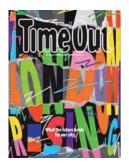




## **Inside**

This issue of Time Out in no time at all



### **Kris Andrew Small**

'London is just so full of energy and colour and mess and beauty, I wanted to sum all of that up on the cover. People are enjoying it liked they never did before cos it was taken away. My favourite thing about is London is London.'



## **Hackney Dave**

'London is an everevolving organic entity, influenced by every single person that plays there. Time Out influences the motion and action that create London in any particular moment.'





Novelists and comedians pen love letters to their city

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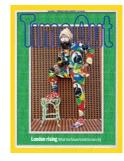
Special guest columnist Sadiq Khan waxes lyrical about Time Out magazine

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## The new wave

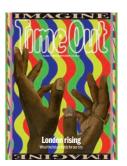
People, places and events in London's future you need to know about

**PAGE 16** 



## Hassan Hajjaj

'I wanted to use someone from London, who's a close friend.
Blaize is a great artist and we grew up together with Time Out. There's a culture here that's not British but typical to London, that celebrates its diversity.'



## **Lakwena Maciver**

'I love the fact that London is such a major cultural centre. And it's on my doorstep. [On my cover] I'm imagining a future city. If paradise was in London – what that would look like.'

### **↓** FEATURES AND REGULARS

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# Goodbye, London

Caroline McGinn Global Editor-in-Chief @carolinemcginn

Tissues out, fellow citizens: this is the last regular issue of Time Out London magazine.

Our mission continues online. It's the same as it was in 1968, when our founder Tony Elliott hawked his counterculture newsletter up and down the King's Road: to find the best of the city – its boldest new scenes and brilliant corners – and share it with you, London.

So that's why we're using this mag – in true Time Out spirit – to look to the future. Our theme is London rising: the vibrant, joyful city that's sprouting post-pandemic. Its punky energy is captured in our celebration of the new wave of food, culture and activity in the city, and in four covers by super-talented London artists.

My nine years as Time Out's Editor in Chief have been a party, an honour, an education. Thank you to the expert, hilarious mavericks who made this mag (below): there's no better team in the business. Thank you, Londoners, for going out with us for half a century.

And thank you, London: you're the mother of all modern cities and Time Out's home. It's been a privilege and a pleasure to serve you in print for 54 years. Long may our love affair continue.





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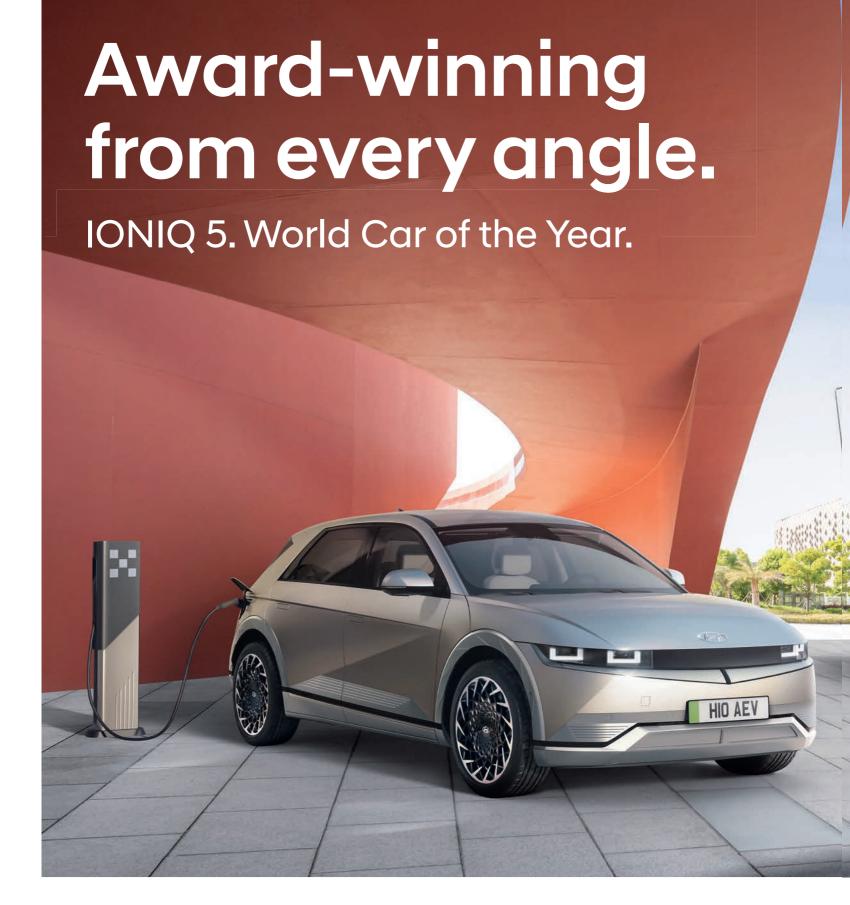












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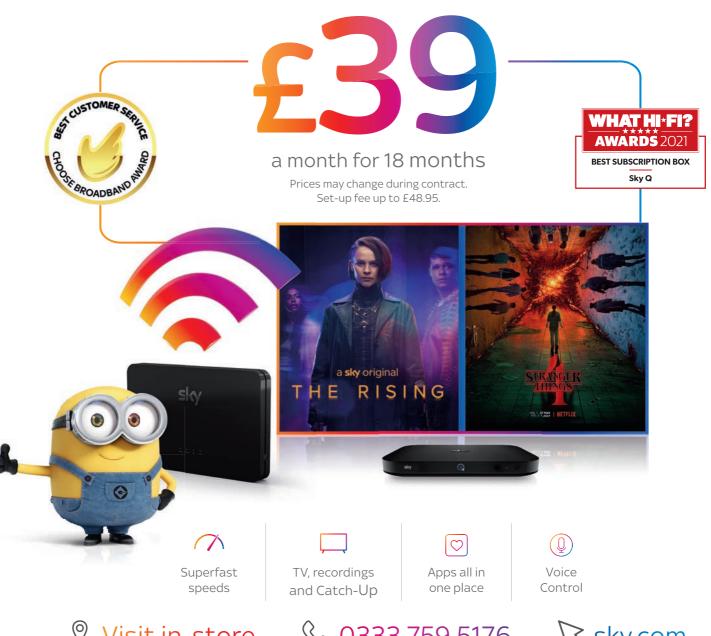








## Award-winning Fibre Broadband, Sky TV and Netflix











# 'I don't want to think about a parallel world where I didn't have Time Out'

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan reflects on the magazine that helped him discover the capital. Portrait Jess Hand

IN THE MID-'80s, I was a sixth-former with a weekend job at a shop. On my lunchbreak, I'd go to WHSmith on the other side of Streatham High Road and go through Time Out with a pen and paper because I couldn't afford to buy it. The magazine was my passport out of Tooting: it told me there was a world north of the river and opened up the city for a born-and-raised Londoner. It was transformative. It gave you options of things that took place for free, and the reviews told you what was rubbish so you didn't waste your money. I discovered Camden, where I saw some great Motown gigs.

I found out about the great views from Primrose Hill. I knew about the Wag Club on Wardour Street. I saw plays at the Bush Theatre in Hammersmith. To discover what was going on, it was either word of mouth or it was Time Out.

You have to be careful talking about legacies, because when you do that, you talk about retiring. Time Out is not retiring. A part of me is sad that the mag is going digital – but people want easy access to what's going on. The great thing about online is you don't need to be in London to get a copy, you can be anywhere in the country or around the globe. I think there will be huge opportunities.

Idon't want to think about a parallel world where I didn't have Time Out in relation to the gigs I went to, the plays I saw and the friends I made going to them. You can feel the rhythm and pulse of a city by its cultural life and London's USP is our ecosystem – live music, theatres, museums, galleries, festivals, parks, food and our diversity. Unless we continue to have a place where people can see all of that, we're going to have difficulty attracting people here. Cities evolve and change, and if we look at the history of Time Out, it's always kept up. That's why its legacy is enduring.  $\blacksquare$  Interview by Chiara Wilkinson



What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

**'IT'S NOT ABOUT** the wontons, it's about the sauce,' says Zhang Chao, founder of Tofu Vegan in Islington (and now Golders Green) and co-founder of Xi'an Impression. Since the Islington branch opened a year ago, it's become a cult plant-based fave. 'You have all sorts of

regional food in China, I wanted to bring every popular flavour to one menu using vegan ingredients,' Chao says. 'That's why we hired three regional chefs.' He talks us through its star dish: wontons with special spicy sauce. ■ Chiara Wilkinson → 105 Upper St. 28 North End Rd. £7.90.

### The flavour 'I can't find an exact way to describe the taste, even in my Chinese mother tongue. It's The filling sort of sweet, sour, spicy and The wraps 'We use tofu, vegetables numbing, all combined 'We use a machine from and ginger sauce, with king together. You just have China to make the wraps; it horse mushrooms and water to try it.' saves time and standardises chestnuts for an unusual the size. They're shaped by crunchy texture. We make our Cantonese chef and 20kg of tofu in-house then steamed each day." to cook.' The reaction 'People love them. The sauce Regulars keep coming 'We use chillies from back - even the meat eaters, northwest China that are who were probably forced fragrant, rather than dry and to come here in the first spicy. Then we add ginger, place. It's been quite garlic, chilli oil, sichuan overwhelming. peppercorn oil, soy and Follow us on Instagram for regular Hype Dish videos, and black vinegar.' find out what goes into London's best bites

@timeoutLondon

# WORD ON THE STREET

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

'Putting sun cream on you is like rubbing custard into a carpet.'

'As soon as I had sex with my cousin, I got gout.'

> 'Never trust a man with a neck that thick.'

'Silent discos are shit, aren't they?'

'I got cock-blocked by a puppy.'

'Over my dead body will we ever sell kombucha!'

'Raisins are the fruit equivalent of eating dead people.'

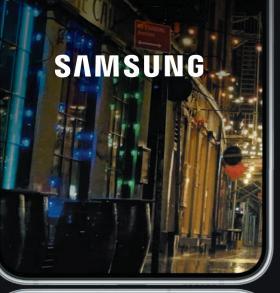
'I once ate so much Monster Munch my tongue started to bleed.'

'Did you know Aldi and Lidl are owned by two brothers?'

'I'm gonna be such a ho when social distancing is over.'

'Kent is basically the finishing school for cowards.'

Overheard something weird? Tweet us #wordonthestreet @timeoutlondon







Nightography

Captured with Galaxy
S22 Series



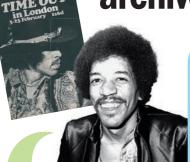


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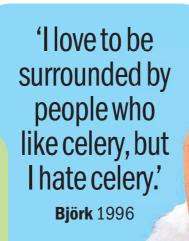


Wisdom from our archive of cover stars

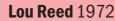


'Whatever a cat does in his private life should be his own business.'

Jimi Hendrix 1969



'All I kinda know is that change just means... you change.'



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



lling Onfi

'The art world is very snobbish.'

**Yoko Ono** 1971

'You have to pretend to be tough to begin with, and after a while you find that you've become quite tough.'

**Cher** 1985





## KINGSLAND ROAD E8

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

DJ and radio host *Jamz Supernova* on Dalston's clubbing heydays

### KINGSLAND ROAD is

where I grew up, as a raver and as a DJ. Back in 2016, I'd stay with my friend, who lived above Beyond Retro, for pretty much the whole weekend. I come from south-east London, so going there was a big thing. You could go into any number of clubs and there would be something amazing happening – The Nest, Dalston Superstore, The Alibi and Visions.

Birthdays was the first club that I started regularly DJing at and where I hosted my own club nights. It was a 200-capacity basement venue and was like another world. The crowd was just full of curious music lovers. Because it was so intimate, by the end of a night you'd know almost everyone in there. I think I've been chasing that environment ever since.

One night, I put on a party at Birthdays and only sold seven tickets. I was gutted for the DJs I'd booked. But by an hour in, the party was at capacity. It was really nice how the night turned around and I remember having a full sweaty one. Now the road is very different but it's still a great place for food. Recently, I went to eat at Mangal 2 - it was like raving but at a dinner table. ■ Interview by Chiara Wilkinson

→ BBC Music brings Glastonbury 2022 to listeners Jun 24-26.

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Keep up with our StreetThat Changed My Life Series at timeout.com/London





# Could bacteria light our cities?

Scientists across the Channel think living organisms may hold the future of street lighting. Illustration *Louise Mason* 

**IN THE PICTURESQUE** French town of Rambouillet, south west of Paris, a series of cylindrical tubes illuminate a path with soft turquoise light. It's pretty, but maybe wouldn't strike you as a bold experiment in the future of street lighting. But it is. Because the path is lit up thanks not to electricity, but to bacteria.

The phenomenon is known as bioluminescence – light produced and emitted by living organisms. Fireflies, fungi and deep-sea creatures use it to find mates and confuse predators, but now one company has found a way of harnessing it to illuminate our cities.

French start-up Glowee, which is behind the project in Rambouillet, collects a bacteria called *Aliivibrio fischeri* and stores it in tubes filled with saltwater. Recharging them simply requires occasionally feeding the bacteria a mixture of basic nutrients and oxygen. 'Instead of replacing the bulbs in street lamps, we created a whole new approach,' says Sandra Rey, who founded Glowee in 2014. 'With this new approach, we found the solution we have today.'

Unlike LEDs, bioluminescent bacteria have a potentially infinite lifespan and are completely natural, so could pave the way for an energy-efficient and sustainable way to light our cities. Rambouillet is the first city to test the process, with the aim of becoming 'a full-scale bioluminescence laboratory'.

It's not just Glowee that has succeeded in harnessing bioluminescence in recent

years. In 2017, researchers at MIT injected luminescent chemicals used by fireflies into leaves, while the Glowing Plant project designs flora that light up.

A world where street lamps are replaced by luminous trees may still be the stuff of sci-fi, but Glowee's turquoise tubes could be popping up in more streets and parks. The company is working with 40 cities in France and beyond (they

won't reveal which ones) that are interested in testing the technology between 2023 and 2027. 'We're seeing a real shift in the awareness around sustainability,' says Rey, 'but also around urbanism: how to make cities attractive while increasing quality of life. Street lighting has a very important role to play.' Julia Webster Ayuso



Great things that we love in other cities

# Taipei's spectacular new theatre



FROM ATHEN'S **HERODION** to Cornwall's Minack, there are some pretty OTT theatres out there – but this new venue in Taipei could be the pick of the bunch. With its enormous, gravitydefying orb and three protruding auditoriums, the Taipei Performing Arts Center is surrounded by an elevated walkway. Near to Taiwan's popular night markets in the historic city centre, it was designed by architects OMA and has seating for 2,300. Sure, it arrived nine years behind schedule and cost a tidy £186 million, but boy does it look the stylish (and extravagant) part. ■ Ed Cunningham

For more unique looks at London life, head to **timeout.com/news** 







at Camberwell's

**Overflo Festival** 

£25-£40.

Burgess Park, SE5. Sep 18.

The nightlife gamechangers

## Nadine & Naeem

Naeem: As Black or brown queer people, the club was always somewhere where we could be all of ourselves. Somewhere where we could be messy, learn about the world - school was never it. I grew up going to Heaven: they had an RnB and bashment night and it was the only place I'd ever seen that many black and brown queer people in one space. But it felt very binary. Queerness came into my consciousness, not just lesbian, gay and bisexual: another space needed to be formed where I could find that kind of communion.

Nadine: I saw that Naeem was doing [queer club night] BBZ. I wanted to go down because I was running [queer club night] Pxssy Palace and it felt so imvportant to connect with other people who were doing the same kinds of things. Then I spoke with Naeem and they had the biggest smile on their face the whole entire time.

Naeem: There were so many parallels in our lives and in our work. We both wanted to be community leaders, organisers who create something new and leave something behind. Babes and Pxssy Palace ended up doing a joint party at the Southbank Centre and there were over 20,000 people there, it was huge! Now we're running Overflo Festival together which felt like a natural progression: it's a chance to create a space that's curated by and for our community, with pay-it-forward ticketing to allow people in different socioeconomic positions to come.

Nadine: There's definitely a fight happening to make sure that we keep our queer spaces. It does feel a little do or die right now, I'm not gonna lie. From 2006 to 2017 we went from having 121 LGBTQ+ spaces to 51. But there are also amazing people trying to make sure we survive.

Naeem: The future of queer nightlife is going to be so creative. Queer people have always done everything from nothing. Everything's been birthed from the underground from day dot. Increased queer visibility will evolve nightlife in ways we didn't expect. It'll create whole new communities and scenes of artists and organisers that will inform the future and do things differently, and hopefully more sustainably.

Celebrate the city's trans, non-binary, and intersex communities at club night

### Transvisions.

→ Dalston Superstore, E8 2PB.
Jul 21. £6.

Party with the cream of London's alt cabaret scene at **Mimi's Pride**, which serves up drag madness galore.

→ Bethnal Green Working Men's

Club, E2 6NB. Jul 2.

Sip in style at freshly opened LGBTQ+ bar Common Counter, which has a cocktail menu inspired by wicca spirituality and drag icons.

→ Bethnal Green Rd, E2.



17

queer nightlife at multi-

venue dance festival Body

Movements.

→ Hackney Wick. Jul 30. £62.50.

### The kinder chef

## **Chantelle**

Hospitality is an industry where traditionally people haven't been looked after very well. So when the pandemic came, a lot of workers  $said\, {}^{\iota}\!Hold\, on, I\, canget\, paid\, the\, same$ or even more working in another industry, doing something I don't have to exert myself as much for.'

Now, there's a massive hiring crisis.

So at my restaurant Apricity, it was a chance to put the team first. Service charge never really made sense to me. Why should the customer dictate what we get paid? So I got rid of it, and made sure people were paid well for what they do. And we close early, so people can take public transport and get home safely.

Obviously, we're in it because we love the adrenaline, but there's a line between aggression and adrenaline that shouldn't be crossed. We're a 75 percent female kitchen, and aggression towards people is just not something we tolerate here.

TV programmes and movies like 'Boiling Point' aren't helpful. It's the same white male voices that are represented in the media. We need more diverse voices so we can start changing people's views of the industry, and showing the next generation that it can be a great place to work.

For me, dining out is about joy. And if you get that joy from McDonald's versus, you know, a mushroom dish here at Apricity, that's good. But these big chains have a huge, huge opportunity to change how they operate and reduce waste, and it's only consumer demand that'll make that happen.



Go to **Jolene** to eat bread made with regeneratively farmed grain. → Branches in Newington Green, Angel, Hackney and

Find out how to make your lifestyle more sustainable at **Eco Show and Tell**'s pop-up fair.

Shoreditch.

→ Jul 3. Mill Hill Broadway.

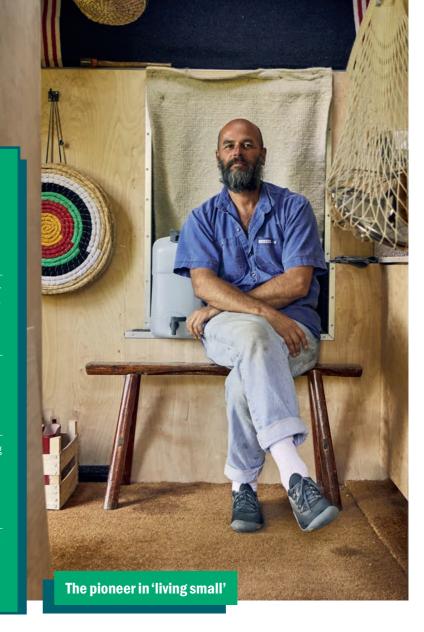
Learn to grow organic vegetables at Calthorpe **Community Garden's** volunteer sessions.

→ Grays Inn Road.

Help to identify pollinating plants in **Holland** Park, as part of the bee superhighway project. → Holland Park Ecology

Make for **Keep Boutique** for planet-friendly and chic fashion options.

→ Brixton Village





Delight in sustainably farmed produce at Chantelle Nicholson's restaurant Apricity. → 68 Duke St, W1K 6JU.

Fill your belly at Caribbean café **Sugarcane**, which is staffed by care leavers. → 517 Wandsworth Rd.

SW8 4PA

Head to London's OG zero-waste restaurant Silo for high-end nosh with an eco twist.

→ Unit 7, Queen's Yard, E9 5EN.

Sip a brew at **Trampoline**, a café that trains refugees. → 27 Camden Passage, N1 8EA.

Learn zero waste cookery at Sunny Jar Eco Hub. → Create Place, Bethnal Green, E2 9PJ. Jun 29. £15.

## **Jeremie**

When my son Dagobert was two years old. I suddenly realised we were living in a way that had no connection with the land. Then we spent the weekend in a little cabin where if you wanted to have a bath, you had to get a bucket of water and build a fire. It really awakened his curiosity.

So I devised a plan. We bought an old 1984 horsebox which we spent six months designing and doing up with the help of some very good builders: it comes complete with solar power and a rain harvester.

Getting rid of our possessions wasn't hard. We sold all our furniture and gave away our books. It was very easy and very freeing. I recommend it.

If you flush your toilet twice, that uses 40 litres of water. That's the amount of water my son and I use in a week, from brushing your teeth, to washing to drinking to making teato cooking. It's about managing your resources.

The everyday choices of the everyday consumer are vital. In my

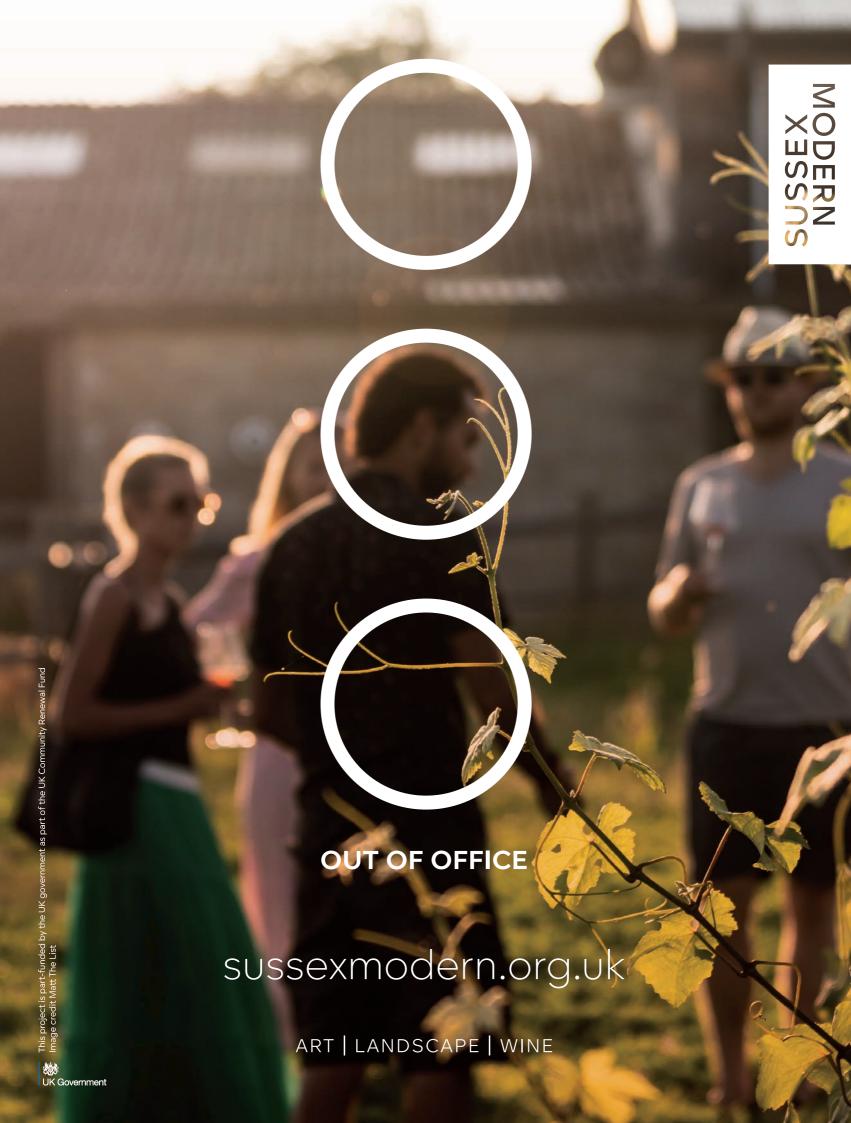
restaurants Primeur, Westerns Laundry and Jolene, I work with producers who are rearing animals and farming the land correctly. I'm all about regenerative farming, which is one step beyond organic farming: it's about making your land as fertile and alive as possible.

Poo is an amazing, magical thing that we have a very strange relationship with. We think we just need to flush it away. But actually you can build a relationship with your excrement where you see it as something that gives life. I compost my waste for six months, then use it as a fertiliser to grow vegetables.

### When I went down the climate change research rabbit hole I got massively depressed. We're

bombarded with messages of doom and gloom. But actually, we have the tools to change things. If we change the way we farm then instantly we're halfway towards a better, healthier, more sustainable world. So there's hope. Massive, massive amounts of







## Gaika

I look at screens just like they're a piece of paper. They're tools, a means of communicating something, otherwise it just is spectacle. My thing is: how do you make digital art that has meaning, rather than getting lost in the technical wizardry of it all? In my installation at Future Shock, I use a chatbot to explore ethics in artificial intelligence, which is a conversation I'm fascinated by.

I'm not afraid of science. A future of technologically assisted individualism is what scares me.

Art has the ability to hold power to account, and give an alternative, emotional view, whereas technology is more objective.

As we move towards a more technological society, it's vital to have that balance.

I definitely think digital art can bring in new audiences. Ithink the younger generation responds to the multisensory stimulation it provides. Some traditional artforms just don't include a lot of people. If you go to an old blue chip gallery and you're a 20-year-old kid and you're not super-wealthy, there's so much elitism that it's hard to engage with anything that's there.

In culture I see everything as being on an equal footing. I don't listen to Wu-Tang Clan and then go and read some ancient poetry and think that one of those things is better than the other just because. It's all happening at once.

I was a visual artist before I was a musician, so it was natural to combine the two. I've ended up with a practice that's part music, part architecture, part film, part installation, and I love it. I'm always striving to make my work smoother and more like itself, like I'm perfecting a formula.

Digital art is a newer artform, so people are just starting to take it a bit more seriously. I'm not locked on to the holiness of paintings. Things change, people change, and we move forward. I don't really understand why anyone would be against that.

Evolution of Ent-: QX' by artist and physicist Libby Heaney.

→ Arebyte Gallery, E14 OLG. Until Aug 20.

Encounter eye-popping digital visions of the future at group show 'WEB 3.0 **Aesthetics: The Future** Post-Hype of the NFTs'.

→ Annka Kultys Gallery, E2 9EQ. Until Jul 24.

Sip from London's first NFT cocktail menu at dimly-lit haunt Eve's Bar.

→ 34 Southampton St, WC2E

Marvel at Circa Art's nightly takeovers of the Piccadilly Circus screens. → Piccadilly Circus, W1.



# Share Your Summer with San Miguel





Kwajo

My journey as an activist began nearly exactly a year ago. I was living in social housing with my dad when he was diagnosed with stage four oesophageal cancer. He was receiving medical treatment surrounded by cockroaches, damp, mould, you name it. We complained to the housing association but they didn't come down.

I was so frustrated that I turned to social media, taking photos and videos of my home that were shared thousands of times on Twitter. Then I started being contacted by social housing tenants around London, and visited them to draw attention to the conditions they were living in.

After losing my dad, keeping busy has been really important. Campaigning has been almost like therapy. It's also brought us closer as a community on the estate, we realised like, 'Damn, everyone's having the same issues'. Now, I get stopped all the time by people saying hello, it's really nice.

Social media is so powerful. Just one click of a button, and before you know it, millions of people are sharing it across the country, not just in your local area. Bad PR is an incredibly costly thing for a brand, and that's exactly what I do: I give them negative press so they have to start putting things right.

Change is happening. It's going to take intervention at governmental level for social housing conditions to really improve, but I think it will come. I'm very determined and I've  $achieved\, everything\, I\, wanted\, to, up$ until now.

I think the generation that's coming through is more motivated to change things. There's been a perception that young people, particularly young people of colour, are disengaged with politics. But actually, they're very much engaged with politics, they discuss it on social media all the time. What they are is disappointed, and that's why they don't get involved with mainstream parties. I've just graduated from uni and I'm still working out what I want to do, but I'm going to keep campaigning and see where it takes me.

crisis at Focus E15's weekly campaigning stall. → Stratford Broadway Saturday 12-2pm. Get an eclectic one-week crash course in social

change at SOAS VOICE **Activist Summer School.** → SOAS. Jul 22-26. Free

Pick up books and pamphlets about activism at radical literature hub 56a Infoshop.

→ 56 Crampton St, SE17 3AH.

Follow the footprints of historical activists at East End Walks' walking tour 'Stories from the Streets; Hackney's Radical History 1790s -1990s'.

→ Various venues. £8, £5 unwaged.

Help craft a banner at We Create Space, a workshop run by LGBTQ+ protesters.

> Locke Hotel at Broken Wharf, Jun 29, Free.



Party at niche club nights and open mic seshes at **Avalon Café** 

→ Juno Way, SE14 5RW.

See an emerging indie band at The Windmill, a haven for London's grassroots music scene. → 22 Blenheim Gardens, SW2 5BZ.

Go to an installation at The Horse Hospital, an artistrun space in Bloomsbury. → Colonnade, WC1N 1JD.

Fill your Tupperware at Loose Foods, a shop based in Hackney City Farm

→ Haggerston Park, E2 8NH.

Hang out at **Dalston** Curve, a community garden serving coffees. → 13 Dalston Lane, E8 1FA. The DIY curator

I started Grow London as a social enterprise that sets up new temporary projects - they call them 'meanwhile projects' - on sites awaiting development in the city, basically as a response to how unaffordable space is here. Currently we're running a community garden on the old Aylesbury Estate in Elephant & Castle and operating a cultural space called Avalon Café. It's a way  $of looking \, at \, what \, you \, can \, do \, in \, the \,$ cracks while things are changing.

The pace of change in London is insane. But the good thing about the

city is that there is always a way - it's hard but it's not impossible. People figure things out. You get forced out of one area but hopefully you can figure something out in another.

There are so many scraps of land in London that could be turned into community gardens. I've always gardened. My grandad grew brussels sprouts for local shops, so when I was a kid, I used to help him. But if you grow up in a flat and no one ever shows you how to garden, you're not really going to think it's part of your world. That's why you need to have community gardens in cities they're a way in.

### A lot of people can't afford spaces.

At Avalon Café, we work with artists who are just starting out and don't have much money. There's such a range of different moods through the week-poetry nights, live music, exhibitions, talks. People often say they're surprised to find a space like this in London. But actually, this is a city where it's possible to do what you want: the trade off is having a more risky and less comfortable life. ■





# MAGNIFIQUE

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## **Michael Donkor**

## I love London for its hidden green spaces

I've lived in London all my life, and part of its allure is its clash, clatter and clamour: it's a brilliantly noisy old place. The yelps of chancers selling knock-off perfumes on Oxford Street, crowds roaring along to every Dualyric at Wembley, bubbling shrieks of delight of kids in the Science Museum. But as much as it's the trill of the dancer's whistle at Carnival, or heady debate at Speakers' Corner, London is green

and pleasant quietness too. Our parks and commons are islands of peace. The whistling expansiveness of Primrose Hill, the lapping lake at St James's Park, the jewel-bright flower beds at Greenwich Park. Even momentary encounters with these green worlds can soothe us, ready us for more wildness and weirdness in the gloriously loud city beyond.

Michael grew up in Fulham and lives in Streatham Hill. He's the author of coming-of-age story 'Hold'.



# I love London for its jazz clubs



In 1992, the first time I saw experimental free jazz noisemakers Morphogenesis, upstairs at The China Pig in Hackney, a squatted pub with a

jazz attic, I sat on my hands to stop myself laughing. By the second half I was a convert. I lived near the (now demolished) Red Rose  $in the \,mid\mbox{-'90s}\, and \,saw\, London\, Musicians$  $Collective\,gigs\,without\,even\,knowing\,who$ I was watching, or that this mysterious music was even recorded: witnessing the last official appearance by The Spontaneous Music Ensemble in ignorance. I lived near The Vortex and Ryan's Bar in N16 for 25 years, rolling up on specto get rewired by Evan Parker and Alan Wilkinson, and now Cafe Oto is a better downtown boho-haunt than any in New York. When I first moved to London, Time Out listings guided my hand and made a beatnik of me in the greatest avant-jazz town on earth.

Stewart was born in Telford and now lives in Stoke Newington. He's currently touring his show 'Snowflake'.

## **Bernardine Evaristo**

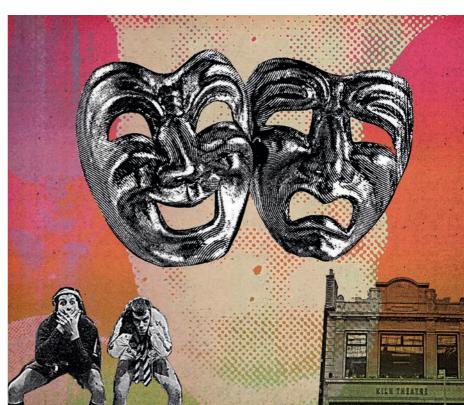
## I love London for its magical theatres



The first play I ever watched was a Bubble Theatre production in a tent on Blackheath Common in 1972 and the last was 'Girl on an Altar' at the Kiln in May 2022 – both wonderful, magical. In the intervening years (OMG – half a century!) London's theatre

has given me immeasurable pleasure. West End musicals have had me dancing in the aisles and a vast and varied number of productions have entranced, entertained, politicised, challenged and moved me. Theatre is in the DNA of our amazing capital city and I believe that it should be for everyone: let's cherish and protect it.

Bernardine was born in Eltham and now lives in west London. She's the author of Booker Prize-winning 'Girl, Woman, Other'.





## **Joel Golby**

## I love London for the kindness of its drunk strangers

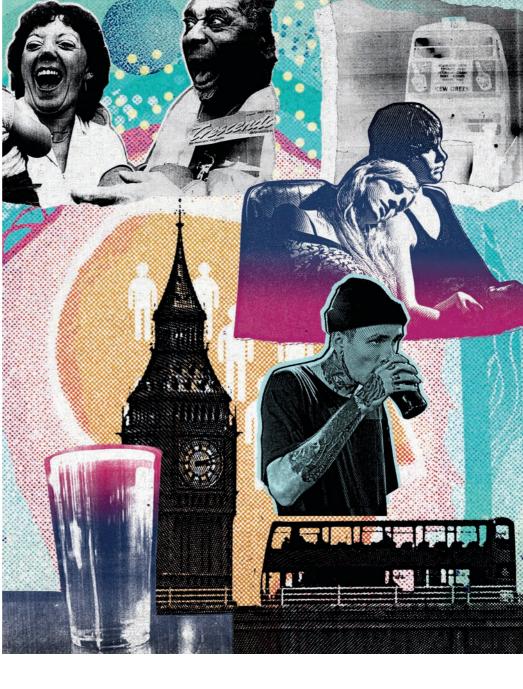


There is a chaotic magic to London's nightbuses, up on the top deck, amid the bright delirious lights and someone playing songs out loud off their phone. You know the feeling:

a beer bottle is rolling woozily across the floor, there is an oily tang of fried chicken in the air and strangers in leather jackets that smell like smoking areas have shaken hands and made plans. Resting in eternal gridlock somewhere around Camden, it becomes an inversion of the commute, a long cross-city journey actually improved by the people instead of ruined by it. Talk to your seatmate, thank the driver, drink a warm can of Carlsberg someone just offered you from their pocket. There are no rules up here and no one can fully open their eyes. It is bright and it is loud and the emergency door at the back is beeping, but somehow strangers are

Joel grew up in Derbyshire and now lives in Bow, East London. He's the author of 'Brilliant, Brilliant, Brilliant Brilliant Brilliant'.

becoming friends. Embrace it.





## **Jessie Burton**

# I love London for the trains that rumble beneath its streets



My life began on the green line, the District: Wimbledon to Parsons Green, from the age of 11, alone, watching the sun hit the Thames beneath as my tube crossed Putney Bridge. Our teacher told us, make a song of the map, take the stops of a line, Victoria, Northern, Metropolitan, Circle,

Jubilee. Make a song, she said to us London schoolgirls, and as the years passed I travelled on every colour my city has. Wherever I am in the world, underneath my life there is always this perfect design, lines of underground promise, breaking out of tunnels into the light. ■

Jessie grew up in Wimbledon and now lives in Forest Hill. She's the author of 'The Miniaturist', and her new book 'The House of Fortune' is published by Picador on July 7.



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According to Nathalie Pettorelli, senior scient is tat the ZoologicalSociety of London, rewilding is about putting nature in the driving seat of our city's future. 'The vision is to create a self-sustaining and self-regulated ecosystem, with low human intervention in the long run,' Pettorelli says. The urgency of it boils down to one thing: climate change. 'Climate change is all about carbon, right?' says Pettorelli. 'To combat climate change, you need to stop emitting carbon. But you'll still be left with a bunch of carbon in the atmosphere, so you also need to capture and store it. Nature can do that job the most efficiently and cost-effectively.'

Rewilding is no silver bullet: it can't fix the massive problem of global heating overnight. But it can help to cool cities during heatwaves, reduce air pollution, and change water flows, assisting with flood mitigation. Remember those images of Pudding Mill Lane submerged under a foot of water last July? Yeah, rewilding could maybe help.

Over in Paris, Mayor Anne Hidalgo is creating new urban forests in the centre, as part of a mission to cover 50 percent of the city with planted areas by 2030. But according to Alistair Driver, director of Rewilding Britain, 'at the moment, there's no large rewilding project happening in London'. Could that be about to change? Driver is part of the newly created Rewilding London Taskforce, a group of experts commissioned by the Mayor of London after COP26 to recommend how to properly rewild the capital. It will be up to the authorities to decide what is implemented, but if we get it right, Driver thinks it could have a significant impact. 'This idea that global cities are concrete jungles is one we have to address,' says Sadiq Khan. 'For a relatively small sum of money, when you think about the global budget of London, we can really rebuild our city.'

Rewilding doesn't just mean planting more trees (although that certainly wouldn't go amiss). Our ecosystem is a complex network of species working together to get that bastard carbon out of the atmosphere. 'When most people think of London, they probably don't think of wildlife,' says Elliot Newton, co-founder of Citizen Zoo, an organisation working to empower local communities to take

part in conservation and rewilding projects. 'Actually, London supports a rich biodiversity – there are more than 16,000 species recorded to exist here.' If you keep your eyes peeled, you might be able to spot a black redstart – one of Britain's rarest birds – or a stag beetle, Britain's largest beetle. See? Nature here isn't just pigeons, rats and Greene King pubs.

### The rodent revolution

Which brings us to the next point. Rewilding cities is about moving towards a place where people can live with *more* nature. 'When you're used to living with zero nature, it can be seen as a problem,' says Pettorelli. 'That's why we have words like

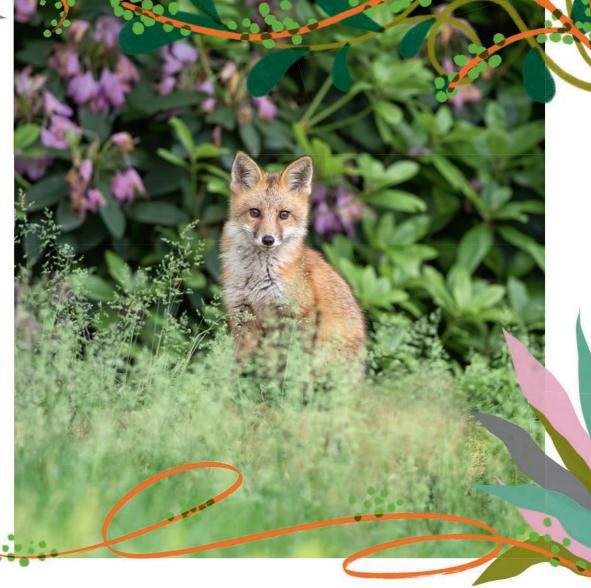
"pest".' There's a slight worry locals will consider species encouraged by rewilding practices to be the latest breed of vermin. But so far, attitudes have been encouraging. 'A lot of people haven't seen a beaver in their life,' says Roísín Campbell-Palmer, restoration manager at the Beaver Trust and reintroduction expert. 'So there's always this excitement that you're doing something new.'

When it comes to beavers, they're not just pretty faces. 'Beavers can put wetlands back into the country, slow water down, regenerate woodland, and help to manage soil,' says Campbell-Palmer. Following in the pawsteps of Justin and Sigourney, there are plans to release more beavers in Ealing.

These semi-aquatic rodents aren't the only mammals planning to move to the capital. 'In the last 30 years, we've lost 97 percent of our water voles,' says Newton. 'They have a really important ecological role to play – we call them our "river guardians".'

Enter the Hogsmill river in south-west London. Over the past few years, dozens of Citizen Zoo volunteers have pulled on their wellies and waders to splash in shallow waters, keeping their eyes peeled for footprints of a particular invasive species: American mink, a carnivorous predator that can fit into vole burrows and wipe out entire populations. Esther Pye started volunteering for the project in 2019, helping to survey the habitat, restore the river, and plant vole-friendly wildlife. 'I wanted to be David Attenborough when I was younger,' she says. 'I guess I put it on the back burner!'

Thanks to the hard graft and fundraising of around 300 volunteers, 150 water voles will be released into the river in August. 'The local people made that happen,' Newton says. 'Our job then is to monitor the population and make sure they go on to thrive and expand into other areas.'





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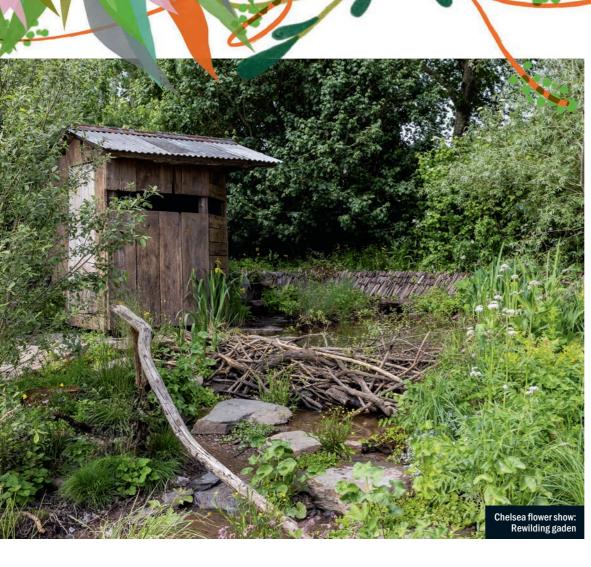












The water vole project is just one example of how communities can get involved with rewilding – and help to prevent some of the 2,000 threatened British species on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List from becoming extinct. 'We're living in a time which scientists are calling the "sixth mass extinction",' says Newton. 'Rewilding is all about restoring species and ecosystems, and trying to create environments where ecosystems can be functional.'

## **Embracing the mess**

Even if you don't have a riverbank on your doorstep, there are still plenty of things that everyday Londoners can do to help the rewilding movement. Siân Moxon is a senior lecturer at London Metropolitan University and the founder of Rewild My Street, a project that inspires Londoners to rewild their own homes, gardens and streets. Moxon has transformed her own small north London garden into an oasis for frogs, foxes and hedgehogs, with piles of logs, multiple bird boxes and a pond. Her fences are covered by climbing plants and they

 $incorporate\,gaps\,to\,allow\,wild life\,to\,easily\,come\,and\,go.$ 

Of course, having a garden in London can be a luxury and a rarity, especially if you're living closer to Zone 1. But even if you live in a towerblock, you can still plant a window box which will be great for pollinators, such as bees. 'Everybody can be a conservationist,' says Newton, 'irrespective of where you live.'

Still, Pettorelli stresses that if you do want to rewild your space, you have to embrace a bit of mess. 'The risk is people destroy stuff in their gardens and replace it,' she explains. 'Generally speaking, "tidy" is not

good for biodiversity,' says Driver. 'And it's not good to help tackle climate change. A weed is just a plant in a place you don't want it.'

It's not just our parks and gardens that we need to rewild, though, it's also our attitudes. We need to rewild our tastes and our brains, and to teach children about rewilding in schools so they can grow up to embrace it as a beautiful necessity. But could the tide already be changing? The winner of this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show was 'A Rewilding Britain' garden, which imagined a beavers' dam on a brook with near-pinpoint ecological accuracy. Manicured gardens and

trimmed lawns are out; lush mini jungles are in.

'The idea is if lots of people do this, there will be more corridors for wildlife to travel along,' Parks and gardens in the built-up areas of London work as 'stepping stones', connecting to larger wildlife areas in the outskirts. Then, to be really effective, London councils will have to team up with neighbouring local authorities to try and encourage cross-boundary nature corridors. The eventual result? Free-roaming wildlife throughout all of London and the UK.

## **Getting into gear**

This all sounds nice and flowery on paper, but when it comes to day-to-day, it can be difficult and even scary to change our hedge-clipping, grass-mowing habits. Will we still have pretty parks to sit into drink our tinnies? Will I wake up to find a beaver in my bed?

Rewilding is all about making nature work in harmony with people - so the trade-offs should be well worth it. One study has shown that nature has positive effects on medical conditions such as anxiety and depression, while another has proved green environments can improve creativity and memory span. There are economic benefits to reintroducing nature, too. Rewilding Britain's study of more than 20 rewilding sites in England reveals a 47 percent increase in local full-time jobs, and the sites have also been able to generate income from food production, livestock and other enterprises.

So, will we be seeing wild boar, red wolves and dodos roaming around London in five years time? That's probably quite unlikely. But there's a chance we'll see more white storks, common lizards, glow worms, hedgehogs, beavers and butterflies. While Jason and Sigourney are being closely monitored, it's still early days. 'You could sit back and wait 100 years for rewilding to happen, but we haven't got 100 years to address the biodiversity crisis and climate emergency,' says Driver. 'We need to speed things up.' That means money, it means time, and it means effort. And at the heart of it, it means involving communities. Sure, beavers and balcony plants aren't going to solve the climate crisis by themselves. But they can certainly play a part in making our London a greener, cooler and much healthier place to live. ■





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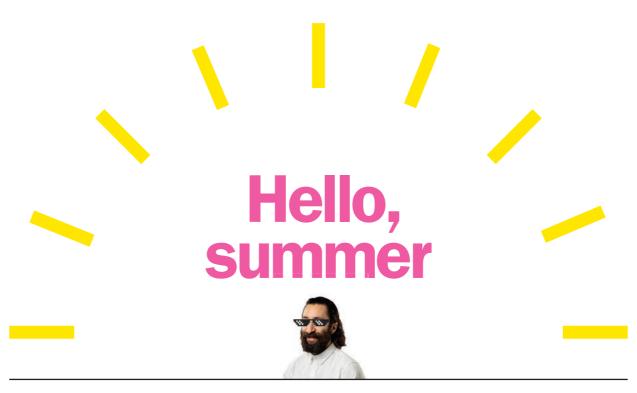


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Step 1 Culture



Step 2 Food



Step 3 Music p44

Summers in London are rarely straightforward.

Usually they begin prematurely with two
unseasonably warm weeks in April. Everyone gets
over-excited. Then it's overcast for ages. After that,
a brutal asphalt-melting heatwave. You know the type.
At first it's exhilarating but by the third day people
are jumping into canals and shouting at bins.

But then... something beautiful happens.
The temperature chills out a bit, the music turns up, the cold pints are poured, and it all comes together to create that idiosyncratic blend of vibes that we know as a Real London Summer. You can keep your Cote d'Azurian beaches, Sicilian towns and Fijian island paradises. I'll take Soho sidestreets, Clissold Park and, uh, the massive queues to get up to Frank's Cafe every time.

The Real London Summer is, of course, as fleeting as it is potent. Before you can say 'Is it too early for a second 99 Flake?' it's over. So you'll want to take full advantage of every sweet moment of tipsy, sun-kissed bliss, or risk FOMOORLS (fear of missing out on a Real London Summer). Thankfully, we've teamed up with mobility super app FREE NOW to create the definitive guide to the sunny season. Food, sport and something called 'The Black Chapel', it's all here. Get stuck in.

Summer guide cover and illustrations by Toby Triumph.



Step 4 Outdoors



Step 5 Family p50



Step 6 Sport p52



## 9'Sun & Sea'

Summer means days at the beach, right? Head to The Albany in Deptford for the UK premiere of 'Sun & Sea' and watch from up high as events unfold on an indoor beach. What might seem an ordinary beachbum's delight at first will deliver a powerful warning about climate change. See page 78.

→ The Albany. Jun 23-Jul 10. £17.

## **©** Rooftop Cinema

Sink into a deckchair, sup an Aperol Spritz and enjoy films in the clouds. Not only are there some fine views to be had off-screen, the line-up has Americana old and new from 'True Romance' to 'Elvis'.

→ Bussey Building and Roof East. Dates vary. From £16.95.

## **W'Africa Fashion'**

A must-see show is 'Africa Fashion' at the V&A, which runs the gamut from classic mid-twentieth-century design to the contemporary, exploring the dynamism and global style impact of the continent.

→ Victoria & Albert Museum. From Jul 2. £16.

## O'Desire, Love, Identity': LGBTQ Histories Trail

As well as the welcome return of Pride in London, there's a host of rainbow-hued events to commemorate 50 years since UK Pride first took place. The British Museum's dive into queer histories behind items in its collection (which also has audio commentary) has especially rich pickings.

→ British Museum. Free.

## **O**'This Bright Land'

Don your most colourful garms and you'll fit right in at this dizzying transformation of the Somerset House courtyard. All summer, there'll be a ferris wheel, vogueing, day-and-night performances, music, dance, talks and workshops.

→ Somerset House. Aug 1-29. Free-£22.50.

## **© Greenwich + Docklands International Festival**

Head south for this free festival filled with treats for all the senses: the giant vertical zoetrope of skeletons as a Wheel of Charon in Canning Town caught our eye. For maximum prismatic fun, make tracks to the 'Island of Foam' on Greenwich Peninsula.

→ Various locations. Aug 26-Sep 11. Free.

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'Africa Fashion'



## **Summer guide**



**Dr Christine Checinska** 

Co-curator of Africa Fashion at the V&A

'This summer it is essential to experience Theaster Gates's Black Chapel, the 2022 Serpentine Pavilion. It is a breathtaking structure realised in partnership with Adjaye Associates and is inspired by traditional kilns found in Stoke-on-Trent and the Western United States, alongside architectural structures found across the African continent.'

See page 82.

## **O**The Proms

Happy 150th birthday to the Royal Albert Hall, which will once more be hosting the world's greatest orchestras. This year will see new additions, including a whole concert dedicated to soundtracks from famous video games (August 1).

→ Royal Albert Hall. Jul 15-Sep 10. Free.

## **O**'The Seagull'

No summer is complete without a seagull trying to steal your ice cream. Thankfully, the is the Jamie Lloyd production of Chekhov's finest drama, which has Daenerys Targaryen, aka Emilia Clarke, making her West End debut as Nina. Interval snacks are guranteed safe from avian intervention.

→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Jun 29-Sep 10. From £15.

## **O'In the Black Fantastic'**

Get your big myth and sci-fi pants on and saddle up for this group exhibition of 11 contemporary artists from the African diaspora. Explore afrofuturism and spiritual traditions through painting, sculpture, photography and film from artists including Hew Locke and Kara Walker.

## **9** 'The High Life'

With her exhibition, artist Lydia Blakeley brings us that summer essential-the sunloungeralbeit in painted sculptural form. Annette Richardson

→ Hayward Gallery. Jun 29-Sep 18. £13.50.

→ Southwark Park Galleries. Jul 10-Sep 4. Free.

## **FREE NOW MOMENT:**

# **Hot stuff**



It's not just the sun warming your face at Acme Fire Cult - a restaurant in a vibey Dalston car park – it's the barbecue that you can watch sizzle away from your picnic table. You've got a beer from the neighbouring 40FT Brewery in hand and you're about to tuck into a seven day-aged red mullet with crab caramel and wild garlic. Delicious.

→ Abbot St, E8 3DP.

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## **S** Taste of the Caribbean

Pair a rum punch with something spicy at the UK's biggest festival dedicated to Caribbean food. More than 20 restaurants and street-food vendors will be serving up dishes representing islands from across the region. Dance it all off to some live reggae music.

→ Croydon Road Recreation Ground. Jul 2. £17.

## **®The Gin & Rum Festival**

Get into the spirit of summer, quite literally. With up to 20 tequilas on offertoo, it's a liquor-lover's dream, and the organisers have booked loads of great DJs to ensure nothing about this event is remotely dry. → St Mary's Church. Jul 8-9. £18.

## London Wing Fest

Around 200,000 chicken wings will be served by 40 street-food traders, restaurants and barbecue teams at this epic celebration of our favourite gnawable protein fix. Your ticket also get you a Wing Fest trucker hat, though you don't have to wearit. → London Stadium. Jul 16-17. £30.

## **W**Savour **Food Festival**

Live your glamorous gastronome fantasy at this new event held inthestunning grounds of The Meatopia Royal Hospital Chelsea. Highlights include Mob Kitchen's first ever pop-up veggie restaurant, Vinoteca wine tastings and demos from 'MasterChef' finalist Philli Armitage-Mattin. Truly delicious, dahling.

→ The Royal Chelsea Hospital. Jul 30-31. £25.

## London Craft **Beer Festival**

This excellent event is celebratingits tenth birthday, soorganisers have assembled more than a hundred of their favourite craft

brewers from London and across the globe at Tobacco Dock. The ticket price includes a tasting tankard and any beer you care to try, but snacks from food vendors and other drinks cost extra. Hop to it!

→ Tobacco Dock. Aug 12-13. £57.50.

## Meatopia

Pile up your plate with protein at this festival dedicated to 'food, drink, fire and music'. More than 60 livefire chefs will cook high-quality meat, fish and veg over sustainably sourced wood and charcoal.

→ Tobacco Dock. Sep 2-4. From £25.

## **®** Pub in the Park

Tuck into tasty grub while enjoying live music at Pub in the Park. Presented by Tom Kerridge, this touring food and music festival aims to bring a cheery public house at mosphere to the great outdoors.Our top pick is September's Chiswick leg, with sets from Sophie Ellis-Bextor and Craig David.

→ Chiswick House & Gardens. Sep 2-4. From £40.

## London Halal Food Festival

Take your pick from more than a hundred food and drink stalls offering mocktails, savoury flavours and desserts. Feeling really hungry? Enter the 'halal eat-off' competition. Nick Levine

→ London Stadium. Sep 3-4. From £10.

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declares itself"

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The Telegraph

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SUSANNAH CLAPP
The Observer

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NEIL NORMAN Mirror

"Funnier than Hamilton... totally brilliant... exceptional."

ISOBEL LEWIS
The OINDEPENDENT



"This production has a heart of gold. West End impresarios should check it out immediately."

SPECTATOR

"But whoof! It blew the roof clean off. Hoots and tears welcomed this ingenious, touching musical. Taut lyrics, vintage gags, a wild tale and tunes that followed me out into the night air, in hums and whistles. Perfection... an artisanal masterpiece"

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Daily Mail

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## **FREE NOW MOMENT:**

# **All Points Perfection**



The headliner. The big one. The reason you bought your ticket, the band you've been caning on Spotify. Tonight it's Tame Impala at **All Points East**, and you've nabbed an excellent spot right in the middle of the crowd. Kevin Parker walks in characteristically nonchalant fashion on to the stage, flips his hair out of his face and starts playing 'The Less I Know the Better'. Life is good.

→ Victoria Park. Aug 25. From £59.95.

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## **S** Duckie's Straight Pride

Wireless

Party the night away at Duckie's knees-up after Pride in London. The title is definitely tongue-incheek – the LGBTQ+ crew calls it 'a celebration of heterosexuality and wealth'. And after 26 years in the same venue, this is the last ever Duckie at the RVT.

→ Royal Vauxhall Tavern and the Railway Arch.
Jul 2. £22-£25.

## **W** Kew the Music

Bop among the botanicals at this non-camping festival, with a classy line-up that includes James Blunt, DJ Spoony Presents Garage Classical and The Gipsy Kings. Saturday is 'ladies' night', with sets from Bananarama, Gabrielle and Rebecca Ferguson. → Royal Botanic Gardens. Jul 5-10. From £47.

## Wireless

Hip hop icons ahoy! The Finsbury Park leg of this mega-fest has booked a slew of US superstars, including Cardi B, Nicki Minaj, SZA, Burna Boy and Megan Thee Stallion. Homegrown talent is well represented too, with sets from Mahalia, Unknown T and ArrDee. → Finsbury Park. Jul 8-10. From £95.

## **O** Higher **Ground**

Punk legend Patti Smith heads this new boutique festival that's moved from Ally Pally to the Palladium. The one-dayer's bill also includes Mercury Prize nominee Nadine Shah and Watford's finest, Connie Constance.

→ London Palladium. Jul 24. £56.50.



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## Body Movements

London's leading queer clubbing collectives are the stars of this spectacular daytime festival that will once again take over the Hackney Wick canalside. There are showcases from Adonis, Pxssy Palace, Hungama, Queer House

Party and lots more. Wear your comfiest dancing shoes.

→ Various venues. Jul 30. From £62.50

## **O Four Tet All-Dayer**

The main event here is a special five-hour set by the always-innovative Mr Four Tet but there's also stellar support from the likes of Josey Rebelle, Two Shell and Anish Kumar.

→ Finsbury Park. Aug 13. £61.

## Field Day

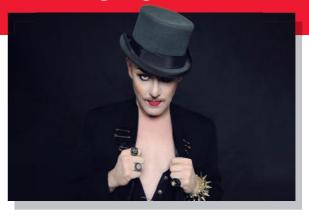
Catch The Chemical Brothers and Kraftwerk 3D at Field Day, which this summer returns to Vicky Park, its original home, for the first time since 2017. It's celebrating with a dazzling dance-centric line-up that includes Peggy Gou, Juliana Huxtable and Planningtorock. → Victoria Park. Aug 20. £70.

## **©** Summer Series

Enjoy an open-air concert in the iconic courtyard of Somerset House. Several nights are sold out but you can still grab tickets to great shows like innovative drummer-producer Yussef Dayes, grime king Ghetts and pop queen Mabel. *Nick Levine*→ Somerset House. Jul 7-17. From £31.25.

## **FREE NOW MOMENT:**

# Rowdy by the river



You feel the beat of pounding pop music before you glimpse the colourful creatures sashaying across the National Theatre's **River Stage**. As you get closer, you realise it's Jonny Woo and John Sizzle, The Glory's veritable grand dames of drag, hosting a weekend of riotous outdoor performances on the South Bank.

→ The Glory at the National Theatre. Jul 15-17. Free.

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# GTFO and be at one with nature

→ Hackney City Farm. Jul 17. Vauxhall City Farm. Aug 13. £30.

# **9** 'Great North Wood in Facts and Fiction'

Venture into ancient woodlands in a special walk and talk with author Zoe Gilbert and the London Wildlife Trust. Gilbert discusses the inspiration for her book 'Mischief Acts', inspired by forest lore.

→ Low Cross Wood. Jul 9. Free.



**Get there your way with FREE NOW** 





# **®RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival**

This blooming beautiful event is ideal for gardening inspo, or just for Friday fun at the after-hours lates, with live music and food stalls.

→ Hampton Court Palace. Jul 4-9. From £28.

## O'In the Footsteps of Mudlarks'

Get in touch with the Thames like never before this guided session which will help you locate and identify unearthed artefacts. Look forward to hearing stories from thousands of years of river history.

→ Millennium Bridge (North Side). Jul. Dates vary. £25.



## **Isabel Nancarrow**

Programming and partnerships officer at Morden Hall Parks

'My top tip for spotting nocturnal wildlife is to find a local walk where you can meet experts to show you the best spots! It's also a great way to support your local wildlife conservation charity. Often the leader will have a bat detector with them, which is used to hear the calls of bats that are usually too high-pitched to hear.'

## Bat walk

Embrace your inner/outer goth and head out after dark on a bat walk. Our flappy friends are protected species in the UK but there are still places to spot the nocturnal wonders with the help of bat rangers and sonic bat detectors (see right).

→ Highgate Woods. Jul 6, Aug 10 and Sep 14. £8. Morden Hall Park. Jul 23 and Aug 6. £5.

## **9** Phantom Peak

Ever wanted to go to 'Westworld'? Enter Phantom Peak: a steampunk Western frontier-style town (and immersive experience) with its own waterfall, lake and residents, conveniently located in Surrey Quays.

→ Surrey Quays Rd. Aug 3-Sep 18. £34.

## **S** Lambeth Country Show

The country-show-meets-urban-entertainments hybrid that shouldn't work but does returns after two years. We're there for the owl displays and steel orchestras, but the veg-asceleb competition is epic.

→ Brockwell Park. Jul 16-17. Free.

## East End Canal Festival

Slip your deck shoes on and sashay down to Regent's Canal for this festival which docks in Mile End Park and the canal. There are boat trips, a floating cinema and canal exhibitions.

→ Art Pavilion. Jul 16-17. Free.

\_\_\_\_\_

## Forest bathing

Walking through a forest glade calms the body and mind by connecting with nature, and there are even guides at Kew who can help you achieve sensory peace. Annette Richardson

→ Kew Gardens. Jul 2 & 22, Aug 6 & 14. £60.

## **FREE NOW MOMENT:**

# **Pedal power**



Dinosaurs, sphinxes, rolling green hills and one of the loveliest lakes in London: what's not to love about **Crystal Palace Park**? And this afternoon, there's hardly a breath of wind as you glide through the water on your pedalo, past geese and ducks, without a care in the world.

→ Thicket Rd, SE20 8DT. £5. Park entry is free.

Get there your way with FREENOW V

**Get there your way with FREE NOW** 



# Summer BUNGO

Dabbers at the ready: how many of these London-y moments can you complete this summer?



1

A spectator says 'Come on Tim!' at Wimbledon 2

Narrowly
avoiding
tipping into a
Hackney canal
on your bike



3

Plunging into Hampstead Ponds (extra points for avoiding the duck poo)



Watching the meat-eaters snaffle all the halloumi at a barbecue



5

Befriending the adjacent group of picnickers at your local park after a few tinnies



Escaping the heat by visiting air-conditioned galleries (hello, Tate Modern!) but sticking around for the art



# GET THERE YOUR WAY WITH FREE NOW

Thanks to FREE NOW,
the mobility super app, you
can travel on your terms
this summer, keeping you
connected with the things
you love across the capital.
FREE NOW is fast, flexible
and offers four different
transport types at the tap
of an app:

## Black cabs

FREE NOW is the UK's biggest black cab app, which means there are plenty of these famed cars to go round. What's more, you can select an electric vehicle and your expert driver can actually use the bus lane to get you to your destination faster.

## **Private ride**

Convenient, affordable and available in London, private rides are always there when you need them.

## eScooters and eBikes

Zip around with ease, summer breeze in your hair. FREE NOW has partnered with two London suppliers (Tier and Dott), which means you can legally scoot or cycle around the capital.

000

8

The first sunburn of the year

9

A smug mate flashes their Glasto wristband weeks after the festival



Losing your mate

at a festival then

seeing them

reappear hours

later, beers

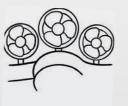
in hand

10

Is it the apocalypse? No, it's flying ant day!



Someone says 'I can't believe it's still light outside'



12

Sleeping naked with four fans on



→ Get there your way with FREE NOW



## W Notting Hill Carnival

Although kids are welcome over the entire weekend, Sunday (August 29) is families' day with a children's parade and a manageable route for little feet. Plus there's plenty of music and craft workshops for kids. → Notting Hill Carnival. Aug 28-29. Free.

## Wonderful Wildlife **Weekends**

Let your kids embrace their inner mud monsters! They can get up close to frogs, fish, woodlice and worms through pond-dipping and minibeast hunting.

→ Woodberry Wetlands. Jul 3 and 17. Free. Suggested donation £3.

## Stuart Semple's Festival of Happiness

This free festival will be packed with workshops, treasure hunts, gallery access while Semple's 'Happy Clouds' will be released into the sky.

→ Dulwich Picture Gallery. Jul 30. Free.

## \(\mathbf{O}\)\(\frac{1}{101}\) Dalmatians'

Even Cruella de Vil might find it's too hot for her infamous fur coat in July, but this open-air production of '101 Dalmatians' promises music along with the arch-villain's murderous intentions towards the spotty canine crew.

→ Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. Jul 12-Aug 28. £23-£63. £11.50-£29 child.

## O Dear Zoo Summer Holidays

Amenagerie of activities, including letter-writing to the animals, is on offers at this celebration of 40 years of Rod Campbell's colourful picture book 'Dear Zoo'.

→ Postal Museum. Jul 22-Aug 31. £16, £9 child.

## **©** Find Your Poetry Day

At this day-long workshop, professional poets will helping aspiring young writers (aged 11-17) explore various poetry forms including rap and rhyme.

→ Royal Festival Hall, Clore Ballroom. Jul 10. Free.



**Bushcraft Sessions with The Hive Outdoor Missions** 

Calling all Katniss wannabes: these two-day outdoor sessions hit right on target, combining bushcraft, nature knowhow plus game-style challenges. Perfect for kids who love learning new skills through fun practical challenges.

→ Various dates and locations. Jul and Aug. Ages 8-14. From £140 for two days.

**Get there your way with FREE NOW** 





There are a whopping nine decks to shimmy up and down on the HMS Belfast and plenty to keep would-be junior recruits occupied, from the more obvious delights of having a go following captain's orders steering the ship ready for D-Day to 'peeling potatoes' for 950 hungry diners against the clock.

→ HMS Belfast. £23.50, £11.80 child.

## **©** Foundling Museum

The holidays are a chance to get creative so we love that award-winning author and museum trustee Lemn Sissay shares the secrets of his collaboration with artist Greg Stobbs on popular picture book 'Don't Ask the Dragon' in a display.

→ Foundling Museum. £9.50, children free.

Annette Richardson



## **Rosie Hudson**

Schools and early years programme producer at the Postal Museum

'Bookend your day out by reading a related picture book – like "Dear Zoo" or "The Jolly Postman" if you're visiting the Postal Museum. Then invite your kids to write a postcard to their favourite character, reflecting on the trip, and draw a memory from the day on the front.'

## **FREE NOW MOMENT:**

# **Family festival**



It's been ages since you've properly hit the dance floor – and you can't quite believe that you're doing it surrounded by bubbles, balloons, and... babies? London-based family party-starters **Big Fish Little Fish** have done it again with their kid-friendly raves, and you couldn't be more grateful.

→ Horniman Museum and Gardens, SE23 3PQ. £15.

Get there your way with FREENOW ✓

Get there your way with FREE NOW







## FREE NOW MOMENT:

# It's coming home



It's. Actually. Happening. You're nearly hoarse as you involuntarily cheer, the sound of your voice and thousands of others filling Wembley Stadium. England has just won Uefa Women's Euro 2022 and you're there to watch it happen.

→ Wembley Stadium, HA9 OWS. Jul 6-31. From £10.

Get there your way with FREENOW V

## **1** Euro 2022

England is hosting the 13th European Women's Football Championship, featuring tough teams including eight-time winners Germany and defending champs the Netherlands.

→ Wembley Stadium and Brentford Community Stadium. Jul 6-31. From £10.

## Run Through Regent's Park 5k and 10k

 $This funrun \, through \, one \, of \,$ London's loveliest parks is as competitive as you want it to be. Entry price includes a photograph, a medal and some ace post-race goodies.

→ Regent's Park. Jul 10. From £26.

## **OThe Big Half 2022**

Channel your inner Mo Farah by taking part in this halfmarathon known for its convivial atmosphere, which begins at Tower Bridge and finishes at the Cutty Sark in Greenwich. → Tower Bridge. Sep 4. £36-£46.

## 2022 London E-Prix

 $The\,UK\,leg\,of\,the$ Formula E World Championship takes place on a stunning

course encompassing the Royal Docks that actually weaves its way in and out of the ExCel London exhibition centre.

→ ExCel London. Jul 30-31. From £15.

## S England v South Africa **Test Match**

End the British sporting summer in style by attending a day or two of this test match. South Africa will be aiming to avenge three straight defeats to England back in 2019.

→ Kia Oval. Sep 8-12. From £20.

## **9** MTGP London

This sweaty celebration of muay thai and kickboxing is jam-packed with tempting match-ups including Spain's David Mejia defending

his KGP world title against UK number one Luke <mark>'Sky</mark>walker' Whelan.

 $\rightarrow$  Indigo at The 02. Jul 9. From £45.

## **MLB Home Run Derby X London**

Major League Baseball superstars, rookies and wildcards will come together with legendary teams the Boston Red Sox, Chicago Cubs, and New York Yankees. Plus, there's music from

 $AJTracey. \blacksquare Nick Levine$ 

→ Crystal Palace Park. Jul 9. £33.

**Get there your way with FREE NOW** 

FREENOW



# **Trave**

Edited by James Manning and Huw Oliver timeout.com/travel

# All night long

Budget flights? Nah, mate.
Travel across Europe is getting greener, easier and a touch more glam thanks to a new generation of sleeper trains.
Illustration Eynon Jones



THE CONCEPT IS deliciously simple: board a train and doze off, cover enormous distances while you kip, then wake up somewhere else entirely. In 2022, after decades out of fashion, sleeper trains are back in a very big way.

We're witnessing a full-blown
European sleeper-train renaissance,
with new routes (and plans for even
more) seeming to pop up on the
daily. And although none of them
comes to the UK (yet), there are
plenty of easy links via the Eurostar
– so you can stop for dinner in Paris,
Brussels or Amsterdam and wake up
in Berlin, Vienna or Prague. Here are
the five new routes you need to know
about so you can get planning your
next flight-free adventure.

Paris to Vienna, Budapest and Romania

Meet Nightjet: a consortium of train operators from different countries, kind of like the Avengers but with sleeper trains. It's setting up new routes all over the shop, and one super-romantic one takes travellers all the way across Europe from the boulevards and nightclubs of Paris to the Transylvanian castles and student buzz of Cluj-Napoca in Romania. The full adventure involves not one but two overnight trains, passing through Strasbourg, Munich, Salzburg and Budapest plus a one-day stopover in Vienna, so you can mainline a load of baroque architecture.

→ Operating now. www.nightjet.com/en

Amsterdam to Cologne and Zurich

This nifty new A-to-Z route winds its way south from the 'Dam, through the cities of Arnhem, Düsseldorf, Cologne and Frankfurt before heading south towards Basel and Zurich. What's more, an entire single compartment – each featuring its own bathroom and free breakfast – costs just €90 (£77). Crazy stuff.

→ Operating now. www.nightjet.com/en

# Brussels to Amsterdam, Berlin and Prague

Then there's the European Sleeper, a new company running trains from Brussels to Prague via Antwerp, Amsterdam, Berlin and Dresden. With lie-flat beds and free breakfast for all, European Sleeper aims to connect several of the Continent's liveliest cities in luxurious – and surprisingly cheap – fashion.

→ www.europeansleeper.eu/en

# Hamburg to Stockholm

The existing EuroNight
network is getting a boost with a new
sleeper route between Stockholm
and Hamburg – and it will be
entirely powered by renewable
energy. This one is run by Swedish
company SJ and stops off at Scandi
metropolises and culture hubs
Copenhagen, Odense, Malmö and
Gothenburg along the way.

→ Starts Sep. www.sj.se/en/home.html





# Stockholm Hamburg London Amsterdam Berlin Prague Vienna Paris Romania Zurich Budapest

# Zurich to Milan and Rome

Later this year, a new night train between Zurich and Rome is scheduled to get up and running. This is another nifty Nightjet number. While exact details are still being ironed out, the eight-and-a-half-hour ride is expected to include a stop in Milan. Link it up with the Amsterdam-to-Zurich route, and you could be sipping espresso in the Eternal City the day after tomorrow. Truly eccelente.

→ Starts Dec. www.nightjet.com/en



By Ed Cunningham Who likes being rocked to sleep like a baby.

# WHY TAKE THE TRAIN?

## They're greener

Trains are, on the whole, much better for the planet than both planes and cars: for short-haul trips, trains emit on average six times less emissions per person, per mile than planes.

## They're comfier

You can bunk up in a seat, but shell out a little bit more and you'll get lie-flat beds, private cabins and swanky nosh – all for much, much less than first-class seats on most aeroplanes. Just bring earplugs if you're a light sleeper, and a set of travel toiletries so you're ready to freshen up for an early start when the train pulls in.

## They're more direct

Most sleeper routes run from one city centre to another. Once you've factored in the extra faff of airports and taxis, for many routes the train isn't much slower than flying. And you need never hear the

# They're cheaper than ever

words 'Luton Airport Parkway'

ever again.

Sleeper tickets are the cheapest they've been in years, and should get even more wallet-friendly as new routes launch. And instead of spending money on another night of accommodation, you can snooze on the journey and wake up refreshed and ready for a day of exploring.



# **Tresco finest**

Both unspoilt and surprisingly chic, the second biggest of the Scilly Isles is leading the way in low-impact tourism

NO CARS, HARDLY any people, sub-tropical plants and sparkling white beaches surrounded by azure seas: it looks like the Caribbean or, frankly, paradise. But Tresco - the second-largest of the Scilly Isles - lies just 30 miles off the Cornish coast. It's also a leader in sustainable tourism, and much more accessible to non-luxury visitors than you'd think, given the Scillies' rep as a celebrity hideout. (The Cambridges are return guests, staying - like every other tourist - in one of the island's modest fishing cottages, and exploring it by bike.)

Tresco feels like another world, a throwback to a rural England that no one alive can remember, but which is memorialised in wistful TV murder mysteries and Enid Blyton stories. You bike down inviting grassy lanes and along steep coastal paths, your basket stuffed with a picnic from the local shop. You make little fires on deserted beaches whose sand is as white and sparkling as angels' toenails (not a miracle or an exaggeration, but a mineral called mica that catches the sunlight). You can spot birds, eels, bats, shrews,

leatherback turtles, seals, fan coral and even - since they were reinstated in the noughties - a thriving colony of rare red squirrels. You can hike up to not one but two ruined fortresses: one once belonging to Oliver Cromwell, the other to the king.

The Scilly Isles are tucked into the Gulf Stream, so the climate is mild all year round. On fine days there's boat-hopping to the smaller islands, and the madly alien-looking exotic plants of the peaceful Tresco Abbey Gardens. If the weather

does get bad you may get stranded here, but there's a discreet indoor swimming pool and several idyllic little cafés and restaurants serving local seafood to keep you entertained. Many drowned sailors have been buried here, and dozens of grisly shipwrecks are commemorated in the extraordinary Valhalla Museum, a collection of ships' figureheads from all over the world, salvaged from the

Tresco is privately run by the Dorrien-Smith family, which has leased it from the Crown for a couple of hundred years. The intention is that tourism and its income contributes as much to and detracts as little from the landscape as possible. Maximum capacity is 700 people at high season, and there are no luxury eyesores: accommodation is discreet on the outside and beautifully designed within. Beach litter-picks are

it that way.

Tresco is even working with other islands to create a new model for sustainable tourism. Fingers crossed it succeeds, and asap. ■ Caroline McGinn

treacherous waters.

frequent. Recycling is outstanding. You can see why people return here: it's a little paradise whose managers and visitors truly care about keeping

# Fez

This Belgian city has it all:

great beer, cool bars and no cars in the city centre. You can get around on buses or trams, but they're not allowed to go faster than 20 mph.

**Freiburg** This Black Forest town is Germany's model for car-free

life. Many neighbourhoods

have been pedestrianised

since the '70s, and car use

has dropped dramatically.

**Venice** 

The city of canals is no place

to be a driver. Stick to taxi

boats and vaporetti - floating

buses - to get around.

The labyrinthine layout of souks and narrow streets in this ancient Moroccan city makes it the most heavily populated car-free area in the world.

## **Halibut Cove**

Need to really get away from it all? Known for its stunning scenery and floating post office, this Alaskan town can only be accessed by air or water. Once you're there, it's a quad bike or Shanks's pony. Sophie Dickinson

Rent a fishing cottage or seafront apartment from the Tresco Estate. → www.tresco.co.uk

## **GET THERE**

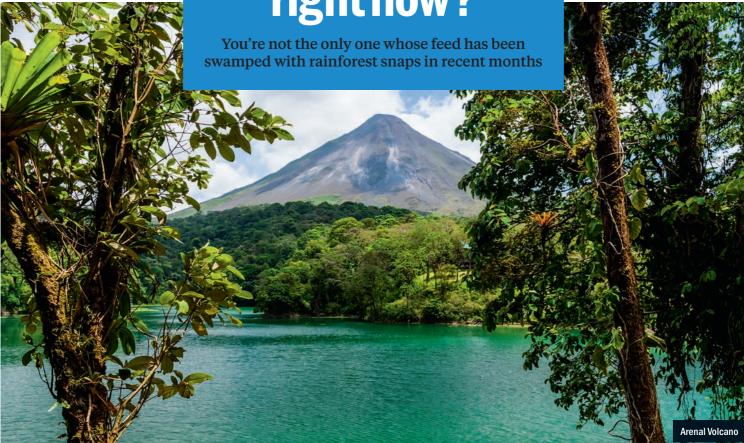
Penzance Helicopters runs a carbon-negative chopper shuttle. Returns from £129.

→ www.penzance helicopters.co.uk





# Why is everyone in Costa Rica right now?



NOTICED YOUR Insta feed is increasingly full of Costa Rica? You're not alone: there are a *lot* of people discovering this Central American country's tropical climate, endless coastlines and wild sloth encounters right now. Here's why Costa Rica has become the soulful antidote to pandemic wanderlust.

## It's doing its bit for the planet

Costa Rica works hard to protect its natural environment, not least because that's why so many people visit in the first place. In the last few years, the country has launched plans to decarbonise by 2050 (about 98 percent of its energy is already renewable) and massively expanded the Cocos Island National Park marine reserve. One suburb has even given citizenship to bees, trees and plants. Book direct flights to minimise your impact - British Airways runs them from November to May - and make the most of public transport when you arrive.

# **It's made for longer trips**Post-Covid, plenty of us are

prioritising longer, slower travel experiences over there-and-back gratification - and aiming to make the most of our precious holiday days. Last year, Costa Rica launched a new digital nomad visa that allows remote workers, business owners and freelancers to spend longer in the country than a standard tourist visa. The idea is that the longer a traveller stays in one place, the better their spending is distributed throughout the community. Hostel-hotel hybrids such as Selina offer networking nights, co-working spaces and social events for digital nomads. And there are a handful of new spaces for remote workers who want a residential community too, such as Santa Teresa's Yoko Village, launching next year.

## You can really get to know the locals

There are plenty of ways to get stuck in here, from community beach clean-ups in Puerto Viejoto volunteering on a permaculture farm in Puntarenas. But make

sure you connect with Costa
Rica's seven remaining

indigenous cultures –
from the traditional
craft workshops at
Cielo Lodge to the
Sikwa restaurant,
which sources its
ingredients from
indigenous farmers.
Montana Tours runs
immersive visits to
a Maleku village, while

beachside hotel Olas Verdes invites its guests to bring and donate muchneeded school supplies.

## We're all craving a sense of adventure

Getting out of that pandemic bubble doesn't have to mean taking the

longest zip line in Latin America (although you can very much do that here, at Monteverde's Aventura Canopy Tour). In fact, Costa Rica's phenomenal range of landscapes throws up all sorts of once-in-alifetime opportunities – like hiking active volcanoes in La Fortuna (we recommend the Arenal 1968 Trail),  $surfing the \, country \'s \, best \, breaks \, in \,$ Santa Teresa, or scuba diving on the Caribbean coast (join Diving with a Purpose for a truly eye-opening underwater experience). And with its many dirt tracks and some tricky terrain, Costa Rica can make even the shortest road trip feel like an adventure. Epic anecdotes, perfect photo ops and lifelong memories? You'll find them all here.■ Anna Prendergast

Discover the world with us @TimeOutTravel



s you take a sip of the cool, crisp Sauvignon Blanc you begin to imagine your dream adventure. You're in New Zealand. Which island? Doesn't matter, clever clogs. Both islands. You're visiting magical New Zealand in full, with a nice glass of local wine in hand. Perfect, you deserve it. Which wine? Villa Maria, naturally...

## **Villa Maria**

This world-class winemaker has been striving to make exceptional wines that accompany perfect moments since its inception in 1961. Born in breathtaking landscapes between shifting mountains and crashing seas, then bottled at an Auckland winery in the crater of a volcano, the wines capture the restless energy of New Zealand. Over the past 60 years, Villa Maria has become one of the country's most highly regarded winemakers. And now, Villa Maria is about to create the perfect moment as well as the wine you'll sip with it.

What's up for grabs?

Well, a holiday of a lifetime, to be honest. A 14-night trip for two people to New Zealand, worth more than £25,000. You'll fly to Auckland from London, seated in premium economy. From there, you'll have a guided tour of both the north and south islands of New Zealand: we're talking a helicopter glacier flight, a 'Lord of the Rings' tour, bathing

in Queenstown's onsen pools and more. Yep, this is seriously bucket-list stuff. But this getaway wouldn't be complete without some world-class wine. You'll also be able to enjoy a tour (which includes a tasting and a lunch) of Villa Maria's Cellar Door in Marlborough, hosted by

one of the winemakers. Naturally, premium accommodation will be included throughout the duration of the holiday.

## Second place isn't so bad either...

Ten runners-up will be given a case of Villa Maria Reserve Marlborough Clifford Bay Sauvignon Blanc. While it's not quite an all-out NZ trip, you'll be able to at least taste the lemongrass, jalapeño, lime and herbs that come from

this wine (and, by extension, Marlborough's Awatere Valley and the winds which blow in from Clifford Bay). Pretty dreamy.

## So how do you enter?

Just head to the Villa Maria website and complete the form to be in with a chance of winning. Good luck!



# LONDON FOR LESS

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



## Time Out Restaurant Box

**What is it?** Delicious discounts for two hungry diners.

Why go? Wooing a Tinder match? Treating your mum? Heading out with a pal? Give them the impression you're splashing the cash with this limited-edition digital box of goodies including five vouchers for top restaurants in London.

Wait, how much? Not one, but five

**Wait, how much?** Not one, but five amazing restaurants with half off the food bill. Wowza!

→ Various. www.timeout.com/restaurantbox

## Roka Aldwych

down to just £52.

**What is it?** A fancy Japanese brunch with bottomless drinks.

Why go? Savour all the small plates your heart desires across ten epic dishes, a main, a dessert platter, a Bellini and unlimited wine or fizz. Menu highlights include robata skewers, sashimi and glazed baby back ribs. Drooling yet?

Wait, how much? Normally this would be £66.50. But we've got it

→ 71 Aldwych. www.timeout.com/roka10

## Mathura

What is it? Fine dining from acclaimed two-time Michelinstarred chef Atul Kochhar.
Why go? Settle into the Old
Westminster Fire Station and dive into a menu of paneer makhani,
Awadhi chicken biryani and
Lucknow chaat, washed down with a signature cocktail.
Wait, how much? This exclusive

**Wait, how much?** This exclusive discount will have you scoffing six dishes for just £25.

→ 4 Greycoat Place. www.timeout.com/mathura22

## Leong's Legend

What is it? All-you-can-eat dim sum at this Chinatown stalwart.
Why go? Didn't you catch that?
Unlimited bloody dim sum. For real.
Stuff your chops with Taiwanese pork buns, pork-and-prawn soup dumplings, and 'Supreme' crabmeat xiao long bao at a trusted fave.
Wait, how much? A delicious test of gastronomic endurance (with a glass of fizz too) for a measly £22?
Nice one!

→ 39 Gerrard St. www.timeout.com/leongs22

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

# Things to do in London



After 27 years propping up the bar at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern every Saturday night, lippy, arty and all-round legendary queer party Duckie signs off with an epic Pride in London afterparty. **Turn to p63 to read more.** 





# **Sun 10 July**

James Horner's timeless score performed live by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra

royalalberthall.com













# **Pride** highlights

## The Real Al Company **Big Queer Weekender**

Walthamstow taproom The Real Al Company (not a typo) hosts this mega three-day celebration of local LGBTQ+ talent. Head over to catch screenings of shorts by local filmmakers alongside camp classics like 'Paris Is Burning' and 'But I'm a Cheerleader', chuckle along to local lol merchants Super Mary Hoe and Nat Funni, listen to a panel discussion hosted by Dope Black Queers and get stuck into crafty workshops on upcycling, life drawing and lino-printing. → The Real Al Company and Taproom. Jun 24-26. Prices vary

## • Pride Weekender

Drag performances, comedy sets, music and workshops collide at this weekend packed full of queer joy at London's swanky new LGBTQ+ Community Centre. Expect glitter-coated, dazzling drag from Shardeazy Afrodesiak and Chai, music from T Priestly and comedy from Jack Rooke and Sophie Duker, topped off by a DJ set on Saturday evening. Then ease your heavy head on Sunday with a film screening and board games. → London LGBTQ+ Community Centre.

## The Iconic Ball

Jun 25-26. Free.

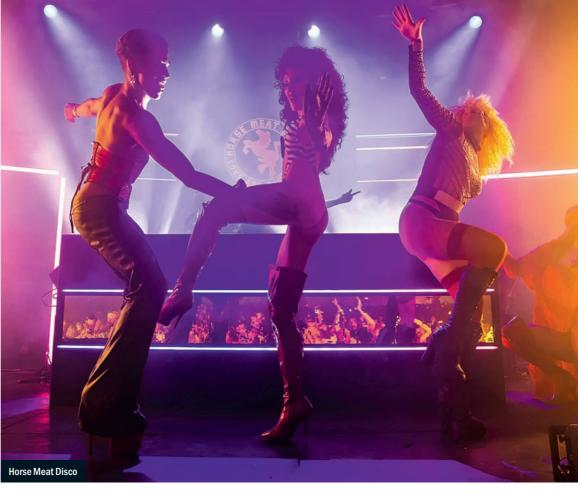
Camden's legendary and newly renovated gig venue Koko hosts this kiki in support of London's new Queer Britain museum and trans+ charity Not a Phase. Expect jaw-dropping death drops, killer vogue moves and loquacious lyrical flows from 'Pose' writer and ballroom pioneer Jack Mizrahi, who MCs alongside Jonny Woo and Shon Faye.

→ Koko. Jul 30. Free.

## Carnival Pride 2022

A collab between QTIBPOC collectives Fagamuffin, Jungle Kitty, Queer Bruk and the Turner Prizenominated Black Obsidian Sound System, this epic club night promises afrobeats, dancehall, reggaeton, ballroom and plenty more

The Iconic Ball



sounds to get you dancing. The monumental mashup of Pride and Carnival marks both the 50th anniversary of London's first pride march and the 60th anniversary of Jamaican independence in August. → Village Underground. Jul 1. From £10.

## **6** Duckie: Straight Pride

It's hard to exaggerate the impact that Duckie has had on London's queer nightlife scene over its

> 27-vear stint at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern. The legendary night says 'tara!' to its weekly Saturday night slot in usual sardonic fashion this Pride. with 'a celebration of heterosexuality and wealth' with muzak from the Readers Wifes, performances

surprise guest 'from Amerika'. Buggies are permitted, and there will be strictly no cross-dressing. You have been warned.

from Bourgeois &

Maurice, Thick

& Tight and a

→ RVT. Jul 2. £22.

## Meat Disco: **50 Years of Pride**

One of London's longest-running queer parties, Horse Meat Disco returns to Camden's Roundhouse for this big old Pride in London birthday bash. Hot Chip synth wizard Joe Goddard is the big name on the bill. while the London drag scene's elder stateswoman Lavinia Co-op hosts, alongside a glittering

and Tete Bang. → Roundhouse. Jul 2. From £25.25.

roster of performers

including Prinx Silver

## Little Gay Brother

It's a whole decade since Clayton Wright's LGBTQ+party collective started out, and the Little Gay Brother crew have hosted raves at just about every queer club in the city since, as well as founding the groundbreaking queer festival Body Movements last year. They're taking over Dalston arts venue EartH for this day-to-night sesh starting on the afternoon of Pride. → EartH. Jul 2. From £12.36.

## • He.She.They.

This globetrotting queer party has popped up at some of the world's most famous clubs since it first launched at the Ministry of Sound in 2018. It returns to fabric for an epic Pride in London afters featuring a headline

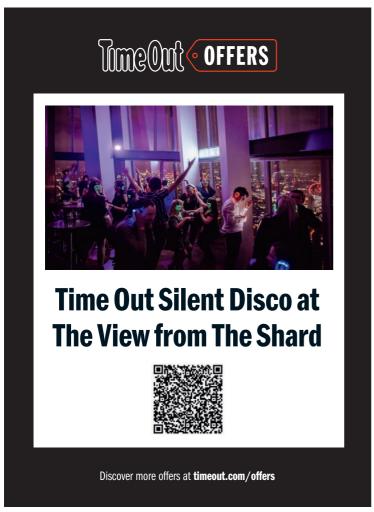
set from Maya Jane Coles alongside appearances from LGBTQ+ party regulars Lucia Blayke, Lewis G. Burton. Jave Ward and Hannah Holland. → Fabric. Jul 2. From £15.

## Egg LDN **Pride Special**

Hyped techno producer Wax Wings, Berlin-based DJ Boris and London nightlife veteran Jeffrey Hinton will be heading to Egg for this late-night post-Pride party. East London queer rave UOKHUN? hosts the loft space, while Soho club night OFF will be handling business on the middle floor. It all wraps up at about 7.30am, so you can stop by Maccy D's for breakfast as you stumble home. → Egg LDN. Jul 2. From £10.







## THREE OF THE BEST

# **Outdoor swimming pools**



## **Park Road Leisure Centre Lido**

The only issue with lidos? The bum-numbing seat on the surrounding concrete. Not the case with Crouch End's 50-metre pool, which has a lovely grassy bank right beside it upon which to while away long summer days sunbathing.

→ Park Rd, N8 8JN. £8.



## **Brockwell Lido**

Not one to let your zeal for breaststroke interrupt your social life? This Grade-II listed art deco beauty of a swimming spot has a top-notch poolside pizzeria so you can pig out on pepperoni with your mates after a dip.

→ Brockwell Park, SE24 OPA. £8.



## **Hampton Pool**

Splash about under a starry – although probably more likely overcast – sky at one of this suburban pool's late-night parties, where glow sticks are provided and the water is heated. Sure, it's open in the day too. But... glow sticks!

→ High St, TW12 2ST. From £7. Next midnight swims: Jun 24 and Jul 2. £12.50.

Find more outdoor action at **timeout.com/thingstodo** 

## Things to Do

# Refugee Week

## S Refugee Week at the **National Maritime Museum**

We all know laughter is the best medicine, so its fitting that Greenwich's Maritime Museum has invited No Direction Home - a comedy collective who are all from refugee and migrant backgrounds to host a night of roaring stand-up to mark this year's Refugee Week theme of 'healing'. It takes place alongside a cracking programme of talks and creative workshops delivered by local collectives including Newham Poetry Group and the Greenwich Borough of Sanctuary Project.

→ National Maritime Museum. Jun 23-25. Free, booking required.

## **⊙ ♥** Dance with Little Amal

Remember Little Amal, the notactually-that-little puppet refugee girl who walked from the Syrian border to Manchester last year, stopping in London on the way? Well she's donned her walking boots again and she's back in town for this family-friendly dance



party on the terrace outside the Southbank Centre. Dance for Refuge and other guest artists will be providing the soundtrack as well as bringing attention to the urgent needs of young refugees.

→ Southbank Centre. Jun 25. Free.

## **©** Celebrating Sanctuary

People newly arrived in Lewisham from around the world will lead the Horniman Museum's free

afternoon of music, dance, storytelling and workshops to mark Refugee Week. Learn traditional Ethiopian dance moves, sing Afro-Colombian songs and watch a performance following the journeys of → Horniman Museum, Jun 25, Free

migrant women arriving in the UK.

## **♥** • Refugee Week Festival

You may not know the name Faiz Karizi, but the people of Afghanistan certainly do. The singer-songwriter born in Kabul was so prolific in the country that he became known as the 'King of Folklore Music'. He'll be headlining this Refugee Week celebration, which highlights the serious situation of those who continue to suffer under Taliban rule. → Gunnersbury Park. Jun 26. £12.

## **Singing Our Lives**

Musicians and singers from refugee and asylum-seeker backgrounds, including the Orchestra of

> Syrian Musicians, Sing for Freedom Choir (many of whose members are survivors of torture) and United Strings of Europe will be filling the beautiful surroundings of Union Chapel with stunning new compositions create especially for Refugee Week.

Spine-tingling stuff.

→ Union Chapel, Jun 26, £15,

Royal Albert Hall, in partnership with the Australian National Academy of Music, in collaboration with the Royal College of Music







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lhis summer, we're teaming up with Transport for London to help you do more of what you love. We've hand-picked eight exciting things to do that are all free, or cost less than a tenner, that are all close to TfL stations. From free fun for all the family in Hackney Wick to pocket-friendly pedalo riders in Crystal Palace, #LetsDoLondon this summer.

## **Woolwich Words &** Sounds festival

The creative hub Woolwich Works is hosting the first ever edition of Woolwich Words & Sounds. The jam-packed programme will feature comedy, live music and spoken word from the likes of Zola Marcelle and jazz-folk band Penguin Cafe.

ightarrow Woolwich Elizabeth Line. Jul 15-31. From £5.

## **Underbelly Earl's Court** 2Underbeny Earl S Care and Cavendish Square

The Underbelly has been entertaining the capital since 2009 and returns with a brilliant line-up of acrobatics, comedy and familyfriendly shows this summer. Check out Fringe previews before they head up to Edinburgh, jaw-dropping

circus acts and a performance from a brilliant panto dame in 'Mama G's Story Time Roadshow'.

ightarrow West Brompton. Oxford Circus. Free entry, some events ticketed.

**Queer Britain**It might be 2022, but the UK has only just got its first LGBTQ+ museum. Located in a new exhibition space in Granary Square, Queer Britain celebrates 'the stories, people and places that are intrinsic to the queer community in the UK and beyond'. With a full plan of exhibitions in the works, the space is a vital and welcome addition to the capital's rich collection of museums.

→ King's Cross St Pancras. Free entry.



## Advertisement feature



# **GET THERE WITH TFL**



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

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

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



→ Hackney Wick Overground. Free.

All Points East in the Neighbourhood

All Points East takes over Victoria Park for two weekends at the end

of August, but you don't need a ticket to enjoy everything that the festival has to offer. In between APE's back-to-back weekenders, the site is transformed into a community space complete with film screenings, kids events and free activities. Swing by and see what surprises there are in store.

**Guilty Pleasures**Between the Bridges is a riot of fun that takes over the South Bank all summer long. The riverside popup space has a stacked schedule of DJs and drag events, but the highlight has to be Guilty Pleasures. The UK's biggest and best pop night takes over the decks every Saturday night and packs in more cheese than a well-stocked fromagerie.

→ Waterloo. Free entry.



## Film Club at Truman's Social Club

The best things in life are free, but Truman's Social Club's regular Sunday Film Club takes the old adage up a notch. The microbrewery shows films on a big screen: next up is QT's western masterpiece 'Django Unchained'.

→ Blackhorse Rd. Free.

# Pedalo rides at Crystal Palace Park

Pedalos aren't limited to summer holidays in the Med, as Crystal Palace Park proves. This lush space is brimming with wholesome vibes and has a number of the paddle boats available to hire on its boating lake, allowing visitors to take to the water without leaving the city.

→ Crystal Palace Overground. £5.

## Summer season at Shakespeare's Globe

To stand, or not to stand: that is the question at Shakespeare's Globe, where tickets for its summer season can be snapped up for just £5. With 'King Lear', 'The Tempest' and 'Julius Caesar' being performed this summer though, a fiver and some tired legs might be worth it for an authentic outdoor experience in the yard of the Bard.

→ London Bridge. From £5.















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# **₩ ⊕** Hampton Court Palace Festival

Had your fill of being caked in mud, getting drenched by flying cups of beer and sweating it out in a pop-up tent? This openair concert series in Hampton Court Palace's Tudor courtyard is a chance to get all the best festival feels in more genteel surroundings. Pop down for a picnic by the water before taking in a seated concert from '80s synth legends The

Human League or Aussie/NZ rockers Crowded House.

→ Hampton Court Palace.
Until Jun 25. Prices vary.

# ⊕ BST Hyde Park

There's no need for Glasto envy with such a star-studded fest on your doorstep. This party in the park has a track record of pulling in some of the very biggest names in music and this year is no different. Tickets may have sold out for Adele's big hometown shows, but you can still see plenty of rock 'n' roll royalty, including Elton John, The Rolling Stones, The Eagles, Pearl Jam and Duran Duran. → Hyde Park. Jun 24-Jul 10. Prices vary.

# **⊙ ♥** Summer by the River: London Gay Men's Chorus

**BST Hyde Park** 

Feel like being regaled by the dulcet tones of a 200-strong male choir performing Conchita Wurst's Eurovision-winning 'Rise Like a Phoenix' in four-part harmony? We've got just the thing! This free concert at openair amphitheatre The Scoop sees the London Gay Men's Chorus (aka 'Britain's biggest boyband') performing hits from its expansive repertoire and is probably the only gig where you're ever likely to hear 'Bridge

Over Troubled Water' and The Village People in the same set.

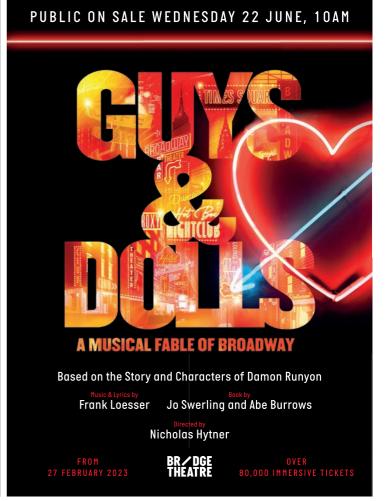
ightarrow The Scoop. Jun 25. Free.

## **⊕ ⊕** West End Live

Love West End musicals but not a fan of sky-high ticket prices? Every year, the

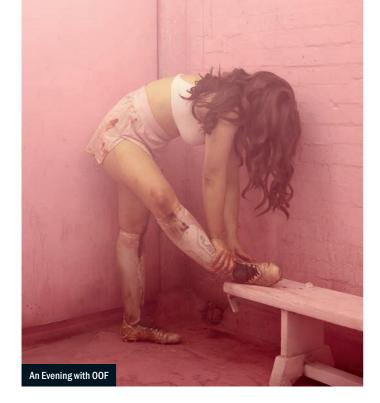
casts of London's glitziest shows take over Trafalgar Square for a weekend of alfresco performances. The line-up includes basically every musical in the city, including '& Juliet', 'The Book of Mormon', 'Come from Away', 'Hamilton', 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'Wicked'. There'll also be fun photo ops, merch stalls and bags of showbiz atmosphere for fans.











## Late openings

## **S** Refugee Week Late

After migrating around London over the last few years, the Migration Museum has found a permanent home for its eyeopening exhibitions about the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages. Head down to its new Lewisham gaff this Refugee Week for an afterhours tour of its 'Taking Care of Business' exhibition, alongside spoken-

word performances, food demos and charcoal-drawing workshops.

→ Migration Museum. Jun 23. £5.

## Men On the Verge

We know what you're thinking, but the latest edition of the V&A's Friday lates programme is no ranty subreddit social. It's inspired by the museum's 'Fashioning Masculinities' exhibition and is billed as an exploration of 'the crisis of traditional male identity' and the 'toxic, violent and hegemonic' pillars upon which it rests. Lofty, sure, but made a lot more accessible via a tasty lineup of talks, performances and artworks curated by Black Lives Matter Festival founder Kayza Rose. Fancy it, lads? → V&A. Jun 24. Free.

## The Great Pyjama Party

Hang out in your jim-jams in a set of eighteenth-century almshouses at this sleepover kicking off the Museum of the

Home's Festival of Sleep. You'll sip on soporific cocktails, enjoy soothing jazz lullabies, make pillow balm, decode your dreams and listen to bedtime stories before catching some zzzzs in a '70s Afro-Caribbean front room or a nineteenth-century parlour. Sounds, well, dreamy.

 $\rightarrow$  Museum of the Home. Jun 25. £15.

## **W**An Evening with *Oof*

Counting down the days until '22/'23 footie season begins? This Design Museum late will

> help sate your appetite for fantasy league banter and transfer gossip. Curated by Justin Hammond and Time Out's own Eddy Frankel -the duo behind art 'n' footie magazine

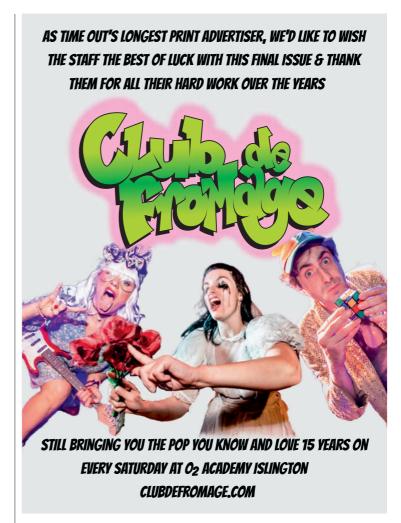
Oof-it features Juno

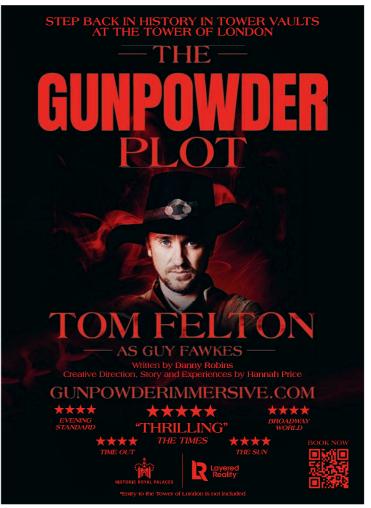
Calypso chatting about her football-focused photography series, Hannah Kumari performing an excerpt of her play 'EN-GER-LAND' and Corbin Shaw creating a piece of art inspired by the culture of footie fandom. Let's be 'avin you!

→ Design Museum. Jun 28. £12.

## Pride Lates

Catch a screening of the featurelength documentary 'George Michael Freedom Uncut', learn about the queer objects in the museum's collection, meet a researcher developing an HIV vaccine and watch performances from drag artists Romeo De La Cruz, Adam All and Apple Derrieres at this technicoloured midweek late celebrating Pride in London's fiftieth birthday. → Science Museum. Jun 29. Free







KING'S CROSS

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES

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## **Outdoor films**

## **○** Screen on the Canal

What's better than lounging around on Granary Square's grassy summertime steps? Lounging on them in front of a huge screen showing all your favourite films, that's what. Everyman is whacking up its giant screen along the canal again with 'Dune', 'Belfast', 'King Richard', 'Matilda' and a singalong screening of 'Encanto' all on the bill. They're free, but you might need sharp elbows to bag a seat.

→ Granary Square. Jun 27-Aug 7. Free.

## **3 9 9 Rooftop** Film Club

This alfresco staple has been going for more than a decade, but its pull shows no sign of waning, with two locations to choose from. Expect new releases like 'Everything Everywhere All at Once', 'Top Gun: Maverick' and 'Good Luck to You, Leo Grande' as well as evergreen favourites like 'Notting Hill' and 'Pulp Fiction', all served with a side order of pizza, burgers and cocktails delivered direct to your deckchair.

→ Roof East, Stratford and Bussev Building. Peckham. Until Jul 31. £16.95.

# 

The chameleon-like rooftop of Waterloo's Bar Elba has transformed into all sorts of fun venues, from an Ibiza brunch hangout to an igloo-dotted snowscape to one of London's fave summer cinemas. Everyone gets their own headphones to mute the hubbub, and popcorn and ice cream are thrown in with a standard ticket. Or go all out by adding on bottomless Aperol and Gin Fizz while you watch Bond,

Marvel and plenty more play out against the setting sun. Total bliss.

> → Bar Elba. Until Aug 20. From £15.

## **Una Cinema**

Luna has picked some of the most illustrious venues in the capital for its alfresco screens. Its 13

London locations include sites as resplendent as Kenwood House, The Old Royal Naval College, Kensington Palace, Westminster Abbey and Kew Gardens. When you're not being dazzled by your surroundings, focus on cinematic classics like 'Labyrinth' and 'Pretty Woman' or catch recent hits 'West Side Story', 'House of Gucci' and 'Nightmare Alley'.

→ Various venues. Jun 26-Sep 4. From £17.50.

#### **Arts and crafts**

#### **10** The Festival of Stuff

Like a scientific Willy Wonka's factory, UCL's Institute of Making specialises in messing about with weird-and-wonderful materials and processes. Join drop-in classes in everything from ink-making to botanical bodging at its annual weekend extravaganza, where you can also see intriguing items in its collection, from a 'thermochromic brick' to 'Aerogel'.

a solid so light its weight can be supported by the flame of a Bunsen burner.

→ Institute of Making.
Until Jun 25. Free.

#### OThe Other Art Fair

Your landlord might disagree, but there really is no excuse for boring white walls. Pick up original work from local artists to brighten up your bedroom for as little as £100 at this accessible alternative to (the many) stuffier and more expensive fairs on the London circuit. Presented by Saatchi Art, there'll also be installations, performances, DJs, a fully stocked bar and (if you're feeling brave) a hand-poke tattoo booth. Think of it as art served with a side of party.

→ West Handyside Canopy.
Jun 30-Jul 3. From £11.

#### Festa

Nebra Sky Disc, Germany, about

LDA Sachsen-Anhalt, Juraj Lipták

Stonehenge image © oversnap/Getty Images

**London Gaming Market** 

1600 BC. Photo courtesy of

If your knowledge of Portuguese cuisine goes no further than a fino pitta at Nando's, hit up this celebration of the country's gastronomy and culture hosted by Bar Duoro and grape guru The Wine Detective. Knock back port and pet nat from top wineries, soak it up with authentic street food, and shop for Portuguese arts and crafts, all to a soundtrack of traditional guitar music. Saúde! → Tobacco Dock Jun 24-25. From £35.

#### **19** Eataly Prosecco Festival

Get your fill of that sweet, bubbly northern Italian nectar as 15 of Europe's top prosecco producers flock to the capital for this fizz fest. Tickets include a branded glass and wine pouch to take home as souvenirs, and it's all going down in everyone's fave Italian superstore, Eataly London, so you can pig out on pizza, pasta and truffled everything if (or make that when) the bubbles go to your head.

→ Eataly Jun 24-26. From £20.

over a game of dominoes and a 'lingo wall'. It'll all be soundtracked by a banging soundsystem, and there'll be street-food snackage in the form of roti, doubles and tonnes of jerk.

→ Burgess Park. Jun 25-26. £15.

#### 🕠 😎 Quilt Carnival

Tottenham crafting collective Quilt Club has spent the past six months stitching a ginormous patchwork quilt big enough to cover an entire warehouse on Overbury Road.

And to celebrate the completion of this magnificent specimen, the street's residents are hosting a knees-up featuring live music, circus performers, a dog show, mural painting and market stalls. Your nan will have a job beating that. → Overbury Rd. Jul 2. Free.

# The world of Stonehenge Until 17 July Supported by bp

#### Mega markets

#### YokimonoJapanese Market

Sav konnichiwa to vintage kimonos, ukiyo-e woodblock prints and kintsugi ceramics at this weekend craft market on Dalston's Shacklewell Lane. You'll also find jewellery, stationery and clothing crafted by Japanese makers in London, plus live taiko drumming. calligraphy classes, sushi and all sorts of sweet treats.

→ The Factory. Jun 25-26. Free entry.

# Foodie fests

#### **S** ♥ Pub in the Park Dulwich

Chefs and musos collide at Tom Kerridge's roving food-and-music festival aiming to bring the genial atmosphere of your local gastro-pub to your local green space. Once you're done stuffing your face with grub from the likes of Hoppers, Cue Point and The Princess of Shoreditch, take your food baby on to the dancefloor for sets from Craig David, Sister Sledge and Sophie Ellis-Bextor.

→ Dulwich Park. Jun 24-26. From £42

#### **Local fairs**

#### **S** ♥ Radiate Windrush Festival

Southwark's annual festival celebrating British-Caribbean culture returns on the weekend after Windrush Day, with two jampacked days of activities ranging from a community footie match and a vintage-car show to an elders' garden where seniors can kick back

#### **O** London Gaming Market

Whether your flat looks like a shrine to Marvel or you're partial to a bit of *Viz*-style toilet humour, you'll be bowled over by this sale of unadulterated graphic geekery that's been supplying collectors with choice pages for over three decades. Head down to flick through new and vintage comics, graphic novels, and memorabilia.

→ The Royal National Hotel. Jun 26. Free.

Didn't find what you're after? Try **timeout.com/thingstodo** 



WHEN THE MEMBERS of Spinal Tap congregate around Elvis Presley's grave for an impromptu (and disastrous) a capella of 'Heartbreak Hotel' in 'This Is Spinal Tap', it gives way to a sudden cloudburst of melancholy for the band. 'It really puts perspective on things, doesn't it?' says guitarist Nigel Tufnel, gazing down at the headstone. 'Too much,' replies lead singer David St Hubbins. 'There's too much fucking perspective.'

Onething Baz Luhrmann's furiously entertaining, mile-aminute Elvis biopic doesn't do is overload you with too much perspective. From its timeframeleaping opening to its tragic but ultimately celebratory ending, it never tries to do too much - to dig distractedly into every aspect of his life. Instead, it immerses you in a musical origin story that pays much $needed\,tribute\,to\,the\,Black\,roots\,of$ his songs. Most of all, its screenplay zeroes in on Elvis's relationship with

his manager Colonel Tom Parker: an initially mutually beneficial deal that slowly curdles into something exploitative, gaslighting and borderline criminal.

Elvis is played by a frankly astonishing Austin Butler, last seen  $along side \, Leonardo \, Di Caprio \, in \,$ 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood'. Here, he does what Leo did in another Luhrmann film, 'Romeo + Juliet', and delivers a show-stopper of a performance. When Butler shakes his hips in Elvis's first gig

(12A). 159 mins. Out Jun 24.





The biggest films reviewed at timeout.com/film

needed a straight-up villain, Hanks feels like a strange pick.

The movie's overall treatise – that the one-time carnival barker saw his star as a glorified circus attraction – isn't always subtly expressed (one shot sticks Elvis in the frame next to a sign for a circus geek), but it's undeniably effective. The screenplay positions Parker as the unreliable narrator, looking back over Elvis's life to offer a self-serving version of events.

Luhrmann shakes his own cinematic hips to great effect here, too. Just when his hyper-stylised, theatrical vision was starting to feel played out in the clunky 'The Great Gatsby', he delivers his best film for 20 years. Every trick and technique here, from ingenious match cuts to split screens and even comicbook cells, works to soup up the storytelling. Even the hip hop on the soundtrack makes sense this time as a reminder of Elvis's purloining of Black music.

And as the end credits superfluously point out, Elvis has been a colossal influence on pop culture. Public Enemy - and plenty of others - may disagree, but Luhrmann's movie does strive  $to\,centre\,those\,influences\,in\,the$ narrative too. Memphis's blues clubs and music-filled Christian revival gatherings are the inspirations, and Black musicians like B. B. King (Kelvin Harrison Jr), Little Richard (Alton Mason) and Sister Rosetta Tharpe (Yola Quartey) are his heroes and spirit guides. The Elvis depicted here always declares his sources. Whether the real one did will remain abone of contention.

as a full-blown rock'n' roller, it's like watching two stars being born. Women in the audience scream, almost involuntarily. Butler sells every moment, nails the accent and smartly charts the singer's evolving physicality over two decades on stage.

Surprisingly, the weaker link here is Tom Hanks's Parker. Boasting an Edna Mode accent and rubber jowls, he struggles to keep his cunning, gambling-addicted impresario from cartoonishness. If the story really



By Phil de Semlyen Who is now bang up for a Shakin' Stevens biopic.

#### 'I can't fault Austin Butler. He nails it'

Elvis impersonator JD King on what 'Elvis' gets right (and wrong)

I'VE BEEN PERFORMING as Elvis for nearly 20 years and I'm an old Elvis nerd, so I was weary going in, but I thought the film was fantastic. I wondered if they'd be able to capture the humanity of this shy, humble country boy who just feels the music and translates it on the stage, but they really did.

Austin Butler is excellent as Elvis. I can't fault him for his body language, cadence and voice. He even nails his laugh. His onstage performance was very, very good.

There are lots of liberties with the story, but I understand why they were taken. The only bit that stuck out to me is when Elvis fires Colonel Tom Parker on stage, because that happened in private. In real life, he wasn't a publicly rebellious person. He had strong opinions but he didn't shove them in anyone's faces.

I haven't had hordes of women screaming at me in quite the same way as in the movie, but people do get very into it when you're performing. You get fans who idolise you. I've done hen parties and I performed at a nudist camp once — it was mostly the blokes who didn't put their clothes on for the show. There is underwear thrown but it's not always the little lacy kind. It's not quite the same when it's big bloomers landing on stage.

Do I have a Colonel Parker in my life?
I do, my manager. She's not quite
like Colonel Parker. We have
a healthier relationship! ■
Interview by Phil de Semlyen
→ www.jdkingelvis.co.uk

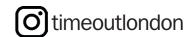


# ImeOnt

# Time Out's first digital cover launches on June 28

London's most incredible people, food and happenings, coming to your Instagram from next week





#### LONDON ON SCREEN

The location China Walk Estate, SE11.

The scene An unexploded Luftwaffe bomb goes off, unearthing treasures that prove Pimlico is actually French territory. After finally winning back their right to be Brits, the tight-knit but exhausted band of locals hold a street party to celebrate. Predictably, it rains.

Then Lambeth doubled up as Pimlico in this Ealing classic. Devastated by Nazi bombing. this stretch of Lambeth Road was awaiting redevelopment when Margaret Rutherford, Stanley Holloway and co descended to film it in the soggy summer of 1948.

Now It hasn't changed much, with a few of its Georgian townhouses still standing. 'The film is about a community uniting to preserve its neighbourhood,' says architectural historian Edmund Bird. 'Ironically, after its release, the area's working-class communities were hugely affected by large-scale clearance and housing redevelopment.' China Walk, where the street party was filmed, is one of the only post-war estates to endure. Nowadays, there's a mix of wealthy professionals and private residents in the 1930s-to-1960s council flats. ■ Thomas Hobbs

#### The street party in 'Passport to Pimlico'





#### **ALSO OPENING**



#### **GEORGE MICHAEL FREEDOM UNCUT**

\*\*\*\*

Silky-voiced superstar, LGBTQ+ legend and all-round good egg, George Michael was a man of many parts. The most private of them, of course, got him into a spot of bother with the LAPD, and that public outing is just one of the topics this access-most-areas doc (a new cut of a 2017 film) digs into. Michael co-directs with David Austin, who controls the agenda, but the music, famous contributors and his own  $can dour \, make \, it \, a \, fine \, parting \, gift \,$ from the East Finchley boy made good. Phil de Semlyen



#### **THE BLACK PHONE**

Based on a story by Stephen King's son, Joe Hill, this taut horror trades on every parent's worst fear: their child being snatched by a predator. But its focus is not adult anguish, rather the nightmare suffered by a young abductee, Finney (Mason Thames), imprisoned by a serial killer known as 'the Grabber' (Ethan Hawke in a creepy demon mask). It sounds grim, but director Scott Derrickson ('Sinister') gives it all a propulsive escape-room feel, tasking the resilient Finney with escaping his horrific predicament before it's too late. Dan Jolin



#### **NITRAM**

\*\*\*

The wasp-like buzzing of lawnmowers takes on a horrible menace in 'Snowtown' director Justin Kurzel's latest suburban Aussie nightmare. It traces the events leading up to 1996's Port Arthur mass killings by a lone gunman (played by a Cannes awardwinning Caleb Landry Jones). The catastrophe, which changed the country's gun laws in 12 days flat, isn't shown. Instead, Kurzel asks us to fear the grim potential of a troubled man with access to firearms - and he does it with depressing topicality. Stephen A Russell



#### **THE PRINCESS**

With 'Spencer' and 'The Crown' both tackling the life of Lady Di, the appetite for stories about her is far from fading 25 years after her death. The latest of them, made by British filmmaker Ed Perkins, is a documentary formed entirely of archive footage (ie no interviews, no voiceovers). There's lots to choose from, but while some offer quirky insights - a skinhead getting a Diana tattoo on the eve of her weddingmuch will feel familiar. Still, 'The Princess' holds up an eerie mirror to the strange effect Diana had on her land and hertimes. ■ Dave Calhoun



# Life's a beach

The London International Festival of Theatre, aka LIFT, returns with a visionary show about climate change on a beach in... Deptford?

**DESPITE THE RAVAGES** of the pandemic, surprisingly few major London theatre shows were scrapped as a result: venues like the National are still dutifully working through productions announced in 2020, or even earlier.

For Kris Nelson, the artistic director of the London International Festival of Theatre – aka LIFT – it was different. Having announced his inaugural programme for London's biggest, boldest festival of world theatre on March 9 2020, he was forced to scrap the entire thing 11 days later.

'It was totally devastating for us,' he says. 'There were so many moments I wanted to share with audiences. I knew that these artists were going to give people a lot of really treasured memories.' The 2022 edition of the biennial festival is now upon us, the first since 2018. But it's a new programme: LIFT 2020 remains a ghost festival that existed on paper only.

It's sad, but the right thing to do. None of the work was scrapped (it's just that London didn't get to see it). Nelson felt time had moved on.

'A festival needs to offer us ways to engage and consider the times in which we live, and 2022 is a very different year from 2020,' he says. 'Artists in the line-up this year are giving audiences new ways of looking at the world and experiencing live performance.'

But one show dominates LIFT 2022. Made by an all-female creative team from Lithuania, 'Sun & Sea' is a durational opera set on a beach: that is to say, an artificial beach has to be made to accommodate it, and the show goes on for an extremely long time, with the same hour of performance 'looped' throughout the evening (audiences don't need to stay longer than one hour). The show is a comment on human complacency in the face of climate change and came to notice when it took the top prize at the hugely prestigious 2019 Venice Biennale, where it blew Nelson away.

'I only had a day in Venice and the work was at the top of my list of things to see, 'he says. 'At first I thought: "Oh, it's really cool"; then Ithought: "Oh, it's deeply clever". Then the loop kept happening and Iwas so gripped. I thought: "Oh, this is our lives". I stayed probably past my welcome and couldn't tear myself away. I was just completely astonished and, in the middle of a little square in Venice, I burst into tears. I had seen an artwork of staggering beauty, deep complexity, huge humour and generosity, and I was so, so, so very moved. We had to get it to London.'

There are other cool works at the festival: notably 'Radio Ghost', a headphones-based spectre hunt through a series of London shopping centres, and 'The



#### WHAT IS IT...

The London International Festival of Theatre is finally back.

#### WHY GO..

For a great programme headlined by ecoopera 'Sun & Sea'.

→ Various venues. Jun 23-Jul 10. Prices vary. Making of Pinocchio', an intimate trans narrative. But 'Sun & Sea' is the main attraction and the reason there are relatively few other shows this year: converting Deptford's Albany arts centre into a beach populated by opera singers is actually a pretty expensive process. 'Sun & Sea' uses over ten tonnes of sand and makes use of over 100 local volunteers to act as the non-singing beachgoers. But Nelson absolutely believes in the work, and to that end he's turned LIFT 2022 into a giant vehicle for it.

'This is a show that lets you see life unfold,' he enthuses. 'We're seeing a day on the beach and, while the premise seems so simple, underneath is also an alarm. Days like this might not last much longer.

For those who love to see shows that are world-renowned and that are moving the art and theatre world and shaping what performance can be, this one is for you too.'

8

By Andrzej Łukowski Who won't miss these feature boxes tbh.

#### How Time Out gave LIFT its lift-off

The first LIFT was part-funded by Time Out founder Tony Elliott. LIFT's founders share the story

'In 1979 we had left university with the idea of setting up an international theatre festival in London. As we visited theatres, producers, funding bodies and foundations, we met with resistance at every turn. "But who wants to see international theatre when British theatre is the best in the world?" or "We won't be able to understand a word, so what's the point?' Tony's reaction was the polar opposite. We had written to him explaining our idea for LIFT. We were trying to raise money for research visits to European experimental theatre festivals. Would he help? Tony invited us to the Time Out offices where he quizzed us intensely. The next day we received a letter from him. Not only would Time Out give us our modest travel expenses, but also £500, a huge amount in those days, "towards stamps, phone bills and other office expenditure, which I am sure you could do with". We couldn't believe it - unaskedfor largesse! Time Out became one of LIFT's champions, welcoming the first festival as a much-needed antidote to the largely insular British theatre scene and reviewing every show we presented that summer in 1981, including from Brazil, Peru, the Netherlands, Poland, Germany, France, Japan and Malaysia. Tony's support was vital, and much-needed wind in our sails at that crucial moment when everything hung in the balance. Thank you, Tony, for believing in us.'

Rose Fenton and Lucy Neal, Founders, London International Festival of Theatre



# ImeOnt

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**IN AN AGE** where we're still suckers for a sentimental ending, Henrik Ibsen's 1879 classic 'A Doll's House' retains one of the most shocking climaxes in literature, with heroine Nora simply abandoning her marriage and walking out of the front door, leaving her husband and kids behind.

US playwright Lucas Hnath's 'A Doll's House, Part 2' is only the latest sequel out of a surprisingly large number (most by incensed Victorians). But there is only one question that any of them tackle: what did Nora do next?

Hnath's taut, funny follow-up skips forwards 15 years. Noma Dumezweni's Nora is happily separated from her husband Torwald (Brían F O'Byrne), and has she's reinvented herself as an author, penning fierce, popular critiques of marriage under a pseudonym. But she's just discovered that Torwald didn't actually divorce her: she is still technically married, which she is absolutely not having. And so she returns home.

When Dumezeni's Nora first arrives she seems utterly assured, coolly batting away the incredulity of the family servant Anna Marie (June Watson), smoothly refusing to engage with any questions about her children. She's kind of amazing and awful at the same time: Nora's willingness to abandon her kids still feels disconcerting; but in the context of a story set in



A smart, funny sequel to the all-time lbsen classic.

WHY GO... The long-awaited stage return of Olivier-winner Noma Dumezweni.

→ Donmar Warehouse. Until Aug 6. £10-£55.

1894 Norway her actions are so transgressive as to feel positively revolutionary.

Doubts only creep in when Nora agrees to meet her youngest daughter Emmy (Patricia Allison) for the first time, ostensibly to persuade her to lean on Torvald for the divorce. Used to shocking people, and expecting tears and trauma, Nora is visibly bewildered by Emmy's bright, cheerful indifference towards her.

In essence, Hnath has constructed a play about Nora as a sort of folkloric character, about

what her gesture has come to mean over the years. It's too funny and knowing to feel like a 'straight' sequel. And yet the terse economy of the dialogue is very lbsen; the characters don't feel ersatz. And Dumezweni gives her all in making Nora a living, breathing, three dimensional character, whose unswerving belief in the rightness of her actions is exquisitely pricked by a realisation that she may have misjudged the feelings of those she left behind...

■Andrzej Łukowski

#### That Is NotWho IAm



**Jitney** 



#### WHAT IS IT..

A tricksy new thriller that's caused a lot of controversy.

#### WHY GO..

To discover the truth about shadow author 'Dave Davidson'.

→ Royal Court Theatre. Until Jul 16. £12-£45.



'THAT IS NOT Who I Am' was publicised as being written by a first-time playwright, apparently called 'Dave Davidson'. But people rightly suspected that it was actually authored by a bigname writer. Someone worked out who it was. The secret messily dribbled out. And for various reasons people got pissed off. Is this play good enough to overshadow the drama? Kinda.

To dive in with spoilers: the author is the respected Lucy Kirkwood, who uses a wilfully tricksy framing to tell the apparently 'true' story of an activist couple who try to bring down the establishment. Priyanga Burford plays a version of Kirkwood, acting as narrator as she reconstructs the couple's final days in defiance of a government ban on talking about the case.

Noah (Jake Davies) and Celeste (Siena Kelly) meet on a blind date. Celeste lets slip her theories on chemtrails. Noah isn't sure, but he does believe that the World Trade Centre was rigged to collapse. Kirkwood's writing is ingenious and subtle, showing how this couple gradually urge each other deeper into antiestablishment fervour.

Davies and Kelly have a winning chemistry. But the fact that we know how their mission is going to end means it often feels ponderous rather than tense. Does it feel dangerous enough to be something that would plausibly be censored by the government? No. But it's an intriguing experiment that shows the all-too-real obstacles to making radical change. ■ Alice Saville

#### WHAT IS IT...

August Wilson's great play about an unlicensed cab company.

#### WHY GO..

A phenomenal ensemble tackles a play we don't see enough.

→ Old Vic. Until Jul 9. £12-£65.



SET IN AN unlicensed taxi office in 1970s
Pittsburgh, August Wilson's 'Jitney' explores life
through the lens of a group of Black cab drivers,
trying their best to make do with the hand they've
been given and find a way to get by. Tinuke Craig's
exquisite revival peels back the walls of their
crumbling workplace, allowing us to enter it
as bystanders who have happened to stumble
across their little world.

Inside a small but effective box set, the men gossip, joke and argue their way through existence. The beauty of Wilson's writing is its realism. Each driver is a uniquely constructed individual that bursts off the page. There's Turnbo, played wholeheartedly by Sule Rimi, the group's busybody and hot-head who is unable to stay out of people's business. There's his rival Youngblood (Solomon Israel), a man striving to do his best for his family but constantly falling short. But it is Wil Johnson as his father and business owner Becker that is the star. Worn out from years of hard work, he stalks the stage with an air of weighted tiredness. Yet, his kindness prevails - a fact that makes his frenzied, anger-fuelled outburst all the more stirring when it comes.

The richness with which Wilson writes his characters is a gift to any actor. And this cast would do him proud. Though confrontation tends to appear to from nowhere, 'Jitney' is a careful unpicking of the lives and struggles of Black men. Wondrous and captivating, Craig's production gets this play's soul. 

Anya Ryan



EVERY YEAR, the Serpentine Pavilion shows up to herald the start of summer, and it's back again for 2022, designed this time by American artist Theaster Gates. But put away your sunscreen and finish your ice cream, because this isn't the pavilion of classic idyllic English summers, of Pimm's and strawberries and bucolic frolicking. This is a serious, austere business.

That's because Gates does not deal in frivolous fun; he deals in big topics. Through sculpture, installation and film, his work tackles subjects like housing inequality, structural racism and the concept of Blackness. His previous works have seen him building community centres in his native Chicago and creating exhibitions that function as critical histories of

materials like clay. 'Black Chapel', his imposing, cylindrical Serpentine Pavilion, doesn't stray too far from that stark path.

The inspiration at the heart of the work is the Rothko Chapel, a prayer space in Texas, with art by abstract expressionist master Mark Rothko. Gates's building follows a similarly meditative template, creating a space for quiet contemplation. It's

like being inside a giant vase, but in a very very relaxed way.

At the entrance is a functioning bronze bell, salvaged from a church in Chicago, and inside are tar paintings by Gates – a nod to his recently deceased father, who worked for years as a roofer. The design references 'the bottle kilns of Stoke-on-Trent, the beehive kilns of the western United States, San



It feels

like being

giant vase

inside a

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Kasabi Tombs of Kampala, Uganda'. all its clever references, is actually

contemplative, but it won't be completely silent by any means. Over the course of the summer, the pavilion will host a series of concerts-including performances by jazz drummer Moses Boyd and the London Oratory Choir, who will be doing some Gregorian chanting, apparently - as well as tea ceremonies and clay workshops.

'Black Chapel' might not have the fun and interaction of previous Serpentine Summer Pavilions, but it's the perfect place if you're someone who has always longed to find zen inside an enormous pot. ■ ightarrow 'Black Chapel', The Serpentine Pavilion by Theaster Gates. Hyde Park. Until Oct 16. Free.



IERPENTINE PHOTO: JESS HAND. DOMINIQUE GONZALEZ-FOERSTER, PHOTO. LBRIGHTKNOX ART GALLERY, PAPHAEL, "THE VIRGIN AND CHILD WITH THE

By Eddy Frankel Who is one of the least zen people you will ever meet.

#### **BEST OF THE BEST**

The top exhibitions you have to see in London right now



#### **Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster:** 'Alienarium 5'

VR and installation art combine for this exhibition created as a visitor centre for aliens. → Serpentine Gallery. Until Sep 4. Free.



#### Raphael

Portraits, Madonnas and more pudgy babies than you can shake the ugly stick at in this jawdropping exhibition of the Renaissance master's work. → National Gallery. Until Jul 31. £24-£26.



#### 'Postwar Modern: New Art in Britain 1945-1965'

A harrowing, brutal, overwhelming look at the impact of war on art. It's harsh but very beautiful. → Barbican Art Gallery. Until Jun 26. £18.

#### **Peter Saul**



PETER SAUL IS gross. He's weird and violent and nasty and strange and surreal and - most of all - he's very brilliant.

The American painter has been pushing his melty Pop art satirical aggression for decades, and despite being almost in his nineties, no one else comes close. His new paintings here are the same old Saul, but that's exactly what you want. He uses dappled splodges to create soft, airbrush-like canvases filled with talking hamburgers, mutant horses and leaky brains. One painting shows a two-headed being - part Superman, part God having an argument as planes drift overhead in a sneery takedown of political power gone mad. Another sees an old man losing a fight with a pile of bricks, another shows a bloke having his head chopped open by



an axe-wielding tree. In Saul's world, everything fights back, everyone gets their comeuppance, every face gets a slap. It's all punchlines with no set up, like someone's isolated a single comic strip panel and deleted all the words. You know it's violent

and weird and funny, but you don't necessarily understand why.

So it's a bit of a shame that this gallery is so unwelcoming. The assistants following visitors from room to room creates such an intimidating, uncomfortable

Violently weird, brilliantly surreal satirical painting.

He's in his nineties. and no youngster even comes close.

Michael Werner Gallery. Until Sep 10. Free.

environment, like they think everyone who comes in is some art criminal mastermind - because Saul is a special painter, and getting lost in his Bizarro World take on Pop is a trip that everyone should get to take. ■ Eddy Frankel



#### 'Gold'

elegantly simple Our'an from 1304, a glistening bit of Buddhist scripture from 1836, royal Ottoman seals, Biblical scenes and Persian poetry, all quietly shimmering with precious metal, and totally stunning.

\*\*\*\*

Gold here serves multiple symbolic purposes. Golden lines from the Qur'an show how important the words are, golden royal seals show how important a sultan is. Gold - so

Au-inspiring manuscripts

from history.

It's a glittering display of gorgeous decorative art.

British Library.

valuable, so rare - elevates the subjects, it makes the holy more holy, the powerful more powerful.

It's also a totem of wealth, obviously. Lots of these manuscripts are ostentatious statements of the commissioners' fortunes. The staggering letter from King James II to the Grand Vizier of the Ottoman empire is only as lavish as it is because old Jim is sending a message. He's saying he's powerful, important and very, very rich. Message received, loud and clear.

There's a bewildering variety of uses of gold here. There are solid strips of it emblazoned with Buddhist chants, a huge sheet of it for a Mughal royal decree, a perfectly intricate Spanish Haggadah, a gorgeously lush depiction of the lives of the Buddha. All that's missing is information on where the gold came from, and who had to pay with their lives for these books to be gilded.

Despite the centuries that have elapsed, the gold still glistens, it still shines on the page, so all of these stories still feel somehow alive, after all these years. ■ Eddy Frankel

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Until Oct 2, £10,

THESE DAYS, WRITING in gold is

as easy as popping into a shop and

buying a glitter pen. But in the years

before Paperchase (BP), writing with

gold actually meant something - it

carried a heavy symbolic weight. To

prove it, the basement of the British

plastered manuscripts from around

Library has been filled with gold-

the world, in multiple languages,

telling countless stories: a huge,



A NEW RESTAURANT in London is always an optimistic thing. The sector is awash with talent and loves to embrace the positive. But opening a restaurant ain't ever easy, even without Brexit-related staffing issues, a certain virus and the rising cost of... everything. So, what's it like to jump into the London food pool in 2022?

#### The forward-looking Malaysian place

Chef Abby Lee's first foray into the restaurant world didn't have the best timing. She opened in Spitalfields, selling salads to City workers, just weeks before the first lockdown and was forced to close. Now she's dusting herself off and trying again with **Mambow** at Market

Stalls in Peckham. 'After hitting rock bottom, I went home to Singapore and Malaysia with my tail between my legs,' she says. Back home, she made dishes with her aunties and grandmas, finding joy in cooking again. 'I've never cooked food from my home culture,' says Lee. 'I'm glad I failed and had time to reflect.' Now she's showing people that there's

more to Malaysian cuisine than laksa and roti, with fun spins on dishes like Hainanese chicken sando and her grandmother's Sarawak black pepper chicken curry.

Opening date? Open now.
What to order? The MWing: a deepfried chicken wing in an anchovy sambal. It's seriously addictive.

→ Stall 11, 133a Rye Lane, SE15 4BQ.

#### The one that has an actual open fire

Fire in the hole, Soho! Firebird is a new flame-flecked small-plates restaurant and natural-wine bar founded by restaurateurs Madina Kazhimova and Anna Dolgushina, who run a highly rated pan-Asian eatery in St Petersburg called Wong Kar Wine. For this place, they're doing things a little differently by opting for a laidback, simple approach to Mediterranean food alongside a dynamic wine selection from small producers. 'Why not try something new and fun? says Kazhimova. 'Isn't that what restaurants are all about? We go out so we can laugh, eat and drink. Some say the hospitality industry is in a crisis, but we see opportunity. Five years ago, the market was so competitive and it was impossible for a small restaurant like us

to compete. Now we're ready to jump at that chance.' Diners will get front-row seats to the action and can try charred seasonal produce such as rump steak with burnt onions and smoked bone marrow, and roasted duck breast with plum chutney.

Opening date? Open now. What to order? The epicsounding Firebird Alaska is a flaming baked dessert. Trust us, it's going to be lit. → 29 Poland St, W1F 8QR.

The prodigal dumpling one in east London

After years of attracting queues at Spitalfields Market, Chinese street-food stall **Dumpling** Shack is taking things to the nextlevel with its first permanent sitdown restaurant in London Fields. Chef-owners John and Yee Li are heading back to where it all began when they first started trading in Schoolyard Market in 2014. 'Having our own space where we get to call the shots is what I set out to achieve,' says John. 'It's a dream come true. Returning to Hackney is like a homecoming and it means everything to us. I've made a ton of expensive mistakes during the process, but I had to make mistakes in order to become a better businessperson.' The site had to be completely kitted out with a new

kitchen and ventilation system, and Tatale there are now two

restaurants split across the two floors. In the basement, Dumpling Shack will be serving its famous pork dumplings, prawn wontons, beef dan dan noodles and spring onion pancakes. Meanwhile, upstairs is a new chook concept called 'Sichuan Fry' born from the first lockdown: it's an ode to Nashville-style hot fried chicken sandwiches.

Opening date? Summer. What to order? The pork shengjianbao dumplings - crispy on the outside, juicy on the inside are famous for a reason.

→ 2 Westgate St, E8 3RL.

The game-changing African one

After a string of successful supper clubs and hopping from one pop-up to another, chef Akwasi Brenya-Mensa is ready to settle down. His debut restaurant Tatale, at The Africa Centre in Southwark,

Mambow

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complexities of pan-African cuisine. 'I've always jumped about, cooking yaji fried chicken burgers and jollof rice bowls at fashion shows and festivals,' Brenva-Mensa says. 'But there's only so much you can do with supper clubs. They're not your own space. You can create the atmosphere, but you can't create the environment.' With his first permanent place, Brenya-Mensa is hoping to raise the profile of African cooking and make it more accessible to Londoners. 'Logistically, I'm tired of carrying boxes, packing up until 4am, using my car as a pantry and taking things to storage,' he says. 'I want to walk into a space where I can just prepare and cook.'

aims to educate diners on the

**Dumpling Shack** 

Opening date? July.

What to order? Omo tuo: a Ghanaian rice ball staple served with a comforting and satisfying groundnut soup. ■

→ 66 Great Suffolk St, SE1 0BL.



By Angela Hui Who would name her restaurant The Potato Palace.

Time Out London June 23 2022

#### The Nook



I ONCE HAD a really awful flatmate. His bedroom smelled like the London Zoo reptile house, his music offended me and he left the bathroom in a state of apocalyptic dilapidation. But I put up with it all because he was a great chef. I mention this because if Nook's Lalé Oztek-Pook were my flatmate, she could get away with literal murder: her cooking is that good.

The Nook is run by a winsome husband-and-wife team. Upstairs, you'll find the kinetic Angus who does front of house and knows loads about wine. But he'd be the first to admit that, for all his talent, he's essentially the Flava Flav to his wife's Chuck D.

Lalé, who trained at Cordon Bleu and paid her dues at Oklava, Kyseri and The Mash Inn, is out of sight, a Michelin-worthy elf toiling in the kitchen downstairs. She picks up veg on the way to work and rushes plates of food upstairs. It makes you wonder how she finds time to cook.



On our visit, my mate and I ate nearly everything on the changing menu and there wasn't a dud. Lalé's locally famous crispy courgette dolma bites were sensational. The pickled naga chilli houmous, topped with crunchy chickpeas, was banging. Everything zinged and snapped. The sea bass in beurre blanc was sat on an underbrush of pak choi and peas. Saucy lamb

meatballs kicked ass. Best of all was the dessert: hazelnut praline parfait with miso butterscotch and cocoa nibs. I'm not really a dessert guy but this was from another planet.

The Nook's not as slick as some of its neighbours, but who cares when food and its creators are so great? It's up there with Trullo, Black Axe Mangal and Sambal Shiok.

Long live Lalé! Joe Mackertich

WHAT IS IT...
Mediterranean food touched by the hand of God.

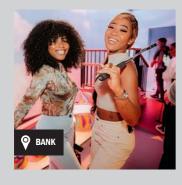
WHY GO...

Skipping dessert is like leaving a Metallica gig before they play 'Master of Puppets'.

→ 220 St Paul's Rd, N1 2LL.

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#### GIUSEPPE'S PLACE

Come down Tuesday to Saturday and sample our new lunch menu: starter, main and a glass of wine for £26. We've got pasta, pizza, meat and fish options, all served with a big portion of good old Italian hospitality. Buon appetito! 47-49 Borough High St, SE1 1NB.

#### **Ever After**



TUCKED AWAY IN a leafy corner of Hoxton Square, Ever After bills itself as a 'neighbourhood bar', which seems about right. There are cocktails and small plates, marble counter tops and low jazz. High-stooled tables for two are just screaming out for a date night. So far, so very Shoreditch.

For a Wednesday night, it filled up fast, with friendly chatter from owner Alastair Burgess (who also runs the award-winning bar Happiness Forgets in the basement below) providing welcome recommendations from the robust drinks menu. The expertly made house-gin Martini, pre-batched and served in a frozen glass, was divine.

First up, I tried the aubergine custard: babaganoush on steroids. A delicate, buttery blend of roasted aubergine and cream, its sweetness sank into your tongue, while the toppings of chives, white asparagus and sorrel added a slightly bitter crunch to cut through it all.



Happiness Forgets.

#### WHY GO..

For the next-level house Martini and a lip-lickingly good aubergine custard.

> 8-9 Hoxton Square, N1 6NU.

The other plates were almost as delicious. The heritage tomatoes with horseradish cream and fennel, topped with a soothing cucumber granita, looked artistic and were comfortingly earthy.

The mango burrata, a sculptural arrangement made with lime rind and crispy shallots, was fresh, bright and interesting. The poached cod with a North African-inspired

spiced cauliflower 'couscous' was textural and subtly fragrant. Man. even the skin-on chips hit the spot.

Intriguing-sounding dessert 'chocolate nemesis' was another delight. It was a plate of indulgent goodness that you might think you don't need. Actually, though, you really do. One thing this place is not is a happy ending – I'll definitely be back. ■ Chiara Wilkinson

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#### **Bamboo Mat**



A Japanese-Peruvian Nikkei joint in Leyton.

It's charming, the food is mainly great and it's in Leyton.

→ 625 High Rd Leyton, E10 6RF.



is a unique opening for this part of London. Its Nikkei menu – the cuisine that fuses Japanese recipes with Peruvian ingredients – has been created by chefs Denis Gobjila and Victor Rosca, who met at Soho's acclaimed Chotto Matte. There's ceviche, tiradito (sashimi in citrus sauce) and maki rolls, with mains including lambchops, salmon teriyaki and grilled wagyu.

THIS NEW PERUVIAN-JAPANESE arrival

A classic Peruvian starter of seabass ceviche was bathed in a vivid orange tiger's milk, blending the sharp acidity of yuzu with the spicy-but-fruity aji amarillo chilli pepper. Its notes of passion fruit and mango paired well with cubes of sweet potato.

Another key creation was the hamachi hot maki - a hit of truffle running through the yuzu soy. It was delicious. A slate of salmon tataki melted addictively in the mouth. Our mains were more rustic: grilled octopus tentacle was on-point, its fiery smokiness driven by cumin and chilli. And a generous portion of chicken teriyaki used thigh meat for tenderness, its sticky glaze pimped with spring onion and sesame seeds.

There were a few minor quibbles. But as its confidence builds, and with support from locals (like me), Bamboo Mat deserves to be a great Leyton success. ■ Stephen Emms

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