You having a laugh?

London's comedians are here to make everything okay again. Seriously.
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Life can be all **go, go, go.** But you don’t need to go to your local cafe to get your coffee. Not when you can enjoy it from the comfort of your kitchen.

**Worth stopping to think about.**

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Inside

This week’s Time Out
in no time at all

Fatt Pundit
At this Indo-Chinese firecracker, go
for the chilli paneer in lettuce cups.
Comedy name. Serious food

PAGE 104

Greta
expectations
The placards. The demos. The
die-ins. We look back at a year of
climate change protest in London

PAGE 39

What a carve up!
From Halloween high jinks to
literary lols, let our kids’ special
be your half-term godsend

PAGE 74

Hogarth
Don’t miss the great pictorial satirist’s
series at Sir John Soane’s Museum.
Five-star grotesquerie (some beauty too)

PAGE 100

JB Fletcher rocks
Find out why we love Solve-Along-a-
Murder-She-Wrote, the bizarrely brilliant
interactive night out at the RVT

PAGE 67

FEATURES AND REGULARS
9 City Life 20 Free London 22 A comic’s-eye view of the city 35 London’s comedy hotspots 39 A year of climate protest 46 Exclusive offers
48 Property 54 Escapes 62 Things to Do 74 Kids 84 Film 89 Music & Nightlife 95 Theatre & Dance 98 Comedy 100 Art 104 Food 108 Drink
Before it all heads home to Egypt, Tutankhamun’s touring funerary magnificence will be on show at the Saatchi Gallery. It’s not cheap to go and see, mind you. Well, you can’t take it with you...

‘The golden death mask isn’t part of the deal for £28?‘
Jeff V via Facebook

Meanwhile, over in the ‘don’t take our headlines so literally’ department is a guy who definitely doesn’t deserve SicilyFest’s delicious food.
‘Who on earth doesn’t know cannoli from arancini? Good heavens above.’
Brett R via Facebook

A Leytonstone pub’s new owners have installed a miniature railway in its beer garden. That’s it. That’s the whole story. We loved it.
‘Best piece of journalism I’ve seen all week.’
Ed C via Facebook

Good to hear some lapsed readers are back in the fold – influenced by our awesome distributors!
‘Thanks to the lady who hands out the mag with a genuine smile at Kilburn tube station, I have started reading Time Out again!’
Lana H via Facebook

Our Art & Culture editor, Eddy Frankel, wrote an ode to the London beigel last week. Not the bagel, you understand. ‘An article praising the humble bagel is one I will always agree with, but I do take issue with the idea they must be called beigels. Apart from Hasidic Jews, the only people who use that pronunciation are those who enjoy cosplaying Yiddish. You say beigel, I say bagel, let’s call the whole thing nosh.’
Michael G via email

He wasn’t saying you have to call them beigels, just that Londoners should be proud to call them that. Anyway, you’ve written your own great punchline, Michael. L’chaim!

There are times when all us Londoners could use a good laugh. Which is why, this week, we’ve invited London’s funniest rising comedy stars to step in and give us all a break from bleak reality. So what happened when we challenged a bunch of stand-ups to write Time Out? Daft London stories (John Kearns’s grandad once nicked a posh tree), off-colour dating tips, postcode insults (Barnet is a ‘giant Waitrose’, apparently), the cheapest cheap eats guide ever – and a ton of other funny shit (literally in the case of Dane Baptiste’s handy cut-out-and-keep guide on where to take a poo around town). Enjoy.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

‘Our Art & Culture editor, Eddy Frankel, wrote an ode to the London beigel last week. Not the bagel, you understand. ‘An article praising the humble bagel is one I will always agree with, but I do take issue with the idea they must be called beigels. Apart from Hasidic Jews, the only people who use that pronunciation are those who enjoy cosplaying Yiddish. You say beigel, I say bagel, let’s call the whole thing nosh.’
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MICHAEL G VIA EMAIL

HE WASN’T SAYING YOU HAVE TO CALL THEM BEIGELS, JUST THAT LONDONERS SHOULD BE PROUD TO CALL THEM THAT. ANYWAY, YOU’VE WRITTEN YOUR OWN GREAT PUNCHLINE, MICHAEL. L’CHAIM!’
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*2015-18 OVERALL DECLINE IN NEW DIAGNOSES IN LONDON. SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND.
London Fields Brewery is leading a pub crawl with a difference on Saturday. Join its clean-up of Regent’s Canal, then swap your bag of litter for a half-pint at various boozers nearby.

Gobble up guest spins on mac ‘n’ cheese from Polpo, Bleecker and Club Mexicana at The Cheese Bar in Camden — its ‘Return of the Mac’ takeovers run until next month. Cheesy does it!

Every Wednesday evening, RIBA is flinging open its doors for The Architects Underground — a new series of lates with guest speakers from film, music, art, fashion, theatre and even robotics.

Get the latest from London at timeout.com/news
AN ODE TO

Wagamama

There’s still magic in the well-worn Asian chain, reckons Emma Hughes

WHEN YOU WRITE about restaurants for a living, people expect you to be sniffy about chains. And I’ll admit I am when it comes to some (people who drink Pret coffee: who hurt you?). But there’s one that will always have a special place in my heart, and that’s Wagamama.

There are 36 London branches and I’ve probably eaten at most of them. I fully expect to have a katsu curry Deliverooed to me on my deathbed. Okay, you can get better (and, obviously, more authentic) noodles and rice in literally hundreds of restaurants across London. But for me, the food isn’t the point.

I had my first Wagamama when I was 14. Before it opened, accessible grown-up dining in my hometown of Guildford was limited to the Pizza Hut salad bar and whatever alcohol you could persuade someone with a fake ID to smuggle out of the newsagent for you. And then Wagamama came, and suddenly a tenner from your weekend job bought you entry to a dazzling new world of ramen and rainbow juices and chilli oil that made your mouth hum. It tasted like freedom and adulthood, and I was hooked.

Wagamama was where I fell for the whole business of eating. Sitting at its long, wooden tables, I learned that restaurants could be portals to the other side of the world, and the backdrops against which some of life’s most magical moments played out. I’ve fallen in and out of love over more than one bowl of edamame.

When I moved to London in my early twenties, Wagamama felt like an old friend in a daunting new city. Between job interviews, flat hunts and romantic misadventures, I could always rely on its yaki soba.

Now, even though I get to visit plenty of newer, cooler places, I’d still pick Wagamama over 90 percent of them. Nobody laughs at you if you ask what a word on the menu means; babies and children are welcome; vegetarians have always been generously catered for; and its vegan menu is probably the strongest of the London chains.

Best of all, it still manages to conjure up a sense of occasion, even if that occasion is just a rainy Tuesday night. Get me in there and I’m a wide-eyed teenager again, taking my first slurp of life-changing soup from a massive wooden ladle.

‘Before she gets her vagina reconstructed, she needs to get her face done.’

‘I feel like my new vibe is “grumpy”.’

‘Is Derby a real place? I mean, is it justified?’

‘You’re so Kisstory it hurts.’

‘I’m wondering how much chocolate my pearls have on them.’

‘I’m really into my rhubarb at the moment.’

‘Oh yeah, I think maybe I do want to translate a fun, light-hearted tarot deck.’

‘Toast the bun, you psychopath!’

‘I don’t need to be a scientist to know more than a scientist about the universe.’

‘I’m treating dating like a Couch to 5k.’

‘The city is scary. I wanna go back to Clapham.’

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon
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Together we thrive
NOT A FAN of slogging away on the treadmill?
No sweat! Exercise in London can be anything from ballet to boxing these days, as this map shows. Flexible fitness scheme ClassPass has worked out which type of exercise is most popular among its members in each London postcode, and it turns out that we’re a bendy bunch: yoga is the capital’s favourite form of exercise, coming first in a whopping 41 of the 97 postcodes analysed. Namaste!

Not everyone is downward-dogging, though. N19 is London’s most chilled-out postcode, with meditation coming in at number one. Barre is big in the bougie south-west, and the people of deep south-east London are showing a marked tendency towards salsa-ing their way through dance-themed workouts. Sounds much more fun than letting your gym membership card languish away in a bottom drawer. ■ El Hunt

Need a shove off the sofa?
Check out timeout.com/fitness

Witness the fitness

⇒ www.classpass.com
This fortnight it’s a…

Uncovering the Music Industry 17.10.19
with Universal Music

Floral Workshop 21.10.19
with London Flower School

Storytelling Session 22.10.19
with Sandal Sticks Theatre & Time Out

Brew Demo 26.10.19
with Origin Coffee

Neon Life Drawing 26.10.19
with Time Out

Book at samsung.com/uk/kx
#SamsungKX
I WAS BORN in India during WWII. My father was in the RAF and after the war ended, he and some fellow officers formed an airline. I spent my early childhood in Buenos Aires. When I was 12, my father lost all his money, my parents got divorced and my mum and I moved to London.

I quickly became a north London boy, living between my aunt’s in Edgware and my mum’s in Stanmore. At school I was part of a high-spirited bunch of sixth formers: if we weren’t protesting politically, we would be visiting exhibitions, theatre productions or jazz clubs. Living in north London really shaped my taste in music. I met the singer Long John Baldry at Dino’s Café by Edgware station, and stayed talking to him for hours about the blues.

At the start of the ’60s I was studying at UCL and getting into freelance journalism. My girlfriend at the time had a large collection of vintage clothes, and regularly scoured secondhand markets like Portobello or Caledonian Road.

When the building on King’s Road where I worked as a journalist went belly-up, the landlord asked if I’d like to take it on to sell the clothes. I and my two partners, Sheila Cohen and John Pearse, opened the Granny Takes a Trip boutique in 1966.

These were the days of the so-called ‘alternative culture’. London was at the epicentre, and we wanted to be part of that revolution. Our shop was a magnet for anybody with creative leanings. We didn’t want to be seen in a sharp uniform like the mods on Carnaby Street: we wanted fashion to be looser and more free-flowing.

Quite often we’d change the shopfronts overnight, staying up all night with pots of paint. At one point we chopped a 1948 Dodge car in half and screwed it on to the shopfront like it was coming out at you. We wanted to titillate passers-by and grab their attention, creating something that was artwork in its own right. Granny’s was more about ideas than making money. Running a shop was not my ambition.

In 1967, the people who ran the UFO Club on Tottenham Court Road asked me to team up with the late artist Michael English to produce a poster for their psychedelic night. As Hapshash and the Coloured Coat, we designed posters for musicians like Jimi Hendrix. We even recorded an avant-garde album. Around 50 of my friends turned up to the studio, tooting horns and making all sorts of noises, while I read out Marvel comic books to make them sound like epic poetry.

After a while, the whole ’60s atmosphere of ‘peace and love’ morphed into something more aggressive and political. My life changed too: I met someone, fell in love, got married, and started painting. I’ve been painting portraits ever since. I live in London – I can’t think of any other city with such a strong core of creativity. I hope it stays that way.

For more unique looks at London life, head to timeout.com/stories
Sophie made a very very very good decision

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Ride4Good
Soho then and now

SOHO HAS CLEANED its act up, and swanky eateries now sit snugly next to sex shops. But the area still has a chaotic undercurrent, celebrated in a new exhibition at The Photographers’ Gallery. ‘Shot in Soho’ is a rare chance to see an ‘80s photo essay by the influential William Klein, who documented everything from sleazy massage parlours to shoeshiners. John Goldblatt’s series, meanwhile, centres around women relaxing in a strip club’s dressing room back in 1968, while Dublin photographer Daragh Soden has also been tasked with capturing a brand new look at Soho. Just hope he didn’t catch you on film last time you drunkenly stumbled home from G-A-Y, eh? ■ El Hunt


gazillions of giveaways this Friday
Rewild My Street

WHAT IS IT?
A city-wide conservation campaign aiming to make the capital’s streets, gardens and houses better habitats for wildlife. In collaboration with the National Park City campaign, Rewild My Street (which is run by The Cass lecturer and architect Siân Moxon) is now putting together a series of guides full of activities, suggestions and planting tips for time-poor Londoners with green intentions.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?
Yes, we should celebrate London’s new National Park City status – but there’s still plenty to do. According to the London Wildlife Trust, the capital loses a green space the size of two-and-a-half Hyde Parks every year, just from people swapping planting for paving their gardens. Making our living spaces better for wildlife also helps to purify the air – and it can look pretty stunning too.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
Get on Rewild My Street’s mailing list for monthly ‘wild makeover’ tips. Besides creating homemade bee hotels, hedgehog holes and window boxes, you could make a difference by just adding water: a miniature pond or bird bath is an effective way to encourage more wildlife. Though maybe ask your landlord before you crack out that spade.

Kyra Hanson

Discover more eco initiatives at timeout.com/green

THE VIEW FROM YOU
What Time Out readers have been Instagramming this week

‘Burrata and truffle eggs, at Eggbreak – perfection!’

‘Extinction Rebellion’s Red Brigade, marching at the climate strike.’

‘The moonlight peeking through Tower Bridge.’

‘A quick stroll around my pretty pink neighbourhood, Notting Hill.’

Want to see your Insta-shots of the capital in print? Tag them #timeoutlondon
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Each year your Airtime Plan will be adjusted on your April bill by the Retail Price Index (RPI) rate of inflation announced in the preceding February. Find out more at o2.co.uk/prices. Data allowances must be used within the month and cannot be carried over. Get 6 months free airtime when you buy any tablet, then full price. Ends 5 November 2019. Direct purchases only. Pay the cash price for your device or spread the cost over 3 to 36 months (excludes dongles). The device cost will be the same whatever you choose. There may be an upfront cost. You need a monthly rolling Airtime Plan as long as you have a Device Plan. Pay off your Device Plan at any time and you can choose to keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade or leave. If your Airtime Plan ends for any reason you will need to pay your Device Plan in full. UK data only. Fair usage policy applies. Devices are subject to availability. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefónica UK Ltd, SL1 4DX. Telefónica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms.
Put your money away! Here are the week’s best free events

**GREEN LIGHT**
**Nature Needs Heroes**
Timberland is hosting an event in Croydon’s Thornton Heath Square, as part of a regeneration project. Expect workshops and talks on looking after the city’s green spaces, plus music curated by Loyle Carner, who will be there on the day too.
⇒ Ambassador House.

**GET TRASHED**
**Love Not Waste Clean-up Crawl**
Do your bit for the planet and drink beer at London Fields Brewery’s clean-up crawl. Help clear up Regent’s Canal: for every bag of rubbish, you’ll get a free half pint at five local pubs and the LFB taproom. Find more details on its social channels.
⇒ Various locations. Sat Oct 19.

**A SWEET DEAL**
**Chocolate shots at Colicci**
If chocolate on tap sounds like your idea of sweet, sweet heaven, head to Colicci’s Serpentine Coffee House this week. The coffee stall has a new hot chocolate tap and there will be free shots up for grabs all week.
⇒ Serpentine Coffee House.

**RAISE A GLASS**
**International Gin &Tonic Day**
Some national days are a bit niche (Black Pudding Day, anyone?) But we can get on board with this one, especially because Notting Hill bar The Little Yellow Door is giving away 100 free Botanist gin G&Ts from 6pm. Cheers!
⇒ The Little Yellow Door.

**COME TOGETHER**
**‘Transformer: A Rebirth of Wonder’**
Curated by *Dazed* co-founder Jefferson Hack, this group exhibition explores identity, representation and self-image. The show takes its name from a poem by American beat poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti and considers the ways we can come together to make the world that little bit better, which is nice.

Looking for things to do all year round? Try [timeout.com/free](http://timeout.com/free)
Rustle

Chomp

Charge

Do more in Hastings. The Southeastern Weekender ticket.

Enjoy a weekend away and travel between Friday and Sunday with our Weekender ticket.

For more weekend inspiration and to book tickets: southeasternrailway.co.uk/waystosave
Everything’s a bit, er, bleak at the moment, isn’t it? Not to worry. A new wave of comedians are taking London by storm – and this week they’re taking over Time Out too. Keep reading for lols.

...John Kearns’s grandad nicked a tree
My grandfather once stole a tree from Berkeley Square. You get a good-quality tree in Mayfair, the most expensive in London. In 2008, a London plane was valued there at £750,000.

My grandfather was no fool. His mate Ronnie helped him cut it down. Ronnie had one hand bigger than the other from when he used to churn butter as a child. I have a photo of them holding the tree like a big fish. In 1950s London no one asked questions such as ‘Excuse me, fuck’s going on here, lads?’ You could carry anything past Buckingham Palace; the worst that’d happen was you’d wake a dozing policeman.

At dinner parties, Grandad would pass flakes of the bark around like After Eights, pointing out its olive-and-cream hue, holding up the starry leaves to the light. ‘This is what makes London great! Her lungs, you know.’ When he died we made a coffin out of the tree, but it looked appalling, so we got carpenters to do it instead. A born-and-bred Londoner buried inside one.


...Kwame Asante turned 18 in a Mayfair nightclub
As someone who was born and grew up in London, finally turning 18 was bittersweet. I made the bold choice of going to a Mayfair nightclub with my mates. We paid £25 for entry. Our faces dropped when we discovered a vodka Red Bull cost £10! Twenty pounds! I’m pretty sure there are places in the world where you can buy a baby for £10. I bet there are places you could buy a baby and a vodka Red Bull for £20. I’m not saying that’s okay. What I am saying is: shop around.

I asked the barman why everything was so expensive, and he said: ‘Sir. We’re not selling you a drink. We’re selling you an experience.’ An experience?! The place is sweaty and noisy. The floor is damp and sticky. There’s a lot of awkward eye contact. Everybody’s pretending to be happy. You’ve basically charged a Londoner, in London, £25 to experience London! At least I could wear trainers when I was outside. I went straight to Nando’s to take solace in unlimited soft-drinks.

-> Kwame plays the Boat Show Comedy Club. Tattershall Castle.
Jamie Demetriou gives you a tour of a secretive, unspoilt corner of central London

WE LONDONERS ALL have our secret backstreet spots, our places of calm and refuge. I want to talk about a special little hidden gem I love. I eat there, I dream there, I go there to giggle, to grow. She's precious because she's mine. She is, of course, Leicester Square. I feel silly giving her up for you readers, but as gentrification looms, I want to plug this quaint lil' corner of the world and what it has to give, before she's no more. Here's a few of L²'s stunning offerings...

Entertainment
Let your eyes be your aeroplane to anywhere, with L²'s gorgeously underpriced cinemas. Some films are set in India, Cornwall or even Leicester Square! It'll feel like you're actually there!

Exercise
You can strengthen your upper body in Leicester Square easily. Trying to contain your excitement in M&M's World is a workout in itself!

Food and drink
Grab a cold cream down at local pud vendor Haagen-Dazs for a chance to meet jolly Mr Dazs himself. He'll happily regale you with all his wonderful memories of cream.

Not to be confused with
It's much better than Trafalgar Square. 1,587 people were killed or wounded in the battle of Trafalgar Square. Everyone has survived in Leicester Square this year.

STATH LETS FLATS is available to stream on All 4.

The famous circus at Oxford Circus got shut down after a tiger escaped and mauled a lady in Mango. The circus in Piccadilly shut down because it was shit.

Trafalgar Square used to be a rectangle before erosion.

If you say to your server in the Piccadilly branch of Five Guys 'I'm wearing the cat's pyjamas' they let you into a secret cocktail bar behind some boxes of nuts. If they look like they don't understand just say it again, louder, until they do.

Hornchurch in London is so named for having the horniest church in London!

The big furry hats of the Queen's Guards at Buckingham Palace store water, like camels. In the event of a water shortage or national emergency, the Royal Family can suck it out through a nipple at the top.

The Queen owns all the foxes and if you see one you have to bow to it.

The Lord Mayor of London has to provide their own jewellery. The bigger the chain, the longer the reign!

Ciarán Dowd and Lou Sanders share an alternative take on London's history

STATH LETS FLATS is available to stream on All 4.

LIES TO TELL TOURISTS

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Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 5-9.
LIVE at The Boost Comedy Shop

Buckle up for big laughs at our stand-up night at The Boost Comedy Shop, Brick Lane, on Friday 25th October.

WIN TICKETS!

Scan to enter

GRAB ONE AT YOUR LOCAL SHOP
You must be joking!

The postcode roast

Sophie Duker’s handy guide to why you’re the worst

N20
You are essentially just one big Waitrose.

NW1
Okay, two pretty good parks and the Jewish Museum. But have you seen Camden High Street? It’s a mausoleum of Banksy tat populated entirely by teenage tourists.

CR0
Stormzy lived here once, you bleat on repeat. Stormzy! Yes, but that doesn’t make Croydon any less shit.

SE15
You saw what E8 had done with the place, and you said ‘Hold my beer.’

E8
You wanted a ‘vibrant’ area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

CR2
You were looking for a trendy art scene, but you did not want to live in a corked-off area. London is so expensive, but there are plenty of cutting-edge places in London where you can get incredible cuisine for very little.

E17
Islington rents were too high, so you upped sticks to £1,000 a month. You pretend you’ve got both nature and culture (Walthamstow Wetlands! God's Own Junk Yard!) but actually you’re fuming in the William Morris Gallery café, wishing you were in Angel.

E10
You thought Leyton was so cool, you pretended you were living in Hackney Wick.

EDGWARE ROAD
You thought Broadway Market was a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

COSMO
You saw what E8 had done with the place, and you said ‘Hold my beer.’

BROADWAY MARKET
You pretend you’ve got both nature and culture (Walthamstow Wetlands! God’s Own Junk Yard!) but actually you’re fuming in the William Morris Gallery café, wishing you were in Angel.

E15
You are essentially just one big Waitrose.

NAGS HEAD
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SE15
You saw what E8 had done with the place, and you said ‘Hold my beer.’

TUFTON ROAD
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

VICTORIA
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

LEICESTER ROAD
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

THAMES
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

COSMO
You saw what E8 had done with the place, and you said ‘Hold my beer.’

BOHEMIAN
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

BAR
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

BROOK STREET
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

LEISURE TIME
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

SLOANE SQUARE
You thought you needed a vibrant area, but you also wanted a Pret. You think Broadway Market is a ‘real’ market, and can’t understand why Ridley Road is so noisy. I hope you choke on your smashed avocado toast.

1
You may be aware of artisan bakery chain Greggs, but did you know that if you wait outside any branch between 4am and 5am, a truck will come to deliver new stock and take away the day-old pastries. If you ask the man nicely, he will give you the stale stuff.

2
Large outdoor eatery Hyde Park lets you choose the duck you want while it’s still alive – then you build your own fire, pluck and cook it! It’s super-rustic and a great new concept for 2019.

3
Trafalgar Square = pigeon costume = free bread.

4
Eat in any restaurant and trick the waiter into thinking you haven’t received your order yet. Steal!


Plan a coffee with a friend seven years in advance.
Avoid Oxford Circus.
Big up the Victoria line.
Bitch about the Bakerloo line.
Tell people at parties that the ‘impatient Londoner’ is just a stereotype.
Be impatient with everyone on your commute.
Talk about how you need to get out of London but never do.
Leave London for five minutes and die of boredom.
Try to connect to the wi-fi at every tube station – you live for that 30-second high.
Pass a bridge across the Thames and think: ‘Wow, I live in London, baby!’
Get to the other side of the bridge and forget all about it.
Have a night in for a change.
Spend your night in getting FOMO.

www.mawaan.co.uk
How to date on the cheap even in London!

Michael Odewale keeps the costs down and the romance levels up

**DATING IN LONDON** can be expensive and there are only so many times you can take someone on dates to the park before they start asking questions like ‘Why do we keep going on dates to the park?’

Here’s a couple of ways to show that special person you care about them while also taking care of your number one priority – your wallet.

Try not to date too far outside your zone, and I don’t mean looks. I’m talking Zones 1-5. You have to balance how much you like the person with how much you’re willing to put on your Oyster.

I once had to break up with somebody because I realised I only liked them during off-peak hours. You know it’s real when it’s a rush-hour type of love.

Taking a date to the cinema can also rack up costs, especially since Orange Wednesdays finished, so why bother? Just read the plot of the movie on the internet and imagine it in your heads together. I call that one ‘Wiki and chill’.


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**Who is your date really?**

Olga Koch reveals what your date’s choice of museum says about them

**Natural History Museum**

You’re on a date with someone who’s definitely been to New York. (I don’t know if you know this, but they have a Natural History Museum in New York too.) Make the trip fun for yourself by not letting your date bring up New York by any means necessary.

**Science Museum**

You’re on a date with two kids on top of each other in a trench coat. Remain calm, point at the biggest locomotive to distract them, and walk away.

**Imperial War Museum**

The only person who ever thought it was appropriate to take a date to the Imperial War Museum was your dad. (Yeah, I went on a date with your dad, what you gonna do about it?)

**Tate Modern**

Your date knows nothing about modern art and you’re here because they googled ‘fun date ideas London’ two days before.

**Museum of London**

You’re on a date with an employee of the Museum of London. Remember to take full advantage of their discount at the gift shop and museum café.

→ Olga Koch: ‘If/Then’ is touring next year.

---

**Crying on public transport?**

Encouraged!

If you haven’t had a cry on public transport, with total disregard for your fellow passengers’ comfort levels, you are not a true Londoner. I once had a full-on drunk weep over a boy who ghosted me, on the 341 from Waterloo, all the way up to Haringey. It was the most cathartic bus ride of my life.

**Sitting in priority seating even though you don’t need to?**

Frowned upon when it’s others. Okay when it’s you!

I’ve done anything to keep my priority seat, like pretending to be fully engrossed in the Evening Standard so I can act like I haven’t seen that elderly woman. I’ve even put on a ‘baby on board’ badge, pushed out my tummy and, when offered a seat by the elderly, taken it.

**Walking past someone who’s collapsed?**

Okay when you are late for work

You get off the tube and the person in front of you drops to the floor. Of course you’ll help, but you secretly hope that the person next to you will rush to their side so you can walk past with a clear conscience. It’s not that you’re a bad person, it’s just that you’ve been late to work every day this week and today you have a chance of breaking that cycle. You still waste 10 minutes getting a coffee from Pret though.

→ Evelyn co-hosts ‘Rice to Meet You’ on Apple Podcast and Spotify.
Delicious Pepperoni Pizza on a cardboard base

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Participating stores. Subject to availability
View from the future

London in ten years’ time, as envisioned by Rhys James

★ Gentrification spreads from the centre like a kombucha spill. We come to accept the definition of ‘gentrified’ as ‘has a Gail’s bakery now’.

★ East London becomes so vintagie the plague returns, localised in Hackney Wick.

★ Brexit causes house prices to soar as people accept their ‘move to Paris to drink tiny coffees for a year’ fantasies are dead and demand increases.

★ Alternatively, a lack of Brexit causes house prices to soar as homeowners decide they need more money to pay for tiny coffees in Paris next year.

★ A giant inflatable flailing tube man is erected in the City by a YouTube prankster for the sole purpose of ruining the establishing drone shots on ‘The Apprentice’.

★ Every car is now a Prius, as decreed by UN President Thunberg, causing mass confusion as to whether or not your Uber has arrived.

★ Niche sport bars like Flight Club, Bounce and those mad warehouses for tiny golf inspire more novelty nerd-sport pubs. The most talked about include Catch (indoor fishing), Windy City (indoor kite-flying) and the extremely short-lived Gulp (sword-swallowing).

★ Visitors from the north still somehow end up plonked directly into Leicester Square and go home believing London is an Angus Steakhouse and three beatboxers.


Dane Baptistte’s top three places to take a poo in London

What do you do if you wanna take a poo in an English country garden? I wouldn’t know. I live in London. As a London resident, being cash rich and time poor, finding the space to eat, live, pray and love isn’t always easy.

There’s a lot of shit to deal with, especially when you need one! Here are some tips on convenient places to defecate in your city.

Pubs
Typically only paying customers can relieve themselves in pub toilets, but if you give the impression that you’re meeting friends/a date who stands you up (acted out with fake phone call for good effect), everyone will understand why you need a number two, as the world has shifted on you.

Upscale department stores
Selfridges, Harvey Nicks, Harrods. Who poos there? The rich (like you), that’s who. And a rich person won’t be questioned about if they’re buying anything. Maybe bring a cravat or monocle to complete the illusion.

Comedy clubs
It’s hard to hear your butt burping when everyone is laughing. Comedy clubs provide excellent facilities, with the talented acts loosening your belly in the best way. Don’t tell anyone I told y’all…

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This funny little place I know...

Looking for IRL laughs? Writer and comedian Stevie Martin rounds up the city’s hottest comedy spots (and, more importantly, rates the loos)

**The charming one**
The Bill Murray is a friendly, rowdy room with top stand-ups warming up for tours (Eddie Izzard is a regular) as well as alternative up-and-comers (the monthly Night of Nights mixed bill show is a lot of fun): comedians have as much love for it as its namesake. Sure, there’s no room to sit in the bar and the venue gets incredibly sweaty but this only adds to the charm.

Loo rating 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 The toilets are so small you risk weeing up yourself.

Watch The Night of Nights with Ben Target, Gabby Best, Daniel Cook and Rose Johnson. November 4, 6.45pm.

→ The Bill Murray, Angel.

**The fancy one**
If you’re a comic, you’ll love Streatham Space Project’s state-of-the-art gear, big spangly stage and lovely backstage area. If you’re an audience member you won’t care about that, but there’s also a fit bar and a diverse and exciting roster of comics. SSP hosts the excellent South London Comedy Festival each year complete with ticket deals and big TV names like Nish Kumar and Dara Ó Briain. Loo rating 🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟 Super-clean and separate loos for acts and audience, which is very rare.

Watch Stand-Up Wednesdays with character comic President Obonjo, plus Steve Whitely and Katie Lane. November 6, 7.30pm.

→ Streatham Space Project, Streatham Hill rail.
**The Edinburgh preview one**

The Pleasance Theatre hosts excellent work-in-progress seasons featuring basically every comedian you’d care to name in the lead-up to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. But it’s also reliable in programming fun comedy events with rude names in the off-season. Nick Helm’s Christmas Fuck-Fest is an absolute blast and sells out every year, so book early.

**Loo rating ★★★★★** Spacious and featuring a full-length mirror, which is an excellent touch. The performers’ toilet is grim so docked a star.

**Watch** Nick Helm’s Christmas Fuck-Fest.

- **December 16**, 8pm.
  - Pleasance Theatre. ☎ Caledonian Rd.

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**The hipster one**

It’s in Bethnal Green, there’s a pool table, a lot of exposed brick, everyone is wearing Reeboks and the pizza is top-notch. Sorry, the comedy is also great too. Backyard Comedy Club curates a fun mix of one-off events, big-name warm-ups and mixed bill nights featuring stars off the telly and up-and-comers. Always worth a punt if you’re at a loose end and want to snort pizza out of your nose.

**Loo rating ★★★★★** No toilets, because cool people don’t wee (of course there are toilets).

**Watch** Amusical Halloween Special.

- **October 30**, 7.30pm.
  - Backyard Comedy Club. ☎ Bethnal Green.

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**The cool one that’s cool**

Hosting the coolest comedy in London, Moth Club is an achingly cool, cool place for cool people. Comedy night organisers Knock2Bag curate a list of unequivocally excellent young, starry and exciting comics from both the UK (Tash and Jamie Demetriou are regulars) and across the Pond (hello, Kate Berlant). It’s a must for all comedy lovers/people who like laughing.

**Loo rating ★★★★★** No toilets, because cool people don’t wee (of course there are toilets).

**Watch** Knock2Bag: Rose Matafeo & Friends.

- **October 24**, 7.30pm.
  - Moth Club. ☎ Hackney Central Overground.

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**The something-for-everyone one**

Without wanting to exaggerate, there’s so much variety at 2Northdown that if you can’t find something you like, you’re probably clinically dead. There are hours fresh from the Fringe, work-in-progress, regular mixed nights (Mic Check is especially great), karaoke comedy nights and experimental shows from the likes of John Kearns and Mat Ewins.

**Loo rating ★★★★★** It’s lovely but flanks the stage, so wait until the interval or risk everyone hearing you wee. This adds to the excitement.

**Watch** Canned Laughter Karaoke Roulette.

- **November 7**, 7pm.
  - 2Northdown. ☎ King’s Cross.

---

**The big one**

Soho Theatre is quite simply the best comedy venue in London, programming a variety of shows from the Fringe alongside up-and-comers like, y’know, Jerry Seinfeld, who casually dropped in one night. Oh, and Phoebe Waller-Bridge’s *Fleabag* started in London here (no big deal). Basically, if you close your eyes and point to something on the comedy programme, it’ll be worth seeing. The bar is a hub of hob-nobbery and serves up excellent espresso martinis if it’s not busy. Love this place.

**Loo rating ★★★★★** There are gender-neutral and disabled options (ten points to Gryffindor!) and the walls of the cubicles are thick. I’ll say no more about that.


- **December 16-February 15 2020**, 9.30pm.
  - Soho Theatre. ☎ Tottenham Court Rd.

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**The classic stand-up one**

Want to avoid being ambushed by a sketch or character comedian? Head to Headliners Comedy Club where you can guarantee: a) a simple comic-and-mic set-up, and: b) consistently high quality. Expect a good mix with Arthur Smith and Al Murray as regulars alongside up-and-comers.

**Loo rating ★★★★★** I once got stuck in the toilets, so it’s unfair of me to critique them. Tip: the lock sticks.

**Watch** Arthur Smith and more.

- **October 25-26**, 8.30pm.
  - Headliners Comedy Club. ☎ Turnham Green rail.

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As Extinction Rebellion’s two weeks of protests continue, Isabelle Aron looks back at 12 months of environmental activism

November 2018

After officially launching on October 31 2018 with a declaration of rebellion read outside the Houses of Parliament, radical climate action group Extinction Rebellion organised its first large-scale protest. The plan? A blockade of Southwark, Blackfriars, Waterloo, Westminster and Lambeth bridges. The result? The world’s attention.
A Brexit debate in the House of Commons was interrupted by half-naked Extinction Rebellion protesters, who glued their hands to the glass in the public gallery and stood with their bums facing the Commons. Meanwhile, other protesters took over Waterloo Bridge, Marble Arch, Parliament Square, Oxford Circus and Piccadilly Circus for two weeks of action. A pink boat with the words ‘tell the truth’ was parked up in the middle of the usually busy junction at Oxford Circus. Even Greta Thunberg travelled here (by train) to join in on the action.
EDDIE MURPHY
is Rudy Ray Moore

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May 2019

Greenpeace activists blockaded BP’s London office, arriving at 3am on the morning of the company’s general annual meeting. They shut off all five entrances to the office in St James’s Square, using containers which could accommodate two people and were filled with enough supplies to last at least a week, plus a tiny toilet. A banner was hoisted from the windows proclaiming ‘climate emergency’.

June 2019

Just a few weeks later, 40 activists from Greenpeace stormed into Mansion House, wearing sashes that read ‘climate emergency’. The plan was to disrupt Chancellor Philip Hammond’s speech, as it was being broadcast live on TV, and instead read out a speech calling for greater government investment. There was a scuffle before they were removed from the building.

July 2019

This July brought with it a week-long ‘summer uprising’ organised by Extinction Rebellion across five UK cities. In London, activists marooned a blue boat outside the Royal Courts of Justice, held up traffic in Dalston and organised a march at Hackney Town Hall. Protesters took to east London with placards and banners to call for climate action.
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Designed by
Justina Radavičiūtė
UCA Design Student 2019

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Shop the limited edition collection, available in stores now.

“DrinkMe” design is exclusive to Tesco stores only from 28.10.19.
The Global Week for Future action saw protests take place in 185 countries including strikes across London on September 20. At Millbank, a rally run by youth activists drew crowds of around 100,000, with speeches from Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Green Party leader Caroline Lucas. Meanwhile, Extinction Rebellion staged a ‘funeral march’ at London Fashion Week. Activists called for LFW to stop running the event in its current form, because of the fashion industry’s huge environmental impact.

Inspired? Get an eco guide to London at timeout.com/green

September 2019

The Global Week for Future action saw protests take place in 185 countries including strikes across London on September 20. At Millbank, a rally run by youth activists drew crowds of around 100,000, with speeches from Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Green Party leader Caroline Lucas. Meanwhile, Extinction Rebellion staged a ‘funeral march’ at London Fashion Week. Activists called for LFW to stop running the event in its current form, because of the fashion industry’s huge environmental impact.

October 2019

Continuing on the funeral theme, Extinction Rebellion activists dressed in black, mounted a fire engine and used the hose to spray fake blood (made from all-natural beetroot juice) on cars at the Treasury building on Horse Guards Road on October 3. The (slightly unsuccessful) demonstration launched two weeks of action across London. Last week, offshoot Animal Rebellion turned Smithfield into a fruit and vegetable market and hundreds of mothers staged a mass breastfeeding near Parliament Square to ‘plead for the lives’ of children. The protesting continues...
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**Kurobuta**

**What is it?** A meal and a cocktail at a bang-on-trend Asian-fusion joint.

**Why go?** This hip restaurant serves sublime food with serious pedigree. Bao buns, hot chicken wings, avocado wontons and miso-baked aubergine are just a handful of dishes you can find on its menu.

**What’s exclusive?** An appetiser, a main, sushi and a cocktail are just £20, saving you 53 percent.

→ Kurobuta Chelsea. ✔ West Brompton.  
Until Dec 30. www.timeout.com/kurobutachelsea

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**Wandering tours**

**What is it?** A secret garden or canal-side guided walking tour.

**Why go?** Think you know London? Think again. These tours give you the chance to explore areas that remain relatively unknown. Run by people who are passionate about the city’s rich history, the tours are as informal as they are informative.

**What’s exclusive?** Save 40 percent – tickets start at £9.


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**Welcome Italia**

**What is it?** A mouth-watering food fest embracing all things Italian.

**Why go?** If there’s one thing that Italians are renowned for, it’s their ability to rustle up delicious food and drink. With over 50 Italian producers showcasing their authentic produce, this event is a celebration of just that.

**What’s exclusive?** Tickets are £6 and there will be tasters aplenty.

→ Royal Horticultural Halls. ✔ Victoria.  

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**Leong’s Legend**

**What is it?** Bottomless dim sum plus fizz at a Chinatown stalwart.

**Why go?** Unending baskets of dim sum. Need we say more? That’s as many dishes as you can manage, all put together by a Chinatown joint celebrating ten years of contented diners. You get a glass of prosecco to boot.

**What’s exclusive?** It’s 48 percent off – now just £19.80.

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Co-living lowdown

As the trend continues to rise, two women of different generations talk about what drew them to communal living. Photography Andy Parsons

FORGET TALKING STICKS and lentil stews: co-living in London is more about contemporary communal spaces. Over the last three years, there has been a rise in housing projects and swanky newbuilds that centre on communal living quarters while providing tenants of all ages with a safe and happy home. Properties across the city include everything from rooms with shared bathrooms to chic duplexes with benefits such as gyms, spas, cinemas and covetable rooftop bars included in the price.

But the trend seems to be about more than the added extras. It’s fast becoming an answer to modern-day isolation, a way to make meaningful connections without a swipe or a scroll – perfect for Londoners, who were revealed to be among the UK residents least likely to know their neighbours in a survey by the Eden Project and YouGov.

We meet two women at different stages of their London housing story about their approach to shared living and what it means to be part of the new generation of co-housing communities.

Maisie Barlow
Poet/actor, 25

Maisie has been living at The Collective in Willesden Junction since August 2018. Maisie shares a room with her friend – drag performer Gail Bait – splitting the cost (£1,105pcm, including utilities and the use of a gym, co-working spaces and a spa).

How did you end up co-living?
‘Before, I lived with three boys and the landlord experience was terrible. There was no central heating and no running water – I had to go to the pub to use the toilet. I saw [The Collective] advertised on spareroom.co.uk. I was so stressed-out looking for an affordable flat in London and this place seemed legit. I liked the idea of community – I love people and I’m a very sociable person.’

What did you make of it when you arrived?
‘It’s a bit like student halls: we have a shared en-suite that’s in the middle of two rooms and we use the communal kitchen to cook. The building is lovely, but what makes it special is the people who live here. It draws a lot of people who are at a bit of a junction in their lives or looking for something out of the norm.’

What’s the social scene like?
‘Being a freelance creative and doing odd jobs, I don’t have that work environment where I have a little group of friends. I didn’t go to university, so I don’t have uni friends, either. I said to myself, if I move into a building with 545 other people, then I will find at least one person I’m going to click with. I found friends, and now four of us are looking for a house together.’

Five hundred and forty-five people! What happens at meal times?
‘There are ten floors and on each there is a
communal kitchen – although some people have kitchenettes in their rooms. The top three kitchens are themed: there’s an English pub, a French bistro and a Japanese tea garden.’

**What about events?**
‘There’s brunch every week and Friday-night drinks. One week you might have a wig-making workshop and the following week a talk on masculinity. In the gallery space, I run a poetry night. It’s great because if you have an idea for an event you can just run it in the space.’

**What advice would you give to people exploring communal living?**
‘It’s an amazing way to meet people in London and to bring yourself out of your shell.’

→ Find out more about The Collective at www.thecollective.com.

## Vivien Sheehan
**Retired, 75**

Vivien has been living at the Older Women’s Co-Housing Community (OWHC) in Barnet since it was set up in 2016. She owns her flat (purchased at market value) and pays an annual service charge for use of communal spaces and gardens.

**What attracted you to co-housing?**
‘After I retired, I had a period of ill health and I was in hospital for eight days. The kids took it in turns to stay and my friends would come and stay with me. But I realised I didn’t really know my neighbours. As you grow older, you need a community around you.’

**How does it work at OWHC?**
‘Two-thirds of the flats are owner-occupied and one third are housing association properties. It was very important to the women that started the group that it was mixed tenure. We all contribute, and we’re all equal. We do everything by consensus so if we don’t agree, we will sit down and talk about it.’

**What does your flat look like?**
‘It’s a one-bed flat on the ground floor with an open-plan kitchen and lounge, which I can partition off with a sliding door if someone is staying. My flat feels quite private and for more privacy, I just close my blinds.’
Property

Do you feel less lonely now?
‘When I lived on my own, when I got home from holiday I used to say, “Hello, house.” Here, when I return, I get a hug and a “nice to see you”. I’ve never had 26 neighbours that I knew by name, let alone cared about. We have the common room with a kitchen where we have meals together nearly every week. There’s also a garden where we grow vegetables. If you have a big party in the common area, we have an agreement that everyone can come.’

Do you have scheduled activities, too?
‘It’s not like we’re all together all the time but activities on offer include yoga, qigong and meditation, and there’s also a film night. I’m part of the garden group. We also adopt a job – we did a rota but it didn’t work, so now I clean the floor in the common room.’

So would you recommend communal living in London?
‘It’s ideal to get older people to look after themselves because it ticks so many boxes. You’re saving on carers – we don’t need them yet! It works for me and the other people here.’

Find out more about the Older Women’s Housing Co-Operative at www.owhc.org.uk

By Hayley Joyes
Who knows ALL her neighbours.

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Tell me about the local tribe.
Young families, middle-aged creatives, kindness activists and guerrilla gardeners make up Wanstead Village.

What’s new in the area?
There’s a new Nando’s in South Woodford but the Spreading Kindness in E11 Movement has left an even sweeter taste in the mouths of locals. A week of random acts of kindness established by a school girl, this year included workshops for scribing pledges into clay, which are now strung up on the high street.

Are there any community groups?
Facebook’s Wanstead Community Hub is a vibrant place to share tips and look out for each other (and each other’s cats). There’s a Female Voices Community Choir at Wanstead House and the Social Knitworks group, who meet in The Cuckfield to craft blankets for the Celia Hammond Animal Trust’s cat sanctuary.

Where can I grab a morning latte?
The Square Mile coffee served in Bare Brew is hard to beat: there’s a laidback LGBTQ+ vibe and free biscuits for dogs on the counter. If pastries are your thing, the freshly baked, French offerings from La Bakerie reach the next level.

Is the area family-friendly?
Yes. There are regular arts, crafts and Rhyme Time drop-ins at the library, Buggy Fit on the green and more baby yoga, massage, sling swing and JingleBop in Christ Church Hall than you can poke a Sophie the Giraffe at.

What’s the nearest green space?
The village green opposite the high street is perfect for picnicking, or try Wanstead Flats. Definitely head to Wanstead Park for long walks through the famous bluebell woods.

Is there a market at the weekend?
Wanstead Farmers’ Market on the first Sunday of the month sells organic food and crafts. If that’s your vibe, Wanstead Fringe in September is a week of art, trails and parties culminating in Wanstead Festival.

What are the supermarket options?
Find Harvey’s greengrocers, The Ginger Pig butcher, Wanstead Fish and Bombetta’s Deli peppered in between a substantial Co-op, Tesco Metro and M&S Food.

Any takeaway hotspots?
Try Sumo Fresh for Japanese, Yard Sale for pizza and Singburi for some of the best Thai outside Thailand. The latter doesn’t offer delivery but for many, it’s worth the journey.

How about keeping fit?
Dig a deadlift? Target Fit does group training with ripped musclemen. Eton Manor RFC has a new women’s rugby team and running classes for nippers. Air Yoga Studio is less HIIT, more holistic.

Where do the locals drink?
Take a wander into the Nightingale Estate to Frank Lampard Senior’s traditional watering hole, The Nightingale. Or check out neighbouring pub The Duke, where the crowd is cooler and the Sunday roast is revered.

AVERAGE PROPERTY PRICES
- Flats £350k
- Houses £600k

AVERAGE RENT
- £650pcm per person

NEAREST TRANSPORT
- Central Line

BUS ROUTES
- Lots of buses to Walthamstow, Stratford, Forest Gate and Manor Park

LOCAL MP
- John Cryer (Labour)
Minty fresh

Trend forecasters are calling ‘neo-mint’ the colour of 2020. Get your home prepped with these dreamy wares

↑ Menthol at work
Helping bathrooms scrub up nicely.
→ Mint enamel soap dish, £14. www.nookshop.co.uk

↑ Leaf it out
Your living room guests will love it.
→ Laura Jackson leaf cushion, £25. www.wolfandbadger.com

← Peppermint?
Teatime never looked so good.
→ Kinto pebble teapot, £48.50. www.indish.co.uk

↓ Green light
Neo-mint and beyond.
→ Hay tealight holders. Five for £35. www.hauslondon.com

↑ Teal for two
Flip reverse it with this snazzy bedspread.
→ Cotton duvet set in teal/mint, £32. www.made.com

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Your living room guests will love it.
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Nine villages that time forgot

When modern life gets too much, (time) travel out of London on a nostalgic day trip with nary a screen or skyscraper in sight.

1. **Bibury** Gloucestershire
   One street in this Cotswolds village is so well preserved it’s owned by the National Trust. Arlington Row, a neat line of stone cottages along the banks of the River Coln, is straight out of a fairy tale. Built in the fourteenth century, they were converted into weavers’ cottages around 300 years later. They’re all private homes these days, apart from one which you can rent for the night. Number 9 is a teeny, two-bedroom cottage where the lack of wi-fi will complete the illusion that you’ve stepped back to the 1700s.

2. **Castle Combe** Wiltshire
   This dreamy village is a perfect antidote to tech overload. Enter through a tunnel of trees, pause at the medieval market cross at the heart of the village and it’ll legit feel like you’ve fallen through time. A new home hasn’t been built here for hundreds of years, so you’re surrounded purely by cottages constructed out of creamy Cotswold stone, some dating back to the sixteenth century. Cosy up in The Castle Inn or pre-book scones at the quirky Old Rectory Tearoom. All you need to do is soak up those old-fashioned vibes and resist the urge to post pics of what might be the UK’s prettiest village.

3. **Chilham** Kent
   Check out Chilham’s medieval village square, lined with elegant houses and ancient timber-framed homes. The whole place is peppered with perfectly preserved listed buildings – none as impressive as Chilham Castle. The current manor house hails from 1616, but there’s been a fort on the spot since the twelfth century. Take it all in, then head out of the picture-book-pretty village for a soothing stomp along the North Downs Way.

4. **Lacock** Wiltshire
   You’ll probably recognise Lacock even if you’ve never been. The 800-year-old, honey-hued abbey was a stand-in for Hogwarts, while the unspoiled village, with its picturesque medieval cottages, recently starred in the ‘Downton Abbey’ movie and has had roles in countless period telly dramas. The village, which is almost entirely owned by the National Trust, is a total timewarp, with no TV aerials or electricity cables. Peer in through the window of 2 High Street, the former village shop, to see an early twentieth-century-style display frozen in time, then visit the very-much-still-open bakery. Ours is a lardy cake.
**Lavenham Suffolk**

Give your eyes a break in Lavenham, a diminutive Suffolk village stuffed with wonky half-timbered houses. This place had its heyday in medieval times, thanks to a booming wool trade, and an impressive number of buildings from that period still stand. Admire the crooked beams, leaning walls and technicolour hues of more than 300 listed buildings on a stroll around this stunner (which was also used as a location in the Harry Potter movies). Don’t miss the grand Guildhall – or a cuppa in its twee Tudor tearoom.

**Rye East Sussex**

You can almost hear hooves and cartwheels clattering over cobbles in this hilltop town. These days the traffic is more likely to be a day tripper on foot, but Rye is still like something out of another century. It’s all sloping streets lined with medieval buildings. Climb the tower of twelfth-century St Mary’s Church to see rust-coloured rooftops melt into the Sussex greenery, hunt for olde-worldle antiques or find yourself a snug corner in one of Rye’s ancient pubs – they don’t get much more atmospheric than The Mermaid Inn.
Shaftesbury Dorset
Tiny Shaftesbury is basically the same as it was in Thomas Hardy’s day, so you’re guaranteed to feel like a character in a Victorian novel traipsing your way up Gold Hill. The steep street – with listed cottages on one side and the walls of ancient Shaftesbury Abbey on the other – is (probably) the most picturesque street on the planet. Made it to the top? Your reward is a pint and lush views from The Mitre’s beer garden.

Shere Surrey
It’s barely outside the M25, but this sweet Surrey village feels like it’s in another dimension. It’s been around for yonks, appearing in the Domesday Book of 1086, and boasts a clutch of ancient, listed buildings. Potter around and feed the ducks before stopping off for an old-fashioned feast at low-ceilinged Kinghams. Feel familiar? Shere starred in festive movie ‘The Holiday’. Don’t pretend you haven’t seen it.

Thorpeness Suffolk
This entire seaside village was dreamt up by barrister Glencairn Stuart Ogilvie in the 1920s. And it has barely changed since then. Swing by to find mock-Tudor and Jacobean-style cottages, a medieval-looking gatehouse and a surreal water tower-turned-holiday home – all set around an artificial lake. The perfect place for a timeless escape, it was originally built as a private holiday village for Ogilvie and his pals, like the world’s fanciest Airbnb.

By Ellie Walker-Amott
Who is a sucker for a cuppa in a traditional tearoom. Frilly aprons and all.
FIVE GO ON
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Great Western Railway
Famous for the liquorice sweets that share its name, Pontefract is a West Yorkshire market town steeped in history and local charm. It’s no wonder that it was selected in a Twitter poll to be one of Airbnb’s six ‘First Night On Us’ destinations. Here’s what to look forward to if you can claim one of the ‘First Night On Us’ coupons, which drop from 10am on Thursday October 17 2019.

1. Shop at the market
For market shopping, you’re spoilt in Pontefract. Stock up on local produce and tasty treats on Wednesdays and Saturdays at the expansive street market, browse the Friday Farmers’ Market or head to the indoor Market Hall (open six days a week) for meat, cheese, furnishings and more.

2. Stretch your legs at Frickley Country Park
Once a colliery, Frickley Country Park is now 180 acres of meadows, wetlands and woodlands. Easily accessible from the town, visitors can walk, run, cycle or take a horse ride across this glorious open space. Look out for hidden artworks inspired by the area’s industrial past and keep your eyes peeled for birds, bees and butterflies.

3. Learn some history at Pontefract Museum
Liquorice is the most famous part of Pontefract’s history, but it’s not the only bit. Far from it, in fact. Get up to speed on the fascinating past of this corner of Yorkshire with a trip to the museum, which is conveniently located next to the eleventh-century Pontefract Castle. Along with lots of regular family events, you could get a magpie’s envy at the Ackworth Hoard and Bagley’s Glass Room.

For more information visit airbnb.com/firstnight

Up to £150, selected destinations, minimum two-night’s stay. Limited availability. Check in by December 30, 2019. Terms apply.
A perfect day in Windsor

Riverside boozers, supersized parks and a castle fit for, er, the Queen

**HOME OF ROYAL Ascot, Windsor Castle and Her Maj The Queen on the weekends, this blue-blooded town just west of London is as upper-crust as they come. Yet, while this place gets busy with daytrippers eager for a sovereign sighting, it’s far more than a tourist trap. Visit the biggest and oldest occupied castle in the world, then get lost among the deer in Windsor Great Park. You’re in for a right royal treat.**

**First up**
You can’t miss Windsor Castle – it stands proud on a hill as you come into town. Take a look round St George’s Chapel, where Harry and Meghan tied the knot, watch the Changing the Guard (they do it here too) and keep an eye out for the Queen – if the flag shows the Royal Standard rather than the Union Jack, she’s home.

**Stop for lunch**
The Boatman makes a great escape from the noise of town and serves pub classics right by the river, and upscale eatery Gilbey’s Eton has a French bistro feel. Picnicking? Stock up on goodies at Windsor Farm Shop, then head for Obelisk Lawn.

**Soak up the vibes**
To see all the sights for free, walk Windsor’s mile-long Heritage Trail from the castle, across the Thames and into its twin town of Eton. Dip in and out of antiques shops and see if you can spot any schoolkids in their tell-tale tailcoats. There are sometimes scheduled small-group tours of Eton College on Fridays.

**Splash the cash**
Thames Hospice is great for vintage threads, and posh department store Daniel is like an indie John Lewis. Feeling flush? Have flutter on the horses at Ascot or Royal Windsor, or invest in entry to nearby Legoland and blow your savings in the shop.

**Drink like a local**
Sink into a Chesterfield and sip flutes of fancy champagne at No 5 St Leonards Road, or keep it low-key at trad pub The Alma – which is also a good shout for Sunday lunch. If a pint is your poison, book on to a BrewMasters tour to sample locally made ales at Windsor & Eton Brewery. Plan ahead to visit during one of its monthly comedy nights. 

**Get there:** 40 minutes by train from London Paddington; around an hour by car.

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**IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING**
Walk or jog The Long Walk. This 2.6-mile, pencil-straight path links Windsor Castle with Snow Hill in Windsor Great Park. Get your breath back beneath the huge Copper Horse statue of George III and look back towards the castle. The lush views from this vantage point stretch all the way to the London skyline.

**WAKE UP HERE**
The Sir Christopher Wren hotel. All that walking made you weary? Extend your stay in this fancy corner of the country with a night in the plush Sir Christopher Wren hotel. It’s perched by Eton Bridge in the shadow of Windsor Castle. Book the richly decorated, wood-panelled Taplow Room or the grand Sir Christopher Wren suite to channel King Henry VIII while you snooze in your four-poster. Or settle into the Dorney Room and you can wave regally to passersby and river traffic from your private, Thames-side terrace.

**Find more dignified day trips at timeout.com/daytrips**

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**Katie Gregory**

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**Ellie Walker-Arnott**

Windsor, Berkshire. From £135 a night.

[www.sirchristopherwren.co.uk](http://www.sirchristopherwren.co.uk)
We could all do with an opportunity to escape the city, unwind and rediscover the beauty of our country—and that’s exactly what Airbnb is offering. For the next few weeks, Airbnb is dropping a limited amount of ‘First Night On Us’ coupons every Thursday. The coupons for Appleby-in-Westmorland—a town sandwiched between the North Pennines and the Lake District—drop from 10am on Thursday October 17 2019.

1 Conquer the Pennines
Head east out of Appleby-in-Westmorland and you’ll hit the stunning North Pennines, an area of outstanding natural beauty. From secluded woodland areas to wide open moors coated in heather, this area caters to all tastes. It’s also known for its dark skies, with an annual stargazing festival held each autumn. Our tip is to travel the Pennine Way to find High Cup Nick: a dramatic U-shaped valley that seems to extend into the skyline.

2 Lose yourself in the Lake District
Or, head west and you’ll be in the Lake District, another awe-inspiring stretch of Britain’s most beautiful countryside. Appleby-in-Westmorland is closest to Ullswater, with Windermere located at a more ambitious distance. If tackling the region’s mountains doesn’t thrill you, head instead to its picturesque villages for afternoon tea. Don’t mind if we do.

3 Clamber through the castle
Don’t spend all your time away from Appleby-in-Westmorland itself. Without even getting in the car, you can explore the impressive Appleby Castle bang in the centre of town before strolling down beautiful Boroughgate. Dating back to the twelfth century, the grounds are used each summer for an open air theatre and historical re-enactments. Check out the local schedule for events, performances and festivals.

MEET THE HOST
Ashley
Getaways are always better when you can gain tips from locals—and you’ll get just that when you use Airbnb. Ashley is a Superhost on Airbnb who has bucketloads of knowledge about Appleby. Stay at her place and enjoy views over rolling hills from a hot tub!

For more information visit Airbnb at airbnb.com/firstnight

Up to £150, selected destinations, minimum two nights’ stay. Limited availability. Check in by December 30 2019. Terms apply.
THREE OF THE BEST

UK hostels

St Briavels Castle Gloucestershire
This 800-year-old castle makes for a luxurious hostel stay, and there’s private rooms available if you can’t face the dorms. Cook up a right royal meal in the communal kitchen before dining in the candle-lit banquet hall, complete with tapestries and a grand open fireplace.
→ From £13 a night. www.yha.org.uk

Skyewalker Hostel Isle of Skye
The remote Skyewalker is perfectly placed for rambles through unspoiled countryside. Spend your evenings stargazing and exchanging travel tales in the huge communal glass dome, or be unsociable and retreat to your private Jedi hut. The force is strong with this hostel.
→ From £20 a night. www.skyewalkerhostel.com

Street Hostel Somerset
This Swiss-style chalet is YHA’s oldest property, but after a recent facelift it now offers private rooms and wooden pods too. Facilities are basic – there’s no TV or bar – but that’s great motivation to get your walking boots on and explore nearby Glastonbury Tor.
→ From £13 a night. www.yha.org.uk

Don’t miss

Deer and wildlife safari

AUTUMN IS PRETTY great. There are chunky jumpers, twinkling lights and cozy vibes. The fact that (when it’s not raining) everything looks super-pretty is a bonus too. It’s time to make the most of all the crisp chilly days before it gets so cold you’ll want to hide under a blanket until spring by getting out of the city and into the rust-coloured wilderness – and Holkham Hall is an ace place to head.

Near the stunning North Norfolk coastline, it’s a stately home set in a stretch of parkland where leaves are changing hue right this very second. Visit before October 22 and you can ride around the estate on the back of a tractor spotting fallow deer, birds of prey and pretty pheasants. It’s an autumnal idyll. ■Ellie Walker-Arnott
→ Holkham Hall, Norfolk. Until Oct 22. £5. www.holkham.co.uk

DEER AND WILDLIFE SAFARI

A timewarp steam train

YOU PROBABLY SPEND a fair bit of time on trains — squished and wishing the commuter next to you had remembered deodorant. So how about a journey that’s a little more swish? The Northern Belle is a super-deluxe train-to-end-all-trains, taking passengers on old-school day trips to racecourses, castles and seaside towns.

Decked out with ornate wood panelling, plush armchairs, an on-board wine cellar and very posh food, it is, essentially, Downton on wheels. It’s also amazingly relaxing. As it rattles gently past the back gardens and woods of England, the landscape seems bigger and more human than from a speeding Pendolino.

Okay, so a ticket will cost you considerably more than your entire monthly Travelcard. But for anyone even remotely susceptible to the idea of the golden age of rail travel, a trip on this beauty is well worth it. All aboard! ■James Manning
→ The Northern Belle departs from London Paddington on Dec 13 and Mar 13 and 14 2020. From £260. www.northernbelle.co.uk

LEAVE LONDON FOR

Find budget-friendly beds at timeout.com/daytrips
What’s your favourite fairytale?

Southbank Centre’s London Literature Festival is taking a closer look at fairytales in 2019, so we asked eight authors and poets to share the story that means the most to them.

Illustration Luke Waller

Lemm Sissay
“Hansel and Gretel” is a fairytale by The Brothers Grimm. Due to the onset of famine, a “wicked” stepmother took her husband’s children into the woods and left them there. The children overheard her planning so they collected enough pebbles to leave a trail and eventually found their way back home. Enraged, the stepmother locks them away. They escape to the forest... I like this dark fairytale. It shows the difficult journey through childhood. There is no perfect childhood but we must leave pebbles so that we can remember what happened.

Heather Morris
“Little Red Riding Hood”. When my eldest child was a toddler, this story had to be read to him every night. It scared him terribly, but he loved being scared and the goodnight cuddles always settled him. Now a man in his early forties, he is still a lover of horror stories, and I have a beautiful memory.

Michael Morpurgo
‘An epic of a fairytale – “Jack and the Beanstalk”’. No other fairytale is so exciting, has such a great song, and it has the best ending of any of them. It would make a great movie. I will play Jack!

Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi
‘Goldilocks is the ultimate bad girl. Growing up in Uganda on folk tales whose girl characters were oppressed little orphans, pretty brats or evil ugly half sisters, “Goldilocks” was a delight. Forget the broken chair, eaten porridge or trespassing: it was all about her curiosity, comfort, palate’

“Hansel and Gretel” shows the journey of childhood... We leave pebbles so that we can remember what happened’
and rest, and when caught, she legged it. It was also the emotions – Goldilocks’s glee as she had her way; the bears’ disbelief, dismay and shock at being burgled.”

Author of “Kintúi and “Manchester Happened”, Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi and Booker Prize 2019 nominee Bernardine Evaristo discuss ideas behind their latest books. Oct 20. £15.

Elif Shafak “My favourite fairytale is “Town Musicians of Bremen”. I was very young when I heard this story for the first time. On the surface it is a simple story of four domestic animals who, after years of mistreatment, decide to leave the only place they have ever known.

But it is much more than that. This is a story of outcasts, of creatures that do not quite belong and find each other and become unlikely friends, “companions of the road”. Above all, it is a universal story of home, exile, freedom and the right to dignity.”

Elif Shafak will be joined by writer Louise Doughty to discuss their new novels. Elif is the author of “10 Minutes 38 Seconds in this Strange World”, shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2019. Oct 22. £15.

Sharlene Teo “For its surreal mischief, I’ve always loved the Chinese fairytale of Chang’e, who either accidentally or intentionally swallowed the pill of immortality she was meant to share with her husband Houyi. This disobedient and wonderfully unruly woman then floated to the moon and still lives there. On the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, the mid-autumn festival is widely celebrated and people eat mooncakes in Chang’e’s honour.”

Sharlene Teo has written a specially commissioned short story to be performed at “Once Upon Our Times: Fairy Tales Retold”. Stories by Angela Carter, Salman Rushdie, Marlon James and Daisy Johnson will also feature. Oct 27. £20.

Daisy Johnson “No fairy story exists in solitude and I cannot think of certain stories without also thinking of the way they have been retold. I will always love “Little Red Riding Hood” and never quite be able to remember who I wanted to triumph, the wolf or the girl with her wolfskin coat. I can feel what it is to walk that shaded forest, to never know quite who anyone is.”

Daisy Johnson’s specially commissioned short story will also be read at “Once Upon Our Times: Fairy Tales Retold”. Oct 27. £20.

Raymond Antrobus “Hansel and Gretel” made a big impact on me. Twice it happened when I was a kid. A stranger invited me into their house and a Hansel and Gretel-shape caution lit my mind. Also, I travelled to school alone from a very young age and it was the breadcrumb image from Hansel and Gretel that kept me returning home the same route I came. My own version of that was to put ribbons on certain lampposts.”


London Literature Festival runs at the Southbank Centre from Thu Oct 17 – Oct 27. Find events and ticket details at www.southbankcentre.co.uk.
Ever considered Budapest?

We’ve got all you need to know about this brilliant and historic Hungarian capital, and you can get there with Wizz Air.

If you’re yet to visit this part of the world, then you’re in for a treat. Sure, it’s a city heaving with Habsburg history, but if you just want to throw off your shackles you’re going to fall in love. From a top-notch techno scene to world-class restaurants and ‘ruin bars’, this is a party town like few others.

Tempted? Well, you can fly there with WIZZ – a low-cost airline flying to 55 European cities, from popular destinations to those just waiting to be discovered. Not only is Budapest the airline’s home, it’s also one of its top destinations. To give you some inspiration on where flying with WIZZ could take you, we’ve pulled together some highlights of the great things you could do there. Go and get stuck in.

Get ruined
If you’re going to drink anywhere in Budapest, you’ll want to try the city’s ‘ruin bars’ – deliciously atmospheric drinking dens located in dilapidated, abandoned buildings. Our pick? Szimpla Kert. It’s the city’s most famous – and one of the best.

Bag a view
For a serious cityscape, head for Fisherman’s Bastion – a neo-Gothic viewing terrace on the banks of the Danube, providing a stunning vista out across the river and city. The turrets (which you can enter) are like something out of a fairytale, so it’s romantic as hell. If that’s your kinda thing.

Get game
Want to make like a Budapest hipster? Hit up the Flippermuzeum – a retro games emporium with more than 100 pinball machines and 30 classic arcade games. The museum is in a basement, but you’ll find it easily enough – just look for the light hitting street level from all those LEDs.

Bring the noise
If you’re in Budapest, you’re probably going to want to party. And if you’re going to party you may as well do it properly. Which means an underground club such as Lárm, where the real musos go for their hits of house and techno. Be warned, though: it celebrates the city’s no-decibel-cap policy. It’s loud.

WANT TO WIN A FLIGHT TO BUDAPEST?

Here’s your chance – Wizz Air is offering 60 flights to destinations across Europe for free. To be in with a chance of winning one, just head to www.timeout.com/wizzair. Don’t forget to pack your toothbrush!

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**Friday**

**Experience**

**Lunar Dreams**

- Holy Cross Church.
- King’s Cross. Fri Oct 18. £10.

**Party**

**Ungightly Drag**
Expect drag queens, drag kings and pushed boundaries at this show spotlighting blind and visually impaired LGBTQ+ performers. It’ll be fully accessible, of course.

- Chapel Playhouse.

**Oval Night Market**
Ready to dance in the street? This alfresco party is back with hot cocktails, fire pits and blanket-strewn cosy corners for autumn. The roads will be closed off to make way for street food trucks, craft stalls, bars and DJs.

- Oval Space. Cambridge Heath Overground.

**Stay up**

**All-Night Graffiti and Tattoo Art Festival**
Go for live graffiti workshops, tattooing rooms and pop-up shops. Stay for the all-night rave and UV graffiti exhibition.


**Drink**

**Peckham Levels Beer Festival**
Sip on suds from six of London’s best indie breweries while dancing to live music.


**Saturday**

**Natural History Museum Ice Rink**
Skate it all about on arguably London’s most enchanting ice rink, thanks to the beautiful backdrop of Alfred Waterhouse’s buildings.


**Sunday**

**SicilyFest**
Don’t know your cannoli from your arancini? Correct your Mediterranean missteps with tastings, cookery demos and more tastings of Sicilian and southern Italian delicacies.


**Listen**

**Queerstory**
Join master storytelling troupe The Embers Collective as they tell LGBTQ+ tales inspired by queer myths and folklore.


**Browse**

**South London Vintage Furniture Flea**
Packed with mid-century gems and retro goodies, this sale is straight out of your homeware-filled dreams.


More all-night action at timeout.com/lates
You and the planet
State of the Earth

Join leading environmental thinkers Christiana Figueres and Sir Brian Hoskins for an evening of conversation with Countryfile’s Tom Heap.

Tuesday 22 October, 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)
Free admission – entry cannot be guaranteed

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Find out more at royalsociety.org/stateoftheearth

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OPENING THIS WEEK
WHY I LOVE

Solve-Along-a-Murder-She-Wrote

Pay tribute to the best of 1980s TV at this bizarre London night out

‘Murder She Wrote’ geeks will be in heaven
Whether you’ve been a hardcore fan of Dame Angela Lansbury’s amateur sleuth since she first clacked away at her typewriter in 1984, or you’ve just stumbled across a repeat on ITV3, you’ll be swept away with fabulous Jessica Fletcher feels at this night, which tasks you with solving a classic episode of the show. Quizzes, games, singalongs and party poppers are all thrown into the action.

It has THE BEST host
Not only does creator and host Tim Benzie dress up in recreations of JB Fletcher’s outfits – including that grey jogging outfit with the neck towel – he has an encyclopedic knowledge of its fictitious setting, Cabot Cove. You’ll be reduced to belly laughs as he lovingly mocks all the sketchy acting, ludicrous plot twists and wild 1980s hairdos (there are many).

It’s a wonderful nostalgia trip
Tim has a theory that the most famous guest star in each episode is most likely to be the murderer, so the audience ranks each cast member on a ‘Suspiciousometer’ according to how well known they were at the time. The result is a satisfying deep-dive into the world of ‘80s TV. There’s also an ‘ad break’ filled with old-school ads that’ll take you straight back to your childhood.

JB Fletcher is a hero of our times
You’ll leave more convinced than ever that Jessica Fletcher is a smart, sassy, older lady who was well ahead of her time. She was trying on VR headsets back in 1993, for crying out loud! And she pulls the best facial expressions known to man. Fletcher is the crime-solving icon we all deserve, and every guest gets a mini placard of her face to take home. ■ Alexandra Sims
Five things you won’t believe used to happen in London

It was only in 2007 that smoking was banned in most indoor spaces in England. Here are some even weirder things you used to be able to do in the capital...

1 Buy a lion from Harrods
When Harrods’s Pet Kingdom — AKA its pet shop — closed in 2014, it was but a shadow of its former self. That was a good thing, really, as up until the passing of the 1976 Endangered Species Act, you could buy exotic animals from there. Ronald Reagan famously purchased an elephant, and a lion named Christian recently became a YouTube sensation after footage of a 1971 reunion between him and the Australian backpackers who had bought him two years before that, surfaced and went belatedly viral.

2 Visit an opium den
If there had been a Time Out magazine in 1867, we probably would have been obliged to offer a rundown of Limehouse’s hippest opium dens (shady joints where you could smoke the popular narcotic to your heart’s content). In 1868, this was not so much the case: the Pharmacy Act was a rare piece of Victorian legislation aimed at tackling drugs. Still, you could pretty much go nuts with almost anything else until 1916, when the British government introduced legislation against cocaine possession after reports of ‘drug-crazed’ soldiers fighting in World War One emerged.

3 Fight a duel
Dueling — that’s a ritualised fight with somebody who has impugned your honour — has been technically illegal for around 400 years. This absolutely didn’t stop posh people from doing it for centuries afterwards: in fact between 1780 and 1829, four British Prime Ministers fought them. In the end, like smoking, people just stopped thinking duels were cool and so they stopped being fought. We strongly doubt Boris Johnson has any plans to bring them back.

4 Watch a public execution
If you find yourself worrying that the UK has lost its way, do bear in mind that for most of England’s history you could literally watch people being executed in public — the country’s last public hanging took place in May 1868, outside London’s Newgate Prison. Heck, it was only in 1660 that King Charles II decided to put an end to the tradition of displaying the decapitated heads of traitors on spikes on London Bridge, which is awful when you consider that it was London’s only crossing at the time.

5 Smoke in public
Yep, we mentioned this at the start, but it’s still such a major (and weird) aspect of modern life that it bears repeating. If you’re under 30, you probably won’t remember that most nights out — at pubs, clubs, even many restaurants — used to involve coming home stinking of other people’s smoke. For years, it had seemed normal, because people knew no different. But it turns out that in retrospect it was gross, and at times, incredibly unsafe: can you believe people once smoked on tube trains? If you think about it, the fact that loads of us are still smoking (albeit not in most indoor venues) is pretty freaking weird. The real question is, how long will it take until the entire practice becomes a bizarre relic of the past?

→ Thinking of giving up smoking? You’ll be surprised at the difference it’ll make to your life

Advertisement paid for by Change Incorporated (VICE) for its Quit Cigarettes initiative. Philip Morris International funds this initiative but has no editorial input, so may not share the views expressed.
WHAT’S THE DEAL WITH
Sylvanian Families Pop-Up

What’s all the fuss?
Remember those cute toy critters from the 1980s? Well, they’re taking over a pop-up space in Soho in the lead up to Christmas. It’ll be flogging new Sylvanian Families character, the Guardian Bear, a tiny teddy version of a Queen’s Guard. We hope that hat isn’t bear fur...

What are these little creatures?
The miniature animal figures have been around since 1987 (1985 in Japan), ranging from walnut squirrels to cottontail rabbits. They’re more than just toys: they have their own names, birthdays and personalities. The woodland characters are so popular that there’s even themed restaurants and a dedicated theme park in Japan.

Anything else going on in the land of Sylvania?
You can snap a new profile pic at the London-themed selfie corner, find interactive activities for kids, and a performance area for the Sylvanian characters. They’ll be popping in for regular meet-and-greets throughout the shop’s opening period.

Will I get a chance to bag rare toys?
Yep! The shop will stock old and new ranges. We want the Canal Boat Barge we never got for Christmas...

Anything else I need to know?
There’s a permanent Sylvanian Families store just off Blackstock Road in Finsbury Park. So, if you like, you can shop for fuzzy figurines all year round.

Angela Hui

WHAT IS IT?
A Sylvanian Families Christmas pop-up shop.

WHY GO?
To see if the Guardian Bear’s hat is made of real fur (hopefully not).

As Halloween comes to Madame Tussauds London, we take a look at the attraction’s chilling new pop-up, ‘Tales from the Chamber’

If you’re too old for trick or treating then don’t fret. There are plenty of thrilling activities happening in London around Halloween – and Madame Tussauds London is no exception. In fact, the attraction’s ‘Tales from the Chamber’ experience sounds more fun and freakier than ever, so we spoke to its curator of archives, Zoe Louca-Richards, to find out more.

Can you tell us what we can expect from the experience?
‘Tales from the Chamber’ is an immersive walk-through experience. It takes place on the site of the old Chamber of Horrors, which is in the basement of Madame Tussauds. Guests can learn about some of the most notorious true crimes from history, which were once depicted in the Chamber. There are four stories and each of them was a huge sensation in its own right at the time. They have been enhanced by real crime artefacts that we’ve got from our archives. So, for two weeks only, people get the exclusive opportunity to see those objects. As part of the experience, we wanted to highlight some of the important stories but also the amazing items that we have hidden away.’

What is your favourite story in ‘Tales from the Chamber’?
‘Probably the story of Dr Crippen because at the time it resulted in a transatlantic hunt for the criminal. It’s a great story that people are going to really enjoy. (Even if it is about a murder.)’

Are the items totally creepy?
‘Yes, there are some really creepy ones. Mary Pearcey’s pram, for example. Many of our staff are creeped out by the story of it, are always asking about it and are excited to see it back on display again. It’s a really beautiful Victorian pram, but it has been tainted a bit by the fact that it was used in this horrific murder – of a baby, unfortunately.’

And is there anything that people wouldn’t expect to see?
‘There are going to be lots of surprises...but it would be telling to give too many of them away. I don’t want to spoil it, but I think that it’s important to remember that the objects are real pieces of history, which may come as a surprise for visitors. In true Madame Tussauds style, our actors will be bringing the stories to life, so there are going to be a few scares along the way.’

You’ve had to deal with all of these objects, how have you found that?
‘It’s quite funny, I have some of them in my office next to me now, which is quite creepy in itself...but you kinda get used to it. We’ve been taking stock over the past few months of what we have hidden away and we’ve been learning about the objects, so we can find the ones that tell the best stories, about the history of the Chamber and Madame Tussauds. That way, we can create a really scary – but an immersive and fun experience.’

And has that been tricky?
‘I think we’ve got such a rich history and so many stories to pick from, that if anything, it has been difficult picking just a few to tell.’
Did you discover any Madame Tussauds ghost stories?

‘There are always stories being passed down by staff. Stories of things moving, strange noises and people just feeling uneasy a little bit in different parts of the building. The building is 130 years old and some of the objects are 250 years old, so there is a long history and the stories keep coming. One of the ones that I found out recently was about a night guard in the 1950s, who was found after a night shift in the Chamber of Horrors, shaking and inconsolable. He vowed never to do a night shift ever again, but he also never explained what it was that scared him. I think that’s quite chilling.’

You mentioned that some of the objects are really old... which object is the oldest of the collection?

‘The oldest object is probably the guillotine blade from the French Revolution. It was on display in the Chamber for more than 100 years, but obviously it’s much older than that. And it would have beheaded hundreds of people during the Reign of Terror.’

Anyone notable?

‘Well, we know that it’s from the French Revolution so we can be certain that it beheaded members of the aristocracy at some point.

There are stories that it was used for Marie Antoinette because the executioner that it came from was allegedly the executioner that beheaded her. We can’t completely verify that but there are only four blades left in existence, and it would have been one of those four blades that was used.’

And finally, when you walk into the experience, what is the first thing you’ll notice?

‘You’ll be greeted by a strange curator character who will take you through the whole experience, starting with the early days of Marie Tussaud to give you some background. After that you’ll be able to explore the grisly tales. You never know what you might find.’

‘Tales from the Chamber’ is open for two weeks only at Madame Tussauds London, from Saturday October 19 to Sunday November 3. Tickets are £6 (in addition to entry). To book your experience, visit www.madametussauds.com/london.

For more information, visit www.madametussauds.com/tales
Museum late: a spook-tacular soirée

Friday 25 October
5.30pm to 9pm

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CIRCUS EXTREME

WHERE EXCITEMENT LIVES
Hackney Flea Market
Visit this knick-knack hunter’s paradise, with tables and rails brimming with anything from vintage dresses and jewellery to furniture. An onsite café selling homemade food and DJs spinning away makes it a sweet place to linger.

Indoor Flea Market
Northway’s Free Church Hall will be overtaken with stalls selling arts and crafts, bric-a-brac, vintage clothing, jewellery and other flea fodder at this indoor market.

Wick Wednesday
On the third Wednesday of every month you can find a day and night of special exhibitions, performances, open studios and workshops held across Hackney Wick and Fish Island.

Refinery29 Presents: ‘Waiting to Exhale’ Q&A
Join a special screening of the Whitney Houston-starring classic followed by a panel talk celebrating women in black cinema led by the Entertainment Editor of media company Refinery29.

Somali Week Festival
An integral part of Black History Month, this year’s Somali Week Festival will address how artists, activists and musicians respond to times of political change. Using Brexit as a catalyst, performers, activists and experts will be spotlighting the Somali diaspora in the UK.

Environment Trust Clothes Swap
Want to stop more clothes from being added to landfill? Head to this Twickenham swap. Bring up to ten items you’re sick of wearing and trade them for something new.

The Haulternative Closet
Are you a fashionista who doesn’t want to prop up the fast fashion industry? Head to this clothes swap with luxury gems donated by other attendees. Bring along five items for swapping. Only higher-end brands will be accepted (think All Saints or Reiss) so over-washed Primark dresses are a no-go.
→ 42 Acres Shoreditch. Old St. Thu Oct 17. £4.55.

World’s Smallest Beer Festival
Chug beers from a mighty fine selection of hops and tuck into delicious food at the birthday of Brick Lane pub Kill the Cat. There’ll be a great line-up from some of the best breweries around. Tickets include a glass, a free can of the pub’s new haus lager and a free first pour. Go on, a little curiosity won’t kill you.
→ Kill the Cat. Aldgate East. Sat Oct 19. £15.

Save 22 percent on tickets to ‘Journey to the Underworld’ – an eerie immersive dinner set in an old railway arch. Tickets are £49 and include a four-course feast.
→ TIMEOUT.COM/UNDERWORLD

Swap your plans and upgrade at timeout.com/thingstodo
Ten fiendishly fun Halloween activities

Get the sprogs suitably spooked before All Hallows' Eve with these ghoulish half-term holiday activities

1 Horniman Halloween Fair
Let your little ones debut their Halloween costumes at the Horniman’s two-day fair. Kids are encouraged to dress up in their most gruesome gear, come and meet creepy-crawlies and sit down to a spooky storytelling of “The Pied Piper” with puppets. Plus, there are 45-minute slime-making workshops running during the week before in the Pavilion. **Spook score 1/5.** A devilishly fun one for little angels, with a recommended age of three-plus for storytelling and five-plus for slime workshops.

2 Family Halloween fun at ZSL London Zoo
Brave the zoo this half-term and you’ll find all sorts of grizzly goings-on. Join a Grim Keeper tour for a glimpse into the gruesome side of nature, make bat masks and listen to animal talks with a seasonal twist. And if the beetles, bats and snakes aren’t enough to get your skin crawling, ‘In with the Spiders’ will be. This walk-through arachnid exhibit is narrated by a talking tarantula. **Spook score 3/5** (the Grim Keeper tour is for children aged eight and above) to **5/5** for arachnophobes (too many legs!).

3 Apocaflops at Flip Out
Trampoline park Flip Out is running Halloween-themed events at all three of its London locations over half-term, including 10 percent off the standard jump price if you turn up in frightening fancy dress. At the Wandsworth branch, there’s a spooky after-dark disco on the Friday night, where teens (14+) can bounce off some energy to a soundtrack of twisted tunes. **Spook score 2/5** in the daytime, rising to **4/5** if you encounter a teen zombie on a trampoline...

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Edited by Rose Johnstone
timeout.com/kids

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Horniman Halloween Fair

Family Halloween fun at ZSL London Zoo

Spook score 3/5 (the Grim Keeper tour is for children aged eight and above) to 5/5 for arachnophobes (too many legs!).

Halloween events run throughout half-term.
Family Halloween fun at ZSL London Zoo

Find more half-term activities at timeout.com/kids

4 The Ghost Bus Tour
Things always go bump in the night on board The Ghost Bus. A midnight-black Routemaster kitted out with dusty antique lamps and blood-red velvet curtains, this sinister sightseeing bus sets off from 8 Northumberland Avenue every evening to unpick the haunted history of London’s landmarks. There’s even a quick jaunt around a graveyard. 
Spook score 3/5. This is comedy-horror theatre, so expect plenty of belly laughs. Recommended for kids over five.

5 Phobophobia 13 at The London Bridge Experience
Walls dripping in blood. Rows of severed heads. Jack the Ripper in residence. The London Bridge Experience is scary enough in the daytime, but the fear factor goes off the scale after dark thanks to Phobophobia 13 – a scare show seemingly designed with the sole purpose of making you pee your pants. For younger kids and those with a weak bladder, there’s a family Halloween show in the daytime.
Spook score 5/5. Scary stuff indeed, so Phobophobia 13 is strictly for over-16s.
6 **Fright Nights at Thorpe Park**

Got teens? Thorpe Park’s Fright Nights are well worth heading out of town for. White-knucklers like Stealth, Saw and The Swarm are open late so they can ride them in the dark, there’s a cinema showing back-to-back horror flicks, plus seven Halloween scare mazes to survive. That includes Creek Freak Massacre, where you’re chased by a chainsaw-wielding lumberjack.

**Spook score 5/5.** You will scream. A lot. Recommended for kids 13+.


7 **Body Worlds London**

Forget fake skeletons and joke-shop blood – kids can see real human bodies in all their grizzly glory at Body Worlds London. Dr von Hagens’s exhibition is wall-to-wall with plastinates (that’ll be preserved corpses). Plus, kids aged eight to 12 can don lab coats and study the dead as part of the Junior Doctor programme, led by a real-life doc.

**Spook score 3/5.** The emphasis is on education, not gore, so this is a Halloween treat with a difference.


£22.50, £16 child (six to 15). Junior Doctor sessions: Oct 20, 23 and 27. £25.

8 **Halloween Craft and Fun Day**

Free family fun is on the cards at the Millennium Centre in Dagenham. Kids can have a go at themed crafts, try their hand at carving a pumpkin and win a prize for the best Halloween costume. Plus, the visitor centre is on the doorstep of Eastbrookend Country Park.

**Spook score 2/5.** Wholesome Halloween fun for families with little ones.

→ Eastbrookend Country Park Millennium Visitor Centre.


9 **‘Wicked’**

If you’ve still not seen ‘Wicked’, now’s the time to go. The musical backstory of the Wicked Witch of the West was made for Halloween, and there’s an extra afternoon showing on the Thursday of half-term. Kids will leave the theatre belting out ‘Defying Gravity’.

**Spook score 3/5.** It’s a spooky spectacular that won’t give them nightmares.


10 **London Dungeon Home of Halloween**

It’s worth pre-booking tickets in the run-up to Halloween – this spine-chilling retelling of the city’s horrible histories is popular. Make your way through torture chambers and plague-infested streets, and learn how to prepare a severed head for the spike.

**Spook score 4/5.** With some pretty graphic descriptions of torture, this one’s a toe-curling treat for youngsters over 12.

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A Unicorn Production

ANANSI THE SPIDER

Created & directed by Justin Audibert

FOR AGES 3 – 7

A Unicorn Production

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Based on the novel by Sally Gardner
Adapted for the stage by Jemma Kennedy
Directed by Jesse Jones

FOR AGES 9 – 13

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London Literature Festival events for kids

Colour in, explore and even eat your favourite stories with Southbank Centre’s quirky collection of book-themed events

‘Fairy Tale Trail’
Artist Anna Bruder’s interactive ‘Fairy Tale Trail’ will lead little ones on a creative treasure hunt all over Southbank Centre, inspired by traditional tales. Solve enough puzzles and you get a prize at the end. Ages three-plus.

‘I Believe in Unicorns’
Books contain literal wonders in this gorgeous stage show, set in a library that’s anything but quiet. Based on Michael Morpurgo’s novel, it follows a boy who hates reading until he meets the mysterious Unicorn Lady. Ages six-plus.
→ Queen Elizabeth Hall. Waterloo. Oct 22-23. £16.

Dr Maggie’s Grand Tour of the Solar System
Get a guided tour through the stars as Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock – who’s designed telescopes, no less – clues kids in on the secrets of planets, asteroids and satellites. Ages eight to 12. ■ Alice Saville
→ Purcell Room. Waterloo. Oct 25. £10, £7.50 concs.

Run out of ideas? Head to timeout.com/kids
Swap your sofa for our Autumnwatch sofa!

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Comedy and stories this half term

19 October – 3 November 2019
Members go free*

*Prices start from £7.50 for adult general admission. Visit kew.org for details.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Calling all... sailors!

This half term join the crew of Cutty Sark and meet the captain for an action-packed day out for all the family.

Royal Museums Greenwich
Cutty Sark | National Maritime Museum | Royal Observatory | The Queen's House

Cutty Sark | Greenwich (only 8 minutes from London Bridge) | Greenwich Pier
Let me guess... something to do with Extinction Rebellion?
You got it in one, pal. Founded in late 2018, XR Youth styles itself as the ‘young voice of the rebellion’, and has more than 30 branches across the UK, and many more internationally. It’s open to anyone born after 1990.

Wait, 1990? So it’s not for teens, then?
It’s not just open to teenagers, but a large number of its leaders and participants are of secondary school age. XR Youth defines its demographic as those of us who have never known a stable climate, and who will be most affected by the climate crisis.

That’s a fair point: most of the people making decisions on climate won’t be around when things go south...
We didn’t want to say it, but yeah. Scary stuff. That’s exactly why XR Youth believes that young people need to have more of a say in what their future will look like. It’s big on running training sessions for its members on non-violent direct action, including knowing your rights when protesting.

What has XR Youth been up to recently?
Loads. If you’ve followed the Global Justice Rebellion (which is running until this Saturday) then you’ll have seen members of XR Youth. You might have seen some of them bearing signs with slogans like ‘ADULTS ARE SHITTING ON OUR FUTURE’. Or you could’ve spotted them protesting outside the Department for Education, demanding that climate change be taught in schools.

Do I need to be Greta Thunberg-level keen to be a part of the movement?
Nope – whatever you can offer. Once the Global Justice Rebellion is over, XR Youth will keep running regular meetings and talks across London. As one of its slogans suggests, ‘Act now, do homework later.’ ■ Rose Johnstone
→ Visit the www.xr-youth.org to look for meetings in your local area.
Kids

TO DO

Fun family events

Central North South East West

Halloween Pumpkin Festival
On this autumnal trail, kids can complete activities, carve a pumpkin and eat marshmallows.

Painting on a Pumpkin Workshop
Don’t just carve your pumpkin this year – use it as a big orange canvas! Artist Amy Brown will help children turn their pumpkins into works of art, as part of the Big Draw festival.

Pumpkin Carving Competition
Gouge your way to glory at this free carving competition, where creative kids compete to make the creepiest, weirdest or funniest pumpkin lantern. Come equipped with your own pumpkin and tools, or you can buy them on the day.

Pumpkin Carving for Kids
Jack-o’-lantern looking a bit tame? At this carving session at Blackhorse Workshop, creative kids can spook up their pumpkin with nuts, bolts and other bits and bobs (Franken-pumpkin, anyone?). Dress-ups are encouraged.

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London’s favourite family Christmas musical returns for a third sensational year!

Sharon Osbourne • Danny Dyer
Dani Dyer • Rylan Clark-Neal • Simon Lipkin

Nativity! The Musical

Based on Raymond Briggs’ The Snowman
Music and lyrics by Howard Blake

Sheer theatrical magic. Go see The Snowman and melt
The Times

Based on Raymond Briggs’ The Snowman
Music and lyrics by Howard Blake

The Snowman

“Sheer theatrical magic. Go see The Snowman and melt”
The Times

Family Ticket from £120
4 tickets, must include at least 1 child
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The Peacock
peacocktheatre.com

Any questions?
ourtheworld@timeout.com

**FAMILY FIREWORKS**

1. **Ally Pally’s Fireworks Festival**
   There’s a huge family area at this two-day extravaganza, complete with live music, cabaret, a funfair and a huge bonfire. The fireworks start at 9pm on Friday and 8pm on Saturday.
   → Alexandra Palace. Alexandra Palace rail. Nov 1-2. £12.50, £10.50 £11.5s, £2.50 under-11s.

2. **Dulwich Fireworks Display**
   This family-oriented fest kicks off at 5pm with pizza for all and mulled wine for parents. Prepare to ooh and ahh when the fireworks go off at 7pm.

3. **Wimbledon Park Fireworks**
   There are two themed fireworks displays to choose from – the family-friendly one kicks off at 6.45pm to the theme of ‘The Greatest Showman’.
   → Morden Park. Morden South rail. Nov 2. £8.50, £7 five-15s, free under-fives.

**FESTIVALS**

1. **Diwali Festival of Light**
   Be part of a glittering, colourful parade from the National Maritime Museum to Greenwich Park. It’s the luminous finale to a day of performances, craft workshops and storytelling.

2. **Ice Skating**
   Can you believe it’s back already? There’s nothing quite so magical as gliding against the backdrop of the fairy-lit Waterhouse building.

**THEATRE**

1. **‘Anansi the Spider’**
   Sit on the floor and get sucked into Anansi’s web at this immersive kids’ show about a legendary story-spinner. Anansi the spider is a many-legged trickster who originated in West African folklore.

2. **‘Islander’**
   This low-key Scottish musical mixes sweet harmonies with the gentle story of a teenage girl who befriends a mysterious visitor. Two performers use a loop pedal to create a folk-song-inspired soundscape and conjure up the world of a tiny island surrounded by whale-filled seas.

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Edited by Phil de Semlyen
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London’s favourite movie musicals

From choreographers to composers, we ask the city’s finest to pick their all-time favourite screen musical

DUST OFF THOSE dancing shoes and get ready for some of that ol’ time razzle-dazzle with the BFI’s new three-month season of movie musicals. From Stanley Donen and Gene Kelly’s timeless ‘Singin’ in the Rain’ to the bittersweet Technicolor triumph that is Jacques Demy’s ‘The Umbrellas of Cherbourg’, there’s something in it for everyone. To mark the occasion, we asked the great and the good of London’s dance and musical theatre scene to pick their favourite movie musical.

Debbie Moore OBE
CEO, Pineapple Dance Studios
‘Singin’ in the Rain’ (1952)
‘All the musicals have rehearsed at Pineapple Studios, so they all hold special memories. “Singin’ in the Rain” is up there – Gene Kelly’s dance scene is as iconic and relevant as ever. But I’m delighted to hear Dame Judi Dench will be in “Cats”, 38 years on. It’ll be a very special production.’

Jason ‘Jay Jay Revlon’ Cameron
Dancer
‘Dreamgirls’ (2006)
“Dreamgirls” is so rich in storyline, and the vocals blow my mind. This has to be my favourite musical to date, and it was great to see such rich and amazing POC talent on screen. Oh, and Jennifer Hudson’s vocals.’

Farooq Chaudhry OBE
Producer, Akram Khan Company
‘West Side Story’ (1961)
‘Inspired by “Romeo and Juliet”, “West Side Story” combines my two greatest passions: dance and literature. Hidden in its exuberant choreography and life-affirming songs lie stories of finding and losing identity, and choosing individual love over collective love. It’s everything that makes us human and makes us love stories.’

Matthew Bourne OBE
Artistic director,
New Adventures Theatre
‘Swing Time’ (1936)
‘With Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers at their peak, “Swing Time” is the musical for connoisseurs. It’s one choreographic masterpiece after another and the score is superb. These days it’s slightly marred by Astaire’s blackface number, “Bojangles of Harlem”, although the dancing is stunning. The “Never Gonna Dance” finale is the best wordless love scene on film. It’s dance heaven!’

Stephen Mear
Director and choreographer
‘Top Hat’ (1935)
‘I grew up watching Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers mirror each other’s moves meticulously in this film. Also, the phenomenal Nicholas brothers did almost acrobatic tap. This led to those big, colourful musicals that were so important to me as a young boy, “Funny Girl” is also up there for me, and “Singin’ in the Rain” too.’

Seeta Patel
Independent artist, performer and choreographer
‘Singin’ in the Rain’ (1952)
‘From the music to the exquisite choreography, “Singin’ in the Rain” has been an inspiration to me since childhood. Gene Kelly never ceased to amaze me. I always wished I could have been Cyd Charisse’s...’

SWING TIME: COURTESY OF THE MARGARET HERRICK LIBRARY, FUNNY GIRL: UNITED ARCHIVES GMBH / ALAMY
character with her fierce, sexy movement. Every scene is dazzling and different. Colourful, joyful and brilliant. The whole package.’

Gary Yershon
Theatre and film composer
‘42nd Street’ (1933)
‘It’s the quintessential backstage musical which inspired many others. [Director-choreographer] Busby Berkeley is on top form with the camera work and the dance routines. The Al Dubin/Harry Warren songs are the definition of catchy, from “Shuffle Off to Buffalo” to “You’re Getting to Be a Habit with Me” and, of course, the title number.’

Keith Jack
British actor and singer
‘West Side Story’ (1961)
‘It’s my favourite musical: an amazing film with a lovely story, great choreography and score. I also have a big soft spot for [1997 Fox animation] “Anastasia”. It’s very different from “West Side Story”, but the music was so addictive when I was a kid. That’s definitely a very close second.’

Rupert Goold
Artistic director, Almeida Theatre, and director of ‘Judy’
‘Swing Time’ (1936)
‘“Swing Time” is total candyfloss, but it contains the most joyous dance sequences ever committed to celluloid. Like a David Gower cover drive or a Karen Carpenter harmony, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers have that rarest gift of bending time to their own easy will. Never has synchronicity seemed more effortless, more graceful, more enlightened. It makes me sway in my seat every time.’

ShayShay
Drag performer
‘Chicago’ (2002)
“This is just a shining example of stage musical being turned into a movie. Most of the musical numbers are set in its lead character’s imagination, so [director Rob Marshall] could mimic stage performance while using all the tricks that cameras can offer. It’s a technique that harkens back to the days of Busby Berkeley and gives “Chicago” a lovely Golden Era Hollywood feel, but its themes still feel thoroughly modern. And it stars Renée Zellweger in one of her most iconic roles! What’s not to love?’

By Joseph Walsh
Who lives by Ol’ Blue Eyes’s mantra: ‘I won’t dance, don’t ask me.’

‘Guys and Dolls’ (1955)
Brando’s singing is patchy, and Jean Simmons was only third choice for the studio, yet this MGM musical turned out to be a classic. Catch it in all its 35mm glory.
➤ Sat Oct 19, Nov 12 and 18.

‘Cossacks of the Kuban’ (1950)
Never seen a Soviet musical? This swooning early ’50s gem filled with romance and spectacle — yes, we’re calling it “Steppe Up 2” — is a great place to start.
➤ Oct 31.

‘Cabaret’ (1972)
Musicals titan Bob Fosse channels all those famous ups and downs into a sleazy, sexy, downright awesome slice of ’30s Berlin hedonism.
➤ Nov 16, 19 and 24.

BFI Southbank. ☀ Waterloo.
Hilarious and outgoing New Yorker Brittany Forgler (Jillian Bell) is everybody’s best friend – except maybe her own. At 27, her hard-partying ways, chronic underemployment and toxic relationships are catching up with her. But when she stops by her doctor’s office, she gets slapped with a prescription she never wanted: an order to get healthy. Too broke to afford a gym and too proud to ask for help, Brit is at a loss, until her neighbour Catherine (Michaela Watkins) pushes her to pull on her trainers and run round the block. The next day, she runs a bit further. Soon, Brit sets an unthinkable goal: running the New York City Marathon.

Written and directed by award-winning playwright Paul Downs Colaizzo, ‘Brittany Runs a Marathon’ is an uproarious, irreverent and surprisingly moving comedy inspired by real events. The irresistible cast lends heart and soul to this inspirational story of a party girl who finally finds real friends – and dignity – by taking control of her future, one block at a time.

‘Brittany Runs a Marathon’ opens in select cinemas on Friday November 1 and will be on Amazon Prime Video from Friday November 15. The film is rated 15 and is 104 minutes long.
A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon

MAYBE ONE DAY, Shaun the Sheep will open his mouth and like a fluffy West County Garbo, words will pour forth. But you’d hope not. In this cheerful big-screen sequel, Aardman’s charming and stupidly popular ruminant once again gets by on a steady stream of bleats, squeaks and rubbery facial expressions. The result is another great showcase for the animation house’s powers of non-verbal storytelling that’s a giddy delight for kids, and just witty and knowing enough for grown-ups.

As the title’s Michael Bay pun suggests, this furiously fun sequel comes with a sci-fi-tinge. It broadens out the film references in the same way ‘Wallace & Gromit’ did for horror, with a ton of sci-fi Easter eggs for Spielberg, ‘Men in Black’ and ‘The X-Files’ fans to pore over. One visual gag involving toast resembling the monolith from ‘2001: A Space Odyssey’ is vintage Aardman.

The plot plays a bit like ‘ET’, super-powered young alien called Lu-La lands near Mossy Bottom Farm and the easily distracted flock tries to get her home again. It’s a cue for high jinks involving combine harvesters and Aardman’s first trip into outer space. As you’d expect, there are plenty of lovable groan-worthy sci-fi puns – the town’s garage is called ‘HG Wheels’ – and some very British callbacks, including a Doctor Who cameo (though perhaps not the one you’d expect).

It skewers a little younger than ‘Wallace and Gromit’, with the action sequences a bit more slapstickily and the odd pop banger thrown in. If you’re picking holes, the neon-blue, gumdrop-shaped Lu-La feels more like a DreamWorks Animation character than an Aardman creation, but she’s still a pretty lovable route to get Shaun into the universe. The result is one giant leap for lamb kind. ■ Phil de Semlyen

The Peanut Butter Falcon

WHAT IS IT... A buddy bromance with Shaun in the Elliott role, as a

WHAT GO... For the all the usual Aardman jolliness with a Spielberg-y sci-fi spin.

Directors Will Becher, Richard Phelan (U) 87 mins.

There’s a magical blend of real life and fiction in this soul-stirring US indie, as Zack Gottsagen, who has Down’s syndrome and has always wanted to be an actor, plays Zak, who has Down’s syndrome and has always wanted to be a wrestler. The writer-directors – Tyler Nilson and Mike Schwartz – met him years ago, and when Nilson lamented the lack of mainstream acting gigs for people with Down’s, Gottsagen asked them to write one for him themselves. And here we are, with this injection of pure joy.

Frustrated by the restrictions of the nursing home he’s been stuck in, Zak, hell-bent on going to Florida to meet his wrestling hero, the Salt Water Redneck (Thomas Haden Church), does a runner. He bumps into a fisherman fugitive Tyler (Shia LaBeouf), demands to tag along and, with his carer Eleanor (Dakota Johnson) hot on their heels, Mark Twain-inspired riverboat shenanigans ensue.

LaBeouf, as ever, sells it all like his life depends on it, while Johnson brings a wonderful lightness and Thomas Haden Church’s washed-up wrestler is a hoot. But, no doubt about it, this is Gottsagen’s film – he showcases real subversion, with attitude to spare. The story is a pretty standard mismatched buddy road trip, and there’s not much unpredictability, but there doesn’t need to be – it’s charming as hell, and very funny. It’s a film about love, made with love, and you can feel it emanating from all involved.

What a pick-me-up. ■ Alex Godfrey

Official Secrets

WHAT IS IT... The true-life thriller about a British Iraq War whistleblower.

WHAT GO... For the tensest scene ever to involve spellchecking.

Directors Gavin Hood (15) 112 mins.

Set at a time when a Western government telling porkies still counted as a major scandal, ‘Official Secrets’ definitely feels like a period movie, despite its early noughties setting. It’s one part tense spy thriller to two parts multi-stranded journ procedural, and while it’ll do nothing to restore trust in the august bodies that rule the land, it’s a pacy, palm-clamming watch.

An on-form Keira Knightley plays true-life whistleblower Katherine Gun. She’s a GCHQ translator who stumbles on an NSA email demanding the blackmailling of UN members to get the invasion of Iraq rubber-stamped. She decides to leak it, despite the risk of prison for breaching the Official Secrets Act. Matt Smith’s sympathetic Observer reporter points out what’s at stake. It is, as a fellow hack memorably points out, ‘a neocon, giant fucking con’.

Knightley executes a nifty gear shift, steeling-up in a way that adds edge to Gun’s encounters with the police and even her own defenders (her scenes with Ralph Fiennes’s human rights lawyer are a highlight). Inevitably, a few characters suffer with so many to accommodate and few sparks are drawn from Gun’s Kurdish husband (Adam Bakri), the person with most to lose from her stand. But as with his drone thriller ‘Eye in the Sky’, director Gavin Hood turns over a few rocks to reveal something familiar scurrying beneath. ‘Just because you’re the PM doesn’t mean you can make up your own facts,’ someone points out, firmly. Innocent times. ■ Phil de Semlyen
**Mystify: Michael Hutchence**

**WHAT IS IT...**
A doc about the life (and death) of the Aussie rock icon.

**WHY GO...**
The tunes are big. The emotions are even bigger.

Director Richard Lowenstein (15) 102 mins.

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**Olivier Assayas’s Latest**

**WHAT IS IT...**
A French comedy-drama about emotional connections.

**WHY GO...**
It’s an exploration of the modern world via the medium of extramarital bonking.

Director Olivier Assayas (15) 107 mins.

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**Film**

**Non-Fiction**

**SNake-HippeD INXS Frontman**

Michael Hutchence defies plenty of rock ‘n’ roll stereotypes in this snappily told and ultimately deeply sad doc. The Aussie rocker had it all – looks, stadium gigs, supermodel girlfriends, villas in Provence – but died at 37, troubled and alone. As director Richard Lowenstein shows, he was no ordinary rock star but a thoughtful, home-loving man, more likely to have his nose in a copy of Baudelaire than a mound of coke. At one point, Bono recalls him musing on the eternal nature of the olive tree. You don’t get that from Motörhead.

There’s music, of course, but ‘Mystify’ is mostly pieced together via home video and fly-on-the-wall footage. Its unseen interviewees and gauzy intimacy recalls ‘Amy’. Friends, family and his bandmates open up in a way that speaks of a deep trust in the filmmaker. INXS’s long-time music video director. In a lovable overshare, Kylie remembers how he ‘awakened her desire’.

‘Mystify’ may seem a strange thing to call the film, even if it is named after an INXS song – a documentary’s job, after all, is to do the opposite. But you’ll forgive this one for failing to break its subject’s spell. As the tragedy unfolds, there’s a strange solace in seeing this captivating enigma somehow emerging intact. ■ Phil de Semlyen

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**Featured Image**

**Mystify: Michael Hutchence**

- **4 Stars**

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**SIX THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT LEAFF**

**It’s not a gardening festival**

LEAFF stands for London East Asian Film Festival. It’s 11 days of movies from China, Japan, South Korea and all across the eastern bits of Asia (don’t come for Hindi cinema, basically). It’s not just screenings: filmmakers and stars will be in town for talks and Q&As at venues across London.

**There are 60 movies to pick from**

Check out Hing Fan Wong’s directorial debut ‘I’m Livin’ It’, Japanese con-artist docudrama ‘Erica 38’ and Thai thriller ‘The Pool’, which may make you give up swimming for ever.

**Korean cinema is having a birthday bash (and everyone’s invited)**

It’s the 100th anniversary of Korean cinema and LEAFF is cracking open the soju to celebrate. There’ll be old favourites and new films screening, including hit family comedy ‘Inseparable Bros’ and coming-of-age drama ‘The House of Hummingbird’. Korean artists are also showcasing works at Tate Modern.

**It runs over Halloween, so expect scares**

‘The Ring’ isn’t screening (you can put down your security blanket), but there are still plenty jumps on offer. Hideo Nakata’s new J-horror ‘The Woman Who Keeps a Murderer’ screens on October 31. Keep an eye out for ‘Under Your Bed’ and ‘The Culprit’ too.

**Samurai fans are in luck**

There are Sunday screenings of samurai classics at Deptford Cinema during the festival, including ‘Sword of Doom’ and ‘Harakiri’. Look out for a double bill of Takashi Miike’s preposterously violent ‘13 Assassins’ and Kenji Misumi’s ‘Lone Wolf and Cub’ after the fest.

**It’s coming soon...**

The fest kicks off with a gala screening of Korean disaster movie ‘Exit’ at Odeon Luxe Leicester Square on October 24. ■ Hanna Flint


New gigs on the block

Music venues shut down but new ones emerge too. Here’s a gaggle of recent additions to London’s music and nightlife scene

Werkhaus
A versatile new venue on Brick Lane

This 300-capacity industrial-style space is kitted out with a nifty Funktion-One soundsystem for tip-top audio quality, and has two different room setups for live music and DJ events. "London’s music scene has gone back to its roots and we wanted to create space for the innovative, boundary-pushing artists who present the fabric of what’s emerging," said events manager Sean Hitchings when Werkhaus launched in September. Going forward, the plan is for it to host talks, workshops and private functions, too.

→ 85 Brick Lane, E1 6QL. ◆ Liverpool St.

Magazine
A huge music and clubbing space in north Greenwich

Though it’s located close to The O2, this huge new venue has the feel of a classic London warehouse space. Named Magazine to reflect its potential to be random and varied, it has the right vibe to become a music and nightlife hub: dimly lit, unfussy and quietly epic. The main room is big, able to take 3,000 punters, yet with a low, modest stage that won’t make the headliner feel like an exalted demigod. It’s early days, but Magazine has all the makings of a vital space for London’s underserved music fans.

→ 11 Ordnance Crescent, SE10 0JH.
◆ North Greenwich.
Standard Hotel
A swish hotel welcoming some brilliant DJs

This fancy new King’s Cross hotel comes equipped with its own recording booth and souped-up soundsystem. Known as The Sounds Studio, it can be found in the ground floor Library Lounge, where it plays host to intimate acoustic gigs and some stellar DJ sets. It’s not a typical space – more cool cocktail bar than sweaty disco dungeon, in all honesty – but it’s definitely a cute spot to soak up some beats.

→ 10 Argyle St, WC1H 8EG. © King’s Cross.

Lafayette
A 600-capacity venue coming to King’s Cross

Located a stone’s throw from Granary Square in the burgeoning Goods Way development, this new venue is a big sister to London Bridge’s Omeara, which was opened by Mumford & Sons’ Ben Lovett back in 2016. Lafayette promises ‘a wide array of programming, from regular, eclectic club nights to bespoke one-off events’, but we’ll hear more as we get closer to the February 2020 opening date.

→ Goods Way, N1C. © King’s Cross.

The Drumsheds
A mega-venue and festival destination in Edmonton

Housed in an abandoned gasworks, this vast new entertainment venue consists of four giant interconnected warehouses, ten acres of space and a huge field out the back. It’s already hosted Field Day, the genre-spanning alternative music, and clubbing crew Elrow are hosting their huge Horroween party there on November 3. And because it’s got no immediate neighbours – the nearest homes are 1km away – it can stay open into the small hours.

→ Argon Rd, N18 3BW. Meridian Water rail.

Colours Hoxton
Shoreditch staple gets a makeover

The venue formerly known as Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen has been given a vibrant new look and a new, more varied entertainment programme. Long-running R&B and hip hop night Supa Dupa Fly
now has a regular Friday residency, and LGBTQ+ collectives including Hungama and Pxxsy Palace will also be hosting club nights in the 300-capacity gig space.

→ 2-4 Hoxton Square, N1 6NU. Hoxton Overground.

Peckham Audio

A new 220-capacity venue in SE15

Opening next week in a basement space is a collaboration between the owners of Bermondsey Social Club and Four Quarters, plus the programming team behind Hackney’s Moth Club. They’ve already booked a great range of live music, club nights, performance and workshops. Long live The Jago!

→ 440 Kingsland Rd, E8 4AA. Haggerston Overground.

The Jago

A new creative hub in Dalston

Opened earlier this year in the building formerly occupied by Passing Clouds, The Jago continues the community-led ethos of its former tenant, but with freshened up decor and a super-contemporary programme of live music, club nights, performance and workshops. Long live The Jago!
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AS THE ART of DJing has become safer, unthreatening and generally acceptable as a career path to middle-class parents, so DJing has inevitably become a bit detached from its roots.

An explosion in UK DJ culture came during the ’90s rave heyday. Yes, it was an era of hedonism, but also of defiant raving and fiercely counter-cultural music. It was a time of giving the police the runaround and protesting the government at every turn. Many regret the detachment modern dance music has from its renegade roots. This year, however, one group of people have remade the link between dance music and protest – all played out on London’s streets.

R3 Soundsystem is a loose alliance of the UK’s finest DJs and underground clubs. They organise a mobile soundsystem at some of the biggest demos in the capital. The Stop Trump march in June 2018 was its first strike. Witnessing the whole of Great Windmill St in Soho locked in a dance – as DJs like Midland, James Hillard and Norman Jay MBE tore it up – was one of the most exhilarating things this lifelong Londoner had ever seen. In March this year, a second outing saw Fatboy Slim join the cream of London’s nightlife activists for the People’s Vote march. It crescendoed with the stunning reveal of DJ Artwork on a truck, firing up a soundsystem that transformed a quiet street near the National Portrait Gallery into a heaving rave in two minutes (all captured on a video that quickly went viral).

This week, the project returns, coinciding with a planned march in favour of a second referendum from Park Lane to Parliament Square. Bicep, Daniel Avery and Ed from the Chemical Brothers join a heaving line-up of almost 40 DJs. Yes, Brexit is divisive, complex and we’re not saying there’s a right or wrong position. But there’s a lot to be said for dancing your way out of an intractable problem. ■ Oliver Keens

→ Check social media for details of the R3 Soundsystem on Sat Oct 19.

More at timeout.com/music
A what bath? Are we going to be getting wet?

Nope! So, there are two distinct concepts here. First, you know about gong baths, right?

Still nope. A gong bath is also known as a sound bath, and some practitioners like to say it’s a shortcut to meditation.

Basically, you lie down on a mat, close your eyes and let your mind drift off as someone plays gongs at you for an hour – and maybe other instruments, like accordions or conch shells. The idea is that you come out feeling refreshed, perhaps even healed, by the tones. The effect might last for several days.

Sounds a bit whoo-y, but I like lying down. And... 'donk?'

Donk is a proud musical tradition in north-west towns like Bolton and Wigan. About ten years ago some avant-garde youngsters discovered that if you take the fastest, stupidest happy hardcore, throw in a few MCs rapping in Lancashire accents and add the famous ‘donk’ bass (imagine a drainpipe being hit by a table tennis bat), you get rave magic. Combine the two: donk bath.

That sounds like an unholy combination.

A fair assessment, yes. We got in touch with some donk bathers ahead of this week’s ritual in Manor House, and it all got a bit weird. There’s a ‘guru’ behind it, apparently, who has come down from Wigan to teach us southern softies. One of his followers told us about the healing properties of donk, explaining that ‘the ultimate goal is to reset the mind to factory settings, so that we may move closer to, and better understand, the Ultimate State of Peace, where all donks in the universe are equally spaced’.

Equally spaced donks?

That sounds like a rave.

Which might indeed be the case. We do know that strobes are integral to the procedure.

I’ll dig out my popper trousers.

That’s the spirit. Once you leave the ritual feeling suitably donked up, you can go straight into a proper party – Electrolights AV will have live audiovisual sets from artists including A’Bear and Deathly Pale Party. ■ Chal Ravens ➔ New River Studios. Manor House. Sat Oct 19.
It’s amazing you didn’t just give up…
‘I did give up, two years in! Thankfully, the producer of my show, Nina Lyndon, was working at the Royal Court at the time I wrote it and five years ago she said, “Would you mind getting it out of the drawer?” And I was very reluctant, because I hadn’t realised how traumatised I was. I’m not saying: “It’s taken 11 years to put this masterpiece on.” It’s not the Sistine Chapel. But I share it because I think it’s very important to have other writers read about what I’ve experienced and if it can help them in any way, then truly this has not been a waste of time.’

How’s your year of ‘Betrayal’ going?
‘It’s wonderful, it’s wonderful! At the end of 2017 I tried to quit acting and it’s gone very badly. It’s led to some of the most enjoyable acting experiences that I’ve ever had, “Betrayal” and [Netflix movie] “Velvet Buzzsaw”. Creating the work I’m meant to do is what’s on my agenda right now.’

■ /barb1right ‘For All the Women Who Thought They Were Mad’ is at Stoke Newington Town Hall. Stoke Newington Overground. Until Nov 9. £25-£35.

IT’S BEEN A preposterously busy year for London-born star Zawe Ashton. She acted opposite Tom Hiddleston in Pinter’s ‘Betrayal’ in London and (currently) on Broadway; her first book came out; and, 11 years since she wrote it – and with two other plays in between – her second play ‘For All the Women Who Thought They Were Mad’ is getting joint premieres in New York and London.

How the hell are you juggling ‘Betrayal’ with two premieres of your play?
‘I wake up early to try and talk to the guys in London around about lunchtime, and then I go to rehearsals for the New York production at 12, and then I go into “Betrayal” at night!’

Is that sensible?
[Laughs] ‘I don’t know. Not sure, not sure…”

What’s the play about?
‘Eleven years ago I was on the Royal Court Young Writers Programme, and had some fragments of a play, but I hadn’t found my voice. Then I got in touch with a woman from [now-defunct organisation] the Black Women’s Mental Health Project who provided me with these gut-wrenching statistics regarding the relationship that women of colour have with the medical institutions in the UK. I really wanted to investigate that; I wrote most of it in 24 hours in a sort of fever dream.’

Why has it taken 11 years to stage?
‘There was a rehearsed reading at the Royal Court, which was wonderful: the response was so overwhelming. But when I started to have meetings afterwards the reaction was so different: “We love this play, we love this play, we can’t let you do the play.” It almost seemed that the notion of it being black and being abstract was too much for some people.’
The Man in the White Suit

ALEXANDER MACKENDRICK’S 1951 film about a chemist in a northern mill town who invents an indestructible fabric is a strange piece of post-war gothic. Notionally a comedy, it’s dark, melancholy and mainly devoid of laughs.

Sean Foley’s new stage version is bright, upbeat and also mainly devoid of laughs. It keeps the ’50s setting, sacks off the austerity and dials up the farce. Everyone bellow for their lines in generic ‘northern’, making the whole thing for laughs. Everyone bellow for their lines in generic ‘northern’, cursing, sacks off the austerity and dials up the farce. Everyone bellow for their lines in generic ‘northern’, cursing, sacks off the austerity and dials up the farce. Everyone bellow for their lines in generic ‘northern’, cursing, sacks off the austerity and dials up the farce.

He’s fun in the first half as he blows labs up and his trousers off. Mangan was the silly-ass Bertie in Foley’s much better ‘Jeeves and Wooster’. But Sidney Stratton isn’t a silly ass: he’s an unworliy genius who can’t understand why the owner of a cotton mill and an old woman who does laundry would both be horrified at the prospect of an everlasting, dirt-repelling fabric.

‘The Man in the White Suit’ is a story about how capitalism condemns every link of its food chain to co-dependency. If one fails, they all do, and in the ’50s the UK’s textile industry was about to be history, taking whole cities down with it. That’s basically not a funny story, and to play it just for laughs makes it feel way more out of touch than its 70-year-old source material.

Mangan isn’t given the chance to explore why his character might persevere on a path that spells doom for every other person on stage, and that feels like a waste of his intelligence as an actor.

The staging is inventive, but that and a reference to proroguing parliament can’t redeem this charmless outfit. Suits you, sir? No, not really.

Chris Waywell

Mephisto [A Rhapsody]

WHAT IS IT...
Darkly hilarious drama about a pretentious actor who sells out big time.

WHY GO...
Leo Bill is a wonder as dishevelled thesp Aymeric.

Groan Ups

WHAT IS IT...
A classroom comedy from the team behind ‘The Play That Goes Wrong’.

WHY GO...
The hamster jokes are pretty good.

THE MEMBERS OF Mischief Theatre could presumably have all retired at 30 on the proceeds of their sleeper smash ‘The Play That Goes Wrong’. But the company—who’ve been together for 11 years, since they met at drama school—have not rested on their laurels. In between breaking America, they’ve produced seasonal variant ‘Peter Pan Goes Wrong’ and stand-alone hit ‘The Comedy About a Bank Robbery’, with Penn & Teller colab ‘Magic Goes Wrong’ on its way.

They’re a genuinely heartening success story with an impressive work ethic and it’s a real shame that their new play ‘Groan Ups’ is so bad.

The group have absolutely nailed the whole post-people-getting-flustered-at-stuff-breaking thing, but ‘Groan Ups’—which follows a group of five friends from primary school to adulthood—feels like their attempt to do a ‘proper’ play, and fairly brutally exposes their weaknesses.

In the first half, the adult performers play children with the air of people who are aware of what children are but who have never met any (everyone talks like a group of particularly egregious middle managers). In the second half, it’s the school reunion, and the thirtysomething cast get to act their ages. The script is much improved, but it still clunks away: there are some good gags, but the attempts at bittersweet human drama fall flat. I’m all for artists getting out of their comfort zone, but if you’ve done so trying to make what’s essentially a cheapo Richard Curtis knock-off, I’d argue it’s not a particularly noble failure.

Andrzej Lukowski
NEW SHOWS
THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

The Girl Who Fell
Sarah Rutherford’s play is set in the aftermath of a teenage girl’s suicide.
¬ Tralfagar Studios.
❖ Charing Cross.
Until Nov 23. £24.50-£35.

Lungs
Claire Foy and Matt Smith star in this moving experimental two-hander about parenthood by Duncan Macmillan.
¬ Old Vic. ❖ Waterloo.

Translations
Irish playwright Brian Friel’s masterpiece is back at the NT.
¬ National Theatre, Olivier.
❖ Waterloo. Until Dec 18.
£30-£89.

Fast
Kate Barton’s tale of a nineteenth-century quack doctor who starved her patients.

For All the Women Who Thought They Were Mad
A hotly anticipated play by Zawe Ashton.
¬ Hackney Showroom.

Great Expectations
The National Youth Theatre stage a cobweb-decked take on the Dickens classic.
¬ Southwark Playhouse.
❖ Elephant & Castle.

Meet Me at Dawn
Zinnie Harris’s magical female-led update of the Orpheus myth.
¬ Arcola Theatre.
Holborn. Until Sat Oct 19.
£18-£59.50.

EXCLUSIVE
‘A DAY IN THE DEAD OF JOE EGG’
Get exclusive tickets to the anticipated West End revival of ‘A Day in the Death of Joe Egg’ – inspired by Peter Nichols’s own experience of raising his daughter. Now from just £20.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS
AT TIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Ian McKellen on Stage
An evening with the British theatre and movie legend.

2 Peppa Pig’s Best Day Ever
Tots will squeal with joy at this muddy-puddle-filled show.

3 Goldilocks and the Three Bears
London’s starriest panto.

4 Wicked
The magical hit musical.

5 9 to 5 the Musical
Kitschy fun from Dolly Parton.

FOR TICKETS TO THE BEST SHOWS AT GREAT PRICES
TIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

EXCLUSIVE
The professional pissheads of ‘Shit-faced Showtime’ return with a festive musical – ‘A Pissedmas Carol’. Don’t miss this raucous show – now £14.

TIMEOUT.COM/PISSEDMAS

LAST CHANCE

Fame the Musical
Catch this show about raw ambition at a stage school before it pirouettes out of the West End.
¬ Peacock Theatre.
❖ Holborn. Until Sat Oct 19.
£18-£59.50.

Vassa
Mike Bartlett (‘King Charles III’) turns Gorky’s classic into a fresh look at a crumbling dynasty. Timuk Craig directs.
¬ Almeida Theatre.
❖ Highbury & Islington. Until Nov 23. £10-£42.
Desiree Burch
The LA-born, London-based comic on the highs and lows of her stage career

‘A BLACK GIRL takes a big bite of the forbidden apple of privilege and has a trippy-ass life journey she’s finally able to recount.’ That’s how Los Angeles-born, London-based stand-up Desiree Burch describes her new show, ‘Desiree’s Coming Early’, a beautifully crafted piece of stand-up storytelling focused around Burch’s drug-fuelled trip to Burning Man festival. It’s mischievous and unapologetic, hallucinogenic and magical, zeitgeisty and relevant – and it’s breathlessly entertaining.

What’s been your favourite thing about performing this show?
The two vicars who saw it and told me how much they loved it made me feel like I might not be utterly damned.

What’s been your strangest heckle?
A drunk man who was just charming enough to not be thrown out just kept talking back to me, like we were old friends having a chat. It was a show all about sex and he just related so much to what I was saying. I asked the woman next to him if they were together. She was his mom. What? How?

What’s the worst thing you’ve done on stage?
Whatever happened after the audience chanted, “Do it! Do it!” for a solid minute. Any time a crowd is chanting at you to “do it” you should
‘As great as your tits are, they’re still just tits at the end of the day.’

What’s your favourite kids’ joke?
‘The interrupting cow knock-knock joke. I’m still moo-ing in the middle of people’s lives to this day.’

What one other comedian should readers see and why?
‘Marcel Luont. There’s something riveting about the pure abandon of someone telling you to your face how much better they are than you, and then in puddles of laughter having to admit that they are right.’

What subject wouldn’t you joke about?
‘My mom or your mom. This one always ends in a knife fight.’

What’s the rudest thing you’ve been told off stage?
‘My friend David’s joke about the worst thing about being black and Jewish. It’s as hilarious as it is offensive.’

What’s been your favourite moment of your career as a comedian?
‘Having dirty stuff that would keep me from being a booked in a lame club in the States being requested and paid for on shows like “The Mash Report” here in the UK. God bless this country’s filthy mind.’

‘Desiree’s Coming Early’ is at Soho Theatre. Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 11-23. £11.50-£20.

John Kearns: ‘Double Take and Fade Away’
Meandering observations, imaginative metaphors and superbly crafted jokes in the double Edinburgh Comedy Award winner’s soulful show.
WITH IMPECCABLE timing, Sir John Soane’s Museum has gathered together for the first time all of William Hogarth’s series, including ‘A Rake’s Progress’ and ‘Marriage A-la-Mode’. The timing is great because the highlight here is ‘Humours of an Election’ (1754), in which a bogus general election goes from bad to worse, amid corruption, violence and national division, and in which literally every other character looks like Boris Johnson, including some of the animals.

Hogarth liked series of works: they allowed him to do narrative while indulging his more painterly instincts, and they were easily reproducible as engravings that could be sold for MONEY. Money – the lack of it, the influence of it and the abuse of it – features a lot in his work. The ‘Rake’ inherits, squanders the lot, goes mad. The couple in ‘Marriage A-la-Mode’ (1743) hook up in a paid-for social contract and both die. Oh yeah, there’s a lot of death, too. People are stabbed, disembowelled, hanged, die of the pox and have strokes after heavy lunches. A man beats a lamb to death in the street. Coaches crash and people are hit by bricks.

Hogarth’s world is one of extremes, but that was the world where he lived and worked. One of the most fascinating things about this show is the way these series track their characters across London: from the chic West End to sleazy Covent Garden to the Barbican’s slums. This is not a fantasy – the ‘progress’ is literal, catastrophic and set amid recognisable landmarks.

It’s not all grotesque misery. As Hogarth’s style grows more expansive, his paintings are full of beauty. It’s mainly natural – skies, rivers, woods – as if to remind us that it’s humans who fuck
United Visual Artists: ‘Other Spaces’
This collective has organised an immersive series of laser lightshows that will mess with your perception. It’s trippy, heady and will totally blow your mind.

Kara Walker: ‘Fons Americanus’
This year’s Turbine Hall installation comes courtesy of this American artist, who’s using it to viciously critique Britain’s imperial past. It’s brutal, brilliant and necessary.

Mona Hatoum: ‘Remains to Be Seen’
An exhibition filled with cages and concrete, charred homes and inescapable prisons. Hatoum’s art is about politics, conflict, oppression and degradation, and it’s very good.

WHAT IS IT...
Master satirist William Hogarth’s serial works in London’s coolest house.

WHY GO...
All of human life is here. And it ain’t pretty (okay, some of it is).


By Chris Waywell
Who also likes Hogarth’s ‘A Lawnmower’s Progress’.

BE BEST OF THE BEST
The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now

Find even more art at timeout.com/art
‘Rembrandt’s Light’

IF YOU’VE EVER had the traumatising experience of seeing yourself illuminated in the bright white glare of shop lights, you’ll know the importance of good lighting design. Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-1669) knew this as well, but he didn’t just cast his subjects in a flattering light, he made the soft, yellow-tinted beams slicing through bitter darkness the centrepiece, maybe even the point, of his art.

Dulwich Picture Gallery shows this in two ways: one, by exhibiting 35 of the Dutch master’s drawings, etchings and paintings. Two, by getting cinematographer Peter Suschitzky (who previously worked on ‘Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back’ and ‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show’) to design the exhibition’s lighting system à la Rembrandt. The first room plunges visitors into the classic sooty blackness of a Rembrandt oil painting, making the second room, a puddle of warm sunlight in tribute to the artist’s well-lit studios, something of a shock. The others descend back into gothic mode, dark cosy caves emphasising the luminescence in the artworks. At the centre, the gallery’s mausoleum (yes, it has one) is filled with ‘Buffy’-esque candles, with velvet cushions strewn on the stone benches.

It’s beautiful. It’s calming. It works as a curatorial concept. But most importantly, the pictures are genuinely worth seeing. Yeah, Dulwich hasn’t got access to the biggest and bestest Rembrandts – they’re all in the Rijksmuseum’s amusingly-named ‘All the Rembrandts’ exhibition, funnily enough. And yeah, there are some not-so-interesting ‘School of…’ images on display.

But the thing with Rembrandt is that when he’s great, he’s so great that even one great Rembrandt would be worth the price of an exhibition ticket and a train ride anywhere (even to Dulwich). Here, one of those pictures is ‘A Woman Bathing in a Stream’, a sexy, quiet image of a woman raising her white chemise to wade into shallow, clear water. The woman is assumed to be Hendrickje Stoffels, mother to one of Rembrandt’s kids, and he paints her as literally radiant, the only thing worth looking at among the gloom. With or without good lighting, isn’t that how everyone wants to be seen?

Rosemary Waugh
Lisa Brice

BLUES IS A big deal in art history. In the Renaissance it implied wealth and opulence; for Picasso it implied overwhelming, overpowering sadness. Matisse used it for his most sexual works, and then Yves Klein came along, trademarking his own shade, splodging it everywhere and using women as paintbrushes to daub his canvases with it. Blue, over the centuries, became a weapon of male sexuality.

And now there’s Lisa Brice, prising it out of the rigor mortis grip of the past and imbuing it with new meaning. In her small, pure blue paintings here she captures women at rest and at play: smoking, painting, stretching, changing, staring at their bodies, staring into space. It’s the same vibe as her show here a few years ago and the Tate last year.

It’s the bigger paintings that really elevate the show. They’re door-sized works, as if Brice is letting you into private moments. There’s pink in these now, along with the blue, and black and brown too. In the best work, a bright sunburnt woman smokes, her arms and face dipped in blue paint. In others, nude women are reflected in multiple mirrors or invitingly opening a door.

In the back room, the figures are painted on screens: objects of privacy and separation. That’s the point. The women in Brice’s work are sexual beings: not for the sake of being consumed by men’s eyes – it’s just what they are. They’re women, existing. Fiercely, proudly, unashamedly going about their lives. Their bodies don’t belong to the viewer, they belong to themselves.

Brice has taken the history of blue and ground it into the dirt. Now, the colour’s hers, and she’s not letting go without a fight. ■ Eddy Frankel

WHAT IS IT...
Brice paints secret glimpses into private women’s worlds.

WHY GO...
It’s intimate, beautiful and will leave you feeling very blue indeed.

IF THERE'S ONE thing this slip of a Soho spot is not, it's boring. And not just because it has an is-it-cool-or-is-it-cringe name. Let's deal with that first: I'm sure it's distracting you. Fatt Pundit, so their website tells us, is the 'playful' fusion of words from two different countries: one being the Chinese surname 'Fatt', the other, pundit, the Indian word for a scholar. Whether you love it or loathe it (me: thumbs down), the name does at least give you a sense of what kind of food to expect: namely, Indo-Chinese. Or, more specifically, the 'hakka' cooking of migrants to India originally from southern China.

The flavours, in essence, take a Cantonese base, then crank up the intensity and heat. Case in point: the paneer lettuce cups. Paneer – India's beloved squishy cheese – is not the easiest thing to turn into something memorable, but FP’s treatment of it is as good as it gets. Cut into Jenga-shaped lozenges, the insides were soft, the outsides firm and bouncy. They had been draped in a glossy, peppery glaze, which was mellow with garlic and spring onion, but had an unapologetic pow-pow of chilli. You can go ahead and kid yourself that, being veggie, this is a healthy option, but really, it’s drinking food.

There were other brilliant bites. Like the 'Bombay chilly prawns': a stack of chubby shell-off crustaceans, their edges lightly crunchy, their centres joyously springy, in a slick of a sauce singing with the umami notes of soy. Plus the occasional textural 'Hi, don’t forget about us, please' from rough-cut, just-bitter-enough green peppers, or their sweet red cousins. And so it went on. Szechuan egg-fried rice was a version full of
depth, colour and fire: tiny morsels of diced carrot and silky scrambled egg all tumbled in with the seeds of chilli, for a deep, low-tide wave of recurring heat. Or a trio of momo (the signature steamed dumplings), each one hiding a small ginger-laced meatball inside its thick pastry. At just £5 a plate, these are a steal. Also good: a bowl of rabbit wontons, their insides dense and juicy. The only issue? They’d been slathered in an intense black bean sauce, all salt and vibrant heat and smoked garlic, which though delicious, completely scuppered any chance of the meat’s delicate flavour making an appearance.

There were a few other niggles, too, like strips of venison leaning on the chewy side of the fence. Or the fact that the sweet-natured, well-meaning staff, in spite of promising to bring no more than three plates at a time, brought the whole shebang at once (though couldn’t have been more apologetic when they realised their mistake, whisking extras away and returning fresh ones later).

Interiors were a slick echo of the fusion menu. A canvas of semi-industrial Soho (metal tabletops, dark wood floors, designer lighting), lifted by cheerful accents (a deep turquoise grate ‘wall’; side-laid red bricks set into the floor along the counter). Only the music (monotone trance beats: just no) needs to change. Not that anyone seemed to care: FP has already become a popular hangout. I can see why.

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

By Tania Ballantine
Who is no pundit.
WHEN THE MICHELIN-STARRED restaurant at Bonhams closed, there was much hand-wringing from its high culture, carefully coiffed clientele (the kind of crowd where if you sneezed, 15 crisp hankies would come to your rescue, at least three of them monogrammed). They needn’t have panicked. The food at Emilia is a Savile Row cut above anything you’d expect from a restaurant that’s effectively part of an auction house (it has its own entrance; the loos are shared). From the crew behind Clipstone and Portland, the modern Italian menu is compact and confident: just three to four dishes for first, pasta or main courses, plus a few more antipasti. Some of it is better-than-a-Botticelli good. Like what appeared to be a giant spring roll, its crisp pastry stuffed with silky, fatty tendrils of pig’s trotter. On its own, it might have been too rich, but it had been thoughtfully set over a pile of al dente, leek-embroidered lentils. Or a lighter dish of tuna carpaccio under layers of supple romano peppers and tangy shallots, the crunch of almonds and the fragrant texture of firm, good-quality green olives. Then, later: a creamy, herb-flecked rabbit ragù, the meat so soft you could suck it through your teeth. There was an over-salted halibut: this we can forgive. But despite other tables being free, we were initially given a table on the ground floor, a narrow utilitarian space so devoid of ambiance it was like eating in an office. So do insist, as we did, on either the upstairs dining room, a place of candlelight and chatter or, better yet – if weather permits – among the starched linen and pale parasols of the elegant outside courtyard. ■ Tania Ballantine

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £150.

WHAT IS IT... A smart modern Italian restaurant at Bonhams auction house.

WHY GO... For a piggy spring roll on lentils and leeks.

→ 7 Haunch of Venison Yard, W1K 5ES. ⚡ Bond St.
THREE OF THE BEST

Balham restaurants

Going to The Banana Cabaret at The Bedford? Eat there, or try one of these...

The Cyclist ★★★★★

Head to the dining area of this vibey pub for gastropub classics and seasonal small plates like duck croquettes or pappardelle with pig’s cheek and ‘nduja. Smashing staff, too.

→ 194 Balham High Rd, SW12 9BP   Balham.

Milk ★★★★★

This ultra-hip café may be famed for its queue-down-the-street brunch, but it’s also open for supper from Thursday to Saturday. We’ll take a fillet o’ fish sandwich, thanks.

→ 18-20 Bedford Hill, SW12 9RG   Balham.

Seventeen ★★★★★

It may look too cool for school, but this chippy’s menu keeps things trad with its line-up of exceptionally good battered fish. The fish burger, calamari and onion rings are ace, too.

→ 17 Chestnut Grove, SW12 8JA   Balham.

Food

EAT THIS

Sicilian chickpea fries from Sugo

Look, we know that street food supremos Sugo are Insta-famous for their pitta pockets (though shhh… the toppings, like their squiddy meatballs, are even better on wild rice and roasted veg), but it’s these chickpea fries we’d queue up for. Crisp on the outside, with peppery, lemony centres, they’re the best vegan snack in town (also available as a non-vegan ‘loaded’ version, left). You heard it here first.

Tania Ballantine

→ Vinegar Yard, 72-82 St Thomas St, SE1 3QG   London Bridge.

Find more Balham gems at
www.timeout.com/balham

EXCLUSIVE

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Four gin-based cocktails, four dapper Boisdale locations and one tasty bargain – sip on four cocktails for just £16 with our exclusive offer.

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Ts&Cs apply.
Six hangouts where you won’t miss the booze one bit

Whether you’re having a month off the sauce or you swerve alcohol altogether, there’s never been a better time for drinking when you’re not drinking in London.

For a group night out
Heads + Tails
Who said you can’t have a sparkling night out during Sober October? If you’re the only one in the gang avoiding the spirits, stay in on the action here. The West Hampstead cocktail bars (a bright ground-floor spot and a dive bar below) get lively midweek, and thanks to a menu of saintly serves upstairs, you can swing cocktails like the rest of them. The Everlong (£5) is made from Everleaf, a bittersweet apertif that adds serious depth to drinks.
→ 175 West End Lane, NW6 2LH. West Hampstead Overground.

For a quiet catch-up
Teatulia
A diddy hideout in Covent Garden, Teatulia is a tea shop serving posh cuppas and offering up a library of books to peace-seekers. So far, so sober. But the shop doubles as a bar, with tea-infused cocktails and mocktails well worth exploring. So if you’re catching up with a friend or want the option either way, this place is hard to beat. Grab a lemongrass ‘Nojito’ or an alcohol-free hot toddy, plus a surprising moment of calm that’s cosy AF in the middle of Covent Garden.
→ 36 Neal St, WC2H 9PS. Covent Garden.

Find more sober spots at timeout.com/bars

For an afternoon on the beers
The Earl of Essex
On the wall is a board of beers from all across the land, with each one’s ABV advertised for all to see. Suggest meeting here during Sober October and your pals might think you’re crashing off the wagon. But in fact, the Earl has got the soft options on lock. Lucky Saint beer is stocked in the fridges and is a delicious low-alcohol option full of the hoppiness you’d expect from any round at this pub. If the thought of beery flavour is too much like temptation, the Earl also stocks a solid range of sodas.
→ 25 Danbury St, N1 8LE. Angel.
Near & Far Camden

SPINNING OFF FROM its glitter ball-loving south London sister – a bar with the same name in the centre of Peckham Levels – is this Camden hangout that definitely got the dress code memo. And in these times, there’s not a thing I don’t like about its silly, feelgood look. Think a backlit bar, woven cocoon chairs suspended from the ceiling and flamingos peeping out from corners, all spread across four bijou floors. We sat on ground level by the bar as you enter, but only because those retro chairs were occupied in the pink-hued snug down below, and there were hardly any punters in the restaurant or rooftop room above.

It was a good position, though, in the company of the bar’s approachable puppy.

We also had the right timing, with happy hour guaranteeing us two-for-one on all the cocktails (usually £8.50 each). If I’d been paying full whack, I’d have been pretty disappointed with the Benedict Cucumberbatch, a wishy-washy gin, prosecco and cucumber number. I preferred a Negroni stirred down with herbs and botanicals, the Emergency Brexit – no surprises that it left a bitter taste in the mouth. It was apparently our waitress’s first day and the enthusiastic welcome we received and service throughout ensured we had a good time. I’d probably return for just that: a very happy, happy hour. But maybe I’d stick to the beers next time.

Laura Richards

For the indulgent pasta moment
Lina Stores Restaurant

You might be going into hibernation mode at this time of year – in which case, about the only thing that can coax you out of your slumber and on the town is a steaming plate of pasta with a hot flush-inducing glass of red. The good folk at Soho Italian restaurant Lina Stores have pre-empted your predicament, serving two blood-red cocktails that are alcohol-free and that stand up to bold, comfort-food flavours. The Negroni is a twist on the classic cocktail made using Seedlip and Aecorn Aperitif, while the Seedlip Spritz 42 is a refreshing, bitter friend to ragù-dense pappardelle. Minus the booze, but still buonissimo.

→ 35 Earls St, WC2H 9LD. ☛ Covent Garden.

For a very special occasion
Connaught Bar

Just named the second finest place to drink on the whole of planet earth by the World’s 50 Best Bar awards, reward yourself for a sober stint done well with a trip to the Connaught Bar in Mayfair. While the Martinis are splurge-worthy items, the chic menu of mocktails should float your sober boat just as well. All cost £12 (so still a bit of a splash-out offering), from a Wine for the Soul, which recreates the flavours of your favourite drop of red, to a Glossy, a kombucha cocktail served in an actual silver chalice. That’s Sober October done extravagantly, all right. Connaught hotel, Carlos Place, W1K 2AL. ☛ Bond St.

Laura Richards

For avoiding temptation altogether (well, sort of)
Temperance Bar at Seven Dials Market

Seriously sweet and sin-free sodas – plus a non-alcoholic gin – by London company Square Root are on the menu at the Temperance Bar, at the all-new Seven Dials Market food hall. And they’re being used to power cocktails like a Peach Kombucha Bellini and a Negroni Spritz. Your booze-fuelled pals can tuck into cocktails at the hall’s other bars, with spirits provided by East London Liquor Company. And you’ll find more indulgence in all that street food you’ll be ploughing through on the side.

→ 51 Greek St, W1D 4EH. ☛ Tottenham Court Rd.

By Laura Richards

Who has got her months a bit mixed up.
Mossy Bottom life

Brought to you by Shaun the Sheep

Funny goings-on

Remember when Mossy Bottom Farm was a simple working farm sabotaged by the antics of Shaun and his mischievous flock? Things have changed. Ever since the arrival of Lu-La, a joyriding little alien with remarkable telekinetic powers (think Carrie, but way cuter), this rural idyll has gone celestial.

Yep, there’s a lot of sci-fi fun down Mossy Bottom way right now. We’re talking Shaun helping to get Lu-La home, a very unwelcome (and pretty hapless, tbh) pursuit by Agent Red and the sinister MAD government organisation, and crowds of UFO fanatics flocking to town to visit The Farmer’s sketchy little theme park, ‘Farmageddon’.

And then there are the Easter eggs (props to anyone who spots all of the ‘Alien’ chest-bursting scenes), nerdy little in-jokes (look out for the garage called ‘HG Wheels’) and some end credits that are as trippy as a whistle-stop tour through the Orion Nebula. Did we mention the whole thing is really damn funny, too?

GET YOUR FARMAGEDDON FIX

Do this

Discover Forestry England’s Glow Trails – interactive forest walks at their sites across the UK. Your mission? Hunt out Lu-La’s crashed spaceship and help her charge her communicator (it doesn’t take an Apple cable).

Find this

Head to King’s Cross train station this weekend (October 19 and 20) for the Amazon Treasure Kiosk, where you can win free Shaun the Sheep merch, create your own Shaun and Lu-La and play the Home Sheep Home video game. Baa-rrilliant!

See this

‘A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon’ reaches cinema screens on Friday. It’s a blast, out of this world, astronomically funny, with a stellar cast. Totally cosmic, basically. But really, it’s excellent. You should go and see it.

→ For more information and trailers visit www.FARMAGEDDONMOVIE.co.uk
Go behind the scenes of Shaun the Sheep’s brand new movie

Want to really get to know the ‘Shaun the Sheep’ universe? Check out these fun facts – some of them might even make ewe laugh...

• Shaun first appeared in Nick Park’s Wallace & Gromit classic ‘A Close Shave’ back in 1995.
• For ‘Farmageddon’, 28 animators were tasked with bringing Shaun and Lu-La to life.
• Shaun’s voice (okay, ‘baaas’) is provided by Justin Fletcher – TV’s Mr Tumble, proving he really does get everywhere.
• Shaun has more than 5 million Facebook fans. That’s more than the rest of the Aardman stable put together. #winner
• A Shaun the Sheep dining experience is just about to launch in Japan. It doesn’t serve lamb.

OVERHEARD THIS WEEK

Some of the things we heard watching ‘Farmageddon’

‘I guess you could say that was one small step for lamb, one giant leap for lamb kind.’

‘You want my opinion on “Farmageddon”? A shear delight. I’m here all week…’

‘Baaa’

‘Getting Lu-La home is going to take some serious wool power...’

‘Wow, Shaun’s really going out on a lamb for Lu-La, right?’

‘He he, you could say that this is “close encounters of the furred kind”. Ha!’

‘Baaa’

‘Did you know Time Out gave this four stars? Those guys are light years ahead of everyone else.’

‘Poor Lu-La, she can’t get any signal on her communicator. I can totally relate to that.’
“HILARIOUS! AN OUT OF THIS WORLD ADVENTURE”

ANDREW COLLINS, RADIO TIMES

“BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WITH WARMTH AND WIT”

ROBBIE COLLIN, THE TELEGRAPH

“ONE GIANT LEAP FOR LAMB KIND”

TIME OUT

A Shaun the Sheep Movie
FARMAGEDDON
LANDING IN CINEMAS THIS FRIDAY