

Time Out

LONDON

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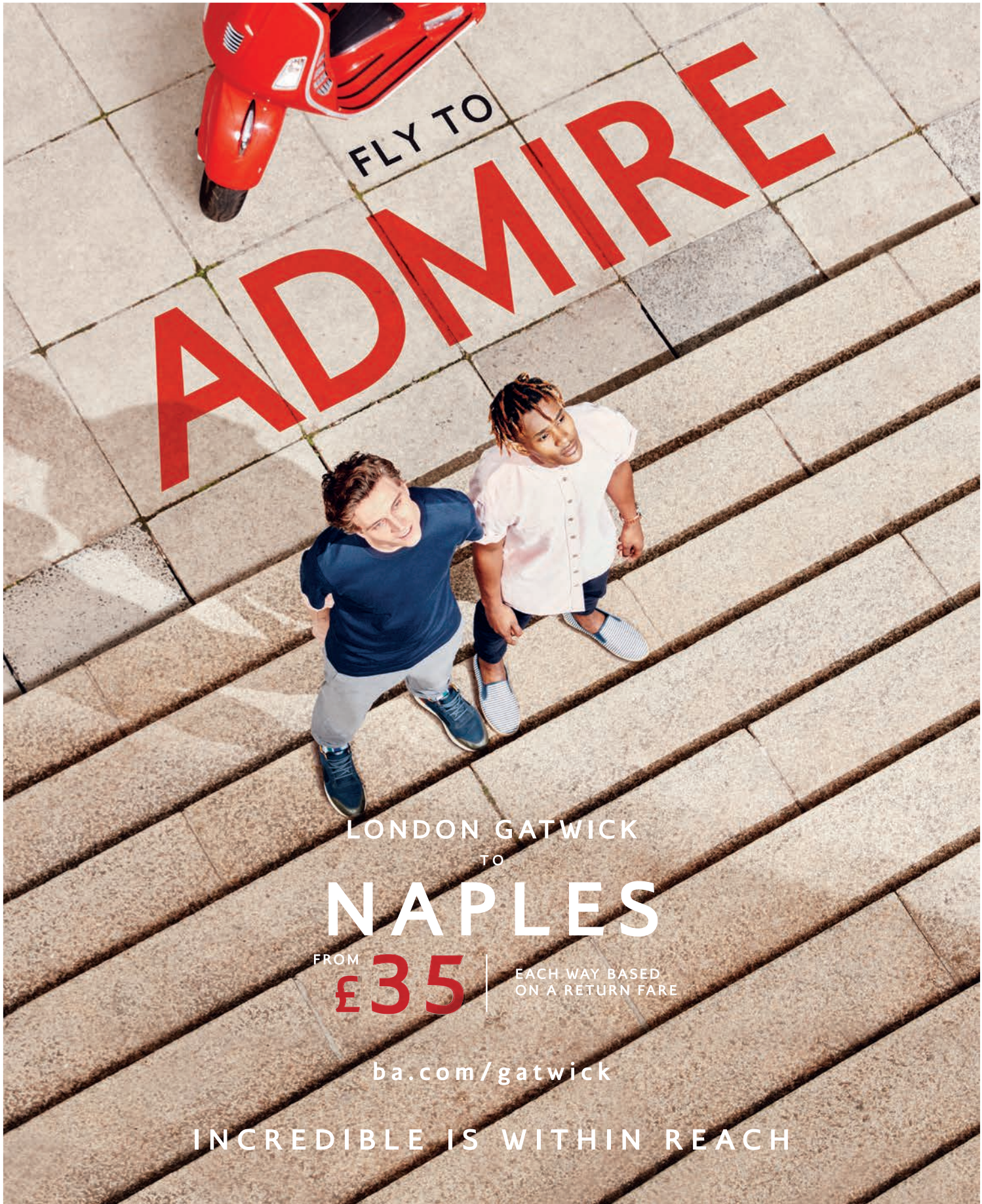
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This week's Time Out
in no time at all

'Diego Maradona'

'Senna' and 'Amy' director Asif Kapadia tackles the flawed football genius for his latest doc – no easy ride

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A little sketchy

This micro piggy went to art class (she was the model) when we tried our hand at Wild Life Drawing. Next up: otters and wolf cubs

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Madonna

'Madame X' is her most wonky and experimental album yet.' We rate the Queen of Pop's new record

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Disunited States

If you missed 'Sweat' at the Donmar, you're in luck. Lynn Nottage's monumental five-star play is getting a run at the Gielgud

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Hello, London

Caroline McGinn
Global Editor-in-Chief
@carolinemcginn



Some of the best things in this city are free. For starters, London has a world-class roster of fee-less museums and galleries that make it a magnet for culture lovers from all over the planet. Then there are the gratis festivals, street parties and other unique events to be enjoyed all summer long (p20). Whether you're into drag stars running riot on the South Bank, performances from top West End musicals or, um, watching sheep being sheared, there's a quirk or spectacle for every possible taste. They're all free and they're all in your free Time Out. What are you waiting for? Join the free-for-all!

YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

One of the most stunning spaces in the city is Kyoto Garden. But did you know there's sneaky wildlife there that wants to steal your stuff?

'Those peacocks are hilarious! They pop up and scare the shit out of you! Most of the squirrels are either bandits or highwaymen too!'

Wil J-L via Facebook

Veganism is a broad church. For every fan of seitan nuggets, there's a... traditionalist. And that's okay. **'I've been a veggie for 30 years and never missed meat. Vegetables have so much more flavour and variety. I cannot understand the sudden surge in fake meat. Why?'**

Sue F via Facebook

Every year, hardy Londoners pedal in the buff to celebrate bodies and protest at cars. But not everyone digs the World Naked Bike Ride.

'The authorities have gone mad allowing this and the public have gone mad wanting to participate. Where is our dignity?'

Beverley S via Facebook

Talking of dignity, we recently covered a class where you make a fridge magnet from a mould of your pussy. One (heartless) reader had a candidate lined up.

'Change the location of your baby shower! Might wanna do it soon before it's destroyed for ever!'

Emma S via Facebook

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

You loved our piece on Tiny Parks, the beautiful greenery blooming in four tube stations – St James's Park, Kilburn Park, Belsize Park and Wood Green. **'What a brilliant idea! I've also noticed little book-swap stands with pot plants at other stations. Tube stations are soulless places, so any bit of colour that isn't advertising is an improvement. More!'**

Helen O via Facebook

How true. In fact, maybe we should get rid of all those stuffy trains and just fill the Underground with industrial polytunnels growing beets and stuff for the slaving meat-free hordes above ground?

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City life

Edited by James Manning
@timeoutlondon

Fancy opening Tower Bridge?

NO MATTER HOW many times you've seen it before, watching Tower Bridge creak open for a passing boat is always pretty cool. One of Victorian London's many impressive feats of engineering, the bridge turns 125 this month, and the City of London is hosting a rather special birthday season. **Fantastic Feats: The Building of London** is a programme of performances, exhibitions, installations and walks taking place all over the City this summer in celebration of London's most impressive architectural triumphs. And to commemorate Tower Bridge's special anniversary, one lucky Time Out reader will get the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to step inside the control cabin, stop the traffic and pull the lever that opens the capital's (and possibly the world's) most famous bridge. Which we're pretty sure gives you ultimate bragging rights over every other Londoner for the rest of your life. Achievement: unlocked. ■

→ Enter the competition at www.timeout.com/towerbridge.



THE ESSENTIALS Three things you have to do this week



Do this

It's last orders at anarchic Soho institution **The Coach & Horses**, which is being taken over by the Fuller's pub chain. Bid farewell to landlord Alastair Choat at a street party this Saturday.



See this

Dulwich Picture Gallery reveals its latest summer pavilion on Wednesday – and it looks like a beaut! Explore **The Colour Palace** for free during opening hours or evening Pavilion Lates.



Fund this

Some of London's best businesses are in railway arches – and they're uniting against rising rents. Help **Guardians of the Arches** get fighting fit at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/guardians.

STEVE VIDLER/ALAMY; BEN ROWE/JAMIE LAU

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

WORD ON THE STREET

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

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

Street-food trader

John Li, 34

Some of London's best street eats are made by amateurs

'I'm not a chef. I was working in a bank and just wanted a weekend hobby. In fact, I had no experience making dumplings – it was just that no one was selling them at London's food markets, so I started Dumpling Shack. It's not just me who turned around to do this: Mandy from Sambal Shiok used to be a lawyer and now makes the best laksa around.'

Slinging dumplings takes a thick skin

'This is a passion project. It has to be, as I'm here seven days a week. You're not going to please everyone, and you do get people who don't love the food. I used to ignore bad reviews – I'm pretty sensitive about that stuff. But it's a business and you have to take the rough with the smooth. Besides, seeing people love your food is incredible.'

Rain is a trader's worst enemy

'We make the dumplings fresh, so we have to make everything on the spot and then clear

down at the end of the day. If it's a rainy day, you still have to be there all day. And with street food, when it rains, people disappear and you have to throw a lot of stock away. It's heartbreaking.'

Londoners are incredibly fickle

'One minute people want cronuts; the next, it's all about the freakshake! Trends come and go, and that did scare me about opening seven days a week at Spitalfields: I wasn't sure if we were just a weekend hype thing. We just have to keep believing that we've gone past the trend phase. You need to create something that people think is tasty, well-priced and quick, and I think that's what we do here.' ■ Interview by Amira Arasteh
→ Dumpling Shack, Old Spitalfields Market. ☉ Liverpool St.

- 'I know dogs have knees, but do they have ankles?'
- 'Take my bra off your head! Now I'm going to have to wash it.'
- 'When you finished your masters, it's not like you became master of the universe.'
- 'Why is our wisteria so lacklustre?'
- 'Monzo's like, "Bitch, you've had too many manicures."'
- 'I got so jealous I did a burp.'
- 'No, no, no. I'm a Virgo. So everything needs to be scheduled.'
- 'You don't want the memory of eating a dead rat.'
- 'I don't go clubbing since my near-death experience. It was caused by my lunch box giving me septicaemia.'
- 'What do you mean, "What are chickens supposed to do?"'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

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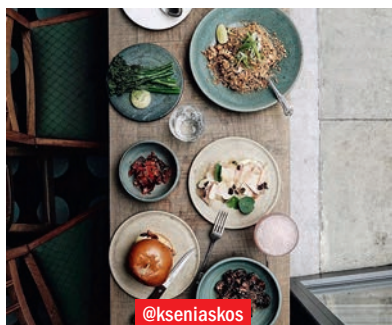
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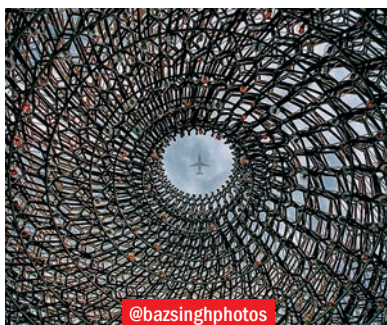
THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out readers have been Instagramming this week



@kseniaskos

'Pachamama East does the most delicious prawn toast I've ever had.'



@bazsinghphotos

'The mesmerising "Hive" at Kew Gardens. Epic.'



@crazycatladyldn

'I'll take the hairy house. The mini one next door can be for my servants.'



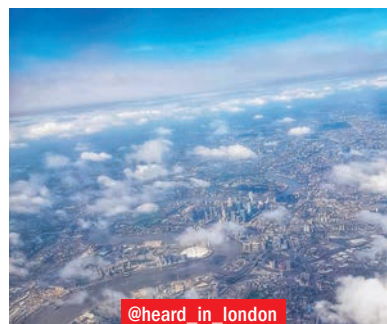
@wildwindwanders

'Falling in love with every corner of London.'



@wulf.willis

'Met up with my mate from travelling around China – and what better place?'



@heard_in_london

'I get super-excited when I fly over London!'



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TINY BOTTLES OF shampoo, taking your shoes off to go through security, thousands of other people's wheely cases getting in your way... Flying isn't exactly the glamorous experience it used to be. And while we're not knocking an early-morning pint at Stansted Wetherspoon's, if you had the option, wouldn't you prefer to hang out in a beautiful butterfly garden while you wait for your gate to be announced?

Well, at Singapore's Changi Airport you can do just that – the tropical garden in Terminal 3, with over 1,000 butterflies fluttering about to calm you

down, is just one of the many delights of this place.

Regularly named the world's best airport, Changi has just had a huge £1.3 billion expansion designed by the same architect who created the city's famous Marina Bay Sands complex. As well as a hotel, shops and restaurants, the new development, Jewel Changi Airport, contains a four-storey indoor 'forest valley' housing 3,000 trees and 60,000 shrubs, a series of gardens including topiary and mazes, and the world's largest indoor waterfall, the spectacular Rain Vortex, which is probably a bit

more enjoyable to sit and look at a business traveller frantically looking for his boarding pass.

In fact, it makes us want to go to Singapore just to hang out in the airport. And you definitely can't say *that* about Stansted. ■ *Kate Solomon*

→ Read Time Out Singapore's guide to Jewel Changi Airport at www.timeout.com/changi.

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Know an amazing Londoner who deserves a chat with the Mayor? Tell us at timeout.com/oisadiq

OI, SADIQ!



Why is it so hard to throw an all-night party in London?

EVERY FEW WEEKS we're giving some of our favourite Londoners the chance to put one big question to the Mayor. **Ksenia Zemtsova** and **Philippine Nguyen** are the founders of **Art Night** – London's awesome, free late-night art party, which takes place next week. But as their question for Sadiq reveals, it's never easy to get permission to run through the early hours...

Ksenia 'Oi, Sadiq! London aspires to be a 24-hour city – but its pubs, clubs, museums, restaurants and other venues close much earlier than in other major capitals. After four years of Art Night, we still struggle to run our events until late, whereas similar festivals in 30 cities around the world often continue until 6am. How can London develop its culture beyond 11pm?'

Sadiq 'When I first became Mayor, we set up a commission to report on the night-time economy, and we're now acting on some of their recommendations. I also appointed London's first ever Night Czar to work with councils and businesses for a thriving night-time economy.'

Ksenia 'But still, the few night-time cultural offers – like Tate Lates – all finish at 10pm! When we bring over partners from Paris, Amsterdam or Berlin, they're always very surprised that they're not able to perform or work after midnight.'

Sadiq 'It's changing.'

Ksenia 'It's hard to see that. It still feels like there are lots of venues losing their licences or closing. And we've worked across six London boroughs and have always struggled to do anything late.'

Philippine 'Whether they're property developers or councils, landowners often insist on an 11pm curfew.'

Ksenia 'We've been asked to close some events at 9pm! I think perception of late-night culture is still a problem. In a lot of countries, it would be much easier to run an

event until 2am, because culture and entertainment aren't associated with anti-social behaviour. Whereas that association is still very strong in London.'

Sadiq 'If you were to say "night-time economy", many people would think of anti-social behaviour. We've got to change things, so that councils realise night-time culture isn't the bogeyman. Councils are in charge of licensing, so we need to address their concerns. We want to persuade boroughs to have more on offer, particularly in the evenings and the weekends.'

Ksenia 'And yet licensing and security worries still make it really hard to run late-night activities like visual arts in the public realm.'

Sadiq 'At City Hall we're bending over backwards to involve the cultural sector. I mean, we're criticised for doing too much culture! But it's really important to improve London's night-time culture. The average age of a Londoner is 34 – and 34-year-olds don't just sit at home and watch Netflix.' ■

→ Art Night takes place in various Walthamstow and King's Cross venues on Jun 22, 5pm-3am. ⇄ Walthamstow Central/King's Cross. Free. 2019.artnight.london

'People from Amsterdam or Berlin are surprised they can't perform after midnight'

'We've got to make councils realise that night-time culture isn't the bogeyman'



Ksenia (left) and Philippine

ROB GREIG, TOM BROADBENT



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SWAN MELLISH

18 exceptional FREE events this summer

London has a pricy rep but some of the best things in this city are... well, you know. From outdoor cinema and theatre to parties and parades, *Bobby Palmer* picks fab things over the summer that cost nothing

Free pride

1 **Pride in London** needs no introduction, but let's do the honours anyway: last year, it brought more than a million people on to the streets of London for the UK's biggest LGBT+ celebration. It's always a rager but this year is extra-special as it marks 50 years since the Stonewall Uprising (the protests that kicked off the Pride movement). It sets off from Portland Place at noon and ends on Whitehall, so get a good spot on the route to watch the parade and show your love.

→ Central London. Jul 6.

2 **UK Black Pride** is Europe's largest community-led celebration of LGBT+ people from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Latin America. It's a joyfully inclusive party and this year's is going to be bigger than ever with its new location of Haggerston Park. Exact details are still under wraps, but you can expect brilliant live performances, workshops, panel discussions and poetry readings. It's not just a great party, it's a day of politics, protest and change. (It's still a great party.)

→ Haggerston Park. Hoxton Overground. Jul 7.



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Free theatre and dance

3 The legendary **Greenwich + Docklands International Festival** is all about outdoor theatre and performing arts, but don't expect any half-arsed panto business here. An array of east London venues will be hosting a plethora of highly skilled, slightly wacky pieces including, but not limited to, dance performed by come-to-life shop mannequins, an immersive ballroom with a massive chandelier, a theatre/dance/circus interpretation of 'Moby-Dick' and the world's only 'low-tech rollercoaster'. Sounds like a very wild ride.

→ Various Greenwich, east London and City of London locations. Jun 21-Jul 6.



4 Want to defy gravity? Can't wait to be king? Got the Phantom of the Opera right there, inside your mind? If you answered yes to any of the above, you'll be right at home in Trafalgar Square for **West End Live**, which brings all the great show tunes to an enormous stage for a big old singalong. You can count on songs from 'Aladdin', 'The Lion King', 'Waitress', 'Come from Away', 'Mamma Mia!' and more, plus a steamy performance courtesy of 'Magic Mike Live' for the less, erm, musically inclined.

→ Trafalgar Square. ⊕ Charing Cross. Jun 22-23.

5 With its pride-of-place position on the South Bank, the National Theatre would be silly not to make the most of such a setting in the sunnier months. Thank goodness, then, that it's bringing **River Stage**

back with a line-up of awesome-sounding, open-air weekend takeovers. Look out for a celebration of contemporary Arab culture and a three-day takeover by East London drag collective The Glory over Pride weekend. Kicking off with a We Love EU bash on the Friday, the line-up includes a 'Homage to Kylie' show and drag life drawing.

→ National Theatre. ⊕ Waterloo. Every weekend Jul 5-Aug 4.

Free knowledge

6 Even if you never really thrived in your science GCSEs, you can become a bone-fide boffin at the **Summer Science Exhibition**, a week-long festival at The Royal Society. There will be exhibits covering space (what would it be like to live on the moon?), driverless cars (should we trust them?) and the 'quietest place in the universe' (it's next to the M6 motorway, apparently), as well as talks on astrophysics, artificial intelligence and many more scientific things that you've always wanted more than a cursory, Wikipedia-based understanding of.

→ The Royal Society. ⊕ Green Park. Jul 1-7.

Free festivals

7 Nothing represents this city's cultural diversity better than **Notting Hill Carnival**, which over one bank holiday weekend turns west London into a huge, wildly entertaining party. As usual, there will be live steelpan bands and costumed dance performances to reggae, calypso and more, plus a whole heap of food stalls serving up jerk chicken, callaloo and goat stew. Head down on the Sunday for family-friendly fun; turn up on Monday for the full-on party vibes. There's nothing quite like it.

→ Various west London locations. Aug 25-26.

ROLLERCOASTER: LIBETTANPEENEN; NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL: STEPHEN CHUNG / ALAMY

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TIME OUT STAFF PICK
THEIR FAVOURITE FREE THINGS
TO DO ALL YEAR ROUND

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Phil De Semlyen Global Film Editor

'I like the gallery at the top of the Imperial War Museum. There's loads of art from great British war artists and it's a bit of secret space. Plus it's all light and summery.'



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STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

Alexandra Sims Acting Things to Do Editor

'Leake Street Tunnel in Waterloo is full of street art. Go with some mates and a bag of tinnies to watch the artists in action. You'll always see something new.'



STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

STAFF PICK!

Eddy Frank

'Mayfair is full with the big huge names the little fanc'

STAFF PICK!



white t-shirt danger zone

FOOD
FREEDOM



deliveroo

8 Notting Hill Carnival isn't the only big party taking over a corner of west London this summer. Later this month, Portobello Road plays host to the **Portobello Spanish Festival**, a huge celebration of Spanish culture complete with flamenco dancing, traditional Spanish music, face-painting, arts and crafts workshops for the kids, and more Andalusian and Catalan food than you can shake a massive spicy chorizo at. *Viva España!*

→ Portobello Rd. ↻ Ladbrooke Grove. Jun 23.

9 Missed out on summer music festival tickets? Head to **Festival 30**, Seven Dials' free thirtieth birthday celebration where (thankfully) wellies will not be required. What you will get is live music, a pop-up lawn to lounge on, free drinks, tasting sessions with Hotel Chocolat, alfresco workouts with swanky gym Another Space and craft workshops, including the chance to make a summer wreath (you know, it's like a Christmas wreath only... summery). Seriously, who needs Glasto?

→ Seven Dials. ↻ Covent Garden. Jun 29.

10 Big news for London's green spaces this year, as the capital officially becomes the UK's first National Park City. It all kicks off with the **National Park City Festival**, which features a heap of events celebrating London's gorgeous greenery. They're teaming up with Open House for open-garden events at the likes of Crossrail Place, the Barbican Conservatory and Ham Yard Hotel's rooftop. Also on the cards is a multi-site outdoor swimming and paddle sports event, where you can try your hand at open-water swimming, kayaking, rowing and paddleboarding without even leaving Zone 2.

→ Various locations. Jul 20-28.



PAY NOTHING! WATCH EVERYTHING! PAY NOTHING! WATCH EVERYTHING! PAY NOTHING! WATCH EVERYTHING!

11 Get in there for the mother of all London festivals: **Summer by the River** lays on a mega *three months* of free activities in London Bridge City (that's the bit of the South Bank between London Bridge and Tower Bridge, in case you've never heard of it). There are workshops (from puppet-making to vodka-infusing), open-air film screenings ('Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald', 'Mean Girls', 'Incredibles 2') and even alfresco theatre. The stage at The Scoop will host family-friendly pirate play 'The Sea Queen' and Shakespeare romcom 'Twelfth Night' for the whole of August.

→ London Bridge City. ↻ London Bridge. Until Sep 1.

Free film
12 What do you do when it's all summery and nice outside but you fancy watching something on the big screen? Head to Wembley Park, obviously, where the **Summer on Screen** season has all your viewing needs covered. Screenings include new hits ('Green Book', 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again') and classic gems ('Dirty Dancing', 'Moulin Rouge!'). You can also catch a season dedicated to South Asian cinema and all England's Women's World Cup matches. See ya in autumn, Netflix!

→ Arena Square, Wembley Park. ↻ Wembley Park. Until Jul 23.

SUMMER ON SCREEN: CHRIS WINTER; FLAMENCO: SHUTTERSTOCK

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Eddy Frankel Art & Culture Editor

'Mayfair is full of galleries and they're all free. Start with the big ones - Hauser & Wirth or Gagosian for huge names like Richard Serra and Picasso - then try the little fancy ones.'



AYS FREE!

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STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

Lisa Wright Time Out London contributor

'Dalston Curve Garden is a hidden oasis. If you just want to soak up Glastonbury-in-London vibes, no one will bother you. It's where I go to feel instantly calmer.'



STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

James Manning Global Projects Editor

'The Grant Museum of Zoology is a collection of thousands of animal specimens. Hunt for a dodo skeleton, ponder a sinister-looking jar of moles or marvel at an elephant's skull.'



STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

STAFF PICK!

Oliver Keen

'If you wish y Shoreditch's a bit like Gl it's a delight.'

STAFF PICK!

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Free art

13 The premise of **Art Night** is simple: for one night only, King's Cross and Walthamstow will come alive with brilliant installations, performances and new works by artists from around the world. Highlights include Zadie Xa's theatrical underwater installation in the reading room of Walthamstow Library; Christine Sun Kim's installations in Coal Drops Yard exploring deafness (her first language is American Sign Language). The whole shebang kicks off at 6pm and runs until 4am – so you've got ten hours to pack it all in. You might want to grab a coffee first. → Various King's Cross and Walthamstow locations. Jun 22.



TWO JAZZ HANDS FOR THE PRICE OF NONE! TWO JAZZ HANDS FOR THE PRICE OF NONE!

14 Mayfair and art go together like Monet and gardening, which is why **Mayfair Art Weekend** is a treat for those with a penchant for paintings. The area, along with St James's, is home to more than 145 galleries and auction houses, many of which will take part in three days of public events, exhibitions and experiences. That means there's something for everyone, whether you're a modern art lover or just adore Old Masters. → Various central London locations. Jun 28-30.

Free opera

16 The word 'opera' isn't exactly synonymous with 'cheap'; throw 'ballet' into the mix and you'd be forgiven for putting your purse under lock and key. No need, though. The Royal Opera House's **BP Big Screens** is back. This year it will be blasting out 'Romeo and Juliet', 'Carmen' and 'The Marriage of Figaro' to the culture-hungry public on enormous, free-to-watch screens across the capital and the rest of the UK. Go online to find one near you. → Various locations. Tue Jun 11, Jul 2, Jul 9.

15 Every year, **Sculpture in the City** peppers the Square Mile with eye-opening outdoor artworks. This year's selection includes a 'floating' neon poem, a massive sculpture made from brightly coloured sheets of plexiglass and a pair of secondhand armchairs cast in concrete. That last one probably isn't the comfiest of spots to take a seat, but then that's kind of the point – it's art, remember? Also, you're probably not actually allowed to sit in them anyway. → Various City of London locations. From late Jun.

Free sport

17 No fire-breathers here. In fact, water is the name of the game at the annual **London Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival**



where teams of rowers go head-to-head on the Thames – and allow you to have a go yourself. The whole thing is a celebration of Chinese culture, so there'll be tai chi, Chinese lion dancing and street food aplenty (from China and beyond). → Royal Docks Adventure. ☺ Canning Town. Jun 30.

Free sheep-shearing!

18 No need to head to the Home Counties to get a taste of countryside living. At the **Lambeth Country Show** in Brockwell Park, you can watch sheep being sheared, handle birds of prey and see at first-hand how sheepdogs are trained. There's also live folk music, cake stalls and the opportunity to drink your own body weight in cider, like a proper bumpkin. But the *real* highlight is the puntastic vegetable sculpture competition where famous figures are lovingly recreated out of lumpy and leafy produce. Entries last year included 'Gareth Southgate', 'Suffracourgettes' and 'Kale Winton and his Supermarket Swede'. ■ → Brockwell Park. Herne Hill rail. Jul 20-21.

WAYS FREE!

STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE! STAFF PICK! ALWAYS FREE!

Oliver Keens Music and Nightlife Editor

'If you wish you could be at a festival 24/7, Shoreditch's Nomadic Garden is a handy proxy. Styled a bit like Glastonbury's Block9 and the Green Fields, it's a delight.'

Chris Waywell Associate Editor

'Sir John Soane's Museum is home to the visionary architect's bizarre collection of artefacts. It's like a posh version of one of those Channel 4 shows about hoarders.'

WAYS FREE!

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→ Secret location on the Victoria line. Select days until Jul 6. www.timeout.com/gingerline

Belgo

What is it? Bottomless chicken wings and discounted beer or fizz.

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What's exclusive? You can only get this deal with us and it's just £15.

→ Multiple locations. Until Sep 8. www.timeout.com/belgo19

London City Beach

What is it? Tickets to a new urban beach along the South Bank.

Why go? Sand, palm trees, music, beach huts – this temporary beach has it all. Plus, there are three bars to keep you watered and outdoor games and DJ takeovers to keep you entertained. Don't forget your sun cream.

What's exclusive? It's 20 percent off – tickets and a cocktail start at £5.

→ London City Beach. ⊕ Waterloo. Select days until Jul 20. www.timeout.com/beach

Ballie Ballerson

What is it? Half-price tickets to the famous Shoreditch ball-pit.

Why go? No matter what anyone says to the contrary, you know that bouncing through 1 million balls is going to be a bucketload of fun. Especially with DJs spinning bangers, and retro cocktails and pizza to get stuck into.

What's exclusive? At just £3.75 each, our tickets are a pit-ance.

→ Ballie Ballerson. ⊕ Old St. Select days until Jun 30. www.timeout.com/ballie19

Embargo

What is it? Four cocktails at this Chelsea party spot.

Why go? To enjoy delectable cocktails (and possibly a little boogie) in a fancy Cuban-themed bar on the King's Road. Enter through an old cigar shop to find a slick rum bar, a nightclub and a roof terrace: perfect for this time of year.

What's exclusive? Four cocktails are just £16, saving you 69 percent.

→ Embargo. ⊕ Fulham Broadway. Until Aug 18. www.timeout.com/embargo

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Things to Do

Edited by Alexandra Sims
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon



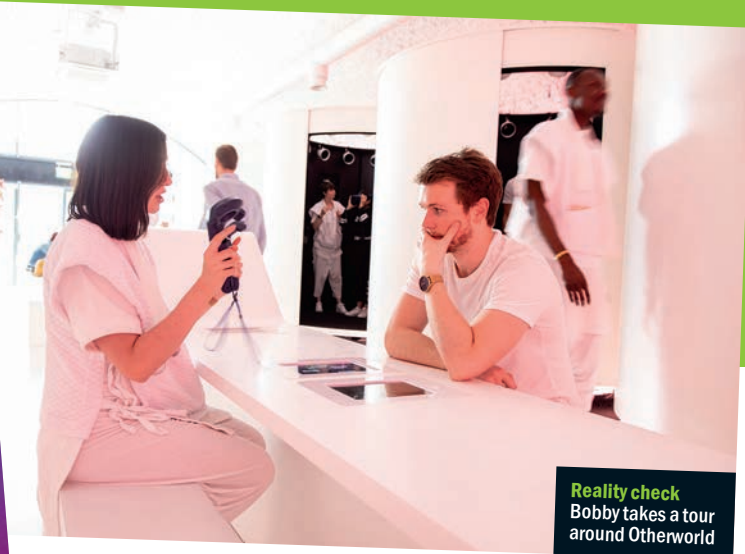
JUST OPENED

Otherworld

Need an escape from reality? We pop on a headset at London's newest VR bar to get a taste of the cyber world

EAST LONDON ISN'T exactly known for its rolling sand dunes, blistering desert winds and undead mutant infestations. Yet here I am, standing on an abandoned motorway in the middle of Haggerston, aiming a shotgun at an oncoming horde of zombies. At least, I think I am... In reality, I'm standing in a pod at London's newest virtual reality arcade.

Outside my headset, Otherworld sits (somewhat unsurprisingly) in an east London railway arch. The futuristic venue borrows pretty heavily from the 'Black Mirror' textbook: staff in identikit white uniforms place drinks orders



Reality check
Bobby takes a tour
around Otherworld

through interactive tabletops and even the futuristic neon-bathed lids of the toilet open automatically. Yet while outwardly it's an immersive bar with a dream-themed cocktail menu and food courtesy of Lords of Poké, it's the VR capsules lining each side of the room that people come for. Case in point: when I ask if I can get inside one, I'm told it's occupied. The seemingly empty bar is actually full, and everyone is having plenty of fun. They're just doing it silently.

Once I get inside my own pod, I'm strapped into a 'Matrix'-esque headset that's hanging from the ceiling and boosted out of the Big Smoke into the titular Otherworld. This takes the form of a mysterious island where different areas represent the seasons. You really feel it too, thanks to the addition of wind fans and heaters. The winter zone made me wish I was wearing a jacket but, in my defence, it was still summer back in Haggerston.

Virtual versions of the pod my real-life body is in are dotted around the island and you access different games by stepping into them. There are 360-degree versions of phone favourites like Fruit Ninja and Angry Birds, as well as a particularly mind-blowing version of Google Earth which lets you stride through cities across the globe as a giant. Superhot, a slow-mo shoot-'em-up, makes you manoeuvre through cascades of bullets and fight faceless red avatars with your bare hands. But it's zombie game Arizona Sunshine that truly shows off the full terrifying power of VR, transporting you into a southwestern dystopia surrounded by swarms of the undead whom you're tasked with gruesomely mowing down.

When my time is up, I emerge blinking back into the bar, convinced my real hands aren't my own. The future may be full-on terrifying, but boy, is it fun. ■



By Bobby Palmer
Who welcomes the arrival of our
robot overlords.

WHAT IS IT?

A virtual reality bar in an east London railway arch.

WHY GO?

To zap zombies before tucking into a bowl of poké.

→ Otherworld. Haggerston Overground. Open daily. From £14.

THREE MORE VR experiences



↑ Jeff Wayne's 'War of the Worlds'

This adaptation of Jeff Wayne's musical (itself an adaptation of HG Wells's book) throws goggle-wearing guests headlong into the battlegrounds of a Victorian alien invasion. Expect lasers and prog rock.

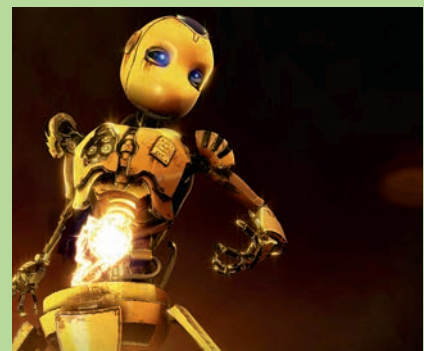
→ 56 Leadenhall St. ⊖ Aldgate. Open Tue-Sun. From £49.50.



↑ DNAVR

Another VR arcade, DNA skips the immersive elements of Otherworld for simple gaming fun, with experiences including a 'Creed' boxing simulator and 'Skyfront' billed as 'lasertag on steroids'.

→ Units 1 and 2, 400-404 York Way. ⊖ Caledonian Rd. Open daily. From £16.



↑ Huxley

Set in AD 3007, this escape room-meets-VR game sees players use puzzle skills and problem-solving to hunt for Huxley, a friendly robot who might just be able to save the universe.

→ Omescape London. ⊖ King's Cross. Open daily. From £29.75.



Nine reasons why you need to do the Shine Night Walk in 2019

As the sun sets over the capital on Saturday September 21, thousands of lit-up Londoners will take to the streets in the fight to beat cancer, forming a glowing trail across the city. Is this the year that you join them?

1 You'll be supporting an incredible charity

Shine Night Walk raises vital funds for Cancer Research UK, a leading charity dedicated to saving lives through research. They receive no government funding, which means they're reliant on folks like you to fund life-saving research.

2 You'll experience the city in a new light

When's the last time you walked on still, calm streets past the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament or St Paul's Cathedral – each of them bathed in glowing light? There's quite honestly nothing like it.

3 The atmosphere is like nothing else

Not only will you spend your evening marvelling at London's iconic

landmarks, but you'll be doing it alongside thousands of fellow Shine Night Walk participants, each of them dressed in fairy lights, neon, glitter – basically anything that sparkles. The atmosphere of togetherness is one of the best parts of the experience; through the night, you'll meet like-minded people, take a bunch of photos, and have a blast.

4 It's the perfect chance to honour someone you love

Lots of people do the Shine Night Walk in memory of a friend or family member that they have lost to cancer, or who are living with a cancer diagnosis. When you sign up, you're given a sign to put on your back, where you can write a message of love and support to

someone you're thinking of on the day. Reading them as you go is an emotional experience, but a beautiful one.

5 It's a super-satisfying personal challenge

There's no better way of ticking a marathon off your bucket list than this. Remember, you're not just contending with the walk: the event takes place overnight, which means you might get sleepy. Our tip? Head to the Shine Night Walk website and download a training plan from PTs Sam and Ash from Smash London.

6 Sunrise will blow you away

Feeling a little tired? It will all be worth it when a golden sunrise peeks over the horizon and lights up the Thames. Magic.

7 Signing up is surprisingly affordable

The Shine Night Walk is a seriously fun night out – so for £39.99 for the full or half marathon, and £19.99 for the 10km, we reckon you're getting a lot for your money.

8 They make fundraising super easy (and fun!)

Don't be daunted by the idea of fundraising. All you need to do is set up a Giving Page on Cancer Research UK's website, either just for yourself or as part of a group. Then, it's time to get creative: will you run a bake sale at work? Host a pub quiz?

9 You can see your funds at work instantly

There's absolutely zero doubt that the money you'll raise will go to excellent use straightaway. Head to Cancer Research UK's website to learn more about their pioneering work into the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer that has helped save millions of lives. It's inspiring stuff, and you'll have contributed to it.



→ Sign up for the Shine Night Walk at shinewalk.org and start fundraising today!

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



London Seafood Festival

If you're a fan of food with claws, shells and tentacles, scuttle over to this marine feast at Battersea Power Station for oyster tastings, fishy pop-ups and big-name chefs like José Pizarro and Asma Khan.

→ Circus West Village. Battersea Park rail.
Wed Jun 12-Sun Jun 16. Prices vary.

LISTEN Southwark Story Night

Hear some freshly spun yarns from local storytellers such as Jumana Moon, Kate Portal and Grethe Mangala Jensen.
→ John Harvard Library. Borough. Fri Jun 14. Free, booking essential.

LAUGH Tinder Tales

Prepare to feel better about yourself as comedians take to the stage to share their cringeworthy sex and dating stories at this strictly over-18s comedy night.
→ Ace Hotel. Shoreditch High St Overground. Fri Jun 14. £13.

Saturday



EAT The Authentic Italian Table

Italians do food pretty well, so munch on their best at this food fest. There'll be Obicà mozzarella, fresh pasta and a Negroni masterclass.
→ Shoreditch Gardens. Hoxton Overground. Sat Jun 15. £20.

PARTY Peckham Springs 6th Birthday

Celebrate six years of the railway-arch venue with a huge DJ line-up and a tasty BBQ.
→ Peckham Springs. Peckham Rye Overground. Sat Jun 15. Free entry.

I Need to Cher

At this gleefully DIY cabaret night, a troupe of all-gender Cher impersonators oversee a ludicrously fun range of lip-syncing performances, wrestling bouts and guest appearances from live artists.

→ VFD. Dalston Kingsland Overground. Sat Jun 15. £7.70.

Sunday

The Big Velofete

Didn't know Herne Hill has a velodrome? It does, so head down there to spend two days listening to booming DJ tunes, munching on tasty food and watching the bikes whizz round the track.

→ Herne Hill Velodrome. Herne Hill rail. Sat Jun 15-Sun Jun 16. Prices vary.



LEARN Festival of Communities

This family-friendly affair has more than a hundred stalls, demos, talks and games, all showcasing research, creativity and community initiatives in Tower Hamlets.
→ Various east London venues. Sat Jun 15-Sun Jun 16. Free.

SHOP Vauxhall Vintage Kilo Sale

Only £15 for a kilo's worth of pre-loved fashion bits from the last 50 years. What are you waiting for?
→ The Workshop. Vauxhall. Sun Jun 16. £1.50-£3.

TOBY HEANE, ANDY PARSONS



Advertisement feature



Five totally free summer outings

If you're all about squeezing as much fun as possible into your summer, then it pays to know about all the fabulous free activities going down in the capital

London is a playground in the sunnier months, what with endless music festivals, outdoor cinemas and rooftop parties – but if you're not careful, you'll be digging down the back of the sofa for change by the time autumn rolls around. We've teamed up with Transport for London and their wonderful world of off-peak to bring you five super-fun things to do that are completely free. Their off-peak fares – which start from £1.50 for a single adult pay as you go fare – make it more affordable to have a truly excellent summer.

The literary one

You can fit a lot into five minutes. At **Spoken World London** – a poetry and performance open-mic held two

Wednesdays a month at Dalston queer disco den VFD – everyone gets five minutes to unleash their spiciest verses.

Getting there: Overground to Dalston Kingsland.

The super-chill one

For a free alternative to Temperate House, head north to gorgeous **Broomfield Conservatory**, open every Wednesday and Sunday. **Getting there:** Piccadilly line to Arnos Grove.

The arty one

Party with the cool kids at a **Friday Late at the V&A**. Expect live performance, film and DJs. **Getting there:** Circle, District or Piccadilly line to South Kensington.

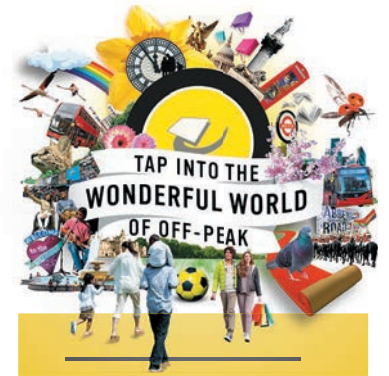
The quirky one

Relive your childhood (or train for a roller derby) at **London Friday Night Skate & Sunday Stroll**. They get rolling from Hyde Park on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons. **Getting there:** Piccadilly line to Hyde Park Corner.

The leafy one

Need some more green in your life? Head south to the winding trails and ancient oaks of **Sydenham Hill Wood**, the London Wildlife Trust's oldest nature reserve. **Getting there:** Overground to Forest Hill then 176 bus.

MAYOR OF LONDON



GET THERE FOR LESS!

TfL's off-peak fares will make your summer adventures extra affordable. Off-peak fares apply on all Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail services across London. You can tap into the wonderful world of off-peak all day at weekends and on public holidays. They also apply every weekday before 6.30am, between 9.30am and 3.59pm, and after 7pm. Always touch in and out with the same card or device to pay the right fare (touch in only on bus and tram).

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→ Go and explore London at [timeout.com/off-peak](https://www.timeout.com/off-peak)

THREE OF THE BEST

Independent bookshops

To celebrate Independent Bookshop Week (yes, it's a thing), here are some of our favourites



↑ Persephone Books

This shop and publisher, named after the Greek queen of the underworld, gives a new lease of life to forgotten, out-of-print novels written by twentieth-century female writers. Find it in a lovely Grade II-listed building on Lamb's Conduit Street.

→ 59 Lamb's Conduit St. ⊕ Russell Square.



↑ Gay's the Word

The oldest surviving LGBT+ bookshop in the UK, this much-loved maverick store not only sells works by and about LGBT+ people, it's a community hub with regular meet-ups, discussions and events.

→ 66 Marchmont St. ⊕ Russell Square.



↑ Treadwell's Books

This Bloomsbury bookseller specialises in the spiritual, esoteric and occult, meaning it sells tomes on everything from yoga and tantra to alchemy and voodoo. Come for the books, stay for the daily tarot readings. ■ *Bobby Palmer*

→ 33 Store St. ⊕ Goudge St.

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Swede dreams are made of this...

Head to Rekorder-land at the Underbelly Festival on the South Bank for fresh botanicals and some mesmerising mixed reality

A chance to up your summertime fun, Rekorder-land on the South Bank is set to be the short-term home of Rekorderlig. But while you'll get to sip on tasty drinks, this spot looks to be so much more than your standard pop-up bar.

Themed as an ode to the Swedish tradition of Midsummer – a holiday that, over there, rivals even Christmas (sorry Santa) – Rekorder-land will modernise and reimagine the custom by way of an immersive multi-sensory experience; a hyper-real world where fruits and flavours come to life. Powered by Magic Leap and created in partnership with its director of Immersive Experiences Connie Harrison, it's going to be a marvellous mash-up of ideas and flavours that celebrate the spirit of collaboration.

Intrigued? You should be, because we've got in-cider information (sorry). First up, you'll enter through a portal to reach

a mixed reality experience, where you can peek through Magic Leap headsets which mix holographic imagery and light waves in your vision and blur the line between real and virtual worlds. Plus, you'll also get to try out Snapchat lenses that will let you explore and interact with the Rekorder-land bar and snap a selfie at the mural wall. Yep, the future is now!

Then, you'll get to discover new drinks and send your taste buds wild with a selection of exclusive Rekorderlig cocktails. But the best bit?





These cocktails use Rekorderlig's trendy botanicals cider range, which also happens to be gluten-free and vegan, just like its core range. And as for those botanical flavours, you can expect to enjoy delicious mixes of blackberry-violet-juniper (which has just been launched), peach-basil, rhubarb-lemon-mint and grapefruit-rosemary.

July 13, 2019. It's free to enter and to get there, hop on the Jubilee or Northern line, or a train, to Waterloo then walk to the South Bank. Oh, and since there's alcohol involved, this is an over-18s event and advance booking is required (hurry though, it looks like it'll sell out fast). But if you make it? You'll be in botanical bliss before you know it. Skål!



WELCOME TO REKORDER-LAND

THE HOME OF REKORDERLIG

→ For tickets, visit rekorderlig.seetickets.com.
Use the hashtag #SeekRekorderland to discover more



Five things that might happen at the Spice Girls gig



Yep, it's really happening – Baby, Sporty, Ginger and Scary are hitting Wembley this week. Did you know you can still score tickets at great prices?

Considering that the Spice Girls are the biggest selling girl band of all time, you have to expect their London gigs to be totally sold out. But, 'Stop' right there: tickets are still available for their three unmissable shows in the capital.

The best way to make sure you don't miss them? Download the **StubHub** app. StubHub ensures that all tickets for sale are genuine, and that you'll never be charged with hidden costs. To get you in the mood, here are five things we reckon might happen at their Wembley gigs. **'Say You'll be There'!**

1 Screaming like a Baby at every single hit

Wembley Stadium has a capacity of 90,000 people – which means a city-sized choir singing back the hits for three hours. When the 'Yo!' of 'Wannabe' rings out, you know a cacophony of excited screaming awaits. You'll probably be crying like a baby at 'Goodbye', too.

2 Sporty turf ruined by excessive boogying

For those who are ready to throw shapes to all the bangers, Wembley's football pitch awaits. It may be a nightmare for the groundskeepers, but it'll be a dreamy dancefloor for anyone who has nabbed standing tickets. Each Spice Girl has a 'House of...' dance

troupe to match their name and persona. But they'll also have the whole of Wembley backing them up.

3 Scary levels of '90s flashbacks

Like raves, chokers and 'Clueless', the Spice Girls were a quintessential part of '90s culture. Meaning, you're going to get some serious flashbacks to the best decade ever, especially considering the majority of the crowd will have danced their way through it.

4 A return, Possibly, of the most iconic outfits

If the Dublin and Cardiff shows are anything to go by, it's likely that we'll witness the return of some iconic Spice Girls clobber. The

tour's wicked outfits are split into the classic themes for the girls. Think pastel pink for Emma, sleek gymwear for Mel C, cheetah print for Mel B and regal dresses for Geri.

5 Gingerly walking away with all the incredible merchandise

The girls have a whole new swag bag of merch to fit with the tour. Designed by Kate Moross, it includes the iconic 'Spice World' hoodie that Drake recently styled, T-shirts for each girl, Girl Power pin badges and more.

StubHub

→ Buy your Spice Girls tickets now at www.stubhub.co.uk or download the StubHub app on the App Store or Google Play.

TIME OUT TRIES

Wild Life Drawing

AT ANY NORMAL life-drawing class, you'd be thrown out for calling the model 'porky', but this is no such class. Here the observation would be pretty astute. After all, today's muse is pale pink, rotund and has a penchant for slobbering all over her posing pillow. Also, she's an actual pig.

While mud-muddling mammals might usually be kept away from fancy Kensington art galleries, there's good reason for our visitor today. I'm taking part in Wild Life Drawing, an animal-lovers' initiative which serves the dual purpose of allowing city dwellers to

improve their sketching skills and learn a little bit more about animals and the hardships they face.

The classes host everything from baby owls and penguins to wolf cubs and bearded dragons, but our model today is Lily – a fully grown micropig with a stoned demeanour



WHAT IS IT?

A life-drawing class where animals fill in for the models.

WHY GO?

To get up close and personal with some cute creatures.

Things to do

and a tendency to roll over for belly scratches (if you tickle her under her left armpit). Armed with a fine-liner and an array of pink and purple pencils, I get to work on drawing her likeness while she gets to work on an array of apples and digestive biscuits provided by her owner Mark.

Mark is a patron of the Farms Not Factories charity, and while today's class is an excellent opportunity to try our trotter at drawing a pig, it's also a chance to learn about their quirks and the often brutal way these intelligent animals are farmed. Our mid-lesson chat ranges from the riveting (did you know the tallest pig was 5'11"? Or that an adult pig can run a seven-minute mile?) to the grotesque (if you knew what went on at Britain's immense pig factories, you'd regret the pork loins you had for dinner last night too).

My post-class lunch is a vegan noodle bowl, which I have Lily to thank for. And while I won't be hanging up her portrait any time soon, that's more reflective of my lack of talent than her good looks. ■

Bobby Palmer

→ Various locations. www.wildlifedrawing.co.uk/ forthcoming-classes. Next available date: Jul 28. £28.

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Juliana Huxtable, *Untitled (Lil' Marvel)*, 2015 © Juliana Huxtable, 2019.
Courtesy of the artist, Project Native Informant, London and JTT, New York.

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Things to do

REFUGEE WEEK

C Choose Love x A Mile in My Shoes

At this interactive 'shoe shop', which is a collaboration between Help Refugees and the Empathy Museum, guests are invited to put on a pair of shoes belonging to an actual refugee, take a walk in them and listen to their story first-hand. Powerful stuff.

→ 3 Newburgh St.
 ⊕ Oxford Circus.
 Fri Jun 14-Jun 23. Free.

C Refugee Food Festival

This event invites some of the world's most talented refugee chefs to cook in top London kitchens. Tuck into a Syrian culinary takeover from Majeda Khouri at Mercato Metropolitano and Nigerian dishes from Nana Nokki at Refettorio Felix.

→ Various London locations.
 Sun Jun 16-Jun 21.
 Prices vary.

BIRTHDAYS

C The Apple Tree 1st Birthday Party

The self-proclaimed non-conformist, LGBT+ friendly pub is turning one with cabaret, party games and, of course, plenty of cake.

→ Apple Tree. ⊕ Farringdon.
 Sat Jun 15. Free entry.

C Singapore: Where Explorers Meet

This year marks Singapore's 200th birthday. Celebrate at this 'multi-sensorial experience' with authentic local food, art and Singapore Slings courtesy of the bar at Raffles.

→ Finsbury Avenue Square.
 ⊕ Liverpool St. Thu Jun 13-Sat Jun 15. Free entry.

TO DO

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SEX POSITIVITY

E How to be a Slut

Are you a slut? Sex educator Ruby Rare is keen to convince you that reclaiming the word is an amazing tool to gain agency in your own sexuality. Join Ruby in a warm and welcoming space to break down taboos and get some vital tips on sex, dating apps and sexual liberation as you embark on living your best life.

→ The Book Club. ⊕ Old St.
 Thu Jun 13. £10.

CULTURE

S Collective Cinema presents 'Swan Lake'

See Matthew Bourne's inimitable version of Tchaikovsky's ballet on the big screen in a Grade II-listed church, after a 'Swan Lake'-inspired performance.

→ St Margaret's Church.
 Blackheath rail.
 Sat Jun 15. £10.

S Balham Literary Festival

Chat books with a superb line-up of speakers, including Rachel Ama and Mick Herron, at this annual south London literary celebration.

→ Various Balham locations.
 Thu Jun 13-Jun 25. Prices vary.

QUIRKY TOURS

W Strawberry Hill House Twilight Tour

See the eccentric mansion looking even more magical than usual as darkness falls. Tickets include a glass of prosecco.

→ Strawberry Hill House.
 Strawberry Hill rail.
 Wed Jun 12. £25.

C The London Ear Guided Walk

This two-mile tour explores the City of London through the medium of sound. Walkers will train their ears to London's sonic landscape – from birdsong to church bells – and learn how the noises we hear on our streets are changing over time.

→ Meet at St Botolph-Without-Bishopsgate Church.
 ⊕ Liverpool St.
 Mon Jun 17. £18.

GIN

C Bottomless Gin Brunch

Like gin? Like brunch? If it's a 'yes' to both, tuck into unlimited G&Ts, martinis and grub for 90 minutes at Dirty Martini.

→ Various Dirty Martini locations. Until Sep 1. £30.

EXCLUSIVE

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TIMEOUT.COM/LBF19

Books, ballet and bottomless brunch at timeout.com/thingstodo

Film

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

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WHAT IS IT...

The latest doc from 'Amy' director Asif Kapadia – about '80s football superstar Diego Maradona.

WHY GO...

It's a football doc even non-football lovers will enjoy.

→ Director Asif Kapadia
(12A) 130 mins.

FILM OF THE WEEK

Diego Maradona



LIKE AN ANATOMIST, you can break down Argentinian soccer superstar-turned-tabloid-villain Diego Maradona into his composite parts: the wand-like left foot, capable of conjuring magic in the tightest of corners; the chunky thighs and jutting chest, source of his explosive power on the pitch; the left hand that cheated England in the 1986 World Cup; and the nostrils through which passed industrial quantities of cocaine – even at the height of his powers.

Director Asif Kapadia ('Senna', 'Amy') covers each of them in this spellbinding, empathetic documentary. He also brings to the fore a less obsessed-about piece of the Maradona anatomy: his heart. 'Diego Maradona' has the football and the drugs – think 'Scarface' with the offside trap – but it's a surprisingly emotional ride too. It'll make you reappraise your feelings about the man and the myths that have built up around him.

Wisely, Kapadia keeps his focus tight, overlaying unseen interviews with ex-teammates, girlfriends and journalists – as well as with the man himself, recorded at his home in Dubai – over endlessly compelling archive footage. Of course, there's plenty of football: pitch-side footage captures his balletic qualities in artful slow motion. But there's a lot more than football to a story bookmarked by a childhood as a 'shitty little block kid' in the slums of Buenos Aires and later-life struggles with addiction. But the meat of it charts his seven years in Naples, after an ill-fated spell at FC Barcelona. At Napoli, he helped turn Serie A strugglers into world beaters and himself into first a playboy, then an addict.

The film opens with what seems to be a Jason Bourne-like car chase but turns out to be his raucous journey to Napoli's stadium to be introduced to his new fans. All 85,000 of them.

The relationship between man and city – a febrile, combustible chemistry that would eventually blow up in the Argentinian's face – offers a fascinating, sharp-edged subplot. There's a sense of romance in this once-poor kid from the slums finding a city full of soulmates, and Napoli's rise is a great sports story, but the film expertly communicates a sense of it all being too much: too much pressure, too much responsibility, too much adulation. The malign influence of the Camorra, Naples' crime lords, is never far away either, nor the chasmic divide in Italian society that Maradona unwittingly widens.

If aspects of his life feel glossed over, in particular the son he initially refused to acknowledge, it'd be impossible to shoehorn this tumultuous life into a single film. Instead, Kapadia gives us a fevered, joyous, melancholy and sometimes toxic Neapolitan love story that presents the man in all his contradictions and complexity. He was the block kid who found a new home, but somehow lost his soul. What a way to complete a hat-trick of documentaries. ■



By Phil de Semlyen

Whose '80s were very similar to Maradona's, only with more 'Battle of the Planets'.

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FIVE QUESTIONS FOR Asif Kapadia

HE MADE FORMULA 1 gripping even for non-petrolheads with 'Senna' and burnished Amy Winehouse's rep with the heartbreaking, Oscar-winning 'Amy'. For his next trick, documentary-making alchemist Asif Kapadia turns tabloid footballing baddie Diego Maradona into the subject of a unmissable human drama.

1 What made you want to make this doc?

'I'm a football fan and I remember at film school thinking how great it would be to make a film about Diego Maradona one day. It took a long time to come about, but [eventually] it felt right because I'd made films about two brilliant people who tragically died young and this was different – Maradona was still alive. I'm at a point in my life where I'm thinking about what happens when you get old, and this is a film about these genius kids who grow up – or do they?'

2 Did you ever worry you'd stepped over a line in your interviews with him?

'There was a moment when he looked at me and said, "You've got a nerve asking me these questions... but for that I respect you." But once he's in the right mood, he's a very good storyteller. I'd have loved to have hung out with him in the '80s. I mean, I would have been terrified.'



3 Do you think Maradona's life would work as a feature film?

'It could, but the football bits always look clunky. And I don't think there's anyone out there with his body shape. You look at him and think: How could you be the best footballer in the world?'

4 What's been the afterlife of 'Amy' for you?

'These films are really tough when you're making them – "Senna" too – but the dream is they live on. These two people were amazing and the films are now part of their story. Three weeks ago, Alain Prost was in the press bad-mouthing me because of "Senna". I'm like: You're four-times world champion! It still bugs him. With "Amy", the dream was to change her image. When I googled her while we were making it, all I'd see was a series of awful pictures of her. I wanted to google her one day and see her looking beautiful.'

5 Where do you keep your Oscar?

'It's in the office. It's not anywhere flash – I'm not putting it in people's faces. One day we'll finish the house and I'll find somewhere to put it.'

Interview by Phil de Semlyen

→ 'Diego Maradona' opens Fri Jun 14.

We the Animals



WHAT IS IT...

Three young brothers coping with their dysfunctional parents in 1980s upstate New York.

WHY GO...

For terrific performances and glorious images flooded with warmth.

→ Director Jeremiah Zagar (15) 93 mins.

BEAUTY CAN GIVE even the grimmest tale magical realist wings. So it is with debut director Jeremiah Zagar's drama about a queer, artistic child coming of age in a dysfunctional family. 'We the Animals' is an adaptation of Justin Torres's '80s-set novel told from the point of view of the youngest of three brothers growing up in the wilderness of upstate New York. Jonah (first-time actor Evan Rosado) is a scrap of a ten-year-old, born, with brothers Manny and Joel, to his neglectful Puerto Rican dad (Raúl Castillo) and Italian-American mum (Sheila Vand).

Zagar imbues his storytelling with a shivery impressionism through astute editing, animations and the rambunctious energy of non-actor children who often seem like one beast with three heads. Shooting on film, cinematographer Zak Mulligan captures natural splendour as the boys run wild. The sight of sunlight bouncing off water evokes a bliss at odds with a narrative arc mired in abuse, depression and poverty.

Vignettes gradually build up to a picture of domestic precariousness. Vand and Castillo have archetypal parental roles but embody them with panic and a touching weariness – they are both gods and monsters to their children. 'We the Animals' elevates the hopeful message that moments of relief are available even to those in dire straits. ■ *Sophie Monks Kaufman*

Rolling Thunder Revue



WHAT IS IT...

A mid-'70s Dylan concert tour film with 2019's bells and whistles.

WHY GO...

It's an unconventional appreciation of a unique circus.

→ Director Martin Scorsese (15) 142 mins.

BOB DYLAN CERTAINLY gives good Bob Dylan in Martin Scorsese's new Netflix doc/concert film. In a clip from the time, a cameraman asks the singer at the end of a blistering gig during 1975/6's ramshackle Rolling Thunder Revue tour how it was. 'How was what?' responds the famously oblique musician. When asked to comment in 2019, he says, 'It happened so long ago I wasn't even born.' So begins, from one of music's most revered figures, utter irreverence.

The Rolling Thunder Revue was a wilfully eccentric tour. Itching to play smaller venues, a freewheelin' Bob Dylan went on the road with a revolving door of folk all-stars, followed by all-access cameras for a film that never quite came together. Today, Scorsese intercuts the footage with new interviews, contextualising it all with times that were a-changin'. Dylan's own politics come to the fore during a scorching 1975 performance of 'Hurricane' at Trenton State Prison, where boxer Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter was being wrongly incarcerated.

Scorsese playfully infuses the doc with subtle fictionalisations and stolen moments: Dylan visiting Jack Kerouac's grave, impromptu jams, painfully exposed conversations with Joan Baez. It rarely strays from the man himself, but if you're just here for Dylan, that's fine. His retrospective musings are lyrical treasures. ■ *Alex Godfrey*



GEORGE FREY/EPA/SHUTTERSTOCK, GABRIELLE RUSSOMAGNO





10

The ten greatest movies ever made

As chosen by Time Out's film team

10 Singin' in the Rain (1952)
Never was a trio of triple-threats more perfectly matched: suave Gene Kelly, comic foil Donald O'Connor and fresh-faced teen Debbie Reynolds all act, sing and dance in unerring harmony. Plus, the songs!

9 There Will Be Blood (2007)
Possibly the most significant filmmaker of the last 20 years, Paul Thomas Anderson transformed from a chronicler of debauched LA life into a hard-nosed investigator of the American confidence man with this epic about Daniel Day-Lewis's milkshake-drinking oil baron. It's a mournful epic and a true heir to the bone-deep cynicism of 'Chinatown'.

8 In the Mood for Love (2000)
Director Wong Kar-wai guides us through the narrow streets of '60s Hong Kong and into the lives of two neighbours (Maggie Cheung and Tony Leung) who fall hard for each other. Loaded with longing and an intense sense of intimacy, it shivers with sexual tension.

7 Seven Samurai (1954)
Since replayed in the Wild West ('The Magnificent Seven'), in space ('Battle Beyond the Stars') and even with animated insects ('A Bug's Life'), Akira Kurosawa's timeless epic is absorbing, funny and thrilling. It's the easiest 207 minutes of cinema you'll ever sit through.

1

6



LONDON ON SCREEN

That doorstep bit in 'Love Actually'

The location

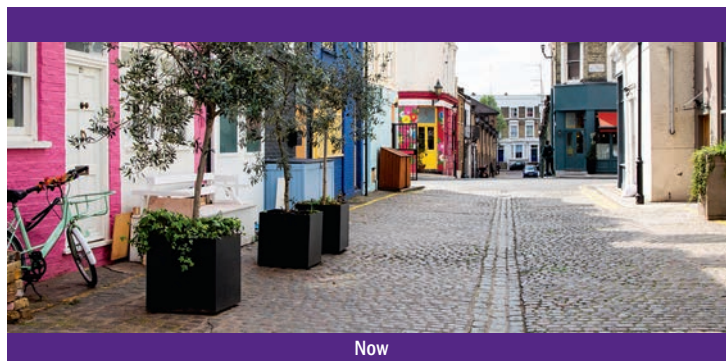
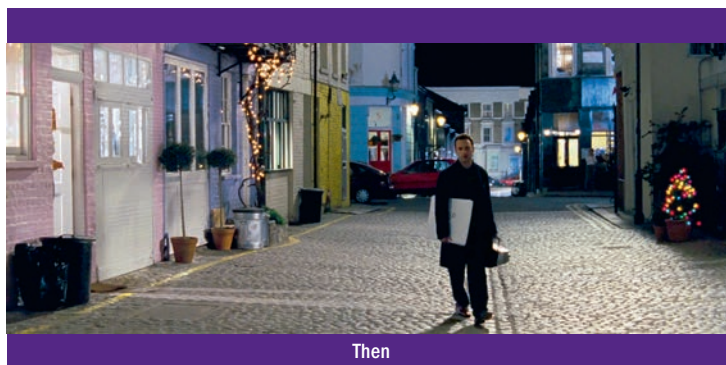
27 St Lukes Mews, Notting Hill.

The scene

Mark (Andrew Lincoln) is in love with his best mate's wife, Juliet (Keira Knightley). To win her affections, he turns up at her door late one Christmas evening holding up a series of placards that confess his true feelings. As he slinks off, Juliet runs after him to give him a kiss.

Then

The scene was filmed at the striking St Lukes Mews, a beautiful cobbled street just a stone's throw away from Portobello Road Market. Its colourful houses were the perfect spot for a Richard Curtis romcom. Originally



constructed as a stables in the eighteenth century, Juliet's rose-pink house would have been worth around £1 million when the film was made in 2003.

Now

With 'Love Actually' now a Christmas classic, tourists flock for selfies outside number 27 (it's still pink). This attention has only added to the property's value, according to estate agent Lucinda Richardson. One house a few doors down sold in 2016 for £2.6m. 'The mews is so popular and beautiful, and we have so much demand for it,' she says. 'The waiting list is ridiculous; once you own a house on the mews, you tend to stay there for ever.' ■ Thomas Hobbs



5

truck chase and a barnstorming supernatural finale. And it's all topped off by Harrison Ford's pitch-perfect Indiana Jones. In short, it's cinematic flawlessness.

4 **Jeanne Dielman, 23, Quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles** (1975)

A feminist masterpiece, Chantal Akerman's quietly ruinous portrait of a widow's routine is a window on a universal condition. Hypnotic and sympathetic, it has a total commitment to a woman's life, hour by hour, minute by minute. It even has a twist ending.

3 **Citizen Kane** (1941)

Orson Welles altered cinema for ever with this story of a mogul's rise and fall. Its themes of greed, power and memory are masterfully presented. As director, co-writer, producer and star, Welles cemented his rep as a true



3

innovator. His filmmaking techniques remain unparalleled.

2 **The Godfather** (1972)

A monumental opening line ('I believe in America') sets this operatic Mafia saga in motion. Director Francis Ford Coppola presides over a chilling dismantling of the American dream that's chock-full of iconic details, from the horse's head and Marlon Brando's rasp to Nino Rota's earworm waltz.

1 **2001: A Space Odyssey** (1968)

This gleaming masterpiece began with the meeting of two great minds: Stanley Kubrick and sci-fi seer Arthur C Clarke. '[hear] he's a nut who lives in a tree in India somewhere,' noted Kubrick, when Clarke was suggested as a writer for his planned space epic. Clarke was actually living in Ceylon (not in India, or a tree), but the pair met, hit it off, and forged a story of technological progress steeped in humanity, disaster, courage and mad ambition. It's still prophetic 50 years on. ■

→ Head to www.timeout.com/film for the full list of the 100 Greatest Movies of All Time.



8

6 **La Dolce Vita** (1960)

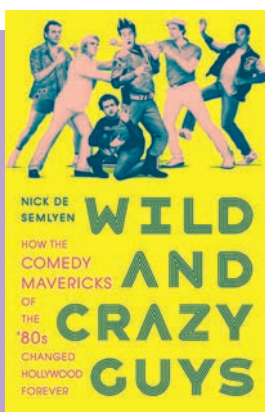
Marcello Mastroianni plays a hedonistic gossip columnist caught up in the frenzied, freewheeling world of Roman nightlife in Federico Fellini's languorous classic. So much of how we view fame and celebrity dates back to this film; it even gave us the word 'paparazzi'.

5 **Raiders of the Lost Ark** (1981)

Steven Spielberg's funnest blockbuster has it all: rolling boulders, a bar-room brawl, a sparky heroine (Karen Allen), hissable villains, snakes ('Why did it have to be snakes?'), cinema's greatest



7



HEADS UP

'Wild and Crazy Guys'

If you love Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, classic '80s comedies or bananas in tailpipes, this ace new book is for you. Writer Nick de Semlyen will be sharing some of its riproaring tales at a Waterstones Q&A on Friday.

→ 19-21 Tottenham Court Rd. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Fri Jun 14, 6pm. £7.

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ALSO OPENING

A SEASON IN FRANCE →

★★★★★ Moments of joy fade into despair as a family from the Central African Republic try to make a new life for themselves in France. Middle-aged Abbas (Eriq Ebouaney) used to be a teacher back in Bangui, but he and his family are living a new reality in Paris and the threat of extradition grows greater each day. Chadian writer-director Mahamat-Saleh Haroun looks at migration from the perspective of those arriving, showing how it can eat away at a person's dignity and autonomy. His film feels quiet but beneath the surface it rages. *Dave Calhoun*



SOMETIMES ALWAYS NEVER

★★★★★ This wry, heartfelt and quintessentially English yarn opens with Bill Nighy hustling Tim McInnerny at Scrabble in a hotel tea room. It's as if someone's slipped an Ambien into Fast Eddie's Horlicks. The screenplay by Frank Cottrell-Boyce ('Millions') soon blossoms out into a relationship drama about fathers and

sons. Nighy is terrific as a Liverpudlian tailor (and Scrabble nut) searching for his missing son – as is Sam Riley as his other offspring. With Edwyn Collins providing a couple of tunes, it's a big old comfort blanket of a movie. *Phil de Semlyen*

THE HUMMINGBIRD PROJECT

★★★★★ This story of two Wall Street techies (Jessie Eisenberg, Alexander Skarsgård) trying to beat the system using high-frequency trading doesn't have the 'Big Short'-like zip it needs to work as a thriller. It's watchable enough as a study of greed but the ending is limp. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Madonna 'Madame X'



WHEN MADONNA ANNOUNCED her latest album, the queen of reinvention didn't just fling herself into a new musical direction. She donned an eye-patch with a red 'X' on it and built a whole new identity: Madame X. Under this new guise, pop's matriarch was able to take on a number of roles at once: a secret agent, a dancer, a professor, a head of state, a housekeeper, a whore, a saint, a spy, an equestrian... you get the idea. As Madame X, Madonna could be *anything*.

As a concept, it kind of makes sense. At 60 years old, more nastiness gets slung at Madge than a journalist at a Trump rally. She's too old. She's out of touch. She's trend-chasing. She's lost it. So maybe it's no surprise that for her fourteenth album, she'd fancy becoming somebody else. But taking on the moniker has also allowed for the sort of limitless creativity that's eluded her for the last ten years. 'Madame X' is her most wonky and experimental album yet.

Lead single 'Medellín' – the first of two duets featuring hunky Colombian megastar Maluma – is seductive and sultry. It's the most relaxed she's sounded in years, with her already-iconic 'one, two, cha cha cha' and soft harmonies matched with his thrusty vocals. This restraint is repeated on 'Batuka', with its sparse trap beats and call-and-response lyrics. The song even ends with a violin solo.

Where restraint is certainly not in play is the absolutely wild 'Dark Ballet', a four-minute assault course of dissonant chords, cascading synths, industrial beats, spoken-word interludes, lashings of vocoder and a breakdown that heavily evokes

Tchaikovsky's 'The Nutcracker'. Tired? Well, Madonna ain't. She follows it with 'God Control', which has more than six minutes of disco strings, political lyrics, dance drops and a final crescendo courtesy of a choir. It is, quite frankly, exhausting.

Ever since she went all earth mother on 1997's 'Ray of Light', Madonna's music has struggled to balance her interior lyrical world and her need for genre-bending pop. And while not always successful, 'Madame X' does sometimes marry introspection and experimentalism well. Try 'Extreme Occident', for example, which starts as a straight-up piano ballad before being hit with a sledgehammer of electronics and beats, and 'Come Alive', the melodic equivalent of a Disney song paired with a toddler playing pots and pans.

But it wouldn't be a Madonna album without some startlingly cringe lyrics. And 'Killers Who Are Partying' really is stratospherically cringe. While the intention is clear – M is adopting the weight and





**Madge
gets more
nastiness
slung at
her than a
journalist at
a Trump rally**

weariness of the world's problems – its delivery is... questionable. 'I'll be Islam if Islam is hated,' she sings at one point, which is incongruous with another lyric: 'I know what I am; I know what I'm not.' Maybe for a moment she forgot?

It's a shame because when she's having fun, it's like Madonna has suddenly discovered she's actually a massive pop star. The Anitta-assisted 'Faz Gostoso', with its nods to Rio Carnival, is a huge pop moment. And true brilliance comes on 'I Don't Search I Find', which might be the finest Madonna song since 'Hung Up'. Not only does it sample the finger click from 'Vogue' but it also smashes together '90s house and '70s disco like only the Madge can.

'Madame X' definitely has its faults: the political aspects can be misguided and shockingly embarrassing, as can her AutoTune overuse. But taken as a whole, 'Madame X' is courageous. Not only is it the sound of an artist letting go, but also (finally) coming to the conclusion that chasing trends and charts is beneath her. Sure, it isn't always a winner, but hearing an artist nearly 40 years into their career flex creatively like this is a rare treat. It's as though by becoming Madame X, she's remembered her what her best role actually is: being Madonna, the Queen of Pop. ■

→ 'Madame X' is out Fri Jun 14. Madonna plays London Palladium Jan 26-Feb 15 2020.



By Alim Kheraj
*Who is also a housekeeper,
a saint, a spy and a whore.*

LAST CHANCE

Festivals still on sale

Art's House



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Lovebox

Consistently one of London's finest festivals, catering for cool kids and party monsters alike, Lovebox has become a summer institution. The 2019 line-up is especially stellar, with headliners Solange and Chance The Rapper topping a quality bill that includes UK rap god J Hus, Loyle Carner, Lizzo and Slowthai.

Don't miss Friday's headline

set from alt-R&B queen Solange.

→ Gunnersbury Park. ⊖ Acton Town. Jul 12-13. £120 (weekend), £62.50 (Fri), £75 (Sat).

Citadel

The chilled older sister to Lovebox is Citadel, which takes over the space in Gunnersbury Park on the Sunday after. This year is a treat for indie fans: headliners Catfish And The Bottlemen join Friendly Fires, Bastille and tons more.

→ Gunnersbury Park. ⊖ Acton Town. Jul 14. £39.50.

Naked City

This brand new all-dayer from the team behind the legendary Krankbrother street parties looks like an instant hit. It's got a lush south London location, and the line-up is a real who's who of London's vibrant jazz, dance and soul scene.

Don't miss Pop icon Neneh Cherry.

→ Beckenham Place Park. Beckenham Junction rail. Jul 27. £35.



Solange



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Big Narstie



Defected London FSTVL

GETTY

Eastern Electrics

The excellent electro festival returns to south London with new stages and a top-notch line-up led by MK, Big Narstie, Skream, Nadia Rose, Hannah Wants and an Orbital DJ set.

Don't miss The festival's very own pool party. For reals.
→ Morden Park. St Helier rail. Aug 3-4.
£57.50 (weekend), £49.95 (Sat), £25 (Sun).

Art's House

Returning to east London rave spot Three Mills Island for a second year, Art's House smartly bucks the festival trend of simply whacking big-name DJs on a bill. It's the brainchild of DJ Artwork, who's joined by just one guest, DJ Harvey.

Don't miss The chance to sample street food galore as the sleek beats keep on coming.
→ Three Mills Island. ⊕ Bromley-by-Bow. Aug 10. £35.

One Day at the Disco

A few weeks after Art's House, the same spot in Bow plays host to a flurry of very awesome disco selectors, including a one-off back-to-back set between 2manydjs and Norse wonder Todd Terje. Detroit house pioneers Inner City play live, while Time

Out faves such as Mister Saturday Night and Colleen 'Cosmo' Murphy will also be spinning and winning in equal measure.

Don't miss The always divine Derrick Carter, playing an all-disco set.
→ Three Mills Island. ⊕ Bromley-by-Bow. Aug 24. £35.

Hospitality in the Park

What better way to round off a festival summer than with a day long D&B rinse out? Over seven stages, some of the biggest labels in the drum and bass universe will be going hard, then going home at around 10.30pm.
Don't miss Sonic originators galore, such as LTJ Bukem, Dillinja and DJ Die.
→ Finsbury Park. Sep 21. £45.

Defected London FSTVL

To celebrate two decades at the top of its game, London label Defected is closing the festival season in style with a five-stage one-day shindig. A couple of legendary Todds (Terry and Edward) top the bill, joined by fellow big-hitters Horse Meat Disco, Joey Negro and Honey Dijon.
Don't miss The Horse Meat Disco crew dropping their impeccable disco-funk beats.
→ Central Park, Dagenham.
⊕ Dagenham East. Sep 14. £64.



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THE TESKEY BROTHERS — TALOS
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Music & Nightlife

UK

Love Supreme

This fest specialises in jazz, funk, blues and soul, with extra pop power when it comes to the headliners. The lush setting in the grounds of an Elizabethan manor house sets the tone for a genteel weekender, but more dancey fare such as Auntie Flo and Skinny Pelembe also pepper the line-up.

Don't miss Ms Lauryn Hill's headline set.

→ Glynde Place, East Sussex. Jul 5-7. £140 (weekend), £59 (Sat), £63 (Sun).

Bluedot

To Cheshire and beyond! This awesome meeting of music and science takes place at the deep space observatory Jodrell Bank. The bands are excellent – Kraftwerk, New Order, Anna Calvi – but so too are the talks. Extinction Rebellion, veteran science journalist

James Burke and astronaut Helen Sharman are all hosting events.

Don't miss We can't decide between Jarvis or physicist Jim Al-Khalili.

→ Jodrell Bank, Cheshire. Jul 18-21. £179 (weekend), £35 (Thu), £59.75 (Fri/Sun). Sat sold out.

Wilderness

This escapist weekender in Oxfordshire consistently hits the spot. The 2019 line-up is led by headliners Groove Armada, Bombay Bicycle Club and the incredible Robyn, but you'll also enjoy talks and

debates, outdoor theatre, horse-riding, yurt-building and long-table banquets prepared by top chefs.

Don't miss Pre-party downtime at the idyllic lakeside spa.
→ Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire. Aug 1-4. £179.50.



Wilderness



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AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

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PRESENT: EURDRA
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SUBBASS ACADEMY

TOGETHER x BITE THIS?

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R3HAB
SLUSHII & DOKAY
WHAT SO NOT
DISTRICTION BOYZ
BARELY LEGAL
MADAM X
NINA LAS VEGAS
VERY SPECIAL GUEST:
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LONDON SOUND ACADEMY

CAPITAL WEEKENDER

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JAMES HYPE
MARTIN JENSEN
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M-22
SARAH STORY
RIO
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ELDERBROOK

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Music & Nightlife

Boomtown

Every year the Matterley Bowl estate in Hampshire becomes a magical town full of hypnotic basslines and mind-bending installations. Music ranges from the underground to big-name DJs, and this year brings Area 404, 'an industrial post-apocalyptic themed district.'

Don't miss The Streets bringing the kaboom! to Boomtown

→ Matterley Estate, Hampshire. Aug 7-11. £264.

We Out There

DJ and all-round great guy Gilles Peterson brings his blend of electronica, jazz, dance and world music to the old Secret Garden Party site in Cambridgeshire. This year is the first edition, but with Matthew Herbert, Tirzah and The Comet Is Coming on the bill, it's bound to be a good un.

Don't miss DJ sets from Peterson himself.

→ Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire. Aug 15-18. £145.



Jayda G



Boomtown

Lost Village

A heaving line-up of excellent DJs – Bicep, Richie Hawtin, Midland, Gerd Janson, Jayda G – all bring the party to this woodsy treat in Lincolnshire. Seek out immersive performances, boozy banquets and orgasm workshops, or just get lost to the beats in the abandoned chapel.

Don't miss The shamanic selector that is Hune.

→ Norton Disney, Lincolnshire. Aug 22-25. £182.50.

End of the Road

This Dorset season-closer excels in not only bringing some joyful acts together (Metronomy, Beirut, Courtney Barnett, Spiritualized), it also boasts a hefty arts and literary side, plus an increasing nod to late-night larks to keep the attending twenty-thirty-and forty-somethings happy.

Don't miss Sleaford Mods, spoiling the bucolicness! ■

→ Larmer Tree Gardens, Dorset. Aug 29-Sep 1. £192.

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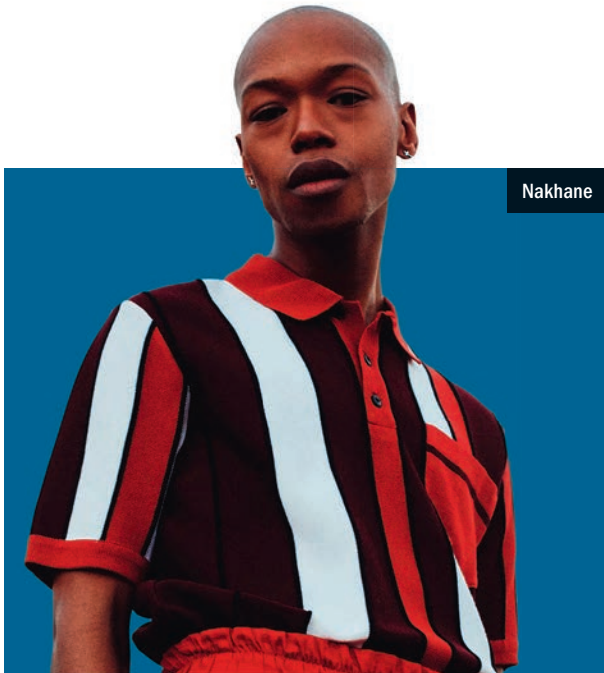
Peabody



FESTIVAL NEWS

Meltdown gets even hotter

The Nile Rodgers-curated festival has just announced its second wave of acts. Here's a guide to the highlights



NILE RODGERS IS a supremely well connected and musically omnivorous legend, so his Meltdown Festival was always going to be packed with talent. He's already announced Latin pop queen **Anitta**, innovative artist-producer **Sophie** and afrobeat rising stars **Kokoroko**, plus an opening show from a lil' group called Nile Rodgers & Chic, and today's second wave of bookings is equally exciting.

French-Israeli singer-songwriter **Yael Naim**, Sweden's post-punk heroes **Viagra Boys** and queer South African artist **Nakhane** have joined the bill, adding to its global flavour, as have London's own modern soul collective **Jungle**, indie-pop trio **Kero Kero Bonito** and Nigerian-born London artist-producer **Azekel**. **Radiant Children** will bring their super-smooth R&B beats, and Smiths legend **Johnny Marr** (who named his son Nile in Rodgers' honour) will be rocking out, so there's an act for every mood.

Rodgers is also planning free daytime parties on Southbank Centre's Riverside Terrace. These include **Disco Wonderland**, an all-day disco honouring his Chic work, and **Mini Vogue Ball**, which features a masterclass in catwalk voguing. For box-fresh talent, head to **And the Beat Goes On**, a showcase for UK rising stars including students from the Brit School where Adele and Amy Winehouse honed their craft. You might just catch a future superstar. ■ *Nick Levine*

→ Meltdown is at Southbank Centre from Aug 3-12

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

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TimeOut
THE BEST OF THE CITY

Theatre & Dance

Edited by **Andrzej Lukowski**
timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre

‘White people in America saw whiteness as a superpower’

Lynn Nottage’s ‘Sweat’ is a masterpiece about the decline of post-industrial America. Now, it’s hitting the West End

WHEN LYNN NOTTAGE was a girl, buses took day trippers from Port Authority in New York City to Reading, Pennsylvania. ‘It was the first place where outlet malls were built in America,’ recalls the double-Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, ‘and it was the centre of the textile industry. It was a destination.’

That was the ‘70s. Decades on, Brooklyn-born Nottage’s familiarity with the blue-collar city was a factor in her choosing Reading as the subject for a commission to write a play about ‘an American revolution’.

The other factor was a grim statistic: the 2010 census rated Reading the poorest city in America. The revolution Nottage wanted to write about was the deindustrialisation of America (‘the Deindustrial Revolution’, she quips) and it would result in her masterpiece, ‘Sweat’. It won her that

second Pulitzer and transferred to Broadway; now, its UK premiere is making the leap from the Donmar Warehouse to the West End after receiving the best reviews of 2018.

Centring on a trio of female friends working at a steel tubing plant, it is a phenomenal and disturbing piece of writing. It follows the tight-knit, multiracial group as they disintegrate into suspicion then out-and-out racism after Cynthia – who is black – wins a job on the factory’s management, just as the bosses are gearing up to inflict swingeing cuts. It is also a compassionate play that demonstrates empathy with characters based upon steelworkers Nottage met some two years into her research process, when they were 92 weeks into a strike over pay cuts.

Nottage began researching ‘Sweat’ in 2011, and it premiered

in 2015. Nonetheless, its depiction of working-class, traditionally Democrat-leaning white workers suddenly embracing right-wing views as their world crumbles seems to predict the Trump presidency.

Nottage didn’t think Trump would win: ‘He’s a reality TV star – none of us thought he would be able to pull this trick off. He’s the ultimate con artist and huckster who struck at a vulnerable moment.’

However, she isn’t surprised at the increasing toxicity of US public discourse. ‘In Reading

I spoke to white people who were for the first time experiencing a level of marginalisation that was unfamiliar. The term I keep using is “white panic”. For a really long time white people in America treated whiteness like a superpower. Now a lot of people have discovered that their powers are eroding and they have begun behaving in ways that are completely unacceptable and undemocratic.’

Like any great play, ‘Sweat’ does not feel bound to a time and place, and one reason Lynette Linton’s



LYNN SAWARESE

Buy tickets to 'Sweat' at [timeout.com/tickets](https://www.timeout.com/tickets)



Donmar production hit home so forcefully is that it resonates with Brexit – perhaps not with the same racial dimension, but certainly as a story of how people’s politics change when their safety net is removed.

Nottage doesn’t regard a 2020 Democratic presidential win as a likely panacea for the woes of places like Reading, though she thinks a win for anybody with a higher empathy level than Trump’s would help. And that’s what ‘Sweat’ ultimately is: not so much a plea for empathy as an expression of it.

‘Each of these people had made an investment in the company they worked for,’ she says. ‘They had put their sweat, their effort in, for generations, and there was an assumption that it would be repaid. And that sweat was taken for granted.’ ■

→ Gielgud Theatre. ☉ Piccadilly Circus. Until Jul 20. £17.25-£107.25



By Andrzej Lukowski
Who would recommend ‘Sweat’ to fans of Bruce Springsteen’s ‘Nebraska’.

BOOK NOW

More great American plays

The Night of the Iguana

Tennessee Williams’s play shimmers with sweat, sex and looming menace. Clive Owen will play a disgraced priest in this hotly anticipated production, alongside Anna Gunn and Lia Williams.

→ Noël Coward Theatre. ☉ Leicester Square. Jul 6-Sep 28. £47.25-£127.25.

Black Is the Color of My Voice

This intense show inspired by Nina Simone has won plaudits on both sides of the Pond. Its star Apphia Campbell croons an intimate narrative of jazz and activism.

→ The Vaults. ☉ Waterloo. Jun 27-Jul 13. £20-£35.

Death of a Salesman

Arthur Miller’s tale of wasted potential gains new poignancy in this hit production. ‘The Wire’ star Wendell Pierce turns in a moving performance as a father who’s crushed by discrimination.

→ Young Vic. ☉ Waterloo. Until Jul 13. £10-£40. Transfers to Piccadilly Theatre on Oct 24.



Wife



WHAT IS IT...
A time-hopping drama about queerness through the ages.

WHY GO...
It's clever and moving, and there are some really good jokes.

→ Kiln Theatre. ⊖ Kilburn.
Until Jul 6. £12.50-£32.50.



CONSISTING OF SNAPSHOTS of successive generations of people connected to each other and constrained by the word 'wife', Samuel Adamson's new play grabs at big, enduring questions about queerness through the ages. It's also, gloriously, often as camp as Christmas: think 'The Hours', but with killer putdowns.

'Wife' opens with the final scene of a starchy, period-dressed staging of Henrik Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'. Then, we go backstage. Suzannah (Sirine Saba), the actress playing Nora, is visited by Daisy, her secret lover, and Daisy's husband. We skip to a gay couple whose night out in a straight pub in 1986 exposes the tensions and inequalities in their relationship. Then we land in 2019, as soon-to-be-married Clare tracks down Ivar, the love of her father's life, needing answers about why they split. Every scene begins with a version of Ibsen's play. Nora walking out on her old life is a liberating, enraging or haunting idea, depending on who's talking about her, and when.

'Wife' sometimes stumbles by trying to do too much. But it is still deeply enjoyable, and an ultimately uplifting love letter to theatre. It might poke affectionate fun at the form's more po-faced tendencies, but 'Wife' never concedes that theatre can't make a difference. Nora endures, even if only in the faint names of every actor to play her, scribbled inside a prop. ■ *Tom Wicker*

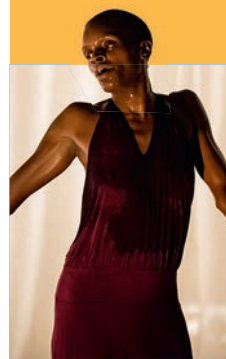
Bronx Gothic



WHAT IS IT...
An uncategorisable show from US performer Okwui Okpokwasili.

WHY GO...
It's intense, haunting, and beautiful.

→ Young Vic, Maria.
⊖ Waterloo. Until Jun 29.
£25.



OKWUI OKPOKWASILI'S STRANGE, eerie solo show is almost impossible to categorise, though I guess you're on safe ground characterising the first 15 minutes or so as dance. Facing resolutely away from us, the towering, angular American performs a sort of haunted twerk: her moves owe a lot to the booty-shaking dance, but they're devoid of the sex, the bounce, the party. When we walk in, she's there already, jerking to a two-note organ riff, a twitchy, rhythmic shiver that owes as much to horror films as to clubs. Eventually pounding beats join the fray, then field recordings of what sounds like a playground kick in, under an aqueous electronic drone (the music is by the show's director, Peter Born). It is loud and visceral and overwhelming and brilliant.

The rest of 'Bronx Gothic' is an abrupt shift, as Okpokwasili picks up some crumpled wedges of paper off the floor that purport to be pages of her old diary. The show that follows consists largely of exchanges between a high-pitched, naive, pre-pubescent girl and a growling, worldly sexualised pubescent one.

It is strange and dreamlike – urban girlhood and the liminality of puberty given a magical realist reimagining. It also ends abruptly, without real conclusion. Like dreams, 'Bronx Gothic' isn't always decipherable, but blurred, bloody fragments linger. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

EXCLUSIVE

'SWEAT' BY LYNN NOTTAGE



See this 'masterpiece' on American industrial decline we awarded five stars with up to 46 percent off. Offer valid for a limited time only – tickets from just £15.

TIMEOUT.COM/SWEAT

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BalletBoyz: Them/Us



WHAT IS IT...
First ever West End show from the all-male ballet troupe.

WHY GO...
Two wildly contrasting pieces of full-tilt, high-skill dance.

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

→ Vaudeville Theatre.
⊖ Leicester Square.
Until Sat Jun 15. £25-£65.



THERE'S SOME DEBATE among the current crop of BalletBoyz about what they have created with 'Them', the 30-minute piece that opens this double bill – a really nice bolognese, a carbonara, or a pizza with many toppings. So we learn in the tongue-in-cheek short film the BalletBoyz co-creators Michael Nunn and William Trevitt have made to precede it for the all-male company's West End debut.

'Them' is the first time the dancers have made their own work – becoming the chefs, not just the ingredients – and the Boz show they've learnt a trick or two from the top-flight choreographers they have worked with previously. It's a devised piece, made in tandem with Charlotte Harding's string score, that feels loose, born of spontaneity and authenticity. Sequences grow out of simple gestures – a handshake, for instance, leads to a string of tag-team duets, then to a coiling line of all six dancers holding hands.

'Us', the second half of the evening, is a quite different affair. It started as a short duet by Christopher Wheeldon for a previous BalletBoyz show and has now been expanded. The new first half has all six dancers caught up in a regime where an undercurrent of aggression can be felt in their aligned movements. Then, bare-chested and Adonis-like, Bradley Waller and Harry Price appear for a duet – a heart-stoppingly tender coming together of two bodies that is both sensual and nurturing, as the pair lock eyes with a look of infinite trust. Combined with Keaton Henson's lushly romantic score, it's an achingly beautiful ode to love. ■ *Siobhan Murphy*

BALLETBOYZ: GEORGE PIPER; WIFE: MARG BRENNER

NEW SHOWS
THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Nick Hytner follows up his hit immersive production of 'Julius Caesar' with a roaming take on Shakespeare's comedy, starring Gwendoline Christie.

→ Bridge Theatre.
⇨ London Bridge. Until Aug 31. £15-£70.

Hansel and Gretel

An outdoor staging of Humperdinck's winsome family opera.

→ Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. ⇨ Baker St. Fri Jun 14-Jun 22. £25-£62.50, £10 concs.

OFF-WEST END

Afterglow

This hit gay comedy from New York has raked in the megabucks with a winning combo of wit and semi-clad sauce.

→ Southwark Playhouse.
⇨ Elephant & Castle. Until Jul 20. £14-£22, £18 concs.

Citysong

Dublin's streets come to quirky, imaginative life in Dylan Coburn Gray's Verity Bargate Award-winning play.

→ Soho Theatre.
⇨ Tottenham Court Rd. Wed Jun 12-Jul 6. £10-£24.

The Flies

Jean-Paul Sartre's satire, performed in French and English on alternate nights.

→ The Bunker. ⇨ London Bridge. Tue Jun 11-Jul 6. £16, £10-£14 concs.

barbican

19-25 Jun
Comédie-Française
The Damned
(Les Damnés)

Ivo van Hove adapts Luchino Visconti's screenplay to investigate a family's deepening ties with a corrupted society

★★★★★
Guardian
★★★★★
New York Stage Review

Image © Jan Versweyveld

The City of London Corporation is the founder and principal funder of the Barbican Centre

The Future

This musical from much-loved DIY theatre troupe Little Bulb explores where artificial intelligence is going to take us.

→ Battersea Arts Centre.
Clapham Junction rail. Wed Jun 12-Jun 29. £10-£20.

Napoli, Brooklyn

Meghan Kennedy's drama follows three sisters growing up and rebelling in '60s Brooklyn.

→ Park Theatre.
⇨ Finsbury Park. Thu Jun 13-Jul 13. £18.50-£32.50, £16.50-£23.50 concs.

Strange Fruit

Caryl Phillips's 1980 British-Caribbean drama.

→ Bush Theatre. ⇨ Shepherd's Bush Market. Wed Jun 12-Jul 27. £20, £15-£17.50 concs.

While the Sun Shines

Orange Tree boss Paul Miller directs this rarely staged Terence Rattigan play.

→ Orange Tree Theatre.
⇨ Richmond. Until Jul 27. £15-£25, £12.50-£19 concs.

Woke

Apphia Campbell's Fringe First-winning solo show follows two women fighting for civil rights in America.

→ Battersea Arts Centre.
Clapham Junction rail. Until Jun 22. £12.50, £10 concs.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Come from Away

Set in the days after 9/11, this smash-hit show from Canada is a soaring hymn to the power of community, folk song, and lumberjack shirts.

→ Phoenix Theatre. Until Feb 15 2020.

2 The Book of Mormon

Tap-dancing missionaries spread the word of the Lord in this ludicrous spoof musical from the 'South Park' boys.

→ Prince of Wales Theatre. Until Aug 23.

3 Aladdin

The in-genie-ous Disney family show.

→ Prince Edward Theatre. Until Aug 24.

4 Everybody's Talking About Jamie

Feverishly catchy queer musical fun.

→ Apollo Theatre. Until Jan 25 2020.

5 Wicked

This witch-filled musical is a fan fave.

→ Apollo Victoria. Until May 31 2020.

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Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

SHOW OF THE WEEK

Faith Ringgold



ART IS A weapon. I mean, not always. Sometimes it's just something pretty for rich people's walls. But in the hands of octogenarian American artist and activist Faith Ringgold, art is a weapon. Art is a way of fighting back.

Ringgold is a black artist, born and raised in Harlem during a time of civil unrest and social upheaval. The early paintings here show rich white bankers next to kissing interracial couples, an educated black woman near a bunch of featureless white men in suits, all captured with thick lines and flat planes of cream and blue and black.

But something about straight-up painting feels too close to established art tropes to be effective here. It's when Ringgold ditches canvas for the power and history of quilts that things really start hitting home.

Influenced by Tibetan fabric art as well as the American quilt tradition, Ringgold starts combining storytelling and painting to stitch together narratives about black American history and the fight for equal rights. Panels alternate between written words and painted images.

WHAT IS IT...
Paintings, posters and quilts by a pioneering artist-activist.

WHY GO...
This is art for changing society, and that's a pretty worthwhile cause.

→ Serpentine Galleries
⊖ Lancaster Gate. Until Sep 8. Free.

FAITH RINGGOLD, 'THE LAND IS BLEEDING #2' (AMERICAN COLLECTION #6), 1987, COURTESY PIPPI FOLDSWORTH GALLERY, LONDON © 2015 FAITH RINGGOLD/ARTIST'S RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK



There are stories about Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King Jr and pancake-mix icon Aunt Jemima. The images show horrifying visions of drowning slaves, but also New York subway scenes daubed with graffiti, people dancing in jazz clubs. Some of it is painfully harrowing, some of it brilliant empowering.

Using the power of folk tradition and her own fighting spirit, Ringgold condenses the black American experience into brilliant little nuggets of visual gold. The abstract pieces in the second room don't really work because they don't feel as connected to a sense of narrative, but the rest definitely does.

This is art as a weapon of resistance, as an outlet for anger, as a call for justice. There's nothing wrong with pretty art for rich people's walls, but sometimes art needs to be something bigger, and this is it. ■



By Eddy Frankel

Who has tried to use art as a weapon, but you can't do much damage with a crayon.

Three things you'll see at the Summer Exhibition



Big names

Now in its 251st year, the Summer Exhibition still knows how to get the big art names in. There's a giant, gorgeous Anselm Kiefer painting, a fantastic Edward Burtynsky photo and more Michael Craig-Martin than you could ever want to see. There's also a Banksy, you'll be happy to know, which is a big 'Arrivals from the EU' doorway, except it's shuttered. Because Brexit. Hard-hitting stuff.

Little names

The great thing about the Summer Exhibition is that it's open to all, and the selectors pick from thousands of entries. That means that your mate's mum's weird little whittled sculptures of George Michael might be shown alongside something by Antony Gormley. It's a good opportunity to spot an art star of the future. And also see weird stuff by your mate's mum.

And a huge amount of art

There are more than 1,500 works of art in this sprawling show. From miniature paintings of gritty urban scenes (there are a LOT of paintings of gritty urban scenes) to enormous canvases, architectural models to a life-size tiger made of Tunnock's Tea Cake wrappers, there's something for everyone. And hey, most of it is for sale, so you may just be able to nab a bargain. ■ *Eddy Frankel*
→ Royal Academy of Arts. ☉ Green Park. Until Aug 12. £16.



WHAT IS IT...
Complex, politically minded art by a playful artist.

WHY GO...
It's clever, fun, challenging, and really damn good.

→ Whitechapel Art Gallery,
Aldgate East.
Until Aug 25. £12.95,
£9.50 concs.

Michael Rakowitz



YOU MIGHT KNOW Iraqi-American artist Michael Rakowitz from his current Fourth Plinth commission 'The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist'. It's a recreation of a huge winged statue from the ancient city of Nineveh, destroyed by Daesh in 2015. Rakowitz's version, though, is no monolith: it's made of Middle Eastern wrapping paper and packaging materials, like a school papier-mâché project gone mad. Life goes on, it suggests: however wonkily. There's a lot of that kind of stuff in this show.

The first work you encounter is a grey inflatable tower block. It has a crude wooden viewing platform

around it, so you can look at it *from all angles* (Rakowitz's MO). It wheezes upright, then detumesces. It's quite soothing. It's a model of Pruitt-Igoe, a notorious St Louis housing project that got so dangerously run down and violent that the authorities dynamited it in the 1970s. Its inclusion here initially seems tenuous: it's a terrible story of ghettoisation and neglect, if hardly unique. But Pruitt-Igoe was the work of architect Minoru Yamasaki and he went on to design the Twin Towers. It's typical Rakowitz: create something that seems a bit crass, then let the viewer uncover its complexity. He does something

similar with 'What Dust Will Rise?' – Talmudic texts destroyed during WWII recreated from stone quarried in the Bamiyan Valley, where the Taliban famously blew up two monumental Buddhas in 2001. The twist is that the original books weren't destroyed by the Nazis, but by RAF bombing. For Rakowitz, explosive destruction punctuates history: it's up to us to try and piece together what it all means.

Things get considerably dafter with 'The Breakup', which parallels the release of 'Sgt Pepper' and the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, which happened within days of each other in 1967. Rakowitz assigns each of

the Fab Four a nation in the conflict (John is Egypt, Paul is Israel, George is Iraq and Ringo is – naturally – Jordan). It feels arbitrary and silly, till I realised – as a fellow Beatles nut – that I know tons about the internal power struggles of four blokes from Liverpool and almost nothing about a conflict that killed thousands of people and led to half a century of displacement, violence and suffering.

This is a show full of complicated ideas, histories and perspectives. It repays attention, but be warned: the one thing that it tells us is that we might not have all the thinking time in the world. ■ *Chris Waywell*

MICHAEL RAKOWITZ, 'THE INVISIBLE ENEMY SHOULD NOT EXIST' (FOURTH PLINTH, PALACE OF MINORU), ROOM 10 | 2015 COURTESY OF THE ARTIST. PHOTO BY ROBERT CHASE TESHMAN

Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

Sichuan Grand

Unit 1, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 1BG. ↻ Stratford.



WHEN A WHOPPING great restaurant outside a tired-looking shopping centre is heaving on a Tuesday night, you know there's something good inside. This is Sichuan Grand, which is both Sichuan and grand. The menu is vast, and is one of those ones that comes with lurid pictures and misspelled descriptions. There's a separate one-pager of Cantonese crowd-pleasers (crispy duck, spring rolls, lemon chicken), but if this is where your fancy lies then you're frankly in the wrong place. Stay Sichuanese. Everything we ate was terrific, but a few dishes have imprinted themselves on my brain. Like the jellyfish, which turned out to be much more than something you run away from at the beach. Pale gold and shredded into shimmering ribbons, it had memorable mouth-feel: faintly crunchy but also gelatinous, like gnawing the end of a chicken bone. Refreshingly chilled, with a black vinegar dressing, it was both delicately sharp but fiercely garlicky.

WHAT IS IT...

A smart Sichuan restaurant in Stratford.

WHY GO...

The jellyfish. Black vinegar, garlic and just enough crunch.



It got gutsier by degrees. There was a huge plate of dry-fried green beans showered in tiny explosions of pork mince deliciousness: it was salty, oily, and again garlicky. Gong-bao king prawns, the fat pink crustaceans mingling with toasted cashews and slices of celery, are another must. There was more garlic, in soft braised slices (do eat these), plus numbing peppercorns and handfuls of dried chillies (don't eat these). There were moreish pork-and-fennel dumplings, the nicely chewy pasta parcels stuffed with juicy meat and languishing in a puddle of chilli oil. This time the garlic came minced and raw, in a little pile for adding to taste. If you're about to go out and do battle with vampires, eat here first. And if it's value you're after, you must order the Sichuan-style roasted duck: an

enormous soupy bowl that could feed a family, each layer revealing something new: a base of skinny rice noodles, slices of lotus root, handfuls of sprouts and on top, a hunk of duck in a dozen-odd thick skin-on slices. Yours for just £12.80. In fact, most of the portions were impossibly generous, making a night out here extremely kind to your wallet, especially if you go with a gang and get sharing. But Sichuan Grand is more than just good value: it's surprisingly smart, too. Sure, the pale floor tiles are too shiny, giving it a slightly hard edge, but the lighting is set to medium (a rarity in traditional Chinese restaurants), the staff are exceptionally friendly (another rarity, sadly) and the room has a great vibe: the glossy dark woods and large hanging lanterns offset by a soundtrack of Chinese ballads and lively chatter. Just go soon, before the only night you can walk in for a table is a Monday. ■

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £70



By Tania Ballantine
Who is off to put a steak - sorry, stake - through someone's heart.

Food

Redemption Bar

→ 15 Short's Gardens, WC2H 9AT.
↻ Covent Garden. Vegan.



REDEMPTION BAR. The popular meat-free, booze-free, gluten-free and refined-sugar free café (try saying that five times fast) has set up a flagship in Seven Dials. While the menu might be free from vices, it's certainly not lacking in flavour. Seasonal fruit and veg, salads, seeds and superfoods are all superstars, so go ahead and 'spoil yourself without spoiling yourself', as its tagline prompts.

The interiors are suitably on trend: plush velvet chairs, marble tabletops and some token neon pink signage to win the youth vote. A zen post-yoga playlist adds to the wholesome, peace-and-love feel. Unsurprisingly, it's a hit with yummy mummies and pilates bunnies.

On to the food. The raw pad thai bowl packed a punch with its spicy



WHAT IS IT...
The flagship Seven Dials branch of the vegan, alcohol-free restaurant and bar.

WHY GO...
Raw pad thai, risotto and 'bliss balls': clean-eating never had it so good.

dressing and chilli accents, but it was fresh, flavourful and summery – filled to the brim with courgetti and carrot swirls, and topped off with roasted cashews that accentuated the flavour of the lime and spring onions. If you're after something a bit more hearty, the risotto is exactly that – a bright purple beetroot-infused dish dotted with garden-fresh peas and mint – a light yet wholesome combo. The flourish of

crispy pecan nut 'cheese' crumble added an interesting texture and nutty flavour to the dish.

If you tend to find dessert menus a calorie-laden minefield, take advantage of Redemption's healthier spin on the sweet stuff. The thoroughly under-rated 'bliss balls' (raw cacao and date truffles covered in shredded coconut) were rich, chocolatey and perfectly moist, a good after-dinner snack to nibble

on while clutching a mug of steamy guarana cacao or a turmeric latte. The key lime cheesecake, stuffed with good-for-you ingredients like avocado and cashew cream, was surprisingly indulgent for a dessert that probably does more good than harm. A fitting end to this all-good 'bar', where hangovers are a thing of the past. ■ *Nina Clark*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: £85.

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📍 SOUTH BANK

THE HIDDEN SPIRIT SAYS:

'Set on board the world famous Golden Hinde ship, those willing to join Captain Jack Cassidy's undercover crew will be taken on an epic journey of mischief in this unique immersive cocktail experience. Climb aboard and help steal the treasure while you enjoy some nautically inspired cocktails.'
St Mary Overie Dock, Cathedral St, SE1 9DG.



📍 CHELSEA

MOONSHINE SALOON SAYS:

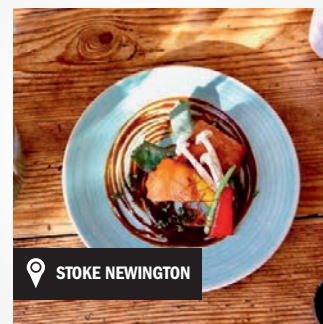
'Combining interactive theatre with a cocktail-drinking experience, Moonshine Saloon transports guests to the rugged American West (on the promise of making a fortune in an illicit moonshine-smuggling operation). Set in the town of Cold Water in 1904, outlaws must bring their own liquor if they want to join the gang.'
535 King's Rd, SW10 0SZ.



📍 SHOREDITCH

BOXPARK SHOREDITCH SAYS:

'Boxpark Shoreditch is home to some of the best retail and street food vendors in east London, including four bars (two of which sit on rooftop terraces, serving everything from beers to mojito slushies). With a full schedule of events in the BeatBox bar most evenings and over the weekends, it's the place to be this summer.'
2-10 Bethnal Green Rd, E1 6GY.



📍 STOKE NEWINGTON

AUN SAYS:

'Launched in 2017, AUN is an independent restaurant bringing the Japanese concept of "wakon yosai" to the heart of Stoke Newington. What is it? It's the idea of learning western techniques without losing any Japanese spirit and using European ingredients alongside traditional Japanese ones.'
178 Stoke Newington Church St, N16 0JL.

THREE OF THE BEST

Ladbroke Grove restaurants



Caractère ★★★★★

→ 209 Westbourne Park Rd, W11 1EA. ☺ Westbourne Park. Vegan-friendly.

WHAT IS IT... A slick neighbourhood restaurant from Emily Roux and ex-Le Gavroche chef Diego Ferrari.

WHY GO... For cacio e pepe made with celeriac instead of pasta: every bit as creamy, cheesy and peppery as the real thing.



Fez Mangal ★★★★★

→ 104 Ladbroke Grove, W11 1PY. ☺ Ladbroke Grove. Vegan-friendly.

WHAT IS IT... A no-frills Turkish kebab restaurant that's something of a Ladbroke Grove institution.

WHY GO... For all the falafel you can handle and houmous so creamy it practically dissolves on your tongue.



Mam ★★★★★

→ 16 All Saints Rd, W11 1HH. ☺ Ladbroke Grove. Vegan-friendly.

WHAT IS IT... A modern Vietnamese restaurant from the team behind Dalston's Salvation in Noodles.

WHY GO... For a DIY-style platter stacked with rice-noodle pancakes, crunchy veg and dazzling meat straight off the grill.

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Food

Kerridge's Bar & Grill

→ 10 Northumberland Avenue, WC2N 5AE.
↻ Embankment.



THIS FIRST LONDON joint by jovial West Country chef Tom Kerridge received frenzied praise when it opened in late 2018. Superficially, it's easy to see why. The space itself, attached to the bougie Corinthia Hotel, is a dreamy sea of studded crimson leather, forest green vaulting and garishly nondescript modern art. Coooo!

The food was pretty good too. The skillet-served lobster thermidor omelette was a vision of stringy cheese and just-set egg, jammed with sweet crustacean. A dinky pig's cheek pie with clotted cream mash and cayenne-spiked devilled sauce was divine. Grilled quail with puffed rice and a dense mousse of parsley and wild garlic was equally meticulous, though by this point the liberal use of salt and



gouty richness of every dish was beginning to get the better of us.

A pretty rhubarb trifle and a Paris-Brest piped with cement-thick peanut cream were as close to a respite as things got (that is to say: not at all), but were lovely nonetheless.

Service was genial but a little

absent, which – when you're paying upwards of £100 a head even when scouring the lower reaches of the wine list – rightly rankled. But if it's deft gastro-pub fare at stratospheric prices you're after, Kerridge is your man. ■ *Tom Howells*

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £200.

EXCLUSIVE

Enjoy a slice of Spanish summer with tapas, chilled sangria and live flamenco dancing at **Salvador & Amanda**. Prices from just £19.50.

› [TIMEOUT.COM/AMANDA](https://www.timeout.com/amanda)

WHAT IS IT...

A fine dining spot from Tom Kerridge, at the Corinthia Hotel.

WHY GO...

For the pig's cheek pie – a punchy, porcine triumph.



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Morty & Bob's – Coal Drops Yard



→ 49 Coal Drops Yard, N1C 4DQ. ↻ King's Cross.

WHAT IS IT...

A casual all-day café at Coal Drops Yard in King's Cross.

WHY GO...

For the signature cheese toastie: golden, gooey and oozing with flavour.



THE ONLY THING you really need to know about Morty & Bob's is that it serves grilled cheese for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And yes, the street-food-stall-turned-café's golden, gooey, oozing cheese toastie is the reason to go. Lightly crisp and golden on both sides, it had a lovely crunch on the outside but was exceptionally smooth in the middle. You won't go wrong with any of the flavours (mushrooms and truffle, say, or spicy 'nduja sausage), but we especially loved our classic toastie, stuffed with aromatic green onions. Served with a huge, tangy pickle, it was a delight.

There are decent non-toastie options, too: a tahini-slathered kale, buckwheat and roasted squash salad was nutty and fresh, while the parmesan truffle fries were rich, if a little salty. The only real downer is the fact that during the day, the dark brick walls (it's part of the Coal Drops Yard development of the one-time coal sheds), make it feel a tad gloomy. Arrive early to snag a window seat, or a spot at the communal outdoor table.

Morty & Bob's is classic, low-key café stuff, but if you love cheese between bread, it's definitely worth a visit. Toasties at any time of the day: it's our new life motto. ■ *Kelly Pigram*

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £45.

More places to get stuffed at:
[timeout.com/restaurants](https://www.timeout.com/restaurants)

Drink

Edited by Laura Richards
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

BAR OF THE WEEK

Tabac



AIMEZ-VOUS LA ROMANCE?

Then you'll love Tabac, a tiny bar in Kentish Town that's oh-so French and *très, très romantique*, run by the same French-English couple behind Patron Cave à Manger on the same road. A former tobacconist's, this narrow space is slick but rustic, with mid-century-style furniture scattered about the space among the flowers, trinkets and French memorabilia. Bookshelves stacked with old tobacco tins line the back wall, and one of those heavy, sliding ladders screens my favourite table: a cosy, candlelit booth for two (superstition be damned).

But no matter where you sit, you'll be enchanted. There's a spacious table flooded with natural light from the front windows, a smaller, cosy

one next to the fire, plus a narrow bar counter and some further intimate tables for two.

French '50s music played softly as I sipped one of the best cocktails I've had in London. The Lemon Garden was a super-smooth gin Martini, bright with flavour, mixed with a small splash of bitters and topped with a fragrant sprig of lemon thyme. Then, at the other end of the spectrum, the Holywater was a heady but delicately balanced mix of rum, cognac, lime and grapefruit. Food on offer paired well with

the theme and the drinks, since it was cheesy and delicious (try the truffle honey goat's cheese) and the bartenders were as charming as you'd expect from a French bar.

Elsewhere on the menu is a small, curated list of fine wine, great drops all available by the glass (thanks to a fancy enomatic machine), and, though I can't say I recommend them, you can also buy French cigarettes. A tobacco shop that, instead of vape juice, sells real cigarettes, cocktails and wine? Pure romance. ■ *Kelly Pigram*



WHAT IS IT...

A French-themed bar occupying an old tobacconist's in Kentish Town.

WHY GO...

For cigarettes and alcohol (and cheese).

→ 16 Fortess Rd, NW5 2EU. ☺ Kentish Town.



JUST OPENED

A motel, a former hotel and some 'frozen whiskey stones'



Gold

The Portobello Gold pub and hotel used to count Motörhead among its punters. But with Mahiki founder Nick House adding his midas touch to four stores, you can expect a different clientele.

A late-night bar on the ground floor serves cocktails from Scout's Matt Whiley and Duck & Waffle's Rich Woods, like the Gold Milk Punch.

→ 95 Portobello Rd, W11 2QB. ☺ Notting Hill Gate.



Fugitive Motel

Beers across the 14 taps of this east London hangout inspired by the US West Coast are in order of strength, with no- and low-alcohol options alongside some heftier brews. The neon- and plant-filled space should suit a casual night out. And while you can't actually stay overnight, you can pitch up pretty early for breakfast.

→ 199 Cambridge Heath Rd, E2 0EL. ☺ Bethnal Green.



Murder Inc

A follow-up bar from The Cocktail Trading Company is currently in soft launch and adds a 'gangster noir' edge to the team's signature theatrical style of mixing a drink. The Cannonball Collins includes 'frozen marble whiskey stones' – we've got absolutely no idea what that means, but just roll with it, okay?

→ 36 Hanway St, W1T 1UP. ☺ Tottenham Court Rd.

Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips



A perfect day in

Maldon

Vintage sailing barges, vast salt marshes and waterside pubs

CONSIDERING IT'S ONLY an hour or so out of London, Maldon is surprisingly under the radar. A small Essex town with no train station, it's trickier to reach than Chelmsford and Colchester – and all the better for it. Beside the Blackwater Estuary, Maldon has a history that's bound up with water. It's best-known as the home of Maldon Sea Salt, while the town's port has a heritage that stretches back thousands of years.

First up

Admire **Hythe Quay** at high tide – nothing says Maldon more than a cluster of barges bobbing in the water. If you have little ones in tow, head along the river to **Promenade Park**, which boasts a huge pirate-ship-themed adventure playground.

Soak up the vibes

Nearby Crouch Valley is home to a growing clutch of vineyards that are fast establishing this corner of Essex as a leading UK wine haven. Go to **Crouch Ridge** for the tour – you can sample three tipples while you swot up on wine-making, then buy your favourite by the bottle or case.

→ Get there: 34 minutes from London Liverpool Street to Chelmsford, then bus or taxi; around one hour by car.

Stop for lunch

Return to Maldon's historic town centre and stop for a posh pub lunch at **The Swan**, a pretty fifteenth-century property halfway up the High Street. Or keep going until you reach pastel-painted Brights Path, which houses lots of little boutique shops and **Mrs Salisbury's Famous Tea Rooms**, where you'll find chunky sandwiches and slices of cake.

Go on an adventure

Walk to **Northey Island**, the oldest battlefield in Britain. The remote outpost is completely cut off at high tide, so you'll need to time it right and let the warden know you're coming. The planning is well worth it, though, for the wild peace and quiet.

Drink like a local

Maldon is a dab hand at decent pubs, but the two on the quay come with bonus waterside views. **The Jolly Sailor** has outdoor seating and a menu that's heavy on seafood. And **The Queens Head** – which is practically next door – serves real ales on a lovely waterfront terrace. ■ *Katie Gregory*

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Set sail on a **Thames sailing barge** – the lifeblood of Maldon trade for hundreds of years. Various companies run a range of trips, so you can circle local islands along the River Blackwater aboard a morning coffee cruise, or even indulge in a tasty afternoon tea while cruising the Thames Estuary.

WAKE UP HERE

The Raft



Found your sea legs? Live out any long-held 'Swallows and Amazons' fantasies by spending the night on a wooden cabin floating on a lake. The Raft at Chigborough is a simple, solar-powered, two-storey home that sits right on the water. You can fish, cook alfresco or relax on the deck, totally surrounded by nature. There's a little ferry platform to help you reach your floating home, and even a rowing boat for making your way over to the hot tub and fire pit by the bank of the lake. It's the stuff of aquatic daydreams.

Ellie Walker-Arnott

→ Haybridge, Essex. From £195 a night.
www.canopyandstars.co.uk

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