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# TimeOut

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# Inside

This week's Time Out  
in no time at all

## 'All About Eve'

Lily James is Eve to Gillian Anderson's magnificent Margo in Ivo van Hove's new staging of the classic film

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## Oscars might

We predict who will win and say who ought to win. (Regina King should get Best Supporting Actress btw)

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## Kiss and sell

From Cher and Fleetwood Mac to Toto and ZZ Top, sooo many golden oldies are hitting London in 2019, including Gene Simmons and the gang

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## Dragercise

Get your gym diva on with the latest exercise trend that's fit for a queen. Werk it!

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## Marina Abramović

Her awesome show at the Serpentine Gallery is sold out. Boo! We have 70 free tickets to give away. Yay!

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# Hello, London

**Gail Tolley**  
London Editor



This week we're celebrating simple pleasures in life. More specifically the joy you get when you stumble across a bakery serving up a perfect pastel de nata. Better still, make sure you don't leave such important things to chance, with our guide to London's most divine pastries. Prepare to get seriously flaky on p20.

## YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

Last week's Sex in London issue featured some very special handiwork created at Embroider Your Member, a workshop where you can come away with some saucy craft. One reader was inspired. **'Can't WAIT - I'll never have to buy birthday presents again!'**  
*Aisling via Instagram*

On the same topic we also reported on the The Paradiso, a pop-up pastiche of an old-school porn cinema that shows erotic films. George here thought he might get a cold if he visited. **'Does the cinema provide tissues or should I bring some from home?'**  
*George A via Facebook*

Pie shop L Manze's cocktail pop-up is back, but Bradley here wants to turn the concept on its head. He's done with peanuts, he just wants mash with his martinis. Seems fair. **'Honestly, there should be more pie-and-mash shops hidden inside cocktail bars.'**  
*Bradley via Twitter*

We posted the trailer for Richard Curtis's new Beatles-themed film 'Yesterday'. One reader isn't a fan of the screenwriter... Or is he? **'Richard Curtis should leave well alone. "Love Actually" is the worst film ever. But "Four Weddings" is genius without a doubt.'**  
*Stewart W via Facebook*

## COMMENT OF THE WEEK

Our article on the best bars for making friends in London sparked a contribution from this amiable chap. **'I lived in London for 11 years - travelled all over the city - and in my own experience, the best pub to chat to strangers, catch up with friends and feel the friendliness was The Churchill Arms near Notting Hill. All ages, loads of nice drinks, a proper Thai restaurant, and the staff are awesome!'**  
*Nick W via Facebook*

See? You might think Londoners are an unfriendly lot who avoid eye contact on public transport, but down the pub after a pint, it's a whole other story.

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# City life

Edited by James Manning  
@timeoutlondon

## Second sight

**ENVELOPE-PUSHING WORKSPACE** Second Home opens its fourth London site next week smack bang in the middle of Hackney – and it's kicking things off with a very exciting week-long events series, **Second Home Unwrapped**. Victorian building Morley Hall and its 1960s façade have been completely revamped by architects SelgasCano: check out the results on one of the daily tours that are running all week. Stretch Yoga will lead free morning classes, Help Refugees will host a Syrian supper club, and you can catch free talks covering how to succeed as a creative and 'be more pirate'. A series leading up to International Women's Day will feature a talk on race, faith and femininity by awesome writer and broadcaster Yassmin Abdel-Magied, a session on women in tech and a talk with *gal-dem* about the music industry, followed by a Friday night party. There's loads to check out, so head down and make yourself at Home. ■ **James Manning**

→ Second Home London Fields, 125-127 Mare St.

London Fields Overground. [www.secondhome.io/londonfields](http://www.secondhome.io/londonfields).

Second Home Unwrapped runs Mon Feb 25-Mar 1.



## THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



### Do this

Get a last-chance look at our **'Time Out 50: 50 Years, 50 Covers'** exhibition at the Museum of Brands this Saturday, plus a behind-the-scenes Q&A with our global design chief Tom Hislop.



### Eat this

You've never had a samosa like the samosas at **Secret Samosa Club**. Try fillings like jerk chicken and 'Punjabi cheeseburger' at this two-week pop-up at Great Guns Social in Borough.



### Drink this

Three of London's top bartenders are launching a new range of sustainable liqueurs called **MUYU**. Intrigued? Sample all three (and take home a bottle) at a pop-up shop in Seven Dials this week.

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



# WORD ON THE STREET

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

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

## DLR operator

Mike Warwicker, 56

### The DLR isn't really driverless

'While our trains are mostly automated, a passenger service agent like me drives them to and from the depot and has to operate them manually if they break down. There are hidden controls at the front, where everyone wants to sit. I've heard whispers that something extra might be put in the next trains for kids who like pretending they're driving, like a steering wheel or joystick. But that's not official yet!'

### You can see some surprising things on a train through Docklands

'People think of the DLR as a destination itself. You can see so much of London from it: The Shard and Canary Wharf, of course, but plenty of unexpected things too. I can remember one year being able to observe a group of swans grow day by day down in the creek at Deptford. You can't spot that from your car window.'

### DLR staff are encouraged to entertain

'I've been nicknamed "The Weatherman" because I like to give my passengers a long-term forecast. Or I'll crack jokes based on what's happening that day. Sometimes it does go wrong: once I made an announcement about National Melon Day and accidentally

told passengers at Stratford to get their melons out. Fortunately the bosses encourage us to entertain people!'

### Trains can bring change, for better or worse

'The DLR has provided a lifeline around here. When I lived around Deptford and Lewisham at age ten or 11, there was just lots of rubble from broken-down buildings. When I was old enough, I realised there was more to life than south-east London and moved out. Then the DLR was built and the area became so popular that I couldn't afford to move back here even if I wanted to.' ■

*Interview by James FitzGerald*

'Is it just me who thinks bread is sexy?'

'That was before I was on hand gels.'

'I fancied Idris Elba more when he was the bull in "Zootropolis".'

'I'm *always* on a prawn vibe.'

'You get to the point where you can fit a whole meerkat in you and it's time for a warthog.'

'It's costing me £70 a week every day.'

'Sorry I'm late – I had a bran flake explosion in my bag.'

'I overdosed on turmeric lattes once.'

'Bring me someone who only eats two-finger KitKats and I will kill them.'

'I need to seriously offset my carbon emissions.'

'Married life is exactly the same as unmarried life, except that people keep asking, "How's married life?"'

Overheard any outré exchanges? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon





deliveroo

# chilli roulette

FOOD FREEDOM





# IT HAPPENED HERE

Londoners look back on their funniest (mis)adventures in the city. This week: at Guy's Hospital in Southwark, comedy double act *Katie Norris* and *Sinead Parker* had an unusual bonding experience

## Sinead

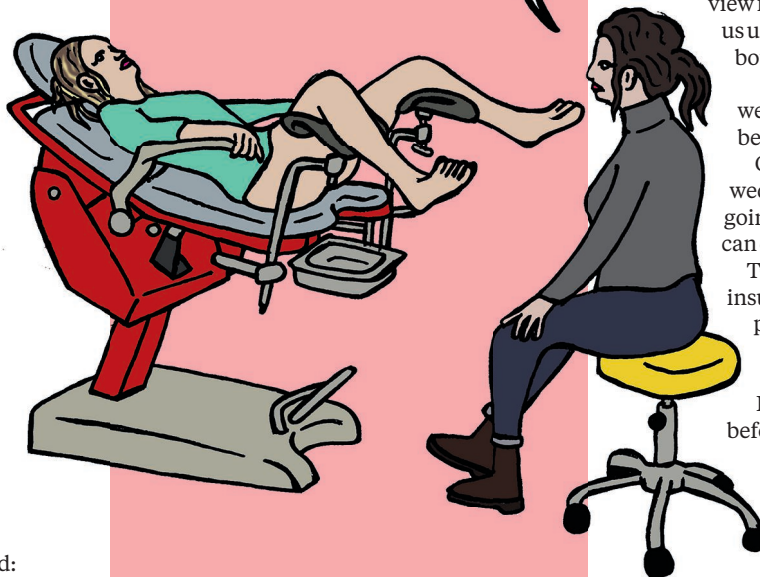
We've all heard the old proverb 'The comedy duo that smear together have no fear together.' This time, however, Katie's smear test results had come back fine and mine were abnormal.

As friends and comedy partners, we have absolutely no boundaries: we often share a bed, a bath and, sadly, a birthday. So it made perfect sense for Katie to come along to my colposcopy at Guy's Hospital for moral support and hilarity – if your idea of hilarity means having your legs spread in stirrups as five strangers, including a silent male trainee, stare at your vagina as it's projected on to a large HD screen.

One of life's reassuring constants is that a humiliating situation can always be made worse if you're an actor, because there's always someone who will ask, 'Have I seen you in anything?' On this occasion things were simpler as I was able to point at the screen and respond: 'Just this.'

Colposcopies are embarrassing, uncomfortable and scary. It was lucky that Katie was there to hold my hand, make me laugh, look lovingly at my vagina and say, 'You have a fabulous c\*\*t.' Though this did prompt the nurse to ask, 'Are you a couple?' At this point I wondered: Do Ant and Dec ever have these problems?

YOU HAVE A FABULOUS C\*\*T!



## Katie

For me, having to stare at Sinead's vagina projected on to a large HD screen while she crushed my hand was obviously something of a traumatic experience. Luckily, Guy's Hospital is opposite The Shard, and knowing there would be a better view from one of its swanky bars, I took us up after Sinead's appointment for a bottle of their cheapest wine.

One glass of picpoul in and we were at the 'I love you, you're my best friend' stage.

One bottle down and it was wedding talk: 'Look, I don't think I'm going to have bridesmaids, but you can definitely be there.'

Three bottles down and we'd insulted our most recent birthday presents to each other, admitted we hated each other's boyfriend and both repeatedly shouted 'YOU EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM ME!' before storming out of The Shard.

At this point I wondered: Do Ant and Dec ever have these problems? ■

→ 'Norris & Parker: Burn the Witch' is at Soho Theatre, Tue Feb 19-Sat Feb 23.

⇨ Tottenham Court Rd. £12.50-£17.50.



## THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out Tastemakers have been Instagramming this week



@eastlndgirl\_foodieblog

'The Garden Room on Charing Cross Road has beautiful views.'



@eatnlondon

'This piggy went to @bao\_london and had herself a piggy bun!'



@laurageats

'It's hard not to fall in love with @waitresslondon.'



@lity.eats.travels

'Barber & Parlour is a gem in Shoreditch.'

The Tastemakers are our super-community. Sign up at [timeout.com/tastemakers](https://www.timeout.com/tastemakers)



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# THE VERY BEST OF Richmond

There's more to this leafy corner of south-west London than rutting deer.  
Explore the neighbourhood with local tips from Time Out Tastemakers

→ ↺ Richmond. [www.timeout.com/richmond](http://www.timeout.com/richmond)



Richmond Riverside

## BEST BREAKFAST OR BRUNCH

'**No 1a Duke Street**, a classy café serving great brunches from eggs benedict to ricotta and banana pancakes. They have a lovely terrace for sunny days as well.' *Milena Dvorec*  
'In **Petersham Nurseries Teahouse** you can have brunch in a glasshouse, surrounded by plants that you can buy.' *George Christodoulakis*

## BEST LUNCH

'**The Bingham** is one of the most beautiful spots, offering perfect views and elegant food. A table on the balcony in spring is idyllic.' *Georgie Pursey*  
'**Pizzeria Rustica** does lovely pizzas – a great way to soak up the booze after a day at the rugby!' *Paula Kanesanathan*  
'**Hollyhock Café**: a cute little building in one of the area's green spaces, where they serve vegetarian quiches, salads and cakes.' *Ioanna Laskari*

## BEST DINNER

'**Debraggio**'s pasta is perfect and the restaurant has a nice selection of Italian products to buy and cook at home as well.' *Milena Dvorec*

'**Buenos Aires** for the best steak.' *Charlotte Walter*  
'**Al Boccon di'vino** is a super-friendly Italian family-run restaurant. They make such a fuss of you and the food is great.' *Shona Read*

## BEST PUB

'**The Roebuck** can't be beaten for views! There's nothing better than getting a drink and sitting outside overlooking the river.' *Chloé Miller*  
'**Tap Tavern** has what every pub should aspire to have: a great selection of craft beers, a warm atmosphere and nice pub food.' *Milena Dvorec*  
'**Lass O'Richmond Hill** is a cosy, dog-friendly pub with a real fireplace in winter.' *Edelyn Brawidjojo*  
'Hire a boat from Richmond Bridge Boathouses and row to **The White Swan** in Twickenham.' *Evie Möller*

## BEST BAR

'There's a cute little place called **Rock & Rose** which is great for birthday parties, with killer cocktails and kitschy vintage decor.' *Claire Etchell*

## BEST PLACE FOR CULTURE

'The beautifully restored **Orleans House Gallery**

is a must. It houses the Richmond art collection and the opulent, Baroque Octagon Room.' *Chloé Adriana Fox*

## BEST PLACE TO SHOP

'**Hansel & Pretzel** has a vast selection of German breads and sweets.' *George Christodoulakis*  
'**Danieli**'s two shops in Richmond serve some of the best gelato I have ever tasted.' *Chloe Walden*

## BEST PLACE FOR COFFEE

'**Kiss the Hippo** is super-cute and clean-looking with great coffee.' *Natalie Manni*  
'The best place to relax with a coffee is on the terrace at **Pembroke Lodge**.' *Leena Shah*

## BEST GREEN SPACE

'**Richmond Park** is very romantic – seeing deer walking by freely is fascinating.' *Elena Mouza*  
'I love **Richmond Green** in the summer: a great place to chill out and enjoy the sun while people read and play games.' *Paula Kanesanathan*  
'The lawns of **Richmond Riverside**, watching the rowing boats on a sunny day.' *Laura Goldmeier*

Discover more London area guides at [www.timeout.com/neighbourhoods](http://www.timeout.com/neighbourhoods)



# Being home for bedtime was **my rightmove**

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## MY LONDON STORY

Born and bred in west London, Shaun Bailey is running for the city's top job in next year's mayoral election. Here's his story so far



## 'I say a lot of things that get me in trouble'

**I WAS BORN** in the old Paddington Hospital in 1971 and grew up in west London with my single-parent mother. We were really, really broke, though my brother and I never knew it. We were surrounded by lovely people in a diverse, multicultural area: I came across a lot of Irish people, Nigerian families, Vietnamese kids... We got on marvellously, and that really structured my view of the world.

Notting Hill Carnival for me was big: our annual finances to an extent relied on it, because my granny and my late grandad ran a patty stall. I was constantly pressing my mum to go off to the soundsystems, where I learned to dance and became a real hip hop fan. There's a direct link between me getting into Public Enemy and me getting involved in public life.

I started working with a youth group in Neasden, and that's how I got into youth work. I started looking for jobs for boys, as an alternative to them selling drugs. The MyGeneration charity was an extension of that and it grew far beyond what I had ever imagined. We were running an education project, a girls' group, anti-crime

programmes and an enormous football club to attract people to the job club. I used to joke to the kids, 'You're my best chance at having rich mates, so you'd better do well!' But it was tough to raise funds. I realised that I was running out of steam and I gave the projects to people who could keep them going financially and emotionally.

I remember speaking to one of the parents and they said, 'Shaun, you always preach to the children and it's time for a demonstration.' That's how I went into politics. A strategist called Steve Hilton had seen me speak. He introduced me to David Cameron – this was when he was the leader of the opposition and I had no idea who he was – and they said to me, 'You should become a Tory candidate.' It was not something I had dreamed about, but I thought: if I get into politics I could show the kids there's nowhere a poor kid can't be.

I remember a lot of people were surprised that I was a Tory. People from the left would say, 'Shaun what are you doing? You're in the wrong party.' I'm in the centre, but in this political climate you need to have a party label. I'm not the slickest politician: I say a lot of things that

get me in trouble, but the point is people are thinking it. After I lost the election to become MP for Hammersmith in 2010, Cameron's office called and said, 'Would you consider being a special adviser?' Being in Downing Street was amazing: you experience stuff at such a high level. My brother said to me one day, 'Your mates are in prison; you could have been in prison. But instead you're meeting the prime minister.'

In 2015 I was elected to the London Assembly and last year I was picked as the Conservative mayoral candidate for 2020. It's a much bigger platform, and – win, lose or draw – my goal is to highlight the issues that people really care about. The idea of winning does scare me: you are responsible for the welfare of 9 million people! But my whole life has been characterised by overcoming challenges. 'Giving Londoners a stake in society' is my slogan, because London gave me everything. ■ *Interview by James Manning*

For more unique looks at London life, head to [timeout.com/news](https://www.timeout.com/news)



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# FREE LONDON

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



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## OUT OF THIS WORLD

### Marina Abramović: 'The Life'

Want to hang out with one of the most important living artists? Now you can. Well, kind of. 'The Life' lets you spend 19 minutes with the digital avatar of art-world megastar Marina Abramović. It's sold out, except for the 70 free tickets we have. Snap 'em up at [www.timeout.com/abramoviclife](http://www.timeout.com/abramoviclife).

→ Serpentine Gallery. ⊕ Knightsbridge. Thu Feb 21.

### KEEP ROLLIN' ON Little Kolkata giveaway

Sack off your sad sarnies and head to Little Kolkata for a free lunch between 11am and 3pm. It's giving away kati rolls – fried paratha bread stuffed with omelette, salad and your choice of kebab. Score!

→ Little Kolkata. ⊕ Covent Garden. Fri Feb 22.

### FULL HOUSE Dabbers Social Bingo

The classic game has been given a makeover with cabaret, live music and negronis. Your nan would (probably) not approve. Try it out for free this Monday if you book using the code 'FREE100'.

→ Dabbers Social Bingo. ⊕ Aldgate. Mon Feb 25.

### WHO ART WE? Barbican OpenFest: Art 50

Speak to an AI chatbot about identity, watch a Brexit-inspired musical performance and see photos celebrating the UK's diversity at this arts festival exploring what it means to be British.

→ Barbican Centre. ⊕ Barbican. Sat Feb 23.

### LET'S DANCE Focus Africa Takeover

Party for hours at Pop Brixton as Focus Africa hosts a day and night of live music and DJ sets from 3pm until midnight. Think you've got rhythm? Get there at the start for a marimba workshop.

→ Pop Brixton. ⊕ Brixton. Sat Feb 23.

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# Get baked!

From delicate baklava to sturdy mooncakes,  
Emma Hughes samples London's best pastries.  
Trust us, they are well worth the dough.  
Photography Andy Parsons







**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

The Dusty Knuckle supplies some of London's best cafés and restaurants, but you won't find the swirls anywhere but its shop.

## Orange and poppy seed swirl

**The Dusty Knuckle**

It's known for superlative sourdoughs and whopping sarnies, but Dalston-based bakery The Dusty Knuckle is no slouch in the pastry department either. To make this elegant little number, it slathers its homemade croissant dough in sweet poppy-seed paste, teases it into a scroll and finishes it with an orange-zest glaze. The delicious result looks like a musical note, and might just make you want to burst into song.

→ Abbot St. Dalston Kingsland Overground. £2.20.





## Best pastries

### Blood-orange Danish

Jolene

Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Joleeeene... When the bakery of the moment (it's run by the team behind mould-breaking Primeur and Westerns Laundry) gets its hands on the citrus fruit of the moment, you know the results are going to be something special. Forget sad service-station Danishes: this is a burnished, custard-filled marvel, topped with photogenic brûléed blood-orange slices. Oh, and it's a great source of vitamin C (probably).

→ 21 Newington Green. Canonbury Overground. £3.50.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Jolene doesn't just bake the pastries fresh every morning – the flour that goes into them is milled daily from scratch.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

The pastry is made up of 16 ultra-crispy layers – count 'em!

### Hazelnut praline Paris-Brest

Pophams Bakery

Trust London's most 'grammed bakery to come up with the goods. Inspired by the Paris-Brest (a classic French dessert), Pophams head baker Florin Grama swapped traditional choux for croissant pastry that's sprinkled with flaked almonds before being baked and hand-filled with a hazelnut cream. Another layer goes on top, along with more almonds and a light dusting of icing sugar. Note: there's nothing to stop you ordering two and doubling them up.

→ 19 Prebend St. Essex Rd rail. £5.19.



### WHO DOES THE BEST CRIOSSANT?

You, the readers, rated these ones

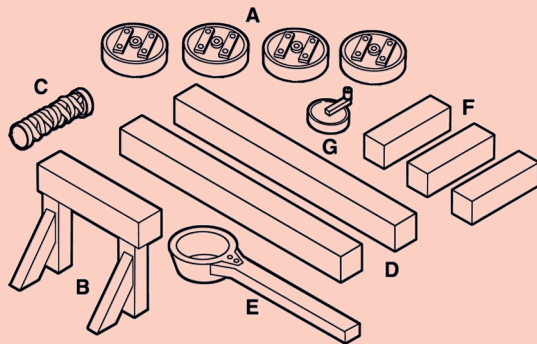
'Margot Bakery in East Finchley. The pastry is perfect and they experiment with flavours. I recommend the chocolate one.' Kathryn Winfield

'The croissant at Bibendum is the perfect mix of golden crust, crispy layers and fluffy centre.' LeeLee Seah

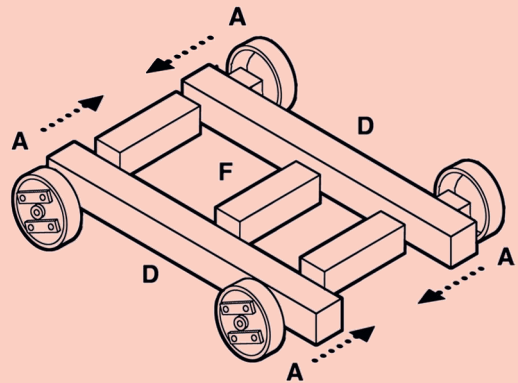


# How to get to IKEA Greenwich

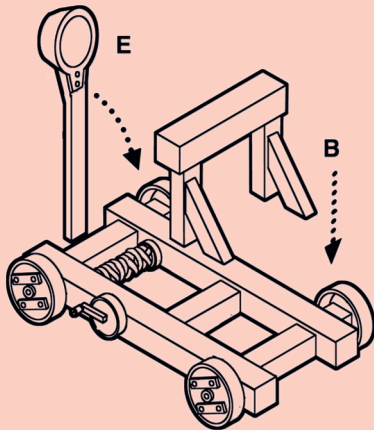
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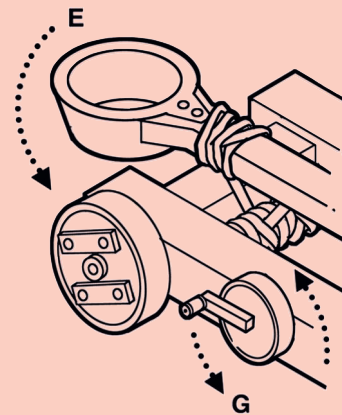
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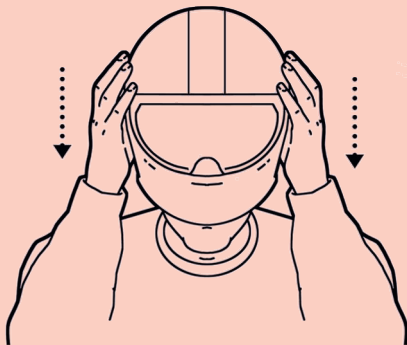
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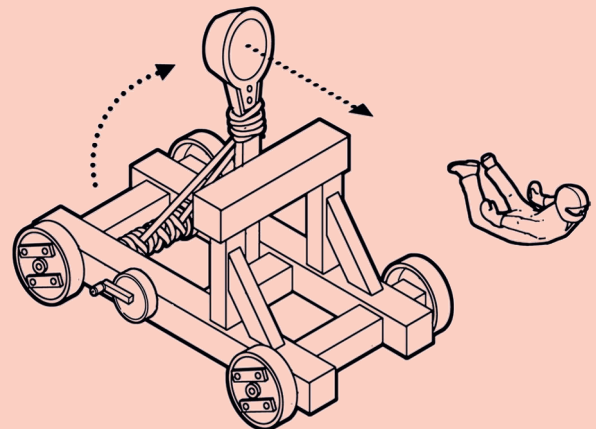
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## Best pastries

### DID YOU KNOW?

You can (and should) make like a pro and have yours with a wedge of crumbly Lancashire cheese.



## Eccles cake

**St John**

It isn't all trotters and tails at St John. Fergus Henderson's original temple to the pleasures of the flesh also has a standout pastry department. In fact, while traditional Eccles cakes contain lard, this one is proudly vegetarian. Inside the puff pastry, the filling – currants, allspice, nutmeg and dark brown sugar – is a jammy delight.

→ St John St, EC1M 4AY. ☎ Farringdon. £9.

## Tarte aux fraises

**Aux Pains de Papy**

You don't need to get on the Eurostar to enjoy proper French pâtisserie. In fact, stop just short of the terminal, on Grays Inn Road, and you can feast your eyes (and mouth) on some of the finest pastries this side of *La Manche* – specifically, the tarts aux fraises at Aux Pains de Papy. A crown of perfectly ripe strawberries and blueberries, glazed the old-fashioned way, sits regally atop a pillow of crème patissière, surrounded by melt-in-the-mouth shortcrust pastry. *Mon Dieu!*

→ 279 Grays Inn Rd. ☎ King's Cross. £3.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Demand for Aux Pains de Papy's wares is especially high during the morning rush hour – which means owner Mathieu Esposito gets up at 1am every day.



'Mariage Frères, does a spectacular raspberry croissant. It's infused with delicate tea, stuffed with fruity jam and ruby-striped.' *Alexandra Boyle*

'The croissants at **Pophams Bakery** in Islington can never be beaten for crispiness, layering and flavour.' *Laura Goldmeier*

'I'm loving the charcoal vegan croissants from **Lele's** in Clapton. They're warm, crispy and they don't taste too buttery like some pastries.' *Carolina Bateman*



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## Best pastries

### DID YOU KNOW?

Hybrids are a Yeast speciality – it also sells the Croaf, a loaf-shaped croissant.



## Brioche feuilletée

### Yeast Bakery

Budge up, luxe doughnuts – 2019 is the year of the brioche. To transform it into pastry, Hackney microbrewery Yeast layers up its dough with top-notch French butter for a laminated effect, before baking, filling and topping it. Flavours change from Saturday to Saturday, but they're never less than extra: look out for the likes of lemon meringue, coconut and white chocolate, and Black Forest.

→ Arch 356 Westgate St. London Fields Overground. £3.85.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Legend has it that mooncakes helped the Chinese overthrow Mongol rule in the fourteenth century. It's said that people used them to spread secrets by baking messages inside.

## Mooncakes

### Wonderful Patisserie

These sweet, dense pastry roundels (filled with red-bean, sesame or lotus-seed paste and decorated with lucky symbols) are traditionally eaten during the Mid-Autumn Festival in September. But they fly off the shelves all year round at Chinatown's Wonderful Patisserie. It's a fitting name: step inside and you'll find a rainbow display of these delicacies, flavoured with everything from jasmine and green tea to purple yam and durian (punchy). Break into yours and you might find a salted whole duck-egg yolk, representing the full moon.

→ 45 Gerrard St. Ⓞ Leicester Square. £2.20.



'Beyond Bread is great for coeliacs! It does the best gluten-free pastries I've discovered so far. My favourite is the almond croissant.' *Sophie Bkf*

'The ham and cheese croissant at **The Delaunay Counter** in Aldwych is amazingly flaky and buttery.' *Tara Protheroe*

'**Department of Coffee and Social Affairs** fills its tasty croissants with delicious stuff. Avocado, feta and rocket is my fave.' *Lizzie Williamson*





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### DID YOU KNOW?

It's priced by the kilo – so you can use 'I'm crap at maths' as an excuse to buy in bulk.

## Pistachio baklava

Green Valley

It's impossible to walk past this Lebanese food hall without stopping to goggle at the towering pyramids of pastries in the window. From moon-shaped kulwashkur filled with coarsely ground cashews to boukaj unfolding like flowers, everything here looks gorgeous enough to turn you into a dribbling Homer Simpson. But you mustn't miss the pistachio baklava. With a 2:1 nuts-to-filo ratio and just the right amount of syrup binding everything together, each little morsel is a work of art.

→ 36-37 Upper Berkeley St. ☉ Marble Arch.  
£15.99 per kg.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The secret of the burnt top and smooth filling is a very hot oven: Madeira's pastéis are briefly blasted at 300C, which makes the custard boil.

## Pastel de nata

Madeira

Opened in 1988, Madeira has made waves with its world-beating Portuguese custard tarts (it does wholesale now, so if you've eaten a pastel de nata anywhere in the UK, chances are Madeira baked it). Get yourself down to Albert Embankment to tuck into one for less than the price of the bus there. With layers of the crispest puff pastry encasing a buttercup-yellow, cinnamon-scented custard, it's sunshine on a plate. And not a soggy bottom in sight. ■

→ 46b Albert Embankment. ☉ Vauxhall. £1.20.

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The Time Out Interview

Little

Simz

Her fans include Gorillaz and Kendrick Lamar, but there's no way Little Simz is getting complacent. *Sirin Kale* talks to the rapper about coming of age. Portraits *Andy Parsons*

**'LISTENING TO DIZZEE** and Kano, eating chicken and chips, hanging around Finsbury Park, Highbury and Angel,' laughs Little Simz, real name Simbiatu 'Simbi' Ajikawo. She's reminiscing about the teenage years that inspired '101 FM', a song from her album 'Grey Area', due out in March. The laid-back hip-hop track remembers her time spent

coming up in the UK rap scene: taking buses to the studio, skipping fares on trains and playing PS2. It's a big-hearted love song to the capital.

Born to Nigerian parents in Islington, Little Simz is an alumna of St Mary's Youth Club on Upper Street, a training ground for talents including her friend actor Letitia Wright. Simz's star looks likely to rise as high.







By the age of 24, she's released three mixtapes, eight EPs and two albums. She has toured with Gorillaz and staged two huge London festivals, *Welcome to Wonderland I and II*, featuring music, art and talks. It's a prodigious output for someone so young, but it's not like the former CBBC star to kick back. We caught up with Simz ahead of her show at Alexandra Palace, up the road from where she grew up.

**Kendrick Lamar described you as 'the illest doing it right now'. Did you see your career change after?**

'I definitely did notice a change, but his statement didn't make me complacent or comfortable. It was more like fire in my belly if anything. It made me more hungry and determined because I was aware: "Okay, if he's said that, you better not make him look silly. Really show people what you're capable of." There were some eyes on me, but more fire in my belly.'

**Can you still remember the teenage years that inspired '101 FM' clearly?**

'100 percent! In that track I talk about how nostalgic those days were for me at 15 and 16, going to do radio sets and to my friends' house parties, and what we used to wear back then. It's funny because when I go Stateside, people tell me it's their favourite song. I find that crazy. I didn't even expect them to understand some of the words I'm saying. It's proof that music travels, and people get it because they feel it as well.'

**What do you miss about London when you're away from the city?**

'Tesco! My meal deal. And hearing the London accent. Just being able to say things as I've grown up saying them and people getting what I mean, instead of having to explain certain words or phrases.'

**You posted a picture of you when you were a kid, posing with Estelle. So many of the artists you hung out with when you were at St Mary's have gone on to become huge. How's that?**

'In terms of black music and black culture, we're getting heard a lot more. For example, Letitia Wright winning a Bafta: she's someone from our community that's grown up local. It's great for young people especially to see that we can reach greater heights. You're not bound to your circumstances and situation. It's so nice to see people you've grown up with doing so well.'

**Is it true you auditioned for the role of Shuri in 'Black Panther'?**

'Yeah, I auditioned. I didn't get it, obviously, Letitia got it, but that's still a win for me, you know what I mean? Her wins are my wins, and my wins are her wins. That's how I see it within our community and our scene.'

**You guys go way back, right?**

'I've known Letitia for years! From school times. I can't even remember how we met – probably through

youth club. I shot her for the cover of "Selfish" [the first single from "Grey Area"]. We maintained a really good friendship. She's wicked talented and super-nice.'

**How do you think London has changed since then?**

'It's a shame that youth centres, places like St Mary's, aren't really around. I'm a product of them. Growing up I was lucky enough to have places like that as an outlet for my creative side.'

**You toured with Gorillaz. What was that like?**

'Everything you'd imagine it would be: nerve-wracking, exciting. There were a few pinch-me moments. Just to be able to perform in front of so many people each night was something I'd always dreamed of, and to do it with Gorillaz... I mean, I grew up on Gorillaz! You never think you're going to tour with the people you grew up listening to.'

**Tell me about the pinch-me moments.**

'Definitely when I performed at The O2 arena. When I was young I remember going to see J Cole there. I was one of the first people in the queue from like 1pm and the show didn't start until 9pm. Now to be the person on stage – it's a bit surreal, isn't it? But I always knew in the back of my head I was going to get there.'

**You made 'Grey Area' right after your Gorillaz tour. What was that like?**

'The process for me was more like therapy. I'd been touring for so long and I hadn't been in one place. When I went in to make that album, I was at home, I came off social media and I honed in on getting my thoughts and feelings out.'

**There's a track on the album called 'Therapy'. Is making music therapy for you?**

'I remember being told I should go see a therapist. I didn't understand why I should go and pay money to talk to someone on their clock. I decided to have my own form of therapy and just write. [The track] talks through the perspective of me imagining what it would be like to go to a therapy session with someone taking notes. That's not to say I'm against it. I'm just not there yet.'

**Lastly, what can people expect from the album?**

'It's a coming-of-age album. It's about peeling back layers and tapping into deeper sides of myself. Things that I once loved, turns out I'm not even that into anymore. And things I was so certain I didn't like, I don't mind. And as I get older, there's going to be more of that. I thought I was so sure of myself, I thought I knew myself – but it turns out you don't.' ■

→ Little Simz' album *Grey Area* is out in March. She plays with Jungle at Alexandra Palace on Thu Feb 21 and then All Points East on May 24.

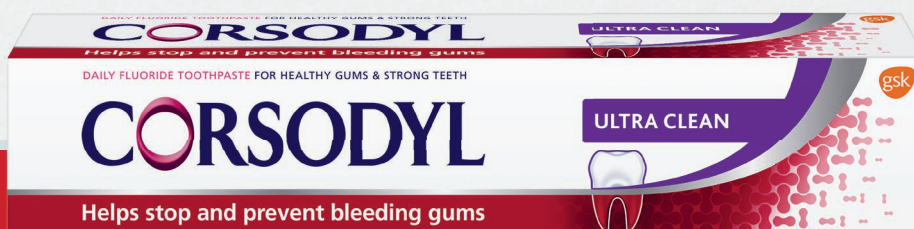
**'Letitia Wright's wins are my wins, and my wins are her wins'**





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**What is it?** Three courses and a glass of bubbly at a super-swanky restaurant from the Roux dynasty.

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**What's exclusive?** Three courses and a drink are just £35.

→ Roux at Parliament Square. ☉ Westminster. Until Apr 16.  
[www.timeout.com/roux19](http://www.timeout.com/roux19)

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### GinTonica

**What is it?** A G&T and dinner for two at a trendy Notting Hill gin bar.

**Why go?** Think your auntie Jean has a large gin collection? She's got nothing on The Distillery on Portobello Road. This mecca for gin drinkers serves up tasty Spanish small plates in its uber-cool GinTonica restaurant, too.

**What's exclusive?** A G&T each and six dishes to share for just £40.

→ The Distillery. ☉ Ladbrooke Grove. Until May 31.  
[www.timeout.com/gintonica](http://www.timeout.com/gintonica)

### Jazz Cafe

**What is it?** Your pick from a range of gigs at the iconic music venue.

**Why go?** This gem in Camden's musical crown has hosted some highly respected names in jazz, soul and beyond since it opened in the '90s. And there's a great dancefloor, so you can expect much more than the usual jazz-club head bobbing.

**What's exclusive?** Our tickets start at £8.75, saving you up to 30 percent.

→ Jazz Cafe. ☉ Camden Town. Select dates until Mar 21. [www.timeout.com/jazzcafe19](http://www.timeout.com/jazzcafe19)

### Bunga Bunga

**What is it?** Bingo, pizza and a cocktail at a bonkers restaurant.

**Why go?** These epic bingo nights are hosted by the loose-lipped Mamma Bunga and her son Luigi, and feature dancing, confetti, games, prizes, delicious Italian food and much more. Expect utter silliness.

**What's exclusive?** You can join the fun for just £18 – that includes bingo, a pizza and a cocktail.

→ Bunga Bunga Battersea. Battersea Park rail. Until May 31. [www.timeout.com/bunga](http://www.timeout.com/bunga)

### 'Follies'

**What is it?** Tickets to the National Theatre show that we gave five stars.

**Why go?** Last year's National Theatre run of 'Follies' was met with glowing reviews across the board. The plot follows former showgirls (played by Tracie Bennett, Janie Dee and Joanna Riding) who meet years after their final show to reminisce.

**What's exclusive?** Our tickets save you 22 percent – now just £36.

→ National Theatre. ☉ Waterloo. Until Feb 25, book by Feb 21. [www.timeout.com/follies](http://www.timeout.com/follies)

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# Property

Edited by **Clare Vooght**  
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## Back to the future

The Design Museum's 'Home Futures' exhibition features fascinating and boundary-pushing takes on modern living. *Clare Vooght* picks the most promising home-enhancers that never made it big

**YESTERDAY'S VISIONS OF** the future can seem *waaay* off the mark, but some are amazingly accurate. From the 1960s prediction that we'd come to live in tech-controlled bubbles to housework-loving robots and blow-up furniture, the Design Museum's 'Home Futures' exhibition explores past imaginings of how we would be living today. Some are unnervingly prescient of the future. Others are just a bit... kooky. Here are our favourite ideas that didn't quite make it into the mainstream.

### The human nest

Imagine it's a Sunday night, and you're snuggling up like a baby bird in a big ol' nest, while your partner/housemates/children feed you snacks. That dream could (maybe) have come true, had this 1973 reimagining of the sofa by Gianni Ruffi (part of the Italian Radical Design movement) ever reached Ikea. Spoiler alert: it didn't. But you can still lie in the surreal, pop art-inspired **La Cova** at the Design Museum till March (yay!).

### The seaweed room-divider

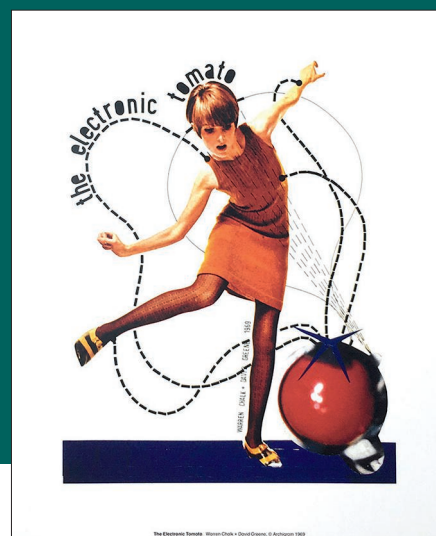
Inspired by the natural world, **Algues** are made up of hundreds of plastic, seaweed-like components. They were designed in 2004 to be put together by city-dwellers in infinite configurations, to suit their mobile, flexible lifestyles – serving as a webbed canopy, screen or room-divider. This one's still available to buy online in black, green, white or red. And you thought seaweed was just for sushi.

### Anti-consumerism in a box

Ettore Sottsass's **Micro-Environment** was intended to liberate homeowners from needing to buy consumer goods. Instead of fancy toasters, ovens and wardrobes, people would own several fridge-sized, cheap-to-produce plastic boxes, each with a different function: shower, bookshelf, sink etc. The containers would be lightweight and on wheels, making it easy to reconfigure rooms. Probably not a bad shout for dividing up space in your Tottenham warehouse flat.

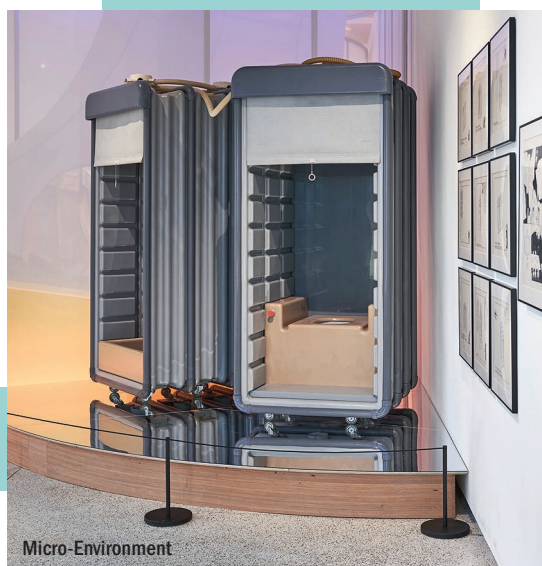






The 1950s were about labour-saving robots for the home. It all got a bit ridiculous so, naturally, everyone started taking the mickey. Enter mischievous avant-garde architectural group Archigram who imagined a super-machine – the **Manzak** – that could help in the office, do the shopping, even hunt and fish! For obvious reasons, its designers nicknamed it The Electronic Tomato. ■

→ 'Home Futures: Living in Yesterday's Tomorrow', in partnership with Ikea Museum, is at the Design Museum until Mar 24.



Nicknamed 'Big Mama', **Up Chair** was inspired by statues of fertility goddesses. The 1969 lounge chair arrives vacuum-packed into a four-inch-thick disc. When opened, it blows up into a curvaceous maximalist's dream. It's basically a £3,000-£4,000 metaphor for a giant womb. Though designer Gaetano Pesce also intended it as a metaphor for self-imprisonment, hence the ball-and-chain pouffe attached.

**CITATIONS:** RONAN & ERWAN BOURILLON, AL CUES, 2009. ©PAUL THIRON & STUDIO BOURILLON, UP CHAIR, CATIANO PENSCE FOR BIT ITALIA, UP 5, GARMACHAR WITH MICHELE, 1969. (REISSUED 2002). COURTESY OF 8&B ITALIA. MICRO-ENVIRONMENT, ETORE SOTTAS, 1972. PHOTOGRAPH BY FELIX SPELLER FOR THE DESIGN MUSEUM, MANZAK: LA COVA AND GIANNI RUFFI FOR GUFRAM, 1972. PHOTOGRAPH BY FELIX SPELLER FOR THE DESIGN MUSEUM, MANZAK: THE ELECTRONIC TOMATO PRINT, ILLUSTRATION BY WARREN KUKI AND DAVID GREEN FOR ARCHIGRAM, 1969. PRODUCED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE SIGNALS/SEISMOSCOPE

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# Room to share

Many Londoners are now looking for a sense of community where they live, so rental developers are providing banging shared spaces.

*Clare Vooght checks out three of the best*

**SOULLESS MICRO-FLATS IN** anonymous blocks are over. London rental developers are starting to offer accommodation with shared spaces. Co-living – where tenants rent their own flats but also have access to communal areas in the building, such as kitchens, living rooms and roof terraces – is a growing trend. Developers are starting to realise it's time to co big or co home, responding with larger common areas where residents can get to know each other and have more room to invite friends over and throw parties. Features such as at-home bars with cocktail-making equipment and big, colourful lounges are becoming key fixtures in new rental complexes. Here are three of our favourite shared spaces.

## Uncle's at-home sky bar Elephant & Castle

You don't need to drop half your overdraft on cocktails at The Shard when you could be dropping an olive into a home-made martini in a forty-fifth-floor bar that's – technically – part of your house. Uncle's Sky Lounge bar comes stocked with all the gear you need to flex your mixology muscles. Hang out on the bar stools and chill with your cocktail creations while looking out over south London. The views from the other three shared spaces here are just as good: from the kitchen area and dining tables you'll see the river and the London Eye; the co-working space looks across central London; and the lounge offers glassy City vistas. Currently, aside from a few tenants' parties, the spaces are mostly used for impromptu hangouts, but Uncle has a host of events in the pipeline such as wellbeing classes and poker nights.

→ From £2,300 pcm for a one-bed flat. [www.uncle.co.uk](http://www.uncle.co.uk).



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**The forty-fifth-floor bar is technically part of your house**



### Tipi's cosy dining room Wembley

Food, culinary skills and good chat aside, there's everything you need to throw a dinner party in the Scandi-style shared kitchen at Tipi's new Landsby development. The dining room next door has dramatic, deep red walls and a huge wooden table that give it a hipster country house vibe. Want to have it all to yourself? If you live in the building, you can book out the shared areas just for you and your mates on special occasions. Otherwise, use them to grab a coffee with your neighbours – or

get your head down in the co-working space. If the TV in the lounge isn't big enough, in a few months' time, residents will get access to film screenings at a new rooftop cinema (with seating under pergolas) above another Tipi block, just metres from Wembley Stadium. The four shared rooftop gardens at Landsby look right at the Wembley arch, so you can totally listen in on those Spice Girls shows come June (don't worry, the flats are heavily soundproofed). But until summer rolls around, hunker down inside for some co-eating.

→ From £1,795 pcm for a one-bed flat. [www.tipi.london](http://www.tipi.london).



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### Rooftop views from Fizzy Living Lewisham

As well as providing awesome views over Blackheath, Greenwich and into the city beyond, the shared roof terrace on the fifteenth floor of Fizzy Living's Lewisham block is a regular hangout for residents, who are free to host drinks and dinner parties up there. There's a yearly summer bash out on the decking and pet parties are a big deal – more than half of residents live with furry friends – as well as the occasional doggy yoga session. There's a regular line-up of human yoga and fitness classes for residents in the roof space too, and the glass walls mean it's not too breezy up there. Fizzy's other blocks have great events in their shared spaces too, but Lewisham wins because of its access to skyline views. Especially exciting during fireworks season: proper bang for your buck. ■

→ From £1,500 pcm for a one-bed flat. [www.fizzylewisham.com](http://www.fizzylewisham.com).



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[www.ftbhomeshow.com](http://www.ftbhomeshow.com)



### Keep London creative

Creativity makes London awesome, so it's pretty dire that artists continue to be priced out. To avoid ending up with a boring city of expensive flats, the Creative Land Trust has been launched to tackle rising rents and provide stable spaces for artists. With the Mayor of London's help, it's pledged 1,000 new affordable artists' studios in the first year.



### If the rent cap fits...

Sadiq Khan has made rent controls a key part of his 2020 mayoral re-election bid. London rents rose by 38 percent between 2005 and 2016, and YouGov research found that 68 percent of Londoners support caps on how much landlords can charge. However, Khan would first have to be given extra powers by the government to make it happen.

### #DESIGNPORN

Instagram inspo for your London pad



@tanqueraygb

House of Hackney has teamed up with Tanqueray for a boozy interiors line, featuring the new Indienne Citrus print – etched in golden glory on some seriously sweet negroni glasses.

→ [www.31dover.com](http://www.31dover.com)

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# L&Q

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# L&Q

BECAUSE HOMES MATTER



# That's the spirit

Mid-mod is having another moment – and the new Spiritland restaurant-bar in the Royal Festival Hall is a prime example. Want to get the look? *Clare Vooght* has some stylish suggestions



## ← Brown cork down

A 100-percent natural way to top off your turntable. Spiritland slipmat, £18. [www.spiritland.com](http://www.spiritland.com).

## White lightening →

This sculptural lamp lets you go with the glow. Note white glass and brass table lamp, £200. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com).



## ↑ Rave on, rattan

Create a '70s vibe with this mango-wood-and-rattan doozy. Raphia sideboard, £599. [www.swooneditions.com](http://www.swooneditions.com).

## Gold rush ↓

Awesome audio – handmade in musical-genre-inventing Detroit. Rose gold Runwell turntable, £2,000. [www.shinola.co.uk](http://www.shinola.co.uk).



## ↑ Blue note

Turntable-ready with a range of inputs from analogue to Bluetooth – it sounds great, too. Klipsch The Three speaker, £445. [www.henleyaudio.co.uk](http://www.henleyaudio.co.uk).



## ← Red dwarf

A subtler way to channel those 'Twin Peaks'-esque red velvet drapes. Velvet and metal stool, £75. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com).



## ← Warm leatherette

Nail one of Spiritland's banging dishes and serve it up on this neat little dining set. Nomad table and chairs, £249.99. [www.argos.co.uk](http://www.argos.co.uk).

When life moves, make your rightmove



# Spectrum – the Encore



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# Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe  
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon



FIVE THINGS TO DO AT

## Barbican OpenFest: Art 50

What does it mean to be British? The Barbican asked 50 artists to figure it all out at a free one-day festival of dance, film and photography exploring identity

### Hear an orchestral response to Brexit

If Brexit was a song, how would it sound? Maybe like John Cage's '4'33"', or a CD of the '50 Best Driving Anthems Ever'. Find out with the help of composer Nitin Sawhney, who will attempt to channel it into music at **'Brexit: A Rational Anthem for a National Tantrum'**. With the help of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Sawhney will use findings from his tour of UK towns and cities to reflect the state of the nation.  
→ Booking required.

### Discover new photography

OpenFest has more visual art to see than you can pack into 24 hours, but make some time for the work of London-based photographer Rio Blake, whose series **'We Are British'** features portraits of young British people of mixed heritage. And look out for Glaswegian snapper **Dougie Wallace's** funny, expressive images of dogs with their owners. If there's time, follow the herd to **'Shepherding the Uplands'**, a small exhibition about sheep-farming communities in rural Wales.

### See a group of rebel dancers

They say dance is the hidden language of the soul and the body, and that's definitely the case in Boy Blue's new dance and film production, **'Rebel'**. This performance captures voices of the younger generation, exploring cultural identity in the UK. Using music, choreography and spoken word, the dancers bring an emotional energy to fierce movement that'll knock your winter socks off.  
→ Booking required





'We Are British'



'The Brink'



Britbot



'Mad Dogs'

'WE ARE BRITISH': RIO BLANE, BRITBOT: LUBA ELLIOT

### Learn about Britishness from a robot

'Britbot, on a scale of one to ten how British am I?' Don't worry, this isn't some dodgy Alexa knock-off. **Britbot** is an online voice- and text-activated AI chatbot that audiences can interact with to add their voices to the exhibition it's part of. The installation, by Libby Heaney, learns from willing subjects via algorithms, and gets smarter with each person's response. The whole thing is meant to explore the concept of what 'Britishness' means today. Bloody 'ell!

### Grab a seat in the pop-up cinema

Watch a group of stop-motion hounds (voiced by UK-dwellers) discuss the notion of identity in **'Mad Dogs'**, a short by Gadzooks Animation, at a makeshift cinema in the Barbican's Fountain Room. Also screening is short film **'The Brink'** in which poet Simon Armitage takes in the sights and sounds of several European cities through the medium of an old Bakelite radio. ■

Angela Hui and Katie McCabe

→ Barbican OpenFest: Art 50. Barbican Centre. ☎ Barbican.  
 Sat Feb 23. Free, some ticketed events. [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk).



**BalletBoyz**

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5 - 9 March

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sadlerswells.com  
Angel

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The Company

Composition by Keaton Henson  
Charlotte Harding

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**THE GALLERY, 15 BATEMAN STREET, SOHO, W1D 3AQ**



# SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

## Friday



### Friday Late: Sonic Boom

Get in the queue early for the V&A's after-hours opening.

Explore the boundaries between noise and music and go on a soundscape tour of the gallery to listen to a booming mix of audio installations.

→ V&A. ☹ South Kensington. Fri Feb 22. Free.

### CREATE Uniqlo Tate Late

This month, the late Tate date is celebrating women's role in the arts. Tonight's top picks include a feminist 'zine-making sesh and a vagina embroidery workshop. On fabric, obvs.

→ Tate Modern. ☹ Southwark. Fri Feb 22. Free.

### DRINK CopyCat: Another Beer Festival

An old toilet block might not sound like the best place for a beer festival, but who are we to judge? With 60 beers on offer, just try not to get too pissed.

→ 82a Commercial St. ☹ Liverpool St. Thu Feb 21 - Sat Feb 23. Free entry.

## Saturday

### SEE 'Cultural Revolution: State Graphics in China from the 1960s to the 1970s'

Propaganda posters and intricate paper cuts (not the ones that hurt) are on display.

→ William Morris Gallery. ☹ Walthamstow Central. Sat Feb 23-May 27. Free.

### SHOP The Big London Flea

Sift through piles of Marie Kondo rejects and find something that sparks joy.

→ Earth (Hackney Arts Centre). Dalston Kingsland Overground. Sat Feb 23. Free entry.



### Wild Life Drawing

Swap human life models for some real-life cocks at this farmyard-themed life drawing class. As well as chickens, there will be goats, miniature donkeys and rescued rabbits drawing your attention.

→ The Old Dairy. Homerton Overground. Sat Feb 23. £26.

## Sunday

### Dog Café pop-up

This new social enterprise is partnering with the charity Sane to reduce the stigma around mental health for those having a ruff time. Oh, and there will be a pack of pooches to play with. Paw-fect!

→ 62-64 Southampton Row. ☹ Holborn. Sun Feb 24. Price tbc.



### RECOVER Hangover Wick Market

Shake off the hangover with a bloody mary in hand as you stumble around some vintage clothes and homeware stalls like an extra from '28 Days Later'.

→ The Old Baths. Hackney Wick Overground. Sun Feb 24. Free entry.

### EXPLORE 'Haiku Adventure: The Craft of Games'

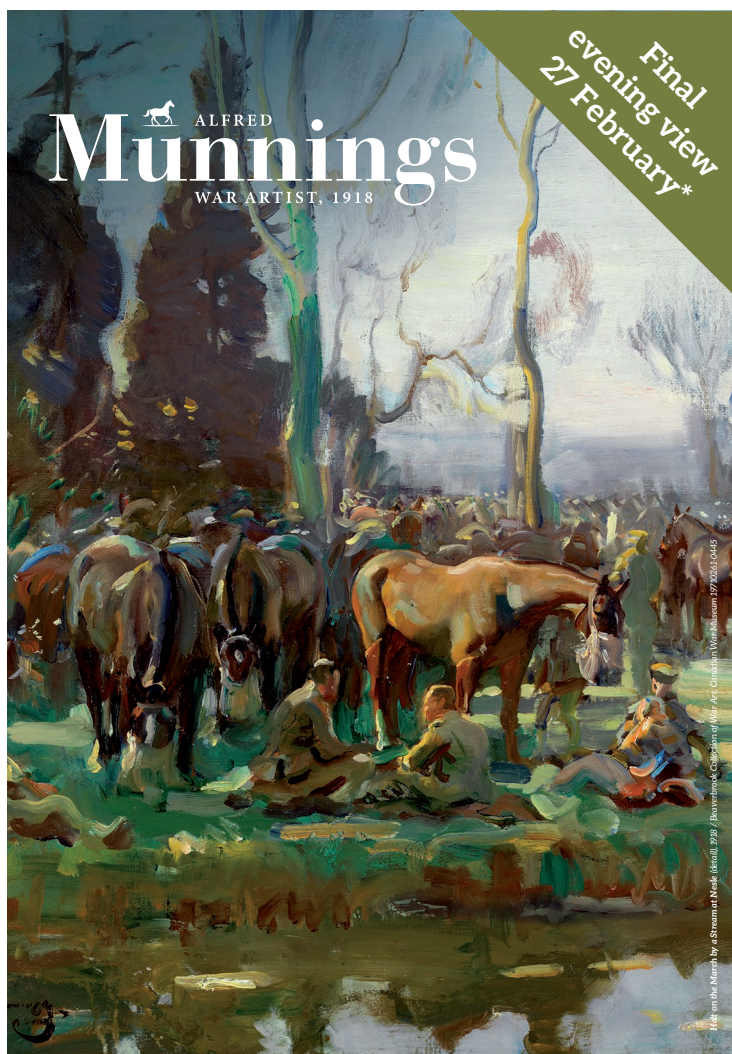
New Japanese show. Woodblock prints and video games. No poetry here.

→ William Morris Gallery. ☹ Walthamstow Central. Sat Feb 23-May 26. Free.

Sack off organising your drawers à la Kondo [timeout.com/thingstodo](http://timeout.com/thingstodo)







Final evening view  
27 February\*

# Munnings

ALFRED

WAR ARTIST, 1918

Final weeks

**Showing until 3 March**

\*Special ticket available: entry to the exhibition with a glass of English sparkling wine from 6pm

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Exhibition developed by the Canadian War Museum (Ottawa, Canada), in partnership with The Munnings Art Museum (Dedham, UK) and generously supported by The Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation.



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## TIME OUT TRIES

### Cannabliss

Can a CBD patch really help with a work out? *Charlie Allenby* heads to Gymbox's new fitness class to find out



**THE LAST TIME** I smoked weed I set my eyebrows on fire. Don't ask me how, but it's fair to say that the guests in that Amsterdam café got quite a show. What better way to get over that faux pas than trying Cannabliss, a fitness class with a twist. Doing burpees while baked sounded fun, and my eyebrows would (hopefully) remain out of harm's way.

On arrival at the class, instead of a bong, I'm told to grab a yoga mat, lumbar cushion, foam roller and a solid ball the size of an orange. The class instructor explains that we'll be wearing a patch containing CBD (an oil extracted from cannabis that reportedly has anti-inflammatory benefits, but won't get you high) and using the other bits of equipment to help stretch out our sore parts.

The focus is on function rather than relaxation. We are repeatedly told that the class will hurt, but that eventually there will be a natural high.

When I slap on the patch, I instantly feel a cooling, tingly sensation running across my torso, but whether it makes any difference to what follows is hard to say. Starting with the legs and working our way up to our shoulders, the instructor contorts us into all sorts of shapes, and that little lacrosse ball is lodged where it hurts most (no, not there, don't worry).

Although it sounds like torture, and there were pained expressions throughout, at the end of the 45 minutes my aching and tired muscles felt re-energised. I arrived seeking cannabis. I left having found a little bit of bliss (and my eyebrows escaped unscathed). ■

Looking for something less dopey? Try [timeout.com/fitness](http://timeout.com/fitness)

#### WHAT IS IT?

A joint-recovery session with a touch of cannabis.

#### WHY GO?

For an intense muscle workout with a mini CBD buzz.

→ Various Gymbox locations in London. Dates and times vary. £20 for a day pass. Book at [www.gymbox.com](http://www.gymbox.com)

## TRENDING



Drag Diva Fit

### Dragercise

Find bootcamps a bit much? Try crunching through a sit-up while a six-foot drag performer shouts 'werk it, bitch!' as they loom over your mat. This is dragercise – the craze where your workout moves have names like 'Legs for Days Lunges'. Tone your diva physique with the team of queens at **Drag Diva Fit**; or for more of a party set-up, try **Drag Aerobics** at Dolly Trolley's pop-addled 1980s Lycra timewarp. Good luck, and don't fuck it up.

→ Drag Diva Fit. Bankside Health Club. ☉ Southwark. Sat Feb 23 and every fortnight. £10 adv, £12 door.  
→ Drag Aerobics. Trapeze Bar. ☉ Old St. Thu Feb 21. From £13, book in advance.

## wellcome collection

### The Build Up 10.00–18.00

Join activists, young people, academics and artists to explore the injustices created by our relationships with buildings. Drop in any time!

Free event  
Sat 23 February

[wellcomecollection.org](http://wellcomecollection.org)  
☉ Euston ☉ Euston Square



## TALKS

### **E Refinery29: I'll Have What She's Having**

Women's website Refinery29 will be hosting an evening dedicated to the female orgasm. Get stuck into a workshop series, before listening to a panel have an honest chat about the big O.  
→ The Hoxton. ☉ Old St.  
Tue Feb 19. £10.

### **C Nightlife and Queer Utopias**

London's clubbing scene has been hit hard in recent years, but what of the LGBT+ dancefloors? Join a panel of experts as they discuss whether these utopian spaces are being defended properly, and how the scene can be reinvented.  
→ V&A. ☉ South Kensington.  
Sat Feb 23. Free.

### **C 'The Burning': Laura Bates in Conversation**

The founder of The Everyday Sexism Project, Laura Bates, is celebrating the launch of her debut young adult novel, 'The Burning'. Hear about her research into historical witch trails in Scotland before asking her some burning questions of your own.  
→ Foyles. ☉ Tottenham Court Rd.  
Tue Feb 19. From £8.

### **C HendrixTalks: The Art of the Riff**

Jimi Hendrix expert (yep, that's a thing) Nigel Jones is delving into some of the legendary guitarist's best known riffs. Hear the stories behind his biggest hits, including 'Voodoo Child', 'Foxy Lady' and 'Purple Haze', and see how his legacy is still influencing guitar-playing today.  
→ Handel & Hendrix. ☉ Bond St.  
Sat Feb 23. £12.

# TO DO

The best events in your area

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

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NICK CURTIS, THE SUNDAY TIMES

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COME FROM AWAY. Book, Music and Lyrics by Irene Sankoff and David Hein.  
Musical Staging by Kelly Devine. Directed by Christopher Ashley.

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## BOOZE

### **E Craft Beer Rising**

Get hoppy at this three-day festival dedicated to all things beer. You can sample pale ales from 175 of the world's best breweries, before soaking up all those suds with some delish street food. Perfect.  
→ Old Truman Brewery.  
☉ Liverpool St. Thur Feb 21-Sat Feb 23. From £16.80.

## WALKS

### **E From Fields and the Forest to Royals and the Railway**

You may not have heard them, but Walthamstow's neighbour Chingford has some interesting stories of its own. Take a stroll and discover all things E4.  
→ Chingford Railway Station.  
Chingford rail. Sat Feb 23. £12.

## LAST CHANCE

### **C 'Videogames: Design/Play/Disrupt'**

Swing by the classic arcade games and get your fix of nostalgia.  
→ V&A. ☉ South Kensington.  
Until Sun Feb 24. £18.

## KIDS

### **C The Royal Institution Family Fun Day**

Talks, experiments and demos are on the menu at this free, family-focused event. Discover the human race's origins and why dragons will never grace the earth (they clearly haven't seen the historically accurate 'Game of Thrones').  
→ The Royal Institution.  
☉ Green Park. Sat Feb 23. Free.

### **E Can you Adam and Eve it?**

Save your bangers and mash and visit some free workshops dedicated to the East End. The saucepan lids may learn some colourful language, but Kat and Alfie would be praaad.  
→ Museum of London Docklands. Poplar DLR.  
Until Sun Feb 24. Free, book in advance.

## QUIZ

### **C The TriQuizard Tournament**

Wands at the ready. This Harry Potter pub quiz will be sorting the Potterheads from the muggles. Expect seven bludgering rounds that would leave even Hermione scratching her head.  
→ The Warwick. ☉ Piccadilly Circus. Wed Feb 20. £4.

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# Film

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

## TIME OUT MEETS

# Felicity Jones

The 'Theory of Everything' actor on playing legendary American lawmaker Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY** well for Felicity Jones. The night before I meet her, she picked up the Variety Award at the British Independent Film Awards. The prize recognises thespians who've helped put the UK on the movie map. Previous winners include Kate Winslet, Benedict Cumberbatch and Helen Mirren. Not a terrible list to be joining, then. Oh, and she's just wrapped a period drama with Eddie Redmayne about a hot-air-ballooning acrobat, in which she did a lot of her own daredevil stunts.

But she's not here to talk about gongs or her old 'The Theory of Everything' mucker. The topic under discussion today is 'On the Basis of Sex', a seriously timely, based-on-true-life drama that sees her play everyone's favourite octogenarian, US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (sorry, Dame Judi). 'I wanted to show how someone becomes Ruth Bader Ginsburg,' she explains over a lemon tea. 'After all, she didn't come out of the womb fully formed as she is now.'

Jones dominates the movie, a presence in all but about five scenes. And the film contains one of the longest speeches ever delivered by a woman on screen – clocking in at a mouth-drying five minutes 32 seconds. Crucially for the actress,

**'I have 100 percent just played a superhero'**

Ginsburg signed off on her casting beforehand. Has she seen the movie yet? 'Yes, and she's telling her friends to see it,' says Jones. 'Which is a relief.' It's another striking role on a CV full of single-minded figures, like Jane Hawking and Jyn Erso in 'Rogue One'. 'I love characters that don't conform,' she explains.

She can be fearless on set too, as the producers of 'The Aeronauts' – a period piece in which she plays a solo balloonist – will testify. 'I was swinging off the balloon as it went up on a 2,000-foot crane. We were getting higher and higher, and they'd shout up: "There is a stunt woman, you know." I'd yell back: "But I'm having such a good time!"'

The shoot brought her back to London, the Birmingham-born actor's adopted home. She gets

recognised more often these days, though not always for the roles you'd think. 'It sort of depends on what kind of films people are into,' she says. 'If you're into snowboarding comedies, then it's "Chalet Girl".' The idea of people still watching the 2011 romcom makes her happy. 'I had such a fantastic time on that film. I'd love to do something funny again.'

With 'The Aeronauts' wrapped, what's next? Jones has talked about wanting to take on a superhero, so maybe a Marvel movie? 'I have 100 percent just played a superhero [in "On the Basis of Sex"] and a superhero who is wonderful because she doesn't have a cape, she has her mind.' ■

→ 'On the Basis of Sex' opens Fri Feb 22.



**By Greer McNally**  
Who is never ever, ever going up in a hot-air balloon. Is that clear?







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@esteelalonde

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let's feel good





# Place your bets

Forget Ray Winstone's floating head. Our very own Oscars savant *Joshua Rothkopf* picks the likely winners (and losers) at this weekend's Academy Awards



## Best Picture

**What will win** This one is the toughest to call, but **'Green Book'** is a showcase for acting and actors are the largest block of Academy voters. It's bound to have tickled their fancy. Watch it win out over more auteur-ish nominees like **'Roma'** and **'The Favourite'**.

**What deserves to win** None of the eight nominees feel as impassioned or relevant as Spike Lee's **'BlackKkKlansman'**. 'Black Panther' was thrilling too, while the gorgeous **'Roma'** should win in other categories.



## Best Director

**Who will win** **Alfonso Cuarón** (**'Roma'**) recently won the top prize from the Director's Guild of America, and only seven times since 1948 has the DGA winner not gone on to seize Oscar gold. The last was Ben Affleck for **'Argo'** (he took the snub well).

**Who deserves to win** Cuarón would be a worthy winner, but **Yorgos Lanthimos's** distinctive visual style in **'The Favourite'** clinches it with sharp performances and adrenaline-pumping duck-racing scenes.



## Best Actor

**Who will win** Initially, Christian Bale seemed nailed-on to win for his eerie turn as Dick Cheney in **'Vice'**. Now, though? We're calling it for **Rami Malek** in the otherwise divisive **'Bohemian Rhapsody'**. Yes, Freddie Mercury is rising on our Oscar barometer.

**Who deserves to win** What **Viggo Mortensen** pulls off in **'Green Book'** is tricky. He plays a broadly written stereotype with real depth. Besides, who wants to live in a world where Viggo doesn't have an Oscar? Not us.



## Best Actress

**Who will win** Don't get in the way of the **Glenn Close** train. Close's flinty turn in **'The Wife'** gives voters the chance to reward an illustrious career, and her fierce 'follow your dreams' speech at the Golden Globes may just have sealed the deal.

**Who deserves to win** **Olivia Colman** for her magnificent Queen Anne in **'The Favourite'**, a role that scored her a BAFTA. Colman will get to the podium one day soon, where she will deliver the greatest speech ever made.



## Best Supporting Actor

**Who will win** **Mahershala Ali** won this one for **'Moonlight'** only two years ago, and he's about to repeat the trick with **'Green Book'**. He'd join Christoph Waltz and Michael Caine as two-time winners of the award (now there's a trio we'd love to have a natter with).

**Who deserves to win** **Richard E Grant**, partly for his bitchy, urbane survivor in **'Can You Ever Forgive Me?'**, and partly because he should have won an Oscar already for that Shakespeare soliloquy in **'Withnail & I'**.



## Best Supporting Actress

**Who will win** Are we in for a dark-horse-wins upset in this category? **Marina de Tavira** was a shock nominee for her role in **'Roma'**, prevailing over the likes of Claire Foy and Emily Blunt. That's a sign of deep support.

**Who deserves to win** **Regina King** is the heart and soul of the largely (and unfairly) overlooked **'If Beale Street Could Talk'** – she's already bagged a thoroughly deserved Golden Globe for her role in the weighty romantic drama. ■

→ Catch the ninety-first Academy Awards ceremony from 1.30am on Mon Feb 25 on Sky Cinema.  
See all the Best Picture nominees on the big screen at the Barbican's Oscar Week, Fri Feb 22-Feb 28.



# FIVE QUESTIONS FOR Nadine Labaki

The director of 'Capernaum' on casting kids and Hollywood's Arab 'problem'

**DIRECTOR NADINE LABAKI** has earned a growing following since debuting her 2007 film 'Caramel', thanks to her keen ability to present relatable social themes from an Arab perspective. With 'Capernaum', she focuses on the refugee crisis and a Lebanese boy (Zain Al Rafeea) who sues his parents for bringing him into the world. Prepare yourself for heartbreak.

## 1 What makes you stand out as a filmmaker?

'I don't care what is expected from me: neither as a woman nor as a filmmaker. I just do what my body needs to do and what my instinct tells me to do. No matter how good or bad the film is, I'm not talking about the quality of the film but the connection I have with people, with audiences. It's a blessing.'

## 2 What was it about your young lead, Zain Al Rafeea, that made him right for the role?

'I didn't think we could find everything I was asking for in one child, but when I watched Zain in his casting interview I just knew it was him. It's strange, four years ago I saw a child sleeping on the street and later that night I angrily drew the face of a child shouting at adults. When I compare that picture with Zain now, I see the same eyes, the same anger.'



## 3 The good and bad guys in 'Capernaum' aren't clear-cut. What was the purpose of presenting a more silent villain?

'The villain is the system, that's why in the film you cannot judge. You have to be on this rollercoaster of contradictory emotions where you hate the parents and then love them.'

## 4 The film is shot with handheld cameras. Why did you take that approach?

'To be as real as possible. It was natural to use handheld cameras and be ready to shoot anything, be very mobile, and not to be stuck in the classical structure of making films. We had to be at the actors' service and not the other way around. I didn't want control, I wanted chaos.'

## 5 As an Arab filmmaker, what's your impression of the way Western movies depict Arab lives?

'We're not well represented – it's very clichéd in Hollywood. It's ignorant. Ignorant in the sense that they don't know us, so it's just [a projection of] an idea they have of us, of Arab women and Arab culture. It's very frustrating, but I'm sure if I made a film about an American guy or woman, I'd be a little off [too].' ■

Interview by Hanna Flint

→ 'Capernaum' opens Fri Feb 22.

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## Capernaum



### WHAT IS IT...

A powerful social drama about a boy on the streets of Beirut.

### WHY GO...

For an amazing performance from young Syrian actor Zain Al Rafeea.

→ Director Nadine Labaki (15) 126 mins.

**A YOUNG BOY, ZAIN**, stands up in court in Lebanon. He has already done time for stabbing someone. Now he wants to sue his parents for giving him life. No one really knows how old he is, but a medical examiner estimates 12.

Nadine Labaki's drama might at first seem like a satire – small children are jailed, others are married. But while there are elements of didactic political fable, there's a heartbreaking realism at the root of this portrait of Lebanese poverty, mostly shown from Zain's point of view.

Magnetically portrayed by Syrian migrant Zain Al Rafeea, the boy has angelic looks that suggest innocence, but his angry outbursts betray a harsh childhood. This contrast brings bursts of humour, recalling 'Slumdog Millionaire' or 'The Florida Project'. But 'Capernaum' is a darker watch than either.

Most of the film takes place in flashback, tracing Zain's route to jail via the slums of Beirut. He's run away from home after one of his many sisters is sold to a leering local man. Furious at his jaded parents, he finds a new mother figure in Rahil, an immigrant who's hiding her baby from the authorities, fearing deportation. The details of all three characters' daily lives then become the film's centrepiece. We experience the streets where a one-year-old child can wander alone without anyone stopping to wonder why.

Labaki's closing masterstroke is to subtly shed light on the perspective of Zain's parents, giving this slow-burner a finale with a powerful plea for justice and compassion. ■ Anna Smith



NADINE LABAKI: GETTY IMAGES



## On the Basis of Sex



**MIMI LEDER'S INTELLECTUAL** drama is a knowingly old-fashioned biopic of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Written by the 85-year-old's nephew Daniel Stiepleman with respect for Ginsburg's lifelong work on behalf of women's rights, it's a reminder that words, paired with action, can change the world.

A winning, inspirational crowd-pleaser akin to 'Hidden Figures', Leder's film follows the early accomplishments of the young Ginsburg (Felicity Jones, convincingly slipping into the trailblazer's shoes), beginning in 1956. That's the year in which the bouncy, opinionated Ruth marches into male-dominated Harvard Law School. It's a place where female students at dinner parties are invited to justify their places. It's also where her devoted, supportive partner Marty (Armie Hammer, lovably pragmatic) studies.

Through Marty's unforeseen health crisis and Ruth's unfairly stymied professional aspirations (using excuse after sexist excuse, law firms refuse to hire her), the

### WHAT IS IT...

A biopic of inimitable Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

### WHY GO...

It's a stirring companion piece to Oscar-nominated doc 'RBG'.

→ Director Mimi Leder  
(12A) 120 mins.



film patiently advances toward the '70s, focusing on the couple's family life and Ruth's career as a professor. The script's centrepiece is a pivotal sex-discrimination case that launched what would be RBG's legal legacy.

Well-paced and directed with gusto, 'On the Basis of Sex' finds an accessible, near-perfect tone,

balancing serious courtroom drama and frequent legal jargon with tastefully Hollywood-ised emotional embellishments. Playing Ginsburg's liberated teenage daughter Jane, Cailee Spaeny drives some of the film's most memorable moments as the voice of a younger generation sparking a renewed sense of feminism. It's uplifting stuff but not in the least bit escapist: if anything, Leder's film civilly urges us to face today's injustices head-on. ■ *Tomris Laffly*

## Old Boys



### WHAT IS IT...

A public-school-set spin on 'Cyrano de Bergerac'.

### WHY GO...

For a very funny Alex Lawther as its gawky hero.

→ Director Toby MacDonald  
(12A) 95 mins.



**TRANSPLANTING A CLASSIC** tale of romantic subterfuge to a 1980s school setting, this infectiously offbeat coming-of-age yarn does for 'Cyrano de Bergerac' what '10 Things I Hate About You' did for 'The Taming of the Shrew'. Admittedly, there's nothing Heath Ledger-y about its mousey protagonist, Amberson (Alex Lawther), a shy but brainy type who is easy pickings for English public school Caldermount's bullies. But then the school's sporting hero ropes him in to help woo the French teacher's daughter, and... well, you probably know the rest from when Steve Martin or Gérard Depardieu did it.

What elevates 'Old Boys' above well-worn literary transplant and nerds-vs-jocks cliché is its witty dissection of English upper-class zealotry. Caldermount is more of a cult than a seat of learning, where glory awaits pupils who master its arcane, violent sport Streamers (imagine Quidditch with less flying and more GBH) and 'The Founder' is regularly saluted with bizarre foot-stomping rituals.

The deadpan Lawther brings subtle shades of subversion to his gawky character, fuelled by some nice lines ('You're a minnow, and it's sink or swim,' a teacher tells him. 'Minnows can swim, sir.') and a permanent air of bemusement. Debut director Toby MacDonald has fun with the analogue period detail – the courtship unfolds partly via punk-art VHS short films – and shakes off an obvious debt to Wes Anderson and Michel Gondry to sketch something fresh and oddly charming from a familiar tale. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

## Cold Pursuit



### WHAT IS IT...

A blackly comic revenge thriller starring Liam Neeson.

### WHY GO...

For Tom Bateman's enjoyably hammy villain.

→ Director Hans Petter Moland (15) 119 mins.



**IN THIS GLACIALLY PACED** and undisciplined sorta thriller, Liam Neeson doesn't possess a 'special set of skills'. Somehow, though, his character, Nels Coxman – a snowplough driver and freshly crowned Citizen of the Year of the fictional Colorado ski town of Kehoe – still manages to follow the 'Taken'-inspired vengeful dad playbook with staggering proficiency. Once his innocent son falls victim to a drug operation and sets off a feud between two crime clans, no criminal seems too intimidating or out of reach to bump off.

The body count soon shoots up. Title cards eulogise the amusingly nicknamed fallen (Limbo, Speedo, Dante etc) – as a cartoonish, alienating air of implausibility settles over everything. Director Hans Petter Moland – remaking his own Norwegian thriller 'In Order of Disappearance' – isn't after a realistic philosophical interrogation of cold-blooded revenge anyway (and given Neeson's recent remarks, that may be for the best).

Instead, Moland pitches for the absurdity of 'In Bruges' or 'Fargo', though with Neeson's baffling disappearances for long stretches and a tangle of subplots to wade through, 'Cold Pursuit' ends up being weighed down by its own machismo and sloppy script. Amid a crowded field of actors, only Tom Bateman and Tom Jackson (playing the leaders of competing local cartels) fully indulge in the silliness. Everyone else seems stuck in something far less entertaining. ■ *Tomris Laffly*





# Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens  
[timeout.com/music](http://timeout.com/music) @timeoutmusic

# Oldies. Go!

Between them, they have a whopping 668 years experience onstage. They are some of the biggest names in music and ALL London-bound in 2019

## Cher

**Years of service** 56 **Age** 72

**Why see her now?** Cher's shows at The O2 on October 20 and 21 are her first London dates in 15 years. And following her fabulous 'Mamma Mia! 2' cameo and 'Dancing Queen' covers album, her current setlist includes a swathe of Abba bangers.

## Billy Joel

**Years of service** 54 **Age** 69

**Why see him now?** The piano man has a monthly residency at New York's Madison Square Garden, but he doesn't play across the pond nearly so often. In fact, his Wembley Stadium date on June 22 is his only UK show of 2019.

## Toto

**Years of service** 42 (with a two-year break from 2008-2010)

**Combined age** 244

**Why see them now?** The US rockers' Live At Chelsea show on June 13 is part of their fortieth anniversary

tour, so 'Africa' and 'Rosanna' will feel *even* more jubilant than usual. Hard to imagine, I know.

## Rod Stewart

**Years of service** 55 **Age** 74

**Why see him now?** When Sir Rod the Mod takes to the stage at The O2 on December 17 and 19, two things are guaranteed: he'll belt out all the hits, from 'Maggie May' to 'Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?' and he'll kick a football into the crowd as he's been doing for decades. Whatta guy.

## ZZTop

**Years of service** 50

**Combined age** 217

**Why see them now?** The bearded trio are one of rock's most, well, rock-solid units. When they slay the SSE Arena Wembley on July 12, band members Billy Gibbons, Dusty Hill and Frank Beard (yep, the one without a beard) will have been playing together for 50 years without any flounce-outs.







Fleetwood Mac

ZZ Top

Kiss

# dies.

## The Who

**Years of service** 55 (not including hiatuses) **Combined age** 147

**Why see them now?** When they play Wembley Stadium on July 6, Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend will be backed by their usual touring band and a full orchestra. Plus, they'll pepper their set list with highlights from their latest album – their first in 13 years.

## Hall and Oates

**Years of service** 47

**Combined age** 142

**Why see them now?** Though their SSE Arena Wembley show on April 26 is part of a six-date European tour, you never know when history's

most successful pop duo might pull the plug. After all, Daryl Hall admitted a couple of years ago: 'We don't really do a lot together other than share a stage.'

## Fleetwood Mac

**Years of service** 52

**Combined age** 417 (!)

**Why see them now?** Well, the Mac's Wembley Stadium show on June 16 features the band's new, but still classic, line-up: Lindsey's been booted out, but Stevie, Christine, John and Mick are joined by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' Mike Campbell and Neil 'Crowded House' Finn – yes, really.

## The Eagles

**Years of service** 47 (with a lengthy hiatus from 1980-1994).

**Combined age** 213

**Why see them now?** Because they're the goddamn Eagles and their June 23 show at Wembley Stadium will be the first time they've played London in five years.

## Lynyrd Skynyrd

**Years of service** 55

**Combined age** 354

**Why see them now?** Because this could be your last chance to hear 'Sweet Home Alabama' in the flesh. The Skynyrd's date at SSE Arena Wembley on June 29 is part of their Last of the Street Survivors Farewell Tour.

## Neil Young and Bob Dylan

**Years of service** 53 and 57.

**Combined age** 150

**Why see them now?** These two legends are co-headlining a Hyde Park show on July 12. Seriously, when will that ever happen again?

## Kiss

**Years of service** 45

**Combined age** 254

**Why see them now?** Because Gene Simmons and the gang are packing away their make-up palettes for good. Their show at The O2 on July 11 is part of the definitively titled The Final Tour Ever – Kiss End of the Road World Tour. ■



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## Music & Nightlife

### WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

# Octo Octa

#### Who's that then?

Octo Octa is the current alias of Maya Bouldry-Morrison, a DJ and producer from Brooklyn who's now making some of the most spine-tingling deep house you could ever wish to hear.

#### What did she do before that?

Everything from breakcore and IDM to retro analogue house – lots of it released on LA's 100% Silk, one of the coolest underground dance labels of the mid-'00s. Oh, and she was once in a power-pop band called Horny Vampire.

#### Sounds cheeky. What should I start with?

Her 2017 album 'Where Are We Going?' is the best place to begin. Released by San Francisco's queer DJ collective Honey Soundsystem, it's a big warm fuzzy glow of a record and the soundtrack to her own personal journey since coming out as trans in 2016. Think silky synths, super-deep grooves and a tactile feel that demonstrates her prowess with analogue gear.

#### Classy. What about the DJ sets?

Just as tasteful – but properly pumping and euphoric to boot. Bouldry-Morrison is a big believer in the dancefloor as a space for communion and even for a spiritual experience. Spot her hair-whipping in the booth while mixing the kind of jackin' house, disco and old-school breaks she takes inspiration from in her own tracks. You'd be advised to practise your moves beforehand.

#### Umm, I don't think I'm ready to vogue.

All right well if need be, the side-to-side shuffle will suffice. Just put some welly into it.

#### And how can I partake in this spiritual experience?

Octo Octa will be delivering the dancefloor feels at Mick's Garage on March 23, with eclectic selector Roi Perez on the bill too. Expect to hear tracks from her latest release, the totally dreamy 'For Lovers'. ■ *Chal Ravens*  
→ 'For Lovers' is out on Mar 1.

Check out more new artists at [timeout.com/music](https://www.timeout.com/music)



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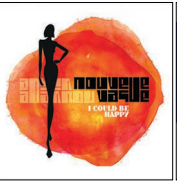



## Music & Nightlife

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## Gala Festival

Having matured into one of the finest house and disco day festivals in the city, Gala looks set to sparkle again on the second May bank holiday Sunday. Honey Dijon, Crazy P, Gerd Janson and Midland are just some of the DJs heading for a tree-lined corner of Peckham.

→ Peckham Rye Park. May 26.

## Road to Freedom: Grime Aid

Some of London's brightest grime stars unite for a charity gig in aid of those affected by the sub-Saharan African refugee crisis. Head to Shoreditch for right-on live sets from D Double E, Flirta D, Big Zuu and more.

→ Ace Hotel. Wed Feb 20.

## Alan Partridge Party

Celebrate the telly return of Steve Coogan's alter ego at this suitably ludicrous club night, featuring a Partridge quiz, an air bass contest and 'Alan-oke'. In between, a DJ will presumably test Partridge's theory that Wings are 'the band the Beatles could have been'.

→ Bethnal Green Working Men's Club. Fri Feb 22.

## Africa Express: The Circus

This collective of Western and African talent unite for a

one-off headline show – as part of Waltham Forest's London Borough of Culture celebrations. The likes of Batida, Django Django, Wolf Alice's Ellie Rowsell, Gruff Rhys and of course Damo himself will perform in a specially erected big top circus tent.

→ Wanstead Flats. Mar 29.

## Bach Evolution

A series of musicians and composers, including electronic experimentalist Clark, perform new arrangements that aim to reinvent Bach for a new audience.

→ Royal Albert Hall. May 1.

## Sting and Shaggy

Yeah, really. You read that right.

→ Roundhouse. May 19.





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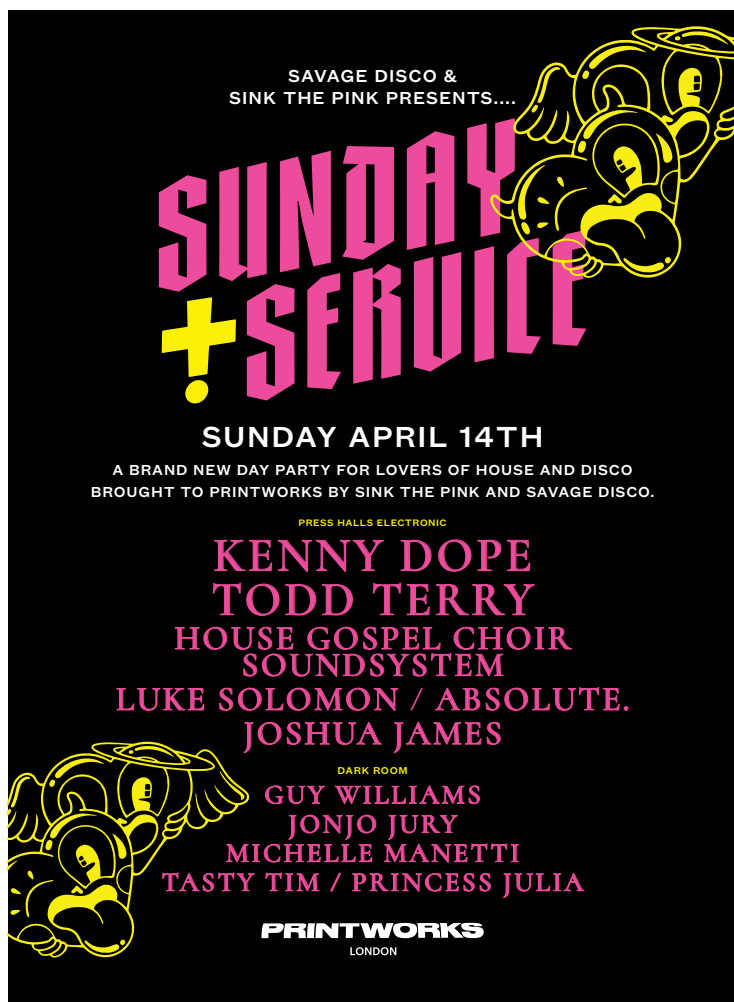
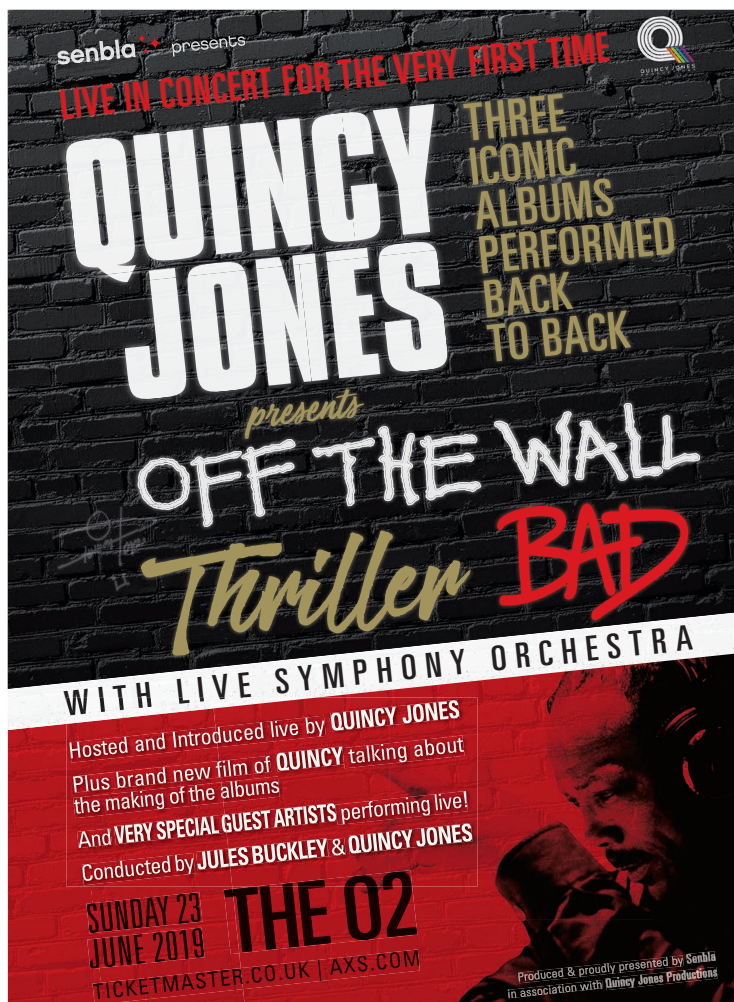
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## FESTIVAL NEWS

# Robyn is playing Wilderness this year

The classy Oxfordshire festival is returning with an impeccable blend of sounds, arts curation and its famous long-table banquets

**NOW IN ITS NINTH** year, Wilderness has grown into one of the UK's finest festivals. Taking over Oxfordshire's gorgeous Cornbury Park on the first weekend of August, it offers a smart blend of music, food and arts curation in a setting that's family-friendly and just the right level of fancy.

Today, Wilderness has announced a trio of stellar headliners for 2019. Swedish comeback queen **Robyn** will bring her glistening synth-pop to the Cotswolds. Dance duo **Groove Armada** will deliver big-beats nirvana with a full live set and Crouch End crew **Bombay Bicycle Club** will set a suitably jubilant mood with their electro-flecked indie.

Rising stars on the bill include likeable indie lad **Tom Grennan**, super-talented singer-songwriter **Soak** and mighty-voiced **Freya Ridings**, who scored a big summer hit with the 'Love Island'-approved ballad 'Lost Without You'. French electro-swing duo **Caravan Palace**, Icelandic electronica whizz **Ólafur Arnalds** and genre-busting New York DJ **Honey Dijon** add an international flavour to proceedings.







But as ever, Wilderness isn't just about sublime sounds: this year's fest also features cultural happenings from the **Royal Academy**, **Southbank Centre**, **Roundhouse**, **RSA** and **Sadler's Wells**. Its famous long-table banquets are back too, with leading chefs and restaurants including **Tom Aikens**, Angela Hartnett's **Café Murano** and **Petersham Nurseries** rustling up sumptuous grub. If you prefer to grab a bite on the go, there's street food from London faves **Homeslice**, **Patty & Bun** and **Temper**.

With so much going on, you could spend Wilderness weekend covering more field space than an overworked tractor. But don't worry: the festival has its own lakeside spa where you can recharge your batteries. Heavenly. ■ *Nick Levine*  
→ Wilderness is at Cornbury Park, Charlbury, Oxfordshire on Aug 1-4.

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# Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Lukowski  
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## THE BIG REVIEW

# Come from Away



**MUSICALS DON'T COME** much more low-key, wholesome or Canadian than 'Come from Away'. Writers Irene Sankoff and David Hein cook up the straightforward world of the Newfoundland town of Gander using a very straightforward set of ingredients. The cast wear sensible shoes and lumberjack shirts. They tramp across a wood-decked stage that evokes the huge skies of their tiny island. They sing their way through a set of folk-tinged songs that tell stories of the five days after 9/11, when 38 planes made emergency

landings on the island's huge, disused airstrip. And it's all totally, soul-feedingly wonderful.

'Come from Away' has been a massive sleeper hit across North America, Broadway included, and it's easy to see why: it mixes down-home authenticity with the desperate intensity that comes in times of crisis. This is a moment where 7,000 temporary arrivals join a community of just 9,000 people. Logistics might not be the sexiest of topics for a musical, but one of the many surprising joys of this show is how gripping it makes

things like the struggle to rustle up transport at a time when the local school bus drivers were on strike and had to be coaxed into crossing the picket line. Then there are beds, food, medication and interpreters to be sourced for passengers from across the world: one non-English-speaking couple communicates by cross-referencing Bible verses.

Based closely on interviews with real Newfoundlanders, this is a picture of a community that stretches itself to breaking point to accommodate the stranded travellers. Like the local animal

shelter worker who battles to rescue furry cargo from the planes' holds, including cats, dogs and a pregnant bonobo ape. Or the schoolteacher who offers comfort to a New Yorker whose firefighter son is missing.

It feels so organic that you almost don't notice how carefully it's been crafted. Individual stories are woven through rousing, foot-stomping, all-company choruses. Actors swap between playing locals and incomers with a fluidity that shows it's just chance separating the two. It makes you look inwards to ask: what would I do in their place?





**WHAT IS IT...**  
Sleeper hit Canadian musical set in the days after 9/11.

**WHY GO...**  
It's a beautifully crafted hymn to the power of community.

**BOOK...**  
Buy tickets at [timeout.com/theatre](http://timeout.com/theatre)

→ Phoenix Theatre.  
⊖ Tottenham Court Rd.  
Until Sep 14. £25-£125.

The show's message about the power of doing good is underscored by darker notes. Among the waves of queasy post-9/11 fear, a Muslim traveller is treated with suspicion along with kindness, and subjected to a humiliating strip search. Another young New Yorker feels so welcome on the island that it makes him mourn the community and safety he's missing back home.

'Come from Away' creates a kind of temporary utopia: a little world where (almost) everyone is forced, by earth-shattering events hundreds of miles away, to come together and build a community based on principles of generosity and care. It's seductive in its resolute unsexiness, and its gentle uncynical warmth spills off the stage, extending a hug to an audience that wouldn't dream of turning it away. ■



By **Alice Saville**  
*Who never thought plaid could look this good.*

## All About Eve



**WHAT IS IT...**  
Super-director Ivo van Hove adapts a movie classic.

**WHY GO...**  
Gillian Anderson is phenomenal.

**BOOK...**  
Buy tickets at [timeout.com/theatre](http://timeout.com/theatre)

→ Noël Coward Theatre.  
⊖ Leicester Square. Until May 10. £15-£150.



**THERE ARE 'X-FILES'** nerds in my life who have spouted a lot of crazy hyperbole about Gillian Anderson over the years. But, wowee: her performance as ageing actress Margo Channing in Ivo van Hove's stage version of 'All About Eve' is absolutely one of those 'I was there' moments.

The play is essentially Joseph L Mankiewicz's screenplay treated as if it were a theatre text. It follows Channing, a middle-aged Broadway star still subsisting on the thirtysomething parts penned for her by shit-hot playwright Lloyd (Rhshan Stone). She is a queen bee, but suddenly everything is thrown into disarray by the arrival of Eve (Lily James), an apparently naive devotee of Margo's who becomes a bitter rival.

Though the words are the same, van Hove has created a very different work. It is dreamy, elegiac and considerably less sassy.

Anderson's Margo, in particular, rises far above the two-dimensional diva – we see little of her as a monster, and a lot of her as a weary showbiz survivor, doing what she has to.

Perhaps the most remarkable scene comes at the start, as Eve prattles on about her backstory while Margo takes off her makeup. A hidden camera relays an extreme close up feed of Anderson's face, which is projected at enormous scale on to the set – the tiny flickers of annoyance and interest on her face are just astonishing, her acting outshining everyone else on stage with barely a twitch. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

## 9 to 5



**WHAT IS IT...**  
Dolly Parton's own musical adaptation of her hit 1980 film.

**WHY GO...**  
It's gloriously OTT – and they do the title song four times.

**BOOK...**  
Book tickets from [timeout.com/theatre](http://timeout.com/theatre)

→ Savoy Theatre.  
⊖ Charing Cross.  
Until Aug 31. £25-£150.



**COUNTRY MUSIC LEGEND** Dolly Parton's glittering fingerprints are all over this show. She's written all the songs, bar the title track, specially for it (this is not a jukebox musical). She pops up in video footage to introduce the whole bonkers confection. And she's basically in it too, in the form of poodle-coiffed doppelgänger Doralee.

'9 to 5' is a reworking of the 1980 movie comedy of the same name. And although it started life in LA in 2005, it feels pretty post-Weinstein for its focus on the shitiness of powerful men. Doralee (Natalie McQueen) can't so much as climb a stepladder without her sleazy boss ogling her – climbing the career ladder is out of the question. Judy (Amber Davies of 'Love Island' fame) struggles with some delightfully '80s office tech. And Caroline Sheen's Violet dreams of turning the tables.

The feminist revenge-based plot, when it shows up, is about as ridiculous as these women's ultra-glam interpretation of 'office wear'. But it's hilariously freeing too. And if Brian Conley's performance as the panto villain-esque boss is a little limp, it's forgivable considering he spends much of the show dangling from the roof in a studded pleather harness. While Parton's whole brand relies on the sincere heart beating in her rhinestone-adorned bosom, '9 to 5' showcases her often overlooked feminist edge. It's a hairspray-induced hallucination whose message lingers. ■ *Alice Saville*





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## Theatre & Dance

# ALSO OPENING

Other new shows to catch



### BERBERIAN SOUND STUDIO

★★★★★

Stage horror is not a genre with a glowing track record. But designer Tom Scutt knew what he was doing when he persuaded the Donmar to let him make his directorial debut with a version of Peter Strickland's cult 2012 film. Visual scares tend not to work in the theatre. But the sonic monstrosities conjured here by sound designers Ben and Max Ringham are way more unnerving than their film equivalents. *Andrzej Lukowski*  
→ Donmar Warehouse.  
Until Mar 30.

### EDWARD II

★★★★★

Christopher Marlowe's play about a foolish king, madly in love with his 'minion' Piers Gaveston, and the outraged court who seek to get rid of them, finds fault on both sides. But it's hard to root for either party in

this staid production. *Holly Williams*  
→ Shakespeare's Globe.  
Until Apr 20.

### THE AMERICAN CLOCK

★★★★★

Arthur Miller was bitterly disappointed when this play flopped on Broadway in 1980. But you have to wonder how he was expecting a three-hour-long, virtually plot-free docu-drama about the Great Depression to go down. Revived by Rachel Chavkin, 'The American Clock' is still a tough sell. But its kaleidoscopic vision of a society sleepwalking into self-inflicted disaster is painfully relevant to Britain's current interests. *Andrzej Lukowski*  
→ Old Vic. Until Mar 30.

### THE LADY FROM THE SEA

★★★★★

The Norwegians have come to show us how their most famous writer's work should be played. This bilingual

staging of Ibsen's 'The Lady from the Sea' – a play about a woman reeling from the death of her son – is a co-production between the Norwegian Ibsen Company and the Print Room at the Coronet. It strips away the starchy hand-wringing that often plagues second-rate Ibsen revivals. *Tom Wicker*  
→ Print Room at the Coronet.  
Until Mar 9.

### THE PRICE

★★★★★

Like 'The American Clock', 'The Price' is a lesser-known Arthur Miller play inspired by the Wall Street Crash. Its quality comes from its slippery characters and, in this excellent production, the actors performing them. David Suchet is the standout, making Gregory Solomon, an 89-year-old antiques appraiser, first eccentric then quietly, watchfully wise. ■ *Rosemary Waugh*  
→ Wyndham's Theatre.  
Until Apr 27.

More reviews at  
[timeout.com/theatre](http://timeout.com/theatre)



## NEW SHOWS

### THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

#### WEST END

##### Cirque Éloize: Hotel

The Montreal circus masters stage a stylish night of travel-inspired acrobatic tricks.

→ Peacock Theatre.

⊖ Holborn. Wed Feb 20-Mar 9. £7.50-£42.

##### Cyprus Avenue

Stephen Rea stars in David Ireland's provocative and totally absurd comedy about a deluded Belfast sectarian.

→ Royal Court Theatre.

⊖ Sloane Square. Until Mar 23. £14-£49.

##### Follies

Dominic Cooke's hauntingly beautiful staging of Sondheim's showgirl musical returns to the NT.

→ National Theatre, Olivier.

⊖ Waterloo. Until May 11. £15-£72.

##### The Monstrous Child

A Norse mythology-inspired new opera for young people.

→ Royal Opera House.

⊖ Covent Garden. Until Mar 3. £7-£45.

##### Only Fools and Horses The Musical

A musical adventure for the

wheeler-dealing Trotter family, co-written by Paul Whitehouse and Jim Sullivan.

→ Theatre Royal Haymarket.

⊖ Piccadilly Circus.

Until Aug 31. £20-£35.

##### Tartuffe

Playwright John Donnelly and director Blanche McIntyre team up to stage Molière's comedy.

→ National Theatre, Lyttelton.

⊖ Waterloo. Until Apr 30.

£15-£55.

#### OFF-WEST END

##### And the Rest of Me Floats

Trans and queer performers explore gender in all its messy and flamboyant forms.

→ Bush Theatre. ⊖ Shepherd's Bush Market. Until Mar 16.

£20, £10-£17.50 concs.

##### The Animals and Children Took to the Streets

This stunning show by 1927 returns, blending gothicky animation with stark social commentary.

→ Lyric Hammersmith.

⊖ Hammersmith. Until Mar 16.

From £10.

##### Boots

Two women become fast friends in a pharmacy in this offbeat new drama.

→ The Bunker. ⊖ London Bridge.

Until Mar 16.

£19.50, £15 concs.

##### Call Me Vicky

A dive into the world of drag, nightlife and identity in '80s Soho.

→ Pleasance Theatre.

⊖ Caledonian Rd. Until Mar 9.

£16, £14 concs.

##### Equus

Ned Bennett follows up his hit production of 'An Octoroon' with Peter Shaffer's bleak psychodrama.

→ Theatre Royal Stratford East.

⊖ Stratford. Until Mar 23.

£10-£32.

##### Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train

A dark comedy set in a prison, by Stephen Adly Guirgis ('The Motherfucker with the Hat').

→ Young Vic. ⊖ Waterloo.

Until Mar 30. £10-£40.

##### Shipwreck

A Trump satire by experimental playwright Anne Washburn.

→ Almeida Theatre.

⊖ Highbury & Islington.

Until Mar 30. £10-£39.50.

##### There Is a Field

Martin Askew's debut play is an East End comedy.

→ Theatre 503. Clapham rail.

Wed Feb 20-Mar 16. £17-£18,

£12 concs.

##### The Trick

Eve Leigh's new play uses stage magic to explore grieving.

→ Bush Theatre. ⊖ Shepherd's

Bush Market. Until Mar 23.

£10-£20, £10-£12.50 concs.

##### Zog

A kids' musical about a clumsy dragon.

→ Rose Theatre. Kingston rail.

Until Sat Feb 23. £15.

#### LAST CHANCE

##### Nine Night

Natasha Gordon's unmissable hit play.

→ Trafalgar Studios.

⊖ Charing Cross.

Until Sat Feb 23. £18-£125.

## TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

##### 1 The Night of the Iguana

Clive Owen stars in this Tennessee Williams tale.

→ Noël Coward Theatre. Jul 6-Sep 28.

##### 2 The Book of Mormon

Missionary-baiting musical from the 'South Park' boys.

→ Prince of Wales Theatre. Until May 25.

##### 3 Home, I'm Darling

Hit domestic goddess satire.

→ Duke of York's Theatre. Until Apr 13.

##### 4 Wicked

This witchy show is a fan fave.

→ Apollo Victoria. Until Nov 30.

##### 5 Caroline, Or Change

The civil rights-era musical.

→ Playhouse Theatre. Until Mar 2.

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# Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel  
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SHOW OF THE WEEK

## Diane Arbus: 'In the Beginning'



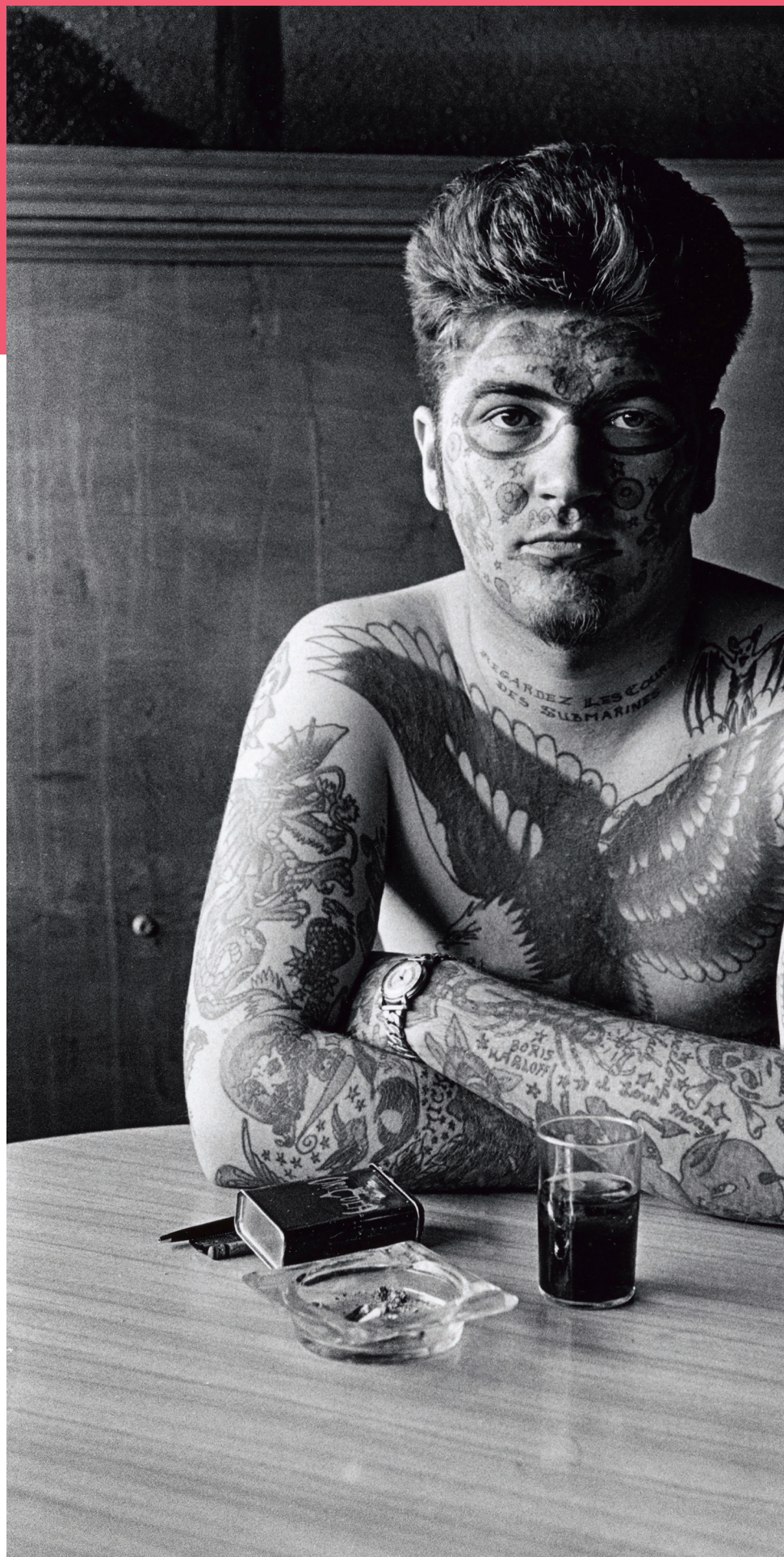
**DIANE ARBUS WAS** the original people-watcher. Some lads larking around by the coast, a glamorous receptionist at her desk, two women shooting evils at the universe: nothing escaped her.

The Hayward Gallery's exhibition of photographs from the first seven years of her career (1956-1962) is sleekly arranged with each small print attached to one side of a tall white rectangle. The effect is like walking through a graveyard, a towering Arlington Cemetery dedicated to the memory of Arbus's native New York.

Or at least it would be if the faces she captured weren't so instantly almost creepily, alive (excluding, obviously, the photograph of a post-autopsy corpse). Arbus's talent was for pinpointing the weirdness of facial expressions. She looked at how other people looked at the world around them.

Famously, Arbus chronicled the existence of people on the edges of NYC society, including the circus and cabaret performers considered 'freaks' by their paying audiences. And perhaps our ongoing fascination with this aspect of the photographer's career contains something (more than we'd like to admit) of that original circus sideshow gawping.

JACK DRACULA AT A BAR, NEW LONDON, CONN., 1961, 9 3/4 x 6 5/8 IN. (24.8 x 16.9 CM) PROMISED GIFT OF DOON ARBUS AND AMY ARBUS, 2007 COURTESY THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK. COPYRIGHT © THE ESTATE OF DIANE ARBUS, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED







#### WHAT IS IT...

A powerfully affecting look at one of the most iconic photographers who ever lived.

#### WHY GO...

Freaks, geeks and everything in between: Arbus had a seriously brilliant eye.

→ Hayward Gallery.  
↻ Waterloo. Until May 6.  
£14, £11 concs.

We still, to an extent, get off on looking at a pair of conjoined twins floating in formaldehyde or nosily poking around the kitchen of an elderly woman with dwarfism. Especially now that we can look back to that era of travelling freak shows while feeling smugly superior.

Those images are here, the ones of a 'human pin cushion', an entirely tattooed Jack Dracula (left), contortionists and strippers. A good dose of the macabre is also present – to accompany that corpse, there's a dead pig and an embalmed saint.

But the exhibition also shows a different side of Arbus's practice, one that's less sensationalist and more tender. The side people forget. If there's a recurring theme to this selection of early works, it's children. They pop up everywhere, as a tiny baby on the subway, a schoolgirl carting books home or, brilliantly, in a snuggly hood pointing a toy gun at the camera.

This constant awareness of blinking baby blues shouldn't come as a surprise. Arbus had a kid's-eye view of life: unjudgemental, obsessive and infinitely curious. ■



**By Rosemary Waugh**  
Who will one day have as many tattoos as this guy.

## THREE OF THE BEST

# Free art shows to see this week



#### ↑ Tracey Emin: 'A Fortnight of Tears'

Love her or hate her, this show proves that Emin is one of our greatest living artists. Overwrought, over-intense and over the top, but powerfully emotional stuff.

→ White Cube Bermondsey. ↻ London Bridge. Until Apr 7.



#### ↑ Liu Xiaodong: 'Weight of Insomnia'

Throw out your Constables and Turners, because Liu Xiaodong has created a robot that can probably outpaint them all. Come watch it depict Trafalgar Square in real time.

→ Lisson Gallery. ↻ Edgware Rd. Until Mar 2.



#### ↑ Nicole Farhi: 'Folds'

The fashion designer turns her hand to sculpture with this show of casts of women's bodies. They're full of references to antiquity, have a positive message and are gorgeous to boot.

→ Beaux Arts. ↻ Green Park. Until Mar 2.

Find even more free art to see at  
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Unidentified man and Martin Grönpeter building a foundry and learning construction techniques, Werkdorp Nieuwenhuis, Wieringermeer, The Netherlands, 1939 © Mara Vishniac Kohn. Courtesy International Center of Photography.

## 'Is This Tomorrow?'



### WHAT IS IT...

Artists and architects working in cahoots to build immersive installations.

### WHY GO...

Some of this is ingenious, intriguing and a whole lot of fun.

→ Whitechapel Gallery.

⊖ Aldgate East.

Until May 12. £12.95,  
 £9.50 concs.

**BACK IN 1956**, the Whitechapel put on a collaborative artists-and-architects exhibition called 'This Is Tomorrow'. It introduced the world to the very first inklings of pop art and brought names like Eduardo Paolozzi, Richard Hamilton and Alison and Peter Smithson smack dab into the public eye. It was seriously groundbreaking, and genuinely seminal. Now the Whitechapel has decided to see if it can repeat the trick. Which is a shame, because – like hanging out with much hotter friends – the new show is only ever going to look ugly by comparison.

There are some dud works here, but there are also some brilliant things. Rana Begum and Marina Tabassum Architects' shimmering, light-filled space is beautiful and tranquil; the claustrophobic, swirling maelstrom of turnstiles in Farshid Moussavi Architecture and Zineb Sedira's work is neatly intense; Adjaye Associates and Kapwani Kiwanga's prismatic mirror-maze is discombobulatingly lovely.

The best thing here is Simon Fujiwara and David Kohn Architects' micro museum, proposing different ways to look at the world's most expensive painting, the 'Salvator Mundi'. It's funny, interesting and filled with ideas about how we look at and consume art.

The thing is, nothing here is particularly radical, and it isn't a great big unified exhibition with something grand to say, like it seems to wish it was. But it is ambitious, interesting and a lot of fun. Just goes to show, if you stop trying to one-up your successful predecessors, sometimes you can succeed on your own merits. ■ **Eddy Frankel**

BORDERS INCLUSIVITY, FARSHID MOUSSAVI AND ZINEB SEDIRA, COURTESY THE WHITECHAPEL GALLERY.



# Food

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

## Roe

→ Unit S38, Pop Brixton, 49 Brixton Station Rd,  
 SW9 8PQ. ↻ Brixton.



**TINY BUT BURSTING** with flavour. That's roe. Or fish eggs, to the rest of us. Which makes it a fitting name for this dinky little shipping container restaurant, up one of the staircases at Pop Brixton. There are just two communal wooden tables, while the teensy kitchen at the end deals in – you guessed it – seafood.

It's a compact menu, too, but with enough dishes that, unless you've come in a group, you'll have to make some choices. So take my advice: go large on the small plates. I mean it, spread your net wide and reel 'em all in. There were too many treasures to cover in full, but let's give it a try. You'll kick off with squid ink and Guinness soda bread, the colour of obsidian, the weight of something you might throw at someone who's just loafed off with your iPhone charger. You chew it slowly, ponderously, having perhaps slathered it in some of the seaweed-speckled butter. You could also upgrade your topping to one of mackerel pâté, whipped cod's roe or, my favourite, a dish of plump pickled mussels, their vinegary notes cut through with that spiced sausage of princes, 'nduja.

Then there were squid 'noodles', the glistening cephalopods having been cut into pale, shimmering ribbons. Slippery with sesame oil and the occasional sharp, fiery hit of fermented hot sauce, they sat over a

### WHAT IS IT...

A shipping container restaurant in Pop Brixton, specialising in seafood.

### WHY GO...

The squid 'noodles': cephalopod meets sesame.



handful of verdant and crunchy pak choi leaves, in a wet, nest-like little heap. This, on reflection, was my favourite dish of the night.

Though there were other delights. Like a moreish trio of squid ink arancini over a puddle of foamy, savoury pecorino sauce. Or a pair of blackened but buttery quarters of sweetheart cabbage. And finally, an elegant pud of silken, delicately perfumed earl grey panna cotta.

Of course, if you're more of a traditionalist, you may insist on ordering one of the large plates: fat fillets of fish over lentils and such. This is all perfectly pleasant dinner party fodder, just not as

special as the small stuff. And speaking of special, a word about the staff: they're just lovely. Maybe it's because it's such an intimate, crammed-in space. You're forced to be friendly. Or maybe it's the flattering lighting and feel-good retro soundtrack (they were playing Pulp when I walked in). Roe may be tiny, but it's shiny – and punches well above its weight. ■

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



By Tania Ballantine  
 Who agrees that  
 small is beautiful.



# Henrietta Bistro



→ Henrietta Hotel, 14-15 Henrietta St, WC2E 8QG. ☞ Covent Garden.

**THE BISTRO AT** the boutique Henrietta Hotel remains best known for an old tenant: it's where chef Ollie Dabbous cooked in the period between his eponymous restaurant and Mayfair's Hide. But more fool the unaware. Under Sylvain Roucayrol, it's become an extremely decent Basque-influenced spot with a chic mid-century-styled dining area and a menu of small plates that err from conventionally delicious to actively interesting.

Of the former, there were little bar snacks of salty cecina ham flecked with fennel seeds and smoky jamon croquetas fashioned from cloud-light bechamel. A dessert of crema Catalana was positively ambrosial. All great, though, to be fair, not exactly groundbreaking.

Flashes of invention included the densely chewy raisins scattered across a plate of scallop ceviche, and the freeze-dried strawberry powder dusting a kick-ass burrata – the subtle sweet-sharpness cutting

through the clean taste of the mozzarella and its pool of basil oil.

There were two clear highlights. First, dinky cubes of tuna tartare, served on a smear of excellent tahini and liberally covered with sheaves of truffle. The delicate combo of fungal notes, sparkingly fresh fish and sesame nuttiness was genuinely wizard. Less subtle was a picture-perfect burger: rich Basque beef topped with cured txistorra sausage and lardo.

It was expensive, but good value. Save a near-argument over an erroneously served mussel escabeche – we didn't order it, they insisted on leaving it anyway and then seemed peeved when we flagged its inclusion on the bill – service was extremely affable. Henrietta is an ace little Covent Garden spot that more than deserves to step out of the shadow of its former chef. ■ *Tom Howells*  
**Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £130.**

## WHAT IS IT...

A Basque-leaning small-plates spot at Covent Garden's Henrietta Hotel.

## WHY GO...

For the truffle-covered, tahini-tinged tuna tartare. A wicked pairing of fungus and fish.



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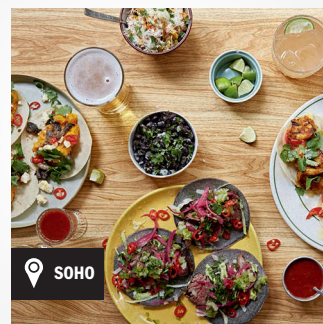
'Peckish? Beam is passionate about fresh, quality, local ingredients and draws upon both Mediterranean heritage and classic British cuisine. Designed to combine colours and complementary tastes, the menu has choices for those who like fish, meat, vegetarian or vegan dishes.'  
184 Blackstock Rd, N5 1EF.



KING'S CROSS

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## Yolkin

→ 24 Rupert St, W1D 6DQ. ↻ Piccadilly Circus.



**THE FIRST PERMANENT** spot from the popular ice-cream sandwich street-food stall, Yolkin, was born when owner Sammie Le started making ice cream from the egg yolks left over from baking batches of macarons (yolk in – get it?).

The shop is on the edge of Chinatown. There are a few seats by the window, a few tables lining the wall, and ice cream that comes in cups, cones or sandwiched between two freshly baked, oversized macarons. Le's Vietnamese heritage is evident in many of the flavours – condensed-milk tea, pandan coconut and toasted black sesame are all

regulars (as are fortune cookies made out of waffle cones).

All the flavours we sampled were great: a scoop of mango was fresh, light and creamy with just the right amount of fruity flavour, and the Hong Kong milk tea had a lovely condensed-milk tang. The macarons in the blueberry cheesecake ice-cream sandwich were surprisingly – yet addictively – chewy, and the cheesecake ice

cream inside was swirled with deliciously fresh fruit. Chunky cheesecake base crumbs coated the outside – a great texture combo.

You can build your own ice-cream sarnies, but I'd stick with what's on offer on the day. They're all made fresh and Le has her flavour combos down pat. Yolkin: an Instagram sensation where the food tastes as good as it looks. ■ *Kelly Pigram*  
**Ice cream for two: around £10.**



### WHAT IS IT...

A street stall turned ice-cream macaron sandwich shop.

### WHY GO...

For the chewy, fruity blueberry cheesecake ice-cream sarnie.

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## Isla Ray

→ 37 Deptford High St, SE8 4AD. Deptford rail.



### WHAT IS IT...

An Australian-influenced café/bar in Deptford.

### WHY GO...

For an unpretentious art-school atmos and solid sandwiches.

**THE APPEAL OF** Isla Ray lies in its ramshackle lack of novelty. It's a café, bang in the tumult of Deptford's loveably grungy High Street market – a few minutes' walk but stylistically miles away from the fancy, foodie Market Yard. That's not to say it swerves the area's artsy vibe: the theme here is 'chintzy tropicalia with added neon'. There's a giant seahorse sculpture. Piles of community mags. Uncomfortable vintage furniture and some vaguely psychedelic '60s nonsense on the stereo. It's cosy.

Food-wise, it does solid sourdough sarnies, bagels and a couple of salads (plus some sharing bits in the evening). There was nothing particularly thrilling about its tomato, mozzarella, salami and pesto toastie, or a minimalist brie and ham bagel, though the ingredients were decent. And, in fairness, I'd happily snaffle both again. But an open smoked salmon and mascarpone sandwich truly was ace, the silken cheese imparting a subtle sweetness and the whole lot festooned with teeny capers, dill fronds and radish. Basic, but thoughtfully built.

There's nothing to get too frenzied over here, but as reliable and quirky little spaces go, Isla Ray is textbook stuff. ■ *Tom Howells*

**Lunch for two with drinks (no service): around £20.**



## Old Chang Kee

→ 15A New Row, WC2N 4PD. ↻ Leicester Square.



### WHAT IS IT...

A Singaporean street-food joint in Covent Garden.

### WHY GO...

For the signature curry puffs: they're big and buttery, with delicious spicy fillings.



**A LIGHT AND** bright Covent Garden outpost of the Singaporean snack chain, this place is famed for its curry puffs – big pastries with curried fillings, kind of like warmly spiced Cornish pasties. There's also a short menu of noodles and soups served in cardboard bowls. Inside, it's bright yellow and cheerful, but the vibe is grab-and-go, with just a sprinkling of seats.

Confirmed: the curry puffs are a delight. Lined up in the kind of glass counter you'd find in an old-school bakery, they have supremely buttery pastry and a range of fillings. Our favourite was the signature curried chicken with potato – tender meat and hearty chunks of potato, coated in imported spices. The chicken and mushroom was also excellent, and even the veggie curried potato didn't disappoint (the pastry tasted just as buttery). All puffs are two for £5 (or somewhere around £2.80 each, depending on fillings): great value given their size and quality.

Some of the other Singaporean dishes were decent, like the fish balls, or nasi lemak with curried chicken, but give the laksa a swerve: it was very ordinary, lacking the complexity it deserves. In short, stick with the curry puffs. They're celebrated for a reason. ■ *Kelly Pigram*  
**Lunch for two with drinks (no service): around £30.**

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## Food

## SO YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO Tamarind



### Wait. Which Tamarind is this?

Tamarind Mayfair. The original one, not to be confused with its Soho spin-off, Tamarind Kitchen.

### So is it better than the Soho one?

Hell yeah. Save your pennies and come here instead.

### What's the vibe?

Revamped in autumn 2018, it has a classic, timeless feel, with a hint of something aquatic (think spearmint pastel tiles offsetting cream leather banquettes). But for a Michelin-starred Mayfair Indian it's surprisingly buzzy, too, thanks, in part, to not one but two open kitchens (one for bread being kneaded and meat being skewered, then slung in the tandoor; the other for everything else). We'll overlook the '90s R&B.

### How about the food?

Stunning. For comfort, go for lentils spiked with the crunch of fragrant mustard seeds (£8), fiery stir-fried okra (£8) or a plate of rich goat chop curry (£24). But for something more memorable, try the papaya, mango and cucumber salad (£12). An Indian twist on a som tam, it was a tangle of crunchy young fruit, red chilli, crushed peanuts and coriander. Now stop. And save space (you'll need it), for the baked coconut rice. Creamy, with hints of spice and the occasional surprise of candied cashew, it came topped with curls of young coconut and a fruity guava sorbet. Subtle *and* sublime.

### Any other tips?

Go at night or in winter: it's down in a basement, so not your best bet for a sunshine lunch. ■ **Tania Ballantine**  
**Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £150.**

→ 20 Queen St, W1J 5PR. ☉ Green Park.



# Drink

Edited by Laura Richards  
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

## BAR OF THE WEEK

### The Newman Arms

→ 23 Rathbone St, W1T 1NG. ↻ Goodge St.



**THOUGHT TO BE THE** inspiration for the proles' pub in Orwell's '1984', and in business since the 1730s, Fitzrovia's Newman Arms has a whole lot of history (not to mention its days as a brothel). Now it's making new stories as the first 'tap house' to be opened by Truman's – a brewer that used to keep the whole of London lubricated – since it reformed in 2010. As well as pouring its range from 12 keg and four cask lines, the brewery is honouring its east London roots by serving pies and salt beef bagels.

The ground floor is the best bit, once you've passed through the continual cloud from smokers next

to Newman Passage. It's a wood-clad space with a sociable layout designed for perching with pints, and there's a heating station keeping sausage rolls warm and adding drool-worthy aromas to the room. There's upstairs for dining, while the basement is a bit 'Peaky Blinders' – nicknamed 'The Prole's Parlour' and fitted with low-hanging lights and tan leather furniture. Despite the moody look, it's a bit bereft of

#### WHAT IS IT...

A historic Fitzrovia pub, now the first tap house from Truman's Brewery.

#### WHY GO...

For pints and salt beef bagels – East End traditions alive up West.



atmosphere, with mismatched disco hits piped in. But getting a sofa in central London deserves some sort of prize, right?

Back on ground level, I sampled a few from the Truman's range before settling on a sessionable Bow Bells citrus pale ale (£5.50 a pint). Staff were incredibly obliging with tasters, bringing round morsels of salt beef to build appetites. We opted for a ploughman's board, though,

loaded with an average scotch egg, a decent pork pie, cheese, piccalilli and pickled onions. A solid spread, but perhaps not worth writing home about. You can take home a growler, though, filled with something from the Truman's range.

Although not the cosiest spot for a session, the reimagined Newman Arms is a tasty central stop-off, whether you're a prole or otherwise. ■  
*Laura Richards*

## DRINK THIS

### Nitro Chai Martini



Book at City playground and Indian restaurant Brigadiers for Six Nations rugby screenings and upgrade your standard Guinness for something more stirring. This espresso martini twist is filled with gentle chai spices – such as fennel and cardamom – and charged with nitrogen for a silky texture similar to that of the black stuff. Forget swinging low – you'll be riding incredibly high.

→ 1-5 Bloomberg Arcade, EC4N 8AR.  
↻ Bank. £10. Until Mar 16.

THE NEWMAN ARMS: BEN ROWE

### The Faber Fox



→ 25 Westow Hill, SE19 1TQ. Crystal Palace Overground.

**THERE'S ALREADY A** Sparrowhawk, a White Hart and Four Hundred Rabbits on Crystal Palace Triangle – and the leafy area's hospitality scene is now one step closer to 'The Animals of Farthing Wood' status with the arrival of a pub called The Faber Fox. It's part of the Livelyhood group, whose other south London pubs include The Clapham North and Wimbledon's The Old Frizzle. Just like those joints, it packs in a lot.

There's a restaurant at the front and a sports' TV area at the back – a lengthy bar primed for match days straddles the two – and both were heaving on a Friday night with groups in their thirties vying for tables. Service was swift at the bar, although the reception was frosty when I asked for details on the range of wine. It seems the average punter is more engaged with swiftly necking locally produced craft beers on tap. Small plates and a brunch menu were trendy concessions; fish and chips and burgers were most in demand.

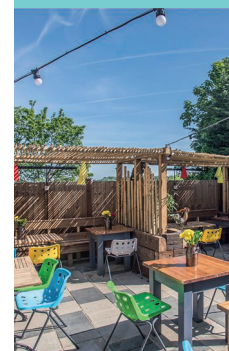
Quirky light fittings, Spanish floor tiles and buttoned leather banquettes elevate the decor of this smart pub, even if the contrast between the restaurant and that boozing space is a tad jarring. Escape it come summer in a colourfully kitted-out, tiered beer garden offering sweltering views towards the capital's skyscrapers. It's practically bucolic here. ■ *Laura Richards*

#### WHAT IS IT...

Crystal Palace pub, the fifth from the Livelyhood group.

#### WHY GO...

An epic beer garden and an action-packed interior.



More rugger-loving spots at [timeout.com/bars](http://timeout.com/bars)



# Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott  
timeout.com/daytrips



A perfect day in

## Sandwich

Waterside wildlife, age-old pubs and ancient history

**SANDWICH MIGHT APPEAR** to be the ancestral home of everyone's favourite lunch, but it's unclear how much credit the town can really take for the savoury snack. The fourth Earl of Sandwich, who popularised shoving food between two slices of bread, didn't have much to do with the place itself. Lucky then, that there's much more to this ancient and achingly pretty town on the Kent coast than just carbs. Crust us.

### First up

Sleepy Sandwich is full of cute cottages and perfectly preserved medieval buildings. Grab coffee and a fresh French pastry from **No Name Shop** and wander to the quayside, eyeing **half-timbered houses** and **antiques shops** as you go.

### Soak up the vibes

Head ten minutes out of town to explore the wilds of **Sandwich & Pegwell Bay National Nature Reserve**. It's all stunning salt marshes, wild flowers, mudflats and golden sea cliffs, with trails for windswept coastal walks and places to pause and (attempt to) spot rare birds and butterflies.

### Stop for lunch

If you've been daydreaming about bread, order generously filled sausage and mustard sandwiches with a glass of local Chapel Down wine from **The Hop and Huffkin**, where all the food and drink hails from Kent. Supersize your lunch with enormous club sarnies at **The Bell Hotel**.

### Get back to nature

Stop loafing around and take a **boat trip** from the quay. If you're lucky, you'll spy the local seal colony. Prefer to stay on dry land? Explore the lush **gardens at The Salutation**. Document the greenery – the symmetry is a photographer's dream – or book on to a propagation workshop.

### Drink like a local

There's no shortage of historic pubs in Sandwich. Step back in time at **The Crispin Inn**, which was built in 1491, or warm up next to a roaring fire inside the half-timbered **Admiral Owen**. On a roll? For soothing grub and ales from independent Kent breweries, cosy up inside the teeny **Mermaid's Locker**. ■ *Ellie Walker-Arnott*

### IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Thought Sandwich was super old? It's not compared to the ruins of **Richborough Roman Fort**, just outside of town. Said to be where the Romans first set foot on British soil, it was once home to an arch marking the official entrance to Britannia. Roam around the crumbling walls and grass ditches in this impressive and peaceful place.

### WAKE UP HERE

## The Salutation



A grand country house with gardens is the last thing you expect to find in the centre of Sandwich, where the streets are narrow and houses tight-knit. But space, light and high ceilings are what you get at The Salutation. Rooms are elegant, with punchy, unusual artworks adorning the walls. The hotel was once run by 'Gogglebox' couple Steph and Dom, but with new owners came lush decor, botanical toiletries made on site and a fancy restaurant. Book the tasting menu to watch head chef Shane Hughes craft heavenly mouthfuls in the glass-fronted kitchen.

*Ellie Walker-Arnott*

→ Sandwich. From £136 a night.  
www.the-salutation.com

→ Get there: one hour 30 minutes from London St Pancras International by train; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

Find destinations to daydream about at [timeout.com/daytrips](http://timeout.com/daytrips)





Chisou



Sake no Hana



Shackfuyu



Chotto Matte



Kanada-Ya



Chick 'n' Sours

# Sake to me!

Here are six super-tasty spots to find food-and-drink harmony at Sake Week

**S**ake Week is just around the corner, which means it's time to get hyped about rice wine. London restaurants are ready to prove that sake is just as delicious with the likes of cheese and prosciutto as it is with traditional Japanese fare – and oodles of harmonised dishes have been specially developed for you lovely lot. So if you're ready to discover the line-up, let us introduce you to a few of Sake Week's finest.

**1 Kanada-Ya**  
Longing for really good ramen? Kanada-Ya has got the goods. In fact, the hand-pulled, slurp-worthy noodles here are a thing of carby legend – and we bow down. Totally deserving of its four-star Time Out review, Kanada-Ya will be serving the famous Tonkotsu X.

**2 Chisou**  
This is one of London's pedigree Japanese joints. With speciality cold

dishes and sushi of such beauty that it'll make your day (and the next and the next), no wonder Chisou is offering harmonised sake and sushi at Sake Week. Form an orderly queue, gastronomes.

**3 Shackfuyu**  
A pop-up that turned permanent, Shackfuyu is a rock 'n' roll purveyor of East-meets-West cuisine. The flavours are loud, the food is unapologetically delicious, and we recommend launching yourself into its sushi with complete abandon at Sake Week. Wake up and smell the fusion.

**4 Sake no Hana**  
Part of the revered Hakkasan restaurant group, Sake no Hana is a slick operation where contemporary Japanese food takes centre stage. Rightly so – because the eats are flavour-packed and super-fresh. You can expect your fill of the top spot's delightful, hand-crafted sushi.

**5 Chotto Matte**  
Culinary mash-up artist Chotto Matte has a big reputation, especially for a relative newcomer to London's dining scene. Its vibrant Peruvian-Japanese fusion (or Nikkei, to those in the know) brings all the foodies to the yard. And the sushi it's dishing up for Sake Week promises to be just as zingy.

**6 Chick 'n' Sours**  
It's not just Japanese restaurants that are getting

involved, you know. If you want proof that sake can harmonise with all kinds of food, check out fried chicken expert Chick 'n' Sours. Sure, it's got an incredible menu, banging cocktails and killer Korean twists, but just you wait and see what it has lined up for Sake Week. Give these combos a go and you might find yourself reaching for the rice wine at the mere mention of deep-fried bird.



JFOODO



→ Sake Week runs from Friday February 22 to Sunday March 3.  
To find out more head to [www.foodandsake.com](http://www.foodandsake.com)





# FOOD, SAKE, HARMONY

Explore more food + sake harmonies at Sake Week  
**22 February - 3 March**

To find out more visit [\*\*FOODANDSAKE.COM\*\*](https://www.foodandsake.com)

  
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