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October 2022

**ALWAYS  
IN STYLE**

The enduring darkness  
of Christina Ricci





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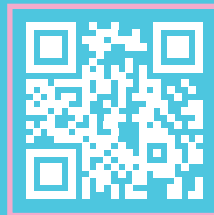


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See pages 55-58



28-36

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

# IN THIS ISSUE

9-26

**Red Hot**

The best things this month, including how Johannesburg is opening up art, Sexy Fish has Miami hooked and Uli Latukefu is following in The Rock's steps.

28-52

**Features**

*Monstrous* star Christina Ricci tells us about her taste for the dark side. Plus, meet London's new Pearly generation and experience the best of autumn in Northeast USA.

60-77

**What's On**

Pay homage to *Mad God* and *Elvis* in our fab movie line-up, hang out with *Somebody Somewhere* and tap into top business tips with podcast *Success Is in the Mind*.

79-82

**Credits**

Learn how you can book your next break on a virtual meeting with the Virgin Atlantic Holidays Home Team and discover our new range of in-flight brews.

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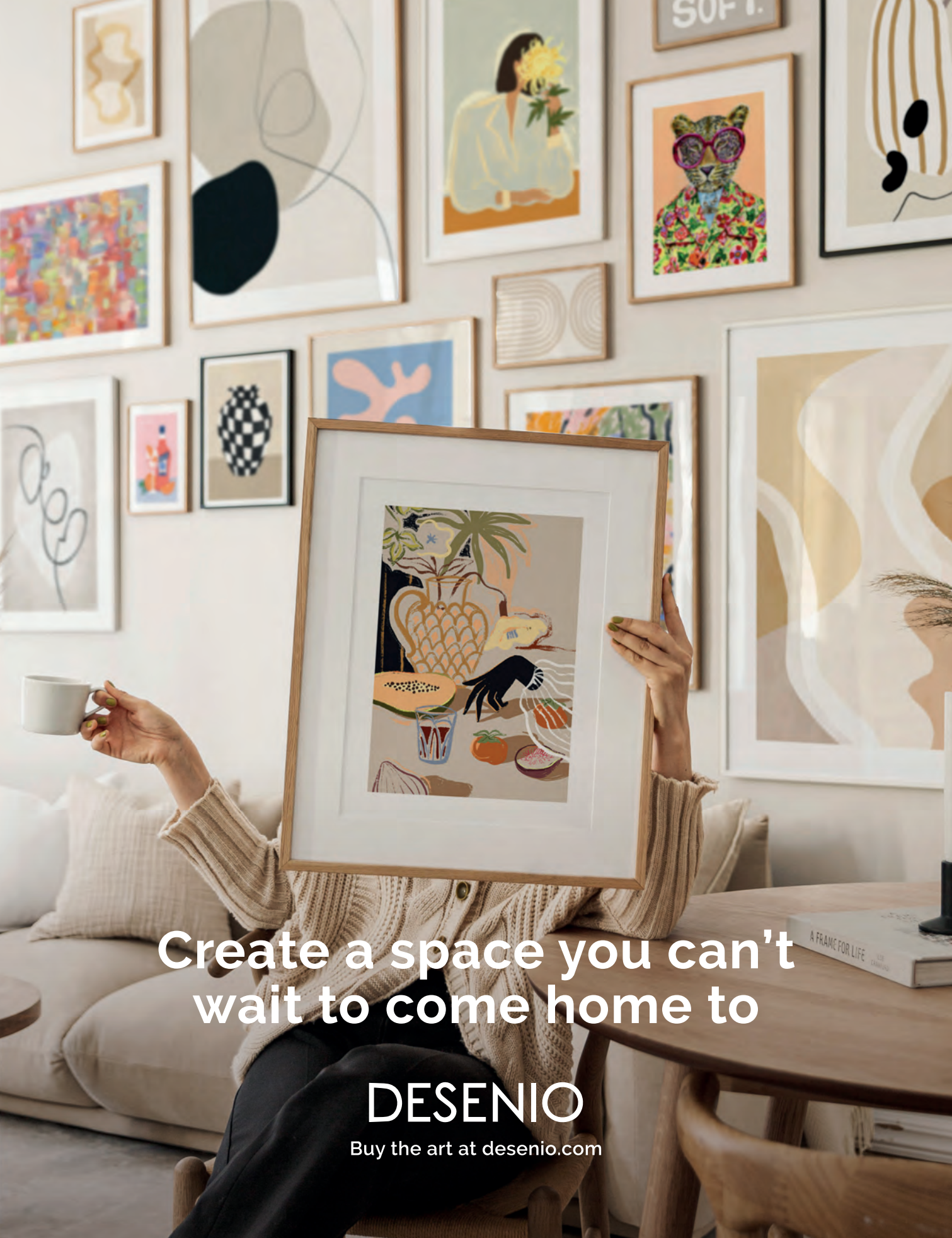
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THINGS TO GET OBSESSED  
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# Red Hot



NOW SHOWING

## NEVADA'S NEW GHOST TOWN

Nope, this isn't a very large, very grey mirage. You're looking at *City*, a megasculpture by American artist Michael Heizer. Work began on the site a few hours' drive north of Las Vegas 50 years ago and the \$40 million project is now finally open to the public. Visitors can wander the 2.5km-long structure which, according to Heizer, is all about our "awareness of and reflection upon the subjectivity of our human experience of time and space". Pretty concrete, then.

✈ Fly to Las Vegas

S

ome things in life are just meant to go together. Lennon and McCartney. Macaroni and cheese. Airports and flustered fathers who insist on turning up six hours before boarding commences (“Just to be on the safe side!” as this writer’s dad always put it). Other things that undeniably belong together on the inventory are Hollywood and music biopics. The list of musicians whose lives have been retold as blockbuster movies goes on longer than a Leonard Cohen track: Bob Dylan, NWA, Elton John and Freddie Mercury are just a few of them. And yet audiences are still yelling, “Encore!” The craving for films about rock and pop stars simply will not go away.

*Elvis* – screening on today’s flight and starring Austin Butler as the troubled but talented King – is the latest example of the genre to leave audiences all shook up. Featuring Tom Hanks as the singer’s controversial, Southern-accented manager, it’s a splashy entry in the music biopic canon that’s every bit as extravagant as you’d expect from director Baz Luhrmann, best known for *William Shakespeare’s Romeo + Juliet* and *Moulin Rouge!* It’s also the beginning of a new wave of music biopics crashing into cinemas soon.

Martin Scorsese’s next movie tells the story of the Grateful Dead. Harry Potter himself, Daniel Radcliffe, made waves earlier this year when it was announced that he’ll star in *Weird: The Al Yankovic Story*, about the comedian known for his parody pop songs. The production team responsible for *Mamma Mia!* is presently hard at work on a film about Cher, while Madonna’s life story will soon be explored in a movie co-written by Madge herself. And that’s not to mention JJ Abrams’ upcoming Netflix series about the origins of U2.

What is it that keeps Hollywood cranking the volume up on music biopics? Rock stars historically live a lifestyle that us mere mortals rarely get to experience and often pull on past pain to create the music they’ve become famous for. Who doesn’t love discovering the secret struggles behind songs we all know and love? There’s something inherently cinematic about the stories of the musicians we worship as a culture. And awards season is frequently dominated by such movies: *Walk the Line*, *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Ray* – about Johnny Cash, Freddie Mercury and Ray Charles respectively – are just a few music biopic Oscar winners from over the years. So it’s no wonder Hollywood has them on repeat. Audiences, to paraphrase Mr Presley, can’t help falling in love with music biopics. Until that changes, the song remains the same.

 Watch *Elvis*

FIRST TAKE

# HOLLYWOOD PLAYING THE HITS

Audiences never tire of films about their favourite artists. **Al Horner** asks why music biopics still have us all shook up





Austin Butler's first stand-out role came aged 15 opposite Miley Cyrus in *Hannah Montana*.

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS PHOTOS: BILL COOPER/ROH, NICK BURGESS, ANDREW AB PHOTOGRAPHY

MARKING BHM

### Three ways to celebrate Black History Month UK



The Specials' front man and "original rude boy" **Neville Staple** honours Black History Month (and 40 years of hit *Ghost Town*) with a show at the O2 Academy in London. **7 October**



Ballet Black step out at London's Royal Opera House with **Say It Loud / Black Sun**, a double-bill of new works by choreographers Gregory Maqoma and Cassa Pancho. **19-23 October**



**Forgotten Voices**, at Chester's Storyhouse as part of a month-long UK tour, is a one-woman show inspired by the life of South African civil rights campaigner Eva Moorhead Kadalie. **29 October**



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 RISING STAR

# Rock-y fella Uli Latukefu

CAST AS THE LEAD IN *YOUNG ROCK*, THE AUSSIE ACTOR TELLS **AL HORNER** WHAT IT'S LIKE TO EMULATE DWAYNE JOHNSON

**LIFE CAN CHANGE** in the blink of an eye. Quite literally in the case of Uli Latukefu, who was outside a hospital seeking treatment for a burst blood vessel around his retina when he received a text from the biggest action star of our generation asking if now was a good time to talk. "My thought process was, first of all, how did The Rock have my number?" says the Tongan-Australian actor, laughing. "My second thought was, should I take the call? It's not really the best time. I was really debating it, until my wife said, 'Are you crazy? It's Dwayne Johnson!'" It's just as well he picked up. The Rock was calling to reveal that Latukefu ▶



had just landed a part alongside him in one of the biggest movies of 2022, DC superhero spectacle *Black Adam*. “The role I play is very important,” teases the 38-year-old, giving little away about the secretive character he’s due to portray. “All I can say is that he’s super key to Dwayne’s character and the whole mythology of *Black Adam*.”

Those who’ve been following Latukefu’s impressive ascent won’t be surprised by the casting – nor Dwayne Johnson’s fondness for him. In 2019, the Sydney-based actor rose above stiff competition to land the lead role in biopic series *Young Rock*, depicting the People’s Champ’s journey out of poverty and into American icon status. What’s in store in the show’s eagerly anticipated third season? And what does *Young Rock* mean for the next chapter of Latukefu’s career? We’ll let the man himself explain...

**Like The Rock, you grew up in a single-parent home, moving houses often as your mother fought to keep her family above the breadline. Has it felt at times like you’ve been telling your own story in *Young Rock*, as well as Dwayne’s?**

Absolutely. It’s been a little strange. I think his background is similar to a lot of people, which is why it’s such a beautiful story to tell – it’s inspirational and sends a message that you can do anything. Yes, it’s a comedy, but also it’s a guide to getting out of a rut in life, you know? There was a lot from my own life to draw from. I experienced poverty – I remember the hunger of being so desperate to put

Uli Latukefu stars as Dwayne Johnson in *Young Rock*; all 11 episodes of season one screen onboard

food in my belly. I also got into trouble – the usual stuff that guys from that socio-economic background get up to. And, like Dwayne, I had a sporting dream. I played rugby in my teens and was very serious about it, until a dislocated shoulder ended that dream.

**What kind of pressure comes with portraying someone so famous and beloved?**

The biggest pressure was the pressure I put on myself to do his story justice. It was the most anxious I’ve ever been, waiting for the show to come out – I was watching it as it aired like everyone else, praying, please don’t be crap! I was really pleased with how it came out – so

many people have shared about how, for example, an episode in season one talking about depression meant a lot to them. Male depression wasn’t a conversation in the 90s, especially for athletes, who were told to toughen up and move on. It means a lot to show the reality of that.

**“THERE ARE SO MANY LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM DWAYNE JOHNSON’S LIFE THAT I HOPE WE CAN CONTINUE TELLING THIS STORY”**

**You’re about to film season three, but also about to step up into big blockbuster filmmaking in *Black Adam* and with *Next Goal Wins*, the new film from Taika Waititi. What are your aspirations for this next stage in your career?**

Well, we’re about to shoot season three of *Young Rock* in Memphis, which I’m really excited for, telling the next phase in Dwayne’s journey to who he is today. I’m not sure how long the show will go on for – there are so many lessons to be learned from his life that I hope we can continue telling this story. For me, I love making action comedies but I love any film where I can play different shades of someone. Martin Scorsese is the guy who lit a fuse in me in terms of my appreciation for filmmaking so he’d be a dream collaborator. If I learned one thing from *Young Rock*, it’s that the sky’s the limit.

 Watch Young Rock

A romantic couple is shown from the chest up, embracing in an infinity pool. The water is crystal clear and reflects the sky. In the background, several tall palm trees stand against a sunset sky with soft, colorful clouds. The ocean is visible in the distance.

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H

enry Melich may have been one of the Caribbean's most important architects, but his life and work have barely been chronicled – until now. *Island Follies* is the first book

to document how Melich transformed the Bahamas in the 1960s and beyond – and found himself at the centre of a glamorous community of monied expats.

Alastair Gordon – who authored the book with wife Barbara de Vries – became fascinated by Melich when he first heard about him on a trip to the Bahamas. “I happened to meet [his daughter] Tanya Melich Crone,” Gordon says. She told him how her Czech-born father escaped Nazi invasion and went on to study architecture in London, before settling in Nassau in the 1950s. “His career intrigued me, so I started to do my own research, working with the archives his daughter so lovingly preserved.”

Gordon discovered that Melich was the go-to architect for the European socialites and minor royals who had begun to move to Nassau in the middle of the last century, including the Bacardi family and Greek shipping magnate George Livanos. The architect designed high-end homes for his clients, bringing a new form of

Clockwise from left: Hope Hill was built in 1984 for heiress Hope Simpson; architect Henry Melich was asked to give Tivoli a Roman feel; Hope Hill overlooks the Lyford Cay golf course

TABLE READ

# PARADISE LIVING IN THE BAHAMAS

A new book peeks inside the tropical homes designed by a little-known but influential architect







Far Niente, built in 1999, features a 20m-long pool flanked by bougainvillea-clad trellises.



neoclassicism to the Bahamas, favouring tent-like interiors, faux ruins, neoclassical colonnades, fountains and garden pergolas.

But, however grandiose the designs, Gordon says Melich's work was always rooted in the spirit of the Bahamas. "[You can see this] through his use of Bahamian colours and the way he integrated tropical landscape elements with his buildings," says Gordon. "His work was always whimsical and partially tongue in cheek."



■ *Island Follies* by Alastair Gordon is published by Rizzoli



## SET VISIT

### Full steam to Yorkshire

In 1970, a group of train station-dwelling kids stole hearts in the film of *The Railway Children*. More than 50 years on, a sequel has finally pulled in, featuring a new band of plucky youngsters who try to help an injured US soldier in WWII. Yorkshire provides the same bucolic backdrop that made the original so special – particularly the hilltop village of Haworth. This cobbled town is also famous for once being home to the Brontë family and the sisters' childhood home – now called the Brontë Parsonage Museum – also features in the film. If you're travelling to Haworth, don't forget a good coat – the heights are indeed wuthering.

✕ Fly to Manchester

WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTOS: MICHAEL MUNDY, ROBIN HILL, ADOBE STOCK



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## DRINKS



## Marys are bloody awesome

As the mercury drops and Halloween nears, only one drink will do this season: a Bloody Mary.

London brunch joint Grind, which has outlets all over town, swears by The Pickle House's rich, deep Spiced Tomato Mix for its deluxe Mary.

Chezchez, San Fran's popping new aperitivo spot, does it six ways with a vitalising slug of sherry, aquavita or even tequila. For sheer inventiveness, however, we doff our hats to Buffalo & Bergen in Washington, DC, where the Lox'd & Loaded features as garnish a cream cheese and lox on everything bagel, for a Mary that's quite contrary.

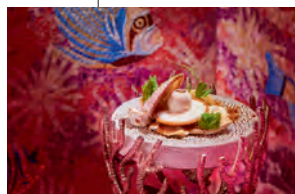
✂ Fly to San Francisco



## SNACKS

## THE CATCH IN MIAMI

Golden fish and opulent artwork mean that Bricknell's new **Sexy Fish** is deliciously upscale



From top: Chilean Bass can be followed by Sexy Key Lime Pie at Sexy Fish Miami

**MIAMI IS NOT** a city known for its modesty. Still, when London restaurateur Richard

Caring chose to expand – or “scale” – his wildly successful Mayfair seafood joint over here, he knew he'd need to deliver something a bit special. Hence this blingy marinated Chilean sea bass, served with ramson miso and Australian black truffle. Word is they shelled out \$20 million gussying up the

opulent space, with artwork from Damien Hirst and dangling fish sculptures by Frank Gehry. The floors are illuminated agate, the bar iridescent with pink onyx and a giant aquarium dominates the private dining room. The ladies' loos are all pearlescent sinks and mermaid tails, while the gents' rock a lifelike mannequin of Daniel Craig in scuba gear. Late night, saucy “sirens” circulate the tables, as DJs crank up the vibes with deep house – a fish-fancier's wet dream.

✂ Fly to Miami



**SLEEPER HIT**

# A kind of magic in NYC

THE NED NOMAD HAS MANHATTAN UNDER ITS SPELL

**PERHAPS YOU'VE HEARD** of The Ned, Soho House's even-more-exclusive-somehow rooms and dining behemoth in London. Can that landmark's rarefied atmos be transplanted across the Atlantic? Turns out, yes. In an enchanting limestone pile at the corner of Broadway and 28th – all cornices, volutes and Beaux-Arts swag – New York's creative movers and shakers fall over themselves to cut deals over beetroot tartare and flawless negronis.

Old-school glamour is very much the vibe at The Ned NoMad – a forest-green library, lavishly upholstered booths at the Little Ned bar, a tasteful Ancien Régime French fireplace in The Snug, which



is just off a swish marble atrium. The rooms are gorgeously appointed, complete with mahogany writing desks and rain showers. But its real mojo resides in the cupola dining space, where you'll find an ambitious art collection focused on minority creatives. After dinner, the

cabaret-style Magic Room enchants guests with live performances. A simply bewitching stay.

**✂ Fly to New York**

## 3 MORE ARTY HOTELS



### THE BETSY, MIAMI

Two minutes from South Beach, this tidy little gem is all about high culture, with nightly jazz gigs, rotating fine art exhibitions and even a dedicated writers' room, should the muse strike.



### PROPER HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO

Designer Kelly Wearstler set out to make this zeitgeisty mid-market spot a feast for the eyes and by gosh did she succeed – every nook and cranny is couture-level photogenic.



### YOTEL, MANCHESTER

Slap bang in the heart of the city, this colourful bolthole has latterly become a Mecca for Manchester's burgeoning creative crew, who linger over tall drinks in the buzzy Motley bar.

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# ART FOR EVERYONE IN JOHANNESBURG

The creative scene in South Africa's capital has swapped pretension for accessibility, says **Lerato Mogoatlhe**

**J**ohannesburg is one of South Africa's most significant cities. Its long history – as the site of the gold boom, as an anti-colonial battlefield, as the launchpad for world-altering political movements – has inspired a lot of creativity and given rise to one of the world's most vibrant arts scenes. Until recently, Joburg's rarefied artistic institutions could feel intimidating to the average punter – but no more. These days, anyone and everyone can get involved, all thanks to a host of new, less formal galleries and institutions on a mission to democratise art.

Friday afternoon at the **Rooftop at Hallmark House**, downtown Johannesburg. This is the place to be. The slow trickle of patrons turns into a steady stream around 5pm, who come for vibey DJ sets and one of the best views in the city. The building was recently converted into a lifestyle complex where art takes centre stage: works by emerging South African artists stud the walls and a permanent exhibition of Nelson Makamo's portraits – adored by celeb patrons like Oprah Winfrey and Giorgio Armani – allows visitors an intimate encounter with his work. Also in the building: sleep at the **Hallmark House Hotel (1)**, work remotely at the mural-daubed cafe **Thorn**, and wine and dine at the **Marabi** jazz club.

Just a short walk away is the Maboneng Precinct, home to some of the city's best street art. **One Day Africa's** walking tours offer the opportunity to explore the district through its murals and graffiti, and even meet some of the artists. While in Maboneng, check out the **Kwa Mai Mai** traditional market, which has become an unlikely party spot and a go-to for *braai* (meat that's cooked on an open fire).

For a more traditional art experience, visit the **Standard Bank Gallery**. It's one of the city's most important art spaces, with a collection of 1,000-plus



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pieces that have been amassed over more than 40 years, including works by homegrown masters like Gerard Sekoto and Irma Stern.

**Strauss & Co** is another old-guard institution that's well worth a visit, where a blend of classic and contemporary works is spotlighted through ongoing exhibitions featuring South Africa's most prominent artists. Strauss & Co is in Houghton, where President Nelson Mandela used to live. His primary residence has been turned into a boutique hotel called **Sanctuary Mandela**. Here you'll find lots of intimate tributes to the beloved statesman, including photographs of his private and public life, plus wax-sealed menus at the restaurant inspired by his love of letter writing. The dishes are curated by his former personal chef of more than 20 years – try the prawn curry, one of Madiba's favourite dishes.

Next door in Rosebank, the **Keyes Art Mile** – which runs along Keyes Avenue – brings together some stellar galleries and restaurants, all within a short, walkable stretch. Start at **Everard Read** ▶

Viva Thabethe and Sipho Sangweni pass Dbongz and Senzart911's mural on One Day Africa's Maboneng Street Art Tour



**Joburg's rarefied artistic institutions could feel intimidating to the average punter – but no more**



2



3

The Asian-inspired Momo brand now boasts six branches in Johannesburg.

– opened 109 years ago, it's Africa's oldest commercial gallery. Across the road you'll find the bijou **Circa** and **BKhz Studio (2)** – both excellent spaces which typically exhibit one artist at a time. Afterwards, head to **Momo Kuro (3)** for Asian fusion food and the most beautiful views of Rosebank at sunset. If you're keen to pick up a little something, try the **Rosebank Market**, a one-stop shop at the Rosebank Mall that sells art, curios and textiles from Central and West Africa.

These days, Rosebank's neighbour, Parktown North, has become one of Johannesburg's favourite places to eat and shop. But to art-loving locals, it is first and foremost home to **Gallery MOMO (4)**. Established in 2002 with the aim of showcasing contemporary art from South Africa, the continent and the diaspora, it's become a powerful



4

Right: Pierre Fourie's *Realization (Face)* as part of SculptX 2022



5

force on the city's art scene. Nearby **Stevenson** is another agenda-setting gallery – never one to play it safe, their exhibitions display works from vanguard artists like Zanele Muholi, Penny Siopis and Robin Rhode, among others. **The Melrose Gallery (5)** is the city's leading space for all things sculptural and home to SculptX, South Africa's largest sculpture fair.

Amateur collectors would do well to visit **Victoria Yards** – an industrial-complex-turned-commercial space in Lorentzville.

Here you'll find the studios of local artists like Blessing Ngobeni, Hannelie Coetzee and Dario Manjate. Also in the Yards, **Cp Arts** offers two-hour pottery classes where students learn to make their own hearth-fired mug. If you're in Johannesburg on the first Sunday of the month, check out Victoria Yard's First Sunday Market for food stalls, live music and handmade knick-knacks. It's an arty party – and everyone's invited.

✈ Fly to Johannesburg

## 3 MORE JOHANNESBURG STOPS



### THE SHORTMARKET CLUB

The brainchild of award-winning chef Luke Dale Roberts, this is one of Joburg's most exciting new addresses, serving a menu of Euro-meets-Asian plates with wine and cocktail pairings.



### SOWETO

The township has become popular with visitors, largely down to its anti-apartheid history, having once been home to important figures like Hector Pieterse and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu.



### BOOK CIRCLE CAPITAL

The stacks at this nifty bookshop in Melville offer a comprehensive overview of South African literature – and go way beyond the typical heavy-hitters like Nadine Gordimer and JM Coetzee.



### Johannesburg, in your pocket

Urbaniser is a new app for organising and sharing the places you love in any city in the world. All the venues featured in this story have been collected for you to download, just scan the QR code.

PHOTOS: SOPHO SANGWENI; ZANDILE TSHABALALA; LOVERS IN A SECRET PLACE; IMAGE BY TATENDA CHIDORA; INSTALLATION: PIERCE KONDIBE 2021; COURTESY OF GALLERY MOMO; PIERRE FOURIE; REALIZATION (FACE); 2017 X 81 X 82 CM; ALUMINIUM; 2022; COURTESY OF THE MELROSE GALLERY; TALENTED MR WILL; ADGEE STOCK; EVELYN RAMPOLO; ELSA YOUNG





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## SCREEN TEST

# Do ghosts use phones?

IN NEW MOVIE *THE BLACK PHONE*, THE SPIRITS OF ABDUCTED CHILDREN WARN OTHERS OF THEIR FATE WITH A CALL. BUT COULD IT REALLY HAPPEN? ASKS SPOOKED **RALPH JONES**

**A**t some point we've all wondered if ghosts can use phones. It's up there with the big questions of our age: how can we save the planet? What is the meaning of life? Who will become our leader when Sir David Attenborough dies?

We're asking that particular question (the ghost one) because of *The Black Phone*, a film in which the spirits of children abducted by a man called The Grabber (played by Ethan Hawke) are able to communicate with other kids to help them avoid a similar fate. *The Black Phone*, it seems, is happy to postulate that if ghosts exist, they've got mobile data.

There may not be any scientific evidence to confirm the existence of ghosts but plenty of people – perhaps as many as 50% – believe that they're there. (Your Auntie Kay is one of them, isn't she?) What's more, the phenomenon of "phantom calls" or "ghost calls" is a very real thing in the world – there is lots of anecdotal data about people picking up the phone only to be met with eerie silence or dark murmurings from the other end. Could these calls be the communications of spirits from beyond the grave?

Paranormal investigators looking to keep themselves in the headlines will announce that ghosts do in fact use phones to communicate with the living – often withholding their number, the cheeky devils. This is what people may be experiencing, for example, when they have an innocent phone conversation only to find out afterwards that the person on the other end had been dead for 50 years.

No doubt these experiences are immensely real for the people going through them. But why would a ghost use a phone? If they have enough of a physical form to dial a phone number, why not deliver the message in person? And why are the calls so often just grunts and growls, like the ramblings of a pervert?

If ghosts were visitors from another realm, it feels silly to conclude that they would use phones, let alone use them so ineptly. Having

survived death, it seems safe to say they would be able to appear to those they wished to contact – like Patrick Swayze with his pottery wheel.

Science comes down pretty hard on this one. Phantom calls often have a mundane explanation: they are the result of an autodialer that is calling phone numbers on an endless cycle. Even assuming ghosts do exist, the likelihood they would play prank calls seems pretty low. We have to think more highly of our spooky friends than this.

When you pick up the phone and hear a muttering on the other end of the line, chances are it's not the ghost of a weirdo – it's just a weirdo.

 Watch *The Black Phone*



## THE VERDICT

If they existed, ghosts would probably go through walls, not chat through calls.



## Japanese minimalism: create that Zen-like feeling

FUTON COMPANY, EXPERTS IN SMALL SPACE LIVING,  
HAS THESE TIPS ON WHERE TO START

**MINIMALISM ISN'T JUST** a design choice: research has shown a messy house induces a physiological response, including increased levels of cortisol, a stress hormone. So it's no surprise this pared-back way of living has become so prevalent in the home today, especially for those short on space.

### Stay grounded

Bring Zen into the bedroom with low-level pieces such as the Mirage bed from Futon Company. Inspired by a floating platform, it comes with an option of four under-bed drawers, perfect for keeping your room clutter-free.

### Natural materials

Wabi-sabi is the concept of finding beauty in the simple,

Japan is an established leader when it comes to minimalist living, built on the aesthetic of traditional Zen Buddhism

such as furniture made from natural materials. Take the Suratto storage collection, crafted from bamboo with its wonderfully rustic markings.

### Marie Kondo your home

The famous KonMari method introduced by expert Marie Kondo encourages tidying by category. With this in mind, furniture with function, like the Futon Company oak four-leaf table, is the way to go.

### Embrace Japanese culture

Incorporate the essence of Japanese culture with an authentic tatami mat. Check out Futon Company's website or its stores nationwide for more space-generating ideas for your minimalist home.



■ [futoncompany.co.uk](https://futoncompany.co.uk)

Dress: Saint Laurent  
Shoes: Cult Gaia  
Earrings:  
Charlie Lapson  
Rings: Le Vian

# BACK TO BLACK

CHRISTINA RICCI HAS BEEN SYNONYMOUS WITH THE MACABRE SINCE HER 1990S BREAKTHROUGH IN *THE ADDAMS FAMILY*, BUT IT'S HER RENAISSANCE IN HIT HORROR SHOW *YELLOWJACKETS* THAT IS TRULY TERRIFYING. WAS SHE ALWAYS DESTINED FOR DARKNESS OR HAVE THE CHARACTERS SHE PLAYS MADE HER THAT WAY? IT'S COMPLICATED, SHE TELLS **MARTHA HAYES**.

PHOTOGRAPHS: RAMONA ROSALES



Christina Ricci

Dress: Celia Kritharioti  
Shoes: Cocco Miami  
Earrings:  
Charlie Lapson  
Rings: Le Vian



Christina Ricci wants to talk over the phone. Not a Zoom or a FaceTime – the new normal for celebrity interviews thanks to the pandemic – but a good, old-fashioned telephone call. For anyone else I may not have acquiesced so easily – seeing a Hollywood star in their own surroundings and being able to make eye contact obviously helps build a rapport – but for an icon of the 1990s like Ricci? A phone call feels almost appropriate.

I can't see her facial expressions. I don't know when she's smiling. And when she laughs, I can't tell whether she's laughing with me or at me. It's ambiguous. Exactly like Ricci – who dominated the 1990s with her jet-black hair, five-foot frame and cool irreverence.

Having shot to fame aged 11 after a breakout performance as morbidly precocious Wednesday in *The Addams Family* (1991), Ricci's penchant for offbeat, twisted characters carried her from bankable child star (*Casper* in 1995) to teen goth icon (Tim Burton's *Sleepy Hollow* in 1999) and beyond (*Monster* in 2003). Basically, if it was a bit dark, it had Ricci's name all over it.

Cut to 2022 and along with a wealth of other 1990s gems (see: low-rise pants, *Sex and the City* and Britney) Ricci, now 42, is back in vogue. It's all thanks to an Emmy-nominated performance in cult US horror drama series *Yellowjackets*, a string of chilling indie roles – like in this year's *Monstrous* – and a closely guarded appearance in Tim Burton's forthcoming Netflix comedy horror, *Wednesday*, based on Ricci's character in *The Addams Family*. Remember the McConaissance of the 2010s? Welcome to the Riccaissance. ▶

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Ricci surpasses herself in *Yellowjackets*. The show follows a group of teenagers in the 1990s who, following a plane crash, resort to cannibalism to survive in the wilderness, and her portrayal of the group's unlikely ring leader – sociopathic outsider Misty Quigley – 25 years later, is so disturbing *New York* magazine called her “the most terrifying character on TV”.

Ricci might be the only person who doesn't find her terrifying. “That's not the kind of actor I am,” she explains from her home in Los Angeles. “The things I exploit to play the character are not the more terrifying elements. What's terrifying about her is not that she has sinister pursuits or morbid fascinations, it's that she has crossed every line. She is terrifying because she has no normal boundaries, none of the moral constraints the rest of us live by. So when you're playing a person who has absolutely no constraints, it's actually exhilarating and exciting.”

In other words, what ultimately appealed to Ricci about *Yellowjackets* – which she is currently filming season two of alongside co-stars Juliette Lewis and Melanie Lynskey – is a lot more nuanced than merely seeking out dark material. “I've always been fascinated by people whose pettiness is so exaggerated that it's dangerous. What's happened to that person to make them feel that small?” she ponders. “Misty isn't a stereotype, she's a real human being.”

The through line in all Ricci's characters, she points out, is less about being evil and more about being different. “I don't want to play something I've seen before. That is what I'm always looking for,” she says. “I don't need them to be bad people or do nefarious things, but usually the more interesting, different, complicated characters do end up being the ones that do questionable things.”

Misty has come as a “wonderful surprise” to Ricci, who has waited long enough for a role to really sink her teeth into in recent years. Although she has worked consistently and her CV now spans an astonishing four decades, this new chapter definitely feels like a welcome return to the glory – or should that be gory – years we all know and love. The rom com-fuelled 2000s were, for example, a particular struggle for an actress emblematic of the grunge era.

“I had people guiding my career who were definitely wanting me to be more commercial and that was a mistake, for sure,” says Ricci, ▶

**“IF THERE ISN'T A PLACE FOR YOU AS AN ARTIST, YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN PLACE. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE FOCUSED ON THAT”**

PHOTO: ALAMY

## WEDNESDAY'S CHILD

### CHRISTINA RICCI'S CV

#### Born

Christina Ricci is the youngest of four children born to Sarah (an estate agent) and Ralph Ricci (a therapist) in Santa Monica, California, on 12 February 1980.



#### Education

Ricci attended Edgemont Elementary School, Glenfield Middle School, Montclair High School and Morristown Beard School, all in New Jersey, before moving to Professional Children's School in New York. Her acting career prevented her from completing school.

#### Fun fact

Her dislike of houseplants led to the rumour that she suffers from botanophobia (fear of plants). Slight exaggeration. She just doesn't like plant pots (containing soil) being in her house because of the soil and insects.

#### Key work

##### The Addams Family (1991)

Based on the characters from Charles Addams' cartoon and the 1964 TV series, the supernatural comedy about an aristocratic family who delight in all things macabre was a box-office smash. Anjelica Huston was nominated for a Golden Globe for her performance as matriarch Morticia Addams, but it was the sometimes silly, always sadistic antics of Ricci's Wednesday (*above*) that stole the show. The film was followed by a sequel, *Addams Family Values*, in 1993.

##### The Ice Storm (1997)

Ricci made the (not always so) seamless transition from child star to serious contender in Ang Lee's, erm, icy adaptation of Rick Moody's 1994 novel. Set in the 1970s, the

action follows the entanglement of two families over one tumultuous Thanksgiving holiday with Ricci cast as darkly provocative teen daughter Wendy.

##### Yellowjackets (2021–)

When their plane crashes in the middle of nowhere, a team of high school soccer players is forced to do whatever it takes to survive in the Canadian wilderness for 19 months. The main action is set in the 1990s. A cast of 1990s legends (Ricci! Lewis! Lynskey!) plays the girls 25 years on. Terrifyingly nostalgic.





## COWABUNGA!

**RICCI ISN'T THE ONLY 90S ICON MAKING A RETURN – THESE RAD TRENDS ARE, LIKE, TOTALLY BACK**

### TV

Name a 90s TV show that hasn't had a recent reboot – go on, we dare you. *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Saved by the Bell*, *Beavis and Butt-Head*, *Rugrats*, *Sex and the City* and *Boy Meets World* all roared back onto screens lately, with a *Frasier* revival still to come.

### NU METAL

Devil horns and Limp Bizkit CDs at the ready, rockers – two recent documentaries about the doomed Woodstock 99 festival that descended into a riot have sparked a renewed interest in the mosh-tastic antics of bands like Korn and Papa Roach.

### BRITNEY SPEARS

Oops, she did it again. The 90s pop princess elected to hit us (baby) one more time with a new single this summer, *Hold Me Closer* – a collaboration with Elton John, reworking his *Tiny Dancer* into a dance-floor classic. Welcome back, Brit, you've been missed.

### FLIP PHONES

That's right, the type of phone famously used by Morpheus in *The Matrix* is coming back into vogue. New spins on the open-and-close 90s mobile design by manufacturers like Motorola and Samsung are reportedly proving big hits with Gen Z buyers.





Dress: Rodarte  
Shoes: Saint Laurent  
Earrings: Le Vian  
Rings: Anne Sisteron & Charlie Lapson



### ROLLERBLADING

Bikes? Pah, boring. Rollerblading is now officially the coolest way to get around, a new generation of thrill-seekers have seemingly decided, following a pandemic spike in interest around the sport so big it led to a global shortage of skates.

### BUMBAGS

The Dior Saddle and Chanel's Classic Double Flap Bag were two of 2021's most sought-after fashion accessories, according to style website Hypebae, which credited the post-pandemic return of events like Coachella and Glastonbury for their revival.

sighing. "I could have been doing really interesting things even if they weren't mainstream. I think – as most people have learned by now – if there isn't a place for you as an artist, you can create your own place. And I should have been more focused on that instead of trying to put a square peg in a round hole."

The turning point came when she "started concentrating on doing the things that played to my strengths". And what would Ricci define those as? What is her superpower? "I don't think I have a superpower at all but I have been through quite a bit in my life. I've always had one foot in between this Hollywood world and real life.

"I have been through very much in my life, starting from childhood, and I think it allows me to not immediately bump up against new ideas or concepts that seem shocking to other people. I don't have that, 'Oh my God, what a crazy person,' reaction, so I am able to play a character without judgement. That is maybe what makes me different."

Ricci's childhood is well documented. Having made her film debut opposite Cher and Winona Ryder in cult 1990 movie *Mermaids* (after being

## "I HAD A VERY BAD HOME LIFE AND ANY TIME I WENT TO WORK THAT WAS AN ESCAPE, SO I WAS VERY EAGER TO KEEP THAT GOING"

spotted in a school production aged eight), Ricci had a turbulent relationship with her father and suffered from an eating disorder when she was 14.

"I had a very bad home life and any time I went to work that was an escape, so I was very eager to keep that going," she recalls. "I really liked [performing] and being told I was good at something, and I liked achieving, but really acting was a refuge."

As such, it's hard to tell whether starring in *The Addams Family* at such a young age is what gave her a taste for the unconventional. "Was I more inclined to do things that were a little bit off centre at that age or was it being so rewarded and applauded for being that character at that early age that made me that way?" she ponders. "I'm not really sure."

Either way, she is proud of the direction the supernatural comedy film took her career in and was "dying" to work with Tim Burton again on his new project for Netflix. Along with the identity of Ricci's character, much is still under wraps about the fantasy-horror-mystery-comedy when we speak, but it has been described as a coming-of-age series that follows Wednesday (played by ▶

Jenna Ortega) as a teenager at Nevermore Academy.

To Ricci, Wednesday is ultimately a role model, worthy of such celebration. “The amount of memories women have of being little girls and having to say or do things that we just didn’t want to do and hating every second of it...” she recalls with, I imagine, a shudder. “Wednesday never demeans herself by doing what other people expect of her. There’s a strength, self respect and dignity in that, that a lot of us weren’t allowed as children. That is something to be emulated.”

As a teenager living in 1990s New York, Ricci was predictably subversive herself; a “feral creature” who lived in men’s underwear, dressed up in slip dresses and platforms from Screaming Mimis Vintage, and snuck into nightclubs she wasn’t allowed into. “I was a wild teenager,” she admits, “but I believe that certain people need to be so they’re not wild adults.”

Indeed, it’s a far cry from the sheltered life she lives today in the affluent suburb of Woodland Hills with her husband, hairstylist Mark Hampton, their nine-month-old daughter, Cleo, and her eight-year-old son, Freddie, from a previous marriage.

And while her head may be filled with memories of a life less ordinary, Ricci isn’t nostalgic enough to have kept anything physical from back in the day. Something Hampton, who has been collecting his wife’s old magazine covers from eBay, “finds horrifying”.

“I don’t have pictures of myself from when I was a teenager and I never wrote in a journal. I don’t have keepsakes, I have memories,” she says. “I think it’s probably not entirely healthy but it’s probably a coping mechanism from a very chaotic childhood and life. When friends are like, ‘You don’t have



Dress: Taller Marmo  
Shoes: Dolce & Gabbana  
Earrings: Charlie Lapson  
Rings: Simone Jewels & Charlie Lapson

pictures or photo collages?’ I’m like, ‘Listen, man, I don’t know how your life has been, but when you’re on the ground, dealing with stuff and trying to make things work, who has time?’”

Not Ricci, that’s for sure. She’s too busy – like the characters she plays – being interesting, different and complicated. And occasionally making telephone calls.

 Watch Monstrous

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WORDS: KELLY CONABOY  
ILLUSTRATIONS: LAURA MARTÍN



## SIGH CONTENTEDLY UNDER TURNING LEAVES

### The White Mountains in NH

Leaf-peeping: it sounds dirty, but it's in fact quite wholesome and even family friendly! The search for beautiful foliage is an annual tradition among leaf lovers and you need look

no further than the White Mountains, which stretch for 140km (87 miles) across north-central New Hampshire and attract hundreds of thousands of foliage fans every year. The mountains boast the

highest elevations in the northeastern United States, but you don't have to be a bird, plane or hiker to enjoy their truly breathtaking autumn display. A drive along the Kancamagus

Highway will do it, peppered with a few stops on the way to snap photos, take in the scenery and grab a bite. You can even tell people you hiked, if you want – your secret's safe with us. ▶

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# MILITARE CHRONO



## Meet the snug life

### THE MAYFLOWER INN IN WASHINGTON, CT

The Mayflower Inn & Spa was built in 1894 and functioned as a school for boys before it was converted to an idyllic Connecticut retreat in 1920. And in a slightly more significant slice of its history, the resort is said to have inspired Amy Sherman-Palladino to write *Gilmore Girls*, the television show most spiritually aligned with the autumn months. With cosy rooms, an excellent spa and 23 hectares (58 acres) of crunchy leaves to traipse through while pondering whether you should leave your life behind and open your own little country inn, the Mayflower will transport you right to Stars Hollow (even if the actual Stars Hollow only exists on a backlot in Burbank, California).



### FEED YOUR SOUL

#### Apple cider doughnuts from Russell Orchards in Ipswich, MA

It is our burden, as humans, to live with the fact that we only have easy access to apple cider doughnuts from October to December. So make a beeline for Russell Orchards, where the famous eats are made from scratch with cider from the orchard's mill and fried in their on-site bakery.



## Hail to the almighty apple

### THE NATIONAL APPLE HARVEST FESTIVAL IN BIGLERVILLE, PA

In early October, the South Mountain Fairgrounds of Biglerville are transformed into an apple-lover's paradise with the start of the town's National Apple Harvest Festival. Across the fairgrounds, you'll find hundreds of art and food vendors, live music, rides, and pounds and pounds of apples. The red-and-gold shades of the surrounding landscape – which are sort of apple-y in themselves – aren't bad, either. ▶





## Wonder while you wander

### LINCOLN WOODS STATE PARK, RI

Fresh mountain air, leaves crunching beneath your boots, stopping for a moment to meditate on how absolutely autumnal you are right now – yes, a hike is a cool-weather must. And with multiple trails ranging from easy to challenging, Rhode Island’s Lincoln Woods State Park is the perfect destination for hikers and people whose idea of a hike is more like “a short walk before settling down to have a picnic”. The park’s calm atmosphere and stunning landscape will recharge both your soul and your Insta grid. ▶



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## Drink in the new season

### THE PSL AT JAHO IN BOSTON, MA

If you don't have a pumpkin spice latte in your hand, are you even experiencing the potentially life-changing escape that is an autumn excursion? Sorry to the haters, but the nutmeg and cinnamon-laced pick-me-up is an absolute necessity, and while a decent cup can be found at your neighbourhood Starbucks, there's a little extra autumnal magic in the beloved PSL at Jaho Coffee & Tea in Boston, Massachusetts. Grab a decadent cup to go, or stay in and unwind with the cafe's boozy version, like the leaf-peeping adult you are. Your scarf-studded stroll through the city just got a lot better.



### GO FOR A FILMIC BROWSE

#### Main St in Wethersfield, CT

Autumn antieqing in Connecticut isn't just for the chunky-sweater-wearing characters in your favourite romcom. It's also for you, as you stroll down Wethersfield's Main Street – its charming antique stores, cosy eateries and fashionable shops make it the perfect location to live out all of your New England cinematic fantasies.

## GET BACK TO THE LAND

### DuBois Farms in Highland, NY

It's not really autumn until you've scheduled a group outing to an apple-and-pumpkin-picking farm somewhere far away from the non-apple-and-pumpkin-picking troubles of your everyday life. A

place where you can pull on a flannel shirt and convince yourself you're definitely going to find a way to use the 20 to 40 apples of various flavours you've gathered. A place where you can

wonder, since when did pumpkins get so heavy? DuBois Farms in Highland, New York, is the perfect escape, with pick-your-own fruits and vegetables, a farm store and – when you're ready

for a break from your newly adopted agrarian lifestyle – a tavern with local hard cider, craft beer and wine.

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Lake Nona Wave Hotel, Orlando, is the shape of things to come

**EVER WONDERED WHAT** staying in a hotel will look like in the future? Wonder no longer. Lake Nona Wave Hotel, just minutes from Orlando Airport and right at the centre of the forward-thinking community of Lake Nona, is a glorious fusion of 21st-century design, thoughtfully curated art, and cutting-edge drinking and dining, from the living room lobby – a high-ceilinged gallery of colourful artwork and quirky kinetic chandeliers, catered by friendly coffee-toting robots – to the outdoor sculpture garden, with its dozens of exceptional pieces, including Arturo Di Modica’s *Charging Bull*, hidden among 300 lush palm trees. Take a spin on the hotel’s complimentary bikes to get out and explore it all, or discover the art, dining and wellness the “Nonahood” offers via one of the world’s largest fleets of autonomous shuttles.

Feeling hungry? Savour moreish small plates with live entertainment at HAVEN Lounge, or sip art-inspired cocktails in the Living Room Bar. Michelin Guide recently recommended the hotel’s signature restaurant, BACÁN, where Latin cuisine takes centre stage, while HAVEN Kitchen brings the fresh and healthy fare. Chill out on the Insta-ready pool deck with its bubblegum-coloured cabanas or work up a sweat at the full-on wellness centre, with 42ft climbing tower, spin classes, aquatics and the first-ever spa by Dr Deepak Chopra. Each iPad-controlled room has automatic tinting glass, futuristic TOTO smart toilets and a smart bed that gently lifts your head if it detects you – or your partner – snoring. In the mini-bar you’ll find CBD-infused drinks. The future looks chilled.

■ [lakenonawavehotel.com](http://lakenonawavehotel.com)



HAVEN Kitchen brings the outdoors in (above); Lake Nona Wave Hotel features unique and creative venues for events



# SUITED AND REBUTED

London's Pearly Kings and Queens are a cockney institution.

A new generation of Pearlies is revitalising the tradition, with fresh attitudes fit for the 21st century.

**Zoey Goto** meets the young royals

PHOTOGRAPHS: PHIL FISK





**W**hat would London be without its royalty? Last month, the world came to the British capital to celebrate the life of one monarch and herald the arrival of another. But, away from the great halls of state, you'll also find London's Pearly Kings and Queens – the dapper leaders of an organisation that's existed since Victorian times. With its roots in the East End, the Pearly collective has long been an iconic symbol of the city's rich cockney heritage – as authentic as jellied eels, pub singalongs and the rhythms of rhyming slang.

Having fallen off the radar in recent years, the Pearly Kings and Queens of London are now stepping back into the spotlight, partly due to a swell of interest generated by their involvement in this year's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Throw into the mix some switched-on creative projects – including a collaboration with jewellery designer Lou Taylor on a range of hipster brooches and necklaces, a photography project with London graffiti artist Stik and somehow finding the time to be snapped by *Vogue's* favourite fashion photographer, Mario Testino, for his *A Beautiful World* project – and we have all the ingredients for a distinctively British comeback.

Meet Jack, Shannon, Connor and Amy, the new generation of monarchs breathing life into this treasured institution – and they can still direct you to a great pie and mash shop. ▶

**JACK JAMES**

**Age:** 31

**Day job:** Events manager

**Pearly title:** Pearly King of Royal Kensington & Chelsea

**How did you become the Pearly King of Royal Kensington?**

I was born into the role but, like most Pearlies, I went through a stage of stepping away. When I was 16, I was so embarrassed that I even contacted Google asking them to remove my Pearly photos! But when my nan passed away, I wanted to continue her legacy, so I put the buttons back on.

**Has social media helped spread the word with a younger audience?**

When I returned to the Pearlies, there wasn't a

**“OUR ASSOCIATION HAS A COUPLE OF GAY MEMBERS, MYSELF INCLUDED, AND WE’VE BEEN WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS. WE EVEN HAVE A MEMBER WHO’S TRANSITIONED”**

social media presence and the website was awful, so I revamped it and started our Instagram account. We’ve since had some posts go crazy.

**Is there more of a focus on inclusivity with the new generation of Pearlies?**

Our association has a couple of gay members, myself included, and we’ve been welcomed with open arms. We even have a member who’s transitioned from a Pearly King to a Queen, which would have been unheard of 30 years ago, but we’re proud of her.



It’s also important to show our support for movements such as Black Lives Matter.

**How long did your Pearly suit take to make?**

I’m a bit of a perfectionist so it took two years. I spent many weekends sewing, with Cher playing in the background – it was like therapy.

**Favourite Pearly moment?**

I don’t actually remember it, but there’s a baby photo of me being held by Princess Diana.

**What are your hopes for the future of the Pearlies?**

We’ve marched in Brighton Pride, so my next goal would be London Pride. We’d also love to do a fashion collaboration with a label like Alexander McQueen and have a merchandising range sold in the souvenir shops in London. ▶



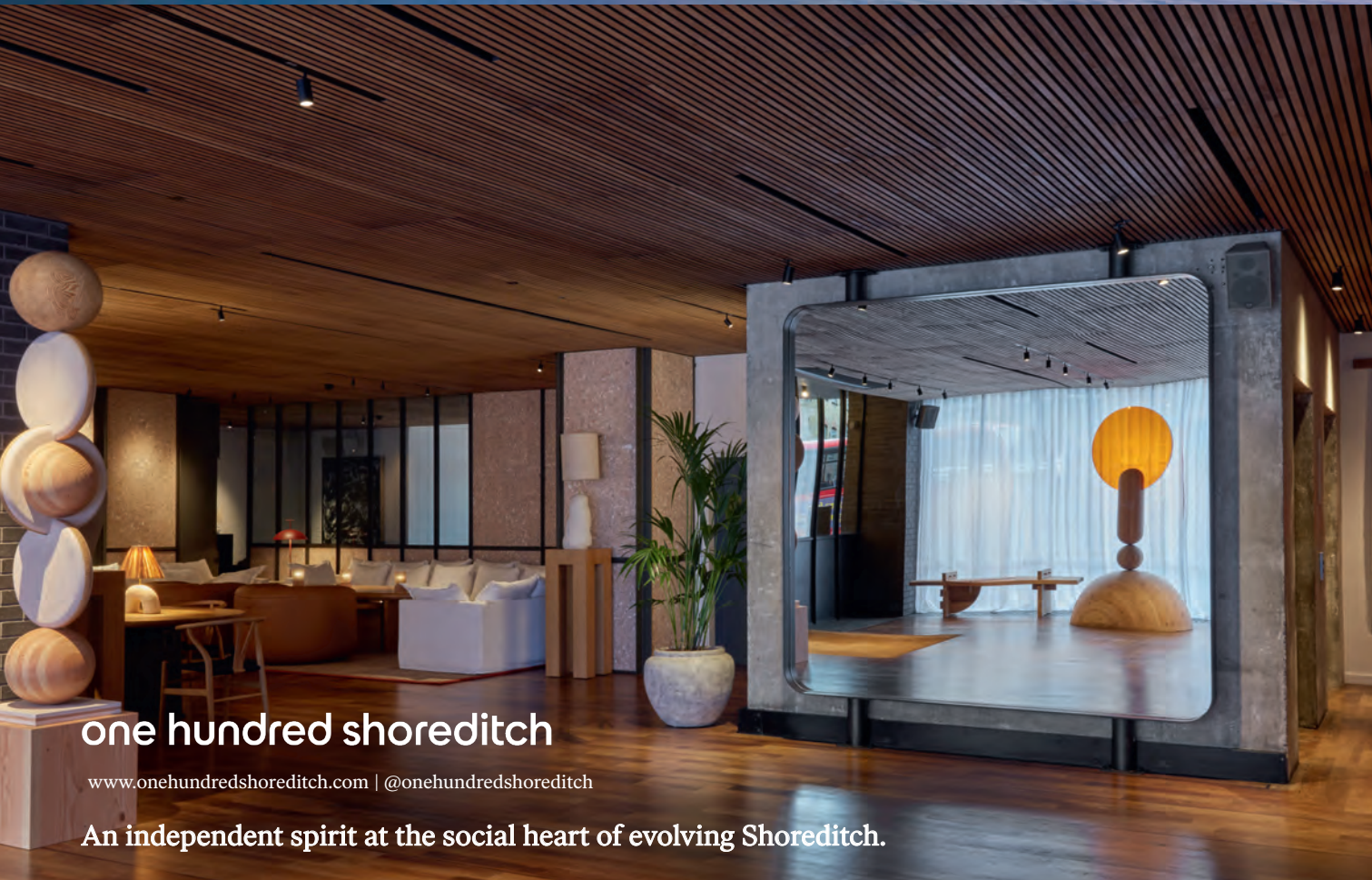


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## SHANNON CROWE

**Age:** 25

**Day job:** Bartender and parent

**Pearly title:** Pearly Queen of Haggerston

### How did you become the Pearly Queen of Haggerston?

Although I took up the title at 13, initially I kept it quiet. The turning point came a couple of years later with the 2012 Summer Olympics, where we walked in the opening ceremony. I realised it is actually pretty cool to be a Pearly.

### Is there more of a focus on inclusivity with the new generation of Pearlies?

Definitely! The inclusive movement has a huge place in my heart and resonates not only in my Pearly work but throughout my whole life. I want to show that we can all be an ally.

### Are the attitudes of the younger Pearlies different to the elders?

I think at our core, our values are the same. But times change and what was OK 20 years ago isn't now. But if we move forward with love, then the older and younger generations can be on the same path.

### Favourite pie and mash shop?

The Eel & Pie House on Leytonstone High Road.

### Has social media helped spread the word with a younger audience?

We were photographed recently at a gay bar with some drag artists who it turns out have a huge following online. Moments like this really help to spread the word with a new crowd.



### How does your suit differ from the costumes usually worn by other female Pearlies?

Traditionally, women wear long skirts past the knee. But I wanted to put my own spin on the top hat and tails worn by the original Pearly King himself, Henry Croft. Someone on Etsy adapted a second-hand blazer into a tailcoat for me, which I team with a black denim pinafore, decorated by hand



**“I WANTED TO PUT MY OWN SPIN ON THE TOP HAT AND TAILS WORN BY THE ORIGINAL PEARLY KING HIMSELF, HENRY CROFT”**

with buttons. My suit will never be finished, though – you're constantly repairing or adding to it.

### Where can the Pearlies be found?

Everyone's welcome to attend our harvest festival at St Martin-in-the-Fields church on the first Sunday in October. Keep an eye on our Instagram page for forthcoming events.



**“THE SUIT IS SUCH A GREAT CONVERSATION STARTER! IT ALSO MEANS I CAN TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT THEIR LIVES, SO IT WORKS BOTH WAYS”**



## CONNOR CROWE

**Age:** 27

**Day job:** Firefighter and parent

**Pearly title:** Pearly King of Wembley

### How did you become the Pearly King of Wembley?

I didn't join until my late teens. My parents and

older sister were Pearlies; I finally decided to jump in after seeing how much fun they were having at events.

### What does it feel like to wear the buttoned suit?

Initially, it felt quite weird. But I'd grown up seeing my dad as a Pearly King and it's almost like a cockney character that he plays when he slips the suit on, having a dance and putting a smile on people's faces, so it soon came naturally.

### What's special about your borough of Wembley?

Wembley Stadium is a big deal for football fans, so I love that aspect. Plus, there are lots of buildings going up, so it feels like a really up-and-coming area.

### Is there more of a focus on inclusivity with the new generation of Pearlies?

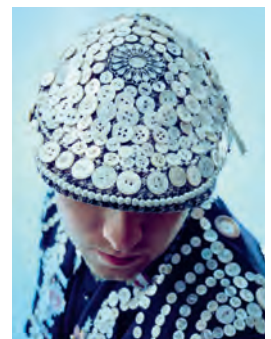
London is so diverse; I feel it's important in our Pearly role to engage with as many different cultures and communities as possible. We were in Mile End recently, with lots of people who didn't know about the Pearlies, but they were really interested. The suit is such a great conversation starter. It also means I can talk to people about their lives, so it works both ways.

### Where's the best pie and mash shop?

Robins Pie & Mash in Wanstead. They also hold an annual pie and mash brunch in Camden. It's held in a nightclub with live music and Pearly Kings and Queens attend.

### Favourite cockney rhyming slang phrase?

“Apples and pairs,” which means stairs. It's simple and rolls off the tongue easily. ▶



**AMY ROWE**

**Age:** 25

**Day job:** Junior project manager

**Pearly title:** Pearly Princess of Shoreditch

**What's special about your Shoreditch borough?**

There's just so much history in Shoreditch. It was the first London borough to have theatres and William Shakespeare would visit the Curtain Theatre to get ideas for plays. Nowadays, it's a really inspiring and creative place, with urban food markets, street artists and the pop-up BOXPARK shopping area.

**What are your hopes for the future of the Pearlies?**

We have to change with the times and have an online presence, but the core value remains our charity fundraising. There have been eight generations of Pearlies and we're one of the oldest London charities, so it's important that the younger generation step up to keep the tradition alive.

**Is there more of a focus on inclusivity with the new generation of Pearlies?**

Gender equality is something I've always championed, speaking up for other women, as I know how daunting it can be. The Pearlies have always been structured to be very equal, as there's no leader and we all have a say. There's no male or female domination – where there's a Pearly King, there's always a Pearly Queen.

**What's your favourite part of the job?**

Visiting St Joseph's Hospice, one



**"THE PEARLIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STRUCTURED TO BE VERY EQUAL"**

of the charities we support, to see how the donations are being used. Our charity work took a hit from the pandemic. We managed some virtual jobs but it's much better to meet in person. We've now started to do meet and greets with groups of American visitors who come to London with a tour operator.

**Favourite cockney song?**

*The Lambeth Walk.* I remember singing it as a kid and doing the knees-up action.

✂ Fly to London

**WOULD YOU ADAM AND EVE IT?**

**PEARLY FACT BOX**

⊕ The Pearly tradition was born out of east London's street market culture in the 1870s, where traders used cockney rhyming slang as a secret language and embellished their clothing with pearls to attract the eye of potential customers.

⊕ The first Pearly monarch – Henry Croft, a road-sweeping orphan with a flair for street theatre – was inspired to decorate his own suit in a riot of mother-of-pearl buttons, and would wear it to collect pennies for poor children and hospitals.

⊕ The Pearly suits can be covered in nearly 30,000 buttons, weighing as much as a 10-year-old child. ⊕ To see a Pearly suit up close, head to the Museum of London near Barbican, where an ensemble once worn by the Pearly King of Islington is displayed.

⊕ While traditionally Pearly titles are passed down through families, the rules have loosened in recent years to allow those with a genuine passion to apply for membership. ⊕ The major event in every Pearly diary is the annual harvest festival,



held at St Mary-le-Bow and St Martin-in-the-Fields. Both are open to the public. ⊕ Pearlies have left their sartorial mark on pop culture: Jack and Meg of The White Stripes have

donned versions of the bejewelled cockney suits, and high-end fashion houses Edun and Gaultier have both sent gleaming interpretations down the catwalks.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: ALAMY



**VULCAIN**

MANUFACTURE DEPUIS 1858

# It's not a swimsuit. It's a yes suit.



LINE  
N  
THE  
SAND

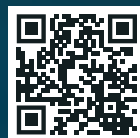
Let nothing hold you back, least of all what you wear.  
Embrace all the activities you love on land or at sea.

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- + Made to empower
- + 100% of profits go to ocean and cancer organizations

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PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

# SWITCH IT UP

Sustainable choices for life



QUOOKER

## MAKE A SPLASH

We're gushing over these gorgeous Quooker taps that produce boiling water in an instant, saving energy, time and money.

[quooker.co.uk](http://quooker.co.uk)

ROSAMUND MUIR

HEEL THE WORLD



Looking for a gorgeous pair of heels that's in step with good sustainable principles? Rosamund Muir walks the walk. Her glamorous luxury heels are handmade using materials sourced from "surplus stock" – leather left over from large production runs, often sent to landfill – from reputable Italian tanneries. Durable and fun, with an exquisitely British grace and poise, highlights from the collection include the Venezia (pictured) in ruby red,

or the Amor in mock croc printed leather. Muir started her eponymous brand after years of her own experience of wearing heels – rushing to work and meetings, and then becoming a busy mum of three children. "There was a simple lack of stylish heels that were comfortable enough to spend a day running around London," says Muir. "So I made my own." She designs comfortable yet colourfully sophisticated heels for the woman always on the go.

Sashay over to her website now for a pair of zero-waste shoes that aren't just kind to the planet – they're also good for the sole.

[rosamundmuir.com](http://rosamundmuir.com)



FOUR ECO-FRIENDLY

LINE IN THE SAND

MODEL SWIMWEAR

Lynne Fletcher O'Brien was inspired to create enlightened swimwear brand Line in the Sand after she hit the beach with a good friend who'd lost her luggage. "She was splashing around in comfy leggings and a tank top, living her best life. I decided I wanted the same comfort and sun protection," she says. Scouring the internet, Fletcher O'Brien realised the swimwear she craved – waterproof, supportive, stylish, UV-safe, and good for the planet – didn't exist. So she made it herself. Her chic line of swim leggings, tunics, skorts and bra-supported tank tops is beloved by active, confident women who love water. And best of all, it's manufactured in the USA with fabric made from recycled plastics including discarded fishing nets. If that wasn't cool enough, 100% of profits are donated to organisations supporting oceanic conservation and cancer research, another topic close to Fletcher O'Brien's heart following a decade-long battle with leukaemia. Talk about making waves. [lineinthesand.com](http://lineinthesand.com)



PHOTOS: CALE BROWN, DAN COFFRONA





## BLACK & CREME

### LOWE IMPACT

Since she was a child, Le'Marquita Lowe wanted to change the world. And although the fashion world she loved and still considers "divine" moved slowly in the direction of sustainable practice, in her eyes it did so inequitably. "The messaging around sustainable fashion has good intentions," says Lowe, an academic and former pageant queen. "But it can also be shaming, passive aggressive and intersection blind." So Lowe founded Black & Creme, an online boutique and holistic platform curating beautiful, ethically made pieces for a more diverse client base. Like this Nefertiti necklace, from the black-owned Kemetic Collection. "Nefertiti embraces the traits that I embody as a woman," explains Lowe. "Intelligence, grace, charm, beauty and truth." Being conscious at every level, from supply chain to marketing, Lowe's mission is to promote cool pieces – hemp dresses, fair-trade jewellery – and educate folks about a new kind of environmental justice rooted in racial equity. "Marginalisation limits access," she says, simply. And that's simply a bad look.

[blackandcreme.com](http://blackandcreme.com)

# ALTERNATIVES

It's easy being green with these responsible buys

## MPB

### HIGH FOCUS

"Cameras and lenses are designed to be durable," says Rachel Thompson, head of sustainability at MPB. "So we can and should recirculate them." MPB is a smart, beautifully designed online platform helping industry pros and budding visual storytellers buy, sell and trade photography and videography equipment. MPB's tight focus on quality gear helps snappers capture inspiring images or shoot dazzling footage, saving money and the planet. After

all, why buy a brand-new camera if a second-hand one works just as well? A dizzying range of gear is available on the MPB platform, including DSLR, mirrorless and rangefinder bodies from Nikon, Canon, Sony and other major brands, plus miscellaneous studio equipment like flashguns, action cameras and more. Every item is rigorously assessed by expert product specialists, then shipped carefully and quickly in 100% plastic-free packaging, with

a hassle-free return policy. "We already circulate over 350,000 products annually," says Thompson. It's all about seeing the bigger picture.

[mpb.com](http://mpb.com)



**FAR-SIGHTED**

Dereck and Beverly Joubert have a vision for the future



PHOTOS: GREAT PLAINS, GREAT PLAINS MPALA JENA CAMP, ZIMBABWE

# NATURE LOVERS

## The husband and wife team on a quest to save the African wilderness

**“Nature is soul food,” says South African** photographer and conservationist Beverly Joubert. “That’s why you feel at peace after a safari.” She’d know, after four decades documenting African wildlife for National Geographic alongside husband Dereck, producing 40 films, publishing 14 books and winning eight Emmy Awards.

Exploring and documenting the African wilderness as soul mates and creative equals since graduation, the Jouberts are horrified at how much the ecosystem has declined. “It’s become ever more tarnished, fragmented and fractured,” says Dereck.

Their films help – the former president of Botswana was so moved by one he slashed lion-hunting quotas. But the couple are thinking bigger. Through their Great Plains Foundation,

they’ve acquired vast tracts of land for safeguarding animals, landscapes and communities the future of which hangs in the balance. One wildly ambitious current project involves moving 3,000 animals, including 400 elephants, from a drought zone to a lush river valley.

And they’re inviting adventurous souls to enjoy a luxurious, cinematic getaway at their Great Plains safari camps. Encapsulating everything the Jouberts know about nature and gorgeous framing, each stay also funds their vital work. “Each camp tells a story,” says Dereck. “Our guests leave as ambassadors to nature and partners in our lifelong African romance.”

Learn more at: [greatplainsconservation.com](http://greatplainsconservation.com)

**STAY WILD**

Great Plains offers safari camps in Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe





# ARTAH

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**Try our new Sleep Tonic - you'll be in it for the long haul.**

Sleep Tonic has a soothing, sedative effect designed to help you switch off and sleep through the night (or flight) without the next day drowsiness. Expertly formulated, Sleep Tonic uses botanicals proven to improve sleep quality as well as support anxiety, stress and mood, so you can feel the benefits far beyond your bedtime.

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A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT  
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

# What's On

## BED FELLOWS

Helping to exorcise the oo-err memories of *Carry On* and co, this British erotic comedy for the 21st century sees recently widowed Nancy (Emma Thompson) start a relationship with young sex worker Leo (Daryl McCormack), aiming to push her bedroom boundaries. Both turn in wonderful performances (acting performances, we mean. Oo-err).

Watch *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*



## THE BEST OF WHAT'S ONBOARD

63-69

### Movies

We've got *Top Gun: Maverick*, we've got *Mack & Rita*, we've got *Elvis* - uh-huh-huh - and many more.

71-74

### TV

Fall for *The Staircase*, get bowled over by *Shane*, plus plenty more small-screen hits.

75-77

### Audio

If your CEO skills need a boost, listen to the *Success Is in the Mind* podcast and start winning.

## 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 October.

# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

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

## SCREEN TIME

Onboard this month we have

# 151

Movies

# 560+

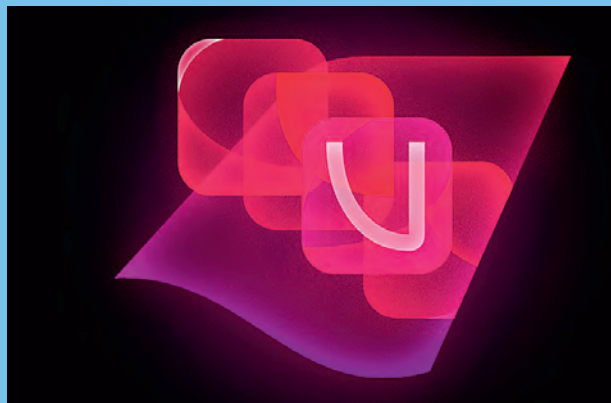
Albums, podcasts & playlists

# 242+

Hours of TV shows

# 28+

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 A350 and A330-900 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.

DISCOVER THE CLASSICS OF THE FUTURE

# Movies

## WELCOME TO HELL

Gird your loins for *Mad God*, effects wizard Phil Tippett's grisly, 30-years-in-the-making masterpiece

**FRIENDS, SPOOKY SEASON** is at last upon us. And if you're into bone-chilling cinema, crikey do we have a treat for you.

*Mad God* is a nightmarish animated dystopia. It is remorselessly bleak. It is savagely violent. It is so unhinged it took creator Phil Tippett three decades to complete – after which he suffered a breakdown.

Who? Tippett is a titan in the field of movie special effects, responsible for game-changing classic sequences like the AT-AT battles on icy Hoth from *The Empire Strikes Back*, plus all the best bits in *Jurassic Park*, *RoboCop* and the *Twilight* saga.

In the background to all that, Tippett's been working on this grim side hustle. *Mad God* is his passion project and, deranged as it is, it's obviously made with love – and latterly some help from an enthusiastic Kickstarter campaign. Either way, *Mad God* is an ambitious work of art, rendered in a blend of classic stop-motion, go motion (a technique Tippett co-invented) and occasional live actors.

What's it about?

Hard to say. Set in a post-apocalyptic wasteland, a solitary figure known as the Assassin descends into hell. A barren pockmarked landscape populated by piteous crawling things that are mercilessly butchered and squished like lemmings by horrid cancerous fiends and remorseless clanking machinery. And that's just the first act. For a while you wonder if it's about climate change – cli-fi is a genre now, kids – until you remember Tippett was most likely thinking about nuclear annihilation back in the day.

Look out for cool creepy religious iconography – the Tower of Babel, a passage from Leviticus. There's a whiff of Dante, a soupçon of Bosch. Doesn't get any scarier than that.

Watch *Mad God*





**Elvis** ❤️

12

Austin Butler,  
Tom Hanks

159  
mins

**YOU'VE GOT A** great story – that, simply, of Elvis and how he conquered the world only to be royally ripped off and betrayed by those he trusted. You've got a visionary director in Baz Luhrman, whose CV includes *Moulin Rouge!* among many other flamboyant, musical gems. You've even got Tom Hanks playing (against type) manager Tom Parker. What you need now is a great central performance and, boy, do you get it, because what elevates this biopic is the gotta-see-it-to-believe-it turn of Butler, who is not just serious eye candy but completely inhabits the role. Put it this way, Butler better be preparing his speeches come awards time, because he's going to need a whole bunch of them.



**Good Luck to You, Leo Grande** ❤️

15

Emma Thompson,  
Daryl McCormack

97  
mins

If full-on nudity and frank discussions of sexuality are a no-no, then this comedy-drama won't be your cup of tea. Everybody else can enjoy a superb performance from Thompson as an older woman who embarks on a journey of sexual exploration.



**Where the Crawdads Sing** ❤️

15

Daisy Edgar-Jones,  
Taylor John Smith

125  
mins

Based on the brilliant best-selling novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing* stars Edgar-Jones as Kya, an outcast cruelly abandoned by those closest to her. Kya's life takes a turn for the even worse when her involvement with a man she loves leads to a harrowing accusation.

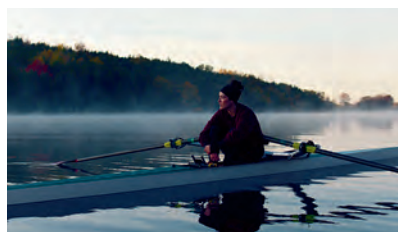


**Mrs Harris Goes to Paris** ❤️

Lesley Manville,  
Alba Baptista

115  
mins

With its simple, uplifting story of a widow (Manville) who travels to France in order to buy her own Dior dress, *Mrs Harris...* showcases a clutch of wonderful performances as well as a warm heart and an abundance of charm.



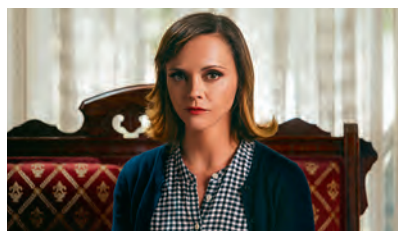
**The Novice**

15

Isabelle Fuhrman,  
Amy Forsyth

97  
mins

Fuhrman (*The Orphan*) underwent an intense training regime to play Alex, a student who joins her university rowing team. However, as Alex begins to push herself, what starts as a healthy pursuit soon becomes an intense obsession.



**Monstrous**

15

Christina Ricci,  
Colleen Camp

89  
mins

An outstanding Ricci heads the cast of this thriller as Laura who, with her son, Cody, escapes an abusive relationship and rents a house by a lake. However, it soon becomes clear that there is something very nasty lurking in the water – and it wants Cody. *See feature*



MOVIE BLUFF

## WHO WAS HARRY HAFT?



Meet the complex hero of real-life boxing flick *The Survivor*

**What's his story?**

Born in Bełchatów, Poland, in 1925, Herschel "Harry" Haft (played by Ben Foster, *above*) was just 15 when he was captured during World War II and sent to the first of six concentration camps he'd ultimately survive.

**How on earth did he make it?**

Boxing. An overseer at the Jaworzno camp noted Haft's impressive physique and offered him the chance to fight fellow inmates, effectively to the death, for the amusement of SS officers.

**That's horrific.**

Yes, Haft reportedly beat 76 opponents, before escaping in the confusion of a major Red Army advance in 1945.

**Did he have a happy ending?**

Kinda. He was taken in by the Americans and won boxing trophies in post-war Munich, later emigrating to the US where his glittering career was brought to an end by heavyweight legend Rocky Marciano in 1949. Haft married and had three kids, the oldest of whom wrote the book upon which this morally ambiguous movie is based.

📺 Watch *The Survivor*



## Minions: The Rise of Gru



Steve Carell,  
Pierre Coffin

87  
mins

**BACK IN THE** dim and dark mists of time (ie a few months ago), the UK was briefly in uproar over an internet craze that involved kids donning suits and forming large groups in order to go to the cinema to see *Minions: The Rise of Gru*. What those sheep-like teens might have learned had they not been so busy taking selfies and making TikTok videos was that *Minions: The Rise of Gru* is in fact a great-fun family movie that, as the title suggests, fills in the blanks as to how – and more especially why – Gru (voiced by Carrell) became the arch-villain we know and love today, and how the Minions (all voiced by Coffin) became, well, his minions.



### Top Gun: Maverick ❤️



Tom Cruise,  
Jennifer Connelly

131  
mins

Strap in and buckle up, because after what feels like years in gestation, the *Top Gun* sequel is finally upon us and from its iconic opening (you'll see) to its gobsmackingly action-packed finale – not to mention Tom Cruise doing peak Tom Cruise – it's absolutely magnificent.



### Jurassic World Dominion



Chris Pratt,  
Laura Dern

147  
mins

When we say the gang are back for this latest round of dino vs humans, we mean the whole gang. Joining Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard is the team from the original *Jurassic Park* movies: Dern, Sam Neill and – stealing the show, of course – Jeff Goldblum.

FANTASY

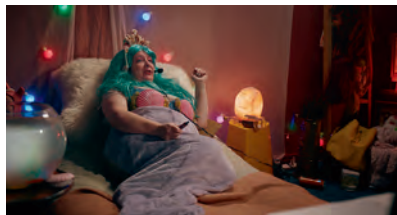


**Mad God** ❤️

Alex Cox,  
Niketa Roman

73  
mins

IF THEY GAVE out awards for patience then Phil Tippett's downstairs toilet would be full of them. He's an Oscar-winning visual effects supervisor whose work, mainly in stop-motion animation (which is where the patience comes in), has appeared in *Star Wars*, *Jurassic Park* and *RoboCop* to name but a few. *Mad God* is his first movie as director, and it's literally one hour and 23 minutes' worth of gobsmacking stop-motion animation that took him an incredible 30 years to complete. For a work of such dedication, Tippett hasn't compromised one bit, crafting a very adult – and entirely wordless – story of an assassin who descends into hell. Visceral and mind-boggling, it's clearly the work of a maverick genius but – be warned – it won't be to everyone's taste. *See opener*



**The Last Mermaid** !

Janey Godley,  
Gabriel Quigley

16  
mins

The mermaid in this comedy short has to be seen to be believed. Whisky-swilling, middle-aged and Glaswegian, she discovers she is the last of her species and must now decide if she wants to get pregnant or let her race die out.



**Wolfwalkers** 🐺

Sean Bean,  
Honor Kneafsey

93  
mins

Rightly nominated for a best animated film Oscar, *Wolfwalkers* is a treat – gorgeous to look at and with the captivating story of a young apprentice wolf hunter who befriends a native girl and enters the world of the Wolfwalkers.

SCARY



**The Black Phone** 15

Mason Thames,  
Madeleine McGraw

103  
mins

Taken from a story by Joe Hill, *The Black Phone* is a creepy slow-burner about a boy imprisoned by a child killer. Things take an (even more) disturbing turn when the kid starts receiving calls from the killer's previous victims.



**Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City** 15

Kaya Scodelario,  
Hannah John-Kamen

108  
mins

The *Resident Evil* films have always been a reliable delivery system for blood-soaked action-horror – and this one's no different. This franchise reboot takes us back to the very beginning of the saga.



**Orphan: First Kill** 15

Julia Stiles,  
Isabelle Fuhrman

98  
mins

The original *Orphan* has been scaring the pants off folk since 2009. This prequel sees the orphan, Esther, inveigling herself with an American family and then locking horns with a mother desperate to protect her family.

ANSWERS: 1. JIM LOVELL IN APOLLO 13; CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR; RICHARD PHILLIPS IN CAPTAIN PHILLIPS; WALT DISNEY IN SAVING MR BANKS; JAMES BODUWAN IN BRIDGE OF SPIES; CAPT CHELSEY SULLIVENBERGER IN SULLY; MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON; BEN BRADLEE IN THE POST; AND RICHARD ROGERS IN A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBOORHOOD 2. EDWARD SNOWDEN'S DIRECTOR 4. HORROR WRITER STEPHEN KING 5. A VISIT FROM US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP PHOTO: ALAMY

PUNCHY



Clean

15

Adrien Brody, Glenn Fleshler	94 mins
---------------------------------	------------

Offbeat, brooding and occasionally unsettling – and that’s just its protagonist – this gritty thriller tells the tale of garbage man Clean (Brody) who has left his murky past behind. That is, until trouble comes calling.



The Survivor ♥

!

Ben Foster, Peter Sarsgaard	129 mins
--------------------------------	-------------

No doubt about it, *The Survivor* is not an easy watch, as it focuses on the real-life tale of Jewish boxer Harry Haft, who fought fellow inmates while imprisoned in Auschwitz. After the war, Harry goes in search of redemption. See p65

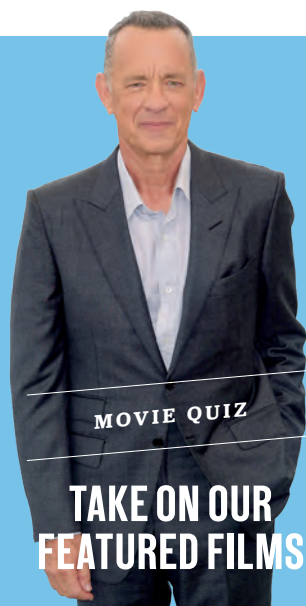


The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent

15

Nicolas Cage, Pedro Pascal	100 mins
-------------------------------	-------------

**IF AFTER THE** likes of *Mandy*, *Mom and Dad*, *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans* and *Willy's Wonderland* you weren't aware that Nicolas Cage is game for absolutely anything, then we present *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*. In this, the world's most underrated yet consistently brilliant actor plays... well, he plays himself – he plays Nicolas Cage doing ultra Nicolas Cage. It's a great concept and we're happy to say it's pulled off with panache, heart and lots of humour, as Nic takes a humdrum acting job only to find himself caught up with a superfan who may not be a all he seems and then gets mixed up in an international crime plot. In short, this is a scream from start to finish and very much not to be missed. See overleaf



MOVIE QUIZ

TAKE ON OUR  
FEATURED FILMS

1

In *Elvis*, Tom Hanks plays the legendary singer's manager, Colonel Tom Parker. It's the ninth time Hanks has played a character based on a real-life figure. How many others can you name?

2

Brit flick *All My Friends Hate Me* stars and is co-written by Tom Stourton. He has previously appeared opposite Mila Kunis and

3

Kate McKinnon in movie *The Spy Who Dumped Me*, playing a character who shares a name with which infamous intelligence whistleblower?

Pierre Coffin provides the voices for the unavoidable little fellas in *Minions: The Rise of Gru*, but played another important role in all four previous *Despicable Me* and *Minions* films in which the characters appear – what was it?

4

Chiller *The Black Phone* is based on a short story by Joe Hill, who can boast a suitably spooky heritage – whose son is he?

5

Janey Godley takes the lead in short film *The Last Mermaid*. As well as being a comedian and writer, the Scot found fame in 2016 for protesting at Turnberry golf resort against what?

Answers on the left



## Mack & Rita

Diane Keaton,  
Elizabeth Lail

94  
mins

**AUTHOR MACK FREELY** admits that she has an outlook that could charitably be described as “older than her years”. “I’m a 70-year-old in the body of a 30-year-old,” she says at the beginning of this comedy. For reasons too complicated to explain here, Mack awakes to find that she’s been transformed into her 70-year-old self, “Rita” (Keaton). Not only that, but she must also attend a hen party as Rita. Thus the stage is set for a bubbly and very internet-savvy generation-gap comedy, with Keaton at her brilliant best as Rita, who as well as more than holding her own at the party and becoming something of an internet sensation, sparks a romance with a much younger man.



## Father of the Bride

12

Andy Garcia,  
Gloria Estefan

117  
mins

Some stories are timeless and, after a novel and three movies, *Father of the Bride* is definitely one of them. This latest iteration is among the best, subtly updating proceedings and featuring a great turn from Garcia as the dad struggling with his daughter’s nuptials.



## All My Friends Hate Me

15

Tom Stourton,  
Joshua McGuire

94  
mins

This acclaimed film follows in the grand Brit-horror-comedy tradition of *Shaun of the Dead*, *Severance* et al. The plot revolves around Pete, who attends a birthday weekend with old college pals. To his horror it emerges that... well, the clue is in the title.



## Wild facts about Nicolas Cage

1

**He’s already picked out his tomb**

In 2010 Nic Cage acquired a 2.7m-tall pyramid in a New Orleans cemetery – truly a monumental flex.

2

**He’s been married five times**

Including to Elvis Presley’s daughter, no less, for three months. A still-briefer union with make-up artist Erika Koike lasted four days.

3

**He owned a two-headed snake**

Cage bought the rare snake – named Harvey Dent – for \$80,000. Apparently its heads squabbled at mealtimes.

4

**He’s turned down big roles**

Neo in *The Matrix*. Aragorn in *The Lord Of The Rings*. Shrek from *Shrek* – the last, he says, out of pure vanity.

5

**He named his kid after Superman**

Kal-El is Superman’s canon name. Cage’s son, born 2005, has already acted, playing, confusingly, Bruce Wayne.

📺 Watch *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*

# 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**
- After Yang
- Ahead of the Curve
- Aik Hai Nigar
- Aki and Pawpaw
- All My Friends Hate Me
- Ambulance
- American Underdog
- Argo

## B

- The Bad Guys
- The Batman
- Belfast
- The Black Phone
- The Blind Side



- **The Bob's Burgers Movie**
- The Bodyguard
- Boycott

## C

- Cake
- Camino Skies
- Carlos Ghosn: The Last Flight



- **Charming the Hearts of Men**
- Chasing Wonders
- Chhalaang
- Cinderella (2021)

- Clean
- The Client
- The Contractor
- Crawlspace
- Crazy Rich Asians
- Cyrano

## D

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



- **Downton Abbey: A New Era**
- Dual
- The Duke
- Dunkirk

## E

- Elvis
- Escape Room: Tournament of Champions



- **Everything Everywhere All At Once**
- The Exchange

## F

- Faactory
- The Fallout
- Family Squares
- Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore
- Father of the Bride

- Father Stu
- Fatherhood
- Flee

## G

- Game Night
- Ghostbusters: Afterlife
- A Glimpse
- The Good Boss
- Good Luck to You, Leo Grande
- The Goonies
- The Great Gatsby
- The Green Knight
- G-Storm



- **Gunpowder Milkshake**

## H

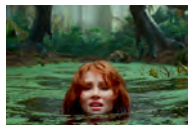
- Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
- The Hating Game
- Head Over Bills
- Heatwave
- House of Gucci
- The Humans

## I

- I Am Legend
- The Ice Road
- Interstellar

## J

- Jab We Met
- Jazz Fest: A New Orleans Story
- Joe Bell
- Joey
- A Journal for Jordan



- **Jurassic World Dominion**

## K

- Kaagaz
- Khauff
- Kimi

## L

- The Last Mermaid
- Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League vs Bizarro League



- **Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League: Gotham City Breakout**
- Listening to Kenny G
- Long Story Short
- The Lost Boys
- The Lost City

## M

- Mack & Rita
- Mad God
- Mama's Big Stick
- Mars Attacks!
- Memory
- Mera Fauji Calling
- Minions: The Rise of Gru
- Miss Congeniality
- The Mitchells vs Machines
- Monstrous
- Montana Story



- **Moonfall**
- Moonshot
- Morbius
- Mothering Sunday
- A Mouthful of Air
- Mr Malcolm's List
- Mrs Harris Goes to Paris
- Mujh Ko Pata Hai
- Mumbai Saga

## N

- Nice View
- Nine Days



- **The Northman**
- The Novice

## O

- Operation Mincemeat
- Orphan: First Kill
- The Outfit
- Over Her Dead Body

## P

- PAW Patrol: The Movie
- Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank
- The Perfect Storm



- **The Phantom of the Open**
- Practical Magic
- The Prestige

## Q

- The Quiet Girl

## R

- The Railway Children Return
- Ready Player One
- Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City
- Rising Sun
- Rooney
- Roy

## S

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

- The Sky Is Pink



- **Sonic the Hedgehog 2**
- Soñè
- Spider-Man: No Way Home
- Studio 666
- Super 30
- Suraj Pe Mangal Bhari
- The Survivor

## T

- The Time Traveler's Wife



- **Top Gun Maverick**
- The Town
- Turning Red

## U

- Umma
- The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent
- Uncharted

## V

- Venom: Let There Be Carnage
- Vivo

## W

- Where the Crawdads Sing
- Wishlist
- Wolfwalkers

## And more...

- 18 1/2
- 7 Days
- 99 Songs

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CATCH UP ON THE SERIES YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE MISSING

# Television

**CRITICS ARE RAVING** about *Somebody Somewhere*, the quietly moving “coming of middle-age” drama set in the sleepy town of Manhattan, Kansas. Quite rightly, too – main protagonist Sam (Bridget Everett) is irresistible as a daffy, drifting fortysomething who abandons her dream of becoming a famous singer to look after ailing sister Holly back home. A town where, it so happens, real-life Bridget Everett grew up, before leaving for New York to make a name for herself as a racy cabaret chanteuse.

Everett’s journey – Manhattan to Manhattan, via Manhattan – has a pleasing symmetry. But how much of the show is based on her actual life? Plenty, actually. Born the youngest of six, Everett’s oldest sister Brinton passed away from cancer in 2008. Everett, like Sam on the show, had long nurtured a love of music and showbiz, after growing up with an alcoholic music teacher mum. Combine that with the kind of caustic wit that’s essential when growing up as the runt of the litter and you have yourself an act.

Still, just like her character Sam, Everett was something of a late bloomer. Thanks to her respectable mezzo-soprano voice she bagged a place studying music in Arizona, where she was also on the swim team – Sam swims on the show. Aged 26, she moved to New York, where a housemate took her to a cabaret bar. Before long Everett had cultivated a wild act, belting Janis Joplin’s *Piece of My Heart* alongside her own compositions, which featured upbeat ditties about her breasts and sexuality.

Touring with Amy Schumer, and a couple of movies – including a cameo on *Sex and the City* – finally helped her quit waitressing after 25 long years and make *Somebody Somewhere*, a show about finding your people and your voice, however long it takes.

 Watch *Somebody Somewhere*

Clockwise from bottom left: Murray Hill as soil scientist Fred, Bridget Everett plays Sam, Heidi Johanningmeier as Charity and Jeff Hiller as co-worker Joel

Potty-mouthed cabaret star Bridget Everett goes back to her roots

## HOMECOMING QUEEN

MUST-WATCH



**The Act** !

Box set

Up to 59 mins

**AT THE FOREFRONT** of a wave of true-crime dramas fronted by respected movie stars – see also *The Thing About Pam*, right – *The Act* boasts stunning performances from Oscar-winner Patricia Arquette (*Boyhood*) and Joey King as Dee Dee and her daughter Gypsy respectively. As new arrivals in a friendly neighbourhood, it soon becomes apparent that they have shocking secrets to hide, including from each other. As wheelchair-bound Gypsy tries to assert her independence, Dee Dee becomes more controlling and abusive, eventually resulting in murder. Both Arquette and King were recognised with Emmy Awards for their performances, and *The Act* also features Chloë Sevigny. All eight episodes show onboard.



**The Thing About Pam** ❤️ !

Box set

43 mins

Renée Zellweger is back – and back to her very best – in this superb limited series based on the true story of Pam Hupp, the last person to see her friend Betsy Faria before Betsy’s murder. *See right*



**Somebody Somewhere** ❤️ !

Box set

29 mins

From HBO comes this dark, observational comedy series starring Bridget Everett as Sam, an unconventional sort who struggles to fit the mould in her Kansas hometown – until she finds like-minded souls. *See opener*



**Shane** 15

Documentary

95 mins

The life and career of Australian cricket legend Shane Warne (who died suddenly in March) is covered in this documentary that covers the extraordinary highs – and the lows – of what was a glittering, inspiring career. “Bowling, Shane...”



**Sweet Tooth** ❤️ 12

Box set

Up to 54 mins

This original and very binge-worthy series is set in a post-apocalyptic world populated by hybrids. Our hero, Gus, who is half boy, half deer, begins to wonder what lurks “beyond the fence”. A big lockdown hit that still stands out.



**The Magic Flute**

Culture

135 mins

The New York Met’s abridged, English-language version of Mozart’s magical fairy tale is a classic holiday treat for audiences of all ages. A splendid cast comes together to bring the charming story and enchanting music to life, led by tenor Matthew Polenzani.



TOP 3

## Wicked misdeeds of Pam Hupp



1

### Stealing cancer charity money

The wicked protagonist of hit true-crime series *The Thing About Pam* (played by Renée Zellweger) pocketed donations intended for a cancer-stricken friend... from another cancer-stricken friend.

2

### Framing a guy for murder

One such friend, Betsy (Katy Mixon), was knifed to death by Pam after Betsy named Pam a beneficiary of her life insurance. Pam then watched Betsy's husband get sent to jail for the murder. And later... well, we won't spoil the tale.

3

### Possibly killing her own mum

All that murderiness encouraged prosecutors to rake over Pam's past, revealing a lifetime of low-level fraud and a very suspicious, yet unconfirmed, set of circumstances surrounding her mother's untimely death.

📺 Watch *The Thing About Pam*



## Awkwafina is Nora From Queens !

Box set

22 mins

**IT'S ALMOST EXACTLY** a decade since Awkwafina first rose to prominence with a very near-the-knuckle hip-hop song on YouTube. Since then she's moved expertly across the disciplines, going from music into acting and becoming the first woman of Asian descent to win a Golden Globe (for *The Farewell*, in 2019). This comedy – now in its second season – does just what it says on the tin, as Nora, a twentysomething woman who lives in Queens, plays video games and tries to work out what she wants from life. The fact it bears her name in the title is surely proof – if it were needed – that Awkwafina is very much the star of the moment.

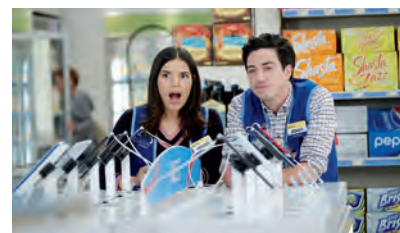


### Brooklyn Nine-Nine ❤️ !

Box set

22 mins

US police comedy *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* has gone out on a high, with critics praising its treatment of serious social issues, in particular its portrayal of the LGBTQ+ community, and awards panels lining up to hand out gongs. So RIP *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*.



### 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 – known as Simmosa to some – have a secret they must hide from their co-workers.

CRIME



**The Staircase** ♥

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

**LIKE “THE HOT** Goth look” and chunky-soled loafers, turning true-crime stories into prestige dramas is all the rage right now. Nowhere has it been done better than HBO’s eight-part limited series *The Staircase*, which employs two of our finest thespis, Colin Firth and Toni Collette (not to mention an excellent supporting cast, all of whom are integral to proceedings) to tell the frankly staggering tale of a crime novelist accused of killing his wife. As to what happens in the wake of that accusation, well, you won’t get any spoilers from us. Suffice to say that the story is set over many years, with each twist and turn more gobsmacking than the last.



**The Sinner** ♥

15

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

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



**Trigger Point** ♥

15

Box set	50 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.

KIDS LOVE



**CoComelon**

Kids	135 mins
------	----------

Pre-school kids love – and we mean LOVE – *CoComelon*. It’s the second most-viewed show on US Netflix in any genre and averages 3.4 billion views per month, thanks to its mix of animated nursery rhymes and toe-tapping tunes.



**PAW Patrol**



2 episodes	22 mins
------------	---------

A team of pups led by the energetic Ryder is always at the ready when it comes to helping out around the bustling town of Adventure Bay. They have all the tools, gadgets and gumption they need to help out their community.



**Little Angel**

Kids	90 mins
------	---------

Kids will love Baby John as he and his siblings sing classic songs and nursery rhymes. It all helps toddlers learn letters, numbers, healthy habits and – very important – good manners.

EXPAND YOUR MIND AND LISTENING CHOICES

# Audio

## HIGH FLIERS

Join top entrepreneurs on the *Success Is In the Mind* podcast as they talk about the importance of focus and mental agility in the start-up world

**LAUNCHED BY ENTREPRENEUR** and former Prince's Trust mentor Oliver Bruce, award-winning podcast *Success Is in the Mind* reveals the pains, barriers and less glamorous side of founding a business. In each episode, Oliver goes on a journey to tell the candid truth around start-up and scale-up life, and reveals just how important focus, mental agility, and mental health and strength are in today's world of social media. Guests on our onboard episodes include Andy Shovel, co-founder of plant-based meat company THIS, and Matthew McNeill Love of dating app Thursday. We're not guaranteeing that you'll want to enter the next series of *The Apprentice* after listening, we're just saying it's highly likely.



 Listen to Success is in the Mind

**Elliot Coad, Ecologi**

Changing perceptions is never easy. We've planted tens of millions of trees and made a real impact, and we're just getting started. Anything is possible, even if the odds are against you. If it's relevant and important they will be, in time.

**Oliver Bruce, PinPoint Media**

There's never a good time to start a business, but in business you should always have a good time!



**Andy Shovel, THIS**

Always make sure you raise money before you need it, don't be late to the party and, if you can, raise more than you need!



**Paul Richardson, HERA Clothing**

I have had bad days. I have never once taken my eye off the goal. I get up, look at what I have achieved and motivate myself to keep going. It's hard but possible.

FRESH SOUNDS



**Maggie Rogers** ❤️ !

Surrender	Pop
-----------	-----

**MAGGIE ROGERS HAD** what you might call a musical youth. She began playing harp at the age of seven, later adding piano and guitar to her repertoire. For a while she wondered about becoming a music journalist but instead concentrated on writing and recording music, until one day when Pharrell Williams – yes, *the* Pharrell Williams – gave a masterclass to her group at NYU, she played him her song *Alaska* and a video of Pharrell, visibly moved by the song, went viral. She’s concentrated on delivering on all that early promise and critics have been unanimous in their praise for this second album, loving its mix of pop and indie-folk. Not just (another) breakthrough, then, but a genuine classic and sure to be gracing the end-of-year lists.



**Jack White** ❤️

Entering Heaven Alive	Alternative
-----------------------	-------------

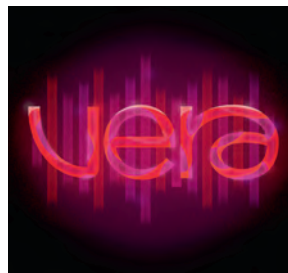
Taylor Swift did it and now it’s Jack White’s turn to release two albums in one year. While *Fear of the Dawn* ventured into bracing, rock-out territory, *Entering Heaven Alive* is more folksy – but no less brilliant for that.



**Arcade Fire**

WE	Alternative
----	-------------

Critical darlings Arcade Fire have condensed what frontman Win Butler calls “the longest we’ve ever spent writing, uninterrupted, probably ever” into a brilliantly tight and concise 40-minute cracker.



**Vera Presents... New Music October 22** ❤️ !

If you need to know what’s tickling the nation’s musical tastebuds – or what’s about to do so – then step this way for a zeitgeist-surfing sonic grab-bag.



**Autumn Vibes** ❤️ !

Who says that summer has the best songs? Certainly not this autumnal playlist, which just for starters features Taylor Swift’s staggering 10-minute version of *All Too Well* and manages to maintain the quality all the way through.



**What is the House of Wellbeing?**



↔️ Trained hypnotherapists Natasha Taylor and Sophie Fox present a collection of therapeutic “audios”. ↔️ Each “audio” lasts a few minutes, incorporating powerful tools like cognitive behavioural therapy, neurolinguistic programming and rewind techniques. ↔️ Topics covered include post-lockdown anxiety, sugar addiction, sexual problems and plain old laziness. ↔️ Sessions for professionals cover public speaking and tackling imposter syndrome. ↔️ Sophie is a hypnobirthing expert and Natasha is a sleep practitioner who can help you become a morning person. Probably.

🔊 Listen to House of Wellbeing

PODCASTS



**Natasha Taylor & Sophie Fox - House of Wellbeing** ♥

Hypnotherapists Natasha Taylor and Sophie Fox have combined a wealth of experience to create House of Wellbeing – and this selection of powerful audios. See below left



**Oliver Bruce - Success is in the Mind** ♥

Oliver Bruce sits down with global business leaders who have overcome mental and physical barriers to achieve success. See opener

**Jake Humphrey High Performance Podcast**

AT 16, HUMPHREY was sacked from his job at a famous fast-food restaurant for poor communication. We mention this to highlight just how far he's come in the meantime, fronting football and motor-racing coverage on TV, and now hosting this chart-topping podcast. The format is simple. Jake – along with leading organisational psychologist Damian Hughes – picks the brains of high achievers to find out the secrets of their success.



OVERLOOKED GEMS



**Finneas**

Optimist	Breaking
----------	----------

Finneas O'Connell is the brother of Billie Eilish, writes and produces with her and, as his debut shows, he also shares his sibling's taste for moulding pop into often strange, avant-garde shapes.



**Eminem** !

Kamikaze	Hip-hop
----------	---------

Released in stealth-bomb fashion, Eminem's 10th album finds the legendary rapper on top snarling form, reading the riot act to other MCs. Goodness knows where he gets the energy.

**The B-Sides** ♥

HALF THE FUN of this playlist is casting your eye over the selections, adopting a face that can only be described as "old man in receipt of unpleasant odour" and remarking to yourself, "Now come on. Did they really relegate that to a B-side?" The answer in every case is yes, they did. Queen released *We Will Rock You* on the flip of *We Are The Champions*. And as for Oasis, who had a habit of sticking a masterpiece on the flipside, they feature twice with *Half the World Away* (B-side of *Whatever*) and *Talk Tonight (Some Might Say)*. Did they really...? Yes, they did.



BALLADEERS

**Icons - Whitney Houston**

Although Whitney was chiefly known for belting out power ballads, we've delved a little deeper for this playlist, concentrating more on her upbeat material as well as cheeky remixes.



**Ballad Overload** ♥ !

We make no apology for including the likes of Robbie's *Angels* and Olivia Rodrigo's *Drivers License* on this soapy playlist.



**Icons - INXS** ♥

The tragedy surrounding lead singer Michael Hutchence may threaten to overshadow the musical output of the Aussie icons, but this playlist is very much the antidote to that.





*welcome to the anti-routine*

CHARGE AND RECHARGE THE SOUL  
AT ORLANDO'S MOST UNEXPECTED HOTEL



# CREDITS.

Virgin Atlantic news and views



## PLANE SPEAKING

AT HOME WITH OUR NEW VIRTUAL PERSONAL HOLIDAY ADVISORS

**W**

e wanted to give customers a new way of connecting with us," says

Virtual Personal Holiday Advisor Sarah Valentine, *above*. "So we now offer 'virtual' video consultations, where customers can receive great advice and book their adventure from the comfort of home." To set up a consultation, scan the QR code (*right*) and fill in a few

details. A Personal Holiday Advisor will reach out to gather more info. Then during a more in-depth session, the details of your trip are explored, with a friendly, knowledgeable person holding your hand throughout – everything from choosing your seats on the plane to top Disney tips. "Disney is a holiday of a lifetime for most people,"

**Sarah went out of her way to help us**

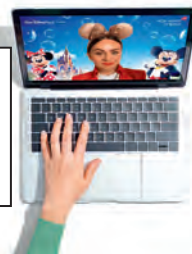
**Great experience, with lots of patience and humour!**

**Listened to our requirements and found exactly what suited us**

says advisor Aimee Noble (*left*). "Customers look to experts like us to help them plan their holiday, and get every last magical detail right.

I love helping from home. Advising hen parties is fun when they've had a

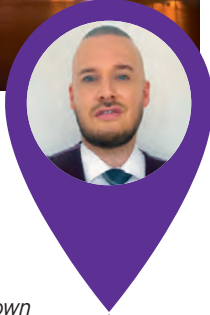
glass of fizz. My commute isn't too bad either."





## JOIN THE CREW IN... MANCHESTER

Flight Services Manager **Andrew McMahon** loves to show folks around his buzzing home town



Drop into **Erst** for amazing small plates and natural wines. Between the bohemian Northern Quarter and stylish Ancoats, this industrial style spot is run by a group of old mates.



Manchester's **Castlefield Viaduct** has been transformed into its very own version of New York's High Line by the National Trust – book in advance for an elevating experience.



Dine in style at **Dakota Grill**, Piccadilly Basin, on signature prime cut steaks. Save some space for dessert, and for max indulgence chill out with a cocktail on the cigar terrace.



For a vibrant night out hit Canal Street and the famous Gay Village. Start with an Espresso Martini in **Velvet**, then onto **New York New York** for cabaret, DJs and dancing.

## THREE CHEERS

OUR NEW RANGE OF IN-FLIGHT BREWS PAYS TRIBUTE TO ICONIC VIRGIN DESTINATIONS

**DO YOU HAPPEN** to be flying to Orlando, New York or London today on one of our lovely A350 aircraft? Then we have excellent news. Customers accessing the Booth or Loft social spaces this month can savour a selection of beers created specifically with your destination in mind. Two Tribes brewery, straight outta London's trendy King's Cross, have whipped up a bespoke Metroland Florida IPA just for us, plus two classic brews inspired by New York and, of course, their beer-loving hometown. Started by a gang of mates who also produce music, Two Tribes' sessionable IPAs promise an unforgettably smooth beer flight.



## WHY I LOVE MY JOB

**Sales Supervisor Joshua West on how he manages to get the big calls right**

"I've worked for the company five years, and I look after a team of 12 dynamic, enthusiastic salespeople in

the Crawley call centre. I love sales, but what I love even more is seeing my team do well. My job is providing a platform for them to excel, making sure they're happy, motivated, well-informed.

They're outstanding – top performers in the company six out of the past seven months – and they do it through hard work, passion and a fire in the belly.

"After returning from hybrid working, it's great seeing the team

face to face in the office, doing the day job but also spending quality time together learning and developing as a team. Being Virgin, we also have some fun along the way. No two days are the same; not every day is

perfect but facing it together as a team is what I am all about. I'm incredibly proud of my team and the amazing experiences they create for our customers, both now and during a challenging two years."



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Virgin Atlantic style



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

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