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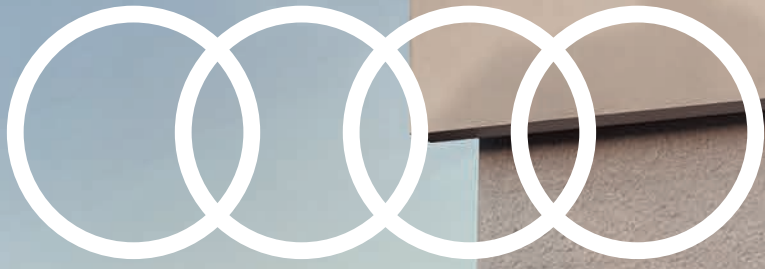
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in no time at all

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Hello, London

Joe Mackertich
London Editor
@j_mackertich



For some Londoners, this year has been about extremes. Our hospitals and schools have served as backdrops to innumerable tragedies and stories of heroism. For most of us, however, the pandemic will be associated with a quiet sadness. Yes, we joked about being bored. But in fact we were sad. Sad that a year's worth of life, of potential friendships, mistakes, memories and romance simply did not happen. It's like we've been in bed for a year. Some of us literally *have* been in bed for a year.

So, this year was about things that didn't happen, more than things that did. And do you know who wastes time dwelling on stuff that doesn't happen? Jazz critics. You're not a jazz critic, so let's just chalk it up as a loss and move on. The only takeaway for me was having it confirmed that Londoners are, 100 percent, without a doubt, social animals. Being around people is restorative. More than that, even: socialising is up there with air, water and sriracha hot sauce as things we need to live.

As a result, we filled this issue's features section with Londoners. Because it's not the pubs you've missed, but the people in them. See you out there, friend. You made it.

THE EDITOR'S ESSENTIALS Three strong pods about the city



HEAR this

Time Out has a new podcast: **your city or mine?** Join host and Time Out CEO Julio Bruno as he chats with guests about all things city-related.



...and this

Skylines podcast has finished now, but it's well worth digging into old eps about housing, public transport and the like.



...and also this

Started by the late chef Anthony Bourdain, **Roads & Kingdoms: The Trip** explores culture, politics and people through the prism of food.

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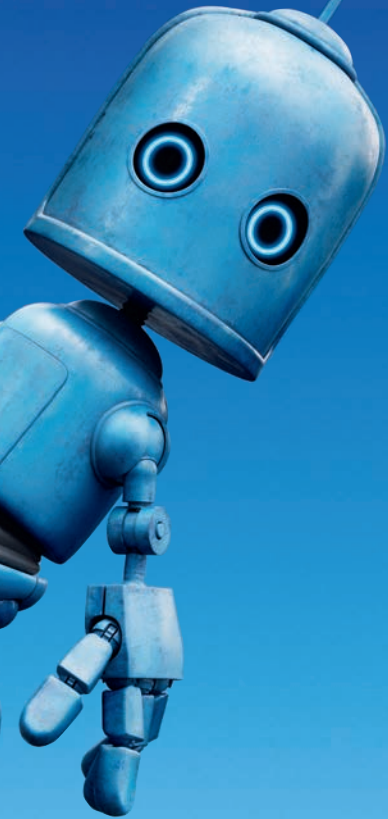
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City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



'We're going to have a renaissance'

As London's theatres, galleries and museums gear up to reopen in May, actor *Russell Tovey* explains why supporting the arts is essential for rebuilding the city



CULTURE BRINGS US together. It defines a city, it defines its people. It's about storytelling and understanding who your fellow man is.

In London, we have these incredible cultural institutions that are free. You can walk into the National Gallery during your lunch break and have a look at a painting. We have so much public art on the streets, too. There's a reason it's there: people feel happier, more productive and more inspired when they're around art and culture.

Every facet of my existence is rooted in the arts. In lockdown, I've missed everything. It feels like the heart and soul of our city has been zapped away – and it has, because the arts are so important. Look at Chila Burman's work

which was the outside light installation at Tate Britain during Diwali [last year]. It was like a festival – people were sitting with a beer outside one of our nation's most important art galleries. People were desperate for culture, desperate to feel something. It felt inspiring that even when everything was shut, the opportunity to experience art was what everybody flocked to.

We're hopefully going to have this renaissance when everything has opened up again properly. I'm excited about being part of that. There should be a new-found respect for the arts. The pandemic has shown how important it is to support them.

A lot of institutions, small spaces and artists have struggled. We need people and businesses to get back on their feet. I'm hopeful that things will rapidly pick up. People are desperate for that: look

at how outside seating has been booked up at pubs and restaurants. That's a positive sign. People are flocking back and want to rebuild our city.

It's amazing that we can walk around exhibitions online, but when you see work in the flesh, there's nothing like it. Seeing live theatre is indescribable. When you're sat in an audience that is enthralled and connected to a performance on stage, that is a truly collective experience. The basic necessity of what it is to be human is storytelling; it's what we've done since back in the day when people drew on cave walls. We need to tell stories to understand each other – and the only way to do that is through the arts. ■

Interview by Isabelle Aron

→ 'King's Cross: Art + Culture Tour', a free audio guide narrated by Russell Tovey, launches on Apr 27.

HYPE DISH

Panadera's spectacular corned beef hash sando

DISSECTION

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

PANADERA CO-FOUNDER Mae Maglanoc is not afraid of taking risks. Not only did she open her Kentish Town bakery mid-lockdown in February 2021, she put a corned beef sando on the menu. She wanted to honour her Filipino roots, where corned beef is popular

for breakfast. 'It was risky,' she says. 'I thought: would people want this? Will they think it's from a tin?' The gamble paid off: it's now the café's bestseller (the corned beef is made from scratch, fyi). She talks us through it. ■ *Isabelle Aron*
→ Panadera, 83 Kentish Town Rd. £7.50.

How to keep your lockdown cycling habit

'Bike London' author *Charlie Allenby* on the city's best cycle shops



Fully Charged

If you need an extra boost (or you just CBA to pedal too hard), Fully Charged's flagship London Bridge shop (above) specialises in all things e-Bike. It has battery-assisted machines of all kinds, from humble hybrids to Harley Davidson-inspired pedelecs.
→ 37 Bermondsey St.

Cloud 9 Cycles

Want your two-wheeled steed to stand out? This Bloomsbury spot is the place to go for a completely custom bike. The shop also hosts events throughout the year – from launch parties for new models to talks with legends from the wider cycling community.
→ 38 Store St.

The Bike Project

A local bike shop with a difference: all profits help fund The Bike Project, a charity that takes donated secondhand bikes, repairs them and gives them to refugees and asylum seekers to get around on. Finally, a positive to getting a puncture.
→ 210 Edward Place.

→ 'Bike London' by *Charlie Allenby* is out now from ACC Art Books. £15.

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

SARNIE ANDY PARSONS; FULLY CHARGED; T BIRKETT

The croquette

'To stop the beef going soggy, we make it into a croquette with potatoes and bechamel sauce, cover it in breadcrumbs and fry it. It's crisp, gooey and comforting.'

The sauces

'We use garlic aioli – I think it belongs in everything – and our own ketchup infused with calamansi, which is like a Filipino lime. It cuts through all the richness.'

The trimmings

'We use butterhead lettuce, which has a good bite, and fried shallots, because in the Philippines, we eat corned beef with onions. They add a layer of texture.'

The corned beef

'We make our own corned beef. We brine beef brisket for a few days, then we shred it, keeping some bits of meat chunkier, so it has different textures. It's a labour of love.'

The bread

'It's a traditional Filipino milk bread called pandesal, which we make in-house. It uses lots of milk and sugar. The sweetness complements the salty corned beef.'

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How to have a non-shit picnic

Pro-picnicker *Max Halley* shares his tips

A thermos flask is your friend

A flask is a miracle of modern science that keeps hot things hot and cold things cold. We think of them as tea vessels, but they can also maintain loads of other things at their ideal temperature for hours – a nice hot sausage, balls of ice cream, last night's curry or a litre of ice-cold negroni.

Take a DIY approach to dessert

Get everyone to bring different biscuits, tubs of dairy (mascarpone, thick yoghurt, cream cheese) and sweet condiments (chocolate spread, lemon curd, jam, pomegranate molasses). Choose your dairy product and condiment and put it on your choice of biscuit – you can make loads of different bite-sized cheesecake combinations.

Don't be afraid to think beyond beers

Always carry (at least) one mini bottle of Jameson's. Go to McDonald's and order a vanilla milkshake and a double espresso. Tip the coffee and the whiskey into the milkshake and stir it all about. Now take a good slurp of your Milkshake Irish Coffee – the ultimate picnic cocktail.

Upgrade your paraphernalia

Even Krug tastes rubbish out of a plastic cup. Nothing ups your picnic game like real glassware, lovely old crockery and silver cutlery, all of which you can find in plentiful supply at the charity shop. You'll be giving money to a good cause *and* you'll look like a total G in the park. ■

→ 'Max's Picnic Book' by Max Halley and Ben Benton is out now.



LONDON MAKERS

There are no prizes for guessing which green space inspired **The Heath Distillery** (it's Hampstead Heath, okay?). Based in Highgate, the distillery makes gin from ingredients you'd find on the heath, including dandelion, rose and sorrel.

→ The Heath Superior London Dry Gin is £38. www.theheathdistillery.com

WORD ON THE STREET

The wildest things we've overheard in London this month

'God, your gooch is getting a lot of airtime lately.'

'I need to get back into pitta.'

'Sometimes I think I just want to live in a field.'

'I'm annoyed because I haven't seen anybody slip over in the mud this year.'

'I think gout needs a rebrand.'

'Pants are weird, aren't they?'

'I'm allowed to fart in my own company.'

'Where does a condiment end a sauce begin?'

'I'm going to get bangers and mash. You know where you are with sausages.'

'It's hard to find memes, isn't it?'

'That place is a shirt-wearer's paradise.'

'Is that a toilet or an art installation?'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

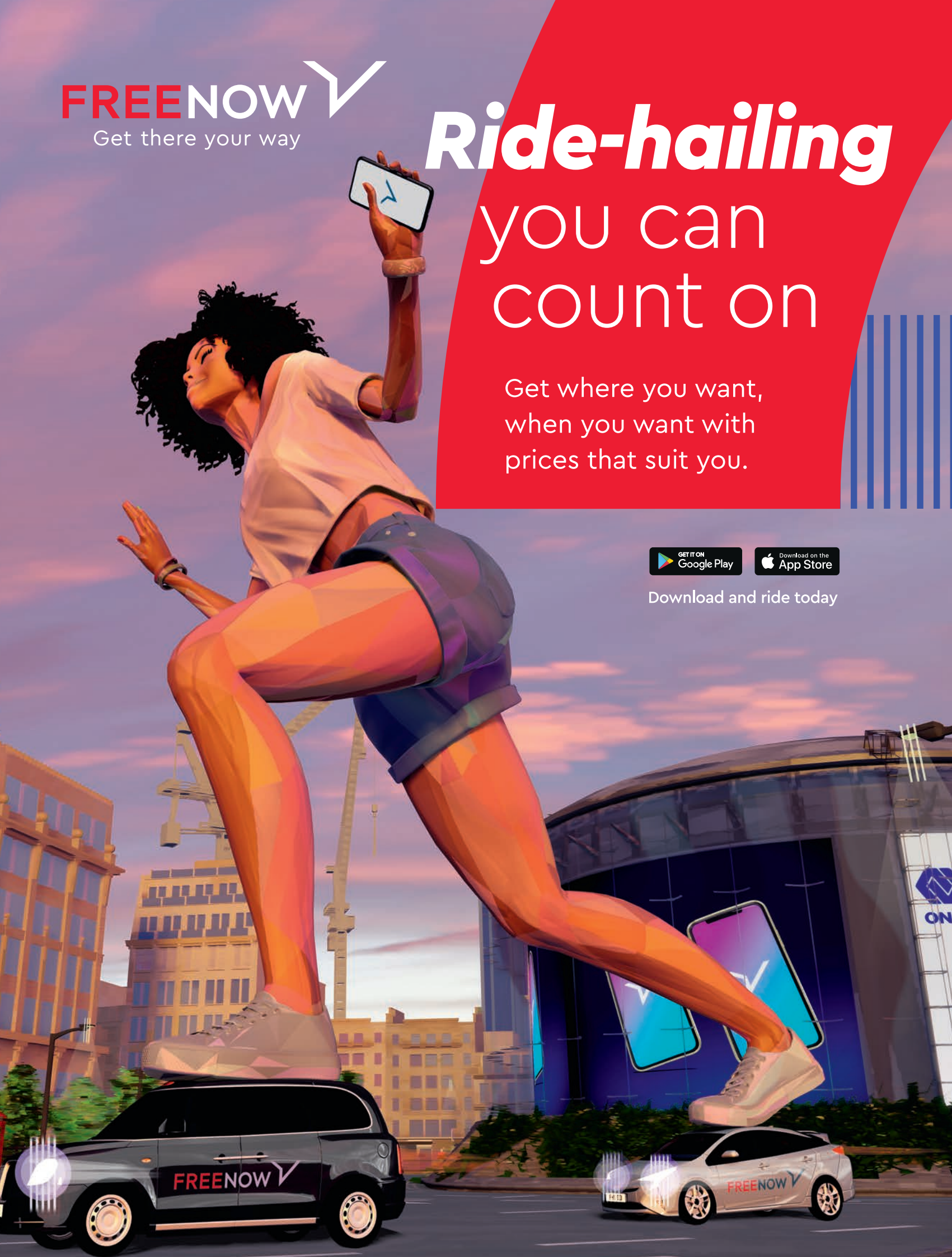
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At long last Milan's 'suspended forest'. Below: the Camden High Line

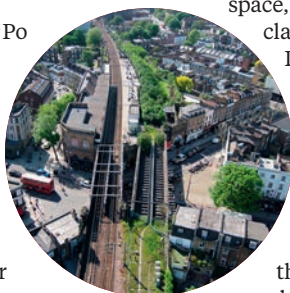
Europe's getting loads of really long parks (and London's next)

The fashion for elevated green spaces is about to give our city a lift

IF YOU LIVE in a city, you make do with whatever green space you have. Sliver of rubbish-strewn lawn, patch of poo-smattered scrub – fine, we'll survive. But forget just making do: a new park in the Italian city of Turin should have us all clamouring for bigger, better spaces.

Sandwiched between two halves of a dual carriageway, the Precollinear Park stretches 700 metres from the River Po up to a piazza on the neighbouring hillside. You would probably never have wanted to mooch along this disused tram track before, but since it was renovated during Italy's first lockdown, it's been heaving with people every day. The park is clean, it's green and it has a readymade route all laid out for you – what's not to like?

Precollinear isn't the only project of its kind: there are plans afoot to site new green spaces on neglected transport hubs and routes in several European cities. Neighbour Milan is creating a 'suspended forest' on the site of the city's old airport. A brand-new 130-hectare park is soon to occupy a mega-choked flyover in Madrid.



And London, too, is planning a kilometre-long green walkway along a series of railway viaducts between Camden and King's Cross: our very own New York-style High Line.

Over the past year, Precollinear has acted as so much more than just an attractive rambling spot; it's also become a thriving community events space, with a programme spanning yoga classes, kids' activities, concerts and DJ sets. This is a place where you can socialise safely, outdoors, in a beautiful and original setting – and it's hoped it will endure long after Covid.

Luca Ballarini, CEO of nonprofit Torino Stratosferica, which created and now looks after the space, thinks so-called 'linear parks' will soon be a feature of cities worldwide. 'There's always a railway track that's not functioning,' he says. 'There's always a street which can be turned into something else.'

At risk of sounding just a little bit like Leslie Knope, there's potential for parks everywhere. And we can think much more grandiose than just that same-old sliver. ■ *Huw Oliver*

HEADS UP

Time Out Market Dubai is open, baby



It's official: the latest addition to the Time Out Market family has arrived. **Time Out Market Dubai** brings the best of the Emirati city's culinary talent and culture under one roof, with a line-up of top chefs carefully curated by Time Out Dubai editors.

We've bagged a prime spot in Downtown Dubai's Souk Al Bahar, with pretty special views from the outdoor terrace over the Burj Khalifa and Dubai Fountain. The market (which opened earlier this month) is home to 17 local-fave eateries and three huge bars, and will host a vibey programme of cultural events. Ready for a truly out-of-this-world culinary experience? See you at the Souk (whenever you can make it to Dubai).

Huw Oliver

→ www.timeoutmarket.com/dubai

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Same but different

A year of Covid has left London all kinds of altered. But what would you like to see change about your city in the long term? *Chris Waywell* asks a load of Londoners. Portraits *Andy Parsons*



FOR A YEAR, London has been in turmoil. But amid the deaths, lockdowns, tests and vaccines, for me there has been one constant. Tony's shop. It's literally a minute from my house. Tony is always there behind the counter, or out the back, or putting stuff on shelves. Throughout the last year, Tony's Daily on Deptford High Street has stayed open, a little space with fresh bread and veg and decent wine. Somewhere that isn't a Tesco Metro. Tony Marku has never seemed out of sorts, (possibly

because he came to London 29 years ago from an Albania that he describes as 'worse than lockdown'). I've probably seen him more regularly over the last year than anyone apart from my partner. Today I want toast, but we've run out of bread, so it's round to Tony's. I ask him what I've been asking lots of Londoners over the past few weeks: 'What would you like to see change as London reopens?' Tony seems taken aback by the question. 'Come back later,' he says, cryptically. I buy some bread.

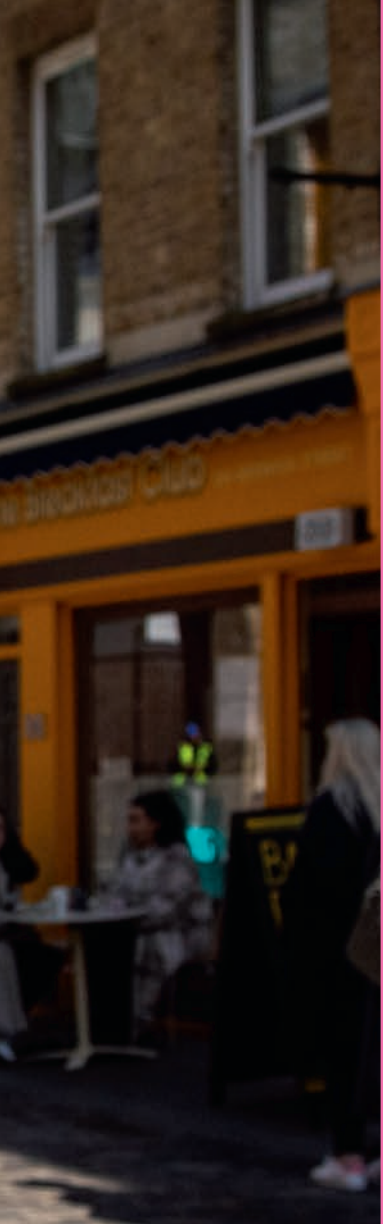
'Londoners need community spaces'

I've been asking people this question because I genuinely believe that Covid has wrought the greatest change on London that any of us will experience in our lifetimes. But maybe having this inflicted on us is a chance to rewrite a few things about our city. What should they be, though? I've asked people in the arts, in

hospitality, local people and even the mayor. Pub landlords and queer club promoters and my Aussie-Sri Lankan hairdresser Darren. The answers have been a mixed bag (an Uber driver called Perparim just said 'nothing'). Some people have clearly given the mid- to long-term future zero thought. But there have been plenty of constructive/barmy ideastoo.



Clement Ogbonnaya



Covid has reconfigured the city. Life has been a bit like 'EastEnders': we've stayed in our personal Albert Squares, wondering if our personal Queen Vics will ever reopen. Going 'up west' has attained almost mythic status, like Shangri-La or the First Dates Hotel. 'Local' has suddenly acquired a huge significance for Londoners. In 2019 Emma Warren published a brilliant book called 'Make Some Space' about Dalston venue the Total Refreshment Centre and the need that people have to be able to access places where they can explore and make stuff. Her answer to my question? 'I'd like to see people who have access to neighbourhood space collaborate with people who want to use it to do local and low-resource things.' Her thoughts are echoed by Jenny Stiles from the currently under-threat



Old Compton Street

Waterloo Action Centre, an institution that has been helping vulnerable residents since the early 1970s: 'Londoners need community spaces. We can't unleash the great capacity that people contain if they don't have somewhere to do it. Once people know each other, they look out for each other.' That sense of a future London better reflecting its people is a powerful one. Artist Camille Walala, whose public artworks have become a familiar sight on our streets, thinks that the fabric of the city needs to respond more to the needs of its inhabitants: 'I would love for the public spaces in the city to be taken back for the people that live in the city,' she says, 'creating fun outdoor spaces that give pleasure and inspire creativity.' Storyteller Vanessa Woolf agrees, extolling the sense of exploration of

Bev Elliott Legendary punk queen

'What would I like to see change? Nothing. I want it back to how we were. Just less bigotry and fascism and hatred. Everyone's going on about the "new normal" but I just want our old Soho back, please'

Anna Boyle

Owner So High Soho (below, left)

'We need to be human about what our capacities are. I've seen customers fighting over things before and seen them be really nasty to my staff and I would like to go forward thinking that isn't part of an acceptable future'

→ So High Soho, 7 & 9 Berwick St, W1F 0PJ.



their own city that many Londoners have felt over the last year: 'I really hope all Londoners will get out, enjoy and appreciate ALL our public spaces, not just the obvious ones.'

When I wander round Soho and Leicester Square, there is a real sense of new life. With its hundreds of outside tables, Chinatown now feels like the buzziest (and busiest) place in London, and at least 80 percent of the people eating and drinking on Gerrard Street are from East Asia. But talking to business owners, the word that comes up repeatedly like a sad mantra is 'landlord' ('If landlords are sympathetic...'

'We need the landlords to not be greedy...'). It's the flipside to the notion of community. The unseen, be it faceless virus or remote renter, is what drives people apart. Taking back control is a key idea for many Londoners right now. Perhaps the random destructiveness of Covid feels like a symbol of our own lack of agency in our lives and that of our city. London's food and drink businesses in particular have taken a proper battering under the pandemic. But they're also key in many people's eyes to rebuilding the capital. 'It'd be great to see people support their local food spots and form real local communities,' says the author of 'Belly Full', Riaz Phillips. 'We go years without knowing our neighbours so hopefully openness can change this.'

The same kind of sentiment is heard again and again from those working in London's nightlife, especially given the threat that Covid has posed to the LGBTQ+ community. 'I want to see people supporting and appreciating their local independent LGBTQ+ venues, artists and businesses,' says non-binary drag artist Carrot. 'I would like to see queer spaces prioritised,' agrees Cassie Leon of Cocoa Butter Club. 'They seem to be the first to go when times get tough. Queer-led spaces are so important to the community, especially after being away from chosen family for so long.'



Picadilly Circus, 2020



Camille Walala

'We need tolerance and caring for others'

Not everyone is concentrating on the damage that Covid has done. Shakespeare's Globe director Michelle Terry positively froths with enthusiasm for a future city rebuilt by creativity: 'Let the artists loose. Pay the muses, the poets, the playwrights, the painters, the sculptors, the gardeners, the actors, the musicians to decorate our city,

line our streets and fill our souls with hope.' Jonny Banger of sardonic fashion label Sports Banger also wants (albeit slightly less theatrically) to see more creative get-togethers: 'I'd love to see some small midweek or Sunday sessions, rolling, week in week out, pushing sounds,

ideas and vibes. Five people or 100 people – see you there.'

Kwame Kwei-Armah, artistic director of the Young Vic, has a very different focus: 'I'd like to see our attitude to homelessness change. During the pandemic, hotels that were unoccupied created space for homeless people. I would love to see that kind of initiative amplified as London reopens.' One thing I've found interesting about asking this question is that people seem much more interested now in talking beyond their area of experience. It's like we all have a much more holistic idea of what London – or any city – is: that it's made up of the arts, and food and drink, and public transport and parks, and the NHS, and little shops like Tony's. Most importantly, it's made up of shared things: struggles, experiences, triumphs.



Geoff Leong Restaurateur

'I want to change people's perception of the West End, to realise that Chinatown is absolutely part of Chinese culture. Walking ten, 15 minutes here is like going to Asia. The diversity of different regional Chinese cuisines here, and the quality, is phenomenal'

→ Leong's Legends,
39 Gerrard St, W1D 5QD.



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Ashley Jagdeo Tattoo artist

‘Hygiene! It’s obvious that people have quite atrocious hygiene. Cover your face when you’re ill. I think this is a kick up the arse for the UK to be more hygienic’

→ The Circle London,
21 Noel St, W1F 8GP.



Dean Street

Josh Palmano Gosh! Comics

‘We’re keen on there not being much change and that people come back to the workplace. I think central London will suffer from that lack of buzz. Places need that workforce coming into the city’

→ Gosh! Comics,
1 Berwick St, W1F 0DR.



‘As London reopens – and beyond – I would like to see a continuation of the tolerance and caring for others that has been so prevalent during lockdown,’ says John Reiss, chairman of Peckhamplex cinema. Fellow SE15 resident Clement Ogbonnaya, owner of The Prince of Peckham pub, wants to see us looking out for each other a bit more too: ‘I’d like to see more Londoners saying “Hi” or “Good morning”, to let fellow Londoners know that we’re still here and we beat this pandemic together.’

‘People need help with their mental scars’

So there’s a long way to go for our city. But there’s a lot of hope too, and a definite excitement about we Londoners being able to get back out there. Mayor Sadiq Khan says: ‘I’m looking forward to seeing the city begin to open up again and to feel that unique London buzz which makes life here so exciting,’ which is *exactly* the sort of thing that someone campaigning for re-election would say. Not that he’s



Kwame Kwei-Armah

wrong. Tommy Dexter of Vegan Vice Club has a more concrete idea: ‘A jubilee-type festival celebrating reopening, to show that everyone has pulled through stronger, wiser and more grateful after this thing.’ Sarah Gavron, director of ‘Rocks’, wants ‘more accessible children’s playspaces, more social housing and more bicycle lanes’. My hairdresser Darren wants ‘24/7 public transport, more outdoor dining, checking in with neighbours, supporting local businesses and free parking’. Above all, everyone wants to get on with their lives.

The next day I go back to Tony’s shop. He talks about lockdown easing as have a ‘healing’ effect. ‘People need help with their mental scars,’ he says. ‘They need reassuring.’ He hopes that a reopened London will see people better at listening, more aware of each other. He’s even discussed it with his family. His kids don’t want London just to be the same as it was. ‘They want to leave the old behind,’ he says. I buy some bread and go home to make toast. ■

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Celebrating those individuals changing the city for the better. Future Makers in London and beyond, we salute you

WE'RE ALL TRYING to make the future at the moment, working together to give our city the best chance of recovery. But some people are real heroes at it, and we reckon it's time to champion them. People like **Dominic Cools-Lartigue**, the founder of Street Feast. Before Covid hit, he was preparing to open a new eating and creative space in Brixton called The Civic. The pandemic put those plans on hold. Undeterred, he pushed forward with a charitable initiative: throughout 2020, A Plate for London connected chefs and local charities to give free meals to the Londoners most in need. Last autumn, Cools-Lartigue opened The Tramshed Project, turning a famous Shoreditch

building into a venue and food space with the flexible programming necessary for uncertain times. That's the spirit we're spotlighting with Future Makers, our celebration of pioneers with original ideas who are making a better city for us all. And there are loads out there, some well-known, some just stars on their own doorstep. Take **Josh Jarvis**, the food entrepreneur who had a spell in prison and is now employing ex-offenders. Or art lovers **Rosha Nutt** and **Holly Collier** who have found a unique way of introducing London artists to the public during lockdown. These people reflect the times and the situation, using their passions to create the kind of community they want to live in.

You can find out more about those people below. But there are thousands more Future Makers like them out there, and not just in London, either. We're spotlighting Future Makers all over the world: like **Emily May**, the New Yorker who founded Hollaback! to call out the problem of women being harassed in the street. And **Anne Hidalgo**, the mayor of Paris, who is driving forward a 'greening' of her city, including a plan to turn the Champs-Élysées into a 2km-long garden. We'll be bringing you more Future Makers soon. And we want to hear from you too. The future of our cities is in all our hands.



UR KERS

4



5



6



Give us your Future Makers!

Which Future Makers do you want to champion in your city or community? We're looking for the people in city life – across culture, entertainment, food and drink, community, sustainability and more – who are so unique that we should celebrate them as Future Makers: people who are making the future we want to see.

What's a Future Maker, you ask?

Someone with vision and original ideas, whose work is making a mark on the city and community around them. Maybe they're even changing the world. They could be chefs, poets, artists, filmmakers, politicians, activists, scientists, campaigners, writers – anyone with a special vision and who gets stuff done. We want to hear your nominations, and we'll share them with the Time Out world as we roll out our celebration of Future Makers in the coming weeks and months.

→ [timeout.com/futuremakers](https://www.timeout.com/futuremakers)

1 The market veteran revolutionising food

Rollo Millership first worked on an organic food stall on Chapel Market when he was just 14. At 28, he started a market called Nourished Communities in a closed Clerkenwell pub during the first lockdown, helping to connect farmers with local people.

2 The collective reclaiming the great outdoors

Flock Together is a birdwatching collective for people of colour that's interested in more than just our feathered friends: its aim is to reclaim London's green spaces for communities who feel unwelcome or marginalised within them.

3 The art lovers bringing culture to the streets

Artist **Rosha Nutt** and art marketer **Holly Collier** set up Artists Walk in 2020 when galleries were shut. For just £15, artists displaying work in their windows could have their location added to a map, creating a citywide art trail.

4 The playwright rewriting the rules

Travis Alabanza is a Black trans activist and playwright whose voice is shaking up the theatre world. In December 2020, they staged 'Overflow' at the Bush Theatre – a play set entirely within a women's bathroom, questioning who's allowed in and who's kept out.

5 The chef giving back to the community

Josh Jarvis spent a short time in prison before launching the chicken brand Wing Shack Co, and subsequently delivery service Eggs 'n' Stuff. Not only did he turn his own life around, he now employs and advises other ex-offenders.

6 The visionary creating a platform for Black women

Nicole Crensil is the co-creator and CEO of Black Girl Fest, a place for Black women, girls and non-binary people. She's been building it up with live events since 2017 and has now relaunched Black Girl Fest as a global platform 'that caters to a community that is often ignored'.



'My trip to the barbershop is closely tied to my Afro-Caribbean identity... It's not something I can recreate at home with a pair of clippers'
 Oilly, RBX LDN

One day, seven salons

As hairdressers reopened, we were there to capture the magic moment. Photography *Orlando Gili*

IT'S BEEN a long haul for London's barbers and hairdressers. Shut for months, they now have to deal with the fallout of DIY cuts and home bleach jobs. Plus the government advised them to 'avoid lengthy treatments' when they reopened, a suggestion that could only have come from people with Matt Hancock's barnet.

But as they finally got cutting and styling again, photographer Orlando Gili was on hand, visiting seven London salons in the week after April 12. 'Walking into the salons I was instantly hit by human voices overlapping with the humming of machines,' he says. 'Joy and relief were etched on all the customers' faces.' Oh, we *hear* you. ■

→ Orlando Gili's 'Trivial Pursuits' is published by Hoxton Mini Press.





Been anywhere nice this year?
Clockwise from main image: RBX LDN, Rokit Barber, Me'Lange, Off-Cut, Slider Cuts, Bucks Barbers, Jack the Clipper



'It's nice having a proper haircut again. It's like a new pair of shoes: you feel dead good'
Henry, Slider Cuts



'It's exhilarating to talk to someone and interact when they've been sitting at home on their own. The chats I've had with people, just letting everything out'
Faye, Bucks Barbers

LONDON FOR LESS

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Kanishka

What is it? Six sharing dishes at a classy Indian restaurant in the heart of Mayfair.

Why go? To experience the culinary creations of Michelin-starred chef Atul Kochhar, who infuses quality British produce with delectable Indian flavours.

Wait, how much? £25 per person (minimum two people, so grab a fellow foodie), plus you can add a cocktail for an extra fiver each.

→ Kanishka. www.timeout.com/kanishkamayfair

Secret Cinema

What is it? An immersive, interactive outdoor screening of '80s swoonfest 'Dirty Dancing'.

Why go? To have the time of your life as you're transported back to Kellerman's Resort in 1963 for cocktails, dance classes, power ballads, oh, and a movie.

Wait, how much? Our 20 percent off deal means the tickets are just £42.64 each.

→ Secret location.

www.timeout.com/secretcinema

BYOB pottery workshop

What is it? A pottery party where you sup while you sculpt.

Why go? To work the wheel or learn other clay-shaping techniques to create ceramic art you can take home with you or, for an extra tenner, leave at the studio to be fired and glazed. Don't forget to bring your own booze.

Wait, how much? With our 57 percent discount, it's only £29.

→ Token Studio.

www.timeout.com/byobpottery

The London Classic Car Show

What is it? A one-day ticket to the capital's biggest display of vintage motors, which will happen in an outdoor, covered venue this year.

Why go? To drool over Maseratis, Lamborghinis, Aston Martins and the like, chat to dealers and mingle with fellow enthusiasts. And (if you've got wads of cash) pick up some new wheels.

Wait, how much? Tickets are just £19, reduced from £25.

→ Syon Park. www.timeout.com/classiccarshow

Blow Me London

What is it? A half-price cut and colour that you won't have to leave home for.

Why buy? To have an expert stylist come round to yours and give you a consultation before washing and conditioning your hair using Tigi products and then transforming it into a new 'do.

Wait, how much? A balayage, tint or highlights cut plus blow-dry will cost £89.50 – that's 50 percent off.

→ Your home. www.timeout.com/blowme

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Things to do in London

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



ZENIDA VANDORSKY AS THE RED QUEEN IN CHRISTOPHER WHEELDON'S BALLET 'ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND'. THE ROYAL BALLET. CROH, JOHAN PERSSON, 2011. SETS AND COSTUMES BY BOB CROWLEY

Lockdown casuals can go to straight to hell. As London opens up, we plan to be every bit as extra as this Red Queen from the fantastical new V&A exhibit 'Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser'. **Turn to p32 to find out more.**

Things to Do

Support your local drag queen

S Klub Kids Presents Drag Race Domination: Early Show

The Klub Kids Early Show might give you visions of toddlers knocking back squash and biscuits while the DJ cues up 'Wheels on the Bus', but trust us, this event will be much messier, and you're going to love it. The 75-minute show features the stars of 'RuPaul's Drag Race UK' season two, Ellie Diamond, Tayce, Asttina Mandella, walk-out queen Ginny Lemon and winner Lawrence Chaney.

→ The Clapham Grand. May 23. From £23.

▶ Red Chipped Nails: A Queer Music Live Stream

London drag artiste Margo is throwing a big streaming night that's 'one part rock show and two parts drag "Top of the Pops"'. Joining her are The Glory's co-owner Jonny Woo, Mariah & Friendz hosts Baby Lame and Crystal, Norwegian Eurovision star Uma Nite and comedian Sue Gives A F**k. There will also be an exclusive interview with east London's own cis-tem offender Bimini, from the set of their new music video.

→ May 15. From £10. Tickets at www.outsavvy.com

E The Enby Show

This gender-bending variety show is popping up at The K Hole in Dalston for a night of comedy, lip-synching and sultry choreo hosted by your friendly neighbourhood non-binary drag vegetable, Carrot. Join performers Rhys's Pieces, Beau Jangles (aka 'the f*ckboi of your great-granddaddy's generation'), Cyro and Flick as they take turns to put the gender binary in the bin.

→ The Karaoke Hole. May 29. From £12.

Rooftop cocktail gardens

C ☺ The Culpeper

Some days you just want to while away a sunny afternoon in a beer garden making little sculptures out of crisp packets and ordering the same round until closing time. Others call for a fancier affair, like a trip to The Culpeper, a rooftop

garden, restaurant and cocktail spot that's surrounded by London's skyscrapers. It's a gorgeous paradox of a place, a tiny farm in the sky, where little vegetables are grown in the shadow of the Gherkin.

→ 40 Commercial St. www.theculpeper.com

S ☺ Midnight Apothecary

The Brunel Museum is all about celebrating the impressive feats of engineering by the Brunel family, but, right now we're a little more interested in the museum's cocktail garden, which is built on top of the grand entrance hall to the Thames Tunnel. At these sessions, you can drink botanical cocktails around a campfire. And you can take a moment to appreciate those feats of civil engineering. As soon as you're done roasting smores.

→ Railway Avenue. Dates vary. From £10.



Junk diving

S Peckham Salvage Yard

My God, we've missed markets – the ambling, the lacklustre haggling, the smell of dust and must and leather. With a mix of traders selling everything from old electricals to gramophones to mid-century furniture, this Peckham flea was made for mooching.

→ Copeland Park. May 9. Free.

E Hackney Record Fair

At vinyl sales, you often have to flick through a few Pat Boone records and Christmas compilation albums to get to the gold. Thankfully Hackney Record Fair is low on Boone. At its 30 stalls, you'll find indie record labels as well as those flogging second-hand collections.

→ Abney Public Hall. May 23. £1.

At the drive-in

E ☺ Rooftop Film Club

Rooftop Film Club is doing its best to push the LA-style drive-in dream at multiple locations: the romantic horizon of Alexandra Palace, and the not-so-romantic rooftop of Brent Cross Shopping Centre. The movies on the slate are the usual event-cinema fare ('Pulp Fiction', 'Dirty Dancing') but there are some welcome surprises, like 'Dazed and Confused' and director Lee Isaac Chung's intimate Korean family drama 'Minari' (Brent Cross). If you happen to have a dog, a car and a high tolerance for whimsy, there's also the option of a canine-friendly screening of 'Isle of Dogs' (May 2, Ally Pally) where there will be dog dress-up, pup popcorn and an appearance from the 'puparazzi'. We did say a *high* tolerance for whimsy.

→ Alexandra Palace, Brent Cross Shopping Centre. Various dates until May 16. From £27.50 per car.



Legal swimmin' holes

N 🏊 West Reservoir Centre
Sessions here are only open to experienced open-water swimmers, but courses for beginners will be offered as the temperature increases. The reservoir covers 23 acres, with a clear view of the built-up London skyline, which makes it feel like you are taking a giant, freezing bath right in the middle of the city.
→ Green Lanes. £10 (for non-Better members).
Book at www.better.org.uk

E 🏊 London Royal Docks
If you're at the stage of open-water swimming where you own a good quality wetsuit, you might be ready to register with the National Open Water Coaching Association, which provides access to swim at specific locations. One of those locations is the London Royal Docks. Do not forget that wetsuit – temperatures at the Docks are often lower than 10°C, even in summer.
→ London Royal Docks. Days vary. £8 per swim plus £12 annual membership fee. Find out how to register at www.loveopenwater.co.uk

Tiny classical gigs

N 🎻 Fidelio Orchestra Café
Ever have one of those winning holiday moments where you're wandering through some European city, and stumble upon a concert full of locals in some tiny, backstreet venue? That can happen in London too, if you know where to look, so look for The Fidelio Café, which puts on micro classical music sessions at its cosy space in Clerkenwell.
→ Fidelio Café. Regular dates from May 18.
From £15.

E 🎵 Kings Place World Meditation Day concert
If you're dying to see some live music, but are a little tense at the thought of a crowded basement venue, this part-classical concert, part-meditation session might be for you. During the socially distanced performance, meditation guide Tania Brown and wellness-loving pianist Christina McMaster will help you tune into music by John Cage, Phillip Glass and Meredith Monk.
→ Kings Place. May 23. £20.



The Enby Show

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Things to Do

Massive exhibitions

C 'The Making of Rodin'

By now, we've all seen Auguste Rodin's 'The Thinker', but you might be less familiar with his 1898 sculpture 'Balzac', a monument to the French novelist that may or may not depict him fondling his penis beneath his coat. The artist was influenced by the sculptures of ancient Greece, but as this Tate Modern exhibition seeks to show, Rodin was a modern radical.

→ Tate Modern. May 18-Nov 21. £18, £17 concs.

C Matthew Barney: 'Redoubt'

The elusive, ultra-ambitious American artist is coming back to London for his first major institutional show in the UK since 'Drawing Restraint' at the Serpentine in 2007. Intensely conceptual, Barney's art is some of the most absorbing and deeply weird work of the modern era.

→ Hayward Gallery. May 19-Jul 25. £12.

C 'Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser'

Like Lewis Carroll's Alice, we've all been living on the wrong side of the mirror this year, so it feels like a good time for this V&A exhibition, which explores the way Carroll's character has been milked to death by the visual worlds of fashion, illustration, film and photography. They can add this event listing to the pile.

→ V&A. May 22-Dec 31. £20, £15 concs.



Cirque du Snow
Matthew Barney: 'Redoubt'

E Eileen Agar: 'Angel of Anarchy'

Don't miss the retrospective of British artist Eileen Agar – painter, collage-maker, sculptor and creator of demented ceremonial hats.

→ Whitechapel Gallery. May 19-Aug 29. £9.50, £7.50 concs.

Mini exhibition

C Museum of Youth Culture

Inside the Museum of Youth Culture's pop-up shop and gallery space, you'll find a bunch of books on youth counterculture, as well as

dozens of pictures of mods, rockers, ravers and glum punks.

→ 3 Carnaby St. Until July. Free entry.

Food markets in pretty places

N Parliament Hill Farmers' Market

Gearing up for one last 'big lockdown stroll'? Try the Hampstead Heath Circular Walk. Time it just right on a Saturday

or Sunday, and you can finish up with a takeaway pint and big slab of mature farmhouse cheddar from the stalls at Parliament Hill Farmers' Market.

→ William Ellis School, off Highgate Road. Every Sat and Sun.

E Lloyd Park Market

Every Saturday, Lloyd Park is taken over by a bigger-than-you'd-expect street-food market. Traders change a little each week, but you're guaranteed to find single-origin coffee and some sourdough. Watch out for the plethora of hyper toddlers that have the run of the park each weekend.

→ Lloyd Park. Every Sat.

THREE OF THE BEST

LGBTQ+ venues that are utterly unique

Author of 'Queer London' Alim Kheraj shouts out the LGBTQ+ haunts he can't wait to revisit



S Royal Vauxhall Tavern

'Home to some of the best drag shows, cabaret and alternative queer club nights in all of the city, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern is a historic London LGBTQ+ institution that has more than earned its regal moniker.'

→ 372 Kennington Lane.



E The Queen Adelaide

'With knick-knacks adorning the walls, and some often strange themed parties in its sweaty subterranean depths, this queer watering hole has helped keep the inclusive, anarchic spirit of east London's LGBTQ+ scene alive.'

→ 483 Hackney Rd.



C Comptons

'You're more likely to find the rugby on here than "Drag Race", but that's the charm of this butch and iconic Soho boozier, which has been filled with buff and bearded boys since 1986.'

→ 51-53 Old Compton St. 'Queer London: A Guide to the City's LGBTQ+ Past and Present' is out now. ACC Art Books. £15.



Lady Gaga at Tottenham Stadium, Paula Rego at the Tate – get yourself booked and busy with some of the biggest cultural events in London this summer

Landmark theatre

Re:Emerge season

Promising 'a season of new plays for a new world', this trio of shows is going to be big. 'J'Ouvert', 'Walden' and 'Anna X' will transport audiences to socialite New York, buzzy Notting Hill Carnival and... a remote cabin in the woods. Stars include Gemma Arterton and Emma Corrin from 'The Crown'. They're standalone plays but if you're game to see all three, there's a 10 percent discount. Might as well make up for lost time, eh?

→ Harold Pinter Theatre. 'Walden', May 19-Jun 12. 'J'Ouvert', Jun 16-Jul 3. 'Anna X', Jul 9-Aug 4. From £10.

'Under Milk Wood'

It's probably been so long since you've seen live theatre that even an am-dram production of 'Romeo and Juliet' would be an exciting prospect, so God knows how you'll cope with NT's latest star-studded offering, which features Michael Sheen and Siân Phillips in a new version of Dylan Thomas's 'Under Milk Wood'.

→ National Theatre. Jun 16-Jul 24. £20-£89.

Top gigs

Rachel Chinouriri

If you don't recognise the name of this rising singer-songwriter from Croydon, just know that one of her songs is on Michaela Coel's 'I May Destroy You' soundtrack, which is kind of a big deal, y'know? Move quickly if you want to snap up tickets to her gig at the super atmospheric St Pancras Old Church. The first date sold out, so she's added one more.

→ St Pancras Old Church. Jul 29-30. £9.

Lady Gaga: The Chromatica Ball

Actual Lady Gaga performing at Tottenham Stadium? You better believe it. Exactly a year on from when her gig should have taken place there, the pop icon's



Paula Rego at Tate Britain

much-anticipated north London show is finally happening. We think. Maybe. If you thought Spurs fans were high drama, wait until those stadium seats are filled with Little Monsters shouting 'RAIN ON ME'.

→ Tottenham Stadium. Jul 30. Re-sale tickets from £163.20.

The return of the festival

Yam Carnival

Created by the team behind the Afro Nation festival, the Yam Carnival

line-up includes Nigerian-American megastar singer Davido, whose song 'Fem' evolved into a protest anthem for the EndSars movement, as well as Kehlani, Princess Nokia, DJ Honey Dijon and Femi Kuti (yep, son of Fela). If you've never experienced the ecstasy of Princess Nokia's 2017 banger 'Tomboy' bursting your eardrums on an outrageously hot summer afternoon, you have not lived.

→ Clapham Common. Aug 28. From £66.95.

All Points East

This Victoria Park festival is known for its hefty line-ups – and this year

is no exception. Taking place over the August bank holiday weekend, confirmed acts include Loyle Carner, Jamie XX, Little Simz, Jorja Smith, Kano and Roisin Murphy. The organisers have also joined forces with Field Day for part of this four-day festival bonanza. At some point, you'll inevitably find yourself desperate for a wee and having lost all your friends, but try and savour the terrible feeling. We'll never take that festival life for granted ever again.

→ Victoria Park. Aug 27-30. From £60.60.

Upcoming exhibitions

'Charlotte Perriand: The Modern Life'

A female pioneer in modernist design, Charlotte Perriand was often overshadowed by her male peers. This Design Museum retrospective hopes to fix that, running 25 years after her last exhibition at the museum. With large-scale reconstructions of her most famous interiors, original furniture,

photography and personal notebooks, the show will dig into her creative process. Be warned, this exhibition may instil in you a desire to buy a completely unnecessary chaise longue.

→ The Design Museum. Jun 19-Sep 5. £16.30, £12.15 concs.

Paula Rego

Tate Britain's retrospective of Portuguese artist Paula Rego is an excellent reminder of why we have to see art in person. It's a chance to step into the artist's strange, intoxicating imagination by way of 100 works crossing collage, paintings and large-scale pastels. The show will tell the story of her life as well as showcasing her work, which helped revolutionise the ways in which women are represented in art.

→ Tate Britain. Jul 7-Oct 24. £18, £17 concs.



Food & Drink

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The **ULTIMATE** outdoor restos list

This is the year we go properly mad for alfresco dining, so here's where it's at, mates

Time for the return of 'crazy fun'



Circolo Popolare
founder *Viktor Luggner* on the joys of outdoor eating

IN THE RIGHT setting and weather there is nothing better than eating alfresco. My favourite spot in one of my favourite restaurants, Cortile Arabo in Sicily, is outside on the terrace right on the sea. Everything is bathed in sunlight, the food is served where it is fished. Outside dining is peaceful. The acoustics are softer, and you feel more connected to the atmosphere.

I realise London is no Paris. There are no wide boulevards with cafés and restaurants spilling into the street. The weather is not Sicilian. But Londoners have a unique energy and spirit. The people here are now so eager to eat out that they will happily sit and dine in all kinds of weather, even with gloves and umbrellas. The conditions might be wet and cold, but the crowds are fun, brave and pure-hearted!

Restaurants are going to be packed like never before and people are going to party like never before and we are going to have fun like never before! Life can change back to what it was as fast as it changed into what it currently is. We can go back to crazy fun. Quickly!

→ Viktor is co-founder of Big Mamma Group.

Circolo Popolare has a new outdoor terrace which is open for bookings. 40-41 Rathbone Place, W1T 1HX.



Circolo Popolare



CIRCOLO POPOLARE: @LATEEFPHOTOGRAPHY; PERGOLA PADDINGTON: @PASCO.FP

For more outdoor spots go to [timeout.com/alfresco](https://www.timeout.com/alfresco)



Pergola Paddington Central

The new classics

Five restaurants that deserve extreme praise

Yauatcha City

The City branch of dim-sum bobby-dazzler Yauatcha takes up the whole second floor in food-heavy Broadgate Circle, and is by far the best alfresco option in the complex. The restaurant is book-ended by two heated terraces that are perfect if you want to watch City slickers in the arena below.

→ Broadgate Circle, EC2M 2QS.

Sagar + Wilde Paradise Row

Having enlisted the talents of Sebastian Myers (formerly of Chiltern Firehouse), Sagar + Wilde produces British dishes with European flourishes. Stuff like grilled Iberico pork, black trompettes, beef-shin ragù and hispi cabbage. Brunch has all kinds of eggs, sausage baps and salads. With the cobbled alley setting and a spectacular wine list, you're on to a winner here.

→ 250 Paradise Row, E2 9LE.

Barrafina King's Cross

This Barrafina outpost is on the top floor of Coal Drops Yard has some decent space for outdoor dining. Foodwise, the classic dishes continue to shine. Check out the tortilla: a perfectly egggy, oniony, potato dish that looks like a giant Ritz cracker. Or the must-order crispy morcilla croquetas filled with rich, Spanish-style blood pudding, and the green salad: four heads of baby gem lettuce topped with aromatic diced onion and a super-fresh vinaigrette. Barrafina's consistency counts for a helluva lot.

→ Coal Drops Yard, N1C 4AB.

The Berkeley

Inspired by the seafronts of Whitstable and Southwold, the Berkeley's rainbow-coloured beach huts are a blast. They've taken their theme and run with it, too: seafood, whole grilled lobster and chips, oysters, scampi, octopus, ice-cream sandwiches and 'gourmet 99s' (hey, don't fuck about with 99s, The Berkeley!) The beach-hut menu will be available on the terrace and at an outdoor countertop for added capacity. Bookings are taken for up to six and counter-top dining will be available for walk-ins on the day.

→ Wilton Place, SW1X 7RL.

The Petersham

Eating in this grand Covent Garden offshoot of Petersham Nurseries in Richmond feels a bit like dining alfresco – what with the palm trees in massive pots, the posies of flowers on each table and the general air of light and space. But the Petersham also has a nice courtyard for that genuine outdoor vibe – complete with even more trees, plant-filled urns and other horticultural paraphernalia. *Rus in urbe*. In spades.

→ Floral Court, WC2E 9FB.



Llewellyn's

Food & Drink

Pavement perfection

Yes you're sitting next to the road, but it's still really nice

Caravan Exmouth Market

One of the only things better than getting a table inside this Exmouth Market hotspot is snagging one of the 20-odd alfresco seats. There are some tables sheltered by a protective awning, although others remain vulnerable to the London weather. This is a top shout for a 'well-travelled' breakfast, a couple of post-work cocktails, some small plates and anything and everything in between. The vibe is laidback, the house-roasted coffee is ace and service is warm – even if the conditions aren't necessarily.

→ 11-13 Exmouth Market, EC1R 4QD.

Llewellyn's

There are pavement tables on the newly extended terrace outside this gastro-magnet next to Herne Hill railway station; if you get one, you'll enjoy not only the chichi ambience of Station Square and Railton Road but some peerless cooking and spot-on service from a trio whose joint CV includes The Anchor & Hope, St John and Rochelle Canteen. We'd happily sit outside at this place even in the pouring rain.

→ 293-295 Railton Rd, SE24 0JP.

Ceviche Soho

The Peruvian party hasn't stopped on Soho's Frith Street since Ceviche rocked up: Martin Morales's restaurant-bar (and his bottomless *jolie de vivre*) seems to have struck a chord with Londoners. Ceviche may not quite transport you straight to Cusco, but the ever-friendly South American staff provide more warmth than Inti (the Inca sun god, you know)

→ 17 Frith St, W1D 4RG.

Moro

This place (and its equally fêted cookbook) has set the benchmark for a distinctly British style of Iberian-with-a-North-African-twist Mediterranean cooking. It's still in the front rank 15 years after its opening. Channel the Continental vibes at one of its pavement tables, and expect bright, attentive service, a spectacular showcase of modern Spanish and Portuguese wines, and some vibrantly fresh food that throws out surprising and delightful flavours at every turn.

→ 34-36 Exmouth Market, EC1R 4QE.

ORDER TO THE PARK

Food and drink straight to your patch of green



Supper

The upmarket service will deliver restaurant meals to various 'pick up' spots.

→ Download Supper app



Swift

The Shoreditch bar will cycle their cocktails to East London parks.

→ Order on barswift.com



Gelupo

These guys do next-level gelato with great ingredients. Try the ricotta sour cherry.

→ Available on Deliveroo

→ More at timeout.com/foodtothepark



Coppa Club

Modern Pantry

Situated in a sexy grade II-listed Georgian building on St John's Square, fusion queen Anna Hansen's Clerkenwell flagship has some delightful alfresco tables tucked in among the resident mandarin trees. It's back open and you can book tables now.

→ 47-48 St John's Square, EC1V 4JJ.

Levan

Neighbourhood favourite Levan in Peckham has a brand spanking new street-side terrace. Check out its contemporary European menu, including braised lamb with wild-garlic salsa verde, white beans and grilled hispi cabbage, and polenta cake with Amalfi lemon-curd meringue, alongside a selection of natural wines. SE15 never felt so Continental

→ 12-16 Blenheim Grove, SE15 4QL.

Sky-high suppers

Rooftops to rock out on

The Culpeper

The famous (bookable) rooftop garden/bar attached to this excellent gastropub-with-rooms has been reborn as Piculpeper – an enterprise dedicated to seasonal pickling and preservation, complete with an eight-foot gherkin installation and a growing cast of veg destined for the vinegar jar. While the cooks do wondrous things with cucumbers and the like, visitors can sip herb-laden cocktails and graze from a menu of sharply seasonal pickle-themed ideas. A proper bracer.

→ 40 Commercial St, E1 6LP.



Ceviche



Sagar + Wilde

HOW TO EAT OUTSIDE PROPERLY



Paradise's *Dom Fernando* on the art of alfresco

Dining outdoors is the norm in Sri Lanka, from hoppers on the Galle Face terrace, to short-eats at roadside shacks. I also love eating outside in Continental Europe. It would be fantastic to see this part of post-Covid London. The key is to balance the ambience, music, food and drink. Combine these and you've got the recipe for success. → Paradise Soho on Rupert Street has a 30-seat terrace, and a new food and cocktail menu from May.

Oxo Tower Brasserie

Oxo Tower's restaurant and brasserie isn't technically a rooftop, but it offers a ton of height, fresh air and feelings of space. It's first come, first-served for alfresco tables, so arrive on the dot for lunch and take your pick – there are corking views of the Thames, plus a menu of modern European food. There's no heating on the terrace, so time your visit carefully. → Barge House St, SE1 9PH.

Pergola Paddington Central

Billed as a 'botanical alfresco dining destination', this summery rooftop behemoth has 850 covered/heated seats, seven day-beds, two bars on different levels, weekend DJs and a rockin' foodie offering – all amid trellises and heavy foliage, with a roof in case it rains. → 5 Kingdom St, W2 6PY.

Riverside hotspots

Nothing says 'life is good' like eating next to flowing water. That's just science

Fiume

In a beautiful Battersea riverside location, Fiume knocks out proper southern Italian nosh, with a menu designed by Francesco Mazzei (ex-L'Anima, also overseeing Sartoria and Radici). Its terrace is back in business and booking now. → Circus West Village, Sopwith Way, SW8 4NN.

Coppa Club

Boasting one of the biggest riverside terraces in London (now extended!), plus its famous igloos, Coppa Club occupies a prime spot with Tower Bridge in near-sight and The Shard just opposite. Whether you're in the restaurant, café or central bar, tall windows mean you can soak up the view when it's too chilly for full alfresco. To eat? Sourdough pizzas, pasta and grills, as well as a few bar-type nibbles – if you're just here for the vistas. → Three Quays Walk, Lower Thames St, EC3R 6AG.

Butler's Wharf Chop House

This spot boasts some cracking views – Tower Bridge is merely the hurl of a meat-cleaver away. And if you need further proof of its proximity to the Thames? The alfresco terrace is furnished with lifebelts. Meat plays an important

role on a menu celebrating all things British. Think Gloucester old spot pork chops with a bramley apple and cider sauce, salt-marsh lamb cutlets, British charcuterie and eight cuts of steak. The wine list features a good number by the glass and the carafe, with options from well-known regions of France, Italy, South Africa, Argentina and South Africa.

→ Butlers Wharf Building (26 Shad Thames), SE1 2YG.

River Café

Despite its name and riverside location, The River Café's flabbergasting gardens are what make dining outdoors here such a treat. Alfresco tables mean either awnings, heated terraces, fruit trees, herbs and edible flowers, or in the River Café's garden itself – amid shady trees and neatly trimmed lawns. The menu is a study in seasonal Italian deliciousness, with some ingredients sourced direct from the growing patch.

→ Thames Wharf, Rainville Rd, W6 9HA.

Stein's

If you've never been to a German beer garden – and don't fancy a trip to Munich – you could do worse than Stein's, a live-wire outdoor restaurant promising 'the Bavarian experience' beside a stretch of the Thames towpath. Its huge riverside space can seat up to 300 alfresco diners at shared wooden tables, many of which offer some shelter from the elements.

→ Richmond Towpath, TW10 6UX.

SICK STREET FOOD

London's best vans 'n' stalls



Netil Market

Small, but perfectly formed, with indie shops and top-notch food. The London Fields location means you're right next to a big delicious green space.

Don't miss

Netil Market is also home to plenty of craftspeople. Give 'em a bit of custom, why don't you?

Make room for

Bao Bar, obv.

→ 23 Westgate St, E8 3RL.

Flat Iron Square

This newish Borough food court may look a bit chic, but it's keenly curated stuff. Downright erotic fare – from manti dumplings to ramen and tip-top toasties – can be enjoyed under heaters.

Don't miss

Brand new bar and taproom St Felix Place.

Make room for

Portuguese legends Bar Douro.

→ Flat Iron Square, SE1 1TD.

Pop Brixton

A really great community initiative created by Make Shift and Lambeth Council, it features 13 street food stands and three real-as-raisons restaurants (including the excellent Smoke and Salt).

Don't miss

Container Records for your vinyl needs.

Make room for

Souvlaki Street's exceptional wraps.

→ Brixton Station Rd, SW9 8PQ.



Local gems

(Relatively) small but beautiful places we love

Westerns Laundry

Occupying what was once a not-so-beautiful laundrette, this sibling of Islington's Primeur is also the kind of neighbourhood hangout where the menu is scrawled on a blackboard, the small plates are modish and fish is a strong suit. Yes, Westerns Laundry has a fashionably stark interior, an open kitchen and counter seating at the bar, but you can also eat alfresco on the Provençal-style terrace, surrounded by olive trees and rug-strewn wooden blocks.

→ 35 Drayton Park, N5 1PB.

parlez

In summer 2020, the council pedestrianised the entire street by Brockley station, which meant that local favourite parlez could take its outdoor dining game to the next level. Snag a spot under an umbrella for an all-day breakfast (or

an all-day margarita), or arrive after 5pm for Baba G's nightly takeover. That paneer saag burger is an absolute blinder.

→ 16 Coulgate St, SE4 2RW.

Saponara

Okay, imagine you're on holiday (remember that?) in Italy. You're wandering around some beautiful ancient town on a summer evening when you stumble across a perfect, tranquil little piazza with a tiny trattoria in the corner. Bliss! Now transfer that experience to the back streets of Islington, and you've got Saponara: a proper, down-to-earth, family-run deli/pizzeria with five or six outdoor tables on a quiet, leafy square. You'll find yourself asking: Why the hell aren't there more places like this in London?

→ 23 Prebend St, N1 8PF.

Brackenbury Wine Rooms

On the edge of what estate agents like to call Brackenbury Village, this expansive wine bar and shop also serves up excellent Modern European food. Bag a table on its sheltered terrace out front and

enjoy plates of super-fresh seared tuna with ratatouille and baba ganoush, wild mushroom and black truffle tortellini or Cornish crab tian with wasabi yoghurt and mango. Each dish comes with a suggested wine pairing, so there's no excuse not to try a glass (or few).

→ 111-115 Hammersmith Grove, W6 0NQ.

L'Oculto

L'Oculto is the real deal. Founders Ana Gomez and Teresa Holmes began their foodie careers as importers, meaning all the produce that makes up the exquisite plates flying out of the open kitchen at this neighbourhood tapas joint are straight from Spain and it shows. Mojama, cuttlefish fideua and pulpo a la Gallega are regulars on the seasonal menu and there's a huge selection of small-producer wines, mainly of the low intervention variety. Usually, it's indoor eating only in their rustic dining room lined with wine racks and shelves, but their new move to alfresco, pavement-side dining will really bring a Continental feel. ■

→ 325 Brockley Rd, SE4 2QZ

New openings

Fantastic new restaurants here in time for summer

Cinder

Jake Finn's first resto was meant to open in 2020. After a year of pivoting to home delivery, the boy gets his wish. Expect grill stunners like tiger prawns with hot pepper sauce and lamb kebabs marinated in yoghurt, maple syrup, oregano and sage.
→ 66 Belsize Lane, NW3 5BJ.

Keff

A self-styled pitstop for addictive pitta toasties made with feta, kashkaval or vegan cheese. These beauties are served up with tapenade or matbucha (a pepper and tomato sauce), plus a drizzle of



Keff

the garlickiest yoghurt, alongside a few colourful salads.
→ Stables Market North Yard, NW1 8AH.

Rita's

Remember Bodega Rita's in King's Cross? Great, wasn't it? Missy Flynn and Gabriel Pryce's clever comfort



Mr Ji

food operation is moving to Soho this summer and looks bigger and better than before.
→ 49 Lexington St, W1F 9AP.

Mr Ji

The Taiwanese chicken 'n' cocktails joint has joined up with TĀ TĀ Eatery to reimagine its offering, with

a small-plates menu featuring adventurous snacks like chicken hearts and gizzards alongside fried thigh and breast dishes, fragrant sides and Taiwanese ice lollies for afters.
→ 72 Old Compton Street, W1D 4UN.

The Farrier

This big new food pub in Camden Market looks very pleasant indeed. It's in a Grade II-listed former horse hospital, has its own wine wall and boasts meat supplied by beautiful Time Out-approved butcher HG Walter.
→ Stables Market North Yard, NW1 8AH.

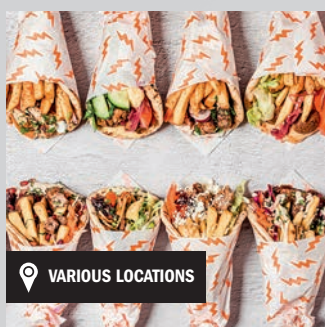
WingWing

Whoa! Cool branding alert. WingWing promises super crispy wings, drumsticks and boneless strips, which it double-fries then brushes with one of its secret glazes (including a liquorice-flavoured coating – yikes!). ■
→ 47-49 Charing Cross Rd, WC2H 0AN.

Discover more new restaurants [timeout.com/newopenings](https://www.timeout.com/newopenings)

Support our local partners.

Sponsored listing



VARIOUS LOCATIONS

KALAMAKI STREET GREEK SAYS:

'When Kalamaki Street Greek says fresh, it means it! Its chefs use time-honoured Greek cooking methods, while adding a modern twist. Come and try their food in London Bridge, Fulham, Covent Garden or Hackney Wick, or find it on Deliveroo in Swiss Cottage, Crouch End and Whitechapel.'
Various locations.



VARIOUS LOCATIONS

UBER BOAT BY THAMES CLIPPERS SAYS:

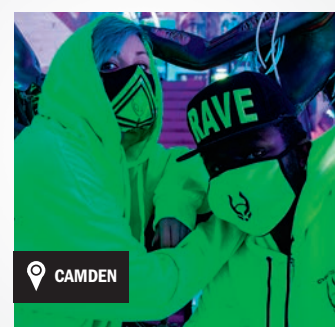
'Take to the river and discover the perfect day or evening out. Hop on board the River Bus and enjoy personal space, fresh air and fantastic views while travelling through the city. You'll fall in love with London all over again. Adult tickets start from £4.60. Family passes available too'
From 22 piers along the Thames.



SHOREDITCH

PLATFORM SAYS:

'London's next-level gaming bar will be back on May 17, with cocktails, wood-fired pizzas and the best gaming from Mario Kart to Fifa. Assemble your squad, grab a controller and come and play with the possibilities. Anything goes. Everyone's welcome. Book now so you don't miss out on the fun!'
2b Worship St, EC2A 2AH.



CAMDEN

CYBERDOG SAYS:

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

Travel

Edited by James Manning
timeout.com/daytrips



Seaside towns near London: ranked

Upgrade your best watery life by decamping to one of these cute coastal burgs a day-trip from the capital. Illustration *Tom Hislop*

WHEN THE SUN shines, even briefly, it's a tradition in London to immediately seek out the nearest beer gardens or patch of grass to soak up some rays. But with a little planning, it's perfectly easy to slink off a little further afield and upgrade your place in the sun to a seaside deckchair.

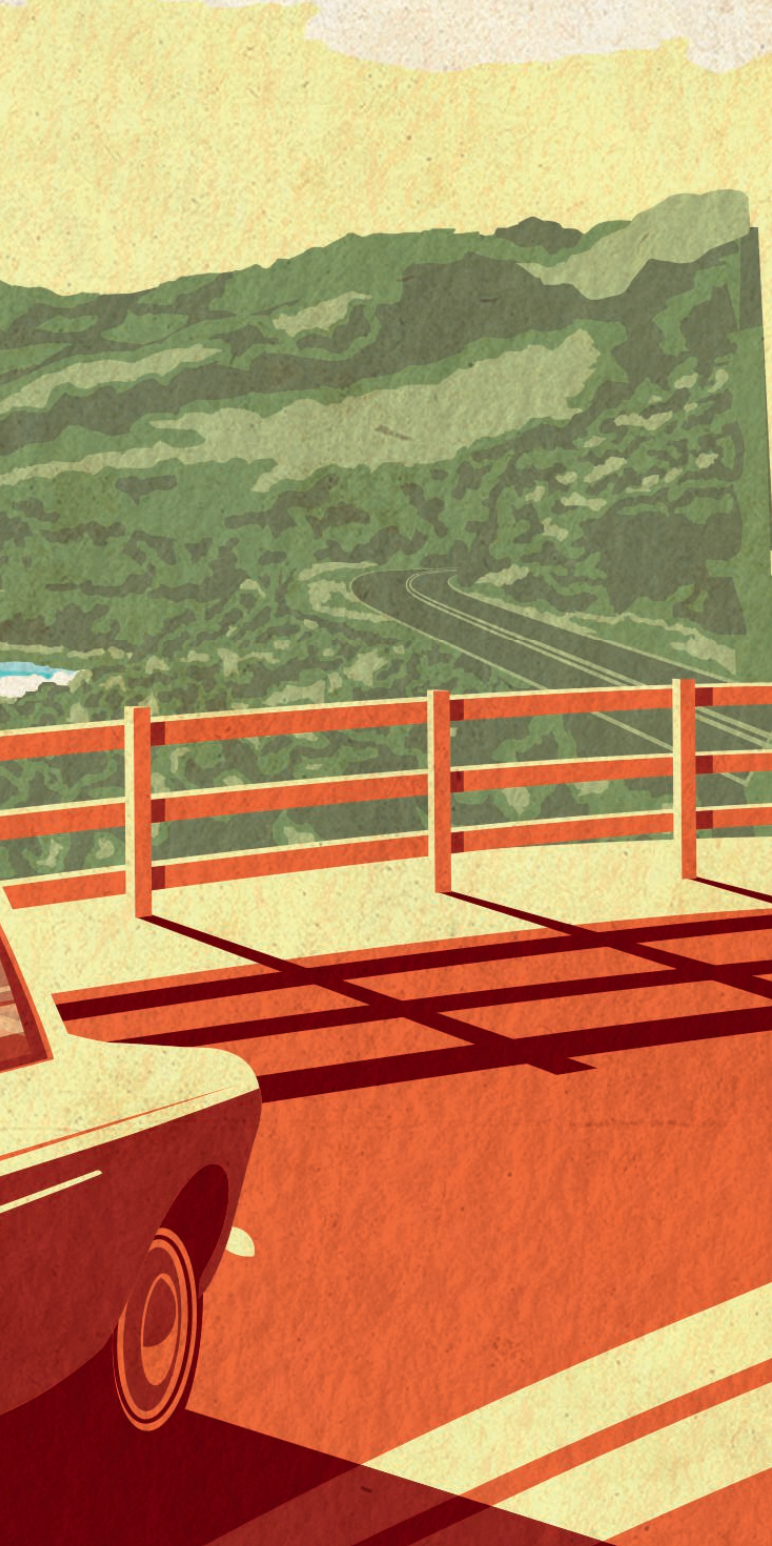
Day trips are now allowed in England again, along with overnight stays in self-catered accommodation (like Airbnbs and campsites). Hotels and B&Bs will reopen from May 17. Which means it's time to get nautical-but-nice and gulp down some salty air.

The UK's wild and sweeping coastline is peppered with pretty little towns – some of which are

surprisingly close to London. (These ones are all less than two hours away.)

Don't be fooled by their small scale – these places are packed with things to do, see, eat and drink. They're kitsch, cool and perfect for flip-flopping your way through a day of salty, sandy fun. But which one to visit first? Let the subjectively ranked coastal countdown begin...

Please note: some facilities and businesses in these towns and villages may be closed. Always be mindful of the people who live locally, check whether car parks are open before you set off and adhere to social-distancing and mask-wearing guidelines while visiting.



Feeling trippy? More inspo:
[timeout.com/travel](https://www.timeout.com/travel)



Oysters in Whitstable

15 Herne Bay, Kent

What's the vibe? Nostalgic bucket-and-spade jollies.

Pros Herne Bay is relatively untouched by the flat-white-demanding London hordes. But what it lacks in style it makes up for with unspoilt beaches, charming cafés and a recently jazzed-up pier.

Cons No sand – just pebbles and that good old estuary mud.

Don't miss The Vintage Empire for big cakes and doorstep sandwiches.

Get there One hour 20 minutes by train from St Pancras to Herne Bay; around one hour 40 minutes by car.

13 Worthing, Sussex

What's the vibe? Arty beach-boho.

Pros As well as the usual seaside suspects (fish and chips, pier, sand-and-shingle beach) there's a raft of crafty, creative attractions including beachside artist studios, gorgeous art galleries and the grade II-listed Dome cinema.

Cons Can feel a bit staid.

Don't miss The rows of quirky vintage stores, cafés and micropubs along Rowlands Road.

Get there One hour 20 minutes by train from Victoria; two hours by car.

14 Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

What's the vibe? Tiny, sweet and very English.

Pros Old Leigh's main street is lined with cheerful cafés, a gallery, a pottery studio, a couple of restaurants and plenty of pubs. A tiny sandy beach gives way to a muddy gulch when the tide goes out – kids love it, parents maybe less so.

Cons It's basically one street. Also, the aforementioned gulch.

Don't miss Old Leigh Regatta (hopefully back in 2021) provides boating events, a greasy pole, pillow fighting and a – gulp – cockle-eating competition.

Get there Just under 50 minutes by train from Fenchurch Street; around two hours by car.

12 Brighton, Sussex

What's the vibe?

Cosmopolitan seaside party playground.

Pros Brighton's delightfully kitsch pier is often the first port of call for visitors, but this beachside city has loads more to offer. Its vibrant LGBTQ+ party scene is known the world over, and there's even a dayglo dinosaur-themed crazy-golf course.

Cons It's not exactly under the radar. If the sun's out, don't even bother.

Don't miss The Lanes' narrow streets brim with independent cafés, record shops and vintage emporiums – all housed in charming eighteenth-century buildings.

Get there One hour from London Bridge; about 90 minutes by car.

Old Leigh Regatta features a cockle-eating contest



Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne



11 Southend-on-Sea, Essex

What's the vibe? Nostalgic seaside fun with an arty edge.

Pros Unbeatable seaside fare, from amusements and fairgrounds to ice-cream parlour Tomassi's and old-school chippies. But you'll also find ambitious eateries, like Aurum and The Pipe of Port. A new arty set is bringing culture here in spades. Head to Focal Point Gallery or arts organisation Metal Culture's annual Village Green festival.

Cons Absolutely mobbed in summer. **Don't miss** At over a mile, Southend Pier is the world's longest. Stroll to the restored Pier Head, stopping by the café, sun deck, gift shop and exhibition space on the way.

Get there One hour 15 minutes by train from Fenchurch Street; two hours by car.

10 Whitstable, Kent

What's the vibe? Chocolate-box seaside town with an indie undercurrent.

Pros With its pastel shopfronts, shingle beach, local oysters and the freshest seafood, this fishing town is tailor-made for weekend getaways.

Cons It's been well and truly 'discovered'. Also: terrible parking. **Don't miss** The Lobster Shack is a charming spot to crack into a fresh lobster or shuck the famous oysters.

Get there One hour 30 minutes by train from Victoria to Whitstable; around two hours by car.

9 Broadstairs, Kent

What's the vibe? 1950s seaside innocence, with liberal splashes of Farrow & Ball.

Pros Broadstairs has something for everyone. The sandy beach and gaily painted huts of Viking Bay are a delight for families, but it has plenty of appeal for grown-ups as well: a tiny cinema, great food and a cliff-top walk to romantic Botany Bay.

Cons A tad more expensive than its Kent coast neighbours.

Don't miss Stark is a very London-y-looking restaurant that seats just ten diners – book for its fixed six-course tasting menu and an evening of utter deliciousness.

Get there One hour 40 minutes from St Pancras to Broadstairs; two hours by car.



Mermaid Street, Rye

8 Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex

What's the vibe? Laidback wildlife haven with golden beaches.

Pros If gaudy amusements aren't your thing, this quiet town is a seaside paradise: caffs, tea rooms, bric-à-brac shops and colourful beach huts. Nature's the real draw. Unspoiled headland the Naze is a wildlife haven, cliffs crumble to reveal fossils, and the estuary is ribboned with scenic walking trails.

Cons Getting here is a bit of a faff. **Don't miss** Take a boat trip to spot the resident seal population.

Get there Two hours 10 minutes by train from Liverpool Street; around two hours by car.

7 Rye, Sussex

What's the vibe? A history buff's wet dream of winding streets and medieval inns.

Pros From the ancient castle to the twelfth-century St Mary's Church, Rye has a *lot* of history. It's not as coastal as some of these towns (the tide went out in the Middle Ages and never came back), but you can explore Rye Harbour Nature Reserve – a patchwork of grassland, saltmarsh and woods – or take the very short trip to Camber Sands.

Cons Paddling opportunities are now three miles away. **Don't miss** Mermaid Street's cobbles and wonky half-timbered houses.

Get there: One hour 10 minutes from St Pancras; two hours by car.

6 Margate, Kent

What's the vibe? Shabby-chic, fast becoming just plain chic.

Pros City vibes meet coastal relaxation in Margate. Attractions are plentiful, including seafood restaurant and gallery Hantverk & Found, retro funfair Dreamland, the sublime Walpole Bay sea-bathing pool, and the Shell Grotto, where 4.6 million shells create spectacular murals.

The Turner Contemporary gallery's pretty awesome too. **Cons** You're so late to the party.

Don't miss Margate Caves, an eighteenth-century chalk mine decorated with unusual carvings and paintings, will hopefully be reopening this summer.

Get there One hour 30 minutes from St Pancras; two hours by car.



Viking Bay, Broadstairs

Rye is a history buff's wet dream

5 Deal, Kent

What's the vibe? Buzzy bars, contemporary crafts and the prettiest of pebble beaches.

Pros Smaller than Whitstable and not as much of a hipster honeypot (for the time being) as Margate, the Kent town of Deal somehow manages to combine the best of both those towns. Georgian houses, great food and a thriving creative community make for a rather special seaside spot.

Cons It's pretty tiny (no big Deal, you could say) and the beach is stony.

Don't miss A little piece of Bordeaux, Le Pinardier sells impeccably sourced bottles with a side of *joie de vivre*.

Get there One hour 20 minutes from St Pancras; two hours by car.



East Cliff, Hastings

4 Manningtree, Essex

What's the vibe? Winding streets and a great food scene.

Pros Manningtree is said to be the smallest town in England, but don't let its size fool you. Nowadays, it's peppered with independent shops and eateries, like Italian bistro Lucca Enoteca, and record and natural wine shop Winyl, as well as arty spots like North House Gallery.

Cons Only debatably a 'seaside' town: it's on a river estuary, actually.

Don't miss Wrabness Nature Reserve is a charming patch of green with stunning views over the Stour Estuary. Follow the coastline up to Wrabness where you'll find Grayson Perry's 'House for Essex'.

Get there One hour from Liverpool Street; two hours by car.

3 Ramsgate, Kent

What's the vibe? Artsy indies meet massive 'spoons.

Pros Previously in the shadow of better established seaside resorts, Ramsgate is now a destination in itself. Pretty townhouses and buzzing restaurants: this coastal town has the lot. Plus it's home to the Royal Victoria Pavilion, the biggest Wetherspoon's IN THE WORLD.

Cons If you're looking for absolute reams of 'trendy' stuff, you horrible hipster, Ramsgate isn't quite there yet. We give it three years.

Don't miss Enviously stocked charity and antiques shops: try Petticoat Lane Emporium and Arch 16 Antique Vintage and Retro Junk.

Get there: One hour 40 minutes from St Pancras; two hours by car.

2 Hastings, Sussex

What's the vibe? A characterful seaside escape.

Pros From William of Normandy in 1066 to eighteenth-century smugglers, people throughout history have flocked like gulls to Hastings. Nowadays it's Londoners that come to seize freshly caught fish, stroll along the pier and uncover the bubbling creative scene.

Cons The precinct-heavy new town isn't quite as pretty as the old.

Don't miss Climb aboard the East Hill Cliff Railway and soar skyward. It's the steepest funicular in Britain.

Get there One hour 30 minutes from London Bridge; two hours by car.

1 Folkestone, Kent

What's the vibe? A former port that's cooler than you think.

Pros For ages, Folkestone has been trying to shed its image as a dreary Channel ferry terminus. An art triennial? Sure! An official Creative Quarter up the Old High Street? Yes, please! Nowadays the Harbour Arm hosts street food stalls instead of cross-Channel hulks, and there are some actually-trendy restaurants. Add in Leas Coastal Park and one of the south coast's few sandy beaches and you've got a seaside sleeper hit.

Cons A lingering military vibe and the grotesque Grand Burstin hotel (check out the TripAdvisor reviews).

Don't miss A glass of champers at the converted lighthouse at the Harbour Arm. Look out for dolphins!

Get there Around an hour from St Pancras; two hours by car. ■



Harbour Arm, Folkestone

Film



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



Big screen Summer

London's cinemas are back and they're cooler, comfier and more numerous than ever, says *Phil de Semlyen*



REMEMBER THAT tingle of anticipation as the lights go down and a movie flickers into life on the big screen?

The way watching a trailer on the big screen can make literally any film seem like essential viewing ('Shit, there's a "Peter Rabbit 2"?!'). The gathering drone of the Dolby Atmos logo. Me too. Even the rustle of popcorn as the bloke behind you crams a fistful into his

gob has taken on a mythic quality. The collective joy of watching something on a cinema screen has been gone far, far too long.

Joyously, the wait will be over on Monday May 17. Reopening on that day will be **BFI Southbank**, the cult-alicious **Prince Charles**, **Selfridges Cinema**, the **Archlight** in Battersea, art deco temple the **Rio** in Dalston, Kensal Rise's local hero the **Lexi**, the **Genesis** in Mile End, South Kensington's fabulously French

Ciné Lumière, East Finchley's grand old **Phoenix**, the **Barbican Cinema**, all of London's **Everyman Cinemas**, and – if rumours are to be believed – the city's **Picturehouses**, too. A day later, **Curzon's** screens in Soho, Aldgate, Victoria and Bloomsbury will be joining them.

Not every cinema will be back straight away. The ICA has July 6 earmarked, and aside from **Cineworld** (late May), the major chains – and bigger indies like



Even the rustle of popcorn now has a mythic quality

Clockwise from top left: BFI Southbank, 'Summer in the Heights', Everyman Hampstead, Rio Cinema, 'Nomadland'



south-east London favourite **Peckhamplex** – hadn't announced their reopening dates at the time of going to press. But expect the city's multiplexes to be back to something like normal when 'A Quiet Place II' and 'In the Heights' (June) and 'Black Widow' (July) have all landed.

Not that there isn't plenty to dig into in May, including 'Nomadland' and 'Sound of Metal', both of which arrive with armfuls of awards, plus 'Rare Beasts' and much-lauded moo-steppiece 'First Cow'.

When you get to the cinema, you may notice that your seat is a little comfier, the image a bit sharper and the snacks kiosk a touch more bougie. BFI Southbank's palatial NFT1 has a new screen, 4klaser projector and booming new sound system. The Lexi, which was hit by a fire in October, returns with a second screen.

Barbican has ripped out its old seats and replaced them with comfy new ones.

London's cinemas are not out of the woods yet – far from it – but their resilience is seriously heartening. The government's Culture Recovery Fund, administered by the BFI, has helped, as has the support of regulars. There's even a handful of new London cinemas on the way. Curzon has two – Hoxton opening June 4 and Camden later in 2021 – and Picturehouse Finsbury Park is coming soon too. Excitingly, currently cinema-less Acton is getting a pop-up that will eventually become a two-screen picture palace, run with some help from the Rio. And word is that Kentish Town will finally have a one-screen cinema to call its own in 2022.

The big question, of course, is will people return? The runes says yes. Research by industry body Cinema First had 59 percent of respondents listing cinemagoing as their 'most missed out-of-home entertainment activity'. My guess – and I have not done any polls – is that cinema's allure is not only undiminished at the end of lockdown, it's greater than ever. Who hasn't missed that unique magic of being cocooned in the dark, alone but together? Cinemas are a departure gate to somewhere new, ready to transport us from the stuck-at-home-sitting-in-our-pants drudgery of the past year. For pity's sake, though, switch your phone to flight mode. All this goodwill isn't going to last for ever. ■

IN THE HEIGHTS (TOP LEFT); A QUIET PLACE (ON SCREEN); EVERYMAN HAMPSTEAD; ALENA VEASEY / SHUTTERSTOCK (RIO); ALASTAIR WHEAT; NOMADLAND (COURTESY OF SENSATIONAL PICTURES); EDGAR WRIGHT; ALICE LOWE; PAUL KING; KEN LOACH; AND PARSONS; PAUL KING; DRAY PICTURE ALLIANCE / ALAMY

MEMORY LANE

My first movie

To celebrate cinemas' return, four directors share their fledgling movie-going memory



Edgar Wright
'Star Wars'

'When I was three, my parents took me and my brother to see "Star Wars" at the Galaxy Cinema in Bournemouth. They had not told us what we were watching, or even explained what cinema was.

I remember asking them if we were about to see some fireworks. They said no. But in a way we did. I remain in awe of the ceremony to this day.'



Alice Lowe
'The Dark Crystal'

'It was to see "The Dark Crystal" as a five-year-old at whichever multiplex was in central Coventry at the time. I was utterly transported to another world. It was like finding out fairies were real. I remember sitting in the car leaving the car park afterwards, totally dumbfounded, mind blown! I became a lifelong fan of Jim Henson.'



Paul King

'Back to the Future'

'We didn't go to the cinema much as kids but when we did, my parents really chose well. The movies I remember seeing before I was ten were "Back to the Future" and "ET" at MacRobert Arts Centre in Stirling. "ET" broke my heart and "BTTF" made me wish I could skateboard. Thirty-five years later I still get misty-eyed at "I'll be right here". And I still wish I could skateboard.'



Ken Loach

'The Adventures of Robin Hood'

'My earliest memory is seeing "The Adventures of Robin Hood" at The Palace in Nuneaton – goodness knows why. The last thing on anyone's mind was the film; the question was: "Who are you going with?" My abiding memory is of my arm losing circulation after being stretched around the back of the girl who'd agreed to come, and was by then probably regretting it.'

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Film

Sound of Metal



THERE'S A MOMENT in this searing drama that has newly deaf drummer Ruben (Riz Ahmed) confronted with an innocuous tableau at the rehab clinic he's checked into: a blank page, a pen, a cup of steaming coffee and a doughnut. He's been encouraged to write something – anything – about what he's feeling. Instead, in a starburst of rage and frustration, he smashes the doughnut. Then he reshapes it. Then he smashes it again. It's as economical and articulate a character beat as it is a terrible way to eat a doughnut. Here is a man torn between his pain and anger and his desperate attempt to hold it all together.

Ahmed is magnetic – both as the sinewy drummer of the noise-rock band he shares with his girlfriend Lou (Olivia Cooke, also terrific) and in the moments of confusion,

fear of relapse and mute despair that follow his diagnosis. Ahmed learnt American Sign Language and drumming for the role and that commitment really tells.

Equally good is Paul Raci as Joe, the deaf Vietnam vet who welcomes Ruben into his rehab community and who provides the notepad, the doughnut and a path to acceptance.

Unusually, director Darius Marder gives the film open captions

– subtitles appear throughout – making it as accessible as possible for hearing and deaf viewers alike. And that sense of fellowship runs through this deeply empathetic film, which is also unafraid to leave Ruben submerged and overwhelmed in a world of muffled sounds and indistinct words. Ruben, of course, wants to haul himself out of it. But 'Sound of Metal' is about learning to swim. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

FILM OF THE MONTH



WHAT IS IT...

Sudden deafness sends a musician spiralling.

WHY GO...

Riz Ahmed's performance will sear itself into your memory.

→ Director Darius Marder (15) 120 mins. In cinemas May 17. On Amazon Prime Video now.

Truman & Tennessee: An Intimate Conversation



WHAT IS IT...

A doc looking at the parallel lives of two giants of American literature.

WHY GO...

It's full of testy, witty Deep South weirdness. And some nice bulldogs.

→ Director Lisa Immordino Vreeland (12) 85 mins. Streaming Apr 30.

RELISHING THIS DOC about US writers Tennessee Williams (pictured) and Truman Capote requires a pre-existing interest in one or other of them, and a high tolerance for archness. This is an arch film about two arch men, so the effect is pretty... arch. Capote was just 16 when he met Williams, 13 years his senior. They were never lovers, but their relationship endured. It ranged from respect to sour bitchiness.

This well-crafted doc is at its most engaging in teasing out their similarities. Gay, alcoholic, witty and barbed, both men paraded their Southern 'otherness' for an audience of fascinated New Yorkers. Williams describes the South as 'like Tsarist Russia', referring to his love of Chekhov. Capote endured teenage male hormone shots to 'cure' his homosexuality, and says things like 'memories are always breaking my heart'.

It's kind of bonkers to watch them even now, in a – ostensibly at least – more inclusive era. What effect they must have had in the '50s is hard to imagine. There's some great footage of David Frost trying to interview them (separately) and failing spectacularly. Williams says he 'had to create an imaginary life' to survive his early years, and Capote is an even more extraordinary self-creation.

Capote was clearly pretty loathsome; Williams, though, is more elusive: a man whose passions were repressed and distorted by his background and the age he lived in, channelled into his ferocious, overwrought dramas. What is extraordinary here is their determination to stake their claim on a twentieth-century America that often found them compelling but deep down you feel often hated and feared them. ■ *Chris Waywell*



Apples



WHAT IS IT...

A man with no memory negotiates a modern-day Athens.

WHY GO...

To catch the new Yorgos Lanthimos early.

→ Director Christos Nikou (12A) 91 mins. In cinemas May 17. On Curzon Home Cinema May 7.

HOW DO YOU figure out where to go when you have no clue where you've come from? That's the predicament faced by the amnesiac in debut filmmaker Christos Nikou's melancholy yet playful vision of a man adrift in an alternate modern-day Athens. Nikou was assistant director on Yorgos Lanthimos's 'Dogtooth' and the influence is clear, but he is no mere impersonator.

The man, Aris (Aris Servetalis), is found alone on a bus with no ID and no idea where he lives. He's enrolled in a programme for amnesiacs and is clearly no outlier: crashed cars and billboard ads for memory pills suggest a society through which amnesia spreads like, well, a pandemic.

With a new flat, bearded and clad in the short-legged trousers, he wanders the city like a hipster Daniel Day-Lewis, following instructions on cassettes. The effect is of a man parachuted into a life that, like his trousers, doesn't fit him. The inscrutable Servetalis hints at a deeper despair, but occasionally blossoms into a childlike glee and a tentative flirtation with fellow amnesiac Anna (Sofia Georgovassili).

Nikou's compassion for his protagonist permeates the film. Is it all meant as a comment on Greece's relationship with its past, or of a whole world that's drifted off its moorings? My guess is that he's happy for you to interpret it however you want – or take it at face value as a portrayal of aching loneliness – because beneath the sharp laughs he's aiming to engage the heart. 'Apples' manages that in spades. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



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