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On the menu: hearty steaming goodness for our cold dark city



Give traditi the finger.

Life's full of rules and regulations. People dictating what you should do. Or shouldn't. If unchallenged, rules go unchanged.

2020 is a leap year. One of these so-called rules dictates that this is the only time when women are 'allowed' to propose. Silly.

We believe that rules are meant to be broken.
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Health insurance · Life insurance · Investments

Inside

This week's Time Out in no time at all

Silo

One restaurant. Zero waste. Five stars

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'It's legitimately gonna fuck people up'

'The Handmaid's Tale' star Elisabeth Moss on new film 'The Invisible Man'

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Rats, body fluids, fatbergs

Meet the Londoners with the jobs from hell – who love their work!

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Game of clones

Caryl Churchill's thrilling father-and-son drama 'A Number' returns stronger than ever, with Roger Allam and Colin Morgan

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Local superheroes

As Comic Con Spring hits town this week, we salute the staff and stock of the best comic shops in London

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Hello,

Joe Mackertich

London Editor @i mackertich



Somewhere on the fringes of Fitzrovia sits an unremarkable café that represents, to me, the ultimate in comfort food.

There are no head-height servings of parmesan or coma-inducing curries. What it does have is a bitter - some might say badly made americano. And to me, that particular americano embodies comfort.

I'll explain. While our predecessors associated the C-word with sensible jackets, warm baths and reasonably priced hotel rooms, the current generation is more likely to think of the TV show 'Friends' or the voice of their favourite podcaster (hello, Josh Clark). Comfort represents not just cosy physicality, but also an easing of the soul, whereby all of our digital dread, climate terrors and societal unease melt, like so much hot cheese, into momentary, blissful insignificance. It's the opposite of watching 'Question Time', basically.

That café, by the way, was situated between the college in which 24-year-old me studied part-time and the office where I had my first journalism job. Every Monday, I would leave the former and head to the latter, with just enough time in between to sit and enjoy a coffee. I will always associate that café with that feeling of not needing to rush, and nobody needing anything from me. In London, that's comfort.

THE EDITOR'S ESSENTIALS Three things you have to do this week



Need someone else to tell you that 'Rocks' is an excellent film? 'Rocks' is an excellent film. Required viewing for any Londoner, especially.



Regular readers are no doubt wondering how my Porto trip went. It was excellent! Visit Bonaparte Downtown if you're there.



The Tullio Crali exhibition at the charming Estorick Collection. It gives you everything you want from Italian futurist art (spiky lines, dogmatism).











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A very private portrait

We unzip this candid shot from the urinals taken at an Alexandra Palace beer festival in 1979

died in 2016, lived in London for much of his life. He began his career as a photojournalist: capturing conflict in Northern Ireland, Angola and Lebanon. Later, he stepped away from documenting war and became known for his candid photography of life in the UK. This 1979 photo, 'A Beer Festival in Alexandra Palace', features in the Barbican's new exhibition, 'Masculinities: Liberation Through

Photography'. Curator Alona Pardo explains

why it's such compelling image. 'This is a public

PHOTOGRAPHER PETER MARLOW, who

urinal, which says something about men's lack of privacy, but also their togetherness,' she says. 'The men look equally comfortable and yet deeply uncomfortable about the whole situation. One guy is looking around directly at Marlow - he's annoyed. It's such a private moment, and yet utterly public.'

 $Although \, taking \, photos \, in \, to ilets \, is \, probably \,$ not recommended, Pardo sees this image as empathetic, not sexualised or sensationalist. 'This is just the everyday bloke taking a piss at a beer festival. It's respectful. This isn't the lads

puking up around the back of Ally Pally, though I'm sure they were doing that!'

Pardo says that Marlow's skill was in documenting small, unassuming snapshots of everyday moments around the city and beyond. $\hbox{`He often captured the things that weren't}\\$ of interest to other photographers,' she says. 'Whether it's men in the bleachers or a dad taking his son to the chip shop, he gets up close and personal.' ■ El Hunt

 $\boldsymbol{\rightarrow}$ 'Masculinities: Liberation Through Photography'. Barbican. → Barbican. Until May 17. From £15. See our review, p76.



Get the best table at a restaurant

Tomas Kubart restaurant director at Kerridge's Bar & Grill

'How to get a table in any restaurant? Social media! Almost all maître d's in London are on LinkedIn and they love expanding their networks with potential clients. I've done this several times and it's never failed.'

Paulo de Tarso former maître d' and co-founder of Margo

'For the proverbial hot ticket, booking at short notice can work in your favour. Find out who the big dog is and employ good old-fashioned polite manners and generosity. Say things like: "I know it's late notice, but you'd be making our year." Slipping a nice tip won't hurt either.'

Stani Visciano maître d'at Lina Stores

'It always helps to be a regular – I remember faces and will always try to accommodate a friendly one. It might sound silly, but give compliments – flattery will get you far! I'm known for my red glasses and I love it when people give me compliments on my suit or my glasses.'

Jonno Forbes group general manager at Dinner by Heston Blumenthal

'We get lots of requests to sit by the window.
Guests often book online and put "window table"
in the requests box. The ones that get selected first
are those explaining why you want the window
table – whether you're celebrating an occasion or
having a really important meeting.'■

MADE IN LONDON

Cool things from makers in the capital



Ever noticed how many pit bulls there are in Peckham? That was the inspiration behind New Cross collective **Garudio Studiage**'s 'Dogs of London' tea towel. On it, you'll find Hackney, Islington, Richmond and more represented through pooches. That's one way to liven up doing the dishes.

→ www.garudiostudiage.com. £10.

LONDON LIST

Hidden landmarks

Tour guide *Jonnie*Fielding on his favourite
secrets of the city



Police coat hook

There's a large hook by Leicester Square station. It's said that a copper used to hang his coat on a nearby nail. Eventually they installed an official coat hook.



Hidden fossils

When Christopher Wren led the rebuild of the City of London following the Great Fire of 1666, he used fossil-rich Portland Stone from Dorset's Jurassic Coast. You can still see it around the city today.



Stretcher railing

During the Blitz, loads of metal stretchers were made here. Many of London's railings were melted down for the war effort, so the stretchers were used to replace them. Spot them in the south-east.

Find out more about Bowl of Chalk tours at www.bowlofchalk.net.





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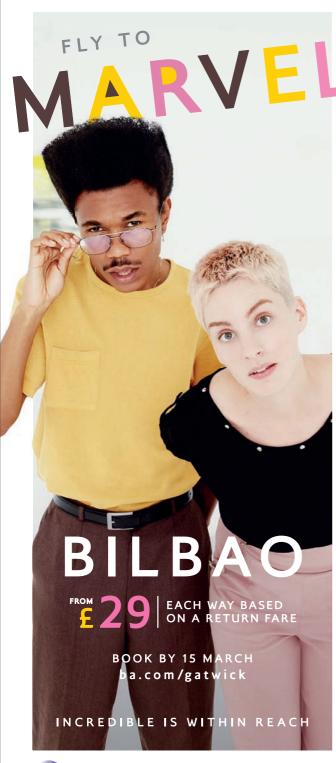
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SOULEYMAN BAH WAS five years old when his family arrived in the UK as asylum seekers escaping political disturbance in Guinea. Once in the UK, he was diagnosed with a rare eye condition. Now, he's a medal-winning sprinter and a contender for Team GB at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. Last year he became the first disabled candidate to compete on 'The Apprentice'.

When I was at school in Guinea, I couldn't read any of the books or see the whiteboard. I didn't get my eye condition diagnosed until my family moved to the UK. I have retinitis pigmentosa, a rare degenerative inherited eye condition which affects my peripheral and night vision. It gets worse over time and eventually leads to blindness.

I didn't speak English when I moved here, so I made friends through sport. I was especially good at racing against the other kids. I'd win races every sports day. When I moved to Kingston, I broke a school record and started to take sprinting seriously.

I want to bring positivity into the world of visual impairment. It's not the same thing as blindness. Sometimes people will see my white cane, and then see me glance at my phone to look at the time. They'll be like: What the hell's going on here?

I love jogging along the river Thames. I love how it connects the whole of London. Whether you're in Kingston or Waterloo, everyone sees the same river.

Sometimes when family come to visit, I'll take them on a guided tour. We always joke about the irony of going sightseeing with somebody who can't see!



Growing up, I didn't see many people in the public eye who were partially sighted. Mo Farah, Usain Bolt and Jessica Ennis were my main role models, and I used to think that, because of my visual impairment, I couldn't compete at that level.

I first learned about visually impaired sport when the **2012 Olympics came to London**. It was a real lightbulb moment. Ithought: I can do this.

Last year l entered 'The Apprentice'. When I got fired, Alan Sugar called me 'brave'. I thought that was a bit patronising. I experience this a lot when I do everyday things – buying a bottle of milk, or taking the bins out. People say: 'You're so brave.'

I've never allowed myself to view my disability in a negative way. I've always used it as something to help me and empower me – it pushed me to win at sport. I always see the silver lining.

Winning my first gold medal at the Junior Paralympic Games felt amazing. It didn't really hit me until the medal ceremony.

l've been working hard to try and get selected for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics. When the season starts this summer, I'll find out if I've made the GB team. If I put in a fantastic performance early in the 2020 season, hopefully that should bag me a ticket. ■ Interview by El Hunt

 \rightarrow Souleyman Bah works with Guide Dogs to raise awareness of misconceptions around sight loss in the UK.

For more unique looks at London life, head to **timeout.com/news**



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MOST GOOGLED Why are there no tubes in south London?



ACCORDING TO CAPITAL folklore, cabbies used to refuse to go to the depths of south London. Those days might be behind us, but south of the river remains short-changed on the tube front. With a measly 29 stations (compared with 241 the other side of the Thames) southerners have slim pickings. The Northern line at least extends as far as zone 4, but otherwise the Jubilee, Bakerloo, District and Victoria lines all make half-arsed efforts at serving south London.

'It's often said that the Underground didn't venture into south London because of the dangers from digging up seventeenth-century plague pits,' says Simon Murphy, curator at London Transport Museum. Sounds grisly but it's actually not true. 'The majority of mass plague graves are north of the river and they proved no obstacle to the growth of the tube running far beneath them.'



The real reason comes down to cold, hard capitalism. Long before tubes, lots of private railway companies carved up the city and established loads of suburban $railways, with {\it great}\, connections$ south of the river and beyond. When the first private tube companies began operating after 1863, they focused on north London, where there was more opportunity. $\hbox{`The Underground chose to run'}\\$ extensions into the open semi-rural districts to the north instead, where they'd have less competition and sell more tickets,' says Murphy.

 $So the \, lack \, of \, south \, London \, tube$ stations came about because, once upon a time, that side of the river was actually better connected. Just remember that next time your train gets delayed. Again. ■ El Hunt

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Dominique Ansel

Cronut creator and Europe's most famous baker on his favourite West End spots for a relaxing end to the week



9am

11am

Breakfast

Ilove the mornings in Covent Garden when you can wander the quiet streets and alleyways. I pop into **St John Bakery** in Neal's Yard for a custard-filled doughnut, then grab a cup of coffee at **Jacob the Angel** just a few steps away.

Shop

Stepping into travel bookshop
Stanfords transports you from the middle of London to anywhere in the world, just by flicking through the pages of its thousands of books, maps and guides. There's nothing more inspiring than learning about the world through other cultures and cuisines.







Left to right: Stanfords, Barrafina, Soho Square Gardens, Sir John Soane's Museum

6pm



Tapas and wine

I never miss a chance to go to **Barrafina**. I grab a seat at the counter and a glass of wine or sherry. I always start off with the pan contomate – garlic-rubbed toast topped with juicy ripe tomatoes drizzled with fragrant olive oil and white pepper to finish. Perfection.

Park

3pm

Then I take a stroll through **Soho Square Gardens**. One of the things I love most about London is all the quiet green squares and little parks you stumble upon, allowing you to have a mini getaway from the busy streets around you.

Gallery

4pm

Sir John Soane's Museum is unlike any other museum I've been to. You get an amazing insight into British art and architectural history and entering the house is like walking into a time machine. You'll find incredible relics in every corner.

Steak and chips

Hawksmoor is always reliable. The steaks are amazing but the best part is choosing from all the different sides to go with your meat – Tunworth mash, creamed spinach and triple-cooked chips are my favourites. ■

- → Dominique Ansel Treehouse is open now.
- → Covent Garden.



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Official fuel consumption figures for the Golf model range in mpg (litres/100km): combined 0 (0.0) - 141.2 (2); combined CO₂ emissions 0 - 164q/km.

CITY ENVY

Great things that we love in other cities

LA's Britney Spears pop-up, The Zone

London isn't short of gig venues or amazing live music, but you know what it doesn't have? A gloriously OTT Britney Spears pop-up where you can recreate all her iconic music videos. Enter LA's The Zone: a 30,000-square-foot space in a former Kmart that's been painted pink (obviously). Want to shimmy down a hall of lockers and pout in the gym as '...Baby One More Time' blasts in the background? You can. Feel like dancing on a silver chair in a black room à la 'Stronger'? Go for it - and you can stare at yourself in a starry mirror while you do it. Best of all, you can visit the space station from 'Oops!... I Did It Again' and meet the astronaut who will offer you that necklace the old lady threw into the ocean (bonus: he'll fart out a bit of fog when you press the jewel). In short: it's a no stalgic '90s-'00s playground and we want in. Until then we'll be hanging out vaguely near the snakes at London Zoo singing 'I'm a Slave 4U' on repeat. ■ Michael Juliano.



ASKAN EDITOR Your going-out problems solved by Time Out editors

Dave from Tooting asks:

'I'm trying to eat less meat but I'm struggling to get on board with those weird meat and cheese substitutes. Where's a good place to ease myself in?'

Tania Ballantine, Food editor

I get it. Not everyone wants to feel like they're eating a science experiment. Instead, go big on dishes made with chunky plants, like the jackfruit burritos from Club Mexicana (life-changingly good). Or tofu - pressed beancurd - in its most exciting form: the



puffed stuff in Sambal Shiok's 'standard' laksa (like crisp-edged flavour sponges). Then, when you're ready for something more 'future food', try the insanely delicious dumplings at Mao Chow (they're made with spiced 'vegan mince', but also chopped mushrooms), and finish with the ultimate in great fakeness: Temple of Seitan's popcorn 'fried chicken'. You'll never look back. ■

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

W RD **ON THE STREET**

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

'We need to find out how many blokes lose their balls on stag dos per year.'

'It's a big salt-andvinegar energy, the seaside.isn'tit?'

'My vegan birthday cake is like a beautiful delicious version of the poo emoji.'

'Thank GOD I have one carrot!'

'I'm going through a Mars phase lately. The chocolate, not the planet.'

'Do you know who I haven't seen for a while? Kelly Clarkson.'

'Your face looks like an elongated mango.'

'I only want to get pregnant for the free dental work.'

'Let's just hope that next time we're here, we get puked on again.'

'There's been a lot of fluids on that carpet over the years.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

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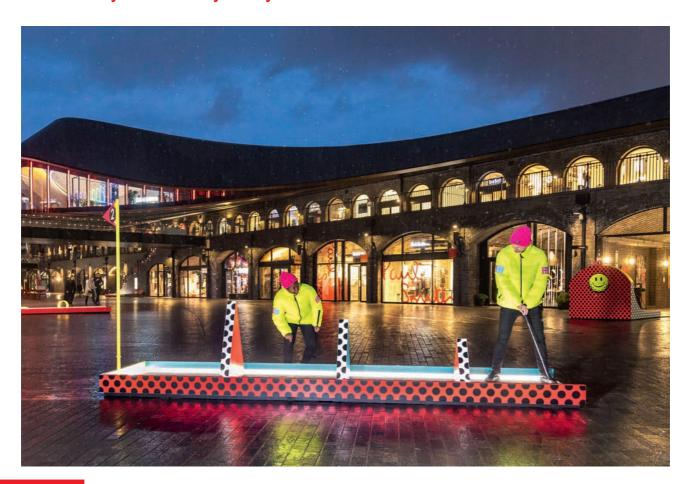




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FREE LONDON

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



Crazy golf at Coal Drops Yard

Nineties rave culture, eh? Acid house, gurning lads, the party line and – of course – the *famous* crazy golf scene. Mad for it? More like mad for a hole-in-one. Thankfully this oft-forgotten side of the subculture is getting its due with a nine-holer in Coal Drops Yard, inspired by the area's hard-partying history. Bag tickets on the King's Cross app. No eccies allowed. → Coal Drops Yard. ◆ King's Cross. Until Mar 29.

Pancakes at The Lamb Tavern

Nothing breaks up the working day like a pancake race – one of the best-known sources of carbs *and* endorphins. On Shrove Tuesday you can get your fix of both in a 100m relay. Or skip the running and just eat some batter.

- → Leadenhall Market.
- → Bank. Tue Feb 25.

Queer, black book chat at Libreria

Delve into the works of African, Caribbean and Afro-Latinx authors at Okha, a monthly queer and black book club. February's read is the Booker Prize-winning 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernardine Evaristo. → Libreria. Shoreditch High St Overground. Fri Feb 28.

Self-illustration in Shoreditch

Are the likes on your selfies plunging in 2020? First, send your friends a stern text. Then, sign up for The Idvidl's self-illustration class where you'll learn how to draw a better picture of yourself than any iPhone can take.

→ Protein Studios. Shoreditch

→ Protein Studios. Shoreditch High St Overground. Sat Feb 29.

Vegan pancakes at byChloe

Pancake Day isn't just a fun laugh for those of us who guiltily gobble up milk and eggs like there's no climate crisis. Plantbased chain by Chloe is making sure vegans get fed too, giving away 50 pancakes at each of its sites from 10am.

→ Multiple locations. Tue Feb 25.



Model shown is a New Puma ST-Line X 1.0 155PS Mild Hybrid Electric Vehicle (MHEV) Petrol 6 speed manual with optional LED Headlights and Driver Assistance Pack. Fuel economy mpg (I/100km) (Combined): 50.4 (5.6). *CO2 emissions 99g/km.

Vehicle shown may not reflect latest UK specifications.

Figures shown are for comparability purposes only; they only compare fuel consumption and CO2 figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post-registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load.
*There is a new test used for fuel consumption and CO2 figures. The CO2 figures shown, however, are based on the outgoing test cycle and will be used to calculate vehicle tax on first registration.







First things first, stop feeling guilty

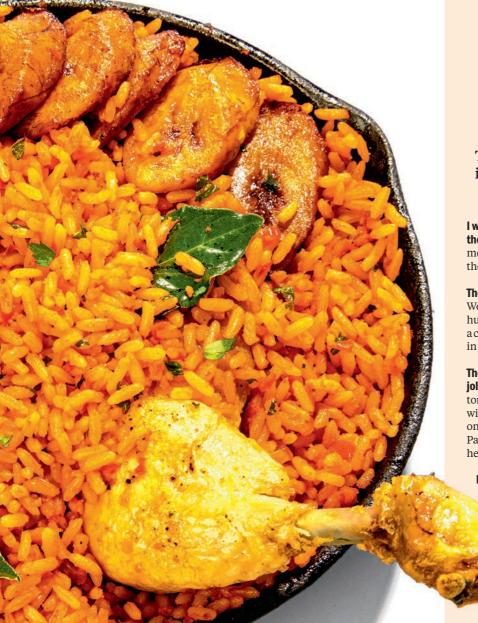
Yes, food is fuel, but it's so much more. Emma Hughes explains how she became a weightlifting foodie

I USED TO think eating for pleasure and being strong were incompatible concepts. Then a Mars bar changed everything. I was in one of the weightlifting classes I go to three times a week at my gym. An out-of-towner – who, judging by his arms, was no stranger to barbells - had signed up to do a drop-in session, and he ran in as we were starting. He was eating, which isn't unusual for serious weightlifters. But when I saw that he was tearing through caramel rather than 30 grams of protein, dust and sadness, like I'd been forcing down, my heart soared.

I'd been living a double life, you see. I'd refuel after leg day with fluffy chips from Sutton and Sons or Jolene's pastries, not chicken and broccoli. Gym-me would religiously track her lifts, then not-gym-me would go home and eat arancini instead of protein balls. And I felt bad about it. I'd swallowed fitness Instagram's messaging whole: if you want to be healthy you have to follow a diet dictated by macros, food pyramids and MyFitnessPal alerts, rather than curiosity, pleasure or even hunger. And it just wasn't me. Ruby Tandoh writes in 'Eat Up' how eating has become a 'chore'. This is an age of 'gains', of food as fuel: a means to an end, rather than an end in itself. But it can be so much more.

Comfort food, in the Western imagination, means cheesy carbs. But ultimately, it's whatever makes you feel good – and in a city like this one, that isn't (and shouldn't be) limited to Anglocentric stodge, it can mean bright spicy laksa, rich jollof and chest-warming osso buco. In fact, it has less to do with ingredients than your attitude to them: it could even be a protein box from Muscle Meals eaten in a cooldown zone if that's truly what your stomach yearns for. Or a Mars bar.





Eat things made with memories

The special jollof recipe *Ajibola Akokomi* is putting on the menu at new restaurant Akoko reminds him of his childhood

I was brought up in Nigeria in the '80s. One of my favourite memories of growing up was the owambe parties.

These parties were huge.

We're talking hundreds and hundreds of people. It's like a carnival where everyone in town would contribute.

The most popular dish was jollof rice. It's cooked in a tomato and red pepper sauce with spices, garlic, ginger, onions and rich meat stock. Paired with smoked goat, it's heavenly!

In those days, it was pretty much only eaten at

parties. It was cooked in a giant cauldron. It was very rare to cook it at home as it's quite a laborious process.

Things are different today. Jollof rice can easily be prepared in domestic kitchens and it's a regular feature on dining tables across West Africa. Even so, the novelty of the dish hasn't worn off.

'Party jollof' is more delicious than home-cooked.

Traditionally, it's cooked outdoors over an open wood fire, which gives it its signature smokiness.

I remember watching my mother and aunties cooking jollof rice like this outside; the rice and red bell peppers bubbling away; feeding the open fire with wood.

The secret to their recipe?

Bell peppers. My mother and aunties would take their time to select the freshest peppers and grind them with tomatoes to create the delicious sauce for the rice.

AtAkoko, we use the same recipe. It's slowly cooked in a charcoal oven so it takes on the distinctive smoky flavour of the party jollof rice.

ightarrow 21 Berners Street. Opens spring.

Soup up your Heinz

Three unusually good-looking bowls to eat food out of



Pottery West breakfast bowl

Want to flex like a monk with a secret interiordesign fetish? Bag this rustic mustard-brown bowl that'll make even a New Covent Garden look like it was cooked in a cauldron.

→ www.toa.st/uk. £32.



Marbled enamel bowl

Essentially made of steel, you can drop this splattered bowl and it won't smash, making it the perfect vessel for a drunk-cooked ramen you make after a big afternoon at Printworks.

→ www.labourandwait.co.uk. £9.



Kana London udon bowl

A deep, weighty dish that'll test your strength as much as your appetite. Don't you dare fill it with anything less hearty than your most dumpling-laden stew.

→ www.diyartmarket.com. £48.



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Our 'way too good to miss' plan



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Fill up at a family meal

Head chef and co-owner of Trullo, *Conor Gadd*, takes us behind the scenes at one of the team's pre-service dinners

THE STAFF MEAL is the only opportunity our team gets to sit down and catch up. It's a really important – we take it very seriously. If I see someone working during the staff eating period, I'll give them a bollocking.

We do it twice a day: breakfast at 11am and then dinner at 4.45pm before service. There are 12 of us in the morning and 18 to 20 at night. Everyone – the chefs and the floor staff – sits down for 15 to 20 minutes. In my kitchen, the chefs love cooking staff food as they can make whatever they want (within our budget!). It's an opportunity to experiment. A lot of them have spent time in

India and they love cooking curries. Gnocchi is on the restaurant menu at the moment, so for the staff meal we're doing amazing things with potato skins. We have a guy leaving soon, and he's asked for vegan burritos on his last shift.

One of the main requirements for cooking staff food is sustenance. You're not going to cook soup for people who are on their feet all day. For me, comfort food is sitting round the dinner table knowing that, for 15 minutes, you're in your sanctuary. We're family here, and families bicker, but if there are any problems we can always talk it out at the table. → 300-302 St Paul's Rd. ↔ Highbury & Islington.



Learn the science of comfort food

Ever found yourself craving a trip to Padella after a terrible argument with your boyfriend? Turns out there's biochemistry behind it. There's a specific part of your brain – called the nucleus accumbens – which controls the release of feelgood hormones dopamine and serotonin (triggered by drugs, sex and tasty food). 'It manages our impulses,' says Uxshely Carcamo, founder of The Food Therapy Clinic, 'and makes us crave foods that give

us that hit of short-term pleasure.' What kinds of foods do this? Carbohydrates – which help with hormone production – and fats. (Apologies to your cholesterol levels.)

But that's not all. There's also a distinct psychological link between sinking your face into pasta and feeling content, explains Carcamo. 'Our brain likes to make associations between certain smells, tastes and periods of time. So foods can often trigger happy memories of

childhood,' she says. 'If we were rewarded with ice cream when we were younger, our brains can form an association between the taste and the feeling we got as a child and covet it again.'

So, yeah, it turns out comfort food is a big dose of hormone-making carbohydrates and brain-tricking nostalgia all wrapped up in one chemically induced kick.

Just like mama used to make...

Make new pals at a supper club



The East African-Indian Supper Clu

Food documentary-maker Abbas Asaria cooks Indian and East African cuisine that explores his heritage.

→ London Cooking Project.

Battersea Park Overground.

Mar 5-6. £39.



Mam Shan

Run by two ridiculously charismatic best friends, Mam Sham is more house party than supper club. Courses are punctuated by drag or cabaret acts.

→ Oval Space. Cambridge Heath Overground. Mar 13. £40.



Syrian Supper Club

Started in response to the 2012 humanitarian crisis, these fundraising celebrations of Syrian food take place all over the city.

→ Leiths School of Food and Wine. ↔ Goldhawk Rd. Check website for upcoming dates.



Load up on mac 'n' cheese

Our pick of the best gloopy pasta in the whole damn city

The fishy one

Claw does a best-ofthe-British-seaside number: Salcombe crab, melty Londonmade raclette and ogleshield, topped with finely sliced spring onions.

- → 35 Earlham St.
- → Covent Garden. £9.

The classic one

1) **Pizza East** is a pizza joint. 2) It does one of London's finest mac 'n' cheeses, dished up family-style, straight from the wood-fired oven and topped with mozzarella.

- → 310 Portobello Rd.
- ← Ladbroke Grove, £11.

The posh one

Four cheeses are melded with luxe lobster and topped with a whole tail at Bob Bob Ricard. It's rich, and given the price tag, whoever's paying will have to be too.

- → 1 Upper James St.
- → Piccadilly Circus. £29.50.

The vegan one

Macaroni pie is a Caribbean comfortfood classic, and London's premier plant-based version attracts massive queues at Eat of Eden in Brixton Village.

- → 4 Brixton Village.
- → Brixton. £4.50.

The Scottish one

Scottish specialist Mac & Wild does an och-aye!-inducing gooey mac'n' cheese. It features haggis: think extra-cheesy cheeseburgerand you'll get the idea.

→ 9a Devonshire Square. → Liverpool St. £6.50.

The extremely cheesy one Rich ogleshield, tangy

Quicke's cheddar, fullflavoured lincolnshire poacher, Brue Valley mozzarella and nutty old winchester go into The Cheese Bar's pasta. → Unit 93-94 Camden Stables. → Camden Town. £9.

On your next trip to for a side of mac'n' it probably spends its weekends at Soho Farmhouse.

- → 157a Commercial St.

The blue one



- → Liverpool St. £6.

Remember: vegans need comfort too

Since Rose Johnstone went plant-based in 2016, she's eaten plenty of warming vegan nosh

Do you really think that after a stressful day, or a big night out, we vegans think to ourselves: You know what I could really go for right now? A room-temperature ancient-grain salad washed down by a heady bottle of kombucha. Oh no, friends. We crave comfort food just like everyone else - and in the last five or so

years, London has been delivering. You'll find plenty of plant-based versions of soul-warming faves in the capital: take Young Vegans in Camden, which does a vegan pie made from 'steak' marinated in rich, dark ale and slathered in gravy. There's also a form of vegan comfort food that existed long before the time of

'plant-based alternatives'. When I need to eat my feelings, the first thing I think of is a warm, fragrant bowl of laksa or ramen. Bermondsey's **Hakata** makes a vegan 'tonkotsu' ramen (a creamier version of the noodle soup), with burnt garlic oil, that will have you emitting inappropriate sounds. Need to turn up the fire levels?

Hawksmoor

Order from the wide selection of vegan Sri Lankan curries at **Everest Curry King** in Lewisham. The aubergine curry (go on, eat those little green chillis) is the equivalent of wrapping yourself in a fluffy blanket. Plus, by eating vegan, you're making the world a greener place. And isn't that the most comforting feeling of all? ■



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IN CINEMAS FEB 28





The sewerman

Andy Howard, 50, is a special projects manager at Lanes Group, the waste water maintenance partner of Thames Water. His team's job, in other words, is to keep London's sewers flowing

We're also known as sewer 'flushers'. If that means going underground to unblock a fatberg or just keep the waterways clean, we put on our suits and down we go.

I'm not going to lie to you: sewers stink.
But you know what? You can smell faeces, vomit, urine and alcohol all day long.
You get used to that. It's the smell of fat that drives you mental – a sort of combination of rotting meat and the inside of a smelly toilet.

When I say fat, it can be like wading through porridge or a chicken korma.

Wet wipes, condoms, congealed fat, as well as other things people flush down the toilet – they're all mixed in.

That smell stays with you for days. You breathe it in, it gets into your skin and becomes part of you, oozing from your pores. People move away from you on the tube.

Every sewer has a different smell.

Blackfriars has its own smell. Whitechapel has its own smell. They all do. Even when you break wind, you smell it and think: Oh, that's Whitechapel Road, that is!

You never look at sewage and see a turd floating down. Everything's mixed up, so it looks like dirty water. It sprays in your face, your eyes, your ears, your mouth.

Well's disease is a big fear – you get it from rat urine. You can put your hand on an area that's been contaminated and it will just seep into your skin. It's a killer. I've known guys who've caught it and been in a coma for two weeks.

It takes professionalism and a good dollop of humour to spend your working days up to your knees in fat, wet wipes and poo.

Yes, it's dirty, smelly and dangerous, but I love it. Sewermen have a real passion for what they do. We are literally the last line of defence when there's an issue.

It's that sense of purpose that makes me happy. I've done a lot of jobs over the years – soldier, chef, lorry driver, steel erector – and if I've learned anything, it's that whatever you do, you should do it for you. → www.lanesgroup.com





from cleaning to rat-proofing

Pest control can be a dirty business.

We deal with fleas, foxes, bed bugs, pigeons, squirrels and other infestations. But rats are the worst.

Rats are gross. They're smelly, diseased, they urinate everywhere, they can bite and however you block their holes, they can always find a way back.

But rats are also very clever. So to beat them, you've got to show them respect, learn how to think like them.

A lot of people think we're just out to kill things. But it's all about control. Poison is always a last resort.

Humane traps aren't always that humane.

Take sticky pads, for instance. I've found pads before with just a tail left on them, or a foot. How desperate has an animal got to be to chew its own foot off?

The smell of a decomposing rat is pure awful. It's hard to put into words. Just rotting flesh that's been left to fester for weeks. It really gets inside you.

Rats aren't always the most disgusting part. I remember visiting a house where rats had chewed through the toilet pipe. It was a three-bedroom house shared by around 13 people and it was pure squalor.

When I got into the bathroom, I realised they had stopped using the toilet and had

'How desperate has an animal got to be to chew its own foot off?'

been shitting in the bath. I just turned around and left. It was too disgusting.

I've learned to compartmentalise. To be happy in a grim job, you've got to focus on the good bits. For me, it's meeting people, discussing their issue over a cup of coffee, laughing and cheering them up.

We're like rat-busting superheroes. And that's a great feeling. Making other people happy makes me happy in return.

My secret to happiness? You need to switch off when the job is done. You need a distraction. I love cooking. I also travel a lot; whenever I can, I see a new city, a new country.

→ www.fantasticservices.com/pest-control







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uk.puressentiel.com

The trauma scene cleaner

Ryan Colquitt, 39, is a regional operations manager for SafeGroup, specialising in remediating crime scenes, unattended deaths and extreme cleaning emergencies

We don't just do crime scenes. We clean anywhere there's been an unexpected death: an unattended body at home, a suicide in a hotel or a death under a train.

Usually the body will have been taken away but that doesn't mean there isn't a lot to clean up: body fluid, sometimes blood.

A big job is when we get called to a really bad decomposition or unattended death and find they've not only decomposed in a kitchen or bathroom but it's dripping through the floorboards.

'I'll never forget the man who had sort

I'll never forget the man who died watching

W. By the time he was discovered, he'd been there so long he'd sort of melted into the sofa. We had to take up the floorboards to clean body fluid off the pipes.

Then there was the man who died in the bath. He'd fallen out with his family so nobody found him for months. When we arrived, there were probably 6,000 bluebottles in the flat.

I don't know how long he'd been there but it was enough to fill the bathtub with six inches of body fluid. That was the worst I ever smelled. You quickly learn to breathe through your mouth on jobs like that.

Train traumas are different. You come across body parts on the tracks. Once, one of my colleagues found an eyeball.

You can get used to the smells and the **blood**. It's the stories that can get to you, especially when it's a child. You start

to picture what happened, putting it together in your head.

Relatives often want to tell you what happened, as if we can take some burden away from them. I think they want to get a sense that we'll take the bad memory of what they saw with us when we go.

My job has long hours and it's not making me rich, but I love it. Knowing I'm doing a fantastic job for people washes any bad stuff away. It's actually given me a more positive outlook on life.

That's how I never let the job get me down: the feeling that I am, in some small way, $helping\,people\,with\,their\,emotional$ journey: to clean away the awfulness of

This job has taught me a lot about happiness. Life can end at any point, so now I never put off making important decisions about my life.

so they don't have to visualise it.

If there's one thing I've learned, it's this: people fall out for the silliest reasons. And it's only when they can never see another person again that they realise they should have done something about it. It makes me think about my own life and the people in it.

→ www.thesafegroup.co.uk

of melted into the sofa'



Hacking away at an awful Excel spreadsheet? Get out of the office and over to LWC to see the cheeky mammals get their feed on.

www.wwt.org.uk

Weeding and planting is so good for you it's available on the NHS. Do it on islands where wonky dinosaurs live for even better vibes.

www.crystalpalacepark.org.uk

Get all the goodness of a cold-water dip plus the fun of pretending to be a posh north Londoner who can simply buy themselves happiness.

www.hampsteadheath.net





Probably the most modest beer in the world.

So, you probably wouldn't know that most drinkers prefer the taste of Carlsberg Expørt to Stella and Peroni.

We'd humbly suggest you try it.



Mark Honeyman, 53, is a funeral director for Co-op Funeralcare in London. He's been in the business for eight years

I don't lie awake at night thinking of the people who've died. I don't mean that in a harsh way; it's because ultimately I am providing a service. Plus, the families are the ones who are going through the raw, emotional grief. My job is to be strong.

It's the living who can affect you most,

not the people who have died. The most emotionally challenging side of the job is dealing with young parents who have lost a child. That can be very raw.

I like the job because I like caring for people, whether they're living, grieving or have died. If you can't care for people, you wouldn't enjoy this job.

People ask how I can stay positive in the face of so much death. But death is not something to be frightened of. Bodies aren't horrendous, they're just people who have died.

You need a sense of humour to do this job.

Never at the expense of someone who's died, that's completely unacceptable. But every morning we come into the office, have a coffee and tell jokes. Dad jokes, I'm afraid. Or football. Or Morecambe & Wise. You have to.

Young men often have the biggest problem letting go of their emotions. Often they are the ones desperate to have a cry but feel they can't because that's not what men do. I try to make it okay to cry in front of another man.

'I try to make it okay to cry in front of another man' You get the greatest satisfaction at the end of a job, when you know it's gone well. When relatives of the deceased thank you for everything you've done.

What has death taught me about life?

Nobody is guaranteed a tomorrow. That's not to say I'm off bungee jumping at the weekend, but it does allow me not worry so much about things I can't change.

Nothing lasts for ever. A tough experience may not be as tough tomorrow, next week or next year. Surround yourself with people you trust and who are supportive. ■ → www.coop.co.uk/funeralcare

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LONDON FOR LESS

Food, drink, screenings, pop-ups: don't miss our exclusive offers and discounts



The Latin Collective

www.timeout.com/latincollective

What is it? Latin dance classes with post-lesson club-night entry.
Why go? Because it's time to up your game from drunkenly grooving to 'Despacito' at your local dive bar.
Seriously, salsa and bachata are two of the sexiest dances ever. Once you've learnt the basics, you can test your moves on the club's dancefloor.
Wait, how much? Up to 79 percent off − classes start from £12 for five.
→ Venues in Soho, Temple and Acton. Ongoing.

The Wine and Spirits Show

What is it? One of the booziest exhibitions in London.
Why go? For the unlimited tasters, obviously. There'll be more than 500 wines and spirits to try (although we strongly recommend you don't sample them all), as well as some ace food stands and free masterclasses.
Wait, how much? We're sorting you out with half-price tickets, so it'll cost you just £27.50. Cheers!

→ One Whitehall Place. ↔ Embankment. Apr 3-4. www.timeout.com/wineandspiritsshow

FishWorks

What is it? A seafood platter for two with a glass of prosecco each at a nautical Covent Garden restaurant. Why go? To share some fresh fruits de mer with a friend. This place is a restaurant and a fishmongers, so you can be confident the chefs here know their oysters from their elbows.

Wait, how much? £29 for both of you, that's nearly half-price.

→ FishWorks. ← Covent Garden. Until Apr 9. www.timeout.com/fishworks

'The Effect'

What is it? The return of award-winning playwright Lucy Prebble's story about love and science.
Why go? To witness this tantalising tale of Connie and Tristan, who meet and connect on a clinical trial. Is what comes next the real deal or just a pharmaceutical side effect?
Wait, how much? We have tickets for up to 37 percent off, so you can bag a seat from just £14.

→ Boulevard Theatre. ← Piccadilly Circus. Apr 1-30. www.timeout.com/theeffect

Theatre, music, events: get the best deals in town. Search 'Time Out offers'



It's GLOW time!

Shine a light on dementia at **GLOW**, Alzheimer's Society's new family friendly night walk.

Battersea Park Friday 13 March

Kempton Racecourse
Saturday 21 March



Search: GLOW walk



Things to Do

Barning Rank Land Rank Lan

The smell of latex and the sound of plastic dice: it must be Comic Con! Ingratiate yourself with the cosplaying masses at London's comic shops

Gosh! Comics

The staff at Gosh! are full of knowledge but never make you feel stupid. Graphic novels are the speciality here, but it's also well stocked with Marvel and DC omnibus hardbacks, prints, rare bookplated editions and a healthy supply of manga in the basement. Gosh! is known for its events too: regular 'drink and draw' sessions; and author signings (Alice Oseman, creator of queer graphic novel ${\it `Heartstopper', will be in store on}$ March 14). It's right in the middle of high-footfall Soho but makes a real effort to support small-press and self-published comics by giving $them\, decent\, shelf space\, along side$ more commercially friendly titles. Get digging - you might find the next 'Ghost World' or 'Scott Pilgrim' among those stapled pages.

→ Gosh! Comics, 1 Berwick St. ← Piccadilly Circus. Find out more at www.goshlondon.com

Orbital Comics

It's nothing short of a miracle that this bright yellow 'neighbourhood' comic shop is still standing in Covent Garden. Like Gosh!, it makes space for small press. It is the place togoforrarebackissues(claiming to have the best selection of vintage comics in London). Last year Jake Gyllenhaal paid a visit to promote 'Spider-Man Far from Home'. Ask nicely and the Orbital staff might tell you which comics were touched by Mr Mysterio.

→ 8 Great Newport St. ← Leicester Square. www.orbitalcomics.com

Mega City Comics

Mega has been going strong in Camden Town since 1987, and has customers who have been visiting since they were buying Hulk comics with crumpled pocket money. Its shelves are lined with graphic novels, indie comics, vinyl toys

and T-shirts, but keep an eye on the employee's picks: the team of four know their stuff. It's well-known in comics circles - even Alan Moore has made an appearance here. Mega loves a movie tie-in, so if you're keen to deep-dive into the world of Harley Quinn after watching 'Birds of Prey', the staff will have piles of DC back issues to guide you on your bloodsplattered journey.

ightarrow 18 Inverness St. ightarrow Camden Town. www.megacitycomics.co.uk



This is a bit like putting 'Rolling Stones Greatest Hits' in a best albums list, but FP is a great place to buy new releases. And posters. And... well, everything. Even if your only experience with comics is a stray copy of Viz you once read while on the loo, you can find solace in the sizeable film section, especially if you're very into Studio Ghibli.

ightarrow 179 Shaftesbury Avenue. ightarrow Tottenham Court Rd. www.forbiddenplanet.com



Even more geekery at timeout.com/thingstodo



DOS AND DON'TS

How to avoid fandom faux pas at Comic Con Spring

D₀

Ask cosplayers if you can get a photo, rather than scurrying up to Captain Marvel and snatching a selfie.

Even superheroes, assassins and genocidal demons from alternate timelines need their personal space.

DON'T

Openly snicker at anyone's cosplay outfit. Yes, that guy's Cyberman get-up may be shonky, but do you realise how much chutzpah it took to get here from Zone 4 in that thing? Allow it.

D0

Come freshly showered. Yes, we're talking to you, Phil.

DON'T

Whiff like a three-day Warhammer marathon. Seriously, Phil. Radox.

D₀

Pick up some original art. Many artists will be offering bespoke sketches. If you've always wanted a professional depiction of Dr Doom in a bubble bath, this is your chance.

DON'T

Take a credit card if your inner geek lacks self-control. Nobody wants to exit Olympia in a replica Predator mask, £900 down and ablaze with disoriented regret.

D₀

Buy some actual comics (or manga, or graphic novels, or trade paperbacks). Creatively, comics are enjoying a golden era right now, but at Comic Con they can get sidelined by all the TV and movie glitz.

DON'T

Assume that every comic will be suitable for any kids you're chaperoning. The big US publishers have all but given up on the under-15s. To sidestep sex and swears, ask dealers for their 'all ages' books.

D0

Expect sanity-testing queues. How badly do you want Robert Englund to sign your stripy jumper? More than anything in the world? Fair enough.

DON'T

Give Ian 'The Emperor' McDiarmid grief about 'The Rise of Skywalker'. He didn't write the bloody thing, okay? Joe Madden

30th Century Comics

Orbital is the place

to go for

rare back

issues of

comics

The name's futuristic but the inside is pure nostalgia. Here you'll find boxes and boxes of vintage comics going all the way back to the 1900s. Flick through the yellowing pages of *Doctor Strange* and retro *Bunty* annuals. It also has a great collection of outmoded pulp novels with titles like 'Two Smart Dames'. ■ *Katie McCabe*

→ 18 Lower Richmond Rd. ↔ Putney Bridge. www.30thcenturycomics.co.uk

→ London Comic Con Spring at Olympia London. ↔ Kensington (Olympia).

Sat Feb 29-Sun Mar 1. £16-£32.

Mega City Comics



PICTURE BRITAIN OUR PEOPLE **OUR POVERTY** 20 FEBRUARY O7 MARCH BOROUGH MARKET

A new exhibition celebrates the strength and resilience of people swept into poverty.

Search PICTURE BRITAIN



Our People Our Poverty

Charities alone cannot end the injustice of poverty, but together we can.



SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND



Friday Late: The Eyes Have It

Keep your peepers peeled for workshops exploring optical illusions, talks on camouflage, dance performances, zinemaking classes and film screenings at this art night themed around eyes. Stay to dance like no one's watching to DJ duo Wahalaa.

→ V&A. ↔ South Kensington. Fri Feb 28. Free.

CELEBRATE Queerstory

Stonewall Housing is behind this LGBT+ History Month night of films, DJs and spoken word. Feeling confident? Sashay down the runway and have your style judged by Munroe Bergdorf. → EartH. Dalston Kingsland Overground. Fri Feb 28. £8.

SCRIBBLE After Hours: Drawing Salon

Been obsessed with creepy folk traditions since 'Midsommar'? Learn to sketch English characters like The Green Man and Obby Oss in this class. → Gunnersbury Park & Museum.

→ Acton Town Fri Feb 28. £25.

Saturday

DIY Space for London Open Day

The cooperatively run social centre opens up for drop-in print workshops, nail treatments, film screenings and music. → DIY Space for London. South Bermondsey rail.

WATCH **Exploding Cinema**

Sat Feb 29, Free.

Films are projected on to every surface at this show case ofunderground moving image.Immersive cinema, done right. → The Cinema Museum.

→ Elephant & Castle. Sat Feb 29. £7.



BrewLDN

Just when you thought London was overflowing with craft beer, a new hops party comes to town. Try flavours from nearly 150 of the world's best brewers and soak up the booze with top street food.

→ Old Truman Brewery. Shoreditch High St Overground. Thu Feb 27-Sat Feb 29. From £12 at www.timeout.com/brewldn

Sunday

Burnt Roti Festival

The magazine celebrating South Asian culture is bringing its print publication to life for this all-day fest. Watch films, listen to panel talks on creative writing and filmmaking, and belly-laugh to comedy sets.

→ Genesis Cinema. ↔ Stepney Green. Sun Mar 1. £15.



BROWSE London Potters Studio Fair

See clay creations from 20 local potters inthestunning surroundingsofa hidden Victorian playhouse covered in gilded murals. → Normansfield Theatre. Hampton Wick rail. Sat Feb

29-Sun Mar 1. Free entry.

Zero Market N22

Spend your Sunday feeling all virtuous at this market full of refill stations and ecofriendly stalls. → Myddleton Rd.

→ Bounds Green.

Sun Mar 1. Free entry.

Welcome to Slytherin season

Ambitious, cunning... misunderstood? Soon, us Muggles will have the chance to embrace our darker sides at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – The Making of Harry Potter

es, the house's founder trapped a huge, evil snake in an underground chamber for nearly a thousand years. And sure, its official house ghost is the spooky and silent Bloody Baron. But hey, Slytherin's not all that bad. In fact, it gave rise to some of the greatest witches and wizards of all time.

And who knows: maybe the Sorting Hat would put you in the green and silver house.

From April to September this year, Warner Bros. Studio Tour London will host 'A Celebration of Slytherin'. It's your opportunity to go behind the scenes and discover authentic sets, props and costumes from all eight films. The difference is that, this time, the Studio Tour will showcase some never-beforeseen Slytherin treasures. Let's

take a closer look at what to expect...



Remember when
Harry and Ron
disguised themselves
using Polyjuice Potion to
sneak into the Slytherin
common room in the
'Chamber of Secrets'? In
a Warner Bros. Studio Tour
London exclusive, this set
will be displayed for the

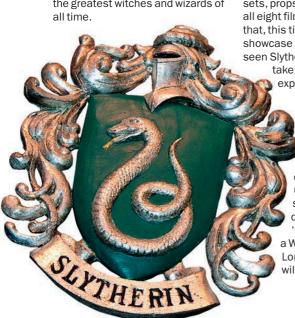
first time ever, allowing visitors to discover details up close. It'll be furnished with authentic props and will feature an imposing fireplace.

Experience the Great Hall like never before

In 'The Philosopher's Stone', Slytherin (briefly) wins the House Cup before Dumbledore awards extra points to Gryffindor. For the first time, the Great Hall will be decked out in green... except for a few banners of the rival house ready to be unveiled. Can you spot them?

Get up close to the Malfoy family

Great hair, not-so-great criminal records. The Malfoys were once an esteemed house, but fell in status alongside Lord Voldemort. Original costumes belonging to the family will be on display. Don't get too close though – you never know what curses could be on them.







Witness the rise of He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named

You knew this was coming. Arguably Slytherin's most famous wizard, Lord Voldemort went through many guises throughout the Harry Potter saga. The Studio Tour will showcase the evolution of his costumes, from orphaned Tom Riddle to young Hogwarts student, and then to super-villain.

'A Celebration of Slytherin' at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London runs from April 3 to September 6. You'll be green with envy if you forget to book tickets – they're bound to sell out. And speaking in Parseltongue won't get you in for free. Adult tickets are £47 and family tickets are available.

Slytherins

The dark-marked to the good-at-heart

Tom Riddle – aka Lord Voldemort

100 percent evil (obviously)

Dolores Umbridge

Super evil. Terrible taste in interior decor

Bellatrix Lestrange

Totally deranged and totally in love with Voldemort. Cool outfits, though...

Draco Malfoy

A bully who secretly just wanted to earn the love of his dad

Horace Slughorn

A harmless Potions teacher who accidentally helped Tom Riddle

Regulus Black

Died attempting to destroy Voldemort's Horcruxes

Severus Snape

A much-maligned dark horse who stayed true to the cause



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THREE OF THE BEST

Mardi Gras parties



Mardi Gras Brixton Day and Night Festival

Parade around Pop Brixton's jumble of shipping containers at this day-to-night party. Join swing dance lessons and show off your moves to live 'swamp soul' and tasty cuts of funk from London's only specialist New Orleans vinyl DJ.

→ Pop Brixton. ↔ Brixton. Sat Feb 29. Free.



Bayou's Mardi Gras Crawfish Boil

Mardi Gras doesn't mean 'fat Tuesday' for nothing. In true New Orleans style, this Southern soul food joint will be cooking up a huge feast of cajun chicken gumbo, chargrilled oysters and cornbread with a classic crawfish boil.

→ Bayou Bar. ↔ Tooting Broadway. Sun Mar 1. £27.50.



Mardi Gras at Peckham Springs

The railway arch bar will be decked out in beads and balloons for this Louisiana hoedown. Arrive between 4pm and 6pm to nab a free Southern Hurricane cocktail. Slosh it back dancing to DJs and a brass band and tucking into po'boy sandwiches.

→ Peckham Springs. Peckham Rye Overground. Sat Feb 29. Free.

Make every day a Mardi Gras at **timeout.com/thingstodo**



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Image: Ghislaine Howard: detail, Self Portrait, 1984 @ Ghislaine Howard

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TIME OUTTRIES

Queer Lives at the Tower tour

DID YOU KNOW that James I was given the nickname 'Queen James' because of his intimate relationships with several male courtiers? I didn't. Not until I went on Queer Lives at the Tower, a new tour of the Tower of London that shines the spotlight on the lives, loves and experiences of LGBTQ+figures linked with the landmark.

It begins with a kind of disclaimer: because history has been documented predominantly through the eyes and actions of men, this hour-long tour won't offer as much of an insight into the lives of queer

of the

A tour that explores the LGBTQ+ history of the Tower, however tenuous it might be.

NHY GO.

WHAT IS IT..

To see a 'raven' drag queen flap around the stone fortress.

→ Tower of London.↔ Tower Hill. UntilWed Feb 26. £25.

women. That's a shame, and one that will hopefully be rectified in future LGBTQ+ tours of London's palaces planned for later this year.

Still, the queer stories that the tour does explore are vividly brought to life with 'creative storytelling' by actors and a 'drag raven'. The wingless – but still very fabulous – raven acts as our primary tour

guide as we move between rooms watching imagined interactions between several kings and their same-sex lovers.

The tour is fascinating and often funny but ends poignantly with a mini-candlelight vigil for Roger Casement. A key figure in Ireland's fight for independence and in the Easter Rising of 1916, Casement's homosexual activities were used by the British government to undermine his case for clemency when he was convicted and executed for high treason. That this happened just over a century ago is a crushing reminder that the push for greater LGBTQ+ rights and acceptance has been a long, hard (and ongoing) battle.

Nick Levine





PANCAKE DAY

S Flippin' Good Fun Pancake Race

Embarrass yourself at this Shrove Tuesday race. Every entrant in fancy dress gets a free pancake. Donations go to Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice.

→ Greenwich Market. Cutty Sark DLR. Tue Feb 25. Donation.

Where the **Pancakes Are** Fifth Birthday

London's premier crêpe peddler is throwing a daylong batter party. Tuck in to special pancakes and join the threelegged race.

→ Flat Iron Square → London Bridge. Tue Feb 25. Prices vary.

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at The Blend by Chivas masterclass. Tickets are just £10 – that's 33 percent off.

The best events in your area

LATES

Thursday Lates: **Gothic Romance**

A rare chance to see Horace Walpole's ghost-white gothic pile after dark,

when it looks even more magical than usual. Hear curious tales with a free fizz in hand.

→ Strawberry Hill House. Strawberry Hill rail. Every Thu until Mar 26, £20,

O Science City Lates

Experiment with a camera obscura, get acquainted with a plague doctor and join a silent disco at this late exploring how London grew from a small city into a global hub for scientific enquiry.

- → Science Museum.
- → South Kensington. Wed Feb 26. Free.

EXPERIENCE

See stories of Grenfell and Notting Hill Carnival explored through art at this month-long grassroots festival celebrating the Portobello area. There'll be a mix of installations, street art and theatre. This week see 'XXIV', a dance piece exploring highrise council estates.

→ Various Incations Thu Feb 27-Mar 27. Free.

JOIN IN

The Sweaty **Betty Express**

The sports brand and Frame take over KX's concourse for some high-energy flashmobstyle workouts.

- → King's Cross station.
- ↔ King's Cross. Sat Feb 29. £5.

Ready Singer One

Self-dubbed 'London's nerdiest choir'. this singing troupe belt out tunes from videogames, films, TV shows and anime. Fingers crossed for the Mariotheme.

- → Address on request.
- → Aldgate East. Wed Feb 26, Free

PARTY

House of Yacht Volume One

DJs The Have Yachts will be lounging around the decks for

this party dedicated tosmooth '80s rock (like Hall &

Oates to Steely Dan) for a nautical crowd.

- → Orford House.
- → Walthamstow Central. Fri Feb 28, £3,

Buy Art. Drink Beer. Do Good

Sip on Northern Monk brews, watch street art being made and bid for a masterpiece in the auction at this charity fundraiser.

→ Kill the Cat. ← Aldgate East. Sat Feb 29. Free entry.

POP! Festival

53



TIME OUT MEETS

Elisabeth Moss

'The Invisible Man' star on embracing the darkness and battling Aussie arachnids

'NO ONE WANTS to watch me having brunch on a sunny day in a movie,' says Elisabeth Moss in a suitably shadowy corner of a Hollywood soundstage. Sure enough, she has become a go-to pick for movies and TV shows with a darker edge - including the new horror adaptation of HG Wells's 'The Invisible Man'. Set in San Francisco, it reimagines the villain from Universal Pictures' old monster movie as a modern-day stalker who torments his ex (Moss) - even after his apparent suicide. Invisible antagonists are a theme of our chat, right down the terrifying spider in her on-set trailer.

On set, is the movie's unseen monster a tennis ball on a stick? Someone in a green suit?

'Sometimes it would be [the stunt double] in green suits, sometimes it would be nothing. A lot was just me and my imagination.'

The original 'Invisible Man' was bent on chaos, whereas this movie seems to be more about control. That feels very contemporary.

'Extremely. The balance in this movie is between straight-up entertainment and this extremely complicated emotional character arc. I watched it by myself and I jumped, like, nine times. It's legitimately gonna fuck people up.'

If you remove this homicidal invisible guy, it's a movie about abusive relationships, right?

'Exactly that. When I first read the script, I was so impressed with what Leigh [Whannell, the writer-director] had done. You don't think: Let's do "The Invisible Man" and Let's make it a feminist retelling of the story that's about gaslighting and abuse but that's what he did. Everyone has had some sort of experience with this—whether it's politically or it's when

you're thinking: This is wrong and everyone is like, "No, it's fine."

Does that familiarity help you with a role?

'I'm cool either way. Like for [indie drama] "Her Smell" I have zero relation to grunge music and zero relation to being a rock star and I don't do drugs. So, I'm comfortable going from scratch.'

What movies scare you the most?

'Jordan [Peele's] films like "Get Out" and "Us". He's really redefining a genre [by making] thoughtful popcorn movies. They're movies that you're gonna see in the theatre and get the shit scared out of you, but but at the same time you might talk about them or think about them after you leave. The characters are always interesting in them.'





Tale' has become this powerful

protest symbol. How do you feel

 $\hbox{`It's really incredible, honestly, to}\\$

be part of anything where the

at work - becomes an instantly

recognisable[symbol] of what you

stand for and what side you're on.'

costume that you wear - the uniform that you actually wear

about that?

The 100 best horror films at timeout.com/film

Does it put more pressure on you?

'Oh, in the best way. That's exactly what we want - that is what we're standing for. It's not pressure; it's completely welcome.'

I've read that every actor got to keep

'We looted the place. It was fucking pillaged. I have my typewriter and my red thermos, which I carried everywhere. [But] the most important thing I have is this cheap ring that I wore in every single episode.'

did you get involved with that?

Murray about the [Chicago] Cubs."

You shot 'The Invisible Man' in Australia. Any terrifying spider encounters?

'I stepped on one. It's called a wolf spider - luckily it was a baby. I was walking back from the bathroom and it was dark, and I was just in my bare feet. I had a picture of the dead spider and I showed it to everybody on set. The job for the day was figuring out what kind of fucking spider it was.'■

→ 'The Invisible Man' opens Fri Feb 28.



By Michael Juliano Who is terrified of all invisible and otherwise.

something from the 'Mad Men' set.

You're in the new Wes Anderson movie, 'The French Dispatch'. How

'Wes actually emailed me and asked me to do it. I was like: "Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes!" Luckily, I had a couple days off[from 'The Handmaid's Tale'] and was able to go to France. It's a very small part, but it was really cool. Igot to talk baseball with Bill Murray. I immediately texted my mom and was like: "Oh my God, I talked to Bill

WHAT IS IT...

HG Wells's sci-fi novel gets a horror spin for the #MeToo era.

WHY GO.

Elisabeth Moss is on top form as a very modern scream queen.

Director Leigh Whannell (TBC) TBC mins.



The Invisible Man



A #METOO HORROR film that couldn't be any more timely if it shuffled into a courtroom with a Zimmer frame, 'The Invisible Man' retools HG Wells's seminal sci-fi novel into a tart statement on toxic men and their gaslighting ways. It's not flawless – the supporting characters are thinly sketched and intrepid plotholers will have a field day – but it's surprisingly smart and, crucially, it has Elisabeth Moss to cover the bits that aren't.

Moss can pull off Joan Crawford brittle and Sigourney Weaver badass, and she holds it all together as Cecilia, an architect traumatised by her abusive tech entrepreneur husband, Adrian Griffin (Oliver Jackson-Cohen). Within the opening moments, she's drugged him, scaled the walls of their modernist seaside slab and legged it. Soon, Griffin is reported dead by suicide. But is he? And why have things started going bump in the night? Is there a Hubbadook at large, tormenting her

from beyond the grave?

Aussie writer-director Leigh Whannell ('Saw'), doubling Sydney for San Francisco, is a natural fit for the material. 'The Invisible Man' is respectful to the classic Universal monster movie with which it shares its name (look out for a cameo from those trademark bandages), but this is no reverential retread. It has ideas of its own, specifically around the way an abusive relationship can turn a life into a prison.

Its greatest coup, though, is in gaslighting the entire audience. You'll find yourself scouring the frame for this malign force in the tiniest refraction of light. Whannell knows you're doing it, too, and lets scenes go on so long, you start to doubt your own eyes. There shouldn't be any doubting the magnetic Moss, though: she's the real deal. ■ Phil de Semlyen

Portrait of a Lady on Fire



CÉLINE SCIAMMA IS one of the most exciting young French filmmakers around: her 'Water Lilies', 'Tomboy' and 'Girlhood' are all intimate, intense studies of young girls or young women at points of profound change. Those earlier films were all contemporary, realist tales. Now, with 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire', she has crafted a powerfully original story of art and love, almost entirely set on a Breton island in the eighteenth century, and one that operates on the level of a radical, painterly reverie - just somewhere to the left of reality. It's Sciamma's most cerebral and challenging work to date, and one that's full of ideas about artists and muses, the female gaze and solidarity. It feels stately and quiet at first, and you wonder if it might end up being too polite, too controlled. But it harbours a rising passion that's devastating when it bursts into life.

It begins with Marianne (Noémie Merlant) teaching an art class that throws us into an extended flashback to a pivotal moment in her life that takes up almost the entire film. We see her being rowed by a boatful of men to a remote island: she's a professional painter for hire, and she's arriving there to paint Héloïse (Adèle Haenel), a young woman whose mother wants a portrait of her to send to her prospective husband, an aristocrat in Milan.

Already one painter has come and gone. Marianne's challenge is to get Héloïse to sit for her during the time they live in close quarters in her family home, talking walks on the stormy beach or in the nearby dunes. Marianne does get her subject to sit for her – but what happens is far

WHAT IS IT...
A story of forbidden love in eighteenth-century Brittany.

WHY GO...
It's a romantic late Valentine's treat.

Director Céline Sciamma (15) 122 min

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more interesting than just superficial success, as a growing bond develops between them that's reflected in the curious development of the paintings. A bond emerges, too, with the only other person left in the house when Héloïse's mother travels away: a servant, Sophie (Luàna Bajrami), who gets help from both women when a crisis emerges in her life.

'Portrait' might be set in the 1770s but it feels totally contemporary and relevant in its energy and in what it says about art and who's making it, and how that affects how we view the world and each other. It's also an intensely moving evocation of female love and friendship, without ever being coy or unnecessarily erotic. It's bold and proud. One of the many winning things about this film is that it exists in a wider world dominated by the desires and rules of men but Sciamma strips men out of the film almost entirely, apart from during its bookends. It's deeply romantic and also deeply thoughtful – an electric combination.

Dave Calhoun

THREE QUESTIONS FOR Céline Sciamma

The French director of 'Tomboy' and 'Girlhood' enters adult territory with period romance 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire'. She shares its story

When did you first conceive this story?

"Girlhood". I wanted to devote a whole film to a love story. My films have mostly been about the rise of desire as the discovery of oneself. Now it was all about crafting this love dialogue around equality, and the sexiness of consent. I think this is timeless and it belongs to today.'

Why did you decide to set the film in the eighteenth century? 'People who don't like the film say: "Oh, it's lacking conflict. We don't see the problem of homosexuality enough." I didn't set it in the past to push the forbidden side of it because it's still forbidden.



I mean, [homosexuality is] not super-welcome today. This movie is all about equality and how things can be surprising because there's no gender, age or intellectual domination – and we're not playing with social domination either.'

Lesbian sex scenes are often censored more harshly. Did that worry you?

'I never think about that. [For]
"Tomboy" I had to create suspense with a Play-Doh penis. It's not a film designed for kids, but I wanted them to see it – and they have. The film's running in schools and 200,000 kids have seen it, which is amazing. You have to be fearless.' ■

Interview by Hanna Flint

Color out of Space



WHAT IS IT...

An HP Lovecraft adaptation full of sci-fi weirdness and wonders.

WHY GO..

Nicolas Cage milks an alpaca.

Director Richard Stanley (15) 106 mins.



THIS HP LOVECRAFT adaptation from Richard Stanley ('Hardware') plays like 'The War of the Worlds' on ayahuasca. A meteor crashes and something alien emerges... only these minds are immeasurably more psychedelic than HG Wells's fighty spacemen. Trees mutate, new flora sprouts and the well starts talking. Somehow it's an hour before anyone asks: 'What the hell is going on?'

It's a good question, though not one you're invited to linger over. The trip is the point here, even if Stanley takes his time building up to it as he introduces Nathan and Theresa Gardner (Nicolas Cage and Joely Richardson) and their three kids. They've swapped the big city for the sticks where Theresa is recovering from a mastectomy and Nathan is farming alpacas.

So far, so Country Life. Then the meteor hits and kaleidoscopic mayhem breaks out. Stanley brings real craft and control to all the gonzo grandeur, aided by a corking score from saxophonist Colin Stetson. There's even a nod to SFX legend Rob Bottin's creature work - a mutated cherry on top for horror fans.

Everyone else will be busy savouring vintage Cage line readings ('Now if you don't mind, it's time we milk the AI. Paac. AHHHS!') and the ultra-vivid visuals. It takes a lot for a movie to outbonkers Cage on this kind of form. 'Color out of Space' manages it in style. ■ Phil de Semlyen

★★★★ True History of the **Kelly Gang**



The mostly true story of legendary Aussie outlaw Ned Kelly.

VHY GO.

Russell Crowe is great as a beefy bushranger.

Director Justin Kurzel (18) 125 mins.



AUSTRALIA'S ANSWER TO Robin Hood or Jesse James, Ned Kelly has had almost as many screen depictions as that pair down the years. There's been the silent one (1906's 'The Story of the Kelly Gang'), the serious one ('Ned Kelly' with Heath Ledger), the funny one ('Ned') and the accidentally funny one ('Ned Kelly' with Mick Jagger). Now comes the trippy, frustrating one.

Director Justin Kurzel looks to coax an origin story of national identity from Peter Carey's Booker Prize-winning novel. As in his brilliant 'Snowtown', Kurzel is a master of slow-brewing tensions. Early on, this edge stems from Kelly's formidable mum (Essie Davis, superb) and a young Ned facing off against a British sergeant; later, it's Nicholas Hoult's odious constable and George McKay's grown-up Ned. A gleeful Russell Crowe makes off with the middle bit as a highwayman who shows Ned the ropes.

It's all heading somewhere special as Kelly muses on masculinity and colonialism, but then coherence gives way to flashy visuals and bursts of expressionistic violence. A nocturnal shootout is strobed like a rock gig, but all the showiness blunts the film's thinky edge. The climax is a punky, Peckinpah-like splurge that jettisons the emotion and power in a hail of lead. ■ Phil de Semlyen

BOOK NOW

London's premier queer film fest



BFI Flare is back for another year of top-notch LGBTQ+ cinema. Highlights of the bumper line-up include 'Steelers', a documentary about the world's first gay rugby club, and hilarious-looking romcom 'Ellie & Abbie (& Ellie's Dead Aunt)'. Also don't forget the fest's reliably brilliant club nights.

→ BFI Southbank. ↔ Waterloo. www.bfi.org.uk. Mar 18-29. Prices vary.

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WATCH **PORTRAIT OF** A LADY ON FIRE

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Céline Sciamma (TOMBOY) turns the male gaze over its head to present its female version: a feminist tale of lesbian desire, aching romanticism, and creative collaboration.







ALSO OPENING



DARK WATERS

This meaty legal drama feels like a less inspired version of an idea director Todd Haynes already explored in 'Safe': am I being poisoned? There's not a single zinger from Mark Ruffalo as reallife attorney Rob Bilott, a lawyer for polluting chemical giant DuPont who becomes its prosecutor. He can't match his fiery 'Spotlight' form, while Anne Hathaway is wasted as his wife. It's solid enough as a legal procedural, though it never feels like the radical, subversive Haynes who made 'Carol'. Joshua Rothkopf



DOWNHILL

A surgical dissection of male ego, Swedish drama 'Force Majeure' gets a broader, Hollywood redo. During a skiing holiday, Pete (Will Ferrell) flees from a controlled avalanche, leaving his wife Billie (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) and their sons behind. Can they shake the incident off as the cracks begin to appear? Sadly, the original's balance of subtle comedy and darker moments isn't here and, one 11-minute confrontation aside, the tension is sapped by the oversharing characters. Zachary Shevich



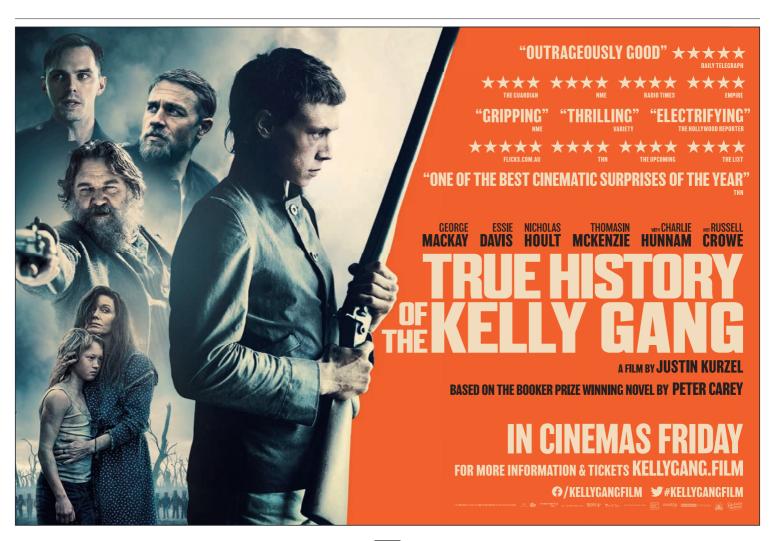
VILLAIN

'Villain' may look like an exercise in Laandan gangsterism, as Craig Fairbrass is released from prison to find his useless brother in debt to the wrong people. But by playing it straight, it avoids campy Guy Ritchie clichés. No one's called 'Mr Fish Finger' and there are no cards saying stuff like 'Chapter 4: The Blag'. Instead, there's pathos, nods to gentrification, and a sense of a man out of time. It feels like modernday London: diverse, scared of the young, scared of getting old. And not a slo-mo bit in sight. Chris Waywell



PUSH

The world's poor are being pushed out of cities by corporate speculation on housing. That's the premise of 'Push', an enlightening if lethargic doc. It follows a UN investigator as she meets witnesses to the crisis. The tenants are eloquent, passionate and doomed; the experts are woolly, apart from economist Joseph Stiglitz. 'They're not intrinsically evil,' he says of subprime-hoovering private equity firms. 'But they are intrinsically amoral. So amoral that I would say they are... evil.' *Chris Waywell*



Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic



Reunited and it feels so good

Enormous bands from across the genre spectrum are re-teaming for 2020 tours. Here's the lowdown

Supergrass →

Years away: 10

Why now? Drummer Danny Goffey says it's 'the first time that we collectively felt the buzz to get back in a room together and play the songs'. We say: it's never too soon – or too late – for any Britpop revival.

Worth it? The Oxford band have more hits than you might remember, including ten UK Top 20s, so their huge shows at Alexandra Palace on March 6 and 7 should be more than 'Alright'.

My Chemical Romance

Years away: 7

Why now? Let's call it the seven-year itch coupled with an altruistic desire to return jet-black eyeliner to the world's biggest venues.

Worth it? Their legions of fans clearly thinkso—

Worth it? Their legions of fans clearly think so – a trio of shows at the 30,000-capacity Stadium MK in Milton Keynes on June 18, 20 and 21 have already sold out.



Pussycat Dolls Years away: 10 Why now? No real reason, tbh. Maybe Nicole Scherzinger just fancied slipping into her dancing shoes again? Worth it? Come on, don't cha wish more pop stars had moves like this lot? The group's reunion shows at The 02 on April 17 and 18 will be a dazzlingly choreographed blast from the past. New single 'React' is a banger too.

JLS

Years away: 7

Why now? Let's be honest, all boybands get back together eventually, and Aston, JB, Marvin and Oritsé need to get in on the act before One Direction decide to reform.

Worth it? One hundred percent. They've called it the 'Beat Again' tour after their signature hit, and their hometown shows at The O2 on December 1, 3 and 10 are bound to be a nostalgic pop-R&B delight.

Pavement

Years away: 10

Why now? Stephen Malkmus and the gang are reconvening to celebrate the band's thirtieth anniversary – they're only slightly late, since their debut EP came out in 1989.

Worth it? Well, their reunion shows are certainly exclusive. They're only playing two dates: at Primavera Sound in Barcelona on June 4 and NOS Primavera Sound in Porto on June 13.

Rage Against The Machine

Years away: 9

Why now? They've given no specific reason, but the raprockers are well known for their revolutionary and antiauthoritarian views, so their bombastic bangers should strike a chord in 2020's highly polarised political climate. If you want to vent some rage, they're here to help you do it. Worth it? For sure. They're headlining Reading and Leeds festivals on August 28-30, which is absolutely the perfect place to see big, brash and loud RATM smash it this, or indeed any, year. ■



By Nick Levine Who can't dance like a Pussycat Doll, but gives it a go anyway.

Don't hold your breath...

Bands who seem destined never to reform

The Maccabees

Having split after 14 years in 2016 with major farewell shows, lead Macca Orlando Weeks has since become a writer of children's fiction.

Destiny's Child

Sure, Beyoncé brought out Kelly and Michelle during 2013's Super Bowl halftime show. But can you picture a full-scale reunion?

Girls Aloud

Nicola Roberts has said she'd love a twentieth anniversary tour in 2022. But will her bandmates agree?

Oasis

Remember them? A reunion could in theory happen... if squabbling siblings Liam and Noel ever bury the hatchet.

Elastica

MIA tried to reunite the Britpop band for Meltdown in 2017, but singer Justine Frischmann said no. She's a successful painter now.



RIPAndrew Weatherall

Music & Nightlife editor *Oliver Keens* reflects on the passing of a towering London music legend



TIME OUT TURNED 51 last year. I've worked here about ten of those years now. After a while, you get used to certain names flowing in and out of the magazine, like a neighbour's cat cruising charmingly through your garden. They're in listings, they're feverishly name checked in interviews, they're used as sonic references, they're held up as masters of their craft. This was the case with Andrew Weatherall, who died last week. It was *impossible* to keep him out of Time Out.

Since he passed away last Monday at Whipps Cross Hospital, many have joyously shared his studio work online and drawn comfort from a body of recorded music that will thankfully last forever: pivotal work with Primal Scream that brought Balearica to Bradford and the rest of the UK, releases as part of Two Lone Swordsmen, The Sabres Of Paradise and The Asphodells, a weight of remixes on his labels Boy's Own Recordings and Rotters Golf Club.

But a strange thing happens when a great DJ dies. That side of their genius really does all go in an instant, just like that. That magic power to make a room fizzle with excitement, that

shamanic ability to be witch grown humans with nothing but sounds. Gone.

His last London date was on New Year's Eve, a five-hour set at Hackney Wick's Mick's Garage. It's a lovely venue, but decidedly modest for a man of his immense standing: a founding father of the acid house movement and pretty much every indie fan's fayourite D.L. ever.

But that was his thing. He very clearly eschewed the life of a superstar DJ and the bland megagigs it entails. He chose to constantly ply his craft in small, intimate places instead. He played the teeny-tiny Horse Meat Disco in December, for example (with fellow DJ Artwork helping on lights, randomly). He was due to play the insanely small Margate Arts Club in April too. Such gigs were oversubscribed beyond belief, but for those lucky attendees, they were able to chat and share passions with their hero in a human way that seems unimaginable with most DJs.

When a great DJ dies, that side of their genius really does all go in an instant, just like that

Having crawled from the fertile ooze of the '80s rave explosion, Weatherall largely walked away from electronic music in the early 2000s to become a rockabilly nut. But he folded himself back into the scene with A Love from Outer Space – a nomadic party run with Sean Johnston that locked into a permanently slow, narcotic

electronic groove and became a genuinely loving community of friends and hypnotised fans.

It's been pointed out that, spookily, you can still see the man on Google Street View – walking purposefully up Kingsland Road, looking customarily fantastic in smart brown shoes, widelegged camel-coloured trousers and tats galore. It's just one of many perspectives on Andrew Weatherall – a street-pounding, eye-catching local London legend. He is survived by his partner, his family and about 7 million children of the acid-house revolution. Rest in peace. ■







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DeedeedeeRee









WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

Lynks Afrikka

So you're trying to get me to listen to a man named after a deodorant?

Technically, yes, but much like the pongy locker room favourite, this Bristol musician is going to be iconic. FYI, his two live backing singers are called Lynks Shower Gel ('You might remember us from your Christmas box sets!'), so you'd better get used to the whole name thing.

Does he sound anything like he smells?

Absolutely not. Rather than awkwardly masking the hormones of teenage boys, Lynks is bold, queer, unashamedly hilarious and stupid amounts of fun. Sonically, he somehow mashes up club beats, chanty bratty Shampoo-style pop, weird squelchy electro and – on one song – a sample from the Headspace app.

Um, what?

'On Trend' pauses its spiralling social anxiety with that knowing nod, but skewering concepts and turning the confusion of everyday life on its head is very much Lynks's thing. 'I Don't Know What I Want' is an increasingly frenetic clatter of millennial angst, and 'Str8 Acting' rails against the often-reductive presentation of queer culture, cloaking it in the guise of a piss-taking club banger ('Drinking cold, cold beer in a hot, straight club') It's a lot like a pub, but with slightly less chairs'). 'How to Make a Béchamel Sauce in 10 Steps', meanwhile, is... well, exactly that. But to music.

We're guessing the live show is a calm and sedate affair...

Oh, totally, if by 'calm and sedate' you mean 'a masked man in a cheerleader Barbie outfit doing sick synchronised choreo with his two pals'. At a London show earlier this year, he even brought a piñata. Now, that's entertainment. ■ Lisa Wright → Lynks Afrikka plays the Tooting Tram and Social on Sat Feb 29.

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











ROUNDHOUSE.ORG.UK - EVENTIM.CO.UK
TICKETMASTER.CO.UK - SEETICKETS.COM - GIGANTIC.COM

GIGS AND CLUBS

Jessie Reyez

The super-talented singer-songwriter who co-wrote Calvin Harris and Dua Lipa's hit 'One Kiss' has announced a headline show.

→ 02 Shepherd's Bush Empire.

→ 02 Shepherd's Bush Empire. May 13.

Jack Peñate

South London troubadour follows comeback album 'After You' with a hometown show at new venue Lafayette. → Lafayette. May 27.

George Clinton

The visionary
ParliamentFunkadelic frontman
swings by Kentish
Town as part of his
global farewell tour.
→ 02 Forum. Jun 1.

Damon Albarn

After his Barbican gig sold out, the Blur and Gorillaz muso has announced a second London show for 'The Nearer the Fountain, More Pure the Stream Flows', his new project inspired by Iceland's natural beauty.

→ London Palladium. Jun 3.

Party on the Heath with Pride in London

This brand new LGBTQ+ pop celebration will feature a fortieth anniversary show from Village People (with original singer Victor Willis) plus Sophie Ellis-Bextor performing with Sink The Pink.

→ Kenwoood House. Jun 18.





Hideaway Festival

This new event in Essex on the old V Festival site has a family-friendly vibe and two legendary headliners: Tom Jones and his hulahooping namesake Grace Jones.

→ Hylands Park, Chelmsford. Aug 14-16.

Bright Eyes

After a nine-year hiatus, Conor Oberst and co are back and embarking on a world tour featuring this $sizeable\,\bar{London}\,show.$ → Eventim Apollo. Sep 1.

Purity Ring

The brilliantly offbeat electropop duo have booked their first UK gig in five years. It's in

support of new album 'Womb', due April 3. → Roundhouse. Sep 18.

Alanis Morissette

Her O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire show on March 4 is sold out, but the 'Jagged Little Pill'singer has just announced a much bigger gig at The O2. You oughta know that tickets go on sale on Friday at 9am. → The 02. Sep 28.

Oh Wonder

The melodic indiepop duo have booked their biggest London headline gig to date as part of their 'Wear Your Crown' tour. Be ready when tickets go on sale on Friday at 9am.

→ 02 Academy Brixton. Dec 2.











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In a nutshell...

A shiny, 220-cap basement venue from the teams behind Peckham's Four Quarters and Bermondsey Social Club.

Where is it?

Next to the Bussey Building complex, a stone's throw from Peckham Rye station.

What's the vibe?

Accessed via a steep staircase on Peckham's bustling Rye Lane, it should feel dingier than it is, but actually occupies a rather decent basement space. If you're not on the modestly sized dancefloor, there are fancy neon-lit booths around the perimeter to have a breather.

All very sophisticated.

What makes it a great venue?

It's a basement room that avoids all the pitfalls of most basement



Read about more venues at timeout.com/music

rooms. The sound is top-notch, the audience space for shows is enclosed while the balcony that runs around three walls means you'll never be squashed at the back, struggling to get a glimpse of the stage. It's got an intimate feel, where punters can see the artist up-close.

What's the booze situation?

As well as an extensive cocktail list, there are craft beers from Beavertown and beyond on tap – no watery lagers in sight.

What's coming up there soon?

Check out Peckham Audio's full listings on their website – there's everything from Grime MC Novelist to post-punkers Phobophobes and a house and disco night from rising Peckham promoters Dots. ■

Will Richards

→ Peckham Audio, 133 Rye Lane, SE15 4ST. Peckham Rye Overground.

Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre

SHOW OF THE WEEK

Shakespeare in LOL

'The Upstart Crow'



I MADE IT approximately ten minutes into the pilot episode of the Ben Elton-penned David Mitchell vehicle 'Upstart Crow before being unable to take it any more. So you could say that I came to this inexplicably definitearticled stage version of their Shakespeare sitcom with a doubt or two.

But whether it's an improvement in quality, me mellowing in my old age, or simple Stockholm syndrome from being stuck in a theatre with it for two-and-a-half hours, 'The Upstart Crow' grew on me.

It doesn't start well: all cheap populist laughs about the variable quality of Shakespeare's plays (by all means make a coherent argument about why you think'Measure for Measure' is shit, but

if you go for the king, you'd better kill the king, and Elton's script absolutely does not kill the king).

With the cast almost entirely made up of returnees from the telly, the early scenes are fairly dependent upon you knowing who everyone is, with big rounds of walk-on

applause for Gemma Whelan's Kate and Rob Rouse's Ned. That everyone says 'futtock' when they mean 'fuck' is irritating to the point of distraction. The 'joke' that Shakespeare's daughters have OTT Midlands accents is lazy and contemptible (it's hard to imagine any other accent being mocked this way in 2020). There are discussions about race, sexuality and gender that are probably well-meaning but come across a bit

'OK boomer'. And

yet...the tittering



The cast is a who's who of Brit comedy talent.

Buy tickets at timeout.com/

tickets

Gielgud Theatre. → Piccadilly Circus, Until Apr 25. £15-£127.50.

Shakespeare-bashing is largely confined to the start, and Elton ends up weaving a somewhat endearing tribute to the Bard, as the plot - which very loosely follows the events triggered by a pair of shipwrecked African royals ariving intown-becomes a knowing mashup of 'Twelfth Night', 'King Lear', 'Othello' and 'The Winter's Tale'. It's maybe not quite as dazzlingly crafted as that sounds - it's no, um, 'Shakespeare in Love' - but it has both a formal ambition $and \, ultimate \, fondness \, for \, its \, subject \,$ that count for something. Toss in some agreeable silliness with a man in a bear suit, a wonderful turn from Mark Heap as a self-denying puritan and a fistful of genuinely good gags and you have a fun night, smoothly





directed by stage-comedy supremo Sean Foley.

It would be remiss not to talk about star David Mitchell, although it's fairly inconceivable that you couldn't guess how he plays it. Despite being responsible for one of the greatest comedy performances in history (that would be the impossibly neurotic Mark Corrigan from 'Peep Show'), Mitchell's subsequent, panel-show-heavy career suggests a man unwilling to leave his comfort zone. The fact that he makes his West End debut reprising a sitcom character reinforces this. Still, he's more confident and charismatic than one might expect from a relative stage novice, and he's not bad with the chunks of 'Lear' he has to perform - a further stage career is

 $there\,if\,he's\,game\,for\,the\,challenge.$

The extremely obvious point that I have been circling around is that if you enjoy 'Upstart Crow' you'll surely enjoy 'The Upstart Crow', and if you don't enjoy 'Upstart Crow' the odds are fairly low that you'd make any effort to see 'The Upstart Crow'. But if it's not great art – it's not even the greatest postmodern Shakespeare tribute in the West End: that's '& Juliet' – it's fairly winning. I was worried Mitchell, Elton et al came to lazily bury Shakespeare, but in fact they rather sweetly come to praise him.



By Andrzej Łukowski Who might change his name to The Andrzej Łukowski.



A Number



CARYL CHURCHILL'S SHORT, sharp 2002 masterpiece 'A Number' has always had a sci-fi air to it: it is, after all, about a father being confronted by multiple clones of his son.

But where its original run – starring Michael Gambon and Daniel Craig, no less – came with the assumption that Churchill was writing in response to the cloning of Dolly the Sheep, a couple of decades' distance here is handy.

They allow for this production from Polly Findlay, who virtually treats 'A Number' as a kitchen-sink drama. Yes, it is still about Salter (Roger Allam), a man who is visited by a series of versions of his son Bernard (Colin Morgan). But 'A Number' benefits from not being tied into distracting contemporary events.

Allam's Salter is a disarmingly gentle man with a soft south-east accent and a nondescript suburban home. He seems genuinely remorseful at the way he's lived his life, often unable to look the various permutations of his son in the eye.

And yet he lies and manipulates. In the first scene, Salter tells a traumatised Bernard that he was the original. In the next, Salter is confronted by a far more menacing Bernard, who turns out to be the true original, who Salter abandoned as an infant, deciding that he would start over instead.

In Findlay's production, 'A Number' is very clearly a play about fatherhood: the damage parents do to their children, and the irresponsibility of trying to run away from them. Allam's Salter does not obviously seem like a monster (although there are hints that maybe he was). But he abandoned his son over and over again, in almost exquisitely cruel fashion, and 'A Number' explores the terrible consequences. ■ Andrzej Łukowski

Caryl Churchill's cloning drama, starring Roger Allam and Colin Morgan.

NHY GO...

It's an incredibly moving take, powered by Allam's performance.

→ Bridge Theatre.
 ← London Bridge.
 Until Mar 14. £15-£75.

ALSO OPENING



BE MORE CHILL

£19.50-£87.50.

This Broadway import is a puzzler. It's a new musical-theatre phenomenon that's been winning the hearts of digital native Gen Zers. But its retro story, aesthetic, sounds and social politics are all stuck somewhere between the invention of Pac-Man and the release of 'Dookie'. It's fun, but 'Dear Evan Hansen' and 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' are proof that you can make musicals about teenage boys that are smart and subtle. 'Be More Chill' is not. Alice Saville

→ The Other Palace. O Victoria. Until May 3.



PASS OVER

Antoinette Nwandu's 'Pass Over' is like a radical rewriting of Samuel Beckett's 'Waiting for Godot' with Vladimir and Estragon switched for two young black men, Moses and Kitch, who pass repetitive days on a street corner. But while Nwandu echoes Beckett's blend of sharp comedy and utter despair, there is one major difference. Beckett's tramps existed inside a vacuum; Nwandu's young men are grounded in a reality that's horrifically recognisable. Rosemary Waugh → Kiln Theatre ↔ Kilburn. Until Mar 21. £15-£32.50.



MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

The last time hip hop and the music of Sting coincided in any significant manner was when P Diddy turned 'Every Breath You Take' into 'I'll Be Missing You'. But Kate Prince, the powerhouse behind the ZooNation hip hop dance troupe, is a fan, and this dance-theatre show is a passion project. Sting's earnest sociopolitical leanings lend themselves to a story about the refugee crisis. But there's a by-numbers feel to the plot, and little emotional connection. Siobhan Murphy

→ Peacock Theatre. ↔ Holborn. Until Mar 21. £14-£79.



LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

This is not 'La Cage aux Folles' the musical. If you are expecting 'I Am What I Am', just hum it quietly to yourself. This is adapted by Simon Callow from Jean Poiret's original 1973 play. While there's definitely drag involved, sans show tunes and jazzy choreography you're left with a more bitter aftertaste. Director Jez Bond is careful to have us laughing with the gay characters on stage, rather than at them, even if the farce loses its way towards the end of the second half. *Tom Wicker*

→ Park Theatre. ← Finsbury Park. Until Mar 21. £18.50-£32.50.

EXTRA WEEK ADDED FOR THE RECORD BREAKING LONDON RUN!



NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Pretty Woman: The Musical

The vintage romcomturned-musical hits London after a shaky start on Broadway.

- → Piccadilly Theatre.
- → Piccadilly Circus.
 Until Jan 2 2021. £20-£234.

The Prince of Egypt

Stephen Schwartz is dusting the Egyptian sands from his 1998 Dreamworks movie to make this ambitious new Biblical musical.

- ightarrow Dominion Theatre.
- → Tottenham Court Rd.
 Until Sep 12. £19.50-£149.50.

Women Beware Women

Thomas Middleton's brutal tragedy of sexual intrigue.

- \rightarrow Shakespeare's Globe.
- → Blackfriars. Until Apr 18. £7-£62.

OFF-WEST END

Darkfield: Séance, Flight, Coma

A trio of mindblowing, tech-heavy immersive shows, each set in a pitch-black shipping container.

- → Lewis Cubitt Square.

IThink We Are Alone

Physical theatre dons Frantic Assembly stage Sally Abbott's look at loneliness.

- → Theatre Royal Stratford East.
- → Stratford. Tue Feb 25-Mar 21. £10-£44.

Love, Loss & Chianti

Robert Bathurst ('Cold Feet') stars in a duo of plays by poet Christopher Reid.

- → Riverside Studios.
- → Hammersmith.

Tue Feb 25-May 17. £30-£37.50, £25 concs.

Meat

Gillian Greer's play follows a couple who meet for dinner, and chew over their issues.

→ Theatre 503. Clapham Junction rail. Until Mar 14. £17-£18,£5-£12 concs.

The Spirit

Belgian artist Thibault Delferiere's boundarypushing solo show.

→ Battersea Arts Centre.

Clapham Junction rail. Thu Feb

27-Mar 14. £10-£12.50.

United Queendom

Les Enfants Terribles take over Kensington Palace with a tale of two subversive eighteenthcentury women.

- → Kensington Palace.
- → Queensway. Fri Feb 28-Mar 30. £35-£49,£35-£39 concs.

grimly funny Beckett play. The Old Vic. Until Mar 28.

TOP-SELLING

TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 Endgame

Daniel Radcliffe stars in this

2 9 to 5 the Musical Arhinestone-studded kitschfest from Dolly Parton.

> Shaftesbury Theatre. Until Jul 4.

3 Leopoldstadt

Is it Tom Stoppard last play?

→ Wyndham's Theatre. Until Jun 13.

4 Uncle Vanya

Toby Jones lights up a classic.

Harold Pinter Theatre. Until May 2.

5 Hamilton

Mega-hit hop hop musical.

> Victoria Palace Theatre. Until Aug 1.

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TIMEOUT.COM/ PICCADILLYCHAMBER





Multi-award-winning author Sebastian Barry's new play sees two inmates explore survival, forgiveness and love. Niall Buggy and David Ganly take the stage at Trafalgar Studios for this highly anticipated play. Best available tickets are just £25.

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timeout.com/comedy

TIME OUT MEETS

Steve Martin and Martin Short

Why see one US comedy legend when you can see two? The screen and stand-up titans join forces for a new tour

THEY MET ON the set of '¡Three Amigos!' way back 1986 and they've been fast friends ever since. Now, 34 years on, Steve Martin and Martin Short are talking down the line from New York and LA about their live double act, which has become a global box office hit and an Emmy-nominated Netflix special. The pair bring new show 'The Funniest Show in Town at the Moment' to London this month.

How did the live show come about?

Martin Short 'We were asked to interview each other at a comedy festival about six years ago, and we had such a great time doing it we thought: Oh, let's do it again. And then it morphed into a more thought-out show.'

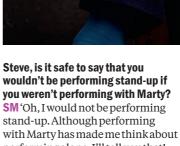
Steve Martin 'Marty used the word "morphed" but I would use the word "evolved". But that's just the difference between him and me.'

You've known each other for more than three decades. How has your friendship 'morphed' or 'evolved'?

SM 'Ithink Marty likes me more than I like him, but that's fine.'
MS 'No, I wouldn't say that's true.
I know Steve's strengths and I know his many, many weaknesses. I think it's safe to say he tolerates me.'
SM 'Not only "safe", it's accurate.'

How do you find performing as a double act?

SM 'Oh, for me it's a huge relief!
I always found working alone
isolating and lonely.'
MS 'What's fun about the shows
is you're constantly trying new
things, new lines, new ideas, and
sometimes you just bomb. And
if you bomb by yourself you have
to kind of live with that. But if you
bomb with someone else it becomes
a funny story over wine later.'
SM 'Or in Marty's case, over wines.'



stand-up. Although performing with Marty has made me think abou performing alone, I'll tell you that! No, I do actually prefer performing with somebody, and I think that'll probably be for the rest of my life – it just might be over in about an hour.'

Catherine O'Hara described the live show as 'a children's show for adults'. Do you agree with that? MS'Well, Ithink what I agree with

is it's so fun-filled, it's literally

wall-to-wall laughs. It's just nonstop and that's, I guess, what a children's show is.' **SM** 'And I agree that Catherine O'Hara said that.'

You're in London for a couple of nights. Is there anything you're looking forward to doing?

MS 'Thave many relatives there – there are many Shorts living in London – so I'll be seeing a lot of cousins.'

SM 'And me, I'm going to be there with my wife, and we like to go to galleries, we always like to go to the Tate.'





becomes

a funny

story'

More comedy listings at timeout.com/comedy

MS 'I didn't know you love to go to galleries and museums?'
SM 'Because I know it's the one place that Marty won't be.'

Are you disappointed not to get an invite, Marty?

MS 'Umm, not really. I'm not going to go into the hygiene reasons.'
SM 'But you have taught me one thing: I now brush my teeth at least once a week.'

MS 'Next week we're going to experiment with a word called "floss".'

Away from the hygiene, what do you most admire about each other?

SM 'Well, I actually just admire Marty as a person. I think he's hilariously funny, he's very family-orientated, he's kind but he's not weak. He can get mad – not at me, but appropriately when somebody crosses him. It's the way he gets even, that's the problem!

MS 'Steve is endlessly, endlessly creative, whether it's writing a play

creative, whether it's writing a plant or a book or a song.'

SM 'The only thing I don't really write are thank-you notes.'

MS 'But he's also a deeply kind, loyal, great friend, and that's more important than the other things.'

SM 'I don't know what "loyal" means.'

MS'No kidding!'

SM 'I don't know why that's a virtue, because you wouldn't be loyal to someone if they did something awful, or would you? Maybe I'm wrong!'

MS 'No one needs to analyse my answers!'

SM 'Don't worry, no one will.' ■ → Royal Albert Hall. ↔ South Kensington. Mar 14-15. £49.88-£190.



By Ben Williams Who still holds out hope for 'Father of the Bride Part III'.

TEN BEST GIGS

THIS MONTH

Mawaan Rizwan High-energy, eccentric work-in-progress from this fast-rising star and writer on Netflix's 'Sex Education'.

 \rightarrow The Bill Murray. \leftrightarrow Angel. Mar 24-26. £4-£7.

Amusical: 'Once More with Feeling'

The comedians-domusical-theatre take on that all-singing 'Buffy' episode.

→ Clapham Grand.

Clapham Junction Overground.

Mon Mar 2-Mar 3. £20.

Plosive Comedy in Dulwich

Reigning 'Taskmaster' champion Ed Gamble headlines with Desiree Burch, Adam Hess and Suzi Ruffell.

→ The MCT at Alleyn's. North Dulwich rail. Mar 27. £17.

Live at the Chapel

A doubleheadline bill with beerguzzling poet Tim Key and Edinburgh Comedy Award winner Bridget Christie.

→ Union Chapel. ↔ Highbury & Islington. Mar 7. £20.

The Blindboy Podcast

The plasticbag-wearing comedian – half of The Rubberbandits – brings his ace podcast to London.

→ Logan Hall. ↔ Russell Square. Mar 14. £35.20.

Dane Baptiste: 'The Chocolate Chip'

Sharp gags and social commentary from the 'Live at the Apollo' star. → Soho Theatre. ↔ Tottenham Court Rd. Mon Mar 2-Mar 14. £12.50-£21.50.

Luke McQueen: 'The Person Behind the Celebrity'

Ludicrously highconcept chat show.

→ Moth Club. Hackney Central
Overground. Mar 5, £11.

Stevie Martin: 'Hot Content'

A punchline-heavy look at social media from this comedian and journalist.

→ Soho Theatre. ← Tottenham Court Rd. Mar 5-7. £15-£16.50.

Tommy Tiernan: 'Tomfoolery'

Legendary Irish comic.

→ Eventim Apollo.

↔ Hammersmith. Mar 18.

£20-£27.75. Alexandra Palace.
Alexandra Palace rail. Mar 20.
£13.90.

1

Catherine Cohen: 'The Twist...? She's Gorgeous'

A first chance for Londoners to catch 2019's Edinburgh Comedy Awards Best Newcomer winner and her gloriously self-absorbed, heavily ironic cabaret.

ightarrow Bush Hall. ightarrow Shepherd's Bush Market. Mar 11-13. £18.50.



Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel timeout.com/art @timeoutart

Boys to men, and beyond

'Masculinities: Liberation Through Photography'



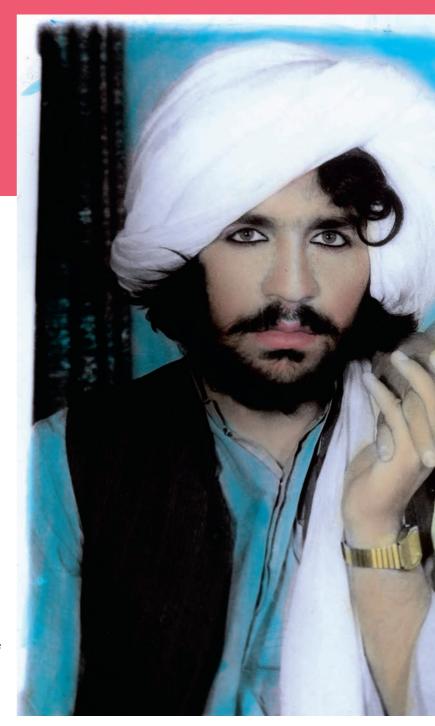
IF YOU THINK a show about masculinity should be full of images of guns and cowboys and beer and beards, then you're not going to be disappointed here. Unless you also want that show to be a celebration of those things, in which case you're in for a rough ride. Because this exhibition doesn't celebrate what it means to be a man, it undermines it, subverts it and totally reshapes it.

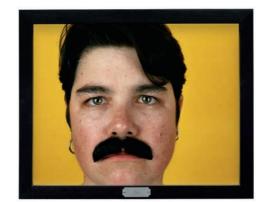
It's a sprawling, long show, with sprawling, long captions: it has a lot to say, and a lot to subvert. Think boys don't cry? Well, Bas Jan Ader films himself openly weeping in one of the show's standout works. Think the army is the greatest expression of heterosexuality there is? Well, Adi Nes stages scenes of soldiers in intimate, charged, erotic situations. Think only men have great facial hair? Well, Ana Mendieta and Catherine Opie's images of women

with hair glued on to their mushes have something to say about that.

The show is full of moments where ideas and ideals of masculinity are flipped and reversed. Some of it works better than others. Thomas Dworzak's collection of Taliban images nabbed from the backroom of a Kabul photography studio is brilliant: these supposedly terrifying men, sitting there with thick eyeliner, posing with flowers. Transgender Canadian artist Cassils documents their transformation into a bodybuilder, Annette Messager takes close-up photos of men's crotches in the street, Karen Knorr hilariously sneers at men in fancy London members' clubs. It's a constant process of poking, prodding and tearing apart.

The thing is, in its desperation to foreground alternative views of masculinity, the show fails to look at masculinity itself. You could argue





WHAT IS IT...

An alternative view of manliness through photography.

NHY GO...

It'll make you totally question what you've got in your pants.

→ Barbican Art Gallery.↔ Barbican. Until May 17.£15-£17.

THOMAS DWORZAK © COLLECTION I DWORZAK/MAGNUM PHOTOS. CATHERNE OPIE © ACHTERINE OPIE, COUDTEEY STEERIN PROPIE.ES, THOMAS DANE GALLERY, LOMPON, AND SCI OMANNA DE CHICCENHEMANICEIM MENA YORK.

Oh, man Thomas Dworzak, 'Taliban Portrait. Kandahar, Afghanistan' (main pic); Catherine Opie, 'Bo from "Being and Having"'



that art history is already all about masculinity, but the male gaze is an outward thing, and the moments here where things get introspective—where masculinity is explored rather than undermined—are some of the most interesting bits of the show. Masahisa Fukase's chronicling of his and his father's ageing bodies is painfully touching, Rineke Dijkstra's portraits of bruised, battered bullfighting boys are shocking and joyful, Andrew Moisey's fraternity book is idiotic, aggravating and brilliant.

Yes, the most masculine thing about the show is how it won't stop lecturing you about what masculinity is. But the exhibition makes you walk away asking infinite questions. And in a society where gender is ceaselessly melting into an ever more fluid substance, questions are our best tools for trying to figure out how to navigate the world. ■



By Eddy Frankel Who mansplains art for a living.

BEST OF THE BEST

The exhibitions you have to see in London right now



Steve McQueen

The Turner Prize and Oscar winner's work is full of beauty, but full of pain and injustice too.

It's staggering, powerful, necessary art.

→ Tate Modern. ← Southwark. Until May 11. £13,£12 concs.



'Forgotten Masters: Indian Painting for the East India Company'

Ridiculously gorgeous paintings by artists who are finally getting the recognition they deserve.

→ Wallace Collection. ↔ Bond St. Until Apr 19.£12.



'Picasso and Paper'

Works on paper by history's most famous painter.

Of course it's good. Pablo could make art out of mashed potato and it would be brilliant.

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



More art listings at timeout.com/art

DEUTSCHE BÖRSE PHOTOGRAPHY FOUNDATION PRIZE 2020 THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALJERY PUTUTISCHE ROBRE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALJERY PUTUTISCHE ROBRE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALJERY PUTUTISCHE ROBRE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALJERY PRIZE 2020 16-18 Ramillies Street London WIF 7 LW © Oxford Circus tpg.org.uk Registered charity no. 262548

Léon Spilliaert



THIS SHOW OPENS with a black blob. An inky, scrawly, looming lump of damp mountainside, like a geological metaphor for impending doom. And from there, it doesn't get much lighter.

Léon Spilliaert was born in Ostend, Belgium, in 1881. He spent most of his life between there and Brussels, and his gothicky, wobbly paintings are filled with the frigid features of the local landscape.

The strongest sense conveyed is how freaking freezing it is. Every tiny figure is battered by a bitter wind, each hunched-over human a drastically poor opponent when pitted against the elements. His favoured medium of fuzzy Indian ink

washes and gouache makes everything look like it's viewed through the evening mizzle.

This neatly comprehensive exhibition moves through the themes of Spilliaert's career, including the Symbolist-ish illustrations he made for a couple of books

78

and his woe-is-me self-portraits.

He found his niche and stuck to it, and that niche was desolation. These are sad, gloomy, lonely images, called things like 'Alone' and 'Misery'.

If it all sounds a bit teenagery, that because it is. Not just in its obsession with depression, but in its lack of interrogation of it. The most obvious comparison is Edvard Munch, but whereas the painter of 'The Scream' slapped his bare soul across the canvas, spreading existential angst like Marmite, Spilliaert gives only a sense of emptiness. And that's the essential problem of the show. Spilliaert's output is never quite good enough.

The exception to this rule is when he paints the sea. There's more emotional nuance to expanses of water than all the windswept humans on shore. Perhaps if he'd turned his eyes seawards instead of inwards, his art would have plumbed greater depths. ■

Rosemary Waugh

WHAT IS IT... Sad Belgian paintings.

WHY GO... Wallow in its beautiful misery.

→ Royal Academy of Arts. ← Piccadilly Circus. Until May 25. £14.

Isa Genzken



BETWEEN 'HERE' AND 'THERE',

there's a whole lot of in-between. And German punk minimalism supremo Isa Genzken's installation at Hauser & Wirth revels in those transition spaces and moments.

The central bit of the gallery is filled with rows of aeroplane seats and windows. The blinds are half open or fully closed; they look like pairs of eyes, asleep or drunken or confused or wide awake. They're sleepy little adjustable windows on to the world.

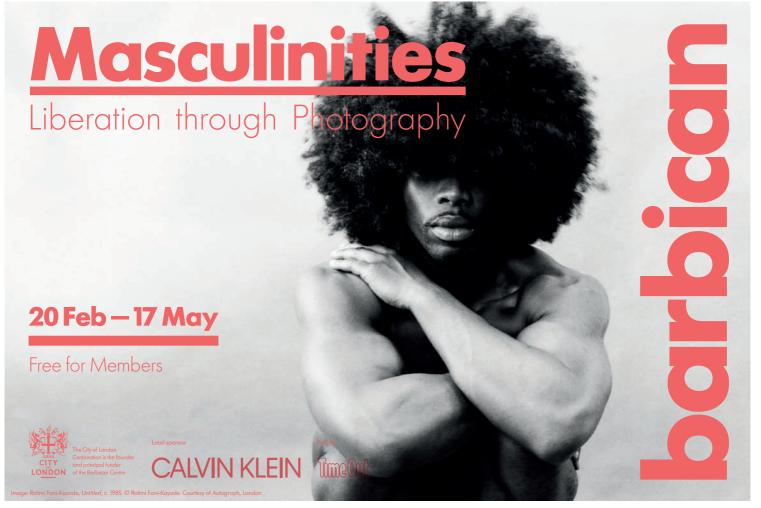
Architectural models in the next space show designs for windows and doors to nowhere – pointless additions to buildings which create only middle places, not starting points or destinations. A concrete sculpture near the entrance manages to be both open and closed off at the same time.

There's a lot of waffle in art about 'liminality', but this isn't about in-between-ness, it's the creation of it. That's different, and it's a lot

Until May 2. Free.



more interesting. Genzken's art feels like a plea for nuance, for a bit of grey in a black-and-white world. Genzken creates in-between spaces, nowheres, places where you don't have to be one thing or another, where life doesn't have to be set in stone. It's a bit of conceptual sanity in a world where that's totally lacking. ■ Eddy Frankel





MAKE DO AND mend. Waste not, want not. The post-war generation were raised on these commandments. Then, somewhere down the line (I blame the '80s), we all lost our way. Food and fashion became fast, everything became disposable. But not at Silo. Relocated from Brighton, this stylish Hackney restaurant from chef Doug McMaster wears its eco credentials on its sleeve: everything is sustainable, with many of the dishes made from ingredients otherwise destined for the bin.

First up: no preachyness here. The warm, welcoming staff gave us just the right amount of background. If you sit up at the counter, as we did, you can even chat to the friendly, unflappable kitchen team. It's fun. Otherwise, there are well-spaced tables, in a modish dining room. The ceilings are enormously high (put it this way: there's a full-sized palm tree in one corner, but it looks $like a \, pot \, plant). \, The \, floor \, is \, made$ from natural cork, the elegant seats from biodegradable wool, the lights from crushed wine bottles. That may sound shabby chic. It's not. It's chic chic. With a touch of industrial edge (the building was once a sweet

No waste, max taste

Silo



factory), the exposed girders and warehouse windows offset by ebony-stained tables made from sustainable English ash. Oh, and did I mention that the menu is projected onto a massive

whitewashed wall?

A no-choice number, it's officially six courses, but dessert is two dishes and there's bread ('Siloaf') too. This overture of dark, dense sourdough perfectly sums up Silo's ethos and commitment to quality. The grain is sourced locally, the flour milled on site, and when it's cut, every crumb is collected and put into the house tamari (an intense, soy-like fermented sauce). Each crustyedged, chewy-centred slice seemed

to lead inexorably to another. It should surely be illegal.

Other dishes were impossibly pretty, their good looks matched by harmonious Eurasian flavours. I loved them all equally, but a few are etched on my memory. Like skinned red artichokes, their nude, faintly pink and

firm, waxy bodies sitting in a pool of brown butter and that sourdough tamari. There were flickers of sweet, sour and heat against a canvas of deep, salty savouriness. If you've ever wanted to pin down that elusive umamitaste, this is where to find it. Or rich, deeply flavoured pieces of braised dairy cow - six-yearold bulls that farmers cast aside - with parsnips two ways (cubed and puréed, both excellent) and a peppercorn sauce. Or a dazzling pumpkin tart, made from the discarded skins of an earlier course. Then topped with rhubarb snow (again, the rhubarb had made earlier appearances).

There's so much more I could say. But I won't. At £50 a head, it's on the pricy side for Hackney, but is still a bargain for the league it's playing in. Eating at Silo is about more than just the service, setting and food. It's about what it's trying to achieve. No, not trying. Succeeding. ■ Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £145.



By Tania Ballantine Who, as it happens, blames the '80s for a lot.

A stylish zero-waste restaurant in Hackney.

NHY GO

It's actual food for thought.

→ Unit 7, Queen's Yard, E9 5EN. Hackney Wick Overground.

Allegra



ON THE SEVENTH floor of the fancy Stratford Hotel, Allegra is almost comically swish, with gently dimmed lighting, stone surfaces, funky plants and smooth jazz music.

Happily, the food is every bit as good. A savoury choux bun snack that came filled with chicken liver parfait was the first saliva-inducing hint of what was to come. Topped with crushed pistachios, it was creamy and rich, with citrussy preserved kumquat giving it a much-needed bite of acidity. Next up, an artichoke velouté was a good-looking bowl of pure comfort: smooth, velvety and moreish, with a pool of sharp quince to balance it all out. It also came with a sweet little fried brioche bun, topped with some shaved chestnut.

Mains were similarly strong.
Poached Cornish brill, artfully
wrapped in charred green leaves,
fell apart at the prick of a fork.
The wild venison loin, meanwhile,
was sheer decadence on a plate.

WHAT IS IT...

A fine-dining restaurant on the seventh floor of The Stratford hotel.

WHY GO...

The savoury choux bun. Just £3 a pop and so very good.

The tender, pink-middled slices came doused in meaty gravy, with pickled blackberries adding a lightness, while the accompanying celeriac was roasted and well seasoned. Desserts, too, were on-point: a highlight being the ginger cake, deconstructed and delightfully crumby, also with crunchy, caramelised pecans.

But there were a couple of low points, too. A cottage pie of braised venison shoulder, which came with the deer-themed main, was upsettingly salty; and a waiter tried to upsell us on the wine. On the whole though, service was topnotch: staff were friendly, explained all the dishes, and even poured all the posh sauces for us.

Allegra is a seventh-floor wonder, one where you just have to embrace all of that fancy-pants glitz and glamour. ■ Ella Braidwood

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £160.

EXCLUSIVE

Get a pho, a side and a drink at Banh Bao Brothers for less than half price.

TIMEOUT.COM/ BANHBAOBROTHERS

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THE HALAL GUYS

'The Halal Guys are pioneers of American halal food, serving sandwiches and platters of chicken or gyro over rice, with their famous white and hot sauces. With restaurants in Earl's Court and Leicester Square, discover why their food cart lines are the longest in NYC.' 14-15 Irving St, WC2H 7AU.

NAVRTAR

'This is the UK's first free-roam virtual reality and bar experience. Explore Navrtar's VR demo area. There's a choice of bespoke games, from surviving an oncoming horde of zombies in Apocalypse to protecting the world from alien invasion in Alien Defence.' Dickens Yard, Longfield Avenue, W5 2UQ.

GOLD STEP SAYS:

'Get ready for the new offering from JaguarShoes Collective. A tequila and mescal cocktail bar, drenched in rays of golden light, Gold Step is aimed at those seeking out the good times, as well as those who want to explore tequila options beyond shots and margaritas.' 32-34 Kingsland Rd, E2 8DA.





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Hoxton's Clutch is cooking up more than just chicken. Chow down on a Clutch brunch while sipping on free-flowing prosecco punch, Mimosas and Bloody Marys. With 37 percent off, you'll pay just £20. That's a clucking good deal.

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THREE OF THE BEST

Tooting restaurants



Daddy Bao

A spin-off of Peckham's popular Mr Bao, this trendy Taiwanese spot pumps out pillow-soft buns: we love the beef brisket bao. Do order a side of the terrific sesame-slathered aubergine too. ightarrow 113 Mitcham Rd, SW17 9PE. ightarrow Tooting Broadway.



Sea Garden & Grill

Under the cover of Broadway Market, this friendly spot dishes out modern seafood, like tempura soft-shell crab in a bun, or mussels in a cider cream sauce. The veggie stuff is also ace.

→ 99 Broadway Market, SW17 ORJ. ↔ Tooting Broadway.



Plot

Another Broadway Market joint, Plot deals in weekly changing $modern\,Brit\,small\,plates.\,Think\,beer\,muffins\,with\,Marmite$ butter, or wild mushrooms with pickled walnuts.

ightarrow 70-72 Broadway Market, SW17 ORL. ightarrow Tooting Broadway.

Find more Tooting gems at **timeout.com/tooting**



Find more hoppy haunts at **timeout.com/craftbeer**

Is London done with craft beer?

As Craft Beer Rising's founders launch a new mega-festival, has the artisanal ale craze reached its peak or is there still room for more in the pump?

THIS WEEKEND, a potential 8,000 partygoers will be piling into the Old Truman Brewery for a beerathon, complete with a vegan street food market, a 'pub rave' and a whopping 146 drink exhibitors. BrewLDN is a new event from the founders of London favourite Craft Beer Rising. Its co-creator Daniel Rowntree says he and his partners wanted to throw an inclusive party in line with the 2020 drinking landscape: 'I mean... craft beer is no

longer rising,' he says.
'It's risen. It's not
going anywhere.'

Almost ten years on from the boom, craft beer is fully mainstream. In London alone there are now more than a hundred breweries. There's a whole generation of pubs that have never seen pumps of Fosters and Stella. But this scale brings its own issues. 'The industry's gone bonkers compared to 2013,' says Rowntree. 'It's massively competitive.' If everyone is doing it (including the corporate mega-brewers), how do you stand out in this landscape? Evolve. 'Cask beer is having a resurgence,' says Rowntree. 'Ithink it's a bit of a nostalgia thing.'

He also acknowledges the impact of the low-and-no craze, which he attributes as much to attitudes as health: 'I don't think people like getting drunk any more,' he suggests. He thinks the wellbeing movement could see the emegence of more 'healthy' and

'functional' beers – enhanced by CBD, aloe vera and the like – as well as tipples such as the carb-free **'hard seltzer'**, which appears at Brew LDN. 'It's like alcoholic sparkling water,' he says. 'A sessionable, light-tasting drink that's made using the same equipment as craft beer.'

Craft beer is far from done, but it is changing. Above all, Rowntree sees punters expect just that: independent, and giving a shit about the same things they do. 'Brewing good beer is no longer enough,' he says. 'You've got to have a point of difference: what you stand for.' ■ → BrewLDN, Old Truman Brewery, E1 6QR.

Shoreditch High St Overground. Thu Feb 27-Sat Feb 29. From £12 at www.timeout.com/brewldn.



By Laura Richards Who likes her seltzer WELL hard.

Where to try the trends

CBD beer

At Shoreditch's **TT Liquor** (17b Kingsland Road) you can get a taste of Green Times, a low-alcohol IPA brewed with natural cannabinoids, as well as more familiar amarillo and mosaic hops.

Cask beer

The Harp (47 Chandos Place) is famed for its cool selection of cask beer (fermented in the barrel, aka 'real ale') in an old-school setting off Trafalgar Square. Or visit Nunhead's Beer Shop (40 Nunhead Green), which has two casks pouring from the likes of London's Anspach & Hobday and Shipley's Salt.

Low-and-no

More and more 'alcohol-free' beers (0.5% abv or less) are filling up fridges. Head to Paddington's **Heist Bank** (5 North Wharf) to sample the much-loved Lucky Saint on tap, or **Colours Hoxton** (2-4 Hoxton Square), which pours the very impressive Special Effects by Brooklyn Brewery on draught.





Get outta town!

Rail against the stresses of city life with these super-chill escapes that are just a short train ride away...

eeling the pressure of London life? Of course you are. We all are. As much as we love it here in this non-stop city, we're well aware that it's important to schedule in little breaks here and there. That's why we've teamed up with Thameslink and Southern to bring you four relaxing day trip ideas that are easily accessible via train. So whether you're partial to a drop of wine with sweeping vineyard views or you're dreaming of sinking into a spa, you'll find it here. And thanks to the big investments

that Thameslink and Southern are making into improving their stations and services, the journeys there are about as smooth as it gets.

Go for a ramble in Arundel

Distance from London by train 1 hour 22 minutes from London Bridge to Arundel

Why go there? This hillside medieval market town in West Sussex is most famous for its castle – but that's not the only reason to pay Arundel a visit. Walkers are spoiled for choice with green trails through nature

reserves – all with views of the South Downs and the castle. Riverside pub The Black Rabbit provides a scenic lunch stop, and from there you can continue to the small hamlet of South Stoke.

Soak up the historic charm of Lewes

Distance from London by train 1 hour 6 minutes from London Bridge to Lewes

Why go there? An arty atmosphere is guaranteed at this bohemiantinged East Sussex town. Wind through pretty streets until you get to Lewes Flea Market, get lost in a tome at Fifteenth Century Bookshop and taste wine at Symposium. If you've got time, catch the bus to nearby Charleston, a gorgeous farmhouse made famous as a favoured retreat of Bloomsbury Group luminaries like Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell.

Treat yourself to a spa day in Arlesey

Distance from London by train 40 minutes from King's Cross to Arlesey, then a 15-minute bus ride Why go there? Once, you might've balked at the idea of booking into a countryside spa in a Georgian manor surrounded by 150 acres of Bedfordshire parkland. But everyone deserves a bit of luxury – so why not take the plunge? A spa day at Champneys Henlow starts at £94, and you can book massages, beauty treatments and more. Bliss.

Sip wine in Box Hill

Distance from London by train
1 hour 24 minutes from London
Bridge to Box Hill & Westhumble
Why go there? Stroll for 15 minutes
from the station through leafy lanes
and you'll find Denbies Wine Estate:
a Dorking vineyard that produces
award-winning wine, which you're
invited to taste. They run fascinating
wine-tasting tours, as well as
cheese-making and wine-making
experiences, and even outdoor
vineyard tours on vintage trains.





Ely

A weekend in

Boat trips, trad tearooms and riverside boozers

ELY MAY BE a city, but it feels more like a market town. Sure, it's got a corker of a cathedral – one of the country's finest – and its roster of A-list connection includes everyone from Oliver Cromwell, who lived here, to Claire Foy, who swept in to film 'The Crown'. But the place is so small you can easily do it in a day, and so chilled you won't need to rush. Browse dusty antiques, savour a long lunch and eke out the last of the evening sun with a drink by the river.

Eat this

A meal at **The Old Fire Engine House** is like eating at a mate's place. Or maybe a mate's mum's place. The décor is homely and the menu is all hearty casseroles and proper roasts. The best bit? You'll be offered seconds – and it'd be rude to say no.

Drink this

Cask ales are on the cards at **The Prince Albert** in town. On a warm day, nothing beats an ice-cool beer on **The Cutter Inn**'s terrace as you watch the narrowboats pootle past. The same goes for **The Riverside Bar & Kitchen**, which does ace cocktails.

Buy this

Hunt for treasures at **Waterside Antiques Centre**. There are three floors stuffed with swag, so give yourself plenty of time – and refuel at **Peacocks Tearoom** next door afterwards. The twice-monthly **Farmers' Market** is also worth a splurge.

Try this

Cambridge may have the monopoly on punts, but Ely's got **Liberty Belle Cruises**. Set sail for a half-hour saunter up the River Great Ouse with Captain Bob and you'll get a bitesized city tour. Too sedate? Drive ten mins out of town to **Hannam's Wake Hub** for some white-knuckle wakeboarding. You adrenaline junkie, you.

See this

For something a bit different, visit when the **Ely Eel Festival** is on (May 7-10). The city takes its name from the eels that surrounded it back when it was an island, and the festival includes the brilliantly bonkers World Eel Throwing Competition. The eel in question is just a stuffed toy – fear not, animal lovers. \blacksquare *Katie Gregory*

→ Get there: one hour 20 minutes by train from London King's Cross; around one hour and 40 minutes by car.

WAKE UP HERE

The Ellis-Miller House



Swerve twee Cambridgeshire B&Bs and sleep over in this stunner from the 1980s. Designed by architect Jonathan Ellis-Miller in American modernist style, the simple, single-storey home is built primarily of steel and glass, which means lush countryside views from its expansive windows. The RIBA awardwinning building has a huge, light-filled living room and a little suntrap of a garden out back. You could almost be in the Californian hills or an episode of 'Mad Men', instead of ten minutes' drive from Ely Cathedral.

Ellie Walker-Arnott

→ Prickwillow, Cambridgeshire.
From £65 a night. www.airbnb.co.uk

Escapes



The secluded chalet

Having so little space might be teethgrindingly annoying when you're sharing it with four SpareRoomers, but it's another thing entirely on a weekend break. The Chalet at Tan Yr Ogof, which sleeps two in a snug bedroom, is just right for a day or two spent exploring the peaks and valleys of Snowdonia. The mini woodland cabin is a ten-minute walk from the base of Snowdon, and close to the Hafod y Llan trail which you can hike to spot a waterfall. → The Chalet at Tan Yr Ogof, Beddgelert, Gwynedd. Sleeps two. From £211 for three nights. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

The island outhouse

This dinky, one-room 'cottage' on Lundy is a former lighthouse keepers' store. Which basically means it was a cupboard. Before

Tiny homes

Four hideaways that are probably smaller than your flat

that, the **Old Light Cottage** was a latrine and a pigsty, but (thankfully) you wouldn't know it now. Inside, there's a single bed, a petite kitchen and an armchair – all you need for a solo stay on the island, where you can find coastal rambles, puffins, a pub (just the one), no wifi and zero electricity in the middle of the night. It's the ideal spot for finding peace, and avoiding the rest of humanity. → Old Light Cottage, Lundy, Devon. Sleeps one. From £150 for three nights.

The little lodge

No square footage is wasted in this compact cottage. A former gatehouse guarding the entrance to Houghton Hall (once home to Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first PM), modest **Houghton West Lodge** has everything you need for a peaceful break – and nothing more. The bedroom just has room for a double while windows look out over trees.

Houghton West Lodge, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Sleeps two. From £280 for four nights.

The former guardhouse

You'd never think this building - a tiny white dot on the coastal landscape - was a home for two. It wasn't always. Bomb-proof Sea **Sentry** was built during WWII to house soldiers guarding local coastal defences, but now it's been transformed into a neat rental. Space might be tight, but you won't wish for more, thanks to clever design, big sea views from the sliding windows upstairs and the king-size bed they've somehow managed to squeeze in down below. ■ Ellie Walker-Arnott → Sea Sentry, Shaldon, Devon. Sleeps two. From £585 for three nights. www.uniquehomestays.com

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OFF THE GRID

The Lost Garden Retreat

ARRIVING HERE CAN cure even the stress caused by driving out of London on a Friday night. However tightly wound you feel, the waiting hot tub, the glow of the woodburner and the twinkle of an unpolluted night's sky will unfrazzle you.

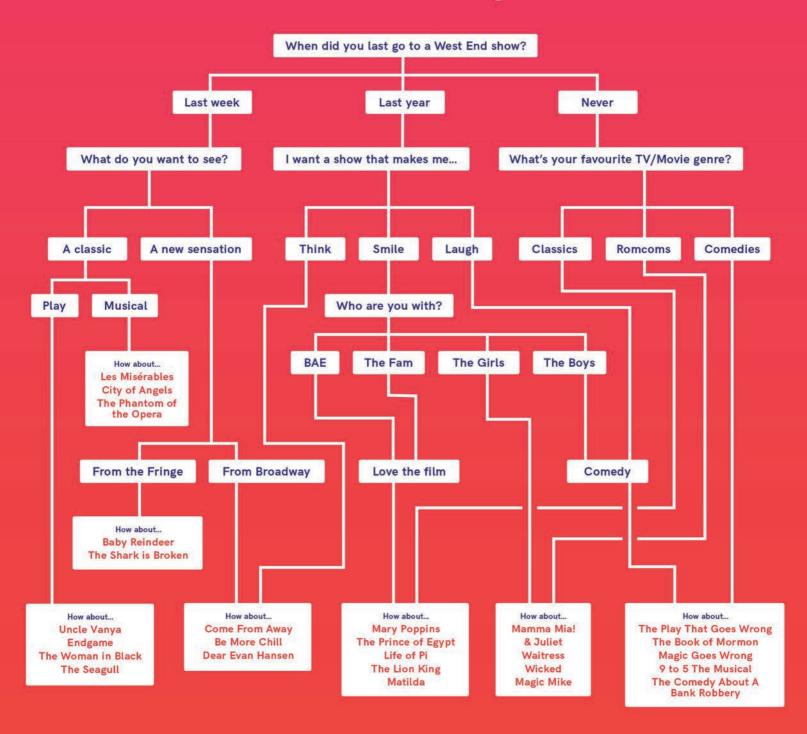
Waking up, under woollen blankets, feels really special, too. The light finds its way in as you hear the pitter-patter of squirrel feet on the safari-style tent's tarpaulin. It all feels a bit Disney, but it's genuinely uplifting instead of nauseating.

After only a day, you'll feel right at home. And refreshed enough to tackle the M25 again. Almost. ■ Samantha Willis

→ Hintlesham, Suffolk. From £220 a night. www.canopyandstars.co.uk



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