Huge nights out
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SPICE UP YOUR SENSES
Inside

This week’s Time Out in no time at all

World’s Best Bar 2.0
It’s out with Dandelyan and in with Lyaness for cocktail genius Ryan Chetiyawardana. Five stars? Of course

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Festival Guide
Where to find your fest-y kicks in London, the UK and Europe this summer – in our 48-page pull-out

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Festival Guide

‘Don’t be that person...’
‘...who just wants a selfie in our loos.’ The Kylie backing dancer-turned-maitre d’ at Sketch can tell, you know

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Five-star art
Nature collides with stark social data in German artist Hito Steyerl’s ‘Power Plants’ at the Serpentine Sackler. Grim yet gorgeous

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Break the habit
From seitanic feasting to a drag-king Jesus, it’s Easter but not as you know it in our four-day weekend spree

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And welcome to your redefined big night out. Yes, it’s proper raving in iconic venues, but only if that’s your vibe. It could mean a TV crime solve-along or a two-hour psychedelic sound bath. Our city’s diverse nightlife is bold, original and surprising – and this week we’re celebrating every aspect of it. Turn to p20 and discover new trends like craftivism, established homegrown institutions like culture lates, grown-up takes on playful dates, incredible LGBT+ creativity and a smattering of genius fancore nights. It’s the most fun you can have after dark right now.
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Easter? More like Eats-ter

LONDON’S NOVELTY-OBSESSED food scene just loves a kitsch seasonal special. These delicious one-offs have rolled out from Christmas and Halloween to every corner of the calendar – and this Easter weekend, there are some corksers to be found around London.

Start your Easter dish hunt with breakfast at Riding House Café, Rail House Café or Village East, which are all serving the intriguing ‘hot cross bunidict’: essentially eggs florentine on a freshly baked hot cross bun. For lunch, head to Bao for an adorably edible Easter chick bao stuffed with fried chicken (Saturday and Sunday only). Dessert is at Gelupo, where you can sample hot cross bun gelato as well as two classic Italian Easter flavours, or Dominique Ansel Bakery, whose marshmallow chick ‘Peep-A-Boos’ (until Sunday) come in real eggshells. Finally, it’s dinner at Duddell’s, where there’s an ‘Easter basket’ (left) of cute dim sum shaped like chicks, bunnies and (for some reason) goldfish. Whoever said Easter was all about Jesus? ■ James Manning

THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week

Do this

John Lewis has turned its Oxford Street roof garden into a festival-inspired oasis for spring and summer. Roof Fest London opens on Friday with boho decor, live music and Filipino food.

Shop this

Having rid itself of single-use plastics a year ago, Skye Gyngell’s restaurant Spring is hosting a pop-up Plastic Freedom shop on Wednesday and Thursday to help you do the same.

Eat this

West Brompton hangout The Prince has had a tune-up for 2019, with a retractable roof (yes, like Wimbledon!) added to its mega pub garden and food from new Patty & Bun spin-off Jefferies.

Discover more cool things to do at timeout.com/news
THINGS YOU ONLY KNOW IF YOU’RE A...

Maître d’

Shaun Capewell, 30

There’s no such thing as ‘fully booked’
‘Maître d’s are the wish-givers. Here at Sketch, you’ll get a walk-in table with me if you give me a bit of yourself. Show me some engagement. Tell me why it’s so important for you to eat here specifically – don’t be that person who just wants a selfie in our loos. Above all, be nice. That goes a long way nowadays.’

The show must go on
‘I’m a former backing dancer for Kylie Minogue, so I love that some of the job of a maître d’ is pure performance. I tell my team to create the illusion that everything is going smoothly at all times, especially during the “cardio hour” from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. Even when we’re feeling the burn, no one is allowed to see our masks slip. Everyone is well drilled: I don’t normally need to unleash my inner dragon.’

Working in the service industry is part psychology, part diplomacy
‘A restaurant is always working on you in lots of invisible ways. The maître d’ needs to analyse a diner in minutes, then use little tricks to keep them on side: maybe an exaggerated bending-down to show an angry guest you’re properly listening to their complaints. It’s all about pre-empting confrontations.’

A maître d’ never forgets a face
‘We build a profile on someone to give them a more personal service. What’s their favourite dish? Which wine did they drink last time? How many visits have they made? Since protecting personal data is a hot topic, a maître d’ needs a photographic memory of regular guests to fall back on. We also remember every odd “mishap” that occurs. We like to forgive, but we don’t forget.’

Interview by James FitzGerald
→ Sketch, 9 Conduit St. © Oxford Circus.

Word on the street

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

‘I just went to the loo and I didn’t want to take a biscuit with me!’
‘My life isn’t over, but the getting married has got to stop.’
‘If she was really living her best life, she would have gone to Nando’s.’
‘I’ve been practising my lucid dreaming. I’m absolutely exhausted.’
‘Don’t show me a croissant that’s less than eight inches. This isn’t primary school sports day!’
‘I need to be with a man who doesn’t fuck other girls on my birthday.’
‘I can’t believe my friend is in the Bahamas and she isn’t swimming with pigs.’
‘Yes, it’s “Witherspoon” like the actress, not “Wetherspoon” like the pub.’

Overheard something weird? Tweet us! #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon
NOT

Probably the best beer in the world
The fittest Londoners

YOU’RE PROBS NOT one of the 9,000-odd people who call the tiny City of London home. But if you are, congrats! According to physical activity data collected by Barratt Homes, yours is the fittest borough in the city. London boroughs take eight spots in the top 20 fittest places in England, with Hackney and Islington close behind the City. Data from Instagram also showed that London was the UK city most motivated to get fit this year. So now it’s springtime, you’ve got no excuse not to channel Olivia Newton-John.

Susanna Huth

So we’ve changed it.

‘Probably the best beer in the world.’ Once true, but today? Probably not. Somewhere along the line, we lost our way. We focused on brewing quantity, not quality. We became one of the cheapest, not the best. So, there was only one thing for it.

We had to create a better beer. A new Carlsberg, that’s been completely rebrewed from head to hop. The result? A perfectly balanced Danish Pilsner with a crisper, fuller flavour than before. Finally, a beer that lives up to its promise? Probably.

#newbrew
David Fussell is no ordinary film director: he edited and released his debut feature while sleeping in a doorway on Tottenham Court Road.

‘Homeless people have dreams too’

**PEOPLE DON’T REALISE** how easy it is to become homeless. You could lose your job or a family member could die, and that’s literally all it takes. For me, it was a flood which severely damaged my home back in Wales. The insurance only covered the contents and I couldn’t afford to repair the house. My parents both died around the same time, so I didn’t have many people to turn to.

After leaving the house behind, I used the little money I had left to start filming an action-horror feature film. ‘Mystic Demon Killer’ is influenced by horror movies such as ‘Hellraiser’ and ‘Dog Soldiers’, and is about the government trying to keep a lid on these humanoid super-soldiers. I filmed it in the Welsh countryside and kept the footage on a hard drive. By 2013, I didn’t have much left to my name, so I decided to come to London with just the clothes on my back, hoping that someone would help me finish the film.

To start with, I only had one set of clothes and I slept on a piece of cardboard. Other homeless people were very kind and generous: they gave me clothes, shared their food and let me know where I could go to get a sleeping bag and a hot meal. The West London Day Centre helped me to get some structure in my life. I managed to get a part-time job and saved up for a secondhand MacBook Pro and a microphone, in order to do track-laying and final edits. The people at the day centres hear all sorts of stories from the homeless, and I’m sure they thought I was crazy when I told them I was directing a movie, but I always kept the faith.

I ended up losing the job, but that gave me more time to focus on the film. A charity let me use their computers to edit it. I had all this expensive equipment in my backpack and when I wasn’t carrying it, I would leave it with my homeless mates who made sure nobody stole it! They were my protectors. I guess you could call them the film’s executive producers.

Then the media company Vice found out about my story from a local newspaper, and that changed my life. They helped me distribute the film and even hosted a screening which I was able to invite my homeless mates along to. I’m sleeping in the doorway outside Heal’s on Tottenham Court Road, yet have a feature film to my name. Not bad, huh? I guess I want to show the public that homeless people have dreams too.

I’m already thinking about my next project. One idea I have is a film where two homeless people save a city from great danger. People in the city think they are the problem, but they actually end up being the solution. I think it could be very successful and I’ll do everything that I can in order to get it made. In the meantime, I’m hoping the film makes enough money for me to live on a boat. That’s my dream. ❆ **Interview by Thomas Hobbs**

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FREE LONDON

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

LETS DANCE

At Your Beat Easter open day

Awesome dance studio At Your Beat is hosting a whole day of free sessions. Book a class online and give it a good go – there’s newly launched AfroBeat and LatinBeat, cardio dance class FitBeat (where you don’t have to remember any moves) or VideoBeat where you can learn to dance like Beyoncé and Rihanna (as best you can).

BEST BAR NUN

Nunfest

This one-day festival has got nothing to do with a convent. Nunfest is a new community music event in Nunhead (duh). London-born grime artist Afrikan Boy is headlining alongside more than 40 acts, who will perform at nine different venues.

Various locations. Sat Apr 20.

PASTEL FOR NADA

Santa Nata launch

If you’ve eaten all your chocolate, satisfy your sweet tooth at Santa Nata. It opens this week and specialises in everyone’s fave Portuguese treat: pastel de nata. There are 250 freebies per day up for grabs from noon on Monday and Tuesday.

Santa Nata. Mon Apr 22-Apr 23.

FAIR TRADES

Queer Clothes Swap

Want to switch up your wardrobe without making a dent in your bank balance? You can exchange your pre-loved gems with others at this monthly clothes swap that’s LGBT+ friendly, gender-neutral and totally judgment-free.

Apple Tree. Sun Apr 21.

CRACKING FUN

Easter egg hunt at Merchant Square

There are more than just chocolate bunnies on offer at Merchant Square’s Easter hunt. As well as choccie treats, you can score restaurant vouchers, train tickets, gym passes and paddleboarding lessons. Egg-cellent!

Merchant Square. Thu Apr 18.

99 problems? Try 101 things to do at timeout.com/thingstodo
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*Cited by 51.4% of the Allegro independent panel (over 5,000 people).*
Chimerica
New drama, starts Wednesday 9pm
HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH?
From clubbing to craftivism, and kayaking to karaoke, London’s after-dark activities are becoming more diverse than you could ever imagine. Time Out’s Nightlife and Things To Do editors join forces to pick the best.

1. The boundary-breaking club that started in a cellar

Formerly (and still popularly) known as Vogue Fabrics, Dalston disco den VFD began as a series of house parties in fashion maven Lyall Hakaraia’s basement. A decade later, it’s evolved into a friendly but envelope-pushing venue for woke spoken word events and parties with names like Cutnfmafia and Sassitude. Nick Levine

→ 66 Stoke Newington Rd, Dalston Kingsland Overground.
Next night: Nice Mover, Sat Apr 20. £5.

2. The after-dark river adventure

London by night bus? No thank you. London by night kayak, however? That we can – quite literally – get on board with. Secret Adventures’ Night Kayak tours allow you to see our twinkling landmarks from a whole new angle. So many bragging rights... Lisa Wright

→ Starts at the beach next to St Mary’s Church, Battersea. Clapham Junction rail. Next night: Jun 19. £67.

3. The unofficial institute of cheese

Held every Saturday at the 800-capacity O2 Academy Islington, Club de Fromage is the stuff of London party legend. As its name suggests, the music policy is as cheesy as a quattro formaggi: come for wall-to-wall throwback bangers from the likes of Britney and Bon Jovi. NL

→ O2 Academy Islington, 16 Parkfield St. Angel. Next night: Sat Apr 20. £6.50.

4. The epicly square-eyed marathon

Want to stay up all night watching movies and eating sweets? The only place to do it outside of your own gaff is at a Prince Charles Cinema All Nighter. Bring your best pyjamas, plenty of snacks (and maybe some Pro Plus) as you embark on a dreamy night of themed back-to-back films from 9pm until 9am. Sonya Barber


**Key:**
- Night Tube
- Open past 2am
- Cheap
- Wheelchair accessible

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**WHAT DO WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY ‘WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE’?**

For this list we worked with Able2UK to identify the qualities that make a place wheelchair accessible. The venues we’ve flagged as such either demonstrated on their website or told us over the phone that they offer access and facilities for wheelchair users to enjoy the activity we’ve included as well as accessible toilets. If you’ve had a different experience, please flag it with us at hello@timeout.com.
Best nights out

5. **The Moonsruck Mermaids meet Cher**
   Do you believe in the power of pop's Auto-Tune-loving goddess? If the answer is 'YES!', then you'll be wanting to turn back time to relive *I Need to Cher* over and over again. Featuring queens, wrestling (!) and more, it's a fitting tribute. *LW*
   → The Old Nun’s Head, Nunhead rail. Next night: Sat May 11. £10.

6. **The vampiric nocturnal excursion**
   Here’s how to really embrace the night: try something you literally couldn’t do by day at one of the Royal Parks’ bat walks. A chance to see the nocturnal creatures during their working hours, you’ll even get to use a bat detector. *LW*

7. **The game-changing LGBT+ party**
   It’s hard to overstate the influence of *Pxssy Palace*, which ‘prioritises women and femmes of colour and other queer, intersex and trans POC’. Booking DJs often ignored by the mainstream, PP has shifted the paradigm big time. *Oliver Keens*
   → The Garage. Ọ Highbury & Islington. Next night: Sat Apr 20. £7.

8. **The depot-turned-rebel club**
   Tottenham has become the definitive destination for proper late-nighters, and The Cause’s and its caged DJ booth has led the charge for renegade clubbing. Always meant as an ad-hoc space, the good news is their tenure has been extended to 2020. *OK*
   → Ashley Rd. Ọ Tottenham Hale. Next night: Tribes, Thu Apr 18. £15.

9. **The hipster bingo hall**
   Eyes down for a full house... *Dabbers Social Bingo* has comics as bingo callers and interactive challenges called things like ‘twerk it out’. *SB*

10. **The lit lit sesh**
    Short, sharp spoken word: that’s what’s on offer at self-declared ‘snappy’ open-mic night *Boxedin* at Shoreditch’s Boxpark. If you’re feeling brave, sign up on the evening to perform, or settle down for two hours of the quickest lit in town. The best bit? It’s plonked in the middle of all the food you could desire. *LW*

11. **The spooky tour that always sells out**
    Sir John Soane’s Museum is always atmospheric, but *Soane Lates* are candlelit evenings exploring a different aspect of the architect’s collection. Only problem? They’re very popular. April is already sold out: book now for May or June. *SB*

12. **The Pritt Stick appreciation society**
    If you want to unleash your creative side but pretty much hate putting pen to paper, *Collage Club* is for you. Recreate your primary school days with a fun night of ripping, cutting, sticking and gluing with silly speed-collaging sessions and collaborative challenges. All materials are provided. *SB*
    → House of Illustration. Ọ King’s Cross. Next night: May 3. £10.

13. **The rallying political lit night**
    One of the UK’s most vibrant poetry organisations, *Apples and Snakes* is not so much an intimidating gathering in a bookshop as a place for rallying, edge-of-your-seat performance. From poetry readings to Brexit debates, there’s no fruit that’s forbidden here. *LW*

14. **The rudest embroidery class in town**
    If you’ve ever wanted to keep a record of your bits for posterity, then London Loom Sessions’ ‘Membroidery’ is here to help. Encouraging you to ‘leave your prudishness at the door’, it’s a fun and friendly way to celebrate your body. *LW*
    → Hackney Downs Studios, Rectory Rd Overground. Next night: Jun 11. £25.
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#humblebrag

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The lazy way to get wavy

For the best legal high in London, head to The Psychedelic Society’s two-hour sound bath. Drink some ceremonial-grade pu’er tea (to alter your body’s energies), get comfy and let the good vibrations from the gongs and singing bowls send you off on a trippy meditative journey. SB → Round Chapel. Hackney Central Overground. Next night: Mon Apr 22. £11.

Brixton’s best sound system

Phonox has the utopian aim of building a welcoming community of likeminded clubbers. No frills, no pretence, just a sound group of people there for the dance. Expect unrivalled DJs and a first-rate sound system. Emily Watson → 418 Brixton Rd. Brixton. Next night: Ed Banger Records Takeover. Thu Apr 18. £5.

The legendary music quiz


The adrenaline-packed fight club

Netflix’s ‘Glow’ might have brought women’s wrestling to the masses, but underground league Eve Wrestling is the real deal. Head to the Resistance Gallery to witness all the sweat, shouting and sick moves, and be ready to get vocal – it might be a spectator sport, but by the end you’ll be a raving super-fan. LW → 265 Poyser St. Bethnal Green. Next night: Apr 26. £25.

The concrete playhouse

A true source of Peckham pride, multi-floored concrete hub the Bussey Building continues to thrive as a warehouse-style club at night and a sweet arts venue during the day. Regular weekend parties like The South London Soul Train are joyful affairs, and also rare examples of young and old partying in sync. OK → 133 Rye Lane, Peckham Rye Overground. Next night: South London Soul Train Prince 3Yr Anniv, Sat Apr 20. £8.

The party that gives women a voice

Now seven years old, ‘indie queer dance party’ Debbie loves pop, rock and disco equally, but every song must have a female vocal, which means the DJs will drop everything from Donna Summer to Hole. Wear your sturdiest dancing shoes. NL → Eagle London. Vauxhall. Next night: Apr 25. £6 (free before 10pm).

The iconic N4 fun palace

Rowans Tenpin Bowl has a deserved legendary rep. There are two floors of lanes, karaoke booths, an arcade, pool tables, boozy slushies and you can even get pizzas at your lane. Plus it’s open until 2am on weekends. Strike! SB → 10 Stroud Green Rd. Finsbury Park. Next night: open every night! Entry £1-£6 (before 8pm on Fri and Sat), bowling £5-£6.60.

The life class that looks proper trippy

Neon paint, UV lights and writhing bodies – no, it’s not something X-rated, this is a legit life-drawing class. Spend an evening creating psychedelic sketches of a life model in body paint at Neon Naked Life Drawing. SB → Queen of Hoxton. Shoreditch High St Overground. Next night: Mon Apr 22. £14.

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The laser-strewn super-club
The immersive gallery late
The crime-solving sesh
The LGBT+ icon
The movie pop-up in a ballroom
The hip arty party you’re always invited to!

The karaoke bar hosted by drag queens
Horse Meat Disco

Time Out London April 16 – 22 2019

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Find even more after-dark fun at timeout.com/bestnights

Printworks

Best nights out

The laser-strewn super-club

No nightlife venue has the wow factor like Printworks. This huge post-industrial space provides a playground for the world’s biggest house and D&B DJs to get epic on yr ass. OK

→ Surrey Quays Rd. Canada Water. Next night: Clash the Capital, Thu Apr 18. £27.50.

The immersive gallery late

RA Lates isn’t free, but it’s well worth the price for the events and installations (supper clubs, robotic displays etc). Plus, when else can you go around exhibitions in fancy dress? SB


The crime-solving sesh

You’ve tried singalongs, now head to a solve-along. At Solve-Along-a-Murder-She-Wrote, the organisers screen an episode of the classic Angela Lansbury detective show, which you try and solve via games, quizzes, participation and more. LW


The LGBT+ icon

East End super-pub The Glory has become an LGBT+ landmark. Open nightly, it’s also hosted everything from queer Jewish night Butt Mitzvah to a George Michael tribute with ‘Club Tropicana’ hot tubs. NL

→ 281 Kingsland Rd. Haggerston Overground.
Next night: Werk in Progress, tonight! Free.

The movie pop-up in a ballroom

You won’t find a more glamorous spot to watch a film than under the crystal chandeliers of the Rivoli Ballroom Pop Up Cinema. For a few nights each month, this lavish 1950s-style ballroom screens classic flicks. SB

→ 350 Brockley Rd. Crofton Park rail.

The hip arty party you’re always invited to!

On the last Friday of every month, art lovers head to Tate Modern Lates. These giant free parties are packed with performances, music, films, talks and DJ sets. It’s the perfect place to discover London’s hottest new artists and have a cocktail while checking out those tenth-floor views. SB


The karaoke bar hosted by drag queens

If you want to take to the mic at London’s hottest new singing spot Karaoke Hole, you’ll be on the main stage. There’s no other bar in town where you can belt out your favourite tunes accompanied by a crooning drag-queen host. SB

→ 95 Kingsland High St. Dalston Junction Overground.
Next night: Thu Apr 18. Free until 10pm, £5 after.

Horse Meat Disco is everything a good weekly club should be: friendly, inclusive, not too pricy and playing music that’s defined yet unpredictable. The four DJs behind this Sunday standout at Eagle London revived disco for queer audiences at a time when such silky sounds were dead. OK

→ 349 Kennington Lane. Vauxhall. Next night: Sun Apr 21. Free until 10pm, £6 after.
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Bill’s

**What is it?** A meal and a glass of wine at this much-loved modern British eatery.

**Why go?** Because Bill’s is a staple of the London dining scene. And no wonder – its plates of fresh, seasonal goodness keep those crowds coming back every day of the week.

**What’s exclusive?** It’s up to 46 percent off – two courses and a drink are now £14.95.

→ Multiple locations. Until May 31. www.timeout.com/bills19

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SFG Club

**What is it?** A selection of rooftop games courtesy of SFG Club.

**Why go?** Mark your diaries: Roof East is reopening for the summer on April 17. Curling, bowling, shuffle boarding – it’s all here for you and your pals to enjoy. Plus you can enjoy cocktails at their on-site bar to, er, help you with your aim.

**What’s exclusive?** Our tickets start at £12, saving you up to 40 percent.


---

Duo London

**What is it?** Brunch with bottomless pancakes and prosecco in Camden.

**Why go?** Because avo on toast is so 2017. Up the ante with as many pancakes as you can physically stomach (plus toppings of your choice) and unlimited bubbles for good measure. Bring yo’ appetite.

**What’s exclusive?** You can save 36 percent with us: this boozy brunch is just £19.


---

The Monster

**What is it?** One of the world’s largest inflatable obstacle courses.

**Why go?** Kids and kidults alike will go crazy for this 300-metre colossus that features a whopping 42 obstacles to traverse. Tipples and street food are available for those who prefer to point and laugh.

**What’s exclusive?** Our tickets start at £18 and save you that niggling booking fee.


---

‘Little Death Club’

**What is it?** Cabaret with a German twist at Underbelly Festival Southbank.

**Why go?** Bernie Dieter and her talented team of performers are back to tantalise us with their provocative new show. With drag queens, fire-breathing and booze aplenty, this is cabaret at its darkest.

**What’s exclusive?** Tickets start at £10, saving you 30 percent.


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SOMETHING FOR THE

Easter weekend

Whether you fancy downing pints dressed as Jesus or snacking on seitan-filled street food, here are a bunch of cracking events to fill up your four-day weekend

**FRIDAY**

**Springfest**
Say hallo to frühling (that means spring) at Ally Pally’s German beer fest. For its tenth year there’ll be tasty street-food, a live oompah band and more two-pint steins than you can shake a bratwurst at.


**Dark Sacred Nights**
Join this evening of dance, music and poetry, in which artists will use their performances to comment on the global climate crisis. Don’t worry, it’s going to be ‘life-affirming’.


**The Masked Carnival**
Gypsy Disco is bringing its multi-sensory magic to Angel with a twist on Latin carnival traditions, gender-bending performances, roaming characters and ‘gin-fuelled hedonistic behaviour’. Don’t lie, that definitely sounds like you.


**Brixton Vegan Easter Festival**
While Easter might be historically associated with roast lamb and buttery hot cross buns, perhaps it’s time for a slightly more plant-based approach. Try this double-header, which kicks off as a street-food shindig at Dogstar and finishes with a market on Brixton Station Road.


**SATURDAY**

**Retro Gaming Bottomless Brunch**
If a mere mention of the Sega Mega Drive makes you feel all nostalgic, turn back the clock and get your Sonic on at this gamer-friendly brunch, with karaoke for afters.

→ Aquum. Clapham North. Sat Apr 20. £10 entry only, £30 for the brunch.

**Boogie Shoes Silent Disco Walking Tour**
If one can tell by the way that you use your walk that you’re a woman’s man, no time to talk, this will be right up your street. Headphones are provided, dancing shoes aren’t.

→ Meet at Covent Garden tube. Sat Apr 20. £12.50.
The Masked Carnival

Although they had us at petting zoo, workshops, an egg hunt and more, we a petting zoo, Easter-themed imely holiday upgrade. There’ll tting’s Cross is being given another K
heer, the weekend market at c
fter its successful foray into festive A
ter at Canopy Market Eas
at Apr 20. £30.

SUNDAY

Christathon XII
This crucifixion-themed charity pub crawl is now an annual staple of the long weekend. Participants dress like Jesus and visit a string of Biblically named pubs, starting at The Trinity on Borough High Street. → The Trinity. ◇ Borough. Sun Apr 21. Free.

Street Eats Halal Gems

Homerton International Festival of Beer and Bar Snacks
Yep, the humble bar snack has its own festival. This year, What the Fattoush will be dishing up plenty of Middle Eastern-inspired vegan goodies, with White Men Can’t Jerk cooking up some Caribbean fusion barbecue. There’s a big list of beers, too, as well as plenty of DJ sets. → The Adam & Eve. Homerton Overground. Thu Apr 18–Mon Apr 22. Free.

Shesus and the Sistas present a Resurrection Story
Round off your Easter Sunday in gender-binary-smashing fashion, at a show where Jesus is a drag king, the nuns are (real) twins, and the reason for their divine intervention is to heal the world of the patriarchy. ‘Clothing is optional’, but perhaps wait until you get to the venue to strip of, eh? → Bethnal Green Working Men’s Club. ◇ Bethnal Green. Sun Apr 21. £13.50.

MONDAY

Haze 4 Days Beer Festival
Twickenham’s first ever micro beer festival is dedicated to what hopheads call the ‘haze craze’. Expect everything from NEIPAs (unfiltered IPA) to double IPAs – any beer, as long as it’s cloudier than the London sky on an April weekend. → Brewery Market, Twickenham rail. Fri Apr 19–Mon Apr 22. Free.

So Last Century Vintage Market

Inkerbator Easter Weekender
Top street-food traders will battle it out in front of a panel of industry judges. There’ll be a veritable buffet of £5 dishes to feast on, including vegan Thai from Greedy Khao, Aztec cuisine from Mexikings and dishes direct out of Manila from Turo Turo. → Southbank Centre Square. ◇ Waterloo. Thu Apr 18–Mon Apr 22. Free entry.

RollerVibe Bank Holiday Monday
Strap on your skates for an evening on wheels. There’ll be DJ performances, jumbo jenga, giant Connect 4 and food provided by the Suya Factory. Ability to actually rollerskate not included. → The Steel Yard. ◇ Cannon St. Mon Apr 22. £17.

Vegan Cheese and Wine Party
The entire spread at this soirée is vegan-friendly, meaning you can gobble down a ‘cheese’ board with ‘smoked salmon’, all washed down with a couple of glasses of wine, totally devoid of any guilt. Well, as long as you stick to just a couple. → 10 Cable St. ◇ Tower Hill. Fri Apr 19–Sat Apr 20. £30.

Easter at Canopy Market
After its successful foray into festive cheer, the weekend market at King’s Cross is being given another timely holiday upgrade. There’ll be a petting zoo, Easter-themed workshops, an egg hunt and more, although they had us at petting zoo. → West Handyside Canopy. ◇ King’s Cross. Fri Apr 19–Sun Apr 21. Free entry.

The Trinity.

By Bobby Palmer
Who is an all-round good egg.

timeout.com/easter
Things to Do

NEW OPENINGS

Summer sippin’ spots

From kidult-friendly rooftops to tiki-inspired drinking dens, here are the best alfresco hangouts for the summer

For kidults

Social Fun and Games Club have given its huge rooftop playground a neon makeover and filled it with everything a stressed-out city dweller needs for the perfect regression session. Try your hand at shuffleboard, VR foosball, cornhole and a plethora of other sports which sound like we’ve made them up.


For tropical types

Pitch is set to be a highlight of Stratford’s alfresco drinking scene. Not far from the station, its outdoor terrace takes inspiration from lush jungles and hotter climes. That doesn’t mean mosquito bites and tiger attacks, but leafy Insta-friendly backdrops, Moroccan-inspired dining and ‘alternative tiki’ cocktails.


For free spirits

Missed out on Glasto tickets? Hit up new Camden rooftop hotspot Wonderfest, which is serving up festival vibes with botanical canopies, flowery installations and an artificial grass lawn. Daytime acoustic sets and DJs at sunset will provide the full Somerset ambience.


For sunset seekers

Some say Skylight’s rooftop has the best views in London. But, while its panoramic vista is something to behold, you’ll also find a load of urban lawn games, a spread of seasonal cocktails and DJs up there too. Knock around some croquet balls before sipping on botanical cocktails.


For Frida Kahlo fans

One of London’s real OG outdoor venues, this year the Queen of Hoxton is outdoing itself with a ‘Las Mexicanas’ theme. It’ll be bringing the lively streets of San Cristóbal to a just-as-lively rooftop in Shoreditch. Fun-seekers will also be able to try their hand at luchadoras (that’s female wrestlers) arm-wrestling, Donald Trump piñata-making and feminist embroidery. Once you’ve broken a sweat, kick back with a giant frozen margarita or a watermelon paloma and soak it all up with everything from vegan tacos to edible insects. One, two, three: tequila!

→ Queen of Hoxton. Liverpool St. Opens May 2. Free entry.

For culture vultures

Dalston’s only rooftop bar, Dalston Roof Park, is admirably right-on, with 100 percent of its profits going towards helping young people and fledgling businesses succeed via charity the Bootstrap Company. While you’re feeling good about yourself, there’s also a packed programme of alfresco DJ sets, record label takeovers, poetry events and outdoor cinema sessions, plus karaoke and quiz nights to enjoy.


Find more ways to raise the roof at timeout.com/summerrooftops
Festival Guide
2019
One day, we’ll petition London mayor Sadiq Khan to issue a badge that reads ‘Be nice to me, I’ve been at a festival.’ But until then, the best we can do for London’s festival lovers is this: Time Out’s annual Festival Guide. Ta-da! Over the next 48 pages, you’ll learn about the biggest, best, coolest and newest music festivals in London, the UK and Europe. You’ll also hear the grossest festival anecdotes from stars playing around the world in 2019, and we’re picking out the cutest fest details along the way. Why do we do it? Well, if that Fyre Festival documentary taught us anything, nothing is shitter than a shit festival. Now strap on a wristband and get stuck in!
Artist liaison

Charlie Hearn, head of operations, End of the Road Festival

What things do you see that most people at a festival would never see?
‘Every square inch of the inside of a Portakabin and a network of spreadsheets that the Pentagon would be proud of. You also get to see things like Sufjan Stevens eating a carvery in crew catering.’

Are you responsible for the rider?
‘Yes. From St Vincent’s hand-crafted tequila to Tame Impala’s special underpants. From Julia Holter’s organic Japanese green tea to Lucinda Williams’s vintage wine. Down to every last carrot stick and can of coconut water.’

Is driving a buggy the most VIP thing you can do on a festival site?
‘It’s true there’s nothing quite like cruising around the site at 5mph with the wind blowing through your hair. Although it’s amazing how far you can get on site with nothing but a hi-vis jacket and a purposeful look on your face.’

What are your favourite artist liaison moments at End of the Road?
‘Taking a wee next to Josh Tillman [aka Father John Misty] and discussing a hard Brexit.’

What’s your way of dealing with a difficult artist?
‘Behaving like a rational human being goes a long way. If you can highlight how unreasonable someone is being without patronising them then you’ve normally cracked it.’

How do you coax a band on stage who don’t want to go on?
‘It has to be a pretty extreme set of circumstances for a band to refuse to go on stage! But if negotiation fails, then alcohol usually works (plus pizza if you’re Mac DeMarco).’

Who wins in a stand-off between an artist and a promoter?
‘It depends who I’m talking to and what needs to be achieved! One band tried to get us to take our End of the Road sign down from the main stage but, like the old football cliché says, no one is bigger than the club.’

What’s the most ridiculous situation you’ve found yourself in?
‘I once covered a McFly meet-and-greet for a friend in exchange for a Field Day ticket and oversaw a mother and daughter present Dougie with a pair of socks and a bong.’

Festival Guide

THINGS YOU ONLY KNOW IF YOU’RE AN...

OVERHEARD ON THE RADIO

Random chatter heard over fest worker’s radios

'Don’t let Spiderman off site until I’ve spoken to him.’

‘So what you’re saying is: you encouraged Tom Ravenscroft to steal someone else’s kids’ trolley?’

‘Can we get a cleaner to the front gates, someone’s done a shit in the box office.’

‘Can you tell the DJ he does NOT need a buggy. He can fucking carry his USBs.’

‘Anyone got a spare podger?’

‘Is someone bringing giant Jenga to Stevie Wonder’s dressing room?’

‘This is Rod the steward to control... Rod Steward.’

‘Our golf buggy has been nicked and is currently at the bottom of the river.’
Wilderness
Thursday 1st - Sunday 4th August 2019
Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire

Robyn / Bombay Bicycle Club / Groove Armada
Tom Odell / Caravan Palace / Tom Grennan
Freya Ridings / Ólafur Arnalds
George FitzGerald
Richy Ahmed / Eats Everything
Honey Dijon / Erol Alkan
The Cause present Adonis & Tribes
SOAK / Blanco White / Durand Jones & The Indications
Ronnie Scott’s presents: Incognito / Ata Kak (Awesome Tapes from Africa)
Beating Heart / Cykada / Jurassic 5’s Soup presents: The Fullee Love Collective

The Arts
Letters Live
The Royal Academy of Arts / Southbank Centre
Roundhouse / The RSA / Sadler’s Wells / Rambert2
Royal Geographical Society
Wilderness Orchestra / Sunday Papers Live / Hip Hop Karaoke / 5x15

Banquets and Feasting
James Knappett / Yossi Elad / Tom Aikens
Angela Hartnett’s Café Murano / Petersham Nurseries / Josh Katz x Woodfired Canteen
Nieves Barragán / Dan Smith / Neil Borthwick / Tom Brown
Patty & Bun / Pizza Pilgrims / Smokestak

The Wilderness
The Lakeside Spa / Wild Swimming
Yoga & Meditation / Climbing Wall / Horse Riding
Foraging & Aromatherapy Workshops / The Greencrafts Village
Paddleboard Yoga / Hunter Gather Cook / Midnight Runners

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Festival Guide

In with the new

The capital is welcoming half a dozen brand spanking new music fests this year. Here's where and when to find them.

The Ends
Even in year one, Croydon’s new urban music festival is going big. Every day from May 31 to June 2, Lloyd Park will welcome 15,000 revellers keen to see headliners Nas, Damian Marley and Wizkid, plus reggaeton king J Balvin and local rising star Nadia Rose.

Cross the Tracks
Billed as ‘a mixture of legendary and upcoming artists representing a hybrid of jazz, soul and funk’, this one-dayer takes place in Brockwell Park on June 9. With a line-up that includes Chaka Khan, Martha Reeves & The Vandellas and Jordan Rakei, it’s definitely off to a tasty start.

Naked City Festival
Created by the team behind the legendary Krankbrother street parties, this new one-dayer brings trendy jazz, dance and soul vibes to Beckenham Place Park on July 27. Henry Wu, Neneh Cherry and Ezra Collective are among the bang-on-point bookings.

Defected London FSTVL
The first ever standalone music festival from Defected Records will bring more than 10,000 house-heads to Dagenham’s Central Park on September 14. With five stages curated by the likes of Glitterbox and 4 to the Floor, this one should slap harder than a soap diva.

One Day at the Disco
Three Mills Island, nestled in a secluded location between Stratford and Bow, will welcome this new house, electro and disco fest on August 24. Sets from 2ManyDJs, Derrick Carter Does Disco and Colleen ‘Cosmo’ Murphy are sure to bring some Studio 54 sass to E3.

Maiden Voyage
Three Mills Island will also play host to The Jazz Cafe’s new jazz, hip hop, afrobeat and funk festival on August 25. It’s a deliberately intimate affair with one stage, a relatively low ticket price and blissful beats from the likes of Gilles Peterson and Roy Ayers.
It’s the little things

Festivals aren’t just about massive headliners. The devil is in the detail, so enjoy these random factoids about the festival scene. See our listings pages for more.

- **A stage at Melt festival called The Sleepless Floor** runs for 90 hours straight. No doubt after all that, there’s still someone shouting, ‘One more tune!’

- **666 items were left at Download’s lost and found last year. Spooky.**

- **Lowlands has had two backstage pet horses since 1993. They apparently love to cuddle with the backstage crew.**

- **Instytut Festival takes places in one of the longest buildings in Europe – the nineteenth-century Modlin fortress, 50km north of Warsaw.**

- **Brixton Disco Festival features a roller disco in Windrush Square.**

- **You can perform ‘country-oke’ with a live band at For the Long Road in Leicester.**

- **El Dorado has its very own slip & slide which is over 50m long.**

- **The sheep at Latitude stayed dyed all the way until Christmas.**

- **Moovin Festival is so called because it happens in a field that usually holds bulls. Talk about dancing till the cows come home.**

- **An annual wristband exchanger at Latitude is a qualified airline pilot. They’ve been known to arrive in full uniform.**

- **Also Festival offers a lightsaber workshop, so you can embrace your inner Jedi.**

- **Boardmasters offer free Cornish language lessons.**
FRIDAY 05 JULY

CELINE DION

AND SPECIAL GUESTS

JOSH GROBAN

CLAIRE RICHARDS

SUNDAY 07 JULY

Barbra Streisand

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

BRYAN FERRY

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON

SATURDAY 06 JULY

THE STEVIE WONDER SONG PARTY

VERY SPECIAL GUEST

LIONEL RICHIE

SATURDAY 13 JULY

FLORENCE + THE MACHINE

THE NATIONAL

LYKKE LI | KHUANGBIN

BLOOD ORANGE | NADINE SHAH

ALDOUS HARDING | MARLON WILLIAMS

LET’S EAT GRANDMA | GOAT GIRL

PLUS MANY MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

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SATURDAY 24th AUGUST

OUTDOOR MAIN STAGE

MARTIN GARRIX
ALISON WONDERLAND
ARMAND VAN HELDEN
BAKERMAT
MARVIN HUMES
OLIVER HELDENS
SAN HOLO
TASKA BLACK & DUSKUS
TCHAMI & MALAA: NO REDEMPTION
AFTERNOON HEADLINE SET:
TINIE TEMPAH

CRAIG DAVID PRESENTS TS5
SIGMA CLOSING SET
(A-Z)
BIG ZUU
JAX JONES & MARTIN SOLVEIG
PRESENT: EUROPA
MABEL
NATHAN DAWE
YUNGEN
VERY SPECIAL GUEST:
BASEMENT JAXX

Together: × BITE THIS!

JAUZ B2B HOLY GOOF
R3HAB
SLUSHII B2B OOKAY
WHAT SO NOT
DISTRUCTION BOYZ
BARELY LEGAL
MADAM X
NINA LAS VEGAS
VERY SPECIAL GUEST:
EXAMPLE

SIGALA
JAMES HYPE
MARTIN JENSEN
DYNORO
M-22
SARAH STORY
RIO
VERY SPECIAL GUEST:
ELDERBROOK

DISCIPLES
SPECIAL GUEST TO BE ANNOUNCED
AMINE EDGE & DANCE
THE MAGICIAN
ELI & FUR
MASON COLLECTIVE
COCO COLE
TECHNIK
VERY SPECIAL GUEST:
ANTI UP: CHRIS LAKE & CHRIS LORENZO

SOUTHWESTFOUR.COM
**SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST**

**OUTDOOR MAIN STAGE**

**PENDULUM: TRINITY**
- Andy C • Wilkinson Presents All For You Live (A-Z)
- Ms Dynamite
- Rezz
- Shy FX Presents Cult.Ure
- TQD, Royal T / Dj Q / Flava D

*Afternoon Headline Set: Plan B*

**CHASE & STATUS DJ SET**
- Brockie & Det Experience
- Congotown Natty & Rezistance Live
- D.J. Ron
- Kabaka Pyramid
- Masicka
- My Nu Leng
- Randall B2B Doc Scott
- Seani B
- Very Special Guests: Sasasas

**FABRICLIVE**

- Wiley
- Wretch 32 (A-Z)
- Casisdead
- Chip
- Dappy
- Devlin
- Dj Semtex
- Ms Banks
- Russ Splash
- Steel Banglez
- Yinka

*Very Special Guest To Be Announced*

- Noisia
- Switch: Hype & Hazard
- Black Sun Empire
- Friction Presents Connections
- Alix Perez B2B Spectrasoul
- Dillinja B2B Benny L
- Total Science B2B Breakage
- Sammy Virji
- Kyrist B2B Monty
- Rough Tempo
- Very Special Guests: Kings Of The Shadows

**CruCast**

- Skepsis • Darkzy
- Bru-C • TS7
- Mr Virgo • Lazer Cru
- Window Kid
- Kanine (A-Z)
- Champion
- P Money
- Problem Central
- Turno
- Upgrade
- Very Special Guests: Redlight B2B Zinc
Les Voyages
By Compagnie XY, GDIF
30th June
Part of the Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, join us in the Moorings to see the UK premiere of Les Voyages.

Global Local Music Stage
At Lakeside Festival, Continental Drifts and Emergency Exit Arts
6th July
Another year of festival fun around Southmere Lake, including a great line up on our Global Local Stage, arts and crafts market and plenty of food.

Luminary
By Heinrich & Palmer
11th, 12th, 13th and 14th July
3D digital installation & unique soundtrack of the Thames
Luminary is a new sound, light and video installation specifically commissioned for Crossness Pumping Station in Thamesmead to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Sir Joseph Bazalgette’s birth.

World Music Day
Presented by Global Fusion Music and Arts
3rd August
Continuing our two month music-filled programme, come along to our World Music Day in Birchmere Park and dance to music from across the globe.

Many more events and information on thamesmeadnow.org.uk/whats-on/thamesmead-festival-2019

See you there! London Bridge – Abbey Wood Station, 30 minutes on South-Eastern or Thameslink

@ThamesmeadLDN
The festionnaire!

Festivals: where great stories and absolute legends are born. We asked the cream of this year’s line-ups five questions about the whole festival experience. WARNING: answers to the last question are basically completely disgusting. Apologies.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST EVER FESTIVAL?

‘Bestival, as a 16-year-old. Fake ID. I convinced the whole squad the Isle of Wight is so small that the festival would take up the entire island and we could just walk to it. Reality smacked the whole squad in the head. Proper first festival vibes,’

Femi from Ezra Collective, who play Larmer Tree.

‘Glastonbury 1999, when I was 13. I remember Carl Cox threw his slipmat into the crowd and I caught it. I still have it somewhere!’

Saoirse, who plays Love International.

‘Womad, aged two. I saw The Chemical Brothers on my dad’s shoulders.’

Dan Shake, who plays Flash Festival Tuscany.

‘Gay Pride, around 1987. We were performing after Bananarama, and Divine did a PA on top of a barge floating down the Thames. Sinéad O’Connor asked me to babysit her son while she went to look around the fête stalls, and we shared a dressing room with Lily Savage.’

Andy Bell from Erasure, who play Let’s Rock.

‘Glastonbury 2004. Luke bought a two-man tent to sleep the four of us. We ended up arranging ourselves in a hashtag formation for insulation. It was just called a hash back then.’

Hugh from The Kooks, who play Community.

‘Glastonbury 1986 with The Housemartins. We told the crowd they were hippie wankers and told them to throw mud at us. We made a lot of friends that day…’

Fatboy Slim, who plays Isle of Wight.
What’s the Best Outfit You’ve Ever Seen

‘At Tomorrowland, there’s always the same young man dressed up in a yellow fluffy one-piece chicken costume. I have so many questions for him.’
Claptone, who plays We Are FSTVL and Defected.

‘A family at Shambala called themselves the “Rave Police” and would come round and cover you in crime-scene tape. Then Mum, Dad and little ones would dance around you.’
Joe from General Roots, who play Jam on Rye.

‘We all dressed as Butlin’s Red Coats at Bloc Festival. It was funny at first, until everyone kept asking us where the toilets were.’
Saorise, who plays Love International.

‘I once saw Lily Allen dressed as a mushroom. Actually, now I come to think of it, it could have been a mushroom dressed as Lily Allen.’
Noel Gallagher, whose High Flying Birds play Sunday Sessions.

‘I don’t know, but I’ve managed to pull some fairly intense looks together in some very ad-hoc mucky backstage situations.’
Róisín Murphy, who plays All Points East.

‘Someone had put a cardboard cut-out of the Batman logo on a guy who’d passed out. When it was night time I saw him again and he was burnt pink all over except for the Batman logo on his chest.’
Harry from Superorganism, who play Lost Village.

A guy dressed as an aubergine with his bare butt sticking out the back. Inspiring stuff.’
Haai, who plays Love International.

‘Six blokes coming down the hill at Bestival with their arms out dressed as the Red Arrows. With red and blue smoke coming out their backsides.’
Suggs from Madness, who play House of Common.

‘Me at Reading 2000: Mogwai hoodie, frayed baggy jeans, Rage Against The Machine bucket hat, Gorky’s T-shirt, all accessorised with a two-litre bottle of cider. Effortless chic.’
Jack from Friendly Fires, who play Standon Calling.

‘Some of the costumes people wear do make me laugh. Jesters, dinosaurs, MPs, anything goes. I’ll stick to my standard stage gear I think.’
Francis Rossi from Status Quo, who play Let’s Rock.

‘My outfit for Glastonbury a couple years back. Bright yellow waterproof boilersuit, with Air Force 1s. I looked like a roadman Paddington Bear.’
Femi from Ezra Collective, who play Larmer Tree.

‘Flea walked on stage naked and started the show with star jumps. Plenty of slap-back.’
Chesney Hawkes, who plays Let’s Rock.
WHAT ARE YOUR FESTIVAL ESSENTIALS?

‘An RV and a chef.’
Chesney Hawkes, who plays Let’s Rock.

‘Hairspray, aftershave, toothbrush and toothpaste.’
Tony Hadley, who plays Let’s Rock.

‘A competition-weight frisbee.’
Stuart from Belle & Sebastian, who play Boaty Weekender.

‘Battery powerpack for my phone – a festival must!’
Craig David, who plays Pennfest.

“Mary Poppins” downloaded on the iPhone.’
Hugh from The Kooks, who play Community Festival.

‘Good humour!’
James Hillard from Horse Meat Disco, who play Defected.

‘Blue WKD as a breakfast drink!’
Lewis Capaldi, who plays Stanton Calling.

‘A willingness to let the day or night take you wherever it takes you. Don’t overplan. You’ll often end up having a better time!’
Joe from General Roots, who play Jam on Rye.

A dead phone battery. Leave me the fuck alone, I want to be lost for a few days.’
Joe from Milburn, who play Tramlines.
ANDY C  THE BLACK MADONNA
CAMELPHAT  CHASE & STATUS DJ SET
CRAIG DAVID PRESENTS TS5  JAMIE JONES
MARCO CAROLA  THE MARTINEZ BROTHERS
MICHAEL BIBI  MK SOLARDO  SOLOMUN

+ 300 MORE

wearefstvl.com
WHAT’S YOUR FAVOURITE FESTIVAL STORY?

‘We met Danny DeVito at Coachella once. He called Alex a bitch for smoking a cigarette.’
Kevin from Two Door Cinema Club, who play Tramlines.

‘Drinking a two-litre bottle of vodka the night before The Big Chill. I thought I had the constitution of Shaun Ryder. The next day I vomited until an hour before we were due on stage, necked a pint of milk and a Red Bull and gave a career-changing performance. Moral of the story: don’t be a dick!’
Danielle from Crazy P, who play Love International.

‘Getting a full police escort into a festival because we were going to miss our set. The police mistook us for someone pretty big. They even asked for autographs!’
Bonar from PBR Streetgang, who play Love International.

‘Someone stealing one of those massive ATMs at T in the Park. I have no idea how.’
Lewis Capaldi, who plays Stanton Calling.

‘Our drummer woke up in a wheelbarrow a mile outside the festival site after a big night at T in the Park.’
Rou from Enter Shikari, who play Download.

‘We were asked to build a sex venue once, outside the back of our main venue. The next afternoon, hours after we shut it down, we discovered 50 people had broken in and were in full swing. A barbecue for local residents was being set up nearby, so quick as a flash a drag queen marched straight in there with a fire extinguisher and blasted them all out.’
Clayton Wright from Little Gay Brother, who play Wilderness.

‘A DJ-producer friend of mine once walked on stage and joined Underworld during a headline set because he genuinely believed he was in the band. He just couldn’t remember which instrument he played.’
Fatboy Slim, who plays Isle of Wight.

‘Ending up in the moshpit two hours after we played a festival in Europe.’
Matt from Bring Me The Horizon, who play All Points East.

‘When a friend shouted at the Dalai Lama to “get a real fucking job”.’
James Hillard from Horse Meat Disco, who play Defected.

‘I heard someone fell in the toilets in a festival trying to retrieve his fiancée’s engagement ring! Bro, I would have gone straight to the cash-and-carry and got another one. Ha ha!’
Femi from Ezra Collective, who play Larmer Tree.

‘My favourite group was Felt. The singer Lawrence was poetic, perhaps a bit delusional. They were asked to play Glastonbury in the 80s. Lawrence was stuck, wading knee-deep in shit, moaning out loud, “I thought they would have bungalows for the artists!”’
Stuart from Belle & Sebastian, who play Boaty Weekender.

‘My housemate proposed to a random girl while seeing Andrew Weatherall last year. They’re not quite married but they are still together.’
Eliphino, who plays We Out Here.

‘We made laminated AAA passes for Glastonbury and somehow managed to blag our way into places you’d never dreamed of. We walked on the main stage, we were getting buggies everywhere – no one clicked.’
Richy Ahmed, who plays Free Your Mind.

‘I went to V Festival years ago and camped. I can’t go into too much detail but I had let’s say a pretty “mad one”. I lost my friends and ended up watching the Foo Fighters with Danny Dyer.’
Matt from Busted, who play Hampton Court Festival.
Skepta
Jorja Smith
Diplo
Jungle
Pusha-T
Bonobo dj set  Octavian
Death Grips  Modeselektor live
Earl Sweatshirt
The Black Madonna
Deerhunter  Denis Sulta
George FitzGerald  HOMESHAKE
Mahalia  Mall Grab
Femi Kuti  Julia Holter
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‘Someone was at the front of my set last year in Australia wearing a dead kangaroo skull.’
CC Disco, who plays Flash Festival Tuscany

WHAT’S THE GROSSEST THING YOU’VE SEEN AT A FESTIVAL?

‘Glastonbury 2007. People mud-sliding into a large swamp mainly comprised of bubonic plague and dysentery. My daughter was two and demanded we come back the following year.’
Bill Brewster, who plays Love International.

‘Someone eating sushi... with chopsticks!’
Noel Gallagher, whose High Flying Birds play Sunday Sessions.

‘Probably something my horn section got up to involving a large dead fish.’
Róisín Murphy, who plays All Points East.

‘Someone being pulled out of the long-drop toilets.’
Ricky Ahmed, who plays FreeyourMind.

‘This tanned dude and his friend were dancing so hard to us in a tiny bar at Glastonbury. Upon further inspection, I realised the two dudes weren’t tanned—they were white guys, completely naked covered and in mud. I had to say something on the mic. Saw willy and everything.’
Femi from Ezra Collective, who play Larmer Tree.

‘An extremely drunk teenage boy falling face first into a cow pat.’
Freya Ridings, who plays Isle of Wight.

‘Robbie Williams.’
Jack from Friendly Fires, who play Standon Calling and Citadel.

‘A bald guy with webbed feet and a Hello Kitty tattoo on his face huffing some aerosol.’
Oli from Sea Girls, who play Live at Leeds.

‘I saw a guy tripping so hard, he got on his knees and drank out of a puddle of muddy water, lapping it up like a cat with the cream.’
Tom Grennan, who plays Live at Leeds.

‘A girl crouching down for a quick poo while giving some guy with a cowboy hat a blowjob through a fence. Oh, the humanity...’
Telephones, who play Masked Ball.

‘When drunk men try to wee in a bottle so they don’t lose their place in the crowd, but they’re too drunk to successfully wee in a bottle. Nobody likes that.’
Joe from Banfi, who play Citadel.

‘A band we know well waiting for a portly operatic metal singer to enter a loo, then pushing it over.’
Mikey from Skindred, who play Download.

‘David Cameron stood eating a pulled-pork sandwich talking to Jeremy Clarkson, in matching Hunters and Barbour jackets.’
Hugh from The Kooks, who play Community Festival.

‘I did have to poop in a bin-bag because our bus was late getting to the stage. Is that gross enough for you?’
Stuart from Belle & Sebastian, who play Boaty Weekender.
SUNDAY 14TH JULY 2019

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THE ULTIMATE SUMMER SUNDAY
Let’s get specific

Rock, disco, pop and folk on beaches and boats, cities and in fields: there really is a festival out there for everyone. Here’s just some suggestions for a great summer.

For new music...
If you like saying things like, ‘Arctic Monkeys? I saw them in a dive bar in 2003’, head to The Great Escape. Brighton’s lanes fill with music bizzers checking out the next generation of stars, and a day ticket will get you into more gigs than you can probably handle. Elsewhere, Live at Leeds mixes medium-sized names with up-and-comers, and Liverpool’s Sound City is bursting with the bands that’ll fill the 6 Music playlist for the next year.

For guitar music...
They say guitar music is dead, but what do they know? There are still plenty of festivals catering to kids (and former kids) who wanna rock. If you want to know what love is, get packing for Kent’s Ramblin’ Man Fair, where Foreigner are headlining, or try Download for a slightly more contemporary vibe. The mighty Foals are leading hilly indie-fest Y Not, while Reading offers a sprinkling of grime and pop amid the crunching guitars and Carling-soaked teens. Not keen on camping? Try London’s All Points East where indie legends The Strokes are topping a day of guitarly goodness.

For sexy new jazz...
Jazz is back and hipper than ever, and London is embracing the latest revival with open arms. Naked City festival takes some of today’s chilliest nu-jazz acts and blends them with house, afro, dub and disco for a day-long party in July. Forever an arbiter of good taste, DJ Gilles Peterson has launched We Out Here, an outrageously cool new fest on the beautiful former site of Secret Garden Party. The cream of Britain’s young jazz renaissance will be there, plus DJs from the global roots/bass A-list.

For cool disco...
Disco lives! And you can live with it at Soundcrash, where all manner of funk and soul beats will be drifting out over Brighton beach. One Day at the Disco is bringing sequins and platforms (and sequinned platforms) back to London’s Three Mills Island with Derrick Carter and 2manyDJs on the wheels of steel, and Brixton’s getting in on the action with the imaginatively named Brixton Disco Festival. It’s even got its own roller disco. Perfect.
For family festiness...

Dorset’s **Campion Bestival** is the OG family-friendly fest, with sets from CBeebies knocking along with the likes of Nile Rodgers and Lewis Capaldi. **Latitude** has plenty of kid-friendly activities on hand with special kid and tween areas (and Lana Del Rey for some true teen angst), while **Wilderness** has wild swimming, proper food and pop goddess Robyn. Because you’re never too young to get into Robyn, obviously.


For a bit of everything...

Festivals with a bit of everything are everywhere this year: hop on a tube to Gunnersbury for Lovebox, a bus to Victoria Park for All Points East, or a train to Manchester for Parklife. And if you can wangle a ticket, Glastonbury remains the ultimate works-for-everyone festival. If you’re after more predictably good weather, Spain has you covered: Primavera’s stellar pop-rock-metal-indie-dance-grime extravaganza of a line-up is very nearly matched by Benicàssim’s pop-heavy one. Bonito!

For proper holiday vibes...

A festival in a field is all well and good but the ultimate music-holiday combo is a festival on a beach. Dance music has the beach-party market cornered: Albania’s eclectic Kala fest takes place on a private beach, while Croatia has Love International (best for boat parties), Hospitality on the Beach (which attracts the cream of the international DJ crop), SuncéBeat (the one for underground gems) and Outlook (which is a bit more mainstream). Anyone fancy a strawberry daiquiri?

For nature...

Fancy learning some new skills as well as raving it up? Billed as a summer camp for adults, Camp Wildfire offers courses in beekeeping and apothecary alongside everything from archery to whatever a ‘zombie run’ is. Timber Festival is unsurprisingly forest-focused; its red cedar hot-tubs will definitely be inviting after a day of fire-walking, woodcraft and folk music. Cheshire’s Bluedot is part science fair and part music festival, so it’s appropriate that Kraftwerk are headlining, while Paris’s We Love Green mixes nature talks with a stonking line-up headed by Tame Impala and Christine And The Queens.

For campness and LGBT+ pride...

Brixton’s Brockwell Park will be generously dusted with biodegradable glitter at Mighty Hoopla, a poptastic one-dayer that kind of feels like a second Pride. This year’s line-up is topped by Chaka Khan and includes everyone from Bananarama to Samantha Mumba to Jamelia to Gok Wan on the decks. Brighton’s Pride in the Park is another gloriously gay festival featuring a headline set from Kylie Minogue, plus Clean Bandit, Rina Sawayama and Björn Again. ■ Kate Solomon
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Eyes open, dabbers out – here’s some of the familiar sights of the summer to cross off

- Self-proclaimed legend
- Actual legend
- That mate
- Wacky banner man
- Random old man
- Some pagan nonsense
- Festival virgins
- Mister Insta
- Accidental Brexit metaphor
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The eight most Instagrammable fests of 2019

Hashtags at the ready – Kyle MacNeill and Oliver Keens rate the fests that are dead picturesque

The colourful lambs @ Latitude
An emblem of this annual Suffolk fest, the fancy lambs of Latitude are dyed with a harmless face paint, which lasts until around Christmas. The mixed breed of North Country Mules and Hampshire Sheep will be around four months old when Latitude rolls around this year. And no doubt they’ll make your ‘gram go baaaa-astic. #BleatRhythmsAndLife

The island getaway @ G! Festival
G! is held in the seaside village of Gøta in the Faroe Islands, between gorgeous hills and a panoramic sea. Acts this year include Fatboy Slim and Princess Nokia. A properly green getaway that’ll make others green with envy. #hit #that #G #spot
Kala

The beach forest @ Kala
The line-up for this year's Kala is a wet dream for any dance music aficionado – Hunee, Derrick May, Job Jobse, Inner City, Honey Dijon... you get the idea. Plus, for all these great acts, there's an even better setting. Kala's located in picturesque Dhërmi on the Albanian Riviera, where lush waters and perfect forests will help you kick back and have a proper beached whale of a time. #sun #sea #sesh

Dimensions

The abandoned fortress @ Dimensions
If you've got Instagram, you've probably seen Dimensions – and if you've been to Dimensions, you've definitely got Instagram. Tons of feeds fill up with posts from this festival during the last week of August, when Dimensions takes over the crumbly nirvana of Fort Punta Christo in Croatia. Feel like a VIP and document your run from one of their famous boat parties. #CanYouFeelTheFort #EndOfSeasonSail

Meadows in the Mountains

The Sunrise Stage @ Meadows in the Mountains
This London-run, Bulgaria-based fest is a total triumph. From the fact that PA speakers are brought up the mountain by horses to the total friendly isolation the festival creates, it's no wonder it's become so popular over the years. The centrepiece, though, is raving through dawn on this outstandingly picturesque stage, as DJs take the mood up slowly and the clouds vanish to reveal the mountains above. #big #bulge #area #bulgaria
Festival Guide

Melt

The giant crane @ Melt
The towering mass of old mining equipment at the heart of this German festival is always complemented by an equally sky-high repertoire of electronic acts. With the bulging machinery surrounded by a refreshing lake, swap craning for views with viewing of cranes. #BeAMelt #SunshineOnACraneyDay

Oasis

The poolside vibe @ Oasis
Don’t worry, no bland soft drinks or high-street cardigans to be seen here: this Oasis is a cracking festie in Marrakech, with champagne bars and gorgeous garms instead. See some of the most hyped selectors – Mall Grab, Nicolas Lutz, Dixon, Four Tet – and pap away by the pool. #mad #for #it

Booetown

The Psychedelic Forest @ Boomtown
Ever imagined what it’d be like to shrink yourself like Mike Teavee from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and slink yourself inside a toy kaleidoscope? Well it’s basically what the Psychedelic Forest at Boomtown looks like. #boom #boom #boom #lemmehearyousay #wayo
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Lots of festivals are giving it some welly when it comes to reducing their environmental footprint. Here are some of the more interesting schemes.

**We Love Green**
Festival in Paris is living up to its name by planting 80,000 trees – one per festivalgoer.

**Iceland’s Secret Solstice**
Is now carbon-neutral. Its emissions are offset by the purchase of trees for a nature conservation project in Madagascar.

**Sachet away!**
Manchester’s Parklife festival hasn’t just banned plastic straws, but also polystyrene cups and trays.

**All food vendors at Croatia’s Hospitality on the Beach festival**
Plate up their meals in Vegware packaging, which is plant-based and compostable.

**Kent’s Alfresco Festival**
Is teaming up with two charities who will collect unwanted tents and sleeping bags and donate them to the homeless.

**Norway’s Øya Festival**
Is entirely powered by sustainable electricity, and only serves locally sourced food from small-scale providers.

**Latitude**
Runs a carsharing scheme to encourage people to travel together. The first 100 vehicles to sign up get free access to the priority car park. Ooh!

**Wheels and Fins in Kent**
Has an onsite can crusher for punters to recycle their own beers. Recycling one can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours!

**Boardmasters Festival**
Operates a litter bond scheme: return a bin-bag full of rubbish at the end of the festival and you’ll get your tenner deposit back.

**All food waste from Leicestershire’s The Long Road Festival**
Goes to a local farmer to use as compost. Traders then buy veg from said farmer for the following year’s festival.
Gagging for Glasto? Pining for Parklife? Be a volunteer and get free festival tickets! Kelly Pigram runs down some options

**Glastonbury**
**What will I be doing?** Usually three eight-hour shifts stewarding, campaigning or working the gate. If you have first-aid skills, you may be asked to assist the medical team. Volunteering through Oxfam (who manage most of the roles) requires a £250 deposit, refunded after the festival.
**Perks?** A guaranteed ticket, obvs, but with Oxfam you also get a hot meal every shift, plus camping in a special area with free phone chargers, hot showers (gasp!) and hot drinks.
**Worth it?** Glasto tickets are like gold dust, so volunteering seems like a small price for a hefty pay-off.

**Parklife**
**What will I be doing?** Volunteering roles at this proper Manchester party include wristband exchange, working the merch booth and – if you have experience – artist liaison. You’ll need to pay a £100 refundable cash deposit.
**Perks?** You only have to work one seven-hour shift to get free entry to both days, plus your shift is guaranteed to finish at 6pm so you’ll definitely catch the headliner.
**Worth it?** Seven hours of work for a free two-day ticket? Count us in.

**Houghton**
**What will I be doing?** Volunteering for this intimate Norfolk festival has a relaxed vibe and shifts aren’t always set in stone. You can volunteer for somewhat vague ‘creative’ tasks (building sets and installations etc), or you can work 12-16 hours over the course of the festival picking up rubbish and sorting recycling with Greenbox.
**Perks?** You’ll get to camp in the crew section.
**Worth it?** If you’re up for meeting new people and in it for the experience, this ace dance fest could be the one.

**The Great Escape**
**What will I be doing?** This Brighton festival nurtures new talent, and their philosophy extends to its volunteers. There are loads of music-business roles for people wanting a start in the industry, such as technical production, operations management and artist liaison.
**Perks?** Organisers will provide work references after the festival. Plus there’s a huge closing party.
**Worth it?** Tickets are pretty cheap (£75), so this gig is really for those looking for industry experience and connections.
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Brixton Disco Festival
Party like it’s 1979
Get your hotpants on – this one-day festival will take you back to the disco era. It takes place over four Brixton venues and there’s an actual roller disco in Windrush Square.
**Line-up includes** Horse Meat Disco, Evelyn ‘Champagne’ King, François K, Greg Wilson, Colleen ‘Cosmo’ Murphy.
→ Electric Brixton. Apr 27. £25.

We Are FSTVL
Essex-based dance mash-up
In six years We Are FSTVL has established itself as a seriously big gun among the new generation of dance festivals. Okay, it’s technically in Essex, not London, but it’s still a firm favourite with Londoners, seeing as you can get there on the tube. House and techno are the main ingredients but you’ll also find grime, garage and bassier flavours.
**Line-up includes** Andy C, Skream, Chase & Status (DJ set), Craig David presents TS5.
→ Damyns Hall Aerodrome, Upminster. May 24-26. £165 (weekend), £130 (two-day), £42.50 (Fri), £71.50 (Sat/Sun).

All Points East
Ten days of action in Vicky Park
Returning for a second year after its successful 2018 launch, APE is an eclectic ten-day festival that takes over Victoria Park in late May and early June. The opening and closing three-day weekends are given over to music. In between there are four days of community-driven entertainment on the site, with comedy, film screenings, street food and more. Those four days are free to enter, with some ticketed events inside. All in all, a pretty epic event.
**Line-up includes** The Chemical Brothers, The Strokes, Christine And The Queens, Bring Me The Horizon, Mumford & Sons, Bon Iver.
→ Victoria Park. May 24-Jun 2. £163.95 (weekend), £65 (day).

Gala
Bank holiday bangers in Peckham
This May gathering has a big focus on street food and craft beer alongside the DJ-driven line-up – beats and eats, as it were. For 2019 it’s returning for a second year to south London’s Peckham Rye Park. The musical roster includes a range of well-regarded big names from the worlds of house, disco and electronica.
**Line-up includes** Crazy P (live), Honey Dijon, Auntie Flo (live), Horse Meat Disco.

Jam on Rye
Street food dons bring the beats
The second edition of the music-and-nosh festival from the good folks at Kerb, this one-day event celebrates soundsystem culture with a side order of jerk chicken.
**Line-up includes** Kelis, Jazzie B, Omar, General Roots, Greentea Peng, Barney Artist.
→ Peckham Rye Park. May 27. £45.

The Ends
Big names come to CR0
Croydon’s brand new urban music festival will welcome 15,000 music lovers a day from Friday through Sunday, with Nas, Damian Marley and Wizkid headlining. Loads more acts are confirmed, too, so everything’s in place for The Ends to make a cracking start.
**Line-up includes** Nas, Damian Marley, Wizkid, J Balvin, Nao, De La Soul, Maleek Berry, Kojo Funds.
→ Lloyd Park. May 31-Jun 2. £50.
Field Day
Leftfield fest’s new home allows the party to run all night long
Field Day has become one of London’s very best music festivals, with a consistently excellent booking policy covering the world’s finest alternative acts. This year marks another big change for the event; after last year’s move from Victoria Park to Brixton’s Brockwell Park, it’s relocating again – this time to four huge warehouses in Enfield. The line-up is typically on-point, though, with Skepta and Jorja Smith headlining an eclectic bill.

Line-up includes Skepta, Jorja Smith, Earl Sweatshirt, Diplo, Jungle, Todd Terje, Bonobo (DJ set).

→ Meridian Water. Jun 7-8. £77.50 (weekend), £40 (Fri), £47 (Sat).

Mighty Hoopla
Big LGBT+ bash in Brockwell Park
Now in its third year, Mighty Hoopla is London’s biggest pure pop festival and a highlight of the LGBT+ summer calendar. Chaka Khan will headline this year’s event, which takes place in Brixton’s Brockwell Park for a second year running. Alongside solid-gold pop acts, Mighty Hoopla will also welcome an array of LGBT+ club brands including Sink The Pink, Push The Button and Hungama, so expect plenty of glitter.

Line-up includes Chaka Khan, All Saints, Bananarama, Jamelia.


Junction 2
Ravers’ paradise adds second day
Calling all techno heads: in 2019, this bangin’ festival in Boston Manor Park is spreading out over two days for the first time. Once again, the line-up is stacked with top DJ talent, but if you get technoed out at any point there’s actually a bit of nature to explore beneath the towering industrial backdrop.

Line-up includes Ben UFO, Bicep, Craig Richards, Daniel Avery, Daphni, Jeremy Underground.

→ Boston Manor Park. Jun 7-8. £49.50 (Fri), £57.50 (Sat).

Cross the Tracks
Chaka Khan’s Brixton residency continues
Jazz, funk and soul are having a real purple patch, and there is a host of festivals popping up across London showcasing some of the scene’s best talent. Brixton’s latest addition, Cross the Tracks, will see legends rub shoulders with rising stars in one place, alongside some ace street food and craft breweries.

Line-up includes Chaka Khan, Jordan Rakei, The Comet Is Coming, Oscar Jerome, Nubya Garcia.


British Summer Time
Legends assemble in Hyde Park once more
For the seventh year running Hyde Park plays host to some of the planet’s biggest acts, with an upmarket festival vibe that takes in small stages, theatre and comedy, food and drink, and a posh VIP area.

Line-up includes Celine Dion, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Richie, Barbara Streisand, Florence + The Machine, The National, Robbie Williams, Black Eyed Peas.

→ Hyde Park. Jul 5-14. £89.75.

Lovebox
Glitter at the ready
Consistently one of London’s finest festivals, catering for cool kids and party monsters alike, Lovebox generally packs as much fun into two days as many festivals manage in three. This year will be its second out west in Gunnersbury Park, but the vibe hasn’t changed since its years out east. The 2019 line-up is especially stellar, with headliners Solange and Chance The Rapper topping a carefully curated bill.


→ Gunnersbury Park. Jul 12-13. £120 (weekend), £58.50 (Fri), £68.50 (Sat).

Citadel
Laidback indie celebration
Returning to Gunnersbury Park once again as the calmer post-Lovebox antidote, this Sunday fest has more of a chilled vibe to it, but still boasts some top music acts, plus loads of other pursuits including comedy, arts, talks, workshops and lots of top food and drink.

Line-up includes Catfish And The Bottlemen, Bastille, Friendly Fires, Bear’s Den, Honeyblood.

this all-dayer from the team behind the legendary Krankbrother street parties will definitely fall in the former camp. The line-up is a real who’s who of London’s vibrant jazz, dance and soul scene.

Line-up includes Henry Wu, Neneh Cherry, Ata Kak, Amp Fiddler.


AUGUST

51st State
EDM special on the Piccadilly line
Returning for a fifth year in Trent Park – a country house estate in Cockfosters – this one-day festival honours all the wonderful varieties of house music across multiple stages hosted by top sound systems and club nights. Line-up includes Kerri Chandler, Kings Of House (Louie Vega and David Morales), Dennis Ferrer, Dimitri From Paris, Soul Clap, Todd Terry, Todd Edwards.


Art’s House
DJ Harvey returns for Artwork’s discoey all-dayer
Last year, DJ Artwork took his Art’s House party (which began in his own home) to the next level by making a whole one-day festival out of it. Returning to east London rave spot Three Mills Island for 2019, Art’s House smartly bucks the festival trend of simply heaving big-name DJs on to a bill. Artwork is joined by just one guest, DJ Harvey, and there’s street food galore. Line-up includes Artwork, DJ Harvey.


Eastern Electrics
Pool party comes to Morden
The excellent electro festival returns to south London with new stages and its very own pool party – let’s hope the weather obliges. But either way, this year’s line-up looks just as enticing as in previous years. Line-up includes MK, Orbital (DJ set), Big Narstie, Skream, Nadia Rose, Hannah Wants, Goldie.

→ Morden Park, Aug 3-4. £57.50 (weekend), £45 (Sat), £25 (Sun).

Cheeky fashion hero
Sports Banger will be setting up a shop with its own catwalk at Art’s House.
Centre has been throwing its own multi-date music fest since 1993, and this year Nile Rodgers is taking the reins. The line-up is yet to be announced, but the guitarist and producing supremo has worked with some enormous names, so expect some must-see shows.

**Line-up includes** TBC

> Southbank Centre. Aug 3-11. Price TBC.

**Elrow Town**

Party people head to Enfield

Club kings Elrow are streamlining their festival this year into a one-day affair held in Enfield’s Trent Park. (Last year’s event was a weekend at the smaller Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.) Elrow may be changing locations, but expect the same day-glo, super-fun approach to outdoor raving, plus more big names than Elton John’s birthday bash.

**Line-up includes** Jamie Jones, more TBC.

> Trent Park. Sat Aug 17. £49.50.

**South West Four**

Bank hol bash returns to Clapham

Clapham Common’s bank holiday dance music explosion returns for another weekend of big drops, club anthems and arms in the air. If you’re longing for superstar DJs but can’t afford Ibiza, head to SW4 for a fix of big-room house, EDM, electro, techno and trance, plus other genres creeping in from all angles.

**Line-up includes** Martin Garrix, Tinie Tempah, Craig David presents TSS, Mabel, Plan B.

> Clapham Common. Aug 24-25. £99 (weekend), £57.50 (day).

**Defected London**

First London fest for dance label

To celebrate two decades at the top of its game, London imprint and supreme party planner Defected is throwing a five-stage, one-day shindig to close the festival season in style.

**Line-up includes** Todd Terry, Horse Meat Disco, Joey Negro, Todd Edwards, Honey Dijon.

> Central Park. Dagenham. Sep 14. £64.

**Hospitality in the Park**

D&B returns to N4

The hefty dance party organised by south London drum and bass label Hospital Records returns to Finsbury Park for a fourth year. The line-up is not yet confirmed but it’s always a well-judged D&B affair.

**Line-up** TBC

> Finsbury Park. Sep 21. £8bc.
MAY

Sounds from the Other City
DIY day fest in the heart of Salford
Now in its fifteenth year, SFTOC festival will be taking over Salford’s Regent Trading Estate with a strong line-up of up-and-comers on five stages. An array of after-parties will keep you going into the early hours. Line-up includes Black Midi, The Orielles, Black Country New Road, Cocaine Piss, Gabe Gurnsey.
→ Regent Trading Estate, Salford. May 5. £25.

The Great Escape
Upcoming darlings overrun Brighton
Often hailed as ‘the UK’s SXSW’, The Great Escape co-opts almost every pub, bar or venue with a bit of clear space to showcase artists from all over the globe. Primarily an event for the music industry to ‘network’ (read: get pissed together), it’s also a great excuse to catch bucketloads of new bands and DJs. The headliners (or ‘Spotlight Shows’) are ticketed separately; wristband holders can top up their passes to get in.

Line-up includes Kwengface, Walt Disco, SKYND, Wooze, Self Esteem.
→ Various venues, Brighton. May 9-11. £75 (three-day), £40 (Thu/Fri), £50 (Sat).

The Soundcrash Funk & Soul Weekender
Ultimate party weekender lands in Brighton for the first time
This year, the Funk & Soul Weekender is in Brighton with some of the biggest names in jazz, funk and soul.

Line-up includes Lee Fields & The Expressions, Kamaal Washington, Kamaal Williams.

Shindig Festival
Beats aplenty in scenic Somerset
On a beautiful site deep in Somerset’s rolling hills, these bass and break-heavy sounds are sure to feel blissful. Add a super-friendly crowd and you’re set for a weekend of wholesome misadventure.

Line-up includes Estelle, Kenny Dope, Benjamin Zephaniah, Ozomatli.
→ Gilcombe Farm, Somerset. May 23-27. £145 (weekend).

JUNE

Gotwood
Welsh woodland dance fest
Now in its tenth year, this boutique festival offers a stellar mix of DJs and artists for those who like their beats and bass strictly alternative. Get ready to roam through the forest and dance into the night to a soundtrack of deep house and disco, afrobeat and electronics.

Line-up includes Andrew Weatherall b2b Manfredas, Craig Richards, Hunee, Kink (live), Palms Trax.

Parklife
Mad for it, inner-city Manc party
This may sound like a Britpop nostalgia fest, but it actually has a super-contemporary, genre-blending bill to rival the best. And, as is the beauty of city festivals, you can have a good night’s kip in your own bed (or at least a mid-range Airbnb) before heading in for day two.

Line-up includes Lily Allen, Chase & Status, IAMDDB, Maribou State, Jimothy Lacoste, Little Simz.
→ Eastville Park, Bristol. May 25-26. £85 (weekend), £49.50 (Sat), £45 (Sun).
Festival Guide

Isle of Wight

Huge headliners at one of the UK’s biggest rock festivals

These days, Isle of Wight festival is a far cry from the hippy love-in that landed back in 1968. Big-name headliners and commercial favourites are mixed in with a hefty dose of nostalgia. They’re not pushing the envelope, but after five decades in the game, Isle of Wight knows how to please a crowd.

**Line-up includes**
Noel Gallagher’s High Flying Birds, Biffy Clyro, Madness, James, Lily Allen, Bastille.

→ Newport, Isle of Wight. Jun 13-16. £175 (weekend), £80 (Fri), £70 (Sat/Sun).

Download Festival

Rock behemoths, gather

The UK’s undisputed Number One metal festival, Download always promises a stellar line-up. Every band with a heavy riff makes the journey each year, including many thrash, crust, screamo and emo outfits; dedicated headbangers had better warm up to avoid whiplash.

**Line-up includes**
Tool, Def Leppard, Slipknot, Slash, Slayer, Rob Zombie.

→ Donington Park, Donington. Jun 14-16. £185 (weekend), £79.50 (day).

El Dorado

Disco and dance in Herefordshire

Organised by Cirque du Soul, this intimate event brings together all strands of dance music, from disco to D&B, for a proper knees-up in a country park. Expect UK exclusives and three solid days of dancing.

**Line-up includes**
Kool & The Gang, Andy C, Todd Terje, Romare (live).

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL 2019

13TH-16TH JUNE
MAIN STAGE

FRIDAY
Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds
COURTEENERS
Lily Allen
James
Gerry Cinnamon
DMA's
Wild Front

SATURDAY
George Ezra
SPECIAL GUEST
Fat Boy Slim
Bastille
Anne-Marie
Rick Astley
KT Tunstall
The Marcus King Band

SUNDAY
Biffy Clyro
Richard Ashcroft
Jess Glynne
Madness
Sigrid
Tom Walker
Bjorn Again

BIG TOP
Haçienda Classiçal
Jax Jones
Sigala
Freya Ridings
Dean Lewis

Garbage
Cage the Elephant
Miles Kane
Sam Fender
Picture This

THURSDAY
Wet Wet Wet

KEANE
Dermot Kennedy
The Coral
Idles
Mystery Jets
Ward Thomas
Feet

ISLEOFWIGHTFESTIVAL.COM
LATITUDE  
18TH - 21ST JULY 2019  
HENHAM PARK, SUFFOLK

FRIDAY 19TH JULY

george ezra
SNOW PATROL

SPECIAL CLOSING PERFORMANCE
UNDERWORLD
CHVRCHES · LOYLE CARNER · MARINA · NENEH CHERRY · SIGRID
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COMEDY

JASON MANFORD · MICHELLE WOLF · FRANK SKINNER
MARK WATSON · RUSSELL KANE · TOM ALLEN · MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE

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WWW.LATITUDEFESTIVAL.COM
**AUGUST**

**Wilderness**
A magical Oxfordshire weekender
Wilderness’s music bills have blossomed over its nine years, but this festival isn’t just about great sounds. There’s everything from theatre to debates, horse-riding to yurt-building, a lakeside spa and long-table banquets with top chefs.

*Line-up includes* Robyn, Bombay Bicycle Club, Groove Armada, Tom Odell, Erol Alkan, Ata Kak.

→ Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire. Aug 1-4. £179.50.

**Boompstown**
The temporary town pops back up
Every year the Matterley Bowl estate becomes a magical town full of hypnotic basslines and mind-bending installations. Music ranges from the underground to big-name DJs, and this year brings Area 404, ‘an industrial post-apocalyptic themed district’.

*Line-up includes* Lauryn Hill, The Streets, Kate Tempest, Carl Cox, Four Tet, Amelie Lens.

→ Matterley Estate, Hampshire. Aug 7-11. £244.

**Boardmasters**
Surf and sounds in Cornwall
Boardmasters has come a long way from its humble surfing beginnings. This year, there’s 12 stages and an impressive line-up – but it hasn’t forgotten its roots, with World Surf League contests also scheduled.


**We Out Here**
New festival from Gilles Peterson
Like the idea of Worldwide Festival in France but never got round to going? Great DJ Gilles Peterson is bringing his blend of electro, jazz, dance and world music to the old Secret Garden Party site in Cambridgeshire. This year is the first one, but it’s bound to bang.


**Green Man**
Alternative music for civilised folk
Too old for Reading and Leeds but still want to get squiffy in a field? Look no further than Green Man: the thinking person’s weekender of choice, complete with a line-up plucked straight out of 6 Music. It falls at the calmer end of the festie spectrum, and you can still merrily chug on a box of wine into the small hours.

*Line-up includes* Four Tet, Father John Misty, Idles, Sharon Van Etten, Amadou & Mariam, Whitney


**Creamfields**
The beats don’t stop at the UK’s most iconic dance festival
This three-day sees stadium DJs mix it up with cooler underground spinmasters. Expect a relentless mix of house anthems, fist-pumping trance, stadium techno and a hint of gut-wrenching D&B. Making it through to Monday will give you ‘hardcore caner’ status for eternity.

*Line-up includes* Swedish House Mafia, Chemical Brothers, Martin Garrix, Faithless, Annie Mac, Helena Hauff, Solardo, Andy C.

→ Daresbury, Cheshire. Aug 22-25. £175.

**Lost Village**
Get back to nature with this fest in the woods
Imagine Wilderness but in Lincolnshire and you’re on the right track for this festival of electronic music, food, theatre and wellness. Seek out immersive performances, boozy banquets and orgasm workshops, or just get lost to the beats in the abandoned chapel.

*Line-up includes* Maribour State, Bicep, Little Dragon, Norman Jay.


**Reading Festival**
Former rock mainstay continues last year’s genre-diverse turn
For decades now, Reading and Leeds have been the UK’s flag-bearing rock weekender. But recently it’s started broadening those horizons – this year the bank holiday event offers grime, hip hop, pop and dance.


→ Richfield Avenue, Reading. Aug 23-25. £205 (weekend) £69.50 (Fri/Sat), Sun tickets sold out.

**End of the Road**
Uber-credible picks from indie’s weirder corners
Landing in the sacred crossover point between namedrop-friendly muso faves and bands that are actually, y’know, fun, Dorset season-closer End of the Road has been excelling itself on the line-up front in recent years. From high-shine leftfield pop to grizzled post-punk, it’s got all the bases covered. Add in a solid programme of arts and literature, plus an increasing nod to late-night larks, and you’ve got a veritable playground for the more discerning twenty, thirty and forty-something.

*Line-up includes* Metronomy, Beirut, Michael Kiwanuka, Spiritualized, Courtney Barnett, Mitski, Sleaford Mods, Jarvis Cocker, Low, Deerhunter, Wire.

→ Larmer Tree Gardens, Dorset. Aug 29-Sep 1. £182.
MAY

Annie Mac Presents
Lost & Found
DJs and ravers unite on an island
This queen of the mash-up leads her loyal subjects to Malta for some fun in the Mediterranean sun.
Expect castle raves, pool parties and dancing beneath the palm trees.
Line-up includes Annie Mac, The Black Madonna, Chase & Status (DJ set), Bugzy Malone, Peggy Gou.
→ St Paul’s Bay, Malta. May 2-5. £129.

Flash Festival
Fine food, wine and deep disco
Fancy a few days in Tuscany sampling the region’s fab food and drink? Throw in ace music by the likes of Dan Shake and this becomes a blissful three-day trip.
Line-up includes Dan Shake, Chaos in the CBD, CC:Disco!, Laurence Guy, Bosconi Soundsystem, Dukwa.
→ Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy. May 16-18. £100 (weekend).

Primavera Sound
One of the best city festivals out there
Well known for its eclectic line-ups, Primavera dodges boring big names in favour of cult heroes, independent music and some local acts.
Alternative rock, hip hop and experimental dance music all get a fair showing for a very reasonable price.
Line-up includes Cardi B, Erykah Badu, Solange, Interpol, J Balvin, Future, James Blake.
→ Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France. Jun 1-2. €109 (two days), €59 (day).

NOS Primavera Sound
Primavera’s chill little sister
The lush Parque da Cidade in Portugal’s second city hosts this mini Primavera with a smaller crowd and more laidback atmosphere. The tickets are cheaper too, and the city’s famous export – port – only sweetens the deal.
Line-up includes Solange, Stereolab, Interpol, Erykah Badu, Danny Brown, James Blake.
→ Porto, Portugal. Jun 6-8. €141 (weekend), €86 (day).

MEADOWS IN THE MOUNTAINS
Four days of blissed-out fun in the clouds
This mountainside marvel – which takes place 850m above sea level – is less about starry headliners than the breathtaking views. Beneath this backdrop, revellers can do yoga, mingle with the villagers and enjoy sunrise DJs. It even ends with a pool party in a spa.
Line-up includes Bradley Zero, Rafael Da Cruz, Ishmael, Eddie C, Andrew James Gustav.

Kala
Boutique festival in Albania
The second edition of this bijou festival trumpets its intimacy – only 2,000 people can attend (but don’t worry, it’s no Fyre Festival). Dance on private beaches, explore the Albanian Riviera or do yoga on the beach. The ticket price is fixed, but accommodation costs vary.
Line-up includes Inner City, Hercules & Love Affair, Hunee, Theo Parrish.

JUNE

We Love Green
A massive eco weekender in Paris
If the name wasn’t enough of a hint, We Love Green’s pretty set on helping the planet. Environmentally friendly initiatives are everywhere, including cheaper beer when you recycle your cup. There’s a debate stage and art installations around the site. Plus, the centre of Paris is just a walk away.
Line-up includes Christine And The Queens, Tame Impala, FKA Twigs, Future, Metronomy.
→ Bois de Vincennes, Paris, France. Jun 1-2. €109 (two days), €59 (day).

Hospitality on the Beach has no backstage area.
Worldwide

Gilles Peterson’s big bash
Love Gilles Peterson’s radio show? This festival brings it to life over seven days and nights. An eclectic line-up of electro, jazz, world music and dance is served up on the beach in the daytime and at the clifftop amphitheatre come nightfall.

**Line-up includes**
Swindle (live), DJ Koze, The Comet Is Coming, Kamaal Williams, Steve Spacek, Peggy Gou.

→ Sète, France. Jun 28-Jul 6. €260 (full festival), €40 (one day).

Roskilde
Big names play for a good cause
A very worthy Glastonbury alternative, this eight-day romp is totally non-profit and always bags big names in all genres to raise thousands of kroner for charity.

**Line-up includes**
The Cure, Travis Scott, Cardi B, Ma, Robyn, Christine AndThe Queens, Jorja Smith, Tirzah.

→ Roskilde, Denmark. Jun 29-Jul 6. 2.100 DKK (full festival), 1,050 DKK (one day).

JULY

Love International
A Croatian banger in the dance fest calendar
Held in Tisno’s beautiful Garden Resort, this fest has a strong line-up of house, disco and techno planned, with the finest selectors playing on boats and open-air stages.

**Line-up includes**
Ben UFO, Andrew Weatherhall, DJ Harvey, DMX Krew (live), Joy Orbison, Peggy Gou.

→ Tisno, Murter Island, Croatia. Jul 3-10. €150 (all week), €50 (one day).

Exit
Rave on the River Danube
The vast Petrovaradin fortress hosts this four-day festival on the banks on the Danube. The line-up skews more towards electronic than rock, but with ten stages and big crowds, expect to party long and hard.

**Line-up includes**
The Cure, Carl Cox, Paul Kalkbrenner, Greta Van Fleet.

→ Novi Sad, Serbia. Jul 6-7. €89.

Kappa FuturFestival
Techno in a post-industrial park in Turin
Wavvy garm’s aren’t a requirement: an appetite for raving hard is. This weekend festival boats more than 30 acts and DJs. It takes place in a former car factory-turned-city park in Turin; basically, it’s an epic urban party in a huge industrial hangar.

**Line-up includes**
Carl Cox, Richie Hawtin, Jamie Jones, Boys Noize, Peggy Gou, Charlotte De Witte.

→ Turin, Italy. Jul 6-7. €65 (two days), €45 (one day).

NOS Alive
Three days of music on the beach
On the beaches of Algés, just west of Lisbon, a gagggle of genre-straddling acts vie for your attention, from big-name artists to local faves.

**Line-up includes**

→ Passio Maritimo de Algés, Portugal. Jul 11-13. €139.77 (weekend), €60.98 (day).

Mad Cool
Three days of epic riffs
This Spanish fest returns for its fourth year with an incredible line-up of up-and-comers and absolute legends. This year, the fest is putting average punters first by getting rid of VIP sections at the front of the stages.

**Line-up includes**

→ Madrid, Spain. Jul 11-13. €175 (full festival), €79 (one day).

Hospitality on the Beach
London’s drum ’n’ bass scene on its holts
Tisno is a popular place in summer, when a wave of great dance festivals wash up on its beaches. This gem comes from south London D&B label Hospitality Records.

**Line-up includes**
Andy C, Noisia, High Contrast, DJ Marky, Mejus, Friction, S.P.Y., DJZinc.


North Sea Jazz Festival
An eclectic treat just across the North Sea
You might be surprised by some of the music at this Dutch staple. Sure, there will be far-out grooves and a solo or two, but you can expect hip hop, R&B and some pop legions.

**Line-up includes**
Burt Bacharach, Chance The Rapper, Kamsi Washington, Ms Lauryn Hill.


Benicàssim (FIB)
Stage in sunny Spain
This year Benicàssim marks its twenty-fifth anniversary, and the festival on the sunny Spanish coast has pulled out all the stops. Rock and pop dominate the bill, but the Spaniards know how to party, so expect DJs till dawn too – you can always overcome your hangover on the beach.

**Line-up includes**


Dekmantel
Quality electronic music among the trees
Venture deep into the woods on the outskirts of Amsterdam for three days of non-stop vibing with DJs big and small. Then, once the day bits are done, head into the capital for a series of specially laid-on nights.

**Line-up includes**
Andrew Weatherall, Ben UFO & Blawan, Róisín Murphy, Kamaal Williams, Yussef Dayes.

→ Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Jul 31-Aug 4. €413-€651 (one day; weekend tickets are sold out).

You can party on the beach from 6am through to noon at Love International.

Sziget
A blow-out in Budapest
Spread over seven days, this monster fest delivers big-name headliners and intriguing new acts. It takes place on Old Buda, an island in the Danube, so you’ll feel a world away from real life.

**Line-up includes**

→ Budapest, Hungary. Aug 7-13. €329 (seven days), €209 (three days), €75 (day).

Way Out West
Bangin’ acts in a scenic Scandi setting
Taking place in multiple venues across Gothenburg, Way Out West has netted many of the best acts doing the summer festival rounds. The festival is proudly committed to sustainability, and can claim to be LGBT+ certified.

**Line-up includes**
Cardi B, Stormzy, Blood Orange, Christine And The Queens, Jungle, Zara Larsson.

→ Gothenburg, Sweden. Aug 9-10. 1,995 SEK.

SEPTEMBER

The Boaty Weekender
Sea-faring Belle & Sebastian-curated fest
In 1999, indie faves Belle & Sebastian curated The Bowlie Weekend at Camber Sands. Now, they’re doing it all again, but on a boat that will sail from Barcelona to Sardinia and back again. Some fab bands will be on board – and you can blame hangovers on ‘seasickness’.

**Line-up includes**
Belle & Sebastian, Mogwai, Django Django, Yo La Tengo, Camera Obscura, Hinds.


Rock en Seine
Paris’s answer to Glastonbury
Held in a stunning sixteenth-century park. France’s equivalent to Glasto feels pretty dreamy. Its prestige is proved year-on-year when it attracts a stellar line-up to rival any on this side of the Channel. Plus, the food is really super-bien.

**Line-up includes**
The Cure, Major Lazer, Aapex Twin, Jorja Smith, Jungle, Foals, Royal Blood, Johnny Marr.


Dimensions
Electronic music in an evocative location
Taking place in a historic abandoned fort for the last time. Dimensions offers four days of top-notch techno, soulful house and d’n’b – plus amphi theatre parties.

**Line-up includes**
Anderson. Paak, Objekt (live), Hunee, Steam Down, Helena Hauff, Gilles Peterson.

→ Fort Punta Christo, Pula, Croatia. Aug 28-Sep 1. £120.

Oasis Festival
House and techno in a sun-dappled hideaway
All manner of fun awaits at this lush festival, with bars, spas, a pool, a hookah lounge and DJs galore.

**Line-up includes**
Carista, DMX Krew (live), Four Tet, Horse Meat Disco.


Outlook
Feel the bass on the Adriatic coast
Expect beach parties, boat parties and a massive rave-up in a Roman amphitheatre. The varied line-up offers hip hop, dance, grime, d’n’b and garage across ten stages.

**Line-up includes**
Andy C, Loyle Carner, Buggy Malone, Goldie (live), Ghettas.


Festival Guide

You have to be there to see the festival, the first thing you have to do is to buy tickets. You can buy tickets from the festival’s official website or from authorized ticket sellers. Make sure you have a valid ticket before attending the festival. Otherwise, you may be denied entry.

You can also use this website to check the line-up of artists and bands, the schedule of events, and other information about the festival. Make sure you check the festival’s website regularly for updates and changes to the schedule.

You can plan your visit to the festival by checking the schedule of events and planning your day accordingly. Make sure you arrive early to avoid long queues for entry. You can also use the festival’s map to find your way around the site.

You can also use this website to find out about the festival’s accommodation options, such as hotels, campsites, and other places to stay. You can also find information about the festival’s transport options, such as public transport and car parks.

You can also find information about the festival’s food and drink options, as well as other facilities, such as first aid, lost property, and lost children’s services.

You can also find information about the festival’s rules and regulations, such as age restrictions, and what you can and cannot bring into the festival site.

You can also find information about the festival’s security and safety arrangements, such as security check points, and what to do in an emergency.

You can also find information about the festival’s environmental sustainability initiatives, such as waste management, and how to reduce your carbon footprint.

You can also find information about the festival’s accessibility arrangements, such as ramps and lifts, and what to do if you have a mobility issue.

You can also find information about the festival’s social responsibility initiatives, such as supporting local charities, and how you can get involved.

You can also find information about the festival’s partnership with other organizations, such as the local council, and how you can get involved.

You can also find information about the festival’s media, such as live streaming, and how you can get involved.

You can also find information about the festival’s legacy, such as the festival’s impact on the local community, and how you can get involved.

You can also find information about the festival’s history, such as the festival’s founding, and how you can get involved.

You can also find information about the festival’s future, such as the festival’s plans for the future, and how you can get involved.
Victoria Park
London E3
24 May > 02 June

Fri 24 May

PRIMAL SCREAM > HOT CHIP
JON HOPKINS LIVE
Kate Tempest > Spiritualized > Little Dragon > Roisin Murphy
Steve Mason > Danny Brown > Peggy Gou Presents Gou Talk
Optimo > David August > Josey Rebelle > Little Simz
Jadu Heart > Petite Noir > Maurice Fulton
Ibibio Sound Machine > Lane 8 > Ge-ology
Elder Island > DMX Krew

Fri 24 May

The chemical brothers

PRIMAL SCREAM > HOT CHIP
JON HOPKINS LIVE
Kate Tempest > Spiritualized > Little Dragon > Roisin Murphy
Steve Mason > Danny Brown > Peggy Gou Presents Gou Talk
Optimo > David August > Josey Rebelle > Little Simz
Jadu Heart > Petite Noir > Maurice Fulton
Ibibio Sound Machine > Lane 8 > Ge-ology
Elder Island > DMX Krew

Fri 31 May

BRING ME THE HORIZON
RUN THE JEWELS ARCHITECTS
NOTHING BUT THIEVES
WHILE SHE SLEEPS > IDLES
Alice Glass > Scarlxrd > Yonaka > Employed To Serve

Sat 25 May

THE RACONTEURS > INTERPOL
Johnny Marr > Jarvis Cocker JARV IS... > Courtney Barnett
Fat White Family > Parquet Courts
Connan Mockasin > Anna Calvi > Temples
Amyl and the Sniffers > Angie McMahon > BC Camplight > Yak
Dream Wife > Our Girl > Viagra Boys > Bakar > The Nude Party
Willie J Healey > Demob Happy

Sat 25 May

The Strokes

THE RACONTEURS > INTERPOL
Johnny Marr > Jarvis Cocker JARV IS... > Courtney Barnett
Fat White Family > Parquet Courts
Connan Mockasin > Anna Calvi > Temples
Amyl and the Sniffers > Angie McMahon > BC Camplight > Yak
Dream Wife > Our Girl > Viagra Boys > Bakar > The Nude Party
Willie J Healey > Demob Happy

Sat 01 June

MUMFORD & SONS

LEON BRIDGES > DIZZEE RASCAL
THE VACCINES
Dermot Kennedy > Sam Fender
Jade Bird > Greta Ray > Dizzy

Sun 02 June

BON IVER

MAC DEMARCO
FIRST AID KIT
JOHN GRANT
THE TALLEST MAN ON EARTH
EZRA FURMAN
RY X
Phosphorescent > Julien Baker
Snail Mail > KOKOKO! > Charlie Cunningham

+ More acts to be announced across all days

allpointseastfestival.com
THREE OF THE BEST

Earth Day events

Free chocolate and hot cross buns are great, but they’re nothing compared to the primal call of Mother Nature. Right?

↑ ‘Reduce Speed Now!’
This open-air installation brings together the world’s leading ecological voices, including 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and author Zadie Smith, and turns their thoughts into enormous, solar-powered LED signs.

↑ Earth Day with Wisdom Roundhouse
Try kundalini yoga (‘the yoga of awareness’), let gong vibrations soothe your weary soul or down some medicinal cacao in a ‘sacred ceremony’ at this day of wellness workshops aiming to reconnect us with the planet.

↑ ‘Fuel’ by Kate Friend
State of the planet got you down? Check out photographer Kate Friend’s images of the 100ft waves which batter Nazaré in Portugal, before listening to a panel discussion on the optimistic future of renewable energy. ■ Bobby Palmer

More eco-friendly events at timeout.com/thingstodo
Premium beer brand San Miguel has partnered with London’s vibrant cultural centre Somerset House to create a luxe destination terrace bar. Here, you’ll experience food, drinks and entertainment inspired by the beer’s authentic Spanish origins.

So what exactly can you expect? It wouldn’t be a San Miguel event without a showcase of its select beers. As well as the brand’s core range, including San Miguel Especial, San Miguel 0.0%, San Miguel Gluten Free and San Miguel Selecta, you’ll get to taste some specialty beers, too.

Poured at the San Miguel Tap Station, the selection is inspired by beer styles from around the world and San Miguel’s international heritage. There are five on offer, each named after a different city – and beer connoisseurs will notice the different blends of hops and malts that each of them are brewed with. The best part is that the Tap Station is the only place in the UK that you’ll be able to try them.

Feeling a bit peckish? Beer isn’t the only specialty on offer: there is an authentic Spanish tapas menu, where each dish has a suggested pairing with a San Miguel beer.

For lunch, try the honey-roasted aubergine salad, or if you’re in a group try the albondigas in romesco sauce and choricitos al vino. In addition, a London chef will bring a new, exclusive dish to the menu each month. With the Thames on one side, Somerset House on the other and one seriously Instagrammable terrace (make sure you check out the San Miguel swing), you’ll have a very picturesque setting for your Friday drinks. And to make sure the Ibiza vibes are flowing, there’s a resident Somerset House DJ playing chilled Balearic beats.

Somerset House Terrace with San Miguel is open until Sep 30. Mon-Sat noon-late. Sun noon-6pm, weather permitting. Share your experience online with the hashtag #SanMiguelTerrace.

→ For more information, head to www.sanmiguel.com/somersethouse
IF YOU HAPPENED to be browsing the shelves of Dalston deli Weino BIB on a recent Sunday afternoon, you’d have seen a strange, congealed-looking creature festering in a jar. It is ‘the mother’. The mother needs feeding and keeping in darkness, her temperature raised so she can spawn and produce more mothers.

I’m not, however, in a sinister lab. I’m at a kombucha-making workshop: the en vogue drink that’s meant to sort your gut bacteria and cure what ails ya. The ‘mother’ in question is called a ‘scoby’ and lies, as the small group of us assembled today learn, at the heart of the process. Top her up with sweet tea and flavourings and she’ll sit in the corner, fermenting and doing her thing. A week later and you’ve got a sour-yet-pleasant beverage.

The class is led by Adam – a Monty Don-like man who runs fermentation company Cultcure. The workshops take place at different locations in London and usually sell out in advance, or you can organise your own bespoke, private fermenting sesh at a venue of your choice. My class is a run-through of the process used to make kombucha, the more temperamental water kefir and its creamy cousin dairy kefir (which tastes like runny sour cheese, but in a good way). It’s informative, although don’t go expecting to actually do a lot. The mother does all the hard work, while you – her children – just have to wait.

Two hours later, and having tasted enough of the stuff to genuinely feel a bit wired (maybe there’s something in it after all…), I leave with jars of kefir grains and my very own scoby mama, ready to start my clan. Insult her at your peril: she’s family now.

Lisa Wright

WHAT IS IT?
A chance to see what really goes into the vinegary-smelling drink.

WHY GO?
To learn your scoby dos from your scoby don’ts.

More weird workshops at timeout.com/thingstodo
Hop into spring with your best Easter weekend ever

Haven’t planned ahead for the long weekend? No worries. Easter means four whole days of off-peak fares – so take advantage of the savings by checking out some of these awesome events.

In London, Easter means egg hunts, time with family and friends, and off-peak fares all day from Good Friday to Easter Monday. That’s right; for all four days of the long weekend, getting around is even more affordable, starting at just £1.50 for a single adult pay as you go fare. We’ve teamed up with Transport for London to bring you some fantastic events to jump into across the holiday, from drag extravaganzas to peaceful nature encounters.

Remember to check TfL Journey Planner before you travel. Most of the network will be open as usual over the Easter weekend, but there will be several planned closures.

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Catch a fierce drag line-up at ‘The TuckShop Live!’**

Do you live for lip-synching? Head to Underbelly Festival at Southbank to party with a posse of fab drag queens, including Herr, Taylor Trash, Cara Melle and more. £14.

**Getting there** Bakerloo, Jubilee, Northern or Waterloo & City line to Waterloo.

**Local bus routes** 1, 4, 26, 59, 68, 76, 168, 171, 172, 188, 243, 341, 381, 507, 521, RV1.

**Feel the love at Dark Sacred Nights**

Union Chapel is hosting an evening of music, poetry and dance, all exploring themes of conservation and creation. Don’t miss the Shalom Chorale, who were the 2018 BBC Gospel Choir of the Year. Free, donations accepted.

**Getting there** Overground or Victoria line to Highbury & Islington.

**Local bus routes** 4, 19, 30, 43, 153, 263, 271, 393.

**EASTER SATURDAY**

**Be carried away by the 2019 ‘Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition’**

Get up close to 800 stunning photographs at Somerset House, chosen from the 327,000 submissions. £14.

**Getting there** District line to Temple.

**Local bus routes** 1, 4, 26, 59, 68, 76, 168, 171, 172, 188, 243, 341, 521, RV1.

**Keep your cool at a disco ice-skating session**

What’s better than a Saturday night ice-skating party? A Saturday night ice-skating party to disco beats at Lee Valley Ice Centre! £10.50.

**Getting there** Overground to Clapton.

**Local bus routes** 48, 55, 56.

**Chase the bunny at Homiman Easter Fair**

Who says that craft activities, arts markets and animal petting are only for children? Make your way to this wonderfully oddball museum and gardens for a weekend fair. While you’re there, visit the ‘Brick Wonders’ Lego exhibition. Free.

**Getting there** Overground to Forest Hill.

**Local bus routes** 176, 185, 197, 356, P4.

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**Score a bargain at Flea at Vinegar Yard**

If your idea of a leisurely Sunday involves rummaging through vintage clothes and searching for antiques, then hunt for treasure at this flea market near London Bridge. Free entry.

**Getting there** Jubilee or Northern line to London Bridge.

**Local bus routes** 17, 21, 35, 40, 42, 43, 47, 48, 78, 133, 141, 149, 343, 344, 381, 521, RV1.
GET THERE FOR LESS!

TfL’s off-peak fares mean that your Easter adventures are extra-affordable. Off-peak fares apply on all Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail services across London. You can tap into the wonderful world of off-peak all day at weekends and on public holidays (including Good Friday and Easter Monday). They also apply every weekday before 6.30am, between 9.30am and 3.59pm, and after 7pm. Always touch in and out with the same card or device to pay the right fare (touch in only on bus and tram). To check your fare, search TfL single fare finder.

Travel in Zones 2-6 for £1.50
Fare shown is for an adult off-peak pay as you go journey not going via Zone 1 on Tube, DLR and most London Overground services.

Travel into Zone 1 from £2.40
Fare shown is for an adult off-peak pay as you go journey from Zone 2 into Zone 1.

Travel by bus and tram for £1.50
TfL’s Hopper fare lets you take unlimited pay as you go bus and tram journeys within one hour of first touching in.

Remember to check TfL Journey Planner before you travel.

Find your centre at Yoga in Osterley House
Downward dog meets Georgian splendour at this west London country estate. After a refreshing morning session in the beautiful Robert Adam entrance hall, why not hire a bike and wind your way through the expansive gardens? Yoga class £7, House and gardens £12, bike hire £3.

Getting there Piccadilly line to Osterley.
Local bus routes H28, H91.

EASTER MONDAY

Play the system at Tate Modern
Tate Modern is opening up a games room over Easter but it’s not what you might expect. An artist collective has created an immersive experience, where participants will play games which spark discussion and raise awareness around topics such as asylum-seekers and DNA manipulation.

Getting there District line to Blackfriars.
Local bus routes 45, 63, 344, 381, RV1.

Stroll among the wilds of the London Wetland Centre
For a calming end to your long weekend, flock to this urban oasis and take a long walk around the lakes, ponds and meadows, among spring flowers and colourful birdlife. £11.70.

Getting there Circle, Hammersmith & City or Piccadilly line to Hammersmith, then 33 bus.
Local bus routes 33, 72, 209, 485.

Want more spring adventures? The Cultural TfL Map is your key to fantastic days out. We’ve just added hundreds more museums, galleries, street-art works and more to this interactive map. Get started at timeout.com/culturaltflmap

Go and explore London at timeout.com/off-peak
Did you know that garlic doesn’t actually give you bad breath? Only joking, of course it does. With Garlic Day fast approaching (yes, it’s a thing, on April 19), there’ll be plenty of people extolling the virtues of this tasty (yet intense) little bulb. But if you’re worried about what a garlic-laden feast is going to do to your breath, then fear not: there’s a way to get your food freedom back.

Celebrity chef Tony Singh has partnered with LISTERINE® to serve up delicious free lunches from the Bold Flavours Food Truck, which will be parked up at Boxpark Shoreditch on Thursday and Friday, April 18-19. Singh – who is an unashamed spice-lover – will be there to hand out specially created mouth-watering meals that go big on garlic. There’ll be one meat and one vegetarian option on offer. And the best part? There’ll be no need to worry about bad breath, because you’ll also get a pack of LISTERINE® Go! Tabs™, which will give you four hours of minty-fresh breath.

Look out for the truck at Boxpark Shoreditch: from what we’ve seen, it’s very colourful and has some pretty noticeable signage, so it shouldn’t be hard to spot. But if you’re having trouble, use your nose – the fragrant garlicky aromas from all that cooking should be easy enough to sniff out.

→ Get a free meal at the LISTERINE® Go! Tabs™ Bold Flavours Food Truck, April 18-19, noon-4pm
Chocolate cocktails

Over Easter, your five-a-day tends to mean to chocolate eggs. But if you still don’t feel you’re getting your fill of cocoa, why not try imbibing it too? Camino will be serving an ‘Eggspresso con Leche’, with chocolate liqueur sprinkled with crushed mini eggs and there’s a Chocolate Cocktail Pop-Up on Brick Lane where you can learn to make your own. If you’re still left wanting, there’s a five-tier rum-and-chocolate fountain at Mr Fogg’s Residence that has your name on it.

Camino: various locations. Until Mon Apr 22. £9.
Chocolate Cocktail Pop-Up: 202 Brick Lane, Shoreditch High St Overground. Until May 28. £10 entry, includes a drink.

More sickly sweet treats at timeout.com/easter
Five essential food and drink tips in Nashville

Don’t eat and drink like a Nashville newbie. Here are the city’s best-kept (and tastiest) foodie secrets

Searching for holiday inspiration, London? British Airways has just launched daily direct flights to Nashville – a city whose food and drink scene is just as world-class as its live music. It’s never been easier to get to this amazing city, so to celebrate, we’ve got some insider tips on the things you have to try. Can’t wait to jet off? Lucky for you, with British Airways, you’ll fly there on a luxe Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner. It’s designed with every comfort in mind and it touches down at 6pm, which means you’ll arrive fresh and ready to head downtown and start your Music City adventure.

**Bastion**

Everything’s bigger in America right? Not always. This in-demand restaurant only seats 24, but those lucky few get to Chow down on a ever-changing five-course menu of contemporary American cooking. It’s hidden behind a door in a cocktail bar – so you’ll feel like you’ve just stepped into a secret society.

**Nolensville Corridor – InterNASHional Food Crawl**

This cross-cultural August foodie tour is organised by the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition, and guides participants through Nashville’s varied, brilliant markets and restaurants. It’s a celebration of the city’s diversity (did you know Nashville has the largest Kurdish-American population in the US?) and you can pick from things like ‘off the beaten path’ or ‘best kept secrets’. Nourishing stuff.

**Music City Food + Wine Festival**

You can hardly be blamed if you can’t stop talking about Nashville’s food – or eating it, for that matter. Cue September’s Music City Food + Wine Festival, which promises the above, and then some. We’re talking buzzy food stalls, talks from chefs and food writers, music, dancing and a particularly excellent selection of vino. Come hungry – this is a generous town.
Nashville Fruit Tea
Fancy a cuppa? And no, we don’t mean English breakfast. Nashville has its own classic brew. Traditionally made with sweet tea and (you guessed it) a variety of fruit, this tasty drink is served everywhere from steakhouses to roadside food trucks. Fun fact: nobody knows why it’s associated with Nashville – it’s a total mystery. Weird (but delicious).

Beer and other booze
If you like to get boozy (responsibly, of course), Nashville’s a barrel of fun, with some superb local distilleries and breweries. Our tips? The whiskey at Corsair (made with quinoa, oats and other grains, fyi), bourbons from Green Brier and the ‘craft’ sake at the Proper Sake Co. And if apply delights are more your thing, try Diskin or Brightwood – two excellent local craft cider brewers.

GET THERE WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways flies daily and direct from Heathrow to Nashville. Book a holiday to Nashville with British Airways, including flights and hotels, with a deposit of only £75 per person. Package includes ATOL protection and a 24-hour helpline.

→ Find out more at www.ba.com/nashville
**Easter Egg Hunts**

1. **Easter Egg Hunt and Decorating**
   Kids – little and big – will want to hit Walthamstow Wetlands for some egg-based action this weekend. Swing by the Turbine Room to get creative at the egg-decorating station, before heading out for a good old-fashioned egg hunt. There are ten eggs to track down in order to score a chocolatey prize, which you can then scoff in the country surroundings.
   - Walthamstow Wetlands.
   - Tottenham Hale.
   - Sat Apr 20–Mon Apr 22. £10.

2. **Maître Choux Easter Éclair Hunt**
   If you fancy something a little more bougie than a chocolate egg, Maître Choux will be hiding mini éclairs all around the King’s Road over the Easter weekend. Those lucky enough to find one can redeem it in store for a tasty (and full-size) dark chocolate éclair.
   - King’s Rd. Sloane Square.
   - Fri Apr 19–Mon Apr 22. Free.

**ART CLASSES**

3. **London Paint Party**
   The London Paint Party team are once again offering an evening of drinks, dance music and canvas creativity. Unleash your inner Pollock and dab away while sipping prosecco and listening to DJs. A professional artist is on hand to help and you can take home your masterpiece to show off to your pals.
   - The Old Street Gallery.
   - Old St. Sat Apr 20. £25–£27.

4. **Neon Naked Life Drawing**
   The kooky class returns, looking like a cross between a Full Moon Party and an afternoon at the Royal Academy. Spend the evening experimenting with colours and textures while capturing uber-artistic impressions of models covered in reactive neon paint under UV lights.
   - Queen of Hoxton.

**ST GEORGE**

5. **Feast of St George**
   St George’s Day started out in the thirteenth century as a national day of feasting, so this event is fitting. Look out for demos from leading London chefs as well as an English farmers’ market and a banqueting area.
   - Trafalgar Square.
   - Sat Apr 20. Free entry.

6. **Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens**
   Expect traditional fun at this fest for England’s patron saint. Knights in armour, falconers and wandering minstrels will be in attendance.
   - Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.
   - Sat Apr 20–Sun Apr 21. £6–£12.

**80s Nights**

7. **Strictly ‘80s – Brixton Rooftop Opening Party**
   Kick off the four-day weekend in style at this ‘80s-themed Easter bonanza. They’re going all out with yacht rock classics, karaoke, inflatables and an Easter egg hunt with a £50 bartab up for grabs. Hop to it!
   - Prince of Wales. Brixton.
   - Thu Apr 18. 8pm–£10.

8. **Pop-up Cinema: ‘Dirty Dancing’**
   See Baby and Johnny do that famous lift in a special screening at the gorgeous Rivoli Ballroom – one of the few remaining ‘50s dance halls in London. Get your beer, cider and popcorn at the bar. No watermelon, though.
   - Rivoli Ballroom. Crofton Park rail.
   - Wed Apr 17. From £10.

9. **Drag Aerobics**
   Drag icon Dolly Trolley leads a prosecco-fuelled workout like no other. Expect strutting, sassing, twerking and swish bishing to all your favourite retro pop bangers.
   - Trapzone. Old St.
   - Thu Apr 18. £13.

10. **STRETCH**
    - Trapeze.
    - Fri Apr 19–Mon Apr 22. £30.

11. **EXCLUSIVE**
    - Time Out London.
    - Tickets from £18, with a glass of champers included.

**Have the time of your life at timeout.com/thingstodo**
The one at a station
Community cinema doesn’t get much more joyously communal than the Herne Hill Free Film Festival. There are 23 films playing in May and early June at venues in and around SE24, including Brockwell Lido and Herne Hill Velodrome. Our pick? The ace ‘Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse’ at Herne Hill Station on May 28.
→ www.freemoviefestivals.org/hernehill

The one under a train line
The newest addition to London’s thriving cinema scene is the Archlight (after LA’s legendary ArcLight, only it’s in a railway arch, see?) next to Battersea Power Station. It’s real cozy and offers homemade snacks and cocktails. For railway architecture completists, South London’s beautiful Whirled Cinema is another arch-y delight.
→ www.archlightcinema.co.uk

The one in a distillery
Hayman Gin’s Balham HQ is hosting another mini Cinema season next month as the English juniper alchemists turn their gleaming distillery into a pop-up movie hall, complete with comfy beanbags and gin-based treats. Look out for ‘Mamma Mia!’ and ‘The Italian Job’ on May 11, and ‘The Goonies’ and ‘Goldfinger’ on May 12.
→ www.hayman gin.com/events

The one in a Masonic temple
→ www.andazlondonevents.com

The one with a cause
A monthly movie shindig with a foodie flavour, Welcome Cinema + Kitchen brings people together for a film and supper club. It’s catered by refugee chefs from Ivory Coast, Libya, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Iran, and every ticket sold also provides a seat for a refugee or asylum seeker. Next up is ‘Stan & Ollie’ on April 24.
→ www.welcomepresents.com

The one with dogs
A gloriously bonkers spin-off of Sci-Fi London (May 15-22), Sci-Fido invites dog-loving science-fiction fans to enter their pooches into a cosplay competition. The winners will sashay away with a goodie bag that may or may not feature scooby snacks. It’s on May 19 at the Prince Charles Cinema and it’s in aid of charity All Dogs Matter.
→ www.scifi-london.com

The one in a farm
Waterloo’s Oasis Farm hosts two screenings of ‘Unbranded’ this month (April 25 and 28), a doc set in the widescreen surrounds of the American west. You’ll be able to enjoy it with a crackling campfire and a of host pigs, chickens and cows nearby. Our only grumble? They’re calling it Farmyard Cinema and not Moof-ving Pictures.
→ www.secretadventures.org

The one at a cinema
South London’s beautiful Whirled Cinema is another arch-y delight.
IT'S SAFE TO SAY that Italy has more interesting prime ministers than us. Not every politician catches the eye of a filmmaker as gifted as Paolo Sorrentino, but sleazy political magnate Silvio Berlusconi has done just that in his new biopic ‘Loro’. The result is a combustible mix of sex, drugs and scheming, with Sorrentino regular Toni Servillo as the perma-grinning bunga bunga devotee.

1 Some people feel ‘Loro’ is vulgar in its depiction of Berlusconi. How do you respond?

‘The film is my reality, not the reality of Berlusconi’s world. Being vulgar can be about dishonesty or cruelty but to me, it can also be beautiful, especially when there are hidden feelings behind it. I wanted to show the emotions behind the desperation of being young; the inadequacy of being beautiful. As long as feelings are also being represented, there is no vulgarity.’

2 Is it true that you met Berlusconi?

‘Yes, a couple of times. There isn’t a lot to say from what I saw; he isn’t any different in person to how he comes across on TV. He has a great skill of eliciting sympathy from people; this is something even his opponents recognise. He can sell everything and anything.’

3 Was there anything about his life that you wanted to show but couldn’t?

‘No, because I wasn’t starting from a position of criticism or flattery, so there wasn’t anything I felt I couldn’t show. I didn’t want to be scandalous or uncover hidden truths. For me, it was about capturing a time in life where you are attempting to grab back at youth, even if your body is going in the other direction.’

4 Your films have explored the Catholic Church, the Mafia and politics. What is it about these subjects that interests you?

‘I’m fascinated by power relations among people. The Catholic Church, state powers and the Mafia are worlds where power relations are extremely important and are at their most extreme. [But] I could also make a movie about a doctor and his patient – that is an equally fascinating power dynamic.’

5 Would you ever look at someone in British politics the way you have with Berlusconi?

‘Given the controversy around this one I’ve come to the conclusion that it’s not worth making films about politicians.’

Loro

THE FIRST HOUR of Paulo Sorrentino’s ‘Loro’ is a hedonist swirl of sex and drugs, followed by more sex and more drugs. Coke is snorted off prostitutes’ bums, CGI ecstasy pills rain from the sky, while bikini-clad models and actresses dance until they collapse. It feels sensationalist, crass even. Then again, this is the story of ex-Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi – and how else do you depict a man infamous for his ‘bunga bunga’ parties?

From there, the film zeroes in on Berlusconi himself. Long-time Sorrentino compagno Toni Servillo (‘The Great Beauty’, ‘Il Divo’) pitches him somewhere between silly old letch in hisardinian villa and merciless mob boss with Italy in his grip. Whatever he does, you can’t look away from those smiling eyes, beaming from that DayGlo-orange face.

Some might take issue with how Sorrentino depicts this gaudy world, but as ‘Wolf of Wall Street’ showed, there’s an art to portraying excess. Sorrentino, like Scorsese, has the skill to pull it off. Underneath its lurid carapace, Berlusconi’s life is shown to be terrifying and sad. He and his minions have no interest in helping anyone, only in squeezing every last drop of life from their rapidly decaying bodies. Sure, it’s easy to get lost in the surreal, Bacchanalian orgies, but at its heart ‘Loro’ is a fascinating exploration of what happens to a morally vacuous man as he grows old. Even one who was once the Papi of Italy. ■ Joseph Walsh

Red Joan

WHAT IS IT...
A hearty portrait of the life of former Italian PM Silvio Berlusconi.

WHY GO...
For a racy political satire with shades of ‘The Wolf of Wall Street’.

WHAT IS IT...
A Le Carré-lite spy drama based on a real-life story.

WHY GO...
Because Judi Dench is great in everything.

TWO QUESTIONS FOR
Phil de Semlyen

THE MUSTY COLD WAR thriller begins with Judi Dench’s octogenarian Joan Stanley dragged in for questioning over long-ago espionage charges. She doesn’t seem the sort to betray her country and despite the Che Guevara mug in her kitchen, hardly seems like a diehard ideologue. Did this granny really go full Kim Philby and spill Britain’s secrets to the Russians? Has ‘M’ gone rogue?

Based on the true story of Wolverhampton’s Melita Norwood, ‘Red Joan’ tries to keep us guessing. Shifting between the elderly Stanley and her 1930s self (Sophie Cookson), it shows her falling in with young radicals at Cambridge, becoming a physicist and having moral dilemmas over the Allies’ creation of the A-bomb. But writer-director Trevor Nunn is hamstrung by a structural flaw: whatever the truth in the charges, we know the younger Stanley wasn’t caught. Consequently, it’s all about as tense as a gentle punt down the Cam.

Instead, the film tries to get into Joan’s head as she navigates tea rooms, labs and political rallies, struggling with her conscience. There are love affairs – with Tom Hughes’s Russian firebrand and Stephen Campbell Moore’s earnest scientist – but it’s standard period fare, with a few observations on sexism sprinkled in as Joan toils to prove herself in a man’s world.

Dench does bring edge to her scenes. Few actors can shift from withering to wounded like that in one flicker of the eyes. As she shrinks under the grilling, you’ll find yourself forgetting she once gave 007 the same treatment. ■ Phil de Semlyen
There are about seven metres of intestine inside the average person, and gradually director S Craig Zahler is showing us all of them. Echoing the infamous human bisection in ‘Bone Tomahawk’, his overlong but enjoyably chewy new crime thriller has a bank robber rummaging about inside a corpse. Somewhere in there is a key that, for reasons we don’t need to get into, has been swallowed, regurgitated and then re-swallowed. It’s an image that might come back to you next time you’re looking for the car keys.

Zahler actually tones things down a little this time to showcase his talkier side. His two central characters are cops: Brett Ridgeman (Mel Gibson, channelling Riggs and Murtaugh), 59 years old and still on stakeouts with his younger, smarter partner Tony Lurasetti (Vince Vaughn). Ridgeman’s crude methods soon see the pair suspended, compounding his money worries at home where his wife has MS. His plight is mirrored by Henry Johns (Tory Kittles), an ex-con with a disabled brother to care for. Improbably, the same heist of fers both of them a ready solution.

It’s a thin pretext for what follows — the risks wildly outweigh the rewards for the cops — but the languorous tension-building keeps you engaged. The dialogue is nicely off-filter too, with Lurasetti endearingly fond of a daft epithet (‘It’s bad like lasagne in a can’). It’d be Tarantino-esque but for the pacing and lack of a decent soundtrack. More problematic are the racial politics here. A subplot that has Ridgeman’s family trying to flee a neighbourhood full of vindictive African-Americans feels lazy and reductive. And you couldn’t accuse Gibson of swerving his past controversies in playing a semi-fascistic cop, or the director in casting him. Generously, you’d call it a gutsy call. Then again, guts are Zahler’s currency.

Phil de Semlyen
**Film**

**Greta**

**WHAT IS IT...**
A New York-set psychological thriller that mixes the quaint with the disturbing.

**WHY GO...**
Isabelle Huppert. Her cold-eyed Greta is a force of nature.

> Director Neil Jordan (15) 99 mins.

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**WHEN KIND-HEARTED** Frances McCullen (Chloé Grace Moretz) finds a handbag on the New York subway, she does the not-from-New York thing and returns it to its owner. This happens to be Greta (Isabelle Huppert), a lonely French lady who likes to play the piano and talk about her dead husband. Cue the start of a gentle friendship between a widow and a young motherless woman, right? Except that’s not remotely the film director Neil Jordan (‘The Crying Game’) is making.

While at Greta’s apartment, Frances soon stumbles upon a cupboard full of handbags just like the one she found on the train. When she starts to distance herself from her new friend on the advice of her flatmate (Maika Monroe of ‘It Follows’), Greta unleashes her inner stalker.

The game of cat and out-of-her-depth mouse that ensues is guiltily compelling, with Huppert giving a masterclass in crazy. She takes all the neuroses of her troubled characters in ‘The Piano Teacher’ and ‘Elle’ and amps them up a notch. Jordan sets a tone that mostly tiptoes a very fine line between unsettling and silly, with the influence of ‘Psycho’ particularly clear. If you’re willing to put your incredulity on hold, this funny/scary psychological thriller is an entertaining glimpse into the mind of a true fixated loner that jars the most.

**Phil de Semlyen**

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**ALSO OPENING**

**ONE UPON A TIME IN LONDON**
So many beatings are administered in this relentlessly violent tour of London’s mid-twentieth-century gangland, it almost tips into self-parody. But as director Simon Rumley (‘Crowhurst’) plots a bloody course through the Blitz-era East End, Soho fleshpots, post-war gambling rackets and about 700 fistfights, his sights seem more set on a ‘Peaky Blinders’-style crime epic. Sadly, there’s no one worth rooting for in its pantheon of prop-ah villains and the dialogue isn’t much to write home about. Then again, this is a film that speaks with its fists.

**Phil de Semlyen**

**STEEL COUNTRY**
If you’re still giddy from Andrew Scott’s turn in ‘Fleabag’, his new indie thriller will be a real buzzkill. He plays Donny, a sanitation-lorry driver in Rust Belt America. He’s antisocial and manic – possibly Asperger’s (the film doesn’t say) – and when a boy goes missing from one of the homes he services, he turns unexpectedly sleuth. There are major plot holes (why does anyone give him any information?) and a morgue sequence that’s dazzlingly ill-conceived, but it’s Scott’s own erratic depiction of this damaged loner that jars the most.

**Phil de Semlyen**

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**THE TEN BEST POP-UPS AND FESTIVALS THIS WEEK**

1. **‘Still Walking + Q&A’**
Japanese master Hirokazu Kore-eda jets in to kick off a BFI season of his gorgeous films with a live Q&A.
   → BFI Southbank. Waterloo. Tue Apr 16, 6.30pm. £12.50.

2. **‘The Long Good Friday’**
Bob Hoskins in career-best, shittin’-the-Mafia form in this London crime classic.
   → BFI Southbank. Fri Apr 19, 9.45pm. £12.

3. **‘The Man Who Stole Barnsley’**
Bertha DocHouse screens this film about elusive wall-botherer Barnsley.
   → Crucian Community Centre. Sun Apr 21, 7.30pm. £10.

4. **‘Chaplin’**
The Robert Downey Jr-starring biopic plays in the building where the real Chaplin once lived.

5. **‘Janbal’ + Q&A’**
This Czech surrealist horror fairy tale comes courtesy of the Zodiac Film Club.
   → The Castle Cinema. Homerton Overground. Wed Apr 17, 9pm. £10.

6. **‘Mean Girls’**
Make brunch happen at this screening of the Tina Fey-penned catty classic. There’s fizz and food on hand for those who fancy a treat.
   → The Exhibit. Balham. Fri Apr 19, 3.30pm. £8 (film only).

7. **‘Incredibles 2’**
A chance to catch up with Edna Mode and co at this free family-friendly screening. You deserve it, dahling.
   → Buxpark Croydon. Fri Apr 19, 3pm. Free.

8. **‘HIS WEEK’**
While at Greta’s apartment, Frances soon stumbles upon a cupboard full of handbags just like the one she found on the train. When she starts to distance herself from her new friend on the advice of her flatmate (Maika Monroe of ‘It Follows’), Greta unleashes her inner stalker.

**Greer McNally**

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**Arnie All-Nighter**
If, like us, you think nothing says Easter like an Austrian with a rocket launcher, good news: the Prince Charles is hosting a Schwarzenegger-thon this weekend. Expect to see all the action classics. Please observe the rules on food, drink and grenades.

→ Prince Charles Cinema. Leicester Square. Sat Apr 20, 9.15pm. £20.
Have a big one this bank hols!

Great parties abound every bank holiday. Here are 13 of the best

**THURSDAY**

**Alexis Taylor at the Jazz Cafe**
As well as playing a major part in Hot Chip, over the last few years endearingly nerdy-looking synth king Taylor has produced sterling work with his About Group improv project, performed the songs of William Onyeabor and set dance floors alight as a DJ—which he’ll be doing again this Easter at Camden’s Jazz Cafe. Make the most of no work on Friday and dance the night away to a wide-ranging set featuring party bangers, indie anthems and hopefully the odd Hot Chip favourite or two. Do it, do it, do it, do it now.

→ **Jazz Cafe, 5 Parkway.** Camden Town. £10–£15.

**Fabric XX: John Digweed (All Night Long)**
Fabric’s twentieth-anniversary celebrations continue over the Easter weekend, with legendary dance DJ John Digweed taking the reins for a whole eight hours—from 11pm to 7am—for the first time. Revellers can expect an eclectic set that covers music from the last two decades since his debut at the institution back in October 1999. Get your four-day weekend off to a bang and bag yourself a ticket sharpish.

→ **Fabric, 77 Charterhouse St.** Farringdon. £25.

**DJ Harvey – All Night Long**
In these horrendously divided times, society cravenly needs a totemic figure to rally around. We nominate Harv: the Brit DJ legend whose shamanic disco status has made him an icon for both young disco aficionados as well as those old enough to remember his original rollercoaster stint at Ministry as a late ’90s resident. Harv plays all night in The Box, because that’s what he does best.

→ **Ministry of Sound.** Elephant & Castle.

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Horse Meat Disco... Up on the Roof**
The obscenely funky and highly acclaimed DJ crew step out from their long-running Sunday session at Eagle London to host this 12-hour party at Brixton’s Prince of Wales. The Horsemen play twice across the night—first up on the venue’s roof before finishing in the clubb later.

→ **Prince of Wales, 467 Brixton Rd.** Brixton. £20.

**Abba Disco Wonderland**
Take a chance on this club night and spend the evening celebrating everything Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid. As well as working their way through the band’s back catalogue, the DJs will be spinning the best soul and disco classics from the era. The venue—Lightbox in Vauxhall—will also be undergoing a Studio 54 makeover. So prepare yourself to dance the night away beneath the surely obligatory mirror ball.

→ **Lightbox, 6 South Lambeth Place.** Vauxhall. £12.
Globetrotting with Bradley Zero
Rhythm Section head honcho Bradley Zero’s XOYO residency continues in style over the Easter weekend, with world music legend Gilles Peterson joining him behind the turntables at the Old Street club for a night of eclectic exploration. The sounds of the African continent will be blasting in the second room courtesy of Awesome Tapes From Africa, while Brilliant Corners’ resident Donna Leake completes the evening’s bill. ➔ XOYO, 32-37 Cowper St. Old St. £21-£25.

Choose Love x Dance For Refuge
Easter’s not just about eating your body weight in chocolate and partying for four nights straight (although there aren’t many better ways to spend it, tbh). This Good Friday, you can rave it up while helping to raise money for a worthy cause. Me Me Me label boss Man Power, Feel My Bicep’s Brassica and Field Maneuvers resident Iona will be taking to the decks at Mick’s Garage in Hackney Wick, with all profits going to the charity Help Refugees. ➔ Mick’s Garage, 8 Queen’s Yard, Hackney Wick O2 Transport Lakeside. £7.

Little Gay Brother’s Easter Rave
Omeara near London Bridge should get ready for an egg-cellent queer Easter rave where absolutely anything goes. The bastions of LGBT+ and inclusive clubbing Little Gay Brother know how to put on one heck of a party, complete with drag shows, striking dancers and perfectly pitched house and disco sets – including one from bonafide London legend Wes Baggaley – that don’t quit until the early hours. It’s fabulously random fun, hun. ➔ Omeara, 6 O’Meara St. Borough. £20.

SATURDAY

Wiggle’s 25th Birthday Sillybration
Turning a quarter of a century deserves a big ol’ bash, and acid house mavens Wiggle are doing just that to mark making it to 25. The label-slash-club night’s founders Terry Francis, Nathan Coles and Evil Eddie Richards will be taking over the main space at The Cause in Tottenham, with two other rooms on full throttle if you want to switch up the vibe. Get a wiggle on, basically. ➔ The Cause, Ashley House. Tottenham Hale. £15-£25.

Choose Yr Own Adventure
Alcohol-free and clubbing do go together as this sober-themed LGBT+ party shows, with no booze but plenty of party-flavoured beats to keep you going. It’s held at Peckham’s DIY Space for London and the focus is very much on a safe, sober and fun space for LGBT+ communities. The sober theme is taken seriously, and the organisers ask punters not to drink (or indulge in other naughty intoxicants) before entry. Once there you can, of course, still get your grove on to bangers from Robyn, Janelle Monáe, Rihanna, Ladytron and MIA. ➔ DIY Space for London, 96-108 Osmi’s. South Bermondsey rail. Free-£7.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Sunday Disco Festival
If the bank holis weren’t reason enough to celebrate, it’s also Fever 105’s sixth birthday, so Oval Space is going all out to throw a cracker of an Easter/Sunday bash that lasts into the wee hours. Dig out your disco shirt and hit the floor for Inner City hits from the iconic film before DJs through a repertoire littered with ‘90s house. House band The Beekays will be blasting in the second room for a night of eclectic exploration. ➔ Oval Space, 29-32 The Oval, Cambridge Heath O2 Transport Lakeside. £15-£25.

Fleetmac Wood at Fabric:
If you’ve never experienced Fleetmac Wood before, you’re in for a treat. This isn’t some run-of-the-mill tribute act, but rather a pair of DJs that have gone their own way and re-framed the music of the legendary rock band for the dance floor. Remixes and edits abound that will leave you dancing to Nick’s and McKie’s luscious vocals long into the early hours. ➔ Fabric, 77a Charterhouse St. Farringdon. £18-£25.

Hit It! A Blues Brothers Bank Holiday Special
The Blues Kitchen in Shoreditch is channelling all things Jake and Elwood for its Easter Sunday get-down. House band The Beekays will be taking to the stage and running through a repertoire littered with hits from the iconic film before DJs spin funk, soul and rock ‘n’ roll until the wee hours. Head down early, don a free trilby and pair of shades to help you get fully in the groove. ➔ Blues Kitchen, 134-146 Curtain Rd. Old St. £6.
A pril 16 ñ 22 2019

**SO YOU’VE NEVER BEEN TO**

Beckenham Place

**In a nutshell...**
An impressive south London Georgian stately home that’s been reclaimed by local artists, yogis and ravers.

**Where is it?**
Set in a sprawling ancient woodland 15 minutes’ walk from Beckenham Junction station. The mansion and grounds have been everything from a World War II prisoner of war camp to, more recently, a golf course.

**What’s the vibe?**
Slightly crumbling masonry and polished wooden floors give the mansion an otherworldly charm. It serves the community as a space for yoga classes and local artists, and doubles up as an excellent party space programmed by the guys behind Peckham’s trendy Bussey Building.

**What makes it a great venue?**
Its woodland setting makes it feel like a magical retreat from the city, and it even has its own secret music shop, Cigarette Records, run by local Owain Jones. In winter it’s a prime spot for cosy low-lit raving, but this venue really comes into its own in the summer, when it hosts everything from day festivals to live jazz on the terrace.

**What’s the booze situation?**
At raves there’s a standard bar serving all your usual beers, wines and spirits. In summer it’s pretty glorious to soak up the sun and some sweet reggae and jazz with a couple of tinnies.

**What’s coming up there soon?**
On July 27, modern jazz celebration Naked City Festival will take over Beckenham Place with performances from the likes of LTJ Bukem, Alexander Nut, Moses Boyd and Neneh Cherry. Taking place on three intimate stages around the park, the festival arrives just in time for the opening of the brand new giant natural swimming lake. Hampstead Ponds will be shook. ■ Hayley Joyes

GIGS AND CLUBS

**Bleep43**
An arched, brick-ceilinged crypt in Clerkenwell plays host to a host of Warp-affiliated artists, at an event which takes the concept of the ‘ambient room’ from clubland’s past as its inspo. Techno emperor Surgeon plays as part of The Transcendence Orchestra, amongst other acts. It’s a house of God, so it’s BYOB (or you can have a nice cup of tea).

→ The Crypt on the Green. Apr 27.

**The Dingwalls Weekender**
See Matt Maltese, Audiobooks, First Hate and so much more indie talent at this FREE fest, which runs from 2pm-10pm each day.

→ Dingwalls. May 3.

**Big Fish Little Fish**
The family that raves together, stays together. Don’t hold us to that, but do consider bringing your little ones to this established and responsible kid rave, featuring sets from The Orb and London Electricity.

→ Fabric. May 12.

**CHRISTEEENE**
Making a very overdue case for the underrated genius of Sinéad O’Connor, explosive US singer and transgressive icon Christeeene will perform all of SOC’s debut album ‘The Lion and the Cobra’. Awesomely, she will be joined by likeminded souls Peaches and Fever Ray.

→ Barbican. Sep 22.

**Tame Impala**
Kevin Parker continues his crusade to take psychedelic rock into the mainstream. Expect big dollops of new ‘Patience’, due soon.

→ The 02. Jun 8.

**Beat-Herder**
This cute Lancashire fest drops its 2019 line-up, which features Rudimental, Groove Armada, a DJ set from Basement Jaxx and Purple Disco Machine.


**OnBlackheath**
Jamiroquai and Grace Jones are your headliners for this chilled, fam-friendly fest – which also boasts a soulful supporting cast including The Roots, Rag’n’Bone Man, UB40, Soul II Soul, Morcheeba and more.


**The Babylon Soundtrack – Live**
Aswad’s Brinsley Forde and dub deity Dennis Bovell recreate the soundtrack to the 1980 London-set film.


**Nilüfer Yanya**
Super-fascinating singer breathing fresh life into guitar pop, and currently riding high with new album ‘Miss Universe’.

→ 02 Shepherd’s Bush Empire. Nov 19.

**Bushstock**
Organised every year by Communion Records, this fun one-dayer sees scores of venues in and around Shepherd’s Bush become stages for a roaming festival – boasting a bubbling cast of rock-, indie- and folk-flecked acts like Gang Of Youths, Balcony, Eloise, Ferris and Sylvester, Hot Dreams and Ider.


**RÜFÜS DU SOL**
A Goldenvoice presentation in association with Leisurely, CAA and Rose Avenue

**Tourist**
WILLARIS. K
25 October • London Alexandra Palace
rufusdusol.com • goldenvoice.co.uk • dice.fm

Buy tickets at timeout.com/gigs
Shen Yun? Is that the show with all the posters everywhere? That’s the one. Notably, amid the dementedly hyperbolic endorsements (‘The orchestra is phenomenal’, ‘They are very very on top’, ‘Absolutely the No 1 show in the world’), there isn’t really any explanation of what the show actually involves, and professional critics are not invited as a rule.

So what do we know about it, then? Not mentioned in Shen Yun’s advertising – although freely explained on its website – is that it’s affiliated with Falun Dafa (better known as Falun Gong), a Chinese spiritual practice that doesn’t believe in evolution but does believe that Chinese civilisation was divinely inspired. The sect emerged in 1992 and rapidly became an enormous – albeit entirely peaceful – success. Then China’s atheist ruling Communist Party outlawed it and by all accounts has been viciously cracking down on it since 1999.

If it’s banned in China, is it technically even Chinese? Shen Yun is based in New York State and was set up by Chinese expats. It has six companies that tour the globe furiously, and each city it visits is blitzed by the same barrage of full-bore display advertising. It is somewhat celebratory of pre-Communism Chinese culture, although – as the New Yorker’s illuminating recent article on the company points out – China does not have a long tradition of the type of classical dance the show trades in.

Is there anti-Chinese government propaganda in the show? Yes. A monstrous Chairman Mao! A tsunami with the face of Karl Marx! A section on the Chinese government’s alleged harvesting of the organs of Falun Dafa prisoners! These are all things you will apparently see in the show.

Right. So is it meant to be any good? From what we’ve heard, the weirder stuff is liable to sail over the heads of most Western audiences, which means you’re mostly left with a kitschily excessive classical dance show, performed to a high skill level, set against a retina-searing digital display. Exactly what Shen Yun is trying to achieve is somewhat open to interpretation. Certainly it exists to spread the word of Falun Dafa, but there is no suggestion it is actually trying to recruit anybody. It’s almost certainly completely harmless, but it is undeniably pretty odd.

Shen Yun is at Eventim Apollo Hammersmith. Mon Apr 22–May 1. £62–£138.

By Andrzej Lukowski

If it’s banned in China, is it technically even Chinese? 

Illustration Anne Gerrish

You’ve seen the marketing, but what’s the story behind Shen Yun, the ‘world’s premier classical Chinese dance and music company’? 

Illustration Anne Gerrish
**CIRCUS IS TRICKY** to get right, and not just on a practical, technical level. Too many shows try to foist a faulty concept on top of what is essentially just some very talented athletes doing some very difficult things. It’s a relief, then, that Australian circus company (all circus companies seem to be Australian – it’s like a national sport over there) Gravity and Other Myths’ show ‘A Simple Space’ keeps things, well, simple. Originally debuting in 2013, and now arriving at Underbelly Festival on the South Bank with a new cast, it involves just seven performers (four guys, three girls) on a small square stage, doing impressive things with their equally impressive bodies.

They cram a lot into an hour, and there’s a real sense that they are pushing themselves to the limit, that things might go wrong; and they do, if only occasionally. Ashleigh Pearce does the splits on high, balancing on the heads of two fellow performers, themselves balanced on the shoulders of two more. André Augustus solves a Rubik’s Cube while doing a headstand. Musician Alex Flood, who supplies a fidgety electronic score live, also gets his bare-chested moment in the spotlight, drumming insanely fast rhythms with clicks, claps and chest-slaps.

They perform with an immense sense of competitive fun as well. There’s a bit when they all do headstands and challenge the audience to knock them over by chucking plastic balls at them. There’s a bit when Annalise Moore and Lisa Goldsworthy choose two male audience members and see who can hold them aloft the longest. There’s even a bit of strip-skipping – trip over the rope and lose an item of clothing.

The show’s *coup de grâce* comes at the end, though, when Pearce and Moore are tossed about like rag dolls by the other five cast members in a genuinely jaw-dropping display of synchronicity and strength. Which, if you ask me, is just what circus should be.

---

**WHAT IS IT...**

This stripped-back Aussie circus show returns to headline Underbelly Festival.

**WHY GO...**

It’s great fun, heavy on skill, light on bells and whistles.

**BOOK...**

Buy tickets from www.timeout.com

> Underbelly Festival.
> Waterloo. Until May 5.
> £17.50-£28.

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**A Simple Space**

**5/5**

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**Pah-La**

Deshar (Milicent Wong) is a young Tibetan nun with anger issues. And when her nunery is dissolved by Daniel York Loh’s malevolent Chinese policeman Deng she decides – and this is a fairly major spoiler – to immolate herself. That’s just the first half of Abhishek Majumdar’s fictionalised take on the Lhasa riots of 2008. The second half shows the aftermath of her act: violent, often literally incendiary.

There’s a bit that things might go wrong: and they do, if only occasionally. That’s just the first half of Abhishek Majumdar’s fictionalised take on the Lhasa riots of 2008. The second half shows the aftermath of her act: violent, often literally incendiary.

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**Keep Watching**

You’re being watched. But you knew that, right? CCTV cameras, targeted online advertising, Oyster bleeps mapping every journey. An awareness of being constantly monitored isn’t exactly new. Which makes it all the more impressive that the Engineer Theatre Collective manage to take this subject in a genuinely surprising direction. It starts predictably enough. Kat (Beatrice Scirocchi) is a lonely A&E nurse balancing being screeched at in the hospital with lonely microwaved dinners. It all feels a bit too ‘isn’t modern life shite?’. But just when you think you’ve got the measure of the piece, it veers off to a much more interesting place. Ultimately (without spoilers) ‘Keep Watching’ asks if, despite the protestations, there’s a dynamic being watched that people like. Isn’t there something just a little bit nice about knowing you’re never alone? Rosemary Waugh

> Royal Court Theatre. Until Apr 27.

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**Toast**

Consider this ‘Nigel Slater: The Origin Story’. ‘Toast’ is playwright Henry Filloux-Bennett’s loving adaptation of the food writer’s memoir of the same name, which turns a spotlight on the tragedy-tinged childhood of Nigel (Gary Cooper) in the 1960s West Midlands. It covers the early death of his mum and his often awful relationship with his grieving, increasingly violent dad.

Filloux-Bennett’s script sometimes bounces too breathlessly between major events. But where it succeeds is in capturing the intoxicating, engrossing pleasure of food that the real-life Slater turns into mouth-watering poetry in his cookbooks. The cast pass cakes and sweets to the audience, tickling memories as well as taste-buds. And a pivotal scene when Nigel invents a recipe and makes it from scratch on stage packs a genuine wallop. It’s a well-seasoned ending.


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**Tooth**

4/5

See the review in the current issue for details.

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**Pah-La**

Deshar (Milicent Wong) is a young Tibetan nun with anger issues. And when her nunery is dissolved by Daniel York Loh’s malevolent Chinese policeman Deng she decides – and this is a fairly major spoiler – to immolate herself. That’s just the first half of Abhishek Majumdar’s fictionalised take on the Lhasa riots of 2008. The second half shows the aftermath of her act: violent, often literally incendiary retaliations from native Tibetans upon Chinese settlers and other minorities – including, it would seem, Deng’s daughter. ‘Pah-La’ is an admirably ambitious work that quite clearly tries to cram in far, far too much. It might have made sense in a bigger theatre, where a more epic treatment might have given the tail-slip script more room to breathe. Still, as Tibet has steadily drifted out of Western discourse, it feels important that ‘Pah-La’ exists. Andrzej Lukowski

> Royal Court Theatre. Until Apr 27.

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**Keep Watching**

4/5

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**Toast**

4/5

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> The Other Palace. Until Aug 3.
NEW SHOWS
THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

A Man of Good Hope
Isango Ensemble’s refugee narrative uses a joyous fusion of African musical styles.
→ Royal Opera House.
≡ Covent Garden.
Until May 4. £7–£35.

The Passion of Jesus
Forget the choccy eggs: this outdoor crucifixion re-enactment – with real donkeys – is as Easterly as it gets.

SS Mendi
This second show from Isango Ensemble is a boldly staged, operatic story of a South African naval disaster.
→ Royal Opera House.
≡ Covent Garden.
Until May 4. £7–£35.

Sweet Charity
Anne-Marie Duff and Arthur Darvill star in Josie Rourke’s big-budget swansong as Donmar boss.
→ Donmar Warehouse.
≡ Covent Garden.
Until Jun 8. £10–£55.

Funeral Flowers
An emotive, poetic solo show about a teenage girl in care.
→ The Bunker Theatre.
≡ London Bridge. Until May 4. £15, £10–£12 concs.

Night of the Living Dead – Live!
Scare yourself silly at this cult horror show.
→ Pleasance Theatre.

Three Sisters
Fresh from winning an Olivier, Patsy Ferran stars in Cordelia Lynn’s spin on Chekhov.
→ Almeida Theatre.
≡ Highbury & Islington. Until Jun 1. £10–£42.50.

Tumulus
A new thriller about a murder on London’s chemsex scene.
→ Soho Theatre.
≡ Tottenham Court Rd. Tue Apr 16–May 4. £13–£19.

Motown the Musical
Catch this jukebox hit before the party stops.
→ Shaftesbury Theatre.
≡ Tottenham Court Rd. Until Sat Apr 20.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS
ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Come from Away
Set in Newfoundland in the aftermath of 9/11, this Canadian hit is a heart-lifting hymn to the power of community, kindness and lumberjack shirts.

2 Wicked
With magical special effects and a bewitching score, no one’s gonna bring these singing witches down.

3 Betrayal
Tom Hiddleston’s star turn makes this the hottest ticket in town.
→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Until Jun 8.

4 The Book of Mormon
The filthy musical satire.

5 Where Is Peter Rabbit?
A whimsical bunny-based kids’ show.

FOR TICKETS TO THE BEST SHOWS AT GREAT PRICES
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EXCLUSIVE
Get opening week tickets to ‘The War of the Worlds’ – a brand-new immersive experience based on Jeff Wayne’s soundtrack. Tickets from just £39.50.
→ TIMEOUT.COM/WOTW
Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
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SHOW OF THE WEEK

Hito Steyerl: ‘Power Plants’ ★★★★★

ART CAN BE a weapon. And what at first seems like some unintelligibly complicated and dense neutron bomb in this exhibition by German artist Hito Steyerl eventually reveals itself to be as powerfully direct and brutally effective as a club to the head.

For this show, Steyerl has created a horticultural neural network, apps and a series of documentary films that tear at ideas of social inequality and power imbalance. The area around the Serpentine Gallery is deeply divided. Kensington & Chelsea is home to Billionaire’s Row and sprawling housing estates, to the vast wealth of Kensington Palace and the injustice of Grenfell. It’s the perfect place to start.

One of the apps Steyerl has developed visualises the data of that inequality. Point your phone or one of the iPads on display at the cryptic sigils dotted around the gallery and you can see the truth of what’s happening around you. There are quotes and stories from campaign groups in the area, architectural models of social imbalance. It’s pure digital grimness.

WHAT IS IT...
Social inequality made visible and lushly beautiful.

WHY GO ...
Steyerl mixes nature and data to shocking effect.

▷ Serpentine Sackler.
่อ Lancaster Gate.
Until May 5. Free.

One set of films follows locals campaigners on a walk in the park, talking about living in such a shockingly polarised environment. Suddenly your plush surroundings are tinged with discomfort.

The rest of the gallery is filled with screens showing gently moving flowers and plants. Created by a neural network, each image is a prediction of how that organism is destined to evolve. It’s a vision set 0.04 seconds in the future, a future where seeds are sprouting from the destruction of the world around us.

The whole gallery space is dark, filled with cryptic symbols, hovering technology and blooming nature. Somehow, Steyerl has combined all these disparate elements into a cohesive, beautiful whole. This is art that questions, exposes and attacks power structures. Steyerl uses technology to lay off the skin of an unjust society and uncover the corrupt flesh underneath. Above all, though, it looks incredible. Steyerl is swinging her art like a club, and you can feel every blow.
Who is artificially intelligent, but actually quite stupid.

By Eddy Frankel

†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.

†Joan Cornellá: I’m Good Thanks†
The mega-popular cartoonist turns his hand to art, and somehow manages to lose none of his surreal, grotesque sense of humour in the process.

†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.

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now

There are loads more reviews at
timeout.com/art

April 16 – 22 2019 Time Out London
Joan Snyder: ‘Rosebuds & Rivers’

‘FEMINISTS DON’T WEAR
Pink and Other Lies’ is a recently published collection of essays edited by Scarlett Curtis. The title acknowledges the depressing truth that when we talk about women or femininity we often start by responding to the stereotypes stuck like discarded cat hairs to the word ‘female’. And, following this logic, works of art involving the colour made from mixing red with white or other ‘girly’ things (teddy bears, lipsticks, glitter paint) are often explained as ‘subversive reclaimings’ or ‘ironic appropriations’, that sort of thing.

Joan Snyder’s heavily textured, wall-based artworks, exhibited at Blain Southern in the artist’s first ever solo UK show, are dripping with ‘feminine’ juices: thick clots of fuchsia, rows of roses, a random velvet bra strap and, yes, glitter. Lots of glitter.

But despite being made from sugar and spice and all things nice (sometimes literally – one painting here has Chinese herbs stuck to it), Snyder’s works never feel like they’re responding to an aggressive subtweet about female artists or functioning as a visual apology for gender stereotypes. They’re female, but they’re not all that bothered about being so.

If there is something that ‘Rosebuds and Rivers’ is properly concerned with, it’s nature. Those basic Valentine’s blooms float in a muddy soup of soil clods, burlap shreds and seed heads. Snyder’s paintings aren’t the corsage on a bridesmaid’s dress, they’re the boggy field where frothy cow parsley grows alongside vicious brambles and nasty nettles.

And the best thing about the works – which doesn’t come across in reproductions – is how sculptural they are. Poppy seed pods coated in high-gloss paint jut out like lollipops, a glop of violent red resembles a pomegranate pummelled to death on the canvas, and a bulge of jellied eggs ripples from an opening. Forget trying to decide what they look like and start imagining what they feel like. ■ Rosemary Waugh

WHAT IS IT...
Gorgeous abstract paintings that are thick and gloopy.

WHY GO...
These are textured, stunning works of contemporary art.

➡ Blain Southern.
➡ Oxford Circus.
Queer Spaces

LIKE HALF-FORGOTTEN CRUSHES, some lost places might be sweeter to remember than they were at the time. Whitechapel Gallery’s glance into the spaces where London’s queer communities flirted and campaigned serves up a heavy dose of nostalgia. Its glass cases house an often-fascinating mix of flyers, photos and manifestos relating to ten wildly different venues, like quiche-centric vegetarian cafe First Out, perma-threatened pub The Joiners Arms, and the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre – a much-needed antidote to a white-dominated scene. And because the curators are specifically interested in gentrification’s role in erasing these spaces, there are also letters charting queer organisers’ struggle with the planning authorities who can’t or won’t understand their value.

Ironically for a show that’s all about contested space, there’s not really enough room in this one-room exhibition to do the subject justice. Lean in close and you’ll learn about the struggle of community organising, the painful fault-lines running through the spaces and the lives saved by a drag queen in a ramshackle bar. But other sections, like the one on unremarkable old-school gay pub The City of Quebec, show that queer isn’t synonymous with interesting. Works by queer artists are squeezed in among the cases. They’re often playful: like Prem Sahib’s Roman-style tribute to lost gay sauna Chariots. They’re not quite enough to stop this exhibition feeling safe, rather than sweatily subversive. This is queer culture with a PG rating.

WHAT IS IT...
An archival history of London’s queer spaces.

WHY GO...
These places seriously matter.

Gerwald Rockenschaub

WITH LASER-CUT PRECISION, Gerwald Rockenschaub dances between abstraction and decoration. What I mean is that his glistening acrylic constructions are as much works of art as they are decorative objects: halfway between paintings and a Bakelite telephone.

Which isn’t a slight. They’re great. One series is a bunch of black-fronted long rectangles with coloured sides. The colourless abyss at the front is haloed by blue, pink and yellow light. Neat, pretty.

The bigger works are like ultra-minimal abstraction done by a computer, purely decorative, totally lovely.

Along the corridor here he’s screwed black acrylic squares directly to the walls in different configurations, making each blank space into a subtle composition.

The best moments come from the audio narratives, like Caro Smart’s story of her glory days in Stoke Newington squats, finding community and nipple-casting workshops with WANC (Women’s Anarchist Nuisance Cafe). Want to know why queer spaces are important? You won’t find the answers in letters back and forth with the council or in Word Art-decked flyers. What really matters is the invisible constellation of friendships and connections made by the people who danced through them, and fought for them. Alice Saville

WHAT IS IT...
Impeccably neat, shiny abstraction.

WHY GO...
It’s a lovely world of pure aesthetics.

Gerwald Rockenschaub

The smaller works upstairs – white canvases with pursed lips and flower shapes – are painfully naff, though, and the sculptural works are just dull. But the works downstairs are heavenly little islands of pure aesthetics. The perfect place to be when the world just gets too ugly and complicated. Eddy Frankel

WHAT IS IT...
A lovely world of pure aesthetics.

WHY GO...
It’s a lovely world of pure aesthetics.

Gerwald Rockenschaub

Gerwald Rockenschaub
Caractère

AS PEDIGREES GO, it takes some beating. Caractère is the debut from Emily Roux (granddaughter of Albert, daughter of Michel Roux Jr: they of three-Michelin-starred Le Gavroche fame) and her husband Diego Ferrari (the Italian-born, French-trained former head chef of Le Gavroche). To say that they know what they’re doing is a little like saying the Moon is big or that mornings on the Northern Line can be a little bit cosy. From the moment you step in, the cold wind kept out by one of those clever door curtains, you get a good feeling. Roux, though herself a trained chef, is not in the kitchen, but up front, leading a slick crew who have just that right balance of being able to weirdly predict your every need, while making you feel completely at home. They’re brilliant.

As for the food, it’s dainty, dazzling stuff. The Franco-Italian menu has six short sections, with poetic names like ‘curious’, ‘robust’ and ‘subtle’. Don’t miss the celeriac cacio e pepe. It’s become something of a signature and with good reason: the sauce is every bit as creamy, cheesy and peppery as you’d want, but comes locked in an embrace, not with strands of wheat, but of a pile of mandolin-thin celeriac shavings, delicately sweet, beautifully al dente. It was one of those dishes that makes you wonder why the combo hasn’t been done before, and genuinely sorry when it was all gone.

There was also a pair of perfect scallops, their edges the colour of sweetshop toffees, laid gently in a puddle of buttercup yellow beurre blanc. Also on the plate: a bundle of braised, beautifully bitter, claret-red radiccio and the odd toasted hazelnut. This was classic, carefully composed stuff, with myriad tastes and textures in every mouthful. It carried through to pud: a crisp stack of mille-feuille fit for a Parisian patisserie.

This might all sound a bit frou-frou. But here’s the thing. Caractère is smart, yes. But it’s not stuffy. Instead, the dining room is handsome with a stylish edge: all sleek, dark woods, sumptuous drapes and plush furniture, like the man-cave of a boutique hotel. The vibe is warm and buzzy. And all at a price tag that, while pricy (the £39 set lunch is the most affordable way in), is still not bad value given what you’re getting.

The Ledbury, just a short stroll down the road but almost twice the price, had better watch its back. There’s a new kid in town.

WHAT IS IT...
A neighbourhood restaurant from Emily Roux and ex-Le Gavroche chef Diego Ferrari.

WHY GO...
For the celeriac cacio e pepe. Eating your veg never tasted so good.

By Tania Ballantine
Who’s rather partial to a sweetshop toffee.

REVIEW

★★★★★

Caractère

• 209 Westbourne Park Rd, W11 1EA.  Westbourne Park.

Food
Gunpowder
Tower Bridge

SITTING GLAMOROUSLY beside Tower Bridge, this is the second branch of Gunpowder, the home-style Indian sharing-plates joint. Split over two floors, this riverside spot is much bigger than the Spitalfields original, and it has a more stylish, contemporary design (polished marble floors, vintage red leather seating), jazzily offset by a soundtrack of old-school Indian tracks. Better yet, on the midweek night of our visit, it was buzzing.

Head chef Nirmal Save has introduced new dishes here, like intriguing-sounding grilled black oysters. But the most impressive newbie was the duck leg. A hunk of tender meat arrived slathered in a sweet and spicy tomato sambal, with crisp parsnip ribbons for the contrast of sweetness and crunch.

There were also quirky new puns, like paneer-and-Oreo cheesecake (rich, creamy, with big biscuit chunks) or Old Monk rum baba: a moist syrup- and booze-soaked cake loaded with cream and fruit. But keep an eye out for signature dishes. The seared head of broccoli, blanched in a creamy, tangy sauce, is a must. As is the succulent grilled tandoori chicken. And for a welcome respite from the heat of those dishes, order the pretty aloo chaat (chickpeas and potatoes with a sour-salty spice mix and yoghurt).

The duo behind Gunpowder closed down their other restaurants, Gul & Sepoy and Madame D, to focus on this spin-off and it’s paid off, not just in the food and setting, but in the swift, welcoming service. Tower Bridge: you’ve finally got the destination restaurant you’ve been waiting for.

■ Kavi Shah

DINNER FOR TWO WITH DRINKS AND SERVICE: AROUND £95.

WHAT IS IT?
A second outing for the Indian small-plates restaurant.

WHY GO?
For the duck leg. And parsnip crisps. Oh, and the duck leg.

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Enjoy a North African meal at Souk for a special price—a three-course menu and a glass of prosecco for just £19.

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EXCLUSIVE

BENITO’S HAT

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And shout?
Um, no. It’s actually a restaurant that first opened in 2014 as Twist at Crawford (it’s on Marylebone’s Crawford Street) but later became just ‘Twist’. The food is tapas with – you guessed it – a twist.

Meaning?
Essentially, modern tapas. Modish, but not outlandish.

So is the food any good?
More than that: it’s amazing. From Sicilian red prawns served like a sashimi salad (cold, with thick slices of Japanese scallops, slivers of cucumber and a sharp dressing) to crunchy, warmly spiced ‘nduja croquettes or fatty-edged lamb chops with a burnt aubergine purée, this is some of the best tapas in town. Even the ‘Josperised’ (deliberately burnt) hispi cabbage came ‘spritzed’ at the table with a chilli and garlic oil.

Sounds a bit fancy.
True, the dishes can be. But the place itself is ultra-casual and buzzy, while the look is rustic chic: worn wooden floors, unpainted plaster walls, copper-pipe wine racks. Plus warm, low lighting (bare filament bulbs, obvs). It’s gloriously atmospheric.

I feel a ‘but’ coming...
Service, sadly, isn’t as warm as the setting. On our visit, staff were a tad brusque, and the wait between plates was like hanging on for the right Overground train. But do go (with a thick skin and plenty of time): the food and vibe are absolutely worth it. ■

Tania Ballantine

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £125.

→ 42 Crawford St, W1H 1JW. Edgware Rd.

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Lyaness

Sea Containers, 20 Upper Ground, SE1 9PD. Blackfriars.

MOST PEOPLE EMBRACE the mantra 'If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.' Not Mr Lyan. London’s leading mixologist has built up bars only to tear them down at their height, like some boozy oligarch. Okay, he’s not that: Ryan Chetiyawardana is a scientist with a snappy dress sense and a fresh approach to cocktails, who was shaping the conversation around sustainability long before the debate about the the straw in your drink. Going the way of the game-changing White Lyan and Super Lyan before it, South Bank hotel bar Dandelyan – declared the ‘World’s Best Bar’ just six months ago – is his latest victim. He’s flipped the glossy space in ten days, and Lyaness now takes its place.

Clearly, reinvention is part of the scientific approach, but what does it mean for a diehard Dandelyan fan? Superficially, not a lot. Lyaness is in the same spot, run by the same team with the same aim – crafting awesome drinks that make you think. The powder-blue makeover adds freshness, but the layout mostly remains the same. The real overhaul is saved for the menu – seven newly created ingredients feature, with three different drinks made from each. Components like ‘Infinite Banana’ and ‘King Monkey Nut’ are a level up from the leather, concrete and cardboard that Mr Lyan’s used in cocktails before. Page-long blurbs accompany each souped-up ingredient and when I asked a staff member about the ‘Ultra Raspberry’ in my Snap Crackle Bellini, I got a speech about ‘parmigiano water’ that I really didn’t understand.

Letting the drinks do the talking pays off better. Especially with the White Sbaglito, a sparkling, super-zingy drink using power ingredient ‘Purple Pineapple’. Or the Peach Blow Fizz, a sprightly summery number filled with fruit flavours, clarified cream and ‘Onyx’, a new koji liquor made by Mr Lyan in collaboration with Empirical Spirits.

As our farmers know all too well: no pain, no grain.

They say nothing worth having comes easy. Unfortunately for our farmers that’s true of the barley we use to brew our beers. We use a classic variety called Golden Promise. But this grain is a particularly hard one to grow, and our exacting specification makes it even more difficult. Which makes it a costly ingredient and a real challenge even for experienced farmers. Luckily we can offer some liquid therapy.

All for that taste of Taylor’s
IF THE GREAT outdoors is calling, Turville has you covered. This tiny village near Henley-on-Thames has one pub, one church and one hell of a countryside setting. Wrapped in Chiltern Hills greenery and dotted with sixteenth-century cottages, Turville’s looks have landed it a bunch of TV roles. It was the perfect rural setting for ‘The Vicar of Dibley’ and where Villanelle embarked on a murderous chase in ‘Killing Eve’.

First up
Stretch your legs with a walk up to the Cobstone Windmill, which features in ‘Chitty Chitty Bang Bang’. Take the footpath between the church and the green – it’s a steep climb, but the lofty views over Turville and the Chilterns are worth it.

Stop for lunch
Swing by Turville’s half-timbered pub The Bull & Butcher. Expect proper pies, real ales and an interior that’s all open fires and original beams. The garden is the place to be on a sunny day, and four-legged friends are welcome. But Turville’s only pub gets busy, so book before you turn up.

Drink like a local
From The Bull & Butcher, you can walk a 3.5-mile loop and tick off two more cracking pubs in neighbouring villages. Head south into Great Wood towards Skirmett, where The Frog Inn awaits. Then follow the Chiltern Way up through Adams Wood to The Chequers Inn at Fingest.

Soak up the vibes
For a pin-drop-peaceful walk, head towards Turville Heath, where Lord Sainsbury’s manor is tucked away. Even the café here is car-free to keep things quiet. The Barn at Turville Heath serves drinks and snacks to walkers, cyclists and horse riders – via an honesty box on weekdays.

Splash the cash
Unless you need a new saddle for your horse, you won’t find much in the way of retail therapy in Turville. But head south towards Henley-on-Thames and you can shop for fine wines or book a tasting experience at Chiltern Valley Winery and Brewery. It’s a ten-minute drive or a glorious 50-minute walk.

Star in a wholly wholesome weekend at timeout.com/daytrips

GET THERE
23 minutes by train from London Marylebone to High Wycombe, then taxi; around one hour 15 minutes by car.

→ Time Out London April 16 – 22 2019

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott

Time Out London

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White Pond Farm

If you’re not quite ready to leave the green and pleasant Chiltern Hills behind, bed down in this sweet seventeenth-century farmhouse. White Pond Farm is in a tiny woodland village on the edge of the grand and historic Stonor Park estate. It’s ten minutes’ drive from Turville, but shares its IMDB credentials – the farm has appeared in ‘Midsomer Murders’ and James Bond flick ‘The Living Daylights’. Book a cute barn-conversion cottage or a wing of the main house to savour all that super-photogenic peace and quiet.

Elie Walker-Arnott

Stonor, Oxfordshire.

From £375 for three nights.

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