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What are **you** laughing at?

Something funny is going on in November. Ride-hailing app FREE NOW has hired a West End theatre for Comedy on the Road and is handing the keys over to four amazing indie comedy nights. Banging line-ups and all door money going back to the artists? Yes please!

BYOB Comedy



Anubis Finch with The Enby Show

The Enby Show

If you enjoy glamorous nights full of riotous performances, this queer variety evening might be just the ticket. Hosted by drag artist Carrot and headlined by *RuPaul's Drag Race UK* star Anubis Finch, there'll be non-binary and gender-defying legends aplenty there to completely blow your mind.

→ Mon Nov 8, 7.30pm. £13 + booking fees.

BYOB Comedy

Nope, not that kind. BYOB stands for Bring Your Own Baby (if they're under 15 months old). There's buggy parking, baby-changing facilities and breastfeeding is allowed. The hilarious Jen Brister, Wendy Wason and Carly Smallman are all on the bill.

→ Mon Nov 15, 11.30am. £12 + booking fees.

Old Rope

Looking for fresh material? At this illustrious night, comedians who start tripping up on their new sets and need to resort to old jokes have to touch the rope. The old (joke) rope. Nish Kumar, Rachel Fairburn and Loyiso Gola are headlining.

→ Mon Nov 15, 7.30pm. £13 + booking fees.

Outside the Box

Since starting in 2006, this comedy club has earned a rep for finding the next big thing: alumni include Romesh Ranganathan and Sara Pascoe. You can catch Hal Cruttenden, Laura Lexx and Scott Bennett, with MC extraordinaire Maff Brown. If you like being ahead of the game, this one's for you!

→ Mon Nov 29, 7.30pm. £13 + booking fees. All shows are at the Vaudeville Theatre, 404 Strand, WC2R 0NH.



Nish Kumar with Old Rope



Laura Lexx with Outside the Box

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PUBS

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LET'S GET
BACK ON TRACK

Inside

This issue of Time Out
in no time at all

Kids' special

We've rounded up bags of stuff to
keep your little guys occupied and
away from knives and NO₂

Boozeless booze

Okay, so we've devoted an entire
issue to pubs, but it is Sober
October, children

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'The Tragedy of Macbeth'

Saoirse Ronan is electric in
a brooding new production of
Shakespeare's Scottish Play

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Edgar Wright

The 'Baby Driver' director talks
about his new time-travelling London
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Cheap(ish) digs

We went out and found ten London
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a room for less than 600 quid

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Hello, London

Joe Mackertich
London Editor
@j_mackertich



A little while ago, Time Out moved offices. The new digs were an immediate hit. Our workspace has a warm vibe, quality lunch options abound and its proximity to Seven Dials makes buying nauseatingly tasteful birthday presents an absolute doddle.

These are all good things, but not the *best* thing. I'd love to say that particular honour goes to something admirable like a nearby community garden or local street-food market. But no. The best thing about this new office is that it's directly opposite a really good pub. And that's the pub you see on our cover.

A thinly veiled, craven attempt by us to get free pints? *Obviously*, yes. But our decision to celebrate our local (and its devastatingly handsome landlord) reflects something else too. In London, your favourite pub probably isn't the one with the widest range of identical-tasting craft IPAs or the softest furnishings. It's the one that quietly attaches itself to your existence like a beer-giving symbiote. Chapters of your life – a first flat, a new job, a bad break-up – you'll forever associate with the pub you drank in at that time. For us, at Time Out, that's The Sun on Drury Lane. Unless somewhere better opens that's even closer.

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



DRINK here

The Harlequin by Saddler's Wells is just the sweetest boozier. Very amenable staff, a lovely owner and optimal backstreet location.



AND here

The creaking Cock Tavern on Mare Street manages to retain its cool despite having no interest at all in being cool. Great beer selection.



AND also here

Shehan's in Nunhead is a family-run pub so beloved that during lockdown a pining regular built an exact replica of it using 3D software.

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LONDON

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City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



It's time to make this city safe for all

In the wake of the Sarah Everard case, it's clear that many women don't feel safe in the capital. We need to ask why that is and what those in power must do about it, says *Kate Lloyd*



WHEN I MOVED to London, from a small town up north, one of the main things my mum worried about was whether I'd 'be safe'. She meant avoid getting raped or murdered (as though that doesn't happen in places where there's a much less frequent bus service and many more big industrial estates). She also meant whether I'd behave 'safely': not walk home alone at night, not go off with strangers, carry a rape alarm.

For the ten years I've lived here I've pretended to her that's largely the case. But the truth is that I like walking around the city alone at night. It's beautiful. In fact, I've behaved in a way that many people would describe as 'unsafe' and 'dumb'. I'm arguably 'lucky' that nothing bad has happened to me. But isn't it weird for us to talk like that?

We never tell straight men to stick to well-lit roads, and guys are statistically more likely to get murdered than women are.

I know that many women and non-binary people do not feel safe to act like I do. I understand why. Horrible things happen to women very often – we're always aware it might be us next.

What I hope we learn from the Sarah Everard case is that telling women to 'be safe' is useless. Everard was falsely arrested, raped and murdered by serving police officer Wayne Couzens. None of the advice that's doled out to us would have saved her. The feeling of safety it offers is just a placebo.

If we want London to feel safe enough for us all to fearlessly amble across London Bridge alone at 2am, eating a Maccy D and looking at the lights of the city, we need the government to invest in

protecting vulnerable Londoners. I don't mean by launching an app that women download to track themselves. I mean opening specialist rape units within the two-fifths of police forces in England and Wales that don't have them. I mean by finding and stopping perpetrators of crimes such as flashing before their actions escalate to violence.

If the Everard case has opened your eyes to how little we as individuals can do to protect ourselves, if it's made you feel scared, react with anger and see our city in a new light – know that, in many ways, what you're feeling is what all that 'be safe' chat was supposed to suppress. If women carry the burden of their own safety, they can't blame the government or the police or society when bad things happen. But now we know the truth – and it's time to use our rage to call for action. ■

HYPE DISH
DISSECTION

SessionsArts Club's super-elegant eel-and-potato dish

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

FOR FLORENCE KNIGHT – the chef behind Clerkenwell's recently opened Sessions Arts Club – fine food is all about finding an equilibrium. Her eel-and-potato dish embodies this philosophy to a tee. 'It's got a lightness to it, but a heaviness at the same time,' she says.

It's delicate-looking with a bold flavour, like an elevated take on a confit potato chip. 'The finished dish is well-balanced: smoky, citrusy and a bit fishy, but nothing too strong,' says Knight. She talks us through what goes into it. ■ *Chiara Wilkinson*
→ 24 Clerkenwell Green. £18.

The technique

'We layer the potato with the eel, bake it, press it overnight, then slice it into shape before deep frying. The layers make the dish quite pretty – all golden with a crisp texture.'

The potato

'We peel King Edward potatoes and cut them very thinly on a mandolin slicer, then marinate them in smoked rapeseed oil that has a similar flavour to the eel.'

The leaves

'We dress the dish with rocket, edible flowers, lemon and crème fraîche from Neal's Yard. A lot of the flowers are picked by my children from my mother's garden.'

The eel

'We fillet smoked eels and slice them to the same thickness as the potato. It's nothing like jellied eel, it's quite meaty and similar to smoky bacon. It's got a richness to it.'

The roe

'The roe adds acidity and sharpness. It kind of bursts and pops in your mouth, adding another texture to the dish. And obviously, it looks beautiful, like little orange pearls.'



GREAT PORTLAND STREET W1

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

DJ and presenter *Craig Charles* on the spot that shaped his radio career

THE BBC's Wogan House on Great Portland Street is where, when I was 20, I started doing a show called 'Loose Ends' on BBC Radio 4. It was hosted by Ned Sherrin, who was a mentor to me. He introduced me to lots of people in show business who are still influential in my life today.

I remember walking down Great Portland Street towards the BBC studios and psyching myself up to be witty, charming and funny in the face of all these people who were so much more witty, charming and funny than I was. These were really posh people and I was from a council estate in Liverpool.

'Loose Ends' was my first full-time radio occupation when I moved to London. It took me from being the 'scally in the alley' to someone whose opinions were worth listening to.

I left 'Loose Ends' to make TV shows but I've always thought radio was my natural home. I went back to it 20 years ago when I got my first 6 Music radio show. I still do lots of my Saturday night shows from Wogan House and I still get goosebumps walking down Great Portland Street. It's been the home of my radio career. ■ *Interview by Isabelle Aron*

→ Craig Charles presents on BBC Radio 6 Music, weekdays, 1pm-4pm.

Explore more of the city at timeout.com/thingstodo

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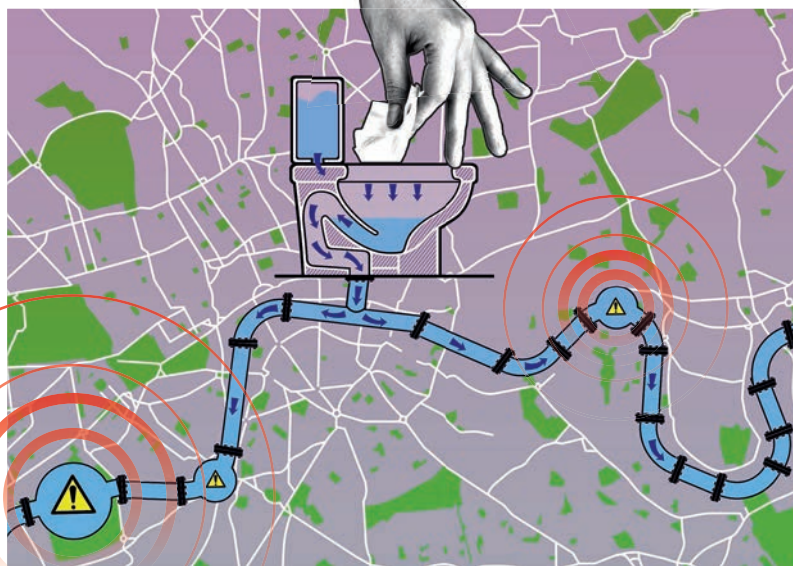
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WE HAVE QUESTIONS



Why are there so many wet wipes in the Thames?

What's all this, then?

Do you use wet wipes? Do you flush them down the loo? When you do, they end up in the Thames from sewage systems that overflow when it rains. The river is literally being reshaped as a result.

Wait, wet wipes are *reshaping* the Thames?

Yep. Most wipes contain plastic and aren't biodegradable. They stick together with mud to make mountainous clumps, clogging the river bed at hotspots in Battersea, Hammersmith and Barnes where the river bends and water moves more slowly. Last month, charity Thames21 counted 27,400 wet wipes near Battersea Bridge.

That's a lot of wet wipes...

It is, yes. And that's only at one small site – imagine how many are in the entire river. Data from Thames21 shows that one mound grew

by 1.4 metres in height in just under five years, covering the area of two tennis courts. This isn't a new problem, either. In 2017, more than 4,500 wipes were found in one 154-metre-squared patch of foreshore near Hammersmith Bridge.

Oh dear. Any more bad news?

Since you asked: wipes are also destructive to our wider ecosystem. As they eventually break down, microplastics enter the food chain, choking our fish and polluting our water supply.

Well, that's not ideal. What can we do about it?

Thames21 is calling for the government to introduce mandatory standards for clear labelling about what is and isn't flushable. It's also asking folk to 'Bin Don't Flush': only piss, toilet paper and poop should go down the loo. Words to live by, friends. ■ Chiara Wilkinson

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'There's only so much alien abduction chat I can take.'

'I don't like that wine. It smells like cheese and tastes like shit.'

'I can't wear jackets like that because I've got too much of a chavvy face.'

'There's just too much to do in life, isn't there?'

'I'm just a normal working-class Londoner, mate. I can't afford to be vegan!'

'I feel like I've been gunged in hand sanitiser.'

'Why do numbers sound so weird?'

'I'm not arguing with you, I'm thinking out loud.'

'Where's the pumpkin in pumpkin spice? It's a scam.'

'I mean, it's hard to resist a good tentacle.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

LONDON MAKERS

You can't get much more statement than this collab creation by east London jewellery designer **Tatty Devine** and artist **Morag Myerscough**. Made from birch plywood and hand painted, the Eye See necklace is pretty hard to miss.

→ £110. www.tattydevine.com



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Welcome to the world's coolest neighbourhood

More than 27,000 citizens from around the globe took part in our annual city survey

IN 2020 AND 2021, our cities thrived against impossible odds. Communities banded together and neighbourhoods took on new roles in city life.

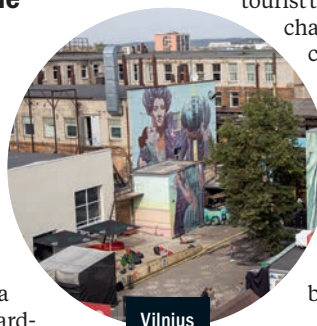
So when it came to our annual ranking of the world's coolest neighbourhoods, this year we switched up our priorities. Food, drink, nightlife and culture are important, but so are community spirit, resilience and sustainability.

We combined our annual Time Out Index survey (which polled 27,000 city-dwellers) with the expertise of our local editors and contributors. The results were a love letter to the city itself. Here are the five that topped our list.

1 Nørrebro Copenhagen
From its historic landmarks and ultramodern architecture to the Car-Free Sunday initiative and interactive art exhibition Usynlige Stier, Nørrebro is cool by every measure. And despite the pandemic,

it now has more restaurants, bars and bakeries than ever.
When to visit In time for the chaotic but ace Distortion, a street party set to take over Nørrebro in June 2022.

2 Andersonville Chicago
Chicago's historic Swedish neighbourhood is known these days for its buzzing LGBTQ+ nightlife and the bars and restaurants of Clark Street. The past year has seen the area prioritise local, forward-thinking green initiatives, emboldening its status as one of Chicago's (and the world's) most desirable places to live.
When to visit For the Andersonville Midsommarfest in June, a display of the area's Swedish heritage, local businesses and LGBTQ+ culture.



3 Jongno 3-ga Seoul
History rubs shoulders with modernity in the bustling, vibrant, eccentric home of the city's LGBTQ+ population. Palaces, galleries and Tapgol Park are the tourist traps, but even more characterful are the coffee vendors and hidden cafés and beer houses.
When to visit Two of Jongno 3-ga's sights, Jongmyo Shrine and Changgyeonggung Palace, will be linked by a walkway in March.

4 Leith Edinburgh
The reinvigoration of Leith Theatre, The Biscuit Factory and Leith Arches has given the area a new lease of life. Once Scotland's biggest port, it's now a cultural hotspot, home to arts institutions and new businesses.

When to visit During Leith Festival (June) or Edinburgh Mela (August): both showcase the neighbourhood's strong local identity.

5 Station District Vilnius
Murals, street art, sculptures and a giant Tony Soprano reside in this creative quarter. As do the riotous nightclub Kablys, the ex-Soviet converted industrial space Loftas Art Factory and dozens of bars, cafés, restaurants and venues. But the neighbourhood's bijou brutalism won't last forever: Zaha Hadid Architects has just been given the go-ahead to renovate the station.
When to visit Hit up Loftas Fest, Lithuania's largest city music festival. The free event happens over three days every September. ■
→ See the full list at www.timeout.com/coollestneighbourhoods

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An indisputable, irrefutable and 100 per cent accurate list. We won't be taking further questions at this time



I LEFT MY part-time pub job a few months ago – and boy do I miss those sloppy drip tray days. I miss the free pints and the customers' dogs. I miss the distinct stench of lager on my clothes from pulling pints all night and the frothy stickiness on my hands after not pulling them *that* well. I even miss trying to take payment from a table of 12 during the Euros while they ferociously reminded me 'it's coming home'. Most of all, I miss seeing the same locals every week and that stupid camaraderie between staff and the customers. But I don't miss it that much: I know that wherever I am in London, there will always be a pub nearby.

Lockdown showed us that without pubs, London could never be its chatty, chaotic and slightly tipsy self. There are thousands here and they come in many forms: your old man boozers with crap carpets permanently sticky from decades of spilled beer, your craft-beer hipster hotspots, your questionably soundtracked 3am blurs and more.

Time Out's 100 Best Pubs list exists to celebrate London's taprooms in their many guises. From the perfect pubs for drinking alone to the best boozers for giant yorkshire puddings – get stuck in, spot your local and maybe find a new favourite. *Chiara Wilkinson*



The Sun

THE GUN: GOBINDER JHITA; ILLUSTRATIONS: MARIE BOISEAU

Best dog pubs

The Clissold Park Tavern Stoke Newington

The CPT is perfectly positioned next to the mighty Clissold Park with Woodberry Wetlands just up the road. It has a colossal beer garden, as well as friendly staff who will reassure your hound that he's a good boi. It even does beer-flavoured dog biscuits. *Chiara Wilkinson*
→ 177 Green Lanes, N16 9DB.

The Sun of Camberwell Camberwell

Hanging out behind The Sun of Camberwell is a bit like being in your mum's garden but with more picnic benches. You find neatly trimmed shrubbery, a nice patio and no one minds if your beloved pet sits on the table. *Kate Lloyd*
→ 61-63 Coldharbour Lane, SE5 9NS.

The Berry & Barrel Eltham

This micropub makes up for its small size with big vibes. It also knows how to give the people what they want: dog-based events. It even had a doggie day earlier this year when cakes were baked for four-legged punters. *KL*
→ 18 Well Hall Parade, SE9 6SP.

Just as good The Crooked Billet, Clapton; The Pembury Tavern, Hackney

Giant-yorkshire-pudding pubs

The De Beauvoir Arms Dalston

A handsome pub that serves an even better-looking roast. Seasonal ingredients are scribbled daily on a blackboard – think grilled sea bass, hearty soup or steak and salsa verde – along with a charming drinks selection. The best bit? It's walk-ins only. *CYW*
→ 113 Southgate Rd, N1 3JS.

The Drapers Arms Islington

A posh local known for fine wines and thoughtful local cooking. And by that we mean slow-cooked meats, lentil stews, suet-crust pies and yorkshires so big you could break a window with them. *KL*
→ 44 Barnsbury St, N1 1ER.

Just as good The Marksman, Hackney; The Dove, Hammersmith; The Harwood Arms, Fulham

Good pubs if you have kids

The Holly Tree Forest Gate

This Leytonstone pub relaunched in 2019. As part of the makeover, the owners installed a miniature train in its beer garden. Wtf? Let your kids ride round until they get travel sick while you savour your pint. *KL*
→ 141 Dames Rd, E7 0DZ.

The Florence Herne Hill

Situated opposite Brockwell Park, this family pub welcomes breadstick-throwing, spoon-banging children. It has activity sheets and a big play area, while you'll be most pleased to hear that there are 25 beers on tap. *Angela Hui*
→ 131-133 Dulwich Rd, SE24 0NG.

Just as good The Windsor Castle, Kensington; The Duke of York, Barnet; The Dog & Duck, Walthamstow

Pubs for pulling

The Dundee Arms Bethnal Green

Maybe it's the DJ tunes or the intimate smoking area. Or maybe that they exclusively serve cheese toasties. All we have to say is, if you lock eyes with a well-formed human under The Dundee's outdoor disco ball and you don't end up eating their face off, you're probably not as single as you thought you were. *CYW*
→ 339 Cambridge Heath Rd, E2 9LH.



100 best pubs

The Queen Adelaide Haggerston

This former-lap-dancing-bar-turned-queer-pub has a snug basement, ideal for getting down and getting it on with your girls and gays. It's more of a place to boogie, but big pulling potential here. *AH* → 483 Hackney Rd, E2 9ED.

The Prince of Peckham Peckham

This is one of the few Black-owned pubs in London. Dance, chat and meet likeminded young people – who happen to be really, really hot. Be warned: it's popular. Brace yourself for the queue of doom. *AH* → 1 Clayton Rd, SE15 5JA.

Just as good The Bank of Friendship, Highbury; Skehan's, Nunhead

Great pubs in central London

The Sun Covent Garden

Full disclosure: this is Time Out's local. The Sun, with its deceptively sombre exterior, actually has a pretty colourful beer selection. After 5pm, it's heaving – thanks to its lovely staff and prime location. *CYW* → 21 Drury Lane, WC2B 5RH.

The French House Soho

Classics don't come much more classic. Its mix of the most eccentric of Londoners makes it a great spot for an enlightening chat. It only serves halves, so don't embarrass yourself by asking for anything as déclassé as a pint. *Leonie Cooper* → 49 Dean St, W1D 5BG.

The Duke Bloomsbury

The Duke is an elegantly wasted timewarp to the 1930s – all art deco mirrors, mahogany booths and the lingering feeling that maybe you'll be murdered in a Patrick Hamilton novel. Bottoms up! *LC* → 7 Roger St, WC1N 2PB.

Just as good The Lamb & Flag, Covent Garden; The Coach & Horses, Soho

Top pubs for solo drinking

The Dog & Bell Deptford

Join some other solitary old geezers in this absolutely timeless south London boozer. Just don't play the piano or challenge anyone to a frame of pool unless you want to make some new friends. *KL* → 116 Prince St, SE8 3JD.

The Gun



Sarah

Clissold Park Tavern
Kentish Town

'When people ask you for your name and then use it when ordering the whole night'

The Well & Bucket Shoreditch

What if we told you that there was a pub that pulls great pints, serves oysters and welcomes dogs? Well, there is. As far as 'bars to perch at and watch strangers' goes, the copper-topped beauty at this E2 spot is hard to beat. *Rhys Thomas* → 143 Bethnal Green Rd, E2 7DG.

The Palm Tree Bethnal Green

If you've ever watched something featuring the 'Old Bill' or the Kray Twins, chances are there was a scene shot here. When you walk off Regent's Canal and through the park to this East End boozer, it's clear why. This is a red-lit, proper old-fashioned pub: the perfect spot for those Sundays spent reading a book while nursing a cold one. *RT* → 127 Grove Rd, E3 5BH.

Just as good The Blue Posts, Soho; The High Cross, Tottenham


Nice pubs for first dates

The Prince Stoke Newington

Nestled on a quiet street, The Prince is charming, but not pretentious. Laidback, but not scruffy. Cosy, but big enough so people won't overhear your horrendously awkward first-date chat. It also hosts life-drawing classes on the first Thursday of every month, in case you fancy a first date with a twist. *CYW* → 59 Kynaston Rd, N16 0EB.

The Sun Tavern Bethnal Green

Everyone looks more attractive in candlelight. That's why there's so much shagging in Jane Austen. The Sun teams flickering wicks with a cool Brooklyn vibe. It's like putting a sepia filter on real life. *KL* → 441 Bethnal Green Rd, E2 0AN.



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100 best pubs

The Ivy House Nunhead

A wonderful place to take your main (or future) squeeze, what with its comfortable furnishings, private booths and Moth Club-esque stage. Gigs are always good in a date pub: they give you something to look at and talk about afterwards. Bonus: The Ivy House is co-operatively owned, which means you look caring just being in it. *Joe Mackertich*
→ 40 Stuart Rd, SE15 3BE.

Just as good The Captain Kidd, Wapping; The Blue Anchor, Hammersmith

Cosy pubs

The Island Queen Angel

If The Island Queen wasn't a boozier it'd be a Victorian music hall – all high ceilings and engraved mirrors, plus the overarching feeling that a woman wearing petticoats might start singing 'A Bicycle Built for Two'. The threat of aggressive vaudeville is tempered by cosy corners, comfy sofas and a hidden location that means you can introduce it to your mates and feel all smug when they gawp in amazement at its casual elegance. *LC*
→ 87 Noel Rd, N1 8HD.

The Churchill Arms Kensington

Every Christmas The Churchill's exterior is decked out with lights and more than a hundred fir trees. You should peek inside, though. You'll find a snug real-ale boozier filled with Churchill memorabilia. *AH*
→ 119 Kensington Church St, W8 7LN.

Just as good The Dickens Inn, St Katharine Docks; The Salisbury Hotel, Green Lanes; The Southampton Arms, Gospel Oak

Sit-outside-in-the-cold pubs

The Princess of Wales Clapton

This boozier has real 'end of a big walk' vibes, with a heated outdoor area. Wander across the marshes before settling in for the afternoon. Or you could skip the exercise. *KL*
→ 146 Lea Bridge Rd, E5 9RB.

The Thomas Cubitt Pimlico

Pubs on nice streets have it easy, don't they? All they have to do is open and people flock in. The Thomas Cubitt has tables that tumble on to the pavement of its sensationally pretty ends. *KL*
→ 44 Elizabeth St, SW1W 9PA.

No 32 The Old Town Clapham

It's fair to say that No 32 is a pretty chic pub. You'll find no wonky bar stools here, only stylish neutral decor. Come the winter, its wooden rooftop terrace gets a tastefully festive makeover: tartan seat covers and fairy lights, ahoy. *KL*
→ 32 The Pavement, SW4 0JE.

Just as good The Crown & Shuttle, Shoreditch; The Blind Beggar, Whitechapel. **Good for summer days** The Woodman, Highgate; The Spurstowe Arms, Hackney; The Scarsdale Tavern, Kensington; The Duke of Sussex, Chiswick; The White Horse, Parsons Green

Pubs to have a little dance in

The Glory Haggerston

It might seem like an exaggeration to describe a venue that's only been open seven years as 'legendary', but this pint-sized boozier run by alt-drag superstar Jonny Woo genuinely is. Head down and you'll find east London's most out-there drag artists performing surreal cabaret and a raucous crowd of fabulous, arty queers. *Rosie Hewitson*
→ 281 Kingsland Rd, E2 8AS.



The Glory



The Well & Bucket

The Magic Garden Battersea

The Magic Garden is a colourful wonderland, draped in fabrics and fairy lights. During weekends, the vibe becomes ravier, thanks to a 2am licence, bands and DJs. *JM*
→ 231 Battersea Park Rd, SW11 4LG.

The Gun Hackney

There's a footballing community here, but by night this tiny room is rammed, with music from some of the best spinners in the city. It's a place you'll end up once, fall in love with, then always return to. *RT*
→ 235 Well St, E9 6RG.

Just as good The Shackwell Arms, Dalston; The Three Crowns, Stoke Newington



Best pubs for your hangover

The Camel Bethnal Green
The best thing about The Camel is it's very, very tucked away. This is important for a post-big-night out trip to the pub: when you're in there you're hidden from the judgment of strangers, the consequences of last night's decisions and, most importantly, your ex. *KL*
→ 277 Globe Rd, E2 0JD.

The Queen's Arms Kensington
Despite being just yards from Kensington Gardens, this quaint and cosy pub seems to keep itself hidden from the masses – making it a tranquil haven to numb your pain with Bloody Marys. There's also a decent brunch to soak up the night before nicely. *RT*
→ 30 Queen's Gate Mews, SW7 5QL.

The Duke of Cambridge Angel
There are two types of people in the world. Those who soak up last night with 20 chicken nuggets and those who heal themselves with actual nutrition. This spot is for the latter: it does amazing organic food – like veggie pies and roast squash – ideal for looking after yourself. *KL*
→ 30 St Peter's St, N1 8JT.

Just as good The White Horse, Brixton;
The Prince George, Hackney

Best pubs for craft beer

The Cask Pimlico
With 25 draught and more than 200 bottles, this boozier is stocked to the brim with genuinely interesting global craft beers – so if you fancy yourself as a bit of a hop geek, be sure to quiz your pint-puller with every question under the sun. *CYW*
→ 6 Charlwood St, SW1V 2EE.

The King's Arms Bethnal Green
Stumbling off Bethnal Green Road (on Buckfast Street, no less) is London's craft beer goldmine. Strangely, it's reasonably priced and doesn't get rammed. From local casks to rare wild ales, the menu changes constantly but always has something exceptional for everyone (including not beer: Buckfast Negroni, anyone?). There's also a huge fridge of American sours and lambics. If you're serious about beer, head here. *RT*
→ 11a Buckfast St, E2 6EY.



Alex

Southampton Arms
Kentish Town

'Spatially unaware dogs. We are quite a small pub and we're dog friendly, but it's sometimes easy to trip up...'

Very-late-licence pubs

The Wenlock & Essex Islington
Ah, yes. The Wenlock & Essex is famous for two things: its light-up dancefloor and its mirrored ceiling. That kind of thing might sound a bit vulgar when you're sober, but at 2.30am on a Saturday? Then they sound absolutely terrific! Expect handbags on the dancefloor. *JM*
→ 18-26 Essex Rd, N1 8LN.

The Clapham North Battersea
Deep breath: The Clapham North offers 'honest food' (including a 'Swingers' Roast' on a Sunday),

an events space, DJs, sports and probably the kitchen sink. To cram it all in, it closes at 3am on Friday and Saturday. *Chris Waywell*
→ 409 Clapham Rd, SW9 9BT.

The Dolphin Hackney
'OPEN TIL 4AM!' it yells on the A-board outside this legendary boozier. The Dolphin is a sleeping giant. Wander past it in daylight and you'd think it's an old man's pub that even old men can't be arsed with. But when the sun goes down, The Dolphin welcomes every pissed-up eastside reprobate. *Bryan Mayes*
→ 163-165 Mare St, E8 3RH.

Just as good Howling Hops, Hackney;
The Aeronaut, Acton



Ned

The Duke of Wellington
Dalston

‘When a customer adds a Guinness at the very end of a long order’



The Antelope Surbiton

Once home to Big Smoke Brew Co, before it moved to larger premises, The Antelope still does beers that are so edgy they’ve probably spawned Reddit threads. And there’s no need to leave if your guts are starting to swill with booze, it’s home to dining space The Brewhouse. *KL*
→ 87 Maple Rd, KT6 4AW.

Just as good The Cock Tavern, Hackney;
The Palm, Tottenham

Best pubs for not-beer

The Four Thieves Battersea

Beer is all well and good but sometimes a Londoner craves the delicate bouquet of gin, infused with all manner of botanicals and whatnot. Said Londoner should get themselves to Battersea and locate this charming pub ft. microbrewery. It has a very attractive selection of potent gin cocktails. *JM*
→ 51 Lavender Gardens, SW11 1DJ.

The Queen’s Head Clerkenwell

The Queen’s Head is a cosy place with a battered old piano that gets played raucously every Thursday evening. At the last count, it had close to 70 whiskys on offer, which is a lot for a little place like this. It’s a jolly spot that makes the other pubs in the area look a bit crap. *JM*
→ 66 Acton St, WC1X 9NB.

The Red Hand Dalston

Sure, this pub has a selection of beers that would impress the most discerning craft-beer lad. But it also has a quality cocktail menu including an excellent on-tap Negroni, a seriously impressive natural wine selection and even an array of shots. Don’t order a cheese toastie unless you’re ready to drop £7.50 on lunch here on a weekly basis. *RH*
→ 36-38 Stoke Newington Rd, N16 7XJ.

Just as good The Old Nun’s Head, Nunhead;
The Princess Victoria,
Shepherd’s Bush

Tasty pubs for bar snacks

The Chesham Arms Homerton

This handsome neighbourhood pub offers giant sausage rolls, pork pies and one of the strongest crisp selections in London: Scampi Fries, Bacon Fries, Monster Munch, Nik Naks, and Snyder’s Jalapeño Pretzel Pieces. If you’re still hungry, you can order Yard Sale Pizza to the pub. *AH*
→ 15 Mehetabel Rd, E9 6DU.

The George & Dragon Acton

Sabai Thai food delivers big flavour hitters here, ready to soak up a whole afternoon’s worth of pints. Expect proper homemade prawn crackers, crispy chicken wings, veggie spring rolls and prawn toast. *AH*
→ 183 High St, W3 9DJ.

Just as good The Charles Lamb, Islington;
The Antelope, Tooting;
The Jerusalem Tavern,
Clerkenwell



To read about ALL the pubs on this list go to [timeout.com/pubs](https://www.timeout.com/pubs)



The Clapham North

Pubs for big bookings

The Star of Bethnal Green

Bethnal Green
Why would you ever book a normal table at a pub again now you know that the Star of Bethnal Green has a huge karaoke room you can hire? There is no reason to have a birthday/hen/stag anywhere else. The rest of the pub is glorious, too: with a balcony level and DJs. *KL*
→ 359 Bethnal Green Rd, E2 6LG.

The Depot

Holloway
If you're going to have a wedding in a pub, have it at The Depot. A dreamy space in an old bus garage, it's dotted with long tables that are perfect for sharing meals and its decor (from bunting to floral arrangements) is Instagram-perfect. *KL*
→ 1 Carpenters Mews, N7 9EF.

Just as good The Fox & Pheasant, Chelsea; The Haggerston, Haggerston; The Duke of Cambridge, Battersea



Ibrahim

The Sun
Covent Garden

'When customers don't even try to have a bit of a chat with you and just treat it like any other transaction. They may as well just buy some tinnies from Tesco.'

Best pubs for sports

The Duke of Wellington

Dalston
This friendly pub screens all the big sporting events, but especially the footie, across two big TVs and a projector. Don't assume that means there'll be loads of shouty red-faced blokes killing the mood. It proudly shows women's matches and has a welcoming vibe that's a world away from your typical sports pub. *RH*
→ 119 Balls Pond Rd, N1 4BL.

The Faltering Fullback

Finsbury Park
You'll have seen the beer garden on Instagram: big greenery, plenty of heaters and great craic. Inside is one of the best self-professed Irish pubs in London. There's no shit London Guinness here. Huge screens show just about every sport ever invented (including GAA and hurling), but rugby is its forte. *RT*
→ 19 Perth Rd, N4 3HB.

Just as good The Willoughby Arms, Kingston; The Mitre, Fulham; The Moretown Belle, St Katharine Docks

Best pubs for games

The Dove

Hackney
Board-game-heavy pub The Dove is as integral to Broadway Market as beanie hats are to London Fields. With more than 100 Belgian beers and decent vegetarian and vegan scran, you'll have plenty to keep your stomach satisfied while you enjoy some old-fashioned fun. *CYW*
→ 24-28 Broadway Market, E8 4QJ.

The Bricklayer's Arms

Putney
A proper old-school pub (it opened in 1826!) with wood-panelling and a beer garden, serving real ales, cider and English wines. Don't leave without playing a game of bar skittles. It's like going bowling but you can do it holding a pint. *AH*
→ 32 Waterman St, SW15 1DD.

Just as good Nolan's, Vauxhall; The Adam & Eve, Hackney; The Clapham Tap, Clapham

Chill pubs for a quiet drink

The Elgin

Notting Hill
Shhhh, hear that? It's the sound of the wind in Notting Hill. The Elgin's so peaceful that you're rumoured to be able to hear the breeze blowing through the pub. Inside, you'll find free wi-fi, charging points and seats in quiet little cubby holes. Basically, if you ever want to try WFP ('working from pub') this is the place to do it. *KL*
→ 96 Ladbroke Grove, W11 1PY.

The Pineapple

Kentish Town
Sometimes all you need to make a lazy afternoon feel properly, properly relaxing is a bit of me-time cuddling your dog. The Pineapple positively encourages you to bring in your furry kid while you chill out in the venue's quiet, retro conservatory. *KL*
→ 51 Leverton St, NW5 2NX.

Just as good The Leyton Technical, Leyton; The King's Arms, Wandsworth; The Anglesea Arms, Chelsea

For more drink reviews go to [timeout.com/food-drink](https://www.timeout.com/food-drink)

The Pembury Tavern





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The West End is back, baby

The big cancelled musicals of 2020 have finally all opened on the London stage. The people behind them tell *Andrzej Lukowski* about a tough 18 months with (hopefully) a happy ending. Portraits *Ed Miles*

LAST YEAR WAS set to be a big one for musicals in London: Disney's Broadway smash 'Frozen' was going to jostle for pole position with a new stage version of 'Back to the Future'; and a major Bob Marley musical would round the year off. None of it happened, and the people working on the shows were left in an 18-month limbo, in many cases with no income. But as we head into winter, the West End is back. And 'Get Up, Stand Up!' opening this week means the class of 2020 are finally all with us. Here, casts and creatives reflect on the most tumultuous period in London theatre since the interregnum.



Olaf's keeper Actor Craig Gallivan with his puppet

'It was the not knowing that terrified us'

The musical version of 'Frozen' was poised to be the biggest London show of 2020. Then – sadly for would-be Olaf *Craig Gallivan* – the theatres shut

I found out I'd got the job as Olaf in February 2020. I think I did six rounds of auditions. My wife and I had just had a baby boy. So it was a special year knowing 'Frozen' was down the tracks to take care of us as a family... then we went into lockdown.



Samantha Barks and Stephanie McKeon in 'Frozen'

It was the not knowing that terrified us. At the start of lockdown everyone thought it was going to be a six-month thing, and then it got kicked down the road until the following February, then we got kicked down the road again – to where we are now.

Turning up for rehearsals on day one, it was bizarre because we all felt like we all knew each other. Even though we'd only met each other on Zoom.

I'm very much the embodiment of Olaf. He's a puppet that I control, but I am visible the whole time. It's not like I'm in black and trying to be 'I'm not here! I'm not here!'

As an actor, you're told to do your own thing. That's great on paper. But children want to see the Olaf they have watched a thousand times on Disney+. It's a huge responsibility and I've tried to get it right: it's down to the voice, mainly.

Of course there's singing along! 'Let It Go' is one of the biggest songs of the last ten years, end of.

There's a lot to be said for being stuck in our houses for a year. Some people who booked early dates have had their tickets moved two or three times. So when that curtain goes up, they're already going wild.

→ Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Booking until Jun 26 2022.



'Having Bob Marley in the West End is massive for Black people'

'Get Up, Stand Up!' was pieced together during the pandemic and *Gabrielle Brooks*, who plays Rita Marley, wondered if it would ever happen. Well, it's opening this week!

My very first audition was in the middle of last year, in the thick of everything. It was a pretty difficult time: the world had stopped, the industry had stopped, but they were convinced 'Get Up, Stand Up!' was going to happen in January 2021. Eventually we got the message it was being pushed back.

It wasn't shocking, because so many other shows were being pushed back. But it was a big thing, for all involved, that this passion project might not happen at all.

It was frustrating too because it seemed like society was becoming more socially conscious during the resurgence of Black Lives Matter, and this felt like such an important musical.

One of the things many people don't realise about Bob Marley is the influence of women in his life: Rita Marley was as much a visionary as he was – they would critique music together, and she introduced him to Rastafarianism. She was his rock, his confidante, his first love, his best friend and, in a lot of ways, his musical partner.

I was given the chance to speak to Rita. Unfortunately she is quite unwell, but I had a small interaction with her on Zoom which was so lovely. That was one of the best experiences of my life, getting to talk to a character I was going to play.

Having Bob Marley in the West End is massive for Black people. His messages spoke so much of Black liberation, equity and love. That's why it's huge for us to have him in a place that doesn't normally welcome us. It's a risk we're taking, but it's a risk worth taking.

→ Lyric Theatre. Booking until April 3 2022.



Redemption songs Gabrielle Brooks. Right: with Arinzé Kene



GET UP STAND UP: CRAIG SUDDEN



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'When I saw the clock tower getting hit by lightning I got goosebumps'

Back in 1985, *Bob Gale* and *Robert Zemeckis's* time-travelling movie 'Back to the Future' became a smash hit. Now – after a tortuous gestation – they've turned it into a West End musical

Everyone told us: it takes a really long time to get a musical off the ground. The idea came in 2005, and we started seriously working on it in spring 2006: 15 and a half years ago! And from the moment we had the idea for the first movie to the moment when the third movie came out, that was a little less than ten years. It's crazy.

The original film script was rejected more than 40 times. People didn't understand it. People were not comfortable with time travel.

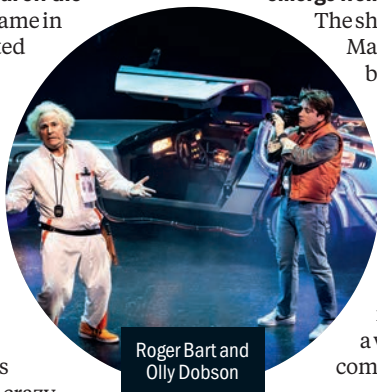
With the musical, we were adapting a really successful movie. Nonetheless, producers would say, 'It won't work on the stage. It's too complicated.'

You guys don't know what you're doing.' I have to give a lot of credit to *Glenn Ballard*, who co-wrote the songs [with *Alan Silvestri*]. He was the most persistent of the four of us in saying 'No, no, this is too good. We have to get this made.'

The DeLorean had to go at 88 miles an hour. People would say to us 'How are you going to do that?' We said 'We don't know! Hire the best people you can and figure it out.' And we did it! The first time I saw the clock tower getting hit by lightning I got goosebumps.

We always had faith that we would emerge from the pandemic. The show opened in Manchester last year but had to close down. But we had such a warm, enthusiastic reception that the only reason it wouldn't come back would be if musical theatre as a whole didn't come back.

Everyone in the UK is a fan of 'Back to the Future', right? I think you used to run it on TV every Boxing Day? It's one of the reasons we absolutely had to open the show here. I came over in 2014 for Secret Cinema presents 'Back to the Future'... Oh my God, it blew me away. ■
→ Adelphi Theatre. Booking until Jul 3 2022.



Roger Bart and Olly Dobson



Time McFly
Co-writer Bob Gale

AND THE BARD IS BACK TOO

Super Shakespeare to catch in London right now



Hamlet

Cush Jumbo's Covid-delayed turn as Shakespeare's doomed prince is finally with us. And as tragedies go, it's a very slick, enjoyable three hours, with a great performance from *Adrian Dunbar* as the scheming Claudius.

→ Young Vic. Until Nov 13.



The Comedy of Errors

This summer, the RSC built a whole new outdoor theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon to house this – by all accounts hilarious – take on Shakespeare's daft comedy. We get it this winter, albeit indoors at the Barbican.

→ Barbican Theatre. Nov 16-Dec 31.



The Tragedy of Macbeth

Saoirse Ronan's stage debut is one of the hottest tickets in town – and you still have a chance to see it. The entire final third of the run doesn't go on sale until next Friday. Stay tuned for our review online this Thursday.

→ Almeida Theatre. Until Nov 20.

BACK TO THE FUTURE: SEAN EESWORTH; BARNEYS: HAMLET: HELEN MURRAY; THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: PETE LE MAY; MACBETH: THE LUD AND MANFRED GORV; THEATRE; MACBETH: SEBASTIAN NEVILLS

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Kids

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski
timeout.com/kids



SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE. CÉSARE DE GIGLIO

From sword-fighting workshops to child-friendly storytelling versions of Shakespeare's greatest hits, the Globe is chock full of all-ages fun this half-term holiday. **Turn to p33 to read more.**

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Get in touch with your inner Death Eater

Warner Bros Studios' blockbuster Harry Potter exhibition has undergone a spooky makeover until early November as its Dark Arts theme returns. Most spectacularly, the Great Hall is filled with a hundred flickering, flying Jack-o'-Lanterns – aka Instagram heaven. Elsewhere, there's a special limited edition passport, plus Death Eaters galore: wandering around looking menacing, but also with interesting demonstrations of everything from their wand stance, their choreography and their costumes. Tickets are running low for half-term week itself (though many London schools are 'blessed' with two whole weeks off), but organised parents should note that you can now book ahead for the return of Dark Arts next October half-term. → Warner Bros Studio Tour London. Until Nov 7.

Attend a family rave-up, Halloween style

Acid house, techno, drum 'n' bass... and face-painting feature in Big Fish Little Fish's brace of Halloween Spooktacular Family afternoon raves. Young and old can frug around frantically in a space filled with bubbles, balloons and foam, and if you're either too old or young to carry on dancing, then you can spend your downtime at the Halloween crafts table, or relaxing in the baby chill-out area. Dressing-up is very much encouraged. → The Goodness Brewing Company. Oct 24 and Oct 31

Catch the Horrible Histories cruise before it sails off

'Terrible Thames', the extremely entertaining alternative London boat tour from the Horrible Histories franchise, has been a highlight of the London summer. It's the usual hour-long clipper cruise along our river, taking in all yer standard sights, but instead of a bog-standard commentary we get a rundown of all the gory and/or naughty things that have happened on Thames' iconic banks: and that turns out to be a lot of things. Executions, oh so many executions. It may be returning next year – they've not yet said – but with the days getting shorter and colder, it will be sailing its last voyage of 2021 at the end of half-term week. → Tower Bridge Quay. Until Oct 31.

Enjoy Bardic fun at Shakespeare's Globe

The Globe's lively half-term programme returns for the first time since the pandemic kicked off. The days are chock-full



Warner Bros. Studio Tours – The Making of Harry Potter



'The Gruffalo's Child'

of workshops and activities, ranging from tours of the theatre to demonstrations of stage sword-fighting techniques. The headline events are the Storytelling Performances, which offer edited, interactive takes on a selection of The Bard's greatest hits – this time 'The Merchant of Venice', 'Hamlet', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Julius Caesar' – for ages five to 12. → Shakespeare's Globe. Oct 24-Oct 30.

Hang out with Bing and Flop at London Zoo

Beloved by kids, somewhat annoying to parents, and a source of eternal bemusement to Mark Rylance fans, CBeebies legends Bing and Flop will be descending upon ZSL this half-term for a series of fun themed activities. Explore a self-guided Bing trail, take in a Bing storytelling

session, take home a pair of Bing ears, and pose for a photo with the bratty rabbit and his, er, undead carer thing. It's all included with zoo entry but you're advised to book a place for the storytelling sessions upon arrival at the zoo as places are limited. → ZSL London Zoo. Until Oct 31.

Get on the trail of 'The Gruffalo's Child' at Kew

Kids hardly need an excuse to visit Kew Gardens, which needless to say look absolutely radiant in the autumn sun. But this half-term there's an extra treat in store as the denizens of Julia Donaldson's Deep Dark Wood move in for a special 'The Gruffalo's Child'-themed trail that'll feature encounters with all of the memorable characters from the two immortal Gruffalo books, as drawn by the mighty Axel Scheffler. → Kew Gardens. Until Oct 31.

HARRY POTTER TOUR: DAN WONG/WARNER BROS; GRUFFALO'S CHILD: INES STUART-DAVIDSON/RGB KIEW

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Kids



Go for a spin on the Natural History Museum's ice rink one last time (*sob*)

A staple of London's winter season is returning for this half-term – but it'll be your last time to enjoy its icy charms. The ice rink at the Natural History Museum will take up residence at the South Kensington venue for one final season before it gets transformed into a new urban garden. Next year, the area usually occupied by the rink will become a fully accessible green space

PUMPKIN PICKING: SHUTTERSTOCK; THE SURGEON: JONATHAN SHORT



'The Surgeon'



P-p-p-pick up a pumpkin

Is there a more charming October half-term activity than getting your own pumpkin from a farm? No there is not. Here's how to do it right

You probably need a car

Picking your own pumpkins from a pumpkin patch! It sounds so enchanting. But first things first: there are precisely zero pumpkin farms in London itself. The good news is, there are plenty just a short drive outside the capital, in pretty much every direction. If you are absolutely determined, most will be accessible by some combination of public transport and walking. But carrying a squash the size of a baby hippo on a half-hour trudge to the station may deplete your whimsy reserves.

There might not be any actual pumpkins left to pick by half-term

Okay, bit of a bombshell: literal pumpkin picking season is the first half of October. If you really want to pick-your-own now, you'd best check ahead with the farm. There probably will be some stragglers, especially if you're on a double half-term. If you have missed it: well now you know for next year.

Don't worry: pumpkin farms are still a real gourd time

Consider this question: did you *need* to haul your own enormo-squash up from the soil? Or did you just want a nice day out that ends with you bagging a pumpkin? If it's the latter, you're still in luck: most pumpkin farms remains open to the public

through half-term and will continue to sell pre-harvested pumpkins, plus almost all of them lay on kids' activities. Indeed, some, like Crockford Farm in Surrey with its Pumpkin Festival are probably more fun when pick-your-own is over.

You can still get a statement pumpkin in London

You don't have to head to an actual farm if it sounds like too much faff. And you can still do better than your local chain supermarket. Why not just leave it late and head to Covent Garden Pumpkin Market, which runs October 29-31 and features pumpkins, squashes and gourds galore, as well as a stunning autumnal floral display created by bougie florists, Maison de Fleurs.

Yes, of course you can just go to a fancy pumpkin carving workshop

Superheroes Bar in Hoxton is running 45-minute pumpkin-carving workshops over half-term: for £14.99 or £17.99 you get a drink, a pre-scooped pumpkin, tools, templates and tuition in how to make your veg look truly fiendish. Or if you want to go super-fancy, check out the £35, two-hour pumpkin-carving class at Bluebird Chelsea on October 29 and 30. ■

→ For a full list of pumpkin farms and patches near London, head to www.timeout.com/halloween

that the museum hopes will help visitors learn about the biodiversity of our planet, while also offering scientists a chance to develop best practices to protect our urban nature of their very doorstep. It's important stuff – especially given our planet's climate crisis – but we will definitely miss gliding (or attempting to at least) around the ice, a 30ft Christmas tree twinkling away in the centre and Alfred Waterhouse's gothic temple to science looming in the background.

→ Natural History Museum. Oct 22-Jan 16 2022.

Meet 'The Surgeon' at the London Dungeon

Older kids and braver adults can 'enjoy' the London Dungeon's horrifying-sounding Halloween theme. Following 'The Dentist' – the grizzly venue's recent tribute to the horrors of Victorian molar-mangling – The Surgeon is basically a celebration of the living nightmare that was having basically any medical procedure performed upon you in the grimdark of the nineteenth century.

→ London Dungeon. Until Oct 31.

Solve an icy mystery

Join the ghostly nineteenth-century figure of Captain Sir John Franklin on 'Icy Mystery: Halloween Voyage Into the Unknown', a spooky tour around the Old Royal Naval College grounds, while he regales you with tales about his long-lost expedition through the Arctic (you know, the one where they ate each other). There are also plenty of other fun activities at the nearby Maritime Museum, with its half-term theme 'Passionate About Polar'.

→ Old Royal Navy College. Oct 29 and 30.

Go for a lovely walk

It's amazing to think how little of the last 18 months it's been permissible to hop on a train and indulge in one of the many beautiful country walks that are easily accessible from the capital. Get out into nature for the day and get away from the house you've spent far too much time in. Kick your way through piles of autumn leaves, skip through dappled pools of October sun, cosy up by a country pub fire. Live a little!

→ For a list of great walks in and near London, go to www.timeout.com/walks



Harry Potter



Magical Mystery Hunt

6-7 November 2021



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CUTTY SARK
GREENWICH

rmg.co.uk/families

Climb aboard Cutty Sark

Join the crew of *Cutty Sark* this half term and find out what life was really like on this world-famous ship.

Cutty Sark is part of Royal Museums Greenwich

Greenwich Pier Cutty Sark Greenwich (only 8 mins from London Bridge)

Members
go free

Embark upon a theatrical treasure hunt

Chiswick House and Gardens has added a fun new theatrical experience for kids this autumn: a treasure hunt around the gardens under the auspices of Percy the Park Keeper, who needs to enlist young audiences to help get his animal friends ready for their winter sleep. It's 60 minutes of fun and games, based on Percy, the beloved creation of Brit writer and illustrator Nick Butterworth. It'll be perfect for a crisp autumn day – but the show is designed to go ahead whatever the weather. Bring wellies!

→ Chiswick House and Gardens. Until Nov 14.

Raid London's canals with your pirate crew

Okay, just to be clear: you cannot board any canal boats you're not invited on to and steal their booty. Do not, and we cannot stress this enough, keelhaul the lubber. However, eco-friendly boat company GoBoat is offering some fun special trips this half-term, inviting you to head out on an immersive pirate-themed treasure hunt down the Regent's Canal. Obviously an adult is required to pilot said boat, but the crew can be of any ages as you sail the high seas (or canal) looking for the X that marks the spot and interacting with friendly pirates on the way.

→ Regent's Canal. Oct 25-Oct 31.

Make a Delivery to the Lost City at the Postal Museum

Author PG Bell's rail-centric trilogy of kids' books 'The Train to Impossible Places' recently wrapped up with third and final book 'Delivery to the Lost City'. And for a special half-term treat he'll be in the Postal Museum's underground train depot: doing short readings and signing books, plus there'll be activities themed around the series, from storytelling sessions to postmaster hat making.

→ The Postal Museum. PG Bell Oct 27;

other activities until Oct 31.



Meet Little Amal, the giant puppet

The focal point to 'The Walk', a touring festival from pioneering theatre company Good Chance, Little Amal is a three-metre-high puppet refugee who has been walking from the Syria-Turkey border since May. She arrives in London next week, where she'll be the centrepiece to a variety of fun, free activities, from a wander down Deptford High Street with local kids to a celebration of her tenth birthday at the V&A. Good Chance artistic director Amir Nizar Zuabi gives us the lowdown on the big little lady.

What is the basic idea behind 'The Walk'?

"'The Walk' is an attempt to tell the story of one nine-year-old refugee. It takes many shapes because it is created with the local host communities and their artists in their attempt to tell her story. Some of the events are big jubilant community events where she is welcomed into the city, some tell a more complicated story.'

Has she literally walked from Syria?

'This is a continuous journey from city to city. She doesn't literally walk all of the way because that would take a couple of years. So, she is transported between the cities,

and we do that like a lot of other refugees do. In some places she walked long distances, but most of the journey she was on a truck.'

Was a London visit a given?

'Of course, we are a London based company and of course we wanted to celebrate with London her arrival. It was always a very big station for her.'

What's the significance of it being Amal's birthday here?

'The truth is we wanted her arrival in London to be a reason for community gathering, for jubilation and a birthday is always a reason for that. Obviously, her birthday is not just a party, her birthday is also complicated, it's her first birthday without her parents.'

Do you think she'll like London?

'We will have to ask her after! I think she will love London. London is such a diverse cosmopolitan, complicated and beautiful city. I think she will cherish her days here and of course people are celebrating her arrival. I think London will be a very good memory.' ■

→ 'The Walk' comes to London Oct 22-25. See walkwithamal.org for her full schedule while in town.

Five reasons why **Nerf Upload** is your boredom cure this half-term

Got a budding YouTuber on your hands? This action-packed (and free!) virtual masterclass is just the ticket



1 The half-term's looming and we're sure you're thinking: How do I keep the kids occupied?! We have the answer: Nerf Upload. This virtual event (on Saturday October 30) is sure to be a hit with children aged eight to 12 – especially if they like the idea of creating content on YouTube...

1 It's creative
This is an action-packed class that'll get your kids' creative juices flowing, first and foremost, but also thinking about the many opportunities that there are to create content from the world around them (with Nerf blasters or otherwise!). After all, becoming a YouTuber is one of the most popular dream jobs these days.

2 And educational
We promise, you can have fun and learn at the same time. Whether it's them learning a little more about video editing, shooting and uploading, or it's helping you gain an insight into how jobs in the digital world can work, there's heaps of information on hand.

3 It'll bring you together
We know, as parents, that you wanting to limit screentime can be a painstaking endeavour. But why not show an interest in this mysterious online world your kids seem to love and get behind the camera with them this half-term? Plus, there's lots of Nerf-blasting action: you might even enjoy learning how to master a perfect Nerf trick shot.

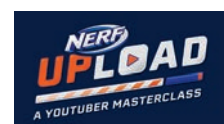
4 They'll meet real-life YouTube stars
It might even be their favourite content creators doing the teaching! Daniel Cutting, the football fanatic, will be on hand. As will AJ Shabeel and Sharky, who guarantee a good time. You and your kids will be able to ask these stars questions in real time, right from your home.

5 It's free!
So there's another reason to go! Plus there are prizes up for grabs. Tickets are required in order to receive a link, so you'll need to book ahead. Also, at least one parent with a smartphone should attend the online workshop to engage with the interactive bits.



Nerf Upload: A YouTube Masterclass is held online on Sat Oct 30, 10-11am.

→ [Book tickets now at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/190916415137](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/190916415137)





GoBoat

Hang out with the hounds of hell

Party with your pooch at these two Halloween gatherings for cockapoos, dachshunds and their owners and admirers. There'll be plenty of spooky high jinks, including a Halloween menu at the doggy bakery, pumpkins and scary props for that killer Insta tableau, and a fancy-dress competition for hounds and humans. The cockapoo and dachshund events are separate but at the same venue, and dog-lovers who don't have pets of their own are also welcome to attend.

→ Refinery CityPoint. Oct 24, various times.

Get spooked at Spurs

This half-term, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium will open after dark for a 'delights and frights' Halloween experience. Dress in your favourite spooky clothing (Arsenal tops, perhaps) and help the ghostly guide hunt down the four spirits roaming Tottenham Stadium (Glenn Hoddle looking for his crystals is one of them). You'll become an official Spurs ghostbuster and receive a certificate at the end, plus get to see the whole massive stadium.

→ Tottenham Hotspur FC. Oct 28-31.

Make like Mr Hyde

Hyde Park is running family-friendly open days with a spooky twist for Halloween. Little ones can explore the witches' den, make

their way along an eerie nature trail and create potions using herbs and plants from the garden. There will also be mask-making, clay-crafting and spine-chilling stories. Book your spot in advance or just drop in on the day.

→ The Lookout, Hyde Park. Oct 26-28. Free.

Do mention the war

The (free) Imperial War Museum has two brand new galleries devoted to WWII and the Holocaust. They open this week, following a £30m development. Both offer a wealth of material, including artefacts, films, sound recordings and artworks, and both are suitable for teenagers (the Holocaust Gallery is challenging, of course, but amazingly, sensitively curated and thoroughly rewarding). Bin off the Halloween bullshit for something

genuinely chilling that secondary-school-age kids will appreciate.

→ Imperial War Museum. Opens Oct 20.

Channel your dark side with a load of Disney villains

This Halloween, there's only one place to head to get all of your tricks (or treats). That place is Klub Kids: The Disney Villain Ball at Clapham Grand for a drag-tastic production starring Disney's finest villains. Expect Ursula, Cruella, Captain Hook and more, brought to life by drag performers Victoria Scone and

Miz Cracker. The event is open to those aged 14 and over, but if you're younger than 18, you'll need to be accompanied by an adult – these are wicked villains we're dealing with, after all.

→ Clapham Grand. Oct 28.

Delve into the world of poisonous plants

Wander the Chelsea Physic Garden at dusk in the company of Wild Immersive Theatre Co, who will help you discover the secrets of the garden's medicinal and poisonous plants and teach you wizarding skills along the way. Families and kids of all ages are welcome, and the tour will take place whatever the weather. There are also Halloween workshops on October 26 where kids can make broomsticks using foliage foraged from the garden. Halloween costumes are encouraged.

→ Chelsea Physic Garden. Oct 24-Oct 31.

Go on a pumpkin quiz trail around Battersea Park

The zoo might not sound like an obvious destination for Halloween, but at Battersea Park Children's Zoo, they're leaning into the spooky vibes this year with a kid-friendly quiz. Buy a quiz sheet for £1.50 on arrival and work your way through the questions as you wander around the zoo and marvel at the creatures and their pumpkins and other Halloween decorations. Everyone gets a spooky prize, too.

→ Battersea Park Children's Zoo. Oct 23-Oct 31.



'Terrible Thames'

GOBOAT: SCHINILLA PHOTOGRAPHY; TERRIBLE THAMES: JACK SAIN

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Kids

Make a mess at the Tate

The blessed (and, let's face it, massive) institution that is Tate Modern has always been great for families. Even if your precociously brilliant sprogs aren't 'into' art (no judgement here) just the scale and power of the space is sufficient to blow their pathetic minds. What's even better is that every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday throughout autumn, Uniqlo Tate Play offers an opportunity to much around with a load of clay (just like Rodin!) on the premises.

→ Tate Modern. Until Nov 14.

Go on a cosmic journey with your new ursine chum

What child wouldn't want to embark on an epic, interplanetary quest in the company of a fun, talking bear? Because that's what 'Ted's Space Adventure' at the Royal Planetarium is. You and your young companion (it's suitable for under-sevens and older) will get to explore and learn all about the solar system with the titular, space-suited animal. Educational and, more importantly, 'a right laugh'.

→ Royal Planetarium. Every weekend, plus half-term weekdays.



Expose kids to the majesty of cinema

The Barbican knows what your kids want. The Barbican knows what you want. And that's its Family Film Week, a whole seven days of child-appropriate silver screen action. This being 'The Barbs' there is of course nothing set in the Marvel

Cinematic Universe, but instead charming eco fables, a 'Secret Garden' adaptation and the new one from the genius studio behind 'Song of the Sea'. Hey, you can even turn up on the Saturday and do your own screen-printed film posters. For free!

→ Barbican Centre. Oct 23-30.

Take a nighttime walk in the illuminated wetlands

We all know that 'nature walks' are nice. Trees? They're just fine. Squirrels? Pretty decent chaps. But we've seen it all before, haven't we? Instead, might we suggest a 'nighttime nature walk'? Whoa! Edgy! Exciting! New! Anyway, they're something that WWT London Wetland Centre is providing this year with its new lit-up route called 'Illuminature'. Essentially, the organisers have bedecked the reed beds, lagoons and grazing marshes with a whole load of light displays. Come dusk, the owl, goose and otter habitats will be home to rainfall lights, twinkling dragonfly lights, colourful animal lights and immersive, relaxing blue waters made of, you guessed it, lights. There are plenty of opportunities to take photos: at one point you can transform yourself into a swan (with light!), at another you can morph into a batman or batgirl. The most fun to be had, though? At the responsive lily pad station, where jumping like a frog will make the display change. Little ones will love it. There's no word on how the otters feel. ■

→ WWT London Wetland Centre. Until Jan 9 2022.

A large orange advertisement for 'The Gruffalo's Child' at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. The background is a solid orange color. At the top left, the text 'Royal Botanic Gardens' is in a white serif font, followed by 'Kew' in a very large, white, serif font. To the right of 'Kew', there is a green circle with the text 'Autumn half-term' in white. In the center, there is a colorful illustration of a large brown gruffalo with horns and a smaller, lighter-colored gruffalo child. To the left of the gruffalos, there is a small illustration of a red fox running. To the right, there is a small illustration of a brown owl flying. At the bottom left, the text 'The Gruffalo's Child' is in a large, white, sans-serif font, followed by 'Half-term fun for curious explorers' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the text '16 - 31 October 2021' is in a white, sans-serif font, followed by 'Book at kew.org' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the very bottom right, there is a logo for 'MAGIC LIGHT' and some small copyright text: '© 2004 & TM Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler. Licensed by Magic Light Pictures Ltd.'



'Matilda'

THIS HALF-TERM IS the first time since last February that all three of London's kids' theatres have all been open. And while the Little Angel and the Unicorn were shut for the obvious reason – ie the massive pandemic – the Polka in Wimbledon is in fact just emerging from a lavish £8.5m upgrade. Now it's back with new auditoriums, new play areas, new cafes, new everything: there is a very real argument that London is better served for kids' theatre than it's ever been. Toss in a few choice West End shows and there's really no excuse not to find something to take the children to, whatever their size or disposition. Here are six great shows to catch this holiday.

For the tinies

The Bed

Improbably based around some whimsical children's poetry about beds written by Sylvia Plath, 'The Bed' is a delightful interactive show about the joys of getting snuggly that comes in two editions: for babies and for toddlers.
→ Little Angel Theatre. Until Oct 31

Stick Man

This charming long-running Julia Donaldson adaptation about the miniature adventures of a man who is indeed a stick has been a London

fixture for aeons now: it's settling into Leicester Square until the New Year.
→ Leicester Square Theatre.
Sat Oct 23-Jan 3 2022

For the kids

Matilda

Tim Minchin's brilliant Roald Dahl adaptation

London's kids' theatres are finally returning

As the city bounces back, there's drama for all ages, from babies to teens



'The Ocean'

has been one of the last of the big West End musicals to return. But it recommenced performances in September: and this is the first school holidays since early last year that anyone's been able to see it.
→ Cambridge Theatre.
Until May 29 2022.

Red

This daring immersive rewrite of 'Red Riding Hood' shows off the heavily upgraded Polka Theatre in fine fashion by taking primary-school-aged audiences on a visually stunning quest to save a fallen kingdom from wolves.
→ Polka Theatre. Until Oct 31.

For the teens

The Ocean at the End of the Lane

The National Theatre's stunning adaptation of Neil Gaiman's dreamy novel about a man who reawakens troubling childhood memories of supernatural creatures finally hits the West End. It should be a fave with Young Adult fiction fans.
→ Duke of York's Theatre. Oct 26-Feb 12 2022.

Six the Musical

Just established in its new home, the Vaudeville, this short, sassy musical about the six wives of Henry VIII getting stuck into a posthumous sing battle is as youth-facing as the West End gets: the perfect antidote to history GCSE.
→ Vaudeville Theatre. Until May 1 2022.

More kids' theatre at [timeout.com/theatre](https://www.timeout.com/theatre)



TIME OUT TRIES

Sixes

The world's first cricket-playing restaurant is perfect for sports kids



CRICKET IS SYNONYMOUS with Englishness. But for some onlookers, it's also synonymous with upper-class privilege. And if you haven't grown up with cricket, it's certainly not the easiest sport to get into: matches can take five days; the red leather ball is bowled so quickly it's basically invisible to the uninitiated eye.

That's a shame, because – as my kids have discovered – cricket is brilliant fun. And luckily, there are loads more ways to access it these days. And Sixes, the world's first restaurant with cricket nets, is the place to go and have a crack at batting or watch others do so from your table.

Sixes is a much-loved Fulham institution that has recently expanded to enormous glass-walled premises in Fitzrovia. At one end of the vast space, there's ample pub-style restaurant seating, with a bar and assorted tables and benches. At the other, there are the nets: state-of-the-art cricket simulators, where a computer/robot contraption will fire high-speed balls at you while you attempt to score runs by hitting them. This is a ton of fun. The settings range from beginner to pro. Your name appears in lights

on the scoreboard. And you are caged in white netting, so your wild swings cannot shatter the espresso martinis on table four.

Sixes evenings are pitched at adults, but the daytime slot is perfect for families. The simulators have all the things tweens love: fiddlesome tech, a competitive challenge, and the chance to swing your arms around and make some noise without other punters getting annoyed with you.

The restaurant has juicy burgers, vegan burgers, sausage rolls and all manner of famplesing, calorific pub grub of very decent quality and British provenance.

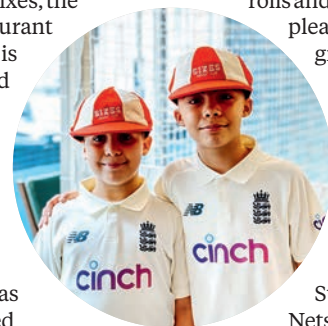
Go off-peak for the best value, which means Tuesday and Wednesday before 4pm or Sunday any time.

Nets start at £20 for half an hour for up to three people, or £40 for an hour for six. If you get hooked, there's a membership package too.

With autumn kicking in, there won't be much outdoor cricket for monsth now. Sixes is a brilliant and novel indoor alternative where anyone can swing a bat. ■

Caroline McGinn

→ 170 Great Portland St, W1W 5QB.



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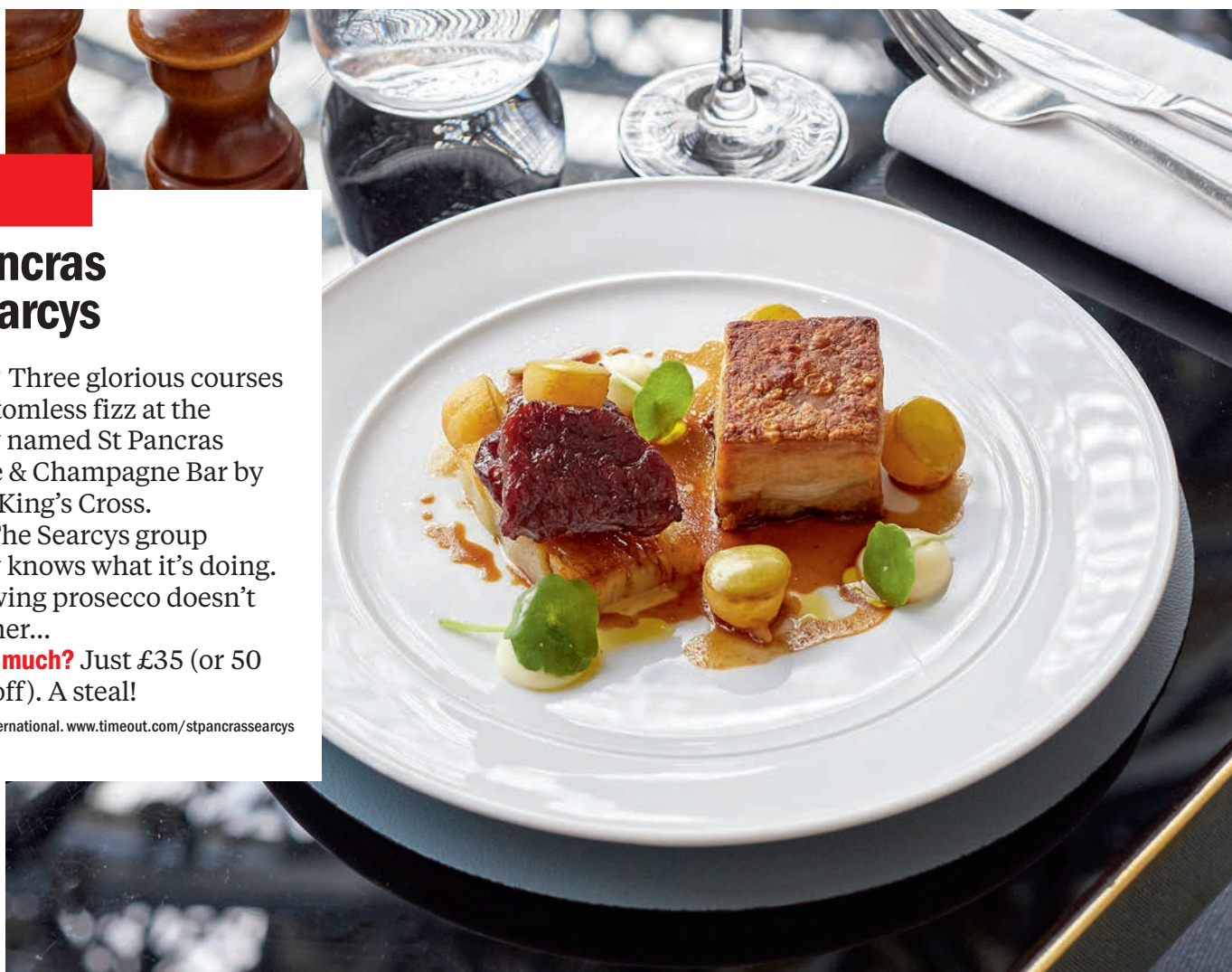
St Pancras by Searcys

What is it? Three glorious courses with bottomless fizz at the lengthily named St Pancras Brasserie & Champagne Bar by Searcys, King's Cross.

Why go? The Searcys group seriously knows what it's doing. Free-flowing prosecco doesn't hurt, either...

Wait, how much? Just £35 (or 50 percent off). A steal!

→ St Pancras International. www.timeout.com/stpancrassearcys



Neon Naked

What is it? A life drawing class with an ultraviolet twist, in Acton.

Why go? Art classes with regular lighting are so passé. Here, you'll sketch a professional life model who's covered in neon paint and lit only by UV light and coloured LEDs. All art materials are provided and you'll be guided by a tutor.

Wait, how much? Normally, you'd pay £17, but right now, you can nab a ticket for £12. You'll be glowing.

→ 264 High St. www.timeout.com/neonnaked21

Skylight Peckham

What is it? A two-hour bottomless brunch with a main course.

Why go? To embrace the most millennial of phenomena in style. The views from up there are impeccable – and the jazz sounds even better once you've downed a few 'seccos.

Wait, how much? An extremely palatable £29.99, which is a tasty saving of £14.

→ 120 Peckham Hill St Theatre Walk. www.timeout.com/skylightpeckham

West End Comedy

What is it? A much-loved Tuesday night comedy sesh upstairs at the Covent Garden Social Club.

Why go? Because Tuesdays can be a bit shit, can't they? Break up the week with big LOLs from circuit favourites, TV regulars and promising up-and-comers.

Wait, how much? A mere fiver (a saving of 58 percent). That's cheaper than a pint these days!

→ 6-7 Great Newport St. www.timeout.com/westendcomedy

Yum Sa

What is it? Bottomless wings and beer at Yum Sa in Putney.

Why go? If you've never wondered how many sweet, spicy, sticky Thai chicken wings you can eat in an hour, we bet you are now. Wash 'em down with endless beer on the heated terrace.

Wait, how much? Just £19, down from £35. What that equates to in price per wing is up to you.

→ 3 Plaza Gardens, 88 Upper Richmond Rd. www.timeout.com/yumsa2021

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

Love Local

Edited by Kate Lloyd
timeout.com/lovelocal

The Lewisham pub getting supercharged with local love

Three local women want to transform the Ravensbourne Arms into a music space with a difference

DREAM WITH US here. Imagine a space that hosts gigs and stocks local beers, but that also puts on yoga classes, skills training workshops, dance lessons for pensioners and events for under-18s. A space that isn't owned by landlords but by the community.

It sounds too good to be true, but it isn't. Lenny Watson, Verity Hobbs and Sophie Farrell, a group that goes by Sister Midnight, are crowdfunding to buy the Ravensbourne Arms, a huge pub on Lewisham High Street that's been shut since 2016, and turn it into a not-for-profit venue that does all of the above. 'We want to create a cultural space with local music and local people at its heart,' says Watson.

Sister Midnight was a record shop and music venue based in Deptford where the gigs were plenty and pints were £2.50. Watson founded it after spending years volunteering at a local record store that was due to turn into a cheese-and-wine bar. 'I just thought, sod that,' she says. So she

scraped together the money for the rights to the lease, and Sister Midnight called the venue its home for two years.

Unfortunately, it shut during the pandemic. But they were determined to find another place to carry on its legacy. The Ravensbourne Arms was on their radar, so they put out a community consultation. 'We had £90,000 in provisional pledges,' says Farrell.

Sister Midnight turned into a community benefit society issuing community shares to fund the purchase of the pub. Community shares allow contributors a say in how the business is run. The initial fundraiser for £500,000 will allow them to put down a deposit on a commercial mortgage. 'There's so much creativity in Lewisham,' says Watson. 'I think it's important that we have a space that's not going to be taken away by redevelopers. It's a chance to cement community spirit.' ■ *Nicole Garcia Merida*
→ www.crowdfunder.co.uk/save-the-ravensbourne-arms



Lewisham



Picked by singer-songwriter and 'Lady of Lewisham' Therryi-Jay
→ @therryijay on Instagram.

SISTER MIDNIGHT: COBINDER/HITTA

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



The Brockley Barge

'Every Wetherspoon's in Lewisham is lit. The Brockley Barge is my local pub. It used to be a dilapidated building 20 years ago, but it transformed itself and was actually the first Wetherspoon's that we knew in the area. The management is amazing, it's always peaceful, and everyone feels welcome.'

→ 184 Brockley Rd, SE4 2RR.



Payiz

'There's a bartender at Payiz called Carlos. He makes the most amazing Tequila Sunrises. The food is homemade Turkish and Cypriot, and it's delicious. The lamb ribs are crazy, but what really makes me buy into it? The bulgur wheat.'

→ 102 Granville Park, SE13 7DU.

The Broadway Theatre

'If you grew up in Lewisham, you've been to The Broadway Theatre. You can go watch anything, from a comedy show to a Yardie production to a community show, and the pantomime is amazing for children. I performed there as a child and would love to have a headline show there one day.'

→ Catford Rd, SE6 4RU.

NRG Gym

'There's a lot of gyms in Lewisham but NRG brought a whole new vibe. It's set over two floors, has an infrared sauna and a women-only zone. It's such a little gem where there's no room for self-consciousness.'

→ 156-160 Lewisham High St, SE13 6JL.

Wanderlust Eatery

'Wanderlust does sweet food with a glittery kick. They do pancakes, waffles, different flavoured coffees. It's such a comfortable place. They host anything and everything: live music, baby showers, speed dating, viewing parties.'

→ 88 Verdant Lane, SE6 1LF.

The Fitting Studio

'Every woman in Lewisham and its surrounding areas needs to go to The Fitting Studio to get a bra fitted. It's the best bra shop. The experience is unique and tailored to you, and they make you feel so confident.'

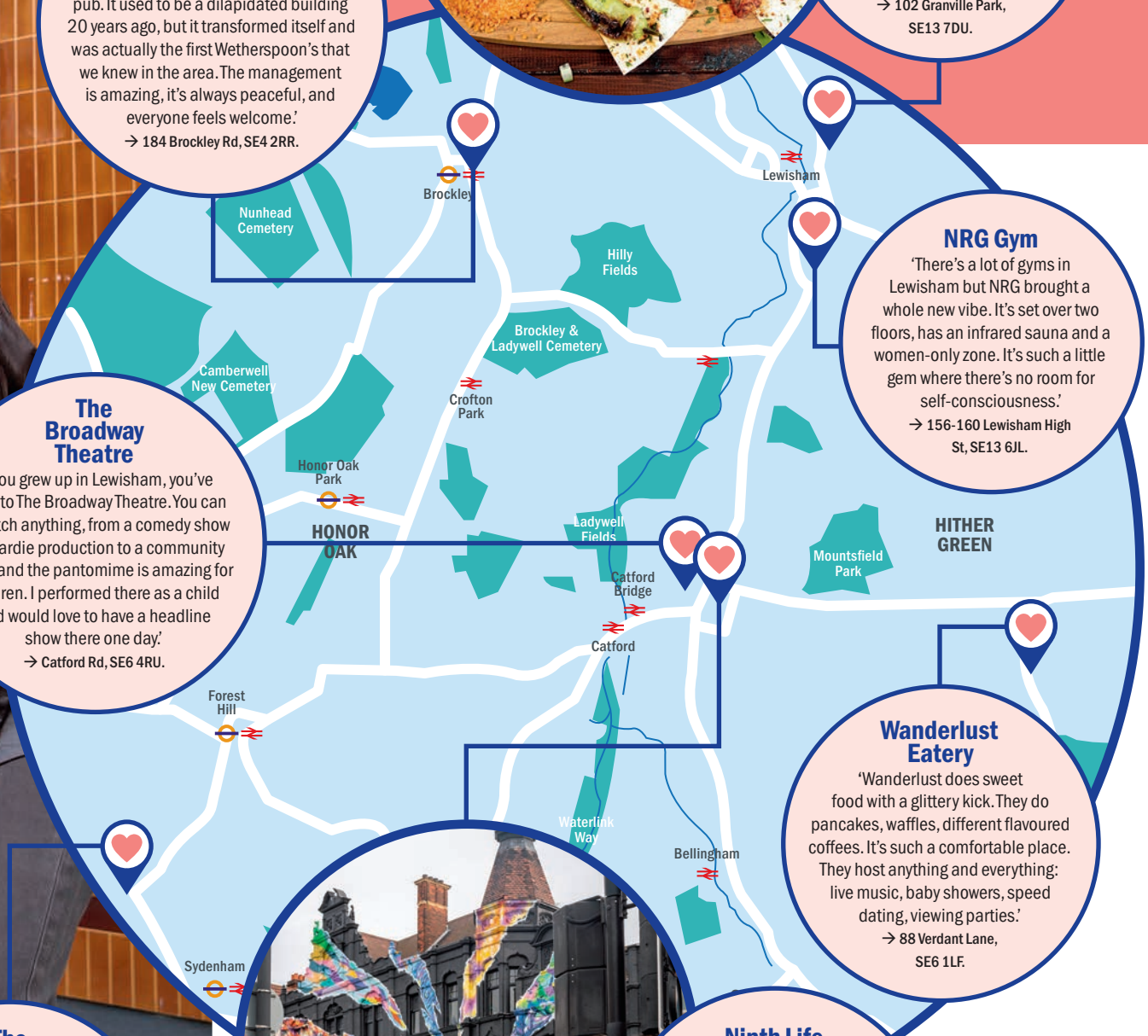
→ 102-106 Kirkdale, SE26 4BG.



Ninth Life

'Ninth Life is wild. It's got an escape room, a garden, a food court. You're always going to meet interesting people there and you're never going to be bored. It's also an interactive, immersive experience: the staff play different characters throughout the night.'

→ 167 Rushey Green, SE6 4BD.



PAYIZ: OMER LUTFI GENC; NINTH LIFE: PAW PRO PHOTOGRAPHY LTD/SHUTTERSTOCK



The Deli Downstairs

'It has very good coffee and also salads and fresh pasta to take away. The owner just opened a wine bar that does small plates next door. It's called Place Next Door.'
→ 211 Victoria Park Rd, E9 7JN.

Bottle Apostle

'This is a really great little wine shop with a very good selection across the price range. It has wines for under £10 at the front and more serious stuff closer to the back. It has also converted the very back to what it calls the "beer cave", with a lot of good-quality, small-batch beers. The team are really nice and helpful; they're well informed and won't try to push you towards expensive wines.'
→ 95 Lauriston Rd, E9 7HJ.

People's Park Tavern

'It brews its own beer here. It was actually one of the first places to get busy during lockdown, selling drinks to take away. It's got a really big outdoor space and backs on to the park.'
→ 360 Victoria Park Rd, E9 7BT.

HACKNEY

London Fields

London Fields

Well Street Common

Victoria Park

Bright

'This is a great restaurant right next to Mare Street Market. It's got a wonderful wine list and a very exciting menu. The food is excellent.'
→ 1 Westgate St, E8 3RL.



Cambridge Heath

Bethnal Green

Ombra

'This place is Italian, with a Venetian focus. It's just fantastic. It's started doing a really good set menu, a bit of a sharing one. There's good à la carte as well. It's very relaxed, the service is friendly and it has an open kitchen so you can see the chefs working. It's a small place so when it's busy it feels quite vibey.'
→ 1 Vyner St, E2 9DG.

The Pagoda, Victoria Park

'The entire park is great. It's huge. I go running there a lot. The Pagoda is a really nice little spot to sit in, surrounded by the lake.'
→ 66 Sewardstone Rd, E2 9JG.

Victoria Park Market

'There's a guy who sells amazing homemade cannoli when the market is on (Sundays). And the biltong guy, I think he makes his own; it's just delicious.'
→ Between Bonner Gate and Gore Gate, E2 9JW.

Hackney



Picked by Harry Bolton, chef at Pavilion Café
→ Victoria Park, Old Ford Rd, E9 7DE.



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PEOPLE'S PARK TAVERN: JACK LATTIMER; OMBRA: MITCHELL IBRAHIM BY ANDY PARSONS

The Vicky Park crew making skating accessible

Neighbourhood Skate Club brings together female and queer beginner boarders from across the city

IT'S EASY TO stereotype people who skateboard: baggy jeans, obscure band tees, scuffed Nike Dunks, Thrasher beanies, proudly scraped elbows. Oh, and, most often, straight men.

But coming out of lockdown, professional skater Lyndsay McLaren noticed a huge increase in female skaters around Victoria Park. 'The thing they all had in common was that they looked, you know, beginner level,' she says. 'And they were alone.'

That's why she started Neighbourhood

Skate Club: a supportive meet-up where women and queer people can learn to skate together. Its mission? To make the sport accessible and create a space where people can learn without being judged or getting unwanted attention.

'Even just carrying your board around, as a woman you deal with a lot of harassment,' McLaren says. 'It's almost like it attracts a certain type of man to talk to you.' Earlier this year McLaren began doing one-to-one lessons in Victoria Park with women she knew. Word

spread of the cool pro skater with a different approach to teaching. Her Instagram DMs were overflowing, so she created a separate page for Neighbourhood. It now has 1,900 followers and even recently took over the Strand for a women's and queer people's skate jam.

McLaren hopes the club can be a place where people can lean into each other for support and feel powerful both on and off the board. She says that the simple act of cruising around makes members feel strong. 'When they look at me like, "Holy shit, I'm doing this!" that's a really special moment.' ■ *Nicole Garcia Merida*

→ www.instagram.com/neighbourhoodskateclub



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Mile End (Central, District, and Hammersmith & City) Zone 2
Bethnal Green (Central) Zone 2
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MAYOR OF LONDON



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Property

Edited by Kate Lloyd
timeout.com/property

Actually affordable rooms

Looking for a house-share in London and on a very tight budget? Rhys Thomas runs down the least expensive neighbourhoods to rent a room

10 Palmers Green N13
Average room rent £598.
What's it like? A suburban area beyond Tottenham. Broomfield Park is nice. River Lee isn't far away.
Best places to eat and drink Cypriot cuisine rules these quarters, the food at Nissi is a prime example.
Big supermarkets nearby There's a Waitrose in a weirdly fancy building, a Sainsbury's and a big Morrisons.
Transport connections Arnos Grove is just outside the postcode. Otherwise, buses run to central, and Palmers Green station has Great Northern and Thameslink trains.

9 Upper Edmonton N18
Average room rent £595.
What's it like? A bustling, diverse area with a big Ikea and an even bigger park (Pymmes).
Best places to eat and drink Lincoln's Patisserie is a gem. Hilal Restaurant does great Turkish food. And try Enfield Brewery for pints.
Big supermarkets nearby A huge Lidl, with a car park and all the rest.
Transport connections There's Edmonton Green Overground, a couple of buses and national rail from Meridian Water to Stratford every half an hour.

8 Wanstead and Leytonstone E11
Average room rent £592.
What's it like? A slice of east London, further out than Stratford. Lots of woodland and an up-and-coming food-and-drink scene.
Best places to eat and drink Singburi, a BYOB Thai restaurant serving up both lovely food and a great time. Luppolo Pizza is among the trendiest.
Big supermarkets nearby Tesco superstore, baby.
Transport connections Loads, if you like the Central line.



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Abbey Wood

7 Winchmore Hill, Bush Hill and Grange Park N21

Average room rent £591.

What's it like? Green spaces on every corner, a few good pubs and a small-town, family-friendly feel.

Best places to eat and drink The Kings Head is the best (gastro)pub. **Big supermarkets nearby** There's a big Sainsbury's at either end of the 'code, and a Waitrose. If you're the deli counter type, you'll want to stock up at The Larder.

Transport connections You can get into the city in no time from several rail stations. Southgate is

on the Piccadilly line and looks like something out of 'Star Trek'.

6 Eltham SE9

Average room rent £587.

What's it like? Golf courses, big parks... It's a docile part of London with good walks. Dogs would like it.

Best places to eat and drink Contemporary Turkish spot Zavi.

Big supermarkets nearby Sainsbury's, with a car park. And Polish shop Anna is worth a visit.

Transport connections Trains to Charing Cross and Victoria from Eltham, some buses.

5 Plaistow E13

Average room rent £585.

What's it like? Officially suburban, formerly in Essex. A nice 40-odd minute walk from the River Thames and Stratford.

Best places to eat and drink

Find Ghanaian food galore at Kate's Cafe and Restaurant, and BJ's Pie & Mash is top.

Big supermarkets nearby No big bois in the 'hood, I'm afraid.

Transport connections The District, and Hammersmith & City lines run from Plaistow tube. Plus buses.

4 South Norwood SE25

Average room rent

£583.

What's it like? South.

Historically Surrey. There are a couple of schools and a large park.

Best places to eat and drink

Tasty Jerk is the top spot as far as we're concerned. You get a good pint at The Craft Beer Cabin.

Big supermarkets nearby Four letters: Aldi. Sainsbury's too, sure. But Aldi.

Transport connections Norwood Junction has the Overground, Southern Rail and Thameslink, so it'll get you places, which will get you places, you know?

3 Edmonton and Lower Edmonton N9

Average room rent £579.

What's it like? Nice. North of Tottenham, with Firs Farm Wetlands Park & Playing Fields to the left and reservoirs to the right.

Best places to eat and drink

Turkish places abound here: Capital Restaurant gets a lot of love,

Find more London stories at [timeout.com/news](https://www.timeout.com/news)

deservedly so, but Kervan warrants a mention too.

Big supermarkets nearby There's a Lidl, plus loads of small markets with produce from across the world.

Transport connections Buses and several Overground and national rail stations.

2 East Ham E6

Average room rent £568.

What's it like? A busy area with a lot of history, a huge football pedigree and some of the most diverse communities in London.

Best places to eat and drink Loads of good eating here. Thattukada, for instance, serves

food from Kerala: it's well worth a visit wherever you live.

Big supermarkets nearby No big ones, lots of small ones.

Transport connections

East Ham is on the District, and Hammersmith & City lines, otherwise it's buses.



Leyton Orient

1 Abbey Wood SE2

Average room rent £563.

What's it like? A quiet spot between Greenwich and Bexley. Tall trees and the lake in Southmere Park offer especially tranquil vibes. And the Thames is just north of the postcode.

Best places to eat and drink K's Spice African Express is top notch, as is The Abbey Arms for food and drink, and The Olive for brunching.

Big supermarkets nearby Huge Sainsbury's and a big Lidl. Tick, tick.

Transport connections Abbey Wood will get you to London Bridge, Charing Cross or Cannon Street. Crossrail is coming here too. ■

→ All prices from www.spareroom.co.uk.



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How to beat the energy crisis

How gas and oil shortages will impact your bills this winter and what to do about it.

Illustration *Sam Taylor*



So, why's everyone talking about switching energy supplier?

Let's roll things back to September. That's when supplier PFP Energy went bust; then another eight companies followed. Suddenly 1.7 million people in the UK found themselves without a power supplier. Now the remaining companies – like British Gas and EDF – are planning to hike prices.

Why is this all happening now?

Gas prices have been driven up by supply-and-demand issues. Europe and Asia experienced cold winters last year, which used up reserves. Meanwhile, there has also been increased demand for energy. The result? Prices have risen by 250 percent since last January.

How's that impacting the UK?

A lot of the companies that went bust were smaller firms that offered some of the better deals out there. Price increases meant they were unable to stick to the tariffs they had advertised, and so they were forced to cease trading. To help remaining suppliers cope, Ofgem, the energy regulator, increased the energy price cap from £1,138 to £1,277 in October, its highest level ever. That's the most suppliers can charge customers on a standard variable tariff (SVT). It will probably rise again in April, though.

Can I avoid paying more by switching suppliers?

There are two types of energy deals. Fixed deals where you pay the same monthly fee for a period of time and SVTs, the tariff you're automatically placed on unless you request a different one or have a top-up meter. In the past, moving from an SVT to a fixed deal was a good way to get cheaper energy. Not now. Tashema Jackson from energyhelpline.com says that if you're on an SVT, it's best to stay put. Prices could come down in the future, and if you're stuck with a fixed tariff, you could pay a lot more in the longer term as they are more expensive than usual now.

What if my deal is ending?

Jackson says better deals are currently few and far between as suppliers up their lower tariffs or pull their deals from the market altogether. 'It might be best to give your supplier a call and see what they can do,' she advises.

Should I be worried?

'You may want to panic,' Jackson says, 'but your energy supply won't be cut off. Even if your supplier goes bust, Ofgem will move you to another one. The lights won't go out.' If you're struggling to pay your bills, your supplier should be your first port of call and organisations like Citizens Advice might be able to help. ■ *Terri Chapman*

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'Ferm Living' patchwork-quilt blanket

Earl of East

Is it a quilt, is it a throw? Either way, it's very warm. Made with organic cotton and recycled stuffing, it's kind to the environment too.

→ £155. www.connox.co.uk

Patterned wool-blend blanket

H&M Home

Created in collaboration with artist Diana Ejaita, this woolly guy features a bold print that's bound to cheer up even the most magnolia of rentals.

→ £49.99. www2.hm.com

Tanzanian hand-woven throw

Artisans & Adventurers

Made from super-soft cotton, this hand-woven throw will add some serious luxury to Sundays spent binging Netflix.

→ £85. www.artisans-and-adventurers.com

'Bruka' throw

Aria

The playful print on this cotton blanket is great for distracting yourself from the stressors of winter.

→ £68. www.ariashop.co.uk

'Desert Days II' blanket

A New Tribe

Wrap yourself up in this unique design, or just lay it artfully over the sofa and wait for the compliments to roll in.

→ £220. www.anewtribe.co.uk

'Phases of the Moon' throw

Lark London

Give a nod to the long dark nights we're about to enjoy with this moon-print throw.

→ £25. www.larklondon.com

BEFORE THE CLOCKS have even gone back, signs of a hard winter are hanging over us. On top of it getting colder, heating bills are on the rise (see p53) and supermarket shelves are looking bare, so some literal home comforts are much needed right now. Think something soft and reassuring to hide under during these gloomy

Soft things for hard times

Cosy throws to bundle yourself up in as the nights (and the news) get darker

times. Luckily, London's chic boutiques and interiors meccas have come up trumps with stylish blankets and throws to snuggle into. Whether you want tactile textures, a cheery print or a woven work of art that will double as a wall hanging when the cold snap has passed, we've found something to suit. ■

Hayley Spencer

Spooky Things to Do

Edited by Rosie Hewitson
 timeout.com/thingstodo @timeoutlondon



Rivoli Ballroom

Scary screenings

S Rivoli Ballroom Halloween Pop-Up Cinema

One of the last remaining ballrooms in town, the gorgeous Rivoli is hosting its usual series of fright-filled screenings for scary season, showing movies ranging from the genuinely hair-raising to the extremely camp, including 'The Crow', 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show', 'The Witches' and 'The Shining'. The lovely vintage bar will be serving up themed cocktails too – in case you require liquid courage. → Rivoli Ballroom. Oct 27-29. From £5.

S Halloween at Backyard Cinema

Backyard Cinema's two immersive seasonal screening fantasies – the

Winter Night Garden and the Snow Kingdom – will be invaded by all kinds of scary characters for this Halloween takeover. 'Hocus Pocus' will be shown multiple times, alongside 'Scream', 'Beetlejuice', 'Addams Family Values', 'The Lost Boys', 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show' and this year's 'Candyman' reboot.

→ Backyard Cinema.
 Oct 19-Nov 13. £19.99

Ghostly games

C 🎮 BucketRace Halloween Scavenger Hunt

Gallivant around London solving clues and completing a series of

Halloween-themed challenges on this raucous Saturday afternoon scavenger hunt. Your team will have three hours to tick off as many tasks on the BucketList as possible before you reconvene at the finish line to count up your points and hopefully get your hands on the top prize: tickets to your favourite amusement park.

→ Golden Square.
 Oct 30. £15.

S Halloween Quiz at The Old Brewery

Reckon you know your 'Halloween' (1978) from your 'Halloween' (2007) from your 'Halloween' (2018)? Put your knowledge of spooky pop culture to the test in this fearsome quiz in a pub in the grounds of

Greenwich's at the ancient (and therefore surely at least a little bit haunted) Royal Naval College. Fancy dress is encouraged, obvs. → The Old Brewery. Oct 31. £20 per team.

No Escape x UK Haunters Halloween Special

For four days only this Halloween, No Escape is collaborating with UK Haunters to introduce professional scare actors into the seven escape rooms at its four sites in Aldgate, Brixton, Holloway and Oxford Street. In teams of up to eight (depending on the room chosen), willing victims have an hour to avoid a terrifying fate by solving clues found around the haunted toyshop, bloodied abattoir freezer or whatever other horrifying scene they happen upon. Who's to say what will happen if you don't make it out in time...

→ Various venues. Oct 28-31. £35 per person.



MAIN IMAGE: RIVOLI BALLROOM; NO ESCAPE: ALEXANDRA JORDAN



LUX: New Wave of Contemporary Art



DEEP BENEATH THE street, the machines have taken over. 180 The Strand is back with a labyrinthine, immersive, dizzying group exhibition, collaborating with Korean curatorial body SUUM to pull together a show about light, AI, the environment and perception, in the basement of the old office block.

The best works here play with the limits of CGI and AI technology. Universal Everything's video shows a giant figure stomping endlessly, constantly morphing through various states, turning from fur to rock to liquid to fire. Cao Yuxi's curved screens swoop

and spin with patterns created by an AI trained on millions of images of calligraphy, the human hand slurring into digital gestures. Hito Steyerl uses a neural network to predict plant growth: images, literally, from the future. Random International create a flock of algorithmic geometric figures. And upstairs, you can bathe in digital waves by a'strict.

It's art that manipulates technology to create intense, enveloping visual experiences. Even when it feels like it's not about very much, you still get that this is about programming being used to extreme visual ends.

The art is the tech, that's the point.

But some pieces here are a little incongruous, such as Julianknxx's moving installation of a Black choir singing 'breathe', Je Baak's video of spinning fairground rides and Es Devlin's fleshy tunnel.

It's a bit of a mess, but a messy 180 show is better than most video art. Their approach to showing new-media art has almost become a genre in its own right. And if you're going to get stuck in a terrifying basement, it might as well be one filled with good video art. ■ *Eddy Frankel*
→ 180 The Strand. Until Dec 18. £18-£20.

Anicka Yi: 'In Love with the World'



A FLYING SQUADRON of alien machines has invaded Tate Modern. They are Anicka Yi's robo-army, sent to make us consider what it would be like to share our world with machine intelligences. Quite nice, it turns out.

There are two kinds of flying machines: squid-like tentacled things called 'xenوجللles' and bulbous fleshy beasts called 'planulae'. Powered by mini rotors, they float through the vast Turbine Hall, complex algorithms dictating their flight paths.

They seem benevolent enough, and that's kind of the point. Yi wants us to imagine co-existence, not conflict.



Accompanying them is a 'scentscape' that's meant to evoke different historical eras of the Thames riverbank, but really it's just like wandering around an enormous Aesop store.

The problem is, you can't help but measure the work against previous Turbine Hall installations. Does this stand up against the

work of Olafur Eliasson or Ai Weiwei or Doris Salcedo?

It all feels a little bit like balloon animals in a perfume shop, but it is fun, and Yi's ideas are good. They're idealistic, they make you think about technology and nature and the air you breathe. And at least the robots are friendly. ■ *Eddy Frankel*
→ Tate Modern. Until Jan 16 2022. Free.

Frightful feasts

N Halloween at Lost Boys Pizza

Camden crew Lost Boys claim to be the world's only purveyors of 'vampire pizza'. Does that mean they use arterial gore instead of San Marzano tomatoes? No, just that they put charcoal in their pizza dough. Sample their black wares and themed cocktails at one of four costume balls over Halloween weekend, where the best dressed will win tickets to a film screening with pizza and prosecco. We recommend getting the garlic-and-aubergine dip to ward off any actual vampires lurking about.

→ Lost Boys Pizza. Oct 29-31. £40.

S Spooky Supper and Ghoulish Ghost Tour at the Old Royal Naval College

Down a courage-boosting 'zombie cocktail' before delving into the creepy unexplored passages that lie beneath the Old Royal Naval College. There's no knowing what ghostly pirates and ancient admirals you might encounter in these corridors, but if you make it out alive, there'll be a two-course Halloween supper to enjoy on the other side. There's a costume competition too, so start working on your drowned sailor look asap.

→ Old Royal Naval College. Oct 29-30. £52.

Terrifying tours

N 🤩 Haunted Hampstead Halloween Pub Tour

Best have your wits about you on this after-dark tour of Hampstead: the area was once notorious for highwaymen and illegal autopsies, so who's to say what lost spirits still roam the area. You'll stop at several pubs along the way, and finish up with a free bevvie from the artisan gin experts of the Sacred Distillery. Halloween and spirits? Surely the perfect combo.

→ The Old Bull & Bush. Oct 17, 24. £20.

W 🤩 The Haunting of Chelsea Physic Garden

Head to London's oldest botanical garden for this ghostly guided tour led by the Wild Immersive Theatre company. Be prepared to question reality and look a little closer as you uncover secrets from the garden's 350-year history. But be warned: this is no comfortable journey into horticulture.

→ Chelsea Physic Garden. Oct 24-31. £25.

Devilish drag

📍 Séayoncé: Res-erection

An anguished soul patrols the auditoriums of London's most flamboyant theatre. It's not one of the out-of-work actors who haunt the downstairs bar each evening, it's a departed spirit. And it's about time they took their final curtain call. Trick-or-treat yourself to a ticket for this dragtastic séance where London's spookiest queen will attempt to, er, res-erect it.

→ Soho Theatre. Oct 28-30. From £13.

📍 The Grand Halloween Party featuring Bimini and Tayce

You'll have a fangtastic time at this fa-BOO!-lous Halloween party hosted by two members of 'Drag Race UK' royalty. Sip ghostly cocktails and dance to your favourite Halloween bangers while the beast that is Bimini Bon Boulash and the hound that is Tayce entertain you with death drops galore. With the emphasis on death. Be sure to wear your most frightening finery: they'll only let you in if you're dressed to kill.

→ Clapham Grand. Oct 30. From £23.

ONE UNMISSABLE THING



Halloween at Between the Bridges

Enjoy a horror hit singalong, free face-painting, a deathly disco, spooky movies, ghastly drag and bloody brunch at this monstrous six-day Halloween extravaganza.

→ Between the Bridges. Oct 25-31. Prices vary.

Creepy cocktails

📍 Coya Forbidden Forest

High-end Peruvian restaurant Coya is transforming its pisco bar into an immersive forbidden forest for a spooky Halloween Saturday night. There'll be a special cocktail menu on offer. Look out for Tunche, a banana-rum concoction named after a mythical Peruvian jungle-dwelling being. After enough of those, *you'll* feel like a jungle-dwelling mythical being too.

→ Coya Mayfair. Oct 30. Free entry.

📍 Casa Wardour

Swanky Soho bar 100 Wardour Street is fond of a seasonal pop-up. So no surprise, then, to find it's doing a Halloween-ish one. Day of the Dead themed, it features a menu of Mexican bar snacks and tequila cocktails (we like the sound of the chilli and passionfruit Don Chilli). The place will be decked out in cacti and poncho blankets, and a roaming Mariachi band will play across Halloween weekend. *Arriba!*

→ 100 Wardour St. Oct 30-31. Free entry.

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Five unmissable autumn art experiences in London

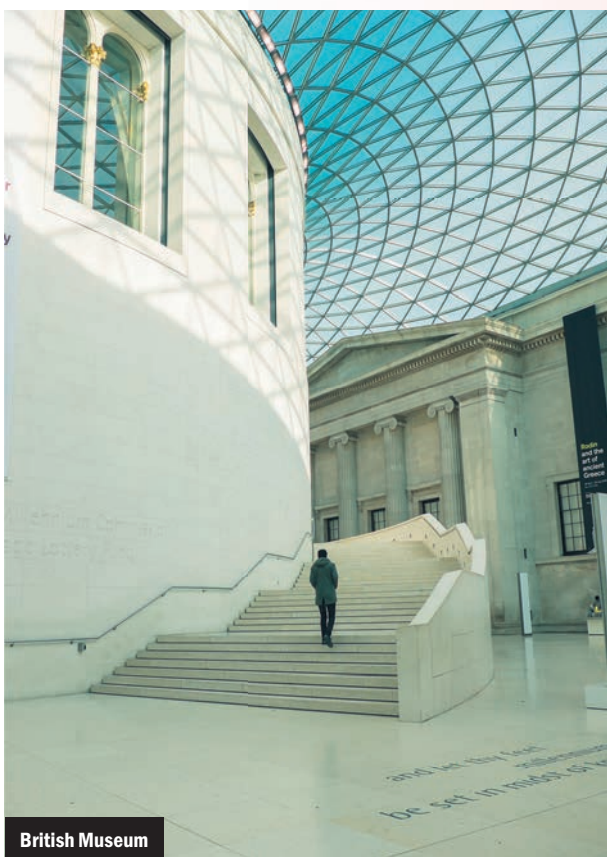


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Ashley Wright
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British Museum

Summer might be over, but autumn is always the hottest time in the art lover's calendar. Right now, London is brimming with fantastic exhibitions and cultural experiences – which means it's also the best time to grab yourself a National Art Pass and make the most of the amazing discounts it provides (like 50 percent off major exhibitions and free entry to loads of museums, galleries and historic places). Not only that, but a National Art Pass membership also gives back, helping Art Fund to support the important work of your favourite galleries, museums and historic houses across the UK.

1 'Poussin and the Dance'

The lesser-known decadent side of the papa of French classicism is on full display in this extensive exhibition of dance paintings by Nicolas Poussin. Soaked in drunken debauchery and inspired by Greek and biblical mythology, the paintings in the National Gallery's major autumn blockbuster are filled with movement, brutality and lush colour schemes.

→ National Gallery, Until Jan 2, 2022. £12 – save 50 percent with a National Art Pass.

National Gallery





Tate Modern



Hokusai

2 'Noguchi'

If many of the artworks in this sweeping retrospective of Japanese-American artist Noguchi Isamu look oddly familiar, that's only a testament to the amazing influence the sculptor has had on twentieth and twenty-first century design. Time Out gave it five stars, saying, 'Noguchi created beautiful sculptures, and he did it so well that he changed the world.'

→ Barbican Art Gallery. Until Jan 9, 2022. £18 - save 50 percent with a National Art Pass.

3 Lubaina Himid

This much-anticipated solo show of work by Himid makes a particular virtue of the Turner Prize-winning artist's background in theatre design. Visitors will be able to see an extensive collection of her new and recent works, all experienced as part of a sequence of semi-immersive scenes in the gallery space.

→ Tate Modern. Nov 25-Jul 3, 2022. £16 - save 50 percent with a National Art Pass.

4 Amazônia

Sebastião Salgado is widely regarded as one of the most influential photographers on the planet. This hugely enticing exhibition at the Science Museum takes visitors deep into the Amazon, showing more than 200 images of Indigenous communities and stunning natural landscapes at a crucial juncture in the fight against climate change.

→ Science Museum. Until Mar 2022. £10 - save 50 percent with a National Art Pass.

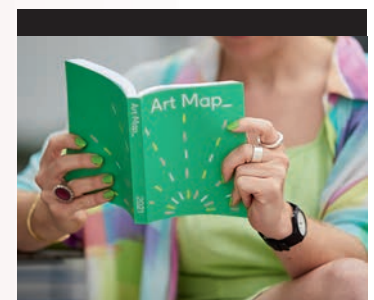
5 'Hokusai: The Great Picture Book of Everything'

Going far beyond his iconic piece 'The Great Wave', this fascinating show at the British Museum features 103 drawings by Japanese painter and printmaker Katsushika Hokusai originally created for a never-published encyclopaedia called 'The Great Picture Book of Everything'. The beautifully executed images reveal a great artistic mind that was ever-curious.

→ British Museum. Until Jan 30, 2022. £9 - save 50 percent with a National Art Pass.



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Nightmare nights out

E Festival of the Dead: Halloween Returns

After last year's tame festivities, go all out for 2021 with Europe's biggest touring Halloween show. Think circus performances, clubbing and carnival all mixed up into one high-octane witches' brew soundtracked by rock, metal, electronic music and the 'dark side' of D&B. That deffo spells a good time.

→ The Troxy, Oct 23.
From £32.

E Halloween at Skylight Tobacco Dock

London's largest rooftop venue is once again hosting a big ol' Halloween party, with all 20 of its famous (heated!) igloos dressed up like pumpkins for the night. As well as necking devilishly good cocktails, you can expect a costume parade with prizes, outdoor games and a thrilling DJ. Best get practising the 'Thriller' dance.

→ Skylight Tobacco Dock, Oct 30. £15.

S Twisted Circus Halloween Festival

One of the UK's best-loved Halloween parties returns to London with its largest ever

troupe of performers. Bear witness to eye-popping acts and full-on characters, with a mind-melting soundtrack, as the scary boys of the Twisted Circus invade London for another night of thrills and spills. There'll also be huge ball pits, scare actors and fortune-telling. We see a big night out in your future...

→ Indigo at The O2, Oct 30. £31-£47.

W Wunderbar Halloween

Pergola Paddington's Bavarian pop-up will be transformed into a Transylvanian castle for

Halloween, with eerie lighting, creepy decor and giant Frankenstein's of beer.

Book a private beer hut to enjoy lashings of the appropriately named Camden Hells with up to ten of your favourite guys and ghouls. It's basically Oktoberfest, but haunted.

→ Pergola Paddington, Oct 30-31. £10-£200.

S The Halloween Ball

This two-floor mega-party promises creepy visuals, DJs, hosts, a murder-mystery photobooth, themed cocktails and 'the best trick or treat station in Brixton'. Without giving too much away, previous years have featured a live freak show, black swan dancers and aerial performers. Spooktacular!

→ Electric Brixton, Oct 31. From £10-£20.



Things to Do

Film highlights

▶ London East Asia Film Festival

LEAFF does what its name promises, bringing great films from across East Asia to London. Returning for a sixth year, the hugely varied programme of contemporary Eastern cinema includes two international, five London, six European and 19 UK premieres, with features from China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Late Hong Kong director Benny Chan's final film, explosive action drama 'Raging Fire', is our pick of the bunch. → Various venues. Oct 21-31. From £15.

▶ Doc'n Roll Film Festival

There's good news for fans of music documentaries: Doc'n Roll is returning to the capital. Screened across a host of London *kinos* including the Barbican, Curzon Soho and the Rio in Dalston, the programme runs across four strands: Sisters, Brothers, DIY and Global Visions (whatever that last one means). Don't miss the UK premiere of 'The Nowhere Inn', St Vincent's mockumentary-slash-psychological thriller, which also stars Carrie Brownstein and Dakota Johnson. Its premiere includes an in-person Q&A with Annie Clark herself. → Various venues. Oct 28-Nov 14. From £12.50.

activities, including a cookery demonstration from Michelin-starred chef Atul Kochhar, henna drawing and a big community display of rangoli art (those colourful floor patterns made using dyed sand and rice flour). Insert 'sounds lit' joke here. → Trafalgar Square. Oct 23. Free.

▶ Dishoom presents Diwali

Bombay restaurant chain Dishoom hosts this foodie Diwali festival,

bringing together South Asian talent from across the city for an evening of spoken word and live music curated by Boogaloo Radio host Sweetie

Kapoor. Enjoy all that while munching delectable snacks from Dosa Deli and Dishoom's special Diwali menu. Judging by the queues outside their restaurants, it will definitely sell out, so keep an eye on their Instagram for details of the next ticket release. → 93 Feet East. Oct 28. £12.



lantern parade where you (or the child you're with) can show off your stunning creation. Those other kids' efforts quite literally won't hold a candle to it. → National Maritime Museum. Oct 31. Free.

Bonfire nights

▶ Alexandra Palace Fireworks

Picture the scene: copious beer-filled steins, a Spice Girls tribute band, an ice rink, a funfair, street food – and, of course, hundreds of fireworks set off against a backdrop of the London skyline at night. This is how Ally Pally rolls when it comes to staging a firework festival, the likes of which London has never seen before. It's massive. Be there. → Alexandra Palace. Nov 6. £13.50.

▶ Dulwich Firework Display

This family-friendly fest kicks off at 5pm. In addition to the explosions, Dulwich Sports Club promises mulled wine, real ale, a barbecue and pizza, plus an 'eco-friendly bonfire' on a big screen. How exactly does that differ from watching a YouTube stock video on your telly at home? Beats us. But prepare to 'ooh' and 'ahh' when the IRL fireworks go off at 7pm – because they will be banging. → Dulwich Sports Club. Nov 6. £10 (no tickets on the night).

▶ Battersea Park Fireworks

Wandsworth Council's annual display is doubling to become a two-night affair. Saturday's fireworks kick off at 8pm, with an afterparty for ticket holders. Sunday is more family-focused, with slightly fewer nerve-jangling explosions during the fireworks (from 7pm). Well, you wouldn't want any bawling toddlers. → Battersea Park. Nov 6-7. £12.10.



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Diwali delights

▶ Diwali on Trafalgar Square

As many as 35,000 people attend this massive annual celebration of the Hindu, Sikh and Jain festival of light in Trafalgar Square, which includes loads of live music and dance, veggie food stalls and storytelling at the National Gallery. There'll also be plenty of creative



▶ Diwali 2021 at the National Maritime Museum

Make your own Diwali lantern to parade around Greenwich Park at this family-focused celebration. You can also catch traditional Indian odissi and bhangra dancing, children's storytelling and workshops in decoration-making and rangoli. The festival culminates in an after-dark

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Food & Drink

Edited by Anna Hui
timeout.com/eatdrink #timeouteatdrink

Your three-step guide to going **ALCOHOL-FREE** in London

Doing Sober October? Thinking about cutting down? Sick of midweek hangovers? Here's what to do about it

ALCOHOL HAS LONG been seen as an essential wingman for a good night out, but what if we told you that really didn't need to be the case anymore? Non-drinkers have come a long way from only being able to wet their whistle with a sticky J₂O or a Coke. London's innovative restaurateurs and bartenders now gladly cater for booze-avoiders all year round and it's not just a fad. In fact, there are now so many low- and no-alcohol options that it's hard to know where to start. Whether you're laying off the sauce for good, cutting down with mindful drinking, or going sober-curious – we've pulled together a guide to getting to know London's dry drinks scene.

Beginner: get to know cool craft low-ABV brews

If you're new to not-drinking, your first port of call should be **Fugitive Motel** in Bethnal Green. This all-day bar and kitchen incorporates progressive brews into its drinks menu rather than making them an afterthought. It dedicates at least one draught craft-beer line to showcasing different new low-ABV and no-alcohol beers, as well as selling takeaway cans. 'Alcohol-free craft beer sales

have really grown over the summer,' says co-founder David Burgess.

'Londoners are living at 100 miles per hour in both work and play.

I honestly think drinkers weigh up their options – asking themselves "Have I got time for a hangover?" 'Awareness of mental wellbeing certainly plays a part, too.'

So, what should you be drinking? Brilliant 0% beer brands such as

Lucky Saint and Coast Beer Co. have hopped on to the scene offering drinks that are a cut above

mass-produced alcohol-free lagers and ales that have flooded the market in recent years. Plus, there are loads of good bevs coming out of cool London craft spots like the UK's first dedicated alcohol-free brewery, Leyton's Nirvana and London's only B-Corp brewery Small Beer Brew Co, located just off the Bermondsey Beer Mile. 'Hospitality sites are really catching on now with behavioural changes related to alcohol,' Burgess says. 'We talk regularly about the importance of not drinking, looking to moderate or simply having a night off. The [alcohol-free] consumer should have exactly the same drinking experience as a guest enjoying a strong craft beer or cocktail.'



Fugitive Motel

Food & Drink

Intermediate: get creative with cocktails

The days of the sugary mocktail are firmly behind us. Cocktail bars and bartenders around the city starting to think outside the box and incorporate elements of fermentation, extraction and maceration to achieve complex alcohol-free options.

In fact, thanks to cocktail bar, **Täyer + Elementary** in east London, non-drinkers can now even do aperitivo hour sans alcohol. Currently, they have an 'I'm not drinking' series, and offers ambitious non-alcoholic takes on classic cocktails, like Aperol Spritzes and apricot Highballs.

'You definitely have to shift your mindset when creating non-alcoholic drinks,' says Monica Berg, co-owner and bartender at Täyer + Elementary. 'Alcohol is a great carrier of flavour and when you take it out, you need to find other ways to carry that flavour.'

High-end non-alcoholic aperitif Three Spirit, is changing the game and uses 'mood-boosting' botanicals and seasonal antioxidant fruit. It features in cocktails at

Hoxton bar **Nightjar**. The aim? To make zero-booze bevvs that still provide feelings of stimulation, relaxation or stress relief.

'Crafting a great drink does not change with or without alcohol,' says Dash Lilley, co-founder of Three Spirit. 'It's similar to cooking. Just because you may not be using meat, the goal should still be to create incredible flavour, balance, texture and satisfaction.'

Expert: become a CBD and kombucha expert

So, you've got to grips with faux alcohol? Try these unique sober sips, too. As the low- and no-alcohol field expands, cannabidiol (CBD) is finding its way into beverage aisles and bar menus, too. Goodrays is the UK's only CBD-infused, low-ABV seltzer and you can try it out at **The Roebuck** in Borough. They're hoping to make booze-free waves,

thanks to a very special ingredient...

'Before you ask: no, you can't get high off this drink,' says Goodrays founder Chris Kelly. 'Despite the stigma, cannabis has a lot of functional qualities. We're not here to replace alcohol.'

There's more innovation happening across London. At **Jolene** in Newington Green, staff show just as much love on non-alcoholic pairings as their alcoholic counterparts. Homemade juices, extracts and kombuchas are expertly crafted to pair with dishes.

'The [drinks] may taste funky and delicious on their own,' Tereza Pospíšilová, head fermenter at Jolene Bakeries. 'but you have to consider how it'll go with food.'

It's that attention to detail that every non-drinking Londoner deserves, and that more and more places are offering. Skip next-day regret, pour one out and raise a glass to the city's booze-free ales, kombuchas and hydrosols. ■



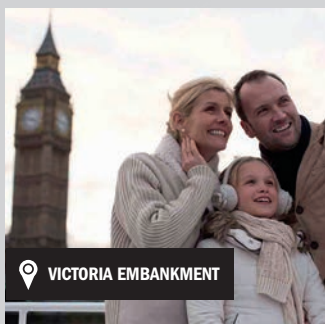
By Angela Hui
Who once had an exploding kombucha accident.



Goodrays in the Roebuck

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VARIOUS LOCATIONS

UBER BOAT BY THAMES CLIPPERS SAYS:

'Did you know that you can commute across and explore London by boat? Make the most of the ever-shorter daylight hours and travel by river. Enjoy comfortable seats, personal space and an onboard café bar. As an added bonus, the views are fantastic! Flexible ticket options are available. Plus, we are pet-welcoming and bike-friendly.' Various locations.



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QUADRA SAYS:

'Taking Fulham by storm is Quadra's Bottomless Pizza & Prosecco Brunch, every Saturday and Sunday until 5pm (it's £19.99 per person for 90 minutes). Quadra is a new concept pizzeria: we serve pizza by the slice and use our unique baking pans to give an incredible crunchiness and lightness to our dough. Just call 020 7371 7533 to book.' 28 Parsons Green Lane, SW6 4HS.



LEICESTER SQUARE

JAPAN CENTRE SAYS:

'Bake curry bread, matcha cookies, melon pan and Hirata buns fresh from your oven with Japan Centre's new Bake at Home range, which you can get 25 percent off until October 20. It's available in store and online at japancentre.com. Experience the delicious flavours and aromas of a Japanese bakery at home.' 35b Pantom St, SW1Y 4EA.

Café Cecilia



WHAT IS IT...

Ex-River Café chef Max Rocha's canalside debut restaurant.

WHY GO...

For the onget and chips. Guaranteed best chips of your life.

→ 32 Andrews Rd, E8 4RL



YOU KNOW THAT famous scene in 'America's Next Top Model' where Tyra Banks gets maternal and shouts at a failing contestant: 'I was rooting for you! We were all rooting for you'? That's how I felt leaving Café Cecilia last week. I was so ready for it to be brilliant, but I left faintly disappointed.

Chef-owner Max Rocha's highly anticipated debut is a bright white minimal room with an open kitchen that's bathed in light from huge windows overlooking the canal. The menu is equally pared back and features a specials blackboard; there's not much detail to go on when ordering dishes.

We needn't have worried, though. We got the holy trinity of starters: a soft homemade Guinness pumpkin bread, a tangy-sweet, chunky pork-and-apricot terrine, and deep-fried sage-and-anchovy fritti – brittle beauties.

Next, the mains. A plate of ricotta-and-sage ravioli that resembled toothy pillows. Then a rare, tender and juicy onget steak – let down by a lacklustre peppercorn sauce. I wanted it thick and punchy; what I got was watery Ikea meatball gravy. But the chips served with the onget? They were gloriously golden, crispy clouds. Sadly, the gurnard and tartar sauce from the specials board was dry and needed a thicker batter.

Gooey bread-and-butter pud and a bold raspberry-almond tart were the saving graces. Overall, it's not that I didn't like this place, I just didn't love it. ■ *Angela Hui*

Planque



WHAT IS IT...

A wine bar, restaurant, members' club and store in two arches in Haggerston.

WHY GO...

It's a special place to share with your best people.

→ 322-324 Acton Mews, E8 4EA.



'PLANQUE' ROUGHLY translates to 'hideaway' in French and you can do exactly that at this new wine drinker's clubhouse and restaurant nestled under a pair of railway arches in Haggerston. A modern, open-plan vaulted space, the place is barely a few weeks old and the kitchen was already on top form on my Sunday lunch visit. I mean, of course it was: Seb Myers is in charge of the food and he's fresh off the back of roles at P Franco and Chiltern Firehouse. The lobster tartine topped with crunchy, sharp allium caviar orbs was a delightful textural triumph. Next, a must-order clever summer-leeks-and-black-trompette-mushroom veggie dish with a hidden layer of luxurious Tunworth cheese sauce. For a meatier main, the umami-packed razor clam and tomatoes was like drinking the sun and the sea at the same time. Cabbage-wrapped duck offal choux farcis was a thing of beauty, reminding me of the best roast I've ever had, but in log form.

And to cap it all off, a salted caramel tart with Beenleigh Blue that I was convinced wouldn't work but, colour me surprised, was an absolute dream.

Service was on the money. And speaking of money, things can get real spenny real quick here – our bill came to £157 for food and drinks. But can you put a price on outstanding dishes that were hit after hit? The answer is obviously yes. Money really does buy happiness here. ■ *Angela Hui*

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All for that taste of Taylor's



Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski
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SHOW OF THE WEEK

Hits the damned spot

'The Tragedy of Macbeth'



LADY MACBETH IS famously only the second biggest role in 'Macbeth'. However, I doubt that the punters who are here to see four-times Oscar-nominated megastar Saoirse Ronan (at a conservative guess, that would be all of the audience) will leave disappointed. While James McArdle's spectacularly disintegrating Macbeth is the main event in Yaël Farber's apocalyptic modern-dress production, Ronan is very good, and rarely off stage in a subtly beefed-up role. Her Lady M is an elegant, charismatic, confident woman. Yes, she aids her husband in the murder of William Gaunt's frail Duncan, King of Scotland. But as Macbeth



The Wyrds Sisters

itches further into murderous madness, she pulls away from him, a powerful contrast and beacon of comparative humanity, devastated at what he has become. It's a very strong UK stage debut.

Really, though, 'The Tragedy of Macbeth' is dominated by two people: idiosyncratic director Farber and leading man McArdle.

The South African director is a practitioner of a sort of doomy maximalism that can be self-parodic in theory: there will always be haze; there will never be jokes; it will probably be very long. Here, the reality is often genuinely awesome, a thunderous total marriage of sound, spectacle and performance. It's defined by Tom Lane's pulsing,

ever-present score, the sonorous contributions of live cellist Aoife Burke and a visual aesthetic centred on foreboding, dimly lit tableaux.

The pace is slow for a 'Macbeth', which is normally rattled out as an action-packed war play. Nevertheless, Farber's production is potent, immaculately sculpted and largely justified in its approach. Scenes that are usually zipped through get carefully reimagined: the banquet scene is a Lynchian trip, eerie and discombobulating – a window into Macbeth's decaying state of mind.

Bona fide Scot McArdle isn't a household name, but he's a hugely respected stage actor. His Macbeth is a true portrait of descent. At the beginning he's almost mild-mannered. Only inspired to kill after the Wyrds Sisters prophesy it, he's in over his head, soon becoming weepy and emotional, barely sleeping, consumed by paranoia. It's a measure of McArdle's brilliance that this doesn't feel hammy. Yes, he's channelling big, brutal emotions, but in his hands, Macbeth's collapse feels every bit as meticulous as Hamlet's or Lear's:



There will be blood James McArdle and Saoirse Ronan

MACBETH: MARC BRENNER; WHITE NOISE: JOHAN PERSSON



WHAT IS IT...
Saoirse Ronan makes her UK stage debut in Shakespeare's bloody tragedy.

WHY GO...
Ronan is good and James McArdle's Macbeth is even better.

GET TICKETS
A fresh batch goes on sale at noon on Oct 21.

→ Almeida. Until Nov 27. £10-£55.

a mediocre man consumed by the forces he has unleashed.

Although a couple of moments don't work, this is a bold, powerful version of *The Scottish Play* that feels fully realised. It is absolutely not a gaudy star vehicle, but this is a fine, confident London stage debut for Saoirse Ronan. Still just 27, she's not put a foot wrong on screen – and now that goes for stage. ■



By Andrzej Lukowski
Who knows exactly how to say 'Saoirse', thank you.

White Noise



WHAT IS IT...
Suzan-Lori Parks's surreal satire about a disintegrating friendship group.

WHY GO...
It's a brilliant – often very funny – look at the faults in liberal society.

→ Bridge Theatre.
Until Nov 13. £15-£75.



THE PREMISE OF 'White Noise' is an eyebrow-raising one. Cursed with insomnia, Leo – who is Black – recently got rid of the white noise machine that his best friend Ralph – who is white – bought him. It helped him sleep, but it killed his artistic inspiration. As the play begins, he's just been roughed up by the cops. Dramatically, Leo decides that he'll sleep better if he... signs himself into slavery for Ralph, reasoning that racist cops won't mess with a white man's property, thereby giving him peace of mind.

It sounds a bit yikes. But 'White Noise' is by Suzan-Lori Parks, one of America's greatest playwrights. In 'White Noise' she wields absurdity like a medical scalpel, controlling it with deadly serious, laser-focused intent.

That's not to say 'White Noise' isn't funny. Lots of things about it are funny, notably James Corrigan's 'Righteous' Ralph and his descent from right-on bore to smirking nativist.

'White Noise' is a questing, forensic play in which Parks spins a thesis that liberal multicultural society is a grand act of self-deception, underpinned by real power actually lying with white men anyway. However, the liberal lie seems better than what Ralph becomes. People sleep better when they drown out their fears with white noise. ■ Andrzej Lukowski

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TIME OUT MEETS

Edgar Wright

The adopted Londoner on his dark-edged West End thriller, 'DuckTales' and the magic of The Toucan. Portrait *Rebecca Zephyr Thomas*

LIKE A FILMMAKING whirlwind, Edgar Wright is back in action post-lockdown, first with a Sparks brothers doc and now 'Last Night in Soho', a psychological thriller full of jittery menace. It follows Sandie (Anya Taylor-Joy) and new-to-town student Eloise (Thomasin McKenzie) as two women connected – and stalked – through time, and it's like a super-stylish love letter to the West End written in smudged newsprint. The adopted Londoner shares its story.

Firstly, congrats on one of the first movies to feature a proper north London/south London joke. 'I'm very proud of that. Anya Taylor-Joy's dad told me that was his

favourite bit in the movie. [Actor] Michael Ajao has skin in the game, because he's from south London. I think he felt he felt it on a deep level.'

Do you have skin in the game? 'I've always been a north-of-the-river person. When I first moved to London I lived in Ealing, and then Greenford, Wood Green and Islington. I moved to Fitzrovia when I was editing "Baby Driver". I have lots of friends south of the river but I've never lived there. I have nothing against it [laughs].'

How did The Toucan pub come into your thinking? 'I'd been there a number of times, but [co-writer]

'Soho is a venus flytrap that pulls you back'

With Anya Taylor-Joy

Krysty Wilson-Cairns was a barmaid there and that's one of the reasons I asked her to write the screenplay with me. We were drowning our sorrows on Brexit night, because we both Remainers, and I told her the plot of "Soho" on a bar crawl from The Toucan to Tricia's, the after-hours bar. I called her nine months later and said: "Do you remember that Soho film I was telling you about?" She goes: "Yeah, I haven't stopped thinking about it!"

What were the other inspirations? 'The psychological thrillers and horrors of the '60s – like "Peeping Tom" – mean a lot to me, but I also watched a lot of the great dramas of that time, like



'Pint of numbers, please'
Edgar Wright in *The Toucan*

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FILM OF THE WEEK



Last Night in Soho



ANYONE WHO HAS moved to London from the sticks knows the whirligig of emotions in those first days: nervy excitement, the occasional flood of cortisol as you navigate crowds that seem to consist solely of sharp elbows and grumpy faces.

Fertile turf, in other words, for Edgar Wright's ingenious rabbit-hole of a psychological thriller that slowly swallows up Thomasin McKenzie's new-to-town fashion student Eloise. Hitting the pillow at night, she's ushered into the shoes of an aspiring singer, Sandy (Anya Taylor-Joy). It's 1965: 'Thunderball' is out, the West End is swinging and Matt Smith's smooth-talking agent is hooking her up with gigs. The world is her oyster bar.

Of course, things soon turn sour in the way things in a world full of rapacious, baying men tend to. Time-travelling with ever-more-sinister consequences, 'Last Night in Soho' morphs its West End playground into a seedy kingdom of

leering males. Two women suffer from the same sexual exploitation in a smart depiction of trauma echoing through time, and its lonely burden. Wright, who co-wrote it with Krysty Wilson-Cairns ('1917'), keeps the female perspective at the forefront.

McKenzie sells her character's spiralling descent, while Taylor-Joy supercharges the movie with an ethereal out-of-time-ness. A supporting cast of Brit-cool icons like Diana Rigg, Rita Tushingham and Terence Stamp amps up the heady air of '60s film history.

It all makes for an immersive evocation of old London and a more sober filmmaking flex from Wright. Like its eerie Soho back alleys, you're never sure what's around the next corner. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

What does Soho mean to you?

'One of the many inspirations for the film is that I've spent more time in Soho than any house I've ever lived in: my first TV was just north of Soho; "Spaced" was edited in Soho; "Shaun of the Dead" was written on Berwick Street; even "Scott Pilgrim" and "Baby Driver" were edited in Soho. I did two films in America and you get accused of "going off to Hollywood", but I'm always here. And socialising as well: bars, restaurants, comedy clubs, cinemas, theatre.'

Any mad nights out?

'Yeah, for sure. I used to drink a lot more in my early twenties and I had some scary nights where I would be blackout drunk. Probably the lowest was when I woke up in the gutter. It was a wake-up call. Soho has changed since the '90s but there's still a feeling of danger in the air, which is attractive to some and terrifying to others. It's like a venus flytrap that keeps pulling people back.'

On a wildly different note, is it true you voiced a character based on Christopher Nolan in 'DuckTales'?

'They told me I was voicing a British director called Alistair Boorswan, but I didn't realise it was Chris until I saw the character drawing [laughs]. I sent him this excruciating email: "By the way, I've done this 'DuckTales' character..." I think he's okay with it. Hey, if someone did me in "DuckTales", I'd be very flattered.' ■

→ 'Last Night in Soho' is out Oct 29. Edgar Wright's London After Dark season runs at BFI Southbank Oct 18-Nov 29.



By **Phil de Semlyen**
Who still cannot put Dean, Wardour and Greek in order.

"Darling", and the sensationalist ones, which are fascinating too. These careful-what-you-wish-for stories about girls coming to London and having the temerity to want to be a star. That was the idea for it.'

Do you see this as a #MeToo movie?

'I don't think it's my place to put that theme to it, and I'm very cautious not to. If other people want to say that, then that's absolutely fine, but I don't want to seem like I'm band-wagoneering. Obviously, the truth is that these stories, especially in show business, are as old as time itself. I guess the film shows how little has changed, and how much further there is to go. I know that sounds bleak, but it's true, you know?'

WHAT IS IT...

An intense and intensely stylish noodle-twister from Edgar Wright.

WHY GO...

For all your fave West End spots, only scarier than normal.

→ Director Edgar Wright (117 mins. Out Oct 29.)

Film

The French Dispatch



WHAT IS IT...
Wes Anderson's love letter to *The New Yorker*.

WHY GO...
For all your old Wes favourites – especially Bill Murray.

→ Director Wes Anderson
(15) 108 mins. Out Oct 22.



EASIER TO ADMIRE than fall head over heels in love with, Wes Anderson's homage to old-school magazines has him packing a few short stories into an anthology that brims with ideas before sinking under the weight of its narrative cargo.

Its three 'feature articles' are parcelled together under the masthead of the titular mag in the French town of Ennui-sur-Blasé. On the staff? Tilda Swinton, Owen Wilson and other Anderson regs. It's run by editor-in-chief, Arthur Howitzer Jr (Bill Murray), whose sole instruction is to 'make it sound like you wrote it that way on purpose'.

Anderson provides intricate tableaux to get lost in, and stylistic change-ups galore. There is animation, freeze frames, mag-style captions and a comic-book-style car chase. It can stick Willem Dafoe in a chicken coop and that not even be the silliest thing in the scene. The formal playfulness veers between delightful and overwhelming.

And when the film engages the heart, like during the love triangle between newcomer Lyna Khoudri's student, Frances McDormand's journo and Timothée Chalamet's May '68 revolutionary, or when Jeffrey Wright's food writer reflects movingly on his work, it's on to the next thing. And that's the issue Anderson never gets to grips with: you can flick through a magazine at your own pace, and let the stories settle over you. Here, the pages just keep on turning. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

HEADS UP



Curzon Camden

This cosy new picture palace opens under the redeveloped Hawley Wharf arches next week. It has five 30-seat screens and a design aesthetic borrowed from New York jazz clubs. Niiice!

→ Hawley Wharf. Opens Oct 29.

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Hotboozapalooza is **back**, baby!



Mulled wine? You can do better than that. Time Out is welcoming winter in with our annual hot cocktail knees-up, brought to you in partnership with the ride-hailing app FREE NOW

As far as cockle-warming goes, it doesn't get cosier than a hot cocktail. That's why, after taking a rather unplanned break in 2020, we're back with Hotboozapalooza: Time Out's annual winter bash dedicated to heated twists on classic cocktails.

We're talking toasty whisky warmers. Sweet and spicy rum beverages. And luxurious drinks that are more like liquid desserts



than cocktails. There'll be four ace London bars creating the refreshments and your ticket gets you one drink from each. Which bars exactly? We're not telling just yet – you'll have to stay tuned to find out! And it's not just about the drinks. Your ticket will get you access to awesome entertainment, DJs and other goodies that will be unveiled on the night.

→ Hotboozapalooza is on Thu Nov 18. Vinegar Yard, 72-82 St Thomas St, SE1 3QX. £20.

GET THERE (AND BACK!) IN STYLE

Hotboozapalooza is made possible by FREE NOW: the ride-hailing app that's going to make getting to and from this super-festive experience extremely easy. FREE NOW is offering every ticket-holder 50 percent-off vouchers, so that you can be assured of a convenient and affordable ride.

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