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LONDON



Forward thinker

Rina Sawayama: the pop star who
bloomed in lockdown London



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Inside

This issue of Time Out
in no time at all

Get out, right out!

Yeah, it's cold. But London looks
flipping awesome in autumn, so go
get misty and mellowly fruitful

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Shopy waters

All hail the season of consumer
profligacy! This year, though, spend
your cash at a local independent
who really needs your support

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Locktails

Barred from bars for a bit? No probs,
some of London's greatest mixers
are bottling their cocktails for home
delivery. Drink this: you'll feel better

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Time In

Immersive gaming, indie reads, podcasts
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The whole of this year's Festival of Light
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Hello, London

Joe Mackertich
London Editor
@j_mackertich



One day soon, London will return to normal. Bus seats won't be covered up. Our theatre stages will be full of actors doing bad American accents in Arthur Miller productions. Waiters won't wear plastic welding masks. Rappers will rap, guitarists will shred and DJs will pretend to twiddle the cross-fader. Comedians will once again be able to die on their arse in front of 20 people above a pub in Soho. You won't wince every time people on TV shake hands.

I cannot tell you when this day will come. But come it will.

And in the meantime we make do with the quiet, semi-shuttered winter city we currently call home. We still have our parks (best in the world, no contest), we still have bone-broth ramen delivered to our doors and, crucially, we still have each other. London's most valuable commodity is Londoners, and, Lord knows, those are not in short supply.

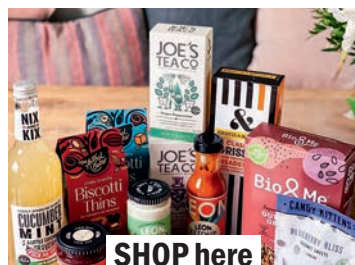
So talk to each other. Talk to your friends. Talk to strangers. Talk to me, if you like (disclaimer: many people who know me would strongly advise against this). Our city is brilliant, our city is strong, and so are you.

THE EDITOR'S ESSENTIALS Three things you have to do in London



EAT this

Patron is a little French restaurant in Kentish Town. Its DIY option, Maison Patron, is lots of fun. Get involved.



SHOP here

Mighty Small is like a supermarket of small foodie brands. It works with FoodCycle, a charity that provides free community meals.



SUPPORT this

St Mungos has re-housed people through the pandemic. Now it's cold, your donations mean even more. www.mungos.org/winter

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NOT FOR RESALE



Welcome
to Page 5G!

All in a day's work

Soon, working from home could involve attending meetings as a hologram. As you'll learn from Samsung's 5G-focused podcast 'Whatever Next?', our working lives are about to transform dramatically

If you haven't yet listened to 'Whatever Next?', then strap in for a wild ride, buddy. So far, Samsung's fascinating 5G podcast, hosted by Dr Hannah Fry and comedian Suzi Ruffell, has delved into all the ways the next gen of wireless tech is already shaping our world: think everything from mind-controlled gaming to robot chefs. Episode five is dedicated to all the ways 5G is going to change the way we work.

Office work

Sorry, but your days of wearing pyjamas all day and simply turning off the camera on work calls are limited. Thanks to 5G's huge leap in data and speed, virtual offices can become a reality – featuring you, in holographic form, examining 3D images of projects you're working on with your colleagues. Your actual, real-life office will level up, too: 5G-connected security cameras will allow for unmanned receptions, and heating and cooling systems will automatically react to the weather.

Medicine

If there's any field which demands supreme precision, it's surgery. Until now, wireless speeds haven't been fast enough to allow for operations to be done remotely. But using 5G, doctors could control tools remotely to perform surgery from thousands of miles away. The impact will be seen in other fields of

medicine, too: a paramedic could perform an ultrasound on a patient from the ambulance, instantly transmitting information to the doctor who can prepare to treat them – thereby saving precious minutes (and maybe even lives).

Firefighting

Leap into a burning building, point the hose at the flames, save the day. That's firefighting, right? Well, yes... but 5G is about to make this dangerous occupation a lot safer. American company Qwake has created a 5G-enabled helmet with an in-built camera which sees more effectively through thick smoke, then instantly relays back video to the brave emergency worker. That sounds amazing, but we reckon we'll stick to magazines, thanks...

Listen to episode five: 'Remote control surgeons' on Spotify, Google Podcasts and Apple Podcasts.

FLYING TO WORK – REALLY?

Forget sweating your way to work on the Northern line. Flying taxis (known as eVTOLs) are closer to becoming a reality than you might think. Major brands like Hyundai and Boeing are developing electric taxis that could cruise at altitudes of 1,000 feet and above at a speedy 180 miles per hour. 5G will be crucial to ensure aircraft-to-ground communications. Just think: you could live almost anywhere in the country and still enjoy a breezy commute to work.

→ Tune into the 'Whatever Next?' podcast today!

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City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



Buy local, so shops like this survive

Independent stores are facing hard times. The story of this venerable Harlesden record shop shows why these places matter more than ever, even if you temporarily can't visit them

THE GREENGROCER THAT puts your local supermarket to shame. The bookshop with the owner who talks your ear off. The record shop where no request is too niche. London's independent shops make the city what it is – and right now, they need support.

Hawkeye Records in Harlesden (above) is a prime example of how shops support and sustain local communities. Harlesden and the surrounding areas were once a hub for Black music, with the mighty Trojan Records, Planetone recording studio and Jet Star Records located there. Now, Hawkeye and Starlight Records across the road are the only two record shops left.

Local reggae artist Bobby Davis (pictured) is a regular at Hawkeye. He's been a customer for

decades and still pops in at least once a week. Davis was a member of The Sensations, a vocal harmony group that played with a host of reggae legends in the '70s and '80s. 'Hawkeye [co-owner Roy Forbes Allen] played football with us and that's how I got to know him and started going to the shop,' he says.

Gerry Anderson, the straight-talking other co-owner, who works behind the counter, is regarded as a reggae guru, using his connections to track down hard-to-find records for his loyal customers. 'When it comes to reggae music, Gerry knows a lot. I can go to him and say: "Gerry, I need this particular single" and he will get it,' says Davis.

The shop was once a meeting place for the reggae community, with famous faces passing

through. 'People like [reggae producer] Bunny Lee would come in. Everyone would drop by – it was one of the main record shops at the time,' explains Davis. 'You could hang out and chat music.'

The photo shows a space that still packs a punch, in spite of the challenges the pandemic has brought: Anderson slashed his prices by 20 percent after the first lockdown.

'If we don't support the record shops, they'll go out of business,' says Davis. He's hopeful that this isn't the end, though. 'They'll get through, they'll survive. Music is trickling, rather than selling, at record shops. Some of them are still there, though, purely for the love of the music.' ■ *Marcus Barnes*

→ This photo is from the 'Bass Borough' series by Orlando Gili, commissioned as part of Brent Biennial.

HYPE DISH

Chin Chin's scarily OTT hot chocolate

DISSECTION

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

CHIN CHIN IS famous for its incredible nitro-blasted ice creams. In fact, as a result of Lockdown 1 (and just in time for another one), its latest trick is to send ice cream in the post. But its most 'grammed dish isn't a towering sundae: it's the OTT hot chocolate. 'We always served hot chocolate,' says co-founder Ahrash

Akbari-Kalhur. 'But we had this sorbet with marshmallow cream. Then it rained for a month and people only ordered hot chocolate. We had litres of marshmallow, so we scooped it on to hot chocolate instead.' As Chin Chin marks ten years, he talks us through it. ■ *Emma Hughes*
→ Online starter kit £9.95. www.chinchinicecream.com



The logistics

'We serve it in a cup within a bowl. The bowl is essential: sometimes it squirts everywhere when you dig in. We suggest using a spoon: that way you get a bit of everything.'

The marshmallow

'Our marshmallow fluff is a secret recipe. We scoop it on top of the hot chocolate, then bring a blowtorch to the party for that fuzzy campfire feel!'

The chocolate

'We use a Valrhona 80 percent chocolate. We make small batches in the old-fashioned way - on the stove with constant attention. It takes an hour to make five or six litres.'

The extras

'Some customers add our ice-cream toppings to their hot chocolate. The truffle crumble, which we make with black truffle, works a treat: it's salty and earthy.'

The hype

'It took a while for word to spread, but then it went viral and, honestly, it's kept our business going. One freezing cold January day we had people queueing in the snow for it.'



GARRICK STREET WC2

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Chef Asma Khan on how her life came full circle in Covent Garden

I NEVER DREAMED I'd open a restaurant on Garrick Street. I thought it was out of my reach, like opening somewhere in Buckingham Palace. Despite living longer in London than I did in India, I've always felt like a tourist in some places I visited as a child. Somehow, those memories don't fade.

The first time I came here was on holiday in the '80s. We'd planned it for years. I told my parents that when we saved enough to go to London, we must go to Covent Garden. I had this VHS of 'My Fair Lady' that I watched on repeat. The part in Covent Garden really excited me. My parents indulged me and we walked from Leicester Square to Covent Garden and on the corner of Garrick Street, there was a person dressed up as a flower girl. I couldn't breathe! I felt like I'd been transported into the film.

Garrick Street still has that sense of magic for me. And now, that corner is where my new restaurant is. I cried when I got the keys: it all connected up, more than three decades apart. It's a beautiful feeling when life comes full circle and you're back on a street corner which meant so much to you years ago - and now it's for a totally different reason. ■ *Interview by Isabelle Aron*
→ www.darjeeling-express.com.

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LOCKDOWN LIFE HACKS



How to take up running and actually stick to it

Nike Run coach and Track Mafia founder *Cory Wharton-Malcolm* shares his tips

Reboot your running garms

You're far more likely to wear something if you like the look of it. Think about this when picking out your kit. Winter is approaching, so take the opportunity to go big or bright when it comes to your gear – whatever it is that's going to make you want to don those new kicks or sexy jacket.

Make it count (literally)

There are days when the first 20 minutes are like an eternity, my breathing is off and my body feels heavy. I could turn round. Instead, I concentrate on my breathing and count stuff: cars, seconds between planes, other runners, dogs, squirrels – the options are endless. Start counting and those thoughts about cutting your run short will pass.

Curate your playlist

Make a playlist as if you were a DJ: think about what your body goes through on a run, think about what your body needs at a certain time and match that up with the tempo. Running is rhythmical, as is breathing, so no power songs at the start or your legs and heart will want to follow.

Get lost in nature

Running is a great way to explore the canals and trails that we might not have known were close by. My favourite places to get lost in are Sydenham Hill Woods and Dulwich Woods. As well as being good for your mind, it's great for the body, as running on trails lowers the impact on your legs. ■

→ Follow Cory Wharton-Malcolm on Instagram @bitbeefy.

LONDON MAKERS

Inspired by NYC's breweries and bodegas while living there, Londoner Sammi Marwan started making hot sauce using hops. Back in London, he launched **Hop't** from a Kilburn kitchen where he makes it in small batches.

→ www.hoptsauce.co.uk



WORD ON THE STREET

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

'Oh yes, there are some ponds over there – but they are quite pathetic.'

'Ah well, I guess I'll just shit myself in the vineyard, then.'

'For God's sake, there's nothing for us in Cockfosters!'

'Ow! Your phone just hit me on the bollock.'

'My armpits smell like barbecue crisps.'

'Yes, that's an oxymoron but a lot of farts are.'

'I could never date someone who runs for the tube.'

'If I moved to south London I might as well move out of London.'

'Would you rather fight one horse-sized duck or a hundred duck-sized horses?'

'To beer or not to beer, that is the question.'

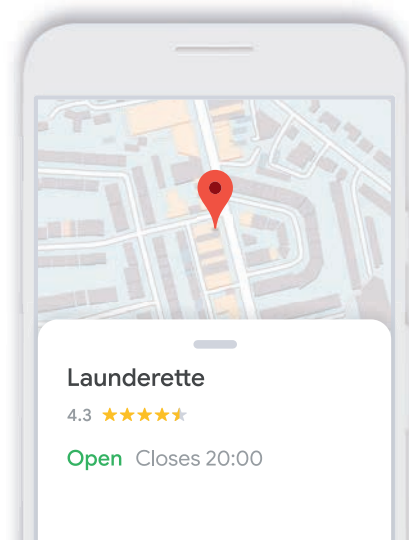
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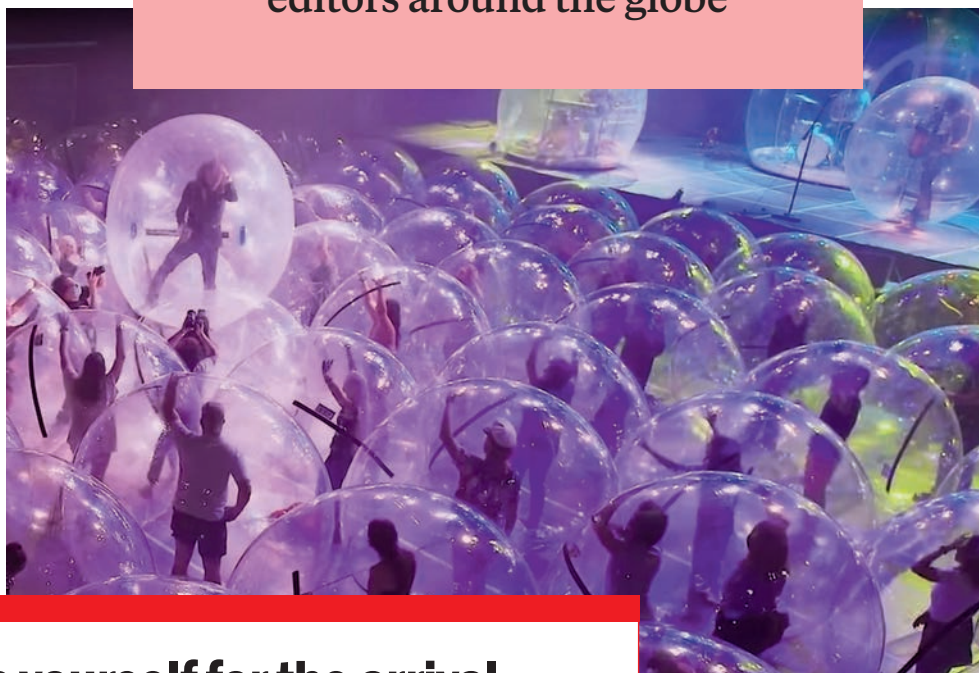


Edited by James Manning
timeout.com/travel @timeouteverywhere



YOUR WORLD ACCORDING TO TIME OUT

The best stories from our editors around the globe



Brace yourself for the arrival of bubble concerts

USA

Is this what the future of live concerts looks like? Performing in Oklahoma City last month, The Flaming Lips tested out a 'bubble concert' idea, with the performers and each audience member encased in giant inflatable bubbles. The happening was primarily staged to shoot a new music video, but also served as a test run for the band,

who've been pondering the idea since the pandemic hit. (Fans will know of singer Wayne Coyne's long-term propensity for bubble-based crowd surfing.) Will it catch on? Will everyone have to purchase his or her own gig bubble? And what about the sweat? Regardless, we're grateful to the Lips for being proactive about reviving live music. *Anna Ben Yehuda, Time Out USA*

USA

Flights to New York could be back on by Christmas

Transatlantic tourism has been off the cards since March – but now the US and UK governments, along with airport honchos, are aiming to reopen travel with quick-turnaround, pre-boarding Covid tests. According to reports from the USA, the target is to restart regular flights by Christmas with a much-reduced quarantine period. (Right now, Brits are banned from entering the country altogether.) Your post-lockdown travel options might be better than you'd hoped. *Huw Oliver*

BUBBLE CONCERTS: FLAMING LIPS; ASSASSINS OF YOUTH LIVE VIDEO

Get the latest from cities worldwide at [timeout.com/news](https://www.timeout.com/news)

SYRIA
A giant puppet will stride across Europe next year

Having made its name with a pop-up playhouse at the Jungle refugee camp in Calais, Good Chance Theatre has big plans for 2021. It'll literally walk an 11-foot puppet of a refugee girl, called Little Amal, from the Syrian border to Manchester: a distance of nearly 5,000 miles. She'll cross seven international borders, stopping in more than 70 places, including London. See you soon, Amal – we'll put the kettle on. *Andrzej Lukowski*
 → www.walkwithamal.org



JAPAN
Super Nintendo World is a-go in Osaka

Princess Peach's castle. Bowser's fortress. Piranha Plants popping out of tubes and Goombas crawling about. If all of that has sent you into nostalgic feels (rather than, say, total bafflement) then you'll be very excited to hear that Nintendo is opening its long-awaited Super Mario theme park area next spring in Osaka. Super Nintendo World will include an IRL version of Mario Kart, an adorable Yoshi ride and a Mario-themed restaurant. What's more, Japan is planning on readmitting tourists from spring, ahead of the postponed Tokyo Olympics. It's-a-me, your dream trip! *Tabea Greuner, Time Out Tokyo*



UAE
Never mind WFH, you can now WFD

With a winter lockdown now in place, we're awfully tempted by the latest destination to launch a remote working visa: Dubai. The UAE's biggest city will now let you stay for up to a year while still working for overseas firms. There's one snag: you must earn at least \$5,000 (£3,800) a month to qualify. Not quite in that tax bracket? Then try balmy Mauritius, which is launching a 'premium travel visa' – all you need is proof of your long-stay plans. If you need us, we'll be Zooming from our sun lounger. *HO*



AUSTRALIA
Melbourne's airport is turning green

With Australia's second-biggest city staying at home through not one but two full-on lockdowns, Melbourne Airport has been very quiet over the past few months. Thankfully, it's been using its downtime for something worthwhile. No, not perfecting its sourdough: it's building a solar farm to power its four terminals. From early 2021, the airport is hoping to source 15 percent of its annual electricity needs from the sun – not bad for a notoriously cloudy city, and a decent first step towards making air travel that teensy bit more planet-friendly. Heathrow, Gatwick: time to step up! ■ *Rebecca Russo, Time Out Melbourne*

REFUGEE PUPPET: BEVAN ROOS; SUPER NINTENDO WORLD: © NINTENDO



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Queen in a quiet town



Rina Sawayama emerged from Lockdown 1 as a global-TV-ready superstar. She tells *Zing Tsjeng* about music, dogs and why she quit *Animal Crossing*. Portraits *Andy Parsons*

'AH SHIT, MY LAPTOP'S about to die – hang on, let me get my charger,' a slightly grainy Rina Sawayama shouts from her screen. Welcome to interviewing pop stars in the time of Covid – a process facilitated by Zoom, a piece of technology none of us had heard of a year ago.

As Sawayama frantically scrambles to plug cables in, I'm treated to a view of her new place in south-east London – or at least, the 'glorified shed' that the 30-year-old Japanese-British musician is currently calling her rehearsal room and gym. Like many of us, March's lockdown precipitated a realisation that a houseshare is not the optimal place to spend a pandemic. Like fewer of us, she was able to do

something about it. 'I was like, "I can't live here any more,"' she says, widening her eyes in mock distress, 'and then as soon as [lockdown] lifted, I was like: Right, I'm out.'

She might be in nesting mode – our chat is prefaced by a warning that she's got painters in and they might accidentally cut off the wifi – but right now Sawayama is one of the most hotly tipped acts to emerge out of the UK. A day after we speak, her worldwide TV debut on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon' is announced. She hits 100 million streams on Spotify a few days later.

It's all because of 'Sawayama' – her dizzyingly extravagant debut album. It's a record that leapfrogs genres with the dexterity of a mid-concert Gaga costume change,



Rina Sawayama

spanning glamorous house and anthemic queer balladry and sampling everything from a Beethoven sonata to Final Fantasy IX. To call it 'ambitious' is a bit like calling the Shard 'quite a tall building'. No wonder Elton John proclaimed it his record of the year.

'I just miss festivals so much: being in a big crowd of people'

That's not to say Sawayama's 2020 has exactly gone to plan (whose has?). The singer has spent the last seven years building up to this one. In 2013, she released her first solo track. In 2017, her EP 'Rina' put a voice to the bleakness of life online. Meanwhile her formidable army of fans – 'Pixels' – stanned harder and harder, generating droll memes comparing her favourably to Karl Marx and painting her into 'Ghost in a Shell' movie posters.

This year, Sawayama was meant to cruise from her April album release and straight into a UK and North American tour. She even shot this week's Time Out cover at an eerily empty Barbican – looking like a 'Blade Runner' replicant at Chelsea Flower Show. Now all her concerts have been rescheduled to next year, with a Roundhouse headliner pencilled in for November 2021.

At some point in Lockdown 1, she found herself on her couch, watching the documentary 'Blackpink: Light up the Sky' on Netflix and feeling a dull ache in her chest as she watched the K-pop girl group perform at Coachella. 'I just miss festivals so much,' she says mistily. 'Just live music, being in a big crowd of people. I can imagine that I'm not the only person who's missing that.'

In March, as the gigs were pulled and the video shoots were cancelled, she tried to maintain a sense of perspective about the whole thing. 'Rina, there's a pandemic, like, chill out,' she remembers telling herself. She played Animal Crossing on Nintendo Switch until she realised it was 'evil' ('You owe money as a mortgage... then you get a bigger mortgage that you have to work extra hard to pay. I was like: This is so depressing.') She read Ocean Vuong's 'On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous' ('so good') and 'Sour Heart' by Jenny Zhang ('probably one of my favourite books of all time'). She hung out with her dog, Kaya; impulsively pre-ordered the new PS5. 'I was stressing at the beginning,' she says. 'I was like, fuck, Taylor [Swift] has written another record, Charli [XCX] has written another record during lockdown. Why am I not writing?



'London was probably the best place for me to grow up'



But then I was just like: Everyone, just calm down. Just do what you can. I think some people are very inspired by this sort of feeling that this time has given them and some people are just so not inspired. And that's me.'

'I'm worried about the whole music industry collapsing'

Sawayama's in a pensive mood today, huddled over her laptop in a Nike basketball hoodie and oversized specs that look a tiny bit Steve Urkel. There's an enormous swiss cheese plant, the trademark of millennial apartment living, lurking in the background. If it wasn't for the empty magnum of Moët behind her – a present from *Vogue Japan* – and the two guitars visible in the back of the frame, I could be on a Zoom call with any London office-dweller into their seventh month of working from home. She exhales loudly. 'I'm just worried about the whole music industry collapsing, basically.'

Like most of us during lockdown, Sawayama has had a lot of worries. Big existential ones about the whole economy crumbling and relatively smaller, but no less troubling ones, about the government's treatment of the arts. 'Yeah, artists can just go away and then come back,' she says, putting on a spoilt posh baby voice. 'Encouraging people to retrain – how many people are actually going to be able to come back to this industry?' Sawayama half-shouts, tossing her head so hard that her plaited hair almost comes loose. 'Literally, what would I do?'

The fiery, impassioned tone reminds me of the last time I spoke to Sawayama in July. She'd just found out that she'd been barred from going up for the Brits and the Mercury Prize because of a little-known nationality clause that stops people like her – who've spent almost their whole lives in the UK on long-term visas but don't have a British passport – from entering.



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Rina Sawayama



A Rina tour
Above left: at the Roundhouse, 2018.
Left: at Heaven in the same year

Awards organisers have said they are looking into the rules, but Sawayama isn't optimistic. 'We still are yet to hear anything about a timeline,' she says bluntly, her voice hardening. 'It's a weird situation.'

She equally doesn't mince words when it comes to the desperate predicament facing the live music industry. 'There's literally tens of thousands of people who are out of work,' she says, punctuating every other word with fury, 'and it is up to the artists to support them.'

We're speaking just a few days after the announcement of the first round of funding for arts organisations from the initial £500 million bailout, but as Sawayama explains, it isn't that simple when it comes to music. 'Really, everyone in the creative industry is on a zero-hours contract. If you're a freelancer, there's no contracts, there's no obligations. So yeah, I try and support people as much as possible... It's just brutal.'

'I was so opposed to being stereotyped'

In a pandemic, Sawayama's commitment to honesty and plain-speaking has cut straight through to audiences. It's why 'Sawayama' is – once you strip away all the Clarence Clarity-produced bells and whistles – essentially a deeply empathetic family portrait, one that's instantly recognisable to anybody who's struggled with their identity or relationship with their parents, but which takes on even deeper resonance if you – like Sawayama – are of Asian or immigrant heritage.

She grew up in north London, a transplant from Niigata, Japan. Her parents' marriage broke down and she was raised here by her abruptly single mother. She was embarrassed by her, she says. Her imperfect English was one of many reminders that they were different. 'London was probably the best place for me to grow up, because there were so many immigrants

and so many people from different social backgrounds,' she says now. That difference got even more stark when she went to Cambridge. 'I didn't feel connected to anyone in my college and that was really, really hard.'

It's a sentiment immortalised in 'Dynasty', a maximalist rock opera that finds Sawayama singing about inherited pain and family trauma. 'A lot of artists believe in things politically, but they may not necessarily reflect it in their work or in their music,' she says. 'I went into a session recently and I was like: I want to write about white fragility. The producer thought I was joking. I was like: I'm not joking.'

Leaning into her heritage for 'Sawayama' didn't come easily. At first, she wanted to disavow it – no thanks, presumably, to the racism she encountered in the music industry, which ran from microaggressions like being described as 'kawaii' because she'd

died her hair orange to straight-up prejudice (a music exec calling her 'Rina Wagamama' behind her back). 'I was so opposed to being stereotyped,' she says. 'It took me a couple years to acknowledge the other side of things. By shutting out my Japanese-ness, I was shutting out all the experiences I had as a Japanese person.'

Then her mother moved back to Japan. And, in London, oceans away and nine hours behind, Sawayama felt unexpectedly liberated. Today, she turns the words over in her head. 'I think I felt like I didn't want to write a record that would embarrass her in a way or reveal too much about our family,' she finally says. 'But actually, that was what made it more relatable for people.'

'I was a stan. I'm always a stan'

Like many Londoners her age, Sawayama spent a lot of her teenage years queuing outside Brixton Academy on chilly mornings for the



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*Xbox Game Pass Ultimate available from 15.09.20. Controller required for some games (sold separately).
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sweet rush of being the first to leg it to the front of a gig. In white skinny jeans, of course. 'I was obsessed. Cajun Dance Party, bloody Bombay Bicycle Club, any band with "the" in front of it,' she laughs. Every Friday night she'd sneak into Koko, because at the time they weren't checking IDs. Then Peaches Geldof got caught by the tabloids. 'After that they got so strict I never went back,' she says. Her highlight of the era? Making it into the Franz Ferdinand afterparty for their Ally Pally show when she was 16. 'What a mood – aaaah!' she screeches, delighted with her teenage self.

Scrawny white guys with guitars are a long way from the average Rina Sawayama show. Even at her earliest gigs – in sweaty venues not so different to the ones she grew up watching bands in – she had the spirit of a superstar: backing dancers, complicated costumes, bum-length wigs and a dramatic stage fan that Beyoncé would be proud of. What had her queueing up to make it to the front of a Bravery gig?

'Being that close to an instrument and being that close to musicians,' she explains. 'I always joke that I was a stan and I'm always a stan. I understand what people feel when they are obsessed with an artist.'

The last time I saw Sawayama perform was at Brixton Academy, where she'd queued up all those years ago. She was opening for Charli XCX in nipple-swishing braids and silver assless chaps from Chinese designer Di Du, looking like a space-age Christina Aguilera in her 'Dirty' phase. She came on stage to cheers so loud they almost knocked the pint of lukewarm Coke out of my hand. It was her last live gig before 'Sawayama' came out. 'I had to do a filmed thing a couple of weeks ago' – she lets out an incredulous laugh – 'and I was like: Fuck, I'm so out of practice!' I'm almost fooled into believing her.

A week after our chat, Sawayama makes her debut on 'The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon', complete with custom dollar bills with her face on them. The

performance trends on Twitter in the US, Brazil, the Philippines and Singapore; less than 24 hours later, there's already fan art of her outfit. Going from rebellious stan to fully-fledged pop star during a pandemic – it's one way of getting to the front of the queue. Now, barely a week after that, the UK is looking down the barrel of a second lockdown. It's a heartbreaking moment for so many people in the music industry, for artists, fans and venues. For Sawayama, though, 2020, with its high highs and super-low lows will always have a special resonance.

'The records that came out during [the first] lockdown mean so many different things now,' she says. 'It's not background music. It's such an important line of optimism for people now, you know?' ■

→ Rina Sawayama's album 'Sawayama' is out now. She plays the Roundhouse on Nov 17 2021.



Zing Tsjeng writes for publications including *Vice* and *British Vogue*.

Get through lockdown: [timeout.com/timein](https://www.timeout.com/timein)

WHAT RINA EATS

The food-obsessed pop star's standout London takeaway joints



Ikoyi

'This is one of the few Black-owned Michelin-starred restaurants. One co-founder is Asian and one is Black. It's like Asian-Black fusion. I had the smoked jollof rice with aged sheep kebab and crab mustard. It's probably my favourite place that I've been to recently.'

→ 1 St James's Market.

Lanzhou Lamian Noodle Bar

'It's a tiny place opposite Leicester Square. You can choose anything with dao xia mian or la mian, two different types of noodles. I always have the sour spicy sliced beef in a soup with the dao xia.'

→ 33 Cranbourn St.

Myung Ga

'Normally, kimchi has fish sauce in it, but they've taken it out so it's veggie- and vegan-friendly. I highly recommend getting their banchan, the small dishes they offer.'

→ 1 Kingly St.

SMART METERS HELP GIVE BRITAIN GREENER ENERGY

A smart meter isn't much to look at.

But by having that odd, plastic box, you'll be helping Britain's energy system use more renewable resources.

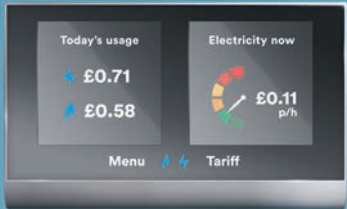
Meaning more wind and solar, and less coal.

Not bad for something that lives under the stairs with your wellies.

And not too bad for the nation, either.

Ask your energy supplier for a smart meter today.

Eligibility may vary.
Requires customer action.



Meal kit mood boosts

The best way to eat your lockdown feelings? A new wave of restaurant DIY kits that guide you to flavour nirvana. Time Out editors try London's most comforting ones

The massive kebabs that will feed you for dinner tonight and breakfast tomorrow

The folks at Persian restaurant **Berenjak** are so committed to giving you the tools to create an authentic kebab at home, their DIY Kabab Kit (£30) includes bespoke metal skewers imported from Tehran. They look like swords and will make you feel like you are running a legit kebab shop. The box comes with two massive flatbreads, mast-o-masir (a yoghurt dip), tomatoes for grilling, onions and herbs and packets of pre-prepared lamb and chicken, enough to make four very generous kebabs.

The instructions are clear and there's even a QR code which takes you to video guidance. Wrangling those skewers feels like quite an achievement even though Berenjak has done almost all the hard work. Most importantly: the end result is truly delicious and you will almost definitely have leftovers. *Izzy Aron* → www.berenjakbazaar.com

Burgers that'll make your flat smell of meat (in a good way)

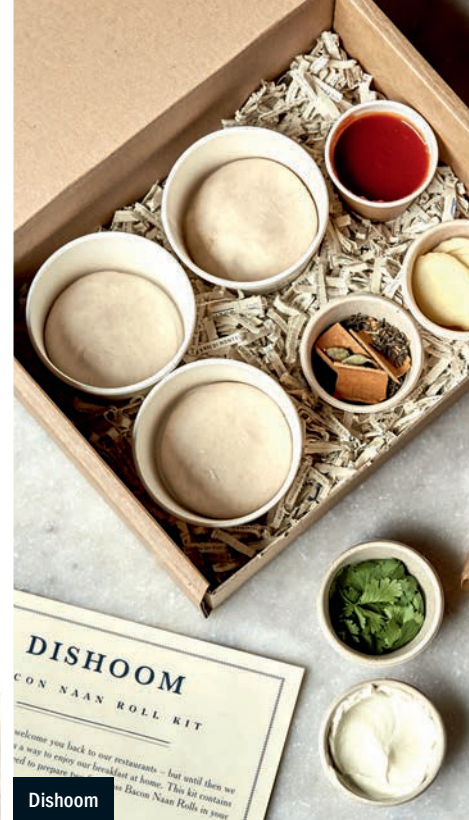
It's just a burger, right? Weeeeellll... not exactly. **Patty & Bun** serves up top-dollar meat sandwiches, and if you fancy making one yourself

(or just finding out what goes into them – FYI, it's not health food) then the P&B DIY Kit is a doddle. For £25 you get four posh patties and brioche buns, plus bacon, cheese, pickled onions and P&B mayo. (Vegan alternatives are available.) That adds up to two Ari Gold and two Smokey Robinson

burgers. Warning: your kitchen will smell of beef fat for days. *James Manning* → shop.pattyandbun.co.uk

Belly-warming ramen to sob into on cold, dark days

If you're already missing the slurpy joys of ramen, **Shoryu's** signature





Ganso soup is a DIY delight. The kit costs £20 and serves two hungry ramen fiends. All the trimmings – including char siu pork belly that you’ll need to fry – come in pouches. But it’s all about the broth, and the tonkotsu is every bit as flavourful as you’d expect in a Tokyo noodle shop. You can freeze the kit for up to a

month, but why would you want to? *Phil de Semlyen*
→ www.shoryuramen.com/diykits

Three whopping salt beef sarnies, serving ‘Sunday afternoon food coma’ vibes

The hunk of salt beef at the heart of **Monty’s Deli’s** £38 kit (£28 for the



Patty & Bun

pastrami version), which comes with enough ingredients for three stacked Reuben sandwiches, needs to be steamed for a few minutes, and the bread toasted, but otherwise this is a simple assembly job. You slather the rye bread with squeezy mustard, pile on the melt-in-your-mouth meat, add a heap of Monty’s own-made sauerkraut, balance a slice of Swiss cheese on top and cover with the addictive Russian dressing. Voilà! A deli classic. *Sarah Cohen*
→ www.montys-deli.com

Pizza you can cook in a frying pan while you’re necking subscription beers

The DIY kit from **Pizza Pilgrims** (£15) won a coveted Time In Award for keeping you lot happy in the last lockdown. So what’s all the fuss about? The packaging is appealing, for starters: a snazzy pizza box that opens on all your ingredients. Inside, there’s enough dough for

There’s a longer list at timeout.com/DIYkits

two ‘zas and it’s pretty fun spinning that round before you slap it in a pan and top with pre-made marinara and mozzarella (a handy video on the website shows you how). It’s quite hard to get a crispy crust under the grill without the right kind of pan, but the result is still delicious and made within minutes – easy as pie. You could get experimental with toppings if you fancy reliving a classic rainy-day childhood activity, but a straight-up marg is just as bellissima. *Laura Richards*
→ www.pizzapilgrims.co.uk

Chips and a load of gourmet greasy stuff that’ll get all over your pyjama top

Whichever maverick thought to smother a pile of skinny fries with fresh chilli, spring onions, jalapeño dressing and moreish chunks of miso-glazed lamb belly has invented a new diner delicacy. **Dirty Bones’** Lamb Fries Kit costs £13 and contains enough ingredients for a three-person feast. The instructions are a bit woolly – how long do you fry the lamb for? – but the result rivals the version we’ve eaten at Dirty Bones: the chips are softer – perhaps because they’re baked rather than fried? – but the lamb is crispier and less fatty. Naked chips will never be enough now. *SC*
→ www.dirty-bones.com/dirty-at-home-kits

A very famous breakfast sarnie that you can now eat at home in your pants

Dishoom’s #iconic bacon naan roll is a delicious mash-up of greasy-spoon realness and Irani-Indian flavour. It’s not impossible to bodge your own version at home, but now you don’t have to: Dishoom’s DIY kit contains bacon, chilli-tomato chutney, cream cheese, herbs and three balls of dough to make your own naans. You even get a spice blend to brew Dishoom-style masala chai. There are enough ingredients for three rolls, which are totally delicious and pretty easy to assemble, though make sure the dough is at room temperature before rolling it – and be careful when you take the hot naan pan out of the oven (ouch!). The cost? £16 including a charity donation. **JM**
→ www.dishoomathome.com

LONDON FOR LESS

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



Hiver

What is it? A pack of 24 artisanal beers for just £1 a bottle: eight Hiver Blondes, eight Amber beers and eight session IPAs.

Why buy? For the outrageous value, obviously, but also to try something new. Born from admiration of London's urban beekeepers, Hiver makes unique honey beers that taste bee-utiful.

Wait, how much? Only £24 for 24 beers – that's less than half the regular price.

Readly

What is it? Two months of unlimited access to more than 5,000 digital magazines, including *Elle*, *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Delicious* and more.

Why buy? Erm, because magazines are amazing (trust us, we make one). As you read the pages you get to immerse yourself in something you genuinely love. And that's priceless. No, literally, it's free.

Wait, how much? Still free. Nothing's changed since the last paragraph.

→ www.timeout.com/readly

Laithwaite's

What is it? Six bottles of Laithwaite's wine, plus two free Darlington glasses and free home delivery.

Why buy? Because wonderful wine deserves a great glass – and you'll get both. Plus you'll be sampling six sensational wines from around the world for just £6.99 per bottle – you've got to love good-value vino.

Wait, how much? Less than £42 (okay, only by 6p, but who's counting?).

→ www.timeout.com/laithwaites2020

Cafédirect

What is it? Two kilos of Peruvian, Congolese or Honduran coffee from an ethical London roaster.

Why buy? To get your hands on some beautiful beans and support growers at the same time. Cafédirect scours the world in search of the most sustainable coffees, and pays a fair price for them, before transforming them at its London Fields roastery.

Wait, how much? Just £20 for two whole kilograms of the good stuff.

→ www.timeout.com/cafedirect

Love Yourself

What is it? Your first week of daily home-delivered meals for less than half the normal price.

Why buy? For a well-earned break from daily cooking. You'll get five breakfasts, five lunches, five dinners and ten snacks, all freshly made just for you. And you can choose from diet plans including vegetarian, pescatarian and dairy-free.

Wait, how much? Only £50 for all those marvellous meals.

→ www.timeout.com/loveyourself

Delivery deals and online offers to get you through lockdown. Search 'Time Out offers'

Things to do in London

Edited by **Katie McCabe**
[timeout.com/thingstodo](https://www.timeout.com/thingstodo) @timeoutlondon



ANTONY GORMLEY QUANTUM CLOUD GREENWICH PENINSULA. PHOTO EMILY LOVELL

Get out and stretch your legs and brain. Antony Gormley's physics-inspired 'Quantum Cloud' questions our relationship to the world and its particles. Track it down on 'The Line' sculpture trail. **Turn to p33 for more.**

Things to Do

Diwali online

▶ Diwali cooking classes

If the ban on big family gatherings means you'll be in charge of cooking your own Diwali feast for the first time this year, get a helping hand from these online cookery classes. Cyberspace culinary specialist Diaspo will be streaming free workshops for Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and anyone else who wants to create tasty dishes to celebrate the festival of lights. Led by skilled home cooks, each with more than 30 years' experience of making their traditional, generational recipes, the hour-long workshops will show you how to put together top-notch thali plates, pakoras, chai, samosas and chutney that'll rival your grandma's. There'll also be workshops in rangoli, the colourful floor patterns that are made over the festival. Another thing to add to your portfolio of lockdown hobbies.

→ Until Nov 15. £10. www.joindiaspo.com

▶ Diu Kadia Nyati Samaj-UK Diwali Celebration

Diwali is closely associated with the Hindu goddess of prosperity and symbolises the victory of light over darkness: basically, it's the festival we all need right now. This online fest from Brent-based Hindu community group Diu Kadia Nyati Samaj will be broadcasting singing and dance performances straight to your living room via Facebook Live. That's the entertainment covered, but it's still up to you to light the candles and get the food in.

→ Nov 14. www.facebook.com/dkns.uk

Storytelling nights

▶ Storytelling for Adults: Merfolk Tales from Trinidad and Tobago

As well as all that flowery wallpaper, artist and socialist William Morris, incorporated mythical creatures into his designs, like the Romantic-style mermaid figures that pop up in his fabrics. Inspired by these sea nymphs, this online storytelling night from the William Morris Gallery will feature gripping merfolk tales from Caribbean lore. Professional storyteller Wendy Shearer will be spinning yarns full of aquatic hauntings, chilling curses and bewitched fishermen.

Challenging, terrifying, erotic and bizarre: not bad for a Thursday night in.

→ Nov 12. Minimum donation £1. www.wmgallery.org.uk

▶ What Words Are Ours

Listening to a 'poetry-clown' spit silly stanzas might sound like a nightmare, but give it a chance. This is how Talia Randall, the organiser of this much-loved poetry-cabaret show describes herself, and she'll be aiming to fill your ears with



performances from BSL poets, pun aficionados and satirists at this online edition of the D/deaf-inclusive spoken-word variety show. Performed live on Zoom, it'll feature poets Belinda Zhawi and Stephen Lightbrown and Midlands slam champion Jasmine Gardosi.

→ Nov 12. Free. www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

▶ Booker Prize Shortlist Readings

The Oscars of the book world is fast approaching. If you're not

sure who to root for to win this year's Booker Prize, the *Guardian* has conveniently gathered all of this year's shortlisted authors for an evening of readings and conversation, hosted by writer and critic Alex Clark. Then you'll have eight days to buy and read the books you like the sound of before the winner is announced on November 19. If you do feel moved to buy the shortlisted books, we recommend using a new website called Bookshop.org (see p45), which has united loads of the UK's favourite independent bookshops, including plenty in London, so you can bag a good read without helping to line the pockets of some mega-billionaire type.

→ Nov 11. £5. membership.theguardian.com/events

second time around, so rather than a picnic, a brisk walk with a flask of hot toddy is on the cards. South-east London's only Royal Park is the ideal backdrop for the swift-but-freezing stroll. Strut through the grasslands and woodlands, check out a tourist-free Royal Observatory and Greenwich Meridian Line (from a distance), and make time for a natter on top of the hill that offers a panoramic, 'Blade Runner'-style view of Canary Wharf.

N 🍷 Waterlow Park

If you need to chew the fat with a pal from another household, there are more than 20 acres to wander in this Highgate Cemetery-adjacent park, so you can get into every thorny lockdown

detail. Swap sourdough starter tips around the edges of the park's three ponds, discuss your next Zoom quiz strategy in front of the historic Lauderdale House, or just take in the sweet sight of its handsome auburn-leaved trees rustling in the wind before you're back and locked down in your flat again.

→ Highgate Hill.

E 🍷 Hollow Pond

It won't take you long to get into the 'OMG, isn't nature beautiful' phase again once you find yourself back in the great outdoors. One London 'if you know, you know' wonder that's definitely worth a visit is this eccentric Leytonstone park. Explore its gnarly, twisted trees that look like

Louise Bourgeois sculptures, its swampy clearings, serene watery pools and the fact that the pond was entirely manmade by unemployed Londoners in 1905.

→ Whipps Cross Rd.

E 🍷 Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

There's no need to stay in watching David Attenborough boxsets. Head to this disused nineteenth-century cemetery, which, thanks to its status as a nature reserve, is packed with wild plants and animals. On the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park website you'll find self-guided audio walks created by artists, botanists and local people, ranging from atmospheric story walks to sonic maps bringing to life the histories of the people buried there.

→ Southern Grove.



Home cooking

👉 Maggie's Christmas Bake Off

Was banana bread your gateway bake into hardcore cake-making? Put your new-found prowess with a balloon whisk to the test in this virtual Christmas bake-along that's raising money for cancer charity Maggie's. It's hosted by Rosie Brandreth-Poynter, a former semi-finalist on 'The Great British Bake Off', who'll teach you how to make the perfect chocolate log and hopefully indulge us with some red-hot Paul Hollywood gossip.

→ Nov 12. £10. www.facebook.com/maggieslondon

👉 Borough Cooks Live

The 'Groundhog Day' effect is now in full force as London's iconic Borough Market pivots back to streaming live cooking demonstrations. This edition features food writer Skye McAlpine teaching you how to make a flourless chocolate, chestnut and rosemary cake – pretty useful if essentials stockpiling starts again.

→ Nov 11. Free. www.boroughmarket.org.uk

Park walks for winter

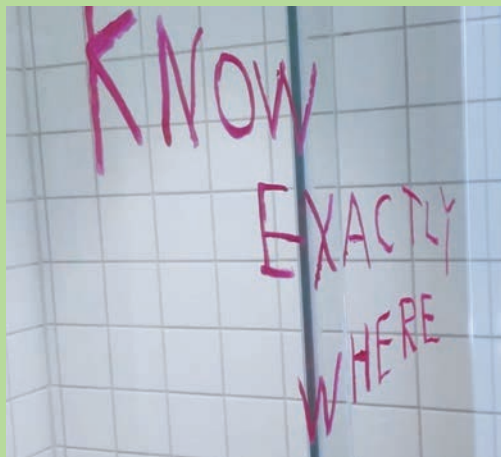
S 🍷 Greenwich Park

Parks are having their moment in the sun again, being the only places we'll feasibly be able to have a socially distanced meet-up with a mate now we're in lockdown again. But it's going to be an awful lot chillier

Down with Zoom quizzes! Try this interactive gothic thriller instead

👉 The Mermaid's Tongue

As a 16-year-old Grand Theft Auto meme once said: 'Ah shit, here we go again.' We've entered the opening credits of a lockdown sequel nobody wants to star in, but at least we've learned a thing or two. We know that habitual self-obliteration with



wine deliveries isn't sustainable. We know that subscribing to every on-demand film and TV service going isn't enough to stay entertained. And we know – in our very bones – that the charm of Zoom quizzes has a shelf life of approximately two weeks.

Thankfully, online entertainment has improved a lot since lockdown part one, thanks to interactive 'experience makers' like Swamp Motel, who use a mix of theatre, storytelling, gaming and puzzling to help people socialise through a screen. Its latest, *The Mermaid's Tongue*, is essentially a computer-based murder mystery where your 'team' plays detective. It begins with an innocent online life-drawing class, until increasingly urgent chat messages from a woman named Daisy get you tangled up in a

conspiratorial gothic art heist. The worse you are at following clues, the more you'll hear from Daisy.

For some people, being tasked with code cracking comes with the same dread as opening a pure maths A-level exam paper. What's appealing about *The Mermaid's Tongue* is that it involves another important skill: online research. If you've ever spent an evening

unearthing the Flickr account of an old boyfriend and listening to Myspace mp3s of a band even he's forgotten he was in – you have the chops required to solve this mystery.

Sadly, if you're the team member tasked with 'sharing screen', it can feel like you're bungling a dull presentation in front of very impatient colleagues: 'Click on the CCTV link, no *THE OTHER LINK*'. But Swamp Motel's use of hammy acting, horror tropes and personal text messages makes the whole thing feel genuinely creepy.

You become invested in the ludicrous journey in the same way you might get addicted to the contorted plot of airport crime fiction, only this way, you have someone else to talk to when the story comes to an end. ■ *Katie McCabe*

→ Until Mar 31 2021. From £15pp. www.themermaidstongue.com

Seven reasons why **Thailand** should be on top of your **2021** travel list

Dreaming of a sunny escape? Not only does this Southeast Asian gem have very few Covid cases, but you can also reduce uncertainty by booking with Flight Centre

Not until 2020 hit did we truly understand the meaning of the phrase, 'I deserve a holiday'. Think about it: we literally stayed inside for months. But now, as the year draws to a close, we're finally able to plan for 2021. The world is reopening and, right now, some countries are ready for visitors. We've teamed up with the travel experts at Flight Centre to tell you why you really should consider Thailand – in all its golden, glimmering glory – for your 2021 adventure. And, most importantly, we reveal why booking with a travel agent adds ultimate flexibility and peace of mind in these uncertain times...



Katathani Phuket Beach Resort

1 Thailand is a safe place to visit

Thailand is handling the whole pandemic thing incredibly well. The country has a strong health system – one that was ready to engage in the fight against Covid-19 after their experiences with Sars in 2003. Mask-wearing was encouraged from the start, and lockdown and quarantine measures were implemented quickly. Of the 70 million residents, only 3,800 cases have been recorded (at the time of printing).

2 It's the perfect escape into nature

Postcard-perfect beaches are par for the course in this coastal nation. The southern islands, like Phuket, Koh Samui, Koh Tao and Koh Phi Phi, blanketed in emerald rainforest, are perennial favourites. But it's not all sunbathing, diving and turtle-spotting. Up in Thailand's northern province of Chiang Rai, visitors hike through tropical forests, explore caves, sail down the mighty Mekong River and climb limestone peaks.

3 The beach resorts are second to none

Ask any seasoned travellers for top Thailand tips and they'll tell you that the southern island of Phuket is the place for pure seaside bliss. Honestly, they're not wrong. By booking with Flight Centre, you could stay at the Katathani Phuket Beach Resort for eight nights – with an extra four nights free – from £1,069pp. Did we mention that's inclusive of flights? You can also get great rates with Flight Centre at other much-loved beach resorts like Amari Koh Samui, The Vijitt Resort Phuket and the Rayavadee Resort in Krabi.



Surat Thani, Koh Tao

4 Booking with Flight Centre removes all uncertainty

Now, more than ever, it's so important to feel secure in your holiday plans – and that's where Flight Centre comes in. If you do need to change, postpone or reschedule your booking due to Covid-19 or changes in Foreign Office advice, they won't charge change fees. On top of that, you can pay a low deposit of £49 with the final payment not due until six weeks before departure.

5 Experts will tailor-make your trip

Flight Centre's friendly Travel Consultants work closely with partners around the globe, so they're armed with all the latest travel advice during Covid-19. Not only that, but they're passionate about exploring; they'll get to know you, your travel style and your budget to tailor-make a holiday to suit. All their itineraries – like the epic 'Bangkok, Jungle & Beach' – can be fully customised, with flights, accommodation and tours included.

6 Responsible tourism is a big focus for Thailand

In recent years, Thailand's tourism industry has stepped up its commitment to sustainable tourism (something that Flight Centre and Time Out are equally passionate about!). The hugely popular elephant sanctuaries have been more tightly regulated, but it's still best to do your research, and get advice from your Flight Centre travel expert before you go. Scuba diving is still on the cards (particularly near Koh Tao), but it's best to choose a dive school that helps to maintain the health of the reef.

7 Enjoy world-class drinking and dining

Think you've tried proper Thai food? Get ready for the real deal. You'll eat well at any price point in Thailand and in every region. Start your lazy beach day in Phuket with hot flaky roti cooked over charcoal, which you'll dip into a bowl of rich dhal. In Bangkok, try the definitive pad thai at Thipsamai, or sip cocktails 88 storeys above the city on the revolving deck of Baiyoke Sky Hotel. The charming northern city of Chiang Mai has a food culture all its own. Trust us: if you see gaeng hanglay (salty, sweet curry often served with pork belly) on the menu, order it. You're welcome.

Visit Flight Centre online to book, or chat to an expert Travel Consultant on 0808 239 6981.



Baiyoke Sky Hotel

→ Tailor-make your flexible 2021 Thailand holiday with Flight Centre today



Things to Do

Christmas lights

📍 Oxford Street

Sure, 2020 has been a maelstrom of unprecedented events and non-stop confusion. But do you remember 2019, when they CHANGED THE OXFORD STREET CHRISTMAS LIGHTS? Out went the giant baubles, in came 27 LED 'light curtains'. This year, Londoners are invited to nominate their '2020 hero' to literally see their name in lights, displayed above an eerily quiet Oxford Street for seven full days over the next six weeks.

→ Until Jan 6 2021. Free. Find out more at www.oxfordstreet.co.uk

📍 Carnaby Street

Designed in collaboration with the street's annual Choose Love pop-up, which has raised millions for the charity Help Refugees, Carnaby's 2020's lights are made up of neon-pink lightboxes that run the length of the street. They feature simple slogans that speak to the charity's message of hope, compassion and solidarity, which we can all park the cynicism to enjoy, at least for five minutes or so.

→ Until Jan 5 2021. Free.

Books to your door

📍 New Beacon Books

When it first opened on Stroud Green Road in 1966, New Beacon was the first Black publisher and specialist bookshop in the UK. Over the summer, it saw a surge in the demand for Black literature. But this spike in interest from white communities cannot not begin and end with picks from anti-racist reading lists – shops like New Beacon need consistent support. Right now, you can order books through its website (for national and international dispatch). Spend the next four weeks with Chigozie Obioma's 'The Fishermen', Ngūgĩ wa Thiong'o's 'Petals of Blood' or the essays and poems of Audre Lorde for company.

→ www.newbeaconbooks.com

📍 London Review Bookshop

A visit to this Bloomsbury shop usually involves three things: tea, cake and languorous book browsing. The natural order of things at the LRB has been scuppered, for now, but it'll be encouraging contactless

collection, as well as orders from its online shop. If you're feeling indecisive, the LRB site has regularly updated recommendations. The latest? Kevin Barry's 'That Old Country Music' and 'The First Woman' by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi. If you find yourself doomscrolling, do yourself a favour and follow the shop on Twitter for some oddball bookseller humour.

→ www.londonreviewbookshop.co.uk

📍 Persephone Books

Part bookseller, part publisher, Persephone specialises in books by women writers of the twentieth century, reprinting their works with its hallmark dove-grey covers.



It has big names (Virginia Woolf's 'A Room of One's Own') along with rediscovered novels that would otherwise have gone out of print (like 'Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day', which it published in 2001, and was later made into a film). It has a subscription service that delivers one book to your door a month (£132 for the year) or you can order a single copy for around £13 (not including postage). If you can handle it, the shop will deliver all its titles in one go, so you can turn your house in to your own personal Persephone library.

→ www.persephonebooks.co.uk

and historians involved in Being Human from delivering their ideas with a series of experimental online events. For starters, visit the Time Machine café to flick through radical publications from '70s and '80s activists, take an audio walk guided by robotic voices, listen to Neil Gaiman discuss the magical mind of Terry Pratchett or book a place at a creative writing class that's all about booze. It's broad, vague and full of strange ways to kill an hour – so it's arrived at just the right time.

→ Nov 12-22. Prices vary.

www.beinghumanfestival.org

📍 Kendal Mountain Festival

Did you book an ambitious hiking holiday that has been made redundant by lockdown? Try this online festival that will probably pale in comparison to your plans, but have some interesting stuff going on nonetheless. At the virtual version of Kendal Mountain Festival, you can watch adventure docs with names like 'Over the Edge' and 'Ten Thousand Bolts' and get tips on open-water swimming from people who have dedicated their lives to freezing outdoor dips. If you prefer adventures that involve reading not doing, there's free event The Lost Spells, where writers

ONE UNMISSABLE THING



Somerset House AGM

Once a year, Somerset House is given over to the artists who call the building home (or studio, at least), but now the whole shebang is moving online with a stream of five new commissions. Watching artists writhe about on the gallery floor to trap music is much more fun in person, but at least you won't have to traipse there in the rain.

→ Nov 12. Free. www.somersetthouse.org.uk

Virtual festivals

📍 Being Human: A Festival of the Humanities

The study of 'humanities' covers everything from modern languages to philosophy and anthropology, so condensing it into a two-week national festival sounds like a *Sisyphian* task (always knew that one Ancient Greek studies class would come in handy). But that will not stop the hundreds of researchers

Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris will read to you from their little book of natural spell poems.
 → Nov 19-28. Prices vary.
www.kendalmountainfestival.com

Home parties

▶ The Spirit of Rave

What could bring you closer to the big pupils and massaging basslines of '90s rave culture than listening to Jeremy Deller calmly discuss its influence on British design? Well, a lot of things really, but this Design Museum-organised chat between Deller, fashion designer Martine Rose and DJ Trevor Jackson is bound to feature some decent stories from the glory days of acid house. Join them online to find out why that big yellow smiley face is saying something much more interesting than 'have a nice day'.

→ Nov 12. £5.
www.designmuseum.org

▶ Queer House Party ft Yshee Black, Blü Romantic and Black Peppa

London's streamed micro-rave is packing up its speakers and travelling to Birmingham's LGBTQ+ Shout Festival. West Midland drag artists like Black Peppa, Blü Romantic and Yshee Black will be joining the QHP team for death drops, emotional ballads and Lizzo lip-syncing by

the laptops. You'd think watching extremely confident people in their twenties dance to Cardi B in pink cowboy hats would make you feel more alone, but the Queer House Party crew's energy is impossible to resist. By 11pm you'll be mixing cocktails with the last of your spirits and trying to high-kick to 'WAP' in your kitchen.

→ Nov 13. Free, register in advance.
www.facebook.com/queerhouseparty

London Jazz Festival

▶ Conversations in the Era of Black Lives Matter: Revolutionary Versus Reactionary

To state the extremely obvious: jazz music was born and shaped by Black culture, so it makes sense that

EFG London Jazz Festival will acknowledge a summer defined by Black Lives Matter protests. At this online talk series, journalist and author Kevin Le Gendre and guests will discuss the role the music industry has to play in the fight for equality. The first in the programme, Revolutionary Versus Reactionary, will address how we can take the conversations of the last few months, and translate them into real, positive change.

→ Nov 17. Free. www.efglondonjazzfestival.org.uk



Kendal Mountain Festival

KENDAL MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL: © JAMES FRISTAK; THE LINE: EMILY LOVELL; PARKLAND WALK: ANDY PARSONS

THREE OF THE BEST

Big city trails



'The Line' sculpture trail

As a walk, 'The Line' is neither straight nor straightforward, but this south-east/east art trail – spanning three miles of waterways – is all about discovery, with artworks appearing and disappearing each year.

→ Plan your route at www.the-line.org



The Parkland Walk

Follow this disused tree-lined railway on a nature walk from Finsbury Park to Muswell Hill. Look out for the sculpture of a spriggin by Marilyn Collins who pops out of the wall of a footbridge in Crouch End to laugh at passing joggers.

→ Start at Finsbury Park station.



Little Venice to Camden

Travel the towpath of Little Venice, pass Regent's Park and walk right up to Camden Lock. The air will be crisp, the leaves will be crunchy, the narrowboats quaint and multicoloured. It's picturesque as hell.

→ Start at Little Venice. Full directions at www.tfl.gov.uk

Welcome to...

THE OPTIMIST'S PAGE

Fill your glass and/or boots with these brilliant things to (hopefully) do in 2021

Gigs

C BST Hyde Park

After a long, wretched summer almost completely devoid of live music, you can bet that next year's festival season will feel that bit more special than usual. Satisfy your craving for half-hour portaloos, queues and £6 pints of warm Carling by booking for one of Pearl Jam's rescheduled headline dates at British Summer Time, with support from Pixies and Idles.

→ Hyde Park. Jul 9-10 2021. From £79.

C Solange

These days, the artist formerly known as Beyoncé's sister could easily sell out stadiums, so this intimate live show at the 2,700 capacity Royal Festival Hall is not to be missed. Grab a ticket while they're still available and take a seat at the table for a rare solo UK date from Knowles, who'll be performing as part of the Grace Jones-curated Meltdown festival.

→ Royal Festival Hall. Jun 11 2021. From £60.



'The Making of Rodin'

black hole by filling tunnels with strobe lighting and giant speaker sculptures. If you won't go for the art, go for those sweet, sweet external stimuli.

→ 180 The Strand. Early 2021. £15-£20.

W 'Sneakers Unboxed: Studio to Street'

The humble sneaker has come a long way since a certain Phil Knight began selling Japanese track shoes to college athletes out of the boot of his car in the 1960s. Learn how the footwear phenomenon has revolutionised sports, taken over the catwalk and spawned a \$2 billion resale industry, at this collector's item of an exhibition featuring cult classics, limited releases and innovative new designs from your fave trainer brands. Just make sure to wear your freshest creps.

→ Design Museum. From Apr 30 2021. From £12.

C Yayoi Kusama: 'Infinity Mirror Rooms'

From the Wellcome Collection's mist rooms to the Saatchi Gallery's selfie exhibition, to Olafur Eliasson's kaleidoscopic shadows last winter, every year London gets one exhibition that's just begging



Solange

to be plastered all over social media. These infamous mirror installations from the treasured Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama will no doubt be next year's most Instagrammed show when they return to the Tate for the first time since 2012, alongside photos and footage of her early performance works.

→ Tate Modern. Spring 2021. £tbc.

Comedy

S Trevor Noah: 'Loud & Clear'

Before he became the host of 'The Daily Show', the South African comedian was a stand-up delivering jokes on politics, race and class with no desk to hide behind. See him live and unedited as he hits The O2 for this rescheduled tour.

→ The O2. Sep 10-11 2021. From £31.

C Stewart Lee: 'Snowflake/Tornado'

Putting the word 'snowflake' in the title of a show is a sure sign it'll be packed with politically minded jokes. Next year, the iconoclastic Lee – a comedian right-wingers love to hate – will be tackling confrontational material in his trademark cynical, patience-stretching repetitive style.

→ Royal Festival Hall. May 18-23 2021. £22-£32.

Exhibitions

C 'The Making of Rodin'

Tate Modern's major summer 2021 exhibition will be emphasising just how radical Auguste Rodin was. In a sort-of 'behind the scenes' approach, it'll draw attention to the artist's use of clay and plaster in producing his best-known marble and bronze works. It's a great opportunity to see famous displays from France's Musée Rodin without getting on the Eurostar.

→ Tate Modern. May 6-Oct 10 2021. £tbc.

C Ryoji Ikeda

Japanese artist Ryoji Ikeda is well known for eye-melting installations full of lasers and distorting patterns of light. His biggest ever European exhibition will be no different. The subterranean show is meant to mimic the feeling of entering a

Theatre

C 'Good'

CP Taylor's 1981 play about a supposedly decent, reasonable Frankfurt literature professor's eight-year progress to the upper echelons of Nazi Germany is a powerful warning for our times. David Tennant will star in the rescheduled run of Dominic Cooke's new staging of this unsettling piece of political theatre.

→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Apr 21-Jul 17 2021. From £20.

Food & Drink

it.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink



Sun Tavern

Eleven elite bars delivering cocktails to your door

For Lockdown 2, many of these hotspots are winging booze citywide!

1 Tayēr + Elementary
Our number one bar in London is ambitious as ever, despite the bumpy year. Bottled cocktails from Tayēr (the more elevated of the pair in this two-part bar concept) are now available to order from all around the world via the Whisky Exchange. The range of five special drinks includes a Sandalwood Martini that you store in the freezer before serving – and that could probably also double as lockdown cologne (in a good way!). Other cocktails feature their very own range of

Muyu liqueurs. It's seriously refined at-home imbibing.
→ From £24.95. www.whiskyexchange.com

2 The Sun Tavern
Bethnal Green's spirit-focused boozier The Sun Tavern comes from the folks behind Umbrella Brewing, so they were quick to suss out how to distribute good liquor to Londoners staying safe at home. You can currently select two from eight bottled versions of the classics and have them delivered to your door as part of a full 'Quarantini Kit' (nice!).

Choose from the likes of an Old Fashioned, a Boulevardier or even a Banana Daiquiri (forget the banana bread in Lockdown 2, you're gonna need something stronger).
→ Kits cost £30. www.thesuntavern.co.uk

3 Kwānt
You can sit drinking one of this luxe Mayfair bar's bevies on your sofa in the new world order. Kwānt is one of a handful of awesome watering holes to work with drinks distributor Highball Brands on delivery

service the Drinks Drop. Place an order anywhere in London before 3pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays to guarantee same-day delivery of a £7.50 cocktail in an extra-chilled pouch. The Kwānt You is an exceptional savoury take on the White Negroni, featuring olive-brine and sherry. Ooh, get you! Fancy a bar crawl? Black Rock, Doña Bar, Happiness Forgets, Satan's Whiskers, Trailer Happiness, Laki Kane, Artesian and Swift are also all on The Drinks Drop.
→ £7.50 per cocktail. www.thedrinksdrop.com

Food

4 Swift

While we can't imagine two of Swift's most famous cocktails travelling especially well – one an Irish Coffee and the other a sorbet-topped Sgroppino – the Soho bar still has plenty of intoxicating drinks to offer by the bottle while its doors stay shut. The Swift Bottle Shop sells pre-batched wonders that can be poured over ice or topped with soda or sparkling wine, from a Whisky Highball to a Solstice Spritz. Bottles vary in size, but either serve five, seven or ten cocktails. Still desperate for that Irish Coffee, though? They have a DIY kit for that, don't worry. → £28 per bottle. www.barswift.com/shop

5 Three Sheets

You know what every lockdown needs? A magnum of Negroni. The team behind Three Sheets knows exactly what its customers want right now. The Dalston bar is batching up cocktails that are then being sent out far and wide via sister bar and restaurant Top Cuvée's online store, Shop Cuvée (made very famous during Lockdown 1). You can also order its Earth Martini and Old Fashioned, or

the ever-popular French 75, which is served straight from the bottle in the bar, anyway.

→ Cocktails from £29. www.shopcuvée.com

6 Hacha

Yes, the Margarita may be one of the easier cocktails to master at home (tequila, triple sec, lime), but it's hard to recreate Hacha's

Mirror Margarita – a drink Time Out named the best in London. Lucky for you, then, that this Dalston bar is winging bottles of the cocktail to doors nationwide. Each packs in four serves of the see-through take on the classic. And if limes can fight scurvy, who knows what else they may be good for?

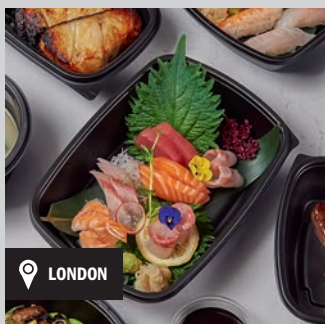
→ £70 for two bottles. www.hachabar.com



You know what every lockdown needs? A magnum of Negroni

Support our local partners.

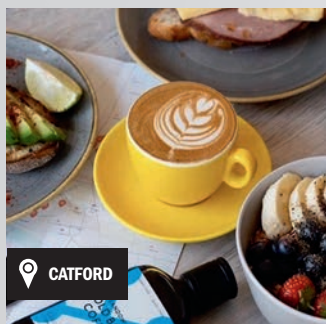
Sponsored listing



LONDON

AQUA SAYS:

'Think of Lockdown 2.0 as the opportunity to broaden your horizons. Travel may be off the agenda, but whether you're craving sushi or croquetas, you can now experience the deliciously unique Japanese dishes of Aqua Kyoto or contemporary northern Spanish tapas of Aqua Nueva from the comfort of your own home via Deliveroo.' *Delivery across London.*



CATFORD

THE ESPRESSO CARTEL SAYS:

'Find The Espresso Cartel in the heart of Catford, close to Catford Bridge Station. We aim to serve coffee that's like nothing anyone's seen in Catford before, bringing you the first official speciality coffee shop in SE6. Perfect coffee, tasty small plates, a beautiful bakery, cool tunes and great friendly service.' *3a Doggett Rd, SE6 4PZ.*



MAYFAIR

PARK CHINOIS SAYS:

'Park Chinois is here to ensure Londoners are well fed, with exceptional Asian dining delivered to your doorstep. Available seven days a week between noon and 10pm, take your pick of our most celebrated dishes. A 2.5-mile delivery radius is operated by Deliveroo and Supper, whilst collection via Supper is available for those outside this zone.' *19 Berkeley St, W1J 8ED.*



CAMDEN MARKET

CYBERDOG SAYS:

'Cyberdog Camden, aka the Mothership, is a futuristic neon paradise that offers an out of this world experience to all visitors. So much more than just a store, with live DJs and dancers on weekends, and an intergalactic environment to transport you into another world and create a unique shopping experience.' *Stables Market, Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AH.*

7 Little Nan's Bar

Most bars are focusing on getting their polished drinks to punters, but Little Nan's Bar is channelling its frenetic energy into bringing the vibes to yours. Its lockdown party bags and boxes contain all the bits and pieces you need to throw a kitsch bash in your own flat plus a jam-jar cocktail to pour over ice and enjoy. You can also purchase or hire party props with your drinks, if you want to go all out (you totally should – when will lockdown happen again, eh?), or snap up a Christmas party pack to make that flatshare more festive.

→ Party bags from £27. www.littlenans.co.uk

8 Nightjar

We recommend you turn the lights down really low and the trad jazz music up really high when enjoying Nightjar's cocktails at home. After all, it'll be the experience side of things you'll miss the most from one of London's best-loved speakeasies. But the fantastic drinks can still be enjoyed by the bottle, including a Barrel Aged Zombie containing four different types of rum. Try saying 'speakeasy' three times fast after that. Sister speakeasy Oriole is also in on the bottled act.

→ From £15. www.speakeasyathome.co.uk

9 Bao Cocktail Rescue

It feels like we could all do with rescuing – from the humdrum, mostly. Well, Bao has felt your need. The restaurant group branched out into cocktail delivery earlier this year, servicing much of north-east London with The Cocktail Rescue – and now it's gone nationwide. Futuristic-looking cocktail pouches, each containing five pours, are great for slinging in the freezer in case of emergencies. For whisky lovers, there's a highball or a Milk Tea Old Fashioned. But ours is a tantalisingly tart-tasting Umeshu Negroni made with plum sake.

→ From £18. www.baolondon.com/shop



Hawkmoor

More lockdown cocktails
timeout.com/locktails



Nightjar

10 Little Mercies

Crouch End locals and beyond can still be blessed with brilliant bevies. Five-star neighbourhood bar Little Mercies is batching up some of its memorable cocktails for nationwide delivery. Add a little sweetness to life at home with a pre-made Bellini, a Strawberry Cake Sazerac, or the bar's much-loved White Chocolate Old Fashioned, bottled to serve six to eight tipples. Or go the whole hog and order a three-bottle bundle for £75 – variety is the spice of lockdown, as the old adage goes.

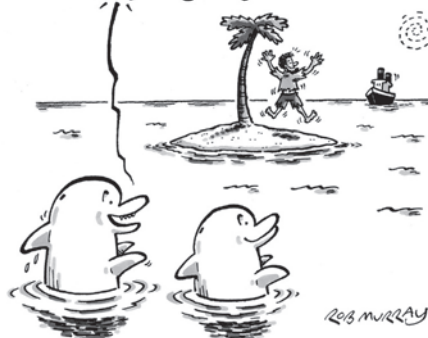
→ From £25. www.littlemercies.co.uk

11 Hawkmoor

London's meaty restaurant group delighted locked-down Londoners last time around with a Hawkmoor at Home kit featuring a steak the size of your face plus a whole lot of booze. This time – and given that we're well into Christmas party season – it's decided to further hone in on the alcohol options. You can still order stomach-busting rib-eye kits, but we recommend getting in a round of the best bottled Martinis going. Or one of four new cute canned cocktails – ideal if you're drinking solo (no judgement!) – including a twist on the Cosmo filled with 'natty' orange wine. ■ *Laura Richards*

→ From £12. www.thehawkmoor.com

Here comes his delivery
from Timothy Taylor's...



Even if you can't get to a pint of Landlord,
a pint of Landlord can still get to you.

Deep in the heart of our brewery in Keighley, Yorkshire, our packing team are working hard, at a suitable distance of course. They're carefully packing and sending out precious orders of beer from our online shop. We stay true to our traditional brewing methods, but thanks to the wonders of modern technology you can now order beer directly from our brewery at timothytailorshop.co.uk. You can choose a case of your favourite Taylor's beer, or any combination from our full range with a *pick and mix* case. Our packing team will send them to you anywhere in the UK, with free delivery. So even if you can't get out to enjoy a pint, you can still enjoy that taste of Taylor's.

All for that taste of Taylor's



Love Local

Edited by Kate Lloyd
timeout.com/lovelocal

Shop so they don't drop

As Lockdown 2 arrives, independent London shops need your business right now.
Illustration *Geo Law*

KNIVES HAND-FORGED in Kennington. Hot sauce brewed up in Peckham. Fizz from Bethnal Green (yes, really). Our city has a great scene of independent makers churning out amazing things. As jewellery designer Carole Mourier of Full Moon says, 'London is a great place to be a maker. There's inspiration everywhere: people, buildings, colours, shapes, textures.' Artist Linda Baritski aka Season of Victory agrees: 'No one comes to London to take photos of office buildings, they come for creativity.'

When Lockdown 1 happened, London's independent businesses were among the first to suffer. Some of them adapted: bars bottling their cocktails, restaurants turning their plates into DIY kits. At Time Out, we made a commitment to champion London's local and independent businesses. Our **Love Local** campaign has gone global, supporting the places we love in cities across the world. At home, we have helped campaigns to save the Jazz Cafe, The Gun pub and Dalston

Curve. And we got you to tell us about the heroes round your way who were making life bearable.

Lockdown 2 will be different in lots of ways. Frostier, with more gravy and more adverts promoting revolting perfume. One thing is the same, though: our small businesses need your help to get them through this. So for the next few weeks, we'll be highlighting some of the London makers who are worthy of your cash. Sack off the big boys and buy something unique from somewhere like We Built This City instead.

'Indie makers are being tested,' says Milena Maćkowiak of florist Stems Wilder. 'Shop small this Christmas.'

We'll feature independent shops in the magazine (and online). And we want to hear from you about your local makers. Dob them in at hello@timeout.com and we'll tell other Londoners about them.

So, pour a glass of bubbly, shuck an oyster with a razor-sharp knife (careful), splash on hot sauce and reflect on the creativity of your city. Then get online and get spending.





WHAT MOTHER MADE: TOM JACKSON



What Mother Made

Why not start with these...

Best for: reading matter **Round Table Books**

Inclusivity through beautiful books is at the heart of this Brixton publisher and bookshop, which started life as a pop-up. The public crowdfunded until the shop got a permanent venue.

→ 97 Granville Arcade, Coldharbour Lane.
www.roundtablebooks.co.uk

Best for: tiny clothes **What Mother Made**

What Mother Made's range of made-to-order childrenswear adheres to a strict no-waste policy. Styles are timeless, unisex and so cool you'll want to wear them yourself. The good news? You can: it does coordinating grown-up looks too.

→ 192 Well St. www.whatmothermade.co.uk

Best for: things to get muddy in **Outdoor People**

Social enterprise and education campaigner Outdoor People brings together the best from big-brand favourites and impressive independents and producers making a difference. This is expertly chosen, high-quality kit, without the background noise of big retailers.

→ Netil Market, 13-26 Westgate St. www.outdoorpeople.org.uk

Best for: cool decor **Pophams Home**

An online extension of the bakery, Pophams Home carries things that make where you live undeniably chic. Expect ceramics so good you'll want to go Greek with your existing tableware and the most beautiful dustpan and brush you've ever seen.

→ www.pophamshome.com

Best for: lubrication **Forest Wines**

Until you're able to enjoy an in-person visit to this E17 shop, check out its speciality range of natural, organic and biodynamic wines. If that means we can sip our way through Lockdown 2 and be healthy(ish), we're in.

→ 149 Forest Rd. www.forestwines.com

Best for: worth-it calories **Luminary Bakery**

Creating career training, employment and a safe environment for vulnerable women, Luminary goes far beyond stunning baked goods, though it does them too. Crown your next celebration with one of its beautiful sharing cakes... if you can manage to choose one. ■

→ Camden: 47 Chalk Farm Rd. Hackney: 71-73 Allen Rd. www.luminarybakery.com



Time Out's Love Local campaign supports food, drink and culture businesses in London. Find out how you can help at timeout.com/lovelocalondon

Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips

Nooks to book now

We'll all need something to look forward to when this new hell is over – and these winter-ready UK stays are cosy AF

WE MIGHT CURRENTLY be shut up at home, but there's no reason not to look ahead to when breaks are allowed again, to 2021 and to a stress-free stay in one of these comforting spots. At the best of times, winter calls for a shameless injection of cosiness. Don't shy away from it now – it's what your poor, 2020-beaten soul needs. And if, during Lockdown 2.0, your London flat refuses to transform into something soothing however high you crank the central heating, this lot will do the trick. Just stepping into these cabins and cottages will feel like a big hug (remember those?).

The fairytale one

A 'Hansel and Gretel'-esque thatched cottage beside a stream, this place has been perfecting its vibe since the fifteenth century. The inside is suitably quaint, and there's a worn velvet armchair beside the ancient fireplace for sitting and

defrosting your toes after walks along the nearby coastal path.

→ Philham Water Cottage, Devon. Sleeps two. From £70 a night. www.sawdays.co.uk

The one right by the beach

Every room of this bougie cottage on the edge of Lulworth Cove is a balm. It would be a sweet spot in summer, but don't underestimate its wintry appeal thanks to its fireplaces and squishy sofas. Settle in and close those original shutters on the rest of humanity.

→ Cove Cottage, Dorset. Sleeps six. From £700 for three nights. www.lulworth.com

The really tiny one

This dinky cottage offers a really stylish alternative to wearing thermal underwear, with underfloor heating, a sunken bath and a toasty log burner. Stock up on local comfort food from the nearby town of Holt and you're set.

→ Spinks Nest, Norfolk. Sleeps two. From £310 for two nights. www.airbnb.co.uk

Close those shutters on the rest of humanity

The rustic retreat

It's a no to whitewashed walls and artistically placed scented candles here: Bush Cottage is all chunky beams, dark wood panelling and a huge open fire. It's in a pretty isolated position too, surrounded by hills and ancient woodland. This is cosiness in the style of a Tudor king.

→ Bush Cottage, Shropshire. Sleeps four. From £227 for four nights. www.landmarktrust.org.uk





Philham Water Cottage

The log cabin

Shit weather? No problem. You are near the coast here, but if you need to spend the day feeding the wood burner or topping up the hot water in the roll-top bath, go ahead and stay indoors. There's a hot tub on the deck if you can be persuaded to go outside ever again. No pressure.

→ Moonshine Shack, Cornwall. Sleeps two. From £190 a night. www.airbnb.co.uk

The one with the outside bath

There's a trio of ways to warm your bones in this cedar cabin: a log burner inside, and outside, a steaming bath big enough for two plus a firepit. Fresh carbs on arrival (scones with jam) and pet-friendly credentials add to this place's snug, smug feel.

→ The Nook, Gloucestershire. Sleeps two. From £139 a night. www.airbnb.co.uk



Moonshine Shack

The historic hideaway

Expect brick floors, wonky ceilings and dark wooden beams in this characterful cottage, which is one of the oldest in atmospheric Rye. Luckily it's been updated a fair bit since its Tudor origins. There's central heating for starters, as well as deep roll-top baths, open fires and soft linen sofas to sink into. Let's unwind like it's 1556.

→ Tudor Cottage Rye, East Sussex. Sleeps six. From £300 a night. www.kiphideaways.com

The one in a forest

A stay here has the potential to be as cosy as wearing a sleeping bag as a coat or a woolly hat in bed. Neither of which will be necessary. Surrounded by woodland and looking out over meadows, The Hut has an Aga

(basically a cooker-cum-enormous radiator) and a wood burner with a plentiful supply of logs.

→ The Hut, Dorset. Sleeps two. From £114 a night. www.sawdays.co.uk

The one with the views

An easy shortcut to feeling all warm and fuzzy inside?

Watching other people deal with miserable weather when you don't have to. This plush cottage sits right on the edge of Mousehole harbour. It's a great vantage point from which to see the waves whip the sea walls (along with any unlucky walkers)

while you enjoy the underfloor heating, the log burner and a big, warming glass of red. ■

Ellie Walker-Arnott

→ Harbour Moon, Cornwall. Sleeps two. From £118 a night. www.sandandstoneescapes.com



The Hut

Time In

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

ON SET

Stream queen

Hide your milk, Maggie is storming on to 'The Crown'. Dan Jolin reports from Number 10 at Elstree Studios

AS HISTORICAL MOMENTS

go, this is one of the biggest in British politics. It is May 4 1979, and the UK's first-ever female prime minister stands outside 10 Downing Street. Clad in starchy Tory blue, she gives the excited crush of newshounds her first interview as premier. 'I'll strive unceasingly to fulfil the confidence and trust that the British people have placed in me,' she intones in that unmistakable, stern-schoolmarm voice, before quoting St Francis of Assisi. 'Where there is discord, may we bring harmony,'

she begins earnestly. 'Where there is truth, may there be... Oh fuck it! I forgot that bit!' Beneath a heavily hairsprayed 'do, the Iron Lady melts into the laughing form of Gillian Anderson.

In season four of Netflix's 'The Crown', Anderson becomes the sixth actor to share an audience chamber with Queen Elizabeth II (currently Olivia Colman). Her other half is the show's creator, Peter Morgan. 'One day he said: "Hmm.

Do you think you'd be able to play Margaret Thatcher?" Anderson recalls later. 'I understood why he asked. I mean, Thatcher and I have some similarities, which I won't share with you. But if I didn't think I might be able to do it, I would have said: "How dare you!"'

It's the pre-lockdown bit of 2020, and Anderson's remarkable transformation isn't the only one in evidence.

We're on the backlot of Elstree Studios,

once home to the 'Big Brother' house. Now it hosts a faithful recreation of the PM's black-bricked gaff. Or rather, its ground floor. Above and behind looms a huge green screen, on which the rest of the building will be added via VFX. On the other side of the lot stands Buckingham Palace. It is as if the two have been deliberately placed in opposition, in a kind of architectural staring contest.

Which is appropriate, when you consider that season four tackles the tense relationship between Mrs T and QE2: 11 years in which,





Denis + menace
The Thatchers
(Gillian Anderson
and Stephen Boxer)
at Number 10.
Below left: Olivia
Colman as Her Maj

'Thatcher and the Queen should get on – but they really don't'

thanks to Thatcher's divisive style and policies, there was rather more discord than harmony.

'They're two women who seem to have so much in common, but yet so little,' says executive producer and director Benjamin Caron. 'For their first audience, I was interested in mirroring these two women, so you get the sense they are very similar, and should get on. Of course, as it progresses, they really don't.'

As Caron points out, none of the Queen's meetings with her PMs were ever recorded. He's wary, then, of anyone treating the show's audience

scenes as history rather than drama. But 'The Crown' does strive for authenticity in its recreation of an era – this time out it's the '80s – both through those Elstree sets and the use of locations, many in London.

Aside from the palace, little of the capital is off-limits to the show. 'I still pinch myself that we get to close The Mall down,' says Caron. 'We had Emma Corrin, who's playing Lady Diana Spencer, driving along it with her head out the window of a taxi, the real Buckingham Palace behind her. It felt quite cheeky.'

Back at Elstree, I'm given a fascinating tour of such oddly familiar places as the Queen's chambers (her bed is tiny) and the Cabinet Room, dominated by that long table where so many big decisions have been made.

For Anderson, it was initially all quite overwhelming. 'When I first came in for a wig fitting, I was casually walking through the Cabinet Room and this massive room where Thatcher's desk was,' she recalls. 'I suddenly felt the weight of what I had taken on.'

But then she was taken up to the flat above Number 10, where the PM held meetings with her inner circle (and whipped up a mean kedgeree). 'So much attention, effort, care, love and detail had gone into it,' Anderson says. Here, interestingly, her fear dissipated. It was almost like, amid the painstaking recreation of this semi-domestic space, she found Thatcher's – dare we say? – heart. 'There was something comforting about walking into that set. I felt like it was all going to be okay.'

And that's the key to 'The Crown': as much as it's about big, historical moments, it's also royally personal. ■

→ 'The Crown' season four streams on Netflix on Nov 15.

More '80s political dramas to watch

Big suits, big hair, big conspiracies



Defence of the Realm (1985)

Gabriel Byrne's dogged reporter uncovers a nasty political conspiracy in this classic Brit thriller and risks life and limb to get the truth out. Her Maj would be proud.

→ Amazon Prime.

A Very British Coup (1988)

This Bafta-winning drama was futuristic when it aired – it's set in the '90s during the reign of Charles III – and its socialist PM Harry Perkins would stick it high on Jezza's watchlist.

→ 40D.

1984 (1984)

John Hurt is a Big Brother-defying everyman in an adaptation of George Orwell's dystopian masterpiece that brims with Thatcher-era dissent. Fun fact: Eurythmics did the soundtrack.

→ Amazon Prime.

MY STREAMING SALVATION

The Last Kingdom

Culture editor *Eddy Frankel* on his small-screen happy place



I AM UHTRED, son of Uhtred. You, too, are Uhtred, son of Uhtred. We all are, because this ridiculous, over-the-top, 'historical' drama drags you so far back into Anglo-Saxon times that, before you know it, you'll be stomping around Hyde Park with your shirt off starting fights with passing Danish tourists and downing pints of ale in your local inn like it's AD899.

'The Last Kingdom' tells the story of Uhtred of Bebbanburg, the son of a Northumberland noble (also called Uhtred, as you may have guessed), as he is kidnapped and subsequently adopted by stinking, rampaging Danes. He is raised as one of them, but – gasp! – what's this bubbling up within him? Could it be a feeling of kinship with the cowardly Saxons? It bloody well is! And he will spend four seasons (and counting) trying to make sense of his dual allegiances, protecting King



Alfred, but loving his Danish family at the same time. Oh, he's so torn! So ripped, too. Seriously, Uhtred looks great without a shirt.

It's full of historical tidbits that will leave you frantically googling what became of Aethelwold, Beocca and Aethelred as they have adventures in Wintanceaster, Eoferwic and Dunholm (Winchester, York and Durham). It's a lovely mixture of drama, war and English history. It's like 'Game of Thrones' without the dragons, and it feels like a warm, safe fur blanket in front of a blazing hearth in the court of King Alfred. A time before Covid. It was also a time *juuuust* before the Black Death, though, so, you know, don't get too comfortable.

I've finished all four seasons now, so I must now sit broodingly by a lake and sharpen my sword until season five arrives, all while muttering each episode's opening line: 'I am Uhtred, son of Uhtred.' ■
→ Available on Netflix now.

Spirit-lifting podcasts to listen to

Time Out staffers pick the shows that are have got them through this year

1 The Whisperer in Darkness

The earnestness of 'serious' podcasts isn't for me, which is why I loved this witty meta horrorcast from the BBC, the successor to 2018's 'The Case of Charles Dexter Ward'. It reunites us with the hosts of Mystery Machine, a fictional podcast devoted to exploring unusual true crimes. And once again, it's a modern spin on an HP Lovecraft tale that manages to mock the conventions of the genre while also scaring the living heck out of you. *Andrzej Lukowski*

2 Unruffled

As someone whose child reached the badlands of toddlerhood as this all started, this one has been a life saver. With episodes including Meltdowns at Bedtime, Why Is My Child Behaving This Way? and Is It Okay Just to Stick Them on eBay? (okay, made that one up), child whisperer Janet Lansbury calmly talks you off whatever ledge you're on at the time. Not only is she expert in the dos (stay patient) and don'ts (run away) of parenting in lockdown, her voice also has powerful ASMR qualities. *Phil de Semlyen*



3 You're Dead to Me

The downside of getting your knowledge of the past via 'Horrible Histories' is that you can end up seeing it just as a series of factoids about poop, gruesome deaths and mad rulers. If that's you – and, honestly, same – let me introduce you to the BBC's adult version. Greg Jenner hosts 30-minute episodes on everything from LGBTQ+ history to the Byzantine Empire. When the chemistry is right between the guests (a historian and comedian), there are some real laugh-out-loud moments. *Rose Johnstone*

4 Dolly Parton's America

America could scarcely be more divided but Dolly Parton manages to unite people from all political stripes in this podcast. And her life story has so much to tell us about the workings of American society – all of which host Jad Abumrad uncovers in this nine-episode series. If you don't like her music, don't worry – this is mainly for people who want to get a better understanding of what makes America tick. Although, yes, there are some country bangers too. ■ *Alex Plim*



V&A bookshop

Four page-turners to sharpen your brain

London's independent booksellers recommend thinky tomes to curl up with

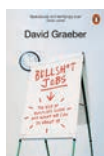


Men and Apparitions

Picked by Sam Fisher, Burley Fisher Books, Haggerston
 'This anarchically hilarious and moving novel by Lynne Tillman riffs on autofiction and toxic masculinity.

It follows Zeke, an academic who's made a career studying family photo albums. The novel mixes analyses of snapshots with episodes from his own life, which is rapidly slipping into crisis. It's not to be missed.'

→ Peninsula Press, £12.99. www.burleyfisherbooks.com



Bullshit Jobs: The Rise of Pointless Work, and What We Can Do About It

Picked by Nik Gorecki, Housmans Bookshop, King's Cross

'The working world is grinding to a crawl again and this book by the recently deceased and much celebrated anarchist-anthropologist David Graeber is the perfect material to help you contemplate whether going back to the rat race is in any way desirable, necessary, or inevitable.'

→ Penguin, £9.99. www.housmans.com



No Modernism Without Lesbians

Picked by Erica Gillingham, Gay's the Word, Bloomsbury

'This book will keep you company on the long nights ahead. It's an extraordinary testament to Diana Souhami's life's work as a brilliant biographer of modernist lesbians like Sylvia Beach, Gertrude Stein, Natalie Barney and Bryher, who shaped the women they loved as well as the movement of Modernism.'

→ Head of Zeus, £8.99. www.gaystheword.co.uk



There Are Places in the World Where Rules Are Less Important Than Kindness

Picked by Lloyd Sowerbutts, Libreria, Spitalfields

'This collection of articles, written over the past decade by Carlo Rovelli, one of our age's most inspiring thinkers, offers intellectual adventures for the curious. Rovelli writes of poets, scientists and philosophers, as the widest of terrain is covered. Perfect for when our physical movement is curtailed.'

→ Allen Lane, £20. www.libreria.io

...and where to buy them

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Eddy Frankel

→ uk.bookshop.org

A beginner's guide to open-world videogames

Need to get out more? These colossal gamescapes are there for the exploring

IT'S HARD TO imagine how a functioning, healthy adult human can fit videogames into their life in normal times. Between work, exercise, commuting, going to the pub and having to pretend to be interested when your partner tells you about their day at the office, you don't have a lot of spare time for killing Nazis or hunting zombies. But lockdown has changed all that, and videogame sales have gone through the roof.

As lockdown comes back for another swipe at your freedoms, you might be considering filling your evenings with Xbox instead of Netflix, so here's a little primer on the most immersive gaming out there: open worlds.

This isn't the rigid platformer of your youth, there are no levels or even set tasks, necessarily. Instead, it's all about losing yourself in richly realised worlds. It makes for a seriously absorbing experience when done well, halfway between a film and a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' novel – and you are totally in charge.

Red Dead Redemption 2, the biggest hit of the past few years, has

you playing a cowboy meandering around the Wild West. It's popular and very beautifully made, but it's also painfully slow. Maybe hours of horse husbandry is your thing, maybe it's not.



Assassin's Creed Origins

Games like **Assassin's Creed Origins** and its follow-up, **Odyssey**, place you in ancient worlds – pharaonic Egypt and Spartan Greece respectively – and are so engrossing, you'll feel like you're

literally walking around the white, sandy beaches of Kefalonia or the deserts of Giza. Where would you rather be: stuck in your damp flat in Barnet or sweating in ancient Greece? Exactly.

Elsewhere, recent hit **Ghost of Tsushima** is a sword-waving adventure through stunning feudal Japan, and if you're after some classic guns-out shenanigans, then **Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain** is pretty unbeatable.

For something less, you know, kill-y, try the meditatively slow **Death Stranding**, in which you play a post-apocalyptic messenger; **No Man's Sky**, where you get to voyage around the stars; or **Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild**, which will let you relive all your nostalgic childhood gaming dreams.

And all this before we've even spoken about **Grand Theft Auto**, the **Mafia** remake, the **Fallout** franchise or the most recent **Far Cry** games. Look, there's a big universe out there, and it's full of open-world videogames that you absolutely won't regret exploring during the new lockdown. Happy trails. ■ *Eddy Frankel*

Three board games to dive into

A trio of table-toppers to see you through lockdown



Wingspan

LEAVE MONOPOLY and Cluedo in the cupboard: there are plenty of great new kids on the block to see you through lockdown. *Dan Jolin*, editor of independent board-gaming magazine *Senet*, picks three gems.

1 For newbies

'If you're looking for a family-friendly game that creates a bit of party atmosphere, you could do far worse than **Codenames**. A word association game with a Bond-esque spy theme, it splits players into two teams. Each selects a Spymaster, who must use single-word clues to help identify that team's hidden field agents from a shared grid of word cards – without revealing any of the other team's agents. It's furious fun.' *RRP £16.99.*

2 For seasoned board gamers

'One of the biggest hits of last year was **Wingspan**, which gives each player their own picturesque

habitat and tasks them with filling it with birds, each of which is gorgeously rendered on one of the game's 170 unique cards. It's competitive but never vicious, as you populate your ecosystem with the appropriate avians and trigger their specific abilities to score points. This makes it a gentle, engaging way to bring the great outdoors into your living room.' *RRP £59.99.*

3 For tabletop titans

'**Gloomhaven** is a sprawling medieval fantasy epic in a box – and the best tabletop experience out there right now. Each player chooses a fantastical mercenary and you work together to complete tough, battle-based scenarios. Like the best binge telly, it will have you hooked for months. And if it sounds too intimidating, its entry-level version, subtitled *Jaws of the Lion*, is a great – and cheaper – way to try it out.' *RRP £149.99*

→ www.senetmagazine.com



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