (every other restaurant has been counter seating only). The signature long dining counter, bustling open kitchen and menu packed with flavour all remain.

Food-wise, the classic dishes continue to shine. Like the tortilla: a perfectly eggy, oniony,

round potato dish that looked delightfully like a giant Ritz cracker on the outside, but was gooey and delicious on the inside. Or the must-order crispy morcilla croquetas filled with rich, Spanish-style blood pudding, and the green salad: four heads of baby gem lettuce topped with aromatic diced onion and a super-fresh vinaigrette. Be warned, though: some dishes (like the gambas

rojas a la sal – salt-baked prawns) are small for the prices, so the bill will creep up quickly.

Barrafina isn't doing anything particularly new here, but this, its fifth branch, is just as great as the others. In London, that kind of consistency counts for a helluva lot. ■ *Kelly Pigram*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £135.

WHAT IS IT...

A branch of the tapas restaurant at Coal Drops Yard.

WHY GO...

To snack on Spanish delights like salt-baked prawns and crispy croquetas.



Blacklock Shoreditch

→ 30 Rivington St, EC2A 3DZ. ↻ Old St.



BLACKLOCK'S THIRD steakhouse is in one of those classic Shoreditch ex-warehouse spaces that's all exposed brick, big windows and polished concrete floors. Decked out with classy dark-leather banquette seats and mid-century furniture, the vibe here is very '60s-chic: like your grandparents sold all their belongings to forward-looking interior designers when they were young. Plates are mismatched and vintage, and there's a classy, old-school gilded drinks trolley that the bartenders wheel round to your table after dinner so they can whip you up an old fashioned. It's all very charming and romantic. Keep it in mind for your next date.

The menu is meaty and heavy with – as you might expect from a chophouse – a focus on chops. They come in small (skinny chops), medium (big chops) and large (off the bone) sizes, so order based on your appetite. A skinny plate of lamb T-bone, pork loin and beef



WHAT IS IT...

A new branch of the chophouse in Shoreditch.

WHY GO...

For a great-value plate of tender, caramelised chops.

rump was big enough to feed two and decent value at £12. The lamb was tender, the beef bright pink and delicious, and each chop was caramelised slightly on top so there was a tiny bit of mouthwatering crunch to them. We also ordered a side of crispy beef-dripping fries and the off-menu Blacklist: a juicy, beefburger loaded with onions caramelised in vermouth and a sriracha-laced burger sauce.

A couple of starters were winners, too: the tender pulled pig's head on toast was doused in gravy and topped with sliced red chilli, while

the tiny 'pre-chop bites' (crackers topped with cheese and pickle, chicken and horseradish, or egg and anchovy) were delicious and only a quid each.

The menu lacked anything fresh and sharp to cleanse the palate after all that oil, butter and meat, but in fairness, you don't come to Blacklock for a salad. You come for a plate of chops and to put yourself in a food coma. Like going to your grandparents' house for dinner, only cooler. ■ *Kelly Pigram*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £70.

EXCLUSIVE

Tuck into endless dumplings, small plates, bowls and bite-sized delights at North London Chinese joint **Goldfish**. Now just £19.50.

TIMEOUT.COM/GOLDFISH19

Food

Brother Marcus – Angel ★★★★★

→ 37-39 Camden Passage, N1 8EA. ☺ Angel.

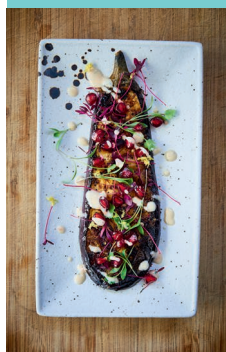
BROTHER MARCUS IS a vibey Eastern Mediterranean joint that first opened in Balham back in 2016 with a focus on booze and brunch. This second location, in Angel, is similar, but open all day, with the relaxed atmos of a rustic brasserie (there's wood on every surface, lots of mood lighting and plants climbing the walls). On-trend breakfast dishes are still on the menu, but at night, things get a bit more ambitious: with interesting small plates that carry a lot of oomph.

Friendly staff excelled at explaining slightly complicated menu items, like the hearty fried buttermilk chicken with muhammara (an unctuous, nut-rich, red pepper sauce) and grated graviera cheese, the cauliflower with kassoundi and raisins (a lovely vegan option), and the fried feta with honey and sesame (a delicious hit of salt and sweet). Tiger prawns with black garlic and caramelised yoghurt was the only combination that didn't quite work – everything else Marcus popped on a plate, we liked.

One thing: though the food was fun and interesting, by the end of the meal we were dying for a fresh-tasting salad or some healthy green veg to offset the heaviness. There's plenty to like about Brother Marcus. If he balances the menu, we'll like him even more. ■ **Sarah Guy**
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £90.

WHAT IS IT...
A second location for the Eastern Med brasserie.

WHY GO...
For a weeknight dinner packed with bold flavour.



THREE OF THE BEST

Camden

Think you've done NW1?
Not until you've eaten at these three gems



The Cheese Bar ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT... A permanent restaurant from the Cheese Bar food truck in the middle of Stables Market.
WHY GO... For the indulgently oily 'young buck' raclette: a hot mess of fried potatoes, sharp blue cheese and smoky meat.
→ Unit 93-94, Stables Market, Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AH. ☺ Chalk Farm.



Hook ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT... A beach-themed, sustainable fish-and-chips restaurant serving twists on the traditional.
WHY GO... For flawlessly fried fish, like the juicy cod in Japanese panko (breadcrumbs).
→ 63 Parkway, NW1 7PP. ☺ Camden Town.



Purezza ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT... A London outpost of the UK's first vegan pizzeria, which originally set up shop in Brighton.
WHY GO... For pizzas topped with realistic, lightly smoked 'mozzarella' made from fermented brown rice milk.
→ 43 Parkway, NW1 7PN. ☺ Camden Town.

EXCLUSIVE

KANISHKA



Go fine-dining in Mayfair for an exclusive Time Out price – enjoy a five-dish sharing menu and a cocktail at this swish new Indian joint for just £30.

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Drink

Edited by **Laura Richards**
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BAR OF THE WEEK

Chapel Down Gin Works

→ Goods Way, N1C 4UR. ⊕ King's Cross.



IT NOW LOOKS like a car showroom, but this former petrol station along the King's Cross stretch of Regent's Canal has been made into a micro-distillery, with two bars and a restaurant. Not content with being the leading light of England's wine-making scene (don't laugh – our wine is booming!), Kent-based Chapel Down also has one foot in the gin world, making use of its grape stock in distillation.

WHAT IS IT...

A King's Cross home for the wine, gin and beer producer.

WHY GO...

Get a taste of Kent right on the Regent's Canal.



Those who remember the sceney FillingStation, a restaurant and event space that occupied this canal-side spot a few years back, will be stunned by the new corporate feel. But staff injected personality into the experience – they seemed up for a laugh but incredibly polite, to match the formal setting. Surfaces are shiny and seating in the upstairs bar – the plusher of the two, boasting an elaborate circular bar – is the deep scallop-shaped kind.

Given the look and the Kent ties, customers appeared older and many were dressed in suits. They knocked back G&Ts in glasses the size of their ruddy faces or Curious Brewery beer (Chapel Down's other creation) by the bottle, but the cocktail list is exciting, putting Chapel Down's wine, beer and gin to new use. A frothy Chardonnay Collins was an acquired taste, but the Last Minute mixed signature sparkling brut and sweet 'nectar' wine with Campari

and plum bitters to great results.

Both bars share a menu, and downstairs you can enjoy drinks while gazing upon a large copper still named 'Helga'. But she's not actually producing any of that gin yet and shows no signs of doing so soon, slightly reinforcing the sense of a showroom. Perhaps it's irrelevant, though. A two-tiered, water-facing terrace is so appealing, you'll likely take your taste of Kent out there instead. ■ *Laura Richards*

DRINK THIS

Passeggiata



CHAPEL DOWN GIN WORKS: ASHLEY GENDEK

Forget clichés about red wine and cigarettes: the French do their drinking differently if Little Red Door is anything to go by. The Parisian cocktail joint is taking over Fam bar this weekend, bringing across a new menu of mixed drinks. One surprise is this boozeless take on an americano, the bar creating an alcohol-free amaro to match those bitter Italian flavours. Ciggies still optional.

→ Corner of Picton Place and Duke St, W1U 1LG. ⊕ Bond St. Sat Apr 13-Sun Apr 14. £7.

The Gun



→ 54 Brushfield St, E1 6AG. ⊕ Liverpool St.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S missing from most London pubs? A ruddy great tree in the middle of the room. I mean, it's the perfect antidote to a guilty day lost indoors to the boozing. And that certainly feels like what The Gun wants from you. It's a multi-purpose Spitalfields pub trying to be all things to all people and at all times of the day. Aside from that tree, there's a dining area with table service shielded away at the back and filled with fringed soft furnishings, while the main room plays host to sports-watchers as easily as it does to partygoers. The only sign of a DJ booth above the bar is a neon one, stating: 'keep it real', which feels surprisingly uncool for a pub from the team behind The Ten Bells, a place around the corner that seems to have understood the area well throughout its recent years of service.

What seems to come more naturally is keeping east Londoners lubricated. The drink menu is expansive and the wine list is actually decent – they even recommend drinking one of the reds at an on-trend 'chilled' temperature. It's no secret that Heineken have invested heavily in the pub, and so the draught range is dominated by beers in their family. While Beavertown and Brixton Brewery now technically fall into that camp, fans of London's craft beer scene may be barking up the wrong tree by paying The Gun a visit. ■ *Laura Richards*

WHAT IS IT...

A multi-purpose Spitalfields boozier from the team behind The Ten Bells.

WHY GO...

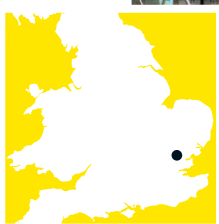
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Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
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A perfect day in

Dedham

Pretty shopfronts, jammy tea rooms and arty views

With its quaint, pretty-in-pastel High Street, cute tea shops and charming churches, this little village in Essex is a quintessential countryside escape from the city. But what makes it extra special is the surrounding Dedham Vale. Officially an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it's also known as 'Constable Country', after the artist John Constable who made the gorgeous, rural area famous with his paintings.

First up

Start your day with a hefty helping of culture at **The Munnings Art Museum**, just a short walk from town. Browse the largest collection of paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings, depicting horses and bucolic landscapes, under one roof.

Splash the cash

Wander along the **High Street**, admiring the Georgian façades and medieval timber-frames as you go. Then, make a beeline for **Dedham Art & Craft Centre**. Open every day, this converted church is a treasure trove of unique designs from more than 60 local artists and makers.

Stop for lunch

Tiptree Tea Room is run by the famous Essex-based jam company – and boy do they know how to do afternoon tea. Expect crumbly scones paired with the best jam around. Book **Le Talbooth** for fancy, fine food on the terrace beside the river.

Drink like a local

Stop at one of the few pubs in town: **The Sun Inn** or **The Marlborough**. The latter is a sixteenth-century, wooden-beamed beauty, with a walled beer garden for soaking up the spring sun, playing board games or mingling with the locals.

Soak up the vibes

Exploring the countryside around Dedham is essential. Cross the **River Stour**, find the footpath opposite **Dedham Boating Club** and follow the river east. It's an easy amble across lowland landscapes to the pretty hamlet of **Flatford**. Don't leave without finding **Willy Lott's House**. The building appears in one of Constable's most famous paintings 'The Hay Wain' and it looks strikingly unchanged today. ■ *Emma Vince*

→ Get there: one hour by train from London Liverpool Street to Manningtree, then bus or taxi; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

When it's sunny and warm there's no better way to explore Dedham Vale than hiring a little boat from **Dedham Boathouse**. Grab your oars, then row-row-row your way along the River Stour and see the lush, rolling fields of Constable Country by water.

WAKE UP HERE

The Sun Inn



The radiant façade of The Sun Inn is a bright beacon on Dedham's picturesque High Street. Inside, this independently owned former coaching inn has everything you'd expect of a traditional, rustic pub – wood-panelled lounge, roaring fires – and a few things you wouldn't, like a delicious seasonal menu and seven tastefully decorated bedrooms. A favourite with locals and travellers alike, it's a great base to explore the area. The team are happy to arrange boats or bikes for you to get around, and to pack you a picnic to take with you on your countryside jaunts. In a word, idyllic. *Emma Vince*

→ The Sun Inn, Dedham.

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www.thesuninndedham.com

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