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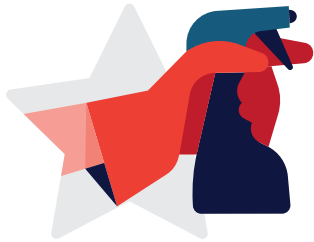
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Hello, stranger

We reunite London's cafés, pubs, barbershops
and nailbars with their long-lost regulars

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Inside

This issue of Time Out
in no time at all

Out there

The best ways to make the most of
the rest of summer – secret gardens,
cycle groups, top tinnies

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Piss criminals and smug couples

Some of us have emerged stronger,
some weaker, some weirder. But
which post-lockdown cliché are you?

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Time to get up

Climb that little bit closer to the sun
with our pick of London's best roofs
for eating, drinking and observing

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'Rocks'

We pile praise on Sarah Gavron's
brilliant film portrayal of girls
growing up in London

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The annual snoopfest is still going
ahead with houses, government
buildings and more unlocking

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Hello, London

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LONDON

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this cover photography shoot.

We've all had those moments. Those moments when you question your decision to live in a city like London. Where you take a cold, lingering look at the place with freshly unsympathetic eyes, like a wife who's just seen her husband of 20 years without his wig for the first time. After all, what's the point living where the weather's objectively 'nice' for approximately three weeks of the year and it's only a matter of time before a pint costs seven quid? A place where your life can feel like a Monzo-and-Pret-powered stress tornado?

Friend, there *is* a point. The point is the people. The myriad relationships (no matter how tiny) that bind us Londoners together. It's there, buried in the knowing looks, the friendly words, the same polite exchange you've had with your newsagent every week for three years. It's there when I walk to work and see strangers picking up this mag (it's all I can do to resist running up and hugging them, but there's never been a worse time for that, has there?). Connecting with your fellow Londoners, even fleetingly, is what makes it all worthwhile. If Time Out helps do that, well, I couldn't be prouder.



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



EAT this

Jake Finn is a talented, experienced chef who was dealt a particularly shitty hand by Covid. He's now doing food to order. It's delicious.



SEE this

Catch two great shows at **The Photographers' Gallery** for just a fiver. Our deputy editor Chris says: 'Go', adding, 'now'.



DRINK this

Elliot and the gang at **All Good Beer** kept me in fancy tinnies for all of lockdown. A great business run by great people.

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City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



A snapshot of the not-so-distant past

Remember clubbing? We chat to Orlando Gili about how his photo of a Shoreditch club has taken on a new meaning when big nights out have been off the cards for months

DO YOU REMEMBER the last night you had in a sweaty club? Maybe someone accidentally spilled their pint on you, maybe you danced with a stranger, maybe you got a questionable kebab on the way home. For obvious reasons, it's been a while since any of us have had a Big Night Out, but this photo (above) at Jaguar Shoes in Shoreditch, captures everything that's great about London's nightlife.

Taken in May 2018 by London photographer Orlando Gili, the photograph is part of his new Hoxton Mini Press book 'Trivial Pursuits', in which Gili documents 'the British at play' – festivals, events, club nights. He came up with the idea as a response to Brexit, as a way of showing

that maybe we weren't totally divided as a country. 'I thought leisure was a good way to look at people's characteristics,' he explains. 'The more I shot, [the more] my feeling was that we're all quite similar in the way we have fun.' He couldn't have predicted how these images would take on a new meaning in light of the pandemic.

'So many of the photographs from the book are of people tightly pressed together, whether they're friends or complete strangers. It seems quite profound now,' says Gili. 'It's so natural for people to be around other people and this image highlights that.' The photo at Jaguar Shoes was taken at a grime night organised by Croydon artist DJ Argue. 'The guy with the mic is called Flirta D;

he's a legend from the first generation of grime,' explains Gili. 'He appeared out of nowhere and everyone went crazy.'

Gili says there was a real energy in the room that night. 'You can see how much joy there is in that image. It's not just the person who's centre stage, it's all the reactions around him. I don't know how you'd recreate that to such a rich extent if you weren't in such close confines.'

He's hopeful that he'll be able to photograph scenes like this again. 'We need these interactions, whether it's a large event or a more niche one like this, it's all important. You take it for granted until it's gone.' ■ *Isabelle Aron*

→ 'Trivial Pursuits' is published by Hoxton Mini Press, out now.



THE VIEW FROM YOU

Time Out readers share photos of their London staycations



@jetblacksquares

'Marvelling at how beautiful London is in summer, even the brown river!'



@larareed

'Staycation is the current trend, and @kewgardens ticks all the boxes.'



@wasibird

'Sunset boat trip on the Thames Clipper.'



@what_helen_likes

'Twickenham riverside looking beautiful today.'

Want to see your snaps here? Share them on Instagram with #theviewfromyou.



A Londoner's guide to getting (and staying) out of bed

Four early-waking professionals on the mysterious art of rising and shining

Dan Frazer Head baker, Pophams

'I start my shifts as early as 2am. One thing that helps me get up so early is having an alarm that is so annoying that you have to get up – one of those continuously beeping ones which drives you crazy. I set about five different alarms.'

Edward Grace Owner, Beanberry Coffee

'Don't skimp on your morning coffee – go for something bright and delicious to wake up your senses and make you feel like a better, happier person. Organic Ethiopian coffees are the best – they're grown and processed with so much love and care that you can taste it in your cup.'

Ben Paul Founder, Sweat IT

'I don't tend to have issues rising early, but if I'm in any doubt I will always place my alarm clock out of reach, so I physically need to get out of bed to turn it off. My wife is very much not a morning person, so that focuses me to get up and turn it off fast!'

Aimee Vivian DJ, Capital FM

'My main piece of advice is: don't snooze. Train yourself to get up on the first alarm. Maybe have your favourite song set as your alarm so that you wake up with a smile on your face, ready to smash the day ahead. A bit of Kanye West's "Power" always works a treat for me.' ■

SMALL TALK: The doorman

How to chit-chat with absolutely every type of Londoner

'There's a belief that we only chat to be polite – because it's part of the job – but actually we like it. My favourite conversations are about what that person's really into – their football team or favourite horse, or whatever. The weather is a topic of conversation that comes up far too often, though. The traffic? That's another one that can go away.'

Tony Cortegaça is head doorman at The Savoy.



WORD ON THE STREET

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

'I sat on an ice pack and froze my fanny numb.'

'When's this bloody storm coming? It keeps getting pushed back. It's like Brexit.'

'I just got such intense rendezvous.'

'Honestly can't imagine me in assless chaps.'

'My phone is just pictures of dogs on trains.'

'I don't like using bidets, I'd rather wipe my arse.'

'You're giving me real ostrich vibes tonight.'

'Just when you're getting to know someone again they take out their teeth and you're like: "Who are you?"'

'You did *not* see Jesus, you're just high.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon



READY-MADE SUNDAY

Michael Rosen's Muswell Hill

The author and former children's laureate walks us through a lazy day in N10



Cakes galore at W Martyn

9am ● Breakfast

Run by a Greek guy called Tony, **Broadway Café** does a range of Greek and English breakfasts. My favourite is bubble and squeak with poached eggs. It's a great place for chatting over great big cups of tea.

11am ● Haircut

I get my hair cut at **AJ Memphis**. The owner is a wonderful mixture of philosopher, TV scriptwriter and barber. We talk about the world, the universe, atoms, the meaning of life and Arsenal Football Club.

1pm ● Lunch

Roni's does the kind of Jewish food I had as a kid: bagels, flatbread, chicken soup, houmous. Their

chicken soup with lokshen [noodles] is perfect – if I have that with a poppy-seed bagel, my cup runneth over.

3pm ● Shop

I'm a fruitcake addict and **W Martyn** have an incredible array of them: I don't think I've ever seen so many. They also roast their own beans and pump it out into the street so you get a wonderful whiff of fresh coffee.

6pm ● Dinner

Toff's is one of the greatest fish-and-chip shops in London. It's also the only place I know where you can have the batter made like my mother used to make it, using matzo meal. It's a trip down memory lane. ■

→ 'Macbeth United' by Michael Rosen is out now.



LONDON MAKERS

When Natalie Manima founded homeware brand **Bespoke Binny**, she was inspired by the West African cloth that featured in her home growing up. She makes cushions, blankets and these oven mitts, which will look great in your kitchen even if you can't (or won't) cook.

→ African fabric oven mitts. £24.99. www.bespokebinny.com

SHE'S A LEGEND



'The neighbours were clapping us – it made me tearful'

Meet the veteran firefighter who's been keeping the city flame-free for 26 years

IF YOU'VE EVER heard a siren blaring in Orpington, there's a good chance that Fran Flin was on her way to help. She's been a firefighter with the London Fire Brigade for 26 years, and in that time she's fought raging fires, extricated people from broken-down lifts and, yes, even rescued the occasional cat from a tree.

It all started because I was going out with a fireman. He didn't last long, but I remember him saying: 'They're even letting women in now.' Until then, I'd never thought of it as a possibility.

There weren't many female firefighters [in the LFB] back then. Now, there are around 300. When I joined, most men were concerned about whether I was strong enough to do the job.

When we went into lockdown, we had quite a lot of domestic garden fires, shed fires and barbecues alight. Lots of people were spending more time in their gardens and clearing their houses. Obviously, they couldn't get to the dump so there were lots of false alarms when people were burning stuff.

I've definitely noticed people being more grateful since the pandemic. Someone's patio heater was alight and we were there for ages putting it out. When we left, the neighbours were clapping us. I really didn't expect it. It made me quite tearful.

During the pandemic, the biggest change has been how we deal with the public. We now always wear masks and gloves and we ask people if they're self-isolating. If we have to go into a Covid house, we wear respirators. We've just had to just adapt and crack on: it's part of the job.

My most dangerous day on the job was a fire at a flour silo. You get these things called dust explosions and flour is dust. We were crawling along to put out the fire and my colleague said to me: 'We've got six kids between us, and we're here trying to save Orpington's bread!'

The worst thing about the job is seeing people in distress. You're often seeing them on their worst day, when their house is being burnt down. Part of me has learned to think: Just do your job. But I often have a little cry afterwards.

I don't actually like sliding down the pole. We have one in our fire station, but I've never got the hang of it. I either grip with my thighs too hard and don't move, or I don't grip enough and I slide down too fast. I tend to just take the stairs.

We don't really rescue cats from trees. You're supposed to call the RSPCA. That said, I did have to save one in Orpington from the top of the tallest fir tree I've ever seen. We had to get a specialist crane to get us anywhere near the cat.

I avoided driving the fire engine for years. When I did, it was like a whole new world. We did blue-light training all around the East End and I loved it. It's like solving a puzzle, looking ahead in traffic and working out how you're going to safely negotiate through. It's my favourite thing about the job. ■ *Interview by Bobby Palmer*

→ 'My Mummy Is a Firefighter', created in partnership between London Fire Brigade and Butterfly Books, is out now.

For more unique looks at London life, head to [timeout.com/stories](https://www.timeout.com/stories)

HYPE DISH

Club Mexicana's mind-blowing tofish tacos

DISSECTION

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

CLUB MEXICANA'S TOFISH taco is a thing of edible wizardry. The dish is founder Meriel Armitage's vegan take on a baja fish taco – it's made with tofu but, somehow, tastes exactly like fish. It's been on the menu since she launched around five years ago. Armitage says she still gets

a kick out of watching non-vegans tuck in. 'The best thing is seeing people who don't know it's vegan and they're like: *What?!*' As she opens the brand's first permanent restaurant, in Soho, she talks us through this much-loved dish. ■ *Isabelle Aron*
→ Kingly Court. £4 for one taco, £10 for three.



RIDLEY ROAD

E8

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Comedian *Sophie Duker* on the thoroughfare she calls home

I'VE LIVED IN Dalston for six years. I remember thinking that I was an adult because I'd finished university so therefore needed to live in London. I had two requirements for the location – I needed to be able to easily buy plantain and get products for my hair. My best friend and I found a flat just off Ridley Road Market with a Pak's hair shop on the corner. It was a dream come true.

Ridley Road Market is one of my favourite places in London. If I've had a stressful day, I just walk down the street and it calms me. I like the fact that everything in a bowl costs a pound. I can buy a yam if I want. I mean, it's been six years and I haven't bought one yet but it's good to know that I can.

In 2016, I ran a feminist comedy night, *Manic Pixie Dream Girls*, at Dalston Roof Park, which overlooks Ridley Road. I decided to do a comedy festival with my friends, comedian Lolly Adefope and poet Bridget Minamore. This idea we'd had turned into a magical place with music and comedy. It was a beautiful night and marked the beginning of my comedy career. For me, Ridley Road is the most perfect bit of London. ■ *Interview by Paula Akpan*

→ Follow Sophie Duker on Twitter and Instagram @sophiedukebox.

The tofu

'The "tofish" is a mixture of tofu and potato flour, which gives it a flaky texture. It's then wrapped in seaweed to create a fishy flavour. Seaweed can make anything fishy!'

The batter

'We make a beer batter for the tofu. I'd love to use an east London craft beer but after loads of attempts, London Pride works best. It's got that beery, malty flavour.'

The sauce

'We make our own vegan mayo with soy milk and oil. We mix it with our chipotle oil, which has about five different Mexican chillies in it, but it's easier just to call it chipotle!'

The extras

'We keep it simple. A white-and-red cabbage slaw dressed in lime juice and coriander brings crunch, while the pico de gallo salsa gives a punch of freshness.'

The tortilla

'They've got to be corn; flour tacos aren't the same. The ones we use are handmade in London by these Mexican guys. They're the most important bit of the dish.'

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Galaxy Watch3



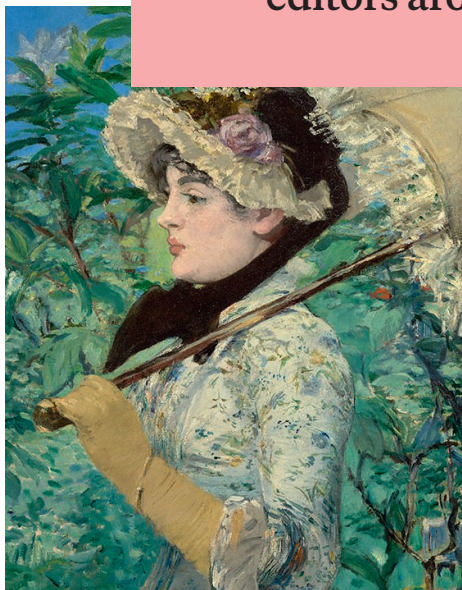
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YOUR WORLD ACCORDING TO TIME OUT

The best stories from our editors around the globe



That viral art challenge is becoming a book

USA

There's not a lot about 2020 that we can look back on fondly – but we're happy to revisit the Getty Center's art re-creation challenge. In March, the museum put out a call for people to mimic a work of art with whatever they had in their homes: think 'The Starry Night' made out of spaghetti or 'The Creation of Adam' with pups touching paws. More than

100,000 at-home masterpieces later, the Getty has turned its faves into a book, 'Off the Walls', pairing 246 imitations with the works that inspired them. It's out in the UK in October, with profits going to the Artist Relief charity. If you're going to own one souvenir of lockdown, make sure it's this. *Michael Juliano, Time Out Los Angeles*
→ shop.getty.edu. £10.99.

USA

Not being able to travel is officially making people miserable

Fed up about your holidays being postponed, cancelled or (oh hey, unexpected quarantine!) disrupted? You're very much not alone. According to a survey of 2,000 Americans, a lack of travel has made 48 percent of people more anxious and stressed. Also in Amex's Trendex poll: for 78 percent of people, travelling is one of the activities they miss the most. So don't worry – it isn't just you spamming your friends with #takemeback holiday snaps. *Ellie Walker-Arnott*

IMAGES: JEANNE SPRING BY EDOUARD MANET FROM THE J. PAUL GETTY MUSEUM; LOS ANGELES

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

CHANNEL ISLANDS
A car-free idyll seeks new residents

If the 2020s feel like a write-off already, you might want to try a life that's a little more... medieval. Welcome to the car-free Channel Island of Sark, where transport is by bike, tractor or horse and carriage, and the permanent population (led by a hereditary 'seigneur') is just 500. Now a group has been set up to encourage newcomers, citing the island's community spirit, dark skies, low taxes and 'old-fashioned values'. If that sounds like your bag, this could be a Sark-tastic new life. *EWA*
 → www.sarkgov.co.uk/living-on-sark



JAPAN
Top designers are reimagining Tokyo's toilets

Shops, clubs, bars: the Shibuya neighbourhood of Tokyo has everything... except an extravagant series of architect-designed public loos. Now the Nippon Foundation's Tokyo Toilet project is remedying that, by recruiting 16 of Japan's foremost creatives to design new public conveniences around the district. Shigeru Ban has created a see-through block with walls that turn opaque as soon as the doors are locked, while Masamichi Katayama's concrete structure takes inspiration from Japan's prehistoric *kawayu* toilets. Sorry to brag, but they make London's WCs look even crappier. *Tabea Greuner, Time Out Tokyo*



FRANCE
The world's biggest rooftop farm is now open in Paris

The City of Light just got a bit greener, with the opening of the world's largest urban farm on top of the Parc des Expositions building in the 15e arrondissement. The cutting-edge, soil-free Nature Urbaine is already providing fruit and veg to homes and restaurants across the city's Left Bank, and has an onsite bar and restaurant run by the ace Le Perchoir chain. See you up on the farm! *Huw Oliver*
 → www.nu-paris.com



HONG KONG
A posh hotel is offering a 14-night quarantine package

As in many places around the world, all Hongkongers returning from overseas currently have to undergo a 14-day quarantine. Now a smart hotel has capitalised on the times by offering isolating guests two weeks of socially distant relaxation and fun. Ovolo Hotel's quarantine concierge service lays on cocktails, meals, mindfulness kits, gym gear and dedicated staff to bring you anything you need, plus wi-fi and Apple TV so you don't get bored. At the end of your stay, the hotel will even give you a bottle of fizz to celebrate your freedom. Why lockdown at home when you could bask in isoluxury? ■ *Tiffany Tsoi, Time Out Hong Kong*

IMAGES: TOKYO TOILETS: SATOSHINAKARE, COURTESY THE NIPPON FOUNDATION; PARIS ROOFTOP FARM: © NATURE URBAINE





I get knocked down...
Pete (left) and Alfie
get back to the ring

Your pub landlady, your barber, your nail technician... While the city was shut down, many Londoners realised that they'd taken lots of these relationships for granted. *Alexandra Sims* meets regulars as they return to their old haunts. Portraits *Andy Parsons*

'You miss everyone when they're out of reach'

Box Clever Sports

Co-founder and personal trainer Pete and regular client Alfie

Box Clever Sports is a no-frills gym in a Ladbroke Grove multi-storey car park. Pete set it up to teach schoolchildren to jab and hook and it's become a huge part of the community. Alfie has been coming to the gym to train with Pete twice a week for four years.

Pete 'I couldn't wait to get everyone training again. At the start, everyone was so out of shape, I managed to make people cry, which I did enjoy. Maybe a bit too much [laughs].'

Alfie 'The first session back, you can't believe how rusty you are. You forget how sore you get – you quickly remember of course!'

Pete 'All our clients know each other and I consider them all my friends. You miss everyone when they're out of reach. Coming back, you could see people's faces change as they interacted again.'

Alfie 'Lots of people that I bump into on the street, I know their names because they come to the gym. You

get to know people and see their transformations from when they start, then you see how they've changed six months later.'

Pete 'Going from being in contact with hundreds of people every day to seeing nobody was a shock. We had to take our classes online. People have emailed thanking us for doing them because they kept them sane.'

Alfie 'I did a few of the online classes. I enjoyed just tuning in and watching them, too.'

Pete 'We had a few people watching while they were having their breakfast. They were there because they didn't want to disconnect.'

Alfie 'Nothing can replace a boxing gym. It's probably the most intense all-round thing you can do. It's an adrenaline rush, and it's exhausting, which is nice in this world of sitting around and looking at screens. When I finish a session I have a calmness about me and I noticed when I didn't have it over lockdown.'

Pete 'I've been boxing since I was a kid. No matter what's going on in your life, it's always there. I've never found anything that's as psychologically or physically hard, that's why I love it. We've got someone training for our first pro fight; we're also working on doing classes for Muslim women. I'm really proud of what we've created.'

→ Lowerwood Court car park, Westbourne Park Rd.



Regulars reunited

'It's a safe space. It's full of women at peace'

Ama

Nail technician Fay and regular customer Precious

Non-toxic nail salon Ama was set up in 2018 by Ama Quashie in Brixton, where she grew up. It also gives back to the community: it set up a nail bar in a women's prison and plans to mentor young people at the local secondary school. Fay has worked as a nail technician for eight years. Precious has been coming to Ama since it opened and hasn't gone anywhere else since.

Precious 'I definitely took getting my nails done for granted before this. My nails looked so bad when I first came back, but I never felt judged.'

Fay 'It's great to be back and have purpose again. Seeing customers like Precious is seeing friends again.'

Precious 'I've deepened my existing friendships coming here. My best friend comes here all the time, so does her closest friend and my mum. It's a safe space. It's full of women at peace.'

Fay 'March was very sombre. It was like when Brexit happened: that same sombre feeling. When the government made the announcement about furlough we all watched it together in the salon.'

Precious 'My friend and I talked about Ama all the time over lockdown, hoping that everyone was okay. As soon as it reopened I booked four appointments.'

Fay 'Now that everyone is like "Ugh, keep away", the fact you can touch people here and feel safe is a real privilege. Touch is so important.'

Precious 'I trust Fay and that's so important. At work I'm quite tentative about saying things because of how you're going to be perceived, especially as a Black woman. With Fay it's really freeing to be able to say what you want.'

Fay 'When you know that you've made people feel good it's a real sense of achievement. It may seem like so little to some people, but it's everything to these women.'

Precious 'You can recognise Ama nails. I was on the bus and saw a woman with these amazing lightning bolts on her nails. I was like, "Excuse me, where did you do your nails?" She said "Ama". I just knew it!'

Fay: 'Ama is a sanctuary: it's what every salon should be.'

→ 340 Coldharbour Lane.





'I don't call this a caff – for me it's a social club'

E Pellicci

Co-owner Anna and regular Eric

Grade II-listed café E Pellicci opened in 1900 and is still in the hands of the same family. Food is prepared by Mama Maria – queen of the kitchen since 1961 – at home now rather than in the kitchen, due to the pandemic. Her children, Anna and Nevio Jr, serve it. Local character Eric Hall has been eating at the caff on and off for 70 years.

Eric 'How long have I been coming here?'

Anna 'Too fucking long.'

Eric [Laughs] 'My mum used to bring me as a kid, when I was two or three months old. I went to school up the road here and I'd come in for lunch.'

Anna 'It's lovely to be back again and see people. We missed it, it's like seeing family again.'

Eric 'About 20 years ago, I'd moved away from the area and hadn't been to the caff for about ten years. One day I happened to drive down Bethnal Green Road and saw the caff. I walked in and nothing had changed. The father behind the counter said, "Eric Hall, it's you." I couldn't believe it. I've been coming every week since.'

Anna 'People become extended family: you hear all the moans and groans and half of them end up coming to your wedding. Some people have been coming for so long we'll have a big blow-out argument, but it's all forgotten the next day.'

Eric 'I'm an old schmuck, I don't know about Zoom, I'd rather have a face-to-face conversation. When it reopened, boy, I realised how much I'd missed it. I don't call this a caff – for me it's a social club.'

Anna 'London is such a big place and you can often feel so lost here. So we try and introduce people to each other. It's really important for us to keep that here, and keep people talking, because that's being lost in London, isn't it? We don't care if you're a film star or Kevin round the corner who sells potatoes. Everyone's the same to us.'

Eric 'It feels like family. I really believe that once you've been here you'll always come back. Not only is the food great – I've never had a bad meal here in all the years I've been coming – but it's the atmosphere and the people that really make it.'

Anna 'It's all about community. The East End has always been a melting pot. My parents were Italian immigrants; there are big Bengali and Jewish communities, everyone and anyone comes and makes their home here. It's changing, but we try and keep the East End heart and soul here.'

→ 332 Bethnal Green Rd.





‘One of the joys of regulars is they will spend as much as they possibly can’

The French House
Landlord Lesley and regular customer Tim

Lesley is The French House’s third landlord in 106 years and has been at the helm since 1989. Tim has been coming to the bar at least twice a week since 1976 – he was the one of the last people in the pub on March 22 and among the first to visit again when it reopened on July 4.

Tim ‘I’ve genuinely missed it. It’s brilliant to see old friends and it’s great to see Lesley with a smile on her face: she is the best landlady.’

Lesley ‘The first two weeks [of being closed] I went into a real down.

Soho was boarded up and there was nobody around, but I opened up the windows and chatted to anyone passing by.’

Tim ‘A few of us regulars met up in St Anne’s churchyard over the road and had a few glasses.’

Lesley ‘We have a huge number of regulars: it’s a village pub, really, and one of the very few things that’s left from old Soho. When I came here in 1989 I got to meet Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud and all the old Soho characters that drank here.’

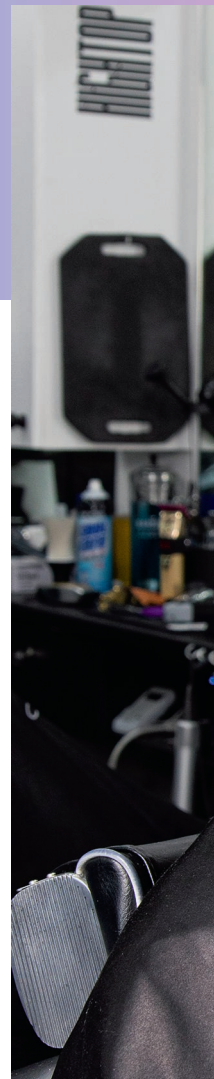
Tim ‘The place has certainly kept its character: it just gets more eccentric. Lesley’s done so well to

cope, because she thought the pub might close. A few regulars got the crowdfunding together and money came in from all over the world so she could cover the rent.’

Lesley ‘The response was amazing. I’m so overwhelmed with gratitude. Someone called me “everybody’s mother” and it’s in my nature to be like that. The pleasure of other people is wonderful. One of the joys of having loyal regulars is they will come and deliberately spend as much money as they possibly can.’

Tim ‘It’s the best bar in the West End as far as I’m concerned. Once you’ve visited, it’s difficult to get away.’

→ 49 Dean St.



'It's somewhere you feel safe to get stuff off your mind'

SliderCuts

Owner Mark and regular customer Abi

Mark has been a professional barber for 17 years. He started SliderCuts in 2010 and the likes of world heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua and presenter Reggie Yates have visited for a shape-up. Abi has had his hair cut by Mark every two weeks for the last three years.

Mark 'It's good to be back and talk to people again. I love cutting hair, but I also enjoy the conversations I have with customers. It's nice to have that again.'

Abi 'When I get my hair cut it's like my identity's coming back. My hair looked atrocious over lockdown – my girlfriend had to give me some touch-ups at home. So being back in the chair I feel like I'm coming back into myself. I'd like to say my haircut's unique.'

Mark 'It is unique.'

Abi 'I'd been looking for a barber for a long time. A friend told me about Mark so I visited him and he got it right off the bat. I've never been to anyone else since.'

Mark 'I always had an interest in hair. I used to look at Carlton from "Fresh Prince" and think he had a really good haircut. When I got to secondary school I had no money

to go to the barbershop, so I picked up the clippers and tried it myself. I started shaping up some people in my area. "Slider" became my nickname and when I was 18 I got an apprenticeship in a barbershop.'

Abi 'Coming here is definitely more than a haircut. Mark shares his life experiences about how he's developed his business or juggled money. They've helped me think about my situation, too.'

Mark 'I've never had a break like [lockdown] in my whole career and it made me realise how much responsibility my job carries. Every barber is a councillor slash therapist. People have asked me about marriage problems. I've had conversations where it's like "This

person got murdered next to me." Some of these conversations have happened before they've spoken to anybody else.'

Abi 'This is somewhere you feel safe to get stuff off your mind. I've known Mark for a long time and we often share more than we need to. That's how I consider someone my friend, when you're actually going deep.'

Mark 'The barbershop is really important in Black communities. Everybody has got things on their mind and there aren't a lot of spaces that people can go to express those things. I'm talking to people who may not be able to talk to their mum, dad, sisters, brothers or friends. SliderCuts is an important place.' ■
→ 176 Hackney Rd.



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Which post-lockdown Londoner are you?

Back in the Bad Old Days, we envisaged emerging from our winter of Zoom quizzes as something of a holy rebirth. *Rose Johnstone* reveals that that's definitely not the case. Illustrations *Dan Evans*

1 The Covid prefect

You don't need to keep refreshing the *Guardian* homepage when you've got a Covid prefect in your life. Verging on becoming more web-sweeping bot than human, this well-meaning yet insufferable individual can recall the opening dates of gyms, bowling alleys and the Welsh border faster than you can say 'Eat Out to Help Out'. If they query your hand-sanitising regime one too many times, be forgiving – it's just their anxiety talking. That said, if you're

feeling devious, you could nudge ever-so-slightly into their two-metre field of protection and watch their eye twitch. We won't judge.

Catchphrase: 'Can we just recap how many households are going to be blending tomorrow?'

2 The masked hypebeast

Social-distancing guidelines might have killed this Londoner's one true love – queuing for overpriced streetwear – but it'll never steal their steez. Right now their priority is refreshing the

Off-White c/o Virgil Abloh website until they get their hands on those A/W '20 cotton face coverings (spoiler: they might never come back into stock, pal). And they're adamant that purchasing that Adidas mask in *both* colours was necessary for their aesthetic. In fact, their quest to achieve pandemic-fashion perfection has cost them more than seems sensible, but hey: £50 per face cover is a small price to pay for the right thread count. When they spot a fellow supermarket shopper wearing naught but a

bandana, they tighten the grip on their nose clip, neoprene concealing a heavy grimace.

Catchphrase: 'Surely an Aries mask is going to drop soon, right?'

3 The housemates at war

When once their chief source of tension was who gets to sit on the Good Chair during the weekly National Theatre Live screening, these cohabitants have become so pass-agg that not even their CBD-oil diffuser will take the edge off. One is following the rules to the letter. The





they posted 'Lockdown has been a blessing for us' on Instagram in May, but that was nothing compared to meeting up with them and listening to them converse in sickening baby talk ('We ended up basically coming up with our own language – how embarrassing!').
Catchphrase: 'It's weird to hear about all the divorces happening during lockdown – if anything, this has brought us, like, so much closer together.'

5 The corona truther
While you posted your first takeaway Aperol Spritz of the summer on your Insta Stories, the corona truther had already bookmarked three 'highly credible' Reddit threads about how Covid-19 was designed and manufactured by Prince Andrew. Of the many people who suddenly gained Yard Sale Pizza-sized chunks of spare time during lockdown, some used those hours to spiral deep into conspiracy theories (or as a corona truther would say, 'facts'). These savvier-than-thou individuals have diverged into two subspecies: one, the people who tell you five minutes into your socially distanced date that Covid-19 is a hoax and the hospitals are empty, and two, those who claim that things are much, much worse than we imagine. Spending too long with either is ill-advised.
Catchphrase: 'Maybe the recession is within you.'

6 The one with the entirely new personality
The last time you saw your mate, you were watching the sun rise together on a balcony at some random kick-on, looking into their hollow eyes and vowing to meet them at Printworks later that afternoon. Great times. Then lockdown hit. Your friend has... changed. After months of separation, they greet you from their immaculate kitchen, which smells of butter and spices. 'Did you know you can use sourdough

starter to make cardamom buns?' they say. Then they're showing you their macramé plant-holder and offering you their 'signature' rhubarb chutney (now stocked in that posh Spar in Walthamstow). 'Those barefoot trainers by the door? Oh, they're for my 5am run.' Slowly, you back away in disbelief. Your friend – while now objectively a healthier and more well-balanced person – is dead.
Catchphrase: 'Next time, could you bring any old clothes, so I can make masks out of them?'

7 The piss criminal
It started with a furtive wee behind a tree. It will end only when their lobster-red sunburned body is dragged from London Fields by their mates who just want to drink a pint in a real pub for a change, their cries of 'But you can just get a tin from the shop!' going ignored. The piss criminal does not want to go to the pub. Ever. Again. Like Gollum and the ring, the piss criminal sank ever deeper into the park-party life during lockdown, gaining unholy glee from urinating in increasingly more visible places. When London Fields slammed down its booze ban, and put up its indignant 'It's a park, not a toilet' sign, the piss criminal pissed on it.
Catchphrase: 'Can you get me a double pint this time? I'll be right back...'

8 The subscription junkie
'If one good thing comes out of lockdown,' they said, 'it'll be that I finally save money.' Oh, how wrong they were. Instead, they were drawn into a self-gratifying feedback loop of consumerism so severe that they might just need to finally unlock Monzo's overdraft function. They're on first-name terms with the Hermes guy, and their recycling bin is a graveyard of cardboard and artisanal craft-beer cans. Obviously they signed up to Disney+ to watch 'Hamilton'; obviously they receive six bottles of Italian wine every month. They can't even remember what a conventional shop looks like and, frankly, they don't want to remember.
Catchphrase: 'What did Allpress send you this month? I'm after something a little more full-bodied.' ■

other has chosen to wiggle out from under the thumb of the law. They're illegally raving. They're shagging the dude they met on Tinder who lives way out in Clapham. They're *taking the tube*. Of course, the law-abiding housemate has bitched about it to all their friends, and the Covid delinquent has complained to their mates at every opportunity, too. Will they actually talk about it to each other? Probably not.
Catchphrase: 'Are you going to wash your hands before you peel that potato, or...'

4 The smug couple
For some lockdown couples, instant cohabitation caused the spark to disappear faster than TfL removed Banksy's tube rat. But for other couples, lockdown will forever be marked as a sunny period of shared soft-serve ice creams and politely declined invitations to Zoom quizzes because 'it's our date night on Wednesdays'. This smug couple is smugger still with the realisation that they've flourished while others have fallen. You felt they'd gone a little too far when

GET IT WHILE

There's not long left until The Cold holds us hostage once again. Time to make the most of London's green spaces and wild wonders while we still can

Greenwich Park

LET IT'S HOT



This year has turned *Kate Lloyd* into an insufferable outdoor exerciser

YOU KNOW ALL those awful people who took up running during lockdown? I am one of them.

I also started circuit training in the park near my flat. One time I even found myself there at 6am. It was just me and a guy grunting through a CrossFit session on a bit of a cordoned-off climbing frame.

CrossFit guy and I aren't alone. Over the past few months I've seen the green spaces near me become dense with joggers, cyclists, kick-boxers, HIIT trainers and yoga stretchers. And these aren't just competent exercisers like CrossFit guy – ones with perfect squat form, a Gymshark set for every day of the week and a playlist titled 'songs for chest-blasting to'. They're red-faced, faded-promotional-T-shirt-clad wobblers, like me. And they seem to be having a good time.

There are some obvious reasons why. Being out in nature is good, endorphins are also good, moving

around keeps you warm enough to stay outside when the drizzle starts and there's something freeing about exercising badly in public and not caring what anyone thinks.

It's more than that, though. Over the past few months everything in our lives has become so controlled (what with social-distancing measures, lockdown restrictions and being scared of a deadly virus). It's rare to feel free to embrace chaos or find a new community. When you work out in the park, this returns.

Yes, there are some cons. I never knew how many men were wannabe PTs until strangers started giving me feedback on my park moves. (You keep doing you, lads.) And bumping into a crush when your face is red and wet with sweat is really not a vibe.

But the pros far outweigh them. An outside workout delivers all the mayhem of proper normal life. You're interrupted by dogs. Kids stare at you. Old people stop to chat about how they used to be really fit in their youth. And – as sad as this sounds – it makes me feel properly alive in the same way I would on a date or in a club before. So I will keep doing it until the day comes where I can keep up with CrossFit guy. Or at least until it gets really cold...



Get it while it's hot



'Cycling is for everyone – not just white men'

Founder of Black Cyclists Network *Mani Arthur* explains why he's on a mission to diversify the sport

I got into cycling in 2009. I was fed up with being packed into a train on my commute. Cycling became my weekends. I fell in love with the freedom it offered – even though it hurt like hell.

Every time I'd attend a race, I'd find myself being the only person of colour on the starting line. I figured that for a lot of people that would be an intimidating atmosphere.

I started trying to connect people. It was almost like Professor Xavier, X-Men style: whenever I'd see a person of colour out cycling I'd be like: 'Let's exchange numbers.'

In 2018, I decided to pull together all the relationships and start the Network. Now we've got 100 members in London. We're open to all levels. The aim is to make people feel like they're not alone – which they can at other cycling clubs.

Cycling is steeped in etiquette. Cycling clubs expect new joiners to be very competent. That can cause anxiety already, but if you're also the only person of colour there it can be very intimidating. Same for women, as it's so male-dominated.



Being the only person of colour in a group makes you less self-confident. Whereas we give people an opportunity to be themselves and say: 'I don't have to be the perfect example of the Black person because I'm not the only Black person here.'

In June I launched a crowdfunder. It's to help us start the first BAME race team in the UK. I thought we'd just get members contributing to it but I was overwhelmed by the positive response. We've made double our target.

We're going to race next year, first in the amateur ranks. The view is to eventually become professional and potentially put out a women's team. We're trying to create spaces and opportunities for people of colour at every level. Even kids.

Lots of people got into cycling in lockdown. One of the things that really lifted my spirits was seeing whole families riding their bikes together.
→ Black Cyclists Network meets in Regent's Park every Saturday at 8am. It has three groups for different levels. Find out more @blackcyclistsnetwork.

Three trees you can see on London streets



Bird cherry

One of our native trees, this one's much loved by non-human Londoners, who you'll see buzzing round them in droves. They're unruly trees with flowery spikes. See them in Deptford and Crystal Palace.



Bastard service tree

With a name like that, where to start? Handsome, if a little understated, these neat trees were popular back in the '70s, and are making a comeback on pavements around Paddington, Peckham and Marylebone.



Chinese dogwood

In the spring, these trees produce such an unbelievable number of creamy, white, four-petaled flowers, it's hard to see the tree for the blossom. Come the autumn, they can be covered in juicy red fruits. Spot them in Dalston, Dulwich and King's Cross.
Paul Wood, author of 'London's Street Trees', Safe Haven Books.





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Three birds to keep your eyes open for



Peregrine falcon

These birds have boomed in London since 2000, taking advantage of plentiful pigeons and high-altitude concrete nest sites. They settle in several places across the capital, most famously at Tate Modern.



Goldcrest

Although known as the 'king of birds' in European folklore, these are actually the UK's smallest. They have a bright yellow crest on their heads. Spot them by heading to Sydenham Hill Wood.



Starling

Dark brown with a shimmer of rainbow iridescence, these birds are masters of mimicry, copying other birds' songs as well as car alarms, screeching train wheels and even human speech. Find them in supermarket car parks.

Sam Bentley-Toon from London Wildlife Trust.



The most secret bits of London parks

Find more of the great outdoors at timeout.com/london/things-to-do

The Flower Garden, Greenwich Park

With its swooping landscape, river views and architectural marvels, Greenwich Park is one of London's most dramatic open spaces. The Flower Garden, though, has an atmosphere all of its own. Its ground-brushing trees are interspersed with geometrically planted circular beds blazing with alien colour, triffid-like plants waving above them. At dusk in winter, you half-expect to stumble over a body there. A truly 'other' place.

Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park

For his 2013 work 'The Enclave', artist Richard Mosse shot the Congolese jungle using infra-red military film stock, which turned it a vibrant pink. He could have just gone to Richmond Park. Isabella Plantation is a colourful antithesis to the wide-open spaces, herds of deer and vague air of entitlement of the rest of the place. Its azaleas and rhododendrons are magnificently strange.

Kyoto Garden, Holland Park

Splashing waterfalls, mossy rocks, koi carp: Holland Park's Japanese-style garden is quite an extraordinary place. It's not just that it transports you from chichi west London to Asia, it's a living testament to the way plants and water can create incredibly powerful environments. Take a moment (or an hour or two) from everyday life.

The Hill Garden and Pergola, Hampstead Heath

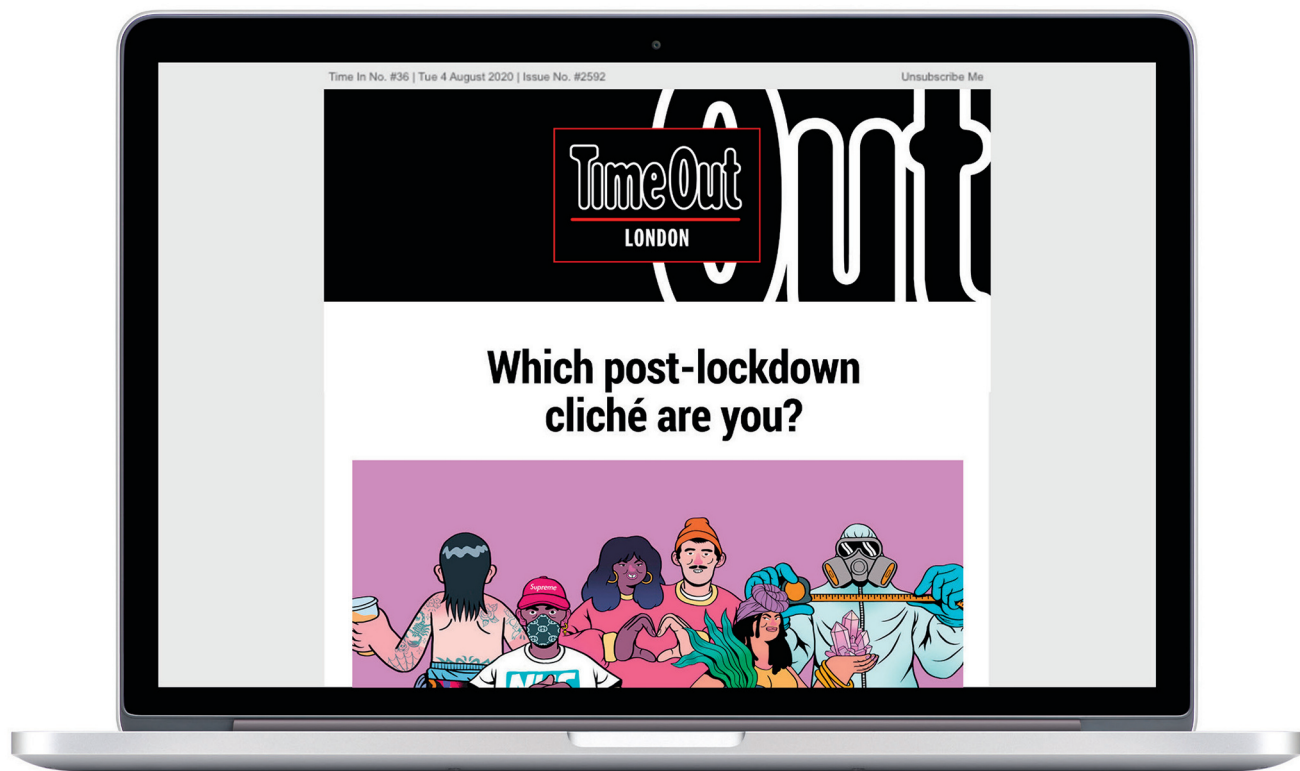
Like the skeletal wreck of an opulent liner, the Hill Garden and Pergola (above) offer a glimpse of a lost era of super-wealth. Once the grounds of Hill House (now apartments for senescent billionaire types), the garden was laid out by soap magnate William Lever in the Edwardian era, then fell into neglect, along with its pergola. Both were later restored. They're beautiful, especially on a summer evening, with an F Scott Fitzgerald sadness to them. ■ *Chris Waywell*

TINNIES YOU SHOULD TAKE WITH YOU



Hackney distillery **58 Gin** is in on the hard sparkling water act, using its spirit to make raspberry and pink grapefruit seltzers. Prefer your tinned gin in a cocktail? **Hippy Fizz** from Porter's Gin is like Um Bongo for adults. **East London Liquor Company** is also crafting cans: faves include vodka and rhubarb. But if tinnies mean beer, there's a West Coast IPA renaissance. Pick up a can of London Beer Factory's **Big Sur** – like being hit by a big fruity wave.

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LONDON FOR LESS

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

Andrew Jose

What is it? A wash, cut, luxury conditioning treatment, head massage *and* blow-dry at the esteemed hairdresser's salon.

Why go? Because if, like us, you've not had your hair done since March, you may as well go big for your first time back in the chair. Plus you'll get groomed by some of the best in the business.

Wait, how much? It's 68 percent less than normal: only £29.50.

→ Andrew Jose. Until Sep 21. www.timeout.com/andrewjose20



The House of Elemis

What is it? A one-hour Elemis Biotec no-touch facial package, with a scalp massage and skincare gift to boot.

Why go? To be kind to your fizzog. It's been a tough year, so you more than deserve some premium TLC. Plus you're saving a boatload of cash on a cutting-edge treatment.

Wait, how much? Normally this would cost an eye-watering £242, but for you it's just £80.

→ The House of Elemis. Until Oct 31. www.timeout.com/houseofelemis

Leong's Legend

What is it? The return of one of our most popular offers: bottomless dim sum at this Chinatown classic.

Why go? For an endless stream of delicious dim sum. There are more than 40 items on the menu, so you won't run out of choice (unless you eat really, really fast). And you get a glass of prosecco, too.

Wait, how much? Less than half price, at just £22.

→ Leong's Legend. Until Nov 15. www.timeout.com/leongsdimsum

Flowing Body Pilates

What is it? Three or ten reformer pilates classes for less than half the regular price.

Why go? To get back in shape after six months on the sofa (no judgement here, we did the same). Prepare yourself for that glorious, if debilitating, post-workout burn.

Wait, how much? Three classes are just £19, or go big and get ten classes for £90 – that's 57 percent off.

→ Studios in Bloomsbury and Stoke Newington. Until Aug 18 2021. www.timeout.com/pilates

Sea Containers

What is it? Three courses and a cocktail at an iconic London venue.

Why go? Because there are few places in London that offer not only top-notch nosh but also remarkable views over the Thames. Dress up for one of the most Instagrammable evenings out in town.

Wait, how much? You'll get dinner and a drink for just £25, only with Time Out.

→ Sea Containers. Until Nov 30. www.timeout.com/seacontainers2020

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Things to do in London

Edited by **Katie McCabe**
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon



IMAGE: KAREN/AT NEON NAKED LIFE DRAWING. PHOTO BY JILLE NAVARRO

Bow down to the trippy UV glory of the the talented models from Neon Naked Life Drawing, the kaleidoscopic art class that's all about embracing colour. **Turn to p34 to find out more.**

Things to Do

London Design Festival

W 'Architecture for Dogs'

Pet-pampering culture doesn't stop at boutiques with names like Milo + Lola that sell bandanas. There is now a growing market for 'canine home design' – and we have proof, because Japan House has dedicated a whole exhibition to it. At 'Architecture for Dogs', visitors can bring their pooch along to nose around an 'interactive dog house' for beagles and a hammock designed for a jack russell. You can even download blueprints of the works, and have a go at building them yourself. If you thought your Ikea dog kennel was a pain to assemble, wait until you're screwing in the lightbulbs of a tiny vanity cabinet for a toy poodle.

→ Japan House. Sep 19-Jan 10 2021. Free.

E 🌿 The Hothouse

Back in the 1930s, the Lea Valley corridor had the largest concentration of greenhouses in the world. Playing on that nugget of horticultural history, design company Studio Weave has decided to grow real crops like oranges, quinoa and pomegranate inside a big glasshouse installation in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It's not some pretty take-your-granny garden centre, though; it's meant to be a comment on climate change. At the rate the world's temperature is increasing, all the exotic fruits in The Hothouse could be grown in the UK by 2050. Suddenly that guava isn't looking so tasty.

→ International Quarter London. Sep 12-Dec 31 2021. Free.

C 😊 'Unity'

Some architects and designers involved in the London Design Festival have completely upended their original plans to create installations that respond to the strange times we find ourselves in. 'Unity' in Coal Drops Yard will require visitors to 'inflate' a design by Marlene Huisoud using foot pumps. 'If no one is pumping, the installation will deflate and lose its power and vitality.' It's a message about working together and reconsidering our shared environments as we emerge from lockdown. It's like a more meaningful bouncy castle, only you don't get to do somersaults on it when you're done.

→ Coal Drops Yard. Sep 12-20. Free.



Bow-wowhaus
'Architecture for Dogs'

At the drive-in

E Car Karaoke @The Drive In

One day, we'll have to explain to our children why we chose to sit in a rainy car park for an 'Aladdin' karaoke night. 'You don't understand,' we'll tell them, 'the cinemas: they were closed!' Until then, you can belt out 'A Whole New World' from behind the security of your windscreen, free of judgement. 'A Star Is Born' will also get the karaoke treatment and there's the mandatory 'Grease' singalong on the bill. If it's all a little too dystopian for you, there's always the silent disco that's followed by a screening of 'Joker'.

→ Pudding Mill Lane. Sep 16-21. £35.

N English National Opera Drive and Live

How do you demystify the opera? Put it in a car park. At the English National Opera's drive-in experiment, you can see a pocket-sized version of Puccini's 'La Bohème', performed by members of the ENO orchestra and presented live from a raised stage with video screens over 90 minutes. Entry for a car of four is a not-so-accessible £101.50, but it's just £36.50 for a bicycle ticket. No wheels to speak of? Book an Uber Box. The rows of Ford Fiestas and VW Golfs won't exactly set the scene for nineteenth-century Paris, but you can always bring some millefeuille to eat between the arias.

→ Alexandra Palace. Sep 19-27. Prices vary.

Mini cines

N 'The Craft' at Lost Boys Pizza

The owners of this Camden restaurant are so obsessed with gothic teen horror they've got Kiefer Sutherland in their logo, complete with his 1980s vampiric mullet. So it's only natural that their open-air garden cinema will be screening 'The Craft'. The film is free, tickets are for a two-course meal and a drink, sold as pairs on sofas. Wear a mask when not at your seat, or the Lost Boys will hit you with a powerful spell: 'We bind you from doing harm, harm against other people and harm against yourself.'

→ Lost Boys Pizza. Sep 14 and 21. From £50.

E Cine-real: 'Jaws'

Haggerston's little art deco dream of a cinema, The Castle, is doing everything it can to make it safe to go back into the murky waters of post-lockdown film-watching. BYOM (Bring Your Own Mask) for a classic 16mm projector screening of 'Jaws', starring Boris Johnson's 'hero': the mayor who kept the beaches open. → The Castle Cinema. Sep 10, 13 and 24. £10.

Small and strange art shows

C 'Tales from The Colony Room: Art and Bohemia'

Thanks to its infamous clientele of post-war pisspot artists, The Colony Room Club has earned a place in countless nostalgic books about 'the old Soho'. The latest is one of oral histories on the drinking den from British painter Darren Coffield. Tied to its release is this exhibition of artworks by big-name regulars like Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, Nina Hamnett, Eduardo Paolozzi and Coffield himself. It's a chance to get a flavour of the Colony Room days, safe from the risk of a punch in the face from a drunken Francis B.

→ Dellasposa. Sep 12-Dec 20. Free.

W Distanced Festival

Some of us have missed live music, some have pined for the movies. Others just want to watch a performance artist roll about in soil on the floor of a cold arts centre in Ealing. At Distanced, you can return to that brain-scrambling world of live art with a body-led piece from Paul Hurley (minus the aforementioned soil), along with Shaun Caton's 'primordial technicolour shadow' show.

→ Open Ealing Arts Centre. Sep 12. £10.

Tiny gigs

👉 Magpie's Nest Festival

Can't take another beer-garden DJ set? Get a cross-legged spot on the grass for this live and unamplified mini festival from Nest Collective. It's in a secret location; all we know is it will take place somewhere 'on the banks of the Thames'. The line-up is straight off

the Folk Radio UK homepage, but among those gallant ballads from the British Isles, there's Moroccan trad from Gnawa London led by Simo Lagnawi, who blends ritual poetry with music from his guembri (three-stringed lute). As it's all unplugged, you'll be spared painful, protracted soundchecks.

→ A Secret location. Sep 20. £38.

www.thenestcollective.co.uk

E DIY 100th Issue Party

Sick of having no gigs to write about, music mag *DIY* has decided to put on some Covid-compliant live shows of its own. The indie kids have taken over Signature Brew taproom in Walthamstow for a week of concerts that will all be limited to a crowd of 75. On Friday September 11, Sports Team will be taking a break from singing about unkempt rhododendrons in Margate to deliver a DJ set at the free closing party.

→ Signature Brew Taproom & Venue. Sep 8-11. Free-£13.

Cyber Proms

C Last Night of the Proms

The final concert of the Proms is going ahead as usual, but this year, there will be no audience waving thousands of tiny Union Jacks. Instead, it will broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall for free. The sounds of Sondheim, Strauss, Mozart and Elgar will be conducted by Dalia Stasevska in her Last Night of the Proms debut. Despite the overblown media controversy, 'Land of Hope and Glory' and the national anthem *will* be performed by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

→ Sep 12. Free. www.royalalberthall.com.

Exhibitions closing soon

C 'Aubrey Beardsley'

Just a few days left to see the sinuous, sex-and-death-filled prints and drawings of Victorian dandy Aubrey Beardsley. They're elegant, grotesque, titillating, knowingly funny – and a world away

from the tales we were sold of buttoned-up Victoriana.

→ Tate Britain. Until Sep 20. £16.

C Cao Fei: 'Blueprints'

Cao Fei is teleporting you from one constantly changing city to another. Step through the doors of this London show and suddenly you're in her Beijing studio, walking through the foyer of the former cinema and theatre it's housed in.

→ Serpentine Gallery. Until Sep 13.

Free, pre-book.

C 'Among the Trees'

It's time to make like a tree and go see some art, because this exhibition is all about our arboreal friends. Trees have always played powerful, symbolic roles in human society, and in contemporary art they represent countless ideas.

→ Hayward Gallery. Until Oct 31. £12, pre-book.

C 'Léon Spilliaert'

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

→ Royal Academy of Arts. Until Sep 20. £14, pre-book.



We tried to relive the experience of clubbing at a museum

W 'Electronic: From Kraftwerk to The Chemical Brothers'

Flashback to a Saturday in early March. An archway near Cambridge Heath: I don't know where exactly. One thing I do remember is the sound of 'I Feel Love'. None of us realise it yet, but

Miss Donna Summer is here to give normality a big send-off. See ya soon, I guess!

Life has been a bit confusing since. And now, I'm immersed in quaking bass again. 'I Feel Love' is blaring out of every corner of the building I'm in.

I may just be mooching around Kensington's Design Museum but, fleetingly, I'm transported back to that archway. The exhibition soundtrack is split into themes that span the history of electronic music – so you're practically guaranteed a snatch of your last big night out.



The rest is sensory overload, but the depth is staggering. For the heads: DIY rave flyers, Jean-Michel Jarre's studio, walls of Hyperdub album sleeves. For everyone else: strobe-light-flashing fun.

In the Chemical Brothers room, I have a wiggle. An actual wiggle. Smoke and haze fill the space. Floor-to-ceiling screens show dancers in

high-fashion outfits. 'Got to Keep On' is blasting. It's the closest I've been to a dancefloor for months. How can I resist?

It's a decent escape from reality. As the exhibition points out, electronic music has the ability to create a 'generation's place of communion'. I come out alone, bleary-eyed but still optimistic. No doubt we, Generation Covid, will find solace in forgettable clubs again soon.

Huw Oliver

→ The Design Museum. Until Feb 14 2021. From £14.50.

Things to Do

Life drawing

C Wild Life Drawing: Wolves

These sketching classes, which have live animals as models, are happening in real life again. In this class, budding drawers will join artist and animal lover Jennie Webber, who'll school them in sketching wolves. If you're imagining spending two hours in a room with an amaro monster, don't worry – you'll actually be drawing a friendly pack of British lupine dogs that are only part-wolf. We hear they're partial to belly rubs. → Carousel London. Sep 12. £30.

N Neon Naked Life Drawing

Shake off your weary Zoom eyes by filling them with zippy luminous hues at this class where the nude models are daubed in UV-reactive paint and fluorescent accessories. It's like a regular life-drawing class, if it took place inside a kaleidoscope. Not only will it feel a world away from our drab New Normal surroundings, you'll get to experiment with light, colour and texture. Trippy. → Boxpark Wembley. Sep 10. £15.

Bike gangs

S 😊 Bankside Bike Train

Many have fallen victim to the lockdown bike-purchase panic, and have yet to graduate from laps around the park to actual cycle lanes (roads? Are you serious? There are cars there!). Get to grips with your gears on this group Bike Train ride run by qualified cycling instructors. They'll lead you along selected quiet routes to Bankside so you can practise commuting in the saddle.

→ Begins Clapham Junction station or Vauxhall Grove. Sep 11. Free.

😊 Pedal to Empower

Get on your bike to raise money for World Bicycle Relief at this global charity ride. Create your own route (it can be anything from pedalling up and down your street to an epic cross-country journey), set up a fundraising page and then start pestering your friends and colleagues for donations. Your cash will help provide girls in developing countries with bikes so they can get to school.

→ Pick your own route. Sep 12. Free registration.



😊 Freewheelin' London Bike Tour Company

Walking tours are fine and all, but you can pack in far more sights cruising through the city on two wheels. BYOBike (or rent one on the day) to one of this learned cycle crew's various rock 'n' roll-themed tours of the city. From punk-themed journeys through Chelsea to expeditions exploring Brixton's Caribbean culture, there are routes to suit all musical tastes and cycling abilities. You'll feel like a proper gang of mods by the end of it. → Various locations & dates. From £20.

miniature painting that flourished on the Indian subcontinent during the Mughal era (1526-1857), he'll be filling the space with site-specific works, including a new version of his monumental exhibit 'And They Still Seek the Traces of Blood', which is made up of a mountain of thousands of crumpled pieces of paper. → Ealing Road Library. Sep 19-Dec 13. Free.

N 😊 George Michael mural

Brixton might have Bowie, but Brent has George Michael. And now the late singer is being immortalised in a nine-metre-high mural by British artist Dawn Mellor. Larger than life and sporting a luxuriant Princess Di-style 'do, George's likeness will be on display in Kingsbury, near where he grew up and went to school. Wham! → Kingsbury Road. Sep 19-Dec 13. Free.

Brent Biennial

N Avant-Gardening

We've got Venice, São Paulo and Berlin, and now Brent is throwing a biennale to mark its year as London Borough of Culture. One of 23 projects filling unusual spaces like barbers, laundrettes, libraries and billboards across the borough is this floral installation from socially engaged arts and environment collective Avant-Gardening. Derek Jarman would approve. → Barham Community Library. Sep 19-Dec 13. Free.

N Imran Qureshi

After displaying work at the Barbican and the Met in New York, artist Imran Qureshi is ready to hit the big league with an installation at Ealing Road Library. Best known for his contemporary take on the

Celebrity monologues

C 'Beat the Devil'

Nick Hytner's shiny theatre next to Tower Bridge is emerging from lockdown with an equally shiny selection of star-studded monologues. Directed by Hytner and written by David Hare, 'Beat the Devil' has none other than Ralph Fiennes playing the celebrated playwright. Hare contracted Covid-19 early on in the pandemic; this show is a deep dive into his experience of the



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illness. Hare previously described the government's response to the pandemic as worse than the handling of the Suez crisis or the Iraq war, so the tone of this soliloquy isn't hard to imagine.

C 'Talking Heads' live
One of lockdown's biggest TV highlights (after the frenzied days of 'Tiger King') was the BBC's recommissioning of Alan Bennett's landmark series of dramatic monologues, originally broadcast in 1988 and 1998. Now it is being brought to the stage. The Bridge Theatre, which worked with the BBC on the 2020 version, will be keeping the cast (which reads like a who's who of London luvvies) and directors from eight of the televised plays for a season of live double bills. The small-screen resurrection of 'Talking Heads' felt timely and appropriate in the context of the pandemic, so its live incarnation should have even greater resonance.

→ Bridge Theatre. Until Oct 24. £15-£55.



Bankside Bike Train

Art trails

N **Wembley Park Art Trail**

With its brand new 2,000-seat theatre and artists' studios, Wembley Park is gunning to become one of the city's top creative districts. To bolster its arty rep, the area has just added new works to its first public art trail. Follow the route by downloading the digital map and scan QR codes to find out more about pieces like 'Better Together', a huge mural from Brent-born graffiti artist Pref, and 'Legends Calling', a light installation in classic red telephone boxes featuring Brent icons like George Michael, Twiggy and Olympic sprinter Arthur Wint. It might just be the most cartoonishly British tribute in history.

→ Various Wembley Park locations. Free. www.wembleypark.com/art.

S **London Mural Festival**

French designer Camille Walala is one of 150 artists from around the world who will be treating our city like a big canvas for the first ever London Mural Festival. The fest will culminate in a mass mural-painting party across a 500-metre-long wall in Stratford's International Quarter London (October 3 to 4). It wasn't what they set out to do, but the organisers have managed to create the perfect lockdown experience – a festival of accessible art that can be seen at a safe distance.

→ Various London locations. Until Oct 4. Free. www.londonmuralfestival.com.

Junk diving

S **Peckham Car Boot**

Embrace your inner Del Boy as you riffle through the best trinkets and knick-knacks this Peckham car park has to offer. Or bring along a suitcase full of odds and sods and hawk your once-loved stuff for only a tenner (if you pre-book). Email peckham.carboot@gmail.com.

→ Harris Academy Peckham. Sep 13. £1 entry.

E **Hackney Flea Market**

If you're as sick of staring at the same four walls of your flat as we are, you'll be gagging to change it up with some chintzy second-hand finds. Rummage through everything from jewellery to vintage fabrics to old maps and kitchenalia at this trusty flea. Get there early for the good stuff – this is Hackney, anything mid-century will be snapped up by lunchtime.

→ Abney Hall. Sep 19-20. Free entry.

BEHIND THE BOOT

Gavin Turk



V **Viral Art Car Boot Fair**

Every year, the Art Car Boot Fair organisers convince the biggest names in the UK art world to flog their creations in person, at an affordable price. Ahead of its first virtual incarnation, we speak to one-time YBA Gavin Turk about his love for the 'boot, and the struggle with going digital.

Hello Gavin! How has lockdown been for you?

'Everything sort of shifted around and it's been fantastic, and yet also it's been full of tragedy. Everyone is coming to terms with the idea of uncertainty. For the actual art it's not very good, but for the thinking, and the experimentation, it's been really good.'

You're a regular at the real-life Art Car Boot Fair. What's special about it?

'It is a bit of dressing up, it's a bit of theatre. It's almost like the artwork is the whole thing. When the artists are there selling their own work, it's quite a short-circuiting of what has become the art world, which is full of the problematic elements of the elite.'

Do you feel like making the leap into digital art?

'It's something that I'm looking into. Sometimes doing things that you're not necessarily comfortable with can be really positive. For example, if I'm doing a realistic sculpture of a head, I might spend a lot of time concentrating on one side, let's say the left ear. I'll struggle with it, but by the time I've finished the left ear, I look around, and the right ear is done. So, if you struggle with something, you can make something great on the other side of that, without having to work too hard at it.'

Interview by Katie McCabe

→ Sep 20. £12 for entry, includes 25 percent off future events.

www.artcarbootfair.com.

Things to Do

More dist-dancing

► 'Our Bodies Back'

Sadler's Wells is still closed, but it's keeping new contemporary dance performances moving on its Digital Stage. Right now, you can watch the short black-and-white dance film 'Our Bodies Back'. The five-minute choreopoem, set to a saxophone soundscape and the words of Detroit poet and performance artist Jessica Care Moore, is an artful, enraged response to the death of Sandra Bland, who died in police custody. Watch as three dancers perform their self-choreographed movements from different parts of the world and create their own form of protest art.

→ Ongoing. Free. www.sadlerswells.com

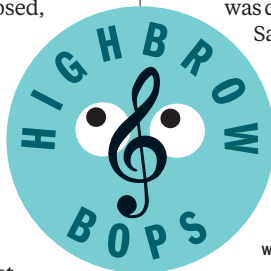
► 'Until the Lions'

The National Theatre might have retired its online premieres but

the Roundhouse is still queuing up the odd megastream. Akram Khan's majestic take on the epic Mahabharata poem of India was specially created for the Chalk Farm venue's in-the-round space and was due to be performed at Sadler's Wells in October.

Since that's gone tits up, you can stream the original 360-degree performance for free on the Roundhouse YouTube.

→ Until Sep 10. Free. www.roundhouse.org.uk



Blockbusters to book

► 'Artemisia'

In July 2018, The National Gallery acquired 'Self-Portrait as St Catherine of Alexandria' by Artemisia Gentileschi. It's the first painting the museum has owned by the Baroque artist and it very slightly boosted its collection of works by women (shamefully,



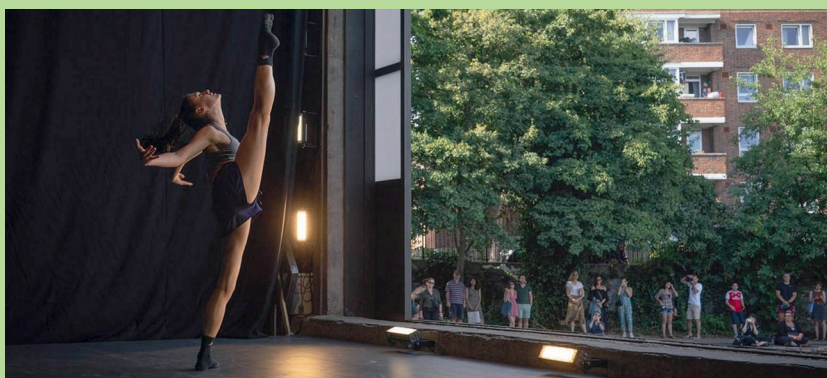
'Artemisia' at the National Gallery

Dancers are turning Regent's Canal into an open-air stage

► DistDancing

A jittery crowd has gathered on the towpath of Regent's Canal in Hackney on a Saturday afternoon in August. As I join them, Italian dancer Giacomo Rovero of the Royal Ballet delicately steps on to a floating stage on the opposite side of the water. There are gasps as he twists into elegant angles to rippling piano music. As far as canalside entertainment goes, it certainly beats jumping out of the way of cyclists.

This is DistDancing, free alfresco performances at canalside arts space Hoxton Docks. It started when Chisato Katsura, a first artist of the Royal Ballet, was asked by her landlord Russell Gray, who owns Hoxton Docks,



to create a programme of dances for the space. She and fellow Royal Ballet dancer Valentino Zucchetti devise a 20-minute show that changes each week, featuring everything from classical ballet to aerial acrobatics.

The set-up is reassuringly slick. A screen beside the

pontoon slides open to reveal British aerialist Ben Loader tumbling from a hanging rope. In another stand-out performance, Aigul Akhmetshina, a Russian mezzo-soprano at the Royal Opera House, sings an excerpt from 'Carmen' while English National Ballet dancer Aitor Arrieta (originally

from Spain) bounds along with staccato steps.

A woman is trying to capture the experience for a friend on her phone. 'It's glorious,' she says, 'even the kayaks have stopped in their tracks.' Mark, who has seen the show unplanned, tells me: 'I knew I'd missed live performance, but this

makes me realise just how much. It's given me hope.'

'In the future it will be much harder to push forward with our old ways, like performing in theatres,' says Katsura. 'This is exciting, and makes ballet more accessible.'

Not only is DistDancing astonishing to watch, its ingenuity proves the capital's creatives are always striving to bring us innovative art. It's also probably the only place in London where you'll see audiences shrieking and hollering, boxing match style, to *piles* and *arabesques*.
Alexandra Sims

→ DistDancing performances are temporarily on hold, but they are fighting for the right to dance. Follow @distdancing_for updates.

the gallery only owns 21 artworks by female artists in a collection of 2,300). Now it's redoubling its efforts to promote Artemisia's talents with this major solo show. The exhibition will feature major loans from private and public collections, including paintings only recently attributed to the artist. It's art not to miss-ia. Sorry.
→ The National Gallery, Oct 3-Jan 24 2021. £20.

C Lynette Yiadom-Boakye: 'Fly in League with the Night'

The figures seen in the expressive oil portraits of Lynette Yiadom-Boakye have such presence it's hard to believe that none were sitters. Almost all were conjured from the artist's imagination, with the help of the odd found image. All her works will be reunited for the British painter's first major solo show at Tate Britain.
→ Tate Britain, Nov 18-May 9 2021. £13.

C 'Tracey Emin/Edvard Munch: The Loneliness of the Soul'

Emin and Norwegian painter Munch both produced works that somewhat defined their careers ('My Bed', 'The Scream'), but that's not where the comparison ends. Emin claims she's been 'in love' with Munch since she was 18, and this exhibition will capture the artist's influence on her by showing their works side by side. If that's not your bag, there's always the Summer Exhibition which will – scream! – actually take place in autumn (Oct 6-Jan 3 2021).
→ Royal Academy, Nov 15-Feb 28 2021. Price tbc.

Open House

N Sun Rain Rooms

After spending so long in our own houses, the chance to look around someone else's is pretty appealing. Like everything this year, Open House – London's annual festival of architecture that lets you mosey

around buildings usually closed to the public – is a little different in 2020. Some events have gone online, many tours are self-guided, but there'll still be some buildings open to visitors, including this magical Grade-II Georgian townhouse, home to architecture firm Tonkin Liu's studio. Cross your fingers for wet weather when you visit to see its reflecting pool collect the bouncing rain. It's enough to make even Kevin McCloud weep.
→ 5 Wilmingon Square, Sep 19. Free entry.

Plant love and war

W 'Big Flower Fight'

Just like 'Bake Off' before it, Netflix's 'The Big Flower Fight' proves that wholesome hobbies can provoke just as many hand-in-mouth moments as a World Cup penalty shoot-out. Andrew Whittle and Ryan Lanji won the gardening competition with their floral

E Grown and Thrown

Remember 'Blind Date'? At this plant sale you get to play the role of a botanical Cilla Black by picking a planter from a range of specially commissioned ceramic pots and troughs, then matching it with a handsome complementing houseplant of your choice to create the perfect plant-pot conscious coupling. Expect a lorra, lorra succulents.
→ 129 Shacklewel Lane, Sep 12-13. Free entry.

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Outdoor comedy

S Stand-Up Under the Stars

Crystal Palace Football Club is temporarily swapping the chants and heckles with a series of outdoor stand-up gigs. See the man who spits one-liners like a human Pez dispenser, Milton Jones, and those vaguely familiar faces from 'Mock the Week', Rhys James and Maisie Adams. Genius of human ventriloquism Nina Conti will be headlining a late show. One quid from every ticket goes towards the Angel Comedy group and venue The Bill Murray, so London stand-up can have a life beyond 'Live at the Apollo' reruns.
→ Crystal Palace Football Club, Sep 8-10. £25.

S Greenwch Comedy Festival

The National Maritime Museum's festival is forgoing its usual big-top tent for open-air gigs with bigger names – the kind who have long graduated from pithy comedy panels to shows of their own. The bill features comedy heavyweights Aisling Bea, Nish Kumar, Sara Pascoe, Bill Bailey (adding classical tunes to the lols) and sweaty-haired troubadour of maudlin midlife gloom Dylan Moran.
→ National Maritime Museum, Sep 23-27. £25.

C HM Treasury

One of the most exciting bits of Open House is getting the rare chance to poke around London's iconic buildings. While Her Majesty's Treasury won't let guests inside in person this year, you can still click your way through all the nooks and crannies of the UK's economic and finance ministry on this online tour. Sadly, a virtual glimpse of the Treasury's cheeky chief mouser, Gladstone, is off the cards – the famous moggie has been working remotely like the rest of us.
→ Sep 19. Free. openhouselondon.open-city.org.uk/listings/624

sculptures of T-Rex and Hansel and Gretel, and now they're bringing a blossoming humpback whale to Kew Gardens. It's one of a collection of sculptures dotted around the botanic gardens symbolising six of the earth's continents, from gentle Japanese landscapes to towering Californian redwood groves. Well, holidays are off this year – might as well go whale-watching in Kew.
→ Kew Gardens. Until Sep 18. Included with entry to the Gardens (£17.50).

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Roofs, glorious roofs

Because nothing complements dinner or drinks like getting (literally) very high

1 Sip from sun loungers in the shadow of Westfield

It's not been your average jet-setting summer, but you can still recreate some holiday vibes on the seventh floor of glossy new hotel The Stratford. Yes, the bar and terrace of **Allegra** restaurant has views across to Westfield Stratford, but once you discover the joy of its deckchairs that slip round on rails among wildflowers and water features, well, you might as well be sitting under the Provençal sun.

→ The Stratford, 20 International Way, E20 1FD.

2 Have a laugh with Aisling Bea and Simon Amstell up in the sky

Chilled-out tunes, palm trees, fairy lights and pastel-coloured decking already gave Peckham's **Bussey Rooftop Bar** the feel of a sky-high beach shack. This summer, the escapism is on a new level, though,

with its rooftop comedy club. Simon Amstell's on tonight, Aisling Bea stars on September 14 and the likes of Tim Key and Sara Pascoe have already graced this dizzying stage, with more September stand-up to be announced.

→ Roof B, Bussey Building, 133 Rye Lane, SE15 4ST.

3 Pair frozen Negronis with fontina toasties

Del Boy meets *la dolce vita* at this Peckham rooftop bar with cracking Italian small plates. There's no Trevi Fountain in sight, but you will get to see The Shard as you order **Forza Wine**'s speciality cheese toasties, chicken milanese and cauliflower fritti, washing them down with a spritz or two. Then get on the slushies – choose from a frozen Negroni or a lemon-sorbet-topped Sgroppino – for dessert. You know it makes sense.

→ Floor 5, 133a Rye Lane, SE15 4BQ.



Five rooftops with big views

4-8 What's the point of trekking all the way to the top of a building to sip a cocktail if you're not going to see something good when you're up there? Luckily, London's spattered with sky-high spaces featuring amazing views of the city's best sights. Take **Jin Bo Law** in Aldgate, a foliage-filled patio where you can grab a drink and watch the sun go down over some of London's shiniest glass buildings. **Mercer** (reopening on September 17) in Mansion House also serves up spectacular views of the skyline, alongside neatly trimmed bushes and a seasonal set lunch menu. If you prefer to see old stuff while you booze, try **Madison** at the top of One New Change, where you can get up close and personal with the dome of St Paul's, and it is magical. More into people-watching? From a marble table at **The Rooftop St James**, you can spy on the tourists wandering around Trafalgar Square. Or if you just want to sit above King's Cross like one of the station's resident hawks, try relaxing in the botanical haven of **Roof Garden St Pancras**, a glam spot at the iconic Renaissance Hotel.



9 Head east for pétanque and poutine

With hand-sanitiser stations and table service, Tobacco Dock's **Skylight** is looking a little different to usual – but you'll be relieved to know it's still bringing the extracurricular activities to sunny drinking sessions. This year is all about bookable croquet and pétanque play-offs for up to six. Bring your battle gloves if you're being extra Covid-secure. North American grub from State Side includes Philly cheesesteak subs and cheesy, cheesy poutine.

→ Tobacco Dock, Tobacco Quay, Wapping Lane, E1W 2SF.

10 Book a disco-brunch booth

Two things we desperately missed in lockdown: actually decent poached eggs and disco. They go for a hand-in-hand twirl together at Brixton's **Prince of Wales** rooftop, which has transformed its packed all-day raves into languid, government-approved brunch affairs. If that doesn't sound quite as fun, know that you can book a beach-hut-style booth for you and your group from which to get groovy.

→ 467-469 Brixton Rd, SW9 8HH.

11 Catch a classic movie and a Waterloo sunset

Let's face it: all our lives have lacked a bit of romance lately (and

not cutting your hair for more than four months is the opposite of self-love). Get it together at **Bar Elba**, where not only will you have a Waterloo sunset in store, but you can cosy up with your significant other – as long as they're in your love bubble – and watch a feelgood flick. Screenings in September include 'Romeo + Juliet', 'Dirty Dancing' and 'Cool Runnings'. If you're just not in the mood, check out a gruesome October line-up, including 'Friday the 13th' (on Thursday the 13th...).

→ Rooftop, Mercury House, 109-117 Waterloo Rd, SE1 8UL.

12 Let out some pent-up energy in a sky-high batting cage

The roof of a disused car park has again become a giant 'outdoor playground' (their words), with

the return of **Roof East**. The bar combines crazy golf and curling with baseball in its unique batting cages. If you're keen to swing off some steam, you've got until the end of the month until the rooftop closes for the 'summer'. But if relaxation for you is a little less physical, kick back with a cocktail – the Joe Exotic Tiger Punch with three types of rum should have you feeling zen in no time.

→ Floors 7 and 8, Stratford multi-storey car park, Great Eastern Rd, E15 1BB.

13 Slurp London's biggest bivalve list

Southwark's Hoxton Hotel is home to 'sea-to-table' restaurant **Seabird**, which has a delightful terrace and indoor tables with a view – plus sunny California vibes aplenty. A Med-influenced all-day menu includes

Five plant-filled rooftops

14-18 Why be distracted by views of London's skyline when you can delight in the foliage filling some of our city's prettiest roof spots? There's **Pergola Olympia**, for example: the hangout perched on a Kensington car park describes itself as a 'botanical bolthole' thanks to its creeping vines and popping palms. It's the same at **NT's Loft** above Netil House in Hackney. Fronds dangle from the ceiling indoors, and out on the terrace, trees fan out on the perimeter. **CLF Art Lounge and Roof Garden** is a surprising find above Peckham Rye station. It got a landscape gardener in to cultivate its year-round brood of blooms. Less escape, more English country garden, **The Culpeper** nurtures herbs that it uses in its restaurant. You can drink and dine among the veg or volunteer to get green-fingered with its urban gardeners. And while the wraparound terrace in the bar on the sixteenth floor of Marylebone's new **Treehouse Hotel** shows off all aspects of our London skyline, it's the blossoming living walls at **The Nest** that we love more.



Pergola Olympia



the likes of croquetas, peri-peri monkfish and leeks in a romesco sauce. And it would be rude not to order from an oyster list claiming to be London's longest.

→ The Hoxton, 40 Blackfriars Rd, SE1 8NY.

19 Drink craft beer above the crowds

While the terrace of Charlie Chaplin's former boozer is only one storey up, it's a great place to get on the beers. **The Tankard** is operated by crafty group The Draft House, and stouts, sours and pale ales are in regular rotation. The roof terrace was supposedly created so punters could peer into the grounds of notorious asylum the Bethlem Hospital (aka Bedlam). Now, visitors are just happy to be free from their own four walls.

→ 111 Kennington Road, SE11 6SF.

20 See a Jeremy Deller installation in the sky

If anybody knows about getting high, it's artist and acid house documentary-maker Jeremy Deller. A smiley yellow face rising up at Stonehenge features in 'A New Dawn MMXX', his installation currently at Peckham art organisation and multi-storey car park **Bold Tendencies**. Grab a Campari Spritz at Frank's Cafe on the roof before absorbing Deller's sunrise (preferably at sunset), plus other suitably bold works by London artists. ■ *Laura Richards*

→ 7th-10th floors, multi-storey car park, 95a Rye Lane, SE15 4ST.



Boundary Rooftop Bar and Grill



Buck Street Market

Five foodie rooftops

21-25 Ask nicely when you book a fairweather table at cracking gastropub **The Marksman** and you might get a seat on its dinky rooftop terrace from where you can gaze down on the comings and goings of Hackney Road. It's an idyllic spot from which to enjoy the pub's brunchtime menu, featuring haddock kedgeree and sourdough pancakes with blackberries.

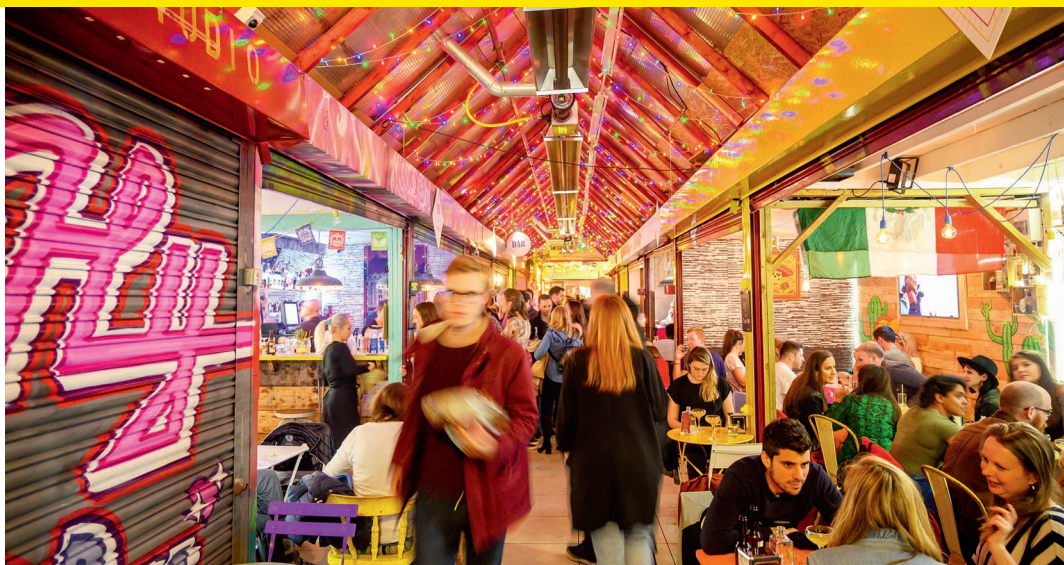
Further towards Shoreditch, you'll find **Boundary Rooftop Bar and Grill** with its menu of brochettes – a fancy word for kebab-like skewers slung on the barbecue. It's worth noting that the glass-roofed orangery offers protection from the elements in unpredictable weather. For more elevated eating – in every sense of the word – head to **Sushisamba** in the City. Based on the thirty-eighth floor of the Heron Tower, its sought-after terrace is now taking bookings. Needless to say, the views are incredible, and the sushi

never fails to impress (the price tag is astonishing too, mind). If you are splashing the cash, you could opt for French fine dining on the open-air terrace at Marylebone's **Orrey**. The long, narrow, lavender-lined space and its protective awnings suit all-weather special occasions. Or get back down to earth (or near enough) at **Buck Street Market**. Camden's all-new container village has a rooftop court where you can grab from street-food residents like Lord of the Wings and Magic Falafel to chow down on high.

For more sky-high fun, head to [timeout.com/rooftops](https://www.timeout.com/rooftops)

A word from our friends

At Time Out, we're always working with our partners to showcase all the great things happening in their worlds. There's a lot going on, from bars and restaurants reopening, to great events and activities taking place across the capital. Here's what they've got to say...



SPITALFIELDS

HOTBOX SAYS:

'Try a unique smokehouse experience at Hotbox. Oak-smoked cuts, vibrant flavours: our menu offers the perfect marriage of traditional barbecue techniques and the melting pot of flavours of London. Check out our bottomless brunch, now available all week long!'
46 Commercial St, E1 6LT.



MARYLEBONE

GRAZING GOAT SAYS:

'Eat Out to Help Out continues at The Grazing Goat this September. Just a short walk from Marble Arch and Oxford Circus, you can enjoy two seasonal and locally sourced courses for just £10 every Monday to Wednesday in September. Booking required!
6 New Quebec St, W1H 7RQ.



EARL'S COURT

THE HALAL GUYS SAYS:

'From humble beginnings as a New York City hotdog cart, The Halal Guys have become a world-renowned restaurant chain delivering US halal food. Experience our famous platters of chicken and gyro over rice at our restaurants in Leicester Square and now Earl's Court.'
163-165 Earls Court Rd, SW5 9RF.



CHINATOWN

OPIUM SAYS:

'Beyond a discreet jade door in Chinatown lies a den of rooms. Expertly made classic and finely crafted cocktails are paired with delicious steamed dim sum. Join us for our fortnightly Cocktail Club, with ever-changing special guests, to experience another side of our wonderful bar.'
The Jade Door, 15-16 Gerrard St, W1D 6JE.



SOHO

BERENJAK SAYS:

'The Soho Kababi is back, with some brand new additions: a new grab-and-go hatch with kabab wraps, new cocktails including the must-try Watermelon Shum-Pine, with Victory Pink Gin, verjus, rose petals and sparkling watermelon, and a late-night bottomless kabab menu.'
27 Romilly St, W1D 5AL.



SHEPHERD'S BUSH

ICHIBA SAYS:

'Japan Centre Ichiba will extend the #EOTH0 discount Mon-Wed in September, offering 50 percent off selected mains and sides, including chicken katsu curry, beef sukiyaki, ramen, buns and gyoza, with a maximum discount of £10 per person. Add a pint of Japanese draft for just £3.90.'
Unit 0220, Westfield White City, W12 7H.



SOHO

AQUA KYOTO SAYS:

'Delight in our deliciously unique Japanese dishes for lunch, dinner or our incredible free-flow weekend brunch. Following the much loved Eat Out to Help Out offer, dine with us Monday to Wednesday throughout September and enjoy £10 off per person.'
Fifth floor, 30 Argyll St, W1B 3BR.



LIVERPOOL ST

ENIGMA QUESTS SAYS:

'Enigma Quests is excited to announce that we have now reopened for bookings! With safety measures in all games, your team will have an incredible time - wearing a mask to infiltrate a safehouse makes you feel like a real cat burglar! Use code VATOFF10 for a 10 percent discount.'
2-12 Wilson St, EC2M 7LS.



PADDINGTON

AYLLU SAYS:

'Ayllu is a Peruvian-Japanese fusion restaurant serving contemporary sharing plates, fresh sushi and innovative cocktails. All September, Ayllu and sister-restaurant Smith's Bar & Grill will be offering Time Out readers 25 percent off food. To redeem, quote "Time Out" when booking. T&Cs apply.'
25 Sheldon Square, W2 6EY.



FARRINGDON

BOURNE & HOLLINGSWORTH SAYS:

'It's Saturday Suppers at Bourne & Hollingsworth Buildings. Feast on a delicious ever-changing menu, enjoy cocktails and catch up with loved ones this September, all to the backdrop of London's most photogenic restaurant. Four courses with a cocktail £50 (book in advance).'
42 Northampton Rd, EC1R 0HU.



WEMBLEY, SHOREDITCH AND CROYDON

BOXPARK SAYS:

'Get 20 percent off food and drink at Boxpark this September! We're extending our "Eat Out to Help Out" scheme with 20 percent off drinks from the bar (including alcoholic beverages*) and meals from over 30 of our street-food traders for customers dining in Mon-Wed.'
Various locations



ST JAMES'S

THE STAFFORD SAYS:

'The Stafford London is the ideal spot for decadent dining. Enjoy modern British comfort cooking at The Game Bird, soak up the last of the summer sun for an alfresco lunch or dinner, or simply relax with friends and family with a classic cocktail or two at The American Bar.'
16-18 St James's Place, SW1A 1NJ.

Love Local

Edited by Kate Lloyd
timeout.com/lovelocal

A taste of clubbing in Brixton

How a bunch of enterprising south London locals got the party (re)started



THE THUMPING SOUND of a Moxie DJ set spills out of Brixton Courtyard on a Saturday night. Inside the coronavirus-conscious open-air club, it *almost* feels like a normal end-of-summer night. I'm sitting at a picnic table, there's sand underfoot and a chorus of excited, tipsy chatter fills the space around me. Nothing says 'making the most of the dregs of BST' like a chilly beach party full of drunks.

The venue was launched by Brixton Jamm in July. The idea was to create a space for people to go out without the anxiety of trying to mentally measure out a metre from people you don't know at the bar. You stay seated on socially distanced benches and only interact with the bubble you arrive with. Drinks and street food – from HausParty and Only Jerkin' – are delivered straight to your pre-booked table via a mobile app. This keeps you safe and also saves you the hassle of having to try and make really intense eye contact with the bartenders until you're finally served.

Simon Denby, co-founder of Percolate, is promoting this new space. Usually he'd be planning sweaty club nights but he's had to get savvy and adapt to the new

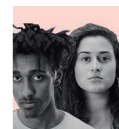
rules around partying in the pandemic. 'We're going to have to find innovative ways to support the nightlife economy,' he explains. 'We could end up with a lot less venues if we don't adapt, and then there are DJs, bar staff, sound-system engineers and cleaners, people who aren't covered by government support at all.'

Denby has used Percolate's reputation for throwing house, disco and techno parties with eclectic line-ups to switch up the way Brixton Jamm approaches music. The plan? Giving on-the-rise artists a chance to play to an audience in a year marred by cancelled shows. This month, revellers can expect a programme featuring Bradley Zero, Saoirse and Denis Sulta playing unique sets designed for chilling out rather than dancing.

Denby hopes the pandemic is a turning point for people to be more mindful about diversifying who they book. As travel restrictions are brought in to reduce the spread of the virus, big headliners won't be sucking up all the opportunities. 'It's been exciting working with local talent,' he says. *Kemi Alemoru*

→ Brixton Courtyard. 261 Brixton Rd.

Brixton



Shiden Tekle and Mel Da Silva Pinto are youth organisers with Brixton-based activism group the Advocacy Academy.

Black Cultural Archives

Shiden 'BCA is one of the most important places to visit in Brixton. This national heritage centre has exhibitions, a library and an archive of African and Caribbean history in Britain. It's a place I can always find positive representations of myself in history and culture.'

→ 1 Windrush Square.



Nour Cash & Carry

Mel 'Nour has been a Brixton institution for decades, supplying our communities with everything from teff to plantain to indomie. Thankfully they stayed open over lockdown! Nour was recently threatened with eviction, but thanks to local activists Save Nour Save Brixton they can continue to supply us with the goods. They have the best service, so skip Sainsbury's and go to Nour.'
 → 23 Market Row.

MAX ROACH PARK

Loughborough Junction

FERNDALE

Brixton Market

Both 'We've grown up shopping in Brixton Market with our parents and we love it with all of our hearts. As Brixton becomes consumed with new, more mainstream shops and overpriced restaurants, it's important to remember how big a part markets have played in Brixton's culture.'
 → Electric Avenue.

Brixton

COLDHARBOUR

Saba's Taste of Ethiopia food stall

Shiden 'Growing up eating injera, seeing more people get excited about Ethiopian and Eritrean food makes me smile. It's vital that we support local businesses to ensure they continue to thrive - and there's nothing better for lunch than a takeaway box from Saba's.'
 → 16 Brixton Station Rd.

BRIXTON

Eat of Eden

Mel 'This vegan hole-in-the-wall restaurant is inspired by Caribbean ital and acts as a community hub. They always cater our campaign meetings! They have the best food in town (get the sharing platter), but get there early if you want a seat.'
 → 4 Brixton Village, Coldharbour Lane.

Windrush Square

Shiden 'My dad would always take me to Windrush Square and tell me about Black British history. It's a place that reminds us of what has come before, and how important it is to honour the legacy of the Windrush Generation who made Brixton what it is.'
 → Windrush Square.

Hootananny

Mel 'I've been going here for years. It's a chill place and perfect to go with friends. They give back to the community and won't empty your pockets! Try the food from the booths inside - £8 jerk chicken wrap and chips? Yes, please!'
 → 95 Effra Rd.
 Open as a pub.

BROCKWELL PARK



The bar that became a shop that's now a bar *and* a shop in Highbury

How Top/Shop Cuvée made park and at-home drinking extremely chic

AT THE START of 2019, Max Venning of cult Dalston cocktail spot Three Sheets and globetrotting hospitality expert Brodie Meah opened Top Cuvée. A fun, youthful wine bar and bistro tucked just off Blackstock Road, it quickly became a neighbourhood staple. But 12 months into its run, its Italian chefs got out their phones and showed Meah how restaurants across their homeland were being shut as a response to the spread of coronavirus. 'As soon as we had ten cases in Britain I knew we'd get to that stage too,' says Meah. 'We were panicking, for sure. Lockdown hadn't been announced here, but we made the decision to close the restaurant because we had the crystal ball that was the two Italian lads in the kitchen.'

After a series of crisis meetings, Top Cuvée realised that if it was to keep the business alive throughout the UK's own impending lockdown, its only

option was to transform the restaurant into something new. The day after its last plate was cleared, it began selling wine and at-home meals, putting the word out via social media. Deciding on an approach that wouldn't just keep it afloat, but help the local drinks industry, it renamed itself Shop Cuvée and reached out to friends at shuttered London bars, asking if they had any wine or beer they needed help shifting.

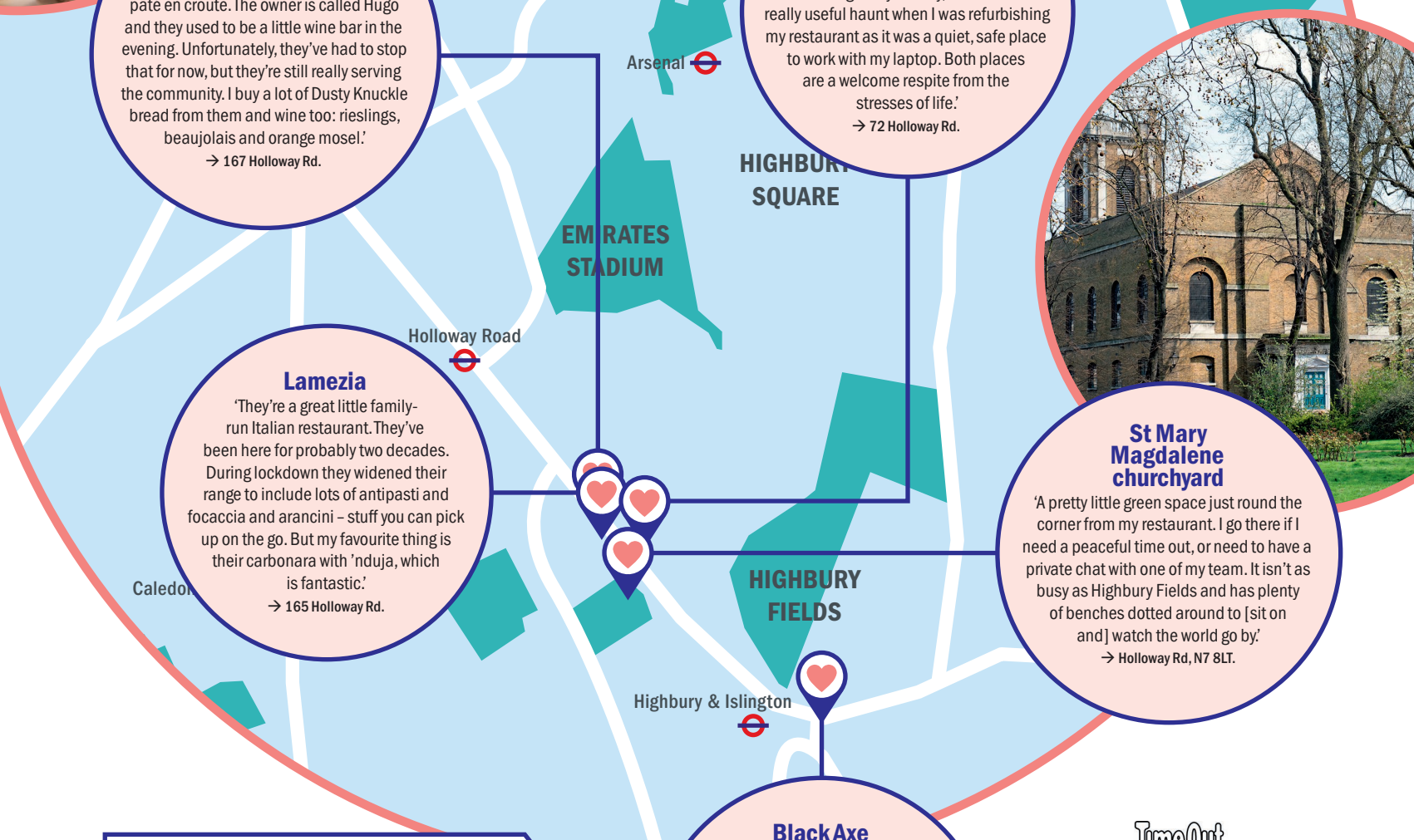
First on board was Old Street's Tayēr + Elementary, which suggested a colab mixed drink in order to work through its spirits stock. 'No one's gonna buy a bottle of Midori,' reasons Meah, 'but they will go for a bespoke cocktail.' Tayēr's swanky Palo Santo Gimlet was the first, and soon Shop Cuvée was working with east London's Scout, Nightjar and Oriole, as well as stocking Mr Lyan's existing range of classy pre-mixes and its own range, supplied by Three Sheets. 'We

called it the "house" series, which is where they were all being consumed,' says Meah. The most popular is the elegant-looking bottle of French 75, but the classic Margarita is hot on its heels. Venning proudly calls Cuvée's online offering 'the best bottled cocktail list in the world' and he might just be right.

Though the restaurant is now up and running again, such is the success of Shop Cuvée that its emergency business plan isn't going anywhere. It's still offering same-day delivery by cycle courier and you can also get drop-offs at Clissold Park and Highbury Fields. 'It's almost too popular!' says Venning of the picnic booze delivery service, with chilled vinho verde guaranteed to arrive within the hour. 'We always fight to do those ones,' laughs Meah, 'because you show up to a group of people just going "Yesss!!!"' *Leonie Cooper*

→ Top Cuvée, 177b Blackstock Rd.





Highbury, Holloway and Finsbury Park



Mandy Yin is the founder and head chef of Sambal Shiok and Nasi Economy Rice on Holloway Road.

Black Axe Mangal
 'I love Lee [Tiernan, head chef and owner] and the whole team there. He is one of the most inventive chefs in London. What they do is completely unique – big powerful, loud, in-your-face flavours from all around the world but made from scratch. My favourite dish there is the mapo tofu with hash browns.'
 → 156 Canonbury Rd.

TimeOut LOVE LOCAL

Time Out's Love Local campaign supports local food, drink and culture businesses in London. Find out how you can help the places that make our city great.
timeout.com/lovelocalondon

Escapes

Edited by Ellie Walker-Arnott
timeout.com/daytrips

Amazing places to book now for autumn

It's not too late to enjoy a break somewhere in the UK, but you'd better get cracking now

YOU CAN CALL it 'sortumn' or (if you really want to abuse the English language) 'autummer' but let's just say it straight: we missed half of the sunny season this year, thanks to lockdown, so our appetite for UK breaks isn't going to be dampened by falling temperatures or rotting leaves. We'll be keeping those holiday vibes going for a good few months yet, and these cottages and cabins – which all still had autumn availability at the time of writing – are the places to do it.

Hole Cottage Kent

If there is a more autumnal hideaway than this I'll eat my bobble hat. Hole Cottage is a medieval relic, with timber beams and lattice windows, that stands alone in a woodland clearing. It's a 15-minute walk to the closest town (and train station) if that palpable history gets too much, and near Hever Castle if you fancy more.

→ Some Nov and Dec availability. Sleeps four.
www.landmarktrust.org.uk

The Bath House Warwickshire

A cold plunge pool might be more appropriate for a heatwave than Halloween, but it's certainly a talking point of this exquisite, tiny, octagonal eighteenth-century folly, located in the basement like you're in your own personal spa. Warm up in the incredibly ornate bedroom, where the walls are decorated with seashells.

→ Good Oct, Nov and Dec availability. Sleeps two.
www.landmarktrust.org.uk

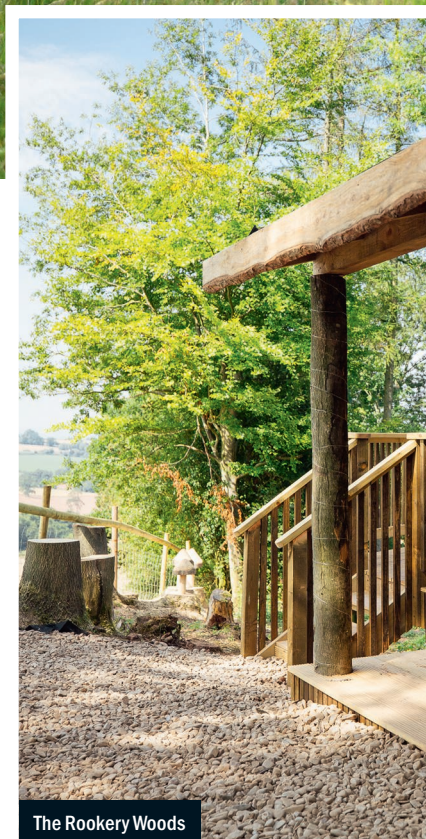
The Rookery Woods Herefordshire

A treehouse with floor-to-ceiling windows in woodland on the edge of the Malvern Hills is the ideal spot to witness the changing of the seasons. There are three at the Rookery Woods, each with carved wooden beds and firepits for chilly evenings. Book the Rook's View treehouse to spend your afternoons soaking in an outdoor tub.

→ Good Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec availability.
Each sleeps two. www.canopyandstars.co.uk



Stay in a cabin that's only accessible by boat



The Rookery Woods

Find hideaways to call home at
[timeout.com/cosycabins](https://www.timeout.com/cosycabins)



The Wilderness Cabins Oban

The Wilderness Cabins Oban Argyll and Bute

If true isolation still appeals to you after several months of lockdown, book one of these architect-designed cabins on the shore of Loch Nell in Scotland. They are only accessible by boat, and once you reach your wild new home you'll have to get to grips with cooking over an open fire or a wood-burning stove. No need to leave – unless you fancy a wild swim or a SUP on the loch – as the owners will deliver provisions to keep you going.

→ Good Oct, Nov and Dec availability.

Each sleeps two. www.kiphideaways.com

Samphire Essex

The beach isn't just a great place to unwind when the sun is shining. Soak up all that salty sea air later in the year for a proper refreshing and resetting break. Samphire is sat right on the water's edge on the Blackwater and Colne estuaries, opposite Essex's Mersea Island. You can wander across the causeway at low tide, explore the waterways by kayak or just sit and watch it all from your light-filled living room.

→ Good Nov and Dec availability. Sleeps four.

www.canopyandstars.co.uk

Libertine Cornwall

Once home to three pigs, this nineteenth-century farm barn is now a plush holiday home, with cosy interiors and big views of the surrounding countryside. There's a hot tub and a log burner for getting toasty after bracing hikes along the Cornish coastline and brave paddles on nearby Perranporth beach. ■

→ Good Nov and Dec availability. Sleeps two.

www.uniquehomestays.com



The Barley Store Devon

Show 2020 you can't be beaten by going off-grid, off-season. The Barley Store comes with zero electricity, wi-fi or phone signal. There is a log burner if you need a little extra warmth, and solar lighting for dark evenings, but this place is all about immersing yourself in the green (or rapidly turning orangey-brown) stuff.

→ Good Oct and Nov availability. Sleeps two.

www.canopyandstars.co.uk

Brecon Beacons Hideaway Carmarthenshire

The owners of this nineteenth-century barn have transformed it into a cosy bolthole, with stained-glass windows and a log burner. Outside there are 70 acres of private

farmland to explore, as well as hiking trails to peaks and waterfalls on your stone doorstep. Two other properties sleep four and two if you want to bring a bunch of pals along.

→ Good Nov and Dec availability. Sleeps two.

www.kiphideaways.com

Little Cottage Rye Sussex

Rye might be the perfect place for a classic English autumn break. It's quaint, olde-worlde and dotted with great, atmospheric pubs. This charming, Grade II-listed cottage is full of vintage treasures and sits right by the historic gate to the town – well positioned for exploring the centre or nearby Camber for a bracing late-season swim.

→ Some Oct, Nov and Dec availability. Sleeps two.

www.kiphideaways.com



By **Ellie Walker-Arnott**
Who has given up her flat
and lives in a cabin now.

Start a new life in the wilderness

Sick of streaming stuff into your living room? Get outdoors instead

WE'RE NOT ABOUT to talk shit about the internet. It kept us going when living our actual lives wasn't an option. We've been able to order groceries from local restaurants and bottled cocktails from shuttered bars. We've watched world-class theatre, taken exercise classes filmed in different cities, toured exhibitions and streamed DJ sets into our lockdown living rooms. We've had virtual parties with pals, developed a deep but fleeting love for Zoom pub quizzes and even watched friends around the world get married on screen. But after weeks and weeks of living my life entirely online, I'm ready to live IRL instead. A few nights totally off-grid is like jumping in at the deep end.

There's escaping to the countryside to stay in a bougie B&B or a treehouse with a dishwasher, and then there's really immersing yourself in the mud,

the weather and the torchlit trips to the compost loo in the middle of the night.

At Swallowtail Hill farm, you're greeted at the entrance and driven by buggy down the hill – away from phone signal and anything else that needs electricity to function – to your hut. I stayed in Wood Cabin, the kind of classic construction you might imagine Little Red Riding Hood's saviour living in. There's a comfy bed, a log burner and an outdoor kitchen. The most high-tech thing in the place is a camping stove, in case you get impatient while trying to scramble eggs over the firepit.

Or maybe the shower, which, despite being semi-alfresco, is gas-heated and gloriously hot.

Down in the paddock, you can't google how long it takes to cook a jacket potato in embers (hours fyi), you just have to sit there until it's steaming. There's no way (or need) to see what everyone else is doing on Stories. You'll wake when the sun rises and there's nothing to do except watch the sheep in the field next door, listen to the trees that surround you and spend real time with whoever you've brought with you to share your cabin.

Perhaps the thought of spending a trip mainly outside, lighting fires, braving downpours and letting the daylight dictate your plans doesn't appeal. Of course, you can trek up the hill and go back to civilisation for a while. The farm is a short drive from Rye, where your phone will quickly blink back to life. But this feels like the time to focus your eyes on something else – will that pot of water start boiling any minute now? – after so long relying on our screens. ■ *Ellie Walker-Arnott*
→ Wood Cabin, Sussex. Sleeps four. From £105 a night. www.canopyandstars.co.uk



THREE OF THE BEST

European campsites



Tartaruga Camping Greece

Sea views are standard at this idyllic site perched on the island of Zakynthos high above the Ionian Sea. You can set up camp under a shady pine or closer to the beach among the olive groves. Look out for the turtles who call the turquoise waters beside the campsite home.

→ www.tartaruga-camping.com



Camping Seiser Alm Italy

You can pitch your tent or park your camper here, in the literal shadow of the Dolomite mountain range, all year round. There's a pool and countless Unesco-protected hiking routes in the warmer months, and you can hit the slopes once the winter snows start falling.

→ www.camping-seiseralm.com



Mala Milna Croatia

Tents sit beneath trees by the water's edge and you'll likely have several nearby beaches all to yourself at this special spot. Hvar island's pretty harbour is a four-hour walk away, but there's a café and tiki bar on site, so no judgement if you don't end up making the trek.

→ www.camping-mala-milna.com

Find ace places to pitch up at
timeout.com/camping

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

Film



THE BIG REVIEW

A GROUP OF schoolmates gather on an east London rooftop. In the distance, the City's ivory towers gleam, but they're barely noticed as the friends laugh, chat, take selfies and throw out an impromptu 'Proud Mary' a cappella as the sun goes down. A life-affirming celebration of female friendship, 'Rocks' asks you to hold this opening image in your mind when one of them is later advised by a teacher to give up her ambitions of becoming a lawyer. 'It's good to have a back-up,' she's told. How do you grow up in a city where half of it feels so far out of reach?

A realist drama with a loose, unaffected touch, director Sarah Gavron's follow-up to 'Suffragette' makes its point, though without the direct social commentary that powered that historical drama. Instead, it rides shotgun with Shola 'Rocks' Omotoso (Bukky Bakray), a British-Nigerian teenager who lives on a Hackney council estate with her struggling mum and dinosaur-obsessed younger

brother (D'angelou Osei Kissiedu). Soon mum is gone, leaving only an apologetic note and a few quid.

A big-sis-and-little-brother journey from fleapit B&Bs to friends' sofas ensues, as Rocks tries to swerve the social services officers loitering outside their flat. It's a deadening, dead-end path and Rocks knows it. She just doesn't know what to do instead.

It's a credit to the storytelling of Gavron and co-screenwriters Theresa Ikoko (a

Hackney-ite herself) and Claire Wilson, that tough as it is, Rocks's journey never feels kitchen-sinky and heavy. It's a credit, too, to these

vibrant first-time actors, cast via a series of open workshops in London schools and youth clubs. Bakray is a natural, sparking beautifully with fellow first-time actor Kosar Ali as Rocks's best mate Sumaya, and seven-year-old Kissiedu is great as her kid brother. In one scene, he will leave your heart on the cinema floor.

WHAT IS IT...

A stunning coming-of-age drama set in Hackney.

WHY GO...

To remind yourself how great it is hanging out with your mates.

→ Director Sarah Gavron (12A) 91 mins.
In cinemas Sep 18.

Friends united

Rocks



Behind the camera, you can sense a filmmaker who knows when to direct and when to let her young stars just be themselves. You often have to stop trying to catch the lines of dialogue and just tune in to the happy hubbub of their frequency. 'Rocks' reverberates with that kind of noisy authenticity. Tampon advice is shared in the school loos, dance moves are busted out, and Instagram and Snapchat are ever-present to capture the moment.

The result is a gritty but giddy human drama that plays like a glorious mix of 'Precious', 'Girlhood' and 'The 400 Blows' – a huge-hearted coming-of-age story that serves as an inadvertent throwback to the easygoing buzz of hanging out with your friends in the city you call home. And London deserves one of those right now. ■



By Phil de Semlyen
Whose school nickname was not half as cool as 'Rocks'.

FIVE THINGS TO SEE Cinemas, drive-ins and pop-ups

IT'S ALL ABOUT open-air moviegoing in aquatic locations right now, with a floating cinema coming to Paddington Basin and a new screen popping up by the river near Battersea Power Station.

1 Floating cinema
With Time Out's Movies on the River in the dry dock this summer, fans of waterborne cinema should head for Regent's Canal this month where Openaire Float-In Cinema's flotilla of GoBoats will be cruising before settling in front of a six-by-three-metre LED screen at Paddington Basin. It's not cheap – a boat for eight costs £250 – but the films are a mix of crowd-pleasers ('The Greatest Showman') and classics ('Jaws'), and snacks are delivered to your craft. Avast!
→ Merchant Square. Various dates until Sep 27.

2 Summer Showtime
From 'Richard III' to 'The Dark Knight', by way of 'Help!', Battersea Power Station has regularly played host to film



Float-In Cinema

crews down the years. Thanks to Archlight Cinema's big screen at the Coaling Jetty, you can soak up that film heritage in front of movies like 'La La Land', 'Paddington 2' and 'Terminator 2: Judgment Day' as the Thames idles by.
→ Battersea Power Station. Until Sep 20.

3 'The King's Man'
If you're looking for cinematic spectacle this month and you've already seen 'Tenet', this origin story is where it's at. It takes the Kingsman espionage agency back to Great War times for a joust with Russia's greatest love machine,

Rasputin (Rhys Ifans). Harris Dickinson takes over from Taron Egerton as the star of the show.
→ In cinemas Sep 16.

4 Sunset Cinema
Acton's drive-in cinema offers a feast of Americana for car-owning Londoners, with burgers, fries and beverages delivered to your car in a socially distanced fashion. The film line-up is solid (look out for 'Queen & Slim' on September 17) and audio is funnelled via your radio. Tickets come in at £50 per car.
→ Twyford Avenue Sports Ground. Until Sep 20.

5 'La Haine' 4K restoration
Twenty-five years old and still scarily relevant, screenwriter-director Mathieu Kassovitz's super-visceral plunge through Paris's racially charged *banlieues* is back in sparkling 4K. Exhilarating, bold, troubling and shot in starkly beautiful black and white, it's a landmark movie that's well worth rediscovering on the big screen. ■
→ In cinemas Sep 11.

ALSO OPENING



REAL
★★★★★
A meet-cute between a together young woman (Pippa Bennett-Warner) and a solicitor (Aki Omoshaybi, who also writes and directs) in a Portsmouth supermarket sets this sincere social drama in train. But all is not what it appears with this pair of Spar-crossed lovers: she hasn't got it together and he's not a lawyer but a man on the run from his past. If there's a roughness around the edges, it's compensated for with an empathetic study of the fronts people adopt to hide old wounds from the world. *Phil de Semlyen*
→ In cinemas Sep 11.



THE PAINTED BIRD
★★★★★
Like the Nazi and Soviet soldiers who pop up from time to time, this artfully shot but relentlessly bleak and spiritually vacant black-and-white adaptation of Jerzy Kosinski's 1965 World War II novel takes absolutely no prisoners. Its 169 minutes are just about as astringent as arthouse cinema gets, as a Jewish boy (Petr Kotlár) trudges across a central European landscape and encounters depravity and violence every step of the way. Fair warning: it features a Julian Sands character so monstrous, it'll ruin 'A Room with a View' for you, too. *PDS*
→ In cinemas Sep 11.



MAX RICHTER'S SLEEP
★★★★★
British composer Max Richter is best known in film circles as the scorer of 'Ad Astra' and 'Waltz with Bashir'. But his magnum opus is 2015's 'Sleep', an eight-and-a-half-hour composition that is designed as a kind of celestial musical sedative. This doc has the same effect. What works aurally doesn't translate in a glossy hybrid of concert film and portrait of an artist at work. The music is woozy and seductive, and there are some nice insights into Richter's creative process, but with no tension to build on, the result is a bit of a snooze. *PDS*
→ In cinemas Sep 11.



WHITE RIOT
★★★★★
This highly entertaining trip through the story of '70s UK activist group Rock Against Racism focuses on the bloody-minded determination of the grassroots campaigners involved, as well as the musicians who joined the fight. Archive footage is used brilliantly to evoke this exciting, confusing time leading up to the climactic 1978 RAR march from Trafalgar Square to the East End. And the doc's central message – that to stop racism you have to be vigilant, committed, brave and unified – is worth hearing again right now. *Chris Waywell*
→ In cinemas Sep 18.



'Ratched'

New to streaming in September

The sofa staples to take you into the autumn

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to re-up on a shadowy, fashion-forward Robert Pattinson post-'Tenet', **'The Devil All the Time'** (Netflix, Sep 16) is where it's at. Directed by Antonio Campos, it's a sweaty Southern gothic with a killer cast that also features Bill Skarsgård, Mia Wasikowska, Riley Keough and the webslinger himself, Tom Holland. Batman versus Spider-man? What's not to love?

Then there's **'Lovecraft Country'** (Sky Atlantic, weekly). The Jordan Peele-produced supernatural drama defies easy categorisation but will please anyone who counts 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' and HBO's 'Watchmen' among their favourites. A stomach-churning, thought-provoking cocktail of Jim Crow-era politics and revolting vampires.

More chills come in the shape of **'Ratched'** (Netflix, Sep 18), an eight-part origin story for the one carer you wouldn't clap for: Nurse Ratched from 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'. Sarah Paulson charts her transformation from idealistic young nurse to malevolent meds pusher.

It's all about Spanish auteur Pedro Almodóvar and French acting legend Isabelle Huppert on Mubi. Both of them have dedicated seasons on the arthouse streaming site. If you're looking to shoot some Hupps, check out her unvarnished performance in Michael Haneke's underrated apocalyptic drama **'Time of the Wolf'** (Sep 9). Almodóvar fans have **'Bad Education'** (available now) and **'Volver'** (Sep 20) to look forward to.

If non-fiction cinema is your thing, check out Open City Documentary Festival (Sep 9-15), which is pushing out its line-up of thought-provoking docs and Q&As online this year.

Fans of parenting comedies like 'Motherland', and 'Catastrophe' might find a new favourite in Katherine Ryan's **'The Duchess'** (Netflix, Sep 11). The comedian stars as a mum surrendering to the chaos of London life in the six-part series.

Funny in a radically different way is season two of **'The Boys'** (Amazon Prime, now). Karl Urban's swearsy ex-CIA operative leads the fight against sleazy superheroes in a show that plays like a mad mash-up of Zack Snyder's 'Watchmen' and Viz's 'Profanisaurus'. Trust us: it's fuckin' great. ■

...and four classics you might have missed



THE TIMELY ONE 'Atlantics'

A mesmerising social drama with a supernatural streak, there's

never a bad time to watch Mati Diop's directorial debut about a young Senegalese woman whose boyfriend heads out to sea by raft, leaving her to pick up the pieces. With newspaper front pages full of migrant stories, this seems like an especially good moment to embrace Diop's perspective on the issue – and savour the most romantic ghost story since, well, 'A Ghost Story'.

→ Available on Netflix.



THE SPOOKY ONE 'The Vast of Night'

It's smalltown America during the Cold War and something garbled

is coming through the radio. Is it the Russkies? Aliens? Worse? This atmospheric mystery keeps you guessing as a pair of teens contend with something scary on their frequency. Devotees of serialised sci-fi like 'The Twilight Zone' and 'The X-Files' will love its paranoid edge. Get in there early with talented director Andrew Patterson: he'll be making Marvel movies soon.

→ Available on Amazon Prime.



THE FOODIE ONE 'Big Night'

Long before he won lockdown with his thirst-trap cocktail workshops

on Instagram, Stanley Tucci was bringing his sure touch to a first directorial effort that made you want him to do more directorial efforts sharpish. Starring the man himself and Tony Shalhoub as bickering brothers setting up an authentic Italian restaurant in glitzy '50s New Jersey, it's so full of improbably tempting food, it's basically 'MasterChef: The Movie'.

→ Available on Netflix.



THE COMING-OF-AGE ONE 'Vitelloni'

A kind of neorealist 'Superbad', Federico Fellini's bittersweet

drama follows five young *vitelloni* ('bullocks') as they kick cans, chase girls and vaguely ponder what they're going to do with their lives. Accompanied by Nino Rota's wistful score, it's a cautionary tale that's wrapped in a fuzzy nostalgia evoking the Italian filmmaker's own youth. If you ever meet Martin Scorsese, he's going to ask if you've seen it. Don't disappoint him.

→ Available on Amazon Prime and BFI Player.

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