

Time Out

LONDON



ADVERTISING

Claus for celebration

Make up for lost time by heading to these fun experiences across London

Despite the short nights and occasional freezing downpour, there's nowhere quite like London when Christmas rolls around. Picture snowy pavements and twinkling light displays, cutesy festive markets and cockle-warming comfort food in cosy haunts. While 2020 may have been a write-off, we've teamed up with Schweppes to help you make sure this year is better than ever. **#MerrySchweppesmas**





Natural History Museum

Sip cocktails with a view at Aviary's igloos

Like the idea of dining above the city in your own private igloo? Snap up a spot at **Aviary**, where you'll be able to enjoy Christmas menus with panoramic views. Decked out in faux fur, foliage and cosy furnishings, it's sure to add a little wow factor to your night out.

→ 22-25 Finsbury Square, EC2A 1DX.

Try dancing on ice at the Natural History Museum

Show off your moves by heading to the **Natural History Museum's** ice rink. Back in South Ken for its final season, the place will be giving you wholesome festive vibes until January 16. Make sure you don't forget to snap pictures under the tree while you're there.

→ Cromwell Rd, SW7 5BD.



Buy gifts at the Southbank Centre's winter market

Honestly, is there anything more Christmassy than a market? We think not. Taking over Queen's Walk until December 24, this free pop-up sells seasonal goods and boasts alpine chalets serving food and booze. Whether you're buying presents or just having a nosey, this is one fun winter experience.

→ Queen's Walk, SE1 7PB.

Dine at a fab restaurant

'Tis the season for stuffing your chops, so you've got to book into one of London's best restaurants. We'd recommend swinging by **House of Hô** in Fitzrovia for delicious pan-Asian cooking, or heading over to Marylebone's **Devonshire Arms** for hearty comfort food or **La Brasserie** for a slap-up Italian feast, all paired with refreshing Schweppes drinks.

→ Various sites.

Belt out carols at the Royal Albert Hall

Taking place at the **Royal Albert Hall** from December 18 to 24, these carol concerts features a healthy blend of trad and modern Christmas tunes. While you may not have the range of Mariah, you can still enjoy the city's ultimate singalong in an unbeatable atmosphere.

→ Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP.



Enjoy Carnaby Street's lights with a message

Carnaby Street is always a knockout around the Christmas period, but this year? They're well worth checking out. Raising awareness for **Choose Love**, a shop which supports refugees all over the world, this dazzling installation is so much more than just a pretty thing to look at.

→ 24 Carnaby St, W1F 9PB.



→ Find more festive inspiration at www.timeout.com/schweppeschristmas



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TimeOut

LONDON

EVERYTHING WE LOVED IN RESTOS, BANTER PUBS AND CLUBS 2021

It's time for us to reveal our Best of the City for this year

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Inside

This issue of Time Out
in no time at all

That was... 2021

The Marble Arch Mound, Salt Bae,
Mr Arse Flare Twat, oh, and some
actually good stuff. Thanks, London!

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Just Cause

We mourn the Tottenham club that
Londoners went wild for and that
saved us during lockdown

PAGE 39



Manteca

We have a nose for an iconic dish
and it's led us to the stuffed pig's
snout at this five-star eatery

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West Side Story

Finally, something westside we
like. Only joking. Phil de Film gives
Spielberg's musical retreat top marks

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Kids' stuff

Hallucinatory grottos, directional
gingerbread, searing lights – junior
London Christmas is here

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Hello, London

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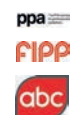
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NOT FOR RESALE



BENJAMIN MCMAHON; NOGUCHI: TIM WHITEBY/GETTY IMAGES

About one year ago, in this very editor's letter, I loudly and annoyingly proclaimed 'This year sucked'. I went on to guarantee that things were about to get 'way, way better'. I was, as usual, wrong. Less than a month later the whole country entered the grimmest lockdown ever. It was like the first lockdown, but instead of videos of Italians singing from their balconies, the Rule of Six and Zoom quizzes, we had freezing rain, darkness and the Covid-related death of Captain Tom.

You'd think I'd have learned my lesson when it comes to making bold, unfounded proclamations. Psyche: I haven't! Things are *definitely* about to get way, way better. Because no matter what happens, the people of London will *have a laugh*, by God. And that'll be the case whether it's in a bustling pub, a theatre lobby or by a park bin with some tins and one mate.

In this issue, we show some love to the businesses, people and places that shone brightest during an intermittently dismal year. Congrats to all the award winners, but congratulations to you too. Because the one proclamation I *am* confident making is that you've earned a restful, beautiful festive period.

THE EDITOR'S ESSENTIALS

Three things I still have to do in London



EAT here

I'm extremely keen to get down to **Rita's** newish, all-grown-up Soho spot. The duck taquitos? Yeah, I'm going to need to try those.



SEE this

Isamu **Noguchi**? Iconic, mid-century design? The Barbican? Five stars from our art critic Eddy? How have I not been yet? Shocking behaviour.



DRINK here

My old mates Ed and Jamie, the Four Legs duo, opened their new pub **The Plimsoll** in Finsbury Park. Looks like a winner to me.

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The Foodies have spoken.
Presenting to you, this festive seasons' must have...

What happens when you give London's top foodies a taste of Christmas? You get an Instagram feed full of the new Christmas treat from Amazon. So next lunchtime, why don't you take a minute and go full foodie with the new Duck & Spiced Orange Pretzel Roll?



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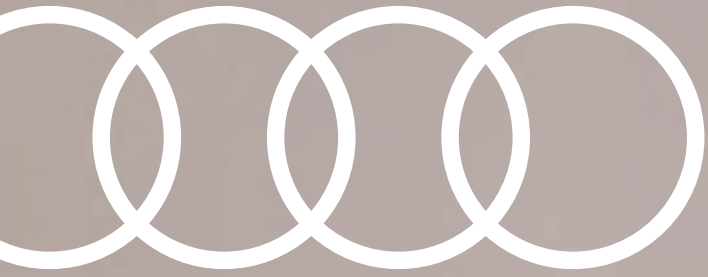
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City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



London life lessons from 2021

This year has been... a lot. But we've learned a lot, too. We ask experts from different industries across the city about the most important things they'll take from 2021. Illustration *Geo Law*

Shamil Thakrar Co-founder, Dishoom

'How willing everyone is to help each other. Everyone says how competitive the restaurant industry is, but throughout the pandemic, every time I reached out for help from a competitor, everyone really went above and beyond. I'm surprised at how open people have been, which has made it much easier. I think that shared experience of navigating the same storm has definitely created a tighter community in the industry.'

Amelie Snyers MD, Village Underground

'We looked at our acts and thought that, diversity-wise, it just wasn't good enough. During the pandemic, we've diversified our programming and made changes so that our line-ups are more representative of London, and of Hackney specifically. It feels like a responsibility as a venue – you want everyone to find something for themselves. We've been proactive in seeking out new artists and we've realised what's possible.'

Shereen Jasmin Phillips Director, Taking Part at the Young Vic

'Working with the community is essential. This year wasn't just about people coming to the theatre, it was about going out to people and bringing world-class theatre to *them*. We went to spaces like Thames Reach to deliver work to homeless people, we went to schools and care homes. We brought music and art to places where there's a lack of accessibility. When you do that, audiences come out in abundance.'

Deano Moncrieffe Co-founder, Hacha Bar

'The drinks industry wants to get better. Since things reopened, there's been a sense of unity. My platform Equal Measures raises awareness around the importance of diversity in hospitality. This year, we launched a mentorship programme. When we reached out to people to be mentors, the response was overwhelming. It's great seeing people understand that our industry should reflect the society it serves.' ■
Interviews by Chiara Wilkinson

HYPE DISH

Sunday in Brooklyn's seriously stacked pancakes

DISSECTION

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

WHEN IS A PANCAKE not a pancake? When it's more like a *cake* cake. That's the deal with the signature dish at Sunday in Brooklyn, the New York restaurant that opened its first London branch in Notting Hill this year. 'On a busy day, almost every table will be

ordering the pancakes,' says head chef Esteve Prats Grau. 'We have a dedicated pancake maker: that's their only job.' Grau talks us through the dish that's become a cult favourite on both sides of the Atlantic. ■ *Chiara Wilkinson*
→ 98 Westbourne Grove. £9-£18.

The taste

'Sometimes pancakes can be a bit bland, but these are very much the opposite. They're like a [flavour] bomb in the mouth. Rich, intense, and sweet - but not too sweet.'

The butter

'We finish the pancakes with a dollop of butter, which we cook until it goes a dark brown colour. It tastes smoky and bitter and adds an extra aroma when it starts to melt.'

The batter

'We use a basic recipe with buttermilk and malt powder. The secret is to mix the ingredients by hand and leave all the lumps in. If you mix too much, they won't be fluffy.'

The syrup

'The pancakes are drizzled with a hazelnut praline syrup. We toast hazelnuts until they're almost burnt and mix in the syrup. It's warm and thick, like a gravy.'

The size

'They're 20 centimetres in diameter and two centimetres thick. One is a decent size for two people to share, otherwise it's like eating a whole cake by yourself.'



LIVERPOOL ROAD N1

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Reggie Yates on the area that changed his understanding of class

IN THE LATE 1980s, I used to walk down Liverpool Road every day to go to school. The Angel end was shiny and lovely, and the Holloway end, where I grew up on an estate, not so much. For Halloween, my mum wouldn't buy me and my sister costumes, so we'd put on black bin bags and go to all the fancy houses to get shitloads of Snickers and Mars bars, rather than the penny chews we'd get from our block.

I soon realised that my life was probably very different to that of some kids in my class. But I also realised that I could literally live next door to the things that I was dreaming about for my family and that it was tangible and achievable.

When I began acting, as a kid, people started to treat me differently when a chauffeur-driven Mercedes was picking me up to go to work. Understanding who you are versus the way people see you was a huge lesson for me. When I drive down Liverpool Road these days, I occasionally zip into the estate and say hello to some of the people I grew up with. Those surroundings didn't define me then and they still don't, but they're a huge part of what made me who I am. ■ *Interview by Chiara Wilkinson*

→ 'Pirates', written and directed by Reggie Yates, is in cinemas now.

PANCAKES: BEN ROWE; REGGIE YATES: NINOSJAV WRANA



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LONDON FIRSTS

Munya Chawawa



We asked the comedian about his landmark moments in this city

First posh meal you had?

'The Ivy in Soho. I was taken there as a treat. I knew it was posh because they didn't even offer the option of tap water. Usually you go into a place and they ask if you want still, sparkling or tap, and give you a little wink. I didn't even get the wink or the suggestion of tap. That's when I knew: Okay, we're in the big league now.'

First friend you made?

'A boxing coach in Clapton. He was super-friendly, from the Caribbean and would always shake your hand and then continue holding it. I met him on the street recently and he was so pleased to see me that he ended up holding my hand for about half an hour. I think everyone around us thought we were having a really romantic moment, when actually we were talking about my right hook.'

First time you fell asleep on the tube?

'It used to be constant. My best sleep happens when I'm in an inconvenient place, so I'm praying I never get invited to a UN meeting. The tube was the perfect environment to fall asleep in when I first moved to London. It's warm and has a gentle rocking motion, like a yacht. The furthest place I've woken up in is Harrow on the Hill.'

First pub where you felt like a local?

'The East Dulwich Tavern. It's cosy, the food's good, the people are nice and I feel like a proper middle-aged man there. I've never had a taste for beer, so my normal order would be some sort of pixie-dust chocolate-sprinkle cocktail thing.' ■

Interview by Chiara Wilkinson

→ Munya Chawawa's new show 'Race Around Britain' is available on YouTube now.



LONDON MAKERS

Tucked away in a Peckham industrial unit, you'll find **Kanpai**: the UK's first sake brewery. Using traditional Japanese methods to make rice wine, it creates special-edition bottles as well as cans of pre-mixed 'session sake'.

→ www.kanpai.london

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'Stop fat-shaming Santa.'

'Fuck it. I like having sex. I don't want to go bowling.'

'I'm the heir to a carpet dynasty.'

'I would not pay £25 to eat pheasant.'

'Gene Kelly is a fucking great dancer. He's better than Fred Astaire.'

'Streatham: where Gucci came to die.'

'The bar was groaning under the weight of gammon.'

'Ball sacks are getting a lot of airtime today.'

'Humans are just inherently disappointing.'

'I'd rather have a Chinese takeaway than a shag.'

'It's true that he's a psycho, but that's what I like about him.'

'I feel like egg-peeling at work is a faux pas.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

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Luma

Four cool museums that opened in 2021

Despite everything, plenty of big new art galleries popped up around the world this year

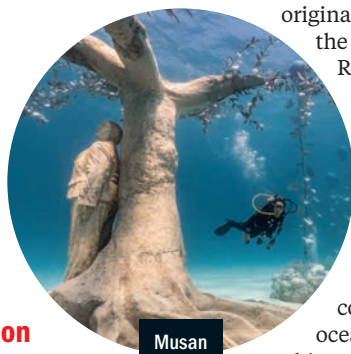
OPENING A HUGE new museum? We can only imagine it's really, really difficult. When people have forgotten how to go out – and many don't want to – it's even harder. But in spite of the global shitshow that spilled over into 2021, some impressive cultural venues did manage to open their doors this year. Here's our pick.

Luma Arles

This Provençal city is now home to a shimmering stainless-steel tower filled with contemporary art. The Frank Gehry-designed Luma opened with an exhibition featuring Olafur Eliasson and Diane Arbus, and there are many more blockbuster shows to come.

Academy Museum of Motion Pictures Los Angeles

Finally, a big ol' museum dedicated to all things Hollywood. Next time you're in LA, you film buffs can see Dorothy's ruby slippers, the only surviving shark model from 'Jaws' and all kinds of other legendary props and costumes. You can also step up to receive a Best Picture Oscar (sadly, you can't take the little man home with you).



Musan

M+ Hong Kong

First conceived more than two decades ago, this monumental waterside museum of contemporary visual culture was intended to showcase Hong Kong's best art. Since then, there have been some pretty, erm, generous donations from mainland China, and many of the original artists involved have accused the museum of 'self-censorship'.

Regardless, it's sure to become one of Hong Kong's main attractions.

Musan: Museum of Underwater Sculpture Ayia Napa

First we got underwater hotels and then came the restaurants. And now it seems galleries could be the latest trend to hit the ocean floor. That's what Musan is: a big collection of sculptures that can

be visited by scuba divers. Peer into the waters around Ayia Napa in Cyprus, and you'll now spot stone children playing with cameras, families watching TV and stout, spiky trees. Best of all, it's hoped the statues will provide a new habitat for marine plants and other wildlife. ■
Sophie Dickinson

CITY

ENVY

Great things that we love in other cities

Turin's eco-mall



Sustainable shopping options in London are, frankly, pretty dire. If you're lucky, you might come across the odd zero-waste store, and the closest you get in most supermarkets is the meat-free aisle. But in Turin there's an entire retail park dedicated to eco-friendly shopping. Run by the guy behind the Eataly empire, **Green Pea** is a mall offering five floors of stores selling only stuff that is in some way good for the planet, from furniture to cosmetics. What that means is all 66 shops specialise in reusable, recyclable and locally sourced products. One day, we hope, all shopping centres will look like this. ■ *Ed Cunningham*

LUMA: ADRIANO DEVEEROT; MUSAN: © MUSAN/COSTAS CONSTANTINOU

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EVERYTHING WE LOVED

RESTOS, BANTER **IN** PUBS AND CLUBS

2021



LET'S BE HONEST, this year didn't exactly get off to a great start. It was cold, it was bleak and everything was closed. But hey, at least we all had loads of time to binge-watch and weep over the truly excellent TV show 'It's a Sin'. And remember when it snowed that time in January? That was nice.

But if we've learned one thing from this year, it's that London is resilient. When the big outdoor hospitality reopening in April cruelly coincided with torrential downpours, we dutifully sat sipping cold pints under dripping wet pub garden umbrellas. And you know what? We were ecstatic about it.

As everything unlocked, Londoners flocked to restaurants, bars, cafés, theatres, cinemas, galleries and museums, reminding ourselves why we love this city. This year saw the sweaty, joyful and euphoric return of festivals and

clubs. It was the year that football properly, nearly, actually came home. It was the year that we all laughed at stupid stuff like The Marble Arch Mound and a man charging thousands of pounds for salty slabs of meat. For a year that started off so terribly, 2021 has not been without joy.

At the time of writing, things feel uncertain again. As we've learned from the last (nearly) two years, the situation can change overnight. But now we know that, no matter how shit everything gets, Londoners still know how to laugh, they still buzz with creativity and new ideas – and there's always a chance that someone *might* even stick a flare up their bum in the name of football.

So here's to celebrating the greatest things that happened this year. This is our rundown of the best bits, from silly news stories to the editor's picks in our Best of the City awards. See you on the other side.
Isabelle Aron



The joyful family-run Thai place in Leytonstone

Food and drink writer *Angela Hui* on how her local restaurant kept her going this year



True story: I moved to Leytonstone just to be nearer to **Singburi**, my favourite restaurant in London. During the pandemic, this tiny family-run Thai restaurant closed its dine-in area and focused on doing takeaways instead. Like so many others, it had to change the way it operated. But chef-patron Sirichai Kularbwong never stopped cooking – and his mum Thelma never stopped picking up the phone to take orders.

What I love about this place is that it has no PR and no website. Its only online presence is an Instagram account to showcase a blackboard menu of daily specials, which keeps things fresh and interesting. Whether I'm trying new dishes or returning to old favourites such as the moo krob (crispy fried pork belly), eating here always feels like an education.

This year, I hit the ripe old age of 30 and was lucky



enough to actually be able to celebrate with 15 of my nearest and dearest. We sat in my narrow garden on a picnic bench, moved the dining table outside and we were still short of chairs. We ordered more than £300 worth of food and ate it off mismatched

crockery on one of the hottest days of the year. It was hectic, glorious, sweaty and the best low-key birthday I could have wished for. I'm counting down the days until I can eat in at the restaurant again.

→ Singburi, 593 High Rd Leytonstone, E11 4PA



This wicked celebrity hotspot



The evolution of chef Asma Khan's restaurant Darjeeling Express is nothing short of incredible. Having started out doing supper clubs at her home, she opened her first restaurant in 2017. At the end of last year (after delays thanks to Covid), she opened a new and bigger Darjeeling Express in Covent Garden. Her loyal following has continued to grow this year, but her fans aren't just Londoners. In 2021, a flurry of Hollywood stars flocked to her restaurant, including Paul Rudd (he's practically a regular), Dan Levy and Riz Ahmed. Which A-lister will turn up in 2022? Only time will tell. *AH*

→ Darjeeling Express, 2a Garrick St, WC2E 9BH.

SINGBURI: ANGELA HUI; SALT BAE: LAURENT KOFFEL; GAMMA RAPHOVA VIA GETTY IMAGES; ASMA KHAN AND RIZ AHMED: @DARJEELINGDN

THE GREATEST RIP-OFF

You kind of have to admire the ballsiness of Nusret Gökçe aka Salt Bae, who opened his first London restaurant this year. He's created a cult-like hype around throwing salt on slabs of meat and now punters are racking up £37k bills after a sodium-studded meal.

→ Nusr-et Steakhouse London, The Park Tower, 101 Knightsbridge, SW1X 7EZ.





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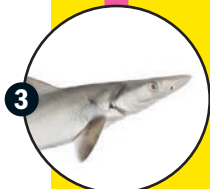
The creatures that ruled the city this year



This huge crab
At 12 inches wide, the large-pincered big boi was found in Teddington's Bushy Park. No-one knows how it got there.



Ravens
This year, the Tower of London ravens ensured their reign would continue with the birth of two new goth-like chicks.



Sharks
Tope, starry smooth hound and spurdog: not a supergroup, but the species of shark in the Thames.



A baby sloth
Born at London Zoo, this little guy was named Terry, after a long-serving zookeeper. He just loves hanging out.



Beavers
Biggest comeback? The beavers that were reintroduced to Tottenham after being extinct there for 400 years.



This cat
We're not saying it is Jess from 'Postman Pat' IRL, but it's black and white and snuck into a postman's van.



The cook who just wouldn't quit

Imad Alarnab was a successful chef in Damascus, forced to flee his war-torn home. This year, he opened his first London eatery

When I arrived in London six years ago, I'd travelled from Damascus in Syria. I had my backpack and looked like a refugee. I'd been judged on my journey. But when I got to King's Cross, no one gave a damn. I could just be myself.

I've been planning this restaurant since March 2017. Everywhere I saw was over-budget. But when I viewed this Carnaby Street venue in June 2020, it gave me hope.

I knew that London was strong and would get back to normal. We tried to open in November last year, but it didn't work because of lockdown. We tried again in January and they extended the lockdown. It was really difficult.

Imad's Syrian Kitchen isn't a restaurant, it's my kitchen and my dining room. When we eventually opened up, it was amazing. Since then, we've been fully booked.

I want guests to get the feeling I got when my mother cooked for me. Our customers become our friends. One came from Edinburgh just for lunch.

Giving back to the community feels good. I raised £500,000 for charity between 2017 and 2020. I was short on equipment for my restaurant, so I launched a crowdfunder. I wasn't surprised we hit our target: I'm lucky. We're paying back now, with £1 on every bill going to charity.

Every day is challenging because of the staff shortage, thanks to the pandemic and Brexit. I owned three restaurants in Damascus and my team made my life easy. I miss them – we're struggling to find the right people to hire.

I love London so much, but what's surprising is that London loves me back. The only reason for our success is giving that love.

If I had to sum up this year in one word, it would be 'hope'. This has been a year of coming back to being a restaurateur, something I've missed since 2012. I can't imagine doing anything else. ■
Interview by Chiara Wilkinson
→ Imad's Syrian Kitchen, Kingly Court, W1.

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BEST
EVENT

The performing arts festival that thrived against the odds

Theatre editor *Andrzej Lukowski* looks at how one of the city's best festivals bounced back



All of London's theatres and festivals have had to battle against terrible odds over the last couple of years. But there's something uniquely inspiring about **Greenwich + Docklands International Festival**. The fact it pulled

an edition out of the hat at all in 2020 is nothing short of remarkable. But this year's achievement felt particularly impressive. Theatres have been reopening since May, but the usually lively international touring circuit has effectively been stopped dead by a mix of Covid uncertainty and Brexit admin woes. But GDIF took a gamble and pulled off a genuinely classic edition that mixed the return of old

favourite events like the Greenwich Fair with exciting European work, like a Belgian take on Dennis Potter's 'Blue Remembered Hills' and Swiss artist Dan Acher's remarkable 'Borealis', a re-creation of the Northern Lights so popular that Mayor of London Sadiq Khan brought it back as part of this month's Winter Lights season. GDIF didn't just survive the last two years – it thrived in them.

→ festival.org/gdif

All the A-listers on the London stage



One sign that theatre is bouncing back is the number of celebs who've graced the stage this year. There was Michael Sheen in the National Theatre's reopening show 'Under Milk Wood', Hollywood superstar Saoirse Ronan in a hot-ticket 'Macbeth' at the Almeida and Eddie Redmayne's first stage outing in ages, in a much-hyped revival of 'Cabaret'. *AL*

The never-ending Cinders saga

The most riveting Andrew Lloyd Webber show since 'Phantom...' wasn't his new musical 'Cinderella' but his torturous battle to get the damn thing open. He declared he'd rather go to jail than open it with social distancing; he rebuffed the PM's dodgy offer of a special distancing exemption for his show; and he pulled the entire thing for a couple of weeks at the height of the pingdemic. *AL*



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Your best days out this year

We ask Londoners about the greatest thing they did in 2021



Paz, 30

'I took my dog Lloyd to the SuperDog Awards gala. It commemorates dogs that have rescued people and assistance dogs. It was so sweet.'



Nathaniel, 23

'I've got into film photography and I've enjoyed finding new things to capture. I love being in central London because there are so many little side streets.'



Pamela, 35

'I'm here on holiday. My first day, I went to a Spanish restaurant and met two people who were also by themselves, so we chatted and had dinner together.'



Ram, 84

'My favourite exhibition was Paula Rego at Tate Britain. Today, I'm seeing Paula Rego's work again at the Victoria Miro gallery. It should be very nice.'



Josh, 30

'Getting tattooed at Nine Tails Tattoo. It's my second tattoo – a sleeve with a tiger and dragon. My first wasn't great, so I've got a bad one and a good one.'



Niamh, 23

'Eating tapas in Soho. It was all pedestrianised and we were sitting in the street drinking wine. Then I saw 'A Ghost Story' with Lily Allen. It was great.'



Liam, 32

'I went to watch West Ham, the mighty Hammers. I went to The Boleyn pub for a few beers, watched the football then had pie and mash and more beers.'



Katherine, 21

'I went to ALT+LDN, a festival in Clapham. I just went for Playboi Carti, but I did see Lil Yachty too. I went with a couple of friends: it was cool.'



This revolutionary response to London's rough-sleeping crisis

In October, an innovative solution arrived in Tottenham to help the city's homeless: 33 'pod homes' that aim to provide a more stable base than the streets, hostels or shelters for rough sleepers, helping them to eventually move on to permanent accommodation. At around 24 square metres, they have a living area, kitchenette, desk, washing machine and a separate bedroom and bathroom. Sure, they might look like grey shipping containers, but inside they're much nicer than lots of the dingy London rentals on Rightmove. And they cost around £5 per week in running costs, which is not bad at all. Here's hoping this is just the start. CW

VOXPOPS, LUISRAMER, POD HOMES, SIMON J HARVEY



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An iconic East End screen

Film editor *Phil de Semlyen* waxes lyrical about the cinema he loves most in the capital



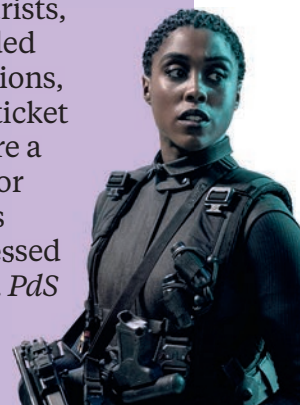
Genesis is the London cinema I'd most like to live across the road from (a prestigious accolade in its own right, obviously). Time Out's award-winning cinema for 2021 has emerged from the hellscape of multiple lockdown closures with a spring in its step. It was the first cinema I visited when cinemas reopened way back in whenever-the-heck-that-was, and just sitting in one of its comfy screens elevated Russell Crowe's road-rage tosh 'Unhinged' into an unforgettable cinema-going experience. That's the powerful halo effect a great cinema can have, and Genesis is definitely one of those. What makes it such an East End treasure? It's partly the luxe modcons at budget prices (it offers £5.50 tickets most weekdays) that make it as easy on the wallet as the eye. This is a seriously sexy cinema,



BEST CINEMA

THE YEAR'S BIGGEST FILM

At what felt like the seventeenth attempt, 'No Time to Die' finally came out this year – and it was worth the wait. Barring a wishy-washy villain and an ending that upset purists, it exceeded expectations, and the ticket sales were a lifeline for the city's hard-pressed cinemas. *PdS*

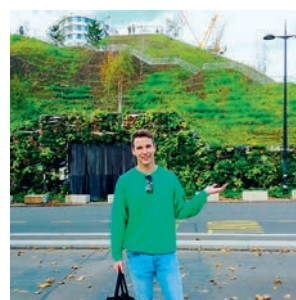
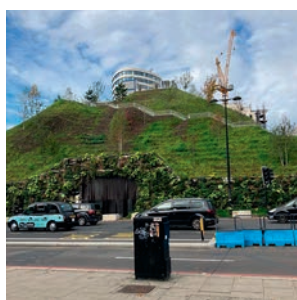
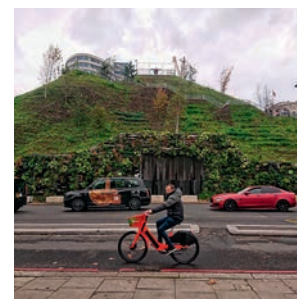


make no mistake – but there's also a baked-in sense that the people here really care: about films, about the filmgoing experience and about you, the person who is interested in trying a homebaked pizza named after one of the Kray

Twins (ask for the Pepper-Ronnie). It's not standing still, either, with new outdoor space The Yard expanding its realm outdoors for when it's eventually sunny again. To be honest, I'd move in if I could. → Genesis Cinema, 93-95 Mile End Rd.

Our most absurd new landmark

No, this isn't one of those online security things where you have to 'select every picture that has a bus in it', these are all Instagram snaps of 2021's unlikeliest – and unluckiest – pop-up. The Marble Arch Mound was announced in February to universal *whaaaaa*? An artificial viewing platform overlooking Hyde Park, its apparent purposelessness was borne out by its subsequent career. It opened before it was finished, shut down, reopened, hosted an infinity room in its scaffolding-supported tummy, led to council resignations and finally went free, after costing £6m. It was this year's Garden Bridge. Except that it actually happened. *Chris Waywell* → Until Jan 9 2022. Free, but book in advance.



GENESIS CINEMA; GENESIS; NO TIME TO DIE; NICOLA DOVE; © 2021 DANJAG, LLC AND MGM; MOUND, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LEFT: @MGRMARTIS, @GRAMP1975, @MISS_T___, @CHUMLETCHEKIN, @JOHNHILDEN, @SHAUN_LITTLEH

Noël



Chelsea Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, London, SW3 6RD Marylebone 55 Marylebone High Street, London, W1U 5HS Selfridges & Co. Lower Ground Floor, 400 Oxford Street, London, W1A 1AB

THE BEST GREEN PROJECTS

Chosen by *Dr Hannah Peck* from eco-charity Cool Earth

Sustainable event: 'We Are History' at Somerset House

'This exhibition looks at the perspective of artists living across the Global South at environmental damage and the climate crisis and its ties with historical colonialism. It brings alive the importance of the discussions that happened in Glasgow at COP26.'

→ 'We Are History'. Somerset House. Until Feb 6 2022. Free.

Green space: Gaia's Garden

'It's a free community garden built to educate Londoners about sustainability. Communities all around London can hold events there. It's part of an initiative to fill repurposed commercial spaces across the city with creative activity.'

→ Gaia's Garden, 64 Holborn Viaduct.

Sustainable venue: Silo London

'Silo shows that food can be environmentally sustainable and delicious. Its concept of high-quality food and minimal food waste will hopefully form the basis for more venues.'

→ Unit 7, Queen's Yard, E9 5EN.



BEST GALLERY

An unpretentious gallery in New Cross (aka the city's coolest place to see art)

Art & Culture editor *Eddy Frankel* on his favourite new gallery (even if it's far away)



There's something very special down in New Cross: **Goldsmith's Centre for Contemporary Art**. This relatively new art gallery has quickly become my

favourite art institution in London. Largely, because it puts on super-adventurous, challenging contemporary art, without any regard for sales or commercialism, but also because it does it with no bullshit. Its shows are intelligible, approachable and unintimidating, all without compromising on concepts. It's given space to artists at the start of their

careers like Issy Wood and Olivia Sterling, done shows by more established names like Mika Rottenberg, and put on brilliant historical exhibitions, like its jawdropping Chicago Imagists show a while back.

I think it's a model for other similar London institutions, like the ICA or the Chisenhale, showing how you can present a huge variety of wild, new ideas without being a dick about it. Its programme is great, its approach is great. The only thing wrong with it is that it takes me ten million hours to get there from north London. ■

→ Goldsmith's Centre for Contemporary Art, St James's, SE14 6AD.

GOLDSMITH'S CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART: SOPHIE BARBER; THE GREATS: SONS A SONGBIRD EVER SING; COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND AUSTON JACQUES; PHOTO MARK BLOWER; SILO: MAT RUSSELL; EMMA RADUCANU: TPV/GETTY IMAGES



The biggest overachiever

What were you doing aged 18? Whatever it was, tennis player Emma Raducanu made us all feel like absolute wasters by comparison when she won the US Open final in September, having just finished her A-levels. Born in Canada but raised in Bromley, she became the first British woman to scoop the trophy in more than 40 years. Afterwards, she became a household name and got invited to the Met Gala. Bit of a different vibe from going to Reading Festival after your exams, eh? *IA*

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The market with the city's top makers

A South London Makers Market founders *Liv* and *Dais* run through their favourite indie creators



2021 LIFE LESSONS

You can't dance sitting down to DJ sets, no matter how hard you try.

There's such a thing as too many walks.

Londoners will sit in the rain to eat a meal they haven't had to cook.

Don't wear your best shoes to the club on the night that clubs reopen.

Drinking a can of lager standing by a bin in the cold is actually fine.

A face mask goes through a smell odyssey the longer it's left unwashed.

Don't work from bed – you'll have to take up yoga to fix your achy breaky back.

The adrenaline of drinking a pint in a pub after not doing it for months will get you shitfaced quite quickly.

The word 'immersive' is getting banded around a lot right now.

Face masks are great for secretly tutting at people on the tube.

Football may never come home.

1. The Marcon Court Project's founder Laura is helping to redefine the perception of secondhand clothes by transforming preloved garments into highly covetable "new" pieces. Her half-and-half blazers and ric-rac-trimmed shirts are iconic. → www.themarconcourtproject.co.uk

2. The intricacy and beauty of **Leo Flowers's** paper blooms blow our minds. Each one is carefully made by hand and, because

they're everlasting, they're a lovely way to commemorate special occasions. → www.leoflowers.co.uk

3. The first time we saw **Son of Pear's** handmade wiggly vases they really stopped us in our tracks. They're original, beautiful and classic all at the same time. → www.etsy.com/uk/shop/ShopSonOfPear

4. With a background in antiques and auction houses, tastemaker Jess from **Foxberry Vintage** has an eye for cherry-picking really exciting vintage homeware. Her highly curated edits are way ahead of the trends. → [Instagram @foxberryvintage](https://www.instagram.com/foxberryvintage)



5. 'Stained glass is a craft that can't be replicated by

machine, so we have so much respect for **Monti** founder Dee's incredible skills. She manipulates coloured glass into the most breathtaking mini-artworks. The way they refract light is just heavenly. → www.montibymonti.com

6. 'Pepper Loves's conversation-starting candles are so joyous. Their witty slogans and hand-painted designs would liven up any mantelpiece or tablescape. → www.pepperloves.co.uk

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The best new event that was more than just a festival

How Body Movements was a joyful celebration of queer culture for Events editor Rosie Hewitson



I've lost track of the number of world-class artists I've had the chance to see over the years at Field Day, Lovebox, All Points East and the rest of London's brilliant festivals. But for all the hours I've spent queuing for the portaloos while trying not to miss my favourite act, I never realised how genuinely important and affirming a festival could be until I went to **Body Movements**.

Debuting in October across 16 canalside venues around Hackney Wick, the massive, joyful celebration of London's LGBTQ+ nightlife was exactly what the city's queer community needed following the events of the previous 18 months, which saw our safe spaces close their doors and our Pride parade cancelled for two summers in a row. Spotlighting dozens of different club nights, collectives and performers, from longstanding and

BEST NEW EVENT



established parties like Pxyssy Palace and Inferno to more niche ones like Harpies, Hungama and Transmissions, and even lockdown-spawned events like Queer House Party, Body Movements felt like Carnival for London's queers. It had all of the best bits of Pride without the internal politics and corporate sponsors.

The death knell was being sounded for our city's LGBTQ+ venues even before the pandemic, but this festival was proof that our queer party scene is more vibrant, inventive and resilient than ever. It showed the cultural contributions that London's queer community makes to this city. Roll on next year. → www.bodymovements.co.uk

DJs' BEST MOMENTS BACK IN THE CLUB

Five record-spinners on the songs that sent the crowds wild



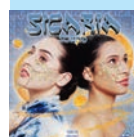
Bradley Zero
"Toca's Miracle" by **Fragma**. I played that at Gala festival because it felt a bit

miraculous that everyone was back together and that the event actually happened in such a smooth way. It just kind of went off with 3,000 people singing along: "I need a miracle". That was a nice moment.'



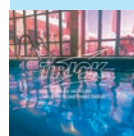
James Hillard, Horse Meat Disco

'A **Michael Gray** remix of **Donna Summer's "MacArthur Park"**. The remix takes the psychedelic nature of the original track and builds on it. It has everything that everyone wants these days: good drops, builds and amazing vocals.'



Sancha Gaere and Lou Amini, Sicaria Sound

'We played **3WA's "Balinha"** that first night back and we've rinsed it ever since. It's the perfect mash-up of heavy bass, repeated vocal sample and an afro-drum pattern. It makes you shake your hips and screw up your face.'



Jodie Harsh
"Tell Me Something Good" by **Ewan McVicar**.

It came out just as we were emerging from lockdown. He was a pretty unknown DJ and the track had 10,000 streams or something. I started playing it everywhere. I thought it was such a clever record, and it would really unite people.'

The greatest unverified rumour (which we really hope is true)

Sure, ancient-grain sourdough is great and all, but you know what's really great? Greggs. And you know what's even better? **MegaGreggs**. That's why Londoners went into a frenzy at the news that the high street icon is possibly, maybe (definitely?) opening a big branch in Leicester Square. It submitted plans to Westminster City Council this year and could open in February 2022, which would coincide with the moment you give up the whole 'new year, new you' thing and return to your sausage-roll-guzzling ways. *IA*



Read the full list of award-winners at timeout.com/london

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BEST
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VENUE

Cause and effect

Since it opened in 2018, Tottenham nightclub The Cause has welcomed thousands of Londoners. As it gears up to host its final party, *Chiara Wilkinson* looks back at its brief but heart-warming history

'IT'S INTIMATE AND grimy, but in all the right ways,' says Michelle Manetti, Adonis resident DJ and regular party-goer at The Cause. 'It's raw, cool, unadulterated... It's hard to put into words.'

The Cause is a gritty music venue in north London, just a three-minute walk from Tottenham Hale tube station. Although it started as a 400-capacity nightclub in 2018, it swiftly grew into a sprawling labyrinth of rooms, dancefloors and outdoor courtyards. And when pandemic measures prevented indoor venues from opening for the best part of a year, it was a saving grace – for the first time in months,

London's dance music and queer communities had somewhere to go.

Now, a new residential development is prompting the founders to shut The Cause's doors for good. But the closure is far from a defeat: it's a triumphant win, a final blow-out for the thousands of revellers who have danced, sweated, cried and laughed under the venue's roof. As the countdown to The Cause's last party begins, we look back at its rollercoaster of a history.

Humble beginnings

It was late 2017: a bleak time for clubbers in the capital. Venues were shutting down and the news was

awash with stories about the 'death of London's nightlife'. The Cause co-founders Stuart Glen and Eugene Wild had each been running under-the-radar parties in warehouses and on boats, before stumbling across the Ashley Road site in late 2017. At that point, The Cause was an empty car-repair garage: a big tin shed screaming to be filled with a rumbling sound system. Glen and Wild got the keys in January 2018. Then it was time to get into gear.

It was a massive gamble. At that point, Tottenham wasn't exactly known for its club scene. Glen and Wild didn't have stacks of cash for fancy production and they didn't



The Cause

have a licence. 'Our idea was to build studios upstairs to facilitate running a club without much money,' says Wild. 'We reused materials we found in the building, which contributed to the DIY aesthetic.'

Bits of scrap metal became the fascia of the bar. Eucalyptus floorboards found on Facebook marketplace became the walls of the toilets and junk was used to create the now-iconic caged DJ booth. Friends from the DIY party scene built the custom Core sound system. They called in favours and did a fundraiser for the rest, raising five grand out of their target of £25k.

Somehow, it came together. 'The idea was to create a space to support underground culture,' says Glen. 'We did it. Despite opposition from the police and council for a 5am licence, we managed to get one. By that point, it was all systems go.'

Getting the party started

The Cause opened on April 25 2018, with electro-heavy selector Adam Shelton and genre-hopping DJ Voigtmann on the decks. 'It was a small, niche thing,' says Glen. 'But people liked the vibe.' Within five weeks, it had transformed from a single-room club to having five sound systems. They added speakers to the front and back yards, created a second room (now the Garage) and rented out a barber's shop to create another dancefloor.

Soon, it gave birth to Adonis, an iconic monthly queer party now known all over the world. The club has hosted Keep Hush, a collective showcasing jungle, D'n'B and breaks DJs. Cult names like house pioneer Derrick Carter have played, as well as The Blessed Madonna, Four Tet and Daniel Avery. And it's not just electronic stuff – in the last few months, The Cause has hosted an Abba vs Fleetwood Mac party, Boiler Room festival's jazz programme and a reggae night.

An important part of The Cause's identity is its mission to raise money for charity. When they first opened the doors, Glen and Wild set a target of raising £25,000 – initially partnering with mental health charities, like Mind in Haringey and CALM. Since then, they've raised more than £150,000, with huge dance music names like



Costa del Tottenham, The Cause's summer alter-ego

Bicep and Shanti Celeste chipping in to play free shows. 'Jamie XX has been an absolute legend,' says Glen. 'His agent rang up and said "Jamie wants to do a fundraiser because he likes the club." He's done three or four shows with us for charity.'

When The Cause threw its first birthday party in May 2019, it didn't reveal the line-up. It still sold out.

'It was a turning point,' says Glen.

'We realised people were coming for the club.'

Navigating lockdown

Then the pandemic happened. Jobs were lost, clubs were boarded up. People had to come to terms with the fact that they wouldn't see a dancefloor for a long time. Some venues shut down for good, and The Cause was struggling.

'We were suddenly paying about four times as much rent, because we'd doubled in size just before lockdown,' says Glen. 'We were close to closing.'

'It was the saving grace of lockdown'

Unsure of their fate, they negotiated with their landlord and launched another crowdfunder to stay afloat – raising around £45,000. Then, in July 2020, it was announced that outdoor venues could reopen.

It was a big moment. One that people had longed for. Going out was *back* (if a little different). 'We decided to go for it,' says Wild. They bought loads of German beer tables and created Costa del Tottenham: an alfresco space for socially distanced events, where Londoners could come to eat, drink and listen to music. The demand was immense.

They took on another space round the corner at the Cannon Factory, where Adonis launched a run of rowdy open-air drag and cabaret shows called Touché. 'Being in a space among other queer people and watching something queer, in a time that felt very repressed, was so important,' says Manetti. 'We'd been locked up for so long. It was the saving grace of lockdown.' Similarly, drag star Bimini Bon Boulash told Time Out that performing at

Touché saved them. 'It gave a lot of queer people jobs,' they said. 'It's really special.'

When restrictions were pretty much fully lifted in England come July 2021,





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Three more clubs with a DIY-feel

Venue MOT Unit 18

Housed in a former test centre, this warehouse venue has a stomper of a sound system, a late licence and exciting bookings. It's a serious FU to commercial clubbing.

→ Orion Business Centre, Surrey Canal Rd, SE14.

Studio 9294

With spray-painted murals, junk and bicycles hanging from the ceiling, this Hackney Wick canal-side hotspot hosts live music and club events all year round. And there's a *huge* disco ball.

→ 92 Wallis Rd, E9.

Fold

This place is basically a box with a sound system and LEDs, but once you visit Fold you realise that you really don't need anything more than that. It has a vibe that radiates the raw energy of grassroots clubbing.

→ Gillian House, Stephenson St, E16.



More than 220,000 people have partied at The Cause

The Cause's parties had come back bigger, better and longer. Events now last up to 20 hours – starting at 10am and finishing at 6am – with all rooms at full pelt, stacked with different DJs, crowds and hosts.

But with a return to drug-taking and partying, the risks associated also returned. Shortly after The Cause reopened as a club in July, a 21-year-old man called Bill died after taking drugs there. The venue was plastered over the news and management agreed with the police to shut its doors for a while. 'I was distraught knowing that someone's life had been lost,' says Glen. 'Unfortunately, people do take drugs. If you can get them into prison then you can get them past security in a club. It was just tragic.'

The neighbours are moving in

In November, The Cause announced on Instagram that it would throw its last-ever party on New Year's Day. The comments filled up with broken heart emojis and comments like 'I'm not fucking leaving' and 'I'm not crying, you're crying.'

The road had become one big development site, with new flats next door ready for residents to

move in. 'We knew it was going to happen,' says Wild. Instead of becoming a neighbourhood nuisance, it was time to bow out. 'Hopefully we'll encourage developers with empty buildings to give their spaces up for interesting projects,' says Glen.

The knock-on effect will be felt by the entire clubbing ecosystem. Around 60 to 70 artists play each weekend, with 30 security, bar staff, management and everyone in between.

What The Cause has achieved in its short, and Covid-interrupted, life, is phenomenal. 'It would never have been a sensible choice,' Glen admits. 'When I told people I was opening a club, everyone thought I was mad. Everything was stacked against it. The Cause wouldn't have happened without so many people pouring their heart and soul into it.'

As for the future? Glen and Wild hope to have a proper new venue

open by next summer, probably with pop-up events in between. They have the Ashley Road site in Tottenham until March 2022, so they might flip it into a food-and-drink operation or hire it out.

The last party at The Cause as we know it is a double whammy, with a night-and-day blowout called 'Goodbye



Sweetheart' on New Year's Eve, followed by Adonis's final party at the venue on New Year's Day. 'We'd prefer to end on a high, rather than piss everyone off [in the new flats],' says Glen. 'We're trying to work out how long the

New Year's celebrations will go on for, before we get into trouble.' Needless to say, there's going to be a *lot* of emotion on the dancefloor. ■

→ The Cause, Ashley House Depot, N17 9LZ. Find more info on the closing parties on p72.

Find more party places at [timeout.com/clubs](https://www.timeout.com/clubs)



Edited by Kate Lloyd
timeout.com/lovelocal

Love Local

The artist collective preserving a pub for the people

Rising Sun Collective is fighting to become a co-op and save its home

NESTLED BETWEEN PECKHAM and New Cross, Rising Sun Collective (named after the former pub it calls home) is an LGBTQ+-friendly music and arts creative house. With studios, event spaces and affordable housing, it's played host to gigs from AJ Tracey and Jamie XX. But recently all of that was suddenly put at risk.

The group had been living in the building on a rolling contract since 2015. 'When we first moved in they [the landlord] only wanted to give us a six-month tenancy,' says Scott Bowley, a recording artist and co-founder of the collective. Fear of eviction loomed over their heads. 'Every year that

went by, more of a community built up around the place and there was more at stake.'

When, during the pandemic, the eviction notice finally came, the group decided to fight back. Their idea? To raise the £1.1 million needed to buy the building. With the help of advisors, they built a plan to turn the space into a co-op using donations and loan stocks (a type of simple loan that any individual can give to the co-op for a certain amount of time).

If they're successful, it'll mean they can keep the building – and a slice of culture alive in south London. Tenants will still pay rent but it will go

to support the collective rather than to a private landlord. The group still have to find £68,000 before they can buy the space, says member and burlesque performer Chloe Curry. When they do, the win will go far beyond the collective.

They plan to invest in other co-ops, helping them to put down deposits and show that, for low-earning London artists, there's an alternative to being tied to the whims of landlords. Curry is hopeful: 'If this were to spread across London, and there were to be more examples that start up, that's such a positive thing.' *Niellah Arboine*
→ risingsun.space

RIISING SUN COLLECTIVE: DANIEL HAMBURY/EVINE

Do more of what you love. Tube it. Bus it. Train it.

Daphnie's Taste of the Caribbean

'The first time I ate at Daphnie's, I was met with such a friendly and warm atmosphere. This is your go-to for generous portions of authentic and bloody gorgeous Caribbean food. Escovitch fish and patties are my personal favourites.'
 → 173 Peckham High St, SE15 5SL.

The Prince of Peckham

'Not your average pub by any means. The Prince of Peckham is a versatile spot for a quiet drink or a lively fun night out, with amazing food, great tunes, board games and events. It's my local.'
 → 1 Clayton Rd, SE15 5JA.

Peckham Levels

'A vibrant and cool place to hang, and home to a variety of local businesses. There are plenty of things to eat, drink and see. Peckham Levels hosts some really cool events, from live music jams and exhibitions to pop-up cinema screenings.'
 → 95a Rye Lane, SE15 4ST.

Forza Wine

'A rooftop bar offering a great selection of wines and small plates. They have even been so generous as to grant me access to the aux cord, allowing me to blast out Mariah Carey's entire discography while taking in the captivating view of the city's skyline.'
 → 133a Rye Lane, SE15 4BQ.

Peckhamplex

'An independent and affordable cinema located right in the heart of Peckham. Peckhamplex is a charming and integral part of the local community. Definitely worth supporting if you're a movie lover.'
 → 95a Rye Lane, SE15 4ST.

Two Hundred Rye Lane

'This is a very cute and cosy spot for cocktails and brunch. It's the best place to start a slow Sunday. The huevos rotos and mushrooms on sourdough are to die for.'
 → 200 Rye Lane, SE15 4NF.

Telegraph Hill Park

'This park really got me through lockdown. I took daily walks here after work, arriving at the top of the hill in time to take in the breathtaking views of the city as the sun set each evening. There is also a cute farmers' market on Saturdays.'
 → 75 Kitto Rd, SE14 5TN.

Peckham



Picked by *Veda Black*, a Peckham singer-songwriter and producer whose debut EP 'Sad Girls Club' is out now.





Cyberdog

'Everything in there is just so futuristic. It's got really incredible things you only see in movies, and some amazing displays.'
 → Stables Market, Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AH.

Sai Sai

'Sai Sai sells punk- and goth-style clothes. I always see things here I've never seen before anywhere else. It's a really special place for goths, punks and underground cultures. I have a belt and a corset from here that I adore.'
 → 26 Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AH.

Camden Guitars

'This is important: when people go to Camden Town they always ask me where they can get their guitar fixed or buy an instrument. This is the one. I have a T-shirt, a guitar, a lot of things from here from whenever I walk past.'
 → 23 Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AG.

CASTLE HAVEN COMMUNITY PARK

The Hawley Arms

'This is the pub Amy Winehouse played in. I like it because you don't just see pictures of Amy here, you see old photos of the Sex Pistols, The Clash, The Rolling Stones, plus all their autographs. You feel like time's stopped. The architecture inside is also really amazing.'
 → 2 Castlehaven Rd, NW1 8QU.

CAMDEN MARKET

REGENTS CANAL

Camden Road

Camden Town

Camden Market

'They have everything in Camden Market. You can find vinyl records, see shows at Shaka Zulu, take pictures with the statue of Amy Winehouse, eat so many different types of food. I love sweet food and there's a lot of it there.'
 → Camden Lock Place, NW1 8AF.

Inverness Street Market

'I like this street next to the station because you can eat different things - Mexican, Portuguese, Brazilian, Spanish - not just the classic fish and chips. I really like the restaurant Made in Brasil.'
 → Inverness St, NW1 7HB.

Boys Don't Cry Tattoo and Piercing

'This was the first place I got work when I came to Camden Town. I was designing tattoos for the shop. Everybody is friendly. I love it because you can be yourself there - talk freely, and get a tattoo.'
 → 269 Camden High St, NW1 7BX.

Camden



Camden resident and punk *Anderson Garcia Rodrigues* gives us his guide to London's indie neighbourhood



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The community kitchen feeding Europe's hungry

From Calais's refugee camps to London's homeless



'IT WASN'T REALLY a case of why, but of why not,' says Janie Mac about starting Refugee Community Kitchen (RCK), a charity providing hot meals to people in need in France and the UK.

RCK was founded in 2015 in response to the refugee crisis in northern France, after Mac and travelled over to the Calais Jungle, the refugee and migrant camp that housed thousands and was dismantled five years ago. The group set up a kitchen near the camp, and made meals from donations of surplus food. But it wasn't long before they realised a lot of this food didn't have a long enough lifespan to make it to Calais and, motivated by the rising number of homeless

people in London, set up outreach services to feed people here too.

RCK's Camden outreach is its longest-standing project in the UK. It gets most of its food from the Felix Project, a charity that saves surplus food from going to waste, and serves hot meals throughout the borough of Camden. 'Chefs come in and provide a delicious meal for those in need,' says Mac. RCK also has services in Brixton, east London and Edinburgh.

The group's kitchens closed during the first lockdown but reopened afterwards and have continued to operate throughout the pandemic. 'The service provided on the street is much bigger than just a meal,' says Mac. 'People are lonely.

They come because it's a safe space.'

The organisation continues to provide 1,500 meals a day to refugees. A rotating group of volunteers serves food wherever people are congregating, providing meals to migrants and refugees in Germany and northern France.

RCK raises money for its work through donations, its shop and very popular recipe calendars. This year's calendar features dishes from RCK resident cooks as well as Andi Oliver and Giorgio Locatelli. Mac's favourite recipe is Afghan eggs, cooked in a spicy tomato sauce. 'People sit around and eat it together and commune,' she says. 'It's a lovely dish.' ■ *Nicole Garcia Merida*
→ www.refugeecommunitykitchen.org

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MAYOR OF LONDON



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Mathura

What is it? Three courses and a glass of prosecco at Mathura by Atul Kochhar.

Why go? You know the name. He's won two Michelin stars for his take on Indian cooking. He's been on every food show ever. He's got a bunch of posh restaurants. Why would you not?

Wait, how much? Turns out you don't need to sell your soul for dinner in Westminster. This is a mere £29.

→ 4 Greycoat Place. www.timeout.com/mathura



'Pride and Prejudice' (*sort of)

What is it? A feminist twist on Jane Austen's much-loved and much-adapted classic novel.

Why go? This all-female show ditches pageantry and waiting around for a man in favour of karaoke parties, quotable one-liners and all-out anarchy.

Wait, how much? Join the fun with 50 percent off! Prices start at just £19.50.

→ Criterion Theatre. www.timeout.com/pandp

Teeth Whitening at Boutique Spa

What is it? The chance to have your teeth whitened at a Fitzrovia spa.

Why go? Are your teeth more grey than glistening? Boutique Spa will fix that. After your appointment, people will need sunnies when you smile. There's an optional take-home kit thrown in too.

Wait, how much? Glow up for £99 and you'll save a *huuuge* £500.

→ 19 Newman St. www.timeout.com/boutiqueteeth

Goldfish

What is it? Bottomless dim sum and a glass of bubbly.

Why go? This isn't your average avo and 'secs brunch deal. Oh no. Goldfish, a ten-year-old Hampstead mainstay, will put your gut to the test with all-you-can-eat dumplings.

Wait, how much? Normally this place would charge you £45 a head, but we've managed to get that down to a tasty £24.90.

→ 16 Hampstead High St. www.timeout.com/goldfish21

Christmas Baroque by Candlelight

What is it? A festive concert in Southwark Cathedral.

Why go? It doesn't matter if you don't know your Bach from your Boccherini, this is a unique introduction to classical music. There's even a Crimbo twist.

Wait, how much? You'll be filled with Yuletide cheer after nabbing a ticket for just £19.

→ Southwark Cathedral. www.timeout.com/xmasbaroque

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

Things to Do

Edited by Rosie Hewitson
timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon



Dennis Severs' House

Christmases past

E Silent Night

Dennis Severs' House is a Grade II-listed Spitalfields property that has been painstakingly reconstructed to depict the home life of a fictional family in the 1700s. Experience Christmas as it would have been for them as you wander around by candlelight in silence, observing crackling fires, ticking clocks and the smell of oranges wafting through the air.

→ Dennis Severs' House. Until Jan 9 2022. £20.

C The Housemaid's Christmas Tour

Charles Dickens's housekeeper is a busy lady, but she also loves gossip, so expect to hear a few enticing

morsels about the author's private affairs on this festive tour of his home, as well as details of how the family are celebrating Christmas in 1838 and fascinating gobbets about Victorian life. No humbugs allowed.

→ Charles Dickens Museum. Dec 21. £18.

E Christmas Past

Learn how Christmas and other winter festivals have been celebrated in the home over the past 400 years, as the Museum of the Home's 'Rooms Through Time' exhibit gets a festive makeover. Ever wondered about the origin of Christmas trees? Or why December 26 is known as 'Boxing Day'? Here's your chance to find out.

→ Museum of the Home. Until Jan 9 2022. Free.

Festive films

The Luna Winter Cinema

This pop-up cinema is scattering stardust over two historic London buildings for screenings of 'The Holiday', 'It's a Wonderful Life' and other festive faves.

Book a comfy sofa, grab a mulled wine from the bar and settle in at Kensington Palace's picturesque Orangery or the Victorian town hall that houses Battersea Arts Centre, both of which have been spruced up with giant Christmas trees and twinkling lights for the occasion.

→ Kensington Palace. Dec 12-23. From £17.50.
Battersea Arts Centre. Dec 14-23. From £15.50.



Backyard Cinema

C Christmas Pyjama Party

Quirky Leicester Square kino the Prince Charles loves a good movie marathon, so it's no surprise that it's hosting two festive all-nighters again this December. On the bill? 'The Muppet Christmas Carol', 'Home Alone', 'Elf', 'Gremlins' and certified Christmas film 'Die Hard'.

→ Prince Charles Cinema. Dec 11, 18. £22.50.

E Backyard Cinema's Christmas Movie Spectacular

The Troxy's gorgeous art deco picturehouse is being transformed into a 'Christmas movie palace' by Backyard Cinema this December. Choose from family-friendly hits 'Love Actually', 'Elf' and 'Home Alone', which will be screened alongside performances from a live choir and storytelling by wordsmith George The Poet.

→ Troxy. Until Dec 24. From £15.

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15



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Christmassy cocktails

C **Miracle**

Returning to the Henrietta Hotel for another year of 1970s-inspired festivities, this gloriously kitsch Christmas pop-up is replete with retro decor, colourful fairy lights and a cracker of a cocktail menu. Pay a visit to try concoctions like the spiced cranberry, rosemary and absinthe-mist Christmapolitan, the bourbon, dry vermouth and mulled wine reduction Jolly Koala and the Bad Santa spiced-rum hot toddy, all served in novelty glasses so tacky they've come full circle and are actually now very cool.

→ Henrietta Hotel. Until Dec 23. Free entry.

C **Winter Forest**

Swanky Soho cocktail bar 100 Wardour St has collaborated with Belvedere vodka on its latest seasonal pop-up. Nestle among the snow-topped trees and twinkling lights and sip festive specials like the pear and ginger vodka, apple juice and absinthe Pining for You and the blackberry and lemongrass vodka, Chambord, Strega and lime juice Sleigh the Day. You're guaranteed to be feeling pretty merry after those.

→ 100 Wardour St. Until Dec 31. Free entry.



Tobacco Dock igloos

Carol concerts

C **Christmas at St Paul's**

Get yourself feeling ridiculously festive with an evening of carols inside Sir Christopher Wren's architectural masterpiece of a cathedral. The legendary London landmark has a jam-packed programme of carol services across advent and the Christmas period, most of which are free and unticketed. These include a night of organ-led glory from French composer Olivier Messiaen, a family-friendly nativity ceremony and a delightfully traditional service on Christmas Eve.

→ St Paul's Cathedral. Until Dec 28. Prices vary.

C **Carols at the Royal Albert Hall**

In our view, you can't truly claim to have 'done' Christmas in London until you've experienced the full majesty and power of hearing 5,000 Londoners belting out 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful' at the Royal Albert Hall. Head to this barnstormer of a carol service for traditional numbers, classical ballet scores, jazzed-up arrangements and an unbeatable festive atmosphere.

→ Royal Albert Hall. Dec 18-24. From £20.

C **Raymond Gubbay Christmas Festival**

Curated by classical music impresario Raymond Gubbay, this series of festive concerts includes Carols by Candlelight performed in period costume, a rendition of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and an epic quest taking in the Death Star, Gotham City, Hogwarts and the Temple of Doom via the film scores of Hans Zimmer and John Williams. You can't get much more Christmassy than the 'Harry Potter' theme music.

→ Barbican. Dec 18-Jan 1 2022. Prices vary.

Igloo antics

C **Jimmy's Winter Snow Globes**

Winter igloo pop-ups are all the rage these days, especially after last year's pared-back festivities, when they proved a handy method of enforcing social distancing between groups. Pop-up king Jimmy Garcia's Thameside pods were some of the first to appear in the city and have become a staple of London's Christmas calendar. Book for an indulgent alpine feast featuring steak, fondue and daily specials, with boozy hot chocolate for afters. Drool.

→ Southbank Centre. Until Jan 3 2022.

Minimum spend £600 including £250 deposit.

W **Skylight Igloos**

Skylight has planned more igloo-themed fun than ever this winter, with loads of the transparent geodesic domes installed at both

its original Tobacco Dock rooftop bar and its new Peckham outpost. At the east London site you'll find canalside domes and a sprawling rooftop igloo village overlooking the city skyline featuring 'Europe's only real ice rooftop skating rink'. Or pay a visit to the recently opened south London location to be one of the first to experience its igloo terrace.

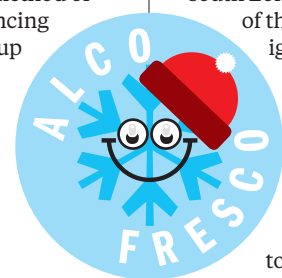
→ Skylight Tobacco Dock. Until Feb 2022. From £60. Skylight Peckham. Until Feb 2022. £90.

W **Winterland Igloos**

From October to March, Fulham's Neverland Beach Club

venue is transformed into a cosy Alpine wonderland, where you can snuggle up under faux-fur blankets inside one of six igloos nestled among an urban forest. Had your fill of igloos for this winter? You can also sip fizz in a 'ski lift bubble' or chill with a warming mulled wine in a Bavarian tent, winter chalet or 'moose cabin'.

→ Neverland. Until Mar 2022. From £99.



St Paul's

Advertisement feature

NYE is back, baby!

London is back on top form with a whole year's worth of unmissable events – all of which you can find on Skiddle

The biggest night of the year is back with a bang. In 2020, you spent New Year's Eve popping bottles over Zoom, dancing around your living room and missing out on midnight kisses from all your mates. But now? London is ready to party. These massive events will, fingers crossed, have you heading out in full glam, rocking fancy dress or donning neon garms to rave the night away. Count down to 2022 in epic,

unforgettable fashion as we show you the best ten events you can book through the Skiddle app today.

1 Roller Nation's rolling into 2022 New Year's Eve party

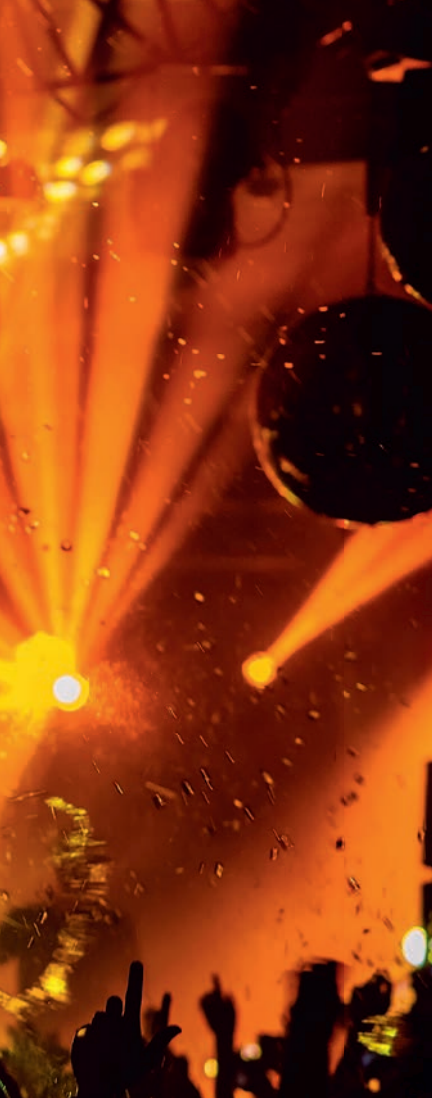
This event in Tottenham does exactly what it says on the tin: it's a club night on skates (which in itself will make it a very fun time) but alongside the disco dance floor and first-rate DJs, there's also going to be a bar, a diner and an outdoor space. The party will run from 8pm until 3am – that's a lot of skating. The tunes will range from afrobeat and R&B right through to the roller classics: disco and house.

→ Roller Nation, Bruce Grove. Dec 31. £25.

2LWE presents Love Unlimited NYE

Famed venues can make an event all the more special, so a party in the art deco palace of London's music scene, O2 Academy Brixton, was always going to be a ball. Add to that a golden line-up, including The Blessed Madonna, Jayda G, Hunee and TSHA, and frankly you have a banging night out. Love Unlimited might be new, but it's coming in hard. If you wind up there, you can expect the last night of the year to be full of stompers ranging from disco to techno. And good loving vibes, of course.

→ O2 Academy Brixton. Dec 31. From £39.50.



5 Egg London Pres: NYE- Deborah De Luca

The headline says it all here: Egg London with frickin Deborah De Luca, you know, just one of the best dance/electronic DJs on the planet. She'll be keeping the crowd moving from 11pm all the way through until 9am. A monster set of ten hours. That's Egg London for you: it's no less than a nocturnal music-lover's dream.

→ Egg London, Caledonian Rd. Dec 31. From £35.

6 Cafe Mambo Ibiza Classics

So it might still be the most wonderful time of the year, but not everyone agrees. Some people want to be in prime Ibiza season. If that's you, this night will no doubt do the trick. Cafe Mambo brings Ibiza to London like no other night out. It'll take place at the newly refurbished Q! In Shoreditch: prime party territory. There's a three-course dining and early entry option too, nice.

→ Q! Shoreditch. Dec 31. From £38.75.



3 Lost in Surrey

You'll feel so fancy at this exclusive and classy party to mark the end of the year, which has a red-carpeted entrance and champagne reception. It'll take place inside an opulent and lovely-looking marquee which, crucially, is heated and will be enclosed all evening. Add to that a massive cocktail bar and DJs pumping out R&B, hip hop and house music, and you'll have a pretty great bye-to-2021 hoorah.

→ Richmond Athletic Ground, Richmond. Dec 31. From £50.

4 Up On The Roof NYE with Norman Jay MBE and Terry Farley

Should you fancy a boogie into the New Year as opposed to that oonts-oonts stuff, drift over to Up On The Roof with sound system godfather Norman Jay MBE on the decks at midnight. It's at The Prince of Wales in Brixton, a spot where it's practically impossible to not have a great night out. Supporting Mr Jay you have house hero Terry Farley, Rob Alldritt, Alena Arpels and more.

→ The Prince of Wales, Brixton. Dec 31. From £20.

7 LWE presents Tobacco Dock NYD

LWE is known for putting on some of the most anticipated events in the calendar. If you're wrapped up with the family for NYE, why not go to an NYD party instead? Tobacco Dock's line-up isn't a bad place to start. Enzo Siragusa, Loco Dice and Hot Since 82 are all hitting the decks. Three huge players in the club scene, from techno to house. It's a guaranteed good time.

→ Tobacco Dock, Shadwell. Jan 1. From £49.50.

8 Orange Nation New Year's 2022 All Access Pass

Should your criteria for New Year's Eve essentially be 'the party to end all parties', this might well be the event for you. It's a three-in-one, baby. Rock up to Fire in Vauxhall for 4am on January 1 (that's right), stay there until the afternoon, have a nap, then head to Electric in Brixton for 11pm, party on, and be back at fire for 4am, where the party goes on until Sunday January 2nd. Monday is a bank holiday, you'll be pleased to know.

→ Multiple locations. Jan 1-2. From £40.



9 Breakin Science x Moondance NYD 2022

More of a night fest than a rave, from 10.30pm to 6.30am (!) you'll find more than 20 artists at E1, with top-notch sound systems to boot. Not bad. Though given the event is by Breakin Science and Moondance, it's unsurprising. Artists span D&B, jungle, UK garage, house and more: something for everyone. It's a ten-minute walk to the overground and you'll probably have a decent choice of public transport by the end.

→ E1, Shadwell. Jan 1. From £25.

10 A Disco in a Strip Club: NYD with Joe Goddard (Hot Chip)

'Do it, do it, do it, do it, do it, do it, do it now.' The DJ for this party wrote that tune (but will he play it?). This NYD event, which is, yes, taking place in a strip club, is guaranteed to be full of fun, debauchery and hedonism. A high-energy, and very reasonably priced, event to kick off 2022 (soundtracked by an eclectic range of house and disco, no less).

→ Metropolis, Bethnal Green. Jan 1. From £5.

→ Find hundreds of NYE events in London on the Skiddle app





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Merry markets

C The Empowerium Pop-up

Get your Christmas shopping done while doing your bit to smash the glass ceiling at this King's Cross pop-up raising funds for The Girls' Network, a charity supporting young women in disadvantaged communities. You'll find all sorts of unique gifts, from spoof items that raise awareness about real issues facing women (double-standard bifocals, for example) to pieces donated by cult brands and celebrity patrons.

→ Coal Drops Yard. Until Dec 10. Free entry.

E Female Founders Christmas Market

London's first market exclusively for female-founded companies will be arriving in Spitalfields this month, with lady costermongers from around 40 small businesses on hand selling everything from food to fashion. It's all in support of a new app focused on creating safe spaces for women, so if you don't go you're basically admitting to being a huge misogynist.

→ Hanbury Hall. Dec 11. Free entry.

C The Social Christmas Market

You'll find indie sellers hawking vinyl, books and vintage curios at this boutique Fitzrovia club's annual festive market. This year's eclectic array of stallholders include artist and NTS Radio host Babak Ganjei, Elliot Eastwick's World Famous Hot Sauce and Rough Trade's new publishing arm Rough Trade Books.

→ The Social. December 11, 18. Free entry.

E Christmas Independent Ceramics Market

Showcasing work from more than 100 ceramicists ranging from students and DIY potters to celebrated designers, this festive market is a brilliant place to pick up lovingly crafted and inexpensive ceramics. You'll find plant pots, crockery, jewellery and trinkets in a huge range of different styles, all of which would make great Christmas gifts.

→ Truman's Social Club. Dec 12. £1 entry.



Anti Christmas Fayre

N Satanic Flea Market Anti-Christmas Fayre

Allergic to all the tinsel and festive goodwill? Fed up of navigating the Oxford Street crowds while going about your Yuletide shopping? The Satanic Flea Market has just the thing for you. Shop for tarot cards, witchy fashion, prints, taxidermy, zines, spell books and even actual human skulls at this occult bazaar. It's the perfect antidote to December's saccharine festivities, and a great place to pick up gifts for the goths in your life.

→ Electrowerkz. Dec 12. £3 entry.

N Turning Earth Haringey Ceramics Market

There'll be at least 70 makers peddling their wares at the inaugural market in ceramics studio Turning Earth's swish new Haringey premises. One of its first few markets since the pandemic promises to be a celebration of 'the creativity that comes from crisis'. As always, it'll be a lively affair featuring street food, mulled wine and live music, which should make your manic last-minute gift-buying quite fun.

→ Turning Earth Haringey. Dec 18-19. Free entry.

THE NUTCRACKER



Anti Christmas Fayre



LIVE IN CINEMAS 9 DECEMBER

roh.org.uk/cinemas

The Nutcracker has been classified 'G' by the BBFC. Photographed at The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet © 2019 ROH. Photographed by Tilmann Kuntze



Rediscover London by Tube

From dazzling light displays to family festivities, it's time to embrace winter in the capital



Winter Light

London is packed with magical sights right now. Have you marvelled at the Mayor's twinkling winter light installations across the centre of town yet? There's plenty more festive fun where that came from and we're here to inspire you to get out there and make the most of it. We've teamed up with Transport for London to bring you seven awesome things to do this winter – all of which are best reached on the TfL network, which is your key to getting around affordably and sustainably.

Tube it. Bus it. Train it. Do more of what you love. #LetsDoLondon

1 Feel fancy at Fulham Palace House & Garden

If you've never visited the former home of the Bishop of London, Christmas is the perfect time to do it. Dating back to medieval times but with Tudor, Georgian and Victorian additions, this grand manor house will be sumptuously decorated and offers tours and talks on Christmas traditions through the ages. Get in quick if you also want to pre-book a festive wreath-making workshop.

→ Putney Bridge. Free.



2 Let it glow at Winter Light

The Southbank Centre's radiant, free outdoor exhibition is bound to boost your mood. A celebration of light and colour, 'Winter Light' brings together nine stunning artworks designed to interact with locations around the Royal Festival Hall, the Hayward Gallery, Queen Elizabeth Hall and more. Download the map on your phone, or simply turn up and follow your curiosity...

→ Waterloo. Free.

3 Putter about at Birdies

Crazy golf has never lived up to its name as much as it does here. Challenge your mates to mind-bendingly bizarre courses at Birdies, located under the arches of Battersea Power Station (it's right near the brand new Northern Line extension!). Navigate nine holes of gadgets, tricky patterns and neon lights – and don't forget to take some surreal snaps while you're there.

→ Battersea Power Station. £12.





GET THERE WITH TFL

Thanks to Transport for London's off-peak fares, you can get even better value as you travel across the Tube. Off-peak fares apply on all Tube, DLR, London Overground and TfL Rail services across London and can be accessed every weekday between 9.30am and 3.59pm, and after 7pm. They also apply all day at weekends and on public holidays. Always touch in and out with the same card or device to pay the right fare.

Travel into Zone 1 for £2.50

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To plan your journey, visit TfL's journey planner or download the real-time travel app, TfL Go, to find the quieter times to travel. It's available on iOS or Android.

Wherever you're going, by choosing public transport you're making a good choice for you and a more sustainable choice for London.

For more than 800 Time Out-recommended museums, galleries, markets and more, search for the Cultural TfL Map.



Prince Charles Cinema

4 Glide over to Ally Pally

Take a spin or two on Alexandra Palace's famed rink, then watch the city light up from the epic terrace view. It's not just skating on offer, either: for an extra-magical afternoon, take the little ones to Santa's Grotto (until December 23) or catch Mark Gatiss in his own retelling of Dickens's 'A Christmas Carol' (until January 9) at the gorgeous Victorian theatre.

→ ⊕ Finsbury Park then W7 bus. £9 (skating), £16-£69.50 ('A Christmas Carol').

5 Seek peace at BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

Looking for a slice of serenity amongst all the shopping and partying? This temple in Neasden, a masterpiece of Indian design, is currently closed but you can follow them on Twitter @neasdentemple. Built entirely using traditional methods and materials, the Mandir is a hugely important place of Hindu worship.

→ ⊕ Neasden. Closed currently.

6 Get into the spirit at the Prince Charles Cinema

If, for you, it's not Christmas unless you're bobbing along with Kermit and Michael Caine to 'The Muppet Christmas Carol', then catch the film at the PCC where, at certain screenings, Santa will visit! The cinema is also showing classics like 'Elf', 'Home Alone', 'The Holiday' and 'Scrooged'.

→ ⊕ Leicester Square. Dec 3-24. £12.50-£13.50.



Birdies



7 Have a very Victorian Christmas at Museum of London Docklands

The Victorians basically invented the festive traditions we know and love; so find out where it all began at this grotto and Christmas display. The halls of the Sailortown Gallery will be thoroughly decked – and you can visit Santa in his den and receive a gift (£12.50).

→ ⊕ Canary Wharf. Open Wed-Sun. Free entry but check availability online.

→ More inspo at www.timeout.com/rediscover-london

Things to Do

Festive drag

📍 'Dick Whittington'

Experiencing pangs of withdrawal since the last series of 'Drag Race UK' ended? Then you'll be gagging to see TuckShop's all-drag rendition of classic Christmas panto 'Dick Whittington' (cue enthusiastic shouts of 'Oh no we won't!'). Series one's Cheryl Hole takes the lead role, with Choriza May and Kitty Scott-Claus from series three also in the cast as Queen Rat and 'The Spirit of Soho'. We predict death drops and tongue pops galore. And as many dick jokes as they can squeeze into a two-hour show, naturally.

→ Phoenix Theatre. Dec 12, 19; Jan 4, 9 2022. From £25.

📍 Diane Chorley: 'Ding Dong Merrily Diane!'

Drag queen Diane Chorley is bringing loads of special guests to this one-off date at the camp-as-Christmas Clapham Grand, including telly comedy panel regular Mawaan Rizwan and a host of emerging comedians. The self-appointed 'Duchess of Canvey' and her sidekicks Ron and Milky promise to fill you with so much Christmas cheer that you'll shine brighter than the star of Bethlehem. Best take a pair of sunnies with you, then.

→ The Clapham Grand. Dec 16. From £20.

📍 The Dina Martina Christmas Show

The 'Second Lady of Merriment' Miss Dina Martina's hysterical festive show became a renowned Christmas tradition at Seattle gay

club Re-bar back in the '90s, and has toured all over the place since. It will be blanketing Soho's premier drag and cabaret venue in Yuletide merriment for the first time later this month. Expect a gloriously chaotic mélange of 'questionable song, unnecessary dance and overburdened costumes'.

→ Soho Theatre. Dec 14-30. From £13.

Foodie fare

📍 Tamdhu x Brindisa Whisky and Jamón Ibérico Tasting

Scottish distillery Tamdhu has collaborated with Spanish food expert Brindisa for these tasting sessions, where its new sherry-cask-matured single malt has been paired with a flight of dry-cured Spanish ham. Tickets include a bottle of the good stuff, two glasses and a serving board carved from whisky barrels.

Forget cheese and wine, this is the hip new duo.

→ Brindisa Borough Market. Dec 7-8. £95.

📍 An Evening of Cheese

This 'cheese-themed extravaganza' is a long-standing festive tradition at Borough Market, with a whole herd of cheesemongers rocking up for the evening to host tastings and provide expert advice on curating the perfect Christmas cheeseboard. After all, this is the only time of year when it's socially acceptable to inhale an entire wheel of brie in front of 'The Royle Family' repeats. Beautiful.

→ Borough Market. Dec 15. Free entry.



An Evening of Cheese

Christmas
at Westminster Chapel

12th December
Carols by Candlelight, 5pm

19th December
Family Service, 11am

westminsterchapel.org.uk/christmas
Westminster Chapel, Buckingham Gate SW1E 6BS



2022 is just around the corner.
Start planning a great year!



Somerset House

Big gigs

📍 Somerset House Summer Series

Somerset House celebrates the return of live music to its picturesque neoclassical courtyard next July with a bunch of hugely varied and properly exciting names on the line-up. Carly Rae Jepsen is bringing her effervescent pop to town, there's a Saturday evening date with John Legend and young Londoner Arlo Parks will perform hits from her poetic, soulful debut album 'Collapsed in Sunbeams'. But it's not all pop: emerging rock stars Black Midi, experimental five-piece Squid and south-east London jazz artist Yussef Dayes also feature.

→ Somerset House. July 7-17 2022. Prices vary.

📍 All Points East

East London will once again play host to heaps of massive international artists next summer, with a double weekend in Victoria Park featuring the likes of Gorillaz, The Chemical Brothers, Kraftwerk, Tame Impala, James Blake, The National, Disclosure, Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, Fleet Foxes and Idles in the big slots. We can't bloody wait!

→ Victoria Park. Aug 19-28. Prices vary.

Blockbuster exhibitions

📍 'Titanic: The Exhibition'

This immersive exhibition featuring real artefacts from the infamous 'unsinkable' ship was originally scheduled to arrive in Surrey Quays in February, but it's proved so popular already that the organisers have brought it forward by two months. Book soon to experience the notorious shipwreck first hand (in a good way!), tracing the story from the Titanic's commissioning through to the tragic disaster that shook the world.

→ Dock X. Dec 17-Mar 20 2022. From £27.90.

📍 'OurTime on Earth'

Aiming to harness the power of creativity to inspire action on the climate emergency, this major exhibition is co-produced with Quebec's Musée de la Civilisation, and arrives at the Barbican's contemporary art gallery The Curve in May. It will feature collaborative pieces made by artists, innovators, scientists and conservation charities from around the world, who present radical visions of the future for life on earth. The show promises to be an emotive and powerful call to arms.

→ Barbican. May 5-Aug 29 2022. £18.

Edited by Rosie Hewitson
timeout.com/kids

Kids



Raymond Briggs's
'Father Christmas'

Ice skating

C Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum's gorgeous winter ice rink has been a staple of London's festive calendar for yonks, but this is the final year that you can enjoy it's chilly charms before the area is turned into an urban garden. Get your skates on if you fancy one last glide around its enormous twinkling tree, as it's only sticking around until mid-January. → Natural History Museum. Until Jan 16 2022. From £12.65, £8.80 child.

W Hampton Court Palace

Henry VIII's sixteenth-century pad is an impressive backdrop for an ice-skating rink, and this Thameside arena is a whopper at 1,040 metres squared. It's family-friendly too, with penguin- and dolphin-shaped skate aids available for the little ones if you book in advance. → Hampton Court Palace. Until Jan 9 2022. From £16, £11.50 child.

S The Queen's House

London gets plenty of gorgeous ice rinks in the winter, but this one might be the most scenic of them all. Head to the dramatically landscaped Unesco World Heritage Site on a crisp winter day to skate in the shadow of England's finest piece of seventeenth-century Palladian architecture.

→ The Queen's House. Until Jan 9 2022. From £15, £8.50 child.

E Canary Wharf

Filling Canary Wharf's business district with festive fun, this 1,200-square-metre outdoor covered (and therefore weatherproof) rink will be open for ice-skating beneath twinkling lights for weeks after its competitors have shut up shop. → Canada Square Park. Until Feb 26 2022. £17.95, £11.95 child.



Natural History Museum

Festive kids' shows

S 'Cinderella: The Awesome Truth'

A cross between a panto, a musical and a morality lecture, this inventive and wholesome spin on the rags-to-riches fairy tale from Wimbledon's Polka Theatre is a kinder, gentler alternative to a full-on panto, and is aimed at children aged five-plus.

→ Polka Theatre. Until Jan 30 2022. From £10.

N 'The Storm Whale'

Little Angel's Christmas show for kids aged four to eight is an adaptation of Benji Davies's book about the delightful relationship

between a young boy, Noi, and the little whale he rescues after a storm washes it up on a beach. Adorable. → Little Angel Theatre. Until Jan 30 2022. £14, £12 child.

W Raymond Briggs's 'Father Christmas'

A co-production with Pins and Needles theatre company, this adaptation of Raymond Briggs's second most famous festive kids' book (after 'The Snowman', of course) returns to the Lyric Hammersmith for another season. It tells the story of a rather cantankerous Santa who awakes from a pleasant dream of sun, sea and sand to discover that it's actually Christmas Eve, his busiest day of the year, and features plenty of fake snow, a charming hand-painted set and a spectacular sleigh. And in an original twist, the music and sound effects are performed live onstage by a musician perched in an attic-style room above the action. → Lyric Hammersmith. Until Dec 24. From £10.

RAYMOND BRIGGS: FATHER CHRISTMAS; RICHARD LANGS; NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM; CAROLINA PARIUOLO

Grottos galore

📍 Santa's Grotto at Hamleys

As is befitting what is quite possibly the most famous toyshop in the world, the Hamleys grotto is an ultra-festive affair complete with a snowy Christmas tree and stockings hanging around the cosy fireplace. Visit for a tête-à-tête with the jolliest bloke in town, and you'll leave with an all-important Hamleys goodie bag. Get in!

→ Hamleys. Until Dec 24. £45 for up to three kids, additional children £15 each.

📍 Santa's Grotto at Alexandra Palace

Ally Pally is practically halfway to the North Pole, so it makes a convenient stop-off point for Mr Claus this December. He'll be swinging by every day to distribute gifts and pose for photos with the young 'uns. As you can imagine he's a pretty in-demand fella so tickets are thin on the ground, but keep checking the website as his elves are working overtime to fit in more slots. Give 'em a raise, St Nick!

→ Alexandra Palace. Until Dec 23. £12.72.



London Transport Museum

📍 Santa on the Strand

Santa doesn't set up grottos in any old Premier Inn. He chooses atmospheric establishments like the West End's Strand Palace hotel, where he's taken up residence this winter. Visit to say hello to the Big Guy, tour his Victorian toyshop and even meet some furry friends. Feeling peckish? Tuck into a festive afternoon tea in the hotel's art deco dining room afterwards.

→ Strand Palace Hotel. Until Dec 24. £25.

📍 Christmas with Shrek

Mr Claus will be parking up his sleigh in the swamps of Far Far Away on weekends this December, to check in with his old pal Shrek, distribute sweets and say hi to young visitors. Listen, it might sound a bit weird, but you'll be counting your blessings when all the non-ogre-based grottos are sold out and the kids are wailing because Santa doesn't know what to get them.

→ Shrek's Adventure. Until Dec 24. £27.

📍 Festive Fun at the London Transport Museum

You'd think he'd have more pressing things to attend to this month, but Father C will be alighting daily at the London Transport Museum in the run-up to Christmas. As well as the usual grotto meet and greets, there'll be an interactive game where you can help fix his broken-down sleigh, and you'll win a prize if you locate the Big Guy wandering about the museum with his TfElves. If they don't go on strike again, that is.

→ London Transport Museum. Until Dec 23. Free.

📍 Christmas Grotto at St Pancras

We weren't aware that there were any direct trains to the North Pole from St Pancras International, but that must be the case because the man in red will also be putting in a few weekend appearances at the historic station this December to read stories, host treasure hunts and chat one-to-one with the little ones. It's a wonder he gets any present-making done at all what with all that chinwagging.

→ St Pancras. Until Dec 23. £31.71.

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Gingerbread City

Christmas classics

📍👤 Enchanted Eltham Palace

Eltham's lovely medieval hall and art deco mansion is once again having its annual Christmas glow-up, when the buildings and grounds are illuminated with colourful displays accompanied by sound installations. There'll also be old-timey fairground attractions to try out, and a range of warming winter food and drink options, including decadent hot chocolates and marshmallow-toasting on an open fire. You'll see the English Heritage-owned former royal residence in a whole new light.

→ Eltham Palace. Dec 9-30.

From £14, £9.50 child.

📍👤 Museum of Architecture Gingerbread City

The Museum of Architecture's festive display arrives in a new location in Belgravia this year. More than 100 architects, landscape artists, engineers and ecologists have worked together to craft the mini settlement, made entirely of gingerbread

and icing. This year's edible town is themed around 'nature in the city', so alongside all the usual manor houses, town halls and skyscrapers you'll find gingerbread meadows, parks and forests, as well as models showing the effects of pollution, flooding and climate change.

→ 6-7 Motcomb St. Until Jan 9 2022.

£14, £8.50 child.

📍👤 Winter Wonderland

You might know it as a freezing cold, tourist-packed and exorbitantly expensive place to sip sickly sweet mulled wine come the festive season, but Winter Wonderland is actually a great place to take the kids in the run-up to Christmas. You've got loads of child-friendly theme-park rides in Santa Land, an immersive frost-covered kingdom of ice sculptures, ice skating around the iconic Victorian bandstand, a real ice slide and jaw-dropping acrobatic entertainment from Cirque Berserk and Zippos Christmas Circus. They'll sleep like logs after all that fun.

→ Hyde Park. Until Jan 3 2022. From £5 entry, or free if you spend £20 online in advance on attractions, rides or games.



Find more kid-friendly fun at [timeout.com/london/kids](https://www.timeout.com/london/kids)

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Edited by Phil de Semlyen
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Film

FILM OF THE WEEK

Get ready to rumble

'West Side Story'



IF, LIKE ME, you think 'West Side Story' is just a lot of blokes in vests climbing over fences, interrupted by the odd song about rumbles, Steven Spielberg would like a word, daddy-O. His breathtaking new version circles back to the original Broadway musical in its smart structural tweaks, nodding respectfully to the 1961 movie by recasting Rita Moreno in a small but key role, while supercharging an age-old story with new urgency. How do you outdo a film that won ten Oscars? Here's how.

There's a substrata of genius-level artists here: from Spielberg, who delivers his best film in 20 years, to the late, great Stephen Sondheim (lyricist), Jerome Robbins (choreographer), Leonard Bernstein (composer) and William Shakespeare (ideas guy) – and you can really feel it.

The songs are still great, Bernstein's brassy score is the sound of New York in flux, and the story remains sturdy and simple.

As is traditional, two gangs – the Caucasian Jets and the Puerto Rican Sharks – and their two star-crossed lovers, Tony (Ansel Elgort) and Maria (Rachel Zegler), scrap, dance, romance and eventually melt down across a rubble-strewn corner of the Big Apple. The gang leaders, Riff and Bernardo (Mike Faist and David Alvarez, both terrific), cajole their crews towards a dust-up that will decide ownership of the turf for good. It will, of course, end in tears.

But Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner untap fierce new resonance in the story's treatment of immigration, race, gender and gentrification. An early encounter with the neighbourhood's bigoted detective, Lieutenant Schrank (Corey Stoll), a kind of racist Officer Dibble, sets the tone: the hoodrat Jets are ethnic cleansing the barrio, and the cops have their backs.

It echoes throughout, in particular during centrepiece migrant anthem 'America', blisteringly staged by

choreographer Justin Peck, that doesn't bother to hide its rage amid the hypnotic swirl of flowing skirts.

Other characters are given new dimensions here, including the spurned and vengeful Chino and, most significantly, wannabe Jet Anybodies, played by non-binary actor Iris Menas. A quiet moment of acceptance is beautifully played.

So what are the flaws? The lovey-dovey central couple are a little underpowered compared with the live wires around them. There's also an awful lot of finger-snapping.

There's a bit of diet Brando about Elgort's reformed bad boy-turned-lovebird, but Zegler brings a lovely brand of innocence and conviction to Maria. And don't be surprised to see Moreno (or for that matter Spielberg) winning another Oscar. Just another nine more needed... ■

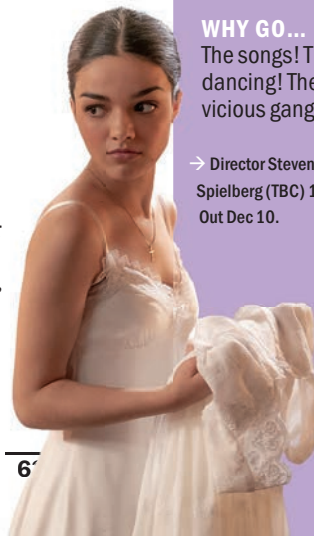
WHAT IS IT...

Steven Spielberg's adaptation of the classic Broadway musical.

WHY GO...

The songs! The dancing! The vicious gang war!

→ Director Steven Spielberg (TBC) 156 mins. Out Dec 10.



WEST SIDE STORY: NIHO TAVERNISE. © TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX



By Phil de Semlyen
Who now has 'I Feel Pretty' living in his head rent-free.



More gift ideas at timeout.com/london



1 Playmobil USS Enterprise

Going where no tiny figurine has gone before is the crew of Playmobil's USS Enterprise. Released to mark 55 years since 'Star Trek' first aired, it comes packed with fun details. Mind meld it on to Santa's list.

→ £449.99 www.playmobil.co.uk

2 'Home Alone' doormat

Sporting the kiss-off line from the iconic 'Home Alone' film-within-the-film 'Angels with Filthy Souls', this welcome mat is both a festive in-joke and the perfect place for a delivery driver to plonk a large pizza before scarpering in fear.

→ £22.49. www.limelace.co.uk

3 Bond villain mugs

Bella Freud's odes to 007's iconic villains have the names of Dr No, Oddjob and Goldfinger printed on them in 9-carat gold, presumably lifted from Fort Knox.

→ £35. www.007store.com

Screen swag

'Tis the season to gift someone a tiny USS Enterprise, a Lego 'Home Alone' house or some funky soap

4 'Women vs Hollywood'

Time Out contributor Helen O'Hara's much-praised book provides food for thought to go along with all that food for, you know, eating this Christmas. It casts a forensic eye over Hollywood's dark past in page-turning fashion.

→ £9.99. bookshop.org

5 Lego 'Home Alone' house

This brick recreation of Kevin McCallister's house has 3,955 pieces, each of which could double as a caltrop should you find yourself in a similar home-invasion scenario. It even comes with the Wet Bandits' van and swinging paint cans.

→ £229.99. www.lego.com

6 A24 test card soap

Modelled after a colour-test card, this fragrant artisanal soap is a collaboration between indie studio A24 and American designers Wary Meyers. Or could it be marketing for an arty horror film about a vengeful soapmaker taking down less eco-friendly rivals?

→ £12. shop.a24films.com

7 'Lady Bird' screenplay

Did you know that Greta Gerwig wrote to Justin Timberlake to ask for his permission to use 'Cry Me a River' in 'Lady Bird'? That missive is just one of the quirky facts within this screenplay book.

→ £45. shop.a24films.com

8 Dune: A Game of Conquest and Diplomacy

This update of the classic 1979 board game ties in with the new 'Dune' movie. Vying for control of the galaxy's most precious commodity is guaranteed to bring spice to those long winter nights.

→ £28.99. www.board-game.co.uk

9 Overlook Hotel key ring

Should you ever mislay your keys in a snowy maze, this cheeky 'Shining' stocking-filler will help you find them again in time for your evening bath.

→ £6.99. shop.bfi.org.uk

10 'Chansons d'Ennui Tip-Top'

One of the joys of 'The French Dispatch' was Jarvis Cocker as Gallic chanteur Tip-Top. This spin-off LP sees him doing the Great French Songbook. ■

→ £26.99. www.sisterray.co.uk

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TIME OUT MEETS

Paul Thomas Anderson

On 'Licorice Pizza', Valley girls and the perils of Instagram

THERE ARE FEW surer bets than a new Paul Thomas Anderson movie. Sure enough, the easy-breezy '70s-set 'Licorice Pizza', is another killer PTA joint. Located in LA's San Fernando Valley, it stars Philip Seymour Hoffman's son Cooper as a 15-year-old with his heart set on twentysomething Alana (Haim's Alana Haim).

Did you have Cooper Hoffman in mind for the role when you were writing?

'I remember quite clearly having a flash halfway through, thinking about him and going: Oh, no, don't think that. Then we auditioned young actors and most of them seemed more interested in being in sitcoms or on Instagram than acting. It was only after a year that I realised I had the perfect kid for this right in front of my face.'

Alana Haim is great too - as is Tom Waits. Why do musicians make such good actors?

'Well, it helps that they're comfortable performing, but without naming them, some of the great rock stars can't act. I think the reason Tom Waits has success at both is because he's never not truthful, and I think that extends to



Alana as well. She's incapable of performing something that doesn't feel honest to her. Lord knows, there were times that I tried [to make her].'

Did she scream that line from the trailer - 'You're not my director!' - at you?

(Laughs) 'That was one of her favourite lines.'

Are there things that movies get wrong about the Valley, your home turf, that get under your skin?

'It's wild that the Valley stereotypes, which started back in the '80s, have had such a long life. I don't think there have been any films about it in recent memory, but it's now a catch-all: most people in Europe probably think any girl west of the Mississippi is a Valley girl. Those are the stereotypes, right? They're all kind of horseshit.'

'Phantom Thread' was set in Fitzrovia. Do you think you might make another film in London?

'I would love to, and there's a very good chance that that would happen. I don't know how soon, but without question I would make another film there. It's just a matter of when.' ■ *Phil de Semlyen*
 → 'Licorice Pizza' is out Jan 7 2022.

Licorice Pizza



Boiling Point



WHAT IS IT...

A freewheeling hangout movie from Paul Thomas Anderson.

WHY GO...

For Bradley Cooper's coked-up, deranged movie exec buying a waterbed.

→ Director Paul Thomas Anderson (15). Out Jan 7.

PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON'S sunniest movie yet (admittedly, not a high bar to clear) this '70s-set LA memoir is so bubbly, it floats off the screen. Its greatest coup, though, is the casting of its two leads: Alana Haim, of LA band Haim, is 25-year-old Alana Kane, a photographer's assistant bemused to find herself being asked out by Gary Valentine, a smooth-talking high-schooler ten years her junior. He's a child actor with a 'Lucille Ball'-like hit sitcom to his name and commensurate levels of self-confidence.

Their evolving relationship, a less carnal one than Gary would like, gives this loose and lovable movie its spine. Cooper Hoffman, son of Philip Seymour Hoffman, continues the family tradition of being terrific in a PTA movie. Alana Haim is great as her firstnamesake, a tricky role she makes look effortless - that of wise owl around Gary but fledgling out in the world.

Aided by Jonny Greenwood's delicate score and a ton of feelgood needle drops, every scene brings a fresh consignment of belly laughs. When 'Licorice Pizza' dips into the machinations of '70s Hollywood, they're provided by Bradley Cooper's apocalyptically coked-up movie exec Jon Peters and Sean Penn's weathered A-lister, modeled on rabble-rousing actor William Holden.

Both nearly steal the show from their younger co-stars, but this is an unstealable movie. 'Licorice Pizza' just gallops along with an energy that even a fired-up Peters couldn't match. It left me with a contact high. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



WHAT IS IT...

A single-shot drama set in a London restaurant at Christmas.

WHY GO...

For a bang-on-form Stephen Graham as a chef on the edge.

→ Director Philip Barantini (15). Out Dec 29.

A RESTAURANT SHOULD feel effortless. The diners should never sense the jolt of panic as the turbot runs out or hear a stressed-out Liverpudlian chef shouting: 'Foook lad, sort it!' when his cowed commis mucks up the oysters. This cortisol flood of a culinary drama, filmed in one single shot, is what happens when it doesn't. And the fact that the stressy Liverpudlian is played by Stephen Graham gives this tight-wire device the perfect actor around which to orbit.

Graham is star chef Andy Jones. Or at least, he was star chef Andy Jones. It's clear that the top man at this buzzy east London restaurant (it was filmed at Dalston's Jones & Sons) is now saucing more than just plates of lamb. There are a hundred covers in, it's Christmas and morale is in freefall. Oh, and the nut allergy on table 13 isn't in the system. What could go wrong?

Director Philip Barantini expands his own 22-minute short film without losing any tension. The relentlessness of the ever-rolling camera (a digital lens on a rig) in a confined space slowly sucks the air from your lungs. You start feeling like you're pulling up a seat for a relaxing evening, and end up weeping by the bins.

But 'Boiling Point' is more than a gimmick, and the script gives other characters their due when Graham isn't in frame. Vinette Robinson, in particular, is terrific as sous chef Carly, a rock-solid professional trying to fill a gap left by a man crumbling away. All in all, it's the best kind of worst-ever restaurant trip. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON; JOHN PHILLIPS; GETTY IMAGES FOR UNIVERSAL; LICORICE PIZZA; PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON; BOILING POINT; CHRISTIAN BLACK

Music & Nightlife

timeout.com/music
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Big in 2021, BIGGER IN 2022

Get to know these eight London artists now or risk cultural irrelevance in the new year. We don't make the rules!

PinkPantheress

PinkPantheress was still living in her first-year halls at UAL when her songs started blowing up on TikTok. Surrounded by a general sense of mystery (she's only recently shown her face in photos and has yet to reveal her real name), she has become a Gen Z icon with her short songs, relatable lyrics, and samples of '90s and Y2K hits by artists from Sweet Female Attitude to Linkin Park. During her rapid ascent she's already earned co-signs from Charli XCX, Grimes and Lizzo, and performed a run of sold-out shows. Her debut mixtape 'To Hell with It' hit the Top 20 despite clocking in at just 18 minutes long.

Listen to 'Just for Me'

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Central Cee

Central Cee

With a melodic take on drill and an ear for genre-blending beats that emphasise his west London upbringing (from the Carnival-ready sounds of reggae and dancehall, to jazz and soul), Central Cee has become one of the UK's biggest new rappers. Capitalising on last year's run of breakout singles, Cench (as he's also known) earned a string of Mobo nominations in 2021, while his 'Wild West' mixtape showed he could easily hold his own without guest features. And following his PinkPantheress-sampling 'Obsessed with You' and a recent collaboration with pop star FKA Twigs, he'll likely be making noise outside the drill scene in 2022.

Listen to 'Day in the Life'

Yung Singh

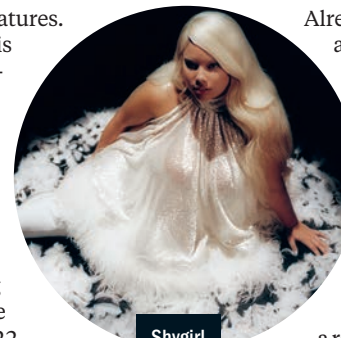
Clubs might have been closed for half the year, but that hasn't stopped Yung Singh from becoming one of dance music's most hotly tipped new names. Following a string of online mixes that captured his rapid-fire mix of UK sound-system genres (he blends old and new tracks from the Punjabi underground with garage, grime, rap and

funky classics), his set at this September's Dialled In festival – hosted by Daytimers, a collective of South Asian creative talent including Singh – became one of London's first major post-lockdown clubbing moments.

Listen to The Punjabi Garage Mix for 'Shuffle 'n' Swing'

Shygirl

Shygirl's sexually charged lyrics are all flesh and fantasy, delivered over hard steel beats and industrial-grade sub-bass.



Shygirl

Already a cult fave after working with avant-pop icons like Arca and the late Sophie, Shygirl crossed worlds in 2021: her single 'Uckers' went viral on TikTok, she featured on a remix of Lady Gaga and Blackpink's

'Sour Candy' and she starred in a Burberry campaign alongside Kendall Jenner. Along the way, she also teamed up with Slowthai for the frankly filthy 'BDE'.

Listen to 'Freak'

Fred again..

Fred again.. is hardly a newcomer to the music biz: he had a hand in producing around 30 percent of the UK's Number One singles in 2019, and took home a Producer

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OUT NOW



cktrl

India Jordan

of the Year award at the 2020 Brits. But having worked with everyone from Ed Sheeran to Stormzy, Headie One to Brian Eno, the producer now has solo success in his sights. He released his debut album 'Actual Life' in April, launching it with a new live show at All Points East.

Listen to 'Marea (We've Lost Dancing)' (feat The Blessed Madonna)

India Jordan

India Jordan's euphoric 'For You' seemed destined to soundtrack summer festival stages following its release in 2020, but with mass events in recess, it instead became one of Lockdown 1.0's most enduring anthems. After clubs reopened, the Doncaster-born, Brockley-based DJ and producer saw themselves playing to packed dancefloors up and down the country – and just in time for the release of their 'Watch Out!' EP, which mixes high-energy club sounds with personal themes of queerness and self-love.

Listen to 'For You'

Chubby And The Gang

Working-class punk-rock anthems exploring dead-end jobs, inequality and the seedier side of London are what Chubby And The Gang do best. They're veterans of the UK's hardcore

scene and their 2020 debut album 'Speed Kills' was compared to the amphetamine-charged pub rock of Dr Feelgood, while this year's 'The Mutt's Nuts' demonstrated their more musical side. Add rambunctious live shows into the mix and Chubby... are becoming a rare group to cross over outside of their DIY community.

Listen to 'All Along the Uxbridge Road'

cktrl

Cktrl has spent years honing his expressive experimental sound. Contemporary classical music is a major part of his latest EPs, 'Robyn' and 'Zero', but the Lewisham multi-instrumentalist and producer introduces elements from jazz, soul, hip hop, R&B and electronic music to his sound. He's also played a quiet but important role in the Black underground creative scene, working with musicians Kelela and Dean Blunt, artist and filmmaker Jenn Nkiru (who cast him in Beyoncé's film 'Black Is King') and the recently departed fashion and creative polymath Virgil Abloh. ■

Listen to 'Robyn'



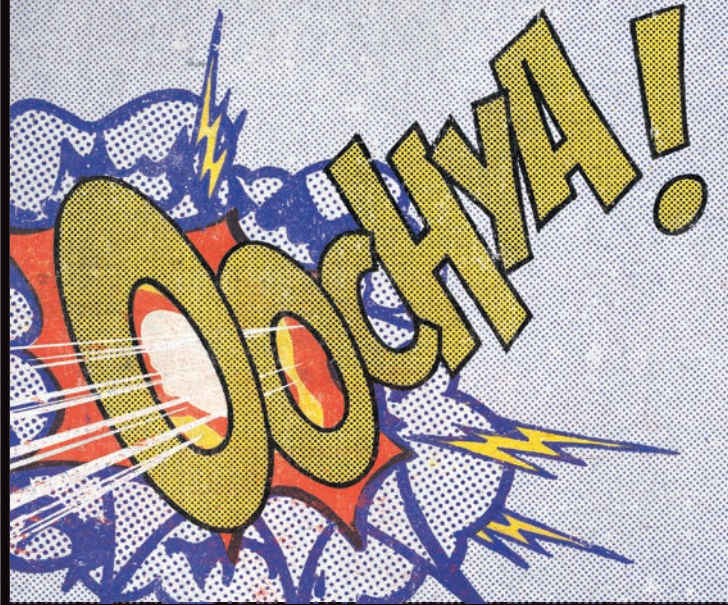
By Selim Bulut, a music journalist who runs the Substack Life of Surprises. Follow him at @selbulut.

CKTRL: ROMAN MCKENZIE; INDIA JORDAN: OLIVER VEVES

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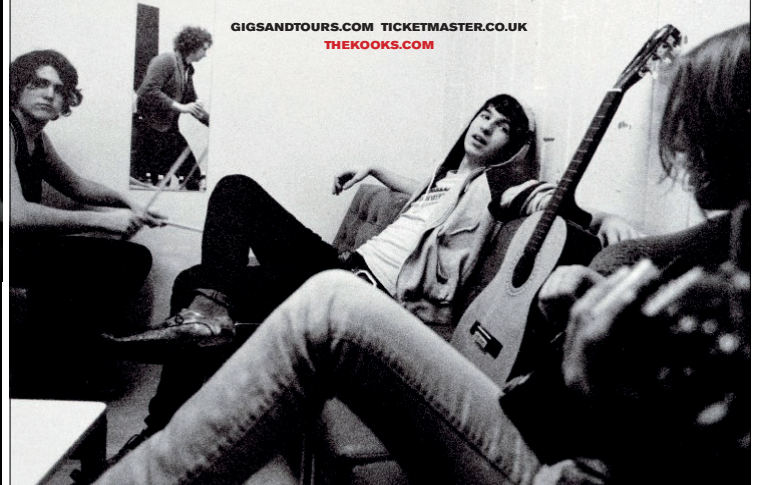
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EXIT 2021 IN STYLE

Go out-out at New Year's,
just like in the old days

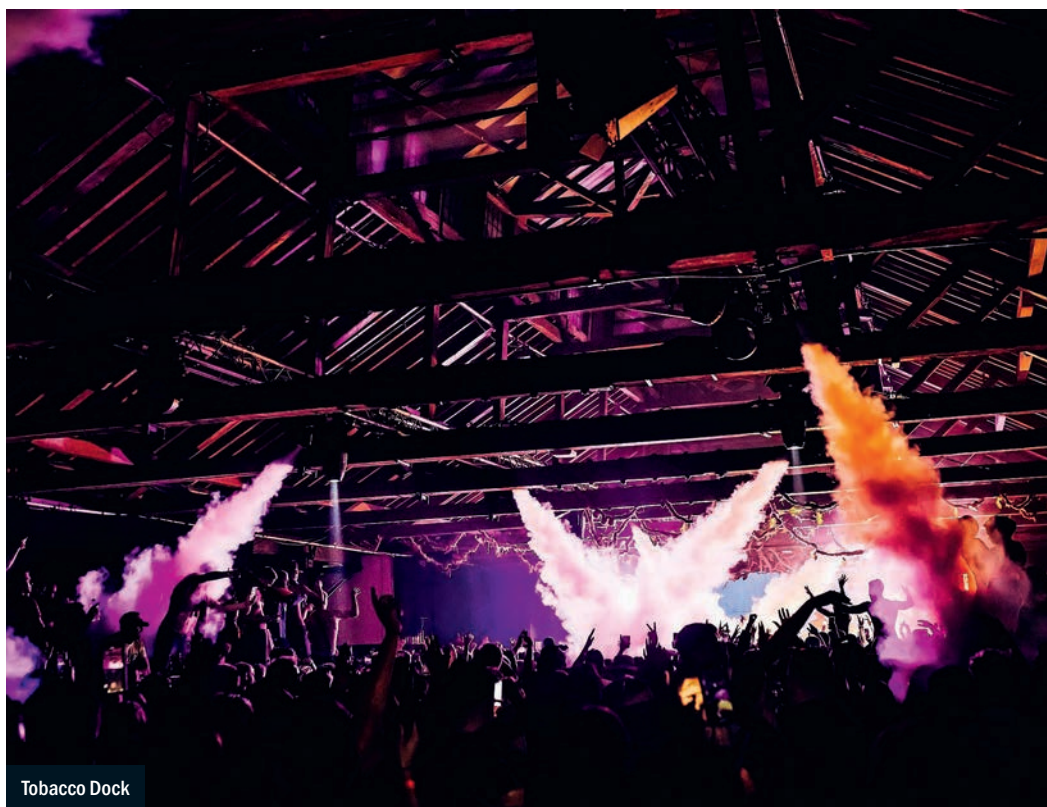
NEW YEAR'S EVE

Love Unlimited

A night of top-notch house and disco. The line-up has all-star DJ The Blessed Madonna, feelgood spinner Hunee, as well as Grammy-nominated artist Jayda G. Nice.
→ O2 Academy Brixton. 9pm-5am. From £35.

Tobacco Dock

Cogo and Kiss Nights are taking over the Grade I-listed venue with a sweltering line-up. As well as huge names like Rudimental, Joel Corry, and Jax Jones, you'll also get to see bassline collective Bad Boy Chiller Crew. Almost definitely better than your NYE on the sofa last year.
→ Tobacco Dock. 7pm-2am. From £45.



Tobacco Dock

Goodbye Sweetheart

This isn't just any old NYE party, it's the official goodbye from The Cause family, as the club shuts its doors for good. (Read about that on p39.) The line-up is secret, but it'll have huge names.
→ The Cause. 1pm-6am. From £10.

Rhythm Section

Peckham's finest party people are hosting a no-nonsense, no-line-up NYE do with their whole musical brood. It's curated by Bradley Zero, so expect high-energy, big bass and splintering beats.
→ Corsica Studios. 10pm-6am. From £20.

Dancing in the Dark

Boogie in the new year with '80s bangers. Moth Club will be blaring Whitney, Bowie and Fleetwood: perfect for a singalong or if you want to get as far, far away from minimal techno.
→ Moth Club. 10pm-3am. £22.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Transmissions

Hidden away on an industrial estate, Fold is throwing a huge NYD rave with a line-up of heavyweights. There's Blawan, known for blistering experimental techno and Madam X, adding a bit more bass. Sounds like an absolute stomper.
→ Fold. 11pm-6am. From £15.

Adonis

This is the cult queer NYD party where anything and everything goes. With its fun-loving vibes, this annual event is going to be bigger than ever before, as the Adonis

family bid their goodbye to the The Cause (the day after the official one). Musicwise: acid, techno and feelgood house abound.
→ The Cause. 8am-10pm. £25.

Fabric NYD

One sexy line-up. Topping the bill is Overmono, the DJ brothers who have been doing huge things. They'll be joined by Anz, Call Super, Craig Richards and Midland – a very cool gang of people, if you ask us.
→ Fabric. 7pm-7am. From £15.

Vengaboys

Admit it: Vengaboys are your guilty pleasure. Time to give into that vice and enjoy the ultimate night of pure cheesy filth, with live shows from the iconic Dutch group happening at the Clapham Grand on both New Year's Eve and Day. The rumours are true: the Vengabus really is coming. ■
→ The Clapham Grand. 9pm-3am. From £23.

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Blessed Madonna

TOBACCO DOCK: LUKE DYSON; BLESSED MADONNA: BURAK CINGI/REDFERNS

Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski
timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre

Tiger feat

'Life of Pi'



THIS STAGE VERSION of Yann Martel's Booker Prize winner has to stand as one of the most visually stunning theatre shows I've ever seen, especially the feverishly beautiful second half in which hero Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific on a lifeboat inhabited only by him and a tiger named Richard Parker.

Max Webster's production is an out-and-out triumph for the technical team. Tim Hatley's versatile set thrusts out into the crowd, full of hidden tricks, notably the lifeboat that pops out in seconds. Tim Lutkin's lighting and Andrzej Goulding's video are sublime, conjuring the unimaginably vast strangeness of the ocean.

And then there are Nick Barnes and Finn Caldwell's puppets: a vibrantly realised menagerie of beasts whose every breath is immaculately choreographed. From the terrifying, dominating, unknowable Richard Parker – who has six puppeteers assigned to him in various rotations – down to the shoals of luminescent flying fish, every puppet is a knockout. And when the light, video, set and puppets work in concert, the effect is extraordinary, like being plunged into a waking dream or strange alien landscape. It is incredible.

Less mindblowing is the story. Twenty years on, and transposed

to stage, it feels like the visuals are needed to carry it. In Lolita Chakrabarti's adaptation, the first half is all twinkle-eyed whimsy, as we're introduced to Hiran Abeysekera's Pi – full name Piscine – and his family, who own a zoo in the Indian coastal town of Pondicherry in the '70s. Alarmed at The Emergency, they take the fateful decision to relocate to Canada by boat.

Pi, a philosophically inclined 16-year-old, who is a signed-up Hindu, Muslim and Christian, initially seems less a compelling character, more a useful human focal point amid the

puppet-based japery. Abeysekera is charmingly eccentric in the role. But the fact he is more than double Pi's age underscores the fact that the production doesn't really try

to sell him as entirely believable. And a problem with the move to stage is that the more philosophical elements of the novel are lost when it's simply told as a pacy two-hour yarn.

But then... the second half is so stunningly realised that none of that seems to matter. Pi's various peculiarities feel less relevant than the simple fact of him as a human being struggling for

survival against cataclysmic odds after the boat founders. Abeysekera absolutely sells Pi to us as a young man adrift in a waking nightmare and also – in the framing flash-forward scenes – as somebody living with the trauma of what may or may not really have happened during his 227 days at sea. The special effects make the show, but Abeysekera is vital as the human being experiencing it all, our proxy to this terrible wonder.

If you think that a play is simply something that exists on a page, this production of 'Life of Pi' is not a classic. But as a work of living, breathing theatre it is, at its best, utterly transcendent. ■

WHAT IS IT...

Yann Martel's smash novel finally hits the stage.

WHY GO...

It's a total visual stunner, especially the puppets.

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By Andrzej Łukowski
Who would probably just let the tiger eat him tbh.

Aladdin



THE FIRST MAJOR London pantomime to make it to press night since 2019 doesn't pussyfoot around. Written by comic Vikki Stone, the Lyric Hammersmith's 2021 'Aladdin' kicks off with a sublime showstopper set-piece reworking of Blur's 'Parklife' (they shout 'panto!' instead). Qasim Mahmood's layabout hero wanders a chaotic Hammersmith peopled by a never-ending stream of panto clichés: particular shout-out to the cow that runs across the stage and is never seen again.

It's a truly giddy bit of fun, and if it's the high point of the entire show, then Abigail Graham's production remains a treat throughout.

Intro aside, the most notable thing about Stone's writing debut is that she's not afraid to go in with studs re: the current state of British politics. Kate Donnachie's Emperor of Hammersmith isn't officially named Boris, but as he's a poshly bumbling leader with a mop of blonde hair and clown shoes, it's pretty obvious what the show is



WHAT IS IT...

The Lyric Hammersmith's panto returns.

WHY GO...

Vikki Stone's sardonic script is a proper laugh.

→ Lyric Hammersmith.
Until Jan 2 2022. £10-£32.

driving at. That's even before we're hit with gags about Peppa Pig World, 'forgive me, forgive me', idiotic posturing with flags and money spunked away on an underused media briefing room.

The Lyric panto has traditionally been a bit more cerebral and cynical than its peers, and while there's plenty for kids to enjoy, Stone carries on this tradition. Mahmood's Aladdin is a self-absorbed wide boy whose ill-advised attempts to

impress the Emperor's daughter Jasmine (Ellena Vincent) trigger a series of events that lead to him picking up a magic lamp and its beatboxing Genie (Donnachie again). She's able to grant infinite wishes, so Aladdin magics up an endless stream of gaudy tat that he hopes to impress Jasmine with.

Fortunately, Irvine Iqbal's thunderously plummy Abanazer is after the lamp too, and his convoluted schemes lead to our

hero learning that there's more to life than 24-hour bling on tap. Along the way there are some marvellously weird bits, featuring Angry Birds, an evil chicken and a sea shanty quartet, plus a lovely piece of stage trickery in the sweet magic-carpet sequence. For all its cynicism, everything comes good in the end. Ultimately, even 'Boris' redeems himself – a Christmas miracle indeed. ■ Andrzej Łukowski



WHAT IS IT...
The iconic Hackney panto returns.

WHY GO...
It's a wholesome and hilarious embrace of a show.

→ Hackney Empire.
Until Jan 2 2022. £10-£42.

Jack and the Beanstalk ★★★★★

SORELY MISSED LAST year, Hackney Empire's beloved panto returns to us under new-old management. The show's long-term writer-director Susie McKenna has left the building... and in has come Clive Rowe, long associated with Hackney as its dame, now doubling up on direction duties (alongside co-star Tony Whittle).

Does it feel any different? Not really, although Rowe and Whittle have turned in a less political panto than McKenna tended to.

Really, though, it's just a lovely, joyful night out, defined by Rowe's typically glorious turn as Dame Trot: powerhouse vocals, arch audience interactions and a never-ending stream of comedy frocks. Plus a host of well-rounded supporting characters, lush fairytale sets from Cleo Pettitt and a real showstopper in the enormous puppet giant.

The story follows wholesome BFFs Jack (Rochelle Sherona), Jill (Ellie Ruiz Rodriguez) and Simple

Simon (Kat B) as they go about their business in the cheerful but giant-ravaged town of Hackney-on-the-Verge, where Simon and Jack live with their dangerously horny widowed mother (Rowe's Dame Trot) and their cow Daisy. Sadly Daisy has stopped producing milk and Dame Trot tearily instructs Jack to sell her... and you know what happens next.

It's familiar, but it's done with love, wit and a definite eye on the kids in the audience. There's loads of interaction, a sweet turn from panto regular Kat B as the easily confused Simon, and a charming, effectively queer romance between Jack and Jill. The songs are pleasant and the concluding cover of The Beatles' 'Got to Get You into My Life' is an absolute joy, sunshine on tap.

If Rowe and Whittle's debut is to some extent a retreat into a panto comfort zone, then I think that's what most of us want this year. A welcome hug back of a show. ■ Andrzej Łukowski

Art

Edited by Eddy Frankel
timeout.com/art @timeoutart



Denzil Forrester,
'Jah Shaka'

BRITISH CULTURE HAS been endlessly shaped and reshaped by Caribbean immigration for 70 years. And this show – exploring the work of Caribbean-British artists – is all about how without it, this would be a very, very different, and probably very boring, country.

It kicks off in the 1950s with the first wave of immigration from those islands to this one, with artists like Aubrey Williams and Frank Bowling, both born in Guyana but working over here. Williams is all hazy abstraction, Bowling is pop colliding with political ire. Then you get John Lyons's swirling paintings that look like Van Gogh has melted, and Paul Dash reimagining Picasso's Blue Period with Black figures. All these painters take the boring old Western art canon and fill it with their own ideas.

But the show is at its best when the Black British experience is pushed right up in your face. Horace Ové and Neil Kenlock's photographs are clear, crisp, stark documents of political life for

young Black people in the UK. There's a Union Jack/swastika mash-up that's been torn to shreds by Eddie Chambers, Tam Joseph's jawdropping image of a Carnival masquerader being kettled by the police and Denzil Forrester's horrifying image of a man who was killed in

Fighting for survival

'Life Between Islands:
Caribbean-British Art 1950s-Now'



WHAT IS IT...

A deep dive into the art and lives Caribbean Britons.

WHY GO...

At its best, this show is a wild, joyful celebration.

→ Tate Britain. Until Apr 3
2022. £16.

police custody, shown next to his painting of a west London dub club. That's the duality at play in this show: people who want to dance, think and live freely, but who are stuck in a society riven with violence, racism and lack of acceptance. And with police violence and

the far right both still ever-present, it remains totally relevant today.

But in the middle of it all is a big room of Peter Doig paintings, followed by works by Lisa Brice and Chris Ofili. They're all gorgeous images. But they're not from the Caribbean, and two of them aren't even Black. I get that this bit is about dialogue – all three of them work or have worked in Trinidad – but it feels totally incongruous.

The rest of the show also feels disjointed, a mess, with narrative threads that lead nowhere. Maybe this should have been two separate exhibitions, or maybe it should've just narrowed its focus.

But when this show's good, it's a wild celebration. It's heady and aggressive and shocking and beautiful and heartbreaking, and it makes you damn grateful for immigration. ■



By Eddy Frankel
Who is also the result
of immigration.



'Mayfair Tennis Ball Exchange'

'Mixing It Up: Painting Today'

LAST CHANCE

You've only got a couple of weeks to catch these incredible exhibitions

'Noguchi'

This pivotal modernist sculptor and designer's experiments with material and light were groundbreaking. This exhibition is all soft yellow lights, curving stone sculptures and radical experimentalism, and it's presented beautifully. This is what happens when culture is properly influential, when art seeps into the mainstream, and totally changes how the world looks.

→ Barbican Art Gallery. Until Jan 9 2022. £18.

David Shrigley: 'Mayfair Tennis Ball Exchange'

David Shrigley's gone full Ronseal. 'Mayfair Tennis Ball Exchange' is exactly what it says it is: a gallery filled with fresh new tennis balls that you can swap an old ball of yours for. That's the show. And it's a brilliant bit of conceptual art, as stupid as it is clever: ie, very.

→ Stephen Friedman Gallery. Until Jan 8 2022. Free.



'A Clay Sermon'

'Mixing It Up: Painting Today'

What can there be left to say with a paintbrush after Leonardo, Manet and Rothko? Turns

Theaster Gates: 'A Clay Sermon'

American artist Theaster Gates's most recent show hits you like a ton of bricks: mainly because it's a mini history of ceramics, and that comes with a lot of weight, both metaphorical and physical. This is art about material, stories, race, and context. No pot here is just a pot, and no brick just a brick, but they all hit you pretty hard anyways.

→ Whitechapel Art Gallery. Until Jan 8 2022. Free.

out, a shitload. This survey of contemporary painting – almost all recent work from UK-based artists – is a brilliant statement of the medium's staying power and relevance, full of ideas, aesthetics and approaches that will leave you dizzied. ■ *Eddy Frankel*

→ Hayward Gallery. Until Dec 12. £12.

Read the latest reviews [timeout.com/art](https://www.timeout.com/art)

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS' GALLERY

Helen Levitt: New York, 1940. © Film Department LLC. Courtesy: Helen Levitt in Zurich, Cologne

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Edited by Angela Hui
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink

Food & Drink

London's tastiest dishes and drinks of 2021

Time Out's Food & Drink writer *Angela Hui* reveals the best things she ate and drank at London restaurants this year

Morny Bakehouse



IT'S BEEN ONE

helluva year trying to recover from the consequences of you know what, but it has made me a lot more appreciative of the smaller things in life. Like being able to sit inside with family I haven't seen since pre-pandemic days with a glass of wine, or the joy of navigating a blackboard menu with more than five friends. So I'm shining a light on the tenacious hospitality industry for serving up my favourite dishes of 2021.

Best starter

Eating at **Bibi** was such an exciting journey: it felt like going on a trip to India with chef-patron Chet Sharma. The **nashpati bhel with pear granita** was a dish full of clever contrasts and flavours: spicy, crunchy puffed rice, topped with a bracing pear granita that cooled everything down.

→ 42 North Audley St, W1K 6ZP.

Best side

Where do I start with **Café Cecilia's chips**? I was so captivated eating these crunchy-on-the-outside,

fluffy-on-the-inside, golden potato strips on my lunchtime trip to the restaurant, that for a moment I forgot entirely where I was. Truly an out-of-body experience. It's a shame that they're only served with the onglet steak, because if these chips came on their own as a separate side, I'd happily order two bowls for myself, dip them into their house tartare sauce and spend an afternoon watching people wander along the canal outside – in a state of utter contentment.

→ 32 Andrews Rd, E8 4RL.

Best main

Planque is the place to go for the most genuine French fare you'll get without having to hop on the Eurostar. The **duck-offal chou farci** was packed with gutsy flavours. The juicy meat was swaddled in a softly steamed cabbage wrap and coated in peppercorn-butter sauce. If it was acceptable, I would've licked the plate clean. I'm still racking my brain working out how chef Seb Myers managed to execute it. Quite simply, it was a perfect dish.

→ 322-324 Acton Mews, E8 4EA.



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2 There are dedicated brochures and tasting notes with each...

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Best dessert

Lighthouse Cafe has got the dessert game down. Its **raspberry bakewell tart** was all about the flaky almonds, gooey frangipane and crisp pastry shell. But it was the scoop of silky smooth crème fraîche it came with that really tied everything together and made it sing for me. The fine balance of thick cream, punchy raspberries, sugar and unfiltered childlike delight created a nostalgic, sweet dream. It was everything I could ever want in a dessert.

→ 11 Argall Ave, E10 7QE.

Best snack

What is a **Gilda** skewer, you ask? It's one of the most famous Basque pintxos, consisting of an anchovy, an olive and a pickled guindilla chilli, stuck on a stick and drizzled with extra-virgin olive oil. On paper it might not sound like that much, but in the flesh it's a briny, salty and spicily powerful morsel that pairs beautifully with whatever you're drinking, making it the ideal pre-dinner fodder. Nick Bramham at **QualityWines**, is an evil genius for creating the only bar snack in London truly worthy of your time.

→ 88 Farringdon Rd, EC1R 3EA.

Best alcoholic drink

My winner from this year is a twist on the classic gin Gimlet that was better than the original. Newly opened sustainable restaurant **Warehouse** uses foraged sea herbs in its **Warehouse Gimlet** and has managed to capture the essence of the ocean within a drink. It was tangy, sweet and salty, with a subtle aroma of the spirit. Imagine a botanical wave that warms your tastebuds and sets you up for the meal ahead.

→ 6 Langley St, WC2H 9JA.

Best baked goods

I'm definitely not a morning person, but the one thing that got me out of bed in 2021? **Mornny Bakehouse's lemon meringue pie wave**. This modern viennoiserie, from the people behind Leyton's darling Marmelo Kitchen, has been quietly pumping out some of the city's finest bakes and pastries for a while now. This one is like a ray of sunshine. The twice-baked, beautifully golden flaky pie crust topped with bright, zingy blobs of



Hoko milk tea



Sonora Taquería

lemon curd and torched mini swiss-meringue swirls looks like art. It is so magical, it will brighten even the darkest of days.

→ 216b Francis Rd, E10 6PR.

Best non-alcoholic drink

I had to cancel big plans to visit my extended family in Hong Kong, many of whom I haven't seen in more than three years. When I was given a pouch of **Hoko milk tea** by a friend, my homesickness was instantly cured. Lai cha is Hong Kong's take on the classic British tea with milk and sugar. But this is not like your regular cuppa; it's a rich blend of black teas.

→ www.hokolondon.co

Best meal kit

Chef-founder of **Decatur** Tom Zahir Browne's spicy **shrimp boil** is the king of meal kits and made all the lockdowns bearable. The dish comes loaded with extra-large jumbo shrimp, potatoes, smoked andouille sausages and fresh corn, all swimming



Decatur

I'm sure my body is about 95 percent taco now

in a lip-tinglingly spicy broth. It was seriously outstanding, soulful Southern cooking and a visceral way of eating together.

→ www.decaturlondon.com

Best takeaway

I am not ashamed to say that I have probably queued at **Sonora Taquería** more times than I have seen my mother over the past year. I have eaten barbacoa beef rib and shin tacos precariously perched on bins in the freezing cold. I have bitten into juicy carnitas and managed to get it all down my crisp white top while sitting in London Fields. I am pretty sure my body is about 95 percent taco now. I regret nothing. Trust me, it is worth the queue. ■

→ Netil Market, 13-23 Westgate St, E8 3RL.

The newest reviews and the gastronomic stars of 2022: [timeout.com/food-drink](https://www.timeout.com/food-drink)

SONORA TAQUERIA: JUSTIN DE SOUZA; HOKO MILK TEA: HOKO; DECATUR: BEN HOWE

Manteca



DO YOU EAT meat? If you answered no, skip to the sixth paragraph and then stop reading.

The elevator pitch would be that Manteca is a blend of Trullo/Padella's eye for 'proper', hand-rolled fresh pasta and St John's nose-to-tail minimal waste. To my eternal discredit, I wasn't brave enough to try the off-menu, stuffed pig snout main. I should have. That's on me.

Manteca's pasta is right up there with the best in London. And that's from someone who worships at the altar of Trullo. The fazzoletti with duck ragù, made with hearts and gizzards braised in red wine and stock, deserves the plaudits, but you'd struggle to go wrong anywhere. Silky-smooth crab cacio pepe was a properly thicc saucy boi. I'm not usually a fan of squash-filled cappellacci, but this one made me nod my head like a halfwit.

Then there's everything else. The starter that everyone zeroes in on is the pig-skin ragù with parmesan.



The dish is a crispy superstar, and might already be a London classic.

Everything I ate and drank was great-to-excellent. And I ate and drank a lot. My pork-chop main was juicy and crunchy in all the right places. Even the desserts display a commitment to zero-waste. The chocolate tart was made from leftover whey. It's like finding out your favourite footballer owns a chain of independent bookshops.

All the veg bits were nice. Is it possible to go to Manteca and eat just greens? Maybe. But it would be like going to the Royal Opera House and only visiting the cloakroom.

Even after such a meat-heavy feast neither myself nor my friend Stan felt uncomfortably stuffed. This is powerful, flavourful food but it's not dumb. You won't waddle away from Manteca. You'll glide. I'm going back for that snout. ■ *Joe Mackertich*

WHAT IS IT...

A special night out for the discerning flesh-eater in your life.

WHY GO...

For stunning hand-rolled pasta and... all the meat.

→ 49-51 Curtain Rd, EC2A 3PT.

Sponsored listing

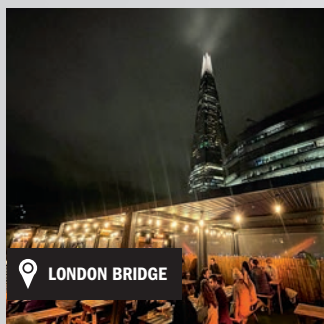
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LEICESTER SQUARE

PANTON YOKOCHO SAYS:

'Experience 1970s Tokyo-style retro ramen at Panton Yokochō. Discover the history of ramen and the differences between regional noodle cuisines, with speciality bowls that showcase a variety of broths and noodle genres from across Japan. Enjoy hanging lanterns and vintage posters to a soundtrack of J-pop tunes from the era.'
35 Panton St, SW1Y 4EA.



LONDON BRIDGE

LONDON BRIDGE ROOFTOP SAYS:

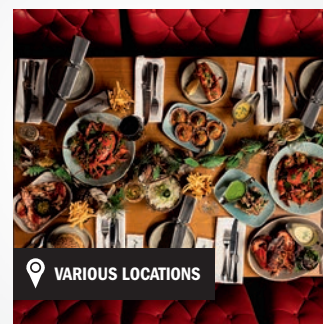
'Step into Christmas at Winter on the Rooftop at London Bridge Rooftop. Look out over the city while curled up under blankets (and heaters), with mulled wine and festive hot dogs to hand. Whatever the weather, there'll be cosy vibes. Book for lunchtime drinks, after-work hangs, weekend brunches and date nights with a seasonal twist.'
Colechurch House, Bridge Walk, SE1 2SX.



LIVERPOOL STREET

DUCK & WAFFLE SAYS:

'Celebrate the joy and magic of the Christmas season aboard Duck & Waffle's Polar Express in the sky. The restaurant has been transformed into an imaginative train station in the clouds, with handsome, old-fashioned fixtures and charming interiors. Guests will delight in the wonder of childhood. Book now at www.duckandwaffle.com.'
Heron Tower, 110 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AY.



VARIOUS LOCATIONS

BURGER & LOBSTER SAYS:

'Tis the season to get together and tuck into some cracking crustaceans. In our book, there's no better way of sharing the joy of Yuletide than over a fantastic meal of spicy lobster, truffled treats and festive tipples. The Christmas menu at Burger & Lobster is well-stocked to make this festive season extra special. Available until December 31.'
Various locations.



Warehouse



WHAT IS IT...

A zero-waste restaurant from former head chef of Silo, Brendan Eades.

WHY GO...

For environmentally minded food with seasonal and sustainable ingredients.

→ 6 Langley St, WC2H 9JA.



'WE'VE TRIED TO make it cosy, but sexy,' says Paul van Zyl of The Conduit members' club about the busy decor of its new public restaurant, Warehouse. But nothing about this place screams sexy. Cosy? Yes, but the decor felt too try-hard and incongruous with what was being served.

As for the food, ex-head chef of zero-waste restaurant Silo, Brendan Eades, brings his environmental credentials to the table, with a menu that focuses on locally sourced ingredients from artisan suppliers and producers.

My vegan pear, celeriac and lovage salad was overly fussy and the pickle and nutty flavours didn't quite work. I had serious food envy of my mate's soul-soothing roasted pumpkin dukkha.

For mains: a thick pork chop with browned anchovy butter and capers was a juicy, salty, herby, winning combo, and one of the most tender things I've ever tasted. My pal's slow-roasted venison had a lot of contrasting, gamey components going on – I wasn't a fan, but he loved it.

Both of our desserts were surprising delights. The white chocolate and chestnut mousse dome filled with pear purée was simply transcendent. And the rice pudding with a caramelised top was a pool of pure, sweet pleasure.

The ambience and food didn't match up, but there's some obvious talent here. ■ *Angela Hui*

Mallow



VEGAN FOOD CAN be many things. It can be cheeze and facon, or it can be droopy salads. But it doesn't need to be. That's the idea behind Mallow, the sister venue to cult veggie restaurant Mildreds.

Like at Mildreds, it's world flavours, plant-based and seasonal – a millennial's wet dream. A couple of small plates to start: the skordalia and chargrilled celeriac skewer with jerusalem artichoke mash was very beige, but tasted satisfying. As for the kimchi dumplings with gochujang dip, I wanted to lick the ramekin clean. For mains, we ordered the sharing market thali: a rainbow plate of masala vegetables, kiri hodi, red lentil dhal, pickle, chana basmati and two slices of naan. Flavourful, filling and an absolute steal for £16.

We don't really have a culture of 'going out for dessert' in the UK. We need to change that, because I'd come back just for the pudding. When I took a spoonful of the salty, crunchy chocolate hazelnut financier and mousse I actually heard angels singing. Almost as good was the carrot cake sticky toffee with cream cheese: sour, sweet, dense and nostalgic in all the right ways.

The overall atmosphere felt more sophisticated than Mildreds and definitely no facon rashers in sight. ■ *Chiara Wilkinson*

WHAT IS IT...

Polished plant-based eating from the folk behind Mildreds.

WHY GO...

For a dessert so indulgent it surely can't be vegan, but somehow is.

→ 1 Cathedral St, SE1 9DE.



A.I. is too important to be left in the hands of machines

The A.I. we're referring to isn't Artificial Intelligence, it's Ale Intelligence, of course. We're not technophobes, we just don't trust anything incapable of smelling, feeling or tasting to create something as delicately balanced as Landlord. That's why we have five hands-on, Heriot-Watt trained brewers involved in every step of the process. This way, we can make sure that every sip of Taylor's is as delicious as humanly possible.

All for that taste of Taylor's



Advertisement feature

Ho ho home!

Prefer your Christmas celebrations cosy? There's a whole lot of London you can bring to your door..



Yes, it is the most wonderful time of the year but that means something different to everyone. And if you're a huge fan of keeping your yuletide cheer indoors, we've got you covered. We've teamed up with Schweppes to bring you all the ingredients for a sparkling Christmas without leaving the house.

The music

Carols at Christmas are non-negotiable – even the moodiest of teenagers that sits arms crossed and grumpy on the Northern line at strange times of the day knows that. **Carols at Christmas** (December 15) at Southwark Cathedral supports the Alzheimer’s Society and also brings loads of talent to a screen near you. Your host Grace Dent will welcome ‘Britain’s Got Talent’ semi-finalists Shalom Chorale, who’ll sing festive bangers in their soulful, gospel style.



The entertainment

Quizzes come into their own at Christmas, especially on the telly. But you know what the best kind is? That’s right: a pub quiz. And you can bring this one home. **Pub In a Box** by Walthamstow brewery **Signature Brew** includes ‘the world’s greatest music quiz’, some snacks, a pint glass, curated playlists and a pack of craft beers for good measure. You can make them go further by adding lemonade to make a shandy...

The drinks

Try a festive spritz. It’s a good citrusy highball cocktail made with Schweppes lemonade, pink gin and star anise, which adds a mulled spice twist, making it a perfect and easy-to-assemble Christmas beverage. No big metal shakers required here. When it comes to the gin, Gordon’s is as classic as London gin gets, and they do a pink one, so you might as well get a bottle of that in to try the drink in all its glory. Christmas cheer(s) all around! For more delicious and festive Schweppes cocktail recipes, visit www.timeout.com/schweppeschristmas.



The snacks

Mince pies are great, and the ones at **Flor Bakery** in Borough Market are the stuff of Christmas legend. This year, they’ve created a meal kit which will allow you to make the goodies from your own kitchen, which is certain to be a fun and delicious activity. They also do delivery on their actual mince pies if you can’t be bothered with the making and baking.

The theatre

Across three dates this December (10, 17 and 24), you can turn tradition firmly on its head with the iconoclastic performance artist Taylor Mac. This filmed performance of a production at the Barbican, **‘Holiday Sauce... Booster!’**, blends music, film, burlesque and random acts of fabulousness in the most subversive and cathartic event of the year. And you can deconstruct those traditions from your own sofa. How refreshing!



→ Find more festive inspiration at www.timeout.com/schweppeschristmas





You've got the
Christmas spirit...

We've got the tonic.



for the facts drinkaware.co.uk

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