

TimeOut

LONDON



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became cool (again)**

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This week's Time Out
in no time at all

Year of the Pig

Amid all the firecrackers and lion
dances, ring in the Chinese New Year
(today!) with these little porkers

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'It's bittersweet and now I'm in the sweet part'

'Moonlight' director Barry Jenkins
two years on from #EnvelopeGate

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We round up the coolest things
to do in 2019. Finland's in
there – with the Air Guitar World
Championships. It's massive

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Barry Jenkins: Scott Chasserot; Air Guitar: J. Jusio Harrala



Miller time

Visionary US theatre director Rachel
Chavkin makes her London debut with
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Five-star bar

West End location, neighbourhood vibe.
How does ace new cocktail joint Fam
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Hello, London

Andrzej Lukowski
Theatre & Dance Editor



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City Life
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Video Angela Elvira Bruce
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Senior Contributing Editor
Laura Lee Davies

Designers Tom Havell
(Head of Design), Tim Clark,
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Picture Desk Manager
Ben Rowe

Photographer Andy Parsons
Head of Production
Dave Faulkner

Deputy Production Editor
Katie Mulhern-Bhudia

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YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

A Lego café popped up to mark the launch of the franchise's new film. One reader thought there might be interest in helping with the build. **'Wonder how many dads show up to help put it together.'**

Jay P via Facebook

Last week we told you about London loneliness. It can be hard to connect in this fast-moving city. **'Could we not just say "wanna be friends" to people who we like on the tube, though?'**

Emma E via Facebook

'The secret is great chat? Yeah... People love that on the Underground!'

Rhiannon M via Facebook

There are ways to make friends and there are... inadvisable tube behaviours. One thing that unites everyone is a snow day. We advised on how to have fun when the white stuff falls. But don't try this. **'Why does it not mention doing doughnuts in an empty car park?'**

Danny D via Facebook

We happily gave the new flagship branch of dumpling chain Din Tai Fung a four-star review but, sadly, Ayush here didn't agree with us. Ah well, you dim sum you lose some. **'The Russian dumplings I had in Krakow were better.'**

Ayush V via Facebook

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

In last week's mag we (very seriously) hand-picked tasty spots for you lot to try on your lunch breaks. All were nicely priced, aiming to satisfy your food cravings without rendering you skint. Alyce decided that the salt beef sandwich in Soho reminded her of a friend, for all the wrong (or right?) reasons. **'I saw this beef curtain sandwich and thought of you...'**

Alyce B via Facebook

A heads-up for you, Alyce: next week we're publishing our sex issue. Let's hope there's nothing in there to remind you of a sandwich.

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Although the long, warm days of summer may feel like a distant memory, the arrival of winter needn't be a bad thing. As temperatures drop and nights draw in, so too come cosy evenings by the fire and the twinkling of festive lights in trees and windows across the country.

Crisp mornings sparkle under a layer of frost adorning trees and pavements alike with glittering white, and steamy clouds of breath billow from the mouths of commuters on their way to work. But as we head further into the season and the weather takes a turn, problems can arise across the rail network.

When winter weather strikes we run snow-and-ice-busting trains round the clock to keep you moving. These special trains are kitted out with anti-icing fluid, which works in a similar way to salt gritters on the road, preventing our electric rail from freezing in the first place. And they apply an adhesion gel to the tracks so that trains can get grip.

We also fit certain points along the tracks, particularly in places where trains change direction to other lines, with heaters and NASA-grade insulation to further prevent ice build-up. That's right, the battle against snow and ice has become space-age.

ICE,
ICE,
MAYBE?

When the mercury plummets, even the lightest shower of rain or dusting of snow can freeze and become compacted on the rails, turning into dangerous ice. Not only does this freeze around the electric rail and create an insulating effect preventing trains from drawing power and being able to move with any speed – in the worst cases, it prevents them from being able to move at all.

To try to keep disruptions to your journeys to a minimum, we may have to make some changes to our timetables when bad weather hits. Some services will be less frequent, and some stations may close, but this allows us to complete all the work needed to keep you moving, albeit a little slower than usual to keep you and our staff as safe as possible.

**The weather outside might be frightful,
but we know you've got places to go.**

**This winter, our snow-and-ice-busting trains
will work around the clock to keep you moving.**

Find out more at southeasternrailway.co.uk/winter-weather

City life

Edited by James Manning
@timeoutlondon

Babylon's burning

THE BUSH THEATRE in W12 has been home since 1972 to some of the city's sharpest emerging playwrights and their work. It has always sought to tell contemporary stories and celebrate diverse voices, and this week it's being taken over by producer-curator Tobi Kyeremateng for the **Babylon Festival**, which seeks to shine a light on the black and brown people influencing London's creative scene right now. As part of the week-long programme you can immerse yourself in live DJ sets by Nabihah Iqbal and soul collective Touching Bass, listen to rising arts org Female Muslim Creatives discuss the experiences of Muslim women in the art world, catch queer cabaret from The Cocoa Butter Club (pictured) or learn how to vogue with ballroom queen Jay Jay Revlon. Platforming London's black and brown creative communities, Babylon is an exciting glimpse of this city's mad levels of underexposed talent. ■ *Paula Akpan*

→ Bush Theatre. ☉ Shepherd's Bush Market.
Until Feb 9. £7-£18.



THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



Eat this

Start the Year of the Pig in appropriate style at Mayfair Xi'an joint **Murger Hanhan**, which is giving away a free pork murger (flat Chinese burger) with every order of pork noodles. Oink!



Do this

White City is going up in the world – new hangout **W12 Studios** opens this week with live music, guest chefs (think Cue Point and Zoe's Ghana Kitchen) and free pints for the first 500 bookings.



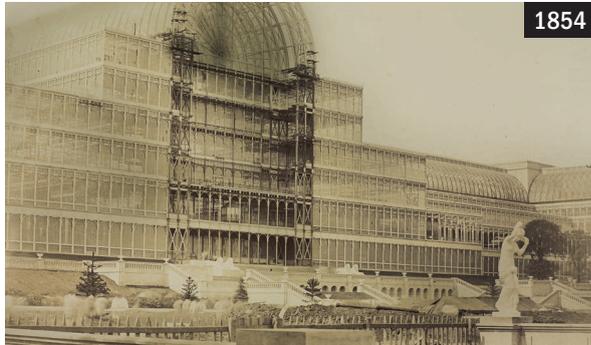
Drink this

It's not hard to pour a decent negroni, but how about a great one? DrinkUp.London and TT Liquor host **The Negroni Experiment** on Wednesday, teaching vital skills at two boozy masterclasses.

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

THEN AND NOW

The Crystal Palace



1854



2019

BACK IN THE nineteenth century, various Victorian bigwigs decided to put on a massive exhibition showcasing Britain's world-leading industrial technology. But there wasn't anywhere big enough to house such a show, so one Joseph Paxton was commissioned to create the largest glass building ever seen. His 'Crystal Palace' popped up in Hyde Park for six months in 1851 and the Great Exhibition was a huge success. But what to do with the epic edifice after that? The solution: move it to Penge. The Crystal Palace was soon rebuilt on Sydenham Hill, with photographer Philip Henry Delamotte documenting the process.

Set on Italian-style terraces in a new park full of fountains and sculptures, including the now-famous dinosaurs, the building became a London landmark, hosting concerts, festivals, circuses, diplomatic receptions and even the world's first cat show. Over the years, the surrounding area became known as Crystal Palace. But in 1936 the building burned to the ground, watched by 100,000 people. All that is left today are the terraces and the dinosaurs. ■ *James Manning*
 → Crystal Palace Park. Crystal Palace rail. Archive image from Collage - The London Picture Archive, a free online database of more than 250,000 historical photos, maps and prints of London. collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk.



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

Driving instructor

Scott Cooper, 45

London drivers hate seeing L-plates

'Every instructor will tell you that people are getting more and more impatient with learners, but the people who spend the most time on the roads tend to be the most complacent and take the most risks. Learners are much safer than people think. I've been crashed into three or four times, and it's never been the pupil's fault.'

If you can't pass your driving test, try a different test centre

'That worked for a girl who came to us at Red. She'd failed four times at one test centre, but when we took her to a different one, she passed first time because she wasn't distracted by thinking about where she'd failed before.'

Steep costs make for unsafe drivers

'We recommend 50 hours of practice before taking a test, and it's £25 on average for a lesson in London – so you do the maths. As a result I see lots of parents pushing their children to do tests before they're ready. The worst-case scenario is not that they fail but that they pass before they should.'

Different students can need very different teaching methods

'With disabled students, the hardest bit can be getting them to believe they can ever pass. One of my guys has no lower limbs – he has a hand-controlled car which I had to learn to use myself first. Another girl struggled with reading and writing, so I needed to explain things like the difference between "before" and "beyond" – crucial at a stop sign! But once she'd passed her theory test, she was flying.'

London roads offer infinite variety

'It's always good to vary it up. I teach around Romford but there are no roads in London I would dread taking a pupil. Even the maniacs, taxis and tuk-tuks by Leicester Square provide a valuable experience.' ■ *Interview by James Fitzgerald*

→ www.reddrivingschool.com

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'I was strong as an ox until I reached my quarter-century.'

'A little bit of wind and everyone's turning their knickers inside out.'

'The trouble is that he's really into rimming me – but what are you gonna do?'

'Do you want to see a compilation of me sneezing?'

'That Nando's was as fiery as you've been today.'

'Who goes to meet someone with a fag hanging out of their mouth? It's not the '70s.'

'Apart from Jeremy Clarkson, there is nothing more annoying than having a cough!'

'Ooh, I think I've over-creamed.'

'I walk up all escalators now – it's my new year's resolution. Oh, apart from the Northern line ones, because *fuck* no.'

Overheard any outré exchanges? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

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CITY ENVY

Great things that we love in other cities

Malmö's Disgusting Food Museum

MAGGOT-INFESTED CHEESE and bull penis would look a bit out of place on most London restaurant menus. But *casu marzu* (literally 'rotten cheese') is a Sardinian speciality, while bovine todgers (as pictured) are eaten as an aphrodisiac in China. Now you can encounter, and recoil from, both of these delights at the temporary Disgusting Food Museum in Malmö, Sweden (housed in a former slaughterhouse; a pop-up version in LA closes later this month). Other great delicacies to look out for include roasted guinea pig and baby-mice wine. Hungry yet?



For the price of admission, visitors with a strong stomach can sample rotten shark from Iceland, fermented herring from Sweden and durian, a notoriously pongy fruit from Thailand and Indonesia. But beyond the perverse fascination and vids of you out-eating your mates, the message is a serious one. Paradoxically, the museum of gross grub aims to widen our appreciation of other cuisines by exposing disgust as a cultural construct. Something that provokes a 'hell no' from some diners might be gobbled down by others. 'We need to question our ideas of disgust

if we're going to consider some of the more environmentally friendly sources of protein, such as insects,' says curator and 'chief disgustologist' Samuel West. If all this sounds like enough to make you puke, the museum's got your back: your entry ticket doubles up as a barf bag. *Bon appétit!* ■ *Kyra Hanson*

→ The Disgusting Food Museum is open in Malmö until Sep 1 and in LA at A+D Museum until Feb 17. www.disgustingfoodmuseum.com

Now, what's for lunch? timeout.com/food

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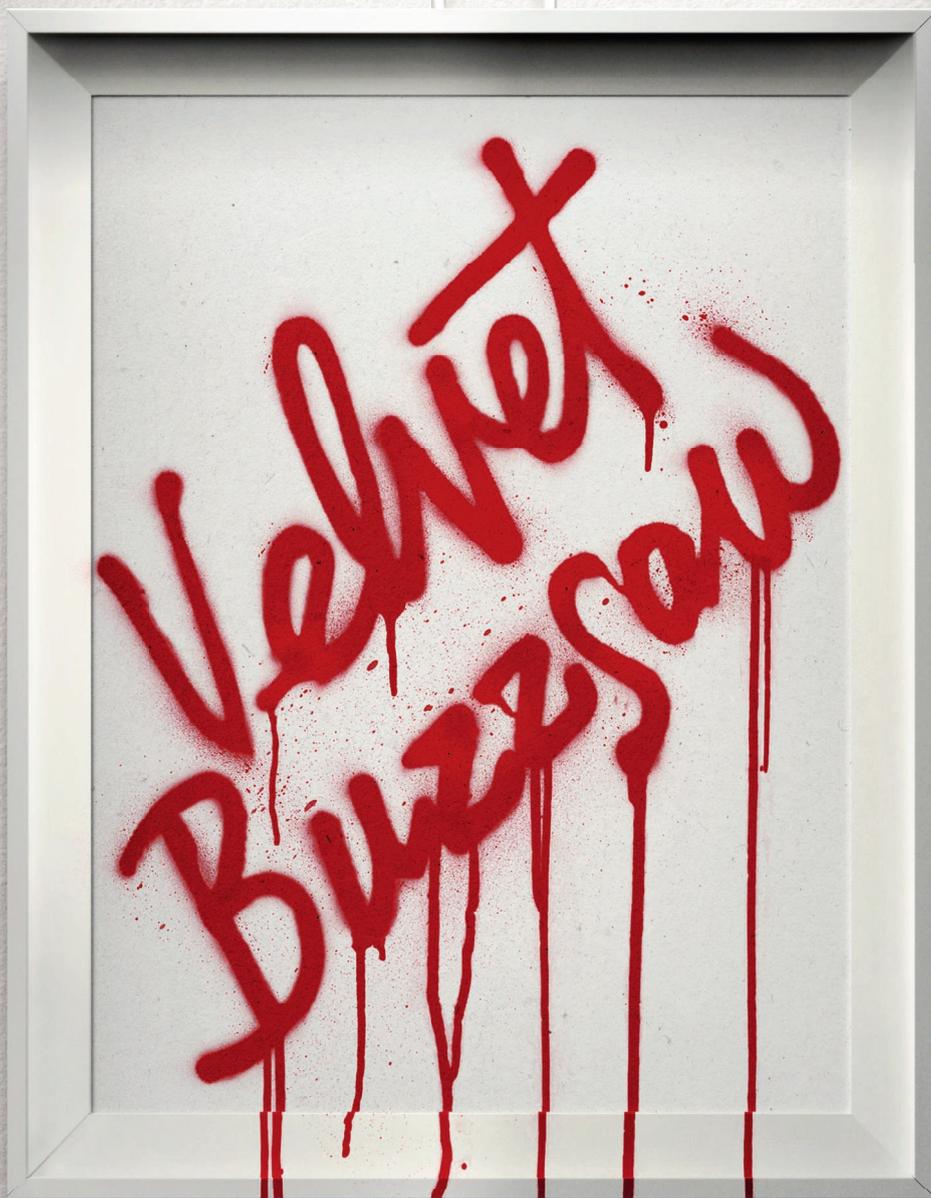
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ANJA BARTELEIN

JAKE GYLLENHAAL

RENE RUSSO



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NIGHTCRAWLER

WRITTEN AND
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ALL ART IS
DANGEROUS

IT HAPPENED HERE

Londoners look back on their funniest (mis)adventures in the city.
This week: at Leicester Square tube station,
Zoe Lyons got an unexpected lift

THE UNDERGROUND NETWORK is a fine place for bizarre encounters, and I have had many over the years. But my most memorable was on the Piccadilly line back in the early noughties on a stinking hot summer's day.

Before I started doing stand-up comedy I was a waitress, a job I was terrible at due to my appalling hand-eye co-ordination, lack of organisational skills and bouts of utter disdain for members of the general public. This job dissatisfaction often left me dreaming of an alternative existence, and one day, while on a fag break, I saw an ad in the paper: a reality TV show was looking for contestants.

A few months later I was on a plane to Borneo as a contestant on the ITV programme 'Survivor'. After all, what did I have to lose? Two stone, it turned out, and the big prize money. So on my return to the UK I was back slinging plates, albeit in a much looser apron.

Going to work one morning a couple of years later, I found myself on a packed platform at Leicester Square with hundreds of fellow miserable commuters. I managed to squeeze into the front carriage, using the sweat of strangers as lube. The tube doors shut, but the train didn't move. Then the driver's door suddenly opened.

'Zoe Lyons, is that you?' the driver shouted down the carriage. 'Erm, yes... Yes, it is!' I shouted back, slightly taken aback. 'Get yourself up here!' he replied.

Ignoring the death stares from the other passengers, I made my way to the driver's cabin and sat down beside him. He closed the door and we were off.

There is no greater childish joy than getting to sit 'up front' on public transport. A journey I had done a thousand times took on a whole new dimension. Flying into the stations in the driver's cabin was a total thrill.

'I recognised you on the platform,' he said as we whizzed through the tunnels. 'I loved you in that programme "Survivor".'

We got to my stop and he opened the driver's door so I could leave through the carriage. My dreary journey to a job I hated had become a mini adventure.

Before closing the door he shouted after me down the train. 'Bye, Zoe! I thought you looked cracking in your bikini on the telly, by the way!' I might not have won the big cash prize on 'Survivor', but the looks I got from the sweaty-faced passengers who clearly had no idea what he was talking about were priceless.

That day, for the first time, I got to experience the unexpected benefits of being a Z-list celeb – surely the best sort of celeb, because the only way is up. Or, if you're really lucky, up front. ■
→ Zoe Lyons: 'Entry Level Human' is at the Soho Theatre until Thu Feb 7.
⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. £13-£17.



THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out Tastemakers have been Instagramming this week



'So, are you sticking to any new year's resolutions?'



'Will London ever get bored of floral decorations?'



'The best way to eat eggs? It might just be these Turkish beauties.'



'I've missed you too, London.'

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IN CINEMAS FEBRUARY 8

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THE VERY BEST OF

Marylebone

No matter how you pronounce it, this laidback corner of Zone 1 is well worth exploring. Scratch the surface with local tips from Time Out Tastemakers

→ Baker St. www.timeout.com/marylebone



BEST CHEAP EAT

'**The Golden Hind** for fish and chips – the food tastes just as good as your local and it's BYOB!' *Chelsey Campbell*

BEST DINNER

'**Boxcar Butcher & Grill** is a lovely date-night setting with amazing cuts and cocktails.' *Gabrielle Casey*
'My favourite Indian restaurant: **Trishna!** The food is full of flavour and the atmosphere is perfect for a special occasion.' *Leena Shah*
'**Chiltern Firehouse** for the amazing crab doughnuts – and to spot a celeb!' *Sasha Abraham*
'**Opso:** tasty Greek dishes served with a twist in a modern environment.' *George Christodoulakis*
'**Patty & Bun** for the most mouthwatering burgers and delicious sides of brisket nuggets and chicken wings.' *Chelsey Campbell*

BEST BRUNCH

'**Daisy Green** has a wonderful atmosphere at brunch, and their shakshuka is fab. Book in advance or be prepared to wait.' *Tara Protheroe*

'**Aubaine** at the weekend for a simple, delicious menu, friendly staff and a relaxed ambience.' *Edelyn Brawidjojo*
'If you are vegan then head to **The Gate** for their plant-based brunches.' *Karen Martin*

BEST BAR

'The elegant Georgian **Zetter Townhouse** for afternoon tea or a cocktail or two in Seymour's Parlour.' *Sasha Abraham*
'**Purl** is a great place for quirky cocktails.' *Dipti Hirani*

BEST THING TO INSTAGRAM

'**Marylebone station** is one of the prettiest in London and I always enjoy using it (as long as the trains aren't delayed...)' *Paula Kanesanathan*
'**John Lennon's blue plaque** on Montagu Square, where he lived in 1968.' *Chelsey Campbell*

BEST PLACE TO SHOP

'**Another Country** and **Bella Freud** for considered shopping; **Daunt Books** for a carefree afternoon hunting for new literary additions; **La Fromagerie**

for all the cheese.' *Emma Jane Palin*
'**The Conran Shop** is my temple! It's a fabulous place with homeware for any taste.' *Iza Kawecka*
'Browse organic produce at **Marylebone Farmers' Market**, with plenty of stalls offering fresh organic fruit, veg, dairy, seafood and meat.' *Edelyn Brawidjojo*

BEST PLACE FOR CULTURE

'Wander through the halls of **The Wallace Collection** and see a huge collection of furniture, paintings, armour and unique objects – and all for free!' *George Christodoulakis*

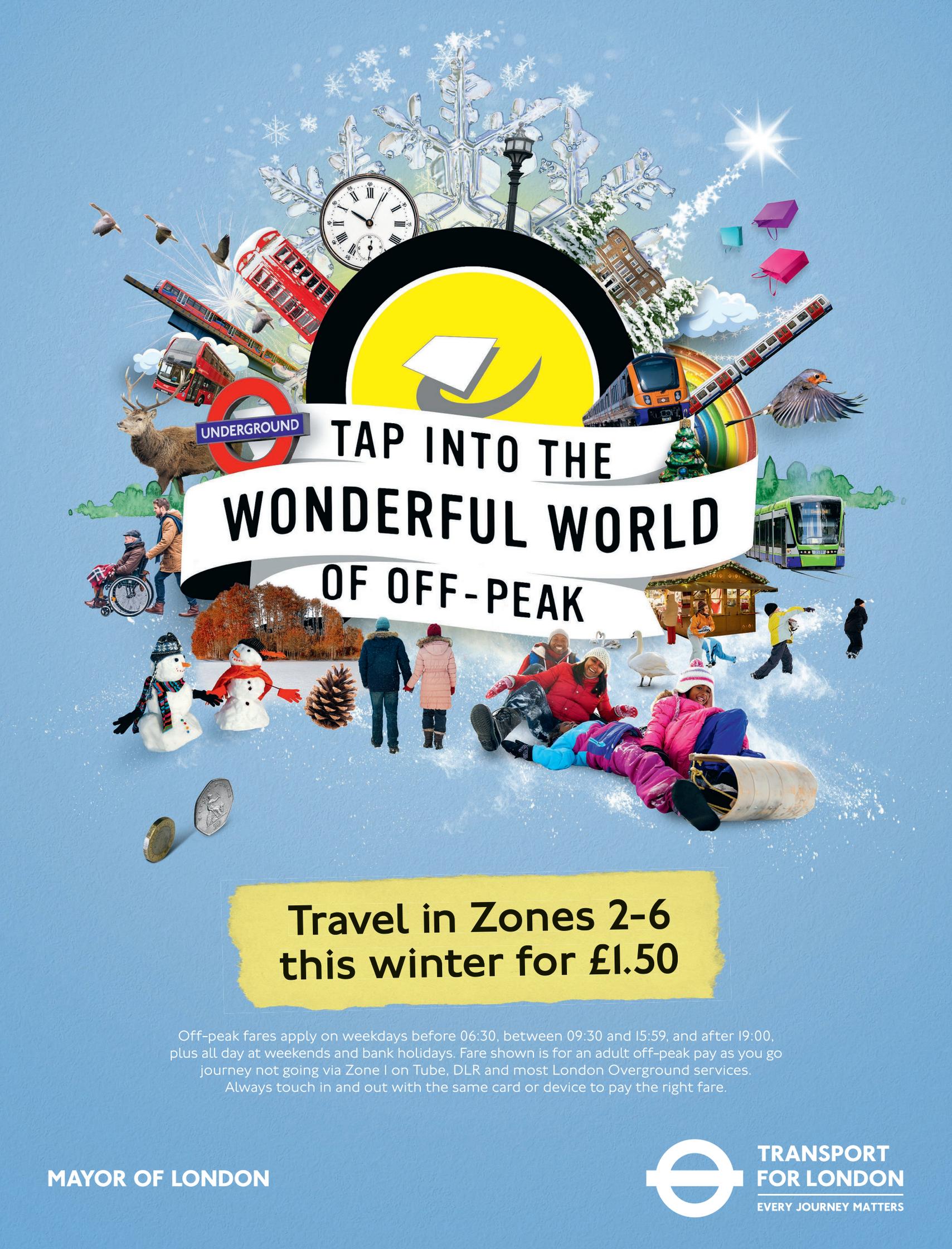
BEST STREET TO WALK DOWN

'**Marylebone High Street.** It's surprisingly full of locals, so it's great for people-watching, window-shopping and checking out nice cafés and beautiful buildings.' *Ioanna Laskari*

BEST GREEN SPACE

'**Regent's Park**, of course! Have a picnic on the grass or a go on the boating lake.' *Chelsey Campbell*

You'll find more handy area guides at www.timeout.com/neighbourhoods



TAP INTO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF OFF-PEAK

**Travel in Zones 2-6
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Off-peak fares apply on weekdays before 06:30, between 09:30 and 15:59, and after 19:00, plus all day at weekends and bank holidays. Fare shown is for an adult off-peak pay as you go journey not going via Zone 1 on Tube, DLR and most London Overground services. Always touch in and out with the same card or device to pay the right fare.

MAYOR OF LONDON



**TRANSPORT
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FREE LONDON

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



DON'T MISS

PUP-UP EXHIBITION

The National Paw-trait Gallery

Dog enthusiasts and actual dogs should head to this exhibition where the photos will be hung at a pooch's eye level. Coo over portraits of disabled dogs and iconic pups including the original 'Blue Peter' dog and the Queen's corgis. There will also be a doggy photo booth. Barking mad.

→ Protein Gallery. ⊕ Liverpool St. Thu Feb 7-Sat Feb 9.

FELINE GOOD Ninth Life pub opening weekend

Its name inspired by Catford (y'know, because of the whole cats have nine lives thing), this newly opened pub is having a four-day launch party. Head down for DJ sets, live music, art workshops and comedy cabaret.

→ Ninth Life. Catford Bridge rail. Thu Feb 7-Sun Feb 10.

C'EST CHIC 'The Dior Collection'

Immerse yourself in the world of Christian Dior at this photography exhibition. Through high-fashion shoots and behind-the-scenes snaps, the show charts the impact of such an iconic designer on the fashion world.

→ Proud Central. ⊕ Charing Cross. Thu Feb 7-Apr 7.

PIG OUT Chinese New Year

Dance performances and music will fill the Museum of Childhood in celebration of Chinese New Year and the Year of the Pig. See traditional lion dancing, learn fancy penmanship at a calligraphy workshop and peruse a Chinese children's art show.

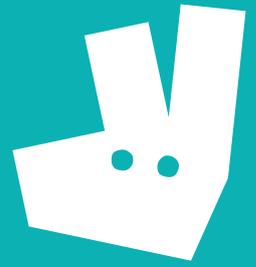
→ V&A Museum of Childhood. ⊕ Bethnal Green. Sat Feb 9.

ZOMBIE NATION 'The Walking Dead: ArtApocalypse'

Fans of horror show 'The Walking Dead' can get their fix ahead of the show's return at this interactive exhibition. Experience reenactments of classic scenes, see prop replicas and even have a zombie makeover.

→ Old Truman Brewery. Shoreditch High St Overground. Fri Feb 8-Sat Feb 9.

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The new shows making musicals

FOUR

Four new musicals are launching in London this month. Existing shows are drawing huge audiences. *Andrzej Lukowski* asks: is this a golden age for singing on stage?



The new shows making musicals cool



'Hamilton'

LAST SUMMER, LONDONER Ernest Amoako – not a fan of musicals – was annoyed that his girlfriend had bought them tickets to see a show called 'Hamilton'. It clashed with the France vs Belgium World Cup semi-final and he was not happy. That changed once the curtain went up.

'By the end of the first song I'd forgotten about the football and was hooked on the hip hop,' enthuses the 29-year-old Bethnal Green resident. "'Hamilton' is a musical of a type that's never been seen before. I'm a big hip hop fan, so to see rapping on the West End was always going to go down well with me, however I wasn't expecting how catchy and clever the songs would be.'

It's not a unique story. Chris Dawson, 48, a web designer, had seen some musicals. But none had ever moved him until a few weeks ago when – as a fan of Anais Mitchell's cult folk album 'Hallelujah' – he'd gone to the National Theatre to see the musical version. He was blown away – 'I spent some of the time watching it with tears in my eyes' – and is now hoping to see 'Hamilton'.

Musicals have been the lifeblood of the West End for decades now, often teetering towards the guilty pleasures category. But now they're becoming cool, and in doing so are connecting with huge new audiences.

The stats back this up. Last month, the Society of London Theatre released its annual box office figures for the West End, which showed that Londoners have gone musicals mad: in 2018 audience numbers for the genre were up by 8.2 percent, to 9,460,743, and gross box office revenue was up 15.4 percent to a whopping £503,950,355. And there's no slowdown in sight.

Last Monday marked the start of a flurry of major musical

arrivals, with three Broadway smashes hitting the West End – 'Come from Away', '9 to 5' and 'Waitress' – and a fourth show, the year's big Brit contender in the shape of Paul Whitehouse's 'Only Fools and Horses the Musical'. In the summer we're getting another Broadway sensation, 'On Your Feet!', and in late autumn we're finally going to see the multi-Tony-winning 'Dear Evan Hansen', and pop producer Max Martin's tongue-in-cheek 'Romeo and Juliet' sequel '& Juliet'.

So what's going on?

We need to start with 'Hamilton'. Lin-Manuel Miranda's hip hop musical about the colourful life and times of US Founding Father Alexander Hamilton has been a genuine gamechanger, mixing old-school hip hop with massive showtune melodies, pointedly diverse casting and a thrilling true story. It's sucked in hip hop fans like Ernest who'd never dreamed they would fall for a musical. He and his friends now have a 'Hamilton' WhatsApp group.

**In 2018
box office
revenue
was up
15.4
percent**

'Hamilton'



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The new shows making musicals cool

●●●●●●●●●●
'Musicals can be the most visceral, cathartic theatre'

In it they trade their own versions of songs from the soundtrack. 'Each rendition raises the bar on the last one,' he says. 'Beatboxing, duets and harmonies have now become the norm.'

Opening on Broadway in 2015 to huge acclaim, 'Hamilton' made a superstar out of Miranda, and became so oversubscribed that top ticket prices soared into the four figures.

'We were in the same season as "Hamilton",' says Diane Paulus, the US super-director helming 'Waitress'. 'And it's good for everyone because suddenly theatre is on the front page of the newspaper, you go to parties and everyone's talking about musicals. That has always been my dream: how do we get theatre back into the mainstream?'

'Hamilton' fans have plenty of interesting new shows to check out now, too. 'Come from Away' is an interval-free 100-minute folk musical that's entirely made up of the real-life stories of people stranded in the remote Canadian town of Gander after their planes were grounded by 9/11. 'Dear Evan Hansen' is about a lonely young man who insinuates himself into the life of the family of a classmate who killed himself. 'Waitress', about a smalltown server who dreams of escape, tackles big themes of domestic abuse, via the medium of spiky pop from songwriter Sara Bareilles.

'Whether it's Sara Bareilles or Lin-Manuel Miranda, I think Broadway is having a great moment of pushing the boundaries of what sort of music is considered a musical,' says Paulus. 'So I think that's



'Come from Away'

increasing the audience. And also the subject matter: the idea that musicals are fluff or are comedy – they can be, but they can also be the most powerful, visceral, cathartic ritual theatre.'

Sure, there are those light shows: '9 to 5' is a hen-do-friendly adaptation of the Dolly Parton film; 'On Your Feet!' is a jukebox affair based around the music of Gloria and Emilio Estefan; '& Juliet' looks enjoyably ridiculous. Not every musical should be 'cool'; but there are a lot more smart shows garnering widespread hype now.

Another gamechanger for musical theatre: Spotify. When the 'Hamilton' soundtrack hit number three on the Billboard 200 album chart in 2016 (it's still in the top 50), it was symptomatic of a new phenomenon: cast recordings becoming big on streaming services. That's great for the shows because it gets the songs out there. When the cult musical 'Heathers' opened in London last summer, tickets for the tryout run sold out almost instantly. →



'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'

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THE WONDERFUL EVERYDAY

The new shows making musicals cool



'Dear Evan Hansen'

We will surely need escapism more than ever



'Only Fools and Horses'

When it transferred to the West End, audience members could be overheard comparing notes on 'I Say No', a new song added for London that wasn't on the original American cast recording. All five of the new US musicals transferring to the West End this year have their songs up on Spotify already, winning them fans before a penny is spent on marketing in the UK.

One thing you may notice: almost all these shows are American. One way of looking at it is that we do the plays and they do the musicals. But it's hard to shake a sense that maybe we could be doing a bit better here.

'It is a pity that producers aren't investing in new British musicals in the same way [as American ones],' says Mark Shenton, head of the Critics' Circle. 'Though obviously it's easier – and less risky – to transfer a ready-made show.'

The RSC's 'Matilda' is the only monster homegrown musical smash of the past decade (though 2017's 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' is still pulling them in). Could 'Only Fools and Horses' be that next big hit? Or will it be stomped on by its US competitors? Sensibly, its director Caroline Jay Ranger is too busy to worry about it. 'We don't have the time to have rivals,' she says. 'Putting up a show is an all-consuming business and we wish the other new shows great

success. There is room for everyone,' adding that she just wanted to honour the legacy of John Sullivan, creator of the iconic Britcom.

Lest we have a crisis of confidence, remember that while we may not have come up with any of our own great musicals of late, we still put on world-class productions of the oldies. The Americans are chomping at the bit to get Marianne Elliott's reworking of Stephen Sondheim's 'Company', currently blowing minds at the Gielgud Theatre, while super-director Jamie Lloyd's take on Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Evita' is the hottest ticket of the summer.

So will 2019 be another blockbuster year for musicals in London? Well, Brexit isn't likely to be great for either box office or audience growth – don't expect quite such brilliant figures this time next year. But it's not going to stop people writing great musicals. It's not going to stop people staging new musicals, and it's not going to stop 'Hamilton' from being amazing. We will surely need escapism more than ever. And whatever happens, right now we're in a musical golden age – let's enjoy it. ■

Read reviews of the latest shows at timeout.com/theatre

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24 May > 02 June

Fri 24 May

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Spiritualized > Little Dragon > Peggy Gou Presents Gou Talk > Roisin Murphy >
Danny Brown > David August > Lane 8 > Little Simz > Optimo > Ibibio Sound Machine >
Petite Noir > Maurice Fulton > Josey Rebelle > Ge-ology > DMX Krew

Sat 25 May



THE RACONTEURS > INTERPOL
Johnny Marr > Parquet Courts > Jarvis Cocker introducing JARVIS IS... > Courtney Barnett >
Connan Mockasin > Anna Calvi > Bakar > The Nude Party > Viagra Boys

Sun 26 May

CHRISTINE AND THE QUELINS

JAMES BLAKE > METRONOMY > MARIBOU STATE
Kamasi Washington > Beach House > Honne > Kurt Vile > Princess Nokia >
Ezra Collective > Toro y Moi > Rina Sawayama > Bob Moses > Andrew Weatherall >
Yves Tumor (Full band) > Joy Orbison > Rina Sawayama > Baloji > Cuco >
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The show *must* go on...

London isn't short on hot new theatre, but some West End shows have become proper institutions. *Alice Saville* takes us through the longest-running musicals

33 YEARS *Les Misérables*

What is it? An epic tale of nineteenth-century Parisian rebellion. It's chock-full of stirring anthems that have sent generations of fans out into the streets ready to start a riot.

Did you know... The first preview of 'Les Mis' was nearly four hours long. Over successive nights, it got cut to ribbons. One unlucky cast member had all his lines taken away but one: 'Monsieur le Mayor, I have no words.'



32 YEARS *The Phantom of the Opera*

What is it? Musicals don't get more extra than Andrew Lloyd Webber's '80s extravaganza, with its intense central romance, operatic vocal antics and gothic sets and costumes.

Did you know... Despite the show's colossally ambitious staging, director Hal Prince only conducted rehearsals from 10am to 1pm. When a cast member asked what he did in the afternoons, he said he went home to watch 'Coronation Street'.



19 YEARS *The Lion King*

What is it? Families are still going wild for this live spin on the Disney movie. It mixes stunning savanna-inspired visuals with a 'hakuna matata' message that's breezier than a farting warthog.

Did you know... Costume designer Julie Taymor wowed critics with her innovative approach to creating this animal kingdom. Performers wear get-ups made from carbon fibre, a lightweight material that's also used to make Formula 1 cars.

Longest-running musicals

19 YEARS

Mamma Mia!

What is it? This Abba-filled show is the (dancing) queen of the jukebox musical genre. It mixes '70s bangers with a tale of a single mother whose romantic entanglements are so complicated they put 'Love Island' in the shade.

Did you know... With several women in key positions on the creative team, this show is a breath of fresh air in a male-dominated industry. Writer and single mum Catherine Johnson created her leading lady as a sunny antidote to judgy narratives about solo parents.



12 YEARS

Wicked

What is it? A dizzyingly imaginative rewrite of 'The Wizard of Oz'. It's won a die-hard worldwide fanbase for its focus on the magic of female friendship, and a pair of witches that are anything but wicked.

Did you know... 'Defying Gravity', the show's most famous number, is known for its stratospheric high notes. But in 2010, the song was actually played in space as a wake-up call for Nasa astronaut Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger.



7 YEARS

Matilda

What is it? A cast of anything-but-revolting children sing, swing and even ride micro-scooters through this adorable take on Roald Dahl's story of a child genius.

Did you know... Despite penning songs that even the most grudging parent would be proud of, composer Tim Minchin was nowhere near as swotty as the show's heroine. He quit piano lessons at Grade Two and still struggles to read music.



10 YEARS

Thriller Live

What is it? A moonwalking, fan-pleasing, hit-stuffed tribute to Michael Jackson.

Did you know... Its creator Adrian Grant's unlikely path into the world of musical theatre began when he founded a Michael Jackson fanzine in 1988. He subsequently befriended the legend himself. And when MJ's reputation floundered, he put together 'Thriller Live' as a way of shifting the focus back on to the star's talents.



5 YEARS

The Book of Mormon

What is it? The 'South Park' boys take aim at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with this sinfully filthy tale of missionaries in Uganda.

Did you know... The Church's response to this satire of its sacred text has been surprisingly chipper. When the show toured to Mormon heartland Salt Lake City, it turned the other cheek by buying programme advertising that said: 'Our version is *slightly* different.' ■



There are more unstoppable shows at timeout.com/theatre

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Secrets from the vegan kitchen

From jackfruit wingz to banana blossom 'cod', vegan food is getting increasingly creative. The chefs behind London's most innovative dishes tell *Owen Myers* how they make them. Photography *Rob Greig*



Seitan chick'n burgers

Rebecca McGuinness, co-founder, Temple of Seitan

'I worked at KFC when I was a teenager and the chicken was the one thing that I missed after I went vegan. Four years ago, there weren't a lot of vegan junk food options in London, so my husband Pat and I started making it ourselves at home. There were lots of seitan recipes online and in cookbooks, and so we started by making those. Then we'd try ones with our own flavourings. We'd get home from work and do ten batches, and every batch would have a little bit more or less of something. It was about getting the right flavour profile, texture and juiciness. Gluten flour is the main ingredient in seitan: we mix that with liquid ingredients and dry herbs as well as soy to give it a light colour. Then, we knead it until we find the elasticity that we

want. It's all about those fibres — with seitan, you're able to replicate those meaty strands and get a juiciness which you wouldn't really get from tofu or tempeh.

'We cut the fillet from the seitan and dip it in our own soy buttermilk, a special breading, and deep fry it. The buns for our chick'n fillet burgers have a potato component, so they've got that fluffy brioche-y thing. We make the seitan bacon, as well as the ranch mayonnaise with dill and chives. I think we were the first place to be styled as a solely vegan chicken shop. We've definitely got our regulars, and on the weekends there can be queues of people waiting up to half an hour. We even catered a wedding once!'

→ 10 Morning Lane. Hackney Central Overground.
103a Camley St. ↻ Mornington Crescent.





Battered cod made from banana blossoms

Danny Sutton, owner, Sutton & Sons

'In Veganuary last January, I wanted to jump on the bandwagon for vegan cuisine. Everyone's done "tofish", made from tofu, but I tried it and it didn't have any flavour. A friend of mine down the road has a Vietnamese restaurant, and he recommended banana blossoms. They grow on banana trees, like normal tree blossoms, and they've got a similar flavour to fish. My friend fries them with chilli and garlic in a rice dish, but I started messing about with them. We import them from Thailand and add the flavour of the sea with samphire,

seaweed pepper and seaweed salt. It plays with your mind and makes you think that you're eating fish. There's a couple of other things that I put in there, but we'll keep that on the hush otherwise everyone will be doing it. It's proven so popular that we opened a vegan shop in Hackney at the beginning of November: Britain's first vegan chip shop. That got massive press. We were in 110 different publications in one day. Now people come from all over the world to try it. Someone's even come from Australia!

→ 240 Graham Rd. Hackney Central Overground.



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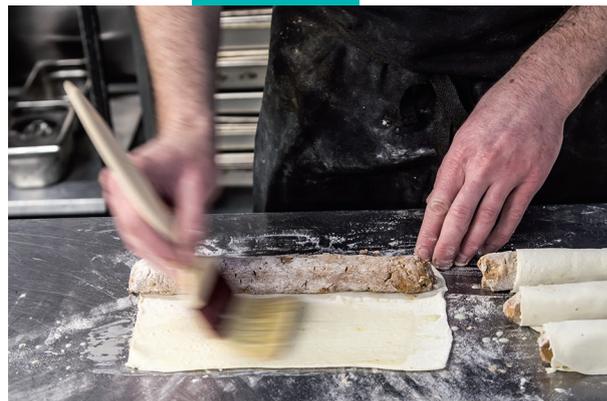


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'Chorizo' rolls

Andy Barnes, Head of Food,
The Fields Beneath

'We wanted to avoid seitan. It can be heavy on people's stomachs, and it's nutritionally void. We go the wholefoods way for our chorizo and sausage rolls. To make our sausage base we use whole kidney beans that we pulse with rice flour, chestnut mushrooms, onion and garlic, and a spice mix using ingredients like smoked paprika and fennel. (The fennel works really nicely – it's a unique, strong aniseed flavour.) We also add liquid smoke, which is made from smoking wood and bottling the condensation. You need that for anything with a smoked flavour. We then split the base off into a spiced sausage for our chorizo and a mix for the regular sausage rolls. But the recipe's always evolving. Right now we're trying out some using fava bean paste, which is like an English version of miso.'

'A lot of people ask, "Why would you want to replicate the texture of meat?" But a sausage roll is a sausage roll, whether it's meat or not. You have to use binding agents to make it firm, it has to sit in pastry nicely, and it has to have an earthy, flavourful [feel]. The spices are the same, so you still get that same taste. Our customers are our taste test. If they want it spicier, if they want it juicier, or if they want it wetter, we just adapt it. I think people are starting to respect vegetables and pulses more and apply as much care to them as they would do a meat dish.'

→ 52a Prince of Wales Rd. Kentish Town West overground.



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Vegan secrets



Jackfruit wingz

Biff Burrows, co-founder, Biff's Jack Shack

‘The ethos with all of our food is that there’s no compromise on taste, it’s complete indulgence. I used to be a meat eater and I loved wings. I was always a cook, and when me and my fiancée Christa found jackfruit, we thought, “that is the best meat replacement we can see”. Jackfruit is the size of a football and it grows anywhere in the tropics, from south-east Asia to the Caribbean. It’s actually considered a nuisance – it falls off trees and hits cars and stuff. We use young, green jackfruit. It’s not heavy like meat. It’s actually a fruit; it’s one of your five a day.

‘Jackfruit is very fibrous and has a neutral flavour, so you can cook into it. When you split it in half, you have to take the pods out, and then you braise them which softens them up. I’d say it took us three months to get the recipe right for the wingz — we’d try different herb and spice blends

with the jackfruit, different types of stock, and different thicknesses of the crispy batter. One of our most popular dishes is the Bang Bang Wingz. They’ve got a bit of a kick, with cinnamon-infused sweet chilli and a miso-blended mayo to give them that salty, unctuous, moreish flavour. On National Chicken Wing Day last year we had the world’s first vegan wing-eating competition. People made placards, and a vegan bodybuilder called Steph ate ten with really hot sauce in four and a half minutes. Since we opened 18 months ago we haven’t seen anyone else doing jackfruit wingz. It’s definitely our signature, especially with the sugar cane bone. We don’t serve them with forks, they come with serviettes. We say “get messy”... because food should be fun, right?’ ■

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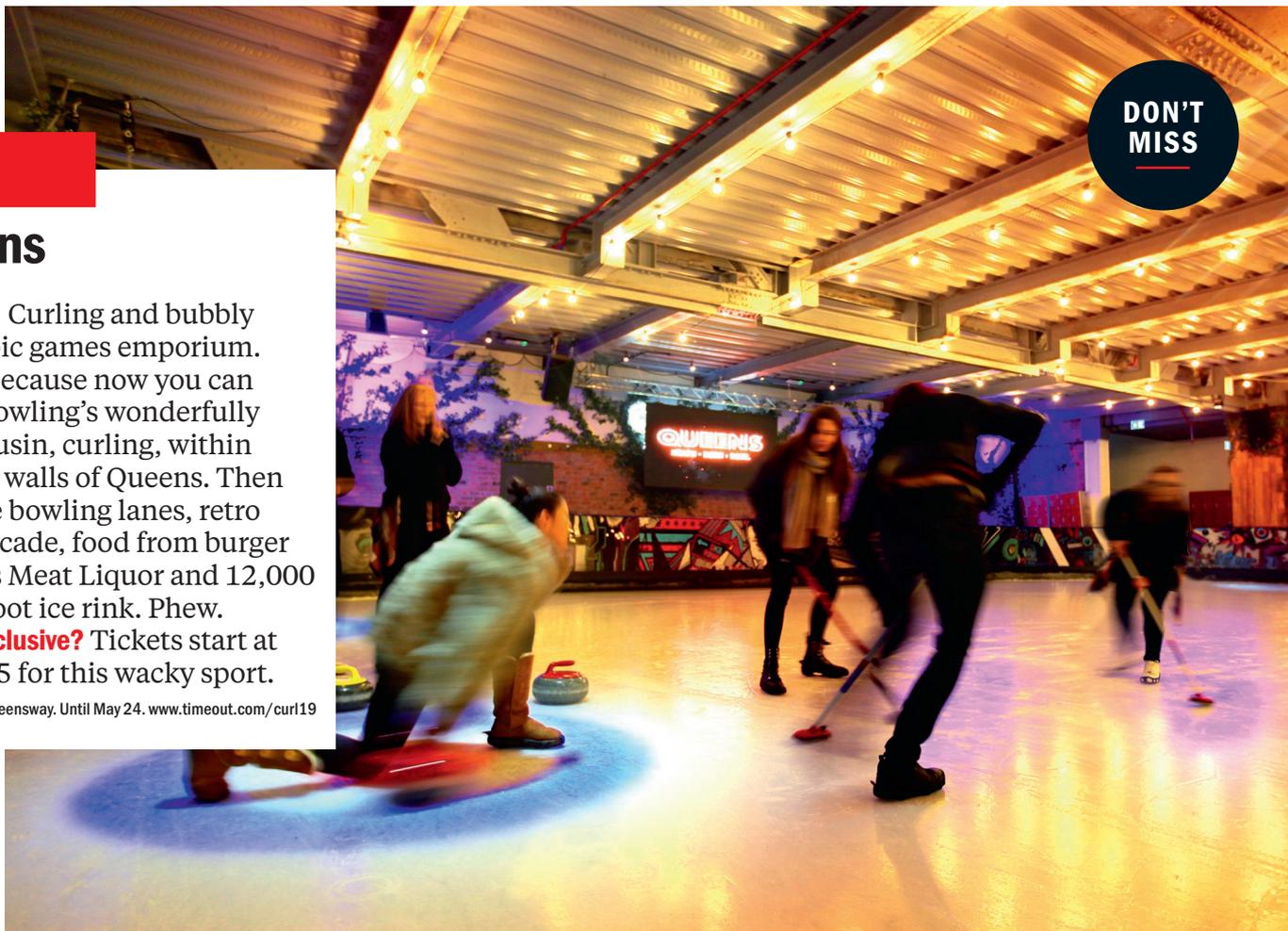
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What's exclusive? Tickets start at just £9.95 for this wacky sport.

→ Queens. ⊖ Queensway. Until May 24. www.timeout.com/cur119

'Swinging London: A Lifestyle Revolution'

What is it? A revelatory insight into the minds of the Chelsea Set.
Why go? From Mary Quant to Terence Conran, this group of designers, architects and artists were at the vanguard of pop culture. Here's your chance to get to know them a whole lot better.
What's exclusive? We've bagged you 50 percent off – tickets are £9.90.
 → Fashion and Textile Museum. ⊖ London Bridge. Until June 2. www.timeout.com/chelseaset

The White Haus

What is it? Bottomless brunch at this cosy Farringdon eatery.
Why go? Because brunch (or 'breakfast part two') is the meal of champions. Set your alarm to snooze and enjoy everything from pastries to cheese fondue when you finally get up. Plus there's endless prosecco to wash it all down with, too.
What's exclusive? You'll get a load of tasty treats for only £30.
 → The White Haus. ⊖ Farringdon. Until April 27. www.timeout.com/whitehaus

National Geographic Traveller events

What is it? A variety of talks from travel powerhouse, *Nat Geo*.
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'The Price'

What is it? An Arthur Miller classic starring David Suchet as a snarky old furniture dealer.
Why go? To get your West End fix with this weighty play about family dynamics and the price of past decisions. This hypeworthy Miller revival comes from a successful run in Bath. Don't miss out.
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Travel

Edited by Gail Tolley
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The coolest events of 2019

Now's the time to make some seriously huge plans for the year ahead. *Alim Kheraj* and *Laura Richards* round up the best happenings across the globe. Ready, steady... go!

JANUARY

Explore the legacy of a controversial photographer **'Implicit Tensions: Mapplethorpe Now'**

is a two-part retrospective examining the life and work of photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, whose often divisive images documented a post-Stonewall, pre-Aids New York. Part one (January 25-July 10) highlights his work, including portraits and male and female nudes, while part two (July 24-January 5 2020) examines his legacy and impact on contemporary art.

→ Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA. www.guggenheim.org. Until Jan 5 2020.

FEBRUARY

Experience art in the Coachella Valley **(with not a tent in sight)**

Forget the music festival. At **Desert X**, outdoor art installations go on for 45 miles through the Coachella Valley in the two months before the whole of California flocks in to see Ariana Grande. Extreme desert locations will be temporarily home to ambitious and beautiful projects, from words projected on to mountains and a rainbow made of steel to a piece that crosses the US-Mexican border.

→ Coachella Valley, California, USA. www.desertx.org. Sat Feb 9-Apr 21.



Travel

Get a sweet Insta shot at a delicious pop-up museum

Up your Instagram game in 2019 with a trip to **Sugar Republic**, an Australian pop-up museum that focuses entirely on sweets. The candy creation will be heading back to Melbourne with 12 new areas, including a liquorice playground and a homage to 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'.

→ Sugar Republic, Melbourne, Australia.
www.sugarrepublic.com.au. Sun Feb 10-May 20.

See the work of a Dutch master on his home turf

To mark the 350th anniversary of Rembrandt's death, the Rijksmuseum is presenting all of his work in its collection together for the first time. **'All the Rembrandts'** includes 22 paintings (such as 'The Night Watch' and 'The Jewish Bride'), 60 drawings and 300 prints – the biggest collection in the world.

→ Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
www.rijksmuseum.nl. Feb 15-Jun 10.

MARCH

Get bookish down in the Deep South

Bringing together more than 130 authors, actors and musicians, the **New Orleans Literary Festival** luxuriates in the work of the inimitable Tennessee Williams, who called New Orleans his 'spiritual home'. Budding writers can hear famous scribes speak about their craft and there'll be literary discussions, walking tours and performances. Also in New Orleans at the same time (March 29-31) is the Saints and Sinners Literary Festival, a conference of LGBT+ writing. It's a bookworm's dream.

→ Various venues, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Mar 27-31.

APRIL

Attend Burning Man (but in South Africa)

AfrikaBurn is an official Burning Man regional event that, like the original, encourages creativity and the construction of a temporary city. Expect vehicles, costumes, performances and an intense sense of community in the heart of the desert.

→ Stonehenge Private Reserve, Tankwa Karoo, South Africa. www.afrikaburn.com. Apr 29-May 5.



Sugar Republic

MAY

Spend a few days living in an alternative community

The Town festival is a mock-village set up just a few hours outside Melbourne where you can spend time living in a healthy and sustainable community, while enjoying loads of electronic music. There will be role play.

→ Licola Wilderness Village, Licola, Victoria, Australia. www.culturejam.com.au. May 3-6.

Sashay away with the Met Gala

Okay, you might not actually be able to go to the Met Gala, but you can get close to it by going to the accompanying exhibition **'Camp: Notes on Fashion'** at the museum. This year, the theme is framed around Susan Sontag's iconic 1964 essay 'Notes on Camp' and explores how camp intersects with fashion.

→ The Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute, New York City, New York, USA.
www.metmuseum.org. May 9-Sep 8.

Experience the best of European pop first-hand

Getting tickets to the **Eurovision Song Contest** might be tricky (though not impossible), but don't panic. It's the first time Israel has hosted the camptastic comp in 20 years, so you can guarantee Tel Aviv will be alive with loads of parties and celebrations, both during the heats and on the big night. Viva la diva!

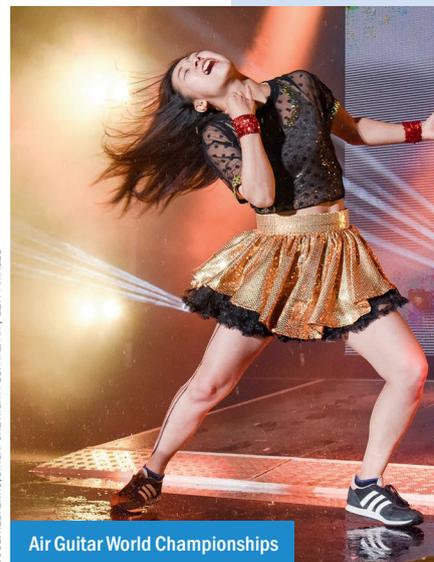
→ Expo Tel Aviv (International Convention Center), Tel Aviv, Israel. www.eurovision.tv. May 14-18.

JUNE

Lose yourself inside a giant multisensory pyramid

From one of the co-founders of Cirque du Soleil comes **PY1**, a giant pyramid that's both an immersive clubbing experience and a technological sensory playground. Hosting both experiences and club nights, the first production, 'Through the Echoes', involves projections, videos, lights, music and augmented reality. It will be one of those places you need to really see to believe.

→ PY1, Montreal, Québec, Canada.
www.py1.co. From Jun 1.



Air Guitar World Championships

AIR GUITARS: JUNE HANSA/SUGAR REPUBLIC; MET MUSEUM: MELBOURNE, MAO; COOL: PETER DENNIS/SINGAPORE NIGHT FESTIVAL; APY: GETTY IMAGES



Singapore Night Festival

Mark the anniversary of Stonewall

This year it's the **fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots** that took place in Greenwich Village. To honour the occasion, New York City has been nominated as the host of World Pride and there are a number of high-profile celebrations taking place. Along with the usual parade, Times Square will host a closing celebration. And you just know that the vibrant and varied queer venues in New York are going to turn it out.
 → Various locations, New York, New York, USA.
www.nycpride.org. Jun 1-30.

JULY

Explore a citywide arts festival in the north of England

This year's **Manchester International Festival** features a show by Janelle Monáe and a new stage production from Idris Elba and playwright-director Kwame Kwei-Armah, as well as 'Bells for Peace', a major commission by Yoko Ono.
 → Various locations, Manchester, UK.
www.mif.co.uk. Jul 4-21.

Try one of Europe's biggest new festivals

Mad Cool Festival might have only started three years ago, but it already draws 80,000 people each day. With an ace sound system and sunshine practically guaranteed, the line-up is basically the cherry on top. And it's one hefty cherry: this year's fest features Bon Iver, Vampire Weekend, The National, Smashing Pumpkins, The Cure, Robyn, Years & Years and a lot more.
 → Valdebebas-Ifema, Madrid, Spain.
www.madcoolfestival.es. Jul 11-13.

AUGUST

Get some shellfish for your soul

Boston is known for many things, including scrumptious clam chowder. In fact, the city has a stellar track record when it comes to seafood, which is where the **Boston Seafood Festival** comes in. Don't miss the all-day lobster bake or the battle of the shuckers.
 → Boston Fish Pier, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
www.bostonseafoodfestival.org. Aug 4.

Witness the masters of imaginary instruments

Now on to its twenty-fourth edition, the **Air Guitar World Championships** has a lofty ambition: bring about world peace and end climate change through the mastery of air guitar. Given that it's amassed a massive following, that could be on the way. Party on!
 → Venue TBC, Oulu, Finland. www.airguitarworldchampionships.com. Aug 21-23.

See the streets of Singapore get totally lit

For **Singapore Night Festival**, a massive street party takes over the city for two weeks in August each year. While its aim is to showcase the best in performing arts, it's the light installations on the façades of the Bras Basah and Bugis precinct that capture travellers' imaginations. Last year even saw giant glowing horses gallop through the area.
 → Various locations, Singapore.
www.nightfestival.sg. Dates TBC.



Mad Cool Festival





California dreamin': hello, Santa Monica

The Golden State is about more than the bright lights of Hollywood. Here's why it's time to escape to sunny Santa Monica with a tailor-made trip from Flight Centre

The beach, baby

The sandy outposts of the West Coast are enviable – and as the temperature increases, so does the need to soak up the sun here. Rightly so, because Santa Monica State Beach is an iconic landmark. With 3.5 miles of glittering coastline and a famous pier, it's unmissable. Fancy dining alfresco? Cuddle up in the cabanas of Hotel Shangri-La. If you're craving some calm, breathe in the sea air and dip your toes in the ocean. Sure it's a cliché, but there's nothing better.

To stretch your legs

Laidback and leisurely, Santa Monica offers a sweet slice of R&R. In this haven for couples, families and friends in need of a break, it's a breeze to while away the hours so close to the ocean. Stock up on

fresh fruit at one of the four weekly Santa Monica farmers' markets, wander through the idyllic Palisades Park and visit the impressive Santa Monica Camera Obscura. Since it's walkable, bikeable and full of activities, Santa Monica is a dream destination for those who want to go car-free – and Flight Centre can help arrange all of it for you.

There's a spot for everyone

Santa Monica is home to eight neighbourhoods, each with its own personality. From the artsy area of Main Street to buzzing Downtown, a trip here is like visiting multiple cities all at once, which means satisfying your wanderlust is as easy as pie. Not sure where to head first? No worries. Flight Centre has access to a range of hand-picked

hotels – the very best in the area – so finding a comfy base is not only easy, it's totally flexible too. In fact, Flight Centre's travel experts know all there is to know about Santa Monica, and can recommend everything from up-and-coming eateries to immersive experiences that will really get you under the skin of this beachfront gem. Plus, they have more than 16,000 Trustpilot reviews (with a score of 9.7, FYI), so you know your holiday is in good hands.

Location, location, location

Once you're sufficiently de-stressed and sun-soaked, it's time to venture further afield. And here's the good news: Santa Monica is a surprisingly short distance from both Downtown Los Angeles and Beverly Hills. So you could be strolling round exhibits at the Broad Museum or doling out your dollars on Rodeo Drive in less than an hour. Or pick up a hire car, put the roof down and cruise along the Pacific Coast Highway. The views beat the M25, hands down.

SANTA MONICA **FLIGHT CENTRE®**

More dates for your cultural diary at
timeout.com/coolestevents

SEPTEMBER

See a potential Oscar winner before anyone else

The **Toronto International Film Festival** has proved to be highly proficient at generating awards season buzz. It remains a public event too, which means you could have the chance to see the next 'Moonlight' or 'Slumdog Millionaire'.

→ Various venues, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
www.tiff.net. Sep 5-15.

Join in with a Bauhaus blowout

Celebrate 100 years of the German art school that spawned an influential movement in art and architecture. There's an impressive number of exhibitions taking place throughout 2019 – our pick, '**Original Bauhaus**', starts in September and gathers up 14 objects of artistic significance.

→ Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, Germany.
www.bauhaus100.com. Sep 6-Jan 27 2020.

OCTOBER

Explore an after-dark art festival

Everything is better at night, and art is no exception. Luckily, the people of Paris know this. On the first Saturday in October they host **Nuit Blanche**, an all-night celebration in which numerous artists and performers stage installations, exhibitions and concerts all round the city.

→ Various locations, Paris, France.
www.quefaire.paris.fr. Oct 5.

Slurp your way through Japan's best noodles

Work your way through the best bowls of ramen known to humanity, and all in one sitting. The **Tokyo Ramen Show** sees broth-heavy bowls served steaming to an international crowd of noodle lovers – so you'll probably need to get your elbows out at the most popular stalls. The event is so colossal that it's divided up into two parts, each with 18 different dishes to try. Our tip? Pack a bib.

→ Komazawa Olympic Park, Tokyo, Japan.
www.ramenshow.com. Oct-Nov, dates TBC.



Art Basel (2018)

NOVEMBER

Watch the sky light up in Thailand

The **Yi Peng Lantern Festival** fills the sky above the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai with beautiful, burning rice-paper lanterns. It's held at the time of year that locals believe is prime for making a wish for good fortune. Other activities include worship rituals, lantern decoration and a pageant.

→ Various locations, Chiang Mai, Thailand. Nov 13.

DECEMBER

Combine modern art and fashionable partying

Southern Florida meets Switzerland as **Art Basel** descends on Miami Beach for a few days in December. Work through the collections of more than 4,000 artists and hear inspiring talks from informed insiders. Given the city's excellent nightlife scene, do check out the line-up of satellite events too.

→ Miami Beach Convention Centre, Miami, Florida, USA. www.artbasel.com/miami-beach. Dec 5-8.

AND MORE!

Dive into the world of Studio Ghibli

Opening in late 2019, the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures promises to become a global hub focused on the history, science and art of filmmaking. The first exhibition is about a titan of Japanese animation, Studio Ghibli founder **Hayao Miyazaki**. Expect to see more than just a Catbus or Totoro at this show, which is the first retrospective of the filmmaker in the US.

→ Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles, California, USA.
www.academymuseum.org. Late 2019.

Discover food heaven in five cities across North America

This year Time Out will be opening five food and cultural markets – in Miami, New York, Chicago, Boston and Montreal. As with our bustling Lisbon original, each **Time Out Market** brings together a carefully curated list of chefs to serve up the best food the city has to offer, all under one roof. Keep your eye on the website for launch dates. ■

→ Various venues. www.timeoutmarket.com.

Tokyo Ramen Show



Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

SEVEN WAYS TO CELEBRATE

The Year of the Pig

Chinese New Year kicks off today, and the parties have just begun. Here's where to find the best parades and the cutest buns



The Year of the Pig Party at The Glory

The big free one

CNY begins on February 5, but the massive **Chinese New Year Parade** takes place this Sunday. Dragon and lion dances will kick things off down Charing Cross Road at 10am, shimmying down through the streets to Chinatown. At noon, Trafalgar Square's main stages will spring into action with dance, hip-hop acts and Chinese performers, closing with a pyrotechnics display. It's going to be banging.

→ Various venues. Sun Feb 10 from 10am. Free.

The 'good clean fun' one

Colourful dance performances will take over the **V&A Museum of Childhood** for a day-long tribute to Chinese New Year. Browse an interesting range of craft stalls and check out some adorably wobbly drawings at the temporary children's art exhibition.

→ V&A Museum of Childhood. ⊕ Bethnal Green. Sat Feb 9. Free.

The traditional one

Welcome in the crackling Year of the Pig by watching the **Shaolin Fists Lion Dance Troupe** perform a rather more powerful animal. Starting outside the main doors of Asia House, the show will weave its way through the building to the sounds of drums, cymbals and a gong. Don't forget to pick up your five lucky oranges along the way.

→ Asia House. ⊕ Oxford Circus. Thu Feb 7. Free.

The fabulous one

Get yourself to the **Year of the Pig Party** at The Glory for a queer Asian takeover, hosted by self-described 'Asian-American gluten-free loudmouth', London drag artist ShayShay. Make way for the stars of performance night 'The Bitten Peach', as well as throwback pop that will have you squealing all the way to the dancefloor.

→ The Glory. Haggerston Overground. Fri Feb 8. Free before 10pm, £8 after.





The one with buns

Some little piggies went to the market, but these little piggies from **Bun House and Tea Room** will keep your belly happy and your new year lucky. Gorge on these squishy, sweet and sticky char siu pork buns before heading to the Tea Room to sample proper Cantonese fare like Poon Choi, a festive feasting pot.

Gong hei fat choy! ■

Katie McCabe and Angela Hui

→ Bun House. ⊕ Leicester Square.

Until Sun Feb 10. From £2.80.

The underground one

Go below street level in Leicester Square to find a DIY exhibition of 100 artists in a public car park, organised by Elements Gallery. The show is called **'Four Legs Good, Two Legs bad'** – a line pinched from Orwell's *'Animal Farm'* – which sets the tone for the installations you're likely to see: Brexit poetry and riffs on capitalism and ecology. Consider the place of pigs in ancient literature and watch the fairytale of *'The Three Little Pigs'* reimagined through the medium of dance while Euro Asian electro blares through the car park. Gather your comrades, it's going to be... different.

→ Q-Park, Whitcomb St. ⊕ Leicester Square.
Sun Feb 10-Feb 16. Free.

The interactive one

Cross the bridges of Zhouzhuang and sit beneath a blooming Wishing Tree in erm... the Oxo Tower. For one day, Bargehouse on the South Bank will be turned into **'The Land of Luck'**, an hour-long experience with traditional dance and mini masterclasses. The £10 ticket includes six small dishes, such as Wealthlings (vegan dumplings) and a drink. Don't miss a session with The Tea Whisperer, who will teach you 'the art of tea-making and luck'. And you thought it was all about putting the milk in first...

→ Bargehouse Oxo Tower. ⊕ Waterloo.
Sat Feb 9. £10.



YEAR OF THE PIG PARTY: CORINNE CUMMING, DRAGON: THOMAS HAUSCHLDT/SHOTTERSTOCK

LATITUDE

18TH - 21ST JULY 2019
HENHAM PARK, SUFFOLK

..... OBELISK ARENA

FRIDAY 19TH JULY

**george
ezra**

SATURDAY 20TH JULY

**SNOW
PATROL**

SUNDAY 21ST JULY

**LANA
DEL REY**

SPECIAL CLOSING PERFORMANCE

UNDERWORLD

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CAT POWER · KHUANGBIN · ANNA CALVI · PALE WAVES · BAXTER DURY
WALKING ON CARS

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JULIA JACKLIN

..... COMEDY

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NICK HELM · RACHEL PARRIS · NISH KUMAR · LOLLY ADEFOPE

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SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



Woman SRSLY Late-Night Party

Performance crew Woman SRSLY take over The Yard's Now festival to celebrate female power. See artists Bang & Bollocks and Grace Nicol in an evening of DJs, dance and women wearing balloons.

→ The Yard Theatre. Hackney Wick Overground. Fri Feb 8. £10.

SIP London Pisco Week

Can't get enough of that piquant punch you get with a good pisco sour? Register for a digital pisco pass and order them at more than 20 participating bars for £6.

→ Various locations. Until Sat Feb 9. Free to register.

READ London Bookshop Crawl

Swap pints for poetry and negronis for novels with this literary pub crawl. Your head will thank you in the morning, even if your bank balance will haven taken a beating.

→ Various locations. Fri Feb 8-Sun Feb 10. Free.

Saturday

FUNDRAISE Deptford Heritage Festival

The community fest is back, with all profits from film screenings, talks and other events helping to tackle poverty in the area.

→ Zion Baptist Chapel. New Cross Overground. Until Feb 28. Prices vary.

DISCOVER LGBTQ History Workshop

Learn about London's queer history from these centuries-old archives.

→ London Metropolitan Archives. ☺ Farringdon. Sat Feb 9. £5.



Orchid Festival

If you've ever killed an orchid (let's face it, they're quite tricky) Kew's exhibition will leave you green with envy. This year's focus is Colombia, and its colourful flora and fauna.

→ Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. ☺ Kew Gardens. Sat Feb 9-Mar 10. Free with admission price.

Sunday

Grown & Thrown

Get your posh plants fix while pairing some exclusively created ceramics with cacti. What's more, with V Day not far away, it could be an ideal time to bag a gift for your favourite pot head.

→ DIY Art Shop. Dalston Kingsland Overground. Sat Feb 9-Sun Feb 10. Free entry.



LISTEN 'Depression in a Digital Age: The Highs and Lows of Perfectionism'

Join author Fiona Thomas as she offers a positive perspective on the mental health issues that affect many young people.

→ Conway Hall. ☺ Holborn. Sun Feb 10. £8.

LACE UP London's Coffee Revolution Running Tour

Perk up your weekend run and learn about the story behind the city's caffeine addiction.

→ Jamaica Wine House. ☺ Bank. Sat Feb 9-Sun Feb 10. £25.

For some other SRSLY good events head to timeout.com/thingstodo



Take your family on a perfect half-term outing in London

From festivals to inspire little imaginations to dino-themed mini golf, there's loads of off-peak family fun to be had in London over the school holiday

Need some ideas for entertaining the little ones during half-term? We've selected a bunch of exciting, hands-on activities – many of which are free. You can get to them all during off-peak hours (that's during the day, evenings and weekends), which means you'll be saving on travel too.

For grown-ups, Transport for London's off-peak fares start at just £1.50 for a single adult pay as you go fare. All kids under 11 can travel free at any time on buses and trams. Up to four kids under 11 can travel free at any time on Tube, DLR, London Overground, and TfL Rail services when accompanied by an adult.

1 Imagine Children's Festival

The Southbank Centre's annual festival for kids is a perfect half-term gem. Running February 13-24, it offers many free events for ages up to 12, including a rhyming workshop for under-fives (Feb 18), live music with Heart n Soul for children and young people with learning difficulties (Feb 20), and eighteenth-century doll making with drag artist Timberlina, followed by a doll parade (Feb 22). Some events require buying tickets, including an interactive Peppa Pig concert set to a live orchestra (Feb 15-17, £12-£16) and an out-of-this-world illustration session with 'The Skies Above My Eyes' children's author/illustrator duo Charlotte Guillain and Yuval Zommer (Feb 16, £6-£8).

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

Local bus routes 1, 4, 26, 59, 68, 139, 168, 171, 172, 176, 188, 243, 521.

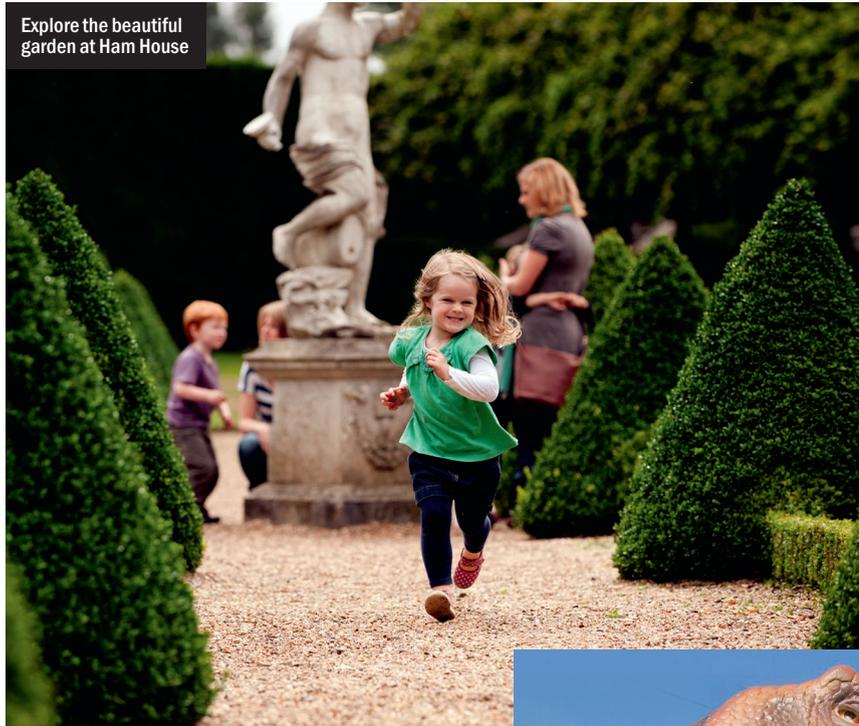
2 Golders Hill Park Zoo

Ever seen a ring-tailed coati up close? Go and have a gander this half-term. You'll find these adorable raccoon-like critters and more in Golders Hill Park Zoo. Located in the western corner of Hampstead Heath, visitors of all ages can stroll the leafy pathways to see mammals and birds, both exotic and indigenous to the UK. Elsewhere in the park is a bandstand and sculpture trail. Free.

Getting there Northern line to Golders Green.

Local bus routes 210, 268.

Explore the beautiful garden at Ham House



3 Mudchute Farm

Open daily, this inner-city farm is one of London's largest, stretching across 32 acres that offer a breath of fresh air away from the buildings of Canary Wharf. It's dog-friendly, with winding pathways taking you around the enclosures, which are filled with pigs, sheep, alpacas and more. Head there at 9am or 3pm to witness feeding time. Free.

Getting there DLR to Mudchute.

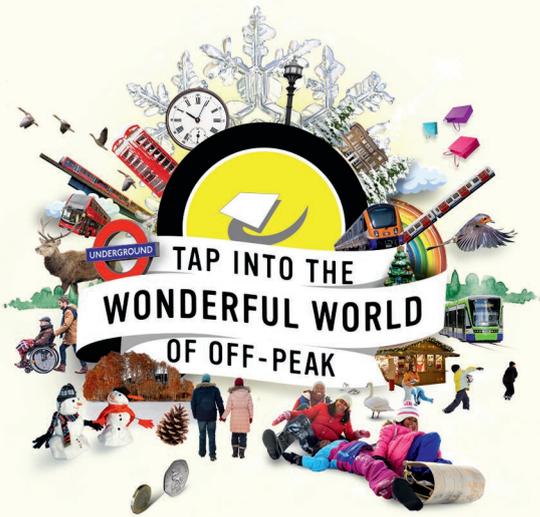
Local bus routes D3, D6, D7, 135.

4 Bongalong

As part of the first-ever London Borough of Culture programme, there will be workshops, talks, performances and more in Waltham Forest in 2019. One of those is Bongalong – a class where under-ones are invited to sing, dance and express themselves creatively. You'll find it at the London Borough of Culture hub – One Hoe Street – every Friday morning at 11am. £6.50.

Getting there Victoria line or Overground to Walthamstow Central.

Local bus routes 34, 97, 123, 215, 275, 357, 675.



Get putting at Jurassic Encounter



Have a magical time at Imagine Children's Festival

Promotional feature

GET THERE FOR LESS!

TfL's off-peak pay as you go fares mean that you'll save more pennies this half-term. Off-peak fares apply on all Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail services. You can tap into the wonderful world of off-peak every weekday before 6.30am, between 9.30am and 3.59pm, and after 7pm. Off-peak fares also apply all day at weekends and on public holidays. Always touch in and out with the same card or device to pay the right fare. Touch in only on buses and trams. To check a fare, search TfL's single fare finder.

Kids travel free!

All kids under 11 can travel free at any time on buses and trams. Up to four kids under 11 can travel free at any time on Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail services when accompanied by an adult. An adult is anyone 16 and over using an adult rate ticket (but not a Group Day Travelcard), pay as you go or travel concession.

Travel in Zones 2-6 for £1.50

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

Travel into Zone 1 from £2.40

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

Travel by bus and tram for £1.50

TfL's Hopper fare lets you make unlimited bus and tram journeys within one hour of first touching in for just £1.50.

Travel in Zones 2-6 this winter for £1.50

5 Family activities at Ham House

During half-term, seventeenth-century Ham House needs help from budding gardeners. Find out what goes into planning and creating your own pretty plot in the Family Picking Garden (Feb 18-19), then learn how to prepare the flowerbeds for seeding by shuffling like penguins over the soil (Feb 20-21). Both events start at 11.30am. Don't forget to wrap up warm and wear shoes you don't mind getting muddy. Free with museum admission (£12.50 adults, £6.25 children, £31.25 family). Booking advised.

Getting there District line to Richmond.

Local bus routes 65, 371.

6 Jurassic Encounter

Imagine how much more fun mini golf would be with nine massive dinosaurs that move and roar! Jurassic Encounter isn't just a mini golf course, it's an adventure in time travel that'll have you putting in prehistoric caves, beside murky waterfalls and over rocky islands. Pitching up midweek will save you a pound a person, too. £9-£10 adults, £7-£8 children, £29-£33 family.

Getting there Northern line to South Wimbledon.

Local bus routes 131, 152, K5.

7 Toddler trampolining at Oxygen

In one-hour sessions every day in Acton, pint-sized jumpers aged five and under can brave the bouncy playground at their own pace in a toddlers' session. £6 per person (toddler and supervising adult). £2.50 per person for mandatory jump socks.

Getting there Central line to West Acton.

Local bus routes 95, 440, 487.

8 Wonderlab at the Science Museum

Up in The Equinor Gallery, on level three of the museum, you'll find more than 50 exhibits split into seven zones. In this space, visitors will experience the maths and science behind everyday situations. Get hands-on at the chemistry bar, witness a controlled lightning strike and see something go bang in one of four daily demonstrations. £10 adults, £8 children, under-threes free.

Getting there District, Circle or Piccadilly line to South Kensington.

Local bus routes 14, 49, 70, 74, 345, 360, 414, 430, C1.

Remember to check TfL Journey Planner before you travel.

MAYOR OF LONDON



TRANSPORT FOR LONDON

→ The **Cultural TfL Map** is your key to finding more of London's family-friendly hidden gems. This interactive map reveals more than 500 Time Out-recommended museums, galleries, street art spots and more, all within a short walk or bus ride of each station. Many of these experiences are free! Explore now at [timeout.com/culturaltflmap](https://www.timeout.com/culturaltflmap).

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TimeOut
THE BEST OF THE CITY

Promotional feature

Get the full Nelson

A major new exhibition about the late, great world leader is about to arrive in London

Freedom fighter, political leader and icon of social justice – few people have had an impact quite like Nelson Mandela had. But beyond the headlines, there's a lot to learn about this fascinating revolutionary figure. Here's your chance to do just that.

Opening at the 26 Leake Street Gallery on Friday February 8, **'Mandela: The Official Exhibition'** is filled with scene recreations and interactive moments for a genuinely immersive experience. It's an opportunity to get up close

and personal with Mandela's story, and to discover what led him to become a trailblazing anti-apartheid activist.

So what can you expect? Across an extensive space (750 square metres) in the Leake Street tunnels, the exhibition will display a wealth of unique and private items, from never-seen-before film and photographs to historical artefacts. You'll also be able to view personal items donated by the Mandela family and friends, and by other museums and archives.



As well as being able to look through Mandela's possessions and learn about his efforts to achieve world peace, you'll be contributing to a great cause. Yep, a slice of the proceeds will be donated to the Mvezo Development Trust, an economic development programme based in South Africa's Eastern Cape.

MANDELA
THE OFFICIAL EXHIBITION

→ Discover more at www.mandelaexhibition.com

© PETER MOREY

THREE OF THE BEST

Valentine's Day alternatives

Find a new kind of romance with a day out for dogs, a night in a heartbreak hotel or a comedy sex party



↑ Heartbreak Hotel: The Breakup Party

A makeshift 'hotel' is putting the heart into heartbreak with seven days of events dedicated to those who have just moved to Splitsville. This party will have you feeling good as hell with burlesque, spoken word, comedy and a sassy bit of drag.

→ Rich Mix, Shoreditch High St Overground. Fri Feb 8. £10.



↑ Sex Standing Up Comedy: Let's Make Lurve Valentine's Edition

Watch 'comedy power couples' share their filthy, seedy and cringeworthy stories to raise money for sexual health charity FPA. Go for the lols, stay for the sex toy raffle.

→ Hoop & Toy, ☺ South Kensington. Sat Feb 9. Entry free, seated from £5.



↑ Valentine's Dog Walk

Prefer dogs to humans? Show your pooch how much you love them by taking a Valentine's walk over Hampstead Heath. There's also a prize for the happiest human and hound (has to be genuine, though, so no filling your pockets with bacon).

→ Register at The Garden Gate pub. ☺ Belsize Park. Sun Feb 10. £5 per dog.

Want to do it the old-fashioned way? Try timeout.com/valentines



Promotional feature

Love on a shoestring

We sent four London couples out to prove that super-romantic dates don't have to be expensive – especially when you're travelling in the wonderful world of off-peak



High-altitude hangs Nicki and Gary's date

Emirates Air Line from Royal Docks to Greenwich Peninsula £3.50 each
129 bus to Greenwich Market £1.50 each
Greenwich Market free
The Fan Museum £5 each
Greenwich Park free
Total £20

What they said 'The cable car gave us a great viewpoint of London because it was constantly moving – you see London from lots of different angles. When we were sitting just below the Observatory, a huge, full moon started rising over Greenwich. It was magical... really romantic!'

TfL's Hopper fare lets you take unlimited bus and tram journeys within one hour of first touching in for £1.50.



Romance on the river Dan and Warren's date

River Bus from Westminster Pier to Bankside Pier £7 each
Late at Tate Modern free
Friday Nights at Flat Iron Square free
Total £14

What they said 'We sat outside on the boat and got a really good view. You've got the London Eye and Big Ben in one shot – it's very Instagrammable!'

Jumping into it Zara and Adam's date

Tube to West Acton £1.50* each
Oxygen Freejumping £15.50 each
Total £34

What they said 'It was more romantic than we thought it would be – there's a foam pit where you could wrestle each other. It was fun!'

*Fare shown is for an adult pay as you go journey not going via Zone 1 on Tube, DLR and most London Overground services.



Love on two wheels Tamsin and Josh's date

Cycled around Battersea Park using Santander Cycles £2 each *
Peace Pagoda free
Pump House art gallery free
Battersea Park Children's Zoo £9.50 each
Total £23

What they said 'We explored so much more of the park on bikes because we didn't feel like it was going to take as long. The view of the Thames from the pagoda was lovely!'

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SEE

E 'East End Suffragettes: The Photographs of Norah Smyth'

Get an intimate insight into the socialist suffragette movement at this exhibition of remarkable photographs by Norah Smyth taken 100 years ago. The gallery is just a stone's throw from where the pictures were originally snapped in Bethnal Green.
→ Four Corners. ⊕ Bethnal Green. Until Feb 16. Free.

MUNCH

E Spanish Calçotada Festival

Drop chargrilled veg and red wine into your gob from a slightly risky height for this traditional Catalonian food fest. Is it going to be messy? Yes. Will it be fun? Most definitely.
→ Tapas Brindisa Shoreditch. ⊕ Old St. Festival menu available until Mar 31. Prices vary.

SHOP

E Bethnal Green's Affordable Vintage Fair

Judy's Affordable Vintage Fair is returning to east London, promising hand-picked, quality pre-loved goods for a reasonable price.
→ York Hall. ⊕ Bethnal Green. Sun Feb 10. From £2.

W Frock Me! Vintage Fair

Frock Me! comes to Chelsea Town Hall with some of the best vintage the capital has to offer, catering for everyone from serious collectors to fashion enthusiasts.
→ Chelsea Old Town Hall. ⊕ Sloane Square. Sun Feb 10. £4.

TO DO

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S Make Your Own Valentine Zero-Waste Gifts

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→ Mercato Metropolitan. ⊕ Elephant & Castle. Wed Feb 6. £30.

C Afrobeats Brunch Club: Valentine's Special

Bag a ticket to Afrobeats Brunch Club's afternoon session for unlimited wine and some authentic African cuisine. Or let Cupid do his work at the after-party as you dance your way through some R&B classics.
→ BFI Stephen St Kitchen. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Sat Feb 9. Prices vary.

RUN

S The Magic of the London Marathon

Signed up to the marathon as part of your #newyearnewme goals? This 11-mile run might be the motivation you need.
→ Pavilion Café, Greenwich Park. Greenwich DLR. Sun Feb 10. £25.

LEARN

S Into the Volcanic Inferno

The next event from Babble Talks is set to rock. The lecture series aimed at parents on maternity or paternity leave has lined up geologist Professor Christopher Jackson, who will be talking through his visit to Nyiragongo – home to the largest permanent lava lake on Earth. Lit!
→ East Dulwich Tavern. East Dulwich rail. Tue Feb 5. £10.

C Writers' Night

Grab yourself a glass of wine and join authors Bridget Collins, Stacey Halls and Sonia Velton at Foyles bookshop as they discuss the meeting point between curiosity and historicism. The talk is free but be sure to book in advance.
→ Foyles. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Wed Feb 6. Free.

E Walthamstow: From Monox and Morris to beer and bacon jam

Explore the stories behind this patch of north-west London and the people who inspired them on a two-hour walk jam-packed with history. Fans of '90s boy band East 17 might be left disappointed, though.
→ William Morris Gallery. ⊕ Walthamstow Central. Sun Feb 10. £12.

EXCLUSIVE

Bag yourself tickets to **Transcendence**, a magical late-night party at the Royal Academy. From just £25.

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Film

Edited by Phil de Semlyen
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TIME OUT MEETS

Barry Jenkins

The virtuoso filmmaker on that Oscars cock-up and an awesome movie lunch date. Portrait *Scott Chasserot*

IT'S BEEN A heck of a decade for Barry Jenkins since he debuted with 'Medicine for Melancholy' back in 2008. His second film, 'Moonlight', won the Best Picture Oscar in 2017 – at least, after a mortifying mix-up involving Warren Beatty and a rogue envelope – and now he's back with a powerhouse James Baldwin adaptation. 'If Beale Street Could Talk' is a love story set in the early '70s in which a young African-American couple are separated by a racist cop. Frighteningly smart and a mix of urbane and quite swearsy, Jenkins talks social injustice, #EnvelopeGate and his greatest ever lunch date.

One of the things that struck me was how little you'd need to change this story for it to work now. 'Not a lot. This guy, Kalief Browder, just went through the same scenario as Fonny. He was arrested for stealing a backpack and he wouldn't accept a plea deal because he didn't do it. They locked him up for three years. When he finally got out, he killed himself. This happened in the last two years. This stuff is still horribly relevant.'

Do you see this as a political film?

'I think so, but only in the sense that the novel is a political work as well. Baldwin wrote with many different voices but two of those voices were this protest novel voice and this sensual, very lush

'When people come up to me, I say "Yeah, I was that guy at the Oscars"'



romanticism. That was what hooked me when I read the book. Most love stories are about two people and the world doesn't matter, [so] to make a politically engaged romance is kinda awesome.'

Your lead actress, KiKi Layne, is a real discovery. Is it true that when you tried to tell her she'd got the role, she screened your call?

'Yes. It was a Tuesday morning and I called a few times and she didn't pick up. Kiki's a young actress who'd just moved to LA, she might have thought I was a bill collector or something. Then I texted her, "Heeey, this is Barry. Can you pick up the phone?" – which ruined the surprise.'

Do you ever wake up with cold sweats thinking about that Oscars mix-up?

'There are moments when I think back on it. People come up to me in airports and say "Hey, don't I know you from somewhere?" It's easiest to say "Yeah, I was the guy at the Oscars" and people go "Oh, that was crazy!" I've always said it's bittersweet and now, two years removed from it, I'm in the sweet part. But it was a strange thing.'

Do you and Damien Chazelle ever chat about it?

'I ran into him at a festival, we gave each other a hug and we both knew what was going to happen: all the phones came out. We're intertwined.'

What was the first film that made you aware of filmmaking as a career option?

'It was "Die Hard". I'd seen it so many times on TV, where they speed through the credits. Then I saw it with the credits played at regular speed and I was like: Oh, huh! It takes all these people to make this movie... Years later I was walking across campus and saw a sign that said "film school" and decided to try it out.'

'Die Hard' seems like a good place to start.

'I loved that movie. Still do. [Director] John McTiernan is a G.'

What film makes you laugh the most?

'Oh shit. The Dave Chappelle film "Half Baked" always makes me die. There's a trio of movies from that era – "Half Baked", "Office Space" and "Friday" – which kill me.'

Lastly, is it true Denzel Washington took you out to lunch?

'Denzel does this – whenever someone like me is new and breaking on to the scene, he's really good at reaching out. It wasn't "I'm Denzel, I'd love to work with you." Not at all. It was "Hey, ask me anything. Let's just rap." He was so cool; we had a three-hour lunch.'

Where did he take you?

'I can't do that because Denzel's got his spots, but it was Italian. We ordered a lot of seafood and he told me about his career, his family, his approach to work, and he asked me about the same things. It's how it was when people did apprenticeships. I had that experience with Denzel damn Washington.' ■



By Phil de Semlyen
Who also thinks 'Office Space' is one of the greatest movies ever made.

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If Beale Street Could Talk



WHAT IS IT...

A romantic drama adapted from a novel by James Baldwin.

WHY GO...

For a barnstorming turn from the fabulous Regina King ('Jerry Maguire').

→ Director Barry Jenkins (15) 119 mins.

'IF I LIKE the basic idea,' Alfred Hitchcock once explained of his technique for adapting novels, 'I just forget all about the book and start to create cinema.' Barry Jenkins, it's fair to say, has a different MO. His adaptation of 'If Beale Street Could Talk' is practically joined at the hip with James Baldwin's 1974 novel. It channels all of Baldwin's lyricism and anger into a story of love and injustice that burns with a gentle flame, occasionally blazing into a white heat. It's beautifully crafted and despite what Hitch might have said, it's definitely cinematic.

As with 'Moonlight', Jenkins moves through time in a single setting. He introduces the young couple – newly pregnant Tish (newcomer KiKi Layne) and Fonny (Stephan James) – living in Harlem and deeply in love. The meat of the film takes place later with Fonny flung into prison on rape charges trumped up by a racist cop. We meet their families, including Tish's powerhouse mum and bear hug of a dad (Regina King and Colman Domingo, on-screen parents of the year) and Fonny's disapproving mum. One of the film's best scenes brings both clans together for a mini apocalypse over drinks and nibbles.

If 'Beale Street' is an all-too-rare celebration of African-American family life, there's fire in its eyes too. Baldwin didn't pull his punches and neither does Jenkins. When Fonny bumps into an old friend (Brian Tyree Henry) fresh from the slammer, his ghost-of-prison-past warnings spill out in a chilling, airless scene. There's no message of racial reconciliation here, just the promise of more hardship ahead. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



Go

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by Barry Jenkins

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América



CARING FOR A relative in their final years is a deeply challenging experience. Its physical demands are compounded by a strange emotional intensity that's oddly dislocating. Love pours out, emotions are heightened and anxiety is a constant companion. Somehow 'América', a moving slice of documentary realism named after the 93-year-old Mexican grandma at its heart, captures all those peaks and troughs in its 70-odd minutes.

Filmed over three years by directing duo Erick Stoll and Chase Whiteside it's a poetic but unromanticised portrait of the elderly América as she's cared for by her adult grandsons, Rodríguez, Bruno and Diego, after her son is imprisoned for supposedly neglecting her. We see them trying their best to look after her, aiding her in the shower, encouraging her to walk, even helping her go to the toilet. Diego's zippy optimism contrasts with the silent pain on Rodríguez's face, highlighting the psychological impact this work has on the caregivers.

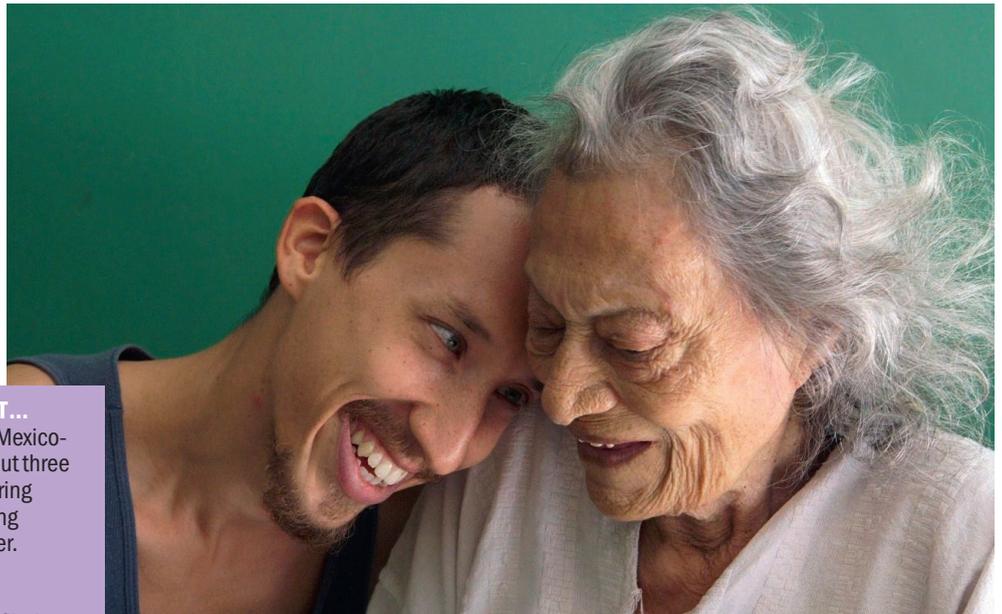
WHAT IS IT...

A stunning Mexico-set doc about three brothers caring for their ailing grandmother.

WHY GO...

To echo the film's own dedication: 'For our grandmas'.

→ Directors Erick Stoll, Chase Whiteside (12) 76 mins.



Making their job even tougher is a bureaucracy that only cares whether América is being neglected, while offering no tangible support. This aspect of the film could have made for an angry polemic, but the co-directors instead zoom in on the emotional wellbeing of the family. A particularly heart-rending moment towards the end shows an argument

between Diego and Bruno, as the pair succumb to the pressure on their shoulders.

This is a beautifully clear-eyed film. Witnessing the affection between grandmother and grandchildren is the stuff this medium is made for. The sincere love we glimpse between family members, though strained by their circumstances, echoes far beyond the confines of the screen. It's deeply personal and, at the same time, totally relatable. ■ *Cathy Brennan*

Boy Erased



WHAT IS IT...

A powerful drama set in an American gay conversion therapy facility.

WHY GO...

For the outstanding cast and sharp script.

→ Director Joel Edgerton (15) 115 mins.

ACTOR-TURNED-DIRECTOR Joel Edgerton's unsettling second film works best as a prison movie. A chain-link fence encloses a yard; sometimes a bus drops off new 'long-stayers'. The place is Love in Action, a Christian facility in Arkansas where the unscientific work of gay-conversion therapy happens. Based on Garrard Conley's exposé-slash-memoir of the same name, 'Boy Erased' evokes this nightmarish zone with banal, khaki-clad specificity: the cringeworthy pseudoscience (Edgerton carves out a plum role for himself as a preacher-counsellor); the physical and mental hardships; the development of hatreds to replace barely understood urges.

It's certainly not the right place for teenager Jared (the gifted Lucas Hedges). He may have a 'God-shaped void in his life', as per the clinic's guidebook, but in all other respects, he's wonderful: a natural athlete; university-bound; a respectful boyfriend. Edgerton mostly steers his tale away from its more obvious dimensions (an early rape scene is a regrettable exception), focusing more on the confusion of decent people. Jared's parents, both Baptists, lack the tools for handling their son's development: Nicole Kidman and Russell Crowe, playing a Southern trophy wife and a car dealer, steal the movie. Emphasis is placed on *their* need to change, not Jared's, and one scene with the mighty Cherry Jones as a sympathetic truth-teller (a real doctor, not a fake one) elevates the film from cautionary tale to something truly hard-hitting. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*



Alita: Battle Angel



WHAT IS IT...

A James Cameron sci-fi B-side.

WHY GO...

For some head-spinning visuals and the odd cool fight scene.

→ Director Robert Rodriguez (12A) 122 mins.

MOVIEMAKING JUGGERNAUT JAMES

Cameron doesn't do boring. Loud? Sure. Visually epic? Definitely. Groundbreaking? Invariably. But boring? Never. This enervating sci-fi blockbuster that he co-wrote and produced for director Robert Rodriguez, however, comes pretty darn close. Only its bravura visuals and some sparky cyberpunk action keep it engaging, until its umpteen story threads and endless mythology-meets-tech-porn jargon finally pound the interest out of you.

Adapted from Yukito Kishiro's manga comic and set in 2563 in a post-apocalyptic metropolis called Iron City, it follows Alita, a cyborg girl (Rosa Salazar, given an eerie CG makeover and cartoon eyes) reconnecting with her warrior past. Christoph Waltz – who can sleepwalk through stuff like this, and often seems to – plays a kindly scientist who takes her on as his personal Pinocchio. Meanwhile, an evil overlord rules this venal cityscape from a floating realm above.

Although the story is predictable, Rodriguez handles the combat sequences adeptly as Alita's skills ramp up. But the dialogue is lumpy by Cameron's lofty standards. With none of the usual killer pay-off lines, the more-than-solid supporting cast – including Mahershala Ali, Ed Skrein and Jennifer Connelly – are stranded in earnestness. Ali and Skrein do what they can in generic bad guy roles, but the menace levels are diluted by a surfeit of villains. It's a rare thing to say about a Cameron project, but you feel like you've seen it all before. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



Film

The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part



WHAT IS IT...

A meta Lego sequel with a Duplo invasion of Bricksburg.

WHY GO...

It's funny, looks good and has a warm family message at its heart.

→ Directors Trisha Gum, Mike Mitchell (U) 107 mins.



FIVE YEARS AND two spin-off movies later, writer-producers Phil Lord and Chris Miller return to Bricksburg for a bigger, louder and brasher second 'Lego' instalment. But while it maintains the same level of playfulness, it doesn't quite capture the novelty or fizz of the original.

At the end of 'The Lego Movie', we learned that the characters' adventures were a product of a boy called Finn's imagination. Now, his sister is here to play and their rivalry has caused an apocalyptic change in Bricksburg. Everybrick hero Emmet (Chris Pratt) is still his glass-half-full self, while Lucy (Elizabeth Banks), his Master Builder girlfriend, has become more brooding as their town, now known as Apocalypseburg, takes a beating from Duplo invaders. When an alien kidnaps Lucy, Batman (Will Arnett) and pals, Emmet mounts a solo mission to rescue them.

There are some hilarious new songs (look out for 'Gotham City Guys') and the jokes are more meta than ever, with Arnett's Batman still invariably the funniest figure in the room. But the comedy feels like overcompensation for a story that gets more convoluted as it shifts back and forth between the human and Lego worlds. Still, if you're willing to let the quantum mechanics slide, you'll have a pretty awesome time. ■ *Hanna Flint*

All Is True



WHAT IS IT

An affectionate portrayal of William Shakespeare's final days.

WHY GO...

For the veteran cast and some banging sonnets.

→ Director Kenneth Branagh (12A) 101 mins.



A MAINSTREAM TAKE on the real-life William Shakespeare's dotage, 'All Is True' offers a dream team of collaborators. Kenneth Branagh, who has done so much to popularise the Bard, now plays the poet and playwright himself – though he's unrecognisable under heavy prosthetics which, distractingly, make him look a bit like Peter Sellers. He's also directing, from a script written by Ben Elton, who reworks a lot of his material from sitcom 'Upstart Crow' for the purposes of gentle family drama. Then there is RSC veteran Judi Dench, a welcome presence as Will's straight-talking wife Anne.

The aim is to dig into the man himself, and what he may have gone through during his final years: regret at neglecting his family for so long; grief at the loss of his son; concern with his social standing. Branagh and Dench are sparky, and with only candlelight to illuminate the night-time scenes, the film is often atmospheric.

But 'All Is True' falls victim to its clunky script. Elton doesn't have a light touch, as evidenced by lines like 'I'm not a good gardener it's true; I find it easier to create things with words.' There are smart touches, including a neat cameo by Ian McKellen, but they're nestled among too many eye-rolling moments. And surely history's greatest dramatist deserves better than to have his death precluded by a chesty cough? ■ *Dan Jolin*

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HEADS UP



BFI Future Film Festival

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→ BFI Southbank. ☹ Waterloo. Feb 21-24. www.bfi.org.uk/futurefilm

Find all the latest London Film Festival news at timeout.com/film

Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic

JUST ANNOUNCED

Mariah Carey at the Royal Albert Hall

Pop's savviest diva is helming a three-night Royal Albert Hall residency later this year. Here are just some reasons Mimi was born to own the grand Kensington venue



MARIAH: GETTY IMAGES FOR NIKKI BEACH

1 She'll complement its opulent decor

Eric Clapton has gigged at the Royal Albert Hall so often he says it's like 'playing in my front room'. Mariah Carey probably doesn't have something as mundane as a front room, but the RAH's red and gold interior definitely suits her personal aesthetic. Like Mariah, it's majestic, glitzy and thinks 'low-key' is a Marvel character.

2 It's a venue that provides a great sense of occasion

Mariah's last couple of UK tours have been Christmas shows heavier on festive classics than her signature pop-R&B bops. But this time, her team is promising 'a greatest hits show with new material from her [very good 2018] album "Caution"'. It's easy to forget how many fantastic bangers Mariah has written and sung over the years; era-defining tunes like 'Fantasy', 'Heartbreaker' and 'We Belong Together' will sparkle in this historic setting.

3 The RAH and Mariah are both kinda timeless

Mariah recently tweeted: 'I don't get this ten-year challenge, time is not something I acknowledge.' Like the RAH, she's an unshakeable icon whose mere presence is strangely comforting in these choppy, uncertain times.

4 Her mighty five-octave vocal range will fill the venue to its famous glass domed roof

Expect to get goosebumps when La Carey really lets rip at the climax of 'Vision of Love'.

5 The Royal Albert Hall is nice and close to her favourite hotel

In 2016, Mariah tested fans' patience by arriving a little late to a gig in Leeds, just hours after tweeting: 'I hate leaving this fabulous bed at the Corinthia London.' Fortunately, the Royal Albert Hall is just 2.5 miles away from her beloved luxury Whitehall hotel, so Mariah won't have to cut short her lie-in.

→ Mariah Carey plays the Royal Albert Hall on May 25-27.



By Nick Levine
Who is trying not to acknowledge time either.

WHAT'S THE
DEAL WITH
Whenyoung



Young, eh... do they sing about necking WKD in a car park then?

No, no this Irish trio might have had a more cultured youth than that. Originally from Limerick but now residing in London, they deal in wistful yet biting indie pop. Part escapist dreaming, part politically aware social observations.

Irish eh? Are they friends with Bono?

Actually, sort of. One of their first gigs was at Shane MacGowan of The Pogues' sixtieth birthday gig, where the U2 man asked singer Aoife Power to pretend to punch him in the face for a photo op because 'That's what everyone wants to do!'

Zany. So they're already in with the stars?

In their short tenure as a band (debut single 'Actor' only came out 14 months ago), Whenyoung – completed by guitarist Niall Burns and drummer Andrew Flood – have

already supported a host of guitar heroes including The Vaccines, Dream Wife and Blossoms. Plus they're managed by former Queen of Noize Mairead Hayden. Aka the woman who discovered Florence Welch. Prob a good sign.

All right, all right, so what can I listen to?

Debut EP 'Given Up' is a bittersweet collection that pits nostalgic Cranberries-esque pop against big, driving guitar hooks. 'Heaven on Earth' is its highlight – a subversive number penned when Aoife had a part-time job gardening for some influential politicians just as the Grenfell tragedy occurred.

And when can I see them live?

The strictly colour-coordinated group, who came on stage to the 'Riverdance' theme at their last London gig, will be owning Electrowerkz next week! ■ *Lisa Wright*
→ Whenyoung play Electrowerkz on Feb 13.

More at timeout.com/music



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Music & Nightlife

GIGS AND CLUBS

BangFace Weekender

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→ Southport Holiday Park. Mar 14-18.

This week

Channel One

The reggae/dub soundsystem crew celebrate an impressive 40 years of bassy positivity.

→ Electric Brixton. Fri Feb 8.

Little Gay Brother

If you abhor Sunday clichés like brunch, Netflix paralysis and calling your mum, this week-ending rave is for you. Kim Ann Foxman, Wax Wings and Nimmo all soundtrack a day-to-evening carnival of tops-off revelry.

→ Fabric. Sun Feb 10.

Book now

Confidence Man

One of the coolest bands out there right now, the ga-ga and groovesome four-piece announce their biggest London show yet.

→ Electric Brixton. May 2.

AMP London

Annie Mac deploys her curatorial skills for a fat run of gigs and clubs around London. Mahalia, Kojey Radical, Chip, Puma Blue, Timothy Lacoste are among the talent popping up over four days in May.

→ Various venues. Mar 27-30.



Buy tickets at timeout.com/gigs



Fat White Family

A smoother, more inviting sound is apparently at the core of the band's forthcoming 'Serfs Up!' album. Slow disco-ish single 'Feet' definitely bears that out.

→ 02 Forum Kentish Town. May 15.

El Dorado Festival

This cute, newish boutique festival brims with a frankly absurdly classy line-up this year, including: Andy C, Todd Terje, Mall Grab, Shy FX, Horse Meat Disco, Mr Scruff and Kool & The Gang. Celebrate! Good times!

→ Eastnor Castle Deer Park, Herefordshire. Jul 5-7.

The Who

A new studio album – their first since 2006 – is the springboard for this huge London show, joined by Eddie Vedder and Kaiser Chiefs.

→ Wembley Stadium. Jul 6.

Green Man Festival

Four Tet, Father John Misty, Idles, Sharon Van Etten, Broken Social Scene and a seemingly reunited Stereolab are just some highlights of this lush and verdant fest.

→ Brecon Beacons. Aug 15-18.

End of the Road Festival

Beirut, Michael Kiwanuka, Metronomy, Spiritualized, Courtney Barnett, Let's Eat Grandma + late summer weather = an absolute treat!

→ Larmer Tree Gardens, Wiltshire. Aug 29-Sep 1.

Outlook Festival

After ten years rocking out Fort Punta Christo in Croatia, this much-loved fest says goodbye to the site – but not before Bugzy Malone, Ghetts, Shy FX, Mala and Hollie Cook all tear it a new one.

→ Fort Punta Christo, Croatia. Sep 4-9.

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In a nutshell

A bar, restaurant and live music venue with the south London jazz scene in the palm of its hand.

Where is it?

Deptford, positioned rather inconspicuously down an alleyway and under two railway arches. Follow the fairy lights and saxy sounds.

What's the vibe?

This is an independently run hub for informed jazz lads and lasses, and those curious about south London's musical exports. Twinkly lights and a contemporary pine and white-tile interior set off the venue, decor-wise. The bar and restaurant is the perfect place to while away the evening on a date or with pals, and next door the arts and music space is minimally decorated with space to dance. It's most famous, though, for its diverse music policy – look forward to hearing jazz, hip hop plus roots and culture.

What makes it a great venue?

It's a cultural incubator that has been home to influential jazz collective Steam Down, the BBZ club night celebrating queer and non-binary women of colour, and a slew of incredible artists

and photographers. It's also one of the best places to take in the incredible sounds of young jazz musicians on the ascent.

What's the booze situation?

The clue's in the name... When Jamaica claimed independence from the British in 1962, Alexander Bustamante was the first president. Thus all the drinks and food hark to Jamaica: enjoy a rum-focused cocktail list and plenty of Red Stripe.

What's coming up there soon?

Every Wednesday the tunnel is set ablaze with the free jazz improv night, Champion Sounds, where incredible young jazz musicians and fans come together for a four-hour jamathon. These nights actively break the fourth wall, encouraging audience participation; if you're moving and grooving you're part of the performance. Get down there early to secure a good dancing spot.

Tell me one random thing about Buster Mantis?

It's a favourite of local Reggie Yates, who rates the fish fritters and Friday night fun times. ■ Hayley Joyes
→ Buster Mantis, 3-4 Resolution Way, Deptford rail.

Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Lukowski
timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre



TIME OUT MEETS

Rachel Chavkin

The visionary director of 'Hadestown' and 'The Great Comet of 1812' is making her London debut via a strange, forgotten Arthur Miller play

DIRECTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE

RACHEL Chavkin founded avant-garde New York theatre legends The TEAM and has now become an unlikely Broadway hitmaker. Hot on the heels of 'Hadestown' (which transferred to the National Theatre from the US) she's directing her first proper London show, a revival of Arthur Miller's Great Depression drama 'The American Clock'.

'The American Clock' isn't a famous Miller play, is it?

'I had never heard of it before the Miller estate brought my attention to it, and I grew up in a household that revered Arthur Miller like a god. This felt like a really good match: there's something formally crazy about it and then there are these scenes written like brick shithouses.'

Your concept is to change the lead actors as the play wears on – why?

'The show is almost a collage or quilt of the country during the

Great Depression, so you keep on checking in on this family [the Baums] but they're not necessarily the same people, they go through massive changes. So I wanted to represent different generations of immigrants, so we move from a white Jewish family to a South East Asian family and so on. It's not necessarily moving forward through time.'

Do you think that might confuse audiences?

'Well, that'll ultimately be for audiences to answer! It's not "Death of a Salesman" in the sense of a single driving narrative, it's an immersion in a country in spasm, this very particular moment of the American dream falling part. It feels like each scene is almost its own Olympic event.'

A lot of people over here would love to see your Broadway musical 'Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812'. Will we?

'I think it's very possible that it will live again. I don't have anything to report but I hold out hope. Part of me would be equally unsurprised if it was next year or in 25 years.'

Your career is a mix of small avant-garde stuff and massive mainstream shows – how does that work?

'I would say I am drawn to eclecticism, I feel very dissatisfied if I'm not learning, I am pathologically listening to podcasts, I am almost never not taking in information, so I take on projects where I'm going to learn something. I guess I think it's funny that I'm a Broadway director – but I like it!'

→ 'The American Clock' is at the Old Vic. Until Mar 30.



By Andrzej Lukowski
Who would give an arm, a leg and maybe a lung to see The TEAM again.

Welcome to the UK



WHAT IS IT...

A riotous satire on the UK's immigration policy.

WHY GO...

It's massively (and unexpectedly) funny.

→ Bunker Theatre.
 ↻ London Bridge. Until Feb 16. £16, £10-£12 concs.

TO CALLA show 'heart-warming' can sound a little trite, a bit twee, but it really is the best description for 'Welcome to the UK'. It's made by Borderline, a theatre group featuring refugees from 13 countries. It offers snippets of their stories within a loose framework where Britain's 'hostile environment' is recast as a wild funfair.

Roll up, roll up – attractions include: the emotional rollercoaster that is applying for refugee status; the haunted house of a brothel that a young bride is forced into; and a game of Home Office lottery in which claims are granted or tossed according to the luck of the draw. Theresa May is recast as an accordion-playing ringmaster. And an asylum assessment interviewer is played as an eccentric gypsy fortune-teller.

Devised by the company with director Sophie NL Besse, none of this is exactly polished. The narrative and staging are often scrappy while the pacing is off, and there are occasionally clunky changes of tone. But what it lacks in rigour, it makes up for with vigour. It overflows with energy and it's never dour or worthy either, but instead proves properly funny – both witty and silly.

'Welcome to the UK' is theatre at its most elemental and basic, and I mean that in a good way: theatre that springs from the eternal need to share stories, to foster understanding, and to just get together in a room and laugh. ■ *Holly Williams*



Cost of Living



WHAT IS IT...

Adrian Lester stars in this emotive American drama.

WHY GO...

For fine performances from two disabled actors.

→ Hampstead Theatre.
 ↻ Swiss Cottage. Until Mar 9. £18-£40, £15 concs.

AT ITS BEST Polish-American playwright Martyna Majok's 'Cost of Living' is a beautifully tender thing. But it does feel like the sort of excessively worthy naturalistic drama that the Americans are forever trying to foist upon us.

The very excellent Adrian Lester plays Eddie, a recovering alcoholic, who begins by telling us about his wife's recent death. It is a bravura monologue from a man who has refused to give in to despair, even in spite of himself.

Thereafter the play effectively turns into a pair of two-handers. In one we move back in time to see Eddie reaching out to Ani (Katy Sullivan), his estranged wife. A recent paraplegic, she is furious with Eddie. But slowly, they reconnect.

In the other scenes, Emily Barber is Jess, a broke young woman who starts working as a carer for Jack Hunter's John, a rich, urbane PhD student bound to a wheelchair by some unspecified neurological condition. They're an intriguing duo: both tough, both vulnerable.

One notable thing about Ed Hall's production is that Sullivan and Hunter are disabled – with Hollywood currently extricating itself from a 'cripping up' controversy over 'The Upside', it's great to see a major theatre show the way to do it.

That said, it's disappointing how Ani and John's stories simply fizzle out; Majok's writing is elegant, but sort of crumples in on itself in lieu of a satisfying ending. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*



EXCLUSIVE

'THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA'



See Clive Owen, Lia Williams and Anna Gunn star in 'The Night of the Iguana' by Tennessee Williams. Our tickets to this evocative tale of love, desire and redemption start at just £17.50.

TIMEOUT.COM/IGUANA



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Counting Sheep



WHAT IS IT...

An exciting immersive theatre show about the 2014 Ukrainian revolution.

WHY GO...

To get involved in the protest action.

→ The Vaults. ↻ Waterloo.
 Until Mar 17. £11.50-£41.50.

THIS THRILLING IMMERSIVE show about the 2014 Ukrainian revolution is a timely reminder of recent history that some of us may have forgotten – one that not especially subtly pokes us in the ribs about our decision to flounce out of the EU.

'Counting Sheep' was a hit at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe, and has now been reimaged by Natalia Kaliada and Nicolai Khalezin of agit proppers Belarus Free Theatre.

What's been retained is the core of the show, the true story of its co-creators Mark and Marichka Marczyk. He was an affable Canadian of Ukrainian descent who found himself caught up in the protests against the corrupt, pro-Russian government. She was a Ukrainian concert pianist who joined the protests spontaneously. They hooked up. They faced down riot police. They survived. And that's the plot.

But the magic of the production is how it both giddily sweeps you up in the optimistic surge of protest – we're encouraged to dance, act as protesters, heft sandbags – and damn well reminds you that these events *happened*.

The most pointed bit is a section dealing with the young people of Ukraine's desire to be part of the European Union. Watching a succession of performers draped in EU flags stage-diving while shouting about how much they want to join... I mean, the subtext is not hard to spot.

It's not as deep a take as a wordier play might offer, but it's a more visceral one – an adrenaline-pumping monument to these events, both political and romantic. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*



TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Company

A brilliant gender-swapped take on Sondheim's musical.
→ Gielgud Theatre. Until Mar 30.

2 The Book of Mormon

Audiences are still flocking to this legendarily filthy hit.
→ Prince of Wales Theatre. Until Apr 27.

3 Everybody's Talking About Jamie

This tale of a teen drag queen has a new star in the lead.
→ Apollo Theatre. Until Sep 28.

4 All About Eve

Gillian Anderson stars.
→ Noël Coward Theatre. Until May 11.

5 The Lion King

Animal magic from Disney.
→ Lyceum Theatre. Until Jun 1.

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NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Black Is the Color of My Voice

Nina Simone is the inspiration behind Apphia Campbell's play-with-songs.
→ Trafalgar Studios.
⊖ Charing Cross.
Tue Feb 5-Mar 2. £25-£30.

Home, I'm Darling

Katherine Parkinson stars in this retro-tastic feminist satire, which transfers from the NT.
→ Duke of York's Theatre.
⊖ Covent Garden. Until Apr 13.
£18-£125.

Pinter Seven

Danny Dyer and Martin Freeman tackle

two Pinter classics. Jamie Lloyd directs.
→ Harold Pinter Theatre.
⊖ Piccadilly Circus.
Until Feb 23. £15-£99.50.

The Price

David Suchet and Brendan Coyle star in Arthur Miller's drama.
→ Wyndham's Theatre.
⊖ Leicester Square. Tue Feb 5-Apr 27. £49.75-£127.25.

OFF-WEST END

Cougar

Rose Lewenstein's look at a crumbling affair.
→ Orange Tree Theatre.
⊖ Richmond. Until Mar 2.
£15-£25, £12.50-£19 concs.

Dracula

Bram Stoker's story is staged in the library where he researched it.
→ The London Library.
⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Until Mar 2.
£15-£35.

Icarus

This is a witty, twenty-first-century take on the tale of the boy with wings, for kids aged eight to 12.
→ Unicorn Theatre. ⊖ London Bridge. Until Mar 10. £8-£20.

No Kids

Real-life gay couple George and Nir explore whether or not to have kids in this nuanced show.
→ Battersea Arts Centre.
Clapham Junction rail.
Tue Feb 5-Feb 23. £12.50-£18.

Soft Animals

Two women are thrown together after a tragedy in Holly Robinson's tender debut play. Lakesha Arie-Angelo directs.
→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Wed Feb 6-Mar 2.
£12-£18.

HOTTICKET

We've got tickets to see brolly-wielding icon 'Mary Poppins' as she floats back into the West End. Tickets from £18.

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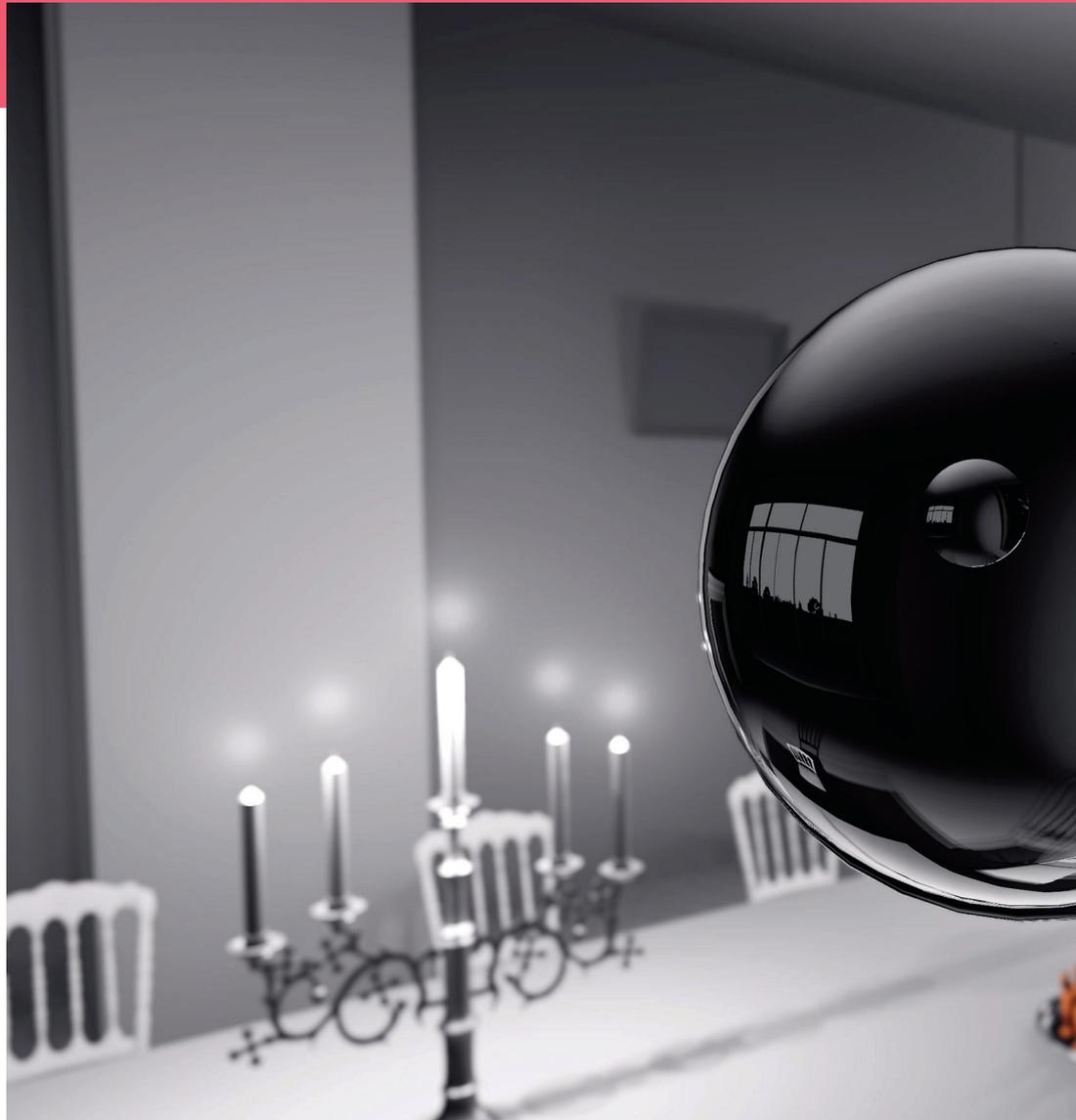
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Edited by Eddy Frankel
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Art

SHOW OF THE WEEK

Daria Martin: 'Tonight the World'



A SAD FACT of life is that your dreams aren't interesting to anyone but you. You think people will be fascinated by how last night you were trapped in a spider's web, but the spider was your primary school teacher and you were naked except for a fez. Sorry, no, your dreams are as tedious to other people as their dreams are to you. So American artist Daria Martin has achieved the impossible by making her grandmother's reveries into interesting art.

Susi Stiassni, Martin's gran, fled Nazi persecution in her home town of Brno in Czechoslovakia. Throughout the 1970s, she kept dream diaries as aids to her ongoing psychoanalysis, all seemingly referring back to the trauma of her youth.

Stiassni's childhood home, an incredible modernist villa surrounded by lush forest, is recreated as a videogame when you enter the gallery. The video walk-through follows the player as they explore the rooms, all rendered in

blank, flat grey. Objects are picked up, documents are flicked through. It's a seriously unsettling work. Its motion is dizzying, its atmosphere ceaselessly creeping. It's so unreal, so uncomfortable. And it's all made more poignant by the game being made in Brno itself, now a hotbed of game-design talent. Susi's past – the past of her family, of her home and her culture – has been obliterated; this is an attempt to grab it back.

Pages from the dream diaries are hung along the bulging lines of The

WHAT IS IT...
A video art trip into the dreams of a refugee.

WHY GO...
It's intense, uncomfortable and very affecting.

→ The Curve, Barbican.
↻ Barbican. Until Apr 7.
Free.

BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



↑ Miroslaw Balka: 'Random Access Memory'

Two giant radiators fill this central London gallery. Balka is aggressively, oppressively penning the viewer in, or maybe keeping them out.

→ White Cube Mason's Yard. ⊖ Green Park. Until Mar 9. Free.



↑ Pierre Bonnard: 'The Colour of Memory'

This survey of gorgeous, lush, modern figurative painting by the great French artist is full of light and joy, but there's also enough melancholy here to make your heart ache.

→ Tate Modern. ⊖ Southwark. Until May 6. £18, £16 concs.



↑ Grace Wales Bonner: 'A Time for New Dreams'

Art and fashion collide in this show curated by a brilliant young designer. It's not the last we'll see of those boundaries being decimated, and that's pretty exciting.

→ Serpentine. ⊖ Lancaster Gate. Until Feb 16. Free.



Curve's walls, just out of readable sight. Tantalisingly close, but still out of reach.

The final work is a more traditional film, recreating scenes from the diaries. Children playing hide and seek near a pit of quicksand, a woman being hunted while drinking from a stagnant pond. It's all quiet, creepy, super-saturated; a world of fear, hunting and hiding. However, it's the least interesting bit of the show – it just feels too real.

The best bits of Martin's

installation feel like a process of returning to trauma, of rebuilding in order to make sense. Everything, like a dream, is slippery, ungraspable. These half-recollections don't want to be remembered. If there's a lesson here, it's that the trauma of displacement, loss and death is inescapable. ■



By Eddy Frankel
Who is more nightmare than dream, really.

Museums

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/museums



'Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams'



IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a one-word review of the V&A's Christian Dior exhibition then here it is: fantasy. As spelled out by its own subtitle – 'Designer of Dreams' – this blockbuster showcase of a globally famous fashion label is about clothes and the imagination.

Because the Dior brand has, from its birth, traded on being the kindling of sartorial fairytales. This show, the biggest fashion exhibition held at the V&A since 2015's 'Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty', returns repeatedly to the threads that link together the fashion house's seven artistic directors and their unique methods of fuelling the dream machine.

There are displays of Dior-related paraphernalia such as sketches, mag covers and super-structured undergarments, but in honesty, visitors are here for one thing and one thing only: the dresses.

And the exhibition delivers. Long dresses, short dresses, slinky dresses, massive blooming huge dresses. Dresses the size of dollies to dresses like towering statues to bow down to and worship. A whole jaw-dropping rainbow of sparkly, showy,

WHAT IS IT...

A really beautiful journey through the work of one of the best fashion houses ever.

WHY GO...

It's like walking through a dream come true.

→ V&A. ⊕ South Kensington. Until Jul 14. £20-£24.

sexy, sensuous dresses. Just so many dresses.

It's beautiful. I mean, really beautiful. Walking through this show is like being sucked inside a little girl's daydream that she conjured up while trying on mummy's high heels and red lipstick, each flamboyantly decorated room a more perfect princess partyland than the last.

The Cinderella mirror, however, isn't without its cracks. The exit of designer John Galliano from the company for anti-Semitism is notably never mentioned. And the room devoted to travel, collecting together instances where Dior designs have been 'inspired' by other cultures, sits slightly awkwardly with current discussions about cultural appropriation.

It's a shame the curators have shied away from these thornier issues and instead presented a rather stainless history of the brand. Even the best fantasies sometimes require a pinch of reality. ■



By Rosemary Waugh
Who dreams of dressing just like
Princess Margaret.

IN PICTURES

'Bedrooms of London'

THERE ARE 700,000 CHILDREN currently living below the poverty line in London alone. It's a shocking, horrifying figure. With that poverty comes a world of prejudice and hardship that's absolutely heartbreaking. Photographer Katie Wilson has created a series of images to document the most vulnerable in society, looking at the bedrooms of London's poorest children. With the storm of the housing crisis swirling around us, this exhibition at the Foundling Museum couldn't be more timely. It might make for difficult viewing, but it's something we should all see. ■ *Eddy Frankel*
 → Foundling Museum. ☉ Russell Square.
 Fri Feb 8-May 5. £10, £7.50 concs.





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KATIE WILSON. BEDROOMS OF LONDON. JANE. 2017 © KATIE WILSON

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Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

Xi'an Biang Biang

→ 62 Wentworth St, E1 7TF. ☉ Aldgate East.



RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

IT WOULD BE REMISS of me to introduce Xi'an Biang Biang without first talking about its big sis, Holloway's Xi'an Impression. If you've been, you'll know it as a foodie mecca, a place where the attention-seeking flavours of northern China will be burned into your taste buds and possibly your soul. But then you'll also know that it's mercilessly small, leading to an inevitable near-constant queue, and that its address is great if you're already near N7, but isn't exactly central.

So this, its spin-off, is a saviour on many counts. It's big, meaning you can usually walk straight in, and it's in Zone 1 (at the lower end of Commercial Street, on what an enthusiastic estate agent might call the south side of Spitalfields). And yes, in spite of the tweaked name, it has an almost identical menu. The only difference? More noodles. Because biang biang are wide, wet, spicy noodles, originally from China's Shanxi region.

The cooking remains brilliant. There's the dark, dangerous-looking 'refreshing black fungus', which looks like a plate of frilly-edge cloth granny brooches, with a mouth-feel that's part chew, part crunch. Flavours are delicate: these are deep, brooding canvases for the chilled dressing; light and laced with vinegar and fresh herbs. Honestly, do order it. When all the stodge arrives later, you'll be glad of its subtle sharpness. Another

must-order is a cold starter of moist shredded chicken – its temperature (or lack of) allows the carefully balanced levels of spice and fragrance (from Sichuan peppercorns to tiny strips of celery and scallion) to come through in rippling waves.

But enough about that. You came for noodles. Like the signature hand-pulled biang biang, also known as 'belt' noodles. They're not just wide, they're long. Like, loooooong. Even if you're a master chopstick-wielder, I challenge you to pick up a whole one without cutting it first. (Seriously: there's a reason these tables are wipe-clean.) They're hand-pulled in the open kitchen, then slathered with any number of sauces and toppings, all delicious. Best of the lot has to be the beef and chilli (veggies: there's a meat-free version too). Against the satisfyingly thick and chewy noodles, and the tender hunks of beef, you also get flavours that are complex. The heat doesn't just smack you in the face, it builds slowly, like a piece of music. In the distance, there's the gentle hum of allium (you'll find lots of braised scallion), alongside alternating spikes of tang sat over smooth licks of oil, with the occasional punch of dried roasted chilli. It's intense and intriguing, but hugely satisfying. It's a triumph.

There are also hand-pulled 'thin' noodles, not unlike spaghettoni (spaghetti's thicker cousin)





WHAT IS IT...

A sibling to Holloway's Xi'an Impression, but with more noodles.

WHY GO...

For the hand-pulled biang biang 'belt' noodles. Carbs never tasted so good.

and cooked to just past al dente. Soft, but not too soft. Again, these are served more ways than Starbucks makes coffee, from soup to classic toppings of minced pork and veg. The 'special sesame sauce' version, unique to this branch, is, yes, very special. It manages to somehow be both rich and light, with a milky nuttiness and a fragrance you feel you could inhale.

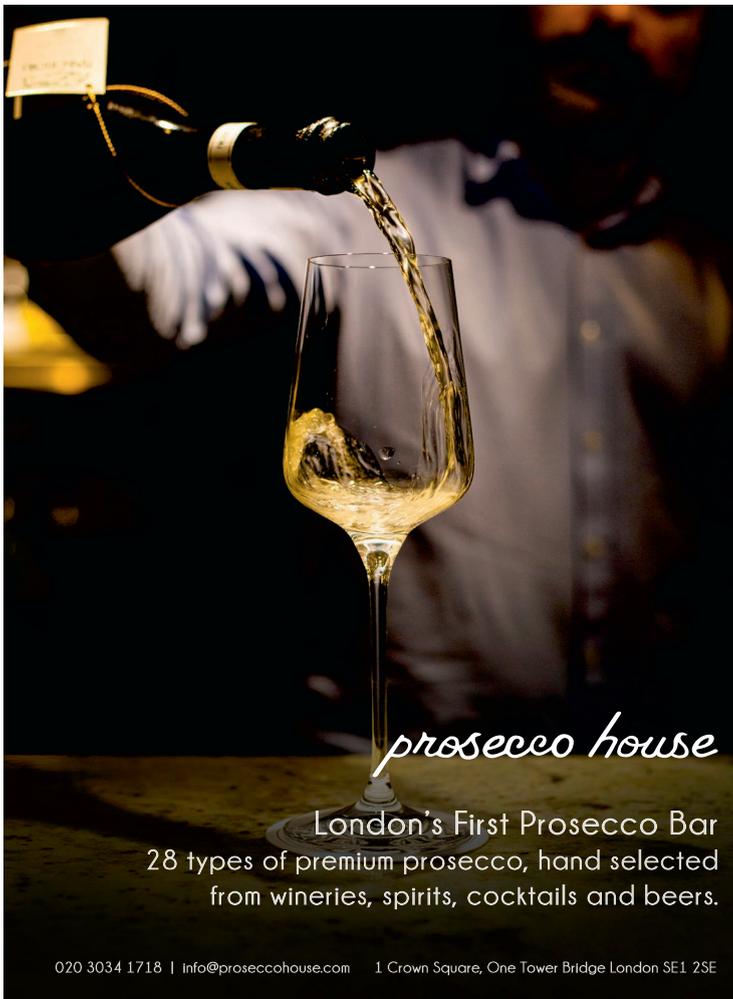
As it happens, the street food small plates, like pudgy, pork-filled dumplings in a pool of mellow chilli oil, or moreish golden-edged chicken and vegetable pot-stickers (fried dumplings), shine equally bright. Only the service, which varied wildly from friendly and helpful to brusque and indifferent, needs work. And don't expect sophistication either: this is a drinks-in-the-chiller-TV-screen-overhead kind of a place.

But do expect to spend the same as, or even less than, in Holloway – those beef noodles and dumplings come in at £10.90 and £6.20, instead of £11.90 and £7.20. What's not to like? ■

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £75.



By Tania Ballantine
Who's going to swap her belt out for a giant biang biang noodle, so she can eat it later.



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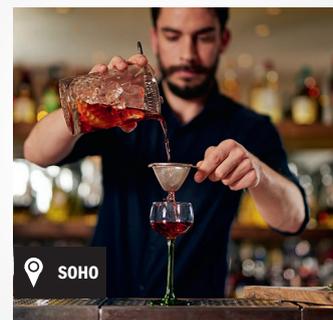
BOUNCE SAYS:

'Bounce's epic anti-Valentine's party is back on February 14. Go to celebrate the joy of being single and just how good you are at not being in love. You'll be smashing heart-shaped piñatas, drinking cocktails and experiencing true love by way of pizza, ping pong and an empowering playlist.' 121 Holborn, EC1N 2TD.



KINGSTON MARKET PLACE SAYS:

'Just 25 minutes from Waterloo, in Kingston-upon-Thames, Market Place is home to 23 permanent stalls and trades seven days a week. Find a range of traditional stalls such as florists, fishmongers and butchers, plus a vibrant street food scene serving up authentic cuisine from across the globe.' Market Place, KT1 1JH.



MELE E PERE SAYS:

'With London's largest selection of vermouths, including homemade varieties with 20 botanicals, Mele E Pere produce and keg vermouth themselves, serving it on tap in their ground-floor aperitivo bar. Pop in to sip delicious drinks and watch the world go by.' 46 Brewer St, W1F 9TG.

Kahani

→ 1 Wilbraham Place, SW1X 9AE. ☺ Sloane Square.



OF ONE THING there's no doubt: Peter Joseph can cook. The former head chef of Mayfair's swanky, Michelin-starred Tamarind has opened this equally smart, not-yet-Michelin-starred Indian restaurant in Chelsea. And the food is superb. It's modish, prettily plated stuff (hiya, tyre man!) that will flirt with your senses too. Best of all, most dishes come in small sizes (as well as the odd it's-all-mine-leave-me-alone type portion). I don't know if this is a homage to Le Cercle, one-time occupant of this space and a small-plate trailblazer, or just a happy coincidence. But I like it. It allows you to maraud around the menu, trying a bit of everything.

First on your hit list should be the mini samosas: one potato, one chicken, one venison, each dense filling thoughtfully spiced before being wrapped in buttery gram-flour pastry. Also, the soft-shell crab. It

was testament to the skill of the kitchen that the coastal, seafood-flattering Mangalorean spicing allowed the sweetness of this crustacean to shine through. Strewn with micro-herbs and teeny cubes of fresh tomato and cucumber, it also came with blobs of smooth and tangy tomato chutney. Finally, get the smoky, moreish Malabar prawns. Only the guinea fowl tikka was better on paper than in practice.

But Kahani does have a few issues. Firstly, the service veered from smooth (the lovely manager) to irritatingly obsequious (our waiter). And, sadly, no amount of tasteful, luxurious decor could compensate for an empty room. If (when) it picks up a star, it'll fill this swanky basement space. For now, it's all about the food. ■ *Tania Ballantine*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £160.



WHAT IS IT...
A swish Indian restaurant in Chelsea, from the ex-head chef of Mayfair's Tamarind.

WHY GO...
For superb seafood and mini samosas.

EXCLUSIVE

Bottomless pancakes and prosecco? We've got you covered – from just £19, at **Duo**.

TIMEOUT.COM/DUOBRUNCH

Megan's on the Hill

→ 41-43 Bedford Hill, SW12 9EY. ☺ Balham.



WHAT IS IT...

A Balham branch of the hugely popular King's Road spot.

WHY GO...

For posh open kebabs and rustic, feminine vibes.

IF INSTAGRAM MADE restaurants, it would have made Megan's. Because while this Balham branch may not have the twinkly walled garden of the King's Road original, its interior is bigger and prettier. (And it's more important to be pretty on the inside, right?) The ceilings are festooned with twigs and faux roses, there's lots of crushed velvet, lots of wood. It's like a very girly log cabin.

As for the food, it's better than you might expect for somewhere with such an obviously people-pleasing menu (Med and Middle Eastern small plates, open kebabs, vegan options, brunch). The best thing at dinner was the 'posh lamb doner', the fattiness of the slow-braised meat offset by the crunch of pickled veg (cucumber, cabbage, carrot), all heaped on to a fluffy flatbread. Also decent were the spiced calamari (thin, nicely chewy, with a rich aioli), plus cauliflower florets in a fiery peri-peri marinade. But a vegan quinoa salad was underdressed, leaving it dull and dry.

Still, staff were sweet and deeply tolerant of intolerances, dealing graciously with the neighbouring table's gluten-and-dairy-free requests. If they can just turn the lights down (so bright!), Megan's might just be the area's most atmospheric little spot. ■ *Tania Ballantine*

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £85.



KAHANI: MING TANG-EMANS

DID YOU KNOW...

We never review a new restaurant or bar when it's still in its 'soft launch' (ie discounted) period.

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Ardiciocca



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

WHAT IS IT...

A free-from-gluten Italian on Fulham Broadway.

WHY GO...

The gluten-free pizza and pasta are as good as it gets.

YOU DON'T GENERALLY walk away from an Italian meal feeling light and lithe. But Ardiciocca ('artichoke' in the Genovese dialect) is completely free from gluten, so also the bloat.

The decor is run-of-the-mill: generic furniture and the name spelled out on the wall using pots, pans and kitchen utensils. But the food is impressive: understated yet elegant. Both the sublimely al dente (and gluten-free, let's not forget) pasta with beef ragù and a homemade gnocchi with a creamy cheese topping were unpretentious yet deeply textured and full of flavour. Be sure to order the addictively good courgette fries too.

Ardiciocca's lighter-than-air pizzas are also not to be missed, and work well as a starter. Paper-thin and perfectly crisp, they're sure to fire your appetite, especially if you get one smothered in pesto and stringy stracchino cheese. Now, let's get into the dessert – because this was the highlight of an already flawless meal. Creamy gelato coupled with a rich, gooey chocolate brownie. No more details can be conveyed, as the whole helping was demolished in about two seconds flat. I'll just have to return to take further notes. ■ *Nina Clark*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £65.



Antonio's Kitchen



→ 393 Cambridge Heath Rd, E2 9RA. Cambridge Heath Overground.

WHAT IS IT...

A cosy vegan Italian café in Bethnal Green.

WHY GO...

For the plump tortellini: the ultimate comfort food.

EVERY SEAT WAS taken at this casual little vegan Italian café on the weeknight of our visit. The four chefs in the small open kitchen were going at full speed, like wind-up robots. In one corner of the restaurant I spied CookDaily founder King Senathit munching on spinach and ricotta tortellini. Founded by friends from Italy, led by chef Antonio, the place is decorated simply, with wooden chairs and tables – some with old-fashioned classified ads printed on the tops – and plants on shelves, potted in tomato tins.

It took 25 minutes for the mains to arrive (the kitchen did look overwhelmed) but it was worth the wait. A Mediterranean piadina – a thin, folded Italian flatbread with sautéed vegetables and avocado cream peeking out – was a bit like a posh veggie kebab. It was also huge: get one to share. Six generously filled fresh mushroom ravioli were dreamy as a Disney fairytale but a calzone, sadly, was too tough. Happily, the devilishly velvety tiramisu, with its moist sponge layer, ended things on a high.

Props to our waitress, who remained friendly throughout despite how busy it was. My advice? Skip the starters and head straight to the comforting, generous mains. ■ *Kavi Shah*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £45.



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TimeOut

Drink

Edited by **Laura Richards**
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

Fam

→ 31 Duke St, W1U 1LG. ↻ Bond St.



BAR OF THE WEEK



WITH AN ORANGEEY HUE like the ‘Soul Train’ studio and a soundtrack to match, it’s pretty hard not to instantly dig Fam, a cocktail bar round the back of Oxford Street that’s already full of buzz. I was digging it even before a friendly face popped up from behind the bar and apologised – with what felt like real sincerity – for not welcoming me as I came through the door (she’d been busy Marie Kondo-ing her glassware).

In the words of Sly and the Family Stone, it’s a family affair (hence the name) – but that’s best interpreted as a work family. Throughout the evening people kept dropping in to share a drink with bar staff, and a wall of framed photos is a who’s who of the drinks industry. That may be the kind of thing to put you off, but know this: Fam has given a difficult central London spot (where a branch of Bar Termini recently closed) an unlikely warm and neighbourhoody feel. We were invited to hang up our coats, a collection of vinyl was there to be treated as our own hipster jukebox and chummy service lasted the duration and included being offered a slot on that ‘fam’ photo wall.

The bar’s team includes Dre Masso, a leading figure in London’s cocktail scene for more than 20 years, but it was co-founder Megs Miller who served us. She’s Canadian, and a tequila ambassador, but despite this I sampled cocktails (all £10.50) driven by UK ingredients. A standout was the Brand New Shoes, a combination of gin and English sparkling wine with a seasonal sorbet – sweet-sour crab apple when I visited – blended into the drink to give a remarkable syrupy, tingly texture. The Claymore was equally local and beautifully simple: a blended scotch made long, light and sweet by in-house sparkling wine cordial, and served in beautiful glassware.

This is living-room drinking at its best, all just a skip from Selfridges. Yes, Fam. ■ *Laura Richards*

WHAT IS IT...

Cocktails in central London from a startender team.

WHY GO...

Vinyl grooves, delicious drinks, neighbourhood vibes – all just off Oxford Street.

DRINK THIS

Negroni Segreto



The segreto’s out: 1,000 negronis are being given away this weekend at top London bars – from Shep’s to Happiness Forgets. And this is a secret you won’t want to share, a fruity twist on the classic with rosewater and raspberries. Just say ‘Is it you?’ at the bar (a phrase uttered in Campari’s new short movie ‘Entering Red’) to get your boozy, bright-red reward.

→ Fri Feb 8-Sun Feb 10.
 Find participating bars at www.timeout.com/negroni.

Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips

Nine places to visit in 2019

PUT AWAY YOUR passport. Staying in the UK has never seemed like a better idea. Why? There's the environmental impact of jumping on planes for brief city breaks and uncertainty around ease of European travel caused by (whisper it) Brexit – plus the fact that our country is totally stunning. From awe-inspiring landscapes and stargazing spots to arts festivals and fresh cultural hubs, here are nine reasons not to leave the UK in 2019.

1 The Scottish Highlands

For an escape that feels worlds away from London (but isn't actually that far), hop on the Caledonian Sleeper after work and wake up in the wild Highlands. A new fleet of plush trains, with double beds and en suites, arrives this spring to make the overnighter way more comfortable.

2 Northern Ireland

The last 'Game of Thrones' episode will air later this year, so it's the ideal time to visit filming locations in Northern Ireland. Take a tour from Belfast or fashion your own. Don't miss Ballintoy Harbour aka the Iron Islands or the Dark Hedges.

3 Gwynedd

The slate quarries of Gwynedd in Wales are being nominated for Unesco World Heritage Site status. Best to visit now and beat the crowds while the jury's still out. You can walk trails connecting former workers' villages with railways and mines.

4 Buxton

After decades of dilapidation, Buxton Crescent, modelled on Bath's Royal Crescent, is being restored. A spa, set to open in 2019, will allow visitors to wallow in Buxton's geothermal spring once more. Time to dig out your one-piece.



5 West Yorkshire

A new sculpture festival confirms Yorkshire as a top arts destination. The Hepworth Wakefield, Henry Moore Institute, Leeds Art Gallery and Yorkshire Sculpture Park are part of the first ever Yorkshire Sculpture International this summer.

6 Exmoor National Park

Life in the city is forever getting brighter, but 2019 is the year to seek out darkness. Exmoor has the darkest skies in the country, according to the International Dark-Sky Association. Stick around after sunset to go stargazing for the astral views.

7 Winchester

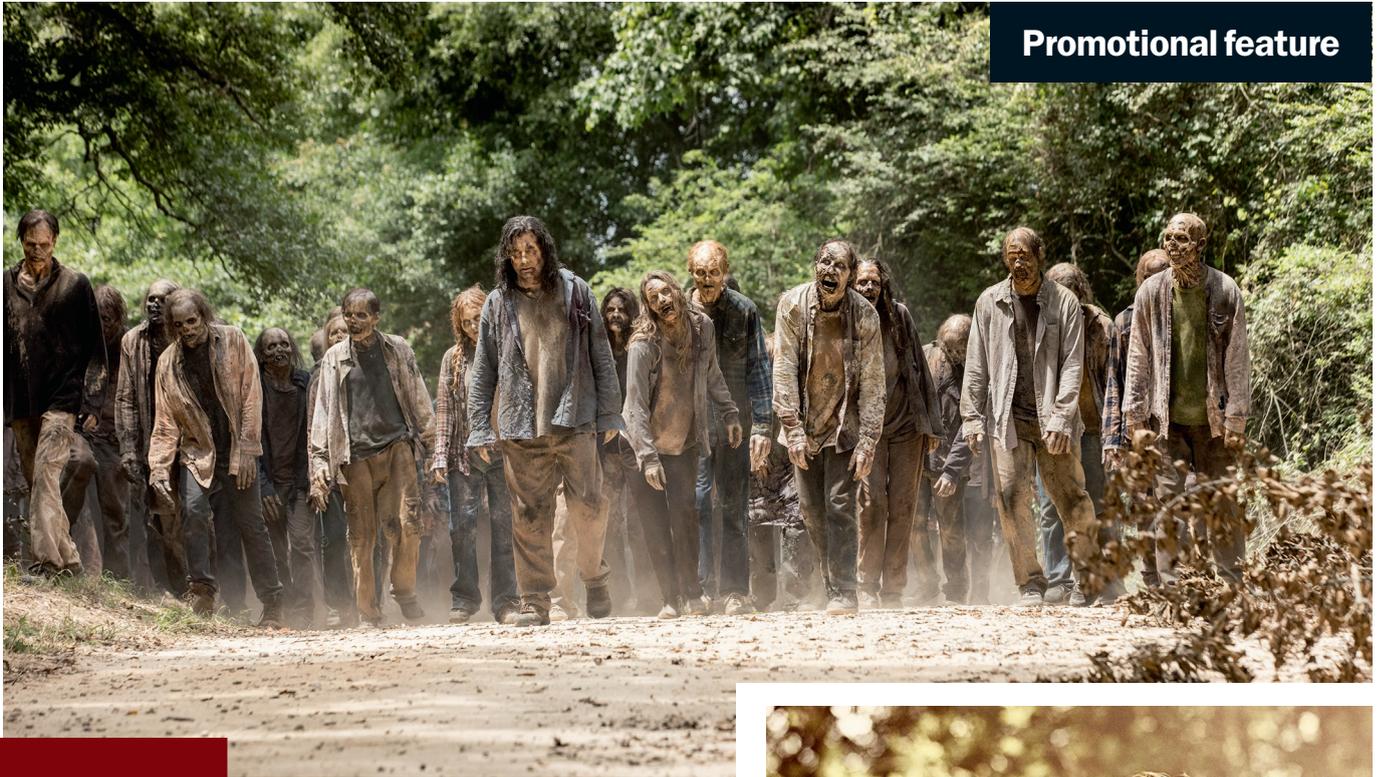
Last summer the number of Londoners taking day trips to this pretty cathedral city was up 11.5 percent. Haven't been yet? 2019's your year. Find trendy bakeries, brunch spots, cosy pubs, film-set-worthy streets and lush country walks.

8 Slapton Sands

2019 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the D-Day landings, and this unusual south Devon beach provides space to reflect. Its 'Exercise Tiger' memorial was set up in memory of the nearly 800 American servicemen who died here during a tragic practice run for D-Day.

9 Isle of Wight

'It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot,' wrote Queen Victoria of her private home on the Isle of Wight, and we're inclined to agree. The Osborne estate was the royal family's seaside retreat. There isn't a better time to visit the palace, or the island's coves and coastal paths, than for the 200th anniversary of the Queen's birth in May. ■ *Ellie Walker-Arnott and Lucy Lovell*



Dead good TV!

Our top five reasons to watch the new season of 'The Walking Dead'

Our favourite post-apocalyptic drama returns to FOX on Monday and this season seriously ups the ante! With new showrunner Angela Kang at the helm, 'The Walking Dead' continues to be appointment TV with bite. Kang has injected new blood into the zombie classic with fresh story arcs, innovative shock tactics and a bold look, taking one of the biggest shows in the world to a whole new level. Here are five reasons why Season 9 is simply unmissable...

1 The Whisperers

Bringing the frights, Season 9 rips formidable new foes straight out of the original comics. The Whisperers are humans who survive in the wild by wearing suits made of flesh, letting them blend in with the walkers. But they do more than ratchet up the fear factor. Their belief that the apocalypse is the rightful next step in the evolution of the species – a return to the natural order of things – makes them complex as well as compelling. Shh! They're coming.

2 A new Alpha female

The leader of the Whisperers is Alpha, a ruthless, dangerous woman who poses a serious threat. An iconic character from the comic-book series, she is played by Oscar nominee Samantha Morton, best known for 'Minority Report', 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them' and 'Longford'. Alpha is the biggest adversary to enter the action since the arrival of Negan. Things are about to get very tasty indeed.

3 The horror

Under Kang's auspices, 'The Walking Dead' is raising the blood-stained bar on scares. Think back to the moment when Rosita and Eugene first encounter the Whisperers while covering on a bank, burying themselves in mud to avoid detection; or when Jesus is stabbed in the back by a Whisperer in the creepy fog at the end of the mid-season closer. Season 9 continues this move towards full-on horror. Hiding behind the sofa might be your best option.



4 New dynamics

Following Rick's departure, we see the band of survivors – new and old – adjusting to the new status quo. Who will now take the lead? Can Daryl (pictured) step up to the mark? Or will badass Michonne take charge? Not only are characters and relationships being tested but the world around them is changing too. The man-made structures the group have clung to are deteriorating and nature is taking over, posing fresh threats and challenges to the group. Where do they go from here?

5 All the favourites!

In a show overflowing with incredible characters, such as Carol, Negan and Michonne, they don't come more iconic than Daryl. Starting life as a volatile redneck, he has evolved into arguably the series' most striking and best defined figure – in the event of a real-life zombie apocalypse, there is no one you would rather have on your side. Season 9 pushes him to the forefront of the action, testing his resourcefulness and courage to the limit. His time is now.

THE
FOX WALKING DEAD

→ 'The Walking Dead' Season 9 returns on Monday at 9pm on FOX.



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