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**New York**

**Chinese New Year**

Head to Chinatown to celebrate the Lunar New Year and see the streets explode in colour with the annual parade. Amid the explosive sounds of firecrackers and drums, you can sample delicious Chinese food and, if you plan it right, end your night with a karaoke sesh. **Jan 25**

**San Fran**

**San Francisco Beer Week**

SF’s beer scene is legendary and there’s never a better time to sample the best of the area’s brews than at the city’s annual beer ‘week’ which, happily, is actually a full ten days long! The events nurture a sense of indie creativity and collaborations with local arts and entertainment venues. **Feb 7-16**

**Boston**

**St Patrick’s Day Parade**

Boston is, famously, the most Irish city in the US, so it’s no surprise that its yearly St Patrick’s Day parade is a sight to behold. From West Broadway to Dorchester Avenue, the family-friendly event transforms the place into a spectacle of floats, music and all-round good vibes. **Mar 15**

**The Premium Experience**

Start your holiday from the moment you get to London Gatwick by upgrading to the Premium experience from £17.50. You’ll get entry to MyLounge (complete with hot and cold snacks and an informal self-service bar in a laid-back, loft-style environment) as well as access to the Premium Security Lane.

→ For more information head to [www.norwegian.com/uk](http://www.norwegian.com/uk)
The 2020 highlights to put in your diary right now

In The Bag

Check Out

All Over It

All Booked

Yippee

Ticked

Finito!
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TENZING® Natural Energy contains electrolytes, natural caffeine and also vitamin C, proven to contribute to a reduction in tiredness and fatigue and has 60% less sugar than the energy drinks market leader.
Inside

This week’s Time Out in no time at all

Original synth

In our epic 2020 calendar, look out for robo-pop legends Kraftwerk’s only UK show of the year – in Victoria Park

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Silent but violent?

It’s a clown with a chainsaw. The London International Mime Festival must be in town

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Green cuisine

Yes, it’s Veganuary, but swerving meat and dairy’s a doddle with the best plant-based comfort food

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Five-star nightmare

War film meets horror movie in Sam Mendes’s ‘1917’ – which may be his best work yet

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Condo 2020

With ace galleries visiting from New York, Shanghai, Berlin and Toronto, the global art party gets started this Saturday

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FEATUEARS AND REGULARS

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Surprise!

Wait, don’t call the police. I’m allowed to be here. I’m the new editor of Time Out London. Some of you might recognise me from various places across the capital. Others will have no idea who I am and may, quite reasonably, recoil in horror at the unexpected and unwelcome sight of my face. To the first group I say: ‘Nice to see you again.’ To the second I can only apologise for ruining your morning.

Editing Time Out, communing with you right now, is an immense privilege. I was born in London, went to university here and have always considered The Big Dirty Bastard* my home. Cut me and I bleed that algae that turns the Regent’s Canal green every year. I regard a £5 pint as ‘quite good value’, know the backstreets of Soho better than my own mother’s face and, like you, have no idea why there are suddenly so many bubble tea vendors.

This is a gorgeous, iconic publication and I can’t wait to see the places we can take it. My wish is to forge a true and lasting bond with you, the reader. Whether you’re here for a week or, like me, a lifetime, I hope to help you make sense of this stunning and stressful city. I hope to help you love London like I love London.

*Not a real nickname for the city but feel free to use.
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Fuel economy and CO2 results for the BMW i3 range 120 Ah mpg (l/100 km): N/A. CO2 emissions: 0 g/km. Electric range: 188 miles. Electric energy consumption per 62 miles / 100 km (weighted combined): 16.5 – 15.5 kWh. Figures are for comparison purposes and may not reflect real life driving results which depend on a number of factors including the starting charge of the battery, accessories fitted (post registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. They were obtained after the battery had been fully charged. The BMW i3 range are battery electric vehicles that require mains electricity for charging. All figures were determined according to a new test (WLTP). Only compare fuel consumption, CO2 and electric range figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedure. Model shown: BMW i3.
Ace community arts festival Brockley Max has had its council funding cut. Chip in to its #SaveBrockleyMax crowdfunder to ensure it returns for 2020 – and spread the word.

Looking for your new workout for 2020? It could be Disco Barre, with its hot moves and Studio 54-inspired soundtrack. Try it for free at two taster sessions in Dalston this weekend.

Inspired by the latest exhibition at Oxford’s Ashmolean Museum, Heston Blumenthal is recreating the food of ancient Pompeii at Dinner by Heston. Get a taste of history from this week.

By now you’ve probably twigged you should be eating fewer animal products – for the planet’s sake if nothing else. But guess what? This Veganuary, more than ever, going plant-based doesn’t mean missing out on the good stuff – and we’re not (just) talking about Greggs’ vegan steak bake. A whole clutch of our fave London chefs and restaurants are launching vegan menus for the first time. Patty & Bun has come up with vegan versions of its three most popular burgers at six of its London restaurants. East London pizza palace Yard Sale has created a three-pizza vegan menu, including a cheeky riff on Pizza Express’s American Hot. Even more impressive is the whole new vegan restaurant by none other than Neil Rankin of meat mecca Temper: check out Simplicity Burger on Brick Lane. And if all that turns out to be a gateway drug, hit up the Vegan Society’s pop-up at Mare Street Market (until January 30) for free samples of vegan goodies. There goes your excuse for not giving the V-word a try this year.

James Manning

Find London’s best vegan restaurants on p56.

Get the latest from London at timeout.com/news
AN ODE TO

The District line

Celebrating the most maligned, overlooked and underrated bits of London

WHAT’S YOUR FAVOURITE tube line? The space-age Jubilee? The super-speedy Victoria? The grand old Piccadilly? I bet it’s not the District line. In fact, in a 2013 YouGov survey, poor little greenie was rated London’s second least favourite tube line – beaten only by the undeniably shit Northern.

Now, I’m not here to defend the Northern line (how could I?). But I am going to stick up for the District – not just because someone’s got to. The facts are these: the District line is slow. The District line is complicated: just take a look at the bonkers departure boards at Earl’s Court. The District line is super-unreliable, it has way too many stations and you get stuck in tunnels ALL THE TIME. So why do I love it so much? Because it’s so damn civilised.

I love its sense of space. Thanks to its origins as a ‘cut-and-cover’ line built just below street level, its stations are breezy, open-plan and mercifully shallow, and its carriages are broad and high-ceilinged. Compare that to the deep-level lines with their stale air, crushy corridors and tiny trains that squeeze through narrow tunnels like grimy toothpaste. I’ll take air conditioning, wide platforms and a short walk to ground level any day, thanks very much.

Also: ‘old’? More like ‘iconic’! Along with the Metropolitan, the District line is one of the two OG tube lines. Oscar Wilde and Jack the Ripper were probably among the early passengers. And the places it serves: South Ken, Westminster, the Tower, the City! This is the line for Proper Actual London, where basically every Zone 1 stop is a short stroll from some gobsmacking site or other.

And there’s no other line that you can ride to nearly all the most bucolic bits of suburbia: Kew Gardens, Richmond Park, Wimbledon Common, even Wanstead Flats. Stuck in an urban rut? Hop on the green line and suck down some of that delicious country air!

I’ll come clean: I grew up on the District line and used it daily until pretty recently, but I’m no longer a regular passenger. These days I commute on the Victoria, and yes (since you ask), it is much, much quicker. But if the low-key-but-lovely District line has a lesson for us, it’s this: life isn’t about getting places on time – it’s about the journey. Especially when that journey has air con. Take that, Piccadilly! James Manning

‘If it’s a short platform, how are small people going to get off the train?’

‘I know who Santa is... Santa is Amazon!’

‘OMG, are diamonds recyclable?!’

‘I bet salmon do have breasts.’

‘I’m really lucky my family aren’t complete fascists.’

‘Just get me something wanky and expensive for Christmas – I’m sure I’ll love it.’

‘Oh no, I missed Sausage Week! Story of my life.’

‘It’s the perfect place to buy gifts for people you don’t really like.’

‘I’m having a finger picnic!’

‘Just don’t understand anyone who wears anything less than Heat Tech constantly.’
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MY HOME IS a small village in southern Syria called Ain al-Fijah. I left in 2016 because men were being forced to join the army or else risk being considered a rebel. I was terrified. My dad said, ‘We need someone to get out, because if something happens to me, you will be the one to care for your mother and sisters.’ So I sold whatever I had and worked odd jobs to save up the money to leave the country. My family has since moved to Damascus and my village has been destroyed.

I travelled first to Lebanon, and then made my way through Europe before landing in Calais at the Jungle refugee camp. While I was there, I lived with another Syrian called Mo, who is now my best friend. He would make us the tomato-based egg dish shakshuka.

One night, we both went ‘to try’ – meaning to leave the camp in the hope of crossing over to the UK. We didn’t make it out: Mo broke both of his legs trying to jump a high fence. After that, I started making shakshuka for him.

In the camp, I helped out initially by distributing food, clothes and shampoo, but I wanted to do more. I met the Care4Calais volunteers and, using my newfound kitchen skills, I asked if I could cook in the evenings. It was only simple things like pasta or eggs, but the main thing was bringing people together. The shakshuka was a big hit and became the starting point of Mo’s Eggs.

I was in the Jungle for nine months, and I ended up forming a tight group with the people I met because we spent every single day working together. Alex, one of Care4Calais’s team leaders, was instrumental in getting the pop-up off the ground. We’re like brother and sister. When she left Calais, I told her I’d see her the next day. She laughed it off. But I went to try that night, and arrived safely in the UK the next day. In the morning I rang her, asking: ‘Are you free for breakfast?’ She couldn’t believe it!
One evening after I arrived in London, a group of us who’d met in the Jungle were sitting in a pub in Archway, wondering how to bring my food to the masses. Alex figured that some restaurants weren’t used during the day, so maybe we could ask them if we could host a pop-up brunch. We did a trial run for a group of Alex’s mates for her thirtieth, and saw what worked and what didn’t. This was two years ago. Six months later, we launched Mo’s Eggs as a monthly brunch club, and it’s gone from strength to strength.

As well as cooking Mo’s shakshuka recipe, I wanted to bring the flavour of my mother’s cooking to London. On the menu we offer two different dishes: ‘asylum’ eggs, which are similar to a frittata, and ‘Jungle’ eggs: the ever-popular shakshuka. There are also various sorts of houmous, salads and khubz bread, which are laid out for everyone to pass around and share, family-style. Bottomless Syrian coffee brewed with cardamom is the order of the day, although prosecco can also be arranged. When people buy a ticket, we also ask that they donate something small on top of that to go towards a free ticket for asylum-seekers. In addition to feeding hungry Londoners, it’s also really important that Mo’s Eggs is accessible to everyone.

The mission of this brunch is to bring to London what we at Mo’s Eggs miss from the Jungle: connection. Despite the horror stories that the camp was known for, we prefer to remember the fond times – which were almost always shared over a plate of eggs.

■ Interview by Aisling O’Leary
Mo’s Eggs takes places at Benk + Bo on Jan 26 and Feb 16. £18.50 plus donation. www.moseggs.co.uk
Dear Natalie...

In 2019 I totes went green: I started shopping with a canvas bag, getting coffee in a reusable cup and travelling by train more. But when huge corporations and whole countries are doing literally nothing about the climate crisis, and scientists and activists are telling us we’re doomed, is my new eco lifestyle actually making a difference? Or should I just enjoy my life before we’re all wiped out?

Sophie via email

Hi Sophie,

Here’s a fact for you: the amount of plastic bags used by the biggest supermarkets in England has dropped by 90 percent since 2015. Big coffee chains are starting to recycle the 7 million coffee cups we chuck out every day too. That’s all because of customer pressure.

So yes, you’re making a difference – and if you’re one of the millions around the world who’ve switched to reusable toothbrushes or menstrual cups, you’ve also contributed towards the pressure that has made Colgate and Tampax release more sustainable products.

Getting big companies to make these changes reduces single-use plastic use globally, and that doesn’t just protect the oceans – it also keeps fossil fuels in the ground. So it’s a definite win!

But you’re absolutely right to question if, compared to the emissions of giant corporations – especially those directly involved in oil and gas – these kinds of small consumer changes matter. And when so many elected politicians in the UK and elsewhere have consistently voted against measures to tackle climate change, it’s hard to feel like our actions count for anything.

To answer your question: using your reusable coffee cup isn’t going to save the world. But if it leads you to bigger, more significant changes such as switching to a green energy supplier (like Octopus, Ecotricity or Good Energy), cutting out red meat and flying responsibly or not at all – and if millions or billions of people do the same – then we might be in with a chance.

Corporations and governments are still propping up the systems that have got us into this mess, putting profit and growth above our future. It’s going to take years to undo that – which is why it’s down to us, as individuals, to be the change. According to climate scientists, we’ve got ten years left to sort it out before we face irreversible ecological collapse. So let’s step up collectively and make this decade the one that matters.

Natalie Fee is an environmental campaigner, author and speaker. She founded the City to Sea non-profit, which campaigns against plastic pollution. Her book ‘How to Save the World for Free’ is published by Laurence King.

Follow her on Twitter @nataliefee and Instagram @nataliefee_.

Eco campaigner Natalie Fee answers your questions about sustainable living in the city.

Building a sustainable city, one project at a time.

The Bright Club

WHAT IS IT? The UK’s first ever vegan members’ club. A Hackney hub for London’s vegan community (with co-working, mixers, panels and yoga), it’s been founded by the creators of ethical lifestyle mag Bright Zine. Everything here is vegan, from the food to the furniture.

WHY DOES IT MATTER? Snarky food critics can dismiss veganism as a fad, but our planet is facing a climate catastrophe, and experts say greenhouse gas emissions would be cut by two-thirds if everyone on earth went vegan. Why not try it this Veganuary?

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED? Pick from one of the membership levels, from low-access to ‘full-timer’. These all include event invites and a Bright Zine subscription. Members must be fully plant-powered, though: ‘I’m flexitarian’ won’t cut it round here.

Ella Braidwood
SMOOTH BLONDE ROAST

OR BOLD SIGNATURE ROAST?

FIND YOUR FAVOURITE
CITY ENVY

Great things that we love in other cities

Copenhagen’s free-for-all fruit trees

PICTURE THE SCENE: dodging through London’s rush-hour crowds, you spot a handful of delicious blackberries on a nearby bush. You gobble them down and suddenly feel freer, wilder, and full of natural joy. Well, over in Copenhagen, this dreamy scenario will soon be a reality: the council has recently voted to plant communal fruit trees all around the city. Foraging is already huge in Denmark (though, according to an ancient law, snack-hunters must be able to fit their harvest into a hat). There’s even a foraging app, Vild Mad. Now the capital is going wild by planting fruit-bearing trees in churchyards, parks, playgrounds and sports facilities. Wouldn’t it be nice if we too could head out and pick fresh fruit in Zone 1? Yes, it would. Berry nice indeed.

OI, SADIQ!

How can you help Londoners feel positive about their bodies?

We’re giving some of our favourite Londoners the chance to put one big question to the Mayor. **Becky Young** and **Harri Rose** are the founders of Anti Diet Riot Club, a body-positive community tackling diet culture and fatphobia through regular events. They want to know: is there anything the Mayor can do to help Londoners feel good about their bodies?

Becky ‘Oi, Sadiq! Research shows that 90 percent of diets fail, with dieters putting the weight back on – plus more. In the face of that, what are you doing to protect Londoners from the enormous pressure that they face to achieve body perfection?’

Sadiq ‘Our obsession with weighing ourselves is an issue. As soon as I became Mayor, I banned adverts on the Transport for London network with unrealistic body images, which put pressure on women and girls. We’ve also stopped certain ads for cosmetic surgery. Advertising isn’t just about raising revenues for TfL – it’s a responsibility. We’ve got one of the biggest advertising estates in the world, so we’ve got quite a lot of influence.’

Becky ‘Girls as young as eight are now going on diets, which can lead to dangerous eating disorders. Do you have any powers to stop pro-diet messages getting into schools?’

Sadiq ‘I don’t run schools, and I can’t interfere with the curriculum, but one of the things we are doing is trying to get more counselling and expert advice into secondary schools. I know from personal experience, as a former school governor and a parent, that if you are young and have issues around weight, it can affect your long-term self-esteem and confidence. Our focus is making sure Londoners are healthy, physically and mentally. We’re asking schools to encourage all people – including staff – to do a mile’s worth of exercise a day.’

Harri ‘But some slimming clubs use schools for their meetings, so they advertise in schools too. This perpetuates the false idea that diets always work.’

Sadiq ‘That’s a good point: because they are using the premises, their posters stay up there and kids inadvertently see them. I’ll look into it. From all the evidence, I agree with you that diets aren’t effective. You can’t have these crash-and-burn diets. Particularly in January: you’ll see a record number of people starting them around now.’

Becky ‘Finally, what’s your opinion on the calls for eating to be banned on public transport?’

Sadiq ‘It’s not happening. I’d be against that, as somebody who often has to catch up on a snack in-between events on the bus and tube. I’m often known to have a flapjack on the bus.’

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

DON’T MISS

GOLDEN YEARS
Bowie at The Ship
Wardour Street’s The Ship was David Bowie’s pub of choice between ’67 and ’70. (We imagine him necking Jägerbombs.) Mark the anniversary of his death by watching acoustic performances of ‘Ziggy Stardust’ and ‘Station to Station’.

SAT Jan 11.

SWITCH IT UP
SWITCH IT UP
Swish & Style
Clothes Swap
Don’t tell the mate who bought you that horrendous T-shirt for Christmas, but you can go trade it for something better at this huge clothes swap. And, who knows? Maybe your trash is someone else’s future favourite top.


MAKE IT SNAPPY
Nan Goldin: ‘Sirens’
You only have five days to catch legendary US photographer Nan Goldin’s first show here since 2002 – and you’re going to want to. That could be because her landscapes are noughties time capsules or because the portrait series of her transgender friends is touching and dreamy. Or it could simply be because her work once appeared on a Supreme skateboard. You do you.


A-Z
Unexpected Views: Mahtab Hussain
New year, new intellectual you? You’re in luck. The National Gallery’s monthly talks series kicks off this week. First up? Mahtab Hussain, an artist and researcher of the visual language of multiculturalism.


PITCH PERFECT
Royal Opera House: Live at Lunch
Squeeze a culture fix into your 1pm break on Friday and watch some of the top talent from the legendary Rambert dance company do its graceful thing for 45 minutes. You’ll return to work at least 500 percent cleverer.


Looking for things to do all year round? Try timeout.com/free
Crisp winter mornings sparkle under a layer of frost, adorning trees and pavements alike with glittering white, and steamy clouds of breath billow from the mouths of commuters on their way to work. But as we head further into the season and the weather takes a turn, problems can arise across the rail network.

When the mercury plummets, even the lightest shower of rain or dusting of snow can freeze and become compacted on the rails, turning into dangerous ice. Not only does this freeze around the electric rail and create an insulating effect preventing trains from drawing power and being able to move with any speed – in the worst cases, it prevents them from being able to move at all.

When winter weather strikes we run snow-and-ice-busting trains around the clock to keep you moving. These special trains are kitted out with anti-icing fluid, which works in a similar way to salt gritters on the road, preventing our electric rail from freezing in the first place. And they apply an adhesion gel to the tracks so that trains can get grip.

We also fit certain points along the tracks with heaters and NASA-grade insulation to further prevent ice build-up, particularly in places where trains change direction to other lines. That’s right, the battle against snow and ice has become space age.

To try to keep disruptions to your journeys to a minimum, we may have to make some changes to our timetables when bad weather hits. Some services will be less frequent, and some stations may close, but this allows us to complete all the work needed to keep you moving, albeit a little slower than usual to keep you and our staff as safe as possible.

We know you’ve got places to go this winter.

When the mercury drops, our snow-and-ice-busting trains will work around the clock to keep you moving.

Find out more at southeasternrailway.co.uk/winter-weather
Welcome to 2020

Well done, you’ve made it to the new year with only a faint residual hangover holding you back. Now, let the Time Out team help you make 2020 a memorable one.

**WINTER**

**The Barbican launches a big new season**
Dig into some whopping topics at the Barbican’s year-long programme ‘Inside Out’, which explores the relationship between our lives and creativity. Highlights include boundary-breaking exhibition ‘Masculinities: Liberation through Photography’. If your new year’s resolution is to be more cultured, you’ll be set.

Isabelle Aron

**Brent becomes the new Borough of Culture**
Last year, Waltham Forest had the honour of being the first ever London Borough of Culture – this year, it’s Brent’s time. If you’re unfamiliar with the north-west borough, it spans Wembley, Kensal Green and Brent Park and is the birthplace of Zadie Smith. The year-long programme includes an opening celebration in Wembley Park featuring 100 dancers and large-scale projections. Now that’s Brent-ertainment.

IA<br>
Various venues.

**King’s Cross gets a handsome food hall**
If you’ve been thinking, ‘London could really do with a street food market,’ you’ve probably not been paying much attention for the last few years. That said, Goods Way, in King’s Cross, avoids being overkill by virtue of its New Orleans-inspired interior alone. Expect Breddos Tacos and The Duck Truck on the roster.

Bobby Palmer

**‘Far Away’ is suddenly very close**
Few storytellers dig into abuses of power better than Caryl Churchill. So it’s big news that ‘Far Away’, potentially the winner of the hotly contested title of ‘best Caryl Churchill play’, is coming to London this year. It’s an examination of the brutalities of war that escalates wildly to a global, interspecies conflict on a surreal scale with everything from animals to gravity taking part.

Kate Lloyd

**The bakery-wine bar hybrid of drunk dreams arrives**
While you might have been cruelly snubbed by Harry and Meghan’s wedding invitation list, you can still have your cake and eat it courtesy of star baker Claire Ptak. The maestro behind the royal wedding cake honed her craft on Broadway Market, and is now bringing her Violet brand to the corner of Mare Street. Violet Corner will offer two floors of freshly baked goodness, and feature a wine bar.

BP
121-123 Mare St. Hackney Central Overground. Opens Jan 2020.

**London gets a massive Steve McQueen retrospective**
It’s easy to find yourself getting jealous of Steve McQueen. The Turner Prize–winning artist is adept in photography, sculpture and film, which helped a bit when he dipped out of the art world to direct ‘12 Years a Slave’ and, you know, win an Oscar. If you can hold back your envy, you’ll be rewarded at Tate Modern with an exhibition of McQueen’s works across two decades, from his early Super 8 film ‘Exodus’ to the more recent ‘End Credits’, a tribute to black civil rights activist Paul Robeson.

BP
SPRING

Tilda Swinton season arrives
She’s played a Dickensian great aunt, a zombie-fighting mortician, a superhero sorcerer and an immortal vampire – and that was just last year. Now one of the UK’s most versatile film stars can add a BFI retrospective to her list of accomplishments, with the South Bank cinema hosting a Swinton-centric season. BP

The world’s most famous cans come to London
In between pop art of celebs, this new Andy Warhol show features portraits of black and Latinx drag queens and trans women, which are on display for the first time in 30 years. And yes, those iconic Campbell’s soup tins will be in the mix too. IA
→ Tate Modern. Southwark. £22.
Mar 12–Sep 6.

The UK’s largest fitness festival returns
Hackney Festival of Fitness is back in May. The main event is the Hackney Half, which saw a turnout of 17,000 runners last year. But there’ll be loads of other ways to get sweaty. BP
Prices vary.

Kraftwerk headlines All Points East
Last year, we were given a hint about one of the All Points East bill: a band celebrating their fiftieth anniversary. We thought: ‘rock dinosaur’. Turns out it’s actually German electronic pioneers Kraftwerk, who, in 1970, started a European love affair with synthesisers that would lead to techno and electro. Oliver Keens
→ All Points East. Victoria Park. Homerton
Overground. May 29. £65.

Expect a party under the M4
Junction 2 treads a fine line between booking awesome names from the electronic underground (think Honey Dijon), while also being a BIG affair. Witness the main stage, for example, which sits directly under the M4. OK

‘Andy Warhol’ at Tate Modern
SUMMER

Big pop gigs

Not content with a Glasto appearance and a slew of questionable Hackney and Brixton references in ‘London Boy’, freshly minted anglophile Taylor Swift will be heading back to her new favourite city to play BST Hyde Park (July 3-12). Swifty fans will no doubt be thrilled to hear that Little Mix are headlining another day of the festival, with support from Rita Ora and Kesha, even if an appearance by Pearl Jam might go over their heads.

Further south, Brixton’s Mighty Hoopla (June 6) will be headed up by a veritable buffet of blasts from the past: Anastacia, Gabrielle, Atomic Kitten and Natasha Bedingfield will all be there to belt out some singalong bangers. Alternatively, if you’ve had a little much of all the ‘90s nostalgia, Finsbury Park’s Wireless (July 3-5) is sticking resolutely with the times – buy tickets to catch the likes of Cardi B, Travis Scott and homegrown hero J Hus.

The V&A gets curiouser

The V&A has spent years knocking it out of the park with immersive exhibitions on surprisingly specific subjects. Expect this to continue with its in-depth celebration of Lewis Carroll’s trippy classic, ‘Alice in Wonderland’. BP ➔ V&A. South Kensington. From Jun 27. Prices vary.

The Hayward takes an oral look at art

Appreciating art isn’t just about looking at paintings and nodding earnestly, as ‘Reverb: Sound into Art’ at the Hayward Gallery proves. The summer show will feature work from 14 artists who use sound as their primary medium – whether that’s music, noise or silence. You can expect to see installations that respond to the gallery’s brutalist architecture, too (what does concrete sound like anyway?). IA ➔ Hayward Gallery. Waterloo. Jun 24-Sep 6. Prices TBC.

Tyler, The Creator triumphantly returns

Following the release of his critically acclaimed genre-bending fifth album ‘Igor’ last year, a Tyler, The Creator headline show anywhere would be a big deal. The fact that this is the US rapper’s first festival appearance since he was banned from the country by Theresa May (yes, really) makes it even more
2020 IS ALL ABOUT

Old faves opening new venues

If 2019 was the year of queueing for restaurants, 2020 is the year of queuing for even more restaurants. That’s because we’re getting another Padella (date TBC) — the second offering from the Borough Market pasta supremos is set to open in Shoreditch early this year. Much-loved Sri Lankan restaurant Hoppers (February) will add a third location, in King’s Cross, to its roster around the same time. Once you’re fed, why not take in a film at Kingston’s new Curzon cinema, opening in the Bentall Centre this summer. Or, if it’s warmer, you might want to head to Beavertown’s enormous Beaverworld complex (March), which sits right on the edge of the river Lea. As the name suggests, the brewery’s new HQ is basically a theme park for hopheads. If all goes to plan, expect it to open in March. Oh, and don’t quote us on the whole ‘no queues’ thing.

The Geffrye reopens

Don’t it always seem to go that you don’t know what you’ve got ’til it’s gone? Such is the case with Hoxton’s Geffrye Museum. It closed for an £18 million do-over in 2018. Now it’s reopening as the Museum of the Home with double the gallery space. Here’s hoping the quirky living room time tunnel has survived. BP → Geffrye Almshouses, Hoxton Overground. Reopens summer.

London fills with Pokémon

Forget the Tokyo Olympics. The real sporting highlight of year is the Pokémon World Championships. In its first iteration outside the US, trainers from Cinnabar Island to Vermilion City will compete in London. BP → Location TBC. August.

AUTUMN

London’s gets its first mural festival

It’s easy to become complacent about a lot of the stuff painted on London’s walls (largely because a lot of it is quite bad). But some of it is brilliant and it’s time it was celebrated. Which is exactly what will happen at the London Mural Festival. More than 100 artists like Mr Doodle and Camille Walala will be creating large-scale paintings. KL → Various venues. Sep 1-13. Prices TBC.

Trans+ Pride protests for the safety of trans people

Thousands of Londoners made history last year when they headed to Piccadilly Circus as part of...
The
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This October, London will play host to a no-expense spared staging of the Disney smash ‘Frozen’. Think of this as your niece or nephew’s ‘Hamilton’ moment, featuring the chance to scream along to ‘Let It Go’ with a thousand likeminded youngsters. But that’s not the only singalong special coming. After winning plaudits across the pond, a Bryan Adams-penned version of your favourite hangover romcom, ‘Pretty Woman: The Musical’, will arrive in the capital in time for spring. Whoopi Goldberg is reprising her on-screen role in ‘Sister Act’ on stage in July – with national treasure Jennifer Saunders as Mother Superior. Elsewhere, the animated film that defined your childhood – no, not ‘The Lion King’; no, not ‘Aladdin’ either – ‘The Prince of Egypt’ is hitting the West End in February. And while it might not have the staying power of the ’90s Disney classics, the epic set pieces and Hans Zimmer score were born for the stage.

The Force heads to the Royal Albert Hall
If you hate choosing between highbrow culture and science-fiction blockbusters, this one’s for you. The Royal Albert Hall hosts a concert performance of ‘Star Wars: Return of the Jedi’. That means you can get all your Ewok kicks on the big screen, while the score is played live by the London Symphony Orchestra in the pit below.

Turner’s turning up
Good old Will Turner’s now one of the most canonical British artists. Back during the Industrial Revolution? He was a radical, capturing inventions with fresh style. See him in a new light in ‘Turner’s Modern World’. Home.

2020 IS ALL ABOUT
IRL musicals of your favourite movies
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Everyone’s favourite performance artist comes to the RA
Imagine the situation: you’re trying to squeeze through a doorway but there’s a naked man on one side of you and a naked woman on the other. Whaddya do? That’s one of the pieces that will be recreated at the Royal Academy’s Marina Abramović exhibition, which features work spanning the artist’s whole career.

The city’s first Trans+ Pride. Now the event’s becoming annual, promising to remain an act of protest and speak out for safety and equality of trans people in London, as other Pride events become more corporate. The team are crowdfunding to ensure they are able to make it inclusive.

Venue TBC. Sep 12. Free.

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Venue TBC. Sep 12. Free.
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**The Gate**

**What is it?** A three-course meal and glass of fizz at the renowned veggie restaurant.

**Why go?** This vegetarian mini chain has been hugely popular for 30 years, serving up fan favourites such as miso-glazed aubergine and green Thai curry, plus a host of plant-based plates.

**What’s exclusive?** Chow down for just £24 – that’s 40 percent off.

→ The Gate St John’s Wood.  ● St John’s Wood. Until Feb 7.
www.timeout.com/gate20

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**So Board**

**What is it?** Boardgame events in London boozers where you can pit your prowess against your mates.

**Why go?** With more than 200 boardgames on offer, ranging from cult classics to the rude and ridiculous, these events are great for beating boredom on a budget.

**What’s exclusive?** We’re offering you two-for-one tickets plus 20 percent off drinks at selected venues.

→ Various locations. Select dates until Mar 9.
www.timeout.com/board

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**Gaucho**

**What is it?** A stunning three-course steak dinner with free-flowing prosecco.

**Why go?** These Latin American steakhouses are some of London’s finest. Delight in their picture-perfect plates with a glass (or two) of fizz at venues across the city.

**What’s exclusive?** Enjoy the taste of Argentina for just £42.50 – saving you 60 percent. Tasty.

→ Various locations. Until Feb 13.
www.timeout.com/gaucho20

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**Kanishka**

**What is it?** Six sharing dishes at this slick new Mayfair restaurant.

**Why go?** For some serious cooking from celebrated chef Atul Kochhar. Here he’s combining original Indian flavours with top-notch British ingredients. Expect some very pretty plates indeed.

**What’s exclusive?** This delicious deal is only £25 – plus you can add a cocktail for a fiver.

www.timeout.com/kanishka20

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**Plant-Powered Expo**

**What is it?** Tickets to a brand new showcase of UK businesses that promote plant-based living.

**Why go?** The team behind VegFest is back, bringing together some of the biggest vegan lifestyle brands. Discover food and drink, fitness ideas, gardening and more.

**What’s exclusive?** Save 66 percent on tickets – that’s a whole lot of eco-friendly action for just £5.

Little efforts. Big breaks.

Wave hello to your new favourite island. Feel your heart beat faster in Jersey, Europe’s best-kept surf secret, which doubles in size at low tide to uncover hidden worlds to explore. Probably why we walk around with a spring in our step. Want to learn how we roll? Dive in and discover the little island with a big spirit.

Jersey.com/big-spirit
#theislandbreak
Lapland is for life (not just for Christmas)

Don’t let those festive feelings thaw. The frosty wilderness of Lapland is now easier than ever to reach, meaning that winter fun can stretch well into the new year. You can fly from London direct to Finland’s northernmost airport, Ivalo – a snow-capped village that’s the definition of a winter wonderland. From peaceful walks over unspoilt icy fells to shooting through forests on a sleigh pulled by huskies, Finnish Lapland serves up post-Christmas Christmassy vibes by the stockingful. Keep an eye out for Santa; we hear he likes to hit the slopes off-duty.

1 **It’s got some top slopes**
Swap snow boots for skis at Saariselkä Ski School, a 20-minute drive south of Ivalo. Whizz down slopes from green to black, for around £82 for three hours. If that’s too steep (and we’re not talking incline), try Aurora Tobogganing for £38. It’s an easy-ish ride illuminated by a dreamy light show, and you can even sled down on your backside (that’s more like it).

2 **You can snuggle up with huskies**
Give off your best alpha-dog vibe while steering a pack of five galloping Alaskan and Siberian huskies, which pull you on a wooden sled through the hills of Saariselkä. A one-hour trip with Frozen Lake Husky takes you deep into the forest, led by owner and dog whisperer Erika. She even allows time for a snuggle with the adorable puppies. We think that’s worth the £59 alone.

3 **Saunas are everywhere**
After playing out in temperatures well below freezing, it makes sense to pile into a hot cabin. In Finland, it’s not unusual to take a daily sauna – most apartments have their own private
facilities, so you’ll likely have a sauna where you’re staying, even if it’s an Airbnb. Go full Finnish and get naked. You’ll just need your best avoiding-eye-contact-on-the-tube face.

4 Snowmobiles fly you through the forest
If you’re going to splash out once on your trip, make it on snowmobiling. The Star Arctic Hotel and Wilderness Centre offers a range of outdoor jaunts, from berry-picking to canoeing, and its Snowmobile Safari is a blast. After getting kitted out, you’ll throw a beast of a machine across the wild and frosty hills. It costs around £150, but it’s so very worth it.

5 The reindeer run wild
There are more reindeer than people in Finnish Lapland and they roam freely, so you’ve got a good chance of meeting one. Spot them migrating over mountains or sniffing for lichen. Don’t be fooled by their peaceful nature, though, these guys can move. See them go full throttle at the annual Reindeer Championships in Inari (February 3-9), where trained animals compete for the title of Finland’s fastest. Our money’s on Rudolf.

6 Snow-shoeing helps you soak up nature
One thing you’ll notice in Lapland: it’s totally silent. Finns adore the tranquillity of nature and long walks through hushed fells. But 50cm of the white stuff can make it tricky, if not dangerous, to set off on a ramble. We’d advise a two-hour walk with Visit Inari (£63), which includes a hot drink, big ol’ snow shoes and a clued-up local guide.

7 There’s a smokin’ food scene
With such harsh winters, Finns have mastered food preservation. Pickled and smoked ingredients are everywhere, and add a rich dimension to meals. Visit Laanilan Kievari, a restaurant in a wooden hut with a roaring open fire. The family-run joint has an ’80s vibe, serving specialities like home-smoked salmon, reindeer and brown bear (it tastes a bit like beef). There’s also a sauna, because Finland.

8 You can catch fish (or try to!) on frozen lakes
Let’s be honest, you probably won’t catch any fish. But after you’ve ridden in a heated sled pulled by a snowmobile into the centre of a huge frozen lake, swooned at the picture-perfect scenery and marvelled at the quiet, you really won’t mind. Try the Ice Fishing tour (£58) with Aurora Village Ivalo, which includes a guru to help you bag some trout.

9 You might spy the Northern Lights
These fluttering ribbons of light draw visitors to Finland like moths to a flame, and even locals gush about their beauty. Finnish folklore says that they were put in the sky by the tail of a fox as it ran across the mountains – a far more enchanting explanation than colliding particles. But like a bouncer at a nightclub, the Aurora Borealis can’t be coaxed into dancing. If you miss them, no biggie. You’ll just have to come back.

By Lucy Lovell
Who is training to become a dog whisperer.

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ESSENTIAL Toronto

Poutine, pottery and pot

What’s the deal with Toronto?
This city is full of surprises. First, you discover that Drake did not, in fact, start from the bottom. He started in Forest Hill, one of the most affluent boroughs in the district. Then, you learn that Toronto deals in so much more than lumberjacks, maple syrup and snow; this city is one of the most multicultural places in the world. It’s also pretty big – bigger than Montreal. Yet, behind all the highways and towering concrete and glass, there’s a laidback scene for foodies, culture junkies, dog spotters or anyone craving a high. It’s one of the greenest cities going – and in more ways than one.

If you only do one thing
Toronto is famous for sports; in particular, the winter kind. Sound the air horn for the Hockey Hall of Fame where you can geek out over games and Wayne Gretzky memorabilia, then climb the famous CN Tower. Let’s go, Maple Leafs!

Dine in style
Brunch is best eaten at Maison Selby in St James Town, built as a hotel in the 1800s. Ernest Hemingway stayed here during a stint at the Toronto Star, so make it an Ernest breakfast with a mimosa on the side of your pain perdu.

Eat on the cheap
Try crispy sprouts at Bar Sybanne, gorge on pierogi at The Ossington Stop or eat around the globe by walking block to block with Eating Through Toronto (tours start at £38). You won’t need help finding Canada’s finest creation – there’s a Smoke’s Poutinerie in most corners with chips, cheese and gravy for £3.

Stay up late
If you like smooth cocktails and ‘70s disco, Supernova Ballroom is your scene. Ingredients are locally sourced and used considerately to minimise waste. And despite its financial district setting, you won’t need to float your savings on the market to drink here.

Get (legally) high
Even non-smokers will marvel at Toronto’s cannabis stores. The Hunny Pot Cannabis Co on Queen Street West has three floors of oils, flowers and paraphernalia while Ameri in Yorkville is the Apple Store of pot – compare 49 strains of the green stuff on iPads.

Soak up the vibes
Inside the former location of Canada’s largest distilling company you’ll now find the Distillery District, home to fashion, food and artisanal produce. Spend the day buying gifts, sipping suds at Mill Street Brewery and people-watching.

Get cultural
Hit up the Royal Ontario Museum for natural wonder, go potty for pottery at the Gardiner Museum or get your art fix at The Museum of Contemporary Art. Or go slightly bizzaro with a well-heeled walk back through time at the Bata Shoe Museum – marvel at Elton John’s platform boots.

Take a day trip
Two facts about Niagara Falls: more than 700,000 gallons of water crash over its edge every second, and 50 wineries dot the lush expanses of surrounding countryside. Like the sound of the latter? Many trips from Toronto include transfers and catering, so you can enjoy the whole area’s refreshing reputation.

Only in Toronto
Dog lover? So, it would seem, are Torontonians. There are 230,000 pups in this city (with 2.8 million owners), and 65 off-leash areas (aka pooh parks) in which to spot them. You can also marvel at Berczy Park’s dog fountain, where 27 breeds spout arcs of aquamarine. Pick up a poutine-flavoured souvenir for your furry friends at Timmie Doggie Outfitters.

Samantha Willis
SALE
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Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

Cling to that festive feeling

Not quite ready to face 2020? Wring out that last mulled drop of Christmas cheer with the remaining ‘seasonal’ things to do in the city

Go to Skate Lates at Somerset House
Never made it to the big shiny, showy ice rink at Somerset House? Then see it at its best with Skate Lates, a club night on ice with a very decent line-up of DJs – strictly no cheese. Try not to fall arse over tit as you slide around to dark trap and grime from London clubnight Night Dreams, and a set from Girls Can’t DJ founder Jordss. A whizz around the ice and a rinkside hot chocolate should help feed that ‘it’s still Christmas’ denial.

Have a look at the last of London’s Christmas lights
Most of London’s major Christmas light installations will be packed away into their giant boxes by January 6. But like a visiting uncle with no self-awareness, the ‘Wave’ installation in Belgravia will be sticking around just a few days longer than normal. Made up of 500 colourful glowing orbs, ‘Wave’ is loosely inspired by the concept of chromotherapy, with lights that are designed to make visitors feel more energised and at ease.

See festive films on the ice at Queens
Watch classic movies from a deckchair that’s plonked on an actual ice rink at Queens in Bayswater for the last ‘festive’ cinema pop-up. Catch screenings of ‘Wall-E’, ‘The Greatest Showman’ or ‘Dirty Dancing’. Look out for the servers who’ll be skating around selling popcorn.

Visit Hogwarts in the Snow
The Hogwarts Express is about to depart, but there’s still time to see the Great Hall decked out for the Yule Ball (if you can cope with the crowds and queues). See dripping icicles, snow-covered Christmas trees, an orchestra playing silver instruments, turkey and burning Christmas puddings laid out on the table. The Gryffindor Common Room will feature original props with Christmas cards created by cast members. If you can’t get tickets, just treat yourself to another hungover viewing of ‘Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban’.
→ Studio Tour Drive. Watford Junction Overground then bus. Until Jan 26. £47, booking essential.
Swap unwanted gifts for sex toys
Got a ‘Killing Eve’ DVD box set for Christmas when you no longer own a DVD player? Take your unwanted gifts to the South Bank for the Sex Not Socks gift swap, where you can trade them for a sextoy from the Lovehoney ‘lucky dip’ sack. The presents will then be donated to a homeless charity. Bulky items aren’t welcome, so no trying to palm off your unused face steamer in exchange for a butt plug.
Bring a gift or give a donation.

Say bye to The Queen’s House ice rink
With its grand English baroque architecture, verdant green spaces and excessive quaintness, there’s just something indecently Christmassy about Greenwich. Even more so when you visit this outdoor ice rink. Get yourself to south London before Sunday and you can do one final loop of the ice while taking in some sweet views of London. And yes, it’s still doing mulled wine. Greenwich does not give up on Christmas that easily.
› Queen’s House. Maze Hill rail. Until Sun Jan 12. £13.50-£16.

Catch one of the last Christmas theatre shows
The final curtain has long since fallen for the majority of London’s panto productions, but the Old Vic’s ebullient retelling of ‘A Christmas Carol’ will be running until January 18. The play, created by hit writer Jack Thorne, is narrated by a rowdy chorus of costumed spirits. As our reviewer put it: ‘It looks like a Victorian slum party on opium, and sounds, at its heights, like a choir of angels.’
› Katie McCabe and Angela Hui
DIGITAL COURSES

Illuminated Origami  
Saturday 18 January

Get to Know Your Camera  
Wednesday mornings,  
29 January – 25 March

Constructive Fashion Illustration  
Saturday 1 February

Introduction to Robotics  
Friday 7 & Saturday 8 February

Data Visualisation  
Tuesday evenings,  
18 February – 24 March

EVENING TALKS

Filthy Lucre: Darren Waterston in Conversation  
Friday 24 January

Surrealism Then and Now  
Tuesday 28 January

Fashionopolis  
Friday 14 February

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

V&A South Kensington
Find out more and book vam.ac.uk/whatson
SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday

Hidden Stories of Hyde Park
Get acquainted with the secrets of this famous London park with a rare opportunity to explore the Victorian pet cemetery, which is crowded with more than 600 tiny animal gravestones. Morbid!

SING
Sing-a-Long-a 'Dirty Dancing'
Have the time of your life by bellowing along to the film’s banger-filled soundtrack.
Dress up, grab a bag of props and sway like Swayze.

PARTY
The Travelling Circus
Bestival founders Josie and Rob da Bank are behind this big top-themed bar. Go to see acrobats, sword-swallowers and neck Fire Eater cocktails.

Saturday

How to Eat Your Christmas Tree
Don’t bin your fir. Learn how to turn it into dinner at this evergreen-themed feast with courses of douglas fir jelly and blue spruce ice cream.
→ Host of Leyton. Leyton Midland Rd Overground. Sat Jan 11. £37.

SWAP
Swish and Style
Realise your resolution to reduce unwanted waste by exchanging your unwanted clothes for someone else’s pre-loved garms at this swap shop.

SLAM
Eve Riot Grrls of Wrestling
Watch this crew of spandex-wearing ladies perform patriarchy-smashing wrestling stunts.
→ 229 The Venue. Regent’s Park. Sat Jan 11. £20.

Sunday

No Trousers Tube Ride
Being willing to take off your pants and keep a straight face about it are the only requirements for joining this semi-starkers group trip on the underground.
→ Meet opposite the Canton restaurant, Newport Place.

BUY
Big London Flea
Pick your way through 50 stalls at this flea where veteran vintage-sellers flog their wares alongside locals clearing their attics. Sharp eyes at the ready.

LISTEN
TS Eliot Prize Readings
Hear the wordsmiths shortlisted for this prestigious prize read out their poems, then guess who’ll scoop the £25,000 winnings.

Keep on rocking in the flea world timeout.com/markets
WHY I LOVE

Ciné-Real

Katie McCabe believes this 16mm film club has created the best movie night in town

It’s run by a London legend
What makes a Ciné-Real screening different from a normal night at the cinema? Its organiser, a trained projectionist called Ümit Mesut, who set up the night with the help of film director Liam Saint-Pierre. He’s the owner of Ümit & Son, a film emporium in Clapton that’s filled with towers of Super 8 and Super 16 film reels. Ever seen ‘Cinema Paradiso’? Well, Ümit is Alfredo, only with an East End accent and a more impressive moustache.

The programming is unpredictable
Ciné-Real exclusively screens movies on 16mm, but undamaged film reels are not easy to come by so there is a limit to what can be shown. That distillation of choice can be a blessing, as there’s no set theme. The only aim is a great cinematic experience, whether that means a screening of ‘ET’ or Jean-Luc Godard’s ‘Alphaville’.

It’s a form of time travel
Ciné-Real events take place in the art deco diamond that is The Castle Cinema. Ümit projects each film, so you can see him in his element working with his own equipment just a few seats away, and listen to the whirr and snap of the film as it plays. There’s even an intermission to allow reel changes.

It can change the way you think about film
Fetishisation of the past can be exhausting, but Ümit’s commitment to celluloid is infectious rather than preachy. As he explains to the audience before most screenings, a film on 16mm can reproduce colours that digital cannot, at least not in the same way. Ciné-Real isn’t a resistance against digital, but an elegant case for why both formats should coexist.


Madagascar in the frame
A community living without clean water

Their story told in an unmissable new photographic exhibition at Fujifilm House of Photography
8-9 Long Acre, Covent Garden
Until 31 January

Search: WaterAid Time
Museum of Neoliberalism

**WHATEVER YOU TAKE** away from the Museum of Neoliberalism, you definitely won’t forget the display ‘Bottle of Amazon employee urine’. According to the museum, it came from a worker in one of the company’s fulfilment centres who passed up a toilet break in order not to fall behind on work targets. It’s just one of the ways this place confronts you with how modern economic structures have trickled down into people’s everyday lives.

Tucked between a laundrette and a hairdressers in an unassuming post-war shopping centre in Lewisham, the museum explains its purpose in a window sign: ‘to look back on neoliberalism, what it has done to our world; and what might lie beyond it’. Turns out, it’s quite scary stuff.

The exhibition, which begins with a display setting out the main players of twentieth-century neoliberalism, has been created by satirical artist Darren Cullen and Gavin Grindon, a lecturer at the University of Essex who curated parts of Banksy’s Dismaland.

Like the suspects board of a detective on the edge, it’s covered in a criss-cross of red string connecting images of Margaret Thatcher, George W Bush, Tony Blair, David Cameron and Boris Johnson.

You’re then exposed to the ways capitalism has seeped into our lives, from Scouts badges embroidered with oil company logos to a replica of the cladding and insulation at Grenfell Tower.

Regardless of your political persuasion, it’s hard not to be moved. The museum admits that it ‘may seem dispiriting’, but it’ll stoke a fire in your belly for change.

Alexandra Sims
Things to Do

DON’T MISS

Resolution 2020

Dense about contemporary dance? Change that in 2020 with a visit to the UK’s biggest festival of choreography. See shows from emerging dance artists, or throw some shapes of your own at a workshop.


THREE OF THE BEST

OTT yoga classes

Kilted Yoga

Swap sweatpants for a kilt at this 60-minute Forrest yoga sesh with ‘kilted yogi’ Finlay Wilson. You don’t have to wear a kilt to join in, but if you do, underpants are optional.


Disco Yoga brunch

Practise your downward-facing dog to some disco tunes then dive into a bottomless brunch. Wear your shiniest spandex and sequins as there’s a prize for the best dressed every week. Be warned, this is definitely not one for yoga purists.


Gallery Yoga

Get bendy on a Sunday morning while surrounded by artworks from the Dutch Golden Age at Dulwich Picture Gallery. After the stretch session, you’ll get early access to the gallery’s ‘Rembrandt’s Light’ exhibition. Angela Hui


After a more straightforward class? Try timeout.com/yoga
From Space Oddity To Starman: Bowie’s Beckenham Tour
It’s been four years since we lost the Starman. Celebrate the Beckenham-bred superstar on this epic guided tour exploring his hometown and rise to stardom. Visit the site of the now-demolished Haddon Hall, where the first Ziggy Stardust outfit was supposedly stitched together, and see the venue where he rehearsed for the ‘Hunky Dory’ album.

‘The Tiger Who Came to Tea’
Step into the world of Judith Kerr’s wonderful children’s classic at this fiftieth anniversary exhibition. See Kerr’s childhood drawings, learn about her experience of escaping Germany as Hitler came to power, revisit scenes from the book and tuck into tiger-themed treats.

Warmth for the Streets
The only entry requirement to this shindig is to donate some warm clothing on the door that can be given to the homeless to help them keep warm over winter. Bring along jumpers, coats or duvets, then spend the night listening to comedians and dancing to a set from Kiss FM DJ Justin Wilkes.

The Art of Tea Leaf Reading
Want to know what 2020 has in store? Professional diviner Freya Ingva hosts this tea-leaf reading sesh where she’ll interpret the soggy lumps in your mug and hopefully give you some good news.

Arab Christmas
Across the Arab World, Orthodox Christians and Egyptian Copts celebrate Christmas on January 7. Join them by listening to Syriac, Coptic and Byzantine chants at this service hosted by Palestinian singer Reem Kelani.

Live Music and Spoken Word Open Mic
If ‘perform at an open mic’ is on your resolutions list, get to this night in the depths of Docklands. Hear performances from local talent then muster up the courage to sign up yourself.

EXCLUSIVE
Reach new heights with 50 percent off iFLY indoor skydiving for two. Now £49.99. Up, up and away!
→ iFLY. DLR. Until Jan 25. £24.
Sam Mendes

The ex-Bond director on his new epic ‘1917’ and why he stans for Covent Garden.

Portrait Andy Parsons

HAVING MADE TWO Bond films in ‘Skyfall’ and ‘Spectre’, Sam Mendes isn’t desperately keen to chat about a third one. ‘If there’s one way to take your mind out of it, it’s to make a movie as engrossing as this one,’ he says of the transition from zero lt zero lt seven lt to one lt nine lt one lt seven lt, steering the conversation gently but unmistakably back to his Oscar-tipped war epic.

You can forgive him sounding testy when facing the inevitable questions about Bond: his brilliant, spectacularly ambitious new World War I film has been an all-consuming journey. Following two British soldiers (George MacKay and Dean-Charles Chapman) behind enemy lines, it’s shot in really, really long takes stitched together with invisible edits.

‘There were days when it seemed ridiculous,’ he laughs.

‘Every day at some point I thought: Why have I done this to myself?’

Did you have any moments where you thought: Okay, I’ve bitten off a bit much here?

‘Every day at some point I thought: Why have I done this to myself? I was sort of trapped a bit by the script. I wrote it with Krysty Wilson-Cairns but really it was my idea, so I couldn’t look to someone else to get me out of it. I’d do a seven-minute take and, after six minutes and 30 seconds of magic, someone trips and you have to start again. That can be heartbreaking. But when you do get it, it’s such a high.’

Do you have a favourite continuous shot in cinema?

‘There’s one in “Children of Men” where Clive Owen enters a besieged building. I looked at it in pre-production to see if it was as good as I remembered and came away thinking: Yes, it was.’

Your grandfather inspired the story. What do you think he’d have made of the film?

‘He spent 60 years not talking about what happened to him, presumably because he found it extremely traumatic. But being the man he was, I think he’d have embraced it.’

The film feels meticulously researched. Did the Imperial War Museum café know your lunch order off by heart?

‘It’s an incredible resource but I didn’t spend a lot of time there. I had two historical researchers and I told them: “Tell us what we’re doing wrong.” Occasionally, I’d ignore it because you want to make the story come alive rather than please the historical nerds in the audience.’

World War I has been treated in so many ways. Did you have a liberal attitude towards people quoting “Blackadder Goes Forth” on set?

[Laughs] ‘You know what? I was the one quoting it. No one else did. It’s still one of the most moving World War I moments of all, the last scene in “Blackadder Goes Forth”.

Having said goodbye to James Bond, how did it feel watching the trailer for ‘No Time to Die’?

‘Great: I can’t wait. I’ll be there watching it. But I’ve been so in the tunnel of this movie that the fact they’ve made it is amazing. The time has flown by.’

How do Bond and ‘1917’ compare in terms of scale and complexity? Was this harder or easier?

‘I learned a lot doing Bond, no question. Bond is bigger and is more scattered: you’re often having to shoot in one place and judge second and third units from other places. Even when you’re shooting in one place, you’re using seven or eight cameras. To go from that to just one camera and two hours of real time is a blessing.’

TIME OUT MEETS

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

Time Out London January 7 – 13 2020

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It must be a little strange to be in the dark having done so much to plot the arc of Daniel Craig’s Bond?

‘It’s exciting. Bond is a contemporary myth and you tell your chapter of it and then it’s someone else’s job to carry the torch. I’m a big fan of Cary [Fukunaga]: I thought “True Detective” was brilliant. I think they’re in pretty safe hands.’

What inspires you about London?

‘I’m a Covent Gardenite. I’ve been working there for nine years, since the beginning of the Donmar [theatre] and my office is still there. It’s changed a lot but I still love it. The place still has a spirit about it, even since its gentrification. When I was first on Neal Street there was the clog shop and the kite store and [vegetarian restaurant] Food for Thought. Now there’s loads of shoe shops.’

So: stairs or lift at Covent Garden station?

‘I always take the stairs because a) I don’t get very much exercise and b) I get claustrophobic in the lift.’

Do people chat to you on the tube?

‘Not much. At the height of Bond people would shout out: “Good job, mate!” but very little abuse. I admire and respect people who deal with genuine fame because for me it’d like being deprived of oxygen.’

**By Phil de Semlyen**

Who took all his friends to the Imperial War Museum for his eleventh birthday.

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1917

A HIT OF pure adrenaline, Sam Mendes’s stunning, sorta-single-take ‘1917’ hits its greatest heights when darkness falls. A British tommy dusts himself off from a glancing wound, wanders to the window of a broken-down house and, in one invisible cut, emerges into the skeletal, hellish remains of a French town. It’s at once an epic piece of filmmaking and, quite possibly, the greatest ‘person walks into a town’ moment in cinema since Claudia Cardinale in ‘Once Upon a Time in the West’.

At its core, ‘1917’ is a simple men-on-a-mission story dressed up with all the technical bells and whistles at the director’s disposal. The men are lance corporals Schofield (George MacKay) and Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman), who are summoned into the trenches for a hurried briefing from Colin Firth’s General Erinmore. Their mission? To deliver a message to stop a planned attack before morning.

Initially, the duo brave the half-familiar horrors of an Otto Dix nightmare of no-man’s-land. Then they, and the film, disappear into a subterranean realm below the German lines and it’s clear what Mendes has in mind: a quasi-horror movie.

Even more than Christopher Nolan’s ‘Dunkirk’, ‘1917’ is a wildly audacious reinvention of its genre. The script, co-written by Krysty Wilson-Cairns, honours the historical truth of this eerie moment and invites us into a strange, hellish hinterland that even the best Great War films haven’t explored. The stories of Mendes’s own grandpa, a WWI veteran, inspired it and Mendes Sr, it turns out, has helped create possibly his grandson’s best film yet. ■ Phil de Semlyen
Seberg

AN ACTOR WHOSE tragic trajectory is the stuff of Hollywood infamy, Jean Seberg is still probably most famous for redefining cool in a Herald Tribune T-shirt in Jean-Luc Godard’s ‘Breathless’. ‘Seberg’, a well-intentioned but pedestrian account of her real-life dalliance with the Black Panthers and subsequent persecution by the FBI, won’t change that, though it might change the perception of Kristen Stewart’s range. Her performance burns with far greater intensity than the middling material that surrounds it.

Closer to a surveillance drama than a biopic, ‘Seberg’ shows this idealistic, unguarded starlet trying to put her fame and wealth to good use by supporting the civil rights movement – and demonstrates how easily that narrative was hijacked by the establishment. She meets Black Panther Hakim Jamal (Anthony Mackie) on a flight, falls into bed with him and is soon deep into ‘60s racial politics and radicalism.

The film is at its best depicting how easily a Hollywood star could needle the paranoid authorities, and the precarious soft power that fame lent her. ‘We need a shotgun to get people’s attention,’ a Panther tells Seberg, ‘you get a haircut, you’re on the front cover of Life magazine.’

It ought to be a juicy enough story without fictional bolt-ons, but that’s what the screenplay offers with the addition of a conflicted FBI agent (Jack O’Connell, solid enough) and his bigoted boss (Vince Vaughn, Vince Vaughn-ing). This subplot is meant to provide a handy entrée into J Edgar Hoover’s prurient, morally bankrupt surveillance culture – O’Connell’s G-man learns that ‘Hoover likes to hear the bed springs creak’ – but only serves to drag things off topic. Stewart’s firebrand turn deserves better. So does Seberg.

Phil de Semlyen

WHAT IS IT...
Hollywood star Jean Seberg falling foul of the FBI in ‘60s America.

WHY GO...
For Kristen Stewart strutting her stuff sporting Seberg’s famous pixie crop.

Director Benedict Andrews (15) 102 mins.

HEADS UP Scenes in the Square

A new interactive sculpture trail is landing in Leicester Square to celebrate its role in a century of cinema. Film icons from Laurel & Hardy to Wonder Woman and homegrown faves including Mr Bean and Paddington will be sited around the space, with a massive Bugs Bunny emerging from a flower bed with a carrot to freak out hen parties.

Five London actors for 2020
This town's got talent: here are the local faces to watch out for on the big screen this year

Amber Anderson
The Glastonbury-born, Notting Hill-based actress has been slowly raising her profile with stints on TV ("Strike") and supporting roles in movies ("In Darkness"). This year should take it up a notch or two: she plays Jane Fairfax in Autumn de Wilde's new take on 'Emma' and appears in the eagerly anticipated 'The Souvenir: Part II'.
See her in 'Emma' (opens February 14).
Fun fact She has cats called Sooty and Jasper.

Bukky Bakray
The 16-year-old east Londoner had no interest in acting before 'Rocks' director Sarah Gavron came to her school to find the lead for her coming-of-age drama. She was duly cast and her performance has earned her some rave reviews.
See her in 'Rocks' (opens April 10).
Fun fact On finding out she'd been chosen for 'Rocks', she ran past Finsbury Park station, screaming.

Dixie Egerickx
The west London teenager was shortlisted for a role in Steven Spielberg's 'The BFG', making it to the final ten. Her breakthrough will come with 'The Secret Garden', a starry adaptation of the beloved novel. She's playing the feral and fiery lead character, Mary Lennox.
See her in 'The Secret Garden' (opens April 17).
Fun fact She was cast in HBO's now-cancelled 'GOT' prequel.

Lashana Lynch
After appearing in indie British movies 'Fast Girls' and 'Brotherhood', Lynch levelled up with the role of fighter pilot Maria Rambeau in 'Captain Marvel'. She's set to get mega-famous in the new James Bond film as a '00' agent.
See her in 'No Time to Die' (opens April 2).
Fun fact The multi-talented Lynch is also a singer-songwriter. Maybe get her to write the Bond theme, eh?

Amir Wilson
If you saw 'His Dark Materials', you'll recognise this 15-year-old as the otherworldly Will Parry. Wilson will return in season two, but first you can see him as Dickon in the new adaptation of 'The Secret Garden' opposite Colin Firth and Julie Walters.
See him in 'The Secret Garden' (opens April 17).
Fun fact He can speak Arabic.

Hanna Flint

All the best movies to see in London at timeout.com/film

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Music & Nightlife

The BIGGEST gigs of 2020

There’s already a healthy gaggle of major shows announced for the next 12 months. Here’s our pick of the best so far

Madonna

Never one to rest on her laurels for very long, the Queen of Pop on her latest tour eschews huge arena shows in favour of a whopping 15-night stand at the relatively intimate London Palladium. The crap news is that, while there’s still a handful of tickets available, expect to hand over the big bucks if you want one.

→ London Palladium. Dates between Jan 27 and Feb 16.

Tove Lo

The Swedish pop queen tours in support of recent-ish album ‘Sunshine Kitty’. Maybe her duet partner on ‘Really Don’t Like U’ – a certain Kylie Minogue – will guest.


Dua Lipa

The reigning princess of British pop brings her ‘Future Nostalgia’ tour to the capital. An album of the same name is due in 2020 and has already spawned the huge, house-influenced hit ‘Don’t Start Now’.

→ The 02. May 26–27.

Avril Lavigne

Dig out the fingerless gloves for AvLav’s first UK headline shows in years. Her current setlist features
Sam Fender
The fast-rising star tours in support of his awesomely named, chart-topping debut album 'Hypersonic Missiles'. The North Shields lad’s indie-rock bangers, including ‘The Sound’ and ‘Play God’, should pack Ally Pally to the rafters.

Snoop Dogg
Pour yourself a supersized ‘Gin and Juice’, because the Doggfather is playing live in London for the first time since 2015. The tour celebrates his influence on hip hop and pop culture generally by enlisting some of his key collaborators from over the years: Warren G, Tha Dogg Pound, Obie Trice and D12. Irish hip hop duo Versatile will be joining the support line-up, so it’s gonna be an epic night all round.
→ The O2. Apr 15.

Harry Styles
Is it too soon to call him the Robbie of 1D? Two shows at one of London’s biggest venues – in support of second solo LP ‘Fine Line’ – suggest Hazza’s on the right track.
→ The O2. Apr 22-23.

King Krule
We are still 100 percent besotted with Archy Marshall’s regal alias. Three albums in, his stoned-to-the-bone songcraft and intimate, jazz-flecked performance mode has us enraptured. Album number four is coming. We can’t wait.
→ 02 Brixton Academy. Mar 25.
Meltdown
Ladies and gentlemen, the one and only Grace Jones is curating this year’s Meltdown festival. The hula-hooping pop icon is a real wild card, so it’s impossible to predict what kind of acts she might book for the ten-day music and culture fest, but you can bet her own performance will be mind-blowing.

Brockhampton
After smashing it at Lovebox last summer, the multi-headed, progressive hip hop boyband return to London. Their ability to connect with fans and cultivate a smart, switched-on and super enthusiastic following is becoming legendary, so expect these two Brixton shows to be pretty transcendent.

Pet Shop Boys
‘West End Girls’ and East End boys alike are bound to enjoy this one, because it’s the first ever actual greatest hits show from Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe, surely one of the most consistently great duos in British pop.
→ The O2. May 28.

Diana Ross
A week after owning the Glastonbury legends slot, the Supremes diva plays her first London gig in 13 years. It’s billed – entirely legitimately – as ‘A Diamond Diana Music Celebration’, so expect to hear all her hits, from ‘Ain’t No Mountain High Enough’ to ‘Upside Down’.
→ The O2. Jul 8-9 and 19.

Celine Dion
What do you mean you missed the memo? Celine is proper cool now. The vocal powerhouse, style icon and meme queen continues her Celine-naissance with an arena show in support of latest album ‘Courage’.
→ The O2. Sep 17-18.

Billie Eilish
The 18-year-old pop prodigy behind ‘Bad Guy’ (one of the most thrillingly distinctive breakthrough hits in recent memory) brings her first full-scale world tour to London. Laudably, she’s making it an eco-friendly affair where fans can bring in their own refillable water bottles and plastic straws are banned.
Stormzy
The grime king’s brilliant new album is called ‘Heavy Is the Head’, and finds the rapper riffing on the price of fame, but that doesn’t mean he’s about to surrender his crown. A case in point: this massive three-night stand at The O2.
→ The O2. Sep 2–4.

Elton John
Following the success of his ‘Rocketman’ biopic and stunningly honest memoir, Sir Elts continues his career victory lap by bringing the epic ‘Farewell Yellow Brick Road’ tour to London. If this really is his final tour, he’s going out in style by playing all the classics from ‘Bennie and the Jets’ to ‘The Bitch Is Back’. ■ Nick Levine and Oliver Keens
→ The O2. Dates between Nov 2 and Dec 17.

More 2020 gigs at timeout.com/music

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**Theatre & Dance**

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski

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**FIVE OF THE BEST**

**Wordless wonders**

London International Mime Festival’s 2020 line-up is packed with circus, mime and physical theatre to leave you speechless.

**History that isn’t a drag**

Come face-to-face with the twentieth century’s biggest drag stars in drag show ‘Romancing the Apocalypse’. Twisted London duo Thick & Tight will lipsync, dance and party their way through a night of eerily accurate renditions of historical and countercultural icons, from Derek Jarman to Princess Di.


**A tramp through mime history**


**A marsupial to marvel at**

Half-man, half-kanga hybrid ‘Rooman’ sprang into life after he appeared to Australian artist Fleur Elise Noble in a dream. She tells his story in this offbeat, quietly nightmarish show, which mixes puppets with scenery that looks like a kid’s scribbled-on pop-up book.


**Some real bad mothers**

Ravens turf their chicks out of the nest before they can even fly. The feathered fiends are the inspo behind German company Still Hungry’s ‘Raven’. It’s an aerial show by three mothers that talks about winging it as a working parent.


**Clowns that are unafraid to be scary**

What with the recent rebirth of Stephen King’s ‘It’, it’s never been tougher for clowns to shed the whole ‘creepy’ thing. Bristol-based company Opposable Thumb’s show ‘Coulrophobia’ pokes fun at its audience’s fears of all things white-faced, red-nosed and custard-pie-wielding. Its two stars brandish cardboard chainsaws in a playfully sinister show that’s also pretty damn adorable.


London International Mime Festival runs Wed Jan 8–Feb 2.

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By Alice Saville

*Who’s anything but down on clowns.*
NEW SHOWS
THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

**Coming Clean**
Kevin Elyot’s 1982 gay love triangle drama has scrubbed up nicely; it hits the West End after a popular fringe run.
- Trafalgar Studios.

**La Bohème**
A return for Richard Jones’s witty take on Puccini’s classic opera of arty Parisian misery.
- Royal Opera House.
- Covent Garden. Fri Jan 10–May 27. £11–£230.

**Magic Goes Wrong**
A gaggle of magicians see their dreams vanish in a puff of smoke in this new comedy. It’s a collab between Mischief Theatre and magic royalty Penn & Teller.
- Vaudeville Theatre.
- Chalk Farm. Until Jan 31. £20–£75.

OFF-WEST END

**Antigone**
Lulu Raczka’s myth-inspired follow-up to her hit dystopia ‘A Girl in School Uniform’.
- New Diorama Theatre.
- Great Portland St. Tue Jan 7–Feb 1. £16.

**Scrounger**
This new play by Athena Stevens (‘Schism’) is inspired by her lawsuit against the airline that broke her wheelchair.
- Finborough Theatre.
- Earl’s Court. Tue Jan 7–Feb 1. £18–£30.

**Shackleton and His Stowaway**
The true story of a plucky teenager who followed Shackleton to Antarctica.
- Park Theatre.

**The Tyler Sisters**
Three siblings dredge up decades’ worth of secrets in Alexandra Wood’s new play, inspired by a famous photography project.
- Hampstead Theatre.
- Swiss Cottage. Until Jan 18. £12–£14, £6–£10 concs.

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**Snowflake**

**WHAT IS IT...**
Mike Bartlett’s Christmas play about Brexit, sort of.

**WHY GO...**
Elliot Levey is brilliantly excruciating as a middle-aged dad stuck in the ‘90s.
- Kiln Theatre.
- Kilburn. Until Jan 25. £12.50–£32.50.

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**MIKE BARTLETT IS** a playwright unafraid of a clodhopping set-up if it helps him tell a good story. His drollly named Gen X versus Gen Z Christmas play ‘Snowflake’ revolves around an improbable scenario in which 48-year-old widower Andy (Elliot Levey) has hired a hall for a one-man welcome home party for his estranged daughter Maya. But instead a different woman, Amber James’s Natalie, shows up. Whatever clunking of gears might be involved in setting the scene, Bartlett’s dialogue is pure magic. As performed by the whinily lovable Levey, Andy, in particular, is a brilliantly observed piece of characterisation. He feels old and out of touch with the world, worried that he’s offended Maya… somehow. Yet the excruciating thing about him — certainly if you’re my age — is that he’s not that old: the simpler world he pines for is essentially the ‘90s. And for all his attempts at self-reflection, deep down he believes that he is right, that things were better when he was Maya’s age, and that he knows better than her.

Towards the end, Maya (Ellen Robertson) does finally appear as a character, and it’s these scenes that hit home the hardest. She does not exactly cover herself in glory; but Andy’s unwillingness to hear her out or consider her might not know what’s best for her — even as he’s trying to be kind — is agonising.

The play is set at Christmas, and Bartlett pulls a tearjerking conclusion out of it all. But his provocative and tender vision of divided Britain suggests that there is no way forward if we don’t try to understand each other. ■ Andrzej Lukowski
Time Out Loves

Tarot

LAST YEAR, BELOVED circuit sketch acts Gein’s Family Giftshop and Goose joined forces to become a sketch supergroup: Tarot. Yes, they’re the NKOTBSB of the sketch comedy world. Just with less synchronised dancing and more horror-themed mischief. Here’s what they have to say about their interactive spooktacular of a show, which comes to Soho this month.

How would you describe your show?
‘An occult choose-your-own-adventure-without-a-storyline, Epstein-didn’t-kill-himself, horror-comedy morality triptych.’

Has anything spooky happened to any of you in real life?
‘The fact Kath has been dead for seven years is pretty spooky. She doesn’t milk it, though.’

What is your favourite thing about performing this show?
‘The structure changes every night so every time we do it it’s like it’s the first time. Or it’s when Adam hitchs his nightie above his knees.’

What’s the rudest thing you’ve done in a show?
‘We did a preview to two of Kath’s friends and no one else. That was pretty rude of us.’

If you won the lottery, what would you do?
‘Buy a venue in London and set up a bespoke comedy club, haemorrhage money for 20 years until all our marriages desiccate and our friendships sour, then fold the company and go on a reunion tour to pay for our divorces.’

Ben Williams
Bruce Conner: ‘Breakaway’

FORWARD, BACKWARD.

Backward, forward. Forward, backforebackward. The more times you watch Bruce Conner’s short film ‘Breakaway’ (1966) the less sure you become of which direction the action is running in.

The black-and-white work, which lasts approximately five minutes, shows performer and singer Toni Basil dancing to her song of the same title as Conner’s film. Basil starts off wearing a pair of dark opaque tights with large polka-dot holes sliced into them. The footage then flashes through a series of outfit changes: pale silk negligée, basic black panties, baroque flowered bra and complete nudity.

She dances the ‘dance like nobody’s watching’ dance that people dance when they know people actually are watching, her eyes fixed forever down the camera lens at the invisible viewer. At one point she executes some elegant jetés, leaping across and out of the shot. The rest of the time she shakes, twists and flips her shoulders around, a half-controlled ramshackleness.

Then the film stops, switches, and shows the same footage in reverse. Basil’s movements instantly look wilder, stranger, more out of control. The Motown-inspired pop track, however, sounds surprisingly undistorted. The lyrics could be mistaken for Russian, while the inside-out drum beats aren’t a million miles away from The Beatles’ ‘Tomorrow Never Knows’, the final track on ‘Revolver’, which uses backwards masking, reversed guitar and psychedelic looped effects.

And that’s it. That’s the whole film and, here, the entire exhibition. But that’s okay, because it forces you to focus on something you otherwise might pass by. It also, unless you’re in an extreme rush, forces you to watch it a few times. And it’s then you see the interesting things about an essentially pretty simple artwork.

It’s unmistakably the product of the ’60s, to the point that certain elements of it – the nudity, the pubic hair, the Nico-esque eyeliner – now seem closer to clichés of the era than the symbols of liberation probably intended by Conner.

But it’s the backwards and forwards that remains interesting. The artist is remembered for his collages and assemblages and ‘Breakaway’ is essentially a filmic collage, the repeated flipside giving the whole thing the air of exhaustive repetitiveness, an unravelling as you dress, undress, dance, stop, dance, dress, undress, dance. Repeat. Basically, it’s the feeling of still being on the dancefloor when you’ve no idea if the track’s playing backwards and you’ve lost all your clothes. ■

By Rosemary Waugh

WHO ONCE TRIED TO DANCE BACKWARDS. REGRETTABLY.

WHAT IS IT...

An artsy take on a pop video turned inside out.

WHY GO...

It’s like the best and worst night of your life simultaneously.

Thomas Dane Gallery.

January 7 – 13 2020 Time Out London
Every January, international galleries fly into the capital for Condo. Here are the shows not to miss over the next month.

FOR YEARS, THE depths of winter were a pretty art-free time – a barren, bereft period for gallery-goers, with barely a new show opening to get you through the darkest months. Then, in 2017, Condo came along and, like a fashionably late Santa Claus, dumped a sackload of exhibitions on dreary old January. Here’s everything you need to know in order to gorge yourself silly on an endless array of international art.

What is it?
You might have hated sharing the house with family over Christmas, but London’s galleries have a more enthusiastic attitude to guests. Condo is their yearly opportunity to show the love by inviting some of their international counterparts into their homes, either letting them take over the whole space, or dividing it down the middle and putting on a show at the same time. This year sees 19 overseas galleries rock up.

Cond-oh yes! ‘Stepping Stains’ by Judith Hopf (left); ‘A Pervasive Rhythm’ by Bagus Pandega (right); ‘In Dreams’ by Nicholas Cheveldave (far right); ‘In Purple’ by Johanna Billing (below); ‘A Fops 3’ by Jos de Gruijter and Harald Thys (bottom)
at 17 spaces around the city. Some venues are even playing host to two of their global artsy friends.

Who’s involved?
The schedule for 2020 features galleries from New York, Shanghai, Berlin, Toronto and Jakarta, including a London debut for Turkish gallery Öktem Aykut at Southard Reid. Other names to look out for include Belgium’s Dépendance and Hong Kong’s Edouard Malingue at Sadie Coles HQ, and New York’s Team gallery at Modern Art’s Vyner Street space. You can go on a worldwide art tour with a carbon footprint only as big as that created with a one-day travelcard.

How do you tackle it?
Most of the venues are spread out across east London, with extra clumps in central and south. We suggest going big on opening weekend, focusing your art attack on the eastern front – where you’ll be able to walk between most galleries – followed by a reviving pint while you rest your tired feet and try to digest all that vital, gritty, vibrant, contemporary culture. Then treat yourself to a tour of the central and south London galleries the following week: it’s never a good idea to open all your presents at once.

Eddy Frankel and Rosemary Waugh /barb2right

Plan your art calendar at timeout.com/art
Turning over a new leaf

It’s the beginning of the year, which can only mean one thing: Veganuary. Right now we’re craving vegan comfort. Here’s where to go for that plant-based hug.

**Comptoir V**
The vegan offshoot of nearby Le Comptoir deals in globetrotting plant-based cuisine with lots of exotic nuances and the odd jokey dish name such as ‘It’s No Jerk’ (a three-bean burger with barbecue sauce). The look leans towards the Middle East, but the menu covers everything from jackfruit nuggets and beetroot houmous to roti-style curried chickpeas with Moroccan bread. Drinks are vegan too.

>`1 Keslake Mansions, 12 Station Terrace, NW10 5RU. Kensal Rise Overground.

**Mao Chow**
It’s never easy to find proper Chinese food in vegan form, but this cheery hipster hangout in Hackney really nails it, with its short menu of terrific Sichuan-inspired street food dishes. Current hits range from smacked cucumber with black vinegar, sesame oil and crushed garlic to dan dan noodles topped with vegan mince made to a secret recipe. Prices are wallet-friendly... just remember that it’s cash only.

>`159a Mare St, E8 3RD. London Fields Overground.

**Purezza**
The London outpost of the UK’s first vegan pizzeria is buzzy, modern and relaxed, while the terrific plant-based toppings involve everything from wood-smoked tofu and shaved seitan to rice-based mozzarella and beetroot carpaccio. Go for good old-fashioned gluttony by ordering a wicked Oreo pizza for pud.

>`43 Parkway, NW1 7PN. Camden Town.

**Rudy’s Dirty Vegan Diner**
Serving up hefty portions of US-style junk food, this diner is the king of frill-free comfort grub. Carb-tastic delights include the Dirty Burger – made using a soya mince patty, fake bacon and cashew cheese – and the Rudy’s Reuben, a vegan version of...
the classic US beef-plus-cheese-plus-kraut ubersandwich. Oof!

Temple of Hackney
London’s first vegan ‘chicken shop’ was born out of Hackney’s Temple of Seitan street stall. It’s all about ‘meaty’ wheat gluten (aka seitan) here, whether you order peppery popcorn-style nuggets, battered strips or a burger. Add-ons like bowls of zingy red slaw or vegan mac’n’cheese with smoky ‘facon’ cubes are bang-on too.

What the Pitta!
Head down to the Camden branch of this mini-chain, where the chefs marinade soya chunks in secret spices to create the restaurant’s signature kebab ‘meat’. You’ll find them in the headline act: a vegan doner where the ‘meat’ comes packed in flatbread, with salad, soya yoghurt, tzatziki and houmous. Portions are huge, but you can take any leftovers home. Check out the syrupy and sweet baklava, too.

Young Vegans
A twenty-first-century update of a pie-and-mash shop, but with a twist – everything here is flesh-free. Occupying a corner of Camden Market, Young Vegans feels like a funky street-food joint, while its pies go way beyond the usual kale and lentils: try the katsu curry or the all-day breakfast (scrambled tofu, seitan sausage etc, under a pastry lid). Comfort food sides and puds also get a big thumbs up.

Flor

WHEN FLOR FIRST opened, it generated a torrent of hype. Hardly surprising, really, given its status as the casual Borough Market sister to Shoreditch’s trailblazing (but now somewhat pricy) Lyle’s. The excitement whirled around like a cyclone, sweeping up bloggers, journos and passing Dorothys in its wake. Then it passed. Then we visited. And guess what? It was buzzy and brilliant, even for us ordinary folk.

Housed in a building that’s narrow but tall – like something canalside in Amsterdam – Flor is small. At street level, you squeeze in from the bustle of Borough Market to a teeny concrete-floored wine bar with a short counter and a smattering of seats. If you’re here to eat, head up the winding iron staircase to the first floor. There are lofty ceilings and gloriously tall warehouse windows. The space is a little on the utilitarian side – with more concrete on the floor, exposed brickwork that feels a bit ‘new build’, black wipe-clean tables and overtight lighting – yet somehow Flor gets away with it. How? Because every seat on our off-peak visit was taken, generating a hum of loud, lively chatter which, set against a canvas of folksy-cum-indie tunes, made it feel like a fun diner.

The food is of the modernist small plates school. I admired the kitchen for having the confidence to offer all three of this year’s on-trend cheeses on one small menu: brie-like Baron Bigod paired with honey, burrata teamed with peaches and fennel, and stracciatella – mozzarella’s creamier cousin – elevated by sweet grapes and olive oil. We were dazzled by a portion of anchovy toast, the grilled bread first dotted with morsels of the meaty, salty fish, then draped with folds of cured noir de bigorre (pork fat) and tiny leaves of fragrant marjoram. Then, later: a butter-soft piece of smoked eel laced with grainy grape mustard and flanked by a little bundle of shredded purple cabbage. Service was charming, the filtered water (sparkling or still) is all free. Flor isn’t radical. Just very, very good.

Tania Ballantine

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £115.
Miel Bakery

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A SIMPLE SANDWICH board outside Miel Bakery draws in visitors, calling out the day’s specials. An aroma of baked goods wafts down busy Warren Street. Inside, it’s not a place to linger (there are no comfy couches and no wifi), though the small space does boast some lovely touches: French boulangerie-style tiles, millennial-pink tables and the fact that you are served straight from the onsite kitchen. Close to the station and many an office block, Miel attracts lunchtime crowds with its focaccias and freshly made sandwiches.

Most of Miel’s ingredients are sourced with care from France (Normandy flour, Charentes butter, Valrhona chocolate). All the pastries and breads are baked small-batch throughout the day, so it’s almost guaranteed that you’ll sink your teeth into something melty, warm and doughy, straight from the oven. This is perhaps why the price tags are on the steep side, with a humble croissant ringing up at £3.50. But it’s money well spent: pastries are so flaky and delicate, they rank among the best the capital.

The rest of the menu is a mix of London faves (chunky chocolate sea-salt biscuits, spicy-sweet cinnamon buns) and Parisian sweet eats. Don’t miss the ‘shiny AF’ (their words) chocolate tart, filled with molten dark chocolate that oozes over the edges of the crust as you bite into it. There’s also an excellent shortcrust biscuit, topped with caramelised pecan nuts and drizzled in sticky caramel sauce. Drinks, like the decor, are simple, with a choice of just filter coffee, hot chocolate or fruity cordials: the message is clear – bakes are the main event here.

Nina Clark
Pastries for two with drinks and service: around £25.

Snackbar

WHAT IS IT...
A daytime café near Dalston Junction.

WHY GO...
For Insta-friendly food and lovely vibes.

20 Dalston Lane, E8 3AZ. Dalston Junction Overground.

JUST DOWN THE road from Dalston Junction station, Snackbar is full of good-looking young people. It’s all very likeable, with cheery staff and minimalist decor, from funky plants to turmeric-coloured tables and cool touches like wall hooks for menus (and coats).

The food? Not sensational but perfectly fine. And it’s pretty. This is stuff that’s practically pleasing to have its photo taken – dishes like a dazzling rice bowl topped with crunchy tempura mushrooms, pickled squash, sharp kimchi, cavolo nero and an egg yolk begging to be burst open (while you film). Fun for the eyes and decent to eat. There were delicious treats too, such as the pumpkin pie with its swish, refined sweetness.

Then there were some tacos, with those attractive blue corn tortillas, laden with scrambled egg, avo, pickled onion and cheese. Again, a beauty to look at, and comforting. It was, sadly, a little lacking in flavour, though much more exciting once revved up with hot sauce (you’ll need to ask for this, but staff are eager to help: we were given five Tabasco variants). Elsewhere, a croissant was forgettably average and, although the peanut butter and chocolate cookie was scrumptiously soft, there was little sign of the promised miso. Still, Snackbar is a charming addition to Dalston.

Ella Braidwood
Lunch for two with drinks and service: around £35.

EXCLUSIVE
THREE-COURSE BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH AT CHOTTO MATTE

This flagship restaurant offers something unusual – Nikkei cuisine (that’s Japanese–Peruvian fusion to the uninitiated). Now, you can dig into an exclusive brunch there, with seabass ceviche, sizzling beef teriyaki, cocktails and more. Just £39.

TIMEOUT.COM/CHOTTO

Ts & Cs apply.
Bobby Fitzpatrick
Step straight into the ’70s. Bobby Fitzpatrick is a retro-themed bar in West Hampstead that takes nostalgia to new levels. Stucco ceilings and kitsch furniture provide a look that would have Austin Powers blushing; this bar is the very definition of a shag pad. Have drinks that transport you far away from new year dreariness. Although Dry January didn’t hold quite the same sway in the 1970s, if you ask nicely staff will whip you up a fruity mocktail.
→ 273 West End Lane, NW6 1QS.
→ West Hampstead.

The Four Quarters
Remember when a trip to the arcades was the best thing you could do with your Friday night? At this Peckham arcade bar (and its sister in Hackney Wick), it can still be this way – lose yourself to the retro delights of Street Fighter, Ms Pac-Man, Asteroids et al. If you’re still on the sauce, the menu is far from a throwback and features plenty of London craft beers. And vegan junk food – from burgers to chilli cheese fries – is provided by Deptford’s The Full Nelson, so you can hit your January KPIs in other ways.
→ 187 Rye Lane, SE15 4TP.
→ Peckham Rye Overground.
THREE OF THE BEST

Alcohol-free cocktails

Dry Old Fashioned at Dishoom
All the lingering flavours of the top cocktail, but no lingering hangover to speak of. Dishoom’s sober take on the Old Fashioned includes tingly ginger and hickory-smoked brown sugar – so it still somehow feels like whisky business.
→ 5 Stable St, N1C 4AB. ▲ King’s Cross. £6.50.

Ginger Snap at Teatulia
Go for a full January cleanse at this tea bar, which usually mixes booze with its leaves to make inventive cocktails. Instead, this zero-percent hero contains basil, cucumber and coriander alongside both green tea and ginger tea.
→ 36 Neal St, WC2H 9PS. ▲ Covent Garden. £7.

Sour Cherry America (no alc) at Hawksmoor
One stellar drink on Hawksmoor’s new menu is this ‘temperate’ take on the Americano, which gets bitterness from Æcorn Aperitifs and a fruity whack from preserved cherry juice, which more than compensates for the lack of booze.
→ 157a Commercial St, E1 6BJ. Shoreditch High St Overground. £6.

Find more booze-free havens at timeout.com/dryjan
The best UK places to visit in 2020

THERE ARE COUNTLESS reasons to stay in the UK in 2020. It might be small but, when it comes to stunning landscapes, world-class culture and incredible history, it can’t be beaten. Plus, in an age when we’re so conscious of our own environmental impact, adventuring closer to home means swerving that plane shame, too.

1 Bodmin
Bleak Bodmin Moor, dotted with granite tors and wild ponies, is a powerful antidote to London life. It’s also the stuff of supernatural legends and grim ghost stories. Embrace those vibes with a stay in an eighteenth-century prison cell when Bodmin Jail hotel opens later this year.

2 Alfriston
Head to pretty Alfriston in East Sussex as the National Trust turns 125. The olde-worlde village is where you’ll find Alfriston Clergy House, a medieval, timber-framed hall, which was the first building to be saved by the NT.

3 South Downs
The South Downs, which runs from historic Winchester to Eastbourne’s chalk cliffs via green hills, ancient woodland and sea views, is London’s closest National Park and has been one for ten years. Take a celebratory hike.

4 Alderney
Utilise the 75-years-since-VE-Day May bank holiday on this timewarp Channel Island, which was occupied by German forces during WWII. It’s littered with abandoned forts and bunkers. Fort Clonque is now a holiday home.

5 Lake District
Spot rocky reflections in still lakes, attempt rhyming couplets in Wordsworth’s 250th anniversary year, or scream when the new mile-long zip wire over Honister slate mine opens.

6 Plymouth
There’s a buzzy feel to this ancient Devon port town this year. Hundreds of events are planned to mark four centuries since the Mayflower set sail from here to the Americas.

7 Outer Hebrides
If the aim is to feel indescribably far from London, this string of stunning Scottish islands will do the trick. Head to Barra and the Uists to find ancient relics, Barbados-worthy white sands and delicious silence.

8 Yorkshire
This might be the year of space tourism, but if you prefer to stay grounded, head to the North York Moors and the Yorkshire Dales for the Dark Skies Festival to spot constellations, take a guided night walk or cycle in the starlight.

9 Manchester
The Royal Horticultural Society is opening its first new garden in 17 years this summer. The historic walled Garden Bridgewater in Salford is a great excuse to go north.

10 Wye Valley
Channel your inner Gillian Anderson (everyone has one) and explore this lush corner of the country where Netflix’s ‘Sex Education’ is filmed. ■ Ellie Walker-Arnott
Bag yourself some Florida sun

Don’t blow your holiday budget on the flights. Check out Norwegian’s New Year Sale and keep the money to spend when you’re there.

Street parties, food festivals and the NFL’s number one showdown; there are plenty of reasons to head to Orlando, Miami and Tampa in early 2020. But the best one of all? Norwegian’s New Year Sale, which offers plenty of great deals to Florida starting from £139.90 one-way. Book before January 13 for discounts on flights from London Gatwick.

Orlando
Mardi Gras at Universal Orlando
Every night from February to April, Universal Studios Florida plays host to the biggest and brightest of parties: Mardi Gras. Marvel at the street performers and brilliant parade before refuelling on delicious Cajun treats and dancing the night away to local bands. Feb 1-Apr 2

Miami
Super Bowl 2020
Oh yes, it’s the big one! Super Bowl LIV touches down in Miami for the one and only clash of America’s NFL titans. This year’s half-time show is headlined by Jennifer Lopez and Shakira, promising a blood-pumping, high-octane spectacle to remember. They’ll also be joined by some special guests, so watch this space. Feb 2

Tampa
Tampa Bay Chocolate Festival
Grab the whole family and head on down to this mega-celebration of all things chocolate-related. This themed food truck event showcases the versatility of our favourite treat and the creativity of the people who work with it. There are even (if you need them) plenty of savoury food options available too. Yum. Feb 15

TRAVELLING WITH KIDS?
Keep the whole family happy with a few simple travel hacks at London Gatwick:

Use the Family Assistance Lane on the Departures level.

Head to the Kids Zone in the Departure Lounge for entertainment tailored to your littlest ones’ needs.

Dine at one of the many restaurants, which all aim to serve within 15 minutes and have kids’ menus to make things easy. If you’re starting the Stateside party early, there is a choice of family-friendly restaurants, some with views of the runway, that offer American cuisine.
North America has never been closer.

Fly from London Gatwick

Sale now on

Book now at norwegian.com