

TimeOut

LONDON

There's more to the Thames than Tower Bridge selfies and the start of 'EastEnders'

Secrets of the river





Time Out's Eye-Openers

Events on The London Eye



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21st September

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FUSIONS WITH HIDDEN DOOR

21st & 28th September

ICE A LONDON LANDMARK
WITH BISCUITEERS

29th September

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in no time at all

School's in for autumn

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ILLUSTRATION: SAM TAYLOR; GNOME: HEADSTONE MANOR AND MUSEUM



Manor from heaven

With Maggie Smith playing 'Thanos in a tiara' the long-awaited 'Downton Abbey' movie lives up to expectations

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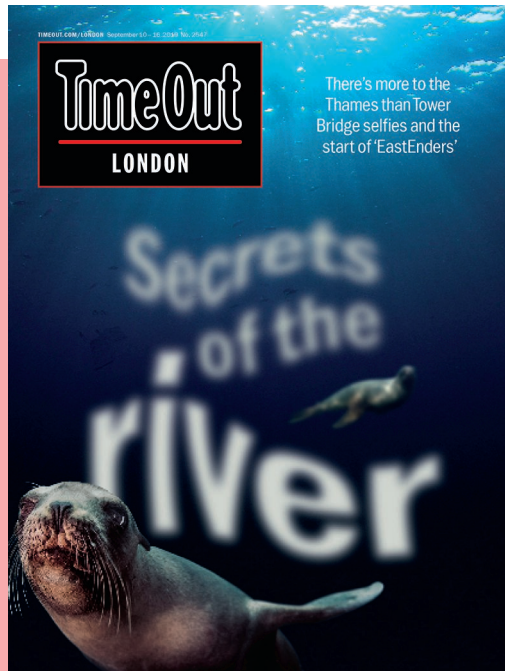
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Hello, London

Caroline McGinn
Global Editor-in-Chief
@carolinemcginn



It supplies two-thirds of our drinking water, it's home to scores of cute seal pups and we wouldn't even *have* a city here without it. The Thames is the pumping heart of London and there's nothing quite like that thrill of local pride you feel when you cross a bridge and see the city spread out on its banks at sunset. September's a great time to get closer to the source, with Totally Thames festival bringing dozens of cool events to the water, and with several of those spectacular bridges lit up in the world's longest public artwork. From its awesome sci-fi flood barrier in the east, to its secret islands, historic pubs and rambling waterside paths in the west, the Thames is a never-ending, bona-fide wonder. Plus – unlike almost everything else in the world right now – it's cleaner than it used to be. Take me to the river!



YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

The announcement of a pop-up Heinz Beanz Muzeum on Great Newport Street sent our social channels into meltdown. Paying homage to 150 years of the iconic student dinnertime staple, the Muzeum has sadly now bean and gone, but we'll raise a can opener to it nonetheless.

'As my old army mate Al used to say, "You will be farting like a walrus."'

Eric J via Facebook

'I went. Wasn't great. Wouldn't go again. Benefit of Heinszight.'

Timothy JS via Facebook

'When I die and go to hell, this is where I'll end up.'

Ripley M via Facebook

ASMR fodder was found in the form of our video of Japanese soufflé pancakes. With 3,900 comments, you all were bonkers for the batter. **'We are moving to Japan. On top of that, we are going to take over our new positions pursuing the life of sumo wrestlers.'**

Joshua R via Facebook

Colourscape festival, which starts on Saturday, is a maze of sound, light and hues on Clapham Common. It's hopefully not as overwhelming as this guy imagines. **'This is dangerous. What if you have a heart attack in there and the paramedics can't find you?'**

Arthur T via Facebook

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

Remember those Tube Chat badges? Yeah. Anyway, we told you about one Londoner who has resurrected the idea with #HappyToTalk. Proceeds go to a mental health support group so it's in a good cause.

'Nice sentiment but a bit daft! People chat. People don't chat. That's life! London is an amazing city where I've met and talked to a lot of people and didn't need a badge to tell me that was okay!'

Jo R via Facebook

Maybe a second badge with an OOO message on it if you're not in the mood? 'Hi, I'm on annual leave until Oxford Circus. If your query is urgent, please talk to this guy →'

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LONDON

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KEEP CLIMBING



DELTA



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City life

Edited by James Manning
@timeoutlondon

Right up your street

PUT YOUR MONEY where your mouth is at Flat Iron Square tomorrow: the Southwark destination is hosting a one-off street-eats bonanza for charity. Action Against Hunger fights child malnutrition and provides access to safe water in nearly 50 countries, and loads of leading chefs are supporting it at the Love Food Street Festival. Among the culinary talents, you'll find Nieves Barragán Mohacho, head honcho at the Michelin-starred **Sabor**, Peter Gordon of **Crosstown Doughnuts** fame and **The Laughing Heart's** Tom Anglesea. Unlike some ticketed food events, it's a great deal: entry gets you three courses, a drink and snacks. Besides the gourmet takeover, 183 London restaurants, including **Shoryu** and **Hawksmoor** have signed up to add £1 to every single food bill until the end of October to raise cash for Action Against Hunger. Food for thought. ■ *El Hunt*

→ Flat Iron Square. ☉ London Bridge. Wed Sep 11. £35.
www.actionagainsthunger.org.uk



THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



Eat this

The Swedish are crazy about crayfish – and they celebrate the annual harvest at rowdy, singalong parties. Join the **London Swedes Kräftskiva** this Saturday at Smith's Bar and Grill in Paddington.



Book this

Next weekend, music and philosophy festival **How the Light Gets In** brings Don Letts, Michael Morpurgo and Brian Eno (nattering, not noodling) to Kenwood House. Grab your tickets now.



Drink this

Fluffy bun superstar **Bao** is hosting a series of bar takeovers at its Fitzrovia branch, and this Thursday it's teaming up with **Rōnin** to serve up Japanese whisky and a one-off menu to match.

WORD ON THE STREET

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



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

Soho Angel

Ellie Compobassi, 38

A team of fairy godparents watches over Soho's streets

'The Soho Angels are a team of volunteers offering information and support to people going out in Soho. We've been going since last December, and we're here on Friday and Saturday nights until 5am. Our main goal is to take the pressure off the main 999 services, so we'll help anyone and everyone – from lost theatregoers to people who are drunk and disoriented.'

Londoners do look out for each other, actually

'London has a rep for being cold and stony-faced, but that's not the case at all: we see people trying to help each other all the time, or flagging us down when they spot someone in a bad way. The door staff around Soho are amazing, too – they'll call us and say, "Angels, can you come here?"'

Booze is only one reason why people might need a hand

'We look after a lot of people who are just drunk. Even tall, strapping lads can go down like a ton of bricks after too many shots. But sometimes there is a deeper reason, so it's good to be

non-judgmental. There was one guy who was having a really rough night, and it turned out he had just found out that his dad was terminally ill. I sometimes think about him – I hope he's okay.'

It takes a strong stomach to work Friday nights in Soho

'We always need more volunteers. You get to wear pink hi-vis! But it's a messy job involving very glamorous things like vomit bags and bleach. You can't have any kind of gag reflex around sickness in this job. It's no use trying to help someone who's ill while you're feeling like throwing up yourself.' ■ Interview by El Hunt

→ www.westminster.gov.uk/endthenightright

'I ended up in a Christopher Biggins YouTube hole yesterday.'

'Quite frankly, this is the most unbalanced pad thai I've ever had in my life.'

'No! I don't want to go out with Jesus!'

'I feel like my vagina's lurking in that pic, so I'm gonna take another one.'

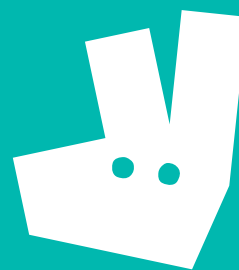
'Sometimes I don't know the strength of my own passion.'

'What do you mean, they've taken away the crisps? Is this some kind of a Jamie Oliver situation?'

'I don't know anything about veganism, but I predict the next trend will be cannibalism.'

'I didn't get to do any gardening. I made a PPI claim instead.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon



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LONDON **EYE**



Derelict London

PAUL TALLING IS on a mission: to document every single one of London's abandoned buildings. He reckons he's captured more than 7,000 on film so far, and each building has its story – from North Woolwich pier, which witnessed the worst inland shipping disaster in British history in 1878, to Chariots Roman Spa in Shoreditch: Britain's biggest gay sauna until its closure in 2016.

Since the first edition of Talling's 'Derelict London' book in 2008, many of the city's previously abandoned buildings have been transformed – whether through

controversial regeneration projects or conversion into pop-up cinemas and bars. But as the book's new edition shows, there's still a surprising number of derelict spaces around London. Show your out-of-town mates that London's not just endless rows of posh flats. ■ *ELHunt*
→ 'Derelict London: All-New Edition' by Paul Talling is available now from Random House Books. www.derelictlondon.com



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MAKE LONDON GREENER

Building a sustainable city, one project at a time



Oval Green

WHAT IS IT?

A big night out doesn't just put a dent in your wallet – often, it leaves behind a stream of landfill waste. Until recently, east London sister clubs Oval Space and The Pickle Factory went through 60,000 plastic cups every single month. Now the venues are switching to greener alternatives made from biodegradable materials, plus eco-friendly wristbands and brand new recycling points.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

In the UK we produce around 5 million tonnes of plastic waste a year, and much of this ends up in the ocean harming marine life, polluting the air or filling up landfills. Cutting down on single-use plastic makes a real difference, and venues are beginning to take action. Change is possible: at Glastonbury this year, there wasn't a single plastic water bottle for sale.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Go out! You'll be doing good (and pressuring other venues to change too) every time you pay the £1 'green tax' that both Oval Space and The Pickle Factory are adding to their ticket prices – all those green alternatives aren't as cheap as plastic. Any money left over will be donated to organisations fighting for a greener future. Get out and party for the planet. ■ *El Hunt*

Discover more sustainable initiatives at timeout.com/green

→ www.ovalspace.co.uk



THE VIEW FROM YOU

What Time Out readers have been Instagramming this week



@onehangrytraveller

'The best part of the lavender fields – the lavender food!'



@itsjessarchive

'The City of London as the sun goes down.'



@lux_leigh

'A champagne garden has bloomed at the top of the Gherkin.'



@thefoodyproject

'Who can resist Meet Fresh's taro balls and shaved ice?'

Want to see your Insta-shots of the capital in print? Tag them [#timeoutlondon](https://twitter.com/timeoutlondon)



Whree

Dreamland Margate 2019 ©



Whoop



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FREE LONDON

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



DON'T MISS



CUTTING EDGE

Art of Ping Pong x Collage Club

Art of Ping Pong and Collage Club have teamed up for a charity auction of collage-style artworks made on table tennis bats, which will be on show at The Hoxton for a month-long exhibition. The launch is this Friday, and Collage Club will be running workshops so you can make your own artwork on a paddle. Pritt Sticks at the ready!

→ The Hoxton, Southwark. ⊖ Southwark. Fri Sep 13.

REEL STORIES 'Rudeboy: The Story of Trojan Records'

This ace documentary combines archive footage and interviews to tell the story of seminal British ska, reggae and dub label Trojan Records, which turned 50 last year. Book a ticket online to nab a screening spot. → House of Vans. ⊖ Waterloo. Thu Sep 12.

HIT THE RIGHT NOTE Learn to Play Day

Get that back-to-school feeling at Yamaha Music, where teachers will be giving one-to-one taster lessons on how to play the piano, violin, trumpet and more. There will be live music too, which should drown out any bum notes. → Yamaha Music London. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Sat Sep 14.

WHEELY GOOD FUN IBikeLondon Full Moon Disco Ride

Swap cycling lycra for something more fun at this disco-themed ride, which welcomes all abilities. The ride will be at a 'relaxed disco pace' so you can wear something ridiculous without worrying how it'll affect your performance. → Start at the National Theatre. ⊖ Waterloo. Sat Sep 14.

IT'S FROW TIME Africa Utopia Fashion Show

Forget London Fashion Week. Catch a free fashion show as part of the Southbank Centre's Africa Utopia festival. Expect to see work from designers from all over the African continent, which play with gender and identity. → Royal Festival Hall. ⊖ Waterloo. Sat Sep 14.

JOHN LEGEND

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Secrets of the Thames

London's mighty watery artery hides all kinds of surprises, including a few gross ones. *Tristan Parker* heads upstream.



The Thames is now home to the longest public art installation in the world

There are more than 200 bridges on the Thames and 35 of them are in London. As well as being practical (y'know, helping us cross the river), they're now part of a major art project, 'Illuminated River', that's shining a light on the river (literally). All 15 bridges from Tower Bridge to Albert Bridge will be part of it – and you can see the four ones currently lit up and learn more on after-dark kayaking sessions and boat tours.

→ www.illuminatedriver.london

There's a sneaky Damien Hirst artwork on the river

Damien Hirst and Antony Gormley are two of the big-hitting art names who've contributed to The Line, a strangely unsung art walk that begins on the O2-hugging stretch of the Thames in North Greenwich, then leaps over to Royal Victoria and heads up to Stratford. It takes a few hours at a leisurely pace. Look out for upside-down electricity pylons, sliced-up ships and scientific shopping-trolley sculptures.

→ The Line runs between Greenwich and Stratford.
Find more outdoor art at timeout.com/sculptures.



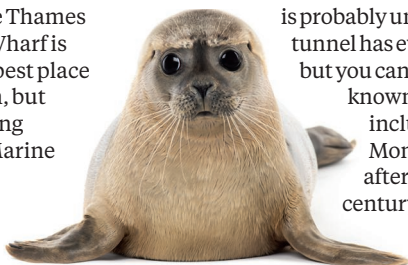


This Victorian poo palace helped fight the spread of cholera

VALVE HOUSE

More than a hundred baby seals have been spotted in the river this year

Dolphins, whales and porpoises have all been seen in the Thames Estuary. A Zoological Society of London report from 2015 recorded 1,300 sightings of wildlife. Even cuter, the first ever Thames seal pup count has just been released: 138 now call the Thames home. Canary Wharf is apparently the best place to glimpse them, but check the sighting spots on ZSL's Marine Mammal Map → zsl.org/thames-marine-mammal-map



Oliver Cromwell (allegedly) had a secret tunnel to a Thames island

The legend goes that the divisive English revolutionary had an escape tunnel running from The Bulls Head pub in Chiswick (supposedly the site of his headquarters) under the river to a tiny, uninhabited nearby islet, named Oliver's Island. Sadly, the story is probably untrue, as no such tunnel has ever been discovered, but you can access other little-known Thames islands, including Maidenhead's Monkey Island, named after an order of twelfth-century monks, which now houses a chichi hotel.

One of London's most beautiful buildings is a sewage works

Mid-nineteenth century London was shit. Literally, thanks to raw sewage pouring straight into the Thames and leading to cholera outbreaks, as the 'Great Stink' of 1858 proved. So civil engineer Joseph Bazalgette created a sewer system with a series of pumping stations, including the extraordinary Crossness. Despite its... erm... function, Crossness is a visual feast of lavishly decorated Victoriana – it's not been dubbed 'the Cistern Chapel' for nothing. → Bazalgette Way, SE2 9AQ. Abbey Wood rail. Regular open days. See www.crossness.org.uk.



MAYOR OF LONDON

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A thousand-year-long gig is taking place at London's only lighthouse

There's just one lighthouse in London. You'll find it at artists' hub of Trinity Buoy Wharf, and it holds something pretty special: a one-thousand-year-long, non-repeating musical composition performed by computers using Tibetan singing bowls. So far, Jem Finer's 'Longplayer' been on for nearly 20 years. Get your head around the scientific and philosophical side of it or just listen in when it's open for visits. Trinity Buoy Wharf also has a sculpture park and a tiny museum.

→ Trinity Buoy Wharf. ⊕ Canning Town.

London used to stink of fish...

... specifically in Barking, which was home to one of the world's largest fishing fleets in the nineteenth century. It ended up there because it was 'downwind' of the capital – charming. You can find out just how bad it smelt at 'The Barking Stink: A Scented Heritage Exhibition'. Part of the annual Totally Thames festival, this immersive exhibition tells the story of Barking's industrial riverside heritage through the power of smell. Be prepared to fill your nostrils with pungent pongs – including fish guts, manure and bitumen. Lovely!

→ Valence House Museum. ⊕ Becontree. Until Nov 6. Free

There's an old watergate that shows how the river's moved

In Victoria Embankment Gardens there's an ornamental gate dating from 1626. It used to be the river frontage of York House, allowing posh types to pull up in their barges and go indoors, away from the stinky streets and hoi polloi. It's not been moved, though. The Thames has. In the nineteenth century, the swampy edge of the river was sharpened up by the Victoria Embankment, leaving this gate literally high and dry.

→ York Watergate, Victoria Embankment Gardens. ⊕ Embankment.



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This is one of more than 200 eyots and islands on the Thames



The river's full of human teeth, toys and ear scoops

Plastic bottles aside, the stuff that appears on the Thames foreshore can give us a fascinating glimpse into the London life of years gone by. Children's toys, human teeth and bones, clay tobacco pipes, ear scoops (to get wax out), oyster shells and other historical oddities are regularly discovered, all delicately preserved in the mud that encases them. Help unearth this swag by becoming a modern-day mudlark on one of the regular exploration events organised by Thames Explorer Trust (though sadly you can't keep any of the treasures you might discover).

→ www.thames-explorer.org.uk

The river's abandoned shopping trolleys make great homes for fish

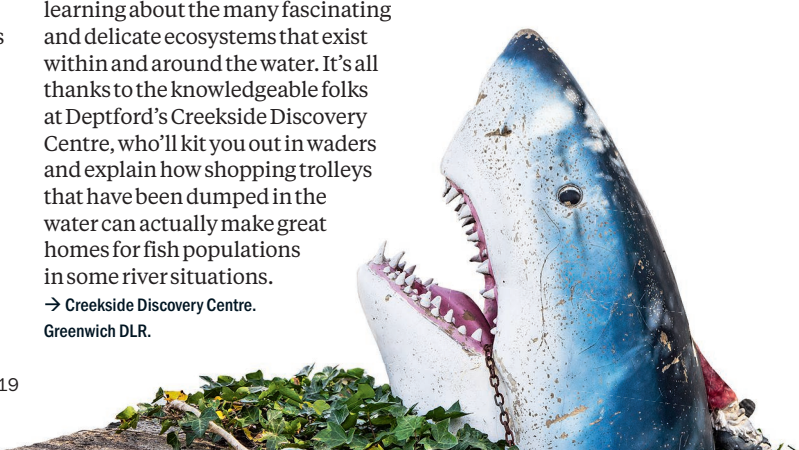
The stretch where south-east London tributary the Ravensbourne meets and flows into the Thames is known as Deptford Creek. And at low tide you can stroll through it on a guided walk, learning about the many fascinating and delicate ecosystems that exist within and around the water. It's all thanks to the knowledgeable folks at Deptford's Creekside Discovery Centre, who'll kit you out in waders and explain how shopping trolleys that have been dumped in the water can actually make great homes for fish populations in some river situations.

→ Creekside Discovery Centre.
Greenwich DLR.

There's a hippy island where Bowie and Pink Floyd performed

In the 1960s, tucked-away Eel Pie Island in Twickenham hosted all kinds of rock royalty at the Eel Pie Island Hotel, a legendary gig venue now sadly no longer with us. But the kooky spot's bohemian credentials live on and it's now packed with artists' studios. Walk over the connecting footbridge and see them in action at one of the rare Open Studio days, or just trace the island's musical credentials on the mainland at the Eel Pie Island Museum.

→ www.eelpieislandartists.co.uk





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The barrier will help keep us safe for another 50 years



The Thames Barrier is preventing London from flooding. For now...

It looks like a retro-futurist art installation, but the Thames Barrier is saving us from aquatic doom. This line of steel gates (each weighing 3,300 tonnes) stops London from being flooded at unusually high tides, stopping dangerous levels of water surging towards central London. The Environment Agency claims the barrier will work until 2070, but an alternative won't be decided until 2050. Find out more by visiting. → www.gov.uk/guidance/the-thames-barrier



The oldest ferry service in London is still running

The Hampton Ferry has been in operation since 1519, shipping people across the river from Hampton's Bell Inn pub on the north bank to Molesley's Hurst Park on the south. Back then it was used almost exclusively by fishermen, but these days, it's mostly just a leisurely way of exploring a picturesque, leafy corner of Greater London. Best of all, it'll only cost you a couple of quid (and dogs go free!). → www.hamptonferryboathouse.co.uk

The Thames has a 50m reef of non-degradable crap

Glitter – containing microplastics – menstrual products and 23,000 wet wipes were cleared from a stretch of the Thames in Barnes earlier this year, led by London waterways charity Thames21. That particular stretch of foreshore is one of the worst parts of London's 'Great Wet Wipe Reef'. Do your bit by rowing, kayaking, canoeing or paddleboarding 12 miles of the Thames to raise clean-up cash at Regatta London on September 29 (and don't flush eco-horrors down the loo). → www.thames21.org.uk

THAMES BARRIER: ANDY PARSONS

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Instagram shots you (probably) took this summer

Here in London, each passing month brings new opportunities to live, love and gain social currency. *Ellie Broughton* rounds up six pics that graced your 'gram

Olafur Eliasson's rainbow reflections

'Your Uncertain Shadow', part of Olafur Eliasson's hyper-photogenic exhibition at the Tate, provided the perfect opportunity for all camera-shy mortals to take their one selfie of the summer. No actual face in shot necessary. Just huge multicoloured shapes. For anyone who hasn't yet roamed the art fog, the exhibition runs into 2020. → 'In Real Life', Tate Modern. ↻ Southwark. Until Jan 5 2020. £18.



Instagram pictures



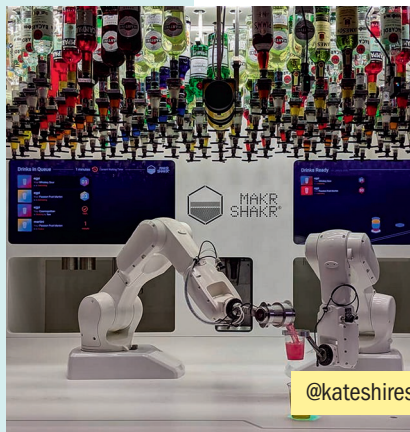
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@rachelemmawestwood

'Makr Shaker' at the Barbican

It looked like a machine used to assemble microwaves rather than prime Instagram fodder, but you shouldn't judge a book by its cover (or a robot by its design). 'Makr Shaker' turned out to be a classy cocktail-making robot that poured Negronis with style and flair, thank you very much. Its mesmerisingly smooth shaking was the star of the Barbican's 'AI: More Than Human' exhibition, and many an Insta story. Just don't ask it for a Screwdriver.



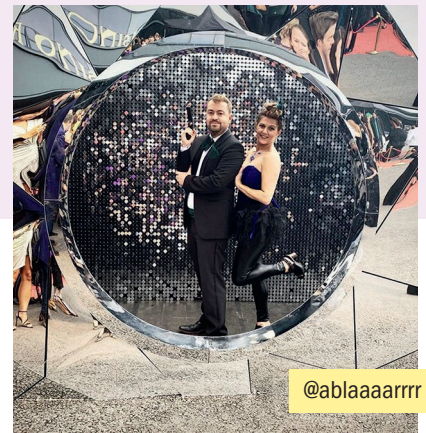
@kateshires



Secret Cinema

Finger guns at the ready: hundreds of Secret Cinema-goers struck their best James Bond pose as they headed to this year's 'Casino Royale'-themed immersive event. Sharp-suited or in gowns split to the thigh, they all left with the same memento: a photo of them smouldering down the barrel of their iPhone lens with Big 007 Energy. Somewhere Daniel Craig is quivering in his custom-made spy boots.

→ 'Casino Royale'. Secret location. Until Oct 6. From £49.



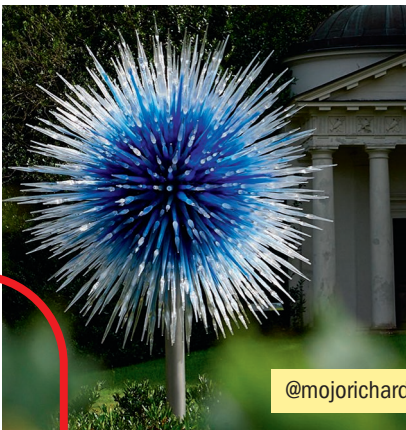
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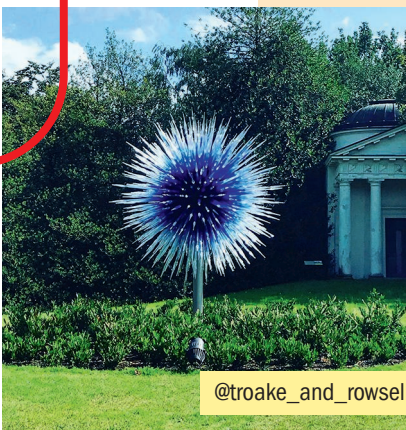
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Chihuly at Kew

Swirling tentacles and fragile space blooms turned a corner of Kew Gardens into a sci-fi wonderland – and London was here for it, with phone cameras at the ready. Dale Chihuly's glass sculptures glistened on 'grams across the city. So spiky! So pretty! So much like a giant version of something your mum would bring you back from a holiday in Malta! If you haven't snapped this quintessential exhibition yet, you have until next month.

→ 'Chihuly: Reflections on Nature'. Kew Gardens.
 ↻ Kew Gardens. Until Oct 27. £16.50.



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52



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Rainbow crossings

Move over, Mario: the only rainbow roads we raced for this summer were London's Pride crossings. The road markings were painted around the city from Shoreditch to Greenwich and Woolwich to Wimbledon – including permanent paintwork outside Brockwell Park – were a cause for celebration, and a joy to share whenever we found them. Next stop: roll out Trafalgar Square's LGBTQ+ traffic lights nationwide.



@hermionehodgson_photography

See our snaps at [instagram.com/timeoutlondon](https://www.instagram.com/timeoutlondon)



@smn.vi

The Aperol Lido

Imagine a trickling waterfall, a lapping pool, revellers drinking the night away... Except everything is, er, bright orange?! The arresting waters of the Aperol Lido – and the bubbling tempest of the Fiat hot tub – flooded our feeds for the whole May bank holiday weekend, showing that even after 100 years our love for the bold spirit will never be dulled. Bonus points to anyone who actually fell in while trying to nail a perfect selfie. ■



@benwrightcampari

Autumn Insta opps

Colourscape Festival

Everyone's favourite pop-up psychedelic maze is back and ready to immerse you.
→ Clapham Common.
Sat Sep 14-Sep 22. £11.

'Illuminated River' tours

Head on a boat ride down the Thames to see 15 bridges glowing with coloured lights.
→ Multiple venues.
Until Sep 19. £6.

Es Devlin: 'Memory Palace'

This 18-metre-long, mirrored sculpture from artist Es Devlin promises to reimagine space and time.
→ Pitzhanger Gallery.
Ealing Broadway.
Sep 26-Jan 12 2020.



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Back to School




Still get that ‘first day of term’ feeling every September? Embrace it! *Rosemary Waugh* picks 21 weird and wonderful courses and classes you won’t be faking a sick note to escape. Illustrations *Sam Taylor*

1 The pre-iPhone photography course

Learn what #nofilter really means with this ten-week course in black-and-white film photography at Greenwich Community College. Along with learning how to snap, process and print your own black-and-white pics, you’ll be working in one of London’s last remaining fully equipped darkrooms. Greenwich residents get a discount too.

→ Black and White Film Photography.
Greenwich Community College, King George St.
Greenwich DLR. Next ten-week course starts
Sep 17-18. £45-£204.



2 The life-drawing class that focuses on what lies beneath

In a twist on conventional life-drawing, this session will teach artistic students about human anatomy using a live model alongside imaginative visualisation techniques. Originally commissioned by the Wellcome Trust, this class for all abilities looks at what lies beneath the skin we live it. Because: the hip bone’s connected to the leg bone and...

→ Creative Anatomy Workshop. Artizan Street Library, 1 Artizan St. ↻ Aldgate. Oct 12. £69.



Back to school

3 The sticky-fingered pottery course

This six-week course at Lewisham Arthouse will teach you to become adept at throwing pots on a wheel – like that scene in ‘Ghost’, but way less creepy. Students are tutored in making beautiful clay pots, plus slip, oxide and glaze decoration techniques. Just make sure not to throw the pots *after* they’re fired.

→ Throwing on a Potter’s Wheel. Lewisham Arthouse, 140 Lewisham Way. New Cross Overground. Next six-week course starts Oct 9. £130.

4 The herbalist workshop for wannabe witches

Led by medical herbalist Alex Laird, this one-day workshop at the gorgeous Chelsea Physic Garden will talk you through the amazing natural health properties of plants, including loads of easy-to-find common specimens. Learn recipes, remedies and foraging tips, with a focus on using the entire plant. Cauldron optional.

→ From Root to Stem: Natural Recipes and Remedies with Alex Laird. Chelsea Physic Garden, 66 Royal Hospital Rd. ☉ Sloane Square. Oct 3. £17 (£34 including supper).

5 The doodle-like-Dior fashion illustration class

The House of Illustration in King’s Cross has a brilliant range of workshops on offer, including this fashion illustration class with industry expert Montana Forbes. This masterclass aims to help you produce results suitable for a glossy mag, along with also developing your unique take on classic clothing styles. Best start sharpening your pencils now.

→ Adult Masterclass: Fashion Illustration with Montana Forbes. House of Illustration, 2 Granary Square. ☉ King’s Cross. Nov 16. £40-£49.50.

6 The fun guide to becoming funnier

Is there anything in the world more terrifying than stand-up comedy? If you answered ‘no’ to that question, you might like to sign up for this intensive five-part course. Held at the Arts Theatre, it’s overseen by the excellent City Academy. A professional comic will help you improve your gags and even teach you how to deal with hecklers.

→ Stand-up Comedy Intensive – 5 Days. Arts Theatre, 6-7 Great Newport St. ☉ Leicester Square. Next course starts Oct 21. £595.



7 The adult horse riding school

Never joined the pony club as a kid? Here’s your chance: Lee Valley Riding Centre offers adult lessons for complete beginners (pro tip: if you can see the tail when you’re sitting in the saddle, you’re doing it wrong). Usefully, hat and boot hire are included in the course fee so you won’t have to shell out for any kit.

→ Learn to Ride. Lee Valley Riding Centre, 71 Lea Bridge Rd. Lea Bridge rail. Next 12-week course starts Sep 21-25. £340.

8 The inspirational queer fiction classes

If you’re looking to kickstart your creative writing, how better to learn great storytelling than from great writers? Through reading queer fiction texts, students

learn about the genre, and can then use it to inspire their own writing. Guided exercises will help make writer’s block a distant memory.

→ Reading for Writers: Queer Fiction. Fashion Retail Academy, 15 Gresse St. ☉ Tottenham Court Rd. Next 11-week course starts Sep 23. £52-£129.

9 The topsy-turvy fitness course

Flying Fantastic offers a brilliant array of aerial-based classes led by super-friendly and knowledgeable instructors. It does a four-week acro and handstands course that will turn your world upside down. Led by Ollie and Elle, this course is suitable for novices and those with a little experience using their hands the way most people use their feet.

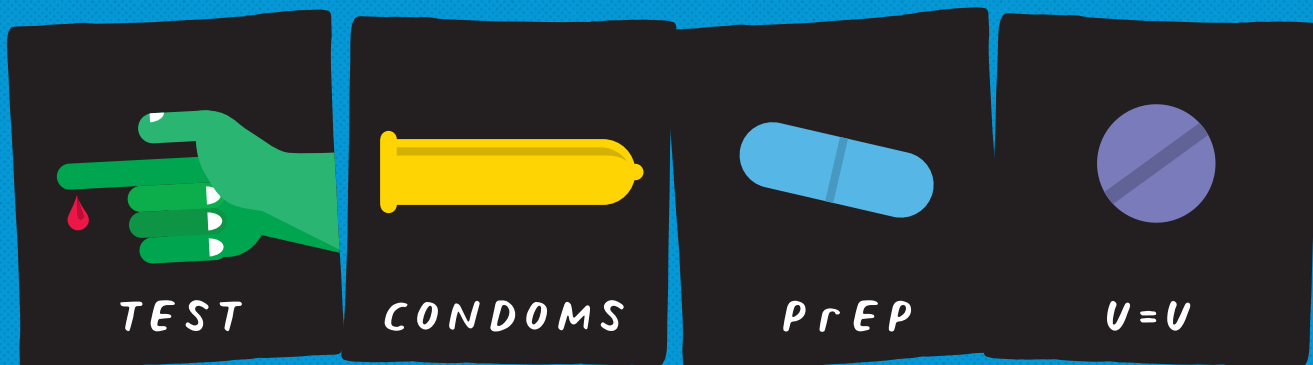
→ Acrobatics and Handstand. Flying Fantastic, 229 Union St. ☉ Southwark. Next four-week course starts Sep 20. £100.



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*2015-18 OVERALL DECLINE IN NEW DIAGNOSES IN LONDON. SOURCE: PUBLIC HEALTH ENGLAND.



10 The lessons in making oh-my-gosh-good brioche

This London Cookery School class will teach you to make French breakfast pastries and... okay, class, don't all crowd in at once! You'll all get a chance to learn about pains au chocolat, croissants, pains au raisins, brioche and crème pâtissière. A butter-soaked bakery lesson to have you laminating like a 'Great British Bake Off' finalist.

→ French Breakfast Pastries. London Cookery School, 296 Holloway Rd. ☎ Oxford Circus. Next class Sep 21. £125.

11 The dance course to turn you into a Bollywood superstar

Even if you've never dipped a nervous toe in a dance class before, you can still sign up for this

eight-week intro to Bollywood dancing. You'll discover everything from traditional Indian dance moves to bhangra, street, Middle Eastern and more as you gradually learn to perform a choreographed routine. And most of all, it's guaranteed to get you grinning.

→ Bollywood Dance Course. Clean Break, 2 Patshull Rd. ☎ Kentish Town. Next eight-week course starts Tue Sep 10. £112.

12 The electronica masterclass for newbies and experts

Run by the Guildhall's Electronic Music department, this is the latest in a series of masterclasses looking at making and recording electronic music. This time around it's focusing on sampling techniques, with a talk suitable for musicians



15 The cloak-and-dagger workout

The London Longsword Academy is the place to go if you want to know the difference between a rapier, a montante and a buckler. Okay, it's not your average workout class (and real-world uses for a sword are, thankfully, pretty limited) but it runs four great regular classes at venues across London.

→ The London Longsword Academy. Various locations. £15 per session or £50 per month.

16 The no-sweat sweatshirt-making session

Even competent seamstresses know that tackling jersey and other stretch fabrics can be, umm, a bit of a challenge. Yet, who doesn't love their comfy basics more than almost anything else? This one-day stretch fabric

of all abilities. You just need a willingness to get in the mood for Moogs. Note: the class is free, but you do need to book in advance, ideally asap.

→ Electronic Music Masterclass. Milton Court Concert Hall, 1 Milton Court. ☎ Moorgate. Oct 17. Free. Booking required.

13 The brew your own 'bucha class

Say yes to yeast at this kombucha-making class, which will teach you all you ever needed to know about scobys, carbonation and multi-stage fermentation techniques. It's run by The Fermentarium, which also holds classes on lactic fermentation, sourdough, dairy ferments and more. It all stinks – in the best way.

→ Kombucha (First Brews, Secondary Ferments and More). Gnome House, 7 Blackhorse Lane. ☎ Blackhorse Rd. Next class Sep 29. £50.

14 The energy-boosting movement workshop

Head to Jackson's Lane Community Centre to learn chi kung, a Chinese form of movement and breathing exercise. Each term is themed to the seasons, with the autumn classes centring on recharging and strengthening for the coming winter. Ideal for gaining much-needed headspace and general wellbeing, the added bonus is these classes are drop-in, so you needn't panic if real life gets in the way one week.

→ Chi Kung. Jackson's Lane Community Centre, 269a Archway Rd. ☎ Highgate. Next class Sep 19. £8 per session.



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Back to school

workshop will teach you to master tricky materials with finesse and bag you a new sweatshirt in the process. Because getting new clothes was always the best part of September, no?

→ Sewing with Stretch: Make a Sweatshirt.

Ray Stitch Sewing School, 66 Essex Rd. ☉ Angel. Next class Fri Sep 13. £105.

17 The kinky knot-tying weekend

Shibari, or Japanese rope bondage, might not be for everyone – but you never know until you try it. Which is what makes this regular weekend classes for complete beginners the perfect place to start. Throw out all your preconceptions – this modern shibari studio is dedicated to moving beyond the art's taboo associations.

→ Discover Shibari Weekend. Anatomie Studio, Station Passage. Queen's Rd Peckham Overground. Next events Sep 21-22. £90 for singles, £160 for couples.

18 The 'It's a computer language not a massive snake' course

If you've ever Googled 'Adult Ed in London', you probably know City Lit. It's the granddaddy, with courses on basically everything, including this thoroughly useful intro to the computer programming language Python. You'll leave able to read and write Python and be thoroughly sick of your mates making gags about snakes all week.

→ Introduction to Python. City Lit, 1-10 Keeley St. ☉ Holborn. Next course starts Sep 22. £229.

19 The drama school/language-learning mash-up

If your GCSE French knowledge is long gone, all is not lost. Play with Languages is a super-fun company specialising in teaching lingo (French, Spanish, German, Hebrew) through theatre exercises and performance. You might be thinking: Speaking another language is so hard, why would I want to try acting at the same time? But there's some proper research behind this idea showing that you genuinely learn better through play. You'll be wowing your pals by reeling off Shakespeare soliloquies in French in no time.

→ Play with Languages. Theatre Dell, 2 Finsbury Avenue. ☉ Liverpool St. Next ten-week course starts Sep 24. £197.



20 The 'jazz hands are not optional' vocal course

Release your inner Ella Fitzgerald or Louis Armstrong with this 13-week course in jazz singing. Suitable for absolute beginners or those with a bit of previous experience in hitting the high notes, these Richmond-based classes will increase your confidence from singing-in-the-shower level to actual singing-on-stage fabulousness. See it as a kind of (Billie) holiday, and don't forget that after each lesson you and your new jazz chums can always hit a local wine house. (Sorry. Very sorry.)

→ Jazz Singing - Introduction/Intermediate.

Richmond and Hillcroft Adult Community College, Parkshot. ☉ Richmond. Next 13-week course starts Sat Sep 14. £277.

21 The heavy metal (work) weekend for women

What do you mean you don't know how to use a Mig welder? Umm... okay, neither do we. But sign up to this weekend workshop for women and you'll acquire the skills to make five different types of welded joint using mild steel stock. Best of all, you'll go home with your own handmade mini-coffee table. It's an ideal intro for complete beginners looking to find an alternative source of weld-being. ■

→ Women's Welding Weekend. Blackhorse Workshop, 1-2 Sutherland Rd. ☉ Blackhorse Rd. Next two-day course Oct 12-13. £230.

Find more cool classes at timeout.com/backtoschool

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Inamo

What is it? Bottomless pan-Asian plates and fizz at Inamo's Covent Garden and Soho locations.

Why go? For endless Korean chicken wings, bang bang cauliflower, seared salmon maki and as many other mouth-watering morsels as you can scoff. Oh, and did we mention the unlimited prosecco?

What's exclusive? The whole lot will cost you just £30.

→ Two locations. Until Sep 29. www.timeout.com/inamo-2019

DON'T MISS



'The King of Hell's Palace'

What is it? A new play telling the true story of a whistleblowing heroine. During the Chinese Aids crisis, a young Ministry of Health official discovers a super-dodgy trade in blood. Will she alert her country?

Why go? Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig reexamines a forgotten historical tragedy with flair.

What's exclusive? It's up to 50 percent off, with tickets from £15.

→ Hampstead Theatre. ⊕ Swiss Cottage. Until Sep 20. www.timeout.com/king

Mnky House

What is it? Three courses and wine at a swanky Latin American eatery.

Why go? Mnky House serves up 'beautifully presented' dishes in a swish late-night venue. Go for the tasty beetroot and fennel or tiger-prawn ceviche, and stay for the top-notch DJs and dancing.

What's exclusive? Three courses and a glass of wine are now £31 – that's 48 percent off.

→ Mnky House. ⊕ Green Park. Until Oct 15. www.timeout.com/mnky

Oktoberfest

What is it? Bavaria in London! Two Oktoberfest parties – one in Camden and one in Brixton.

Why go? There'll be waiters and waitresses dressed in lederhosen and dirndls, live oompah bands, bratwurst from Herman ze German, comedians, games and many gallons of beer. Obvs.

What's exclusive? Tickets are 33 percent off; get involved for £10.

→ Two locations. Select dates from Sep 28-Oct 19. www.timeout.com/oktoberfest19

TigerTiger

What is it? An R&B brunch party with free-flowing tipples.

Why go? Gone are the days when you'd stagger out of a boozy brunch at 4pm feeling piddled and unsure what to do. At Tiger Tiger, there are live DJs, singalongs, dance-offs and free access to the club later on.

What's exclusive? A small plate, a main dish and bottomless drinks are just £20.

→ Tiger Tiger. ⊕ Piccadilly Circus. Until Nov 23. www.timeout.com/tiger

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DON'T MISS

Heritage Open Days

England's largest festival of history and culture is back with loads of free behind-the-scenes events at quirky London landmarks



Crystal Palace Dinosaurs

Museum of Sex Objects

A museum of curios from our city's sexual past will open to the public for the very first time this month. Join the waitlist for a chance to see smutty discoveries like Victorian penis graffiti and a Roman bullwhip made with human hair. 'The Keeper' of the museum is entrusted with the preservation of these sex objects for future generations, and wears a blood-red hooded cloak, so you know she means business.

→ Museum of Sex Objects. ☉ Holborn.
Sep 19-22. Visit Eventbrite to join the waitlist.

Dinosaur Day

Crystal Palace Park's giant dinosaurs have become London celebrities. People love them so much they're now listed as Grade I monuments. Usually you can only glimpse the 165-year-old VIP residents from their island across a lake but, at this day

out, you can go on a rare tour of 'Dinosaur Island' and get up close to the concrete creatures. There'll also be talks on dinosaur science and history, mask-making workshops, short-film screenings and 'Palaeo Planting' sessions where you can help plant 'Jurassic Park'-style vegetation around the lizards. Jeff Goldblum, please make a guest appearance. Please.

→ Crystal Palace Park. Crystal Palace Overground.
Sun Sep 15. Free, but tours should be booked in advance.

Union Chapel People Power day

This Gothic masterpiece is a dazzling piece of architecture, a working church, a spellbinding setting to see live music and a stalwart champion of the people. For 25 years its Union Chapel Project has helped open up the historic building to folks from all backgrounds and The Margins Project is a

vital support for homeless people in Islington. The chapel's role as a social enterprise is the focus of this open day where visitors can go on behind-the-scenes tours, explore its activism and listen to live music calling for social change.

→ Union Chapel. ☉ Highbury & Islington.
Sep 18. Free.

'The History of the Garden Gnome' talk

Join the pleasingly named historian Dr Twigs Way at Headstone Manor as she discusses the origins of the humble garden gnome. The talk takes place in the Manor's gorgeous

sixteenth-century barn (usually closed off to the public). They may have faced a hundred-year ban at the Chelsea Flower Show, but there's more to these 'garden ornaments' than you might think. Prepare to enter gnome-man's land.

→ Headstone Manor and Museum. ☉ Harrow & Wealdstone. Sep 21. Free, book in advance.

Electrifying Women: a WES Wikithon day

Make your way to LSE's Women's Library for this Wikithon. Part of Electrifying Women, a project by the UK's Women's Engineering Society, the Wellcome Library's Wikimedians



Sex objects and more at timeout.com/museums



(yes, it is a job) Dr Alice White will school you in how to edit and make Wikipedia entries. If you're more than a bit miffed that reams of minor 'Star Wars' characters have detailed Wiki entries, when tons of eminent female engineers have nothing, this is your chance to put them on the online map.

→ LSE Library: The British Library of Political and Economic Science. ☉ Holborn. Sep 21. Free, but register for your place on Eventbrite in advance.

Crystal Palace Bowl day

In the 1970s, big names like Lou Reed and Pink Floyd played at the Crystal Palace Bowl on a stage in front of a lake. A few songs in, the crowds would inevitably wade into the water to create an aquatic mosh pit (see left). Floyd's set is the stuff of lore: so loud, its vibrations killed 300 fish in the lake. A new stage, known as 'the rusty laptop', arrived in 1997, but is due a restoration. This is your chance to climb on its 'keyboard', and scream 'We don't need no education!' Take a moment's silence for those fish.

→ Crystal Palace Park. Crystal Palace Overground. Sep 21. Free, no booking required.

Dorich House Museum

Estonian artist Dora Gordine was the first woman to have her sculpture purchased by the Tate Collection. When she passed away in 1991, her former home and art studio was turned into a museum: Dorich House, an underappreciated attraction by Richmond Park. The house acts as a permanent Gordine retrospective, and the view from the roof terrace overlooking the park isn't bad either... ■ *Katie McCabe and Alexandra Sims*

→ Dorich House. Kingston rail then 85 bus.

Fri Sep 13-Sep 21. Free.

Heritage Open Days festival runs from Sat Sep 14-Sep 22. All events are free. Visit www.heritageopendays.org.uk.



Left: Crystal Palace Bowl. Above: a rock concert at the Bowl in 1973



CRYSTAL PALACE BOWL. 1973. ALAMY

Advertisement feature



Five things you didn't know about Westminster Abbey

We've all heard of this regal spot, but how many of these interesting facts do you know?

Despite its age, Westminster Abbey is constantly changing. That means that no matter when you visit, you'll see or learn something new.

It's home to 16 massive crystal chandeliers

If you've got a penchant for fancy pendants, then you've hit the jackpot here: the space is home to a whopping 16 identical lead crystal chandeliers that each measure ten feet high and three feet wide. Each is made from just under 500 hand-shaped drops, and were gifted to the Abbey by the Guinness family

(yep, the guys behind the Irish stout) to mark the building's 900th anniversary. Each chandelier is winched down every two years for cleaning. Careful, now...

It was hit by bombs in World War II

That's right, the Abbey is still standing despite a run-in with incendiaries on May 11 1941. And while treasures were evacuated during this period, the institution still suffered major damage, including blasted-out windows, a destroyed lantern-roof and structural afflictions.

Hockney's there

One of the newest additions to the Abbey was unveiled in 2018 – a stained glass window by David Hockney. Designed on an iPad, the creation represents the Queen's love of the countryside. Although, spoiler alert, he didn't manage to include any of her beloved corgis.

You can enjoy lates at the Abbey

That's right, just like an art museum, the Abbey is regularly open after hours (Wednesday, 4.30pm-6pm, to be exact, with discounted rates). And on September 18, there will be a one-off Galleries Late for the London Design Festival.

It's celebrating the 750th anniversary of its consecration this year

Sounds like it's time for a knees-up! Commissioned by Henry III, who died before he could see its completion, the church was officially consecrated on October 13 1269.



Wanna learn more?

Become a member of the Abbey Association to visit all year round (membership starts from just £40 per year) and you'll never miss the Abbey's intriguing events. Plus you can also get family tickets – where kids go free when accompanied by an adult.



Westminster
Abbey

→ For more information or for tickets, visit www.westminster-abbey.org

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



Kerb Seven Dials Launch

A cheese conveyor belt, local craft beer and music curated by the Roundhouse opens the street food gurus' new spot.

→ Kerb Seven Dials. ⊖ Covent Garden. Until Fri Sep 13. Free.

WATCH 'Friday the 13th' Mini-thon

It's the perfect day to scare yourself senseless at this six hour-long horror screening dedicated to the slasher film series. Get ready for gore.

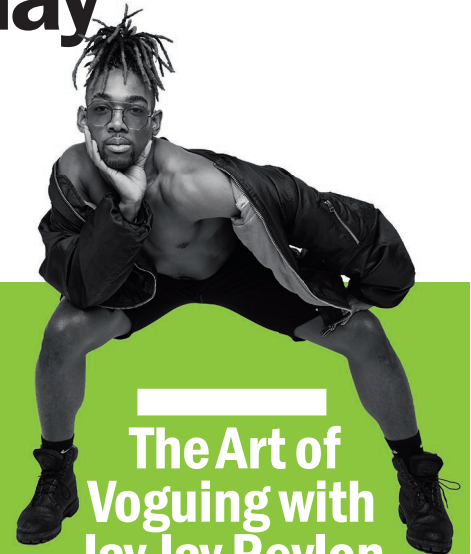
→ Prince Charles Cinema. ⊖ Leicester Square. Fri Sep 13. £17.50.

JOIN IN Art of Ping Pong x Collage Club

An online charity auction of ping pong paddle artworks will launch with this night of colourful collage workshops and tournaments.

→ The Hoxton. ⊖ Southwark. Fri Sep 13. Free, register in advance.

Saturday



The Art of Voguing with Jay Jay Revlon

Strike a pose and let voguing maestro Jay Jay Revlon teach you the moves and the history of the Harlem ballroom dance style at this alfresco workshop.

→ Southbank Centre. ⊖ Waterloo. Sat Sep 14. Free.

PARTY Hidden River Festival

Dance to three stages of live music, snack on street food, watch theatre and check out cutting-edge art at this riverside shindig.

→ Redmond Community Centre. ⊖ Manor House. Sat Sep 14. Free.

EAT Tooting Foodival

Chow down on a feast cooked by local chefs only using ingredients grown in SW17. Each course is just £1 a pop.

→ Hereward Rd. ⊖ Tooting Broadway. Sat Sep 14. Free.

Sunday

Peckham Festival

Hit up this hyperlocal fest championing SE15 creatives. Expect workshops, flower installations and parties.

→ Various locations. Peckham Rye Overground. Fri Sep 13-Sun Sep 15. Free.



LISTEN Mischief on the Marshes

Hear storytelling troupe The Embers Collective spin age-old yarns with a modern twist to live music.

→ Secret north London location. Sun Sep 15. £10.

WOOF Dog Day at Skylight

While your four-legged pal snacks on treats you can neck 'Paw-n-star Martinis' at this party in aid of Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.

→ Tobacco Dock. Shadwell DLR. Sun Sep 15. Free.

Find more dog days in London at timeout.com/dogs



Advertisement feature



Don't miss Hogwarts in the Snow

Christmas will soon be upon us, so plan ahead for a magical walk in Harry Potter's winter wonderland at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London

If your idea of Christmas isn't chestnuts roasting on an open fire or Jack Frost nipping at your nose, but instead seeing the charming vision of Hagrid dragging huge fir trees from the forest and Professor Flitwick levitating baubles to decorate them, then Hogwarts in the Snow is for you.

Indeed, to any passionate Potterphile, the festive season just wouldn't be the same without bewitched snowballs, flaming Christmas puddings and tankards of frothy Butterbeer, would it?

Deck the Hall

Thanks to the amazing filmmaking team at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London, you can experience the festive enchantment of Hogwarts in the icy depths of winter for yourselves, because for a few weeks only, the Studio Tour gets a Christmassy makeover.

The Great Hall is festooned with decorations and tables groan with goodies. The Gryffindor common room looks like the partying pupils left it (including greetings cards on the mantelpiece, many made by the cast themselves) and fireplaces are 'lit' with special effects fire. Most spectacularly, a blanket of snow covers the magnificent 50-foot scale model of Hogwarts Castle.

Three kinds of snow

The Hogwarts model was used for filming many of the school's exterior shots and for wintry scenes. A crew member would have to sprinkle 'snow' from a great height, using a mix of granulated paper and salt grains. It's just one of three types of fake snow that the production team had to create: one to float through the air, one to crunch under foot and one to glisten like ice. During Hogwarts in the Snow, you can find out how each different type was made and what it feels like between your fingers.

This, and many other secrets of a truly Wizarding Christmas await you at the Studio Tour.

Feast at Hogwarts

Dinner in the Great Hall (December 9 to 11) is one of the hottest tickets of the year – your chance to sit down to a Christmas dinner just like Harry, Ron and Hermione. The evening includes drinks and canapés, a two-course feast in the Great Hall and dessert served on Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$, plus time to explore the Studio Tour after hours. Tickets for these events sell out fast, so go online now to find out more.



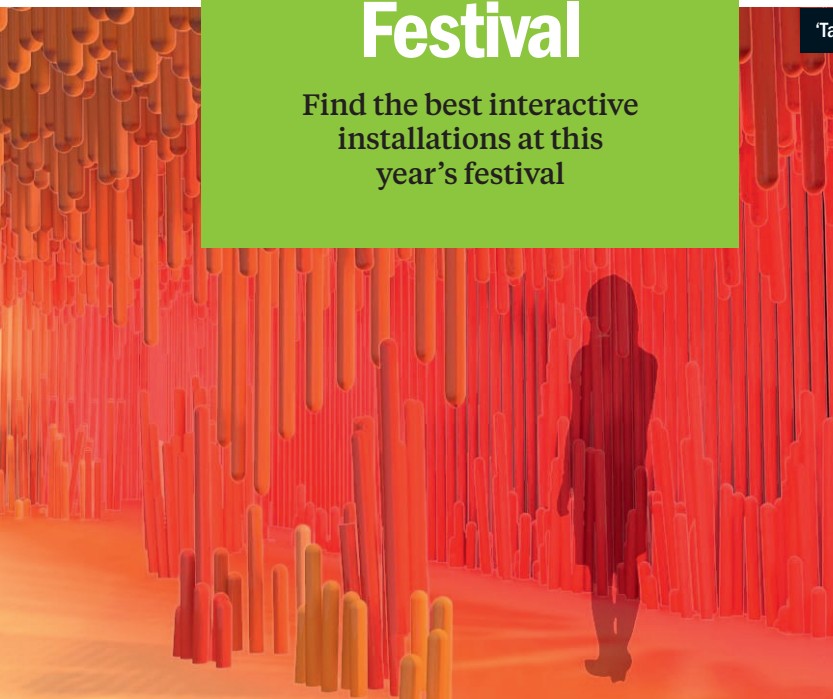
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→ Hogwarts in the Snow at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London
November 16 to January 26 2020. www.wbstudiotour.co.uk

GET INVOLVED

London Design Festival

Find the best interactive installations at this year's festival



'Take the Plunge'



'Void'



'Saturation Surge'

Find out more at timeout.com/londondesign

'Take the Plunge'

Venture into a strange crimson cave filled with what appear to be giant breadsticks for an 'oceanic journey' at Bargehouse Oxo Tower Wharf. It won't look like much from the outside, but inside, you'll find a warm, multi-sensory depiction of a sunset under the sea.

→ Bargehouse. ⊕ Southwark. Sat Sep 14-Sep 22. Free.

'Please Be Seated'

Turn the curves of this huge sculptural installation into your own personal orthopaedic backrest. The four concentric wiggles, created by British designer Paul Cocksedge from old scaffolding planks, can be found in Broadgate.

→ Finsbury Avenue Square. ⊕ Moorgate. Fri Sep 13-Oct 11. Free.



'Please Be Seated'

'Saturation Surge'

Irish artist Maser has been commissioned to grace the Spanish Steps at Wembley (the big staircase connecting Wembley Stadium to the SSE Arena) with a giant mural. As is the Maser way, it'll be filled with more bold colours than a '90s

shellsuit. Time to choose a musical number for your glamorous descent. → ⊕ Wembley Park. Fri Sep 13-Sep 22. Free.

'Void'

See a multicoloured galaxy created using rubies and emeralds. 'Void' is brought to life through photographs of the semi-precious stones that are magnified and projected over the walls. Step into the 'Void' on Sunday to see the space vibrate with a performance from female electronic drone choir NYX (£5).

→ Collins Music Hall. ⊕ Angel. Sat Sep 14-Sep 22. Free. NYX: Sun Sep 15. £5.

'Musicity x Low Line'

For this musical installation, 15 musicians and sound artists were asked to compose new tracks that responded to buildings nestled in railway viaducts from Bankside to Bermondsey. Each composition can be streamed for free on a smartphone, but only when you visit the buildings in person. Want the tunes? Then go walk the (Low) Line.

■ Katie McCabe → Various locations on the Low Line. ⊕ Southwark. Sat Sep 14-Sep 22. Free. Visit musicityglobal.com.

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Look how far we've come, London!

Did you know that London is a global leader in HIV prevention? We've never been closer to achieving zero new infections... and that's thanks to you!

We've got great news, London. Last week, Public Health England announced a 42 percent reduction in new HIV diagnoses in the capital between 2015 and 2018. That time frame is no coincidence: 2015 was when Do It London launched its city-wide prevention campaign. It's amazing progress – and that's why we've teamed up with the London HIV Prevention Programme to celebrate this achievement and look ahead to an even brighter future.

Here's how we'll get to zero by 2030

Do It London campaign launches, with the support of all London boroughs



2015



2015-2018

As Do It London carries on with its campaign, new HIV infections continue to fall across the capital.

It's official: HIV diagnoses have fallen by 42 percent! Do It London's four-pronged strategy is successful: increased HIV testing, condom use, PrEP (a pill protecting against HIV infection) and better access to treatment leads to an undetectable viral load (which means you can't pass on the virus).

Dec 2018



Sep 2019

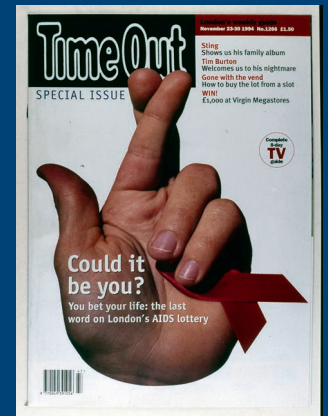
London is leading the world in HIV prevention – it's one of the first cities anywhere in the world to exceed targets set by the UN. The capital hosts the first 'Fast Track Cities' international gathering.



We achieve Do It London's goal of zero: zero HIV transmissions, deaths, and HIV-related stigma. Let's make this a reality!

2030

NOVEMBER 1994



HIV has always been on Time Out London's radar

In light of the news that the number of UK AIDS cases had exceeded 10,000, Time Out ran a special investigation on the AIDS crisis. Activists and Time Out journalists broke down some myths around HIV and AIDS, and an excerpt was published from ex-Time Out editor Simon Garfield's book, 'The End of Innocence: Britain in the time of AIDS', which profiled HIV-positive people from a wide cross-section of society.



THREE OF THE BEST

Storytelling evenings



The Folklore of Trees

Do you, like Judi Dench, have an unwavering affinity with trees? Go out on a limb and try this evening of tree-related mythology by Cunning Folk, where you can hear tales of The Apple Tree Man, the ageing spirit of the apple orchard.

→ The Old King's Head. ⊕ London Bridge. Thu Sep 12. £5, £3 concs.



Unlucky (in Peckham)

Mark the unluckiest day of the year so far by listening to a bunch of blood-curdling urban tales by candlelight at this storytelling sesh. Exactly where in Peckham it will take place is a secret (for now), but you'll need to wrap up warm...

→ A secret location in Peckham. Fri Sep 13. £7, book in advance.

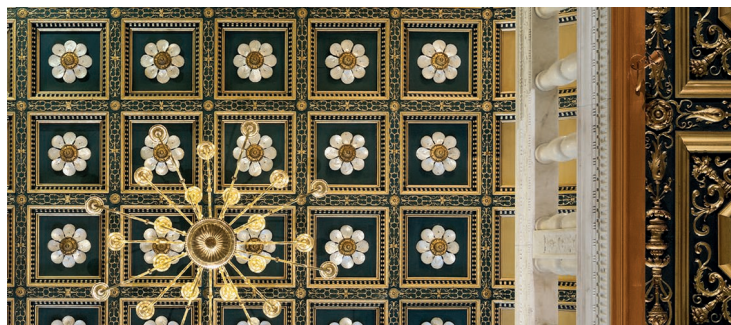


A Sea of Stories on The Golden Hinde

Hear tales of vicious mermaids, pirates, smugglers and seals that shed their skin to dance in the moonlight while braving the high seas on an Elizabethan ship. In reality, you'll just be bobbing on Bankside, but you get the idea.

→ The Golden Hinde. ⊕ London Bridge. Fri Sep 13. £7.50, £10 on the door.

Find stories you can take home at timeout.com/bookshops



Open house weekend

Explore the history and architectural highlights of Carlton House Terrace, home of the UK's national academy of science.

Saturday 21 September – Sunday 22 September
10am – 5pm

Free guided building tours will be running throughout the weekend.

The Royal Society

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

Find out more at royalsociety.org/open-house

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LIVE

EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT

WORLD WILD WEBS

OUR INTERCONNECTED PLANET

Friday 27 September

18.00-21.30

Free



#MSCAnight



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 722950

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WORKSHOPS

C Learn to Play Day

Get one step closer to owning the stage at Wembley at this day of free music lessons led by professional teachers. If you've ever dreamed of picking up the guitar, trumpet, saxophone, violin or even the venova – now's your chance.

→ Yamaha Music London.
 ↻ Tottenham Court Rd.
 Sat Sep 14. Free.

E WakeUp Docklands Wakeboarding

Ever look at Royal Victoria Dock and think: You know what, I'd love to wakeboard on that? Well, you're in luck. WakeUp Docklands is holding lessons for beginners at an introductory rate.

→ WakeUp Docklands.
 ↻ Canning Town. Until Sep 29.
 £35 per single session.

MARKETS

W Portobello Vegan Night Market

Join London's only late-night vegan street party to gorge on plant-based street eats, shop for ethical cosmetics and sustainable clothes and dance along to DJs blaring reggae, ska and roots. Even carnists are invited.

→ Portobello Green.
 ↻ Ladbroke Grove.
 Wed Sep 11. Free.

E The East London Vintage Kilo Sale

Grab the clothes you fancy at this second-hand sale, take them to the scales and pay just £15 per kilo for your pile. With an average of three to four items per kilo, you can get a whole new outfit with change from a £20.

→ York Hall. ↻ Bethnal Green.
 Sun Sep 15. £1.50-£3.

TO DO

The best events in your area

C Central N North S South E East W West

Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew
Chihuly Nights
 Art, music and nature under the evening sky
 15 August – 26 October 2019
 Thursdays – Saturdays
 7.30pm – 10.30pm
 Book online
 Supported by
 DS AUTOMOBILES

EXHIBITIONS

C Black Masking Culture

See rare, hand-sewn Mardi Gras Indian suits as they are exhibited outside of the US for the first time. The clothes will sit among rare tapestries of hunting scenes, dating back to 1425, in the Tapestries Gallery.

→ V&A. ↻ South Kensington.
 Sat Sep 14-Sep 22. Free.

FESTIVALS

S Colourscape Festival

Colourscape's vibrant tunnels are taking over Clapham Common. Grab a dazzling cape and venture into the maze of kaleidoscopic tunnels to hear music in the rainbow glow.

→ Clapham Common.
 ↻ Clapham South.
 Sat Sep 14-Sep 22. £11.

C London Fashion Week Festival

Check out a curated edit of designer collections from more than 150 brands, go front row for a show and listen to talks from industry experts on new trends while swinging your comp tote bag. Fancy.

→ 180 The Strand. ↻ Temple.
 Sat Sep 14- Sun Sep 15. £135.

C London Podcast Festival

Catch the second week of the festival that puts your favourite podcasters on stage for live recordings and performances. Look out for shows from Adam Buxton, Mark Kermode and the team behind the 'Mostly Lit' book podcast.

→ Kings Place. ↻ King's Cross.
 Until Sun Sep 15. Prices vary.

N Pocket-Sized

Celebrate the beauty of words and short form at Jewish community centre JW3. It's in partnership with *Granta*, the oldest literary magazine in the UK, and the day-festival will be chaired by broadcaster Sandi Toksvig.

→ JW3. ↻ Finchley Rd.
 Sun Sep 15. Prices vary.

TALKS

C THIIIRD Magazine: Not Another Diversity Panel

Hear panellists tackle topics of diversity and tokenistic approaches within the arts, publishing, music and education. The night will bring together voices from different backgrounds including the likes of poet Jackie Hagan and composer Michael 'Mikey J' Asante.

→ Tate Modern. ↻ Southwark.
 Wed Sep 11. £5.

EXCLUSIVE

Visit the Royal Academy for 'RA Lates: Deep Earth' – an epic party exploring the body's relationship to nature. Tickets are exclusive to us from £25.

TIMEOUT.COM/DEEP

Find 101 things to do at timeout.com/101

Film

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

FILM OF THE WEEK

Downton Abbey



IN A CINEMA landscape crowded with superhero smack-downs and CG apocalypses, it's sometimes nice just to watch a film that wants you to worry about the whereabouts of some vegetables. That film is 'Downton Abbey', a big old comfort blanket of a movie stitched together from vignettes involving missing paper knives, a problematic ball gown and an unfortunate outbreak of rain. It's as nourishing as one of Mrs Patmore's crumpets, and about as edgy. Fans of the much-loved TV show will love it. America may need to be prorogued while it's showing.

The film's strictly notional plot has King George V and Queen Mary planning a visit to the giant stately pile of the Crawley family during their 1927 tour of Yorkshire. This

news has the amiable lord of the manor, Robert Crawley (Hugh Bonneville), his American wife Cora (Elizabeth McGovern) and their modern-minded daughter Lady Mary Talbot (Michelle Dockery) in a spin: nothing less than the house's reputation is at stake. Worryingly, his old chauffeur and now de facto family member Tom Branson (Allen Leech) is Irish. Could there be – good heavens – a Republican in their midst? 'I do hope he's not building a bomb,' says someone, mildly.

Anyone unfamiliar with the ins and outs of 'Downton' may get a little lost in its small army of characters and their already-half-started plot lines. But prior knowledge of the show isn't essential. And besides, this is a movie that knows what its core audience wants and provides

it in spades. Everyone gets their moment to shine, and Maggie Smith's acid-tongued Dowager Countess (basically Thanos in a tiara) gets about 17 of them. Her catty rivalry with Imelda Staunton's similarly formidable aristocrat and her snarky asides are a highlight. Smith steals every scene she's in, trowelling each line with ironic disdain, though David Haig is also quite fun as a controlling royal butler. His battles with the wily staff add some Wodehouse-lite capers.

'Downton Abbey' is definitely not kicking over any antique tables, despite a gentle nod to society's changing sexual mores in the storyline of gay butler Thomas Barrow (Rob James-Collier). Bathing in the umpteenth gauzy





WHAT IS IT...
The movie spin-off of the beloved ITV series.

WHY GO...
For Maggie Smith's juicy zingers.

→ Director Michael Engler (PG) 122 mins.

shot of the English countryside and lingering National Trust porn, it's easy to forget that its screenwriter and creator Julian Fellowes wrote 'Gosford Park', a thistle-sharp interrogation of the UK's class system. Everyone knows their place in this world – there's a lot of forelock-tugging over which door to use – and no one seems in a particular hurry to leave it.

If you're a Downton fan, you'll share the feeling. Yes, it's basically an episode of the TV show stretched out to two hours but like the Crawley family silver, it's so polished you can practically see your face in it. ■



By Phil de Semlyen
Who now fancies seeing a 'Midsomer Murders' movie by David Fincher.

Honeyland



WHAT IS IT...
A mesmerising doc about beekeepers in rural Macedonia.

WHY GO...
For a stinging reminder to respect nature.

→ Directors Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov (12A) 87 mins.

'HALF FOR YOU, half for me,' says Turkish beekeeper Hatidze, as she shares honey with the bees she tends in order to ensure their continued survival. She's the 50-something star of 'Honeyland', a powerful and observational documentary set in rural Macedonia that's all about the fraught compromises of rural life. Its creators have distilled over 400 hours of raw footage into an elemental struggle between ancient tradition and greed.

Hatidze and her dying 86-year-old mum live in a dirt-floored house. There's incredible footage of her bent frame set against epic landscapes, as she crawls across cliff faces with her buzzing hive strapped to her back. Then, a truck pulls up bearing a family filled with tumbling kids: they're as rough as Hatidze is gentle, struggling to make a living from the land. The family's patriarch, Hussein, starts to tend bees, too, but with many mouths to feed, he doesn't share his honey.

The battle of wills between the pair is rich in symbolism. One of Hussein's children almost becomes the bee-nurturing son Hatidze never had, before his father makes him raid the hives. Then the family's animals mysteriously start to die, as though in punishment for dad's avarice.

Documentary purists might be troubled by the fiction-like perfection of 'Honeyland'. But that's a sign of this film's power, too; its makers stumbled upon an incredible true story, earned its participants' trust and then wisely got out of the way. ■ *Alice Saville*



Hustlers



WHAT IS IT...
A crime drama about a gang of strippers taking on Wall Street.

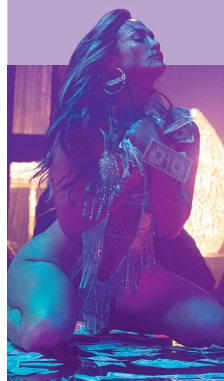
WHY GO...
For J-Lo's best movie performance since 'Out of Sight'.

→ Director Lorene Scafaria (15) 110 mins.

THINK 'OCEAN'S ELEVEN' with strippers and you've got the premise of Lorene Scafaria's surprising, gripping 'Hustlers'. Constance Wu stars as Dorothy, aka 'Destiny', the new girl at a hot Manhattan gentlemen's club. The wildly successful Ramona (Jennifer Lopez) takes Dorothy under her wing and shows her how to get ahead in exotic dancing. But after the 2008 financial crash, the pair and their friends resort to criminal means to keep the cash coming in.

This is a deeply feminist film, one where men are given less screentime than the cameoing Cardi B and Lizzo. These women are objectified by the world, though rarely by Scafaria's camera. They use that fact to scam money and take revenge on Wall Street's finest. Scafaria treats them as flawed, fractious characters and folk heroes, not sex dolls. She packs in some visual flourishes too, like a shaky cam shot of one of the crew's walk of shame to her daughter's school. It's a reminder that there's more at stake for these women than the ability to buy designer clothes.

If Wu is compelling as Destiny, Lopez is magnetic as her savvy mentor. It's her most authoritative role since 'Out of Sight'. The plot, in contrast to the stars, sags in the middle and there are a few more celebratory hang-out scenes than we need, but the gang are so charismatic, it's no great chore to spend extra time with them. Why, some people would pay thousands for just a few minutes. ■ *Helen O'Hara*



SIX QUESTIONS FOR Waad Al-Kateab

The co-director of 'For Sama' on her blistering Syrian Civil War documentary

WAAD AL-KATEAB SPENT five years surviving in the Syrian warzone of Aleppo, with her doctor husband, to document the terror inflicted by President Bashar Al-Assad's regime. During their struggle, she conceived a daughter called Sama, and her new doc shares the story of bringing her into the world as it was being torn apart.

1 When did you realise this footage could be made into a documentary?

'Not until I left [Aleppo], because my expectation was that I would be killed. I knew I had to film everything, so someone could take this footage one day and do something with it.'

2 How did you get the footage out?

'I had 12 hard drives which I put in a backpack. This was my baby, right? We got stopped once, at the Russian checkpoint, but we were just lucky that we were the last convoy. It was 4am and the regime was in a rush to get us out.'

3 What cameras were you using?

'I started with my Nokia mobile phone and ended with a Canon 70, which I still have and is on display in my living room.'



4 How did you decide what to put in?

'When [co-director Edward Watts and I] put the timeline together, we knew that there were key things: I was a student, I fell in love, I got married, I had a child, and we survived a bad situation. We first put it in chronological order but you quickly got to a very dark place, so we added flashbacks. We needed people to understand what war means, but sometimes there has to be life and family too.'

5 Why did you choose to centre yourself in this story?

'The idea was for it to [have] me as an activist, as a mother, as a woman showing the female perspective of seeing the details around us. I'm more interested in showing women's feelings because I know what they mean.'

6 When will you show the film to Sama?

'It can't be my choice. It's more about her asking to watch it. She knows that she has a film and that it's called "For Sama". She's so excited about the idea.' ■ *Interview by Hanna Flint*

→ 'For Sama' is out on Fri Sep 13.

For Sama



Phoenix



WHAT IS IT...

A stunning documentary filmed within the siege of Aleppo.

WHY GO...

For one unforgettable scene in a labour ward.

→ Directors Waad Al-Kateab, Edward Watts (18) 100 mins.

A DOCUMENTARY SET inside the maelstrom of Aleppo, 'For Sama' is an often harrowing, sometimes uplifting, entirely unique chronicle of life in wartime. It's the work of Syrian journalist-turned-filmmaker Waad Al-Kateab, who charted her city's slow death over five years of revolution and repression, and British director Edward Watts, who helped shape it into this stunning doc.

It's rated 18, which tells you what you need to know about the footage Waad has captured. As Russian jets thunder overhead and shells crash in, her camera plunges into the bloody aftermath. Dust fills corridors, doctors (including her own husband) work in makeshift operating theatres, and your heart sits permanently in your mouth as you wait to find out who made it and who didn't. The cruelty of the attackers is monumental; the resilience of the besieged even more so.

'For Sama' plunges deeper into the conflict than even the grittiest war film could manage. Drone shots time-stamp the city's bomb-scarred state and CCTV footages shows the moment a bomb hits a hospital. It's a miracle the film was even made, mainly because it's a miracle Waad survived, but there are moments of joy too. Patsy Cline's 'Crazy' plays softly at her wedding, the discovery of a persimmon fruit is greeted with tongue-in-cheek jubilation, and gallows humour abounds. All the time, Sama, Waad's baby daughter for whom the film was made, plays nearby. You don't need to be religious to find yourself praying for her. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



WHAT IS IT...

A Norwegian drama about a teenager forced to cope when the unthinkable happens.

WHY GO...

To have your heart broken by a stellar central performance.

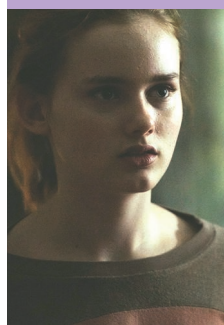
→ Director Camilla Strøm Henriksen (15) 85 mins.

TONALLY, 'PHOENIX' IS tricky to nail down.

Part fairytale, part psychological horror and part kitchen sink drama, it tells the story of a girl forced to grow up too fast, trying to keep hold of a tiny fragment of her childhood innocence. Debut writer-director Camilla Strøm Henriksen expertly folds all those elements together so it never leans too hard in any one direction. It's planted in reality, with just a toe in the surreal.

Jill (Ylva Bjørkaas Thedin) is approaching her fourteenth birthday with typical teenage glee, but also the certainty that things will not be as she'd like – mainly because of her mum. Astrid (Maria Bonnevie), clearly suffering from a depressive mental illness, veers between inspired positivity (she's an art teacher) and funks of doom and defeatism. Jill's father is barely in the picture. That means it's left to the 14-year-old to care for both her younger brother and her mum. Usually stoical, Jill can't maintain her default-adult composure when something horrifying happens. She's so unable to cope that she pretends it didn't occur, and tries to charge on with her birthday as normal.

Henriksen handles Jill's complex emotional journey brilliantly, helped by a beautiful performance from Thedin. It's clear there is no happy ending possible, but Henriksen doesn't wade through misery. She keeps reaching for the possibility of good for a girl who's torn between wanting to grow up and wanting the chance to be a child first. ■ *Olly Richards*



THE TEN BEST POP-UPS AND FESTIVALS THIS WEEK

10 **Lola**
 Fassbinder's loose remake of 'The Blue Angel' follows a German nightclub singer on the rise.
 → Close-Up Cinema.
 Shoreditch High St Overground.
 Sun Sep 15, 8.30pm. £12.

9 **Amazing Grace**
 One of the best music docs in recent years sees Aretha Franklin at her most raw and chandelier-shaking best.
 → The Exhibit. ⊖ Balham.
 Thu Sep 12, 8pm. £8.

8 **The 7th Voyage of Sinbad**
 A screening of the Ray Harryhausen classic to mark a new book about the great animator.
 → Regent Street Cinema.
 ⊖ Oxford Circus. Sun Sep 15, 3pm. £12.

7 **Reach for the Sky**
 Legendary British actor Kenneth More is celebrated with a screening of his stirring RAF drama.
 → Cinema Museum.
 ⊖ Elephant & Castle.
 Thu Sep 12, 7pm. £8.50.

6 **We the Animals**
 Head to Screen25 for another chance to catch this summer's underseen magical realist drama.
 → Harris Academy.
 Norwood Junction Overground.
 Wed Sep 11, 7.45pm. £8.50.

5 **Rushmore**
 Set in a school you'll wish you'd gone to, this Wes Anderson coming-of-age comedy is up there with his very best.
 → Prince Charles Cinema.
 ⊖ Leicester Square. Sat Sep 14, 3.30pm. £10.

4 **In a Lonely Place**
 Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame get in too deep in this great noir.
 → Picturehouse Central.
 ⊖ Piccadilly Circus.
 Sun Sep 15, 2pm. £8.

3 **The Women**
 This '30s comedy boasts a cast of killer dames, including Rosalind Russell and Joan Crawford.
 → Classic Cinema Club.
 ⊖ Ealing Broadway. Fri Sep 13, 7.30pm. £7.

2 **Apollo 11**
 Relive the 1969 moon mission in an epic doc that features lots of so-far unseen Nasa footage.
 → David Lean Cinema.
 East Croydon rail. Thu Sep 12, 7.30pm. £7.50.

Midnight Cowboy



WHAT IS IT...
 A late '60s classic about a hustler and a male prostitute in New York.

WHY GO...
 For Oscar-nominated performances by Jon Voight and Dustin Hoffman.

→ Director John Schlesinger (18) 111 mins.



'ONCE UPON A TIME...' may be the hit of the summer, but Quentin Tarantino's vision of 1969 is more than rivalled by a film made that very year. The newly restored 'Midnight Cowboy' is one of the great films about the transition to the gritty '70s. 'A sometimes amusing but essentially sordid saga of a male prostitute in Manhattan' was *Variety's* harsh judgment at the time, but its stature has grown and grown since then. Director John Schlesinger and screenwriter Waldo Salt pump so much emotion into it that it becomes a moving epitaph both to its two striving characters and the American dream itself.

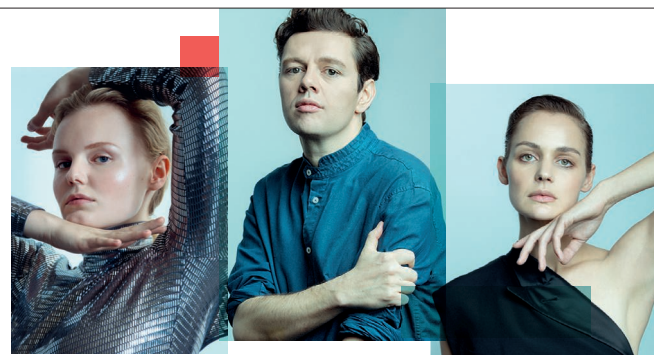
It made Jon Voight a star in his film debut and cemented the credentials of Dustin Hoffman two years after 'The Graduate'. Voight is Joe Buck, a rural ingénue who travels to New York with the delusion that he will make a killing as a Park Avenue stud. Disillusioned, he ends up squatting with Ratso (Hoffman), a sickly Italian-American petty trickster. Oscar nominations came to both Voight, with his kicked-puppy energy, and Hoffman, with eyes so harrowed it hurts to look at them. Their performances anchor the narrative, while the soundtrack, editing, flashbacks and dream sequences pull in the opposite direction, evoking a sense of the dreams tantalisingly out of reach and promises destined to either break, or leave them broken. ■ *Sophie Monks Kaufman*

1

Underwire Festival

A decade old, this London indie fest celebrates with ten days of female-focused short films, retrospectives and workshops. Look out for a ton of new short-form gems and a screening of Andrea Arnold's 'Fish Tank'.

→ Fri Sep 13-Sep 22. Various venues.
 www.underwirefestival.com



FACE TO FACE WITH GERMAN TALENT

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Where to see big stars

CHEAP!

A celebration of the fact that sometimes Dave Grohl and Rick Astley play tiny London venues for a fiver

TICKET PRICES. BOOKING fees. Uber rides. That ill-advised round of shots. All in all, going to big gigs can be a wallet-wincing pursuit. But there are places you can go to see some genuinely massive bands without it costing a massive price...

Moth Club

With its sparkly gold walls and 'if you know you know' side-street location, it's no surprise that Hackney's Moth Club has become the go-to spot for ridiculous secret shows. In its short lifespan, Lady Gaga and Jarvis Cocker have popped along for a sing-song, while only last month Dave Grohl and Rick Astley launched the newly returned Club NME there with a set that only cost punters £5. Keep your eyes peeled: Lord knows who might turn up next.

→ Old Trades Hall, Valette St, E9 6NU. Hackney Central Overground.

Rough Trade East

London's mecca for vinyl buffs, off-Brick Lane staple Rough Trade East isn't just good for finding that rare Aphex Twin import that'll make you look cool to your workmates. Every week it hosts album launch in-stores, which are free to attend if you preorder or buy the record. And we're not just talking leftfield muso fare either: everyone from Queens Of The Stone Age to Stormzy has passed through its doors, while you can look forward to Metronomy, Thurston Moore and, er, Keane in the coming weeks.

→ Old Truman Brewery, 91 Brick Lane, E1 6QL.
☉ Liverpool St.

Banquet Records

Banquet has been the king of Kingston for more than a decade now, and it continues to deliver the goods with a series of shows





Rick rock 'n' rolling
Dave Grohl and Rick
Astley at Moth Club a
few weeks ago

HACKNEY'S MOTH CLUB
HAS BECOME THE GO-TO
SPOT FOR RIDICULOUS
SECRET SHOWS

(usually priced at a mere few quid and available to buy with the purchase of an album) both in the shop and at neighbouring venues. Coming up they've got the likes of Emeli Sandé, Jax Jones and Sam Fender – big chart hitters in little cheap venues.
→ 52 Eden St, KT1 1EE. Hampton Wick rail.

New Slang

Want an altogether more sweaty experience? Then head to Banquet Records' wayward club night, New Slang. Now resident at Kingston club Pryzm, and open till 2am (did somebody say tequilas?), it's a

long-running stalwart of London's indie club-night scene that's drawn everyone from Foals and Wolf Alice to, just this year, Two Door Cinema Club. Tickets are bought as part of an album purchase bundle, with the whole thing rarely costing over £20.
→ 154 Clarence St, KT1 1QP. Kingston rail.

Hopscotch

Radio DJs have a) all the power and b) very heaving phone books, so it's no surprise that some of London's most surprise-filled nights come hosted by the kings and queens of the popular airwaves. Annie Mac's regular AMP nights and Huw

Stephens's sporadic gigs are always worth keeping an eye out for, but Hopscotch – presented by Radio 1's Jack Saunders – is currently leading the pack. Taking residency at the teeny tiny Sebright Arms (around 120 capacity in the basement), it's recently hosted free secret sets from The Vaccines and Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes.
→ Sebright Arms, Coate St, E2 9AG. Cambridge Heath Overground.

The 100 Club

Iconic punk venue The 100 Club faced closure at the start of the decade but now the central London

legend is going strong, after many well-known supporters graced its stage in solidarity. Various stalwarts of music pop up to pay it homage, but for regular thrills, head to the Fred Perry Subculture night. The Specials and John Lydon's PiL have previously played, alongside newer but impressive bands such as Shame and Black Midi. ■
→ Century House, 100 Oxford St, W1D 1LL. ☺ Oxford St



By Lisa Wright
Who, like Moth Club, enjoys a bit of glitter and is a remarkably cheap date.

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The all-conquering musical streaming enterprise makes a big leap IRL with four days of sets and gigs spread across Peckham. Each day is dedicated to a different genre: jazz, hip hop, bass and club and there's a 'no headliners' ethos. But talent abounds – look out for Blawan, D Double E, Sherelle, Jammer, Steam Down, Greentea Peng and Donna Leake.

→ Various sites in Peckham. Oct 9-12.



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Hackney Colliery Band

This festival-crushing brass band celebrates ten years of stomping jazz-funk fun, with special guests Mulatu Astatke, DJ Yoda and the Roundhouse Choir.

→ Barbican. Oct 5.

Hot Since 82: Open to Close

A rare tech-house takeover of the legendary Camden venue, running early doors on a Saturday for a hefty bit of afternoon-into-evening raving.

→ Roundhouse. Oct 5.

Miles Kane

A new gig announcement, tied to the release of chirpy, glam-rock scented single 'Blame It on the Summertime'.

→ Electric Ballroom. Oct 16.

Sonic Cathedral

What started as a one-off Shoreditch party in 2004 has blossomed into a

shoegaze-evangelising record label and more. To celebrate 15 years of, in their words, 'celebrating themselves', they'll be filling The Social with special unannounced guests galore.

→ The Social. Oct 23.

My Life Story

In the '90s, MLS brought a sweeping orchestral swagger to the Britpop table. Ironically, their new album ('World Citizen', their first in 19 years) is hinted to be a tiny bit rocky.

→ Islington Assembly Hall. Nov 2.

Boy Harsher

Bloody ace noirish '80s goth disco from this synth duo.

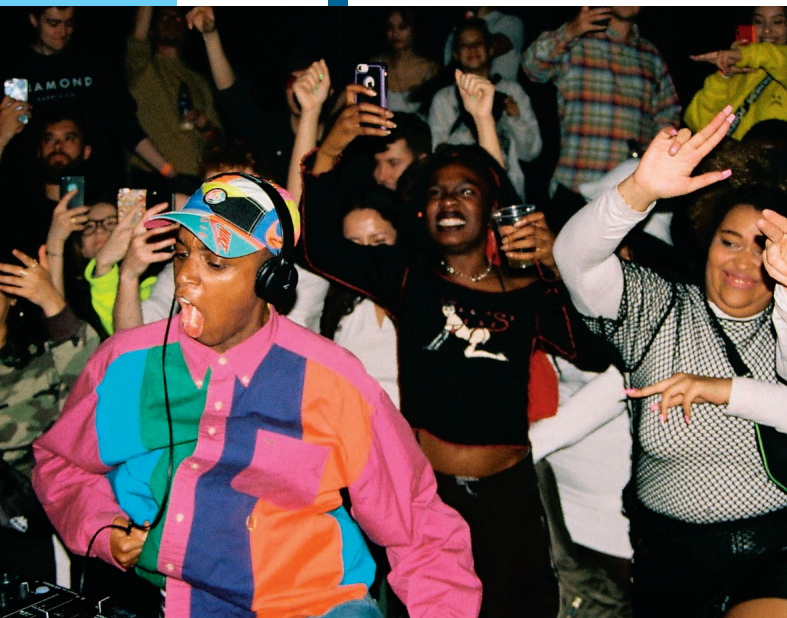
→ Scala. Nov 12.

Celeste

The soulful rising star plays an intimate headline show before she heads off to support Michael Kiwanuka on tour.

→ Omeara. Nov 12.

Buy tickets at timeout.com/gigs



Mall Grab Weekender

Maverick rave-stoking Aussie DJ sensation takes over Hackney Wick's Bloc for two nights of, let's be blunt here, carnage. Guests include Jensen Interceptor, Eclair Fifi and Loods.
→ Bloc. Nov 16.

YG x Ty Dolla \$ign

The two US hip hop stars bring their co-headlining 'Go Brazy' tour to the UK.
→ O2 Academy Brixton. Dec 2.

Madness

The nutty men play three intimate shows just before Christmas. It will literally be, as the

kids say, a madness.
→ Roundhouse. Dec 15-17.

Bombay Bicycle Club

The band have just announced new album, 'Everything Else Has Gone Wrong', for January.
→ Alexandra Palace. Feb 7 2020.

GREGORY PORTER: ENIK UMPHERY



Gregory Porter

The Grammy-winning jazz singer gets ready to become the lord of South Ken. He's booked in a remarkable four-night residency at one of London's most iconic venues. Let's hope he brings the tux for maximum 'jazz Bond' vibes!
→ Royal Albert Hall. May 19-20, 22-23 2020.

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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH Objekt

Okay, let's do this: shoot.

Objekt is a shining example of the kind of artist you know you'll still be talking about in 20 years. The Berlin-based DJ and producer, known to his family by the incomparably cool name TJ Hertz, spent the '00s mining avant-techno, electro and the nebulous 'bass music' genre to construct a sound that's both experimental and proudly designed for the club.

Sounds cerebral...

Not necessarily. While his excellent 2018 LP, 'Cocoon Crush', could be mistaken for an Isaac Asimov ASMR project, Hertz also has a line of jittery-yet-compulsive bangers, best represented by the breaky 2017 anthem 'Theme from Q' or the era-defining 'Ganzfeld' – one of the best-loved club releases of the decade.

I heard he has a talented Bulgarian friend also...

Something like that. Over the summer, a clutch of DJs hammered two tracks that are apparently the 'inspiration' for 'Theme from Q'. According to Hertz and fellow DJ, Call Super, the tunes were anthems at a mysterious, now-defunct Berlin club called Basement Q, and are the work of the venue's owner DJ Bogdan. No trace of Basement Q remains, and Bogdan has reportedly retired to Bulgaria where he now spends his days breeding horses. There's a Pulitzer in the making for the enterprising soul who gets to the bottom of this.

So what are his own DJ sets like?

While his productions are essential, Objekt's reputation is rooted in his skill in the club. Hertz is an exceptionally technically gifted DJ, but he's anything but clinical. He's just as likely to pull out spacious techno as he is acid anthems or warped garage, stitching together unexpected threads at every turn. Expect a heap of sheer, unabashed fun.

What's next?

Hertz is currently on the road with his first ever live show, an audiovisual collaboration with multidisciplinary artist Ezra Miller. Expect them to fire synapses you didn't even know you had. ■ *Josh Hall*

→ Objekt x Ezra Miller is at Islington Town Hall on Thu Sep 12.
 ⊖ Highbury & Islington.

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Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Lukowski
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THE BIG REVIEW

A Very Expensive Poison



HOW CAN WE tell true stories when the truth is so much messier than the stories we make up? How can you craft satisfying narratives about a world in which deluded idiots are an existential threat to our democracy and planet, and in which small acts of tremendous bravery don't add up to much?

Lucy Prebble tries to answer these questions in her long-awaited fourth play 'A Very Expensive Poison', which grapples with the inherent absurdity of the state assassination of Russian defector Alexander Litvinenko: poisoned in 2006 via the use of a rare radioactive element.

Based on Luke Harding's journalistic book of the same name, it initially plays a fairly straight bat, despite Prebble's zinger-heavy dialogue.

Ill from what he does not yet know to be radiation poisoning, the superb Tom Brooke's deadpan Alexander is brought into hospital by his resilient wife Marina (MyAnna Buring). Eventually he is questioned by British police, sparking a lengthy flashback to the chaos of '90s Russia, where anti-

corruption officer Alexander falls foul of his bosses after refusing to assassinate flamboyant oligarch Boris Berezovsky.

Hounded by the authorities, Alexander hopes things will change when he gets a new boss. Unfortunately, this is Reece Shearsmith's withering Putin, who has a hilariously awkward first meeting with Alexander in which they engage in a monumentally stilted conversation about a drawing of an arrow.

WHAT IS IT...
Lucy Prebble's metaplay about the poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko.

WHY GO...
It's a surreal and brilliant drama about the madness of our times.

BOOK...
Buy tickets at timeout.com/tickets

→ Old Vic. ⇄ Waterloo.
Until Oct 5. £12-£65.



Did that conversation really happen? Probably not. And it's around this stage that Prebble starts to allow the mounting difficulty in telling this story coherently – is it a thriller? A tragedy? A farce? – to wilfully buckle her play.

The first half concludes with Shearsmith's Putin departing from any likely resemblance to the actual IRL Russian president, instead addressing us directly, with a malevolently amusing speech in which he essentially tells us that carefully curated reality is far better for us than the unfiltered thing.

But a representation of the unfiltered thing is exactly what the second half increasingly tries to give us, as Alexander's idiotic assassins

– preening Andrei (Michael Shaeffler) and dopey Dmitry (Lloyd Hutchinson) – bungle their way around the theatre, while in a more earnest future timeline, Litvinenko and the police try to work out who did it. Meanwhile, Putin sits in a box, adding sarcastic commentary.

It is a strange, funny, eventually very angry piece of theatre. Prebble has bitten off more than she can chew: but she's done so deliberately. Her play dares to mirror the awful absurdity of the world – and then push back against it. ■



By Andrzej Lukowski
Who didn't have room to mention the giant cardboard penis.

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FalsettosLondon.com

Produced on Broadway in 2016 by Lincoln Center Theater, New York City. Playwrights Horizons, Inc. New York City, produced MARCH OF THE FALSETTOS OFF-BROADWAY in 1991 and FALSETTOLAND OFF-BROADWAY in 1992.

Falsettos



WHAT IS IT...
A cult New York musical getting a long-anticipated UK premiere.

WHY GO...
For a look at a gay family that's way ahead of its time.

→ The Other Palace.
↻ Victoria. Until Nov 23.
£19.50-£65.

WHEN IT PREMIERED in 1992, cult gay musical 'Falsettos' struck all the right notes with Broadway audiences, winning two Tony Awards. It hasn't been revived much since, perhaps because its gorgeous songs are matched with a wayward story. And this UK premiere doesn't do much to make sense of its strangeness.

Written by William Finn and James Lapine, it plunges straight into a fascinating but often befuddling world of neuroses and romantic entanglements, set against a backdrop of Jewish traditions. It's 1979, and Marvin, his wife Trina and his lover Whizzer are living in a miserable *ménage à trois*; it's all for the benefit of ten-year-old Jason, who'd rather play chess than watch his parents checkmate each other.

This bouncy, primary-coloured production doesn't do justice to the story's nuanced emotional shades of irrational jealousy and thwarted longings. It's a very New York, very Jewish story but somehow it all feels a bit ersatz. Still, 'Falsettos' grows in fluency and poignancy as it tackles the '80s Aids crisis; Albert Attack is precocious but never cloying as Jason, preparing for an unexpectedly sombre bar mitzvah.

'Falsettos' deserves to be better known; ultimately, its prophetic explorations of queer family ring out, even if this staging feels a little off-key. ■ Alice Saville



A Midsummer Night's Dream



WHAT IS IT...
An immersive version of Shakespeare's classic, in the basement of Ally Pally.

WHY GO...
Behind the bells and whistles, it's a genuinely good take on the play.

→ Alexandra Palace.
Alexandra Palace rail. Until Sep 28. £28.50. £23 concs.

IN 1936, THE fledgling BBC broadcast its first transmissions from a converted wing of Alexandra Palace. Immersive theatre specialists Rift's new take on 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' – staged in Ally Pally's cavernous basements – references this. The costumes are 1930s-inspired, and the play begins as if being filmed by the BBC. It's a nice idea, though it feels like it could have been pushed further.

Still, as an adaptation of one of Shakespeare's most famous comedies, this is game and sparky. Phoebe Naughton is particularly good as a brittle, highly strung Helena. She finds a foil in Dewi Sarginson's assertive Hermia. Their fight scene, which sees them charging like wounded bulls at one another across the room, hilariously shows the two suitors up as foppish, nervous men barely able to match them.

Henry Maynard's Bottom is hysterically funny, a bristling blimp oozing am-dram self-importance. He has a natural rapport with the audience, particularly in the more interactive scenes, and elicits the deepest belly laughs.

Rift's production is a charming curiosity, but I'd hoped for a little more from the company that gave us such ambitious projects as an overnight 'Macbeth' in the Balfour Tower. By contrast, this is just a little insipid. ■ Ka Bradley



EXCLUSIVE

'HEARTBEAT OF HOME'



A vibrant new dance show from the makers of 'Riverdance' – this spectacle at the Piccadilly Theatre takes inspiration from Irish, Latin, Hip Hop, Afro-Cuban and contemporary dance. And tickets are from just £15. Playing until October 13.

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TIME OUT MEETS

Alexander Zeldin

PLAYWRIGHT AND director Zeldin has gone from obscurity to major rising star after his devastating 2014 fringe play about zero-hours contracts 'Beyond Caring' was snapped up by the National Theatre. Follow-up 'Love', about temporary housing, was staged by the NT and had a David Schwimmer-produced TV production. Now the foremost theatrical chronicler of the age of austerity, he ends his NT trilogy with 'Faith, Hope and Charity', set in an ailing community centre.

Did you always plan to do a trilogy?
'I like thinking of things in threes. They don't follow on from each other but definitely there is a theme in these plays of people fragilised – I know that's not a word – by this system we're now living in.'

What is it actually about?
'My story is about a woman called Hazel, played by Cecilia Noble, who has been putting on a lunch for 25 years for people in need. These lunches and foodbanks and catering for people in need have gone up exponentially in the last few years. What does that mean for the moral fibre of our society?'



Is it a problem that you write theatre about the very poor but tickets to your shows can be very expensive?
'Yeah. Too expensive. But the reason prices for this are so high is that we can have a lot of cheap tickets.'

Did you have any other ideas for these plays?
'Oh, I had so many false starts. After "Love" I started by looking at the videos of the Grenfell hearings; then I decided to do a play about floods in northern England; then I got interested in the novels of JM Coetzee. But after a while it became clear that I wanted to set something in a community centre, so I visited foodbanks across the country and started to find a common thread.'

How do you think it will be received?
'It's a bigger play than the others: it's longer, it's more ambitious. I want to put myself in danger: I need to feel like this could be a disaster. But I hope we'll be ready!'
■ *Interview by Andrzej Lukowski*
→ 'Faith, Hope and Charity' is at the National Theatre, Dorfman. ☹ Waterloo. Until Oct 12. £15-£61.

Hansard



NOT EVERY ASPIRING playwright gets their debut performed on the National Theatre's Lyttelton stage. But actor Simon Woods has. And while I suppose that's vindicated by the fact 'Hansard' is mostly sold out, it does feel over-promoted.

The year is 1988, the setting is the large Cotswolds home of Tory MP Robin Hesketh (Alex Jennings) and his – oo-er! – left-wing wife Diana (Lindsay Duncan). He spends a lot of time away on parliamentary business. She is angry, bored and drinks a lot. The first hour or so is basically 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' with the subtlety surgically removed and replaced by laboured '80s political references.

I found it fairly stressful: Robin and Diana simply tear smiling strips off each other for the whole time, in a reasonably witty but very unrealistic depiction of a marriage that has foundered into



WHAT IS IT...
Drama about the fractious marriage of a Tory MP and his lefty wife.

WHY GO...
Excellent performances from Alex Jennings and Lindsay Duncan.

→ National Theatre, Lyttelton. ☹ Waterloo. Until Nov 25. £20-£89.

exposition-heavy, not-even-that-passive aggression. About the only thing the Heskeths don't talk about is their son, a subject they dance around so torturously that a BIG REVEAL feels inevitable.

Yet when it rolls round, Simon Godwin's production kicks up a gear. All the exhausting sniping and the

clodhopping political references go, and 'Hansard' becomes a moving, even slightly beautiful drama about two people whose lives have been paralysed by grief. It still wheezes a bit, but it's enough for Jennings and Duncan to get their teeth into, and the play ends with a delicacy undreamt of in the first hour.

'Hansard' is solid enough in the end. But with the NT still off its targets for work by living female writers and writers of colour, was a middling play by a white dude the best use of this slot? A starry cast has ensured a sell-out, but the writing isn't really ready for this theatre. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Don Giovanni

Kasper Holten's bold monochrome take on Mozart's tragicomedy.
→ Royal Opera House.
⊖ Covent Garden. Until Oct 10.
£9-£190.

Heartbeat of Home

Cooked up by the producers of 'Riverdance', this show blends Irish dance with salsa and hip hop.
→ Piccadilly Theatre.
⊖ Piccadilly Circus.
Until Oct 13. £27.50-£100.

Fame

Dig out the legwarmers: the exhilarating '80s musical is back in London on its thirtieth anniversary tour.
→ Peacock Theatre. ⊖ Holborn.
Until Oct 19. £18-£65.

Mythos A Trilogy: Gods. Heroes. Men.

Stephen Fry's first UK tour in 40 years is an evening of typically erudite national treasure-ising.
→ London Palladium.
⊖ Oxford Circus. Fri Sep 13-
Sep 17. £31.50-£99.50.

Variant 31

Billed as 'Europe's largest immersive survival experience' this massive,



'The King of Hell's Palace'

zombie-filled show aims to throw you inside a horror movie.
→ Space 18. ⊖ Holborn.
Until Dec 31. From £55.

OFF-WEST END

All of Me

Caroline Horton's terrifyingly bleak, brilliant solo show.
→ The Yard Theatre. Hackney
Wick Overground. Until Sep 28.
£15-£17.

Amsterdam

Playwright Maya Arad Yasur's unsparing look at the city's role in the Holocaust, and its hidden Jewish history.
→ Orange Tree Theatre.
⊖ Richmond. Until Oct 12.
£15-32.

Anna Bella Eema

An American gothic fantasy by Lisa D'Amour.
→ Arcola Theatre. Dalston
Junction Overground. Until
Oct 12. £12-£22.

Conspiracy

Hyped young company Barrel Organ's edgy look at truths and mistruths, spun through real-life conspiracy theories.
→ New Diorama Theatre.
⊖ Great Portland Street. Until
Oct 5. £16, £3 JSA previews.

A Doll's House

Rachel O'Riordan's big, bold first season in charge of the Lyric Hammsmith kicks off with a new take on Ibsen's masterpiece,

adapted by Tanika Gupta for a setting in imperial Calcutta.
→ Lyric Hammsmith.
⊖ Hammsmith. Until Oct 5.
£10-£42.

The Dong with a Luminous Nose

This deeply surreal puppet show for older kids and adults is based on Edward Lear's nonsense poem about growing up.
→ Little Angel Theatre.
⊖ Angel. Sat Sep 14-Nov 10.
£8-£14, £8-£12 concs.

The King of Hell's Palace

Roxana Silbert kicks things off with a new thriller by Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig, which tells a true story of the illicit trade of blood in rural China.
→ Hampstead Theatre.
⊖ Swiss Cottage. Until Oct 12.
£10-£37.

Preludes

Penned by 'Natasha Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812'

scribe Dave Malloy, this musical is an eclectic look at legendary composer Rachmaninoff's time in hypnotherapy.
→ Southwark Playhouse.
⊖ Borough. Until Oct 12.
£27.50, £22 concs.

Shida

Jeannette Bayardelle's one-woman musical is a coming-of-age story that follows the title character on her journey to adulthood, via the Bronx and a prestigious college.
→ The Vaults. ⊖ Waterloo.
Wed Sep 11-Oct 13. £15-£40.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS

AT TIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 The Book of Mormon

The deathlessly funny bad-taste musical.
→ Prince of Wales Theatre. Until Dec 7.

2 Come from Away

This big-hearted Canadian folk musical is a beaut.
→ Phoenix Theatre. Until Feb 15 2020.

3 Bitter Wheat

Your last chance to see John Malkovich's stage return.
→ Garrick Theatre. Until Sep 21.

4 The Night of the Iguana

Clive Owen stars.
→ Noël Coward Theatre. Until Sep 28.

5 The Play That Goes Wrong

Enduring metatheatrical larks.
→ Duchess Theatre. Until May 3 2020.

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

What Girls Are Made Of

Cora Bissett's hit gig-theatre show about her days in an indie band.
→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham
Court Rd. Until Sep 28. £12-£28.

LAST CHANCE

The Bridges of Madison County

Jenna Russell stars in this musical romance.
→ Menier Chocolate Factory.
⊖ London Bridge. Until Sat
Sep 14. £39.50-£57.50.

Loads more London theatre listings at timeout.com/theatre

EXCLUSIVE

Save 30 percent on tickets to 'Aladdin and the Feast of Wonders' – a theatrical dining experience with a five-course meal in the quirky Vaults of Waterloo. Tickets from £21.

TIMEOUT.COM/WONDERS

Art

Edited by Eddy Franke!
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

SHOW OF THE WEEK

Thabiso Sekgala: 'Here Is Elsewhere'



THABISO SEKGALA'S STORY is only half-told. The South African photographer came to his medium late, aged 27, and left it early, taking his own life in 2014 at just 33. So what you see across these walls are only the beginnings of an artist.

He captures scenes from the South African homelands – rural towns built to house the country's black communities – alongside mining towns, the Middle East and Berlin.

The same features reappear constantly: houses, fences, gates and crumbling walls. They're the architecture of a home, but also of division, of containment and separation. It's where people live and where people are forced to live. Umbrellas pop up

a lot too, shading their holders from the rain and sun, perfect portable shelters.

Sekgala's aesthetic is soft, grainy and analogue. These are parched grounds, landscapes saturated with heat and colour. Everything is calm, considered. Sekgala's art is about belonging to and navigating the world. Only the portraits let

him down: too staged, lacking – for the most part – in his usual subtle fierceness.

The early works are better than the later ones, full of the naïve freedom of youth and inexperience. Sekgala's images are not brilliant, but they are the beginnings of brilliance, they're just half the story, and it's a story that we'll never get to see unfold properly. ■

Eddy Franke!

WHAT IS IT...

Gorgeous photography by a young artist who died too soon.

WHY GO...

Sekgala had a genuine knack for properly affecting art.

→ Hayward Gallery.
↻ Waterloo. Until Oct 6.
Free.





Cui Jie: 'The Peak Tower'



VICTORIA PEAK IS the highest point on Hong Kong Island and the place to head if you want to flood Instagram with panoramic shots of Victoria Harbour. Cui Jie, however, doesn't want to look at the view from the peak, she wants to look at the place you view from.

Over the past 100 years or so, three structures have been constructed. The current one, a space-age pavilion designed by Terry Farrell in 1997 features prominently in Cui's latest series of large-scale paintings.

Two things are disarming. First, the oddness of viewing a viewing platform. Second, the slightly nauseating un-naturalism of the colours. Cui paints in bright mauves, artificial peaches and that minty turquoise beloved of 1950s fridges. These are anti-landscape colours, shades speaking of shiny interiors, not vast tree-dotted scenery.

This is ideal, because the artist isn't interested in the natural world, she's interested in humans leaving their imprint on it. It's fascinating, but Cui's paintings are almost too good at recreating the aluminium-clad world of peopleless buildings. You get a view, but not any thrill of emotion – and isn't that why everyone puffs up the hill? ■
Rosemary Waugh

WHAT IS IT...
Neatly conceptual paintings of viewing platforms.

WHY GO...
This is art about looking, and it looks pretty good.

→ Pilar Corrias.
⊖ Oxford Circus.
Until Sep 25. Free.

'Made Routes: Mapping and Making'



WALKING INTO THE gallery is like stumbling on a hoard of lost treasures. Old maps, browned and aged, line the walls, the heady scent of pungent spice fills your nostrils.

This duo show of South African artists Vivienne Koorland and Berni Searle drags you into a world of closed borders, dark hinterlands and the ever-present shadow of colonial history.

Koorland's maps shows the flora and fauna of Africa, over-printed with the names of distant towns and cities: Lagos, Kinshasa, Abidjan. There's a knowing sense of displacement to the work, of boundaries and borders, of black and white, of imperialism and oppression; whatever these are maps of, it's nothing good.

Searle's works dig in the same thematic mine. A pentagonal shape on the floor is based on the earliest colonial building in South Africa, the Castle of Good Hope. Its red pigment is paprika, its nasty, sharp angles are a defence against invaders. It stinks, it's fragile, and it brilliantly alludes to a whole history of trade war and imperialism. The associated video is less good: a little dull, a little ugly.

But taken together, this show feels like an important, good thing: we *should* be considering our borders, our maps, our identity. That's one of the things art is for, and we should be damn glad that Koorland and Searle are doing it. ■ Eddy Frankel

WHAT IS IT...
Two South African artists united by a need to question and critique.

WHY GO...
It's perfect art for considering our troubled times.

→ Richard Saltoun Gallery.
⊖ Green Park. Until Sep 26. Free.



THREE SHOWS YOU HAVE TO SEE

Still on and still great



Mike Nelson: 'The Asset Strippers'

Monster-sized machine parts transformed into sculptures reflecting on the landscape of a crumbling Britain.

→ Tate Britain. ⊕ Pimlico. Until Oct 6. Free.



Leonardo Da Vinci: 'A Life in Drawing'

Breathtakingly beautiful drawings of the world in miniature.

Forget the 'Mona Lisa', these are the Leonardos to see.

→ The Queen's Gallery. ⊕ Green Park. Until Oct 13. £13.50, concs available.



Olafur Eliasson: 'In Real Life'

Environmentalism is rarely as fun as playing in a giant kaleidoscope. Marvel at the mirrors, then get serious about recycling.

→ Tate Modern. ⊕ Southwark. Until Jan 5 2020. £18, concs available.

INSTALLATION VIEW OF 'THE ASSET STRIPPERS' AT TATE BRITAIN, 2018. PHOTO: KATE MATT GREENWOOD; ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST. ⊕ HERMA JESTY; QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 2019; OLAFUR ELIASSON; 'STARDUST PARTICLE' (2014). ⊕ OLAFUR ELIASSON. PHOTO: JENS ZIEHE; WONG PING IMAGE COURTESY OF EDUARD WALINGUE GALLERY AND THE ARTIST.

LAST CHANCE



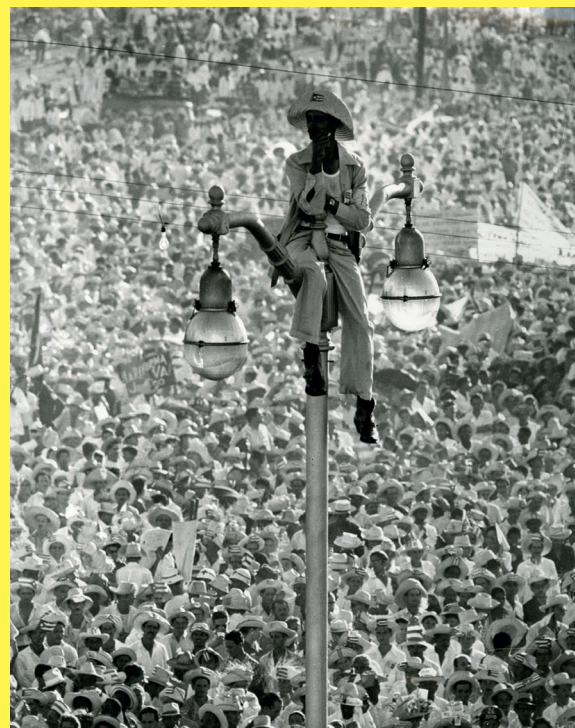
Wong Ping: 'Heart Digger'

These are brutal, sexual, violent animated video fairytales. But there's no Red Riding Hood here. Instead, Wong Ping creates a world of throbbing cocks, aborted fetuses and mistreated OAPs.

→ Camden Arts Centre. ⊕ Finchley Rd. Until Sep 15. Free.

Latin American Photography Season

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY



Alberto Korda, The Quixote of the street lamp, Cuba, 1959 © Alberto Korda Estate

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Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

Up in smoke

Middle Eastern restaurants are all the rage. Here's our pick of the best places to eat all those big, flame-licked flavours



Rovi

BabaBoom

Like a pomegranate-coloured jewel glittering among the local chains, this cool joint serves the real Middle Eastern deal from a charcoal grill. Portions are big and fillings are off-piste (beef brisket with pork kofta and pickled chillies, say). Don't forget to get the dangerously addictive dukkah whitebait, and check out its Islington branch, too.
→ 30 Battersea Rise, SW11 1EE. Clapham Junction rail.

The Barbary

If you love The Palomar, you'll also be smitten by its sibling The Barbary – a fizzing eatery filled with smoky aromas, music and laughter. Be prepared to wait for a stool at the bar, where punters gorge on Israeli-born dishes and ideas gleaned from North Africa's Barbary Coast, like the robata-grilled seafood.
→ 16 Neal's Yard, WC2H 9DP. ☉ Covent Garden.

Berber & Q

Noise, smoke, club vibes and a Turkish barbecue are all pulls at this hip grill house in Haggerston's railway arches. Berber's long tables are built for chatting, while the menu has everything from nibbles to bonanza sharing feasts – the cauliflower shawarma is a must-order. Also try the Berber & Q Shawarma Bar in Clerkenwell.
→ 338 Acton Mews, E8 4EA. Haggerston Overground.

Coal Office

From the crew behind the The Palomar and The Barbary, this King's Cross beauty has been brilliantly designed by co-owner Tom Dixon. It's got a thrilling menu packed with the revved-up flavours of modern Jerusalem. Cracking dishes include the jospersed aubergine and Machneyuda's polenta with asparagus and mushroom ragoût.
→ 2 Bagley Walk, N1C 4PQ. ☉ King's Cross.

Rovi

Anything connected to Yotam Ottolenghi gets our vote, and this buzzy offshoot of Soho's Nopi is no exception. The small-plates menu is an absolute blast with its eclectic mishmash of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean food. There's some ravishing veggie stuff here, but the bobby dazzler is a dish of smoked mussels with squid and kimchi.
→ 59 Wells St, W1F 3AE. ☉ Oxford Circus.

Yeni

The London outpost of Istanbul's celebrated Yeni Lokanta is a deliciously atmospheric delight. For fans of contemporary Turkish cuisine, it's top drawer stuff – from the signature manti (dumplings) to the crisp-edged kadayifi (bread pudding) fritters. Not cheap, but so worth it. ■
→ 55 Beak St, W1F 9SH. ☉ Piccadilly Circus.



Yeni

Comptoir Gourmand



SNUGGLED AMONG the dining finery of Bermondsey Street, this bakery is the fourth joint of the family-run Comptoir Gourmand. Inside, it's a shrine to dough – insanely good-looking baked things are enticingly laid out, surrounded by rustic wooden decor.

A croque monsieur came with satisfying griddle marks on the emmental, the creaminess of the cheese teaming up with the salty ham. The ficelle – a thin baguette – was so admirably fine it looked almost wand-like and the filling was ingenious: gooey mozzarella with walnuts, basil, garlic and olive oil. Then, a savoury pain aux poivrons – it looked like a raisin swirl – was a sleeper hit. Simple, sure, but it turns out that weaving bits of red pepper into the spirals of buttery pastry gives off a lovely, refined sweetness.



WHAT IS IT...
A family-run French patisserie in Bermondsey.

WHY GO...
The brionuts (because the cronut is so 2013).

→ 96 Bermondsey St, SE1 3UB. ☎ Borough.

On to the treats. Say bye to the cronut – this place is all about the newer, sexier 'brionut' (a brioche-doughnut). The apple and cinnamon one was a delight: light, sticky and slightly spicy. Next, a pear danish was spot-on, while the lemon tart was lip-smacking – a perfect circle of crisp pastry beneath a cylinder of citrusy custard topped with wispy meringue. It was hard to eat something so beautiful.

Still, this bakery is slightly too small. Getting in on a Saturday lunchtime and finding a spot to stand, let alone sit, was kind of like playing the video game Tetris – only it involved humans instead of geometric shapes and, being humans, we were all madly jostling for space. Best to get your food to go, then. ■ *Ella Braidwood*
Lunch for two with drinks and service: around £35.

EXCLUSIVE
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Sponsored Listing

Going out? Try here.



HOLBORN

HAPPY LAMB HOT POT SAYS:

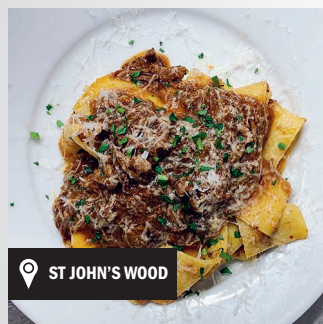
'The Mongolian-style hot pot restaurant, Happy Lamb, just opened its first UK branch, in Holborn. Enjoy thinly sliced lamb, beef and a variety of seafood and vegetables in nourishing chicken-marrow broth (simmered for more than six hours), tomato broth or two other spicy broths. Get 12 percent off food until Sunday (September 15).'
2 New Oxford St, WC1A 1AD.



BLOOMSBURY

BLOOMSBURY STREET KITCHEN SAYS:

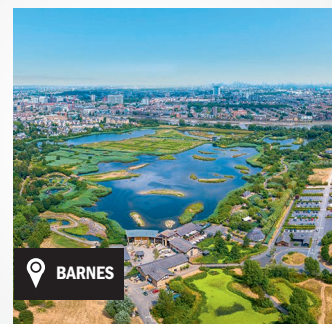
'Discover a new, modern, day-to-night neighbourhood restaurant and bar in the heart of the buzzing West End. Bloomsbury Street Kitchen offers an exquisite selection of contemporary Mediterranean and Japanese small plates, complemented by a diverse variety of wines, sake and signature cocktails.'
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130 Boundary Rd, NW8 0RH



BARNES

LONDON WETLAND CENTRE SAYS:

'Tucked into a loop of the River Thames, the London Wetland Centre is 105 acres of urban wilderness. Watch the exploits of free roaming birds from around the world, meet otters, lizards and wintering ducks, and lose yourself on winding trails. The nearest station is Barnes, which is just nine minutes from Clapham Junction.'
Queen Elizabeth's Walk, SW13 9WT

Drink

Edited by Laura Richards
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink



BAR OF THE WEEK

Black Rock Tavern



WHAT IS IT...
A whisky bar-pub with the look of a Japanese izakaya.

WHY GO...
Highball drinks that take whisky and soda to a whole new level.

→ 9 Christopher St, EC2A
2BS. ☺ Liverpool St.

GOOD THINGS COME in small packages. That's definitely my feeling towards Black Rock, the diminutive whisky bar below ground and on the edge of Shoreditch which opened in 2016. It has space for just 35 yet has a massive following among devotees of the grain. So much so that its owners have tweaked the concept for the attached hotel to accommodate even more of them, with whisky-themed rooms launching later this year. In the meantime, on ground level, hybrid bar-pub Black Rock Tavern has set up shop.

If you're thinking of a wee scotch den full of ruddy-faced Ron Burgundys, think again. The look is more izakaya than a bar worthy of a Highland fling. Red Japanese

scroll paintings filled with manga characters panel dark walls, and reclined seats are comfortably close to the ground – although many punters chose to drink outside on the pavement. But the prime spot is actually one of four seats at the oak-tree bar, behind which two bartenders just about squeeze in.

We initially had to head to the bar to get served, pub-style, but later received friendly table service when things had quietened down. And I was very impressed with the bartender's descriptions of drinks over the noise in the room. Less impressive was the fact that all draught beers except Guinness were off that night – but punters made do with cans of Neck Oil. And I was in for that whisky, anyway.

Funnily enough, scotch, Irish and bourbon dominate over Japanese on the menu. It was the on-trend highball drinks (£10-£11) that I couldn't wait to try. Essentially poshed-up whisky mixers, they were served long over impressive shards of ice and would make for a great introduction to the brown stuff for less avid drinkers. I opted for a Beer Amer (Roe & Co, Amer Picon and lager), a bitter but balanced beauty. It paired nicely with a crumbly veggie haggis sausage roll. The WE&T was another refreshing number, a mix of 12-year-old scotch with oloroso sherry and tonic that should force most people to park their G&T obsession. Looks like Black Rock is about to gain even more loyal followers. ■ Laura Richards



DRINK THIS

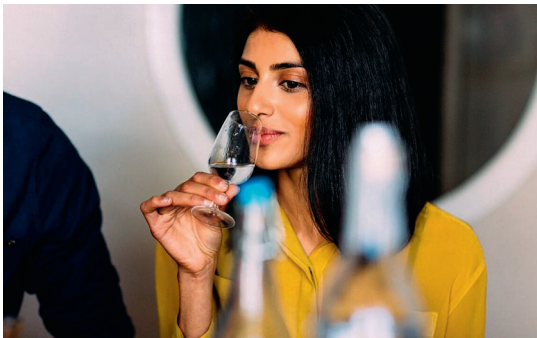
Strawberries & Cream



Ever had a cocktail so good you wanted to lick the glass? You'll probably feel that way about all the drinks on Coupette's new menu. But Strawberries & Cream, in particular, has soft vanilla notes, a silky milk-punch texture and an unparalleled fresh strawb finish from infused eau de vie and rosé vermouth. And with white chocolate smeared on the rim, you can actually lick the glass without getting barred. ■
→ Coupette, 423 Bethnal Green Rd, E2 0AN. ☎ Bethnal Green. £9.50.

THREE OF THE BEST

Bars for a booze education



The Ginstitute

Budding gin-ius? Visit west London's 'gin hotel' for a deep dive into mother's ruin. A museum masterclass takes you through the spirit's chequered past, or blend your own for fast-track training.
→ The Distillery, 186 Portobello Rd, W11 1LA.
☎ Ladbroke Grove. From £60.

Humble Grape

Across five branches find tutored tastings by wine buffs who can chat about tannins without putting you to sleep. Or splash out on a WSET (the body that trains sommeliers, no less) course outside of classroom surrounds.
→ Various venues. Tasting £65. Courses from £195.

TT Liquor

Learn about drinks across the board at TT Liquor – tastings take in anything from beer to gin, rum and whisky. Or get hands-on with cocktail-making, from straightforward shaking to a molecular masterclass. ■
→ 17b Kingsland Rd, E2 8AA. Hoxton Overground. From £55.

More lessons in drinking at timeout.com/bars

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Ts&Cs apply.

Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips



A perfect day in

Wells

Timewarp streets, hilltop walks
and cavernous caves

WELLS SITS PRETTY on the edge of the Mendip Hills, about an hour south of city-break heavyweights Bristol and Bath. One of England's smallest cities – second only to the City of London, fyi – it's perfectly proportioned for a day trip, with each pristine medieval sight an

easy walk from the next. Start at the gorgeous Gothic cathedral, wander over to the moated Bishop's Palace, then tread the cobbles of Vicars' Close, the best-preserved of its kind in the country. Take it easy and embrace this pint-sized city's go-slow feel.

First up

The city might be on the small side, but **Wells Cathedral** is big business – it's the earliest English cathedral to be built in the Gothic style, and it's eye-wateringly gorgeous. Join a free guided tour of the stunning stained glass windows, or get goosebumps listening to choral evensong just after 5pm from Monday to Saturday.

Stop for lunch

Feast on Somerset's finest finger food at the open-air **Wells Farmers' Market**, which fills the Market Place with chutnies and cheddar every Wednesday and Saturday. Still peckish? If you've got a car, it's worth the 20-minute drive up to **The Litton** – a cracking country pub and boutique hotel with a fantastic seasonal menu.

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Go walking. Swot up on the city with Wells Walking Tours. The guided **Heritage Walk** has a good mix of big-name sights and secret gems, and runs every Wednesday morning from The Crown pub. For solo scenery, follow the **Tor Hill circular** walk instead – the views stretch across the Mendip Hills and Glastonbury Tor.

THREE OF THE BEST

Apple picking spots

**Hewitts Farm Bromley**

This pick-your-own paradise has a huge variety of fruit, from vista bella to discovery apples. The farm is easy to reach, too; just a 35-minute train from London Bridge to Knockholt, where it's a short stroll to the orchard. Bring your own bags, fill 'em up and pay according to the weight.

→ www.hewittsfarm.co.uk

**Garsons Esher**

The Disneyland of garden centres, Garsons boasts a farm shop complete with bakery and deli; a restaurant serving produce picked that morning; and a whole lotta pick-your-own fruit and veg. Apples are usually best in September, but check its website to see what's in season.

→ www.garsons.co.uk

**Brogdale Collections Faversham**

There are more than 4,000 varieties of fruit at this vast farm, but don't let that stump you – book a guided tour and taste your way through the best.

You can't go picking unsupervised here, but workshops – like cider-making and pruning – are a chance to get hands-on. ■ *Lucy Lovell*

→ www.brogdalecollections.org



WAKE UP HERE

The Stables



With two lovely bedrooms, pastoral views and – amazingly – an outdoor heated swimming pool, The Stables at The Old Mill House is perfectly placed to explore nearby Wells. Chocolate-chip cookies greet guests on arrival, and homemade soap makes a thoughtful touch. Cooks will appreciate the fully equipped kitchen – especially after a mosey down to Wells Farmers Market, which is impossible to leave empty handed. Need to escape the city to recharge? With a dreamy garden bordered by the river Sheppey, this secluded cottage is the perfect place to do it. ■ *Grace Allen*
→ Dulcote, Somerset. From £90 a night.
www.oldmildulcote.co.uk

Go on an adventure

Ten minutes from Wells, **Wookey Hole** has underground chambers and caverns galore. There's also top climbing trails at **Cheddar Gorge**.

Drink like a local

With views over the square, **The Crown** is the perfect spot for a pint – and a cheeky portion of West Country mussels. If you're walking the Mendips, **The Fountain Inn** gastropub makes a classy stop-off.

Splash the cash

You'll find cute antiques and vintage shops on **Priest Row** and **St Cuthbert Street**. A ticket to **The Bishop's Palace** is also money well spent. ■ *Katie Gregory*

→ Get there: two hours 40 minutes by train from London Waterloo to Castle Cary, then bus; four hours by car.

Find more fruity getaways at timeout.com/daytrips

Advertisement feature



5 Reimagine
Picture this: central London, from St Paul's to Aldgate, London Bridge to Moorgate, completely car-free. It's nearly unfathomable, but that's the whole point of this brand new event to celebrate World Car Free Day. This one-day festival will fill 20km of traffic-free roads with free live music, performances, bike rides, dance classes, kids activities and more. We hope this is what the future looks like.

→ Sun Sep 22. Central London, see online map for car-free zone. Free.

6 London Design Festival
The 17th edition of the nine-day contemporary design love-in returns to London once more this September, with British designer Paul Cockledge's mammoth landmark creation taking centre stage in Broadgate's Finsbury Avenue Square. There will also be 11 'design districts' and more than 400 events happening across the city.

→ Sep 14-22, various venues. Free.

7 Totally Thames
The Thames is the heartbeat of London, so it's only right that there's a month-long annual celebration every September to highlight the (often unexpected) roles it has played throughout the capital's history. There will also be performances in a subterranean space beneath Tower Bridge, guided 'Moonlit Mudlarking' sessions and a regatta featuring rowing, kayaking, canoeing and stand-up paddle

boarding. Things are going to get a little weird, too: out at Valence House Museum in Dagenham, 'The Barking Stink: A Scented Heritage Exhibition' will tell the story of of Barking's industrial past through – you guessed it – smell. (Spoiler: Barking's reputation for its strong scent came from its fisheries.)

→ Sep 1-30. Various locations, most events free, some ticketed.

8 Affordable Art Fair
Now in its 20th year, the Affordable Art Fair is making its way back to Battersea for four days, and will be offering up portraits, paintings and prints that won't burn a hole in your pocket. A programme packed with workshops, talks and fascinating live art demonstrations comes free with your ticket, so be prepared to unleash your creativity.

→ Oct 17-20, Battersea Evolution. From £11.
Getting there Circle or District line to Sloane Square.

9 Brixton Windmill tours
It may surprise you, but in a small park off Brixton Hill lies London's last working windmill. Although more than 200 years old, the Grade-II listed tower was left dormant between 1934 and 2011, when it underwent a major restoration. When you visit this slice of the countryside in south London, it's possible to take a free guided spin of the windmill and to learn all about its history.

→ Tour dates vary. Free.
Getting there Victoria line to Brixton.



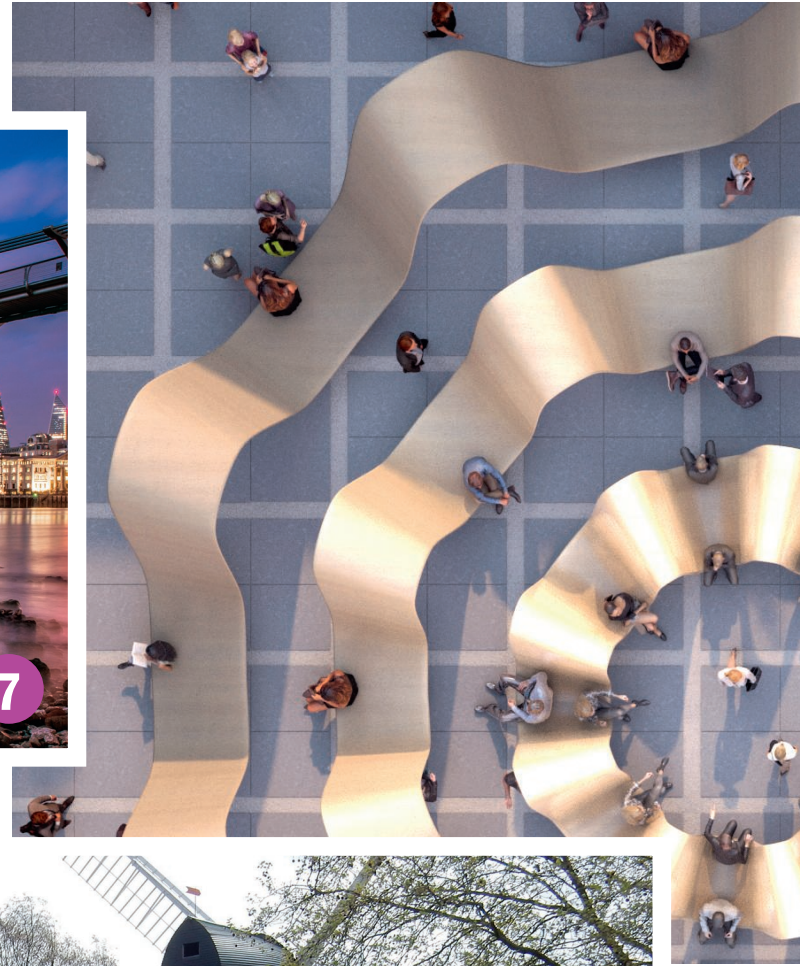
10 Emerge Festival
This new festival looks to turn the idea of 'museum lates' on its head, with two evenings celebrating new talent at 30 'late' events, across different cultural institutions and 11 London boroughs. There is an eclectic mix of events – Victorian-era surgery at the Old Operating Theatre Museum, anyone? – and a wristband gets you into all of them. It's worth venturing beyond Zone 1: Strawberry Hill in Twickenham is hosting a 'Fairytale Gothic Night Garden' and the Horniman Museum and Gardens in Forest Hill will see big headline acts on Friday evening. So grab your Oyster card, ramp up your curiosity and see how many you can tick off.

→ Sep 27-28, various venues. Tickets from £15.

11 Wimbledon BookFest
The ten-day celebration of all things related to reading returns to Wimbledon this October, with the biggest festival yet. More than 100 events will take place – from readings to roll-on-the-floor laughter at stand-up shows. But among the conversations with celebrity chefs and retired sports stars, there are a number of talks and performances dedicated solely to the climate emergency, and what we as Londoners can do to reduce our impact on the environment. Oh, and did we mention the 'Intellectual Speed Dating' session?

→ Oct 3-13, various venues. Tickets from £7.50.

Getting there District line to Wimbledon.





14 Brunel Museum

Already ticked off London's more popular museums? This spot dedicated to Isambard Kingdom Brunel's epic feats of engineering, and their subsequent impact on London, is worth checking out. Head along to one of the guided walks or arrive in style on the daily Brunel's London Boat Trip.

→ Open daily. £6, £4 concs.

Getting there Overground to Rotherhithe.

15 Osterley Park and House

Make like a lord or a lady of leisure and spend an afternoon wandering the 350 acres of parkland, which surround this eighteenth-century mansion. This National Trust property is going all-out with activities and events over the autumn; you could book in for canoeing on Middle Lake, get bendy at a yoga class in the Entrance Hall, spy flappy friends on a bat walk or even have a go at spoon carving.

→ Open daily. £12.

Getting there Piccadilly line to Osterley.

Remember to check Tfl Journey Planner before you travel.

6

12 We Are All Londoners: Celebrating Our European Culture and Communities

In this free one-day festival, Mayor of London Sadiq Khan will open City Hall for performances, storytelling and film screenings from the diverse European communities who call this city home. There'll also be a panel talk on Brexit and free legal advice for European Londoners.

→ Sat Sep 21. City Hall. Free.

Getting there Jubilee or Northern line to London Bridge.

13 Phoenix Cinema

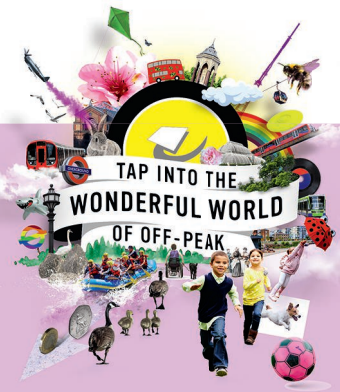
Looking to step back in time during your trip to the flicks? This gorgeous East Finchley cinema is the picture house for you. The single-screen cinema is London's oldest, having been built in 1910. You can catch the latest films, cult favourites, plus National Theatre and Royal Opera House screenings. Make sure you leave time to explore the adjacent gallery.

→ Tickets from £7.

Getting there Northern line to East Finchley.



Advertisement feature



GET THERE FOR LESS!

When embarking on your autumn adventures, it pays to remember that you'll save big when travelling during the wonderful world of off-peak tickets. Off-peak fares apply on Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail services before 6.30am, between 9.30am and 3.59pm, after 7pm on weekdays, and all day at weekends and on public holidays. You can also take advantage of off-peak fares when travelling into Zone 1 (from a station outside Zone 1) between 4pm and 7pm on weekdays. Always touch in and out with the same card or device to pay the right fare. Touch in only on buses and trams. To check a fare, search TfL's single fare finder.

Travel in Zones 2-6 for £1.50

Fare shown is for an adult off-peak pay-as-you-go journey not going via Zone 1 on Tube, DLR and most London Overground services.

Travel into Zone 1 from £2.40

Fare shown is for an adult off-peak pay-as-you-go journey from Zone 2 into Zone 1.

Travel by bus or tram for just £1.50

TfL's Hopper fare lets you take unlimited pay-as-you-go bus and tram journeys within one hour of first touching in for just £1.50.

MAYOR OF LONDON



→ Find plenty more off-peak adventures at [timeout.com/off-peak](https://www.timeout.com/off-peak)

15 ways to uncover London's secrets this autumn

Underground, behind locked doors, on riverbanks and inside unusual museums – there are endless ways to delve deeper into London this season

IF, LIKE US, you spent much of the summer chilling out in parks, dipping into lidos and lounging on rooftops, then we've got a challenge for you. This autumn, make it your mission to learn new things about your city. To make it a little easier for you, we've got together with Transport for London to bring you 15 ways to experience your city in a new light. Thanks to TfL's off-peak fares (single adult pay-as-you-go fares start from £1.50), your cultural adventures are more affordable than ever.

1 Hidden London tours

Ever wondered what goes on underground, or fancied discovering the secret abandoned stations that used to be a mainstay on the Tube map? Bag yourself a ticket for one of the London Transport Museum's tours and delve into London's forgotten past – from Winston Churchill's secret Down Street war bunker to Euston's labyrinth of lost tunnels. And that's

not all: stay tuned for their new Hidden London exhibition, which opens on October 11 at London Transport Museum.

→ Various venues and times. Tour tickets from £35.

2 Diwali on Trafalgar Square

Arts, crafts and South-East Asian food will return to the centre of London this November to mark the celebrations for the Festival of Lights. There will be plenty of live performances throughout the free festivities, including a mix of traditional religious and contemporary Asian music and dance, while you can expect things to really come to life after dark.

→ Nov 3. Trafalgar Square. Free.

Getting there Bakerloo or Northern line to Charing Cross.





2

3 Open House London

Now in its 27th year, this annual weekend lets Londoners go behind the closed doors of some of the capital's most secret addresses, for free. More than 800 buildings across all 32 London boroughs take part. Tickets for some, such as Number 10 Downing Street, are only available through a ballot, but the majority just require you to queue. Our tip: go for some of the lesser-known options outside central London; last year's highlights included Crystal Palace Subway and Buddhapadipa Temple in Wimbledon.

→ Sep 21-22, various venues. Free.

4 Leytonstone Loves Film

Waltham Forest's London Borough of Culture 2019 event series is partnered with the Barbican for this epic free weekend, celebrating Leytonstone's cinematic history. (Hitchcock was born there, don'tcha know?). There'll be films popping up in unexpected places, free screenings of work by local makers featuring local residents, plus installations, talks and workshops – check the website closer to the date for more info.

→ Sep 27-29, various venues in Leytonstone. Free.
Getting there Overground to Leytonstone.



4

TimeOut

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