



#### The **50** best galleries in London, 2019

**Time Out London** (b. 1968) Digital ink print on paper, 22.5 x 29.7 cm

Interrogating post-structural interpretations of 'the real' and questioning modes of cultural production, London's art galleries confront hierarchical conceptions of flux and dominance via contemporary means of signification in both language and aesthetics...

Nah, mate. These are just the greatest places to see art in London.





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### **Inside**

This week's Time Out in no time at all

#### Holy crêpe!

Shrove Tuesday is nearly upon us. Best consult our stacked guide to the city's top pancake spots

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### 'David Bowie had a 26-inch waist'

We visit the London factory that makes mannequins for shop displays and Bowie exhibitions alike

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#### **Fruit route**

Herefordshire is home to an eight-metre-high pink pineapple. One of your five a day (trip)?

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#### **'Leaving Neverland'**

In the light of a shocking and harrowing new documentary, is it finally time to stop listening to Michael Jackson?

**PAGE 59** 

#### **Meet the button lady**

Maureen Rose is the dedicated woman behind oneoff button-maker Taylors. She's been at it for more than 40 years – and has no intention of stopping

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London is an art lover's paradise. From mega-museums like Tate Modern down to a tiny window space in a tube station, there are hundreds (seriously, hundreds!) of galleries to visit in this city. And, unbelievably, pretty much all of them are free. With so many spaces to discover and so much art to see, it can feel a little overwhelming. Luckily, over the years, we've done the hard work for you, sorting the Pollocks from the bollocks – and now we've whittled it all down to these 50 must-visit galleries (p22). Whether you want abstract splodges, conceptual shenanigans or virtuosic paint-handling, this city's got it all.



What you've been rating and hating online

Last week, we shared a video of Elan Café's latte with crushed sapphires, a foamy blue confection that costs an eye-watering £15. That was nothing for one reader, who left this gem of a comment.

'I have one every day (or every weekday, rather). They're nice. You can really taste the sapphire.'

Judd C via Facebook

When we posted about a yoga class at the Natural History Museum under a giant moon, one reader got so excited they forgot to log out of their company Twitter account.

'Even the words "moon yoga" seem promising.'

@TravelhouseUK via Twitter

With spring on the way, we rounded up the best places to go cherry-blossom-spotting. This reader had a blooming good insider tip.

'Mackeson Road in Belsize Park is also amazing.'

Nikki M via Facebook

Krispy Kreme recently announced a two-day exhibition in Covent Garden promising giant doughnuts and chocolate-covered everything. After this comment, though, we're wondering if anything there will last more than an hour.

'Don't say immersive if I can't eat the walls!'

Glen C via Facebook

#### **COMMENT OF THE WEEK**

Artist Jennie Webber runs some cracking wildlife drawing workshops in London, and the one she recently announced in Clapton helps fund animal conservation projects. You'd have to be a real ass not to want to drop what you're doing and run down there with an HB, even if you do live in Zone 4.

'I know we were saying the other day that Clapton is too far to go for anything, but maybe we could make an exception for donkeys?'

Rachel A via Facebook

We agree, Rachel. Donkeys over everything.



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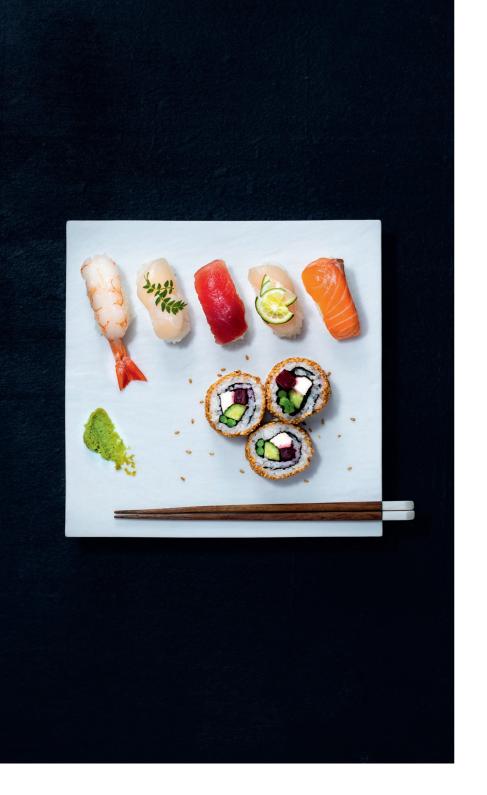
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### FOOD, SAKE, HARMONY

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









### All-New Dacia Duster A 4x4 that takes you to freedom?

ok, Freedom and a 4x4, obviously – taking you off into the horizon with not a care in the world, just a latte in the cup-holder, air-conditioning through your hair. And yes, the All-New Duster is a fully functioning, hard-working 4x4. And a beautifully made, well-equipped SUV. So do feel free to throw the buggy in the boot with the surfboard, if you wish. (Insert clichéd car-model family here).

But, with the All-New Duster, you get a different, much more real kind of freedom. Because, from just £9,995, buying the All-New Duster leaves you considerably freer to find something else to spend your hard-earned money on. Like a sunset you can't actually get to by car, perhaps.

Liberating, isn't it?

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The official combined fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) are: 35.3 - 36.7 (7.7-8.0). The official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are 149g/km. WLTP figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare figures with vehicles tested to the same technical procedures. Actual real world driving results may vary depending on factors such as weather conditions, driving styles, vehicle load or any accessories fitted after registration. WLTP is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub>-figures, however until April 2020 the CO<sub>2</sub> figures are based on the outgoing (NEDC) test cycle which will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration. Please visit dacia.co.uk/configure for WLTP figures for any selected options.

# **City life**

Edited by James Manning @timeoutlondon

# through the eyes of painter Doreen Fletcher (below) at the Nunnery Gallery in Bow. From film screenings to history lessons to exhibitions, the month-long programme is packed with different ways to learn about the work women have done – and are still doing – to make this city great. ■ Paula Akpan → www.alternativearts.co.uk

#### THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



Craving sunshine? Just follow @TimeOutChefs on Instagram to win a beachside escape to Miami, with flights, accommodation and \$200 to spend at the brand new **Time Out Market Miami**.



Do brunch while doing good at **Magic Brunch**.
The menu is a curation of signature dishes from
Bistrotheque, Som Saa, Gunpowder and Foxlow—
and it's all in the name of charity.



**East End girls** 

AS WELL AS being the start of spring, March is Women's History Month – and east London is going large on it. Alternative Arts is collaborating with galleries and institutions across the area to put on a huge range of events and exhibitions marking the contributions of women. Head to Autograph in Shoreditch to explore health and recovery with photographer Phoebe Boswell; enter the Barbican to discover the work of Lina Wertmuller, the first woman to be nominated for a Best Director Oscar; make your way to the Tower Hamlets archives

to hear from Cate Tuitt, the borough's first female black councillor; or see east London

Celebrate India's festival of colours at **Cinnamon Kitchen**'s **House of Holi**, a pop-up party pod
where you can pelt your friends with paint before
enjoying some nibbles. **www.timeout.com/holi** 

Discover more cool things to do at timeout.com/news



The quickest way to make a deal: have friends in the right places

'There are no rules about how you meet famous people, but once you do, selling a painting by Marc Chagall or Pablo Picasso isn't difficult. If you've got the client and a good piece at the right price, you just make a deal. The most important work I've sold was a diptych by Francis Bacon for around \$12 million. If you're looking for a Bacon tomorrow, I can find one.'

#### Breaking new artists is a thrill

'Ithink it's wrong to sell art just to make lots of money. What excites me more than dealing in the secondary market is finding buyers for new, young artists who I represent. You can change that artist's life, make them famous, make their work go to an important collection.'

#### The European touch helps

'I don't have too much of a French accent, do I?
No, I'm joking – it's very strong and it works well
for me. I am from Paris, but when I opened my
own gallery, I never thought of locating anywhere
other than London. I think it's much stronger for
art than Paris.' ■ Interview by James FitzGerald

→ JD Malat Gallery, 30 Davies St. ↔ Bond St. www.jdmalat.com

# WORD ON THE STREET

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

'I only ever eat McDonald's on Monday and Tuesday. Not every Monday and Tuesday. But only on Monday and Tuesday.'

#### 'Cucumbers just ruin everything.'

'I've chewed pens my whole life and I've never had worms.'

#### 'Don't mansplain pizzato me.'

'I ate so many eggs this weekend. I feel like a chick's going to hatch in my belly.'

### 'You can shit in the bath, but that doesn't make it a toilet.'

'I'd love to go to a women's prison. They're so supportive of one another.'

#### 'Ilike nun movies!'

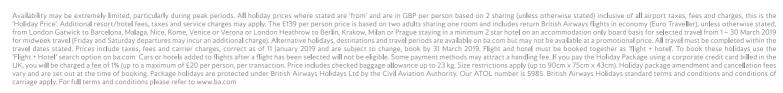
'I don't know – she's probably looking at fucking *kittens* again.'

'I'd much rather talk about dicks than about work.'











### MY LONDON STORY

Maureen Rose has been making buttons for more than 40 years. Her shop in Fitzrovia is a fascinating remnant of an almost lost London

### 'Every button tells a story'





RAHAINSLIE



**TAYLORS BUTTONS IS** the only independent button shop in the West End. It's more than 100 years old and it's only been owned by two families in that time. It was founded by the original Mr Taylor; then there was Mr Taylor's son, who retired in his late eighties when he sold it to my husband.

I was a war baby. My mother was from Whitechapel and she opened her own millinery business in Fulham at 19. She got married when she was 21 and ran her business all through the war. As a child, I used to sit in the corner and watch her make hats, but I didn't take up millinery – something I regret now, as she was very talented and she could have taught me.

I helped my mother for a while: I did a lot of buying for her in Great Marlborough Street, where there were many millinery wholesalers. There was a big fashion industry in the West End: I used to go to see the collections from houses like Hardy Amies and Norman Hartnell. It was so glamorous. Now it's all gone.

My late husband, Leon Rose, first involved me in this business. He started his career in a button factory learning how to make buttons. Then his uncle, who had a factory in Birmingham, got in touch to say, 'There's a gentleman in town who's retiring and you should think about taking over his business.' So he did.

My mother went in to help when he needed someone for a couple of hours a day, and then – of course – there was me! I've been working here for more than 40 years now and since my husband died in 2007 it has been a one-woman show.

Every button tells a story and I have no idea how many there are in the shop. Some are more than 100 years old, but most I make to order. You send me the fabric – velvet, leather or whatever – and I'll make you whatever you want. We used to do only small orders for tailors: two fronts and eight cuff buttons for a suit. Nowadays I do them by the hundred. I don't think Leon ever believed that was possible.

Anybody can walk into my shop and order buttons, but I get a lot of orders for theatre, television, film, fashion houses and weddings. I get gentlemen who buy expensive suits that come with cheap buttons: they come here to buy proper horn buttons to replace them.

My friends ask me why I have not retired, but I enjoy working here. What would I do at home? I've seen what happens to my friends who have retired: they lose the plot. I meet nice people in the shop and it's interesting. I'll keep going for as long as I can. I'd like my son to take it over. He's in IT, but this is much more interesting.

Alady stood in the doorway recently and asked me, 'Do you sell the buttons?' I replied: 'No, it's a museum.' She walked away. I think she believed me. ■ Interview by The Gentle Author

→ Taylors Buttons, 22 Cleveland St, W1T 4JB. ← Goodge St. The Gentle Author anonymously writes the Spitalfields Life blog. His book The Life & Times of Mr Pussy: A Memoir of a Favourite Cat' is out now.

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#### Too far is a state of mind.

The new **SEAT Tarraco**.

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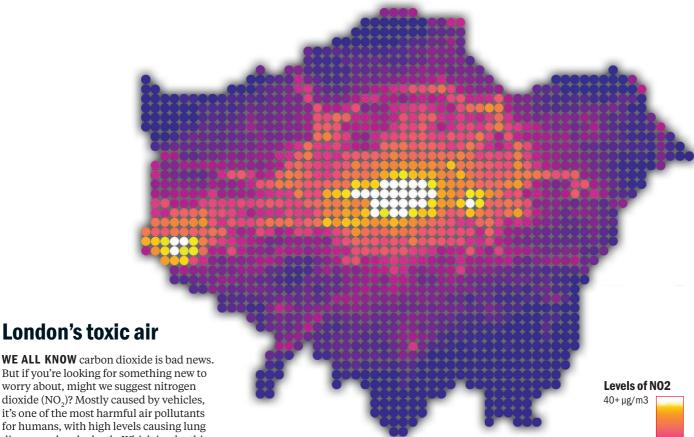
This is the large SUV for big ambitions. Explore more with a Fully Digital Cockpit. Keep expanding your life with 7 seats as standard. Go the distance with lightweight 20" Alloy Wheels.\* The only limit is your imagination.



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### LONDON MAPPED



But if you're looking for something new to worry about, might we suggest nitrogen dioxide (NO2)? Mostly caused by vehicles, it's one of the most harmful air pollutants for humans, with high levels causing lung disease and early death. Which is why this map, put together by analytics firm Esri UK using the latest Defra data, is so scary. White dots represent an area above the EU's legal annual NO, threshold - so that's illegally toxic air over the whole of Zone 1, plus Heathrow

Airport in the west and the Blackwall Tunnel

area in the east. The Mayor's new Ultra Low

Emission Zone, which will charge the most polluting vehicles to enter central London, comes into force in April. But you can also help protect yourself day-to-day by taking backstreets, which generally have lower pollutant levels. Sometimes the scenic route pays off. ■ James Manning

→ www.esriuk.com

#### THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out Tastemakers have been Instagramming this week



'Where better than @elan\_cafe to brighten your chilly Tuesday?'



'Tracey Emin's show at @whitecube is insightful and moving.'



'@firebrand\_pizza had a gorgeous crispy crust and I ate it all!'



16 µg/m3

'Have you ever wondered how this skyscraper glass is cleaned?'



#### **CITY ENVY**

Great things that we love in other cities

### Sheffield's videogame museum

**AS ANYONE WHO'S** ever struggled through 'Grand Theft Auto' will know, gaming can be a pretty educational experience. And Sheffield has just scored big by opening a whole museum dedicated to computer games.

Previously in Nottingham and more of an arcade, the National Videogame Museum recently reopened in Yorkshire – and its new incarnation is not just a great place to go and play the classics (think 'Pac-Man' and 'Space Invaders'; we're not sure that old Sega Saturn can handle 'Fortnite'). The institution is part of an effort to get videogames recognised as proper



culture. Imagine the V&A's recent exhibition 'Design/Play/Disrupt' but as a permanent fixture, with more than a hundred games available to play.

Proving its credentials as a place of learning rather than mere mindless button-bashing, the National Videogame Museum also includes a section about Sheffield's historic role in the gaming industry.

Okay, London isn't lacking in museums. But gaming shapes the world we live in, and one (final) fantasy we have for our city is for it to be a place that takes it seriously. We'd love a

videogame museum of our own, with a Londonthemed room filled with titles that have used the capital as a backdrop, such as 'Tomb Raider III' and 'Assassin's Creed Syndicate'. Perhaps our prayers could be answered by Theo Blackwell, City Hall's chief digital officer, who once claimed to be the highest-ranked UK politician on 'World of Warcraft'. ■ James FitzGerald

→ National Videogame Museum, Sheffield. www.thenvm.org.

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Being home for bedtime was my rightmove

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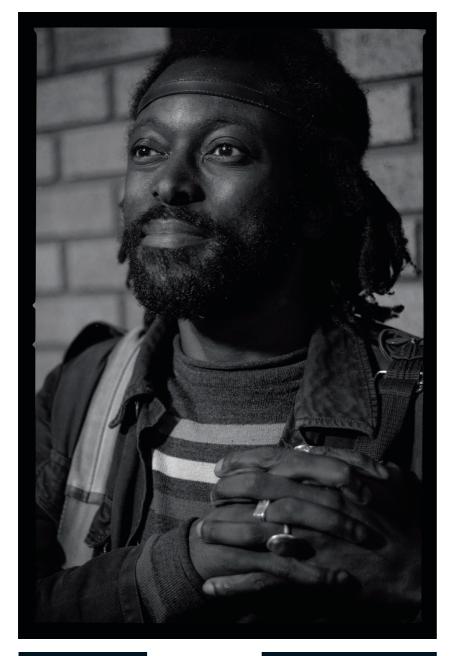


ALL BODGEDTO

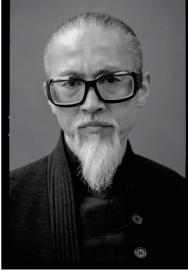




### LONDON EYE



↑ Angel, July 2018 'I just loved the way he was looking at the sky'



← Islington, October 2017 'This person's gothic style and arresting eyes caught my attention straight away'



→ Liverpool Street, October 2016 'I met this German woman at Liverpool Street. She transmits patience and confidence. It's one of my favourite photos from the series'

### Strangers in the street

**BEING PART OF** a bustling metropolis means that we don't always take the time to look around at our fellow Londoners. But this isn't the case for fashion photographer and artist Alex Amorós.

Over the last three years, he has taken to the streets of the capital to shoot around 1,000 portraits for his 'Londoners' project. 'I wanted

to get closer to people and return to the London I knew before new technologies put everyone into their own bubble,' he says about the project. 'I wanted to create a network of relationships between people.' We asked him to pick just three portraits and tell us why he stopped the subjects for a photo.  $\blacksquare Paula\,Akpan$ 

→ www.alexamoros.com/londoners-750



### FIORFN(F+ THE MACHINE THE NATIONAL LYKKE LI KHRUANGBIN NADINE SHAH

PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

**SATURDAY 13 JULY 2019** 

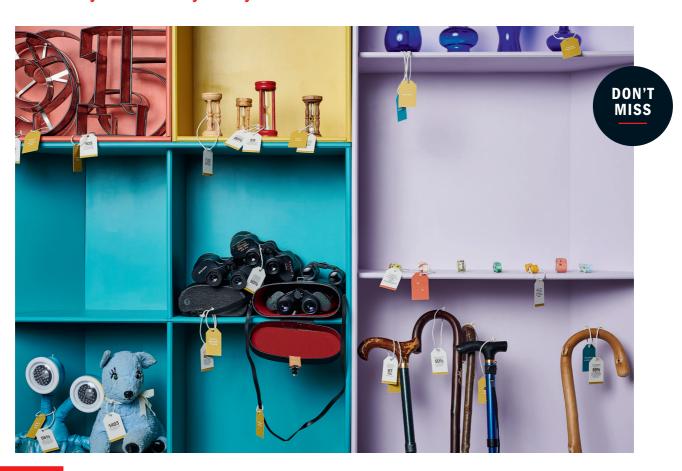
HYDE PARK LONDON

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### FREE LONDON

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



#### OAP, YEAH, YOU KNOW ME 'Unclaimed'

Did you know that one in three people will now live to 100? This Barbican installation explores what it means to grow old today. Step into the lost property officestyle room and you'll find talking shoes, books that read to you and binoculars that let you see through someone else's eyes, all of which aim to tell the stories of the UK's ageing population.

→ Barbican. ↔ Barbican. Until May 3.

#### SINGING THE BOOZE **Cocktails at Lucky Voice**

Karaoke bar Lucky Voice is opening a new branch and to celebrate, it's giving away a free cocktail to all punters from noon until 4am. All you have to do is bring this copy of Time Out with you. Getting on the mic afterwards is optional.

- → Lucky Voice Holborn.
- → Chancery Lane. Sat Mar 2.

#### **FOLLOW YOUR NOSE** 'The Scent of Other Worlds'

Ever wondered what space smells like? No? Well, wacky duo Bompas & Parr have and they've created an immersive planetarium that's filled with 'sniffable' planets. It's worth having a nose around. → St John at Bethnal Green.

#### → Bethnal Green.

#### Fri Mar 1-Sun Mar 3.

#### **OUT ON A LIMB** 'Spare Parts'

Get your science geek on at this exhibition looking at ways to repair the human body. See futuristically modified body parts and play with wearable tech that alters your sense of sound and space. It's like a science lesson, but fun. → Science Gallery London.

OBorough. Thu Feb 28-May 12.

#### **FLIP OUT Greenwich Market** pancake race

Everyone's a winner at Greenwich Market's pancake race, where each participant gets a free pancake (hopefully not the one you're racing with). You can enter as a team or on your own, or just turn up to watch the silliness unfold.

→ Greenwich Market. Greenwich DLR. Sat Mar 2.

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# THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON GUM DISEASE

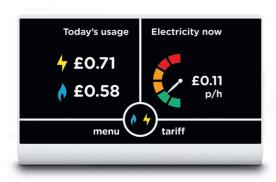
If your gums bleed when you brush you may have gum disease and it could lead to bad breath, then inflamed, receding gums and, eventually, even tooth loss. It's time to switch to Corsodyl toothpaste and help stop gum disease before it's too late.



**HELPS STOP AND PREVENT BLEEDING GUMS** 

Ask your dentist about gum problems.





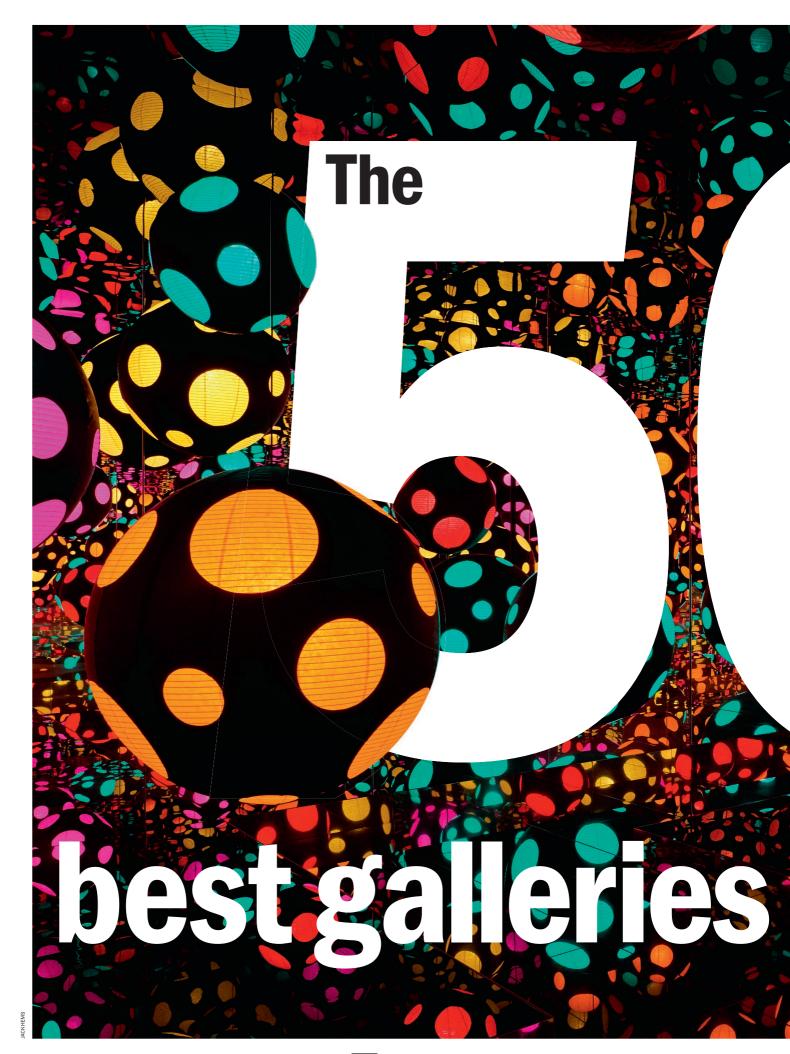
Get a smart meter and you could save enough energy to power this many blow-dries



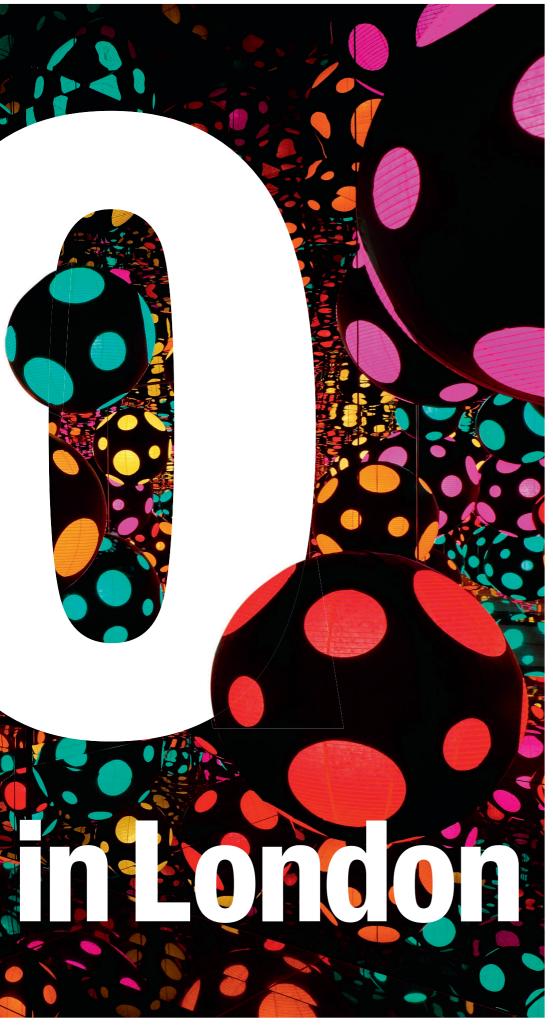
#### Save your energy for proper pampering.

See how much energy you're using and make changes to use less. Search "**Get a smart meter**" today.





22



From institutions to indies, *Eddy Frankel* picks the greatest showers in town. How many have you been to?

#### **Major art institutions**

Barbican

Between the regular commissions for the Curve gallery and the shows in its main exhibition space, the Barbican is a serious destination for art lovers. Whether it's an endless torrent of rain that you won't get wet in (by Hannes Koch, Florian Ortkrass and Stuart Wood) or a passionately in-depth look at Jean-Michel Basquiat, these concrete halls always come up with the goods.

→ Beech St. ← Barbican.

**Dulwich Picture Gallery** 

This (relatively) bijou building is the oldest public art gallery in the UK and its bright spaces house a brilliant collection including work by Rembrandt, Rubens, Poussin and Gainsborough. It has recently branched out with an annual pavilion commission, just to give the Serpentine a run for its money, and its temporary shows are well worth a visit.

→ Gallery Rd. West Dulwich rail.

Hayward Gallery

After closing for a two-year refurbishment, the South Bank's greatest heap of concrete brutalism thankfully reopened its doors last year. The refurb has brought light spilling into its spaces, and the programming – Diane Arbus, Lee Bul and Andreas Gursky, among others – is as brilliant as ever. Plus, Prince Charles hates the building. If that doesn't make you love it, nothing will.

ightarrow Southbank Centre. ightharpoonup Waterloo.

Institute of Contemporary Arts

If you're going to call yourself the Institute of Contemporary Arts, you'd better be delivering some seriously edgy, forward-thinking exhibitions, and boy does the ICA deliver. This is the place where pop art was invented – if you catch the right show here, you just might spot the next big art movement.

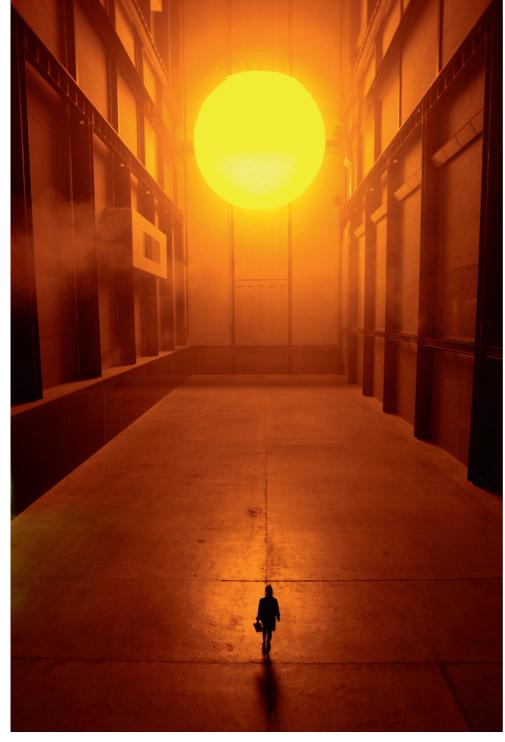
→ The Mall. ← Charing Cross.

Yayoi Kusama's 'Infinity Mirrored Room' at Victoria Miro in 2018



'To be hung in the same atmosphere as the illustrious **JMWTurner at Tate Britain is a** real honour' Don McCullin

Olafur Eliasson's 'The Weather Project' at Tate Modern in 2002



#### **National Gallery**

Da Vinci! Velázquez! Van Gogh! Rubens! Hoooo, mama, the National Gallery is full of huge names. You can't walk through its calming rooms without falling completely in love with art. And (except for its fantastic blockbuster exhibitions of work by the likes of Caravaggio and Michelangelo) it won't cost you a penny.

→ Trafalgar Square. ← Charing Cross.

#### **National Portrait Gallery**

If you've ever wanted to see a blurry painting of Ed Sheeran (and maybe you have, who are we to judge?) then the NPG is the place to be. And when you're done admiring all the ginger paint, you can enjoy the rest of the vast collection, which is a who's who of great Britons and brilliant artists.

→ St Martin's Place. ← Charing Cross.

#### **Royal Academy of Arts**

For 250 years, Britain's first art school has been a hotbed of artistic talent. But the RA also has a serious pedigree when it comes to putting on big shows, like 2016's incredible 'Abstract Expressionism'. Now, it has a big extension, including its first free permanent collection - and it's as important as it's ever been.

→ Burlington House, Piccadilly. ↔ Piccadilly Circus.

#### **Serpentine Galleries**

Nestled deep in Hyde Park, the Serpentine puts on some of the most adventurous temporary art exhibitions in town. Marina Abramović, Damien Hirst and Jeff Koons have all graced its tranquil west London buildings, Combine that with its annual pavilion commission and you have pretty much the best thing in all of Kensington.

→ Kensington Gardens. ← Lancaster Gate.

#### **Tate Britain**

Tate Modern's older, more refined sibling may be a little stuffier, but it's still full of amazing work. Focusing on the history of British art, it's a treasure trove of works by Bridget Riley, John Martin and JMW Turner. Sure, it can feel like we're a country full of xenophobes who can't let go of the Empire sometimes, but it's nice to know we've made some good art over the years.

→ Millbank, ↔ Pimlico.

#### **Tate Modern**

As well as having an international collection of modern and contemporary artworks that few can beat, Tate Modern is a historic piece of architecture worth visiting in its own right. It's hard to imagine how empty London's modern art scene must have been before this place opened in 2000, but we're sure glad it did.

→ Bankside. ← Southwark.

#### The Wallace Collection

Forget all that fancy modern art with its  $high falut in \, conceptual is m \, and \, performance$ shenanigans. Sometimes you just need a nice old painting of a lady on a swing. The Wallace Collection has a great one - by Fragonard alongside tons of other lovely old paintings in its swanky townhouse off Oxford Street.

→ Hertford House, Manchester Square. ↔ Bond St.



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'The Serpentine gallery is not scared to showcase art that breaks boundaries and talks about what's relevant now'

Marina Abramović



#### **Whitechapel Gallery**

For more than a hundred years, the Whitechapel has championed major names in art – helping introduce Londoners to stars like Jackson Pollock and Frida Kahlo. Years later, it's still putting on world-beating exhibitions.

ightarrow 77-82 Whitechapel High St. ightarrow Aldgate East.

### **Incredible** mini museums

#### ☐ Camden Arts Centre

Up on Finchley Road, Camden Arts Centre has been quietly ploughing its own artistic furrow since 1965. It used to provide arts classes to the local community; now it's north London's go-to for contemporary art by the likes of Haroon Mirza, Eva Hesse and Doris Salcedo.

→ Arkwright Rd. Finchley Rd & Frognal Overground.

#### Chisenhale

The Chiz has been one of London's most radical commissioners of new art for the past few years. It's always a challenge, and always surprising. You never know what you're going to get, but you know it'll get the old noggin ticking.

ightarrow 64 Chisenhale Rd. Cambridge Heath Overground.

#### Goldsmiths CCA

Designed by Turner Prize-winning architecture collective Assemble, this brand new gallery in a grade II-listed former Victorian bathhouse seems hellbent on ignoring the usual art conventions and putting on whatever shows it bloody wants. Which is a really, really good thing.

→ St James's. New Cross Gate Overground.

#### **Newport Street Gallery**

Ever wanted to know what's in Damien Hirst's house? Probably a lot of the stuff you'll find at this gorgeous Vauxhall gallery, which was built specifically to put on shows of Hirst's art collection. Jeff Koons and abstract maestro John Hoyland were among the first artists to get shown in this amazing vaulted space. Thanks, Damo.

→ Newport St. ↔ Vauxhall.

#### Parasol Unit

This not-for-profit gallery puts on contemporary art shows that you're not meant to walk away from confused, exploring often complicated work in an approachable way.

Situated next to Victoria Miro gallery, it's a big building full of nice art that we can all understand

-what more could you want? → 14 Wharf Rd. ↔ Old St.

The Dhete week and a

The Photographers' Gallery
Six storeys of nothing but photography:

Six storeys of nothing but photography: this Soho gallery is heaven for art fans who've had enough of paintings and sculptures, and want a bit of reality in their culture. Its programming is

Jeff Koons's enormous

Street Gallery in 2016

balloon animal at Newport

forward-thinking, its exhibitions are great, and there's nowhere else like it in town.

→ 16-18 Ramillies St. Oxford Circus.

#### South London Gallery

Nestled next to Camberwell School of Art and with Goldsmiths to the east, you'd expect the South London Gallery to know its art onions – and you'd be right. With its new fire-station building, and a history of shows by artists including Katharina Grosse and Lawrence Weiner, it's fast becoming one of the city's most important art spaces.

→ 65-67 Peckham Rd. Peckham Rye Overground.

#### **☐** Studio Voltaire

In the cultural wilds of Clapham, Studio Voltaire – non-profit gallery and artist studios – is a beacon of artistic hope. The gallery puts on shows worth travelling for, all of which seem to have an edge of cultural criticism that is not just welcome but very needed. More of this, please.

#### The Vinyl Factory

Some of the best shows in London over the past decade have been put on by The Vinyl Factory, and now it finally has a permanent home: a huge brutalist office block on The Strand. Concentrating on relentlessly ambitious AV work, it has collaborated with the Hayward Gallery and New York's New Museum to put on immersive exhibitions that are genuine must-sees.





#### London's best galleries

**Zabludowicz Collection** 

Anita Zabludowicz is a major art collector and has turned an incredible nineteenth-century chapel into a focal point for experimental contemporary art. The remarkable neoclassical  $building \, has \, hosted \, shows \, by \, some \, of the \, best$ young artists in the world, and has become a proper hub for the London art scene in the process.

### Amazing small galleries

Alison Jacques

This Fitzrovia gallery has some serious art clout, representing Juergen Teller plus the estates of Robert Mapplethorpe and Ana Mendieta.

→ Orwell House, 16-18 Berners St. ↔ Tottenham Court Rd.

**Annka Kultys** 

All alone, out on Cambridge Heath Road, this gallery concentrates on digital and internetfocused work by young artists - one of the only places in London that does it, and does it well.

→ First floor, Unit 3, 472 Hackney Rd. Cambridge Heath Overground.

**Arcadia Missa** 

This radical gallery has recently upped sticks from Peckham to Soho – all because it didn't want to contribute any further to the gentrification of south London. Too late for that, but it still puts on properly interesting shows.

→ First floor, 14-16 Brewer St. ← Piccadilly Circus.

**Blain Southern** 

Now home to those incorrigible art world cheeky chappies the Chapman Brothers, BS deals in edgy contemporary art, no funny business.

**Cabinet Gallery** 

In a lonely building in a south London park, Cabinet is a bit of a London art hermit, doing its own thing with shows by artists like Ed Atkins.

Carlos/Ishikawa

In what can charitably be described as the backend of nowhere, this Mile End gallery has become one of the best places for contemporary art in London. Previous artists shown here include Ed Fornieles and Oscar Murillo.

→ 88 Mile End Rd. ↔ Stepney Green.

**David Zwirner** 

Atowering Mayfair townhouse of a gallery, Zwirner always delivers, whether it's with the cartoon pop of Rose Wylie or the mid-century modernist classicism of Josef Albers.

Gagosian

Larry Gagosian is essentially the biggest gallerist in the world. He has two enormous spaces in London and one little piddler - for shows by artists like, oh, you know, Picasso.

→ Various locations. www.gagosian.com.



support and time to create shows that could and would not happen elsewhere'

Haroon Mirza



**Hauser & Wirth** 

A Pierre Huyghe monkey film and gorgeous Lee Lozano paintings are just two of the impeccably curated shows this mega-swanky Savile Row space has put on recently. It's become one of the most important galleries in town.

→ 23 Savile Row. ↔ Oxford Circus.

**Hollybush Gardens** 

This Clerkenwell gallery has managed to produce a whole bunch of Turner Prize winners and nominees, including Lubaina Himid and Charlotte Prodger - a pretty good guarantee that it knows what it's doing.

→ 1-2 Warner Yard. ↔ Farringdon.







Lisson Gallery

Still going strong after more than 50 years, Lisson is one of this list's oldest UK galleries, having introduced the world to Anish Kapoor, Julian Opie and Douglas Gordon.

→ 67 Lisson St. ↔ Edgware Rd.

Marian Goodman

From a show by conceptual artist John Baldessari to an incredibly in-depth exploration of animals in art, this London spin-off of the New York gallery puts on some of the capital's most ambitious contemporary exhibitions.

→ 5-8 Lower John St. ← Piccadilly Circus.

Matt's Gallery

Robin Klassnik, who runs this gallery, does things his own way, and always has. This is a London institution that never stops moving.

ightarrow 92 Webster Rd. ightarrow Bermondsey.

#### Michael Werner

Walking into this gallery is a bit like walking into a flat owned by the richest person on earth. It might be a little intimidating, but Werner puts on top-quality shows by the likes of Peter Doig and the legendary Sigmar Polke.

→ 22 Upper Brook St. → Marble Arch.

#### Modern Art

Having recently taken over a big, pristine, warehouse-like space on Vyner Street, Stuart

teamLab's interactive installation at Pace in 2017

Shave's Modern Art gallery now has the surroundings to match its artists, including the brilliantly confrontational Linder.

ightarrow 50-58 Vyner St. Cambridge Heath Overground.

Pace

Tucked in at the back of the Royal Academy is the UK outpost of the Pace international gallery chain, the perfect place to spot artists such as James Turrell and Richard Tuttle.

ightarrow 6 Burlington Gardens. ightarrow Piccadilly Circus.

#### Project Native Informant

Housed in an intimidating office block – but soon to move to new digs in Bethnal Green – this tiny gallery focuses on art that questions and undermines gender and identity norms.

→ Dressage Court, 58-64 Three Colts Lane. ↔ Bethnal Green.

#### Richard Saltoun

This Mayfair gallery, which moved recently from Fitzrovia, is the best place in town for radical

feminist art, heavy-theory conceptualism and classic performance.

→ 41 Dover St. ↔ Green Park.

#### Sadie Coles HQ

Flooded with light, Sadie Coles's big Soho warehouse is the perfect place to catch her fantastic roster of artists – Martine Syms, Raymond Pettibon and Monster Chetwynd among them.

→ 62 Kingly St. ↔ Piccadilly Circus.

| Simon Lee

A brilliant Mayfair gallery, Simon Lee deals in all sorts of contemporary art, including the militaristic brutality of Mai-Thu Perret and the shocking photographs of Larry Clark.

ightarrow 12 Berkeley St. ightarrow Green Park.

#### Soft Opening

Probably London's only 24-hour gallery, Soft Opening is a window space in Piccadilly Circus station that puts on contemporary art for the commuting hordes.

→ Piccadilly Circus station. ← Piccadilly Circus

#### Sprüth Magers

The London outpost of this major German gallery hosts exhibitions spanning classic minimalism to contemporary art by the likes of Cindy Sherman and Donald Judd.

## COMING SOON FROM



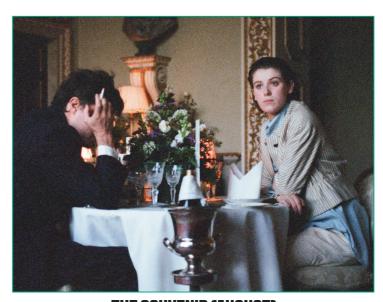
AT ETERNITY'S GATE (29 MARCH)



VOX LUX (O3 MAY)







THE SOUVENIR (AUGUST)

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#### **Prices**

Every gallery in this
list is free to visit (except for
the paid exhibitions at places
like the National Gallery and the
Tates). Even the Photographers'
Gallery, which does charge an
entry fee, is free if you go before
noon. All this art, and you
don't have to spend a

Stephen Friedman

This Mayfair gallery knows how to delight the old eyeballs, showing work like the gorgeous blue paintings of Lisa Brice and the shocking steel sculptures of Melvin Edwards.

**The Sunday Painter** 

Having moved on from its roots in Peckham to a fancy new space in Vauxhall, The Sunday Painter brilliantly puts on shows of fascinating contemporary art, and is nailed-on to be one of the big galleries of the future.

ightarrow 117-119 South Lambeth Rd. ightarrow Vauxhall.

Thaddaeus Ropac

This huge Mayfair townhouse looks like a spa, but the only things getting a treat here are your eyes, with exhibitions by big names such as Robert Rauschenberg and Joseph Beuys.

→ Ely House, 37 Dover St. ← Green Park.

**Thomas Dane** 

These two spaces in the poshest bit of town host shows by major names like Oscar winner Steve McQueen. In 2017 Thomas Dane showed Anya Gallaccio's enormous clay 3D printer that splodged out a mountain over the course of several weeks.

Victoria Miro

You'll know this cavernous Old Street gallery as the place everyone queues round the block to get into whenever it puts on a Yayoi Kusama show. But there's more to this beautiful space than dotty pumpkins and infinity mirrors. Come for artists like Alice Neel, Do Ho Suh and Idris Khan too.

 $\rightarrow$  16 Wharf Rd.  $\leftrightarrow$  Old St.

White Cube

The one that started it all. White Cube brought us Tracey Emin, Damien Hirst and loads of other YBAs. After moving into its huge Bermondsey space, it became one of the first museum-quality commercial galleries in the world. Seriously impressive.

→ 144-152 Bermondsey St. ↔ Borough.

Tell us how many of these you've visited at **twitter.com/timeoutlondon** 

### AFTERMATH

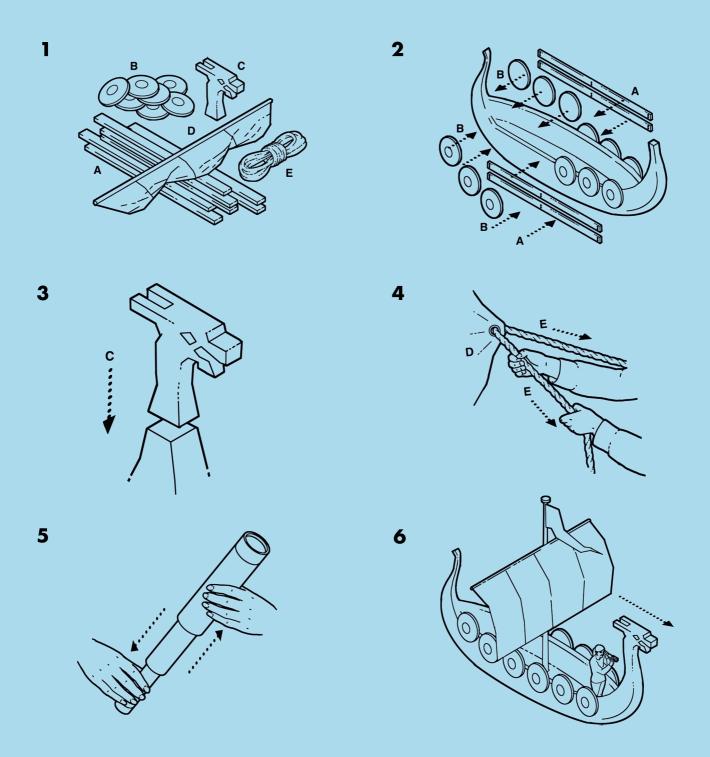
"Sensual and stylish... a dark, smoky tale of love and loss"

READER'S DIGEST

"Keira Knightley shines in this war-torn love story"

IN CINEMAS MARCH 1  $BOOK\ NOW\ The Aftermath Film. co.uk$ TEMBERS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PATTINSON JOE OPPONEEMED THE PATTINSON JO

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#### The mannequin factory

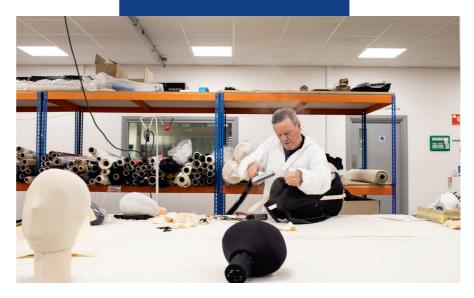


HIGHAMS PARK HAS a secret. The suburb, which lies just above the north-eastern cusp of the North Circular, might seem sleepy and unassuming – there's a big Tesco, a Screwfix and rows of duplicate detached houses – but it's actually home to something much more unusual. Here, hidden away on a backstreet, lies Proportion London: an eerie, sprawling warehouse space that's filled with torsos, disembodied limbs and plastic-wrapped heads.

Part mannequin factory, part London institution, Proportion has been an integral part of the capital's arts and retail industry for nearly a century now, although you wouldn't think it given its obscure location. Chances are you've already seen hundreds – even thousands – of its mannequins just from walking down the high street. The company's faceless creations are everywhere: frolicking in the windows of chains like Marks & Spencer, Primark and Topshop, as well as in the more lavish displays of Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood and Burberry.

Their looming presence isn't just limited to shop displays. Name any major UK fashion exhibition from the past few years and it's likely that Proportion was involved in some way (its mannequins have been a key part of V&A shows, from the recently launched 'Christian Dior: Designer of Dreams', to 2015's Alexander McQueen tribute 'Savage Beauty' to last year's Frida Kahlo exhibition, 'Making Her Self Up').

'Our client base is incredibly diverse,' says Jade Wheeler, Proportion's marketing manager. 'We craft figures for world-leading exhibitions at museums such as the Victoria and Albert Museum and The Metropolitan Museum of Art... We're yet to be defeated by a brief.'



The company has been the trailblazer of the mannequin world since it was founded in France in 1867. Back then, it was known as Siegel & Stockman, and prided itself on its lovingly handcrafted models made from fibreglass and papier-mâché, which it would then sell to couture houses and dressmakers' showrooms. The company began trading in London in the 1920s, eventually changing the name of the British branch to Proportion in the 1990s. It moved its official factory base to a former tram depot in Walthamstow in 2002.

Today, Proportion conducts its business entirely from its Highams Park manufacturing

warehouse, which it moved to in 2015. It's an easy-to-miss spot, guarded by steel palisade fencing, warning signs and industrial roller shutters – almost as if it was purpose-built for keeping secrets. When I visit the site on an icy morning, I nearly walk straight past it.

Despite the abundance of space, which totals 42,000 square feet, Proportion remains a relatively small company. 'There's only 50 of us in total,' explains museum sales manager Hannah Kralev, as she takes me on a guided tour through the cavernous rooms. This sparse staffing feels particularly noticeable as she talks through the manufacturing process: each stage has its own

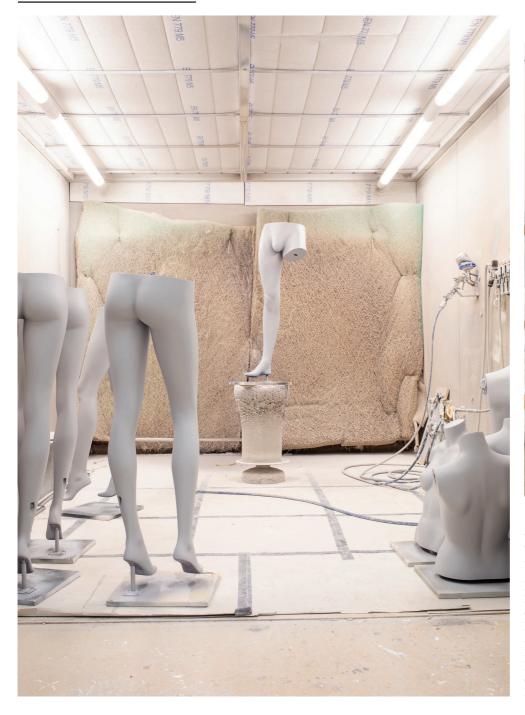






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#### The mannequin factory



room, which tends to be inhabited by one person, some random fibreglass body parts and echoes of soft, distant jazz.

'It takes several different departments to make a mannequin, starting with design, through to sculpting, model making, mould making, lamination then finishing and spraying,' explains Wheeler, who joins the tour. 'The development process can take weeks or months, depending on the complexity of the product.'

The tour of the factory begins on the top floor. As well as being the home of the design, moulding and development process, this upper part of the building is dominated by corridors of stored mannequin moulds. These are mostly made up of headless, slender female torsos, which appear in their hundreds, as well as the odd outlier (a giant Hagrid, complete with a bulbous belly, is one that particularly stands out among the slimmer models). According to Kralev, the company has

to make several copies of its original designs in case any are lost or damaged. They're then stored in dark, motion-sensor-lit corridors. It certainly

makes for an uncanny set-up on a gloomy winter morning.

Downstairs, the factory draws its focus to the papier-mâché process. A staff member stands solemnly in one room, slapping several layers of glue-sodden paper across one of the moulds, before placing it in the 'oven', which is a warm room where the designs are left overnight. They are then refined, finished in the client's desired style, packaged and shipped off.

As we head back upstairs, I notice a pile of smiling women's heads in the far corner, wrapped tightly in plastic. I decide it's best not to ask A giant
Hagrid with
a bulbous
belly

particularly

stands out



about those. Somewhat predictably, the majority of mannequins I see in the factory are tall – the average height for a female model being between 5'8" and 5'11" – and svelte, with flat stomachs and lithe limbs. Even the mannequins based on reallife human beings, which aren't made for fashion or retail, seem to fit into this category. 'David Bowie was a petite male,' says Kralev, gesturing at an impossibly small mould used for the singer's 2013 V&A exhibition, 'David Bowie Is'. 'Ithink he had a 26-inch waist. He was tiny. We also recently did something at Kensington Palace for "The Favourite", and Emma Stone has a 23-inch waist.'

It's a strange feeling, looking at all these toned, perfect bodies huddled together. I find myself regularly checking my posture. At one point, I even catch myself gazing longingly at a pair of discarded legs with impossibly small but enviably

graceful feet.

While the shapes are still more or less uniform, Proportion is quick to note that it does its best to offer a range of sizes. Clients can order a wide variety of different models including a maternity range, plussize versions, children, men and more abstract figures. In one of the more haunting rooms, a mannequin head with a towering neck and no attached body watches me silently from above a cupboard.

'Our clients generally opt more for artistic interpretations,' says Wheeler. 'There are fashions in how clothing is displayed as much as



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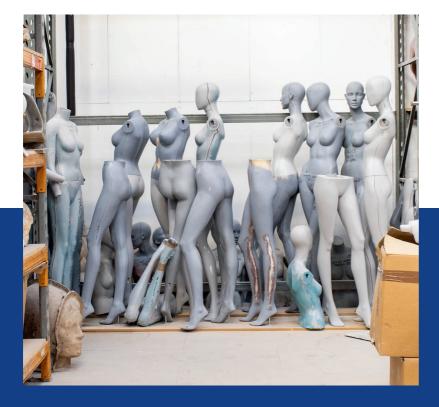


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#### The mannequin factory









there are fashions in the clothing itself. Abstract colours, particularly grey, are generally favoured to "skin colours".

Although the moulds range from sizes six to 20, from the looks of things, tall slender models have always been the order of the day. When I ask if there's been any deviation on this, I'm told that the only real change in demand has been about the face: in the '80s retailers tended to opt for more lifelike features with larger hair, but that has died off in recent years. Now, the more abstract the better. 'Trends come and go,' says Wheeler. 'Our collections are made to suit the ever-changing demand.'

Eventually the tour comes to an end and it's time to step outside of this strange world of featureless figures and ominous, long-limbed creatures. As the door shuts, and the cold light of day illuminates the industrial backroads of Highams Park, it reverts back to being just another warehouse on just another street – its mysteries lying hidden away.

Find more weird and wonderful London stories at **timeout.com/news** 

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#### The Other Art Fair

**What is it?** The spring edition of the twice-yearly art fair.

Why go? Time to take that Ikea print off the wall! This fair features work by the best emerging artists, meaning it's all – whisper it – affordable. And, if you make a wise investment, you could own a piece of art by a future Emin or Hirst.

What's exclusive? There's up to 50 percent off, tickets start at £5.50. → The Old Truman Brewery. Shoreditch High St Overground. Mar 14-17. www.timeout.com/other19

#### 'Rutger Bregman – How to Build a Better World'

What is it? The best selling author in conversation with former Spectator editor Matthew d'Ancona.

Why go? Bregman champions universal income and his late talk at Davos on tax evasion went viral. This guy is seriously worth listening to.

What's exclusive? There's 42 percent off tickets – now just £20. The price includes a copy of his latest book.

→ Emmanuel Centre. ↔ St James's Park.

Mar 20. www.timeout.com/bregman

#### Alternative London Street Art Tour and Workshop

What is it? A street art tour and graffiti workshop in east London.
Why go? Fancy yourself as the next Banksy? Explore the city's finest hidden art – from huge murals to tiny masterpieces on old gum – before entering a warehouse where you can hone your spray tekkers.
What's exclusive? There's 25 percent off tickets – now £22.50.
→ Starts from Old St tube. ↔ Old St. Until May 15. www.timeout.com/graffiti

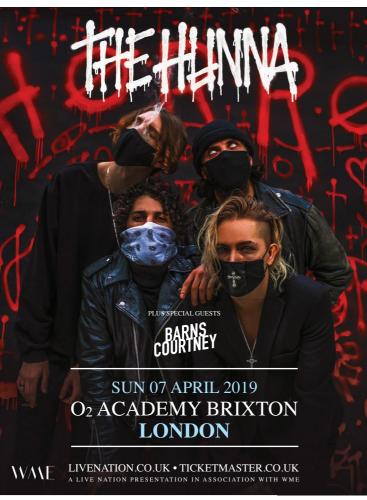
#### **St Pancras by Searcys**

**What is it?** A two-course meal and two tasting glasses of wine in glam art deco surroundings.

Why go? You won't be able to say no to this gem – the dining room was conceived by renowned designer Martin Brudnizki and its take on classic British fare is top-notch.
What's exclusive? Two courses and two tasting glasses of sparkling wine

two tasting glasses of sparkling wine are just £29.

→ St Pancras by Searcys. ↔ King's Cross. Until May 31. www.timeout.com/searcys













Edited by Katie McCabe timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

#### **EIGHT WAYS TO BE**

Melsh London

It's St David's Day on Friday, so we're breaking out a bunch of daffodils and celebrating all things Welsh. Here's how to find a little pocket of Cymru in the city. *Dvdd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus!* 

#### Drink this

Ireland and Scotland are world-famous for their hooch, but have you ever tried a Welsh whisky? At the Penderyn Distillery Masterclass with Welsh Food Pairing, you can spend your evening trying five golden single malt whiskies distilled in the Brecon Beacons. Forbes whisky writer Felipe Schrieberg will show you how to find your whisky nose while you munch on specially matched Welsh snacks.

→ London Welsh Centre. ↔ Russell Square. Wed Feb 27. £40, book in advance.

#### Listen to this

If your knowledge of Welsh music begins with Catatonia and ends with Goldie Lookin Chain, let Cymru show you what you've been missing. At **St David's DayTakeover** 

with Horizons, Welsh indie talent will be setting up shop on three floors of a Farringdon pub for seven-and-a-half hours of gigs. Make sure you're not stranded in the bar queue for Adwaith, a Carmarthen-based trio whose floaty post-punk tunes are delivered in their native tongue.

→ The Betsey Trotwood. ↔ Farringdon. Fri Mar 1. Free, register in advance.

#### Dance at this

Oh, cheeky night out in Cardiff, is it? You needn't make the Megabus schlep over the Severn Bridge. The mighty **Clwb Ifor Bach** (akaWelsh Club) is bringing Welsh music to the big smoke. Look out for rock duo Alffa, whose track 'Gwenwyn' was the first Welsh-language song to get 1 million plays on Spotify.





Play this

Know your Alun Wyn Jones from your Wyn Jones, and your 22 from your number 8? The Guinness Six Nations Rugby Pub Quiz at Flat Iron **Square** should be up (and under) your street. What's more, a ticket gets you a free pint of Guinness, so it's worth heading along for a try even if your rugby knowledge will keep you in the sin bin.

'The Outing' screening at Genesis Cinema

→ Flat Iron Square. ↔ Borough. Thu Feb 28. £5 per person, book in advance.

**Eat this** 

There's more to Wales than rarebit (aka cheese on toast) and you can unlock the lush culinary side to the Celtic nation at Borough Market's two-day Welsh celebrations. Stick around for a performance from Borough Welsh Choir and cookery demonstrations with 'GBBO' semifinalist Beca Lyne-Pirkis. Traders will be flogging all sorts of goodies, like traditional Welsh cakes, lamb, gin and farmhouse cheeses. Tidy. → Borough Market. ← London Bridge.

Thu Feb 28-Fri Mar 1. Free entry.

Watch this

Catch a screening of director Cian Llewellyn's 'The Outing', based on one of Dylan Thomas's lesser-known short stories about a group of old friends on a bus going away to a pub for a lads' weekend in Wales. After the screening, stick around and abate your hiraeth (homesickness) with poetry

readings and music by Ceri James. Follow that with a swift pint or two around the corner at The Half Moon Wetherspoon pub, which used to be a Welsh chapel. *Iechyd da!* 

St James's Park

→ Genesis Cinema. ↔ Stepney Green. Wed Feb 27. Free, but booking required.

The daffodil is the national flower of Wales, and hosts of those sunny foghorns get loud and proud in March. For some daff action, visit Osterley Park and House. For more central daffodils (that are free to see) go to St James's Park. If you're after an educational stroll, join the St David's Day Walk to learn about the contributions the Welsh have made to London's history. It takes place after the day, but the stories will be just as colourful.

→ Osterley Park and House. ↔ Osterley. Open daily. £12. St James's Park. 

Green Park. Open daily. Free.

→ St David's Day walk, meet at the Tower of London. → Tower Bridge. Mar 9. £8, book in advance.

**Book this**To prolong the St David's Day celebrations, gather a scrum of your mates and head down to the Six Nations screening at Brixton Jamm's heated outdoor area and bar for the motherland's clash with Scotland. Even if oval-shaped balls aren't your thing, the packed crowd's rendition of 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' (or 'Land of My Fathers' for the non-Welsh speakers) before kick-off will have you welling up.■

Angela Hui, Katie McCabe and **Charlie Allenby** 

→ Brixton Jamm. ← Brixton, Mar 9. Free, but reserve your place in advance.

## London is more open than ever

Keen to explore more of our city? Transport for London is continually making improvements to the network to make it more accessible – and by travelling off-peak, getting around is also more affordable

#### TfL's accessible network in numbers



#### 200+

Number of step-free stations. All DLR and tram stops have step-free access, and all bus routes are served by low-floor vehicles.



#### 1,400+

Number of people with mobility requirements who have been helped by travel mentors to use the network with confidence.



#### 7

Number of maps designed to help travellers with accessibility requirements, including large-print and audio.

#### **Out and about**

'My favourite place in London is The O2 in North Greenwich because it has pop-up events and the cinema! I use the Jubilee line to get there as it has step-free access, which is great for me.'

#### Lexi

Third-year student at the University of Worcester, also on the TfL Youth Panel and Advertising Steering Group.



#### **MAYOR OF LONDON**



#### **Access All Areas**



Want to be part of the discussion about a more accessible London? In March TfL will host its second Access All Areas event at ExCeL London, where Londoners can find out more about accessible transport services, plus provide feedback to transport decision-makers.

→ ExCeL London. Mar 19. Free (register to guarantee entry).

#### More ways TfL can assist you on your journey



#### Turn-up-and-go service

If you require assistance on your journey, just turn up at your local staffed station and ask for the help you need. Staff can accompany you to the train, help you board or call ahead for you to be met at your destination.



#### 'Please offer me a seat' badge

If you have difficulty standing and struggle to get a seat on public transport, apply for this free badge, which makes it easier to let your fellow travellers know you need to sit down. Visit tfl.gov.uk/pleaseoffermeaseat.

→ Find out more about accessible transport options at **tfl.gov.uk/transport-accessibility** or by calling **0343 222 1234**. Service charges may apply. Remember to check TfL Journey Planner before you travel.

## SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

## **Friday**



#### 'Craft & Graft: Making Science Happen'

Get clued-up on the latest scientific research in the UK. With 15,000 families of fruit flies on show, it might just put you off your dinner.

→ Francis Crick Institute. ← King's Cross.
Fri Mar 1-Nov 30. Free.

#### DRINK The House of Peroni

Immerse yourself in the latest designs from the world of fashion while you sip on some creative concoctions that feature the reliable Italian lager. *Salute!*→ Unit 6. ↔ Covent Garden.
Wed Feb 27-Mar 9.

## DANCE Silent Disco at the Sea Life London Aquarium

Go for a rave among the rays and get your 'big fish, little fish' on at this sub-aquatic shindig. Those who miss out will be left feeling well jel(lyfish). → Sea Life London Aquarium.

→ Waterloo. Fri Mar 1. £29.

### **Saturday**

#### SCOUR Sample

Hunt high and low at this market selling fashion, homeware and craft by up-and-coming designers, with food and DJs too.
→ Peninsula Square. ↔ North Greenwich. Sat Mar 2. Free entry.

#### East London: Architecture, Streetlife & Survival

Find out about the home of the hipster before it was hip on this tour of Shoreditch and its surroundings.

→ Meet at Exit 1, Old St tube.
→ Old St. Sat Mar 2. £12.



#### Flippin' Good Fun Pancake Race

On your marks, get set, flip! The annual fundraiser has two race days this year. Both are guaranteed to be anything but crêpe.

> → Greenwich Market. Greenwich DLR. Sat Mar 2 and Tue Mar 5. Free.

## **Sunday**

#### Insiders/ Outsiders Festival

This tribute to refugees from Nazi Germany and their impact on Britain starts with an exhibition about Bauhaus designer George Adams.

→ The Isokon Gallery. ↔ Belsize Park.
Sat Mar 2-Oct 27. Free.



#### SHOP Peckham Flea Market

Vintage clothing? Check. Mid-century furniture? Check. Aswanky covered courtyard? Check. Your Sunday afternoon sorted? Triple check.

→ Peckham Springs.

Peckham Rye Overground. Sun Mar 3. Free entry.

#### WAKE Maybe Baby Brunch

Drag queens ShayShay and Just May will help you eliminate Monday fear over brunch.

→ Dalston Superstore.

Dalston Junction Overground. Sun Mar 3. Prices vary.

After some more flippin' good ideas? timeout.com/thingstodo



WONDERFUL WORLD OF OFF-PEAK

**MAYOR OF LONDON** 



#### **DON'T MISS**

## Brazilian Wax: Underground XXL

Get ready for a night of booty shakin' and bewitching samba at this queer Latin disco

HAVE YOU EVER been to a club night that offered a midnight mass? No? That's because you've never been to Brazilian Wax, a filthygorgeous queer Latin dance party that's about to rock your world.

It started out as a fundraiser for a stripper-stigma-smashing theatre show called 'Fuck You Pay Me' by playwright Joana Nastari. It's now upping its game for a massive latenight party at The Vaults.







The idea is to create a safe, political nightlife space that champions sex workers, queer minorities, immigrants, non-binary and trans people and, well, everyone – while making sure they're all having a fucking good time. 'As we sink further into political tragedy and everyone sinks head first into their mobile phones, we're even more desperately in need of spaces that bring us together in real life to celebrate each other,' says Ellen Spence, co-organiser of Brazilian Wax.

So what will it actually involve? There's a show from Samba Sisters Collective along with some tasselswinging performances, a speed social with dating app Feeld, and Brazilian snacks made by the mum of one of the organisers.

To help everyone feel at home on the night, the team have enlisted the help of trained 'Care Bears' who anyone can turn to if they feel unsafe, 'It just makes it really clear to everyone that we won't tolerate racism, whorephobia or any of that rubbish at our party,' says Nastari.

The Care Bears will be out in force on the night at the all-bodies, all-identities pop-up strip club, a radical new alternative to conventional hetero spaces that can be found in a side room at The Vaults. 'We've been dreaming of what a truly queer strip club would look like,' says Spence, 'one that not only caters to the varied tastes of the queer community but is also run by the dancers themselves.' In the Brazilian Wax world of strip clubs, the dancers set their own rates and their own rules, and wear whatever the hell they want.

If you're still wondering what that 'midnight mass' bit is all about, it's really a big queer magic spell to protect the persecuted LGBT+ community of Brazil. Take that, Bolsonaro. 

\*\*Mattie McCabe\*\*

Want more? Try timeout.com/lates



## Travel in Zones 2-6 for £1.50

## Go and discover London at timeout.com/off-peak

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

ImeOut









#### Things to Do



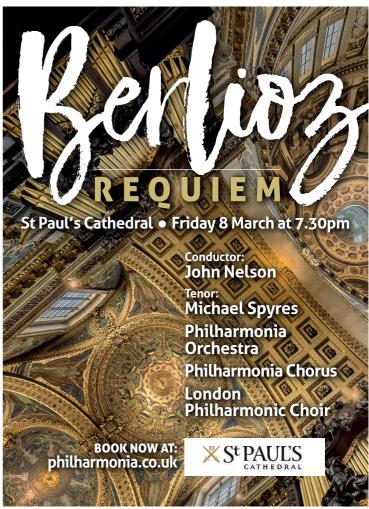
## The pancake eating challenge

Shrove Tuesday is crêping up on us, so restaurants are inventing new ways to show off their tossing skills. The latest? Challenge people to stuff themselves senseless. At Smith & Wollensky, eat your own height in pancakes for free if you do it in 60 minutes flat. At Polo Bar you can get a stack of 10 totally gratis if you chow it down in 15. The stuff of bellyaches? You batter believe it.

→ Smith & Wollensky. ↔ Charing Cross. Mar 5. £1 per pancake, free if you finish.
→ Polo Bar. ↔ Liverpool St. Mon Mar 4-Mar 10. £25, free if you finish.

Flip it real good at timeout.com/pancakes









#### **SHOP**

#### S Crafty Fox Market Sample and Seconds Sale

Pick up quirky homeware and ceramics, one-off prints and original threads at this regular craft market championing local designer-makers. Feeling crafty? Try your hand at plantpot-marbling and drop-in card-making workshops.

→ Mercato Metropolitano. ↔ Elephant & Castle. Sat Mar 2. Free entry.

#### S Peckham Two Day Warehouse Kilo Sale

Bargain hunters can rummage through six whole tonnes of vintage and retro clobber. Grab what you fancy, take it to the scales and pay just £15 per kilo for your cannily picked wares.

→ 133 Copeland Rd.

Peckham Rye Overground.

Sat Mar 2-Sun Mar

3. £1.50-£3 entry.

#### 3 East London Vintage Furniture Flea

Get ready for a dose of stylish kitsch at this furniture-filled indoor market. You'll find vintage traders from all over the UK selling cameras and chairs, rugs and record players and everything in between.

→ York Hall. ↔ Bethnal Green. Sun Mar 3. £2.50-£4.

#### Vintage Pop Up Workwear & Homeware Sale

Bag more fancy French attire and homeware than you can shake a croissant at while browsing this Channelhopping sale.

→ The Haberdashery. Stoke Newington Overground. Thu Feb 28. Free entry.

## TO DO

The best events in your area

#### MARDI GRAS

#### **S** Mardi Gras Brixton

The Deep South is on its way to SW9 for this all-day, all-night(ish) party. Chow down on Louisiana-themed food, head to the speakeasy stage for barrel-house piano blues and jazz, then shake your tail feathers to voodoo funk bands and London's only specialist New Orleans vinyl DJ.

→ Pop Brixton. ↔ Brixton.
Sat Mar 2. Free.

#### • The Candlelight Club: New Orleans Mardi Gras

Party hard in New Orleans style at this secret speakeasy. You won't find out the venue until just before the party, but you can expect classic New Orleans cocktails, traditional Louisiana cuisine, live jazz and carnival-style cabaret. → Secret central London

→ Secret central London II
location. Fri Mar 1-Sat Mar 2.
From £25. W

#### **LATES**

#### O Late at Tate Britain: Liquid Reflections

In anticipation of International Women's Day (March 8), immerse yourself in the world of pioneering artist Liliane Lijn. Head to the gallery after-hours for divination sessions where you can have your fortune read by the artist herself, check

out installations, learn to create a lunar birth portrait, and drop into a collage workshop.

→ Tate Britain.

→ Pimlico.
Fri Mar 1. Free.

#### Orchids After Hours

Raise Kew's glasshouse roof at this late-night look at the Botanic Gardens' Orchids festival, which



TOTAL MILINIOPER

has a Colombian theme this year. Gaze at the colourful flowers without having to jostle with the daytime crowds. Kew's scientists will be on hand to tell you more about the blooms, and you can dance to tropical fusion music from a live Latin big band. Stay awake by sampling authentic Colombian coffee and watch routines from traditional dancers. → Kew Gardens. ↔ Kew Gardens. Thu Feb 28. £18.

#### **9** Blood and **Revolution Lates**

Take a trip to Moscow without leaving Zone 1 at the Science Museum's late inspired by its new exhibition 'The Last Tsar: Blood and Revolution'. Learn about the last imperial monarchs of Russia, hear Russian folk music and craft your own Fabergé egg. Hungry? Tuck into beef stroganoff washed down with a chilled vodka shot. Ra Ra Rasputin! → Science Museum. ← South

#### LISTEN

Kensington. Wed Feb 27. Free.

#### Back to the Woods with The **Embers Collective**

Storytelling troupe The Embers Collective have teamed up with Stumble Trip Theatre for an after-hours session of immersive tale-telling. Expect a wild night of music, mayhem and myths. → The Vaults. ↔ Waterloo. Fri Mar 1. £12.

#### Dear Harry/ **Spock**

Fan-fic addict? Unleash fantastical universes inspired by your favourite stories at London's only comedy fan fiction night. Listen to top storytellers and

comedians read out their material. Pass the popcorn, this one's going to be good.

→ The Canvas. ↔ Whitechapel. Fri Mar 1. £3.

#### Why Collect?

What do Gareth Southgate's World Cup waistcoat, the Donald Trump baby blimp, Whitechapel's fatberg and a 3D-printed gun have in common? They

#### **WATCH**

#### Sonic Youth: 30 Years of 'Daydream Nation'

Prepare to feel old. Sonic Youth's seminal album 'Daydream Nation' celebrates its thirtieth anniversary this year. Mark it by joining band members Thurston Moore and

#### **LEARN**

#### FirstTimers' **Drum Workshop**

Do you dream of bashingskinslike Keith Moon? Learn all about the art of rolls and rudiments at this class for snare starters. → DIY Space for London. South Bermondsey rail. Sun Mar 3, £6, 10.

#### **LAST CHANCE**

#### ♥ 'Time Out 50: 50 Years, 50 Covers'

We may not look our age, but Time Out turned 50 last year. This exhibition of our best magazine covers-from the

pocket-sized first issue in 1968, through copies from the radical '70s and glitzy '80s and '90s to the present day-closes this weekend. Check out cover stars like David Bowie, Joanna Lumley and Elton John (who guest edited Time Out in 2004), as well as designs by Tracey Emin, Banksy and Gorillaz mastermind Jamie Hewlett.

→ Museum of Brands.

← Ladbroke Grove, Until Sun Mar 3. £9 museum entry. exhibition included.

#### 'A Home Away from Home: The India Club

The India Club is one of the city's most fascinating post-colonial relics: a bar, lounge and Indian restaurant that's hardly changed in 65 years. Check out this exhibition exploring its history and celebrating a real London institution. → India Club. ← Temple. Until Fri Mar 1. Free but book

#### "The Favourite" **Costume Display**

in advance.

Can't get enough of Yorgos Lanthimos's film? Visit one of its historic locations and take a look at some of the gorgeous costumes that were designed by Sandy Powell.

→ Hampton Court Palace. Hampton Court rail. Until Mar 10. £19.20 palace entry, exhibition included.



are all objects that have been snapped up by museums to add to their collections. Join the Museum of London's director Sharon Ament as she discusses how securing contemporary collectibles has changed and what the broader implications might be for museums and galleries.

→ Sir John Soane's Museum. → Holborn, Wed Feb 27. From £10.

Steve Shelley for a Q&A after watching a screening of gems from the band's archive.

→ Rio Cinema. ← Dalston Kingsland Overground. Sun Mar 3. £20.

#### Sing-a-Long-a 'The Greatest Showman'

Grab your best fancy dress for this screening that'll have you belting out all the hits.

- → Prince Charles Cinema.
- Deicester Square. Sat Mar 2, £17.

#### Woven Drawings **Tapestry Workshop**

Learn to tell your warp from your weft at this full-day handson workshop with weaving expert Áine Byrne. She'll guide you through rya knotting and pattern-making using plastics, metals and wool.

→ Store Store Coal Drops Yard. ↔ King's Cross. Sat Mar 2. £35.

film making course at the **Saturday Film School** with Raindance. Now just £28.

> TIMEOUT.COM/RAINDANCE

This is how we do it timeout.com/dolist



## COMPETITION

## WIN ATRIP FOR TWO TO THE NEW HARD ROCK HOTEL LONDON

To celebrate the release of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' on Blu-ray and DVD one Time Out reader can win a trip to the new Hard Rock Hotel London

The Bafta-winning and Oscar nominated 'Bohemian Rhapsody' tells the story of the legendary rock band Queen and lead singer Freddie Mercury, leading up to their famous performance at Live Aid in 1985. To mark the acclaimed film's release on Blu-ray and DVD, we're giving you the chance to win a rocking meal and one night's stay at the brand new Hard Rock Hotel London. Enter our draw, and you'll have the chance to dine with a guest and live like a rock star as you stay in one of the hotel's

Rock Royalty suites, including access to a lavish private lounge and other special perks. The hotel's collection of rare music memorabilia even includes one of Freddie's earliest pianos, on which he honed his special and unquestionable talent. Here's your chance to enjoy a level of decadence to rival Freddie Mercury himself.

→ 'Bohemian Rhapsody' is available on Digital Download now and on 4K Ultra HD, Blu-ray and DVD from March 4. The Hard Rock Hotel London opens April 30. For more information, go to www.hardrockhotels.com/london.



TO ENTERTHE DRAW,
GOTOTIMEOUT.COM/BOHEMIANRHAPSODY



BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY



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**FILM OF THE WEEK** 

## Fighting with My Family



**THE BOASTFUL, THEATRICAL** nature of pro wrestling offers a rich comic backdrop to writer-director Stephen Merchant's raucously enjoyable comedy. And despite a significant number of ouch-inducing body slams, the feelgood vibe is near irresistible.

Refreshingly, its spandex-clad central characters, Norwich's close-knit Knight family, aren't superheroes. Mum and dad – a perfectly matched Nick Frost (tattooed and bushy bearded) and Lena Headey (sporting a fierce red dye job) – are former wrestling attractions who now thrill to the bouts of their grown-up children, Zak (Jack Lowden) and Raya (Florence Pugh). Together, they run a local gym and training academy, mainly for kids. But the big show eludes them, until a life-changing phone call comes, sending Zak and Raya to London for trials.

If you already know that Raya goes by the stage name 'Paige', you'll know this is a real-life success story (and already a Channel 4 doc). Suffice to say that Merchant is happy to hit every inspirational, true-life beat. Like 'School of Rock', his film is about disappearing into a subculture that, for all its surface trashiness, offers a deep sense of belonging. Raya heads to Miami, where she makes peace with her bikini-clad competition ('You sound like a Nazi in a moviel' they coo over her accent) and gains wisdom from an unforgiving boot camp coach (Vince Vaughn).

WHAT IS IT...
A heart-warming true-life British wrestling comedy.

#### WHY GO...

For an outsized, trash-talking cameo from The Rock.

→ Director Stephen
Merchant (12A) 108 mins.

After cry-laughing your way through the first half hour – executive producer Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson pops up to play himself in a glorious, insult-dishing cameo – there is an undeniable dip in energy levels. Left behind in Norwich, Zak finds his identity slipping away (not your usual subplot), while Paige goes through a crisis of confidence that lingers a scene or two too long. But Merchant never loses our interest: he's made a sparkly, strutting film that doesn't apologise for or look down on its heroes.



By Joshua Rothkopf

Whose favourite wrestler will always be Andre the Giant.

#### **The Aftermath**



**HOLLYWOOD TENDS TO** prefer its characters rather clear-cut goodies are goodies and baddies are baddies. So the premise of 'The Aftermath' - a well-cast post-war drama - is tantalising in its potential to explore the grey boundaries of human morality.

It's 1946, the war has just ended and a British woman, Rachael (Keira Knightley), travels to Germany to join her husband Lewis (Jason Clarke), a colonel in charge of helping put back together the broken country. 'They're still finding bodies', he says as scenes of rubble piled the height of double-decker buses pass outside the car window.

The couple are housed in an unscathed country pile, where architect Stefan (Alexander Skarsgård) and his embittered teenage daughter are preparing to move to an internment camp. Lewis suggests the family move to the top floor instead. This appals Rachael, who can't fathom living under the same roof as their former enemies.



A love triangle set in the post-war ruins of Hamburg.

WHY GO..

The pinpoint performances and gorgeous costumes.

Director James Kent (15) 108 mins.

Instead of becoming a proper interrogation of guilt, collaboration and the toxic legacy of Nazism, this scenario spins into a tale of temptation, lust and suppressed grief. It's soapy but not unenjoyable. The story zips by, even if it all feels a bit superficial.

The cast has chemistry too. Skarsgård is wounded and willowy with rather dashing taste in midcentury furniture, while Clarke provides the film's moral compass as a man who might have been a thuggish brute, but who is decent and caring throughout. And we should give a shout out to the costume and set design too, which arguably outshines everything else.

■ Gail Tolley

#### Of Love & Law



#### **★★★★** The Hole in the Ground



#### WHAT IS IT..

A doc chronicling the first openly gay couple to set up a law firm in Japan.

#### WHY GO..

For a vision of practising what you preach, and vagina artworks galore.

Director Hikaru Toda 94 mins.



'I WISH HE had talked to us before he killed himself. But sometimes people die because they can't talk about it.' These tearful words are spoken by lawyer Masafumi Yoshida ('Fumi') about a gay law student he once advised. Fumi and Kazuyuki Minami ('Kazu') are a married couple, and the first openly gay lawyers to run a law firm in Japan. The dual nature of their partnership lends the title to Hikaru Toda's touching doc about two gentle souls advocating for minority rights in Osaka Prefecture.

The duo have a special interest in representing people punished for non-conformity. There's the artist Rokudenashiko whose imaginative array of vagina artworks led to her arrest on obscenity charges, the teacher who lost her job after not standing for the national anthem and two women appealing their 'unregistered' status.

These case studies provide the doc with a loose framework, although Toda also makes space for Fumi and Kazu's own stories, showing them both separately and together. They adopt a minor left homeless when a social care home closes. Detail by detail, a picture emerges of a couple who have professionalised their shared instinct to care for the needy.

Toda has created a rich, idiosyncratic and amusing character study, highlighting the significance of the work in the foreground by sketching a damning background of a social system that proves lethal to those who are vulnerable. ■ Sophie Monks Kaufman

#### WHAT IS IT...

An Irish horror film about a kid and his fraught mum.

#### WHY GO..

It's a chilling parental nightmare.

Director Lee Cronin (15) 90 mins.



WHAT IF YOUR child was an imposter? That's the dread-inducing theme of this Irish horror film that explores the emotional weight of parenting and how bringing up a child can feel utterly bewildering. Single parent Sarah (Seána Kerslake) is raising her son Chris (James Quinn Markey) alone in the countryside when he goes missing in the woods one evening. A desperate Sarah doesn't recognise the twitchy boy who returns and soon becomes convinced that her son has been replaced.

Although many of its scares are recycled (one sequence owes an all-too-obvious debt to 'The Blair Witch Project'), this doesn't get in the way too much. Director Lee Cronin brings enough visual flair to lock you right into its world, creating a shivery atmosphere aided by a piercing score that brings a chill to the mood.

The two central performances also land. Kerslake is convincing as the put-upon mum, while Quinn Markey is brilliantly creepy as Chris - the child actor's eyes hinting at unseen horrors, his performance pushing the same emotionally tortured buttons as Danny Torrance did in 'The Shining' or Cole Sear in 'The Sixth Sense'.

Look beyond the conventional jump scares and 'The Hole in the Ground' is really about the terrifying uncertainties of parenthood, drawing tension from relatable, everyday anxieties. Like 'The Babadook', it's a horror film built around the idea that raising a child can sometimes be - quite literally - a nightmare. ■ Thomas Hobbs

#### THE TEN BEST

#### POP-UPS AND FESTIVALS

**THIS WEEK** 

'The Ring' Still likely to haunt your dreams for days, this J-horror chiller is back on the big screen for its twentieth anniversary.

- → Picturehouse Central. → Piccadilly Circus.
- Fri Mar 1, 9pm. £16.90.

'Apostasy' Deptford Cinema's Unseen in 2018 season gives this ace Jehovah's Witnessdrama another spin.

- → Deptford Cinema. New Cross Overground. Thu Feb 28, 7.30pm. £6.
- **Cinema Made** in Italy London's annual Italian movie fest returns with films new ('Loro') and old (Bertolucci's
- 'The Conformist'). → Ciné Lumière. ← South Kensington. Until Sun Mar 3.

**'Sweet** Country' This Aussie

western gemapowerhouse Aboriginal revenge tale-is worth seeing on the big screen. → Whirled Cinema

**'Heaven** 

Sun Mar 3, 6pm. £12.

O North Ealing.

Fri Mar 1, 7.30pm. £7.

'That Obscure Object of Desire' Luis Buñuel's 1977

gem is a typical mix of surrealism, repressed desire and sly wit. → Close-Up. Shoreditch High St Overground. Wed Feb 27,

'Alien' Forty years old and still an object lesson in claustrophobic, tension-cranking terror.

- → Odeon Greenwich. O North Greenwich. Mon Mar 4, 8.15pm. £13.25.
- 8.15pm, £10

'The Lady Eve' Can Wait' If vou're an Warren Beatty absolute stan for Barbara Stanwyck remade this comedy, but here's the original or just fond of Henry Lubitsch version. Fonda, catch this con-artist classic. → Classic Cinema Club.

> → BFI Southbank. ↔ Waterloo. Thu Feb 28, £6-£25.

'Multiple Maniacs'

John Waters's Divine-starring 1970 trash classic gets a rare screening. → Prince Charles Cinema.

- → Leicester Square.
- Mon Mar 4, 8.45pm. £10.

#### Sauvage



#### WHAT IS IT...

A character study about a young gay sex worker.

#### WHY GO..

For a powerful performance from rising star Félix Maritaud.

Director Camille Vidal-Naquet (18) 97 mins.



WE MEET FÉLIX Maritaud's young sex worker, Leo, at the doctor's in this explicit and hardhitting character study. At least, we think we do. As the scene plays out, we discover that this is actually a client's complex role-play scenario. It's a bleakly funny moment in a drama that's hardly overflowing with levity but has a deeply humane spirit and empathy to burn.

There's a lingering irony in the encounter too, which soon becomes evident. Bruised from his frequently violent assignations and with a hacking cough from his drug use and smoking, Leo really does require medical attention.

Maritaud, a standout in the ensemble of last year's terrific '120 BPM', inhabits Leo with a shy boyishness and furtive survival instincts that regularly let him down. He turns tricks to pay for crack, sleeps rough and hangs out with a small group of male prostitutes waiting for clients on a quiet roadside. As the title implies, Leo exists. Caliban-like, somewhere between civilisation and the wild

There's a lot of sex, and writer-director Camille Vidal-Naguet presents it frankly. Thanks to the quietly mesmerising Maritaud, there's real emotion too. While his peers crave an escape from their grim existence ('Find an old guy,' one advises), Leo yearns for something meaningful in this transactional world. ■ Phil de Semlyen

### 'Visionary Women'

Community cinema Screen25 marks Women's History Month with a series of films celebrating the strength of women, including acclaimed doc 'On Her Shoulders' (about Isis survivor Nadia Murad) and 'Widows'.

> Screen25, Harris Academy. Norwood Junction rail. Fri Mar 1-Mar 29. www.screen25.com.



#### **ALSO OPENING**

#### **FOXTROT** →

\*\*\*\*

Israeli director Samuel Maoz, who caught the eye with claustrophobic war drama 'Lebanon'. returns with another film about military service and trauma. 'Foxtrot' is full of stark images, as its tricksy, before-and-after narrative charts the fate of IDF soldier Jonathan (Yonaton Shiray) and his griefstricken parents. Maoz loads the film with biting insight into the danger of giving life-and-death powers to jumpy, vulnerable young men. It's edged with wit too, as when Jonathan leaves his post to dance a foxtrot, using his gun as his partner. Alice Saville



#### HANNAH

Seeing Charlotte Rampling mingling icy hauteur with iust-about-concealed fragility is like watching a Ming vase teetering on a ledge. Her performance as a lonely woman in the grip of a slowly revealed crisis, then, is one good reason to visit this otherwise studiedly arty Euro-pudding. The pacing, as glacial as its legendary lead,

strains the patience in a fugue-like study of a fractured psyche. Phil de Semlyen

#### **SERENITY**

This stupefyingly awful film must signal the end of the McConaissance -Matthew McConaughey's hot streak that's taken in 'Magic Mike', 'True Detective' and 'Dallas Buyers Club'. Here he's a charter boat captain whose ex (Anne Hathaway) beguiles him with a plan to ice her new husband. There's a way to make this kind of trashy noir work, but 'Serenity' is too generic to pull it off. The twist, meanwhile, is a true stinker. ■ Joshua Rothkopf

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

#### LONDON ON SCREEN The wolf enclosure from 'Withnail & I'

The location London Zoo, Regent's Park.

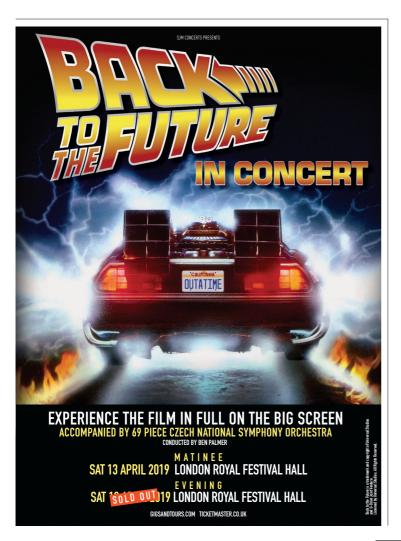
The scene With his actor friend Marwood (Paul McGann) finally securing a part in a play and heading for Manchester, unemployed thesp Withnail (Richard E Grant) bids him farewell on a bench in Regent's Park. As Marwood departs, a drunk, downtrodden Withnail performs Hamlet's 'What a piece of work is a man!' monologue to the wolves in neighbouring London Zoo.

Then Back in 1987, when the cult classic came out, the wolf enclosure was a popular zoo attraction. 'It was the penultimate day of shooting,' recalls Grant. '[Director Bruce Robinson] told me this was supposed to be the greatest ever performance of Shakespeare's soliloguy. My get-out was that he was a failing actor so if it didn't work, the audience wouldn't mind.'

Now London Zoo hasn't housed wolves since 1998, with the enclosure now home to squirrel monkeys and designed to resemble the jungles of Bolivia. There's dense shrubbery around the perimeter, so any soliloquies will fail to get through. The zoo screened 'Withnail & I' in 2016, while tourists now more commonly flock to its reptile house, famously used in 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone'. ■ Thomas Hobbs







#### **BOOK NOW**



#### **BFI Flare**

Another cracking festival of LGBT+ cinema kicks off with 'Vita & Virginia' on March 21. The full line-up is now online and tickets go on sale to the public on Thursday.

> BFI Southbank. → Waterloo. Mar 21-31. www.bfi.org.uk/flare

The 100 greatest feminist movies timeout.com/film

## Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic

# 'London: It's time to stop playing Michael Jackson'

Music editor *Oliver Keens* believes that a damning new documentary leaves the singer's legacy in tatters amid shocking allegations of child abuse. He argues it's finally time for our scene to take a stand

I WAS DJING on the night Michael Jackson died, in the basement of The Social near Oxford Circus. Around 8pm, friends and punters started giving me updates from the hospital via TMZ. When it was confirmed, I played the acapella of 'You Are Not Alone' through layers of slightly ghostly echo. It seemed fitting at the time.

Now, having watched a screening of a forthcoming documentary film about two young boys close to Jackson, I'm not sure I ever want to hear his music played out again. I know this sounds extreme, but I honestly think you'll feel the same, very soon.

Set to show on Channel 4 next week, 'Leaving Neverland' is a four-hour HBO doc that lets two men – an American, James Safechuck, and an Australian, Wade Robson – tell their unconnected but darkly similar life stories, having encountered Jackson aged ten and seven respectively.

Both were publicly and visibly child companions of Jackson in his late-'80s megastar

heyday, accompanying him on tours, in TV interviews, adverts and more. Both claim they endured HORRIFIC sexual and emotional abuse by Jackson, the details of which are ghastly and intensely shocking. Too shocking for us to print, I'm sorry to say. (For the record, the Jackson estate deny all the film's allegations and have called the documentary a 'tabloid character assassination')

Now, if you love M.J's music, your impulse might well be to avoid this film. To turn a blind eye to the colossal depravity alleged in it. To continue to stifle the hunch many of us have about him – based on decades of rumours and allegations, evidence from investigations and a trial, plus his very public, unashamed interest in children.

But I'm here to tell you that's not an option. If you love his music, you can't run away from the film's claims about paedophilia. Honestly, what's more important: music or serious allegations of child abuse? How can there be any debate here? I own the bulk of Jackson's work on vinyl. I've loved his music my entire life, but having seen this film

there 's simply no choice. It's time to stop listening to Michael Jackson.

You might think it's a waste of time to boycott a dead person's music. But there's a greater reason why I think the music is done. Jackson's biggest accomplice in becoming what the film's director Dan Reed calls 'a criminal sexual predator' was his fame. He allegedly used it to dazzle parents with opportunities and wow children to the point of devotion. But like democratic power, fame is something that we the people bestow. And we can take it back. Carrying on partying to his music sends out the message that we as a society are cool with allegations of child abuse. Doing nothing sends the message to the next powerful and abusive man (it will obviously be a man) that if they couldn't even be bothered to cancel Michael Jackson, nobody is ever going to stop him. Victims of abuse need our solidarity. They don't need club after club humming to the sound of an alleged rapist. It's time to stop listening to Michael Jackson.







\*I genuinely believe our music and nightlife community has the strength and morality to respond to this

extraordinary issue'

Luckily, I genuinely believe this city's music and nightlife community has the strength and morality to respond to this extraordinary issue. Take London's clubbing scene, which has proved to be a staggeringly progressive force in European culture in the last ten years. It's worked better than any section of the entertainment industry to promote gender equality, respect LGBT+ creativity and - relevant to MJ - take a moral stand against artists who are proved to be sexist, bigoted or abusive. Put simply: if an artist fucks up, the scene will shun you. Period. Techno producer Ten Walls never got a gig again after he made outrageously homophobic comments. Ditto arena-packing DJ Jackmaster after he admitted to being abusive at a festival. Azealia Banks called Zayn Malik 'curry-scented... Punjab...dirty bitch' and immediately got dropped as a headliner. And so on. With respect to my fellow Time Out section editors, this swift  $moral\,action\,taking\,is\,still\,rare\,in\,the\,worlds\,of$ food, bars, comedy, movies and art.

Off the record, DJs I've spoken to recently have already started saying goodbye to their disco edits of 'Rock with You', prizing 'Off The Wall' out of their record boxes, deleting 'PYT' from their memory sticks. I can't stress how much this is

for your own good. After this film, you will not want to listen to Michael Jackson on the dancefloor, at a wedding, at a club, anywhere.

I think it's essential that 'Leaving Neverland' sparks so much outrage that a movement for change begins

 $straight\,away.\,Yet\,outrage\,itself is\,a\,complicated$ issue in 2019. Take a common reaction to any artist accused of wrongdoing, which goes: 'But this is hypocritical. If we censor X, then surely we should censor Y and Z too?' Yes it's true that hypocrisies occur. For instance, there's no mob of people trying to purge the music of David Bowie, despite a well-known claim that he took a 15-yearold's virginity in California during the early '70s - which under state law would classify Bowie as a rapist. That's undeniably a double standard, but it shouldn't stop us getting mad about Jackson. When conversations around abuse and morality explode and become newsworthy, they genuinely have the ability to affect the way the world thinks. This is finally happening with R Kelly, whose alleged sexual abuse victims are only now being supported by the mainstream. This

is also happening with Ryan Adams, who's been accused of being deeply abusive to young female fans and respected fellow artists alike. Hypocrisy is a small price to pay if victims are finally being believed, if marginalised voices are being heard. Don't

we all now wish we'd supported sooner the brave people who spoke out about Jimmy Savile? Or Bill Cosby? Or Gary Glitter? For the chance to show support with victims alone, it's time to stop listening to Michael Jackson.

If you've read all this and think I'm overreacting, see the film and make up your own mind. If you're cynically minded and instinctively think the two men are liars (or just after money, a picture Jackson habitually tried to paint of any accuser), see the film and make up your own mind. Yes, Michael Jackson made some of the finest music ever recorded, but it's not enough any more. Letting his songs stay ingrained in the fabric of our society says that our society is morally dead.

→ 'Leaving Neverland' will be shown in two parts on Channel 4 on Mar 6 and Mar 7.

















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Catfish and The Bottlemen

#### **HEADS UP**

## Citadel Festival announces killer line-up









**RETURNING THIS SUMMER** to Ealing's Gunnersbury Park is Citadel Festival, the Sunday one-dayer, which acts as Lovebox's laid-back little sibling. Taking over Lovebox's sprawling site the day after it ends, Citadel has tons of music to choose from, plus an array of family-friendly activities. Welsh titans Catfish and the Bottlemen will work their magic in the headline slot. With new LP 'The Balance' dropping in April, the Llandudno lads will have three albums' worth of angsty indie rock to plunder. Joining them on the main stage is Rag'n'Bone Man - the voice behind 2016's massive earworm 'Human' and Calvin Harris's current banger 'Giant'. Even if you've never ventured beyond Mr Bone's hit singles, his live show totally brims with soul and brass.

Elsewhere you'll find raucous Scottish singer/

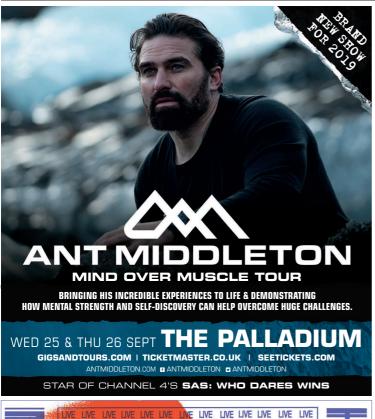


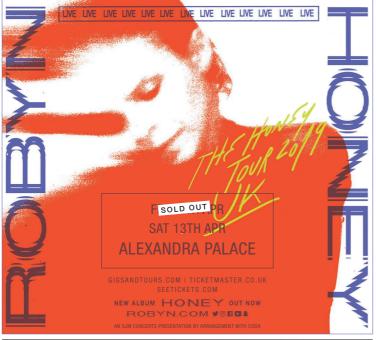
guitarist **Honeyblood**, who'll deliver candy-sweet vocal melodies alongside riffs that'll vibrate your insides. All-female trio **Dream Wife** will also be rocking out; if you're fan of The Strokes and Wolf Alice, their hook-laden indie should tickle your fancy. Then get a shuffle on as **Friendly Fires** bust out their synth-led tropical rhythms. With lots of songs about love or partying, they'll provide the perfect groove to a balmy summer's evening

But as always, Citadel isn't just about the tunes. There's plenty of street food to keep hungry revellers sated (think Club Mexicana and Only Jerkin'), plus group yoga classes, spoken word and creative workshops. This fest is the perfect mix of Sunday fun and Sunday chill. 

Danielle Goldstein

→ Citadel Festival is on Jul 14 in Gunnersbury Park.

















#### Music & Nightlife



## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

### **Orville Peck**

#### Good name. Good dude?

Great name, and yes: *great* dude. Orville Peck is the man of your dreams – especially if you dream of homoerotic voyages into dusty North American deserts with handsome gents wearing mysterious masks and gingham shirts. For those under 40, he sounds like Lana Del Rey making a cameo appearance in 'Westworld', and if you're over 40, he's Lloyd Cole gambling in a saloon bar on the outskirts of Joshua Tree. Either way, he's a treat.

#### Kinda seems like the music you'd hear on the jukebox in a brothel...

Well, funny you should mention that, because Orville shot the video for slinky, kinky track 'Dead of Night' at the notorious Chicken Ranch in Nevada. I googled it and immediately wiped my search history so you don't have to.

#### What other songs should I listen to?

Give 'Big Sky' a spin. It's a moody widescreen western in which Peck ruminates on his former lovers: a biker, a boxer and a jailer. You'll get more on March 22 when his debut album 'Pony' comes out on Sub Pop.

#### Can you tell us more about the fella behind the fringe?

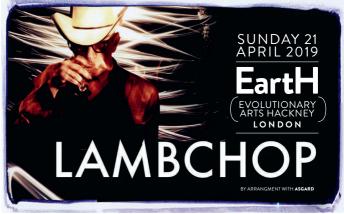
Facts are scant, but what we do know is that he was once in a West End play, he trained as a ballet dancer and is a big Oasis fan. Oh, and apparently Paris Hilton likes him, naturally.

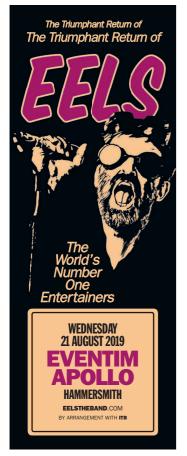
#### I'm hooked. When can I see this prince among cowboys?

Soon! He's moseying into town this week for a threenight stand with shows at The Islington (Thursday February 28), Servant Jazz Quarters (Friday March 1) and the Shacklewell Arms (Saturday March 2). BYOC (bring your own chaps) and saddle up. • Leonie Cooper

More new bands at timeout.com/music







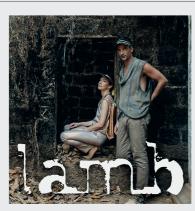




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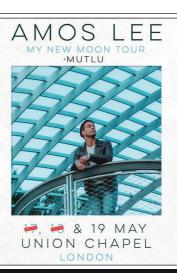












#### **GIGS AND CLUBS**



#### The South London Soul Train 8 Year Anniversary

Celebrate the eighth birthday of Peckham's funk, soul and disco night with the usual super-groovy DJs and a live set from Earth Wind & Fire tribute act All Fired Up. It'll be a boogie wonderland for sure.

→ CLF Art Cafe. Sat Mar 2.

#### Kerri Chandler presents Kaoz

Deep house don Kerri Chandler heads up an 11-hour daytime sesh featuring sets from Dyed Soundorom, Motor City Drum Ensemble and Skream, plus a Mr G live show. It should be genuinely epic. → Printworks. Mar 9.

#### **Billie Eilish**

The 17-year-old American pop wunderkind behind recent top ten hit 'Bury a Friend' begins her three-night stand in west London.

→ 02 Shepherd's Bush Empir

→ 02 Shepherd's Bush Empire. Mon Mar 4.

#### All Points East: Mumford & Sons

M&S headline, while Leon Bridges, Dizzee Rascal, The Vaccines, Dermot Kennedy and recently anointed Brits winner Sam Fender all support at this strand of the one-day city festivals.

→ Victoria Park. Jun 1.

#### **BTS**

The K-pop boy band inch ever closer to total global domination by bringing their Love Yourself: Speak

Yourself world tour to Wembley Stadium. Expect fans' screams to reach at least as far as Harlesden.

just about TLC, The Spice

Girls, 'Clueless' and apolitical music. Stereolab kicked ass

in a stunningly original way, mixing kitsch, synths, drone

and rock. After years away,

they return to live performing

this year. Big yay.

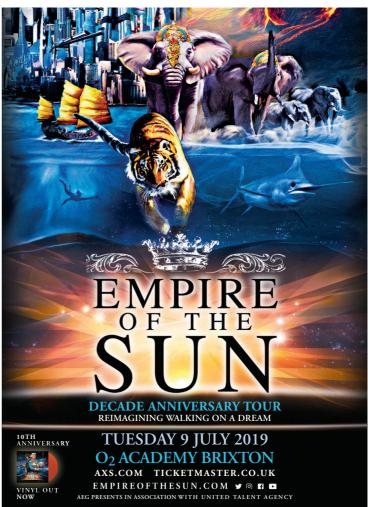
→ 02 Shepherd's Bush Empire. Jun 12.

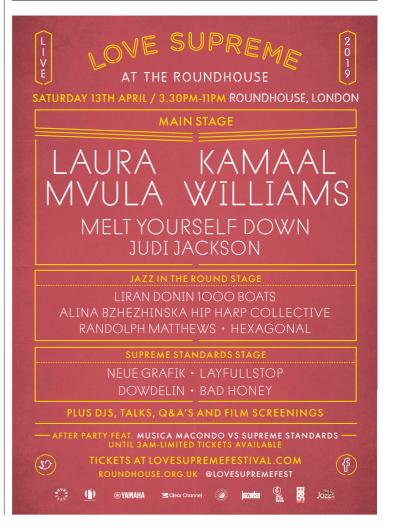
→ Wembley Stadium. Jun 1.

#### **Cross the Tracks**

This brand-new one-day festival is billed as 'Brixton's funk, soul and funk feast'. With the legendary Chaka Khan headlining and a line-up that includes Martha Reeves & The Vandellas, Jordan Rakei and The Comet Is Coming, plus more than 40 street food stalls, it's off to a tasty start.

→ Brockwell Park. Jun 9.





## Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Lukowski timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre



**IN HER MAD,** brilliant play 'Mr Burns', US playwright Anne Washburn imagined an episode of 'The Simpsons' as the basis for an entire post-apocalyptic society. And in her imminent West End transfer of hit 'The Twilight Zone' she posits the popular '50s sci-fi TV show as a sort of origin myth for modern America. She is fascinated with the stories the US tells about itself.

And there is no figure more surrounded by myth in modern America than Donald Trump, who Washburn takes on – albeit in typically outthere fashion – via her latest play, 'Shipwreck'.

There are multiple layers of stories and symbolism inside Washburn's sprawling, Russian doll-like work, with the main part focusing on a

group of liberal, middle-class friends who stay over at a remote Vermont holiday home. A fine cast of actors – I particularly enjoyed Raquel Cassidy's gently withering host, Jools – make hay with entertaining dialogue.

That conversation always comes back to Trump. Could they have done more to stop him? Why did one of their number vote for him? Is he the literal Antichrist? And in the most shamelessly meta scene, is it possible to write a play about him?

If it occasionally feels more like a thesis than a drama, 'Shipwreck' is a smart, surreal interrogation of white liberal America's relationship with the tangerine tyrant.

Too insulated from Trump's excesses by their privilege to be materially affected, Jools and pals relate to the president via the stories they create around him and the narratives they ascribe to him; he is an almost folkloric being.

That's underscored by the two most audacious scenes of Rupert Goold's largely low-key production, in which Trump himself appears, as portrayed by the wild-haired Elliot Cowan. In the first, he's a smart, dignified, almost Bruce Waynelike figure, who Fisayo Akinade's George W Bush is begging to stop criticising the Gulf War. He is the Trump of Trump's imagination, the titan he would be if all his lies were true. It is, naturally, the funniest scene in the play.

'SHIPWRECK'; MARC BRENNER, ONLY FOOLS AND HORSES THE MUSICAL'; JOHAN PERSSON, 'EQUUS'; RICH

Heaps more reviews at timeout.com/theatre



I'm not going to spoil his second appearance, but let's just say it goes the other way. It's Trump as Colonel Kurtz, an unfathomable monstrosity gibbering profane nonsense in the dark, the horror we perhaps all want him to be. The sequence probably out-weirds the final part of 'Mr Burns', which is really saying something.

In addition to all this (it is a very long play) Akinade pops up sporadically as Mark, an African-born American adopted by white parents. His story is separate to everyone else's: it's about his attempt to find a narrative for his own life. Raised by white people and without slaves for ancestors, he doesn't deny his ethnicity, but feels detached from the African-American cultural narratives people ascribe to him. It's a fascinating subplot, and great to see Akinade, one of our great comic actors, having something more serious to get his teeth into. But it feels like the play's biggest indulgence, a diversion that has the  $vague\,air\,of\,something\,Washburn\,is\,smuggling\,in$ here because a whole play on that subject from a white writer would be a no-no.

'Shipwreck' is flawed because 'Shipwreck' is daring. There will be those who hate it, because they hate its wordiness or simply find it too weird. It is a play on the subject of Donald Trump that didges the crushing responsibility of being a play *about* Donald Trump. But for Washburn that works out just fine. If his victory was, above all, a triumph of lies over truth, Washburn is the perfect author to sift for shards of wisdom in the rubble he has left behind. ■



By Andrzej Lukowski Who usually just finds it easier to try not to talk about Donald Trump.

#### WHAT IS IT... Anne Washburn's trippy odyssey through the mind of Trump's America.

WHY GO...
For the hallucinatory sections featuring Donald Trump.

→ Almeida Theatre.
 ↔ Highbury & Islington.
 Until Mar 30. £10-£32.

## Only Fools and Horses the Musical



**IF THERE'S A** screen still flickering in the UK at the end of the world, it'll probably be playing on loop that bit where Derek 'Del Boy' Trotter falls through the bar. John Sullivan's 'Only Fools and Horses' has long since transformed from being just a television show into a genuine cultural phenomenon.

It's on that tidal wave of public adoration that this musical version of the misadventures of wheeler-dealer Del Boy, his hapless brother Rodney and their grandad, living together on a Peckham council estate at the tail end of the '80s, sails into the West End. It's co-written by Jim 'son of John' Sullivan and comic actor extraordinaire Paul Whitehouse (who's also on stage as Grandad).

Director Caroline Jay Ranger sets out her market stall early, as Del Boy (Tom Bennett) promises 'plonker' Rodney (Ryan Hutton), 'This time next year, we'll be millionaires.'

It's affectionate fun. There are some good gags, including an early tease of Del's bar fall, and the sitcom's iconic theme tune works well as a refrain (sung by the cast) for the twinkly cheekiness of this show's tone. But, by God, the storyline is stretched thinly here. The resulting experience is like a low-stakes drift through a Madame Tussauds exhibition and a greatest hits compilation. ■ *Tom Wicker* 

WHAT IS IT...
A musical version of the beloved sitcom.

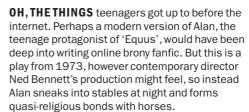
WHY **GO**... Del Boy falling through the bar, obvs.

BOOK...
Buy tickets from timeout.com/tickets

→ Theatre Royal
Haymarket. ↔ Piccadilly
Circus. Until Aug 31.
£15-£137.50.



#### **Equus**



Peter Shaffer's story of 17-year-old Alan and Dr Martin Dysart, the psychiatrist who tries to get to the root of his hoofy fantasies, is the product of an era when Freud was still God and psychiatrists could cheerfully get away with blaming their patients' problems on their parents, Larkin-style ('They fuck you up, your mum and dad'). Zubin Varla's performance as Dysart has a fascinating desiccated arrogance, while Ethan Kai as Alan morphs from cockiness to mounting fear. Bennett directs their therapy sessions with a stagily retro, ironic distance that brings out all the humour in Shaffer's text.

The horses are taken more seriously. There's a heightened homoerotic energy to Alan's scenes with them, especially in Ira Mandela Siobhan's fantastic displays of rippling muscles. But Bennett's production doesn't do enough to interrogate the uneasy logic of Shaffer's text, which basically suggests that it's far better to be miserably insane than boring. It gives these ideas a wry sideways glance, then gallops into a world of neon-lit horseplay. 

Alice Saville

#### WHAT IS IT...

A feverishly modern update of Peter Shaffer's 1973 play.

#### WHY GO..

For some seriously impressive muscled horse-men.

→ Theatre Royal Stratford
East. ← Stratford. Until
Mar 23, £10-£32



#### **Theatre & Dance**

#### **ALSO OPENING**



#### **GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM** \*\*\*\*

Veteran playwright Martin Sherman's 'Gently Down the Stream' is set entirely in the apartment of Beau (Jonathan Hvde), an older Southern gentleman hailing from a now long-forgotten New Orleans. His first foray on Gaydar leads to him meeting Rufus (Ben Allen), a much younger British guy. The past, to Beau, is 'the past', while to his new boyf, 'the past is sexy'. The cleverness of the play is that the format never becomes didactic. This isn't a history lecture, it's a very real - and frequently sweet - picture of a small group of individuals.

#### **DON QUIXOTE**

Rosemary Waugh

→ Park Theatre. Until Mar 16.

Carlos Acosta's 'Don Quixote' is a ballet of OTT slapstick humour and exuberant passions, its gossamerthinstoryline merely a vehicle forshowstopping party pieces from the principals. Returning after its 2013 premiere, it's enormously fun, even without Acosta's megawatt presence on stage. Siobhan Murphy → Royal Opera House. Until Apr 4.

#### **CYPRUS AVENUE**

\*\*\*\*

If you haven't heard of David Ireland. you really should have. In recent years, the Belfast-based playwright has become one of British theatre's most distinctive and controversial voices. Returning following a run in the smaller Downstairs theatre in 2016, 'Cyprus Avenue' follows Eric Miller, an outrageously bigoted, resolutely Unionist man, as he struggles with the outlandish conviction that his newborn granddaughter is in fact Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams. It's a bruising play that's touched by brilliance. Fergus Morgan → Royal Court Theatre.

#### **JESUS HOPPED** THE 'A' TRAIN

\*\*\*\*

Until Mar 23.

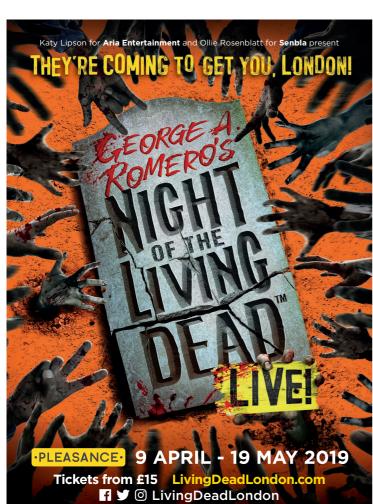
Stephen Adly Guirgis's abrasive, irreverent 2000 black comedy about a couple of inmates in a New York

prison is something of a modern standard in the US, and it hasn't been so long since the last London production. But it stands up well. US actor Oberon KA Adjepong is excellent as Lucius, an affable, Zenlike inmate who we strongly suspect to be in the slammer for something truly awful. Andrzej Lukowski → Young Vic. Until Mar 30.

#### **TARTUFFE**

\*\*\*\*

The NT's last big comedia dell'arte hit was 'One Man, Two Guvnors'. A near flawless comedy, it was crafted via playwright Richard Bean ruthlessly paring away all but the funniest stuff in Goldoni's 'The Servant of Two Masters' then rebuilding it from scratch. John Donnelly's adaptation of Molière's 1664 farce 'Tartuffe' - about a charismatic charlatan -could do with some ruthlessness. It updates the play a bit, but clings awkwardly to its structure. ■ Andrzej Lukowski → National Theatre, Lyttelton. Until Apr 30



#### **EXCLUSIVE**

#### 'ADMISSIONS'



Don't miss the West End transfer of Joshua Harmon's hit comedy direct from New York starring Alex Kingston ('ER', 'Doctor Who'). Tickets to this bitingly funny, dark production are 50 percent off - they start at £15.

> TIMEOUT.COM/ADMISSIONS



# **NEW SHOWS**

# THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

# **WEST END**

# The Merry Widow

Director Max Webster ('The Lorax') stages a knockabout new take on the delightfully flirty, waltz-filled comic operetta.

→ London Coliseum. ↔ Covent Garden. Fri Mar 1-Apr 13. £20-£138.50.

# OFF-WEST END

# **The Crown Dual**

Two actors vamp their way through Daniel Clarkson's comedy take on cut-glass-accented telly fave "The Crown'.

- → King's Head Theatre.
- → Angel. Until Apr 6. £10-£25.

# **Dressed**

Young company This Egg explores what clothes mean to us.

→ Battersea Arts Centre.

Clapham Junction Overground
Until Sat Mar 2. £15,
£12.50 concs.

# The Grand Expedition

A delicious edible adventure from immersive dining maestros Gingerline.
→ Secret Victoria line location.
Until Jun 30. £55-£75.

# **Inside Bitch**

Four women give an insider's take on the prison system.

→ Royal Court Theatre. ↔ Sloane Square. Wed Feb 27-Mar 23. £12-£18.

# Kourtney Kardashian

Sleepwalk Collective's moody conceptual



opera features an orchestra of laptops.

→ Battersea Arts Centre.

Clapham Junction Overground.

Wed Feb 27-Sat Mar 2. £12.50,
£10 concs.

# The Pirates of Penzance

Shiver metimbers, the boys are back: catch

this hit all-male take on the piratical operetta as it returns to London.

→ Wilton's Music Hall.

→ Aldgate East.
Until Mar 16. £12.50-£30,
£10-£27.50 concs.

#### Sex Sex Men Men

A riotous night with drag king troupe Pecs. → Yard Theatre. ↔ Hackney Wick. Tue Feb 26-Mar 16. £17-£23, £13-£21 concs.

# The Son

Michael Longhurst directs the UK premiere of French hit-monger Florian Zeller's latest.

→ Kiln Theatre. ↔ Kilburn. Until Apr 6. £10-£32.50.

# Timpson: The Musical

A song-and-dance spectacular about the glamorous world of, er, key cutting.

→ King's Head Theatre.

→ Angel. Until Mar 9.
£18, £15 concs.

## We're Staying Right Here

Henry Devas's fasttalking new comedy about survival.

→ Park Theatre. ↔ Finsbury
Park. Until Mar 23. £14.50-£18,
£16.50 concs.

# TOP-SELLING TICKETS

# ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

# 1 Home, I'm Darling

There are fab frocks galore in this hit satire on retro culture.

Duke of York's Theatre. Until Apr 13.

# 2 The Night of the Iguana

Clive Owen plays a disgraced priest in this classic drama.

Noël Coward Theatre. Jul 6-Sep 28.

# 3 Book of Mormon

The bonkers mega-hit from the 'South Park' guys.

> Prince of Wales Theatre. Until May 25.

# 4 Caroline, or Change

A moving musical about injustice in 1963 America.

→ Playhouse Theatre. Until Mar 2.

# 5 Wicked

The magical hit show.

→ Apollo Victoria. Until Nov 30.

FOR TICKETS TO THE BEST SHOWS
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# **BOOK NOW**



# A Midsummer Night's Dream

See 'Game of Thrones' star Gwendoline Christie play a smitten fairy queen in this hotly anticipated immersive riff on Shakespeare's comedy.

→ Bridge Theatre. ↔ London Bridge. Jun 3-Aug 31. £15-£69.50.

# EXCLUSIVE

Get tickets to 'Come from Away' – the musical we just gave a glowing five stars. Prices start at £25. See it before the rest of London catches on.

TIMEOUT COM/COMFEROMAWAY

# Comedy

timeout.com/comedy



# **TIME OUT MEETS**

# **Nish Kumar**

**MARCH 29. BREXIT DAY.** Or will it be? Since the 2016 referendum British politics has been an unpredictable shambles. But, on that day, one thing's for sure: Nish Kumar – one of this country's foremost political comics – will be on stage at the Hackney Empire. And he'll be angry.

Kumar – who hosts topical comedy show 'The Mash Report' on BBC Two – says he expects there to be a 'spicy atmosphere' in the venue that night. 'Either we'll be teetering on the verge of a no-deal catastrophe, [or getting] a deal no one likes, or an extension to Article 50. None of which, I suspect, will satisfy the leftists, subversives and agitators that make up my audience.'

The Wandsworth-born comic has been tackling politics since his early stand-up shows and, while he's always voiced his resentment towards the Tory government, he's also told light, positive stories to counterbalance his ire. But in his new show, 'It's in Your Nature to Destroy Yourselves', he's being more honest about his fury. 'It's very cathartic,' says Kumar. 'I honestly don't know how everyone else copes without the opportunity to scream onstage for 80 minutes a night.'

Despite touring through both leave and remain voting blocs of the country, Kumar is playing to his fans, so they're 'pretty much on board everywhere', he says. 'You get the odd person who takes offence and I hear about it via social media. I feel bad for them that they made a poor entertainment choice.'

An extra date's been added – on April Fool's Day, in whatever post-Brexit apocalypse awaits. Next?'I'm going to take a rest from my job,' says Kumar, 'which my mother describes as "upsetting white people"." 

Ben Williams

→ Hackney Empire. Mar 29 and Apr 1.

# TEN BEST GIGS

THIS MONTH

Monkey and Roy

Ventriloquist Nina Conti dons a monkey suit and joins forces with Shenoah Allen for their ramshackle double act.

→ Old Queens Head. Mon Mar 4

Angela Barnes: 'Rose-Tinted'

No-nonsense jokes from this 'Mock the Week' regular who's trying to look on the bright side of life.

→ Leicester Square Theatre.
Mar 8. .

Vikki Stone: 'Concerto for Comedian and Orchestra'

Comic Stone solos with the London Musical Theatre Orchestra for her ambitious orchestral project.

→ Kings Place. Mar 30.

Harriet Kemsley: 'Slutty Joan'

Kemsley delves into her sexual history in this powerful, emotional and consistently funny show.

→ Soho Theatre. Mar 26-30.

Fortune Feimster The UK debut from this American comic who's appeared on 'The Mindy Project'

on 'The Mindy Project', 'Chelsea Lately', 'Conan' and many more besides.

 $\rightarrow$  Soho Theatre. Mar 4-9.

Live at the Empire

Cuddly and caustic 'Catastrophe' star Rob Delaney tops an almighty bill featuring Nina Conti, Ed Gamble and John Robins.

→ Hackney Empire. Mar 15.

Ed Gamble: 'Blizzard'

Superb stand-up Gamble, co-host of the 'Off Menu' podcast, plays a mini-run in the West End.

→ Leicester Square Theatre.

Mar 20-23.

Sara Pascoe: 'Lads Lads Lads'

Two shows in one day for Sara Pascoe, bringing her 'thinking person's stag do' to the prestigious Palladium.

→ London Palladium, Mar 10.

Hackney Comedy Experience

One-liner king Milton Jones headlines, with John Robins, Phil Wang, Desiree Burch and John Kearns.

→ EartH. Mar 14.

1

# Sean McLoughlin: 'Hail Mary'

A hugely accomplished hour of stand-up: intelligent opinions, bleak imagery and beautifully crafted jokes.

→ Soho Theatre. Fri Mar 1-Sat Mar 2.



MINOLOHUM: ED MOODE

# SIR WALTER RALEGH BY NICHOLAS HILLIARD. C. 1586 © NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERYLONDON; UNKNOWN MAN AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF ELAMES BY NICHOLAS HILLIARD. C.1500. PURCHASED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MURRAY BEQUEST © VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM. ANNE OF DENMARK BY ISAACOLIVER, C. 1612 © NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERYLONDON.

# Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel timeout.com/art @timeoutart







**SHOW OF THE WEEK** 

# 'Elizabethan Treasures: Miniatures by Hilliard and Oliver'



BIG ISN'T ALWAYS better. Not here, anyway, because this is a show full of tiny paintings, and they are gorgeous – achingly small and stunningly intricate portraits of Elizabethan royals, courtiers and poshos by the masters of the form, Nicholas Hilliard and Isaac Oliver.

Miniatures (defined not by their size, weirdly, but by their medium of watercolour and bodycolour on vellum) were for the rich. They were shows of wealth for the commissioners, and shows of skill for the artists. These tiny works weren't for mass consumption, they were luxurious objects for the few. And the pieces by Hilliard and Oliver that have survived all these centuries are the most intimate, personal looks at Elizabethan life that exist.

# WHAT IS IT..

Tiny windows into the upper echelons of Elizabethan life.

#### WHY GO.

These stunning works of exquisite skill make for a beautifully meditative art experience.

→ National Portrait Gallery. ↔ Charing Cross. Until May 19. £10, £8.50 concs.

With magnifying glass in hand, you stumble through the darkened gallery, moving from case to case to go eye-to-eye with Sir Walter Raleigh (who, by the way, was well fit), Elizabeth I and the greatest poets and writers of the time. It's sort of like flicking through a 450-year-old copy of *Tatler* or *Hello!* But instead of the daughter of Lady Whatsherchops vomming outside Mahiki, it's the most dazzlingly detailed mini painting you'll ever see-the clothing, the skin, the eyes - it's staggering. This is as close as you'll ever get to Elizabethan celebs.

Close is the key. You're forced right up to the paintings to get the details. The best of them are expressive and witty, and many are full of symbolism: a bloke on a background of flames is burning

with desire, a bunch of fellas lean morosely against trees, some dude reaches for a hand emerging from a cloud. The portraits of the rich and royal are lovely, but these allusive works are the real gold.

Every image has some secret to share: wry smiles, furrowed brows, hidden carnations. Hilliard and Oliver were masters, creating worlds of indigo and azurite that suck you in. It's such a meditative, calm experience, peering into these ancient faces, you almost feel like you've been dragged back in time. Which is a good thing, because everyone looks great in a ruff.



By Eddy Frankel Who will never be even half as hot as Sir Walter Raleigh.



# **Franz West**



**FRANZ WEST TOOK** all the stuffy, conservative formality of the art world and told everyone where to shove it. The austere reverence of the gallery, the contemplative deification of the artist: West just couldn't be arsed with it.

Instead, the anarchic Austrian artist (1947-2012) created a body of work that's playful and ludicrous, that feels like one drink too many in a Viennese bar, the art equivalent of a hangover you somehow don't regret.

From the start, he was a bit of a bastard. Early drawings find him mocking the actionists, a dour group of older Viennese artists, and making collages out of porn mags.

His 'Passstücke' sculptures were his first real innovation: bendy, curving works you're meant to pick up and play with, turn into hats or spears or whatever. Frustratingly, most are too fragile to handle now, but a couple of steel ones are set aside for you to swing about or dance with, making you part of the artwork, conceptually and physically.

Even when he moves on to his 'Legitimate' sculptures – works displayed on plinths – he's still taking the piss, blowing raspberries at traditional ways of showing sculptures and at the seriousness of the art world. His furniture works push it even further, becoming places to recline and be lazy, because even lazy people can be artists.

His big sculptures, many of which are plonked outside, are the biggest up yours of all. Each colourful, twisting shape makes a joyful mockery of sour-faced public art.

Which is where the problem lies. By roping off most of the work, the curators have turned West's objects from things to play with, or that trigger thoughts, into historical trinkets of worship. It just lacks the fun you feel West would have been desperate for in a show like this.

And Franz West seems like he was a lot of fun. A drunken imbecile with a million brilliant ideas. It's all booze and papier-mâché and philosophy, and this show does a great job of dropping you into his life. You emerge into the daylight, bleary-eyed and stumbling, but knowing you just had the time of your life. ■ Eddy Frankel



# Erwin Wurm: 'New Work'



# Silly, funny but

somehow deadly serious sculptures and photos.

#### WHY GO..

Wurm knows how to make you look at your world differently, and a little stupidly.

→ Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac. ← Green Park. Until Mar 23. Free. IT'S HARD TO think deep thoughts when you've got a bucket on your head. But that's Austrian artist Erwin Wurm's big trick: he gets your brain going by pushing things into the absurd.

Wurm works best when he lets the simplicity of his art speak for itself. His now semi-iconic 'One-Minute Sculptures' series is the perfect example: 120 different poses anyone can hold that turn the body into a sculpture for just 60 seconds. They're captured in giant Polaroids here: a man with bottles tucked under his arms and between his legs, two women balancing an orange between their mouths, Wurm himself with a pencil jammed in each ear. They're dumb and basic but totally brilliant: everyday actions pushed just one step towards the absurd. They leave you wondering how close everything around you is to being a sculpture. You get to do one yourself, too. Plonk yourself in a bucket and hey presto, you're a sculpture.

But the main problem is how glum some of this feels. The Polaroids are so dark and overthought that they come across as a bit miserable. It takes a certain dour skill to make the act of putting a bucket on your head feel joyless.

But when Wurm gets going, he makes the mundane seem extraordinary, the everyday seem hilarious, and the basic seem fascinating. We could all use a bit of that. ■ Eddy Frankel

# **BEST OF THE BEST**

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



# ↑ 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.







# ↑ Diane Arbus: 'In the Beginning'

A powerfully affecting look at one of the most iconic photographers who ever lived. From freaks to geeks and everything in between, Arbus had a seriously brilliant eye.

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



# ↑ 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. Free.

Find even more art to see at **timeout.com/art** 



# Three spur-of-themoment foodie pilgrimages from London

Hungry for a spectacular spread? Hit the road and prepare for an unforgettable dining experience

e get it. In a city as rich with restaurants as London is, it's tempting to keep returning to your favourite local eateries. But the start of spring is all about fresh starts, right? Together with SEAT, we're bringing you three fabulous dining discoveries. Jump in the car and prepare for a taste of something wonderful.

# The Ethicurean, Somerset

How far? Three hours.

Calling this place a kitchen-garden restaurant is a bit like calling Buckingham Palace a big house. Set in picture-perfect Barley Wood Walled Garden (you eat in a converted Victorian greenhouse overlooking rolling hills), The Ethicurean serves stunning, hyper-seasonal

food, with vegetables as the focus. As the name suggests, sustainability is a part of the ethos, ethical sourcing is at the heart of the operation and most of the ingredients come from mere steps away.

**Order this** The menu changes every day but look out for the sea buckthorn and honey cake which is made from milling leftover bread.

# The Kings Head Inn, Bledington

How far? Two hours.

If you're after the Cotswolds Sunday roast to beat them all, look no further. Standing in the middle of the village green, overlooking a babbling brook and surrounded by miles of well-kept footpaths, this proper country pub serves perfectly cooked joints of beef, pork and lamb to share, carved at the table and accompanied by all the trimmings (including a fabulous cauliflower cheese).

The pub is dog-friendly, so four-legged buddies can join in the fun too.

**Order this** The roast, of course – but (if it's in season) you'd be forgiven for having your head turned by the local pheasant schnitzel.

# The Pig, Brockenhurst

How far? Two hours 15 minutes.

Sitting pretty at the gateway to the New Forest, The Pig is a cute country house hotel with bags of character, and a restaurant that prides itself on sourcing as much as possible from within a 25-mile radius. If you arrive between 3pm and 5pm, you'll be able to sit down to a teatime spread of home-made sandwiches and cakes, prepared with the finest local ingredients and served in a gloriously unstuffy way. Work up an appetite by going on a foraging walk beforehand: the hotel's resident forager will guide you on a hedgerow harvest or take you to the coast to hunt for edible seaweed.

**Order this** Stick to the theme – try the honey and mustard chipolatas or saddleback crackling with apple sauce.



# **Food**

Edited by Tania Ballantine

# **Pan-tastic**

Excited about March 5? Us too. Make sure your stack is extra special this Pancake Day with these super spots.

# THE GLUTEN-FREE ONE Apres Food Co

Like everything else at this gorgeous-looking, gluten-free Clerkenwell joint, the Americanstyle breakfast pancakes are nutritionally balanced. They're also made with organic oat milk and wickedly topped with just about anything you might fancy perhaps smoked streaky bacon, or even free-range sausages.

→ 72 St John St, EC1M 4DT. ↔ Barbican.

# THE HIPSTER ONE Ask For Janice

Local gins and bespoke cocktails keep the drinkers happy, but this super-friendly stripped-back bar/ café (named after an obscure Beastie Boys track) near the Barbican is also primed when it comes to dishing up buttermilk pancakes for breakfast. Your only choice is between sweet and savoury. The former means a topping of blueberries and Dorset Dairy yoghurt; the latter is all about bacon, maple syrup and pecans. → 50-52 Long Lane, EC1A 9EJ. ↔ Barbican.

# THE ALL-DAY ONE The Breakfast Club

Breakfast takes centre stage at this homage to John Hughes's cult movie. If you're hooked on Instagrammable novelties, you'll love the salted-caramel banoffee pancake dish with vanilla cream and chocolates auce.

→ Various locations across London

# THE AUSSIE ONE Farm Girl

Expect colourful interiors and sunny service at this cute café from Australian 'farm girl' Rose Mann. The pancakes here are made with buckwheat and buttermilk, and come topped with amber maple syrup, coconut shavings, berries and a sprinkle of candied pistachios.

→ 59a Portobello Rd, W11 3DB.
↔ Notting Hill Gate.

# THE TOURISTY ONE My Old Dutch

Founded in 1958 and now a mustvisit on London's tourist trail, this party-loving pancake house dresses up its garish offerings with seasonal specials and daily discounts (including 10% off for students). The sweet toppings are fairly standard (fruit salad, Nutella, berry compote etc), but savouries can be outlandish: think Moroccan lamb stew, or a dollop of chicken curry. → 131-132 High Holborn, WC1V 6PS. ↔ Holborn. (Branches also in Chelsea and Kensington.)

# THE DEEP-DISH ONE Where the Pancakes Are

A bright, buzzy spot on Flat Iron Square, WTPA deals in both sweet and savoury buttermilk varieties (anyone for '1,000 baby greens' or a combo of banana, praline and marshmallow?), as well as glutenfree and dairy-free versions. ■

→ 85a Southwark Bridge Rd, SE1 ONQ.

↔ Borough.





RM GIRL: ISSY CRO

P-p-p-pick up your pancakes at **timeout.com/pancakes** 

# Say hello to

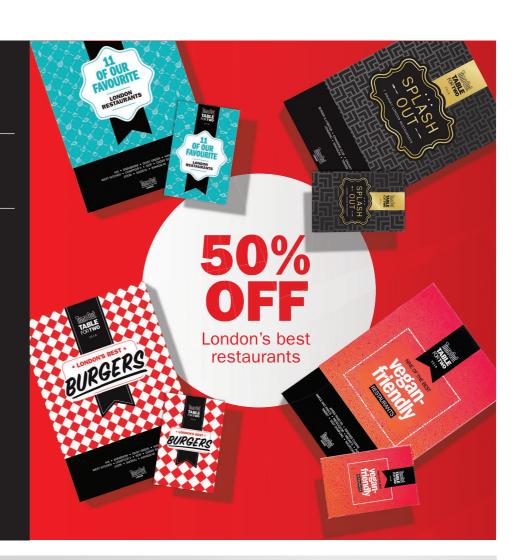
# TIME OUT TABLE FOR TWO

Nab <u>50% off</u> a meal for two at some of London's finest restaurants.

Burger fiend? Attempting veganism? Fancy splashing out? Wanna check out the new spots in town? Whatever your vibe – there's a box for you.

To find yours visit

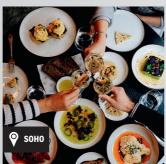
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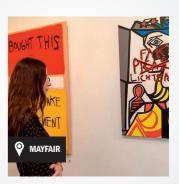
Sponsored Listing

# Going out? Try here.









#### BELLA VISTA SAYS:

N16 0AR.

'Bella Vista is passionate about Italian cuisine and authentic flavours. The menu offers classic dishes made with traditional Italian recipes and fresh ingredients that have been sourced with care.'
61 Stoke Newington Church St,

# HOVARDA

'Want to amp up the everyday? Turn your weekends into a celebration with the bubbly brunch menu from Aegean-inspired bar and restaurant, Hovarda. Enjoy food, bottomless bubbles and live DJ performances from 12pm until 4pm.' 36-40 Rupert St, W1D 6DW.

# **SOUTH PLACE CHOP HOUSE SAYS:**

'Serving seasonal cuts of meat and freshly caught fish, Chop House has an understated, dynamic menu. Savour the classic brunch (including free-flowing bubbles) on Saturdays and a traditional roast on Sundays (with bottomless red or white wine).' 3 South Place, EC2M 2AF.

## IMITATE MODERN GALLERY SAYS:

'A contemporary art space in the historical heart of Mayfair, Imitate Modern Gallery is edgy, friendly, intimate and recognised around the world. Head there to view amazing exhibits of work by emerging artists from across the globe.'

19 Shepherd Market, W1J 7PJ.

# **RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK**

# **Kutir**

→ 10 Lincoln St, SW3 2TS. Sloane Square.



**ONCE HOME TO** a frighteningly expensive tasting-menu-only restaurant from chef Vineet Bhatia (which famously closed within a week of gaining a Michelin star), this townhouse, on a quiet Chelsea street, has been reborn as Kutir. It's still a smart Indian – though cheaper than its predecessor – and is the first solo project from Rohit Ghai, one-time exec chef of JKS restaurants (Trishna, Gymkhana, Hoppers), Bombay Bustle and Jamavar. That's one hell of a pedigree.

Unsurprisingly, the food at Kutir is excellent. It's modern Indian but not faddish. Prettily plated, but not excessively cheffy. In short: just right. You'll struggle to order badly, but there were a few dishes that stood out. Like the sea bass curry, thick with plump mussels, heavy coconut cream and the mustardy kick of curry leaves. Which, at £16 for a main, was a steal. Another ace curry, officially a small plate, was made with nargisi kofta (minced spiced lamb and hard-boiled eggs), flecked with shimmering bone marrow. There was a yoghurty, herby fillet of tandoori stone bass, with curls of



crunchy squid and a dense underblanket of squidink rice. The breads were brilliant. As was the dhal. But please, pace yourself. Or you'll have to skip dessert. Which would be a shame, as the layered sago pudding, an exhibition of textures from set yoghurt to honeycomb to coulis, was dazzling.

Best of all, Kutir is atmospheric. On the night of my visit, the intimate front room, a mix of

Georgian splendour and sumptuous furnishings, was full of cheery thirtysomething pals and the odd dinner duo, wondering why their date was suddenly so attractive (thanks, low lighting). Kutir: a new destination for Chelsea. ■ Tania Ballantine

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

# The Open Kitchen at Mare Street Market

ightarrow 117 Mare St, E8 4RU. London Fields Overground.



**ON PAPER, MARE** Street Market is a confusing place: a restaurant, café, wine bar and deli where you can record a podcast, buy a plant and shop for antique furniture. In reality though, it's really just one big food hall-style dining room, with a couple of shops at the entrance and a café serving coffee and sandwiches by the door.

The Open Kitchen takes up most of the space – it's big, vibey and beautiful, with communal tables, soft couches and greenery everywhere you look. Don't veer off-track and end up eating at the slightly more formal Dining Room section (you'll see it – the ceiling is covered in antique chandeliers). Though it's lovely, the food is better, and cheaper, in the main area.



to blatantly tick all the millennial boxes it possibly can, Mare Street Market turned out to be a truly lovely place to hang out – so vibey you could stay for hours without getting bored. Did I mention the massive beer garden? Come summertime, it will be heaving with people fresh from London Fields. I for one, simply

cannot wait. ■ Kelly Pigram

Dinner for two with drinks and
service: around £60.

# WHAT IS IT... The casual dining

The casual dining section of Mare Street Market in London Fields.

# WHY GO...

For a plate of the pumpkin gnocchi. Creamy and comforting.

# EXCLUSIVE Head to Sin Tonica on

Head to **GinTonica** on Portobello Road with a friend and enjoy a G&T, plus six dishes to share, for just £40.

TIMEOUT.COM/GINTONICA

The menu has something for

everyone: burgers, salads, wood-

fired pizza and loads of hearty,

vegetarian-friendly options. The

pumpkin gnocchi with brown butter

and crispy sage is a must-try (it was

creamy and delicious; the perfect

winter comfort food), followed by a

crispy vegetarian scotch egg filled

While you may not expect much

with a moreish, spicy green dahl.

from somewhere with the nerve

# **Cocotte**



→ 8 Hoxton Square, N1 6NU. Hoxton Overground.

YOU MAY ALREADY know this French roast chicken specialist, as Cocotte also has a restaurant in Notting Hill and a takeaway outlet in Battersea. The Hoxton space is arranged over two compact floors, plus a terrace overlooking the square. On the ground floor, the main dining room is glass-fronted, with lightly painted brick walls and pale yellow velvet banquettes; the rotisserie is tucked behind a long bar.

The birds come in quarters, halves or whole. They're free range (from Évron in the Loire Valley), marinated for 24 hours, cooked and then finished off on the spit. The meat is decent; team it with roasted root veg or ratatouille, plus garlic mayo or gravy (avoid the slightly acrid barbecue sauce). There are sarnies too, though the truffle croque monsieur, made with chicken and emmental, was a touch bland. Instead, consider the fragrant chicken soup, which had real depth of flavour and plenty of veg. We also liked the satisfying, filling Bernadette lentil salad.

To finish, there was an irresistible chocolate and hazelnut tart, which tasted like high-class whipped Nutella, in a good way. Cocotte may be a little bit restaurant-by-numbers, but it's a decent formula, charmingly done and served with a smile. ■ Sarah Guy

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £65.

# WHAT IS IT...

A French rotisserie in Hoxton.

#### WHY GO...

For chicken soup so good, it's worth getting sick for.



# **EXCLUSIVE**

# CLUTCH



Save 33 percent on a boozy brunch at this quirky chicken joint in Hoxton – get brunch and endless tipples for just £20.

> TIMEOUT.COM/CLUTCH19



Ts&Cs apply

# THREE OF THE BEST

# **Battersea restaurants**

SW11's food scene is on the rise. Here are three of our fave places



#### BabaBoom \*\*\*\*

→ 30 Battersea Rise, SW11 1EE. Clapham Junction Overground.

WHAT IS IT... A classy kebab joint on Battersea Rise, with a bespoke charcoal grill and super fresh fillings.

WHY GO... For melt-in-your-mouth lamb pepped up with red onion, parsley and flame-blistered flatbread.



# Hatched \*\*\*\*

→ 189 St John's Hill, SW11 1TH. Clapham Junction Overground.

WHAT IS IT... A small, stripped-back modern

European restaurant on St John's Hill.

WHY GO... For the retro pain perdu pudding: spongy French toast with shards of honeycomb and velvety vanilla ice cream.



# Soif ★★★★

→ 27 Battersea Rise, SW11 1HG. Clapham Junction Overground.
WHAT IS IT... An atmospheric Gallic-leaning wine bar and small-plates spot on Battersea Rise.
WHY GO... For a big slab of perfect pink onglet steak (when it's on), served Parisian-style with frites on the side.

Find more SW11 gems at timeout.com/battersea



# Mele e Pere

Vermouth rookies can try the aperitivi bar at this Soho spot for two in-house vermouths or two-forone spritzes during happy hour. Connoisseurs, head to the basement for a library of the stuff—there are 34 from around the world, despite the restaurant's Italian roots and Italy being the drink's birthplace. Feeling fancy? A Mele Martini is made with truffle-infused white vermouth.

→ 46 Brewer St, W1F 9TF. ↔ Piccadilly Circus.



Find more of the good stuff at timeout.com/vermouth

# Vermuteria

If Melee Pere is the vermouth library, Vermuteria is the museum. The King's Cross café-bar pays homage to the ties between Italian vermouth brands and road-cycling teams, with branding, posters and photos on the walls. Also, geek out on vermouths listed by producer. Enjoy them over ice (from £4), or go for a cocktail with vermouth at its core, from negronis to spritzes.

ightarrow 38-39 Coal Drops Yard, N1C 4DQ. ightarrow King's Cross.

#### Sabor

Do it Barcelona-style at the ground-floor bar of Sabor, where you can pick at top tapas and savour vermouth on tap (they call it vermú here, as in Spain). The draught vermouth is a sweet red from La Rioja costing £5 a glass; served with a slice of orange and juicy green olives, it's like a glass of Costa Brava sunshine. There's also a selection of bottled reds and whites for more exploration.  $\rightarrow$  35-37 Heddon St, W1B 4BR.  $\leftrightarrow$  Piccadilly Circus.

# **Temper Covent Garden**

The Covent Garden branch of Temper is a temple to vermouth – which goes surprisingly well with the restaurant's other speciality, cheeseburger tacos. The range spans modern styles from global producers, including Belsazar from Germany (the word vermouth comes from the German

for botanical 'wormwood'), Regal Rogue from Australia and London's own Sacred.

#### The Mulwray

Achingly on trend, The Mulwray is pouring all the drinks you need to know about. That includes a succinct list of vermouths. We recommend using a trip here to see why the fortified wine has become the backbone of many a famous mixed drink – the 'bartender's choice' of cocktails includes a classic Vieux Carré and a Hanky Panky. → The Blue Posts, 28 Rupert St, W1D 6DJ. ↔ Leicester Square.

#### **El Vermut**

A bar outside of central London that is way ahead of the curve, El Vermut (another word for vermouth in Spanish) brings vinous revelry to SE15. It imports many of its bottles and all drops hail from the Iberian Peninsula. A list of 'algo especial' (something special) includes the first vermouth made using honey instead of sugar. See ya later, cerveza.

→ 28 Nunhead Green, SE15 3QF. Nunhead rail.



By Laura Richards Who vermouths to her own beat.

# Three breathtaking road trips worth dropping everything for

Stop making excuses: it's time to seize your next opportunity to get out of town and discover awe-inspiring landscapes, postcard-perfect towns and delicious local delicacies

ometimes, even the most dedicated Londoner needs a fresh perspective. We've teamed up with SEAT, and their new seven-seater Tarraco SUV, to bring you some swoonworthy UK getaways guaranteed to broaden your horizons. Just jump in the car and before you know it you could be feasting on the daily catch or relaxing in a spa. What are you waiting for?



#### Whitstable

How far? One hour 15 minutes.

Why go? The seaside town of Whitstable on the Kent coast is as pretty as they come, with multicoloured beach huts, a long stretch of shingle and pastel-painted shopfronts.

Plus, it's home to seriously fresh seafood.

Do this Set off along the surf for a walk across

**Do this** Set off along the surf for a walk across Tankerton Beach, before heading back into town. Warm up with a cuppa at Whitstable Castle's tea rooms or wander the town's pretty streets lined with indie shops and galleries. Pop into Fishslab Gallery for regularly changing exhibitions by local artists or Chappell Contemporary for modern prints at wallet-friendly prices.

Eat this Order butter-soaked lobster and piping hot chips from The Lobster Shack on the shingle, plates of sea-fresh oysters and locally caught fish at The Royal Native Oyster Stores or classic fish and chips from The Forge, a simple shack on the beachfront. Feeling fancy? Head a little way out of town and see if you can nab a table at Michelin-starred The Sportsman in Seasalter.

#### Bath

How far? Two hours ten minutes.

Why go? Honey-coloured Bath has been drawing in visitors since Roman times, thanks to the thermal spring that bubbles up under the city. The Roman Baths aren't for splashing about in these days, but there are plenty of places to wallow in warm waters, as well as pretty parks and an indie high street.

Do this Soak up Bath's fascinating history. Stroll around Prior Park Landscape Garden, promenade along the architecturally impressive Royal Crescent, pop into the Jane Austen Centre and take in the ancient Roman Baths. Then enjoy the city's more modern pursuits with a trip to Thermae Bath Spa, which boasts a stunning rooftop pool along with super-luxe facilities and treatment rooms.

**Eat this** Head to one of the oldest houses in the city for a famous Bath bunn. Sally Lunn's has been serving up sticky bunns for centuries. Like the vibe? Pop to the Pump Room for the kind of afternoon tea Jane Austen would have enjoyed.





WIN AN ADVENTURE!



#### We're giving away a fabulous weekend away in a new SEAT Tarraco

Imagine this: a SEAT Tarraco is delivered to your door. You and three friends drive to one of four spectacular locations of your choice – the Jurassic Coast, Bath and Bristol, Galloway Forest Park or the Lake District – and enjoy four days of amazing, curated experiences.

To enter, head to www.timeout.com/ whynotwin and tell us: If you could drop everything right now, where would you go and what would you do?

Clockwise from bottom left: inside the SEAT Tarraco, Island Café on St Michael's Mount, Bath

# **WEEKEND GETAWAY**

#### **South-west Cornwall**

**How far?** Five hours to Penzance.

Why go? There's nowhere quite like Cornwall, with its rugged, windswept coastline, surfers' beaches and pretty ports. Spend a weekend here and you'll discover quirky attractions, natural delights and creativity by the bucket (and spade) load.

**Do this** Discover the art that Cornwall's seaside light has inspired at Tate St Ives. Then don your walking boots and head off along the coastal path towards Zennor, passing tiny hamlets and ancient stone monuments as you go. Or you could have a go at riding the waves with St Ives Surf School on Porthmeor Beach. Jump back in

the car and drive to Land's End for awe-inspiring isolation before visiting the Minack Theatre, an open-air auditorium perched on cliffs with the ocean as its backdrop. It's stunning even if there isn't a performance on the day you visit.

**Eat this** You can't visit this county without eating a traditional Cornish pasty. Grab one from tiny SH Ferrell & Son in St Ives or feast on fresh crab sandwiches with an incredible view at the Island Café on St Michael's Mount. For sustainable and ethically sourced seafood, spend a dreamy evening at The Shore in Penzance, where the menu changes each day.

**Stay here** Cosy up in Artist Residence Penzance, where all the rooms are decked out with eclectic furniture, plush soft furnishings and fun, original artworks. Bag The Lookout for sea views, a logburner and a lush free-standing tub.





NO PEAK
FARES on
Friday afternoons!

# HAVE A WEEKEND AS LONG AS THIS GUY!



# **Escapes**

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott timeout.com/daytrips



# WAKE UP HERE

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING It's worth making the pilgrimage to this

Suffolk seaside town

for the fish and chips alone. Aldeburgh Fish & Chip Shop and The Golden Galleon are owned by the same family, so opt for whichever has the shorter queue. After securing your haul, take a short walk to the beach and enjoy your treasure with views out to the sea - just beware of the divebombing seagulls.

# The Wentworth



There are hundreds of holiday rentals in Aldeburgh, but if you want a hassle-free home for the night, head to The Wentworth at the end of the High Street. It's close enough to stumble back to if you've been left pale after one too many Suffolk ales, and rooms have big double beds to sink into after a long day of lounging on the beach. Opt for a sea view to wake up to the meditative spectacle of shingle beach and waves. Once you've had your daily quota of Zen, float down to the restaurant and tuck into some smoked haddock or an excellent cooked breakfast. Charlie Allenby

→ Aldeburgh, Suffolk. From £95 a night. www.wentworth-aldeburgh.com

# Aldeburgh

A perfect day in

Seaside walks, cosy pubs and the best fish and chips around

**ALDEBURGH IS THE** setting for a classical-music-heavy arts festival every June, but the Suffolk seaside spot is worth a visit even if that's not your jam. It's packed with little knick-knack troves and boutique shops, and has a handful of great food destinations too. What's more, you can plonk yourself down on Aldeburgh's long, stony beach, safe in the knowledge that you won't have to share it with a ton of strangers.

#### First up

You may have just arrived, but head out of town in the direction of a four-metre-high **scallop shell** on the beach. The sculpture, dedicated to famous former resident, composer Benjamin Britten, is a gentle ten-minute stroll away from the centre.

# Soak up the vibes

Aldeburgh is a great place for pottering, and there are plenty of potential pit stops along the **High Street** and **seafront**. **Aldeburgh Beach Lookout** hosts artists for regular residencies and the 100-year-old **Aldeburgh Cinema** is one of the country's oldest working cinemas.

# Stop for lunch

No picnic? Don't despair. **Slate** delicatessen has everything you need for a seaside feast – the chorizo scotch egg is a must. For a sit-down session, make a beeline for **The Lighthouse**. It serves fine fare without the stuffy service, and all of the ingredients are locally sourced – any fresher and it's still swimming in the sea.

#### Splash the cash

Pop in to **Burnett & Company** to gawp at its Scandi homeware. If you want to dress like a local, bag yourself some coastal garms at **0&C Butchers** or **Collen & Clare**. Don't forget to visit the **Adnams brewery shop** for some alcoholic essentials.

# **Drink like a local**

There are three traditional pubs in Aldeburgh, all owned by Southwold-based brewery Adnams.

The White Hart Inn – with its welcoming bar staff, fantastic beer and gin selection, and cosy fireside spots – is the best of the bunch. Secure yourself a booth or settle in the beer garden if the early spring sun has got its hat on. ■ Charlie Allenby

ightarrow Get there: two hours by train from London Liverpool Street to Saxmundham, then taxi or bus. Around two hours 30 minutes by car.



# The café that's banned disposable coffee cups

committed to your reusable coffee cup (and the 50p off at Pret)? There's still no denying the mindbogglingly huge number of cups cafés hand out every morning, just for them to be thrown away minutes later. Boston Tea Party, which first opened in Bristol almost 25 years ago, has been swerving single-use plastic for yonks, but last year upped its ethical game by becoming the UK's first coffee-shop

chain to ditch disposable cups.

Instead customers bring reusable cups, or they buy or borrow them using BTP's deposit scheme. So far the initiative has saved more than 100,000 disposable cups from landfill. Visiting Bristol anytime soon? Pop by to chug flat whites and feel zero guilt. You eco earth mother, you. ■ Ellie Walker-Arnott

→ Find Boston Tea Party cafés in Bath, Bristol and more locations. www.bostonteaparty.co.uk

# **LEAVE LONDON FOR**

# A giant pink pineapple



# **VISIT BERRINGTON HALL'S**

walled garden and you'll find a striking pink pineapple sitting pretty in the middle. Created by artists Heather and Ivan Morison and titled 'LOOK!LOOK!LOOK!', the structure was first imagined as a mini origami maquette referencing the hall's interior geometric shapes. Its pineapple-like appearance was a happy accident, which is bonkers considering the fruit was an indicator of wealth and power in the eighteenth century, when the hall was built, and the

estate was known for growing pineapples. The finished fruity pavilion reaches eight metres into the air with folds of pink mesh pulled across its timber frame. In the warmer months it serves as more than just a photo op, with workshops happening within it. Once you've look, look, looked, there are the rest of the grounds, designed by celebrated landscape gardener Capability Brown, and the mansion to explore. ■ Stephanie Hartman → Berrington Hall, Herefordshire. £12. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

# THREE OF THE BEST

# Houses for weekends away with mates



#### ↑ A seven-storey windmill

There's whimsy by the bucketload at this cute windmill retreat, which has everything a group of pals could wish for. The grade-II listed building packs in a heated pool, lawn games, pool table and games consoles, as well as panoramic vistas of the

Norfolk countryside from the viewing tower.

→ The Old Mill. Sleeps 16. From £190 per night. www.airbnb.co.uk



# ↑ A twelfth-century abbey

Get a taste of the monastic life at this abbey full of original features, like stone vaulted arches and open fireplaces. There's also a gorgeous green Aga, roll-top baths and hippie decor. Set in eight acres of Suffolk parkland, the secluded spot gives you and your mates plenty of space to party in.

→ Butley Priory. Sleeps 16. From £650 a night. www.airbnb.co.uk



# ↑ A medieval church

Hidden rooms, log burners and a giant trampoline are just three of the reasons you'd have a ball in this 1,000-year-old holy building. It's a grand party pad with stained-glass windows and an outdoor patio among the gravestones. ■ Lucy Lovell

→ Rishangles Old Church. Sleeps 12. From £350 a night.

www.airbnb.co.uk

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