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April 2019



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Inside

This week's Time Out
in no time at all

'All My Sons'

Sally Field and Bill Pullman lead a starry cast in The Old Vic's restrained but riveting take on Arthur Miller

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Five-star bar

Swing by Supermax in King's Cross for Italo disco, vermouth cocktails and cicchetti on the side. *Cin cin!*

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Movies on the River

The Time Out Movie Boat is back! Climb aboard to see old faves and new hits while cruising down the Thames

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Graveyard shift

Explore the science and the spookiness of sleep at Brompton Cemetery's London Dreaming Weekend. Theremin and gin included

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Bank holiday party time

Still recovering from Easter? Prepare to get the party restarted with our May Day weekend clubbing guide

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Hello, London

Caroline McGinn
Global Editor-in-Chief
@carolinemcginn



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TimeOut
LONDON



Hit the great outdoors

It's May tomorrow, which means we all get to work a four-day week twice in one month! And, much as we truly madly deeply love this dirty great city we're proud to call home, the wild is calling. So here are a bunch of weekend trips with a difference (p22): some are sandy, some are lazy, some are hippy, some are tasty, some are extreme and one contains an actual bear. But all are surprising and great. For those of us with some kind of urban Stockholm syndrome who can't or won't escape, there's a parade of London fun too. Chuck your keyboard out the window and JOIN US!

YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

Fancy sipping a cocktail on a replica Orient Express? Super-bar Mr Fogg's Society of Exploration is here. With TFL's no-booze rule, it's your only chance, MP or not.

'If we can't drink bevies on the DLR, the least London can provide us is some sort of train carriage.'

Cat S via Facebook

Staying with on-train drinking, immersive experts Supperclub.tube have kitted out a Vicky line carriage like a restaurant. Reaction? Mixed.

'My worst nightmare! Who would want to spend more time on an Underground train? Yay, sign me up, said no London commuter ever.'

Sarah LB via Facebook

Last week our theatre section rounded up events set to celebrate Shakespeare's 455th birthday. The Bard is ever-popular, but do we have a time traveller on our hands?

'He was my friend for some time in my life. Great fellow he is and deserves to be remembered for many centuries.'

Zorana SA via Facebook

Last week's cover story saw a lot of you fall in love with loaves. And our video of oil dripping seductively down sourdough had one reader ready for action.

'For some reason that looks really sexy. I want bread now.'

Jessica M via Facebook

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

Summer is nearly here. Our online feature about the best parks to barbecue in was met with cautious excitement.

Fingers were crossed for good weather, there were complaints about rubbish and one reader posted lovingly about his favourite portable barbecue. Not Glem, though...

'Smoke out everyone within a 30-metre radius so you can eat a half-burnt, half-uncooked sausage after half an hour of cooking. Thanks.'

Glem T via Facebook

Okay, *technically* you're right. But where's the fun in that? Nothing like a dose of botulism to make a rainy week fly by. Or maybe go vegan?

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TAKE

ON THE



D A Y

ARLA
SKYR
ICELANDIC
STYLE
YOGURT



City life

Edited by James Manning
@timeoutlondon

Tales of the city

LAST SUMMER, INVETERATE London party-starters Night Tales opened a permanent site in a former Hackney tram depot. Complete with tropical plants, street bites, cocktails and a dancefloor tucked under a railway arch, the new spot on Bohemia Place has already become a Hackney essential. This bank holiday weekend, Night Tales officially reopens its terrace for 2019, just in time for the summer sun (hopefully). Caribbean pros Mama's Jerk will be serving up food alongside pizza-slingers Sons of Slice and burger dons Nanny Bill's, and you'll be able to order a spritz or a frozen cocktail from two new bars. Plus, if you grab a ticket sharpish, you can catch Grainger, Theo Kottis or Soul Clap providing sounds until late on that under-arch dancefloor. If you're after Ibiza-style summer vibes without venturing beyond the M25, Tales is the place to head. ■ *James Manning*
→ Summer Terrace Launch Weekend. Night Tales. Hackney Central Overground. Thu May 2-Sun May 5. Free-£10.



THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



Eat this

Awesome supperclub **Bubala** pops up in Dalston this Sunday and Monday, with a fully veggie Mediterranean meze menu that includes halloumi and feta made right here in London.



Book this

If your summer hinges on Aperol spritzes, don't miss **The Big Spritz Social** (May 23-June 1): a boozey psychedelic dream with a revolving bar and bright orange hot tubs. Tickets go on sale today.



Support this

Raise money for London-based prison rehab charity **Switchback** by tucking into a Thursday night feast at **Soane's Kitchen** in Ealing, with everything cooked by young prison-leavers.

Discover more cool things to do at [timeout.com/news](https://www.timeout.com/news)

WORD
ON THE
STREET

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

THINGS YOU
ONLY
KNOW
IF YOU'RE AN...

Imam

Sabah Ahmedi, 25

Even teenagers can become imams

'I'm one of Britain's youngest imams. I started when I was 18. The training is quite rigorous – I learned Arabic and Urdu, spent seven years studying religion and theology and went to Africa for a month to learn about different cultures. If you've got the drive to see it through, then you're officially classed as an imam at the end, no matter what age you are.'

A robe and long beard aren't required

'When I tell people I'm an imam, they are usually shocked that I look like them. They're expecting an old man with a long white beard and a gown. But I don't think the length of your beard determines the level of your spirituality. The main thing is that you dress modestly, which applies equally to men and women, and that your clothes are clean, especially when you're leading prayers in the mosque.'

Most of the time, Islam doesn't prohibit men and women mixing

'I give spiritual advice to both sexes and there's no harm in us working together – though men and women do pray separately, because we see it as a time when you should be worshipping God without distractions. Imams can also get married: I am, and I recently became a proud parent to a little girl.'

There are some dangerous misconceptions out there

'A big part of my job is to engage with people to try and change stereotypes and attitudes about Muslims. Islamophobia is on the rise and it's something we need to deal with. I encourage people to ask me questions and try to explain that Islam is a religion of peace. Of the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, a very small minority are extremists. They don't represent our entire religion or beliefs.' ■ Interview by Dalia Dawood



'Yeah, I really want to go to Viagra Falls.'

'When I get anxious, my breath smells.'

'I didn't want to give him my turkey slices, but I saw him looking so I conceded.'

'The Yellow Pages is so retro.'

'I am Scottish, but I've only been to Scotland once.'

'The vegans are fine – it's the gluten-free mob I can't be doing with.'

'I don't want to take my worms to YouTube.'

'So I had to "hello and kind regards" him as if I'd never choked on his dick before.'

'I never eat muffins, except on planes.'

'He's hurt his Achilles heel.'

'I heard a baby squeal, and it was like a dog whistle to my ovaries.'

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IT HAPPENED HERE

Londoners look back on their funniest (mis)adventures in the city. This week: at a Soho STI clinic, *Tom Lucy* bumped into a familiar face from his school days

THERE'S NO EASY way of writing this: I frequently go to sexual health clinics. I visit them for check-ups, I should say – I'm not browsing or meeting friends for coffee. I also want to make it clear that I'm not a mid-2000s Russell Brand figure, gallivanting round Soho dispersing my seed as much as is physically and legally possible. Still, an old-fashioned English combination of anxiety and free time means I find myself at these clinics a fair amount.

My favourite (though I'm not entirely comfortable calling it that) is Dean Street Express in Soho. The perfect mix of accessibility and discretion, it looks more like a low-budget British film studio office than a seedy sexual infirmary. However, my last trip was memorable for all the wrong reasons.

To my horror, I bumped into someone I know in the clinic's horribly small waiting

room. I despise bumping into people I know in Sainsbury's, so to have it happen at an STI check-up centre was too much for me. To make matters worse, the man I bumped into was a teacher at my old school. Not my teacher, but a teacher nonetheless. I obviously won't name and shame, but this didn't come as a shock: the rumours about Mr Insert-Name-Here's out-of-school activities were rife, and now confirmed.

We sat next to each other on plastic chairs, surrounded by out-of-date lifestyle magazines, and had an appropriately awkward chat. Both of us completely refused to acknowledge where we were. Finally, a cubicle became free. He said goodbye and walked away, clutching a sample pot. Don't you just love a school reunion? ■

→ *'Tom Lucy: Reluctant Millennial'* is at Leicester Square Theatre. Ⓞ Leicester Square. Fri May 3. £15.25.



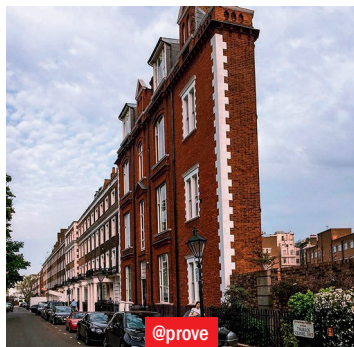
THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out readers have been Instagramming this week



@lity.eats.travels

'Hazelnut gelato with a bunny waffle from Dhan Waffle.'



@prove

'The Thin House: one of the strangest buildings in London.'



@roshani.takes.london

'Brompton Oratory was so peaceful I sat inside for 40 minutes.'



@chiaravaraschin

'The beautiful (and Instagrammable) coloured houses of Notting Hill.'

Want to see your Insta shots of the capital in print? Tag them #timeoutlondon



A Life of Love, Courage & Fellowship

NICHOLAS
HOULT

LILY
COLLINS

COLM
MEANEY

AND

DEREK
JACOBI

TOLKIEN

IN CINEMAS MAY 3

FREE LONDON

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

RAINBO' SELECTA

Colourscape at Wembley Park

Remember Colourscape, the enormous rainbow maze that popped up in Clapham in September? Well, it's back – and this time it's free to visit. The labyrinth is made up of 100 fabric pods which interlock to create psychedelic caverns of all shapes and sizes. Trippy? Yes. Perfect for Instagram? Also yes.

→ Wembley Park. Wembley Park. Sat May 4–Mon May 6.

DON'T MISS



BEST BRA NONE Sloggi bra giveaway

Take an old grey bra down to Boxpark on Friday and not only will you be able to wave it around to make nearby men feel uncomfortable, you'll be able to swap it for a brand new one from Sloggi.

→ Boxpark Shoreditch.
Shoreditch High St Overground.
Fri May 3, 11am–7pm.

BURN BABY BURN Chingford May Day Fayre

Ready to shake off the worries of winter? Head to Epping Forest on May Day afternoon to help build a huge bonfire. Organisers say lighting it will symbolise the burning of attendees' fears. (Unless your fear is fire, obv.)

→ Chingford Plain. Chingford rail. Mon May 6, 4pm–dusk.

THE REEL DEAL New Cross and Deptford Free Film Festival

There's something for everyone at this community-led film festival. 'Ladybird', 'Thelma & Louise', 'Juno', 'Pride' and 'The Jungle Book' are all screening. Grab some popcorn and big coke and head south.

→ Multiple venues.
Until Sun May 5.

NORTH BASS The Dingwalls Weekender

Use the bank holiday weekend as a chance to check out loads of emerging bands. This three-day festival features sets from The Rhythm Method and Family Time, with Goat Girl and Slow Dance DJing too. Who needs sunshine?

→ Dingwalls. Camden Rd rail.
Sat May 4–Mon May 6.

POLE LOTTA FUN Merrie May Day

Have a jig around the maypole before getting stuck into this day of fun. There'll be creepy-crawlies to gawp at, barbecue food and locally sourced beer to guzzle and traders selling their wares. It's a village fête on an inner-city A-road.

→ Geffrye Museum.
Hoxton Overground.
Sat May 4, 11am–4pm.

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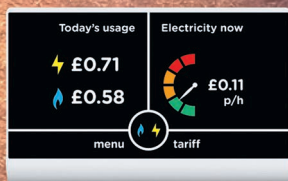
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Dive right in to summer



Pells Pool

From pagan festivals to pop-up theatres, *Ellie Walker-Arnott* picks great day trips to get you out of London all summer long

M A Y

Properly understand 'bracing'

Need a kickstart after months of social hibernation? Dive straight into summer with a refreshing dip in Pells Pool. A popular spot for splashing around since 1860, it's the oldest freshwater outdoor public swimming pool in the UK. You can picnic on the lawn, chill out on the terrace or brave the lido's spring-fed waters. It's only heated by, erm, the sun – so expect it to be a tad chilly at the start of the season.

→ Pells Pool, Lewes, East Sussex. May 4-Oct 27. £4.50.

www.pellspool.org.uk. Get there: one hour 20 minutes by train from London Bridge to Lewes; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

Make like an ancestor

There's a chance that living in London has dulled your sylvan senses. Embrace a rural Celtic past with an ancient celebration to mark the start of summer. Beltain Festival is held at Butser Ancient Farm – a real working farm that was set up to show how the people of ancient Britain lived. Welcome the new season with mud, mead, maypole dancing and the ceremonial burning of a wicker man. Live your best pagan life.

→ Beltain Festival, Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton, Hampshire. May 4. £28. www.butserancientfarm.co.uk.

Get there: one hour five minutes by train from London Waterloo to Petersfield, then bus; around one hour 20 minutes by car.

Just say 'cress'

Begone warming stews and soups, summer is the season of the salad – and nowhere knows it quite like New Alresford. Every year its pretty pastel-painted town centre is transformed by a street fest celebrating watercress, which is grown locally. Expect a watercress-eating competition, food stalls and the crowning of a king and queen.

→ Watercress Festival. New Alresford, Hampshire. May 19. Free. www.watercressfestival.org.

Get there: one hour by train from London Waterloo to Winchester, then bus; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

J U N

Get dreamy among the roses

A wander through Mottisfont Abbey's walled rose garden is like a sweetly fragranced daydream – all soft petals and trailing greenery. The garden is home to the national collection of pre-1900 old-fashioned roses. Unlike modern varieties, these blooms only flower once a year, so there's a brief window to see them. Swerve floral fomo and poke your nose into more than 500 varieties when they reach their heady peak in June.

→ Mottisfont Abbey, Mottisfont, Hampshire. From £16.50.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk. Get there: two hours ten minutes by train from London Waterloo to Mottisfont and Dunbridge; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

Stay up all night long (on a bike)

You don't have to dance around standing stones to celebrate the summer solstice (though we're on board if you want to). Instead, make the most of all that glorious extra daylight by staying up all night and witnessing the super-early sunrise – on a bike. Brake the Cycle are setting off on an overnight ride from London to Hastings, via a pub and a couple of wild-swimming spots. You'll roll into the coastal town around 6am for a wheely well-deserved breakfast.

→ Summer Solstice Night Ride, Peckham to Hastings, East Sussex. Jun 21-22. Free. www.brakethecycle.co.uk

Belt beer in a summery sesh

Not content with jazzing up the English wine scene, the lads at Chapel Down are opening a brand new brewery, with a bar and lush gardens to explore. Take a tour before sampling pints or visit the

restaurant to try super-fresh unpasteurised beer, piped from onsite tanks. The brewery is right in the middle of Ashford, opposite the train station: perfect post-session stumbling distance, then.

→ Curious Brewery, Ashford, Kent.

Tour and tasting experience from £20. www.curiousbrewery.com.

Get there: 37 minutes by train from London St Pancras International to Ashford International; around one hour 20 minutes by car.



PELLS POOL: ANDREW HASSON/ALAMY; BELTAIN FESTIVAL: VERNON NASH/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



Escape for the day



See the Bard in a super-posh pop-up

This summer, all the world – or, at least, the grand eighteenth-century Blenheim Palace – is a stage. It's playing host to Europe's first ever pop-up Shakespearean theatre. A 13-sided playhouse staging four of the Bard's plays will appear in the palace grounds, complete with covered seating and an open courtyard for lifelong groundlings. Raise a tankard in the Shakespearean village afterwards to keep those Elizabethan vibes alive. London's pop-up obsession has officially escaped the confines of the M25.

→ Shakespeare's Rose Theatre, Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire.

Jul 8-Sep 7. From £15. www.blenheimpalace.com. Get there: one hour 15 minutes by train from London Marylebone to Oxford Parkway, then bus; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

Munch brunch at the end of a pier

What's better than a picnic on the beach? A feast on a pier, of course. The dramatic glass-and-timber structure perched above the surf at the end of Deal's 1950s concrete pier has a brand new occupant, Deal Pier Kitchen. Go for generous brunch dishes with ace sea views on the side (or to the front). This Kent town should already be on your radar – the hipster honeypot is an emerging fave with daytripping Londoners, thanks to its buzzy art scene and photogenic seafront.

→ Deal Pier Kitchen, Deal, Kent. www.facebook.com/pg/dealpierkitchen.

Get there: one hour 22 minutes by train from London St Pancras International to Deal; around one hour 45 minutes by car.

Get your spirits up on the Downs

When there isn't a free square foot of green left on London Fields, you don't have far to travel for a slice of some real rural action. The South Downs, stretching from the glorious hills of Hampshire to the bright white cliffs of the East Sussex coast, is London's nearest National Park. Pick a section of the 100-mile South Downs Way for a wholesome day hike, ending in a quaint country pub. Last one to the bar buys the first round.

→ South Downs Way, Hampshire, East Sussex and West Sussex. Free. www.nationaltrail.co.uk/south-downs-way.



Go psychedelically purple

The city's bins in the summer heat can be an assault on the senses. Get a whiff of something fresher in Hitchin's fragrant fields of lavender. You can wander through the purple waves and pick your own bag of lavender or an armful of sunflower heads before settling down for a BYO picnic. Don't miss the shop for stocking up on scented treats. Lavender fields forever!

→ Hitchin Lavender, Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Mid Jun to the end of Aug (check before you visit). £6. www.hitchinlavender.com. Get there: 36 minutes by train from London King's Cross to Hitchin, then bus; around one hour by car.



The South Downs Way



Hang in a hipster-approved cave system

Done with sunshine, soft-serve, seaside kitsch and vintage fairground rides? Head underground to discover Margate's newest attraction. Margate Caves, eighteenth-century chalk mines decorated with unusual carvings and paintings, are reopening to the public this summer. The caves have been used as a wine store, an air-raid shelter and now they're the seaside's shadiest spot. The Shell Grotto has competition.

→ Margate Caves, Margate, Kent. £4.50. Opening summer 2019. www.margatecaves.co.uk. Get there: one hour 30 minutes by train from London St Pancras International; around one hour 35 minutes by car.

Make like Bear Grylls – with real bears

Think wild animals, think foxes rooting through your wheelie bin? The UK used to be home to way wilder creatures, such as the wolverine (not just a Marvel mutant, it turns out). And they're all making a return this summer. Bear Wood in Bristol will be home to the European grey wolf, the brown bear, lynx and wolverine. They'll roam freely like they would have done centuries ago. You'll watch from a safe distance on an elevated walkway through the woodland. *Ow-woooo!* ■

→ Bear Wood, Wild Place Project, Bristol, Somerset. £9.95. Opening summer 2019. www.wildplace.org.uk. Get there: one hour 20 minutes by train from London Paddington to Bristol Parkway, then bus; around one hour 50 minutes by car.

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Really wild breaks



Feel like you need a strong dose of nature, stat? Four Londoners try out super-strength rural escapes offering just that. But can they find inner peace?

The one where you hike along a ravine

Devon (200 miles from London)

It's rural rush hour in Devon and I'm getting shouted at by a tractor driver with North Circular-levels of road rage. So much for the serenity of the countryside, I'd rather be on the Central line.

I change my mind when I cross a rope bridge and step inside my treehouse at Wolf Wood. It's beautiful, with rustic timber and an already balmy log burner, but, really, I'm here for what's outside: fresh air, neon-green leaves and, in the distance, Dartmoor. Ever goal-oriented (thanks, London), I throw myself into unwinding. I take deep breaths. I ignore my phone.

The real switch-off is easier a short drive away at Lydford Gorge. Being mindful here isn't optional.

Start stressing about work and you could lose your footing on a mossy slope or slip into the churning river at the bottom of the ravine. I'm not joking.

Two hours of hiking and one blister later, I've come through lush greenery, past a waterfall and along a narrow ledge to the Devil's Cauldron cavern. The loud rushing of water in the cavern is overwhelming, but, despite the name, standing in the middle of the roar is the anything but hellish.

Back at Wolf Wood, the little wood-fired forest sauna is up to temperature. The glass-sided shed is soothing, silent apart from the hiss of water on hot stones. I run a bath outside on my now-dark deck and sit in a cloud of steam. A gentle drizzle lands on the wood. A cow moos somewhere in the distance. I feel reset and ready to face the city again. The countryside can keep its tractors, though. *Ellie Walker-Arnott*

→ The Lookout Treehouse, Wolf Wood Treehouses, Bratton Clovelly, Devon. From £180 a night, sleeps four. www.canopyandstars.co.uk

WATERFALL, FOREST BATHING: LIZZIE WALKER-ARNOTT



The one where you forage for lunch

Gloucestershire (130 miles from London)

How much nature can you cram into 24 hours? A lot, as it turns out – as long as you’re willing to get up early. My wild adventure starts with a night at Tudor Farmhouse in the Forest of Dean. It ticks all my coddled millennial boxes. Locally sourced menu? Tick. Instagrammable roll-top bath? Tick. So why am I wide awake at 4.45am? I’ve left my duck-feather duvet to observe a ‘dawn chorus’ – not the symphony of groans as my hangover kicks in, but the birdsong that greets each morning.

Most of us aren’t awake to hear it, but my guide Ed knows exactly where to cop the best seats in the house. ‘It all comes down to sex,’ he enthuses as we walk among the trees to the coos of wood

pigeons. ‘The females are most fertile in the morning. Her mate doesn’t want other males to come in. They’re singing, “I’m here, keep out!”’ As blackbirds and robins chime in, the trees throb with the sound of an orchestra in full swing.

After a full English, I’m introduced to Raoul van den Broucke, a forager who used to supply Borough Market with wild delights and the sprightliest 77-year-old I’ve ever met. As we wander, Raoul points out wild garlic, sorrel and bittercress – all ready for harvesting. Then the mother lode: we spot morels (‘the most expensive mushroom in the world!’). We haul them back to the hotel kitchen to be sautéed in butter. They’re surprisingly substantial and utterly moreish – much like my 24-hour plunge into the Forest of Dean. *Zing Tsjeng*

→ Tudor Farmhouse, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. £350 for foraging, lunch, dinner and an overnight stay for two people. www.tudorfarmhousehotel.co.uk

The one where you ‘bathe’ in a forest

Hampshire (60 miles from London)

Heading to Hampshire for a ‘forest bathing’ weekend, I have no idea what’s on the cards. I certainly don’t expect to end up crying while hugging a tree. And it’s not how it goes for the first part of my trip (that involves a hot tub).

It all changes on Sunday morning when I’m introduced to David, a ranger who, for three hours, helps me get intimate with nature. He tells me that forest bathing involves immersion in a wood through touch. Based on Japanese shinrin-yoku (nature bathing), it’s designed to reduce blood pressure and improve mental wellbeing.

I’m asked to transfer distracting thoughts into a rock before we walk to a clearing. I shut my eyes and stretch out my arms, palms turned up. As I focus on the sounds of the natural world, I feel like a Jedi trying to use the Force. I don’t get a lightsaber, though. Instead, I get emotional.

Tasked with telling a tree what’s on my mind, I’m drawn to a silvery birch with gnarled branches. Someone with more emotional control might not have cried, but with birds chirping and my arms clasp the tree, I feel overwhelmed with gratitude. I’m not quite ready for life as a forest dweller, but as Yoda might say: closer to becoming at one with nature I am. *Alim Kheraj*

→ Blackwood Forest, Micheldever, Hampshire. Forest Bathing £30. Cabin from £595 for three nights, sleeps four. www.forestholidays.co.uk/blackwood-forest

The one where you sleep in a nature park

Kent (50 miles from London)

Every night when I go to sleep, I dread being woken up by the sound of the screeching toddler in the flat above me. But tonight I can rest easy. I’m at Elmley National Nature Reserve – the only one in the country where you can stay the night – and nearly all of my neighbours here are birds.

The handful of people I do spot are much better equipped than me. They’ve got binoculars and are probably not wearing their mum’s old walking boots, but what I lack in knowledge I make up for in enthusiasm. When I spot a lapwing (I Googled it), I shout excitedly: ‘Look at that one! It’s got a feathery thing on its head!’

After exploring the bird hides, I retire to a cosy shepherd’s hut overlooking the nature reserve and attempt to light a fire to toast marshmallows. I struggle to even set the firelighters alight. Eventually it gets going and I sit back with a cup of tea. Soon it’s pitch black and I get into bed. Then I hear something weird. It sounds like a toy ray gun. Is it a bird? Is it a plane? I open the door to check – turns out it is a bird. Nature truly is wild. Reassured that it’s nothing sinister, I close my eyes and sleep like a baby. ■ *Isabelle Aron*

→ Vanellus shepherd’s hut, Elmley National Nature Reserve, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. From £100 a night, sleeps two. www.elmleynaturereserve.co.uk

Read about more rural escapes at timeout.com/wildbreaks

GO OUT WITH

TimeOut

Food, drink, screenings, pop-ups: don't miss our exclusive offers and discounts

'Rosmersholm'

What is it? The West End premiere of a starry new production of Henrik Ibsen's tragedy, about two people's private turmoil amid election fever and political upheaval.

Why go? Hayley Atwell and Tom Burke should simmer in this adaptation by Duncan Macmillan.

What's exclusive? Tickets start at £15, saving you up to 45 percent.

→ Duke of York's Theatre. ⊖ Leicester Square. Until May 24, book by May 7. www.timeout.com/rosmersholm

DON'T MISS

'Bond in Motion'

What is it? An immensely popular exhibition displaying original vehicles from the Bond film series.

Why go? Petrolheads: it's time to rev that engine with a trip to the largest collection of James Bond motors ever. An absolute must for Bond fanatics, vehicle enthusiasts and lovers of all things chrome-plated.

What's exclusive? Get two tickets for just £14.50.

→ London Film Museum. ⊖ Covent Garden. Until Jun 21. www.timeout.com/motion

'Swinging London'

What is it? An exhibition showcasing the fashion, design and art of the 1960s Chelsea set.

Why go? These young, radical creatives (with Mary Quant and Terence Conran at the forefront) challenged the established order in the '60s. This show exhibits myriad collectibles by the group.

What's exclusive? You can get two tickets for just £9.90.

→ Fashion and Textile Museum. ⊖ London Bridge. Until Jun 2. www.timeout.com/swinging

Psytle

What is it? Unlimited yoga at a trendy fitness studio for all of May.

Why go? You don't know about Psytle? You need to get out more. Its yoga classes take place at swish studios across London – and each one is guaranteed to leave you feeling de-stressed, stretched-out and totally zen.

What's exclusive? Unlimited classes for the month cost just £35.

→ Two locations. Until May 31. www.timeout.com/psytle19

Gaicho

What is it? Dinner for two at a much-lauded Argentinian steakhouse.

Why go? Gaicho doesn't do things in half-measures. And this deal gets you either a 450g chateaubriand steak, an 800g tira de ancho steak or a trio of 'Gaicho sampler' cuts, along with a bottle of vino, two sides and sauces. Better come hungry.

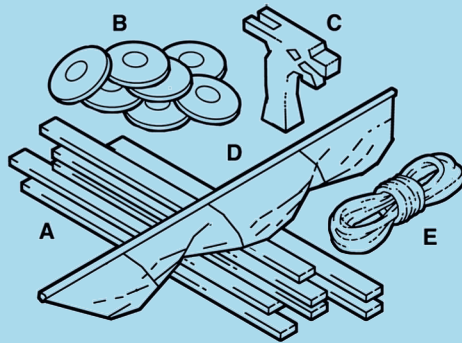
What's exclusive? It's usually £104 for two, but with us, it's just £59.

→ Multiple locations. Valid from May 4 until Aug 4. www.timeout.com/gaicho19

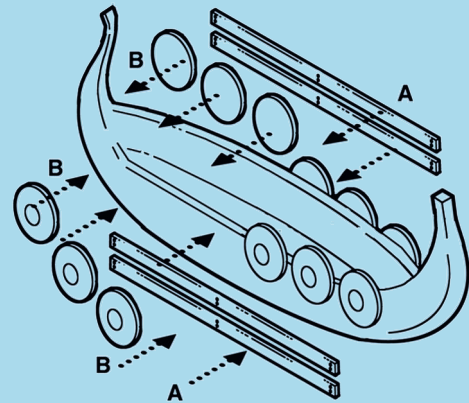
Theatre, music, events: get the best tickets in town at timeout.com/london/offers

How to get to IKEA Greenwich

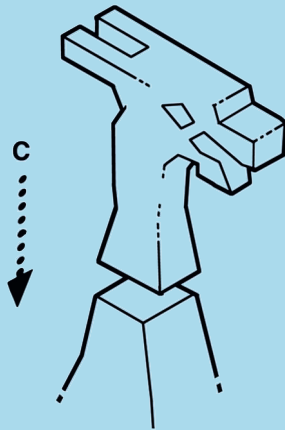
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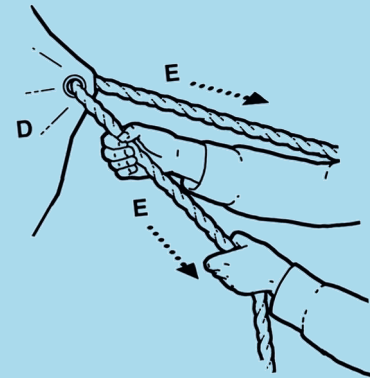
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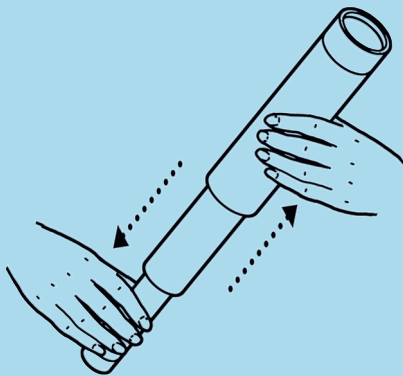
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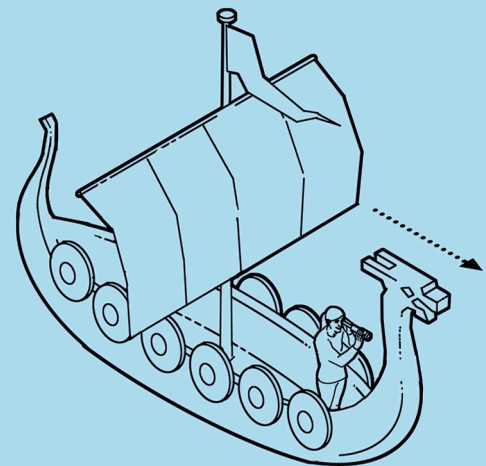
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5



6



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Things to Do

Edited by Alexandra Sims
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

**EIGHT BLOODY
BRILLIANT**

London book clubs

As a month-long, city-wide book club begins in London, we pick the best places to natter over literature in the capital.

Illustration *John Devolle*



Best for fun-lovers

Since 2012, **Cityread London** has turned the capital into one big, month-long book club. Each year it picks a novel by a London-based author and invites people to learn new things about the city through a packed programme of literary events. This year's read is Ayisha Malik's 'Sofia Khan Is Not Obligated' – billed as a 'Muslim Bridget Jones'. Supper clubs, walking tours, author talks and more will be happening, letting readers debate the novel and learn more about London's Muslim community. From Wednesday you can download it as a free e-book, so there's no excuse not to get involved.

→ Various locations. www.cityread.london.
Wed May 1–May 31. Prices vary.

Best for non-fiction fans

Got a shameful collection of unread books? Members of **Rebel Book Club** have collectively read 2.5 million pages and say they've massively upped their reading intake since joining. Created after founders Ben Keene and Ben Saul-Garner failed to find a club encouraging them to read non-fiction, the group tasks members to study 12 works of non-fiction a year, touching on everything from the dark web to the future of education. Each month they discuss the chosen texts in secret venues across the city, while sipping bespoke cocktails. Books and booze? Yes please!

→ Various locations. www.rebelbookclub.co.uk.
Last Tue of the month. £15 per month (inc book).

Best for champions of black women writers

In less than three years, **Black Girls Book Club** has grown from a brunch where women of colour gathered to chat books over mimosas into mammoth events. Their talks and debates have taken place at venues like the Houses of Parliament and included icons like Roxane Gay and Malorie Blackman. Set up by best friends Melissa Cummings-Quarry and Natalie A Carter, it flouts the rules of conventional lit events, ditching panel talks for author Q&As and even raves, all the while decolonising the bookshelf and creating a safe space for Black women to connect over books.

→ Various locations and prices. @bg_bookclub.

Best for sci-fi stans

There's no need to perfect your Vulcan salute or learn a Wookiee growl to join the out-of-this-world bookworms at the **Science Fiction Book Club** (in fact 'Star Trek' and 'Star Wars' are banned). Character-led science fiction is the focus here, and since 2010 these sci-fi obsessives have met up monthly to discuss everything from feminist novellas to space operas. Head along and you'll be following in the footsteps of literary greats (the late Scottish author Iain M Banks was their president). Future reads include Lidia Yuknavitch's 'The Book of Joan' and 'The Quantum Magician' by Derek Kunsken. Go to get clued-up on highbrow futuristic

FOLIO ART



literature and leave all talk of Yoda at home.

→ Various locations. www.sciencefictionbookclub.org. Next date: May 13. £2, RSVP to attend.

Best for Hercule Poirot wannabes

Never happier than when your little grey cells are being put through their paces? Join **The Butler Did It Crime Book Club**, a gang of armchair sleuths who've been meeting every month since 2010 at the same pub table in Highgate to chew the fat over classic crime capers, Golden Age detective fiction and locked-room puzzles. Previous reads range from classics by Raymond Chandler, PD James and Dorothy L Sayers to lesser-known works – including a

whodunnit by 'Winnie-the-Pooh' author AA Milne. Head along to broaden your murder-mystery horizons and expect more red herrings than you'd ever find in your in your fave true crime podcast.

→ The Bull. ☉ Highgate. www.meetup.com/thebutlerdidit. Next date: Wed May 1. Free.

Best for outdoor types

Forget stuffy pubs and indoor Kindle sessions. Feel the breeze through your locks as you muse over hidden bookshelf gems on scholarly stroll **Emily's Walking Book Club**, which sets out from Daunt Books on South End Road and heads across the wilds of Hampstead Heath each month come rain or shine (or even snow). Led by writer and journalist

Emily Rhodes, each book is picked in advance so hikers can yak about the novel as they meander across the heath, stopping off in pretty spots for short readings. Sam Selvon's 'The Lonely Londoners', 'A Far Cry from Kensington' by Muriel Spark and Tove Jansson's 'The Summer Book' are just some of the texts to receive the trapeze treatment. These books are made for walking.

→ Meet at Daunt Books. Hampstead Heath Overground. www.emilyrhodeswriter.com. Next date: May 12 on 'A Long Way from Verona' by Jane Gardam. Suggested donation £5.

Best for music-lovers

On the first Wednesday of every month, the stage at legendary Camden venue The Dublin Castle

is reserved for literary rock stars. Rather than mosh pits and head-banging, at the **Rock N Roll Book Club** you'll find a more erudite group ready to discuss books with a musical bent and listen to a banging DJ set inspired by the tuneful text. Attendees have previously been treated to author Q&As with Squeeze's founding member and songwriter Chris Difford and a conversation with Celeste Bell, the daughter of punk icon Poly Styrene. Old, new, cult or classic – any musical book is up for discussion. The nights have proved so popular, they now run a second shindig at The Union Club in Soho. The evening ends when the last person leaves the dancefloor.

→ Dublin Castle. ☉ Camden Town. www.facebook.com/rorobookclub. Next date: Wed May 1. £6. The Union Club. ☉ Tottenham Court Rd. Next date: May 29. £15.

Best for fear fanatics

There's more to horror than vampires and Stephen King. **The Horror Book Club** delves into texts from a whole range of skin-pimpling genres, including gothic fiction, dark fantasy and ghoulish graphic novels. The gang meet up at a pub in King's Cross for a natter over that month's pick as well as to explore the psychology of scares and what makes a horrifically good read. The group counts famed horror writer and critic Kim Newman as its official patron and also organises occasional theatre and film trips. FYI, no biting or rampaging – it's a house rule. ■

→ The Star of Kings. ☉ King's Cross. www.thehorrorbookclub.com. Next date: Thu May 2. Free.



By Alexandra Sims
Who has no shelf control when it comes to buying books.



ICON Outlet at The O2

ICON Outlet at The O2 is totally rocking shopping

Want to shop like a style icon? Here's how you can get your hands on some seriously superstar threads

Want to rework your wardrobe or up your style game? We might just have the answer for you. Yep, it's time to throw away those old jumpers and faded jeans because you can find world-class shopping at ICON Outlet at The O2 – and we've got all the essential info.

Since ICON launched in October last year, it's been helping savvy shoppers get their hands on new clothes for less, specialising in serious sartorial savings, year-round, with up to 60 percent off more than 40 brands. And if that wasn't sweet enough, it's set to get even bigger and better. But what does that mean for the aspiring fashionistas among you?

First up, you'll have more clothing choices, so dressing like an icon will be a total breeze. You can also expect some added extras, such

as personal shoppers and stylists, concierge luggage drop and hands-free shopping that will make you feel like a bona-fide rock star.

Plus, everyone has access to exclusive shopping packages (including free delivery for spends over £150 and shopping 'drop-offs', plus even more 'additional' savings) as well as personal stylists on hand for the summer bank holidays. Basically, this is a surefire way to kit yourself out like a superstar with brands such as Ted Baker, Levi's, Sunglass Hut, Cath Kidston and Kurt Geiger. Oh, and it's also proof that you don't have to visit The O2 just for the gigs – premium high street fashion and discounts will do just fine, right?

And let's not forget the exciting range of pop-ups that can make your visit even more rewarding. ICON Outlet at The O2's latest, a

wellbeing hub called 'The Hour', is focused on embedding wellness into the everyday, offering a range of classes from yoga and mindfulness to more intensive HIIT classes. Booking yourself a little 'me time' has never been so easy.

But there's more. The O2 has added three tasty new restaurants to its roster of more than 26 places to eat and drink – Benito's Hat, Thunderbird Fried Chicken and Beer + Burger – so you can shop, eat and catch your favourite band's big gig. It's music to our ears, tbh.

Fancy a visit? You can get to The O2 in just 15 minutes from central London on the Jubilee Line from Bond Street, or arrive in style on the MBNA Thames Clipper River Bus, with frequent departures from key central London piers. And since this is your chance to bag that superstar look, you're gonna totally rock it on your ride home.



→ For more information, visit www.iconattheo2.co.uk

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



Model Market

The creators of Street Feast bring their night-time munching magic back to this abandoned 1950s covered market in Lewisham. Expect a sunny roof terrace and James Cochran's street-food debut.

→ Lewisham High St. Lewisham DLR.
Opens Fri May 3. Free entry.

Sunday

Great Hampstead Bark Off

This alfresco All Dogs Matter charity event and competition is a chance to scoff sweet treats and meet cute mutts.

→ Hampstead Heath. Gospel Oak Overground. Sun May 5.
Free, £5 entry per dog show category.

Saturday



Progress Wrestling

Europe's biggest pro-wrestling tournament returns to Ally Pally for a brawny, lycra-clad weekend takeover. Prepare for muscular match-ups between former WWE stars and Mexican luchadores.

→ Alexandra Palace. Alexandra Palace rail.
Sat May 4-Mon May 6. From £29.35.

MEOW London Cat Expo

Insta-famous mogs and quirky cat vendors make this the perfect feline-heavy day for any put-upon Londoner. Unless you're allergic to cats.

→ Tobacco Dock. Shadwell Overground.
Sat May 4-Sun May 5. £15-£25.

SHOP Crafty Fox Market

Crafty so-and-sos can get their mitts on heaps of bespoke gifts here, whether they're after homeware, artwork, cards or toys.

→ Mercato Metropolitan.
☉ Elephant & Castle.
Sat May 4-Sun May 5. Free entry.

BROWSE The Modern Movement

Head to Brockwell Lido and meet the vendors making a splash at this uber-stylish celebration of twentieth-century design.

→ Brockwell Lido. Herne Hill rail. Sat May 4-Sun May 5. Free.

EXPLORE Colourscape

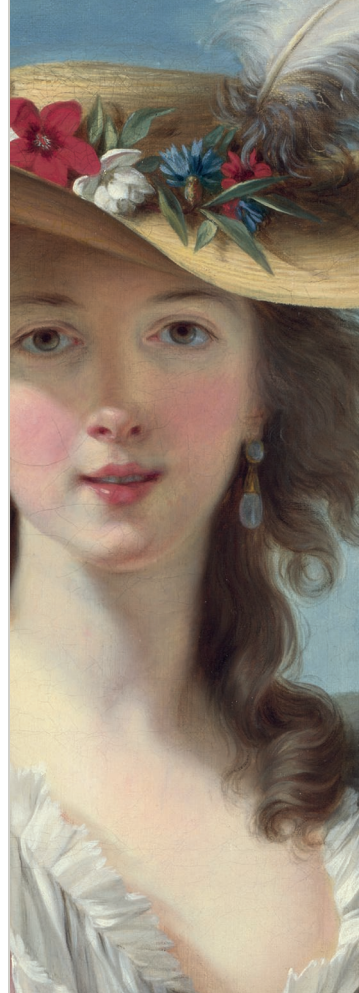
Head inside a labyrinth of colourful tunnels to discover all the nooks and crannies of this vast psychedelic network of light, space and sound. Groovy.

→ Wembley Park.
☉ Wembley Park.
Sat May 4-Mon May 6. Free.

More animal magic at timeout.com/thingstodo

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

SPRING EVENTS



DISCOVER TRAILBLAZING FEMALE ARTISTS

JONATHAN JONES TALKS WHISTLEJACKET

MORE THAN MUSES

#MeToo

See the full list at nationalgallery.org.uk/events

Elisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun, Self-Portrait in a Straw Hat (detail), after 1782 © The National Gallery, London

barbican

Maxine Peake in
*Avalanche:
A Love Story*

Inspired by **Julia Leigh**'s powerful true story of one woman's desire for a child, directed by **Anne-Louise Sarkis**

27 Apr–12 May

Life
Rewired
■ ■ ■ ■ ■



The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre

Produced by the Barbican and Fertility Fest
Co-produced by Audible and Sydney Theatre Company

#AvalancheThePlay

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

Brompton Cemetery's London Dreaming Weekend

More dead good stuff at timeout.com/thingstodo

Things to Do

A dreaming weekend, how lovely! Is it like a giant sleepover?

Not really. This weekender takes place in Brompton Cemetery, so you probably won't want to bed down in a sleeping bag. It's one of London's biggest necropolises, with artists, actors and aristocrats among its hundreds of permanent inhabitants. While you won't be able to stay overnight, you can join a takeover of talks, screenings and workshops investigating the capital's relationship with sleep and its deceased residents.

Will there at least be a pillow fight?

Alas, no. But there'll be plenty of other stuff to keep you busy. Hear

speakers investigate the unsettling mysteries of the unconscious mind. A talk by king of creepy Alan Moore might be sold out, but you can still sign up to workshops in lucid dreaming and hypnosis. There's also a screening of Berthold Bartosch's mind-bending 1932 film 'The Idea' accompanied by a live

theremin score, as well as lectures on hypnagogia and the link between sleepwalking, desire and violence.

Sounds more like a nightmare.

Sure, it's not for the faint of heart, but you'll be able to learn from some of the best in the business. Plus, Hendrick's will be providing gin

cocktails, meaning you can sip while learning a thing or two about the unnerving things that happen when you close your eyes.

I'll leave my teddy bear at home.

You might need it. Who knows what's lurking in the catacombs? ■ *Bobby Palmer*

WHAT IS IT...

A celebration of sleep and dreams, in one of London's biggest cemeteries.

WHY GO...

To learn the ins and outs of how we get our 40 winks while sipping gin cocktails.

→ Brompton Cemetery.
↻ Fulham Broadway.
Sat May 4-Sun May 5.
Prices vary.



ELARCE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Advertisement feature

Whiskey sour cocktails and the tastiest wings in town, anyone?

We've got the lowdown on where to find exclusive whiskey and wings pairings in London

When was the last time you sipped a really incredible whiskey sour cocktail?

Or tucked into a chicken wing so delicious it made you weep with joy?

That day is about to come.

Bulleit Frontier Whiskey – maker of



real-deal, award-winning Kentucky bourbon – is teaming up with five London street food faves to create whiskey and wings pairings.

The series runs through May, and pairings are just £10. Each eatery has put a unique twist on its chicken wings and the classic whiskey sour cocktail... using the smooth and spicy notes of Bulleit bourbon.

At Tonkotsu they'll be mixing up a Yuzu Bourbon Sour and serving it with their Eat the Bits wings, while over at Rosa's Thai Café, you'll taste an aromatic Pandan Bourbon Sour with spicy Thai wings. For something really different, head to Clutch Chicken and order the Chicken Wing Cocktail: garnished with – yep! – a chicken wing. Wanna stay in? Use UberEats and order Twisted London's Black Cherry Bourbon Sour with Korean boneless wings. Tasty.

And that's not all. Bulleit Frontier Whiskey is celebrating the Monday May 6 bank holiday with a Wings of the World Banquet at Clutch Chicken. Tickets are on sale now.

→ Find out more and book your tickets at www.bulleit.com/whiskey-and-wings

Advertisement feature



Triple your fun over the bank holiday weekend



Queen of Hoxton



Royal Gunpowder Mills

How much can you fit into your three whole days of freedom? If you're after some bank holiday inspo, we've got you covered. And then some...

Finally, the month of bank holidays is here! From Saturday May 4 to Monday May 6, there are some seriously awesome things going down in London, so we've put together a guide to the highlights. But why three events per day, you ask? Well, Lotto has announced that if you match three balls on its Bank Holiday Event (the Saturday May 4 draw), you'll get £100 instead of the normal £30*. Which is basically triple the winnings. Think of how much you could do on those takings.

SATURDAY

London in boom

The Royal Gunpowder Mills is celebrating its 300 years of explosive history, with everything from old-fashioned gunfire demos to tours with real Cold War rocket scientists.

Have a barbie

Of course we'll have good weather! We're getting our grill on at Waterloo Park in Highgate. It's not dubbed a garden for gardenless Londoners for nothing, you know. Plus it has some seriously tasty views.

Get crafty

Want to get your mitts on heaps of gorgeous gifts? Well, Elephant & Castle's Crafty Fox Market is a great place to start. There'll be original homeware, artwork, cards and even handmade toys. Old school.

SUNDAY

Best in show

The Great Hampstead Bark Off hits the Heath. There'll be a dog-themed Bark Off Bake Sale, a dog show, and prizes awarded in categories like

'cutest pup', 'golden oldies' and 'best rescue'. One for the doggone animal-obsessed.

A purrfect day out

More of a cat person? The LondonCats International Show and Expo prowls up to Tobacco Dock, with cat agility trials and presumably lots of purring. Expect the cat equivalent of Crufts, basically.

'Van Gogh and Britain'

Wanna see how the troubled genius influenced British artists and vice versa? Here's your chance. Works from the likes of Constable, Millais, Bacon and Peplow sit alongside a few of Vincent's finest – including 'Starry Night' – at Tate Britain right now. Powerful stuff.

MONDAY

Down on the farm

Stepney City Farm May Day Festival is where you need to go if you want to spend some time with a few furry friends, see sheep-shearing and

wool-spinning demonstrations, or join in with Maypole and barn-dancing. Always fun.

Discover how it's done

'Smoke and Mirrors: The Psychology of Magic' at the Wellcome Collection takes a fascinating look at how easy it is for people to be duped by card tricks and whatnot. Apparently we're not half as observant, smart or good at remembering things as we think we are.

Sandy?

There's a 'Grease' singalong at the Queen of Hoxton. That's basically all you need to know. Well, why wouldn't you?



AMAZING STARTS HERE

→ Play The Lotto Bank Holiday Event at www.national-lottery.co.uk

*PRIZE IS FIXED, SUBJECT TO CAPPING (SEE NATIONAL-LOTTERY.CO.UK/LOTTO-EVENTS FOR DETAILS)

THREE OF THE BEST

Cinco de Mayo events

Line up the tequila shots! This big, bright, loud Mexican festival is in town



↑ Cinco de Mayo at Pop Brixton

Latin music masterminds Movimientos will be putting a tune-heavy spin on Pop Brixton's Cinco de Mayo celebrations. There'll be Mexican food, traditional Aztec dance and bangers from female mariachi duo Las Guadalupe.

→ Pop Brixton. ↻ Brixton. Sun May 5. Free entry.



↑ Brick Brewery's Salsa Competition

Bring along your homemade salsa to be judged by attendees and chefs from Peckham joint Slow Richie's. Wash down the spice with Mexican (and Mexican-inspired) craft beers.

→ Brick Brewery. Peckham Rye Overground. Sun May 5. Free entry.
Email nadia@brickbrewery.co.uk to register your salsa in advance.



↑ Margarita Rumble

This bottomless tequila fiesta challenges top mixologists from 15 bars and restaurants to compete for the award of 'London's best Margarita'. You can even help decide the winner yourself by sipping and voting. ■ *Bobby Palmer*

→ London Fields Arches. Cambridge Heath Overground. Sun May 5. £35-£55.

It's always happy hour at
timeout.com/thingstodo

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Brighton
Festival

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Wim Vandekeybus brings
his latest myth inspired
multi-media work to the
UK for the first time

'Magnificent
and inspiring'
Tanz am Rhein

Wim Vandekeybus / Ultima Vez

TrapTown

Tue 21 May, 7.30pm
Brighton Dome, £10 – £22.50
brightonfestival.org

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EXCLUSIVE

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🚶 Cutty Sark (Zone 2) 🚶 Greenwich (Zone 2) Only 8 minutes from London Bridge 🚶 Greenwich Pier

GEEKERY

C May the Fourth Be with You

It's unofficial 'Star Wars' Day, so The Apple Tree is putting on a sci-fi cabaret evening featuring alien burlesque and cantina karaoke. Anakin Skywalker fancy dress is encouraged – being seduced by the dark side of the Force is not.

→ The Apple Tree.
 ↻ Farringdon. Sat May 4. £8.

N RPG Quest!

Self-proclaimed nerd Dan Simpson puts a fun spin on, ahem, fantasy role-playing. Billed as 'Dungeons & Dragons meets Whose Line is it Anyway', expect laughs aplenty as comedians stage quick-fire, one-shot role-playing games for a live audience.

→ Camden Comedy Club.
 ↻ Camden Town.
 Mon May 6. £5.

OUTDOOR

W Fulham Beach

Yep, Fulham has its own shoreline, albeit one where the sand is imported and the closest thing to the azure ocean is the Thames flowing under Wandsworth Bridge. That doesn't stop it being a hell of a lot of fun, with beach huts, beer pong, wood-fired pizzas and DJ sets.

→ Neverland London.
 Wandsworth Town rail.
 Opens Thu May 2. From £5.

C The BBQ Club on the South Bank

Reserve a private picnic spot right next to the Thames, plus a gourmet hamper for four, at this summer rooftop barbecue bonanza created and helmed by wonder chef Jimmy Garcia.

→ Outside Southbank Centre.
 ↻ Waterloo. Opens Fri May 3.
 From £45.

TO DO

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S 'Question Time' Cabaret

A political knees-up where journalists, artists and activists debate and delve into current issues through the medium of spoken-word performances and drag acts, with no middle-aged Etonians in sight.

→ The Albany. Deptford rail.
 Thu May 2. £14.

MAY DAY

E Stepney City Farm May Day Festival

Fancy spending the bank hol surrounded by farmyard pals? Watch sheep-shearing and wool-spinning demonstrations, join an informative barn-dancing session, tuck into tasty food and drink and, most importantly, tell the tiny lambs how adorable they are. They deserve to hear it.

→ Stepney City Farm.
 ↻ Stepney Green. Mon May 6.
 Free entry.

C The May Fair

The folks of Mayfair would be missing a trick if they didn't do a, well, May Fair. Luckily, they're very much on it, with a Great British seaside-themed weekender. There's also morris dancing for the May Day purists.

→ Grosvenor Square. ↻ Bond St. Sun May 5-Mon May 6.
 Free entry.

ALFRESCO DRINKING

E Skylight

Have some (legal) fun in a former car park, as this rooftop playground opens for the summer. As well as panoramic views, you'll find urban lawn games, DJs and a spread of seasonal cocktails up there too. Knock around some croquet balls before sipping on the botanical booze.

→ Tobacco Dock.
 Shadwell Overground.
 Opens Thu May 2. Free entry.

S Deptford Craft Beer Feast

The draw here is pretty simple: 'craft beer, dope tunes, street food'. Oh, and it's free entry, too. What more could you want from a weekend?

→ Deptford Market Yard.
 Deptford rail. Fri May 3-Sat May 4. Free entry.

BIG QUESTIONS

S 'Jurassic Park': Could It Happen?

Find out if dino cloning is an actual possibility at this daytime, baby-friendly talk.

→ Tara Theatre. Earlsfield rail.
 Wed May 1. £12.50.

EXCLUSIVE

See Nas, Wizkid and Damian 'Jr Gong' Marley at Croydon's new music festival. Two-day passes sold-out elsewhere. Now just £89 with Time Out.

TIMEOUT.COM/THEENDS

This is how we do it at timeout.com/dolist

Things to Do

GIVE

S Bellenden BigTaster

Buy a taster card to try out the ten venues competing for your taste buds during this street party. There's a

free bar, and the whole thing is in support of

Peckham Food Bank and the Southwark Day Centre

for Asylum Seekers.

→ Bellenden Rd. Peckham Rye Overground. Thu May 2. £9.

C UK Coffee Week

If you're a bean fiend who can't start the day without a steamin' hot cup o' joe, this is definitely for you. Coffee shops across London will be laying on special offers for java lovers, with proceeds going to the Project Waterfall charity.

→ Various London locations. Until Sun May 5. Prices vary.

LISTEN

W Come Together: 'Abbey Road' 50 Years On

Half a decade on, this evening will celebrate The Beatles' legacy. You'll want to 'Carry That Weight' all the way to 'The End'.

→ The Exchange. Twickenham rail. Fri May 3. £18-£20.

E Podcasts Live: Happy Place with Maisie Williams

Fearne Cotton

brings her podcast to the Troxy, with none other than Arya from 'Game of Thrones'.

→ Troxy. Limehouse DLR. Sat May 4. £28.

SWEAT

C AcroYoga Workshop

Get your lycra on and help a good cause by joining yoga experts for a breathtaking

class in a light tunnel, courtesy of The Sports Edit. All proceeds will go to ICanDance, a London-based charity for young people with disabilities.

→ The King's Cross Tunnel, Collier St. ☉ King's Cross. Sat May 4. £5.

SHOP

N Toast Residency

Lifestyle brand Toast is hosting its first ever 'creative residency', inspired by its latest collection 'The



Happy Place with Maisie Williams



Unknown Path.'

It'll include a series of creative workshops and activities, such as natural dyeing and potting, block printing, weaving, textile-repairing and a mindful creative writing class.

→ Paper Mill Studios.

☉ Angel. Sat May 4-Sun May 5.

Prices vary.

PIKA

C 'Detective Pikachu' pop-up

Wanna catch 'em all? Here's your chance. A two-floor Pokémon-themed pop-up is opening in Covent Garden, with Jigglypuff-inspired karaoke, Psyduck-inspired massages and Mr Mime-inspired miming classes. We still choose you, Pikachu!

→ Seven Dials. ☉ Covent Garden. Fri May 3-Sat May 4. Free entry.



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Film



Anchors aweigh!

London's only floating cinema on the Thames is back for another magical season of star-lit screenings

THE GOOD SHIP Time Out sets sail again from Tower Bridge this summer, transporting moviegoers on a sunset cruise, before mooring for a screening on an open-air deck. There's a bar on board, snuggly blankets and a timber-shiveringly fab line-up of films. Here are a few highlights to catch.

Pretty Woman

Things go full 1990 with a screening of the classic Richard Gere/Julia Roberts 'Cinderella' story. Everyone has silent-disco-style headphones on, so no one will mind when you bellow out 'It Must Have Been Love' during the sad bit.
→ Jun 13 and 26, Jul 23.

The Greatest Showman

It's got tunes, it's got razzmatazz, it's got Hugh

Jackman in a massive hat. Yes, the epic earworm-athon is back in a big way this summer with four Movies on the River showings.
→ Jun 14 and 21, Jul 6, Aug 3.

Romeo + Juliet

Baz Luhrmann's pop-art take on Shakespeare has aged like fine wine. Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes

are star-crossed, and you'll know the feeling as the sun sets overhead.
→ Jun 15, Jul 12.

La La Land

Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling sing, dance and fall in love in a Technicolored LA. 'City of Stars' definitely sounds even better under actual stars.
→ Jun 19, Jul 5.

Bohemian Rhapsody

Love it or hate it, the Queen biopic has the pulling power of a million shire horses. The only thing not rocking will be the boat.
→ Jun 22, Jul 4, Aug 2.

Mary Poppins Returns

Soak up Disney's London (similar, only with

more penguins) with the nanny-tastic Emily Blunt musical.
→ Jun 27.

The Favourite

Duck-racing. Tomato-lobbing. A love triangle. Olivia Colman being award-hooveringly awesome. Movies on the River turns into a brilliantly madcap corner of Stuart-era England for one night in June. Don't miss it.
→ Jun 28.

Casablanca

Is there a better romance in cinema than this smoky wartime heartbreaker? Catch it again on Time Out's own floating gin joint. ■
→ Jun 29.

Time Out's Movies on the River runs Jun 4 until Aug, departing from Tower Pier. Go to www.timeout.com/movieboat for the full line-up and to book tickets.



TIME OUT LIVE
PRESENTS

MOVIES ON THE RIVER



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Set sail with London's first ever cinema on the Thames

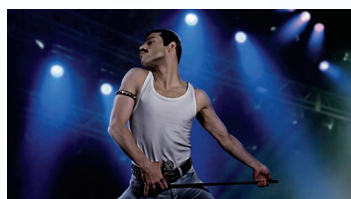
DON'T MISS THE
boat! Now is the time to experience London's most unique outdoor cinema. Join Movies on the River five nights a week for a sunset cruise through the city followed by a movie on our boat's top deck after dark.

> DETAILS
Tue-Sat, from June 4 until August. The boat boards at Tower Pier at 8pm.

> TICKETS
From £29. Includes cruise and film.

THE LINE-UP

This year's Movies on the River films include:



Bohemian Rhapsody



The Greatest Showman



A Star Is Born



Breakfast at Tiffany's



Pretty Woman

To book, go to

[TIMEOUT.COM/MOVIEBOAT](https://www.timeout.com/movieboat)

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FIVE QUESTIONS FOR Brady Corbet

The 'Vox Lux' director on making his pop epic and sending Natalie Portman K-hole videos

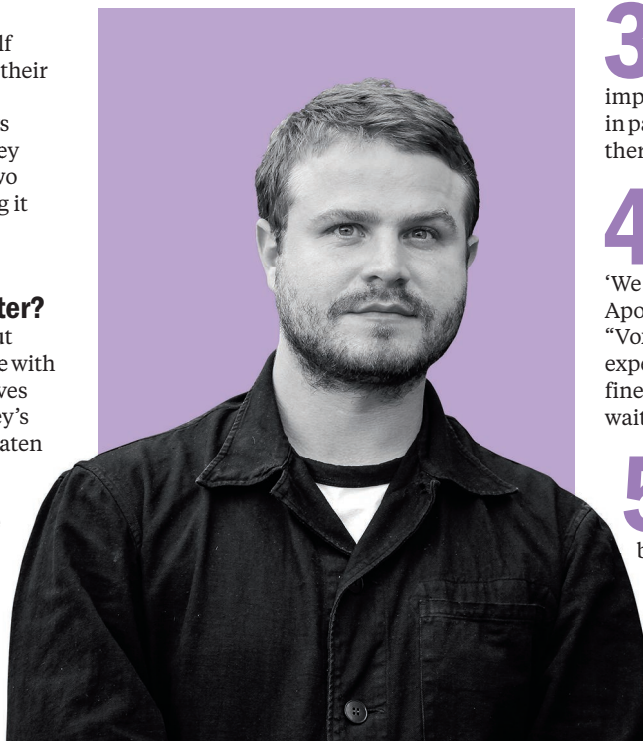
AMERICAN ACTOR-TURNED-filmmaker Brady Corbet is making a name for himself with fiercely original films hallmarked by their zeitgeisty themes and bone-shaking Scott Walker scores. His latest, 'Vox Lux', follows troubled pop star Celeste – played by Raffey Cassidy and Natalie Portman – through two phases of her life. He tells us about making it and remembers the late, great musician.

1 Did the two actresses work together to create this character?

'It was all pretty much in the script, but Natalie did ask if I wanted her to spend time with Raffey. I said no because when Celeste arrives on screen, she has nothing to do with Raffey's version of the character. She's a kid from Staten Island and 18 years later she's a mob wife.'

2 Is it true you sent her YouTube videos of people who'd taken ketamine?

'That is true. She asked me what drugs her character was on and she'd assumed that because [Celeste and Jude Law's character are] snorting it, it was coke. She asked what ketamine does, so I sent her some videos. She wrote back, "I get it!"'



3 Which real-life pop stars inspired the character of Celeste?

'We did a lot of research but it was super-important to us not to reference any one person in particular. The character is such a dragon, there's no way for anyone to take it the right way.'

4 There have a lot of comparisons with 'A Star Is Born'. How do you feel about those?

'We had tons: the *New York Times* called it "An Apocalyptic 'Star Is Born'". The whole idea of "Vox" was to invert the melodramatics that you'd expect from that kind of rise-and-fall story. It's fine but you never make a movie thinking: I can't wait to be paired up with someone else's film!'

5 Scott Walker scored both your movies. What was he like?

'We were fast pals as soon as we met, because we had a lot of the same interests. I don't think my movies' relationship with music will ever be the same [following his death]. Compared to those slabs of sound that Scott's so famous for, everything else will sound like a pussycat.' ■

Interview by Phil de Semlyen

→ 'Vox Lux' opens Fri May 3.

Vox Lux



WHAT IS IT...

A satirical flipside to 'A Star Is Born'.

WHY GO...

For Natalie Portman going full Katy Perry on stage.

→ Director Brady Corbet (15) 115 mins.

IF YOU'LL PARDON a pop-writing cliché, there are plenty of killer singles in the intriguing, nervously millennial 'Vox Lux' but not enough material for a full-length album. Charting the major contours of the comet-like career of Celeste, a fictional mono-monikered pop star, it casts two central actors: Raffey Cassidy as the delicate teenage Celeste and Natalie Portman as her roughed-up and cynical older version. They shade the potentially embarrassing role with toughness and guile, but their efforts don't add up to anything more than a gossipy curiosity.

Even though the first half of 'Vox Lux' makes us wait for Portman to appear, it's the more compelling element, with English actor Cassidy's fragile high-schooler surviving a Columbine-like shooting (brutally filmed) and becoming a national symbol of resilience in the process.

But Portman explodes into the film: she's a paintball of New York attitude (the accent is dialled right up), much harsher than Madonna or Katy Perry. Celeste is a mother now, awkwardly, but writer-director Brady Corbet ('The Childhood of a Leader') doesn't know what to do with that dynamic. The movie has a clued-in exclusivity as it heads off on the odd music-biz tangent, but when the singer is bum-rushed by the news of an act of terrorism inspired by one of her videos, it quickly retreats to a fun but vapid arena concert and promptly ends. The poseur at its heart is too complex for Corbet to handle, but you do admire him for dreaming her up. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*



BRADY CORBET: TINA VOLOBEVA/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

Tolkien



WHAT IS IT...

A biopic about the legendary author of 'The Lord of the Rings'.

WHY GO...

For Nicholas Hoult's sensitive portrayal of a writer searching for his muse.

→ Director Dome Karukoski (12A) 112 mins.

THE TOLKIEN ESTATE has pre-emptively 'disavowed' this biopic of JRR Tolkien – a fancy way of letting the world know that it was made without any official help and, basically, boo-sucks to the makers. There'll be few regrets when its trustees see the finished film. Despite the best efforts of its young cast, and especially a game (if slightly old-looking) Nicholas Hoult as Tolkien in his late teens and early twenties, it's a plodding portrayal with few surprises.

And don't come for the orcs and elves, either: it's set long before his fantasy masterpieces were published, with director Dome Karukoski instead flashing back from the trenches of World War I to his Tom Brown-ish school and university days. There are cutaways to imaginary CGI battles and mythological beasties, and a secret club formed with three chums who would be the inspiration for the hobbits. 'Tolkien' is an origin tale for his storytelling gifts, but those beats land with the subtlety of howitzer shells.

Sharing screen-time is Tolkien's tentative romance with Edith Bratt (Lily Collins) – yes, there's a ring involved, though sadly no volcano – and the film's best scene sees her challenge him to ad lib a story when they're out on a date. With the camera slowly drawing in, Hoult's shy will-be author initially squirms, before slowly weaving something entrancing in the stiff surrounds of an English tea room. Finally, 'Tolkien' conjures something magical to stand with its hero's own creations. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



Film

Woman at War



WHAT IS IT...
A kooky climate activism drama from Iceland.

WHY GO...
For two terrific performances from Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir.

→ Director Benedikt Erlingsson (12A) 100 mins.



THIS COMEDY-DRAMA FROM Iceland asks some timely biggies about the climate change movement in its story about an ordinary woman with a secret double life as an environmental activist. The film has a bone-dry sense of humour, though the quirk level is turned up just a fraction too high. It's built around a cracking performance by Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, playing 49-year-old choir teacher Halla, who spends her free time shooting a bow and arrow at electricity pylons in the countryside, causing major power cuts.

The film's questions are important: is it acceptable to take direct action that disrupts ordinary people's lives if you believe nothing is being done to prevent the ecological crisis? As a parent, is your biggest responsibility to keep your kids safe in the here and now, or to save the planet from impending climate breakdown?

Halla, who's single, is plotting her most dangerous stunt yet when her long-standing application to adopt a Ukrainian baby is suddenly accepted. She's to become the mother of a little girl. So too is her identical twin sister, Ása (also played by Geirharðsdóttir).

Here the plot gets far-fetched, and the film's surreal touches make it hard to connect emotionally to Halla. Worst of all are the kooky musicians performing in the background of some scenes. They look like buskers at an organic farmers' market – bearded, in vintage tweed. I'd cross the road to dodge them in real life, but you just can't avoid them in a film. ■ *Cath Clarke*

ALSO OPENING



THE CURSE OF LA LLORONA



'The Conjuring'-verse (why must everything have a '-verse'?) has been watered down by unworthy follow-ups like the 'Annabelle' and 'The Nun' spin-offs, and this latest one is more of the same: a collection of tired jump scares, ropery period decor (it's set in '70s LA) and a continued slump into blandness. The presence of Father Perez from 'Annabelle' connects the dots, yet even with a tragic monster straight out of Mexican folklore and a Latinx cast (often speaking in untranslated Spanish), it feels depressingly familiar and flat. *Joshua Rothkopf*



LONG SHOT



This toothless if enjoyable political comedy is a reminder that Hollywood should leave the White House satirising to Armando Iannucci. Charlize Theron is Secretary of State Charlotte Field, who hires Seth Rogen's unemployed journalist to funny-up her speeches in her bid for the presidency. The wrinkle? She used to babysit him and he carries a torch for her. There are fun moments, especially when Charlotte drops MDMA in a crisis room, but the inevitable romance is undermined by the phoney feeling of the script. *Joshua Rothkopf*

THE TEN BEST POP-UPS AND FESTIVALS THIS WEEK

10 'Birdman' + live score

Composer Antonio Sánchez performs a rare live scoring of the Best Picture winner.

→ Barbican Cinema. ⊖ Barbican. Sat May 4, 8pm. £20-£30.

9 'The Leopard'

The word 'sumptuous' is not to be used lightly, but it definitely applies to Luchino Visconti's glorious historical epic.

→ Close-up Cinema. Shoreditch High St Overground. Sun May 5, 6.30pm. £10.

8 Right Now Film Festival

This doc fest does all the big stuff, with five films tackling everything from Black Lives Matter to Brexit.

→ Rio Cinema. Dalston Kingsland Overground. Mon May 6-May 12. £11.50-£12.50.

7 'First Night Nerves' + Q&A

The Chinese Visual Festival kicks off a week of films from the Chinese-language-speaking world with this theatre-set drama.

→ BFI Southbank. ⊖ Waterloo. Thu May 2, 6.10pm. £13.75.

6 'Withnail & I'

The Prince Charles invites you to go to the cinema by mistake and catch this cult classic in all its sardonic perfection.

→ Prince Charles Cinema. ⊖ Leicester Square. Sat May 4, 6pm. £10.

5 'Being There'

Peter Sellers plays a savant who becomes a big noise in Washington DC in Hal Ashby's masterpiece.

→ Regent Street Cinema. ⊖ Oxford Circus. Sun May 5, 3pm. £12.

4 'The Elephant Man'

Cult Classic Collective puts on a screening of David Lynch's heart-rending drama. Bring a hankie.

→ Genesis Cinema. ⊖ Stepney Green. Thu May 2, 6.25pm. £9.

3 'After Life'

If you loved 'Shoplifters', good news: there's a whole Hirokazu Kore-eda season to get stuck into this month.

→ Phoenix Cinema. ⊖ East Finchley. Sun May 5, 2pm. £12.

2 'Heaven on Earth' + live score

A BFI season of 1920s German cinema kicks off with this 1927 romp. Weimar-vellous.

→ BFI Southbank. ⊖ Waterloo. Fri May 3, 6.20pm. £12.50.

1

'10 Things I Hate About You'

An ace Heath Ledger high-school comedy, a frosty beverage and a comfy deckchair. Could there be a better way to spend a spring sunset than at one of Rooftop Film Club's first screenings of the season in Stratford?

→ Roof East. ⊖ Stratford. Sat May 4, 8.30pm. £14.95.



Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic



May bank holiday parties

‘The man’ giveth you an extra day off every May.
We say: use it unwisely by having a big night out at one of these ace parties

FRIDAY MAY 3

Jazz Cafe presents XOYO Live: Yazz Ahmed & Ishmael Ensemble

Rhythm Section head honcho Bradley Zero's Friday night XOYO residency rolls on, with a smattering of eclectic live performances preceding some of the dancefloor-focused club nights for the first time. The latest in Bradley's Globetrotting series sees the British-Bahraini trumpet and flugelhorn player Yazz Ahmed take to the stage with her blend of jazz, electronic sounds and Middle Eastern-infused melodies. Support comes from Bristol's Ishmael Ensemble.
→ XOYO, 32-37 Cowper St. ☎ Old St. £10.

Trouble Vision

The south London party has established itself as one of the prime nights for classy, leftfield house and techno shenanigans, covering everything

from slick 4/4 and sweaty warehouse rave to cosmic disco. It attracts a cool, party-hungry crowd who are always up for going the distance and beyond. Berghain regular DJ Sprinkles brings softer side of house to proceedings. You may well have trouble with *your* vision after raving in a dark room with these pros for a night.

→ Corsica Studios, 4-5 Elephant Rd. ☎ Elephant & Castle. £17.50.

Fabric Live Bank Holiday Weekend: Grime Originals, Funky Originals & Rezent

Sure, grime has firmly hit the mainstream, what with Stormzy headlining Glastonbury. But of course the sound has been bubbling away since the early '00s, and this night at Fabric looks to celebrate its rich heritage. OGs of the scene – Devlin, BBK's Jammer and President T – will be throwing down some classics from grime's early years in room one, while Marcus Nasty and Pioneer will bring a UK funky vibe to room two.

→ Fabric, 77a Charterhouse St. ☎ Farringdon. £10.

Heels & Souls MAP Fundraiser

Raise the roof, and some money, at this not-for-profit all-nighter for MAP Charity. Organised by party people Heels & Souls, you can expect the freshest house, disco and Italo-infused beats throughout the evening, with the excellent Berlin-based DJ Bell Towers flying in especially to headline.

→ NT's. 207, 1 Westgate St. London Fields Overground. £5.

Future Disco: Technicolour Nights

The award-winning label, radio show and DJ collective Future Disco is starting the bank holiday with a total bang and will be taking over Mick's Garage to celebrate the launch of its new album, 'Technicolour Nights'. Stars of the record, Mylo and Kiwi, will be helming the decks on the night, while there will be the obligatory oversized disco ball above the dancefloor to dance the night under. Sounds totally divine!

→ Mick's Garage, 8 Queen's Yard. Hackney Wick Overground. £10.

SATURDAY MAY 4

Derrick Carter + Honey Dijon

If you're into house music (and probably even if you're not), you'll have come across Derrick Carter's work in some form or another. The Chicago native has helped play a vital part in making synonymous with house music, and in May he'll be bringing his blend of jacking beats and techno to the Old Street spot for four weeks of parties. The opening weekend also features proper legend (and fellow Chicagoan) Honey Dijon behind the decks for surely one of the most lit parties of the bank holiday weekend. → XOYO, 32-37 Cowper St. ☉ Old St. £20.

Queen's Yard Summer Party

The third annual Queen's Yard Summer Party sees Hackney Wick become a massive festival scene for two days – with the area's many treasured independent bars and venues (such as Giant Steps, Mick's Garage and Crate) all opening their doors to a simultaneous celebration of UK club music. The heaving DJ line-up is genuinely a testament to the legions of less celebrated but still inspiring local selectors that keep the city ticking, week on week. So don't miss Jane Fitz, Jaye Ward, Bodyhammer, Mafalda, Donna Leake, Auntie Flo, Amy Becker and Pangaea – and check out all that art, talks, food and drink excellence along the way too.

→ Various venues, Queen's Yard, White Post Lane. Hackney Wick Overground. Sat May 4–Sun May 5. £15.50–£51.50.

Night Tales Day & Night

Hackney's Night Tales is celebrating the launch of its summer terrace in style and has invited the Boston-based duo Soul Clap to delve into their extensive record collection for six hours of the deepest disco and freshest funk. And before the party gets started in the 400-capacity night club, Sunshine Soul Soundsystem will be taking to the decks in the space's terrace. Dancing shoes = essential.

→ Night Tales, 14 Bohemia Place. Hackney Central Overground. £10.

World Unknown: May the 4th be with You

If you've been to a World Unknown party before, you'll know what to expect from this ever-renegade, mind-expanding party. But if you haven't, prepare yourself for an



Honey Dijon



R&She

evening of superior acid, trippy techno, electro and psychedelic house in a secret location. The organisers say this will be the last WU until after the festival season, so get ready for a bumper send-off.

→ Secret venue, visit www.worldunknown.co.uk for details. £10.

Craig Charles Funk and Soul

Craig Charles brings his popular BBC 6Music radio show out to play for not one, but two smegging groovy seshes. Expect to boogie hard at this party which runs from day to night and on into the early hours.

→ Brixton Jamm, 261 Brixton Rd. ☉ Stockwell. £8–£17.50.

SUNDAY MAY 5

Dingwalls Weekender

Trends in music move very fast, and if you're still telling people about a little-known band called Vampire Weekend who are really going places, it's fair to say you're about ten years out of touch. Don't panic though – you can retune your radar at Dingwalls for free this weekend. Expect sets from up-and-comers like Matt Maltese, Phobophobes and Great Dad. And who knows? You might discover some new faves to stick on your, lol, iPod.

→ Dingwalls, 11 Camden Lock.

☉ Camden Town. Free.

Adonis

London's trendiest cult queer party is heading back to Tottenham warehouse venue The Cause for 16 hours of techno, acid and hip-swinging house this bank holiday weekend. Expect an inclusive vibe with a friendly, welcoming atmosphere, while pumping beats from the likes of Lakuti, Omer and Brawther are sure to get the party started.

→ The Cause, Ashley House.

☉ Tottenham Hale. £25.

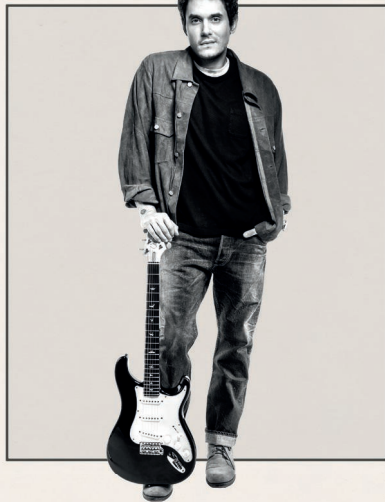
R&She 7th Birthday

This occasional, always-roadblocked party is popular primarily with gay crowds, and salutes the many, many ladies of R&B (see what they did there?) with a fantastically female playlist (apart from occasional table-flipping R&He specials). QBoy, David Oh and Neil Prince man the decks, dropping tunes by anyone from Aaliyah to Whitney to Kelis ■ *Charlie Allenby and Oliver Keens.*

→ Heaven, Villiers St. ☉ Charing Cross. £3–£5.

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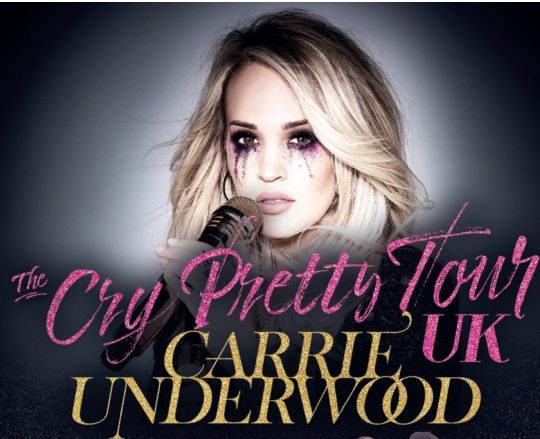
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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH Sneaks



Sneaks, eh? Sounds like one to keep a beady eye on.

She definitely is, but for completely positive reasons. Sneaks is actually the stage name of Eva Moolchan, a constantly evolving force known for her musical brevity and ability to slide effortlessly into new sounds.

What's she evolved from, then?

Take your pick. She's grown on two levels since she started making music – one, from playing bass in Maryland punk bands to the inventive and uncompromising solo artist she is today. And two, musically she's morphed from the groove-based post-punk of 2015 debut 'Gymnastics' into something more electronic and experimental.

But is her new stuff still rooted in punk?

If you see punk as doing what you want, and not being limited by particular sounds, then very much so. On latest album, 'Highway Hypnosis', she's a musical magpie snaffling dub, hip hop, Warpaint-style woozy indie and loads more. And regardless of sound, her whole ethos as an artist definitely retains a punk edge.

And what's all this about brevity?

Let's just say that Sneaks likes to keep things concise. Her songs go on unpredictable journeys but never come close to outstaying their welcome. In fact, only one track in her entire back catalogue passes the three-minute mark.

I'm sold. Anything else should I know?

If you're into cult musicians, check out her list of co-signs, which includes Ex Hex and Helium guitar hero Mary Timony, DC punks Priests and south London's very own Goat Girl, whom Sneaks supported on tour last year. So, why not soak up the Sneaks experience for yourself when she plays The Windmill in Brixton on Wednesday May 1? ■ Rhian Daly

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J Hus at Lovebox

Now this is major: London hip hop hero J Hus has just been added to the Friday night Lovebox line-up. His 2017 debut 'Common Sense' was an absolute cracker, and he's since collaborated with the likes of Stormzy and Dave, so expect this hometown show to be a real festival highlight.

→ Gunnersbury Park. ☹ Acton Town.
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Lipsync1000

Haggerston's LGBT+ megapub The Glory is launching its drag lip-sync contest. Two queens will progress to a grand final with a £1,000 cash prize, so expect sickening looks and fearless moves.

→ The Glory, Haggerston Overground. Wed May 1. Free.

Maisie Peters

Brighton's rising star brings her melodic folk-pop to the capital. Sam Smith's a fan of her distinctively delicate vocals; many others soon will be too.

→ Scala. ☹ King's Cross. Wed May 1. £11.

Confidence Man

The ace Aussie electro crew named last year's debut 'Confident Music for Confident People'. If you fancy yourself among them, catch 'em now.

→ Electric Brixton. ☹ Brixton. Thu May 2.

The Grand Goes Pop! 90s Party

This gleefully cheesy pop night features B*Witched live and DJ sets from Boyzone's Shane Lynch and Phats & Small's Ben Ofoedu. They're even promising prizes for the best double denim inspired by the jiggling Irish girlband.

→ Clapham Grand, Clapham Junction rail. Fri May 3. £10-£15.

Savage Disco

After four years of 'queering up the dance floor' on Saturday nights at Metropolis, the Savage Disco crew are saying goodbye to the East End venue with a run of five farewell parties. This first one features sets from Severino and Nimmo so it's bound to be a bittersweet treat.

→ Metropolis, Cambridge Heath Overground. Sat May 4-Jun 1. £5.

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The Cause present Adonis & Tribes

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Beating Heart / Cykada

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Royal Geographical Society

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Angela Hartnett's Café Murano / Petersham Nurseries / Josh Katz x Woodfired Canteen

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Somerset House Summer Series

New additions to the glorious courtyard music showcase include Ray BLK, who joins Jacob Banks as a special guest, and Native Dancer, who play with Nao. Plus shows from The Internet, Gossip and Cut Copy are still on sale.

→ Somerset House. ☉ Temple. Jul 11-21. From £31.25.



FKA Twigs

Huge news! The avant-pop innovator has just dropped comeback single 'Cellophane' – and now she's announced her first London headline show since 2015.

→ Alexandra Palace Theatre. Alexandra Palace rail. May 28. £27.50.

Brave New World

This one-day festival will be a fabulously global affair. The stacked line-up includes a reunion of Fela Kuti's original band Africa 70.

→ Roundhouse. Jun 22. ☉ Chalk Farm. From £32.50.

King Princess

The Brooklyn-based rising star who's signed to Mark Ronson's label flies into town for this white-hot intimate gig.

→ Heaven. ☉ Charing Cross. Jun 26. £16.50.

Aly & AJ

The sister act who ruled the Disney Channel back in the day are back in town. Expect their signature synth-pop hit 'Potential Breakup Song' to be a moment.

→ Scala. ☉ King's Cross. Jul 11. £20.35.

Ladytron

Hurrah! The perennially nostalgic synth marvels are back on tour this autumn.

→ Heaven. ☉ Charing Cross. Oct 24. £27.50.

Lewis Capaldi

Is he a singer who uses social media? Or a social media star who can sing a bit? Nobody's sure, but it's clearly working for the young Glaswegian.

He's only bloody playing Wembley. → SSE Arena, Wembley. ☉ Wembley Park. Mar 12 2020. £33.60-£44.60.

JAMES MORRISON

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Theatre & Dance

Edited by **Andrzej Lukowski**
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THE BIG REVIEW

All My Sons



THERE ARE A LOT of famous people in Jeremy Herrin's revival of Arthur Miller's early classic 'All My Sons'. So many that the fact it marks the professional stage debut of Jenna Coleman (of 'Doctor Who' etcetera) doesn't even feel like a particularly big deal. She and fellow Brit actor Colin Morgan ('Merlin', 'Humans') happily take second-tier billing below American giants Bill 'the president in "Independence Day"' Pullman and Sally 'two Oscars' Field.

For all that star power, it's a surprisingly restrained affair, in which Max Jones's set probably gives the most overtly flamboyant performance. A vividly naturalistic, almost hyperreal suburban house and garden, strikingly lit by Richard Howell, it looms over everything like a monolith, until at the end it dramatically recedes. It is the hope, the dream, the prize, the lie that holds the Keller family together, years after they should have fallen apart.

Joe Keller (Pullman) is a well-off factory owner who lives in the house with his fragile wife Kate (Field) and their idealistic son Chris (Morgan). The other Keller son, Larry, seems to have died in WWII, although his body has never been found, and Kate refuses to give up hope.

On this evening, Chris has brought home Ann (Coleman, solid in a minor role), Larry's ex-girlfriend and the daughter of Joe's former business partner Steve Deever, who was jailed for selling faulty parts to the US Air Force, which resulted in 21 pilots (the band is indeed named after this bit of the play) losing their lives. Both Joe and Steve were jailed, but Joe got out on appeal and seems to be living a respectable suburban life.

Herrin and his constellation of stars keep things low-key. The characters are tuned down, not up; Pullman and Morgan speak in mumbly voices that take a while to adjust to. However, this production sneaks up on you, as Pullman's studiously affable, occasionally menacing Joe runs out of space for his folksy schtick and complicated self-justifications. Field's nervy Kate is forced to move on from the role of grieving mother that she has played so well, and

Morgan's Chris has to reconcile his morals with his family. The Kellers are in denial, and they emerge from it slowly but with great pain.

You don't get the sort of 'big' acting you might expect from this play and this cast. But Pullman and Field are good enough actors to hold us riveted regardless. Both performances are masterclasses in moral ambivalence. And in showing the Kellers to be flawed human beings rather than making them speechifying villains, Herrin and the cast make a lot of sense of the play. I guess Miller's key point here is that from the suburbs up, capitalist society can only really live with itself through denial. The most devastating revelation here isn't necessarily whether or not Joe is guilty; it's the fact that his neighbours believe him to be, but don't care enough to do anything about it. And as swathes of America turn a blind eye to the actions of their current president, Joe's actions seem pretty small-time. ■

WHAT IS IT...

An all-star cast tackle Arthur Miller's devastating early play.

WHY GO...

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By Andrzej Lukowski
Who is just glad he got through this review without calling him Bill Paxton.



JOHAN PERSSON



CAPTAIN CORELLI: MARG BRENNER; NOUGHTS AND CROSSES: ROBERT DAY/ASC

Noughts & Crosses



WHAT IS IT...

A stage version of Malorie Blackman's seminal YA novel.

WHY GO...

It's an important story, thrillingly told.

→ Theatre Royal Stratford East. Ⓞ Stratford. Until Sat May 4. £10-£41.

SOCIAL PRIVILEGE IS often invisible to those who have it. Malorie Blackman's award-winning 2001 novel for young adults, 'Noughts & Crosses', tackles this by flipping the script. In this alternate history, the white 'Noughts' are second-class citizens to the black 'Crosses'.

Like many of the best concepts, its power lies in its simplicity. Sabrina Mahfouz has taken this and cleverly updated it for our rolling media age.

Teenager Sephy (Heather Agyepong) is a Cross. She's the daughter of the ruthless Kamal, home secretary in the British government. Meanwhile, Sephy's childhood friend Callum (Billy Harris) is a Nought who wants to be judged on his merits, not his race.

The 'Romeo and Juliet'-style tragedy of Sephy and Callum's relationship is the nub of the story. Esther Richardson's production is packed with potent imagery. The protests when Callum attends posh all-Cross Heathcroft School are evocative of the demonstrations against the desegregation of universities in 1960s America. Elsewhere, the overdose of a wealthy Cross is breathlessly reported on multiple TV screens – unlike the death of a Nought.

One of the strengths of this adaptation is Mahfouz's ear for contemporary speech. But this big, ambitious production also feels too compressed, as it burns through Blackman's narrative. The cast have a lot of heavy lifting to do, both character and storytelling-wise, and the strain sometimes shows. ■ *Tom Wicker*



Captain Corelli's Mandolin



WHAT IS IT...

A new staging of the blockbuster novel.

WHY GO...

It's totally faithful to the beloved '90s love story.

→ Rose Theatre Kingston. Kingston rail. Until May 12. £8-£45.

I AM FROM the '90s and in the '90s I loved Louis de Bernières's bittersweet, hyper-vivid monster of a breakthrough novel. It has probably drifted out of fashion these days – maybe because of the scale of its success, maybe because of the slightly rubbish Nic Cage film, maybe because de Bernières has struggled to match it since.

In any case, it is 2019 and here, finally, is a stage version (by Rona Munro) and it's good. More than good: Melly Still's production is heartfelt, inventive, kinetic and requisitely whimsical – for starters, two members of the cast spend the bulk of their night respectively playing a goat and a pine marten. They belong to Iannis, a philosophy-spouting Greek doctor living on the island of Cephalonia during WWII, alongside his daughter Pelagia. Far too much happens to allow for a realist set, but Mayou Trikerioti's abstract, crumpled metal one is beautiful, looking at once like a map of the island and an impression of the sea around it, shifting from silver to bronze.

Ambitiously, Munro takes a stab at compressing the entire hefty book into a relatively svelte two-and-a-half hours. Certainly anyone scarred by the deviations of the film will appreciate the fidelity. But really the story is too big to contain here. Part of the occupying Italian forces on the island, Corelli doesn't even appear until the end of the first half. Still, as efforts go, this is beyond valiant and if it doesn't have the weight of the novel, it's still a rich and ambitious piece of theatre. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*



HEADS UP



Breakin' Convention

Poppers, battlers, B-boys and hip hop dancers of every flavour are taking over Sadler's Wells this weekend. Catch shows from an international line-up of street dance legends, or hone your moves at the fest's free workshops.

→ Sadler's Wells. Ⓞ Angel. Sat May 4-Sun May 5.
£15-£30, £18 concs.



TIME OUT MEETS

Duncan Macmillan

HE IS THE PLAYWRIGHT behind West End smashes '1984' and 'People, Places and Things'. His latest is an adaptation – for super-producer Sonia Friedman – of Henrik Ibsen's little-performed 'Rosmersholm'. It stars Tom Burke as John Rosmer, torn between the polarising politics of radical Rebecca West (Hayley Atwell) and conservative Andreas Kroll (Giles Terera).

Roz-mers-holm? Is that right?

'[Laughs] Everyone seems to need a bit of a run-up to it. I think it's the "sh" that throws people. Apparently the original title was "White Horses" but in the end that didn't feel very Ibseny.'

How did you come to adapt it?

'Sonia has been obsessed with this play for years, as is JK Rowling, who she's very good friends with. She asked me and I said yes without reading it first. Then I did so and said "Oh God, was this the right decision?"'

What's so intimidating about it?

'It's got a really dreamlike, nightmarish world of its own. On my first draft I tried to make everything in it make sense, and I was removing its mystery. It was watching the most recent series of "Twin Peaks" that helped, it gave me the confidence to illuminate the mystery without trying to fix it.'

How does it speak to us now?

'It's about the media polarising political discourse, and how a person's reputation can be demolished overnight. We talked about Boris Johnson, who wrote a pro-Leave and pro-Remain article then decided which one to go for. So who talked to him in the 48 hours it took him to make up his mind? That's essentially what this play is. Oh God, I wish I hadn't said Boris Johnson now.'

This is a European classic, you're a big Europhile who works in Germany a lot... er, interesting times?

'It's so absurd, I've not heard a good case for why we should leave. [Mock-serious voice] And I don't like that Trump either!' ■ *Interview by Andrzej Lukowski*
→ 'Rosmersholm' is at the Duke of York's Theatre until Jul 20.

EXCLUSIVE

'AVALANCHE: A LOVE STORY'



Save up to 58 percent with our tickets to this compelling new play inspired by Julia Leigh's real-life struggle with IVF. The play will be the centrepiece at Fertility Fest – a new arts festival dedicated to baby making. Tickets just £25.

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- 3 All My Sons**
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→ The Old Vic. Until Jun 8.
- 4 Book of Mormon**
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→ Prince of Wales. Until Jul 20.
- 5 Waitress**
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£16-£60.

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A spectacular show from Soweto Gospel Choir and Rambert.
→ Peacock Theatre. ⊖ Holborn.
Tue Apr 30-May 18. £18-£55.

Man of La Mancha

A rare revival of the 1965 musical, starring Kelsey Grammer.
→ London Coliseum.
⊖ Charing Cross. Until Jun 8.
£15-£150.

Rosmersholm

Duncan Macmillan adapts Ibsen's story. Hayley Atwell stars.
→ Duke of York's Theatre.
⊖ Leicester Square.
Until Jul 20. £15-£125.

Small Island

NT boss Rufus Norris stages Andrea Levy's bestselling novel.
→ National Theatre, Olivier.
⊖ Waterloo. Until Aug 10.
£15-£55.

**OFF-
WEST END**

**The Half God
of Rainfall**

Greek and Nigerian deities clash in 'Barber

Shop Chronicles' man Inua Ellams's new play.
→ Kiln Theatre. ⊖ Kilburn.
Until May 17. £12.50-£32.50.

Jude

Edward Hall's last show as Hampstead boss.
→ Hampstead Theatre.
⊖ Swiss Cottage. Until Jun 1.
£10-£30.

Out of Water

Playwright Zoe Cooper's follow-up to her hit 'Jess and Joe Forever' is a bittersweet story of wild swimming and gender fluidity.
→ Orange Tree Theatre.
⊖ Richmond. Until Jun 1.
£15-£25, £12.50-£19 concs.

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See Matthew Broderick make his West End debut in bittersweet comic drama 'The Starry Messenger'. Tickets from £16.

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Dancers: Emma Hawes and Francesco Gabriele Frola. Art Direction: Charlotte Wilkinson. Photo © Jason Bell. *Reviews for 2015 Dutch National Ballet production at the London Coliseum



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Comedy

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TIME OUT LOVES

Simon Amstell

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a decade makes. Ten years ago Simon Amstell announced that he would be leaving the panel show that helped make his name, 'Never Mind the Buzzcocks'. Since then, he's co-written and starred in an award-winning sitcom ('Grandma's House'), penned a popular book ('Help') and performed four acclaimed stand-up shows.

It's a treat, then, that Londoners have a rare chance to catch Amstell's sensitive stand-up this weekend, as he performs the best bits from his last two shows for a brace of gigs on one night in Hackney (the 9pm slot's sold out but you can still go for the earlier one).

On stage, the 39-year-old comedian is thoughtful, vulnerable and brutally honest. His stand-up shows focus on angst and awkwardness as he examines his own ego and ridiculous society. He picks apart his own flaws and reveals experiences and feelings – however personal – in a therapeutic fashion, all while being incredibly funny.

More recently, stand-up has taken a backseat to Amstell's other creative efforts, and filmmaking has become his focus. After directing 'Carnage' for BBC iPlayer – an hour-long drama set in a vegan future – his first feature film, 'Benjamin', premiered at the London Film Festival last October and had a cinema release in March. It's no secret that there are similarities between Amstell and his lead character – the film captures the feelings and anxieties of Amstell in his twenties. "There were moments in the edit where I felt a bit sorry for my past self," the comic-turned-director told Time Out earlier this year. "When [Benjamin's] struggling to flirt, I feel slightly embarrassed at my own past ineptitude."

After this weekend's gigs, who knows when he'll be back on stage? After all, surely it's only a matter of time until Marvel want to reboot Spider-Man as an angst-y teenager from Ilford, right? ■ **Ben Williams**
→ Earth. Hackney Central Overground.
Fri May 3, 6.30pm and 9pm. £18.70.

THE TEN BEST GIGS THIS MONTH

- 10 Joel Creasey: 'Drink. Slay. Repeat'**
Expect candid stories and showbiz gossip from the Aussie comic.
→ Leicester Square Theatre.
⊖ Leicester Square. May 9. £19.25.
- 9 Knock2Bag**
Bathgate's Fern Brady, sketch comic and writer Ben Pope and stand-ups Colin Hoult and Lucy Pearman play this east London gig.
→ Moth Club. Hackney Central Overground. May 16. £11.
- 8 Laugh Out London**
Ace stand-up in Angel from 'Taskmaster' star Phil Wang, plus Sarah Keyworth and Glenn Moore.
→ Old Queen's Head. ⊖ Angel. May 13. £8 on the door.
- 7 Cake**
Lou Sanders hosts a delicious bill with Jen Wakeman, leftfield stand-up Stuart Laws and rising star Andy Barr.
→ Paper Dress Vintage. Hackney Central Overground. May 13. £5.
- 6 Darren Harriott: 'Visceral'**
Charming stand-up Darren Harriott talks politics and more in his latest solo effort.
→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Tue Apr 30-Sat May 4. £11.50-£16.50.
- 5 Strip Light Comedy**
Talented social commentator Dane Baptiste, rapid-fire joker Adam Hess and more play this night.
→ Secret Covent Garden location. ⊖ Covent Garden. Wed May 1. £12.
- 4 Plosive Comedy in Dulwich**
Character comic and 'Alan Partridge' and 'Shrill' star Lolly Adefope headlines.
→ The MCT at Alleen's. North Dulwich rail. Sat May 4. £17.
- 3 Kiri Pritchard-McLean: 'Victim, Complex'**
Extra dates of this impressive stand-up's passionate show.
→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. May 13-18. From £16.
- 2 Hackney Comedy Experience**
Telly regular Sara Pascoe, 'TV Burp' host Harry Hill and more play this big gig.
→ Earth. May 9. Dalston Kingsland Overground. £17.

1

Moon

This boiler-suit-donning sketch duo's debut show is full of imaginative ideas and silly gags. They're lunatics and they're out of this world.

→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Thu May 2-Sat May 4. £14-£16.



MOON: STEVE LATHORNE

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

Art

SHOW OF THE WEEK



Mandy El-Sayegh: 'Cite Your Sources'



THERE'S SOME SERIOUS information overload in Mandy El-Sayegh's art. News, magazines, the internet, pornography, advertising and poetry are all splashed across the gallery walls. At the root of El-Sayegh's work is a particularly modern issue: how do we navigate a world so inundated with information?

One wall is lined with big printed images, pictures of banknotes and pages from the *Daily Mail* overlaid with drawings of faces and suggestive oral shapes. Huge grid paintings line another wall, snippets of newspaper headlines and blown-up nudes poking out

WHAT IS IT...

A heady fusion of painting, found imagery, literature and lots of glue.

WHY GO...

It's a bit overwhelming, but it's full of great ideas.

→ Chisenhale Gallery.
↻ Mile End. Until Jun 9.
Free.

beneath the rough marks. The floor is plastered with pages from the *Financial Times*, scribbled with Arabic calligraphy and maps, all sticky underfoot.

But the best works are the vitrines in the middle of the room, filled with magazines, paint, melted soap and mounds of goopy wax and hair. They're horizontal works of abstraction, filled with thousands of meanings to untangle.

Throughout the show, you walk on and among the art, dwarfed and overwhelmed by the imagery, surrounded by the information.

Her work feels like it fits neatly into the history of abstract art, with

a nod to the 'combines' of Robert Rauschenberg. But it's not about just one thing, it's not just abstraction or sculpture. Instead, it's countless, endless bits of information constantly bubbling and boiling over. El-Sayegh's work is a heady collision of found imagery, literature, painting and sculpture; a riot of signs and symbols that clash and interact. That can feel confusing, and the unreadable gallery text doesn't help. But you can find whatever meaning or narrative you want in El-Sayegh's chaos, and the one overriding feeling is that this is art about navigating now, and it's doing it really well. ■



By Eddy Frankel
Who sighs his saucers a lot more than he cites his sources.



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nationalgallery.org.uk/events

Elisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun, *Self-Portrait in a Straw Hat* (detail), after 1782 © The National Gallery, London



Lawrence Lek



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE is coming. There's nothing we can do to stop it and we don't know what it will bring. But Lawrence Lek has a prediction. His feature-length computer-animated film imagines a future where AIs are songwriters and us fleshy humans have to fight for supremacy, all with a soundtrack composed by the artist himself.

The narrative follows Diva, a human singer using an AI songwriter to mount a comeback at the eSports Olympics closing ceremony. The aesthetic is like a schlock contemporary video game: stilted walking, fantastical landscapes, digital skins and warped undulating surfaces. Lek's concepts unfurl as the story unfolds: bio-supremacy, the fear of impending AI, corporate dominance, celebrity and ego.

It's part music video compilation,

part video game and part animated film. It's an enjoyable experience, and has plenty of good concepts to keep you going through its runtime. But you just can't help but feel that so many of these ideas are being better expressed in other mediums. Game design, literary science fiction, filmmaking; all these mediums are tackling these same topics, with the same technological edge, to higher aesthetic and conceptual standards. Put this in a cinema, and it doesn't really stand up; put it on your console, and the same thing happens.

It's frustrating because there are so many top-notch ideas here that if Lek just concentrated it all down, made it more succinct and focused, it could be brilliant. Just like the AI revolution, it's close, but it's not quite there yet. ■ *Eddy Frankel*

WHAT IS IT...
A trippy, CGI-look at the future of AI. With a lot of singing.

WHY GO...
It's damn clever and very pretty.

→ Sadie Coles HQ.
⊖ Oxford Circus.
Until May 18. Free.

COMING SOON

→ Lee Krasner: 'Living Colour'

Krasner is one of the most important abstract artists ever, but she has always been overshadowed by the men of the genre. This show should finally put an end to all that, and we can't wait.

→ Barbican Art Gallery.

⊖ Barbican.

May 30-Sep 1. £17, £12 concs.



↑ Luchita Hurtado

This little known Venezuelan artist is 98 and has been making art for decades, creating works that play brilliantly with perspective. It's about time we paid her some attention.

→ Serpentine Sackler Gallery. ⊖ Lancaster Gate. May 23-Sep 8. Free.



↑ Frank Bowling

Bowling is a British-Guyanese artist who has been creating gorgeously coloured works of semi-abstract since the '60s, and this retrospective is long overdue.

→ Tate Britain. ⊖ Pimlico. May 31-Aug 26. £13, £12 concs.

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Arwed Messmer/RAF No Evidence/Alan Bowalls 2017 • Arwed Messmer: research, concept and editing; source: Berlin Police Historical Collection

Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

Yeni

→ 55 Beak St, W1F 9SH. ☉ Piccadilly Circus.



THE LONDON SPIN-OFF of one of Istanbul's most celebrated restaurants, Yeni has some big shoes to fill. No pressure. But it's not flashy. When you walk in, your first thought, if you've been to the Turkish original, is that this version is almost as humble, just with more of a Soho edge. The unplastered bricks have a pale, distressed paint effect, like the walls of an abandoned farmhouse. Ceilings are high and dark. The kitchen is open, with pretty patterned tiles along its front. There's a communal wooden table in the middle, with smaller ones around the sides. Lights are low, candles twinkle, the soundtrack is jazzy. It's all deliciously atmospheric.

And that's before any food even arrives. This is the sort of place that serves an amuse bouche as a warm-up, and not just any old thing, but a sample of the aubergine manti (dumpling), considered one of the best creations to come out of the kitchen of Yeni Lokanta in Istanbul. A small, single parcel sat in a pool of thin goat's yoghurt, with little flecks of oil (green for parsley, orange for chilli). I loved Yeni for giving them away so that everyone could try one.

Then there was the salad. An unlit bonfire of matchstick-thin green apple, prodded from the sides by crunchy mange tout and fresh leaves of mint, it had been lightly dressed, then strewn with casual blobs of

WHAT IS IT...

The Soho outpost of famed Istanbul restaurant Yeni Lokanta.

WHY GO...

Snazzy salad. Bread pudding fritters. And everything in between.



chilli jam and cooling yoghurt. If you're the sort of person who thinks that salad is a dish you eat before you get to the real food, I assure you, this will make you reconsider your position. Equally flawless – and I do mean perfection – was a dessert of kadajifi (bread pudding) fritters. Crisp-edged clouds the size of giant marbles, they came spiked with zingy strips of candied orange zest, topped with



a scoop of smooth, silken ice cream made from buffalo milk.

In between? Succulent skate, cooked in a slug of raki (aniseed and grape liquor: it's only hinted at) and served over a messy tangle of monk's beard and tomato strips, with tiny surprises here and there: pumpkin seeds, pine nuts, capers. Then, well, everything else. Right down to the salted-caramel panna cotta, which came in a cold puddle of savoury pumpkin veloute. Genius. In fact, I really couldn't name a bad dish.

So where's the 'but' then? Well, Yeni's not cheap. Go hungry and you'll leave poor. My tip? Ask for some bread. It's not on the menu, but our request was greeted not just with

a beaming 'of course!' (side note: the staff here are wonderful) but a basket of good sourdough and some unasked-for but excellent smoked butter. Also, stick to the small plates: they're miles better value than the 'large' ones, which are much pricier, but not, in fact, much bigger.

But do start saving up those pennies. Because this modern Turkish restaurant is, cliché or not, an absolute delight. ■

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £140.



By Tania Ballantine
Whose previous encounter with raki ended less well.

Crispin

→ Pavilion on the Corner, White's Row, E1 7NF.
No phone. ↻ Liverpool St.



THE MOST STRIKING thing about Crispin might be the building – a handsome glass and zinc construction on a Spitalfields backstreet – but its food comes a close second. A venture from the people behind popular coffee house Lundenwic, it does a daytime menu that's all organic bacon sandwiches, coconut-milk porridge and Assembly Coffee. But come nightfall, the offering is more ambitious – and it delivers.

Sourcing is strong here. Potato sourdough from Hackney bakery The Dusty Knuckle came with terrific whipped butter. Folds of meaty Secret Smokehouse salmon were teamed with homemade pickles, and the creamy burrata was lavished with olive oil from Senia.



WHAT IS IT...
A head-turning coffee bar and restaurant in Spitalfields.

WHY GO...
To order one of everything without anyone judging you.

The kitchen's skills are also strong, from celeriac croquettes with moreish sage aioli to pork belly in broth with pickled daikon. Mushroom ravioli with wild garlic cream and pine nuts looked a treat and vanished in a flash. Only onions with labneh and hazelnut lacked pizzazz. Puds of rhubarb upside-down cake with milk ice cream and blood-orange sorbet with oats turned the dial back up to ten. Our

advice? Go for the one-of-everything option: £27 a head gets you the full parade of small plates.

The minimalist dining room is airy but intimate. And service is slick. Our table wasn't quite ready, but before we'd had time to grumble, we were seated at the bar with free fizz in our hands. Nicely done. Like Crispin, really. ■ *Sarah Guy*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £110.

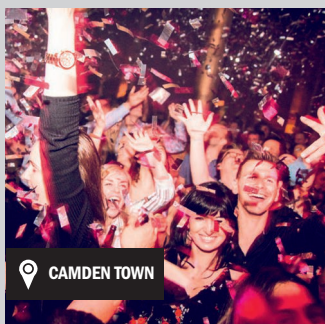
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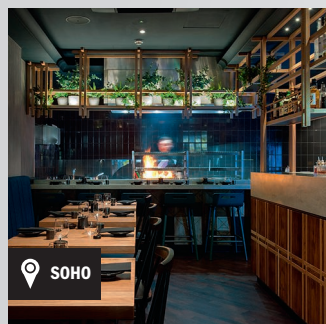
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CAMDEN TOWN

THE BLUES KITCHEN SAYS:

'Want to celebrate some really good times? Drink for free – all night – on your birthday! That's right, if you make a drinks booking for 15 or more guests on a Friday night at any Blues Kitchen, we'll throw in free drinks as a mouthwatering birthday treat. Cheers!'
111-113 Camden High St, NW1 7JN.



SOHO

ROBATA SAYS:

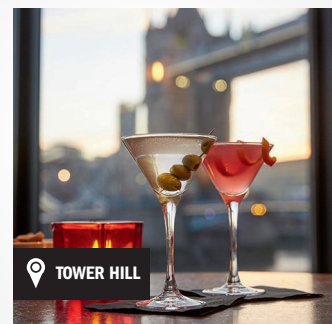
'Robata, meaning "fireside", specialises in robata-grilled, charcoal cooking. Bringing the flavours of Japan to the West End, we create a unique experience where Asian flair meets twenty-first-century creativity. Taste sake cocktails, sharing plates and our celebrated robata skewers.'
56 Old Compton St, W1D 4UE.



SPITALFIELDS

CARLUCCIO'S SPITALFIELDS SAYS:

'A few minutes from Spitalfields Market, we're open for breakfast, lunch and dinner from Monday to Sunday, offering a range of classic Italian food. Our menu also caters for vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free diners. Check out this month's chef's special with the mystique of asparagus!'
27 Spital Square, E1 6DZ.



TOWER HILL

XI BAR AND LOUNGE SAYS:

'Boasting some of the best views in London, Xi Bar and Lounge at The Tower Hotel is a great place to relax during the day, get the party started before a night on the town, or settle down with a nightcap. Sip on drinks as you gaze across Tower Bridge and the Thames.'
The Tower Hotel, St Katharine's Way E1W 1LD.

Food

Wild Food Café Islington ★★★★★

→ 269-270 Upper St, N1 2UQ. ☺ Highbury & Islington.

A SPIN-OFF OF the Covent Garden original, this Islington branch of the long-standing vegan café is bigger, brighter and actually bookable.

The light, airy space is colourful and slick: think plush pink velvet chairs, marble counters, potted plants and a large open-plan kitchen. Oh, and you get quadruple-filtered tap water.

The wood-fired, gluten-free, holier-than-thou pizzas are made with quinoa flour, veggie mix and other gut-friendly ingredients that make for a base that holds up well against a traditional slice. Our 'Italian', topped with a creamy cashew cheese sauce, herb oil and pine nuts, was ace. The pasta substitute, on the other hand, fell flat: limp courgetti noodles just didn't quite cut it.

Starters were equally mixed: the crispy vegan flatbread, covered in tangy wild-leaf pesto, was spot-on, but steer well clear of the polenta, which was murky and watery and dotted with too-soft squash and overly pungent truffle bits.

But there was a happy ending: the multi-coloured Raw Rainbow Cheesecake, layered with matcha and cashew creams, was as delicious as it was pretty. Smooth and zesty, but free of refined sugars, it was a perfect example of WFC's ethos: transforming nourishing ingredients into something moreish and indulgent. ■ *Nina Clark*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £70.

WHAT IS IT...
An offshoot of Wild Food Café, this time in N1.

WHY GO...
Vegan food that's easy on the taste buds: try the Raw Rainbow Cheesecake.



THREE OF THE BEST

Chinatown restaurants



C&R Café ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT... A casual Malaysian café-diner that's been dishing out Straits street food for more than 20 years.

WHY GO... For a giant bowl of the outstanding laksa: fiery broth, juicy prawns, puffy fish balls, the works.

→ 4-5 Rupert Court, W1D 6DY. ☺ Piccadilly Circus.



Le Hanoi ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT... An affordable but stylish Vietnamese restaurant on the edge of Chinatown.

WHY GO... For classics like the plump, sticky summer rolls packed with cool mint and juicy prawns.

→ 4 Macclesfield St, W1D 6AX. ☺ Leicester Square.



Xu ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT... A smart, vintage-style Taiwanese restaurant from the crew behind Soho's cult hit Bao.

WHY GO... For delightful dishes like the chilli egg drop crab: a creamy, spicy curry with odd blobs of wibbly, jellyish egg.

→ 30 Rupert St, W1D 6DL. ☺ Piccadilly Circus.

EXCLUSIVE

GAMMA GAMMA



Taste some of the world's most exotic meats (kangaroo, anyone?) at this epic brunch. Bottomless food and bottomless drink is now just £30 when you book through Time Out.

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Drink

Edited by Laura Richards
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BAR OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS IT...

A late-night King's Cross bar spinning Italo disco and pouring vermouth.

WHY GO...

It may sound retro, but this is the capital's coolest happy hour.



Supermax

→ 14-18 Handyside St, N1C 4DN. ☉ King's Cross.



I ALMOST STAYED until closing time at Supermax, fuelling up on happy hour aperitivo before chair-grooving to similarly Italian-influenced disco (okay, after a few of the bar's stronger cocktails, too). The King's Cross spot comes from the team behind Spiritland, a nearby all-day 'listening bar' with a super-powered sound system and an audiophile following that's totally justified. Though the two places share a musical ethos, Supermax isn't as nerdy. It's more about the fun, from upbeat tunes in the loo (on a separate, funkier loop to what was playing in the bar) to a mechanical mirror ball that starts swirling on a Friday pretty soon after that aforementioned happy hour ends.

It's a secluded setting, in the basement of pizza restaurant Happy Face, just beyond the area that was once Bagley's nightclub. That's why the dripping-in-disco look is such a pleasant surprise. There's an opulent yet semi-seedy tone: walls covered in mauve-coloured velvet drapes, golden, orb-shaped lights on the tables and leather seating in

a wiggly track around the room that faces the action. Yet it doesn't come across as kitsch. And the approach to drink – like the approach to music – is all about quality.

All of the cocktails contain vermouth or a fortified wine of some description and span the eras – the menu is like a DJ set, ringing with truly retro and forgotten drinks as well as the classics. However, even a 50/50 martini had a modern edge, served in a tumbler over a large cube of ice. The vermouth vibe extended to a list of five happy-hour drinks, each one delicious, fun and served with a plate of cicchetti, all for just £6. An Amer Citron particularly hit the spot with its two-tone look and sharp, citrus twang.

DJs on a Friday night help create a real party mood, and although people weren't up on their feet dancing by the time I left, a cool, international crowd buzzed around the bar, while large groups chattered at tables. Remarkably, the acoustics were so on-point, I couldn't hear a word they were saying. Or maybe I was just lost in music. ■

Laura Richards



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All for that taste of Taylor's



Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips



A perfect day on

The Isle of Wight

Serene seaside, sunny cycling trails and tasty local tipples

THERE IS NO one way to holiday on the Isle of Wight. If you're into outdoor adventure, England's closest island in the Channel (and, thanks to its unique microclimate, the UK's sunniest spot) is one big playground. It also serves up scoopfuls of seaside kitsch and chocolate-box village vibes, while its burgeoning restaurant scene and boom in local producers, brewers and distillers has made it a foodie destination.

First up

'It's impossible to imagine a prettier spot,' opined Queen Victoria about **Osborne House**, her lavish holiday home, which is open to the public. See her bedroom, kept as it was at the time of her death. It's an intimate insight into Vic's private life.

Go on an adventure

There's no better way to explore the island than on two wheels. **Hire a bike** from Routefifty 7 and set off on a two-hour loop on the **Red Squirrel Trail**. You'll judder across rolling countryside, past alpacas to **Sandown Pier**: a gorgeous, old-school slice of the island's 25-mile coastline.

Stop for lunch

Book a table overlooking the Solent at **The Little Gloster**, where the pasta is handmade, the seafood is caught locally and as much produce as possible is sourced from the island. Super-friendly service and a bright, Scandi-inspired setting elevate the experience to extraordinary.

Soak up the vibes

Find out how much twee you can handle in **Shanklin Old Village**, where thatched roofs, trad tea rooms and gift shops line narrow, winding streets. Stop for a cream tea at **Vernon Cottage**, where the scones are Isle of Wight-shaped.

Drink like a local

Talk about island success stories. The folks at **Mermaid Gin** caught the gin boom at just the right time; since opening in 2014, their small-batch distillery has flourished. Order a gin and tonic at their Isle of Wight Distillery base and taste why. The addition of rock samphire – foraged from a stretch of shoreline on the island – leaves you with a hint of salty sea air. ■ *Rose Johnstone*

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Get up close to the dramatic white cliffs of Freshwater Bay during a two-hour **sea-kayaking** session with Isle of Wight Adventure Activities. Your instructor will help you navigate secret rocky sea caves and ride the swell across gaps in cliff walls. Don't be put off if the weather is a bit chilly: that's what wetsuits are for.

WAKE UP HERE

Tiny Homes



Swap rush-hour traffic noise for birdsong by escaping to the wildflower-filled fringes of Parkhurst Forest. Owners Helen and Frazer Cunningham have built three (soon to be four) cute-as-a-button wooden houses, each lovingly decorated with vintage prints and fluffy blankets, and fitted out with decks, kitchens, wood-burning stoves and composting toilets. The homes are solar-powered and sleep up to four people. It's as close as you can get to nature without camping, and much more comfortable. Oh, and make sure you look out for red squirrels!

Rose Johnstone

→ Tiny Homes Holidays, Cowes. From £185 for two nights. www.tinyholidays.com

→ Get there: one hour 30 minutes by train from London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour (or two hours by car), then 45 minutes by ferry.

Get a taste for island life at timeout.com/daytrips

Explore all the outdoor adventures the mountains and lakes have to offer and find relaxation along the way. Tips for an active stay in Austria: austria.info/mindfulness



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“It is often the small moments in life that become the greatest memories”

Visiting Austria, you will encounter moments in which you can enjoy the little things in life and be completely present in the here and now. You might be at one of the many mountain lakes, still and peaceful, nestled between green hills and mountains, where you hear nothing but the calm movement of the waves and feel the crystal-blue cool water surrounding your feet. It is in this moment that you can finally listen to your inner voice.

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arrive
and revive

