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This issue of Time Out in no time at all

Brad lads

We take Yorkshire bassline brats Bad Boy Chiller Crew on a tour of the West End. What could go wrong?

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Top flight

James Knappett's Upstairs at The George is nirvana for meat and fish lovers. Well worth the climb

PAGE 68



Sun's out, wellington boots out! Our guide to the UK's summer fests, plus a chance to win Glasto tix

Festivals PAGE 45 Wax on, wax off Make some noise! London's Kung-fu Film Club is a rowdy antidote to po-faced shushing cinema

PAGE 58

Shock of the new

The latest show at 180 Strand is an amazing series of mind-frying experiences. Proceed with caution

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FEATURES AND REGULARS

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If, like me, you were born and raised in London, you sometimes forget what it's like to be a newcomer. To see its grimy thoroughfares, life-sized Monopoly pop-ups and breathtaking Pret a Mangers for the first time. To feel intimidated by *that London*, aka the Big Dirty Bastard, like a benighted, cave-dwelling troglodyte, trembling before a Lamborghini showroom. We take it for granted, but this place is A LOT.

Time Out, the magazine, was for decades the first port-of-call for the city's noobs. In days gone by, wide-eyed culture vultures like Bradford's Bad Boy Chiller Crew (p25) had no choice but to consult this publication for tips on art, theatre and food. If you *didn't*, you'd end up like every other visitor: folornly roaming through Soho, looking for somewhere that stays opens late (there is, of course, *nowhere* that stays open late in Soho). These pages were the gateway to cutting-edge culture. And also lots of prosecco brunch deals.

The mag's ending soon (turn the page for more on that) but who needs a grubby, planet-killing paper thing in 2022? Time Out's relevance, like that of Angus Steak House, is eternal.

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



Snackbar in Dalston got robbed recently. Massive shame. I love those guys. Top-notch food and a wicked garden to boot.



Field Day is coming. Squarepusher, Peggy Gou, Daniel Avery and of course Kraftwerk. Grab your tickets now to avoid disappointment.



If you fell hard for Xi'an Impressions during lockdown, I really recommend Master Wei Xi'an in Bloomsbury. Similar stuff, with an authentic vibe.



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Time Out Group CEO Chris Ohlund

Time Out founded 1968 by Tony Elliott

Cover Photograph Jess Hand, rooftop Lyric Roof Garden, hand models Nicki Wymer and Wayne 'Beautiful Hands' Mensah

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Goodbye to print

Time Out London's life on paper is coming to an end next month, but it will still live online. Head of Production *Dave Faulker* reflects on the magazine's story and legacy



I'VE WORKED AT Time Out for what feels like 155 years. In 1985, I turned up at its Southampton Street office for my first day as a typesetter, copying

out journalists' words using a typewriter. It was a wild time. The magazine used to have 16 to 18 pages of lonely hearts adverts and published the screening times of every cinema in London. Safe to say, it's changed a lot since then. TikTok's apparently a thing, for one. But Time Out continues to be London's bible. It's been with us through the Aids crisis, through multiple recessions, and more recently, through a global pandemic. It published the last-ever interview with Marvin Gaye and has featured cover stars like David Bowie, Madonna, David Attenborough and Bob Marley. When the late Tony Elliot founded it as a London listings pamphlet back in 1968, he couldn't possibly have known the influence it would grow to have. Because of the magazine, people took notice of underground culture that they would never have discovered otherwise. Small restaurants sold out of star dishes, emerging musicians blew up and queues lined up to get into alternative cabaret shows. People would go through the magazine like it was the Christmas *Radio Times*, circling everything they wanted to do in London that week. In 2012, the magazine went free. Transport for London said they'd never find a copy of Time Out left behind at the end of a tube line: people would always pick one up and take it home. Time Out's legacy is that it made people realise that London is the best city in the world, and that they're not using it enough. That's never going to end – but things do change. After a 54 year run, the last Time Out print magazine will be handed out across London on Tuesday, June 21. After that, you'll be able to read all our content for free at www.timeout.com/london. From reviews to features, interviews to listings – plus more excellent social, video, and digital content – you'll be on your way to discovering more of London than you ever have before.■ *Interview by Chiara Wilkinson*

City life



What goes into the London plates that everyone bangs on about

PLANQUE, THE WINE den and French restaurant tucked away in Haggerston's railway arches, might be hidden, but it's anything but ordinary. With a vivid blue private-dining alcove and ten-metre-long communal oak table, its lobster tartine sums up the space's unassuming elegance to a tee. 'It's like a piece of toast – a really nice piece of toast,' says Seb Myers, chef and founder. To drink? 'It would go well with a nice glass of champagne, or a dry white,' Myers says. He talks us through the stellar dish. \blacksquare *Chiara Wilkinson* \Rightarrow 322-324 Acton Mews. £17.

The reaction

'This dish is slightly unassuming – it's meaty lobster, with a crunchy piece of bread. The sauce is the star and I think the depth of flavour surprises people most.'

The lobster 'After blanching the

lobster, we cool it down, slice it up and lay it on the toast. The idea is we have clean, pristine meat on top of a thick and super intense sauce?

The bread

'We toast our housebaked sourdough on the grill to give it a smokiness. We always have a surplus of bread, so we make tartines or bread crisps to use it all up.'

The sauce

'We make a stock from the lobster head and bones, then mix in the brains with brown butter, giving it a deep seafood flavour with a scrambled-egg-like texture.'



OLD KENT ROAD SE1

THE STREET THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

Singer-songwriter Joy Crookes on growing up in south-east London

THERE'S A RAMP on Old Kent Road. Every time I drive over it, I get a strange feeling of nostalgia. It reminds me of being in the car with my dad, listening to 'Has It Come to This?' by The Streets for the first time. I'd never heard anything like it before. During my childhood, we'd listen to every type of record you could imagine: Kate Nash, then a Trojan compilation, then Roberta Flack. When young people ask me for advice these days, I tell them to listen to everything. The larger your palette, the more you can be influenced by.

Whenever my dad and I finished our shopping at the big Tesco, we'd buy candy sticks and call them fake cigarettes, then peoplewatch from the bench at the end of the checkout. One time, we bought 'Favourite Worst Nightmare' by Arctic Monkeys and blasted it from the car with the roof down. Backthen, I didn't think it would be possible to have a career in singing. I never went to music school, but those car journeys gave me a musical education. Now, I'm a musician and I'm driving that same cardown Old Kent Road. It feels very full circle. Interview by Chiara Wilkinson

→ Joy Crookes is the ambassador for Timberland's 'My Community, Our Nature' campaign.

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WE HAVE QUESTIONS

What the heck is going on with Oxford Street?

I miss HMV and the big Topshop. What's with all of Oxford Street's boarded-up shops?

Online shopping. Fewer commuters. Recession. 'Covid and lockdowns reduced international tourists, who used to be big spenders,' says Nicholas Bailey, emeritus professor of urban regeneration at the University of Westminster. 'Now, more people are shopping in their local town centre or Westfield.'

What about all those souvenir and candy stores?

'We understand these are far from legitimate businesses,' Westminster City Council told Time Out. The council believes these stores may be avoiding rate bills. It gets juicier. Thirty shops on Oxford Street are currently under investigation for business-rates evasion totalling around £5m.



So, what can be done to restore Oxford Street to its former glory?

'I'd like to see the street used for more cultural activities and housing,' says Bailey. 'Traffic is being constrained, so it could be an attractive place to live.' But the reality? A lot of spaces are applying for permission to convert to offices.

Does that mean no more shopping?

Well, maybe not just yet. 'We have a flurry of new brands coming into the district,' says Luciana Magliocco, associate director of marketing at the New West End Company. 'From the Arcade Food Hall, Outernet and The Twist Museum opening this year, to IKEA in 2023, Oxford Street is becoming more than just a fashion mecca.' No need to worry, London: get ready for Oxford Street 2.0. ■ *Chiara Wilkinson*

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City life international

Why are so many new megacities being built?

Skyscrapers are rising almost out of nowhere as countries compete to show off their 'green' credentials

> Songdo near Seoul, South Korea

SMACK BANG IN the Saudi Arabian desert, it looks like a mirage at first. A hulking, futuristic metropolis, rising out of the sand like something from a Frank Herbert novel. But the reality is a whole lot weirder. This 100-mile-long 'linear city' will actually be built: the Saudi state's most outlandish attempt yet to project an image of itself as progressive and cutting-edge.

Named Neom ('neo' is 'new' in Greek; the M's from 'mustaqbal', Arabic for 'future'), the settlement would have a greater land mass than Israel, be totally car-free and powered by wind and solar energy. One part would even float on the Red Sea to help conserve coral reefs. The first section is due to be completed by 2025.

And it seems it won't be the only city springing up almost out of nowhere. Across the Atlantic, another brandnew megacity is on the way. Danish

architecture firm BIG and billionaire Marc Lore are working on an American settlement called Telosa. They reckon that the development – whose exact location is still to be confirmed – will be home to up to 5 million people by 2060.

So, what's with all these slightly ridiculous new city plans? Why bother when you could just keep

expanding the places you already have? Well, to start with, there's branding. Building a whole new city is pretty impressive and it's an opportunity to show off your supposed values as a developer. In the case of both Neom and Telosa, everything revolves around sustainability: the designs show tree-covered buildings, train networks and nature-filled parks. Tech is also at the heart of these plans, with Telosa boasting 'autonomous

vehicles' and robotic helpers featuring in Neom's designs.

One purpose-built 'smart city' that already exists is Songdo in South Korea. It was completed last year and has all sorts of practical features, like app-controlled lighting and thermostats, and real-time sensors monitoring traffic. But where that development is alargely pragmatic – if slightly soulless – undertaking, critics say the Saudi and US 'cities' seem to be vanity

projects first and foremost. Neom is just another move in Prince Mohammed bin Salman's drive to repair his country's image, while Telosa has widely been referred to as a 'greenwashed Vegas'. It makes grumbles about new towns like Milton Keynes – and that dodgy building over the road – seem very innocent indeed. Sophie Dickinson



Future proof Artist's impression of Telosa

Great things that we love in other cities

Rimini's extra film museum



FEDERICO FELLINI WAS a master of the lavish and bizarre. So it's apt that the legendary film director's birthplace - Rimini, on Italy's Adriatic Coast - is now home to a very OTT museum dedicated to his life and work. Spread over a Renaissance-era castle and an eighteenth-century palazzo, it brims with eccentric memorabilia and exhibits. Visitors can recline on a huge, plush sculpture of Anita Ekberg while watching scenes from 'La Dolce Vita'. Blow on a feather, and Fellini's dream sketches will appear on a wall. Head outside to be engulfed in a spray fountain mimicking the Rimini fog he immortalised. After proper cinematic immersion? On the palazzo's ground floor you'll find the dazzling, recently renovated Cinema Fulgor, said to be the spot where Fellini discovered his passion for the movies. Huw Oliver

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Get IT ON Google Play Good news! You live in a city full of really tall buildings, which means you have a worldclass selection of rooftop bars to drink at. Here are *Alice Saville*'s faves for a superior summer

Forza Wine

rin a

AS SOON AS summer's first anaemic rays warm the chill spring days, the sun exerts a magnetic pull that draws Londoners irresistibly upwards, to the city's rooftops, to drink, mingle and hopefully not vom over the edge on to the streets below. But what's the draw of being 400 feet in the air when there are so many fine groundfloor options? It could be that particulate pollution is notably lower once you get above street level and we just want to get some clean air into our creaky lungs. It could be that we're taking the socialhierarchy pyramid we learnt in primary school history a little bit too literally and want to feel like Egyptian pharaohs lording it over the benighted serfs of the pavements. Or it could be that boozing on a rooftop brings us closer to God, the golden sunbeams refracted by your goblet of Aperol Spritz like a halo of divine approval. Who knows? But why resist? If you are going to drink on a London rooftop, here are the best ones to do it on...



The one up in the clouds The Nest at Treehouse Hotel

Make like a pigeon and roost among the treetops at The Nest. This plantfilled rooftop bar is perched above Oxford Street and decked out with a host of eco-inspired trappings. Its gorgeous terrace offers bird's eye views in all directions. **Drink this** The Nest Martini (£15), delicately garnished with a pickled pear, is the real feather in its cap. **Where to sit** Pick a pew where you can watch the London Eye's shifting colours as the sun sets. **How high?** Sixteenth floor → 14-15 Langham Place, W1B 2QS.

The one with campfires Midnight Apothecary

Ah, the sweet, sweet lure of fire. Who can resist staring intently into the flames like some kind of bloodlust-addled caveman? Not the punters at The Midnight Apothecary, who get to sip botanical cocktails while stoking their own firepit. Keep things sweet by buying a s'mores kit with marshmallows and poky sticks.

Drink this The Woodland Martini (£9) is laced with smoked sage. Where to sit Sit on a log for maximum rusticity. How high? First floor → Railway Avenue, SE16 4LF.

The one with games Roof East

Ever dreamt of shooting a bow and arrow high above London's streets like a cocktail-swilling latterday Robin Hood? Head to Stratford. Roof East is packed with a bunch of games, ranging from the standard (ping pong, lawn bowls) to the *quirky* (karaoke in a black cab). Fuel up at food vans offering eclectic eats like pide or kati rolls. **Drink this** Keep playing all night with a Boozy Iced Coffee (£11). Where to sit Why sit down when you can play crazy golf? How high? Eighth floor → Floors 7 and 8, Stratford Multi Storey Car Park, Great Eastern Way, E15 1XE.

The one with THE view

Trafalgar Square

Sometimes you just want to lean into the old 'Isn't London great!' vibe. At that point, you should make for the roof of the Trafalgar St James hotel. Book in advance (necessary) to bag yourself a spot overlooking Trafalgar

Square, then gaze over its giant bronze lions, splashing fountains and flocks of tourists, lord of all you survey.

Drink this This is a luxurious establishment, so crack out a glass of Laurent-Perrier La Cuvée (£16). Where to sit Eye-to-eye with Lord Nelson, of course. How high? Seventh floor \rightarrow 2 Spring Gardens, SW1A 2TS.

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Rooftop bars

The one with a secret garden

Bankers in pinstripe have long made for Coq d'Argent, a French restaurant with a gorgeous rooftop garden. But it's too good to be the exclusive property of financiers. Escape to this City secret at the weekend and you'll be rewarded with rolling lawns, trailing vines and a well-priced Saturday set menu. **Drink this** The Blood Orange Spritz (£14) is a citrussy treat. **Where to sit** Try and get a table with a view of that luscious lawn. **How high?** Seventh floor \rightarrow 1 Poultry, EC2R 8EJ.

The one beside the river 12th Knot

Give it up for the shining majesty of the river Thames at dusk with a seat at 12th Knot. It's a stylish bar-terrace above the South Bank's swish Sea Containers hotel with inevitably great views across the water of St Paul's. If it's raining, get cosy in the glittering 1920s-style interior, with its dandelion-esque chandeliers and plush banquettes. Drink this The Sparkling Spring Garden (£12.50) is a très chic twist on an Aperol Spritz. Where to sit Get a window seat for views and comfort. How high? Twelfth floor \rightarrow 20 Upper Ground, SE1 9PD.

The one for party people Prince of Wales

If you want to sit back, relax and peacefully enjoy the view, you should go somewhere else. Brixton's Prince of Wales has a roof terrace that heaves with good-times-seeking crowds the second the sun pops out and long after it sets, too. **Drink this** Grab a nicely priced Wray Rum Punch (£8). **Where to sit** Standing room only. **How high?** Second floor \rightarrow 467-469 Brixton Rd, SW9 8HH.

Seabird



The one with the gothic backdrop

The Rooftop at the Standard

AstroTurfisn't usually the height of chic but The Standard Hotel's rooftop more than pulls off its verdant fake lawns, set against panoramic views of King's Cross. Picnic on Mexican-Spanish treats from Peter Sanchez-Iglesias's Decimiño. Drink this The Ginger Margarita (£15) will give you a spicy wallop. Where to sit Score the banquette with a view of the gothic splendour of St Pancras station. How high? Eleventh floor → 10 Argyle St, WC1H 8EG.

The one that grows its own greens The Culpeper

Fruit, veg and herbs sprout in the rooftop garden of this Spitalfields restaurant, named after the seventeenth-century botanist and local resident Nicholas Culpeper. As well as offering a leafy backdrop to outdoor tippling, they make their way on to the menu in the form of lush green salads and super fresh herbal garnishes. **Drink this** Savour the flavours of

a skin-contact wine. Where to sit The greenhouse is the

perfect place to soak up rays on chilly days.

How high? Fourth floor. → 40 Commercial St, E1 6LP.

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The one with Negronis **Forza Wine**

Frank's has long been the overlord of Peckham's rooftop boozing scene. But great as it is, it also gets rammed the second the barometer teeters from 'bloody freezing' to 'almost bearable'. So opt for this Italianaccented alternative, where an excellent wine list is accompanied by sophisticated snacks that you could totally build a meal from. Drink this A Negroni (£10). Where to sit Make for the bench with a view of the glittering Shard. How high? Fifth floor

 \rightarrow The Rooftop, 133a Rye Lane, SE15 4BQ.

The terribly theatrical one

Lyric Hammersmith

What's the best thing about this theatre bar? You don't need to buy a ticket to enjoy the views and drinks.

This west London spot is a budgetfriendly place to soak up the sun, surrounded by giant tree ferns and thespstalking about the latest play. Drink this Red wine (from £5.70) is the theatre fan's bevvy of choice. Where to sit On a surprisingly comfy wooden bench by Lyric Square. How high? Second floor → Lyric Square, King St, W6 0QL.

The one with oysters Seabird

If anything makes you feel alive, it's slurping oysters whole like you're a large otter. Add in panoramic views of the South Bank and you've got a recipe for summery bliss. Seabird boasts a marble bar and London's longest bivalve list. Drink this The marmalade-laced $Pelican(\pounds 15)$ is a highlight of the bird-themed cocktail menu. Where to sit Bag a cushion-covered sofa to recline on in style. How high? Fourteenth floor → 40 Blackfriars Rd, SE1 8NY.

The one with comedy **Bar Elba**

Face it, your friends ran out of fresh material to make you truly lol years ago. You need the help of a pro. And that's just what you'll find at Bar Elba's Sunday night comedy seshes. This unpretentious rooftop fun palace also boasts film screenings and even an ice rink come winter, so you can skate among the stars. Drink this Keep the good

times flowing with Luna Springs (£10.95), a gin and limoncello delight. Where to sit The hottest seat in the house is the one with a view of the London Eye. How high? Fourth floor → Rooftop Mercury House, 109-117 Waterloo Rd, SE1 8UL. Selection curated by Angela Hui

> Find more of the high life at timeout.com/rooftopbars

Bar Elba

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Bradford's Bad Boy Chiller Crew are ready for the big time and ready for London. But is London ready for them? *Kate Lloyd* shows them round. Portraits *Jess Hand*

IF YOU SQUINT, it kind of looks like a Renaissance painting...

Bad Boy Chiller Crew's Gareth Kelly (aka GK) is lying in the middle of a road on the edge of Covent Garden, belly out and mouth open, like an overindulging king. Looming over him is his bandmate Sam 'Clive' Robinson – his mullet poking out from beneath a novelty jester hat – pouring a stream of Stella over his mate's face. A passing school trip looks shocked. Someone puts down their Pret to take a picture. It's 2pm.

If this was an ordinary magazine interview with an ordinary band, a moment like this would be a total coup. But for Bad Boy Chiller Crew, it's just business as usual.

Bad Boy Chiller Crew

Proper pop stars

Over the last three years, the trio of Bradford twentysomethings have become an unlikely pop phenomenon. They've found their niche pumping out serotonininducing rave music, rapping over relentless bassline beats to make records that evoke sticky superclub carpets and £1 drink deals.

Their lyrics are funny: 'PC Plonker, drives like my grandad'. Their social-media channels are full of comedy skits and 'Jackass'style prank videos that might have popped up on LadBible back in the day. (GK's heroes are 'Little Britain', Peter Kay and Keith Lemon.) Depending on who you ask, the tracksuit-clad gang are either 2022's vom-flecked answer to parody group Goldie Lookin' Chain or transgressive pioneers, bringing northern council estate culture to the mainstream. Whatever they're doing, it's working. Single 'Don't You Worry About Me' hit the Top 40 last year, they've got a US tour lined up for the autumn and they've even bagged their own ITV2 reality show. In fact, up north, the group have achieved the kind of stardom that means they have to go round with two security guards at all times.

'We can't go to the Co-op, we can't go to the pub, we've had to move from our houses because of fans showing up,' GK tells me. 'The only time we can walk about and not get hassled is down here in London.'

A grand day out

The band are making the most of their near-anonymity in the capital today. Well, Clive and GK are. Third member Kane Welsh has gone AWOL. ('Fucked if we know where that guy is', is the explanation I get for that.) We're on a whistlestop tour of the sights of central London with their security guards (bald, middleaged and hench) and a load of people from their label (skinny, grey-faced and concerned) before they play a show at Kentish Town Forum as part of their UK tour. It feels like a stag on steroids.

'Look at that hat, you silly cunt! Hahaha!'

As our unlikely group makes its way past Boris Bikes, street



'We're all idiots so we didn't have anything to prove to each other' performers, tube signs and statues, utter chaos ensues. GK - a charisma $machine\,with\,bright\,white\,veneers$ and a laugh like a jolly giant - is constantly up to mischief. I look away and he's chatting up a Hare Krishna. I look away again and he's yelling, 'All right, lads, do you mind if I get in the back?' at the occupants of a police van. Then he's mooning the camera or wedgying his own shorts. Meanwhile, Clive follows in his wake, sunglasses on, cigarette hanging out of his mouth, cackling. ('I'm tired' is his catchphrase of the day. A clay-like tinge to his skin hints that 'painfully jagged' might be nearer the truth.)

Origin stories

Bradford, as described by BBCC, is a rose-tinted land of rolling fields and green hills. The roads are empty, it's relaxed, chilled and multicultural - 'like London, but everyone gets on'. Kane and Clive met at school there and started making comedy videos together. They befriended GK while he was DJing in local pubs and shilling pirate CDs, instantly clicked and started making daft music videos together, advertising local businesses. 'Carbon fibre tint in ceiling/Give us ten minutes we'll leave your car gleaming' they rap in the one for Billy's Hand Car Wash.



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'We're all idiots so we didn't have anything to prove to each other,' says GK. 'We could just be free and enjoy doing something.'

It's a few days after the Renaissance Painting Incident and I'm catching up with them over Zoom as they get ready for another gig. Everyone's talking over each other. GK's sweating profusely. Kane's here this time, slouched in his chair, taking the piss out of my questions like I'm an unlucky supply teacher. He chips in.

'My first impression of GK? He'd just had a line of a ket. He said, "All right, I'm going." Then I came out of the house two hours later and he was [sitting] mangled in the car, hahaha!'

The lads talk about drugs a lot. That GK did DMT on the tour bus last night, for example ('I like a party in my head'). But Kane – the sort-of Gary Barlow to GK's sortof Robbie Williams – is insistent that they want to be known more for their music than their misbehaviour. It was him who pulled together the group's first proper song, chopping up a remix of DJ Jean Jacques Smoothie's 2001 one-hit wonder '2 People' and writing verses to go over it. It's still him who leads production now.

'We sit down with Abba on, with Queen on...' he says, pouring himself a vodka orange. 'Who were we listening to last night? The Chili Peppers.' He adds, confidently: 'We listen to every genre. That's why we don't sound like anything else in the mainstream. The beats are fast, the rapping's rapid. We're just getting better and better.'

Breaking the south

None of the lads had ever been to London before BBCC. Now they're regulars. 'It's fucking expensive, though!' says GK. They've managed to do a bit of sightseeing – 'I thought Buckingham Palace was going to



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Bad Boy Chiller Crew

be massive but it's like a shed,' says Clive – and have been clubbing at the Ministry of Sound (GK: 'I was dressed in a yeti costume'). They're starting to build a fanbase down here too, although their London gigs don't go off like the ones up north, where the hyper-speed dance music the boys sample is still a staple of club playlists. (Listening to their album in lockdown made me homesick for nights I had as a teenager at Breeze Bar in Warrington.)

'I think at our London gigs people are coming for a bit of a pantomime rather than a rave,' says GK. 'They want to see what sort of nutjobs we actually are.'

Is he okay with that?

'Idon't give a fuck, hahaha!'

In many ways the group feel like they've cheated the system to get to this point. 'We've never had a plan,' says Kane. 'We weren't doing collabs or loads of media. We were just making music and funny videos and it worked.'

The lads reckon it's because they represent the kind of people who don't usually get much positive coverage in the media. 'All you see is high-class, serious people on TV normally,' says Kane. 'But our fans are just like us: idiot radges from council estates in Bradford and Leeds.' He explains that's why they stick to wearing high street tracksuits and rapping about JD Sports rather than indulging in designer gear. It's also why they do fundraisers at all their shows to support foodbank charities. 'We're still connected to that community,' he says. He gestures at me. 'For instance, we'd rather be doing meet-and-greets than doing this.'

The price of fame

The vibe has shifted. Everyone's antsy now. GK walks off and comes back. Kane's explaining that the group have got to keep pumping out good tunes. They're too famous to go back to their old lives now. They've got to make this work.

'We'll do more things in a week than someone might do in a lifetime,' says GK. 'That's the benefit of being famous. But the cons are like, fuck me, you go to the toilet and

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you've got a security guard outside waiting for you.'

He sounds exhausted, and despite my having only hung out with the group twice, it's obvious why. Being around the BBCC is like getting caught in a firestorm. They have a fizzing energy that you can hear loud and clear in their music. (Igenuinely crack up more hanging out with them than on any other Time Out interview.) But there's also an air of combustibility to them. One security guard tells me that they're called the Bad Boy Chiller Crew for a reason. Coming away from the chat I can see how they can have an obsessively passionate fanbase, be seen as

archetypes of toxic lad culture and be treated as a joke all at the same time.

'There are people who are famous and rich who are still caught in their nutshell about how they're seen,' says Kane. 'That's not winning. The prize of life isn't money or fame; as long as you've got that "don't give a fuck" attitude you've won.'

He pauses.

Ovster

SIX THF NIN

'Although if everyone was like us, the world would be fucked,' he says. 'Hahaha!'■

ightarrow Bad Boy Chiller Crew play Parklife on Jun 11.

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'Please don't let the people of Afghanistan be forgotten'



REBECCA FERGUSON, MSF NURSE, EMERGENCY ROOM, HFRAT

"We are treating a lot of patients and at times we've been close to being overwhelmed. In the intensive care unit, we've had up to three children in each bed. That's 50 extremely sick children in a space intended for 20.

We've seen a lot of malnourished children, but the biggest problem we're facing at the moment is measles. This year the whole of Afghanistan, not just our project in Herat, has seen a huge increase in cases. We're currently seeing more than 200 cases a week. mostly children under five years old -

60 per cent of whom need to be admitted and need extra care.

Measles is easily preventable by vaccination, but the crisis in Afghanistan means that there aren't enough vaccines here. Not enough children are being vaccinated.

One little girl was brought to us who was about three months old. She was tiny, had a red, blotchy rash spreading down her body and was struggling to breathe. We rushed her to the resuscitation table, but her breathing got worse. She had measles and pneumonia and she was exhausted. We'd all seen this before, when a child's body runs out of energy, runs out of fight.

In intensive care we see such sick, sick kids. And there are some days when you just think: 'Everyone is so sick, how is this going to get better?'

But we weren't ready to give up on her. As a team, we worked to treat her and keep her alive. Her mother

was with us the whole time, talking to her baby, stroking her hair. We worked for so long and tried so many things and eventually her breathing began to improve, and she slowly came back to us.

Ever since then, we've been busy. We've opened a new 60-bed unit for measles patients and we're hopeful that we'll be able to save even more lives.

Much of the world's attention is focused on Ukraine at the moment. But even with so many terrible things happening in the world, I hope the people of Afghanistan will not be forgotten. The situation here is very hard and people still desperately need our help."

Above: MSF doctor Solveig Köbe with Nyayesh, eight months old. Nyayesh was severely malnourished and had pneumonia when she was admitted to the intensive care unit of the MSF-supported paediatric department of Herat Regional Hospital. Photograph © MSF

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Wembley's newmulticultural market

Trader has been started by locals for locals

RHISHA PATEL USED to go

shopping on Ealing Road with her parents when she was a kid. '[The area] is nicknamed Little India,' she says. 'It's known for the sari shops and household goods stores.' Since then, however, it has remained largely unchanged. And that's why, alongside husband Sunil, she has spent the last three years working on Trader Wembley.

The idea behind it is 'to create a community hub where locals want to go hang out, eat, drink, and socialise', Rhisha says. According to Brent Council, Wembley is

 $undergoing \, one \, of the \, largest$ regeneration projects in the country. But while new-builds and shops have been popping up by the dozen around Wembley Park, Rhisha feels Ealing Road has been left behind a bit.

Trader Wembley is hoping to change all that. It will gather a collective of 30 different vendors on 87 Ealing Road -but it's not just the usual London story of street food, bubble tea and craft ale. 'We want the barber, the nail shop, somewhere you can get your eyebrows done then meet your friends for coffee,' says Rhisha. 'Or watch football or cricket on the big screens. The group of traders has been carefully curated to ensure they feel right for the venue and the area. 'I'm not trying to recreate what Ealing Road does so well already,' she says. 'What we're doing is trying to do is

complement the [existing] shops on the street.'

Trader also celebrates the diversity of Ealing Road. 'We have a huge number of religious festivals planned,' says Rhisha. 'Because we have so many different cultures in the area.' Going forward, we can also expect live music, comedy nights and kids' activities. 'We're really excited about our resident Bollywood evenings too,' says general manager Harriet Conafray. 'Ithinkthey'regoing to be crammed every week." Nicole Garcia Merida → Trader Wembley, 87 Ealing Rd.

Public Art Trail

'Start from Wembley Park station and walk all around the stadium. There's a big mural on the floor in front of the stadium, light boxes with photographic exhibitions, which are lit up at night, and the Spanish Steps which lead to the stadium are also covered in designs. I painted the Splay Steps.' → Multiple locations.

North Wembley

FRYENT COUNTRY PARK

Barn Hill

'This is on the edge of Fryent Country Park, which is almost a hidden treasure, not many people know about it. It's a massive country park that's really beautiful and forest-y. There are lots of little ponds and meadows; in early summer they're covered in buttercups.' → 106 Fryent Way, NW9 9SE.

Ahead

'This is a fun little café, bakery and bakery school. You can book workshops to do breadbaking courses, but it also does delicious coffee, artisanal bread and sweet treats. It's great for brunch and lunch, too.' → 26-28 Olympic Way, HA9 ONP.

Bread

Wembley Antiques Market

'It's a bit posher than a normal market; you can find slightly more higher-end pieces. It's such a little treasure trove. I'm a magpie so I picked up some vintage bits of silver jewellery there recently and they were very affordable.' → Canada Gardens, HA9 OSJ.

Ealing Road

'This road is famous for everything South Asian. There are lots of Indian street food places and plenty of shops to buy beautiful saris and wedding jewellery. Mumbai Local is a good restaurant, they do really nice chaats, street food and tea.' \rightarrow Ealing Rd, HAO 4AE.

Wembley Stadium 嵀

← Wembley Central

Boxpark Wembley

'It's got a nice range of street

food and good events happening

throughout the year. During half-term

they do stuff for kids so it's quite a fun

environment. A local coffee place, Boki,

one of the outdoor vendors there, is run

by such a friendly bunch, too. If I fancy

a naughty treat I'll get its salted

caramel brownie?

→ Wembley Park, HA9 0JT.

Vembley Park

WEMBLEY

STADIUM

Masalchi

'It's refined street food and the chef [Atul Kochhar] has two Michelin stars. Sometimes, when you go to a finedining Indian restaurant, it doesn't feel nostalgic enough, but here they have refined versions of favourite dishes you'd normally have at home.' \rightarrow 2 Wembley Park Boulevard, HA9 OHP.



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Silent Disco at The Shard

What is it? A chance to bust a move from the 72nd floor of The Shard. Why go? Sing like nobody's listening. Because they aren't. This hugely popular event will have you choosing tunes from battling DJs, all while grooving above the city. Wait, how much? £38.50. That's only £6.50 more than the viewing platform (which has no music). That's a deal worth dancing about. \rightarrow 32 London Bridge St. www.timeout.com/silentdisco

Kanishka

What is it? Six sharing dishes at a fine dining restaurant in Mayfair. Why go? This table for two is one hot deal, giving you and a special someone the chance to dive into a selection of mouthwatering small plates from India's 'sister states'. Wait, how much? Chicken tikka masala, signature black dal, stirfried tofu and more for £25, plus a cocktail for an extra fiver – tasty. \rightarrow 17-19 Maddox St. www.timeout.com/kanishka22.

Soul Circus

What is it? Weekend camping at a wacky festival set in the Cotswolds countryside.

Why go? Circus skills come blended with wellness and live music at this August festival in Gloucestershire. Because what's better than a few yoga stretches after a messy night in the D&B tent?

Wait, how much? You'll get a third off the usual price, making it £149. → Hollow Farm Livery.

www.timeout.com/soulcircus

Ronnie Scott's

What is it? Your choice of gig at a beyond *leg-en-dary* music venue. Why go? You know that jazzer dude Miles Davis? The one who did 'Bitches Brew' and 'Kind of Blue'? He's performed here, as well as other little-known artists like Count Basie, Jimi Hendrix and Sarah Vaughn. Wait, how much? You'll get 20 percent off tickets, plus a free house drink to get you in a sentimental mood.

→ 47 Frith St. www.timeout.com/ronniescotts

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Fairs, fêtes and festivals

🕲 😎 Artisan Festival

Unleash your inner craft fanatic at this family-friendly festival in the grounds of Henry VIII's gaff, where you can browse stalls of artisanal goodies, before getting stuck into workshops on everything from calligraphy and block printing to blacksmithing and embroidery. There'll be plenty of crafty fun for youngsters too, plus pop-up bars, food vendors and live music from the bandstand throughout the day. → Hampton Court Palace. May 13-15. Free with Palace entry.

South London Makers Festival

Soap making, 'crowd knitting' and 3D printing are just some of the varied activities you can get involved with at this annual fair organised by community creative hub the South London Makerspace. Plus, if you take along any broken devices you've got lying around, you can have them fixed at the Repair Café while you get stuck into all the fun. → Station Hall. May 14. Free.

<mark>ତ ♥</mark> Dulwich Park Fair

You'll find brass bands, retro funfair rides, local choirs, maypole dancing, magic acts, a Punch & Judy show and loads more at this massive south London fair kicking off Dulwich's ten-day local festival. Pup parents can enter their furry children into a dog show with prizes for the waggiest tail and best trick, while Vauxhall City Farm will be running a petting zoo and the London Fire Brigade will be swinging by in a fire engine for the kiddies to go wild over. Yummy mummies, descend! → Dulwich Park. May 15. Free.

S 😎 Urban Village Fête

Greenwich Peninsula's fab free day party returns for its eighth edition with a stellar line-up of live music, DJs and familyfriendly activities. Worldwide FM's Colleen 'Cosmo' Murphy will be recording her signature 'Balearic Breakfast' show live on stage, while Rhythm Section founder Bradley Zero will close proceedings with an eclectic set of techno and house. There'll also be crafty workshops on everything

from marbling to terrarium making, talks on a variety of contemporary urban issues and plenty of banging street food to sample, plus entertainers and facepainting for little ones.

→ Greenwich Peninsula. May 15. Free.

13 to Hackney Moves Festival

The UK's largest outdoor fitness festival returns to Hackney with a three-day programme of activities designed to help you work up a nice sweat. As usual, there'll be free fitness classes from the likes of Fight Klub, Hula Fit and Morning Glory villetaking place on theMarshes, plus a free-entry 5,000m race for those who successfully navigated Couch to 5k during last year's lockdowns. It all leads up to the Hackney Halfon Sunday, with the 21km route winding through the borough past cheering crowds. → Hackney Marshes. May 20-22. Free.

O Central ♥ North ♥ South ♥ East ♥ West > Streaming ♥ Outdoors

Save on supper

Want to get a table at a dreamy London restaurant with 50 percent off food?

etting a restaurant booking in London in recent years has become as difficult as securing a Glastonbury ticket. That is, until now. TheFork offers tables at those impossible-to-book spots and serves up a smörgåsbord of alternatives based on preference, availability, location and price meaning no more settling for a 9.30pm reservation. If that wasn't enough, Time Out is partnering with the app for TheFork Festival – a city-wide celebration of London's culinary scene where readers can get 50 percent off their food bill at more than 100 restaurants until June 5. Yep, that's right: simply book a table through TheFork and eat for half price, no strings attached. Taste buds tingling? Here are five of the top eateries taking part...

Whitcomb's

Want to sample the best of the French Mediterranean food without leaving the city? Whitcomb's brings nouvelle cuisine to the West End and has a great selection of eats at all times of the day – from petit déjeuner (breakfast to you and me) through to post-theatre sittings. → 38 Leicester Square, WC2H 7DY.

Colonel Saab

Located in what was formerly Holborn Town Hall, this dining experience from hotelier Roop Partap Choudhary is as grand as its surroundings. From signature dishes to regional specialities, you can sample all of the amazing flavours, aromas and colours of the subcontinent in one of London's most stylish settings. → 193-197 High Holborn, WC1V 7BD.

328-50 South Kensington

Like getting a taste for a variety of wines but often feel restricted when faced with modest by-theglass menus? You'll love this South Ken spot. This 'wine workshop and kitchen' always has a curated collection of bottles and carefullypaired grub, so you can peruse its selection without needing the bank balance of a local resident. → 96 Draycott Avenue, SW3 3AD.

Harrods Social by Jason Atherton

Harrods is renowned for stunning shopping, but its latest in-store food offering takes things up a notch. Run by four-time Michelin-starred chef Jason Atherton, guests can expect the best of seasonal British food in a space that goes big on opulence: think marble tables, leather booths and whole grilled Cornish lobster for £27.50. \rightarrow 87-135 Brompton Rd, SW1X 7XL.

Harrods Social by Jason Atherton

5El Inca Plebeyo This Ecuadorian eatery in

This Ecuadorian eatery in Islington has a menu that's as varied as the country's terrain. From salads and ceviche to an 18-hour slow-roasted pork belly, there's something for everyone to sample. → 162 Essex Rd, N1 8LY.







'Rebel Music'

SThe Black Obsidian Vogue Ball

Turner Prize nominees Black Obsidian Sound System bring all the fashion, creativity and selfexpression of ballroom culture to Crofton Park's iconic Rivoli Ballroom as part of Lewisham Borough of Culture's 'Rebel Music' series. With killer looks and stellar performances in a safe space that prioritises queer people of colour, this party is sure to be serving tens across the board. → Rivoli Ballroom. May 14. £15.

White Riot' screening + Q&A

Join director Rubika Shah and writerproducer Ed Gibbs for a special screening of 'White Riot', their vital doc about the Rock Against Racism protest movement of the late '70s and early '80s. After the Q&A, stay for an afterparty where you're sure to hear bangers from bands involved in the movement including The Clash, Gang Of Four and X-Ray Spex. → The Albany. May 14. £6.



O BFI and Radio Times Television Festival

This three-day celebration of top British telly features panels and Q&As with stars including Mary Berry, Professor Brian Cox and the cast of 'It's a Sin'. There'll also be preview screenings of some of 2022's most hotly anticipated shows, from David Attenborough's 'Prehistoric Planet' to the BBC's adaptation of Sally Rooney's debut novel 'Conversations with Friends'.

 \rightarrow BFI Southbank and BFI IMAX. May 20-22. Prices vary.

Queer East Film Festival

Genesis, Rich Mix and the Barbican are some of the top London kinos hosting screenings during this festival of queer Asian cinema. Highlights include the UK premiere of 'Coalesce', Jessé Miceli's enthralling portrait of Cambodian youth, and 'Beautiful Boxer', a hard-hitting action film based on the true story of Thailand's famed trans kickboxer, Parinya Charoenphol. → Various locations. May 18-29. Prices vary.



UKAsian Film Festival

This new film festival championing South Asian cinema closes this weekend, but not before a host of unmissable screenings, including 'Invisible Demons', a fascinating documentary about how the Indian megacity of Delhi is facing the climate emergency, and the UK premiere of 'Gangnam Girls', a heartwarming portrayal of female friendship from Bhutan. → Various venues. Until May 15. Prices vary.



Arts and crafts

O 'Photo London'

The UK's biggest photography fair returns to Somerset House for its seventh edition. Highlights include two major retrospective exhibitions dedicated to legendary fashion photographers Nick Knight and Frank Horvat, and 'Shanghai Presents', a new section featuring works by leading galleries and artists from China. Visitors can also check out a massive programme of talks and workshops delivered by the likes of Nikon, The Economist and FT Weekend, It's always a popular event, so better be snappy about booking tickets. Sorry. → Somerset House. May 12-15. From £29.

SWimbledon Art Fair

Wimbledon Art Studios is throwing open its doors for this annual fair, which is a golden opportunity to get your hands on affordable works from more than 150 artists and makers while meeting the painters, photographers, sculptors and sensitive types behind them. There's also a complimentary bar, live music and creative workshops where you can have a go at making a masterpiece of your own. → Wimbledon Art Studios. May 12-15. Free.

London Craft Week

The city's annual week-long celebration of all things crafty returns for its eighth edition with an overarching theme of 'Creative Freedom'. It's a truly global affair with a programme of 300 events showcasing work by more than 400 independent makers from 25 countries. Highlights include a series of events connected to the V&A's 'Fashioning Masculinities' exhibition, a demonstration with Borough Market's artisanal food traders and programmes from the likes of Jimmy Choo, Rémy Martin, Cubitts eyewear and digital fashion pioneers The Fabricant. → Various venues, Until May 15, Prices vary

An Eye for... Culture

We're helping you gain a whole new perspective on the city you love from the London Eye

he lastminute.com London Eye is one of those experiences that just gets better and better as it goes along. As you rise above Southbank in your pod, a thousand years of history, life and culture begin to spread out beneath you, with new gems revealed at every turn. If you're keen on art and culture, it's a real treat! Here's a few highlights to look out for during your journey...

Spot the statues

Got a thing for 'The Crown' (or just love a bit of English history)? There's nowhere like the London Eye to give you a feel for just how many shiny statues dot the capital. From up here, they almost seem to speak to one another from above. Try and see if you can see three of them, drawing a line from opposite the Eye right to Buckingham Palace. First there's the golden wings of the Royal Air Force Memorial on the Victoria Embankment just opposite the Eye. As you rise further, spot the Guards Memorial just opposite Horse Guards Parade. And when you're at the top, you'll be able to see all the way to the epic Queen Victoria Memorial in front of the Palace.

Chinatown



A city of inspiration

Seeing your own city reflected in film, television or art is a thrill; but if you're a Londoner, chances are the excitement has slightly worn off. The London Eye is your chance to rediscover that sense of wonder as you see iconic cultural sights in a new way. There's the looming chimneys of the Battersea Power Station to the west, immortalised on the cover of Pink Floyd's 1977 album Animals, when a giant inflatable pig tied to one chimney became untethered and floated away to Kent. From up here, you can also peer right into the circular central courtyard of the Treasury British government building in Whitehall, that you would've seen in films like Spectre and Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.



Advertisement feature





Food for thought

As you begin to ascend, you'll notice the letters 'PUB ON THE THAMES' emblazoned on a boat, moored right opposite the London Eye. That's The Tattershall Castle - and there's more foodie sights to see from the Eye to come on your journey. Look to the verdigris dome slight east across the river: that's Somerset House. Try to imagine ships carrying supplies right through its riverside arch for lavish parties. Higher up on the Eye, gaze past Nelson's Column to get a sense of where Chinatown is located. Once you're nearly at the top, turn further east and spot two skyscrapers with food-related names: can you guess what they are? You got it: the Gherkin and the Cheesegrater!



ELEVATE YOUR EXPERIENCE



If you fancy taking your sky-high culture trip to the next level, why not combine it with the Pub Pod experience (£60 per person)? You'll get to try two signature Jameson serves, including the zesty Jameson Orange Highball. Don't mind if we do...

Pre-book your London Eye ticket online from £29.50 at www.londoneye.com.



Controversial concrete

Treasury

Look to the east and one of the first things you'll notice is the layered concrete geometry of the National Theatre. These days, the brutalist beauty, open in this location since 1976, is a much-loved fixture of the South Bank, as is the adjacent, graffiticovered Southbank Skate Space. With its many levels and angular design, the view of the National Theatre from above on the Eye is entirely different. Ever noticed the green on the roof? Those are its gardens, home to about 60,000 bees, with their honey sold in the gift shop. You'll also catch sight of the spiky skylights on the roof of the Hayward Gallery next door.



 \rightarrow Find more London Eye insights at www.timeout.com/londoneye2022

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A dance concert in three parts, inspired by the rhythms of Franz Liszt's music

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London Symphony Orchestra

Things to Do



Big new exhibitions

OurTime on Earth'

The Barbican's Curve Gallery has been transformed into a space for meditation on the ecological future of our planet in this experiential new group exhibition. Artists from around the world have been brought together to show work about the earth, including crockery made for animals, an immersive soil experience, 'plankton noise', fashion made out of living cells, and a chance to experience 'tree time'. Very intriguing indeed. → Barbican. Until Aug 29. £18.

G'Gold'

Feast your eyes on some glorious gilded volumes at the British Library's new exhibition of blingy books. It features 50 tomes from around the world, most dating from before 1600, showcasing all the creative ways that bookmakers have used gold, from dazzling covers to gilded pictures, alongside displays exploring the techniques used to show off this precious metal. → British Library. May 20-Oct 2. £8.

O 'Weird Sensation Feels Good: The World of ASMR'

This world-first Design Museum exhibition explores the emerging field of online creativity that has sprung up around ASMR. You know, that weird tingly sensory response that some people get from certain sounds, which is responsible for the internet being overrun with videos of Korean ladies eating noodles or popping bubblewrap right next to a microphone. The exhibition promises to lift the world of ASMR out from the screen and

into an 'acoustically tuned physical environment'. Sounds headshiveringly cool! → Design Museum. May 13-Oct 16. From £10.50.

O 'Future Cities'

Eight creative types have been invited to imagine the future of cities at this free exhibition. Visual artists Graham Gussin, Alek O, Prem Sahib and Janice Kerbel have created works that explore romanticised landscapes, utopian schemes and the lure of community. And poets Selina Nwulu, Astra Papachristodoulou, James Wilkes and Aea Varfisvan Warmelo have imagined the spaces we might live in one day. → Southbank Centre. May 12-Sep 18. Free.

Eurovision parties

Eurodisco 2022

Head to Bethnal Green Working Men's Club for a rowdy and irreverent Eurovision screening party. In the main space, drag performers will be hosting a 'shouta-long, dance-a-long and boo-along' screening of the song contest complete with 'Wogan-worthy off-the-cuff commentary'. You have been warned. Downstairs, you'll find more subdued screenings in

two other rooms, for those who'd prefer not to miss a single note. The smart money is on Ukrainian rap group Kalush Orchestra. → Bethnal Green Working Men's Club. May 14. From £8.

G Gay Times + Skittles **Eurovision Party**

Watch the contest unfold on the big screen from the comfort of a plush velvet sofa at this charity fundraiser screening taking over Evervman's swanky three-screen Broadgate outpost. Organiser Gay Times is planning balloon drops, giveaways and Eurovision props galore, plus performers from the capital's queer scene, so the party will be popping even when the UK inevitably gets a succession of *nul* points once again. → Everyman Broadgate. May 14. Free with a £10 donation to Switchboard I GBT+.

Eurovision **Party London**

Rio Cinema will be bringing a taste of Turin to sunny Dalston by serving up Italian-style arancini balls at its Eurovision screening event. There'll be prizes on offer for the best costumes (anyone fancy buddying up and going as Jedward?) as well as a prescreening Eurovision-themed karaoke competition. If you're brave enough to belt out Loreen's 'Euphoria', we reckon you deserve free drinks all night. → Rio Cinema. May 14. £21.

Mega markets

G Walthamstow Flea Market

Over 60 curated traders will be showcasing vintage and sustainable goodies at this regular market from the Hackney Flea gang. From furniture and clothing to the weird and wonderful, you're guaranteed to find some one-off unique items to impress fellow bin-divers. The afternoon will be powered by DJs spinning a variety of infectious grooves to soundtrack your rummaging.

→ Truman Social Club. May 15. £1 entry.

O West End Flea Market

A bunch of beloved West End shows will be setting up stalls to flog signed posters, themed merch and all kinds of collectibles at this five-star flea market raising money for theatre workers' support charity Acting for Others. Visitors will get to try their luck at a theatrical tombola, bid for some truly special pieces at auction and even nab selfies with a host of West End stars. The 2019 edition raised more than £26k, so this follow-up will be pulling out all the stops to beat it. We're expecting a smash hit. → St Paul's Church. May 21. Free.

Foodie fests

W Food Forever

Kew Gardens' big summer events programme focuses on the future of food and how what we eat affects the planet. In addition to a major exhibition and four new largescale art installations, it includes a varied of after-hours sessions and guest menus from the likes of Anna Jones and Zoe Adjonyoh running throughout the summer. Visitors can also attend talks aiming to answer fascinating questions like 'What will our grandchildren eat?'

> and 'How can we feed our cities?',

> as well as getting

on everything

mouth. → Kew Gardens.

stuck in at workshops

from pollination to

pickling. Food for

thought ... and the

May 21-Sep 18. Free with entry.

B Real Wine Fair

This huge celebration

brings together more

'natty' winemakers. Attend guest talks,

masterclasses, visit

an on-site wine shop

and chomp on treats

street food stalls. And

along the way, sample

from top-quality

as much artisanal

plonk as you can

S Tequila Town

day celebration of

all things tequila

features a lot more

than pre-cut lime wedges and table

salt. Four top bars

Peckham's two-

handle.

 \rightarrow Tobacco Dock.

May 22-23. £25.

than 160 organic, biodynamic and

of natural vino

seminars and



Eurovision

can also make use of the free

ranging from homeware and

products.

artwork to candles and beauty

→ House of Vans. May 14. Free.

will be serving Vans' London Bridge skateparktequila-based cocktails, live DJs and events space will play host will pump out the tunes and a to this spring market Visitors host of independent makers will demonstrate why the agave-based photobooth, take part in a dried tipple is so much more than a wreathmaking workshop and even regrettable round of shots at 3am. get a watercolour portrait of their Sensibly, there'll also be plenty of pet done, while 28 independent Mexican street food to help you local businesses will be showcasing line your stomach. eco-conscious handmade products \rightarrow Copeland Park. May 20-21. From £13.75.

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HERITAGE LIVE at KENWOOD HOUSE 2022











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VIBE: proudly pop Mighty Hoopla

Spread over two days for the first time, Mighty Hoopla is a fabulous antidote to snobby festivals dominated by po-faced straight white guys. Here, pop faves from back in the day will be greeted like returning heroes, while a largely LGBTQ+ crowd parties like it's still 1999 and they're in the 'CD:UK' audience. It's not just about nostalgia, though: Mighty Hoopla has pulled off a real coup by booking Brazilian drag superstar Pabllo Vittar.

Big names Steps, Sugababes, Jessie Ware, Eve, Anastacia, Natalie Imbruglia.

MIGHTY HOOPLA: LUKE DYSON; BLOODSTOCK: JADE G

Why we're going For shows from loads of brilliant queer collectives including Sink The Pink, The Bitten Peach, Little Gay Brother and The Cocoa Butter Club.

Required apparel Biodegradable glitter: applied to your face, body and cowboy hat. Don't say 'I much prefer the Bee Gees' version of "Tragedy".'

→ Brockwell Park. Jun 3-4. From £49.50.

VIBE: black-clad, noisy **Download**

Take a walk on the dark side at this weekend of epic riffs and serious headbanging. The line-up is a living rock'n' roll hall of fame, with classic acts from the '70s and '80s rubbing shoulders with relative new comers from the worlds of nu-metal, hardcore and emo. It's hosted by Leicestershire motorsport circuit Donington Park, a venue whose biker heritage works perfectly. You won't find fripperies like gourmet food options here: this fest is all about getting down and dirty. Big names Kiss, Iron Maiden, Biffy Clyro, Korn,

Electric Wizard. Why we're going One word: Megadeth Required apparel Vintage Slayer T-shirt, ideally sleeveless. Don't say 'Any female acts?' → Donington Park. Jun 10-12.

From £98.40.

VIBE: acts you've heard of **Parklife**

Since it launched in 2013, this Manchester festival has established itself as a major player by booking massive names from across the genre spectrum. This year's event features a huge UK festival exclusive from 50 Cent, plus sets from artists as varied as Megan Thee Stallion, Lewis Capaldi and Eric Prydz. There's no camping, so you'll need to book accommodation nearby. Big names Tyler, The Creator, 50 Cent, Megan Thee Stallion, Chase & Status, PinkPantheress. Why we're going Sets from Loyle Carner, Arlo Parks and Jessie Ware. **Required ap**parel <mark>'IHeart M</mark>CR' T-shirt. Don't say 'Why's a Manchester fest named after a Blursong?

> Bloodstock From £84,50

→ Heaton Park,

Manchester.

Jun 11-12.

VIBE: family get-together Isle of Wight Festival

It was revived back in 2002 and this legendary festival has since built itself a fresh reputation for properly crowd-pleasing line-ups packed with huge household names. This year's event is no exception, with everyone from Madness to Nile Rodgers & Chic taking the ferry across the Solent. With tickets for kids aged five-to-12 priced at just £7.50, and under-fours going free, it's easy to see why it's become a truly multi-generational affair. Big names Muse, Lewis Capaldi, Kasabian, Rudimental, Craig David, Jessie Ware.

Why we're going To see Shaggy, The Proclaimers and Pete Tong all on the same day (Saturday, FYI). I mean, wow.

Required apparel Hat. If it's sunny on the Isle of Wight, it's really sunny. Don't say 'When's Jimi Hendrix coming on, anyway?' → Seaclose Park, Newport, Isle of Wight. Jun 16-19. From £75.

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Festivals



VIBE: curated bopping Strawberries & Junction 2 **Creem Festival**

This relative newcomer to the summer live-music season describes itself as 'the UK's tastiest festival for music and youth culture', and it's hard to disagree. Spread over three days in a pretty Cambridge park, its stacked lineup includes superstars from the worlds of hip hop, grime, R&B, soul, reggae, house, drum 'n' bass and dancehall. At a time when many festivals are still struggling to improve the gender balance of their acts, Strawberries & Creem has succeeded in assembling a bill that's 60 percent female. Respect. Big names Tems, Mabel, Ella Mai, Tion Wayne, Ms Banks, Katy B. Why we're going

Latitude

Lil Wayne's first UK performance in 14 years. **Required apparel** Dancing shoes. Don't say 'Is the tennisgoingto start soon?' \rightarrow Childerley Orchard, Cambridge. Jun 17-19. From £39.50.

VIBE: well dancey

Festival

Bow down to techno and house royalty at this weekend festival that boasts a packed line-up of electronic music stars in a chill natural setting. This year's edition has moved from its former motorway flyover site to the greener surroundings of north London's beautiful Trent Park. Go for a line-up of pure unadulterated dance and many breezy vibes. Big names Avalon Emerson, Four Tet, Maribou State. Why we're going For a techno bacchanal three years in the making. Required apparel Trainers. Don't say 'I liked it under the M4.' → Trent Country Park. Jun 18-19. From £49.50.

Obelisk Arena

Lewis Capaldi Foals Snow Patrol

CINCH presents LATITUDE 21 - 24 JULY 2022 HENHAM PARK, SUFFOLK

Maggie Rogers • Little Simz • Manic Street Preachers Modest Mouse • James Arthur • Freya Ridings Rina Sawayama • Example • Shed Seven

Alfie Templeman • Beth Orton • Billie Marten • Dylan • Larkin Poe Los Bitchos • Mark Owen • Mdou Moctar • Rumer • Tribes

BBC Sounds Stage

Phoebe Bridgers • Groove Armada Live • Fontaines D.C.

Caroline Polachek • Cavetown • Curtis Harding • Kae Tempest • Mahalia Maximo Park • Mickey Callisto • Self Esteem • The Afghan Whigs • The Shires

Akala · Bessie Turner · Gaffa Tape Sandy · Hurray For The Riff Raff Joe Armon-Jones · JOHN · JP Saxe · Katy J Pearson · Nilüfer Yanya Porridge Radio · Tamzene

Sunrise Arena

A Certain Ratio · Let's Eat Grandma · Orlando Weeks · Sevdaliza

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Festivals



VIBE: indie dav out Leisure Festival

Held at Dreamland Margate, the UK's oldest surviving amusement park, this cute festival newbie bills itselfas 'a day of music and rides by the British seaside', which sounds pretty flipping dandy to us. It's an intimate one-day affair, but the lineup, led by indie queens Mitski and Soccer Mommy, definitely packs a punch. You'll also want to check out sets from Brooklyn experimentalist L'Rain, ace London indie duo Sorry and Melbourne goth-poppers HighSchool. Big names Mitski, Soccer Mommy,

Nilüfer Yanya, Sorry. Why we're going For an all-bangers no-clangers day out with fish 'n' chips for supper. Required apparel 'Kiss Me Quick' hat or knotted hankie. Don't say 'Anyone else fancy going house-hunting tomorrow?' → Dreamland Margate. Jun 24. From £35.

VIBE: graffiti-folk **Kelburn Garden Party**

Half an hour outside Glasgow is a Scottish castle that's like something from a very twenty-first century fairvtale: its twelfth-century exterior is covered with swirling murals by a legendary group of Brazilian graffiti artists. Kelburn Garden Party fills its grounds with a technicolour celebration of creativity. There's music from genre-spanning artists from the techno, disco, funk and folk worlds. And there's also tons of unexpected and lovely goings-on, including a comedy bus, shisha cave, steam room and a wild-swimming spot. Big names Max Cooper, Henge, Niteworks, Nova.

Why we're going To see art installations in the Neverending Glen. Required apparel Mirrored coat. Don't say 'I prefer my fortresses aunaturel.' → Kelburn Castle, Fairlie Scotland

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ARTWORK B2B CC:DISCO! > CARL CRAIG B2B MOODYMANN > CICI > DANIEL AVERY LIVE DENIS SULTA B2B MELLA DEE > ELIZA ROSE > EMERALD B2B JOSSY MITSU > EROL ALKAN FJAAK DJ SET > FLOATING POINTS > FOLAMOUR: POWER TO THE PPL A/V > HAAI > HELÉNA STAR KAREEM ALI > LOGIC1000 > OTIK > SALUTE > SQUAREPUSHER LIVE > TOURIST LIVE

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST

TAME IMPALA FKJ > CAROLINE POLACHEK THE BLAZE > DRY CLEANING > GOAT SUDAN ARCHIVES + MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

FRIDAY 26 AUGUST

FLEET FOXES > KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD KURT VILE AND THE VIOLATORS > PERFUME GENIUS > LOW LUCY DACUS > RAE MORRIS CASSANDRA JENKINS > BESS ATWELL + MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

SATURDAY/27 AUGUST

DISCLOSURE JAMES BLAKE

50

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SUNDAY 28 AUGUST

Gazette

Advertiser

NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS MICHAEL KIWANUKA

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VIBE: hip hop Wireless Festival

In 2022, this destination fest is more epic than ever with seven huge headliners over three locations: two in London, one in Birmingham. As ever, the line-up leans heavily into hip hop, grime and R&B, and boasts more A-list talent than the Met Gala. Just double-check exactly which headliners you're getting at each site before you book your tickets. Big names Cardi B, A\$AP Rocky, Nicki Minaj, Dave, J Cole, SZA. Why we're going For Doja Cat's first London show in three years. Required apparel Anything that will help your mates find you in an absolutely massive crowd. Don't say 'Okurrr!' (unless you really can roll your Rs like Cardi). → Crystal Palace Park, Jul 1-3. Finsbury Park, Jul 8-10. Outdoor at NEC, Birmingham, Jul 8-10. From £95

VIBE: oddball Supersonic Festival

Birmingham's small experimental festival has gained a cult following (and rave reviews from the indie press) for its leftfield programming and intimate atmosphere. This year's line-up is an intriguing mix of alt-folk, DIY and metal, plus a workshops where you can make friends and weird art at the same time. This year sees Supersonic move to a new location in the industrial heartland of Digbeth. Big names June Of 44, Folkazoid, Richard Dawson & Circle, Jerusalem In My Heart, Divide And Dissolve, Bismuth, Big Brave. Why we're going Apparently, the new venue boasts a rooftop terrace.

Required apparel T-shirt with something disturbing on it. Don't say 'Play a tune!' → The Mill, Birmingham. Jul 8-10. From £30.







VIBE: intellectual, leafy Latitude **Festival**

Last year, Latitude went ahead as part of the government's live event pilot scheme, becoming the UK's first full-capacity festival since 2019. It was a fitting comeback for a weekender that's blazed a wellheeled a trail by blending a classy line-up of music with comedy (Russell Howard headlines this year), poetry, theatre, literature, podcasts, engaging family activities and wellness. This summer, it's surely the only festival out there to

offer a kids' model-making class from 'Wallace & Gromit' creators Aardman and a talk from Dame Sheila Hancock.

Big names Lewis Capaldi, Foals, Fontaines DC, Snow Patrol, Manic Street Preachers, Little Simz, Maggie Rogers, Groove Armada.

Why we're going To see former Time Out cover star Rina Sawayama in a forest glade.

Required apparel Rains jacket and a tote from your local independent bookshop.

Don't say 'Um, what the hell is an Independent Publishers' Symposium and why's it on a festival line-up?' → Henham Park, Suffolk. Jul 21-24. From £89.50.

VIBE: classy (ie posh) Wilderness Festival

When it comes to boutique festivals, Wilderness sets the bar high. This year's line-up is paradise for the discerning dance fan, with everyone from Peggy Gou to David Morales bringing the rave to a genteel Oxfordshire estate. But as ever, Mitski Wilderness isn't just

Glorious mud

Forgot to book? Got festival FOMO? Don't forget that summer can look like this











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ALEX DIMA B2B MU

Festivals



about great beats. You'll also feast on delicious food from Skye Gyngell and Robin Gill, attend talks and debates, and take a dip in the famous lake. It's a fest to nourish the soul. **Big names** Underworld, Jungle, Years & Years, Peggy Gou, Róisín Murphy, Jordan Rakei. **Why we're going** So we can dance until the early hours, then recover

at the Lakeside Spa. **Required apparel** Your chic-est swimsuit.

Don't say 'I could murder a Big Mac.' → Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire. Aug 4-7. From £230 for the weekend.

VIBE: sandy Boardmasters

Cornwall's most suntanned and beach-honed denizens flock to Boardmasters every year: it's a festival of surfing and music set against Newquay's gorgeous coastline. Alongside a laidback lineup of indie you can catch surfing stars competing for titles down on Fistral Beach, while a beach bar hosts DJ sets and parties each day. Plus, there's a strong focus on sustainability and wellbeing, with yoga classes, reiki and a pop-up 'eco spa' where you can chill out with sea views. Big names George Ezra, Disclosure, Bastille, Kings Of Leon. Why we're going For bands underscored by crashing waves. Required apparel Hawaiian shirt and salt-tousled locks. Don't say "Gnarly" is a stupid word.' → Newquay, Cornwall. Aug 10-14. From £86

Vibe: metallic Bloodstock OpenAir

After launching in 2001 as a oneday indoor event, this metal fest has grown into a mighty outdoor weekender. It retains the intimacy and character of an independent festival, though, and books bands from all metal sub-genres: death to drone, sludge to stoner. Basically, if you have a penchant for anything heavy, you'll find plenty to rock out to at Bloodstock.

Big names Behemoth, Mercyful Fate, Lamb Of God, Exodus, Dimmu Borgir, Killing Joke.

Why we're going GWAR are always good for a laugh.

Required apparel Hopefully it will be too hot for a leather jacket, so dig out your best studded belt instead. Don't say'I love Michael Bublé.' → Catton Park, Derbyshire. Aug 11-14. From £69.

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Festivals

VIBE: old-school Houghton Festival

Actually dance round the clock at this Norfolk weekender, which is unique among homegrown festivals for its 24-hour licence. It's curated by Fabric leading light Craig Richards, who's called on his enviable dance music connections to muster a top line-up of DJs from big names to more esoteric and emerging choices, who'll play across a series of atmospheric stages set amongst ancient woodland or in a cavernous disused quarry. In a lot of ways, Houghton harks back to an older era of festivals, with its lack of mobile phone signal, light-touch security and absence of big-name corporate sponsorship. Turn up and get properly lost in music.



Big names Calibre, Ben UFO, Hunee, Jane Fitz, Joy Orbison, Ricardo Villalobos, Powder, Object Blue.

Why we're going For Horse Meat Disco near some actual horses. Required apparel Craig Richardsstyle leaf-patterned shirt. Large bottle of water.

Don't say 'Where can I get a signal? I need to update my Insta Stories.' → Houghton Hall, Norfolk. Aug 11-14. £230.

VIBE: trendy All Points East

Held over two weekends (with a restful gap in the middle) in Victoria Park, All Points East lives up to its name with an always-eclectic line-up of cool alternative acts. No east Londoner could possibly take objection to this year's stellar headliners – which include Gorillaz

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Of course Glastonbury 2022 sold out the second it went on sale. But thanks to EE, we can exclusively offer you the **chance to win a pair of tickets**. Scan the QR code (or go to timeout. com/glasto22) and you could be off to Worthy Farm. There's not even a question or anything.







"I met by the second of the se

An immersive experience like no other. All you have to do is close your eyes.

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Festivals



and Nick Cave And The Bad Seeds -but the 2022 bill is also filled with exciting rising stars: Remi Wolf, Greentea Peng and (Time Out cover star)SelfEsteemareallplayingon the first Friday. Essentially, if you like anything that has a bit of an edge to it, APE really delivers. Look out, too, for In the Neighbourhood, the festival's programme of free community-focused events and activities also taking place in Vicky Park. It's what the philanthropists who planned it would have wanted. Big names IDLES, Gorillaz, King Gizzard And The Lizard Wizard, Tame Impala, Nick Cave And The Bad Seeds, Michael Kiwanuka. Why we're going For pop alchemists Caroline Polachek, Fred Again .. and Perfume Genius.

Required apparel Ironic T-shirt that looks like it says 'Supreme' from a distance but actually says 'Subway'. Don't say 'It's the local homeowners I feel sorry for.'

→ Victoria Park. Aug 19-28. From £57.05.

Vibe: Pleasurable Otherlands Festival

Held in the grounds of historic Scone Palace, this Scottish newcomer is a boutique affair. Organisers promise a wellness area, artworks by local creators and gourmet street food. There's even something called an 'amazing multi-sensory dining experience'. Still, with six stages of very well-curated electronic music, the tunes are no afterthought. Big names Bicep, Jamie xx, Honey Dijon, Maverick Sabre, Tom Misch, Folamour, Yung Singh. Why we're going For a proper escape from London soundtracked by

pristine beats. Required apparel Honey Dijon 'Honey Says Relax' tee. Don't say 'Two hotdogs, mate.' → Scone Palace, Perth, Scotland. Aug 19-21. From £50.







VIBE: tube-accessible rave Field Day

One of London's hippest music festivals returns to Victoria Park – its original home – for the first time since 2017. Technically, it's billed as 'APE Presents Field Day' and it takes place on day two of All Points East's takeover of the space, so think of it as a kind of rave-loving little

Cardi B

sister. The dance-centric line-up is led by The Chemical Brothers, Kraftwerk(danceable in a severe, Teutonic way) and Peggy Gou, and includes Carl Craiggoing 'b2b' with Moodymann and Artwork going 'b2b' with CC:Disco! Until the 11pm curfew, it will turn Vicky Park into a one-stop shop for box-fresh beats. Big names The Chemical Brothers, Kraftwerk(doingtheir3Dshow), Peggy Gou, Heléna Star, Kareem Ali. Why we're going To enjoy a sublime set of soul, funk, disco, house and UK garage from Hackney's very own Eliza Rose.

Required apparel Acid-house bucket hat.

Don't say 'Where's the flipping comedy tent?' → Victoria Park. Aug 20. From £66.90.

VIBE crate-digging We Out Here

Curated by Gilles Peterson in collaboration with Worldwide FM and Brownswood Recordings, this Cambridgeshire festival's aim is to showcase 'some of the world's best record collections and celebrate club culture's far-reaching influences', which, we're sure you will agree, is a very laudable one. This year's line-up is a mouthwatering blend of artists and

Festie lifesavers



A sun hat expressing a political or

moral opinion Whether it's 'Independent Tropical Wales', 'Make Earth Cool Again' or just a bucket hat with your best mate's face plastered all over it. Chic and taking personal responsibility to protect yourself from the blinding sun.



Hubba Bubba

Booze, bongs, burgers – all breath-stinking-up festival attractions. Pack a stick of chewy-g and you'll smell less of indie sleaze and more of delicious Y2K synthetic strawb.



A toolbelt (but make it a fashion)

You want to move about but not be held back by the fear of dropping your essentials. Channel a Goodhood-meets-Bob the Builder aesthetic and make sure that all your shit is right where you need it. Georgia Evans selectors specialising in soul, hip hop, house, afrobeats, electronica, jazz and more – and there's even an independent record fair on site. Of course there is. It's not just some kind of giant vinyl-junkie support group, though. The site is blessed with beautiful lakes, cute wooded bits and a dedicated kids' area and wellness zone. Plus, its late-August dates mean that the British weather stands a reasonable chance of being okay for once.

Big names Pharoah Sanders, Kokoroko, Jamz Supernova, Sherelle, Fabio & Grooverider. Why we're going To dance to absolute house legend Maurice Fulton in the open air.

Required apparel Anything that has good sweat-wicking characteristics. Don't say 'I've got Spotify Premium. I consider it an investment.' → Abbots Ripton, Cambridgeshire. Aug 25-28. From £65.

VIBE: post-exam Reading and Leeds Festivals

Because they always take place on the long weekend after GCSE results day, these sister fests have become a rite of passage for British teenagers looking to finally let off steam. But even if your schooldays were quite literally in another century, there's always lots to enjoy here, not least a varied line-up of proper big-hitters. Reading and Leeds may have been synonymous with rawk and indie back in the day, but they're now gloriously multi-genre affairs. Big names Arctic Monkeys, Dave, Run The Jewels, Rage Against The Machine, Bring Me The Horizon, Halsey, PaSalieu, Wolf Alice. Why we're going For the sure-tobe 'Savage' set from Megan Thee

Stallion. **Required apparel** Oh, you know, whatever. Jeans, probably. Maybe a hoodie or something. It's about the music, see?

Don't say 'Yotam Ottolenghi is just a *genius*, isn't he?' ■

→ Richfield Avenue, Reading and Bramham Park, Leeds. Aug 26-28. From £94. By Nick Levine, Alice Saville and Chris Waywell.

Find Londfon festival news at **timeout.com/london**

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

Martial arthouse

One Londoner is making cinema audiences part of the action with his late-night kung fu movie screenings. Portrait *Jess Hand*

THERE'S A ROWDY revival

underway in London. Usually, when a film begins, the room is gripped by hushed anticipation. Not here. At the Genesis Cinema in Mile End, as the lights go down the gloves come off. This is Kung Fu Cinema – and there's only one rule: make some noise.

The bimonthly event kicks off with casual drinks in the bar, soundtracked by hip-hop tracks and the thwack of arcade touchstones such as Tekken 3, before culminating in a raucous 10pm screEning of a Hong Kong classic, MCed by a man for whom martial arts is a lifelong love.

Marlon Palmer has been an exhibitor and distributor of Black cinema for more than 20 years and a kung fu fan for even longer. As a kid, he was introduced to martial arts by his older stepbrother. Soon he came to idolise Bruce Lee. Later, he found cinema.

In the 1980s, Palmer was a regular at renowned late-night London picturehouses like the Rio in Dalston, the Curzon Turnpike Lane and the Odeons in Wood Green and Holloway. Back then, there were few opportunities to see non-white heroes on the big screen and, against a backdrop of racism and riots sparked by the National Front and Metropolitan Police, the genre's themes of resistance against injustice, as well as the sheer flip-kicking cool of its protagonists, proved popular with Black audiences.

'There were a lot of issues in those days,' says the Tottenhamborn promoter. 'You had to be ready to fight at all times. That resonates with the stories we used to see in martial-arts films: the weak oppressed by the elite. I think that's why it's always resonated with the Black community. We're looking for those heroes, the guy that fights back, but fights back in style.'

The idea for Kung Fu Cinema struck during lockdown. But due to the difficulties of screening Hong Kong flicks in the UK, many thought it wouldn't work. Palmer thought differently. 'I'm a bit dogged in that way,' says the



58-year-old. 'With all my years of being a Black-film distributor, I've been through all kinds of things, mate, the whole gamut. It was easy work to me.'

Given the go-ahead by the Genesis, Palmer secured a partnership with Eureka Entertainment, which owns the screening rights to films by the likes of Lau Kar-wing, Yuen Woo-ping and Sammo Hung. All he had to do now was fill the 500 seats.

He's getting there. Screening attendance has almost tripled in the four events since September

2021, with 140 whooping kung fu fans turning out to see Hung's 'Warriors Two' in February.

The energy feels vital. Kung Fu Cinema might be the most multicultural film event in London: a mix of Black, Chinese and white audiences encouraged by Palmer – the perfect hype man – to hoot, holler and marvel at the madcap exhibitionism of 1970s and 1980s Hong Kong cinema.

'I'm trying to recreate some of that vibe,' says Palmer. 'I'm saying to people: "Don't just sit there being all polite. Feel free to scream or



Video hits Kung Fu Cinema's curator Marlon Palmer

whatever." We want atmosphere. That's how it was back in the day. When we came out of the cinema, we didn't just walk home – we hopped, skipped, jumped, kicked, punched all the way.' 'It was always in the back of my mind that I wanted to show late-night martial arts films,' he says. 'Especially being an older guy and seeing two years of my life disappear, I just wanna do things I enjoy. Late-night kung fu, that's what put a smile back on my face.' → Visit www.facebook.com/latenightkungfu for more. Next dates: Whirled Cinema on May 13 and the Genesis on Jun 24.



By Sean McGeady Who's about as flexible as a wrought-iron fence.

FILM OF THE WEEK



Everything Everywhere All at Once

An anarchic sci-fi

comedy starring

Michelle Yeoh.

HY GO

hilariously

It's inventive,

weird and wild.

And Yeoh rocks in it.

Directors Daniel Kwan

and Daniel Scheinert. 139

mins (15). Out May 13.

THE MULTIVERSE IS having a moment. After Marvel gave us several Spider-Men and Doctor Stranges, we now have director duo 'the Daniels' (Kwan and Scheinert, 'Swiss Army Man') exploring the same meta-territory of parallel worlds, but in their own ultra-idiosyncratic wav.

The concept is a doozy, ripe with comedic juice and packed with visual thrills. The inhabitants of another universe have discovered a way to jump into the minds of their alternative selves and absorb their skills (think: Neo downloading kung fu in 'The Matrix'). They achieve this by doing something very specifically unexpected, like suddenly eating a stick of lip salve or professing love for someone they barely know.

This kicks open the door for a manic 139 minutes of action. It requires Michelle Yeoh – as losing-at-life launderette owner Evelyn Wang – to toggle between several identities. These include a martial-arts action star not so different from

> her real-life self; a teppanyaki chef who discovers that her colleague is secretly controlled, 'Ratatouille'style, by a talking raccoon; and a woman with hotdogs for fingers.

The Daniels juggle silly gags and weird visuals like cackling Dadaists. But while the runtime is indulgent, the whole thing never comes off its hinges. The heavy concepts are lightened by their deft tethering to one family's relatable tribulations. Not to mention the sheer likeability of Ke Huy Quan ('The Goonies') as Yeoh's sweet husband, Stephanie Hsu as her cranky daughter and Yeoh herself, knocking every scene out of the park. Thanks to her, the Daniels' movie deserves to be seen by... well... everyone everywhere. ■ Dan Jolin

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The location Ranger's House, Blackheath.

The scene It's 1813's social scene and as Lady Whistledown (Julie Andrews) narrates, daughters are being married off to prestigious families. An exterior shot shows the Bridgerton mansion, home to Grosvenor Square's most enviable family.

Then With its Georgian façade, ionic columns and carved stone decoration. Greenwich Park's Ranger's House radiates sophistication. 'Its elegance, art collection and history of wealthy residents aligns it with the Bridgertons' status,' notes English Heritage's Olivia Fryman.

Now The show is a Netflix smash and Ranger's House is reaping the benefits. 'We've even had fans visit in full Georgian costume,' says Fryman with a laugh. Just don't come expecting a rich history of philandering, à la the show's hot-and-heavy plotlines. 'The people who lived here weren't bed-hoppers,' says Fryman. 'One of the residents, the 4th Earl of Chesterfield, wrote wholesome letters to his son that became a manual for gentlemen of the day.' Simon Bassett, he wasn't. ■ Thomas Hobbs

LONDON ON SCRFEN The Bridgertons' house in 'Bridgerton'





ALSO OPENING



VORTEX *****

A collaboration between maverick boundary-pusher Gaspar Noé and giallo master Dario Argento should have you hiding behind the sofaand it does, though not in the way you might expect. Argento plays ailing husband to a woman with dementia (Françoise Lebrun). Their son is a recovering addict just about holding it all together. A personal subject for Noé, his dispassionate but moving drama observes the trio via split-screen, a device that shows how this terrible illness can play tricks with time, but makes its all doubly gruelling. Philde Semlyen Out May 13



BENEDICTION ****

Aglidingly elegant, emotionally ransacking story of repression and the past - in other words, a Terence Davis film - this Siegfried Sassoon biopic reaches out beyond the war poetry to show a gay artist forced to hide his true self. The excellent Jack Lowden plays him as a man haunted by the trenches, who bed-hops with Bright Young Things but finds joy and meaning elusive. Peter Capaldi plays his older, gnarled version. The pinsharp dialogue is a reminder of just what a great writer Davis is, while there's visual poetry to go with Sassoon's verses. Philde Semlyen Out May 20



THE DROVER'S WIFE ****

Indigenous filmmaker Leah Purcell has starred in an award-winning theatrical version of this beloved Aussie tale about a harried bush woman. In this riveting take she tackles it via a more overtly anticolonial and feminist lens. Purcell plays the unnamed protagonist, a woman with First Nations heritage, whose past trauma is exhumed when an escaped convict turns up at her door. It all gets a little clunky in the final act, but this is a powerful and all-too-rare female perspective on Australia's fraught founding story. Stephen A Russell Out May 13



FATHER STU *****

Never has the road to redemption been paved with so many foulmouth outbursts as in the eventful true-life story of Stu Long, a boxer who tried to make it big in Hollywood only to turn to God instead. Mark Wahlberg, who loved the story so much he helped pay for the movie, takes to his trademark role of misfit with a heart of gold like a fist to a 12oz Everlast glove. Mel Gibson pitches up in the bad dad role to deliver some unnecessary one-liners. The rock soundtrack lends knockabout energy to all the cheery life lessons. Whelan Barzey Out May 13



Oh, what a booty-call mornin'

I'M STRUGGLING TO think of a hornier theatre production than Daniel Fish's radical revamp of Rodgers & Hammerstein's 1943 musical 'Oklahoma!'.

A big pre-pandemic hit in New York, Fish's deceptively barebones production leans creatively into the fact that very little happens in 'Oklahomal' beyond its characters thirsting after each other, and hard.

Laura Jellinek and Grace Laubacher's design sets everything in a sort of rough wooden dancehall with the house lights on dazzlingly bright, and tables groaning with anachronistic tinnies of Bud Light. It's discombobulating: perhaps we're in the 1906 Oklahoma countryside; perhaps we're in a sort of spiritual limbo common to all boring rural towns.

What fills the void is *lust*. There is no coyness in the show's two central love triangles: Anouska Lucas's farmgirl Laurey Williams vacillates between looking impassively cool and like a desperate horndog as she's wooed by Arthur Darvill's cocksure cowboy Curley and Patrick Vaill's brooding farmhand Jud. At one point Laurey is clearly ready to pounce upon her

'Oklahoma!'

 $\star\star\star\star\star$

exuberant friend Ado Annie (Marisha Wallace), so worked up is she by her gal pal's account of being caught between James Davis's simple, lovelorn Will and Stavros Demetraki's slick lothario Ali.

In a surreal way, Fish has injected realism to 'Oklahomal'. So yes, the characters are bored and horny. But also Curley and Jud's rivalry over Laurey is far more nuanced than the usual idea of Curley as a hero and Jud a villainous oddball. The final showdown between the two men is weird and macabre, a real rejoinder to the usual glib happy ending.

It's very well cast. Lucas is wonderful as the flinty-eyed but vulnerable Laurey; Wallace is a wellspring of good vibes and vocal powerhousing as Annie. Darvill hits just the right note of ambiguity as Curley – charming, yes, but entitled and mean to returning US cast member Vaill's excellent Jud. Also returning from the US, Davis is a rubbery-bodied dream, bounding about the stage as the blissfully dopey Will. Crucially, Fish has allowed the Annie love triangle plot to stay funny and sweet and largely unaltered – you can radically revamp a show while holding on to the bits that work just fine.

If I have a criticism it's that it's all a bit meta: you'll get a lot more out of certain sequences if you're familiar with how 'Oklahomal' usually plays out, and can therefore appreciate what Fish has done here.

Nonetheless, if some crib notes wouldn't go amiss, Fish has crafted something genuinely new and special. It's 'Oklahoma!' reconfigured as a smouldering parable of small-town suffocation, of people who dance and drink and screw because there's nothing else to do, and the inevitable consequences of letting that play out. ■



By Andrzej Łukowski Who probably couldn't pick Oklahoma out on a map.

Jerusalem

THE BEST PLAY of the twenty-first century? A good play elevated by an extraordinary performance? A nostalgic relic of a pre-Brexit age?

All of these accusations have been levelled at 'Jerusalem', but it feels like the only unarguable truth as it returns is that Jez Butterworth's 2009 drama – combined with Mark Rylance's lead performance – is the most hyped play of our lifetimes, perhaps ever by a living writer.

It's a hell of a weight for one show to carry. And in keeping the original production alive, director lan Rickson and team haven't allowed 'Jerusalem' to pass into glorious legend: it has to live up to its reputation. And it does.

I saw it once before, in 2011, on the last of its three previous London runs. As I recall, it's basically unchanged. And yet... 'Jerusalem' remains fresh and unexpected. In a weird way, its own legend contributes to that: it's been the subject of so much serious-minded discourse that it's almost confounding to be thrown into a foul-mouthed comedy about Rylance's drugdealing old vagabond Johnny 'Rooster'Byron and his various addled hanger-ons as they bum about his caravan, from which Rooster is due for imminent eviction.



WHAT IS IT... Jez Butterworth's legendary 2009 play gloriously returns.

WHY GO... Mark Rylance gives probably the greatest performance of our lifetimes.

→ Apollo Theatre. Until Aug 6. £15-£85.

On one level Butterworth is entirely uncelebratory of his hero: despite his charm, wit and gloriously florid phrasing, Rooster is also an out-of-control alcoholic whose coterie of 'friends' are just after his drugs.

But for all his pathetic human frailties, the suggestion – intrinsically begged by Rylance's superhuman performance – gnaws away that Byron is somehow not entirely of our world. Is he just an old druggie, about to be finally washed away by the boring tide of southwestern suburbia? Or is he an ancient spirit of the woods, a trace of an older, wilder, more dangerous world that we turned our backs on? Key to Rylance's titanic performance is that he's both at the same time. The play climaxes just as the mythic past is finally invoked, and the giants are summoned. Is any of it real? On one level we never find out; on the other, Rylance's extraordinary final monologue, in which reality seems to warp and the whole room converges on him, is magic happening right in front of us. ■ Andrzej Łukowski



Prima Facie

IF YOU HADN'T noticed, Jodie Comer has had a busy few years. Too busy for theatre. Til now: aged 29, and with 'Killing Eve' wrapped up, it's finally the moment, and the outcome was never in doubt. She absolutely *owns* the stage for 100 uninterrupted solo minutes.

It's a personal triumph somewhat mitigated by the fact that the play

is pretty clunky. But 'Prima Facie', by Aussie writer Suzie Miller, is impassioned and about an important subject.

Comer is Tessa, a hotshot young, working-class defence barrister. She loves her job passionately, works hard and plays hard.

Then she is sexually assaulted, and Justin Martin's production

WHAT IS IT... Jodie Comer makes her stage debut in this legal drama.

WHY GO... Because Comer is a bloody good stage actor, too.

→ Harold Pinter Theatre. Until Jun 18. £15-£125. takes a very different turn as Tessa reports her attacker to the police. The play then skips two years to the beginning of the trial, which builds to a blazing speech in which Tessa excoriates the brokenness of the rape-conviction process.

Comer is magnetic throughout, from her early cockiness to the sickening moment when euphoria curdles into horror, on to her ferocious last stand.

It's just a bummer that the play's not better. Miller does a queasily convincing job of portraying the doubt that goes through a victim's head when they're being mercilessly cross-examined. But for all Comer's charisma, the text is ponderous and lacks nuance. In particular, it's baffling how Tessa is earlier shown to enjoy demolishing putative victims at the witness stand but never reflects on this later.

Still, if all famous actors simply went for the best play possible, we'd be stuck with even more bloody 'Hamlet'. With 'Prima Facie', Jodie Comer has something to prove about herself and something she wants to say about the world: she's done both. *Andrzej Łukowski*

Theatre & Dance

2:22 - A Ghost Story

Danny Robins' blockbuster ghost yarn is back for its third West End run in the space of a year! If you can, go in cold to the spooky dinner party drama, which this time stars Tom Felton, Mandip Gill, Beatriz Romilly and Sam Swainsbury. → Criterion Theatre. Until Sep 4. £15-£95.

My Fair Lady

Twenty-one years after Cameron Mackintosh's 2001 West End production of Lerner and Loewe's musical classic, 'My Fair Lady' is back. Starring Amara Okereke and Harry Hadden-Paton, it's a lavish revival of the 1956 musical famously adapted from George Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion'. → London Coliseum. £20-£185. Until Aug 27.

The Father and the Assassin

Indian playwright Anupama Chandrasekhar's epic drama is about the life of Nathuram Godse, who went from being a devout follower of Mahatma Gandhi to his disillusioned, radicalised assassin. Rising star Shubham Saraf plays Godse. → National Theatre. May 12-Jun 18. £20-£89.



The best new theatre shows on their way to London



Grease the Musical

Ah wella wella... it's back! The nostalgic musical returns for 2022 in a brand new production from Nikolai Foster. We're promised a different side to 'Grease' here, with a grittier edge and some rarely included songs not heard since the original, pre-film incarnation. → Dominion Theatre. Until Oct 29. £15-£135.

The House of Shades

Anne-Marie Duff heads up the cast of Beth Steel's new drama, which traces the ever-shifting face of industrial working-class Britain from 1965 to 2019 via the fate of one family, the Websters. Blanche McIntyre directs.

→ Almeida Theatre. Until Jun 18. £10-£48.50.

Two Palestinians Go Dogging

This tongue-in-cheek drama by Sami Ibrahim plays with preconceptions that all stories about the Middle East must be deadly serious. It's set in 2043, where a couple are embarking on sexual adventures on a patch of contested land.

 \rightarrow Royal Court Theatre. Until Jun 1. £15-£25.



ADY



Edited by Eddy Frankel timeout.com/art @timeoutart

EXHIBITION OF THE WEEK

A killer show 'Walter Sickert'

WALTER SICKERT is

disintegrating. He's melting into nothing, disappearing right in front of you in a staggeringly good, muddy, sombre early selfportrait from 1896. It very neatly encapsulates what makes the English painter (1860-1942) so interesting: it's not his handling of paint or how he captures light or anything, it's the bubbling undercurrent of darkness that courses through his work.

Because where the Impressionists and their successors exalted in the effects of natural light, found ecstasy in the beauty of nature (easy enough when you live in the South of France instead of north London), Sickert's work is caked in the filth and thick smog of the city, the grime and decay of Camden.

This show of art from across his long career takes in portraiture, landscapes, urban scenes, nudes and a whole bunch of murder. His early work owes hefty debts to his mentors James Whistler and Edgar Degas. He took the muted tones of the former and the fascination with everyday life from the latter.

Sickert, a former actor, repeatedly

paints the stages and music halls he loved. There are actors frozen in searingly bright spotlights, draped in luminescent red-and-white dresses, trapeze artists caught midflight, singers caught mid-song. So far, so Degas, but the real gold is in the crowds. Sickert's masses of rapt bodies are trapped in the gloom, shadowy observers that smudge into one another, becoming big anonymous, amorphous globs of fascination, the embodiment of the lecherous, threatening male gaze.

Onestunning image shows the backs of a crowd at an early film screening, the movie barely visible beyond the countless gawping men. The screen is one of Sickert's devices for twisting the way we look - as are mirrors, light sources, reflections and photographs. This comes across best in his portraiture. In one painting, a woman reaches up to fix her hair, craning to see herself in a mirror above a toohigh mantelpiece; in another, an actress is shown with her face grotesquely mutated and disfigured by flickering lights below her chin. Later self-portraits are based on photographs from unflattering



WHAT IS IT... Weird, dark and extremely brilliant painting.

WHY GO...

Go for the murder, stay for the modernism.

→ Tate Britain. Until Sep 18. £18. angles. He constantly uses the idea of mediated vision – looking through mirrors, cameras etc – to mess with representation. Even his oddly dark landscapes are full of silhouettes and looming dark shadows.

But the real darkness comes in the nudes. What starts out in the earlier works as an homage to the bare eroticism and vulnerability of Pierre Bonnard and Degas eventually morphs into something deliberately provocative and disconcertingly morbid. These bodies don't seem posed but abandoned, their limbs slack and displaced, draped across filthy beds in nasty rooms. It's tense, uncomfortable, gross. And then there are the 'Camden Town Murders' paintings, all filled with



shameful, fully dressed men and apparently lifeless naked women. They're intentionally controversial, publicity-hungry images (there are daft that Sickert could have been Jack the Ripper), but that doesn't make them any less visceral or intense. They're sinister, horrifying and totally captivating.

The biggest surprise of all here is how brilliant Sickert's later paintings are. He loved working off photographs and press clippings, exploring the flatness and contrast the camera provided. His images of George V, based on newspaper photos, are wonky and oddly framed, his can-can dancers are stark and ghostly, and his jawdropping image of Sir Thomas Beecham conducting is the most bizarrely dramatic, blood-drenched portrait imaginable. In his later works' mechanised strangeness, manipulation of visual narrative and use of popular culture, you can see the birth of countless modern painters: Marlene Dumas, Gerhard Richter, Peter Doig. It's amazing.

There's a lot of derivative work here, and some very naff painting, but Sickert was a truly unique, very strange and unbelievably *modern* painter. And he definitely wasn't Jack the Ripper, so it's all good.



By Eddy Frankel Who's never even *been* to Camden Town, officer.



'Future Shock'

Immersive art

of the genre.

For the 'gram,

180 The Strand.

Until Aug 28. From £20.

obviously.

from the masters

THEY'RE JUST SHOWING off at this point, the folks behind 180 The Strand. They've got the cavernous space, they've got the mind-bending artists and they've got the experience of putting on the best immersive art exhibitions in London over the past decade. They don't even need to try.

But they're doing it anyway. And this new show is peak 180. It's room after room of dizzying technological AV wonders that will clog your Instagram feed for months.

The most effective installations are the ones that emphasise physical sensation. Returning stars UVA (they had a solo show here a few years back) trip you up with lights that bisect the space, slicing through the room and leaving you feeling like you're melting through the floor. Nonotak try to give you seizures with strobing cubes of light, Hamill Industries send waves of smoke pulsing at you, Tundra chop you up with holograms.

Then you get Gaika's brilliantly, threateningly intense robo-installation, Weirdcore's room of coloured ribbons and throbbing lights, and Ben

> Kelly's maze of gyrating totems and columns that look like Brancusi raving at the Haçienda, which makes sense, because Ben Kelly designed the Haçienda.

It's not that the other works here aren't good, it's just that they get lost in the maelstrom of experiential art.

So what's this show about, what's the big overarching concept here? I don't really think there is one. None of it really fits together, it just all looks like the world's fanciest branch of Cyberdog.

That probably doesn't matter. You're not coming here to think big thoughts and have a profound art experience, you're coming here to be immersed in jawdropping installations, and that's exactly what you're getting. **■** Eddy Frankel



5 reasons to visit Lavazza's new flagship

It's bringing a slice of Italian culture to central London

very coffee lover knows that there's coffee and then there's proper coffee. Lavazza falls firmly into the second camp. Now, it's bringing a slice of top-quality Italian coffee culture to London at its UK flagship store just minutes from Regent Street. Need any more reasons to visit? Here are five...

1Sip amazing coffee in a vibrant atmosphere

The ground floor Caffetteria has been designed to create a unique experience during every visit. Pull up a chair to the bean-shaped bar before sipping carefully sourced Italian coffees – whether that's a morning espresso or an evening 'coffee-tail'. And don't miss its innovative Coffee Design inventions. Coffee caviar anyone?

2 Enjoy a free tasting session with the coffee experts

You've heard of a sommelier, but did you know about 'coffeeliers'? Lavazza's flagship store has trained experts who will take you through its 1895 range, including up to seven different varieties of specialty coffees served as espressos, cold brews and more. You can even take your favourites home afterwards.

3Sample a Michelinquality menu

On the first floor, there's a sleek space that could rival any foodie hotspot. The menu is curated by Michelin-starred chef Federico Zanasi, so expect proper fine dining where you'll eat Italian food that pairs tradition with modernism.



No time? No worries Sometimes you just need a cup of joe on the go. Lavazza has you covered with its unique coffee hatch. Serving hot and cold coffees from its NGO-certified La Reserva de ¡Tierra! range, you're left with the same high-quality brews, but in takeaway form.

5An exclusive deal for Time Out readers

To celebrate the launch of Lavazza's London flagship store, we've partnered with them to create two unique food experiences for Time Out readers. First up there's colazione – breakfast, the Italian way – featuring Italian twists on classics like pistachio croissants and fried eggs with cacio e pepe sauce. Or, if aperitivo hour is more your thing, enjoy tomato tartare, savoury maritozzo with porchetta and a Nuvola Spritz. Act fast! The deal finishes at the end of April.





ON MY FRIDAY evening visit to Apricity, a new socially conscious restaurant in Mayfair, Citymapper failed me and I ended up at a fertility clinic – also called Apricity – five minutes down the road.

It was kind of appropriate. Chefowner Chantelle Nicholson's new restaurant baby has been several years in the making. She's known for her zero-waste approach and received a Green Michelin Star at her former restaurant Treadwells.

When I finally found the right Apricity, I discovered that its sustainability extends to the interior. The walls are bare plaster, chairs are made from old Coca-Cola bottles, oyster shells are crafted into moon-like light pendants, and pothos and ivy plants dangle from the ceiling.

The menu Nicholson has put together with head chef Eve Seemann follows the seasons, so naturally changes a lot. Things kicked off with a plate of cuttlefish with chilli cherry tomatoes and smoked emulsion, and aubergine with zhoug and roasted almond

Green shoots

Apricity

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butter. Both were punchy, crunchy and creamy – texturally triumphant and moreish (order Flor sourdough to mop up the saucy remains). A lettuce head

followed, with dainty pieces of dehydrated tomatoes, blobs of aioli and slivers of roasted kale. The whole thing looked like it belonged in the Tate and tasted wonderfully fresh and balanced, though somewhat overshadowed by the previous dishes.

Next, the shio koji (Japanese fermented seasoning) cured pollock and mussels in sambal sauce was a beautiful funky and saucy harmony, but I would've liked that sambal to be dialled up a notch. A plate of tempura-fried oyster and blackpearl mushrooms with XO sauce, Flanders wheat and wild

garlic tasted like a deepfried forest in the best possible way: complex, woody and earthy; but sadly the grains were far too chewy.

The standout plate? Rhubarb cashew cream with rhubarb granita and honeycomb was a mind-

blowingly smart dish. The rhubarb was electrifying, jolting me awake after my hefty meal: the real magic happened when the granita melted, adding a cooling sweetness. Then the light golden honeycomb pieces cut through, bringing a fun crunch to the party. Sadly, the same couldn't be said for the baked milk-chocolate mousse with miso and brown-sugar custard, which disintegrated into soup.

Service was enthusiastic. Staff recommended items and matching wines, and even showed me around the kitchen. I'd happily come back for that aubergine and that rhubarb. However, pricing is on the high side (hey, we're in Mayfair) coming in at about £85 a head with drinks (there are two tasting-menu options: £65 for five courses or £85 for seven).

Nicholson and her team know their way around ingredients, having fun with flavours and textures – chewy, crunchy, nutty, smooth, silky, velvety – sometimes all at once. Some dishes were knockout, some needed more work, but I reckon with time this place will grow into something beautiful.



By Angela Hui Who can't say no to dessert, even after the heftiest of meals.

Food & Drink

Upstairs at The George

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WHAT DO YOU think the path to heaven looks like? A cobbled alleyway lined with smiling pals, past and present? A technicolour highway fringed with waving Manekineko cats? Or a cool, alluringly lit staircase filled with bottles of the nicest wines? Maybe. Because in this new dining space at the top of a pub in Fitzrovia, you'll find just that (opposite the toilet). Head down the corridor, tipsy, mid-meal, and you'll feel a bit like you're about to ascend to the promised land.

Much else about this place is dreamy. It helps, of course, that the food is excellent. The kitchen is led by chef James Knappett, who's known for running the two-Michelin-starred Kitchen Table. But



the food here is less fancy chef's counter diner experience, more top-notch pub grub. The charcuterie platter: moreish, every last bit. The juniper steelhead smoked trout: an abundance of flavours, perfectly matched. The Cornish lemon sole with brown shrimp and mussels: just the right amount of buttery. The steak tournedos rossini: three layers of brown that didn't look like

much but tasted formidable. So good in fact that you can almost forgive yourself for ordering foie gras. Any place that serves up 'the best of British' is inherently a bit annoying, but this lot smash it.

And this lot, it turns out, are a friendly bunch. And super-attentive to pesky things like a coeliac coming in and saying: can you do this... and this... and this... but totally sans

gluten? The main dining room used to be the landlords' flat, and the new owners have retained all manner of original features: ceiling roses, a gigantic fireplace and elegant Regency windows. As you sip your first Fitzrovian (the house cocktail, a heady concoction of sherry and sparkling wine), it seems almost as if you're in heaven - or at least on your way there. ■ Huw Oliver



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'On April 25 2019, The Mantl opened its heart and its doors. Three years later, with two fine-dining awards under our belt, we can proudly say that we are one of London's best fine-dining Turkish restaurants. Happy anniversary to us! Enjoy 25 percent off on a bottle of wine with a main until May 25! 142 Brompton Rd. SW3 1HY



CITY CRUISES SAYS:

'Experience Ibiza-style chillout sessions with our first Sunday brunch. Start with a glass of sparking wine, then tuck into a buffet brunch while sailing down the river for magnificent Thames views. The bar will be open for champagne, wine, cocktails, beer and soft drinks. Westminster Pier, Victoria Embankment, SW1A2JH.

THREE OF THE BEST Street-food markets



Arcade Food Hall Arcade Food Hall at Centre Point has been rebooted. From Nepalese street food Tipan Tipan to American diner food Manna and Indian fast food Hero, this is a good meeting point to try a bit of everything. → 103-105 New Oxford St, WC1A 1DB. Open now.



Borough Yards

The Harts Group (Quo Vadis, Barrafina, El Pastor) is heading south for its shopping and dining destination. Grill-it-yourself restaurant Parrillan will be the first to open; Spanish wine joint Bar Daskal and a new Barrafina will open later in the year. → 4 Dirty Lane, SE1 9PA. Open now.



Lalaland

The old Dinerama space is now Lalaland, a new food and drink hangout. Expect street-food vendors such as Taco Collective, the Duck Shed and Fireyard BBQ, as well as four bars, a karaoke spot, a roof terrace and a waterfall with palm trees. → 17-19 Great Eastern St, EC2A 3E. Opens May 13.

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Imad's Syrian Kitchen

WHEN I ARRIVED at Imad's Syrian Kitchen on a Thursday night, it was packed. People were dunking pitta bread into creamy houmous wherever I looked. The tables are close to each other, which makes for a buzzy atmosphere, and the room is inviting, with large windows looking out at the bustling bars and restaurants of Kingly Court.

Founder Imad Alarnab ran successful restaurants, juice bars and cafés back in his native Damascus. His business was destroyed in the Syrian war, and he made the perilous journey to the UK via Calais, where he slept outside a church and cooked for his fellow refugees. In 2015, he arrived in London and ran supper clubs while fundraising for the refugee charity Choose Love. Eventually, he crowdfunded £50,000 to launch his first proper restaurant.

Imad's Syrian Kitchen offers updated versions of traditional Middle Eastern dishes-fattoush, kebabs, shish tawook (grilled strips of chicken) - as well as innovations such as vegan hindi, a dish of grilled squash and pine nuts,

Imad Alarnab

The debut restaurant from Syrian refugee chef Imad Alarnab.

WHY GO.. For the falafel and the baklava: both satisfyingly crunchy.

Top Floor, Kingly Court, Carnaby St, W1B 5PW.

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and a halloumi noodle salad. And, of course, falafel. But these aren't the stodgy balls of supermarket wraps: they're deep-fried discs studded with sesame seeds that crunch in the most satisfying way, and will pretty much ruin all other falafel for you. The sharihat ghanam - lamb fillet with sundried tomatoes - was a standout, the acidity of the tomatoes cutting through the rich, tender and slightly smoky meat.

Be sure to leave room for dessert. The baklava was among the best I've had - firm and fresh with a nutty crunch and no syrupy gloopiness - while the Syrian ice cream is worth a try, though its chewiness may be off-putting to fans of soft European gelato.

Service was friendly and efficient, but not exactly speedy, and the staff were knowledgeable. Pricing is standard for this part of London:

expect to spend around £35 a head, not including alcohol. One word of advice: the kitchen closed relatively early on the night we visited (final orders at around 9pm), so go early, especially if you're bringing a hearty appetite. And you really should. ■ Sirin Kale

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