

Time Out

LONDON





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LONDON

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London lad
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This week's Time Out
in no time at all

Full of beans

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Modern Iranian gets the small-plates
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Hello, London

Joe Mackertich
London Editor
@j_mackertich



Like many of you, I listen to podcasts during my commute. I'd love to tell you that I subscribe to world news briefings, Asian market reports and breathtakingly impenetrable tech trend updates, but the majority of what goes into my ears is shockingly silly. I am a disappointingly shallow man.

But that's what morning journeys are *for*. They're calm spaces that exist between the ever-churning twin storms of home and work. Imagine my despair last week then, when I lost my headphones and had to endure my hour-long walk unaided by audio. With no distractions available, I decided to do something odd. I listened to the city.

London sounds amazing! No, not the sirens, backfiring motorbikes and that detested bar near Angel that blares dubstep into the street. The hum behind all that. An ever-present, droning roar of distant activity. It's a portal, carrying with it the sounds of Saxon markets, Georgian pleasure gardens and post-war pubs. The look of London may be in constant flux, but its hungry, lively voice remains reassuringly the same. PS I have since gone back to headphones. As I say: shallow.

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



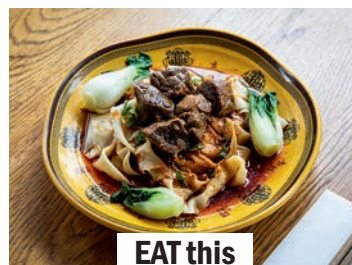
SIP this

If you see this coffee, get it. Italian **torrefattore Agust** has been crafting the stuff for 64 years – and for my money, it's the best out there.



BOOK this

I saw the merciless **Stewart Lee's** 'Snowflake/Tornado' show last week and urge you to book now for its Southbank run in June.



EAT this

The biang biang noodles at **Xi'An Impression** are almost a London cliché now. But I will forever worship at the altar of their slippery charms.



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CRYSTAL
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City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



Let's fill this town with activists

After a three-year campaign to offer free period products in schools, Londoner *Amika George* successfully got the law changed this month. She explains why we should all be involved with issues we care about. Illustration *Kate Prior*



IT'S EASY TO feel powerless. That can be disheartening, but actually it's an opportunity to engage in activism. We're living in an age now where people are able to channel their frustrations and make a change.

My story started when I read an article in 2017 about girls having to miss school because they couldn't afford tampons. They were using alternatives – toilet paper, newspaper, socks – or missing a week of school every month. It horrified me. I started the Free Periods campaign, asking the government to provide products in schools.

After a few weeks, it was gaining traction. We organised a protest opposite Downing Street in December 2017 to try and get the government's attention – more than 2,000 young people attended and we had seven or eight MPs and a baroness come and speak, which was incredible. I was 17 then and balancing my campaign with doing my A levels and university applications.

There's strength in numbers. Activism can't really happen [if you're] on your own. If one person is shouting about something outside Westminster that's not going to have much of an effect but when 2,000 people came together for

our protest that's what caught people's attention. Living in London gave me the opportunity to go to Westminster for meetings and talks with MPs.

Activism has become a bit of a buzzword and that makes it daunting. There's the concept of a full-time activist, who has to be vegan, care about every environmental issue and everything else. The truth is, activism can be a small section of your life. You can do something as small as recycling or going to a protest – as long as you're doing something to help someone else. ■

→ 'Make It Happen: How to Be an Activist' by Amika George is published by HQ on Sep 3.

LIFE HACKS

London professionals on how to...



MADE IN LONDON

Cool things from makers in the capital



If you've ever looked at the floor of a tube carriage and thought: Wow, my best china would look amazing on that, you're in luck. East London-based designers **Loris & Livia** have used the speckled flooring of Victoria and Piccadilly line trains as inspiration for these surprisingly stylish rubber coasters.

→ www.webuilt-thiscity.com. £8.50.

Exercise self-control

Selin Kiazim chef director at Oklava

'To avoid stuffing the bakery's spare pastries and breads in my mouth, I focus on an end-of-the-week treat: going out for dinner on my weekend off or treating myself to an extra-nice cut of beef from our local butcher. Focusing on a reward in the future makes the present agony easier to bear.'

Jeremy Bearder Fitness instructor at Be Military Fit

'My work involves lots of early starts. To motivate myself in the morning, I set my alarm to a bugle call, which reminds me of my army days. Music helps, too. "Firestarter" by The Prodigy really gets the ears ringing and the heart pumping.'

Ed Ive gallery assistant at Dulwich Picture Gallery

'It takes self-control to stay alert in the gallery. Some of my colleagues count bunions on the feet of figures in paintings. I play an association game with the art - for instance, Gainsborough's family portraits remind me of my loved ones.'

Liz Kingsman comedian

'As a comedian, it's traditionally better if the audience are laughing and you are not. I started practising not laughing about eight years ago, to the detriment of my personal relationships. Now, I can face even the most hilarious situation with a straight face.' ■ *Interviews by Gwendolyn Smith*

CITY ENVY

Great things that we love in other cities

Oxford's augmented reality climbing wall



EVER NOTICED HOW everyone on dating apps claims to love climbing? Is a beginner ropes and harnesses certificate now a prerequisite for finding love?

The climbocalypse is upon us, but if you really want to impress a vertically mobile love interest, catch a train to Oxford, where there's a high-tech 'augmented' climbing wall. At Active Reality, you hit digital targets Guitar Hero-style, or avoid lasers like you're in 'Mission Impossible', all while trying to keep your grip on the wall. The challenges are designed to be accessible for all levels. Forget first dates at your local pub. It's high time Londoners had the opportunity to fall in love while dodging six-foot shooting beams of light on an AR synthetic rock face of our own. ■ *Josh Hall*

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Kevin Maher, **THE SUN**



TOM HANKS MATTHEW RHYS

A **BEAUTIFUL DAY**
IN THE **NEIGHBORHOOD**

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**READY-MADE
SUNDAY**

Tom Kerridge

The chef on his favourite north London spots for a relaxing end to the week



- 10am • Café**
Banners in Crouch End was my go-to brunch spot when I lived there. The food is kind of Mexican-and-Jamaican inspired – think refried beans and fried plantain. I really like the beans – they’re like posh baked beans. It’s very hospitable too. It’s a wonderful place to kick off the day.
- 11am • Park**
 Just up the road is **Ally Pally**, where you get incredible views over London. But indoors is a great place to wander around too: you can grab a coffee there.
- 1pm • Pub**
 Next, go for a drink at **The Harringay Arms**. It’s a small pub with a lovely vibe. It has lots of regulars – it’s almost like the Crouch End community centre.
- 3pm • Gallery**
 Then I’d head over to **Camden Arts Centre**. It’s a great space – a manageable gallery for a Sunday, and it’s eclectic. It always has different events going on, too. It’s quite community-based and there’s a café and a shop.
- 6pm • Restaurant**
 I’d finish the day over in Newington Green at **Perilla**. It’s a brilliant neighbourhood restaurant which does modern dishes based on classics. On Sundays it does dinner from 6pm to eightish, which is ideal. Last time I was there I had a really good sharing dish of fish and chips with curry leaves in the batter. ■ *Interview by Isabelle Aron*
 → Tom Kerridge’s Pub in the Park festival is in Dulwich Park, Jul 3-5 and Chiswick House & Gardens, Sep 4-6. Presale tickets are available on Feb 5 and general release on Feb 7. www.pubintheparkuk.com

Find more ways to spend your Sunday at timeout.com/thingstodo

‘MIZ FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
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MESMERISING’

Thea Jacobs, *The Sun*



‘LES MIZ IN ALL ITS GLORY
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 IT WHUMPS YOU IN THE SOLAR PLEXUS
A MAGNIFICENT SHOW’

Andrzej Lukowski, *Time Out*



‘A MUSICAL THAT MAKES HISTORY’



Edward Behr, 1985 *Newsweek*

‘A STUNNING POP OPERA SUPERIOR TO THE NOVEL
 THRILLING, MASTERFUL THEATRICALITY
 OUTSHINES ALMOST EVERYTHING ELSE ON OFFER’

John Peter, 1985 *Sunday Times*

‘ANOTHER FANTASTIC CHAPTER IN WEST END HISTORY
 HAS BEEN GLORIOUSLY REWRITTEN
 LES MIZ REMAINS A THRILLING TRIUMPH
HERE’S TO THE NEXT 35 YEARS’



Mark Shenton, 2020 LondonTheatre.co.uk

MICHAEL HEATHY / ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

'MIGHTY LES MIZ IS STILL REVOLUTIONARY

THIS MUSICAL REINVENTION IS AN ABSOLUTE BLINDER - A RAPTUROUS SCORE
SPELLBINDING POWER'



Patrick Marmion, Daily Mail

'A GREAT MUSICAL

A THRILL, NO A PRIVILEGE TO HEAR THIS STELLAR NEW CAST SING
LEAD BY JON ROBYNS' MESMERISING JEAN VALJEAN.

A HAUNTING AND THRILLING INSPIRATION
WHEN ALL OF US ARE HOPING FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW'



Miriam Gillinson, The Guardian

'A DREAM RETURN WITH ADDED GRIT

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DONE AT THE GLORIOUS NEW SONDSHEIM THEATRE
FOR THE NEXT DECADE OR 3'

Nick Curtis, Evening Standard

'DAZZLING STAGING AND MEGAWATT PERFORMANCES

SCHÖNBERG'S SCORE IS RICHER AND
MORE STUNNING THAN EVER

THE AUDIENCE STOOD
AND ROARED'

Richard Morrison, The Times



'A REBORN DREAM OF A PRODUCTION
LASTINGLY REVOLUTIONARY..



THE HOTTEST TICKET IN TOWN... AGAIN
PERFECT THEATRE IN A PERFECT THEATRE

THE SO BEAUTIFUL - SONDSHEIM THEATRE' Dominic Cavendish, Daily Telegraph

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MY LONDON STORY



'We bought the pub. For £1 million'

RETIRED SOUTH LONDONER Geoff Cudd has been going to his local, The Ivy House, for decades. When the beloved pub was sold to developers, the 72-year-old was instrumental in the campaign to save it from being turned into housing. It's now the city's first community-owned boozer.

The first time I saw The Ivy House, it was love at first sight. It had so much character. Young musicians like Elvis Costello, Joe Strummer, Jeff Beck and Ian Dury would play music on the little stage in the back room. You could have a cracking time with just a couple of bob in your pocket.

I'm a lifelong south Londoner. I was born in Lambeth. I've been bringing my old lady here for 36 years. Back then you could get a pint and a packet of crisps for about a pound.

You used to get some real shady characters in The Ivy. It was called The Stuart Arms back then. One of the Krays managed some of the acts that

performed. There was a lot of swearing, but I loved the salt-of-the-earth people you'd meet.

About six or seven years ago the pub was sold to a developer who wanted to turn it into housing. Us locals came together and managed to get the council to list the pub as one of the UK's first ever Assets of Community Value – that way the pub was protected and it couldn't be changed.

We raised £1 million in loans and grants and bought the pub as a community. It was a real David and Goliath battle. When we won it felt like we had protected a piece of London history.

The Ivy House is now London's first community-owned pub. We've made it into a space for locals to come together. We have kids' clubs, and yoga, knitting and dance classes. We keep the prices low, and you can get a pint of bitter for £3.

So often Londoners keep to themselves and are afraid to say hello to someone in the street, but

I think we're proof that being friends with your neighbours can lead to something really good.

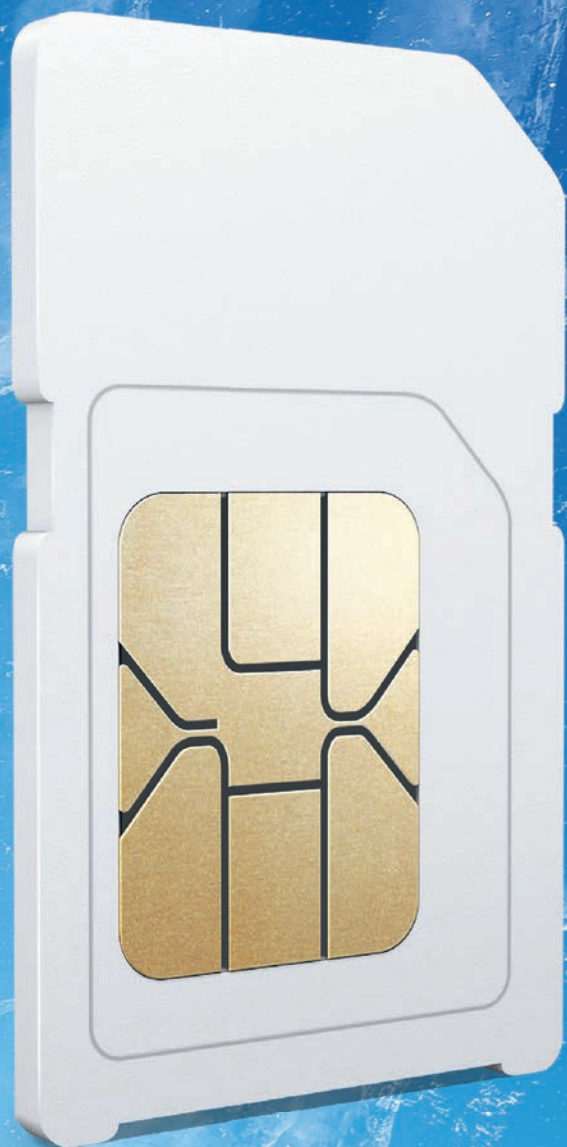
Our pub brings the community together. Everyone has each other's backs. My old mucker Charlie, who had been coming here even longer than me, died a few years ago. He didn't have any relations so we all got together and organised his funeral. It was a real celebration.

When I walk into the pub, I have a spring in my step. People treat me like I'm royalty – it's a lovely feeling. I'm 72 now, but going here makes me feel so much younger. I've lived a happy life and I've got more grandchildren than I can count, but everyone who knows me knows that if you look inside my heart, you'll see this pub. ■

Interview by Thomas Hobbs

→ The Ivy House, 40 Stuart Rd. Nunhead rail.

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Unity Diner

WHAT IS IT?
A non-profit eatery with a dry sense of humour, Unity Diner serves up plant-based dishes that riff on culinary classics, with all profits going to animal rights organisation Surge. This American-style vegan joint makes a mean cocktail, too: highlights include the Piers Morgan's Tears, named after daytime telly's leading vegan-hater, which comes with a vial of 'tears' that make the drink change colour.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?
Food consumption produces greenhouse gases and creates a huge carbon footprint: 75 percent of those emissions come from animal-sourced food. Even if you haven't gone full vegan, cutting down on meat and dairy is definitely a smart move when it comes to the environment. And hey, if the planet is totally screwed, eating quarter pounders kind of loses the appeal, you know?

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
It's simple: head to the Spitalfields diner and get chowing on its ethical grub. The cash you spend will directly help improve animal welfare, plus, any suitable food waste is donated to rescue animals. Considering its offering includes Kentucky Fried Chicken-style VFC burgers and poutine fries topped with vegan 'cheeze', that shouldn't be too much of a hardship. ■
EI Hunt

→ 60 Wentworth St. ⊕ Aldgate East. www.unitydiner.co.uk

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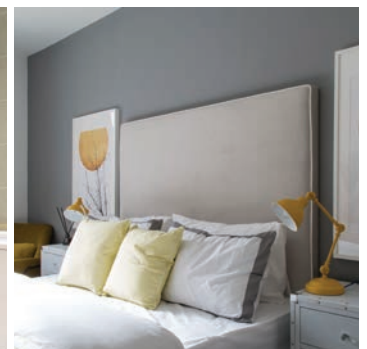
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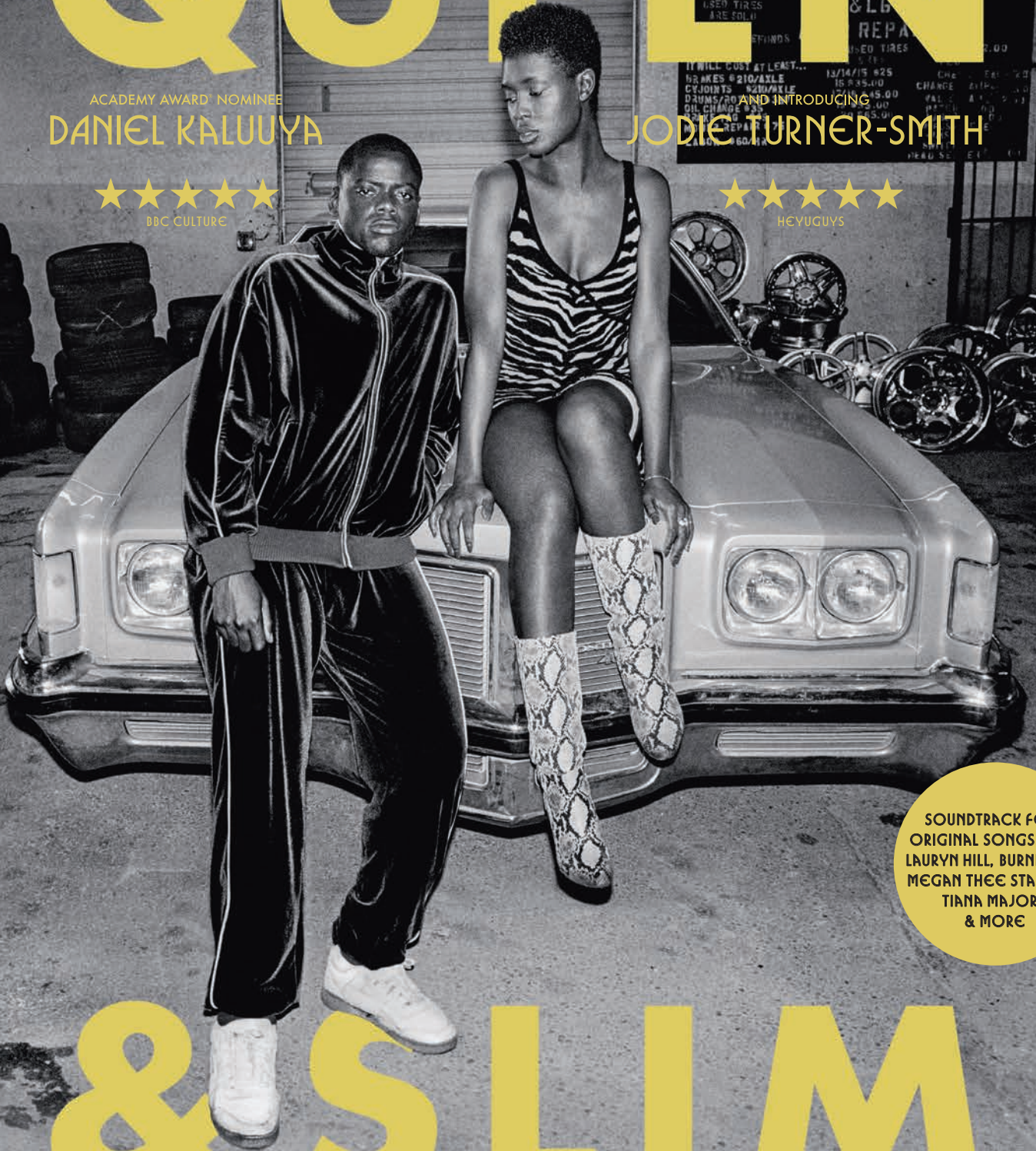
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LONDON EYE



Us and 'Them' Clockwise from top left: 'Chelita Secunda' by Kevin Whitney, 'Pru Pru' by Luciana Martinez de la Rosa, 'Jubilee James' by Kevin Whitney and 'Fireside Scene' by Duggie Fields

Our forgotten subculture

The Redfern Gallery's new exhibition 'Them' shines a spotlight on a '70s London art-school movement that got sunk by punk

THE DEVIL MAY WEAR PRADA, but in '70s London the cool kids went kitsch. In 1976, cultural historian Peter York noticed that a clique of art school grads were strutting around town in camp, colourful outfits – usually finished off with a garish Andrew Logan brooch and soundtracked by Roxy Music. So he wrote an essay, entitled 'Them', about the movement which traded flowing hippy garms for flamboyant, glam gear. York even planned to make a film about Them, but his plans were scuppered just a month later by the arrival of Sex Pistols' debut single 'Anarchy in the UK'. Shortly after that, punk stole the style limelight in the city for the foreseeable.

Now a new exhibition at The Redfern Gallery is revisiting the subculture that never quite took off, grouping together the work of five prominent '70s artists. Like the aesthetic of Them, it's eclectic. Kevin Whitney's portrait of journalist and fashion stylist Chelita Secunda – dangling out the window of a car and gleefully wielding a revolver – sits alongside Duggie Fields's pop-art portrait 'Fireside Scene'. Along with the late Luciana Martinez de la Rosa's colourful and very meta 'Pru Pru' (the artist herself is in the painting, wearing a patterned kimono), 'Them' features work by Derek Jarman and Andrew Logan, showcasing a movement so achingly cutting-edge that almost no one's heard of it. ■ *El Hunt*



THE NEW veggie dippers MEAL



Served after 11am. Meal shown is vegan. Some other sides and drinks on the McDonald's menu are not vegan, see [mcdonalds.co.uk](https://www.mcdonalds.co.uk) for details. ©2020 McDonald's

RATED

Vegan junk food

From steak bakes to pizza, we put the latest plant-based creations to the test



Vegan Very Berry Croissant Pret

What is it?

Pret's first-ever vegan pastry. And the answer to your prayers if you're a vegan with a croissant-shaped hole in your life.

How does it look?

More like a fruit turnover than a croissant.

Does it hit the spot?

'I feel like I've eaten a tube of Love Hearts, but I'm okay with it. If I didn't know it was vegan, I'd think it was full of butter.' *Ellie Walker-Arnott, digital editor*



Vegan Hot Chic Burger Patty & Bun

What is it?

Patty & Bun's Hot Chic burger, but with a chunky This Isn't Fried Chicken patty instead of, y'know, actual chicken.

How does it look?

It's the stuff of vegan daydreams.

Does it hit the spot?

'I'm a raging carnivore but I wouldn't have been able to tell it wasn't chicken. My eyes have been opened!' *Sarah Cohen, deputy chiefsub editor*



Magic Mushroom vegan pizza Yard Sale

What is it?

A mushroom, truffle and cheese pizza with vegan mozzarella and parmesan.

How does it look?

Pale and interesting (it's tomato-free). That cheese looks legit.

Does it hit the spot?

'It's the best vegan cheese I've ever had. The truffle was a bit overpowering but the crust was banging.' *Alexandra Sims, deputy Events editor*



Vegan Steak Bake Greggs

What is it?

The one we've all been waiting for. A steak bake, sans steak, with crispy vegan pastry.

How does it look?

Look, you don't go to Greggs for the aesthetics – let's just say it's pleasingly like the OG (original Greggs) steak bake.

Does it hit the spot?

'If being a dirtbag tastes this good and avoids a whopping carbon footprint, I'm down.' *Sam Willis, engagement editor.*

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'She looks a lot skinnier. She was pregnant before, though, I guess.'

'I'm really attracted to 5B pencils.'

'It's Blue Monday and I've got indigestion.'

'Would you rather have sausages for feet, or fish fingers for fingers?'

'I can't wait to not inhale mould.'

'London's pigeons are looking well.'

'One hot chocolate and you bullshit like a trooper.'

'Get off your bloody high horse and get on a Shetland pony.'

'I can't wait for you to meet him, but never speak of his penis.'

'My face is so dry, I look like I've been licking a window.'

'I'm dying of zinc, goodbye world.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon



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ROAST?**

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FREE LONDON

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



Eerie reflections at the Serpentine

This week is your very last chance to see Patrick Staff's exhibition 'On Venus'. The artist's turned the Serpentine Gallery into a sci-fi space where acid drips from the ceiling and 'living your best life' is taken to extremes. The creepsville makeover is meant to examine how our culture controls us. Ironically, it's also very Instagrammable.

→ Serpentine Gallery. ↻ Lancaster Gate. Until Feb 9.

Sewing sessions in Elephant & Castle

Whether you want to master the intricate art of working with lace or just simply hope to pick up a needle and not stab yourself in the hand, this weekly meet-up will sort out all of your sewing needs.

→ Community Hub.
↻ Elephant & Castle.
Every Thursday, 10am.

Remix workshops at Community Music

Want to annoy your mates? Easy: learn how to sample their most-loved tunes at this DJ masterclass. Then plug in your aux cable and force them to listen to your 'experimental' remixes at every house party for all eternity.

→ The Brady Arts Centre. ↻ Whitechapel. Sat Feb 1, 10am.

Rum tasting at Charles Merseur & Co

Use the brass door knocker 'At the Sign of the Post & Hound' on Essex Street and you'll be welcomed in to Charles Merseur & Co for lessons in how rum is made (and some free booze). Dry January: goodbye and good riddance.

→ 44 Essex St. ↻ Temple.
Sat Feb 1, 2pm-6pm.

Late night dinos at the Natural History Museum

Channel Ross Geller at this geeky museum late. There'll be fossils on show and the chance to quiz scientists about the micropachycephalosaurus (a tiny-headed lizard, in case you didn't know).

Beth Doherty
→ NHM. ↻ South Kensington.
Fri Jan 31, 6pm-10pm.

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In full bloom

**Oddball? Goth? Tortured artist?
Former vampire and future Batman
Robert Pattinson is actually quite
a laugh, discovers *Isabelle Aron*.
Portraits *Andy Parsons***

ROBERT PATTINSON IS every bit as intense as you might expect. He rests his famously chiselled chin on a clenched fist and considers the question I've put to him. 'How *do* you make a spectacular wank?' he muses. 'A *prize-winning* wank?'

The London-born actor is telling me about a memorable episode in his latest film, 'The Lighthouse'. It is, in his own words, a 'ferocious masturbation scene'. To make matters more bizarre, they shot it on the opening day of filming. 'It was fun doing it on the first day,' he admits. 'It was an icebreaker.'

Was there an element of wanting to impress director Robert Eggers? 'We'd just done a week of rehearsals where I'd basically hidden everything from him,' he says. 'I felt I had to prove myself on the first day, so I went [for] the most extreme and grotesque... grotesquery.'

So how *do* you conjure up a 'prize-winning wank'? He looks me in the eye and says in all seriousness: 'Throw up on yourself.'

He reflects on this for a second. 'They didn't use that take in the end,' he recalls. 'It was a bit too much.'





Okay, aside from the whole making himself vomit while tossing himself off thing, he's not that intense. He's quite a laugh, actually. Which is handy, as we've decided to pelt him with petals and shove a load of flowers in his face for our photoshoot. And for the most part, he rolls with it. There's only one thing he won't do, which is holding flowers up to his eyes like glasses. 'That's where I draw the line,' he says firmly. 'It's a little too *Teen Vogue* for moi.'

Let the bright one in

Where he draws the line is clearly more flexible when it comes to acting roles. Born in Barnes in south-west London, Pattinson made a name for himself as teen heartthrob Edward Cullen in the global phenomenon that was 'The Twilight Saga'. Since then, he's done his best to shake off the idea that he's just 'that guy from "Twilight"'. He's

played a bank robber in low-budget heist movie 'Good Time' (2017), a death row prisoner who's shipped off to outer space in mad sci-fi flick 'High Life' (2018) and, last year, adopted a frankly ridiculous French accent as The Dauphin alongside Timothée Chalamet in Netflix's 'The King'. His latest appearance on the big screen is in 'The Lighthouse', a black-and-white shocker with a wilfully arthouse vibe starring Pattinson and Willem Dafoe as lighthouse keepers on a remote island off the New England coast.

Happily, there's more to the film than the actor's aforementioned furious onanism. Pattinson and Dafoe's performances are brilliant as they slowly go mad, trapped on the island, bickering with each other and getting drunk on kerosene when the booze runs out (Pattinson didn't go full method for that bit - 'I think it makes you go blind'). It's billed as a psychological horror but parts of it

'There's something satisfying about calling a man an "old bitch"'

are genuinely funny. Take the scene where Ephraim Winslow (Pattinson) tries to hurt Thomas Wake's (Dafoe) feelings by saying he hates his cooking. 'Yer fond of me lobster, aren't ye?' pleads Thomas, as they squabble like a married couple.

Did he have a favourite line? 'I like saying to Willem "Don't be such an old bitch."' There's something quite satisfying about calling an older man an "old bitch".'

Pattinson's character spends the film sorting out shit (literally - he has to empty chamber pots), being taunted by seagulls and getting bossed around by Dafoe. Is having a crap job something Pattinson can relate to? 'I kind of enjoyed stacking boxes,' he says. 'There's a guaranteed sense of achievement at the end of the day.' He was a waiter when he was 16 and remembers his manager using reverse psychology to get the washing-up done faster: 'I always fell for it. "There's no way



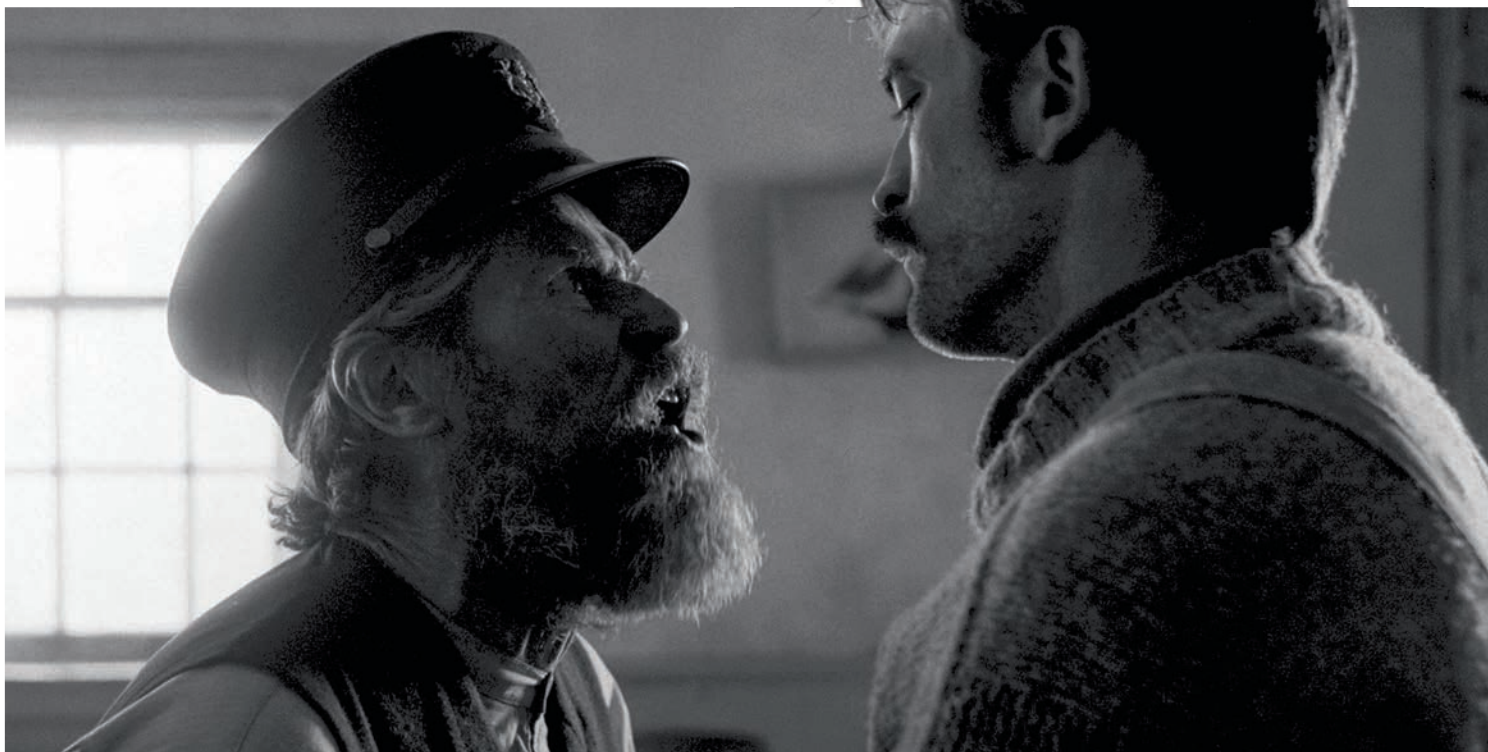


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Robert Pattinson



To *'The Lighthouse'* Pattinson and Willem Dafoe (above). *'Twilight'* (far left), *'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'* (left), *'Good Time'* (below)

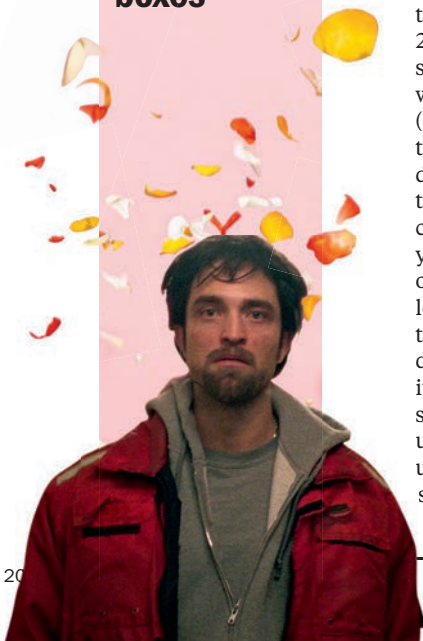
you guys can get all these dishes clean in time." I was like "Yes I can, yes I can!"

The snakebite years

Of course, Pattinson didn't spend that much time doing menial jobs. He got his first movie role aged 18, playing Cedric Diggory in *'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'*. But before that set him on the path to *'Twilight'*, which set him on the path to scrapping with Willem Dafoe and an octopus on an island in Nova Scotia, he was your average London teenager, albeit one with impeccable bone structure.

Now he's 33 and mainly lives in LA - though he sees himself as nomadic ("I can only really stay in a place for, like, four months without getting itchy feet"). I'm interested to know what he remembers of London from his formative years. Trips to the West End? Seeing some life-changing show at the

'I kind of enjoyed stacking boxes'



National Theatre? Not quite. 'It was a big moment for me when the Tesco Metro opened,' he says about growing up in Barnes. 'It was a huge deal because [before] you'd have to go across Hammersmith Bridge to go to Tesco. That was probably 20 years ago...' Aside from the supermarket, his local hangouts were a big tree on Barnes Common ('that was the Friday night spot'), the sandpit at Barn Elms where he did the long jump ('I spent a lot of time there') and an Indian takeaway called Monzil's ('that was like the youth club'). Thinking about my own teenage experience at the local takeaway, I ask if he went to the Indian to get pissed. He's diplomatic: 'I shouldn't say.' But it triggers a memory of ordering snakebites in the pub when he was underage. 'When I was growing up, you could go to the pub and get served when you were 12,' he says. 'You'd get a snakebite. You'd be

ordering it and it was like: so, you're a child and you're ordering a Ribena with alcohol in it. It couldn't be more obvious.'

From Barnes boy-wonder to Batman

As well as woozy memories of sipping on snakebite as a youth, there's a sense that Pattinson genuinely loves coming back to his home city. He talks fondly of leaving reliably sunny LA to spend summer across the pond: 'It's the nicest place to have summer in the whole world.'

But when I ask about where he likes to go in London, he pauses. 'Erm... I don't want to give them away... I was trying to think of a place that I don't go to anymore.' It's no surprise that he might have concerns about getting sought out by paparazzi or fans. After years of playing oddballs in indie and arthouse films, he's making a return to blockbuster territory, following in





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the footsteps of Michael Keaton, Ben Affleck and Christian Bale to play Batman. He still can't believe it. 'It's the coolest thing ever,' he says.

It nearly didn't happen, though, because the possibility got leaked to the press before Pattinson had auditioned, so he thought his chance of getting the role had been ruined. 'It was really nerve-racking. You think: Really? Is this how I'm going to lose this role? It's the most annoying circumstance to lose something.' And while the film isn't out until 2021, he's already pissing people off. He recently said something about Batman not being a superhero because he doesn't have superpowers. Big mistake. 'I wasn't educated about the subject,' he jokes, sounding baffled by the whole thing. 'People got very angry about it. It's bizarre. I still can't understand the argument. Okay, he's a superhero, I'm sorry!' He

starts talking about himself in the third person. 'The next headline: "Pattinson retracts: Batman is, in fact, a superhero. He takes it back."'

Joking aside, he does care what people make of it. 'I'm only worried about if people like it when it's done. Right now, people can think what they want.'

And, for now at least, despite the hype that's building, he can still walk around London's streets unnoticed. His secret? 'I walk really quickly.' Even during peak 'Twilight' mania, he says he's mostly been left alone here. But there is one incident that sticks in his mind. 'One time, I got photographed' – he starts to whisper, with the same steely intensity I recognise from earlier – 'buying pants in Marks & Spencer, which I always thought was a bit embarrassing. I did get some free pants, though.' ■

→ 'The Lighthouse' opens Fri Jan 31.

Find our review of the film at [timeout.com/thelighthouse](https://www.timeout.com/thelighthouse)

ROBERT PATTINSON'S LONDON



Doing open-mic gigs in Soho

'I would do open mic in every city I went to. I was still doing gigs after "Twilight". I used to go to **The Spice of Life** off Cambridge Circus. I moved to Soho specifically for that. All of my friends would play there – we were all trying to be Jeff Buckley.'

His script-reading spot

'**The London Library** is so cool. It's just behind Piccadilly. It looks like a house and then you go in and it's the entire block. It could only exist in London. I used to go there to read scripts all the time. You wouldn't see another person for hours.'

Walking around the city

'To walk **from west London into central London** is my favourite thing, going the whole way down the river. The other day I was just walking around Hyde Park and I was like: It's the most beautiful city, it's unbelievable.'

Where he'd go if he was invisible

'I'd go to the **Tate** because I'm always a bit embarrassed when people see the way you look at a piece of art. I never want people to see my reaction. I shove things in my mouth so you can't really see what my expression is. I've always got my phone in my mouth or a bottle. You can never tell if I'm crying.'

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12 ways to spot a perfect café

Because the London-dwelling caffeine-hound shouldn't have to settle for anything less than the best

It's next to a massive park

There are two types of very good London park café. You've got your cool neighbourhood haunts where Rains-clad couples sit with small dogs on Saturday mornings. **Artisan** in Hammersmith is one of these. It does a killer espresso, handy for perking you up before dragging a Pomeranian around the 20 acres of Ravenscourt Park. The art deco **Lido Café** in Brockwell Park is a cute one, too, and it does cocktails as well as coffee and hearty veggie food.

(Plus unconfirmed rumours suggest that just sitting by the outdoor pool makes you fitter by association.)

Secondly, there are the destination park cafés that are so special, they're worth visiting for their own sake. Take the **Pavilion Café** next to the lake in Victoria Park – sipping a flat white here can feel like you're on a continental city break. Or fancy Italian joint **Chucs Café Serpentine** in Hyde Park, which is unlike any other park caff you've ever been to thanks to its swooping Zaha Hadid architecture. Head there for lunch, and get a coffee to go. Because, why stroll slowly around a green space when you can race through it on a caffeine high?



Pavilion Café





Ozone Coffee

The coffee is black

There are lovely cafés and then there are cafés for coffee hard nuts: the kind of spots where caffeine heads go to get their fix away from the latte-drinking riff-raff. Take **39 Steps Coffee Haus** in Soho. Its founders are so obsessed with bold

brewing that they time roasting their beans down to the last second. Meanwhile, **Curators Coffee's** website states, with a balance of authority and pretension, 'if our reason for existence would be anything less than curating the best coffee, equipment, drinks and food, we would have chosen another name'.

Fancy something brewed as slowly as possible? Kiwi-founded **Ozone Coffee** in Shoreditch is your

go-to. Want shots from people who love coffee so much they've put espresso-glazed bacon on their menu? Join the queue at **The Espresso Room** in Bloomsbury. Elsewhere, **Old Spike Roastery** in Peckham is known for pumping freshly roasted seasonal black coffee (both espresso and filter) into the veins of south Londoners. Go and drink so much of it that your skin smells like a percolator. Just don't add milk. It's for babies.

It has cracking merch

Blessed are the businesses keeping us cash-strapped but caffeinated by selling



us other stuff as well as our brew. Step forward **DarkArts Coffee**, whose Hackney café, I Will Kill



Again, has a great line in satanic and swearsy mugs. Pedal-powered fave **Look Mum No Hands**



is another unhelpfully excellent coffee outpost that does nothing for our poor budgeting skills, with punchy cycling attire and great accessories. And Soho's **The Good Egg** slathers its graphics-led, off-duty clobber with Jewish deli references.

If it must add stuff, it adds this

Looking to go beyond beans and water? Hmm, okay, but only if you're considering one of these three additions



BEETROOT

Good for your health. Even better for your long-winded gag about trapping your hand inside the work-kitchen food blender that hasn't yet landed with the office crowd.

ORDER: A velvet latte at Palm Vaults, Hackney.



TURMERIC

This once-cool kid may have pledged allegiance to The Man when Starbucks started serving it in 2017, but don't hold that against it.

ORDER: A gold turmeric latte with a shot of espresso, at Feya, Marylebone.



CHARCOAL

A detox drink, great for stripping the ills from your gut, or just another fad? All we know for sure is, these babies do the numbers on the 'Gram.

ORDER: A charcoal latte, plus date syrup, at Rude Health Café, Fulham.



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You'll find it in the weirdest places

Like a Kinder egg toy or a smuggled ounce of weed, sometimes the best things are found inside something else. That's the case when it comes to London's cafés, which are often tucked into other spaces.

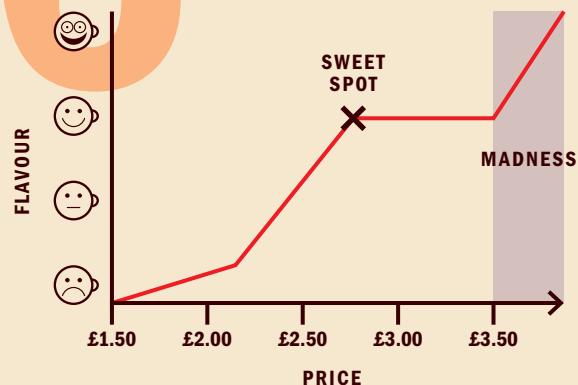
There are the gallery cafés, fuelling skatewear intellectuals around town: take the ICA's **Rochelle Canteen**, a space that's so pared-back it looks like a student kitchen, or the Whitechapel's pine-panelled spot, reopening as **Townsend**.

You can confess terrible sins over an espresso at **The Wren Coffee**, a homely caff lit up by the stained-glass windows of St Nicholas Cole Abbey in Blackfriars. You can write down even worse, unspeakable sins in a letter and post it at **Sanctuary Café** in West Hampstead's St James Church, which is also a post office. Or, if you'd rather be surrounded by scissors than stamps, pop into **Porters Barber & Barista** in Dulwich. There, you can get your hair cut *and* dose up on Union beans – all while you nosey in on the barbershop chat around you.



The Wren Coffee

Its flat whites hit the price/quality sweet spot



It uses these beans

Ikawa's **Andrew Stordy** chooses the three London roasteries that are exciting him the most right now



I have to start with **Square Mile** – the OG of speciality coffee in London. I really admire its thoughtful approach to sourcing and investing in producers. Then, when it comes to small-scale roasteries, **Wood Street Coffee** is one of my favourites. What the team lacks in size is made up for in enthusiasm for making

coffee accessible. When their single-origin Colombians are on in their café in Walthamstow, you've got to get involved. Finally, **Old Spike** is truly inspirational. Its story starts in a small café in Peckham, where it trains and employs homeless people. Its house espresso is right up there with the best in London.

COFFEE BEANS: ANDY PARSONS

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Keita

Prufrock

'Extra-hot – that's horrible. It burns the milk. We have a special steamer with a thermostat that stops automatically at 55C, so if someone orders extra-hot we have to purposely avoid the thermostat.'



Mary

The Wren Coffee

'A flat white to have in, because it can go wrong for so many reasons. You can steam the milk wrong easily. I find it hard to get a good piece of art on top because there's not a lot of space to do it. Also I only spill flat whites.'

The baristas are pros (whatever your order)

Four staffers on their least favourite drinks to make



Isabella

St David Coffee House

'I've never understood a quarter shot or a half shot. When someone orders half of a single shot, it's basically warm milk with essence of coffee in it.'



Yasmin

Look Mum No Hands

'One of those – coconut single-shot lattes with a bit of cinnamon and chocolate – drinks that you get every so often. You can forget things, like you might realise you forgot sugar when you've done your latte art.'



Counter small talk is smooth sailing

There's no Londoner more intimidating than an indie-coffee-shop barista. They inspire awe and anxiety in equal measure. Here's how to engage in just-dead-casual chit-chat.

DO SAY

'Very into the whole mid-century-meets-Basquiat aesthetic you guys have curated in here.'

DON'T SAY

'Have you heard of Banksy? You should get a Banksy print.'

DO SAY

[Gesturing towards a Sonos blaring perplexing electronica] 'What's this playing now? It's fantastic.'

DON'T SAY

[Gesturing towards a customer's ringtone – 'Shotgun' by George Ezra] 'What's this playing now? It's fantastic.'

DO SAY

'The almonds in your milk, are they locally reared and humanely blended?'

DON'T SAY

'Could I get squirry cream, hundreds and thousands and five extra lids, please?'

DO SAY

'How much for one of your tote bags? Not the vagina one, the cat grave one. £27? Super.'

DON'T SAY

'I'll have the cheapest item you sell, the wi-fi password and directions to a power socket so that I might ostentatiously hammer out another four chapters of my self-published erotic sci-fi novel while grunting unsettlingly.'

Your keepecup is welcome

Eco-consciousness is as much a part of coffee culture now as the americano shakes

and froth art. **Kiss the Hippo**, for example, is placing sustainability at the heart of everything it does, with its carbon-neutral roastery and zero-waste policy. And it makes it look outrageously cool too – its interiors in Richmond and Fitzrovia are worthy

of one of your heavy architecture coffee-table books. Start doing your bit with a reusable cup from **Huskee**, which is not only made from coffee husk, but has a design that'll turn the cool dials on your desk, in your handbag or at your home way up, too.



11

It's this place

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Prufrock Coffee on Leather Lane is the best café in London (don't @ us)

It deals with London's hard water

There are reverse osmosis filters under the floorboards to soften it up before it flows through the coffee machines.

Square Mile are the beans of choice here

Prufrock has been working with the roasters for nine years, when the shop was still a market stall.

It also does perfect cakes

Prufrock gets its cakes from nearby Fortitude Bakehouse which ferments dough to make mouth-moistening banana bread.

It has history

Before becoming London's top coffee spot, 23-25 Leather Lane was a bookshop. Prufrock's repurposed the old bookshelves to create the bar.

The seating is carefully arranged

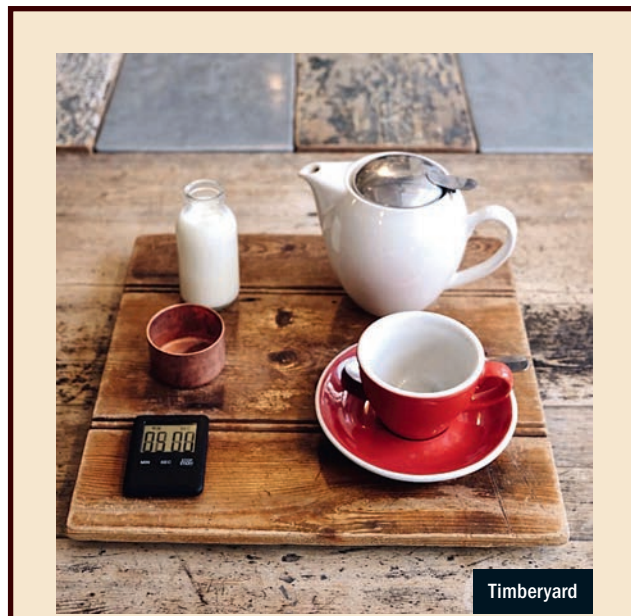
It's organised so the team can see everything that's going on and keep an eye on their customers.



And, lastly, tea isn't an afterthought

Self-confessed coffee hater **Isabelle Aron** on why the best cafés cater for all

'Do you want to go for a coffee?'. It's a simple enough question for most people. But not for me. I don't want to go for a coffee because, well... I hate coffee. Love the smell, hate the taste. Tea, on the other hand, is the best. But no one ever asks if you want to go for a tea, do they? It's an offer reserved for grandmas and boring hen parties. Tea is often in the shadow of its more sophisticated,



Timberyard

more caffeinated sibling. And I can see why. You want an English breakfast tea? Great, that'll be £3.50 for some hot water and a bag, thanks very much. It'll be a bog-standard PG Tips one too. But I'm here to push the tea agenda. There are some London cafés that don't treat tea as an afterthought.

At Soho's **Yumchaa** you'll find 50 varieties of loose-leaf black, green, white and herbal, while **Prufrock** (above) and **Timberyard** in Seven Dials have extensive lists too. It's time everywhere else followed suit. I'm talking fancy teapots (ideally with a minimalist Scandi aesthetic), loose-leaf (or posh teabags, at least) and different varieties. Show tea some respect. ■

Writers: Kate Lloyd, Joe Madden, Chris Sayer and Alexandra Sims



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Until Feb 1. www.timeout.com/hawksmoor20

Andrew Jose

What is it? A wash, cut, conditioning treatment, head massage and blow dry at Andrew Jose's Fitzrovia salon.

Why go? Get your tresses attended to at one of the city's finest salons. This guy was nominated for Hairdresser of the Year six times, so you know you'll be in good hands as his team overhauls your crowning glory.

What's exclusive? A saving of 68 percent: you'll pay just £29.50.

→ Andrew Jose Fitzrovia. ⊕ Goodge St.
Until May 5. www.timeout.com/andrewjose

Yuu Kitchen at Ice Bar

What is it? Ice Bar entry, an ice cocktail, ten courses and bubble tea.

Why go? Not only will you get to hang out in *literally* London's coolest bar (it's -5C in there), you'll get to tuck into a Southeast Asian sharing menu from ex-Nobu chef Jon de Villa.

What's exclusive? The price! We're giving you the job lot for £30: that's a deal you won't find anywhere else.

→ Yuu Kitchen Mayfair. ⊕ Piccadilly Circus.
Until Mar 18. www.timeout.com/yuukitchen20

'Touching the Void'

What is it? A theatrical adaptation of Joe Simpson's thrilling mountaineering survival memoir.

Why go? Witness an epic tale about a struggle to stay alive in a show that is life-affirming *and* darkly funny. Awarded a four-star review by Time Out's Theatre team, this one's definitely worth seeing.

What's exclusive? Tickets start at £19.50, saving you 44 percent.

→ Duke of York's Theatre. ⊕ Leicester Square.
Until Feb 11. www.timeout.com/touchingthevoid

100 Wardour St

What is it? A three-course meal and a glass of wine in a swanky Soho bar, all for less than £20.

Why go? Because Gordon Ramsay protégée Kim Woodward has put together a menu that looks good enough for the potty-mouthed chef himself – think venison ragú, rigatoni and confit duck leg.

What's exclusive? The £18 price tag, of course.

→ 100 Wardour St. ⊕ Piccadilly Circus.
Until Mar 6. www.timeout.com/100wardourst

Theatre, music, events: get the best tickets in town at timeout.com/london/offers

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Things to Do

Edited by Katie McCabe
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon

Where to watch the Six Nations 2020

Find out how to tackle the return of rugby season at these parties and screenings across London

The one with bottomless brunch

Does the combination of an endless river of Bloody Marys, eggs benedict and aggressive cheering sound like your perfect afternoon? Then jump on the Northern line to **Tanner & Co.** The pub has taken the odd choice of rewarding the organiser of each group, so if there's more than eight of you, the so-called 'Captain' goes free for brunch. If you're the admin of that WhatsApp chat, put away your wallet...

→ Tanner & Co. ⊖ London Bridge. Every game from Sat Feb 1-Mar 14. £42.50.

The one for the Welsh fans

Do you hail from the other side of the Severn Bridge? Or just want to experience what it's like watching a

rugby game while sat in the middle of a fan-filled 'choir'? Either way, if Wales are playing, the **London Welsh Centre** is the place to go. The venue's 170-square-foot screen's not too shabby either. *Iechyd da!*

→ London Welsh Centre. ⊖ Russell Square. Various dates from Sat Feb 1-Mar 14. £5.

The one for cheap drinks

At £25 entry, the Six Nations party at Walthamstow's **Pillars Brewery** might not look cheap on the surface, but the bottomless beer factor makes it a steal. The E17 taproom is serving unlimited lager for the duration of every game of the tournament, while each ticket also includes a seat reservation and a chicken or mushroom burger and chips to soak up the suds. If 'the lads'

are losing, pop into God's Own Junkyard opposite the brewery, if that cavern of neon lights can't lift your mood, nothing will.

→ Pillars Brewery. ⊖ Walthamstow Central. Various dates from Sat Feb 1-Mar 14. £25.

The one for big crowds

For those tired of cramming themselves into poky pubs, try **Boxpark** Shoreditch, Croydon or Wembley. Each venue will be set up with large HD screens, long trestle tables and a solid choice of street food vendors for the Six Nations. The crowds will be huge, but the indoor-outdoor set-up allows for some space to breathe,





BOX PARK: CHRIS HAMPREYS; ALAN WYN JONES (WALES); DAVID ROGERS (SCOTLAND); JONATHAN SEXTON (IRELAND); BRENDAN MORAN; SPORTSFILE VIA GETTY IMAGES; FANS: RICHARD SPLASH/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO

More into the Superbowl? Try timeout.com/thingstodo

EDITOR'S PICK

Rugby sessions for newbies

Never touched a rugby ball in your life? Give the game a try



South London Stags RFC – Rugby Training & Social

This Tooting-based gay and inclusive club proves that rugby can be an incredibly welcoming sport. Most training sessions finish with a trip to the pub – win-win!

→ Tooting Bec Athletics Track & Gym. ☉ Tooting. Every Sat, email ahead with your experience level.

Wimbledon RFC Inner Warrior

Like its round-ball-kicking cousin, the women's game is thriving, with clubs across the city offering sessions for all abilities. All that's required for this introduction are sports gear and enthusiasm.

→ Wimbledon Rugby Football Club. New Malden rail. Next session tbc.

Try Tag Rugby Free Faster Session

Scared off by hard hits and terrifying tackles? Give the tag version a try instead – a brilliant no-contact introduction to the game.

→ London Marathon Community Track, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Pudding Mill Lane DLR. Thu Jan 30.

which means you're much less likely to spend the game in the armpit of a stranger's England jersey.

→ Various Boxpark venues. Every game from Sat Feb 1-Mar 14. Free, register in advance.

The craft beer-rugby crossover one

Come on, pal. You know you can do better than that typical match day pint. Pick from the specially curated ales at a **Draft House** bar, most of which will be live-screening the Six Nations games. Life's too short to drink a Guinness with five fingers of foam.

→ Various Draft House venues. Every game from Sat Feb 1-Mar 14. Free entry, book a table in advance.

The one on a rooftop

Sitting on a rooftop might seem like an odd thing to do in February, but **Pergola Paddington** is completely covered, has big screens showing the Six Nations, and posh kebabs from Babek Brothers. When you're staring wistfully out the window at a low point in the game, you'll have a damn good view across the city.

→ Pergola Paddington. ☉ Paddington. Every game from Sat Feb 1-Mar 14. Free entry, book a table in advance.

The one with an electric atmosphere

Get to Finsbury Park's beloved rugby pub **The Faltering Fullback** at least two hours early if you want to secure a table – if not, it's standing room only, and things get real cosy. If you lose your mates in the nook-filled three-storey beer garden, just make new ones. Much easier. ■

→ Faltering Fullback. ☉ Finsbury Park. Every game from Sat Feb 1-Mar 14. Free entry, arrive as early as possible.



By **Charlie Allenby**
Who once got to **The Faltering Fullback** four hours early to bag a table.



Abigail Cruttenden



Nina Cassells

Photography by Johan Persson

Ever been to the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse?

More intimate than its bigger older sibling the Globe, this beautiful and atmospheric venue is one of the most unique theatres in London

The cool, candlelit indoor yin to the Globe Theatre's big, boisterous outdoor yang, the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse is the other theatre at Shakespeare's Globe. Open for six years now, mostly in the winter months (the current season ends on April 18), it's a stunning gold-gilded building based on the Jacobean playhouses of the early seventeenth century. And it's usually lit only by the glow of beeswax candles. Just 340 seats next to the Globe Theatre's 1,500, it specialises in intense, powerful plays that benefit from the dramatic surrounds. They run the gamut from the gory tragedies that would have

been on in the original playhouses right through to some searingly intense new writing. Plus, this being the Globe: Shakespeare! If you've never been, you're missing out on a true London icon – plus tickets start at just £7. Here's what you can see this season...

'Swive [Elizabeth]'

This ferocious new play from acclaimed writer Ella Hickson opened at the end of 2019 to a storm of acclaim for its portrayal of Elizabeth I as a woman fighting tooth and claw for survival. Definitely one to book for.

→ Until Feb 15.

'The Taming of the Shrew'

Globe boss Michelle Terry is also one of the finest Shakespearean actors in the country. This season she takes on the Bard's dark domestic comedy, alongside a solid ensemble of actors which includes her husband Paul Ready (aka Kev from 'Motherland').

→ Feb 1-Apr 18.

'Women Beware Women'

The Wanamaker theatre is the only place in the world where you can

catch a Jacobean tragedy in an authentic Jacobean playhouse. And now Thomas Middleton's bloody 1657 classic about women cast adrift in a savage male world gets a revival. It boasts a killer cast too, including Thalissa Teixeira ('Yerma', Young Vic) Olivia Vinall ('Othello', National Theatre) and Tara Fitzgerald ('Game of Thrones').

→ Feb 21-Apr 18.



SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

→ For more information on visiting the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, head to www.shakespearesglobe.com

SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

Friday



Friday Late: In the Palm of Your Hand

Get involved in embroidery workshops, see martial arts-inspired dance, question the ritual of handshaking and use emojis to decode paintings at this art night themed around the human hand.

→ V&A. ☺ South Kensington. Fri Jan 31. Free.

CHUG North London Brew Fest

Sink pints from an impressive array of UK microbreweries at this booze bash. Look out for beer-and-chocolate-pairing workshops and DJ sets.
→ The Snooty Fox. Canonbury Overground. Thu Jan 30-Sat Feb 1. Free entry.

DINE 10 Miles Club

All three courses of hearty winter grub at this supper club will be made from ingredients collected within ten miles of London Fields. Low carbon footprint, delish.
→ Number 10 London. London Fields Overground. Fri Jan 31. £45.

Saturday



BROWSE Independent Ceramics Market

Pick up cutting-edge work at this fair full of quirky pieces from pottery students and up-and-coming artists.
→ Unit 8, Copeland Park. Peckham Rye Overground. Sat Feb 1. £1.

WEIGH Brixton Vintage Kilo Sale

The premise of this sale is the same as ever: pay £15 for 1kg of retro and pre-loved clothes. Stock up on silk scarves and you're laughing.
→ Pop Brixton. ☺ Brixton. Sat Feb 1-Sun Feb 2. Free entry.

The Pecs Gala: 'Camp'

Mingle with London royalty as the drag king troupe Pecs throws another whopper of a late-night show. It will be kitsch. It will be femme. But above all, it will be CAMP.

→ Underbar, The Vaults. ☺ Waterloo. Sat Feb 1. £14.

Sunday

Peckham Salvage Yard

Keep a sharp eye out for intact vintage finds at this market packed with hand-picked traders. There are gems to be found among the musty furniture and retro clothes.

→ Unit 8, Copeland Park. Peckham Rye Overground. Sun Feb 2. Free entry.



LEARN How Not to Kill Your Houseplants

Obsessed with your potted fern baby? Learn how to treat it right on this greenfingering course.
→ Battersea Flower Station. Clapham Junction Overground. Sun Feb 2. £25.

SHOP Le Boutique Bazaar

Torture Garden is behind this erotic pop-up shop. Pick up handmade lingerie, latex, toys and other amorous objects, all in time for Valentine's.
→ For Your Eyes Only. ☺ Old St. Sun Feb 2. £7.

A softie at heart? Visit [timeout.com/valentines](https://www.timeout.com/valentines)



An insider's guide to Brent

London Borough

of Culture

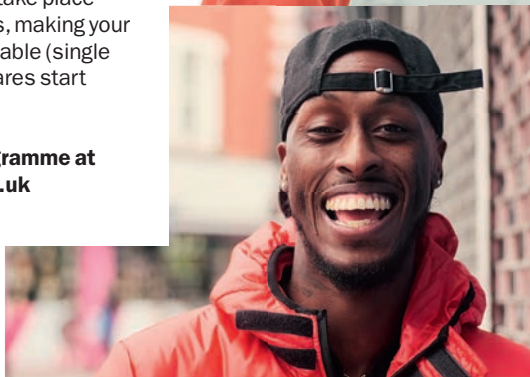
2020

Epic street parties, arena takeovers and multitudes of fascinating stories are taking centre stage at the second ever London Borough of Culture



Ready to be Brent-ertained? The north-western locale has been selected as the Mayor's London Borough of Culture for 2020 – and you can bet that it'll make the most of its time in the spotlight. As one of the most culturally diverse boroughs in the capital, Brent's year-long series of events is going to celebrate its rich array of stories, traditions and communities. Loads of events will be announced throughout the year, but we've got a selection of highlights that you'll want to lock in your diary right now. And remember: all of these events (many of which are free) can be reached on Transport for London's network. Also, most take place during off-peak hours, making your trip even more affordable (single adult pay as you go fares start from £1.50).

Explore the full programme at www.brent2020.co.uk



GET THERE FOR £1.50!

Not only are many of these Brent adventures free – they also take place during TfL's wonderful world of off-peak.

Off-peak fares apply on all Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail services every weekday before 6.30am, between 9.30am and 3.59pm, and from 7pm onwards. Off-peak fares also apply all day on weekends and public holidays. Always touch in and out with the same card or device to pay the right fare. Touch in only on buses and trams. To check a fare, use the single fare finder at tfl.gov.uk/farefinder.

Travel in Zones 2-6 for £1.50

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

Travel into Zone 1 from £2.40

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

Travel by bus or tram for just £1.50

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



Arena Takeover

Prepare to hear some of the freshest sounds in the capital at this huge concert at The SSE Arena, Wembley. A competition will uncover new Brent talent who will get to perform in front of a crowd of thousands.

→ The SSE Arena, Wembley.

Sep 5. Price tbc.

Getting there Jubilee or Metropolitan line to Wembley Park.



Wembley Park



MOBO Awards

For its twenty-fifth anniversary, the hugely prestigious MOBO Awards is making a triumphant homecoming to where it all began. Kilburn-born Kanya King CBE founded the MOBOs, which celebrate British and international talent in hip hop, grime, R&B, reggae, gospel, jazz and African music. Given that the MOBOs has been on hiatus for three years, you can bet that this one will be bigger and louder than ever.

→ The SSE Arena, Wembley. Nov 12. £25-£49.

Getting there Jubilee or Metropolitan line to Wembley Park.



'Footholds: NW Stories'

The Kiln Theatre will present a trilogy of plays – Brent stories that illuminate and explore life in the borough's neighbourhoods, and celebrate the events and people who have made Brent what it is today. Part of the Listen Local programme, they'll be written by Moira Buffini, Suhayla el-Bushra and Roy Williams, and directed by Taio Lawson and Susie McKenna.

→ Kiln Theatre. Date and price tbc.

Getting there Jubilee line to Kilburn.



The Blueprint All-Dayer

A core element of this year's London Borough of Culture is The Brent Blueprint Collective: a group of creative young people who will have a hand in curating the programme. The collective's hard work will culminate in an all-day festival at Boxpark Wembley.

→ Boxpark, Wembley. Aug 1. Free.

Getting there Jubilee or Metropolitan line to Wembley Park.



Harlesden



Brondesbury



Kilburn High Road



The Museum of All Brent Life

Ten libraries, ten neighbourhoods and ten stories: The Museum of All Brent Life is set to be a real highlight of the London Borough of Culture. Here's how it works: each library has chosen a person, story or object which represents their local area, and has commissioned an artist to create a work around it. Make sure you swing by Kingsbury Library, where you'll find a large-scale mural of George Michael, who went to two schools in the area.

→ Various locations. May 16-17. Free.



Harlesden Bass Weekender

Brent's contribution to reggae and bass has been immeasurable: in 1969, Wembley Arena hosted the first festival of Caribbean music, and iconic Willesden label Trojan Records was instrumental in bringing reggae to the world. This weekend festival will take over Harlesden High Street and feature performances by pioneering London reggae luminaries including Don Letts, Big Zeeks and Janet Kay, plus a whole host of talented emerging artists.

→ Various locations in Harlesden. Oct 3-4. Free.

Getting there Overground to Harlesden.

The Kilburn High

Who doesn't love a street party? For one huge summer day, a mile-long stretch of Kilburn High Road (which happens to be one of London's oldest and longest roads) will be closed to traffic for an epic celebration of the many rich cultures that have made the 'Music Mile' famous. Expect huge soundsystems, plenty of delicious food and lots and lots of dancing.

→ Kilburn High Rd. Jul 11. Free. **Getting there** Jubilee line to Kilburn.



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EXCLUSIVE

LIGHTOPIA

After successful stints in Edinburgh and Manchester, this shining show is heading to Chiswick House Gardens. Lightopia is definitely not about subtlety – you're in for big, bold installations and interactive art, all for 30 percent less. Tickets just £14.

TIMEOUT.COM/LIGHTOPIA20

Ts&Cs apply.

TimeOut
THE BEST OF THE CITY

DON'T MISS

The Petticoat Lane Foxtrot

YIDDISHER JAZZ IS not something you're likely to find in the 'genres and moods' section of Spotify, but from the 1920s-1950s, swinging hot Jewish dance bands were the toast of the East End. Levy's record shop in Whitechapel was the epicentre of this scene, a place where the community could buy 78rpm discs with klezmer and swing music set into their grooves. Outside the store's entrance, couples could be found waltzing to songs about Jewish life.

Until oral historian Alan Dein began his search for these old 78s, this epoch of East End jazz had been largely forgotten. By scouring

the archives of the British Library and the Jewish Museum – and the charity shops of Golders Green – he found enough to compile into a record called: 'Music Is the Most Beautiful Language in the World'.

At the JW3 centre this Thursday, Dein will share the stories behind these recovered tunes, while

displaying rare images from the period in which they were made. It's more than a lecture, it's a DJ night – a chance to dance to singers like Rita Marlowe, Stepney's 'siren of Yiddish song', and the thumping 'A Kosher Fox Trot Medley (Petticoat Lane)' by Mendel and His Mishpoche Band that gives the event its name.

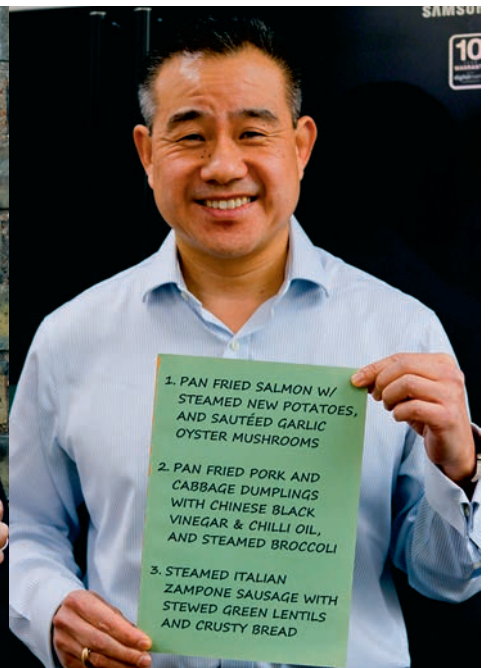
The songs move from slapstick tributes to Brick Lane beignets to haunting Yiddish ballads about pre-war life. They are relics of another world, salvaged from charity shop crates. Now they've found a new life online, ready to pass the beautiful language of Yiddisher jazz on to new generations. ■ *Katie McCabe*



WHAT IS IT?
A night dedicated to the East End's history of Jewish jazz.

WHY GO?
To dance to a 'kosher fox trot'.

→ JW3. ⊖ Finchley Rd.
Thu Jan 30. £15.



WHAT'S ON YOUR MENU THIS WEEK?

Planning just 3 meals for the week ahead can be an opportunity to try something new, or eat the meals you love most. It also helps reduce food waste.

Visit wiseuptowaste.com/3mealschallenge to find out more.

WiseUpToWaste

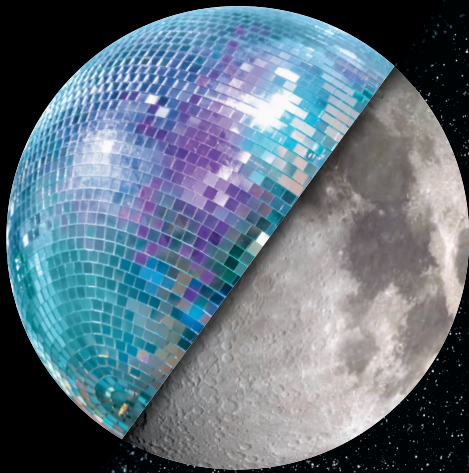
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WHY I LOVE

The Grimaldi Service

Smartii Pants the Clown (aka Ian Williams) on Hackney's tribute to Joseph Grimaldi



It looks back at the roots of clowning

'Joseph Grimaldi (1778-1837) didn't invent clowning, but he was the first to paint his face and wear vibrant costumes. He performed in pantomimes, which back then were like variety shows. The service started so traditional circus players could get together off-season, it was a big social event. It's still full of hundreds of clowns and there's a real camaraderie.'

It shows how diverse clowning can be

'Everyone has an idea in their head of what a clown is – the guy who makes balloons or wears a red nose and big shoes. We want people to see there are lots of different styles and it's not always what you'd think of. We have circus clowns, people who studied under Jacques Lecoq [founder of Lecoq physical theatre school] in Paris, and performers who are more burlesque-leaning.'

It's a time of reflection

'My father was a clown, that's how I got into it. He first put make-up on me when I was eight. We lost him in November 2018, so last year was very special for me because I carried a candle for him to the altar [at the service] and I felt a real connection. It's sombre when you hear names of people you knew that have been taken too soon, but it means you want to put your heart and soul into your performances.'

It's full of community spirit

'This year we'll be performing short comedy scenes from Shakespeare and characters from the commedia dell'arte, as well as hymns, readings and soul songs during the service. The party goes on for a while because there are musicians, magicians and entertainers. People choose to be clowns because they want to make other people happy, so it's a great group to be around.' ■

Interview by Alexandra Sims

→ The Grimaldi Service. All Saints Haggerston. Haggerston Overground. Sun Feb 2. Starts around 3pm, free, just turn up.

TO DO

The best events in your area

C Central N North S South E East W West



DIY Art Market

WATCH

N Glug London presents Grime Ballet

Fusing together two disparate art forms, this evening of talks, performances and workshops will set points and pirouettes to music from one of the 'leading ladies in Grime', Lioness, and instrumentals from The Grime Violinist.
 → Boxpark Wembley.
 ↻ Wembley Park.
 Thu Jan 30. £10.

JOIN IN

C Moonlight Hustle

Can't stop listening to true-crime podcasts? Take part in this immersive game in which you're tasked with stealing as many treasures as you can in a heist. The minds who created Time Run and 'The Crystal Maze' are behind this alt-escape game, so we have high expectations.
 → Cavern, The Vaults.
 ↻ Waterloo. Fri Jan 31-Mar 20.
 £17-£24.

C Forgotten Fiction Book Club

'The Dud Avocado' and 'Two Serious Ladies' are the books up for discussion at this club in search of forgotten gems from the twentieth century.
 → Waterstones. ↻ Goodge St.
 Wed Jan 29. £8.

C Harley Quinn's Roller Disco

Nightclub The Steel Yard is so pumped for Harley Quinn's return to the big screen that it's throwing a dayglo roller disco in her honour. Dress up and skate to the film's immense soundtrack surrounded by neon – all for free.
 → The Steel Yard. ↻ Cannon St.
 Tue Jan 28-Thu Jan 30. Free.

BUY

S DIY Art Market

Fill your house with tons of knick-knacks you don't really need from this market showcasing creations made by independent and established artists, designers and publishers.
 → Unit 8, Copeland Park.
 Peckham Rye Overground.
 Until Sat Feb 1. £1.

EXPLORE

W Herald Spring

Thanks to its unique microclimate, more than 120 species of snowdrops bloom in London's oldest botanic garden. Follow a trail of dainty white flowers and look out for galandic talks and workshops.
 → Chelsea Physic Garden.
 ↻ Sloane Square.
 Until Sun Feb 2. £9.50.

C Hidden Stories of St James's Park

Get to know London's oldest Royal Park on this walk full of lesser-known stories of the green space. On the way you'll see the resident pelicans get their daily feed.
 → St James's Park.
 ↻ St James's Park.
 Fri Jan 31. £10.

LATES

C Uniqlo Tate Lates

Sketch surreal scenes with drawing collective Originary Arts, listen to spoken word, embark on photography challenges, make your own collages and learn about lucid dreaming before dancing to DJ sets curated by NTS Radio at this Tate Modern late inspired by photographer Dora Maar.
 → Tate Modern.
 ↻ Southwark.
 Fri Jan 31. Free.

C Science Museum Lates: Medicine

Stay up late at the Science Museum to discover if your home is making you ill, join interactive workshops and listen to a performance from an NHS choir.
 → Science Museum. ↻ South Kensington. Wed Jan 29. Free.

C UCL Culture Lates

Agiant, immersive game of snakes and ladders in a room of animal specimens? Sounds ridiculous. Sign us up.
 → Grant Museum of Zoology.
 ↻ Euston Square.
 Thu Jan 30. £8.

LISTEN

S The Poets Corner

Hear some of the UK's best poets and spoken word artists spit stanzas at south London's only weekly poetry night.
 → Black Cultural Archives.
 ↻ Brixton. Wed Jan 29. £5.

C Queerstory

Join wonderful storytelling troupe The Embers Collective for an evening of LGBTQ+ tales, mythology and folklore. Gather round and listen to queer tales from around the world set to atmospheric music.
 → The Apple Tree.
 ↻ Farringdon. Sun Feb 2. £10.

EXCLUSIVE

Buckle up for **The London Classic Car Show**, where you can see a massive display of motors for only £19, that's 30 percent off.

TIMEOUT.COM/
CLASSICCARSHOW

5 - 7 Feb

Michael Keegan-Dolan Teac Damsa

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with music by Cormac Begley and stargaze

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DIY ART MARKET: MARK BRIDGEMAN

The Grime Violinist

Film

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

TIME OUT MEETS

Daniel Kaluuya

The 'Get Out' star on his latest film, being the new guy at the Oscars and getting Nando's shamed.
Portrait *Andy Parsons*



IT'S SURREAL MEETING Daniel Kaluuya in Soho, having watched him in Channel 4's 'Skins' when I was at uni, partying to the same soundtrack of Gossip and Foals that I was. He's come a long way since then, having secured an Oscar nomination for 'Get Out' and a starring role in 'Black Panther'.

His US successes have made his new film, 'Queen & Slim', a must-see. A fugitive drama-cum-romance, it starts with an awkward first rendezvous but takes a violent jag when Kaluuya's Slim, and his blind date, Queen (Jodie Turner-Smith), are pulled over by a racist cop.

Lots of people are likening the film to 'Bonnie and Clyde'. What do you think of the comparison?

'Because you have this couple on the run, it's always going to have connotations of "Bonnie

and Clyde", but the only crime our characters actually commit is being black. Structurally, it feels a bit more like "Thelma & Louise". The crime is committed because of oppression – they are standing up for themselves. [The racial profiling is] triggering for both of them and it's the thing that leads to their connection.'

Would you have done the same thing that Slim does in that scenario?

'We'd have to run because of the US state they're in [Ohio]; it would mean the death penalty.'

'Queen & Slim' is directed by Melina Matsoukas. Why do you think the Oscars aren't recognising female directors?

'I don't know. Maybe [it's] that a female perspective is a bit fresher

[and] less likely to resonate with the demographic that votes? But as I say, I don't know. I watched "Little Women" [at an awards screening] in LA and people liked it. I think something's happening – it's weird for women not to be represented.'

You were Oscar-nominated for 'Get Out'. What was that experience like?

'It was fucking mental. I knew nobody and was coming out of

nowhere. But you know what hit me the other day? Like "You was nominated for an Oscar, bro?! That is mad." Tom Hanks is up for his first Oscar in nearly 20 years this year, and I'm like: How the fuck did I end up doing that?'

I always apologise for my successes. What was your natural reaction?

'No – I'm not that British in that regard. I'm just like "I'm here" –



Kaluuya and Jodie Turner-Smith in 'Queen & Slim'

QUEEN & SLIM: UNIVERSAL PICTURES; UNCUT GEMS: WALLY MCCORDY

Queen & Slim



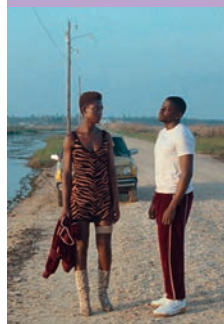
WHAT IS IT...

A fugitive drama with a #BlackLivesMatter power.

WHY GO...

Charisma and sparks from Brits Daniel Kaluuya and Jodie Turner-Smith.

→ Director Melina Matsoukas (15) 132 mins



FROM 'TRUE ROMANCE' to 'Badlands', criminal lovers on the run have found safe haven on movie screens. Now Melina Matsoukas – a visually gifted filmmaker best known for Beyoncé's 'Formation' video – adds to the canon with this atmospheric, impressively serious debut drama. Playing characters that are unnamed throughout the movie, Jodie Turner-Smith and Daniel Kaluuya find themselves pulled over, post-first date, by a virulently racist cop. One struggle over a gun later and they're on the lam, uncertain of what to do.

Investing their roles with thoughtfulness, both leads do fine work, even when the situation pushes them toward bad decisions or stereotypes (in one inspired costume choice, the outlaws don trashy clothes provided by a relative – a track suit and a miniskirt). A socially angry film, 'Queen & Slim' strikes intentional resonances with the 2014 racial unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, and elsewhere, making no apology for its antiheroes' behaviour. It's an invigorating stance. But for every 'Thelma & Louise'-like magic-hour drive into the sunset (and there are several too many), you wish the movie also had the sophistication to nick from that classic script's complex sense of injustice – one that had room for a subplot involving a sympathetic lawman. Believe in Matsoukas, though: she's the real deal. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

I think everybody's equal. Back in the day I had a little bit of an inferiority complex: I felt like I didn't know as much because I didn't go to uni and that. But I just read loads and it helped. I was like: Danny, you're cool. You just don't like the books they like.'

I grew up watching you in 'Skins'. Did the show reflect your life at the time?

'It did. That's what was fascinating about "Skins": everyone was 16 or 17 and we were living it. I'd go to a house party and everyone would be watching it. Nobody was going to clubs then, so "Skins" was everywhere!'

Other cast members – like Jack O'Connell and Kaya Scodelario – have enjoyed similar success. Do you think 'Skins' has been a springboard for British actors?

'Yeah, when I was 18 and we were leaving the show, I was asked what I wanted to achieve from "Skins". I said: "I hope that in ten years everyone will look back at the cast list and say: 'What a cast. How did they get them all on one show?'" We still hang out at Christmas and stuff.'

Now that you live in the US, what's the first thing you do when you get back here?

'Nando's. It's kinda like my pub. I'm that guy who gets kicked out because I'm there too long. What's my order? Well, I got Nando's shamed once. I had an ex who was Indian and I was on that lemon and herb, and she was like "Really?" I said "Nah, I can handle [hot]. I just like lemon and herb." Ever since then, I've been extra hot.' ■

→ 'Queen & Slim' opens Fri Jan 31.



By Samantha Willis
Who is closest to Effy in 'Skins'. Or maybe first-series Chris.

'The whole Oscars season was fucking mental'

RICHARD JEWELL: CLAIRE FOLGER

Uncut Gems



WHAT IS IT...

A crime thriller about a New York jewellery dealer who's in too deep.

WHY GO...

A brilliant Adam Sandler, making up for 'Grown Ups 2'.

→ Directors Benny and Josh Safdie (15) 135 mins.



JOSH AND BENNY SAFDIE tell fast, grubby stories with a vigour that gives you an instant rush. Why have a camera creep down a hall when you can fling it behind unhinged characters? Their films are improvised on the fly with a side of trash talk – and the electrifying 'Uncut Gems' is the most caffeinated of the lot. Crucially, it has real affection for its scheming Diamond District dealer Howard Ratner (a magnificent Adam Sandler), and that makes all the difference.

Howard dreams of a big score, and it duly arrives from Ethiopia: a rare black opal which he hopes to auction off for a motza. The opal's whereabouts form the spine of the plot, but that's just an excuse to ping-pong Howard between a cross-section of sharply etched neurotics: menacing debt collectors, a superstitious NBA superstar (Kevin Garnett), a semi-estranged wife (Idina Menzel, very, very un-'Frozen') and a brassy mistress (Julia Fox, making a stellar debut).

The Safdies have a love of gamesmanship, of arguments pushed to the brink, verbal beatdowns and court-side chatter. Here, they're given a dose of loveable American Jewishness (one family Passover meal bubbles with tension). This is the environment the Safdies grew up in; their film isn't merely an outstanding portrait of a charming fate-tempter who goes a bit too far; it's a kind of autobiography. It's made with so much love, care and enthusiasm (plus no small amount of risk) that you thrill to think they're just getting started. ■ *Joshua Rothkopf*

Richard Jewell



WHAT IS IT...

An innocent man is accused of being behind the Atlanta Olympics bombing.

WHY GO...

Paul Walter Hauser steals the show as the underdog hero.

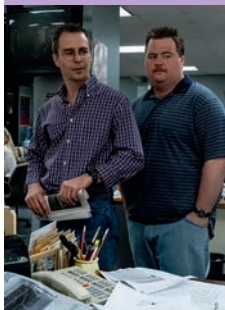
→ Director Clint Eastwood (15) 131 mins.

CLINT EASTWOOD HAS long been drawn to everyday heroes oppressed by institutional power. Here, it's Richard Jewell, the security guard who discovered explosives at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. For this act, his life was turned into a living hell when the FBI mistakenly targeted him as the perpetrator. Finding some form, Eastwood competently dramatises this underdog tale.

Paul Walter Hauser ('I, Tonya') is terrific as the awkward ex-cop. When a job places him at the pivotal Olympic Park, Jewell displays an overkill sense of duty that annoys almost everyone except his dotting mum (Kathy Bates). Then a reporter (Olivia Wilde) publishes negative speculation on Jewell and he's forced to clear his name.

It's reasonable to criticise the press in this story but Billy Ray's script (drawing on a *Vanity Fair* article) offers a mean-spirited portrayal of Wilde's journalist as a scrounger who trades sex for a scoop. Eastwood plays to his strengths better elsewhere, orchestrating nicely observed scenes in suffocating living rooms. A sober film, 'Richard Jewell' is at its best emphasising the humanity of its hero; if only there were more of that to spread around. ■

Tomris Laffly



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THE TEN BEST POP-UPS AND FESTIVALS THIS WEEK

- 10 Kes**
Welcome Cinema and Kitchen is back for another night of food, film and community – Ken Loach on the slate.
→ Amnesty International.
⊖ Old St. Wed Jan 29, 5.30pm. £23.
- 9 Shoah**
Claude Lanzmann's nine-hour epic screens to mark Holocaust Memorial Day (which was on January 27).
→ Close-Up Cinema.
Shoreditch High St Overground. Sun Feb 2, 11am. £15.
- 8 A Woman Under the Influence**
Gena Rowlands and Peter Falk in a heartbreaking domestic drama.
→ Prince Charles Cinema.
⊖ Leicester Square. Sun Feb 2, 8.35pm. £10.
- 7 Diabolique**
Not the rubbish US remake but the Henri-Georges Clouzot classic. Still one of the greatest film endings ever.
→ Regent Street Cinema.
⊖ Oxford Circus. Sun Feb 2, 2.30pm. £13.
- 6 Diamonds of the Night**
Two Jewish boys are on the run from the Nazis in Jan Némec's daring and underseen 1964 drama.
→ Classic Cinema Club.
⊖ Ealing Broadway. Fri Jan 31, 7.30pm. £7.
- 5 The White Sheik**
It's Fellini season at BFI Southbank and you know what that means: elegance, style and the ever-brilliant Giulietta Masina.
→ BFI Southbank. ⊖ Waterloo. Fri Jan 31, 6.15pm. £12.50.
- 4 Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood**
Another chance to catch Tarantino's love letter to late '60s LA.
→ Whirled Cinema.
Loughborough Junction rail. Mon Feb 3, 8pm. £12.
- 3 Leto**
Russian rocker Roman Bilyk intros the Melodia! season's closing night of Russian musicals.
→ Ciné Lumière.
⊖ South Kensington. Fri Jan 31, 7.30pm. £13.
- 2 Mulholland Drive**
Twenty years on and still a Pandora's box of mysteries and visual magic.
→ Deptford Cinema.
Deptford Bridge DLR. Sat Feb 1, 8pm. £6.

1

Cocktail

It's cold and you've made it through Dry January. To celebrate, the Bellingham Film Palace invites you to stick on a Hawaiian shirt, mix some drinks with umbrellas in them and enjoy this cheesy '80s buddy movie. *Salut!*

→ Bellingham Film Palace. Bellingham rail.
Fri Jan 31, 7pm. £8.



LIGHTHOUSE: A24 FILMS; BEAUTIFUL DAY; LACEY TERRELL; DON QUIXOTE; DIEGO LOPEZ CALVIN/TORNASOL FILMS

The Lighthouse



YOU CAN ALMOST taste the salt on your lips in the new psychological horror film from Robert Eggers ('The Witch') that will leave even the sturdiest of sea legs shaking. It's a two-handed chamber piece about a pair of lighthouse keepers living on a remote island off the New England coast at the turn of the twentieth century and it's lit up by mesmerising performances from Robert Pattinson and Willem Dafoe.

Dafoe is Tom Wake, an old sea dog with a clay pipe jutting from his thick beard and the chief 'wicky' of the lighthouse. He's an amalgam of salty clichés (which the script wittily acknowledges): he loves gin, sea shanties and cooking lobster. The expectation-shattering Pattinson plays ex-logger Ephraim Winslow, recently arrived from Canada with a skeleton or two in tow. Their relationship is peppered with juicy insults that lash like a hailstorm.

Meanwhile, life on the island isn't going well. Wake barks orders, putting down Winslow at every opportunity. To find relief, Winslow heads to an outside store-shed, in one hand a small sculpture of a buxom mermaid, in the other... well, you get the picture. Soon things

WHAT IS IT...
A briny, boozy, gothic horror (with seagulls).

WHY GO...
It's a pipe-chewing, bird-fighting, paraffin-slugging masterpiece.

→ Director Robert Eggers
(15) 109 mins.



FILM OF THE WEEK

take a bizarre turn, as Wake insists on taking the nightly 'dread watch' and gets all tetchy when Winslow asks to see the lighthouse's lamp. What comes next, set to a mind-spinning score and sound design from Mark Korven, defies belief.

The desolate, lonely environment of the island is captured beautifully

in squid-ink blacks and storm-cloud greys, all shot on film in a boxy 4:3 ratio. There's a vintage horror feel, simultaneously embracing conventions of the genre and defying them. Sometimes you wonder if you're watching a horror film at all. 'The Lighthouse' leaves you dazed, terrified and elated, and it signals Eggers as one of the most exciting directors working today. ■ Joseph Walsh

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood



WHAT IS IT...

A journalist attempts to expose US kids' TV hero Fred Rogers as a fraud.

WHY GO...

It's the next best thing to an actual Tom Hanks hug.

→ Director Marielle Heller
(PG) 109 mins.

FRED ROGERS CAPTIVATED generations of America's kids with his TV show 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood'. He didn't sugar-coat things, coaxing his young viewers through even the tough stuff like Vietnam and civil rights. Imagine Andi Peters presenting 'Newsnight' using animal puppets as props, and you'll get the idea.

Unfortunately, 'A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood' can't quite match up the easy charms of the cheap-and-cheerful TV programme itself. There's no impulse to explore the complexity of this strangest of celebrities – a gifted listener and child whisperer who calmed adults just as effectively. Tom Hanks, in his twinkly-eyed wheelhouse as Rogers, is a winning presence in a supporting role, while *Esquire* writer Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys) becomes the movie's surrogate kid. He's swamped by a toxic relationship with his estranged dad that's distracting him from his big interview with Rogers. You can easily predict what follows.

It may be that successful real-life journo Tom Junod, on whom the Lloyd character is based, lacks real drama. And a bolder movie would have included Rogers's late-career triumph, when he turned post-9/11 anxieties into a teachable moment. 'Anything mentionable is manageable,' Hanks offers in the film's wisest words. It's good advice, though the emotions here could have done with being a bit wilder. ■ Joshua Rothkopf



The Man Who Killed Don Quixote



WHAT IS IT...

Terry Gilliam puts a modern spin on the Cervantes classic.

WHY GO...

For Adam Driver and Jonathan Pryce embracing its barmy spirit.

→ Director Terry Gilliam
(15) 133 mins.

IN AN APT MARRIAGE of material and director, Terry Gilliam has adapted Cervantes's seventeenth-century novel about Don Quixote, a deluded knight who embarks on a series of doomed quests. It's easy to see why Quixote appeals to Gilliam, since he set out on a movie-making quest that sent him, like the knight, into the Spanish wilderness on an endless journey. As the opening credits peevishly put it, this film has been 'more than 25 years in the making and unmaking'. But what about the end result? It's inventive and anarchic, but no masterpiece.

The plot follows a sell-out director, Toby (Adam Driver), who's working on a 'Don Quixote'-themed ad on the plains of La Mancha. Toby wasn't always so cynical. Ten years earlier, he shot his student film there: a 'Don Quixote' adaptation starring a local shoemaker, Javier (Jonathan Pryce). Abandoning the shoot, Toby returns to the place where he first dreamed of directing, only to discover that Javier now believes he really is Don Quixote and that Toby is his squire, Sancho Panza. Slapstick adventures ensue.

This is a movie about movies, within a movie, all told in a joyously messy manner. It doesn't always come together, but it entertains and bears all the hallmarks of Gilliam's barmiest projects such as 'The Adventures of Baron Munchausen'. It's another affable, offbeat celebration of the dreamers who dare to fail big. ■ Joseph Walsh



Music & Nightlife

Edited by Oliver Keens
timeout.com/music @timeoutmusic

IN THIS HARSH cultural climate, where talent so rarely succeeds to the top, you have to stand up and clap when a proper hard-working trouper wins the day. Honey Dijon is that person. She's risen in stature as a DJ and producer over the last decade, specialising in sassy beats and attitudinal sets that fill the venn diagram intersections between disco, house and techno. Born in Chicago, now resident in NYC, Honey has since made London her plaything: headlining Gala festival last year with an earth-scorching set, winning the Outstanding Impact award at the *Gay Times* Honours in November and now returning with an audacious four-date takeover that sees her collabing with some of the best parties in town for a series of unique events. She's also the most visible trans artist in the world today, and a softly influential and inspiring presence in the unnaturally straight world of dance music in 2020. Please enjoy some vital stats... ■ *Chal Ravens and Oliver Keens*

Honey Dijon in numbers

12

Age the young Honey Redmond was when she first went to a nightclub.

60

Minutes on a bus she travelled for to buy her first record ('Bostich' by Yello).

60

Dollars she was paid for her first DJ gig.

20k

Records she owns (roughly).

200+

Mixtapes she earned from other DJs in exchange for entrance to her house parties.

7

Nights a week she went out partying when she moved to New York, 22 years ago.

4.4m

YouTube views for her breakthrough Boiler Room set, which features her dropping Martin Luther King.

49

Remixes she's released.

80

Cost in pounds of a screenprinted T-shirt released through her Comme des Garçons brand, titled Honey Fucking Dijon.

10k

Magazines in her prized collection before a flood wiped out her storage unit. Yikes!

4

Parties Honey is hosting across London soon, in conjunction with some of London's best club nights: Rhythm Section, BBZ, Pxsy Palace, Little Gay Brother and Percolate.

→ Honey Dijon: Full Fantasy takes place across multiple venues from Feb 14-Mar 8.

ELIZABETH LIPPMAN/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES

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MEAT & TIME



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WHAT'S THE
DEAL WITH
Ryan Beatty

Who dat?

An LA-based singer and a part-time member of American hip hop collective Brockhampton, taking their headcount up to *counts fingers*... several. You'll find his angelic singing voice providing most of the hooks on their tracks. His solo career is kicking off big time too.

Oh, wow. But he's not a fully fledged member?

Nah. Ryan's been around for a while. He started his career on YouTube back in 2011 covering songs – his version of Bruno Mars's 'Marry You' racked up more than 6 million views. He didn't hook up with Brockhampton until around 2016 after meeting the group's de facto frontman Kevin Abstract on Twitter. At the time he was dubbed the next Bieber. I'd say he has more of a Frank Ocean vibe these days.

So, why the hiatus?

He said he didn't recognise the version of himself that people saw. He took a



break and had a good think about the music he wanted to make. During that time, he came out as gay and – lucky us – that sense of liberation flowed into his songwriting.

That's lovely to hear.

Innit. Since then, he's also worked on things such as Tyler, The Creator's 'Igor' record and the 'Grinch' soundtrack, and scored a hit with pop royalty Benny Blanco on the absolute bop 'Break My Heart'.

More. We need more. Now!

Well, luckily for you, Beatty announced on Twitter last week that his sophomore album, titled 'Dreaming of David', was just about to drop. We expect an incoming glut of beautiful Autotune-laden melodies and experimental vocals over lo-fi beats that'll transport you to sunnier summer days. Safe to say there'll be plenty to gorge on until he's next over this side of the Atlantic. ■

Sam Higgins

→ 'Dreaming of David' is out soon.

The 1975

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GIGS AND CLUBS

All Points East: Massive Attack

Bristolian legends Massive Attack are the latest headline act announced for All Points East, the multi-date festival taking over Victoria Park in late May. They'll be joined on the day by a stellar support line-up that includes pals and former collaborators Neneh Cherry and Mad Professor, modern chill icon Nils Frahm, fellow hip hop disruptors Young Fathers and Gaika, plus Skinny Pelembe, Hotel Lux and more to come.

→ Victoria Park. May 24.



The 1975

A few months after dropping fourth album 'Notes on a Conditional Form', due April, Matty Healy's genre-hopping band will play this huge outdoor gig in Finsbury Park. With awesome support acts including Charli XCX, Pale Waves, Beabadoobee and Clairo performing across two stages, expect it to feel like a mini festival.

→ Finsbury Park. Jul 11.



THIS WEEK

Push the Button: Queens of Europe

On the night we leave the EU, the LGBTQ+ pop night pays tribute to the continent's greatest pop heroines, from Robyn to Christine And The Queens. It's promising 'the biggest party this side of the English Channel' with 'no bongs at 11pm'.

→ Royal Vauxhall Tavern. Fri Jan 31.

Collage

A sexy and sassy disco party launches this week, helmed by one of the city's finest, Jonathan Bestley.

→ Dalston Superstore. Sat Feb 1.

Issa Vibe: Fxck Dry Jan

Pop some bottles to celebrate the end of Dry January at this always popular hip hop, R&B and grime party.

→ Oval Space. Sat Feb 1.

COMING UP

Joe Armon-Jones

Not only is Ezra Collective's keyboard wizard leading a show featuring rapper Jehst and DJ Maxwell Owin, this jazzy bop will be powered by a special handbuilt sound system, boasting '20k watts of warm deep bass'. Yes.

→ Electric Brixton. Feb 6.

BBC Music Introducing Presents...

New-music lovers assemble! Rising stars Timothy Lacoste, Master Peace and Rose Gray are all playing this intimate talent showcase.

→ The Lexington. Feb 6.

The Cause, Bizarro & Percolate present First Nation Fire Relief

Tottenham venue The Cause hosts an epic 19-hour fundraiser in aid of the Australian

bushfire relief efforts. → The Cause. Feb 8.

Foals

This is a pretty intimate gig by the Oxford band's standards, and they're playing it to raise money for War Child.

→ 02 Shepherd's Bush Empire. Feb 17.

Thundercat

The jazz-fusion king, who's collaborated with everyone from Kendrick Lamar to Childish Gambino, rolls into town a few days after dropping new album 'It Is What It Is', due April 3.

→ Roundhouse. Apr 9.

Catfish And The Bottlemen

The Welsh indie kings have announced a one-off gig inside a pretty massive 10,000-capacity marquee on Clapham Common. Support slots from Sports Team and Yonaka add to the raucous rawk fun.

→ Clapham Common. May 15.

1975: ELENA DI VINCENTO/MONDADORI PORTFOLIO VIA GETTY IMAGES





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Printworks

New additions to the super-venue's spring/summer offerings include sets from Joy Orbison, a Defected takeover boasting Kenny Dope and Inner City, a night of disco with Todd Terje and Artwork, plus the annual AVA conference featuring talks from Ninja Tune and Andrew Weatherall. Phew!

→ Printworks. Feb 7-May 7.



Kurt Vile

The tousled troubadour returns for his first UK headline show in six years.

→ Islington Assembly Hall. Jun 1-2.

Ella Eyre

Ealing-born pop queen who's sung on huge hits by Rudimental ('Waiting All Night') and Sigala ('Just Got Paid') plays a hometown show.

→ O2 Forum Kentish Town. Jun 2.

Weyes Blood

The US singer-songwriter also known as Natalie Mering tours in support of last year's dazzling, '70s soft-rock-inspired album 'Titanic Rising'.

→ O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire. Jun 10.

Nile Rodgers & Chic

Le Heath, c'est chic...

Nile and the gang play in the grounds of Hampstead's Kenwood House, supported by Soul II Soul.

→ Kenwood House. Jun 20.

Real Estate

Jangle-pop band tour in support of new album 'The Main Thing', due February 28.

→ Roundhouse. Jun 20.

Naked City

The ace one-day fest from the team behind the legendary Krankbrother street parties returns for a second year, back at the lush surrounds of Beckenham Place Park. Awesome Tapes From Africa, Calibre and Dengue Dengue lead a well-curated jazz, funk, soul, afro, dub and disco line-up.

→ Beckenham Place Park. Jul 25.

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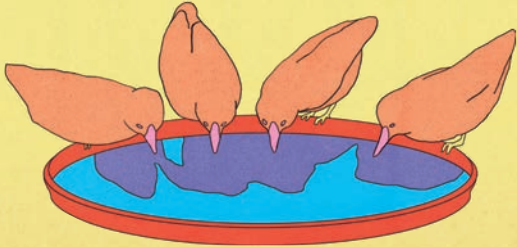
Cheryl, Eve, Alphabeat and New Orleans bounce queen Big Freedia are the latest acts announced for London's biggest and most glittery pop festival.

→ Brockwell Park. Jun 6.

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Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski
timeout.com/theatre @timeouththeatre

Vault Festival: a survival guide

London's biggest underground theatre fest is back. And to newcomers, it's terrifyingly huge. Let us help you get your bearings

VAULT IS MASSIVE. That's the first thing to know. The Waterloo-based arts festival stages theatre, comedy, cabaret, dance, drag, spoken word, site-specific stuff, lates... and more, way more. It lasts two months and is housed (mainly) in a warren of tunnels beneath Waterloo station. Just following the instruction 'meet me in the bar' can be stressful (there are ten of them). Oh, and phone signal is an issue. But it's so worth the effort. Here's how to tackle the behemoth.

How to... navigate The Vaults

Vault organisers Mat Burt and Andy George describe the festival as 'a marathon of sprints, or a sprinted marathon'. With more than 500 shows in 14-plus venues under and around Waterloo, sloppy planning could lead to you literally sprinting. Take the worry out with these three steps: consult the 'Find shows'

page on the website before each performance; ask directions from staff; and always, always check you're standing in the right queue. Boring tip: leave a decent amount of time between shows if you can, as they often overrun.

How to... pick your shows

Producer Ellie Keel is behind two new works this year: 'Sap', a queer fable about lying to your girlfriend (it's a work in progress); and 'Small Myth', about mountain climbing and daughters. Her tip is to check out the many work-in-progress shows on the programme. 'They'll often be the most ambitious,' she explains. 'Seeing the rawest seed of an idea is really exciting!'

How to... afford it

Individual tickets are rarely more than £11, but that soon stacks up. Stay alert for various money-saving

deals. The best is the two-for-one offer you get when booking (most) shows through the Stagedoor app. There's 10 percent off all tickets and selected food and drink if you become a Vault Festival member (£35). There's also £1 off if you book two or more shows at the same time, or for the first two performances of any show with five or more dates.

How to... find the next big thing

Unhelpfully, the truth of Vault is that it's entirely unpredictable: that's the fun of it! And that's why you



WIKING: TOBY WILLIAMS; UNCLE WANDA: JOHAN PERSSON; WELKIN: BRINKHOFF, WOEGBURG

James Rowland

More London theatre reviews at timeout.com/theatre



need to take a punt on that clown show about a weightlifting fish. Who knows? It could be in the West End next July.

How to... survive two months in a damp tunnel

Having once performed three shows in one festival (and returning this year in a comedy-slash-storytelling show with Tom Bell), James Rowland is something of a Vault veteran. How does he conquer the underground maze? 'There's nothing to survive,' he assures me. 'It's a wonderful festival. It's the only place in London where you have the opportunity to engage with new theatre and comedy on this scale. Initially, it might feel like there's too much to take in, but after a couple of trips it'll feel like putting on a favourite coat with its pockets full of forgotten fivers.' ■

→ The Vaults. ↻ Waterloo. Jan 28-Mar 22.



By **Rosemary Waugh**
Who thinks daylight is overrated anyway.

Uncle Vanya



WHAT IS IT...
Chekhov's great play about a group of melancholy middle-aged pals.

WHY GO...
Toby Jones is superb as an irritating but lovable Vanya.

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

→ Harold Pinter Theatre.
↻ Piccadilly Circus.
Until May 2. £15-£97.50.



IF YOU THINK we're all screwed, pity the poor characters in Chekhov's 'Uncle Vanya'. Skint, bored and desperately lonely, they're hurtling deeper and deeper into middle age with no prospects or legacy. And let's not even talk about the imminent Russian Revolution, which adapter Conor McPherson has underscored by nudging the setting of the 1898 play forward by a decade.

But Ian Rickson's revival is a long way away from pure misery, and finds a sweet spot between companionable chuckles and icy despair. Toby Jones is terrific in a vivid, vanity-free take on the title role. Richard Armitage plays his pal Doctor Astrov as a charmingly unworldly figure who has many admirers but only really connects with Vanya. They're an odd couple, but they make sense, like a pair of middle-aged mates who never really moved on from uni. I know some Vanyas and Astrovs.

But at least they have Stoke Newington to live in. Chekhov's creations are stuck in the Russian provinces, at the mercy of Ciarán Hinds's infuriatingly self-absorbed landowner Serebryakov. Hope is manifested by his daughter Sonya (the excellent Aimee Lou Wood) – she is never infected by the others' casual despair.

Rickson's productions are so exquisite as to sometimes be a little museum-piecey. But his 'Vanya' hits home: a lament for losing your way in your middle years, but also a tender tribute to the small joys that remain. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

The Welkin



WHAT IS IT...
Genre-defying period piece about an eighteenth-century murder trial.

WHY GO...
Ria Zmitrowicz burns the stage up as the accused.

→ National Theatre, Lyttelton. ↻ Waterloo.
Until May 23. £15-£89.



'**TWELVE ANGRY MEN**' meets 'Light Shining in Buckinghamshire' meets a really out-there Agatha Christie novel in this brilliant but frustrating new drama from Lucy Kirkwood.

It is rural Suffolk, 1759, and a young woman soaked in blood (the phenomenal Ria Zmitrowicz as Sally Poppy) has returned home in the dead of night to try and extract some money from the husband she abandoned four months ago. She says she's pregnant.

Next scene, and Sally has been convicted. But midwife Elizabeth (Maxine Peake) is recruited to a 'jury of matrons' tasked with determining the legitimacy of Sally's pregnancy, something that would commute her sentence from death to exile.

The meat of the play lies in two extremely lengthy deliberation scenes, in which the women are locked away in a huge stately room with Sally and asked to decide whether she should live or die. These scenes are so stratospherically ambitious and all-encompassing that it's actually disorientating: the deliberations swerve from magical realist strangeness to hammy whodunnit silliness.

Zmitrowicz is terrific as the sardonic, snarling Sally, thrilling in her total lack of inhibition. Peake is a bit wasted in a straight-woman role. Both of them struggle to contain Kirkwood's messy tidal waves of ideas, which frequently overlap confusingly. But this is an astonishingly uninhibited piece of theatre. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

ALSO OPENING

Other new shows to catch

SCENES WITH GIRLS

★★★★★
There's nothing in a basic description of Miriam Batty's play that suggests it's going to be as gorgeous as it is. Tosh (Tanya Reynolds) lives with Lou (Rebekah Murrell) and the play is made from snapshots of their lives, gradually dragging them towards an emotional earthquake. Batty rips away all the padding that makes relationship stories boring, pinpointing the most painful bits. *Rosemary Waugh*
→ Royal Court. ⊖ Sloane Square. Until Feb 22. £15-£25.



'Scenes With Girls'

FACES IN THE CROWD

★★★★★
Adapted by director Ellen McDougall from the novel by Valeria Luiselli, this is a thrilling tangle of unreliable narration, coincidences and half-truths in which a 'narrator' is trying to tell us a 'fiction' about her experiences when she was younger. An ambitious adaptation

of an extraordinary novel. *Ka Bradley*
→ Gate Theatre. ⊖ Notting Hill Gate. Until Feb 8. £12-£25.

THE SUNSET LIMITED

★★★★★
Black (Gary Beadle) has just prevented White (Jasper Britton) from ending his life. Now, he wants to convince him not to try again. One of just two plays by author Cormac McCarthy, this may feel better suited to the page than the stage, but it packs a shocking punch. *Tom Wicker*
→ Boulevard Theatre. ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Until Feb 29. £12-£36.

NEW SHOWS

THE HOTTEST THEATRE OPENINGS THIS WEEK

WEST END

Carmen

Calixto Bieito's fiery twenty-first-century take on Bizet's opera.
→ London Coliseum. ⊖ Charing Cross. Wed Jan 29-Feb 27. £20-£125.

Kunene and the King

Anthony Sher plays an ageing Shakespearean actor in John Kani's 'King Lear'-inspired, South Africa-set play.
→ Ambassadors Theatre. ⊖ Leicester Square. Until Mar 28. £25-£84.50.

OFF-WEST END

Faustus: That Damned Woman

Chris Bush's gender-swapped rewrite puts a female-led spin on the immortal parable of a scholar who enters a demonic pact.
→ Lyric Hammersmith. ⊖ Hammersmith. Until Feb 22. £10-£42.

The Gift

Janice Okoh's comedy-drama about imperialism splices

Victorian times with the present day.
→ Theatre Royal Stratford East. ⊖ Stratford. Wed Jan 29-Feb 15. £10-£35.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Watermill Ensemble's unseasonal take on Shakespeare's beloved comedy is set in a Victorian music hall.
→ Wilton's Music Hall. ⊖ Aldgate East. Wed Jan 29-Feb 15. £12.50-£29, £10-£26.50 concs.

Persona

After five long years out of action, the newly redeveloped Riverside Studios is back with an intriguing staging of Bergman's film.
→ Riverside Studios. ⊖ Hammersmith. Until Feb 23. £12.50-£40.

TOP-SELLING TICKETS

ATTIMEOUT.COM/TICKETS

1 & Juliet

This glitzy, campy jukebox musical is full of '90s hits.
→ Shaftesbury Theatre. Until Oct 3.

2 Uncle Vanya

Toby Jones stars in Chekhov's melancholy classic.
→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Until May 2.

3 Girl from the North Country

Last chance to see the Bob Dylan-soundtracked smash.
→ Gielgud Theatre. Until Sat Feb 1.

4 Waitress

Singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles has joined the cast.
→ Adelphi Theatre. Until Jul 4.

5 The Book of Mormon

Filthy satirical fun.
→ Prince of Wales Theatre. Until May 2.

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

LAST CHANCE

Girl from the North Country

Conor McPherson's mega-hit play mixes Bob Dylan songs with a hardscrabble narrative of American life.
→ Gielgud Theatre. ⊖ Piccadilly Circus. Until Sat Feb 1. £15-£127.50.

EXCLUSIVE

Fancy yourself as the next 007? Find out if you've got what it takes at 'Live and Let Dine' at The Vaults. Tickets are just £21 – that's 47 percent off.

TIMEOUT.COM/LIVEANDLETDINE

EXCLUSIVE

'THE SUNSET LIMITED'



Save up to 37 percent on tickets to legendary American novelist Cormac McCarthy's 'The Sunset Limited'. The drama unfolds as two men have an existential conversation with life or death consequences. Ticket from £18.

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TIME OUT MEETS

Olga Koch

RUSSIAN-BORN STAND-UP Olga Koch – who moved the UK when she was 13 – studied computer programming at New York University, and now those coding skills have become the subject of her new solo show, 'If/Then'.

What's the best thing about live comedy?

'Getting to talk about all the assholes who haven't texted you back and audiences calling it "brave".'

And what's the worst?

'Sometimes the assholes end up in the audience and you have to "promise" to them that you'll "never do that bit again" because they "have a serious girlfriend now" and she "wouldn't get it".'

What's the worst thing you've done on stage?

'I used to do a bit about how my dad is my boyfriend and it haunts me to this day because I'm pretty sure now he thinks he has a shot.'

What's the rudest thing you've done on stage?

'I call audiences "virgins" if they misbehave.'

And what's the rudest you've done off stage?

'I looked better than my sister at her wedding and I acted all oblivious, but I knew what I was doing.'

What's been your favourite thing about performing this show?

'Holding a live python on stage every night. That thrill never gets old!' ■ *Interview by Ben Williams*
→ 'If/Then' is at Soho Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Feb 12-18. £12-£16.50.

OLGA KOCH: JAMES DEACON

THE TEN BEST GIGS THIS MONTH

10 Live at the Empire
Irish whimsy merchant David O'Doherty and TV regular Sara Pascoe co-headline this big Hackney gig.
→ Hackney Empire. Hackney Central rail. Feb 7. £26.95.

9 Arabella Weir: 'Does My Mum Loom Big in This?'
The 'Fast Show' star talks child- and motherhood.
→ Leicester Square Theatre. ⊕ Leicester Square. Feb 21-22. £24.15.

8 Michael Odewale: '#BLACK BEARSMATTER'
This young stand-up made a splash at last year's Edinburgh Fringe.
→ Soho Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Feb 11-15. £11.50-£15.50.

7 Good Ship
An excellent line-up featuring sketch supremos Lazy Susan, character comic Joseph Morpurgo and stand-up Toussaint Douglass.
→ Colonel Fawcett. Camden Rd Overground. Feb 10. £5.

6 The Honk Show
Brian Gittins – the dungarees-donning character creation of David Earl – hosts this bizarre new-act gig.
→ Moth Club. Hackney Central Overground. Feb 20. £11.

5 Johnny White Really-Really: 'Unending Torment'
A beautifully written stand-up monologue from this talented wordsmith.
→ The Vaults. ⊕ Waterloo. Feb 8. £11.

4 Ben Target: 'How to Build a Lighthouse'
Experimental comic Ben Target presents his tender new show.
→ Yard Theatre. ⊕ Hackney Wick Overground. Feb 18-22. £20, £17

3 Annie McGrath: 'Shepherd'
Tales of tweets gone viral, male toxicity and sheep herding from this deadpan stand-up.
→ Soho Theatre. ⊕ Tottenham Court Rd. Feb 17-18. £14-£15.

2 Girl Code
Dubbed 'if "Loose Women" was more outrageous', opinionated stand-up Sikisa hosts this comedy chatshow.
→ 2Northdown. ⊕ King's Cross. Feb 20. £7.

1

Gabby Best: '10,432 Sheep'

Best's debut stand-up show is a lively, animated, consistently funny hour about insomnia. Get tickets now: you snooze, you lose.

→ The Vaults. ⊕ Waterloo. Feb 27 and 28. £11.



Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/art @timeoutart

SHOW OF THE WEEK

'Picasso and Paper'



OF ALL THE things the world needs in 2020, another effing Picasso show is not one of them. There have been countless major Pablo exhibitions in London over the past decade. Hell, I'm tired of *typing* the word 'Picasso', let alone looking at the bloke's art. But the British public seems to have the same appetite for Pablo as it does for binge drinking, reality TV and under-seasoned food, and British art institutions just can't seem to stop feeding the addiction. Now the RA is offering up a little

snifter of the great Spanish artist's works on paper.

Annoyingly and obviously, it's still great, because Picasso is great. Of course he is, the absolute bastard. And he was as obsessed with paper as he was with every other material. Throughout his career he used it for sketches, preparatory drawings, etchings and full-blown works. He drew on scraps of paper, on envelopes and newsprint, and some of it is stunning. Okay, fine, a *lot* of it is stunning.

Even the animal cut-outs from when he was nine years old are good. And by the time he moved to Paris in his late teens he was unstoppable. 'The Frugal Meal' is a heart-wrenching etching of desolate misery, 'Woman with Lock of Hair' is a morass of blue sadness. His Rose Period brings stony faces peering out of ochre walls before the influence of African art sets everything bursting apart into the birth of cubism.

There are inventive cut-outs and collages of newsprint and coloured

WHAT IS IT...

Works on paper by the world's most famous painter.

WHY GO...

Picasso could make art out of mashed potato and it would be brilliant.

→ Royal Academy of Arts.

⇨ Piccadilly Circus.

Until Apr 13. £18-£22.

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



BEST OF THE BEST

The top exhibitions you have
to see in London right now



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

Ridiculously beautiful paintings by artists finally getting the recognition they deserve.
→ Wallace Collection. ☉ Bond St. Until Apr 19. £12.



↑ Steve McQueen: 'Year 3'

The Oscar- and Turner Prize-winner's project photographing our city's schoolkids is a thing of absolute joy.
→ Tate Britain. ☉ Pimlico. Until May 3. Free.



↑ Charlotte Salomon: 'Life? or Theatre?'

Salomon's autobiographical masterpiece is raw and tender feminine brilliance. Heartbreaking and beautiful.
→ Jewish Museum. ☉ Camden Town. Until Mar 1. £8.50.

EMILY OF GHIL, AMALUHAN, SIX RECURRENCE, FREER GALLERY OF ART AND ARTHUR M. SACALER GALLERY (SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION), YEAR 3 CLASS PHOTOGRAPH © STEVE MCQUEEN & TATE. © CHARLOTTE SALOMON FOUNDATION

paper, facial features exploding into geometric shapes. The work is a whirlwind of innovation, and here, on paper, Picasso is doing it all at his most intimate. The weeping women, the cut-out skulls, the fractured bodies: this is a show filled with jaw-dropping moments of beauty.

But there are problems. The exhibition is an endless sprawl that needs to be at least three rooms smaller. It also over-estimates how interesting the intricacies of paper choice or printing methods are. And the decision to make a copy of his

famous 'Les Femmes d'Avignon' painting the centrepiece of a whole room is like putting plastic grapes on a Michelin Star meal. Confusing and embarrassing.

The world really doesn't need another Picasso show, but while one's here, we might as well enjoy it for what it is: brilliant art by a genuine master. The bastard. ■



By Eddy Frankel
Who has really had enough of Picasso, clearly.



18 Oct 2019–9 Feb 2020

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Ed Ruscha Spam, 1961 © Ed Ruscha. Courtesy the artist and Gagosian Gallery.

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Dominic Hawgood: 'Casting out the Self v3.1'



PARENTS NEVER LET you get too close to the TV, but Dominic Hawgood insists on it. He wants you to get nose-to-pixel, eye-to-static and skin-to-screen.

It's an exercise in psychedelic meditation. Three screens flicker in the basement of the English artist's installation, strobing between retina-searing bright white and abyssal black in rapid stutters. Perch on a stool, close your eyes and press yourself against the screen; the monochrome flickers get filtered through your eyelids, pulsing in the reds of blood vessels and the greens of veins. Throb, throb, throb: a psychedelic micro-trip starts dancing its way across your field of vision. It's a drug-less high, an effortless meditation.

In the other space, a reflective orb sits surrounded by blue neon lights in an eerily

ceremonial installation. It's like a ouija board for a digital Wiccan, a place for some ultra-powerful AI to commune with the ghosts of machines past.

Hawgood teeters somewhere on the border between mysticism and digital imagery. Trained as a photographer, he has created a whole show that's like a photograph come to life, as if he's saying 'If people won't look at my photograph, I'll put them in the photograph, I'll make them feel the thing I'm

documenting.' And you do feel it: you feel his obsession with transcendental meditation, with psychedelic exploration, with digital imagery. It's all alive and affecting here in this basement.

And no one will tell you off for getting too close to the TV. That's adulthood, that is. That's freedom. ■
Eddy Frankel

WHAT IS IT...
Weird, trippy art about meditation and hallucinogens.

WHY GO...
Who doesn't like getting high on art supplies?

→ TJ Boulting.
↻ Goadge St.
Until Feb 8. Free.

DOMINIC HAWGOOD. COPYRIGHT THE ARTIST. COURTESY THE ARTIST AND GALLERY

Food

Edited by Tania Ballantine
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteat

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK

Nutshell



IT'S AN INTERESTING quirk of restaurant reviewing that when describing Iranian food, you're taught to call it 'Persian'. Persia is for culture, Iran is for politics. And no one wants to eat their politics.

But somehow it feels more appropriate to call the food of this new Covent Garden spot modern Iranian, because this is not your classic kneading-bread-in-the-window kind of a place, but a stylish space serving the metropolitan cooking of Tehran. Walking in, there was vibey hip hop playing in an industrial-chic setting: exposed pipework overhead, darkly gorgeous patterned tiles underfoot, and rose-hued seats for your bottom. It's all super-sceney.

As for the food, there's plenty you'll recognise from the rise-and-rise of modern Middle Eastern dining in the capital: pistachio,

pomegranate, aubergine, yoghurt. But there are more overtly Persian leanings too: an enthusiasm for saffron and rose water, or that most beloved of Iranian fruits, quince. Also modern: the downsizing of stews and grills, so that every item was essentially a small plate. Yup, we're in London.

And mostly, these were terrific. Two star turns bookended the meal. First, a staggeringly good 'bazaar' bread the shape of a flattened baguette: oily, golden, and doused in salt and sesame. And later, an equally sensational twist on a tarte tatin, the pastry filled not with apple, but with meaty chunks of

spiced quince, then teamed with fragrant Persian tea ice cream.

In between, there were other must-haves, like smoky aubergine, casually draped around a plate before being accessorised with all manner of edible jewels: tart pomegranate seeds, tiny curls of

crispy onion, juicy blackberries, shards of bitter walnut, fragrant microherbs and morsels of smooth, salty, glistening feta. No two mouthfuls were the same. Also good were saffron rice and a garlicky, rose-petal-strewn yoghurt dip.

But there were a few slip-ups, too, like a delicate octopus tentacle overwhelmed

by too much orange (not a sentence I ever thought I'd write). Or giant chips made not with the promised tahdig (the prized pan crust of cooked rice, an Iranian delicacy) but with slices of potato: a too-bland fat chip version of pommes anna.

But staff were both enthusiastic and charming, the atmosphere lively and welcoming. Nutshell offers a fresh perspective on Persian cooking, showing that there's so much more to this excellent cuisine than kebabs and stews, and delivering it with sackloads of panache. And for that, I love it. ■

Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £110.



By Tania Ballantine
Who also loves nut facts.
For instance: pistachios
are technically seeds.

EXCLUSIVE

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SHOREDITCH

BOXPARK SHOREDITCH SAYS:

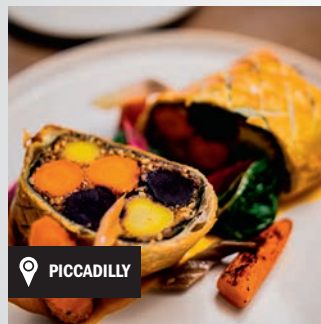
'A vegan and gluten-free scratch bakery has arrived in Shoreditch this month. Humbledough offers vegan cookie dough pots and freshly baked cookies, all made of natural ingredients, topped with homemade whipped cream, freeze-dried fruits and chocolate creations. Come and explore our selection of unique, imaginative flavours.'
Unit 33, 2-10 Bethnal Green Rd, E1 6GY.



EARL'S COURT

THE HALAL GUYS SAYS:

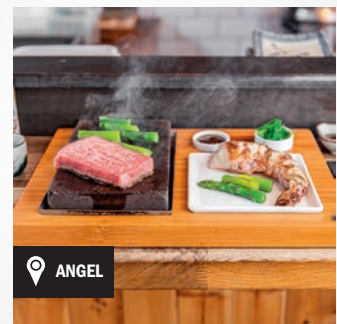
'From humble beginnings as a New York City hotdog cart, The Halal Guys have become a world-renowned restaurant chain, bringing American halal food to the masses. Fans no longer have to be in NYC to experience their famous platters of chicken and gyro over rice, with restaurants in Leicester Square and Earl's Court.'
163-165 Earl's Court Rd, SW5 9RF.



PICCADILLY

THE BEAU BRUMMEL SAYS:

'The Beau Brummel is the newest member of the Cubitt House collection of iconic public houses, with a British menu packed full of sustainable and seasonal produce right in the heart of Piccadilly Circus. It's worth a visit whether you're hosting a breakfast meeting, catching up with friends over a long lunch or unwinding after work.'
3 Norris St, W1S 4NB.



ANGEL

HOT STONE SAYS:

'Hot Stone is one of the few restaurants in the UK serving 100 percent Japanese wasabi, with award-winning sushi and certified Kobe beef. We bring our namesake "hot stone" to the table, offering you the opportunity to cook selections of meat and seafood however you like, for a truly authentic Japanese dining experience.'
9 Chapel Market, N1 9EZ.

Sette



STATESIDE RESTAURANT group Scarpetta, a classy mini-chain you'd go to for swish pasta and slick cocktails, has now sprouted this London offshoot, Sette.

Attached to the ground floor of the Bulgari hotel in Knightsbridge, this isn't the place for a bowl of Mamma's meatballs. Like its big sisters, Sette's food is modern, refined and photogenic, the setting chic and contemporary.

Antipasti, like a plate of pillowy, almond-dusted salmon tartare, or the buttery, truffle-soaked mushrooms with silky polenta, were seriously seductive, but don't miss the signature spaghetti – a visit to Sette wouldn't be complete without it. Served under a glass cloche, the mound of perky noodles – made fresh on site each day – came smothered in a zingy, velvety tomato sauce flecked with fresh basil. Simple but superb.

Equally inhalable was a plate of scialatielli (like short, chubby fettuccine) tossed with the sprightliest prawns, clams and mussels, along with juicy cherry tomatoes just waiting to erupt



WHAT IS IT...

A high-end pasta joint in Knightsbridge's Bulgari hotel.

WHY GO...

The signature spaghetti: it arrives under a glass cloche.

→ The Bulgari,
4 Knightsbridge Green,
SW1X 7QA.
📍 Knightsbridge.

inside your mouth. Calabrian chilli added waves of heat and pepper.

And if you do manage to save space for the dolci (desserts), you won't regret it. A wonderfully sour, twice-baked lemon cake with citrus sorbet managed to make me wince in a good way, while the blonde chocolate cheesecake was fluffy, nutty and as out-and-out indulgent as a £12 dessert should be.

Sette's carb therapy doesn't

come cheap, but this North American import has the class, quality and flair (did I mention the glass cloche?) that makes paying almost 20 quid for a portion of spaghetti just about forgivable. And if flush family members, friends or first dates are around to pick up the tab, so much the better, of course. ■ *Liz Darke*
Dinner for two with drinks and service: around £150.

EXCLUSIVE

Get 50 percent off a whisky flight and canapés at **Milroy's** of Spitalfields. Just £15.

TIMEOUT.COM/MILROYS20

Kafi



HIDDEN SOMEWHERE AMONG the streets of Fitzrovia, Kafi is a haven away from Oxford Street's shopping mayhem. Inside, it's all about the fairy lights, cushions, and wooden furniture.

Cutesy interior aside, make no mistake: this is a place for people who are serious about coffee. And, there are lots of exciting, technical ways to have it brewed, if you're into that. We had one made using a siphoning method, which was gentle and refreshing with no need for milk.

The highlight, though, was the nitro cold brew coffee, dispensed from a beer-like tap. Brewed for 24 hours, it's as smooth as Guinness, thanks to the use of nitrogen, and the flavours are mellow and refined. Deep, gentle and chocolatey.

There are some fancy wellness drinks here, too, with the menu promising a range of gimmicky-sounding benefits, from stress relief to aiding digestion. The chai latte was almost savoury, with a nice hum of spice, while the beetroot-infused 'rojo' had a wonderful pink hue (though it tasted a bit strange and medicinal).

But one major word of warning: don't come to Kafi for the food. The meagre offering of cakes and pastries was okay at best. A pastel de nata had soggy pastry, and an apricot-and-almond vegan cake was average. Kafi isn't one for the foodies, but, if you're a coffee fan, there's plenty to get stuck into here. ■ *Ella Braidwood*
Drinks and pastries for two: around £20.

WHAT IS IT...

A café in Fitzrovia for coffee connoisseurs.

WHY GO...

For the nitro cold brew: as smooth as coffee gets.

→ 20 Cleveland St,
W1T 4JA. 📍 Goodge St.



Coqfighter



UNLIKE COQFIGHTER'S TAKEAWAY unit at Boxpark Croydon and its in-and-out joint at Boxpark Shoreditch, this Soho site is a proper sit-down job, with friendly table service, mood lighting and cocktails worth settling in for.

As always, the burly vodka-and-sesame-battered chicken wings are served DIY-style. Well, DIY-style: you glaze them yourself, with as much sticky soy-and-garlic dressing or punchy Korean hot sauce as you can handle. But the best thing on the menu is still the burgers. Take the Original stack: succulent, deep-fried thigh comes laden with crisp iceberg, pickled red onion and a sweet and peppery sambal mayo, all the while oozing more of that lovely hot sauce. Then there's the towering Green Chilli Cheese, topped with fiery pickled green chillies, glossy sheets of American-style cheese and smoky chipotle mayo. Extra napkins are necessary with both, FYI.

The pocket-sized bao here aren't bad – the soft buns a good contrast to the crunchy chook and daikon filling – though there are better in the area. And the boneless tenders were a bit meagre and had spent too long in the fryer.

Still, for a satisfying and affordable chook feast in central London, Coqfighter is a winner. Plus, you get to tell your pals you're going for chicken on (wait for it)...Beak Street. ■ *Liz Darke*
Meal for two with drinks and service: around £50.

WHAT IS IT...

A sit-down spot from the fried chicken street food outfit.

WHY GO...

The chicken burgers. Clucking awesome.

→ 75 Beak St, W1F 9SS.
📍 Piccadilly Circus.



Food

Hakata Ramen + Bar



HAKATA OZZES THE essence of a Tokyo izakaya (Japanese pub), only with a dollop of Bermondsey gentrification. The food, all fairly cheap, is pretty good. A huge bowl of tonkotsu ramen was adorned with a regulation half egg, pickled ginger and spring onion. It was creamy, the hard noodles holding their bite (you can choose from soft, hard or very hard), and the pork tender. It seemed a tad bland at first, but was easily spruced up with the chilli paste and sesame seeds on the table.

Later, a portion of tebasaki (Japanese fried chicken wings) came slathered in gochugaru, a Korean red-pepper-based seasoning. Sticky and sweet, the chicken was fantastically juicy within and crisp on the outside. The aubergine katsu hirata (steamed soft bun) was also a hit, despite its excessively sugary sauce.

There were bigger niggles. Prawn gyoza were decent, nicely fried on one side, but there were upsettingly few of the promised crustacean among the vegetable mush. And, while the chicken in the katsu sando (Japanese sandwich) had a good, crunchy crumb coating, there wasn't enough to fill the thick brioche-style slices. Still, this place has nailed the basics: a bubbly atmosphere and hearty food. ■ *Ella Braidwood*

Lunch for two with drinks and service: around £45.

WHAT IS IT...

An informal, no-bookings ramen joint in Bermondsey.

WHY GO...

For those Japanese fried chicken wings. So, so good.

→ 177 Bermondsey St, SE1 3UW. Ⓞ London Bridge.



WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH

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*Over 18s only. ID required.
Subject to availability. Maximum table of 4.

It's a what theatre?

A 'food theatre'. Which is different from a 'food court'. Apparently.

So it's really a bunch of mini-kitchens under one roof?

Precisely. There are six niche eateries at street level (currently: tacos, posh kebabs, steak, fusion sushi, piri piri chicken, or pasta), plus a seventh (serving katsu sando sarnies) in a wish upstairs lounge space.

Is it good for a cheap lunch?

Sadly, it's on the pricy side. Most of the signature dishes hover around the £12 mark, and that's before drinks.

But surely that's what you'd pay in a restaurant?

Well, yes. But this isn't a restaurant. It's a glass-sided block with double height ceilings and hard surfaces: no amount of funky tunes or slick mid-century furniture can stop it feeling a bit like an airport departure lounge.

What about the food then?

Mixed. All the meaty spots were ace: we especially loved Casita do Frango (go with a pal and order the £10 piri piri chicken and a bowl of the African rice: it's only £6 but a meal in itself, not to mention utterly delicious.) But steer clear of Chotto, where everything we ate was clumsy.

Any other tips?

Take your own tupperware: we were told the only things you could get 'to go' were coffees and pastries. But who's going to stop you from DIY box-ing? ■ *Tania Ballantine*
→ 103-105 New Oxford St, WC1A 1DB. Ⓞ Tottenham Court Rd.

Find more pick 'n' mix eats at
timeout.com/foodmarkets

Drink

Edited by **Laura Richards**
timeout.com/bars @timeouteatdrink

Moto



WHERE NEW YORK treads, London follows. Particularly when it comes to getting drunk. So, with interest in craft sake spiking in NYC – punters’ palates geared up for weirder, more complex flavours following the natural wine craze – Londoners are starting to sit up and pay attention to Japanese rice wine. Covent Garden getting a bar dedicated to the stuff makes that quite clear.

Moto on Maiden Lane is home to a whole wall of sake and a whole lot of knowledge. The room is narrow, just like the Shinjuku hole-in-the-wall of your dreams, with a few seats

up at the bar (the best place to sit if, like me, you want to nerd out) and a banquette that runs parallel. Staff hovered awkwardly, especially when there were four of them on the floor at once. And some of them spoke with less confidence than I’d expect from a specialist bar.

But if you are there to learn, a nifty display makes choosing dead simple, with bottles laid out on a grid of shelves that moves light to

rich from left to right, and mild to dry from top to bottom. Or there’s a paddle menu with options that come with the grade, the rice-polishing ratio (typically, the lower the percentage, the more premium the sake) and – to lighten the mood – some tasting notes (‘lime, pear, a summer breeze’). Plus, with each sake served on a flight (three different 60ml measures for £15), you get a double-sided tasting card

filled with stats. It might be overkill for sake seneis but it’s a great intro for those in virgin territory.

Cocktails are pricy at £15 when you can be drinking such interesting things neat – if you need a chaser, beers on draught also hail from Japan. Pick something to pair with the exceptional chicken karaage, its batter made with tempura crumbs and sake. Fried chicken may be your gateway drug. ■ *Laura Richards*



BAR OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS IT...

A sake specialist and bottle shop in Covent Garden.

WHY GO...

For fried chicken and funky rice wine.

→ 7 Maiden Lane, WC2E 7NA. ☎ Covent Garden.

THREE OF THE BEST

Happy hours



Funkidory

Get through to payday at this neighbourhood bar that helps locals feel even more welcome with ‘aperitivo hour’. In truth, it runs for three hours and sees cocktails at a cut price of £5 a pop.

→ 42 Peckham Rye, SE15 4JR. Peckham Rye Overground. Wed-Sun, 5pm-8pm.

Murder Inc

Come early doors to this gangster-themed bar, for a list of £7 ‘freeloader’ drinks – including a Frozen Banana Ramos. Drinking this cheaply in central London feels a bit like you’re breaking the law.

→ 36 Hanway St, W1T 1UP. ☎ Tottenham Court Rd. Mon-Sat, 4.30pm-7pm.

Supermax

The capital’s most unapologetically groovy happy hour: five banging vermouth cocktails cost £6 each and come with a plate of Italian snacks. All under the glow of a glitterball and to a disco soundtrack.

→ 14-18 Handyside St, N1C 4DN. ☎ King’s Cross. Wed-Sat, 5.30pm-7pm.

Dropkick Jonny’s



WHAT IS IT...

A snug drinking den above one of Richmond’s best pubs.

WHY GO...

Its sweet whisky selection and 1am licence.

→ Tap Tavern, Princes St, TW9 1ED. ☎ Richmond.



RICHMOND IS THE kind of place that’s primed for a pub crawl. And yet, locals and visitors alike tend to find a favourite and stick to it – like The Tap Tavern. The ex-Richmond Arms is head and shoulders above the competition, one of the area’s most in-favour drinking holes thanks to a huge range of craft ales and great accompanying grub. In summer, the doors are flung open and punters spill on to the street, and when the nights draw in, drinkers can glug in the slightly dim, warm and cosy glow indoors. Adding to its appeal, the pub has opened a ‘hidden’ (I mean, opposite the loos and signposted) saloon upstairs.

It’s small enough and busy enough to encourage table reservations, with room for 20 people in among the eclectic mess of rugby and music paraphernalia on dark wooden walls (the bar is loosely Irish-themed, but you can’t really tell). While there are more extensive whisky lists in London, what’s on offer is well-chosen, poured in 35ml measures that start at £7. Along with that, and ale, a few cocktails are also on offer – coming in at £9-ish they are almost half the price of drinks ‘up town’ but, in truth, they’re made with half the finesse. Staff are enthusiastic and eager, though, and there’s a 1am licence, even on Wednesdays and Thursdays. With a few tweaks, this bar could reach the heady heights of the pub down below. ■ *Dave Faulkner*

More drink deals at timeout.com/happhours

Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips



A weekend in

Stockbridge

Country strolls, seasonal grub and English fizz

NESTLED IN HAMPSHIRE'S lush countryside, this peaceful town is the ideal escape from tube delays and your insufferable mates smugly completing Dry Jan. Stockbridge has fresh air, scenic walks and some of the UK's best sparkling wine. You can shelve your new year diet too, as local, seasonal produce is big on the menu here, so the food is incredible. This place is proof that winter can still put a smile on your face.

Walk this

Pack your walking boots (okay, your Glasto wellies) for a country ramble. Stroll around **Stockbridge Marsh** next to the River Test to spot water voles scampering along the riverbanks, or wander vast and hilly **Stockbridge Down** for sweeping rural views.

Eat this

The country air will have you ravenous by noon, so head to **Thyme & Tides** for simple but hearty bistro dishes. Order homemade soups, gourmet sandwiches or fresh fish dishes, before stocking up on local, artisan snacks in its deli.

Drink this

Settle in for a few at **The Mayfly**, a toasty pub sat right on the Test, which offers glorious, moody waterside views in winter. For some added colour in your cheeks, stop by **The Little Whisky Shop** on the high street, to discover (and sample) drams from all around the globe.

Buy this

Stockbridge's quaint **high street** is lined with pastel cottages, dinky cafés and indie shops. Stop at **Coffee Lab** for a slab of homemade cake and a flat white (made with beans from DT Coffee Roastery in nearby Winchester) and then browse chic homeware, clothing and jewellery at boutiques **Hero** and **The Owl & the Pussycat**.

Explore this

Historic **Winchester** is just a 20 minute drive away. Once there, seek out the Gothic cathedral and the life-size male figure by sculptor Antony Gormley in its eleventh-century crypt. The space floods in rainy months, so you can see the man stood alone, perfectly mirrored in the water. ■ *Liz Darke*

→ Get there: one hour by train from London Waterloo to Winchester, then bus or taxi; around one hour 30 minutes by car.

IF YOU ONLY DO ONE THING

Hampshire is one of the best spots for English sparkling wine, thanks to its chalky terrain and similar(ish) climate to the Champagne region. **Black Chalk** has been making fizz with its locally grown grapes since 2015. Swing by for a tour and a tipple. It's well worth stocking up and lugging some booze back to London.

WAKE UP HERE

The Grosvenor



You can't miss this handsome nineteenth-century building, with its pillared carriage porch, slap bang on Stockbridge high street. The outside oozes old-school grandeur, while inside it's a super-stylish, mod-packed boutique hotel. Just as a cosy night's sleep is a guarantee here, so is a proper feast. Head to the trad, oak-panelled dining room where there's a focus on modern and local ingredients, like River Test trout with pickled baby fennel – and let's not forget those glorious Hampshire bangers on the breakfast menu. ■

Liz Darke

→ Stockbridge, Hampshire.

From £85 a night.

www.thegrosvenorstockbridge.com

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