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This week's Time Out in no time at all

What a carve up!

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

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> 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-andkeep guide on where to take a poo around town). Enjoy.



Hello,

London

What you've been rating and hating online

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

'I can't wait to pretend I'm a drunk Thomas the Tank Engine!'

Mathilde D 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

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.'

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!

@timeoutlondon





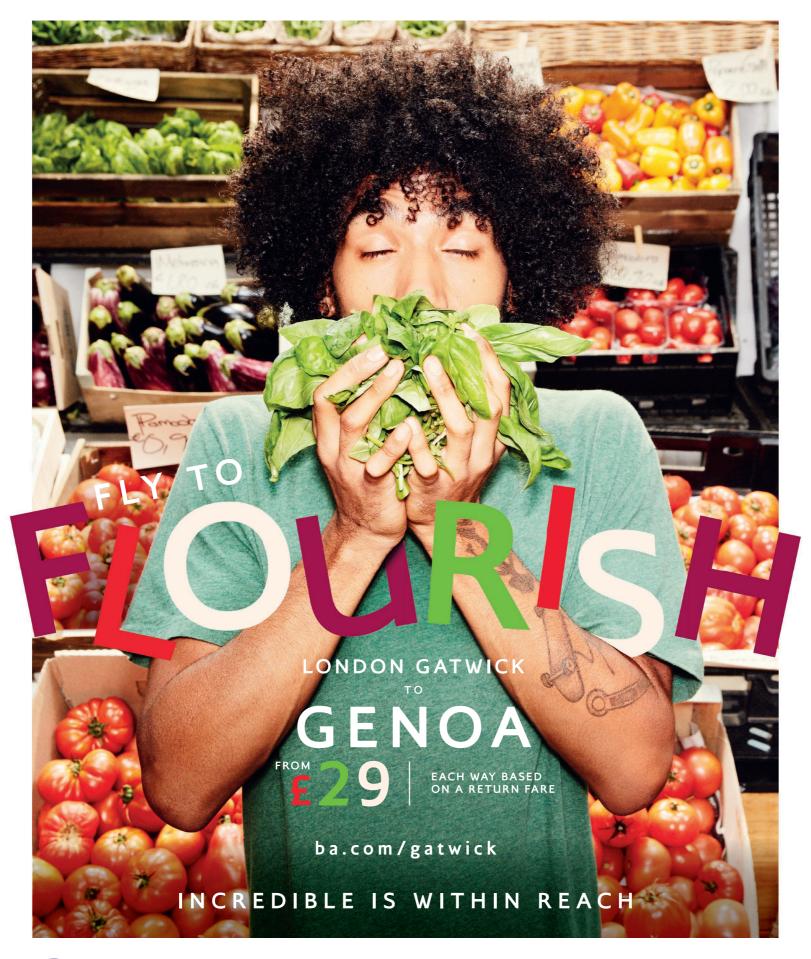






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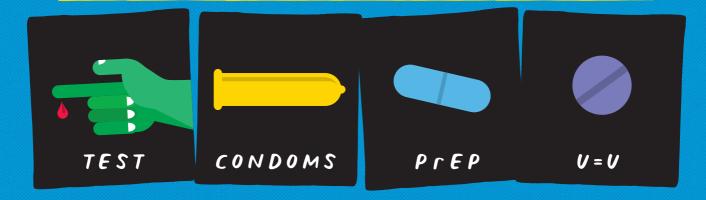




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City life

Edited by James Manning @timeoutlondon



THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week

To market,

to market

FROM KERB'S ACE Seven Dials Market to the shiny Arcade Food Theatre under Centre Point, food halls are the biggest thing to hit the West End since 'Harry Potter and the Cursed Child'. Now the largest yet is on its way – and we've got an exclusive announcement on the banging food line-up. **Market Hall West End** is moving into the old BHS building on Oxford Street, and its opening line-up of vendors



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.

CHEESE BAR: NIC CRILLY-HARGRAVE; RIBA: SERWAN SALEME; MA

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 wideeyed teenager again, taking my first slurp of lifechanging soup from a massive wooden ladle. ■

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'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, lighthearted 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.'

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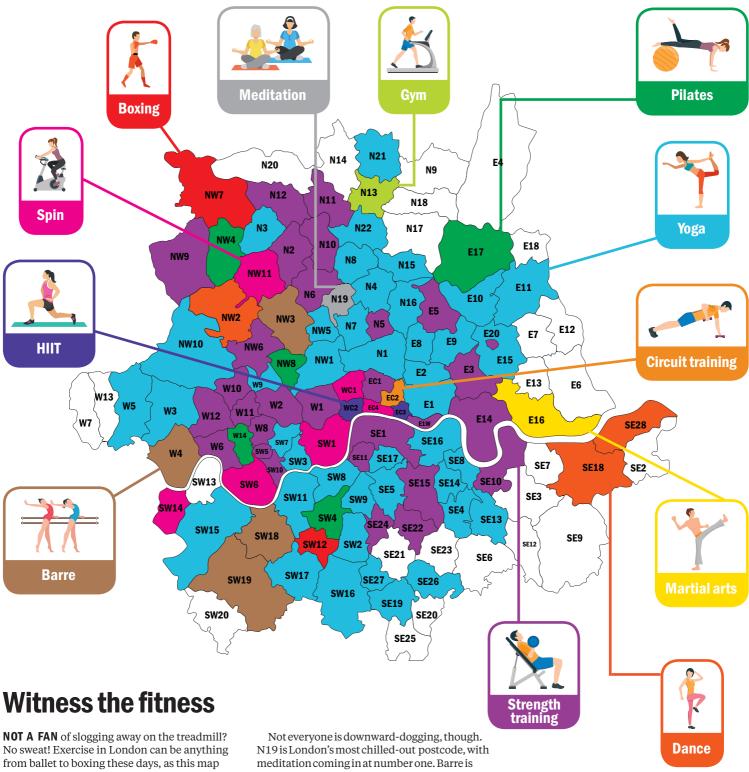
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LONDON MAPPED



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. $\blacksquare El Hunt$

→ www.classpass.com

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



MY LONDON STORY



Nigel Waymouth

Founder of legendary '60s boutique Granny Takes a Trip

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 passersby 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 avantgarde 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. ■ Interview by Sophia Satchell-Baeza → Nigel Waymouth's designs appear in the exhibition 'Bamalama Takes a Trip: A Celebration of '60s Graphic Design'. Bamalama Music & Movie Posters. ← Chancery Lane. www.bamalamaposters.co.uk

'Our shop
was a
magnet for
anybody
with
creative
leanings'

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LONDONEYE



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 → The Photographers' Gallery. ↔ Oxford Circus. Fri Oct 18-Feb 9 2020. £5, free after 5pm.





Clockwise from top:
'Shoes polisher, Rocky II, etc,
Piccadilly' by William Klein
(1980); 'Untitled' from 'The
Undressing Room' by John
Goldblatt (1968); 'Looking for
Love' by Daragh Soden (2019)

Check out more London snaps at **timeout.com/photography**



Building a sustainable city, one project at a time



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 timepoor 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

→ www.rewildmystreet.org

at timeout.com/green THE VIEW FROM YOU

Discover more eco initiatives

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.'



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FREE LONDON

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



COMETOGETHER

'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.

→ 180 The Strand. O Temple. Until Dec 8.

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. Thornton Heath rail. Thu Oct 17.

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.

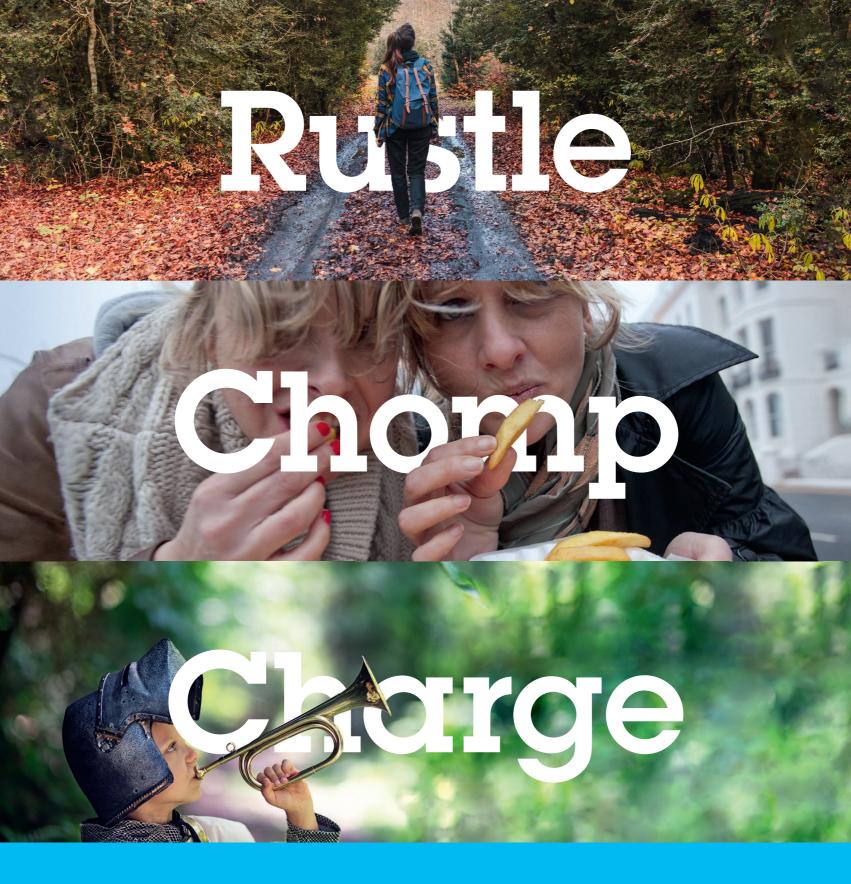
A SWEET DEAL Chocolate shots at Colicci

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. ightarrow Serpentine Coffee House. ← Knightsbridge. Tue Oct 15-Mon Oct 21.

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.

← Ladbroke Grove. Sat Oct 19.

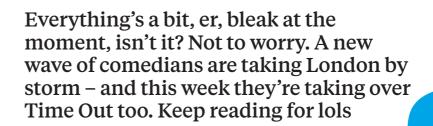


Do more in Hastings. The Southeastern Weekender ticket.

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







...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.

→ John Kearns: 'Double Take and Fade Away'. Soho Theatre.

→ Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 25-Dec 7.

...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 £20! Twenty pounds! I'm pretty sure there are places in the world where you can buy a baby for £20. 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.

 $\boldsymbol{\rightarrow}$ Kwame plays the Boat Show Comedy Club. Tattershall Castle.

← Embankment. Oct 22.

Area guide Leicester Square

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!



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 **Häagen-Dazs** for a chance to meet jolly Mr Dazs himself. He'll happily regale you with all his wonderful memories of cream.

Trafalgar Square. **Everyone has survived** in Leicester Square this year.

→ 'Stath Lets Flats' is available to stream on All 4.

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

TELL
TOURISTS

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

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!

→ Lou Sanders: 'Say Hello to Your New
Step-mummy'. Soho Theatre.

← Tottenham Court Rd. Oct 28-Nov 9.
Ciarán Dowd: 'Padre Rodolfo'. Soho Theatre.

← Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 5-9.



SJES AND GUES

WITH KOJO ANIM & VIKKI STONE





Scan to enter CRAB ONE AT YOUR LOCAL SHOP

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.

CRO

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.'

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.

E8

E17

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

→ Sonhie Duker: 'Venus', Soho Theatre. → Tottenham Court Rd. Oct 29-Nov 2.



Mawaan Rizwan on how to be a Londoner

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



Ed Gamble's guide to no-cost fine dining in the capital

As a co-host of the 'Off Menu Podcast', I make it my duty to be across all the hottest restaurant openings and trendiest popups in the capital. People think great food needs to be expensive, but there are plenty of cutting-edge places in London where you can get incredible cuisine for very little.



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

Trafalgar Square + pigeon costume = free bread.

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

→ Ed Gamble: 'Blizzard'. 02 Shepherd's Bush.

→ Shepherd's Bush. Dec 20.



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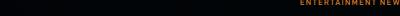




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BASED ON THE UNTOLD TRUE STORY

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. Ionce had to break up with somebody because Irealised 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'.

- → Michael Odewale: '#BlackBearsMatter'. Soho Theatre.
- → Tottenham Court Rd. Feb 11-15 2020.



Natural History Museum

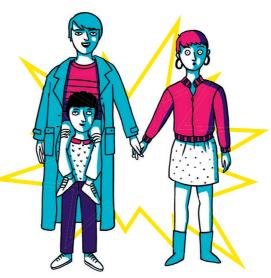
You're on a date with someone who's definitely been to New York. (I don't know if you know this, but they have a Natural History Museum in New York too.) Make the trip fun for yourself by not letting your date bring up New York by any means necessary.

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.



Evelyn Mok on how to behave on public transport

I moved to London in 2012 and it took me about three months to learn the tube system. Now I am a pro. Follow my advice and you'll blend right in.

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



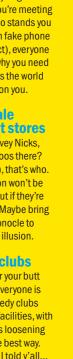
that's easy to cook



and easy on the environment







LLUSTRATION: LAURÈNE BOGLIO; EVELYN MOK: JAMES DEACON; RHYS JAMES: MATT CROCKETT



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 vintage 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'.
- ★ Zones 1 and 2 become permanently pedestrianised to meet the demand for marches.
- ★ 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.■ Rhys James: 'Snitch', Leicester Square

Theatre.

← Leicester Square. Mar 13 2020.





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 shitted 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.

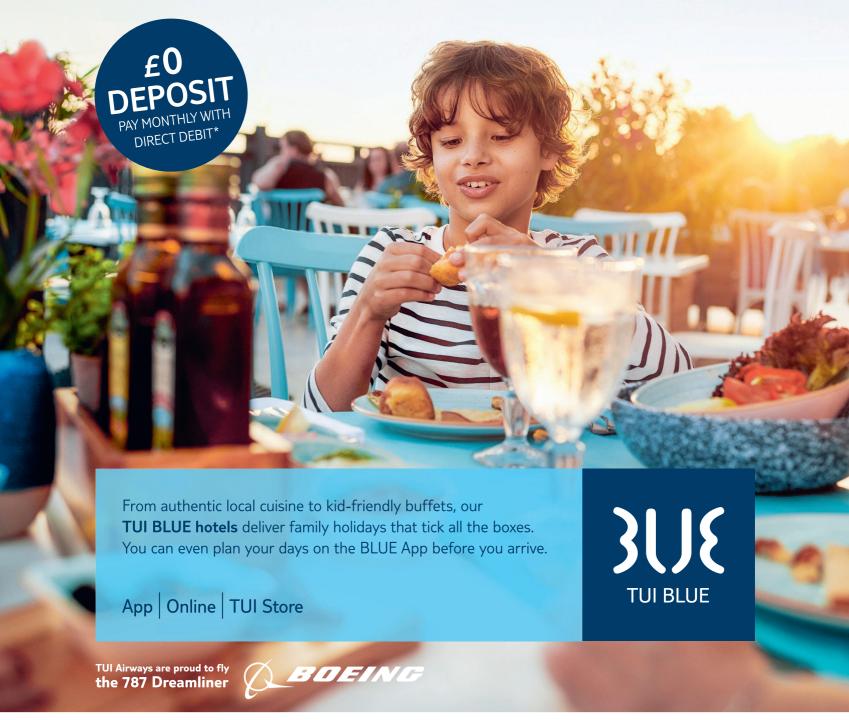
Comedy clubs

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... → Dane Baptiste: 'The Chocolate Chip', Soho Theatre,

→ Tottenham Court Rd. Mar 2-14 2020.



MEMORY-MAKING FAMILY HOLIDAYS





PHIL MCINTYRE | LIVE



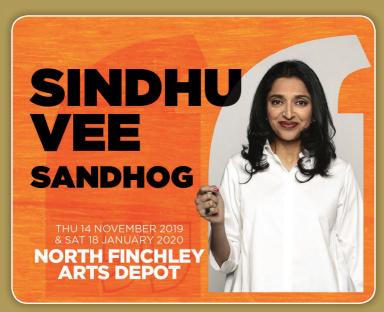








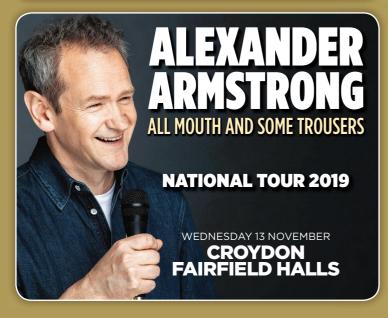




















This funny little place I know...

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 (a) (b) (a) (b) 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

The Pleasance Theatre hosts excellent workin-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' to ilet is grim so docked a star. Watch Nick Helm's Christmas Fuck-Fest. December 16, 8pm.

→ Pleasance Theatre. ↔ Caledonian Rd.

The hinster 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-andcomers. Always worth a punt if you're at a loose end and want to snort pizza out of your nose. Loo rating 💩 🙆 🙆 🎂 Fine. Solid amount of cubicles.

Watch Amusical Halloween Special. October 30, 7.30pm.

→ Backyard Comedy Club. ↔ Bethnal Green.

T<mark>he cool one that's cool</mark>

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 & & & A 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.

The something-foreveryone 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 9, 7pm.

→ 2Northdown. → King's Cross







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 it 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.

Watch Jordan Brookes: 'I've Got Nothing'. December 16-February 15 2020, 9.30pm. → Soho Theatre. ↔ Tottenham Court Rd.

The classic

Want to avoid being ambushed by a sketch or character comedian? Head to Headliners Comedy Club where you can guarantee: a) a simple comicand-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.

Find more lols at timeout.com/comedy



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Set-up: £9.95 router delivery and £10 connection fee. Separate 18-month contracts for Sky Broadband Superfast (£27 per month (pm) including line rental), Sky Broadband Boost including WiFi Guarantee (£5pm) and Sky Pay As You Talk (£0pm). Sky Broadband Superfast: average download speed 59Mbps. External factors such as internet congestion and home wiring can affect speed. Wi-Fi speeds vary by device and home set-up. See sky.com for more details, usage policies and to check your speeds. UK's lowest price: Comparison based on monthly cost of Sky Broadband Superfast (fine (ading line rental): £27pm and Sky Broadband Boost (including WiFi Guarantee): £5pm against standard monthly in contract subscription price for BT Superfast Fibre Essential (36Mbps): £29.99pm; BT Superfast Fibre (50Mbps): £29.99pm or BT Superfast Fibre 2 (67Mbps): £39.99pm with BT Complete Wi-Fi (£10pm) and BT Superfast Fibre Plus (67Mbps): £39.99pm with BT Complete Wi-Fi (£5pm). BT services come with a 24-month minimum term and include: line rental, free weekend calls, unlimited monthly usage, Smart Hub, BT Virus Protect and parental controls and Stay Fast Guarantee. BT Complete Wi-Fi includes Smart Hub and Wi-Fi disc. Saving excludes call charges and annual line rental saver plans. BT offers may apply - see bt.com. Sky Talk: Compatible line required otherwise £20 connection charge may apply. Standard prices apply after 18 months (currently: Sky Broadband Superfast: £32pm and Sky Broadband Boost: £5pm). General: Subject to status. Upfront payment may be required. Non-standard set up may cost extra. Weekend set up/service visits £15 extra. You must get any consents required (e.g. landlord's). UK, Channel Islands and Isla of Man residential customers only. Further terms apply. Correct at 16/09/2019.

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Ayear of climate of contests

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

November 2018

 $After officially launching on October 31\ 2018 \\ with a declaration of rebellion read outside the \\ Houses of Parliament, radical climate action group \\ Extinction Rebellion organised its first large-scale protest. The plan? A blockade of Southwark, \\ Blackfriars, Waterloo, Westminster and Lambeth \\ bridges. The result? The world's attention.$

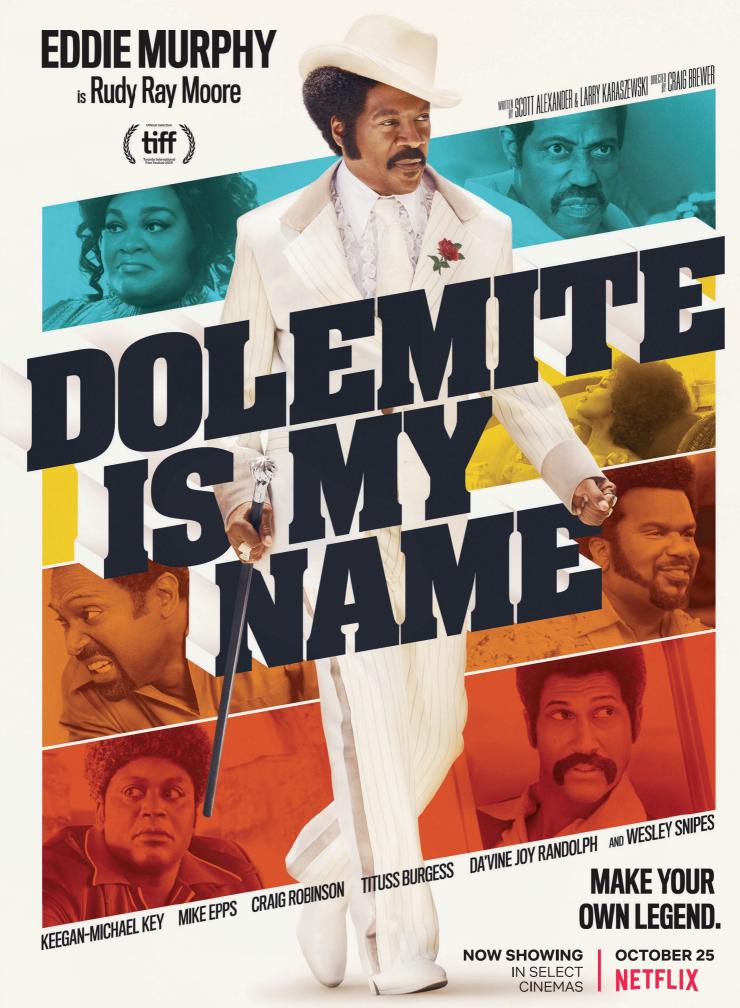


April 2019

House of Commons was interrupted by half-naked with their bums facing the Commons. Meanwhile, other protesters took over Arch, Parliament Square, 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

min

"A TOTAL MOTHERF-KIN' BLAST." "A BREEZY, JOYFUL, BALLS-TO-THE-WALL BIOPIC."



Greenpeace activists blockaded oreenpeace activision of the BP's London office, arriving at 3 am or stondonomee, any ing ato an onthe morning of the company's general annual meeting. They shut general annual meeting, They shut off all five entrances to the office in on anniveendances to meometing st James's Square, using containers which could accommodate two winch could accommodate two people and were filled with enough people and were med with enough supplies to last at least a Week, plus atiny toilet. A banner was hoisted auny whet. Avaimer was holder 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 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 across five UK cities. In London, activists a march at Hackney Town Hall. Protesters took to





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Justina Radavičiūtė
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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.

September 2019 $\psi \rightarrow$

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





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Music and movies

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Why go? To catch music from sensational movie composers alongside Q&As and film screenings. Expect music from 'Casino Royale', 'Up', 'Sherlock', 'The Incredibles' and more.

What's exclusive? Tickets are halfprice; get involved from just £13. → Royal Albert Hall. ← South Kensington. Fri Oct 18-Sat Oct 19. www.timeout.com/rah

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

Wandering tours

What is it? A secret garden or canalside 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.

→ Two locations. Until Jun 12 2020. www.timeout.com/wandering

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.

Sat Oct 19-Sun Oct 20. www.timeout.com/italia



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Property

Edited by Laura Richards timeout.com/property

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



'I've never had 26 neighbours that I knew by name, let alone cared about'



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



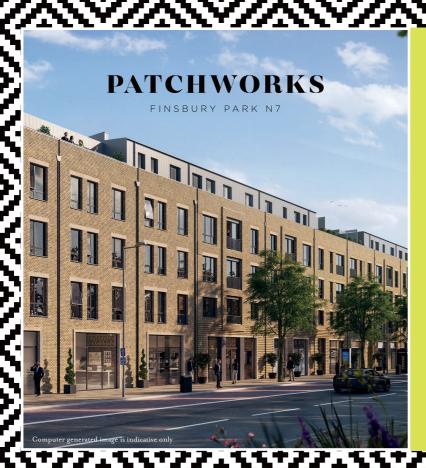
By Hayley Joyes Who knows ALL her neighbours.



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Catalyst



A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN

Wanstead

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

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AVERAGE RENT £650pcm per person

NEAREST TRANSPORT → Wanstead, Central Line

BUS ROUTES
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Stratford, Forest

Gate and Manor Park

LOCAL MP
John Cryer (Labour)

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 holisitic.

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. ■ Samantha Wood



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



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



← Peppermint? Teatime never looked

leatime never look so good.

→ Kinto pebble teapot, £48.50. www.indish.co.uk





Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott timeout.com/daytrips

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

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.

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.

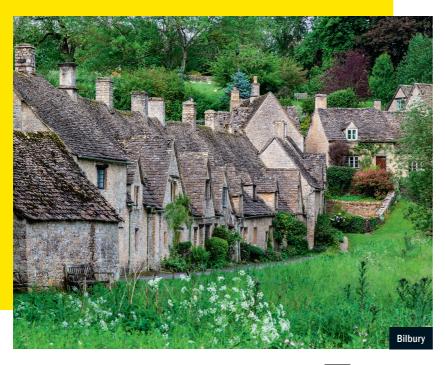
Chilham Kent
Check out Chilham's medieval village
square, lined with elegant houses and
ancient timber-framed homes. The whole place
is peppered with perfectly preserved listed
buildings – none as impressive as Chilham Castle.
The current manor house hails from 1616, but
there's been a fort on the spot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

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-worlde 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.





Have an oldeworlde weekend at timeout.com/ daytrips

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 picture que 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-Arnott ho is a sucker for a cuppa in a traditional aroom. Frilly aprons and all.

Thorpeness



London Paddington to Windsor by train

from **11170** off-peak day return

Book at GWR.com, on our app, or at a station.





For the next few weeks, Airbnb is helping Londoners to reconnect with the beauty of the country by releasing a limited amount of coupons to cover the first night's stay at one of six gorgeous UK towns and villages. If historic charm is what you're after, it's time to head north to Pontefract...

amous 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.



MEET THE HOST

Rachel

There are a number of artisans and creatives living in Pontefract – and one such person is Rachel. When she is not hosting guests, she's running pottery workshops and designing ceramics in her studio.



Every Thursday morning from October 3 2019 for four weeks, a limited number of 'First Night On Us' coupons will become available for a different town (or towns). The coupons for Pontefract drop from 10am on October 17 2019. Here's how you could get one:

Step 1

Visit airbnb.com/firstnight at 10am each Thursday from October 3 2019. If you're not an Airbnb user, we'd recommend signing up beforehand.

Step 2

Once on the landing page, enter your Airbnb registered email address into the 'Claim your coupon' box.

Step 3

Successful users will be emailed a coupon code in the following days.

Step 4

Book your stay and visit by December 30 2019. For full terms and conditions, go to airbnb.com/firstnight

→ For more information visit airbnb.com/firstnight

Windsor

A perfect day in

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 blueblooded town just west of London is as uppercrust 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 milelong 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 $posh\,department\,store\,\textbf{Daniel}\,is\,like\,an\,indie\,John$ Lewis. Feeling flush? Have flutter on the horses at Ascot or Royal Windsor, or investinentry 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 onto a BrewMasters tour to sample locally made ales at Windsor & Eton Brewery. Plan ahead to visit during one of its monthly comedy nights. ■ Katie Gregory

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

WAKE UP HERE

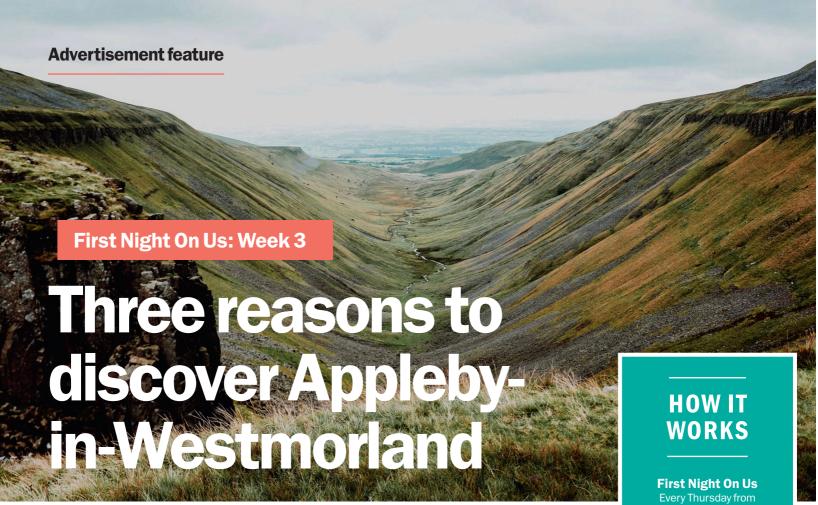
The Sir **Christopher**



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.

Ellie Walker-Arnott

→ Windsor, Berkshire. From £135 a night. www.sirchristopherwren.co.uk



If you're looking for sweeping green landscapes and gorgeous hiking trails, then you're in luck: Appleby-in-Westmorland was chosen in a Twitter poll as one of Airbnb's 'First Night On Us' destinations

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 aweinspiring stretch of Britain's most beautiful countryside. Applebyin-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!



Every Thursday from
October 3 2019 for four
weeks, a limited number of
'First Night On Us' coupons
will become available
for a different town
(or towns). The coupons for
Appleby-in-Westmorland
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→ For more information visit Airbnb at airbnb.com/firstnight



Deer and wildlife safari

AUTUMN IS PRETTY great. There are chunky jumpers, twinkling lights and cosy 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 beer, 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

LEAVE LONDON FOR

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

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 unspoilt 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. ■Lucy Lovell

→ From £13 a night. www.yha.org.uk

Find budget-friendly beds at **timeout.com/daytrips**

Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

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*





Lemn 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.'

→ Lemn Sissay presents his new memoir 'Lemn Sissay: My Name Is Why'. Fri Oct 18. £15.



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.'

→ Author of 'The Tattooist of Auschwitz', Heather Morris discusses 'Cilka's Journey', her sequel to the global bestseller. Oct 22. £15-£35.



Michael Morpurgo

'An epic of a fairytale
- "Jack and the
Beanstalk". No other

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!'

→ Michael Morpurgo's 'I Believe In Unicorns' is brought to life in a performance by Wizard Presents, Oct 22-23. £16. The show on Oct 22 is followed by a Q&A with the author.



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'

SISSAY: HAMISH BROWN MICHAEL MORBILBGO: PHIL CE



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 'Kintu' 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

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.' ■ → Raymond Antrobus and fellow award-winning poets perform their latest works in 'd/Deaf Republic: Poets on d/Deafness' as part of Poetry

International. Sat Oct 19. £10.

→ London Literature Festival runs at the

Southbank Centre from Thu Oct 17-Oct 27. Find

events and ticket details at www.southbankcentre.



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

f 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 worldclass 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 Lärm, 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!



SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



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. Fri Oct 18-Sat Oct 19. Free.

EXPERIENCE Lunar Dreams

Hang out beneath Luke Jerram's sixmetre 'Museum of the Moon' sculpture and hear storytellers perform lunarinspired folk tales to soundscapes created live by sound artists.

- → Holy Cross Church.
- ↔ King's Cross. Fri Oct 18. £10.

PARTY Unsightly 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.

↔ King's Cross. Fri Oct 18. £8.

Saturday

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.

→ Low Profile House. ← Manor House. Sat Oct 19. From £5.

Peckham Levels Beer Festival

Sip on suds from six of London's best indie breweries while dancing to live music.
→ Peckham Levels.

Peckham Rye Overground. Sat Oct 19. Free.



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.

→ Natural History Museum. ↔ South Kensington. Sat Oct 19-Jan 12 2020. From £12.65.

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.

→ The Brick Lane Food Hall. Shoreditch High St Overground. Fri Oct 18-Sun Oct 20. Free.



Queerstory

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

- → The Apple Tree.
- → Farringdon. Sun Oct 20. £10.

BROWSE South London Vintage Furniture Flea

Packed with midcentury gems and retro goodies, this sale is straight out of your homeware-filled dreams.

→ Balham SDA Church. ↔ Balham. Sun Oct 20. £2.50-£4.

More all-night action at timeout.com/lates



MAYOR OF LONDON



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

The Royal Society

6 – 9 Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG

Find out more at royalsociety.org/stateoftheearth

#YouAndThePlanet

ROYAL SOCIETY

Image ©NASA



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OPENING THIS WEEK

WHY I LOVE

Solve-Along-a-**Murder-She-Wrote**





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 $including {\it that} \, grey jogging \, out fit \, with \, the \, neck$ 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 $an `ad \, break' filled \, with \, old\text{-}school \, ads \, that'll \, take$ 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

Start weekend sleuthing at timeout.com/thingstodo



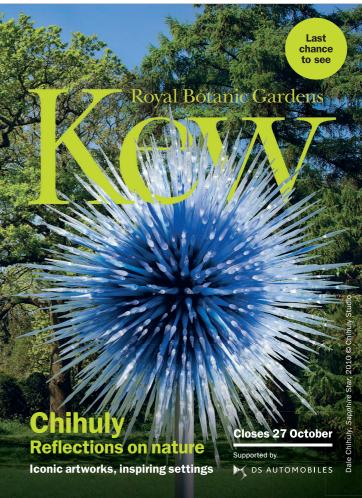
An interactive screening of cult crime show 'Murder She Wrote'.

WHY GO?

To see host Tim Benzie dazzle the crowd in an Angela Lansbury wig.

Royal Vauxhall Tavern. → Vauxhall. Wed Oct 16. £7. Limited tickets on the door on a first come first served basis





Evening Talks

Akademi at 40 Friday 18 October

Printed in North Korea: The Art of Everyday Life in the DPRK Friday 1 November

Leonardo – Opera and panel discussion Friday 8 November

Everybody's Talking About Jamie: Portraying a Life on Stage Friday 15 November

Partition Voices with Kavita Puri Friday 6 December

English House Style Monday 27 January

V&A Members receive priority booking for the talks programme & access to specially-curated events.

V&A South Kensington



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

Duelling – 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?

CUANCE INCORPORATED

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

Things to Do

DEAL WITH More cute critters at

timeout.com/outdoor

A Sylvanian Families Christmas pop-up shop.

To see if the Guardian Bear's hat is made of real fur (hopefully not).

→ 52 Brewer St. ← Piccadilly Circus. Sat Oct 19-Sun Jan 5 2020. Free.

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'S THE

Sylvanian Families Pop-Up

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 Svlvania?

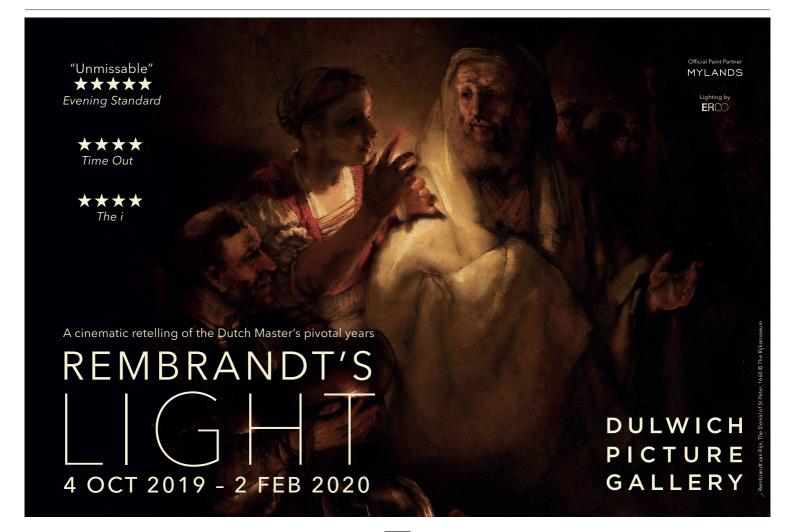
You can snap a new profile pic at the London-themed selfie corner, find interactive activities for kids, and a performance area for the Sylvanian characters. They'll be popping in for regular meet-and-greets throughout the shop's opening period.

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





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

f 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



You've had to deal with all of these objects, how have you found that?

style, our actors will be bringing the

stories to life, so there are going to

be a few scares along the way.'

'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.'



'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.'



Advertisement feature



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.

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.

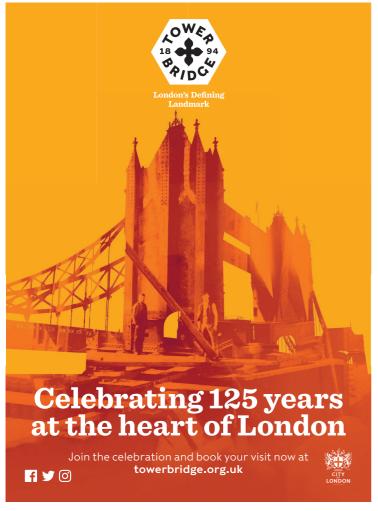




www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum









OBank

FLEAS

Hackney Flea Market

Visit this knick-knack hunter's paradise, with tables and rails brimmingwith 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.

→ Abney Public Hall. Stoke Newington Overground. Sat Oct 19-Sun Oct 20. Free.

Indoor Flea Market

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

→ Free Church Hall. ↔ Golders Green, Sat Oct 19, 50n.

FILMS

6 Black Movie **Festival**

To celebrate Black History Month, this film fest will be showing movies old and new with allblack casts or starring black actors. Watch films like 'Get Out', 'Cool Runnings' and 'Hidden Figures' from comfy beanbag seats.

→ Burgess Park. ← Kennington. Fri Oct 18-Oct 27. From £10.

TODO The best events in your area

Join a special

→ King's Cross. Tue Oct 15.

FESTIVALS

Wick Wednesday

Onthethird 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.

→ Various venues. Wed Oct 16. Free.

O Refinery29 Presents: 'Waiting to Exhale' Q&A

screeningofthe Whitney Houstonstarring classic followed by a panel talk celebrating women in black cinema led by the Entertainment Editor of media company Refinery29.

→ Everyman Cinema. £12.

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.

→ Various venues. Fri Oct 18-Oct 26. Prices vary.

SWAP SHOP

Swap It Free **Fashion Swap**

Swap till you drop at this clothes exchange where you can trade in your old clobber for someone else's.

→ The Village Haberdashery. → West Hampstead. Sun Oct 20. Free.

The **Haulternative** Closet

Are you a fashionista who doesn't want to propup 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 Shareditch

→ Old St. Thu Oct 17. £4.55.

BOOZE FEST

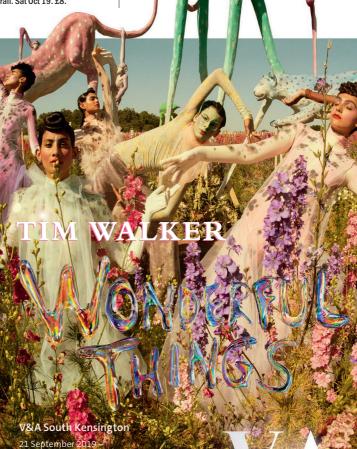
World's **Smallest Beer Festival**

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.

© 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 that's more your style. → ETNA Centre. St Margarets





EXCLUSIVE

'Journey to the Underworld' an eerie immersive dinner set are £49 and include a four-

> TIMEOUT.COM/UNDERWORLD

Swap your plans and upgrade at timeout.com/thingstodo

March 2020

Book now Members go free #TimWalkerxVAM

Kids

Edited by Rose Johnstone

Ten fierdishly fun Halloween activities

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

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. → Horniman Museum. Forest Hill Overground. Slime workshops: Mon Oct 21-24,£7.50. Fair: Oct 26-27. £2.50,£5 child for storytelling.

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

→ ZSL London Zoo. ↔ Camden Town. Sat Oct 19-Oct 27. £24.54, £15.95 child. Grim Keeper tours are first come, first served.

Apocaflips 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...

→ Flip Out Wandsworth. Earlsfield rail. Disco: Fri Oct 25. £15.

Horniman Halloween Fair

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



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 stuffindeed, so Phobophobia 13 is strictly for over-16s.

→ The London Bridge Experience & Tombs.
↔ London Bridge. Oct 25-26 in half-term, plus other dates near Halloween. Family Halloween show runs until Nov 2. £31.

Apocaflips at Flip Out



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+.

→ Thorpe Park. Chertsey rail. Until Nov 3. From £33.

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.

→ Body Worlds London. ↔ Piccadilly Circus.
£22.50, £16 child (six to 15). Junior Doctor sessions:
Oct 20, 23 and 27. £25.

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

'Wicked

the doorstep of Eastbrookend Country Park. **Spook score 2/5.** Wholesome Halloween fun for families with little ones.

→ Eastbrookend Country Park Millennium Visitor Centre.

→ Dagenham East. Thu Oct 24. Free.

'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.

→ Apollo Victoria Theatre. ↔ Victoria. Extra 2.30pm show Thu Oct 24. From £25.

London Dungeon Home of Halloween

It's worth pre-booking tickets in the run-tuto Halloween – this spine-chilling

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. ■

→ The London Dungeon. ↔ Waterloo. Until Nov 3.



By Katie GregoryWhose kids will have turned her into an actual zombie by the end of half-term.





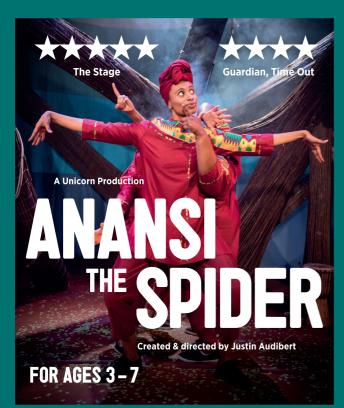
'PRACTICALLY PERFECT IN EVERY WAY'

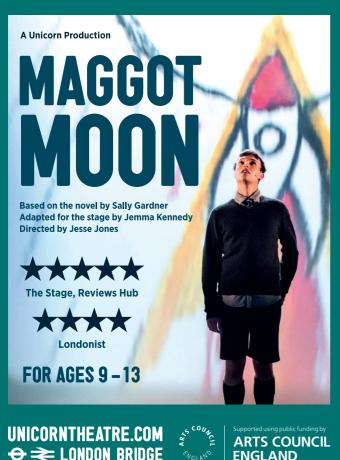
DAILY TELEGRAPH

MARYPOPPINS.COM PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE

A DELEGNIT MACKINITOSH THEATRE

HALF TERM THEATRE FOR AGES 3-13









ENGLAND

THREE OF THE BEST

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. → Royal Festival Hall. ↔ Waterloo. Mon Oct 21-Oct 27. Free.



'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









WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

XR Youth



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.xryouth.org to look for meetings in your local area.

More teen-friendly things to do at **timeout.com/kids**

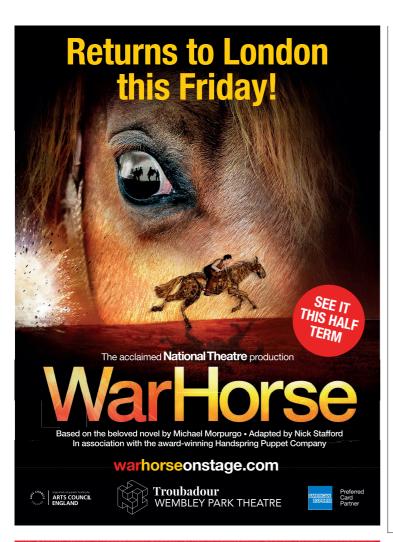


Travel in style this autumn

From the Gold State Coach to the State Stables, discover more about Buckingham Palace's historic carriages and The Queen's horses that pull them.



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Fun family events

Central
 North
 South
 East
 West

PUMPKIN FUN

W Halloween Pumpkin Festival

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

- → Osterley Park and House.
- → Boston Manor. Sat Oct 19-Oct 27, £12, £6 child.

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.

→ V&A Museum of Childhood. ↔ Bethnal Green.

Mon Oct 21-Oct 25. Adults free, £7 child. Over-sevens.

O 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.

→ Mudchute Park & Farm.
Mudchute DLR. Oct 26. Free.

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.

- → Blackhorse Workshop.
- → Blackhorse Rd. Oct 25.









FAMILY **FIREWORKS**

O Ally Pally's Fireworks Festival

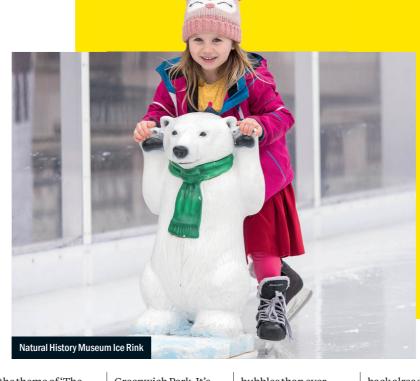
There's a huge family area at this twoday extravaganza, complete with live music, cabaret, a funfair and a huge bonfire. The fireworks start at 9pm on Friday and 8pm on Saturday. → Alexandra Palace. Alexandra Palace rail. Nov 1-2. £12.50, £10 11-15s, £2.50 under-11s.

Oulwich **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. → Dulwich Sports Club. Herne Hill rail. Nov 2. £10. Under-tens free.

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

O 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 aday of performances, craft workshops and storytelling.

→ National Maritime Museum. Maze Hill rail. Oct 26. Free.

Hackney Halloween **Spooktacular**

Hands in the air, party people: Big Fish Little Fish's family rave is back, with more confetti cannons and

bubbles than ever (oh, and a light-up dancefloor!). There'll be a chill-out zone if you need a break. → Queen of Hoxton. Shoreditch High St Overground. Oct 27. £10, £7 child. Infants free

ICE SKATING

Natural History Museum Ice Rink Can vou believe it's

back already? There's nothing quite so magical as gliding against the backdrop of the fairy-lit

→ Natural History Museum. → South Kensington.

Waterhouse building. Sat Oct 19-Jan 12 2020. From £12.65, from £8.80 child.

THEATRE

9 '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 manylegged trickster who originated in West African folklore. → Unicorn Theatre. ↔ London Bridge. Until Oct 27. £10-£20, £10-£14 under 18s. Ages three to seven.

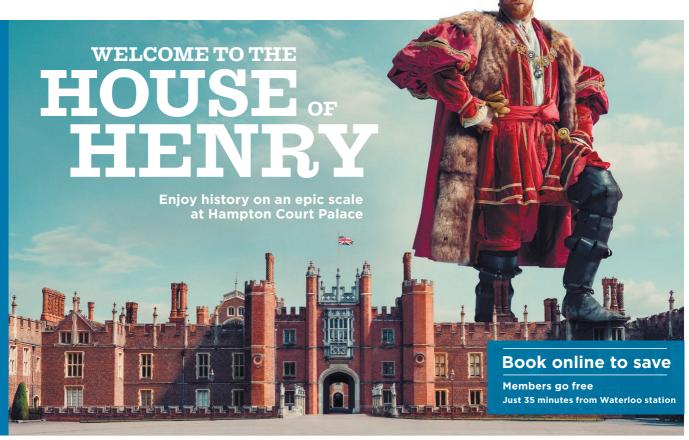
(9 'Islander'

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-songinspired soundscape and conjure up the world of a tiny island surrounded by whalefilled seas.

→ Southwark Playhouse. → Elephant & Castle. Until Oct 26. £22. Eight-plus.

Hampton Court Palace Historic Royal Palaces





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

London's favourite movie musicals^{*}

> From choreographers to composers, we ask the city's finest to pick their all-time favourite screen 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 lifeaffirming 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

'SwingTime' (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



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'

'SwingTime' (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.'

THREE TO SEE

Movie mu<u>sicals</u>

A trio of gems to catch at BFI Southbank's musicals season



'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.

FREE PREVIEW SCREENING

'BRITTANY RUNS A MARATHON'



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 awardwinning 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.

APPLY FOR FREETICKETS (MAXTWO PER PERSON)
BY GOING TO WWW.SEEITFIRST.COM AND
ENTERING THE CODE YRGB371.







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 stupendously 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: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit' 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' with Shaun in the Elliott role, as a

VHAT IS IT. A Shaun sheep-quel featuring a small alien invasion.

NHY GO.

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

Directors Will Becher, Richard Phelan (U) 87 mins. 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 skews a little younger than 'Wallace and Gromit', with the action sequences a bit more slapsticky and the odd pop banger thrown in. If you're picking holes, the neon-blue, gumdropshaped 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 **** Official Secrets





WHAT IS IT...

A buddy bromance with a sniff of romance.

WHY GO..

It's the feel-great hit of the autumn.

Directors Tyler Nilson, Mike Schwartz (12A) 97 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 washedup 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

WHAT IS IT..

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

WHY GO..

For the tensest scene everto involve spellchecking.

Director 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 multistranded journo procedural, and while it'll do nothing to restore trust in the august bodies that rule the land, it's a pacy, palm-clammying 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 blackmailing 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, steelingup 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



A doc about the life (and death) of the Àussie rock icon.

WHY GO..

The tunes are big. The emotions are even bigger.

Director Richard Lowenstein (15) 102 mins.



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, homeloving 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 flyon-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

Non-Fiction



WHAT IS IT... A French comedydrama 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.



OLIVIER ASSAYAS'S LATEST film is almost parodically French. It positively swarms with extramarital affairs and its characters hold long conversations about the place of art over tastylooking lunches. But it's also a funny and often profound look at life in a changing world.

Book editor Alain (Guillaume Canet) is struggling with the challenges of e-book publishing while his actress wife Selena (Juliette Binoche) tries to decide whether to sign up for a fourth season of her hit cop show. Meanwhile, a sad-sack writer of 'feel-bad' novels, Léonard (Vincent Macaigne), is fighting off accusations that he relies too heavily on his own life in his fiction, while his left-wing consultant wife Valérie (Nora Hamzawi) is resisting advice to rely more on social media campaigns.

Plot is less the point here, of course, than the characters. With them, Assayas creates spiky, smart exchanges that give the film its pace and comedy. At least, he does most of the time. A few of his treatises on modern publishing and the internet betray a Luddite bent, and his treatment of the digital evangelists who see that future as inevitable, including Alain's younger colleague and lover Laure (Christa Théret), feels dismissive. But Assayas's ultimate message is optimistic: change comes, whether we like it or not, and those most willing to accept it have the best chance to find happiness. ■ Helen O'Hara

> The best films on Netflix at timeout.com/film

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

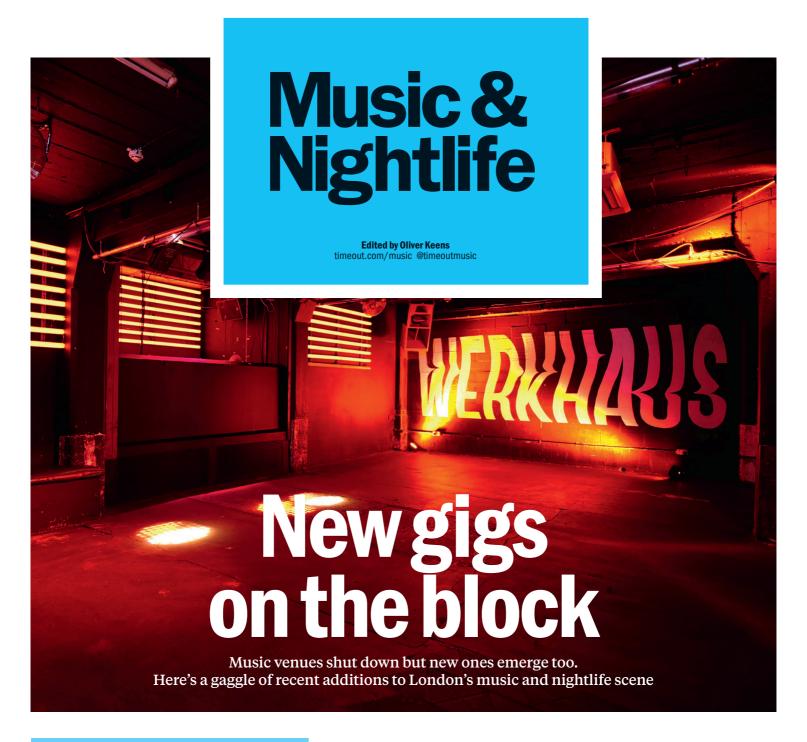
'The Ring' isn't screening (you can put down your security blanket), but there are still plenty of jumps on offer. Hideo Nakata's new J-horror 'The Woman Who Keeps a Murderer' screens on October 31. Keep an eye out for 'Under Your Bed' and 'The Culprit' too.

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 → LEAFF runs Oct 24-Nov 3, Various venues, From £10. www.leaff.org.uk/2019.





Werkhaus

A versatile new venue on Brick Lane

This 300-capacity industrial-style space is kitted out with a nifty Funktion-One sound system 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.

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 OJH.

O 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 barthan sweaty disco dungeon, in all honesty -but it 's definitely a cute spot to soakup some beats.

ightarrow 10 Argyle St, WC1H 8EG. ightarrow 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 be spoke oneoff 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 genrespanning 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.

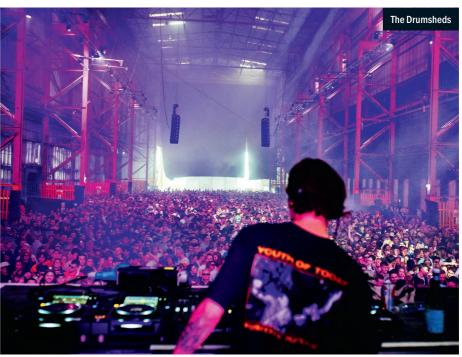
→ Argon Rd, N18 3BW. Meridian Water rail.

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 Pxssy Palace will also be hosting club nights in the 300-capacity gig space.

→ 2-4 Hoxton Square, N1 6NU. ↔ Hoxton

Peckham Audio

A new 220-capacity venue in SE15

Overground.

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 and club nights for 2019, and say they'll expand into comedy and film events next year. With full disabled access and 'an emphasis

on environmental sustainability', it sounds like a versatile gem.

ightarrow 133 Rye Lane, SE15 4ST. Peckham Rye Overground.

The JagoA 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! ■ → 440 Kingsland Rd, E8 4AA. Haggerston overground.



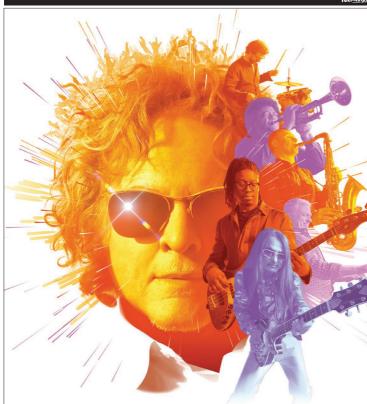
By Nick Levine Who loves a nice, nonsticky floor.











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Meet the soundsystem making raving relevant again



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.

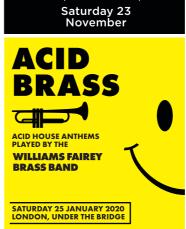
An explosion in UK DJ culture came during the '90s rave heyday. Yes, it was an era of hedonism, but also of defiant raving and fiercely counter-cultural music. It was a time of giving the police the runaround and protesting the government at every turn. Many regret the detachment modern dance music has 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.

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

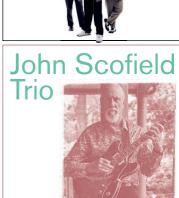
This week, the project returns, coinciding with a planned march in favour of a second referendum from Park Lane to Parliament Square. Bicep, Daniel Avery and Ed from the Chemical Brothers join a heaving line-up of almost 40 DJs. Yes, Brexit is divisive, complex and we're not saying there's a right or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

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





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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?

So we are getting wet.

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 avantgarde 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.

Check out more new artists at **timeout.com/music**

Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Lukowski timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre

TIME OUT MEETS

Zawe Ashton

The star of stage, screen and more opens up about the gruelling 11-year-journey to getting her latest play put on in London

'I tried to

and it's

badly'

gone very

quit acting

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 intouch with a woman from [nowdefunct organisation] the Black Women's Mental Health Project who provided me with these gutwrenching 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

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.'

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 Ithink 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?

PAM

GRIER

'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.'■

→ 'For All the Women Who Thought They Were Mad' is at Stoke Newington Town Hall. Stoke Newington Overground. Until Nov 9. £25-£35.



By Andrzej Lukowski Who is rumoured to be dating Tom Hiddleston.

at the Royal Court,

95

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 lols.

Sean Foley's new stage version is bright, upbeat and also mainly devoid of lols. It keeps the '50s setting, sacks off the austerity and dials up the farce. Everyone bellows their lines in generic 'northern', there are awkward knob gags and Kara Tointon - as the mill owner's daughter Daphne – gets to randomly resurrect one of her old 'Strictly' routines.

It's single-handedly saved from total crassness by Stephen Mangan. He's not entirely convincing as idealistic chemist Sidney Stratton but at least tries to give him a second dimension.



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

'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.

£17.50-£127.50 Mangan isn't given the chance to explore why his character might persevere on a path that spells

doom for every other person on

of his intelligence as an actor.

stage, and that feels like a waste

A jolly stage

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classic. WHY GO.. Stephen Mangan

adaptation of an unusual Ealing

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

Wooster'. But Sidney Stratton isn't a silly ass: he's an unworldly 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.

Mephisto [A Rhapsody] ★★★★★



Groan Ups



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

WHY GO..

Leo Bill is a wonder as dishevelled thesp Aymeric.

Gate Theatre. O Notting Hill Gate. Until Oct 26. £12-£25.



'MEPHISTO [A RHAPSODY]' is probably the most out-and-out fun I've had at the Gate in yonks. That's in large part thanks to a wondrous central performance from Leo Bill as Aymeric, a gifted but achingly pretentious actor - he pronounces theatre 'thea-a' - languishing away in regional plays, dreaming of bigger things.

The first half of French playwright Samuel Gallet's loose adaptation of Klaus Mann's 1936 novel follows Aymeric's formative years and is smart and sharp, asking relentlessly awkward questions about theatre-makers with aspirations to improve the world. The second half, in which Aymeric blithely abandons his principles in exchange for superstardom, feels a bit cartoonish and sitcommy.

The play's not perfect. But Leo Bill pretty much is. His Aymeric is a stumbling, slurring man-child, who, for all his absurdity, simply feels deeply, deeply lost. Every terrible decision he makes, friend he screws over or woman he ill-advisedly sleeps with is because he's desperately trying to find something to clutch on to. He's awful, but fundamentally sympathetic.

And it's really well directed by Kirsty Housley, all Brechtian panache and with the sheer audacity to stage it across the length of the Gate, giving her cast a West End-sized stage.

You're never going to go to the Gate for an uncomplicated good time. But for all my niggles, I really enjoyed myself, which isn't always a guarantee at the off-West End's temple of the avant-garde. ■ Andrzej Lukowski

WHAT IS IT.

A classroom comedy from the team behind 'The Play That Goes Wrong'.

WHY GO..

The hamster jokes are pretty good.

Buy tickets at timeout.com/

tickets

→ Vaudeville Theatre → Charing Cross. Until Dec 1, £20-£75.



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 collab '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 posh-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.

- → Trafalgar Studios.
- → Charing Cross. Until Nov 23. £24.50-£35.

Lungs

Claire Foy and Matt Smith star in this movingexperimental two-hander about parenthood by Duncan Macmillan.

TOP-SELLING

TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Ian McKellen on Stage

An evening with the British

theatre and movie legend.

→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Until Jan 5 2020.

2 Peppa Pig's

Best Day Eve

Tots will squeal with joy at this

muddy-puddle-filled show.

Nov 29-Jan 5 2020.

3 Goldilocks and the

Three Bears London's starriest panto. → Palladium, Dec 7-Jan 12 2020.

4 Wicked The magical hit musical. > Apollo Victoria. Until May 23 2020.

59 to 5 the Musical

Kitschy fun from Dolly Parton.

Savoy Theatre. Until May 23 2020.

FOR TICKETS TO THE BEST **SHOWS AT GREAT PRICES**

Duke of York's Theatre.

→ Old Vic. ↔ Waterloo. Until Nov 9. £12-£65.

Translations

Irish playwright Brian Friel's masterpiece is back at the NT.

→ National Theatre, Olivier. → Waterloo. Until Dec 18. £30-£89

OFF-**WEST END**

[BLANK]

The wondrous Alice Birch returns with her first UK play since 'Anatomy of a Suicide'.

- → Donmar Warehouse.
- → Covent Garden, Until Nov 30. £10-£40.

Fast

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

→ Park Theatre. ← Finsbury Park. Tue Oct 15-Nov 9. £14.50-£18, £13-£16.50 concs.

For All the Women **Who Thought They** Were Mad

A hotly anticipated play by Zawe Ashton.

→ Hackney Showroom. Stoke Newington Overground. Until Nov 9, £15-£35.

Great **Expectations**

The National Youth Theatre stage a cobweb-decked take on the Dickens classic.

- → Southwark Playhouse.
- → Flenhant & Castle.
- Fri Oct 18-Nov 28. £14-£22.

Meet Me at Dawn

Zinnie Harris's magical female-led update of the Orpheus myth.

→ Arcola Theatre.

Dalston Junction Overground. Until Nov 9. £10-£27.

Pint-sized: October-fest

This quirky newwriting fest pulls in punters with a mix of five plays-in-progress

- → The Bunker.
- → London Bridge.
- Mon Oct 21-Oct 26, £10.

each night.

EXCLUSIVE

The professional pissheads of with a festive musical - 'A Pissedmas Carol'. Don't miss

TIMEOUT.COM/PISSEDMAS

Vassa

Mike Bartlett ('King Charles III') turns Gorky's classic into a fresh look at a crumbling dynasty. Tinuke Craig directs.

- → Almeida Theatre.
- → Highbury & Islington. Until Nov 23. £10-£42.



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.



'Lungs

'A DAY IN THE DEATH 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.

> TIMEOUT.COM/JOEEGG

Ts&Cs apply

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Comedy

timeout.com/comedy

TIME OUT MEETS

Desiree Burch

The LA-born, London-based comic on the highs and lows of her stage career

'A BLACK GIRL takes a big a 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





never do it. Also, 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 Lucont. 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 Burch: Desiree's Coming Early' is at Soho Theatre.

◆ Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 11-23. £11.50-£20.



By Ben Williams Who is happy to enjoy Burning Man vicariously.

THE **TEN BEST GIGS**

NEXT MONTH

Lolly & Friends Superb character comic (and star of seemingly all recent sitcoms) Lolly Adefope introduces pals at this fungig.

→ Moth Club. Hackney Central Overground. Nov 28. £11.

Ivo Graham: The Game of Life'

Eloquent stand-up reflects on fatherhood in his awardnominated latest show. \rightarrow Soho Theatre. \leftrightarrow Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 19-30, £12-£18.50

Knock2Bag Absurdist master Paul Foot headlines this altcomedy gig, plus Josie Long, Jayde Adams, Rhys Nicholson and more. → Moth Club. Hackney Central

Overground. Nov 9. £11.

Josie Long: 'Tender' with Mat Sentimental

yet punchy standup from the multiaward winner about motherhood and the state of the world.

→ Soho Theatre. ← Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 11-20. £10-£19.

Microscope **Ewins and John Kearns**

Stand-ups Ewins and Kearns join forces to investigate mysteries in this live podcast. → 2Northdown. ↔ King's Cross.

Privates: 'A Sperm Odyssey'

Comics Luke Rollason, Christian Brighty and Tom Curzon pretend to be sperm for an hour. Yes, really.

→ Soho Theatre. ← Tottenham Court Rd. Oct 31-Nov 2. £14.

The Boat Show

Edinburgh Best Newcomer nominees Janine Harouni and Huge Davies play this floating comedy club. → Tattershall Castle. ↔ Embankment, Nov 9, £12-£16,

'Pappy's Flatshare Slamdown'

Nov 5 and 19, £5,

The podcasting trio record another episode of their stupidly funny audio panel show. → The Phoenix. ↔ Oxford Circus, Nov 20, £9,

Fern Brady: Power and Chaos'

Uncompromising stand-up Brady covers big topics via her own personal experiences. → Soho Theatre. ↔ Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 12-16, £17-£23.

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.

→ Soho Theatre. ← Tottenham Court Rd. Nov 25-Dec 7. £11-£20.



Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel timeout.com/art @timeoutart

SHOW OF THE WEEK

'Hogarth: Place and Progress'



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



up everything, and each other. Another topical twenty-first-century box ticked.

One small regret: these works repay close attention, and Soane's domestic set-up - though totally delightful - is not gallery-scaled. These are small-ish rooms, so be prepared to squeeze in with your horrible fellow humans. It's what Hogarth would have wanted! (Soane probably not.)



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

WHAT IS IT...

Master satirist William Hogarth's serial works in London's coolest house.

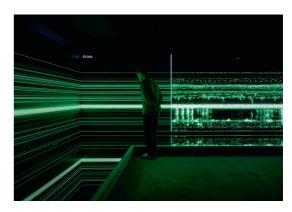
WHY GO..

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

→ Sir John Soane's Museum. ↔ Holborn. Until Jan 5 2020. Free (booking required).

BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



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.

→ 180 The Strand. ↔ Temple. Until Dec 19. Free.



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.

→ Tate Modern. ← London Bridge. Until Apr 5. Free.



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.

→ White Cube Bermondsey. ← London Bridge. Until Nov 3. Free.

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 goth 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 Rilksmuseum'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

WHAT IS IT...

Sun-dappled and light-filled paintings by the guy who basically mastered that whole thing.

WHY GO...

This is atmospheric art at its best.

→ Dulwich Picture Gallery.
 West Dulwich rail.
 Until Feb 2 2020.
 £15, concs available.



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.

Lisa Brice



BLUE 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.

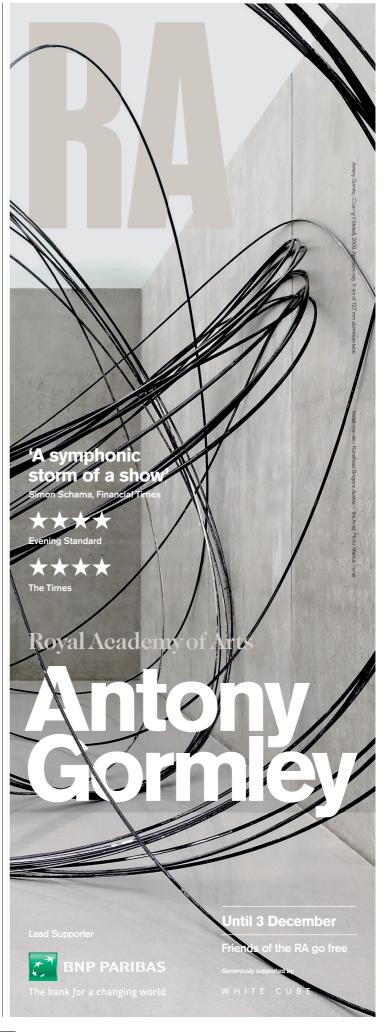
And now there's Lisa Brice, prising it out of the rigor mortis grip of the past and imbuing it with new meaning. In her small, pure blue paintings here she captures women at rest and at play: smoking, painting, stretching, changing, staring at their bodies, staring into space. It's the same vibe as her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



Find even more art at timeout.com/art

Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine

timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

Fatt Pundit



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-coolor-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 squidgy 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 Jengashaped 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 roughcut, just-bitter-enough green peppers, or their sweet red cousins.

And so it went on. Szechuan egg-fried rice was a version full of



More bucket-list eats at timeout.com/restaurants







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.



ByTania Ballantine Who is no pundit.

Emilia



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



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.

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, herbflecked 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.

EXCLUSIVE

bottomless prosecco at Soho's **Wild Heart** with our exclusive offer – now just £20

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CYBERDOG

'Halloween is coming, so it's a fangtastic time to visit Cyberdog. Come by for Cyberween, a 13-day spooktacular starting on October 19, where the store will have a frightening makeover and become a one-stop-shop for Halloween goodies.'

Stables Market, Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AH.

SUSHISAMBA

'For fresh Japanese food alongside a beautiful vista, head to Sushisamba London. As you're whisked up 39 floors, you'll encounter an amazing London cityscape and as for the menu, you'll get to enjoy creative, chef-curated dining and drinking.'

Floors 38 and 39, Heron Tower, 110 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AY.

IPPUDO SAYS:

'It's Ippudo St Giles's fifth birthday and Ippudo's 34th global anniversary! So to celebrate and to say thanks for all the love and support, we'll be serving your favourite Japanese ramen for £3.90 on October 16 at the Central St Giles branch. Finish off your meal with Mochi ice-cream or the daily pudding.'
3 Central St Giles Piazza, WC2 8AG.

THE PUNCHBOWL SAYS:

'Just a short stroll from Chelsea Harbour, sit back in comfort as we bring an authentic slice of the British countryside to this beautiful suburb. The Punchbowl is the perfect place for an evening meal, a Sunday lunch or a pint of real cask ale and a Scotch egg while watching the Rugby World Cup.' 41 Farm St, W1J 5RP.

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-thestreet 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.

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

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 squidgy 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 3QU. ↔ London Bridge.





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 swig cocktails like the rest of them. The Everlong $(\pounds S)$ 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 alcoholfree hot toddy, plus a surprising moment of calm that's cosy AF in the middle of Covent Garden.



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.

HEADS + TAILS: ANDY PARSONS



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 ofpasta 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 Nogroni 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. → 51 Greek St, W1D 4EH. ↔ Tottenham Court Rd.

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

 $Seriously\,sweet\,and\,sin-free\,sod as$ - 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.

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 splashout 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. OBond St.



By Laura Richards Who has got her months a bit mixed up.

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 prefered 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

WHAT IS IT... A funky-looking drinking den on Chalk Farm Road.

WHY GO...

For happy hour among the flamingos.

> 48 Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AJ. → Chalk Farm.





plus two Gin Mare cocktails. Featuring:

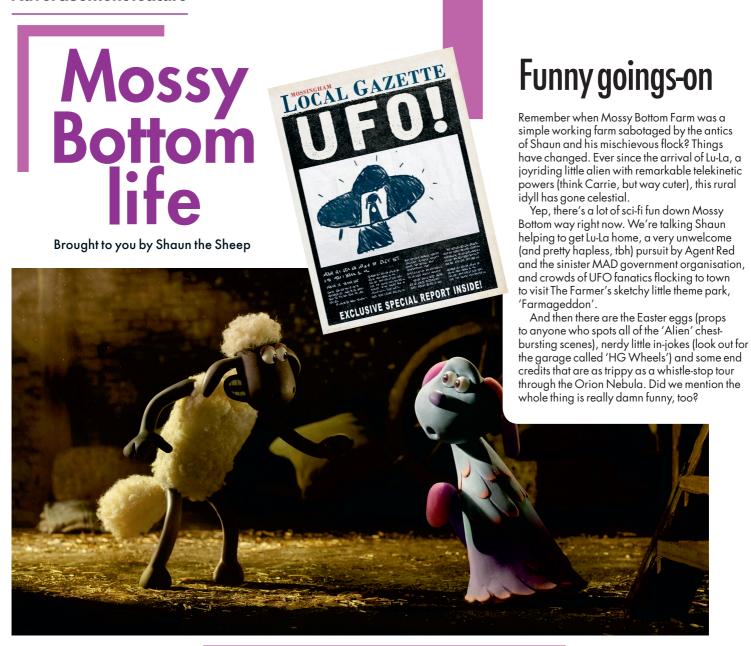
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GET YOUR FARMAGEDDON FIX



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).



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-rilliant!



'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.



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.'

A Shannasheep Maxie

LANDING IN CINEMAS FRIDAY

