

TimeOut

LONDON



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This week's Time Out
in no time at all

London Film Festival

One of the 345 films showing is
Armando Iannucci's extraordinary
take on 'David Copperfield'

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Oh, snap!

Photographer Tim Walker's
fantastical V&A show gets
the big five stars from us

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Creep show

Get some pan-fried crickets and
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at these insect-heavy eateries

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Emerge festival

A new culture lates fest is taking over
more than 40 museums and galleries
for a weekend of gigs, talks and tarot

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London has some brilliant sex-positive
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helping to broaden the scene

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Hello, London

Phil de Semlyen
Global Film Editor
@phildesemlyen



London's moviegoing scene has never been in ruder health. New cinemas are popping up across the city, the grand historic ones have been given a lick of paint and these days there's a film club for just about everyone. So it's the perfect time for the most exciting-looking London Film Festival line-up in years. It kicks off next week and, to mark the occasion, we've gone behind the scenes of some of the city's favourite cinemas (p20), tracked down Soho's visual effects geniuses (p31) and put together a handy calendar of the LFF movies to get your peepers in front of (p83). Streaming, schmeaming!

YOU SAID IT

What you've been rating and hating online

We recently told you about Gelateria Danieli in Richmond. They made delicious ice cream for the Queen's eightieth birthday. But where are your minds? They are in the gutter, that's where.

'Is gelateria a Latin word for vagina?'

Lee R via Twitter

What language do you think 'vagina' is, Lee? Meanwhile, guess who's playing the Eventim Apollo next March? Whitney Houston!

Wait. A hologram of Whitney Houston! One reader has a point. **'Are they charging a full price ticket to see a hologram, lol.'**

Gillian M via Facebook

Pay with hologram cash! Newsflash:

Thursday is National Dumpling Day (isn't every day?). Loads of Chinatown restaurants are giving away 2,000 of the magical parcels starting at noon. How to be there?

"Hi, yes, I need to take the day off work for a religious holiday..."

Lauren S via Facebook

Staying with food, one of our most popular offers is bottomless brunch at Japanese restaurant Roka. If there's anything that is the most London thing ever, it's drinking against the clock on a weekend.

'Two hours of wine is a dangerous game...'

Zara M via Facebook

COMMENT OF THE WEEK

Last week, thousands of Londoners took part in the Global Climate Strike. There's no arguing with *this* emergency.

'On one hand, we have decades of research and experiments which point to man being the cause of impending global catastrophe. On the other, we have slack-jawed yokels who don't know the difference between climate and weather, but "know" that climate change is bollocks because "it snowed last January". I just don't know who to believe.'

Geoff C via Facebook

Yeah. Normally we'd stick a joke in here, but... this week we won't. No debate from us.

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MAKE TODAY YOUR 'SOMEDAY.'

Delta connects London to over 200 U.S. destinations
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KEEP CLIMBING



DELTA



You wouldn't think the humble leaf could cause so much trouble. The once lush trees of spring and summer slowly fade, through shades of yellow and orange, to brown, before their leaves fall gracefully to the ground.

Winds carry them towards the railway line, where the rush of air from passing trains pulls them directly onto the tracks, where they are crushed to a pulp.

Leaves are made up of around 80% water, with the rest made up of a complex combination of other substances including pectin, cellulose, and a type of fatty acid that, when compressed, have a lubricating effect.

When this happens on train tracks, it's essentially like coating them with Teflon, and the steel wheels struggle to grip the steel tracks. Braking distance can more than double, with trains taking up to 1000 metres to stop.

The wet mulch also messes with the electrical signals used to keep track of where all the trains are on the network.

This combination of issues leads to a potentially dangerous situation, so to be on the safe side, we need to move more slowly and occasionally miss out the odd

station along the route to make up time.

We know that this can be frustrating, but please bear with us. We have special

leaf-busting treatment trains

running throughout autumn that clean the rails using water jets and then apply a sand-based gel to them to help trains grip the rails.

And teams working around the clock using specialist machines to clean the railhead (the top of the rails). It's an arduous task, but trust us, we're on it and working hard to minimise disruptions to your journeys.

LEAFY TROUS

This autumn we'll be clearing 50 million leaves from the line to keep trains running on time.

City life

Edited by James Manning
@timeoutlondon

Tokyo on Thames

IN JAPAN, MATSURI festivals are held throughout the year. Filled with intricate costumes, performances and elaborate floats, they're thrown by almost every local area, and people spend weeks getting ready for the celebrations. This Sunday, for the eleventh year on the trot, London's own Matsuri takes over Trafalgar Square for a day of Japanese culture. It's essentially a huge carnival with two stages filled with dancing, live music and martial arts, plus calligraphy workshops and a giant manga wall. Oh, and outrageously tasty street food: think gyoza, okonomiyaki pancakes, bento boxes and kakigori (shaved ice drenched in sweet syrup). Just make sure to leave enough room for some matcha ice cream afterwards. The action kicks off at 10am, with the party continuing through until 8pm. Best of all, it's completely *muryō*. That's Japanese for 'free'. ■ *El Hunt*

→ Trafalgar Square. ☉ Charing Cross. Sun Sep 29. Free.
www.japanmatsuri.com



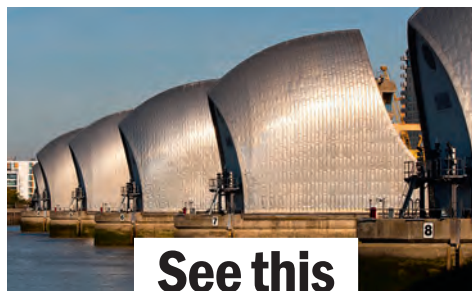
THE ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



Drink this

This year we named the Aegean Negroni at Athens's **The Clumsies** the best cocktail in the world. Now you can try it in London: the bar takes over **The Churchill Bar & Terrace** from Monday.



See this

Sack off your Sunday brunch and go to see the **Thames Barrier** in action as the huge defences that protect London from flooding get their annual test. Way more exciting than a fire drill.



Eat this

Half-price pizza klaxon! The dough-slingers at **Yard Sale** are opening a new joint on Hackney Road, and you can get 50 percent off until Saturday – including on their brand new calzones.

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

OI, SADIQ!



What are you doing to help London's businesses make a social impact?

THIS YEAR, WE'RE giving some of our favourite Londoners the chance to put one big question to the Mayor. **Alex Head** is the founder of **Social Pantry**, a catering company that runs a string of restaurants and cafés and works to employ and rehabilitate ex-offenders. She wants to know what the Mayor can do to help the small social enterprises that are making London a better place for everyone.

Alex 'Oi, Sadiq! There are so many businesses in London that are making a real impact. At Social Pantry, ten percent of my workforce are ex-offenders. We support our employees with housing, opening up bank accounts, and even getting the bus. I love doing it, but the cost for a small company is huge. How can City Hall support small businesses like us that are making a contribution to society?'

Sadiq 'Here's something lots of people don't know: more than half of Londoners work for a small or medium-sized business. It's important that City Hall supports small enterprises, and we're also lobbying the government to

introduce more tax relief and to lower business rates. We've been successful in getting councils to reduce rates on social enterprises too.'

Alex 'The ex-offenders we work with are talented, ambitious and hardworking. I tell that to big companies, and some of them are starting to sit up and listen. These big players have huge resources they could use to make a difference. But all their targets are financial, not social.'

Sadiq 'Londoners are savvy, though. If there are two options where the prices are broadly similar, and one is doing a socially good thing, people will choose that – so there's a business case for doing good. And it's brilliant what you're doing: you're teaching soft life skills as well as technical kitchen skills. I know that's not cheap, because you're giving up potential money-making time to train somebody.'

Alex 'So what else are you doing to support small businesses?'

Sadiq 'Well, we've set up the Greater London Investment Fund £100m fund to invest in small businesses. We're especially targeting small businesses run by women and ethnic minorities. And I've stolen an idea from San Francisco: we're going to create 1,000 affordable workspaces for small businesses. Whether it's local, regional or national government, this is a good example of where politicians should be helping companies out.' ■

VISIT SOCIAL PANTRY

As well as catering for private events across town, Social Pantry runs four cafés and restaurants: Crane's Kitchen in Peckham, Soane's Kitchen and Pitzhanger Pantry in Ealing, and Social Pantry Café in Battersea. → www.socialpantry.co.uk

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'They're not budgie-smugglers! More like eagle-smugglers.'

'My polyamorous friend has a mullet.'

'It's like we're up the paddle, without a creek!'

'I took one look at his triceps and walked out on the date.'

'That's what you need to get yourself on telly, a big hat.'

'The only fish I eat is scampi – I thought it was chicken until I was 18.'

'This place never has any chocolate pudding, man. So depressing.'

'For years, mum wanted me to have an anorak.'

'I can feel my eggs leaving my body.'

'I've got a lot to do today, but I can't do any of it until I've done it.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

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PITTSBURGH
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Make London Better

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

Discover more ways to make a difference at timeout.com/better



Redemption Roasters

THE UK CONSUMES 95 million cups of coffee a day. With that many house deposits being blown on flat whites, it's worth putting a bit of thought into where you get your daily fix from, because a few London cafés are doing some seriously amazing things with your funds. Here are five we love.

Second Shot

Walk into Second Shot in Bethnal Green and you won't be able to tell if your coffee is made by a barista with years of experience or by somebody working their way out of homelessness. Founder Julius Ibrahim wants to fight the stigma around homelessness by encouraging those who are and aren't sleeping rough to work together in his café. After three years, he's just opened his second shop on Church Street, near Edgware Road – go grab a cup o' joe in support.

→ www.secondshotcoffee.co.uk

Caffeine solutions

Five projects making the capital a better place – with coffee

Redemption Roasters

In 2016, entrepreneur Max Dubiel opened the UK's first prison-based roastery at Aylesbury Prison in Buckinghamshire, which supplies his coffee business Redemption Roasters. He also runs barista academies for 18- to 21-year-olds across three UK prisons, and those who 'graduate' have gone on to work at Redemption's coffee shops across London after leaving prison, as well as other cafés not affiliated with the scheme. Call it a coffee break?

→ www.redemptionroasters.com

My Jamii Café

In 2014, down in the Honor Oak area of south-east London, voluntary youth workers Sam and Zoe opened My Jamii (which means 'community' in Swahili) to give young people with learning difficulties or mental health

problems a place to develop their employability and social skills. Some work in the café for long periods of time, some move on more quickly, but everyone has a place until they have another job to go to.

→ www.myjamiicafe.com



Paper & Cup

This secondhand bookshop and café in Shoreditch runs work experience schemes for people who are suffering from homelessness or substance addiction, but looking for a support network and a steady job. Supported by the Spitalfields Crypt Trust, it offers courses as well as accommodation through the charity's hostel, while exhibitions are held in the café every couple of months to showcase local talent and raise further funds. Beats latte art any day.

→ www.paperandcup.co.uk

Cafe from Crisis

Back in 2004, Cafe from Crisis became the first of its kind, offering people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, the opportunity to either train as a barista or a chef. It has recruited 100 trainees so far this year. ■

Charley Ross

→ www.crisis.org.uk



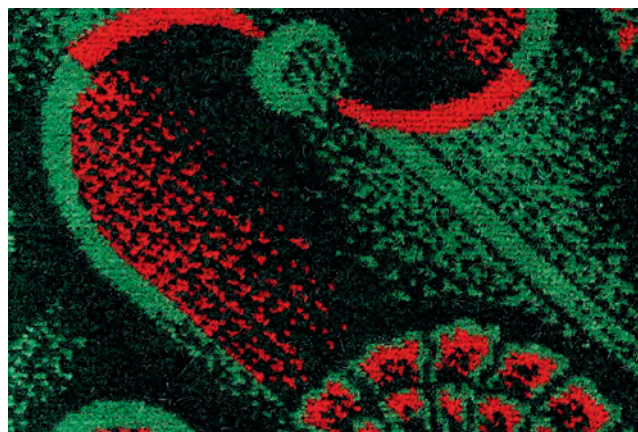
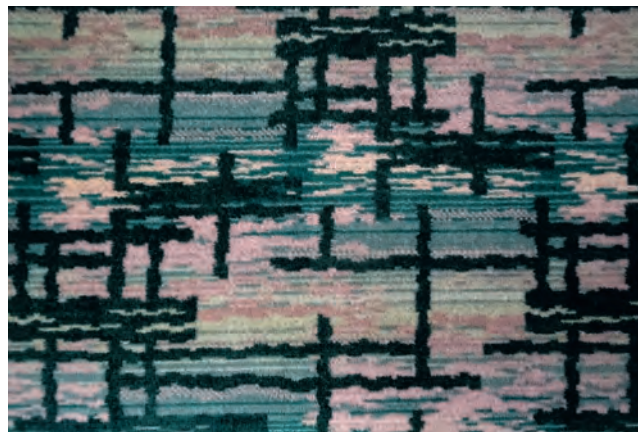
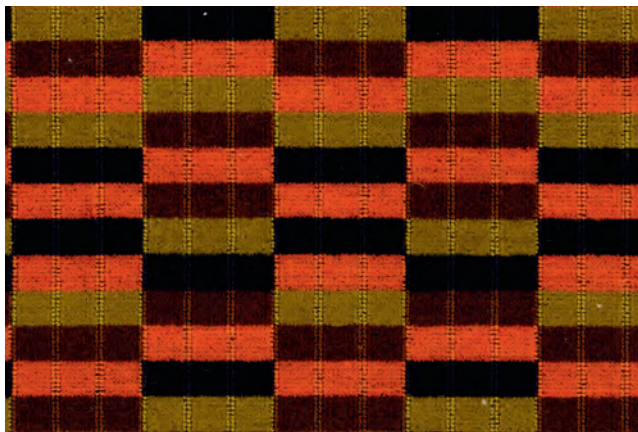
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ONLY ON TODAYTIX



LONDON EYE



Take a seat

NEXT TIME YOU park your bum on the Central line, spare a moment to glance at the woven designs under your derrière. Since the 1930s, London Transport has commissioned bright ‘moquettes’ – French for carpets – dreamed up by leading designers and artists.

Andrew Martin has documented this colourful history in his new book ‘Seats of London’. Beginning with the seats of the WW1-era B-type double decker – which was brought in to replace the city’s Victorian horse-drawn buses – the story runs right through to the still-not-bloody-finished Elizabeth line.

From London Underground’s very first commissions (including an abstract motif by the surrealist artist Paul Nash) to Enid Marx’s plaid number and even a custard-coloured Yellow Pages advert, there’s a lot of history in these humble pews. Talk about sitting pretty. ■ *ELHunt* → ‘Seats of London: A Field Guide to London Transport Moquette Patterns’ by Andrew Martin is available now from London Transport Museum. www.ltmuseum.co.uk



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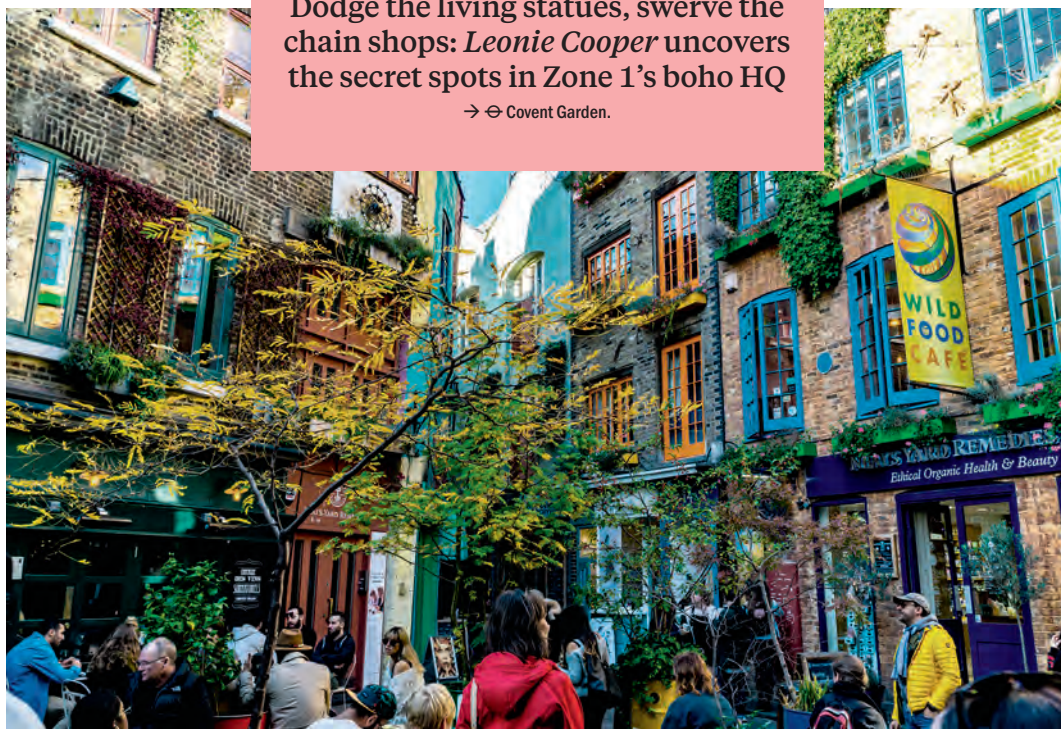
Get more ace local tips at www.timeout.com/coventgarden

THE INSIDE GUIDE

Covent Garden

Dodge the living statues, swerve the chain shops: *Leonie Cooper* uncovers the secret spots in Zone 1's boho HQ

→ ⊕ Covent Garden.



(both in the handful of streets in the north of Covent Garden known as Seven Dials) for crystals, tarot and psychic readings.

SOAK UP THE SUN

A rooftop pool that doesn't require an expensive private club membership? **Oasis Sports Centre** is the king of council gyms. Sadly, it doesn't serve frosé, but its 90-foot outdoor heated swimming pool and sunbathing deck is one of London's best-kept secrets.

HIDE FROM THE RAIN

Despite its shocking number of vacant shops, Seven Dials is still packed with independent boutiques. For vintage, hit up **Pop Boutique**, **Blackout II** and **The Vintage Showroom**. **Slam City Skates** is heaven for anyone with floppy hair and scabby knees, while **Coco de Mer** offers high-end sauciness, and **American Classics** does men's heritage workwear. Face it all with a kick of caffeine from OG roasters **Monmouth Coffee**.

GET CULTURED

You're slap bang in the middle of Theatreland, but if you're after something a bit more thought-provoking than 'The Lion King' then take a seat in the progressive **Donmar Warehouse**, or learn anything from tap to Dominican bachata at the legendary **Pineapple** dance studio.

CHILL OUT

The blissfully calm churchyard behind **St Paul's** (the 'actors' church', not the cathedral) is the ideal escape from overly enthusiastic street performers.

STAY UP LATE

A drinking den of repute, the **Phoenix Artist Club** is open until 2.30am (though non-members should get in early). Martinis flow until midnight in **Rules**' swank cocktail lounge, but if sophistication isn't high on the agenda, try Berlusconi-baiting burlesque 'n' pizza spot **Bunga Bunga**. ■

THERE'S SOMETHING BREATHTAKING about Covent Garden – and no, we're not talking about the intense cardio workout you get climbing the tube station's knackerizing 193 steps. The grand, Italianate piazza overlooked by the equally fancy Royal Opera House remains one of London's most awesome sights. But if you nip away from the old flower market and round a cobbled corner, the exchange students in matching backpacks disappear to make way for a surprisingly chill part of central London. Ignore the tourist trap tat-markets, deeply annoying living statues and big-brand flagship stores. Instead, discover the quirky side streets and some of London's best independent boutiques, pubs and restaurants, many of which (despite some sad recent closures) have been there for years. In the 1990s, Neal Street was the place to go for hip streetwear, and although Covent Garden can't profess to being as deeply cool now as it was then – or when it hosted game-changing clubs like The Roxy and Blitz – there's a classiness about it that makes it every bit as fun and fascinating as its snazzy neighbour, Soho.

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING...

Grab a seat in lush urban sanctuary **Neal's Yard** and munch on jam doughnuts from **St John Bakery**, washed down with coffee from **Jacob the Angel**. Then shop for British cheese at **Neal's Yard Dairy** and bougie smellies from hippy mainstay **Neal's Yard Remedies**.

GO OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Cecil Court's timewarp of second-hand book and antiques dealers is perfect for an afternoon's rummage: it's said to have been the inspo for JK Rowling's Diagon Alley, if that's what floats your broomstick. Witchy types can also apparate on down to **Mysteries** and **The Astrology Shop**



DRINK HERE

- ❑ **Lady of the Grapes** A bijoux space to sip natural wines made by female vintners.
- ❑ **Le Beaujolais** A delightfully old-school French spot for wine and cheese plates.
- ❑ **The Cross Keys** A proper boozier with a sticky carpet and walls covered in tat.
- ❑ **American Bar** Drop a week's wages on classic cocktails in this romantic hotel bar.



EAT HERE

- ❑ **The Barbary** Sumptuous Middle Eastern cuisine in Time Out's top-ranked London resto.
- ❑ **Rock & Sole Plaiice** An ace traditional chippie that's been going since 1871.
- ❑ **Mon Plaisir** London's oldest French restaurant offers an authentic trip back in time.
- ❑ **Parsons** Fresh and affordable fish dishes in a chic, white-tiled former caff.

THE MONDAY MORNING DROP-OFF



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FREE LONDON

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



DON'T MISS

PASS THE PARCELS

National Dumpling Day in Chinatown

Cancel your lunch plans on Thursday and head to Chinatown for a massive National Dumpling Day giveaway. From noon, there will be a whopping 2,000 dumplings up for grabs from ten restaurants including Dumplings' Legend, Ichibuns and Leong's Legend (pictured).

→ Various Chinatown locations. ☉ Leicester Square. Thu Sep 26.

GET TIN-INVOLVED Can-for-Can Swap

Look out for Camden Town Brewery's Harvest Hells van in Camden Market from noon to 3pm today. It's teamed up with The Felix Project and is calling on Londoners to swap a can of food for a can of beer. All donations will go to local food banks.

→ Camden Market.
☉ Camden Town. Tue Sep 24.

DOUGH-NUT MISS IT Crosstown X Maker's Mark

Crosstown is making all your sugary, boozy dreams come true with its special edition Maker's Mark bourbon and butterscotch doughnut. The Soho branch is giving out 200 freebies from 1pm this Thursday. Sweet!

→ Crosstown Doughnuts, Soho.
☉ Tottenham Court Rd.
Thu Sep 26.

THE SLICE IS RIGHT Brooklyn Brewery XVinnie's Pizzeria

Brooklyn-based Vinnie's Pizzeria is crossing the pond to join pals Brooklyn Brewery for a banging three-day pop-up. It kicks off with a giveaway for the first 100 customers, who'll get a free beer and a slice from noon.

→ Paradise Slice, Shoreditch High St Overground. Fri Sep 27.

HIT IT UP Big Tennis Weekend

Wimbledon might be long gone but if you've got dreams of becoming a tennis pro, give it a go at the Big Tennis Weekend. Run by the Lawn Tennis Association, there will be free sessions at clubs all over London. Book a spot online.

→ Various locations. Sat Sep 28-Sun Sep 29.

CHICK IT OUT Tandoori fried chicken burgers

Put down that sad supermarket sarnie. City bar Mrs Fogg's is launching a new menu and Time Out readers can sample it for free today. From noon, there will be 100 tandoori fried chicken burgers up for grabs.

→ Mrs Fogg's Dockside Drinkery & Distillery. ☉ Liverpool St. Tue Sep 24.



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BIG thanks to this guy (and the rest of the Prince Charles team) for putting our headline on their cinema in MASSIVE LETTERS.

From long-term staff to diehard regulars, *Alexandra Sims* and *Dominique Sisley* find out from the fans of London's cinemas what makes them so special

‘We make space for films you don't really get to see anymore’

Ariane Front-of-house staff and co-host of the cinema's podcast at the Prince Charles Cinema

I first went to The Prince Charles to see "The Room" with a friend. I loved it so much I got a membership. The next thing I saw was "Headshot", which is an Indonesian film. I'm Indonesian and I thought it was awesome, so I handed in my CV and got a job in 2017. I work front-of-house, run events and the cinema's podcast, "The Pod Charles Cinecast". I host a lot of singalongs – we recently did Lonely Island's "Popstar: Never Never Stopping". It's awesome because you may think: I'm probably the only person that likes this film, but then you learn that

lots of people really care and will show up. Our crowds can be quite rowdy, but the rowdiness comes from enthusiasm, which is why it's so awesome. We're in the heart of Leicester Square, so lots of bizarre things always happen. I was asked in my interview whether or not I could clear up sick! We have the best staff in the world and we all love our jobs.

If we're on shift we'll draw straws to see who gets to usher the film we want to see.



It's a testament to our programming that we make space for films you don't really get to see anymore, and we make cinema accessible – where else in

2019 can you see a film for £1? There's a charm about The Prince Charles. It's a safe space where people can share experiences and celebrate cinema.'

ARIANE'S TIP 'Get a membership – you get loads of discounts, like £1 tickets and a pound off drinks at the bar. Turning your beer from £4.50 to £3.50 is a dream come true in Leicester Square!'

→ Prince Charles Cinema. ⊕ Leicester Square.

ANDY PARSONS





'It was amazing to restore the cinema'

Dee Co-founder of the Castle Cinema

'Asher [partner and co-founder] and I stumbled upon the Castle. It used to be a cinema, so the old proscenium arch was still there. It was amazing to have the chance to restore it. Doing a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds was a rollercoaster, but at the same time it was so great to have a community of people involved from the very beginning. It was tough going at the start, it was just the two of us working all day, every day. It used to be a snooker hall, so there were loads of leftover cues there – we spent ages clearing it out. Finding the old hotel chairs for the space was really lucky. They're so comfy, it's almost like being in your living room. We screen a bit of everything and we do our programming quite last minute so we can react to reviews. We're truly independent so we've got a lot of freedom to listen to our audience and play what they'd like to see.'

DEE'S TIP 'Visit our 16mm reel night run by Liam and Umit, who own a shop in Lower Clapton full of old film and projectors. It always sells out.'
→ The Castle Cinema. ⊖ Homerton Overground.



'People say the Curzon Soho is like their second home'

Stevie Regular at Curzon Soho

'My first trip to the Curzon Soho was about eight or nine years ago. Before that, I always used to go to the Prince Charles or the cinemas in Leicester Square. I used to think the Curzon was intimidating – I didn't know if I was allowed in there because it seemed posher than the others. Eventually, I decided to check it out, and I found it to be incredibly friendly. I typically go every Thursday, Friday and Saturday.'

This year so far I've seen around 50 films there – including "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood", which I've watched seven times. You see celebrities there too – they do Q&As all the time and go to watch films themselves, so you can meet them after and chat. I met [director] Ben Wheatley after a recent Q&A for "Free Fire" and he was really happy to chat to me as a genuine film fan. It's also so relaxed: a lot of people say it's like their second home. You can relax there and everyone knows your name. Everyone is welcome.'

STEVIE'S TIP 'It can be busy at night. The best time to go is Friday lunchtime or Saturday morning. It's quiet, but it still has atmosphere.'
→ Curzon Soho. ⊖ Leicester Square.



CASTLE CINEMA: ANDY PARSONS; CURZON: ED WILES



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‘Danny Boyle really likes to buy pick ‘n’ mix’

Amiru Floor manager at Genesis Cinema

‘I’ve worked at the Genesis for nearly a decade – next February will be my tenth anniversary on staff. I got a job here while I was at university, but I used to come a lot as a kid. The first film I saw here was “The Grinch” – I went all out: pick ‘n’ mix, ice cream, and a box of popcorn the size of my head. Now I don’t have much time to watch films while I’m at work, so I come in on my days off and pack them all in one after the other. I’m all about action and comedy: I remember one day, when “The Expendables” came out, I watched it three times in a row. It’s one of the perks of my job. The Genesis is unique – other cinemas in London are more corporate, but we are independent. We cater for all kinds of audiences and have loads of regulars, including Danny Boyle, who has come in a few times – he really likes to buy pick ‘n’ mix. I love it: it’s such a blast.’

AMIRU’S TIP ‘Monday to Wednesdays are our cheap days. We offer seats for £5.50. Not many cinemas can say that, can they?’
→ Genesis Cinema. ⊖ Stepney Green.

ED WILES





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London's best-loved cinemas

'I've found a community at Ciné Lumière'

Estelle Regular at Ciné Lumière

'I moved to London from France six years ago, and Ciné Lumière was the first cinema I went to. I was alone, I didn't know the city and I just wanted to see a French film as I was a little homesick. I ended up finding a community there, and not just one made up of other French people: I've met loads of friends from Britain and all over the world too. I live in Dalston now, but I try to go to Ciné Lumière at least once a month. It is the only cinema I'd cross town for. The programme is really relevant socially – especially in London, where I think it's a strange time to

be a foreigner. Everyone is thinking, with a lot of uncertainty and anxiety, about what it means to be European. In some ways, films are a way to stage unheard voices, which can resonate on a personal level and on a larger social level. Checking out the Ciné Lumière programme is a way for me to build my awareness and understanding of the world, and then see how I can share it.'

ESTELLE'S TIP 'They've just opened a 35-seat boutique room which screens more radical films.'

→ Ciné Lumière. ⊕ South Kensington.



'Whatever people want to show, they can'

Pedro Volunteer at Deptford Cinema

'Deptford Cinema is a community space run entirely by volunteers. It's not-for-profit, so we do everything ourselves. I've been working here for nine months – I do front-of-house, programming, finances, DIY work, a little bit of everything. The first time I volunteered here I felt a real sense of family. I remember we were showing the Japanese film "Shoplifters", and I was helping on the bar. It was fantastic. It made me want to be involved, and help put on movies that could create that same atmosphere. Whoever wants to work on the programme can: there are no restrictions. We welcome everybody because that's how we get such a diverse range of films on our line-up. For example, the next two screenings I'm helping to programme are a "John Wick" night and a collaboration with a queer Portuguese film festival. Whatever people want to show, they can.'

PEDRO'S TIP 'Come to our meetings on Sundays at 11am to get an idea of the seasons we have coming up.'
→ Deptford Cinema, Deptford Bridge DLR.

CINÉ LUMIÈRE: ANDY PARSONS; DEPTFORD CINEMA: ED MILES





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'I get a kick out of putting a film on the screen'

Paul Former projectionist at the Phoenix Cinema

'I worked as a projectionist for the Phoenix. I went to help them out for a few weeks in June 1979 and ended up staying for 35 years. I discovered the cinema because I was a film buff, and it was one of the only places that showed films that were old and good. I first went there because they were running the Marx Brothers film "A Night at the Opera". I took my girlfriend at the time, and she dumped me soon afterwards. I learnt that you

don't take girlfriends to see Marx Brothers movies. I eventually got a part-time job at the cinema as a projectionist, a skill I learnt when I was younger. After a while, it became my responsibility to look after the 35mm equipment. I'm a film presentation enthusiast: I just get a great kick out of putting a film on the screen. These days, I'm semi-retired from the Phoenix. I've come off projection, and have now moved over to education work. Now I teach children about projection, and how we put the pictures on the big screen. You can't catch them out, they're a smart lot.' ■

PAUL'S TIP: 'It's worth coming to one of our 35mm screenings. It's film as film should be seen.'

→ Phoenix Cinema. ☉ East Finchley.



Cinema Showdown

If you follow the [@timeoutlondon](#) Instagram account, you'll know that for the past three weeks we've been pitting London's best cinemas against each other in a knock-out tournament to find the city's favourite. Last week was the final, with Kensal Green's Lexi and the Electric Portobello going head to head. The winner? With 65 percent of the reader vote: the **Electric Portobello**. Congrats, west London! Don't live near there? Remember to pick up Time Out each week (or check [timeout.com/film](#)) for quirky and independent screenings and events near you.

"A shot of pure adrenaline"

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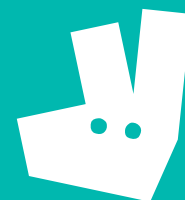
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How London became the VFX capital of the world

Forget Hollywood, *Helen O'Hara* discovers the movie special effects magic happening around our city

IF YOU'RE A HOLLYWOOD filmmaker who wants to persuade a lion cub to act or to send the Avengers into space, your first stop these days is central London. Almost all the action blockbusters of recent years have been at least partly created in unassuming London offices, after our capital's visual effects companies swiped some of the biggest, most spectacular films from under

Tinseltown's nose. When it comes to VFX, you don't need pretty Californian sunshine – just enough computing power to make Nasa blush and a few hundred mega-talented artists.

There has been visual effects work in London since filmmaking began. It contributed miniatures to the classic 'Bond' films and many innovative advertising campaigns in the 1980s, but it was a small, cottage industry, tucked away in odd corners of Soho. That is, until some of the current leading VFX houses – with names like Framestore, MPC and DNEG – realised in the mid-1990s that there was potential for more. Digital effects were taking off, and they set out to challenge industry giants like George Lucas's Industrial Light & Magic.



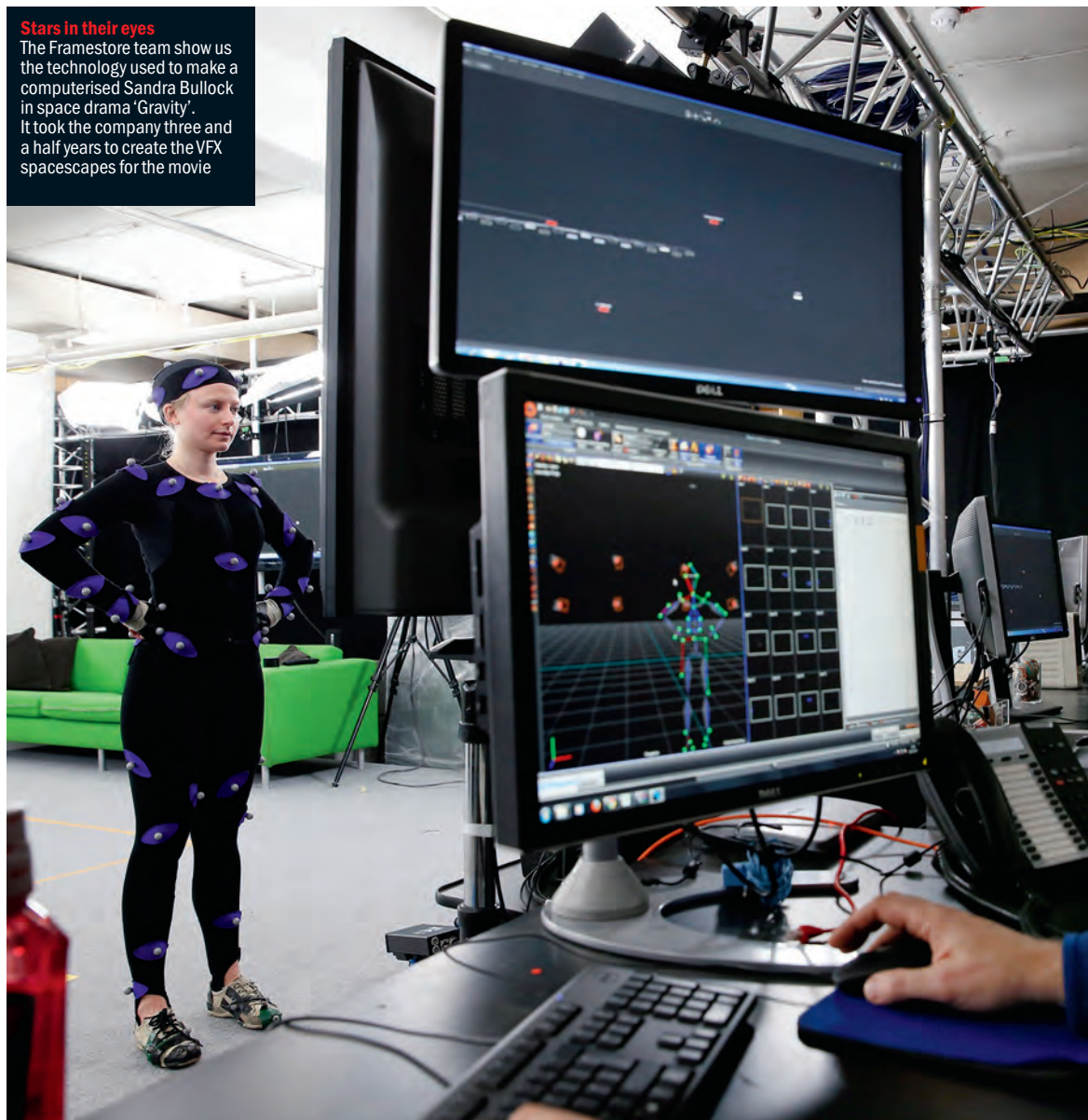
Stars in their eyes
The Framestore team show us the technology used to make a computerised Sandra Bullock in space drama 'Gravity'. It took the company three and a half years to create the VFX spacescapes for the movie

These companies built computer worlds for crime mystery 'Hackers' and created ancient Rome for 'Gladiator', growing alongside each other. 'Our companies were all within a block of each other,' says Philip Greenlow, VFX executive producer at MPC. 'Artists would hang out in the same pub and everyone would spend time in different companies, so there was a general sharing of knowledge.'

But it was Harry Potter that drove this revolution. Over the ten years and eight films about the boy wizard, the London houses went from handling a small amount of shots to dominating effects work, using each off-season period to prepare and develop for the next film. By the time Potter defeated Voldemort, London was a major VFX hub, and ILM opened an office here just to share in the boom.

The key to these companies' success has been to mix all that artistry and creativity with a near-fanatical obsession with realism. This search for authenticity leads London's VFX gurus to some very strange places. When Framestore started work on the space drama 'Gravity' with filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón – the director virtually moved into their office for several years – they considered shooting parts of the film in real zero-G. That meant going up in a so-called 'vomit comet'. 'They drop a plane into freefall and you get about 30 seconds of floating,' explains Framestore's Fiona Walkinshaw. 'Our visual effects supervisor, Tim Webber, did 36 of those as research. Luckily, he loved it.' Star Sandra Bullock wasn't so fond of flying, so the floating had to be simulated – but Webber's experiences and the footage he shot helped the studio to animate outer space around Bullock's astronaut character.

More recently, MPC had to figure out how to get animals to act, and that meant putting people's heads in the lion's mouth – almost literally. In the zoo at Disney's Animal Kingdom theme park in Florida they took 3D photos of lions, to try to capture the tons of millions of hairs, and filmed inside yawning beasts' mouths to see the texture of their tongues. 'There were limitations on that, because you can't get too close and personal and tell them to stay still while we



take multiple photos per second,' says Greenlow wryly. The team then racked up thousands of miles criss-crossing Kenya, taking a quarter of a million reference photos and 8,000 videos until they could construct miles of beautiful savannah landscape on their computers as the background to Simba and his pride.

Similarly, DNEG sent a team to Svalbard to film its snowy wastes for the end of 'Captain America: The First Avenger', and needed an armed escort to guard against polar bear attacks. VFX, it turns out, is not for the faint of heart. But there are gentler days – on 'Pitch Black' the VFX artists bribed small flightless birds with biscuits during the film's Australian shoot, so they could use them as reference for the film's flying, flesh-eating monsters.

VFX is whatever it takes to make us suspend our disbelief and believe our eyes – and if the experts tell you that something isn't literally possible, you can always bend the rules, at least a little. 'We were trying to explain how we wanted

to collapse the Millennium Bridge for "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" to one of the engineers who built it,' says Paul Franklin of DNEG. 'He said, in a very "engineering" way, "That is not a valid failure mode for the structure." We replied, "Ah, but did you consider dark wizard aerial attacks?"'

That's where the magic comes in. If London's VFX giants were precisely recreating real worlds, they'd have it locked down by now, stored in millions of terabytes of reference photos and videos. But the trick is to rebuild the world afresh each time, showing us things we could never have imagined. Perhaps it's no accident that Potter was such a milestone for London's VFX. This industry also basically started in a cupboard under the stairs. With the world going through tough times, it's good to know that someone in London is out there creating magic. ■

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Grasshopper cocktail-topper



Grubs up!

Grasshopper in your guacamole? Or chocolate-covered locusts for pud? *Alexandra Sims* gets stuck into London's tastiest edible insect dishes

Flying Grasshopper at Nightjar

The folk at Old Street bar Nightjar know a thing or two about quirky cocktails and they don't come much more eccentric than this concoction. The classic

Grasshopper is a mint-flavoured, bright green cocktail, named after its colour. But Nightjar takes it to the next level with an actual grasshopper balanced carefully on top. Creepy crawlies aside, this sweet, rich drink has comforting

chocolate, carob, date and pistachio notes mixed with a refreshing punch of pisco. The crunchy bugs come in salt and vinegar, and chilli flavours – an ideal contrast to the velvety, sweet liquid below.

→ Nightjar. ☉ Old St. £12.





Chocolate-dipped locusts



Deep-fried silkworm pupae

Bugs in My Salad
at Greyhound Café

Walk down the bustling streets of Bangkok and you'll find plenty of market stalls piled high, pick 'n' mix-style, with crispy deep-fried creepy-crawlies. Originally founded in the Thai capital, Fitzrovia fusion joint Greyhound Café has brought a taste of its home country's incredible street food to its London outpost. Deep-fried silkworm pupae come served in a cute side dish beside a pile of wispy greens and glass jar of soy wasabi dressing in this take on a green salad. Whack it all together and think of the chestnut-brown bugs – brittlely crisp on the outside and soft like gnocchi inside – like a kind of crouton. It's a tongue-tingling Thai tapestry of tastes and textures. Try saying that through a mouthful of silkworms.
→ Greyhound Café. ☎ Goodge St. £9.50.

Chocolate-covered Locusts
at Archipelago

Decked out with fertility idols and giant peacock feathers, Fitzrovia's Archipelago looks straight out of Indiana Jones and has a menu to rival any dinner party in 'The Temple of Doom'. Take its Summer Nights dish: pan-fried crickets are dotted over a vibrant swipe of chermoula butter, giving the nutty insects a warm, earthy edge. Game for more grubs? Pair it with the Love Bug Salad, a mix of leaves, spicy guindilla dressing, locusts, crickets and mealworms. Or, if you're down for eating insects but can't get over the fact that they look like, um, insects – try the locusts for dessert: they're dipped in dark, milk and white chocolate.
→ Archipelago. ☎ Goodge St. Summer Nights, £10. Love Bug Salad, £7.50. Chocolate-covered Locusts, £8.



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Edible insects

Om Hed BaiYa Nang at Café Lao

If the idea of eating creepy-crawlies fills you with dread then rest assured you're in good culinary hands at Café Lao, London's first Laotian restaurant, whose head chef Saiphin Moore co-founded Rosa's Thai Café. She works her magic on this mushroom curry, which comes with the optional addition of ant eggs (gotta get those protein #gains somehow). The tiny pearlescent grubs, which look like rice, are served in a punchy aromatic broth. If you'd rather ease yourself in with a snack, order a side of Malang Tod: herb-fried seasonal bugs (grasshoppers, crickets and mealworms are the usual suspects) – way more interesting than prawn crackers, right?

→ Café Lao. ☉ Charing Cross. £11, add ant eggs for £2. Malang Tod, £3.75.



Ant eggs

Mezcal-toasted grasshopper



Guacamole Nacionalista, las joyas Mexicanas at Ella Canta

Mexico is home to more edible insects than any other country, which means the locals are pretty *au fait* with eating bugs – and this dish is as patriotic as they come. Its creamy green guacamole, white queso fresco and red pomegranate seeds represent the colours of the Mexican flag and bang in the centre of it all is a glistening gold grasshopper. Chefs prepare the bug by toasting it with a small dash of mezcal before spraying it with edible gold paint. After being left to dry for three hours it's ready to eat and has the texture of a particularly crunchy crisp – y'know, if crisps were gold (and made of insects). ■

→ Ella Canta. ☉ Hyde Park Corner. £8.

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Sea Containers Restaurant

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Why go? For slick decor by Tom Dixon, sweeping views of the Thames and St Paul's, and top-class grub that earned this place a glowing four-star review from our Food team.
What's exclusive? A tasting menu and a cocktail is £25.

→ Sea Containers. ⊕ Blackfriars. Until Oct 31.
www.timeout.com/seacontainers19



Jazz Cafe

What is it? Pick from a range of gigs at Camden's famous venue.
Why go? For top shows at silly prices, basically. This gem has hosted some highly respected names in jazz, soul and beyond since it opened. Plus, there's a sizeable dancefloor, so you can expect much more than the usual jazz club head-bobbing.
What's exclusive? Tickets start at just £7 a pop.

→ Jazz Cafe. ⊕ Camden Town. Select dates until Oct 15. www.timeout.com/jazzcafe19

Scarlett Green

What is it? Food and bottomless drinks at this café-cum-restaurant from the Beany Green family.
Why go? If you haven't heard of this place, we suggest you give it an Insta-stalk. Its Antipodean fare is not only healthy and delicious, but picture-perfect, too.
What's exclusive? A meal with two cocktails and bottomless prosecco is £39.50 – that's 58 percent off.

→ Scarlett Green. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Until Nov 30. www.timeout.com/scarlettgreen

World Burlesque Games

What is it? The annual show where cabaret, circus and theatre meet in a dazzling spectacle.
Why go? There's nothing like a bit of naughtiness to spice up an autumn evening. Some of the finest national and international performers will be gracing the stage at this globally renowned festival.
What's exclusive? Tickets start at a saucy £12 each.

→ Leytonstone Ballroom. ⊕ Leytonstone. Nov 7-10. www.timeout.com/wbg19

Vegtoberfest

What is it? Tickets to the UK's first all-vegan Oktoberfest party.
Why go? Because the food and drink at this beer festival will blow your lederhosen clean off – and it's all 100 percent plant-based. Entertainment comes by way of comedy, music from Old Dirty Brasstards and live cabaret.
What's exclusive? General entry is just £11.

→ Fest Camden. ⊕ Chalk Farm. Oct 12 and Oct 19. www.timeout.com/vegtoberfest19

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Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips

Autumn day trips

We've found you six amazing reasons
to leaf London this season

AH, AUTUMN. THERE'S a definite crispness to the air, the leaves are turning gold and we're rooting through our wardrobes for warmer coats and scarves. But as the season changes, don't hibernate – work your way through this autumn day-trip checklist instead.

1 Crunch autumnal leaves

The rich golden hues of leaves that are about to give up on life are what autumn's all about. Surrey's Winkworth Arboretum is home to around 1,000 different shrubs and trees – so when the weather turns, their foliage becomes a glorious spread of colour. See whether you can make your cheeks as rosy as the maple leaves as you explore the lake, boathouse and wetlands. If you need to fuel up for

your walk, head to The Stag on the River near Godalming, a charming gastropub with a seasonal menu.

→ Get there: 45 minutes by train from London Waterloo to Godalming; around one hour 30 minutes by car. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

2 Do a country pub crawl

An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that covers nearly 800 square miles, the Cotswolds has a fair bit going for it – like those creamy, honey-coloured stone buildings, picture-perfect villages and rolling green hills, for starters. It's perfect for an autumn day out thanks to its pubs, roaring open fires and colourful country walks. Serious hikers can find challenging long-distance routes, but no one'll judge you if you'd rather amble between



St Leonard's Church, Hythe



Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey



The Swan, Moreton-in-Marsh

Plan your escape at timeout.com/daytrips

lovely pubs like The Black Bear Inn and The Swan.

→ Get there: one hour 40 minutes by train from London Paddington to Moreton-in-Marsh; around two hour 30 minutes by car. www.swanmoreton.co.uk, www.blackbearinnmoreton.co.uk.

3 Embrace your dark side

As the nights draw in, there's no better time to get some spooky chills. The first stop for freaky daytrippers? The local church of the pretty Kent market town of Hythe, obviously. From the outside, it's a perfectly unassuming house of worship. But venture into the crypt of St Leonard's Church, and you'll discover the largest and best-preserved collection of ancient human bones in Britain, with more than 1,000 skulls eerily arranged in the grand archways. No one is

entirely sure who they were, or even how they came to be there. Recruit your bravest bunch of friends and go and pay your respects.

→ Get there: around one hour 30 minutes by train from St Pancras International to Sandling, then ten minutes by bus. www.slhk.org

4 Go foraging

Wild mushroom picking needn't be a life-or-death lottery. Not if you join a foraging walk with an expert, who'll help you to find and identify dozens of species in the New Forest, with the rarer and poisonous ones left untouched. Check out Wild Food UK or Forage London for sessions.

→ Get there: one hour and 40 minutes by train from London Waterloo to Brockenhurst; around two hours by car. www.ediblebush.com and www.foragelondon.co.uk.



5 Spot wildlife

Set off on a London wildlife adventure that goes beyond your average urban fox sighting. Get your fill at the easy-to-reach Chiltern Hills, an area of woodland and open grassland where countless animals happily dwell. With the chance to admire countless bird species, as well as an adorable herd of deer, the Chilterns are about as rich with fauna as the commuter belt can get. Hop off the train at Amersham and jump on the Chiltern Heritage or Chiltern Link trail for a day in the great outdoors.

→ Get there: 35 minutes by train from London Marylebone to Amersham; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

6 Explore a spooky village

Like something out of 'Jonathan Creek', Pluckley in Kent is the setting of so many supernatural stories that it's widely regarded as Britain's most haunted village. Its 12 reported ghosts include a highwayman, a monk, a Tudor lady and (God have mercy on our souls) a woman who sells watercress. If you fail to spot any spooks, those who can remember 'The Darling Buds of May' can look out for some of the locations from the '90s TV series instead. ■ *Lucy Lovell and Ellie Walker-Arnott*

→ Get there: One hour by train from various London stations; around two hours by car.

It's time to rediscover your country. Here's how...

Ready to fall back in love with the British Isles? Here's your chance to discover some of the UK's best-kept secret spots, in a way that only Airbnb can make possible

There's something deeply satisfying about really getting to know a corner of your own country. And even if you've lived here all your life, we bet there are loads of spots you're yet to uncover – whether it's the sleepy heart of the Scottish Highlands, the golden beaches of Cornwall or the vertiginous cliffs of the Orkney Islands. If you've been dreaming of reconnecting with the UK, then the folks at Airbnb are here to help you do just that. They believe that there's no better way to have a truly special stay than in a unique home, hosted by a friendly local... and we're inclined to agree. (Plus, who wouldn't want to stay in a cute beachside cottage or quirky woodland lodge?) Now they've gone one step further: for the next few weeks, they're offering you the chance to score one of a limited number of coupons, which will help you experience one of six lovely, lesser-known locations for less (fun fact: they were voted for in a nationwide Twitter poll). Airbnb is calling it 'First Night On Us' – and we've got the lowdown on each of the six spots.



Croyde

What is it? A Devon-ly seaside village issuing a siren call to surfers, scone-lovers and rural walkers.

Why go? Head to Croyde in north Devon for sandy beaches, excellent surfing conditions and some pretty spectacular green, green hills. Surfers flock to Croyde Bay for the waves of the Bristol Channel, but this lovely spot is also within easy

reach of Exmoor, a walker's paradise that's delightful all year around (but particularly when the heather blooms purple in summer). Then it's time for proper fish and chips washed down with – what else? – a pint of local cider as you admire the beach from the terrace of your private, sun-soaked lodge.



Pwllheli

What is it? Harbourside town on the Llyn Peninsula filled with old-fashioned seaside charm.

Why go? First lesson for a non-local: it's pronounced 'Puu-THEL-ee'. Second lesson for a non-local, once you've paid a visit to this seaside town on the Llyn Peninsula, it won't be long before you're planning another. The bustling town boasts a Blue Flag beach and all the charm of a traditional Welsh beach holiday. The historic harbour was once a

place for pirates and smugglers, which is something to think about as you look down on it from your terrace hot tub.



Pontefract

What is it? Historic Yorkshire market town that's as sweet as its most famous creation.

Why go? You might have heard of Pontefract thanks to Pontefract cakes (also called Pomfrey cakes),

the little liquorice sweets made in the town, thanks to local soil conditions which made it an ideal place to grow liquorice plants. That historical quirk is now celebrated in an annual liquorice festival in July. For art fans staying in Pontefract, you're close to Wakefield, where you'll find the brilliant Hepworth Wakefield gallery. Ponder what you've explored that day when you return for a good night's rest in a quirky barn conversion.



Appleby-in-Westmorland

What is it? Cumbrian riverside market town which is, quite literally, in Eden.

Why go? The Cumbrian town of Appleby-in-Westmorland is genuinely in Eden... in a loop of the River Eden, that is. Does it live up to its heavenly namesake? Well, it's a beautiful little market town close to the impressive Appleby Castle and surrounded by lush countryside on the edge of the Lake District – with the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the North Pennines Area of Outstanding





High Cup Nick near Appleby-in-Westmorland (left); an Airbnb home near Appleby-in-Westmorland (above); Cushendun (bottom left)

Natural Beauty close by. Basically, England doesn't get much more picture-perfect than this.



Callander

What is it? The 'Gateway to the Highlands': perfect as a resting spot between long walks and loch-side living.

Why go? Callander in Stirling ticks two boxes: it's a super-handly location for visiting a bagful of natural beauty spots and it's a lovely little place in its own right. Tourists adore Callander because it puts them within a stone's throw (or caber toss) of Loch Lomond, the Trossachs National Park and 'Rob Roy Country'. After a windswept walk to admire the views, you'll be grateful for the chance to recharge in a cosy cottage with views across the snow-peaked mountains.



Cushendun

What is it? County Antrim conservation village to spend a sleepy, seaside weekend in.

Why go? The tranquil harbour town of Cushendun in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, is now mostly owned by the National Trust. You can guess why they wanted to snap it up, because this special place is bang in the middle of miles and miles of stunning rural scenery. If the weather's a little temperamental, head inside for a pint at Mary McBride's, once one of the smallest pubs in Ireland. Or pop downstairs from your super-cute and centrally located harbourside house to enjoy a slice of cake at The Corner House.



HOW IT WORKS



First Night On Us

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

Step 1

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

Step 2

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

Step 3

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

Step 4

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

→ Get your first night on Airbnb at www.airbnb.com/firstnight

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A perfect day in

Alfriston

South Downs walks, cosy pubs and idyllic village life

FEELING THE NEED for a dose of country village wholesomeness? You'll find it in spades in the oh-so-charming Alfriston, in the heart of East Sussex. With its chocolate-box-pretty pubs, medieval buildings and independent shops, you'll feel as if you've stepped back in time. The bucolic, rolling landscape of the South Downs is the main event here, though, so don't forget your walking shoes and to soak up those views.

First up

Take a wander around the **Tye** (the local village green) where you'll find **St Andrew's Church** – also known as the 'Cathedral of the South Downs' – and the fourteenth-century **Clergy House**, which was the National Trust's first ever property.

Soak up the vibes

Take a stroll – one of the best is the **Alfriston Clergy House** walk, which loops through picturesque farmland and joins the South Downs Way. Or walk along the **Cuckmere River**, which takes you past the iconic **Litlington White Horse**, and to the sea.

→ Get there: one hour 40 minutes by train from Victoria to Berwick, then ten minutes by bus; around two hours 30 minutes by car.

Stop for lunch

Cafés don't get much cuter than **Badgers Tea House** – once the village bakery – with its leafy courtyard, delicious homemade cakes and cream teas (sample its speciality: elderflower and gooseberry sponge). For something more substantial, head to **The Star Inn** for hearty pub fare in front of a crackling fire.

Hit the shops

Bookworms will love **MuchAdo Books**, an independent bookshop devoted to the best of the literary world. Tucked away in a converted barn, you'll definitely find yourself leaving with a souvenir. Across the road, vintage-fashion lovers will be in their element in the **Dressing Room**, and don't forget to check out **Alfriston Arts**, which sells local prints and paintings.

Drink like a local

Try cosy pub **The Tavern on the Tye**, with its pretty garden overlooking the village green, or kick back with a local ale at **The George Inn**. ■ *Sarah Gibbons*

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Arguably one of the best walks in the country is a hike along the **South Downs Way**, to see the views of the striking Seven Sisters white chalk cliffs and open sea. The route runs from the National Trust site of **Birling Gap** to **Beachy Head** and its Instagrammable lighthouse. Just don't take a selfie too near the edge...

WAKE UP HERE

The Flint Barns



There's nothing like a glass of wine after a long day's walking, so why not go one better and stay in a vineyard? Award-winning Rathfinny Wine Estate, renowned for its sparkling Sussex wines, is home to the Flint Barns, which have been stylishly restored to include ten en-suite bedrooms. When you have worked up an appetite, dine on local produce at the Tasting Room and sample all the wines for yourself at the Cellar Door, before cosying up in front of the fire. A proper grape escape. *Sarah Gibbons*

→ Rathfinny Wine Estate, Alfriston.

From £100 a night.

www.rathfinnyestate.com

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Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

EVENT OF THE WEEK

EMERGE Festival

Forty London museums and galleries are being taken over for a mix of late-night gigs, tarot readings and DJ sets. How many can you make in one night?

LONDON, MEET EMERGE, a brand new festival that's breaking down the doors of more than 40 iconic landmarks and museums for a brilliant programme of lates spanning 11 boroughs. You'll only need one ticket per night whatever you choose, whether that's an Ady Suleiman gig at the Horniman, gothic fairytales at Strawberry Hill House or poetry in a former convent. Queues are inevitable, and with miles separating some of these venues, you'll need to plan your night wisely. Put on your plimsolls, you have a lot of ground to cover...

Friday

Ice Sound Bath at London Canal Museum

Cool off with an arctic dip in the sonic soundscape of Tom White. The

electronic musician layers sound samples from an ice factory and the waterways of London to create a chilling immersive experience. The cleverest part is how it references the Victorian ice business, which transported boatloads of frozen stuff along the canals. Ice, ice, baby.

→ London Canal Museum. ☉ King's Cross. 6pm.

Number One London House of Scandal at Apsley House

Slip on some silk stockings and ramp up the face powder, we're on our way to Regency England. Held at Apsley House, former home of the Duke of Wellington, this party takes you back to when pamphleteers were the Twittersphere and the servants knew your darkest secrets. It's basically dress-up for adults but we're okay with that.

→ Apsley House. ☉ Hyde Park Corner. 6pm.



Natural History Museum

Late Night Music at the Horniman Museum

Treat yourself to a little night music as two neo-soul heavyweights play some intimate sets on the Horniman Museum's bandstand. First up is south London singer-songwriter Poppy Ajudha who counts Barack Obama as one of her fans, followed by headliner Ady Suleiman with his trippy mix of R&B, jazz, soul and funk. Stick around for the afterparty where you can throw shapes next to the Music Gallery's nearly eight-foot-high tuba.

→ Horniman Museum. Forest Hill Overground. 6pm.

Body & Mind Late at Dulwich Picture Gallery

One of the quieter pieces of the Emerge schedule, this night of body positivity and mental health events at the Dulwich Picture Gallery

will feature performances from experimental dancers like Alice Bonazzi and a drop-in life drawing class. Life models will share their personal body-acceptance stories while you get sketching.

→ Dulwich Picture Gallery. West Dulwich rail. 7pm.

In Future at Banqueting House

If you end up running from venue to venue, recharge with the honey-smooth sounds of Greentea Peng at Banqueting House. Fall under the spell of the south London musician while hanging around in this swish building, the only remaining bit of the original Palace of Whitehall. The night, which also has performances by A2 and Kasien, is curated by rapper Flohio. Plus: the clue's in the name to sort tomorrow's hangover.

→ Banqueting House. ☉ Embankment. 9pm.



Alice Bonazzi



Dulwich Picture Gallery



Floho

Saturday

Here-Now-Us at Nunnery Gallery

Make space in your schedule for the multi-talented Sanah Ahsan, spoken-word poet and trainee clinical psychologist. The rising star won the 2019 Outspoken Prize for Performance Poetry and is active in community projects tackling Islamophobia. There will also be a performance from trio Benin City.

→ Nunnery Gallery. ⊕ Bow Rd. 5pm.

It Starts with You at Houses of Parliament

The running of parliament has been, erm, rather

Ady Suleiman

big news lately. This is a chance to step inside the halls of Westminster after-hours. You'll be able to nosy around the Houses, grab a drink in Westminster Hall, then chat politics with strangers. Keep it clean...

→ Houses of Parliament. ⊕ Westminster. 6pm.

Jewish Museum London x Vagina Museum Late

Watch comedian Candi Gigi's one-woman show about a sexually repressed Jewish woman from Borehamwood who dreams of stardom over awkward Friday night dinners. Stay for a pop-up exhibition from the Vagina Museum, a parody of the phallogocentric nature of so many UK museums.

→ The Jewish Museum. ⊕ Camden Town. 6pm.

Fairytale Gothic Night Garden at Strawberry Hill House

Create your own midsummer dream of a night out with a wander around the lit-up pleasure garden of Strawberry Hill House. To be honest, its grounds are pretty magical in their natural state anyway, but you'll get to delve into its grottos and follies while meeting tarot card readers, harlequins and clairvoyants. They've already predicted we'll be there.

→ Strawberry Hill House. Strawberry Hill rail. 7pm.

Jungle DJ set at Natural History Museum

Welcome to the jungle. Sorry, not the jungle. Just 'Jungle'. The Mercury Music Prize-nominated duo, J and T, stage a DJ set at the Natural History Museum, allowing you the chance to party up close with the prehistoric beasts. And thanks with Luke Jerram's huge lunar installation 'Museum of the Moon', you can also take a breather staring up at the big old lump of cheese in the sky. ■

→ Natural History Museum. ⊕ South Kensington. 9.30pm. Emerge Festival runs at various locations across London Fri Sep 27-Sat Sep 28. £25 (day). £30-£40 (weekend).



By Rosemary Waugh
Who is still waiting to emerge from her chrysalis.

Things to Do

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



Feminista Film Festival

Get to know Afghanistan's first women's football team, a woman who travelled 20,000 miles by bike, kayak and rowing boat, and a Syrian swimming champ at this documentary film fest.

→ The Soho Hotel. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd.
Fri Sep 27-Sat Sep 28. £14-£40.

JOIN IN Uniqlo Tate Late: Creative Learning

Stay after hours at the Tate for surrealist tarot readings, spoken word, printing demos, music programmed by NTS Radio and to see the Olafur Eliasson show for just £10.

→ Tate Modern. ⊕ Blackfriars.
Fri Sep 27. Free.

WATCH Leytonstone Loves Film

Catch a Barbican-curated programme of films in quirky venues and join tours, markets and workshops at this fest in Hitchcock's birthplace.

→ Various locations in Leytonstone. ⊕ Leytonstone.
Fri Sep 27-Sun Sep 29. Free.

Saturday

STAY UP Sci-fi Action Marathon

Can you make it through this 15-hour, all-nighter of sci-fi action flicks? 'Dredd', 'Mad Max' and 'The Matrix' are on the bill.

→ Prince Charles Cinema.
⊕ Leicester Square.
Sat Sep 28-Sun Sep 29. £25.

PLAY Tam Bam Pan Jam Workshop

Learn to play the steel pans before watching the pros of Tam Bam Steel Orchestra.

→ Peckham Levels.
Peckham Rye Overground.
Sat Sep 28. Free.



Skip Garden Fire Feast

Skip Garden is moving to brown-field pastures new. For the last time, eat pizza made from onsite ingredients in front of an open fire to the sounds of Dig It Soundsystem.

→ Skip Garden Kitchen. ⊕ King's Cross. Sat Sep 28. £15.

Sunday

Houseplant Festival

Obsessed with your potted fern baby? Buy it some new earthenware, learn how to care for it and get it some perennial pals at the first fest dedicated to housebound foliage.

→ Garden Museum. ⊕ Lambeth North. Sun Sep 29. £5.



CELEBRATE Japan Matsuri

Watch Taiko drumming and martial arts, learn calligraphy and tuck into food from the Japan Centre and Yoshino at this Japanese party.

→ Trafalgar Square. ⊕ Charing Cross. Sun Sep 29. Free.

EAT The Tottenham Taster

Go for local treats from Wildes Cheese, Redemption Brewery and Celtic Bakery, stay for an all-you-can-eat crayfish boil.

→ Lordship Hub Co-op.
⊕ Turnpike Lane. Sun Sep 29.
Free, crayfish boil £30.

More reasons to stay up at timeout.com/lates



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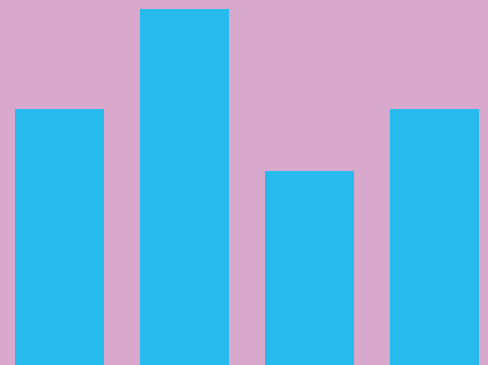
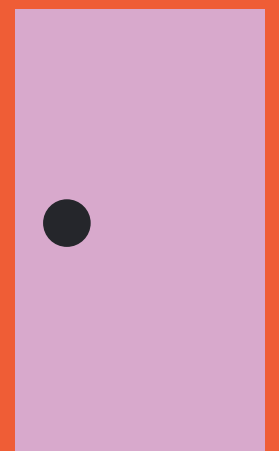
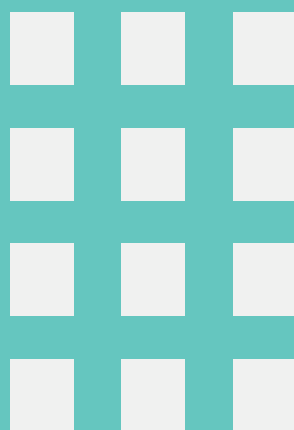
Week

2019

**Your guide to
affordable home
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—
September 19-25 2019
www.sharedownershipweek.co.uk

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
**SHARED
OWNERSHIP
WEEK**
19-25 Sept 2019



A home of my own

Created to help limited-income households get on the property ladder, Shared Ownership is a practical solution for Londoners who can't afford to buy a home outright. In Shared Ownership Week 2019, we've put together this guide to how it works, starting with Amelia's story



IT WAS LONDON'S world-class cocktail scene that attracted Amelia Diaz to move here from France. For making, mind, not drinking. Now a master mixologist, Amelia works in a bar in Bermondsey. The 28-year-old's next challenge was to find somewhere to call home. 'I worked out when I got here that this is my tenth move in London!' says Amelia, sitting on the sofa in her own flat in Barking – an easy and affordable commute from work.

The average deposit for first-time buyers in London is now around £93,184, which is three times the national average, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. This is not exactly affordable for most earners in their twenties or thirties. However, with rents in London still rising, it's not surprising that many people – like Amelia – want to put down roots and start

investing in their own future rather than their landlord's bank account.

'I didn't know what Shared Ownership was until I saw a place being built across the road from where I was living in Camden,' says Amelia. 'I took a look around and the apartments were great. Then I asked the price and...' A sharp intake of breath. 'I decided to look a bit further out, like Tottenham and Stratford. I registered with L&Q [one of several London housing associations] and then I got an update from them with this place on it.'

Amelia looks around her at the lounge and kitchen. The rich colours on the wall are her handiwork, as are the stylish shelf fittings dressed with exotic bottles.

'I thought the price was a mistake at first. It was so much cheaper than everything else I'd been looking at,' she says. 'Other places started at about

£120,000, but these flats were from £73,000.'

Amelia bought a £91,000 share in her flat, putting down a deposit of £13,500. Through a Shared Ownership scheme, she has bought 35 percent of the value of her home and pays a fixed, subsidised rent on the rest. Her total monthly outgoings come to £800 and, if she wants to buy a bigger share in the future, she can.

'I didn't know Barking before, but it's great for me. There's a lot going on and the transport links are brilliant,' she says. Indeed, with London Overground, c2c rail and two tube lines, Barking is a savvy spot for first-time buyers.

'I always had three goals: to own my own place by the age of 30, to have a bath to relax in after work, and to own a big bed!' she says. By Amelia's

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*Meaning over 90% of our customers said they would recommend us to others.



Computer Generated Image of Shared Ownership at Eastman Village. Launching Spring 2020.

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**SHARED
OWNERSHIP
WEEK**
19-25 Sept 2019





'After ten moves when I was renting, this place is my reward'

own admission, she expected her first London home to only have room for a shower and was pleasantly surprised to find a spacious bathroom. Then she saw the size of the bedroom, with its floor-to-ceiling window, fitted cupboards and room for a super-kingsize bed. Amelia put in an offer straight away.

We all have different priorities – room for the record collection, a balcony the cat will love, a lounge big enough to have friends over – and modern new builds are designed to accommodate this. Secure entry areas, accessible hallways and parking take into account the needs of all kinds of residents, from single women to families. Inside each home, wider doorways, savvy storage spaces and light-filled rooms are a far cry from the old

days of living in a box.

L&Q guided Amelia through the buying process, and once she had the keys she started making the place feel like home. She has built a breakfast bar between her kitchen and lounge. 'A table would have taken up too much room. I'm young enough, I can get up on a high stool!'

Hearing her friends' horror stories about renting, she suspects she got off pretty lightly, but she is glad to escape from piles of other people's dirty plates. 'If you buy your own place you have to feel comfortable,' she says. 'Now, when I arrive home, I can chill on the sofa and cook at my leisure. After ten moves when I was renting, this place is my reward. I'm here. This is me.' ■
Interview by Laura Lee Davies



Shared Ownership How it adds up

There is **NO MINIMUM** income barrier to eligibility for a Shared Ownership scheme.

Your household income can be up to **£90,000** (£80,000 outside London) and you'll still be eligible.

You can buy between **25% & 75%** of the property and buy up to 100 percent at a later date, if you want.

You must put down at least **5%-10%** of the value of your share.

Allow around **£5,000** to cover the costs of buying.

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SHARED OWNERSHIP WEEK
 19-25 Sept 2019

Move in this year and we will pay your first 3 months rent, you could save up to £2,500**



*Price is based on a 25% share (£56,250) of a one bedroom apartment at Elm Tree Meadows in Binfield valued from £225,000 with a 5% mortgage deposit (£2,813). **Offer is to pay the rental portion only of your monthly costs of a new home purchased with Shared Ownership, based on a maximum of a 75% share. To qualify reservations must be made before 31st October 2019 and sales completion before 20 December 2019. The offer is capped at a maximum of £2,588. The figure quoted is based on the purchase of plot 832 at Shinfield Meadows with the monthly rent payable of £862.81. Incentives are for new sales only and will be issued upon completion of your new home. We reserve the right to withdraw the offer from the market without prior notice. Prices are accurate at time of print, August 2019.

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NEWLON
LIVING

What is Shared Ownership?

Shared Ownership allows you to buy a share in the overall value of a home and pay rent on the rest of it. So how does it work? We asked the advisers at JLL real estate services about the FAQs

What is the difference between normal homebuying and Shared Ownership?

When buying through Shared Ownership, you're buying a share of your home rather than the whole property. You then have the option to buy further shares, owning up to 100 percent of the property.

Am I eligible?

If this is your sole property and your earnings are under the threshold (£90k in London, £80k outside London), yes!

What if I want to buy with someone else?

So long as your total earnings don't exceed the household earnings limit, this is fine, but may affect the size of property you can buy.

Can I only buy in my area? Are the homes always new-build flats?

Shared Ownership schemes are more than just new builds. As long as you meet the eligibility criteria, you can buy wherever you like. Local authorities may, however, favour people who already live locally.

I used to own somewhere but I don't any more, can I still buy through the scheme?

Absolutely, as long as this is your sole property. Shared Ownership is popular with people looking for their first step on the property ladder and those who are looking to get back on it.

How do I know what properties are available?

Housing associations have their own websites, like we do, but you can also find them through www.shareto-buy.com - a dedicated site for those looking in London - or through local authorities.

How long does the process take?

Buying your first share takes about the same time as a normal property transaction - around three months - and you'll be able to buy more shares after that. Some housing associations may have restrictions on this, though, so check your lease.

Can I make improvements to my home?

Internal changes to the property are fine, but any structural changes may have to be approved by the property developer in line with planning permission. ■

→ For the steps involved in the process, turn to p7.

Stephanie Harris

Policy manager, 30

One-bed apartment in Camberwell, with Peabody,
£420,000

Share: 25 percent share, £105,000

Deposit: £10,500

Total monthly cost: £898 (in rent, mortgage
and service charge)

'In the next five years I can definitely imagine myself staircasing. Right now, I'm focusing on my career and progressing within that and then I'll be ready to increase my share.'





Duncan Mackay

IT consultant, 39

One-bed apartment in Camberwell, with Hyde New Homes, £470,000

Share: 30 percent share, £141,000

Deposit: £14,000

Total monthly cost: £1,045 (rent, mortgage and service charge)

'Camberwell has a great arts scene and has built a foodie reputation in the last few years. It's got great transport links, not only to central London but also to Clapham, Brixton and East Dulwich.'

London has been our home for over 150 years. **Make it yours.**



Fish Island Village, Hackney Wick

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Peabody

Find out more, visit peabodysales.co.uk

Can I afford it?

We asked experts at the housing associations which manage Shared Ownership schemes to explain the important financial details

How much is a Shared Ownership home?

It depends on location, but, for example, at Aspire, St Bernard's Gate, in Ealing, we are offering a 25 percent share in a one-bedroom apartment from £80,625 (full market value £322,500). This is available to those with a minimum annual income of £34,000.

Markus Kendall-Young, Catalyst Homes

How much of a share do I get to buy?

You initially purchase between a 25 percent and a 75 percent share – as much as you can afford, which depends on the scheme.

Vikki Walker, Southern Housing Group

How much do I need to earn to be eligible?

This is worked out on affordability (how much you earn) or an income multiplier (the likely sum your salary will allow you to borrow). At our Paragon development, you can buy a one-bedroom home at a market value of £275,000 (a 25 percent share) with a total joint or a solo income of £35,150.

Andrew Brader, NU Living

How much of a deposit do I need?

Shared Ownership properties often require much lower deposits than the open market. Deposits can start from just 5 percent of the price of the share you are buying.

Jade Turnstill, Share to Buy

What other costs are involved in buying?

Solicitor fees, broker fees, survey fees, the stamp duty tax (depending on the purchase price), plus moving costs. It's advisable to set aside £4,000 to £5,000 to cover them.

Lisa Ley, Network Homes

What are the ongoing monthly costs?

These depend on the development. Ongoing costs comprise a subsidised rent of 2.75 percent on the unsold equity, service charges and mortgage payments.

Minnie Dando, Hyde New Homes

Can I buy a bigger share at a later date?

Yes! This process is known as 'staircasing'. You do not have to staircase, but you can staircase as many times as you want. You can own 100 percent if you want.

Tim Seward, Clarion Housing Group

What happens when I want to sell my home?

It is marketed at a price set by a RICS surveyor and the housing association has eight weeks to find someone. If they haven't found you a buyer after this time, you can sell your home on the open market. Buyers can only purchase the share you are selling, but they can apply to buy more shares from the housing association. ■

Kush Rawal, So Resi

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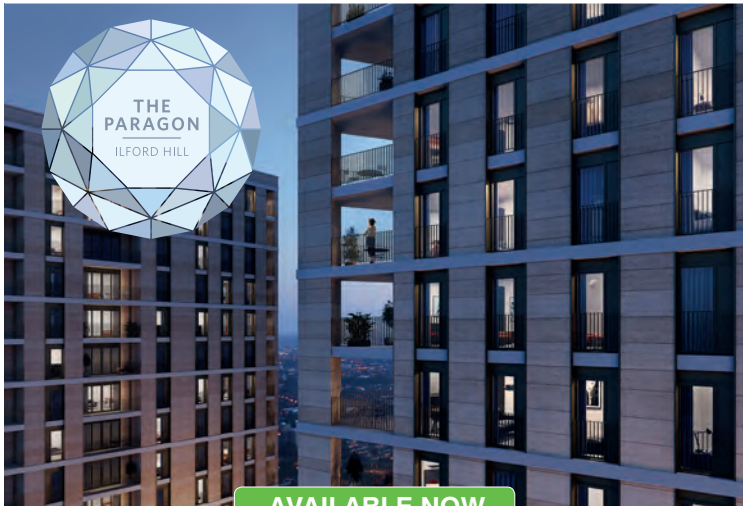
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10 steps to home

Here's an idea of the stages of buying your Shared Ownership property. The exact process may vary slightly between different housing associations



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In association with Shared Ownership Week

Floating points →

Load each of these minimalist bookshelves with up to 20 tomes (or five kilograms) and make a space-saving statement on a wall with your reading matter.

Minus bookshelves by Kryptonite, from £21.50.

→ www.sep.co.uk



Style in

The right buys can make a big difference in small spaces. Design writer *Helen Parton* picks her faves

↑ **Settee-ing pretty**

Stay sustainable and buy for lasting use. This two-seater sofa is unfussy, with clean lines and curved wooden legs, so it will withstand an interiors trend or two.

Archie II sofa, £499.

→ www.johnlewis.com



← **Drawer attention**

This classic filing cabinet could be the best bedside table you've ever had. Buy another one plus a plinth, and hey presto! An instant home office.

Bisley 29 Series MultiDrawer six-drawer, £149.

→ www.bisley.com

← **Rail-y useful**

Get a double hit of Scandinavian design influence and industrial chic. This sturdy hanging rail is made of powder-coated steel with a solid American oak base.

Brunel hanging rail, £329.

→ www.heals.com



Peg it →

Keep smaller items close to hand in the bathroom, the hallway or the home office with this pegboard, and add containers and shelves as you wish to conquer mess. **Skådis pegboard, £12; container with lid, £7 per three pack; shelf, £3; hook, £2 per five pack.**
→ www.ikea.com



↓ When to fold

This folding oak table cleverly converts from a console to a dining table for up to four people. It punches well above its weight in the style stakes, too. **Heath dining table, £325.**
→ www.habitat.co.uk



← Streamline light

Banish bulky lamps with this simple stand. Use on its own in a home office or site one with a pair of side tables in a living room or a bedroom. **Telfer table lamp, £40.**
→ www.bhs.com



Got a lotta bottle ↘

There is always room for a little fun Italian design. This modular wine rack is made of resin and holds six bottles while taking up minimal space. **Noe bottle holder, £61.**
→ www.alessi.com



← Snorage unit

This double bed frame has drawers and shelves built into the sides and also in the foot of the base. The headboard works hard, too, with a hanging rail for clothes inside and room for a lamp on top. **Argos Home Pico bed, £299.**
→ www.argos.co.uk



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SHARED OWNERSHIP WEEK
19-25 Sept 2019

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In association with Shared Ownership Week



ARRO Studio, one and two bed, from £280,000 (min share £112,000). Southall rail 7 min. www.arrolondon.co.uk



LOTS WATERSIDE One, two and three bed, from £632,379 (min share £160,000). Imperial Wharf Overground 5 min. www.lotswaterside.co.uk



SO RESI TWICKENHAM One and two bed, from £499,955 for two bed (min share £149,999). Twickenham rail 11 min. www.soresi.co.uk

West

Where can I buy?



ELEPHANT PARK One and two bed, prices to be confirmed in October 2019. ☹ Elephant & Castle 10 min. www.lqpricedin.co.uk



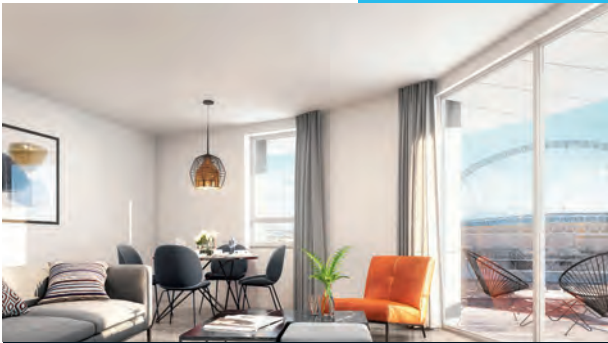
RIVER GARDENS One and three bed, from £350,000 (30 percent share £105,000). Maze Hill rail 22 min. www.peabodysales.co.uk



SO RESI BRIXTON One, two and three bed, from £510,000 for two bed (min share £127,500). ☹ Brixton 10 min. www.soresi.co.uk

South

North



ANTHOLOGY WEMBLEY PARADE One, two and three bed, from £399,000 (min share £126,250). ☺ Wembley Park 3 min. www.homegroup.org.uk



PRINTWORKS One and two bed, from £310,000 (min share £77,500). ☺ Neasden 5 min. www.networkhomessales.co.uk



CITY NORTH One, two and three bed, prices to be confirmed in autumn 2019. ☺ Finsbury Park 1 min. www.newlonliving.co.uk

There are fresh projects launching all the time. Here are some of the new home locations currently selling and about to launch, and this is just a handful of examples. (Where not stated, the homes are apartments)

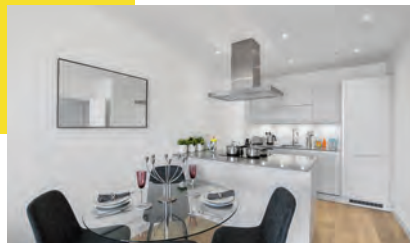
East



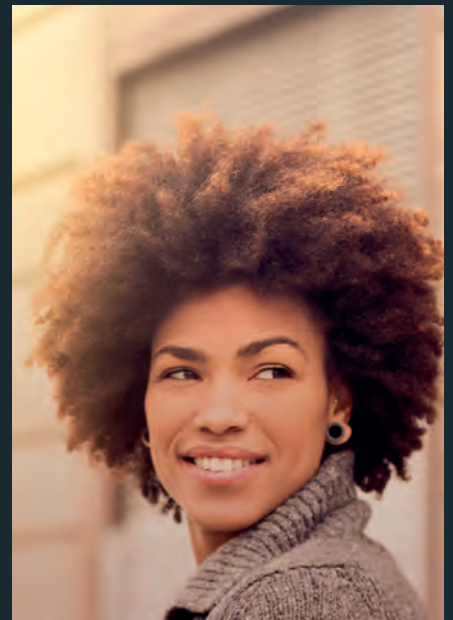
LAINDON PLACE Two and three bed houses, prices to be confirmed before January 2020. Laindon rail 6 min. www.nuliving.co.uk



NEST One, two and three bed, from £325,000 (min share £81,250). ☺ Leyton 12 min. www.newlonliving.co.uk



NEW GARDEN QUARTER One, two and three bed, from £420,000 (min share £105,000). ☺ Stratford 8 min. www.nhgsales.com



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SHARED OWNERSHIP WEEK
19-25 Sept 2019



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Looking outside London



WESTERHAM HOUSE One and two bed apartments, two and three bed houses, from £230,000 (min share £92,000). Edenbridge, Kent. www.residential.jll.co.uk



HOPEFIELD GRANGE Two and three bed houses, from £320,000 (min share £128,000). Benson, Oxfordshire. www.catalyst.homes

If you want more space, you may find that a new home beyond Greater London could suit you better. There are plenty of options within an hour's travel of the capital, as far as the South Coast. Make sure that transport links will suit your commute (and your budget). Here are just a few examples of current and forthcoming developments



PRESTON ROAD One and two bed apartments, three bed houses, prices to be confirmed. Brighton, East Sussex. www.shosales.co.uk



EVABOURNE Two bed houses, from £295,000 (min share £118,000). Peters Village, Wouldham, Kent. www.evabourne.com

What next?

If you think Shared Ownership could be right for you, go to www.sharedownership.co.uk for advice, tips and to find links to partner housing associations.

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SIX OF THE BEST

Harvest festivals

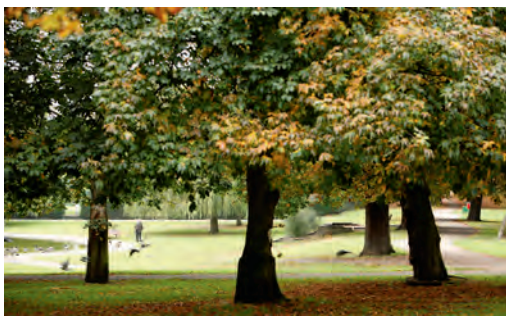
Live the country life without leaving London at a day of apple-picking and animal shows



Pearly Kings and Queens Harvest Festival

It's time for Guildhall Yard to welcome the cockney masses for a shindig Dick van Dyke would give his right arm to muscle in on. Harvest fest offerings (non-perishable goods and toiletries) will be donated to the Whitechapel Mission.

→ Guildhall Yard. Ⓞ Bank. Sun Sep 29. Free.



Apple Day

Broomfield Park in Palmers Green has its own community orchard with 100 gnarly little apple trees, set in a wildflower meadow. Go and relieve those branches of their bounty as acoustic duo That Blue Patch play some tunes in the orchard.

→ Broomfield Park. Palmers Green rail. Sun Sep 29. Free.



Harvest Community Day

Gather round the bandstand for this Brixton micro-festival of art workshops, craft stalls and street food. See who will reign supreme at the Longest Apple Peel competition.

→ Ruskin Park. Loughborough Junction rail. Sun Sep 29. Free.

Go in search of crunchy leaves at timeout.com/parks

BROOMFIELD: JONATHAN PERUGIA/TIME OUT

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THE MOMENT
YOU STEP
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FEEL
SOMETHING
NEW





London Harvest Festival

Donkey shows! Giant pumpkins! Proud cows wearing rosettes! Find them all at this udderly wholesome day out on a city farm. Don't miss the Best Display of Eggs competition.
 → Woodlands Farm. Falconwood rail. Sat Sep 28. Free, some ticketed activities.



HarvestFest at Skylight

Skylight is whipping out the blankets and putting mulled wine back on the drinks menu for its autumn season. Face it, folks, it's black tights and pumpkin spice time.
 → Tobacco Dock. Shadwell Overground. Until Oct 27. Free entry.



FUNgi Fest

LGBTQ+ gardening group Rainbow Grow is opening up its community space in Hackney for a day of shrooms. Learn how to grow them, take the Fake or Fungi? quiz and stay for the mushroom buffet. ■
 → Hackney CVS. Dalston Junction Overground. Sat Sep 28. Free.

Meet more proud cows at timeout.com/cityfarms

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Bring on the boost: five fun ways to work out on your lunch break

Power through the day with these invigorating and inspiring lunchtime fitness classes

You've got your fitness gear in your bag, ready to go to your midday HIIT class or your after-work spin class – but you're just too drained from work to face going. We've all been there, which is why we've teamed up with Swisse Me to bring you tips on where to work out during the day, powered by its new, nutrient-packed Boost Me range.

FIIT

We know it's true – working out is better when you're not alone. The FIIT app puts you in contact with the UK's leading trainers whenever and wherever you can fit in a session. It'll help you get serious results, while being ultra compatible with your existing schedule.

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Kick off your day with the nutrient-packed Start Me range, which you can enjoy from the pouch when you're on the go or as part of a nutritious breakfast bowl. Choose from coffee or quinoa blended with yoghurt, or the yoghurt-free cocoa or chia options.

If you're looking to sweat, go big from your own home with a strength or cardio workout. Or, stretch and relax with tons of different yoga, pilates and mobility classes to choose from. Best of all, you can monitor your own progress against other app users thanks to the live leaderboard from HIIT classes.

From £20 per month. Free version also available.

Another Space

You don't need to carve out hours of your day to fit in a solid fitness sesh. This boutique studio's HIIT 35 classes will have you furiously battling a punchbag to big beats for 35 minutes. You'll be feeling the burn for hours to come, but it's so worth it.

Studios at Covent Garden and Bank. Times and prices vary.

FIT FACT

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Level Six Studios

Don't let anyone tell you that yoga can't be a genuinely challenging workout. The lunchtime Dynamic



Vinyasa Flow class at this gorgeous Peckham studio is an uptempo, continuous sequence of postures set to music. Thankfully, you get a refreshing meditation session at the end.

Peckham Levels. Peckham Rye Overground. Times vary, classes start from £5.

Kobox

No memberships, no sign up fees, just 50 minutes of high intensity boxing in what looks more like a UV-lit nightclub than a gym. Your boxing instructions are given to you by numbers flashing on the

wall – how’s that for getting lit at lunchtime?
Studios at Chelsea, Marylebone, City. Times and prices vary.

GoodGym

It’s an absolutely ingenious concept: you can commit to running to and from a place where you do a good deed and boom, you’ve made someone happier, and yourself fitter. Double win. You can sign up to visit an elderly person or help with any number of community projects near you.

Locations and times vary. Free, £9.95 recommended monthly donation.

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→ Find more Time Out tips on living your best active life at www.timeout.com/swisseme

THERE'S A HIGHBALL IN YOUR FUTURE...



G 'N' TIRED OF YOUR USUAL TIPPLE?

If it's time for a change from the same old unimaginative post-work drinks, then why not add some spice (or zingy citrus) to your routine by rounding up your mates for a Johnnie Walker Highball in one of London's coolest neighbourhoods.

Serving four different variants of the delicious highball, these popular Brixton bars are the best place to taste the most on-trend drink of the year.

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for the facts

Keep Walking

LAST CHANCE

Nomadic Community Gardens

Soon this not-for-profit garden will be closing its doors. Visit while you still can...

IF YOU'VE EVER travelled on the Overground between Whitechapel and Shoreditch High Street, you may have spied a collection of graffiti-covered buildings sticking out from the rest of the city like a colourful sore thumb. This is Nomadic Community Gardens, a not-for-profit urban oasis. Before it came along the space had been empty for 20 years, but thanks to a team of volunteers it was transformed into a an open garden

ANDY PARSONS

with 160 allotment beds, London's largest legal street-art wall, a gallery space and boxing gym.

It has been going strong for four and a half years, but has announced that at the end of September it will be closing down when the land's lease

is passed on to another company. 'It was always going to be a meanwhile space,' explains its creative director, Damien Doughty. 'We only expected the place to be open for six months, so to have been here for so long has been fantastic.'

WHAT IS IT...

A ramshackle volunteer-run garden full of street art and found objects.

WHY GO...

It really is the last chance. After this weekend, it'll be closing its doors.

→ Nomadic Community Gardens. Shoreditch High St Overground. Until Sun Sep 29. Free.

The garden will be open to the public until Sunday, so don't miss the chance to explore its maze of cobbled paths. You'll find them lined with flower beds and sculptures made from old tyres as well as shops and businesses built from scratch with rickety corrugated iron. Look out for impromptu live music jams that start up from nowhere.

'We're not seeing this as the end, but as the beginning,' says

Damien. 'We've shown how much you can do in a temporary space and we're hoping it now goes way beyond the garden. We hope the people who've created a community here will be inspired to start their own projects.' We're sad to see it go. Let's hope the nomads are just moving on to their next adventure.

■ Alexandra Sims

More community gardens at timeout.com/outdoor

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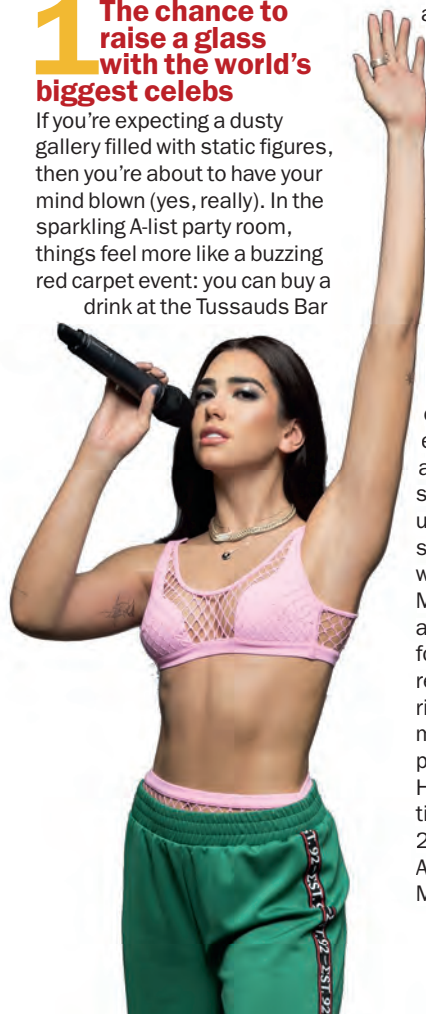
 #RoyalAlbertHall

Eight things you don't expect to see and do at Madame Tussauds London

The iconic London attraction has been thrilling visitors since it opened its doors back in 1835. But it's much more than a bunch of waxworks to take a selfie with. Here, we lift the lid on some surprising experiences you can have on your next trip to the Baker Street location...

1 The chance to raise a glass with the world's biggest celebs

If you're expecting a dusty gallery filled with static figures, then you're about to have your mind blown (yes, really). In the sparkling A-list party room, things feel more like a buzzing red carpet event: you can buy a drink at the Tussauds Bar



and rub shoulders with Priyanka Chopra-Jonas, Eddie Redmayne and Benedict Cumberbatch or form a line at the Fashion Week experience before strutting your stuff on the catwalk alongside Cara Delevingne and Kendall Jenner. Strike a pose, there's nothing to it!

2 ...and get up real close to Boris Johnson's trousers

Yes, you have read that correctly. However you feel about the current PM, it's a genuinely trippy experience being so close to such an incredibly realistic portrayal of someone who is probably popping up on your news feed every ten seconds at the moment. He's wearing the suit that he donated to Madame Tussauds during his time as the Mayor of London – look out for the trouser leg, which includes a repair from a tear that he got while riding his bicycle. Want to have a few more close encounters with powerful people? Get a snap with Harry and Meghan, and then spend time getting to know the other 250-or-so figures, ranging from Audrey Hepburn to Dua Lipa (left). Most visitors spend around two

hours getting chummy with their new celeb pals.

3 It's not just real-life celebs that get made either

Got kids that are mad for all things Marvel? (Well, that's your excuse for going to see all the films, anyway.) Live out both you and your children's dreams on a visit to Madame Tussauds, where you can become fully immersed in a 4D film featuring all of your faves from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. We don't want to give too much away, but it really does transport you far away from Baker Street. You can hang out with loads of characters from the world of Spider-Man, Iron Man and Captain Marvel. One that's hard to

miss is the 4.5m-tall Incredible Hulk – the largest figure to ever be made by Madame Tussauds, with eyes the size of cricket balls.

4 You'll encounter scenes from a galaxy far, far away

Lightsabers at the ready... the attraction is also home to the Star Wars Experience – a collaboration with the attraction, Disney and Lucasfilm that has brought 18 iconic scenes from the film franchise to life. Pop yourself next to Han Solo in the rowdy cantina, make the jump to hyperspace with Chewbacca aboard the Millennium Falcon and don't miss the chance to meet Rey and BB8 in the lawless frontier of Jakku.





7 A figure that is older than the attraction itself

You may not have heard of Madame du Barry (French king Louis XV's final mistress) but her figure is, in fact, the oldest one on display. Created by the actual Madame Tussaud's mentor Philippe Curtius in 1765, the portrait (which features a mechanism to create the illusion of 'breathing') was left to her on his death. The newest figure, meanwhile, is that of Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, which was unveiled earlier this summer. We can imagine they had to up their wax quota to sculpt those guns...

8 Finally, a spot of tea with the Queen

All that adventuring sounds like thirsty work. Fortunately, you can join the Queen (well, a new figure of her, anyway) in Buckingham Palace Gardens for an afternoon tea with a difference during your visit. Tuck into some delicious finger sandwiches, cakes and freshly baked scones alongside Liz and the corgis and enjoy an immersive dining experience.

without leaving Madame Tussauds. Fun fact: his creator Arthur Conan Doyle was a regular visitor to the attraction and it's believed he was inspired by the original Chamber of Horrors. Don your deerstalker and get ready to join Doctor Watson for an adventure like no other.



5 A fleet of black cabs

Sitting in the back of a London taxi is something that has to be on everyone's bucket list. And it's actually possible to do it – and go on a journey – inside Madame Tussauds. The Spirit of London ride takes visitors on a whistle-stop tour of the capital's history – from William Shakespeare

through to the swinging '60s. Strap yourself in and enjoy the ride.

6 The inside of 221b Baker Street

Although the attraction is only a stone's throw from the fictional home of Sherlock Holmes, it's possible to go on an immersive theatrical hunt for the man himself

Madame Tussauds
LONDON

→ Book your Madame Tussauds experience now at www.madametussauds.com

Advertisement feature

Five things we can't wait to do at Samsung KX in October

Have you visited this major new spot in King's Cross yet? Here are the highlights of the Time Out-curated events, workshops and performances at Samsung KX this month

We've teamed up with Samsung KX to bring the best of the city to Samsung KX's new creative hub, packed into a 16-week programme. Tickets to each session start from just £5 (we recommend booking ahead) – and you'll score a free beer or wine at all the evening sessions.

Chill out with a yoga class

What is it? *Energising Flow Yoga from The Refinery*
When is it? *Tuesday October 1 and Tuesday October 15, 8am*
Deep breath: at this energising flow yoga session by The Refinery, you'll fold into poses that awaken the body, mind and soul, including twists, delicious deep stretches and a final restorative relaxation.

Create your very own terrarium

What is it? *A terrarium workshop with Jar and Fern*
When is it? *Wednesday October 2, 7pm*
Killed every plant you've owned, even the cacti? Try looking after something on a smaller scale. At this masterclass you'll discover the history of terrariums, how to care for them and the ideal plants to fill them with. Not only that, but you'll get to make your own too.

Learn the moves to a Lizzo banger

What is it? *The chance to learn the choreography for a Lizzo hit with dancer Cassius Powell*
When is it? *Monday October 7, 7pm*
Feeling the tempo? Then turn up the juice and get yourself twerking

and strutting in this celebration of all things Lizzo. Led by professional dancer Cassius Powel, this class will see you learn a full routine to one of Lizzo's biggest hits and you'll leave feeling like you've just shut down Glastonbury.

Figure out how to code

What is it? *A four-week coding class from London-based non-profit Founders and Coders*
When is it? *Wednesday October 9, Wednesday October 16, Tuesday October 22, Tuesday October 29, 1pm*
Web development doesn't need to be difficult. Thanks to this London-based non-profit, you'll learn the basics across four weeks, including creating your very own website, making it work across various devices, and design tips and ticks.

Get your hands slimy

What is it? *An adult gunk workshop with Slime Planet*
When is it? *Monday October 21, 7pm*
Kids might be going crazy for it, but now it's time for adults get in on the gooey action. At the world's first ever 'Slime and Wine' night (yep, you read that right), you'll get hands-on and create your own slime from scratch, including adding colours, mix-ins and scents like bubblegum and sticky toffee pudding. At the end, join the group as you make a giant slime – and enjoy a range of wines as you go.

#SamsungKX

→ Find out more about Samsung KX at www.samsung.com/uk/kx

→ Find the full list of events at Samsung KX at timeout.com/samsungkx



WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

London Tattoo Convention



A convention? Sounds... edgy

Wait! Come back! It's not the 'sandwich platter in the boardroom' event you have in mind. Visitors are more likely to have Skeletor tattoos on their chests than a nametag. The London Tattoo Convention is more like a festival for true body-art obsessives.

So what does it actually involve?

More than 400 of the world's most talented tattoo artists will fill Tobacco Dock, and most attendees will use it as an opportunity to be inked by a big name. Be warned, the slots book up fast.

What's on offer for the needle-averse?

Fire-breathing dance troupes, tattoo competitions and a lot of heavy guitar rock from men in battered leather jackets and stetsons. Along with some extreme body art, there'll be plenty on the walls too: photography shows, a retrospective of tattoo artist Alex Binnie and a display of Japanese woodblock prints.

Anything else I should know?

Shibari – the art of Japanese rope bondage – is big this year. There are live performances planned for every day of the weekend. You see? Not your average convention... ■

London tattoo parlours at
timeout.com/tattoos

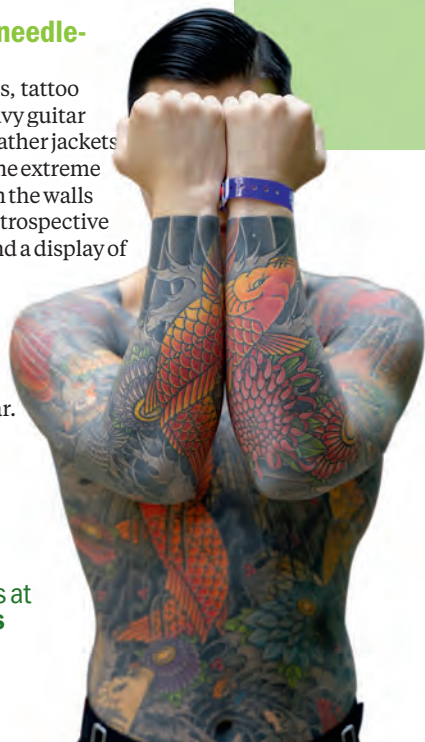
WHAT IS IT?

The UK's biggest festival of body art.

WHY GO?

To get inked by the best. Or just do some tat-spotting.

→ Tobacco Dock, Shadwell Overground. Fri Sep 27-Sun Sep 29. From £30.



MAIN PIC: MYKOLA ROMANOV/SKY (MAIN); CUT OUT: LONDON TATTOO CONVENTION

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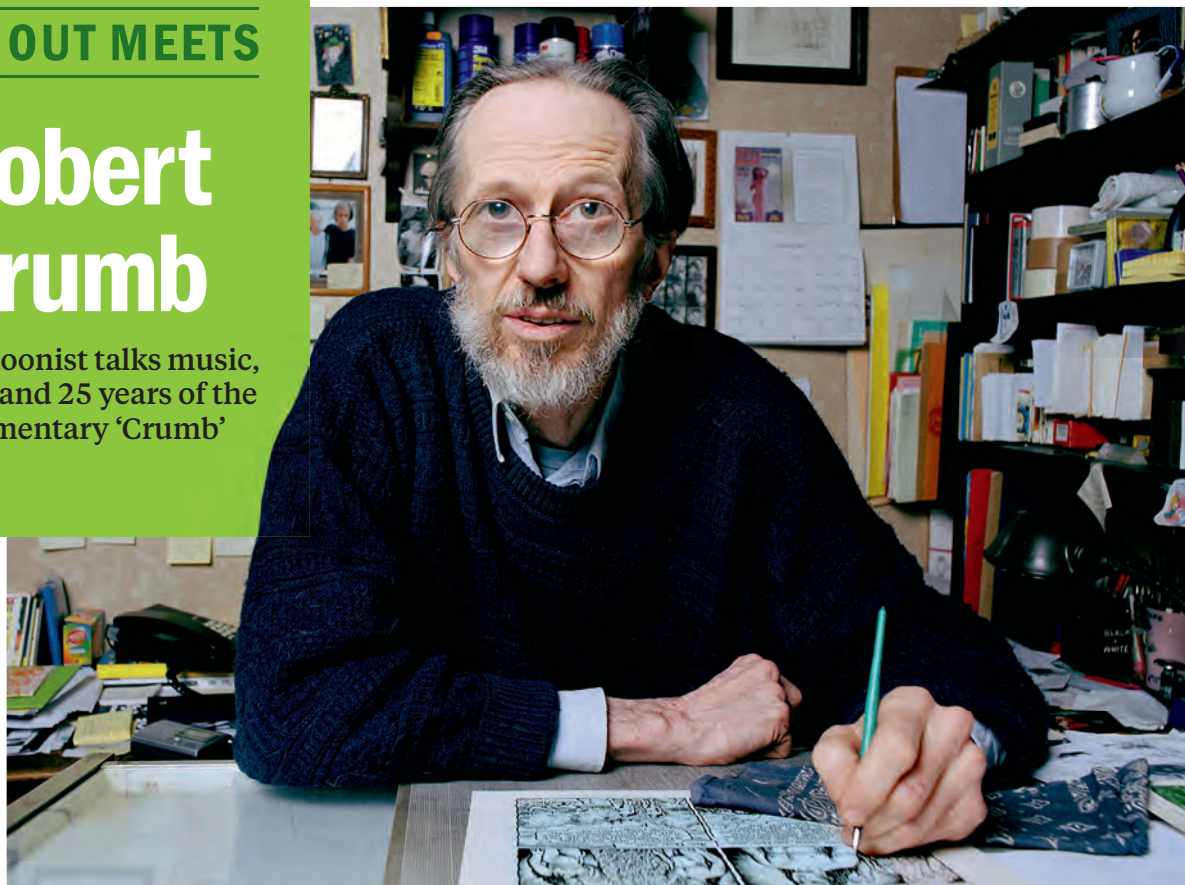
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TimeOut
THE BEST OF THE CITY

TIME OUT MEETS

Robert Crumb

The cartoonist talks music, politics and 25 years of the documentary 'Crumb'



NOTORIOUS UNDERGROUND cartoonist Robert Crumb has been a thorn in the side of America's self-image since the '60s. He's always provoked while being laceratingly self-scornful. Director Terry Zwigoff's 1994 documentary 'Crumb' is an unsparing portrait of the artist, his tragically dysfunctional family and the society he's always felt alienated from. At the time, it was a surprise hit, described by one critic as 'the greatest documentary ever made'. To celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary, Crumb and Zwigoff are presenting a screening of it

along with Zwigoff's 'Ghost World', with a live Q&A and music from the recently made-up band R Crumb's Hollywood Four, in which they both perform.

It's 25 years since Terry's documentary...
'Twenty-five years... Christ!'

Were you surprised by how it was received?
'I certainly was, yeah. I assumed it would either never get finished or if it did maybe a few people would see it in some art moviehouse somewhere. Who knew that it was

going to be in the multiplex in my mother-in-law's suburban town in Florida?'

Did she go and see it?
'She went to see it and was totally horrified, because Aline [his wife, comic artist Aline Kominsky-Crumb] makes fun of her in the film. So she calls up and says "I saw the film." "What film?" "You know, the Crumb thing. All I want to say is I was deeply hurt."'

Have you watched it recently?
'I haven't seen it for years. It's kind of painful. I'm giggling nervously because of the film crew standing there watching this ridiculousness of the weirdness of the Crumb brothers. It's like displaying your operation scar or something.'

There's a lot of early blues and ragtime music in 'Crumb', and in 'Ghost World': has it always been a passion of yours?
'I was always instinctively drawn toward old styles of music from the time I was a child. My brother and I would go to the Salvation Army

looking for old comics; they'd have old 78s and, out of curiosity, I bought a few. I remember it was one of those turning-point moments: *that's* the music. Oh my God, it's on this record all right: therapy in its purest form.'

Have you always played it too?
'I was inspired to try and play it. I was never very good. I'm a strummer, basically, not really much of a musician. As an artist, it's hard to serve two masters.'

There's a live Q&A: are you expecting a lot of 'Why aren't you bringing down Trump?'-type questions?
'I don't know. Just before you called I was looking at this James Gillray cartoon from 1798: I was

just studying it with a magnifying glass and there are all these politicians like hordeing around this thing called the "cornucopia of ignorance".'

And that's where we are now?
'Nothing's changed simply because now we have the internet. We'd need an army of James Gillrays to deal with that shit...' ■
Chris Waywell

MARGARET
HOWELL

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DON'T MISS

See a special immersive screening of the films 'Ghost World' and 'Crumb' with a musical performance from director Terry Zwigoff and Robert Crumb.

→ The Troxy, Shadwell DLR.
Sat Sep 28. £33.

OKTOBER-FEST

N Camden Oktoberfest

Sip on steins and bite down on bratwurst with an early Oktoberfest. Camden's Electric Ballroom will be transformed into a traditional Bavarian beer hall with a brass ensemble playing oompah favourites. Wurst wizards Herman ze German will provide the sausages. Spaten, Löwenbräu and Becks have the booze covered.

→ Electric Ballroom.

⊖ Camden Town.

Sat Sep 28. From £10.

S The Gipsy Hill Oktoberfest Party

The south London brewery is bringing out bunting, benches and plenty of beer for this Germanic shindig. Try special brews from German Kraft Beer, Anspach & Hobday and Gipsy Hill's Oktoberfest Hopfenweisse. Soak it up with bites from Barbacoa before cutting loose to the Hosen Brass band.

→ Gipsy Hill Taproom.

Gipsy Hill rail. Sat Sep 28. Free.

EXPERIENCE

E Wishful

Walk through an illuminated mechanical garden, join a glittering carnival procession and watch floating shrines and giant swans sail across the docks for this show inspired by the Thai festival Loi Krathong. Get stuck into lantern-making workshops and stick around for a firework finale against the backdrop of Millennium Mills.

→ Silvertown Quays. Pontoon Dock DLR. Sat Sep 28. Free.

TO DO

The best events in your area

C Central N North S South E East W West

BUY

W Environment Trust's Secret Art Sale

Fancy yourself an art collector? At this sale you'll have the chance to buy works donated by local artists, art students and big names like Emma Thompson, Quentin Blake, Alison Wilding and Roger McGough for just £40. But, there's a catch – the works will be exhibited anonymously and you won't know who has made what until it's been bought. All proceeds go to the Environment Trust.

→ The Exchange. Twickenham rail. Sat Sep 28-Sun Sep 29. £3 entry.

SUPPORT

E Everpress '50/50'

T-shirt platform Everpress has launched its annual 50/50 campaign – 50 limited edition tees designed by 50 artists, all raising money for Justice4Grenfell. Check out the designs at this exhibition – including ones from gal-dem, Vicky Grout, BBZ and HANGER Inc – and pick one up for yourself.

→ Protein Studios. Shoreditch High St Overground. Thu Sep 26. Free.

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DISCUSS

C Banned Book Club

Celebrate Banned Books Week at this panel talk. Writers including Sex+ magazine editor Kim Loliya and novelist Courttia Newland will discuss their favourite banned books and why you should read them.

→ Foyles. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Thu Sep 26. £8.

LISTEN

N Sunday Papers Live

See your favourite Sunday rags brought to life by poets, politicians, musicians, comedians and journalists section by section. Rose McGowan and James O'Brien are on the bill.

→ Cecil Sharp House. ⊖ Camden Town. Sun Sep 29. £37.50.

E Crick Crack Club's Alternative Tarot

This series of shows from the storytelling troupe is themed around different tarot cards. This time it's the 'Joker', so get ready to hear oral tales of trickery and taboo.

→ Rich Mix. Shoreditch High St Overground. Wed Sep 25. £12.

EXCLUSIVE

Sing and dance your way through the city with our tickets to the **Silent Disco** adventure saving you 50 percent. Now just £8.

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This is how we do it
timeout.com/dolist

Film

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

Root and branch

The director and star of 'The Last Tree' on their brilliant new London drama.
Portrait *Andy Parsons*

FRESH, EMOTIONAL AND seriously soulful, 'The Last Tree' feels like a new kind of London story. It's based loosely on its writer-director Shola Amoo's own experiences as a foster kid in the city. He's a second-generation Nigerian who grew up in London, and he's spliced his story with those of other foster children. The result follows a British-Yoruba boy called Femi (played as a teenager by Sam Adewunmi) from an adopted home in Lincolnshire to his mum's south-east London estate and a harder-edged life. 'It's about Femi's connection to his roots,' says Adewunmi, 'and being the first one in his family to have got the UK culture and the London culture.'

There's an easy chemistry between these two up-and-coming talents as they pose for Time Out's photographer in a King's

Cross backstreet. Amoo is a south Londoner rapidly building a rep as a filmmaker; Adewunmi graduated from the same acting school as John Boyega and Letitia Wright and grew up in Camden. Not that the director knew he was a north Londoner when he cast him. 'The role could have gone,' deadpans Amoo. In the end, the deal was sealed over an untouched bowl of pho on Kingsland Road. 'I was too nervous to eat,' remembers Adewunmi.

Was it tricky to step into the shoes of his director? 'We never specifically spoke about Shola's experiences,' says Adewunmi. 'He's quite a zen guy, an observer, and I was trying to see those qualities in Femi.' For his part, Amoo was careful to keep a line between his own experiences and Femi's. He had fun parlaying his own days at Elephant & Castle's notoriously anarchic





FILM OF THE WEEK

The Last Tree



RESCUING SOUTH LONDON'S estates from grim hoodies-with-handguns depictions, this British drama is a compassionate and timely look at life as a British-Nigerian foster kid coming up the hard way. It's exceptionally well-crafted by south Londoner Shola Amoo and loosely based on the writer-director's own younger years.

That kid – Femi – is played by newcomers Tai Golding (younger) and Sam Adewunmi (older), and both actors are real finds. Adewunmi brings an edgy blend of defiance and solitude, even as Femi mucks about with his mates, makes awkward overtures to a fellow student (Ruthxjiah Bellenea) or tries to wriggle out from under the spell of a petty gangster (Demmy Ladipo). There's a real sense of a teenaged boy unmoored as he's moved from a foster home in Lincolnshire

to London and the film transitions stylishly through new schools, new homes and even a burst of New Order – one of the few clues as to the film's mainly '90s setting.

Even when things stray into the familiar terrain of intimidating tower blocks and impromptu beatings, Amoo and his cinematographer Stil Williams keep the visuals fresh. Nocturnal estates glow red like Dante's underworld, and there's real power when Femi threatens his teacher in a washed-out classroom.

As with his debut feature 'A Moving Image', a spikily insightful look at gentrification in Brixton, Amoo is always looking to subvert lazy cultural assumptions (there's a nice throwaway moment when Femi gets caught by his mates listening to The Cure and hastily pretends it's Tupac) and give us a different London to look at. On this evidence, his canvas may be about to get even bigger. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

WHAT IS IT...

A coming-of-age drama about a fostered British-Nigerian boy.

WHY GO...

For an immigrant story with real power and emotion.

→ Director Shola Amoo (15) 99 mins.

Geoffrey Chaucer School. 'It was crazy,' he laughs. 'Like *legendarily* crazy. We were trying to capture the energy and the chaos.'

The film's locations were picked with maximum authenticity in mind – so no soundstages or gratuitous shots of the London Eye. Amoo wanted to film Femi's flat on SE17's sprawling Aylesbury Estate, but knew how tricky it could be to get permission (his debut film, 'A Moving Image', shows a filmmaker struggling with this exact predicament). 'Happily, I'd run a film course on the estate and had strong ties with the community,' he says, 'otherwise they wouldn't have let me film there. Respect to Michael Caine – he's a G – but they set [Caine's vigilante thriller] "Harry Brown" on the [now demolished] Heygate Estate and it felt symbolic of a sink estate.'

As the country seems to turn inward, London's filmography is slowly heading in the opposite direction. It's catching up with TV hits like 'Top Boy' in embracing new voices and telling overlooked stories – about the immigrant experience and race, and the often teeth-gritting realities of life on the margins. 'The Last Tree' is the first in an exciting new wave of diverse, London-set movies, with Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje's 'Farming', Rapman's 'Blue Story' and Sarah Gavron's 'Rocks' following close behind. Amoo isn't getting carried away, though. 'I hope it's not a wave,' he cautions. 'Waves crash. We need this to be sustained.' ■

→ 'The Last Tree' is out Fri Sep 27.



By **Phil de Semlyen**
Who is still looking for the tree in 'The Tree of Life'.

FROM EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARTIN SCORSESE

SEBASTIAN STREET

STUART BRENNAN

STEPHANIE LEONIDAS

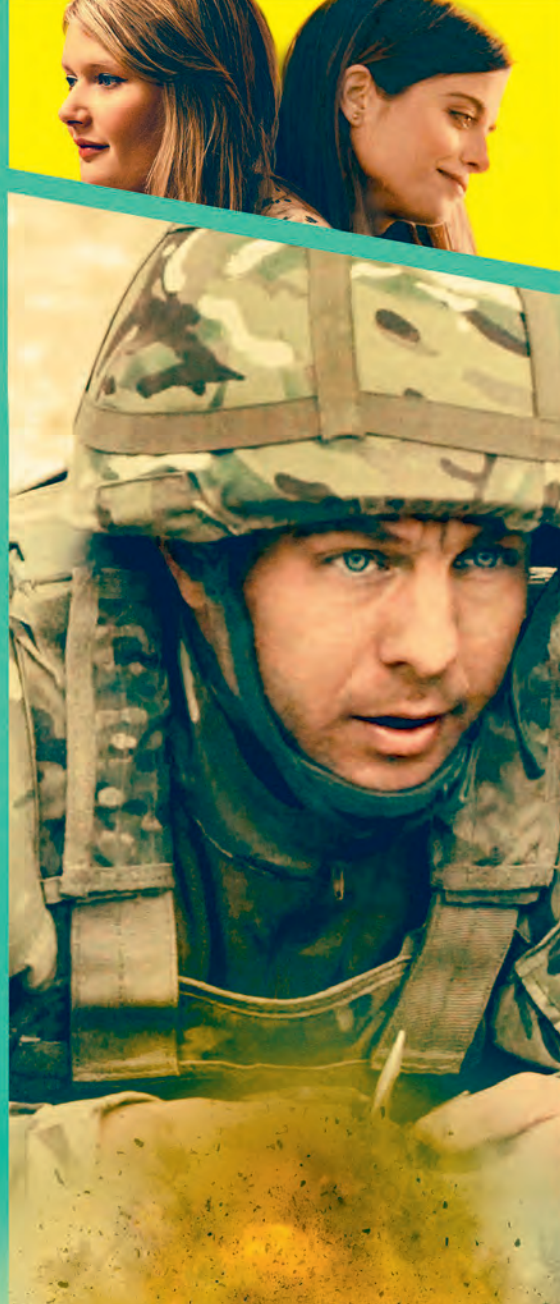
SOPHIE KENNEDY CLARK

PAUL KAYE

JOSS STONE

JAMES COSMO WITH

STEPHEN AND FRY



A MARTHA PINSON FILM

TOMORROW

EVERY DAY IS A GIFT

STORY BY SEBASTIAN STREET AND MARTHA PINSON. SCREENPLAY BY SEBASTIAN STREET. DIRECTED BY MARTHA PINSON. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SEBASTIAN STREET, STUART BRENNAN, STEPHANIE LEONIDAS, SOPHIE KENNEDY CLARK, PAUL KAYE, JOSS STONE. PRODUCED BY JAMES COSMO AND STEPHANIE LEONIDAS. CASTING BY ROBERT BOWEN. COSTUME DESIGNER PETER CROFT. EDITOR CEDRIC CHAMBERLAIN. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DAVIDAN BRADY, PRODUCED BY EDITH SHAW-DE LA SOTA. SOUND DESIGNERS SEBASTIAN STREET, JUAN ANTONIO. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARTHA SCORSESE, TAMARA F. WAGNER. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDREW HARRISON, SEBASTIAN STREET. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MARTHA PINSON.

The Goldfinch



IT'S NEVER FUN when a beloved novel lands on screen with a discernible thump – and that's putting it mildly in the case of 'The Goldfinch'. Donna Tartt's Pulitzer Prize winner flew by, swiftly touching on symbolic scenes of Manhattan terrorism and adolescent abandonment. Its spirit is missing from this overlong movie version, slackened by wall-to-wall sad music and droopy narration.

Ansel Elgort, never persuasive as a tortured soul, brings us into the character of Theodore Decker, survivor of an explosion in the Metropolitan Museum of Art that claimed the life of his mother. Enduring PTSD and rootlessness, his younger self (played by Oakes Fegley) is harboured by a wealthy Upper East Side family and their concerned matriarch (Nicole Kidman, the film's standout turn). But just as that situation seems to be tipping toward permanence, Theo's estranged alcoholic dad (a cartoonish Luke Wilson) and his trashy girlfriend (Sarah Paulson) show up unannounced and whisk the boy off to suburban Las Vegas, where things soon go south.

WHAT IS IT...
An adaptation of Donna Tartt's epic coming-of-age tale.

WHY GO...
You love the book and can handle the disappointment.

→ Director John Crowley (15) 149 mins.



Director John Crowley gets overloaded by the script's plodding and-then-this-happened trudge; it's too bad, because he pulled off something of a miracle with the Ireland-to-America immigrant romance 'Brooklyn' (this time there's no Saoirse Ronan to anchor

it all). On its way to a drab climax that somehow involves a shootout in Amsterdam, 'The Goldfinch' throws in so many extra characters that you wonder if anyone thought this stew was going to be edible. If you loved the book, it might be fun to check them off your mental list. But fans would have been hoping for a lot more. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

Ready or Not



WHAT IS IT...

A bride is forced to play a murderous game with her new in-laws.

WHY GO...

For Andie MacDowell in an expectation-defying turn.

→ Directors Tyler Gillett, Matt Bettinelli-Olpin (18) 95 mins.



HORROR MOVIES WILL always make room for rich people behaving badly. Frankly, we could use a sharp one of these right now: another 'American Psycho' or 'You're Next'. Instead, we get the splattery, not-quite-as-clever-as-it-thinks 'Ready or Not', in which the snobby heirs to a family called the Le Domas – and their gaming fortune – are murderers and closet satanists.

Le Domas patriarch Tony (Henry Czerny) and his wife Becky (Andie MacDowell) assemble the clan for a heavily armed version of hide-and-seek with their newest member, Grace (Samara Weaving), who has just wed their son Alex (Mark O'Brien). Grace first plays along, but soon realises that she's in mortal danger (it takes an accidentally slain maid or two to make the point). Awakening from her ennui, Grace transforms into a capable action hero, ripping up her wedding dress and flexing her right to bear arms. 'She's a little blonde twig!' fumes Tony, watching his spawn go down one by one.

Co-directors Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett ('Devil's Due') are more comfortable with zany humour than with manufacturing actual scares. They overindulge in a Tchaikovsky-loving butler who has a thing for singing in his car, although they also plunge Weaving into something called the goat pit, which earns them significant points on the ickiness scale.

As high-concept puzzles go, this thriller's a little too easy to outfox. Still, it's worth a look if you need a quick diversion. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

Hotel Mumbai



WHAT IS IT...

A hotel-set thriller about the Mumbai terrorist attacks.

WHY GO...

For a terrific turn from Armie Hammer as an American caught in the crossfire.

→ Director Anthony Maras (15) 123 mins.



KICKING OFF WITH hotel staff and tourists beginning a seemingly ordinary day, 'Hotel Mumbai' quickly becomes a cross between an Irwin Allen disaster movie and a nail-biting thriller. It's based on the real-life terrorist attack, making it a tougher watch than the popcorn fare it recalls, like '24'. There's a palpable unease throughout – not unlike Kathryn Bigelow's 'Detroit'.

The cast includes Dev Patel as waiter Arjun at the lavish Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Jason Isaacs as Vasili, a high-powered Russian businessman, and heiress Zahra (Nazanin Boniadi). She's there with her new American husband David (Armie Hammer), and their baby and nanny. Settling into the restaurant, David scours the menu for burgers while Vasili loudly orders escorts at the next table. These characters are mostly fictionalised composites of real-life people, but national stereotypes remain intact.

Then comes the moment you're dreading: the terrorists, already throwing Mumbai into chaos, creep into the hotel and a long stand-off begins as they stalk and slaughter in the corridors. Suspenseful moments abound and Hammer is good as an everyman under stress, swerving just shy of Gerard Butler territory and leaving the main heroism to the Indian staff. It's poignant stuff and a slick, well-made thriller, yet with the focus on the carnage rather than the political climate, you can't shake the feeling that it's a bit exploitative. An invented scenario might have been easier to accept as entertainment. ■ *Anna Smith*

★★★★★
THE LIST

★★★★★
TIME OUT

“A HYPNOTIC COMING-OF-AGE STORY”
THE PLAYLIST

★★★★★
THE UPCOMING

★★★★★
TOTAL FILM

★★★★★
THE ARTS DESK

“VISUALLY STUNNING”
THE UPCOMING

★★★★★
EMPIRE

“TRULY REMARKABLE”
AESTHETICA MAGAZINE

★★★★★
DAILY EXPRESS

A FILM BY SHOLA AMOO

THE LAST TREE



IN CINEMAS FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

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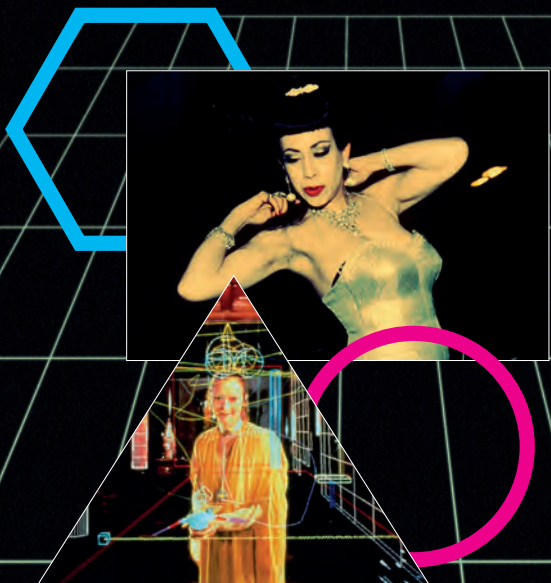
LOOK OUT FOR EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW SCREENINGS
& FIND CINEMAS AT WWW.THELASTTREE.FILM

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Sat 5 Oct

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A bookfair and day of talks,
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exploring contemporary
feminism and technology.

Conceived by Sarah Shin

Artwork by Cecilia Serafini

Sea of Shadows



WHAT IS IT...

A documentary about poaching in the Gulf of California.

WHY GO...

It's the best eco-thriller since 'The Cove'.

→ Directors Sean Bogle, Richard Ladkani and Matthew Podolsky (12A) 105 mins.



THIS SLICK, INSIGHTFUL and often tense Nat Geo documentary plays out as an eco-crime thriller in the sparkling waters of Mexico's Gulf of California. It's in these seas near the town of San Felipe that poachers and environmentalists clash over a prime loot destined for distant Chinese buyers: the swim bladder of the totoaba fish, nicknamed the 'cocaine of the sea' and coveted for its medicinal properties. The battle to harvest these organs is bloody and escalating. It's dangerous enough for the humans involved. But caught in the crossfire are super-cute vaquita – extremely rare porpoises – which we glimpse as rescuers try to save them from extinction.

'Sea of Shadows' tells this story from the viewpoint of activists, journalists, preservationists, the Mexican Navy and even the criminals themselves in some shaky undercover footage. What's clear is that this vicious tussle at sea is similar in its causes, complexity and brutality (if not in scale) to Mexico's drugs war. Lead director Richard Ladkani pulls off several filmmaking coups: one nocturnal scene sees the conservation boat Sea Shepherd under attack from armed fishermen; another puts us in the middle of a seaside riot. Based on solid journalism and full of drone footage, night-vision scenes and intense moments, this is a murky, compelling tale that exists at the crossroads of corruption and idealism. ■ *Dave Calhoun*

HEADS UP

Props to you



Don't you want to cuddle this cutie? Should you wish to go one further and take this original baby Ewok home with you, Prop Store is holding its annual auction of movie memorabilia. And if 'Star Wars' isn't your orbit, perhaps you'd like a more earthly memento, like Vito Corleone's coat. If the starting prices are a stretch, check out the exhibition for free.

→ Exhibition open now at BFI Imax. Auction Sep 30 and Oct 1. ⇄ Waterloo.

All the biggest new films reviewed at timeout.com/film

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A MARTIN SCORSESE PICTURE
**THE
IRISHMAN**



NOV 8

NOV 27

SCREENPLAY
BY **STEVEN ZAILLIAN**

IN CINEMAS

NETFLIX

DIRECTED
BY **MARTIN SCORSESE**

London Film Festival



For more LFF info, visit timeout.com/film

DICKENSIAN LONDON GETS a blast of comic energy in a raucous and completely colour-blind take on 'David Copperfield' from Armando Iannucci ('The Death of Stalin'). It's a perfect opener for this year's London Film Festival, even if (shuush!) the city was actually mostly recreated in Hull for the film. Over a cuppa and a Twirl, he explains why it was such a breath of fresh air to swap Stalin and Beria for Copperfield, Micawber and co.

Is it true Dev Patel initially thought the film was about the '90s magician?

'He did say that when we met [laughs]. He hadn't read the book but I wasn't expecting that - it's 900 pages! And I'm not expecting the audience to know about Dickens or the period. We're starting afresh.'

The casting is colour-blind but the point is never hammered home.

'The idea is that people leave the film not thinking about it. And why shouldn't you draw from 100 percent of the acting community?'

Is there much of Dickensian London left?

'There is but we shot most of [the London scenes] in Hull because it still has old buildings.'

TIME OUT MEETS Armando Iannucci

The comic genius on his vibrant new take on 'David Copperfield', opening the LFF and the Tao of Dominic Cummings

The story follows David Copperfield to London. Do you remember your own first day in the city?

'I came down [from Scotland] to work at the BBC in 1988 and there was a tube and bus strike. I had to cycle in traffic for 45 minutes every day, which was sort of terrifying.'

What are the Dickens clichés to avoid in an adaptation?

'I said no dames and no cobbles. What was it that made me want to do it? It was Dickens's imagination and

the comedy. He could take on big targets but make it entertaining.'

You're known for doing the same.

'I've always loved how he makes even off-putting themes entertaining.

When we were doing "The Thick of It", we'd hear that we shouldn't do it about politics because people aren't interested. The key is to *make it* interesting.'

Any plans to bring 'The Thick of It' back?

'I don't want to celebrate what's happening. I think [policians] saw it as a training manual.'

Who'd come off best in a face-off between Malcolm Tucker and Dominic Cummings?

'Malcolm had worked out roughly what his beliefs were. I'm not sure I get much more from Dominic Cummings than a sense that he just wants everyone to fucking die. I don't know what his views are really, other than we're all shit.'

So it's been good to be doing something non-political?

'Having done "The Death of Stalin", which was brutal, I wanted to do something with a different tone.'

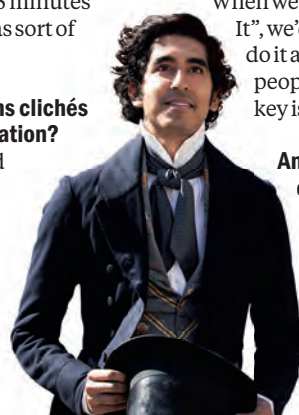
'The Death of Stalin' was banned in Russia. Have you been there since?

'No, although I have been invited to the Stalin Museum in Georgia [laughs]. It hasn't been released officially, but it has been illegally downloaded 1.5 million times. Russia, of all countries, is expert at getting into websites.'

Finally, how does it feel to be opening the London Film Festival?

'I'm flattered! I think this film will connect with how people are feeling at the moment.' ■ *Interview by Phil de Semlyen*

→ 'The Personal History of David Copperfield' opens the BFI London Film Festival on Oct 2.



LFF calendar

Get your diary out and take your pick of our festival highlights

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2



The Personal History of David Copperfield

Dev Patel shows his talent for comedy in Armando Iannucci's adaptation of the Dickens classic.
→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 7.45pm.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3



Workforce

Real-life bricklayers star in David Zonana's debut feature about construction workers who decide to take on their bosses.
→ Vue West End, 6pm.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4



The King

Grab a ticket for David Michôd and Joel Edgerton's Shakespeare adaptation starring Timothée Chalamet as Henry V.
→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 11.30am.



Our Ladies

Catholic schoolgirls go wild in 1990s Edinburgh in this comedy-drama based on Alan Warner's novel 'The Sopranos'.
→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 9pm.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 6



Jojo Rabbit

Taika Waititi scripts and directs an offbeat, darkly comic satire set in WWII Germany, featuring Thomasin McKenzie ('Leave No Trace').
→ Odeon Luxe Leicester Square, 2.30pm.



Hope Gap

A divorce drama starring Annette Bening and Bill Nighy? Sign us up. 'Gladiator' writer William Nicholson is on directing duty.
→ Curzon Soho, 3.15pm.

MONDAY OCTOBER 7



Marriage Story

This comes from Noah Baumbach, so expect another dryly witty relationship drama. Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver star.
→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 11.15am.



Atlantics

Mati Diop's Cannes hit is a hypnotic-looking study of a teen in Senegal. This promises to be a genre-busting treat with boldness to burn.
→ NFT1, BFI Southbank, 12.10pm.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 10



The Aeronauts

Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne go ballooning in the story of scientific discovery from director Tom Harper ('Wild Rose').
→ NFT1, BFI Southbank, 2.30pm.



Rare Beasts

Billie Piper directs and stars in a daring 'anti rom-com' about the chaotic life of a single mother. David Thewlis and Kerry Fox co star.
→ Curzon Mayfair, 6.30pm.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11



Le Mans '66

Known as 'Ford v Ferrari' in the US, James Mangold's film features the dream team of Christian Bale and Matt Damon as motor racing stars.
→ Odeon Luxe Leicester Square, 2pm.



Western Stars

Bruce Springsteen's life and work mingle in a docu-memoir in which he performs the whole of his latest release, 'Western Stars'.
→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 9pm.

How to get your hot tickets

Here's the deal on booking seats at the hundreds of LFF screenings

How can I get tickets?

You can buy LFF tickets now at www.bfi.org.uk/lff, or by phone on 020 7928 3232 (11.30am-8.30pm daily). You can also purchase them in person at BFI Southbank (11am-8.30pm).

How much does it cost?

Weekday matinees (before 5pm) are £10-£14. Evening and weekend screenings start at £13.25; galas £14-£30. Look out for £5 screenings for 16-25-year-olds.

The film I want to see is sold out, what can I do?

Most films are screening on several dates, and sometimes extra tickets are released later so keep an eye out. It's also worth queuing up for returns on the door. Get there 45 minutes early.

Which cinemas are films in?

The films are shown in venues across London, though most are in the West End, in the likes of Curzon Soho, Vue West End, Odeon Tottenham Court Road and the special London Film Festival pop-up, the Embankment Garden Cinema.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5



Abominable

LFF isn't just for grown-ups: the latest family animation from Dreamworks sees a teenaged girl befriend a Yeti.

→ Odeon Luxe Leicester Square, 3pm.



The Lighthouse

Robert Pattinson and Willem Dafoe are holed up in a lighthouse with potentially hypnotic results in the 'Time Out' gala from Robert Eggers.

→ Odeon Luxe Leicester Square, 9.30pm.

TUESDAY OCTOBER 8



Knives Out

'Looper' director Rian Johnson delivers a murder mystery starring Christopher Plummer, Daniel Craig, Ana de Armas and many more.

→ Odeon Luxe Leicester Square, 7.30pm.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9



Portrait of a Lady On Fire

A heart-stopping love story that's earned comparisons to 'The Piano', Céline Sciamma's painterly film is sure to be a treasure to behold.

→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 2.30pm.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 10



Greed

Steve Coogan re-teams with Michael Winterbottom for the fifth time in a story of celebrity excess, also starring Shirley Henderson.

→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 11.45am.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12



Rocks

A London teen tries to bring up her younger brother in this seriously buzzy coming-of-age indie flick from Sarah Gavron ('Suffragette').

→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 2.30pm.



A Beautiful Day in the Neighbourhood

Marielle Heller directs Tom Hanks in a biopic of much-loved US kids' TV presenter Fred Rogers.

→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 5.30pm.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 13



Harriet

Stockwell's own Cynthia Erivo is heading back to London to showcase her new biopic of abolitionist Harriet Tubman.

→ Embankment Garden Cinema, 2.15pm.



The Irishman

Robert De Niro stars in Martin Scorsese's political mystery that's also pulled Joe Pesci out of retirement. An epic closing night.

→ Odeon Luxe Leicester Square, 5.30pm.



The many faces of Robert Pattinson

With three films showing, the former *Twilight*er is this year's LFF MVP. We chart his daring path to this point



SINCE REACHING heartthrob status with *'Twilight'* in 2008, Robert Pattinson has made some bold choices. The future Batman is appearing in three LFF films, playing a flamboyant dauphin in *'The King'*, a sinister police officer in *'Waiting for the Barbarians'* and a salty lighthouse keeper in *'The Lighthouse'*. We take a look at seven daring performances that led the Barnes boy to the London Film Festival in 2019.

1 Cosmopolis (2012)
David Cronenberg's surreal capitalist satire casts Pattinson as a billionaire being driven around New York to his hairdresser and having weird encounters on the way. In the year the Avengers assembled, teaming up with the outrageous Canadian auteur sent a clear message about his direction.
Memorable moment: A six-minute prostate exam in the back of a limo.
Out-there score: 4/5

2 The Rover (2014)
'The King' director David Michôd helms an eerie story set in post-apocalyptic Australia, casting our man as a simple robber

who forms an uneasy bond with hero Eric (Guy Pearce). It saw Pattinson treading new ground in a film that's not for the fainthearted.
Memorable moment: A scene with an opium den, a gun and a dwarf.
Out-there score: 4/5

3 Maps to the Stars (2014)
The actor gets behind the limo wheel in the next venture from Cronenberg, a biting indictment of Hollywood starring Julianne Moore as a fading actress called Havana. Like his *'Twilight'* co-star Kristen Stewart, Robert seemed increasingly drawn to challenging films that explore the dark cost of fame.
Memorable moment: Having sex with Havana in – guess where? – the limo.
Out-there score: 2/5

4 The Childhood of a Leader (2015)
Next up is Brady Corbet's chilling directorial debut about the early life of a fascist dictator. Robert plays a friend of the boy's father and it was one of his most mature characters to date (unless you count the centenarian Edward Cullen).
Memorable moment: The final scene, in which Pattinson makes an appearance in a second role.
Out-there score: 4/5

5 The Lost City of Z (2016)
James Gray's adventure stars Charlie Hunnam as an explorer who hires Pattinson's boozy Henry Costin to accompany him to Brazil. This time he's the wild card in a sophisticated and epic movie.

Memorable moment Flailing around drunk on a boat, much to Fawcett's disapproval.
Out-there score: 3/5

6 GoodTime (2017)
In this ballsy character-driven thriller from the Safdie brothers, Pattinson's amoral bank robber character, Connie, goes on the run with his brother, who has learning difficulties. Teetering on the brink of being un-PC, it was another gamble for the actor.
Memorable moment: A dye pack explodes all over Connie after a bank job, and he's covered in red.
Out-there score: 4/5

7 High Life (2018)
Claire Denis's challenging sci-fi featured him as an ex-con being experimented on in space by Juliette Binoche. It was brazen, elliptical, sexually violent and everything else that isn't *'Twilight'* – congrats, R-Patz!
Memorable moment: Take your pick. One involves something the crew call *'The Fuckbox'*.
Out-there score: 5/5 ■ *Anna Smith*
→ *'The Lighthouse'* Time Out Gala, Oct 5, 9.30pm. Further screenings on Oct 6 and 11. *'Waiting For The Barbarians'* screens Oct 6, 7 and 9. *'The King'* screens on Oct 3, 4, 6, 7, 9.

INTRODUCING Bukky Bakray

PLUCKED FROM HER school classroom to play the lead in the much-buzzed-about urban drama 'Rocks', sixteen-year-old Londoner Bukky Bakray is raring to get in front of the camera again. Preparing for the movie's London Film Festival bow, she talks food fights on set and filming on her home turf.

Who does she play?

A British-Nigerian schoolgirl called Shola – 'Rocks' to her mates – who faces a tumultuous coming-of-age journey when her mother disappears. Director Sarah Gavron ('Suffragette') scoured Hackney secondary schools for the right girl to cast. 'I didn't know what they were looking for,' says Bakray of the beginnings of her nine-month auditioning process. 'They were just two ladies at the back of my classroom.'

Was this her first experience of acting?

Before 'Rocks' she hadn't done so much as a walk-on turn in a school play. 'I didn't take Drama as a GCSE, so my teacher was very shocked when I got cast,' she laughs.

How did she celebrate being cast?

When the cast was taken to an Islington café for the good news,



she played things surprisingly cool. 'I wanted to keep myself composed,' she explains. 'But as I walked out, I literally screamed. I ended up running past Finsbury Park station still screaming.'

What was it like filming a movie on home soil?

Born and bred in east London, Bakray got a buzz filming on the Hackney streets she grew up on. 'It felt like I was home. It was so good to be telling this story in my area knowing it would be on screen.'

What was her favourite day on set?

Her happiest memory involved an 'Animal House'-style food fight in a classroom. 'I forgot the cameras were there,' she remembers. 'It was just like being back in school. It was time to let loose.'

Will we see her on screen again?

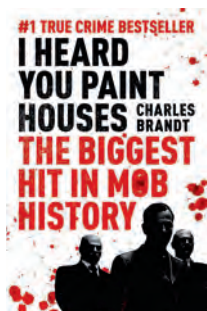
Put it this way, she's not putting in for extra classes at the moment. 'I'm really reluctant to get up to go to school now,' she says. 'I never really had that problem when I had to get up for 5am starts on set. That's how I know that it's a real passion.' ■

Interview by Charley Ross

→ 'Rocks' screens as part of the BFI London Film Festival on Oct 11 and 12.

Get it!

Six literary adaptations to catch on London Film Festival screens



I Heard You Paint Houses

The book that inspired Martin Scorsese's festival closer tells the story of a Mob hitman who confessed to more than 25 hits.
→ 'The Irishman', Oct 13.



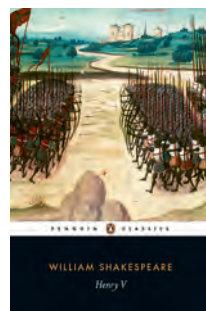
The Painted Bird

The dark and unsparing story of an abandoned boy in WWII, this novel put author Jerzy Kosinski on the literary map back in 1965.
→ 'The Painted Bird', Oct 9, 10 and 12.



David Copperfield

A man looks back on his dramatic childhood in Charles Dickens's classic novel, given a fresh comic spin by Armando Iannucci.
→ 'The Personal History of David Copperfield', Oct 2, 3 and 5.



Henry V

William Shakespeare tackled the English monarch in many plays, this one focusing on his newfound maturity before and after the Battle of Agincourt.
→ 'The King', Oct 3, 4 and 6.



The Sopranos

Alan Warner's 1998 novel bagged awards on its release and has been taken to the big screen by Scottish director Michael Caton-Jones.
→ 'Our Ladies', Oct 4-5.



Young Skins

One of Colin Barrett's collection of short stories has inspired an Irish-set crime drama starring Cosmo Jarvis and Barry Keoghan. ■
→ 'Calm with Horses', Oct 7, 8 and 13.

Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic

Swinging London

Meet three people organising nightlife events that are helping Londoners walk on the wild side

IN ANY CITY, discovering likeminded people who enjoy expressing their sexuality *differently* is, to put it mildly, a challenge. It will always be thus, sadly, but some people are working hard right now to encourage others to try something new.

Blame Londoners hanging out in Berlin, or 'Fifty Shades', or just old-fashioned, lip-biting curiosity, but there's been a palpable explosion lately in interest in kink, fetish, non-monogamy and parties that are proudly inclusive of all genders and profoundly sex-positive.

Decoding it all without a sexual sherpa is sometimes daunting, so we spoke to the people behind three of London's newer and cooler parties and meet-ups to learn the ins and outs...

Alex aka Kiwi who runs Crossbreed

Tell us about Crossbreed?

'Crossbreed is a collaborative, a kink-positive record label and a rave.'

What will happen on the night?

'We have three rooms. One is a dancefloor - I'll be DJing with Mr Ties all night. One is a wellness sanctuary - an escape from the noise to decompress and have a cup of tea should you need it. And one is a furnished playroom.'

What's a furnished playroom?

'On the scene, people would refer to it as a "dungeon" or a "darkroom", but I'm trying to move past some of these words. The word "dungeon" doesn't sound that appealing and plays off some old-school fetish stereotypes

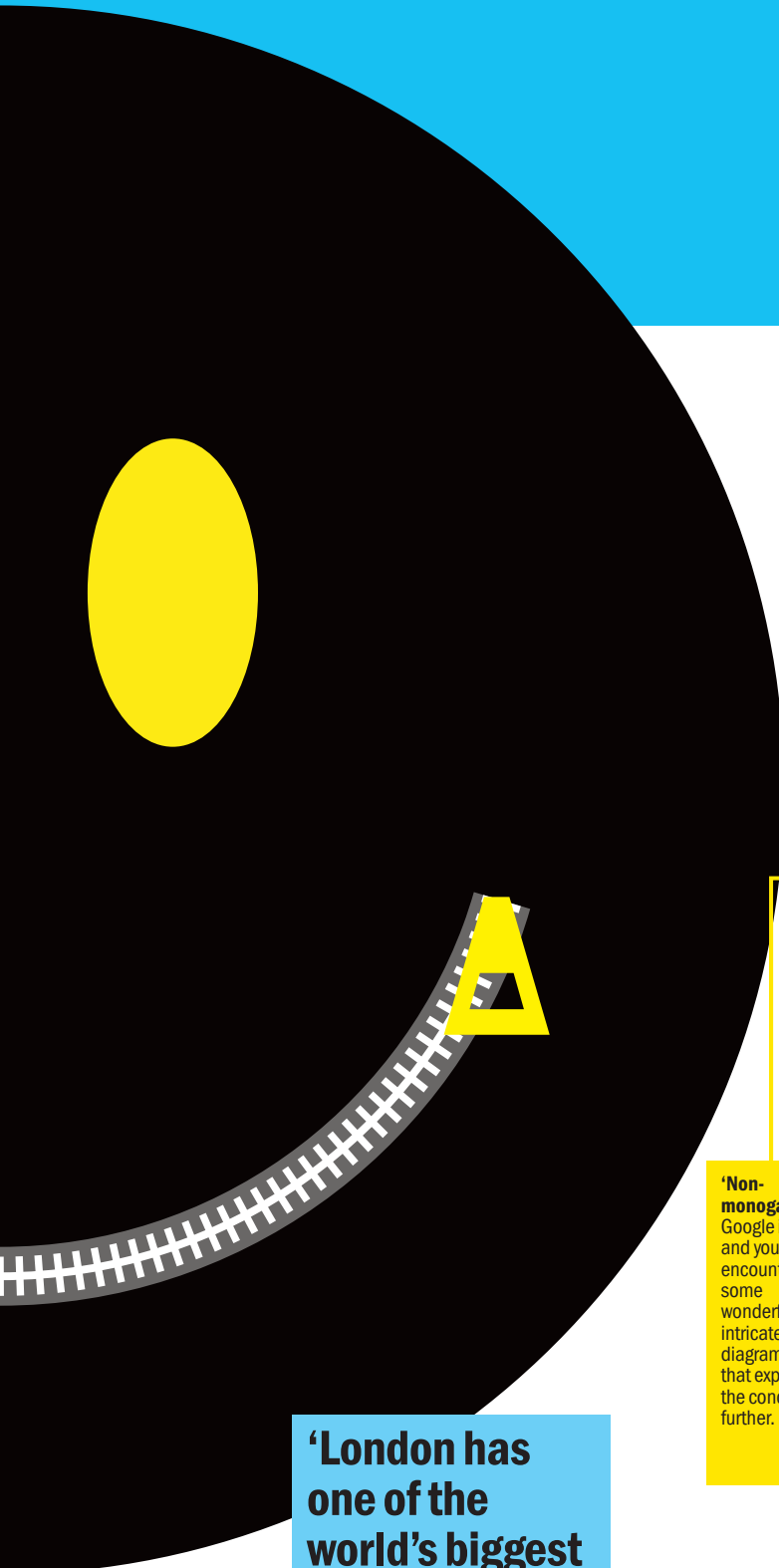
where everything is a bit medieval.

Also, darkrooms haven't always historically been the safest of spaces. It's a room separate from the main club, with **fetish furniture**, that is safe for you to play in and explore. Play can be anything from a cheeky snog to spanking, or having sex. Around 30 friends of Crossbreed, all experienced members of the London scene, will be wearing armbands and are super-approachable. They're there to make sure everyone is playing safely and consensually.'

Why did you start Crossbreed?

'It was the lack of a bridge between the London fetish scene (which is actually quite inaccessible to

'Fetish furniture'
Items designed specifically for sex acts, such as spanking, tying and restraining.



'London has one of the world's biggest fetish scenes, yet you hardly hear about it'

'Non-monogamy' Google it and you'll encounter some wonderfully intricate flow diagrams that explain the concept further.

people) and the London clubbing scene. In Berlin, the two just go hand in hand.'

Why do you think the London fetish scene is so inaccessible?

'British prudishness, maybe? I think we're quite closeted around the idea of fetish and kink, especially around discussing it publicly. London has one of the biggest fetish scenes in the world, yet you hear hardly anything about it. If you do the digging, IT'S HUGE. I've never met so many open, accepting and welcoming people in my life.'

How can people attend? Is it open to all?

'Yes. Be aware, though, that we vet people at the door, and that continues throughout the venue. Staff will remove anyone not acting appropriately.'

What's an example of 'inappropriate'?

'Something as simple as trying to chat someone up on the dancefloor. No means no. Always. "Maybe later" or "I'm not sure" also means no. Read the body language and don't be a dick.'

And what's in the dress code exactly?

'We want people to step out of the realms of social conformity, to be brave and feel safe doing so. It becomes a uniform, and everyone is in it together. If you can get on a bus, and not shock the majority of people, you probably won't get in.'

→ Crossbreed is at The Cause in Tottenham on Fri Sep 27. Visit www.crossbreedworld.com for more info.

Sophie who runs Risqué

What's the simplest way to explain Risqué?

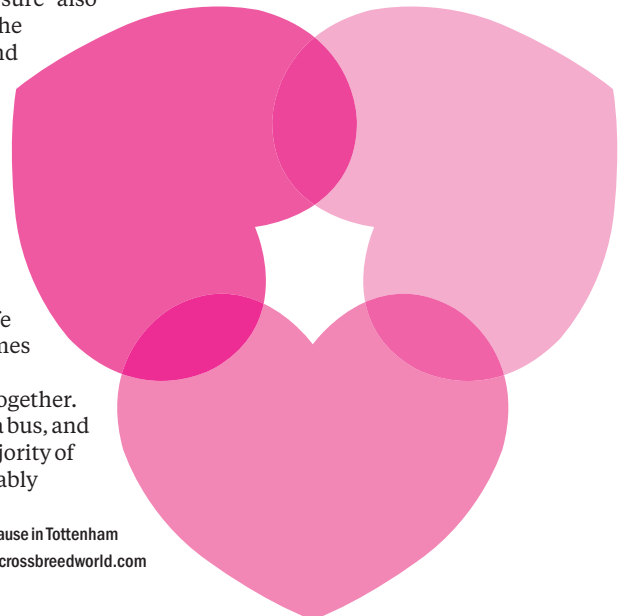
'Risqué is a monthly event for people to make new friends and lovers. It's often on a Friday night from 8pm to 1.30am and usually has 69 guests. It is members only, which means that guests are all members of LVRSNFRNDS, our community, or members' club, if you prefer.'

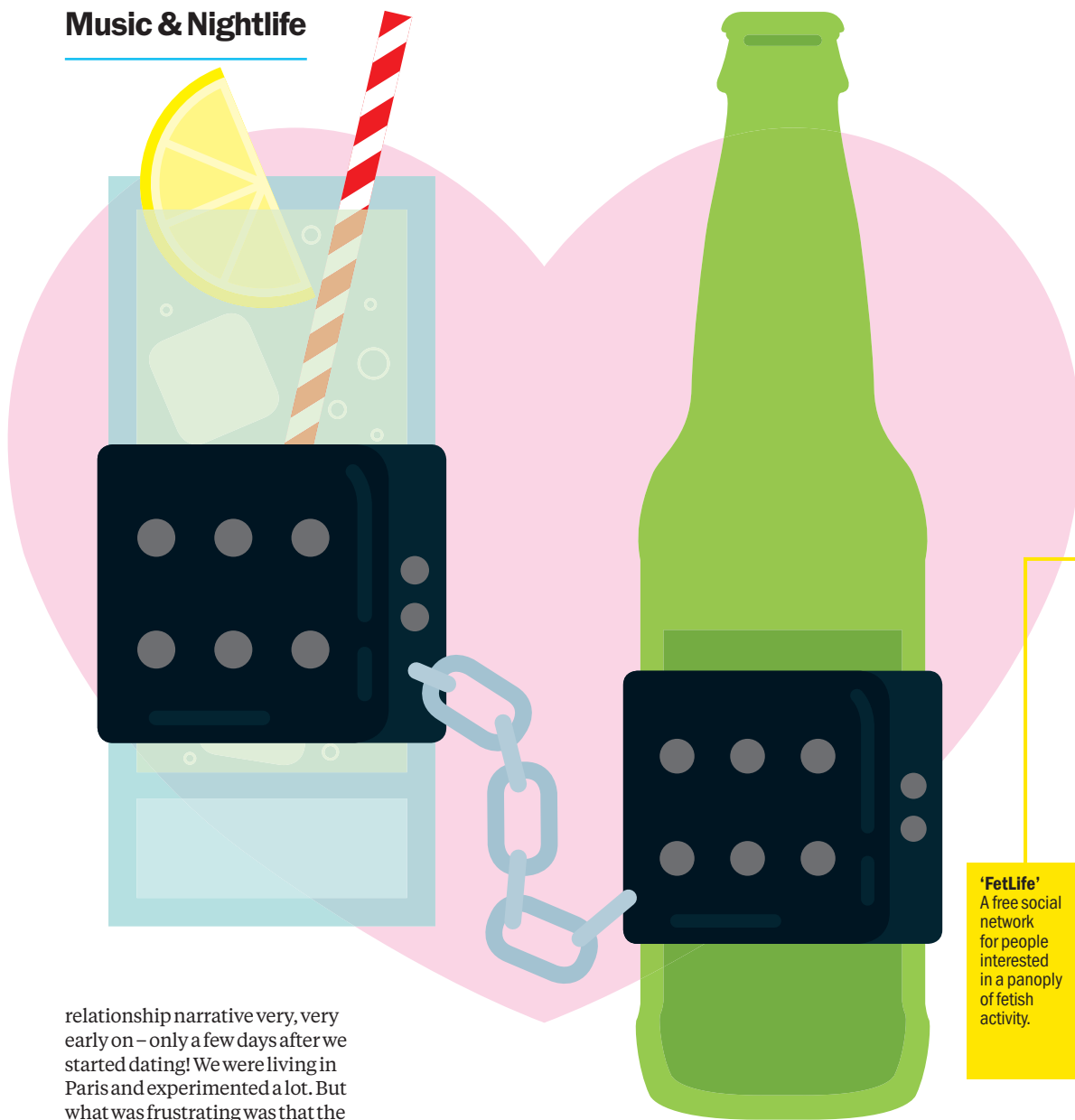
The site describes it as a place for 'non-monogamous people'. For the uninitiated, is that the same as polyamory?

'No. Polyamory is a subcategory of non-monogamy, which is the umbrella term for relationships that don't strictly respect the standards of monogamy. Like many binaries, I don't find the monogamy/non-monogamy binary relevant. This is why I describe Risqué as a place for people questioning everything in love, sex and relationships.'

What inspired you to start it?

'My husband Sammy and I started questioning the traditional





relationship narrative very, very early on – only a few days after we started dating! We were living in Paris and experimented a lot. But what was frustrating was that the channels to meet likeminded people weren't there. They were all just copycats of classic dating apps like Match or Tinder.'

How can people attend?

'You need to apply to join LVRSNFRNDS. There is a quick questionnaire and then a 15-minute video interview with me. If you're referred by a member you get to jump the queue to book the video chat.'

Do you ever host any related events?

'Well, we hosted an anti-Brexit orgy on March 29 [the original date of Brexit]. It was called F**k Brexit. A few members were asking that I host a play party. I gave it some thought and realised how cosmopolitan our community is and one day realised F**k Brexit would be loads of people from the EU in the UK fucking one another! It was a beautiful party. More than 120 members showed up in the "robes and underwear" dress code. It was all about chats, dance moves and love. We fucked Brexit, for real.'

→ Learn more at www.lvrsnfrnds.com.

Karolina who runs The Red Munch What is The Red Munch?

'The Red Munch is a monthly social gathering for people interested in getting involved with **BDSM** – to help them become more comfortable, share advice, make friends or even meet future partners.'

What happens at a munch?

'We simply gather in a private bar in central London, share some drinks and food, and socialise. It's very similar to a networking event or casual drinks at the pub with your friends, except you're encouraged to talk to strangers without it being weird, as you already have something in common!'

What inspired you to start it?

'We all met at **Klub Verboten** almost a year ago and continued to attend other local fetish events. We were really lucky to meet amazing people at various munches and parties so we wanted to give back

to the community by running our own event. Speaking from my own experience, it can be quite stressful to go to a munch if you're shy, introverted, experience social anxiety or don't know anyone on the scene. Our goal was to create a small event with a friendly atmosphere where people could be themselves and feel comfortable.'

How can people attend?

'At the moment the easiest way to attend is to find us on **FetLife** and join one of the upcoming events listed on our profile. We then review the list and send invitations via a direct message. It's an invite-only event so it is not open to all. Our venue has limited capacity so we prefer to keep it low-key.'

People tend to think that the internet has killed off the idea of 'scenes'. How strong London's fetish scene, though?

'I could not disagree more! The internet helps people connect all the time. I'm from a conservative, Christian country where there is no scene, really. When you attend fetish events outside of London, or talk to people from different places around the world, you realise Londoners are really lucky! There is a munch almost every other day (and every one of them has decent attendance), a handful of club parties to choose from, dungeons to hire, a full-time **shibari** studio, a few fetish markets and boutiques, and even a porn film festival. I mean, where else if not in London or Berlin?'

Are there any hard aspects to running a munch?

'Not really, apart from a few landlords who aren't keen on us hosting them. But it's worth it: the people we meet are absolutely amazing. We all understand that we're a little weird (not to be confused with creepy) and we're there to stand [up] for each other. Just because something is not socially accepted, [that] doesn't mean it's wrong. Everyone could learn a lot about respect, tolerance, consent, sexual health and making your sex life more interesting from the **BDSM** community.'

→ Find The Red Munch on www.fetlife.com.

'FetLife'
A free social network for people interested in a panoply of fetish activity.

'Shibari'
A form of bondage, involving ropes tied in intricate patterns.

'BDSM'
An umbrella term for a host of erotic kinks. Stands for bondage, discipline, sadism and masochism'.



By Oliver Keens
Who's really grateful to the interviewees in this piece.

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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH FEET

Strange question, but: what are FEET?

Well, they're the things on the end of your...sorry, couldn't resist. No, they're a five-piece London-based band who are blending Britpop, psychedelia, indie, punk and straight-up rock influences to create some head-turning tracks.

That's a real melting pot - they must have been doing this a while?

Surprisingly not! The band only met a few years back at uni in Coventry. When singer George, guitarist Callum and bassist Oli played their first gig, they said it was such a 'shambles' that they were asked to leave before it finished.

Kicked out of your own party! Eek. What changed?

The group recruited another guitarist and a drummer in Harry and Ben, and things are much more cohesive now. Once they had all the elements covered, they escaped to the Bedfordshire countryside and worked on writing songs. They put on

a little festival to appease the neighbouring farmers, cooking them burgers and playing music, only to cause a few issues the following eve by banging out pumping music all night long.

Uh oh. They sound exactly like what guitar music is missing though?

The genre is definitely in a healthier place thanks to a bunch of bands like FEET, as well as Squid, Sports Day and Calva Louise. Their ability to shift from electric guitar runs to hazy, woozy melodies will drive other bands to be more creative and versatile, we're sure of it.

Sounds good. How can I get... *sigh*... more FEET?

For people just learning of the band, their latest single 'Petty Thieving' is arguably the best example of their talents. If you like what you hear, their debut album 'What's Inside Is More Than Just Ham' is out on October 4. They set out on tour after, stopping in London in mid-October. ■ *Sam Higgins*

→ FEET play Camden Assembly on Oct 22.



DAVE WILLIS

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



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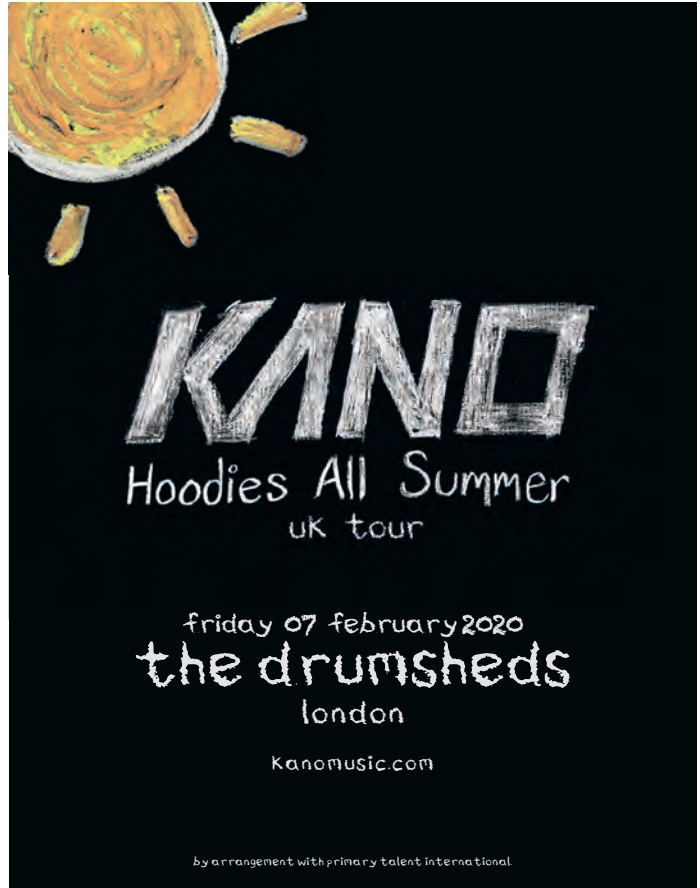
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Great stuff that's just gone on sale

Tove Lo

The Swedish pop queen tours in support of new album 'Sunshine Kitty'. She says its title is 'a play on pussy power', so expect her live show to be even fiercer than in the past. Fiercer than a chip-pan fire, in fact.

→ O2 Forum Kentish Town. Mar 12 2020.



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Manu Delago

Enjoy the endlessly mellow chimes of this young, much-loved percussionist and composer.

→ Queen Elizabeth Hall. Oct 3.

Boiler Room Festival

Four days of expertly curated music, each themed around jazz, hip hop, bass and club music, and all emblematic of the genius of the UK's underground music scene right now.

→ Various Peckham venues. Oct 9-12.

Dekmantel Soundsystem

At the heart of Holland's explosion as a tastemaking dance music hub have been the two gents behind Dekmantel. Both are festival runners, label bosses and very, very tidy DJs. They helm every Friday from October to December at XOYO, joined by loads of guests.

→ XOYO. Oct 11-Dec 27.

Deviation

One of modern music's true mavericks, house producer Moodymann plays in Dalston.

→ Earth. Oct 19.

Ladytron

Noirish avant-garde pop brilliance.

→ Heaven. Oct 24.

Chromatics

Portland's finest neon-flecked disco dramatists play from across their career at this rare London show.

→ Roundhouse. Oct 27.

Percolate 7th Birthday

How to celebrate seven years of awesome parties? Wait: an awesome party – featuring Optimo and Jasper James.

→ E1 London. Nov 9.

Rebel Bingo

A rare return of this era-defining bingo bash.

→ Earth. Nov 23.

DJ Seinfeld

A proven rave-slayer if ever we've heard one,

Seinfeld takes it to Peckham as part of a UK tour.

→ Bussey Building. Nov 29.

Sturgill Simpson

The chart-friendly country-pop rocker hits town. His new record 'Sound & Fury' is out on Friday.

→ O2 Forum Kentish Town. Jan 28 2020.

Elvis Costello & The Imposters

This night of music is called the Just Trust tour – as in, just trust the band to play some hits and generally entertain you with songs you might not know so well, okay?!

→ Eventim Apollo. Mar 13 2020.

Mahalia

After selling out the Roundhouse earlier in the year, Leicester's R&B sensation Mahalia builds on the success of debut album 'Love and Compromise'.

→ O2 Academy Brixton. May 13 2020.



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THE TOUR

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Theatre & Dance

Edited by **Andrzej Lukowski**
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TIME OUT MEETS

Laura Wade

The brainbox behind West End smashes 'Posh' and 'Home, I'm Darling' returns with 'The Watsons', an edgy take on an unfinished Jane Austen novel

FORGET ROSY VISIONS of bonnets, balls and endless afternoon teas. According to playwright Laura Wade, 'It was really crap being an unmarried woman' in Jane Austen's England.

Her latest play 'The Watsons' – which comes to London after rave reviews in Chichester last year – is based on an unfinished Austen novel, which follows 28-year-old spinster Elizabeth. But why did Austen abandon her story? Wade is pretty sure she knows. 'I think she might have got to a point where she was finding it all quite uncomfortably close to home,' she says. 'The last few pages of it, Elizabeth is alone upstairs sitting with her father and she's just depressed.'

It's a novel that directly echoes Austen's own life at the time she wrote it; miserable, under pressure to pick an uninspiring suitor, and unable to carve out her own identity as a writer. 'The Watsons' flips the script by writing a brilliantly metatheatrical new storyline. One that, according to Wade at least, Jane Austen would be into. 'I like to think she'd be tickled! She liked the theatre, and I think she'd get the playful spirit of it.' This new narrative follows what happens when the cast of Austen's story revolt and demand better endings for themselves. As Wade explains, 'It was really fun to be able to give the characters a broader range of futures than were available, and turning the question of who Elizabeth's going to

marry, into asking: why does she even have to get married?'

Okay, so Austen might have been into this world of twenty-first-century possibilities. But what about her legions of hardcore fans? Wade is amusingly frustrated with the world of the Janeites (I didn't want to admit to her that I've bonneted up for Bath's annual Regency Ball). 'You do kind of want to say to people: Indoor toilets! Women voting! And all of those great things we have now,' she says. 'A love of Jane Austen that doesn't acknowledge the satire and the politics that she includes is troubling.'

Wade's recent West End hit 'Home, I'm Darling' dug into a different variety of history-loving fandom. It followed two vintage-obsessed





**'You do
kind of
want to say
to people:
Indoor
toilets!
Women
voting!'**

couples whose love of the 1950s extended beyond swirly frocks to decidedly dated gender roles. 'What is it about that nostalgia that people want to play with?' She asks. 'That fetishised interest in home and homemaking is a sort of retreat into this domestic world as the real world gets less controllable, less knowable.'

These ideas might seem worlds away from Wade's uproarious, breakout hit 'Posh'. But as she explains, 'I like writing tribes. "Posh" was about a tribe.' Albeit a slightly more controversial one. It put the spotlight on the secretive all-male elite of the Bullingdon Club, who plotted their political futures over booze-soaked Oxford dinners. 'When it first came out in 2010, people thought it was fearmongering or naive. Now its thesis has to some extent been proven.'

Task Wade what she makes of 2019's never-ending political runaway train: with Bullingdon alumnus Boris Johnson at the driving seat. 'I wouldn't know where to start. You wouldn't trust the world not to change completely by press night.' But that definitely doesn't mean she's lacking in ambition. Next, she's taking a direct shot at one of the hardest-to-crack spaces in London: the National Theatre's vast Olivier stage. It's famously rare for a new play to succeed there, and it's even rarer for a female playwright to get a go at writing for a space whose line-up is heavily male-dominated. Wade says that when she tells people, 'it always makes them clench up and go "Ooh, are you sure about that"'. But I feel like that space kind of exists as a provocation, and I've got an idea that I think could fill it.'

She's not giving much away on the specifics, but if the new direction she's revealed in 'The Watsons' is anything to go by, it'll be as unruly and bold as Austen's novels were contained and precise. 'The sorts of things I like are playful and strain against the boundaries of what's expected,' she says. 'A challenging of traditional formal structures that are essentially masculine.' Chuck out your corsets, Wade's on her way. ■

→ 'The Watsons'. Menier Chocolate Factory. ☉ London Bridge.
Until Nov 16. £40-£47.50, £37.50 concs.



By Alice Saville
Who when it comes to Austen, is on it like a bonnet.

Theatre & Dance

Big the Musical



'BIG THE MUSICAL' is woefully adequate: ticking every box you'd expect for a big-budget stage adaptation of an '80s screen comedy, but doing so with a can't-be-arsed listlessness. It passes every basic requirement, but with a C-. It may be 'Big' but it is not clever.

This musical dates all the way back to 1996 – just eight years after the Tom Hanks movie – when it flopped on Broadway, albeit with five Tony nominations to its name.

You know the basic deal. Josh Baskin is a 12-year-old from the New Jersey suburbs who happens across a haunted arcade machine that grants his wish and turns him into a 30-year-old man. He freaks his mum out a bit, then rapidly stumbles into an improbably successful job working for a toy company, attracting the affections of his co-worker Susan on the way.

The single biggest problem with 'Big the Musical' is that it has almost no dramatic tension.

WHAT IS IT...

An all-singing adaptation of the classic Tom Hanks flick.

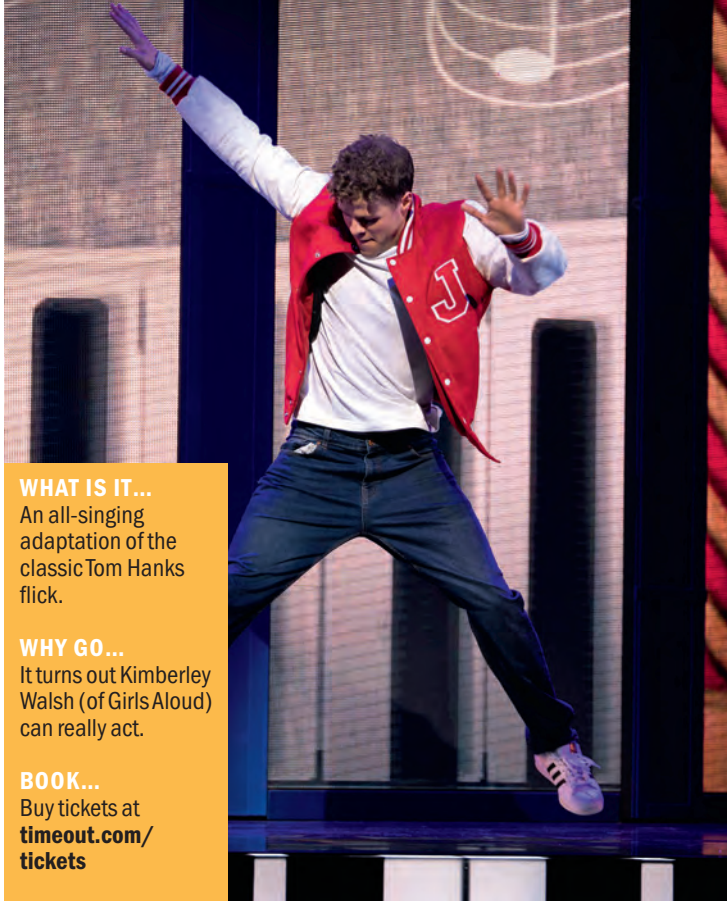
WHY GO...

It turns out Kimberley Walsh (of Girls Aloud) can really act.

BOOK...

Buy tickets at timeout.com/tickets

→ Dominion Theatre. ☺
Tottenham Court Rd. Until
Nov 2. £29.50-£111.50.



After becoming an adult, Josh has a wonderful time, everything works out brilliantly for him, and he's thoroughly untroubled by his situation. Where Tom Hanks

persuasively pulled off the trick of seeming like an actual child careening wildly through the horror and wonder of his situation, Jay McGuinness's Josh looks like an affable teddy bear whose strategy for making it through to the end is to keep his head down and look cuddly. It's extremely unexciting.

Great songs might have helped it style its way out, but they're largely unmemorable, while the choreography is restrained and unspectacular.

Of all things, the saving grace is former Girls Aloud member Kimberley Walsh as Susan: she's startlingly good, and funny, and brings an well-judged ingenue-ish quality to the role that somehow successfully navigated the technical ickiness of her burgeoning relationship with Josh. But she's the only really knockout piece of casting.

'Big the Musical' is fine, in the sense that a meal is fine if it doesn't give you food poisoning. But unless you're an absolutely diehard Kimberly Walsh fan, there's nothing special here for you – it's musical theatre as empty, polished product. ■ Andrzej Lukowski

Faith, Hope and Charity ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT...

Alexander Zeldin's third NT play concerns an ailing community centre.

WHY GO...

It's a beautiful and bittersweet drama about people trying their best.

→ National Theatre,
Dorfman. ☺ Waterloo.
Until Oct 12. £15-£61.

IN THEORY, THERE'S something painfully worthy about the work of Alexander Zeldin, the writer/director who has chronicled the age of austerity for the NT. But his plays are about more than middle-class guilt and taking your medicine. They radiate warmth, care and belief in people.

'Faith, Hope and Charity' is set in a struggling community centre. Its trajectory as a story is not desperately happy: it's soon apparent the centre is screwed. And yet it's not about its characters' suffering, but their resilience.

We meet the affable, clumsy Mason (Nick Holder) on his first day at the hub, volunteering with the big-hearted but careworn Hazel (Cecilia Noble). And we see the vulnerable people they help – foremost Susan Lynch's desperately brittle Beth. Everyone is united by their essential decency and well-meaningness.

It's sad. But it's sad because we see how much the basic kindness that the centre represents can do for them – and we know our society has failed these people.

I suppose the fear with Zeldin is that it's poverty porn. His plays offer fictionalised versions of real lives. Is it anthropology, the poor presented as improving middle-class entertainment? Ultimately, I think not: these stories are worth telling because they're good stories that offer representation to an oft-unrepresented swathe of society. I chatted about this briefly to the woman sat next to me, who it turned out was the direct inspiration behind the character of Beth. She thought it was great, which is good enough for me. ■ Andrzej Lukowski



FAITH, HOPE & CHARITY: © ALASTAIR MUIR; ANNA BELLA EEMA; HOLLY REVEL

Anna Bella Eema ★★★★★

WHAT IS IT...

A werewolf haunts a trailer park in this playful Southern gothic.

WHY GO...

It has a rich, strange style all of its own.

→ Arcola Theatre. Dalston
Kingsland rail. Until Oct 12.
£15-£22.

IN A DILAPIDATED American trailer park, perched between a forest and a construction site, lives a werewolf. Probably. Lisa D'Amour's story is a playful slice of Southern gothic that mixes realism and fantasy in a chaotic blur of fur, teeth and ravening hunger.

It follows a troubled mother who refuses to leave her trailer, and her precocious ten-year-old daughter Annabella, who gets drawn into supernatural rites that bring a mysterious new creature to life. It's the stuff of any number of horror flicks but D'Amour's work has got a rich style of its own, full of dense and powerful imagery. In Jessica Lazar's production, its three female performers face the audience and tell us this story like we're scouts round a campfire, marking its beats with seething vocal harmonies.

Beverly Rudd makes a complicatedly staunch matriarch, Gabrielle Brooks is winningly childlike as her daughter, and Natasha Cottrill plays the creature they call Anna Bella Eema like a haunted doll, contorting into sinister smiles and stiff, unnatural poses. Their unfolding story has got a kind of woozy energy that gradually peters out, despite the endless animation of its performers. Annabella's climactic dream journey, full of moonlit encounters with foxes and owls, feels muddled rather than illuminating.

'Anna Bella Eema' ends with a restoration of normality, like the cold shock of a campsite shower after the grimy wildness that's gone before. But even if its story doesn't ultimately have legs, it definitely has teeth sharp enough to leave a mark. ■ Alice Saville



NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Glass. Kill. Bluebeard. Imp.

Britain's greatest living playwright Caryl Churchill is back at the Royal Court with four short plays.

→ Royal Court Theatre.
 ↻ Sloane Square. Until Oct 19.
 £12-£95.

Two Ladies

This new drama from Nancy Harris puts the wives of two political leaders head to head.

→ Bridge Theatre. ↻ London Bridge. Until Oct 26. £15-£69.50.

OFF-WEST END

Anansi the Spider

An immersive kids' show about a mythical story-spinner. Ages three-to-seven.

→ Unicorn Theatre. ↻ London Bridge. Until Oct 27. £10-£20, £10-£14 concs.

Angela's Ashes

Fairfield Halls reopens with a hit Irish musical based on Frank McCourt's bestselling misery memoir.

→ Fairfield Halls. East Croydon rail. Wed Sep 25-Oct 5. £15-£43.

Blood Wedding

Federico Garcia Lorca's bleak rural revenge tragedy, adapted by Irish playwright Marina Carr.

→ Young Vic. ↻ Waterloo. Until Nov 2. £10-£40.

Gastronomic

An incredible edible adventure from Curious Directive.

→ Shoreditch Town Hall. Hoxton Overground. Until Oct 12. £27.50-£35.

Karaoke Play

Four friends discover the magic of mics in Annie Jenkins' song-filled new play.

→ The Bunker. ↻ London Bridge. Sun Sep 29-Oct 14. £10.

Mother of Him

A parent wrestles with her son's crimes in Evan Placey's drama.

→ Park Theatre. ↻ Finsbury Park. Until Oct 26. £18.50-£32.50, £16.50-£23.50.

LAST CHANCE

The Night of the Iguana

Clive Owen stars in this brooding classic.

→ Noël Coward Theatre. ↻ Leicester Square. Until Sat Sep 28. £39.75-£127.25.

EXCLUSIVE

Get almost 50 percent off tickets to the eccentric **'The Man in the White Suit'** – a stage adaptation of the 1951 comedy sci-fi by director Sean Foley. Tickets now just £19.50.

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TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Waitress

This musical romcom now stars YouTuber Joe Sugg.

→ Adelphi Theatre. Jan 4 2020.

2 Everybody's Talking About Jamie

Mega-hit musical about a teenage drag queen.

→ Apollo Theatre. Until Jan 25 2020.

3 Pretty Woman

The Broadway big-hitter.

→ Piccadilly Theatre. Feb 14 2020-Jan 2 2021.

4 The Play That Goes Wrong

Knockabout backstage fun.

→ Duchess Theatre. Until Nov 1 2020.

5 9 to 5 the Musical

Dolly Parton's glitzy show.

→ Savoy Theatre. Until May 23 2020.

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TIME OUT LOVES

Hannah Gadsby

IT'S ONE OF the greatest comedy comebacks of all time. And it's only been a year since Hannah Gadsby quit.

In Gadsby's previous solo show – 'Nanette' – the Tasmania-born writer-comedian talked passionately about homophobia, violence against women and sexual assault. Where did comedy fit in? Well, she deconstructed the very nature of stand-up while fiercely critiquing it. She explained that when, previously, she had performed self-deprecating humour, it was often to hide a hurtful truth, and she'd had enough of mining her trauma for gags.

It was an emotional and important show that was billed as her comedy swansong. 'This is why I must quit comedy,' she told the audience.

It also made Gadsby a global superstar. 'Nanette' went from Fringe hit to Netflix phenomenon and now a Beyoncé-beating Emmy Award-winner. It's no wonder, then, that Gadsby decided to continue with stand-up and is back on stage with a new show, 'Douglas'. As her blurb states, she 'found her voice with "Nanette", and with "Douglas" she plans to use it.'

'Douglas' is named after the comic's dog, but don't expect much material about her pooch. Like 'Nanette', the title is merely a springboard to a bunch of socially relevant jokes and ideas, and the show has already been hailed as another masterpiece.

'Douglas' has already been snapped up by Netflix, and extra shows have been added to its London run. If you want to be part of the next Gadsby phenomenon, book now. ■ *Ben Williams*
→ Royal Festival Hall. ⊖ Waterloo. Oct 25, Oct 27 and Nov 3.

THE TEN BEST GIGS IN OCTOBER

10 Andy Barr: 'The Ruby'

Alt-comedy favourite Barr inherits his father's ruby – and its terrible curse – in this interactive character show.

→ The Bill Murray.
⊖ Angel. Oct 12. £5.

9 Berks Nest at 2Northdown

Storytelling stand-up Sara Barron, US comic Kemah Bob and lovable rogue Jack Barry test out new material.

→ 2Northdown.
⊖ King's Cross. Oct 17. £7.

8 Janine Harouni: 'Stand Up with Janine Harouni (Please Remain Seated)'

Rising star performs her hit Ed Fringe show.

→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Oct 7-12. £17-£19.

7 John Robins: 'Hot Shame'

You won't find another comedian tackling dehumidifiers with as much angst as 5 Live's John Robins.

→ Apollo Hammersmith.
⊖ Hammersmith. Oct 25.
£23.50.

6 Nick Helm: 'Phoenix from the Flames'

An all-guns-blazing stand-up comeback from the gravel-voiced star of 'Uncle'.

→ Leicester Square Theatre.
⊖ Leicester Square. Oct 25 and Nov 16. From £18.85.

5 Darren Harriott: 'Good Heart Yute'

Punchline-heavy tales about never having been in love from this fast-rising star.

→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Oct 14-15. £13-£16.

4 Sophie Duker: 'Venus'

A smart show, filled with political points and pop culture takes.

→ Soho Theatre.
⊖ Tottenham Court Rd.
Oct 29 - Nov 2. £16.50-£19.50.

3 Laugh Train Home

Dane Baptiste and Edinburgh Best Newcomer nominee Maisie Adams play this SE gig.

→ The Honor Oak. Honor Oak Park rail. Oct 15. £6-£8.

2 Lou Sanders: 'Say Hello to Your New Step-Mummy'

Sanders returns with her NSFW new show.

→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Oct 28-Nov 9.
£12.50-£19.50.

1

Ari Eldjárn: 'Eagle Fire Iron'

Eldjárn is a huge star in his home country of Iceland. His good-natured tales and fast-paced jokes are superb.

→ Soho Theatre. ⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. Oct 7-12. £11-£18.



HANNAH GADSBY: PHOTOBAT; ARI ELDJÁRN: HORDUR SVENSSON

Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

SHOW OF THE WEEK

Tim Walker: 'Wonderful Things'



FANTASTICAL. FAIRYTALE.

Magical. Lots of words are used to describe the photography of Tim Walker, but rarely this one: sex. Yet as this exuberant solo exhibition at the V&A proves, the British photographer's special brand of surrealism, honed over decades working for fashion magazines, is far from saccharine innocence.

The first room recaps his greatest hits. There's the pastel-coloured cats, the house-sized baby doll, the UFO invading suburbia. For fans, it's all here. Next come ten new commissions responding to the V&A's collection. Sources are as various as an illuminated book of hours, a lacquered dragon-covered snuff box and a painting of Krishna.

The sheer joy of walking around the show comes thanks to Walker's long-term collaborator, set designer Shona Heath. The world of the photos explodes into the gallery, moving from medieval church to shag-piled domesticity to bourgeois manor and so on.

Sex slips into the nooks and crannies of these new projects,



WHAT IS IT...

Images of fashion, sex and all sorts.

WHY GO...

This is fashion photography at its glitziest, sexiest best.

→ V&A. ⊕ South Kensington.
Until Mar 8 2020.
£15, concs available.

sometimes obviously, as with the display of Aubrey Beardsley drawings, and sometimes randomly, like the stocky unicorn sporting a penis for a horn.

The highlight of the entire stellar show is a series showing naked, muscled men posing in the rugged English countryside, wrestling among the fallen apples, or, in one image, a bloke with a butterfly balanced on the tip of his knob.

There's also a room dedicated to Walker's nudes, including a collection of bloody photos filled

with bodies tossed into landscapes of dripping meat, red walls and sliced white bread.

This is why you want a ticket to Walker Wonderland. Not just for the pastel fluff but for the fleshy fantasias. It's like he saw the signpost to whimsy on the yellow brick road and gleefully tore off laughing into the deep, dark wood. ■



By Rosemary Waugh
Who has been to see the wizard and bloody loved it.

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WHAT IS IT...
Brutal minimalist sculpture about conflict.

WHY GO...
It's not easy viewing, but it is damn good.

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

Mona Hatoum: 'Remains to Be Seen'



MONA HATOUM'S WORLD is filled with cages and concrete, charred homes and inescapable prisons. It's not just *her* world that's like that, obviously, it's all of ours. Because written through the Palestinian artist's work is all the conflict, oppression, violence and degradation that's so rife in modern society.

Chunks of rebar concrete hang from steel poles in a perfect minimalist grid as you walk in. It's a huge, crumbling cage. A neat, square pile of brick sits on a trolley nearby, chipped away at but resolutely immovable.

Grids appear throughout the show as knowing references to art history and minimalism's

place in it. A fine mesh curtain echoes the interlocking strands of a steel fence, but look closer and you see it's made of human hair. It's unbearably fragile and physical, but still a form of containment.

Hair and nails are everywhere, arranged into patterns, knitted together, the final remnants of a body that once occupied Hatoum's oppressive spaces.

And oppressive is the word. A room of abandoned steel bunk beds carries endless allusions to prison camps and forced detention, but still mimics the shapes and composition of modern art. It's horrifying in its

mixture of historical brutality and aesthetic nous. The charred living room in the next room is even worse: so fragile, so scary, so obvious in what it forces your brain to consider.

The works with globes here are less good, especially the chintzy glass mobile in the first room. But damn, when Hatoum combines idea and aesthetic into these terrifying little art bombs, we all get caught in the blast. This is art at its most political, and its most powerful. ■
Eddy Frankel

Find more exhibitions at [timeout.com/art](https://www.timeout.com/art)



Antony Gormley



THERE'S A WHOLE lot of Tony at the RA. Just room after room of Gormley, Gormley, Gormley. He's a series of staccato pixelated blocks, an exploding cloud of frazzled steel, a silhouette chomped out of white bread. Everywhere you look, Antony Gormley's there.

Not that there's anything wrong with that. The Gorminator has become one of the UK's biggest living artists by using his own body as a way of navigating life, the universe and everything via monumental sculpture.

The first Gorms you encounter here are all contorted shapes made of slabs of steel. He's crouched over, bent double, lying down, slumped against the wall. It's like walking into the world's most disorganised Pilates class. You then get to feast on some earlier works, including

little lead apples and that very silly silhouette in bread (remade in 2019). 'Clearing' is better, a whole room of twisting steel circles that force you to bend and twist to get through. You're physically affected by the structure before emerging into a bright room with a single figure in it. It's a neat metaphor: nature collapsing around you before leaving you bereft and alone. A solitary human faced with the immensity of the universe. It's good. It clicks.

But the most physically imposing work is also the best. 'Cave' is a truly monumental construction of interlinked steel boxes. You enter, bowed down as if genuflecting, and emerge into a central space with barely any light. You're within the body, wobbling about in its metal guts, dwarfed, contained and utterly overpowered by it.

It's Gormley's central point: humanity is just a speck in nature's grand game. We're these fragile, living, pooping, breathing, shagging things just trying to figure out our place in this terrifying universe. To ram it all home, Gormley has flooded one of the RA's galleries ankle-deep with water and beige moss. The effluent of life, it's all here.

The truth is, I'm a Gormley cynic. I don't think using your own body as a symbol for the struggle of universal existence is all that clever; I think his drawings – of which there are a lot here – are dull at best, sub-graduate show guff at worst; I think a lot of the sculptures here are a bit weak; I don't know what the point of this show is, coming after the Hayward Gallery (Southbank Centre)'s much better Gormley exhibition in 2007; and I think he might be the most one-note artist ever.

But the thing is, if you're going to be one-note, you'd better be really, really good at playing it. And you've got to give it to Antony Gormley, he really is. ■ *Eddy Frankel*

WHAT IS IT...

Big bloody sculptures by the UK's biggest bloody artist.

WHY GO...

Gormley sure knows how to make you feel dwarfed by the power of art.

→ Royal Academy of Arts.
 ↻ Green Park. Until Dec 3.
 £22, £18 concs.

BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



Peter Doig

The modern master of misty, hazy, memory-drenched painting is back again, but this time there's a little bit of clarity poking through, and it's lovely.

→ Michael Werner Gallery. ⊕ Marble Arch. Until Nov 16. Free.



Shana Moulton

Lush, immersive video art about anxiety and wellness. Moulton's pink, bubbly world is uncomfortably and worryingly relatable.

→ Zabłudowicz Collection. ⊕ Chalk Farm. Until Dec 15. Free.



Rhys Coren: 'Shape of Story'

Bright, colourful, laser-cut works about the joys of walking. Coren is a brilliant young artist, and he just keeps getting better and better.

→ Seventeen Gallery, Haggerston Overground. Until Oct 26. Free.

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

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Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
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Sakagura

Now you sashimi...

The capital's got more sushi joints than you can shake a chopstick at. Here's our pick of the top spots to suit every budget and taste

The one for a business lunch **Chisou**

The sushi counter flanking this traditional Japanese restaurant in Mayfair takes its art seriously: expect platters of cut rolls tightly wrapped with nori or glistening slices of fish, beautifully presented with slivers of vegetables and dots of wasabi. Sushi connoisseurs are welcome to go off-menu, too.
→ 22-23 Woodstock St, W1C 2AR. ☎ Bond St.

The stylish one **Dinings SW3**

Everything about this Chelsea follow-up to Dinings in Marylebone is an upgrade: from the glitzy, capacious dining room to the

head-turning menu. Signatures such as the 'modern' sushi have made the trip southwest, and its complex precision-tuned flavours are a real wow.

→ Lennox Gardens Mews, SW3 2JH.
☎ Knightsbridge.

The vegan one **Itadaki Zen**

Japanese, vegan and organic? What's not to love – and, rest assured, we do love this cool little miracle not far from King's Cross station. The virtuously healthy menu offers its own spin on sushi, meticulously fashioned with various





Dinings

SHAGURA: STEVEN JOYCE; UCHI: MING TING EVANS; DININGS: ANDY PARSONS; NOBU: CLAIRE MENEAY

More sushi stunners at timeout.com/sushi



Nobu

combos of vegetables and seaweed on rice (where appropriate). Lunch specials are a draw, too, with the kakiage udon a highlight.

139 King's Cross Rd, WC1X 9BJ.
 ☉ King's Cross.

The one with the hand rolls Jugemu

Japanese temaki rolls are awesome – especially at Jugemu in Soho, where they're made to order for punters sitting at the counter. Each little package is packed with super-fresh ingredients and handed over the instant it's ready. Alternatively, bag

Uchi

a table for full platters of sushi and sashimi. In keeping with the stripped-back vibe, Jugemo has no fancy website, but provides updates on its Facebook and Instagram pages.

→ 3 Winnett St, W1D 6JY. ☉ Piccadilly Circus.

The affordable one Kulu Kulu

An old hand at conveyor-belt sushi, this in-and-out Soho joint is about speed rather than impeccable service or decor: at peak times, there's a genuine risk of being booted out after 45 minutes. But who cares when the sushi is this good value? Pick whatever takes your fancy from the never-ending loop of colour-coded plates or go for broke with an elaborate sushi platter from the carte. The made-to-order handrolls are another must.

→ 76 Brewer St, W1F 9TU. ☉ Piccadilly Circus.

The iconic one Nobu

Nobu Matsuhisa's Japanese fusion style redefined expectations when he launched the Nobu chain (remember his iconic black cod in miso, now copied across the capital?), but the sushi at this Park Lane outpost (and at celeb-happy Berkeley Street) is also pretty special. The classics are excellent – the 'new-style' sashimi, in particular, are as accomplished and intriguing as ever.

→ Como Metropolitan London, 19 Old Park Lane, W1K 1LB. ☉ Hyde Park Corner.

The buzzy one Roka

As a stablemate of Zuma, Roka gets the gold seal of approval from sushi obsessives. Though the focus of this Charlotte Street spot remains the izakaya, elegantly presented sushi platters are equally excellent. And, for that matter, plates of yellowtail sashimi with yuzu-truffle dressing or the ace soft-shell crab maki, made with cucumber and kimchi.

→ 37 Charlotte St, W1T 1RR. ☉ Goodge St.

The traditional one Sakagura

Sleek, glossy interiors, exquisite crockery and double-ended chopsticks strike a swish, authentic note at this welcoming off-Regent-Street Japanese, a tone that's matched by Sakagura's beautifully presented sushi platters, decorated with edible flowers and carved vegetables. Also check out the 'ika mentai' – fresh squid sashimi with spicy cod roe – it's made to share.

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

The neighbourhood one Uchi

The surroundings are as eye-catching as the sushi at Uchi in Lower Clapton, where the brushed gold countertops, soft lighting and dainty crockery are all worthy of a Pinterest board. Veggie combos are an unlikely standout here: don't miss the nigiri selection. ■

→ 144 Clarence Rd, E5 8EA. Hackney Downs Overground.

Food

Söderberg



SET IN THE heart of Soho, Söderberg is a Swedish-inspired bakery by day, and a pizza-slash-cocktail joint by night. While the café itself might look more at home on the streets of Stockholm, this growing chain actually originated in Scotland. By day, you can nip in for a light bite, a work session (the wi-fi is high-speed and you're never pressured to leave), or simply to escape the crowds of shoppers on nearby Oxford Street. Once inside, make sure to order its signature kardemummabullar (cardamom buns). Baked on site, they're sweet, sticky and thickly laced with fragrant cinnamon.

Söderberg is also a coffee shop. And it's one that knows its brew: not too bitter but strong and full-bodied. The beans are courtesy of master Swedish roasters Johan & Nyström: not an easy find in this city. The rest of the short menu is unpretentious and features a few simple classics,



like open sandwiches and perfectly poached eggs. None of the food is especially out of the ordinary, but the fresh homemade sauces and pickled veggies help to elevate every plate: servings arrive lightly drizzled in a dill, lemon and crème fraîche dressing with dried chilli flakes, or a sprinkling of crunchy seeds and crisped mint leaves.

Decorated in mid-century Scandi style, Söderberg is all wood

panels, sleek lamps and dinky Ikea glasses. But just before you think it's too clean-lined and functional, the comfy couches and friendly servers lend it a welcome touch of homeliness. You can even bring your own vinyl and give it a spin on their decks. If you're in the area and in need of a pitstop, Söderberg is well worth a visit. ■ *Nina Clark*

Lunch for two with coffee and service: around £35.

WHAT IS IT...
A Swedish bakery and coffee shop in the heart of Soho.

WHY GO...
For cinnamon buns and bags of *hygge*.

→ 36 Berwick St, W1F 8RR.
⊖ Tottenham Court Rd.

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Montreal House, Market Square, SE16 7AQ.



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BURGER & LOBSTER SAYS:

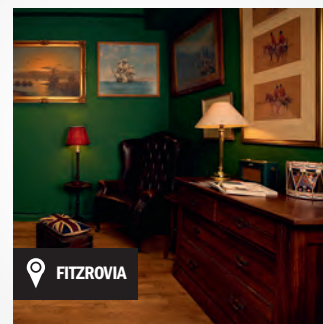
'Having launched a new autumn menu featuring a delightfully decadent champagne lobster roll, alongside a range of new dishes and twists on old favourites, Burger & Lobster keep spirits light as the days get darker. For a delightful late-night treat, try the spicy lobster nuggets!'
29 Clarges St, W1J 7EF.



STOCKWELL

LUSITANIA SAYS:

'Located near the fashionable Thames-side development areas of Vauxhall and Battersea, Lusitania offers authentic Portuguese cuisine with a contemporary touch and an outstanding level of service. Its new autumn/winter menu "From Land to Sea" launches this week, providing a real flavour vacation.'
353 Wandsworth Rd, SW8 2JH.



FITZROVIA

ALDWYN & SONS SAYS:

'Hidden within a barber's and coffee shop, this quintessential British gentleman's library gives a private and relaxing space for men looking to have manicures and pedicures, as well as other treatments. Put your feet up and enjoy complimentary drinks, too.'
Sharps Barber & Shop, 9 Windmill St, W1T 2JF.

SO YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO Kitchen Table



Wait. We're going round your mum's?

Not that kind of kitchen table. More a table in a restaurant kitchen. Though it's not actually a table.

Eh?

It's actually a U-shaped counter, down in the bowels of hip Fitzrovia champagne bar *Bubbledogs* (which teams fizz from indie growers with gourmet hot dogs), with a small but serious professional kitchen at its centre.

Cool. So lots of dogs, then?

Nope. Don't be distracted by the food upstairs. This is a completely different pooch. We're talking a no-choice line-up of modernist, meticulous, micro-sized plates of food, each more dazzling than the one before. The menu is intentionally enigmatic (they email you the details afterwards), with one-word descriptions like 'oyster', 'chicken', or 'gooseberry'. Which might in fact be oyster with a delicate elderflower granita and drips of smoked oil; a finger sarnie of chicken skin with nobbly bacon bits and a rosemary-infused mascarpone (like a pimped club sandwich); or yoghurt parfait with a sharp gooseberry coulis on a frozen plate. Which also had chewy 'green' (aka unripe) almonds and flecks of spruce. Because everyone needs a bit of fir tree in their pud.

Fancy. Must be all white tablecloths and hushed voices?

Absolutely not. Perhaps the best thing about Kitchen Table, other than the two-Michelin-starred food, is the setting. Somewhere between log cabin and warehouse (industrial girders, rustic wood, leather), the air is thick with rocking tunes and plenty of smoke. Plus a team led by Noma-trained James Knappett, a star chef actually cooking in his own kitchen and talking to his guests.

Any last words?

It's brutally spenny, but yes, worth it. ■ *Tania Ballantine*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £380.

→ 70 Charlotte St, W1T 4QG. ☎ Goodge St.

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Edited by **Laura Richards**
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BAR OF THE WEEK

Sylvester



ONE OF THE owners of Sylvester tells me they chose a gender-neutral, disco-honouring name for the bar while he pours me a glass of natural wine. It's like Peckham has spilled into villagey East Dulwich. And the locals seem to love it. This combo of wine bar, pizza joint and nightclub was bubbling over midweek, and excitable chatter melded with bass-heavy tunes. Wednesday could be the new Friday – but my hunch is that the bar's neon is luring in the area's rule-breakers.

The whitewashed walls and wooden tables of a Greek taverna get a clubby purple hue from that squiggly neon, and plants suspended from the ceiling are very London 2019. I'd describe the



WHAT IS IT...
An East Dulwich party bar serving natural wine and pizza.

WHY GO...
It's fun and there's Margaret Atwood in the loo.

→ 52 Lordship Lane, SE22 8HJ. East Dulwich rail.

basement, where they host karaoke and DJ nights, as more 'functional'.

Serving low-intervention wine a few doors down from Terroirs (a bar group who pioneered drinking the stuff in London) is a bold move, but this is a party-ready way of doing it. I knocked back a Gewürztraminer, followed by a meaty French red that paired well with a salami-strewn

pizza. My friend had a pre-batched Negroni, on the menu alongside a family of Spritzes and local beers from Gipsy Hill and Brick Brewery.

I thought we'd hit a bum note when, after waiting a while for our bill, it arrived with missing details. But our revised receipt came with a glass of red on the house for our honesty. It's that kind of personal

touch that made the bar stand out. And the ladies' loo has the most random cluster of portraits on the wall: Amy Winehouse, Kim Gordon, Aphex Twin and Drake joined by Margaret Atwood, Spike Lee and more. I guess they're all doing things a bit differently – which may tell you all you need to know about Sylvester. ■ *Laura Richards*

THREE OF THE BEST

Gimlets

The gin and lime cordial combo gets a London twist



Kwānt

A classy way to drink a cocktail whose origins are linked to staving off scurvy among sailors. Our Gimlet includes orange flower water and cassia so it's like a drinkable perfume – in a good way.
→ 25 Heddon St, W1B 4BH.
⊖ Piccadilly Circus. £14.

The Buxton

The Ivy Gimlet Royale goes down a treat at this chic, shiny pub. The lime stays put, but they've replaced gin with vodka and added elderflower cordial for sweetness. A touch of prosecco gives that 'royale' finish.
→ 42 Osborn St, E1 6TD.
⊖ Aldgate East. £10.50.

Supermax

Old-school ingredients update the Gimlet served at this disco lounge. Aqua vitae is citrusy and juniper spirit genever adds familiar gin-like notes. Watch out for that pleasant afterburn (baby, burn). ■
→ 14-18 Handyside St, N1C 4DN. ⊖ King's Cross. £9.

DRINK THIS

Painted Veil



Do you deliberate at the bar? The Bloomsbury Club Bar's tarot-themed cocktails could help by matching your mood to your drink. Choose for yourself or put your fate in the hands of a 'Cocktail Diviner' (we'll leave that bit as a surprise). The Painted Veil is made to counter anxiety with its citrus notes (plus vodka, Cointreau and pisco). It may be just the tonic for stressed-out Londoners. ■ *Isabelle Aron*
→ The Bloomsbury Club Bar, 16-22 Great Russell St, WC1B 3NN.
⊖ Tottenham Court Rd. £14.

More drinks in your future?
timeout.com/bars