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Time Out

LONDON



JOHN BOYEGA
EDITOR

‘Shut your mouth and work’

Our guest editor lays down the law

Winter Warmth

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SPICE UP YOUR SENSES



Inside

This week's Time Out
in no time at all

Out of time

From working horses to the men
who light the city's 1,500 gas lamps,
we celebrate disappearing London

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'Jumanji: The Next Level'

'Welcome to the Jungle' was good
(surprisingly). The sequel's better!
Seems The Rock is on a roll

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Five-star Japanese

Endo offers the ultimate *omakase*
(chef's selection) experience

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Poll positions

Put your cross in the box then get out
of your box at one of the election-night
parties getting started this Thursday

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It's Kismas!

From the trad to the kooky, we've rustled
up everything you need to keep them
merry over the Christmas hols

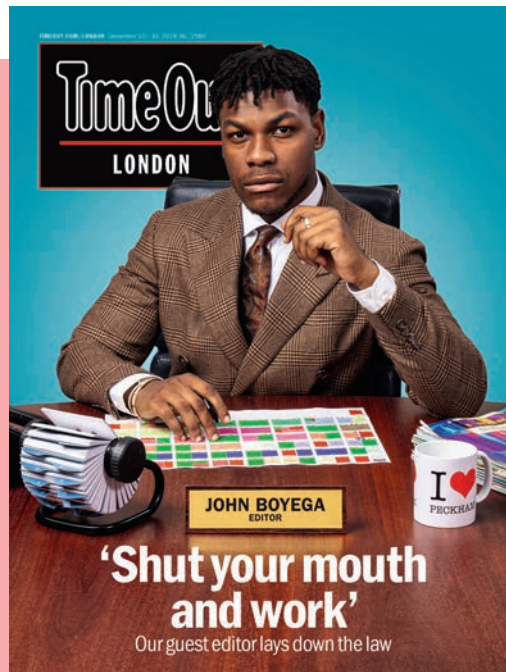
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Hello, London

'Shut your mouth and work' is the advice that John Boyega would give his younger self. So this week we're giving him the chance to do a bit of honest graft, as he takes over Time Out. He's popping up through the mag telling us about his personal London recommendations, and tells us about his hopes for a (literally) sunnier future for the capital.



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LONDON

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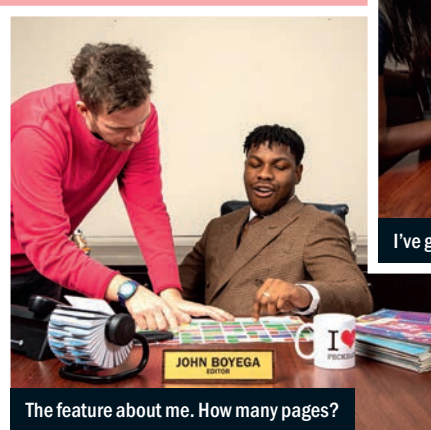
Behind the scenes of John Boyega's guest edit



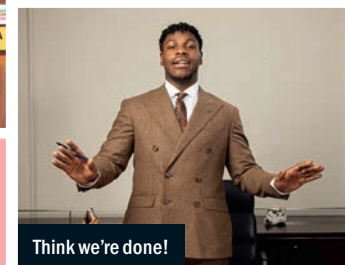
No Star Wars figures.



I've got AN IDEA. London's best trousers.



The feature about me. How many pages?



Think we're done!

Check out Time Out's **Instagram** for more exclusive stuff from John.

SAMSUNG

Not a shop

This week it's...

Fresh Voices 11.12.19
with Amelia Dimoldenburg & Guardian Live

Co-Lab Series Rhyme x Sign 11.12.19
with Akala and Jasmine Whipps

**Mariah Carey Christmas
Dance Workshop** 12.12.19
with Cassius Powell & Time Out

Christmas Wreath Making 09.12.19
in association with Twitter

Silent Disco 14.12.19
with Time Out

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City life

Edited by James Manning
@timeoutlondon

Gingerbread, man!

BREATHING IN CENTRAL London air might be the same as smoking 150 cigarettes a year (according to a terrifying new study by the British Heart Foundation), but the heart of our capital has been given a fragrant makeover in the Museum of Architecture's annual 'Gingerbread City' exhibition.

For possibly the sweetest festive event you'll find in London, serious architects have ditched conventional building materials for gingerbread bricks and sugar-paste mortar. More than 100 of them have created the tiny city which can be found at Somerset House – and one of the sections is dedicated to London. You'll find a biscuity Battersea Power Station with marshmallow towers, a candy-covered Oxford Circus and a sugary recreation of the Eurostar terminal. See the pretty, icing-piped world for yourself, and resist the urge to nibble at it. ■

Ellie Walker-Arnott

→ Museum of Architecture's 'Gingerbread City', Somerset House.

⊖ Temple. Until Jan 5. £9, £7 concs.



THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



Yes, yet another election. Yes, we know it's cold. Still, don't forget to vote on Thursday, especially if you're in a marginal seat. And keep a look out for #dogsatpollingstations while you're at it.



Eat this

Everything tastes better battered – which is why quality Soho chippy **Poppies** is serving deep-fried Quality Street chocolates this Christmas. Pick up this indulgent festive special at £2.50 for five.



Support this

E8 boozier **The Pembury Tavern** teams up with local charity Hackney Winter Night Shelter for a festive fundraiser tonight, with free beer for donations and a charity White Christmas pizza.

Get the latest from London at timeout.com/news

MAKE LONDON BETTER

London's got problems. Here's how we fix them



London Basket Brigade

WHAT IS IT?

A volunteer scheme that has been delivering food baskets to families in need at Christmastime for the last 23 years. Volunteers come together every December to pack and distribute around 1,500 hampers to people across the city. More than 700 Londoners joined in with the massive charity effort last year. This Christmas, Basket Brigade is back on the hunt for helpers to make it happen.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The festive season is all about giving to others, and nobody should have to go without a meal. Each package contains everything a family needs to cook a roast dinner with all the trimmings, along with a Christmas pud and mince pies. If you know somebody who could use a food hamper, you can nominate a family – head to London Basket Brigade's website to find out how.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The project's packing and delivery day is December 23 – it's always great fun, with a sound system blasting festive bangers. Even if you can only spare a few hours, organisers encourage you to come along: just make sure you register online before December 16. Can't make it on the day but want to chip in? Donate money to help make someone's Christmas – £15 pays for an entire hamper. ■
EI Hunt

Discover more ways to make a difference at timeout.com/better

→ www.basketbrigade.org.uk

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CHRISTMAS DAY



THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY

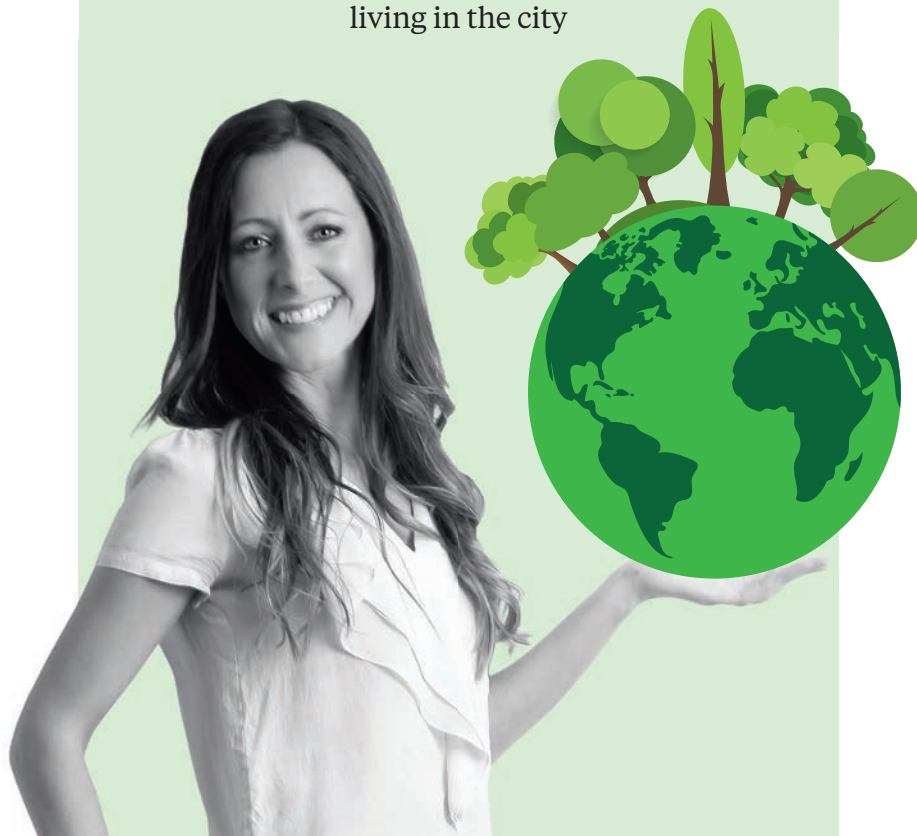
YOUR NUMBERS
MAKE AMAZING
HAPPEN

24

35

GREEN GODDESS

Eco campaigner *Natalie Fee* answers your questions about sustainable living in the city



Dear Natalie...

My daughter is nearing her first period. She cares deeply about the environment – she’s always telling me off when I forget my coffee cup or reusable shopping bag! And so I’d love to know: what sustainable period products are out there? I want to be able to give her a choice in line with her environmental principles, and I really want her to feel that her period is something she can talk openly about.

Susan via email

Dear Susan,

It’s brilliant you’re considering environmentally friendly options. In the UK we use around 4.3 billion disposable menstrual products each year, most of which are made from or contain plastic. The average pack of conventional pads contains the same amount of plastic as five carrier bags. Five! And what’s worse is that around 1.4 million of them

are flushed into our sewers every single day: which means blocked drains, home flooding and sewage spills spewing plastic applicators, panty liners and pads out into our rivers and seas.

Happily, there are loads of new kids on the block in terms of reusable menstrual products. Washable pads, menstrual cups, reusable applicators, and period pants are massively disrupting the status quo. Hurrah!

For some, the idea of getting to grips with a Mooncup (a brand of menstrual cup) on their first period is daunting. So you could set her up with a reusable applicator from Dame and some organic tampons. If she prefers external products, your daughter could try washable pads at home and use organic disposable pads out and about. Reusables

may cost more, but compared to a lifetime of disposables, they can save around £6,000 over 30 years! And they’re zero-waste, which makes them kinder to the planet.

In terms of disposable options, opt for organic and plastic-free to support the world’s soil health (as well as human health). Natracare’s organic non-applicator tampons cost the same as the big brand equivalents.

When it comes to busting those myths and taboos, I hugely recommend Natalie Byrne’s book ‘Period’ as a Christmas gift this year. She could also sign her school up to www.rethinkperiods.org.uk – a free period education programme that seriously rocks. Merry menstruating, one and all! ■

Got a question for Natalie? Write to greengoddess@timeout.com.

Natalie Fee is an environmental campaigner, author and speaker. She founded the City to Sea non-profit and her book ‘How to Save the World for Free’ is published by Laurence King.

→ Meet Natalie this Saturday at the Zero Waste Christmas Market. The Boiler House. ④ Liverpool St. Sat Dec 7. £6.50. www.zerowastegoods.com

WORD ON THE STREET

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

‘I bought everyone delicious pastries, but you can’t have dairy... so you get a hug.’

‘Did you know that hippo milk is pink?’

‘And you should have seen us trying to get the fucking parrots into the hotel room.’

‘A lot of canned meat has started turning up in your baking – I took it that you were shunning me.’

‘I’m going to carpe the fuck out of diem.’

‘My boyfriend just messaged me to ask how to spell my name.’

‘Ugh, my life is just like one big fucking open bar.’

‘It doesn’t make you poo. It makes you want to poo.’

‘I think whisky makes me more femme.’

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

"Charming take on '90s romcom classic"

- Common Sense Media



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Ben Brantley, The New York Times

GIRL FROM THE NORTH COUNTRY

DULUTH, MINN. 1934

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
CONOR McPHERSON

MUSIC & LYRICS BY
BOB DYLAN



OPENS THIS WEEK

GirlFromTheNorthCountry, London
GIELGUD THEATRE

A Delfont Mackintosh Theatre

City life



THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out Tastemakers have been Instagramming this week



@dimitar_hr

'Holidays are coming at Piccadilly Circus. Bit of an early showing from Santa, though!'



@_planejane

'The blue door at 42 Bull's Head Passage appears in Harry Potter!'



@wanderforawhile

'Diamonds out for delivery? A happy Sunday on Bond Street.'



@photographyby_vee

'Even rush hour in central London makes for a pretty sight.'

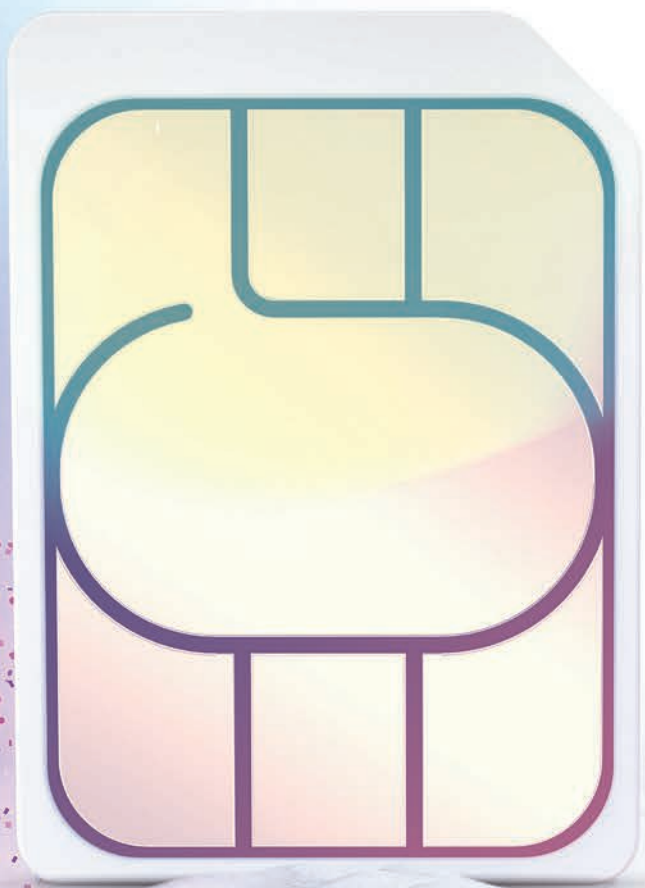


@amira58

'Breakfast at Searcys. It's not Tiffany's, but this will do just fine.'

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MY LONDON STORY



Boyega says



'For me, **Teresa Early** is a hero. She developed and built Theatre Peckham, and it's a place for so many kids from the area to come and have a home. Giving them a voice is really important.'

Teresa Early

Founder of community arts project
Theatre Peckham

I GREW UP in Findon, just outside of Worthing. When I wasn't at school, I was at dance school. On Saturdays, we'd take the train to Brighton: from the age of eight I'd go to watch plays. Later I performed in musicals, and went on to drama school. After that, I moved to west London. I got involved in the ballet scene, doing choreography for the Royal Ballet School graduates.

One day I just couldn't do it any more: the culture there wasn't quite right for me. The arts are desperately elitist, and often it's about whether you can afford it. I wanted to give disadvantaged kids the things that more privileged children just get.

To earn some extra money I taught English to children from the South Asian community around Southall and Ealing. I really loved them. So I did a teaching qualification instead.

I was head of drama in various schools around south London. After I got married, I ended up in Peckham. I didn't know anybody.

I thought: Well, walk out your door and find out about Peckham.

Soon I had children of my own. I met so many other kids with huge potential, but there was nothing for them to do with it. I wanted to put something in an area where there was nothing. We opened Theatre Peckham on the North Peckham Estate in 1985. I bagged a church hall, and we made sure it was a safe space.

In the '80s, that estate was regarded as a no-go zone. The refuse services wouldn't go there, so there were piles of rubbish everywhere. The kids identified with it. I took a little girl home one day, and she said: 'I'm very sorry, Teresa, that you should have to walk through all this rubbish'. She apologised for taking me to her own home.

When kids are robbed of self-esteem, the arts are a powerful tool. I wanted to get these children turned on to theatre, and demystify the arts. We'd teach writing from young black writers as soon as we could. We had a

hilarious time doing Noël Coward. The kids used heightened RP: high posh voices, like the Queen.

In 2001, we did an after-school project at Oliver Goldsmith Primary School in Peckham, and a little boy called John Boyega was there. He wanted to act, and started coming along to Theatre Peckham – you couldn't keep him out! Later he used to bunk school to come. I had to tell him he wasn't allowed! There are so many others like John. They become actors, writers, directors, performers, teachers or producers.

People ask: how do you make theatre more diverse? You can't do a flash-in-the-pan thing with trendy young actors and then forget about it. The kids have got to be given as much as possible.

Often I ask myself: why do I love working with young people? It's exhausting, worrying... and often they are very annoying! But I just like them. They have brilliant, bright energy. ■

Interview by *El Hunt*

→ www.theatrepeckham.co.uk

'I wanted to put something in an area where there was nothing'

For more unique looks at London life, head to timeout.com/stories

golden globe® nominee
Scarlett Johansson

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FINANCIAL TIMES



SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

“EXQUISITE”
THE TIMES



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TIME OUT



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from academy award® nominee NOAH BAUMBACH

Marriage Story

IN CINEMAS AND ON
NETFLIX

See the whole illustrated story at [instagram.com/timeoutlondon](https://www.instagram.com/timeoutlondon)

IT HAPPENED HERE

Comedian *Olga Koch* intended to set sail on a wholesome birthday boat trip. Soon her voyage took an unexpected turn...

LONDON'S REGENT'S CANAL will forever hold a special place in my heart. Specifically, the chunk from Coal Drops Yard to Angel. For my twenty-seventh birthday I fulfilled my lifelong dream of having a glamorous boat party. To keep within reasonable budget, I settled on less of a yacht and more of an enlarged canoe. One balmy September evening, we embarked on the voyage of a lifetime.

The prosecco was popping. The hoomous was flowing (Waitrose's own, no less). To our collective delight, the trip took an unexpected twist.

Our route had Thorpe Park-level thrills on offer. We opted for the Islington Tunnel, which connects King's Cross and Angel via a narrow opening (insert joke here). It looks like somewhere goth teenagers would go to have an engagement photoshoot.

Picture this: the darkness had settled. Our patient captain turned on a string of sparkling fairy lights as we glided back to the narrow opening (ayo). The speakers were blasting the timeless nautical bop, 'Under the Sea', from Disney's 'The Little Mermaid'. Suddenly, we spot a couple on a canalside bench, mere inches away. A picture-perfect scene: two people madly in love, one holding a bouquet of flowers. They are

also nonchalantly engaging in full oral sex. Our proximity did not bother the couple. If anything it felt like our closeness informed their lovemaking.

I will never forget all of us standing there, plastic champagne flutes in hand, in stunned awe. 'Darling it's better, down where it's wetter, take it from me,' belted the anthropomorphic crab from the boat's sound system. Man, I love the canal. ■

→ Olga Koch: 'If/Then' is at Soho Theatre, Feb 12-15 2020.



CITY ENVY

Great things that we love in other cities

New York's Nutella Café



NUTS FOR NUTELLA? Sadly you'll have to head across the pond to hit up this New York spot.

Everything on the menu includes the hazelnut spread. Pound cake panzanella? Check. Nutella ice cream? Check. Grilled banana bread with Nutella? We're salivating just thinking about it. There's even a create-your-own station – like a salad bar, but a million times better and infinitely tastier.

So, will London be getting a spoonful of the action? Nothing has been confirmed, but Nutella did open a pop-up in Harvey Nichols a few years ago. Here's hoping that a café full of hazelnutty goodness materialises this side of the Atlantic. For now, we'll just have to make do with eating it straight from the jar. ■ *Charlie Allenby*

ILLUSTRATION DAN EVANS

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LONDON EYE



People power

THE BEST THING about this city are the people who live here. There are almost 9 million of us, and while it can feel lonely trying to navigate the hellscape that is rush hour at Bank, there are amazing Londoners building tight-knit communities all over the capital. For a new exhibition at the Southbank Centre, photographer Liz Johnson Artur has turned the lens on to some of the groups creating those links – in this case, south of the river.

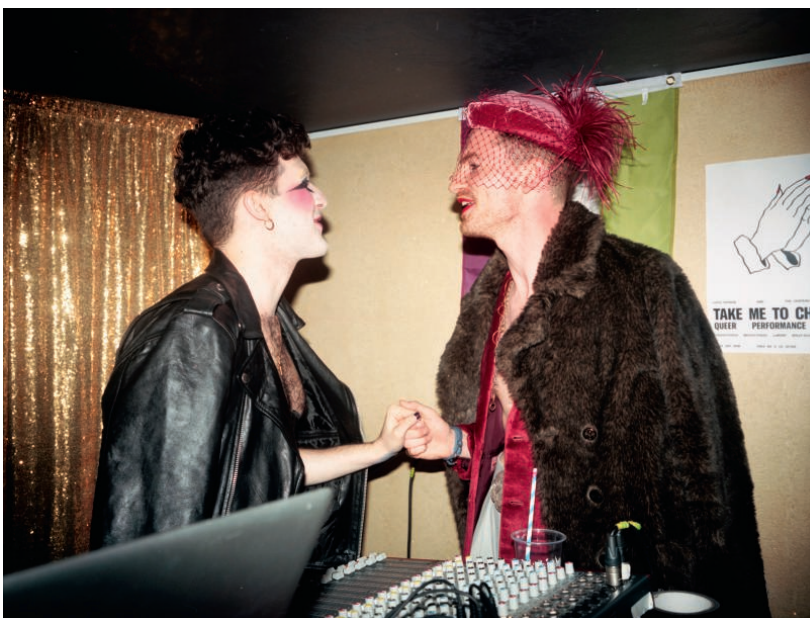
'London Is Love' visits a few of the communities making London more welcoming, including Camberwell's super-inclusive LGBTQ+ venue The Chateau, creative collective Born N Bread, and Ebony Horse Club: a riding centre in Brixton for disadvantaged young people. You'll also spot Archbishop's Park Gardening Club – a Lambeth project that provides a calming space for adults with mental health issues – and Coldharbour Lane's secondhand institution Bookmongers of Brixton among the array of photographs on display across the Southbank Centre.

Show these pictures to your grumbling relative who thinks London types are mean, unfriendly and self-obsessed. Take that, Nan! ■ *El Hunt*

→ 'London Is Love' is at the Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall until Jan 5. 📍 Waterloo. Free.



More city snaps at [timeout.com/photography](https://www.timeout.com/photography)



'Tis my season to be jolly

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FREE LONDON

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



DON'T MISS

JINGLE HELLS, JINGLE HELLS

'The Depth of Darkness, the Return of the Light'

For the 2019 winter commission, artist Anne Hardy has turned one half of Tate Britain into a spooky abandoned temple on the banks of the Thames, rumbling with the sound of thunder and the hum of relentless mosquitoes. Scarier than chucking out time at Inferno's.

→ Tate Britain. ↻ Pimlico. Until Jan 26.

ATMMM... Deliveroo free bacon sarnies

Celebrate 'bleak Friday', aka the UK's festive hangover peak, at a real-life piggy bank. Deliveroo is building a 'rash point' (nothing to do with STDs), dispensing free bacon sandwiches to office Christmas party survivors.

→ Bank Junction. ↻ Bank.
Wed Dec 11-Fri Dec 13.

ELECTION-CHEERS The Sun Tavern's Polling Punch

It's time for real change – not that you'll need any to pay for this round, though. After you vote this week, flash your polling card or a polling station selfie at The Sun Tavern in Bethnal Green in exchange for a poitin-laced treat.

→ The Sun Tavern.
↻ Bethnal Green. Thu Dec 12.

CHRISTMAS BRAKE iBike London Santa Cruise

Dig out your fake beard and something red for a becostumed ride through town with iBike. Meet on the South Bank at noon before rolling up The Mall, pedalling past Hyde Park and looping through the City before returning to Waterloo.

→ Southbank. ↻ Waterloo.
Sat Dec 14.

HIT THE HIGH NOTES Westminster Chapel Carols

Swerve Westminster Abbey for its small and friendly cousin: Westminster Chapel opens its doors for a candlelit carol concert (followed by mince pies) on Sunday evening at 5.30pm. It's an inclusive church, so everyone's welcome.

→ Buckingham Gate.
↻ St James's Park. Sun Dec 15.

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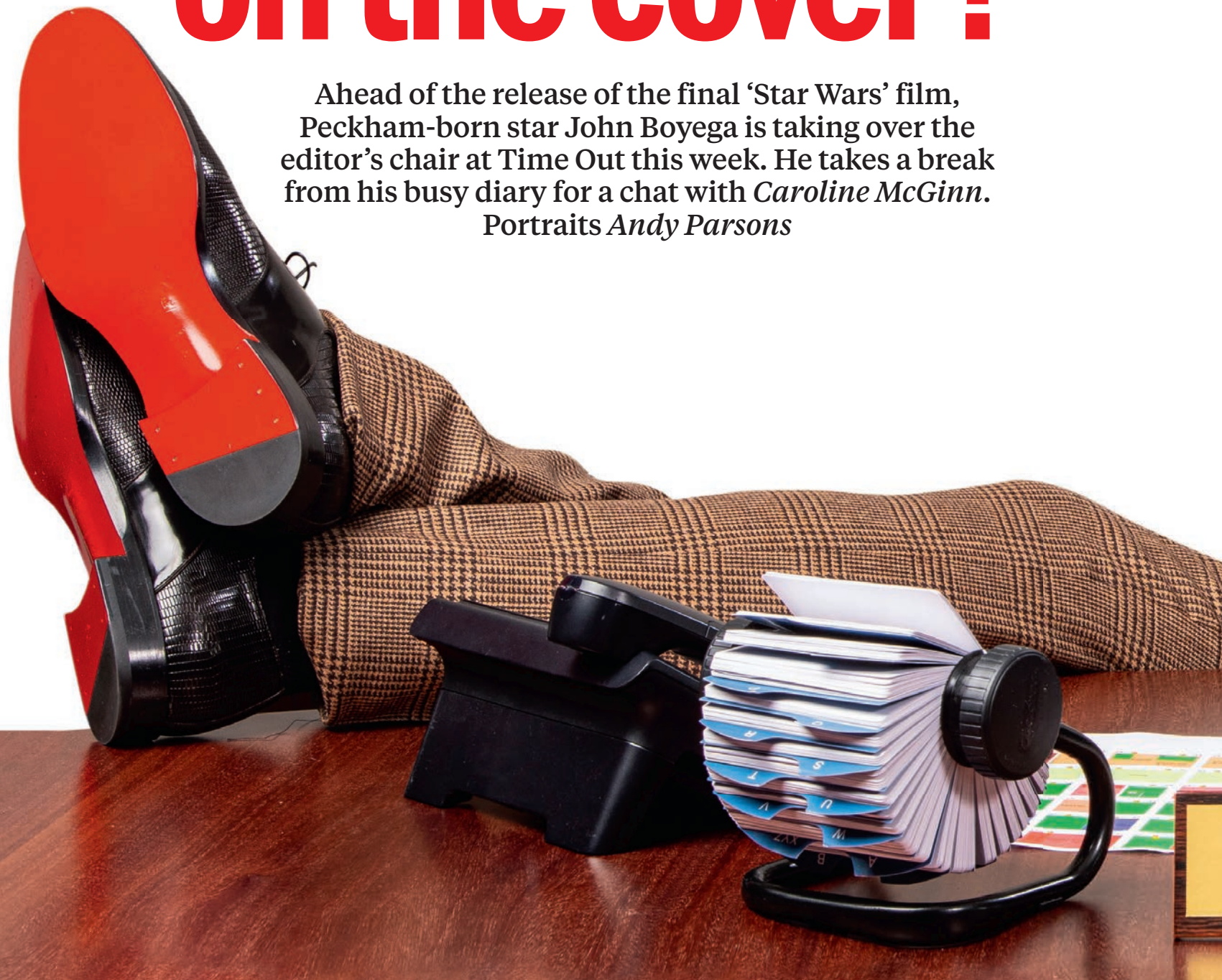
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‘Sorry, you want to put *who* on the cover?’

Ahead of the release of the final ‘Star Wars’ film, Peckham-born star John Boyega is taking over the editor’s chair at Time Out this week. He takes a break from his busy diary for a chat with *Caroline McGinn*.
Portraits *Andy Parsons*





SHARP SUIT, GIGANTIC grin, infectious sense of fun: you know when Time Out's guest editor, John Boyega, is in the room. The Peckham boy-turned-galactic superstar is a natural in the editor's chair, with his feet up on the desk, flicking through layouts, and he has everyone hooting with laughter. A second-generation Nigerian immigrant, Boyega grew up on a Peckham housing estate, the son of a minister and a care worker. His story is a quintessentially London one. And the city's arts and community organisations have contributed colossally to his success. Years before he was tapped up for 'Star Wars' as its most relatable new hero, Finn, he was seizing the city's opportunities: training at Theatre Peckham; performing and taking in shows at Shakespeare's Globe, the Royal Albert Hall, the Roundhouse, the Young Vic. All world-class stages; all deeply rooted in London.

It's a story touched by tragedy too: Boyega and his sister Grace were among the last people to see their schoolfriend and fellow Nigerian Londoner Damilola Taylor alive before his murder in 2000. But Boyega is here today to tell another, more positive story about London, to celebrate the people and organisations that inspired him, taught him, and allowed his authentic self-expression. It's the kind of story worth retelling, especially at a time when the news darkens every day, funding for culture and youth programmes is threatened, and London kids are too often stereotyped as victims or perpetrators of crime.

John Boyega is our guest editor because he's a London boy who's gone stratospheric, and a hands-down lovely guy. He's testament to the opportunities that London can offer, and this issue is dedicated to the places and people who have helped him and many others. →

JOHN BOYEGA
EDITOR

John Boyega

Let's start with Theatre Peckham, which I know is close to your heart.

'Theatre Peckham was where I trained – the first theatre where I really discovered the arts. I got a scholarship there when I was at primary school. Teresa Early, who's the founder, was like: "You can come and train for free." She gave me a really good opportunity. All of a sudden I was opened up into a world of contemporary theatre, dance, tap, ballet...'

I didn't have you down as a ballet kid...

'Ballet classes were a bit tough! But I got to meet other kids who were into the performing arts, which was hard in school. A lot of my friendships are from there. I felt like I had creative people around the whole time, always performing. We did performances at the Roundhouse, my college drama group won a competition to perform at the National Theatre, and all of that made me more passionate about it. It's so important to have these youth groups, and not cut their funding.'

What are your memories of growing up in Peckham?

'Playing outside, playing knock-down ginger, where you go around knocking on people's doors and running away (sorry, Colin at number six!). Hours of fun. I went to an all-boys secondary school, so we would meet up with the local all-girls school in Marble Arch and have water fights. We'd flirt a little, exchange numbers, go to Trocadero. I'm from south, so Trocadero was like going to an alien planet. We were like: "Look! Girls from north-west London!"'

You still take your friends and family to your premieres. Do they ever do anything embarrassing?

'Nooo! My dad is my guy. He doesn't know anyone in Hollywood so he will be talking to a big massive star and he'll say: "Oh, that man is very nice. Very tall." And I'll be like: "Dad, you were just talking to Dwayne Johnson, dude!" "Very tall" – I love that.'

How important are your friends?

'My friendship circle is cool. It's great for me, mental-health-wise, to still feel like part of the lads, to not be like the leader. Because I'm the youngest; I'm not the leader. I don't want to feel like the famous guy – it's not my forte.'

You sometimes see kids who get wealthy and successful early then go off the rails. How come that hasn't happened to you?

'I don't know if that narrative is true. I get it: money, fame, all those things are big temptations and can sway your mind in several different ways but there's something about you being the person that worked for what you have. People have bad days and I don't judge them. I used to when I wasn't a celebrity. I'd see something about a celebrity, I'd laugh, I'd give my opinion, but once I became one I'd see things that were not even true. I don't want to partake: it kills your brain cells. When it comes to keeping grounded it isn't just that this person got money and fame then started



'I'd do a "Star Wars" sequel in 40 years' time. With my Burberry walking stick!'

acting like a dick – maybe they were poor before and maybe when they got rich they were kicked out of that environment, like: "You've changed, you can't stay." Then they go to the wealthy and the wealthy are like: "You're from a poor background, go back there." That can cause you to have bad days. I understand that.'

You're facing the end of 'Star Wars'. It's huge. It's not just another movie, it's part of our culture, it's like Christmas. How does that feel?

'The way everyone's going on about the release of this film you'd think Jesus was born this year! You'd think he's about to come this December! It's part of everyone's culture and childhood: it's a big part of mine. The feeling of seeing that "Star Wars" logo coming out of the screen – it just reminds you of how you felt the first time you watched it. I'm happy to be one part of the jigsaw puzzle because it is frickin' massive. It's emotional.'



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MoSE15ly Finn (John Boyega, back right) with Chewbacca (Joonas Suotamo), Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) and Rey (Daisy Ridley) in 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker'

Was everyone crying on set on the last day?

'For real. We all had a big cry. It's also the feeling of joy and being thankful for you guys, for all the people who've been coming out to see the films, in a time when it's harder and harder to get people out to the cinema. It's appreciated. It's a part of people's lives. To be one of the many faces of it is very cool.'

If 'Star Wars' asked you to come back for a sequel in 40 years' time would you do it?

'Yeah, man! I'd come on with my walking stick, my Burberry walking stick! That's what I want!'

Last time we met, you talked about how proud you were about helping make the franchise more diverse. What else needs to happen in the industry?

'I still feel very proud of the growth that's been going on, but, for me, ownership is the most exciting thing. Many actors are writing and taking ownership of the creative process. And for the industry to follow suit in backing up that voice, that's super-important. You want to know in the next ten years you won't have to have certain conversations – just to leave the BS politics and all that crap in the real world and let art be art.'

There's a crop of amazing British filmmakers from different backgrounds coming through. How important is representation among the makers, not just the actors?

'It's very important to be the makers – especially if you have cultural awareness of these characters and those stories that you're writing – but even if you're creating a fantasy, that's your imagination. Seeing people take ownership of that: it gives me motivation to keep going.'

What's next for you?

'I set up my production company in 2016, on the back of "Pacific Rim Uprising", after a long time being on set learning and seeing people who are at the top of their game producing, collaborating and finding funding for projects. I would love an opportunity to play British as well as American roles, I'd love to explore roles at home. With British entertainment there's something quite humble. We're like: "We're entertaining you, sorry if it's too loud!" Whereas in America they're like: "Here we go, here's the action!" And I feel like a bit of that DNA mixed in with what it means to be British, which means various different things would be incredible for our industry and create more opportunities for actors.'

Because of playing Finn in 'Star Wars', you're a hero to a lot of kids now. What advice would you give the young John Boyega?

'Shut your mouth and work! Stop talking about it – you're only talking about it because you're scared. Work! And be easier on yourself when it comes to obstacles because you didn't choose those obstacles to be there.'

And what if it all hadn't worked out? Editor of Time Out London? Estate agent?

'Estate agent was definitely on the cards! Architect, cartoonist. Or, you know, working at Butlin's as a character in one of their pop videos.'

What are your hopes for London?

'More unity, more togetherness in terms of class. Answers to questions on issues that are important to citizens, such as Grenfell. I hope for that. Improved funding for after-school clubs. I'd like to see a London that doesn't just get sold to the wealthy, a London where everyone has a chance.'

Anything else?

'More sunny days! It lifts London's spirits. This part-time work the sun is doing is ridiculous. You peek over a cloud in London and then you're done. In LA you show your butt to the whole of America. I want consistent sun in this city. Sort it out!' ■
→ 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker' is in cinemas on Dec 19.





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What's the first thing you do when you come back to London?

'I get in my car and I go for a drive around south-east London: go through **Crystal Palace**, go over to **Peckham**, come back to my house. I just want to go and see my stomping ground real quick.'



What's your favourite park in London?

'Ooh, that is tough! I love **Richmond Park** because they've got deer, man! They've got deer: that's proper nature. That blew me away. I only went there recently. It's so far away!'



If you could only eat one thing in London what would it be?

'My native food, jollof rice. I'd recommend **805 on Old Kent Road**, that's the spot that I took Harrison Ford to. He had a good time, ended up sleeping in the car after. Solid!'

What's your favourite London landmark?

'I love going to the **Royal Festival Hall**. Great live music, a musical lift, what more could you ask for?'

Best view of London?

'Any point within Nine Elms and Battersea where you can see the old **Battersea Power Station** and the city skyline.'



John Boyega: my London

What's hot (deer, jollof rice) and not (crumpets, disrespectful pigeons)



Pigeons or rats?

'I'm going to go for rats. With rats, I know they're not going to come close to me when I'm stomping around because they're scared. **Pigeons these days in London have no respect**. Five years ago, I could kick my foot and the pigeon would be out of there. Now? The pigeon just doesn't move. I find that highly disrespectful.'



What do non-Londoners get most wrong about the city?

'When I speak to people who've never been here, it's always **"tea and crumpets"**. I don't even like crumpets: that thing is dry! I need five litres of water after I eat one! But it's a diverse place, there are so many different cultures. Londoners know how to have a good time.'

Best bus route?

'I love the **171**. I used to get it from Southampton Way all the way through Elephant & Castle, up to the South Bank, Waterloo Bridge, the Strand. I love seeing the skyline.'

Favourite tube line?

'They all suck. I can't say the Bakerloo, it's too hot. Bakerloo and Central are the worst. I'll say the **Northern line**, fast. That's the black line, right? Fast, done.'





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McCafé



Walk into winter

Need a break from binge-watching box sets and noshing mince pies? *Charlie Allenby* goes walking in a winter wonderland (and Stratford). Illustrations *Elly Walton*

London Bridge to Westminster

START London Bridge tube
END Westminster tube

If you want to send your senses into overdrive this winter, head to the South Bank. The Thameside walkway turns into a wintery marvel in the build-up to the big day, as Christmas markets appear lined with stalls of artisanal goodies. Fuel up ahead of your stroll at **Borough Market** (a prime spot for cheeseboard research), but be sure to leave room for the tasty treats on offer at the **Southbank Centre's Winter Market**, including raclette and bratwurst. On your way from Borough to the Southbank Centre, pop into **The Founder's Arms** for a warming glass of mulled wine and views across the river. From the Winter Market, continue along the Thames Path to Westminster Bridge.

Winter walks



Highgate to Stoke Newington

START Highgate tube

END Stoke Newington Overground

Did you know there's a walking route that circles the entire circumference of London? (No, it doesn't involve trudging your way around the M25.) The **Capital Ring** is made up of 15 bitesize sections that together form a 78-mile path around the city. Unless you're trying to find a novel way of burning off all those drums of Quality Street, you probably won't want to attempt the whole thing in one go. Instead, try section 12 (five miles) and tick off some of north London's wildest bits – **Parkland Walk**, **Woodberry Wetlands**, **Clissold Park's deer paddock** – before getting cosy with a pint in small but perfectly formed pub **The Auld Shillelagh**.

Paddington to Camden Town

START Paddington tube

END Camden Town tube

Ever wondered what the animals of London Zoo get up to over the festive break? Take a stroll along the **Regent's Canal** and find out. Setting off from **Little Venice**, make your way past the grand townhouses and mansions of Maida Vale before entering **Regent's Park**. Here, you can channel your inner David Attenborough as you pass by some of **London Zoo's** residents, before working your way round to legendary boozier **The Hawley Arms** and mooching around the goth shops in the epicentre of darkness that is Camden Town.



WINTER

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Winter walks



North Greenwich to Stratford

START North Greenwich tube

END Stratford tube

Got a culture-obsessed guest staying with you over the festive period – the person who rolls their eyes every time you stick on another episode of ‘Gavin & Stacey’? Break free from the Netflix binge and do something that should keep everyone happy, even the most discerning art buff. East London’s **The Line** combines a canalside walk, a trip on the DLR and a ride on the **Emirates Air Line** with a number of works by top sculptors dotted along the way – Antony Gormley and Abigail Fallis’s pieces are just two of the highlights. Swing by **Print House Bar & Kitchen** to toast a successful family outing, before heading home to continue your Gavlaaar marathon. Tidy!

East Croydon to Wandsworth

START East Croydon rail

END Wandsworth Town rail

To really stretch your legs, try this perambulation that starts off in Croydon. The south London hub is where the iconic **Wandle Trail** begins. It’s a 14-mile ramble that takes you from the ‘burbs right into the heart of the city (okay, Wandsworth). Along the way, you can spot wildlife on **Wilderness Island**. You’ll also pass remains of the capital’s industrial past, including former textile factory **Merton Abbey Mills**, which now lays on arts, crafts, food and drink. Although it’s a lot further along than the midway point, **The Halfway House** in Earlsfield is a great spot to recharge with some pub grub – and you will definitely have earned it by then.



Let's get the
PARTY
STARTED



It's time to crack open the **good** stuff!

Richmond to Hampton Court

START Richmond tube

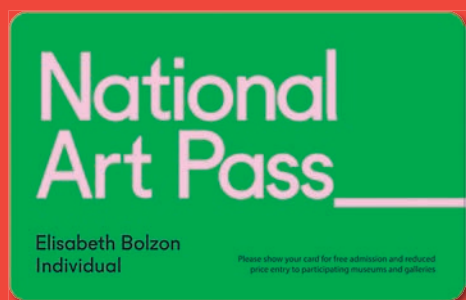
END Hampton Court rail

If all you want for Christmas is to pet a load of cute dogs, walk this way... Whether you'd like to take your pooch out in their new festive outfit or you're just looking for an excuse to stroke furry four-legged friends, expect canines galore on this jaunt along the **south-west London stretch of the Thames**. If all that tail-wagging action leaves you a bit hot under the collar, the riverside **Boaters Inn** has microbrewed refreshments on tap and is perfectly situated for a halfway pit stop between Richmond and Hampton Court. It's pup-friendly too, so you can carry on dog-spotting as you sip your pint. ■



Find more festive activities at [timeout.com/christmas](https://www.timeout.com/christmas)

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ŠKODA

Last in London

From artisan globe-makers to modern-day lamplighters,
Alexandra Sims meets the specialists keeping London
traditions alive. Photography *Andy Parsons*





Horsing around
Tom Nixon, Edward MacDowell and Coral Hill with Heath (left) and Nobby (right)

The last working shire horses

Tom Nixon Trainer at Operation Centaur shire horse centre

'I grew up on a farm in Ireland. I was 15 when I got my first shire and I've always had them since. I learned from my father. I did jobs on the farm and forestry work with my horses.

'Five years ago a job came up at Operation Centaur. It's not a job, it's a way of life. It's in the blood. It's like being a priest and getting a calling.

'There's still a living to be made with shire horses. I train them gently for a few months. It takes another year of consistent work to get them used to doing all the jobs – carriage work, ploughing, cutting hay.

'All the horses have their funny ways. Nobby is our youngest shire horse: he's nine. He doesn't like other horses, he loves people. In the field he goes off on his own. Heath is a fantastic worker but he doesn't like to be brushed or pampered. He likes to get on with the job.

'Shires are low-impact compared to tractors so they encourage the growth of wild flowers and meadow grass. I don't worry about working shire horses dying out because they will always be needed.

'I'm the luckiest man in the world to have this job. I go home from work and can't wait to go back in the morning. I have to drag myself away.

'I think in the future horses will play a bigger part in agriculture. We can't afford to lose this craft, it would be a tragedy if we did. They're a part of our identity.'

Coral Hill Rider and volunteer at Operation Centaur shire horse centre

'In the 1800s, there were around 40,000 working heavy horses in London. Shire horses were the lorries of their day, pulling heavy vehicles. Once things became mechanised it wasn't practical to use horses. We've got the last working herd in London.

'Our horses work as therapists, do environmental work and carriage driving. My favourite bit is the equine therapy. The horses help all sorts, including kids with special needs or from difficult backgrounds.

'It is a concern the breed could die out. We're hoping to develop an apprenticeship so we can pass on these skills. It would be such a loss if these beautiful creatures didn't keep going.'

'I think in the future horses will play a bigger part in agriculture'





Get more out of
Giving ★



The family-run pie-and-mash shop

Rick Poole and Emma Harrington Owners of M Manze pie-and-mash shops

Rick: 'The Manzes came over from Italy in 1878 and sold ice cream on Tower Bridge Road, next door to Robert Cooke's pie-and-mash shop. My grandfather Michele Manze married Robert Cooke's daughter and he joined the business. We have three shops now. I learned from my dad and when my brothers retired earlier this year, my daughter Emma and my son-in-law took over.'

Emma: 'I had a Saturday job here when I was younger, but I didn't know I'd join the business until my uncles retired.'

R: 'I started working here when I was 11. My first job was drying the dishes. I managed the dumb waiter then I progressed to making pies. Now I run it and work in the office.'

E: 'Everything's still made in the same way it's been done for the last hundred years.'

R: 'It's top secret. We hand-fold the pastry and our dough mixture machine is more than a hundred years old. We've tried new ones and they don't last five minutes.'

E: Staff have been here for years. Terry at our Tower Bridge shop was 13 when he started and he's in his fifties now. Once people start here, they don't tend to leave.'

R: 'Because it's a family business everyone else involved feels like part of the family. We try and keep it traditional because a lot of our customers are pretty hardcore.'

'We try and keep it traditional: a lot of our customers are pretty hardcore'

E: 'They're very traditional about not using knives, just a spoon and fork. There's a pie, mash and liquor Facebook page where people post pictures and if there's a knife in the picture the knife police come out!'

R: 'To some people, coming here is a ritual. It's changed, though. During the Second World War it was much busier. It takes us a week now to sell what we'd sell in a day back then. But we also make merchandise now.'

E: 'I got sent a picture of someone on holiday in Florida wearing our T-shirt at the Nasa space centre.'

R: 'People just think you're serving pie, mash and liquor but there's so much more to it. I do feel pressure in having a family business because I feel a lot of loyalty to the customers and staff, and to my grandfather. Emma and her husband coming along has taken the pressure off.'



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The lamplighters

Iain Bell Operations manager at the British Gas lamplighting team

‘There were thousands of gas lamps all over Britain, but after World War II, councils were rebuilding and ripped the lamps out. There are now 1,500 lamps left in London.’

‘Hyde Park is all gas lamps, as is Green Park. There are lamps in St James’s Park, Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and at the royal households. London has the only working sewer lamp in Britain. It runs up from the sewer and burns natural gas to stop smells going into the Savoy hotel.’

‘Six of us look after the lamps in London. I’ve been with the team for 13 years. Some guys have been lamp attendants for 40 years, so we’re all very tight. We see ourselves as custodians of these lamps.’

‘In the old days it was a very labour-intensive job. They’d use a five-foot pole with a wick at the top and a set of bellows at the other end filled with paraffin. They’d light them with a match, 365 days a year.’

‘They’re automated now, like your boiler at home. Some have to be wound every 14 days. We climb our ladders, give the glass a wipe, wind the clock, check everything works and move on to the next. We get from lamp to lamp on motorbikes.’

‘When the lamps were put in, horses and carts were on the roads, but nowadays, with articulated

lorries, they get hit and destroyed. My favourite lamp outside Westminster Abbey got knocked down and is no longer there.’

‘As soon as you put up a set of ladders, people talk to you. There have been times we’ve been at Kensington Palace and Prince William has said hello to us.’

‘We get some bizarre requests. The *most* bizarre was a Japanese game show that wanted people to go down into the sewer pipe beneath the lamp.’

‘In autumn the lamps come on at four o’clock and I can stand at the bottom of The Mall and see every gas light lit up like a runway. It makes me proud. Gas lamps are part of London’s history. We’re some of the only people doing this in Britain and it’s a privilege to be part of it.’

**‘My
favourite
lamp got
knocked
down and
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The artisan globemakers

Peter Bellerby Founder of Bellerby & Co Globemakers

‘To start with, I just wanted to get my dad a globe for his eightieth birthday. I tried to buy one, but I couldn’t find anything really special so I thought I’d make one. It was a craft project. Two years later I’d spent £200,000, not earned anything and made one globe. I probably made 200 globes before I was happy with one. I used to go to the dump every two weeks with a car full of half-made globes and launch them into the skip.

‘We make about 700 globes a year. They can take anything from four months to a year-and-a-half to finish.

‘It’s difficult to find makers. It takes eight or nine months to learn and you need a lot of patience. You have to move incredibly slowly. You can’t make a mistake and cover it up, you have to start again.

‘All our globes are bespoke. One guy in Hong Kong had illustrations of his dogs piloting biplanes around the world with scarves flying around their necks. It can be quite political. We’ve had people ask for things we won’t do, like take Israel off the map.

‘It’s rare to find things that have been made with so much love and care. Hopefully we’ve reintroduced globemaking. I get calls from people asking if I can help them make globes, so I think we’ve started a resurgence. I’m happy that I get to do something this special every day.’

‘I probably made 200 globes before I was happy with one’

Isis Linguanotto Painter at Bellerby & Co Globemakers

‘I’ve found my calling working here. I come from a fashion, design and illustration background so I was used to painting, but nothing like maps. It took me a year to paint at a good speed and not make mistakes.

‘I love painting Brazil because that’s where I’m from and it’s very smooth. Canada is hard to paint: it’s got a bazillion lakes, a lot of islands and fjords. Fjords are a nightmare!

‘I still get nervous when I’m varnishing a big globe. If one brushstroke is wrong then you have to restart the whole thing.’

‘I love what I do. It feels like you’re doing something that’s going to last. This is the kind of thing people will pass on to their kids. It’s good to feel that I’ve painted an heirloom.’



A man and a woman are embracing in a room with red wood-paneled walls. The man, with grey hair and a beard, is wearing a purple sweater, a grey scarf, and a cream-colored knit vest. The woman is wearing a purple sweater, a grey scarf, and a grey and white checkered skirt. They are both smiling warmly at the camera.

Wrapping

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The analogue-film enthusiast

Umit Mesut Owner of celluloid film shop Umit & Son

'I've loved film since I was ten years old. My grandad ran a cinema in Cyprus, and I'd go into the projection room. I loved the mechanical side of it – the reel going round, the lights, the noise. I saved up my pocket money, bought an 8mm projector and haven't looked back.

'I've had my shop about 34 years. We've got projectors and film prints and I've got transferring films on to DVD down to a fine art. We do film nights at the Castle Cinema. I keep the projector in the room so people can see how it works, and we have an intermission like in the old days.

'I've got around 2,000 titles in my collection. The rarest are "Metropolis" and "Nosferatu". I'm Cypriot-Turkish and I recently picked up a 16mm documentary film about Atatürk, Turkey's first prime minister, from the 1930s. It's very rare. The BBC wanted to buy it off me but I said it wasn't for sale. I'm a massive fan of Bruce Lee and I have a full-length Super 8 print of "Enter the Dragon". The story goes there's only 20 copies of that in the world.

'One of the rarest things I have is a Kalee projector. It's 120 years old and still works perfectly. Everything's throwaway now, but this is equipment you can fix.

'I get some wonderful people here. Bob Monkhouse came in to buy some Charlie Chaplin [films]. I've had directors from Pinewood.

**'I've got
around
2,000
titles in my
collection'**

Michael Caine came in to buy a camera. A few years ago a woman asked me to transfer an 8mm film for her. I was looking at the footage and there was Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour prime minister, walking about in the 1930s. It turned out she was his granddaughter.

'It is a struggle. My landlord has been decent and frozen the rent for this year. But times are not great. I get private work, if it was just sales in the shop I wouldn't survive. DVDs are finished, everybody watches online and people don't film on video anymore. But I just soldier on. I wouldn't change it for anything.' ■

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timeout.com/news

GO OUT WITH

TimeOut

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

DON'T MISS

Psycle

What is it? Four 'ride' classes at Psycle's newest hi-tech studio in leafy west London.

Why go? Psycle pedals one of the city's favourite workouts. Why? Because you might leave feeling slightly sore but also totally pumped. Now, up that dial!

What's exclusive? We're giving you 74 percent off four classes, so you can sweat for less. Now only £24.

→ Psycle Westbourne Grove. ⊖ Bayswater.

Valid Dec 10-Jan 31. www.timeout.com/ride



Sea Containers

What is it? A seasonal tasting menu with three dishes and a cocktail.

Why go? There's something dishy about Sea Containers – and it's not just the flavourful menu. Designed by visionary Tom Dixon OBE, and with views across the river, dinner here is very easy on the eye.

What's exclusive? Sample the Mediterranean-inspired fare for only £25 per person.

→ Sea Containers. ⊖ Southwark.

Valid Jan 2-Mar 31. www.timeout.com/sea19

'A Kind of People'

What is it? Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti's new play at the Royal Court Theatre.

Why go? Set in a diverse British community, 'A Kind of People' sees a range of characters battle the odds of contemporary society – from seeking promotions to leaving their council houses.

What's exclusive? You can now get tickets for up to 42 percent off (from £17), so don't miss the drama.

→ Royal Court Theatre. ⊖ Sloane Square. Select dates in Dec and Jan. www.timeout.com/kind

'The Travelling Circus'

What is it? The world's smallest festival (with circus acts), curated by Josie and Rob da Bank.

Why go? Forget about traditional Christmas fairs. Instead, head to this magical event for live music alongside acrobats, contortionists, and even sword-swallowers. For God's sake, don't try any of it at home.

What's exclusive? Get a ticket for just £18, including a Fire Eater cocktail.

→ Mercato Metropolitan. ⊖ Elephant & Castle. Select dates in Dec. www.timeout.com/travel19

Floral by Lima

What is it? Three courses and a drink at this top Peruvian joint.

Why go? This world-renowned restaurant is famed for its incredible flavour combinations and intriguing textures, all inspired by a melting pot of cultures and cooking traditions. Sumptuous.

What's exclusive? For just £26, you can enjoy dinner plus a glass of wine or a beer.

→ Floral by Lima. ⊖ Covent Garden.

Valid Jan 2-Mar 31. www.timeout.com/floral

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

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★★★★★
"ULTIMATE 80s FANTASY"
- Metro

Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

Have yourself a *creepy* little Christmas

Fed up with festive cheer? Swap Santa for Krampus with these joyously dark things to do in December

See a spooky light installation in a cricket ground

Waltham Forest is marking the end of its reign as the first London Borough of Culture with an ethereal installation that will make Leyton's cricket ground look like it's sprouted a haunted urban forest. The 'tree-like structures' of light will appear this Friday for **Forest Uprising** – which launches with a night of live music and theatre performance – then shine on for three days. It's designed by Block9, the same people who created the jaw-dropping IICON stage at Glastonbury, so you can expect them to go big or go home.
→ Leyton Sports Ground. ⊕ Leyton.
Fri Dec 13–Sun Dec 15.
5pm–10pm. Free.



Have a browse in a satanic market

The **Satanic Flea Market AntiChristmas Fayre** is taking Christmas back to its pre-Christian roots with a Saturnalian Saturday inside the Electrowerkz nightclub. Shop from stalls filled with taxidermy, pentacles, B-movie posters, Japanese *kaiju* toys, tarot, retro smut, jewellery, witchy vintage clothes, handknitted skulls and other macabre merch. According to the organisers, it's 'suitable for open-minded adults, children with old souls and well behaved dogs'. The only satanic panic you have to worry about here is the rush of last-minute Christmas shoppers.
→ Electrowerkz. ⊕ Angel.
Sat Dec 14. £3 entry.

Make a horrifying Victorian Christmas card

Sod generic, tacky Hallmark Christmas cards and opt for darker season's greetings instead. Put those idle hands to work at the **Wishing You a Creepy Victorian Christmas Card Making Drop-In Workshop** where you'll use unsettling Victorian images, such as robins holding tiny flaming torches. To add to the eeriness of it all, you'll craft your masterpieces in one of the oldest operating theatres in Europe; appropriate, seeing as an element of sewing is involved.

→ The Old Operating Theatre Museum. ⊕ London Bridge. Sat Dec 14. Free with museum entry £6.50.

Get a goth a gift

Is there someone in your life whose favourite film has been 'The Craft' since 1996? Someone who commits to the black choker necklace, whether it's in fashion or not? Then



WILLIAM HOGARTH'S THE ELECTION ENTERTAINMENT, WITH ADDED CHRISTMAS HATS

Krampus



Soane late

you need to visit the **Goth Shop**, a temporary boutique in east London selling all things gothic, gloomy and skull-shaped. Come Christmas, you can give the gift of neon angel wings, vampire patches, a Nick Cave zine or *memento mori* jewellery. Nothing says Christmas like a ring to remind you of the inevitability of death.
→ Old Truman Brewery, Shoreditch High St Underground. Until Sun Dec 15. Free entry.

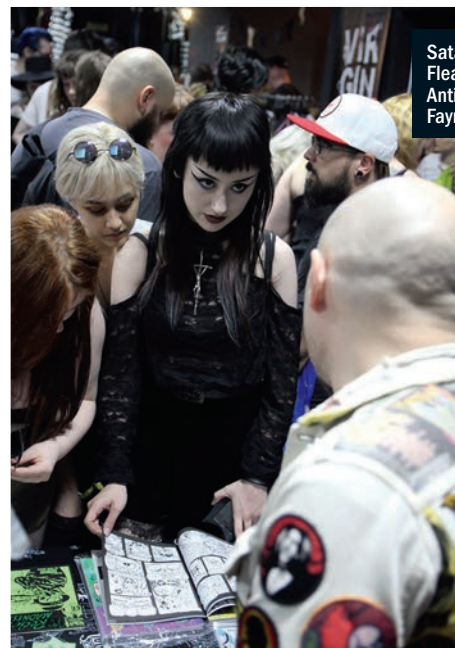
Meet the Krampus

Did you know cuddly Santa Claus has a sinister sidekick? In Germanic folklore Krampus is a Christmas goat demon who swats kids on the naughty list with sticks and sends them to the underworld. Head to London's oldest independent occult bookshop to join Al Ridenour, host of folk-horror podcast 'Bone and Sickle', for **The Krampus and the Old Dark Christmas: Roots and Rebirth of the Folkloric Devil**. His talk

explores the folklore and history surrounding the creepy creature and you'll find out how it may be very misunderstood. There'll be archival video involved and a 'drop-in by a live Krampus'. Gulp.
→ The Atlantis Bookshop. ⊕ Holborn.
Dec 18. £10.

Get devilishly good bargains at an occult fête

'Tis the season to get freaky, so head down to occult bookshop **Treadwell's** for its **Yule Fête** of ghoulish games and reindeer-horn headdress selfies. If you're brave enough, dunk your hand into the unknown for a lucky dip. As well as enjoying the festivities, you can pick up 'Christmas' bargains. Everything in the store is 10 percent off and look out for special satanic deals for just £6.66...
→ Treadwell's Books. ⊕ Goodge St.
Dec 19. From £5.



Satanic Flea Market AntiChristmas Fayre

After something more trad? Try timeout.com/christmas

See Hogarths by candlelight

Glide through the overstuffed rooms of **Sir John Soane's Museum**, where the walls and cabinets are filled with the many collections of neoclassical architect John Soane, including the alabaster sarcophagus of Egyptian pharaoh Seti I and paintings by William Hogarth. At this **Soane Late** you can witness the boozy debauchery of Hogarth's 'A Rake's Progress' by candlelight to the sound of a choir, then finish up with a mince pie and your own Sipsmith G&T (hic!).
→ Sir John Soane's Museum. ⊕ Holborn.
Dec 20. £25.

Go on a winter horse-drawn carriage ride

Live out your dark Dickensian dreams on an evening outing that sleighs the competition. Explore Richmond Park in a **traditional carriage** drawn by a pair of majestic shire horses from the last working herd in London. Clip-clop your way around the park while sipping sloe gin, eating mince pies and learning about the ancient park. The guides look straight out of a Magritte painting, dressed in black coats and bowler hats. The ride isn't cheap, but all the money raised supports the equine therapy services of Operation Centaur, which manages the horses. ■
→ Holly Lodge, Richmond Park. ⊕ Richmond.
Various dates until Jan 5. £145 for two, max six.
Katie McCabe, Alexandra Sims and Angela Hui

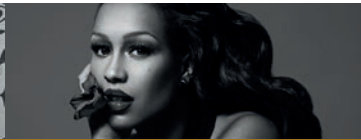


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SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



Lucia by Norrsång Choir

Join this Nordic community choir for a candlelit evening of singing to celebrate the Scandinavian tradition of honouring St Lucia. Glug on some glögg, and you'll soon be feeling merry.

→ St Michael and All Angels Church. Fri Dec 13. St Mary's Walthamstow. Sat Dec 14. ☺ Walthamstow Central. £9.

SKATE City Island Ice Rink

If skating's not enough, there's an artisan Christmas market, pre-skate dance warm-ups led by English National Ballet and festive workshops at this new rink.

→ Hopewell Square. ☺ Canning Town. Thu Dec 12-Dec 22. £8.

EAT Puds and Trees Market

Money may not grow on trees, but it turns out stodgy cakes do. Grab a free pud from the 'Christmas Pudding Tree' at this festive food fest.

→ Cowcross Yards. ☺ Farringdon. Wed Dec 11-Fri Dec 13. Free.

Saturday

SHOP Conscious Christmas Market

Dreaming of a waste-free Christmas? Pick up ethically made gifts from indie makers at this eco-friendly sale.

→ Netil Market. London Fields Overground. Sat Dec 14 and Dec 21. Free entry.

GET MERRY Mudchute Christmas

Try festive crafts and browse stalls while goats, pigs and sheep roam the grounds at this farmyard shindig.

→ Mudchute Park & Farm. Mudchute DLR. Sat Dec 14. Free entry.



Crisis Icebreaker

Take a teeth-chattering plunge into Brockwell Lido to raise money for homelessness charity Crisis. Swim solo or in a relay team while wearing a Santa hat, of course.

→ Brockwell Lido. Herne Hill rail. Sat Dec 14. £28.87, registration available on the day.

Sunday

The Pantomime Horse Race

Catch people-powered gee-gees galloping through Greenwich. The theme is 'Star Wars', so expect nags dressed appropriately. Princess Neigh-a, anyone?

→ Begins at Davenport House. Cutty Sark DLR. Sun Dec 15. Free to watch.



CUDDLE UP Rokit Christmas Jumper Pop-up

'Tis the season to wear novelty knits. Get your jumper fix at this pop-up from the vintage specialist packed with one-of-a-kind winter warmers.

→ Boxpark. Shoreditch High St Overground. Tue Dec 10-Sun Dec 15. Free entry.

BUY London Fields Christmas Market

The farmers' market gets a festive injection so you can pick up all the trimmings.

→ London Fields Primary School. London Fields Overground. Sun Dec 15. Free entry.

More wacky races at timeout.com/thingstodo



Seven ways to stay calm during the festive season

It's the worst kept secret that Christmas can be – admit it – a little stressful. To keep you cool, calm and collected we've pulled together our favourite methods of relaxing in London



Ah Christmas, that special time of the year when your diary's crammed, your shopping list's longer than Santa's, and everyone keeps telling you how bloody 'magical' everything is. We know that, sometimes, inner calm is harder to locate than a missing sock during the festive season – and that's why we've teamed up with Esenia to bring you some of our top ways to de-stress in London. Esenia Essential is a new, fully plant-based hemp oil spray which contains 4 percent CBD. And just one spray under the tongue allows CBD to enter your body. Remember, being calm is a superpower...

1 ChromaYoga

We all know the benefits of yoga. We all know the benefits of colour therapy. And we've all clocked those SAD lamps on sale. So can you imagine what happens when you combine all three? That's ChromaYoga.

→ 45-46 Charlotte Rd. Ⓞ Old St.

2 Postman's Park

Sometimes, even a 30-minute reset on your lunch break can make all the difference. Postman's Park is a hidden gem of a mini green space in the City of London. Seek it out and feel the calm.

→ King Edward St. Ⓞ St Paul's.

3 Daunt Books, Marylebone

There's one version of retail browsing that's a pleasure through and through: a trip to this historic bookstore. It's inspiring just to be there, and that's before you treat yourself to a stack of new novels to see you through the winter.

→ 84 Marylebone High St. Ⓞ Baker St.



Hampstead Pergola



4 London Fields Lido

The capital really caught the wild swimming bug this summer – but you don't need to ditch this invigorating habit in winter. Head to London Fields Lido where, thankfully, the outdoor pool is heated all year round.

→ London Fields West Side. London Fields Overground.

5 Hampstead Pergola

Did you know that London is one of the world's greenest cities? Even within the best-known 'hoods there are still secret spots to be found. The Hampstead Pergola is a picture-perfect ruin with views across the Heath that sssshhh...! We didn't tell you about.

→ Inverforth Close. ⊕ Hampstead.

6 The Porchester Spa

These Turkish baths overflow with vintage appeal and affordable decadence. Literally soak up the good vibes.

→ Queensway. ⊕ Royal Oak.

7 Christmas baking class at Cookery School

Yeah, we know: what's relaxing about cooking Yuletide food? Well, making festive treats can be fun when done right. Spend a whole day (Sunday December 15) at the sustainable Cookery School crafting flaky, buttery, spicy delights and then, well, eating them.

→ 15b Little Portland St. ⊕ Oxford Circus.

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SIX REASONS TO VISIT

Greenwich Park

John Boyega loves it, and so do we. There's so much to see in SE10's glorious bit of green

Boyega says



'Greenwich Park is very special to me because a lot of the time my friends and I would meet up to write and rehearse our scenes there. You know the view from the Maritime Museum? It is just incredible. It's always a good spot.'

1 One Tree Hill

Not to be confused with the nature reserve in Honor Oak (or the teen-drama TV series, for that matter), this leafy vantage point in the north of the park is the perfect spot to drink in a panoramic view of the capital. Up here you can see right across Greenwich's gorgeous neoclassical buildings to the striking skyscrapers of Canary Wharf. And unlike standing on the hill beside the Royal Observatory, you won't get swamped by throngs of selfie-stick-waving tourists.

2 Deer Park

Sorry, Richmond – Greenwich Park is actually the oldest deer park in London. The antlered beasts have been here since it was enclosed in 1433. The creatures roamed freely until 1927 when they were moved to a slice of ancient woodland in the south-east of the park, aptly named The Wilderness. Head there and you can still see 16 fallow deer and 14 red deer.

3 Christmas tree shop

Don't fake it! Grab yourself a real fir tree from this pop-up shop and support London's Royal Parks while you're at it. The trees up for grabs here have all been sustainably planted and each purchase will help care for 5,000 acres of historic parkland as well as 170,000 trees in the city. Staff can give you tips on how to avoid being left with a leafless stick come Christmas Day. Find the shop next to Blackheath Gate until December 22.



4 Queen Caroline's Bath

In the early nineteenth century, Queen Caroline of Brunswick (estranged wife of George IV) lived in Montague House in Greenwich Park, and got into hot water with the monarchy for throwing banging parties. Soon after she left England in 1814, the house was demolished. All that remains is the outline of her bath, which can be found in the south-west corner of the park today.

5 'Nelson's Ship in a Bottle'

Remember when Yinka Shonibare's replica of Nelson's HMS Victory debuted on Trafalgar Square's Fourth Plinth inside a giant glass bottle? See the artwork again at its permanent home outside the Sammy Ofer Wing of the National

Maritime Museum – and try to figure out how the hell Shonibare got that ship through the neck.

6 Royal Observatory

Right in the middle of the park, you'll find many a tourist awkwardly straddling the Prime Meridian Line outside the Royal Observatory, but the beautiful building is worth a look, even if you don't make it inside. If you do decide to pay the entry fee (from £14.40), you'll find a museum full of intricate clocks, a view through a camera obscura and the Great Equatorial Telescope. ■

→ Greenwich Park. Maze Hill rail, Cutty Sark DLR or Blackheath rail. Free, open daily. Peckham Rye Overground. Fri Dec 13-Sun Dec 15. £13.84.

GREENWICH: FORCICATTI / SHUTTERSTOCK; OBSERVATORY: ROB GREIG

WHERE TO FIND

Election night parties

Don't want to be alone for the results? Follow the polls in a pub



Carols by Candlelight
AT WESTMINSTER CHAPEL
15th Dec, 5.30pm
FOLLOWED BY MULLED DRINKS & MINCE PIES
INCLUSIVE Christmas
westminsterchapel.org.uk

Brexmas Election Viewing Party

Ramp up the competitive atmosphere by watching the election results live and playing politically themed games at Catford's cultural community space. Once you've smashed 'pin the manifesto on the leader', grab a Bojo Mojo or Cointreau Corbyn cocktail, depending on your allegiance, and get ready to see the night through.

→ Catford Mews. Catford Bridge rail. Thu Dec 12. Free.

Election Night Live

Peckham bar Copeland Social is staying open into the wee hours to beam the election results via its big screen. Vegan Sichuan pop-up Send Noods will be manning the kitchen all night for sustenance, and if things go badly, we suggest a strong drink to lessen the blow.

→ Copeland Social. Peckham Rye Overground. Thu Dec 12. Free.

Election Night Results Party

Old reliable Dalston bar The Three Compasses will be screening the early exit polls and results as they come in. The place will be packed with Hackney Labour activists after a long day of canvassing, so don't expect to see too many blue rosettes. If you need to comfort eat, the kitchen is open until 11pm.

→ The Three Compasses. Dalston Junction Overground. Thu Dec 12. Free, but register in advance.

Election Night Gingo!

Gingo = gin + bingo, and there will be plenty of both at this politically charged night of

laughing and ranting inside Walthamstow's gin-palace-in-a-car-park, Mother's Ruin. Live election updates will be brought to you by 'news correspondents' and self-proclaimed 'professional knobheads' Liza Vallance and Del Taylor, aka comedy duo Original Army. Entry is free, but you're encouraged to bring donations for the local food bank.

→ Mother's Ruin. ☺ Walthamstow Central. Thu Dec 12. Free.

Election Night 2019 at The Lexington

The Pentonville Road music venue is packing away the indie bands for the night and dedicating two floors to the election action. The Lex will be open late, and is promising burgers and coffee to keep you alert to the rolling news coverage in the main bar. There will be a contraption called the 'swingometer' in operation to help you keep track of the results between pints. Get there early if you want to snag a seat, then sit, wait, and pray the MP you voted for wins theirs. ■

Alexandra Sims and Katie McCabe

→ The Lexington. ☺ Angel. Thu Dec 12.

Free, no bookings.



Find more at timeout.com/thingstodo

EAT

C Evening of Cheese

Borough Market's annual dairy sale is back. Twenty cheesemongers will be offering up all sorts to tempt turophiles, including wines, ciders, chutneys and – obviously – lots of delicious cheese.
→ Borough Market. ☉ London Bridge. Wed Dec 11. Free entry.

S GrillJam

Cold weather getting you down? Feel the heat at this winter barbecue fest serving piping hot chicken wings, ribs and raclette-smothered steaks. Try street food tasters for as little as £1 and wash them down with craft brews in a Bavarian-style beer hall. Tickets include a free drink from Goose Island.
→ Bussey Building, Peckham Rye Overground. Fri Dec 13-Sun Dec 15. £13.84.

E KinoVino Xmas: Russian Feast

The film and food specialists are back with another multi-sensory supper club. Watch the epic 'Doctor Zhivago' with unlimited glasses of bubbly, before entering a 'winter wonderland'-themed banquet hall and tucking into a four-course Russian feast paired with cocktails.
→ TT Liquor, Hoxton Overground. Sat Dec 14. £65.

W Portobello Vegan Night Market – Xmas Special

Join London's only late-night vegan street party to gorge on plant-based eats, shop for ethical products and dance to reggae, ska and roots DJs. Even carnists get an invite.
→ 281 Portobello Rd. ☉ Ladbroke Grove. Wed Dec 11. Free entry.

TO DO

The best events in your area

C Central N North S South E East W West

JOIN IN

W Beer and Carols Night

The 'Sloaney Pony' hosts a mass festive singalong for one night only. Gather outside to bellow carols and Christmas hits before necking mulled wine.
→ The White Horse. ☉ Parsons Green. Wed Dec 11. Free.

C IBikeLondon: Santa Cruise

Grab a Santa hat, wrap your bike with glitzy Christmas lights and join the famous fleet of disco cycles blasting out festive tunes on this ride through the capital's nooks and crannies.
→ Starts outside the National Theatre. ☉ Waterloo. Sat Dec 14. Free.

WATCH

E Shesus and the Sisters: 'The Gift of Presents'

Have a gender-binary-smashing time at this retelling of the birth of the 'Miss-iah'. Here, Jesus is a drag king, his nun friends are twins and they're here to heal the world of the patriarchy. Expect cabaret, comedy, alt-carols and much audience participation.
→ Bethnal Green Working Men's Club. ☉ Bethnal Green. Thu Dec 12-Fri Dec 13. £12.50.

Santa's got a new sleigh!
Track him down and join festive family activities at London Transport Museum this Christmas.
30 November – 5 January 2020

KIDS GO FREE

london transport museum

MAYOR OF LONDON

Registered charity number 1123122

ltmuseum.co.uk

SHOP

S Greenwich Christmas Late Markets

Greenwich Market's independent stalls will be staying open until 8pm so you can pick up gifts, munch festive street food, sip mulled wine and dance to live music.
→ Greenwich Market, Cutty Sark DLR. Wed Dec 11 and Dec 18. Free entry.

C House of Illustration: Winter Fair

Arty types hunting for unusual pieces should hit up this fair where 150 of the country's best illustrators will be selling books, comics, prints and ceramics. While you're there, take up the two-for-one entry offer to the gallery's current exhibitions.
→ House of Illustration. ☉ King's Cross. Sat Dec 14. Free.

N Jolly Hobbies Japanese Christmas Market

Get your hands on homeware, accessories, arts and crafts and pottery at this traditional Japanese market. Stay to feast on sushi, bento and green tea cake.
→ Hornsey Parish Church Hall. Hornsey rail. Sun Dec 15. Free entry.

EXCLUSIVE

Help to decide on who becomes the next official Dreamboy at their live auditions ('The XXX Factor') and catch a show. From £20

TIMEOUT.COM/DREAM

How do you like these baubles?
timeout.com/christmaslights

Kids

Edited by Rose Johnstone
timeout.com/kids



The ultimate London Christmas checklist

Have your fill of festive fun with our round-up of the capital's must-do family activities – plus some kookier options

The festival

Hyde Park Winter Wonderland

Three words: 'Paddington on Ice'. Everyone's favourite bear is the star attraction of this year's Winter Wonderland spectacular – but there's also a free Santa Land especially for families, complete with rides and performances.

→ Hyde Park. ⊕ Hyde Park Corner. Until Jan 5. Free entry; shows and attractions various prices.

Something a bit different... Kingston Christmas Market

Wooden cabins adorned with fairy lights, firepits for toasting marshmallows and a vintage carousel: this could be the merriest town centre in the capital (or at least in its south-west corner!).

→ All Saints Church. Kingston rail. Until Dec 31. Free entry.

The ice rink

Skate at Somerset House

Not only is this 900-square-metre rink one of London's most beautiful, but kids can take skating lessons to improve their confidence. Time to glide away from that stabilising polar bear.

→ Somerset House. ⊕ Temple. Until Jan 12. From £11, £8.50 under 12s.

Something a bit different... City Island Ice Rink

Chill out at east London's new ice-skating rink. You'll find a market there for four days from Thursday (December 12). And if you visit this Saturday or Sunday morning, kids can take part in a Gymboree class for babies and under-fives.

→ Hopewell Square. ⊕ Canning Town. Thu Dec 12-Dec 22. Ice skating: £8, £5.50 child. Gymboree: £8 per child, £3 for siblings. Adults free.

The film screening

The Luna Winter Cinema

We're all in agreement that 'Home Alone' is the finest Christmas film ever, right? Share the lols with the family at a screening inside the gorgeous Kensington Palace Pavilion.

→ Kensington Palace Pavilion. ⊕ Queensway. Sun Dec 15-Dec 22. £18.50, £13.50 child.

Something a bit different... Festive Films at ZSL London Zoo

No, they haven't put tiny Santa hats on the penguins. Yes, they are screening family films like 'The Polar Express' and 'The Muppet Christmas Carol'.

→ ZSL London Zoo. ⊕ Mornington Crescent. Until Dec 24. Free with zoo admission, booking required.



Hyde Park Winter Wonderland

Never be bored again!
Head to timeout.com/kids



DICK WHITTINGTON: ROBERT WORKMAN; WINTER WONDERLAND: MAX WIECHOWSKI

The Christmas lights

Carnaby Christmas Light Installation

Watch your little ones light up at the sight of Carnaby Street transformed into a deep-sea fantasy: think floating 'kelp' forests and a five-metre bubble-blowing whale.

→ Carnaby St. Ⓞ Oxford Circus.
Until Jan 5 Free.

Something a bit different... Enchanted Eltham Palace

What's that twinkling light at the end of the tunnel? Follow a glimmering trail and discover talking trees, dancing fairies and interactive musical installations at Eltham Palace this Christmas.

Then snack on mince pies and whizz around on fairground rides.
→ Eltham Palace. Eltham rail. Until Dec 22.
£12-£14, £7.50-£9.50 child.

The grotto

Alexandra Palace Santa's Grotto

Climbing the hill to see Saint Nick in north London is much easier than travelling all the way to the North Pole – plus, visitors will be rewarded with a small gift and a photo op.

→ Alexandra Palace. Alexandra Palace rail.
Until Dec 23. £12.

Something a bit different... Victorian Santa's Grotto

We've got the Victorians to thank for most of our festive traditions, so it's no surprise that Santa has decided to deck the halls of the Museum of London's Victorian Walk.

→ Museum of London. Ⓞ Barbican.
Until Dec 23. £10.

The panto

'Dick Whittington and His Cat'

It's hard to beat the Hackney Empire's panto for big laughs, dazzling sets and the peerless Clive Rowe. The writers have adapted the show to make it super-topical – oh, yes they have!

→ Hackney Empire. Hackney Central Overground.
Until Jan 5. £10-£42.

Something a bit different... 'Cinderella – The Rockin' Panto'

Got a budding rockstar on your hands? Take them to Finchley's Artsdepot, where Cinderella and her mates play musical instruments.

→ Artsdepot. Ⓞ Woodside Park. Until Jan 5.
£18-£32. ■

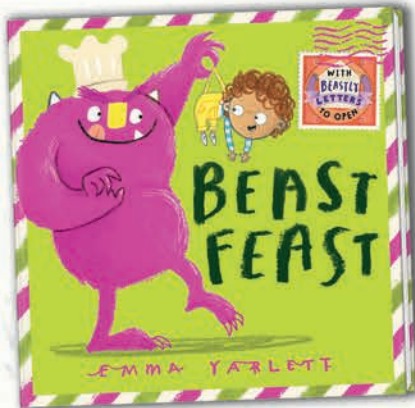
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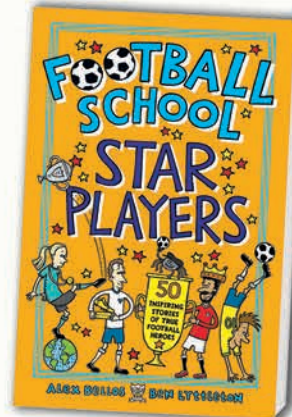
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TIME OUT MEETS

Joel Horwood



THE NATIONAL THEATRE'S big Xmas play is a rarity: a fantasy drama for teens. Aimed at ages 12-plus, with half-price tickets for under-18s, 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane' is a version of Neil Gaiman's haunting 2013 novel. Joel Horwood adapted it for the stage.

So, what's 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane' about?
 'It's about a guy who has recently lost his father who travels back to his childhood home in search of his childhood friend Lettie. He comes to a duck pond and starts to regain these forgotten memories.'

There are a lot of Neil Gaiman books that haven't been adapted for the stage - why this one?
 'For me, it's the moment when the protagonist is asked to step into a bucket and believe that within this bucket is the entire universe. An adaptation of this book into a film would probably be CGI-tastic and you'd have to give it just one literal reading. This book is about imagination: it feels intensely appropriate for theatre to take this narrative.'

You don't get a lot of theatre aimed at teens. Why?
 'I suppose teenagers aren't usually a target theatre audience, maybe because they don't have the disposable income for tickets. But I think this is something for them to get their teeth into.'

How involved has Neil Gaiman been?
 'Right at the start he said he'd love to leave us alone but he couldn't bring himself to do it! But every time he's come in he's had a lovely time.'

This isn't the first seemingly unadaptable book you've adapted: do you like a challenge?
 'I love a challenge, that's the whole reason I'm doing it! Probably also the reason I'm broke...' ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*
 → National Theatre, Dorfman. ☹ Waterloo. Until Jan 25. £15-£54.

Find more plays for young people at timeout.com/theatre

Until 05 Jan

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 Directed by **TINUKE CRAIG**

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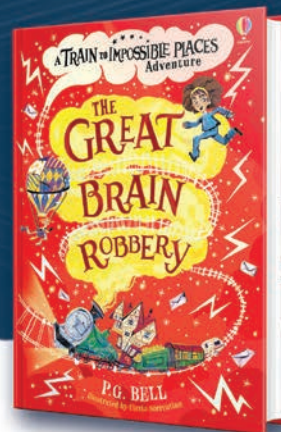
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THREE OF THE BEST

Things for 'Frozen' fans to do

Kids caught 'Frozen 2' fever? London is packed with ways to feed their obsession...



Disney on Ice

There's a special 'Frozen' focus at this winter's Disney ice-travaganza. For one thing, it's already on ice, so the songs make more sense. More to the point, the film's songs are all monster anthems bound to have The O2 in raptures.

→ The O2. ⊖ North Greenwich. Thu Dec 26-Jan 5. £33.50-£45.50.



'Frozen' screening

If you're a believer that the original is always the best, this one's for you: Arendelle comes to NW1 with a screening of 'Frozen' at Fest Camden's rooftop cinema. It's located in the Stables Market, so we bet there's parking for reindeer too.

→ Fest Camden. ⊖ Chalk Farm. Wed Dec 18. £7.95.



Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Snow Queen'

Show them where it all began with a trip to see Hans Christian Andersen's 'The Snow Queen', the inspiration for 'Frozen'. Once they've got over the lack of singing snowmen, it should prove every bit as magical. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

→ Rose Theatre, Kingston. Hampton Wick rail. Until Jan 5. £10-£35.

Cold never bothered you anyway? Head to timeout.com/kids

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TO DO

The best family-friendly events around London over the festive season

C Central N North S South E East W West



Raver Tots London New Year's Day Party

EXHIBITIONS

C 'Marvellous and Mischievous: Literature's Young Rebels'

Be inspired by the bravery and defiance of characters like Matilda and Oliver Twist in the British Library's family-friendly exhibition.
→ British Library. ☉ King's Cross. Until Mar 1 2020. Free.

E 'A Docklands Christmas Carol'

The Museum of London Docklands has gone all Dickensian this Christmas, with an educational and immersive retelling of 'A Christmas Carol'. Fancy dress is encouraged.
→ Museum of London Docklands. West India Quay DLR. Until Sun Dec 15. Free.

FESTIVALS

C Southbank Centre Winter Market

Beanies and gloves on: it's time for your annual jaunt to this sparkling riverside market with its cute wooden chalets and crafty gift ideas.
→ Southbank Centre. ☉ Waterloo. Until Jan 25. Free entry.

FILMS

S Backyard Cinema's Winter Night Garden

It's your chance to sing along to 'The Muppet Christmas Carol' and 'The Nightmare Before Christmas'. Grab it.
→ Capital Studios. Wandsworth Town rail. Until Jan 19. From £18.99.

C 'Elf' at The Prince Charles

Quote-along sessions? You know you want to.
→ The Prince Charles Cinema. ☉ Leicester Square. Various dates until Dec 24. £13.50, £11 child.

C Winter Pop-up Cinema at the Southbank Centre

Free films here include 'Home Alone' and lots of Disney classics.
→ Southbank Centre. ☉ Waterloo. Until Dec 29. Free.

PARTIES

E Raver Tots London New Year's Day Party

Throw shapes (while holding your baby) at this for-all-ages, multisensory rave.
→ Colours Hoxton. Shoreditch High St Overground. Jan 1. £12, £10 child.

Winter Holidays: Make & Do Christmas

Friday 20 December –
Sunday 5 January, 10.30 – 16.00
Free, drop-in, all ages

Join us for festive activities including:

- Victorian Christmas pop-up performances
- Our colourful, ceiling Christmas tree
- Make your own decorations

V&A

Museum of Childhood
☉ Bethnal Green

vam.ac.uk/moc/whats-on

ICE RINKS

W Hampton Court Palace Ice Rink

After dark, this Tudor palace lights up brilliantly, providing the perfect backdrop for gliding and hot-chocolate-sipping.
→ Hampton Court Palace.
Hampton Court rail. Until Jan 5.
£15-£16.50, £10.50-£11 child.

S The Queen's House Ice Rink

Heard about south London's new pop-up ice rink? Whizz around in a classy setting.
→ The Queen's House.
Cutty Sark DLR. Until Jan 12.
£13.50-£16, £6.75-£8 child.

C Natural History Museum Ice Rink

There's nothing more festive than skating round the museum's giant twinkling Christmas tree.
→ Natural History Museum.
↻ South Kensington. Until Jan 12. From £15.95, £10.45 child.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

S Christmas at Greenwich Market

Historic Greenwich Market is a treat at any time of year, but it's especially charming adorned in fairy lights. The market is putting on a couple of lates when there'll be live jazz and plenty of festive treats.
→ Greenwich Market.
Cutty Sark DLR. Wed Dec 11 and Dec 18. Free.

C Christmas at Leadenhall Market

Whether you've got Potterheads on your hands or you're just keen to get out of the house, this display really is magical (and there's mulled wine for parents).
→ Leadenhall Market.
↻ Monument. Until Jan 1. Free.

GROTTO

E Deck the Halls at Sutton House

How's this for ambitious? Hackney's oldest house is covering 500 years of Christmas traditions, from the Tudors to now.
→ Sutton House. Homerton Overground. Until Dec 22.
£9.50, £5.50 child.

WORKSHOPS

E Craft It!

Homemade tree decorations are always best – and your kids can make them at the V&A Museum of Childhood's free workshops.
→ V&A Museum of Childhood.
↻ Bethnal Green.
Dec 27-29. Free.

CAROL CONCERTS

C Carols at the Royal Albert Hall

Even the most ardent Scrooge couldn't resist the charm of this traditional singalong.
→ Royal Albert Hall.
↻ South Kensington.
Dec 21-24. £20-£90.50.

PANTOS

C 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'

Julian Clary, Paul O'Grady, Matt Baker and the rest of the Palladium panto crew take you on a porridge-tastic adventure
→ London Palladium.
↻ Oxford Circus. Until Jan 12.
£20-£175.

N 'Snow White'

The much-loved north London venue is putting on its mammoth annual panto, complete with a giant cast of hundreds of local youngsters.
→ Chickenshed. ↻ Cockfosters.
Until Jan 11. £14-£22.50.

THEATRE

C 'A Christmas Carol'

The Old Vic's highly rated adaptation has returned for a third victory lap and it's as heartwarming as ever.
→ Old Vic. ↻ Waterloo.
Until Jan 18. £12-£67.50.

C 'Circus 1903'

This classic circus show is epic in scale and full of old-school razzle-dazzle. It will appeal to both kids and adults.
→ Royal Festival Hall.
↻ Waterloo. Thu Dec 19-Jan 5.
£29.50-£125.

C 'Billionaire Boy'

A new staging of David Walliams's kids' novel is coming to London for Christmas. It's the 'Richie Rich'-esque tale of a boy who has pots of money but no friends. Then he scoops up a rabble of 'normal' mates and gets stuck into plenty of adventures.
→ Bloomsbury Theatre.
↻ Euston Square. Fri Dec 13-Jan 5. £24.50-£31.50.

N 'The Pixie and the Pudding'

This festive show features a family who fall foul of a tricky pixie. Based on a folk story, it's a musical about what happens when they move their farm to the city, and forget to leave pudding out for a magical visitor.
→ Little Angel Theatre.
↻ Angel. Until Feb 2. £15, £13 under-16s.

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The Guardian

★★★★★
The Times

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Supported by the London Arts Council ENGLAND

E Santa's Snowflake Grotto at Westfield

The man in the red suit is paying a visit to Stratford this year, taking up residence in a cosy cabin. Book in for a 20-minute visit, where little ones can create their own decorations, receive a gift and, of course, get their photo taken. It's also on at Westfield Shepherd's Bush.
→ Westfield Stratford City.
↻ Stratford. Until Dec 24. £7.50.

C Gingerbread House Making Workshop

Don't just marvel at this year's tasty display – learn to build your own spiced and sweet creation!
→ Museum of Architecture at Somerset House.
↻ Temple.
Until Jan 5.
£35 for one adult and one child.

C Christmas Choirs at the V&A

The V&A's Grand Entrance has fabulous acoustics: you'll hear what we mean when you encounter a choir singing your fave carols.
→ V&A. ↻ South Kensington.
Until Dec 30.
Free.



W 'Cinderella'

The Lyric Hammersmith's annual panto is always quality, but this one's particularly heart-warming. Timmika Ramsay's 'Cinderella' is a stargazing scientist who falls for a socially awkward prince.
→ Lyric Hammersmith.
↻ Hammersmith. Until Jan 5.
£15-£46, £15-£42 under-16s.

Find loads more family events at timeout.com/kids

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Film

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'The Favourite'

Films of the year

In the year that saw the fiftieth anniversary of the moon landing, here's our countdown of the top flicks of the last 12 months

10 Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood

If he's as good as his word, Quentin Tarantino has only one film left to make before he jacks in filmmaking for ever. As this love letter to late '60s LA proves, he'd be going out on top form. With Margot Robbie as a sylph-like Sharon Tate, Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio teaming up for a lovably insecure on-screen bromance and all the usual QT patter, it offers a nostalgic fantasia to get totally lost in.

9 Diego Maradona

Asif Kapadia followed up the majestic one-two of 'Senna' and 'Amy' with another vibrant, seriously cinematic doc that's far more emotional and affecting than it has any right to be. Using unseen U-matic footage, it follows Diego's journey from Napoli folk hero to coke-addicted outcast. Even if you can't forgive Maradona for that handball, you at least come away hating him in a gentler, more understanding way.

8 Pain and Glory

Aside from finding out that he shops in Morrisons, my favourite Antonio Banderas fact is that his first ever piece of direction from Pedro Almodóvar in 'Labyrinth of Passion' was to stare at the crotches of passers-by. Eight collaborations on, Almodóvar gave him a bit more to do in this gorgeous memoir of a waning filmmaker looking back at his life. With any luck, it'll win him an Oscar and he'll be able to upgrade to Waitrose.

7 Apollo 11

It was the fiftieth anniversary of the moon landing and this doc arrived to remind us what a bastard-mad feat it was. The massive rocket boosters and vast, trundling launchpad were eye-popping on the big screen – and that was before anyone had gone anywhere. Director Todd Douglas Miller lets his incredible Nasa footage do all the talking. The descent on to the moon is pure hold-your-breath cinema.

6 Joker

For some, 'Joker' represents a reckless empowering of incels that rips off Martin Scorsese's back catalogue; for others, it's a minor masterpiece that speaks hard truths about the age we live in, and boasting a massively on-form Joaquin Phoenix. For my money, it's a bleak watch but made with real craft and stonking set-pieces that build on, rather than rip off, 'Taxi Driver' and the like. Could have done without that Gary Glitter track, mind you.

5 For Sama

This collaboration between Syrian director Waad Al-Kateab and Brit filmmaker Edward Watts is one in the eye for any filmgoer who thought they'd seen it all before. No one had witnessed anything quite like this ultra-visceral verité doc charting the siege – and slow death – of Aleppo at the hands of President Assad. It's a requiem and a howl of defiance, all at once.



'Marriage Story'

'Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood'



'Joker'

MARRIAGE STORY: WILSON WEBB; JOKER: NIKO TAVENIER/S; WARNER BROS; ONCE UPON A TIME... IN HOLLYWOOD: ANDREW COOPER/OTMG



'For Sama'

Jumanji: The Next Level ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT...

A video game wants to kill everyone that plays it – in a fun way.

WHY GO...

Because you need The Rock's Danny DeVito impression in your life.

→ Director Jake Kasdan (12A) 123 mins.

A 2017 REBOOT of an old Robin Williams caper, 'Jumanji' turned out to be a pleasant surprise. It kept just the core idea of the 1995 original – a boardgame tries to kill its players – and gave it a modern tweak and loads of 'Big'-style charm. And guess what? The sequel is even better.

At the end of the first film, four teenagers had survived living inside a video game and learned that you can be more than people expect you to be. A couple of years later, three are thriving but one has decided he wants to go back to Jumanji. For gawky Spencer (Alex Wolf), real life cannot compare to a videogame where he got to inhabit The Rock. Hard to blame him, really.

The plot mechanics – beat the game, learn some lessons – are broadly the same, but there's a new twist: old people. Spencer's grandfather, Eddie (Danny DeVito) and his estranged friend Milo (Danny Glover) accidentally join the game. And this time it's Eddie who gets The Rock avatar.

It can't be overstated how much joy there is in watching The Rock pretend to be a short, cranky old man. He's now the doofus of the group, rather than the hero, and it works perfectly. The comedy gets increasingly bonkers – a horse joins the cast as a lead character; there are body swaps within body swaps – but it's always silly rather than stupid. It's enormous fun and played with all the subtlety it demands (none) by an excellent cast. The final credits suggest the game may not be quite over. Bring it on. ■ *Olly Richards*



4 Midsommar

With 2018's 'Hereditary', horror movie auteur Ari Aster made the night a place of terror and gory shocks. This year, he returned with a quite brilliant, sun-dazed horror film that managed to put us off daylight too. Cheers, Ari. What next? 'Awful Shit Goes Down at Dawn'? 'Boo! It's Sunset'?

3 The Favourite

If eighteenth-century England was half as much fun as this regal romp, you'd say to hell with all the itchy skin complaints and move back there. 'The Favourite' plays like 'The Crown' on nitrous, with courtly manoeuvres worthy of Molière. Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz are pitch-perfect, but Olivia Colman steals the show.

2 The Souvenir

Four decades on from bumping into Derek Jarman in a Soho café and being lent a camera, Joanna Hogg delivered her masterpiece: a human drama that embraced all the pains of growing up, addiction and heartbreak. Derek would have been proud.

1 Marriage Story

Like 'Kramer vs Kramer' vs Kramer from 'Seinfeld', this marital-breakdown masterpiece has just enough lols to leaven the tears. And there are plenty of those, with Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson dazzling in Noah Baumbach's semi-autobiographical tale. After all its cheesy romcoms, Netflix delivered perhaps the ultimate anti-romcom. ■



By Phil de Semlyen
Who admits that this list could radically change when he sees 'Cats'.

The Kingmaker ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT...

Ex-Filipino First Lady Imelda Marcos welcomes us into her weird world.

WHY GO...

For a glimpse at that infamous shoe collection.

→ Director Lauren Greenfield (15) 101 mins.

THERE'S A THROWAWAY moment early in Lauren Greenfield's doc that says loads about its subject, Imelda Marcos. The ex-Filipino First Lady has rows of framed photographs of herself with various world leaders laid out to wow the filmmaker with. Lifting one, she knocks another. There's a series of loud smashes as frame after frame falls to the ground. Marcos gazes on as an assistant scurries to clear up the mess. This, it's clear, is a person used to breaking things and not worrying about the consequences.

Marcos offers a few of these funny-horrifying glimpses beneath her egotistical veneer. 'The Kingmaker' opens with her dishing out cash to clamouring kids like she's feeding hungry ducks. 'When I see Manila, I feel so sad,' she says. It doesn't occur to her than she and her long-dead husband, who ran the country as a plaything for 21 years, might have had something to do that.

Greenfield doesn't press Marcos on these questions, preferring to reflect her excesses back at her. The film's first half packs in biographical detail, dipping into her love of opulence and her husband's infidelities and political battles. Slowly, though, 'The Kingmaker' turns into an acute study of the psychology of power. Backdropped by the rise of populist leader Rodrigo Duterte, it zooms in on the ugly entitlement and decadence hard-wired into this self-proclaimed dynasty. 'I was always criticised for being excessive,' Marcos says, 'but that is mothering.' She makes a very strange kind of mum. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



THE KINGMAKER/LAUREN GREENFIELD



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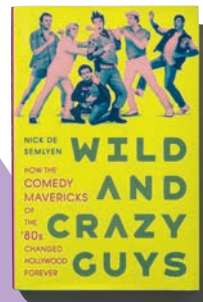
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Movie gift guide

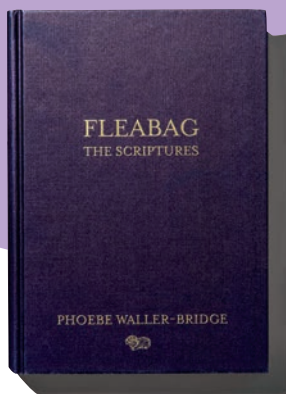
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TIME OUT LOVES Peckhamplex

The secrets of SE15's mighty community movie palace

Boyega says



'The cheapest cinema in London! The Peckhamplex is fantastic. It's right opposite the McDonald's. And growing up in south London that, to me, was genius because: "Babes, we can go and watch a film and I'll take you to McDonald's straight after and - guess what - the bus stop is only yards away."'



1 It's cheap as chips
Let's not beat around the bush: Peckhamplex is ace because it costs less than a fiver to get in. 'Star Wars', 'Avengers'... you name it, it's £4.99. 'There are no plans to change the ticket price,' says the cinema's director John Reiss. The popcorn won't empty your wallet either.

2 It's lovably old-school
From the walls, which are a John Waters pink, to the queues that can form for the biggest releases (online booking is available), it's the kind of cinema you grew up with. Reiss says big refurb is planned for 2020, though pushing it up is not on the cards.

3 It supports local filmmakers
While other cinema chains were busy banning it, Peckhamplex hosted the premiere of gang drama 'Blue Story'. 'It's a home film for us,' says Reiss. 'It's a positive film with a message.'

4 Its staff are ace
They're a friendly bunch who know their onions. They're all paid the London Living Wage and there are bonuses three times a year. 'We're not a PLC,' says Reiss. 'We want to be profitable so everyone here can get a return.'

5 Her Majesty loves it
As Reiss notes, people come from all over town. On a good week, its six screens will host 10,000 filmgoers. On a *really* good week, you might spot superfan and local Olivia Colman. And you can't argue with the Queen. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

ALSO OPENING

QT8: THE FIRST EIGHT →

★★★★☆
A watchable stab at making a doc about Quentin Tarantino without the man himself, this film has everything - charismatic contributors, clips, behind-the-scenes bits, and Jamie Foxx saying 'motherfucker' a lot - bar the thoughts of the notorious director and much sense of objectivity. Whether this is a dealbreaker depends on your level of fandom and how far you'd want it to go beyond fawning praise. Here - and despite having a go (of sorts) at tackling the Weinstein question - the answer is: not very. *Phil de Semlyen*



CITIZEN K

★★★★☆
Being an oligarch is all superyachts and private jets, right? Not if Alex Gibney's portrait of powerbroker-turned-prisoner Mikhail Khodorkovsky is anything to go by. The lantern-jawed Moscovite makes a brooding and candid interviewee but Gibney's forensic look at Putin's Russia falls short of essential. *Phil de Semlyen*

FIDDLER: A MIRACLE OF MIRACLES

★★★★☆
The beloved 1964 stage musical is the subject of this cockle-warming doc packed with ace contributors (Lin-Manuel Miranda, Joel Grey) and smart history lessons. Even if you've never hummed a note of 'If I Were a Rich Man', you'll be singing along by the end. *Greer McNally*

SONS OF DENMARK

★★★★☆
This solid Danish police procedural about terrorist cells and far-right nutjobs is pacy and nicely acted. If it got round to addressing extremism in any meaningful way, it'd be a thriller of merit. ■ *Chris Waywell*

Pink Wall



WHAT IS IT...

The six-year story of a relationship told in six instalments.

WHY GO...

It's a warm hug for anyone who's had their heart broken.

→ Director Tom Cullen (15) 82 mins.



WELSH ACTOR-TURNED-FILMMAKER

Tom Cullen knows his way round a naturalistic, low-budget romance, having made his acting breakthrough in Andrew Haigh's gem 'Weekend'. Here he directs his IRL partner Tatiana Maslany ('Orphan Black') in Powys's answer to 'Blue Valentine'. Maslany's aspiring producer Jenna and Jay Duplass's cheerily ambition-free photographer Leon fall in love and drift apart over six years and six non-sequential vignettes. It's rather lovely and endlessly relatable.

It's not just the presence of 'Cyrus' director Duplass on screen that gives 'Pink Wall' a mumblecore vibe. With his camera up close and personal, Cullen lets his actors joust in long dialogue scenes as they chew over everything from the awesomeness of The Meters' 'Cissy Strut' to their feelings about having kids. They fall in love and, occasionally, fall apart. There's some pass-agg pasta eating and a dinner party which starts with good vibes and ends excruciatingly. Few scenes pass without something to say about relationships.

What makes it stand out from the well-stocked ranks of indie relationship dramas is the way Cullen plays with traditional gender expectations. 'I don't want to make myself small so you don't feel insecure,' Jenna tells Leon. These prickly exchanges are elevated by sparky turns from the two leads. You get why the pair would fall for each but you also get where the faultlines lie. Cullen maps it all out in an impressive, touching debut. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

All the biggest new films reviewed at timeout.com/film

Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic



Lovebox Festival has Tyler, Disclosure and Khalid

Plus Robyn, FKA Twigs, Mabel, Hot Chip...
It's a beast, basically

NOW APPROACHING ITS nineteenth (!) year, Lovebox has firmly established itself as one of London's most consistently brilliant festivals. That's due in no small part to some slam-dunk programming, and the first wave of acts confirmed for 2020 is no exception.

R&B prodigy **Khalid** will be headlining the Friday, UK house duo **Disclosure** will be headlining the Saturday, and **Tyler, The Creator** will be headlining the Sunday. Tyler is a particular coup because, five years ago, the provocative rapper was denied entry to the UK when

he arrived at Heathrow ahead of his planned Reading and Leeds festival sets. In a seemingly arbitrary and unprecedented decision, Theresa May, then home secretary, used anti-terrorism legislation to refuse him a visa. She explained in a statement that his music, which contains anti-gay slurs used by many other artists who've been allowed into the UK, 'encourages violence and intolerance of homosexuality' and 'fosters hatred with views that seek to provoke others to terrorist acts'. Because of this, he hasn't played a UK festival since 2013... until now.



Disclosure



Tyler, The Creator

They'll all be heading to west London's Gunnersbury Park, which has been Lovebox's home since 2018, when the long-running fest made the move from east London's Victoria Park. As this tempting trio of headliners suggests, after five years as a two-day festival, Lovebox is expanding to become a three-dayer again. The third day essentially replaces Citadel, which took place in Gunnersbury Park on the Sunday following Lovebox's Friday and Saturday.

British pop-R&B queen **Mabel** and London indietronica whizzes **Hot Chip** will also take to the stage

on the Friday, while pop colossus **Robyn**, red-hot DJ **Peggy Gou** and Cali rapper-crooner **Anderson .Paak** will all perform on the Saturday. Sunday will feature sets from two of UK music's most compelling innovators: **FKA Twigs** and **Charli XCX**. Loads more acts will be announced in due course, but Lovebox 2020 is already shaping up to be an absolute belter. ■

Nick Levine

→ Gunnersbury Park. Jun 12-14 2020.

More festivals at timeout.com/music

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LITTLE MIX



WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

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KESHA

ZARA LARSSON

PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

SATURDAY 04 JULY 2020
HYDE PARK LONDON



THE ROYAL PARKS

AMERICAN EXPRESS ALL AEG axs

TYLER, THE CREATOR: ZUMA PRESS (PA IMAGES); DISCLOSURE: SCOTT WISHART; LOVEBOX: BEN CREMIN

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presents
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WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

PIXIES

WHITE REAPER

PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

FRIDAY 10 JULY 2020
HYDE PARK LONDON

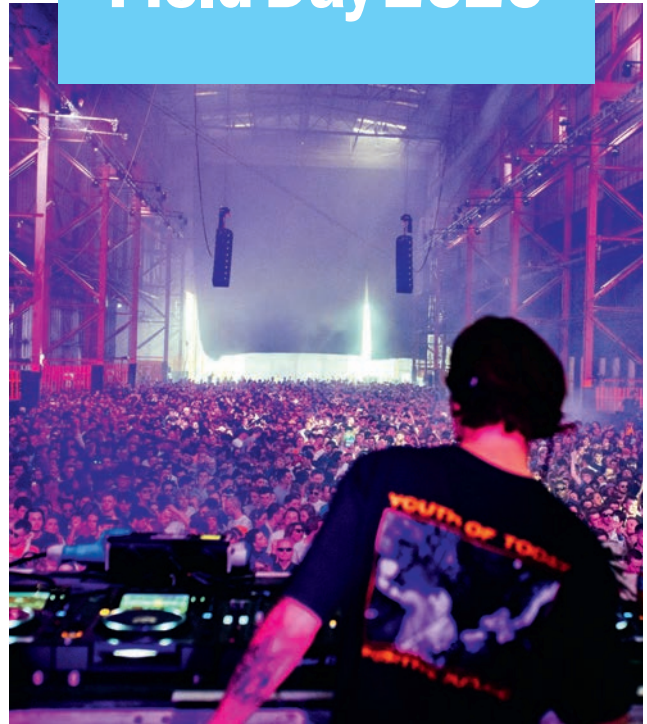


THE ROYAL PARKS

AMERICAN EXPRESS ALL AEG AXS

JUST ANNOUNCED

**Bicep are
headlining
Field Day 2020**



THE FIRST HEADLINER for Field Day 2020 has been announced – and it's a proper flex. Belfast boys Bicep are bringing their big beats to London for an exclusive live set, meaning it'll be the only festie in the capital that they'll be hitting up. Strong stuff, indeed.

It's a little bit bonkers how quickly Bicep have bulked up into a festival-topping mega name. They started just ten years ago as a blogger partnership, sharing dusted-down Italo, house and disco records. After turning to DJing they started producing retro-tinged tracks, before setting up the Feel My Bicep label in 2012. They only performed live for the first time four years ago, but their name on a poster has already become a surefire way to round-up ravers ready for a heady night out. Expect some big-room staples ('Aura', 'Glue') from their self-titled debut LP.

This is the first announcement for Field Day 2020, which returns to The Drumsheds in Meridian Water after breaking in the site last year. The vast warehouse spaces, including the new indoor main stage, will be popping off continuously from 3pm to 3am on Saturday July 11, making it a uniquely late finisher among London's one-day festivals. Oh, and first release tickets are only £35 – almost the same price as Bicep's sold-out March 2020 gigs at Brixton Academy, our Casios inform us. Get ready to muscle into the queue. ■ *Kyle MacNeill*
→ Bicep play Field Day at The Drumsheds on July 11 2020.

More festivals at
[timeout.com/music](https://www.timeout.com/music)

BENJAMIN

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ENGLAND

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Alternative
seasonal nights out
(if the office party
looks a bit lame)



Some Voices: Top of Your Pops '90s Christmas Countdown

'Some' voices is underselling it, tbh – this choir actually has around 500 members, and they'll be belting out '90s bangers from Britpop bops to club classics at these big festive gigs. For added nostalgi-kitsch appeal, the one and only Pat Sharp (Dec 10) and the one and only Andi Peters (Dec 11) will be hosting. Frankly, if this doesn't cure your Scrooge-like Yuletide blues, nothing will.

→ Troxy. Tue Dec 10–Wed Dec 11.

A Very Kylie Christmas: A Fundraiser for The Outside Project

Herr The Queen hosts a drag-fuelled celebration of all things Kylie (not Jenner, obv). All proceeds go to LGBTQ+ community shelter The Outside Project, so this Christmas party is equal parts glamour, camp bangers and altruism.

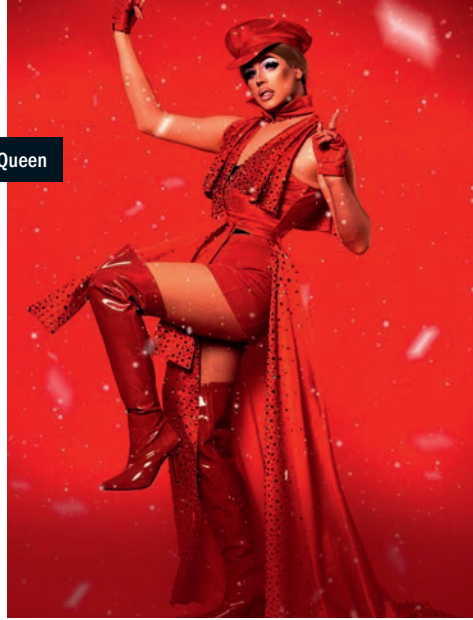
→ The Glory. Thu Dec 12.

Caribbean Christmas with Just Vibez

This free festive family party features an array of traditional Caribbean music, stories and performances. Calypso, parang and other dancefloor-friendly Caribbean sounds will most definitely warm your winter cockles.

→ Queen Elizabeth Hall. Sat Dec 14.

Herr The Queen



The Big Brassy Christmas Party

Sick and tired of hearing the same boring Christmas songs year after year? That's cos you haven't heard them performed by ten-piece brass band Old Dirty Brasstards. Prepare to move your feet as they breathe new life (literally) into some overplayed festive filler. Carols will never be the same again.

→ XOYO. Dec 19.

Paul Simon's 'Graceland' by The London African Gospel Choir

This one's an annual tradition. The collective of African singers, musicians and dancers perform Paul Simon's seminal album from start to finish accompanied by a live band. The choir has previously performed with the likes of Emeli Sandé and Annie Lennox, and recorded with Idris Elba and John Legend, so they have serious, serious chops.

→ Earth. Dec 20.

Ram Records Christmas Party

The revered drum and bass label brings its 'infamous' – their word! – Christmas bash to Shoreditch dancing spot XOYO. With sets from Calyx & Teebee, DJ Randall, Shimon, Magnetude, Freek and loads more, it should definitely be epic.

→ XOYO. Dec 21.



London Community Gospel Choir

Soul City Christmas Party

Held every Saturday at Camden's famous Jazz Cafe, this weekly club night aims to 'connect the dots between disco, house, soul and more from across the ages', and its penultimate edition of 2019 is taking on a Christmas-themed tinge. Plus, with Norman Jay taking control of the music, you can guarantee there won't be any tragic festive singalongs to ruin your evening.

→ Jazz Cafe. Dec 21.

Fever 105's Disco Wonderland

You could celebrate the last full weekend before Christmas in a tangle of Sellotape and wrapping paper. Or you could be shaking your seasonal tassels to disco giant Joey Negro, who will be taking over Oval Space all night long for Fever 105's fifth annual festive get down. Over the road at the Pickle Factory (room 2), Bill Brewster and Red Greg will be digging deep in their well-filled sacks for a marathon seven-hour back-to-back session. Christmas just got glittery. ■

→ Pickle Factory and Oval Space. Dec 21.

Loads more jingle balls at timeout.com/music

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KRAFTWERK 3D

IGGY POP

JOHNNY MARR > THE ORB

CHROMATICS > ANNA CALVI

KIM GORDON

GRANDMASTER FLASH

JEHNNY BETH > JOHN MAUS

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MAYOR OF LONDON

TimeOut



Music & Nightlife

GIGS AND CLUBS

Give the gift of music, to yourself

THIS WEEK

Circa Loco

Bringing a small sliver of Ibiza to a Decembery London, this all-day dance party features sets from Gerd Janson, Seth Troxler, Job Jobse and loads more – all playing at this stunning and vast warehouse space.
 → Drumsheds. Sat Dec 14.

JUST ANNOUNCED

Fabric Saturdays

Many sonic delights are forthcoming at the Farringdon rave cave next year, including sets from

Prins Thomas, an all-nighter from Apollonia, a Sunday daytime takeover from Viennese chillsters Kruder & Dorfmeister and an ace double-whammy of Saoirse and Ricardo Villalobos on January 25.
 → Fabric. Every Sat from Jan.

Signal: End Homelessness

It's the second outing of this lovely fundraiser for Crisis and Shelter, this time offering DJ Anna Wall and Fabric's Terry Francis in the classiest rave pub in town.
 → The Lion & Lamb. Dec 20.

Dusky: XOYO Residency

The ace London DJ duo take the reins of Fridays down at

the Shoreditch club, bringing weekly guests including Paranoid London, Loefah, Derrick May and more.
 → XOYO. Jan 3-Mar 20 2020.

Alice Russell

The Suffolk alt-soul queen, who refuses to be anything but scintillating live, plays in the round next year.
 → Roundhouse. Jan 27 2020.

LWE Presents: Sphere

Eats Everything, Maceo Plex, Richie Hawtin, Skream and more play at the launch of this party series, at sweet new Greenwich venue Magazine.
 → Magazine. Feb 15 2020.

IAMDBB

Manchester's trap-jazz queen has just booked



AMP London

Annie Mac presents four days of gigs and panels taking place all over London. With a focus on future female talent and emerging indie bands, the excellent line-up includes Joy Crookes, Beabadoobee and Arlo Parks.

→ Various venues. Mar 4-7 2020.



Dua Lipa

With her disco banger 'Don't Start Now' riding high in the charts, the UK's reigning pop queen has booked a 2020 arena tour. Her second album 'Future Nostalgia' is due next year too.
→ The O2. May 26-27 2020.



her biggest London gig to date.
→ O2 Academy Brixton. Mar 2 2020.

Gigi Masin

The Italian ambient musician performs new album 'Calypso' at the Southbank Centre.
→ Purcell Room. Mar 29 2020.

Aldous Harding

The New Zealand folk-flecked singer plays with a four-piece backing.
→ Barbican. May 20 2020.

Despacio

The best disco in the world, run by 2manydjs and James Murphy, complete with divine sound quality and theatrical glitter-ball blasts, returns to town.
→ Roundhouse. May 21-22.

The Isley Brothers

Now here's something to 'Shout' about: the R&B/soul legends have announced a sixtieth(!) anniversary tour.
→ Eventim Apollo. Jul 1 2020.

Latitude

The Suffolk fest boasts Liam Gallagher, Haim and Chemical Brothers as headliners. Michael Kiwinuka and Charli XCX are on the bill too.
→ Henham Park. Jul 16-19 2020.

Michael Bolton

The soft-rock singer, whose career seemed to originally hinge on his extraordinary mane of curly locks, proves there's more to life than hair.
→ Royal Albert Hall. Oct 9 2020.

AMERICAN EXPRESS
presents
BST HYDE PARK

TAYLOR SWIFT

PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

SATURDAY 11 JULY 2020
HYDE PARK LONDON

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Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski
timeout.com/theatre @timeouththeatre

Fairview



JACKIE SIBBLIES DRURY'S dizzyingly inventive, Pulitzer Prize-winning race-relations satire 'Fairview' manages the rare trick of being righteously provocative while more or less demanding you don't discuss what happens in it with anybody who hasn't seen it.

Indeed, the Young Vic requested reviewers refrain from spoiling this UK premiere, especially its third act. (Possibly I've gone too far even acknowledging there is a third act.)

What I can definitely reveal is that the play's first act sells you a dummy: it sees a middle-class

African-American family prepare for a big birthday celebration in mildly neurotic, mildly sitcom-ish, basically fairly normal fashion.

Of all the gutsy moments in Sibblies Drury's play and Nadia Latif's production, that opening is perhaps the boldest: 'Fairview' spends a third of its running time pretending it's a bland domestic drama. It is not. There are hints something is off: a radio distorting weirdly; the odd way mass dancing breaks out in the house; an unexpected change in

style as Donna Banya's precocious daughter Keisha is picked out by a spotlight to monologue away in heartfelt fashion.

But who exactly is she addressing across the fourth wall?

That question is answered in act three, which is the most I will say about act three.

That leaves act two. Without divulging too much, it's essentially a replay of act one with added white people. Let's not get into the *how*, but the *what* is a jaw-dropping discussion about race between a bleeding-heart liberal,

WHAT IS IT...

Jackie Sibblies Drury's toweringly inventive satire on the white gaze.

WHY GO...

We literally can't tell you why you should see it, but you should.

→ Young Vic. ⇌ Waterloo.
Until Jan 23. £10-£43.

a douchey jock and a performatively fabulous gay guy – all Americans – plus a French woman. All of them feel blithely entitled to discuss their opinions on other races, but it's when their conversation turns towards their opinions of African-Americans that the play starts to become real watch-through-your-fingers stuff.

That's your lot for hard details, but in essence 'Fairview' unfolds as a sometimes hysterically funny,

sometimes deeply uncomfortable, sometimes desperately impassioned and earnest plea for white American culture to leave black American culture alone. To not try to appropriate it, fetishise it, dismiss it, render it down to its base components and repackage and resell it; to give it space to be its own thing.

It is unquestionably a play that has resonance with the racial politics of contemporary Britain. But it does feel like there's a cultural specificity at work here that means it won't land with quite the same wallop that it did in New York. By the end, the white audience is clearly implicated in the behaviour

of the white characters. But we also have some distance, some cover to duck behind, because the white characters here aren't very British – I think it probably goes easier on us that an American crowd.

Regardless, it is a fantastically original and probing piece of theatre. Although there are points when the intent of the play is clearly to make its audience uncomfortable, it should be pointed out that Latif marshalls a for the most part hugely entertaining, technically dextrous spectacle, expertly steered from sedate sitcom pastiche to all-out chaos. There's great work too from designer Tom Scutt: he's created a lovely chintzy, middle-class home





Boyega says



'The Young Vic's really cool. Its plays are centred on my generation and they're thought-provoking and they attract lots of cool talent. You can also go to its rooftop bar. It's amazing, on a quiet afternoon, to have a nice meal there and then a lovely walk on the South Bank. Love the Young Vic.'

set... and done some other stuff too, that I can't talk about.

Ultimately, to be a white reviewer of this play is to back up much of what it's saying about white people butting in. At least by asking us to refrain from spoilers, Sibbles Drury is taking some control, and has hopefully spared her work from the most excruciating excesses of handwringing critical analysis. But in a nutshell: you should go see 'Fairview'. I guarantee you're in for a surprise. ■



By Andrzej Lukowski
Who appreciated the shout-out to the Slavs.

AMELIE THE MUSICAL: PAMELA RATH; THE BOYFRIEND: MANUEL HARTMAN

Amélie the Musical



WHAT IS IT...

A musical adaptation of history's most whimsical film.

WHY GO...

Audrey Brisson is perfect casting as a trickster-ish take on the heroine.

BOOK...

Buy tickets at timeout.com/tickets

→ The Other Palace.
↻ Victoria. Until Feb 1.
£19.50-£65.



WHEN THIS MUSICAL take on 2001 romcom 'Amélie' floated into Broadway a few years back, New York's critics rounded on it for being too insipid, too sweet and not nearly French enough. So Michael Fentiman's revival does its best to inject some vim and vinaigre into proceedings. In the title role, Audrey Brisson has a reedy voice that pierces the show's floaty love songs. Actor-musicians fiddle and stomp their way through ballads that could easily be forgettable. And the cast's accents *français* are as pungent and phony as knock-off Chanel perfume.

Is it enough to make 'Amélie' enchanting, instead of just gently charming? Almost. Brisson's performance here is perfect: she grew up touring with Cirque du Soleil, an apprenticeship she completes by impishly ascending to the top of the stage on a lampshade. But the scenes of Amélie as saviour-of-the-dispossessed still feel trite; her newfound friends are thinly drawn, worn cardboard cut-outs. 'Amélie' is at its best when it's slightly sending up its own po-faced premise, like when its protagonist's Princess Di fixation culminates in a reverie of her own funeral, complete with white flowers and a thumping piano number by Caolan McCarthy, brilliantly impersonating Elton John. This production doesn't fix 'Amélie the Musical', but *mon dieu* it makes it fun. ■ *Alice Saville*

The Boy Friend



WHAT IS IT...

Sandy Wilson's musical about silly English toffs frolicking in France.

WHY GO...

It is joyful in its total daftness.

→ Menier Chocolate Factory. ↻ London Bridge. Until Mar 7. £39.50-£57.50.



NOT SO MUCH a musical as a lobotomy with songs, Sandy Wilson's 1953 opus 'The Boy Friend' is an exercise in frothy escapism so extreme it's basically trolling us.

This wilfully frivolous homage to the roaring '20s, that probably felt just as daft when it premiered, charts the romantic mishaps of a group of English toffs in the French Riviera.

The plot, such as it is, revolves around Polly Browne, a young heiress at a fancy French finishing school in Nice. For whatever reason she fakes correspondence with an imaginary boyfriend, only to fall for Tony, a young man on the lam from his (naturally) stinking rich parents.

By all rights it should be a clarion call to class war; in fact it is so wilfully silly and utterly delightful that you want to give each of the daft rich people a tickle between the ears. This is exactly what 'The Boy Friend' was always going for, and director Matthew White plays it expertly here. And Paul Farnsworth's hyper-vivid set shifts colour from aquamarine to amethyst, so the whole thing looks like some waking dream.

It's not exactly the sort of show in which individual performers get to do much more than ham away (top ham is Janie Dee, having great fun with a wilfully illogical French accent). But the ensemble is spectacularly well drilled: it takes an awful lot of talent to look this lightweight. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

Loads more theatre reviews at timeout.com/theatre

Theatre & Dance

Dick Whittington and His Cat



RECENTLY, SOMEONE WORKED

out that 'Aladdin' is the UK's most-staged panto, but however deeply attached we might be to its orientalist cross-cultural mish-mash, 'Dick Whittington' is a much more satisfying story for twenty-first-century Londoners. It has everything: a rags-to-riches transformation, romance, a chatty cat and limitless potential for knob jokes. And in longtime Hackney panto creator Susie McKenna's new version, it also has a post-Windrush relevance that's acid-sharp, without tarnishing the show's glitter.

McKenna takes inspiration from the stories of her wife's family, who sailed to London on the Windrush. Dick (Tarinn Callender) steps off the boat, singing 'I dreamed an impossible dream', only to discover a chilly '50s London where the



WHAT IS IT...

London's flagship panto is back.

WHY GO...

All the usual panto fun, plus a smart and spiky homage to the Windrush generation.

→ Hackney Empire.

Hackney Central

Overground. Until Jan 5.

£10-£43.

inhabitants are quick to stare, and the streets are still scarred by the Blitz. Luckily, Dick lands a job in Alderman Fitzwarren's shop, where he and his talking cat (Kat B) cause pie-splattering mayhem before being cast out on to the high seas.

The sparkly backdrops don't quite have the gorgeous coherence of previous years' efforts. But that might be a niche quibble given that

the performers in front of them are really giving this story their all: Annette McLaughlin and Sue Kelvin are a spectacular pairing as wicked queen and good fairy, and seasoned dame Clive Rowe is endlessly funny, especially when his tropical song is thrown off course by a wayward wig.

The '50s setting means glorious tap routines galore, performed with ramshackle vigour by young people

from a local dance school. Unlike its glitzier rivals, this is a show that relies on a lot of volunteer labour and goodwill – there are regular jokes about Dick's rise to mayor bringing the theatre more funding, and biting digs at government cuts. Whatever happens in the UK's real-life election, a panto this good deserves your cash – and offers handsome rewards. ■ *Alice Saville*

Ravens: Spassky vs Fischer



WHAT IS IT...

A drama... about chess!

WHY GO...

This account of an epic Cold War showdown is surprisingly thrilling.

→ Hampstead Theatre.

↻ Swiss Cottage.

Until Jan 18. £25-£37.

THIS IS A PLAY about chess. Lots of chess. But pretty much the only thing you don't see anyone do is: play a game of chess.

In 1972, Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer met in Reykjavik for the Chess World Championship, aka 'The Match of the Century'. A win for Fischer would end aeons of Soviet/Russian dominance in the sport and, as an American vs USSR confrontation, act as a Cold War by proxy.

Tom Morton-Smith's play predominantly concentrates on the 'everything else' occurring outside of the matches themselves. What actually looms bigger than the international political backdrop is *wunderkind* Fischer's deranged behaviour. For large amounts of the rest of it, he rages against anything and everything there is to rage against, from chairs and audiences to television cameras and his paranoid delusions about 'Jewish conspiracies'.

In general, it's fascinating territory to scrutinise – as indeed is the entire topic of the play – but it also feels like a bit 'too much' at points. It's hard to decide why the American authorities, right up to Henry Kissinger, would be publicly backing a man so clearly a massive liability. We almost completely lose sight of Spassky (Ronan Raftery), who for the most part is just the extremely polite, respectful opponent.

There is, however, a whole lot to enjoy about Annabelle Comyn's production. But what should be a brilliant showdown never becomes quite as engaging as it could be. ■ *Rosemary Waugh*

Midnight Movie



WHAT IS IT...

Experimental play about a woman losing herself in the internet.

WHY GO...

Some of its ideas are brilliant, and it looks amazing.

→ Royal Court Upstairs.

↻ Sloane Square.

Until Dec 21. £15-£25.

'WHEN YOUR PHYSICAL body is too fucked to be getting on with, that's your digital body's time to shine.' This is the premise of Eve Leigh's 'Midnight Movie', a surreal stagger through a single sleepless night, as a narrator tries to distract herself from the chronic pain of her flesh and blood by careening through the internet.

The narrator cannot perform so she employs two avatars. Tom Penn plays the drums and speaks the words; Nadia Nadarajah signs the same words, her movements drifting and dropping with a gorgeous balletic weight.

Rachel Bagshaw's production plays with the idea of the internet as a space no less real than the physical world. The set design references the vaporwave aesthetic, right down to the pastel-and-neon '80s throwback lighting.

Scattered throughout are allusions to the narrator's life. But this allusive play also draws on the real-life case of Elisa Lam, a young student found dead in the rooftop water tank of an LA hotel. It takes in mythology, urban legends and dangerous chatrooms. It's not always apparent what relevance each new story has until the end, when Leigh ties all the tropes together and gives us a moving disquisition on the digital body.

'Midnight Movie' is restless, imaginative and stylish, but its rambling structure can make for frustrating viewing. Although it's a bold, occasionally brilliant play, waiting for the narrative to cohere does feel a bit like staring at a spinny wheel of death as a page tries to load. ■ *Ka Bradley*



NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Captain Flinn and the Pirate Dinosaurs: The Magic Cutlass

Swashbuckling kids' fun from puppetry maestros Les Petits. Ages three-plus.
→ Christmas in Leicester Square. ⊕ Leicester Square. Until Jan 5. £14-£24.50, £12-£21.50 concs.

Curtains

A belated London premiere of a musical murder-mystery with songs by famed writing

duo Kander and Ebb ('Chicago', 'Cabaret').
→ Wyndham's Theatre.
⊕ Leicester Square. Fri Dec 13-Jan 11. £17.50-£137.50.

Girl from the North Country

Conor McPherson's mega-hit, Bob Dylan-soundtracked drama is back in the West End.
→ Gielgud Theatre.
⊕ Piccadilly Circus. Tue Dec 10-Feb 1. £15-£127.50.

Goldilocks and the Three Bears

The Palladium's banterous panto is back with funnymen Julian Clary, Paul

O'Grady and Nigel Havers on board.
→ London Palladium.
⊕ Oxford Circus. Until Jan 12. £20-£149.50.

A Kind of People

Playwright Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti makes her Royal Court debut with this story of a struggling community.
→ Royal Court Theatre.
⊕ Sloane Square. Until Jan 18. £12-£49.

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

The NT's Christmas show is a Neil Gaiman adaptation aimed at teens and fantasy-loving adults.
→ National Theatre, Dorfman.
⊕ Waterloo. Until Jan 25. £15-£65.

Swive [Elizabeth]

Ella Hickson follows up Time Out's show of 2018 'The Writer' with a drama about Elizabeth I.
→ Shakespeare's Globe.
⊕ Blackfriars. Until Feb 15. £7-£62.

Teenage Dick

Michael Longhurst directs the UK premiere of Mike Lew's high school take on 'Richard III'.
→ Donmar Warehouse.
⊕ Covent Garden. Until Feb 1. £10-£40.

Three Sisters

Inua Ellams's take on Chekhov relocates the action to '60s Nigeria.
→ National Theatre, Lyttelton.
⊕ Waterloo. Until Feb 19. £15-£75.

OFF-WEST END

The Cat in the Hat

A return for Katie Mitchell's much-loved take on Dr Seuss's rhyming kids' classic.
→ Turbine Theatre, Battersea Park Overground. Wed Dec 11-Jan 11. From £10.

Cinderella

Pussycat Doll Melody Thornton takes the

title role in this rags-to-riches panto.
→ New Wimbledon Theatre.
⊕ Wimbledon. Until Jan 5. £13-£52.

The Duchess of Malfi

After her red-hot take on 'Summer and Smoke', Rebecca Frecknall takes on a vintage tragedy, starring Lydia Wilson.
→ Almeida Theatre.
⊕ Highbury & Islington. Until Jan 25. £10-£42.50.

One Under

Winsome Pinnock's return to the limelight continues with this reworked 2005 play.
→ Arcola Theatre.
Dalston Junction Overground. Tue Dec 10-Dec 21. £10-£27.

Peter Pan Goes Wrong

Tinkerbell goes splat in this joyful spoof from West End hitmongers Mischief Theatre.
→ Alexandra Palace. Alexandra Palace rail. Fri Dec 13-Jan 5. £10-£43.

Potted Panto

CBBC duo Dan and Jeff condense seven classic pantos into 80 madcap minutes.
→ Southwark Playhouse.
⊕ Elephant & Castle. Until Jan 11. £15-£25, £20 concs.

Snowflake

A woke daughter and her baffled dad collide in Mike Bartlett's festive comedy.
→ Kiln Theatre. ⊕ Kilburn. Tue Dec 10-Jan 25. £10-£32.50.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS

AT TIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 4000 Miles

Eileen Atkins and Timothée Chalamet star in this drama.
→ Old Vic. Apr 6-May 23 2020.

2 & Juliet

A knowingly ludicrous jukebox show that's full of '90s hits.
→ Shaftesbury Theatre. Until Jul 4 2020.

3 9 to 5 the Musical

Dolly Parton's rhinestone-studded spectacular.
→ Savoy Theatre. Until May 23 2020.

4 Everybody's Talking About Jamie

A catchy British musical about a teen drag queen.
→ Apollo Theatre. Until Aug 29 2020.

5 Cyrano de Bergerac

James McAvoy stars.
→ Playhouse Theatre. Until Feb 29.

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EXCLUSIVE

Don't miss 'Circus 1903' a mashup between a spectacular circus and the award-winning puppeteers from 'War Horse'. Now up to 36 percent off.

TIMEOUT.COM/1903

EXCLUSIVE

'THE SNOWMAN' AT THE PEACOCK THEATRE



Wanna hear 'Walking in the Air' in all of its spine-tingling glory? Catch this spectacular, heart-warming Raymond Briggs winter classic from just £20.80. That's a massive 40% off.

TIMEOUT.COM/SNOW19

Ts&Cs apply.

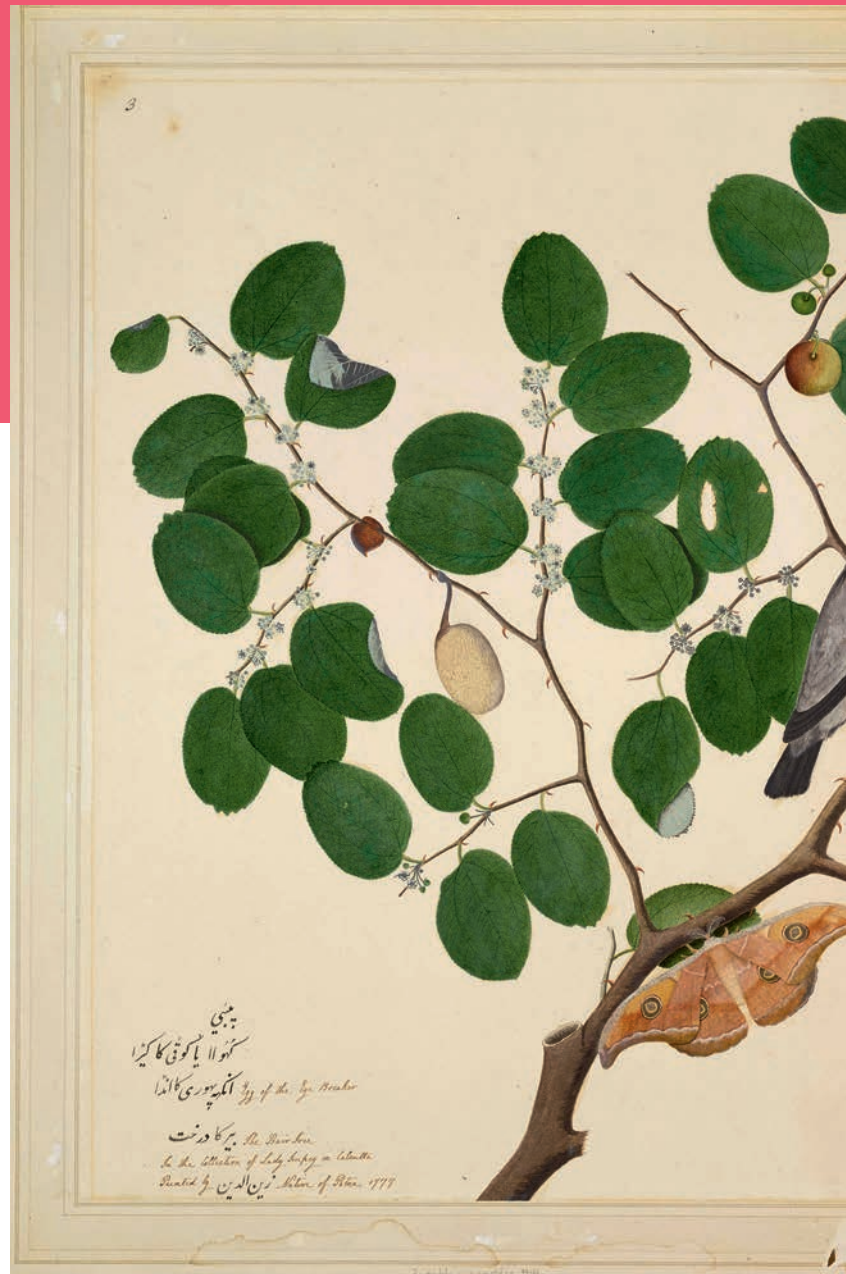
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Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

'Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company'



COLONIALISM DIDN'T just come for the minerals, spices and priceless artefacts, colonialism came for the art too. As the East India Company tightened its grip on the Indian subcontinent in the nineteenth century, it also grabbed at the arts of the places it was occupying.

This gorgeous show brings together botanical, portrait and everyday scene paintings commissioned by wealthy European patrons. And if nothing else, you have to admit they had taste. The artists they commissioned were the masters of their fields – the greatest miniaturists, portraitists and textile designers of their generations – and now they were in the

WHAT IS IT...
Stunning nineteenth-century paintings of the subcontinent.

WHY GO...
These names have been forgotten, it's time to start remembering.

→ Wallace Collection.
↻ Bond St. Until Apr 19
2020. £12, concs available.

employ of Westerners. Their work has always been anonymised as 'Company Painting', but now, here, the artists are taking centre stage.

There's compromise involved in that transaction. The patrons didn't want traditional painting, they wanted watercolours on English paper, they wanted European art, but had to get it with local artists. So Indian artists used European

materials, twisting Eastern forms into Western shapes.

The best work is botanical and zoological. The swirling yam by Chuni Lall, the spiralling squash by Rungiah, the hungry stork by Shaikh Zain ud-Din, the cheeky bat with a boner by an artist from the circle of Bhawani Das. The composition of

textile designers, the microscopic detail of miniaturists, it's all here.

Yellapah of Vellore captures ascetics and pujaris, but soldiers in British uniform, too. Ghulam Ali Khan paints dense groups of merchants and courtiers. They create beautiful, detailed worlds.

But this is a story with two sides. The first is a Western narrative of dominance and consumption: the patrons are colonial figures desperate to drain, record and own the culture, flora and fauna of the lands they were occupying. Just as they consumed the physical resources of the subcontinent, so they consumed the ephemeral: the hoarding and manipulation of cultural production.

The other side of the story is of artists as opportunists, seizing

their chance to make cash, and a name for themselves, off the back of European patronage.

There are little acts of rebellion here – Shaikh Muhammad Amir of Karraya's refusal to include his patrons in his paintings – but more than anything, there's a sense of identity winning through. No matter what these artists were asked to paint, or how, or what materials they were made to use, their aesthetics shine through.

These names have been erased for more than a century, now we can watch as, rightfully, they are written back into the history books. ■



By Eddy Frankel
Whose motto is 'hate colonialism, love gin and tonic'.



BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



↑ Celia Paul

A modern queen of painting lets the light in with sun-dappled portraits and seascapes.

→ Victoria Miro Wharf Road. ☺ Old St. Until Dec 20. Free.



↑ Alfredo Jaar: '25 Years Later'

Jaar's show is a haunting, heartwrenching look at the tragedy of the Rwandan genocide. Painful, but brilliant.

→ Goodman Gallery. ☺ Piccadilly Circus. Until Jan 11. Free.



↑ Steve McQueen: 'Year 3'

The Oscar- and Turner Prize-winner's project photographing our city's schoolkids is a thing of absolute joy.

→ Tate Britain. ☺ Pimlico. Until May 3. Free.

BHAWAN DAS A GREAT INDIAN FRUIT BAIT. COURTESY PRIVATE COLLECTION. SHAMKAZAIN ALDIN, BRAHMINI STARLING. © WINNEAPOLIS INSTITUTE OF ART. CELIA PAUL. ANGUS WELLS. © GARRATT. © P. RIGHT THE ARTIST. © VICTOR NIRO. STEVE MCQUEEN. TATE'S PHOTOGRAPHY © I&L



WHAT IS IT...
Big, bodily, bloody, feminist sculptures and photos.

WHY GO...
This is one Export worth importing.

→ Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac. ☉ Green Park. Until Jan 25 2020. Free.

Valie Export

THERE'S ONE COLOUR that matters in Valie Export's art: red. It's the red of menstruation, childbirth and the claret of Christ sipped at Eucharist. But it's not a rich, winey shade. It's at the orange end of the scale, like a thin trail of blood through bathwater.

In 1980, Export's *gesamtkunstwerk* appeared at the Venice Biennale, a 'total artwork' made of a wood and steel sculpture and 17 large photographs mainly showing the artist draped, crouching or lying across parts of Vienna. And now it's in this gallery in London, all of it together.

The central sculpture, 'Geburtenbett' ('Birth Bed'), is a giant wooden block the same shape as the cartoon cheese a cartoon mouse would eat. Out of it juts a board, with an old-fashioned television monitor repeatedly showing the transubstantiation part of the Catholic mass, and two bent white legs spread open. From between



the legs run fluorescent tubes in that same light, bright red.

Revisited years later, feminist art often feels dated. But nothing in this exhibition has that sense to it. Partly that's because the points Export makes still resonate. But she's also riffing on how the Austrian urban landscape (like most others) was constructed to the measurements of a citizen assumed to be a man. Meaning: the world literally isn't built to fit women – a fact that's barely changed in 2019.

Above all, though, Export's work is still affecting because it's personal, and humans never date as badly as political movements do. It doesn't get weighed down being a self-conscious commentary, instead it's just a visual expression of what it's like to be Valie Export. And that keeps it feeling like a just-opened cut, not an old crusty scab. ■ Rosemary Waugh

Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink



RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

SUSHI FANS: GATHER ROUND.

Endo is not like any other omakase restaurant (omakase being the 'chef's selection': like a tasting menu, but more personal). At least, not like one you'll find in this city. London's omakase joints are typically small, reverential spaces, the precision of the food mirrored by formal service and hushed voices. Endo is different. First up, the space is large, light and airy, with wraparound glass offering eighth-floor views across White City. Granted, that includes the back of Westfield (hello, Primark! Hey, John Lewis!) but well, a view is still a view. There's music. It may be plinky plonky spa music, but it's music. The front of house crew are in suits, but also trainers. The decor is stylish: think upscale Muji, all sleek slatted wood, black textured stone and an enormous, ethereal paper sculpture-cum-lampshade billowing above your head. You'll sit at long L-shaped counter and then wait for a meal that's pure theatre.

At any one time, there'll be several chefs, in full whites, tending to some item or other. One might be manning the bamboo vat of

steaming rice. Another, showing off some terrifyingly good knife skills. Then there's the main man, Endo Kazutoshi, a third-generation 'sushi master', who introduces most of the dishes. Everything we ate was dazzling. Even the (white) miso soup. One, called 'my business card', was a no-rice handroll: a folded piece of nori filled with three types of tuna and brushed with marinade before serving. As with many of the dishes, it came with instructions. These were simple: eat it immediately, please.

Later, there was a plate of sashimi,

the fish so fresh it could have been served naked, but that came with the faintest snowdrift of finely grated wasabi root, plus curls of radish and pretty petals. Then a succession of nigiri made with flawless sushi rice – each still-warm grain had that hard-

to-achieve harmony of quietly vinegary, delicately sugar-and-salt, just sticky-but-still-separate – and topped with the likes of silky marinated Irish oyster, or a piece of squid so tender it was like eating jelly.

For the salmon nigiri, there was more drama. 'Are you ready?' one of the team asked. They

handed a wooden box along: like a grown-up game of pass the parcel, where the prize is a sniff inside the box. In here, sure enough, a shiny fillet of salmon was quietly smoking. Quick as a flash, it was pulled out, sliced up and served.

The mackerel and lobster tempura was exquisite, as was the grade four wagyu (the second-highest there is). And finally – at a separate dessert-slash-drinks bar – raspberries with yuzu cream, pear and crème fraîche. By comparison, this dish was forgettable. But overall, Endo is as close to a perfect omakase experience as you'll get, not least because of the appeal of the setting and the warmth of the welcome. It's not cheap (the lunch, at £60 for 11 courses, is the best value way in, the 18-course dinner a fairly brutal £180) but if you've not yet written your letter to Santa, put this place on your wish list. ■

Dinner for two (18 courses) with drinks and service: around £445.

Endo



WHAT IS IT

An eighth-floor omakase (tasting menu) restaurant in White City.

WHY GO

It's the best omakase experience in London.

→ 8th floor, The Helios, Television Centre, 101 Wood Lane, W12 7FR. ↻ Wood Lane.



By Tania Ballantine
Who would also like some glitter stickers in her stocking.

Food

Harlequin



THE DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC

of this patch of south Chelsea (apart from hordes of Sloanes) is being near the nowhere station of Imperial Wharf and little else. So it's a lovely surprise to find a restaurant as cracking as Harlequin.

The pedigree is undeniable, though. It's been opened by Toby Neill (co-founder of Hackney's underrated Nest) and chef James Erasmus (late of The Ledbury and The Harwood Arms). The monthly, seasonal, five-course set menu – archetypally British in execution but inflected with a few subtle South African notes – was near-faultless.

There was a cheese-and-ale dip with a chunky knot of homemade pretzel: basically a bowlful of addictive, unset rarebit topping. Then a killer little salad of wild mushrooms, bitter wisps of frisée and nobbles of walnut. The breading on a dinky slab of plaice gave a bit of chip-shop texture, cheffily



undercut with shredded parsnip and a chowder of bacon and clam. And while a beautiful cut of fallow deer didn't need the double-sweet hit of beetroot and sloe, the scattering of red endive made for a winningly autumnal plate.

And, finally, there was an orange-and-hazelnut millefeuille, with heroically salty (if over-thick) pastry and quenelle of chocolate ice cream closer to gossamer-light mousse.

At £45 a head for the food it's objectively a bargain. Even more so given the excellent booze list, highly affable front of house and vibey room, with its irregular central oak table and paintings of ducks. Harlequin's a brilliantly executed spot. Hell, it might even make south Chelsea a dining destination. ■

Tom Howells

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £135.

WHAT IS IT...

A seasonal set-menu spot on Wandsworth Bridge Road.

WHY GO...

For the best of Brit and Saffy flavours. Don't miss the cheese-and-ale dip.

→ 194 Wandsworth Bridge Rd, SW6 2UF. Imperial Wharf Overground.

EXCLUSIVE

Save 20% on a rum-making and tasting class at N1's **Laki Kane**. You get a goody bag too. Now just £31.20.

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VICTORIA

BBAR SAYS:

'Plan the perfect festive event at bbar, opposite The Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace. Enjoy 50-plus festive cocktails, including signature gin and tonics, plus delicious canapés and Christmas menus with a South African twist. The beautiful event spaces cater for parties of up to 300, with live music and private bars.' 43 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1W 0PP



BARNES

LONDON WETLANDS CENTRE SAYS:

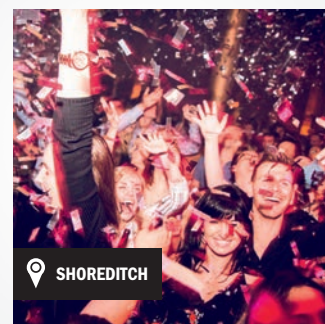
'London Wetlands Centre is fun for the whole family, with a range of activities for everyone to enjoy. Hop aboard a husky sleigh ride, help the elves make special gifts for Christmas and go wild in the indoor and outdoor play areas. Plus, you can now enjoy special Christmas weekends from now until December 15.' Queen Elizabeth's Walk, SW13 9WT.



SOUTH KENSINGTON

THE ADMIRAL CODRINGTON SAYS:

'Together with Sipsmith Gin, The Admiral Codrington has launched its Sipsmith Winter Lodge, outside on its heated terrace. Step into this winter wonderland with twinkly Christmas lights, beautifully decorated trees and cosy blankets, and snuggle up whilst sipping on specially crafted Sipsmith winter tipples.' 17 Mossop St, SW3 2LY.



SHOREDITCH

THE BLUES KITCHEN SAYS:

'This NYE, welcome 2020 in true Blues Kitchen style, with live music, confetti, cocktails and DJs spinning the best funk, soul and rock 'n' roll tunes. Get moving till the sun comes up and expect a jam-packed night of entertainment. With tickets starting at just £25, you're guaranteed a night to remember.' 134-146 Curtain Rd, EC2A 3AR.

THREE OF THE BEST

Budget Lebanese restaurants



Meza

★★★★★

The second branch of this popular restaurant is all about friendly service, low prices and freshly made meze. Our tip: try the falafels or the ful medames (lemon-spiked fava beans).

→ 70 Mitcham Rd, SW17 9NA. ☺ Tooting Broadway.



Middleat

★★★★★

This canteen-style healthy lunch spot may have queues out the door, but it's worth the wait. Like at your fave kebab shop, you can build your own bowl, with falafel or slow-cooked meat.

→ 13 Caledonian Rd, N1 9DX. ☺ King's Cross.



Yalla Yalla

★★★★★

The larger joint of this lovable Middle Eastern café pumps out top-notch meze, wraps and desserts on the cheap. Staff know their stuff and there's plenty for veggies, too.

→ 12 Winsley St, W1W 8HQ. ☺ Oxford Circus.

More lush Lebanese at timeout.com/lebanese

Boyega says

'Beirut Nights is a shisha spot with some really good Lebanese food. They have great chargrilled chicken, lean meats, patties: it's really nice. And there's shisha as well. I've been going for a long time with one of my closest friends, Luisha, who used to take me there after school.'

→ 19 Abbey Rd, NW10 7RB. ☺ Park Royal.



EXCLUSIVE

LIMA FITZROVIA



Sample modern Peruvian dishes with flare, from fresh tuna ceviche and braised suckling pig to rich chocolate mousse. Three courses and a glass of prosecco are now just £29.

TIMEOUT.COM/LIMA

Ts&Cs apply.

TimeOut
THE BEST OF THE CITY

Drink

Edited by Laura Richards
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

BAR OF THE WEEK

The Golden Lion



THERE'S ENOUGH IN this Camden pub's recent history to warrant a (very) Long Read in *The Guardian*. The Golden Lion's landlord Dave Murphy nearly had his family pub bought mysteriously from underneath him. It was saved from developers in 2015, but only after exhausting months that shifted the mood around a boozer that had been the family's pride and joy. This year, though, Murphy has partnered with Trevor Hunt and Aaron Carter (not that one) to move the pub on.

As punters, the pair knew the best bits about the Lion, so only light-touch changes have been made – notably, the removal of a pool table and fruities – to make way for dining. But that doesn't mean suede furniture and stiff formality. Handsome features remain, like the gorgeous partitioned bar. And a spread of generations was in

when we visited: a young rockabilly couple at the bar, two geezer dads out with their sons and some pensioners gathered underneath the bunting.

There are now decent craft beers (all £4.50 on 'Craft Thursday'), but real ale from the likes of Dark Star is still on the roster. And as for the Sunday roast, it's hard to believe

it's real: a whopping plate of pork belly, with knockout crackling and lashings of trimmings costs only £10.95. Hunt worked at Islington gastropub The Drapers Arms and is a runner-up in London's *illustrious* Scotch Egg Challenge, and it shows. From here, it looks as though this Camden pub is entering a whole new golden era. ■ *Laura Richards*



WHAT IS IT...

A backstreet Camden boozer with a new gastro menu.

WHY GO...

For London's most bang-for-your-buck Sunday roast.

→ 88 Royal College St, NW1 0TH. ☺ Camden Town.

THREE OF THE BEST

Après-ski bars



Après

This large-scale lodge still manages to feel cosy thanks to twinkling lights and sprigs of holly. Get its timber frame shaking when you take to the floor after a hot toddy.

→ Flat Iron Square, 53 Southwark St, SE1 1RU. ☺ London Bridge.

Savage Schloss

Scale the heights to this rooftop bar – via a gondola-styled lift – for ski-themed downtime. Break a sweat with virtual-reality skiing or by glugging glühwein to a Europop soundtrack.

→ Savage Garden, Floor 12, DoubleTree by Hilton, 7 Pepys St, EC3N 4AF. ☺ Tower Hill.

Alpine Lodge

Stepping into 100 Wardour St's glass-ceilinged atrium is like entering a snowglobe, now it's had a frosty makeover. Drink champagne cocktails for fresh-off-the-slopes rosy cheeks. ■

→ 100 Wardour St, W1F 0TN. ☺ Tottenham Court Rd.

DRINK THIS

Szechuan



Visiting Waeska bar feels like stepping on to another planet (I mean, it has a trippy gazelle mounted on the wall). But its new ethnobotany-inspired menu is also out of this world. Szechuan is a mix of tequila, mezcal and a szechuan bud you bite into to set tastebuds tingling. It's meant to have medicinal properties – so after-work drinks here are *crucial*. ■ *Paula Akpan*
→ The Mandrake Hotel, 20-21 Newman St, W1T 1PG. ☺ Tottenham Court Rd. £15.

Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips



A perfect day in

Malton

Great British grub, vegan beer and quirky shops

SITTING PRETTY ON THE EDGE OF the Howardian Hills, this Georgian market town inspired Charles Dickens to write 'A Christmas Carol' in the 1840s. For more than a century that was Malton's claim to fame, but then the celebrated late chef Antonio Carluccio visited and proclaimed the town 'Yorkshire's food capital'. It's a mantle that Malton works hard to keep. Come for a shop and a country stroll but, above all, to eat.

First up

Visit **Malton Museum** for an introduction to the town's heritage. Pop in to **Market Place**, where Georgian streets house heritage shops and indie design stores. Check out **The Gallery** for local art and **Cosy Cottage Soap** for ethical skincare.

Soak up the vibes

Browse **The Shambles**, Malton's atmospheric, perfectly preserved nineteenth-century shopping strip. It's also worth checking the film schedule at **Palace Cinema**, a popular local landmark that has been restored with colourful art deco detailing from its 1920s heyday.

Stop for lunch

Local Yorkshire produce is at the heart of Malton's revival. Old-fashioned **Malton Relish** is excellent for simple, sustainable dishes like a country ploughman's or grouse and pheasant pie. It's also the best place in town to try a traditional Yorkshire curd tart, or five.

Splash the cash

Graze your way through **Talbot Yard**, a set of stables that has turned into a gourmet food hall. Highlights include Roost coffee, Bluebird Bakery's sourdough, chocolate orange gelato from Groovy Moo and G&T macarons made by Malton's French master patissier, Florian Poirot.

Drink like a local

You could easily lose an afternoon to Malton's boozy innovators. Sample Yorkshire rhubarb in a G&T at **Rare Bird Distillery**, and sup a vegan beer flight at **Brass Castle Brewery's** offbeat taphouse. Finish your crawl by slipping into a high-backed leather chesterfield at **Maison du Vin** for the town's best glass of wine. ■ *Lorna Parkes*

→ Get there: two hours 40 minutes by train from London King's Cross; around three hours 45 minutes by car.

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Malton is just 25 minutes by bus (No 181) from **Castle Howard**, a country estate that will knock your socks off. It's not really a castle, but a baroque mansion of epic proportions surrounded by fountains, walking trails and rose gardens. The house has been transformed for Christmas with open fires, candles and a huge fir.

WAKE UP HERE

The Talbot



There's something as comfy as old slippers about The Talbot, a seventeenth-century coaching inn converted into a genteel hotel. The staff are attentive but not too formal, and a recent overhaul has freshened up the interior, creating a series of stylish drawing rooms where you can while away the hours reading or taking afternoon tea. Vibrant bedrooms boast four-poster beds or roll-top baths, and a cosy restaurant and bar with a roaring open fire completes the package. You won't want to leave – especially after the sumptuous, never-ending breakfast championing local produce. ■ *Lorna Parkes*
→ Malton, North Yorkshire. From £88 a night. www.talbotmalton.co.uk

Tuck into more tasty trips at timeout.com/daytrips

Escapes



Don't miss

Mousehole Harbour Lights

MISSED THE BIG Oxford Street lights switch-on? Gather your Christmas crew and make tracks for this Cornish coastal cracker. Every December, Mousehole is transformed into a seaside spectacle, complete with old-fashioned festive fun like carol singing and puppet theatre.

Visitors can spot glittering ships bobbing in the sea, giant glowing whales and even a rather

lost-looking Loch Ness Monster.

For maximum village vibes, don't miss the big switch-on, held on Saturday December 14. It'll feature the local brass band and the Mousehole Male Voice Choir, plus a big community singalong. Mulled wine should help warm up those vocal chords. ■ *Lucy Lovell*

→ Mousehole, Cornwall. Switch-on: Sat Dec 14, 6.30pm. Lights on: Sun Dec 15-Jan 4, 5pm-11pm. www.mouseholelights.org.uk

LEAVE LONDON FOR

Harry Potter's birthplace



YOU CAN ALMOST hear the opening bars of the 'Harry Potter' theme tune as you enter Lavenham in Suffolk.

Standing proudly near the centre of the village, De Vere House has been billed 'the birthplace of Harry Potter', thanks to a CGI mash-up that saw this and other local buildings used prominently as Godric's Hollow in the penultimate film.

Built in the 1400s as a hunting lodge for the wealthy De Vere family, it's now a bed and breakfast where guests can

expect crumpets, marshmallows and chestnuts to roast on the open fire on arrival.

The decor sticks to the historic theme with suits of armour, wonky beamed ceilings and four-poster beds. Look out for showstopping features such as the fifteenth-century carved huntsmen in the front doorway and original medieval wall paintings in the dining room. Potterhead or not, this is a bewitching place. ■ *Sophie Hines*

→ De Vere House, Lavenham, Suffolk. From £120 a night. www.deverehouse.co.uk

THREE OF THE BEST

Woodland hideaways



Gliffaes Country House Hotel Powys

A grand Italianate mansion in the Brecon Beacons National Park, Gliffaes is surrounded by woodlands and hugged by a stretch of the river Usk. It exudes elegance, whether you're indulging in a spot of croquet or a tempting afternoon tea.

→ From £105 a night. www.gliffaeshotel.com



The Langdale Hotel Cumbria

Nestled in a 35-acre forested estate, The Langdale Hotel's modest slate buildings blend in perfectly with their surroundings. Enjoy fantastic walks followed by serious pampering in the spa. There's also a pool, hot tub, brilliant bar and restaurant.

→ From £140 a night. www.langdale.co.uk



The Treehouse at Harptree Court Somerset

Perched in the boughs of an ancient oak tree, this cosy treehouse features snugly armchairs, a log burner and an enticing king-sized bed. Wake up to birdsong before climbing into a roll-top bath with spectacular treetop views. ■ *Sophie Hines*

→ From £245 a night. www.canopyandstars.co.uk

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PORSCHE



Taycan Turbo S: WLTP combined energy consumption 25.7 – 24.5 kWh/100 km; combined CO₂ emissions 0 g/km.