

# TimeOut

LONDON

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**Oral-B**  
GENIUS X





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AN AREA WHEN  
BRUSHING

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# TimeOut

LONDON

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*Come inside for...*

**MAGICAL GIFTS &  
WHERE TO BUY THEM**



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**TWO PEOPLE WALK INTO A BAR,  
ONE ORDERS THEIR USUAL,  
THE OTHER GOES OFF MENU.**

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# Inside

This week's Time Out  
in no time at all

## Five-star doner?

Kebab Queen is a secretive delight with a no-choice menu and a no-plates service. And it's great

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## 'Troy'

Helen, Paris, Achilles... the British Museum's epic new show is studded with stars (even Brad Pitt)

PAGE 87



## That's a wrap!

Take the 'Christ!' out of 'Christmas' with our gift-getting bible

48-PAGE PULLOUT



## 'The Nightingale'

'The viciousness is off the charts' in this Aussie revenge thriller from 'The Babadook' director Jennifer Kent

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## Igloos, après-ski and hot tubs

Nothing says Christmas is coming like the plethora of pop-ups getting into full swing (crazy golf too!) all over London

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### ↓ FEATURES AND REGULARS

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# Hello, London

**Caroline McGinn**  
Global Editor-in-Chief  
@carolinemcginn



There are two Christmas shopping tribes: the Planners and the Panickers. Planners – the smug bastards – browse supplements, compare prices, check delivery dates and have all their Christmas shopping wrapped up in November. My lot, the Panickers, wake up presentless on December 24 and google ‘Xmas shopng ldn’ in a cold sweat. Happily, our festive London Christmas shopping bonanza is dedicated to both tribes. Lo! Pages of beautiful, thoughtful, pre-orderable gifts. Behold! London’s very best shops: places you can dash to at the last minute, safe in the knowledge that they have already done the careful choosing you are incapable of. Merry Christmas, one and all!

## HOW WE MADE THE COVER

**SOMETIMES IN LONDON**, when a shop is being refurbished, an old sign will suddenly be revealed – a riot of swoopy lettering and fairground swag, a tiny portal showing us what our streets once looked like. For our issue celebrating the capital’s most magical, otherworldly stores, we knew that Photoshopping the cover just wasn’t an option. So we enlisted the services of a professional – Ged Palmer of The Luminor Sign Co. Ged came up with the design, then painstakingly painted it on glass with some old-school signwriting bling. It took him more than six hours, and the result is really spectacular. Thanks, Ged! ■  
→ [www.luminorsignco.com](http://www.luminorsignco.com). See a time-lapse video of Ged painting the cover @timeoutlondon.



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LONDON

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# Winter Warmth

When breath is condensing in the December air, there is never a more wonderful time for the *warmth* that chilli brings to any dish, whether deep in the heart of a rich beef stew or dusted over a rich and creamy hot chocolate. Our chilli flakes are sourced from cayenne peppers grown in India and use the perfect ratio of red flakes and yellow seeds, to ensure that every bowl and plate has *a deep, spicy kick.*

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SPICE UP YOUR SENSES





# City life

Edited by James Manning  
@timeoutlondon

## Cockles: warmed

**MULLING OVER YOUR** advent party plans? Allow us to introduce you to **Hotboozapalooza**. Okay, so the name of Time Out's very own cosy winter event is a real mouthful – but luckily, so are the delicious warmed-up drinks on offer. Our hot cocktail fest was created to show you there's so much more to the winter months than measures of ropey mulled wine. This year's extravaganza will be held at sparkly outdoor drinking terrace Vinegar Yard in London Bridge on December 5, in partnership with O2 Priority. Work your way through an indulgent fig-flavoured toddy from Monkey Shoulder whisky, a clementine-packed Arctic Screwdriver from Reyka vodka, a warmed-up gin punch with cloves and other spices from Hendrick's Gin and a boozy, cream-topped take on your morning coffee courtesy of Tullamore Dew whiskey. Plus it's all set to a DJ soundtrack of scorching disco tunes. Never mind ho ho ho – this is going to be hot hot hot! ■ **Laura Richards**

→ Vinegar Yard. ⊖ London Bridge.

[www.timeout.com/hotbooza](http://www.timeout.com/hotbooza). Dec 5.

£20 including entry and four hot cocktails.



## THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



### Support this

On Sunday, King's Cross deli **Bodega Rita's** hosts an all-star charity bake sale. **Ottolenghi**, **The Dusty Knuckle** and **Lily Vanilli** are among those flogging their tasty wares for World Aids Day.



### Eat this

After a string of delicious pop-ups, Chinese-inspired **Lucky & Joy** has bagged its first permanent home in Clapton. To celebrate, all dishes are half-price until Thursday.



### See this

Malian band **Songhoy Blues** bring their desert vibes and resistance songs to a free gig in the **Imperial War Museum's** airy atrium on Sunday. Capacity is limited, so get down sharpish.

Get the latest from London at [timeout.com/news](http://timeout.com/news)

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London's got problems. Here's how we fix them



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## Bank Job

### WHAT IS IT?

A genius art project that took over an old Walthamstow bank in 2018 and started printing its own money. Featuring local community heroes instead of the Queen, the artwork banknotes were sold for a total of £40,000. Half of that went to charity and the other half to abolish more than £1m of high-interest debt in the community, which had been written down in value by being resold on the secondary market.

### WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The UK economy is turbocharged by debt. It's created by banks in the form of loans to people and companies, then sold and resold in the financial market. But while the banks get bailed out in times of crisis, it's estimated that more than half a million Londoners are in problem debt – often as a result of taking out predatory payday loans. Bank Job wants to tackle that.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Bank Job has big plans for 2020, including the release of a full-length documentary about debt. But now it's been asked to leave the ex-bank it has run as a community space since 2018. Support the project by treating yourself to one of its artwork bonds or coins, or go online to find out how else you can help Bank Job stay on the high street and fight for economic justice – with art! ■ Rosemary Waugh

→ HSCB - Hoe Street Central Bank, 151-155 Hoe St. ↻ Walthamstow Central. [www.bankjob.pictures](http://www.bankjob.pictures)



The shocking truth is that this Christmas 22,000 young people in England will face homelessness, just like Katie.

After being abused by her mother's boyfriend, Katie was forced to leave home.

With no place to call her own, 19-year old Katie is forced to make desperate choices about where to spend the night. Doorway or park bench? Bus shelter or a seat on the night bus?

Wherever Katie ends up she will be at risk of robbery, abuse, attack or exploitation by predators. Just closing her eyes puts her in danger.

It's no wonder 68% of homeless young people feel scared while homeless.\* Yet we call ourselves a civilised society. It's just wrong.

**No place to call home. No place to feel safe. Will you help us put it right?**

Your Christmas gift today can help us give more homeless young people like Katie a safe place to stay while they get the help they need to move on to independence and a better life.

**Please support our Safe at Christmas Appeal today.**

Registered office address: Central House, 25 Camperdown Street, London E1 8DZ. Company no. 1929421. Registered Charity no. 292411. Housing association no. H1869. VAT registration no. 649 345 018. We sometimes use models and change the names of the young people we work with to protect their identity; however all stories are true and as told by the young person. \*Centrepoint research based on a survey of 227 young people across England and Wales currently residing in homelessness accommodation, conducted in 2019.

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## AN ODE TO

# Pret's ham, cheese and tomato croissant

Celebrating the most maligned, overlooked and underrated bits of London



**FOR A DECENT PORTION** of my career I worked abroad, and whenever friends asked what I missed from home I always had the same answer: pickled onion Monster Munch and the ham, cheese and tomato croissant from Pret.

Now, the former could be delivered in a suitcase. The latter, however, was not going to travel well – mainly because the person attempting to fly it over to me would only make it as far as the airport monorail before ramming it into their face. They're too goddamn irresistible! And therein lies the problem – my problem. If I see a HCTC I just have to buy it. Even if I've literally just eaten, that thing is going down.

Understandably, the croissants have often disappeared by lunchtime. They're a morning pursuit, best consumed with a hangover from midweek larging it.

Here's how things usually play out. If there are quite a few HCTCs sitting in the rack, I inspect each one closely. The ideal candidate is soft and squidgy in the middle. A small slab of burnt cheese has spilled out and sticks to the side. A vale of red tomato shifts slightly to one side to

reveal a cheeky flash of ham, like Jessica Rabbit in her form-fitting red dress. I pick it (her?) up and take it to the counter. I always consider buying two, but resist the urge. After all, I know what's about to happen.

'Anything else, sir?'

'No, thanks.'

'Coffee?'

'No.'

'Would you like a bag?'

'Just give me my fucking croissant!'

I'm out of the shop and headed for the nearest of the many and varied dodgy alleys of King's Cross. I crouch down, pull off the croissant's Perspex blanket and shove it down my face hole.

I close my eyes, and for 37 blissful seconds I'm transported to another world. I'm no longer in an alley full of dried sick. Instead, opera is playing and I'm lounging in an overflowing bath, like that Cadbury's Flake advert from the '80s.

Then, far too soon, it's over. I stand up, gather myself and continue my walk to work. Have I burned the roof of my mouth? Yes. Was it worth it? YES. Why the hell didn't I buy two? ■ *Bryan Mayes*

## WORD ON THE STREET

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

'Tell her I'm giving away all the meerkats tomorrow.'

**'My mum plays Pokémon Go!'**

'I just know he handles computers: I don't think he knows much about drugs.'

**'We found eight dead rats so I buried them, and now they're fertilising the vegetables.'**

'I only want to get pregnant for the free dental work.'

**'You don't even need a pee, you just want to pee on a swan.'**

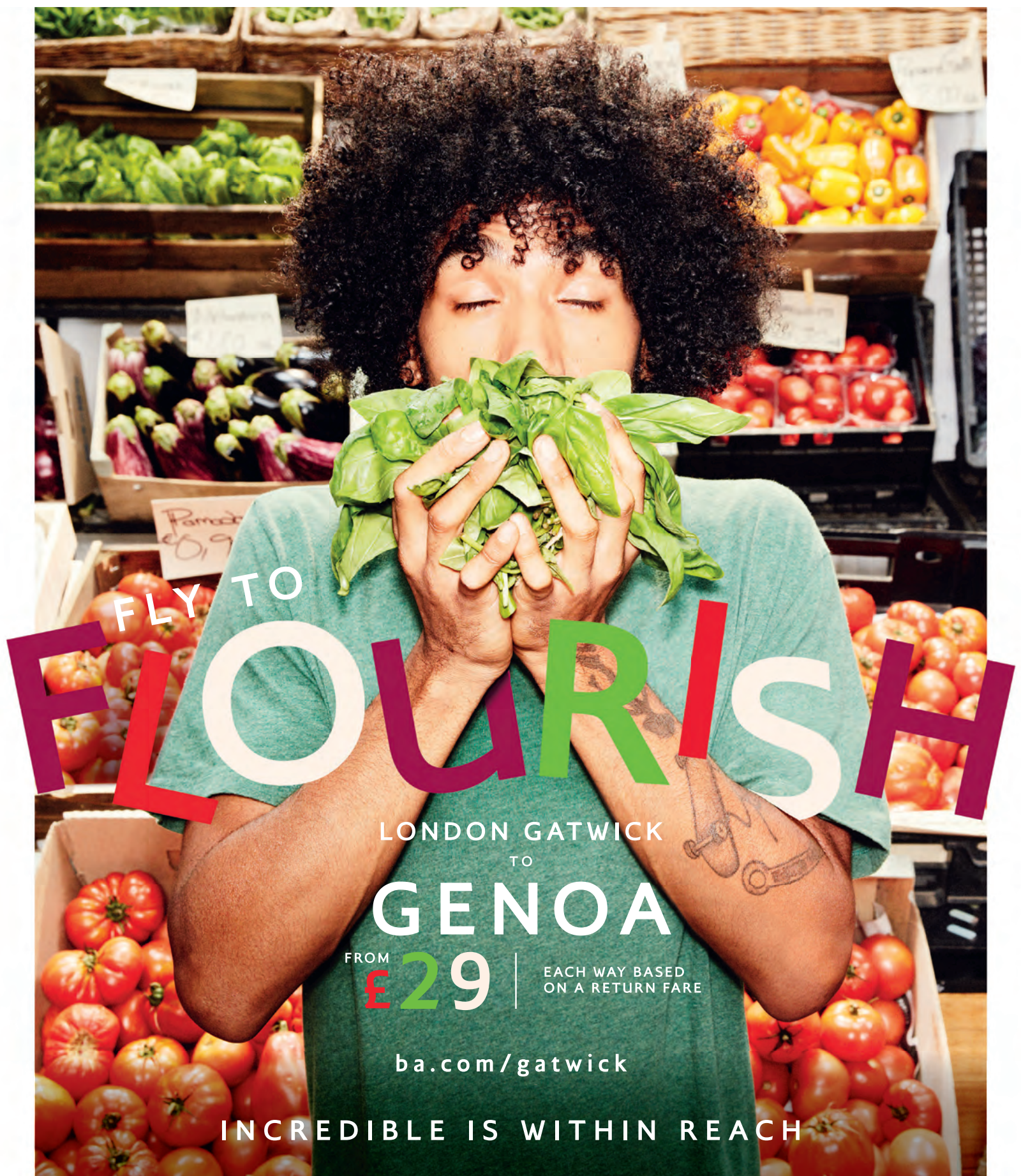
'He's 86 now, so he is an oxygenarian.'

**'I'm convinced there's a ghost in my work toilets.'**

'Streaming has killed off the grower.'

Now, you need your growers to be interspersed with bops, bangers and tasty jams.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon



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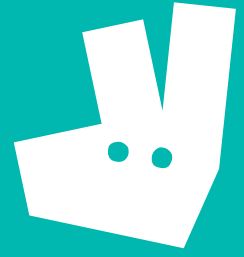
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## HEADS UP

# The London Eye is turning pink in 2020

**JUST WHEN YOU** thought 'millennial pink' was over, things are looking rosy for one of London's most famous landmarks. Joining the esteemed company of Sketch's interiors and the bubblegum staircase at Frank's Café, the London Eye will sport a fetching shade of pink from early 2020 – at night, anyway.

From February, the wheel's new sponsor will be travel company Lastminute.com, who'll be reworking the Eye's night-time illumination with its hot-pink brand colour.

It's certainly a more soothing prospect than the current red glow, which the wheel owes to its official status as the Coca-Cola London Eye (as every Londoner obviously calls it). To anyone stumbling across the Golden Jubilee footbridge after a couple of pints, the fiery circle currently has a strong 'Lord of the Rings' vibe. But the new deal means the Eye will be pretty in pink for at least the next three years. Next up: the Shard turns salmon? ■ *ElHunt*



More hot news at [timeout.com/news](https://www.timeout.com/news)

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## MY LONDON STORY



# Josie Naughton

Co-founder of the Help Refugees charity, which saves lives in 14 countries

**WHEN I WAS** a kid, I wanted to work for the UN. Instead, I ended up dropping out of UCL, working in pubs in north London and finding my way into the music industry. Eventually I became the personal assistant to the manager of Coldplay. Working with the band, I learned about how to use branding, speak to a community and run a business. It may sound strange, but that was the best possible training for setting up an international refugee charity.

In the summer of 2015, the refugee crisis was all over the news. More than a million people arrived in Europe escaping war and persecution. Families were fleeing for their lives, crammed into boats, and people were living in awful conditions. I felt so outraged and thought: Sharing an article on Facebook just isn't enough. I have to do something. When I saw that photograph of the little boy lying on the shore in Turkey, it cemented my determination. A couple of my

friends and I raised £1,000 so that we could take supplies out to the refugee camps in Calais.

When we arrived for the first time, there were 5,000 people living in a muddy field: kids without shoes, babies without nappies, and so many unaccompanied children. There was poor access to water and nowhere clean to go to the bathroom. It will stay with me for ever. But people there were incredible: when you met them, they'd smile and invite you into their shelter for a tea.

I had no charity experience at the start, but our naivety was an asset. It was such a shocking situation that it felt like a compulsion: 'Something has to be done.' We ended up staying in Calais and worked with lots of grassroots organisations to provide as much support as we could. Help Refugees grew from there.

Now we help with everything from children's hospitals and search-and-rescue boats to distribution of tents and long-term accommodation. We're not experts, we're not doctors, we're

not search-and-rescue people. We work with 150 different organisations in 14 countries, and they all know what's needed – they just need support.

By 2017, the refugee crisis wasn't in the media so much, but things the ground were unchanged. We needed warm clothes, blankets, tents and tarpaulins for hundreds of thousands of people. So we developed the idea of Choose Love: a rebrand of a charity shop. People come in, buy items we distribute and leave with nothing. Instead, we deliver those items to the people who really need them. We've opened a Choose Love shop in central London every year since.

Charity donation can be a bit intangible: the world's problems can seem so vast, and it's hard to know what to do. But it's easy to understand that if a child doesn't have a coat, you can buy them a coat. The festive period is all about love for others, and the Choose Love shop really embodies that. ■

*Interview by El Hunt*

→ Choose Love opens in Covent Garden on Fri Nov 29. See p63.

**'It felt like a compulsion: "Something has to be done"'**



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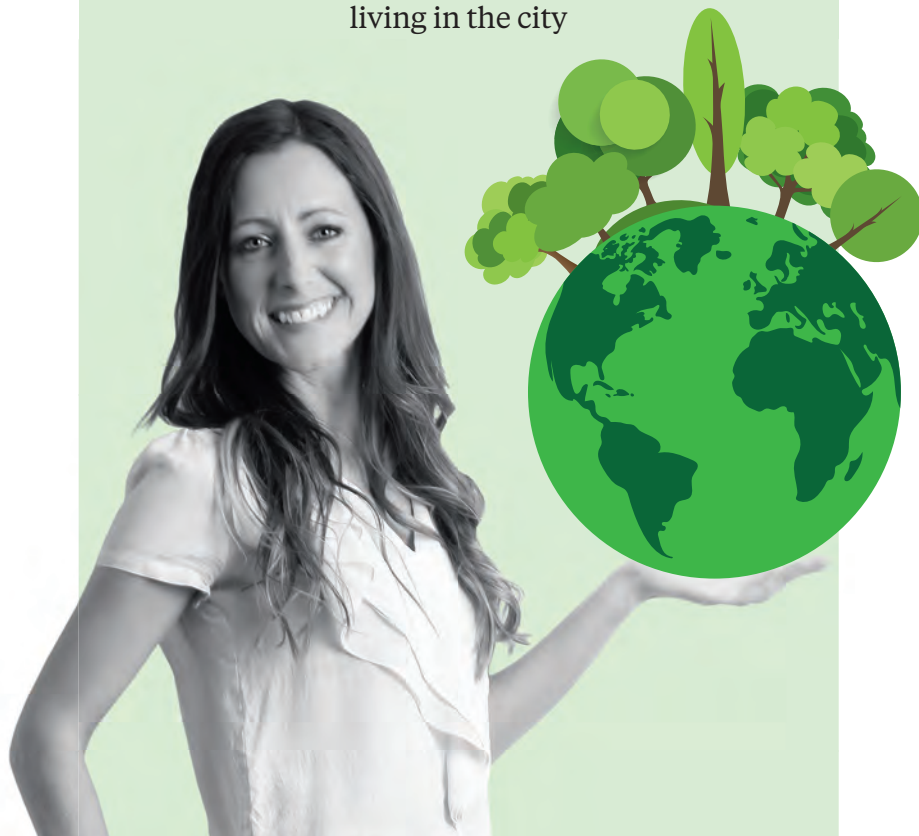
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for the facts [drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

# GREEN GODDESS

Eco campaigner *Natalie Fee* answers your questions about sustainable living in the city



*Dear Natalie...*

**'I've heard all about how going vegan is better for the planet, and I really want to take the plunge... but I just can't do it. I haven't cooked a steak in yonks but I love going out to eat and can't resign myself to only eating in vegan restaurants for ever. How can I navigate London's amazing food scene while still minimising my impact on the world?'**

Tara via email

**Dear Tara,**

I've got one possibly brilliant, probably controversial word for you: flexitarian. A flexitarian diet is mostly plant-based. Generally, it means only occasionally eating meat and dairy – and I mean 'occasionally'. Meat-free Mondays just aren't going to cut it.

A study by the journal *Nature* found we in the UK need to reduce our red meat consumption by around 90 percent and our milk

intake by 60 percent if we want to avoid catastrophic damage to the planet. Why? Because livestock farming makes up 14 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions – about the same as all the world's transport. It's not just about emissions. Rearing livestock is one of the biggest polluters of the world's rivers and seas, and one of the biggest causes of deforestation. Beef is the worst: it's ten times more damaging to the environment than any other form of livestock farming.

So you're bang on when you say that being vegan is better for the planet. But it's not right for everyone, all of the time. Whether for health reasons or something else, we can't all be 100 percent plant-based with our diet. But we can all do our bit by eating much less meat and dairy.

Being flexitarian makes eating out or being cooked for a lot simpler than diehard veganism. It gives you the freedom to enjoy what you love without being part of the problem. And you'll be in good company: a 2019 YouGov survey found 14 percent of Brits are now flexitarian. I know – I'm one of them!

Just try to ensure that when you do buy or order meat and dairy, it's organic. If you're eating it less often, it's worth paying extra for good farming practices. Lastly, why not commit to only eating out at vegan restaurants for the rest of the year? London's plant-based food scene is super-exciting and not pricy. Start at Tibits on Heddon Street or Southwark Street, and tell 'em I sent you. ■ **Got a question for Natalie? Write to greengoddess@timeout.com.**

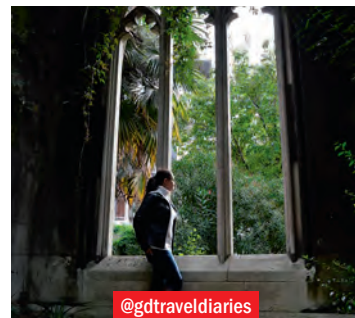
Natalie Fee is an environmental campaigner, author and speaker. She founded the City to Sea non-profit and her book **'How to Save the World for Free'** is published by Laurence King.

→ Hear Natalie speak at this week's climate-themed Geographical Late at the Royal Geographical Society. ☞ South Kensington. Fri Nov 29. £12. www.rgs.org



## THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out readers have been Instagramming this week



@gdtraveldiaries

'St Dunstan in the East is one of my all-time favourite spots in London.'



@simbamustchop

'At the Beaufort Bar, another drink is always a must.'



@burgersearcher

'Show of hands: whose favourite colour is orange?'



@ajmbu

'St Lukes Mews: I finally got there and fell in love instantly.'

Send us your Instagram photos of the city with **#timeoutlondon**

# PLYMOUTH & TONIC. PROPER GOOD.



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# FREE LONDON

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



## NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

### Uniqlo Tate Lates: Nam June Paik

This month's Tate Late is themed on the work of pioneering video artist Nam June Paik. There will be poetry, talks on tech and art and the chance to get interactive in a guided movement class using Yoko Ono's instructional scores from her book 'Grapefruit', dedicated to the artist. You can also get discounted £10 entry to the exhibition.

→ Tate Modern. ⊕ Blackfriars. Fri Nov 29.

### DECK THE HALLS Christmas bauble decorating

Christmas by the River returns for another year of festive fun including free workshops. The first is a Christmas bauble session, where you can get creative with your decs. Remember: there's no such thing as too much glitter.

→ London Bridge City.  
⊕ London Bridge. Thu Nov 28.

### SADDLE UP E-bike lessons

Know how to ride a bike but lack confidence on the roads? Uber is running cycling lessons on its Jump e-bikes, with one hour-long sessions hosted by Cycle Confident. Bikes and helmets are provided. Reserve a place online.

→ Highbury Leisure Centre.  
⊕ Highbury & Islington.  
Tue Nov 26-Fri Nov 29.

### 'TIS THE SEASON Sustainable Christmas Market

Dreaming of an eco-friendly Christmas? Head to Buyagift's Sustainable Christmas Market. There will be a free sustainable giftwrap station, soothing massages and workshops on soap-making, Christmas food waste and more.

→ Core Clapton. Clapton  
Overground. Sun Dec 1

### STRETCH YOURSELF Free yoga

If the very thought of Black Friday gives you a headache, try MoreYoga's antidote: White Friday, which involves loads of free yoga classes at its branches in Soho, Stratford, Wembley, Camden and Brixton. Book a spot online and get ready to feel zen.

→ Various MoreYoga branches.  
Fri Nov 29.

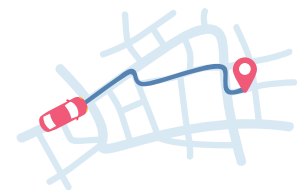
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kapten\_



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# What lies in store

As our annual 100 best shops list is revealed, *Ellie Walker-Arnott* gets a tour of some of London's most unique. Photography *Andy Parsons*



**THE SHELVES IN** Labour and Wait, a store in a beautiful former pub on Redchurch Street, are lined with covetable homewares. Everything here is designed for a long life. Owners **Rachel Wythe-Moran** and **Simon Watkins** met working in the fashion industry. They set up shop 20 years ago after becoming tired of having to throw out perfectly good designs every season. Now their store is full of items that aren't ever destined for landfill.  
→ 85 Redchurch St.  
Shoreditch High St Overground.

1

'There isn't a sill on most of the shop's windows, so we can't do conventional window displays. This pegboard is like our shop window.'



# Labour and Wait

The landfill avoiders



2

‘We sell things that help people make things, like these toolbags. Though you could use them as regular bags. They’re robust and heavy duty but stylish.’

3

‘The lamps are inspired by our shop fittings. We had vintage lampshades and people kept asking to buy them so we started making these.’

4

‘We love this clock. We worked with a maker – who designs clocks for schools and pools – to create our own product but with their expertise.’

**‘We make our aprons ourselves. At the beginning, they were for staff to wear in the shop but then people wanted to buy them. Monmouth Coffee got them for their staff and now we sell them all over the world.’**

5

‘We sell a lot of brushes. Wooden loo brushes are always popular. This one is made by one of the few remaining family-run UK brushmakers.’

6

‘Our old green-tiled building has become part of the brand, in a way. It was all boarded over when we found it, but we thought it could be a good fit.’



# W Martyn

The Victorian grocery



**A VISIT TO** W Martyn is like going back in time. It's been trading since 1897 and it's still a family affair, run by **William Martyn**, the great-grandson of the original owner. He's staying true to the shop's heritage and stocking the shelves with locally sourced goodies.

→ 135 Muswell Hill Broadway. ⇄ Archway then 134 bus.



1

'We've tried to keep as much of the original shop as possible. The shelves, drawers and jars have always been here. The jars at the top are empty now, but in the 1900s products would have come in loose, been stored in here and then weighed up.'

2

'The shop's layout is exactly as it was. This is our original counter – it runs the length of the shop. In 1910, customers would have sat at a chair at the counter to give their orders and we had a horse and carriage to do deliveries.'

**'I'm not sure how old these beautiful scales are. We had them converted into metric around 1973. They're not just for looking at. We have a vast range of dried fruits, nuts and teas. We buy them in bulk and weigh them up to sell in the store. Dried figs and apricots are really popular – and we sell about 50 kilos of deluxe muesli a week.'**



3

'We roast coffee every day. It creates a bit of theatre in the shop. The roaster is in the window and it's the same one we've been using since the 1950s. Smiths Coffee have been supplying us for 40 years.'

4

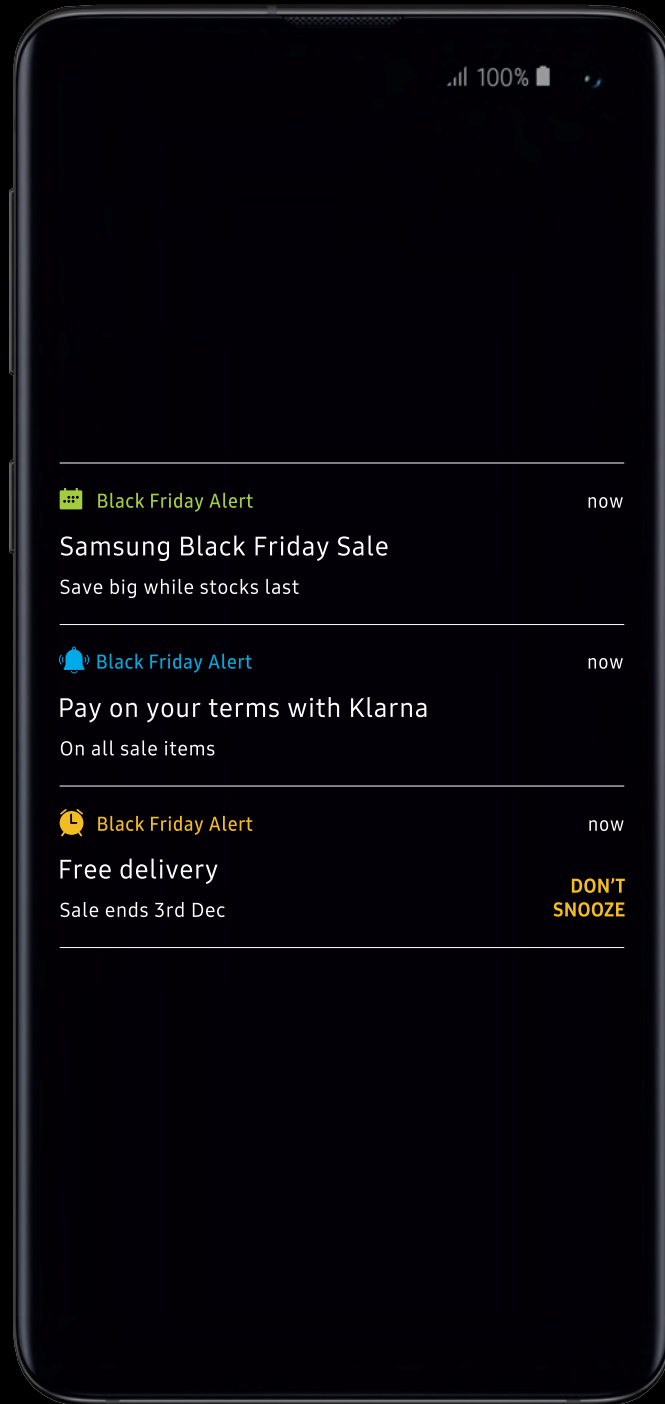
'We like to stock locally made food. Angela from East Finchley makes our chocolate bars: they're my favourite. We also have more chocolates from Hornsey and fudge made in Muswell Hill.'

5

'We don't want to stock things that are in supermarkets; we like to sell things that people haven't seen before. We have a range of honey made on Dartmoor. If you enjoy it, you'll have to come back. Unless you want to drive to Dartmoor!'







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# Paxton & Whitfield

The kings of cheese



Danielle Bliss  
shop manager

**GREAT CHEESE DREAMS** are made in this iconic store. You can almost smell Paxton & Whitfield from the pavement on Jermyn Street. It's been trading since the nineteenth century, but its history goes back even further – to an Aldwych market stall in 1742. Nearly 300 years later and it's still the best. Shop manager **Danielle Bliss** explains why.

→ 93 Jermyn St. ⇄ Piccadilly Circus.

1

'We're very proud to hold two royal warrants. We supply Buckingham Palace every week and have done since 1850. We have to apply for it regularly. Prince Charles is focused on sustainability. We have to prove we adhere to his high standards.'

2

'We refrigerate the entire shop these days. That's so that [no cheeses are] inaccessible, and everyone can experience the full sights and smells of the cheese shop. There are around 150 cheeses on our counter.'

3

'Our Stilton is our bestseller. In the run-up to Christmas we sell over six and a half tonnes, just from this shop. Stilton has the same protection as champagne. It has to be made in certain counties with pasteurised milk.'

'Truffle cheeses are really popular right now. The most expensive cheese we sell is truffle brie. We truffle them in-house in our cheese cellars under the shop. They go all the way underneath and are a closely guarded secret.'



4

'This Cheddar Pounder is in our house range. The cheeses with our name on are of the highest standard. They are something that we're really proud of and always want to stock in store.'

5

'This cheese-making kit is amazing. There's a recipe book for fresh ricotta, burrata, mozzarella. You get the starter culture and the raw ingredients, and you just have to add milk.'

6

'It's important to have little nods to our history in the shop. We'll never become too shiny because we're an old-fashioned brand. We moved into this building in 1896. We recently renovated our cellars and discovered all these old glass bottles and newspapers from that period.'



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# Lina Stores

The Soho Italian



**A GREEN-TILED, GOLD-LETTERED** delight, this tiny Soho shop has been selling Italian fare since 1944. It's not changed much since then; the crowded, lively deli, managed by **Marina Dentamaro**, still sells incredible cheeses, meats, antipasti and sweets straight from the Med. Yet it's recently begun to expand, first to a petite restaurant just around the corner from the Brewer Street deli and now to a new, enormous space in King's Cross. Pretty good for a 75-year-old brand (and our pasta cravings).  
→ 18 Brewer St. ↻ Piccadilly Circus.



1

'Prosciutto de parma is the most popular thing we sell. It's from Emilia-Romagna. We use suppliers with a history: they've been making the same products for ever.'

3

'We make food fresh in the shop every day. My favourite is the ravioli. It's incredible: made fresh in the deli every morning. We've always used the basement underneath the shop for making fresh pasta.'

4

'All our cheeses have a history. They come from tiny producers. The parmigiano-reggiano comes from a rare type of brown cow. Its milk makes a very mature parmigiano, perfect for cheese boards.'

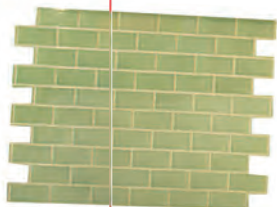
5

'Space is tight! We have a ladder and storage at the top of the shelves. The panettone hangs from the ceiling, which looks amazing but is also very useful. Our supplier has been producing this panettone since the 1940s.'

2

'This is bottarga, a type of fish egg and a Sardinian speciality. You can't find this anywhere else in London. Have it grated on a plate of spaghetti. It's delicious.'

'We had a refurbishment 12 years ago but we still have the same signs, the same doors, the same windows. All the shelving was kept and the Italian suppliers are all the same ones that we used to use. We've always had a bit of green somewhere, but we decided to bring the colour out. This shade of green was made for us: like Tiffany's has its blue, we have a "Lina green".'



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# James Smith & Sons

The broly specialists



**AS CITY WITH** a rainy reputation, it seems only right that London has an incredible shop dedicated to brollies. James Smith & Sons has been keeping Londoners dry for nearly two centuries. You'll find all manner of umbrellas here, including a snakewood-and-silver number costing nearly £3,000. Shop manager **Phil Naisbitt** talks us through its Victorian charm. → 53 New Oxford St. ⇄ Tottenham Court Rd.

1

'These original shop signs are from the other James Smith & Sons branches. There used to be six stores, but as fashions changed and those buildings got knocked down, the shops' fixtures, fittings and signs ended up coming here.'

2

'This is a painting of the first James Smith. When he ran the business, everything was handmade by one person. They did every part, from whalebone frames to silk canopies. We like to hold on to these bits of history.'

3

'We've got quite a stick collection which has built up over time. We have a trout stick made from rams' horn, and a stick covered in python's skin. Also, walking sticks made out of bulls' penises, which wasn't actually unusual back in the day.'

'The oldest records of the business date back to 1830. It was in Foubert's Place. In 1857, we moved to these premises, and have been here since. Last time the store was renovated, an old customer came in and said, "Oh, I thought you were having the place decorated." It looked exactly the same.'



4

'We've made umbrellas the same way for about 100 years. One of the old names for an umbrella maker is a "mush-faker", from "mushroom". We've got a few in our workshop downstairs!'

5

'We stick to traditions of recycling, reusing and not just throwing away. We get a lot of requests but we can only fix our own umbrellas. Our repair book is still all written by hand. It dates back a long time.'

6

'We're traditional but we can't keep selling the same exact things because fashions change. We've got colour - in the old days it would have been just black umbrellas. These days the decorative sticks are more popular for dressing up, weddings, fancy dress and parties.'



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# Persephone

The feminist classic



**LONDON HAS SOME** brilliant bookshops, but none of them is quite like Persephone. This year, the shop celebrates 20 years of owner **Nicola Beauman** finding and republishing works by female writers that might have been lost. The shop is cosy and welcoming but there are some surprising and challenging texts on its shelves.

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



1

'Poster art is in line with the ethos of our books. Much women's writing is dismissed as middlebrow. Posters are similar. Because they're functional and meant to be eye-catching, they're dismissed: they're not seen as real art.'

2

'There was never a plan for the shop's layout. I bought two tables and then it just grew and grew. Every time we publish new books we wonder how they're going to fit in. They're all arranged in number order – it's quite unusual.'

3

'Every book has a patterned end paper. They are all textiles from the year that book was written, and they're related to the text. This is "High Wages", by our bestselling author Dorothy Whipple. It's about a dress shop and the pattern is from a 1930s dress fabric.'

4

'We publish all kinds of writers. From Virginia Woolf to Frances Hodgson Burnett, who wrote "The Secret Garden", and wonderful novels for adults. "The Fortnight in September" is brilliant and is an example of one of our few books by a man.'

5

'Here is "Miss Buncle's Book", one of our all-time bestsellers. It's such a good title, and a lovely story from 1934 about a writer taking charge of her life. The pattern is a Vanessa Bell design.'

6

'If you'd never read any of our books before, we'd either recommend "Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day", which was made into a film, or "The Persephone Book of Short Stories".' ■

**'All our book covers are grey because it's the content that is most important. Persephone was a Greek goddess who was dragged into the underworld. When she comes up in the spring, she's a symbol of regrowth and of women writers being rediscovered. That's what matters.'**







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Libreria

# Top of the shops

From famous department stores to hip eco haunts – *Liz Darke, Ellie Walker-Arnott and Lucy Lovell* count down 2019’s retail charts

**30 Eat 17** +×⊗⊕⊙  
The most pimped grocery shop you’ll ever step into, the Homerton branch of Eat17 is housed in an art deco picturehouse (The Castle Cinema is upstairs). It has a refillable wine station, a dedicated organic and craft beer section,

and a boutique florist. You’ll go in for a pint of milk and a loaf of sourdough; you’ll leave with beetroot houmous, homemade salted caramel brownies, a jar of bacon jam, a rainbow trout and your heart’s true desire. Total foodie heaven!  
→ 64-66 Brooksbys Walk. Homerton Overground.

## KEY



Instagram fodder



Eco focus



Foodie fave



Hosts events

**29 The Conran Shop** +  
Back in the 1960s, mid-mod pioneer Terence Conran helped make stylish furniture available to us ordinary folk as well as the mega-rich. Nowadays his Fulham Road flagship store is filled with designs from big names as well as unusual wares from international up-and-coming talents.  
→ Michelin House, 81 Fulham Rd. ⊕ South Kensington.

**28 Search & Rescue** ⊙  
Hand-thrown vases, vegetable-wax candles and knitted throws... Search & Rescue is here to help you build the living space of your dreams. Or at least a really pretty Instagram post. It’s a good shout for Christmas gifts too.  
→ 129 Stoke Newington Church St. Stoke Newington Overground.

**27 Borough Wines** ⊗  
Having started life as a stall in drool-inducing Borough Market, this brilliant independent wine-seller is a testament to London’s boozy ways. The original postbox-sized shop carries an excellent edit of plonk from smaller producers and family firms. It also has a wine and beer refill station. Cheers!  
→ Borough Market. ⊕ London Bridge.





Rough Trade East

**26** **SCP** (Ⓜ) (⊕) This exhibition space ft shop has championed functional, beautiful design for decades. The ground floor features artfully displayed furniture from design giants like Terence Woodgate. The basement showcases tongue-in-cheek knick-knacks.  
→ 135-139 Curtain Rd. ⊕ Old St.

**25** **Hoxton Street Monster Supplies** (Ⓜ) A curiosity shop that's just the ticket for vampires, werewolves and humans on the prowl for Earwax (fudge) or a tin of Creeping Dread/Mortal Terror/The Collywobbles (boiled sweets) containing stories by Nick Hornby and Zadie Smith. Proceeds support the Ministry of Stories, an initiative that sees writers mentor young people.  
→ 159 Hoxton St. Hoxton Overground.

**24** **Fortnum & Mason** (Ⓜ) (⊗) With its stylish eau-de-nil façade and ultra-opulent interiors, F&M could seriously lay claim to the title of world's poshest department store. The new confectionery department stocks 500 types of chocolate, including truffle flavours like Heinz Baked Beans.  
→ 181 Piccadilly. ⊕ Green Park.

**HOW WE RANKED THEM**

**London credentials**  
We celebrate the city's defining shopping experiences: old favourites that are part of London's fabric as well as spots that feel extremely 2019.

**Expertise**  
We highlight expert makers and curators who are creating something totally unique – whether that means stinky cheese or stylish homeware.

**Ethics**  
We give airtime to places that help us buy products that are local, will last a lifetime or are secondhand.

**23** **Present & Correct**  
You'll find all the stationery you could ever need – plus more that you'll convince yourself you do – in the small but perfectly formed Present & Correct. With leather pencil cases and lovely notebooks galore, its collections pick the latest designs from Japan and Scandinavia. Getting admin done has never looked more appealing.  
→ 23 Arlington Way. ⊕ Angel.

**22** **Tate Modern Shop**  
Rainbow rubbers and giant pencils? Pah! Tate Modern's gift shop is full of lovely things you actually want – like David Shrigley dominoes, Guerrilla Girls tea towels, Yinka Shonibare plates and Hockney beach bags. Because it's craftily positioned at the museum's entrance, you don't even have to pretend to be interested in the art to shop here.  
→ Bankside. ⊕ Southwark.

**21** **Good News**  
We might be biased, but we bloody love print magazines. Cult Soho newsagent Good News does too. This unassuming corner shop is gloriously stocked with titles big and small, from every corner of the world. It's where local

media types go to pick up their reading material. With the closure of Soho's Wardour News and the Vintage Magazine Shop, there's all the more reason to show it some love these days.  
→ 23 Berwick St. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd.

**20** **Neal's Yard Dairy** (Ⓜ) (⊗) (⊕) Neal's Yard Dairy began championing small cheese producers when the shop opened in 1979, and has been central to creating a huge community of high-quality cheesemakers in Britain and Ireland. Like Monmouth Coffee, NYD has larger branches in Borough and Bermondsey, but this tiny, fragrant nook wins hands-down on character. When they offer taste after taste, don't say no!  
→ 17 Short's Gardens. ⊕ Covent Garden.

**19** **Conservatory Archives** (Ⓜ) (⊕) One visit to Conservatory Archives' urban jungle and you'll be lusting after its hanging greenery and climbing vines. The shop on Hackney Road is one big lavish indoor garden, a stark space with peeling plaster walls and big windows, stuffed full of weird, wild and wonderful vegetation.  
→ 493-495 Hackney Rd. Cambridge Heath Overground.



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## Top of the shops



### 18 Lina Stores

This wonderful family-run Italian deli has been trading from its Brewer Street shop since 1944 and is still a proper Soho gem. Bottles of passata, jars of olives, tins of brined sardines and bags of dry spaghetti line the shelves. A counter brims with cheeses, meats, cakes and fresh ravioli, while a magnificent new branch – complete with a sizeable restaurant – has just opened in King's Cross.

→ 18 Brewer St. ☉ Piccadilly Circus.

### 17 Libreria

Libreria's dinky Shoreditch shopfront is deceptive: once through its door, you'll discover books for days. A central aisle with double-height canary-yellow walls is lined with shelves and shelves of desirable volumes, plus there's the occasional cushion-filled nook for visitors to get cosy. Stick around past closing time for talks, performances and workshops.

→ 65 Hanbury St. ☉ Shoreditch High St Overground.

### 16 The School of Life

Dedicated to making everyone's existence that little bit better, The School of Life's smart, Scandi-looking shop in Bloomsbury is packed with books covering topics such as philosophy, psychology and wellbeing. Underneath the shop there are classrooms for courses and one-off events on everything from improving self-confidence and relationships to and identifying career potential. Come for a DIY 'Queer Eye' makeover.

→ 70 Marchmont St. ☉ Russell Square.

### 15 Japan Centre

Japan doesn't feel quite so far away when you're surrounded by miso and matcha in this subterranean supermarket. Grab some takoyaki with dancing bonito flakes to fuel your shopping in the café, before browsing more noodles, bottles of Kewpie mayo and very sharp knives.

→ 35b Panton St. ☉ Piccadilly Circus.

### 14 Persephone Books

Persephone Books is piled high with lovingly curated reprints of books by unfairly neglected female authors. They're bound in a chic shade of grey and lined with wonderful archive prints. Some are by well-known writers (Virginia Woolf, Diana Athill); others are only back in print after decades of obscurity.

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

### 13 Choosing Keeping

It's possible to walk out of Choosing Keeping having spent £45 on a stapler and feel like it was the smartest purchase you ever made. The trouble with this shop is that everything is so damn beautiful: dinky rulers shaped like Toblerones, sinister hole punches that look like they were crafted in Soviet Russia and golden scissors that snap together to form the sleekest of shapes.

→ 21 Tower St. ☉ Covent Garden.

### 12 Foyles Charing Cross Road

News that Foyles was moving along Charing Cross Road to flash new premises was greeted with dismay by

legions of bibliophiles in the early 2010s. But with eight levels holding more than 200,000 books, a capacious art space and a floor dedicated to events, it's hard to fault this glossy, well-lit store. In the age of the e-reader, it's a gutsy statement in support of ink and paper.

→ 107 Charing Cross Rd. ☉ Tottenham Court Rd.

### 11 Labour and Wait

Located in an old emerald-tiled pub on Redchurch Street, Labour and Wait is an emporium of pretty yet very useful items. The owners, Rachel Wythe-Moran and Simon Watkins, both previously fashion designers, set out to create a shop selling timeless, well-thought-out pieces. You'll find wooden loo brushes, block-coloured ceramics, enamel light fittings, oversized recycled tote bags, Breton tops, aluminium Moka Expresses and tough Welsh rugs. It's the epitome of cool and functional.

→ 85 Redchurch St. Shoreditch High St Overground.

### 10 Paxton & Whitfield

It's surprising that you can't smell the whiff of aged cheddar as soon as you step outside of Piccadilly Circus station. Located on nearby Jermyn Street, Paxton & Whitfield has been selling cheese to the great and good (plus us mortals) since 1797. Inside the shop (which has definitely had a revamp since the eighteenth century, don't worry), an extensive counter showcases wheels of stilton, truffled bries, cornish yarg and award-winning cheddars. Don't be afraid to ask for a sample or two.

→ 93 Jermyn St. ☉ Piccadilly Circus.

## TOP TOTES



**Daunt Books**  
The bougie literary bag of choice.



**Goodhood**  
Proof you use Malin+Goetz soap.



**Tate Modern**  
So your date knows you like art.



**Rough Trade East**  
To carry rare vinyl and 'Just Kids' in.

### 9 Algerian Coffee Stores

A real Soho institution, this shoebox-sized shop on Old Compton Street has been trading since 1887, long before joe got cool. Buzz-seekers can choose from more than 80 blends of coffee, which are all available as beans or ready-ground. Those into their coffee gadgets can marvel at the electronic grinders, thermometers, tampers and milk-frothers in use here. And, despite the name, Algerian Coffee Stores also stocks a vast array of quality teas from all over the world.

→ 52 Old Compton St. ☉ Leicester Square.

### 8 Prick

Proving that cacti aren't just for the Wild West or cartoons, the brilliantly named Prick is a cactus and succulent specialist in Dalston. Founded by Gynelle Leon – an award-winning photographer who fell in love with the spiky plants while on holiday in Morocco in 2011 – this chic boutique stocks specimens sourced from around the UK and Holland. Stylish ceramic pots designed by independent artists are on offer too, so you can come away with a plant that's completely windowsill-ready.

→ 492 Kingsland Rd. Dalston Junction Overground.



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## Liberty

There is no more gorgeous shop in London (and possibly the world) than Liberty. With its eccentric best-of-British mix of haberdashery, homewares and vintage jewellery, wandering its wood-panelled halls is a little like exploring a stately home – albeit one that's host to a lovingly curated selection of cutting-edge international fashion and beauty brands. ■

→ Regent St. ⊕ Oxford Circus.

## 7 Bulk Market

There's way more than lentils and chickpeas on offer at Bulk Market (though you *can* get those too, obv's). Hackney's zero-waste store also boasts a beauty bar, where you can make your own cosmetics (BYO cosmetic container for extra green points). There's also veg, beers and baked goodies, as well as a freezer section where you can load up on loose, frozen fruit and veg.

→ 6 Bohemia Place. Hackney Central Overground.

## 6 Rough Trade East

It's one of the younger stores in the Rough Trade stable, but Rough Trade East has fast become the company's definitive London outpost. Located in the bustling Old Truman Brewery, it boasts an expertly curated collection of vinyl, CDs and books, as well as a café and a stage for its ever-popular in-store gigs. Spend an afternoon browsing music like you're Liv Tyler in 'Empire Records' then take a snap in the photobooth for your Hinge profile.

→ Old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane. Shoreditch High St Overground.

### GREEN YOUR SHOP



#### No waste

Bulk has led a wave of packaging-free stores.



#### Thrift

Londoners have fallen for charity shops again.



#### Rental

Pop-ups Hurr and Harth encourage hiring not buying.

## 5 Boutique by Shelter

Shelter have done a great job of appealing to a wider audience with their Boutique branches. The latest is in Coal Drops Yard in King's Cross. Inside you'll find designer, vintage and one-off gems creamed from Shelter's shops all over the UK. Hello, guilt-free shopping.

→ Unit EV8, first floor, Coal Drops Yard. ⊕ King's Cross.

## 4 Daunt Books Marylebone

One of London's most charming bookshops, Daunt's Marylebone flagship is pretty as a picture. The Edwardian building is packed to the rafters with reading material. Particularly browse-worthy is the vast travel section: it's enough to induce wanderlust in the most homely of homebodies.

→ 83-84 Marylebone High St. ⊕ Baker St.

## 3 We Built This City

Put down that crappy Union Jack biscuit tin. WBTC is here to revolutionise souvenirs. The shop stocks affordable and charming work by more than 250 London-based artists, from crowd-pleasing double-decker bus magnets to Bowie baubles.

→ 57 Carnaby St. ⊕ Oxford Circus.

## 2 Goodhood

Game-changing concept shop Goodhood supersized to brand-new Curtain Road premises in 2014. Spread over two incense-scented floors, it's probably now the most 2019 shop in London. Stock ranges from hand-carved skateboards to crystals to Aries garms and cheap-as-chips badges and stickers.

→ 151 Curtain Rd. Shoreditch High St Overground.

See the full 100 list at [timeout.com/bestshops](http://timeout.com/bestshops)





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# Time Out Eat List box

**IF YOU KNOW** Time Out at all, you'll know that there's nothing we're better at than curating the best food in the city. From the Time Out Markets in Lisbon, Boston, Miami, Chicago, New York and Montreal – where you can eat food by the top chefs in town – to our annual round-ups of the most exciting restaurants in cities around the world; we love a good edible line-up. Our new Eat List box takes this even further. Costing £59, it launches today (November 26) and is a dreamy way to treat yourself to months of incredible meals out. (Okay, it makes a great gift – see page 48 of the gift guide – but don't you deserve something special too every once in a while?)

The concept of the Eat List box is simple. In it, you'll find seven vouchers each getting you 50 percent off food for two people at one of the restaurants we picked as the 100 best in London this year – and they're valid for the whole of 2020. It's basically our Food editor's knowledge distilled into a recipe for delicious, discount eating. But where can you go? From Tandoor Chop House to Oklava, get to know the venues and then buy your box from [timeout.com/eatlistbox](http://timeout.com/eatlistbox).

Want to tuck into some of the best food in London for half the usual price? We've got just the thing for you...

### Tandoor Chop House

When you fancy Indian food without Indian-restaurant clichés, come here for small plates of sexed-up dishes eaten in a buzzing, friendly, café style setting. Highlights include the herb-strewn seekh kebab, beef-dripping keema naan and spiced lamb chops.

→ 8 Adelaide St, WC2N 4HZ. ⊕ Charing Cross.

### Sardine

This southern French stunner gets things just right without conforming to the straitjacket of current restaurant trends. Expect meticulously sourced top-quality ingredients and a back-to-basics approach.

→ 15 Mincumber St, N1 7TB. ⊕ Old St.

### Sakagura

If you're a stickler for authenticity when it comes to Japanese dining, then Sakagura will be right up your street. The menu, like the decor, seamlessly blends the modern with the traditional to fresh effect: the sprout tempura, and the burdock and carrot sushi maki are delicious veggie options.

→ 8 Heddon St, W1B 4BU. ⊕ Piccadilly Circus.

### Cub

If you've loved Ryan 'Mr Lyan' Chetiyawardana's bars, you'll love this friendly hangout too. His co-founder Doug McMaster (of Brighton's Silo, which recently relocated to Hackney Wick) is a no-waste supremo who creates food that's as sustainable as it is stunning.

→ 153 Hoxton St, N1 6PJ. Hoxton Overground.

### Burger & Lobster

B&L wins fans for its simple, high-quality offerings of prime burgers, lobsters or lobster rolls, with salad and chips (you can even get a burger and lobster combo if you're indecisive/greedy). Its Soho branch boasts a huge, lively dining room and lightning-quick service.

→ Available at all locations.

### Santo Remedio

A homely, gorgeous-to-look-at space, with wonderful staff and terrific cooking, this is arguably the best Mexican in London. Small plates, snacks and sides are the order of the day here – go with a group and order loads of dishes to share. Do not miss the quesadilla or the bold, creamy guacamole. The grasshopper topping is optional! ■

→ 152 Tooley St, SE1 2TU. ⊕ London Bridge.



### Oklava

Chef Selin Kiazim's residencies grew a cult following thanks to her Turkish-with-a-twist cooking. Her first restaurant takes things even further. Don't miss the lahmacun – a kind of Turkish flatbread pizza.

→ 74 Luke St, EC2A 4PY. Shoreditch High St Overground.

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# Let me see that gong

These wellness and yoga workshops are so chill they're basically group naps. We try them out



Chroma Yoga

## Pink: Restore at Chroma Yoga

This extremely mellow class is held at 1.30pm on Sundays. A smart move: it's the perfect session for those times when you're too jagged from Saturday night to move but you don't want to waste the day rotting under your duvet. You step into a warm egg-shaped pod with changing lights and sounds and then do six yoga poses, each of which is no harder than lying with an eye mask on spooning a bolster. The vibe is healing. In fact, you might enter your egg as a hungover wreck but you'll have hatched into a fully functioning human person by the time you leave.

**Can you actually fall asleep in it?** It's frowned upon but I definitely nodded off and drooled all over the bolster. *Kate Lloyd*

GONG: ANDREW LUNN PHOTOGRAPHY



Gong

## Sunday Sound Bath at Gong

This class involves someone banging a giant gong while you lie tucked up in a blanket on a mat beside it. That might sound simple enough, but it's like a massage for your brain. The different frequencies, notes and subtly changing volumes of the gong transport you into a deep meditative state that helps with anxiety and stress. As a plus, the experience is properly trippy. At one point I thought I was in that scene in 'The Shining' where they run along endless hotel corridors.

**Can you actually fall asleep in it?** Absolutely! In fact, sleeping is encouraged in this class. You'll probably wake up and doze off again multiple times. *Angela Hui*

→ 45-47 Clerkenwell Rd. ☉ Farringdon. Sun 5pm. £17 drop-in, cheaper packages available. On ClassPass.



## Nap time!



## Restorative Yoga at One Yoga London

You know you're in for a gentle session when you arrive to see your fellow yogis layering up in sweatshirts and chunky socks. This class, best taken on a Friday night at the end of a miserable week, is like some enforced R&R. You can't push yourself even if you try. It's like yin yoga – during the class you take a handful of poses and really relax into them – but there's no ten-minute pigeon pose that'll have you daydreaming about gas and air. We're talking a gentle supine twist or a mini backbend, and you're propped up on bolsters or blankets the entire time.

**Can you actually fall asleep in it?** You'll struggle not to once your instructor has covered you in blankets so you don't get chilly, turned the lights down low and spent an hour musing on energy in hushed tones. *Ellie Walker-Arnott*

→ 15 Myddelton Rd. Hornsey rail. Wed 7.45pm, Fri 7.15pm. £15 drop-in, cheaper packages available. On ClassPass.

## Chill at FLY LDN

This fitness studio is right in the middle of the City, but thanks to a giant screen across one wall, during the class you will be transported to an alpine forest, an emerald lake or a meadow of wild flowers nodding in the breeze, while a clutch of real candles flicker around the room. The pace is glacial, the aim to mentally decompress and ease your body out of its standard hunched-over-laptop-while-clenching-jaw (just me?) position. Hands-on instructors help you let go and embrace the stretches.

**Can you actually fall asleep in it?** I sweated more in the changing rooms putting on my workout gear than I did in the actual class. It was pretty much the only thing that prevented me from having a little nap: if I'd known I'd be moving so little and lying down so much I'd have worn warmer clothes. *EWA*

→ 24 Creechurch Lane. Ⓞ Aldgate. Mon 7.30pm; Thu 7.15pm. £17 drop-in, cheaper packages available. On ClassPass.

## Cocoon at Gymbox

The key thing you need to know about this guided meditation session is that it takes place as you dangle from the ceiling in a snug fabric hammock. It combines the best of traditional yoga nidra (a meditation technique, but really you're just lying down, focusing on breathing) and soothing sound therapy. The floating feeling, the gentle background sounds and the soft lighting of the multicoloured studio are meant to make you feel like you're safely back in the womb.

**Can you actually fall asleep in it?** I nodded off briefly but immediately woke up when my instructor started gently rocking me around. *AH*

→ Available at Gymbox Ealing, Farringdon, Victoria and Westfield Stratford. Various days and times. Membership from £63 per month, £20 day pass.

## Yoga Nidra at Triyoga

To an outsider, this class might look like the first-class cabin of a plane: everyone reclining in corpse pose, swaddled in blankets and wearing eye masks. But at the front, instead of an air hostess giving safety information, there's an instructor chanting positive affirmations. The focus of the class is breathing in different positions. As the hour comes to an end you'll be so relaxed you'll feel like you're part of your yoga mat.

**Can you actually fall asleep in it?** One hundred percent. The room's full of snorers. (Unfortunately they might keep you awake.) ■ *Jessica Phillips*

→ Available at Triyoga Camden, Chelsea, Ealing, Shoreditch and Soho. Various days and times. £17 drop-in, cheaper packages available. On ClassPass.

Want a slightly higher tempo?  
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DANIEL CRAIG CHRIS EVANS ANA DE ARMAS JAMIE LEE CURTIS MICHAEL SHANNON DON JOHNSON TONI COLLETTE LAKEITH STANFIELD KATHERINE LANGFORD JAELEN MARTELL AND CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER

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Sight & Sound

Little White Lies

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# Knives Out

HELL, ANY OF THEM COULD HAVE DONE IT.

**IN CINEMAS WED NOV 27**

97%



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY RIAN JOHNSON

\*as of 13.11.2019

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MRC T-STREET





# A very 2019 Christmas

London's seasonal pop-ups are back in full festive force, from gingerbread houses to retro-kitsch cocktails. *Isabelle Aron* rounds up the trends

## Après-ski

Screw expensive skiing holidays. You can skip the whole throwing yourself down an icy mountain part and get straight to the good stuff (the après-ski, obvs) at Coq d'Argent's wintry incarnation **Lodge d'Argent** (until Feb 29). You won't see mountain vistas but you will get ace views of the City from the rooftop chalets, where you can cosy up with faux-fur blankets and feast on alpine-inspired small plates, including cheesy raclette. Also bringing a taste of the Alps to London is **Savage Schloss** at Tower Hill's Savage Garden (until Mar), where you can ride in a gondola (okay, it's a lift that's been made to look like a gondola). At the top you'll find VR skiing, air hockey and boozy hot chocolate. Time to get piste!



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TimeOut

CHRISTMAS

Gift  
guide  
2019



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S W I S S M A D E

# Greetings, gifters!

The countdown to Christmas is on, but if your prezzie list remains unticked: don't fear! We've done the hard work for you, trawling London's shops and scouring online stores to bring you our definitive list of the best gift ideas: 160 of them to be precise. Want to support your fellow Londoners? We've marked our favourite local picks. And if you're trying to shop more consciously, keep your eyes peeled for our sustainable badge. We're confident that we've got treats to make even the stoniest of Scrooges crack a smile. And if they don't, just keep them all for yourself.

Merry Christmas, and happy shopping!

**Hayley Spencer**  
Gift Guide Editor



5 For foodies 9 For style lovers 17 For tipplers 19 For music and film fans 24 For homebodies 27 For fitness freaks 31 For gadget geeks  
34 For beauty buffs 37 For kids 41 For bookworms 43 Activities 46 Stocking stuffers 48 Time Out Table for Two



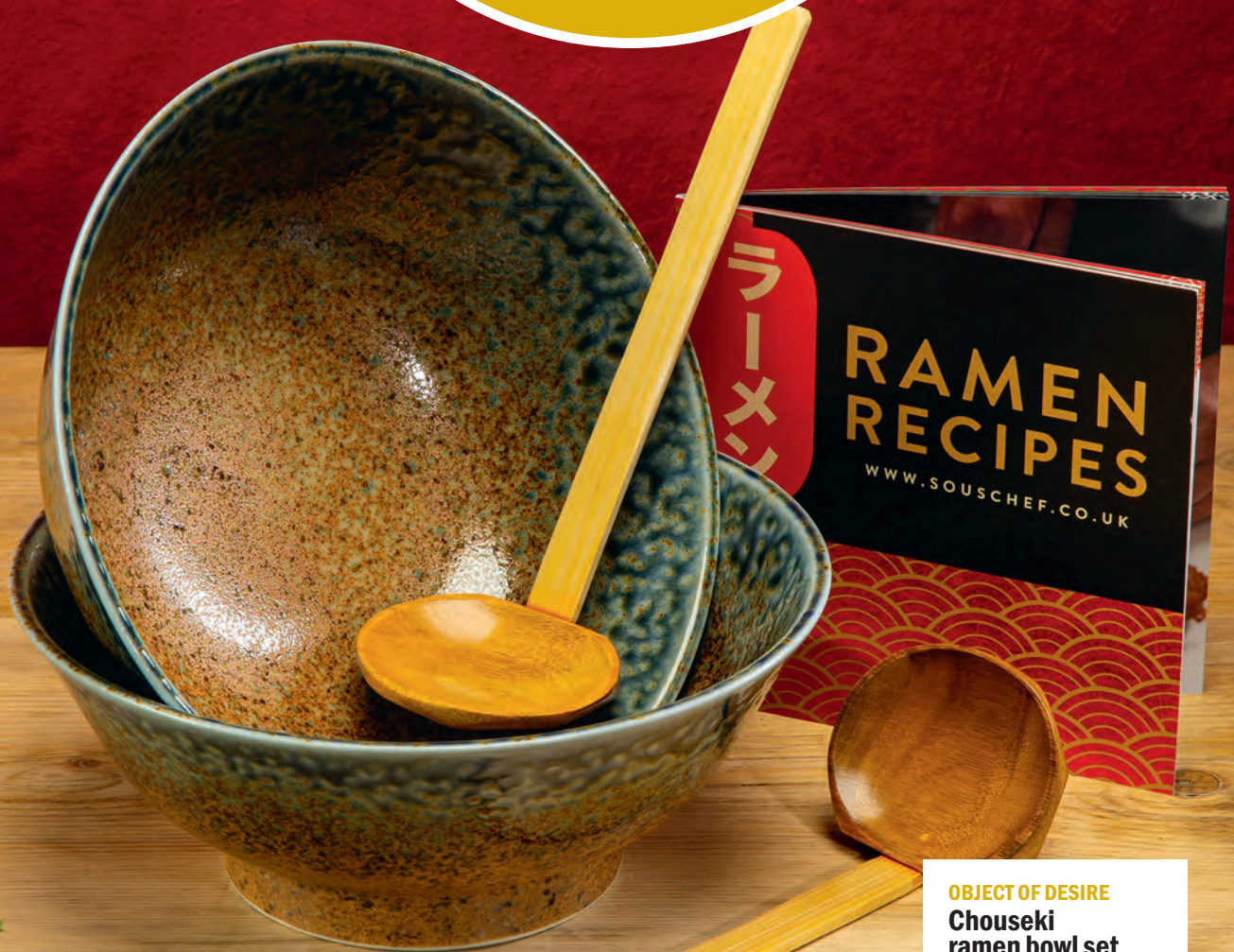
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for the facts [drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

# Gifts for foodies

Eat, drink, be merry  
(and remember to buy  
some presents)



## OBJECT OF DESIRE

### Chouseki ramen bowl set by Sous Chef

If there's a broth fiend in your life (or just someone who likes really fancy tableware) Sous Chef's stylish kit combines two glazed Japanese dishes and ladles, plus a ramen recipe book. Which they can leaf through as they pour their Deliveroo order into their posh new noodle bowls.

→ £39.50. [www.souschef.co.uk](http://www.souschef.co.uk)

Table tops courtesy of [www.piquantcollections.com](http://www.piquantcollections.com).

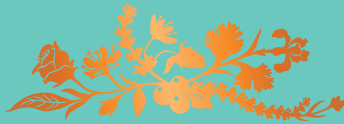


**EDITOR'S PICK**  
Give the gift of a full spice cupboard. Then demand a curry in return.



1. ProQ cold smoke generator, £34.99. [www.macsbbq.com](http://www.macsbbq.com).
2. Starter spice set by Rooted Spices, £37.50. [www.rootedspices.com](http://www.rootedspices.com).
3. Growbar: The Red Hot Bar by The Gluttonous Gardener, £12. [www.glut.co.uk](http://www.glut.co.uk).
4. Italian salted caramel panettone, £25.99. [www.selfridges.com](http://www.selfridges.com).
5. 'Chilli Peppers of the World' tea towel, £11. [www.stuartgardiner.com](http://www.stuartgardiner.com).
6. Fruit and veg boxes, from £9.45 a week. [www.oddbox.co.uk](http://www.oddbox.co.uk).
7. Olive wood and bone batik salad servers, £18. [www.artisans-and-adventurers.com](http://www.artisans-and-adventurers.com).
8. Coffee subscription, from £8 a week. [www.oldspikeroastery.com](http://www.oldspikeroastery.com).
9. Two-pint jug, £28. [www.falconenameware.com](http://www.falconenameware.com).
10. Beeswax food wraps - family starter set by Bee Green, £25.49. [www.beegreenwraps.co.uk](http://www.beegreenwraps.co.uk).
11. Ceramic water knife sharpener by Mino Sharp, £35. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com).
12. Bib apron, £48. [www.labourandwait.co.uk](http://www.labourandwait.co.uk).
13. French dark sourdough, 2kg, £13. [www.gailsbread.co.uk](http://www.gailsbread.co.uk).





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# Gifts for style lovers

Desirable stuff for men, women, non-binary... everyone

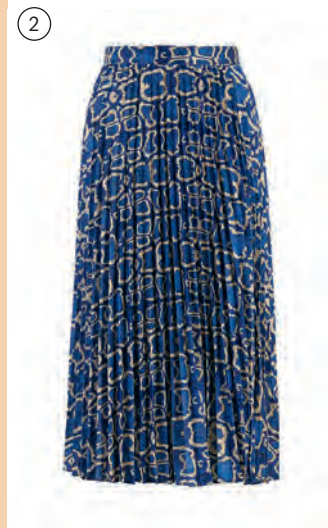


## OBJECT OF DESIRE

### Danny long-sleeve boilersuit by L.F. Markey

If their wardrobe is the way to their heart, then this boilersuit from ethical fashion brand L.F. Markey will score you serious brownie points this Christmas. In soft corduroy, with a flattering cinched waist and wide-leg cut, it's perfect for upmarket car maintenance.

→ £180. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com)



- 1. Pinkley jacket**, by You Must Create £195. [www.youmustcreate.com](http://www.youmustcreate.com).
- 2. Animal print pleated midi skirt** by M&S Collection, £45. [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com).
- 3. Tilda scarf** by Stine Goya, £35. [www.stinegoya.com](http://www.stinegoya.com).
- 4. Dors glasses** by Kite Eyewear, £175. [www.kiteeyewear.com](http://www.kiteeyewear.com).
- 5. Paradise Classics limited edition T-shirt** designed by Lizzie King, £32. [www.everpress.com](http://www.everpress.com).
- 6. The Carry-On aluminium suitcase**, £225. [www.awaytravel.com](http://www.awaytravel.com).
- 7. Colour crew socks** by Anonymous Ism, £22. [www.numbersixlondon.com](http://www.numbersixlondon.com).



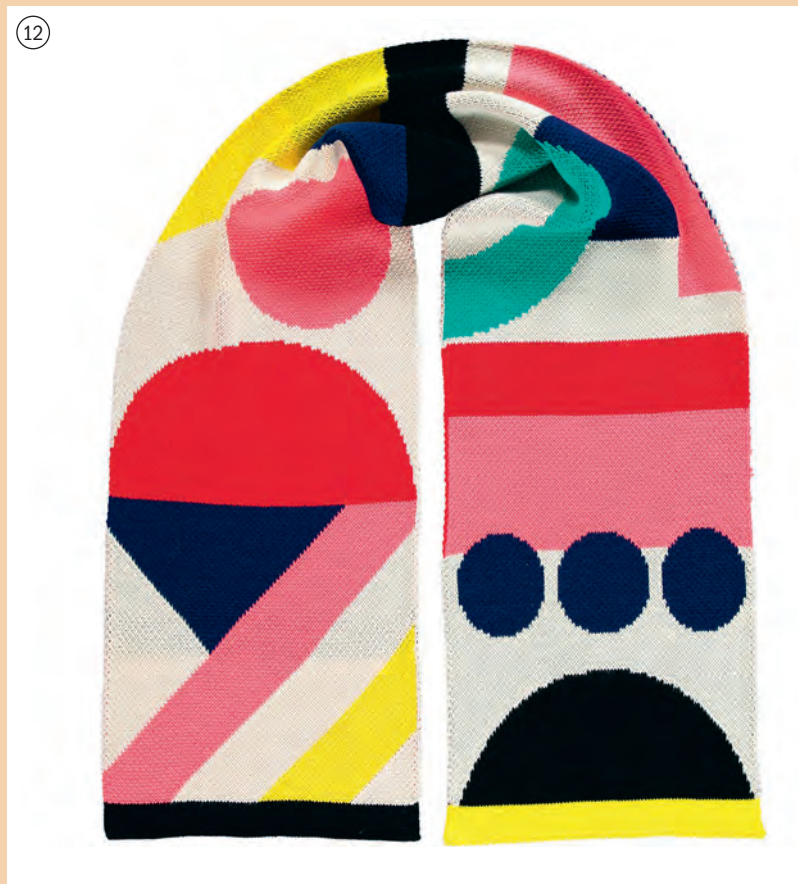
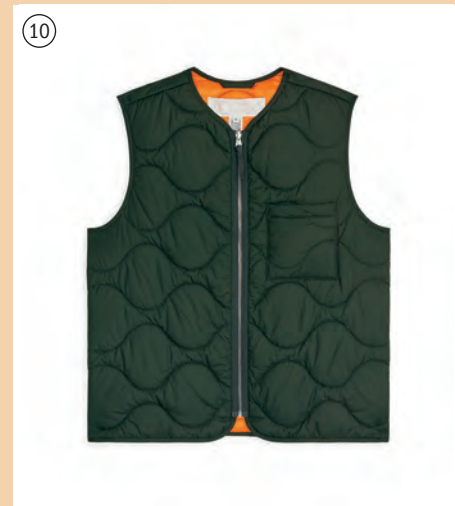
SWAROVSKI

**#SparkDelight**

Naughty or Nice? Discover the new Christmas collection



**EDITOR'S PICK**  
 Made from the softest cotton, these PJs are made for lazy boxset binges.



**8. Red stripe pyjama set by Honna**, £95. [www.honna-london.com](http://www.honna-london.com).  
**9. Cirrus No 2 steamer**, £110. [www.steamery.co.uk](http://www.steamery.co.uk). **10. Quilted liner vest by Arket**, £55. [www.arket.com](http://www.arket.com).  
**11. Shall We Dance skateboard by Noah**, £58. [shop.doverstreetmarket.com](http://shop.doverstreetmarket.com). **12. KRA scarf by Miss Pompom**, £42. [www.ilovelowie.com](http://www.ilovelowie.com).  
**13. Mono watch by Komono**, £65. [www.conranshop.co.uk](http://www.conranshop.co.uk). **14. Olivia mid heels by Matt & Nat**, £90. [www.mattandnat.com](http://www.mattandnat.com). **15. 'Optimist' embroidered tee**, £32. [www.birdsong.london](http://www.birdsong.london).



**SUSTAINABLE**



# SWAROVSKI

**#SparkDelight**

Naughty or Nice? Discover the new Christmas collection

16



17



18



19



**16.** Rixo x Astrid Wilson print, from £55. [www.rixo.co.uk](http://www.rixo.co.uk) **17.** Leandra x Mango beads striped sweater, £59.99. [www.shop.mango.com](http://www.shop.mango.com). **18.** Red polka dot mini dress by Kitri, £125. [www.kitristudio.com](http://www.kitristudio.com). **19.** Starfish coral hair clip by Seoul Import, £22. [www.50-m.com](http://www.50-m.com). **20.** Leopard rucksack by Ganni, £160 by Goodhood. [www.goodhoodstore.com](http://www.goodhoodstore.com). **21.** Pearl alphabet pendant by Otiumberg, £95. [www.otiumberg.com](http://www.otiumberg.com). **22.** Chuck 70 Renew blue canvas sneakers by Converse, £70. [www.harveynichols.com](http://www.harveynichols.com).

20



21



22



SUSTAINABLE





Giving you Christmas



# MUJI Xmas



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Whether you're buying for a music obsessive, a DJ or a pretend DJ, headphones don't get much better than Pioneer's new gold, over-ear HDJ-X5BTs. Bluetooth-ready, super-comfortable and offering dynamic sound, they're great to use in a club or waiting for the 9.11 to Cannon Street. → £139. [www.thedjshop.co.uk](http://www.thedjshop.co.uk)



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WED 27 NOV  
THE O2



**KREPT & KONAN**

THU 5 DEC  
THE O2



**GIGGS**

FRI 6 DEC  
THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY



**ROBBIE WILLIAMS**

MON 16 & TUE 17 DEC  
THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY



**ROD ST**

TUE 17, THU 19  
THE



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SAT 18 JAN  
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15 SHOWS - JAN & FEB  
THE LONDON PALLADIUM



**SCHOOLBOY Q**

TUE 28 JAN  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY BRIXTON



**JONAS BROTHERS**

SUN 2 FEB THE O2  
MON 3 FEB THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY



**DARREN**

TUE 4 - S  
SOHO T



**THE 1975**

FRI 21 & SAT 22 FEB  
THE O2



**CAGE THE ELEPHANT**

SAT 22 FEB  
ALEXANDRA PALACE



**BEARTOOTH**

SAT 29 FEB  
ROUNDHOUSE

# LIVE LONN

LIVENATION



**CLANNAD**

TUE 17 MAR  
THE LONDON PALLADIUM



**GRACE CARTER**

WED 25 MAR  
O<sub>2</sub> SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE



**RIVERDANCE**

2 - 4 APR NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE  
4 - 7 JUN LONDON EVENTIM APOLLO



**THE WHO**

WED 8 APR  
THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY



**PARKWA**

SAT 1  
THE SSE ARENA



**WHITESNAKE  
& FOREIGNER**

SUN 31 MAY THE O2



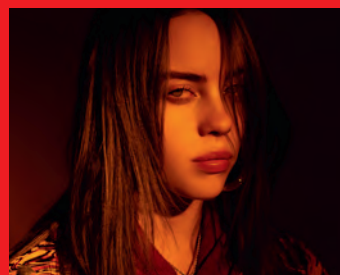
**MACHINE HEAD**

FRI 5 JUN  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY BRIXTON



**CIRQUE DU SOLEIL  
CORTEO**

WED 24 JUN - SUN 5 JUL THE O2



**BILLIE EILISH**

SUN 26, MON 27, WED 29, THU 30 JUL  
THE O2



**WEST**

SAT 2  
WEMBLEY



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LIVE NATION



**STEWART**

FRI 20 DEC  
THE O2



**CLUTCH**

WED 18 DEC  
ROUNDHOUSE



**ALTER BRIDGE**

SHINEDOWN & SEVENDUST  
SAT 21 DEC THE O2



**BURY TOMORROW**

SAT 21 DEC  
ROUNDHOUSE

**MOS DEF**  
**GOLDIE**  
**GZA**  
**THE PHARCYDE**  
**RONI SIZE**  
PLUS MANY MORE  
**BEAT HORIZON**  
SAT 18 JAN  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY BRIXTON



**HARRIOT**

SAT 8 FEB  
THEATRE



**LA ROUX**

WED 5 & THU 6 FEB  
FABRIC



**BRETT ELDRIDGE**

FRI 7 FEB  
O<sub>2</sub> SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE



**STEEL PANTHER**

FRI 7 FEB  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY BRIXTON



**MELANIE MARTINEZ**

MON 17 FEB  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY BRIXTON

# E IN DON

[LIVENATION.CO.UK](http://LIVENATION.CO.UK)



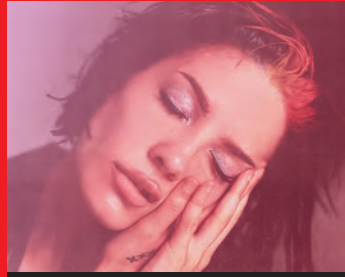
**DANE BAPTISTE**

MON 2 - SAT 14 MAR  
SOHO THEATRE



**MICHAEL BALL  
AND ALFIE BOE**

SAT 7 MAR THE O2



**HALSEY**

SUN 8 MAR  
THE O2



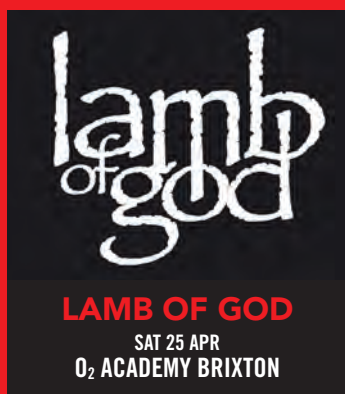
**THE DRIVE**

8 APR  
WEMBLEY



**GEOFF NORCOTT**

THU 23 APR  
LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE



**LAMB OF GOD**

SAT 25 APR  
O<sub>2</sub> ACADEMY BRIXTON



**BROTHERS OSBORNE**

TUE 12 MAY  
ROUNDHOUSE



**WAR**

FRI 22 MAY  
TROXY



**THE LIFE**

2 AUG  
STADIUM



**CLIFF RICHARD**

MON 12, TUE 13, THU 15 & FRI 16 OCT  
ROYAL ALBERT HALL



**OZZY OSBOURNE**

WED 28 OCT  
THE O2



**SKINDRED**

SAT 21 NOV  
THE O2



**NIGHTWISH**

FRI 18 DEC 2020  
THE SSE ARENA, WEMBLEY



(( SOUND CRASH ))



Go to [livenation.co.uk/register](http://livenation.co.uk/register)



## Gift Guide Music & Film

1



2



1. 'A Love Supreme' T-shirt, £30. [www.printedgoods.net](http://www.printedgoods.net). 2. A24 screenplay books, £46 each. [www.shop.a24films.com](http://www.shop.a24films.com). 3. 'Brightest London' poster by Virginie Morgand, £30. [www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk). 4. 'Stranger Things' soundtrack from the original series (double LP), £25. [www.urbanoutfitters.com](http://www.urbanoutfitters.com). 5. Pocket Operator 16, £49. [www.teenage.engineering](http://www.teenage.engineering). 6. Stir it up wireless Bluetooth turntable, £229.99. [www.thehouseofmarley.co.uk](http://www.thehouseofmarley.co.uk). 7. Villainous game by Ravensburger, £29.99. [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com).

3



4



5



6



**EDITOR'S PICK**  
This handsome turntable has the option of wireless listening.

7





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# Gifts for homebodies

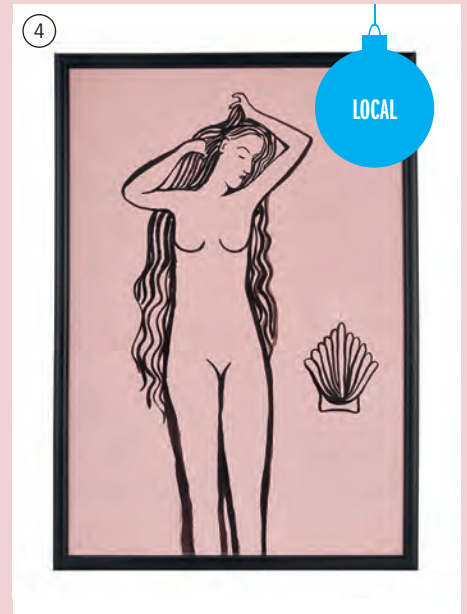
Help them make their pad that little bit more groovy, man!

## OBJECT OF DESIRE

### Urn throw

Bristol-based design duo Printed Goods have really delivered this festive season with this super-soft throw. Featuring a striking urn print in an on-trend muted colour palette, it's a work of art that doubles up as a cosy winter warmer. The kind of thing that makes you love your place more, while simultaneously making you long for the burning desert sun.

→ £160. [www.printedgoods.net](http://www.printedgoods.net)



**1. DIY Design saguaro cactus glasses**, £45. [www.goodhoodstore.com](http://www.goodhoodstore.com). **2. Hay salt and pepper shakers**, £35 each. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com). **3. Your Eyes and Dreamer mugs**, £35 each. [www.louisemadzia.com](http://www.louisemadzia.com). **4. Frances Costelloe 'Girl with Shell' framed A3 print**, £135. [www.libertylondon.com](http://www.libertylondon.com). **5. Franky aloe vera**, from £7.50. [www.patchplants.com](http://www.patchplants.com). **6. Carmen cushion**, £60. [www.shop.roh.org.uk](http://www.shop.roh.org.uk). **7. Rwandan bowl basket black shooting star**, £45. [www.artisans-and-adventurers.com](http://www.artisans-and-adventurers.com). **8. Madam Stoltz gold palm tree candle holder**, £36. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com). **9. Circus hot water bottle**, £55. [www.donnawilson.com](http://www.donnawilson.com). **10. R-space lamp**, £78. [www.piquantcollections.com](http://www.piquantcollections.com). **11. Welsh floor rug in black**, £125. [www.labourandwait.co.uk](http://www.labourandwait.co.uk). **12. 'Petite Places - Clever Interiors for Humble Homes'**, £40. [www.goodhoodstore.com](http://www.goodhoodstore.com). **13. Terracotta canister**, £12. [www.arket.com](http://www.arket.com).



**EDITOR'S PICK**  
This lantern comes as a flat-pack 'R' so your giftee can claim they made it.





GoPro HERO8 Black camera

# Five unexpected ways to bring action into your everyday

Take on one of these extreme (and, in some cases, obscure) London-based activities and get your heart rate soaring

**W**hen was the last time you got your adrenaline pumping? And no, before you ask, running for the bus doesn't count. Well, you might be surprised to discover that London is actually an adventure playground, and there are plenty of extreme pursuits you can try without leaving the city. What's more, thanks to the new GoPro HERO8 Black, and its even more pro-level cousin MAX, you can capture the action unlike ever before. For a start, HERO8 Black's HyperSmooth 2.0 feature will get rid of anything shaky, and you can easily strap the camera to your body by using a GoPro mount, such as Chesty (which is sold separately), and then you won't have to worry about dropping it.

To kickstart things, we've put together five awesome activities that will make your everyday extraordinary.

**1 Wakeboarding**  
Ah, Docklands. Site of Canary Wharf and loads of DLR stations. But did you know you can also do wakeboarding there? Whether you're a complete novice or a bit of a pro, there's a cable line for you – including one with jumps and obstacles.  
*WakeUp Docklands. From £35.*

**2 Ice climbing**  
Looking for a seriously cool experience? It doesn't get much cooler than ice climbing at Vertical Chill in Covent Garden,

where temperatures can reach -12°C. The wall is in the basement of mountain sport retailer Ellis Brigham, and a lesson there will include all the essential equipment, including ice axes and crampons.  
*Vertical Chill. From £35.*

**3 Abseiling the orbit**  
For a sculpture and observation tower, the ArcelorMittal Orbit in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Stratford is a surprising spot for adrenaline junkies. While it's possible to whizz your way from top to bottom down the world's longest tunnel slide, you can take the extreme stakes up a notch by abseiling almost 80m back down to earth instead.  
*ArcelorMittal Orbit. From £85.*

**4 Race the tube**  
You've smashed your local Parkrun, so what's next? How about racing the tube? As odd as it sounds, this challenge pits people against public transport.

Competitors exit the tube at Mansion House and race the Circle line one stop to Cannon Street, with the goal of making it back to the same carriage before the doors close. Ready? Get set, go!

**5 Quidditch**  
You've read the books, now play the game – and before you roll your eyes, this is no LARPing around Clapham Common on a Saturday morning. The real-life version is slightly removed from the fictional game (bludgers have been replaced with dodgeballs, and the broomsticks are just a bit of PVC piping), but the objective is still the same – to catch the Golden Snitch (or, in this case, a tennis ball in a yellow sock that's attached to a neutral 'snitch runner', obvs).



→ Find out more about GoPro HERO8 Black and MAX at [www.gopro.com](http://www.gopro.com)

# Gifts for fitness freaks

If they know their donkey kicks from their downward dogs



## **OBJECT OF DESIRE** **Veja Condor Mesh running trainers**

Shoe brand Veja has gained cult status for its eco sneakers, so its new running shoes are sure to be a hit. Especially as it's got the tech to match the style. They're lightweight, with a cushioned foam sole, are made with natural or sustainable materials, and are named after a giant South American avian scavenger.

→ £120. [www.veja-store.com](http://www.veja-store.com)

## Gift Guide **Fitness**



**EDITOR'S PICK**  
Everyone in the office fell for this bold cycling cap. Even those of us who don't cycle.



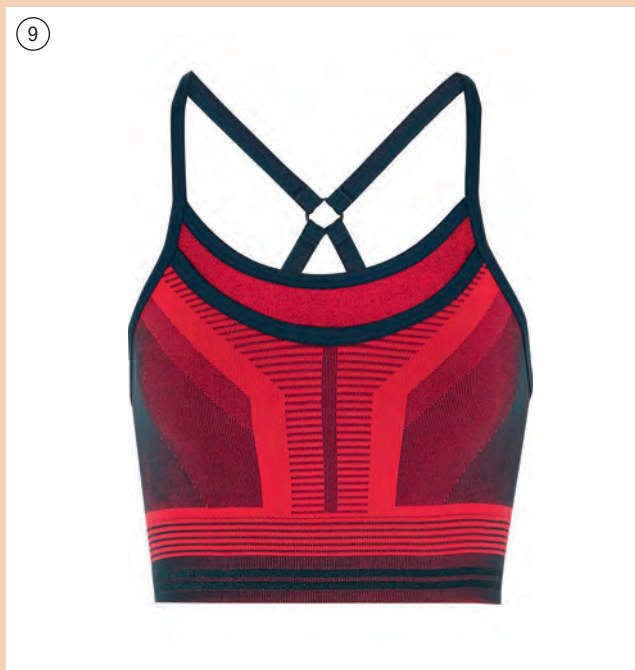
**SUSTAINABLE**



**1. 1lb resistance weights by Bala Bangles**, £40. [www.freepeople.com](http://www.freepeople.com). **2. Reflect360 cycling backpack 30l**, £69.99. [www.provizsports.com](http://www.provizsports.com). **3. RPT-01 sport on-ear headphones**, £149.95. [www.adidasheadphones.com](http://www.adidasheadphones.com). **4. Paul Smith + Cinelli 'Rainbow Warrior' cycling cap**, £25. [www.paulsmith.com](http://www.paulsmith.com). **5. The Cork Mat**, £69. [www.yogadesignlab.com](http://www.yogadesignlab.com). **6. Laserlight Core front light by Beryl**, £69.99. [www.evanscycles.com](http://www.evanscycles.com). **7. After the Class Bath Soak by Pursoma**, 255g, £30. [www.netaporter.com](http://www.netaporter.com). **8. Ultra gilet**, £135. [www.soarrunning.com](http://www.soarrunning.com). **9. Cosmos stretch sports bra by LNDR**, £48. [www.netaporter.com](http://www.netaporter.com).



**LOCAL**



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# Gifts for gadget geeks

Nothing says 'festive season' like a shiny new bauble



## OBJECT OF DESIRE

### Larq self-cleaning water bottle by Smartech

Helping the planet by buying a reusable water bottle is great and all, but cleaning it isn't so fun. Enter the rechargeable Larq bottle. It's double-insulated to keep drinks cold for 24 hours or hot for 12, but more importantly, it cleans itself, purifying both the water and bottle with one touch of the cap.

→ £129. [www.selfridges.com](http://www.selfridges.com)

## Gift Guide Gadgets

1



2



4



3



5



6



7



**EDITOR'S PICK**  
Help the coffee nerd in your life make their ideal brew.

8



9



10



11



12



**1. Timebox Evo Bluetooth Speaker by Divoom.** A speaker with customisable LED lights and 24 sleep-inducing settings. £65. [www.conranshop.co.uk](http://www.conranshop.co.uk) **2. Portal Mini 8" by Facebook.** Voice-controlled assistant that excels at video calling and adds AR effects to bedtime stories. £129. [www.currys.co.uk](http://www.currys.co.uk) **3. Contactless payment ring.** Swipe in and out on the tube with this cool accessory. £99.99. [www.fifthandblue.com](http://www.fifthandblue.com) **4. Beeline for bicycles.** A shockproof, rainproof navigating system. £99. [www.beeline.co](http://www.beeline.co) **5. Tile Mate tracker.** Like Find My Friends for the stuff you stick it to. £19.99. [www.tile.com](http://www.tile.com) **6. Polaroid OneStep 2 Viewfinder i-TYPE CAMERA.** An easy-to-use update of the famous instant camera. £119.99. [www.polaroidoriginals.com](http://www.polaroidoriginals.com) **7. Electric coffee grinder by Bodum.** Twelve settings, from coarse to fine, produce your ideal grind, mess-free. £160. [www.bodum.com](http://www.bodum.com) **8. Symfonisk table lamp with wi-fi speaker.** Chic bedside lamp and speaker in one. £150. [www.ikea.com](http://www.ikea.com) **9. Findster Duo+ pet tracker.** GPS tracker and activity monitor for pets. £139.99. [www.getfindster.com](http://www.getfindster.com) **10. Door view cam with built-in wi-fi and camera by Ring Smart.** HD video system that lets you see who's at the door on your tablet. £179. [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com) **11. Dock wireless charger terrazzo edition by Native Union.** iPhone charger crafted from natural jesmonite. £130. [www.libertylondon.com](http://www.libertylondon.com) **12. Genius X electric toothbrush with travel case by Oral B.** AI tracks where you brush and where you miss. £169.99. [www.boots.com](http://www.boots.com)

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# Gifts for beauty buffs

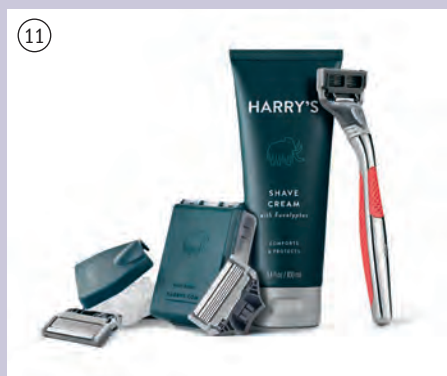
Let Santa bring the pamper



## OBJECT OF DESIRE Skin and hair care mixology sets

Beauty buffs will love experimenting with a mixology kit from natural skincare brand Hæckels. Rather than investing in a whole new regime according to the seasons, you simply tailor existing products by adding the right essential vitamins and nutrients from the hero products in the set. Also good if you've been going a bit hard on the other kind of mixology.

→ £45. [www.haeckels.co.uk](http://www.haeckels.co.uk)



**1. Baie 19 eau de parfum**, 100ml, £184. [www.lelabofragrances.com](http://www.lelabofragrances.com). **2. The Daily Glow face oil** by Neighbourhood Botanicals, £25. [www.wordstoreldn.com](http://www.wordstoreldn.com). **3. At home facial**, £49. [www.elementalherbology.com](http://www.elementalherbology.com). **4. The Playground set**, £53. [www.glossier.com](http://www.glossier.com). **5. Three candles coffret**, £88. [www.diptyqueparis.com](http://www.diptyqueparis.com). **6. Chango monkey print eye mask**, £15. [www.desmondanddempsey.com](http://www.desmondanddempsey.com). **7. Maya diffuser**, £60. [www.nealsyardremedies.com](http://www.nealsyardremedies.com). **8. Mauve obsessions eyeshadow palette** by Huda Beauty, £25. [www.harrods.com](http://www.harrods.com). **9. Cutie vanity mirror** by Riki Loves Riki, £45. [www.harrods.com](http://www.harrods.com). **10. Lumea Prestige IPL Hair Remover** by Philips, £399.99. [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com). **11. Christmas Winston gift set**, £28. [www.harrys.com](http://www.harrys.com). **12. Brush pot** by Bridie Hall, £40. [www.libertylondon.com](http://www.libertylondon.com). **13. Daily clean skin kit**, £30. [www.carbontheory.com](http://www.carbontheory.com). **14. Paint with lights radiant face illuminator trio** by Laura Mercier, £40. [www.spacenk.com](http://www.spacenk.com). **15. Discover ILIA Clean Colour** by ILIA Beauty, £35. [www.naturisimo.com](http://www.naturisimo.com). **16. Retractable kabuki brush** by Hourglass, £51. [www.libertylondon.com](http://www.libertylondon.com).



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# Gifts for kids

Santa will get the credit if it's great; you'll get the blame if it's wrong. So get it right

## OBJECT OF DESIRE

### Queue for the Zoo First Go Balance Bicycle by Liberty x Banwood

Liberty London has teamed up with balance-bike makers Banwood to create what is probably the cutest two-wheeler we've ever clapped eyes on. With its vintage print, bell and wicker basket, it's got everything your little one needs to be the coolest cyclist on the block. Can we get an adult size one, please? → £175. [www.libertylondon.com](http://www.libertylondon.com)

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## Gift Guide Kids

①



②



⑥



1. **Baby blanket** by Klippan, £35. [www.arket.com](http://www.arket.com).
2. **Ladybird wheely bug ride-on** by Hippychick, £67.59. [www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com).
3. **'Bauhaus Ballet'** by Gabby Dawney and Lesley Barnes, £19.99. [www.laurenceking.com](http://www.laurenceking.com).
4. **'City' kids nail polish (set of three)** by Nailmatic, £25. [www.conranshop.co.uk](http://www.conranshop.co.uk).
5. **Frida doll** by Rosie Girl, £35. [www.wordstoreldn.com](http://www.wordstoreldn.com).
6. **Animambo guitar** by Djeco, £33.99. [www.tickety-boo.co.uk](http://www.tickety-boo.co.uk).
7. **Dragon cape dress-up** by Meri Meri, £45. [www.scandiborn.co.uk](http://www.scandiborn.co.uk).
8. **'Stranger Things' Erica figure** by Pop! Vinyl, £6.49. [www.popinabox.co.uk](http://www.popinabox.co.uk).
9. **Patch beanie**, £15. [www.dinoskiwear.com](http://www.dinoskiwear.com).
10. **Coffee machine** by Le Toy Van, £29.95. [www.scandiborn.co.uk](http://www.scandiborn.co.uk).
11. **Prancing unicorn bag**, £14. [www.rockahulakids.com](http://www.rockahulakids.com).
12. **Pinafore dress**, £30. [www.leaping-lizards.co.uk](http://www.leaping-lizards.co.uk).
13. **Plui rain cloud** by Moluk, £10. [www.wordstoreldn.com](http://www.wordstoreldn.com).

⑩



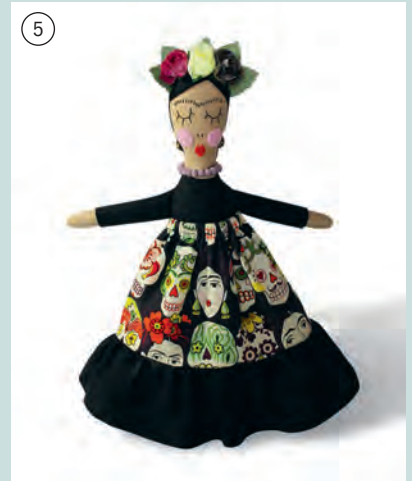
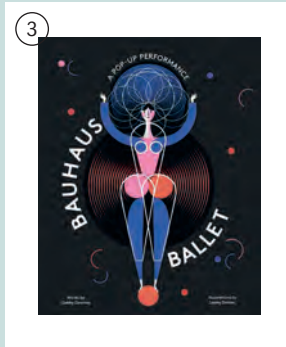
⑪







**EDITOR'S PICK**  
Ride-on toys don't come much cuter than this.



**SUSTAINABLE**



**LOCAL**

The true story of

# Father Christmas

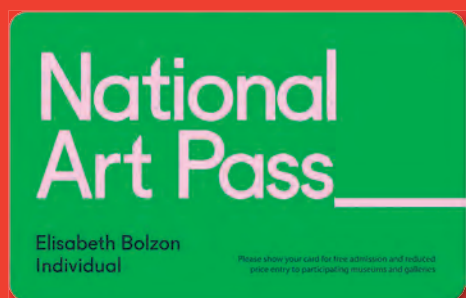
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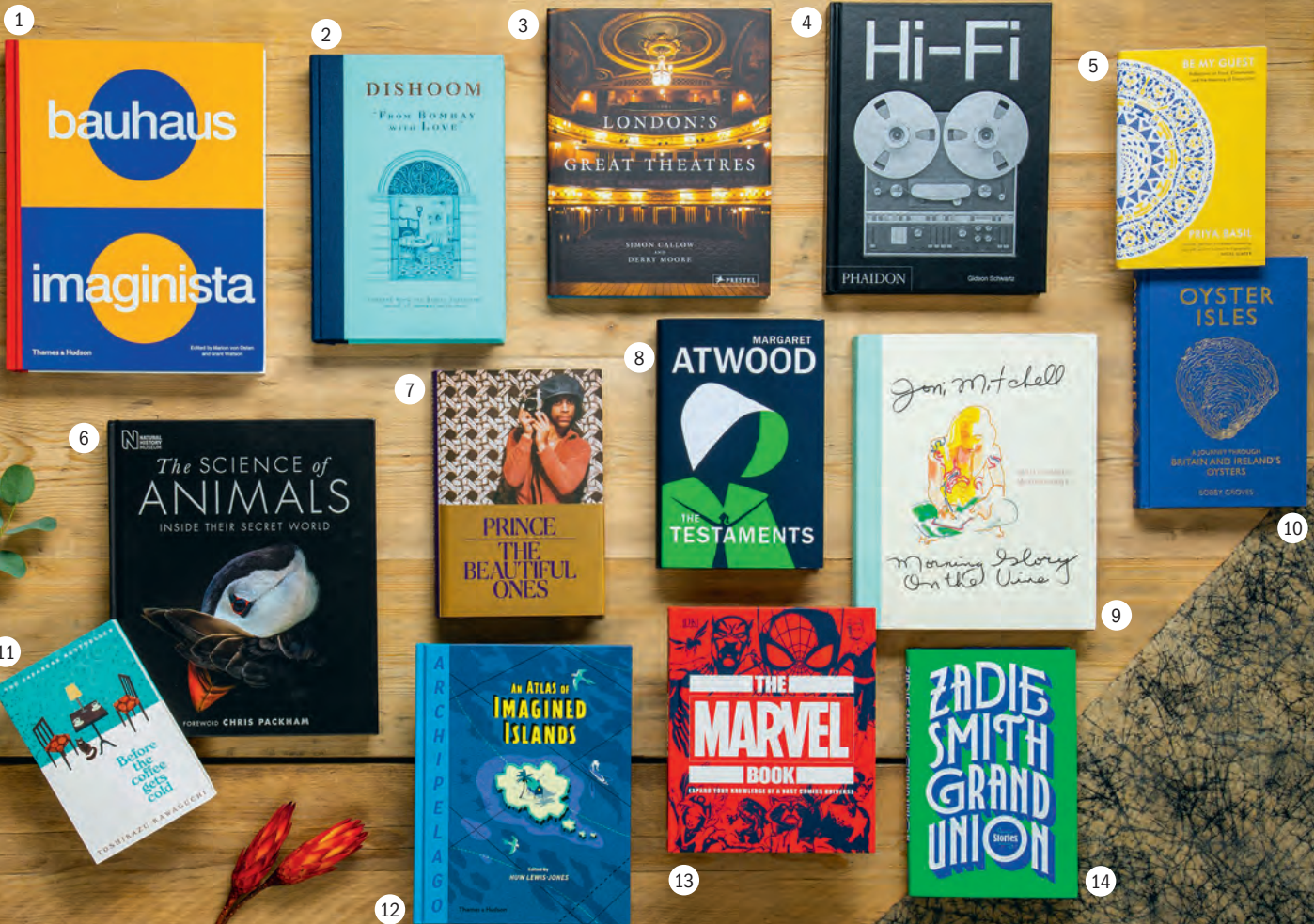
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\*Yes. 366 days. Next year is a leap year.

Art Fund\_

# Gifts for bookworms

Keep 'em quiet by getting them stuck into one of these



1. **'Bauhaus Imaginista'** by Marion von Osten, £39.95. [www.dauntbooks.co.uk](http://www.dauntbooks.co.uk)
2. **'Dishoom: From Bombay with Love'**, £26. [www.dishoom.com](http://www.dishoom.com)
3. **'London's Great Theatres'** by Simon Callow, £29.99. [www.dauntbooks.co.uk](http://www.dauntbooks.co.uk)
4. **'Hi-Fi: The History of High-End Audio Design'** by Gideon Schwartz, £65. [www.foyles.co.uk](http://www.foyles.co.uk)
5. **'Be My Guest: Reflections on Food, Community and the Meaning of Generosity'** by Priya Basil, £12.99. Phlox Books, 159 Francis Rd, E10 6NT.
6. **'The Science of Animals'** with a foreword by Chris Packham, £30. [www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com)
7. **'Prince: The Beautiful Ones'** by Prince, £25. [www.foyles.co.uk](http://www.foyles.co.uk)
8. **'The Testaments'** by Margaret Atwood, £15.99. [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)
9. **'Morning Glory on the Vine: Early Songs and Drawings'** by Joni Mitchell, £30. Phlox Books, 159 Francis Rd, E10 6NT.
10. **'Oyster Isles'** by Bobby Groves, £20. [www.dauntbooks.co.uk](http://www.dauntbooks.co.uk)
11. **'Before The Coffee Gets Cold'** by Toshikazu Kawaguchi, £6.99. [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)
12. **'Archipelago: An Atlas of Imagined Islands'** by Huw Lewis-Jones, £24.95. Phlox Books, 159 Francis Rd, E10 6NT.
13. **'The Marvel Book'** by Stephen Wiecek, £17.99. [www.dk.com](http://www.dk.com)
14. **'Grand Union'** by Zadie Smith, £16.99. [www.waterstones.com](http://www.waterstones.com)

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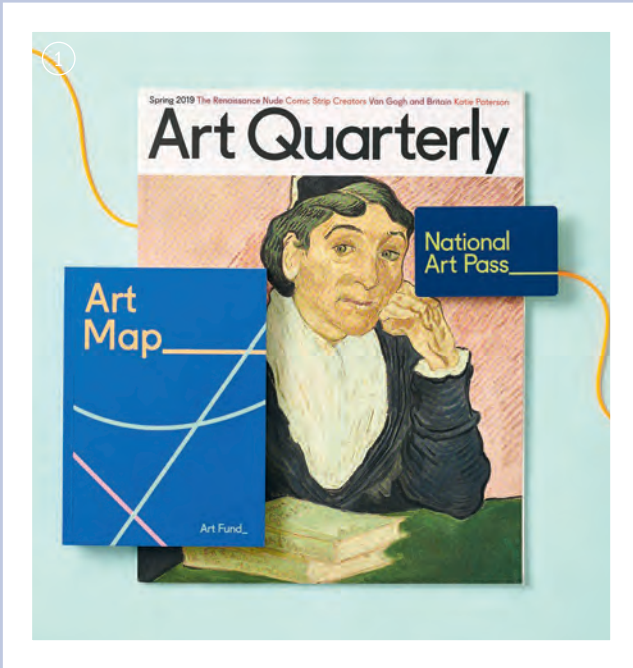


**'ABSOLUTELY STUNNING'**

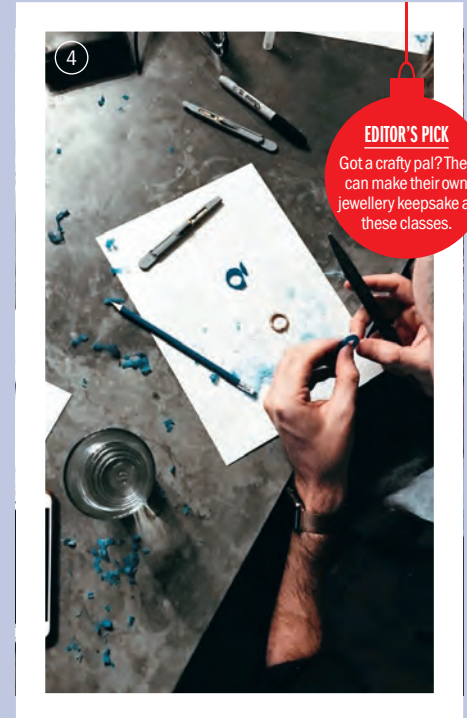
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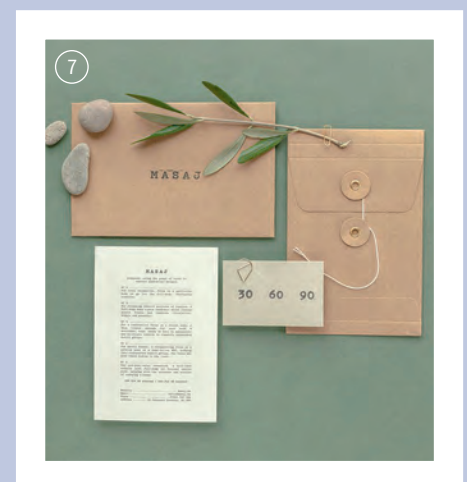
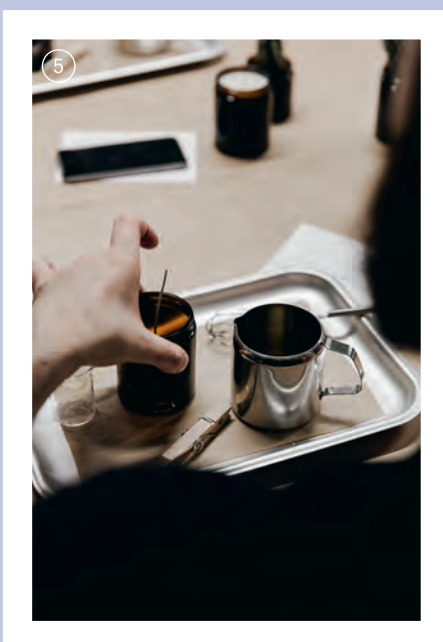




1. **National Art Pass**, £70 for a year. [www.artfund.org](http://www.artfund.org)
2. **Single floatation experience**, £55. [www.floatworks.com](http://www.floatworks.com)
3. **Harry Potter World studio tour with souvenir gift box**, £60.95. [www.wbstudiotour.co.uk](http://www.wbstudiotour.co.uk)
4. **Create workshops**, from £60. [www.kismetlolalondon.com](http://www.kismetlolalondon.com)
5. **Beginners' candle-making workshop**, various dates, £49.50. [www.earlofeast.com](http://www.earlofeast.com)
6. **Fresh pasta masterclass gift card**, £50 (valid for 2020). [www.pastaevangelists.com](http://www.pastaevangelists.com)
7. **Thirty-minute massage voucher**, £40. [www.masaj.me](http://www.masaj.me)

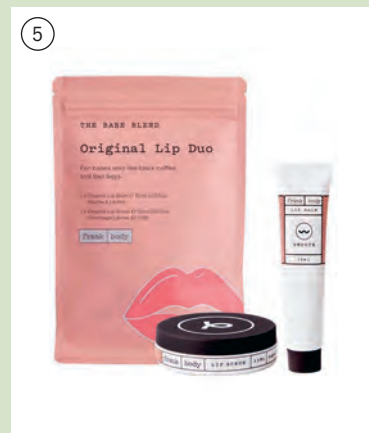


**EDITOR'S PICK**  
Got a crafty pal? They can make their own jewellery keepsake at these classes.



# Stocking stuffers

Feeling frugal? Doing Secret Santa? Here's our pick of prezzies under £15



Find the perfect present

Shop Christmas in store and online at [vam.ac.uk/shop](http://vam.ac.uk/shop)

V&A



7



**1. Bamboo toothbrush by Truthbrush**, £4.50. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com). **2. Kimchi-making set**, £13.95. [www.souschef.com](http://www.souschef.com). **3. 30 days yoga challenge cube by DIY**, £12.50. [www.selfridges.com](http://www.selfridges.com). **4. District line socks**, £9. [www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseumshop.co.uk). **5. Original lip duo by Frank Body**, £13.95. [www.lookfantastic.com](http://www.lookfantastic.com). **6. Shuka red dog bow tie**, £15. [www.hiro-and-wolf.com](http://www.hiro-and-wolf.com). **7. rCUP 8oz**, £11. [www.rcup.co.uk](http://www.rcup.co.uk). **8. 'Art Oracles: Creative & Life Inspiration from the Great Artists'**, £14. [www.artuk.org](http://www.artuk.org). **9. Spice Girls pin badge by Thread Famous**, £15. [www.webuilt-thiscity.com](http://www.webuilt-thiscity.com). **10. Santa's paw oven mitt by Stuart Gardiner**, £8. [www.wolfandbadger.com](http://www.wolfandbadger.com). **11. Luxury matches by Archivist**, £12.50. [www.trouva.com](http://www.trouva.com).

8



9



10



11




A snow-covered forest of food, drink and festivities

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# Time Out Table for Two

We're sure you have a friend  
who wants to take you out  
for dinner lots in 2020

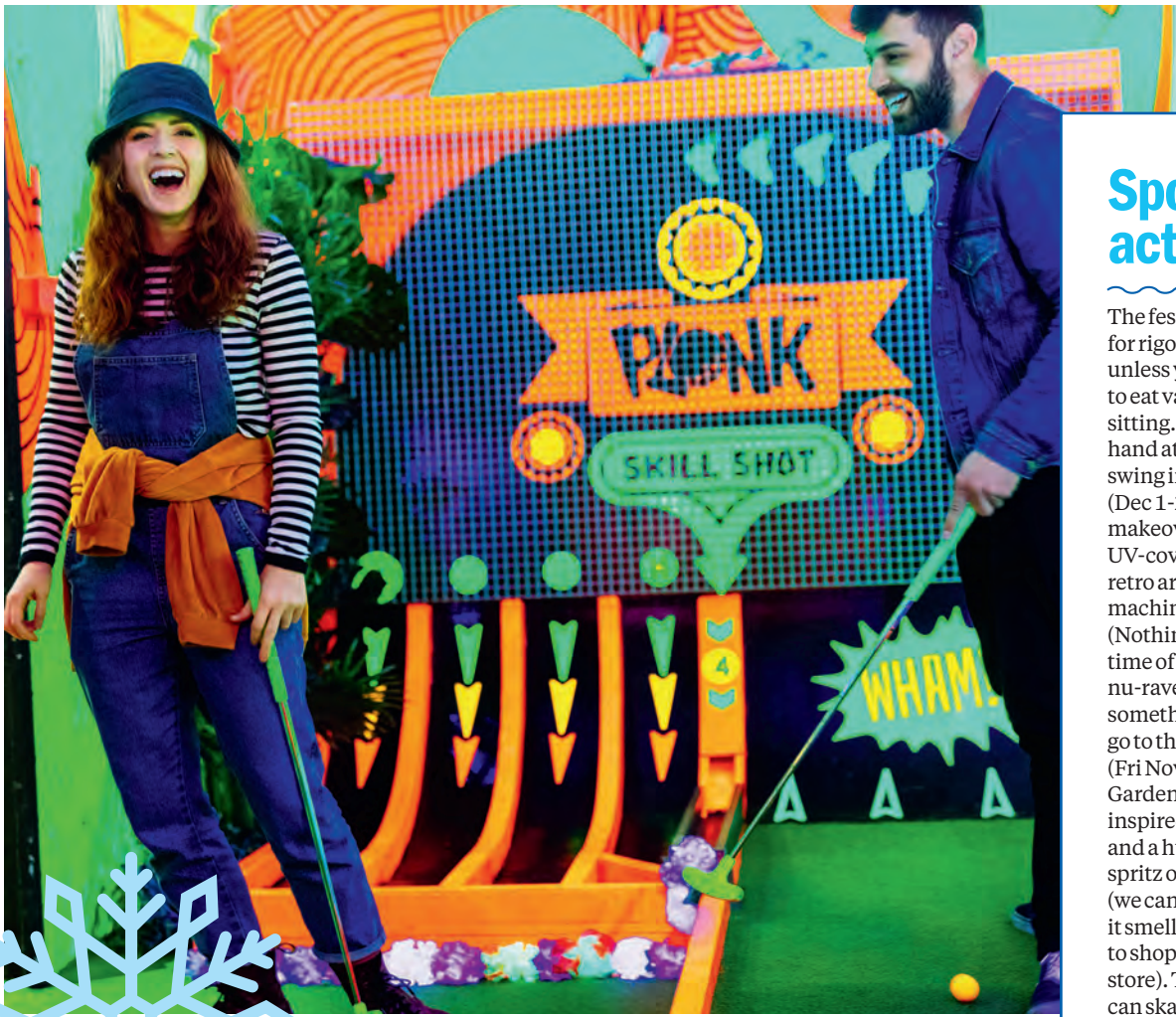


## OBJECT OF DESIRE

### Time Out Table for Two

Like a golden ticket to Willy Wonka's chocolate factory but for foodies rather than obnoxious kids, our Table for Two boxes are keys to the city's best dishes. Each contains seven cards that get you 50 percent off food for two at some of London's best restaurants, like Oklava and Cub. Delish!

→ Pick up 'London Favourites' for £45 and 'Eat List Picks' for £59 from [timeout.com/tablefortwo](https://www.timeout.com/tablefortwo).



## Sporty activities

The festive season is not the time for rigorous physical activity – unless you count training yourself to eat vast amounts of food in one sitting. But if you fancy trying your hand at some low-key exercise, swing into action at **Plonk Hoxton** (Dec 1-24). It's had a Christmassy makeover, complete with a UV-covered crazy-golf course, retro arcade games, pinball machines, foosball and 4D Pong. (Nothing says 'the most wonderful time of the year' quite like a nu-rave aesthetic.) If you're after something more traditional, go to the **Tiffany & Co ice rink** (Fri Nov 29-Dec 26) in Covent Garden, which has a Central Park-inspired bridge, a giant snow globe and a huge perfume bottle that will spritz out Tiffany Eau de Parfum (we can't confirm or deny whether it smells like being rich enough to shop in the famous jewellery store). This is the only place you can skate for free in the city – just make sure you book in advance.



## Hot booze

Sure, mulled wine is festive but it's easy to get saturated with the stuff before you've even reached December (see also: mince pies, Mariah Carey, the words 'party season'). Thankfully, it's not the only hot, boozy beverage in town. Sip on hot cider at the **Rekorderlig Cider Lodge** on the South Bank (until Jan 5), where you can keep cosy next to fire pits and feast on Swedish fare. Prefer gin? Head to **Wright Brothers Soho's Winter Terrace** (until 2020, date TBC), which has created winter warmers with Sipsmith including Mulled Gin and Gingerbread and a Chocolate Orange Espresso Martini. Or snap up tickets for our very own **Hotboozapalooza** (Dec 5) at Vinegar Yard, where you can sample four toasty tipples. You know what they always say: cold beverages, cold heart.



HOT BOOZE PALOOZA: DAVID TETT



## Winter pop-ups



### Igloos (and hot tubs)

Much like skating at Somerset House and shopping on Oxford Street, hanging out in PVC 'igloos' has become an essential part of Christmas in London. Get involved at **Coppa Club** near Tower Bridge (until Apr), the place that started this trend in 2016, where you'll enjoy sweet views of the Thames. Alternatively, visit Fulham's **Winterland London** (until early 2020), which has igloos, wood cabins and, if you can bear to strip off, hot tubs (in which you can order food and drink – tempted, now?). Don't forget to leave a 'Titanic'-style condensation handprint on the side of the plastic dome before you leave.

### Festive films

Forget scrolling through Netflix for seasonal stuff and head to one of the capital's pop-up cinemas. Backyard Cinema has two venues, both in Wandsworth – **The Winter Night Garden** (until Jan 6) and **Christmas at the Snow Kingdom** (until Jan 6) – where you can watch all your faves ('Elf', 'Love Actually', 'Die Hard'). Or catch a classic in grand surroundings at **The Luna Winter Cinema** at Kensington Palace (Dec 15-22). If you've spent all your cash on novelty gifts, there are loads of free screenings at the Southbank Centre's **Winter Pop-Up Cinema** (until Dec 29). Or brave the great outdoors at the **Floating Film Festival** at St Katharine Docks (Dec 2-8) – but maybe BYOB to that one (that's blanket, FYI).



### Nostalgia

'Tis the season for remembering pop culture from the good old days, apparently. Go back in time at **Miracle** (until Dec 24), the hugely popular American pop-up bar, which has set up shop at Covent Garden's Henrietta Hotel this year. The vibe is Christmas kitsch: think '70s decorations, retro accessories and a menu of creative takes on old-school cocktails, including a Snowball Old Fashioned and a Christmapolitan. Continue the nostalgic vibes at **Queen of Hoxton's Emerald City Winter Rooftop** (until May 1): follow the Yellow Brick Road up to the cosy wigwam and enjoy hearty Kansas-style food, fire pits with marshmallows to toast and a hidden bar serving hot and cold green cocktail delights. No flying monkeys allowed.



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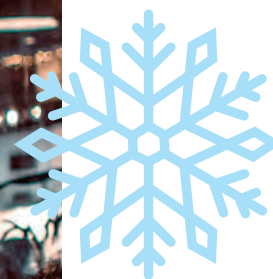
T&C's apply\*



## Winter pop-ups

### Forests

Broadgate Circle, aka Banker Central, might be an unlikely spot for a woodland but that's about to change thanks to the arrival of **The Winter Forest** (until Dec 20). Decorated with snow-covered pine trees and twinkly fairy lights, it's a multipurpose pop-up with whisky-tasting, gin masterclasses, charity pub quizzes, live music and floristry workshops. You can also get lost in the foliage and tuck into tasty street food at **Pergola Paddington's Urban Winter Forest** (until March), which is covered in lights and seasonal greenery. Unlike a real forest, it has the added bonus of being totally weatherproof, as its retractable roof has been firmly put back on after the summer. Pheew.



Find more festive fun at [timeout.com/christmas](http://timeout.com/christmas)



### Gingerbread houses

Ever wanted to get drunk in a gingerbread house? All your festive dreams are about to come true. At Spitalfields pub **The Gun**, the dining room has been transformed into a gingerbread chalet (until Feb) complete with an edible advent calendar. Fentimans is also getting in on the fiery action with its **Pink Gingerbread House** at Skylight in Tobacco Dock (until Jan 25), which you can book for up to groups of eight if you're willing to splash some serious cash. Prices range from £90 to £180 for three hours, which includes waiter service, one drink and your chance to eat the sweets lining the walls (yes, it's basically a very expensive pick 'n' mix). Alternatively, feel like a giant and marvel at the **Museum of Architecture's Gingerbread City** (Dec 7-Jan 5): a model metropolis made of spiced dough that's popping up at Somerset House for the first time. This year's theme is 'transport'. All aboard! ■



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# GO OUT WITH

## TimeOut

Food, drink, screenings, pop-ups: don't miss our exclusive offers and discounts

DON'T MISS

### Roka

**What is it?** Bottomless brunch at this high-tech Japanese eatery, plus unlimited bubbles.

**Why go?** Roka is back again, with its delicious range of small plates, mains and desserts. But hurry, this offer flies off the shelves faster than you can say 'sayonara'!

**What's exclusive?** Tuck into super sashimi, mouthwatering gyoza and more for just £45.

→ Roka. ☺ Temple. Until Mar 29 2020.  
www.timeout.com/roka19



### Grill Jam

**What is it?** London's winter barbecue festival – who says it has to be summer to sizzle?

**Why go?** To fulfil all your grilled food fantasies, even when it's a bit nippy outside. Expect to feast on sweet meat and raclette, and sip a free beer or cocktail from Goose Island.

**What's exclusive?** Get entry, food and a whole load of extra goodies for just £12 – saving you 22 percent.

→ Bussey Building, Peckham Rye Overground.  
Dec 13-15. www.timeout.com/grilljam

### Crazy Bear

**What is it?** Your choice of a two- or three-course meal at Thai-riffic eatery Crazy Bear.

**Why go?** A peppy purveyor of Asian cuisine, this cosy restaurant is offering plates of crispy salt-and-pepper squid, succulent pork belly, aubergine panang curry and more.

**What's exclusive?** Save up to 60 percent on lunch, including a glass of champagne.

→ Crazy Bear. ☺ Goodge St. Until Aug 31 2020.  
www.timeout.com/bear19

### Dan's

**What is it?** Dance classes at a vibrant central London studio.

**Why go?** To shake up your workout routine while saving sweet moolah. Choose from three categories (fitness, soul and technique), then get into the rhythm and make Shakira jealous.

**What's exclusive?** Try a single class for £10 or get a three-class package for £29. That's up to 42 percent off.

→ Dan's. ☺ Oxford Circus. Until Jan 31 2020.  
www.timeout.com/dans

### Rise Festival

**What is it?** A music festival in a world-class resort in the Alps.

**Why go?** There'll be ear candy from the likes of Chase & Status, Solardo, Craig Charles and Horse Meat Disco, plus gondola raves, glacier yoga, husky sleigh rides and Arctic ice discos. Skis on, London.

**What's exclusive?** Visit the festival and get a six-day lift pass, too, for £199. Yep, we're giving you £60 off.

→ Les Deux Alpes, France. Dec 14-21.  
www.timeout.com/risefest

Theatre, music, events: get the best tickets in town at [timeout.com/london/offers](http://timeout.com/london/offers)



TimeOut

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# Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe  
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

## EVENT OF THE WEEK

# The London Illustration Fair

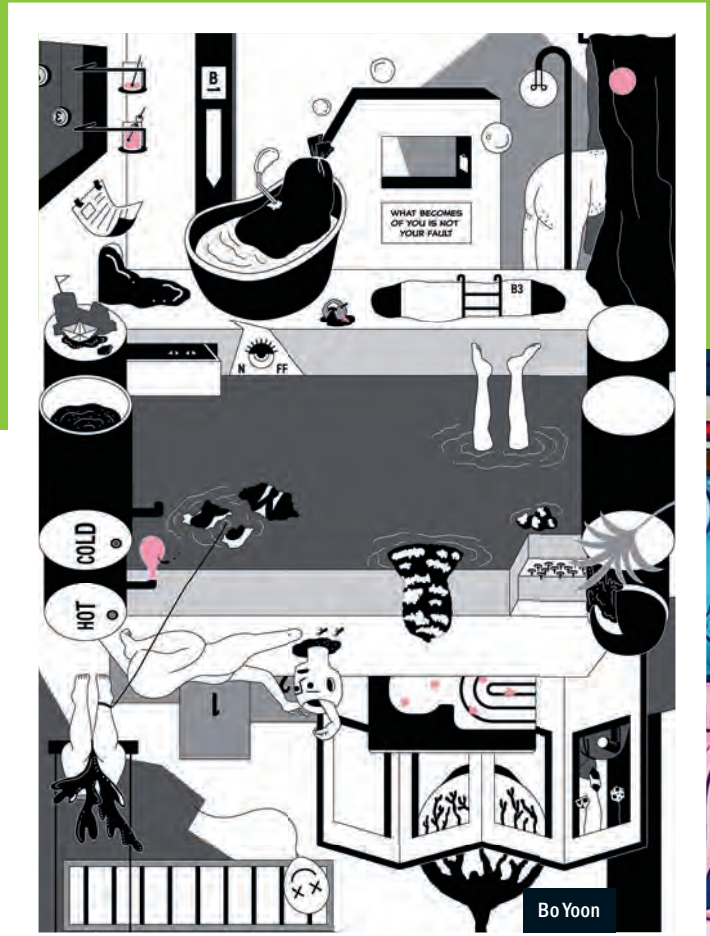
**SHARPEN YOUR PENCILS!** The London Illustration Fair is back and sprinkling Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf with kaleidoscopic murals, hand-drawn VR experiences and explosive club nights. This showcase of contemporary artists takes place from November 29 to December 1, and at its heart is a huge exhibition of new and established names all pushing the boundaries of illustration, plus plenty of chances to snap up unusual Christmas presents. Or, you can hone your own skills at one of many hands-on workshops.

This year's charcoal-wielding headliners include 'special guest artist' **Alec Doherty**, whose live-wire character-based images often feature in sculptures or installations. There are also large-scale pieces promised from **Rude (Abi and Rupert Meats)**, a design duo who love a good slogan, and **Alice**

**Tams**, an artist best known for giving London's loved or loathed pigeons a dapper makeover in her 'Birds in Hats' series. She'll be painting a mural of her anthropomorphic artwork live at the event and immortalising the fair's attendees as pigeons in hats.

We've also got our eye on up-and-coming South Korean artist **Bo Yoon** and her black-and-white digital series about everyday anxieties.

Once you've picked up creations from artists selling their prints, books and designs, get busy at one of the fantastic workshops. In **Collage Nostalgia** you can bring vintage photographs to life with doodles and collages, and **Book Arts** lets you loose with upcycled materials to transform old books into treasures. There's also the excellent-looking **From Fashion Ad to Protest**, re-evaluating magazine ads as craftivism, **Embroidered Tattoos**,



More wonder stalls at  
[timeout.com/markets](http://timeout.com/markets)



Alec Doherty

Rude

#### WHAT IS IT...

A festival of drawing that has a market packed with works from the best illustrators in the city.

#### WHY GO...

To turn your doodles of stick men into Virtual Reality.

→ The London Illustration Fair. Bargehouse, Oxo Tower Wharf. ☺ Blackfriars. Fri Nov 29-Sun Dec 1. From £10.

→ UK Illustration Championships. Boxpark Wembley. ☺ Wembley Park. Fri Nov 29-Sun Dec 1. From £7.50.

Alice Tams

where needles and skin are switched for needles and paper, and **From Real to Virtual** where you can turn your own scribbles into eye-popping VR.

Bag a ticket for the opening event to get sweaty in a club night takeover by Margate's **Fantastic Pleasure**, who'll be playing cosmic disco, house and Balearic beats to projected animations. If you've really got the illustration bug, check out the **UK Illustration Championships** happening across the same weekend at Boxpark Wembley, where, in illustration's answer to '8 Mile', you can see top artists compete in live mural battles to create images inspired by a recent news headline. Warning: things might get a little graphic. ■



By Rosemary Waugh  
Who can draw a surprisingly good Moomin.

## Editors' pick

Life drawing classes with a difference

### Pencil & Pointe: Ballet Life Drawing Class

Join Royal Ballet School-trained Shardae-Rose Angel and artist Naomi Taylor for a dance-themed live drawing event. At the next class, for added festive appeal, the model will be wearing a full costume from 'The Nutcracker' and students can enjoy a glass of mulled wine while they sketch.

→ Vivid Studios, Stamford Hill Overground. Next class: Mon 2 Dec. £10.

### Life Drawing Class in the Park

Get back to nature with this outdoor life drawing session in the beautiful surroundings of Morden Hall Park. Note: this is Britain in winter, so the model will definitely be wearing clothes.

→ Morden Hall Park. ☺ Morden. Next class: Dec 22. £15.50.

### Anti Diet Riot Life Drawing

Held every third Wednesday of the month in Hoxton, this life drawing class celebrates naked bodies of all kinds and even provides the chance for students to have a go at modelling (but don't fret, that part's not compulsory!).

→ Colours. ☺ Old St. Next class: 18 Dec. £10-£15.



# Four very cool things you can do at the new menswear floor of John Lewis & Partners Oxford Street

It's the John Lewis & Partners you're used to, but even better. Everything on the menswear floor has been upgraded, and we've got the lowdown on the standout new features...

## 1 The Pitch

An all-new area at the heart of the menswear floor, The Pitch showcases a rotating selection of lifestyle and grooming brands that will change seasonally, and will host a series of events, the first being life hacks. Pop down for latte art demonstrations and recommendations on what music should be on your winter season playlist; today is the last day, cashmere and gifting takes over from tomorrow. Of course, you can (and should) spend time browsing the superb selection of menswear brands while you're here: highlights include John Lewis & Partners' brand new collection, Nudie Jeans and It's All Good Folk - an exclusive to John Lewis & Partners.

## 2 Free Mission Appointments

Always wanted a bit of expert personal styling? You can get it for free here – choosing from five different services. Event Decode, to make you the best dressed in the room whatever the occasion; Modern Office, to help you build the perfect work wardrobe; Denim, Sorted will finally find your perfect size; Suitcase Refresh offers personalised holiday suggestions; and Style Shake-Up, if you're interested in a complete revamp of your wardrobe. Style advisors can also introduce you to fragrance and grooming treatments available in-store as well. And remember: there's no obligation to buy anything.

## 3 The Ultimate Menswear Experience

Take things to the next level by booking a bespoke experience at the VIP style suite, known as The Speak Easy by John Lewis & Partners. Whether you're in the mood for a total style transformation or need a couple of key pieces for a special



event, you'll find it here at this appointment-only offering. The service costs £75 (£50 of which is redeemable against store purchases), and includes two hours of advice from a dedicated style advisor on clothing, fragrances, skincare and optical framing. You could even ask about home design! There are also grooming services available as add-ons, including facial, brow and manicure treatments. The best part? The space features a slick bar, where you can relax with a drink and light bites during your appointment.



## 4 Walk & Talk

Expert advice isn't restricted to appointment-only experiences, though: a world of style knowledge is now available to anybody who walks on to the shop floor. Walk & Talk offers instant, informal tips from a style advisor, lasting anywhere from five to 30 minutes – they will be able to do everything from offering you tips on achieving a new look with the brands on offer to just giving a second opinion. The service is free, with no commitment to buy.



# SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

## Friday



### 'Seven Worlds, One Planet' Late

Glued to the new David Attenborough doc? Get closer to the on-screen action at this late. Talk to the producers who made the breathtaking 'Antarctica' episode and find out more about the animals.

→ Natural History Museum. Ⓞ South Kensington. Fri Nov 29. Free.

#### BROWSE Imprint

Pick up photobooks, zines and comics at this publishing fair that explores how we think about cities. Look out for free talks, printing workshops and walking tours, too. → The Building Centre. Ⓞ Goodge St. Fri Nov 29-Sun Dec 1. Free.

#### BREAK A SWEAT Yule Jog

Pound sparkling pavements on these 5k or 10k runs past the city's best festive lights. Each runner gets a Santa hat and Christmas classics will be blasting all the way. → Meet at Covent Garden station. Fri Nov 29-Dec 23. From £9.50.

## Saturday



#### SHOP Pebblefestive

Stuff your stockings with sustainable gifts from this conscious Christmas market. Pick up eco skincare, fashion and homeware and tuck into plant-based treats. → Flat Iron Square. Ⓞ London Bridge. Sat Nov 30. £7.50.

#### BOOZE Crate's Winter Escape Festival

Brewers, local makers, DJs, live music and workshops will fill the canalside warehouse for this winter party. → Mick's Garage. Hackney Wick Overground. Sat Nov 30. Free.

### Winter Wildfire

Get festive feels at this day-to-night Christmas party in a Georgian mansion. By day, join Xmas workshops and go wild swimming. At night, dance to DJs, sip mulled wine and join a stargazing sesh.

→ Beckenham Place Mansion. Beckenham Junction rail. Sat Nov 30. From £20.

## Sunday

### Turning Earth Winter Market

Find top potters selling their creations. There'll also be demos, Vietnamese food and glögg to wash it down.

→ Turning Earth Leyton. Lea Bridge rail. Sat Nov 30-Sun Dec 1. Free.



#### EXPLORE Cockpit Arts Winter Open Studio

A rare chance to peek behind the scenes of these creative studios and buy from some of the best craftspeople in London. → Cockpit Arts. Ⓞ Chancery Lane. Fri Nov 29-Sun Dec 1. £5.

#### LISTEN 'The Rapphology Experience'

Rapper Wretch 32 plays his fave tracks from the last 30 years at this intimate talk. → Queen Elizabeth Hall. Ⓞ Waterloo. Sun Dec 1. £12.50-£20.

Find more warm winter nooks at [timeout.com/cosy](http://timeout.com/cosy)



Advertisement feature



# Get all of your Christmas shopping done in one trip

Gift more for less this festive season thanks to ICON Outlet at The O2

Whether you're excited about festivities or you usually don't put your tree up until late December, there's one thing that's becoming unavoidable: Christmas shopping. Luckily, you can forget about schlepping all over the city, because ICON Outlet has a bunch of shops under one roof. That's right, you can get your whole shopping list done in one go and keep your wallet merry too, because ICON has up to 70 percent off more than 60 premium brands. Here's what's in store for you on your visit...

## All wrapped up

Don't wanna get caught in a ball of sticky tape? If Xmas wrapping feels like origami to you, ditch the stress by using the free gift-wrapping service and get everything neatly packed before you even head home. Plus you'll get four hours of free parking if you spend more than £35, and free home delivery if you spend more than £150. Now that's worth jingling your bells about, isn't it?

## A fashion glow-up

If new threads fill you with Noël,

then ICON Outlet at The O2 has got you covered. There's a whole host of stores to explore, so you can upgrade your wardrobe in no time – or find your giftee the perfect new clobber. We're talking discounts on luxury clothes, shoes and accessories – and for the sports fans, the newest openings include Adidas, Nike and New Balance. So there's no reason to feel unfashionable while you work out anymore (even with those sweaty armpits).

If you fancy upping your self-care routine, or want to help your hard-working friends relax, then try out a whole new bath-time routine with products from The Body Shop, or get your nose around some new smells at Indulge Fragrances. Or, for pampering gifts, Beauty Outlet and The Cosmetics Company Store can cover all your stocking filler needs.

## Deck the halls

Unless you're a big old Scrooge, bringing a spark of seasonal joy into your home can really help to set the mood. But beyond the baubles, there's a whole world of house possibilities, including upping your food game or giving your home a

fragrance facelift. So if you've got guests, bag some festive teas by Whittard of Chelsea and place neat boxes of chocolates on your coffee table (you'll find some sumptuous ones at Hotel Chocolat and Lindt, which make great gifts, too). As for scents, we've got two words for you: Yankee Candle.

## Need to keep the kids occupied? That's child's play...

Why? Because Christmas activities will be running for your littl' uns throughout the festive season, including personalised crafting and decor. And if you wanna find a treat for them, pick out something from Build-a-Bear Workshop or Gap Outlet childrenswear. Easy.



→ Find out more information at [www.iconattheo2.co.uk](http://www.iconattheo2.co.uk)

## THREE OF THE BEST

### Tree planting events



#### Rumble on the Roding

You better be-leaf it – the first Positive Trace Party is coming to the capital. Head to the River Roding for a day of planting, dancing, laughing and restoring nature's ecosystems in the community. Expect a banquet cooked on a flotilla of canal boats, live music and fireside storytelling by pro yarn-spinners The Embers Collective.

→ Barking. ☉ Barking. Sat Nov 30. £15-£20.



#### Community tree planting in Mile End Park

Join forces with the Woodland Trust's Big Climate Fightback and Tower Hamlets Council in this big, free plantathon to help grow a mix of deciduous and evergreen tree species, specially chosen to replicate British woodland.

→ Mile End Park, meet Haverfield Green. ☉ Mile End. Sat Nov 30. Free



#### More Trees Please!

Friends of the Earth is hosting nationwide planting events as a part of National Tree Week, including this one in Enfield. Meet local residents' groups and learn how to create space for nature. The more trees, the better, ya dig? *Angela Hui*

→ Weir Hall Recreation Ground. White Hart Lane Overground. Sat Nov 30. Free.

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FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER: 10:00 am – 8:00 pm  
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## AND YOU CAN GIVE BACK, TOO

Haven't heard about the Brent Cross giving tree? This is your chance to give back and become a real-life secret Santa to kids who wouldn't otherwise receive a gift this Christmas. All you have to do is pick a tag, buy a gift and pass it to the information desk.

# What's going on at Brent Cross this Christmas?

Christmas shopping is unavoidable – but it doesn't have to be a chore. Here's why you should head to Brent Cross to do yours

### A whole bunch of stores to choose from

Forget slogging across the city. Yep, not only does Brent Cross already have a wide range of stores (which means you can get all your shopping done in one place), but some new openings are happening just in time for Christmas, including Molton Brown, Shake Shack, Hotel Chocolat, Carvela, Waterstones and Space NK. Besides, with twinkly Christmas lights keeping some pep in your step as you shop, and free gift-wrapping services available too, ticking off your Yuletide list couldn't be easier.

### Visit Santa's Grotto

For a sprinkle of Christmas magic,

visit the bearded man himself. For just £2 entry you (or, more likely, your kiddos) will get to set foot in the grotto and receive a gift. Special quiet hours are also available and if you download the Brent Cross Plus app you can get £2 off your snap with ol' Saint Nick.

### Events for kids

Bringing your ankle-biters along? If you already know that your lovely little angels are going to get bored (or over-stimulated), then here's some good news: you can drop the kids off at indoor play centre Topsy Turvy or grab a much-needed break in the all-new Family Room. And if you want to treat them then check the events calendar – a bunch of

mini kids events will be popping up during the festive period.

### Free parking and late openings

Yep, we said it. Free parking – the one thing London is famous for not having. So you don't have to worry about lugging gifts in heavy bags around on public transport. Plus, the early and late-night openings in December mean you can visit when it suits you, instead of rushing or

giving away some of your precious weekend time.

### A chance to reward yourself

No matter how much of a giver you are, we all need to park ourselves for a quick five minutes of rest during our shopping efforts. Some advice: give yourself a pat on the back (or let someone else do it for you) by visiting the Massage Angels. Ahh, much better.



# BRENT CROSS

→ For more information, visit [www.brentcross.co.uk](http://www.brentcross.co.uk). To visit via public transport, take the Northern line (Edgware branch) to Hendon Central or Brent Cross



SUPPORT THIS

# Choose Love

**'TIS THE SEASON** to be a capitalist consumer, but if scuffles at the tills over Black Friday bargains give you chills, spend discount day at this special shop where the aim is to leave empty-handed.

Set up by Help Refugees, Choose Love is the world's only shop selling real gifts for refugees. Inside you'll find shelves filled with emergency blankets, children's shoes and mobile phone credit. Once you've bought what you can, the products are distributed by one of more than 80 projects that the humanitarian aid organisation works with around the world.



**WHAT IS IT...**  
The world's only shop selling gifts for refugees.

**WHY GO?**  
To beat Black Friday by buying a meaningful present for someone in need.

→ 47-49 Neal St. ☺  
Covent Garden. Fri Nov 29-Dec 24.

The shop is split into three areas, each containing things that refugees need at different stages of their journeys. In the 'Arrival' section you'll find warm clothing and food; 'Shelter' is filled with tents and sleeping bags; 'Future' holds education supplies, LGBTQ+ support and mental health care.

Items on sale start at £3, or if you're feeling altruistic, you can buy special collections of gifts like the Bundle of Hope which pays for mental health care, adult learning and women's support. If you like, you can buy the entire contents of the shop.

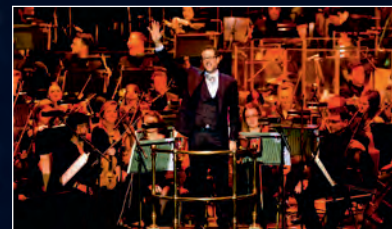
This is the third year Choose Love has popped up in London in the run-up to Christmas. In 2018 a huge queue snaked outside the entrance. What better way to stick two fingers up at the Black Friday frenzy and do some good instead. ■ *Alexandra Sims*

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PROJECT PRESSURE

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

The Antarctic peninsula, 2018. Aqua-Magika, January 8, 2016. NASA/Jessie Allen/LAADS/Michael Benson.  
Copyright Michael Benson/ Courtesy of Project Pressure.



TRENDING



Outdoor hot tubs

Bathing is now an outdoor activity in London. Winterland's alpine pop-up in Fulham comes with alfresco 'Nordic' hot tubs. Meanwhile, Skuna's Hot Tub Boat experience has gone one further, with a floating hot tub that bobs along through central London. Rub-a-dub-dub.

→ Winterland. Imperial Wharf Overground. Until Feb 29 2020. £150 for 45 minutes (up to six people). Find out more about Skuna Hot Tub Boats at [www.skunaboats.com](http://www.skunaboats.com).

Prefer a heated pool? Try [timeout.com/lidos](http://timeout.com/lidos)

SAMPLE SALE

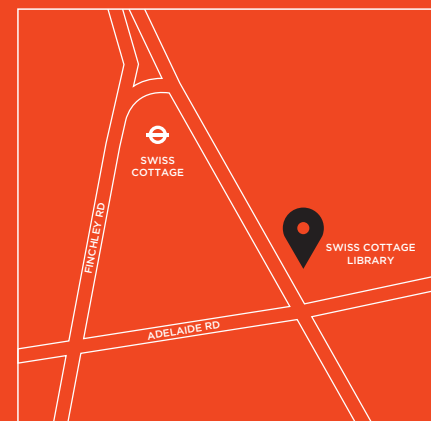
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# Christmas is coming to Samsung KX

A dash of gin, a night of tunes and a blast of Mariah: the bumper December selection of workshops at Samsung KX has it all!



### Silent Disco

Get your headphones on and tune into one of three DJ-controlled channels for all of your favourite pop, rock and party favourites – plus some banging Christmas hits. Oh, and as a festive favour, we're taking £5 off the ticket price, which means that now you'll only have to pay £5 for entry. What can we say? We're givers...

→ Dec 14, 7pm.

### East London Liquor Company

Ladies and gentlemen, we have an announcement: gin is not just for summer. Sign up for this one-off class and the brainboxes behind East London Liquor Company will talk you through their distillation wizardry (with a few helpful tasters along the

way), before showing you how to make the perfect hot gin toddy.  
→ Dec 19, 6.30pm.

### Mariah Carey dance workshop with Cassius Powell

Christmas isn't Christmas without Mariah. Embrace the absolute queen of festive hits with a little help from personal trainer-slash-dance-teacher Cassius Powell. The classes are fast, fierce and seriously fun, and he's now giving us the festive remix with a special sesh dedicated to Mariah's sassiest moves.

→ Dec 20, 1pm.

## #SamsungKX

→ Find out more about Samsung KX at [www.samsung.com/uk/kx](http://www.samsung.com/uk/kx).

→ To buy tickets visit [www.timeout.com/samsungkx](http://www.timeout.com/samsungkx)

SATURDAY 7TH & SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER  
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11AM-7PM

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GREENWICH PENINSULA CURATED BY: HEMINGWAY DESIGN

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DON'T MISS

# Art Car Boot Fair

**EVER LOOKED IN** the window of a commercial gallery in Mayfair, and found it completely empty save for a lone curator at desk, surrounded by expensive art on impossibly white walls? Imagine the exact opposite of that, and you've got the Art Car Boot Fair, one of the most madcap, entrancing art events in London, where big names flog their work from little stalls or the boot of a car. It's a chance to buy pieces by Susie Hamilton, Colin Self, Polly Morgan and a new release from photographer Juno Calypso for a song. Still an expensive song, but, you know, much cheaper than a gallery. It's so much more than a



**WHAT IS IT...**  
A big eccentric car boot where famous artists sell their work in person.

**WHY GO?**  
To strike a pose for top photographer Rankin in the 'Rankin Live' photobooth.

→ The Workshop.  
↻ Lambeth  
North, Sun Dec 1,  
2pm-4.30pm. £10.



market, because the artists taking part, really take part. You can ask Calypso about her ethereal pink dream portraits in person and see artists who sell their stuff for thousands finish work right in front of you (Gavin Turk will be completing a new piece to sell

for just £100). Or you can take a gamble at the Secret Santa Art Casino, where you can buy art that's all wrapped up. New this year is the 'Rankin Live' portrait booth, where the man himself will be taking people's portraits FOR FREE. He's photographed Cate

Blanchett and Jarvis Cocker. Now Rankin is about to meet his next muse: you. ■ *Katie McCabe*

Give boring events the boot at [timeout.com/thingstodo](http://timeout.com/thingstodo)

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The British Museum

21 Nov 2019 – 8 Mar 2020

Filippo Albacini, *The Wounded Achilles*. 1825.  
© The Devonshire Collections, Chatsworth.

## WHERE TO FIND

# Christmas night markets



Columbia Road Christmas Wednesdays

### Columbia Road Christmas Wednesdays

The road famous for its flower market is swapping blooms for firs as its independent shops stay open until 9pm for these annual

Christmas evenings. Every Wednesday in the lead-up to Christmas you can beat the usual Sunday crowds, pick up unique stocking-fillers and grab fragrant festive greenery. Look out for the

local vicar wheeling a piano down the street to accompany the carol singers and dancing pearly queens.

→ Columbia Rd. Hoxton Overground. Wed Nov 27, Dec 4, 11, 18. Free entry.

### Maltby Street After Dark Christmas Market

Guzzle Christmas dishes from around the globe as the food market traders set up their stalls after dark beneath Bermondsey's fairy-light-festooned Victorian railway arches. There'll be carolling, wine and mince pies, a live wreath-making demonstration and responsibly sourced Christmas trees to buy. Get ready to feel like you've wandered into 'A Christmas Carol'.

→ Maltby Street Market. ☉ London Bridge. Fri Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20. Free.

### Peckham Palms Christmas Market

Just off Rye Lane, the Peckham Palms covered arcade is filled with hair and beauty businesses run by black women. At their Afrocentric Christmas market you can pick up gifts, homeware and hair and beauty products all made by locals. Look out for DJs and hair or nail treatments on offer too. Once you've got your shopping haul, stop for a well-earned drink in Mae J's, the café-bar named after Dr Mae Jemison, the first African-American woman to travel into space.

→ Unit 1-14 Bournemouth Close. Peckham Rye Overground. Fri Nov 29-Sat Nov 30. Free entry.

### William Morris Gallery Christmas Night Market

Arts and crafts are more than a movement at this Christmas night market.

Head to the former gaff of the artist, socialist and source of all that flowery wallpaper to pick up gifts, accessories and homeware from local artists and craftspeople. Then you can mosey around the gallery's exhibition 'Pioneers: William Morris and the Bauhaus'.

→ William Morris Gallery. ☉ Walthamstow Central. Fri Nov 29. £1 donation.

### Old Spitalfields Market Christmas Shopping Lates

Neon decorations by Hackney's Pom Pom Factory, a gospel choir and a zero-waste makers' market will provide the Christmassy vibes at Old Spitalfields Market's late-night festive shopping bonanza. Join wreath-making workshops with Rebel Rebel, browse wares from the Urban Makers market until 8pm, listen to steel pans and warm your hands on a cup of mulled wine. ■

Alexandra Sims

→ Old Spitalfields Market. ☉ Liverpool St. Dec 4, 11, 18. Free entry.

london transport museum

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THE MAYOR OF LONDON  
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WATCH

**London Migration Film Festival**

Migration Collective hosts this week-long fest of films, talks, workshops and art all portraying the diversity of migration. See the opening gala screening of 'Aga', which explores the impact of climate change and urbanisation on people's movements, talks on the media and migration, a live show from Sudanese funk band The Scorpions and interactive theatre exploring freedom of movement.

→ Various venues. Thu Nov 28-Dec 4. Prices vary.

LEARN

**C The 'QI' Literary Quiz**

Round up your mates and get a team together for this live version of the comedy quiz show. 'QI' creator John Lloyd and his 'elves' James Harkin and Anne Miller will be taking you to task with some book-focused questions. Win and you could walk away with a Faber & Faber literary hamper.

→ Foyles. Covent Garden. Thu Nov 28. £6 per person.

**E Flavour of the Month: We Love Crisps**

Discover how crisp flavours are created, how they evoke memories and how they combine creativity and science, at this night led by a top crisp flavourist. Snack on a specially commissioned London crisp designed to taste like brick dust and dirt, and sip on crisp-dust Martini while you're at it.

→ The Curtain. Shoreditch High St Overground. Wed Nov 27. £18.

**TO DO**  
The best events in your area

C Central N North S South E East W West

**WOW** City Lights and Woodland Shade  
都市の光、郷の灯  
Digital art encounters with Japan  
21 Nov 2019 – 22 Mar 2020

Exhibition Admission Free #WOWJapanHouse

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JapanHouseLondon.uk | @JapanHouseLDN | High Street Kensington

JAPAN HOUSE LONDON

**N Black Girls Stitch Up**

Don't know a seed stitch from a French knot? Learn how to sew at this beginners' class for women of colour (although everyone's welcome). Once you've mastered simple embroidery, teacher Shikira Alleyne-Samuel will show you how to appliqué an Afro-style head wrap.

→ The Village Haberdashery. West Hampstead. Sat Nov 30. £30.

BUY

**S The Kiln Rooms Christmas Sale**

This ceramics studio has packed both its Peckham sites with pieces from 100 up-and-coming artists. Meet the makers behind the wheel and pick up Christmas gifts.

→ The Kiln Rooms. Peckham Rye Overground. Fri Nov 29-Sun Dec 1. Free entry.

**E Acid Jazz Record Fair**

Record label Acid Jazz and Totally Wired Radio are behind this pop-up shop packed with exclusive stock, limited edition merch and more than 15,000 vinyl records to flick through.

→ 146 Bethnal Green Rd. Shoreditch High St Overground. Thu Nov 28-Dec 8. Free entry.

EAT

**C Pick & Cheese Belt Takeover**

Seven Dials Market's conveyor belt of cheese is being hijacked by London's oldest cheesemonger, Paxton & Whitfield. Chomp down on tasty cheese and condiment pairings, like Giorgio Cravero parmigiano reggiano with whipped sea salt honey.

→ Seven Dials Market. Covent Garden. Wed Nov 27. Free entry.

JOIN IN

**W Christmas at WWT London Wetland Centre**

Can't make it to Lapland this Christmas? Head to Zone 3 and you can hop on a husky sleigh-ride through the city's wild wetlands.

→ WWT London Wetland Centre. Barnes Bridge rail. Sat Nov 30-Sun Dec 1, Dec 14-15. £13.

**S The Queen's House Ice Rink**

Whizz around one of London's prettiest Unesco World Heritage sites at south London's only outdoor ice rink. Sat in front of Greenwich's Queen's House, this rink's a real stunner.

→ Queen's House. Cutty Sark DLR. Fri Nov 29-Jan 12 2020. £13.50-£16.

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# Film

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

## INTRODUCING

# Mati Diop

The first black female director to be nominated for a Palme d'Or is taking on prisoners

**'I CAN'T STAND** watching Africa being misrepresented. It hurts me too much.' So says French-Senegalese filmmaker Mati Diop. Her acclaimed debut feature film 'Atlantics', which hits cinemas and Netflix simulataneously on Friday, is the perfect riposte to lazy depictions of life on the continent. Set in Dakar, it's the compelling story of a teenage girl, Ada, whose lover goes missing. Diop's hypnotic film mixes the spookiness of a supernatural chiller with the social punch of a neo-realist drama. It's unlike anything else you'll see this year.

The actor-turned filmmaker was born into a multi-talented family. Her father is the musician Wasis Diop and her uncle was the prominent filmmaker Djibril Diop Mambéty (director of 1973 Senegalese classic 'Touki Bouki'), whose presence Diop still feels. 'I didn't get to meet him because I was quite young when he passed away, but I think his films were very mythical. His was a magnetic and charismatic story.'

Migration is a recurring theme in Diop's work. Her 2009 short film 'Atlantiques' explored the subject, showing young African men taking to the sea in flimsy boats. With 'Atlantics' she's flipped the perspective from the men to the women left behind. 'I was interested by the woman's point of view,' she explains. 'I think that point of view came from me.' For her leading

**'I wanted black people to be able to see themselves in the mirror'**





# Atlantics



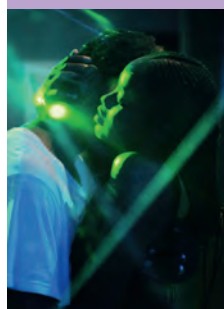
## WHAT IS IT...

A beguiling story of love and migration.

## WHY GO...

For its bewitching, one-of-a-kind romance.

→ Director Mati Diop (12A)  
106 mins.



actress in 'Atlantics', she was looking for 'an extremely rare bird', and after seven months, she found that quality in newcomer Mame Bineta Sane, who exudes an arresting combination of determination, vulnerability and enigma.

As an actor, Diop has those same qualities. They led French arthouse great Claire Denis to cast her in 2008's Paris-set drama '35 Shots of Rum'. It was a formative experience for the aspiring filmmaker. 'The more I make films, the more I realise how important the experience of becoming an actress for Claire Denis was,' she says. She explains that it helped her better understand the eerie connection between actor and character. 'At the end, the character is you,' she explains. 'I think it's how I approach casting, how I approach the work with my actors. It's a very mysterious and deep relationship.'

She's uncomfortable with questions about being the first black woman to be nominated for the Cannes Palme d'Or – you get the sense she likes being categorised even less than her movies do. She says that promoting 'Atlantics' at the festival made her feel more like a symbol than a representative of her own film. 'I think being first a woman, and also not being white, being called black or mixed or French-Senegalese or whatever, it obviously takes a lot of space.' Despite those misgivings, she is keen to represent Africa, and the migration crisis, to as wide an audience as possible. 'My film is talking about a very real geopolitical context,' she says. 'I want to give [people] the chance to experience a new relationship with Africa.'

She has another agenda in mind, too: to do with this mystical, impossible-to-define film what 'Black Panther' did with the superhero genre. 'I made this film for black [people] to give them a chance to see themselves in the mirror. I also wanted to give the audience the possibility to identify with two black characters – to experience a black character and totally forget about his colour and his background. I want them just [to accept him] as a mythical hero.' ■

→ 'Atlantics' opens and launches on Netflix Fri Nov 29.



### By Anna Smith

Who also used to be an actor, mostly as a shepherd in nativity plays.

**YOUNG LOVERS ARE** separated in this atmospheric first feature from French-Senegalese filmmaker Mati Diop. Soon after we meet spirited teenager Ada (Mame Bineta Sane) in Dakar, she is grinning at Souleiman (Ibrahima Traoré) as traffic flies by, his solemn face holding secrets she doesn't yet know. Soon there will be an ocean between them, and she will be left to wonder if he is alive or dead, while marrying a wealthy man she doesn't love. There's something almost Shakespearian about her predicament.

But 'Atlantics' is more than a tragic romance. Set to the vivid rhythms of Ada's daily life, it weaves social commentary with a sense of the supernatural. Her loveless wedding highlights the limited choices for a woman of modest means. She wants more than a man with a flashy car – as do the desperate, unpaid workers who attempt to flee to Spain on a boat.

'Atlantics' focuses on the women left behind, their bond strengthening as they listen to the lapping of the waves that may have taken their men. Diop tackles these serious issues within the framework of a touching drama with intriguing sways into genre territory. Like Ada, you're left oddly bewitched. Its power to surprise is both one of its pleasures and frustrations. Just don't come looking for easy answers. ■ *Anna Smith*

# Knives Out



## WHAT IS IT...

An old-school whodunnit with an all-star cast.

## WHY GO...

To pick up some tips for your Christmas Cluedo marathon.

→ Director Rian Johnson  
(12A) 130 mins.



**RIAN JOHNSON'S AGATHA CHRISTIE**-inspired whodunnit is overly wordy but often a load of fun. After his majestic 'Star Wars' instalment, 'The Last Jedi', he can now attract a mind-blowing and very game cast. You won't find it hard to accept that catty Toni Collette, louche Chris Evans, explosive Jamie Lee Curtis and bumbling Don Johnson are all part of the same clan, the moneyed descendants of bestselling mystery author Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer). Harlan has been murdered in the night and the family are now squirming under police questioning in their creaking Gothic mansion. Do not expect subtlety. This is the kind of movie that tells you 'the game's afoot' twice.

As celebrity detective Benoit Blanc, Daniel Craig is a hilariously liberated highlight. (In his own words, Blanc is a 'respectful, quiet, passive observer... of the truth!') Another highlight is Harlan's medical caretaker, Marta (Ana de Armas), who transitions from enduring casually lobbed racial slurs to maybe having the upper hand. In a movie crammed with chat, it's actually the sight of Marta on a balcony high above all the others that will leave the audience cheering loudest. Sometimes words aren't necessary. Though on the evidence of 'Knives Out', Johnson only half-believes this. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

The best Christmas pop-ups  
at [timeout.com/film](https://www.timeout.com/film)

## Film

# The Nightingale



**'BRUTAL' IS TOO** mild a word to describe 'The Nightingale', a brilliantly harrowing indictment of white male oppression in British-ruled Australia circa 1825. If you thought director Jennifer Kent pulled no punches with her supernatural debut 'The Babadook', brace yourself for the existential evil that lurks in the hearts of men.

Newlywed mother Clare Carroll (Aisling Franciosi), an Irish convict servant, sings for drunk soldiers in a Tasmanian penal colony.

The sadistic local commander, Lieutenant Hawkins (Sam Claflin), helplessly infatuated, mixes his toxic abuse of her with the promise of freedom. After learning that his only chance at promotion is a four-day trek to petition his superiors, Hawkins spitefully obliterates any chance of Clare's happiness by attacking her and her family. The viciousness is off the charts.

Left for dead, Clare is transformed into an avenging angel, enlisting a shrewd Tasmanian tracker named Billy (Baykali



### WHAT IS IT...

A brutal revenge thriller from the director of 'The Babadook'.

### WHY GO...

Aisling Franciosi – aka Lyanna Stark in 'Game of Thrones' – is fierce.

→ Director Jennifer Kent (18) 136 mins.

Ganambarr) to help her hunt down Hawkins. So begins a dark journey into the wilds of Van Diemen's Land and a young woman and her guide feeding their surging rage against the racist, patriarchal status quo.

'The Nightingale' isn't a ghost story, but its characters are deeply haunted. This is a world gone wrong, where settlers are slaughtered

in their sleep and death means a dozen stabs to the chest. But, remarkably, it's not without hope. Through all the trauma, there's resilience and the promise of a new dawn. 'You can't kill what's already dead,' Clare says at one point. She transcends defeat. Ultimately, her dark song is eerily uplifting. ■ Stephen Garrett

# The Two Popes



### WHAT IS IT...

'I Love You, Man' at the Vatican.

### WHY GO...

For all the joyful pontiff-ication.

→ Director Fernando Meirelles (12A) 126 mins.



**THIS ENTERTAINING ODD-COUPLE** bromance about two men in the running for Pope hits the heights when it's just its leads, Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce, whacking great swathes of dialogue back and forth like two old tennis greats. Hopkins's German Pope Benedict, sly but oddly touching behind his crusty exterior, slathers on the topspin; Pryce's Argentinian Cardinal Bergoglio (the future Pope Francis), guileless, direct and blessed with the common touch, smacks it back across the net. It's thrilling stuff, with director Fernando Meirelles's camera close at hand to register every subtle detail.

Opening with Pope John Paul's death in 2005, the film is a loose dramatisation of these rivals' relationship. A clever script from Anthony McCarten ('Darkest Hour') balances liturgical wrangling with lighter moments. One early scene has Bergoglio plonked in front of the football with a glass of wine, while the Pope cloisters himself away with a bottle of his beloved Fanta; the sparky reformer theologian and the conservative are divided by about 30 yards – and a chasm.

Meirelles injects enough visual snap to remind you that he once made 'City of God'. If the second half gets a little sidetracked by flashbacks, another meaty Vatican scene is never too far away. Watching these two actors chewing over big issues – God, ageing, loneliness, celibacy, abuse in the priesthood – under the vast ceilings of this gilded palace is a joy. You've seen 'The Crown', now meet The Mitre. ■ Phil de Semlyen

# The Biggest Little Farm



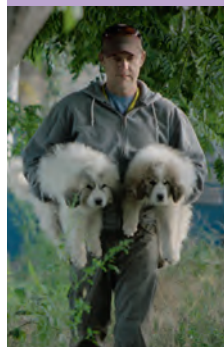
### WHAT IS IT...

A Californian couple try to set up a biodynamic farm from scratch.

### WHY GO...

The puppy sheepdog training will make mush of your heart.

→ Director John Chester (PG) 91 mins.



**LIKE A CROSS** between 'Microcosmos' and an origin story for Old MacDonald, this wonderful doc is possibly the most joyous 90 minutes you'll spend in a cinema this year. Life, death, rebirth, growth and the possibility of a cross-species friendship between a pig and a rooster: it's all here in a film that feels simultaneously cosmic, elemental and personal. Best of all, it'll leave you feeling oddly hopeful for the planet.

The premise is simple: filmmaker John Chester and his wife Molly, tired of the rat race, bought 200 acres of derelict California farmland and set to work converting it into a biodynamic farm with hundreds of crops and no pesticides. Chester recorded what followed over an eight-year period. The wrinkle? Well, everything. From the poultry-hungry coyotes to a drought and a biblical snail infestation. Their dream – and the film – soon becomes about rolling with nature's punches.

And that's what makes it special, because without sugar-coating the crueller aspects of the natural world (one lambing scene is pure nightmare fuel), 'The Biggest Little Farm' is a hymn to resilience – of people and the natural world. It wears its message lightly, indicting industrial farming and the agents of climate change tacitly rather than directly. It might have played out like a 'Portlandia' sketch – privileged urban types discovering organic chickens – but there's not a hint of smugness here, just a refreshing humility in the face of nature's grace and ingenuity. ■ Phil de Semlyen

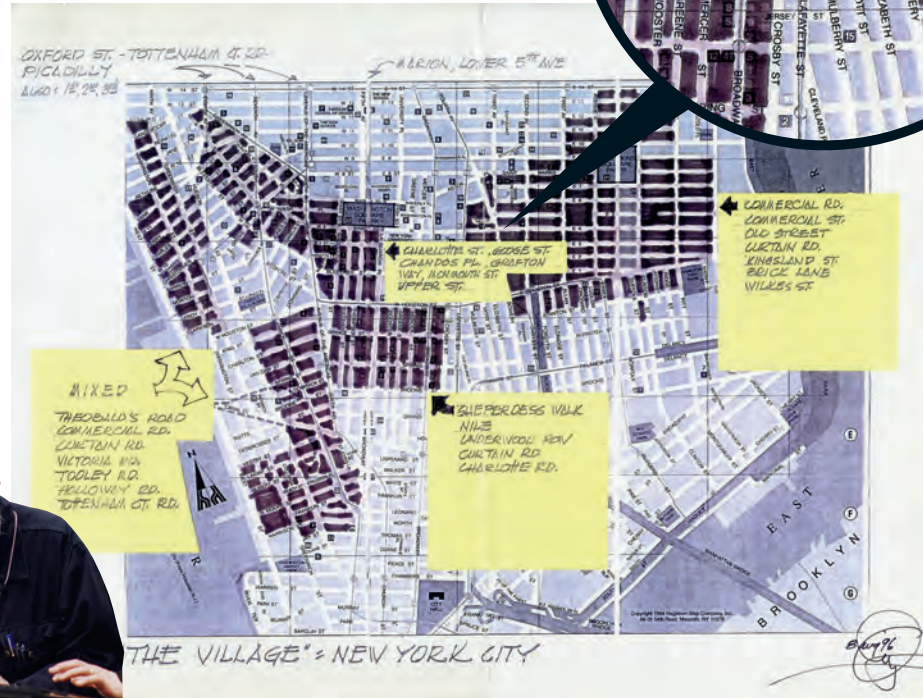
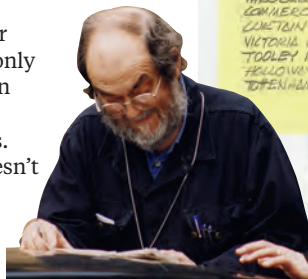
# CLASSICS CORNER 'Eyes Wide Shut' (1999)

As this map shows, Kubrick wanted to film his Manhattan epic entirely in London

**IF THINGS HAD** worked out as intended, Londoners would have spent part of the late '90s sharing the city's streets with Stanley Kubrick, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as the bearded film genius conducted his marathon (and Guinness World Record-breaking) 15-month shoot for 'Eyes Wide Shut'. Morbidly afraid of flying and ensconced in his Hertfordshire country pile at the time, Kubrick planned to film the New York-set erotic drama entirely on location in London. As this pre-production map shows, he'd earmarked a range of locations to stand in for Greenwich Village. In the end, only two – Worship Street and Hatton Garden – were used, with the rest filmed at Pinewood Studios. Presumably London simply doesn't look inappropriate enough. ■

*Phil de Semlyen*

→ 'Eyes Wide Shut' is back in cinemas for its twentieth anniversary on Fri Nov 29.



## ALSO OPENING



### THE STREET

★★★★★ This revealing fly-on-the-wall doc charts the changing fortunes of Hackney's Hoxton Street. Director Zed Nelson spent years interviewing locals and the result is an almost Dickensian-feeling snapshot of the widening gap between the capital's working and middle classes. But it's no clichéd underdog story: Nelson shows some of the toxicity behind the locals' resistance to change. You're left with a feeling that the owners of new beer shops and galleries aren't the real villains here – it's the system that has allowed such rapid change. *Thomas Hobbs*



### I LOST MY BODY

★★★★★ Remember Thing, the hand from 'The Addams Family'? Well, another disembodied mitt is at the centre of this glorious French animation – only it's vulnerable instead of ghoulish. It's an exploration of what it's like to lose part of yourself, both metaphorically and literally. Beautiful animation abounds as the hand journeys through Paris, taking in a melancholy migrant story along the way. But just when it feels too sad to bear, the misfit parts of the story coalesce, building to a climax that's as powerful as a fist and as sensitive as your fingertips. *Alice Saville*



### CHARLIE'S ANGELS

★★★★★ The 'Charlie's Angels' TV show had three gorgeous female private investigators, each with her own hair colour. That's it. It's painful to watch Elizabeth Banks, as sharp a comedian as Hollywood has, try and fail to improve that sexist pitch. As writer-director, she dials back on the bum-ogling of McG's noughties adaptations, with Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott and Ella Balinska as a new generation of Angels. But it doesn't work for the same reason the 2000 and 2003 entries didn't: the premise is so flimsy it collapses before your eyes. *Joshua Rothkopf*



### EYES WIDE SHUT

★★★★★ At the time of its 1999 release, Stanley Kubrick's tepid final film felt a bit embarrassing: hardly a worthy career swansong (as it soon turned out to be). But the movie has grown in the intervening years. Glacially paced dialogue, faked Manhattan locations and that banging piano key all contribute to the faint, unmistakable air of a waking dream. Thematically, Kubrick was always about insiders and outsiders, and 'Eyes Wide Shut', with its orgy passwords and Cruise-and-Kidman marital alienation, fits right in. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

# Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens  
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic

## Jungle's coming home!

Thirty years ago, under Charing Cross station, a new sound was born. As pioneering night Rage returns for one night, we proudly remember how jungle was invented in London

**BACK IN 1989**, rave culture was still in its infancy. In the space of a year, it would change lives across the UK forever. Acid house music, huge raves in fields or abandoned warehouses, multi-racial dancefloors and, of course, ecstasy were all key ingredients in a revolution that we're still living in today. Out of this pivotal time came multiple mutations and evolutions of British electronic music. Jungle was one of those sweet new strains. And what's perhaps forgotten in the haze of history is that London played an instrumental role in the creation of jungle and drum 'n' bass.

It happened at Rage, originally a house night held at legendary gay club Heaven in central London. Then owned by Richard Branson, with a bespoke sound system and an infamous Monday night party, Spectrum, Heaven was a pioneering club at the end of the '80s.

Two DJs, Fabio and Grooverider, played the upstairs room every Thursday, until – as the now fabled story goes – they were asked to cover

the main room DJs downstairs one week, and never went back. 'The second we played the last tune,' recalls Fabio, 'Kevin (Millins, the promoter at Rage) burst into the booth and said, "You lot are residents now, you're down here." We felt bad, but we were young and ready for it.'

The duo's love for dub versions (instrumentals devoid of vocals), fast techno from Detroit and Belgium, British hardcore, plus pitched-up breakbeats meant their parties sounded like nothing else at the time. The darker, more rugged sound they were cultivating was in stark contrast to the hands-in-the-air house aesthetic that dominated. The new sound attracted a young, edgy and open-minded set, from football hooligans and north London gangsters to It girls and popstars. 'It felt a bit dangerous at times, but

that was what made it what it was,' says James Horrocks, who used to work the door at Rage.

In the space of four years, Rage became the birthplace of something new, inspiring a whole generation of junglists and drum 'n' bass producers like Goldie, Kemistry & Storm and Bailey to create their own versions of what was being played. London's diverse

**Rage became the birthplace of drum 'n' bass**



CR  
At Heaven Under the Arches WC2 on Thursday 15th Mar

# RAGE

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All the Rage Opposite: dancers circa 1990. Below: Fabio and Grooverider. Left: Fabio with decks, keys and a reel-to-reel

Following the Success of the Rage Reunion in June, the Pure Organisation are Pleased to Announce Another Chance to Return to the Unique Energy and Atmosphere that was RAGE

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Members £5 - £10

**EASTER THURSDAY 16th APRIL 1992 10pm til LATE**

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SPECIAL GUEST DJ: MOBY

DJs: MAIN DISCO Dominic, Fabio, Grooverider

UPSTAIRS: Trevor Fung, Colin Faver, Steve Johnson

MEMBERS BAR: Robert Fung, Grant Harper

Entrance: Members £5 All Night Members Guests: £10 All Night Over 18 Years Only. Maximum Capacity 1000

# RAGE

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THE SOUND AND LIGHTING HAVE THE VENUE BY INSTALLING A BY LIGHTSHOW INCORPORATING ED WALL, COMPUTER ANIMATED OTHER EFFECTS UNIQUE TO RAGE

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E DEE FABIO  
GRANT HARPER  
E RIDER DJ JD

**RAGE Christmas Eve**

THURSDAY 24th DECEMBER 1992 10pm - 3.30am

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# RAGE

THROUGH THE MIRROR GLASS

# RAGE

at Heaven  
The Arches off Craven St, WC2

DJs: Colin Faver, Trevor Fung, Craig Tune, Fabio

£5 Admission with this invitation

The Management reserves the right to refuse admission



make-up was a key component in the birth of the music. The raw street attitude and influences from Jamaican soundsystem culture helped capture the imagination of those from the inner city and spread to the West Country, the Midlands, and all over the UK. 'The exciting thing about jungle was that we were able to draw from our past: from reggae, soul and funk,' Fabio says. 'Four to the floor was cool but it was restrictive because everything's got to be in a certain pattern. Jungle wasn't like that.'

From 1993 to 1995, jungle exploded as thousands of people hit the clubs and big raves like Helter Skelter and Telepathy every weekend. As with most things though, it began to burn itself out and Rage came to an end in 1993. Kevin Millins pulled the plug when the night was still at the height of its popularity and jungle was at a peak. Because of that, Rage has an untarnished reputation and pride of place in the history books.

Following on from an excellent compilation called '30 Years of Rage', on Sunday December 8, Rage returns - for one night only. It's back at Heaven, where it all began. Original residents and pivotal London spinners such as Trevor Fung, Colin Dale and Bushwhacka!, plus Jumpin Jack Frost, Bryan Gee, DJ Flight and Kenny Ken will all be there. And of course, Fab and Groove will be playing - both rooms, in fact. ■

→ Return to Rage is at Heaven on Dec 8.



By Marcus Barnes  
Who has been deep in the jungle from day.

PHOTO: PLYMCA/UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP VIA GETTY IMAGES; PODIUM DANCERS: DAVE SWINDLELLS

HEADS UP

# Little Mix are headlining British Summer Time

**NOW IN ITS** eighth year, British Summer Time Hyde Park has become a London institution with a simple but winning formula: huge acts perform in a huge park on a (hopefully) glorious English summer evening. So it's entirely fitting that the first headline act announced for next year's fest is the UK's biggest pop group, Little Mix.

The supremely likeable girlband – Perrie Edwards, Jesy Nelson, Leigh-Anne Pinnock and Jade Thirlwall – are known for their high-energy live performances in which they serve serious vocals, serious choreo and serious lewks. And with five albums and 21 UK Top 20 hits under their very on-trend belts,



they can definitely put together a set list that's all banger, no clanger when they play Hyde Park on Saturday July 4.

It's part of a massive year for the four-piece. BBC One is set to launch the band's own talent show, 'Little Mix The Search', in which they'll put together groups hoping to follow in their chart-topping footsteps.

Tickets for the gig go on sale at 9am on Thursday November 28 – be ready, because it might take some 'Black Magic' to get hold of a pair nearer the time. ■ *Nick Levine*

→ Little Mix play British Summer Time Hyde Park on Jul 4 2020.

More big gig news at [timeout.com/music](http://timeout.com/music)

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BLACK GOLD  
GREATEST HITS  
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## FESTIVAL NEWS

## Three fests are heading for Brockwell Park



Mighty Hoopla

**BROCKWELL PARK IS** a great location for a city festival: big and sloping enough to feel spacious and kind of bucolic, but with the benefits of sound transport links (Herne Hill rail station is right across the road and Brixton tube is a 15-minute stroll away). So it's awesome to hear that next year, the SE24 green space will host three very different music festivals over a single June weekend. On Friday June 5, the park will welcome **Wide Awake**, a brand-new, indie-leaning fest featuring sets from Black Midi, Goat Girl, Girl Band, Shame and The Comet Is Coming. If you're a 6Music listener, you'll probably love it. Then on Saturday June 6, Brokers will be slapping on the (biodegradable) glitter for **Mighty Hoopla**, the spangly pop bash that attracts a sizeable LGBTQ+ crowd. Natasha Bedingfield, Anastacia, Atomic Kitten, Gabrielle, Jimmy Somerville and Sonique are all booked and ready to blast out their bangers – joined by '90s pop queen Betty Boo, who'll be doin' the do in the capital for the first time in absolutely ages. And on Sunday June 7, **Cross the Tracks** will return for a second year of jazz, funk and soul goodness fuelled by delicious street food and craft beer. There's a big headliner to come, but already on the bill are Afrofuturist crew Shabaka And The Ancestors, genre-hopping pianist Ashley Henry, Mercury-nominated jazz posse Seed Ensemble plus a long list of ace DJs: from vanguard spinners like Norman Jay MBE, Gilles Peterson and Jazzie B to young funk slingers like NTS Radio's Charlie Bones. Bring it on. ■ *Nick Levine*

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## Music & Nightlife

### In a nutshell

A former working men's club that's long been reclaimed as a queer events space.

### Where is it?

A ten-minute walk from Bethnal Green tube. Look out for the Banksy on the wall outside before you walk in.

### What's the vibe?

Celebratory and queer, with progressive LGBTQ+ talks, cabaret and drag shows preceding debauched club nights. There's often more to keep punters entertained than just the DJs, too, as improvised drag and singalong sessions often spill over from the earlier events into the club nights. A recent '90s party had a complimentary 'beige buffet' with crisps, finger sandwiches, sausage rolls and cheese-and-pineapple sticks, just for fun. Because the Working Men's Club always goes that extra mile.

### What makes it a great venue?

The fact that this venue used to be a working men's club lends the queer events here a layer of delicious irony. There's something deeply satisfying

SO YOU'VE  
NEVER BEEN TO

## Bethnal Green Working Men's Club



about the juxtaposition of the old-fashioned venue and the woke events. We reckon the novelty of the setting encourages partygoers to bond over the brilliant eccentricity. There's a large dancefloor and a late-ish licence (nights run until at least 2.30am, sometimes 3am) and music is typically pop-focused, with nights celebrating icons like Mariah Carey and Robyn. Just don't turn up past about 11pm as you'll be met by a closed door and a stringent no-latecomers policy.

### What's the booze situation?

A single and mixer is reasonably priced at £4.50, while all pints are a fiver and are brewed on site.

### What's coming up there soon?

Don't miss Shesus And The Sisters' awesome annual comedy-cum-cabaret Christmas bashes on December 12 and 13. ■ *Adam Bloodworth*

→ 42-44 Pollard Row, E2 6NB. ☎ Bethnal Green.

Get to know more venues at  
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### THIS WEEK

#### The Chemical Brothers

Simply one of the best live shows in the world. Nobody quite makes live dance music work as well as the Chems.  
→ The O2, Sat Nov 30.

### JUST ANNOUNCED

#### The Japanese House

Amber Bain plays a big Brixton gig.  
→ Electric Brixton, Dec 17.

#### Ed Banger Records

The maximal and hugely influential French label bring all their noisy boys and girls to the yard: SebastiAn, Breakbot, Busy P and Clara 3000.  
→ Electric Brixton, Jan 31 2020.

#### Nasty Cherry

Reflecting the mixed-up, shook-up world we live in, this band, formed by Charli XCX, had a Netflix doc made about them *before* they'd even released their debut EP. It's cutely titled 'Season 1', of course.  
→ Omeara, Mar 3 2020.



### King Krule

We are still 100 percent besotted with Archy Marshall's regal alias. Three albums in, his stoned-to-the-bone songcraft and intimate, jazz-flecked performance mode has us enraptured. A new drop of four songs last week came with a new 2020 tour announcement. See you there.  
→ O2 Brixton Academy, Mar 24 2020.

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#### Collard

Fascinating falsetto-blessed singer and slow-rocker is well worth a punt live.  
→ Omeara, Mar 5 2020.

#### Princess Nokia

The righteously provocative rapper returned recently with lit new single 'Sugar Honey Iced Tea'.  
→ Earth, Mar 20 2020.

#### Barenaked Ladies

It's been... almost two years since the

Canadian rockers have played on British soil.  
→ Royal Albert Hall, Apr 11 2020.

#### Shards

New on experimental and ambient-ish label Erased Tapes, check out this 12-piece vocal group.  
→ Milton Court, Apr 17.

#### Confidence Man

Go and see this delightful and super dancey Oz four-piece.  
→ O2 Forum, Apr 17 2020.

#### Squarepusher

Did you know the electronic maverick made music for a CBeebies show? He'll be in full-on assault mode for this one though, if new song 'Vortrack' is a clue.  
→ Roundhouse, May 15 2020.

#### Camila Cabello

Almost two years on from her debut release, 'Camila', CC has become a true global pop sensation.  
→ The O2, Jun 11 2020.

# JIMMY EAT WORLD

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# Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski  
timeout.com/theatre @timeouththeatre

## THE BIG REVIEW

# Dear Evan Hansen



**THIS WILDLY HYPED** Broadway hit musical is basically 'Faust' for high-schoolers. A nerdy, anxiety-ridden teenage boy sells his soul (well, his integrity, anyway) for the popularity and love he's spent his whole life craving. But his guilt makes every YouTube follow or Twitter retweet become excruciating – and then it all comes crashing down.

It's easy to see why 'Dear Evan Hansen' has won so many fans since it first premiered in 2015: it mixes agonising tension with surgingly catchy songs by songwriters Benj Pasek and Justin Paul. Rock ballads like 'You Will Be Found' are the kind of thing you'd wave your lighter along to if the West End's theatres weren't perilous enough already. Their intense emotionalism is typical of a musical where everything's dialled up to 11. Evan Hansen isn't just your archetypal teen movie loser; he's as fragile as a peeled egg, bouncing from humiliation to humiliation in a high school that's like a

machine designed to slice him up. A West End newcomer, 21-year-old Sam Tutty, glows with sweat and goodness, bringing integrity to a storyline that's half ingenious, half tortuous. Evan's mother gets him treatment for social anxiety, and one of the tasks his counsellor sets him is to write an uplifting letter to himself. But Connor, a boy he hardly knows, takes this letter off the computer room printer. When Connor dies, it's assumed to be a suicide note that's addressed to Evan. Evan keeps up the pretence and ends up reverse engineering a friendship, then building a viral social media campaign against loneliness.

Steven Levenson's book is astute on the way a lie can take on a life of its own. Connor is no longer a boy; he's an idea. And when his 'story' is helping to save other lives, does the truth even matter? Tutty's sharp, painful-looking mannerisms visibly soften in the loving warmth his campaign earns him. His voice is sometimes overwhelmed by this show's full-bodied live band, but its fragility is essential. If he was any more confident then his actions would seem monstrous.

As it is, the deceptions that Evan stacks up with sweaty palms



don't collapse quite as satisfyingly or conclusively as you might expect. The whole musical seems to be building to an explosion that's deferred, and deferred, then weakly fizzles out like a school chemistry project. But then, this story's biggest conflicts are internal, rather than external. It all looks so simple but there's something incredibly accomplished about the way that 'Dear Evan Hansen' fleshes out its protagonist's small world of home, school and laptop – then creates a trap that feeds him and poisons him all at once. ■ *Alice Saville*



**By Alice Saville**  
Who thinks this show is top of the class.

### WHAT IS IT...

The Broadway smash about a sensitive teen whose white lie spirals out of control.

### WHY GO...

For a teen musical that puts 'Heathers' in the shade.

### BOOK...

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

→ Noël Coward Theatre.  
⊖ Leicester Square. Until May 2 2020. £15-£177.50.

## & Juliet



**'& JULIET' IS** a heavily ironic Shakespeare rewrite based on the songs of super-producer Max Martin. And with the gift of that knowledge, I can fairly confidently state that you'll probably like '& Juliet' precisely as much as you expect to like '& Juliet'.

Me, I grew up with Martin's greatest hits: Britney Spears and Backstreet Boys dominated the radio when I was at school, and while I've never spent a single penny on his music, I've probably spent days of my life listening to it. These were Big Tunes to start with, and in '& Juliet' they sound immense, reconfigured into lush new Tudor-nodding arrangements (a harpsichord features prominently). Most crucially, in a show that Martin is heavily involved with, they're deployed in ways that always find some emotional connection to the story (by no means a given in a jukebox musical).

The plot is basically 'Romeo and Juliet' rewritten into a sort of woke panto. The Bard of Avon (Oliver Tompsett, channelling a mid-tier 'Love Island' contestant)



**WHAT IS IT...**  
Pop producer Max Martin's silly jukebox musical riff on 'Romeo and Juliet'.

**WHY GO...**  
William Shakespeare + Backstreet Boys = a good time.

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

→ Shaftesbury Theatre.  
⊖ Holborn. Until May 30  
2020. £22.50-£110.

is very pleased with himself for having written the play. But his wife Anne Hathaway (Cassidy Janson, who is scene-stealingly bolshy) has other ideas. She browbeats Will into letting Juliet survive then persuades him to rewrite the play as an empowering road trip for Juliet and her gal (and non-binary) pals. It is a hoot.

Aside from the epochal tunes and daft story, huge performances and slick visuals are at the heart of a musical that's clearly not a classic but absolutely makes the most of what it has. Did I have problems

with it? Hell, yes! A musical that presents itself as a spunky feminist corrective to Shakespeare that is the creation of a male songwriter, book writer (David West Read) and director (Luke Sheppard), is clearly guilty of a degree of shameless hypocrisy. It is definitely too pleased with itself. And despite pyrotechnic vocals and a style so sharp it's physically painful, lead Miriam-Teak Lee, feels underserved: Juliet is a bit short on personality.

Still, at this stage in the history of Western civilisation it would be ridiculous to say Max Martin can't

write words for female performers, and it's his soaring anthems that give Juliet her heart.

Yes, it's all executed a bit gauchely, but its foregrounding of female and queer characters feels sweet, sincere and well-meaning. Obviously it's going to be a lot more fun after a bottle or two of Lambrini. But it is absolutely unafraid to be that show, and I dare say Shakespeare would be tickled by the whole thing. And if he wouldn't, who cares? He's really not the target audience. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*



**WHAT IS IT...**  
England goes to pot in Shakespeare's darkest history plays.

**WHY GO...**  
The epic, hilarious, violent journey of Sophie Russell's Richard.

→ Shakespeare's Globe, Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. ⊖ Blackfriars. Until Jan 26. £7-£62.

## Henry VI/Richard III



**MUCH LIKE PETER JACKSON'S** 'The Hobbit', William Shakespeare's 'Henry VI' is a cracking single story that's been overstretched by being turned into a trilogy. Hence, it rarely gets done. But the Globe's smart one-play-edit directed by Sean Holmes and Ilinca Radulian is very much 'Henry VI' living its best life. It's paired for a rep season with its much more famous sequel, 'Richard III'.

Here, 'Henry VI' is edited into a breakneck history of England during the monarch's chaotic reign, during which the country lapsed into civil war and his dad's prodigious French conquests were lost. Holmes and Radulian direct stylishly. But it's also incredibly lucid: for much of the play, the warring sides wear sports kit denoting their names and allegiances (v helpful).

It's also a truly almighty prologue to the (let's be honest) manifestly superior 'Richard III', with the last hour essentially concerning the

same set of characters. Sophie Russell's take on Richard is not the single best I've seen. But across the two plays her *journey* is thrilling. When we first meet her in 'Henry VI' she's a beer-swilling psychopath who commits her own murders. She's still that guy at the start of 'Richard III' – but only briefly. Soon enough she's clad in a series of ever-fancier pristine white outfits, soft-shoe shuffling across the stage and singing ballads... while getting other people to commit horrifying murders for her.

It's a brilliant study in the fine line between thuggery and politics, the means by which an office confers respectability, and the difficulty in removing a ruler who refuses to play by the rules of that office.

See these plays together, see them separately, but do try and see them, because this is the ensemble finally firing on all cylinders in an epic and exciting six hours of storytelling. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

⊖ JULIET: JOHAN PERSSON

## NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

### WEST END

#### Amélie

A joyful musical masterclass in Gallic whimsy, inspired by the 2001 hit movie.  
→ The Other Palace. ⊖ Victoria.  
Fri Nov 29-Feb 1 2020.  
£19.50-£65.

#### My Brilliant Friend

This epic two-part staging of Elena Ferrante's literary hit comes to the NT after premiering at Rose Theatre Kingston.  
→ National Theatre.  
⊖ Waterloo. Until Feb 22 2020.  
£32-£165.

#### The Greatest Play in the History of the World...

Julie Hesmondhalgh performs a whimsical love story by her husband Ian Kershaw.  
→ Trafalgar Studios. ⊖ Charing Cross. Tue Nov 26-Jan 4 2020.  
£20-£35.

#### Midnight Movie

Eve Leigh's inclusive, experimental look at online culture.  
→ Royal Court Theatre.  
⊖ Sloane Square. Wed Nov 27-Dec 21. £15-£25.

#### Sh!t-Faced Showtime: A Pissedmas Carol

A boozy, musical romp

through Dickens's story by the West End's premier piss artists.  
→ Leicester Square Theatre.  
⊖ Leicester Square. Until Jan 5 2020. £17.50-£26.25.

### OFF WEST END

#### The Arrival

The debut play from 'Barber Shop Chronicles' director Bijan Sheibani.  
→ Bush Theatre. ⊖ Shepherd's Bush Market. Until Jan 18 2020.  
£20, £15-£17.50 concs.

#### The Boy Friend

Sandy Wilson's winsomely frivolous '20s-inspired musical  
→ Menier Chocolate Factory.  
⊖ London Bridge. Until Mar 7 2020. £39.50-£57.50.

#### Candida

Paul Miller stages Bernard Shaw's drama.  
→ Orange Tree Theatre.  
⊖ Richmond. Until Jan 11 2020. £15-£32.

#### Cinderella

An immersive panto knees-up set in a pub.  
→ The Vaults. ⊖ Waterloo.  
Until Jan 12 2020. £20-£35.

#### Dick Whittington

Stratford East's reliably strong panto.  
→ Theatre Royal Stratford East.  
⊖ Stratford. Until Jan 11 2020.  
£10-£41.

## TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

#### 1 The Comedy About a Bank Robbery

A criminal caper from comedy masters Mischief Theatre.  
→ Criterion Theatre. Until Nov 1 2020.

#### 2 Death of a Salesman

Wendell Pierce and Sharon D Clarke star in this hit staging.  
→ Piccadilly Theatre. Until Jan 4 2020.

#### 3 Everybody's Talking About Jamie

The winningly warm musical about a teen drag queen.  
→ Apollo Theatre. Until Aug 29 2020.

#### 4 & Juliet

The newest show in town.  
→ Shaftesbury Theatre. Until May 30 2020.

#### 5 Ian McKellen on Stage

An audience with a legend.  
→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Until Jan 5 2020.

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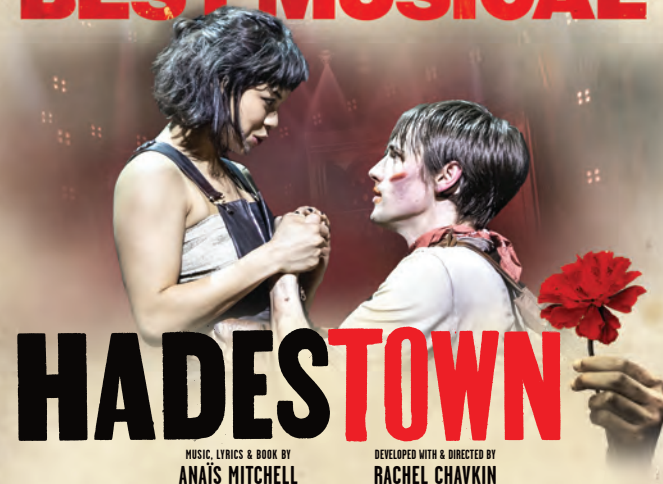
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EXCLUSIVE

## 'AN ACT OF GOD' AT THE VAULTS



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## TIME OUT MEETS

# London Hughes

**'WHATEVER THE FEMALE** equivalent of big dick energy is, Hughes has it by the truckload.' That's how one reviewer described Thornton Heath-born stand-up London Hughes. And the fast-rising comic says she agrees '1,000 percent. I have big vagina energy.' Her debut solo show 'To Catch a D\*ck' was a huge hit at the Edinburgh Fringe, making her the first black British woman to be nominated for best show at the Edinburgh Comedy Awards. Now, Hughes is bringing this raucous hour of stand-up home.

### The show chronicles your dating life. What's the strangest date you've been on?

'You'll have to watch the show... But it involves Hyde Park, a Ferrari and a heroin addict.'

### What's the best thing about being a comedian?

'The groupies. Joking! Female comics don't get groupies, we get stalkers. But, hmm, the best thing is honestly being lucky enough to make people laugh for a living.'

### What's been the strangest heckle you've received?

'An African-American woman in Atlanta yelled out, "What part of black are you from?" I didn't even know how to answer.'

### What's the worst thing you've done on stage?

'Two years ago I used to do an act where I would sit on the face of a random guy in the audience – with their consent, of course. Looking back I'm not quite sure why I did that. I enjoyed it, though!' ■ *Interview by Ben Williams*

→ Soho Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Dec 6-14. £13-£25.  
Bloomsbury Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Jan 10-11. £18-£20.

## THE TEN BEST GIGS THIS MONTH

### 10 Ed Gamble: 'Blizzard'

The reigning 'Taskmaster' champion plays a big London show.  
→ O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire.  
⊕ Shepherd's Bush. Dec 20.  
£24-£30.

### 9 Spencer Jones: 'The Things We Leave Behind'

The silly prop comic's hit show about turning junk into gags.  
→ Soho Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Mon Dec 2-Dec 14.  
£12-£23.

### 8 New Comedian of the Year Final

The best rising comics in the land, chosen from almost 40 heats, battle it out.  
→ Leicester Square Theatre.  
⊕ Leicester Square.  
Dec 16. £17.

### 7 'A Show and Tell Christmas'

Nish Kumar tops the bill at this festive bash, plus Bridget Christie, Phil Wang and more.  
→ Bloomsbury Theatre.  
⊕ Tottenham Court Rd.  
Dec 4. £20.

### 6 'Drunk Women Solving Crime'

Hannah George, Catie Wilkins and Taylor Glenn get drunk and play detectives in this superb podcast.  
→ Leicester Square Theatre.  
⊕ Leicester Square. Dec 3.  
£16.50.

### 5 Comedy in an Art Gallery

As part of an exhibition of art by comedians, Jordan Brookes, Mae Martin and more perform stand-up in a gallery.  
→ Fiumano Clase.  
⊕ Russell Square. Dec 14. £10.

### 4 Plosive Comedy in Dulwich

Absurdist maestro Paul Foot headlines this south-east London gig.  
→ The MCT at Alieyn's. North Dulwich rail. Dec 7. £17.

### 3 Jordan Brookes: 'I've Got Nothing'

Your chance to see this year's Edinburgh Comedy Award winner.  
→ Soho Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Dec 16-Feb 15 2020.  
£12-£18.50.

### 2 'Weirdos Save Christmas'

This annual alternative pantomime is a highlight of the comedy calendar.  
→ Bloomsbury Theatre.  
⊕ Tottenham Court Rd.  
Dec 9-10. £20.

# 1

## The Delightful Sausage: 'Ginster's Paradise'

This sketch duo's holiday-camp-themed show is part light entertainment parody, part nightmarish fever dream – and it's all hilarious.

→ Soho Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Dec 3-14. £14-£16.50.





Edited by Eddy Frankel  
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

# Art



## ‘Troy: Myth and Reality’



**TROY VEY, THIS** show is seriously big. I mean huge, grand, ambitious, sweeping, in-depth, enormous. But take a deep breath and set an afternoon aside because it's more than worth your time.

The myth of Troy has lasted for millennia. A Trojan prince is promised a Greek queen by a goddess. He drags her across the Aegean to become his wife. The Greeks aren't happy and lay siege to Troy for ten years, eventually sneaking into the city via equestrian means and laying the place to waste. With its violence, jealousy, aggression and prideful idiocy, Troy has remained perpetually relevant.

The show starts with discord and war. Extravagant glazed pots

are intricately painted with gods. Eris sows discord at the wedding of Peleus and Thetis; Queen Helen is taken from the arms of her husband Menelaus. There are stunning Etruscan reliefs and gorgeous Roman frescoes.

Then Achilles unleashes his rage, and Agamemnon sacrifices his daughter. It's so atmospheric in the dark gallery that you feel like you're being dragged into the ancient myth, forced to wade through the blood and hatred. Eventually, Achilles

is killed – seen here in a gorgeous nineteenth-century marble by Carlo Albacini – Troy falls thanks to some Greek horseplay and the long journey home begins.

The show then delves into archaeological attempts to find the real Troy, before diving into art inspired by the myth. There's a fantastic, cramped Rubens painting of Achilles, an unbelievable Cranach the Elder vision of the Judgment of Paris, a brilliantly fierce portrait of

Clytemnestra by John Collier and a neon installation by Spencer Finch which is meant to recreate the light that Achilles would have seen while waging war.

Troy is a myth that has persisted for 3,000 years because its lessons are never learnt. Humanity is still vain, jealous, deceitful, angry and endlessly willing to wage war. Lives are still being lost – for nothing – today. This beautiful exhibition shows us that Troy is a warning, just one that nobody is willing to listen to.

### WHAT IS IT...

Objects and art relating to the greatest story ever told.

### WHY GO...

Q: How do you feel about big pots?  
A: Amphor 'em.

→ British Museum. ⊕  
Russell Square. Until Mar 8  
2020. £20, concs available.



By Eddy Frankel  
Who's always hated  
horses anyway.

## BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



### ↑ Caroline Coon: 'The Great Offender'

Rebellious, precise, erotic painting by an old-school punk. Coon's art is a rude, in-your-face and utterly defiant look at gender, sex and society.

→ Tramps. ☺ Old St. Until Dec 21. Free.



## Dora Maar



'**LADY ARTIST DELETED** from history' is a pretty familiar story, and it's the one that underpins this show. Dora Maar (1907-1997) was a female artist footnoted by history thanks to her gender and her relationship with Pablo Picasso. But the most interesting thing in this fascinating retrospective isn't simply that Maar is a forgotten artist, it's that she is such a ridiculously prolific and varied forgotten artist.

The main thing we know about Maar is her connection to Surrealism. It's in her uncanny photomontages and in the roll call of names that appear throughout the exhibition. There's a particularly beautiful photograph by Maar of Nusch Éluard, head in hands like a depressed Tennessee Williams heroine, plus a set of soft, quiet portraits of Maar taken by Lee Miller.

Surrealism also informs her commercial and fashion photography (the majority of works on display here are photographs, with a few paintings thrown in), for example in an image showing a woman with a huge slick of shampoo

bubbles on her head. But there are plenty of other things to appreciate too. Like how Maar's stately nudes echo Grecian reliefs or how her images of models exercising preempt today's influencer yoga shots selling Lululemon and the like.

The real surprise, however, is Maar's extensive body of street photography taken in Barcelona, Paris and London during the Depression of the 1930s. Many of the images are remarkable for their informal candour. Unlike the meticulous Miller, Maar takes photos that always look the tiniest bit accidental, as though the shutter closed of its own accord.

When we resurrect 'forgotten' female artists, the temptation is to slot them into an existing art movement and point out all the ways their art neatly resembles the stuff

we already know. But Maar is interesting both as a Surrealist and as a realist: a documenter of poverty, conversations and fly-away hairs. If we're no longer going to forget her as a Surrealist, we should also remember her as more than that. ■  
Rosemary Waugh

### WHAT IS IT...

A chance to unforget a pivotal Surrealist artist.

### WHY GO...

It's Maar-velous art.

→ Tate Modern.

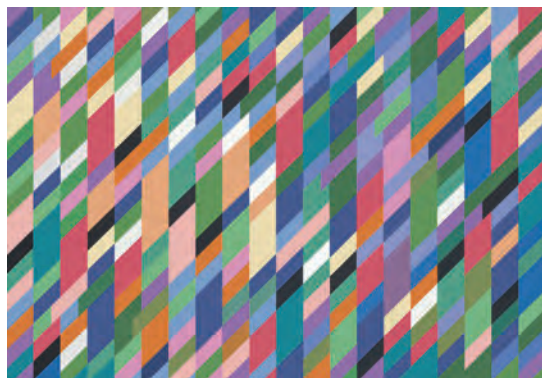
☺ Southwark. Until Mar 15 2020. £13, £12 concs.



### ↑ Patrick Staff: 'On Venus'

Acid rain and toxic sludge fill the Serpentine in this minimal, shocking installation. This is art to turn your stomach and change your mind.

→ Serpentine Sackler Gallery. ☺ Lancaster Gate. Until Feb 9 2020. Free.



### ↑ Bridget Riley

Mind-bending paintings by the grand dame of op art. It might give you a headache, but that's a small price to pay for art this good.

→ Hayward Gallery. ☺ Waterloo. Until Jan 26 2020. £16.50, £12.50 concs.

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## 'Eco-Visionaries'



**IT'S HARD TO** imagine how you could change anyone's mind about global warming. And if you're someone who genuinely believes – despite the overwhelming scientific consensus – that the whole thing is a sham, an art exhibition isn't going to sway you. But here we are at the RA, the choir showing up to be preached to in an exhibition of art and architecture about climate change.

It starts with work about right now. A globe by artist duo HeHe spins in an aquarium full of green goo, slowly becoming more and more engulfed in gunk. Endangered tilapia are pressed on to rice paper by Tue Greenfort, glacial ice melts in a series of Olafur Eliasson photos.

The problem with all this is that if you're here, you already know about melting ice caps and the dangers of pollution. This too-empty room of too-obvious art is too easy.

Much better is when the show looks forwards. Pinar Yoldas imagines future

creatures in glass jars that can live off synthetic matter, Studio Malka envisions an adapted oil platform used to fertilise barren soil, SKREI designs a way to convert food waste into household fuel.

This is where the show finally lives up to the 'visionary' bit of its title. These works feel like actions, statements, calls to arms, dystopic visions. That's all a lot more useful, interesting and powerful than telling people what they already know.

The show ends with an immersive installation by Rimini Protokoll featuring a tank of swirling jellyfish and the terrifying news that the

gelatinous little shits are going to take over the world once we screw it all up with this global warming malarkey. It's meant to be a stark warning about how we're treating the planet, but it's just given me a bloodlust for the creatures. Forget carbon emissions, kill the jellyfish: it's our only hope. ■ *Eddy Frankel*

**WHAT IS IT...**  
Art and architecture about climate change.

**WHY GO...**  
The jellyfish are coming, and they must be stopped.

→ Royal Academy of Art.  
↻ Piccadilly Circus.  
Until Feb 23 2020.  
£10, concs available.

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Corinne Day, 'George in Stiletto', from the feature 'Goths on Acid' for Ray Gun magazine, June–July 1995. Courtesy and © The Corinne Day Estate

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# Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine  
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

## Kebab Queen



**IT COULD HAVE** been so awful. A 'speakeasy-style' restaurant with a 'kebab tasting menu', where you eat straight off the counter? But it wasn't. It was brilliant.

A bit of background for you. Kebab Queen, which is in a back basement room, is from the crew behind the restaurant upstairs, Maison Bab (itself sibling to Kingly Court's Le Bab, a posh kebab joint I liked a lot). You go in, give them your details, and will then be led down the steps, via the kitchen of the main restaurant, through a heavy steel door and into a small room. Here, there's just enough space for a narrow but functional kitchen with a ten-person counter running along it.

As you sit down and go to put your phone down on the counter, you'll realise this: the counter is warm. Very warm. One of the enthusiastic young team will give you a block on to which you can plonk your worldly possessions (plus any cocktails) and will then explain that they heat the counter so they can assemble the food right in front of you, doing away with crockery

and cutlery. This 'no plates, no forks' approach is the restaurant's homage to a 3am kebab shop visit. Let's be clear: the experience here is absolutely nothing like a 3am kebab shop visit (where are the blindingly bright lights? And the fights?), but still, like the feeling of picking up a just-made nigiri, or tearing off a fresh strip of dosa, there's something visceral about handling your food in this way. And yes, I do think it improves the taste.

Clean freaks, don't panic: the surface is made of Dekton, a material as indestructible and non-porous as you can get. (Trust me, I've tried to destroy Dekton before. Like, with a Sharpie. The Dekton always wins.) Even so, they spritz down

between courses, with antiseptic. 'Don't worry,' they say, 'it's organic and edible. Want to watch us spray some in our mouths?' No thanks, we're good.

The point is this: KQ is fun. The music is deep and soulful, the lighting low and vintage, the staff chatty and warm. But what of the food? I've only left it last because your memories of KQ will



go well beyond the dishes (a seat at dinner, which starts at 7.30pm, feels more like a trip to the theatre). That said, we didn't eat a single thing we didn't love. Interestingly, only a few came in wrappable format: of these, the star dish was a piece of cabbage set down in front of you, then scorched with a hot iron. Next, the filling-slash-topping was added: chicken and monkfish in a silky sauce, with bone marrow from the fish spines and crisp puffs of chicken skin. Plus a little salsa verde for oomph. It was sublime. Other dishes were 'topping only', leaving

you to pick up bits of meat – like pink-middled duck slices with a pool of thick saffron-and-molasses-laced jus – straight off the counter with your fingers. If this makes you squeamish, then, yep, you're probably in the wrong place. If you want a dining experience that's genuinely unique, step right up. ■ **Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £175.**

### WHAT IS IT...

A hidden restaurant serving a kebab-based tasting menu.

### WHY GO...

The cabbage 'kebab'. With monkfish bone marrow and crisp chicken skin. Sigh.

→ 4 Mercer Walk, WC2H 9FA. ☎ Covent Garden.



By Tania Ballantine  
Who also loved the playing card-lined loos.

ELISE HUMPHREY



the beautifully cooked boneless thigh – with a scattering of buttery cashews – and the opulence was offset by big bits of spring onion. A cluster of beansprouts mixed with carrots added much-needed lightness, while the wild ‘purple’ rice was fluffy and well cooked.

Numnum doesn’t skimp on sides. The flavours of the handmade dumplings were expertly balanced with subtle egg and not-so-subtle hits of chive. The smashed cucumber salad was a wonder: interspersed with tender wood ear mushrooms, then pimped with flecks of chilli, oil, garlic and coarsely cut coriander.

Aside from the friendly service, Numnum has plenty of nice touches to keep you sweet, like free fortune cookies and unlimited, complimentary green tea. The only low point was the lack of atmosphere: the result of not having nearly enough people for such a roomy space. Hopefully, that will come with time. A lovely spot for a cheap, hearty lunch, Numnum is sure to have you saying ‘yum yum’.

*Ella Braidwood*  
**Lunch for two with drinks and service: around £30.**

**WHAT IS IT...**

A trendy Southwark joint serving southern Chinese cooking.

**WHY GO...**

The kung pao chicken: as tender as tender gets.

→ 81 Scoresby St, SE1 0XN. ↻ Southwark.



**Numnum**



**TUCKED AWAY IN** a railway arch, Numnum is the sleek, revamped antithesis of its heritage exterior, boasting a white corrugated ceiling, contrasting navy-painted walls and funky pink neon signage. The food here is delicious, plus it comes in hefty portions for the price. Just

order at the counter and take a seat.

Dan dan noodles were a treat: the springy noodles came topped with cuboids of spongy pressed tofu and mellow carrot, with woody mushrooms, two hunks of pak choi and sesame paste adding an earthy freshness. It was revitalising, delivering a warm hit of spice while not being too hot.

A dish of kung pao chicken, meanwhile, was rich and moreish. The thick gravy-like sauce clung to

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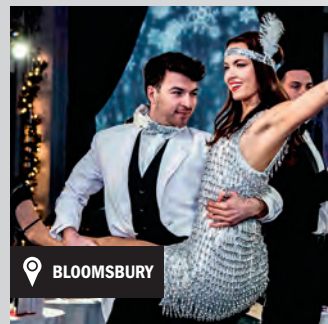
**Going out? Try here.**



**SOUTH KENSINGTON**

**VILLA MAMAS SAYS:**

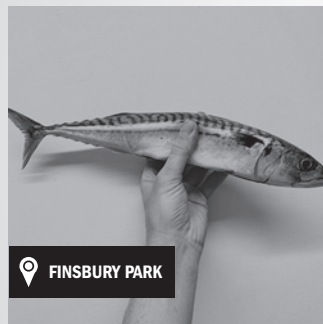
‘Taste traditional Bahraini and modern Middle Eastern dishes with a twist. The food is inspired by Mediterranean and Persian fusion – enjoy starters like creamy houmous, mains including tahcheen and mozat laham, and then our unique saffron sohan cheesecake. You’ll fall in love with the flavours.’  
 25-27 Elystan St, SW3 3NT.



**BLOOMSBURY**

**LONDON CABARET CLUB SAYS:**

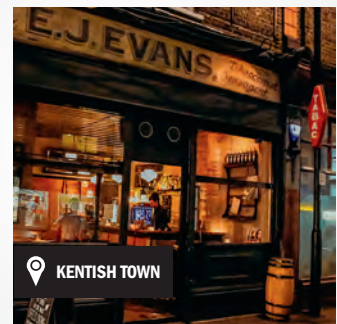
‘Staging acclaimed shows in the art deco Bloomsbury Ballroom, the LCC has a winning formula of original choreography and attention to detail. ‘A Gatsby Christmas’ and its NYE extravaganza ‘Gatsby Presents: 100 Years of Cabaret’ are its most exciting productions yet.’  
 Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square, WC1B 4DA.



**FINSBURY PARK**

**HODGEPODGE SAYS:**

‘Hodgepodge is a local restaurant in north London serving classic British food. We create a ‘get what you’re given’ set menu, which reflects the current season but also incorporates food from other times of year with ferments and preserves. We focus on using the best of British heritage, suppliers and produce.’  
 4 Crouch Hill, N4 4AU.



**KENTISH TOWN**

**TABAC BAR SAYS:**

‘With a four-star Time Out review, Tabac is a great French-themed drinking spot and the first tabac bar in London. Go alone to share your secrets with the charming bartender, go with friends to enjoy one another’s company or simply go to sip on balloons of wine or unique, creative cocktails.’  
 16 Fortess Rd, NW5 2EU.

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## THREE OF THE BEST

# Fulham restaurants

Going to the footie at Craven Cottage? Here are the best spots to refuel nearby



### Ardiciocca

★★★★★

Interested in gluten-free pizza and pasta? Then Ardiciocca is a strong choice. Go for homemade beef ragu, gnocchi with pesto or a lighter-than-air pizza: thin and perfectly crisp.

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



### Megan's by the Green

★★★★★

Pimped up with fairy lights, this branch of the beloved south-west London chain bashes out eggs on toast, posh kebabs and other Middle Eastern faves for brunch, lunch and dinner.

→ 57-69 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 4JA. ☺ Parsons Green.



### Harwood Arms

★★★★★

Despite its lovely, relaxed atmosphere, this place has a serious kitchen. In fact, it's the only pub in London with a Michelin star. Get the venison scotch eggs: icons for a reason.

→ Walham Grove, SW6 1QP. ☺ Fulham Broadway.

Find more Fulham gems at  
[timeout.com/fulham](https://www.timeout.com/fulham)

# Drink

Edited by Laura Richards  
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

## BAR OF THE WEEK

### The Plough



**THIS PUB FIRST** came to my attention because it was running a Britney Spears night. But on my Sunday afternoon visit things were a bit more sedate – there were two people performing jazz and only one of them was wearing shoes.

The room is narrow and wood-panelled, with a homey little bar decorated with football scarves and a Louis Vuitton-monogrammed rugby ball. There's nothing too aggressively trendy going on in the drinks department: craft beers and two-for-one cocktails all day. It's the kind of pub that occasionally announces on its Instagram that it's

**WHAT IS IT...**  
An independent Homerton pub where BrewDog used to be.

**WHY GO...**  
Barefoot jazz!  
Britney nights!

→ 23-25 Homerton High St, E9 6JP.  
Homerton Overground.

knocking 50 percent off all alcohol in the building. I think this has only happened once – but still, amazing. And there are roasts on a Sunday. Pubs have a long, painful history of charging up to £25 for veiny lamb and three veg, but The Plough serves roasts that actually taste good. There's only one meat option

per day, alongside a veggie or vegan choice, to try and make things more environmentally friendly, so I was fed succulent chicken with homemade bread sauce. It cost £17, which is steep but probably about average for E9. And the half-price cocktails – beautifully spiced Bloody Marys with three jewel-like

mini gherkins popped on top – balanced things a bit. The combination of good chicken and shoeless jazz made it feel a bit like I'd stumbled into a very earnest couple's commitment ceremony. But I liked it. I'll be interested to see how this vibe translates to the next Britney night. ■ *Kitty Drake*



## DRINK THIS

### Koala-La La La, La La La La



Sick of the festive bunkum before December's even begun? Well, Miracle might not be for you. It's a cosy pop-up inspired by a kitsch holiday home straight from the '70s, serving Snowballs and the like. You may be into this drink in the collection, though, made from gin, pine tea cordial, grapefruit and eucalyptus. Like spending Christmas Down Under – far better than spending it with the in-laws. ■  
→ Miracle, Henrietta Hotel, 14-15 Henrietta St, WC2E 8QG.  
☉ Covent Garden. Until Dec 23. £12.

## THREE OF THE BEST

### CBD bars



**Behind This Wall**  
Vinyl might be this Hackney listening bar's first love, but CBD syrup is on sale here, too. Try it in cocktails – like pink gin drink the Merry Prankster. Those tunes will sound all the sweeter for it.  
→ 411 Mare St, E8 1HY.  
Hackney Central Overground.

**Ladies & Gents Camden**  
The team that run this bar – based in the bogs below Camden Road station – has launched a range of CBD-infused rum. Try Dead Man's Finger rum in a Mai Tai with a mellow twist.  
→ 213 Royal College St, NW1 OSG. Camden Rd Overground.

**Mr Fogg's House of Botanicals**  
It was inevitable that a bar obsessed with botanicals would jump on the CBD trend. Try the Bhang, a cocktail served in a bong that's pumped with smoke for the Insta effect. ■  
→ 48 Newman St, W1T 1QQ.  
☉ Godge St.

# FIVE TAKE A PUNT ON OXFORD



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# Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott  
timeout.com/daytrips



A perfect day in

## Oxford

Literary daydreaming, art galleries and quirky stores

**OXFORD IS A** city that barely needs an introduction. Its beautiful limestone university is famous the world over, even more so since it starred in the Harry Potter franchise (as well as the BBC's 'His Dark Materials'). But, with a cutting-edge culinary scene, ace shops and cultural institutions, it's also far more than the sum of its historical parts. No wonder, then, that it's inspired so many writers and thinkers over the centuries.

### First up

Explore this beautiful city on foot. Clamber up the tower of **St Michael at the North Gate** for stunning views. Meander down New College Lane for gargoyle-spotting plus the famous **Bridge of Sighs**. Hunt out the lion door knocker and lamppost that inspired CS Lewis.

### Stop for lunch

Have a hearty sourdough-based brunch at **Hamblin Bread**. The owner's brother runs **Oli's Thai**, another must-visit. **Opera Café** in Jericho is great for North African and Middle Eastern flavours. Just save room for **G&D's Ice Cream Café**.

### Splash the cash

Find **Cardews** tea shop in **Oxford Covered Market**. It's a haven for loose-leaf snobs. The rich and smoky lapsang souchong is the perfect pick-me-up. Visit **Objects of Use** for impossibly beautiful and genuinely handy household items.

### Soak up the vibes

Embrace being in the city of learning with a visit to the world-class **Ashmolean** museum of art and archaeology or the **Pitt Rivers Museum** of anthropology. For fresh air, wander in the **Oxford Botanic Garden** to find the bench made famous by Lyra and Will in 'His Dark Materials'.

### Drink like a local

Beer drinkers, Oxford's got you. One of the city's best pubs is the historic **Eagle and Child**, also known as The Bird and Baby and a former watering hole of JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis. For more olde-worlde charm, hit up **The Old Bookbinders** in Jericho. For a good line in modern brewers, get down to art-centre-slash-bar-slash-restaurant **The Jam Factory**. ■ *Rosemary Waugh*

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

### IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Yes, it's a cliché, but punting along the **River Cherwell** isn't just for gullible tourists: it's genuinely lovely. A great way to see the city and its famous colleges, it also gives you time to appreciate the Oxfordshire countryside. Brave a winter trip out on the water, when everything is misty and gorgeous.

### WAKE UP HERE

## The Head of the River



Oxford is awash with brilliant pubs, so it's no surprise that one of its loveliest hotels is a Fuller's. Handily located next to Christ Church Meadow, with the river running alongside it, it's the right balance of tranquil and central. Rooms are inspired by famous former university students and, vitally, they're surprisingly soundproof against the pub noise. There's plenty of old-school charm on show, while the terrace is the best place to enjoy classic pub meals and, of course, a nightcap is always within easy reach. It's the ideal snuggly bolthole for a winter weekend break. ■ *Rosemary Waugh*

→ Oxford. From £144 a night.  
[www.headoftheriveroxford.co.uk](http://www.headoftheriveroxford.co.uk)

## Escapes

### Go surfing

Not into festive lights and open fires in cosy pubs? Channel endless Californian summers instead. You can now hit the water at **The Wave**, Bristol's newly opened surfing lake where more than 1,000 great waves are guaranteed every hour, all year round. Book a beginner class on The Bay. Wetsuit definitely required.

→ The Wave, Bristol. [www.thewave.com](http://www.thewave.com). From £55.

### Catch some rays

Soak up some sunshine even on the darkest days at the **Science and Industry Museum**. Until Jan 5 2020, it's home to 'The Sun', an exhibition all about our closest star. Watch it rise around the world or bathe in its warmth on an indoor beach in this colourful, immersive show. Much-needed Vitamin D not guaranteed.

→ Science and Industry Museum, Manchester. [www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk](http://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk). £8.

### Explore a tropical garden

There's no need to venture outside the UK to find warmer climes, thanks to the incredible greenhouses at the **Eden Project**. Enjoy balmy temperatures of up to 25C in the Mediterranean Biome, which is full of plants from the Med and parts of Australia. Or sweat it out in the Rainforest Biome, with temps in the mid-thirties, lush palms and banana plants.

→ Eden Project, Cornwall. [www.edenproject.com](http://www.edenproject.com). From £26.

## FIVE WAYS TO

# Pretend it isn't winter



### Eat ice cream

Forget mulled wine and hot Negronis – you can enjoy chilled treats all year round at this ice-cream wonderland. Open every day in December until Christmas, **Mary's Milk Bar** on Grassmarket in Edinburgh is a sunny, retro parlour with terrazzo stools and walls in pretty pastel shades. Lap up scoops of flavours like treacle and oats, ricotta and coffee syrup, goat's cheese and honey or tea and jam. You could even go for a Christmas pudding gelato filled with boozy whisky caramel, if the festive mood does end up taking you.

→ Mary's Milk Bar, Edinburgh.

[www.marysmilkbar.com](http://www.marysmilkbar.com). From £2.50 single scoop.

### Sleep under the stars

Sick of your centrally heated flat? This campsite in Norfolk is open every night of the year (aside from a couple of weeks over actual Christmas), so you can embrace the outdoorsy-canvas life even in the middle of winter. Pitch up with your own tent or campervan and get that fire pit lit asap. A former railway wagon or luxe shepherds' huts, complete with warming wood-burning stoves, are also available if your winter sleeping bag isn't quite cosy enough. Camping: not just for summer. ■ *Ellie Walker-Arnott*

→ Whitlingham Broad Campsite, Norfolk.

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

From £8.50 per person a night.

## THREE OF THE BEST

# PYO Christmas tree farms



### Kingsley Farm Surrey

Wander around Kingsley Farm's plantation in search of your perfect Christmas companion. Take advantage of the free mince pies and mulled wine that are being served every weekend in December, too. 'Tis the season.

→ Thu Nov 28-Dec 23. [www.kingsleyfarm.co.uk](http://www.kingsleyfarm.co.uk)



### Badger Hill Farm Bedfordshire

Spotted your ideal fir or spruce? You can either cut it down yourself or ask staff to do the chopping at this huge Bedfordshire farm. Then all you need to do is remember where you put those brussels sprout baubles.

→ Until Dec 22. [www.badgerhillchristmastreefarm.co.uk](http://www.badgerhillchristmastreefarm.co.uk)



### Crockford Bridge Farm Surrey

You don't just pick your own tree here, you can cut down the fir with your own hands, too. Just bring a hand saw and get chopping before you lose daylight. Don't fancy your sawing skills? Pick up a pre-cut tree instead. ■ *Ellie Walker-Arnott*

→ Until Dec 22. [www.crockfordbridgefarm.co.uk](http://www.crockfordbridgefarm.co.uk)

Escape the Christmas crowds at [timeout.com/daytrips](http://timeout.com/daytrips)



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