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Cameos



Flo Ngala

Flo is a New York-based photographer whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *GQ* and *Rolling Stone*. She hit the rink for our coverage of NYC's roller-skating scene. See p38



Mike MacEacheran

Award-winning travel journalist Mike tells us why Edinburgh is Scotland's new whisky capital. His favourite single malt is the Balvenie DoubleWood 12, by the way. See p20



Lauren Bravo

Freelance writer Lauren has published two books. She's based in London, but is always happiest with sand between her toes. This month, she reveals why life's better on the beach. See p50



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TAKE ME, I'M YOURS
Enjoy this magazine onboard and at home

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The third instalment of *Fantastic Beasts* hits our screens; star Nonso Anozie explains what makes *Sweet Tooth* such a hit; and tune into the magic of Vangelis.

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THINGS TO GET OBSESSED
WITH RIGHT NOW

Red Hot



NOW SHOWING

GET LUCKY IN LOS ANGELES

At the turn of the century, two masked French guys released genre-bending house records, recorded some cool collabs (Giorgio Moroder, Pharrell...) and changed pop music. Daft Punk are bona fide legends and they're being feted in LA this month at *Contact: A Multi-Sensory Journey Celebrating Daft Punk*. Billed as a giant, immersive dance party, it'll feature live tribute performances on an LED pyramid stage, with 360-degree projection mapping beamed onto an epic 1,115m² domed screen. Robot rock never looked this good.

✈ Fly to Los Angeles

Michelle Yeoh gets to show off her martial arts skills in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.



FIRST TAKE

THE RISE OF THE MULTIVERSE

This year's biggest blockbusters explore parallel dimensions. Has Hollywood finally broken the space-time continuum? asks **Al Horner**

This is the year movie fans went well and truly mad for the multiverse. No, not pill-sized health supplements available from Holland & Barrett (you're thinking of multivitamins). And no, not that thing Mark Zuckerberg keeps banging on about, either (that's the Metaverse, which... actually, I have no clue what that is, to be honest). The multiverse is a scientific concept that argues there's an infinite array of alternate realities in which one split-second decision has altered the course of history. And, as luck would have it, it's been the basis for the highest grossing and most critically acclaimed movies of the year to date.

Marvel mega hit *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* topped US\$900m at the global box office with its trippy tale of a surgeon-turned-superhero forced on an intergalactic chase through parallel dimensions. Even more brain-

bending was the surprise smash *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, released in cinemas in May and still racking up rave reviews. Directed by cult indie auteurs the Daniels (Kwan and Scheinert), the film saw a Chinese-American laundromat owner discover the existence of kung-fu-fighting alternate versions of herself and her beleaguered husband, as well as a universe in which everyone has hot dogs for hands. Naturally.

These films – available on today's in-flight entertainment – are the beginning of a new tide of multiverse movies coming soon to cinemas. *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, a sequel to 2018 animation *Into the Spider-Verse*, is expected to be among 2023's biggest blockbusters. And the MCU isn't done with the concept yet either. According to industry rumours, multiverse storylines will be used in forthcoming films to introduce the X-Men and Fantastic Four.



Why the sudden boom in multiverse movies? Well, there's an argument to be made that they've always been here. Films like *Sliding Doors*, *Back to the Future*, going all the way back to 1946 Christmas classic *It's A Wonderful Life*, similarly allow audiences to wonder how their own lives might be different if they'd chosen a different partner, job – or, in Gwyneth Paltrow's case, subway train. It's a universal human impulse to imagine the paths we might have taken instead of the ones we did. With the world – perhaps you've noticed? – in a bit of a bad way of late, it's no wonder movie fans have become enraptured by the idea that in other dimensions, perhaps things are slightly rosier. Which is why – multiplexes beware – there's plenty more multiversal madness to come yet. Hot dogs for hands sold separately.

 Watch Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness

STAR LIT

Celebs are writing kids' books



Paul McCartney has written a series of children's tales starring an elderly "Grandude" who larks around in a jaunty green submarine.

Book marks: 



Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle wrote *The Bench*, a picture book about fatherhood set on an actual bench she bought hubby Harry on Father's Day.

Book marks: 



Actor, producer, musician and kick-boxer Idris Elba is reportedly working on a series of colourful children's stories inspired by his daughter. Swoon.

Book marks: 

ILLUSTRATION: GUY SHIELD PHOTOS: ALAMY



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RISING STAR

Smooth operator Ronny Chieng

THE DAPPER STAND-UP TELLS
AL HORNER HOW HE BECAME
THE FUNNY WORLD'S
CLASSIEST COMEDIAN

HERE'S A FEW things you need to know about Ronny Chieng. Number one: he's funny. The sort of funny that earns you a high-profile "correspondent" spot on America's *The Daily Show* (a role he's held since 2015), and supporting parts in smash-hit movies like *Crazy Rich Asians* and Marvel's *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*. Number two: he's sharply dressed. The sort of sharply dressed that makes this writer, who normally prefers face-to-face interviews, frankly relieved when this one is relegated to a phone call due to scheduling conflicts (next to Ronny, who's seemingly always

wearing an elegant designer suit of James Bond-esque elegance, I feel like it'd be even more apparent than usual that my fashion sense is basically "extra from a 90s grunge video").

The most important thing to know about the Malaysian comedian, however, is that he's unafraid to speak his mind. Beneath the hilarity of his recent Netflix special *Speakeasy* are bruising truths about America, anti-Asian hate, Britain's history of colonialism and a certain cable news channel (maybe you can guess which one). What makes the law student-turned-laugh merchant star tick? We'll let the man himself explain...

When did you first become attracted to comedy?

When I was four, I remember watching *Seinfeld* and loving the bits where he was doing stand-up. When you're that age, most jokes you hear are knock-knock jokes. But *Seinfeld* was sharing his complaints about the world – and in a way that wasn't bumming people out. It was kinda doing the opposite! Everyone was laughing. He was complaining but in a way that people could share in because they recognised the thing he was complaining about. A lot of stand-up comedy is getting paid to complain [laughs].

You've carried that into your comedy – but where *Seinfeld* complained about trivial matters like how to use chopsticks, your jokes rally against societal problems. How did that become a part of your act?

[American comedian] Hasan Minhaj would always say that making fun of institutions, no matter how powerful they are, is what equalises us and gives us back some power when we feel helpless. The stuff that makes me really angry is often where I'll find really good material because I'm passionate about it. There's definitely a release to being able to articulate my frustration about something and turn it into a joke, to be able to rob it of its power. Hopefully it's cathartic for the audience too.

You began pursuing comedy quite late, while at university in Melbourne. Did studying law help you as a comedian, in terms of knowing how to tell a compelling story for an audience the way you would a jury?

Definitely. A lot of my comedy is me trying to make an argument that something is dumb or unreasonable and convince an audience of my argument, the way you would in a court. Understanding how to set out



“THE DAILY SHOW IS THE HARDEST JOB IN COMEDY AND ALSO THE BEST... THERE HAS TO BE A POINT TO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING”

From above: Ronny Chieng as uptight investment banker Eddy Cheng in *Crazy Rich Asians* and live on stage in Seattle

a story and make it compelling for the people you're trying to convince is really important to my creativity, I think. But there are big differences too – even if I still wear suits to work [laughs].

How does turning up to film a Marvel movie like *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* compare to performing a stand-up set or presenting on *The Daily Show*?

It's definitely easier! *The Daily Show* is the hardest job in comedy and also the best job in comedy. You have to be able to write quickly, reacting to current events. You have to be funny, but there also has to be a point to what you're saying. Getting an acting role, the script is already written and there's more people to share the creative process with. I had a lot of fun doing *Shang-Chi* and would love to do more of that sort of thing.

Looking to the future, you're currently writing a martial arts movie. Is it true you're a blue belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu?

I am! I don't know how much of an authority that makes me, but yes, I'm writing a movie in that world. Lots of comedians write their own vehicles. That's a pretty established thing to do as a next step for comedians in my position and I'm really lucky to get to do it. I'm lucky that enough people want to hear what I have to say and I can make a living from doing what I do, whether that's stand-up or acting. Where the future lies, I don't know. I'm always just trying to find the next joke, taking life one joke at a time.

 Watch *Crazy Rich Asians*



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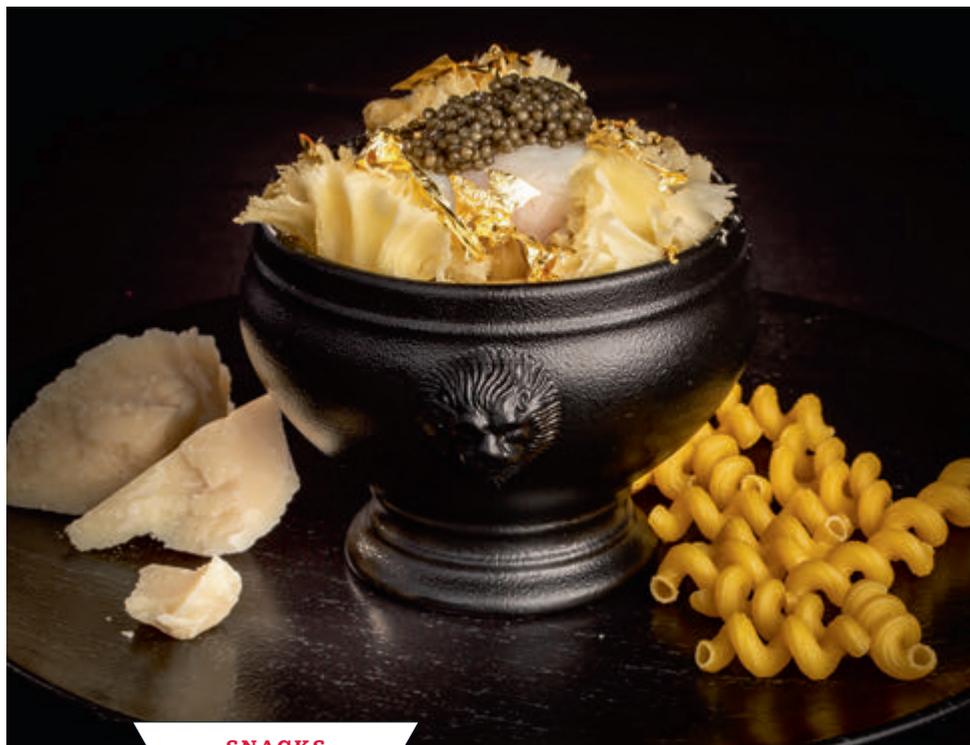


Mixing it up like the 90s

Last summer, the espresso martini – that buzzy, retro drink beloved by the *Sex and the City* crowd – was back on every millennial’s lips.

This summer, the 90s have cemented that cocktail comeback. Case in point: Hong Kong’s new Thirsty Shaker bar, where the throwback drinks list includes two last-century staples: tequila sunrise and lychee martini. Washington, DC’s *Gatsby* is also doing a time-hop with its appletini-inspired Them Apples cocktail, and Analogue in NYC serves a killer take on the ultimate 90s power drink: the cosmopolitan. Carrie would be proud.

✂ Fly to London



SNACKS

Above: The Millionaire’s Maccheroni side can be ordered alongside Midwest-reared aged steaks and chops

THE BIG CHEESE IN VEGAS

Get your lips around Sin City’s most extravagantly indulgent side dish at **Scotch 80 Prime**

EXTRA - AS IN the modern slang term meaning “shamelessly over the top” – applies to pretty well everything in Las Vegas. And nowhere more so than at Scotch 80 Prime. The recently revamped steakhouse at the Palms Casino Resort revels in a reputation for delirious excess, with its salmon-pink rococo restrooms,

multimillion dollar whisky cellar and pumping supertime soundtrack. But what really sets

this joint apart are its side dishes. Behold the Millionaire’s Maccheroni, a decadent take on America’s comfort food staple with black truffle, poached egg, Parmigiano Reggiano cream, prosciutto and gold leaf. A suitably boujee complement to your ludicrous Mishima Five-Star Wagyu, slathered in red wine bone marrow bordelaise. After all, if there’s one thing folks around here know a thing or two about, it’s how to raise the steaks.

✂ Fly to Las Vegas



SLEEPER HIT

St Barts' high-end hideaway

LAVISH LE TOINY IS ALL ABOUT DISCREET LUXURY

MANY, IF NOT most, Caribbean holidaymakers quite properly like to holler from the metaphorical rooftops about their outrageous good fortune, posting faux-casual azure snapshots for the envious consumption of folks back home. Le Toiny, on St Barthelemy, a swift hop-over from Antigua, rocks a different vibe. Not that the five-star haven isn't photogenic – drink in that exquisite bar top inlaid with oyster shells and iridescent mother-of-pearl, those popping pink stools among accents of chrome, petrified wood and sun-bleached teak furniture meticulously crafted by British interiors queen Bee Osborn.

However, the luxury hotel's discreet location – on the island's wilder, less developed east coast – favours modesty over showiness. You needn't leave your suite at all, unless you fancy slipping out of your cocoon with its heated private pool to pad down to the restaurant, where you can sample fine dishes like grilled kurobuta pork with lobster emulsion. Or nab a tactfully distanced hammock at the beach club. We won't tell anybody if you don't.



✈ Fly to Antigua

3 MORE CARIBBEAN BEAUTIES



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LOCATION SCOUT

EDINBURGH'S GLAM DRAMS

The Scottish capital is awash with world-class whisky experiences, says local expert **Mike MacEacheran**

T

here's a correct way to drink whisky in Scotland and it starts with the gloop of a cork, followed by a pour, toast, clink, sniff and sup. This sense of theatre has long been crucial in the

Highlands and Islands, where the lion's share of single malt is produced – but not so much in the Scottish capital, where the city's whisky footprint can often be forgotten. But Edinburgh's drinking scene has felt a growing buzz lately, which means the August swell of visitors – who come for the juggernaut Edinburgh Festival Fringe as well as other, smaller festivals – is well-catered for by pubs specialising in *uisge beatha*, Scotland's water of life.

Begin your responsible drinking at the city's newest scene-setter, **Johnnie Walker Princes Street**. The £185m, eight-floor drinking den is a journey into the world's most famous whisky brand, with tasting studios, sampling tours, restaurants and bars, including 1820, a rooftop perch and thoughtful place to tap into the spirit of Scotland's national drink.



Above:
"Whisky Ambassador"
Cameron Ewen
guides guests
through The
Balmoral's
whisky wall



“Drinking whisky in Scotland starts with the gloop of a cork, followed by a pour, toast, clink, sniff and sup”

It's hard not to miss **Edinburgh Castle (1)** when sitting up here, and a walk to its esplanade and gatehouse afterwards will bring you to the doors of **The Scotch Whisky Experience**, a more family-friendly immersion into the amber bead. Throughout there's a deep sense of homage and, as well as the world's largest collection of Scotch whisky, there's a theme park-style barrel ride, blender's room and whisky vault. Whisky is misunderstood, an opinion hardly helped by its association with expensive labels and outdated

gender stereotyping, but this place helps set the record straight.

Visitors tend to think of Edinburgh's **Royal Mile** because of its crooked tolbooths, medieval spires and dimly lit wynds. But with shoulder-to-shoulder taverns crowding the cobblestones, it's also lit up by storied boozers and pubs. Over a few hours, you could drop into **Whiski Rooms**, **The Devil's Advocate**, **Albanach** and the nearby **Bow Bar**, all of which have top-shelf fantasies for connoisseurs. Others across the city have picked up the baton ▶



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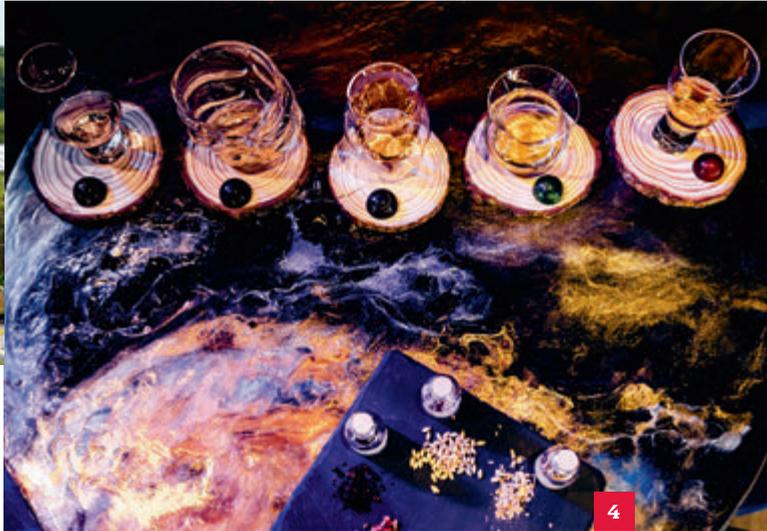
2



and the most spectacular of these is **SCOTCH**, the signature whisky bar of The Balmoral hotel, a stroll across North Bridge onto Princes Street. There's 500 drams on offer, meaning it would be easy to lose yourself for days, if not weeks, here.

The siren call of seals can be heard at the **Holyrood Distillery**, an ultra-modern malthouse in a converted railway engine shed set beneath the 340-million-year-old crags of Arthur's Seat, the capital's long-dormant volcano. It's a laid-back place, offering expert-led tours and tastings, plus an in-house gin offering.

Certainly, whisky isn't for everyone – so, luckily, the Edinburgh inclination towards spirit making has also led to a surge of visitor-friendly gin distilleries in the past decade. Among those



4

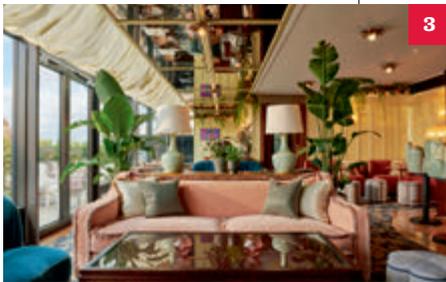
Above, from left: The Secret Herb Garden is home to a cafe, shop and distillery; pair your drink with chocolate at Tippy Midgie

worth your business are **Edinburgh Gin, Pickering's Gin, Achroous Gin** and **The Secret Garden Distillery (2)**. All share a similar determination and obsession for innovation.

Other newfangled lures await if you're planning to come later this year. First up on regal St Andrew Square is the just-opened **Gleneagles Townhouse (3)**, a city outpost of the famed Perthshire baronial pile with all-day restaurant, roof terrace and members' club with a bevy of whiskies on tap. Then there's **Tippy Midgie (4)**, a spirited little place that offers chocolate pairings, matching drams to bitesize sweets from master chocolatier Sebastian Kobelt. Need more proof Edinburgh is Scotland's new whisky heart? Didn't think so.

✂ Fly to Edinburgh

3



3 MORE WHISKY STOPS



BUSHMILLS, BELFAST

A stone's throw from the Giant's Causeway, this historical Northern Irish distillery is (supposedly) home to a legendary whisky-sipping ghost. Or is that just the drink talking?



BOSTON HARBOR, BOSTON

Pioneer of the US's grain-to-glass philosophy, this female-run distillery centres around a bonded barrel storage warehouse, and offers tours and virtual tastings of its Irish-style malt.



JAMES SEDGWICK, CAPE TOWN

A slice of Scotland transplanted to South Africa, this distillery dates to 1886 and is open for tours and tastings. You'll find it in the picturesque Cape Winelands, north of the far showier Stellenbosch region.



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TABLE READ

ART AL FRESCO

A new book takes the museum experience outdoors

There aren't many things that can't be improved by a bit of fresh air, including – and especially – art. Outside the intimidating white cube, there's plenty of world-class work to see – and the best pieces have been handily compiled in publisher Gestalten's new *Art Escapes* book.

The coffee-table stunner, written by culture journalist Grace Banks, takes readers on a global art tour outside the conventional museum space. Within its beautifully photographed pages, there are pop-up sculptures in Edinburgh, mysterious monoliths in the Utah desert and a giant orca likeness on Canada's west coast.

Banks wanted to bring all these works together to celebrate beauty in unexpected places – and to show that, at its best, art should be freely accessible to everyone. "When you look at *Le Cyclop* by Niki de Saint Phalle in the forests of France, you just can't imagine it packing the same punch surrounded by white walls and air conditioning," Banks says.



Clockwise from left: Douglas Coupland's *Digital Orca* in Vancouver; Japan's teamLab's *Floating Flower Garden*; and Gisela Colón's *The Future Is Now* in Saudi Arabia

You can visit *Cells of Life* by Charles Jencks at Jupiter Artland, which is just outside Edinburgh.





Art Escapes encourages readers to keep their eyes open because the best art encounters can happen in the most unexpected places. “I love Nancy Holt’s *Sun Tunnels* in the Great Basin Desert in north-western Utah,” says Banks. “Her sprawling poured concrete tunnels filter the desert sunlight through tiny holes she drilled into the sides. Moving around these austere sculptures is an incredible experience.”

And even if you’re normally mystified by art, Banks says you shouldn’t be put off from seeking it out. “Art is made for every person in the world, so go out there and enjoy it!”



■ **Art Escapes by Gestalten and Grace Banks is out now**

WORDS: JESSICA BRIDGES. **PHOTOS:** JROBE STOCK, DOMIGAS COUPLAND, PHOTO RACHEL TOPHAM, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND DANIEL CARIA GALLERY, ART ESCAPES, GESTALTEN 2022, ARTWORK: TEAMLAB, FLOATING FLOWER GARDEN: FLOWERS AND LABE OF THE SAME BOOD, THE GARDEN AND I ARE ONE, 2015, INTERACTIVE KINETIC, INSTALLATION, ENDLESS, SOUND: HIDEAKI TAKAHASHI, CHARLES JENKINS, PHOTO ALLAN POLLOK-MORRIS / JUPITER ARTLAND, ART ESCAPES, GESTALTEN 2022, ARTWORK: "CELLS OF LIFE", GISELA COLON, PHOTO DANIE GERBERG, ARTWORK: "THE FUTURE IS NOW", ART ESCAPES, GESTALTEN 2022



SET VISIT

Wondrous wizardry in Windsor

The third instalment of JK Rowling’s *Fantastic Beasts* saga has Jude Law take the titular role for *The Secrets of Dumbledore*. As befits the regal bearing of Hogwarts’ future headmaster, Windsor Great Park, just outside London, was selected as a location for filming. Why? No doubt partly for its magisterial deer park, pretty woodland and actual castle, which lend quiet gravitas to the ongoing quest of Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne). But also because Warner Bros Studios in Leavesden is just 45 minutes away by car. Presumably even quicker by broomstick.

✂ Fly to London

SCREEN TEST

Could I forget my identity?

STARTLED BY THE CASE OF AMNESIA AT THE HEART OF TV SHOW *THE TOURIST*, **RALPH JONES** ASKS WHETHER IT'S TRULY POSSIBLE TO LOSE YOUR MEMORY

A

s well as being an internationally renowned club in Ibiza, amnesia is a condition in which someone forgets various elements of their life. In TV drama *The Tourist* it is the catalyst

for the action: Jamie Dornan's character wakes up in the outback with no memory of where or who he is. (A blessing, perhaps – this might mean he has also forgotten about the *Fifty Shades* franchise.)

But does amnesia – more specifically, forgetting who you are while retaining the capacity to do things like tie your shoelaces and brush your teeth – occur in real life?

“Neuroscientists actually don't know exactly how memory works,” says Mona Sobhani, PhD, neuroscientist and author of *Proof of Spiritual Phenomena*. Or rather: “We do but we don't.” Once upon a time, she explains, science used to posit that there was one area of the brain where memories lived. Now we know that different types of memory are distributed. Though every brain is different, certain regions of the brain do pretty specific things.

“The brain has different kinds of memory,” says Sobhani. “It has short-term, it has long-term, it has motor memory, procedural memory and emotional memory.” Motor memory, for example, is what governs your ability to drive a tractor. If part of the hippocampus – the region of the brain that is associated primarily with memory – is damaged, you may retain your motor memory but lose your long-term memory so you could plausibly “forget who you are” but still drive tractors all over town. However, there's a twist that's not often seen on screens:



according to Sobhani, suffering this kind of memory loss also means you may lose your ability to form new ones.

In order to remember who they are, characters in TV and film tend to go on a frantic journey, generally involving at least one gun. It's how the Jason Bourne films began. In real life, can a sufferer of amnesia recover their memories and return to normal? “There would be rehab attempts,” says Sobhani, “because the brain is plastic. There's still the possibility that the rest of the brain can pick up through intensive rehab the functions that were lost. With stroke victims you see it all the time.”

More accurately, the unique type of memory loss depicted in fiction like *The Tourist* should be described not as amnesia but dissociative fugue. Like many screen-friendly phenomena, it does happen but it is extremely rare; even on the odd occasions that we forget other people's names, we tend to remember our own identity because it lives in different areas of our temporal lobe. And because, presumably, we always think that if there's one person it's always worth remembering, it's us.

 Watch *The Tourist*



THE VERDICT

Yes but it's extremely rare. You can't get rid of you that easily.



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Sharon Horgan



SHARON HORGAN SUITS HERSELF

SINCE GETTING HER BIG BREAK IN HER THIRTIES, SHARON HORGAN HASN'T STOPPED WORKING. NEARLY TWO DECADES ON, SHE CONTINUES TO MINE REAL LIFE FOR LAUGHS. **ISABELLE ARON** ASKS THE ACTOR-WRITER-DIRECTOR-PRODUCER HOW SHE GOT THE POWER

PHOTOGRAPHS: PIP

ASK THE AVERAGE PERSON

to show you the notes on their phone, and you'll probably find mundane things like "Buy bread" or "Book dentist appointment". But ask Sharon Horgan – the BAFTA Award-winning actor, writer, director and producer – to do the same, and among the shopping lists, reminders and draft texts she's forgotten to send, there are sparks of ideas that will quite possibly become TV gold. What's brewing in her archive right now? She scrolls through her phone with a mischievous look. "There's a lot of stupid stuff in here that I can't read out," she laughs. Eventually, she finds something: "Getting lips done before a funeral."

Horgan is a master at creating wickedly funny scenes that hit close to the bone – from a hideously awkward school fundraiser in *Motherland* to a spectacular proposal fail ("You knocked the ring in the road like an animal and then this woman pissed on it!") in *Catastrophe*, ▶

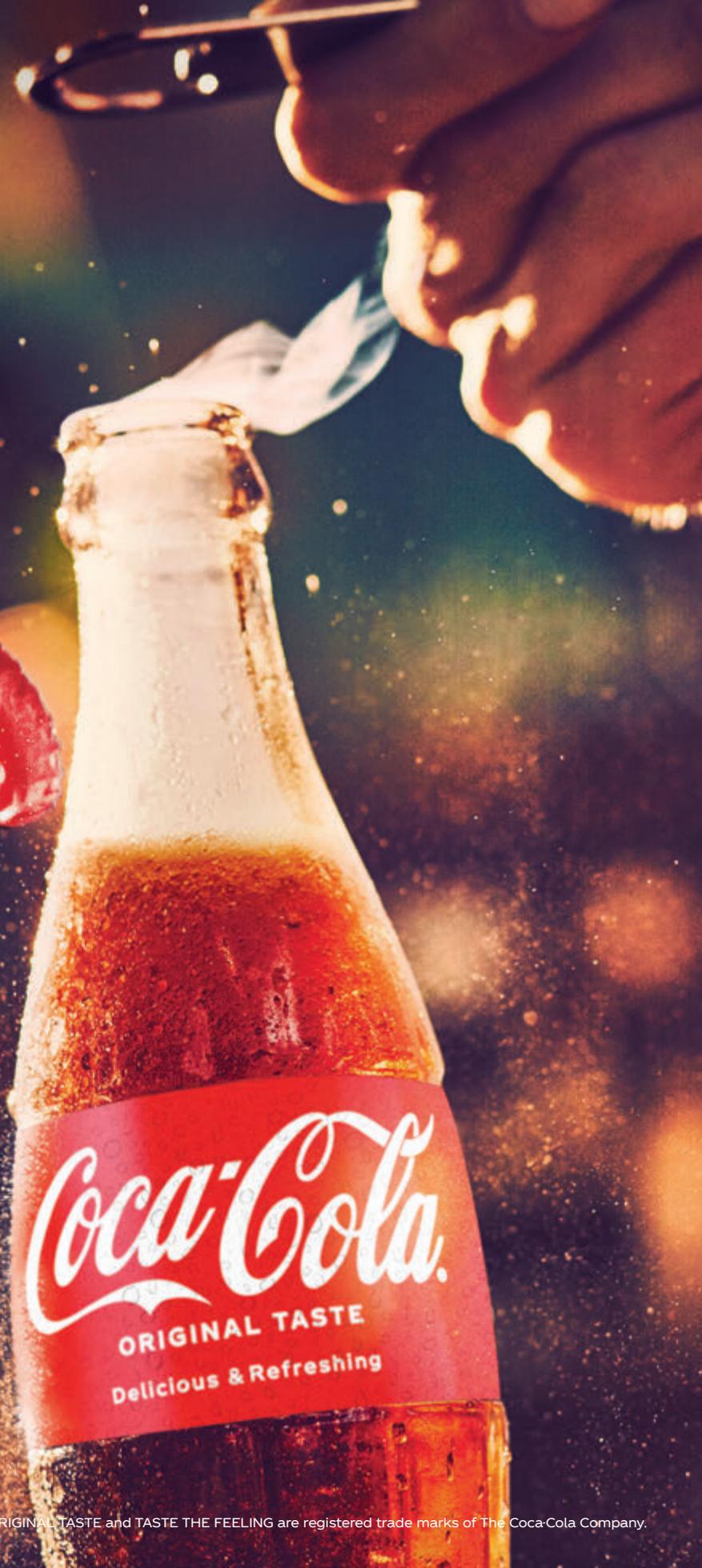


Opening page:
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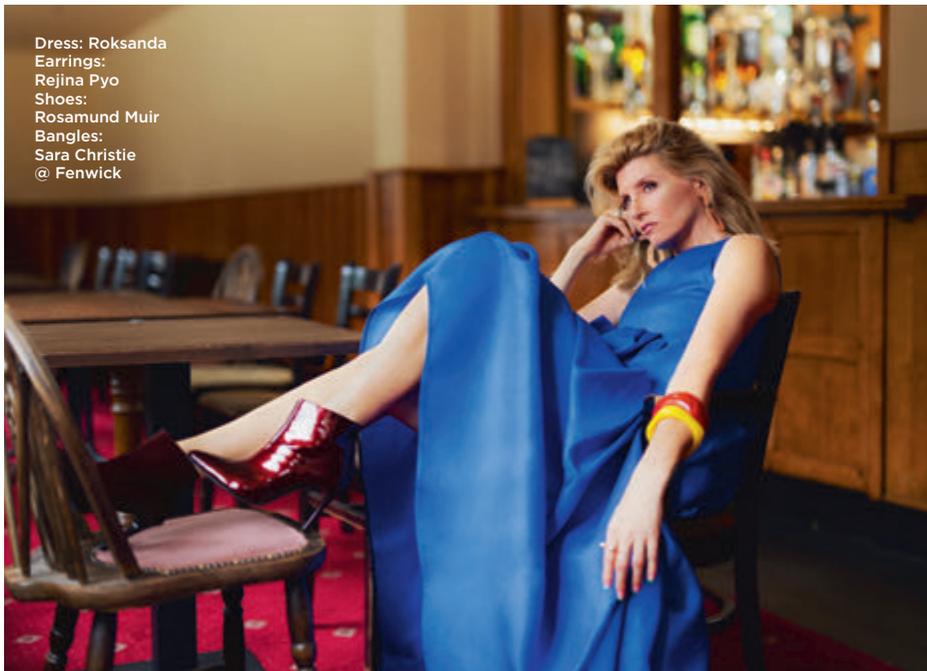
which she co-wrote and starred in with Rob Delaney. Her shows might make you laugh, cry and wince in recognition, often all in the space of a half-hour episode.

The rate of Horgan's output is impressive. In the last few years alone, she's starred in Aisling Bea's *This Way Up* (made by Horgan's production company, Merman) and *Together*, a TV film with James McAvoy about a couple whose relationship is falling apart during the pandemic. She's also been making her way in Hollywood, from *Game Night*, which screens onboard, to *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent* – a meta film in which Horgan appears as Nic Cage's wife. Next year, she'll appear in *Best Interests* opposite Michael Sheen. Horgan nearly turned it down because she, unsurprisingly, needed a break. "But I think I would have hated if I saw anyone else doing it," she says.

When we meet in July, Horgan is waiting for her first Apple TV+ show, *Bad Sisters*, to air. An adaptation of a Flemish programme called *Clan*, it's a comedy-drama-thriller about five sisters, four of whom want to kill their brother-in-law. "They call him 'The Prick'. He's a monster. They spend the ▶

"THE IDEA OF BEING A BIT OF A CHANCER IS IN YOUR HEAD... ONE MINUTE, I WAS WORKING IN A JOB CENTRE AND NEXT THING, YOU KNOW..."

Dress: Roksenda
Earrings:
Rejina Pyo
Shoes:
Rosamund Muir
Bangles:
Sara Christie
@ Fenwick



ADDITIONAL PHOTO: ALAMY

Dark laughs

SHARON HORGAN'S CV

Born

13 July 1970 in Hackney, east London, in the UK.

Education

She went to the Sacred Heart Catholic secondary school in Drogheda, Ireland. She had a brief stint at art school before moving to London, where she studied creative writing at Brunel University.

Fun fact

She moved to Ireland aged four and grew up on a turkey farm in County Meath, near Dublin.



Key works

Pulling (2006–9)

Horgan co-created and starred in this BBC Three sitcom about three single women living in Hackney. Partly inspired by her own experiences, it gave Horgan her big break.

Catastrophe (2015–19)

What would you do if you accidentally got pregnant during a fling? That's the spark for this Channel 4 show. Created and written by Horgan and comedian, actor and writer Rob Delaney, the two also star in it. It's a dark comedy that offers a hilarious look at navigating the messiness of love, parenthood and life admin.

Motherland (2016–)

An excellent example of her ability to find humour in the mundane, Horgan co-writes this BBC show about the tribulations of motherhood.

Sharon Horgan



Trousers:
Nina Ricci
Shirt: Roksanda
Shoes:
Rosamund Muir
Earrings:
Rejina Pyo

whole series trying and failing to kill him, because they're just four normal women."

We're at a Grade II-listed Catholic community club on the outskirts of east London for *Vera's* cover shoot and the city is in the middle of a heatwave. Horgan is trying to keep cool with a bright pink, feathery fan in between outfit changes. When we sit down to chat in the club's bar, all wood panels and old man pub-style red carpet, I ask if she ever has any downtime. "This summer, I'm mainly just kicking back," she says. But when she talks about everything she's working on – being in the writer's room for *Motherland*, writing her own film and gearing up for the release of *Bad Sisters*, it doesn't sound hugely relaxing. "I'm always doing bits and pieces," she admits. In fact, she's still multitasking as we speak, repeatedly trying to book an Uber for her daughter, who has been helping out on the shoot.

Does she ever want a break from it all? "The problem is that I like what I do very much," she explains, quickly adding a caveat: "It's not like Tom Cruise level where he's like, [she puts on a shouty macho voice and clenches her fists] 'I don't sleep, I love what I do!' kind of thing. I just find it enjoyable and very escapist. So it'd be weird to want to get away from something that in itself is an escape."

If Horgan, now 52, doesn't want to waste a moment of her thriving career, it might have something to do with the fact she didn't get her big break until she was in her thirties. She was born in Hackney, but grew up in Ireland (where her mum is from), in County Meath, near Dublin, alongside her four siblings. She did a stint at art school in Ireland but says she "wasn't good enough in any way". She had always loved writing, but a chance encounter with Irish director Jim Sheridan in a Dublin cafe set her on a path to acting. "I was in art college so I was a bit wild looking." Sheridan came over

Below: Horgan stars as a sibling who wants to bump off her brother-in-law in *Bad Sisters*, which premieres on Apple TV+ this month

and asked if she wanted to audition for a film he was making. She didn't get the part, but it sparked something. "It had this weird effect on me. I thought, this is what I want to do. There was something about practising for this audition, doing it and not getting it that made me think, I could do that if I put my mind to it."

She moved to London, where she spent years doing "plays above pubs". But it was slow going, so she went to study creative writing at Brunel University. Eventually, she met Dennis Kelly (*Utopia*, *Matilda the Musical*) and together they wrote *Pulling*, their first TV show. How did she feel when BBC Three commissioned it? "I screamed my head off," she recalls. "I don't think anything will beat it as a moment. We couldn't believe we'd finally broken in with our own show."

Having waited so long for that breakthrough, Horgan still sometimes struggles with imposter syndrome. "You can't help it, especially if you don't come through the traditional route or if you got your break late," she explains. "One minute, I was working in a job centre and next thing, you know... it wasn't the next thing because it took years, but it does stay in your head, that idea of being a bit of a chancer."

It was in *Pulling*, in which she also starred, that viewers first saw Horgan's pitch-black humour on screen. One particular scene stands out in her mind now, in which one of the characters, Karen, finds a cat that is terminally ill. "She couldn't afford to have it treated at the vets so she decided to... euthanise it," she says, choosing her words carefully. "I can't

believe we wrote that." This is the scene where Karen kills a cat with a brick, right? "Yes," she says, in a barely audible whisper.

While she might not write that same scene today, Horgan's characters still rub against the edges of likeability. "I've always written characters who don't have it

"THE BEST RESPONSES I'VE HAD HAVE BEEN FROM WOMEN WHO ARE LIKE ME, WHO FEEL GRATEFUL FOR SEEING THEMSELVES ON SCREEN"



in them to be perfect. They're just struggling to get through. The best responses I've had have been from women who are like me, who feel grateful for seeing themselves on screen." Fans often come up to her on the street ("90% of the time it's women, and 50% of that 90% are Irish women"). In one episode of *Catastrophe*, Horgan's character struggles to grieve her dad in a way that feels "normal" after he dies. Another mum at the school gates approached Horgan to talk about it. She'd lost her dad recently and felt it resonated. "I'd never really spoken to her before. She was saying, 'I felt like there was something wrong with me. I wasn't feeling what

everyone tells you you should feel.' She was so emotional." She thanked Horgan for that storyline. "It feels a bit ridiculous to get thanks when you do this job because it's such a privilege, but it's great when people point out that you've done something that made them feel less of a freak."

Part of the reason people have these visceral reactions to Horgan's work is that it's often inspired by real life, either her own or other people's. "It's from the heart," she explains. "Sometimes when you're putting down feelings that you felt, you feel a bit exposed. You're like, what if no one else feels like this? What if I'm a genuine pervert? Or a freak? It's terrifying but you have to trust it because there's no way that just you have felt those things." This was something that came up when writing for *Catastrophe*. "Rob [Delaney] and I used to be a bit nervous before we'd say things to each other, but



"IF IT IS RELATABLE, IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE RECOGNISES THAT DARK THINGS HAPPEN IN LIFE, BUT YOU HAVE TO LAUGH A LOT OF THE TIME"

Dress: Bella Freud
Necklace:
Bee Goddess
Earrings: Rejina Pyo

by the last series we'd be like, here's my disgusting mind – tell me what you think."

Horgan says she finds truth by staring into the void. "To me, that's what life is like – terrible things happen, usually followed by something ridiculous or funny or joyful." Does she think people find dark humour relatable? "If it is relatable, it's because everyone recognises that dark things happen in life, but equally, you kind of have to laugh a lot of the time," she says. "When you're able to write about death, loss, illness or any other topics that are just part of life, with humour, people appreciate it because it's easier to deal with."

When it comes to engaging with reactions online, she's abandoned Twitter but she does post about her work on Instagram and can't help but look at the comments. "I think if you put all those years into making something it would be weird [not to]. It'd be like baking a cake and not sticking around to see if they think it's moist." Does she always worry about what people will think? "It's never stopped being nerve-racking. I'm excited for people to see *Bad Sisters*, but I'm nervous because you lay yourself bare, especially if you're in it and you're writing it. You're basically going, 'Hit me with the tomatoes, because I'm to blame.'"

If *Bad Sisters* is as acclaimed as her other projects, we don't think she'll be getting pelted with veg in the street – though it would make good material for her notes app.

 Watch Game Night

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ROLL

In the 1970s, New York's roller-skating scene was a force of revolution and resistance for the city's Black community. Now it's back, with new rinks opening and crews taking over Central Park. **Jimi Famurewa** glides into the summer of skate

PHOTOGRAPHS: FLO NGALA

AGAIN



IT IS A SWELTERING JULY MORNING IN CENTRAL PARK.

Birds chirp up above. Map salesmen call out to early-rising tourists. And there, echoing off in the distance, is the familiar, soothing sound of... someone blasting out the Village People at full volume. Yes, ringing out across the trees and puncturing the relative peace are the unmistakable opening strains of *YMCA*. And if you keep on walking towards the source of the noise, then there is more: a central stage bedecked with giant twirling glitter balls, a vast, sunken circuit, striped in red yellow and blue, and lots and lots of smiling people on retro roller skates. Stumbling and spinning and generally doing their best to shuffle along in time to the whumping, disco-era beat.

This, as it turns out, is The DiscOasis: a freshly installed pop-up roller rink and immersive experience, backed by disco legend Nile Rodgers, and as sure a sign as any that old-school New York roller-skating is back in an enormous way. Because, of course, it is not just Central Park where everyone is suddenly partying like it's 1979. Over at Rockefeller Center, iconic Los Angeles roller rink Flipper's (aka "Studio 54 on skates") has been reborn for a six-month residency; beneath the K Bridge in Greenpoint, Gen Z groups like the LGBTQ collective NYC Brujas are trading pirouettes in their fluoro-laced skates; and all across town, nomadic skate party series The Roller Wave has got crowds of well-dressed Brooklynites piling into warehouses to form up into giddy, rolling conga lines. While other pandemic-era obsessions have ▶





ROLLER WAVE

Opening and these pages: Harry Martin, founder of The Roller Wave pop-up roller-skating experience

Jocelyn Goode
founded the online
African-American
Roller-Skate
Museum last year



waned, this appears to be a scene and a subculture with unstoppable momentum. The summer of skate truly is upon us.

“It’s access to happiness that you don’t need other people for,” says Jocelyn Goode, a 41-year-old Harlem-based skater and artist, trying to explain the new-found appeal of this decidedly oldfangled pastime. “And it’s an escape. Nothing brings you back into your body like skating.” Goode is the founder of the African-American Roller-Skate Museum – a digital institution launched in 2021, and devoted to exploring and celebrating roller-skating’s specific history and social significance within the Black community. Those links, particularly in the context of New York, are hugely significant. And to truly understand why the freedom of four-wheeled footwear is especially meaningful for people of colour, you only need to wind things right back to the start. ▶

“IT’S AN ESCAPE: NOTHING BRINGS YOU BACK INTO YOUR BODY LIKE SKATING”

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VULCAIN

MANUFACTURE DEPUIS 1858

Though roller skates were technically invented way back in 1760 (initially as crude, unsteady in-lines dreamt up by an eccentric Belgian called John Joseph Merlin), it wasn't until the late 19th and early 20th century that mass-production turned them into an



Pausing to pull on skates in Central Park

all-American phenomenon. As roller rinks began to proliferate in the 1940s and 50s, racial segregation inevitably became an issue. The freedom to skate became bound up with the fight for other, far bigger freedoms (in 1949, for instance, protesters successfully lobbied to have Chicago's White City rink desegregated).

However, these harmful policies around racial mixing – which, in the form of skate rink “Soul Nights” that were implicitly Black-only, long outlasted the 1964 outlawing of segregation – did have an inadvertently positive, galvanising effect. Which is to say that the iconic New York neighbourhood rinks of the 1970s, like Skate Key in the Bronx and the Empire in Brooklyn, became

hubs of Black expression and escape; rare sanctuaries where African-American New Yorkers could bond, unwind and form their own secret physical vernacular of spins, leg-thrusts and wheeled, synchronised two-steps.

“There's something about the physicality of it that is almost

like a language,” says Goode, at the edge of Riverbank State Park rink in West Harlem, having just skated backwards while grooving along to Luther Vandross. It was this sense of movement and connection that Goode was drawn to in late 2020, when she was first introduced to new-wave skate culture. “I had been in Philly and having a really hard time there,” she says. “[But] I moved back to New York and one of my old friends took me to a skate party in November.” She smiles at the memory. “And it was just like, fly-ass Black people, twirling around and dancing. I was instantly hooked and immediately like, ‘I need to know everything there is to know about this.’ I got my skates on and it was like a feeling of love.” ▶

FOUR WHEELS GOOD

ROLLER WAVE FOUNDER HARRY MARTIN'S TOP SKATING TIPS

1 Everyone's going to fall, so try to get over the fear. Wiping out is the only way to learn.

2 Play music you enjoy – tunes you can move to that will put you at ease on the rink. Feel the music and stride to the beat.

3 Bend your knees to keep your balance – the worst thing you could do is stand up straight like a lightpost!

4 When you're at home, practise by moving your hips in front of a mirror. If you want to learn to spin, watch how your hips move in your reflection and then try to mimic that on the rink.

5 Plan to skate with a partner who will help motivate you. Having that accountability is key.



6 Roller-skating is all about dedication, so try to practise at least three times a week.

7 Have fun! If you're not having fun, you won't get better.

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Lynna' Movingstar Davis is an actor, stunt performer, choreographer and vice-president of the CPDSA



“IT SEEMED LIKE A LOT OF US WERE GOING TO SKATE THROUGH PANDEMIC DEPRESSION”

Lynna' “Movingstar” Davis – a veteran of the disco-era New York skate scene and vice-president of the Central Park Dance Skaters Association (CPDSA) group that has been hosting eccentric skate-meets near the park’s bandstand since 1978 – echoes this sense; that people were embracing roller skating as a Covid-age coping mechanism. “It sky-rocketed and just excelled,” she says. “So many people were going through mental, physical and spiritual depression. But it seemed like a lot of us just decided we were going to skate straight through it.” This applies both personally and politically. It doesn’t feel like a coincidence that, as with Civil Rights protests, this new embrace of escapism through skating has

coincided with Black Lives Matter protests and a time of great social upheaval.

That Goode – and those other newbie New Yorkers who caused an anecdotal roller-skate shortage in the city – found a ready-made scene emerging in 2020 is probably down to people like Roller Wave founder Harry Martin. Raised in Crown Heights and with rink culture in his blood (“My mom and dad actually met at the Empire [rink],” he says, smiling), Martin is a former music promoter who had experience of skating himself through crisis long before the pandemic. “In 2015 I was going through a dark tunnel of anxiety and depression,” he says. “Going out roller-skating every day was helping me reach the light.” ▶

Keenly aware that the 2000s had seen mass closures of many of those mythic indoor rinks – both because of skating’s dwindling popularity and soaring commercial property prices in New York – Martin bought hundreds of pairs of hireable skates, organised slick pop-ups (including glow-in-the-dark parties and day events at Far Rockaway Beach) and generally met need wherever he happened to find it.

“I think of the 70s as when people looked like they were having fun and not being pretentious about it,” he says, explaining the movement’s consciously old school appeal. “The New York club scene became about everybody having to pop bottles and spend all this money. But why can’t we dance? Why can’t we party and sweat? I wanted to break the barriers.” This sense of inclusivity brings us back to the question of those new, blockbusting celebrity-backed pop up rinks.

The week of my visit, the CPDSA’s free skate area was closed for resurfacing while DiscOasis, where evening tickets start at \$59 including skate rental, seemed to be doing a brisk trade. Do any of these

skaters worry about big money tarnishing the soul of rink culture? The truth is, beyond the need for a new, permanent indoor rink in New York, they all unanimously do not see an issue. Goode is part of The DiscOasis; Martin happily works with brands including The Ludlow hotel and The Governor’s Ball; Flipper’s hosts special discounted nights attended by Davis and others in the local skate community. It feels like a fluid and tight-knit world that is unusually resistant to any sort of cheapening or cultural compromise. “We’ve got to let this energy out so everyone can experience it,” says Martin.

And as post-pandemic life continues to throw up new challenges of adjustment, you have to feel that more and more people are going to want to experience that release. I certainly felt it as I finally caved, strapped on some skates and wobbled, Bambi-like, onto the rink at DiscOasis. The sun beat down. A dumb grin spread across my face. And it felt, even if only for a moment, like we were all rolling away from reality.

Movingstar Davis
skating away in
Central Park

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WORDS: LAUREN BRAVO





**HALF
MOON BAY**
Antigua



This serene semicircle of lunar-white sand caresses a ludicrously blue cove. Because it faces eastward out to the ocean watersports types love it, with conditions choppy enough on blowy days for some lively on-board action. Never fear though, the more chillaxed shallows on the fringes are just right for snorkellers.

✂ Fly to Antigua

1. YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY RELAX

None of that “I need another holiday to recover from my holiday” nonsense. No harping around ancient ruins before the tour bus leaves. Free yourself from the tyranny of the jam-packed travel itinerary and lean into the beauty of empty days, long afternoon naps and languid evenings. There’s evidence to suggest that exposure to aquatic spaces can be good for our mental health, while researchers at the University of British Columbia have found that gazing at the colour blue makes us “more creative and receptive to new ideas” – so your boss could even benefit when you get back.

2

We’ve all done enough walking recently

Sure, there was a time when pounding pavements on a city break or smashing your step count on a hiking trip was an exciting prospect. But after two years of lockdowns during which going for a walk became our favourite (only) activity, we’ve all stretched our legs plenty by now. So give your feet a rest, it’s time to embrace horizontal life once more. Unless there’s an ice-cream vendor nearby.

3. IT’S TIME TO GET YOUR VITAMIN SEA

Sea swimming has an abundance of health benefits, from the immunity-boosting, mineral-rich salt water on your skin, to the low-impact workout for your joints and core muscles – everything from your mind to your sinuses feels clearer after a splash in the briny deep.

In a 2021 study across four different countries, 82% of outdoor swimmers reported mental health benefits from their open water dips. Now, imagine reaping all those rewards but somewhere sunny without the threat of hypothermia. Genius.





SOUTH BEACH Miami



The sun-drenched backdrop to a gazillion movies, South Beach is every bit as glamorous and over-exposed IRL. Unashamedly party central, but so massive – 15 city blocks long – that you can usually find a sizeable patch of hot sand to call your own. It gets a little more chill south of Fifth Street. But where's the fun in that?

✈ Fly to Miami



You'll power through that to-read pile

Think beach holidays are for the unimaginative? We beg to differ. In fact, parking up on a sun lounger for a week is the only way you'll ever read all those hot summer novels that everyone's talking about. And they're a useful sunscreen.

5. THE PACKING IS EASY

No need for hiking boots. No cautious raincoats or emergency tuxedo. No towering lasagne of knitwear in varying thicknesses. No, packing for a beach holiday is the easiest packing there is. Roll up every swimsuit you own, stuff in your flip-flops, add an embarrassingly large hat and that voluminous neon kaftan, and you're golden. ▶



CAMPS BAY
Cape Town

All right, the sea's a bit choppy. And cold. But Camps Bay has top-tier soft sand and an unbeatable backdrop in the form of the Twelve Apostles mountains. Not to mention a flamboyantly lively promenade with bars, nightclubs and a handful of restaurants.



GRAND ANSE
St Lucia

Sitting pretty on St Lucia's less-developed north-eastern coast, this 2km coconut-fringed stretch is a popular nesting site for hawksbill, as well as green and leatherback turtles, who you'll encounter shuffling up and down the sand in early summer.



#Hotdoglegs are due a comeback

Instagram travel snap one-upmanship has grown more and more stressful, but

it's time to call a ceasefire and go back to basics. Sun lounger, glistening knees, blurry sunset – it was a classic for a reason.

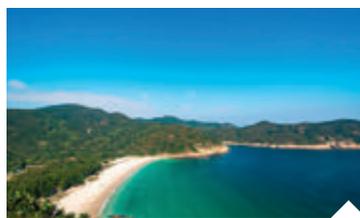
7. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE FEELING OF SAND BETWEEN YOUR TOES

It's nature's exfoliator. It keeps the kids entertained for free – and it helps put all your workaday problems into perspective by reminding us we're all merely tiny grains in a universe of billions. ▶



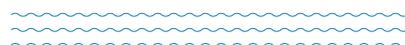
BROWNES BEACH
Barbados

Folks in Bridgetown know very well what an astonishing asset they have in this idyllic stretch just 10 minutes' walk from the city centre. So they keep it pristine. The real stars are half a dozen shipwrecks hiding out in the bay, just right for diving and ogling the marine life.



TAI LONG WAN
Hong Kong

Technically we're talking four beaches – Sai Wan, Ham Tin, Tai Wan and Tung – strung along this filmic "big wave bay", accessible by hiking. Sai Wan is only an hour or so from the bus stop. It's a scenic hike to the next beach over a hill. Pro tip: book a speedboat for the way back.



PINK SANDS

The Bahamas

You'll never guess how they came up with the name. This salmon-coloured doozy on Harbour Island is roughly 5km long and derives its cheerful hue from microscopic pink foraminifera shells that naturally peel off nearby coral reefs in their millions. No rose-coloured specs required.

✂ Fly to the Bahamas



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RUBY BEACH
Washington



Crazily photogenic with its monumental sea stacks, gigantic trees and breathtaking wildlife – from chonky little starfish to bald eagles – Ruby Beach on the Pacific Northwest coast is as rugged as it is gorgeous. Despite the name, the stuff in the sand that makes it red is actually “almandite”, a form of garnet. Either way, a gem.

✈ Fly to Seattle



8 Everything tastes better by the sea

We don't make the rules, it just does. There's something about salty air that seasons every meal

to perfection. In 2014, researchers from the universities of Arkansas and Dresden found that eating with complementary background noises – such as a fish supper with seagulls cawing overhead – adds to our appreciation of flavour.



9. YOU CAN STILL HAVE AN ADVENTURE

A beach holiday can be every bit as adrenaline-packed as any other break – it's just the stakes are a little lower. Hang on, what just brushed against your leg in the rockpool?

10 The beach is a great leveller

There's nothing like seeing someone trying to change out of a damp swimsuit awkwardly, beneath a towel, to help us remember we're all just human.



A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

What's On

SHE'S GOT CLAWS

Alongside Robert Pattinson's turn in *The Batman*, it's worth casting a light on the accession of Zoë Kravitz to the cat suit - the third African-American star to play the role. The daughter of Lenny Kravitz and Lisa Bonet, Zoë has previously featured in *Mad Max: Fury Road* and *X-Men: First Class*, and has a previous stint as Catwoman under her belt - voicing her in *The Lego Batman Movie*.

 Watch The Batman



THE BEST OF WHAT'S ONBOARD

63-69

Movies

Fantastic Beasts let rip while *The Bad Guys* get it together in a feast of films for everyone to enjoy.

70-74

TV

Star Nonso Anozie goes to the heart of hit *Sweet Tooth*, which leads our sharp line-up.

75-77

Audio

From Vicky Farewell through Vangelis to Metallica, here are the tunes to make your flight fly by.

VERA LOVES

We're one of the few airlines that selects their own movies and TV, with lots of new content onboard each month. Look out for anything labelled with a heart – that means we think it's the best of the best. We champion big blockbusters, quirky shorts, binge-worthy box sets and ace docs. Read on for our top picks for August.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Tune into **Vera**, our award-winning world of entertainment

SCREEN TIME

Onboard this month we have

155

Movies

530+

Albums, podcasts & playlists

327+

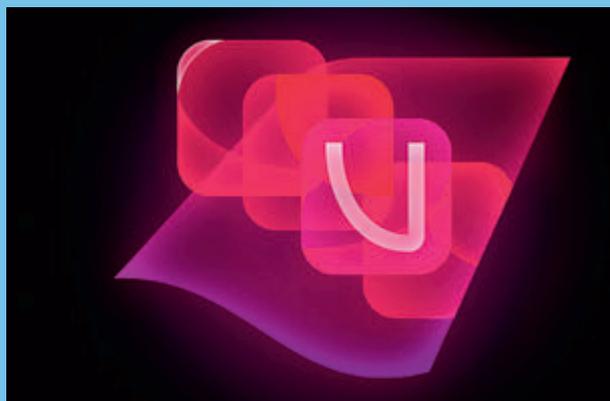
Hours of TV shows

28

Destination guides

32+

Hours of kids' content



ARE YOU A fan of grime, rock, pop or classical music? Do you like dark movie thrillers or light-hearted comedies? Whatever you're into, we have it onboard. But what if you've got eclectic taste and you like all these things – and more?

Well, on our aircraft you can create your own bespoke playlists for music and watchlists for TV and movies. Here's how:

- Select an album from Music, a TV show from TV or a movie from Movies.
- For Music, click on the star symbol next to your chosen track or album.
- For Movies and TV click Save Show/Movie for Later.
- Depending on which aircraft you are on, you'll see a tab or star at the top of your screen.
- Click on it and you'll see the items you've selected.
- Select Music, Movies or TV. Now you can work through your personally curated list of top entertainment at 30,000ft.

SEATBACK CHAT
If you receive a message from a seat or name you don't recognise, you have the option to accept or decline it

Parental blocking
If you want to block by rating or specific content, please talk to a member of the cabin crew.

Headphones
Using your headphones? Our PAs are recorded at levels that work with the headphones we provide onboard, so be prepared if you use your own.

Viewing guide

-  Not suitable for nervous flyers
-  Unsuitable for children
-  Vera Loves

Languages

Most movies have several language options available. To find them, pick a movie, select the dropdown language box, choose your language and enjoy! We also have a selection of Hindi and Chinese movies onboard.

Subtitled

Subtitles and audio descriptive titles (AD) are available on a selection of movies onboard.



Pair your device

The entertainment screens on our sleek new A350 aircraft are all touchscreen, but you

can also choose to navigate our awesome selection of movies, TV and music with your own device too. All you need to do is pair your phone or tablet and, hey presto, it turns into a remote control. Here's how:

- On your entertainment screen, select the pairing button (see left) to get your four-digit code.
- On your personal device, select the "Virgin-Atlantic" WiFi network.
- Your device will

automatically take you to our WiFi page.

- Select Control Your Screen.
- Select the pairing button and enter your four-digit code when it asks you.
- Ta-da! You can now use your device as a remote.



welcome to the anti-routine

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MILITARE CHRONO

A SPELLBINDING SELECTION OF FILMS

Movies

THE PHANTASMAGORICAL FANTASTIC BEASTS franchise is back to form in this third instalment, covering the horribly familiar rise to power of an intolerant political force in 1930s Europe. Here are some fresh insights from the latest wand-wielding flick.

Grindelwald is proper evil

The wicked wizard (now played by Mads Mikkelsen) gets stuck into the political machinations necessary to dominate the magic world and very credibly threaten all-out war with us poor Muggles from his Hitleresque mountain lair.

The wizarding world contains many undiscovered creatures

Politics aside, this franchise is built on the promise of wondrous creatures. And boy, does it deliver. Take the Qilin (pronounced "chillin"), a scaly deer-like creature that can see the future. Plus the Wyvern, a bird-like, bipedal dragon with ginormous wings, and the creepy-crawly scorpion-like Manticore.

Dumbledore is probably gay

In the opening scene, our man Albus, future Hogwarts headmaster,

THE SECRET'S OUT

The wizards are back! Here's five things we learned from *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore*

exhibits what can only be described as sizzling chemistry with – gasp! – wicked Gellert Grindelwald himself. All right, it's never properly spelled out, but there's definitely an undercurrent of sorcery to their smouldering stares.

Every character deserves an origin story

As befits a prequel, we're treated to thrilling before-they-were famous glimpses of Hogwarts faculty – notably Minerva McGonagall – and eccentric Hogsmeade barkeep Aberforth Dumbledore. If they make a *Fantastic Beasts IV*, will we meet young Snape? Or Harry Potter's parents?

There's still room for this story to grow

Given the "classic" Potter movies were set roughly around the turn of the millennium, there's roughly seven decades of Wizarding intrigue to fill in and no end of beloved characters to backfill. Anybody up for a deep dive on Dobby's school days? Or a blockbuster *Secrets of Neville Longbottom* side franchise?

Watch *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore*



Everything Everywhere All At Once 15

Michelle Yeoh,
Ke Huy Quan

139
mins

IN ORDER TO protect plot details during production, the storyline for *Everything Everywhere All At Once* was released as “a woman tries to do her taxes”. Now of course we can reveal that the plot is in fact... a woman trying to do her taxes – except that during said tax nightmare, the woman (Yeoh), who runs a laundrette, finds herself swept up in an adventure in which she alone can save the world. This being a Michelle Yeoh vehicle, awesome martial arts are par for the course. What you might not expect, however, is the multiverse. Or should that be multiverses plural? Either way, the result is inspired action-packed visual lunacy at its most glorious and a film that rewards (nay, demands) repeat viewing.



Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore 12

Eddie Redmayne,
Mads Mikkelsen

143
mins

The latest in the brilliant *Harry Potter* spin-off finds Albus Dumbledore entrusting Newt (Redmayne) and his pals with a dangerous but vital mission to throw a spanner in the works of Grindelwald’s dastardly plan. *See opener*



Operation Mincemeat 12

Jason Isaacs,
Colin Firth

128
mins

Firth heads a mouthwatering cast in this true-life tale of a daring World War II mission. Armed only with a corpse and a satchel of false documents, a team of plucky Brits attempts to hoodwink the Nazis and send them on a wild goose chase.



The Northman 15

Alexander Skarsgård,
Nicole Kidman

136
mins

From horror auteur Robert Eggers comes this violent tale of a Viking prince who sets out to avenge his father’s murder. It’s epic in scale, incredible to look at and packed with stunning performances. Kidman’s turn is showstopping.



Long Story Short !

Rafe Spall,
Zahra Newman

90
mins

Romantic comedy with Spall as Teddy, who has a habit of putting things off until later. Waking up after his wedding, Teddy finds that every few minutes he’s skipping forward in time. Now he must use every precious moment very wisely.



Father Stu 15

Mark Wahlberg,
Mel Gibson

124
mins

Wahlberg takes the title role in this true story of Father Stuart Long, a former boxer who starts going to church in order to impress his new lady love. After an accident almost claims his life, Stu decides to pursue an unlikely vocation. *See p68*

MAGNIFICENT!

Mull over our guide to Dr Strange in the Multiverse of Madness

M is for... Marvel

Having appeared in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) since his first outing in 2016, this is the second to star Benedict Cumberbatch's everywhere-at-once Stephen Strange.



M is for...

Multitudinous

The multiverse theory hypothesises that many universes exist parallel to our own. That means infinite places for the doc to pop up in and infinite versions of himself – including the undead Zombie Strange and the frankly irresponsible Darkhold Strange.

M is for... Maximoff

Wanda Maximoff (Elizabeth Olsen) got her own Disney+ series, *WandaVision*, and here she's back as the former Avenger who becomes the Scarlet Witch.

M is for...

Mind-bending

The multiverse theory is a head scratcher even for physics boffins, so this is not a straightforward movie. But that's all part of the fun.



📺 Watch *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*



Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness

12

Benedict Cumberbatch,
Elizabeth Olsen

126
mins

HAVING BEEN SOMEWHAT burned by the critical and commercial reaction to his *Spider-Man 3* back in 2007, legendary director Sam Raimi decided that superheroes were no longer for him. But he couldn't pass up the opportunity to call action on this second instalment in the mystical franchise. Raimi's *Doctor Strange* is the most horror-led Marvel outing yet, as the good doctor (Cumberbatch) joins forces with a girl who can travel across multiverses in order to battle various bad guys – including a weird other-world version of himself. *See left*



Morbius

15

Jared Leto,
Matt Smith

104
mins

The *Spider-Man* spin-off finds biochemist Michael Morbius (Leto) trying to cure himself of a rare blood disease but inadvertently infecting himself with vampirism. What does this mean? It means he's going to drop the "Michael" and just be... Morbius.



The Batman

15

Robert Pattinson,
Zoë Kravitz

176
mins

It's been a long time coming, but this latest iteration of the Dark Knight starring Pattinson as Batman has been well worth the wait. As Bats goes up against the fearsome Riddler, the result is *Batman* the way mother used to do it: dark, tortured and intense.

COMEDY



Family Squares

Judy Greer,
June Squibb

95
mins

THOSE OF US who were forced by lockdowns to use Zoom or other video-calling options might find something familiar about the comedy-drama *Family Squares*. Why? Because its characters, a group of relatives dealing with the death of their redoubtable matriarch, Mabel (Squibb), are largely confined to that very format. In keeping with the manner of its creation, the feeling is naturalistic. Many of the scenes were shot by the actors themselves in their own homes. Which is not to say they neglect storyline. For as the clan tries to make sense of Mabel's death, it turns out that she kept secrets. What emerges is that so did everyone else. A quirky and fun comedy-drama that showcases the underside of families not often seen on the big screen.



The Phantom of the Open

12

Mark Rylance,
Sally Hawkins

106
mins

The true-life story of how, in 1976, amateur golfer Maurice Flitcroft (Rylance) managed to gain entry to the British Open Golf Championship. He then went on to play the worst round in Open history - but became a national hero.



7 Days

Geraldine Viswanathan,
Gita Redy

96
mins

This movie finds Ravi and Rita going on what seems to be a terrible blind date. They're set to part forever when Covid forces them to isolate together and if you can't guess what happens next you need to go back to rom-com school.

FAMILY



The Bad Guys

U

Sam Rockwell,
Awkwafina

100
mins

A cracking animated comedy that finds Rockwell voicing Wolf, the leader of a team of master criminals who are also animals. To avoid years in prison, the gruesome gang must face their biggest challenge yet and become good guys.



Turning Red

PG

Rosalie Chiang,
Sandra Oh

90
mins

The latest from Pixar deals with Meilin (Chiang), who is a normal, high-achieving 13-year-old. Soon, however, her body changes, meaning when she gets excited or feels overwhelmed, she transforms into a giant, fluffy red panda.



Sing 2

U

Reese Witherspoon,
Taron Egerton

110
mins

Second instalment of the wildly popular musical animated comedy about furry friends who just love to put on a show. This time round they must entice reclusive rock star Clay Calloway (Bono) to join them on stage.

SCARES

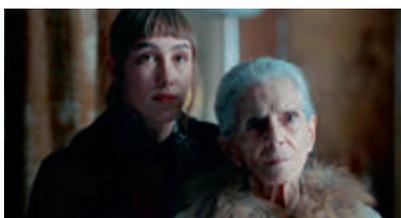


Umma

15

Sandra Oh, Odeya Rush	84 mins
--------------------------	------------

Fresh from *Killing Eve*, the brilliant Oh takes the lead in this spooky thriller about a woman who, when her mother's remains turn up at her secluded farm, becomes gripped by a strange terror.



La Abuela

!

Alumedan Amor, Vera Valdez	100 mins
-------------------------------	-------------

Spanish-language chiller that plays inventively with the usual grammar of horror films to tell of a model who must return to care for her grandmother in the wake of a stroke. What greets her is an unsettling atmosphere.

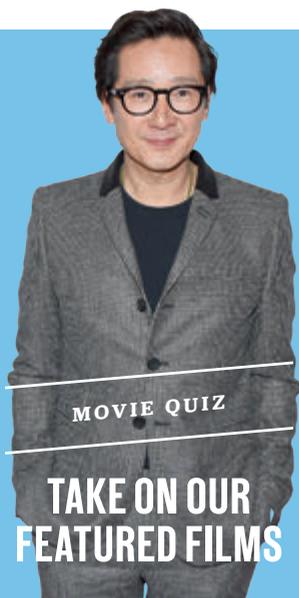


Crawlspace

15

C Ernst Harth, Henry Thomas	86 mins
--------------------------------	------------

HANDS UP WHO enjoys a decent confined-space thriller? *Panic Room*? *10 Cloverfield Lane*? *Flightplan*? Or perhaps the most claustrophobic of them all, *Buried*? All are nail-biting exercises in mounting tension. And here's another to add to the list as Thomas plays Robert, who decides to do some DIY down in the titular crawlspace at his deserted cabin. When some bad guys turn up, Robert witnesses a murder. What's more, hidden in the crawlspace is something the bad guys really, really want. Now it's a game of cat and mouse: the bad guys with their guns, Robert with his tool belt and finely honed survival instincts. The result is nail-biting, sweaty-palmed, properly edge-of-the-seat stuff. You'll make sure you're properly prepared the next time you head down into your own cellar, too.



MOVIE QUIZ

TAKE ON OUR
FEATURED FILMS

1

When Ke Huy Quan (*left*) was cast in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, he hadn't bagged a major role in 20 years. He started his career in 1984 as a child actor playing which sassy sidekick?

2

Operation Mincemeat details a WWII operation to fool the Nazis using fake plans planted on a dead body. Which celebrated British spy

author is said to have dreamed up the scheme?

3

Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness is the first MCU movie released in the horror genre. It has gone on to become the highest-grossing horror film of all time, edging out which 2017 shocker?

4

Sam Rockwell features in animation *The Bad Guys*

and TV series *Fosse/Verdon*, both showing onboard this month. In 2018 he won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar, for which film?

5

Uncharted is the first feature title of Sony's PlayStation Productions. Slated for release next year is a film version of which high-end racing game, reportedly directed by *Elysium*'s Neill Blomkamp?

Answers on the left



MOVIE BLUFF

WHO WAS FATHER STU?



Meet the man of God in Mark Wahlberg's new drama

Let me guess, with a name like that he's probably a man of the cloth?

Yes. But before being called to the Catholic priesthood Stuart Long (Mark Wahlberg, above) was a boxer.

Sounds like a bit of a dude. Oh yes, but he had his ups and downs. He survived a motorcycle accident only to be diagnosed with a rare progressive muscle disorder called inclusion body myositis.

How come he switched careers?

He fell in love with a Catholic woman, and wanted to be baptised. He felt inspired to join the priesthood, but was diagnosed with his condition during training.

Faith must have been a great comfort.

He was a much-loved pillar of the community at his church in Helena, Montana, until his death in 2014. His mobility declined, but his sense of humour never wavered. After services, friends say, he loved wheelchair jousting with his flock.

Watch Father Stu

WORDS: ANDY HILL

Uncharted ♥

12

Mark Wahlberg, Tom Holland

112 mins

BASED ON A bestselling video game and owing a debt to Indiana Jones, this action-packed adventure finds Holland stretching his wings outside the *Spider-Man* franchise and having a blast. He plays light-fingered bartender Nathan Drake, who is given information about his missing brother, Sam, by fortune hunter Sully (Wahlberg). Pretty soon the two are pairing up and embarking on a globetrotting treasure hunt that takes them from New York to Barcelona and then the Philippines – bickering and bantering all the way. True, *Uncharted* won't win any awards for originality, but the chemistry between the two leads is great and the action sequences – especially the climactic scenes – are consistently brilliant.



Ambulance ♥

15

Jake Gyllenhaal, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II

136 mins

Strap in because – as you might expect from director Michael Bay – this is a very fast-moving ambulance indeed. The medic wagon in question has been stolen after a daring heist has gone awry. Now the chase is well and truly on.



The Lost City

12

Sandra Bullock, Channing Tatum

112 mins

A cameo from Brad Pitt is just one of the treats *The Lost City* has in store. What else? Try Bullock and Tatum in their element and a rollicking action-packed story about a romance novelist who gets caught up in a kidnapping plot, which is exactly as much fun as it sounds.

OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS

MAKE YOUR CHOICE FROM THE A-Z OF OUR PICK OF THE BEST FILMS AROUND RIGHT NOW

A



- **A Star Is Born**
- La Abuela
- The Accountant
- After Love
- Ahead of the Curve
- Aik Hai Nigar
- Aki and Pawpaw
- Ambulance
- American Underdog
- Argo

B

- The Bad Guys
- The Batman
- Belfast
- The Beta Test
- The Blind Side
- Blithe Spirit
- Blue Bayou
- The Bodyguard
- Boiling Point
- Book of Love
- Boycott

C

- Cake
- Camino Skies
- The Card Counter
- Carlos Ghosn: The Last Flight
- Charming the Hearts of Men
- Chasing Wonders
- Chhalaang
- Chor Machaye Shor
- Cinderella (2021)
- The Client
- Clifford the Big Red Dog
- C'mon C'mon
- The Contractor
- Crawlspace
- Crazy Alien
- Crazy Rich Asians
- Crisis
- Cry Macho
- Cyrano

D

- Death of a Telemarketer
- Death on the Nile
- Déjà Vu
- The Departed
- The Desperate Hour
- Detective Chinatown 3
- Dil Chahta Hai
- Dinner at My Place
- Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness
- Dog
- Don't Breathe 2
- Double Trouble
- The Duke



- **Dune**
- Dunkirk

E

- The Electrical Life of Louis Wain
- Encanto
- Endgame
- Escape Room: Tournament of Champions
- Eternals
- Everything Everywhere All At Once

F

- Faactory
- The Fallout
- Family Squares
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore
- Father Stu
- The Father
- Fatherhood
- First Cow
- Flee
- Four Good Days
- The French Dispatch
- French Exit
- Future Imperfect

G

- Game Night
- Ghostbusters: Afterlife
- Goldfish
- The Good Boss
- The Goonies



- **The Great Gatsby**
- The Green Knight
- Gunpowder Milkshake

H

- Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
- The Hating Game
- Head Over Bills
- Heatwave
- Here Today
- Hi, Mom
- The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard
- House of Gucci
- Hum Tum
- The Human Factor
- The Humans

I

- I Am Legend
- I Carry You with Me
- The Ice Road
- Infinite
- Interstellar

J

- Jab We Met
- Jackass Forever
- Joe Bell
- A Journal for Jordan
- Julia

K

- Kaagaz
- Khauff
- Kimi
- King Richard
- The King's Man

L

- Lady Boss: The Jackie Collins Story
- Language Lessons
- The Last Bus
- The Last Duel
- Last Night in Soho
- Laxmii
- Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League vs Bizarro League & Justice League: Gotham City Breakout
- Licorice Pizza
- Listening to Kenny G
- Lockdown Love
- Long Story Short
- The Lost Boys
- The Lost City
- The Lost Daughter
- The Lost Leonardo

M

- Madam Chief Minister
- Malignant
- Mama's Big Stick
- Man-Spider
- The Many Saints of Newark
- Marry Me
- Mars Attacks!
- Mass



- **The Matrix Resurrections**
- Mera Fauji Calling
- Miss Congeniality
- The Mitchells vs the Machines
- Moonfall
- Morbius
- Mother/Android
- Mothering Sunday
- A Mouthful of Air
- Mujh Ko Pata Hai
- Mumbai Saga
- My Best Friend is Stuck on the Ceiling

N



- **Nightmare Alley**
- Nine Days
- No Time to Die
- North Hollywood
- The Northman
- Nowhere Special

O

- Operation Mincemeat
- Our Ladies
- The Outfit
- Over Her Dead Body
- Oye Mamu!

P

- The Pangolin Man
- Parallel Mothers
- PAW Patrol: The Movie
- The Perfect Storm
- Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway
- The Phantom of the Open
- Pig
- The Power
- Practical Magic
- The Prestige
- The Protégé

Q

- The Quiet Girl

R

- Ready Player One
- Ride the Eagle
- Rising Sun
- Rooney

S

- Saina
- San Andreas
- Scream
- Set!
- Shane
- Shiddat
- Sing 2

- The Sky Is Pink
- Sonic the Hedgehog 2
- Soóle
- Spencer
- Spider-Man: No Way Home
- Studio 666
- Super 30
- Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari

T

- The Time Traveler's Wife
- Together Together
- The Town
- Turning Red

U

- Umma
- Uncharted



- **The United States vs Billie Holiday**

V

- Venom: Let There Be Carnage

W



- **West Side Story**
- The Wind Phone
- Wishlist
- Woodstock 99: Peace, Love, and Rage

And more...

- 7 Days
- 12 Mighty Orphans
- 99 Songs
- The 355

THE SHOWS EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT

Television

OF ALL THE things that became popular in lockdown not many still seem like a good idea. Your sourdough starter lies dying at the back of the fridge and you now realise eating instant noodles in bed at 4pm is not okay. But one thing we're still proud to say we love is *Sweet Tooth* – Netflix's heartwarming, leftfield drama in which a host of human-animal hybrid children have to survive in a post-pandemic world. Yes, really. With season two in the works, its star Nonso Anozie explains why its message is still vital.

Hi Nonso, here's your big chance to sell *Sweet Tooth* to *Vera* readers...

I think really, truthfully, this is the kind of show that will knock your socks off. It's a creeper. At first you think it's going to be a show for just the younger members of the family, then you get sucked in. We tackle losing family and finding a new family. Identity is such an important thing. The show gives the message that your true family may not be the one you started off with. And I think that's a beautiful message for today's world.

For a while last year, it was the number one show on Earth.

I went out to dinner the day after it dropped, and people wouldn't leave me and my party alone. It was quite interesting, quite fun. Almost 100% of the time I get recognised now, it's because of *Sweet Tooth*. It just goes to show how many people watched it. I mean, last time I checked, it was the ninth most-watched show on Netflix of all time. So it's like, that's a pretty massive achievement. This definitely surpassed any expectations.

How was filming in New Zealand?

It's just a beautiful place. They're really, really lovely locations. It's the forest and the foliage and the backdrops. It almost looks prehistoric in some ways. Those trees and the ferns and the long tall grass and the big pine cones. You see pine cones in other places, but not like the ones they have in New Zealand. We get a lot of people asking whether the backdrops are green screen, but it's all real. It just provides such an amazing backdrop for this story. It's a close, intimate story about family and people, but the backdrop gives it a more epic feel.

When did you realise that you'd made such a special series?

I remember doing additional dialogue recording sessions. I bumped into [co-star] Adeel Akhtar, and he said to me, "You know what? There's something special about this one." I said, "I know what you mean." It's so special. I'm pretty much the cat who got the cream.

 Watch *Sweet Tooth*



"THIS SHOW WILL KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF"

Sweet Tooth was last year's surprise streaming hit and it made a star of its lead, Nonso Anozie. He tells **Stuart Heritage** why it's a must-watch

Nonso Anozie's Tommy becomes reluctant guardian of deer-boy Gus (Christian Convery) in *Sweet Tooth*



Superstore ❤️

12

Comedy	22 mins
--------	---------

The brilliant sitcom *Superstore*, set in a huge chainstore, returns for a fourth season that finds Amy and Jonah returning from their suspension. However, the pair have a secret they must hide from their co-workers.



The Tourist ❤️

!

Box set	58 mins
---------	---------

This quirky, tense and surprising thriller series stars Jamie Dornan as “The Man”, who finds himself lost in the Aussie outback with no memories of who he is and only a reluctant local, Luci, for company. Much action ensues.



The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe !

!

Box set	47 mins
---------	---------

Eddie Marsan heads the cast in the astounding true-life story of John Darwin who, with only a canoe and more greed than sense, hatched a plan to fake his own death and claim the insurance. What could possibly go wrong?



Scenes from a Marriage !

!

Box set	50 mins
---------	---------

This remake of Ingmar Bergman's 1973 series has Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac in the leads, and is equally unsparring in its depiction of marriage and divorce through the lens of a contemporary couple.



The Sinner ❤️

15

Box set	Up to 56 mins
---------	---------------

The latest season of the ongoing thriller series presents a new case for Bill Pullman's dogged detective Harry Ambrose (ie it doesn't matter if you've never seen it before). This time he must investigate a tragedy involving the daughter of a prominent family.



Sweet Tooth ❤️

! 12

Box set	Up to 54 mins
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This acclaimed, original and very binge-worthy series is set in a post-apocalyptic world populated by hybrids. Our hero, Gus, is half boy, half deer, who in this opener begins to wonder what lurks “beyond the fence”. See left

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

RIGHT DRAMA



The Gilded Age ❤️

Box set	60 mins
---------	---------

From the pen of the redoubtable Julian Fellowes comes this new series precision-tooled to appeal to fans of his biggest hit, *Downton Abbey*. This time the conflict is between new and old money in 1880s New York.

Fosse/Verdon ❤️

Box set	Up to 60 mins
---------	---------------

IF YOU'VE HEARD of Bob Fosse then you'll know him as a legendary actor, dancer and – most famously – choreographer, who created the fancy footwork for the likes of *Cabaret*, *Chicago* and *All That Jazz*. Not that he did it singlehandedly, mind you. His muse (and second wife) was Gwen Verdon, who inspired him and in later years became the gatekeeper of his legacy. Starring Sam Rockwell and Michelle Williams, this biographical mini-series tells the story of their romantic and creative partnership, detailing the ups and the downs, and the shifts in power and status that befell them as a couple. Critics were unanimous in their approval.



Trigger Point ❤️

15

Box set	60 mins
---------	---------

Since it's written by Jed *Line of Duty* Mercurio, you'd expect this bomb disposal drama to be full of gut-wrenching twists, fiendish double-crosses and, of course, nail-biting races against time. And you would be right.

ANIMATED FUN



Lego DC Comics Super Heroes

2 episodes	Up to 75 mins
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You like DC superheroes, right? You like *The Lego Movie*? Of course you do. *Lego DC Comics Superheroes* combines the two, so you get double the thrills and – thanks to *The Lego Movie* input – lots of laughs, too.



Scooby Doo and Guess Who?

4 episodes	22 mins
------------	---------

The gang are back on the trail of spooky supernatural shenanigans. With episode titles like *The Fastest Food Fiend!* and *Space Station Scooby!* you know you're in for some classic thrills and laughs. All together: "Scoobie-doobie-doo!"



The Tom and Jerry Show

4 episodes	22 mins
------------	---------

Tom and Jerry knock lumps out of each other while also trying to stay out of the way of that perpetually piqued pooch, Spike. A cartoon that brings adults a nostalgic giggle while introducing a whole new generation to their antics.

TOP 3

Mindblowing facts from Universe



1

We owe everything to a black hole

Not to alarm you, but it would appear there's a supermassive black hole at the centre of our galaxy. In his new show, Professor Brian Cox says the gravitational heft of said black hole – named Sagittarius A* – minimised star formation in our region of the Milky Way, creating the stable conditions that are essential for life.

Cheers for that, colossal space phenomena!

2

We are all made of supernovae

Most of the elements that make up your body were forged in the white heat of a dying star. Probably several dying stars, in fact.

3

Red means danger

The universe will perish not with a bang, but a whimper, as the final dim red dwarf star dissolves silently into the void. That's 10 trillion years away, though. Brian Cox will still have great hair.

Watch Universe



Universe ♥

Box set	50 mins
---------	---------

PROFESSOR BRIAN COX is your host for this superb series, which takes as its subject the universe. Big subject, then, but Cox focuses his admittedly large remit by concentrating on the moments that he reckons have shaped our cosmos. Thus, he begins his intergalactic odyssey by revealing how stars brought life to the universe, throws light on the creation of the Milky Way (no, not the chocolate bar), wonders if we're truly alone in the universe, explains exactly what a supermassive black hole does and, lastly, details how cutting-edge space missions have helped us understand the origin of the universe. *See left*



Mediterranean: Life Under Siege ♥

1 episode	50 mins
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Shot over two years in 12 different countries and drawing on the knowledge of some 50 scientists from around the globe, this documentary series shines a spotlight on this endangered region on the brink of destruction.



The Green Planet

1 episode	60 mins
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In this major series from the BBC, the redoubtable David Attenborough turns his attention to the dramatic, beautiful plant life of planet Earth. Starting with tropical forests, he discovers worlds in which two out of five wild plants are threatened with extinction.

THE OLD IS NEW



The Last Kingdom ❤️

18

Box set	Up to 59 mins
---------	---------------

BASED ON BERNARD CORNWELL'S bestselling series of novels, this is a gritty but absorbing drama series focusing on Saxon warrior Uhtred (Alexander Dreymon). As the story opens, Uhtred is a kid who witnesses a raid during which his father – a Saxon king – is killed by Vikings. Uhtred ends up being raised by the Vikings, but all the while harbours thoughts of revenge, not to mention the fact that he wants to reclaim his ancestral birthright. Factor in a longstanding love interest and you've got the recipe for great drama, which is just as compelling, bloodthirsty and as authentic as you'd expect from the pen of Mr Cornwell.



Mrs America ❤️

! 12

Box set	60 mins
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Cate Blanchett is at her acid best as conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly, who in the 1970s in the USA opposed feminism, gay rights and abortion, and in particular launched a campaign to block the Equal Rights Amendment.



The Pursuit of Love ❤️

!

Box set	60 mins
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Directed by Emily Mortimer, the BBC's three-part *The Pursuit of Love* is a sumptuous adaptation of Nancy Mitford's classic novel about two cousins, who must negotiate love and life in 1920s England.

LAUGH IT UP



Frayed

!

Box set	45 mins
---------	---------

This blend of near-the-knuckle comedy and drama – now in its second season – comes from the mind of the brilliant Aussie stand-up Sarah Kendall, who also stars as harassed mum Sammy. We have the whole of season two onboard.



Brooklyn Nine-Nine ❤️

!

Box set	22 mins
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This comedy set in an NYC cop shop has been hoovering up awards for almost a decade. Its secret is a brilliant ensemble cast skilled at serving up character-based laughs. We have eps from the superb season seven onboard.



Young Rock ❤️

Box set	30 mins
---------	---------

It had to happen. Dwayne Johnson gets his own spin-off show. This series takes a look at the formative years of its subject as he grows from being a little kid with big dreams to, well, being The Rock that we all know and love.

MEMORABLE MUSIC ACROSS THE GENRES

Audio

THE SYNTH LORD

Electronic pioneer Vangelis had an outsized influence on music for decades. Music writer Oli Keens explains why his legacy lives on

EVANGELOS ODYSSEAS PAPATHANASSIOU

– better known as Vangelis – is said to have begun composing at the age of four. As a child he would bash and strike household objects just to know what sounds they'd make. He recently passed away aged 79, having become one of the most influential composers and musicians of his generation. His legacy is as broad and deep as his back catalogue, and spans a range of genres.

Prog rock

Before becoming synonymous with the synthesiser, 18-year-old Hammond organist Vangelis started his first band, The Forminx, in 1963. By 25, he was pushing rock music into the future with Aphrodite's Child – a three-piece featuring fellow Greek musical god Demis Roussos on vocals. Their biblical rock masterpiece *The Four Horsemen* has forever been a cult favourite and a stated influence on The Verve, Beck and many more.

Soundtracks

Within a staggering back catalogue, it was two movie soundtracks of the early 80s that seared Vangelis's name into the public imagination. The *Chariots of Fire* theme juxtaposed the intensity of athletic achievement with a grand, sweeping melody at a creeping tempo, while *Blade Runner's* soundtrack was created by Vangelis watching footage in real time and improvising with a bank of synths – adding a mix of tense futurism and poignancy at all the right moments.



From above:
Vangelis;
Harrison Ford
stars in *Blade
Runner*

Ambient

A shorthand description of the ambient genre is “beautiful and moving music without drums”. As a result of his overflowing soundtrack work, much of Vangelis's output over the years has given us a trove of woozy and emotional works to chill out to – most notably *Blade Runner's Love Theme*, but also projects such as *Silent Portraits*, two long pieces of ambient music meant to soundtrack a book of black-and-white portraits.

Synth-pop

Vangelis + Jon Anderson of prog-rockers Yes = Jon and Vangelis: a project that begat charming and quirky synth-pop classics full of dreamy synth and distinctive falsetto such as *I'll Find My Way Home* and *I Hear You Now*, which proved an influence on Hot Chip as well as smoky chillwave artists such as Washed Out and Toro y Moi.

🔊 Listen to Icons: Vangelis



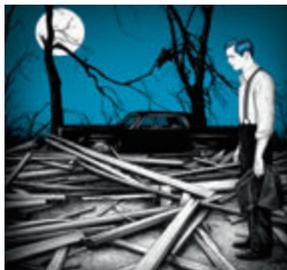


Vicky Farewell ♥

Sweet Company

Pop

GROWING UP IN Orange County, California, Farewell – then going by her given name of Vicky Nguyen – was a big classical music buff. However, she soon complemented her musical diet with the bubblegum pop of the early 2000s, and from there grew to love soul and R 'n' B. All artists are in some way a product of their influences, but with inspirations as disparate and varied as these, you could surely expect something special for Farewell's debut album, *Sweet Company*. Sure enough, it's joyful and dreamy, bouncy yet often profound. She's also a whizz on the keyboards and it shows. More to the point, unlike the boy bands she grew up loving, Farewell had to write this stuff herself, literally giving life to the tunes inside her head. The result? A potent new voice in pop. Farewell? Not a bit of it.



Jack White ♥

Fear of the Dawn

Rock

The White Stripes returns with a collection that can best be described as raw, even as it mixes guitars with electronics and – thanks in part to a guest from Q-Tip – hip hop. White's most rockingest solo joint yet.



Alexis Ffrench ♥

Truth

Classical

Pianist and composer Alexis Ffrench is spearheading a new movement in "classical soul". And if the critical reaction to this, the follow-up to his previous collection *Dreamland*, is anything to go by, he's doing a stand-up job.



Beach Hits ♥

Sometimes only a summer classic will do. This playlist exudes sandy seaside vibes with tracks including *The Girl from Ipanema* plus hot, hot joints from Bad Gyal and Sublime.



The Vera Magazine Podcast

In this month's pod, we chat to Jocelyn Goode, founder of the African-American Roller-Skate Museum, about skating's big comeback. Plus, why Seattle is the new nerd capital of the US and how the multiverse took over summer screens. Listen up!

TOP 3

Mad for it!

Three tracks to make you want to move to Manchester

The Stone Roses Fools Gold

When it all comes together – the taut beat, that bassline, the squelchy guitars, the low-slung vocals – you'll find yourself doing that shuffling, arm-swinging indie disco jive.



New Order Regret

This single is everything that's good about Manchester music. You can dance to it, but it's not dance music; it has a positive message, but still carries an air of melancholy.



The Ting Tings That's Not My Name

This 2008 singalong topped the charts thanks to its catchy chorus, simple hook and proud northern delivery.



Listen to Made In Manchester

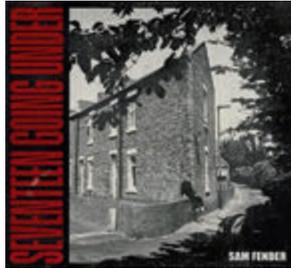
NORTHERN UPROAR



Yard Act

<i>The Overload</i>	Alternative
---------------------	-------------

This year's most feted indie band are Yard Act. This, the keenly awaited debut album, shows that the early promise of single *The Overload* was no fluke.



Sam Fender

<i>Seventeen Going Under</i>	Pop
------------------------------	-----

Sam Fender grew up loving Springsteen and began writing his own songs at 13. His second album finds him expanding his sound and got almost universal acclaim.

Made in Manchester

A LONG-TIME CRUCIBLE for all that's good in cutting-edge sounds, Manchester has a special place in the heart of any self-respecting music fan. This playlist includes the Stone Roses' baggy anthem *Fools Gold* and New Order's seminal *Regret*. Oasis are here, of course (*All Around the World*), but then so are Take That (*Never Forget*). The city's hip hop roots get a shoutout thanks to beat scientist Mr Scruff (his *Get a Move On* is a fave). Sorted.



METAL MANIA



Def Leppard

<i>Diamond Star Halos</i>	Rock
---------------------------	------

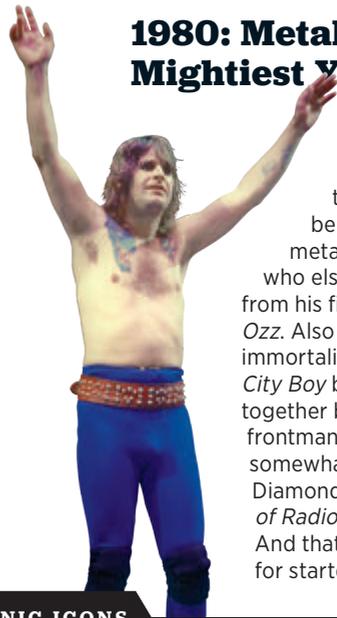
Def Leppard return with an album – their 12th studio release – that offers up a distinctly Leppardian take on glam rock. The result is loud and proud, with more hooks than a Peter Pan convention.



Metallica

<i>Icans – Metallica</i>	Rock
--------------------------	------

They don't come bigger than Metallica. This playlist collects their most fearsome jams, as well as some of their lesser-played cuts.



1980: Metal's Mightiest Year

COULD BE THAT the debate will run and run, but here's a playlist that makes a case for 1980 being the best on record for metal. Exhibit A is *Mr Crowley* by who else but Ozzy Osbourne, a track from his first solo album, *Blizzard of Ozz*. Also making the play for 80s immortality are *Running*, *White Face*, *City Boy* by Gillan, the band put together by former Deep Purple frontman, Ian Gillan; *Am I Evil?*, a somewhat overlooked classic from Diamond Head; and *The Spirit of Radio* by Rush. And that's just for starters.



ELECTRONIC ICONS

The Chemical Brothers

<i>Surrender</i>	Dance
------------------	-------

In the middle of their imperial period came this beauty in 1999 – now more than 20 years old. *Surrender* features the likes of *Hey Boy Hey Girl*, and *Music: Response*. In a word: awesome.



Vangelis ❤️

<i>Icans – Vangelis</i>	Dance
-------------------------	-------

Composer Vangelis – who passed away recently, aged 79 – was not only a pioneer in the world of electronic and ambient music, but also crafted some of the most most indelible movie soundtracks ever. For details, apply within. See *opener*



Brian Eno

<i>Music for Installations</i>	Wellness
--------------------------------	----------

He's the ex-Roxy Music innovator and U2 producer extraordinaire, but here Eno wears his ambient hat (having invented the genre) for an immersive set tailor-made for drifting away.





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CREDITS.

Virgin Atlantic news and views



RUNWAY READY

Meet Virgin Atlantic's high-flying drag star

PHOTO: PENSARA

While most of us were baking sourdough and enduring family Zoom quizzes during the Covid lockdowns, Yorkshire-born Darren James created drag character Glitzy Von Jagger. "Glitzy is a hyper

version of myself," she explains. "The naughtiest side of me, amped up." This summer Glitzy won a drag contest Virgin Atlantic ran in association with the San Francisco Travel Association. Her prize? An Upper Class flight to San Fran alongside fellow drag stars

Kitty Scott-Claus and Vanity Milan (*above*) to perform at LGBTQ+ Mecca, Oasis. "I was so thrilled to win," gushes Glitzy. "And the Virgin cabin crew were so cool." Glitzy was joined onstage by cabin crew members Jessica McGinley and Allan Gracie (also *above*).

"I did this saucy bit where I tugged on Allan's tie," Glitzy recalls. "But it was clip-on and just came off in my hand. Guess I have that effect."

■ **Catch Glitzy Von Jagger (@glitzylvonjagger) onstage at Manchester Pride on 27 August**



JOIN THE CREW IN... ATLANTA

Cabin Crew Member **Daniel Ashfield** presents his top tips for an unforgettable day out in "Hotlanta"



Start your day at **Ponce City Market**, a really cool place with an industrial vibe that has everything from bookstores and clothes to trendy bars and international street food.



Get your bearings with a tour from **ATL-Cruzers**, either by Segway or electric car. You'll learn about the city's different areas and places of historic importance. It's fun!



Atlanta is the home of Coke and at the **World of Coca-Cola** they have so many varieties, like sour plum flavour from China that tastes like BBQ chicken wings.



Catch the perfect sunset at **Sun Dial Restaurant, Bar & View**. It's 220m up with 360° views over the city. They do great food, but it's all about the boujee cocktails for me.

SITTING PRETTY

TAKE A PEW ABOARD OUR BRAND-NEW AIRBUS A330NEO

HEADING TO BOSTON this autumn? You may get to savour the ultimate in comfort and style on one of our brand-new A330neo aircraft. Upper Class customers will relish one of 32 new suites with fully closing privacy doors, mood lighting, mirrors and 17.3" touchscreens, plus access to our award-winning social space The Loft, with its self-serve snacks and chilled drinks. Premium customers can also avail themselves of wireless in-seat device charging and luxurious calf-rests. Our largest ever Economy screen - 13.3" - and superfast in-flight WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity throughout will keep everybody happy and connected. And the A330neo's striking 11% reduction in carbon emissions means we can all rest a little easier.



WHY I LOVE MY JOB

Clubhouse Crew Member Alex Pommells adores the glamour and paces of life in our exclusive airside lounge

"I've worked at the Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse in Heathrow Airport for 15 years. No

two days are the same and you never know who might walk through that door next. We get top politicians, supermodels, movie stars, famous rappers. I serve them drinks, talk them through our

menus, make them feel comfortable. It's surreal getting to chit-chat with them sometimes, having them joke around, talking about their lives. But everybody is treated the same - sometimes we're serving families who have maybe

saved up points to be here. You know they're having a special moment, building magical memories, and it's so very important we get that right. The job certainly isn't easy, but the team - I call them our Clubhouse family - are so

friendly and supportive, constantly offering each other help, a kind word or even a hug. It genuinely feels like my second home. And I never need to go to the gym, easily racking up 16,000 steps on a typical shift."

Experience



timeless

elegance



Martin James

LONDON

For Martin James, creating sophisticated fashion jewellery that's both glamorous and fun is essential. The British designer has stayed loyal to these principles to craft high-quality, innovative pieces that are always on trend and boast plenty of sparkle.

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 - An A330-300, open your browser and navigate to airborne.gogoinflight.com
- 3 Just follow the onscreen instructions to buy a session and then get browsing!

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