

INSIDE:  
KIDS' SUMMER SPECIAL

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LONDON

# Back

# to



# business

London's Little Simz heads up this year's festival season

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# Hello, London

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**NOT FOR RESALE**



So then, 'Freedom Day'. Lovely concept but shame about the name. It sounds a bit brash, a bit (whisper it) *American* for London. The words sits awkwardly on our shabby city, like a sparkly top hat on a mongrel dog. Or when you hear someone in a greasy spoon ask for a flat white. Wrong.

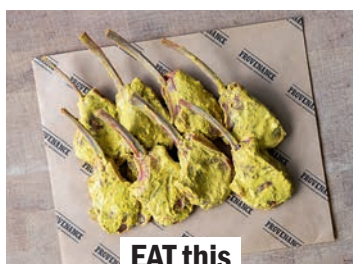
But, as usual of course, my opinion does not matter. At all. 'Freedom Day' is a *massive deal*. The moment we've been craving, after what feels like 400 years of stifling (but entirely necessary) restrictions. Yes, we need to still take care. And, yes, vulnerable people still need protecting. But I can now go and destroy my hearing once again watching Space Witch at the Devonshire Arms (while wearing a mask, naturally).

Freedom in London, true freedom, means having the time and the money to take yoga classes, get a massive round in, go for a long stroll in the park, stay out all night or impulse purchase a Minimoog synthesizer. In other words, freedom in London is a privilege. So let's keep in mind our fellow Londoners who, for whatever reason, lack the means to fully enjoy what so many of us took for granted for years. Freedom is a beautiful thing.

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



The second **Ensemble Festival** at the Royal Docks is worth checking out on Saturday. Comedy, music and dance, courtesy of Certain Blacks.



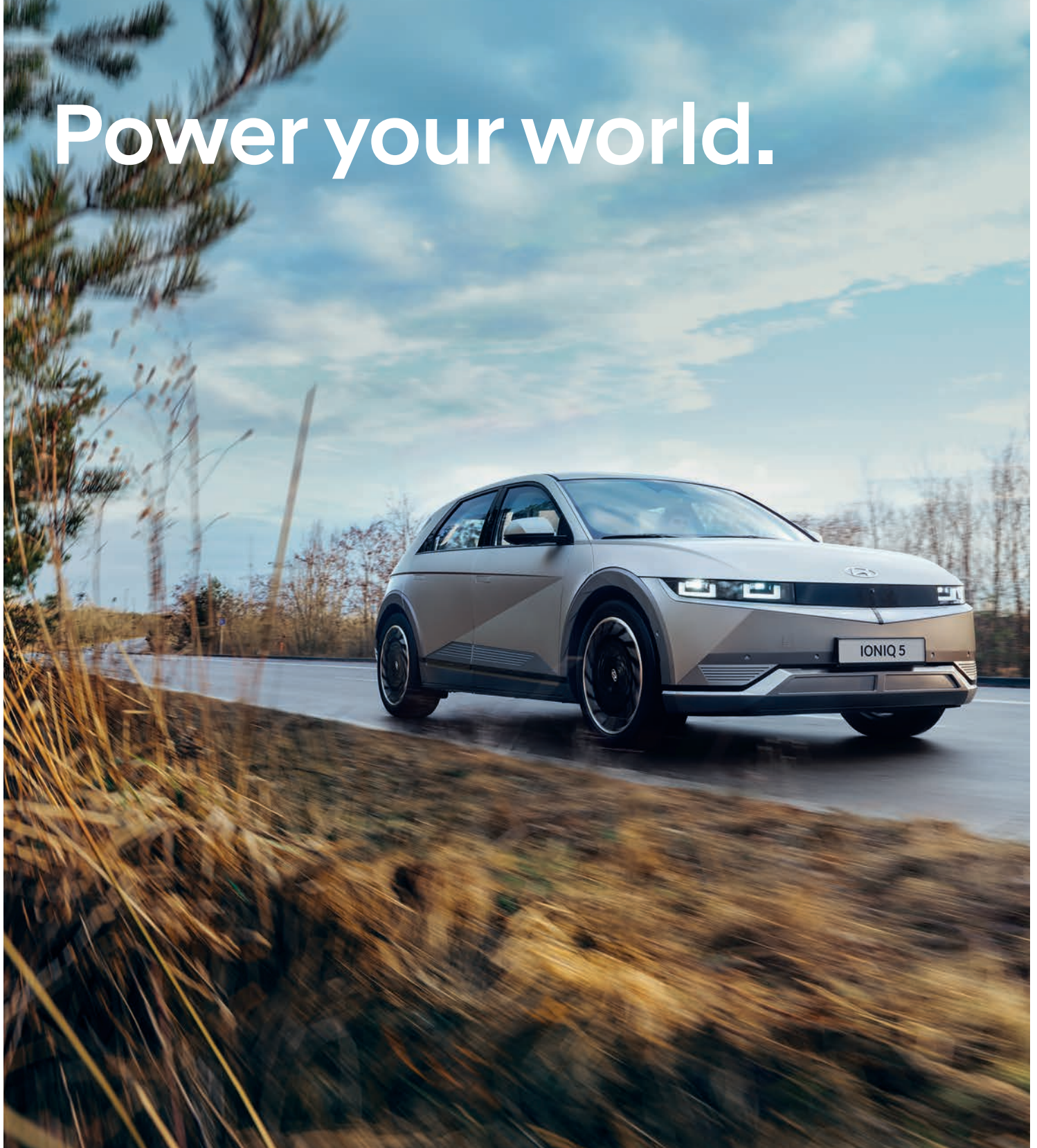
**Provenance Village Butcher** is doing meat delivery boxes and you know I had to get involved. A stunning rib eye was the highlight.



I went back to **The Pembury Tavern**, one of my favourite pubs in Hackney, with my dog Kronus, and it was perfect. The staff were great.

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# City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron  
@timeoutlondon



## A manifesto for the future of nightlife

Super-speed DJ Sherelle reimagines London clubbing scene as it opens back up



### 1 Free drinks will be mandatory

'Everyone has been hell broke and nights out can be expensive. Maybe big drinks companies could subsidise smaller clubs to give everyone free drinks? They're going to be struggling the most with getting people in and it would mean that everyone would have a really good time.'

### 2 Line-ups will be more diverse

'With everything that's happened recently, especially with Black Lives Matter, we should make clubbing more inclusive and safe for more people. It should start with line-up bookings. Club nights will be much more interesting if you've got different opinions and perspectives of people playing. Clubs should make nights that everyone can feel they can go back to.'

### 3 We will build a proper community

'When we go back, I want us to actually interact with new people. It's a great time to make new friends, meet different types of people and have different experiences – it can really change your outlook on life. Also, the last year should be a lesson for everyone to look after each other. Make sure that a friend gets home safely from the club and check in on each other, mental-health wise.'

### 4 Masks will remain on

'I would love for clubs to offer free masks and tests, so if people feel anxious about going out, you know you're staying safe. Also, hand washing should be made mandatory when going to the toilet, because I know people will stop doing that again. A lot of things go down in a club toilet cubicle, so it's really for the best.'

### 5 Grassroots venues will be supported

'It's amazing playing festivals and super-clubs, but being in a small room with 200 people rammed in, playing the music I'm playing, is a different vibe. It sucks that smaller venues are closing down and I don't have the funds to buy them up.'

### 6 Ban all bastards from the club

'Racists, homophobes, transphobes, people who think they can sexually assault or harass others. Just ban them all, I don't want people feeling uncomfortable. Also ban the people who don't check their friends for these sorts of behaviours. If people are going to be dickheads, especially after 18 months of being locked down, they're not welcome.' ■ Interview by Chiara Wilkinson

→ Sherelle's debut EP, '160 Down the A406', is out now on Bandcamp and streaming services.



# UPPER STREET N1

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Artist *Yinka Ilori* on design shops and wild nights in Islington

**MOST OF MY** adolescent life was spent on Upper Street: working, eating, socialising. I loved how multicultural and vibrant it was. I used to go to a bar called Pitcher & Piano that had a really good DJ who would play R&B, hip hop and afrobeats on a Friday and Saturday. I grew up in a huge council estate and everyone from the estate would go down and fill it out every weekend.

There are also some really nice design shops in the area that I would always pop into for inspiration when I was trying to become a designer – places like Aria and TwentyTwentyOne. When I was growing up, there was such a community there: people really cared who visited their shops and made an effort to remember you.

Obviously, it has changed a lot since I was 16 – it's a bit more bougie now – but it's a place I've brought with me into adulthood. I'd love to do a mural or public installation on Upper Street, to give something back to the area, because it really shaped my experiences and my outlook. It shaped my work too: my art is very much about community, a sense of belonging and celebrating the power of multiculturalism in London. ■ *Interview by Isabelle Aron*

→ [www.yinkailori.com](http://www.yinkailori.com)

# Bao Noodle Shop's beefy, brothy, healing noods



What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

**WHEN ERCHEN CHANG** launched a chaotic Bao pop-up at Hackney's Pacific Social Club in 2013, she set a standard for authentic Taiwanese food in the city. Joints in Soho, Borough and Fitzrovia followed, all serving up now-iconic steamed buns. But Bao has something

different up its sleeve. Its Noodle Shop opened this month, bringing with it a new must-eat. 'Beef noodle is a national dish of Taiwan,' says Chang. 'The key is the balance of beef and chilli heat.' She gives us the lowdown. ■ *Chiara Wilkinson*  
→ 1 Redchurch St. £12.50.



**The beef**  
'Both the beef shortrib and the beef cheek are cooked in the same way: marinated in a soy mixture and steamed overnight so that they're tender.'

**The broth**  
'We make a stock using aged beef bone, roast veg and spices. We also add a fermented broad-bean paste called doubanjiang. It reinforces the spicy flavour.'

**The butter**  
'This is inspired by a noodle place in Taipei called Lin Dong Fang. It's made by rendering beef fat and infusing it with chilli and spices. It makes a neon mix that we melt in.'

**The noodles**  
'Our noodles are long and thick. We make them in our Bao bakery with wheat flour imported from Taiwan. They are pressed seven times and then rested before cutting.'

**The veg**  
'We ferment our own Chinese mustard greens for more than a month to provide an acidity which balances the fatty beefiness. It makes the flavours work in harmony.'

Explore more of the city at [timeout.com/thingstodo](http://timeout.com/thingstodo)



Find more culinary inspo at [timeout.com/food](https://www.timeout.com/food)



## Four things to try charring this summer

It's officially park barbecue season – Honey & Co's *Sarit Packer* shares her tips

### Stone fruits

'Smoke cherries, peaches, plums and apricots. You don't want them to go black, but you do want the skins to blister and explode. While they sizzle, make a floral syrup by combining sugar, water and rose petals or rosemary. Drizzle it over the fruit and finish off with a scoop of ice cream.'

### Knafeh

'This is a dessert that I grew up eating as a snack on street corners in Haifa, Israel. Imagine a shredded pastry, layered up with cheeses (I use mozzarella, or goat's cheese with feta) and soaked with a load of sugar syrup. You can get the pastry from Middle Eastern grocers. Just toss it in loads of butter and cheese in a metal pan on the barbecue.'

### Salted stuff

'For a classic Greek meal, rest sea bass or mackerel in a salt-water solution for 20 minutes. When you grill it, the flesh will stay super-moist while the skin goes crispy, with a salty crust. Throw some potatoes into the embers to cook, and grill some asparagus lightly brushed with the salt water.'

### Cabbage

'Use a tight-leaved white cabbage. Cut it into quarters and brush with some olive oil and a sprinkle of salt. Char one side until it's quite dark and keep flipping until the inside is steamed. To serve, douse it with garlic butter.' ■ *Interview by Chiara Wilkinson*

→ Honey & Co will be barbecuing at Meatopia in Tobacco Dock, Sep 3-5. [www.meatopia.co.uk](http://www.meatopia.co.uk)



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The short term (left): Germany's Ulmer Nest homeless shelter. The long term (below): SoloHaus, developed by the Salvation Army, Hill and Citizens UK

## How pod houses are providing a way out of homelessness

There are new ways of city living in the wake of the pandemic

**LOOK AROUND PRETTY MUCH** any part of this city and you'll see slanted benches, tactically placed armrests and spikes that embody the hardship of London's homeless population. You'd be forgiven for thinking architects, urban designers and local authorities have never given a second thought to – or in fact, actively tried to harm – the thousands of rough sleepers who call this city home.

Last year something changed. All over the world, cities threw open the doors of hotels to house homeless people during the pandemic. And that left people asking: if governments can do this now, why not in the Before Times – and the future?

Enter the 'pod' home: a halfway house between temporary accommodation and fully-fledged independent living that's gaining traction as a sustainable way to provide a route out of homelessness. Following the successful rollout of its 'modular homes' across the USA, the Salvation Army has teamed up with Citizens UK and developer Hill Group to build 200 in Bristol, Manchester, London and elsewhere.



Each pod costs £47,000 to build, with just £5 per week running costs. Whereas much temporary accommodation operates on a night-by-night basis, rough sleepers can stay in them for up to two years. They can receive drugs, alcohol and mental health support, along with skills to help them move on to longer-term accommodation.

The only current site is Malachi Place in Ilford, Essex, which has given homes to 56 people since it opened in March last year. One is Dean Hudson, a former drug addict who'd been on and off the streets for the past 20 years. In March he shut the door of his flat in Grays, which he was struggling to manage, and walked up the A13 to Ilford. He has lived in one of the pods ever since. 'It's the best thing I've ever done,' he says. 'It's got me back into real life. I'm 70 percent managing my bills. There's no excuse not to be clean. I don't feel second-class any more.'

For city authorities, there are other benefits. The homes are cheap, can easily slot into empty plots of land and be moved. As Dean says: 'You basically can't go wrong here.' ■ *Huw Oliver*

## Three cool things opening in old prisons



### The arts centre in a Lithuanian jail

Built when the city was part of the Russian Empire, the old Lukiškės Prison (above) in Vilnius was a shooting location for 'Stranger Things' before it closed in 2019. Reopening as Lukiškės Prison 2.0, it now houses workshops and studios for 250 resident artists, and it will soon host exhibitions and music festivals.

### The Soviet sanatorium-turned-music venue

In the USSR, psychiatric hospitals were often used as political prisons. The team behind legendary Tbilisi club Bassiani are now turning one of them, Kyiv's Khvyliya, into a club venue. The first event is ICKPA: a techno-heavy festival with a line-up including Jeff Mills, Nastia and Salome.

### The hotel in a Cornish prison

A notorious eighteenth-century prison might not scream luxury, but that didn't stop one businessman from investing £60 million to convert Bodmin Jail – between Plymouth and Newquay – into a hotel. Each of its 70 bedrooms covers three former cells and features a photograph of a former inmate. Sinister, yes, but memorable. ■

*Rosie Hewitson*

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Little Simz, Hoxton, July 2021





# In a world of her own

London's most introverted rapper is ready to open up. She talks to *Candice Carty-Williams* ahead of *All Points East*. Portraits *Andy Parsons*

**WHEN SHE'S NOT** performing, Little Simz likes to be the observer, not the observed.

Right now, however, she's focused on the camera in front of her – reshaping her long body with ease on the roof of artist Morag Myerscough's colourful Hoxton studio – and is clearly feeling that all the eyes in the space are on her.

She suddenly asks: 'Can we have some music, please?' directing the request at nobody in particular. At

first it makes me wonder if the 27-year-old musician is shy. I realise, though, as she carries on, that it's more of a hyper-awareness that she's being eyeballed by a group of people that's making her uncomfortable.

'Because I'm a performer or whatever it is, in front of the camera or on stage, people always expect me to have this edge around me,' she tells me later. 'That's all they know about me, when I actually don't.'





Brixton Academy, April 2018

### Always watching

I think about what I know about Little Simz. She was born Simbiatu Abisola Abiola Ajikawo to Nigerian parents. She was raised Muslim. She's the youngest of three siblings and has released eight EPs and four mixtapes. This has all been on her own music label, Age 101. She's described as a hip hop artist, but is fearless when it comes to adopting any genre she's decided to master. She studied the work of Nina Simone, John Coltrane, Billie Holiday and Biggie Smalls while making her new album 'Sometimes I Might Be Introvert' (out in September), but her sound is always unique. 'I'm very London in my delivery,' she says. 'Which is why I feel free to experiment so much, because I don't have to show I'm from London. You can hear it.' (You really can. She pronounces 'lockdown' 'lockdaaaan'.)

When the shoot is over, Simz is taken downstairs to put on some comfortable clothes. When I see

her again, while she's having her locs re-styled, she's wearing a faded orange T-shirt with the title of her third album, 'Grey Area', on the front, a pair of green Nike tracksuit bottoms and pastel green Crocs. She looks much happier, more free.

I ask her about introversion, wanting to know if she retreats into her own world, or if she just likes watching people. 'I think it's a cross between the two,' she says gently. 'I think I'm very independent and I'm reflective and introspective about things, but I definitely observe. I'm very aware of the surroundings around me.'

She wants to go and eat for our interview, so we climb into the gigantic black Range Rover I'd spied outside the studio, the driver of which I'd seen waiting patiently nearby. When we pull up to the Rum Kitchen in Shoreditch, Simz contemplates the offering of Jamaican-inspired small plates, and asks me a number of questions as she does. 'Are you a meat eater?' 'Are

## LITTLE SIMZ'S LONDON

The artist's favourite spots in the city

### Boxpark Shoreditch

Simz loves 'the vibe' at this outdoor venue. Home to some of London's best street food, it's come into its own in the pandemic.

→ 2-10 Bethnal Green Rd, E1 6GY.

### Highbury Fields Tennis Courts

You can do both tennis courses and private coaching on the dedicated courts in this north London park.

→ Highbury Grove, N5 1QP.

### Alexandra Palace

'It's got a nice view. I used to go ice skating there when I was young, and it holds good memories,' says Simz of this famous hilltop.

→ Alexandra Palace Way, London N22 7AY

LITTLE SIMZ LIVE: RMW/SHUTTERSTOCK



you just gonna get fries?’ ‘You *sure* sure?’ Then: ‘Do you like plantain?’ I tell her that – controversially, as a Jamaican – I don’t. ‘No?’ she asks, her already huge eyes widening. She tells me that she was going to offer to share if I did.

There’s a generosity to Simz that surprises me. In fact, there’s a lot that surprises me about her. She has this way of looking at you and really *seeing* you that makes you feel like you’re the one in the hot seat. She laughs a lot, too. Not a big roar but an inward chuckle. She catches me dancing along to ‘So Good’ by Destiny’s Child playing out in Rum Kitchen and I feel like I’ve been caught doing something I shouldn’t as she lets out a slow cackle and asks: ‘You feeling it, yeah?’

### Pressure and politics

It’s been a slow burn for Simz to get to the cult artist status she has now. She began her career handing out mixtapes in the school playground, while she did her first acting at St Mary’s Youth Club in Islington. She went on to appear on CBBC as a teenager, then on ‘Youngers’ on E4.

I ask her about the responsibilities she feels as a performer, as a woman and particularly as a Black woman. ‘Sometimes I feel the pressures of having to constantly have an opinion or to address things,’ she says. ‘It’s like, I don’t have an answer and I’m still trying to figure out how I feel about certain things.’ She explains how in this age, when everyone has access to the internet, the sharing of traumatic events, opinions and pain can be overwhelming. ‘So I usually remove myself. I definitely am very withdrawn.’ I understand where she’s coming from. In the wake of the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, it felt as though Black people were responsible for educating anyone non-Black about why Black lives should matter.

‘People sometimes expect me to be a role model, which I can understand, but I prefer the term *real* model. Because, firstly, I’m not playing a role,’ Simz says firmly. ‘I’m being myself. I don’t always get things right. And I want to make that very known.’ Her voice grows in size and strength as she brings her point home. ‘I feel like when you’re following someone’s career, the minute they do one thing [wrong], everyone’s quick to judge.’

When answering my questions, Simz rarely looks at me. She blinks

## Little Simz

out of the window, focusing on Shoreditch High Street. She looks down at the table, or, at points, seems to look off into a place none of us are privy to. When I ask if she has any interest in current affairs and politics, she tells me: 'I actually don't know what's going on.'

'You're in your own world?' I ask her. 'Yeah, I'm very much in my own world,' she agrees, nodding slowly. 'Do you think that's a protective thing?' I ask. She nods again, immediately this time. 'Yeah, yeah, for sure. I have no interest in what these people have to say,' she says of politicians. 'I don't feel like they're speaking to me.'

She pauses for a few seconds.

'And I feel very intensely, init? I get very emotional and don't stand for injustice or any of that stuff. So I just try to protect myself.'

### From the heart

If you've followed her career, you'll know that Little Simz is an incredibly private person, and not the type to put everything out on social media, let alone spill her heart out in an interview. But I bring up 'I Love You, I Hate You', a track on the new album I'd guessed was about her dad before I'd pressed play. I ask her about the line: 'Never thought my parent would give me my first heartbreak' and she looks down at her plate.

'I didn't even wanna write that song,' she says, moving her food around. I feel guilty for asking about it. 'I was finding every excuse under the sun to not write it.'

She leans back in her seat, looks out of the window and pauses for a few seconds. Clearly, when she's vulnerable, it's on her terms.

'I didn't wanna give him the stage. But it's actually not about him at all. It's about how I feel. So when I started writing, I was proper fighting it. And [producer] Inflo was like: "I'm not writing another beat until you write this one."' She laughs, coming into herself again. 'But as I started writing I was like: Rah, this is probably going to be the most important song on the album.' She tells me quietly that she's thought about how certain songs on the album will be received by her sisters. 'I'm not even saying anything bad; it's just my truth.'

Her dad isn't the only family member whose story is told on her upcoming album. The heartbreaking 'Little Q Parts 1 and 2' are about a younger cousin she was once estranged from. When



**'People expect me to be a role model. I prefer real model'**



they reconnected and he was telling her about his life in the years they hadn't been in touch, she realised how important it was to tell his story. 'As much as he's my little cousin, to anyone else he's just another number,' she says. 'Another boy that had just been stabbed.'

Knowing that the hour I was meant to have with Simz passed long ago, I ask her, as my final question, if she has any regrets. I expect an answer in line with the conversation we've had; one that is thoughtful, considered, bordering on the introspective, the self-analytical.

'I should have taken French seriously [at school],' she tells me, finally.

I think that's Little Simz in a nutshell. You have to relinquish any ideas you hold of her. When you finally think you know what's coming next, when you finally think that you're in her world, you realise that you were only ever a visitor. ■

→ Little Simz plays All Points East on Aug 28. 'Sometimes I Might Be Introvert' is out Sep 3.



**Candice Cary-Williams** is a culture writer and author of award-winning novel 'Queenie'

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# Back to it

Clubs are back. *Chiara Wilkinson* picks 14 brilliant summer nights you can still book tickets for. There's electro, there's house, there's dubstep and, yep, there's... Abba

## Wiggle to some wonky techno at the **Pickle Factory**

Pre-pandemic, Bristol was having a bit of a moment – with innovative producers making techno interesting again. Timedance is one of the top labels from the city, and they're taking some of their sweat-inducing selectors to the capital. There'll be thumps of bass, electro-laced acid cuts and lots of broken-beat techno.

**Expect** 'Curved' by Batu & Lurka.

**Capacity** 200.

→ The Pickle Factory. Aug 13, 10pm-6am. From £10.



## Find your feet at **FabricLive**

Fabric's legendary Friday live sessions bring bass-centric dance music to fiercely high-energy crowds. For this one, Digital Mystikz – the south London dubstep duo consisting of Mala and Coki – will be heading the line-up, joined by other UK heavyweights including Sicaria Sound, Sully, and Om Unit. The BPM won't be anything less than 130, so make sure you wear something to sweat in.

**Expect** 'Anti War Dub' by Digital Mystikz.

**Capacity** 1,600.

→ Fabric. Aug 13, 11pm-6am. From £10.

## Get your groove on with **Little Gay Brother**

Watch the sun go down with the return of one of London's favourite queer club nights, Little Gay Brother. This party crew will be putting on a rave-inspired shindig complete with decor and dancers. The line-up is still TBA, but it promises 'queer excellence': previous nights have seen Joshua James, Michelle Manetti and residents Maze & Master take to the decks. There's no rules here; just lots of self-expression, lots of dancing, and lots and lots of colour.

**Expect** 'Marlene [PH97]' by Joshua James.

**Capacity** 250.

→ Colour Factory. Jul 31, 2pm-4am. From £10.



### Sing along to the classics at **Brixton Jamm**

The Craig Charles Funk and Soul Show is returning to its long-running Saturday residency at Brixton Jamm. To mark the end of summer, the crew are throwing a day-to-night party with the option of private outside booths. You could bring your mum to this. **Expect to hear** 'I Say a Little Prayer' by Aretha Franklin.

**Capacity** 750.  
→ Brixton Jamm, SW9 6LH. Sep 4, 2pm-4am. From £8.



### Jiggle to some joyous house with **Jayda G**

Phonox is really pulling out the stops. As well as some impressive four-week residencies coming up with Max Cooper and O'Flynn, stellar house selectors Jayda G and Ruby Savage are taking to the decks for the club's reopening. Jayda's 2020 EP, 'Both of Us'/'Are You Down', was nominated for the best dance recording at the 2021 Grammys. You're in for an eclectic mix of funk, soul, house, up-tempo tech and everything in between.

**Expect to hear** 'Don't Go Lose It Baby' by Hugh Masekela.  
**Capacity** 550.

→ Phonox, SW9 7AY. Jul 22, 9.30pm-4am. From £5.

### Rediscover your emo phase at the **O2**

Everyone was a scene kid. If you claim you weren't, you're lying, or you still are one. Either way, Make Emo Great Again will be blasting Blink 182, Paramore, and Fall Out Boy in a huge space. **Expect** 'Teenagers' by My Chemical Romance.

**Capacity** 4,921.  
→ O2 Academy Islington. Aug 13, 11pm-3am. From £5.

### Go vinyl digging with **Gerd Janson**

Gerd Janson, the man behind 2017 summer anthem 'Surrender', is coming to Loft Studios in a series that asks DJs to exhibit the full breadth of their record collection. For Janson, that could

mean jazz, balearic grooves, northern soul or stripped-back techno.

**Expect** 'Don't Go - Re-Work' by Gerd Janson and Julie McDermott.

**Capacity** 500.  
→ Loft Studios. Aug 28, 6pm-3am. From £12.50.

### Find a new venue with **Kornél Kovács**

Canvas is a new, tight-capacity venue. Studio Barnhus founder Kornél Kovács is filling it with his favourite dance music. He's known for a boundary-free attitude to genre, but you can definitely expect many variations of house.

**Expect** 'So Sunshine' by HNNY.

**Capacity** 300.  
→ Canvas. Jul 30, 11pm-5am. From £12.50.

### Pretend you're in a UFO at **E1**

If you like warped synths and bass distorted to sci-fi soundtrack, this mega party at E1 is for you. German DJ duo FJAAK will be headlining the Black Studio, meanwhile DJ Stingray is set to splinter broken-beat electro.

**Expect** 'Swift Gathering', Skee Mask Remix.

**Capacity** 1,600.  
→ E1. Aug 27, 11pm-6am. From £10.

### Strut your stuff with **Romare**

Signed to Ninja Tune, Romare's music is refined house/world music/jazzy soul. In other words, it's groovy, and he's playing a disco special in a strip club. Where better for a night of mischief?

**Expect to hear** 'Gone' by Romare.

**Capacity** 650.  
→ Metropolis. Aug 28, 10pm-4am. £5.

### Dance to **Horse Meat Disco**

Ministry of Sound is throwing a daytime dance in its courtyard with the institution that is Horse Meat Disco. Think sequins and dodgy psychedelic shirts.

### Discover new bassy brilliance at **The Cause**

Born as an underground music and streetwear blog, Keep Hush soon evolved into a musical platform with an exciting roster of emerging UK talent. It's throwing a three-stage festival of garage, breaks and anything clubby in Tottenham's coolest venue, The Cause. If you get hungry from all that skanking, there will be food stalls on hand.

**Expect to hear** Lots of rumbles and rhythms.

**Capacity** 400+.  
→ The Cause. Aug 14, noon-10pm.  
From £12.50.

**Expect** 'You Can Win' by Bileo.

**Capacity** 400.  
→ Ministry of Sound. Jul 31, noon-9pm.  
From £16.

### Fish out your flares for **Abba**

No cardio will ever compete with singing and dancing to pure cheesy filth. The Birds in Leytonstone is throwing a dedicated Abba night of hits, mixes and re-edits. Profits will go to Choose Love, a charity that raises funds for refugees. Dancing queen? That's up to you.

**Expect to hear** Abba, Abba and more Abba.  
**Capacity** 250. ■

→ The Birds, E11 3AA. Aug 20, 9pm-1am. From £9.

There's no rules here: just self-expression

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LITTLE GUY BROTHER: EVIND HANSEN; PICKLE FACTORY: SAMBYRANMERRETT; FOR HERE & NOW: BRIXTON JAMMIES; JAYDA G: JAYDA G; DARREN GERRISH/WIREIMAGE; CORSICA STUDIOS: TOBY KEANE; THE CAUSE: LUKE CURTIS



# Love Local

Edited by Kate Lloyd  
timeout.com/lovelocal

## HD Cutz: the England team's hairdresser

This Battersea barbershop is where our international footballers go for a fresh fade

**BARBER SHELDON EDWARDS** knows how important a good haircut is. When England's top footballers are preparing for a big game, he's the one they call.

The Jamaica-born Battersea resident has become the go-to hairdresser for some of the biggest stars of the England squad in the past few years. He's responsible for the crispy fades on Raheem Sterling, Jude Bellingham, Reece James and Jadon Sancho. He's also the man behind Phil Foden's now-notorious bleach job, which propelled Edwards's Lavender Hill barbershop into the spotlight.

A third-generation barber, Edwards spent years perfecting his craft before opening HD Cutz four years ago. It's on the street he got his first job cutting hair as a teenager. 'I just walked into a barbershop one day and asked if I could get a job,' he says. 'They were looking at me funny because I was only 16, but they gave me a chance. That day I worked



from ten in the morning to 12 at night, and I haven't stopped working since.'

Edwards's first footballer client was former Fulham player Moussa Dembélé. 'He said he was looking for a new barber,' Edwards says. 'So I gave him a nice cut and he said I gave him so much confidence.' He met more footballers when he accompanied the French striker to the 2016 Euros, including Belgium international Radja Nainggolan, who started flying him out to Italy when he and his Roma teammates needed a trim.

Edwards can now claim to be the Premier League's favourite hairstylist, with Paul Pogba, Michail Antonio, Riyad Mahrez and Antonio Rüdiger all calling on his services. His secret is not just his skill with clippers.

'People go to the barbershop to de-stress,' he says. 'They often speak about what's going on in their life, and a good barber is there to listen.' ■ *Rosie Hewitson*

→ 103a Lavender Hill, SW11 5QL  
www.hdcutz.co.uk



HD CUTZ: ANDY PARSONS; RAHEEM STERLING: MD / SHUTTERSTOCK; SYDNEY SYLVAH: ROB LOGAN; CARNEY'S COMMUNITY: NICK CORNWALL

### Battersea



Chosen by  
*Sydney Sylvah*,  
who works at  
Battersea Arts Centre  
→ Lavender Hill, SW11 5TN.

Welcome back. Tube it. Bus it. Train it.



### Battersea Market

'The market pops up down the road from my house. It's on every Saturday and it's just a nice way to support small farmers. You get so much for your money and the fruit is always so juicy and delicious.'  
→ Battersea High St.

### Battersea Park

'I feel like a lot of my childhood took place in the adventure playground at Battersea Park. Even as an adult it brings out the kid in you. There's a lake where you can do boat trips. It's great for a family day out.'

### Caius House

'This is a great activity centre for young people. You can do loads of stuff from basketball and table tennis to residential trips and sleepovers. They've got a dance studio and music room too, so it's a great place to just go down and get involved with stuff.'  
→ 2 Holman Rd.

### Carney's Community

'It's a boxing gym and youth club that's been around for years and it runs free boxing workshops for young people. The guys behind it are super-talented and passionate, and it's a great place to meet new people and just vibe.'  
→ 30 Petworth St.

## BATTERSEA

### Maria's

'Ask anyone from Battersea and they'll agree that Maria's is the best chip shop in the area. The owner is nearly always in the shop and the customer service is great.'  
→ 39 Falcon Rd.

### Oddono's

'This place is really well known for great quality Italian ice cream. The pistachio is really nice, and they make the best vanilla ice cream ever. The lines are always long, but it's so worth it. It's probably my favourite place to go during summer.'  
→ 69 Northcote Rd.

### Gas Monkey Bar and Grill

'A great place to go for drinks. It has an interesting quirky American diner-style interior, good prices and the outdoor seating is perfect for summer time.'  
→ 243 Lavender Hill.

# #LetsDoLondon

## MAYOR OF LONDON



**TRANSPORT FOR LONDON**  
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS



### Archway Kebab

'It's a classic one but a good one. My go-to is the Archway Special, which involves a mixed kebab of chicken and lamb shish cooked over charcoal and served with chips. I was knackered after deliveries, so my friend Siobhan introduced me. It's proper honest food.'  
→ 26 Junction Rd.

### Parkland Walk

'It runs from Finsbury Park up to the top of Archway Road and it's bang in the middle of some houses, so it's a nice little thin sliver of nature. I think it's a disused railway line and a bit of a hidden gem. Locals talk about it but it's not well known.'  
→ Florence Rd.



### Archway Road Hill

'I know it best from doing bike-courier deliveries up there. I like it because it's quite a challenging hill and you're guaranteed a bit of workout, plus you earn an awesome ride back down. There's another hill round the corner that's twice as big if you're feeling brave.'  
→ Archway Rd.



### Clever Mike

'Clever Mike is a bicycle repair shop; it's the one our couriers recommend and they know where all the best bike shops are. Expect honest service, where they really care.'  
→ 465b Hornsey Rd.

### The Rug

'A super-random Persian rug shop that you wouldn't find anywhere other than London. It's one of those local shops that just does one thing and always has done. The best thing about Archway is there's no pretension: what you see is what you get!'  
→ 716 Holloway Rd.

### Big Jo Bakery

'Big Jo is sick. They do great pastries and croissants. Last time I was there they had these little pizzas with anchovies. It's also a restaurant, so you get a full high-end service, rather than a quick "in and out". When they come into Top Cuvée, we hook them up with some drinks and we get the same service back.'  
→ 318, 326 Hornsey Rd.

### St John Tavern

'Great for a pint of Guinness and some oysters. When we were doing the building work for Top Cuvée, this was always the place to go after a long day. They're known for elevated pub classics, if you fancy a banging burger or steak and chips made from scratch, St John has you covered.'  
→ 91 Junction Rd.

## Archway



Chosen by *Brodie Meah*, co-founder of Top Cuvée  
→ 189 Blackstock Rd. N5 2LL.



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

# The top London chefs running a greasy spoon

Elliot Kaye and Richie Hayes ditched Leroy's and Lyle's to open a caff

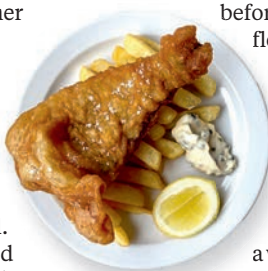


**GINGHAM CURTAINS**, dusty black pepper in glass shakers, checkerboard flooring and a framed photo of Bobby Moore lifting the 1966 World Cup. At first glance, Norman's Café in Archway is just another greasy spoon. Look a little closer, however, and the Aesop hand soap, low-intervention wine and La Marzocco coffee machine will enter your peripheral.

'We'd always wanted our own café serving the classics,' says Norman's co-owner Elliot Kaye, who opened the eatery in 2020 with Richie Hayes and Alex

Rapazzini. 'We loved the idea of cooking and serving honest British food at a good price, with great produce and service.'

A pandemic baby, Norman's began life as a hot-sandwich shop before graduating to fully fledged caff. Now it serves a daily menu that speaks to childhood memories and old-fashioned cravings – kippers on toast, jam roly-poly, and Spam, eggs and brown sauce – transforming into a wine bar on Friday and Saturday nights. You'll struggle to find a dish on the menu for more than eight quid but if you are struck with sudden affluence, there's a



healthy booze offering (where else can you wash down a sausage-and-egg muffin with a Negroni?).

It would be easy to write Norman's off as rose-tinted but at its root there is a commitment to high-quality ingredients and a deep admiration of British food culture. 'We grew up eating in these kinds of places,' says Kaye, but he insists that the team are not 'actively trying to replicate anything'. The result is a space that's oddly charming and nostalgic: a shrine to London caff culture.

So next time you find yourself in Archway, pull up a chair at Norman's, order yourself a set one and tell them that we sent you. ■

*Marcus Brown*  
→ 167 Junction Rd, N19 5PZ.

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MAYOR OF LONDON



# LONDON FOR LESS

Food, drink, screenings and pop-ups. Behold our exclusive offers and discounts

## GaUCHO's parilliada feast menu

**What is it?** A three-steak sampling menu created exclusively for Time Out.

**Why go?** GaUCHO knows steak. So when they want to showcase three premium Argentinian cuts – alongside starters, fries and a glass of malbec – you know you're in a good place.

**Wait, how much?** £35 each – and it's available at seven locations.

→ All London GaUCHOs. [www.timeout.com/gauchoparilliada](http://www.timeout.com/gauchoparilliada)



## Bottomless brunch at Whyte & Brown

**What is it?** Free-flowing booze at a restaurant doing delicious things with chicken.

**Why go?** Choose from wine, beer or one of Whyte & Brown's signature cocktails and then match it with items from their ace brunch menu. We recommend the fried chicken with french toast...

**Wait, how much?** £25 for two hours! Good stuff.

→ Kingly Court. [www.timeout.com/whytebrown](http://www.timeout.com/whytebrown)

## 'Sh!t-faced Shakespeare: Macbeth'

**What is it?** It's the play where one of the cast is, well, shit-faced.

**Why go?** You probably shouldn't go if you want a faithful take on the Scottish Play. If you want a compact version with bad language and hilarious chaos? Walk this way.

**Wait, how much?** £14.50, which is 43 percent off. Which is a whole lot of laughs for your lolly.

→ Leicester Square Theatre. [www.timeout.com/sh!tfaced](http://www.timeout.com/sh!tfaced)

## Dim sum cookery class

**What is it?** A two-hour masterclass teaching you how make those little Chinese parcels of umami deliciousness.

**Why go?** Think of this as your passport to some pretty serious culinary creation. After all, who wouldn't want to be able to bash out top-notch gyoza at the drop of a hat?

**Wait, how much?** £30. That's a 70 percent discount. Bananas.

→ Port East Warehouse. [www.timeout.com/dim-sum-masterclass](http://www.timeout.com/dim-sum-masterclass)

## Psycle

**What is it?** Three classes at the high-quality fitness studios, plus one month's Psycle at Home access.

**Why go?** This really is all your fitness needs in one place – plus some fun at home, too. Choose from ride, yoga, barre and strength and then say hello to some of the best trainers in the biz.

**Wait, how much?** £29. Pumped for that, right?

→ Psycle locations across London, plus virtually at home. [www.timeout.com/psycle2021](http://www.timeout.com/psycle2021)

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# Things to do in London

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



KALEIDOSCOPE FESTIVAL: JAMES BERRY

It's been approximately three centuries since our last music festival, but a new dawn of big days out in muddy fields is almost upon us, starting with Kaleidoscope at Alexandra Palace. **Turn to p28 to read more.**

## Things to Do

# Best of Underbelly Festival

### **C** Hotel Paradiso

Lost in Translation Circus have arrived at the Underbelly spiegel tent in central London for this cheesy-but-endearing family-friendly spectacle. Basically, it's about a group of hotel staff that are fighting to save their workplace from a dastardly banker. But it's not so much about the plot as the gasp-worthy acrobatics. Think 'Fawlty Towers' meets Cirque du Soleil.

→ Underbelly, Cavendish Square.

Until Aug 5. £12.50.

### **C** Bernie Dieter's Berlin Underground

German artist Bernie Dieter is part of the vanguard of the London cabaret scene. She's come a long way from the 2010s, when she could be found delivering debauched ballads in quiet East End bars. Now the 'Queen of Weimar Punk' has got her very own touring show, featuring a 'cast of misfits' performing in a sexy underground comedy circus. If you've never been to a cabaret club night before, you're in safe hands with Bernie (unless you're in the front row when she starts talking to the crowd – then you're fucked).

→ Underbelly, Cavendish Square.

Until Aug 29. £15.

## Brand new exhibitions

### **C** 'No Comply: Skate Culture and Community'

Skating has had a massive, though largely overlooked, impact on contemporary culture. This exhibition will give it some long-overdue attention, with a collection of photography, film, design and fashion, all about life on four wheels and a plank of wood. Gnarly.

→ Somerset House. Until Sep 19. Free, book in advance.

### **C** 'Joy' and 'Tranquility'

The Wellcome is back with its signature mix of science and art, this time pointing the microscope and the paintbrush at the concept of happiness. The museum's 'On Happiness' season is opening

with two exhibitions, 'Joy' and 'Tranquility', each featuring immersive installations, historical objects and art by the likes of David Shrigley and Amalia Pica.

→ Wellcome Collection. 'Tranquility' until Jan 9 2022; 'Joy' until Feb 27 2022. Free.

### **C** 'Bellotto: The Königstein Views Reunited'

Bellotto's five views of a hillside city south of Dresden are brought together here for a monumental, panoramic, dramatically visual experience. This was the Italian landscape painter at the absolute peak of his powers, and each work is a bold, eye-tingling, ambitious statement of his talents.

→ National Gallery. Jul 22-Oct 31. Free, but book your ticket in advance.

## Four plays we love

### **W** 'Lava'

A woman goes on a globetrotting, hard-truth-confronting quest to solve the mystery of why her South African passport doesn't carry her first name in this hotly anticipated debut play from talented Congolese-British writer Benedict Lombe.

→ Bush Theatre. Until Aug 7. £10-£20.

### **N** 'Hymn'

Lolita Chakrabarti's 'Hymn' was originally supposed to run at the Almeida at the start of 2021 – and it did, just to an online-only audience after the third lockdown scuppered the original plans. Now, hopefully, a live audience will get to see Adrian Lester's Benny and Danny Sapani's Gil, in a drama about male platonic friendship that follows two unhappy strangers who meet at a funeral and go on to form a troubled bond.

Blanche McIntyre directs, her second show for the Almeida after the incendiary 'The Writer'.  
→ Almeida Theatre. Jul 26-Aug 13. £10-£43.50.



'Hotel Paradiso'

'Lava'

**C 'Bagdad Cafe'**

The first 'proper' Old Vic show back in front of a live audience is the always-magnificent Emma Rice's interpretation of this classic 1987 indie film about two women who forge a friendship in an obscure, desolate diner on Route 66. Its impressive cast features seasoned London performer Le Gateau Chocolat.

→ Old Vic. Until Aug 28. £10-£65.

**N 'The Two Character Play'**

Tennessee Williams's more obscure plays are often more obscure for a reason. But Hampstead's revival of 'The Two Character Play' – which premiered here in 1967 – has a terrific cast of Kate O'Flynn and Zubin Varla, two of the best actors out there today.

→ Hampstead Theatre. Until Aug 28. £18-£37.



haters and join a new milieu of pet-obsessed people at this animal-themed market. They'll be selling pet accessories and animal art. It's all taking place at the South Bank's giant outdoor beer garden Between the Bridges, so you'll have no trouble finding a dog-friendly place for a pint when you're done.

→ Between the Bridges South Bank. Jul 25. Free.

**Pop-up art**

**E Beavertown Brewery's Unidentified Friendly Object Pop-up**

The US government's recent UFO report has got everyone talking like an 11-year-old 'X-Files' fanatic. Even Beavertown is getting in on the latest round of alien conspiracies. So much so, the brewery is dedicating its 'freedom weekend' party to all things extra-terrestrial. The 'friendly alien invasion' will be landing at Dray Walk Gallery with a UFO installation, music and, most importantly, free beer. If it gets us a

gratis can of Neck Oil, we'll proudly wear the tinfoil hat.

→ Dray Walk Gallery. Jul 23-24. Free.

**C Inside Out festival**

Twenty life-size replicas of the nation's favourite paintings (including Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' and John Constable's 'The Hay Wain') are going on display in Trafalgar Square in August as part of the National Gallery's

late-summer outdoor celebration of art, 'Inside Out'. You might be thinking 'Hold on, can't I just go see the originals right there, inside the National Gallery, for free?' and you'd be right, of course, but we're sure the NG has its reasons. Alongside the exhibition, there will be free daily outdoor art classes in the square.

→ Trafalgar Square. Aug 3-Sep 2. Sketch on the Square sessions are free, but you'll need to book.

**Markets and more**

**S Peckham Salvage Yard**

We often hear people complaining that 'London has no decent flea markets'. Erroneous! They exist. You just have to know where to look. Take this ramshackle yard in Copeland Park, where you'll find piles of vintage clothes, kitschenalia, tangled electrics and G-Plan furniture. If you're not in the market for a new living room set, just go for a wander, and watch a bunch of carless Londoners try to balance chesterfield chairs on their heads for the journey home.

→ Copeland Park and Bussey Building. Jul 25. Free.

**E Hackney Vegan Village**

Did your 'vegetarianism' descend into secret chorizo eating during lockdown? Atone for your carnivorous sins at Hackney Vegan Market. The market runs every week opposite Hackney Central station, with stalls selling fake-meat burgers and big bowls of tabbouleh. There's usually a few vendors selling sustainably made clothing, so you can balance out all those Asos deliveries, too.

→ Bohemia Place Market. Every Sunday, 11am-6pm. Free, register in advance.

**C All things Animals Market**

Have you been mocked for buying your dog a tiny gilet? Ignore the



Peckham Salvage Yard

**See some brutally honest storytelling in the paintings of Paula Rego**

**C Paula Rego**

A good retrospective exhibit should take you on a sort of 'This Is Your Life' journey through an artist's work, and that's exactly what you have here, a huge display of more than a hundred pieces, grouped into very different Paula Rego epochs. The Tate Britain exhibition of this renowned



British-Portuguese artist is far from her first solo show, but it is the biggest of her 60-year career.

Her best work can be found in the late 1980s and 1990s, when she began to fill her paintings with transgressive and conspiratorial women and girls.

When they're not plotting someone's demise, the figures of Rego's paintings spend a whole lot of time lying down, crumpled in agony or boredom (or both), but she paints their strength along with

the anguish. This is particularly true for her 'Untitled' paintings, better known as her 'abortion' series, which depict the aftermath of illegal terminations – women squatting over chamber pots, trying to find some relief from the pain. What Rego captures

so well is the feeling, specifically the feeling of cramps, those screeching, vibrating cramps that tear through the body like a volcanic eruption.

Rego has no interest in painting still lifes, or self-portraits. She's only interested in telling a story, and will use anything from Little Miss Muffet to oversized puppets to help her tell it. But when she deals in reality, that's when it becomes impossible to look away. *Katie McCabe*  
→ Tate Britain. Until Oct 24. £18.



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## THREE OF THE BEST

### London music festivals

There's a muddy patch of grass out there with your name on it, all you need now is a ticket



#### **N** 🤩 Kaleidoscope Festival

Ally Pally is first out the gate for the London festival season with a summery line-up of bands: Groove Armada, The Staves, Ibibio Sound Machine, The Coral and House Gospel Choir.

→ Alexandra Palace. Jul 24. £53.



#### **E** 🤩 All Points East

Miraculously, there are still some tickets going for APE's August Bank Holiday fest despite its hefty line-up with Jamie XX, Kano, Little Simz, Jorja Smith and Bombay Bicycle Club.

→ Victoria Park. Aug 27, 28 and 30. £79.95.



#### **S** 🤩 South Facing Festival

Crystal Palace Bowl (aka 'the rusty laptop') is returning to its former glory as a music venue with this new series of outdoor concerts from Dizzie Rascal, The Streets and Sleaford Mods.

→ Crystal Palace Bowl. Aug 5-29. From £45.

Three not enough for ya? Try [timeout.com/festivals](https://www.timeout.com/festivals)



## ONE UNMISSABLE THING

### BrewLDN craft beer party

Too many beer events take place in corporate exhibition centres. But not BrewLDN, oh no. These guys are holding their massive craft beer party at Printworks, one of the city's biggest nightclubs. Aside from all the posh hops, there'll be DJ sets from RAW SILK and Eliza Rose to help ease you back on to the dancefloor.

→ Printworks. Jul 29-31. £20.50, includes a branded beer glass.

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25 Jun – 26 Sep 2021

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Poulomi Basu, Alejandro Cartagena, Cao Fei, Zineb Sedira. Courtesy of Artforum

KALEIDOSCOPE FESTIVAL: LLOYD WINTERS; ALL POINTS EAST: BURAK CINGI/REDFERNS; SOUTH FACING FESTIVAL: DIZZIE RASCAL; PHOTO BY EVA PENTEL; BEWLDN: HEREANDNOW/ARRIS COWLEY

# Kids

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski  
timeout.com/kids

## 15 fun things to do this summer

London's been seriously lacking in activities for little 'uns since the first lockdown – but this summer they're back with a vengeance...

### Meet 50 lifesized dinosaurs

Summer in London isn't summer in London without some sort of massive dinosaur-based experience to satisfy your little ones' alarmingly intense prehistoric-lizard needs. **Jurassic Encounter** is this year's offering, and will bring a veritable mesozoic menagerie to north London, with 50 lifesized animatronic dinos on display, ranging from the obvious – T.rex, duh – to the downright obscure: lufengosaurus, anybody? We're also promised VR, ride-on dinosaurs and that classic playground staple, the fossil sandpit. But really this

is about giving your sprogs IRL dinosaur content for an hour or two, for which they'll probably be modestly grateful.

→ Grovelands Park. ⊖ Southgate. Jul 24-Aug 10. £13.50, £11.50 child, £12.50 concs.

### Enjoy a hysterically OTT new go-kart experience

Let's face it, there haven't been many new London attractions to get excited about over the last year, so brace yourselves for this: a go-kart track with augmented reality is opening in London and, quite frankly, it sounds wild. It's called **Chaos Karts** and comes

from the brains behind the hugely popular 'Crystal Maze'. But what exactly is an augmented reality go-kart track? Well, you sit in a real kart and drive around a track that's projected on to the ground. Like in a video game. Your real kart will interact with the virtual track and you can use 'power-ups' and 'weapons' to battle with your fellow racers. They can send 'challenges' your way, too. Does this make for better go-karting? Over-13s can find out for when the track opens next month.

→ Fleet St Hill. ⊖ Bethnal Green. From Aug 14. £33-£55.





'Borealis'

More great stuff to do  
[timeout.com/london/kids](https://www.timeout.com/london/kids)

### Play a ridiculously big game of Monopoly

Yes, really: it's a gigantic Monopoly board, allowing you and a group of fellow players to live out your dreams of rampant landlordism in the flesh. In **Monopoly Lifesized** – which is taking up residence in the old Paperchase building on Tottenham Court Road – you take on the roles of the pieces travelling across one of four different giant Monopoly boards: Classic, City (which offers a more up-to-date version of London), Junior and Vault (which is 'set behind the scenes of Mr Monopoly's bank'). There are also sub-games triggered by landing on the different squares. It's pricy, but then we are talking about a game celebrating the power of unchecked capitalism. If you're happy to pony up, it should be a proper laugh.

→ 213-215 Tottenham Court Rd. ☉ Goodge St.  
From Aug 14. £25-£73.

### Track down some giant Lego wetland beasts

If you're umming and ahing over whether a trip to the London Wetland Centre is a fun day out for little ones or just an afternoon splashing about in a bog, then um and ah no more. The LWC's **spectacular Lego animal sculptures** are back for the summer, pepping up nature's soggy bounty with 14 enormous brick versions of the actual flora of UK's wetlands. Gaze in awe at a huge Lego otter, spoonbill, frog and more – and for long-term fans, a mystery new animal has been added for 2021.

→ London Wetland Centre. Barnes rail. Until Sep 5.  
£13.40, £8.95 child, £12.50 concs.

### Travel around the world without leaving London Zoo

You may not be able to visit many foreign counties at the moment, but London Zoo will be doing

Gaze in awe at a huge Lego otter and spoonbill

GREENWICH & DOCKLANDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL: © DAVID SOLMANOWTECH BOREALIS



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its darndest to make up for that with its new summer hols theme **Travel the World**. Kids will get special passports that they can get stamped around the zoo as they meet animals from different parts of the planet. And ZSL will be seriously upping its food game with stalls selling South American barbecue, East Asian 'catsu' curry and Indian tapas. Plus, there are some new exhibits: check out the giant tortoise house and the coral reef tank.

→ London Zoo. ⊕ Camden Town. Jul 24-Aug 31. £26-£35, £16.90-£22.75 child.

**Deface the Tate**

If you're the kind of parent who avoids museums and galleries in case your semi-feral offspring destroy everything, then boy does Tate Modern have the project for you. This summer, everyone is invited to turn the floor of the massive Turbine Hall into a giant work of art. **Mega Please Draw Freely** will see visitors scribble, doodle and generally deface the vast surface using art materials provided by the gallery. The project is the brainchild of artist Ei Arakawa, inspired by the



radical postwar Japanese artistic group Gutai, who wanted to effect social change through painting, performance and children's games. → Tate Modern. ⊕ Blackfriars. Jul 24-Aug 29. Free.

**Go down the rabbit hole at KidZania**

KidZania – the miniature city where children are in charge – is a pretty solid school hols bet as it

stands. But it's been given some extra oomph this summer with **Wonderland**, a new immersive experience based on Lewis Carroll's 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. Children are invited to piece together the clues to the location of the rabbit hole, which they can then step down into and take on a series of Wonderland-based jobs, like designing iced biscuits for

the Queen or performing silver service at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party. Afterwards, families can sit down together to watch an exclusive recorded performance of Carroll's story, created by West End professionals. → Westfield London. ⊕ Shepherd's Bush. Selected dates until Aug 31. £31. £45 child.

**Finally catch up with those 'Fantastic Beasts'**

The Natural History Museum's JK Rowling tie-in exhibition '**Fantastic Beasts: The Wonder of Nature**' had 'hit' written all over it – the only problem is that it was forced to close the week after it opened (when London went into Tier 4 – remember that?). It reopened in the spring, but visitor numbers have been kept low due to social distancing. With restrictions now lifted, there are loads more tickets available so you can finally catch up with the nifty interactive exhibits for the Niffler and his imaginary chums – plus the equally fascinating real-life strange creatures that are thrown into the mix. → Natural History Museum. ⊕ South Kensington. Until Jan 3. £22, £13.25 child, £17.50 concs.

**Kids under 11 travel free**

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All kids under 11 can travel free at any time on buses and trams. Up to four kids under 11 can travel free at any time on Tube, DLR, London Overground, and TfL Rail services when accompanied by an adult. An adult is anyone 16 and over using an adult rate ticket (but not a Group Day Travelcard), pay as you go or travel concession. Excludes Emirates Air Line, Santander Cycles and River services.

MAYOR OF LONDON



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Westfield London Shepherd's Bush

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KidZania

**Roar back into the West End**

Family-friendly theatre has been one of the last things to come back since the pandemic shut things down: kids and the sort of strict social-distancing that theatre productions were following last year don't really mix. But, at last, this summer is really, really busy: there are all sorts of kids' shows, from 'Horrible Histories' on a boat to old West End mainstays like 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. The Kids Week scheme is back, allowing a child to go free with a full-playing adult to more than 30 shows during August. And the big returnee is Disney's 'The Lion King'. The spectacular puppet-driven production of the 1994 cartoon film classic will be roaring back from the end of this month.

→ 'The Lion King', Lyceum Theatre.  
 ☉ Covent Garden. From Jul 29. £20-£95.

**Gawp as the Northern Lights glow over Greenwich**

Older kids – and pretty much all adults – will thrill to 'Borealis', the stunning free centrepiece of this year's Greenwich + Docklands International Festival. It will see a recreation of the Northern Lights projected on to the sky above Greenwich (and then Woolwich) for two-and-a-half hours every night. There's other cool stuff for families in the GDIF programme, too, notably the much-loved Greenwich Fair, which fills the streets of SE10 with all sorts of family-friendly mischief and mayhem.

→ 'Borealis' runs Aug 27-Sep 5 (Greenwich) and Sep 9-11 (Woolwich). Free.

**Go Underground to find the Gruffalo**

Remember the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre? Possibly not. It got bulldozed seven years ago, but this summer it's being transformed into the **London Wonderground**, the pop-up comedy, cabaret and kids festival that's more commonly been found on the South Bank in recent years, but looks right at home here. There's a frankly dazzling array of stuff happening there, though the jewel in the kids' crown is surely Julia Donaldson – that's *the* Julia Donaldson – with a revue-style show bringing to life such beloved creations at the Gruffalo.

→ Empress Place. ☉ West Brompton. Until Sep 26. Free entry, show prices vary.



London Zoo

GIRAFFE: ZSL LONDON ZOO

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# Check-in to a summer of fun



**Meet a dragon at the theatre**

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre has boasted quite a few dinosaur-based kids' shows over the years – including 'Dinosaur World Live', which you can catch at the London Wonderground this summer. But this year at the OAT, the team behind that show go one better with **'Dragons and Mystical Beasts'**, a compendium of fantastical animals from mythology, brought to life as dazzling giant puppets. Expect audience interaction and a general tone of pleasant silliness alongside the raw spectacle.

→ Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. ☉ Baker St. Aug 13-Sep 5. £17-£21.

**Dance through Waltham Forest's hyper tricked-out new fountain**

Denizens of Waltham Forest will be aware that there's been a lot of work going on in the centre of the borough. Now, hot on the heels of the reopening of the Town Hall, comes the unveiling of Fellowship Square just outside: a public space that will play host to a lively year-round programme of arts and culture. From a family perspective, the very cool thing is that it has



Tate Modern

a ridiculously **state-of-the-art fountain**, lit up in a spectrum of colours, with 144 individual jets that can be programmed to respond to music. Great for little 'uns to tear around in on a hot day. For parents and bigger kids, there'll be vibrant displays there every night this summer.

→ Waltham Forest Town Hall. ☉ Walthamstow Central. Free.

**Make a horrifying visit to a Victorian dentist**

Brave children aged over 12 – and let's face it, brave adults too – can take on the London Dungeon's horrifying-sounding summer show, 'The Dentist'. If you're one of those people nervous about getting their teeth seen to in 2021, then just imagine how it was 150 years ago. 'The Dentist' recreates the days

when rotten-toothed Londoners had their blackened pegs wrenched out by backstreet dentists with no anaesthetic. Gut-wrenching sound design, special effects and actors join forces for a show that'll persuade even the biggest sugarfiend to brush twice a day, for ever.

→ Jul 24-Aug 31. London Dungeon. ☉ London Bridge. [www.thedungeons.com/london](http://www.thedungeons.com/london). Entry included with standard ticket.

**Dare to challenge the Hercules**

Are 'assault course' and 'for the whole family' mutually exclusive concepts? You can find out for yourself this summer at the Royal Air Force Museum, which is about to open a new 1km, 18-obstacle **assault course called the Hercules**, which boasts such joys as rope swings, ninja walls, monkey bars and cargo nets. It's the temporary centrepiece of the museum's summer-long ActiveFest, which offers a raft of activities – some of them blessedly gentler than the Hercules – designed to keep the entire family fit. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

→ RAF Museum. ☉ Colindale. Jul 24-Aug 15. Hercules entry £7, £5 child.

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**LET'S DO LONDON**

THE MEGA PLEASE DRAW FREELY: ROB HARRIS



## Four things I learned about London from Regent's Canal

Hiring an electric boat is more than just a lazy afternoon out, as *Caroline McGinn* and family found out



**THE FIRST THING I** learned when I rented an electric boat and pootled down the Regent's Canal is that **slow London exists, and it's fucking excellent.** At 3.5 knots, our teeny vessel was easily outstripped by coots, bicycling toddlers and a heavily pregnant jogger. Slow London is an attitude shared by towpath drifters, canal-boaters kicking back with a tinny and an optimistic reggae fan with a fishing line. This is the opposite of transport: it's idling, with nowhere particular to get to.

The second thing I learned is that **Regent's Canal is a wonder of London.** The scruffy, elegant Georgian waterway meanders for 8.5 miles through the heart of the capital, from Limehouse in the east to Paddington Basin in the west. It's a hidden byway beneath the juddering roads and rails of the city, the perfect spot for an evening beer, spliff, coffee, sunbathe or cheeky hook-up. And it's a lively marketplace that reflects the city: the canal's West End is full of posh waterside eateries and restaurant boats like the Cheese Barge, while its East End has boat-shops selling everything from vintage clothes to tarot readings.

Third thing: **nature is determined to survive all the crap we chuck at it.** City waterbirds are the Eliza Doolittles of the natural world: shrill, manky cockneys. This voyage ain't exactly Attenborough: we saw one family of ducks that had woven discarded nappy bags into their floating nest. Waterlilies and alder have sprung up next to discarded shopping trolleys. The latticed under-arches of railway bridges are roosts for noisy pigeons who use the dank waters below as their bigguano toilet. As we floated under, one boy got 'lucky': a direct hit for their side.

An electric boat emits no stinky exhaust and no noise pollution. It's evidence that **London needs to ban petrol and diesel vehicles asap.** It was quiet as we ran through Regent's Park, but even the gorgeous Little Venice was fouled by noise and fumes. As we floated home past stuccoed mansions and a sickle-topped

golden mosque it was clear: London is truly beautiful. Its green space is greener and spacier than any other city in Europe, its architecture and history are vividly alive on every corner. Imagine if we could remove the smog and stress: every day could be a trip like this one. ■

### WHAT IS IT...

A gentle trip in an electric boat down London's epic waterway.

### WHY GO...

It turns the city inside out and gives you a whole new perspective on it.

→ [www.goboat.co.uk](http://www.goboat.co.uk)  
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[greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/summersessions](http://greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/summersessions)

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# Food & Drink

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Frank's Café

## The Rooftop at The Standard

The Standard's first hotel outside of America was built in the 1970s as an extension of Camden Town Hall. Now it's home to an astroturfed eleventh-floor terrace that's the first port of call for chic parties.

**Which table to ask for** Score a panoramic view of London from the seats on the south-east edge or bag a lounge chair on the north side for a day spent dozing under a parasol.

**What to drink** This is a cocktail flex, with rum punch on tap.

→ 10 Argyle St, WC1H 8EG.

## Roof East

When is a rooftop bar not a rooftop bar? When it's a 30,000-square-foot adult play space with mini golf, batting cages, lawn bowls and a cinema with bottomless popcorn.

**Which table to ask for** Say you want to be by the big yellow Roof East letters and you'll get the best seats here, with the east London skyline spread out before you.

**What to drink** Quaff an English London Bowls Party cocktail:

gin, elderflower, lemon and pressed apple. Refreshing.

→ Floors 7 and 8 Stratford Multi-Storey Car Park, Great Eastern Rd, E15 1BB.

## Frank's Café

Frank's is the OG when it comes to artsy rooftop bars. You might have to fight through crowds of horny singletons posing for Hinge profile pictures on its famous pink staircase, but it's worth it.

# Booze with views

Eleven brilliant rooftop bars for sunset pints and cocktails in the clouds



Forza Wine

## Which table to ask for

There are dramatic views across many parts of town from the top of this former Peckham car park, so you're set for an evening of swooning at sunsets wherever you plonk yourself.

**What to drink** The Negroni is the unofficial house cocktail of Frank's.  
→ Bold Tendencies, Floors 7-10, Multi-Storey Car Park, 95a Rye Lane, SE15 4ST.

## Netil 360

Looming elegantly over London Fields, Netil 360 is a relaxed bar, garden, café and workspace with a handy rooftop sauna, should you want to sweat it out at altitude.

**Which table to ask for** That all depends on what you want to gaze at. Canary Wharf? The City? The gasworks? This roof's got it all.

**What to drink** A pint – yes, a pint – of Aperol Spritz.

→ 1 Westgate St, E8 3RL.

## Boundary

This classy Shoreditch spot does rooftop drinking in style, with high-end Mediterranean grub, even if the London climate doesn't always match it.

**Which table to ask for** If it's hammering it down but you still want those sweet rooftop vistas, then opt for a perch inside the toasty and – crucially – weatherproof glass orangery.

**What to drink** Champagne. There are 11 kinds here, some of them pink.  
→ 9 Redchurch St, E2 7DD.

## Food & Drink



The Rooftop at The Standard

### Dalston Roof Park

E8's happening rooftop bar with a cause – it's run by the Bootstrap Charity, which empowers young people in business – has snowballed into a multi-faceted events space, with weekly screenings of cult flicks from Deeper into Movies.

**Which table to ask for** Blag a spot by the stone arch, surely the most Instagrammable solid semi-circle structure outside of Stonehenge.

**What to drink** Frozen Mezcal Margaritas and 40FT Brewery beers to wash down your Gordos pizza.  
→ The Print House, 18-22 Ashwin St, E8 3DL.

### Forza Wine

Peckham's Forza Wine doesn't just serve up some of the best views in town, but the best food too. Think pork belly, thyme and peaches and banoffee soft-serve ice cream.

**Which table to ask for** Plump for table 11 – also known as the 'crow's nest' – a self-contained, waterproof area with a vintage hi-fi system.

**What to drink** Frozen Grape Daiquiris or the booze-free gooseberry soda, made in-house.  
→ The Rooftop, 133a Rye Lane, SE15 4BQ.

### Bar Elba

Thanks to its proximity to Waterloo, Bar Elba takes inspiration from the island Napoleon was exiled to in 1814. Balmy Italian paradise it's not, but as the sun sets it's a decent spot.

**Which table to ask for** One of the seats that run around the edge of the roof, for uninterrupted views of the centre of town.

**What to drink** Write off Monday morning and go for a Zombie, the sensationally stiff tiki classic.  
→ Mercury House, 109-117 Waterloo Rd, SE1 8UL.



Bussey Rooftop Bar

It's a 30,000-square-foot play space with mini golf, lawn bowls and a cinema



### Bussey Rooftop Bar

A low-key alternative to neighbouring Frank's. Regular comedy events with the likes of Bridget Christie, Tim Key, Sara Pascoe and Nish Kumar make this the funniest rooftop in town.

**Which table to ask for** Try and sit under one of the lavish floral arrangements for a touch of Monty Don-ish decadence.  
**What to drink** House cocktails like Hit the Roof and Rooftop Garden, which also come as mocktails.  
→ Bussey Building, 133 Rye Lane, SE15 4ST.

### The Loft

Not every Young's pub has a sweet suntrap like The Alexandra. This south London all-rounder has a terrace that's the pride of Wimbledon and a strong cocktail menu, too.

**Which table to ask for** The mighty table 62 is the one to bag – it boasts seriously lovely views of SW19.

**What to drink** A Bloody Mary? Yes.  
→ 33 Wimbledon Hill Rd, SW19 7NE.

### The Faltering Fullback

The Faltering Fullback maintains its status as one of the best boozers in Finsbury Park thanks to its lofty, multi-levelled garden, aka north London's very own Ewok village.

**Which table to ask for** Climb right to the top of the Fullback's winding staircases and you'll be rewarded with the best seats in the house.  
**What to drink** Pints, pints, pints. ■  
→ 19 Perth Rd, N4 3HB.



By Leonie Cooper  
Who is patiently awaiting  
Tottenham's first rooftop bar.



# New openings

Debuting the latest places we reckon you'll love

## Oodles of noodles

The unstoppable Bao's latest is inspired by Taiwan's beef noodle shops. Score quality noodz at **Bao Noodle Shop**, as well as fried cheese rolls, crispy tripe and three new takes on the brand's famous buns (panko shrimp croquette, Iberico pork and sweetcorn congee) at its sleek sixth space. Best of all? There's karaoke in the basement. → 1 Redchurch St, E2 7DJ. Open now.

## Legendary ladies

Named in honour of the suffragette Emily Wilding Davison, who was known to her family as 'Pem', great chef Sally Abé's art deco-styled



The Pem

signature restaurant **The Pem** celebrates pioneering women (and classic British cuisine and produce), with head chef Laetizia Keating and Darby's Emma Underwood as general manager. We would like to celebrate the Cornish pollock with white wine cockles, peas and samphire. → 22-28 Broadway, SW1H 0BH. Opens Jul 20.

## Pigging out

Taking over the former home of L'Entrepôt, **Hackney Coterie** is an airy brasserie and wine bar where Dominic Auger will be cooking a menu of future-facing dishes like pig-head croquettes with baby shrimp and rhubarb sriracha. There are also plans for a gig space. → 230 Dalston Lane, E8 1LA. Open now.

## Underground delights

The cultish natural wine-slingers of Shop Cuvée couldn't help but bung a small but perfectly formed dining room underneath their new Bethnal Green store. Grab a bottle from the well-curated racks then feast on small plates with attitude at **Cave Cuvée**.

→ 250 Bethnal Green Rd, E2 0AA. Opens early Aug.

## Boozy bread

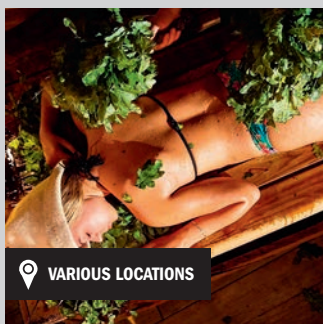
We've been eyeing **Cafe Cecilia's** Instagram for a while now, perusing over any and all updates about Max Rocha's new canalside spot in Hackney. Our filthy snooping was rewarded with a recent post about a breakfast of Guinness bread with butter, boiled eggs and coolea cheese from the St John and River Café alumnus Rocha's native Ireland. Good morning indeed. ■

*Leonie Cooper*  
→ Canal Place, 32 Andrews Rd, E8 4RL. Opens Aug 19.

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17 Micawber St, N1 7TB and 404-406 Chiswick High Rd, W4 5TF



PADDINGTON

## GOBOAT SAYS:

'GoBoat is a fun, self-drive boating experience. You are the captain, you choose the route. The electric boats can host up to eight, including children and dogs, and set sail from Paddington and Kingston. Get 20 percent off weekday bookings in July at [www.goboat.co.uk](http://www.goboat.co.uk) using the code TIMEOUT20.'  
Merchant Square, W2 1AS.



SHEPHERD'S BUSH

## COPPER CHIMNEY SAYS:

'Copper Chimney, located at Westfield in Shepherd's Bush, is an ode to secret recipes and cooking techniques from across undivided North India. Founded in Bombay by JK Kapur in 1972, Copper Chimney offers a sophisticated and affordable Indian dining experience. Read more at [www.copperchimney.uk](http://www.copperchimney.uk).'  
Westfield London, W12 7GA.



MAYFAIR

## EL PIRATA SAYS:

'El Pirata has been serving critically acclaimed Spanish tapas for more than 25 years. Bringing a sense of Madrid to Mayfair with its wonderful Spanish staff, buzzy atmosphere and great tapas at excellent value, it's become a favourite for those wanting an authentic Spanish experience in London. True escapism.'  
5-6 Down St, W1J 7AQ.

# Travel

Edited by Huw Oliver  
timeout.com/daytrips

Jupiter Artland



## Sculpture parks and trails that rival any museum

Alfresco culture is in this summer. These are the greatest places to take an arty stroll in the UK

### DOING STUFF OUTDOORS?

Good, actually. But you know one thing that you usually have to do indoors? Looking at art. That's why sculpture parks could be in this summer. Up and down the UK, there are vast outdoor spaces filled with eye-popping artworks and huge installations. We've picked five of the best sculpture parks and trails that really come into their own during the warmer months.

### Yorkshire Sculpture Park

The UK's oldest sculpture park celebrated its fortieth anniversary in 2017 and usually has around 100 sculptures to take in across its massive site near Wakefield in West Yorkshire. The permanent exhibition includes works by locals – and modernist heroes – Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth. Hungry? There's also a decent restaurant serving a seasonal menu

including dishes made with fruit from the park's historic trees.

### Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail Gloucestershire

This ancient royal forest is home to a series of 17 sculptures dispersed along a four-and-a-half-mile circular route. Most interact with the forest setting in some form or are constructed from its raw materials. 'Iron Road', for example, is made



Sainsbury Centre  
Sculpture Park



Tout Quarry Nature Reserve and Sculpture Park



using railway sleepers placed on a disused line, while 'Cathedral' is a 15-foot-tall stained-glass window depicting a woodland scene that hangs among the trees as if part of the landscape.

### Jupiter Artland West Lothian

The list of installations at this 120-acre woodland sculpture park in the grounds of Bonnington House reads like a who's who of contemporary sculpture, with the likes of Antony Gormley, Phyllida Barlow and Anish Kapoor all commissioned to create permanent works. Highlights include Marc Quinn's 12-metre-high 'Love Bomb' orchid and a psychedelic paddling pool called 'Gateway' by Joana Vasconcelos.

### Tout Quarry Nature Reserve and Sculpture Park Dorset

This former limestone quarry on Dorset's Isle of Portland was turned into a nature reserve in the 1980s and now has more than 60 sculptures to take in around its 40-acre site, alongside an abundance of wild flowers, butterflies and other wildlife. Many of the sculptures are site-specific, either carved directly into the walls of the quarry or crafted from Portland stone.

### Sainsbury Centre Sculpture Park Norwich

The indoor galleries at the Sainsbury Centre of Visual Arts brim with big names like Francis Bacon, Picasso and Degas. But more than 20 sculptures surround the Norman Foster-designed building on the University of East Anglia's 350-acre campus, including pieces by sculptors Henry Moore, Antony Gormley and Lynn Chadwick. But the real stars here? The resident wild rabbits, often seen frolicking among the artworks. ■



By **Rosie Hewitson** Who stole a figurine from Antony Gormley's 'Field' as a toddler.

# City Hunter Southampton

#1



Investigating unexpected urban breaks in the UK

**WHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON**, you've got to eat Italian fish stew. **Ennio's** is an institution. Its speciality? A hearty, tomato-y brodetto, overflowing with prawns, squid and mussels. *Delizioso*.

This Victorian warehouse on the waterfront is one of the first things cruise passengers arriving in the city see. They're fortunate. Post-dinner, they could head to **Dancing Man Brewery**, a few doors down: a medieval wool house-turned-brewpub with 20 or so of its own lagers, pale ales and stouts.

But right now, you'll have much of the city to yourself. With cruises paused due to You Know What, it feels empty without thousands of daily passers-through. So you'll be in the company of locals at **HarBAR**, a glamorous rooftop bar overlooking the Solent. The cocktails are top-notch. Turkish restaurant **Ottoman Kitchen**, towards the city centre, makes for an excellent soak-it-up meal afterwards.

Okay, Southampton isn't a looker.

Much of the centre is blocky postwar buildings. But it'd be a shame to disregard the **City Art Gallery**, a light-filled Tardis brimming with art. Right now, there's a wide-ranging show featuring works by Monet, Gainsborough and Paula Rego. Just around the corner, the **Sea City Museum** is also worth a visit. Its two permanent exhibits, one on the multicultural history of this seafaring city and the other on the impact of the Titanic's sinking, are a rare mix of informative and fun. Southampton? It's a cultural (and culinary) destination you'd be foolish to write off. ■ *Huw Oliver*

→ London Waterloo to Southampton, around 1 hour 15 minutes.



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# Film

Edited by Phil de Semlyen  
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FILM OF THE WEEK

## Mael bonding

### The Sparks Brothers



**THIS LIVELY, FUN** music doc aims to give Ron and Russell Mael, the two siblings at the heart of the shape-shifting American pop outfit Sparks, their due in the sixth decade of their career as eccentric, authentic musical artists. 'The Sparks Brothers' makes a giddy claim for the band, which has so far straddled glam rock, teen pop, electro, new wave and more, as outsider pop musicians of the highest order. It's both a joyous fanboy love letter and a warm-hearted collaboration, as the Maels – big movie fans themselves, who narrowly missed out on working with Jacques Tati and

Tim Burton over the decades – are clearly closely involved in pulling it all together.

It's also the first time director Edgar Wright has made a doc. Wright is endearingly open about his love for the band, even putting himself in the frame as one of a long, slightly random list of many, many talking

heads, who include Beck, Flea, Duran Duran, Tony Visconti and Mike Myers. The brothers themselves appear throughout, in a cascade of archive footage, but also in new interviews and quirky sketch moments, at recent gigs and in their studios and homes in Los Angeles, where they grew up and still live.

**WHAT IS IT...**  
A giddy love letter to the enduringly odd pop outsiders.

**WHY GO...**  
It's the perfect primer to your next favourite not-new band.

→ Director Edgar Wright  
(15) 141 mins. Out Jul 23.

The Maels are both now in their seventies, with 26 albums under their belt and a career that goes back to the 1960s, when they were briefly known as Urban Renewal Project (try again) and Halfnelson (try harder). They've evolved constantly through the years, first finding fame in the UK, shedding and hiring new band members, anticipating some musical movements and smartly adapting themselves to others.

It's Ron who remains the more recognisable: more than one person in the doc comments on the similarity between his stern demeanour (clearly an act) and little moustache and a certain mid-twentieth-century German tyrant. It's the contrast between the two, though, that really makes their image stick: Ron the stiff, slicked-back keyboard player; Russell the louche, pretty-boysinger.





It's nothing like the Bros documentary Russell and Ron Mael

## Three great London music docs

From sax in the city to the Clash smashing racism. With guitars



### We Out Here: A LDN Story (2018)

Jazz isn't just for chin-stroking blokes in rollnecks, as this sparky doc from Gilles Peterson's label Brownswood makes clear. London musicians get personal about improv-ing in a film for anyone who knows their Ronnie Scott's from their Kansas Smitty's.

→ Free to stream on YouTube.



### The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus (1966)

Mick, Keef and the gang pop up a big top and invite a few of their pals for a 1968 concert that was actually filmed on a Wembley soundstage. On the playlist? The Who, John Lennon, Eric Clapton and, of course, the Stones themselves. No clowns, thankfully.

→ Available on iTunes UK.



### White Riot (2019)

This rock doc records The Clash's legendary 1978 gig in Victoria Park – an event conceived to stick two fingers up to fascism. Mick Jones and co shared the bill with reggae legends Steel Pulse and punk icon Poly Styrene. It's raucous, urgent and plays all the hits.

→ Available on Amazon Prime, BFI Player and Curzon Home Cinema.

Wright's film powers chronologically through a pop survival story that has you wanting to punch the air when you see the brothers still working and creating in their hometown as the United States heads into the pandemic ('Annette', their film collaboration with out-there French filmmaker Leos Carax – surely a kindred spirit – premiered in Cannes this month to wild applause, see p46).

The filmmaker's sheer enthusiasm and love for his subjects means that a running length of almost two and a half hours doesn't feel excessive at all. The resulting doc is a great underdog tale, told with an infectious, childlike glee. ■



**By Dave Calhoun**  
Who is old enough to remember seeing Sparks at Mile End Stadium in 1995.

SPARKS: BROTHERS; ANNA WEBBER; WE OUT HERE: @FABRICEBOURBELLE; ROLLING STONES: MARK AND COLLEEN HAYWARD; RED PEPERS: WHITE RIOT; SYD SHELTON



# The alternative Cannes awards

Forget the Palme d'Or. Here are the Palmes *whaaa?*



## Weirdest sex scene

It may have been lockdown or the heat, but this was the year that Cannes got seriously thirsty. There was so much on-screen licking that the term 'Cannes-ilingus' briefly trended on social media. But our clear winner came in 'Titane' from

Julie Ducournau ('Raw'), in which a young woman has sex with a car. It gave new meaning to the term petrolhead.

## Maddest standing ovation

Cannes standing Os have lasted past 20 minutes ('Pan's Labyrinth') so the

nine minutes afforded 'The French Dispatch' might feel like small *pommes de terre*. Not if you were Wes Anderson. The director spent most of it looking like he was secretly praying for a sudden sinkhole to appear beneath the Grand Théâtre Lumière. Sadly, it didn't materialise and the clapping just thundered on.

## Most Gallic moment

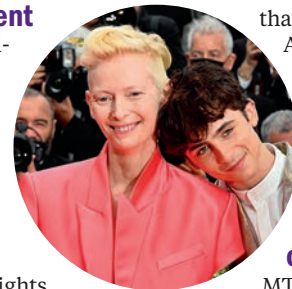
The out-there festival-opener, 'Annette', saw Adam Driver star opposite Marion Cotillard as an eccentric LA showbiz couple who parent a wooden child (we did say it's out-there). Once the lights went up and the applause started, Driver reached into his pocket, lit up a ciggie in the cinema and happily puffed his nerves away. French citizenship surely awaits.

## Best use of Tilda Swinton

La Swinton is a seriously popular figure in Cannes, so the fact that

she had multiple films at the fest – including 'The French Dispatch', 'The Souvenir Part II' and 'Memoria' – and was there pretty much throughout made everyone happy, probably scoring a discount at the hotel in the process. She was a red-carpet rock star with outfits to match, at one screening wearing

a kind of outsized super-shirt that we'll all be sporting by August. She emerged as the undisputed coolest person on the Côte d'Azur. And yes, there is an award for that.



## Greatest comeback

MTV VJ-musician-stand-up Simon Rex once gave what Matt Damon called the worst audition he'd ever seen for 'Good Will Hunting'. Twenty-five years on, he took Cannes by storm as a washed-up porn star in Sean Baker's much-lauded 'Red Rocket'. It was a comeback tale for the ages. ■ *Dave Calhoun, Phil de Semlyen*

## Riders of Justice



### WHAT IS IT...

Mads Mikkelsen gets even in a darkly funny Danish thriller.

### WHY GO...

It's 'John Wick' with far more lols.

→ Director Anders Thomas Jensen (15) 116 mins. Out Jul 23.



'BEFORE YOU EMBARK on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.' That proverb, rumoured to stem from Confucius (though it sounds more like Seagal), seriously underestimates the body count in this magnificently incorrigible Danish vengeance thriller. If you loved the bloody, dark-edged comedy of 2011's 'Headhunters', it will be clear-the-hell-out-of-your-diary viewing.

When a train smash leaves him a widower, pissed-off army officer Markus (Mads Mikkelsen) returns home unable to process his grief, let alone help his teen daughter with hers. He's a coiled spring and his solution to any problem is either to punch it or shoot it. So when statistician Lennart (Lars Brygmann) and two fellow geeks appear with evidence that the crash was actually part of an assassination plot by a gangster, Markus is ready to go full 'Death Wish'.

What separates the ensuing mayhem from a thousand generic thrillers is an impish streak and writing that smartly juggles big ideas, mad gun battles and guilty laughs. Director Anders Thomas Jensen serves up a great running gag when Lennart's quiet sidekick (Gustav Lindh) confidently assumes the role of Markus's therapist to hide their real mission from his daughter. The contrasts between the cold-blooded soldier, his baffled daughter and the three boffins offers lots of oddball chemistry, too. And if the motivations of the latter feel a bit woolly, it's hard to mind in a movie that is enjoying itself quite this much. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

## Limbo



### WHAT IS IT...

A group of Syrian refugees wait for visas on a remote Scottish island.

### WHY GO...

It's a timely tale of dislocation told with wit and compassion.

→ Director Ben Sharrock (12A) 104 mins.

### FREE WITH MUBI GO

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→ Find out how at [www.mubi.com/go](http://www.mubi.com/go)



'THE OUTER HEBRIDES' old Gaelic name – 'Innse Gall' or 'Islands of the Strangers' – feels apt when considering the aching dislocation of writer-director Ben Sharrock's 'Limbo'. A gaggle of lost souls are dumped there and faced with the oddities of island life as they wait for visas.

British-Egyptian actor Amir El-Masry plays Omar, a young Syrian musician whose oud was once his livelihood, but now only represents the trauma that led him to this place. His Afghani roommate, Freddie Mercury-obsessive Farhad (Vikash Bhai), urges him to play it again, as do Nigerian brothers Abedi (Kwabena Ansah) and Wasef (Ola Orebiyi), robustly debating old 'Friends' plotlines in the home they all share.

Things become more fraught when local teenagers hurl racist insults at Omar. But even then, they provide a lift home: there's no simplistic 'us and them' here. Omar himself picks the wrong words in a deadpan exchange with a Sikh supermarket worker from Glasgow. And when he, in turn, asks for sumac, the 'spices' on offer only run to mustard or ketchup. It sets up a lovely, consoling pay-off later when the mood takes a turn for the melancholy.

It's a credit to Sharrock, who has spent time living in Syria, that 'Limbo' can juggle these tonal changes, just as the aspect ratio shifts to embrace the mighty landscapes. There are shots here that will break and remake you. This is a very Scottish take on a global issue, in the driest, most powerful way. ■ *Stephen A Russell*



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
OFFICIAL SELECTION  
2020



BAFTA  
NOMINEE  
FILM

OUTSTANDING BRITISH FILM  
OUTSTANDING DEBUT

★★★★★

“WITTY, POIGNANT,  
MARVELLOUSLY  
COMPOSED”

THE GUARDIAN

★★★★★

“SUBLIME... WILL BREAK  
AND REMAKE YOU”

TIME OUT

“THIS IS SOMETHING  
SPECIAL”

SCREEN

★★★★★

THE SKINNY

★★★★★

THE LIST

★★★★★

RADIOTIMES

# LIMBO



A FILM BY  
**BEN SHARROCK**

STARRING  
**AMIR EL-MASRY  
VIKASH BHAI  
OLA OREBIYI  
KWABENA ANSAH**

FILM4 LOTTERY FUNDED

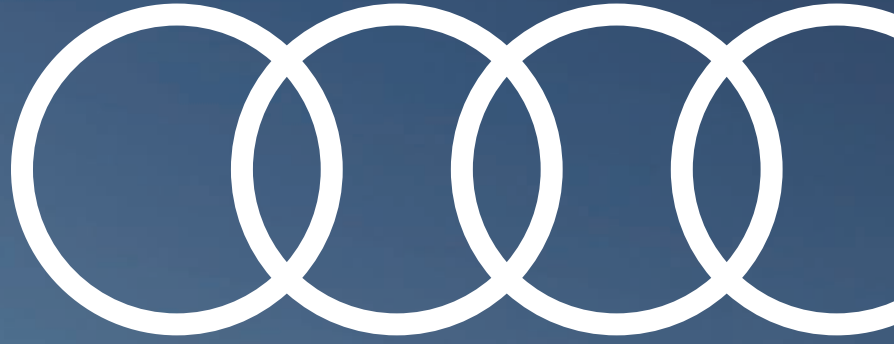
CARAVAN BFI THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

PROTAGONIST

12A IRREGULAR STRONG LANGUAGE, RACISM, REFERENCES TO SEX AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

MUBI

IN CINEMAS  
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