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King Krule is watching

London's sharpest storyteller returns
(and he's got his eye on you)



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in no time at all

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Our global survey of city life is back and, yep,
it's all about you. Be part of the big picture
at www.timeout.com/indexsurvey

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Hello, London

Joe Mackertich
London Editor
@j_mackertich



By the time you read this, I will have completed a three-day trip to Porto with my girlfriend. She does not know about it yet and, crucially, is 'not good' with surprises. Combine this with my holiday habit of making catastrophic blunders and it's safe to assume that, should there be no ed's letter next week, she has pushed me into the Douro River. I have drowned.

Holidays are stressful. And everyone knows the most stressful parts are: getting there, getting settled and getting home. A three-day holiday that *solely* consists of these phases in quick succession is asking for trouble, the equivalent of queuing for entry to a theme park, queuing for one ride and then queuing to leave.

There is *one* time-honoured holiday headache that has vanished. If I make a rash, knee-jerk decision to visit a Portuguese city, I no longer need to spend the hours before my flight feverishly googling 'cool museums'. Or getting café recommendations from that guy on Facebook who replies to everything, despite meeting me only once in 2009. I work at Time Out now. Time bloody Out. If I do end up floating in the Douro, it won't be because I didn't know any cool bars.

THE EDITOR'S ESSENTIALS

Three things you have to do this week



SHOP here

Low on gochujang? Visit **Oseyo**, Angel's new-ish Korean supermarket that's better stocked than its size suggests. Nice BTS socks too.



ENTER this

Send your heart-warming snaps to www.loveinlondon.org.uk and you could see one on a billboard. The contest closes on March 2.



HEAR this

A band called **Garden Centre** stole my heart at a mini-festival of DIY acts at The Victoria in Dalston. Find their dates and go see.

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PROBABLY THE BEST  BEER IN THE WORLD

City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



The secret life of mice

How much do you know about tube mice? We chat to Sam Rowley, winner of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Lumix People's Choice award, about documenting squeakers scrapping on the Underground

IF YOU HAVE mice in your kitchen, chances are, you'll know about it. But the mice that scuttle across London's tube platforms can go largely unnoticed. Photographer Sam Rowley was inspired to document the underground world of rodents after a text from a pal. 'My friend drunkenly sent me a picture of some mice by her feet on the platform,' he explains. 'I was like, Nicole, you've hit on something here.'

Rowley visited multiple locations every night for a week in search of the perfect shot. At first, he wanted to leave his camera on the platform to capture the critters but quickly realised that leaving expensive equipment on the floor attracted a lot of baffled stares from commuters.

Instead, he opted for a handheld camera, which he used to get on the mice's level, literally. 'I decided that lying down was the most intimate way of getting shots of the mice because you see the world from their level, which adds a lot of intrigue and depth to the photo,' says Rowley.

One night, he saw two circling a pile of crumbs. They fought it out in a dust-up that only lasted a few seconds before they scurried away. The resulting image, 'Station Squabble' (above), won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Lumix People's Choice award last week and is currently on display at the Natural History Museum. Rowley wanted people to consider the wildlife that's on their doorstep and present it in

a different light, exposing the daily challenges that mice face. 'I guess most people when they're on the tube just see them as pests, but I think it's interesting to see the turmoil and desperation that's down there,' Rowley says.

His affinity with the world of underground rodents didn't end with the photograph. Rowley still looks out for mice on the tube platforms every day. 'I'll always go to the end of the platform and peer into all the little crevices,' he says. 'Once you spend that much time with an animal it's hard to visit their home and revert to the way you were before.' ■ **Stephanie Phillips**

→ 'Wildlife Photographer of the Year'. Natural History Museum.
⊖ South Kensington. Until 31 May. £13.95.

HYPE DISH

Tōu's inimitable Iberian katsu sando

DISSECTION

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

A STRONG CONTENDER for London's most famous sandwich, you've probably seen Tōu's katsu sando even if you've never eaten it. The cult sando-maker started making waves as TāTā Eatery with a pop-up in Kensal Rise, before eventually opening a sando-centric street

food spot at Arcade Food Theatre. We ask founders Ana Gonçalves and Zijun Meng to break down the inimitable Iberian katsu concoction you've seen all over your Instagram feed. ■ *Bobby Palmer.*

→ Tōu at Arcade Food Theatre, 103-105 New Oxford St.
 ↻ Tottenham Court Rd. £14.

The sauce

'In the beginning, we used a fermented red pepper paste, but it took about three weeks to ferment. That's when we came up with this shallot version of XO sauce.'

The bread

'The choice of bread was important to us. It had to be very light, which is why we chose a cakey type of brioche. It looks nice and big, but it's airy so it squashes down.'

The pork

'We use Iberico pork. Cheap pork belly wouldn't be the same. The shape means we have lots of trimmings, so we use those to make sausages for our hot dog sando.'

The precision

'People love the ratio of it. We use a special measuring tool to cut the bread, so that every single slice is exactly the same. We measure the pork too.'

The flavours

'On the other side to the XO sauce we add brown sauce. It's always in a bacon sandwich, so we had to put it in. It can be overpowering, so we mellow it with raspberry jam.'



JOSEPH AVENUE W2

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

YouTube entrepreneur *Jamal Edwards* on his old Acton estate

JOSEPH AVENUE IS the longest road on the estate where I grew up. It's also the place where I did my first film workshop. I was 13 or 14 years old and a film crew came to the youth centre. They gave us cameras and told us to make a film on the estate. I made a horror film shot around Joseph Avenue. If I looked back at it now I'd probably be embarrassed, but it's where I got my passion for filming.

The youth centre had such a community feel. The estate isn't huge, so everyone knew each other. It was a safe place for local kids to hang out, which was the biggest thing. It got closed down, which was a shame because it opened us up to new things. I didn't know I wanted to get into film at the time – we didn't have those opportunities on the table.

A year ago, I got funding to open the centre again. I wanted kids on the estate to have the same opportunities I did. Since reopening, we've done storytelling events, had visits from scientists and launched a boxing programme. We've got two more youth centres in the area now – and I'm having meetings about branching out across Ealing, but it all started off at the youth centre on Joseph Avenue. ■

Interview by Bobby Palmer

→ The Jamal Edwards Delve project is at various west London locations.

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[timeout.com/thingstodo](https://www.timeout.com/thingstodo)

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CAN HURT YOU

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FEBRUARY 28

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Nightstop

WHAT IS IT?

Nightstop is a community network of volunteer hosts who open their spare rooms to young homeless people in need of a safe and warm place to spend the night during times of crisis. The service has been running since 1987, offering an alternative to rough sleeping, sofa surfing or unsafe accommodation. Last year, it helped arrange more than 1,000 nights of lodging in London.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The organisation provides a secure and welcoming place for young people to stay at short notice, as well as ensuring hosts give them all the essentials, including a hot meal and a private room. The volunteers can also offer their guests a listening ear. Arranging longer-term accommodation takes time, but Nightstop staff help those using the service to find somewhere permanent to live.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you have a spare room you could offer a vulnerable young person for the night, why not apply to become a host? Dates are flexible and you'll receive training beforehand. Nightstop will also reimburse any expenses and offer you regular support. No spare room, but still want to help out? The organisation is always on the lookout for more volunteer drivers and chaperones. ■ *El Hunt*

→ www.nightstop.org.uk

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MOST GOOGLED

Why is Greenwich the centre of time?



UNLESS YOU WANT to bring on an existential crisis, you probably don't want to devote too much headspace to the concept of time. But have you ever thought about the fact that every other time zone in the world is measured from a single line running through Greenwich? Marking the centre of global time, the line is called the prime meridian – and you'll find it at the Greenwich Observatory.

'Meridians are imaginary lines that run from the North Pole to the South Pole,' explains Emily Akkermans, curator of time at the observatory. 'They connect all points of the same longitude, which is why they're important to astronomers and navigators.'

They can also be used to measure time. The sun passes over the prime meridian at around noon each day, but solar time is unreliable; there's a large margin of error thanks to factors like the earth's elliptical



orbit. However, if you average out all of these sun crossings over an entire year, you end up with a standardised mean (or average) time for noon. Enter: Greenwich Mean Time.

The question is: why does the rest of the world use GMT as a starting point? It goes back to 1884, when the International Meridian Conference took place in Washington DC. 'Greenwich was selected as the prime meridian of the world because of the observatory's long-standing reputation for producing good-quality data for navigation,' says Akkermans. Plus, she points out, 'Seventy percent of the world's shipping companies were [already] using charts and data tables based on the Greenwich meridian.'

Further proof that London is the centre of the universe. ■ *El Hunt*

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MY LONDON STORY



‘Anyone can find a home in London’

IN 1999, DR NOORALHAQ NASIMI arrived in the UK for the first time. After fleeing a civil war in his homeland of Afghanistan, he'd undertaken a six-month, cross-continental journey with his family to seek refuge. The final stage took nine hours and involved being smuggled into a refrigerated container and sent to Dover. Since then, Nasimi has worked to help other refugees get settled in the UK. In 2001, he launched the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA), which provides support for those struggling to adjust to life in the UK.

I didn't know anything about the UK before I arrived. I'd heard that it was very different, and that it had one of the best democracies in the world. But at the time, I was just happy that I had found somewhere I could live without fear of persecution.

It's still incredibly welcoming, but the city has changed a lot. When I came to the UK, it felt a lot more relaxed. Job Centres were just places where

you could sign [on] every two weeks. Now, they're like detention centres – full of security and staff asking questions. For people new to the country it's a complex process. It's not how it used to be.

When I arrived, I was given yoghurt, tea, coffee and a Snickers bar by the UK Border Agency. It was my first taste of British food. Everyone was so helpful in the first few days: we were really looked after.

The first place I lived in London was New Cross. It was the first time I'd seen a society with people from that many different cultures.

People from all over the world live in London. They support each other. That's why most refugee communities feel more comfortable in the UK than they do in the rest of the world.

Learning English has been the biggest challenge for me. If you can't speak properly, then you don't know what's going on in society. We try to prioritise that at the ACAA.

I'm very big on history, so I love living here. I like to walk by the Houses of Parliament and Tower Bridge – they're hundreds of years old, and you can feel it when you look at them.

London is a unique city. If you're Arab you can go to Edgware Road, if you're Turkish you can go to Wood Green, if you're Bangladeshi you can go to Whitechapel. Anyone can find a home here.

I live in Hounslow now and there's a great sense of community. We moved here because it's where the ACAA is. It's close to Heathrow airport, so it makes sense. We wanted to fill the gap, because there was no Afghan centre nearby. I see so many Afghan people on the street here. I feel like I'm at home. ■
Interview by Dominique Sisley

→ Afghanistan and Central Asian Association. Unit 9, Griffin Centre, Staines Rd, TW14 0HS. ☎ Hatton Cross. www.acaa.org.uk

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HEADS UP

Is London still Europe's best city? Help us find out

HOW ARE YOU, London? No, seriously: how are you feeling? Happy? Hungry? Hungover? Or up for sacking it all off and following Harry and Meghan to Canada?

However you're doing, we want to know. Our annual **Time Out Index** survey is back, and we want to hear about your London life in 2020.

Last year, we surveyed more than 5,000 Londoners – and you turned out to be feeling pretty great. Nearly 80 percent of you said you were happy, and you voted the capital one of the most dynamic, diverse and creative cities on earth. As a result, London emerged as the Number

One European destination in our 2019 rundown of the world's best cities. (Globally, only New York, Melbourne and Chicago beat us.)

But will London retain its ranking this year, or will Berlin's cheap rents and liberal nightlife take it to the top of the European league? There's only one way to help us find out: take the Time Out Index survey now. It takes less than ten minutes, and once you're done, we'll reveal whether you'd be better off staying in London or moving to another city. Apparently Vancouver is nice this time of year... ■ **James Manning**

→ Take the survey now at www.timeout.com/indexsurvey.



TimeOut
INDEX

ASK AN EDITOR

Your going-out problems solved by Time Out editors

Charlie from Leyton asks:

'I've never been that into cocktails but I don't think I've ever had a particularly good one. I still don't know what I like. Where can I go to try some very well-made classics without breaking the bank?'

Laura Richards, Drink editor

You'll probably want to go somewhere totally unpretentious where you definitely won't be judged for not knowing your Sidecar from your Sazerac. **Ruby's Bar and Lounge** in Dalston is a



rad, retro basement bar with a range of the classics – including the Old Fashioned, the Margarita and the Piña Colada – which it serves in pure form, or souped up. So if you find one you really like, you can then try it a bit twisted. Best of all, it has a happy hour every day from 6.30pm until 8pm, when the cocktails will set you back just £6. Good luck getting back up the stairs after. ■

Got a going-out dilemma?
Email hello@timeout.com

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'If I know someone's behind me, I'm not gonna fart on them.'

'No, we're not walking all the way over there to see if the ducks are having a séance.'

'My name's Dave, but you can call me Steve.'

'Who knew brunch would involve two spreadsheets?'

'I had eight orgasms last night. And a spatchcock chicken.'

'Can you do me a favour and google "old women"?''

'I need to start eating more protein, but the thing is, I hate all protein.'

'I'm all for euthanasia, but not like that!'

'Did your penis make any resolutions for the new year?'

'I live for guac.'

Overheard something weird?
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FREE LONDON

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



Big neon writing at White Cube

Sprawling, humming white lights are the best bit of Cerith Wyn Evans's show 'No Realm of Thought... No Field of Vision'. They form a glowing wall that spells out a passage by Proust, of very long novel fame, translated into Japanese kanji characters. It's Instagram fodder for Ace & Tate-framed intellectuals. We love it.

→ White Cube Bermondsey. ⊕ Borough. Until Apr 19.

Fitness with dogs in Lambeth

Sick of your pet pup lounging around the flat, binging on treats and making absolutely no effort to get beach-body ready? Head to Rover.com's strength and cardio class for humans and dogs, and get shredded together.

→ Siobhan Davies Studios.

⊕ Elephant & Castle.

Thu Feb 20.

Bookshop crawl through London

Get the rounds in on a crawl of London's finest establishments. By 'rounds' we mean indulgent flicks through novels, and by 'establishments' we mean nice bookshops – but who says you can't get drunk along the way, too?

→ Multiple venues.

Fri Feb 21–Sun Feb 23.

Storytelling at the Union Chapel

Daylight Music's free gigs always feel as cosy as an afternoon at your nan's, but this Saturday's is turning things up to Extremely Wholesome with a retelling of fairytale 'The Snow Queen' via retro psych-folk and readings.

→ Union Chapel. ⊕ Highbury & Islington. Sat Feb 22.

Fashion career help in Stratford

Aged under 25? Lucky you. Not only can you neck seven wines on a weeknight and make it to work unscathed (the cut-off for that is 29), but you can also attend this day of talks co-run by the V&A, about making it in the badlands of fashion.

→ Stratford Circus Arts Centre. ⊕ Stratford. Sat Feb 22.

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



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King of





Archy Marshall is a poet of the city: romantic and darkly attuned to its mysteries. *Anna Fielding* takes a tentative step into his world. Portraits *Andy Parsons*

'I TOLD YOU' it was really steep,' says Archy Marshall, better known as musician King Krule, with only the barest hint of satisfaction. The road beneath us seems to fall away. The Uber driver pauses at the top of the street, momentarily, before the car plunges down the hill into the south London twilight.

'I love the hills around here,' he says, as the rest of the city rolls out into the distance. 'This area's my favourite, the views... Go round a corner or up a road and you get these huge spaces opening up to you. It's my favourite thing in London.'

We're only travelling from one part of Forest Hill to another, but Marshall layers stories over even this short trip: that lots of gravediggers used to live in the area because of four nearby cemeteries, how his family history is tied to these streets.

'This is the road my mum was born on, in... hang on... hang on...' We pass a row of classic 1930s suburban houses and his finger hovers at the window. 'That one. It was my great-grandparents'. Then he's off again, telling us about him



King Krule

and his dad managing to drive up this 45-degree slope when it was covered with ice.

'Because, like, my dad's the best at driving and he's got, like, a really good car,' he jokes, mimicking the playground boasting he did as a kid.

Upwards and inwards

This is typical Archy Marshall. He blends stories and history and pop cultural references. If you'd stumbled across him at our photoshoot at the Horniman three hours earlier, you'd have found him making up character sketches to go with the outfits the stylist picked out for him. A baggy pinstripe suit is rejected with: 'I look like a creepy 1940s dude who's about to marry his best friend's daughter.' 'This is a bit "Clueless", isn't it?' he says of a loud Alicia Silverstone tartan. A pair of flat-fronted trousers are modelled with a golf swing. 'I like these,' he says. 'Because *obviously* I spend a lot of time on the green.'

Over his three albums as King Krule, his early EPs as Zoo Kid, and one album under his actual name, Marshall's incorporated everything that surrounds him – and much of what's inside him – to weave his own narratives. You can genre-spot, if that's your thing. There's a drift of late-night jazz, some of post-punk's chiming instrumentation and arch vocal delivery, the kind of delicate psychedelia we do so well in this country, grime's lo-fi FruityLoops futurism, stuttering punk guitars and hip hop's love of the whole of the mix being greater than its parts. But there are scattered fragments of real life here too, stories from the city, stories from the sky. Marshall finds poetry in gazing upwards and inwards – as artists have for centuries before him – but also from the heartbreak chat overheard in the smoking area, like he's borrowed London's lighter and trousered it.

King Krule's first full-length album '6 Feet Beneath the Moon' came out in 2013, on his nineteenth birthday. Beyoncé shared a link to the song 'Easy Easy' on her Facebook page; Drake put it up on Instagram. He was approached by Kanye West to collaborate, but didn't ('I've turned down so many opportunities where I could maybe be rich by now,' he told the *New York Times*). In 2017, there was 'The Ooz', which made it into numerous best-of-the-year, best-of-the-decade lists



'This jacket stank of shit, beer and piss, but my mum washed it and I feel safe wearing it now'

and was nominated for the 2018 Mercury Prize. This week, his third King Krule album, 'Man Alive!', is released. It's less raw than '6 Feet' and tighter than 'The Ooz', but it's still cynical, still romantic, still pulling in musical ideas from across the world.

'It's just everyday kind of scenarios,' Marshall says of the lyrics on 'Man Alive!'. His speaking voice is as deep as his singing one, with the occasional south-of-the-river glottal stop. 'I don't think too conceptually and I write down what feels right at that moment in time.'

He often references cinema but uses films as a backdrop to his songwriting rather than inspiration. 'Songs can be written in dark rooms with TV glare,' he says, flagging track

'Alone, Omen 3' as an example. 'It's got nothing to do with "The Omen" but it was written in the presence of the movie,' he says. 'The plotline is that Damien [the devil's son] becomes the president of America, so I thought that was fitting for the times...'

Beyond the bubble

Whatever your feelings about horror films and the current president of the United States, or about Brexit (which Marshall touches on obliquely in the track 'Supermarche') he insists that 'Man Alive!' is not a political record. We've relocated to faintly bougie Forest Hill pub Watson's General Telegraph. Marshall is drinking a hot toddy in an effort to warm up



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STAYING SOUTH

Krule's career in four London gigs

2010

The Deptford Arms

The boozer shut after Marshall played there aged just 15. 'We filled it with 15-year-olds,' he told the *Guardian*. 'I went to get a drink and there were five cops.'

2017

DIY Space

Even after bagging a starry fanbase, Marshall was still playing pub gigs. He launched 'The Ooz' with a show at this volunteer-run centre.

2018

The Montague Arms

Marshall marked the closure of what he called 'the heart of good live music in south-east London' with a surprise gig here. It became a gastropub, then shut.

2020

Brixton Academy

Want to see Krule, like, now? He plays two big gigs here in March.

after being photographed in the relentless February drizzle. As the feeling starts to creep back into our fingers, Billy Bragg – with whom Marshall shares some similarities in vocal delivery – comes through the speakers, telling us that he doesn't want to change the world and he's not looking for a new England.

'I just don't talk about politics in a straightforward way,' says Marshall. 'I talk about myself sometimes. Individual people I talk about, my surroundings I talk about, the city I talk about, and the world and how it affects me... and I talk about it honestly, so I think

that's about as political as it gets. The observations have to coincide with current situations because that's what's affecting me.'

He finds the current state of the planet 'quite alarming', especially the 'casual way' in which far right-wing people have risen to positions of influence. He's also aware that, as a 25-year-old Londoner operating in a creative field, there's a danger of not being aware of anything outside your own little bubble.

'You get lulled into a false sense of security,' he says, as we sit indoors on a blue picnic bench. 'The idea of socialism and the idea of social awareness and a welfare state: you think everyone's on that same street, but they're

not. It's dangerous... you don't actually know what people think.'

He has been out of his south London bubble recently, though. Ten months ago he had a baby, Marina, with his partner, photographer Charlotte Patmore. Mother and baby are currently based in St Helens on Merseyside, to be closer to Patmore's family, with Marshall shuttling between there and the capital. 'It's really interesting, it's been beautiful,' he says of fatherhood. 'Having her has matured me and changed my life completely. I feel this energy that loves the world again... I always saw the beauty in despair, but I couldn't always see the beauty in everything.' He pauses. 'She's wicked, man.'

Spending time in the north west has also made Marshall re-embrace the simple joy of having a chat. 'Up there everyone's a lot more open and



King Krule at Tropicalia Festival, 2017



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a lot more communicative,' he says. 'So when I come back down here, I can break down that barrier with conversation. I found the art in it.'

In search of magic

A few weeks back, Marshall had to take a diversion around Waterloo station because of escalator engineering work and ran into a bandmate of his uncle's, busking. She played him a Fela Kuti song, and, as he was walking away, the sound changed and degraded: he found it so beautiful he recorded it on his phone. He's always sought out this kind of magic in the city. He comes from a family who are both hugely rooted in London and very creative. As a child he split his time between his father Adam Marshall,

'It's a strong look, walking down the street, drinking from a Ribena carton'

an art director and musician living in Nunhead, and his mother, Rachel Howard, a set designer and costume maker living in East Dulwich. His mother made one of the jackets he wears in our photoshoot – a boxy bum-freezer in an abstract black-and-white patterned canvas. The cloth comes from the backdrop to his stage set from when he was touring 'The Ooz'. 'It's fire-retardant!' he says, laughing and stroking the jacket as it hangs over the back of a pub chair. 'It stank of shit, beer and piss, but she washed it and I feel safe wearing it now.'

He's a natural archivist, and loves museums and libraries and keeping scraps of paper for the memories they provoke. He grins hugely as he talks about finding a note written

by his father during the 1990s in a copy of Charles Bukowski's 'Ham on Rye'. He was delighted when his grandmother showed him a diary written by her father, a medic in the First World War. 'The handwriting is beautiful,' he says. 'It's tiny, precise handwriting; you can just about read it. And the way that he words things, there's no melodrama, just like, "This is what's happened." I wonder if someone could do that with my stuff. I don't know if I'm going to have an impact on the world. But I should probably start dating things.'

The Horniman Museum, where our day began, is 'just a stone's throw from where I grew up. It's beautiful, really different and weird.' But as with everything else, Marshall can see the troubling aspects of something he loves. Earlier, when we were taking pictures by its bandstand, bare trees framing a view of London, someone tried to describe the museum's collection, searching for the right word: "Ethnographic"? There are things here from everywhere,' Marshall looked up. "Colonial"? he suggested.

He's not always serious. He loves Ribena, but never from a bottle. 'It's a strong look, walking down the street, drinking from the carton,' he says with a topspin of irony. His earliest memories are of walking through Brixton in the summer, surrounded by city smells of McDonald's and 'dirt, pavements, sunscreen, hot dogs'. He talks fondly about his first flat away from his parents: friends staying nearly every night, but also sometimes being on his own and marvelling. 'You could climb out the back window,' he says, 'and sit above Surrey Quays station.'

Marshall is always looking both up and down, talking about the London skies of his childhood ('this deep grey-white that kind of lit up everything in a particular way') but also about how he's always 'really intrigued' by other people and 'the mazes that lie beneath everyone'.

'I always like social realism,' he says. 'But I prefer social surrealism.'

I say that that's interesting. Can he define 'social surrealism'?

'You know me, I wouldn't define that, man.' ■

→ 'Man Alive!' is released on Fri Feb 21 on XL Recordings.



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Pizza Pilgrims

There's a sweet tang to this Neapolitan, but what makes it is the sliced chillies. Why doesn't every pizza have sliced chillies? Because people are ruled by fear, that's why.



Homeslice

Is this great slice a little ashamed of its pepperoniness? The meat's hidden amid rocket foliage, so you've got to hunt it out. You can't be mad about parmesan shavings, though.



Sodo

This is the slice that Aerosmith probably wrote 'Sweet Emotion' about. It's loaded with mascarpone and spicy honey, and that sweet goop is doing the heavy lifting here.



Lardo

As well as boasting the best quality charcuterie on offer, this one is the most generous serving. It's heaving, but the dough can take the weight, as long as you can.



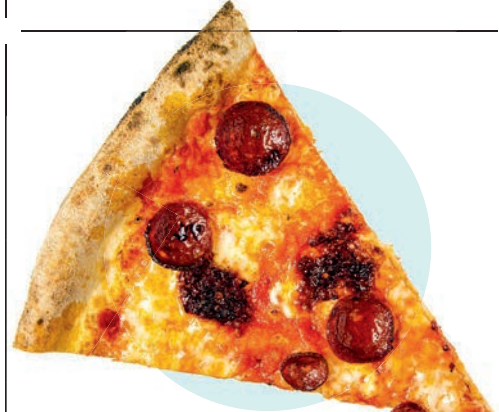
Voodoo Ray's

This hefty American slice has thick-cut meat that pops up into little flavour cups. When you think of a classic slice of pepperoni, it's this that oozes into your noggin.



Fundi

Fundi's slice tastes like pizza from your childhood, but dressed up just enough to be acceptable in adulthood. A good Neapolitan pie, this guy. Not spicy, but very nice-y.



Yard Sale

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What makes a man?

Five London blokes who do stereotypically 'macho' jobs tell *Annie Lord* perception-changing truths about themselves



'I love to cuddle my pomeranian puppy'

Darren Son, 50, smashes stuff up for Associated Demolition Services

'Twenty years ago, guys doing my sort of work would be down the pub at lunchtime, but it's not like that any more because of health and safety regulations. Demolition is a very physical job, so do you have to be fit. But anyone, man or woman, can do it. You just need to be precise and hardworking. People are often surprised to hear that I have a pomeranian puppy who I love to cuddle. And, that at home I do most of the housework – hoovering is my favourite.'



What makes a man?



'My favourite thing to do is watch Disney films'

Daniel Martin, 34, works as a farrier at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich

'Often people are surprised by how caring I can be. People tend to think blacksmiths are rough and short-tempered. But to work with horses you have to be patient, otherwise they might kick you or try to gallop off. I understand why the animals might be frightened: I am walking over to them with a bit of burning-hot steel. I gain their trust by acting in a way that is firm but kind. You also need to be strong because a lot of these animals will rest their whole body weight on your back. People are surprised by how much of a family man I am. My favourite thing to do is watch Disney films with my kids.'

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What makes a man?

'I bake a mean victoria sponge' →

Keilnan Dias, 32, is a construction worker at Battersea Power Station

'I like my job because every day is different. I might be operating a cherry picker or I could be mixing cement, lifting heavy plasterboard or building brick walls. When I'm eating lunch, me and my workmates always puff our chests out when we see other teams to show off. But being masculine doesn't mean you have to be tough all the time. I bake a mean victoria sponge and my favourite film is "Titanic", particularly the iconic scene when Rose and Jack are standing at the front of the ship with "My Heart Will Go On" playing in the background. And I have to tell my mum that I love her every time I speak to her. I could be in front of all my friends but I just have to do it.'



← 'I sew my own clothes'

Hak Tevfik, 50, wields cutthroat razors at barbershop Haks Oscar

'I come from five generations of barbers and was born on top of my father's shop, so I have seen how barbershops have changed over the years. In the '70s customers would browse *Playboy* magazines and there were always free condoms. The barber would pass you one and say "Something for the weekend, sir?" Today, barbershops are still man caves. When they're leaning back in the chair getting pampered, I find that men often feel more comfortable opening up about themselves. I'm most comfortable when I'm in the kitchen and I have a huge passion for cooking. I am also really into clothes. Sometimes I design my own suits. As fashions change, I alter my own clothes - I spend a lot of time stitching.'

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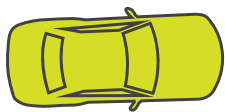
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'I steal my wife's leggings'

Bouncer Marc, 42, weeds out the bad guys at Egg London

'My work means I have to confront a lot of difficult situations. In the past I've had to wrestle weapons out of people's hands. I spend long periods of time out in the cold and the rain. One time, after I refused entry to this man, he tried to drive his car into the entrance of the club. If the security team didn't have such quick reactions, there could have been fatalities. People often have negative preconceptions about bouncers: "You must be a bully", "I bet you're on a power trip." But I'm a softie at heart. When the temperature is close to freezing, I steal my wife's leggings and wear them to work; she gets annoyed at me for stretching them.' ■



LEARN MORE ABOUT BEING A MAN

Our pick of the Barbican's new three-month 'Masculinities' series

'Liberation Through Photography'

This photo show explores how masculinity has evolved since the '60s.
→ Thu Feb 20-May 17. £11-£17.

Pecs Drag Kings: 'MASC'

An all-female and non-binary cabaret troupe, Pecs use drag, songs and comedy to explore gender politics.
→ May 6, 7pm. £20.

'Death Is a Caress'

Male hysteria and control is a major theme in this 1940s Norwegian murder drama. Catch a rare screening.
→ Mar 1, 3pm. £12.

'Mandem Don't Cry'

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Wait, how much? £20 for the whole meal – that's 45 percent off.

→ Westminster Bridge Rd. ⊕ Waterloo.
Until Apr 28. www.timeout.com/gillrays

Brew LDN

What is it? A festival of beer at Shoreditch's Old Truman Brewery.

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Wait, how much? Tickets start at just £12, exclusively with Time Out.

→ Old Truman Brewery.
Shoreditch High St Overground. Feb 27-29.
www.timeout.com/brewldn

Cirque du Soleil

What is it? The legendary troupe has brought its latest show, 'Luzia', to the Royal Albert Hall.

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Wait, how much? Thirty percent less for you lot, tickets start from £38.

→ Royal Albert Hall. ⊕ South Kensington.
Until Mar 1. www.timeout.com/luzia

Gamma Gamma

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Property

Edited by Laura Richards
timeout.com/property

A quick guide to renting rights

Power to the tenants! Get clued-up on your property rights with these five things every renter should know. Illustrations Rob Flowers

RENTING: MORE OF us than ever are doing it, particularly in the capital. According to government stats, the percentage of people living in the private rented sector in London has jumped from 22 percent of all households to 27 percent in the last ten years. Of course, experiences vary wildly, and while you might have been lucky enough to avoid mice infestations or being shown around a 'bijou' flat where the toilet is in the living room, that doesn't mean you can't be informed about the latest rules and regulations that are designed to protect you as a tenant.

The good news is that the government recently brought in new laws to stop tenants getting

screwed over. This includes the Tenant Fees Act (introduced on June 1 2019), which banned most letting fees in the private rented sector and implemented rules that landlords must follow to keep your home safe and sound. What's more, last month housing secretary Robert Jenrick suggested that landlords should be more willing to allow tenants to have a pet – something that most London renters can currently only dream of.

Things might finally be on the up for the renting massive. So get clued-up on what you're currently entitled to and what may be on the horizon – and find out how to take action if things go south – with these essential pointers.







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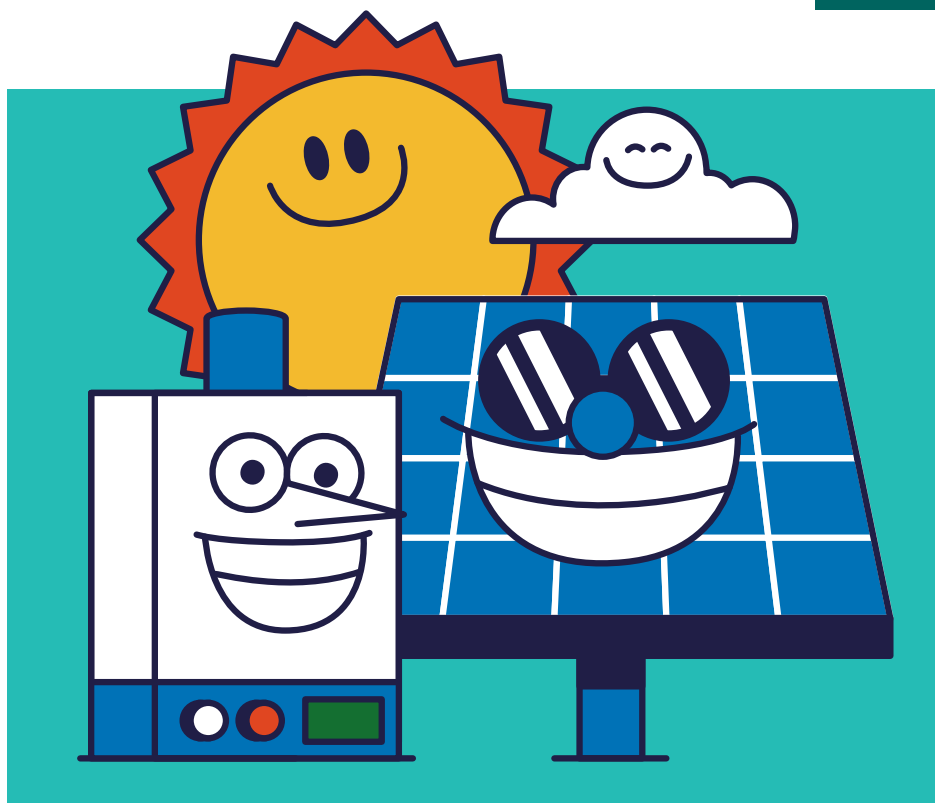
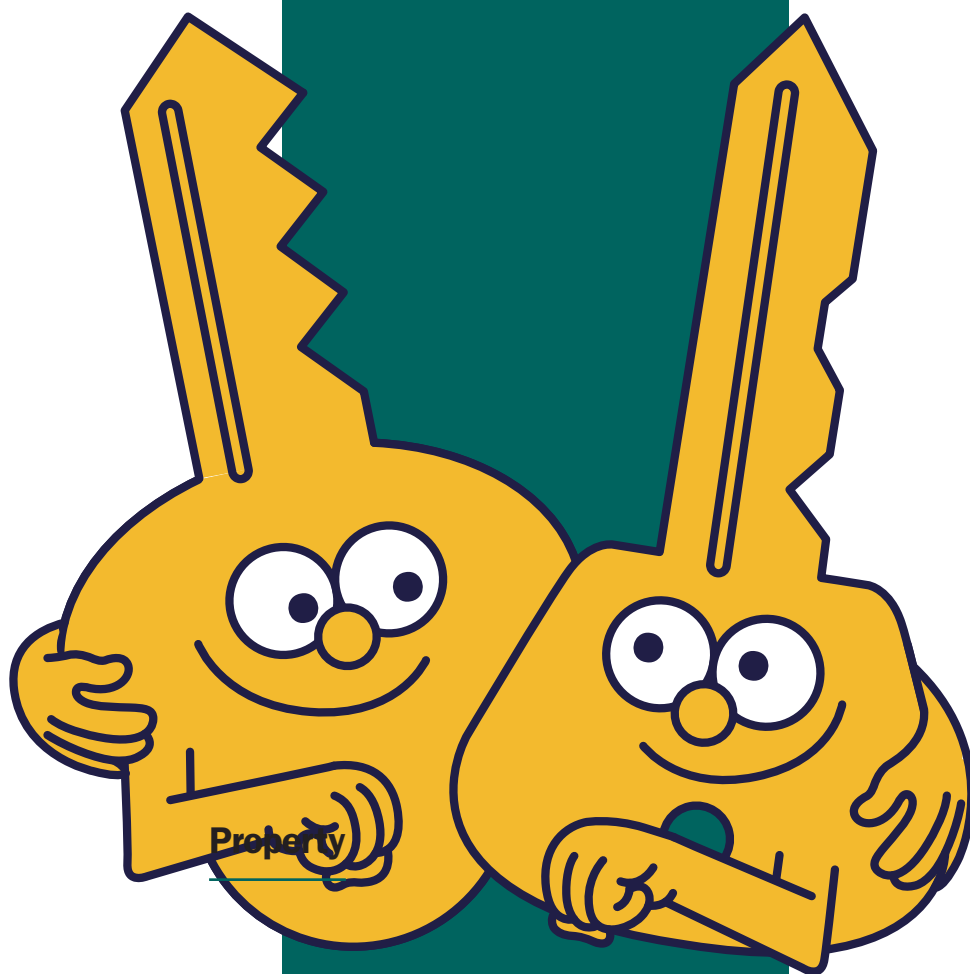
*Price is based on a minimum 30% share of the full market value of £470,000 for a 1 bedroom apartment.
Photography is of Patchworks show apartment. Terms and conditions may apply.

You don't have to pay letting fees

Under the 2019 Tenant Fees Act your agents can no longer charge you for things such as property viewings, references checks, inventories and administration costs. Polly Neate, chief executive of Shelter, said the change in the law is good news: 'There is no excuse for flouting the ban, so any tenants being asked to pay an illegal fee should feel confident that the law is on their side.' You will still have to pay rent and bills (obvs), and your rent can also increase in line with market rates – the average cost of similar properties in your area. But renters shouldn't find themselves getting fleeced by hidden costs when they sign on the dotted line.

There's a cap on how much you have to pay as a deposit

Paying a deposit on a place is a pain, but the new law means that the amount you're asked to pay up front can only be up to the equivalent of five weeks' rent (as long as your total annual cost for rent is below £50,000). Plus, if you have an assured shorthold tenancy – the most common type, which usually runs for six or 12 months – your deposit must be protected in a tenancy deposit scheme until you move out. This keeps your money safe and makes sure you get back what you're owed at the end of your lease. Your cash should be returned in full unless you have caused any legitimate damage – so you may want to think twice about throwing that next house party.



Your landlord should provide you with a warm, safe home

It's up to your landlord to make sure your home is safe, and since April 2018, that it is reasonably energy efficient with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E or better (A is the best, G is the worst). If they don't, they can be fined.

Your landlord must also make sure that all gas equipment, like cookers, are safely installed, and they carry out an annual safety check and provide you with a gas safety record. The Tenants' Voice, a group that fights for tenants' rights, says: 'You should ask about the gas safety certificate before you sign the tenancy agreement and move in. The landlord or letting agent is obliged to supply it to you.' So if you haven't got it, chase it. And if they won't provide it, you can complain to the government's Health and Safety Executive.

There are similar rules for electricity: sockets, light fittings and electrical appliances must be safe. And in terms of fire safety, your landlord must provide a smoke alarm on each storey and make sure escape routes are kept clear.



The landlord should sort out any repairs

Most London renters live in flats, and as well as looking after the inside of your flat, the landlord is always responsible for repairs to the outside of the building it is in – including the roof and external walls, plus communal areas.

As well as that, they should make sure fixtures, pipes and drains, heating and hot water, gas appliances, ventilation and wiring are all in good nick.

If something goes wrong, they can't just pop in without warning: the Housing Act 1988 says your landlord or letting agent must notify you in writing at least 24 hours before they want to enter your home (so you always have time to tidy up and do some emergency hoovering).

If repairs are not done and your home becomes unsafe as a result, you can ask your local council for help – don't carry out repairs yourself unless your tenancy agreement says you can. And remember, if you damage someone else's flat (by leaving the tap on and flooding downstairs, for example), it is your job to make sure that it gets fixed.



'No fault' evictions may soon be banned

Good news for long-term Londoners: in the future you might be able to sign a three-year tenancy.

Plans published by the government in 2018, which are part of an ongoing conversation, include proposals for a minimum three-year term with a six-month break clause to help renters put down roots, and give landlords financial security. Similarly, the government said in April last year that it would work to end Section 21 (or 'no-fault') evictions. The current law lets your landlord kick you out of your home without giving a reason, but it is hoped the law will change soon. Polly Neate from Shelter said: 'Without protections from Section 21's "no-fault" evictions, many renters still struggle to enforce their rights because of the fear of revenge evictions.' Let's hope your renting confidence gets one of these boosts soon. ■



By Rhiannon Curry
Who once lived in a flat
terrorised by pigeons.

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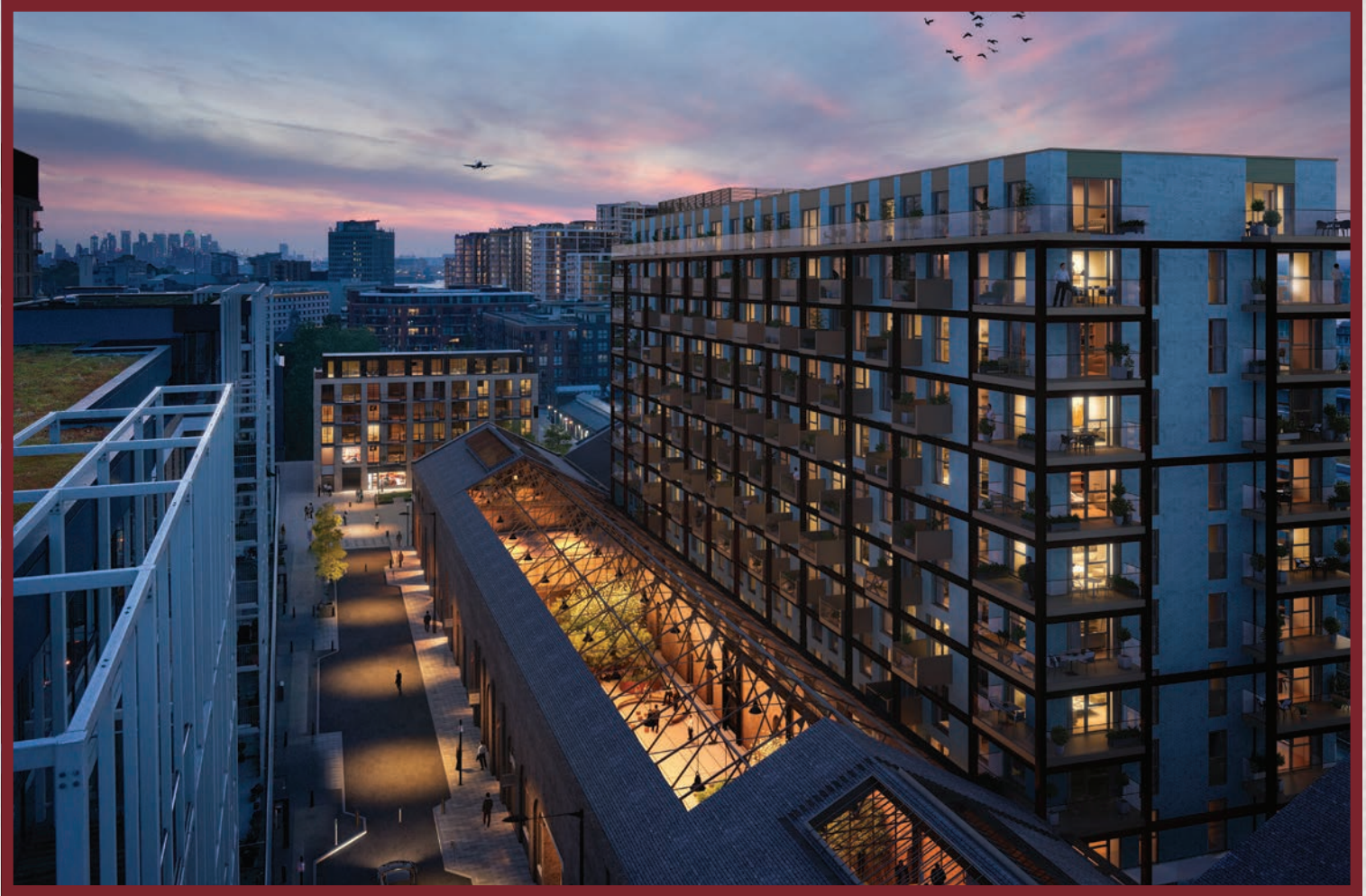
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*Residents lounge and cinema room expected late 2020 and subject to development progress. Photography of Williamson Heights.

 Peabody

FIVE OF THE BEST

Really wild
plant shops

Forest (above), Botanique Workshop (right), Prick (below)

**1 Botanique Workshop**

Fan of all things floral? You'll love this original shop, the kind of place where you can pick up a pineapple plant or asparagus fern for your abode. As well as stocking living plants, the artisan store sells pressed flowers, botanical soaps and candles, and flower-print accessories, with everything displayed on stained-wood surfaces and mismatched tiles.

→ 31 Exmouth Market. ☎ Farringdon.
www.botaniqueworkshop.com

2 Conservatory Archives

As soon as you step into this urban jungle you'll be lusting after its hanging greenery and climbing vines. The Hackney Road shop is one lavish indoor garden: a stark space with peeling plaster walls and big windows, stuffed full of weird, wacky and wild vegetation. Prepare to fall hard for the green stuff from one visit. Or follow the store on Insta for home inspo.

→ 493-495 Hackney Rd. Cambridge Heath rail.
www.conservatoryarchives.co.uk

3 Forest

Set in the railway arches of Deptford Market Yard, Forest is a leafy space with unusual houseplants, terrariums and the kind of understated homeware that would suit any pad. If you're looking for inventive ways to arrange your horticultural acquisitions, step inside. Fronds hang from the ceiling while shelves and surfaces are covered in a clutter of potted plants.

→ Arch 133, Deptford Market Yard. Deptford rail.
www.forest.london

4 Prick

London's first cactus boutique stocks prickly plants big, small, solid and spindly. It's the creation of photographer Gynelle Leon and prices range from a few quid to more than a hundred for heritage plants. The shop excels in acknowledging limited London spaces and knowing its audience. 'Investing in plants is like gaining new flatmates,' says its website.

→ 492 Kingsland Rd. Dalston Junction Overground. www.prickldn.com

**5 Petersham Nurseries**

What would happen if a garden centre and Anthropologie had a love child? This. The Richmond staple, which has also spawned a shop in Covent Garden, is a cathedral to visually stunning greenery, indoor and out. You can even ask an expert how best not to kill your latest houseplant purchase. Plus, there's an ace café and restaurant housed in its beautifully shabby greenhouses – make a day of it. ■

Ellie Walker-Arnott

→ Church Lane, off Petersham Rd. ☎ Richmond.
www.petershamnurseries.com



A LOCAL'S GUIDE TO LIVING IN Catford

Tell me about the local tribe

Lewisham natives, families after reasonable house prices and young professionals digging the transport links. And look out for art-school students drifting from Goldsmiths.

What's new in the area?

More than 2,000 people signed a petition to stop the removal of the fibreglass **Catford Cat** that sits over the town's 1970s shopping centre. That's not to say the place is stuck in the past, though. In the last few years, psychedelic pub **Ninth Life**, **Bottle Bar and Shop** and artists' collective **Catford Arts** have added a creative kick to the area.

Are there any community groups?

Green space **Wild Cat Wilderness** has weekly volunteer gardening sessions. Online, the **Catford Chronicle** tells local stories and **Love Catford** is the go-to site for news and events.

Where can I grab a morning latte?

The Espresso Cartel is the first speciality coffee shop in SE6 – it does stonking bacon butties too. Or grab on the go from cute mobile van **Beats & Grind**, which parks up in front of Catford Bridge station.

Is the area family-friendly?

Catford may not have the yummy-mummy aesthetic of neighbouring Brockley or Forest Hill, but there are schools and nurseries aplenty, and there's extra-curricular action too, from family shows at **The Broadway Theatre** to a humungous inflatable assault course at **Air Thrill**.



Catford Cat



Catford Broadway

What's the nearest green space?

South-east London is peppered with greenery but **Mountsfield Park** packs in a football pitch, tennis courts, an ornamental garden and views of the city from its summit.

What are the supermarket options?

There's a Tesco, Lidl and Aldi all within walking distance of each other. **Good Food** grocery store is the place for organic, and its veg-bag scheme funds local food banks.

Any takeaway hotspots?

Family-run Italian joint **La Pizzeria Italiana**, makes authentic pizza to go. Or eat in for kitsch murals of Venice and tasty seafood specials.

AVERAGE PROPERTY PRICES
Flats £300k
Houses £500k

AVERAGE RENT
£650pcm per person

NEAREST TRANSPORT
Catford rail and Catford Bridge rail

BUS ROUTES
Lots to Lewisham, New Cross and Peckham. The N171 is invaluable if you miss the last train.

LOCAL MP
Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)

Is there a market at the weekend?

On weekdays, **Catford Broadway** is full of traders. For street eats there's **Catford Food Market** on the last Saturday of the month. And put April's **Catford Rum Festival** in your diary, too.

How about keeping fit?

Hit up **Parkrun** on Saturday in Mountsfield Park, swanky studio **Yoga House** for power flows and gong meditation, or affordable gym **Energie Fitness** for a sweat sesh.

Where's the nearest cinema?

Catford Mews gave Lewisham its only multi-screen cinema last year. And **Catford Free Film Festival** has become an annual highlight.

Where do the locals drink?

Irish pub **The Blythe Hill Tavern** is a Camra fave where the bartenders will bring your pint of Guinness to your table. ■ *Alexandra Sims*



Ninth Life

HOUSING CRISIS

We put your London property problems to the experts

This week: a bathroom battle

Samira from Kiburn says:

'I've got a persistent problem with bathroom damp. When I bought my basement flat a year ago, the room was freshly painted and showed no signs of mould, but now the walls have turned bobbly and brown in places. I don't know if I should use a cleaning product, or if I should be worried about my health. I heard black mould is bad to be around.'

Nicholas Donnithorne from Rentokil Property Care says:

'It sounds like you have a build-up of vapour in your bathroom due to inadequate ventilation. This problem affects one in five UK properties and is the result of moisture-laden air coming into contact with cold surfaces, where it condenses. It's important to make sure your bathroom is well vented to avoid mould growth, which can cause health problems.'



'Keep any external windows open during and after bathing, and leave the door closed until the room cools down to avoid moist air condensing elsewhere in the flat. If there are no windows, get an extractor fan installed, ideally with a humidity sensor that runs automatically. Keep the fan clean and check it's working by placing a postcard on the grill while it's running. If it doesn't stay in place the air flow may not be sufficient and you should get a fan engineer to check.'

'As to your current problem, there are many DIY mould cleaners that will kill and remove the surface mould colony, but not all of them will remove the stain left behind. For persistent cases, you may need to call in a surveyor to confirm the source and options to remedy.'

→ For more property maintenance advice visit www.rentokil.co.uk.

Send your problems to hello@timeout.com

INTERVIEW BY ROSIE HEWITSON

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Computer generated image of Helix

HELIX

**LAWRENCE AVENUE
HARLESDEN NW10**

Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

Swap till you drop

How do you get new stuff yet create zero waste? Exchange clothes, books and plants at sustainable swapshops

For do-gooders

Events don't come much more wholesome than a swap saving clothes from landfill that's also raising money for a charity pairing young professionals with pensioners to combat loneliness. At **Sip & Swap** – run by North London Cares – you can bring up to ten good-quality pre-loved garments or accessories and exchange them for 'new' pieces. Thank God there'll be bubbles and Bloody Marys there to stop us feeling *too* worthy.

→ Camden Collective. ☉ Camden Town. Mar 1. £6, £12-£16 including food and drink.

For bikers

London Velo is Deptford's first and only bike café. It even has its own onsite mechanic. So little wonder then that at **Clothes Swap at London Velo** they're looking for helmets, cycling gloves and skin-tight Lycra cast-offs along with the usual threads. Grab one of Velo's Union Coffee brews while you're there and see if the café's french bulldog Maurice will submit to a pat.

→ London Velo. Deptford Bridge Overground. Thu Feb 20. Free.

For upcyclers

As well as letting you trade your unwanted clobber for something that feels new, the **Swish & Style** swap will teach you how to give your battered wares the Fairy Godmother treatment at an upcycling-by-embroidery workshop – so you get to stick it to fast fashion in the process.

→ St Mary Magdalene. Enfield Chase rail. Sat Feb 22. Free.

For designer label lovers

Rifle through the stylish wardrobes of influencers, designers, models and stylists for some exemplary pre-loved attire at this curated designer clothes swap. Keep a sharp eye out at **Fashion Circle** and you might walk away with something rather special, and for the price of a Zara knit. Stick around for panel discussions with experts in sustainable fashion and a charity raffle (£5 a ticket) for Red Cross Australia where prizes from Hunza G and Rixo are up for grabs.

→ The AllBright Mayfair. ☉ Oxford Circus. Sat Feb 22. £15, £45 including brunch.



For plant people

Is your love for potted ferns out of control? Or are you after some new greenery for your jungle of a bedroom? Swipe someone else's unwanted foliage at the **Uprooted Plant Swap**. No palming off your dying orchid on someone else, mind – healthy growers only.

→ Second Home London Fields. London Fields Overground. Mar 21. Free.

For vintage collectors

Tottenham club Five Miles will be covered in lace tops and leather bags for the **Vintage Market & Swap Sale Pop Up**. You won't

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and kilo sales at
[timeout.com/thingstodo](https://www.timeout.com/thingstodo)



find anyone trying to fob you off with their gravel-encrusted Reeboks here – it's good quality pre-loved stuff, along with upcycled items from brands like Lemonade Monday. If you don't have anything you'd be proud to trade, pay a fiver on the door for five 'swap' tokens, with proceeds going to mental health charity Mind. Five Miles also has an onsite brewery with top-tier craft beer for browsing breaks, but the swap doesn't apply to that bit, so no trying to pay for your pints with a pillbox hat.

→ Five Miles. ↻ Tottenham Hale.
Mar 1. Free-£5 donation.

For seasoned swappers

Swap Rebellion is the old guard of sustainable clothes swaps, operating out of larger venues like a well-oiled swishing machine. The next place you'll find it is The Jago in Dalston, where you can trade up to ten items (good quality only – the Rebellion does not tolerate missing buttons). When you're done, you can drape yourself in those rehomed clothes while you take the mic for Jago Karaoke. Hit the crowd with a bit of Keith Urban: 'You Look Good in My Shirt'.

→ The Jago. Dalston Junction Overground.
Thu Feb 20. £7.



For bookworms

Admit it, there's at least one book in your home you can bear to part with. And if you visit a book swap, you can find a new one to fill that gap on your shelf. Trading paperbacks with strangers is a chance to introduce yourself to new authors and diversify the reading habits you didn't even know you had. Trawl through your collection and find the chosen one for **Book Swap for Morley Green Week** on March 4. Come on, you can do this.

→ Morley College London Foyer. ↻ Lambeth North. Mar 4. Free, £1 without a book.

For body-positive shoppers

Secondhand shopping is great, but so many vintage fairs have rails and rails stocked with impossibly small sizes. To make things worse, plus-size clothes are expensive. At the **Fat Positive Clothes Swap**, there will be piles of gorgeous jeans, tops and dresses – all free, all looking for a good home and all size 16/L upwards. The swap is super-friendly and accessible, so you'll spend most of the day making friends with the former owners of your new favourite outfit.

→ Deptford Methodist Missions Disabled People's Contact. Deptford rail. Feb 29.
Suggested donation £2-£5.

For fitness fans

Got a pair of old running leggings stashed away in the back of the cupboard? Grab sports goods donated by others, such as vests and water bottles, at the **Running & Sports Clothes Swap**. There'll be refreshments on hand to help fuel the swishing process. Who knows? You might run away with a Lululemon bargain. ■

→ The View Tube. Pudding Mill Lane DLR.
Sun Mar 8. Free.

By Alexandra Sims and
Katie McCabe



Zanzibar

Find your perfect beach

Dreaming of a sunny escape? Make your palm-fringed fantasy a reality by booking a holiday to one of these idyllic stretches of sand

Face it: scrolling through photos of azure waves and golden sand on Insta until your thumb aches isn't going to cure those winter blues. What you need is a real slice of paradise... and that's where Qatar Airways comes in. They fly to islands and beachy locales all over the world every day – the hardest part will be choosing where to go. That's why we've put together this handy guide to match you with your perfect getaway.

Into pristine natural beauty?

You're going to... Bali, Indonesia

Yes, it's popular; no, it's not been spoiled by tourists. The Island of the Gods is loved for its Subak rice terraces (a World Heritage Site), its ancient volcanoes rising from

the sea, its elegant temples and – you guessed it – those gorgeous white-sand beaches. A real gem is surfer-favourite Suluban Beach, near Uluwatu, which is sheltered in a limestone cove.

On the hunt for some local culture?

You're going to... Zanzibar, Tanzania

Lucky you! You'll spend your days lounging on palm-fringed beaches and slipping into turquoise water – but make sure you leave some time to explore the surrounding towns. Historic main city Stone Town is a fascinating melting pot of cultures. Or for something more low-key, visit the traditional fishing villages in Matemwe, which also happens to have the best diving and snorkelling opportunities on the island.



DID YOU KNOW?

Qatar Airways is Skytrax's World's Best Airline, as voted by travellers globally



Love a bit of history?

You're going to... Goa, India

Travellers have flocked to this stretch of coastline in southwestern India for decades – and it's easy to see why. Here, beaches come with a backdrop of colourful Portuguese colonial architecture and imposing forts like Chapora Fort, Fort Aguada and Cabo de Rama tower over the dramatic coastline.

Want a taste of everything?

You're going to... Phuket, Thailand

You could spend months on Thailand's largest island; in fact, many people do. Of course, there are the beautiful beaches – not to mention tropical rainforests and unspoiled islands accessible only by boat – but then there are also famous restaurants, epic nightclubs and fascinating temples.



→ Book your flight with Qatar Airways now at www.qatarairways.com

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



Shivers

Hear an experimental reading of HP Lovecraft's ghost story 'The Horror in the Museum' surrounded by pickled animals and bisected brains, all set to a theremin soundtrack. Feel a looming presence behind you? It's just the jar of moles.

→ Grant Museum of Zoology. ⊖ Warren St. Fri Feb 21. £10.

PARTY 'Labyrinth' 80's Party

Dress up like goblin king David Bowie for this singalong/quote-along screening. Stay on to sip on potion-themed cocktails at the '80s afterparty.
→ Deptford Cinema.
Deptford Bridge DLR.
Fri Feb 21. £10.

PLAY Games Library Night

Play cutting-edge new games from students and indie developers before listening to talks on queerness and diversity in the gaming industry.
→ Goldsmiths Library.
New Cross Gate Overground.
Fri Feb 21. Free.

Saturday

BROWSE Free Verse

An all-day market with 70 poetry stalls from both established publishers and smaller independent presses. Look out for readings and discussions, too.
→ Conway Hall. ⊖ Holborn.
Sat Feb 22. Free.

WATCH Collective Cinema: 'Nosferatu'

Watch the 1922 silent horror set to live music in a church after a wine tasting in the crypt.
→ St Augustine's Church.
Honor Oak Park Overground.
Sat Feb 22. £10.



London Bookshop Crawl

Taking the basic premise of a pub crawl, this celebration of indie word-peddlers is full of guided tours, free maps to make your own route, Q&As and bookshop lock-ins.

→ Various London locations. Fri Feb 21-Sun Feb 23. Free.

Sunday

Willesden Green Wassail

The original wassailers sang to the trees. In Willesden Green, residents march down the High Street singing to shopkeepers and celebrating their NW London community.

→ Meet at Willesden Green station. Sun Feb 23. Free.



COLLECT Daydream Library Series and Ecstatic Peace Library

Sonic Youth's Thurston Moore is behind this pop-up record store. If all goes well, Moore reckons it might just stick around, so pay it a visit.
→ 92 Church St. Stoke Newington Overground.
Until Mar 14. Free.

BUY The Big London Flea

Dig your way through more than 50 vintage stalls at this huge flea.
→ Earth. Dalston Junction Overground. Sun Feb 23. £1.

Keep on rocking in the flea world at [timeout.com/markets](https://www.timeout.com/markets)



My non-dairy diary

As part of our non-dairy diary series with Ben & Jerry's, we spoke to flexitarian* Dan Figueiredo, an AI innovator from Barnet, about his favourite city spots and recent dairy-free finds...



My favourite Ben & Jerry's Non-Dairy flavour: 'I'm a massive ice cream fan so discovering vegan ice cream was great. I've tried loads of them but Cookies on Cookie Dough is the winner for me.'

The green-tinged afterglow of Veganuary is here but, for many of us, the journey to a more conscious lifestyle is still just beginning. And whether you're dedicated to a vegan diet or are determined to keep nudging your daily food choices in a healthier direction, London has a lot to offer – plus a few surprises. Here's what Dan wants you to know about flexi-living in the city...

Updating your diet doesn't need to be difficult

'I started cutting out red meat and dairy almost seven years ago. It's probably been about five years since any meat has been brought into my house. Stuff like chocolate, ice cream and cheese didn't [used to] have viable alternatives but that's not the case now, and it's getting better all the time.'

Moderation isn't all about you

'More and more people – including me – are becoming aware of the issues surrounding meat consumption. I'd say the only time I now eat meat is if I eat with someone else who isn't vegan, like my parents for example, but even they have started to make changes and eat far less meat. The Linda McCartney range is tasty and convincing when I cook for my primarily meat-eating friends, and Beyond Meat do great beef and pork alternatives.'

London is delicious

'My personal faves would be places like Rasa, Mildreds, Saravana Bhavan and Woodlands Restaurant. I've always loved Japanese food so it's easy enough to get your fix of tasty things and avoid meat. I love Sushi Waka in Camden, especially the miso soup! When you go there you just have to go with the flow: whatever the chef brings, eat it.'

* A portmanteau of the words flexible and vegetarian, meaning he is mostly veggie but will eat meat on occasion.





Alternatives are everywhere

'I love the fact that KFC have released a vegan burger, I've had a great Beyond Meat burger from Honest Burger and the veggie burgers at MeatLiquor are great! My personal faves, though, are the seitan-based kebab from What the Pitta in Boxpark Shoreditch, and Eat Chay's bao: it's so tasty.'

Keep your eyes peeled for sweet surprises

'Sometimes I lapse into buying chocolates, cakes or biscuits so it's great to discover that some of my faves like Lotus Biscoff, chocolate bourbons and Oreos can be enjoyed relatively guilt-free. Bournville's giant buttons are also vegan!'



BEN & JERRY'S NON-DAIRY LAYERED TUB RECIPE

Total yield: four portions

Ingredients

Vanilla cake

190g all-purpose flour
150g granulated sugar
1/2 tsp kosher or sea salt
3/4 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
240ml coconut, almond or soy milk
1 tbsp cider or white vinegar
65ml vegetable oil
1 and a half tsp vanilla

Plus, for the layered tub

1 tub of Ben & Jerry's Chunky Monkey Non-Dairy or Ben & Jerry's Chocolate Fudge Brownie Non-Dairy
2 empty, clean tub containers

Method

- 1 Prep your cake. Preheat your oven to 180C/350F and line a 9" x 13" cake pan. Sieve together all dry ingredients and in a separate bowl mix all wet ingredients. Now combine wet and dry ingredients and mix for a minimum of two minutes. Pour into cake tin and cook for 15-18 minutes or until springy. Allow to cool.
- 2 Remove ice cream from its container, whilst retaining its shape. Set the container aside. Slice ice cream into four equally-sized discs.
- 3 Cut out six discs of cake graduating in size. They should measure 2 x 2, 2 x 2.5 and 2 x 3 inches in diameter.
- 4 Layer the ice cream and cake into the containers, beginning with the smallest diameter of cake. Freeze for at least an hour.
- 5 Cut the containers in half (vertically) and serve.

All measurements were provided by Ben & Jerry's US and were converted into UK units using an online conversion tool.





You can get **£5** free
to spend on Karma
with the code:
timeout2020*

Four ways to save the planet with every mouthful

Here are some must-know apps, products and initiatives to help you eat green

Across the globe, one third of food goes to waste. Yep, picture buying your shopping and then immediately throwing away a third of it. Poor sarnies. In America alone, food waste generates the equivalent of the greenhouse gas emissions from a whopping 37 million cars. Yikes.

Like the food waste app Karma, we think those statistics are a big rotting red flag (as well as a huge waste of your hard-earned). So, if you want to become more sustainable, no worries. We've teamed up with the app to show you how the city is stuffed to its M25 boundary with eco-friendly ideas.

1 Reduce food waste with the Karma app

We've all heard that if something seems too good to be true, then it probably is. But laughing in the face of that saying is food waste app Karma, which gives you access to unsold meals for at least 50 percent less than the original price. That means you'll rescue food and dine on a budget in the process. All you need to do is download the app and check out London's leftovers from Coco di Mama, Fabrique, Island Poké and more. Tasty.

2 Cheers to Toast Ale

The London-based brand makes beer from surplus bread, which means you can feel a little less guilty when sipping your evening bevvy. Aside from saving bread from landfill, the company also uses recycled glass for its bottles,

sends its spent grain to farms and donates 100 percent of its profits to Feedback, an environmental organisation tackling food waste.

3 Take part in meat-free Mondays (or go meat-free every day)

Whether you're already vegan or you'd like to keep curbing your meat consumption, treat yourself to a visit to London's best vegan-friendly eateries. Try Yeda, Redemption and Neat Burger (all avail on Karma) for a variety of vegan nibbles or, if you're heading out, devour Asian bowls at CookDaily, fancy French dishes on the vegan menu at Gauthier and exciting flavours at Burmese Lahpet.

4 Seek out sustainable

Wanna support food brands that are making positive changes for the environment? Do a little research and you'll discover that Coco di Mama has banned plastic bottles from all 28 of its London stores and has made all of its coffee



Toast Ale



Yeda

cups and pasta pots completely recyclable. Somerset House's Spring has a 'scratch' menu to use up waste produce (delicious veg with cosmetic defects), Kennington gastropub The Three Stags no longer serves beef due to its environmental impact, and Rosa's Thai Cafe works directly with Thai farmers for some of their supplies, and sources everything else as locally as possible. Pat on the back, everyone.



→ For more information about Karma, visit www.karma.life

*New users only. Code valid until March 31. Once redeemed, code must be used within ten days.

THREE OF THE BEST

LGBTQ+ history month celebrations



Bar Wotever

Turning a full 15 years old in March, this queer cabaret show creates a new slice of LGBTQ+ history every week, with a line-up that moves freely from drag to spoken word. Each night is different, but the welcoming spirit remains the same.

→ Royal Vauxhall Tavern. ☉ Vauxhall. Tue Feb 18 and Feb 25. £6, £7 door, cash only.



'My Beautiful Laundrette'

Daniel Day-Lewis wanted a part in Stephen Frears's Thatcher-era love story so badly, he sent the director a letter saying he'd break his legs if he didn't get it. Thankfully it worked, or we'd have never seen his on-screen kiss with Gordon Warnecke.

→ Genesis Cinema. ☉ Stepney Green. Mon Feb 24. Free, register in advance.



Fierce Queens: House of Queens

We didn't see it coming, but turns out the Royal Museums in Greenwich are where to be for LGBTQ+ history month. Watch the real queens take over a former royal residence with drag, occultism, treason and A Little History of Gay Life at Sea.

→ Queen's House. Cutty Sark DLR. Feb 28. £16.

More LGBTQ+ nights out at [timeout.com/gay](https://www.timeout.com/gay)

Evening Talks

Fashion and Fiction:
Bernardine Evaristo
Monday 9 March

Carmilla Preview
Film Screening
Tuesday 24 March

Autopia with
Jon Bentley
Friday 13 March

1-2-3-4:
The Beatles in Time
Friday 3 April

The International
Best Dressed List:
The Official Story
Friday 20 March

Pools with
Lou Stoppard
Friday 17 April

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DON'T MISS

Cask 2020

THE OLD JOKES aimed at fussy ale purists just fall flat these days (like the heads on those inferior keg beers, right?). The truth is, there's nobody left to mock, because we're basically all beer nerds now. Your local probably has Beavertown's Neck Oil on tap. Even teetotalers will turn their noses up at Beck's Blue, and ask the barman if they have something a little fancier in stock (Lucky Saint is a great alcohol-free option, if you're interested).

This life is hard enough without having to pay £6 for a disappointing pint, and so, in London, 'good' beer has become the norm. It's

also why we have so many festivals dedicated to the stuff. But Cask 2020 at Peckham's Copeland Park is one that's worth wading through the thirsty crowds for. This year's line-up is shaping up to be major, including some of the biggest and best craft breweries in the UK. On the taps you can find (deep breath

now) Affinity Brew Co, Beavertown, Howling Hops, Little Earth Project, Mondo, Moor, Partizan, Pressure Drop, Siren, Two Tribes, Pilton Cider, Brew by Numbers, Wild Horse and more. Besides suds, there'll be beer specialists on hand to answer questions, live music, an onsite bottle shop and street food

stalls. But the main draw here is the ticket set-up: entry is £35, and that covers *all* your drink for the day, from all the producers. There are 30 breweries involved so think of it like a giant, open tasting session rather than a bottomless cask beer buffet. Morning you will thank you... ■
Angela Hui

WHAT IS IT...

A Peckham craft festival gathering 30 of the best cask beer brewers in the UK.

WHY GO...

To treat beer drinking like a frothy game of Pokémon Go.

→ Copeland Park.

Peckham Rye Overground.

Fri Feb 21-Sat Feb 22.

£35 day ticket.



CRITIC'S PICKS

Drink editor *Laura Richards's* faves at Cask 2020



Brick Brewery

Keep it local. Brick Brewery's Peckham HQ and taproom is just around the corner from Copeland Park. For Cask 2020, it's bringing its Stollen Stout to the party to prolong the *hygge* winter feels.

→ Find out more at www.brickbrewery.co.uk.

Affinity Brew Co

The Bermondsey brewer is behind this brilliant beer fest, so it would be rude not to try one of its own. Toowoomba Shock is a raspberry and coconut stout blended with mild beer made especially for the festival.

→ Find out more at www.affinitybrewco.com.

71 Brewery

The festival is also a chance to try beer makers from further afield. This Dundee brewery is the first to launch in the area for 50 years and will be showcasing, among others, a lager-wine hybrid called Lend Me Some Sugar.

→ Find out more at www.71brewing.com.

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★★★★
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SHOP

C Independent Label Market

Every weekend until March, the UK's best indie music labels will be taking over Canopy Market to sell their records directly to music lovers. Your sleeve-flicking will help some good causes: all profits will go to Help Refugees' Choose Love campaign and Action for Sama, which strives to end the targeted bombing of hospitals in Syria.
→ Canopy Market. ☉ King's Cross. Fri Feb 21-Mar 1. Free.

C Second Hand Sunday

Bookmarks is London's socialist bookshop that's been going strong for more than three decades, despite constant threats from, well, global capitalism. Pick your way through piles of secondhand left-wing writings and trade union publications at this basement sale. Many will be going for just £1, or you can take advantage of the pay-what-you-think-it's-worth section.
→ Bookmarks. ☉ Tottenham Court Rd. Sun Feb 23. Free.

EXPLORE

W Kensal Green Cemetery: The Victorian Cult of Death

London's largest and oldest public cemetery, Kensal Green is one of the capital's 'Magnificent Seven' Victorian graveyards. Wander around the monuments and giant mausoleums on this guided tour and get schooled in dark Victorian death rituals and ceremonies. Got to love a chilled Sunday.
→ Kensal Green Cemetery. ☉ Kensal Green. Sun Feb 23. From £5.

TO DO

The best events in your area

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Time Out

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BBC

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The Telegraph

Ends
8 Mar



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

The British Museum

E Charcoal Sketch Crawl

Head out on an urban ramble around Docklands, sketching the textures and sights along the way. Take in East India Dock Basin nature reserve and London's only lighthouse at Trinity Buoy Wharf, picking up drawing tips from professional artist Liz Atkin as you go. All materials provided.
→ Meet at East India Dock DLR. Sat Feb 22. £10.

PARTY

S I Need to Cher

Want to appreciate Cher in all her furious raven-haired glory? This DIY cabaret night is full of all-gender Cher impersonators lip-syncing and taking part in wrestling bouts. It also includes a 72-slide presentation about Cher's life.
→ The Chateau. Denmark Hill Overground. Fri Feb 21. £10.

N 'Lov(h)er'

'Lov(h)er' is the first novel and fourth poetry collection from Azure Antoinette, who *Forbes* magazine called 'the Maya Angelou of the millennial generation'. Hear her read aloud accompanied by a performance from gender-fluid ballet dancer Chase Johnsey, with an introduction from Munroe Bergdorf.
→ Union Chapel. ☉ Highbury & Islington. Sat Feb 22. £15.

EAT

S Slice World

Street Feast is bringing together an all-star doughy line-up for this battle of the pizzas. Taste your way around collaborations, as Fundi teams up with Brother Marcus, Made of Dough with Brindisa and more, then decide your favourite. Each slice costs just £2.
→ Hawker House.
☉ Canada Water.
Fri Feb 21-Sat Feb 22. £10-£15.

JOIN IN

E The Goat Race Pub Quiz

Can't wait for the annual Oxford v Cambridge Goat Race? Hit up this warm-up pub quiz testing you on all things goat-related. Try your luck in rounds called The Antiques Goat Show and Name That Goat.
→ The Queen Adelaide. Cambridge Heath Overground. Tue Feb 18. £3pp.

S Uke Got This! Ukulele Workshop

Practise your strummingskills on this workshop for first-time ukulele players and get some advice on buying an instrument. Ah, uke trend of 2010, good to see you again.
→ DIY Space for London. South Bermondsey rail. Sun Feb 23. £5.

EXCLUSIVE

We've sorted you out with half-price tickets to everyone's favourite boozy ball pit bar **Ballie Ballerson**. Grab some balls (and a ticket) from £2.75.

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Film

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



FILM OF THE WEEK

It ain't easy bein' Green

Greed



DESPITE WHAT YOU may have heard, 'Greed' isn't about controversial Topshop owner Philip Green. Well, not in the strictest sense. According to the man who plays him, Steve Coogan, its lead character, London high-street mogul Sir Richard 'Greedy' McCreadie, is based on several people. Although, adds Coogan, he's 'mostly Philip Green'. Coogan and writer-director Michael Winterbottom have been infusing reality with fantasy, not-quite true life with comedy, for two decades, tackling Tony Wilson in '24 Hour Party People', Paul Raymond in 'The Look of Love', and most meta of all, Coogan himself in

'The Trip'. With 'Greed', though, they're on the attack. And behind the artifice, Green looms large.

'Greed' dives into the broader implications of such characters, delving into business blow-ups, tax navigations and sweatshop practices, unravelling the cause and effect. McCreadie's biographer (David Mitchell)

provides an entry point into the billionaire's backstory, but the film mostly focuses on his decadent sixtieth birthday party on Mykonos. This hedonistic shindig is an Ancient Rome-themed toga party put on as a show of power after a hauling over the coals at a government select committee. As McCreadie barks

WHAT IS IT...
A sorta biopic of an unscrupulous fashion mogul.

WHY GO...
For James Blunt sending himself up as a corporate busker.

→ Director Michael Winterbottom (15)
104 mins.

THREE MORE

Movie
fat catsBig-screen moguls based
on real businessmen**Citizen Kane 1941**

Charles Foster Kane (Orson Welles) was inspired by William Randolph Hearst – much to the American newspaper magnate's disgust.

**The Last Tycoon 1976**

Workaholic movie producer Monroe Stahr (Robert De Niro) was based on MGM studio head Irving Thalberg.

**There Will Be Blood 2007**

Daniel Day-Lewis's oil man, Daniel Plainview, took his cue from bushy-faced well-botherer Edward Doherty.

Top man? Steve Coogan as
retail tycoon Richard McCreadie

orders at the saps building his faux amphitheatre, he is irked by news of A-list guest no-shows, 'Leo' among them, and irritated by a group of Syrian refugees sully the view.

It is effective in fits and starts, with broad comedy from the likes of Tim Key (always welcome) jostling with something straighter. The scenes unwrapping the younger McCreadie's rise to power have verve and propulsion, with Jamie Blackley ('If I Stay') delivering real bite, a swaggering arrogance and hucksterism showing how he trampled his way to the top. He's a charismatic bastard: 'The Phantom Menace' of fashion.

The present-day stuff is wonkier, the middle-aged McCreadie more of a parody – ironically, he never quite feels like a real person. Much of it is fun, with Winterbottom mining some gold in the party negotiations, but while Coogan

is reliably watchable, it's hardly a stretch for him. And it's frustrating to sense that there's a deeper, darker film trying to emerge here. As McCreadie's sidelined son, Asa Butterfield has edge, but there's not enough of him, while newcomer Dinita Gohil is brilliant as one of McCreadie's staff. She offers the film's moral beacon, playing it straight, and you want more.

There's righteous fury here, and while Winterbottom and Coogan's sincerity isn't in doubt, it feels like they're coasting a bit. There are laughs, but no surprises and not much heart. They have no love for this guy, but as a result, we're left with something a little one-dimensional. ■



By Alex Godfrey
Who is greedier than
Augustus Gloop.

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THE TEN BEST POP-UPS AND FESTIVALS THIS WEEK

10 The Old Dark House

A double bill of cult horror from the 1930s, featuring 'Bride of Frankenstein' too.

→ The Cinema Museum.
→ Elephant & Castle.
Sun Feb 23, 5pm. £10.

9 Bachelor Flat

Terry-Thomas takes one of his non-caddish roles as a put-upon professor in this 1961 Hollywood comedy.

→ Regent Street Cinema.
→ Oxford Circus. Wed Feb 19, noon and 3.30pm. £12.

8 Tangerine

Revenge is a dish served with lots of laughs in this transgender comedy-drama about a cheating ex.

→ Screen 25. Norwood Junction Overground. Wed Feb 19, 7.45pm. Pay what you can.

7 The Killing

Stanley Kubrick's film noir about a racetrack heist stars Sterling Hayden as a jaded criminal trying to defy the odds.

→ Castle Cinema. Homerton Overground. Wed Feb 19 and Sun Feb 23, various times. £10.

6 So Long, My Son

Wang Xiaoshuai's moving portrait of a Chinese couple living with personal tragedy and political upheaval.

→ David Lean Cinema.
East Croydon rail. Sat Feb 22, 1.30pm. £8.

5 'Labyrinth' '80s Party

Slip into spandex for a dress-up-and-singalong showing of David Bowie's finest on-screen moment.

→ Deptford Cinema.
Deptford Bridge Overground. Fri Feb 21, 7.30pm. £10.

4 First Love

Prolific Japanese director Takashi Miike's new film is a blood-soaked yakuza thriller about a young boxer and a prostitute.

→ Curzon Aldgate. → Aldgate East. Until Thu Feb 20, various times. £16.90.

3 Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am

Preview and post-show talk marking the Nobel Prize-winning novelist's birthday.

→ Curzon Bloomsbury.
→ Russell Square. Tue Feb 18, 6.30pm. £12.50.

2 Snowpiercer

Oscar-winning director Bong Joon-ho's dystopian vision of life post-climate change.

→ Prince Charles Cinema.
→ Leicester Square.
Fri Feb 21-Feb 27, various times. £10.

barbican

26 Feb–10 Mar

Her Lens, His Story

A season of films by female directors exploring men and masculinities

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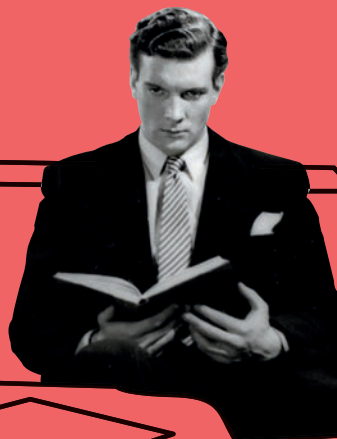


Image: Death is a Carass

1 Future Film Festival

London's premier festival for filmmakers aged 16 to 25 returns for its thirteenth year. Watch shorts made by tomorrow's big names on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and bask in the glow of their impressive talent.

→ BFI Southbank. → Waterloo. Thu Feb 20–Sun Feb 23. Festival Pass £45.



Little Joe



HAVING TROUBLE KEEPING that pot plant alive? Not the end of the world, if this winningly strange sci-fi is anything to go by. The notion of a plant that secretes personality-controlling pollen is at the heart of a cautionary tale about the perils of messing with the natural order, and the numbing side-effects of the happiness industry.

Emily Beecham is Alice, a genetic engineer who works for a Monsanto-like biotech company. She's tasked with nurturing a new breed of flower that emits oxytocin, a hormone that makes its owner happy. The sales potential is huge, and corners get cut. What will a plant that produces the chemical that bonds mothers and babies do to ensure its survival? Nothing good, of course.

Director Jessica Hausner has clearly watched a lot of early Cronenberg and while the film doesn't dip into body horror, its world has a nicely off-kilter feel. The arch dialogue adds to the eerie mood – if not the story – as does Ben Whishaw's low-key menace as Alice's creepy colleague.

The main problem is that this scenario can't sustain the runtime (although the film's jab at antidepressants feels glib too). Still, the languorous pacing and gentle zooms have a woozily hypnotic effect and the actors have fun with the film's mannered style. Hausner's best choice, though, is using avant-garde compositions by Teiji Ito to create a soundscape filled with unusual instrumentations and sinister motifs. It's of a piece with the film. Gardening has never been so disturbing. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

WHAT IS IT...

'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' on Baby Bio.

WHY GO...

For the wonderfully weird soundtrack.

→ Director Jessica Hausner (12A) 105 mins.



BOOK NOW

Her Lens, His Story



'A Year Without Love'

Forget the male gaze, the Barbican's new season on 'Female Directors and Masculinities' showcases the international female directors who have best captured stories of men and masculinity. On the slate is romance, drama, action and more than one serving of juicy melodrama.

→ Barbican Cinema. ☉ Barbican. Feb 26-Mar 10.

Prices vary. www.barbican.org.uk.

ALSO OPENING



THE CALL OF THE WILD



Harrison Ford has worked with big, furry co-stars before, but in this latest adaptation of Jack London's novella his hairy companion is Buck, a St Bernard-Scotch collie. Here, Buck is the star: he's dognapped and goes through a series of human-sidekicking adventures in the Yukon. The curveball is that our canine hero is performed by motion-capture expert Terry Notary ('Rise of the Planet of the Apes'). The results are mixed but Ford is charismatic as a kindly-grouchy frontiersman, the cinematography sparkles and the film has an unashamedly warm heart. *Dan Jolin*



LIKE A BOSS



Business partners Mia (Tiffany Haddish) and Mel (Rose Byrne) have been friends since high school in this ropery comedy. When their make-up company gets taken over by a cosmetics giant, enter Salma Hayek as a one-dimensional boss in a Charlotte Tilbury wig. Meanwhile, Jennifer Coolidge plays shop assistant Sydney, channeling her turn in 'Legally Blonde' but with much worse one-liners ('It's fresh and clean, like a thermometer that goes in your butt'). There are a few laughs and a shocking baby shower scene, but no amount of foundation can cover the cracks of these half-formed characters. *Laura Richards*



MIDNIGHT FAMILY



There are 45 public ambulances in Mexico City, serving a population of 9 million people. Helping fill that enormous gap is the Ochoa family, the stars of this observational study of an unlikely black market. They race around the city in a beaten-up private ambulance, fending off cops and living off improvised tacos. Their struggle to make ends meet throws up ethical questions that director Luke Lorentzen handles with balance. His dash-cam footage captures both the quietude and the drama, although you wish the film could lean in even closer on the fascinating, likeable family at its heart. *Phil de Semlyen*



END OF THE CENTURY



Like 'Sliding Doors' with added subtlety and soul, this drama from Argentinian writer-director Lucio Castro story spins the idea of 'what if?' into something romantic. Ocho (Juan Barberini) is a New York-based poet who has just arrived in Barcelona, when he spots Javi (Ramon Pujol), a kids' TV director, passing by. A throwaway encounter seems to beckon, except that the two quickly realise that they'd had a meaningful encounter 20 years earlier. Flashing back in time, 'End of the Century' explores the idea of roads not taken with emotional deftness and smarts. It's a journey well worth taking. *Hanna Flint*

Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic

Grimes: true or false?

When it comes to being eccentric, provocative and gleefully *different*, Grimes is such a queen, she deserves her own quiz

FIVE YEARS AFTER her top odd-pop bop 'Art Angels', Montreal superstar Grimes returns this week with her fifth LP, 'Miss Anthropocene'. We've heard it and can confirm that from ethereal electronics, to dark, industrial, throbbing beats, to raps in Mandarin, it's a record that shows the artist (born Claire Boucher) is still operating in an eclectic, shape-shifting world of her own.

But it's not just Grimes's way with a futuristic earworm that's

made her an icon. She's been a fascinatingly unconventional artist from day one. Fashion muse, tech geek, studio boffin, partner of electric-car magnate Elon Musk. It's safe to say that Grimes has not studied at the Taylor Swift school of pop stardom. So to celebrate her general non-Taylor Swiftness, here are some Grimes' facts'. Some are real, some are total nonsense. But which are true Grimes and which ones are just lies...

Grimes has legally changed her name from Claire to a lowercase 'c'.

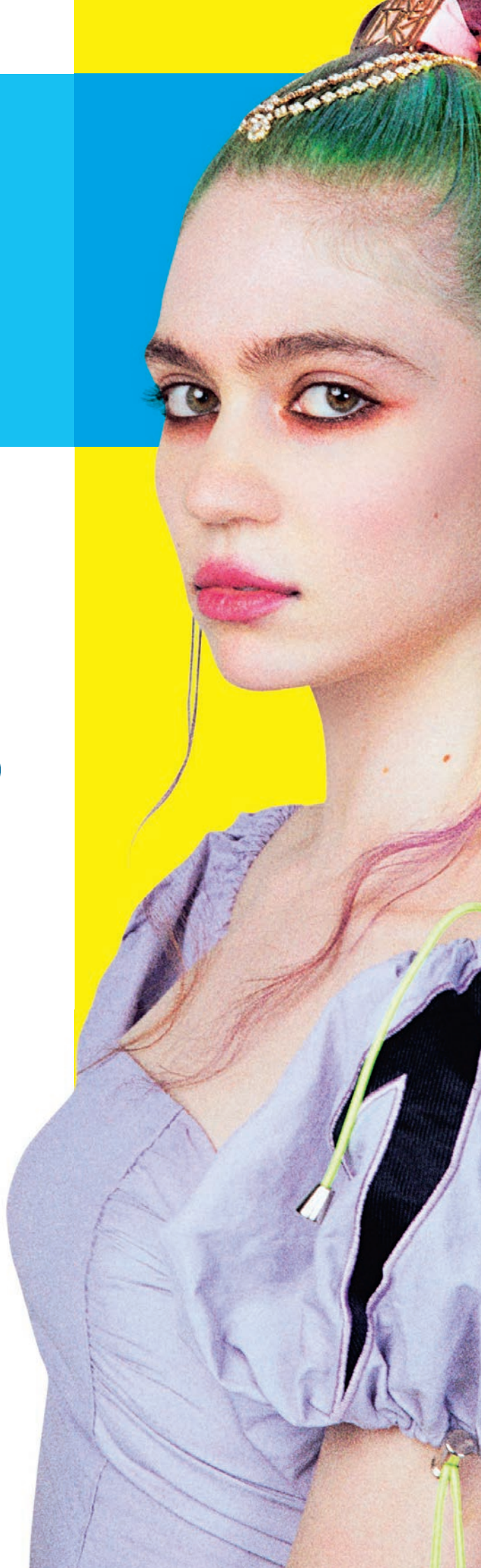
True

Yep! The human FKA Claire Boucher (still KA Grimes, although apparently not for long) is now called 'c'. 'Claire s done and dead,' she told the *Wall Street Journal* in 2019. 'I think I'll kill "Grimes" soon.'

Grimes dropped 'All I Want for Christmas Is You' in a Boiler Room set.

True

Not just that, she pissed off the entire techno universe by DJing with – shock horror – iTunes on her laptop. Boiler Room purged it from their online archives, the fools. #freegrimes.





Grimes got her name after not washing for three months.

False

No, she *actually* got her name after listing her music genre as 'grime' three times on MySpace, despite not knowing what grime was at the time. Wiley would be proud.

She made third album 'Visions' by locking herself in a room for nine days and taking amphetamines.

True

Yes indeed. Though she's coy about it now, she has definitely acknowledged that the record was recorded at a 'psychotic pace', which would make sense – what with the drugs an' all.

Grimes and Elon Musk were introduced to each other by an AI sex bot.

False

Lies, but: they *did* first bond on Twitter over a joke about artificial intelligence and art history. Also, randomly, Azealia Banks decided that having been once invited to their house that it was 'it was probably some weird threesome sex shit to begin with'. So there you go.

Grimes announced her pregnancy with a pic of a fetus on her belly.

True

She did indeed! She posted the pic a few weeks ago on Instagram – alerting the world to the terrifying prospect of Elon Musk being a dad.

Grimes has an alter-ego called Skreechy Bat.

True

Skreechy Bat is one of the characters featured in the video for 2015's 'Flesh Without Blood'. 'In my head, when I write music, it's Skreechy Bat, because Grimes has been very abstracted from reality,' says Claire, sorry, c.

Her music is really made by artificial intelligence

False

No, it's definitely made by Grimes (despite dolts assuming there's some male producer behind the scenes). But Grimes sparked controversy by suggesting that AI's rapid growth means 'live music is going to be obsolete soon'. It provoked a bitter row that even saw an ex-partner call her 'the voice of silicon fascist privilege'.

Grimes films her videos using only an iPhone.

True

'Ac!d Reign Chronicles' from 2016 was a phone job, but for a very fair reason. Bored of people assuming her (male) cinematographer directed her videos (when in fact she did), Grimes decided to take matters into her own hands (wait for it) *literally*. ■

→ Miss Anthropocene' is released on February 21.



By Lisa Wright
Who would lock herself in a room for nine days just to take a really long nap.

DON'T MISS

Man Up!

The world's biggest drag king contest is on like a stick-on beard. Get involved

ARMED WITH SWAGGER, dapper looks and plenty of synthetic facial hair, London's hottest drag king competition, Man Up, is back. For the last six years, this contest at beloved queer pub The Glory has assembled the capital's best upcoming kings. The stakes are high too: a £1,000 prize plus a place in Man Up's sweaty history.

Over eight weeks, these hip-thrusting boys will battle it out every Wednesday night, with the champions from each heat progressing to the final. What to expect? Drawn-on abs, gyrating waists and sexy dancing, of course. But, also, some politically charged stripping and the lip-syncing-induced death of toxic masculinity.



Heat winners will be chosen by different judges every week, including some of London's top kings (see below). As more than 100 entrants try to stay in the game for the final at 650-seat theatre EartH in April, Man Up as an event remains as relevant as ever. With shows like 'RuPaul's Drag Race UK', drag queens are breaking into the British mains tream, but their kingly friends receive far less attention. So, get out there and show 'em some love. Come for the handsome lads and biodegradable glitter. Stay for the downfall of the patriarchy! ■

Ella Braidwood

→ Man Up is weekly at The Glory, Haggerston Overground. Every Wed until Apr 1. Free

MEET THE JUDGES



Chiyo

What are you looking for in a contestant?

'I'm looking for some punk authenticity. I want the raw charisma that is at the heart of the UK drag community.'

What kind of judge are you?

'I'm the fair judge. I'm definitely going to criticise you, but to make you better not bitter. I'm not a fan of mean judges. Some people are just mean to soothe their own egos.'

What's the best thing about Man Up?

'If you think "Drag Race" is great, you are not ready for how overwhelming Man Up is.'



Prinx Silver

What are you looking for in a contestant?

'Passion and originality. I wanna see people who are true to their craft and who entertain me. Make me feel.'

What kind of judge are you?

'Flamboyant and fiery, all spiced with kindness. I like to use the sandwich technique: I give two compliments and then one thing that could be improved.'

What's the best thing about Man Up?

'Our community is one of the most supportive I know. Also, drag kings, we're fucking hot!'



Benjamin Butch

What are you looking for in a contestant?

'I like an act that is celebratory, funny, powerful, or just damn silly. I also love a good costume change.'

What kind of judge are you?

'I'm a nice judge, I like to build the performer up by shining a light on their strengths. I know how much vulnerability and confidence it takes to share your art with so many faces as well as a panel of judges.'

What's the best thing about Man Up?

'Man Up kickstarted my career four years ago. It's a great opportunity to discover that there are so many subcategories of drag. Support local drag!'

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THE NEW ALBUM "BEFORE LOVE CAME TO KILL US" OUT 27TH MARCH

JESSIEREYEZ.COM



Music & Nightlife

In a nutshell

Packed to its textile-covered ceiling with live acts and local collectives, The Jago is a grassroots east London music venue.

Where is it?

It's what used to be Passing Clouds, on Hackney's Kingsland Road. Today it's coated in a kaleidoscope of brightly coloured Afro-futurist graffiti.

What's the vibe?

Pretty eclectic, tbh. Illuminated by carnival lights, a stuffed faux tiger and other tropical DIY decor festoon the dancefloor on both levels – flanked by velvet couches, African prints and trumpets repurposed as lamps.

Who goes there?

Typically a sweat-drenched crowd of Rastas, queer kids, boozy bohemians, the politically woke and world music purists who shake their hips like pros.

What makes it a great venue?

If you somehow missed out on

SO YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO

The Jago



cutting shapes at Passing Clouds, or protesting its sad demise in 2016, fret not. The Jago pays homage to its hippyish roots with community-led initiatives and daytime activities like clothes swaps and 'pay what you can' food hampers. In the evening, its good-vibes spirit, the boss's Kenyan-Jamaican roots and an undeniable jazz flex mean the live music policy is fire.

What's the booze situation?

Grab yourself a pint of Five Points for a fiver. Then pick up the pace with one of the bartenders' Espresso Martinis, Aperol Spritzes or doubles for just under ten quid.

What's coming up?

The Jago's staggeringly eclectic weekly roster ranges from Monday night comedy to Wednesday swing classes accompanied by a ragtime band. But heavy-hitters lined up include long-running tropical party Love Carnival on February 29 and foot-stomping brass crew Das Brass on March 28. ■ *Tracy Kawalik*
→ 440 Kingsland Rd. Dalston Junction Overground.

W

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Elder Island / Jayda G / Joy Crookes

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Mafalda / London Astrobeat Orchestra

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The Wilderness Orchestra / Intelligence Squared

Sunday Papers Live / Alternative Miss Wilderness / Hip Hop Karaoke / Madame Jojo's / Missy Fatale Cabaret

Feasting

Richard Corrigan / Skye Gyngell / Fergus Henderson

Angela Hartnett's Café Murano / Petersham Nurseries / Homeslice / Patty & Bun / David Carter x Woodfired Canteen
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WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

D-Block Europe

An EU tribute band?

Behave. DBE is a hip hop collective out of Lewisham taking UK music by storm. Their name's a nod to The Lox aka D-Block, a legendary New York rap crew. Schoolboy pals Young Adz and Dirtbike LB are the main protagonists. They've already worked with everyone from Dave to Yxng Bane.

The UK hip hop scene is heaving with talent right now. Are they cutting through the noise?

Yes, sensationally so. Without any mainstream coverage whatsoever, they played to a jam-packed Ally Pally twice last year (selling more than 20,000 tickets in four hours!) and became first UK artists to have three Top Ten mixtapes in the same calendar year.

Wait, what?

Mad numbers, right? They wax lyrical about sex, drugs and money, and that's chimed with their evergrowing youthful fanbase. They've now got nearly 200,000 followers on Instagram and 2 million avid listeners a month on Spotify.

Jeez. So, talk to me about their sound.

Fundamentally, it's trap music – you'd be forgiven for mistaking them as being from the US. They're inspired by Lil Wayne, so Autotune plays a huge role in their delivery. They seem to focus more on a vibe than they do a specific sound. That means when they collaborate, they adapt like musical chameleons to the featured artist's sound.

Versatile, then...

Definitely. Listen to 'Pretty Little Nike Airs' with Yxng Bane, 'Tell Me' with Krept & Konan and then 'Playing for Keeps' with Dave to see what I mean. To be honest, churning through their discography is an afternoon well spent...

How are they gonna make 2020 bigger than a huge 2019?

They've already been booked for some big festivals this summer and keep an eye on their socials for more music coming soon. ■ Sam Higgins

→ D-Block Europe play Wireless on Jul 3-5.



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lso.co.uk/gospelspirit

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GIGS AND CLUBS

Ravenswood for Eat or Heat

Stella Creasy, MP for Walthamstow, will get behind the decks at this star-studded fundraiser in aid of a local food bank. James Lavelle, Lia Mice and Dub Pistols will all be dropping beats, too.
→ Ravenswood Industrial Estate. Feb 29.

Gigi Masin

The ambient maestro performs music from his upcoming double album 'Calypso', which is inspired by the mythical Greek island of Ogygia.
→ Purcell Room, Southbank Centre. Mar 29.

Sundays at Phonox: Hunee

The worldly disco genius returns to Brixton venue Phonox for the first time since 2017. And he's coming

back in style with a marathon ten-hour set.
→ Phonox. Mar 29.

Jeff Beck

The legendary guitarist rounds off his UK tour with a couple of dates at one of London's most iconic venues.
→ Royal Albert Hall. May 26-27.

Saweetie

Catch the West Coast hip hop star in a relatively intimate venue before she goes totally supernova. Saweetie!
→ Heaven. May 26.

Human Traffic Live & Pioneers Of Electronica

This one-off electro celebration features a very rare headline set from William Orbit plus ex-Kraftwerk member Wolfgang Flür and 'Fade to Grey' hitmakers Visage. It's



All Points East: The Kooks and The Wombats

East London fest All Points East has announced an – our words – indie takeover day featuring The Kooks, The Wombats, Jake Bugg and Gabrielle Aplin. 'Ooh La' indeed!
→ Victoria Park, May 30.

part of Printworks' 18-show series commemorating cult clubbing/coming-of-age film 'Human Traffic'.
→ Printworks. Jun 4.

NOS Primavera Sound Porto

Tyler, The Creator, Lana Del Rey, Pavement, FKA Twigs, Beck, Bad Bunny and King Krule headline the cool Portuguese fest which offers of bangers for your buck.
→ Parque da Cidade, Porto, Portugal. Jun 11-13.

Love Supreme

The jazz, soul and disco weekender has some major coups: the last ever UK performance from Anita Baker, TLC celebrating classic album 'CrazySexyCool' and an eightieth birthday set from Candi Staton.
→ Glynde Place, East Sussex. Jul 3-5.

Beck

The Grammy-gobbling alt-rock icon plays his first London gig in three years.
→ O2 Academy Brixton. Jul 11.

Latitude

Snow Patrol, Ghetts and Mahalia are among new additions to the family weekender, joining headliners Liam Gallagher, The Chemical Brothers and Haim.
→ Henham Park, Suffolk. Jul 16-19.

Bluedot

This Cheshire fest unites music and science: in a UK exclusive, Björk will perform with Manchester's Halle Orchestra while projections illuminate the Lovell Telescope. Groove Armada and Metronomy headline.
→ Jodrell Bank, Cheshire. Jul 23-26.

Houghton Festival

Bouncing back after last year's cancellation due to extreme weather warnings, the electronic music fest has unveiled a stellar line-up led by Ricardo Villalobos, Helena Hauff, Ben UFO, Hunee and Four Tet.
→ Houghton Hall, Norfolk. Aug 6-9.

Sleeper and The Bluetones

Relive Britpop's heyday with this co-headline show in which both bands play their debut albums and a greatest hits set.
→ O2 Forum Kentish Town. Sep 19.

JLS

After seven years away, the 'Beat Again' boyband are back and on tour. Tickets go on sale Friday at 9am – be ready.
→ The O2. Dec 1.



Post Malone

The laconic, genre-hopping rapper behind huge hits like 'Wow' and 'Rockstar' is the latest headliner announced for this summer's BST Hyde Park concert series.

→ Hyde Park. Jul 2.

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Theatre & Dance

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SHOW OF THE WEEK

Stoppard's last stand?

Leopoldstadt



PERHAPS IT DOESN'T have the superhuman dexterity of 'Arcadia' or the paradigm-shifting audacity of 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead', but 'Leopoldstadt' still sees Tom Stoppard end his career on a high – if this really is his final play (as the 82-year-old has suggested it might be).

Certainly, it's a better way to call it quits than his last outing, 'The Hard Problem', a laboured light comedy that elicited wall-to-wall 'mehs' at the National in 2015. This weighty work about the rise and fall of Vienna's Jewish community is unafraid to look and feel like a serious piece of legacy-building.

It follows the sprawling, extended Merz family, who are what you'd probably call Jewish intellectuals, living in the tumultuous first half of the twentieth century. When we first meet them, in 1899, they're free citizens of the Austro-Hungarian

empire, a place where Jews have been legally emancipated for more than a century. Leopoldstadt itself was once Vienna's ghetto – now it's just a distant folk memory of a less enlightened age.

By the final scene, set in 1955, the family has been mostly eradicated.

Though fictional, it's based on autobiography: Stoppard only discovered late in life that his own family was Jewish, and that this was why they'd fled Hitler's advance into their native Czechoslovakia. His mother had kept him in the dark, reasoning that this would protect him if the dark times returned... but history catches up with you, as Stoppard's stand-in character Leo discovers in the final scene.

The play asks what it means to be Jewish, ethnically, spiritually, in the eyes of one's own community and in the eyes of others. It asks us to see the fragility of human society, and



Don't get too comfy
Faye Castelow (Gretl)
and Adrian Scarborough
(Hermann)

it deliberately – I think – challenges our ideas about what life must have been like for Jewish people in this era, a corrective to the popularity of nostalgic visions of the shtetl.

It is a play of ideas and facts that crams an enormous amount into just two-and-a-half-hours. It has a vast cast, and the dialogue often launches into full-on historical exposition. But it all basically works: Patrick Marber's production is technically overstuffed and wordy, but it's incredibly deft and lucid within that.

If the Merzes that we meet in 1899 are still not entirely embraced by gentile Vienna, there is no doubt that they are integrated. They're decorating a Christmas tree, for a start. And Adrian Scarborough's hard-grafting, well-meaning factory owner Hermann – the nominal head of the family – has recently converted to Catholicism, reasoning it'll help him get on. But he is right to feel insecure: he has started to hit a series of near-imperceptible social barriers stopping him rising all the way to the top.

ALSO OPENING

Other new shows to catch



WHAT IS IT...
The legendary Tom Stoppard's final play (allegedly).

WHY GO...
It's a great ending, a deft and devastating history of Vienna's Jewish community.

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

→ Wyndham's Theatre.
⊖ Leicester Square.
Until Jun 13. £15-£135.

By 1924, these barriers are more apparent. The First World War has left the family a touch frazzled, and they're spooked by the nationalist noises coming from their greatly diminished country. But ultimately the most striking thing about the scene is how modern they all look, dressed in hip '20s clothes, a Klimt on the wall, dancing to records brought over by their Brooklynite cousin Rosa, here on a visit from the US. It feels almost unimaginable that this will all be destroyed when so many of these objects feel so enduring... but it also feels entirely inevitable, which is why the harrowing 1938 scene that follows can start at such full, desperate tilt.

There are a lot of fine performances, particularly from Scarborough, who remains the story's through-thread as Hermann, a man who never quite makes of his life what he hopes for, but nonetheless persists at it with a dogged determination. But the real star here is Stoppard, who has, perhaps for the last time, rallied his legions of adjectives and phalanxes of nouns and used them to tell a huge, vital story.

Jumping around in snapshots that often centre on humdrum domestic scenes, it largely avoids portentousness, and while it's certainly pertinent to the contemporary resurgence of anti-Semitism, Stoppard has not crafted some clunky allegory to beat us over the head with.

Ultimately, 'Leopoldstadt' is a powerful and sincere tribute to a vanished people. Hopefully they can live on for a little longer thanks to the last great play of the last great writer of the twentieth century. ■



By Andrzej Lukowski
Who is sad about the Austro-Hungarian Empire too.



THE VISIT

★★★★★

It's great Tony Kushner is doing plays again after a decade off. It's a little frustrating that it's *this* play: there is so much going on in Jeremy Herrin's luxury revival of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's satire that a new version from the world's least concise playwright can feel a bit extra. Lesley Manville is phenomenal as Claire, a wealthy businesswoman who returns to her hometown of Slurry, New York, hellbent on revenge on her ex, Hugo Weaving's schlubby Al. Manville is as good as it gets, a mix of Anna Wintour, Donald Trump, Darth Vader and a belligerent five-year-old. But she's often offstage in a rambling satire on the corrosive effects of capitalism that's rarely as incisive as it could be. *Andrzej Lukowski*
→ National Theatre, Olivier.
⊖ Waterloo. Until May 13.
£35-£89.

FAR AWAY

★★★★★

Caryl Churchill's 2000 play 'Far Away' is perhaps the ultimate fan favourite from her kaleidoscopic oeuvre. A bleakly absurd picture of partisan conflict, it's just 40 minutes long, with one scene so audacious as to border on the unstageable. Director Lyndsey Turner wisely refrains from trying to stamp herself on this revival, but she does pull off that audacious scene – which I won't spoil – with jaw-dropping panache. The story follows a woman named Joan: she grows up in a world that seems to be sliding into conflict. By the final scene, she is describing every living creature on the planet going to war with every other creature. It's Churchill at hurricane force: savage, hilarious and totally unlike anyone else. *Andrzej Lukowski*
→ Donmar Warehouse.
⊖ Covent Garden. Until Apr 4.
£10-£40.

NORA: A DOLL'S HOUSE

★★★★★

Stef Smith's take on Ibsen's endlessly staged 'A Doll's House' is an exercise in theatrical maths. Multiply the protagonist, Nora, by three. Add some decades, so that each Nora lives in a different era. Subtract a few characters. The result? A massively ambitious survey of women's shifting roles, which amps up each step in Ibsen's elegantly crafted story, as though Nora's stomping through a mansion in Doc Martens. Smith's ingenious dialogue switches from 1918 to 1968 to 2018, as the story of Nora's desperate attempts to conceal her financial struggles unfold: here, money is just as ugly as sexism. It ends with a new kind of slammed door – one that's jolting in any century. *Alice Saville*
→ Young Vic. ⊖ Waterloo.
Until Mar 21. £10-£43.

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Theatre

NEW SHOWS THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Be More Chill

This cult Broadway musical and internet phenomenon has a massive teen fanbase.
→ The Other Palace.
⊖ Victoria. Until May 3.
£19.50-£87.50.

Message in a Bottle

Kate Prince's latest show mixes street dance with the songs of Sting and The Police.
→ Peacock Theatre.
⊖ Holborn. Until Mar 21.
£14-£89.

A Number

Caryl Churchill's chilling cloning drama stars Roger Allam and Colin Morgan.
→ Bridge Theatre. ⊖ London Bridge. Until Mar 14. £15-£75.

Pass Over

Antoinette Nwandu's play-turned-Spike Lee film is an interrogation of police violence. Paapa Essiedu stars.
→ Kiln Theatre. ⊖ Kilburn. Until Mar 21. £15-£32.50.

Viviana Durante Company: Isadora Now

Viviana Durante pays tribute to American

modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan.
→ Barbican Centre.
⊖ Barbican. Until Feb 29.
£16-£50.

OFF-WEST END

La Cage aux Folles

Simon Callow adapts the gay farce that inspired a hit musical of the same name.
→ Park Theatre. ⊖ Finsbury Park. Until Mar 21. £18.50-£32.50, £16.50-£23.50 concs.

The Cutting Edge

Jack Shepherd's play follows two artsy Londoners who escape to the countryside.
→ Arcola Theatre. Dalston Kingsland Overground. Until Mar 21. £12-£30, £15-£25 concs.

The Rage of Narcissus

Sergio Blanco's murderous thriller.
→ Pleasance Theatre.
⊖ Caledonian Rd. Until Mar 8.
£20-£22, £10-£20 concs.

When It Breaks It Burns

Genre-blurring theatre by Brazilian student activists.
→ Battersea Arts Centre.
Clapham Junction Overground.
Wed Feb 19-Feb 29. £12.50-£20.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Leopoldstadt

Is this Jewish Quarter epic Tom Stoppard's last play?
→ Wyndham's Theatre. Until Jun 13.

2 Hamilton

The hip hop musical with a killer soundtrack.
→ Victoria Palace Theatre. Until Aug 1.

3 Endgame

Daniel Radcliffe stars in this grimly funny Beckett play.
→ The Old Vic. Until Mar 28.

4 Uncle Vanya

Chekhov's classic, with an ace central turn by Toby Jones.
→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Until May 2.

5 Everybody's Talking About Jamie

The teen drag queen musical.
→ Apollo Theatre. Until Aug 29.

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Art



WHAT IS IT...

A look at the art of the Turner Prize and Oscar winner.

WHY GO...

This is a painful, moving and totally amazing show.

→ Tate Modern.

↺ Southwark.

Until May 11.

£13, £12 concs.

SHOW OF THE WEEK

Too close, too tense, too much

Steve McQueen



THIS IS HEAVY ART. The deeper you go into Steve McQueen's exhibition, the more each work seems to weigh down on your shoulders. Which won't surprise anyone who's seen the English artist's Oscar-winning films. Whether dealing with sexual addiction in 'Shame' or the brutal history of subjugation in '12 Years a Slave', he likes to drop a titanic, hulking weight on you and force you to confront it.

His visual art's no different. Each work here lands with a thud. One of the first is a slideshow of images selected by Nasa to be sent into space to represent life on earth. Sunsets, music, art, maths. No poverty, conflict, disease or pain. It's an important opening statement, because the rest of the art here is built to totally undermine that veneer of pleasantness.

There's a huge screen showing a helicopter's eye view of the Statue of

Liberty right after it reopened post-9/11. You spin around it, taking in the streaked copper degradation on its serious, austere face. The liberty it once promised, the freedom and welcoming embrace, are all decaying right in front of you.

McQueen's fingers poke and prod at actress Charlotte Rampling's eye in a video nearby, dancing between tenderness and violence. He tugs viciously at his own nipple

in another close-up work. It's all too close, too tense.

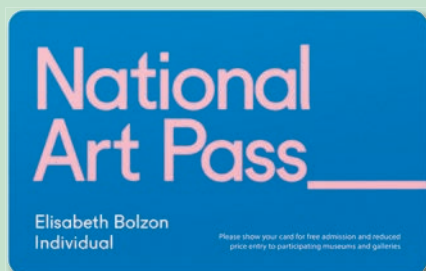
'Western Deep' sends you on a claustrophobic, endless journey into the world's deepest gold mine: it's a grim film of grim working conditions which exist only because human greed demands it. 'Ashes' is a beautiful portrait of a shirtless Grenadian fisherman sat on the prow of a boat. The other side of the screen shows the building of

his tomb after he was murdered. An uncomfortable depiction of senseless loss.

But, for me, the most moving work is '7th Nov': a still, motionless film where McQueen's cousin recounts the day he accidentally shot and killed his own brother. It's a rambling, heartbreaking story that feels so intimate and raw that you feel like you're intruding. Again, it's all too close, too tense, too much.

There's so much beauty in this exhibition, and so much pain and injustice too. But more than anything, there's a whole lot of truth. McQueen's work is a brass-knuckled punch in the face of everyday complacency. He's making you see that the world isn't all sunsets and music and art and maths. It's racism, violence, greed, oppression, manipulation and sadness too. You can't have one without the other, and McQueen is brilliant at making you see that. ■ *Eddy Frankel*

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Melvin Edwards



MELVIN EDWARDS'S ART

is heavy-duty. The African-American artist, born in 1937 and still very much practising, morphs the accoutrements of industry – clamps, pegs, crowbars, screwdrivers, metal plates – into twisted, layered sculptures, arranging the rough, weighty materials with the intricacy of a piece of lace.

Examples of his most famous series, 'Lynch Fragments' (made 1963-present), are shown in this career-spanning exhibition, along with some clean-lined, modernist sculptures, two large (and brilliant) pieces inspired by his grandma's rocking chair and some recent wall-based works where silhouettes of work tools are seared into pigmented fabric.

The first piece in the 'Lynch Fragment' series was made in response to the police shooting of an unarmed black man, Ronald Stokes, during a raid on an LA mosque in 1962. It's not on display here, but the ones that followed similarly reference individual or mass acts of racism and violence, including memories from a childhood in the segregated American South.

WHAT IS IT...

Brutal but beautiful welded metal sculptures.

WHY GO...

It's big, tough art, with big, tough themes.

→ Stephen Friedman.
Piccadilly Circus.
Until Mar 5. Free.



Chains and padlocks reoccur, along with horseshoes which make the Edwards's compositions look slightly like talismans. The sharp edges of blades, teeth of a rake and point of a fat nail jut out dangerously. All these cold, clanging objects are heavy with the weight of oppression and brutality – tools to make things, and items to break things (and people) with.

The true surprise is how delicate they also look. Clunky chains dangle like strings of jewellery, hefty chunks of metalwork seem to float without attachment to other objects.

In turn, the craftwork of the original materials also emerges, in 'Lynch Fragments' and the other sculptures. The diagonal non-slip tread of a metal panel, usually forgotten underfoot, looks

unexpectedly pretty and the robust metal handle of a tool looks artful in its own right.

These endless mirrorball sides to Edwards's work – trauma and beauty, rough steel and elegant curves, suppressed history and a trundling-on present – are what make it so interesting. It's industrial-strength art, the world welded together. ■ Rosemary Waugh

'Habitual'



IN THE SPIRIT of new year, new you, Deptford's Castor has done some spring cleaning, built a big plywood box and stuck a load of art in it. It's like a giant plan chest tipped on its side. You pull out the drawers to display the works, a few at a time.

It's a canny device, swerving those tired group shows where you mentally calculate how much time you need to spend with any artist who isn't your mate. It also makes you interact with the pieces in unusual ways. If you're the one pulling out the drawers, you're put in the role of curator, doing the big reveal. If you're sitting on the bench out front, you're the critic or the collector. It's like KidZania. For art.

WHAT IS IT...

An exhibition of art in big vertical drawers.

WHY GO...

It's a seriously fun group show.

→ Castor. Deptford rail.
Until Mar 7. Free.

Like any bunch of stuff you shove in a drawer, some bits are better than others. Grace Woodcock's big earmuffy things look great against all the industrial-chic ply, but an intense, small painting by Gareth Cadwallader is a bit lost. The best panels are really good. Nick Paton's ceramic plaques, Amanda Moström's spray-painted pants and Rafal Zajko's cast of a vent all cluster

around Sara Anstis's eccentric painting 'Beets' (it does have some beets in it) to mutual benefit.

Best of all, though, it's fun, and a lot of the work is fun too. The hands-on dimension means there's no chilly gallery mystique. It's just a bunch of stuff, after all. Leaf through it. ■

Chris Waywell



BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



'Picasso and Paper'

Works on paper by the world's most famous painter. Of course it's good. He could make art out of mashed potato and it would still be brilliant.

→ Royal Academy of Arts. Piccadilly Circus. Until Apr 13. £18-£22.



France-Lise McGurn: 'Percussia'

Perfectly executed paintings of imagined figures which sprawl off the canvas and spread across the walls. Totally lovely.

→ Simon Lee. Green Park. Until Feb 22. Free.



Jordan Wolfson: 'Artists Friends Racists'

A nasty installation that blends memes and contemporary angst about police surveillance and the AI singularity into one, big, coagulated mess.

→ Sadie Coles HQ. Oxford Circus. Until Feb 29. Free.



James Turrell



TIME HAS BEEN a bitch to James Turrell. When he started making his legendary light sculptures in the 1960s, the world had seen nothing like it. Now, his influence is so pervasive that you see little hints of him everywhere: music videos, fashion shows, the interiors of fancy cars. The Turrell look – rooms of gentle undulating light – has become such a 'thing' that walking into this show feels like entering the lobby of a hotel you can't afford to stay in. You almost expect someone to walk in and ask to speak to the manager.

So you have to jump some mental hurdles to get to the nitty-gritty of what makes the American artist so good. The three works here are from his 'Constellation' series: two ovals and circle that emit shifting shades of diaphanous light. Each is like the afterglow of some cosmic event, the visual imprint of distant supernovas. They pulse imperceptibly slowly between purple, red, orange, green and

blue. It's like the whole light of the universe captured, somehow, on the walls of the gallery.

But more than anything, these works feel like paintings. They're radioactive Monets, neon Rothkos. But instead of painting light, this is painting with light, so goes the Turrell cliché, and it works. The longer you stare, the more you see waterlilies and shimmering geometric shapes, starry nights and Chelsea Bridge.

They're absolutely beautiful. They reach out of the walls and embrace you, massaging your eyes and brain.

Do they look like fancy hotel light fittings? Yes. Is it a shame they're in a sterile Mayfair gallery instead of somewhere that would better suit their celestial intentions? Totally. Is this exactly the same thing he's been doing for half a century? Definitely. But jump those hurdles and you get to take a cosmic trip with James Turrell, and it's not one you're going to want to come back from. ■ Eddy Frankel

WHAT IS IT...

Mesmerisingly meditative light art by the great James Turrell.

WHY GO...

It's like a futuristic brain spa.

→ Pace Gallery.

→ Piccadilly Circus.

Until Mar 27. Free.

**JUST
ANNOUNCED**

The Serpentine Pavilion

WHILE IT FEELS like winter isn't going anywhere fast, it's time to cast your mind forward to the summer. The design for the Serpentine's annual pavilion has just been announced and this year it has a special London focus.

The temporary structure is designed by Johannesburg-based architectural studio Counterspace. The all-female team of Sumayya Vally, Sarah de Villiers and Amina Kaskar have created a structure integrating 'places of memory and care' from Brixton, Hoxton, Hackney, Whitechapel, Edgware Road and elsewhere in the city.

The completed pavilion will include small, movable parts that will first be on display in those London neighbourhoods as part of a series of community events. The pieces will then be incorporated into the main structure in Hyde Park throughout the summer months. The geometric shapes making up the main bulk of the dark grey and pink-tinted construction are also inspired

by existing London spaces used by migrant and other marginalised communities.

Counterspace's design marks the twentieth anniversary of the Serpentine Pavilion. The first, in 2000, was designed by Zaha Hadid and since then the commission has famously embraced bold, experimental designs. Last year, Japanese architect Junya Ishigami's

design involved a cooling, black slate roof sweeping dramatically across the park. In stark contrast, Counterspace's design looks like a cross between a Grecian temple ruin and a members-only shared workspace. Like WeWork for classicists, and who wouldn't want that? ■ *Rosemary Waugh*
→ Serpentine Pavilion. ↻ Lancaster Gate.
Jun 11-Oct 11. Free.



RA

Premiums

Interim Exhibition

New and recent work by
second year postgraduates at
the Royal Academy Schools

13 February – 11 March
Free entry

**Royal
Academy
Schools**

Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
[@timeouteatdrink](https://www.timeout.com/eatdrink)

SIX OF THE BEST British restaurants

You can keep your drab country pubs: no one does homegrown like London

Native

A genuinely gorgeous (and spacious) Southwark reboot of the tiny Covent Garden original, Native celebrates all things wild and just-plucked from these fair isles, although the kitchen's efforts are slicker and showier than before. Everything's spot-on, from the line-up of clever 'wasting snacks' (made from ingredients destined for the bin) to exemplary home-cured meats, Cornish fish and its signature seasonal game. → 32 Southwark St, SE1 1TU. ☎ London Bridge.

Nest

Like your plates small and your options even smaller? Nest – with its seven-dish, no-choice, seasonal menu, could be the one for you. The owners focus on just one meat each month (rose veal, say, or kid goat), although there's much more to the line-up. Anyone for cod's roe with seaweed or honey and lavender tart? Three cheers for

Nest's fizzingly enthusiastic owners, funky soundtrack, low-intervention wines and all-round feelgood vibe. → 177-179 Morning Lane, E9 6LH. Homerton Overground.

The Quality Chop House

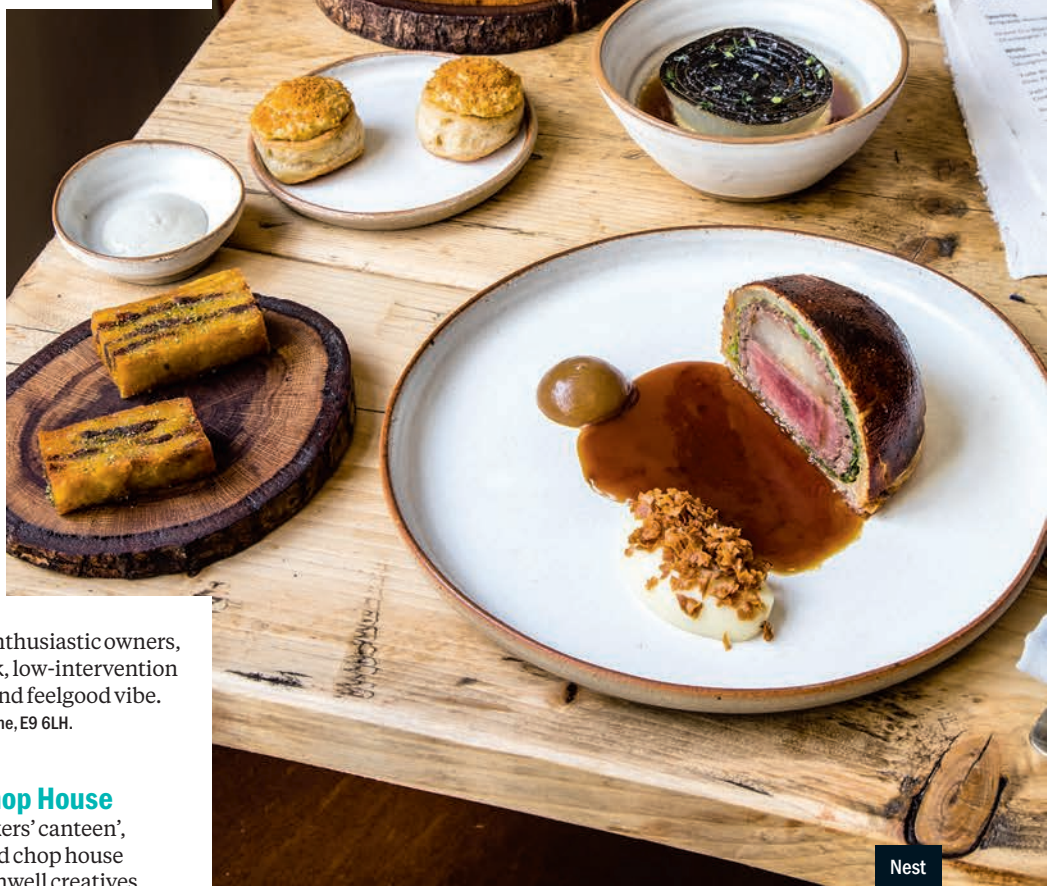
Originally a 'workers' canteen', this Grade II-listed chop house now feeds Clerkenwell creatives in a setting that oozes Dickensian atmosphere. Think dark wooden church pews, flickering lights and chequerboard tiled floors. To eat, expect top-notch steaks, chops and game plus 'fashionably trad' dishes like crunchy Swaledale lamb croquettes or Cornish pollock with gnocchi, white port and blewits (lesser-seen 'shrooms). → 88-94 Farringdon Rd, EC1R 3EA. ☎ Farringdon.

Rochelle Canteen at The ICA

While Rochelle's ground-floor café at The ICA is for chatting over



Rochelle Canteen at The ICA



Nest

coffee and toasties, the serious action takes place upstairs in two swish mezzanine dining rooms with arched windows overlooking The Mall. Stripped-back, bare-white interiors allow the daily line-up of seasonal – and generously portioned – British food to shine, while warm, savvy staff cope admirably with groups of all sizes. → The Mall, SW1Y 5AH. ☎ Charing Cross

Social Eating House

Jason Atherton's Michelin-starred Soho restaurant is his glammest spot: a sprawling dining room with a mirrored ceiling, bare concrete, Victoriana and a menu of reimagined British cooking delivered by chef-patron Paul Hood and his impressively skilled brigade.

Native ingredients such as Devon crab, Herdwick lamb, Cumbrian pork and Buccleuch beef shine brightly; the resulting dishes are complex, playful and pretty. → 58 Poland St, W1F 7NR. ☎ Oxford Circus

St John

Nose-to-tail pioneer St John is a defiantly casual, bare-bones kind of place with come-as-you-please decor and famously full-on cooking. Born-again British dishes are given a smart, sophisticated spin: expect the likes of snails with barley and bacon, devilled kidneys, eccles cakes with Lancashire cheese and, of course, the emblematic bone marrow and parsley salad. Don't miss the magnificent puds, either. → 26 St John St, EC1M 4AY. ☎ Farringdon.

Sussex



IF YOU'VE BEEN following the life and times of the Gladwin brothers, you'll know that the food-focused trio (one farmer, one chef, one restaurateur) first won our hearts – and bellies – with Notting Hill's The Shed, a pitched-roof, shiplap-clad building with staff so enthusiastic and rosy-cheeked it was as if they too had been reared at the family farm. More modern Brit locals followed: Rabbit (Chelsea), then Nutbourne (Battersea). And now, in what feels like a finale: a central London restaurant, named for the county they call home.

As with its siblings, it's a handsome joint, which is all the more impressive given the potential awkwardness of the U-shaped site. One side is a bar, the other a dining room proper. (Just avoid the table opposite the top of the staircase: I sat here a decade ago, when this address belonged to Arbutus, and the feeling of vertigo is unchanged.) The look is less twee: farmhouse

furniture and oak floors, sure, but ebony walls and antique-style metals too. It's all very Soho.

The cooking has its moments. A couple of dishes – moreish hare ragù over perfect pappardelle, say, or a plate of giant, puffy tempura herbs with chive yoghurt – showed the kitchen at the top of its game. But other plates fell into the 'great, but' category: some slip-up or other holding them in the silver medal spot. A tartare of otherwise

beautiful Sussex beef was marred by too-strong raw onion; a cured monkfish starter unpleasantly salty. Needle-like 'salt and vinegar' potato chips were crunchy and pleasant, but lacked the promised vinegar.

And the service – always a Gladwin strong suit – was slow, and in need of the group's trademark charm. Sussex is good, yes, but has room for growth. ■ *Tania Ballantine*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £115.



WHAT IS IT...
A modern British restaurant from the team behind The Shed, Rabbit and Nutbourne.

WHY GO...
For the pappardelle with hare ragù. So simple, so comforting.

→ 63-64 Frith St, W1D 3JW.
📍 Tottenham Court Rd.

EXCLUSIVE

Bag a burger of your choice, fries and a beer or prosecco at four-star City diner **Bad Egg** for just £12.50.

[TIMEOUT.COM/BADEGG20](https://www.timeout.com/badegg20)

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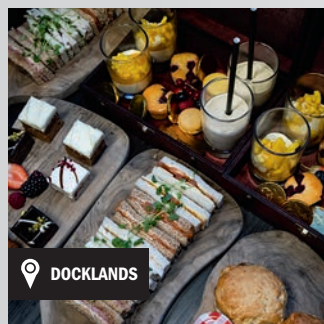
Going out? Try here.



📍 MARYLEBONE

LA BRASSERIA MILANESE SAY:

'La Brasseria is an all-day Italian family restaurant where authentic and typically Italian food meets metropolitan European city living. The surroundings and ambience are influenced by French stylistic heritage, whereas the breakfast, lunch and dinner menus offer the best of Italian culture and class.'
42 Marylebone High St, W1U 5HD.



📍 DOCKLANDS

DOUBLETREE DOCKLANDS SAYS:

'Tuck into the exclusive, special offer Pirate Afternoon Tea at DoubleTree Docklands, located along the River Thames. For just £29 for two people, you'll get unlimited rum punch or bubbles for an hour, as well as great food. To make a reservation, call 020 7231 1001.'
265a Rotherhithe St, SE16 5HW.



📍 ST JAMES'S

IKOYI SAYS:

'Ikoyi's spice-based cuisine uses seasonal produce from local, organic farms, combined with umami-led ingredients. Expect a blind tasting menu with the likes of aged British native beef, sustainable line-caught fish and ingredients like grains of selim, plantain and scotch bonnet.'
1 St James's Market, SW1Y 4AH.



📍 SOHO

FORTY DEAN STREET SAYS:

'For more than 17 years, Forty Dean Street has been a favourite among Soho's media crowd and tourists alike for its friendly atmosphere and delicious menu. A family-run business, famously dog-friendly and with authentic Italian dishes at affordable prices, it's the perfect Soho dining experience.'
40 Dean St, W1D 4PX.

Humble Pizza



WHAT IS IT...

An Italian-inspired vegan pizza joint.

WHY GO...

For the Roma: olives and mushrooms on a focaccia base.

→ 342 King's Rd, SW3 5UR.
 ☺ South Kensington.



MOST OF US go to pizza joints expecting to snap the food, not the room. But Humble Pizza bucks the trend, with its striking, pink-washed interiors, a tribute to the 'formica cafés' of 1950s London.

This bold design move is matched by an equally bold and fully vegan menu. Toppings riff on Italian classics, split between cauliflower and focaccia bases, plus a few soups and salads. The best of the by-the-slice focaccia pizzas were the Tropea (poppy seeds, potato and caramelised red onion that almost overpowered), or the simple Roma (mushrooms, olives and juicy tomatoes).

For anyone scared of a cauliflower pizza base, these have a cracker-like crunch that means you can pretend you're not even eating cauliflower. Our Genova, had a powerful basil pesto, courgettes and red peppers, flaked macadamias and creamy, ricotta-like tofu balancing out the gentle earthiness of the base. Top marks for flavour, but just a little too brittle. Save space for decadent desserts, too, of focaccia dipped in moreish gianduja (Nutella's sexier Italian cousin), or the restaurant's sinful take on a Mars bar.

Prices are a little steep in places, but friendly service helps make up for it and those focaccia bases will make a lot of vegans happy. Oh, and it's BYO, too. ■ *Tristan Parker*

Dinner for two with soft drinks and service: around £70.

SO YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO

Lyle's



Wasn't this founded by one of the Young Turks?

Sure was. James Lowe was part of a trio of rising stars with day jobs in swish kitchens and a sideline in pop-ups and supper clubs. Having picked up a stack of awards, one YT left for Australia, the other opened The Clove Club and Lowe set up Lyle's. With its no-choice, modern British menu, stunning setting, affable service and affordable prices, it was an overnight hit.

What's changed?

Nothing much, except the prices (a lot higher, sadly). Service is just as laidback. And the room still dazzles.

Like it's bling bling?

Oh no, not like that. It was one of the first places (pipped by Pizza East) to show how handsome a Shoreditch site could be. The simple dining room is in the iconic Tea Building (first built as a factory for Lipton), and offsets its lofty ceilings and gorgeous warehouse windows with Nordic-vibe farmhouse furniture, concrete floors and a long open kitchen.

And how's the food?

Superb. Slick Brit with flair, not frivolity. Highlights from a recent visit: a plate of soft, smoky mussels with a lick of cider butter; impossibly tender slices of pheasant thigh teamed with roast calcots (mild green onions) and a pile of chewy, nutty spelt; and a flawless treacle tart with a crumbly dark pastry case, syrupy (but mellow) middle and a scoop of raw-milk ice cream to the side. Save up and go hungry. ■ *Tania Ballantine*

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £165.

→ Tea Building, 56 Shoreditch High St, E1 6JJ. Shoreditch High St Overground.

EXCLUSIVE

BOTTOMLESS SUSHI AND TAPAS IN A POP-UP POD



If 62 percent off bottomless food and a bottle of bubbly at Inamo doesn't sound good enough, how about all of that in a pop-up dining pod? We're talking heaters, fluffy rugs, fairy lights and speakers, all to yourself. Now just £30.

TIMEOUT.COM/INAMOPOD

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TimeOut
THE BEST OF THE CITY

Drink

Edited by Laura Richards
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

BAR OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS IT...
 A beer and wine taproom in a former funeral parlour.

WHY GO...
 For tasty liquor and naff snacks.

→ 294 Brockley Rd, SE4
 2RA. Brockley Overground.

Joyce



IT WAS JUST after payday and Brexit Day, plus Dry January was finally behind us, but even so, the staff at Joyce were surprised with it being so busy on a Tuesday night. But socio-economic factors aside, there's nowhere as stylish to drink in Brockley – a bar with a living-room feel occupying a former funeral parlour. Launched by the owners of nearby Salthouse bottle shop, Joyce focuses on small producers – many of them local to the area – across 12 taps pouring natural wine and craft beer, plus a concise supporting cast of spirits from all over the UK.

The line-up includes botanical spirit Escubac from Edinburgh, wine from East Sussex's pioneering Tillingham vineyard and IPAs from Deptford's Villages brewery. For snacking, it's more basic – Wotsits, Mini Cheddars and Cheeselets – but you won't hear me complaining.

By way of decoration there are just a couple of hard-to-decipher

tapestries (a cute crab next to an egg and an archway?). Otherwise it's just sandy-coloured stone, creaking floorboards and a fireplace with a 'funeral' sign on its mantelpiece. The focus of the room is definitely the bar: shiny white tiles backing the taps and making them pop. The staff manning them were easy to talk to and clued-up on their

neighbourhood. And they even chucked in a free almost-glass of wine when supplies of a juicy chianti were too low to produce a full glass.

It was chilly enough on the night we visited to suggest the venue's previous macabre incarnation. But otherwise, Joyce seems to be a lovely local full of delicious craft booze and – ironically – life. ■ *Laura Richards*

THREE OF THE BEST

Rugby pubs



The Alma

This Victorian-era pub serves punters of all stripes around a low, island bar. Some perch on stools, others at tables by the windows: most will be gawping at the big screen during the Six Nations. Eager egg-chasers can book in advance.

→ 499 Old York Rd, SW18 1TF.
 Wandsworth Town rail.

The Faltering Fullback

With several screens for match days, this is a dream of a rugby pub. The place has a studenty feel thanks to picnic tables (no bookings – first come, first served), so it's perfect for more raucous rugby fans.

→ 19 Perth Rd, N4 3HB.
 ↻ Finsbury Park.

LongArm Sports Pub & Brewery

Get down to the 'ditch to catch the action on the pitch. Here, they're showing all Six Nations fixtures on two giant screens and nervous punters can secure a group space. So gather a band of brothers and sisters.

→ 20-26 Worship St, EC2A 2DX.
 ↻ Liverpool St.

DRINK THIS

Mirror Margarita Lagarita



Last year, we named Hacha's Mirror Margarita the best cocktail in the capital, so this is like mariachi music to our ears. The Dalston bar is marking Margarita Day (Saturday February 22) with a menu of iterations on its see-through take on the Mexican drink. The Lagarita adds a white beer reduction, made from two beers simmered together. Tequila and beer – what could go wrong?

→ Hacha, 378 Kingsland Rd, E8 4AA.
 Dalston Junction Overground. £9.50.
 Sat Feb 22-Mar 29.

Find more amazing Margs at
timeout.com/margarita



Sorrel, Dorking

Dastaan, Epsom

Five great restaurants worth leaving London for

London's food scene has got it all... almost. These restaurants are well worth the short train journey from the capital

Sure, London is a foodie's paradise – but there's something so incredibly decadent about travelling for an unforgettable dining experience. And why not treat yourself? Just outside the city you'll find Michelin-starred contemporary British cuisine, delectable Indian dining and tasting menus you'll be talking about for weeks. The best news? They're all only a short train journey from London, thanks to Thameslink and Southern. So book your journey online now, escape the big smoke and leave absolutely nothing untouched on your plate.

1 Restaurant Tristan, Horsham

Distance from London by train

52 mins from London Bridge to Horsham, then a ten-minute walk.

Why go there? Gone are the days when fine dining was synonymous with starched tablecloths and snooty waiters. Forward-thinking chef-owner Tristan Mason has been proving this for over a decade now at this relaxed restaurant, which just earned a Michelin star for the eighth year in a row. Do remember to book in advance: those tables under the oak-beamed ceiling are sought after, to say the least.

→ 3 Stans Way, East St Horsham, RH12 1HU.

2 Midsummer House, Cambridge

Distance from London by train 48 mins from King's Cross to Cambridge, then a 14-minute bus ride.

Why go there? From the outside, it looks like little more than a pretty domestic dwelling alongside Midsummer Common. But those in the know flock to this restaurant, which has two Michelin stars, for Daniel Clifford's award-winning dishes pairing seasonal British produce with French cookery flair. Oh, and the light-filled conservatory is rather nice to sit in too.

→ Midsummer House, Midsummer Common, Cambridge, CB4 1HA.

3 64 Degrees, Brighton

Distance from London by train

52 mins from London Victoria to Brighton, then an 11-minute walk.

Why go there? Chefs under Michael Bremner ('Great British Menu') whip up a vibrant selection of imaginative small plates in the open kitchen then whizz them straight out to the tables. You'll be treated to a whirlwind of different global cuisines fused together in an urban, on-trend menu that makes culinary genius look oh so simple.

→ 53 Meeting House Lane, Brighton, BN1 1HB.

4 Dastaan, Epsom

Distance from London by train

43 mins from London Bridge to Epsom, then a 19-minute bus ride.

Why go there? The Indian cuisine is next-level at this Michelin-starred restaurant run by the two ex-head chefs of Gymkhana in Mayfair. It serves up a sweet, spicy, succulent range of modern dishes that showcase how simplicity is the route to tasting heaven.

→ 447 Kingston Rd, Epsom, KT19 0DB.

5 Sorrel, Dorking

Distance from London by train

55 mins from London Bridge to Dorking, then an 8-minute bus ride.

Why go there? Making use of head chef Steve Drake's training in French fine dining, Sorrel delivers classical perfection with food the way Michaelangelo did with marble. Love an unusual ingredient? You'll find plenty to coo over with a menu mixing meat with quirky flourishes.

→ 77 South St, Dorking, RH4 2JU.

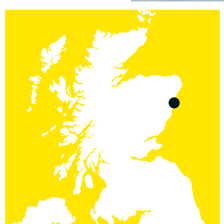


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Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips



A weekend in

Aberdeen

Ancient architecture, cool cafés and dolphin sightings

READ ANY GUIDE to Aberdeen and you'll soon find it called The Granite City – a reference to the shimmery local stone used to construct many of its buildings. Catch it on a sunny day and it's an undeniably handsome place. But this city, an hour from Scotland's dramatic Cairngorms National Park, has more than looks on its side. There's a lively café scene, ace museums and a sandy beach, complete with salty sea air and impressive wildlife.

See this

Admire all that granite by exploring the **medieval streets** around the Kirk of St Nicholas. Then head north into Old Aberdeen and visit **St Machar's Cathedral**. Nearby in Seaton Park find gothic, thirteenth-century bridge **Brig O'Balgownie**.

Eat this

Foodstory is a sustainable, fairy-light-strewn vegetarian restaurant filled with furniture made from recycled materials. There's also **Bonobo**, a pocket-sized vegan café with a roof terrace – head here whenever the clouds clear.

Drink this

A bookshop with a café is nothing new, but at **Beans and Books** the tables are right in among the shelves, so you can sit down with your coffee next to the second-hand military fiction section (for example). If you're after something more fancy-schmancy, drop into basement bar **The Tippling House** for a perfectly mixed cocktail or two.

Walk this

Wander by the **harbour** to get up close to Aberdeen's industrial side. Walk past towering ships and Victorian warehouses to reach the atmospheric former fishing village of **Footdee**. And to avoid any potential embarrassment: it's pronounced Fittee.

Explore this

Aberdeen Beach stretches north of the harbour, perfect for an invigorating stroll. It's sometimes possible to see dolphins here. Although you're even more likely to spot them with the RSPB Dolphinwatch team at **Torry Battery** by the harbour mouth. ■ *Gail Tolley*

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Recently reopened after a huge refurbishment, **Aberdeen Art Gallery** is a beaut. There's a Tracey Emin neon in the sculpture courtyard, and upstairs you can check out Francis Bacon's unsettling painting 'Pope I'. Because nothing says 'weekend break' like staring into the abyss.

WAKE UP HERE

Girdle Ness Lighthouse



If TV show 'Round the Twist' was a feature of your childhood (good luck getting that theme tune out of your head), this place is for you. A 20-minute walk from the centre of Aberdeen is Girdle Ness Lighthouse, which has adjoining cottages you can stay in. Built in 1813, the lighthouse is still in operation today – but fully automated, so you won't be required to climb the tower's 182 steps to keep the flame burning. What you will get, though, is unobstructed North Sea views and – if you're lucky – sightings of passing whales and dolphins. ■

Gail Tolley

→ Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire. From £90 a night. www.airbnb.co.uk

→ Get there: seven hours by train from London King's Cross; around eight hours 30 minutes by car.

Find more bonnie breaks at timeout.com/daytrips

Escapes



Don't miss

'Mother...' at Wicken Fen

SOOTHE YOUR CITY woes away with a trip to this surreal art installation. Artists Heather Peak and Ivan Morison have unveiled a new work inspired by the wild fen landscape in Cambridgeshire.

'Mother...' is a timber-framed pavilion that reflects the region's building traditions and materials. Inspired by Richard Mabey's book 'Nature's Cure', which documents how walking through

the unexplored landscapes in the east of England helped during his recovery from severe depression, the sculpture is meant to be a place of refuge for anyone who wants to reflect on troubling thoughts or contemplate nature.

It's part of New Geographies, a project bringing art to unexpected places. ■ *Stephanie Phillips*

→ Wicken Fen Nature Reserve, Cambridgeshire. www.newgeographies.uk

OFF THE GRID

The Pig at Bridge Place



WELCOME TO THAT sweet spot where outdoorsy meets plush. Set beside a stream, an avocado stone's throw from a kitchen garden, The Pig's Hop Pickers' Huts are both rustic and fancier than your flat – like a moneyed lumberjack's log cabin or the home of a woodcutter with a secret passion for interior design.

After a day rambling through the expansive Kentish countryside (you can borrow wellies if it's really muddy) or

taking in big gulps of chilly sea air at nearby Whitstable, you can lounge in the huge tub next to your woodburner, until you've turned into a prune.

Camping stoves don't match the decor so after that it's to the huge manor house across the field with you for a dinner foraged from the grounds. Just remember your torch for the return journey. ■

Ellie Walker-Arnott
→ Bridge, Kent. Hop Pickers' Huts from £295 a night. www.thepighotel.com

THREE OF THE BEST

Creative retreats



For frustrated writers

Come here to crush writer's block. Staying with three other scribes in an idyllic cottage, you're free to write without any distractions. Hit your daily word-count target? Of course you did! Your reward is a stomp through the lush grounds.

→ Writers Retreat at The Clockhouse. Craven Arms, Shropshire. From £480 for four days. www.arvon.org



For wannabe artists

If you're pretty sure you're a creative who just hasn't found their outlet yet, see if this playful course can coax that genius out of you. Make something quickly, or with your eyes closed, using clay, paints or stuff you find at the beach.

→ Creativity Is Play. Appledore, Devon. From £650 for six days, non-residential. www.sandybrownarts.com



For ambitious crafters

Fingers fed up of tapping on a keyboard every day?

Put 'em to better use on this island escape and build a sea kayak by hand. On the final day, float your plywood and fibreglass boat and see if your crafty efforts have paid off. ■ *Ellie Walker-Arnott*

→ Kayak Building. Bunessan, Isle of Mull. From £1,500 for nine days. www.archipelagofolkschool.org

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whatever makes you pink



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