

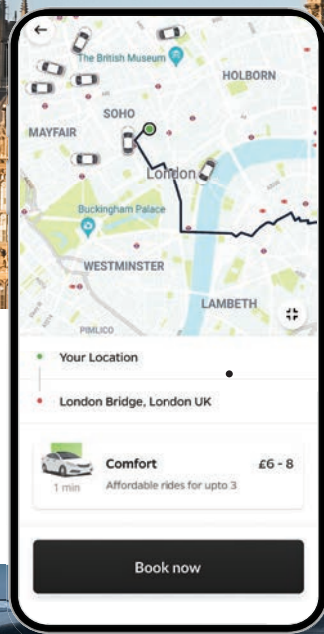
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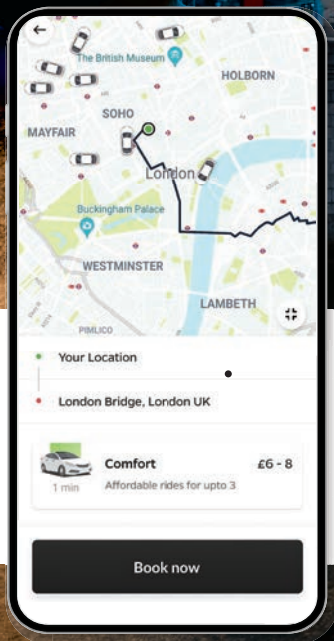
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The shape of things to come

Why Bond star Lashana Lynch matters so much right now



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Inside

This issue of Time Out
in no time at all

Winter is coming

And we couldn't be happier.
For starters, there's a hot new
stage version of 'Frozen'

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The star attractions of the
rather unimaginatively named
'Mid-Autumn Festival' are
properly delish

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How to get out of the private
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Winter is still coming

Ice rinks are back! Somerset House's
is the pick of the bunch. They've got
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Putting her nose out of joint

'Titane' director Julia Ducournau
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face-smashing scene

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INTERNATIONAL BRAND OF THE YEAR
CAMPAIGN

Hello, London

Joe Mackertich
London Editor
@j_mackertich



Because I'm not technically 'good at my job', I don't usually mention the cover of the magazines in these letters. I prefer to prattle on about some trivial detail of London life that's relevant to me and maybe eight other people.
As I say: not good at the job.

I'll be making an exception to that rule for *this* issue. Not for the obvious reason. The obvious reason would be that we've got Lashana bloody Lynch on the bloody cover! A proper west Londoner, star of the world's biggest blockbuster, an objectively excellent human being, dropping in on Time Out? That's super.

The less-obvious reason: having Lashana on the cover carries what I can only describe as an epic significance. The film she's in, 'No Time to Die', was one of the first things to be delayed because of the pandemic. We first met Lashana nigh on *two years ago*. And now, several more chats and a global crisis later, we can finally have her on the cover of Time Out. To most people this here is 'just' another fantastic edition of the city's favourite magazine. To us it represents a bit of closure. Sorry for all the sincerity; back to banging on about pubs next week.

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



EAT this

I've not tried the Black Pig's roasted pork ciabatta yet but I want to get down to Borough Market now. All the ingredients come from local traders.



SEE this

Am keen on 'Is God Is' at the Royal Court. Our theatre dude Andrzej describes it as a 'hysterically high-bodycount revenge comedy'.



DRINK here

Spoiler: The Laurieston Bar is not in London, it's in Glasgow. It remains one of Britain's coolest pubs in my opinion. Should be Grade I listed.

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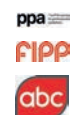
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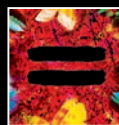
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City life

Edited by Isabelle Aron
@timeoutlondon



Celebrating our glorious shopfronts

It's been a weird 18 months for London shops – they've closed, they've reopened, they've pivoted. Now a new book captures their frontages and tells the stories behind them

PHOTOGRAPHER RACHAEL SMITH still remembers the moment she first stepped into James Smith & Sons, the umbrella shop on New Oxford Street which dates back to 1857. She'd just moved to London and remembers thinking the shop had 'the wow factor'. That feeling returned when, years later, she started work on a book about London shopfronts with her friend, writer Emma J Page.

Smith expected to focus purely on, well, the shopfronts. But as the project progressed, she realised that the shopkeepers were key to the story. 'I had to photograph the owners,' she says. 'They're as connected to the shop as the shop is to them. Their personalities really come across in

the shops. You learn as much from the people as you do from the shop's façade.'

As she photographed across the city, she picked up snippets of London stories. At East End cafe Elide Pellicci, she met Anna (whose grandmother was Elide Pellicci). She gave Smith a slice of apple pie, a cuppa and a brief history lesson. 'She was telling me about the Krays,' she says. 'They hung out there and knew the people in Pellicci's really well.'

The 'higgledy-piggledy' Hurlingham Books is another shop that stood out. The owner showed her a hole in the front window, which was made by a snowball. 'They never repaired it, which makes me laugh,' she says. 'The books just cover where that piece of glass fell out.'

The project has become even more pertinent as shops try to weather the storm of the pandemic. 'They're the fabric of London,' says Smith. 'Some of the shops [in the book] are the city's oldest. It would be awful if they disappeared.' She wants to document the capital's shops as they are now. 'You don't know what's going to happen in the future.'

In the age of internet shopping, this book is championing local independent businesses. 'These shops are part of where you live, and they show a sense of community,' she says. 'Support your local shops. If you don't, you never know if they're going to disappear.' ■ *Isabelle Aron*

→ 'London Shopfronts' by Emma J Page and Rachael Smith is out on Sep 30, published by Hoxton Mini Press. £22.95.

HYPE DISH

Rovi's sweet, sticky and smoky corn ribs

DISSECTION

What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

WHEN YOTAM OTTOLENGHI opened Rovi in 2018, the corn ribs became its signature dish. 'People kept booking just to eat the ribs and cancelled when they weren't on the menu,' says head chef Neil John Campbell. Since then, they've appeared in new guises every year in

British corn season. Inspired by David Chang's OG corn ribs at Momofuku Ssäm Bar in NYC, Rovi's cobs are sweet, sticky and smoky. Campbell explains how he makes them. ■ Chiara Wilkinson
→ 59 Wells St. Corn ribs are on Rovi's menu until at least the end of Oct. £7.50.



The dukkah

'To create a background flavour, we make a pumpkin-seed dukkah with chipotle chilli and cep mushroom powder. The smell is quite smoky and the texture is biscuity.'

The butter

'We use a flavoured compound butter made with pumpkin and barley miso. We leave the pumpkin skins on, which adds a roasted note and a sweet, caramel taste.'

The concept

'The dish is fun and playful. We like trying to recreate meat with vegetables without any trickery. Vegetables can have just as much flavour as meat, if not more.'

The corn

'We remove the husk and cut the cob into quarters. Then we deep fry it and it curls up. The skin becomes sticky and chewy, which increases the sweetness of the corn.'

The glaze

'To glaze, we use maple syrup and add lime to cut through the sweetness. After frying, the corn is charred on the grill and we put on more butter and glaze for a smoky finish.'

WORD ON THE STREET

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

'Everyone is dumb until they get to 40.'

'These people wouldn't know comté if it hit them in the face.'

'What's "Jed" short for, anyway? Jedward?'

'There needs to be a Deliveroo just for milk.'

'She's got a young voice but an old name.'

'Your boyfriend has real Gandalf energy.'

'There's nothing worse than a tatty awning.'

'People who say their birthday is "just another day" are broken inside.'

'I think I just farted on my face mask.'

'I feel like I haven't done enough mooching in my life of late.'

'Gammon is not a race.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon

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ASK AN EDITOR

Your going-out problems solved by Time Out editors

Steve from Bow asks:
 'Now that the nights are getting longer, I'm struggling to make myself get off the sofa and explore the city. What are some cosy but cultured things to do?'



Eddy Frankel, art and culture editor

It's getting all autumnal and cold and drizzly out there, but it's warm and toasty in plenty of London's excellent museums and galleries. Your first stop should be any of the central spaces in the **National Gallery** (Trafalgar Square), where you'll be ensconced in a world of deep crimson wallpaper, deep leather sofas and deeply beautiful paintings. Not sure where to start? Room 32 is a good one to aim for, where you'll see stunners by the likes of Caravaggio and Artemisia Gentilischi.



National Gallery

The seriously under-visited **Wallace Collection** (Hertford House, Manchester Square) over in Fitzrovia offers a similarly warm, old-school cosiness in its rooms stuffed with armour and rococo paintings, while **Sir John Soane's Museum** (13 Lincoln's Inn Fields) lets you totally lose yourself in the great architect's collection of sculpture and works on canvas.

There are even more warm-hued rooms in the **Dulwich Picture Gallery's** (Gallery Road, SE21) permanent displays, where you'll find works by Rembrandt, Poussin and Rubens. That should be just about enough burgundy, emerald and gold to get anyone hot (and cosy) under the collar. ■

Keen for more culture? Explore our city's galleries and museums at [timeout.com/art](https://www.timeout.com/art)

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San Francisco

Revealed: the best cities in the world right now

Nearly 30,000 people did our annual Time Out Index survey. These were their faves

BIG METROPOLISES HAVE had to evolve and adapt this past year, and we think it's time to recognise everything our cities have achieved. That's why, once again, we conducted the annual **Time Out Index**: a poll of 27,000 city-dwellers from Mexico City to Melbourne via Tokyo and Tel Aviv. We asked not just about food and culture but green space, sustainability and community projects. Based on the answers, we ranked the cities. Here are the top five (soz, London...).

1 San Francisco

Initiatives like the SF New Deal saved restaurant industry jobs, while neighbours took care of each other – one genius hung sourdough starters from trees. In our poll, a huge 73 percent of locals described their city as progressive, and it came second on sustainability.

2 Amsterdam

The Dutch capital has spent 2021 wisely, vowing to do away with the coffeeshops, brothels and drunken debauchery that once blighted its centre. In this year's survey, 47 percent of Amsterdammers said the city was green and 27 percent described it as sustainable.



Copenhagen

3 Manchester

Manchester sure is a resilient place. The city came top for community spirit, friendliness and creativity: in 2021 the likes of Manchester International Festival and the 'Grayson's Art Club' exhibition have drawn huge crowds. Plus, it's a given that Mancunians know how to have a good time, so it's no shock that the city was voted best for nightlife too.

4 Copenhagen

You hear stories about Denmark being the happiest country in the world, so no wonder 66 percent of Copenhagensers told us their hometown is 'relaxing'. They also voted it the world's most sustainable city because of its many innovative green initiatives.

5 New York

According to our respondents, NYC is the most exciting city in the world. The continued success of its Open Restaurants Program and its vaccine incentives are just two examples of ways Gotham has survived and thrived this year, and now its streets are buzzing once again. ■ *Sophie Dickinson*

→ See the full list at www.timeout.com/bestcities

CITY ENVY

Great things that we love in other cities

Tokyo's chic public loos

Japanese loos already have quite the rep. With heated seats, built-in bidets and sometimes even a choice of ambient tunes to soundtrack the experience, many of Japan's crappers are as luxurious as they come. But until recently, Tokyo's public toilets lagged behind: old-style squat loos were still common. So in preparation for this summer's Olympics, the Tokyo Toilet Project sought to replace them with sleek, creative public restrooms that range from voice-controlled light-up orbs to chambers with transparent walls that turn opaque upon entry. The 17 structures, designed by big names like Shigeru Ban and Kazoo Sato, contrast starkly with bogs in London, where a trip to the toilet often has you holding your nose and wading through unknown substances... or dashing to the nearest McDonald's. We can definitely learn a thing or two from Tokyo. ■ *Ed Cunningham*



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The Lashana Lynch guide to finding inner peace

James Bond's newest 00 colleague talks to *Kate Lloyd* about lockdown, west London and Moira Stewart. Portraits *Andy Parsons*

LASHANA LYNCH SPENT the last night of the 2010s on her own. While the rest of London was out partying and toasting the arrival of 2020, she did something she'd never done before: stayed home, gathered some crystals around her and burned some sage (it cleanses bad vibes).

'People were like: "You want to spend New Year *alone*?" But I wanted to see what was going on inside,' she told me early last year. 'I don't know if I'll get to do that again. This year is going to be hectic...'

Oh, Lashana, you had NO idea.

The eve of change

It was March 2020 when I first sat down with Lynch in a Time Out meeting room. Imagine a set-up like a micro-budget remake of 'Charlie's Angels': a long

boardroom table, cream leather chairs but also Magic FM creeping under the door.

I met the west Londoner to talk about what was expected to be a life-changing moment. The new James Bond movie 'No Time to Die', co-written by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, was set to be released in April 2020. And, after a 13-year rise through the industry in soaps, theatre shows, Shonda Rhimes's 'Still Star-Crossed' and blockbuster 'Captain Marvel', Lynch was starring in it as secret agent Nomi, rumoured to be the new 007.

It's the kind of role that turns someone into both a superstar and a target. (When we spoke, Lynch had already experienced backlash: 'I couldn't take it personally. It's not about me. It's about them'.) She'd kept NYE as some calm before the storm.

Of course, neither of us knew then that the biggest storm coming in 2020 was actually a global pandemic, and that she'd have plenty of alone time soon. So, instead we talked about Samuel L Jackson rolling his eyes when she said she'd thought she'd be able to cope with fame: '[I've realised] I'm not going to know what it feels like until the rewind button doesn't work anymore.' We talked about stunts: 'Doing them is like playing a computer game that's always in your favour.' And we talked about Waller-Bridge: 'She writes with quirky British humour.'

Then, within days of us doing the interview, all that faded into irrelevance for more than a year.



Lashana Lynch

Life during lockdown

It's 17 months since we first spoke and the 33-year-old is chatting to me over Zoom from a big green velvet sofa in her London flat. 'She makes me feel very plush,' the actor says of it. (She personifies things a lot. Especially her plants, and always as female. 'For the power!')

'No Time to Die' was the first film of many to get pushed back because of the pandemic. Lynch hasn't even seen the rest of the cast since 2020. 'Maybe they've got a group chat and I'm not in it,' she says with a raspy laugh. How did it feel to have a career-defining moment put on ice?

She does a pantomime shrug.

The more we talk about lockdown, the clearer it becomes that Lynch is one of those people who has actually coped with it pretty well. 'At first I thought: So, what do I do with my thoughts? Where do I place all of these plans that I have?' she says. She leans back on the sofa hugging a pillow. 'But I found "the calm" very quickly.'

She churned through all the same TV shows as the rest of us – 'give me 24 hours and I'd have it done' – and meditated a lot. One day she went to the park and spent a long time staring at plants. 'I was having conversations with nature,' she says. 'Saying: "I was here a week ago and you were just a baby. Look at you, growing."'

She laughs so hard that her head, neck and shoulders ripple.

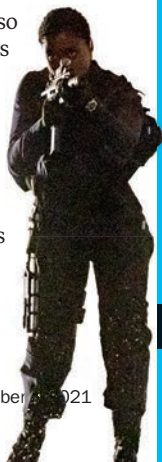
The winter lockdown was harder. 'The first half of the lockdown was culling, which was very healing for me,' she says. 'The second half was a realisation that I'm no longer creating. I was like: Okay, I've had enough.' But she tried to accept being miserable and plough on. 'My whole thing was to try to be present,' she says. 'So when the day of [the film's] release came and went [without the movie], I was probably too busy thinking about what TV show I was going to watch to be sad. I just chilled and let everyone else do the panicking.'

No wonder Lashana Lynch's dad calls her a hippy.

Growing up

Lynch grew up in Shepherd's Bush. She's still not returned a book she got out from the library there in 1997 ('It's probably in my mum's shed'). Her bedroom walls were covered in Spice Girls posters and her heroes were Phylicia Rashad and newscaster Moira Stewart: 'She's so classy. I'd look forward to the news because of her.'

She holds her head in her hands as she remembers going to the market with her dad and to a spot called Charlie's to get her hair done: 'Gosh, it's weird. I find it hard to put those memories back into the current Shepherd's Bush because those places just aren't there anymore. As soon as Westfield came I knew it was



'No Time to Die'

a wrap. Even though I was one of the first people there ready to shop.' She does that raspy laugh again.

Lynch's grandad ran a record store in the neighbourhood, so there'd always be musicians and record bosses floating around her nan's house: 'The kind of people who'd say, "Oh, I was in the studio with Bob Marley yesterday and he was really nice."' She says that she learned a lot from the sense of community there and that her mum and nan – 'two women who never demanded attention but who'd walk into a room like they deserved to be there' – taught her from a young age that she could 'be a nice human but still pack a punch'. It's something she says she's tried to bring to her

Bond character Nomi. 'I wanted her to be authentic, unapologetic, slightly awkward and very honest.'

Was she worried about the Bond franchise's murky history with one-note, female characters getting in the way of that? 'I went into it thinking: If they've cast me, they must know that I'm going to bring a take that has nothing to do with any woman that is going to pander to anything anyone has to say.'

Protests and politics

Lynch might be a calm person but she's certainly not a pushover. Even less so since the pandemic. 'My "saying no" power is so strong right now,' she says. Then she puts on a high-pitched voice: "'Oh my God, do you want to come and do this thing?'" "Nope." "Why?" "I don't have to give you a reason.'"



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When, last autumn, the Bond movie was accused by cinemas of putting them at risk of closure by pushing back its release to 2021, decreasing footfall to screens, Lynch didn't get upset. Instead she found it funny. 'It felt like not going to a party and someone saying, "Oh, it was a really terrible party because you didn't come." It would have been terrible anyway!'

Did she not feel guilty at all?

'Other franchises pushed back too,' she says. 'So I felt like: you just really want to talk about us, don't you?'

She applies this same frankness to everything. Whether it's the aftermath of Grenfell or the government's handling of the pandemic. 'I used to hear my nan talk about how the government dealt with things,' she says. 'I thought that it was *that* generation's issue.' Even before the pandemic, she was appalled by the way things were being run. 'We're just in a time where we, especially the working class, are feeling like our government is failing us. We feel powerless. How do you make them listen?' she

told me last March. But 2020 was so bad that she's blocked out chunks of it. 'I tried to think about what's happening in front of me. My friend is having a baby: joy. My friend has got engaged: joy. Everything else has really held me by the neck: the deaths of people in the pandemic, the death of people by the police force.'

Normally, when Lynch makes a serious point she tacks a joke on at the end to lighten the mood. Not this time. This time she takes a big breath before adding that some things have made her hopeful.

Like what?

'The way the world came out to stand up for George Floyd,' she says of the Black Lives Matter protests in 2021. 'For the crowds to include so many people who didn't look like me. It meant non-Black people were challenging themselves. We've got to make sure that continues. That people don't do it on the streets and on social media, then go into work and continue with ignorance. But it made me feel proud to be a Londoner, proud to be a woman, proud to be Black.'

'I want to be fully immersed in the moment'

Peace at last

So, what next? Lynch says that the first things she did when we came out of lockdown were to see Lianne La Havas and watch the play 'Constellations' at the Vaudeville. 'It made me so happy,' she says. 'Lack of theatre had got me down.'

The actor's started filming her next role: the hugely lovely Miss Honey in the remake of 'Matilda'. Meanwhile, having to wait so long for Bond to be released has given her more time to prepare. 'I want to be fully immersed in the moment,' she says. 'I don't want it to just pass me by.'

Lynch spent NYE 2020 the same way she spent NYE 2019. 'If I could have got a tree's worth of sage I would have watched it burn for the whole first week of the year,' she says. Something had changed, though. Whereas in 2019 she was *trying* to be calm for the evening, she says, this New Year's Eve she found herself able to nestle into the feeling of tranquility and sit there, at peace. You can sense the difference now: nothing feels rushed, everything feels on her terms, she's ready to go. ■

→ 'No Time to Die' is out Sep 30.

Read more film news at
[timeout.com/film](https://www.timeout.com/film)

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Property

Edited by Kate Lloyd
timeout.com/property

How to be a first-time buyer

Housing expert *Vicky Spratt* walks you through the confusing world of Help to Buy and Shared Ownership. Illustration *Harriet Noble*

Let's kick off with the basics: why do first-time buyer schemes exist?

Fewer and fewer young adults are becoming homeowners. At the age of 27, those born in the late 1980s had a homeownership rate of 25 percent, compared with 43 percent for those born ten years earlier. This is, in part, because house prices have risen to record levels and banks generally want a 10 percent deposit before they'll dish out a mortgage. Given that the average home in London currently costs £648,942, 10 percent is hardly a small whack. If you're renting privately and handing over, on average, more than a third of your monthly income to a landlord, saving this much is a Herculean task.

So, they're an attempt to help young people actually be able to buy?

That's right. Help to Buy and Shared Ownership are solutions from different governments to the same

problem: mainly attempting to boost younger people's chances of getting a foot on a property ladder that, as they live and breathe, is being pulled up before their very eyes. However, as the crisis worsens, we know that older people need help too and there is no age limit on either scheme. Help to Buy is only available to first-time buyers but Shared Ownership is not.

Are they essentially the same thing?

No. Help to Buy and Shared Ownership operate differently. What they have in common, though, is that they require a lower deposit than a regular mortgage. With Help to Buy, you only need to pay a 5 percent deposit of the property's asking price. So, if the property costs £350,000, you pay £17,500 rather than 10 percent, which would be £35,000. With Shared Ownership you buy a share of your home which you pay a mortgage on – generally

5 percent or 10 percent – and rent the rest from the freeholder (usually a housing association).

Right, so tell us about Help to Buy

You might have heard of Help to Buy ISAs. That savings scheme closed to new accounts in November 2019. Today, when people talk about Help to Buy, they are referring to what's known as the Equity Loan scheme. In effect, it's money you borrow from the government to cover some of your mortgage. You put down

your 5 percent deposit and then you can get up to 40 percent of the property covered by the equity loan (20 percent outside of London). It only works on eligible new-build homes, and in London those homes can be worth up to a maximum of £600,000.

What's the catch?

Well, obviously, with this scheme you have to repay your mortgage and, eventually, the equity loan too. The loan is interest-free for five





years. After that, you have to pay an additional fee of 1.75 percent of the loan's value. This fee increases every year. Also, the value of the loan is linked to the value of the property you've bought: if this rises over time, so will the amount of the loan you have to pay back. The devil, as ever, is in the details.

And what about Shared Ownership? With this one you part own and part rent a home. It's a government-backed scheme operated by

It's always worth looking at the small print

different providers (usually housing associations) which is meant to help people with small deposits and lower incomes buy a home. The minimum purchase share is 10 percent. Each month, you pay your mortgage on the bit of the property you own and pay rent on the rest.

Do you rent part of your home for ever, then?

The idea is that, over time, you do something known as 'staircasing', which means that you buy

ever-larger shares of the property until, eventually, you own most of it. However, there are costs associated with doing this. The government has said it's looking at reducing these but no detail has been announced yet.

What's worth thinking about when deciding between the two schemes?

That old maxim 'nothing worth doing is easy' does apply to buying a home. But, if it's something you want to do and you can't afford to get a big deposit together, these schemes are meant to help and, at the very least, will get you out of private renting. However, it's always worth looking at the small print (interest on the Help to Buy loan and rent-plus-staircasing costs for Shared Ownership) and getting to know the details. Beyond that, both of these schemes generally apply to new-build blocks but, in the case of Shared Ownership, also some older properties.

Is there anything else I need to be careful about?

A lot of existing new homes in blocks have been caught up in the building safety scandal that has unfurled in the wake of the Grenfell Tower fire, so if you do go ahead and buy a new-build, be really diligent in researching the development you're buying in and ask questions about building materials. A good conveyancing solicitor is a must and will check all of these details for you too. When getting into homeownership, remember this: there is no such thing as a stupid question. ■




Vicky Spratt's book 'Tenants: Stories of Britain's Housing Shame' is out in 2022.



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London's wildest woodland neighbourhoods

Move to the countryside without actually moving to the countryside

Sydenham Hill Wood

What's it like? The discreetly pagan Sydenham Hill Wood is a doomy ancient woodland complete with a ruined Victorian folly – the perfect location for shooting your next heavy metal music video.

Best places to eat and drink?

Country-style pub The Wood House is the one for cosy pints and slap-up Sunday roasts.

Any downsides? Maybe it's just a bit *too* quiet?

How much would it cost to rent a place here?

According to Zoopla – which has provided all the rental prices for this article – you're looking at £1,187 pcm.

And to buy? Rightmove has supplied us with all the average property purchase prices, and for Sydenham it's £492,847.

Epping Forest

What's it like? 'Epic' Forest isn't just big, it's absolutely ginormous: 8,000 acres of majestic green space. It has extremely climbable trees and a pop-cultural past as the leafy location for the Black Knight scene in 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail'. Nerd paradise.

Best places to eat and drink?

Guzzle fresh shellfish at the legendary Oyster Shack & Seafood Bar, and drink transformative cider at The Woodbine Inn.

Any downsides? Well, it seems to be quite a popular place to dump dead bodies.

How much would it cost to rent a place here? £1,591 pcm.

And to buy? £608,393.

Highgate Wood

What's it like?

In the hinterland between East Finchley, Muswell Hill and Highgate, this petite woodland is perfect if you're not ready to go the full Ray Mears and would rather a casual dip into the land of mulchy rambles.



Highgate Wood

Best places to eat and drink?

The Grocery Post is a deli of dreams. Get pints at The Woodman.

Any downsides? This isn't quite the rural idyll – there are an awful lot of cars around.

How much would it cost to rent a place here?

£4,493 pcm.

And to buy?

£1,225,994.

Forty Hill

What's it like?

A pandemic episode of 'Antiques Roadshow' was filmed in the classy environs of Enfield's Forty Hill, a Jacobean manor house in

the middle of bucolic Forty Hill, which has gorgeous grounds that run the gamut from moody woods to lovely lakes, and feature a Victorian pet cemetery. Ideal.

Best places to eat and drink?

The quaint Forty Hall Farmers' Market and Farm Shop will make you think you've been teleported into an episode of 'The Archers'.

Any downsides? It's a bit like being stuck in the 1920s, and not in a fun way.

How much would it cost to rent a place here?

£1,749 pcm.

And to buy? £453,168.

One Tree Hill

What's it like? Nothing to do with the naff 2000s teen drama series and everything to do with the flirty foliage of Honor Oak, a niche nature reserve with one of the best views of the capital.

Best places to eat and drink?

The Blythe Hill Tavern is an old-school Irish boozier of repute.

Any downsides? If you don't like hills, you're screwed.

How much would it cost to rent a place here?

£1,630 pcm.

And to buy? £540,956. ■



By Leonie Cooper
Who wrote this listening to Green Lung's 'Woodland Rites'.

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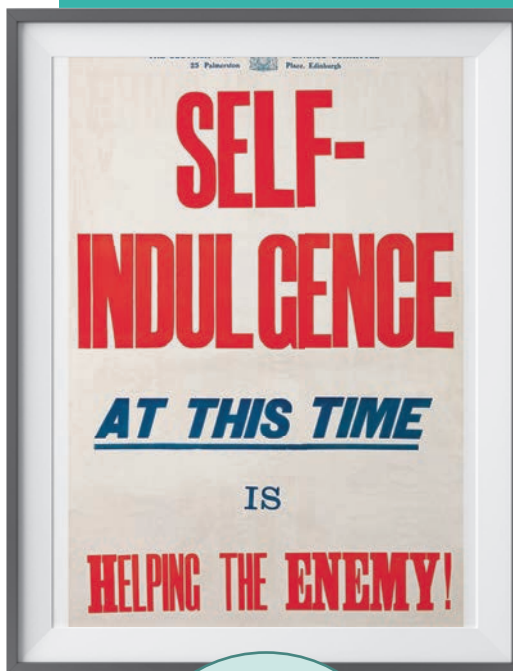
Bold museum prints for dull, dull walls

Make your flat look super-chic. Support your local cultural institution. Win-win

WHAT YOU PUT on your walls says a lot about you as a person. 'I really like to live, laugh, love', for example. So what better way to show how culturally in tune you are than by plastering your interiors with prints from our city's gatekeepers of taste?

London's museums, galleries and virtual archives sell prints for as little as a fiver. Browsing their collections is a great way to find something cool to spruce up your walls, while also supporting our city's institutions after a very tough couple of years. Plus, we guarantee you'll feel a little more connected to the wall art you pick than to that New York skyline Ikea number.

Here are some of our current favourites, from the Imperial War Museum's slogan graphics to the Vagina Museum's paint chart of period blood. ■ *Chiara Wilkinson*



Self Indulgence poster for the WWI Scottish War Savings Committee
Imperial War Museum
→ A3. £6.
shop.iwm.org.uk



Sportowe Runner Matchbox
Design Museum
→ 30cm x 40cm. £25.
www.designmuseumshop.com



'Mod Girls' by Rebecca Lewis
Museum of Youth Culture
→ A2. £20.
shop.museumofyouthculture.com

'Period Pantone' by Hazel Mead
Vagina Museum
→ A4. £24. www.vaginamuseumshop.co.uk



'Learning to Draw' by Andreas Papanastasiu
Royal Academy
→ 60cm x 80cm. £25. shop.royalacademy.org.uk

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Things to Do

Edited by Rosie Hewitson
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Gems by the Thames

E 'Sonic Ray'

Epic musical composition 'Longplayer' was programmed to last for a thousand years without any repetition in its sequence. Now it's been encoded into a beam of light and will be transmitted across the river from Trinity Buoy Wharf Lighthouse to Richard Wilson's nautical sculpture 'Slice of Reality' at Greenwich Peninsular. Visitors can hop on a ferry between both ends of this installation and listen to the music in Greenwich.

→ Trinity Buoy Wharf Lighthouse and Olympian Way. Sep 30-Nov 21. £7.50.

C 🎧 Black History Walk: Bridges Edition

Learn about the African and Caribbean history of the Thames on this evening walking tour along the South Bank. Black History Walks founder Tony Warner will lead the tour, sharing fascinating stories about ancient Africa, Black WWII heroes, British civil rights, apartheid, Black suffragettes and more.

→ Southbank Centre. Sep 25. £5.

S 🎧 Tide Changers: 'Lilith'

Recorded in the eerie, echoey Woolwich foot tunnel running underneath

the Thames, this audiovisual installation is inspired by the figure of Lilith, Adam's first wife before Eve in Judaic mythology, and made by

Jessie Russell Donn, a young artist supported by the festival's Tide Changers scheme.

→ SET Woolwich. Sep 25-30. Free.

Markets and more

C London Design Festival Makers' Market

A specially curated selection of British

makers will be peddling gorgeous handcrafted items at this pop-up market within The Royal Exchange's grand courtyard. Expect unique pieces from a wide range of creative disciplines, made using traditional craftsmanship techniques and classic materials like leather, ceramic and wood. Everything costs less than £250, so you're bound to find a few more affordable trinkets in the mix.

→ The Royal Exchange. Sep 20-24. Free entry.

E Walthamstow Flea Market

Find loads of snazzy hidden gems at this new pre-loved extravaganza brought to you by the folk behind Hackney Flea Market. More than 60 curated traders will be flogging vintage and sustainable furniture,



C Central **N** North **S** South **E** East **W** West **▶** Streaming **🎧** Outdoors



Hackney Moves Festival

furniture, clobber and curiosities, with a sound system blaring infectious grooves to fire up your rummaging.

→ Truman's Social Club. Sep 26. £1 entry.

E 🌱 Grow's Future Fair

Get stuck into sustainable craft workshops and dance to live music and DJs at this monthly eco market in the plant-filled Main Yard at Grow Hackney. The event aims to encourage conscious consumerism, so you'll find handmade prints, bespoke and organic clothing, eco lifestyle products, plants and microgreens on sale from local stallholders. And an outdoor bar will be serving up vegan and free-range bevs and snacks from Grow's ethically sourced signature menu. Oat milk white Russian, anyone?

→ Grow Hackney. Oct 2. Free entry.

Film fests

C 🌈 Queer East Film Festival

The second edition of the Queer East Film Festival arrives in kinos across London with a diverse programme of 37 works from 15 different countries across East and Southeast Asia. The Prince Charles, Genesis, Horse Hospital and various branches of Curzon will be hosting screenings. And there'll also be online panel discussions around lofty topics like women in film, LGBTQ+ rights and cultural activism.

→ Various venues. Sep 15-26. From £6.50.

E 🇹🇺 Alyssa: Tunisian Film Festival

Taking its name from the legendary Queen Alyssa (aka Dido) who founded Carthage in what is now modern-day Tunisia, London's first-ever festival of Tunisian cinema features four UK premieres. These include Hafsia Herzi's 'Bonne Mere', which copped the Un Certain Regard Ensemble Prize at Cannes this year. Also look out for the acclaimed and uber-intense family drama 'A Son'.

→ Rich Mix. Sep 25-26. From £15.

W 🇪🇸 London Spanish Film Festival

You'll find everything from family-friendly animated movies to historical dramas in this diverse programme of 13 Spanish films. As usual this includes Catalanian and Basque collections, showcasing the strength of Spain's regional film industries. The entire selection will be screened in the 225-seater screen at the Institut Français. We're not sure if that means you should take tapas or crudités to snack on.

→ Ciné Lumière. Sep 23-29. From £10.

Bloom days

W 🌻 RHS Chelsea Flower Show

For the first time in its 108-year history (and no prizes for guessing why) west London's famous floral festival is taking place in the autumn instead of in spring. Expect gorgeous gourds galore, alongside the usual blooms, with rich autumnal hues replacing the usual pastel palette of springtime. Don't miss the Cop26-themed garden, created in anticipation of the all-important climate summit later in the season.

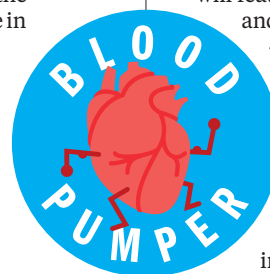
→ Royal Hospital Chelsea. Sep 21-26. £83.75.

C 🌸 Belgravia in Bloom

Back with a 'floral fairground' theme for its sixth year, Belgravia's fragrant, colourful spectacle features various blossoming creations including a helter-skelter, a carousel, a hook-a-duck stall, fairground ponies and even a flowery Punch and Judy show. Wander around the neighbourhood to take in the exhibits, as well as colourful shopfront displays. We wouldn't advise trying to actually ride the carousel, but it's bloomin' beautiful all the same.

→ Various Belgravia locations.

Sep 20-26. Free.



with a three-day programme of activities to help you work up a sweat. Cheer on the runners taking part in the Hackney Half, get your heart pumping in a free-to-enter 5k race soundtracked by carnival music, and soak up the atmosphere and refuel at the Market on the Marshes, which will feature local food stalls and live entertainment.

→ Hackney Marshes. Sep 24-26. Free entry.

E 🏃 The London Marathon Running Show

Did that lockdown Couch to 5k turn you into a Strava fanatic?

Indulge in your smug new hobby at this huge expo leading up to the world's biggest marathon on October 3. With stalls from hundreds of health and fitness exhibitors, it's the perfect place to stock up on running gear. Plus, champion runners, celeb guests and inspiring coaches will be there to offer advice and encouragement to help you achieve your new PB.

→ ExCeL London. Sep 29-Oct 2. Free entry.

Fitness sessions

E 🏃 Hackney Moves Festival

The UK's largest outdoor fitness festival returns to Hackney

ONE UNMISSABLE THING

Underground Uncovered

Hear mini lectures on TfL poster history and station architecture, have a nosy around vintage vehicles and pick up original tube signs and moquette seat fabric from a pop-up shop at this access-all-areas festival.

→ London Transport Museum Acton Depot. Sep 23-26. £15.



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Arty parties

📍 Tate Late: Sophie Taeuber-Arp

Tate's after-hours series is back with a Late centred around Sophie Taeuber-Arp, a boundary-pushing member of the satirical and anti-war Dada movement. Guests can catch the retrospective on the artist, get their pic taken in a Taeuber-Arp-themed photo booth and join Dada life drawing and poetry workshops. There'll also be DJs from Global Roots and a performance from Gerrard Martin Dance.

→ Tate Modern. Sep 24. Free but booking required.

📍 Soane Lates: Spotlight on Soane

Highlights from the vast, eclectic collections of neoclassical architect Sir John Soane will be spotlighted in more ways than one during this after-dark opening of his former home. Neck a free glass of wine in the South Drawing Room before going for a wander round the property, where you'll come across expert guides giving 'spotlight talks' on their favourite artefacts and artworks. Illuminating!

→ Sir John Soane's Museum. Sep 24. £25.

Outdoor art

📍 😊 Frieze Sculpture

Power structures, displacement and the environment are some of the big issues explored in the suitably huge sculptures at this open-air exhibition in Regent's Park's English Gardens. Curated by Yorkshire Sculpture Park programmer Claire Lilley, it features modern-art giants including Anthony Caro and Isamu Noguchi alongside newer artists like Annie Morris, Vanessa da Silva and Rasheed Araeen.

→ Regent's Park. Until Oct 31. Free.

📍 😊 Sculpture in the City

Once every autumn, this free open-air exhibition gives us a reason to visit the capitalist jungle of the Square Mile. This year's highlight has to be Ruth Ewan's 'Silent Agitator', a giant clock carrying the slogan 'Time to Organize!'. Inspired by an illustration by American writer and labour activist Ralph Chaplin, it stands in stark contrast to the surrounding banks.

→ Various locations. Until spring 2022. Free.



'Mixing It Up: Painting Today'



WHAT CAN THERE possibly be left to say with a paintbrush and canvas after Leonardo and Manet and Rothko and Pollock?

Turns out, the answer is: 'a shitload'. This survey of contemporary painting – almost all from UK-based artists – is a dense, confident statement of its staying power.

Right from the start you're hit with the one-two punch of Lubaina Himid and Lisa Brice, one using flat, bright, simple colours to confront viewers with ideas of race and social responsibility, the other creating smoky, sensual worlds of

female bodies. Damn. Big colours, big canvases, big ideas.

Then you've got Jonathan Wateridge's half-fuzzed out, portraits, Denzil Forrester's swirling club hedonism and Caroline Coon's Rousseau-high-on-second-wave-feminism, all shown around some shimmeringly Peter Doig paintings. Unreal stuff.

But it's the younger artists here that make it really exciting. Issy Wood's mushy, aloof images of clocks and clothes feel like emotional dissociation made flesh; Lydia Blakeley's paintings of animals and memes strobe

between silly and serious; Gareth Cadwallader's tiny paintings are visual maelstroms of unbelievable precision; Somaya Critchlow's brazen '70s erotica are like the sauciest carboot finds ever; and that's before Oscar Murillo's huge abstracts or Rachel Jones's enormous paintings of teeth.

You're not meant think it's all brilliant; you're meant to feel reassured that painting is alive. And when you leave 'Mixing It Up', you'll know for absolute certain that painting's as essential as it's ever been. ■ Eddy Frankel
→ Hayward Gallery. Until Dec 12. £12.

Richard Estes: 'Voyages'



PHOTOREALIST PAINTING is a bit like parkour or putting your whole fist in your mouth: just because you can doesn't mean you should. Because at its worst, the ability to paint photorealistically is the ultimate expression of skill over taste.

So why are so many of American artist Richard Estes's hyper-precise paintings so good?

The main reason is that the photorealism here isn't the end goal, it's a tool. Estes parses cities, he stares and analyses and dissects them. By putting what he sees down on canvas, he finds ways to understand it.

NYC is the star of the show.



Estes depicts its infinite refractions: a bus reflected in a restaurant window, taxis reflected in the glass of a building, itself reflected on the taxi bonnets.

Even when he isn't painting the urban as a cracked mirror, Estes still captures the art of looking. A painting of Central Park is full of tourists with cameras. Looking,

thinking; that's what happens here.

Less good are his landscapes. Without a city's reflectivity (or people), you're left with mountains and lakes. But when he's got the city in his sights, Estes glories in the things most of us just pass by, and shows us how much we're missing. ■ Eddy Frankel

→ Newport Street Gallery. Until Dec 12. Free.

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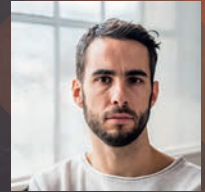
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Advertisement Feature

Your mission this weekend...

Track down a new neon art installation!

Something major is happening at Leake Street Arches this Friday and Saturday. In the moody cavern beneath Waterloo station, celebrated London street artist Dan Kitchener will transform the space into a vivid tribute to the Japanese city of Yokohama.

Why, you ask? It's in celebration of 'Lost Judgment' – the new action noir game by the award-winning RGG Studio, makers of the multi-million-

selling 'Yazuka' franchise, coming this Friday. If you love immersive, complex detective games, then you need to check this out.

Why not come down to Leake Street Arches on Friday or Saturday to snap yourself next to this one-of-a-kind installation?

'Lost Judgment' (released by SEGA on September 24) is available now for pre-order on PS5, PS4, Xbox S|X and Xbox One.



→ Visit Leake Street Arches this Friday and Saturday

Drag shows

S 🤩 Drag Up at the O2

London's eclectic drag scene throws up plenty of unique performances, but we guarantee you've never caught one at the summit of a climbing expedition. 'Not Another Drag Competition' winner Herr stars in a memorable performance on the roof of the O2 against the backdrop of the city's skyline at dusk. Absolute scenes!

→ The O2. Sep 23. £40.

S 🤩 The Ro-Laska-Tox Reunion Tour

As 'Ro-Laska-Tox', Alaska Thunderfuck, Roxxy Andrews and Detox are probably the most iconic trio of sisters to come out of 'Drag Race'. Known for conquering the girlband challenge with their flawless rework of RuPaul's 'Read U Wrote U' alongside Katya, the threesome reunite for a riotous night at Clapham's campsite venue. This is even bigger than the Spice Girls reunion.

→ The Clapham Grand. Sep 25. £28.50.



Defected London

party Adonis will be there, as will emerging Rinse FM producer object blue and trUst label head Saoirse.

→ Gunnersbury Park. Sep 25. From £50.10.

N 🤩 Defected London

Fresh from conquering the virtual realm with streamed lockdown sets from the biggest names in dance music, seminal house label Defected hosts a massive IRL bash to celebrate its twentieth. The line-up features sets from

Basement Jaxx, Honey Dijon, Horse Meat Disco and Luke Solomon alongside disco house outfit Glitterbox and new Afro-house imprint Sondela.
→ The Drumsheds. Sep 25-26. From £64.90.

alongside an exclusive collab with Camden Town Brewery, soak up all the alcohol with grub from Wursthau, and then have a big boogie to tunes from German Jukebox. Prost! (that means cheers).
→ Pergola Paddington. Until Oct 31. From £10.

S 🤩 Oktoberfest South London

Snack on delicious schnitzel and wursts galore as dirndl- and lederhosen-clad waiters keep your stein filled to the brim with Spaten, Löwenbräu and Becks.

Late summer festivals



W 🤩 Waterworks

A bold new festival from the gang behind clubnight Percolate and Love International Festival, Waterworks takes place shrouded by woodland in a remote area of Gunnersbury Park. Catch dance music heavyweights like Ben UFO, Leon Vynehall and Moxie alongside favourites from London's electronic scene. Raucous queer

Oktoberfest

W 🤩 Wunderbar

Don your lederhosen and head to Paddington for a horn-blaring, stein-sloshing Bavarian knees-up. Sample gallons of German beer

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A FACE COVERING IS REQUIRED



Hoping to catch Hollywood royalty in the flesh? Set your calendar reminders now

Hot-ticket theatre

N 'The Tragedy of Macbeth'

Saoirse Ronan is the latest Oscar contender to take on the role of Macbeth's missus in her UK stage debut. The mighty Yaël Farber directs a near-future production, with Olivier nominee James McArdle in the title role. In anticipation of huge demand for tickets, the Almeida is rolling out a three-part release schedule, with the next drops at noon on

September 22 and 23. Put those dates in your goddamn diary asap.
→ The Almeida. Oct 1-Nov 20. From £10.

C 'The Glass Menagerie'

In another definitely-gonna-sell-out run, Jeremy Herrin's new production company Second Half brings Tennessee Williams's 1944

masterpiece to the stage, with Amy Adams making her West End debut as overbearing Southern matriarch Amanda Wingfield. The six-time nominee has never won an Oscar, but we wouldn't bet against her picking up an Olivier.

→ Duke of York's Theatre. May 23-Aug 27 2022. From £20.



Get your skates on

C 😊 Natural History Museum Ice Rink

Winter 2021 will be the last time South Ken is graced with this atmospheric ice rink before the area gets turned into an urban wildlife garden. Replete with a giant twinkling Christmas tree, it'll be a sorely missed part of London's festive calendar, so book early to pack in as many skates as possible.

→ Natural History Museum. Oct 22-Jan 16 2022. From £12.65.

C 😊 Skate Lates at Somerset House

Spend an evening gliding around William Chambers's magnificent neoclassical courtyard accompanied by tunes from Soho Radio, Foundation FM and Dalston Superstore. Then fill up on après-skate drinks and snacks from Hotel Chocolat's Chocmobile, Moët & Chandon's Skate Lounge and a pop-up Alpine chalet. Festive AF.

→ Somerset House. Nov 18-Jan 14 2022. £17.50.

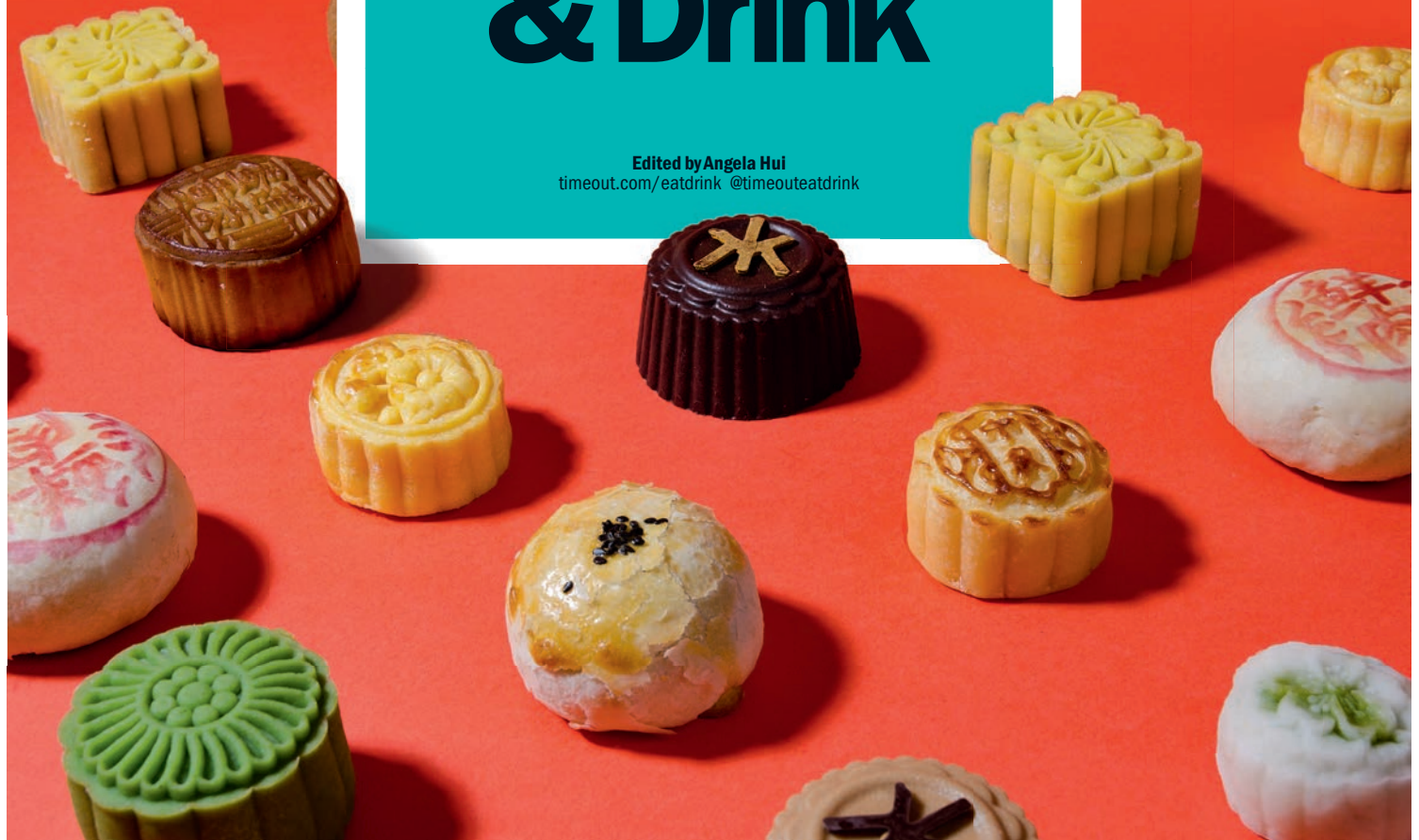
PEACE OUT

Join us today for International Day of Peace
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Peace One Day
Lipton

Food & Drink

Edited by Angela Hui
timeout.com/eatdrink @timeouteatdrink



MOONCAKE SEASON IS here! These elaborately decorated hockey-puck-shaped pastries are symbolic of the moon at its fullest and brightest. They're traditionally eaten during the Mid-Autumn Festival, which falls on September 21 this year; this ancient, important holiday in the Chinese calendar celebrates the moon, which is a symbol of unity and harmony. Over the years, it's grown in popularity and is now celebrated in many East and Southeast Asian communities. Every region has a unique approach when it comes to making the mooncake and its fillings. In southern China there's a preference for green tea, egg yolks and thick, sweetened pastes of fruits, meat, seeds and beans; bakers in the north stuff theirs with all peanuts, walnuts and sesame. Fancy trying some? Grab one of these special-edition boxes of the luminous autumn pastries from London's Asian food dons before they sell out like hot cakes. It's a drop so exclusive that even the latest Yeezys will be quaking.

Let them eat mooncake

Celebrate China's auspicious Mid-Autumn Festival with a traditional delicacy you can find right here in London. Photography *Ben Rowe*

The meaty one

What is it? Lillian Luk, aka **Shanghai Supper Club**, does mooncakes a little differently. The uniqueness of these savoury bakes lies in the crust. Her handmade, layered, flaky and crumbly pastry uses top-quality French butter instead of the traditional lard, and encases a juicy pork-meat filling (there's a sweet red bean paste



Yauatcha

flavour for veggies). Adorning the top of each is an inky red Chinese character that means 'fresh meat'. Just so there's no potential confusion.

How to order

Collection only. Email them or DM on Instagram at least 24 hours in advance.
→ 13 Montagu Place, W1H 2ET. Until Sep 26.
From £28 for six.

The arty one

What is it? **Noodle & Beer** is giving the Tate a run for its money with mooncakes that look like works of art. Its traditional baked kind has a variety of fillings, such as lotus-seed paste with egg yolk, char siu pork and dry-cured jamón from Yunnan province. If you eat in, you can also try snowskin mooncakes: non-baked translucent versions that have a similar texture to mochi. Each cake is individually presented in a stunning box, which should be proudly displayed like the artistic masterpiece it is.

How to order Eat-in, collection and nationwide delivery from noodleandbeer.slerp.com.

→ 31 Bell Lane, E1 7LA. Until Sep 23.
From £36.80 for six.

The luxe one

What is it? **Min's Mooncake** has collabed with private caterer Elyse Li. They've gone down the snowskin route, but taken it to the next level. Their handmade mooncakes sport a mesmerising relief pattern on the top, and their texture is so ethereally

Food & Drink

light that the casing melts away in the mouth, releasing the deep flavour of the pandan custard or tangerine-peel-and-red-bean filling.

How to order Collection and delivery. DM on Instagram or WhatsApp 07429 204157.

→ Various locations. £45 for six. Until Sep 21.

The molten one

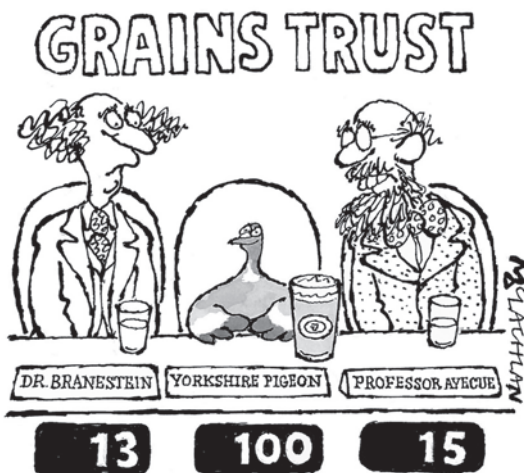
What is it? Barnet's hidden-gem Canto-Malay restaurant **Chu Chin Chow** is currently producing a limited-edition run of distinctly engaging homemade mini-lava mooncakes. Bite into them to reveal an oozing golden salted egg-yolk-custard centre that's creamy, luxurious and guaranteed to make your eyes roll back in ecstasy. Thanks to their mini size, you can totally justify to yourself eating them all in one sitting on your own.

How to order Collection and delivery in local areas only. DM on Instagram at least two days in advance.

→ 7 Cat Hill, EN4 8HG. £18.80 for four. Until Sep 30.



Noodle & Beer



What does a pigeon from Yorkshire know about good beer?

Allan Hey, our head brewer from 1966 to 1995, used to count out exactly 100 grains of barley malt on top of a cask left out in the brewery yard, to see how many of the grains the pigeons would leave uneaten. It was his proven way to see how good the batch was. Over twenty-five years on, the way we brew our beer hasn't changed. We still use the finest Golden Promise barley. It's a costly ingredient and difficult to grow, but we think it's worth it. The proof is in that first sip.

All for that taste of Taylor's



The flaky one

What is it? **Mama Chen's Kitchen's** laminated Taiwanese mooncake dough is stuffed with powdered sugar and salted duck-egg yolk, which makes for an airy, delicate, croissant-like texture. Choose from a mung-bean-and-braised-meat filling covered in a white flaky skin and stamped with a red seal, or a glossy bake with red bean paste, black sesame and a salted egg yolk. Vegan options are also available.

How to order There's nationwide delivery from www.mamachen.uk or DM on Instagram.

→ Various locations. £13 for four. Until mid Oct.

The contemporary one

What is it? Trust the high-end Cantonese restaurant **Hakkasan** to do a modern take on the sweet treat. A stylish black box that celebrates the London icon's twentieth anniversary contains two slick, sleek and sexy chocolate medallions: a sweet and rich black-sesame-and-chocolate creation, and a madeleine cake with bright

and zesty yuzu ganache, white chocolate feuilletine and berry marmalade wrapped in a dulce de leche chocolate shell.

How to order Collection and nationwide delivery from hakkasan.slerp.com.

→ Various locations. From £20 for two. Until Oct 1.

The vegan one

What is it? Known for its high-end patisserie, **Yauatcha** isn't holding back on showcasing its lunar creativity. Its elegant vegan snowskin mooncake is delicately flavoured with sweet floral pandan and the custard

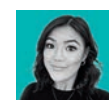
filling opens up to a symbolic golden centre. Each one nestled inside a charming moon-decorated box.

How to order Collection and nationwide delivery from yauatcha.slerp.com.

→ Various locations. £5 each, £36 for eight. Until Sep 30.



Min's Mooncake



By **Angela Hui**
Who uses the mooncake emoji far too much.

SessionsArts Club



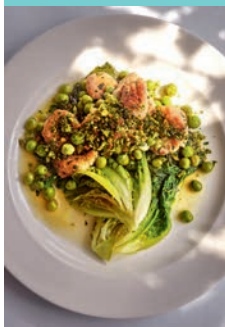
WHAT IS IT...

A fourth-floor former courthouse with one of London's best dining rooms.

WHY GO...

To pretend you're on holiday in glamorous surroundings.

→ Old Sessions House, 24 Clerkenwell Green, EC1R 0NA.



A TRIP TO this grand dining room – a Grade II-listed former courthouse – is probably the closest thing you're going to get to an Italian getaway right now. It has the look and feel of a distressed, pastel-hued Tuscan villa, complete with faded plaster walls, beautifully restored double-storey columns and detailed arched windows. The venue might look OTT, but ex-Polpetto chef Florence Knight's menu isn't.

The lone crab croquette ball is a deep-fried crunchy orb of pure zingy, salty flavour of the sea, and the panisse, aka chickpea flour chips from Provence dusted with a light sprinkling of lemon thyme and sea salt, are begging to be dunked. Be sure to set some aside to mop up the leftover fig leaf and sorrel sauce from the buttery, soft sea bream.

A fun guessing game comes next. Try to figure out what is squid and what are tomato calamarata (pasta loops) when presented with a clever bowl of saucy thick rings of both.

My favourite thing on the menu? Probably the fried potato with surprise eel wedged between every layer. It's a skilful, pretty dish with that crunchy-sweet-salty balance, topped with a dollop of crème fraîche, edible flowers and roe. And to finish? A lemon sorbet stuffed into a sweet melon slice – a dream dessert to savour during the last remnants of summer. Go now. ■ *Angela Hui*

Kudu Grill



WHAT IS IT...

A new South African spot from Peckham's Kudu Collective.

WHY GO...

For the pork chop with lip-smacking monkey gland sauce.

→ 57 Nunhead Lane, SE15 3TR.



BRAAI, A SOUTH African way of grilling that uses only wood and charcoal, is the speciality here. Highlights from the menu included the fresh, fat and juicy Irish oysters with an umami-packed tomato dashi and trout roe; a juicy yet crisp pork chop with monkey gland sauce – a thirteen-ingredient tangy, smoky barbecue-like concoction that Kudu Grill needs to bottle and sell immediately; and beef-fat crispy fingerlings that resembled salty, fatty shards of amber glass with fluffy, creamy potato at their centre. Bliss.

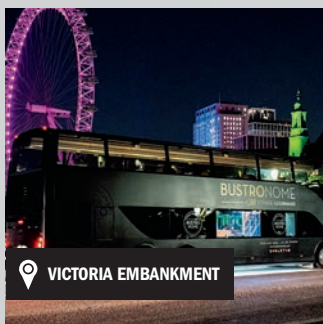
Unfortunately, it wasn't all good. The grilled prawns with peri-peri butter needed more heat, and the acacia-honey-glazed poussin was a bit underwhelming and went too heavy on the fennel, but the wood-fire char comes through beautifully, adding a subtle smokiness. I think with time, as the kitchen gets more into its groove, this place could really knock it out of the park.

I got too excited with starters and mains, leaving no room for dessert, but I've got my eye on the melkert (a milky Afrikaner tart) choux bun with jasmine ice cream for next time.

Service was warm and attentive without being too over-the-top. And the interiors could be straight out of 1970s detective movie: forest-green tiled walls, venetian blinds, ceiling fans and exposed brick. Who doesn't love a good whodunnit? ■ *Angela Hui*

Sponsored listing

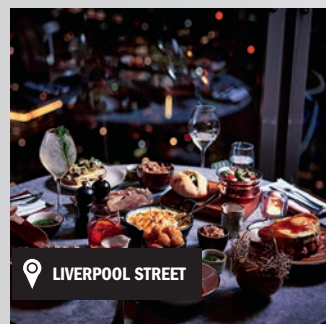
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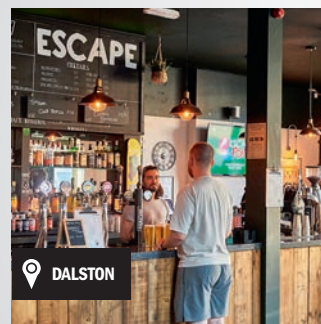
'You will board a high-end double-decker bus, with a unique panoramic dining room as its main feature, and discover beautiful food and wine on a journey that takes in some of London's most beautiful monuments.'
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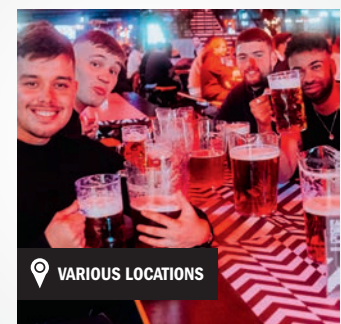
'It's the news you've been waiting for, London: 24/7 dining is back! From late-night snacks to midnight feasts, nightcap cocktails to sunrise breakfasts, whatever the hour, we're open! Book your table now via www.duckandwaffle.com.'
110 Bishopsgate, EC2N 4AY.



DALSTON

ESCAPE DALSTON SAYS:

'Love music? Love comedy? Love craft beer and cocktails? You're covered here at Escape Dalston. Weekly rotating beer taps, delicious cocktails, live entertainment and a warm atmosphere are our bread and butter... we don't sell that though.'
97 Stoke Newington Rd, N16 8BX.



VARIOUS LOCATIONS

BOXPARK SAYS:

'Celebrate Oktoberfest at BXPARK with Bavarian-inspired food, beer and fun, sponsored by Staropramen. Expect games, bands and "Barry from 'EastEnders'" hosting Barryoke! Tickets start at £25 for two and include a jug of beer. www.boxpark.co.uk/oktoberfest. Various locations.'

Theatre & Dance

Edited by Andrzej Łukowski
timeout.com/theatre @timeouttheatre

SHOW OF THE WEEK

Ice to see you, to see you ice

‘Frozen’



ALAS, POOR MARSHMALLOW! The huge snow monster that ice mage heroine Elsa conjures to guard her palace is the highest-profile casualty of ‘Frozen’s journey from screen to stage. Director Michael Grandage tones down the fantasy, steering the stage musical to something closer in tone to ‘The Snow Queen’, the Hans Christian Andersen tale it’s based upon.

It’s still a dazzling spectacle that the film’s kiddie fans will love. But adults will note that it’s more serious, sadder and wiser than the original. Some New York critics complained that it was too dour when it opened there in

2018. But I liked Grandage’s more melancholy spin, written by the film’s screenwriter Jennifer Lee and songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez. To be clear, the talking snowman and the goofy reindeer are still present, but it does land a bit differently.

WHAT IS IT...

Disney’s delayed stage version of its 2013 smash.

WHY GO...

For a darker, deeper and more spectacular take on the story.

→ Theatre Royal Drury Lane. Until Jun 26 2022. £20-£150.

In particular, it feels like less of an ensemble piece and more focused on the relationship between Samantha Barks’s troubled, sensitive Elsa and her goofball sister Anna (Stephanie McKeon). There’s more about their lives in the royal palace where they grew up, first as best friends, and then kept separate by their over-protective parents after Elsa’s

magical powers almost kill a six-year-old Anna. The pivotal scene in which Elsa raises her ice palace takes place much later than it does in the film: it’s a far more character-driven start.

And the simple act of casting actual humans changes it a lot: Barks may be toggled up like a fairytale princess, but she doesn’t have the cartoon Elsa’s bug-eyed cuteness, and she tackles the character’s pain, rage and loneliness as if it’s real. The whole thing has a much more adult sense of emotional trajectory.

But even without Marshmallow, it looks great. Set and costume designer Christopher Oram and video designer Finn Ross have conjured up a seductive semi-digital vision of a fairytale Scandinavia, a mix of picturesque medieval buildings and arctic wildness, illuminated by the ever-present

eldritch throb of the aurora borealis. But it’s the set-pieces that really make it: Elsa’s transformation from disaffected royal to ice queen belting out ‘Let It Go’ is a truly seismic spectacle, an awesome confluence of illusion, stage magic and the gale-force balladry tearing out of Barks’s lungs. My six-year-old, who largely sat impassively throughout (a sign of enjoyment in a six-year-old, fyi) was blown away, bombarding me with questions about how Elsa’s clothes had appeared to instantly change (‘Er... stage magic?’).

It’s a perfect moment, when a scene plays out more or less identically to the film in terms of the details, but feels vastly more powerful. Not every holdover from the film works quite so well. The insistence on retaining the chipper American accents for a story set in Europe performed by a British cast



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'You're not carrying everything. I've got the lute'

felt grating (to me, anyway). A puppet version of dopey animated snowman Olaf is brought to life with great charm by performer Craig Galloway, and even elicits a walk-on cheer from the tots in the audience. His set-piece song 'In Summer' is still a hoot. But the character is slightly crowded out by the beefed-up Anna-and-Elsa plot and he feels more peripheral than in the film. Scenes in which Anna and her companions visit a kooky trading post and then the Hidden Folk (trolls in the film) are given lavish and amusing old-school song-and-dance treatments. But they do feel pretty tangential, like dawdling homages to sections that work better on screen.

All that accepted, the film is mainly damn good, and most of it translates to stage just fine. The songs are great, for starters. As is its crafty subversion of fairytale romances, notably Anna's love triangle with

Oliver Ormson's chivalrous (or is he?) minor noble Hans and Obioma Ugoala's lovable lunkice merchant Kristoff (pictured above). It retains an exceptionally satisfying conclusion.

This isn't 'Frozen' for adults, a dark new 'Frozen' or a radical reinvention by spectacle like 'The Lion King' musical. But it's a thoughtful, attractive and human spin that balances Drury Lane-scale grandeur with recognising what audiences want from 'Frozen', and subtly bringing it a little closer to 'The Snow Queen'. If the film is a pre-school classic, the musical is maybe a couple of years more grown-up. But its most magical moments will wow every age group. ■



By **Andrzej Lukowski**
 Who does not want to build a snowman, but you go for it.



Back to the Future



THIS MUSICAL VERSION of 'Back to the Future' is so desperate to please that the producers would doubtless offer a free trip back in time with every ticket if the laws of physics allowed. It is extra as hell, every scene drenched in song, dance, wild fantasy asides, fourth-wall-breaking irony and other assorted shtick.

You might say that, yes, that's just what musicals are like. But John Rando's production of a script by the film's co-creator Bob Gale is so constantly, clangingly OTT that it begins to feel a bit like 'Back to the Future' karaoke: it hits every note, but it does so at a preposterous velocity that often drowns out the actual storytelling.

As per the film, it follows irrepressible '80s teenager Marty McFly, whose mad scientist pal Emmett 'Doc' Brown sends him back to 1955 in his time-travelling DeLorean car, where he becomes trapped in a love triangle with his future mum and dad (!).

Olly Dobson is agreeably energetic in the lead. Roger Bart's bearish, whimsical Doc has a vibe closer to the amiable Dan Aykroyd than the intense Christopher Lloyd. Together they have a sort of knockabout Hope-Crosby double-act-style thing going on. They're funny, but the knowing meta japey feels off-piste.

And the essential trouble with making everything OTT is that it threatens to overwhelm the bits that should stand out. No question, the DeLorean is magnificently done. But maybe it would seem even more special if it wasn't competing against, say, a song in which Doc flies around in a big spaceship.

It's entertaining. Just a bit much. Where this musical is going, you don't need roads. But you might need a lie down afterwards. ■ *Andrzej Lukowski*

WHAT IS IT...
 Great Scott! It's another massive screen-to-stage musical adaptation.

WHY GO...
 If you want the film... but BIGGER.

→ Adelphi Theatre.
 Until Feb 13 2022.
 £19.55- £224.50.



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Edited by Phil de Semlyen
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LONDON
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Meet your new favourite filmmaker

Director of the moment Julia Ducournau on 'Titane', broken noses and that Palme d'Or win

USING THE SINK in her Parisian flat, Julia Ducournau is explaining why the soon-to-be-viral self-inflicted nose-breaking scene in her new film 'Titane' had this writer yelping. 'It's this sound,' she says, tapping on the ceramic. 'You're anticipating the moment and you're thinking: Hell no! But no noses were broken making this film.' Anticipation is definitely the word with the moviemaker of the moment: a Palme d'Or winner whose latest hits the heart and the nervous system like a hurricane.

Famously, someone fainted during a screening of your debut 'Raw'. What's the most extreme reaction you've had to 'Titane' so far?

'I'm not on social media so I don't know. There was a girl who came for a hug and cried on my shoulder. I understand how you can react to some work of art that makes you question your vision of yourself – it

can be overwhelming – so I tried to be as soothing as possible. But isn't the fainting old news, a bit?'

'Titane' is a story of gender fluidity and acceptance. How personal is it to you?

'Obviously, it's not an autobiography [laughs] but I am everywhere in my films. I don't think gender defines you as a human and I wanted to imagine a world in which the spectrum of what it is to be human is way broader.'

It's been compared to Cronenberg's 'Crash'. Is there a lesser-known film that inspired you?

'I love "Una Giornata Particolare" ("A Special Day") with Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni.

He's gay and she's straight but they love each other for who they are. It's a beautiful film.'

Your Palme d'Or win was accidentally announced at the start of the Cannes ceremony. What was that like for you?

'A wild ride! There were mistakes but in the end it was really relatable. It took off a bit of the glamour, but I don't care about the glamour. Even when they called my name, I still thought it was a mistake.'

Are you a downstairs-bathroom kinda award winner?

'No man, I've been home so little that I thought that if I get burgled I didn't want them to find it, so I hid it in a remote place in my apartment.'

That is so paranoid.

'Yes, I know [laughs]. I am paranoid.'

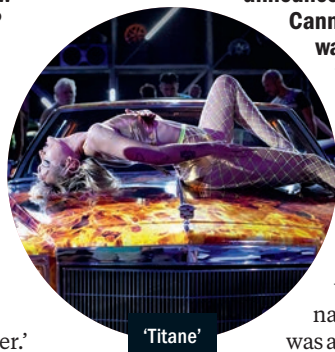
You're coming to London for the film festival. Are you fond of the city?

'I love London. It's where I go with my girlfriends for my birthday. We spend three days, walking around, seeing food markets, going to clubs. We went to Bethnal Green Working Men's Club and it was *unleashed*.'

And when you brought 'Raw' to the festival you won an award.

'That was a very high note for me. And that was the most focused screening room I'd ever seen! I actually thought people were either asleep or dead.' ■

→ 'Titane' is the Time Out gala at the London Film Festival on Oct 9. Out in cinemas Dec 31.



'Titane'

JULIA DUCOURNAU: AUBRE MARCHEL/ABACA PRESS/ALAMY; TITANE: CAROLIE BERTHUEL



By Phil de Semlyen
Who watched the nose scene through his fingers.

FESTIVAL PREVIEW

11 must-see LFF movies

From 'The Power of the Dog' to 'Titane': killer cuts to catch at October's UK-wide film fest



THE BFI LONDON Film Festival is back with a bang next month. Multiple bangs, if you take its trigger-happy opening western, 'The Harder They Fall', and a few explosive high points (bonjour, 'Titane') into account. Like last year's lockdown-hit fest, there's a strong virtual and online element too, but the 159-film programme will be screening in cinemas – not just in London but across the UK. Because 159 is a lot of movies, we've picked 11 especially hot premieres to bring your attention to. Tickets are on sale now. We'll see you there.

1 The Harder They Fall

The opening-night gala usually has a strong London flavour and this year is no exception. Multi-hyphenate local boy **Jeymes Samuel** (see right), aka singer-songwriter **The Bullitts**, has swapped the mic for a loudhailer to direct a Black western with a cast best described as stupidly awesome. Strapping on the six-shooters are **Idris Elba**, **Lakeith Stanfield**, **Regina King** and 'Da 5 Bloods' duo **Jonathan Majors** and **Delroy Lindo**.



'Flee'

3 The Tragedy of Macbeth

The Royal Festival Hall is a dagger's throw from William Shakespeare's Globe – okay, it's an aerodynamic dagger – so a closing-night screening of a film inspired by the bard's great Scottish tragedy feels like a homecoming. Joel Coen's black-and-white adaptation promises much – not least **Denzel Washington** and **Frances McDormand** as the ill-starred schemers at its heart.

4 Spencer

If 'The Crown' is too polite for your tastes and doesn't feature enough cameos from Anne Boleyn or icy exchanges over Christmas turkey, **Kristen Stewart** and Chilean director **Pablo Larraín's** ('*Emma*') racy new Princess Diana drama is where to head. A super-stylised blend of real-life recreation and flighty fantasy, it's all set over a few days at Sandringham.

5 The French Dispatch

You know what to expect from a **Wes Anderson** joint: effortless wit, fizzy storytelling and **Bill Murray** being great. And if Anderson's stuff is your bag, this one is a serious treat: a medley of interconnecting stories set in a bygone France and revolving around a *New Yorker*-style periodical that's edited by the Murrricane. **Magnifique!**

2 Titane

Time Out's gala on Saturday October 9, **Julia Ducournau's** ('*Raw*') odyssey through gender fluidity, extreme violence and car-fucking is the movie equivalent of one of those punchy fist emojis. If you're in the mood for something that will pin you back in your seat, say hello to your new favourite film.

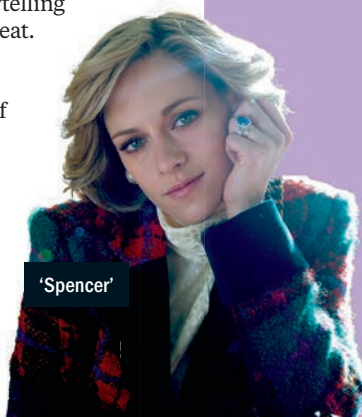
'Titane' is the movie equivalent of a punchy fist emoji

6 The Power of the Dog

Benedict Cumberbatch plays the heartless bastard at the centre of **Jane Campion's** tale of two brothers falling out over a woman. Set in early twentieth-century Montana, it has **Kirsten Dunst** and **Jesse Plemons** completing the thorny triangle. It's Campion's first film since 'Bright Star' and the Oscar buzz is already loud.

7 Last Night in Soho

Possibly the London-iest film on the programme, **Edgar Wright's** spooky time-travelling thriller will take audiences back to Soho in a time long before Nando's got there. And if that isn't horrifying enough, **Thomasin McKenzie's** student is haunted by old demons.



'Spencer'



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'The Power of the Dog'

8 Ron's Gone Wrong
One for the wee 'uns – because you can't take them to see 'Titane' (seriously, do not take them to see 'Titane') – this family-friendly flick is the first to emerge from new London animation house Locksmith Animation. Look out for cheap tickets for kids.

9 The Lost Daughter
Maggie Gyllenhaal's directorial debut stars Olivia Colman, Jessie Buckley and that be-necklaced love god from 'Normal People', Paul Mescal. Adapted by Gyllenhaal herself from an Elena Ferrante novel, it's the story of motherhood and past trauma echoing through time. It will be a red-hot ticket at the festival.

10 Flee
Told from an LGBTQ+ perspective, this animation relates the story of an Afghan refugee trying to make it to Denmark and freedom. It comes laden with heart-rending topicality.

11 Paris, 13th District
If visiting Paris is all a bit complicated at the moment, this black-and-white story of modern love in the City of Light is *ici pour vous*. Londoners will get a kick out of its depiction of online dating, hook-ups, work, partying and flat shares in the big city. It could be the perfect LFF date movie. ■
Phil de Semlyen
→ The BFI London Film Festival runs Oct 6-17. Head to www.bfi.org.uk/lff to book tickets.



INTRODUCING

Jeymes Samuel

The musician-turned-director on his LFF opener 'The Harder They Fall'

This film is a western about real-life Black cowboys. What was the spark for that idea?

'I love westerns but the narrow viewpoint that we've always been shown of women and people of colour is painful to me. This is a story where colour isn't an issue. And all these characters are based on real people. I just wanted to bring balance to the Force.'

Was it tough to shoot during Covid?

'As stressful as Covid was, I want to give everyone a great time. So I had a huge speaker on set. I'd blast out Fela Kuti and have a party during breaks.'

Which London spot inspires you?

'Kilburn Lane, where I grew up. It's where I had the idea for this film 15 years ago.'

What's your favourite London movie?

'"Quadrophenia". All the Vespas. Wicked film, man.'

Lastly, any danger of you hitting the festival red carpet on horseback?

'I am quite scared of horses. I'm going to come down the red carpet doing a moonwalk. It's going to be mad fun.' ■

Interview by Phil de Semlyen

→ 'The Harder They Fall' opens the BFI London Film Festival on Oct 6. On Netflix Nov 3.



Zazie Beetz in 'The Harder They Fall'

All the biggest new films reviewed at timeout.com/film

Film

The Alpinist



IF YOU DISCOVERED sport climbing at the Tokyo Olympics but don't fancy actually doing any, this soaring, heart-in-mouth doc arrives at the perfect time. It too has men and women moving at improbable speeds up vertical faces – albeit thousands of metres higher and with considerably higher stakes. One slip and it's game over, man.

The alpinist of the title is Marc-André Leclerc, a 23-year-old Canadian whose impish energy calls to mind Twin Towers trapeze artist Philippe Petit, the star of 'Man on Wire'. He's an odd mix of zen calm and irrepressible enthusiasm and co-directors Peter Mortimer and Nick Rosen often struggle to keep up with him, despite their best laid plans and sophisticated camera set-ups.

Much of the joy of 'The Alpinist' comes in watching them scratch their heads as this will-o'-the-wisp goes off the grid again – a free spirit resistant to any attempt to have anyone tag along. His mum and his devoted girlfriend and fellow climber, Brette Harrington, explain what makes him tick when he's off in the wilds.

But fun as it is to ride shotgun as the small filmmaking team scours social media for sightings of Leclerc on summits around the world, his elusiveness robs them of a centrepiece ascent to build up to and leaves the



FILM OF THE WEEK

WHAT IS IT...

A climbing doc that is this year's answer to 'Free Solo'.

WHY GO...

For a heart-in-mouth odyssey to the roof of the world.

→ Directors Peter

Mortimer, Nick Rosen (12A)
92 mins. Out Sep 24.

final act more narratively diffuse than they'd no doubt have been hoping.

Yet as a piece of watch-through-your-fingers outdoors filmmaking, 'The Alpinist' stands right up alongside the Oscar-winning 'Free Solo'. Its queasy GoPro footage and helicopter shots, captured by a number of climbing cinematographers, plonk you right up next to Leclerc on vertical rock faces and ice formations that look like frosty chandeliers and seem about as sturdy. Whether you wish you were actually

there will depend on your head for some frankly ridiculous heights.

The star of 'Free Solo', the equally driven soloist Alex Honnold, shares slack-jawed testimony to Leclerc's feats. Reinhold Messner, a grizzled godfather in the field, ditto. And when they start fretting about his safety, it ramps up the tension more effectively than any edgy strings or jolting cuts could hope to do. Pack some motion sickness tablets and experience it on the biggest possible screen. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*

The Green Knight



WHAT IS IT...

A spellbinding new spin on an age-old Arthurian legend.

WHY GO...

Dev Patel is terrific as a doomed knight on a mission.

→ Director David Lowery (TBC) 132 mins. Out in cinemas and on Amazon Prime Sep 24.

THE LEGEND OF King Arthur has inspired filmmakers from Monty Python to Walt Disney, John Boorman to Antoine Fuqua, but the recent tendency has been to ground it in reality: Joe Cornish's 'The Kid Who Would Be King' was set on a south London council estate and Guy Ritchie's take on it had Arthur calling everyone 'mate'. It's refreshing, then, to see writer-director David Lowery ('A Ghost Story') lean into the fantastical elements of the anonymous fourteenth-century poem commonly known as 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight'.

In a master stroke of colour-blind casting, Dev Patel plays Gawain, feckless nephew of King Arthur (Sean Harris), who rashly accepts a challenge from the eponymous enchanted warrior, beheading him and agreeing to receive a similar blow in a year's time. As the momentous day approaches, however, Gawain begins to have misgivings – as well he might – and his journey to the Green Knight's realm takes on an increasingly doom-laden dimension.

A tale told mainly via startling visuals requires an actor with a singularly expressive face, and Patel rises to the challenge. He strips away knightly courage to reveal the fear lurking behind every so-called 'hero'. Lowery wittily interprets the original text, adding a sexual dimension and a better ending, and only once strays close to Python terrain (when the ever-brilliant Barry Keoghan pops up as a lolling scavenger). It's close to a cinematic holy grail. ■ *David Hughes*



Gagarine



WHAT IS IT...

A Yuri Gagarin-worshipping teenager holes up on a doomed estate.

WHY GO...

This touching French indie is drenched in cosmic vibes.

→ Directors Fanny Liatard, Jérémy Trouilh (12A)
95 mins. Out Sep 24.

THE FEATS OF Yuri Gagarin – the first human in space – transcended Cold War rivalries.

There's a statue of the Soviet cosmonaut down by Admiralty Arch, and in the Parisian suburb of Ivry-sur-Seine, a whole housing estate is named after him – or was. Cité Gagarine was demolished in 2020, but it's central to this unusual blend of realist drama and sci-fi fantasia, where life and dreams mix in strange and soulful ways.

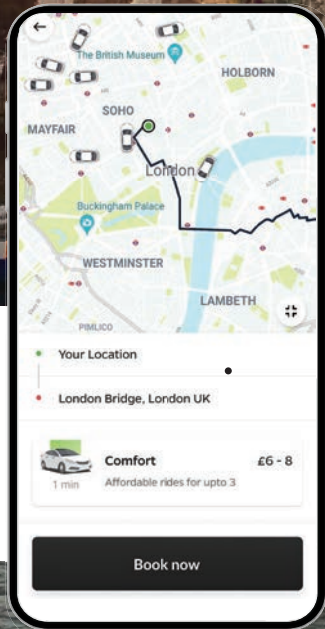
Alsény Bathily is Youri, a Black teenager whose mum has left and who lives alone on the estate. He finds can-kicking pals in Houssam (Jamil McCraven) and Romany girl Diana (Lynn Khoudri). But his first love is stargazing, daydreaming of journeys to match those of his Russian astronaut hero. First-time filmmakers Fanny Liatard and Jérémy Trouilh realise those reveries with documentary footage and disembodied audio of space travel that begin a slow blurring of the boundaries between life and imagination.

Bathily is terrific as Youri, a young man with nowhere to go but up. He furtively builds his own space-aged world in his now-abandoned block – something akin to the set of 'Silent Running' – as it is gutted around him. The two co-directors bathe it in ultraviolet light (amusingly, Youri's UV lamps draw in the local weed dealer, moth-like), all but decoupling 'Gagarine' from gravity with fluid camera moves and trippy transitions. If the ending is signposted, Youri's earthbound journey to the stars offers a stirring escape from an unjust reality. Like his Russian sorta-namesake, he's a hero we can all get behind. ■ *Phil de Semlyen*



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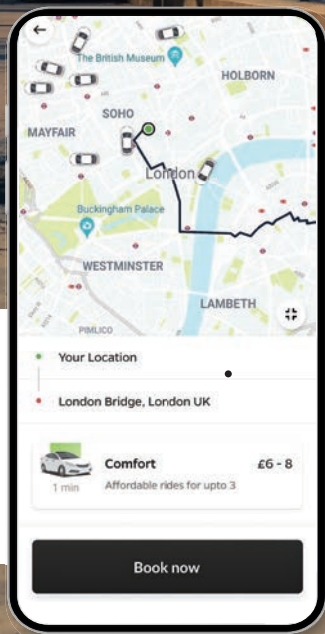
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