

Time Out

LONDON

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THE MUSICAL



THE SUN



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'DOLLY'S FUN, FEELGOOD MUSICAL'

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Hey y'all!

It's me - Dolly - wishing y'all a very Merry Christmas! The guys and gals in the cast of my fun and fabulous West End musical have loved welcoming thousands of people to the Savoy Theatre in London this year.

Be sure to join us before February 8th if you want to see the wonderful David Hasselhoff - who has just joined the show as the office's mean supervisor! The Hoff is about to get hassled!

Based on our hit movie, 9 to 5 the Musical tells the story of three women pushed to boiling point by their sexist and egotistical boss. It's about teaming up, standing up and taking care of business - and it's the most fun you'll have at the theatre this Christmas!

Why not gather your friends and head over to the West End to join us for a hilarious evening?

Hope to see you real soon & wishing you the happiest of holidays!

Love,

Great seats available this January



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TimeOut

LONDON



The 2010s

Because there was more to London
than just avocados

25 42

LOTTO £15M

JACKPOT
MUST BE WON

CHRISTMAS DAY



THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY

YOUR NUMBERS
MAKE AMAZING
HAPPEN

24

35

Inside

This week's Time Out
in no time at all

2020 hindsight

We look back at the highs, lows and WTFs of the last decade. Remember the cat café? Oh, purr-lease!

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Sisters act

Greta ('Lady Bird') Gerwig's brilliant take on 'Little Women' fizzles with energy and has a superb cast

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Kanpai London

You can now toast the UK's first sake brewery at its very own taproom. Cheers to that!

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Five-star revenge

Catch Lydia Wilson's retina-searing turn as the doomed duchess in the Almeida Theatre's new 'Malfi'

PAGE 74

So long, 2019

Get ready to see in the next decade with a bang, with our foolproof New Year's Eve party planner

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Hello, London

Chris Waywell
Associate Editor
@chriswaywell



TimeOut
LONDON



The 2010s

Because there was more to London
than just avocados

Twenty-first-century London's teenage years have been typically stormy. This week, we're looking back at the good, the bad and the (frequently) ridiculous. The good stuff was very, very good: the 2012 Olympics turned out to be a surprisingly heartfelt joy, while conversations around gender and self-expression became more open than ever before. The bad stuff was truly horrific: Grenfell, the Westminster, London Bridge and Finsbury Park terror attacks. And there was a *lot* of the ridiculous. From Aperol lakes to 'Mean Girls' brunches, 'experience culture' offered people the chance to forget about things while doing something 'unforgettable'. We went mad for animals and weirdly shaped ice cream. The grimmer the news, the dafter the escapism.

Hopefully the 2010s won't be remembered just for PR-able nonsense. Even in the darkest days, London showed its resilience. Communities cleared up heroically after the 2011 riots, got that guy's barbershop rebuilt and contributed tons of clothes and food to the Grenfell survivors. We're still great at art, theatre, fashion, food and drink, at music and reinventing nightlife. Maybe there's a sense there that if London can sometimes feel like a slaving all-consuming beast, it is still a beast, and we need to look after it. But whatever the 2020s have in store – and right now it looks like plenty – London will find a way through it. It's what we do.

Anyway, I've got to head off now to a drill-themed jellied-eel-and-Irn-Bru bar in a disused branch of Pat Val, so enjoy the rest of the decade.



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LONDON

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City life

Edited by James Manning
@timeoutlondon

Don't panic!

SO YOU'VE BEEN a bit distracted this year and you haven't done any Christmas shopping yet? We feel you. But fear not: there's still a plethora of cool present-sourcing spots to hit up. The final **Columbia Road Christmas Wednesday** takes place on east London's most Richard Curtis-esque street on the evening of December 18. On the same night you'll find **Old Spitalfields Market** open until 8pm, or for south-east Londoners, a **Greenwich Market Christmas Late** with street food and music. On the final weekend before the big day, check out **Broadway Market's Big Christmas Weekend** – and visit the nearby **Eat Work Art Conscious Christmas Market** for ethical gifts. Or shop for something even more alternative at the **Sissymas Queer Fayre** in Hoxton, where you'll see festive fetishwear and crafty bits and bobs made by queer creatives. If you're going to take part in the consumerist orgy, make sure to do it in style. Merry Christmas! ■

James Manning

→ Get your festivities sorted at
www.timeout.com/christmas.



THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



Do this

Girls Rock London runs music workshops for women all year round. At its winter party on Wednesday, join the house band for a jam at **DIY Space for London** – no men allowed on stage!



Eat this

Casa do Frango – think posh Nando's – has opened a second site in Shoreditch. Dine in until Sunday, mention Time Out, and you'll get a free G&T from these purveyors of piri-piri.



See this

Following a crowdfunding campaign, the **Museum of Neoliberalism** has now opened in Lee. For an occasionally hilarious and often harrowing look at late capitalism, it's well worth a gander.

Get the latest from London at timeout.com/news

Has it been a good or bad decade for London?

THIS YEAR, WE'VE been giving some of our favourite Londoners the chance to put one big question to the Mayor. Now it's our turn: Time Out's **James Manning** wants to know whether Sadiq Khan feels that the last ten years have been kind to our city.

James 'Oi, Sadiq! Like you, I'm a proud, born-and-bred Londoner – but I don't feel it's necessarily been the greatest of decades for the capital. What about you? Do you think our city has got better or worse since 2010?'

OI, SADIQ!



Sadiq 'Well, we've had a decade of austerity. Since 2010 we've had record cuts in policing, schools and the NHS, and we've seen the consequences. But notwithstanding that, look at the great things which have happened in the last ten years. We had a great Olympics, becoming the sporting capital of the world. We're also the cultural capital of the world: from major films made in our city to Stormzy to Adele in music to fashion and culture. We should be really proud of punching well above our weight.'

James 'But it does sometimes feel a bit hopeless being a Londoner when we're surrounded by so much bad news for the city.'

Sadiq 'Look at the history of our city. In the face of adversity, we stand up – we don't cower or become intimidated. One of our strengths is our diversity. Over the last ten years, we have become more diverse. I genuinely think if you'd asked people in 2010, "Is London a great city?", they might not have said yes. Ask them in 2020 and they'll say it's the greatest city in the world.' ■

ANDY PARSONS

Want **50% off** your food bill at London's best restaurants?

With the Time Out Table for Two restaurant boxes, you'll save an average of £420 at some of our favourite restaurants, including Lima London, Tandoor Chop House, Hix, Oklava, Salut! and Sakagura. Boxes start at just £45. That's Christmas sorted.

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Salut!

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WHISKY



IT TAKES
LOVE TO
MAKE THE
BALVENIE

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AN ODE TO Westfield



Celebrating the most maligned, overlooked and underrated bits of London

THERE'S A LONG-HELD cliché that London's sheer expansiveness means it's a city full of strangers, where you can wander around its streets and never see the same soul twice. This, of course, is complete nonsense. Every time I'm hungover, buying a shame pizza and four litres of Diet Coke, I always bump into someone I know as I scurry, head down, out of the shop.

But there's something about Westfield that encourages a pleasing sense of anonymity. And when you're panic-buying Christmas presents or toying with the idea of splurging on that overpriced thing that you'll probably take back anyway, isn't that when you want to be in your own little bubble?

Westfield, though full of social options, is a remarkably antisocial affair; everyone just gets on with their own business. Let me caveat that as a firm north and east London-dweller, when I refer to Westfield, I mean Stratford Westfield, which should never, on any account, be referred to as 'Eastfield' lest a sea of judgement rain upon you.

Shepherd's Bush's OG Westfield is just too much. Its vast shining floors are too wide, its

maze-like structure too big. I go there and I feel anxious, like I might be sucked into its white womb and enveloped for the rest of eternity. But Stratford's more sensibly laid-out cousin? It's a Toys R Us for grown-ups. Here, every single option is hosted under one single roof: a safe space where you can live out your most basic desires with no judgement. This is a place where you can get swept up in the crowd and let it carry you from Build-a-Bear to Boots in mere seconds.

Most of the time, of course, I want to go to places full of heart, soul, community and all the other good stuff. But a couple of hours in Westfield is the equivalent of a Friday night takeaway: convenient, full of tempting things, probably not that good for you on the regular but deeply satisfying when deployed at the right moment.

London is full of so many amazing options it can be overwhelming, but Westfield skims off the most accessible gifts this city has to offer and plonks them within strolling, weatherproof distance. And if it all gets a bit too much, there's booze literally everywhere you turn. What's not to love? ■ *Lisa Wright*

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'Posh people get chlamydia too, you know.'

'Thope they never lose that snake again. I can't believe they found it in the cutlery drawer.'

'He can't live in Lewisham anymore. It's just not working for him.'

'I realised something the other day: I have the same eyes as Rihanna!'

'Either put that sausage away or give it to me.'

'I wish I wasn't three-dimensional.'

'Just because she's not vegan it doesn't mean she's smart.'

'I've been to Pudding Mill Lane DLR but I still don't actually believe it exists.'

'Every time it rained, we just went into Waitrose.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

Matthew
McConaughey

Charlie
Hunnam

Henry
Golding

Michelle
Dockery

Jeremy
Strong

Eddie
Marsan

With

Colin
Farrell

And

Hugh
Grant

— 🎬 Directed by Guy Ritchie 🎬 —

THE GENTLEMEN

CRIMINAL. CLASS.



IN CINEMAS JANUARY 1

MAKE LONDON BETTER

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



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

StreetSmart

WHAT IS IT?
A festive foodie fundraiser! Throughout November and December each year, StreetSmart teams up with restaurants and pubs across the UK. A voluntary donation of £1 is added to every diner's bill, with an option to give more, and all proceeds go straight to a variety of homelessness charities. Since the organisation started in London in 1998, it has raised £9.6 million for homeless and vulnerable people.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?
The number of people sleeping rough in London has tripled since 2010. But homelessness isn't always obvious: according to Shelter, around 320,000 people are without a home in Britain. Meanwhile, 135,000 children will be homeless or living in temporary accommodation across the UK this Christmas: the highest number in 12 years. Urgent action is needed.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
It's as easy as eating. Just devour some delicious food at any of the participating restaurants and donate. More than 400 London spots are taking part, including Barrafina, Artusi, Mildreds, Moro, Polpo and various Ottolenghi outposts. If you're lucky enough to be eating out this December, make sure you help those who don't even have a place to call home. ■
EI Hunt

→ www.streetsmart.org.uk

IF I HAD SOMEWHERE TO LIVE... I COULD GO ANYWHERE IN LIFE



When Abi's mum died, life got tough. She didn't get on with her dad and the arguments became violent. Abi felt her only choice was to leave home. With just the clothes on her back, and no idea where to go, she ended up sleeping on the streets in the freezing cold.

Right now, you could give a homeless young person like Abi somewhere to start their future

Abi's life changed when she was given a room at Centrepoint. A safe place to sleep and recover. A place to develop the skills and confidence she needed to rebuild her life – and leave homelessness behind for good. Now, Abi believes she can go anywhere.

Registered office address: Central House, 25 Camperdown Street, London E1 8DZ. Company no. 1929421. Registered Charity no. 292411. Housing association no. H1869. VAT registration no. 649 345 018.

Thousands of homeless young people like Abi are desperately trying to find their place in the world – but first they need a place to start again. You could help right now by sponsoring a room at Centrepoint for just 40p a day.

We know this support changes lives. 88% of the young people we help move on positively in life. So please, help someone like Abi today. Thank you.

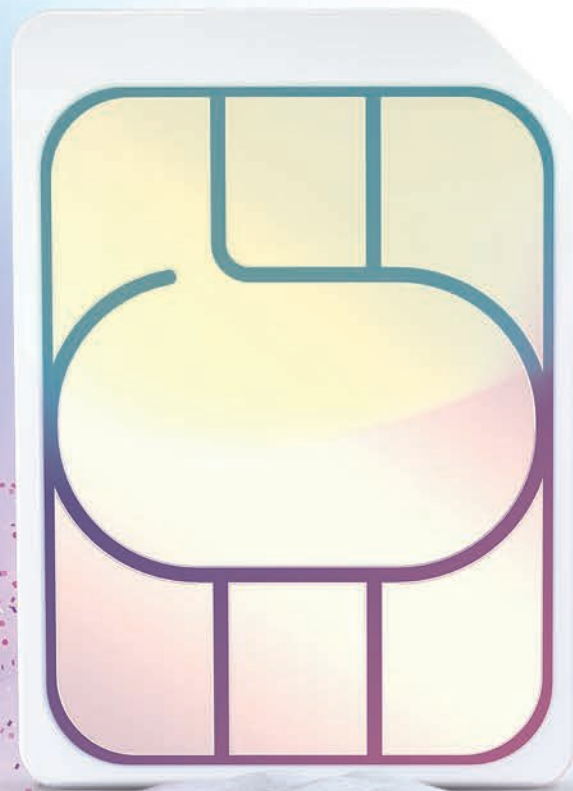
Text **PLACE to 78866 to donate £3**
Call free on **0800 472 5798**
Visit centrepoint.org.uk/place

We sometimes use models and change the names of the young people we work with to protect their identity; however, all stories are true and as told by the young people.



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LONDON MAPPED



All over the shop

SHOPPING IS JUST one of the many things the internet has transformed over the past decade. But with infinite possibilities at our feverish fingertips, what have we bought – and what does it say about us? This map of the top Amazon

purchases in each London postcode area in 2019 might give some clues. North London certainly knows its sumac from its za'atar: orders for Ottolenghi's latest cookbook have been off the (kitchen) scale in N postcodes. In the least surprising revelation ever, north Londoners are also partial to a two-pack of ripe-and-ready avocados. How very millennial! Over in west London, bougie bottles of water are the order of the day: you lot love your multipacks of Fiji and San Pelly. East London may as well change its name to Spa Town, considering the amount of hairspray, facial oil and disposable

tanning caps it orders. Meanwhile, down in Dartford, they can't get enough of Nando's Mild Perinaise. We feel you, DA. But of all the postcodes, special recognition must go to EC, the City, whose 2019 shopping list included sticky notes, 18-packs of Diet Coke, protein bars and Michelle Obama's autobiography. Kind of sums the place up, doesn't it? ■ *El Hunt*

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MY LONDON STORY



Kristin Baybars

Owner of London's most magical toy shop

I WAS BORN AT the end of 1935 in a Tudor house in Suffolk. I grew up surrounded by beautiful things – my father was Blair Hughes-Stanton, one of the best wood engravers of the twentieth century. My mother, Ida Graves, was a poet who sewed and made things for me. I started making toys when I was young, because I knew I wanted to do something with my hands and had a Victorian sewing machine. Being a wartime baby, I had very little, but it was toys I loved.

I moved to London in my mid-twenties and settled in Camden Town. In the evenings I made 'ostrobogulous' toys, a term my mother used to mean 'harmlessly mischievous', and sold them in Heal's on Tottenham Court Road. Heal's said this was its first ever toy department, but it was just my stand – though it was very successful!

Throughout that time I was a member of the British Toy Makers Guild. I became horrified by how dismissive buyers and collectors

were to makers, myself included. So I decided to open a little shop. I wanted to communicate with craftsmen and be constructive about their work – even when I didn't like it!

I started with a shop on Inverness Street in Camden Town. In the late '70s, I moved to Mansfield Road in Gospel Oak, in a shop two doors down from where I am now. I bought my current shop in 1986 with the help of friends, and I've been here ever since.

Over the years, the shop has evolved into a grotto. There must be hundreds of thousands of toys here – below what's on display, there are drawers and drawers full of them. We give people a lot of choice, although we don't stock trends or fads: a remote helicopter is the most gimmicky thing we have. Things are priced by cost, unless we really love it and don't want to let it go.

The shop isn't marked properly from the outside because it takes the right sort of person to be curious enough to know what's going on.

'There must be hundreds of thousands of toys here'

The window display virtually hasn't changed since we moved here. It didn't even change when we had to replace the glass.

I've always bought more than I've sold, and I only buy what I like – usually from about three or four British toy makers – including rare wooden things made in this country. In England, one has to incorporate beauty into a toy for it to be successful.

Even with all the shifts around how people buy toys, and with Amazon changing everything, I'm astonished by how much people enjoy coming in. We have lots of regulars, especially in the doll's house world – many of whom got into it because of their children. That's the best bit: seeing the look on people's faces when they walk in. And I don't only mean the children, but the adults too. ■

Interview by Megan Carnegie

→ Kristin Baybars, 7 Mansfield Rd. Gospel Oak Overground. Watch 'A Pathway of Crumbs', a documentary about the life and work of Kristin Baybars, at www.vimeo.com/ondemand/apathwayofcrumbs2.

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

SAMSUNG

Not a shop

This week it's...

#NotAGallery 18.12.19
with Philip Colbert and Samsung KX

**Mariah Carey Christmas
Dance Workshop** 20.12.19
with Cassius Powell & Time Out

Reusable Cracker Workshop 20.12.19
with Time Out

Christmas Film Screening 21.12.19
with Samsung KX

Live Performances 22.12.19
with Sofar Sounds

Book at samsung.com/uk/kx
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FREE LONDON

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



SNAPSHOT OF THE CITY

'London Is Love'

Photographer Liz Johnson Artur captures the communities of Lambeth and Southwark in this exhibition. Her images document people's experiences at the Archbishop's Park Gardening Club, Ebony Horse Club and more. They're heartwarming, but not in a crap Christmas film way – ideal for when you've reached full festive fatigue (ie now).

→ Royal Festival Hall and Queen Elizabeth Hall.
↻ Waterloo. Until Jan 5.

PACK A PUNCH Tails Cocktails giveaway

Celebrate the shortest Friday of the year at Mrs Fogg's, where Tails Cocktails will be serving up 353 (because the sun sets at 3.53pm) of its pre-mixed winter punch drinks for free between 4pm and 6pm. Cheers!
→ Mrs Fogg's Dockside Drinkery and Distillery. ↻ Liverpool St. Fri Dec 20.

DRAG YOURSELF OUT Bumble Slay Bells party

Is it even Christmas if you're not at a party every single night? Carry on the festivities at this Bumble event, where there will be performances from Sink The Pink, The Rabbit Hole, Ladies of Powerhouse and more. Book through the app.
→ Omeara. ↻ London Bridge. Wed Dec 18.

RECORD DEAL Eastcheap Records cocktails

Dust off that old Cliff Richard album you play once a year and put it to good use at new bar Eastcheap Records. You can swap your vinyl for a free drink until December 30 and all proceeds will be donated to the Help Musicians charity.
→ Eastcheap Records. ↻ Monument. Until Mon Dec 30.

MULL IT OVER Holly Jolly Hour at Konditor

'Tis the season to drink mulled wine by the bucketload and bakery Konditor knows this. Between 5pm and 7pm every day in December, you can enjoy a free glass of the festive stuff at one of its six branches. We'll drink to that.
→ Various locations. Until Tue Dec 31.

'Tis my season to be jolly

Save £20 on the
magical AirPods

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Search O2 Christmas deals



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ANDY PARSONS

Going, going... gone!

From giant cheeseboards to an escaped gorilla, micro pig pop-ups to, of course, smashed avocados, here's the silliest look back on the 2010s you'll read this year

A LOT OF Big News has happened since 2010. Over the past decade London's seen riots, terrorist attacks and tragedies. It's hosted the Olympics, protests and some of the most tumultuous political discussions of our time. But something else has defined this ten-year stretch too: hype.

Maybe it was Instagram launching in 2010 or the rise of viral news or because we were all bored from drinking less, but it seems like, over the past ten years, life in London, for some, became a constant chase of new experiences. Hell, this is the decade of queues for restaurants,

Secret Cinema, Gingerline, Punchdrunk and The Crystal Maze Live Experience.

The internet and real life became entangled. Local legends became social media icons (remember Kumbuka, the gorilla who escaped from London Zoo?) while meme accounts started putting on IRL events (like the vigil for the other defining gorilla of the decade, Harambe). Venues got pinker, leafier and more photogenic. So did food. Pop-ups popped up and down across the city providing photo opportunities sure to get you loadsa likes: owls! Gravy fountains! Aperol canals! Huge light

installations! Small light installations! Ball pits! 'Mean Girls' brunch! 'Clueless' brunch! Drag brunch! Most went viral before they even happened. Some went viral and then got cancelled.

Later on in this issue you'll find explorations of the decade's key cultural moments, but over the next few pages we've created a time capsule of the overwhelming, brilliant, problematic and terrible bits of 'experience culture'. Maybe it's time to say goodbye. Maybe it's time to book into a Harry Potter-and-gin-themed escape game. That decision's very much yours. *Kate Lloyd*

2010

APRIL 27 2010
THE EAST LONDON LINE OF THE
OVERGROUND OPENS

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010
STUDENT PROTESTS

2010s: the basics

Leonie Cooper runs through the headlines



10am boozing was acceptable

This is the decade when the post-big night out fry-up was replaced. No longer did we seek solace in hash browns, bacon and beans; instead, smashed avocado became ubiquitous. Because being healthy all the time is quite dull, brunch swiftly evolved into something resembling the evening before, with 'bottomless' drinks specials, meaning that to get your money's worth you had to sink two bottles of cheap cava by midday. The novelty brunch took things even further, with garage bunch, bashment brunch, drag brunch, all of which were thinly veiled piss-ups that rendered you useless.

The gym became cool and hip

Ten years ago, gymgoers were either weirdos or in training to join MI5. But when gyms started to look like nightclubs and spas, workout culture became the new going out. Spin classes with strobe lights made you feel like you were trapped in a hamster wheel in the middle of Fabric. 6am raves in warehouses powered by green juice became the wholesome alternative to 6am raves in warehouses powered by ketamine. Now no one goes to clubs, they just punch a bag in a sweaty basement in £160 leggings.



AUGUST 6-10 2011
THE LONDON RIOTS



Dating? A hellscape

In 2010, dating did not exist in the UK. Instead you went out, got drunk and woke up in bed with someone. If that happened three times with the same person you were in a relationship. Congrats! Then Tinder arrived. Suddenly single people across the capital were arranging American-style 'dates' in Islington cocktail bars (so that's what they were for!) with some of them even crossing the river in search of love and/or shags. Tufnell Park to Tooting! Palmers Green to Penge! Now there are an estimated 1 million dating apps, but the same people are on all of them, creating an unfair illusion of choice.

The hipster evolved

The early 2010s hipster saw Nathan Barley take his final form. He still lived in Shoreditch, had a fixie bike that he couldn't quite work out and a girlfriend who did roller derby. Soon enough he was outpriced to Clapton and swapped pints of lager for small cans of craft ale. He grew his hair and, when it got long enough, tucked it up into a man bun and got some tattoos which he now deeply regrets. When he was priced out of Clapton he moved to Walthamstow and stopped taking recreational drugs every weekend - just at weddings and Four Tet gigs now - and got really into that Aesop hand soap with the gritty bits. He's opening his own bakery. His girlfriend is doing ceramics.

APRIL 2011
DEMOLITION OF THE
HEYGATE ESTATE

STYLE

Smirnoff

IS

Dirty Martini

ETERNAL



INFAMOUS since 1864
There's vodka, then there's

Smirnoff

I was there!

From the cheese pop-up that stank to the heyday of Efes, *Annie Lord* asks Londoners to go on a bit more about stuff they went on and on about at the time

JULY-AUGUST 2012
THE OLYMPICS

2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony 2012

by Carissa Bardsley

'I was a dancer in the 1960s section of the Olympics Opening Ceremony and I also danced [to] hip hop behind Dizzee Rascal. When it was my turn to walk up on to the stage I felt like a little ant, but I knew I had to open up my body and articulate every movement because millions would be watching. It's terrifying – you go from an empty space in front of you during rehearsals to having people, cameras and lights everywhere. After the performance, athletes were high-fiving us as we walked back into the dressing rooms. I'm pretty sure Mo Farah was there but I can't be certain because I was on such a high, it was all a blur. These days there's so much sadness and destruction in the world, but back then there was this overwhelming feeling of pride in being British. It didn't matter if you were on the tube crushed up against the windows, an armpit in your face, everyone was just so excited about this event.'



The Giant Cheeseboard event that went wrong

by Amanda Ryan

'The Giant Cheeseboard was advertised as a gourmet, all-you-can-eat cheese event. But soon after arriving we saw staff unloading generic-looking cheese and crackers from a Sainsbury's van. The queue to get in was huge and, to try and placate the crowd, organisers sent out two members of staff dressed as Tom and Jerry. I felt sorry for them because of the amount of flak they were getting. Inside was just as disappointing: there were trestle tables covered with meagre scraps of cheese; people were so hungry they were cutting in line and grabbing at what they could. We managed

to get some mulled wine but I'm not sure if the dribble of cold liquid had any alcohol in it. Outside the entrance lobby, a mob of disgruntled customers were demanding refunds. The organisers stood on a platform looking extremely worried. We got the hell out of there and headed to the pub. Hasn't put me off cheese, though.'



DECEMBER 2012
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ON BUSES

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An impromptu gig by Prince

by Mandy Dassa

'The Prince gig didn't start until 2am but I was queuing outside Ronnie Scott's from lunchtime. I needed the toilet, my legs ached from standing, I was hungry, but it was worth it because when we were let inside I was right at the front. Cara Delevingne was sat right next to the stage snogging her girlfriend and looking gorgeous. Stephen Fry was somewhere in the crowd. When Prince came out I thought I was hallucinating. He sat behind the piano with his big afro and his voice sounded like butter. It's sad to remember that he passed away two years after that moment because that night he was luminescent. After the gig finished, Rita Ora was stacking up glasses and sweeping the floor to help the roadies clear up.'

MARCH-AUGUST 2013
'DAVID BOWIE IS' AT THE V&A



Efes's heyday

by Fred from band Spector

'By the time we played our first gig at Efes, it was already an institution. So many artists played there: we were just a footnote in Efes's history. Somewhere between "Cheers" and "Byker Grove", at Efes you could always rely on seeing at least one person you knew. Despite not being a live music venue, they were chilled about us playing there.'



We provided the PA and they pushed the pool tables aside. Everything else went along as normal, just with our obnoxious indie-rock in the background. London today is a different place: there are fewer clubs, bars, late licences and places for young people to commune. I'm hoping new ones will spring up that I'm too uncool to know about. Efes eventually had its alcohol licence taken away due to noise complaints. I'm glad part of it lives on as Earth now, as I do believe that there was magic in those walls, and I hope that its owner Akin made enough from selling up to be on a beach somewhere as we speak.'

2014
THE AGE OF THE NOVELTY CAFE

Glossary

Directioner (n) Squandered their twenny-tens aggressively defending Louis Tomlinson online.

Problematic (adj) Your Uncle Mike at Christmas.

Woke (adj) Being aware of society's evils such as gentrification. Ironically 'woke' is super-gentrified now. Go figure.

Influencer (n) Person who has no influence except to make depressed people occasionally buy a facial steamer.

Hybrid food (n) The edible equivalent of the time New Kids On The Block and Backstreet Boys became NKOTBSB.

Doga (n) Yoga for dogs. No punchline: it's literally yoga for dogs.

Dabbing (v) A popular dance craze invented by Jeremy Corbyn.

Kidulthood (n) What most living adults are trapped in. Hence the need for super-teens like Greta Thunberg.

Crowdfunding (v) At once an attempt to remould capitalism and a way to get cash for your cat's facelift.

Humblebrag (v) Obnoxious showing-off disguised as a hardship. We've been guilty in the past, but with the help of our good friend Lupita Nyong'o, those days are over.

The Sesh (n) Getting mashed.

CBD (n) Pretending to get mashed.

'Yas queen!' (interjection) A quick way to identify yourself as heterosexual.

First world problem (n) All of the above.
Oliver Keens

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The graveyard of hype

Leonie Cooper on trends that lived and then died



Selfie sticks 2014-2015

Banned at St Paul's Cathedral, the National Gallery, Wimbledon and from the backpacks of anyone you'd consider a friend.

Women being 'badass' 2015-2017

Adele? Badass. Beyoncé? Badass! Theresa May? Badass... hold up, you've gone too far.



Fidget spinners 2017-2017

Your niece's fave thing during that two-week lull between the release of the new Little Mix and 'The Emoji Movie'.

Flower crowns 2012-2014

All right on Lana Del Rey at Coachella, less all right on an evening in Finsbury Park watching Arctic Monkeys.



The 1990s 2013-2019

The returns of Liam Gallagher, the Spice Girls, puffa jackets and so much more. Did the past 20 years actually happen?

3ndr 2014-2016

Tinder made threesome app 3nder change its name, but it's still out there if you're looking for, um, company, as Feeld.



Freakshakes 2016-2017

A calorie-laden diversionary tactic, it's no coincidence that freakshakes arrived around the time of the Brexit referendum.

Ramen burgers 2017-2018

Nope.



Flashmobs 2010-2012

The worst thing to happen to central London train stations since privatisation.

Jam jar cocktails 2013-2016

What was ever wrong with a tumbler?



JULY-NOVEMBER 2014
TOWER OF LONDON POPPIES

APRIL 2-5 2015
THE HATTON GARDEN HEIST

NOVEMBER 24 2014
MADAME JOJO'S CLOSES



Uber 2012-2019

Uber, we loved you, we really did. But like every relationship does in the end, you went to utter shit.

Rainbow bagels 2016-2018

They don't look 'adorbs'. They look like a Care Bear had a little accident.



Unicorn toast 2017-2017

Two years later and still nobody has admitted to ever eating this grim food fad which looked like a plasterer had gone rogue on Hovis.

Pulled pork 2011-2016

Oozy barbecue meat had a delicious run of it, but when Pitt Cue shipped out of Soho, pulled pork became well and truly bacon.



Hipstamatic 2011-2012

Your photos aren't from 1967, they're just blurry and the saturation makes everyone look ill.
Leonie Cooper



SPORTY SPICE: DAVE J. HOGAN; GETTY IMAGES; RAINBOW BAGEL: ANDY PARSONS

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ŠKODA

Blobfish Café

In hindsight, it was clear we'd all been had. In 2015, a half-decent-looking website claimed it was bringing three blobfish, called Barry, Lorcan and Lady Swift, to an east London café so we could all 'look a blobfish in the eyes'. We all so badly wanted it to be true, but blobfish live so deep in the ocean that they are rarely photographed alive, so unless this was a café full of dead blobfish surrounded by Londoners drinking Mojitos, it was probably a hoax. Its Twitter lives on, but a revival seems unlikely.



Merchant Square's micro pigs

Cancel culture was in full force back in 2017 when a free lunchtime picnic in Merchant Square with, er, micro pigs you could cuddle and take selfies with was called off after animal activists took issue. The idea was that workers could hang out with the itty-bitty oinkers on their lunch break to help reduce stress and increase productivity. We reckon the pigs' stress levels might not have benefitted as much.



Jungle-themed cat café Ginger & Tom's

Did you picture cheetahs slinking through the kitsch interior of a Hampstead caff for this one? Us too. But the 'jungle cat café' was never going to deliver that. The intention was to launch a version of Lady Dinah's Cat Emporium, but with extra plants and some leaf-patterned wallpaper. In the end, all we ever saw of Ginger & Tom's was an image of a cat in a bowler hat.



JUNE 2016
CALLS FOR
'LONDEPENDENCE'

Things that never were

Some viral trends might not have lasted the decade, but *Katie McCabe* and *Alexandra Sims* pick ones that didn't even get started

MAY 9 2016
SADIQ KHAN
BECOMES MAYOR

The chicken nugget festival

The point of a meme is that it spreads rapidly. So what happens when a meme account for nuggets decides to launch festivals across the UK (including an irony-drenched London edition in Infernos nightclub)? The internet loses its mind, causing the mememakers to get spooked and cancel every event. Such was the fate of The Nug Life, which explained 'Our vision outgrew us.'

The Garden Bridge

A bridge covered with trees, flowers and lush grassy knolls over the Thames sounds idyllic, right? Wrong! It faced multiple delays, doubts over funding, and criticism from a whole host of Londoners over the huge chunk of taxpayers' money needed to get it built. The scheme was cancelled by Sadiq Khan in 2017. Now the only thing there is to show for it is a £53 million bill. Ouch!



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Where are they now?

Annie Lord chats to the people behind the silliest talking points of the 2010s

One Pound Fish Man

Muhammad Shahid Nazir was a student working part-time as a fishmonger in Upton Park's Queen's Market when a video of the 'One Pound Fish' song he used to lure in customers went viral. 'It was too good to be true,' says Nazir. 'To this

day, I'm inundated with messages from my fans.' Not only did sales of Nazir's fish quadruple, but six months later he found himself in a studio recording a clip for worldwide release. 'I simply couldn't believe it,' he says. After his visa expired, Nazir returned to his native Pakistan where he was greeted by adoring fans. 'They were proud I had shown the world the real face of Pakistan.' Nazir went on to make motivational speeches in universities, became an ambassador of PTCL – the country's largest internet provider – and he was even asked to make a song for party leader Nawaz Sharif. He says he will be back to see UK fans soon.



AUGUST 19 2016
THE NIGHT TUBE LAUNCHES

Cassetteboy

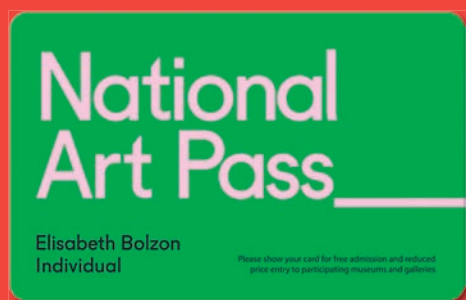
Starting in 2009, Cassetteboy, an electronic music/comedy duo (real names: Mark and Steve) uploaded a series of mashups to YouTube. Sir Alan Sugar appeared to tell candidates on 'The Apprentice': 'In the losing team, one of you will get banged up in some Cuban jail.' David Cameron sang 'Gettin' Piggy With It'. Jeremy Hunt discussed privatising the NHS to the Village People's 'YMCA'. Within minutes each video had gained thousands of views. For the duo, going viral was an anxiety-inducing experience: 'You work for ages on something in isolation, and then suddenly it's everywhere,' explains Mark. 'Or at least, it's everywhere in the artificial little world contained within your phone. I won't lie: it is a buzz but it's quite an unnatural and unhealthy high. We tended to enjoy it for a few hours then ignore it as much as possible.'



WOMEN'S MARCH
JANUARY 21 2017

Cassetteboy should have been clocking up thousands of pounds in advertising, but due to copyright laws many of their mashups were removed from YouTube. 'We used political speeches or episodes of "The Apprentice" in the same way a sculptor uses a lump of clay, and for that to be illegal never made sense.' Thankfully, in 2014, Cassetteboy's work was legalised so now they can make money from their videos. They just released an election video where MC Hammer's 'U Can't Touch This' becomes Boris Johnson saying, 'You can't trust me.'

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*Yes. 366 days. Next year is a leap year.

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DICKHEAD!!!

NOW WE'RE TAKING OVER THEIR ESTATES!!



'Being a Dickhead's Cool'

One evening in 2010, Reuben Dangoor and Rafael Greifer were chatting about the new type of dickhead infiltrating east London. 'I think there have probably been dickheads since the dawn of time,' Reuben explains. 'But these people just seemed like a very new type of dickhead.' They decided to make a song about it. Over a synth beat the duo skewered mid-twenties media types with lyrics like: 'Got a moustache and a low-cut vest/Some purple leggings and a sailor tat... Just one gear on my fixie bike/Got a +1 here for my gig tonight'.

To accompany the song they made a video. 'It involved nicking images off fashion blogs and the *Vice* website, and then smashing them all together on Final Cut,' Reuben says. Ten years later, Rafael works in the music industry and Reuben is an illustrator who's since shot to viral fame again with his portraits of Stormzy, Skepta and other grime artists and illustrations of England players during the 2018 World Cup.



The Cereal Killer Café

Gary and Alan Keery came up with the idea for their cereal café when they were hungover and walking around Shoreditch craving a bowl of cereal but realising the only place they could get one was the supermarket. After they opened up shop in 2014, it didn't take long before people were queuing around the block for bowls of its cinnamon toast crunch. But as its success grew, so did criticism of what many saw as a symbol of gentrification in London. At one point, 200 protesters stormed the café holding pitchforks and wearing pig masks. One protester spray-painted the word 'scum' on the café's windows. 'Some people thought we were geniuses, others sent us death threats,' Alan recalls. 'Our business has always divided opinion.' Eventually, the controversy died down and there are now five branches. 'Now we offer a full cereal experience,' says Alan. 'Cereal fried chicken, cereal milk coffees. Basically, a full dinner with cereal included with everything – the cereal lover's dream.'

GARY & ALAN TWISTY

2017
TERRORIST ATTACKS



JUNE 14 2017
GRENFELL TOWER FIRE

A man and a woman are embracing each other. The man, on the right, has grey hair and a beard, and is wearing a grey scarf, a red knit scarf, a cream-colored knit vest, and a purple sweater. The woman, on the left, is wearing a grey scarf, a teal top, a purple sweater, and a grey and white checkered skirt. They are standing in front of a red paneled wall. The entire image is framed by a white border.

Wrapping

In Real Life

Gifts and loved ones all wrapped up.
New stores open now.

BRENT CROSS

Animals of the decade



The serial killer seagull

In 2014 a big bad bird in Hyde Park developed a reputation for drowning pigeons in the Serpentine. He'd grab their necks and drag them into the water. It turned out he'd been doing it for five years. Horror movie stuff.

The crows that attacked blonde women

Joggers in Eltham Park were targeted by some real life angry birds in 2010. They'd peck at their heads before flying off. The crows reportedly attacked five women runners, all blonde. It was put down to them protecting their young.



BAD

Kate Lloyd rates London's star critters

POWERFUL

The Brockley Cat

Ginger puss Olly gained a rep in 2015 for prowling the shelves in his local Sainsbury's, making friends with customers. A photo of him sat between the Minstrels and the Sensations looking like a boss went viral. He's still at it.

The snake that ate a pigeon

Location? Leytonstone. Offence? Eating a bird on the high street in broad daylight. A boa constrictor was filmed tucking into a feathery snack in 2018. The RSPCA reported that someone had given the escaped pet a dead pigeon.



Frances Bacon

This pesky pig was banned from the bar at his pub home, West Norwood's The Conquering Hero, in 2015 when he was caught minesweeping. Oink oink bitches, it's time for some shots.

JUST CUTE

The four-foot rat

A gas engineer was working in Hackney Downs in 2016 when he saw a big boy rat, which he claimed was larger than both his cat and Jack Russell. He shared a pic. It went viral. Experts said it was a trick of perspective, we say we love you, thicc rat.

The fox that fell through the roof of a hospital

In 2014, children were evacuated from North Middlesex University Hospital in Edmonton after a nosy fox crashed through the ceiling. He'd climbed up there during some construction work. What's the opposite of crafty?



Fentonnnnn!

'Oh Jesus Christ, Fenton!' were the words that rang out across YouTube in 2011 as a man tried to stop his unruly dog from chasing a herd of deer in Richmond Park. A viral video showed the resulting stampede (and Fenton's owner pelting after him).



Eric the Skateboarding Frenchie

When this pup's owner videoed him shredding the skate bowl at Clissold Park in 2016, the internet took note. He was even offered a number of sponsorship deals.



Seals!

Sixty-two years ago the Thames was declared biologically dead - a lot's changed. This year 138 seal pups were born in the river. The thriving community also includes Sammy the Seal who's been visiting Billingsgate Market for fishy treats since before the decade started.

The cats from Lady Dinah's

London's first cat café opened in Shoreditch in 2014, bringing fluffy felines to hang out with pet-starved millennials. Did they want to be employed as hostesses? We doubt it. Were they east London's cutest gentrifiers? Probably.



Kumbuka the Gorilla

In 2016 this silverback ledge broke out of his enclosure at London Zoo, drank five litres of undiluted blackcurrant squash and taught us all a lesson in going after what you want.

The pigeons monitoring pollution

Sporting backpacks with air quality sensors, a flock of the city's finest pigeons has been monitoring nitrogen dioxide being produced in London since they were released on Brick Lane in 2016. We salute these heroes of the sky.

GOOD

Kratu the Dog

Crufts is usually where Type A dogs flourish, showing off their tricks and talent. This year, though, Kratu, a London rescue, stole our hearts: he missed obstacles and even went through a tunnel the wrong way. An icon.



A Street Cat Named Bob

Bob crawled through the window of addict and busker James Bowen's sheltered accommodation. Their friendship story was so heartwarming it got made into a book in 2012 and then a movie.

CROSSRAIL IS POSTPONED
AUGUST 2018

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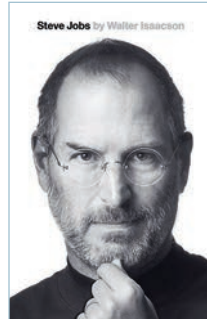
SEARCH 'MINISTRY OF SOUND'
ON ALL STREAMING PLATFORMS





'The Goldfinch' Donna Tartt
Carrying this 784-page tome was quick way to signal to onlookers that you've got an unbreakable attention span and can bench press 400kg.

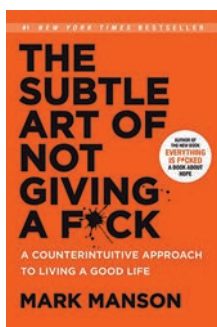
'Steve Jobs' Walter Isaacson
As Shoreditch became London's Silicon Valley, this book became commuters' ticket to enter. All aboard the tech bro express!



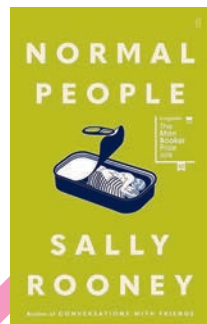
'Fifty Shades of Grey' E.L. James
The trilogy that taught public transport travellers how to read while shielding most of a page with a (clammy) hand.

A spotter's guide to tube books

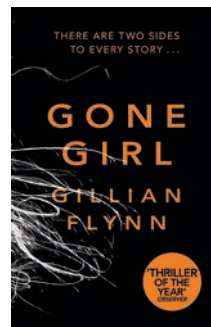
The 2010s saw many brilliant books, but which brilliant books did commuters read *in public*?



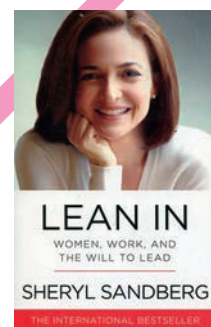
'The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck' Mark Manson
One of the first self-help books Londoners were happy to read in public. Because of the swearing in the title.



'Normal People' Sally Rooney
We've heard unconfirmed rumours that you are not officially a millennial until you've read both Sally Rooneys and all the Elena Ferrantes.



'Gone Girl' Gillian Flynn
See also 'The Girl on the Train', 'The Girl Before You', 'An Anonymous Girl', 'The Buried Girl', 'The Luckiest Girl Alive', 'The Good Girl'...



'Lean In' Sheryl Sandberg
The #girlboss bible that encouraged every woman to work harder, faster, better. Are you a feminist? Put down this mag and open Excel! *Kate Lloyd*

What's next?

This is the bit where we guess what will happen in the decade to come

Oliver Keens
Music & Nightlife editor



'Someone will crack the conundrum of how to put on a festival in winter. I mean a proper one: full-on camping, outdoor stages, the works. Yes, climate change may make this a grim possibility soon enough, but for hardcore festival folk, it would help spread the love all year round.'

Laura Richards
Drink editor



'There'll be even more focus on sustainable drinking. Expect a shift on menus to what's local (even hyper-local) and expect to sample even more things being produced in the city.'

Eddy Frankel
Art & Culture editor



'For hundreds of years, artists have been reliant on galleries to get their careers started. Then they end up in long, unbreakable, contractual deals. But now artists are starting to represent themselves. It's like musicians ditching record labels, but with paintbrushes.'

Tania Ballantine
Food editor



'Every no-booking restaurant will have some sort of "remote queuing" app (lots already do). Menus will be on tablets. You'll be able to order in advance.'

Katie McCabe
Events editor



'The reign of the heavily branded "pop-up" is over. People are sick of attending events that are essentially adverts for a fizzy drink. I think we'll see events in the 2020s that help people connect with the city in a meaningful way.' ■

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Know the Christmas operating hours

The Ultra Low Emission Zone will not operate 25 December, but is operating the rest of the time as usual.

The Congestion Charge will not operate 25 December to 1 January.

The Low Emission Zone, only affecting the most polluting heavy diesel vehicles, will continue to operate at all times.





The big star of 'Little Women'

Saoirse Ronan talks to *Isabelle Aron* about a landmark new version of the classic novel and her possessed wig called Pam

WHEN SAOIRSE RONAN heard that Greta Gerwig was working on a film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel 'Little Women', she demanded a part. Not just any part, either. Jo March, the headstrong lead character. 'We were doing press for "Lady Bird",' she explains. 'I tapped her on the shoulder: "So, I know you're doing 'Little Women'. I should be Jo. Take some time to think about it but that's the right decision.'" She got the part.

The 25-year-old Irish actor has more than earned her place in the movie. She received her first Oscar nomination aged just 13 for her role in 'Atonement'. Then in 2018 she got another

for coming-of-age flick 'Lady Bird', her first collab with Gerwig. In the intervening years, she starred in 'Brooklyn' (earning another Oscar nom), worked on 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' and played Mary in 'Mary Queen of Scots'. 'Little Women' is set to be a classic too. It's exactly the kind of film you want to watch at Christmas – heartwarming but, y'know, actually good – and the cast is ridiculous: Timothée Chalamet, Emma Watson and Florence Pugh, plus Hollywood royalty Meryl Streep. Ahead of the movie's Boxing Day release, Ronan gives us the inside story on how they made this beloved book, adapted for film six times before, come to life again.



'LITTLE WOMEN' GROWS UP



Sister act Ronan and Emma Watson in 'Little Women'

Why was it so important for you to play Jo in the film?

'I've grown up with that character: she's iconic. The idea of getting to do that with someone I admire so much... I wanted to see what we could do with it together.'

Did you grow up with the 1994 film version?

'Yes, the first time I read the book was when I was in my early teens but my first introduction to "Little Women" was the '90s film. I loved it.'

Did you feel any pressure working on such a well-known story?

'It's weird, I didn't. This feels like its own thing – they all do. They've all been made for their generation and as a sort of gift from Louisa to the audience of the time. I think there's something special about that: it's a rite of passage that "Little Women" gets made every 30 or 40 years.'

Was Jo always your favourite character?

'I really loved Amy when I was a kid, probably because I was watching the '90s film a lot and

I loved Kirsten Dunst. But Jo's who I relate to the most now. I could see in the next five years feeling like Meg. That's what's special about the story – you can tap into it at any time and find yourself.'

Winona Ryder plays Jo in the 1994 version. Have you compared notes?

'Winona and I have played two of the same characters. We both played Abigail in "The Crucible". I find it funny that in the space of two or three years of meeting her, we've played two of the same characters.'

I liked that you each play the sisters at all ages. Was it fun to act like a kid?

'We're all like that with each other anyway. We'd mess about, hit each other, make funny faces and rip the piss out of each other. At some stage Greta would shout "action" and we'd just keep doing it in an American accent.'

Did you have a 'Little Women' WhatsApp group?

'We had one with the boys and then we have one which is just the sisters and then we have one with Laura [Dern, who plays the March sisters' mum] as well. We had about three on the go – we'd send the most ridiculous photos to each other.'

What was the most memorable Meryl Streep moment on set?

'The most memorable Meryl Streep moment was a moment which I wasn't there for which I'm still devastated about. Meryl got Wendy's! Which is



1917 and 1918

Louisa May Alcott's book hit the big screen quietly. No, really. There were two silent versions in 1917 and 1918.



1933

Starring Katharine Hepburn as Jo, this release had sound. It paid off, winning an Oscar for best adapted screenplay.



1949

Using the same script as the 1933 movie, this adaptation had a breakout star: Elizabeth Taylor played Amy.



1994

A classic. Winona Ryder, Christian Bale and Susan Sarandon introduced many people to 'Little Women'.



2018

Marking 150 years since the book's publication, this one has a 27 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes. Eek.

RONAN AND WATSON: CTMG / WILSON WEBB; 1917: EVERETT COLLECTION INC. / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 1933: SMP / SHUTTERSTOCK; 1949: AF ARCHIVE / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO; 2018: MAIN DOG PRODUCTIONS / GEM/KOBAL / SHUTTERSTOCK



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SAOIRSE ON...

...her favourite coming-of-age film

“Dirty Dancing”. I probably started watching it when I was too young. I love [Baby’s] relationship with Penny.’

...meeting Greta Gerwig

‘We Skyped before we met and we were so giggly, like two kids who fancy each other.’

...winning a Golden Globe

‘The worst thing you can do is look at the screen that says: “45 seconds left” in a bright red font. I was terrified of having the music played over me.’

...nearly missing the start of the Oscars

‘We saw a massive queue of people so we start queuing and we heard them go, “...and now, the 80-whatever Academy Awards” and we realised they were all seat fillers.’

...meeting celebs with her mum

‘At the same awards show I remember Mum and I sitting on the steps outside and The Weeknd was in front of me. He was so lovely, so I assumed he wasn’t a superstar and then I was like: “Oh, it’s you! You’re brilliant.” My mum thought The Weeknd was a band.’



Hoedown Louis Garrel and Ronan in ‘Little Women’

a fast food place. Florence and Timothée were there and they’d been in a carriage all day and it was cold and Meryl was like: “I’m hungry, is anyone else hungry?” About ten minutes later, a PA ran over and he had chips and burgers for all of them.’

You have one main scene with her. How was it?

‘For the scene we did together she’s got that little poodle in her arms the whole time and the poodle’s name was Michael. Every now and again I’d hear her go [puts on Meryl Streep voice] “Michael! Michael! Where’s Michael?” She was very attached to this poodle. I’ll never forget that.’

Was it intimidating working with her?

‘She didn’t have any awareness that she was this incredibly well-respected legend. And you do get that with some actors who are not at her level. It was only afterwards that I got overwhelmed by the fact that I’d done a scene with Meryl Streep.’

You reunite with ‘Lady Bird’ star Timothée Chalamet for this film – was that fun?

‘Yeah, the relationship that we have on screen is very similar to the one we have in real life, where we’re sort of like brother and sister and I hit him a lot and he lets me. It’s nice. It’s fun for me.’

I have to ask you about the wig that you wear when your character cuts off all her hair. I heard that Florence Pugh nicknamed it ‘Pam’...

‘It’s true. Pam was the woman I would become

when I had this hair. She was from Australia, she had a lot of opinions. She’s the kind of woman you’d see holding a clipboard, just for fun. I could see her going on TripAdvisor and writing a bad review of a B&B. That’s Pam. I’d forget that I didn’t have any hair and Florence would rip the absolute shit out of me.’

Last time you spoke to Time Out you said you were most starstruck when you met Kathy Burke. Have you been starstruck since?

‘My mum and I met Stevie Nicks at a party. With Kathy Burke, I’ve never experienced anything like that. I just didn’t know what to say! I wasn’t expecting her to be there. With Stevie I had time to prepare. She was lovely and I asked her about “Rumours” and all the songs I love. That was amazing. But still, nothing has quite hit me like Kathy Burke... I don’t know why!’ ■

→ ‘Little Women’ opens Dec 26.



‘Mary Queen of Scots’

Find our review at
[timeout.com/film](https://www.timeout.com/film)



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WITTY"**

SHORTLIST



JOJO RABBIT

12A



IN CINEMAS NEW YEAR'S DAY

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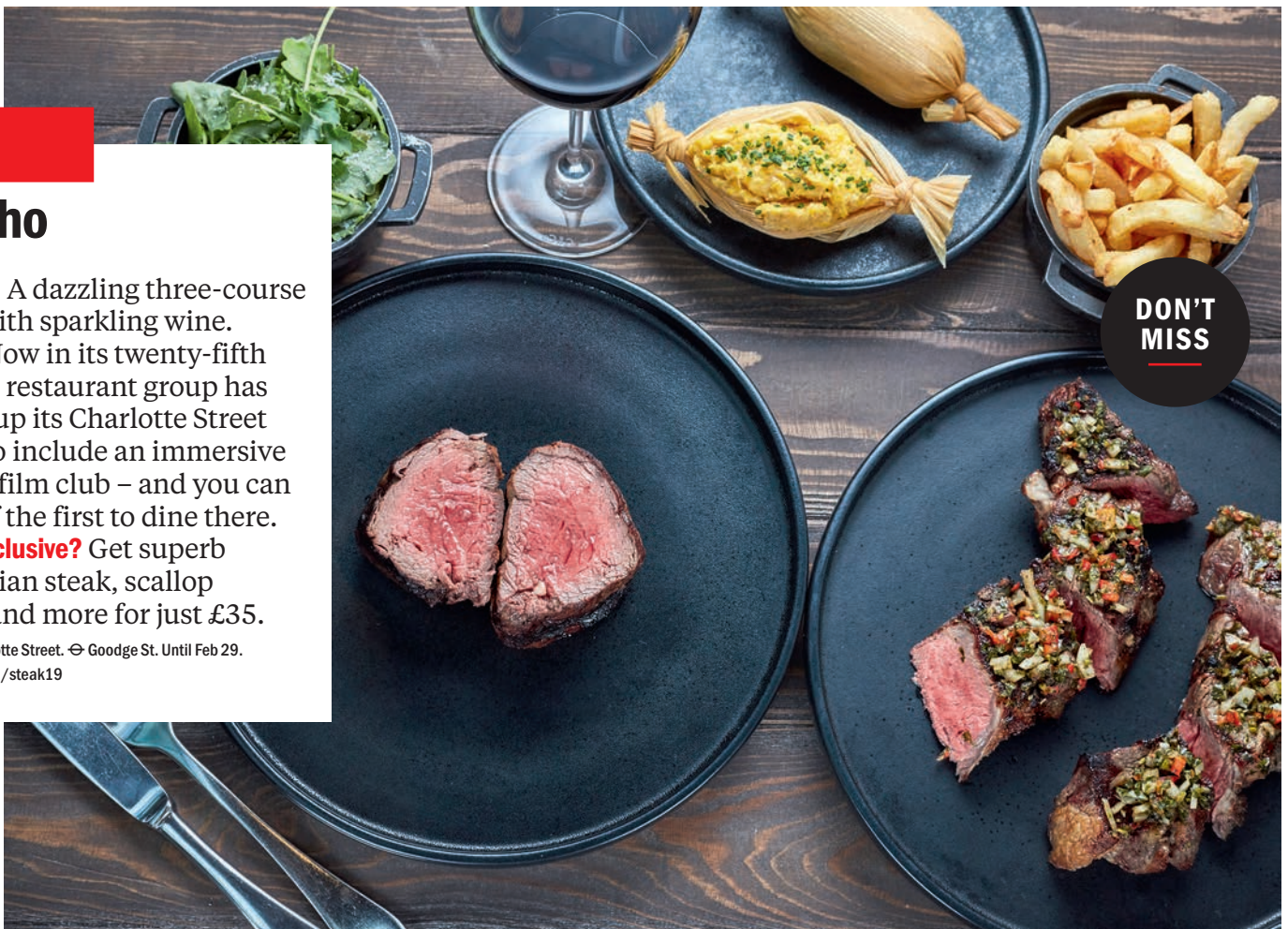
Gaucho

What is it? A dazzling three-course dinner with sparkling wine.

Why go? Now in its twenty-fifth year, this restaurant group has spruced up its Charlotte Street branch to include an immersive culinary film club – and you can be one of the first to dine there.

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→ Gaucho Charlotte Street. ⊕ Goodge St. Until Feb 29.
www.timeout.com/steak19



London Lions

What is it? Tickets to see the capital's best 'ballers play their upcoming fixtures.

Why go? To cheer on London's pro basketball team at their home games in nailbiting head-to-heads against the Sheffield Sharks, Manchester Giants and other UK teams.

What's exclusive? We're giving you 54 percent off, so that you can enjoy a game for only £9.99. Slam-dunk!

→ Copper Box Arena. ⊕ Stratford. Various dates.
www.timeout.com/lions19

'The Nutcracker'

What is it? The wonderfully whimsical Christmas classic performed by the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Why go? One of the most famous ballets in the world, this sugary spectacle is full of mischievous mice, dancing dolls and toy soldiers.

What's exclusive? Enter the kingdom of the Sugar Plum Fairy for 31 percent less – from £29.

→ Royal Albert Hall. ⊕ South Kensington. Mon Dec 30- Dec 31. www.timeout.com/nutcracker19

NYE at Ministry of Sound

What is it? Your chance to big up 2020 at south London's superclub.

Why go? Bounce to basslines and kick off the new year with some absolutely banging tunes from DJs Hannah Wants, Danny Howard (Radio 1), Emerald (Rinse FM) and friends. Psst, a secret special guest is yet to be announced.

What's exclusive? An anytime entry ticket is £48 – that's 36 percent off.

→ Ministry of Sound. ⊕ Elephant & Castle. Dec 31. www.timeout.com/sound

Aster

What is it? Endless bites at this modern European brasserie.

Why go? Make a beeline for this Victoria eatery for a whopping Sunday feast. You can choose plates of meat, seafood and vegetables, plus you'll get unlimited sweet treats, too.

What's exclusive? You can save 30 percent on a bottomless brunch. Get your foodie fix for just £24.50.

→ Aster. ⊕ Victoria. Until Mar 1.
www.timeout.com/aster

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Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe
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Splashing through the snow

Every Christmas morning, swimmers brave the icy waters of the Serpentine Lido for the Peter Pan Cup. We ask: what's that all about?

WHEN I FIRST speak to Alan Mitchell, 61, it is December 4. He has just got back from a morning dip in the Thames. 'About five degrees,' he tells me. Mitchell's the president of the Serpentine Swimming Club, and last swam in the Hyde Park lake the Saturday before. It was colder still: 'Two point three – it's usually one or two degrees below the Thames.'

Mitchell is in training for December 25. Christmas Day marks the club's big event of the year, when its hardest members compete for the Peter Pan Cup in a 100-yard race across the Serpentine, without a wetsuit.

The race has been swum every year since 1864, when the club was established, but Mitchell says that it may have begun before then. The prize is

named after the lead character in JM Barrie's children's novel, and from 1903 to 1932, the author sponsored the competition and presented the cup to the victor.

Competitors come from around the UK, and there's no upper age limit (one entrant is in his eighties). 'If you are lucky enough to win, you spend the rest of the day in a dream-like state, answering emails from people who have read the result in the most obscure newspapers,' says Mitchell. 'Outside of an Olympic 100m final, no other swimming event attracts the same level of worldwide media attention.'

Contenders take part in a number of races throughout the winter to qualify – six or seven if they're newcomers – and although there is plenty of room on the day for the public to cheer swimmers on, there is no dropping in to the race.



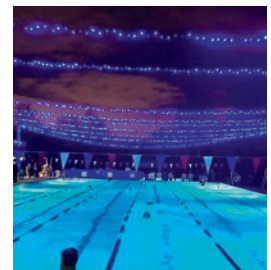


Feeling brave? Visit timeout.com/lidos

EDITOR'S PICK

Heated outdoor pools

For winter swimmers who aren't ready to face the cold open water



Hampton Pool

Open every day of the holidays (including Christmas), this 1920s lido on the edge of Bushy Park also has a sauna. If you fancy freestyling under the stars, book in for a midnight swim on Sunday December 29.

→ High Street, Hampton.
Hampton rail. £7.60.

London Fields Lido

Need a bit of incentive? Pop along on Boxing Day where you'll be awarded a mince pie and mulled wine even if you only manage a single length in the slow lane.

→ London Fields West Side.
London Fields Overground. £5.10.

Oasis Sports Centre

Get your gravy-like blood moving again with a lap at this West End institution. Scrooges: you can swim for free on Boxing Day morning between 8am and 10am.

→ 32 Endell St. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. £6.15.

Mitchell agrees with the Outdoor Swimming Society's advice that if you want to swim in winter, you need to start in summer: 'Some winter swimmers will say you can swim 100m for every degree that it is, but it depends on a whole range of factors such as how you're feeling or how much sleep you have – each time you go in will be different. Begin with short periods of time and come out before you start to suffer.'

The club has seen growing interest ever since the wild swimming memoir 'Waterlog' came out – there were 40 or 50 members 30 years ago, and now there are around 2,000.

Christmas Day swimmers can be found at Highgate Men's Pond,

'If you win, you spend the rest of the day in a dream-like state'

and there are New Year's Day dips at the Ladies' Pond and the Royal Docks, but the Peter Pan Cup has the competitive edge. For those who don't snag the prize, there's still a reward at the end: 'As you step out of the water, numb with cold, you're handed a large tumbler of warm port and red wine by Rose, the 80-year-old "Queen of the Serpentine",' says Mitchell. It's almost enough to tempt me into training for the 2020 cup. Almost. ■

→ Serpentine Lido. ⊕ Knightsbridge.
Wed Dec 25. Free.



By Ellie Broughton
Who has enough trouble getting in a hot shower let alone a cold pond.

Advertisement feature



Ready for a next-level cinema experience?

'Dinner and a movie' has just taken on a whole new meaning as ODEON unveils its high-end new cinema, where you're served delicious meals in your recliner seat

If your idea of luxury cinema is managing to score a seat in the middle row without anyone sitting in front of you, then what we're about to tell you might just blow your mind a little bit. ODEON Luxe & Dine has just opened in Islington Square – and it's possibly the most decadent movie-going experience the capital has ever seen. Want a taste of what you can expect? Let's break it down a bit further...

Be served at your seat

Picture this: you've settled into your huge recliner seat, the lights

go down, the movie begins... and a host pops by to serve you a flatbread pizza. At ODEON Luxe & Dine, you can order at the bar before you enter the cinema, or you can use ODEON's brand new app to order your meal during the film. Pretty nifty, eh?

Choose from a range of tasty options

Forget popcorn and sweets: we're talking a high-end menu. All dietary requirements are catered for, so you can go for everything from wagyu beef to vegan burgers or wild boar

hot dogs. Thirsty? Over at Oscar's Bar, you can treat yourself to a glass of Dom Perignon Brut or a signature cocktail (date night, anyone?).

Recline in style

Once you've finished your meal, it's time to tilt your seat back as far as it will go and put your feet up. The cinema is kitted out with fewer seats and lots more space, plus Dolby Atmos sound and flawless 4K projection. The film-going experience really doesn't get better than this.

ODEON
LUXE & DINE

→ Buy your tickets to ODEON Luxe & Dine at Islington Square now at www.odeon.co.uk

SOMETHING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas Eve



Harts of Smithfield Meat Auction

One of London's Christmas traditions, this annual meat sale lets you bag prize thighs for bargain prices. Get the time-honoured coin toss right to win a free hunk of flesh.

→ Harts of Smithfield. ☉ Farringdon. Tue Dec 24. Free entry.

SHOUT 'Elf' Quote Along

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is quoting loud for all to hear. Shout your fave lines from the film at this screening. You'd be a son of a nutcracker to miss it.

→ Prince Charles Cinema.
☉ Leicester Square.
Tue Dec 24. £13.50.

SING Carols at the Royal Albert Hall

Live out your superstar fantasies by belting out tunes at the famous venue accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

→ Royal Albert Hall.
☉ South Kensington. Sat Dec 21-Tue Dec 24. From £20.

Boxing Day



Skate at Somerset House

Skate off that extra helping of roast spuds with a few laps around this resplendent 900-square-metre rink in the gallery's Christmassy nineteenth-century courtyard.

→ Somerset House. ☉ Temple. Until Jan 12. From £11.

CELEBRATE Chanukah Light Up

Gobble down free doughnuts and get stuck into Hanukkah crafts before lighting the magical menorah. *Chagsameach!*

→ JW3. Finchley Road & Frognaal Overground. Thu Dec 26. Free.

PARTY The Ugly Christmas Jumper Party

Grab your most hideous knit and get sweaty dancing in it at this hip hop and R&B party.

→ Ace Hotel. Shoreditch High St Overground. Thu Dec 26. From £7.

New Year's Day

New Year's Day Parade

Blast away your hangover by watching this 8,500-strong parade of Pearly Kings and Queens, cheerleaders, marching bands, street dancers and giant balloons.

→ Starts at noon on Piccadilly. ☉ Green Park.
Jan 1. Free.



STROLL New Year, New Life Guided Walk

Look ahead to the new season by spotting signs of spring on a frosty walk through this beautiful disused cemetery.

→ Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. ☉ Mile End.
Jan 1. £5.

BELT Karaoke Rumble

Start the new year right by chanting your fave (non-Christmassy) tunes. Expect a full-on mix of karaoke, comedy and chaos.

→ Prince of Peckham. Queens Rd Peckham Overground.
Jan 1. Free.

Sleigh, what?! timeout.com/christmas



Trend of the decade

It's strange to call **drag** a 'trend' when it's been around for centuries, but this decade saw it enter the mainstream. Still, for every flashy Drag Con, there are dozens of anarchic, DIY drag shows in dingy pubs. Ideal.



THAT WAS THE 2010s

Katie McCabe Events Editor



Event of the decade

It's impossible to choose 'the best' but I'll never forget seeing Royal Academy transform into a big pagan playground for **'The Electric Forest'** in 2017. The image of a drag king Jesus hand-feeding an éclair into my mum's mouth while 'The Wicker Man' played is forever etched into my brain.



Person of the decade

Not a person, but a collective: **gal-dem**, a magazine by and for women of colour that has been organising joyous, inclusive and political events since its historic takeover of the V&A in 2016. ■

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GAL-DEM: PEANUT BUTTER WIBES; DRAG: BBC; LEIGH KELLY / MATT BURLEM; ELECTRIC FOREST: CAROLINA FARUGLO

THREE OF THE BEST

Ethical shopping pop-ups



Choose Love

Going shopping in central? Make a stop at the world's only shop selling gifts for refugees. Buy emergency blankets, children's shoes and mobile phone credit which will be distributed around the world to those who need them.

→ 47-49 Neal St. ☉ Covent Garden. Until Tue Dec 24.



London Know the Origin x Lucy & Yak Pop-Up

Visit a shop inside Old Street tube that stocks socks from a brand that donates pairs to homeless people, and candles from another that passes the proceeds on to domestic violence charities. It also has rails of bright, comfy organic cotton dungas from Lucy & Yak.

→ ☉ Old St. Until Sat Dec 21.



Conscious Christmas Market

Dreaming of a waste-free Christmas? Pick up ethically made and sourced gifts from independent traders and makers at this eco-friendly sale. The stallholders will provide jewellery, crafts, ceramics and books, Netil Radio will sort the tunes.

→ Netil Market. London Fields Overground. Sat Dec 21.

Support independent traders at timeout.com/markets

DON'T MISS



Bussey Christmas Carnival

Party like it's August in Notting Hill at this Xmas takeover with Jay Jay Revlon on the decks.

→ Bussey Building. Peckham Rye Overground.

Thu Dec 19. From £9.

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Gardens closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Image © RBG Kew / Eva Chatelain

Things to Do

SHOP

E Broadway Market Big Christmas Weekend

Christmas has landed at Hackney's bustling weekly market. Pick up last-minute presents from local designer-makers or trimmings for your family feast. Look out for the elf and fairy costume competition, which is open to all ages, so no excuses!

→ Broadway Market.

London Fields Overground.

Sat Dec 21-Sun Dec 22. Free.

C Christmas Under the Canopy

In the run-up to Christmas, Canopy Market gets a different themed takeover each week. This weekend there's a family focus with kids' craft workshops, carol singers and live jazz.

→ Granary Square.

↻ King's Cross.

Fri Dec 20-Sun Dec 22. Free.

E Columbia Road Christmas Wednesdays

It's your last chance to stock up on stocking-fillers after-hours from Columbia Road's charming independent shops. For the final time before Christmas the road will be full of firs, carols and mulled wine until 9pm.

→ Columbia Rd. Hoxton

Overground. Wed Dec 18. Free.

QUIZZES

S Pub Queerz Pub Quiz

This DIY LGBTQ+ venue will test your knowledge of camp cinema and south London. All proceeds go to the LGBTQ+ Outside Project.

→ The Chateau.

Denmark Hill Overground.

Thu Dec 19. Pay what you can.

C Foyles and Little White Lies present: The Movie Quiz

The cinema magazine is behind this movie-centric quiz testing silver-screen aficionados on eclectic cinematic facts. Be prepared for plenty of brain-stretching questions, puzzles and visual challenges. Needless to say, no phones are allowed.

→ Foyles. ↻ Tottenham Court

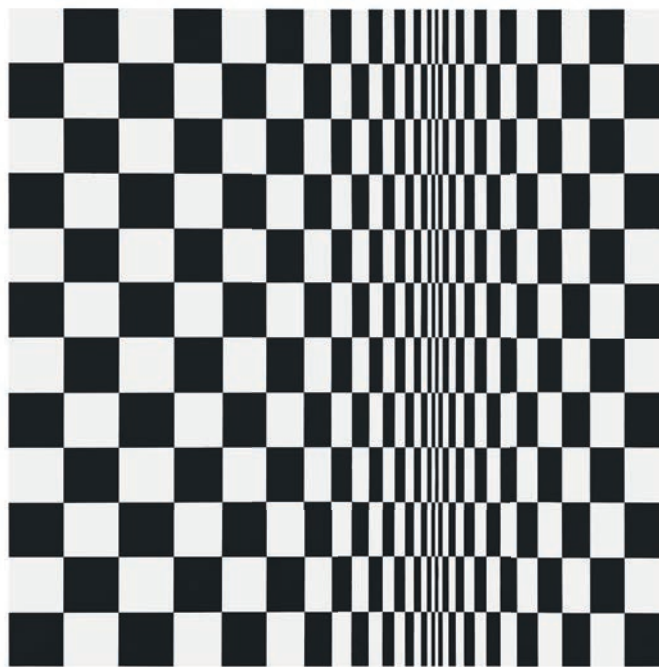
Rd. Tue Dec 17. £5 entry.

TO DO

The best events in your area

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

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Bridget Riley, *Movement in Squares*, 1961. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London. © Bridget Riley 2019. All rights reserved.

Bridget Riley

This exhibition is organised by the National Galleries of Scotland in partnership with the Hayward Gallery.

UNTIL 26 JAN 2020
UNDER-12S GO FREE



JOIN IN

E Walthamstow Wassail

Feeling the bleakness of the season? Get a nineteenth-century English pick-me-up by joining this group sing-song among the museum's apple trees in true traditional 'Twelfth Night' style.

→ Vestry House Museum.

↻ Walthamstow Central.

Jan 5. £2 per singer.

C New Year's Day Ceilidh

Bring in the new year by rollicking around to a colourful ceilidh band. Professional dancers will be on hand to help you learn the steps and banjos and fiddles will soundtrack the hoedown.

→ Royal Festival Hall.

↻ Waterloo. Jan 1. Free.

C 'The Muppet Christmas Carol' Sing-along

Feel the unrelenting joy of this festive fave at a special singalong screening. Get dressed up, come prepared to bellow out all the hits and try to work out how on earth Michael Caine managed to keep a straight face while filming with all those furballs.

→ Prince Charles Cinema.

↻ Leicester Square.

Until Tue Dec 24. £13.50.

EXPLORE

E Dennis Severs' Annual Christmas Installation

Step into Christmas circa 1724 by taking a peek around this frozen-in-time house. It's been given a festive makeover, complete with freshly wrapped presents, the sound of carollers and the aroma of a Christmas dinner.

→ Dennis Severs' House.

Shoreditch High St Overground.

Until Jan 6. From £10.

C Museum of Architecture Gingerbread City

Feast your eyes on a city made entirely out of gingerbread. Major architects were invited to design fictional biscuit buildings and the result really is a Christmas treat to see.

→ Somerset House.

↻ Temple. Until Jan 5. £9.

EXCLUSIVE

Sharpen your skills (and pencils) at a full-day drawing workshop at the **V&A**, surrounded artefacts. Now £49, that's 55% off.

TIMEOUT.COM/DRAW19

Make it rein
timeout.com/christmas

Film

Edited by Phil de Semlyen
timeout.com/film @timeoutfilm

INTRODUCING

Naomi Ackie

The galaxy's newest Londoner on 'Star Wars' and her John Boyega action figure. Portrait
Andy Parsons



IMAGINE YOU'VE JUST been cast in 'Star Wars'. You're going to want to tell everyone, right? All your nearest and dearest: friends, family, Twitter, the cat. Spare a thought, then, for Naomi Ackie, the latest Londoner to head into the galaxy: she had to keep schtum for four long months. 'I am getting better at keeping secrets,' she says. 'Although non-disclosure agreements help. My best friends should have used them years ago.'

Known to her mates as Nai, the 28-year-old east Londoner is about to become an overnight household name as freedom fighter Jannah in 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker'. A role in the world's most famous

movie franchise will do that – though what exactly it involves, she's not able to say.

Where were you when you found out that you'd got the role?

'In bed. I love my bed. Also, it was 7am when my agent called with the news. When I sent in my audition tape, I had no idea of the character's story or how much they're going to be in it. But when "Star Wars" calls, you answer.'

How did you celebrate?

'My dad was in the house and we celebrated together. I was lucky to have him as a confidante. I could [tell] that my life was going to change

'I was in bed when I heard I'd been cast. When "Star Wars" calls, you answer'

but it's been nice because it's not been so quick that I've forgotten my head. The world around me is changing but I'm still Nai from east London.'

So, you play Jannah...

'We've had a lot of people calling her Hannah. I'm like, "No! Hannah?" It's a nice name but it's not the same.'

What can you say about her?

'I wish I could tell you more. The first time I saw myself in the mirror with the hair and everything in place, I think it was like the way people look at themselves on their wedding day. I was in a wedding dress but not at all in a wedding dress.'



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Naomi Ackie as Jannah (not Hannah) in 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker'

Is it true you got a bit teary on the first day on set?

'I'm an emotionally open person but I'd never encountered that many people on set before. I was on a horse – it's called an Orbak in the film – and there was so much attention on me. Sometimes you've got to take a second, shed a few tears and then get back to work.'

You're a Londoner, right?

'I'm from east London, the bit near Essex. I love it – it's home. Whatever beautiful place I go to in the world, it still doesn't compare to a cloudy day in London.'

Like John Boyega, you're an actor of colour in a 'Star Wars' movie. It must be meaningful to think that you'll be giving kids a new role model.

'It is and I take it seriously. Being able to see yourself in the media you consume is more meaningful than I think we give it credit for. You have to be picky without having [an] ego

and being firm on the fact that you want to play three-dimensional characters.'

Did you spend a lot of time with John on set?

'I love John! It's weird because he's younger than me but he feels like a big brother. He's been in the industry for longer, and I felt very protected by him.'

So, the million-dollar question: are all your mates getting action figures of you for Christmas?

'I have a toy of John in my room, weirdly. It's cute when it's someone else but what I don't want to see on my mantelpiece is me. What if it wakes up in the middle of the night and stands over my bed?'

It also might look a bit weird if your bedroom is just full of posters and toys of you.

'I mean, yeah. That's quite strange. Maybe if I'm a Lego person...'

I'm sure they'll be making you into a Lego person.

'With a little Lego afro? Oh my God, that'd be so cool.'

'I really enjoy knitting to feel calm – oh God, I sound like a granny!'

Did you always want to be an actor?

'Yeah, I decided I wanted to be an actor officially when I was 11 – I was very intense. [Since then] I've directed and mentored kids in theatre and created my own shows, and filmmaking. It can feel like you've come out of nowhere but it's been more than 15 years of working towards this moment.'

What are you into away from work?

'I really enjoy martial arts and I love knitting. My mum taught me how to knit when I was young, and I really enjoy knitting to feel calm. Oh God, I sound like a granny!'

Lastly – crucially – do you have a favourite 'Star Wars' film?

'"Empire Strikes Back". [Does Darth Vader-style heavy breathing] "I am your father." I used to do that on the playground. When I got this part I rewatched it with my friend and it breaks so many boundaries, considering the time it was made: from having Billy Dee Williams in it, to Princess Leia, a woman who's leading a rebellion. It was properly ahead of its time.' ■

→ 'Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker' opens Thu Dec 19.



By Phil de Semlyen
Who wants to remind you that a porg is not just for Christmas.

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AT CINEMAS BOXING DAY

Films of the decade

With the credits rolling on the 2010s, here are the movies that mattered – as picked by a few of our favourite filmmakers



ALSO STARRING

Our top ten of the 2010s



1. 'Boyhood' 2014
2. 'Mad Max: Fury Road' 2015
3. 'Phantom Thread' 2017
4. 'The Social Network' 2010
5. 'Get Out' 2017
6. 'Under the Skin' 2013
7. 'Manchester by the Sea' 2016
8. 'Lady Bird' 2017
9. 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' 2014
10. 'Marriage Story' 2019

Benedict Cumberbatch, executive producer and star of 'The Current War' **'Cold War'** 2018
 'It's such a sad and achingly honest story of love and how destructive and tragic it can be. I was completely immersed.'

Rapman, writer and director of 'Blue Story' **'Black Panther'** 2018
 'As a young black man, you don't really see us in that type of life – as superheroes. I felt empowered. It was a moment: Wow, we're superheroes now.'

Edgar Wright, writer and director of 'Baby Driver' **'Mad Max: Fury Road'** 2015
 'I saw it three nights in a row. In an age where the majority of studio movies feel like reheated pizza, it seems like a miracle.'

Desiree Akhavan, director of 'The Miseducation of Cameron Post' **'The Lobster'** 2015
 'It's a love story that's dripping with loneliness, a comedy laced with tragedy and it's deeply honest. Not to mention I much prefer a sadder, fatter Colin Farrell.'

Jillian Bell, executive producer and star of 'Brittany Runs a Marathon' **'Bridesmaids'** 2011
 'I think I saw it maybe five times. I walked away feeling like: Okay, well, that's a classic.'

Céline Sciamma, writer and director of 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire' **'Wolf Children'** 2013
 'It's an animated film by [Japanese director] Mamoru Hosoda and it broke my heart.'

Armando Iannucci, director of 'The Personal History of David Copperfield' **'The Master'** 2012
 'Paul Thomas Anderson make you almost believe Philip Seymour Hoffman's cult leader. He shows how cults grow: 10 percent of what they're saying sounds reasonable, so you block out the rest.'

Robert Eggers, writer and director of 'The Witch' **'Burning'** 2018
 'At first, you're like: That was cool. Then you're going to bed and you're like: Damn. And then, the next morning, you're like: WHOA!'

Taika Waititi, director of 'Jojo Rabbit' **'Get Out'** 2017
 'It's the only film where

I've actually yelled out the title: "Get out!"

Sam Mendes, director of '1917' **'The Social Network'** 2010
 'It's incredibly prescient – a film about how the world has changed and will change, about the personal behind the political, about greed and revenge. My other choice is Rick Linklater's "Boyhood". It's about the things that *really* matter.'

Asif Kapadia, director of 'Diego Maradona' **'The Raid'** 2011
 'It's a simple but perfectly formed action film: "See that tall building? Go inside, go to the top floor, kill the bad guy." It's fresh, fun and frantic. In other words, pure cinema.' ■

THE SOCIAL NETWORK: MERRICK MORTON/COLUMBIA TRISTAR MARKETING GROUP; GET OUT: BOYHOOD: UNIVERSAL; LOBSTER: DESPINA SPYROU; BLACK PANTHER: MARVEL STUDIOS; BRIDESMAIDS: SUZANNE HANOVER/UNIVERSAL; MAD MAX: JASIN BOLAND/WARNER BROS



THAT WAS THE 2010s

Phil de Semlyen Global Film editor

Person of the decade

BFI CEO **Amanda Nevill** has made the London Film Festival a dream for movie lovers, overseen a swish BFI Southbank refresh and done wonders for young UK filmmakers.



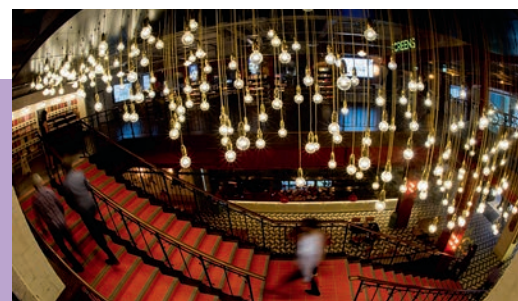
Trend of the decade

From 'Blade Runner' in a warehouse to 'Jaws' in a swimming pool, **immersive cinema** has been everywhere. I'm saving myself for 'Gravity' in space.



Best thing of the decade

The death of 3D, and its dorky glasses, brings daily joy – even if the schadenfreude may be shortlived with four more 'Avatar' films to come. But for pure uplift, the opening of **Picturehouse Central** is my pick: a gorgeous West End hangout for filmgoers.



Little Women



GRETA GERWIG'S GLORIOUSLY fizzy filmmaking style is in evidence within the first five minutes of 'Little Women'. Brashly confident Jo (Saoirse Ronan) sits in the offices of a New York publishing house. Because it's the 1860s, she has to pretend she's trying to sell the work of a friend, presumably a male one. A parental editor (Tracy Letts) sees through this and reads it, pencil in hand. 'Make sure she's married at the end – or dead,' he concludes, somewhat approvingly. Jo, elated, runs down a city block, just like Gerwig does in 'Frances Ha'.

Following up 'Lady Bird' with another gem, the actress-turned-filmmaker should be celebrated as much as a fast-evolving screenwriter (this bold adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel is hers) as for her visual chops. She's cut right to the heart of the novel – sisterhood, coming of age, nostalgia – and found a visual language for it. Alcott's saga of the four March sisters (Ronan, Emma Watson, Eliza Scanlen and the standout Florence Pugh) has been divided by Gerwig into two halves. Girlish energy suffuses the warmly lit scenes of their New England teenhood (Daddy's off fighting the US Civil War), days chockablock with attic theatrical productions, boy crushes and rivalries. Chillier scenes, set seven years later, show compromises made and dreams deferred.



'Little Women' sometimes plays like a comedy, one that includes a crumpled cry over a bad haircut and some joyous kitchen interludes, but it's Alcott's outlook, well-struck by Gerwig, that stays with you longest: the loneliness of female liberty in the 1860s. 'I'm so sick of it,' Ronan's Jo says in a weak moment, and your heart melts. If this isn't the 'Little Women' you remember, that's understandable. But it's likely the one you felt, and that's more important. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

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WHAT IS IT...

Greta Gerwig's effervescent spin on Louisa May Alcott's classic tale.

WHY GO...

For all your favourite actresses in the same movie.

→ Director Greta Gerwig (U) 135 mins.

Jojo Rabbit



YES, THE GUY who directed 'Thor: Ragnarok', Taika Waititi, has made a movie about an adorable kid in the Hitler Youth whose imaginary buddy is Adolf himself (Waititi plays Hitler). 'Jojo Rabbit' is a child's-eye perspective on fascism in which naive, lonely ten-year-old Jojo (Roman Griffin Davis) is, in the words of Waititi's cartoonish Hitler, is the 'bestest, most loyal little Nazi I've ever seen'. As a conceit it's breathtakingly risky stuff but, daring to the last, it stands up to all the inevitable scrutiny.

The set-up has a zealous Jojo running down the street in his brown shirt to the German version of The Beatles' 'I Want to Hold Your Hand'. Waititi has conceived his Third Reich with deliberate broadness: there's a strutting kids-camp counsellor (Sam Rockwell), a vicious secretary (Rebel Wilson) and a towering geek of a Gestapo agent (Stephen Merchant), all of whom nail their comic parts with po-faced perfection.

Should we be laughing at all this, though? Very rarely does 'Jojo Rabbit' sober up and tell you not to (unlike, say, 'Life Is Beautiful'), even as its ideas become bolder. Jojo discovers a Jewish teen, Elsa (the extraordinary Thomasin McKenzie from 'Leave No Trace'), living in the walls of his home – a waif secretly harboured by his playful single mum (Scarlett Johansson). All Jojo knows



NEW YEAR RELEASE

WHAT IS IT...

A satire about a Nazi boy who befriends a fantasy Führer.

WHY GO...

For Stephen Merchant channelling "Allo 'Allo!" as a Gestapo agent.

→ Director Taika Waititi (12A) 108 mins.

about Jews is that they steal the ends of penises and hang like bats from the rafters – and Elsa only eggs him on: 'Obviously we are demons who love money,' she confirms.

You shouldn't need to know that Waititi is a Polynesian Jew; his confidence lifts the movie out of anti-Semitism. Somehow, subtly, he turns the relationship into one of endearment (Jojo grows up a little) and it makes the film a keeper. 'Jojo Rabbit' isn't perfect, but it's legitimately breaking new ground. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

Spies in Disguise



WHAT IS IT...

An espionage caper in which Will Smith's super-spy turns into a pigeon.

WHY GO...

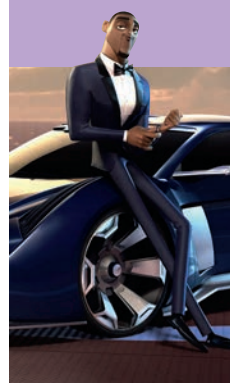
Because the Fresh Prince literally lays a fresh egg in it.

→ Directors Nick Bruno, Troy Quane (PG) 102 mins.

IN 'LIVE AND LET DIE', a pigeon famously pulls off an unexpected double-take as the villain meets an over-the-top death at the hands of 007. Other than that, pigeons have been pretty thin on the ground in espionage movies – until now. In this bizarrely premised but often very funny animation, pigeons do the actual spying.

The hero of this latest effort from Blue Sky, the studio behind 'Ice Age', is uber-cool superspy Lance Sterling (voiced by Will Smith). When he's framed for the theft of a deadly drone, the only person he can turn to for help is disgraced scientist Walter (Tom Holland), a gadget maker who prefers non-lethal tactics. But when the bullish Lance is accidentally transformed into a pigeon – yes, really – by Walter's experimental formula, they must work together to stop bad guy Killiam (Ben Mendelsohn) from targeting every intelligence operative in the world.

The plot is both overly familiar (drones, spy databases) and thoroughly silly (birds), but its looseness allows the charismatic cast to chuck in some solid jokes. 'Spies in Disguise' is far funnier than you'd expect, delivering riffs on spy clichés and pigeons (some of the gags may cause actual gagging). Surprisingly, it also offers a progressive critique of covert ops, suggesting that they create a cycle of violence and worsen the problems they seek to address. The glitter bombs that Walter creates to break this cycle may not work in the real world but they're a positive message for a kids' film. ■ *Helen O'Hara*



JOJO RABBIT: KIMBERLEY FRENCH; © 2019 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX; LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT: LIU HONGYU

Long Day's Journey into Night



WHAT IS IT...

A maverick Chinese drama that channels Wong Kar-wai and Tarkovsky.

WHY GO...

For the mad 3D sequence.

→ Director Bi Gan (12A) 138 mins.

START CHASING AFTER memories and you risk disappearing down a rabbit hole, suggests this virtuoso Chinese drama. Back in his hometown after 20 years away, Luo (Jue Huang) decides to find the girl who left him all those years ago. It's always raining in China's tropical south-east, and while Luo's voiceover and the roving camera echo the work of Wong Kar-wai, the surrounding urban wasteland provides a setting straight out of Andrei Tarkovsky's 'Stalker'.

Meanwhile, the moody atmosphere showcases a story split in two. Firstly, we cut between Luo's quest and his possibly addled memories of the girl in question (Wei Tang from 'Lust, Caution'). Then Luo, maybe on the verge of tracking down his elusive prey, goes to the movies, slips on his 3D glasses and the film turns into a gobsmacking extended single take in 3D. From there, things only get stranger.

If you like everything cut-and-dried it might prove a slog. But as Luo's life seems to loop back on itself, a hypnotic spell is cast. If he can just get to the end of this corridor, or up these stairs, perhaps the answer awaits? Writer-director Bi Gan has a marvellous eye for scuzzy, rainswept visual poetry. His tracking shots entice you into a miasma of memory from which there seems no escape. You may not have a clue as to the whys and wherefores of it all, but you'll certainly know you've seen something. ■ *Trevor Johnston*



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Music & Nightlife

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The best NYE parties

Assemble your crew, synchronise watches and let's do this!
Here are the best places to burst into 2020 – plus some
New Year's Day parties to roll into after

New Year's at the Mansion

Beckenham Place Park is a suitably grand setting to ring in the new year. This party hosted by the Cigarette Records crew will take place across two atmospheric rooms: the first dedicated to disco, funk and soul, the second playing grime, garage and more. Rinse FM founder **DJ Slimzee** will be behind the decks, joined by **DJ Fast of the Fun Lovin' Criminals**, **Eric Boss**, **Javano** and **Jonny Drop**. Frankly, it sounds epic.

→ Beckenham Place Mansion. Beckenham Junction rail.

The Cause NYE

Top-notch Tottenham venue The Cause was about to kiss goodbye to its sprawling, labyrinthine home on a soon-to-be-redeveloped estate. But like a Crimbo miracle, the team learned a few weeks ago that it's been given a lengthy reprieve. The line-up for this 18-hour gala is being kept secret, but we're told to 'expect all strands of dance music'. We trust them to smash it, as should you.

→ The Cause. ⊕ Tottenham Hale.

Pour It Up: NYE Special

Kickstart 2020 with seven hours of hip hop and R&B from the likes of Rihanna, Chance and Beyoncé at cute Islington venue The Old Queen's Head. It's expecting a sell-out, so buy tickets in advance to avoid any Ri-grets.

→ The Old Queen's Head. ⊕ Angel.

New Year, Who Dis? – NYE House Party!

Head to The Star of Bethnal Green for a nostalgic house-party-themed NYE with 'disco balls and Echo Falls'. It's also promising retro alcopops like Hooch and WKD Blue, plus pop bangers from the super-fun **U OK Hun?** crew. But if you want a bust-up with your best mate, just like at a real house party, you'll have to arrange it yourself.

→ The Star of Bethnal Green. ⊕ Bethnal Green.

Push The Button: New Year's Eve 2019

This brilliant LGBTQ+ pop night is taking over the City venue Popworld for NYE. You can still expect the

non-stop bangers it blasts out at The Royal Vauxhall Tavern, as well as the now-iconic PTB singalong. If you want to ring in 2020 with a healthy helping of Carly Rae Jepsen, this night is for you.

→ Popworld. ⊕ Mansion House.

Fabric NYE 2019

Farringdon superclub Fabric has recruited top-notch house and techno dons for its baggin' NYE bash. **Kölsch**, **Joris Voorn** and **Terry Francis** will be bossing the decks in room one, while **Ryan Elliott**, **Kangding Ray** and **Jay Clarke** spin tunes in room two. The party rages until 7am, so clubbers with stamina won't feel short-changed.

→ Fabric. ⊕ Farringdon.

New Year's Eve at Somerset House

Somerset House's NYE party is probably the pick of the big central London bashes: you'll get a suitably festive performance from the **House Gospel Choir**, the option to skate on the ice rink and an enviable viewing



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Sink The Pink

spot on the river terrace for the fireworks. At £50 per ticket (or £70 with skating), it's actually not too steep for one of the priciest nights of the year.

→ Somerset House. ☺ Temple.

Sink The Pink Y2K NYE

The glitter-spewing LGBTQ+ party crew will take you back to Millennium Eve at its Y2K-themed NYE bash in Limehouse venue Troxy. Expect super-sassy drag shows, a headline set from actual **Samantha Mumba** and fellow clubbers wearing the kind of late-'90s/early-'00s costumes you hoped you'd never see again.

→ Troxy, Limehouse DLR.

Five Miles NYE

This Seven Sisters spot is bringing in the big guns for NYE. Chinese techno don **Tzusing** tops a stellar bill that includes Naive Records boss **Violet**, **Angel D'Lite**, Emotional Response head honcho **Chuggy Leath**, Feelings residents **Brian & Karl** and Rhythm Section's **MLE**.

The party will be raging for ten hours straight, so pace yourself.

→ Five Miles. ☺ Tottenham Hale.

How Does It Feel to Be Loved?

The long-running indie and soul night heads to Holloway Road for its NYE bash this year. Expect to hear everything from The Smiths to The Supremes, and to be in good company: the HDIF NYE party always sells out.

→ Nambucca, Upper Holloway Overground.

Club Mick's NYE

Hackney Wick venue Mick's Club is throwing its first ever NYE bash – and it's not messing about. **Andrew Weatherall** will be delivering an epic five-hour headline set, which is an impossibly rare treat that will definitely sell out quickly!

→ Mick's Club, Hackney Wick Overground.



Somerset House



Mariah & Friendz





Bugged Out!

Metropolis New Year's Eve House Party

This Cambridge Heath venue is promising a 'neon-soaked night of fully fledged debauchery' featuring one room of hip hop and R&B, another of disco classics, and a third with serious carnival vibes – including actual sand. And if you find that you need a breather, simply head to the heated roof terrace. Nice.

→ Metropolis. ☺ Cambridge Heath rail.

Mariah & Friendz: New Year's Eve!

The queer club night that says it's 'vaguely inspired by Mariah Carey' (well, aren't we all?) rings in the New Year with drag performances, pop bangers and all kinds of messy fabulousness. Make sure you arrive by 10pm to catch the shows.

→ Bethnal Green Working Men's Club. ☺ Bethnal Green.

E1 x Percolate NYE

One of London's best party throwers teams up with Wapping rave space E1 to host a New Year's Eve celebration that's hard to rival. A frankly ridiculously starry and cool line-up beckons: Eris Drew, Joy Orbison, Hunee, Hammer, Midland, Willow and many more

will be supplying the heat until 8am. Tickets are running low, so book soon if you're rightly tickled by this bill.

→ E1. Shadwell Overground.

Oval Space x Pickle Factory NYE

Double trouble at Oval Space and Pickle Factory as the two venues team up to smash out an epic NYE bash. London legend **Gilles Peterson** lines up house, disco and jazz records for a sweet start to 2020, sharing the booth with Kamaal Williams's electronic music alter ego **Henry Wu** and **Donna Leake**. Over the road, **Dan Shake** steps up with a six-hour set.

→ Oval Space x The Pickle Factory. ☺ Bethnal Green.

NYE Dinner Dance

Head to Tufnell Park's Dartmouth Arms for a classy but cool NYE all-nighter featuring a six-course meal – including a welcome drink of white port & tonic – followed by DJ sets from **Neil Thornton**, Midnight Riot's **Sean Innit** and **Mr Shiver**. They'll be playing vinyl only on the venue's hi-fi sound system, so you're guaranteed a night that sounds as great as it tastes.

→ Dartmouth Arms. ☺ Tufnell Park.

Trust NYD: Saoirse & Special Guests

Don't want your New Year's Eve to end? Head on over to Canning Town warehouse space Fold to continue the party from 7am on NYD. Dance the day away as light peeps through the venue's shutters while Saoirse and a number of as-yet-to-be-announced DJs bring the noise with an eclectic mix of dub, techno and ambient sound.

→ Fold. ☺ Canning Town.

Defected Printworks NYD

Defected continues its two-day celebration of the start of the '20s at Printworks with an almighty line-up on New Year's Day. Just eight hours after the label-slash-party-thrower brings its Glitterbox event to a close, it'll be opening the doors to the Press Halls all over again for 11 hours of pure house heat. Armand Van Helden, Sam Divine and Low Steppa head a bill that is sure to get your decade off to the best start possible. This isn't just hair of the dog – this is Defected hair of the dog.

→ Printworks. ☺ Canada Water.

A Night of Amy

Start 2020 right by listening to a live band perform the brilliant jazz-soul-pop songs from Amy Winehouse's 'Frank' and 'Back to Black' albums.

Appropriately enough, the gig takes place at the Jazz Cafe in her spiritual home of Camden.

→ Jazz Cafe. ☺ Camden Town.

Ellen Allien (Five Hour Set) with Janina

Party like it's the start of 2020 at Wapping club E1, where Ellen Allien – head honcho of German techno label B Pitch Control – will be dropping floorfillers for five hours straight. E1's resident Janina will also be behind the decks, making this a tasty NYD twofer.

→ E1. Shadwell DLR.

Artwork All Night Long

Like the idea of 'new year, new tunes'? Ever-inventive London legend Artwork invites you on a 'voyage through the furthest reaches of his record bag' at this six-hour bash. ■

Nick Levine, Oliver Keens and Charlie Allenby.

→ The Pickle Factory. Cambridge Heath rail.




Ellen Allien

The best of NYD parties

Bugged Out! NYD All Day-er

'Legendary' is a tawdry, overused word, but it still applies perfectly to this perennial favourite, the reigning champ of NYD parties. Hosted by British clubbing heroes Bugged Out! at The Old Queen's Head in Islington, it's an unabashed coming together of those low on sleep and high on exuberance. Spurred on by lashings of Balearic and yacht rock classics, expect people riding on shoulders throughout! It runs from noon to 1am, but things get rammed earlyish.

→ The Old Queen's Head. ☺ Angel.



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THAT WAS THE 2010s

Oliver Keens Music & Nightlife editor

Person of the decade

No Londoner has made me happier these last ten years than **King Krule**. In 2010, I never would have guessed I badly needed jazz-flecked, moody indie sung by a wounded, guttural babe in my life.



Event of the decade

As a lifelong Londoner, I never thought I'd experience an evening in Soho like the **rave on Great Windmill St** that rounded off 2018's Anti-Trump march.

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Trend of the decade

I DJ loads, and one of the awesome things I've seen from the booth is **men becoming so much more feminine**. They request disco! They value music of gay origin! Don't get me wrong – men can still be a total nightmare. But I've seen things really change on the dancefloor, and it's well positive. ■



KING KRULE: RODOLFO SASSANO / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

PERFECT LAST MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

HARRY STYLES

PRESENTS
**LOVE ON TOUR
2020**

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
KING PRINCESS

**WED 22 & THU 23 APRIL
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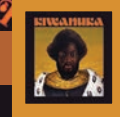
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PETE TONG

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DESPACIO IS HAPPINESS

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ROUNDHOUSE.ORG.UK

AN SJM CONCERTS PRESENTATION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH WME

Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski
timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre

Theatre of the year 2019

So: 2019 was a thing. A thing with theatre in it. From sublime comedy classics to cryptic new writing we round up the best of the best.

1 'Betrayal'/'Evita'/'Cyrano de Bergerac' Various

It doesn't feel like the sort of year where a single show has defined the zeitgeist. But director Jamie Lloyd has had the type of year some of his peers might trade their entire careers for. Long devoted to blowtorching the cobwebs off classic plays and making West End theatre accessible to new, young audiences via big-name casting, cheap tickets schemes and bold new versions, he started the year with a heartbreaking Tom Hiddleston-starring take on Pinter's 'Betrayal', followed up with a startling, ferocious version of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Evita', and sees the year out with a superbly gritty rewiring of 'Cyrano de Bergerac' starring his longterm foil James McAvoy. A director at the top of his game, making a real difference to the shape of the West End.

→ 'Cyrano de Bergerac' is at the Playhouse Theatre until Feb 29. 'Evita' transfers to the Barbican, Jun 27-Aug 22 2020.

2 'Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner' Royal Court

Mixing memes, Twitter wars and death threats against A-list celebs, Jasmine Lee-Jones's debut must be the most feverishly original play of 2019. Where most playwrights shy away from trying to stage the internet, she lets it spill messily across the stage.

3 'Present Laughter' Old Vic

This was the year that Andrew Scott showed us he could do comedy. We all know about the Hot Priest. But his suffocatingly funny turn as preening actor Garry Essendine in a revelatory genderfluid take on Noël Coward's comedy was as towering as his 'Hamlet'.

4 'The Antipodes' National Theatre

Not everyone gets Annie Baker and her blend of slackerish naturalism and supernatural flourishes. But 'The Antipodes'



'Cyrano de Bergerac'

delighted her fans with a witty, elliptical look at everything from office politics to the nature of time.

5 'A Very Expensive Poison' Old Vic

The great Lucy Prebble returned with a fiendishly clever meta-theatrical adaptation of Luke Harding's book about the poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko. What starts as a detective story ends as a bravura consideration of our society's faltering relationship with truth.

6 'Fairview' Young Vic

Surprise-laden meta-theatre was extremely on-trend this year, and none more surprising than Jackie Sibblies Drury's scabrous race satire 'Fairview', a play whose contents are so startling we're sworn to secrecy on what happens.

→ Young Vic. Until Jan 23.

'Present Laughter'

'Seven Methods of Killing Kylie Jenner'

More theatre features at timeout.com/theatre

THAT WAS THE 2010s

Andrzej Łukowski Theatre & Dance editor
Alice Saville Deputy Theatre & Dance editor



Show of the decade

Premiering at the Royal Court during the 2010 general election, **'Posh'** – Laura Wade's thinly fictionalised satire on the Bullingdon Club – was a hilarious and devastating skewering of all the dreadful toffs who have ruined so many lives since.

7 'The Watsons'

Menier Chocolate Factory

Laura Wade caused a few hardcore Jane Austen fans to clutch their bonnets in horror with this very subversive rewrite of one of her unpublished novels. It deftly mixes on-point anachronisms with more serious-minded digs into what it means to be a female author.

→ 'The Watsons' transfers to the Harold Pinter Theatre, May 8-Sep 26 2020.

8 'Death of a Salesman'

YoungVic and Piccadilly Theatre

Directors Marianne Elliott and Miranda Cromwell found hidden depths in the Miller classic when they recast the Loman family as African-American. Wendell Pierce will give Andrew Scott a real run for his money in next year's theatre awards season for his heartbreaking turn as Willy Loman.

→ Piccadilly Theatre. Until Jan 4.

9 'Sh!t Theatre Drink Rum with Expats'

Soho Theatre

Longterm Time Out faves Sh!t Theatre's best show so far mixes rum-soaked hedonism (free shots!) with an intense look at migration, corruption in Malta, and the horrific realities that British expats choose to ignore.

10 'Come from Away'

Phoenix Theatre

This hit musical from Canada is so stirring it could make a lump of rock weep. Set during 9/11, it tells the story of how an unlikely community formed on the edge of an unimaginable tragedy. ■

→ Phoenix Theatre. Until May 23.

Andrzej Łukowski and Alice Saville

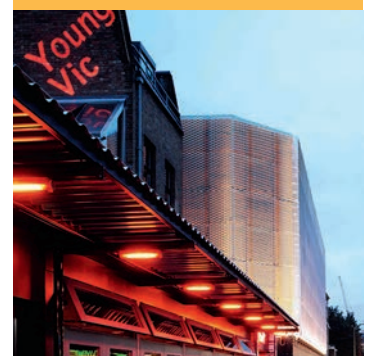


Person of the decade

Playwright **Jack Thorne** took Harry Potter to the West End with the triumphant 'Cursed Child' and dominated the decade with a blizzard of versatile hits including 'The Solid Life of Sugar Water', 'Let the Right One In', and a now-classic Old Vic 'A Christmas Carol'.

Trend of the decade

Theatre is better at talking about **diversity** than implementing it, but the people running London's venues do look different to 2009, with the likes of Vicky Featherstone and Kwame Kwei-Armah now players.



The Duchess of Malfi



WHAT IS IT...

A stunning new version of the gory revenge tragedy.

WHY GO...

Lydia Wilson is phenomenally good as the doomed Duchess.

→ Almeida Theatre.
 ↻ Highbury & Islington.
 Until Jan 18. £10-£42.50.



BECAUSE THERE IS no benevolent god, the actor Lydia Wilson is not yet a household name. But following her incandescent turn as a scheming Kate Middleton in 'King Charles III', she has returned to the Almeida to collect some serious dues, and has turned in a proper performance of the year in the title role of Rebecca Frecknall's deeply humane revival of John Webster's bloody 'The Duchess of Malfi'.

At the start, her widowed duchess is genteel and likeable, a charismatic posh woman who refuses to be cowed by the machinations of her villainous brothers Ferdinand (Jack Riddiford) and The Cardinal (Michael Marcus). By the end, she's like a fire on your retinas, who faces her siblings down like a creature of pure flame. Words that read like despair on the page are delivered with imperious defiance on stage.

It is a truly singular performance, though huge credit must go to Frecknall's direction, which boldly removes the horror-nasty elements from Webster's play and finds ways to inject real humanity into a play usually defined by its cruelty.

It's a taut, thriller-ish, modern-dress production, with a great set from Chloe Lamford and particularly fine turns from Riddiford, Marcus and Leo Bill as the brothers' conflicted hatchet man Bosola. This is a fresh, urgent 'Malfi', that uplifts Webster's work without radical monkeying with the text. Indeed, Frecknall's one really overt change is to flip the gender of the duchess's eldest child, who is now a daughter. It leaves the final image of the play a young woman standing alone, a hope for a future beyond the schemes of these ghastly men. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

The Ocean at the End of the Lane



WHAT IS IT...

A lavish stage version of Neil Gaiman's fantasy novel.

WHY GO...

It's dreamy and terrifying in equal measure.

→ National Theatre, Dorfman. ↻ Waterloo.
 Until Jan 25. £16-£65.



FOR WHATEVER REASON you really don't see very much fantasy on stage. But Joel Horwood's over-12s version of Neil Gaiman's 2013 novel 'The Ocean at the End of the Lane' is emphatically The Way To Do It: a heady, dreamlike whirl of story, scary and beautiful in equal parts.

It begins as an unnamed man runs away from his father's wake, drawn to an old duckpond near his former family home. He is haunted by thoughts of a girl, Lettie (Marli Siu), whom he met on his twelfth birthday. She is gone, but he meets her grandmother, whose presence revives memories of a coven of immortal spellcasters; of his home being invaded by Ursula (Pippa Nixon), a malevolent entity from outside the walls of reality; of the fightback and its consequences.

Theatre feels like the perfect medium for this ambiguous tale: did Samuel Blenkin's nerdy 12-year-old boy really battle forces of darkness one summer? Or did his fertile imagination embellish a difficult period after his mother's death? The explicit artifice of stage allows room for the idea that both can be true.

That said, if you want frightening monster battles, you've got them here. And illusions director Jamie Harrison masterminds a virtuoso sequence, in which Nixon's Ursula appears, seemingly impossibly, behind a series of doors.

Yes, there are a couple of things that get lost in translation from page to stage. But this is a dazzling achievement that sees the NT go toe-to-toe with the fantasy worlds crafted on film and TV and come out on top. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

ALSO OPENING

CYRANO DE BERGERAC



It's Cyrano de Bergerac. It's James rap-Avoy. It's... perhaps more accurate to say the rhythms of Martin Crimp's new version of 'Cyrano de Bergerac' are closer to the languid cadences of performance poetry than actual hip hop. But this pared-back post-'Hamilton' take on the play scrapes a century or more of chintz off the French classic, and boasts a sensitive and thrilling title performance from McAvoy. *Andrzej Lukowski*
 → Playhouse Theatre.
 ↻ Embankment.
 Until Feb 29. £15-£77.50.

SWIVE [ELIZABETH] →



Ella Hickson's ferocious play about Elizabeth I's rise to power is a stark 90 minutes that deals with history you'll probably know, from angles you might not, painting Elizabeth's daily existence as a battle for survival, in which control of her own body was her ultimate bargaining chip. *Andrzej Lukowski*
 → Shakespeare's Globe.
 ↻ Blackfriars. Until Feb 15.
 £7-£62.

GOLDLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS



One day, Qdos Entertainment and LW Theatres will give in and just name their



annual panto at the London Palladium 'The Julian Clary Show'. They get closer to it with 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears', which, storywise, barely exists beyond

Clary's impeccably raised eyebrow. It's a so-so pantomime, but a cracking variety show. *Tom Wicker*
 → London Palladium.
 ↻ Oxford Circus. Until Jan 11.
 £22.50-£169.50.

THREE SISTERS



Chekhov's endlessly adaptable siblings are given a tumultuous new backdrop in Inua Ellams's version; instead of Russia, they're living in the newly declared state of Biafra, as war with Nigeria rages. And Chekhov's original story, like these three women, is just about resilient enough to cope. Sometimes the story sags under the weight of its new context. But when Ellams finds moments of synchronicity between continents, they're painfully beautiful. *Alice Saville*
 → National Theatre, Lyttelton.
 ↻ Waterloo. Until Feb 19.
 £15-£75.

TEENAGE DICK



Relocating Shakespeare's historical hatchet job 'Richard III' to a US high school, Mike Lews's 'Teenage Dick' questions why its central character's disability and murderous urges are so inextricably linked. Disabled actor Daniel Monks gives a powerful performance as a Machiavellian but vulnerable wannabe school president. And Lews's witty, unsettling text sinks a shining dagger into the prejudices buried in the Bard's original story. ■ *Alice Saville*
 → Donmar Warehouse.
 ↻ Covent Garden. Until Feb 1.
 £10-£42.

NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Black Beauty

This kids' show gallops off the beaten track by mixing gorgeously witty design with an inventive take on Anna Sewell's classic story. Ages five-plus.
→ Southbank Centre.
↻ Waterloo. Until Jan 5.
£20, £15 child.

Christmas at the Snow Globe

If creators Sandi and Jenifer Toksvig can't promise you actual snow, they

can guarantee you'll be fairly chilly at this outdoor show which involves singing, mulled wine and festive cheer in spades.
→ Shakespeare's Globe.
↻ Blackfriars. Thu Dec 19-Mon Dec 23. £5-£35.

Circus 1903

Take a trip back to circus's *belle époque* heyday (*sans* animal cruelty) with this Vegas-honed spectacular, which stars giant puppet elephants.
→ Royal Festival Hall.
↻ Waterloo. Thu Dec 19-Jan 5.
£29.50-£125.

Nativity! The Musical

The soppy festive fave hits the stage with a motley crew of stars, including Danny Dyer and Dani Dyer.
→ Eventim Apollo.
↻ Hammersmith. Until Dec 29.
£20-£128.50.

OFF-WEST END

All Wrapped Up

Scrunchy paper-based fun for under-fives, crafted by multisensory theatre wizards Oily Cart.
→ Artsdepot. ↻ Woodside Park. Until Dec 31. £9-£14.

Billionaire Boy

A new staging of David Walliams's 'Richie Rich'-esque story of a kid with loads of money but no mates. Ages five-plus.
→ Bloomsbury Theatre.
↻ Euston. Until Jan 5.
£10.50-£31.50.

Can't Wait for Christmas!

This gentle kids' show is about the joy of festive anticipation. Ages three to ten.
→ Orange Tree Theatre.
↻ Richmond.
Until Dec 29. £15.



'Black Beauty'

The Little Prince

A starry-eyed prince pirouettes through outer space in this whimsical dance show by Luca Silvestrini's Protein. Ages five-plus
→ The Place. ↻ Euston.
Tue Dec 17-Tue Dec 24.
£14, £8-£12 concs

LAST CHANCE

Translations

Swap Christmas kitsch for rain-sodden Irish realism with this fine take on Brian Friel's 1980 masterpiece.
→ National Theatre, Olivier.
↻ Waterloo. Until Wed Dec 18. £46-£86.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS

AT TIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 4000 Miles

Timothée Chalamet's much-hyped London stage debut.
→ Old Vic. Apr 6-May 23 2020.

2 To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee's tale of prejudice, adapted by Aaron Sorkin.
→ Gielgud Theatre. May 21-Aug 8 2020.

3 Cyrano de Bergerac

James McAvoy plays the big-nosed historical hero.
→ Playhouse Theatre. Until Feb 29.

4 Come from Away

A heartbreaking, toe-tapping hit musical from Canada.
→ Phoenix Theatre. Until May 23 2020.

5 The Woman in Black

Spook yourself silly at this long-running chiller.
→ Fortune Theatre. Until Sep 26 2020.

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EXCLUSIVE

Save 44 percent on the stage adaptation of Joe Simpson's mountaineering survival memoir 'Touching the Void' at the Duke of York's theatre.

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EXCLUSIVE

'A KIND OF PEOPLE' AT THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE



Discover Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti's new drama about battling the odds. Set within a contemporary and diverse British community, this is a closer look at how society functions in the 21st century. Tickets now from £17, saving you up to 42%.

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Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
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THINGS TO SEE AT

Bloomberg New Contemporaries

The annual round-up of undiscovered art talent is back, so here are the ones that might just be the stars of the future



← Taylor Jack Smith 'Dentin'

A bald man grinds his teeth backwards and forwards, unendingly, in this brutally uncomfortable animated film. It's genuinely horrible.

Isobel Napier 'Paper Piece 2' →

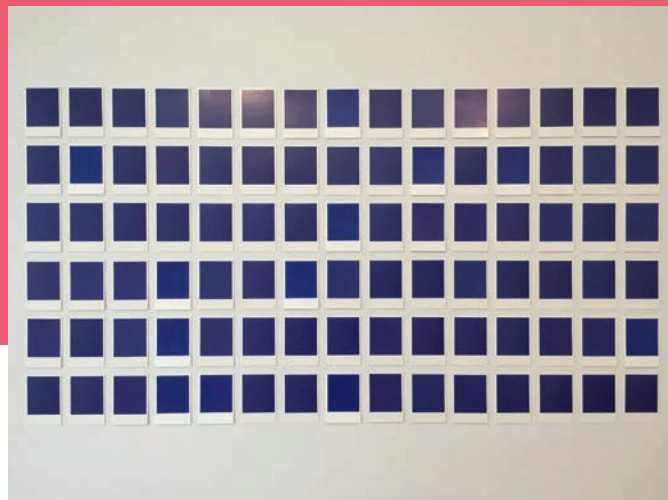
This unbelievably fragile-looking work is made from laser-cut paper. It's brittle, beautiful and makes me very, very nervous.

Annie Mackinnon 'Compost Daddy' →

The artist has plonked her dad in a bag of compost in a wry comment on the hypocrisy of the fashion industry. It manages something that art *never* manages: it's actually quite funny.



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↑ **Paul Jex** 'Yves Klein IKB 79 or Tate Modern Keeps on Getting It Wrong'

Jex collects postcards of Yves Klein's famous blue canvas from the Tate. Each one is a slightly different, and wrong, shade of blue. It's pedantry as art. In a good way.



← **Ismay Bright** 'Bad Luck Brian'

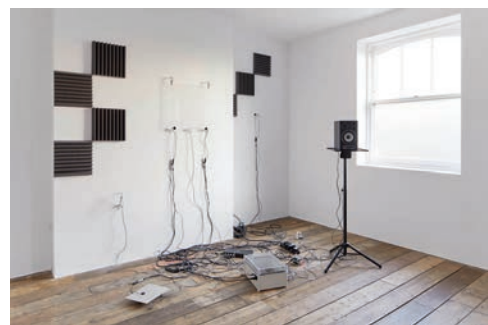
Bright takes phrases from gameshows and turns them into mosaics. A brilliant exercise in artistic futility.

↑ **Xiuching Tsay** 'As His Burden'

This drippy, melty, wibbly, wobbly psychedelic cuddle scene is a neat mixture of cuteness and unsettling, and it's probably the best painting in the whole show.

↑ **Cyrus Hung** 'Georg Baselitz "A Focus on the 1980s" MV' →

The soundtrack to this Baselitz documentary has been re-recorded by artist Cyrus Hung as a rap, and that's the only way we want to watch art documentaries from now on.



↑ **Jonas Pequeno** 'Timeliner'

This minimal-looking sound installation is seriously maximal in terms of its sonic output. It sounds like 20 alarm clocks going off at once, which terrifying and impressive. ■ *Eddy Frankel*
→ Bloomberg New Contemporaries. South London Gallery. Peckham Rye Overground. Until Feb 23 2020. Free.



THAT WAS THE 2010s

Eddy Frankel Art & Culture editor

Trend of the decade

All the major debates of the decade – especially **identity politics** and colonial history – came out in the art of the '10s. And that's why art's so vital.

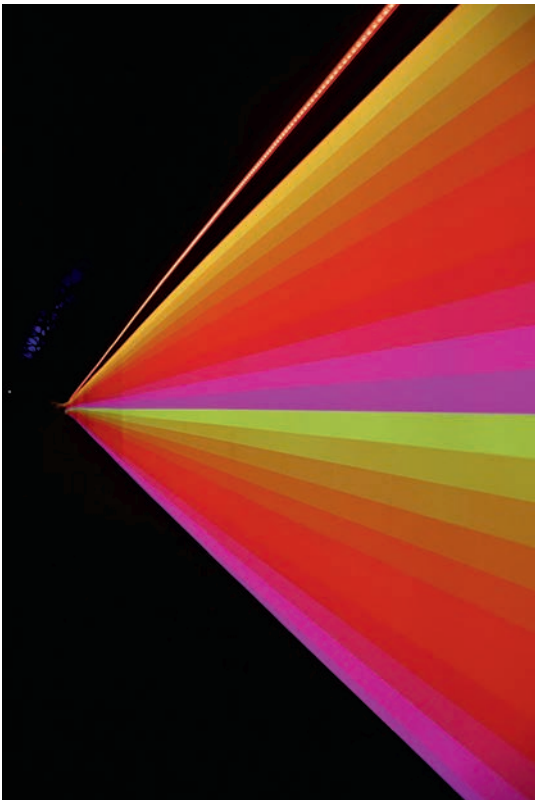


Person of the decade

Okwui Enwezor (who died in 2019) curated the 2015 Venice Biennale and totally changed the way we approach and think about art from Africa, opening up the world and making audiences see things in a new light. ■

Show of the decade

With exhibitions like 'The Infinite Mix' (2016) and mind-bending installations at Brewer Street Car Park, **The Vinyl Factory** put on the most forward-thinking, ambitious audio-visual shows London's ever seen.




CARSTEN NICOLAI 'UNCOLOR', THE VINYL FACTORY, BREWER STREET CAR PARK, 2015.

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Corinne Day, 'George in Stiletto', from the feature 'Goths on Acid' for Ray Gun magazine, June–July 1995. Courtesy and © The Corinne Day Estate

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Food

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



RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

'ISN'T THAT THE place with the champagne button?' says everyone, always, if you mention Soho's Bob Bob Ricard. And this, its City sibling, has one per table, too. But take note: there's more to BBC than a shiny blob on the wall, waiting to be pushed.

Like: you enter via a glass lift, which has a (very nice) doorman, presumably to stop anyone without a reservation from walking in off the street and pulling an in-elevator moonie. This isn't Duck & Waffle's Heron Tower, though: don't expect your ears to pop – you're only going up three floors – but it's still a fun way to start an evening. Once in the dining room, there's an assault of glamour. Every surface shines and shimmers. It's all delightfully deco and don't get me started on the loos. And, like the original, the space is laid out with individual booths, à la the dining car of an Edwardian train, complete with compartments for your umbrella and coat.

Best of all, like a real dining car, it's priced for all classes of traveller, from a classic fish pie (£19.50) to

lavish plates of oysters (£13-£36) or caviar (£39/£55). And, because this is a Russian-owned joint, shots of vodka served at -18C. We went for mid-market comfort, and were heartened to find that, unlike your average on-board eating experience, it was ace.

Seafood is a strength – from a simple-but-stunning crab and avocado salad to a lobster mac 'n' cheese that we could. Not. Stop. Eating. It's an example of how when you take something seemingly basic – pasta plus fromage – add generous chunks of grilled crustacean,

and smother the whole lot in four kinds of cheese – gruyère, cheddar, parmesan and mozzarella – you get something glorious. Tang, depth and that oh-so-important melting stringiness. Plus the golden crunch coating of a breadcrumb gratin topping. It was the most addictively delicious mac 'n' cheese we've had since Hawksmoor's, and that's saying something.

The young, affable crew know their menu inside out, and will sprint after you when you inevitably leave your broly in its cute little side cubby.



WHAT IS IT...

A City sibling to Soho's Bob Bob Ricard, styled like an Edwardian train.

WHY GO...

Don't worry – the champagne button's still here.

→ Level 3, The Leadenhall Building, 122 Leadenhall St, EC3V 4AB.
☎ Liverpool St.

Bob Bob Cité

They'll also come running if you press that button. How they manage this is via a clever stock-exchange-style ticker on the perimeter of the dining room. Every table has a number, when you press the button, yours will flash up. Presto: server appears. In short, it's a lot like the buttons Yo! Sushi started doing in the '90s (only those ones triggered a robot voice shouting 'yo yo yo', while staff searched for the table with the light flashing above it). In truth, it's a 'press for service' button. Could you order something other than fizz? Probably. They're a nice bunch. Does that mean it's a bit of a gimmick? Well, yes. But who cares? The City – a place where everyone still wears grey, navy or black – is woefully thin on restaurants with any sense of theatre or fun. And Bob Bob Cité has bags of both. ■ **Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £140.**



By Tania Ballantine
Who loves a glass-sided lift.
Even for a short ride.

Mama's Kubo



YOU MIGHT FIRST glimpse Mama's Kubo during a momentary pause at the traffic lights on the busy Finchley Road, but it's worth stopping longer at this friendly, family-run Filipino restaurant. British-Filipino chef Rommel Bustarde previously worked with Alan Yau, of Yauatcha and Wagamama fame, and now he's gone it alone serving dishes close to his heart. 'Kubo' is the word for a traditional Filipino thatched hut, and the restaurant carries the theme through with bamboo interiors and an intimate feel, with lots of dishes referencing family members.

Cold aubergine salad was refreshing, with shallots, fresh mint, fish sauce, a squeeze of lime and tangy vinegary dressing. The stand-out dish was Mama Kubo's sisig: a sizzling, jumbled up hotpot of spicy pork, beef and onions with an egg on top, which left crunchy, meaty scratchings to fight over at the



bottom of the dish. Braised tofu was beautifully intense, with squishy chunks of aubergine and fermented black bean sauce. Compared to these bold flavours, the pork-and-beef spring rolls were forgettable, but it was the briefest of blips.

Desserts were a sugar trip into the unknown. Taho is silken tofu, often eaten for breakfast in the Philippines, covered in a light caramel syrup and tapioca

balls. Chef Rommel's version of this favourite was impossibly soft and exceptionally sweet, almost dissolving with every mouthful.

Filipino cuisine is such a joyful blend of Malaysian, Spanish, Chinese and Indonesian influences, and Mama's Kubo pulls them all together in one big, family-style hug of a meal. ■ *Lisa Harris*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £75.

WHAT IS IT...
 A home-style Filipino on the edge of West Hampstead.

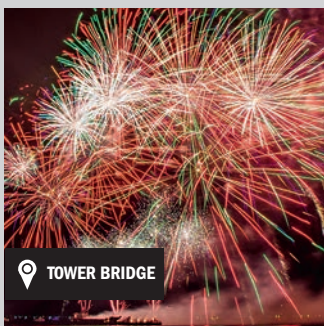
WHY GO...
 For five new ways to love eating aubergine.

→ 250 Finchley Rd, NW3 6DN. ☺ West Hampstead.

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 Get pizza, sides, dessert and bottomless prosecco at **Terra Terra** for just £19.50. Bellissimo.
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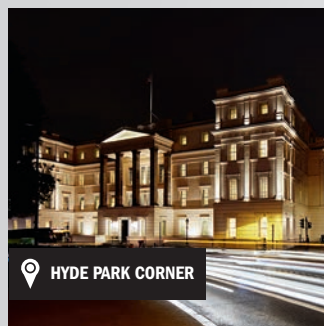
Going out? Try here.



TOWER BRIDGE

TWO RUBA SAYS:

'Celebrate NYE in the most stylish way: with a four-course dinner, entertainment and bottomless bubbles, beer and wine. Sip your drink on our private boat and enjoy the world-famous firework display as you cruise down the River Thames. Tickets are £329pp, reserve at events.docklands.com.'
 5 More London Place, Tooley St. SE1 2BY.



HYDE PARK CORNER

THE LANESBOROUGH SAYS:

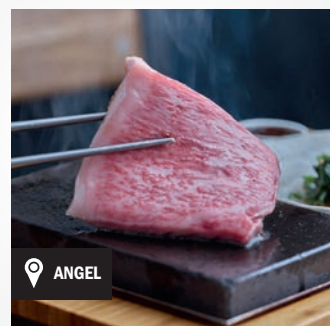
'Following the massive success of 2018, The Lanesborough will once again be closing its doors for a New Year's Eve house party like no other. See it completely transformed into the most luxurious and beautiful party spot by getting your tickets at www.lanesborough.com/NYE.'
 1 Lanesborough Place, SW1X 7TA.



STREATHAM

STREATHAM KITCHEN SAYS:

'A cosy restaurant, Streatham Kitchen has a frequently changing menu. Weekly specials include mouthwatering meat dishes and a selection of tapas and craft burgers using the finest meat from Smithfield Market. Stop by to enjoy dinner with top-quality produce and great service.'
 20 Mitcham Lane, SW16 6NN.



ANGEL

HOT STONE SAYS:

'Hot Stone is one of the few restaurants in the UK serving 100 percent Japanese wasabi with award-winning sushi and certified kobe beef. Quote "Veryhotstone" to get 50 percent off your entire lunch bill when booking via info@hotstonelondon.com. Available Friday to Sunday until Jan 2020.'
 9 Chapel Market, N1 9EZ.

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THAT WAS THE 2010s

Tania Ballantine Food editor

Person of the decade

Not one person, but one family: **the Sethis**, three siblings who launched or invested in the likes of Trishna, Bao, Gymkhana, Lyle's, Hoppers, Xu, Brigadiers and Sabor. Midas touch, much?

Trend of the decade

The death of the **tablecloth**. And what will become of the capital's industrial laundrettes? They'll turn into restaurants, obv.



Restaurant of the decade

An impossible Q, like choosing your favourite child. Cheap eats from **Bao** and **Roti King** to high rolling at **Nobu London** (boring room, thrilling food) and **Sketch** (the opposite). My fave spot? **Kerb!** ■



Top Cuvée



WHAT IS IT...

A cosy neighbourhood bistro in Finsbury Park.

WHY GO...

Remoulade. Tenderstem. Salsa verde. And all the bits in between.

→ 177b Blackstock Rd, N5 2LL. ↻ Finsbury Park.

YOU DON'T REALLY go to the Blackstock Road expecting bistros or wine bars, so Top Cuvée is a welcome addition to the area, and was already doing a lively trade on the cold autumn weeknight of our visit. Outside, lashing rain obscured the view of the Arsenal Tavern opposite (no bad thing), inside, the space was warm and cosy, with a friendly, easy-going vibe (a very good thing). And the short but well-planned menu was even better.

Choosing from charcuterie and an appealing range of small plates, we were treated to well-timed courses that worked well both as individual dishes and as a rounded menu. A creamy celeriac-and-apple remoulade with candied walnuts offered a delightful mix of sharp and sweet, ahead of a generous plate of smoky tenderstem broccoli with almonds and paprika.

And the salsa verde accompanying a mackerel fillet was more than a match for the depth of flavour of the fish. There were, sadly, a few duff notes; a veggie cassoulet was bland and a bavette steak tough and underseasoned, but on a street where options aren't limited, this one, capped off with a good (if pricy) wine selection, is still a winner. ■

Yolanda Zappaterra
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £100.



EXCLUSIVE

HAWKSMOOR SPITALFIELDS BAR



Fancy a delicious dining experience? You can get a main, side and cocktail at Hawksmoor Spitalfields Bar for just £20 from January 1st 2020. Choose between the 'Big Matt' burger, fried chicken and the Brick Lane sub. Now, eat up!

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TimeOut
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TOP CUVÉE: THEYCALLMEIST - GRAHAM TURNER

Drink

Edited by Laura Richards
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

BAR OF THE WEEK

Kanpai Sake Taproom



IN THE SHADOW of rooftop bars and in among artist studios something has been quietly brewing. Because you don't distil sake, you brew it like a beer. And that's what married couple Lucy and Tom Wilson have been doing behind a graffiti-covered door in Peckham's Copeland Park since 2018. Kanpai sake brewery is the first place in the UK to produce the Japanese rice wine, and as such, it has a bit of a cult following that brings all sorts to its taproom. Open on Friday evenings and all day Saturday, it attracts a real mix of people – on our visit that included curious locals, a group of bucket-hat lads and a young Canadian couple on their travels engrossed in a game of cribbage (seriously).

The taproom spreads across a mezzanine above the fermentation bits and bobs, and it's split in two – a bar with a communal table beside it, and a dedicated tasting and event space. It's a cold place to drink in winter under a corrugated ceiling (some punters kept their coats on) but in summer you can take your sparkling sake to benches outside at the foot of the warehouse.

This is drinking that jolts your senses silly, so don't worry about warming up. You can try Kanpai's three core brews in a flight for £12 or £6 individually. They're really intriguing, with a slightly drier flavour profile for Western palates, and come served on cute Japanese coasters. Japanophiles can also order spirits and sakes

WHAT IS IT...

The bar attached to the UK's first sake brewery.

WHY GO...

Super-'kawaii' Japanese-style drinking.

→ Unit 2a Copeland Park, 133 Copeland Rd, SE15 3SN, Peckham Rye Overground.

from Japan or Asahi poured on tap. The cocktails are really inspired, too – a Plum Old Fashioned and a Umeshu Ginger Fizz were two

powerful drinks. But given the chill, many punters dived in with a £10 deal: beer or sake served with a steaming bowl of ramen (laddled from an urn behind the bar). If comfort food isn't enough, go for a comfort break – there's a jet-powered Japanese toilet to discover. Big cheers all round for this original spot. ■
Laura Richards





THAT WAS THE 2010s

Laura Richards Drink editor



Person of the decade

Ryan Chetiyawardana aka Mr Lyan rewrote the cocktail rulebook, giving Londoners a fleet of champion bars to enjoy, plus drinks like the Bone Dry Martini. ■

Trend of the decade

Craft: **craft beer, craft gin and craft everything in between.** The capital became a massive hub for delicious artisanal production.



Bar of the decade

Reopening just before the start of the decade, the **Connaught Bar** was consistently breathtaking thanks to Agostino Perrone and his adept team. Its Martini trolley is easily the item of furniture of the decade.

DRINK THIS

Hot Crumpet Highball



Not content with eating your own bodyweight in mince pies this Christmas? Keep your calorie count up with your drinks, too, over at Market Hall Fulham. The food hall has a range of cocktails filled with winter flavours, including the Hot Crumpet Highball. It's made with brown-butter-washed Johnnie Walker whisky, plus spiced pear and ginger flavours, and is served with an elegant crumpet garnish. It supposedly pairs well with the fried chicken sandwich from Butchies. You know, in case those calorie KPIs aren't being fully met. Get to work. ■

→ Market Hall Fulham, 472 Fulham Rd, SW6 1BY. ↻ Fulham Broadway. Until Sun Dec 22. £5.



Turns out getting pulled over by the police isn't always bad news

It started as a day much like any other for our delivery driver. But later that morning, as he was carefully navigating the A64 with a precious cargo of Landlord casks, the flashing blue lights of the North Yorkshire constabulary appeared in his mirror. Our driver pulled over, but rather than issue a ticket, the officer wanted to order a delivery of Landlord to the police social club. Is it the combination of the finest ingredients and our traditional brewing methods that means some drinkers go that little bit further for that *arresting* taste of Taylor's?

All for that taste of Taylor's





Burning the Clocks

Escapes

Edited by
time



Brrrilliant winter day trips

On the sofa? Here are six reasons to get dressed and go outside

For closet pagans

When the sun sets around the same time as you're finishing your lunch, it's easy to turn inwards and forget all about what's going on beyond the double-glazing. And while you could hibernate until March, channelling your inner pagan is much cheerier. Brighton is, erm, brightening up the winter solstice with the **Burning the Clocks** parade. Lanterns snake round the streets before being passed on to a huge midwinter bonfire on the beach. This is as dark as it gets, so after that? Here comes the sun.

→ Burning the Clocks. Brighton, West Sussex. Sat Dec 21. Free for spectators. www.samesky.co.uk

For the fuzzy-headed

At some point over the festive break you'll need to leave the house. Make the trip to Oxford for this gorgeous walk over ancient **Port Meadow**. You can spot ponies and the Thames looking pretty on this tranquil stroll. And relax: it's still reassuringly close to civilisation. After stretching your legs, find a seat by the fire at The Perch, a thatch-roofed pub framed by an old willow tree. Its mulled cider is worth the trip alone.

→ Port Meadow. Oxford, Oxfordshire.

For frustrated commuters

Is there anything more magical than a train journey? Okay, let's rephrase that. Is there anything more magical than an old-fashioned locomotive? The charming **Kent & East Sussex Railway** runs from picture-perfect Tenterden to tiny Bodiam. Book a Crimbo Limbo trip to fill those awkward days between Christmas and New Year with something other than telly and turkey. All aboard!

→ Kent & East Sussex Railway. Tenterden, Kent. From £12. www.ksr.org.uk



For washing-up haters

Home cooks beware: a trip to this pub will put your roast dinner to shame. It's worth it, though, if only to say you've been to the only pub in the UK with two Michelin stars – Tom Kerridge's **The Hand & Flowers**. There's no overcooked turkey here, more like loin of venison with maple-roast pumpkin or beer-roast chicken with salt-baked celeriac. 'Tis the season for overeating.

→ The Hand & Flowers. Marlow, Buckinghamshire. www.thehandandflowers.co.uk

For the light-deprived

London isn't the only place lit up with LEDs this time of year. Swap Kew's sold-out trail for one at Wakehurst, Kew's bigger, rural sister site. At **Glow Wild** you'll find strings of astral shapes, a nocturnal soundscape and the UK's tallest living Christmas tree decorated with nearly 2,000 lights. The mellow hues make for a mega evening out.

→ Glow Wild at Wakehurst. Ardingly, West Sussex. Until Sun 22 Dec. £15. www.kew.org

For party planners

Hosting a festive shindig? Brush up on your cocktail-mixing skills at the **Bombay Sapphire Distillery**. Learn all about the gin-making process (stellar party small talk, sorted) and explore its botanical glasshouses. Take an hour-long tutored cocktail masterclass to learn how to shake up (and then sample) fruity blends and perfect Gin Martinis. ■

Ellie Walker-Arnott and Lucy Lovell
→ Bombay Sapphire Distillery, Whitechurch, Hampshire. From £17.50. www.distillery.bombaysapphire.com

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BURNING THE CLOCKS: JULIA CLAYTON / BARCROFT MEDIA VIA GETTY IMAGES



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