

# TimeOut

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## LONDON



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This week's Time Out  
in no time at all

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# Hello, London

**Gail Tolley**  
London Editor



It's January and you're broke but that doesn't mean your lunch has to look like something served up at Fyre Festival (#notblessed). This week we want you to go out and try one of London's brilliant, budget food spots. Dismal cheese sandwiches are out. Fresh falafels, buttery rotis and hot salt beef bagels are very much in. Flick ahead to p22 for 19 superlative lunches, most for less than a fiver. You'll be feeling #blessed in no time.

## YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

Most of you were delighted when we announced this summer's Celine Dion Hyde Park gig. In the ballad queen's words: it's the power of loooove. But there's always one...

**'Thanks for the heads-up. I wouldn't want to go wandering across the park and into that by mistake.'**

*Dan C via Facebook*

Please yourself! Less controversial was the little river of green goo trickling down Grays Inn Road last week. Call Ghostbusters?

**'Gonna roll around in that good and proper, get me some superpowers.'**

*Dexter F via Facebook*

Causing similar excitement levels are this year's big art shows. One reader has the start of a cunning plan that'll get her in for free at one icon's National Portrait Gallery exhibition in the summer.

**'Cindy Sherman is one of my fave artists! And I look like her.'**

*Emma L via Facebook*

Plenty of people are in awe of the twinkly installations at this year's Winter Lights in Canary Wharf, but we found one less-than-glowing review. Ron clearly thinks all those LEDs are a bit dull.

**'In my opinion I don't think they are as impressive as last year's.'**

*Ron S via Facebook*

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# City life

Edited by James Manning  
@timeoutlondon

## A dosa history

**THE INDIA CLUB** is one of the city's most fascinating post-colonial relics: a bar, lounge and Indian restaurant (one of the UK's oldest) that's hardly changed in 65 years. Last summer it was saved from redevelopment, and this week the National Trust opens an on-site exhibition which explores its history and celebrates the survival of a London institution. Opened on this site in 1964 by the India League, which had campaigned for the former British colony's independence, the India Club became a first port of call for new arrivals from the subcontinent and a hub for the capital's burgeoning Asian community. **'A Home Away from Home: The India Club'** is an immersive oral history consisting of interviews with club regulars over the decades plus archive photos and documents. You can book in for a series of themed supperclubs and cooking classes too – because history is always better with snacks. ■

James Manning

→ Hotel Strand Continental, 143 Strand. ☎ Temple.  
Wed Jan 30-Mar 1. Free, booking required.



## THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



### Eat this

Ace guest chefs, including DJ BBQ and Club Mexicana's Meriel Armitage, will invade **Berber & Q Shawarma Bar** for a plant-based **Pita Party** this Sunday: all veggie, all delicious.



### Sign this

Trouble at classic Soho boozier **The Coach & Horses**: owner Fuller's is ending the long-serving landlord's lease in June. Sign the pub's petition to join the fight for the eccentric status quo.



### Book this

The V&A's summer exhibition **'Food: Bigger Than the Plate'** explores the science and design of what we eat, and you can get a tasty 40 percent off advance tickets with the code **FOOD40**.

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



# MOST GOOGLED How do I make friends in London?



**GOT ANY PLANS** for tonight? If you're gearing up for another solo Netflix sesh, you're not the only one. Loads of Londoners have been turning to old mate Google for advice on finding pals in the capital. And after our 2018 City Life Index found that one in three Londoners has felt lonely in the last 24 hours, we can't say we're surprised.

The good news is that the internet is full of suggestions. A quick search will reveal tips that range from the practical (joining a sports team or going to meet-ups with folks who share your interests) to the eyebrow-raising (friendly swingers extending open invitations to their wife-swapping clubs). You'll also find a healthy number of Redditors extolling the virtues of chewing your face off in a nightclub chillout room.



But, according to Sarah Stein Lubrano at The School of Life, making new friends is not about what you do; it's about having great chat. Specifically, being brave enough to get deep.

'It's important not to stay on the surface in a conversation, because you don't really make a friend that way,' she advises. 'In our class on "How to Be Sociable", we encourage people to think about "conversational crossroads", where you can move from having a surface conversation to talking about feelings. That's how important connections are made.'

So, lonely Londoners, the secret to making friends is to crack that frown and really open up to people. Though maybe don't try it on the tube tomorrow morning. ■

*Rose Johnstone*

Find cool stuff to do with new friends at [timeout.com/thingstodo](https://www.timeout.com/thingstodo)

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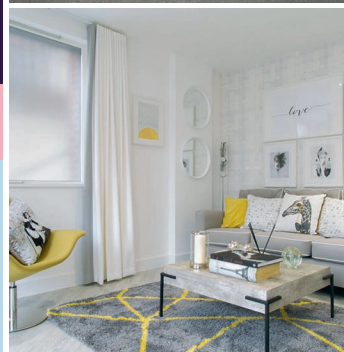
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# WORD ON THE STREET

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

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

## Kitchen porter

Tauland Babi, 33

**If you can't stand the heat...  
don't worry, you'll get used to it**

'As kitchen porters, we work in a small space with a few dishwashers on all the time. It gets quite warm in there, and it was a shock at first, but when you're working full-time it becomes familiar. At least we're not running about like the servers!'

**London diners don't seem fussed  
about food waste**

'Being in the pot wash, you see all the waiters bringing down guests' plates with leftover food. All the waste is separated and recycled here, which is good, but it's shocking to see what people can't eat because they've over-ordered or got too full too quickly.'

**London restaurant kitchens are a  
microcosm of the multicultural city**

'Before working here at Sticks'n'Sushi, I wouldn't have known how to approach certain cultures. But I now understand how to communicate with people based on where they're from, because there are so many cultures and nationalities here. Working in a sushi restaurant, we have to learn a bit of Japanese on the side too.'



**Loads of people can't use chopsticks**

'We have alternative cutlery for people who aren't good at using chopsticks, but it is funny to see how many guests need to use it throughout the shift. I always find out, because waiters regularly come down to see if I can wash up some more cutlery quickly for a guest!'

**Waiters do whatever it takes to keep  
going through long shifts**

'There's one member of staff who comes down to the pot wash and sings Italian opera for us. It's strange but hilarious. I think he gets a lot of fun out of it, and it distracts us all for a while.' ■

*Interview by Amira Arasteh*

→ Sticks'n'Sushi, 11 Henrietta St. ☉ Covent Garden.

'I failed Dry January  
before January began.'

**'I'm having a really  
phallic evening.'**

'I've just come out of  
there. My face feels like  
a disco ball!'

**'I don't want to sit in  
the Science Museum  
with a condom on  
my hand.'**

'Oh my God, I saw that...  
your Snapchat of your  
fart. Oh my God.'

**'Yes, I was sick  
into my Le Creuset  
casserole dish.'**

'No, I wouldn't ask your  
father for your hand.  
It's you I'm marrying,  
not him.'

**'He'll be laughing out  
of his ear holes!'**

'His personality is  
banging, but he needs  
to change his face.'

**'That is really  
unstereotypical  
of what I think of  
as a stereotype.'**

'Kebab lettuce is like  
sad confetti.'

Overheard any outré exchanges? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon





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# LONDON MAPPED



## How stressed is your borough?

**LONDON IS PRETTY** stressful, right? And now we know exactly how stressful, according to a new study by private healthcare provider Babylon Health. Using the TensiStrength research tool, Babylon analysed 5 million tweets sent from across the UK for signs of stress, then calculated the percentage of stressed tweets coming out of each local authority – including each London borough.

Perhaps surprisingly, inner-city Tower Hamlets is the least-stressed part of London. But its East End neighbour Barking & Dagenham – one of London's lowest-earning boroughs – is burnout central. Money isn't everything, though: high-earning Richmond and Islington both make the top five.

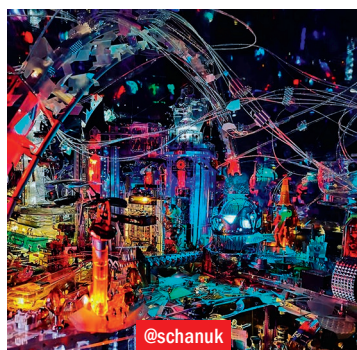
And although complaining about stress is a time-honoured London pastime, it could be worse. You could be living in Hemel Hempstead, identified by Babylon as the most stressed place in Britain. ■ *James Manning*

→ [www.babylonhealth.com/c/national-stress](http://www.babylonhealth.com/c/national-stress)



## THE VIEW FROM YOU

## What Time Out Tastemakers have been Instagramming this week



'The #winterlights return to @canarywharflondon. This one uses salvaged computer parts.'



'What every morning should start like... thanks for having me @thegentlemenbaristas.'



'An afternoon well spent  
overlooking London  
@hornimanmuseumgardens.'



‘The Jive Party in the incredible 1950s @rivoliballroom really is a fabulous night.’

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# THE VERY BEST OF Waterloo and the South Bank

Want to dodge the commuters and tourists and discover another side of the riverside? Check out these local insider tips from Time Out Tastemakers

→ [Waterloo. timeout.com/waterloo](https://www.timeout.com/waterloo)



## BEST CHEAP EAT

**'Mamuśka'** is now in Leake Street and does fabulous Polish food!' *Melissa Goldsmith*

**'Marie's Café'** for an insanely good pad thai.' *Ioanna Laskari*

**'Yamagoya'** signature ramen never disappoints, with gooey boiled eggs, perfect pork chashu and delicious broth.' *Hannah Summersfield*

**'GoGo Pocha'** serves Korean food, piping hot at best-value prices.' *Manmeet Singh*

## BEST PUB

**'Mulberry Bush.'** Such a lovely, homely feel!' *Leena Shah*

**'Vaulty Towers'** is a great find, with crannies decorated like tree houses, military bunkers and spaceships!' *Debbie Hopper*

**'The King's Arms'** is a tiny Georgian pub on the corner of a terrace on Roupell Street, a pocket of old London hidden in plain sight.' *Sarah Blaikie*

## BEST BAR

**'Bar Elba.'** Who doesn't love a rooftop bar, especially one open in winter?' *Sophie Berkoff*

**'The Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden'** bar is the best place to have a few drinks with friends, with stunning views of the Thames.'

*George Christodoulakis*

**'Topolski'** has a great atmosphere, a good happy hour and delicious cocktails.' *Emily Parsons*

**'Cubana':** head there in the wee hours and get acquainted with the cocktail menu and the dancefloor.' *Sarah Blaikie*

**'Tonight Josephine'** has neon signage, mirror ceilings, French sass and a flamboyant cocktail list.' *Annette Boateng*

## BEST THING TO INSTAGRAM

'Without a doubt, **Leake Street graffiti tunnel.** Every time you go it's different, and I love watching people spray-painting.' *Emily Parsons*

'At sunset, stand in the middle of **Waterloo Bridge** and face the City for an epic view of London.' *LeeLee Seah*

## BEST PLACE FOR COFFEE

**'Scootercaffè,'** where cappuccino is served in authentic Italian cups and there's the occasional

cat chilling on a chair.' *Marianna Meloni*

**'Travelling Through'** bookshop has a cute little café in the basement where you can enjoy some stories with a cup of joe.' *Manmeet Singh*

## BEST PLACE FOR CULTURE

'At the **BFI Mediatheque** you can watch old silent movies, war propaganda films, Hammer horror... there is so much choice!' *Julie Ramsden*

**'The Old and Young Vics'** feel like playgrounds for the most celebrated actors and directors in London.' *Sarah Blaikie*

'Book a backstage tour at the **National Theatre** to stroll through the dressing rooms and see where the props are built.' *George Christodoulakis*

**'The Vaults,'** with its glorious theatre festival and many other cool events throughout the year.' *Marianna Meloni*

## BEST PLACE FOR FUN

'Indulge your inner six-year-old with rounds of air hockey, a bucket of Slush Puppie and reams of worthless tickets at **Namco Funscape**, the biggest arcade in London.' *Sarah Blaikie*

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## MY LONDON STORY

Artist and craftsperson *Carrie Reichardt* has spent almost 20 years transforming her house on a quiet Chiswick street into a mosaic-covered wonder



### ‘I decided to mosaic the entire house’

**I’VE ALWAYS TURNED** to art as a form of personal therapy, and after a mental health crisis in 1995, making art became an important way to deal with my emotions. I discovered mosaicking, finding it so meditative that I switched my fine art practice to include crafts. Then, in 2000, my partner encouraged me to mosaic the patio of our Chiswick house, and I made the decision to mosaic the entire house.

I started with the entrance around the door, creating a design based on the Indian textiles that I’d encountered as a community artist working in Southall. After that I worked on the lower sections of the front of the house, then the back wall facing on to the garden, helped by my colleagues from community arts collective LivingSpace Arts.

My art practice changed in the early 2000s when I started writing to Luis Ramirez, who was on death row in the US. I was so traumatised by his execution in 2005 that I worked on a mosaic tribute to him on the back wall for eight months. It was unveiled on what would have been Luis’s forty-third birthday and we closed the street when his family came to see it.

That was the first moment I used arts and crafts as a tool for activism and political protest. It was my only way of dealing with the injustice: if I was going to make art, I may as well make it meaningful. Whenever you create public art, there’s a steering committee that oversees things. However small the work is, there’s always censorship. I was so tired of people saying what I could and couldn’t do that I decided to make my house a piece of public art instead.

I dedicated the back of my house to injustice by referencing my pen pals in prison: political prisoners including the Angola Three and Black Panther Kenny ‘Zulu’ Whitmore, who was represented by a flying eyeball. This section was completed with the help of a whole heap of artist friends, activists and volunteers.

By 2008, the back of the house was completed. It wasn’t until 2017 that I put out a call for other artists to join me to finish the front. My friend, the Chilean artist Isidora Paz López, offered to work on it for a week and I had at least another 30 artists from 12 countries join in, either physically working on the walls or sending a mosaic. With

their help, I finally completed the work – called ‘The Treatment Rooms’ – last year.

Some people initially objected to the house and even set up a petition, but in the past 20 years, only three people have told me personally that they don’t like it. My next-door neighbour even had me mosaic part of her front wall! A lot of people love the house and even those who don’t like the design appreciate the time, skill and labour that’s gone into it. People I don’t know make the journey to visit – whenever I come out of the door, there are people taking pictures.

Art is a powerful way we can open dialogue on difficult, painful conversations. When you’re collecting signatures for political campaigns, you just collect them from people who already think the way you do. But art engages people in a whole different way. It shows us our common humanity and unites people. ■ *Interview by Layla Haidrani*  
→ [www.carriereichardt.com](http://www.carriereichardt.com)

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# FREE LONDON

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



THE LION AND THE UNICORN, 2012. © RACHEL MACLEAN. COMMISSIONED BY EDINBURGH PRINTMAKERS AND FUNDED BY CREATIVE SCOTLAND.

## BRAVE ART

### Rachel Maclean: 'The Lion and The Unicorn'

We might be thinking about the prospect of *another* referendum, but it was the lead-up to the 2014 Scottish independence vote that inspired this Rachel Maclean exhibition. It's a surreal and sardonic takedown of the Anglo-Scottish relationship. Catch it before it closes this week.

→ National Gallery. ☹ Charing Cross. Until Sun Feb 3.

## DREAM PIG

### China Lates

See Chinese artefacts that aren't usually on display, learn about the longstanding affection for the Brontë sisters in China (who knew?) and make paper fortune cookies at the Science Museum's celebration of Chinese culture.

→ Science Museum. ☹ South Kensington. Wed Jan 30.

## CLEAR SHOT

### 'The Water Effect'

One in nine people around the world don't have water close to home. WaterAid is raising awareness of this crisis with an exhibition featuring portraits of people whose lives are directly impacted by the global water crisis.

→ Rich Mix. Shoreditch High St Overground. Until Feb 27.

## #FAKENEWS

### 'Pre-Presidential Library'

Remember when The Donald was just a rich guy with dodgy hair? This mini exhibition features US tabloid covers about Trump from before he was president, raising questions about what makes the front page.

→ Hayward Gallery. ☹ Waterloo. Until Mon Feb 4.

## HOT TO TROT

### Chinese New Year

See in the Year of the Pig at this Museum of London Docklands celebration. Learn martial arts, listen to Chinese folk tales and have a go on traditional instruments. They're going the whole hog.

→ Museum of London Docklands. ☹ Canary Wharf. Sat Feb 2-Sun Feb 3.

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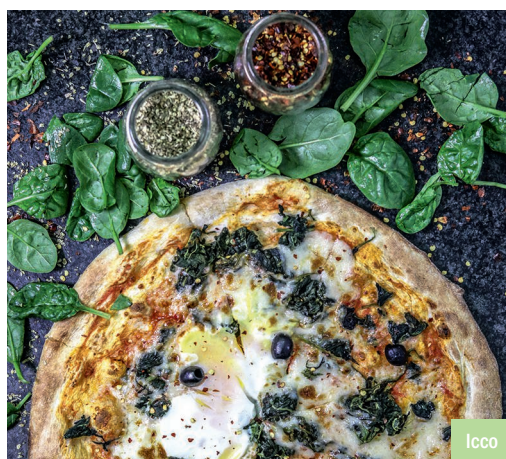
## SOHO & COVENT GARDEN



Bun House



Tongue & Brisket



Icco

### Salt beef sandwich

**Tongue & Brisket, £5.90**

From the outside, Tongue & Brisket doesn't look like much. In fact, you'd be forgiven for strolling straight past were it not for the steaming hunk of cow in the window. You've got to go in, though, because T&B makes one of the finest sarnies in town. Sinfully moist beef is stacked on to fragrant, caraway-flecked rye bread. Factor in some fiery mustard and a few pickled cucumbers and that's that. Feeling flush? Add a scattering of sauerkraut for less than a quid extra. *Tom Howells*  
→ 199 Wardour St. ☎ Tottenham Court Rd.

### <£5 Any two buns Bun House, £2.50 each

This tiny Chinese eatery is one of Soho's most underrated spots – and not just because of its pretty jade tiling, cool marble floors and steaming bamboo baskets. Nope, the star here is the bun itself: sealed in the Cantonese style (unlike the open Taiwanese sort you get at Bao) and stuffed with slow-cooked meats and sweet bits. For a tasty £5 lunch, get two. We'd go for cumin-spiked lamb and the killer red choc number (the latter is laced with blood, btw). *TH*  
→ 24 Greek St. ☎ Covent Garden.

### <£5 Any pizza Icco, £3.95-£7.20

From high-flying execs to students to tourists – one thing brings all Londoners together: very good pizza. No wonder Icco is one of the few places in central London that attracts all walks of life. Here you can pick from one of the wide range of preset 11-inch pizzas or choose your own toppings. Then you receive a buzzer and wait. Within minutes you'll be called to receive one of the finest crispy-yet-soft pizzas in the neighbourhood. *Riaz Phillips*  
→ 46 Goodge St. ☎ Goodge St.





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# LONDON BRIDGE, WATERLOO AND ELEPHANT & CASTLE



Gujarati Rasoi



Cantina Carnitas



Theo's

## <£5 Gnocchi with nutmeg butter MOST INDULGENT

**Padella, £4**

Our apologies to London's other artisanal pasta specialists but Padella remains king. Years down the line, this London Bridge joint still draws queues every day, and for very good reasons: it's stooped good and stinking cheap. Just £5 will get you a plate of tagliarini with chilli, garlic and breadcrumbs. Better still, go for a pile of pillowy gnocchi slathered in nutmeg butter (£4) and some house sourdough with decent oil (£2). That, my dudes, is a good-value quality-carb coma. *TH*  
→ 6 Southwark St. ⊕ London Bridge.

## <£5 Quesadilla Cantina Carnitas, £5

Got a hole that only a quesadilla can fill? Get a crispy, gooey, folded tortilla from this converted food truck. Think monterey jack heaped over hearty black beans and soft slow-cooked meats and veg. This Mexican grilled-cheese sandwich is best served with a big dollop of fresh guacamole, punchy salsa and sour cream on the side, but don't forget a puddle of CC's signature jalapeño and tomatillo sauce too. *Angela Hui*  
→ 77 Union St. ⊕ Borough.

## <£5 Panuozzo 'oven sandwich' Theo's, £5

Bored of Pret's toastie line-up? Theo's lunch-special panuozzo are 'oven sandwiches': pizza dough folded over pitch-perfect fillings such as sausage with sweet peppers, mozzarella and capers or roast aubergine with more mozzarella, sweet datterini toms and rocket. They're basically sauceless, unsealed calzone and, ergo, are *secret pizzas*. The kind of statement to set Neapolitan purists on the warpath? Possibly. A delicious mega-bargain at £5? Absolutely. *TH*  
→ 17-18 Elephant & Castle. ⊕ Elephant & Castle.



Padella

## Veggie thali box BEST VEGGIE OPTION Gujarati Rasoi, £6.50

Say a big green hello to veggie food that even the most carnivorous Londoner can get behind. Gujarati Rasoi's simple Borough Market stall dishes up authentic Indian thali boxes that overflow with brash flavours. Inside you'll find a mixture of basmati rice, yoghurt and tamarind sauce with the curry of the day (cauliflower, lentil or chickpea). It's such a massive portion that it'll easily keep you going till dinnertime. A word of warning, though: avoid the midday rush or risk queuing for your entire lunch break. *AH*  
→ Borough Market. ⊕ London Bridge.

## <£5 Falafel wrap Falafel Rush, £3.50-£4.50

This under-the-radar enterprise does the best falafel wraps in town. The little chickpea balls that are dished out here are fried twice to ensure extra crispiness. Then they're nestled into a lightly toasted wrap with vibrant fresh salad, pickles and a shedload of chips (plus whatever sauce you please). It's carb-on-carb-on-carb madness that'll leave you useless for anything other than digesting. But, god damn, it's worth it. *AH*  
→ Lower Marsh Market. ⊕ Waterloo.





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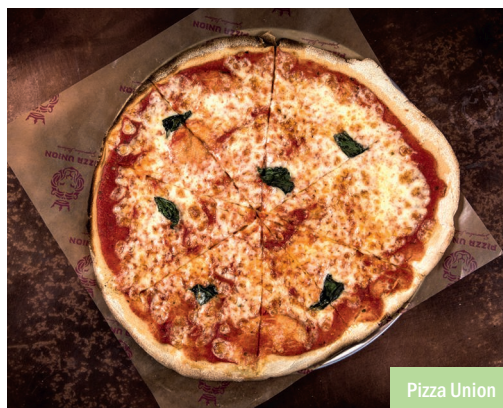
## What's for lunch?



Roti King



Bodega Rita's



Pizza Union

## KING'S CROSS & EUSTON

### <£5 Roti canai Roti King, £5

While Roti King is still relatively unknown to most, you'll still find queues of superfans snaking outside this cult Malaysian spot (often recognising each other from previous trips). First-timers should start with the unbeatable roti canai. The bargain £5 meal includes a bowl of creamy, mildly spicy lentil dhal accompanied by two delightfully light roti. Use them to scoop up every last drop of the curry. If done right, there shouldn't be a speck left in the container after just a couple of minutes. *RP*

→ 40 Doric Way. ☹ Euston.

### <£5 Margherita pizza Pizza Union, £3.95

Public service announcement: you can get a whole 12-inch margherita pizza for just £3.95 at Pizza Union. The pizza chain's restaurants might look a bit basic, but they're known for churning out fire-baked Roman-style pizzas at super-fast speeds and super-low prices. That's thanks to using especially thin bases, which handily also means the pizzas don't feel too extravagant a meal to have as a working lunch. Plus, you can upgrade your marg with mushrooms and thyme for only a quid more, if you're feeling fancy. *AH*

→ 246-250 Pentonville Rd. ☹ King's Cross.

### The Highway Dan BEST HANGOVER CURE Bodega Rita's, £6.50

Culinary power couple Missy Flynn and Gabriel Pryce have been serving up a delicious take on America's cuisine for nearly a decade. Their latest deli might be smaller than their previous homes, but the same can't be said for the flavours packed into their immense sandwiches. The Highway Dan is a sourdough bap overflowing with hot bean-laden eggs, celery and cress. It has enough protein to see you through the day. (Although that won't stop you craving another one as soon as you've scoffed the first.) *RP*

→ Unit 114, Lower Stable St. ☹ King's Cross.





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# SHOREDITCH & THE CITY

### <£5 **Quiche lorraine** Café Sou at The Ned, £4

Soho House's gargantuan and gaudy hotel complex is many things (literally: there are eight restaurants and two bars), but cheap ain't one of them. Unless you make for the back entrance and Café Sou. It's a sort of informal Parisian railway caff, albeit a plush one, offering ace Gallic picnic food. The absolute blinding apex? Quiche lorraine. This juddering, cheesy, piggy slab is one of the finest savoury pastries in London. The best bit? It's yours for £4 a pop. *TH*

→ 27 Poultry. ☹ Bank.

### <£5 **Mini salmon set** Sushi Surprise, £4.50

The real surprise at this takeaway between Shoreditch and the City is how cheap the high-quality sushi is. Its founders are chefs who trained at the best sushi restaurants in London and the fish they use is delivered fresh at six in the morning every day, so rest assured you're going to get the good stuff. The menu ranges widely – with loads of veggie options – but the mini salmon set should be your go-to. Consisting of four salmon-avocado maki and two salmon nigiri, it's a filling and nutritious lunch. First-time visitors even get a complimentary surprise sushi from the chef.

*Itadakimasu! AH*

→ 52 Scrutton St. Shoreditch High St Overground.

### <£5 **Salt beef sandwich** Beigel Bake, £4.60

This 24-hour bakery is an East End institution, and deservedly so. The Brick Lane bagel shop with the white sign serves up New York-style bagels that are so chewy and moreish they're the stuff of legend. And while the store is known as a perfect stopping-off point for a post-booze, late-night snack, it's also great for powering you through an afternoon at work. Go for one of the salt beef sandwiches: the bagel-to-filling ratio is obscenely generous, and you can add a giant gherkin or some mustard to up the acidity. A truly holey experience. *AH*

→ 159 Brick Lane. Shoreditch High St Overground.

### **The Boateng** Jollof Box, £6.50

There's plenty of global lunch fare to be found in Spitalfields, but Jollof Box is one of the few culinary bastions of West Africa. The family-run stall serves up Nigerian dishes and is fronted by matriarch Sade. She champions her own brand of tomato and spice-based jollof rice, honed over four decades. Meals here are named after famous African footballers (The Drogba, The Yaya, The Kanu...) and it's the hearty vegan Boateng that's the top goalscorer. Featuring seasoned black-eyed beans and sweetcorn casserole alongside sweet plantain, it offers a diversity of flavours that puts it in the premier league. *RP*

→ Old Spitalfields Market, Horner Square, Lamb St (Mulberry Gate).  
☹ Liverpool St.



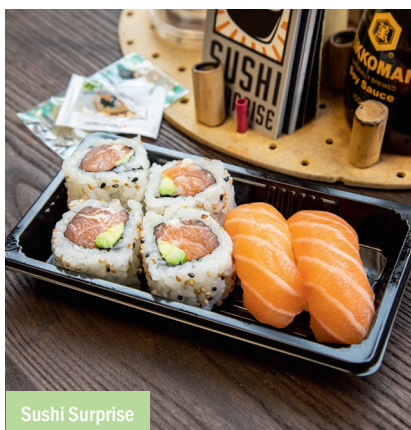
Beigel Bake



Café Sou



Jollof Box



Sushi Surprise

### <£5 **Meal deal** Legacy Caribbean, £5

Bricks-and-mortar Caribbean food spots are relatively hard to find in this part of town (or anywhere in central London, for that matter). Luckily, the Legacy Caribbean food truck, formerly known as Shades, has stepped (or driven) in to fill the gap, flying the Jamaican flag high. Meal deal offerings here include jerk and barbecue chicken with sweet chilli sauce, curried mutton, oxtail and escoveitch fish – all served up with your choice of white rice or classic Caribbean rice and peas. Vegans aren't left out either: no corners are cut with Legacy's flavoursome curried chickpeas. *RP*

→ 100 Hoxton St. Hoxton Overground.





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## HAMMERSMITH & WHITE CITY

### Pierogi

**Café Maja at Posk, £5.20-£5.50**

Some of west London's best dumplings can be found at the back-to-basics caff located in the Polish Social & Cultural Association (Posk). The pierogi at Café Maja are comforting, soft and pillowy. There's an endless list of fried and boiled parcels on offer at this Hammersmith gem, stuffed with all sorts, from cabbage to roast pork to a sweet strawberry filling. Go load up your plate – there ain't no party like a pierogi party. *AH*

→ 238-246 King St. ☺ Ravenscourt Park.

### Caribbean roti **BYO TUPPERWARE**

**Rainforest Creations, £6**

The duo behind Rainforest Creations are striving to bring the produce of the rainforest to the UK while educating Londoners about its various health benefits. Offerings here include various boxes (£7) and pots (£4) featuring a rainbow of vegetation and pulses. But if you're looking to be instantly transported to the West Indies, you'll want to tuck into the Caribbean roti (£6). It's chock-full of sweet plantain, leafy greens, avocado and Rainforest's special houmous. *RP*

→ Lyric Square. ☺ Hammersmith.

### <£5 Vegetable roti **BEST VEGAN OPTION**

**Roti Joupa, £3-£4.50**

While Roti Joupa's branches are sometimes mistaken for Indian curry houses, the soca music floating out confirms that the family behind them hails from Trinidad & Tobago. The curry goat roti is always a hit, but those seeking a less sleep-inducing option should look no further than the vegan combo, which offers the choice of curry aloo (potato), channa (chickpea), garlic bodi (string beans), pumpkin or all of the above, wrapped up tight in a roti. Add tamarind sauce to whatever you get, and grab lots of napkins. *RP*

→ 58 Goldhawk Rd. ☺ Goldhawk Rd.



Café Maja



Rainforest Creations



Roti Joupa

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# Out of office

**No one wants to eat sad sarnies at their desk.  
Alice Westoby picks the best activities to  
make the most of your lunch hour**

## 1 Create an arty masterpiece

The National Gallery runs free, hour-long sketching classes every Friday. Each session focuses on a different painting, which you'll use as a starting point for your own artwork. Don't panic, you're not expected to recreate van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' in an hour but hey, it might just be good enough to make it on to your fridge.

→ National Gallery. ☉ Charing Cross. Next date: Fri Feb 1, 1pm. Free, but donations welcome.

## 2 Catch a classical concert

Bring some sophistication to the middle of your day at a free classical music recital at St James's Church Piccadilly. You can expect to see everything from cello ensembles to solo pianists. Makes a change from listening to your Spotify Daily Mix on repeat.

→ St James's Church Piccadilly. ☉ Piccadilly Circus. Next date: Wed Jan 30, 1.10pm. Free, but donations welcome.

## 3 Go back to school

Don't just feed your stomach at lunchtime, feed your mind too. University College London hosts free, 45-minute talks on all kinds of subjects for its Lunch Hour Lectures series.

The talks tackle big topics in a small amount of time so they're a good way of keeping up with important issues without subjecting yourself to reading endless news about the dreaded b-word.

→ Darwin Lecture Theatre, University College London. ☉ Goodge St. Next date: Tue Jan 29, 1.10pm. Free, but ticketed.

## 4 Get sporty (kind of)

No one wants to spend their lunch hour in the gym, so pretend you're being 'active' with a game of table tennis instead. Round up your colleagues for a sesh at ping pong bar Bounce, which opens at lunchtime on Fridays. And if the boss asks why you've been in a bar at noon, tell them table tennis is a sport so you're technically burning off those pints...

→ Multiple locations. £6 per person.

## 5 Learn something new

Pull your eyeballs away from the computer screen and learn about ancient cultures at the British Museum's free gallery talks. Upcoming topics range from Greek mythology to a session on love tokens. Trust us, it'll be way more interesting than your GCSE history classes.

→ British Museum. ☉ Holborn. Next date: Tue Jan 29, 1.15pm. Free.

## 6 Chill out

Escape lunchtime small talk with your colleagues and take some time to really relax at Inner Space. The Covent Garden-based meditation centre hosts free, 30-minute lunchtime sessions and stressed-out City workers can join in at Templeton House near Moorgate. The classes aim to relax the mind and body – and you'll hopefully miss the lunchtime rush to use the office microwave too.

→ Inner Space. ☉ Covent Garden. Next date: Wed Jan 30, 1pm. Free, but donations welcome.

## 7 Take up martial arts

If you're one downward-dog-filled yoga class away from tearing up your gym leggings, make t'ai chi your new chilled-out activity. Pop Brixton hosts weekly workouts that focus on circulation, flexibility and core strength. The classes are drop-in and totally free, so you've got no excuse not to go. ■

→ Pop Brixton. ☉ Brixton. Next date: Mon Feb 4, 12.30pm. Free.

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**THE WONDERFUL EVERYDAY**



# On a roll

As a new roller disco opens in London, *Leonie Cooper* looks back at the twists and turns of rollerskating's history in the city (and how Winston Churchill was an unlikely skate hero)



**Wheely good**  
Rollerskaters in Hyde Park in 1980 (left) and signs pointing to Putney Roller Skating Rink in 1911 (below)

**IT'S THE OPENING** night of the brand new Roller Nation rink in Bruce Grove – the village-like nubbin north of Seven Sisters – and all human life is here, spinning around to Chaka Khan, Chic and Stevie Wonder. There's a young woman with a clip-on bushy tail, suave men with fedoras and the first leg warmers I've seen in the wild beyond the heady days of electroclash. And *everyone* is smiling.

Ever since the first boot with wheels made its worldwide debut onstage in a London theatre in 1743, the capital has had numerous love affairs with rollerskating. The footwear was even patented in London. Although inventor John Joseph Merlin seriously injured himself while showing off by playing the violin and skating at the same time – his boots didn't have brakes.





# Rollerskating

**Round, round baby**  
Rollerskaters at a rink in Bayswater in 1980 (left) and at Silverspoons rink in Wembley in 2008 (right). The latter is still open



Fast forward a century or so and there were 50 rinks in London and counting. At venues such as Clapham Road's opulent Marble Rink (opened in 1878), young people could indulge in a spot of exercise and, more importantly, flirt with each other away from the prying eyes of their parents. By the 1950s Brixton had a rink that would blare out Fats Domino records. And Hammersmith's Starlight was the first of many spangly London roller discos to spring up in the '70s.

The rise of rolling hasn't always been plain sailing. It almost got banned in Edwardian times. 'They were skating in the streets,' explains London historian Sean Creighton of the kids whose families didn't have the money to go to rinks. 'But inevitably there were accidents...' There was even a fatality, when a 91-year-old woman was knocked down in Clapham and died a few days later, making local authorities keen for a bylaw to ban the activity. 'It was Winston Churchill [then home secretary] who said no, so as not to deprive young people who couldn't afford to go to rinks of the pleasure and exercise of rollerskating.'

While the number of rinks in London has decreased to only a handful in recent years, our city is still home to a dedicated skating community. Roller derby – founded in the 1930s – had a resurgence in our city in the noughties, with teams training at local leisure centres. Freya Coakley, whose parents' first date was at a roller rink, joined the prestigious London Rollergirls three years ago, one of three women's teams in the city. 'I went along to a beginner's session,' she says. 'And within half an hour was saying, "I wanna buy my own roller skates!" You fall in love with it very quickly.'

Elsewhere, Stratford Centre – a shopping hub opposite Westfield – became an after-dark destination in the early 2010s. Scaffolder Kailam Brown grew up in Finsbury Park and learned to skate in his grandmother's kitchen before becoming a member of skate crew High Rollaz. 'We used to skate in Stratford mall about five or six

**'They see me rollin'**  
Actors Denise Crosby (left) and Candy Moore rollerskating in 1978



years ago,' he says. 'We shot a lot of our practice session footage in the mall and submitted it to clients.' The squad has since flashed its moves in the London 2012 Paralympics Opening Ceremony, music videos for Jungle and Skepta and adverts for KFC and H&M.

Brown's not the only modern skating star to come out of our city. Entertainer Marawa Wamp holds the Guinness World Record for the fastest ever 100 metres in high-heeled skates, which she broke in Hyde Park and trained for in Gillett Square, Dalston. It was on a trip to New York

**'They were skating in the streets, but inevitably there were accidents...'**





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## Rollerskating

**Keep it wheel** The New York Chiefs roller derby team outside Haringay Arena in 1953 (left) and Leonie at the new Roller Nation disco (right)

'We're the original ping pong bar or mini golf bar'



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that Wamp discovered just how renowned our hometown skaters really are. 'When I went to Central Park – the mecca of rollerskating – there were so many amazing skaters,' she remembers. 'One in particular was flying around and then skated past me and said "ello!" Turned out nearly everyone there was from London and they were doing a skating trip in the US. That's when I knew the best skaters in the world were from London.'

So what's the future of eight-wheeled fun in our city? Roller Nation's David French thinks it's bright. After his previous rink, Vauxhall's Renaissance Rooms, closed in 2015, he searched for almost four years to find a new site, finally coming across Bruce Grove. French says that the new venue is the biggest rink he's ever been in charge of. He hopes the space will not only provide a home for regular skaters but also draw in a new audience: Londoners looking for wholesome alternatives to nights in the pub. 'We're the original ping pong bar or mini golf bar,' he explains.

For Kailam Brown it's great news: 'We'll now have a new place to go regularly to skate,' he says. 'I can't wait to put the wheels to the wood and get some circuits in to inspire the next generation of skaters... and show off what I can do!'

→ Roller Nation, 117 Bruce Grove, Bruce Grove Overground.

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**Skaters gonna skate**  
A group of children waiting to get into the rollerskating rink at Alexandra Palace in 1940



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→ Multiple locations. Valid for one month after purchase. [www.timeout.com/coco](http://www.timeout.com/coco)

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SELLING FAST



# Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe  
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

## FIRST LOOK

# Sherlock: The Game Is Now

The long-anticipated escape game based on the BBC series is finally here, but is it any good?  
*Photography Andy Parsons*



**POPULAR TV SHOWS** don't have to 'end' any more. A zeitgeist-capturing series can find new life in spin-offs and reboots long after a finale has aired. And if not, there's always the themed events: an Alan Partridge bingo night or a 'Peaky Blinders'-styled bar to fill that boxset-shaped void. Last year, 'Sherlock' fans were quivering in their deerstarkers when it was announced that a purpose-built escape game based on the BBC drama was going to open in London. It's easy to be cynical about the decision to tap into the escape game boom; in 2013, there were only seven in the UK, now there are around 108 in London alone. But this is not some 'inspired by' cash-in. Writers Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss (who also played Mycroft) teamed up with escape-game-maker Time Run to make this happen, and their sharp, sardonic tone runs right through the experience.

The journey begins in 'Doyle's Opticians' (as in Arthur Conan), a cover for a 'spy training agency' that looks so realistic shoppers have been wandering in asking to get their eyes tested. Listen carefully and you'll hear Dr John Watson's (Martin Freeman) voice on the speakers. With the guidance of an actor, you're ushered in to a secret room to start your mission as rookie spies out to rescue Mycroft. But the play within the play really starts at 221b Baker Street, an exact replica of Sherlock's living room, recreated with the help of the show's designer. Everything is the same, from the black-and-white damask wallpaper to the leather-bound books on the shelves.

And it only gets better. Maniacal Irish villain Jim Moriarty (Andrew Scott), exasperated Dr Watson (Martin Freeman) and supercilious Mycroft (Gatiss again) all pop up through new







Ready for your big break?  
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footage featuring that familiar quick and caustic logorrhoea. It's such a relief to get away from cheesy escape-game patter delivered by plummy-voiced drama school grads. We're going to keep the inner workings of the other rooms a secret, but here's what we *can* tell you: everything is designed to test your mental agility, so there are no physical tasks here. It's all about opening the door to your mind palace. Like Sherlock, you need to look at each room as a mass of data waiting to be analysed. Each brings with it a new set of three-pipe problems. If you're lacking deduction skills, Sherlock will appear on a screen with clues (and a bit of acerbic negging) to hurry you along. At one point, he told me off for trying to stand on a swivel chair: "This mission is dangerous enough!"

When you finally break out, you can become kings and queens of the Mind Palace, the escape room's pub, and celebrate with drinks named after Conan Doyle's short stories.

The whole experience is so true to the show, it almost erases the memory of Cumberbatch playing Dominic Cummings. Almost. ■

#### WHAT IS IT...

A high-concept escape game based on the BBC's 'Sherlock' series.

#### WHY GO...

To be told off by Cumberbatch while you try to solve puzzles.

→ W12 Shopping Centre.

↻ Shepherd's Bush.

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

Tickets from £54 per person

in teams of four, five or six.

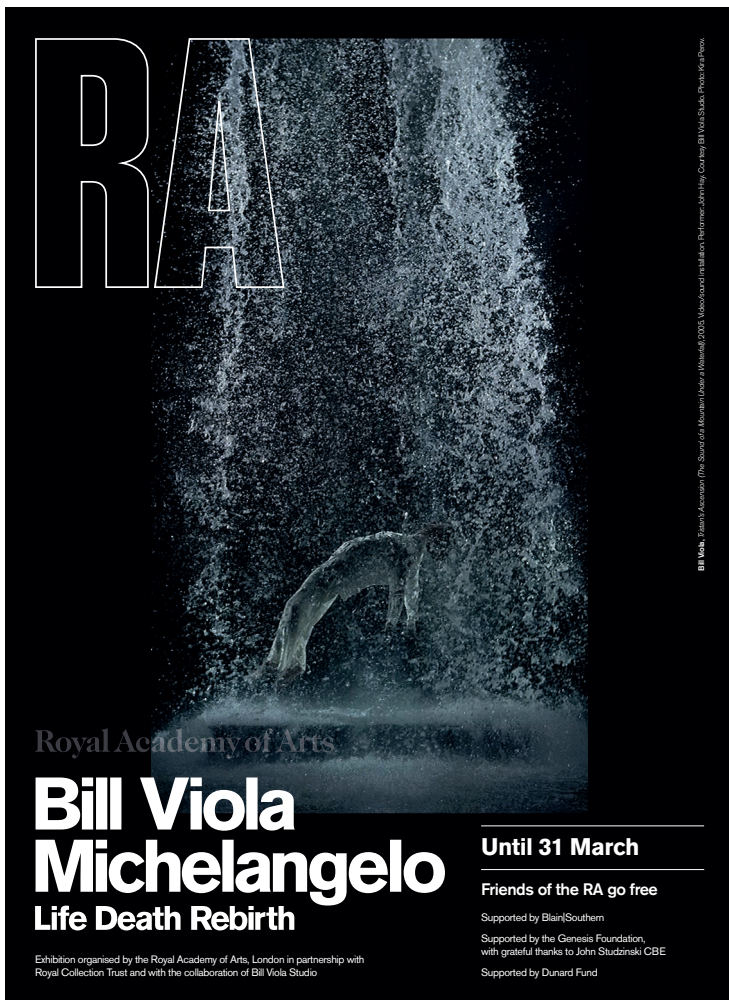
Running time 100 minutes.



**By Katie McCabe**

Who cannot be taught the rules of Sudoku, but still somehow managed to escape.





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**V&A**

## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

### The Grimaldi Memorial Service

An east London church  
is sending in the clowns  
this Sunday



#### Spend my weekend at a memorial service? Sounds a bit drab.

YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! Here the congregation wear red noses instead of sombre expressions. All Saints Haggerston has the honour of being The Clowns' Church, meaning every year on the first Sunday of February the pews overflow with the great and good of the Big Top. It's where 'Sunday best' means frizzy wigs and squirting flowers. Whoopee cushions will be scattered throughout the congregation.

#### What's the story?

Since 1946, hundreds of clowns have been travelling from all over the globe to take part in an annual service commemorating the 'King of Clowns' Joseph Grimaldi (1778-1837). 'Joey' defined the appearance we associate with modern-day clowning. The painted white face, big shoes and acrobatics – it's all down to him. The service is also a chance to remember clowns who have passed on to the great circus in the sky, so expect some reflective moments among the lols.

#### What happens on the day?

The shenanigans start at around 3pm, but it's best to get there early – all those huge shoes really take up pew space. Circus tunes will be blasted out on the organ as a troupe of clowns in full regalia make their way to the altar to lead the service. Sit tight for Bible readings with puppets, balloon-animal-making by the pulpit, a reading of the 'Clown's Prayer' and hymns littered with horn honks.

#### Can anyone join these jokers?

Yep, it's free and open to anyone. If you've always dreamed of running off to join the circus, this is an easy, peasy, trapezey way to get your three-ring fix without leaving the city. ■ **Alexandra Sims**

→ All Saints Haggerston. Haggerston Overground. Sun Feb 3. Free.

Still too traumatised by 'It'? Try  
[timeout.com/thingstodo](http://timeout.com/thingstodo)



# SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

## Friday



### Beautiful Monsters with The Embers Collective

Join this gang of master storytellers as they spin age-old yarns of witches, trolls and other fantastic beasts complete with modern twists and melodic soundscapes.

→ Cage, The Vaults. ⌕ Waterloo. Fri Feb 1. £12.

#### GO GREEN Planet Party

Dance yourself green at this eco party with DJs picked by Brainchild Festival, planet-saving piñatas and 'Blind Date'-style games to find a green energy supplier. It'll be a lorra, lorra fun.

→ The Yard. Hackney Wick Overground. Fri Feb 1. £10.

#### CHILL Tate Britain Late: Don't Worry

Stressed? Take a chill pill with art therapy workshops, meditation and songs from Martin Creed's choir at this gallery late inspired by the British artist.

→ Tate Britain. ⌕ Pimlico. Fri Feb 1. Free.

## Saturday

#### SCOFF Soho Vegan Market

Chomp on tasty plant-based treats from London's top vegan vendors. We've got our eyes on Jake's Vegan Steaks. Mmm.

→ Rupert St. ⌕ Piccadilly Circus. Sat Feb 2. Free entry.

#### CREATE Be Body Positive

Dive into genital model-making, body-positive life drawing and talks tackling diet culture at this event busting body myths.

→ New Cross House. New Cross Gate Overground. Sat Feb 2. £25.



### Independent Ceramics Market

Crockery cupboard looking drab? Hit up this market and get your mitts on quirky ceramics from 60 of London's newest, coolest potters.

→ Copeland Park & Bussey Building, Peckham Rye Overground. Sat Feb 2. Free entry.

## Sunday

### Giant Steps Record Fair

All about the vinyl revival? Flip through sleeves from record stores, collectors and labels before the soundsystem starts up for a canalside party.

→ Giant Steps. Hackney Wick Overground. Sun Feb 3. Free entry.



#### AHA! Alan Partridge Bingo

Alan is bouncing back for a special bingo night where the numbers are swapped for classic Partridge quotes and characters. Back of the net.

→ Moth Club. Hackney Central Overground. Sun Feb 3. £5 entry, £1 per game.

#### WHACK First Timers' Drum Workshop

Dream of hitting skins like Keith Moon? Learn the art of rudiments and rolling at this class for snare starters.

→ DIY Space for London. South Bermondsey rail. Sun Feb 3. £5.

Smell our cheese, you mother! [timeout.com/thingstodo](http://timeout.com/thingstodo)





**DON'T MISS**

## King for a Night



**VAULT FESTIVAL IS** just showing off at this point. It has more than 400 comedy and fringe theatre shows running over two months, and the whole thing takes place in Leake Street, so you feel like you're disappearing into a graffitied (albeit slightly urine-soaked) tunnel. And this year they've upped the ante with a series of lates – a different blow-out party for every weekend.

Up next is a gender-bending show from performers Pecs, dons of the London drag king scene. And it doesn't even begin until 10.30pm. Enter the Underbar at The Vaults for a night of cabaret, hot and sweaty underground dancing and '90s R&B that's R Kelly-free. Get ready for the ultimate mansformation. ■

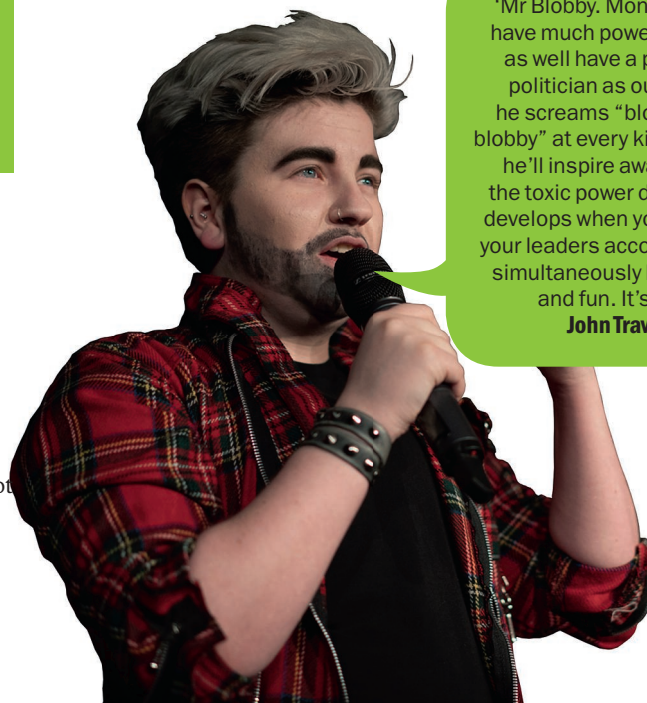
→ Underbar at The Vaults, Leake St. ☉ Waterloo.  
Sat Feb 2. £13.50.

## Which Londoner would you crown king for a night?

The Pecs drag kings tell us who they think is monarch material

'Mr Blobby. Monarchs don't have much power so we may as well have a parody of a politician as our king. As he screams "blobby blobby blobby" at every kingly function, he'll inspire awareness of the toxic power dynamic that develops when you don't hold your leaders accountable, and simultaneously be colourful and fun. It's ideal.'

**John Travulva**



PORTRAITS: HOLLY LUCAS PHOTOGRAPHY

RAHFETTERIDGE PHOTOGRAPHY



**MAYOR OF LONDON**





'Travis Alabanza [a UK performance artist]. Although their royal highness would be a Queen/Quing.'  
**Drag King Cole**



'Queen Elizabeth II, because she wouldn't be distracted by the power so she could focus on the gender play.'  
**Cesar Jently**

Want more? Try  
[timeout.com/lates](http://timeout.com/lates)

## TRENDING



### Plogging

A portmanteau of Swedish word *plocka*, meaning 'to pick', and jogging, plogging consists of collecting stray rubbish while you run. A new group called Plogolution now hosts runs across the UK, including London. Plog on!

→ Join the Plogolution: Central London. Meet at Vivobarefoot.  
⌚ Covent Garden. Feb 10. Free, but book in advance.

## Travel in Zones 2-6 this winter for £1.50

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



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## Things to Do

### DRINK

#### **N** North London Brew Fest

Winter can be bleak, but this will make you hoppy. Sip on an impressive array of cask ales and keg brews at this three-day fest, including pints from Magic Rock and Cloud Water. Snap up tickets to the ale-and-cheese masterclass (£20). Brie-utiful.

→ The Snooty Fox.

Canonbury Overground.

Thu Jan 31–Sat Feb 2. Free entry.

#### **W** An Elegant Fusion

Managed to get through Dry January? Or looking to get back on the wagon? Hit up this alcohol-free pop-up bar with spirit-free cocktails crafted by The Mixology Brothers. Soak it all up with unlimited candy floss. Sweet.

→ Portobello Star. ☉ Ladbroke Grove. Tue Jan 29. £5.

### SHOP

#### **S** Crafty Fox Market

Grab gorgeous gifts from a hand-picked selection of designers selling everything from homeware and prints to handmade jewellery and sweet ceramics. Feeling crafty? Join workshops in map-making (free) and marbling (£27).

→ Mercato Metropolitano.

☉ Elephant & Castle. Sat Feb 2. Free entry.

#### **S** Peckham Flea Market

Pick up vintage clothing, accessories, salvage, homeware and art at this sale spread across the three arches at Peckham Springs. You can fill up on street food once your bags are bursting.

→ Peckham Springs.

Peckham Rye Overground. Sun Feb 3. Free.

# TO DO

The best events in your area

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



The Cocoa Butter Club Showcase

### SWISH

#### **N** Swish and Style

Bag up your unwanted clobber and get yourself a whole new outfit by swapping it for someone else's pre-loved garms. Look out for up-cycling workshops schooling you in stitching holes and mending well-worn elbows.

→ New Unity Hall. ☉ Highbury & Islington. Sat Feb 2. Free entry.

#### **N** The Big Craft Swish

Want to update your craft collection (or get rid of any ill-advised crafty purchases)? Drop off any unused materials you've got lying around at home and pick up some new paraphernalia donated by other crafters. Nab a place in the Craft Quiz if you think you know a French knot from a seed stitch.

→ Cecil Sharp House. ☉ Camden Town. Sun Feb 3. £5.

### LEARN

#### **C** China Late

Celebrate Chinese New Year after dark at the Science Museum. Learn how Chinese people will be welcoming in the Year of the Pig, explore the country's new scientific discoveries,

take an augmented reality journey into ancient China or watch a traditional lion dance.

→ Science Museum. ☉ South Kensington. Wed Jan 30. Free.

#### **C** A Feminist's Guide to Dinosaurs

Feminism meets fossils on this guided tour of the Natural History Museum highlighting the women who pummelled the patriarchy in the field of palaeontology.

→ Natural History Museum.

☉ South Kensington.

Fri Feb 1. £30.

### PARTY

#### **C** The Cocoa Butter Club Showcase

Burlesque, drag and comedy are set to neo-soul, R&B and Motown at this cabaret extravaganza celebrating performers of colour.

→ The Apple Tree.

☉ Farringdon. Thu Jan 31. £5.

#### **E** Mariah & Friendz: Hot Mess

Prepare for a night of high-octane drag, circus and burlesque to the sounds of J-Lo, Nicki Minaj, Madonna and, of course, Mariah, all headed up by the inimitable Baby Lane.

→ Bethnal Green Working

Men's Club. ☉ Bethnal Green.

Sat Feb 2. £10.

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# Film

Edited by Phil de Semlyen  
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## FREE WITH MUBI GO

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FILM OF THE WEEK

### WHAT IS IT...

An Oscar-nominated yarn about real-life writer and literary forger Lee Israel.

### WHY GO...

For a sparkily on-form Melissa McCarthy and Richard E Grant.

→ Director Marielle Heller  
(15) 106 mins.

## Can You Ever Forgive Me?



**BASED ON AN** actual literary misadventure, 'Can You Ever Forgive Me?' brings a very specific New York City to life. It's 1991, the city is somehow harsher and more wintry, but it's also a place of cosy antiquarian bookstores and down-on-their-luck dreamers in overcoats. Paul Simon's percolating, anxious 'Can't Run But' dominates the movie's soundtrack, and no number of scenes shot in the warmth of Julius' bar – a famed gay temple in Greenwich Village – the whisky flowing, can shake the restless mood. That atmosphere is brewed expertly by director Marielle Heller.

With \$14 in her wallet and a sad existence of sleeping in her clothes in a fly-infested apartment

she can no longer afford, author Lee Israel (Melissa McCarthy) has reached the end of the line. Bristly and abrasive, she can't sell her fusty celebrity biographies any more; she steals toilet paper from her agent's swanky pad and pushes away her lonely dead-end reality. Your heart leaps when she meets a bitchy kindred spirit in Jack (Richard E Grant, uncorking the performance of his career), also coasting on an air of borrowed time: another gay survivor who remembers when things were easier.

Honestly, that would have been enough for a film, especially when it has acting this relaxed and a sharp, sad script (adapted from the late

Israel's memoir by Nicole Holofcener and Jeff Whitty). And Heller ('The Diary of a Teenage Girl') provides an elegant showcase for the pair's funny, vinegary exchanges. But the movie is also a literary-hoax thriller, a slightly busy one, with Israel learning how to turn her esoteric knowledge into cold, hard cash by forging famous letters – purchasing old typewriters, browning stationery in ovens etc – which Jack then fences. The cops close in but until then, as with 'Six Degrees of Separation', there's a sense of euphoria that comes with her self-delusional windfall. 'It's my writing,' she insists, her pride rearing, completely lost in the ruse. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*



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# Can you ever forgive me?

by Marielle Heller

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## MY LIFE IN MOVIES

Famous Londoners share  
their favourite film memories

### Richard E Grant



#### What was the first film you saw in London?

"Reds". I lived in a bedsit off Portobello Road and used to go to The Electric all the time because it was cheap. I caught up on films that had either been banned where I grew up [in Swaziland] or that I'd read about. I went five times a week, because I was unemployed so much.'

#### What's your local cinema now?

'It's the Curzon and the Odeon in Richmond. I go to those regularly.'

#### What's been your best West End premiere experience?

'It was going to "Yentl" in Leicester Square in 1983. I'd been a big Barbra Streisand fan since I was a teenager and it was thrilling to see her walking past. I remember having a double-take moment when I met Princess Diana at the "LA Story" premiere. Had she seen "Withnail and I"? I don't think so, but I know her sons did.'

#### What's been your most memorable place to shoot?

'The office that I had in "How to Get Ahead in Advertising" had an amazing view of the Houses of Parliament, and you could see red buses going past – the real London. I remember shooting the interior of the bus in "Spice World" at Twickenham Studios. Despite the derision I got from fellow actors for appearing in it – which I did entirely because my eight-year-old daughter was so obsessed with the Spice Girls – I got to meet Adele and then Lena Dunham cast me in "Girls" because they were both "Spice World" fans.'



'Yentl'

#### What are Londoners like when you're filming?

'I think they're used to it. I filmed "Keep the Aspidochelone Flying" in an art deco town hall in the East End, and people would hoot or shout loudly to get money from the production. Someone would have to pay them to button it.'

#### What film represents London for you?

'When I was 12, I saw "Oliver!" and it made an indelible impression on me. Seeing this phantasmagorical version of London in the movie was incredible.' ■ Interview by Phil de Semlyen  
→ 'Can You Ever Forgive Me?' opens Fri Feb 1.

## 'How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World'



#### WHAT IS IT...

The final part of the Vikings-and-dragons animated trilogy.

#### WHY GO...

For the trippy Hidden World: imagine 'Avatar' by way of Timothy Leary.

→ Director Dean DeBlois  
(PG) 104 mins.

**STRIP AWAY ITS POPPY** Viking folklore and state-of-the-art animation and the 'How to Train Your Dragon' franchise has always boiled down satisfyingly to a simple riff on a 'Black Stallion'-like tale of a boy and his scaly pal. So the prospect of Berk villager Hiccup (voiced again by Jay Baruchel) and Toothless, his dragon, reuniting nearly a decade on from the first film should be the cue for teary goodbyes and a nostalgic look back at friendships made and foes flambéed. It's semi-successful, though that central heartbeat struggles to make itself heard over the din of half-explored subplots and the increasingly annoying banter of Hiccup's teen tribemates.

There aren't many concessions to franchise newbies in an opening that's light on 'previously in Berk' catch-ups. The Hidden World, we learn, is the utopia to which Hiccup, the settlement's newly established chief, must lead his clan when an infamous dragon hunter called Grimmel (F Murray Abraham) appears on the scene. Their journey is complicated when Toothless falls for Light Fury, a mysterious female dragon with cloaking powers. Hiccup becomes part love guru, part third wheel in a dynamic that lends the movie its best and most charming moments.

It's the visuals, though, that really soar. With master cinematographer Roger Deakins again lending his eye as consultant, the camera weaves in and out among photo-real flora and fire-breathing fauna. The titular land is a Smaug cheese dream of bioluminescence and swooping dragons. A sparkling airborne sequence has the two courting dragons all but dancing under the Northern Lights. If Fred and Ginger had been able to fly and breathe fire, it's the kind of thing they might have pulled off. ■ Phil de Semlyen



## THREE OF THE BEST

### Dragons you can't train

Not every movie dragon is as tameable as Toothless. Here are three proper bad 'uns



#### Smaug 'The Hobbit'

JRR Tolkien's brainy wrym is far too malevolent to be tamed by a puny human (or hobbit). Imagine Clifford from the Listerine ads, only with a Mensa-level IQ, a deep-seated craving for treasure and much, much worse breath.



#### Taro 'The 7th Voyage of Sinbad'

Animation wiz Ray Harryhausen did not slave over this barbecue-faced beastie just so Sinbad could saddle it up and use it as Arabian mythology's answer to Uber. Technically, it's an evil sorcerer's guard dog, but just try getting this guy to the vet.



#### Maleficent 'Sleeping Beauty'

Magnificently moody, this flying fire hazard is the animal incarnation of Maleficent – the 'when all else fails' option when her human plotting goes awry. It's not a bad fallback option, especially if you're into incinerating minor royals.



# FREE PREVIEW SCREENING

## NETFLIX'S 'THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY' PLUS CAST Q&A

TimeOut  
LOVES



Next month, Time Out readers are invited to an exclusive free preview screening in London of Netflix's new superhero series 'The Umbrella Academy'.

Starring Ellen Page, Mary J Blige, Cameron Britton, Tom Hopper, David Castañeda, Emmy Raver-Lampman and Robert Sheehan, the series is based on the popular comics and graphic novels written by Gerard Way. On the same day in 1989, 43 infants were inexplicably born to random, unconnected women who

previously showed no signs of pregnancy. Seven were adopted by Sir Reginald Hargreeves, a billionaire industrialist, who created The Umbrella Academy and prepared his 'children' to save the world. But not everything went to plan. When they were teenagers, the family fractured and the 'siblings' scattered. Upon the news of Hargreeves's passing, the six surviving members of the Academy, now in their thirties, reunite to solve the mystery of his death.

Apply now to attend this exclusive pre-launch screening of 'The Umbrella Academy' where you'll see the first episode of the series and hear from the cast in an on-stage Q&A.

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 7**  
**CURZON MAYFAIR**  
**ARRIVALS 6.15PM**  
**SCREENING STARTS 7PM**

→ 'The Umbrella Academy' is on Netflix from Fri Feb 15.

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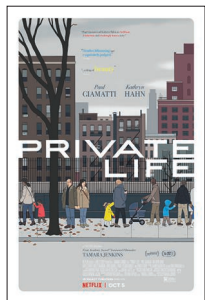
## FIVE TO SEE

# Awesome films directed by women

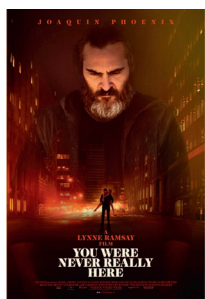
They were overlooked in the Oscar nominations, but these five female-led films rocked our world in 2018



**1 'Leave No Trace'**  
This contemplative, outsider's-eye look at modern America, about a dad and daughter living in the wild, could have been nominated for its acting (Ben Foster and Thomasin McKenzie are both terrific) or for Debra Granik's understated, intuitive direction. It wasn't. For shame, Academy.



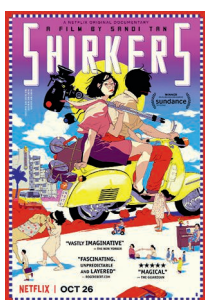
**2 'Private Life'**  
While 'Roma' deservedly picked up ten Oscar nods, Tamara Jenkins's 'Private Life' – another bittersweet Netflix film – was overlooked altogether. If the idea of dream double act Kathryn Hahn and Paul Giamatti sharing the screen sounds like a good one, you can catch the movie on the streaming site now.



**3 'You Were Never Really Here'**  
Genius filmmaker Lynne Ramsay stormed back last year with a hitman thriller like no other. Joaquin Phoenix plays a PTSD-stricken vet who speaks softly and carries a whacking great hammer. Ramsay drapes it all in an impressionist mood and Jonny Greenwood's ace score.



**4 'The Rider'**  
Utterly gorgeous and humane to its bones, Chloé Zhao's beguiling drama pitches Lakota Sioux rodeo rider Brady Jandreau into his first film role. Turns out, he's really good at it. Chinese director Zhao is pretty special too: her story of injury, heartbreak and redemption casts a mighty spell.



**5 'Shirkers'**  
This year's Best Documentary category is packed with worthy contenders, like 'Free Solo' and 'Minding the Gap'. Still, there was surely space for Sandi Tan's enthralling film. Tan follows the fate of the missing indie movie she made as a teen, uncovering a mysterious abduction story along the way.

## Burning



### WHAT IS IT...

A twisty-turny, slow-burn mystery set in South Korea.

### WHY GO...

For an entrancing mystery from a master filmmaker.

→ Director Lee Chang-dong (15) 148 mins.



**NOVELIST-TURNED** writer-director Lee Chang-dong may not be the most prolific filmmaker around – he made his last film, 'Poetry', back in 2010 – but when he does get to work, the results are usually highly impressive. This, his sixth feature, is no exception.

Inspired by a Haruki Murakami short story, it centres on Jong-soo, a farmer's son-turned-delivery man who dreams of becoming a writer. One day in Seoul he meets Hae-mi, a girl he half-remembers from school. Soon she's asking him to feed her cat while she travels to Africa, then seducing him. So when she asks him to meet her at the airport, he's put out to find her in the company of wealthy sophisticate Ben, who immediately treats them to a meal. Soon, Jong-soo is wondering if the pair are more than friends.

It's just the first mystery in a movie rich in teasing ambiguities and possible lies. Lee's interest lies not in crime-solving but in exploring Jong-soo's emotional confusion. That ever-increasing torment allows the filmmaker to touch on the current divisions within Korea. Both a slow-burn suspense drama and an intriguing puzzle, his film is beautifully executed throughout: the three lead performances are all spot-on, while Mowg's jazzy score and Hong Kyung-pyo's immaculate camerawork fit the shifting moods to perfection. ■ Geoff Andrew

## Green Book



### WHAT IS IT...

A road-trip comedy-drama set in the 1960s Deep South.

### WHY GO...

To see if it lives up to all the Oscars hype.

→ Director Peter Farrelly (12A) 130 mins.



**LIKE A REVERSE** 'Driving Miss Daisy', 'Green Book' charts a road trip into racism shared by two well-worn stereotypes. These characters, almost surprisingly, come from real life – a true tale that happened in 1962. Frank 'Tony Lip' Vallelonga (Viggo Mortensen) is a racist Italian-American bouncer from New York. On the hunt for work, he gets an unlikely gig at the invitation of Don Shirley (Mahershala Ali, superb), a black jazz pianist who requires a tough driver to escort him on a tour of the Deep South. Tony's no bleeding heart, but for the right price, he's willing to bite his lip.

If you recall the movies director Peter Farrelly made with his brother Bobby ('There's Something About Mary', 'Dumb and Dumber'), you won't be surprised by moments of crassness, as Tony cuts loose with rude arias about Little Richard, fried chicken and love-letter-writing. But there's heart too, and a beautiful friction between the pair that's eased by some relaxed back-and-forth.

'Green Book' – named after a guidebook printed for African-American motorists navigating this hotbed of bigotry – is a classier affair than Farrelly's previous comedies. There are no hair-gel gags here. Controversies aside (the script has been criticised for white-splaining Shirley's story), there's a generosity of spirit here that's refreshing, and Mortensen and Ali are a pair well worth riding shotgun with. ■ Joshua Rothkopf

All the biggest new films reviewed at [timeout.com/film](https://www.timeout.com/film)



# Escape Room



## WHAT IS IT...

A horror movie set in the eponymous puzzle chamber.

## WHY GO...

It does for escape rooms what cult flick 'Cube' did for mysterious hexahedrons.

→ Director Adam Robitel (15) 100 mins.



**THE CURRENT CRAZE** for escape rooms was bound to inspire a horror film, so it's gratifying to discover that 'Escape Room' is more than just a cheap teens-in-peril cash-in. Six strangers – shy physics student, shelf-stacking slacker, escape room addict, trucker, smarmy stockbroker and Iraq War vet – receive mysterious invitations to an escape room, unaware of something they have in common. The players soon realise that they'll be lucky to escape with their lives.

Adam Robitel, director of the underrated 'The Taking of Deborah Logan', gets the blood pumping right from the off, trapping the audience in a room with one of the contestants as the walls close in, splintering furniture and shredding nerves. We think we know who's going to make it and who isn't. But the tricky screenplay stays a step ahead, and it's smart enough to have you grasping to figure out what's going on behind the screams.

There's more than a measure of 'Saw' about the set-up, especially in the third act when it's clear the stage is being set for sequels featuring the enigmatic 'games master' behind the fiendish puzzles. But, as a stand-alone movie, it's an effective extrapolation of the escape room principle, and a welcome addition to the small subgenre of horror films where people don't act stupidly under extreme duress. ■ *David Hughes*

## BOOK NOW

# Soho 60



Curzon Soho turns 60 this month – making it eligible for a bus pass – and to celebrate, the much-loved Shaftesbury Avenue picture palace once known as The Columbia is hosting some special screenings. In the spirit of synchronicity, it all kicks off with 'Gigi', the first film to be shown at the cinema, back in February 1959. Its star, Leslie Caron, will be there to introduce it and it's only a fiver for Curzon members.

→ [www.curzoncinemas.com/soho60](http://www.curzoncinemas.com/soho60)

## THE TEN BEST POP-UPS AND FESTIVALS THIS WEEK

### 10 'Duck Soup'

Head to Freedonia (well, Lambeth) to see the Marx Brothers' comedic *tour de force*.  
→ West Norwood Picturehouse.  
West Norwood rail.  
Sun Feb 3. £8.

### 9 'Crucible of the Vampire' + Q&A

Shropshire is the unlikely setting for a Brit horror that's out for only a few days.  
→ Prince Charles Cinema.  
→ Leicester Square. Fri Feb 1-Sun Feb 3. £12.50.

### 8 South Social Celebrates Black Culture

This mini fest boasts new short films themed around black culture in London.  
→ Theatre Peckham. Denmark Hill Overground. Sat Feb 2-Sun Feb 3. £15 day, £25 weekend.

### 7 'Mother'

Silent cinema buffs Kennington Bioscope host a rare screening of this once-banned 1926 Soviet revolutionary drama.  
→ Cinema Museum.  
→ Elephant & Castle.  
Wed Jan 30. £5.

### 6 'Crazy Rich Asians'

Here's a chance to catch 2018's breakout romantic comedy with a glass of bubbles.  
→ The Exhibit. → Balham.  
Tue Jan 29-Thu Jan 31 and Sun Feb 3. £28.

### 5 'Au Revoir les Enfants'

Louis Malle's wartime tale set during World War II is even more heartbreaking on the big screen. Bring tissues.  
→ Ciné Lumière. → South Kensington. Sun Feb 3. £9.

### 4 'Me and You and Everyone We Know'

Miranda July has a new movie in the works but it's been a while, so why not revisit her bittersweet debut?  
→ Deptford Cinema. Deptford Bridge DLR. Sat Feb 2. £6.

### 3 'Tampopo'

This Japanese ramen western will make your heart swell and your mouth water. Have dinner booked for afterwards.  
→ Wimbledon Film Club, HMV Curzon. → Wimbledon.  
Tue Jan 29. £11.64.

### 2 The Liberated Film Club

This cult crew is back with another swathe of lost films. Iranian actress Mania Akbari ('Ten') is the night's special guest.  
→ Close-Up. Shoreditch High St Overground. Thu Jan 31. £10.

# 1

## Barbara Stanwyck season

This seven-week BFI season celebrating 'The Queen' kicks off with the Frank Capra-directed 'The Bitter Tea of General Yen'. Also on the schedule are classic screwball 'The Lady Eve' and noir gem 'Double Indemnity'.

→ BFI Southbank. → Waterloo. Fri Feb 1-Mar 20. £8-£12.50.



The best pop-ups and film festivals at [timeout.com/film](http://timeout.com/film)



# Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens  
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic



## An audiophile's guide to London

If you love vinyl, classy speakers and hi-fi gear with sexy knobs on you, my friend, are an audiophile. Here's where to get your sonic kicks

### Spiritland

Spiritland initially opened their own space in King's Cross, and now has a second location below the Royal Festival Hall. Their progression is a sign that Londoners are craving a sophisticated sonic experience. Here, that's delivered by a deluxe rotary mixer (pictured above) and a bespoke soundsystem. Both venues are stunning: try the KX one for a Japanese-inspired setting, or the new digs for retro theatre vibes.

→ 9-10 Stable St. Belvedere Rd. ⇄ Waterloo.

### Behind This Wall

Hackney bar Behind This Wall, or BTW for short, is really, really special. Its sonic specs alone are incredible: it's powered by famously meticulous (that's a diplomatic way of saying it) Joy Division producer Martin Hannett's original 1970s Tannoy Gold soundsystem, with a single Technics platter taking pride of place. There's also a double happy hour from 6-8pm, so you can enjoy a bev or five while sinking into a state of aural nirvana.

→ 411 Mare St. Hackney Central Overground.

### Classic Album Sundays

This nomadic event series has grown to such a degree that CAS happens all over the world now, but still at its heart is the idea of sitting back and enjoying a brilliant album from start to finish, on supreme Klipsch audio equipment too. Expect ace special guests, pre-listening Q&A sessions with host (and legend) Colleen 'Cosmo' Murphy and often a proper Sunday Funday vibe too.

→ CAS and Vinyl Me, Please present Flying Lotus's 'Cosmogramma' at Ace Hotel. Shoreditch High St Overground. Tue Jan 29.







### Brilliant Corners

Dalston restaurant Brilliant Corners is at the apex of sound. Its name, after all, aside from being a Thelonus Monk album, references the four corners that house its eargasmically good speakers: Klipsch badboys that are used by some of the finest crate-diggers in the capital. Munch on their divine Japanese food as you listen to a barrage of beatific beats. High-fives for hi-fi.

→ 470 Kingsland Rd. Dalston Junction Overground.



### Pitchblack Playback

These folks specialise in events where you'll listen to fantastic albums old and new totally in the dark. After all, scientists reckon your hearing is sharpened when you're surrounded by darkness. Helpfully, Pitchblack Playback also boasts a top-of-the-range soundsystem – probably funded by all the money saved on lighting.

→ Next event: Pitchblack Playback: Mogwai's 'Rave Tapes'. Institute of Light. Tue Jan 29. London Fields Overground.

### Giant Steps

When Brilliant Corners opened a new venue in Hackney Wick last year, it was a giant step (sorry) for audiophiles. Set on the canal, it's got an Amsterdam-like feel, hosting parties and events and backed with bespoke Klipschorns and a Technics turntable unit once used by the BBC.

→ Swan Wharf, Dace Rd. Hackney Wick Overground.

### Lion & Lamb

The Lion & Lamb is a lot of things – a boozer, a club, a gallery. It also boasts the only Martin Audio system outside of Fabric, featuring a Rane Rotary Mixer (those really nice ones with the knobs that go all the way round) carved into wood. Frankly, it beats your local Lloyd's Bar's crackling PA by a mile. ■ Kyle MacNeill

→ 46 Fanshawe St. Hoxton Overground.

## ...and some of London's best record shops



If Santa came bearing decks this Christmas, or you've just caught the vinyl bug, here are some indispensable haunts for the sonically minded

### Container Records

Situated in a former shipping container at Pop Brixton, this shop is the brainchild of London promoters keen to provide punters with an accessible space to explore independent electronic music.

→ 49 Brixton Station Rd. ☉ Brixton.

### Kristina Records

A bright and airy Dalston record shop that offers a discerning selection of new and used vinyl across all genres, including some hard-to-find gems. Kristina buy or exchange single records or collections.

→ Ashley House, Ashley Rd. ☉ Tottenham Hale.

### Phonica

With its battered leather sofas and egg-shaped chairs, this Soho store almost has a '70s gangster feel: perfect for housing its pristine selection of relatively deep and edgy club music.

→ 51 Poland St. ☉ Oxford Circus.

### Sounds of the Universe

A bright and breezy Soho store with a broad remit: grime and dubstep 12-inches jostle for space alongside new-wave cosmic disco, electro-indie re-rubs and Nigerian music compilations.

→ 7 Broadwick St. ☉ Tottenham Court Rd.





# FOALS

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## Music & Nightlife

### Lion Coffee + Records

This warm and welcoming Clapton hangout is all about quality: the new and vintage vinyl is handpicked by the owners, and the coffee served is Allpress.

→ 118 Lower Clapton Rd. Clapton Overground.

### Rat Records

This small but mighty Camberwell store has been a draw for more than 15 years. It looks unassuming but stocks everything from pop and rock to jazz and African music.

→ 348 Camberwell New Rd.  
Denmark Hill Overground.

### Reckless Records

This Soho stalwart sells everything from rare rock vinyl to classic drum 'n' bass, as well as punk, reggae, jazz and original Mo' Wax and Blue Note vinyl. It'll also buy music in most formats including CD box sets.

→ 30 Berwick St. ⌘ Oxford Circus.

### Rye Wax

Located in the basement of the Bussey Building, this spacious shop has a stellar selection of vinyl and CDs catering to hip, modern tastes.

→ 133 Rye Lane. Peckham Rye Overground.



Rye Wax

### Banquet Records

Kingston's beloved independent record shop punches above its weight with packed acoustic in-store events and regular gig nights.

→ 52 Eden St. Kingston rail.

### Flashback

There's a slightly different vibe in each of Flashback's three stores, but the range of stock and knowledgeable staff are always top-notch.

→ 50 Essex Rd. ⌘ Angel. 131 Bethnal Green Rd.  
Shoreditch High St Overground. 144 Crouch Hill.  
Crouch Hill Overground.

### Honest Jon's

The walls of this legendary Ladbroke Grove shop are lined with classic blaxploitation posters, a sign that jazz, soul, revival reggae and global sounds remain the house specialities.

→ 278 Portobello Rd. ⌘ Ladbroke Grove.

### Rough Trade

London's iconic indie label has two buzzy shops: the Ladbroke Grove original is more compact than the airy Shoreditch store, but both host loads of exclusive intimate gigs. ■

→ Old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane.  
⌘ Liverpool St. 130 Talbot Rd. ⌘ Ladbroke Grove.



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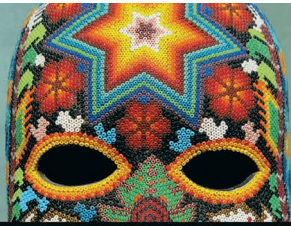
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JUST ANNOUNCED

# Wireless Festival

Big up the huge American acts and awesome UK talent playing for three days in Finsbury Park this July

**WIRELESS IS** one of the most sussed festivals in the calendar. What began in 2005 as a random mix of indie and dance names (Hard-Fi! Mylo! James Blunt!) has mutated into *the* defining underground festival of a generation. Unlike many other fests out there, Wireless has found its niche: massive American hip hop stars and under celebrated, ignored-by-the-mainstream UK acts from the fertile worlds of grime, drill, hip hop and afrobeats. Nobody else puts this amount of urban UK talent on such a big platform, and it's something to really celebrate – despite attempts by Haringey Council to curb the festival, including prohibiting artists from swearing and wearing 'offensive clothing' onstage. Regardless, the line-up just got announced, so let's look at the high-profile Yanks and the local-ish legends playing Finsbury Park this year...



## Big-name Americans

Headliners-wise, it's an all-American takeover of N4. **Travis Scott** and **A\$AP Rocky** bring their heady brands of hip hop across the pond, heading up Saturday and Sunday respectively. Friday's shared headliners **Cardi B** and **Migos** are a surprise – given Cardi's on-off relationship with her hubby (aka Migos's Offset). There's also special guest **Future** bringing the Atlanta bangers, plus fellow statessiders **Tory Lanez**, **Lil Uzi Vert**, **Rae Sremmurd**, **Ski Mask The Slump God**, **Young Thug** and Californian megastar **Tyga**.



## Repping the UK

Yanks but no thanks... honestly, there's so much homegrown talent right now it's hard to know how the American crew will compete with the kings and queens of the UK scene. Take Brit-grime stars like **Bugzy Malone**, **Denzel Curry** and **AJ Tracey** for example, or **Stefflon Don** and her dancehall-tinged bops. There's also a tip-top selection of acts breaking through, which is wicked to see: south-east MC **FloHo** is unmissable, and anonymous artist

**M Huncho** too, who's getting a whole lot of buzz right now. If that wasn't enough there's also **Fredo**, **Steel Banglez**, **Not3s** and **Cadet**. It all makes for three essential days, basically. ■

Kyle MacNeill and Oliver Keens

→ Wireless is at Finsbury Park on Jul 5-7.



WIRELESS: JAMES BRIDLE



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## The Strokes are heading to Victoria Park!

**IT'S BEEN NEARLY FOUR** years since New York's coolest sons graced a UK stage – enough time for Post Malone to become a thing, 'Baby Shark' to become a thing, and that yodelling kid to grow past waist height and then become a thing.

But now – praise indie Jesus – the five men who essentially saved alternative rock back in 2001 are gearing up to come back and do it all over again. Or at least, y'know, play a pretty damn good festival set.

The Strokes are joining this year's big-hitting All Points East line-up – with stunning supports including Interpol, The Raconteurs, Johnny Marr, Jarvis Cocker and Courtney Barnett. It'll be the quintet's first show since 2015's Hyde Park headline, in which they unequivocally pulled it out of the bag despite mixed reviews of their last two records and some truly confusing follicle choices from frontman Julian Casablancas. (Half-pink, half-black mullet? You wot, m8?)

What to expect this time round? Well, in the interim, Casablancas has continued to channel the sartorial style of a greasy Hell's Angels mechanic and the sonic style of a man who couldn't give two shits about having another hit: witness his obtuse side project The Voidz. Guitarist Albert Hammond Jr, meanwhile, spent the best part of 2018 serving up a concept album based on his stillborn twin. Anyone holding out for 'Is This It? Part Two' should probably just chill.

But even if there is no new music, even if the new music is a bit rubbish and even if Julian decides to braid his hair into some kind of rat-tail situation, The Strokes will still play at least 75 percent stone-cold classics and they will still be at least 95 percent cooler than pretty much everyone else in the room. And that, my friends, is just maths. ■ *Lisa Wright*

→ The Strokes play All Points East on May 25.



JULIAN CASABLANCAS: RED FERNS; POLAROID: POONIE GHANA

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





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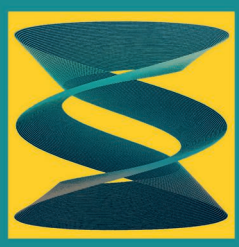
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## WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH Flohio



### Who's that then?

Funmi Ohiosumah aka Flohio is the British-Nigerian MC hailing from SE16 that you can't afford to sleep on.

### Okay, clue me up.

Having penned her first raps at the age of 13, Flohio worked as a graphic designer at heroic indie label Ninja Tune before dedicating herself to bars. After a handful of frenetic and genre-defying singles, she's rising fast – including becoming a nominee for BBC Music's Sound of 2019.

### Talk me through her sound.

Flohio might be small in stature and a self-proclaimed shy girl, yet her music is anything but. Aggressive, intellectual and ferocious, Flohio dives deep into personal observations with a razor-sharp staccato flow over a wide range of beats: dystopian electronica, pummelling 808s, industrial trap – it's all there. She's racked up a hefty fan

base as diverse as her sonic aesthetic, getting nods from collaborators such as Clams Casino and L-Vis 1990, fellow artists like Princess Nokia and even Naomi Campbell, who named Flohio in *Vogue* as one of ten women who are changing our future.

### What's she like live?

Rowdy, ferocious and hot as hell. At a gig, expect to find Flohio thrashing about the mosh pit, stage-diving and going absolutely fucking ape from start to finish. Apart from short but sweet interludes when she lets her audience come up for air and waxes lyrical to fans for bringing her out of her shell.

### I gotta check her out.

#### When? How?

Apart from Wireless in June (see more on pg 62), she's also playing Berlin techno castle Berghain on February 27. In case you're passing through. ■ Tracy Kawalik



13-16 JUNE

# ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL 2019

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[ISLEOFWIGHTFESTIVAL.COM](http://ISLEOFWIGHTFESTIVAL.COM)





# GIGS, CLUBS AND FESTIVALS

## This week

### La Discothèque

A rather fabulous night down at Printworks beckons, as disco music fills the industrial dance space, courtesy of Horse Meat Disco, Cassius, Jocelyn Brown and Derrick Carter. Also: it's a rare 2am finisher! → Printworks. Fri Feb 1.

### Dan Shake: All Night

Ace club crew Percolate give the keys to the decks exclusively to fast-rising spinner Dan Shake, who plays from start to finish. Expect a whirlwind of funk and disco edits. → Hangar. Fri Feb 1.

### London Remixed Festival

Billed as the capital's 'most eclectic indoor festival', this two-day bash spotlights emerging talent from across the genre spectrum: everything from Latin grooves to Balkan beats will be represented. It's the brainchild of the genius party-starters behind Glasto's Shangri-La area, so expect festival-style good times without the rain, mud and Portalooos. → Rich Mix. Fri Feb 1-Sat Feb 2.



## Foals

Foals are back in a big way in 2019. The Oxford indie kings have just announced not one but two whole albums coming out this year. Part one of 'Everything Not Saved Will Be Lost' is released on March 8, while fans will have to wait until autumn for part two. Let's hope there are no insufferable cliffhangers! In the meantime, praise be, they've announced an Ally Pally show to bridge that gap.

→ Alexandra Palace. Jun 21.

## On sale

### J Dilla Changed My Life

It says a lot about the influence of sadly deceased producer J Dilla that this annual celebration of his work has become a pivotal date in London's hip hop calendar. → Jazz Cafe. Feb 10.

### Feel My Bicep Italo Disco Party

Yes! This celebration of full-throttle, neon-coated and often mega-camp Italian disco of the 1980s returns after its first outing two years ago. Kicked off by the Bicep boys and friends, this 4-11pm Sunday dance is also a fundraiser for charities the Youth Fund and The Malala Trust. No word yet on if Malala is laying down a set, but even so, this will be a sell-out, so dig deep and book asap. → Earth. Feb 24.

### Late Junction Festival

As it celebrates its twentieth birthday this year, BBC Radio 3's experimental music show has teamed up with the Barbican to throw its first ever festival. It's a two-day affair at Hackney venue Earth featuring performances from avant-garde rockers This Is Not The Heat, industrial-ish composer Gazelle Twin and loads of other innovative acts. → Earth. Feb 28-Mar 1.

### Swindle

For those who don't know, Swindle is an outrageously talented UK producer who's so far been treading an intriguing line between grime, jazz and hip hop in his many works. Forthcoming album 'No More Normal' should be a real moment. The same goes for this rare headline show. → Omea. Mar 23.





## The Ends

This sexy new Croydon festival adds De La Soul, J Balvin, Nao, Ghetts and Nadia Rose to a line-up that already boasts headline sets from Nas, Wizkid and Damian Marley.

→ Lloyd Park. May 31-Jun 2.

## The Mighty Hoopla

Easily one of the funnest fests to launch in recent years, this coming-together of London's coolest and queerest clubs (Sink The Pink, Guilty Pleasures, Massaoke etc) has announced its always idiosyncratic first wave of guests, who include: All Saints, Bananarama, Liberty X, Jamelia, Samantha Mumba and super intriguing pop sensation Tove Lo.

→ Brockwell Park (subject to licence). Jun 8.

## Isle of Wight Festival

Crossing the Solent in the name of rock 'n' roll this year are IOW headliners George Ezra, Biffy Clyro and Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, plus a heaving pop/rock line-up that includes Anne-Marie, Lily Allen, Bastille and Jax Jones.

→ Seaclose Park, Newport. Jun 13-16.

## NOS Alive

Up for a summer fest in the EU? Portuguese mega-fest has Robyn, The Cure, The Chemical Brothers, Weezer, Thom Yorke, Sharon Van Etten and tons more gracing its stages this year.

→ Passeio Marítimo de Algés, Lisbon. Jul 11-13.

## Apollo Nights Summer Series

This brand new concert series will transform Hammersmith's revamped Eventim Apollo into a swanky supper club where you'll sample food by Odette's chef and patron Bryn Williams while the likes of Marc Almond, George Benson and Burt Bacharach with Joss Stone perform on stage. If music's the only food you need of an evening, non-dining tickets are also available.

→ Eventim Apollo. Jul 16-20.

## Latitude Festival

Big news for Lana Del Rey fans: the bewitching and hella awesome singer is headlining Suffolk chill-fest Latitude this year, joining George Ezra, Snow Patrol, Underworld, Loyle Carner plus comedians Jason Manford and Trump-baiting US comedian Michelle Wolf.

→ Henham Park, Suffolk. Jul 18-21.

## Bluedot

This Cheshire festival held in an actual deep-space observatory is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing with a mind-opening weekend of music, science, arts and 'cosmic culture'. With sets from Kraftwerk, New Order, Hot Chip, Anna Calvi and more, expect the tunes to be just as out-of-this-world as the vibes.

→ Jodrell Bank Observatory, Cheshire. Jul 19-21.

## Jenny Lewis

Her fourth album 'On the Line' boasts session work from Beck, Ryan Adams and some drummer named Ringo Starr (nope, never heard of him either).

→ Electric Ballroom. Jul 25.

## Lost Village Festival

Firmly established as a fun, dance-focused summer festival, set in epic woodland and with a theatrical/dining bent too, this year's LV boasts Maribou State, Peggy Gou, Todd Terje, Little Dragon, Bicep and Folamour – with more to be announced soon.

→ Norton Disney, Lincolnshire. Aug 22-25.

## South West Four

Clapham Common's bank holiday dance bash has just announced a typically bangin' 2019 line-up that includes The Prodigy, Martin Garrix, Craig David presents TSS, Oliver Heldens and Mabel. It's the one for big drops and bassy wumps aplenty.

→ Clapham Common, Aug 24-25.

Buy tickets at [timeout.com/gigs](https://www.timeout.com/gigs)

# JUNCTION 2

## FESTIVAL

### FRIDAY

DJS A-Z

BICEP | DANIEL AVERY  
DAPHNI | DIXON  
DJ KOZE | HUNEE

MOTOR CITY DRUM ENSEMBLE  
RICARDO VILLALOBOS

BATU | BEN UFO | CALL SUPER  
CARISTA | CRAIG RICHARDS  
DJ STINGRAY | FORT ROMEAU  
GILLES PETERSON  
JEREMY UNDERGROUND  
JOB JOBSE | MR G SELECTORS SET  
MUMDANCE | OBJEKT | PEACH  
RROXYMORE | S\_AS  
SHANTI CELESTE | UMFANG  
VOLVOX

### SATURDAY

DJS A-Z

ADAM BEYER  
AMELIE LENS | APOLLONIA  
JOSEPH CAPRIATI | LOCO DICE  
MACEO PLEX | RICHIE HAWTIN  
TALE OF US

BART SKILLS  
CRAIG RICHARDS  
DAX J | ETAPP KYLE  
IDA ENGBERG  
IMOGEN | LAUREN LO SUNG  
MAX COOPER  
NICOLAS LUTZ | SAN PROPER  
SONJA MOONEAR  
TINI | VAAL  
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# Theatre & Dance

Edited by **Andrzej Lukowski**  
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## THE BIG REVIEW

# When We Have Sufficiently Tortured Each Other



**'WHEN WE HAVE** Sufficiently Tortured Each Other' is *a lot*. Like a lot a lot. It would be a lot even if there was nothing particularly unusual about it other than it stars noted screen icon Cate Blanchett. As it is, it stars noted screen icon Cate Blanchett and is also a batshit crazy dark comedy about a couple who indulge in an elaborate semi-sadomasochistic role-play game loosely based around Samuel Richardson's seminal proto-novel 'Pamela'.

So there's that.

The play is by avant-garde luminary Martin Crimp and is directed by the great Katie Mitchell, a woman who fell out of favour with the previous National Theatre regime for making work that was too weird. And yeah, it's pretty weird, even if it's one of the usually austere Mitchell's more overtly fun shows.

We open on six figures with gaffer tape over their mouths filing into a suburban garage, dressed as hotel maids. Eventually two of them (never named) reveal themselves to be Blanchett and Stephen Dillane playing... a married couple? They're indulging in what at first seems like a fairly humdrum bit of role play where he's the dominant master (a figure roughly equivalent to the book's Mr B) and she's the young, vulnerable Pamela. Except she's not playing ball, and angrily tries to get a rise out of him; only when he becomes

somewhat deflated, she tries to gee him up again. Then, they swap roles: he becomes Pamela; she becomes Mr B. Repeat for two hours, and, er, that's kind of the plot.

It is a very peculiar play: anybody lucky enough to bag a ticket will hopefully have done their homework on Mitchell and Crimp and be expecting something fairly challenging. But the biggest challenge is discerning whether or not it has a point to make. The messiness of gender, the complications of desire, the importance of the taboo, the performative nature of male and female roles, the tension between feminism and lust... all of these are at play here, but I'm not sure it ever says anything particularly penetrating about any of them.

After a while I tuned out my worries about what it all meant and started to appreciate its undeniably camp sense of humour, and the fine performances. Blanchett is scorchingly good when her character is bored, angry or a man: sometimes imperious and imposing, sometimes terrifying and ludicrous as she rants away in her power-drunk male guise, that retina-searing charisma cranked up to the max. Dillane is actually better, though: he can do the pompous egoistical sadist thing, but it's all underpinned by a real sense of loneliness and desperation. And he frequently drops into a fascinating, morose



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#### WHAT IS IT...

Cate Blanchett brings her star power to this avant-garde S&M epic.

#### WHY GO...

The play is baffling, but Blanchett and Stephen Dillane are terrific.

#### BOOK...

Sold out, but a day-seats queue starts at around 3am.

→ National Theatre, Dorfman. ⇄ Waterloo.  
Until Mar 2. £10-£58.  
Day seats only.



minor key that Blanchett never comes close to replicating – she doesn't really do subtle.

Mostly, the rest of the cast have very little to do, though there's a great turn from Jessica Gunning as the man's vulnerable/seductive housekeeper Mrs Jewkes – even if some of Crimp's lines about her weight are profoundly hard to love.

Mitchell's febrile direction and a feverish electronic score from Melanie Wilson give it a sense of depth, but I can't help thinking the play itself is ultimately shallow: two hours of kinky foreplay with no main event. Still, the extremely silly final scene – if you've ever wondered what Cate Blanchett would look like wearing a strapon, then fill your boots – confirmed my suspicion that it has a sense of humour.

Blanchett stans will surely dig a play in which their idol gets to go so appreciably OTT. Devotees of Crimp and Mitchell won't remember it as their absolute best play, but will no doubt appreciate the chance to see their idols' work back at the NT again. Anybody in between may wonder what the hell is going on, but they're probably not going to be bored. ■



**By Andrzej Lukowski**

Who is honestly probably far too bashful to watch this sort of thing.





## Leave to Remain



**KELE OKEREKE OF** jagged indie-rockers Bloc Party is absolutely not somebody you'd have pegged as a candidate to write a musical. But 'Leave to Remain' – a collaboration with veteran TV writer Matt Jones – is an idiosyncratic stage debut

that doesn't feel like the finished deal but is certainly more interesting than any number of bigger, more polished affairs.

In the opening montage of choreographer-director Robby Graham's compact, energetic show, we see the courtship of American recovering addict Alex (Billy Cullum) and reserved Brit Obi (Tyrone Huntley) as they meet, swap numbers, date, snog and move in. And that's all before the first song kicks in, the

surging ballad-banger 'Not the Drugs Talking', which soundtracks the night ten months into their relationship when Alex tells Obi that his firm is relocating to Abu Dhabi due to Brexit and that

there's only one way they can stay together – get hitched.

Obi agrees, but it's apparent that he has doubts. We soon find out why: he feels compelled to invite his Nigerian parents, who threw him out aged 16 and who he has never properly reconciled with.

Musically, it's refreshing: the songs are propulsive and catchy, on the more electronic side of indie but with an alluring highlife sheen.

Thematically, what I took it to be saying is that the still essentially heteronormative ritual of marriage can be traumatic to gay people who have – at best – only brokered fragile truces with their families regarding their sexuality.

The trouble is it's all so bloody miserable. Musicals can tackle serious subjects, but once Alex and Obi get engaged, 'Leave to Remain' becomes glum and introspective. And it lacks tension: we know that they're not really ready to marry, and it wouldn't seem like a tragedy if they didn't.

Still, the songs, the premise and Huntley's charismatic turn as the brittle, secretive Obi are enough to make 'Leave to Remain' constantly intriguing, if not always actual fun. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

### WHAT IS IT...

A new musical with songs by Bloc Party's Kele Okereke.

### WHY GO...

For a intense gay love story with a catchy soundtrack.

→ Lyric Hammersmith.

⊖ Hammersmith.

Until Feb 16. £10-£42.

## No Show



### WHAT IS IT...

An all-female show about the sweat behind circus.

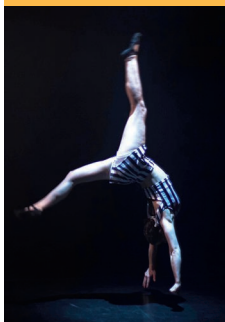
### WHY GO...

For spectacular stunts and witty patter.

→ Soho Theatre.

⊖ Tottenham Court Rd.

Until Feb 9. £11-£18.



**ON A BARE** black stage, a tensely beaming performer in a black-and-white striped leotard is playing an accordion. Four other performers in similar outfits join her, their faces locked in rictus grins. The nervy sense of artifice has crystallised so densely you could grind it up and sprinkle it over popcorn. Cirque du Soleil this is not.

In fact, the visible expression of labour is one of the show's most charming features. The self-aware quintet pull off some fabulous tricks, but their irresistible patter provides a peephole into the life of a circus artist. Camille Toyer's exquisite Cyr wheel demonstration is drily narrated by Kate McWilliam, who lists the hideous injuries Toyer could suffer if she missteps. Then McWilliam herself, in a tumbling sequence, describes her struggles in the male-dominated field of circus acrobatics and the onus on female performers to look ethereal and get their splits out.

But for all its irony, 'No Show' is also a piece about the great art that comes of practice. When Francesca Hyde pulls off a gasp-inducing hair-hanging ballet, the audience is left with the sense that these women have transcended physical limits. A sense underlined by the fact that, afterwards, they wipe tears of pain and relief from their eyes, or have to sit down and eat a doughnut. Running headlong into danger, this show cartwheels with charisma. ■ *Ka Bradley*

## Dear Elizabeth



### WHAT IS IT...

A playfully haunting look at a literary friendship.

### WHY GO...

These witty poets will definitely spark joy.

→ Gate Theatre.

⊖ Notting Hill Gate.

Until Feb 9. £24,

£12-£16 concs.



**AMERICAN POETS ELIZABETH** Bishop and Robert Lowell wrote letters to each other for the three decades between 1947 and 1977. And they're entirely fascinating, taking in everything from drunken confessions to literary criticism to notes marking the triumphant acquisition of a pet toucan. Playwright Sarah Ruhl's 'Dear Elizabeth' dramatises their waxing and waning friendship. Ellen McDougall's abbreviated, reworked staging of Ruhl's play goes one step further, leading two different, unprepared actors through a kind of poetical treasure hunt each night.

The show I saw featured awe-inspiringly fluent performances from actors Jade Anouka and Jonjo O'Neill, who followed playful written instructions prompting them to read, dance or scatter the stage with cornflakes. They bring this friendship to life in a space that's full of luscious surfaces (rich velvet, an iridescent floor) and tongue-in-cheek theatricality. Curtains rise to reveal bottles marking Bishop's dive into alcoholism, or to shower Lowell with wedding confetti.

Bishop's famous refrain that 'The art of losing isn't hard to master' sounds powerful here, drifting across a stage scattered with the debris of bygone decades and loves. What could have been a dry literary exercise is more like a haunted house, restoring power to emotional shocks sketched out in pen and ink. ■ *Alice Saville*



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## Immersive theatre

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### Fight Night

Step into the ring at Exit Theatre's boxing-inspired show, where the audience pick the victor of each night's bout. Or head backstage to watch a world of sweat, fierce emotion and fighting talk.

→ The Vaults. ☎ Waterloo. Wed Jan 30-Feb 17. £22.

### Secret Theatre Project London

This courtroom thriller puts a man on trial for a string of grisly murders. But is he guilty? Inspired by 'The Silence of the Lambs', the Secret Theatre guys are laying on a night of interactive dystopian chills.

→ Secret location. Until Mar 3. £29.99-£109.99.

### The Grand Expedition

Gingerline have built up a greedy horde of fans with their cult nights of food and immersive whimsy. This latest helping sends you up, up in the air, with aviation-themed courses featuring slides and giant ballpits.

→ Secret location. Until Apr 27. £55-£75.

### Variant 31

Billed as 'Europe's largest immersive survival experience', this epic apocalyptic show-cum-escape room has a cast of 100 actors trained in parkour, acrobatics and scaring the pants off audience members.

→ Secret location. From Apr 13. £39.

### The War of the Worlds

Virtual reality tech and '80s-tastic sounds mix in Dotdotdot's new show, based on Jeff Wayne's bombastic concept album. Headsets let you meet a Martian and witness a space battle in glorious 3D. ■ Alice Saville

→ The Old Metal Exchange. ☎ Aldgate. From £39.50.

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## NEW SHOWS

### THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

#### WEST END

##### Tango Fire

A sizzling night of Argentinian dance.  
→ Peacock Theatre.  
⊖ Holborn. Until Feb 16.  
£15-£45.

##### Katya Kabanova

Richard Jones stages Janáček's opera.  
→ Royal Opera House.  
⊖ Covent Garden.  
Mon Feb 4-Feb 26. £6-£125.

##### Superhoe

Nicôle Lecky is the writer and star of this show about an East End aspiring rapper.  
→ Royal Court Theatre.  
⊖ Sloane Square.  
Wed Jan 30-Feb 16. £12-£18.

#### OFF-WEST END

##### Beast on the Moon

A mail-order bride struggles to adjust to her new life in Richard Kalinoski's 1992 Armenian drama.  
→ Finborough Theatre.  
⊖ West Brompton. Until Feb 23.  
£16-£20, £16-£18 concs.

##### Cost of Living

Polish-American playwright Martyna Majok's hit drama gets its UK premiere, starring Adrian Lester.  
→ Hampstead Theatre.  
⊖ Swiss Cottage. Until Mar 9.  
£25-£40, £10-£15 concs.

##### Counting Sheep

This immersive protest/party puts audience members at the heart of the 2014 Kiev Uprising.  
→ The Vaults. ⊖ Waterloo.  
Until Mar 17. £10-£40.

##### Di, Viv and Rose

A revival of Amelia Bullmore's cockle-warming story of female friendship.  
→ White Bear Theatre.  
⊖ Kennington. Until Feb 16.  
£16, £14 concs.

##### London Lovecraft Festival

A fringe fest of eldritch horrors, inspired by the legendary author.  
→ Old Red Lion.  
⊖ Angel. Sun Feb 3-Feb 9.  
£7.50-£14, £6-£12.50 concs.



'The Tragedy of King Richard the Second'

##### My Dad's Gap Year

This breezy LGBT+ comedy is the story of a father and son finding themselves on a trip to sunny Thailand.  
→ Park Theatre. ⊖ Finsbury Park. Wed Jan 30-Feb 23.  
£18, £16.50 concs.

##### The Orchestra

Jean Anouilh's comedy follows the petty power struggles and heady emotions at play in a small-time French orchestra.  
→ Omnibus. ⊖ Clapham Common. Until Feb 17.  
£16, £13 concs.

#### LAST CHANCE

##### Don Quixote

Rufus Hound is a scene-stealing hoot in the RSC's version of a classic comedy.  
→ Garrick Theatre.  
⊖ Charing Cross.  
Until Sat Feb 2. £10-£97.50.

##### The Tragedy of King Richard the Second

Catch Simon Russell Beale in a subversive, blood-drenched take on Shakespeare.  
→ Almeida Theatre.  
⊖ Angel. Until Sat Feb 2.  
£10-£39.50.

EXCLUSIVE

## 'CAROLINE, OR CHANGE'



It's your last chance to get discounted tickets to this glowing revival starring Sharon D Clarke – they're just £17.50, saving you up to 46 percent. The show closes on March 2, so don't sleep on it!

> [TIMEOUT.COM/CAROLINE](http://TIMEOUT.COM/CAROLINE)

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### 1 The Book of Mormon

God-bothering musical that's a hit of biblical proportions.  
→ Prince of Wales Theatre. Until Apr 27.

### 2 Caroline, or Change

A maid dreams of escape in this complex, moving show.  
→ Playhouse Theatre. Until Apr 6.

### 3 Wicked

Fantastical cult favourite that confirms friendship is magic.  
→ Apollo Victoria. Until Nov 30.

### 4 Betrayal

Tom Hiddleston stars in the brooding Pinter classic.  
→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Mar 5-Jun 1.

### 5 Company

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

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# Comedy

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## TIME OUT MEETS Rosie Jones

IN 'FIFTEEN MINUTES', Rosie Jones's debut solo show, the fast-rising stand-up teasingly plays with people's expectations, wrong-footing them at every opportunity, as she explains how cerebral palsy has helped make her who she is.

'Some people might find it a bit uncomfortable to meet a person with a disability who is so unapologetic for who they are, and not a victim in the slightest,' says Jones. 'It's a magic moment when the audience realise that I'm not just a disabled person, I'm a bloody funny disabled person.'

The show's title comes from the fact that, when Jones was born, she 'didn't breathe for 15 minutes, which is how I developed cerebral palsy,' she explains. 'So, essentially, I was a mere 15 minutes away from being able-bodied.' The show, imagines how Jones's life might have turned out if that 15 minutes hadn't happened. 'It explores who I would be if I wasn't disabled... I'm pretty sure I'd still be a twat, though!'

The former TV researcher speaks slowly, so every syllable has to count, she says. 'I've got to get to the punchline before any of the audience do, so there can be absolutely no fat word-wise,' she explains. 'I reckon that if my material was performed by an able-bodied person, the joke-count would be dizzyingly high.'

Fortunately, Jones is totally in control of her words. She's totally in control of her audience too. And on stage, she enjoys playing with what's comfortable for her largely able-bodied crowd. 'As long as I am confident and in control of what I say, in comedy there is no line I won't cross,' she says. ■ *Ben Williams*

→ 'Rosie Jones: Fifteen Minutes' is at Soho Theatre. Feb 14-16.

## THE TEN BEST GIGS THIS MONTH

### 10 Beth Vyse as Olive Hands in *The Hand That Rocked the Cradle*

Batshit crazy character comedy about children and motherhood.

→ Vault Festival. Sat Feb 2 and Feb 9.

### 9 Simon Munnery: *'Alan Parker Urban Warrior'*

The alt-comedy mainstay revives his properly excellent armchair anarchist character.

→ The Bill Murray. Sun Feb 3.

### 8 Catherine Bohart: *'Immaculate'*

This hotly tipped Irish comic's debut solo show focuses on growing up as the bisexual daughter of a Catholic deacon.

→ Soho Theatre. Feb 25-Mar 2.

### 7 Sheeps: *'Live and Loud Selfie Sex Harry Potter'*

One of the best sketch comedy shows of the year. Smart skits, silly performances and terrible singing voices.

→ Soho Theatre. Feb 14-23.

### 6 Sean Morley: *'I Apologise for My Recent Behaviour'*

A mind-melting blend of comedy deconstruction and audience manipulation.

→ Vault Festival. Feb 22-23.

### 5 Cake

'Live at the Apollo' star Suzi Ruffell, sketch duo Sam & Tom and rising star Helen Bauer play this friendly gig alongside surrealist MC Stuart Laws.

→ Paper Dress Vintage. Feb 11.

### 4 Ben Target: *'Splosh!'*

Artist-comedian Target celebrates swimming and underachievement in his mellow solo show.

→ Battersea Arts Centre. Feb 26-Mar 2.

### 3 Adam Riches *'Is the Guy Who...'*

A woke, site-specific comedy show from the award-winning character comic.

→ Drink, Shop & Do. Mon Feb 4-Feb 7 and Feb 11-14.

### 2 Luisa Omielan's *'Annual Valentine's Day Party'*

Her comedy gig-slash-dance party.

→ O2 Forum Kentish Town. Feb 16.

# 1

## Garrett Millerick: *'Sunflower'*

A breakthrough show from this intelligent comic. Grumpy stand-up with heart.

→ Soho Theatre. Feb 12-16.



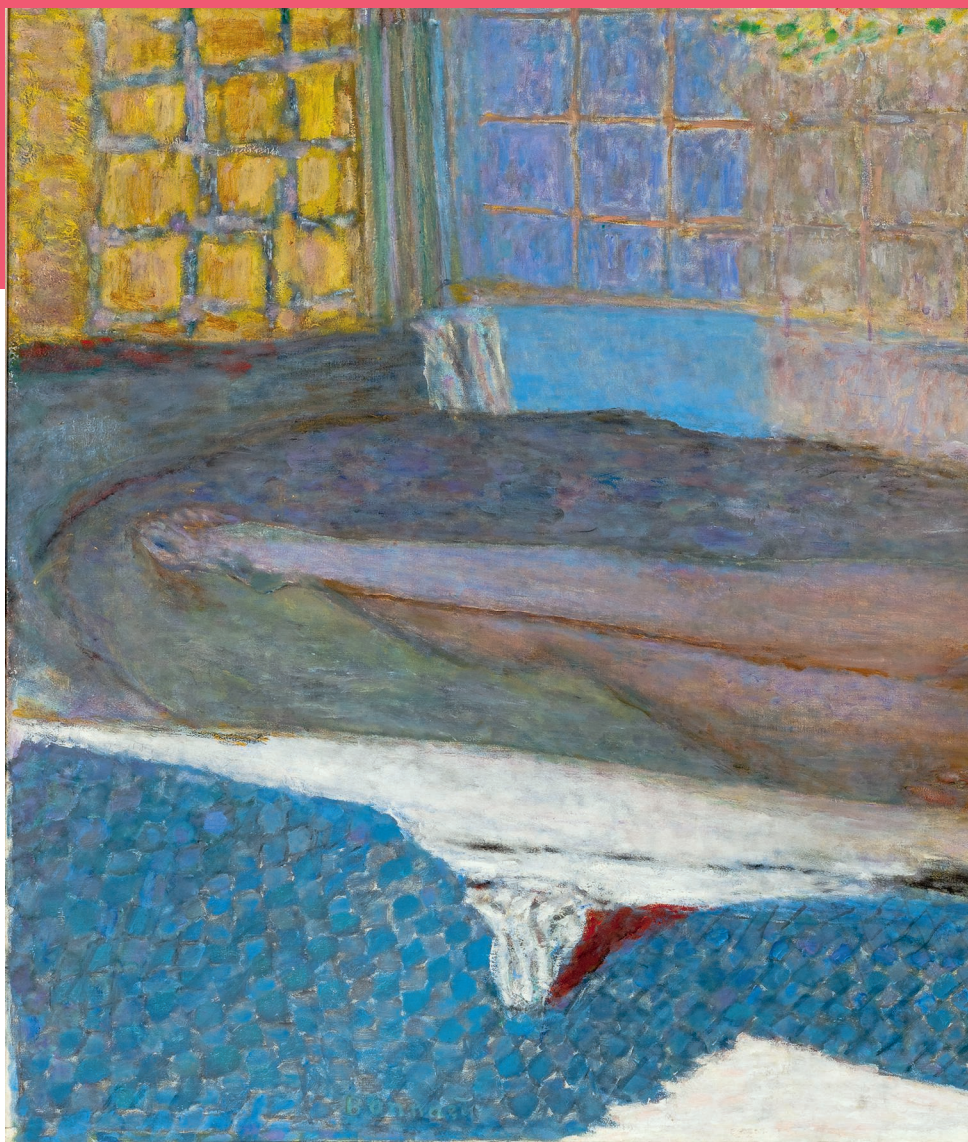


# Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel  
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

SHOW OF THE WEEK

## Pierre Bonnard: 'The Colour of Memory'



**SOME PAINTINGS SEEM** to shimmer with light, but Pierre Bonnard's images of landscapes, domestic scenes, crowds and bathing women absolutely shake with it. And not just light. They hum with sexuality, vibrate with tension, pulsate with melancholy and almost strobe with colour, colour, colour.

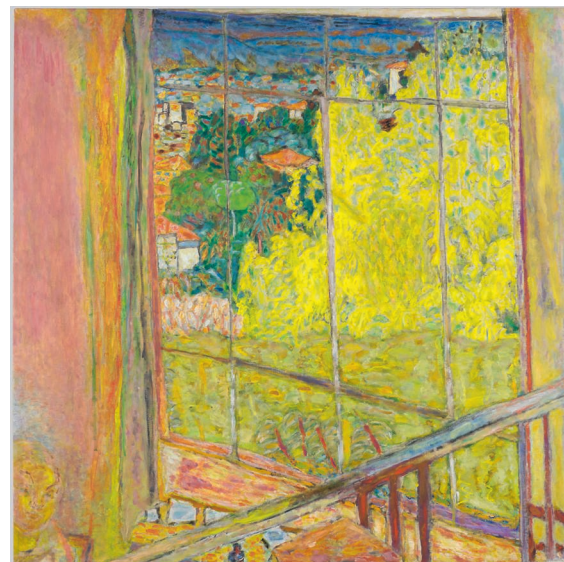
Let me catch my breath and admit that there are some dud pictures here. Bonnard (1867-1947) was, at first glance, a pretty traditional painter for turn-of-the-century France. He can easily come across as more old-fashioned than his contemporaries like Matisse and Picasso – Pablo thought Pierre was a total hack – and a lot of the darker, more crowded earlier works here are messy, grey, fugly smudges that you'll never need to see again. But when he gets into his stride, he's unstoppably brilliant.

The first wave that hits you in this sprawling show is colour: his rippling compositions are drowning in mauves, yellows, oranges and blues,

writhing with greens and ochres. Some works are quasi-abstract geometric splodges of flat planes of intersecting colour, others are pixelated visions of ungraspable light. Some of the surfaces are so pink, some of the hills so green, that they feel totally unreal. One work is just a big chunk of yellow wall. I love it to death.

But this isn't just about painting from life or capturing light. Bonnard worked on some of these canvases for years, obsessing over colour and composition, referring back to photos and twisting everything into new shapes. That's the second wave that hits you: memory. When he paints his wife Marthe – either wracked with desire or filled with the sadness of her eventual illness – he's doing it to hold on to that little block of time. When he paints her with his mistress after both have died, he's trying to bring them somehow back to life.

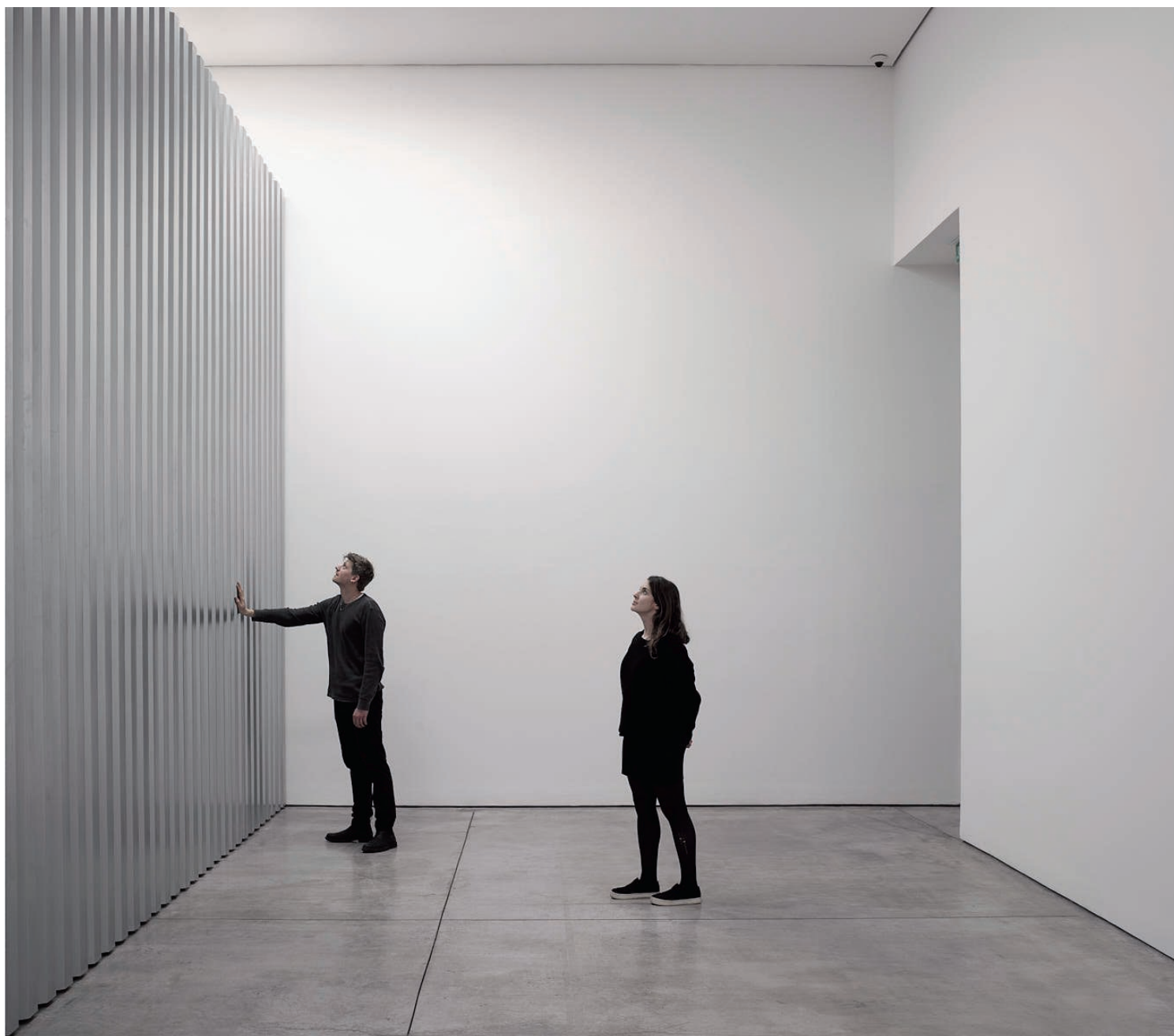
And it's never 'just' a landscape with Bonnard. He didn't paint scenery because it was pretty,











## Mirosław Balka: 'Random Access Memory'



**ON FIRST IMPRESSION,** it might look like Polish conceptual art behemoth Mirosław Balka has made a couple of massive radiators. And on second impression too. And third. That's because he sort of has.

Both spaces of White Cube's central London gallery have been sliced in two by enormous sheets of heated corrugated iron. You can't walk around them or see over the one-metre gaps at the top. You're penned in. Or maybe being kept out.

Balka's radiators are border walls and prison fences. They're symbols

of every kind of physical barrier you can think of. They force narratives out of you. Dwarfed by them, you become a prisoner of conscience, or an immigrant at the US border. There are millions of stories here, millions of chunks of history rippling out like waves of heat.

At first, the temperature is a little underwhelming. The fencing is heated to 45C, the temperature at which human blood coagulates. Coming in from the brittle cold of London's winter, it's actually quite nice, and not half as hot as the heating in my flat. But eventually

you start to feel uncomfortable, the sweat starts trickling. You reach out and touch the work and it's too hot, sticky, unreal, nasty. You realise you're being attacked both physically and environmentally.

That's Balka's greatest trick: turning something as simple as a sheet of corrugated iron into a tool of oppression and a trigger of memory and trauma. The longer you're around it, the more it affects you, and the more you want to leave. It's the only thing in town that might actually make you appreciate the cold this winter. ■ *Eddy Frankel*

### WHAT IS IT...

Two giant radiators by a brilliant Polish artist.

### WHY GO...

It's aggressive, oppressive and a lot better than it sounds.

→ White Cube Mason's Yard. ☎ Piccadilly Circus. Until Mar 9. Free.





## 'The Anatomy of Melancholy'



**ROBERT BURTON'S** 'The Anatomy of Melancholy' was first published in 1621. The extensive handbook to misery was an unlikely bestseller and has continued to provide inspiration to gloriously gloomy souls ever since.

Burton's masterpiece rejected existing wisdom connecting a case of the blues to an overload of black bile in the spleen. Instead, his book named six causes of depression. Chronic low spirits could, Burton suggested, come from *hypocondriacus*, *solitudo*, *zelotypia*, *inamorato*, *maniacus* and *superstitiosus*. Modern translation: sickness, solitude, jealousy, disappointment in love, insanity and religious melancholy.

This small exhibition is made up of paintings relating to Burton's six categories. All of the artworks are taken from the museum's own collection, a treasure trove of art created by patients of Bethlem Royal Hospital, collected over a 200-year period. But the best thing about the show is how it normalises melancholy, old and new. The saddest thing about feeling sad is often the suggestion that a low mood is wrong or unhealthy. These artworks tackle despondency, whatever its cause, as just another part of being human, no judgement. Which is more than can be said for you, random guy at Charing Cross tube station and your always unwelcome and loathed advice: 'Cheer up, love.' ■ Rosemary Waugh

### WHAT IS IT...

A touching look at 200 years of art inspired by sadness.

### WHY GO...

It's not just nice painting, it makes an important point about mental health to boot.

→ Bethlem Museum of the Mind. West Wickham rail. Until Apr 27. Free.

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Unidentified man and Martin Grünpeter building a foundry and learning construction techniques. Werkloos Nieuwehuis, Wieringermeer, The Netherlands, 1939. © Mara Vishniac Kohn. Courtesy International Center of Photography.



# Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine  
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

## SEVEN OF THE BEST

# Restaurants for dim sum

Chinese New Year is almost upon us. What better way to celebrate than with some lunchtime dumplings? Here's our pick of the top spots

### Din Tai Fung Covent Garden

International chain DTF is best known for its all-day dim sum, particularly the xiao long bao (soup dumplings). Served in bamboo baskets, these delicate steamed parcels come filled with the likes of pork and chilli crab. The non-soup dumplings are well worth sampling, too: don't leave without trying the seriously smooth prawn wontons in a rich, moreish, black vinegar and chilli oil sauce.

→ 5 Henrietta St, WC2E 8PT. ☎ Covent Garden.

### Dumplings' Legend Chinatown

This popular Chinatown hangout is more traditional than new kid Din Tai Fung, but shares the same signature dish: soup dumplings. (The classic, subtle pork version is our favourite.) Despite the name, there's more to this place than just dumplings: the terrific fried turnip cake and quivering cheung fun are worth ordering too.

→ 15-16 Gerrard St, W1D 6JE. ☎ Leicester Square.

### Hakkasan Fitzrovia

A swanky Cantonese trendsetter, Hakkasan remains the benchmark against which all high-end Chinese restaurants should be judged. It's one for the big spenders, although you don't need to re-mortgage for its ambrosial dim sum. Who

could resist the crispy duck rolls, quail and basil dumplings or grilled morel buns? Sexy, moody and somehow still cool, even after all these years.

→ 8 Hanway Place, W1T 1HD. ☎ Tottenham Court Rd.

### Phoenix Palace Marylebone

Decked out in lavish Oriental style, Phoenix Palace is a favourite of international business travellers, but its easygoing bustle also suits local families who crowd in on weekends for high-quality, but excellent value, dim sum. Steamed dumplings and other dependables sit alongside pork croquettes and black egg congee with salty pork – all bursting with fresh tastes and textures.

→ 5 Glentworth St, NW1 5PG. ☎ Baker St.

### Royal China Bayswater

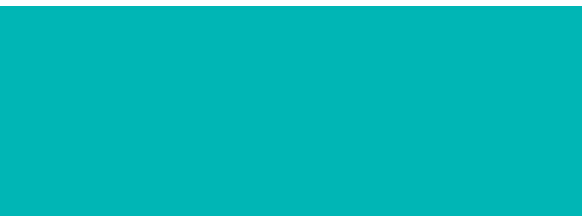
A stalwart of London's dim sum scene, Royal China serves up consistently good Cantonese cooking, from beef balls and lacy-edged taro croquettes to more innovative ideas such as steamed crab and spinach dumplings. Enjoy the whole shebang in the gilded splendour of RC's black-and-gold lacquered Queensway dining room, or head to more local branches across the capital including Canary Wharf and Baker Street.

→ 13 Queensway, W2 4QJ. ☎ Queensway.



Din Tai Fung





Hakkasan

### **Shikumen** Shepherd's Bush

Though it opened an Aldgate branch in 2017, it's this location, at the Dorsett hotel in SheBu, that Shikumen fans still love the best. Food-wise, top marks go to the exquisitely crafted dim sum (from the signature xiao long bao to sophisticated open parcels of scallop siu mai topped with tobiko), while the dining room reflects the classy comfort of its hotel setting.

→ 58 Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 8QE. ☎ Shepherd's Bush Market.

### **Yauatcha City** Moorgate

The City branch of the upscale Soho spot looks a bit like an extremely glamorous spaceship – one very long room that, as you walk through it, seems to go on forever. All of the dim sum is excellent, but the venison puffs (stuffed with rich, dark meat) or the plump scallops siu mai are a must. ■

→ 1 Broadgate Circle, EC2M 2QS. ☎ Liverpool St.



Dumplings' Legend

Dippy about dumplings? Lots more at [timeout.com/dimsum](https://www.timeout.com/dimsum)



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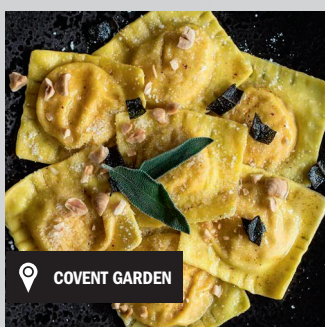
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# TimeOut

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COVENT GARDEN

### MARGOT SAYS:

'At Margot, vegetarian options have always been important, so we are pleased to be introducing our extended vegetarian and vegan menu. Early favourites include linguine with mixed forest mushroom ragù and quinoa salad with purple potatoes, fennel, pomegranate and wholegrain mustard dressing. Best of all, as the seasons change so does the menu.'

45 Great Queen St, WC2B 5AA.



SMITHFIELD

### STEM + GLORY SAYS:

'Stem + Glory London brings delicious plant-based dining to the Square Mile in a beautiful, newly constructed 56-cover restaurant. The bright and contemporary space has a feature acoustic wall and a chef's table overlooking the central open kitchen. Diners can expect vegan breakfasts, tasty brunches, lunches, evening dinners and special tasting menus.'

60 Bartholomew Close, EC1A 7BF.

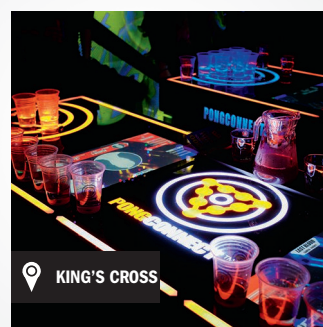


CANARY WHARF

### IPPUDO SAYS:

'With a menu focused on the best of silky tonkotsu ramen and the most beloved Japan-inspired appetisers, such as gyoza and hirata buns, Ippudo aims to dazzle busy Londoners. Vegetarian options are available for ramen and appetisers, too. The mission is simple: to spread "smiles" and "arigatou" through bowls of ramen.'

Unit CR 28, Crossrail Station and Retail Mall, Level -1, 1 Crossrail Place, E14 5AR.



KING'S CROSS

### PONG LONDON SAYS:

'This is an entire bar dedicated to the American college game: beer pong. There are neon digital match tables to play on, DJs to provide a soundtrack, plus cocktails and beer (obvs). And then there are happy hours from Monday to Saturday, as well as all day on Sundays, with 2-4-1 cocktails and two beers for £7. What's not to love?'

156 Pentonville Rd, N1 9JL.



## What the Pitta

→ 89-91 Bayham St, NW1 0AG. ↻ Camden Town.



**WITH THREE BRANCHES** in London, plus one in Brighton, What the Pitta can now be crowned as King of the vegan kebab. For the signature kebab 'meat', they marinade soya chunks in 'secret spices' to create succulent nuggets. You'll find them in the headline act: a vegan doner where the 'meat' comes packed in flatbread, with salad, soya yoghurt, tzatziki and houmous. It works because it's not just the 'meat' that's seen love and care: the salad is fresh and crunchy, the sauces are creamy and the made-in-house bread is great – thin and floury, a light way of housing a kebab's heft.

Honestly, it tasted a lot like a 'real' kebab. Not a 3am meat-sweats-and-regret job, but a

well-made, posh kebab that you'd happily eat again. Sober. In fact, it's almost – whisper it – healthy.

If this all sounds too renegade, opt for the doner-and-chips box to up the kebab-shop feel, or go the other way entirely with a couscous salad box (albeit naughtied up with meaty pieces). Whatever you order, turn up hungry: portions are huge. But you can take stuff home. In which case, you should grab some

of the baklava too. It's syrupy and sweet enough to put you into a mild sugar coma, but absolutely worth it.

WTP is geared up for both eat-in and takeaways, so if you really want the full kebab shop experience, you can always buy one and cram it in while staggering about in the street. However you eat it, it'll be great. ■

*Tristan Parker*

**Dinner for two (no drinks or service): around £30.**



### WHAT IS IT...

The flagship London branch of the vegan kebab mini chain.

### WHY GO...

For a bolshy doner fix without the post-scoff shame.

## Rudy's Dirty Vegan Diner ★★★★★

→ Unit 739, Camden Stables Market, NW1 8AH. ↻ Chalk Farm.

**THERE'S A LOT** of vegan junk food around London now. Like, a lot. Plant-based burgers, hot dogs, wings, mac 'n' cheese... and it's all found in abundance at this Camden diner.

Inside, it's not the warmest of venues unless you're right by the counter, but to be fair it's not intended for long, lingering dinners. You're here for the fast carbs – like the Dirty Burger, with a soya mince patty, fake bacon and cashew cheese – that was enjoyable enough, but one of Rudy's rarer offerings proved to be its strongest: the Rudy's Reuben, a vegan version of the classic US über-sandwich usually made with corned beef or pastrami, Swiss cheese and sauerkraut. The seitan pastrami was impressive, and the tang of the pickles, onion and aniseed was offset by the creaminess of the cheese and Russian dressing.

Sides were more mixed. Fries were moreish, but the 'bacon'-topped mac 'n' cheese was a bit plain and lacking in, well, cheesiness. Seitan buffalo wings were nicely crisp and served with celery batons for authenticity, though the accompanying 'blue cheeze' sauce lacked creaminess.

On the plus side, portions are hefty. If you're after frill-free comfort grub, you won't leave disappointed, particularly if you order one of those mighty reubens. ■ *Tristan Parker*

**Dinner for two (no drinks or service): around £35.**

### WHAT IS IT...

A vegan, US-styled junk food restaurant in Stables Market.

### WHY GO...

For the best vegan reuben in town.



### EXCLUSIVE

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THE BEST OF THE CITY



# Andina

→ 157 Westbourne Grove, W11 2RS. ↻ Notting Hill Gate.

**ANDINA NOTTING HILL**, from the same stable as Ceviche, Casita Andina and Andina Old Street, is a modern take on a typical Peruvian picantería: a casual all-day dining spot. The anything-but-boring menu, divided into small and large plates, sparkles with bright and sunny items such as Andean olluco potatoes and uchucuta salsa.

We asked our waiter if it was better to order our own plates or share and were told we could do anything we liked. Don't listen to him, reader – it makes much more sense to share.

The one plate you won't want to share is the ceviche, Andina's take on Peru's national dish. This small serving of ocean-fresh sea bass packed a one-two punch of heat and acid, and the zingy citrus broth was good enough to finish off with a spoon. But there was a vast size disparity between the big plates. The hulking beef short rib was roughly four times larger than the flimsy single tentacle of the octopus with sweet potatoes dish. Despite its size, the sweet, well-charred octopus won out against the short rib, which was let down by an oily coating of fat. But at Andina, the triumphant ceviche and the best pisco sours this side of Machu Picchu are enough to carry the meal. ■ *Nicole Trilivas*

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



**WHAT IS IT...**  
A casual Peruvian restaurant in Notting Hill.

**WHY GO...**  
For stunning sea bass ceviche you won't want to share.



# Kyseri

→ 64 Grafton Way, W1T 5DN. ↻ Warren St.



**WHAT IS IT...**  
A modern Turkish restaurant in Fitzrovia.

**WHY GO...**  
For the salty Black Sea fondue and its accompanying herby halloumi bread.

**KYSERI, A TURKISH-CYPRIO** restaurant that aims to 'push the boundaries' of both cuisines, is a lovely spot in Fitzrovia from Laura Christie and Selin Kiazim – the acclaimed chef behind Oklava, a Turkish place in Shoreditch. It's small, but beautiful: light pours in through bay windows on to soft-orange banquettes, and marble tables are topped with white roses. It's like a little slice of Chelsea, except its by Warren Street tube.

The menu was an interesting read: a mix of modern Turkish food and ingredients you might not have heard of. The best dish? A plate of beef and sour cherry manti: the four big, meaty dumplings (with tiny pieces of candied cherry mixed into their filling) were like a cross between ravioli and pierogi, and came in a spicy tomato-chilli butter with pine nuts. Then there was the delicious 'Black Sea fondue' – salty, melty cheese with a side of thick, herby halloumi bread.

The disappointments were a plate of Jerusalem artichokes that tasted like oily potatoes, and the pacing of the meal: mains arrived with starters, sides were brought on their own. But I'd still recommend Kyseri. It's a fun place to eat, and Kiazim's cooking is so interesting I would go back just to see what she does next. ■ *Kelly Pigram*

**Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £110.**



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**Wildflower**  
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TimeOut



# Drink

Edited by Laura Richards  
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

## Mikkeller Bar

→ 2-4 Hackney Rd, E2 7NS. ☺ Old St.



### WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED

towards the end of 2018 that '80s heartthrob and modern-day meme sensation Rick Astley was setting up a pub in Shoreditch, it all sounded a bit #fakenews. But he was never gonna let you down. It's all come out of a collaboration with Danish brewery Mikkeller. The crooner and the Copenhagen-based craft beer specialists have been working together on unlikely brews since 2015, and this experimentation has now led them to open the brewery's first UK bar.

From the outside, it looks like any of London's small, unsuspecting boozers – an old-fashioned, hand-painted sign bearing the name of the pub's previous iteration sits above steamed-up windows and pine-green paint. The only distinguishing features are Mikkeller's name in signature white type and a jazzy neon sign over the door. Inside though, Mikkeller and Astley have brought the site into the twenty-first

century. Musty carpets and stools have been replaced by the contents of a Scandi-themed Pinterest board. Exposed bulbs hang from the ceiling, Swiss cheese plants line the walls and there are a handful of mid-century stools and tables.

It's not somewhere you'd go to settle in for a session, though. There are 20 different beers on tap (and more available in bottles and cans) that are unlike most other offerings

in London's beer-centric bars, but the prices are on the eyebrow-raising end of the spectrum. So whether you're sampling one-off seasonals like the lip-smacking Hoppy Lovin' Christmas (£6.40 for a schooner) or just want a pint of lager (the £6 Rick's Pils is one of the more complex pilsners you'll probably taste), things could start to get expensive; unless you're rickrolling in it, of course. ■ *Charlie Allenby*

### WHAT IS IT...

A craft beer bar from the Danish brewery in collaboration with, er, Rick Astley.

### WHY GO...

The vibe is less naff '80s nostalgia, more modern Copenhagen.



### BAR OF THE WEEK

## OPENING SOON

Top cocktails, fine wine and doilies to put them all on – check out these hot watering holes launching in February



### El Bar

Erik Lorincz – formerly of the American Bar at The Savoy – will be at the helm of this new cocktail bar launching beneath Moroccan restaurant Momo in Mayfair. We're hoping for the same razzle-dazzle but a far smaller bill at the end.

→ 25 Heddon St, W1B 4BH.  
☺ Piccadilly Circus.

### Little Nan's at The Cavendish Arms

Hold onto your crochet hats! The fun-time bar group – with Deptford and Fitzrovia outposts made to look like your granny's front room – is opening a pub in Stockwell. Expect pizza served on nan's best china.

→ 128 Hartington Rd, SW8 2HJ.  
☺ Stockwell.

### Top Cuvée

The brothers behind cocktail bar Three Sheets – Max and Noel Venning – are branching out into vino at this bistro and bar new to Highbury. We don't know much yet (not even the address) but have grape expectations.

→ Check Instagram (@topcuvée) for updates.

## The Gunmakers



→ 13 Eyre St Hill, EC1R 5ET. ☺ Farringdon.

### WHAT IS IT...

Multi-faceted Clerkenwell pub – complete with hair salon – from the Nine Lives team.

### WHY GO...

Rethink your look over trendy pre-batched cocktails.

**COMPLETE WITH** hanging baskets, dark wooden panels and gold lettering, The Gunmakers looks like a proper, old-school boozier. And it is, to an extent – a nineteenth-century pub given an update by the folks behind Bermondsey bar Nine Lives. They've kept original details (the mirrors embossed with 'gunmakers' are a nice touch) and have added a space upstairs decked out like a living room that feels cosy without being overcrowded. The most popular spot is a lovely garden hidden at the back, decorated with fairy lights, lanterns and hanging foliage. But here's a twist: on the top floor you'll find The Gun Club, the pub's barber shop, which is worth avoiding if you make bad decisions after a few pints.

Modern trappings extend to the bar, too. It stocks classy canned cocktails from Ace + Freak (produced by the same company that owns the pub). I was initially a bit sceptical – even though I love a G&T tinny – but I was pleasantly surprised by a zingy watermelon and cucumber sangria. The food menu has a New Orleans vibe with dishes including creole shrimp burgers, jambalaya arancini and crawfish mac 'n' cheese.

With so many cosy nooks and crannies, this is a great spot for after-work drinks. You might have to fight it out for a seat in the garden, though. ■ *Isabelle Aron*



Never gonna tell a lie at [timeout.com/bars](https://www.timeout.com/bars)



# Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott  
timeout.com/daytrips



A perfect day in

## Dartmouth

Sea air, cosy pubs and old-fashioned charm

**LOOKING FOR NOSTALGIC** treats from British holidays gone by? Dartmouth's got them all and then some: the classic staples of fish and chips, ice cream and fudge are boosted by fine seafood restaurants and spa retreats. Not forgetting those cosy pubs with open fires, coastal walks, castles and secluded bays. Hugging the mouth of the River Dart, this picturesque place really is one of Devon's most charming seaside escapes.

### First up

A lungful of salty air will help you ease into the Devon pace of life. Look out over postcard-perfect views of the marina and multi-coloured houses from **Dartmouth Harbour**. Early birds should visit **Café Alf Resco** for the best brunch dishes in town.

### Splash the cash

If arts and crafts float your boat, the bunting-lined **Foss Street** is a must-see. Indie shops and art galleries sell locally made objects, like hand-thrown pottery and one-off jewellery. The artsy street is also home to English illustrator and cartoonist **Simon Drew**'s lovely gallery.

### Stop for lunch

It's not a British seaside holiday without fish and chips, and **Rockfish** is the leader of the pack. Bad weather? Sit inside the restaurant. Otherwise pop into **Rockfish Takeaway** and eat by the river, overlooking the boats bobbing in the estuary, with a pint from the nearby **Dartmouth Arms**.

### Drink like a local

**The Cherub**, a fourteenth-century pub with an open fire, gloriously wonky floors and uneven beams, is a good place to start. Visit **Yarn** for craft beers and comfort food. **Joe's Bar** in the back of seafood spot **The Seahorse** serves a mean negroni.

### Soak up the vibes

Get out on the water with the local grey seals. Hire a boat, fish for mackerel in **Brixham** or catch the ferry to **Greenway**, where you can explore Agatha Christie's holiday home. Ring the old ship bell for the impossibly cute **Greenway and Dittisham ferry**, which takes visitors across the river to the **Anchorstone Café** – a seafood-lover's dream with a menu that changes daily. ■ *Lucy Lovell*

→ Get there: three hours by train from London Paddington to Totnes, then taxi; around four hours by car.

### IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Take the short walk to **Dartmouth Castle**. Follow Castle Road to spot the small fortress perched on the mouth of the river by beautifully located St Petrox church. Find Sugary Cove – a tiny shingle beach that's the perfect spot for a dip. Warm up at the Dartmouth Castle Tea Rooms with a cream tea and panoramic views across the estuary.

### WAKE UP HERE

## Gara Rock



Views don't get much more stunning than those at Gara Rock. The secluded hotel is on the coast between Dartmouth and Salcombe overlooking a hidden cove. Although it's open to the public, this little-known beach is generally just visited by the hotel's residents as few tourists will venture this far. Inside the hotel, you'll find open fires, cosy seating areas, a luxe spa and a relaxed dining room where floor-to-ceiling windows allow panoramic views of the bay below. But you may not be able to drag yourself away from your room: most offer dreamy sea views, some balconies and private access to the National Trust path to the beach.

*Lucy Lovell*

→ Near Salcombe. From £175 a night.  
[www.gararock.com](http://www.gararock.com)

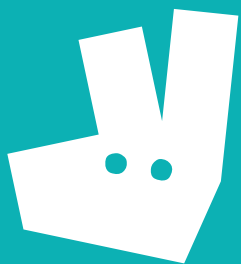
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