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is killing it
in Hollywood

September 2022



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Back with the PACK.

Though temperatures might be dropping, this season's style is oh so hot, as the autumn edition of our luxury lifestyle section *PACK*. proves. Inside, discover the interiors brands set to transform our living spaces, peruse our pick of must-have transitional fashion pieces and get our insiders' guide to Boston's finest venues, courtesy of drinks world tastemaker Alyssa Mikiko DiPasquale.

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

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Red Hot

How Kingston, Jamaica, is the smart holiday destination, why we love costume dramas and the UK drink experiences that will transform the way you sip your tipples.

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THINGS TO GET OBSESSED
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Red Hot



NOW SHOWING

A FIELD OF DREAMS IN AUSTIN

Austin's Wildflower Center - an epic botanical garden that's home to more than 900 plant species - is getting a glow-up this month with a major installation from Bruce Munro. The British artist will be filling 6.5 hectares in the arboretum with 28,000 stemmed spheres, cleverly lit by solar-powered fibre optics. The result is a galaxy of shining orbs brilliantly illuminated in every colour of the rainbow. Catch the best light show in Texas from 9 September to December.

✂ Fly to Austin

FIRST TAKE

HOLLYWOOD LOVES DRAMA – PERIOD

Think people are sick of Jane Austen adaptations? Think again. This year's output proves that viewers do love a good historical romance, says **Al Horner**

For what do we live," Jane Austen once asked, "but to watch people in ball gowns drink tea with their pinkies out while rampantly declaring their love for one another?" Okay, that may not be the precise quote from *Pride and Prejudice*, but the point still stands: period dramas, costume dramas, historical romances, whatever you want to call them, are more popular than ever.

The genre has had every reason to die out in recent years: for starters, their lavish costumes and sets make such shows and movies surprisingly expensive to produce, in a time when Hollywood has been tightening its purse strings on all projects that don't involve caped heroes. Instead, there's been a resurgence in Regency-era stories in which characters wear dresses roughly the size of Bristol and spend scene after scene staring longingly at each other across blustery hilltops. *Mr Malcolm's List* and *Downton Abbey: A New Era* – both available on to view on today's flight – are recent examples.

Also showing onboard, *The Pursuit of Love* is Emily Mortimer's contemporary take on the interwar period and there's plenty more where these critically acclaimed hits came from. Later this year, Emma Mackey will star in *Emily*, a hotly anticipated tale about the romantic life of *Wuthering Heights* author Emily Brontë. A new season of *Bridgerton* is

also on its way, alongside a big-budget adaptation of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, upcoming Florence Pugh vehicle *The Wonder* and season five of Netflix's acclaimed *The Crown*. It's clear that Hollywood remains hooked on films and series in which A-list actors get to play dress-up.

Why? Well, part of its bolstered popularity may be down to clever attempts to update the period drama formula. *Bridgerton* used classical music renditions of songs by popular hitmakers like Taylor Swift to help snare a young audience. Another recent Netflix effort, *Persuasion*, meanwhile reworked that Jane Austen tale to include *Fleabag*-esque zingers and sneaky looks to camera. More than anything, these shows and movies are offering an escape from the drudgery of swiping left and right in the hope of love. In our time of Tinder and other such dating apps, no wonder these romantic stories are reaching a new audience. *Downton Abbey* said it best – we're entering a new era indeed.

 Watch *The Pursuit of Love* & *Downton Abbey: A New Era*





The Crown is set to return for its fifth season, with Imelda Staunton as the Queen.

CASTING

Sculpting celebs



A statue of *Breaking Bad* star **Bryan Cranston** in character as drug dealer Walter White with on-screen sidekick Jesse Pinkman has recently been unveiled in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

VERDICT: Stoned love



Rapper **LL Cool J** has been immortalised (until 23 November) with a temporary bronze statue in Queens, NYC, that plays his hits through a solar-powered boom box.

VERDICT: Monumental



Music mogul **Simon Cowell** "smashed" an ugly sculpture of his own head that was installed as a prank in the lobby of a Vegas resort, reports *The Mirror* newspaper.

VERDICT: Talk about a bust-up

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS PHOTOS: ALAMY

A tropical resort scene featuring several tall palm trees with green fronds and brown trunks. In the foreground, there is a swimming pool with clear, turquoise water. The pool is bordered by a white concrete edge. Behind the pool, there is a dense row of green bushes with small pink flowers. In the background, a white building with a flat roof is visible under a clear blue sky.

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RISING STAR

Ace of bass Laura Lee

TEXAN BAND KHUANGBIN HAVE BEEN COLLECTING CELEB FANS AND NOW WORKED WITH MALIAN MUSIC ROYALTY. THEIR BASSIST TELLS **LEONIE COOPER** HOW THEY'RE ALL ABOUT COLLABORATION



AS ONE-THIRD OF party-starting psychedelic instrumental funk trio Khruangbin – which fittingly for *Vera* means “airplane” in Thai – bass player Laura Lee is the hugely successful Texan trio’s groove-centric powerhouse. On the back of one of the most championed sets of this year’s Glastonbury and, following three acclaimed studio albums, the band are now set to release a brand-new collaborative record.

Ali is a tribute to late, great Malian musician Ali Farka Touré, who was known as the “godfather of desert blues” and passed away in 2006. Lee and bandmates Mark Speer and Donald “DJ” Johnson have teamed up with Touré’s equally talented son, Vieux, for what we can confirm will be the soundtrack to your autumn. We spoke to Laura about phone calls with Macca (Paul McCartney, dontcha know), fans asking for tattoos of her face and what might happen if we ever visit the bar she’s built in her house.

Laura, you’re from Texas but have lived all over the place. Where in the world is home right now?

I’ve been in Hackney, Margate, Miami and LA, but I’ve settled in Upstate New York in the Hudson Valley. I moved there over Covid – I needed to go somewhere good for my mental health, somewhere where I could relax. I was nomadic for about two years and then the pandemic hit. It’s really idyllic – we won Covid, I’m certain, because we were out in the countryside, so we could have BBQs and go swimming in the lake in our bubble.

You have a famous fan in Paul McCartney – how did you react when you found out he was into the band?

I literally rolled on the floor for a while. I didn’t know what to do! It was just so weird. I spoke to him on the phone and we talked about having band names that people criticise at the beginning of your career.

You’ve also become friends with fellow bass legend Flea. Were you a Red Hot Chili Peppers fan back in the day?

Yeah! I first met him when he came to one of our LA shows and I got to tell him that I had tickets to see them and Snoop Dogg together when I was 13, but I spilled nail polish remover on my mom’s dining room table and got grounded. So, finally, I got to see them and hang out with them; I felt like my 13-year-old self had been redeemed.

The new record is stunning. What do you love about Ali Farka Touré?

I like being taken to a space when I listen to music.



“IT’S OUR MISSION AS A BAND TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, TO COMBINE CULTURES AND SHOW THAT MUSIC CAN BE THIS UNIFYING THING”

Above: Khruangbin live on stage at Alexandra Palace in London in April

I like being transported and his music takes me there. We recorded with Vieux in Houston and wanted to find a way to combine Texas with his sound. I felt like there was a connection there, in the expansiveness.

What was it like working with Ali’s son?

Vieux is just an incredibly lovely human to be around: he has a giant laugh, a very big smile and really good energy. It felt like an important project to be a part of. It’s our mission as a band to bring people together, to combine cultures and show that music can be this unifying thing.

The band have some very creative followers. Do you get given amazing fan art?

It’s hard to collect all that stuff on the road, but I think the Khruangbin tattoos are great. One of my favourite tattoo artists wrote to me recently and said, “Somebody wants a giant version of your face on them – is that ok?” I said, “Go for it!” It’s going to be big and realistic and incredible.

You’ve famously never worn the same thing on stage twice. How many outfits have you been through so far?

At least 650. The vast majority of them I do not keep – most of them are sent back to the designer. But I do keep a few select ones from very important shows, and [in my house] in Upstate New York we built a boudoir kind of bar, and there are quite a few outfits there people are allowed to try on and wear at the bar.

🎧 Listen to *Con Todo el Mondo & Mordechai*



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DRINKS



Brits are queuing up for port

Port wine – that is, sweet wine from Portugal’s Douro Valley, livened up with a good slug of brandy – is now a hot cocktail ingredient at prime drinking dens across the UK. Take the Tower Street Spritz at Edinburgh’s Lady Libertine, which blends fine tawny port with Earl Grey, gin and fennel. Or the 5 Elements Old Fashioned at The Goring, in London’s Belgravia, which features white port, pineapple and English hops bitters. And the darkly fabulous port negroni at 1857 The Bar, at the St James’s Hotel & Club Mayfair, proves once and for all that port is for life, and not just for Christmas.

✂ Fly to London



SNACKS

THE DRIP IN NYC

The Black Sugar Boba Milky Shaved Ice from **Meet Fresh** in Queens is a sumptuous mouthful

IF YOU LIKE bubble tea – that colourful Taiwanese snacky-drinky hybrid that’s basically taken over the world lately – you’re in for a treat. Behold, from global dessert chain Meet Fresh’s new outpost at Tangram, in Flushing, Queens, the Black Sugar Boba Milky Shaved Ice. Those black blobs might look like blueberries, but no siree, they’re actually “boba” – dainty little pearls of tapioca, like in bubble tea, infused with rich caramel and molasses. Somewhere in that mouthwatering mountain is a

bunch of shaved ice, obv’s, a handful of aromatic red beans and a jiggly wodge of indulgent caramel pudding. Plus, why not, a fat scoop of good old-fashioned vanilla ice cream on top for good measure. Does it justify a schlep out to Queens? Yup. Just check out the new food court at the base of the futuristic Tangram development – all cyberpunk neon and hot pan-Asian cooking. Well worth leaving your bubble for.

✂ Fly to New York

Meet Fresh specialises in authentic Taiwanese desserts and has grown around the world since it started in 2007



SLEEPER HIT

Making a scene in Los Angeles

THE ASTER PRIVATE MEMBERS' CLUB HOTEL PUTS TINSLETOWN BACK IN THE PICTURE



RECLINING POOLSIDE ON

a plush sunbed and nursing a stiff cocktail in the shadow of the Capitol Records Building, you'd be

forgiven for thinking you'd made it. This, after all, is showbiz central – a storied spot on the corner of Hollywood and Vine. And LA's dreamweavers now have a legit clubhouse in the shape of The Aster.

Brainchild of David Bowd – hospitality bigwig behind London's Chiltern Firehouse restaurant – it's an Old Hollywood-inspired venue where creative types can pop in, hustle in the co-working space, do yoga and hit the spa, then watch their latest reel in the in-house screening room or lay down vocals in the recording studio, before schmoozing after hours in a glamorous retro cabaret room. Brilliantly, all 35 mid-century hotel suites are open to the public and not subject to The Aster's hefty members' fees. Fake it till you make it, as they say around here.



✂ Fly to Los Angeles

3 MORE HOTELS WITH SCREENING ROOMS



THE COURTHOUSE, LONDON

John Lennon once stood trial at this splendid former Magistrates' Court in Soho, which happens to house one of London's largest private cinemas with capacity for 100. Imagine that.



CINEMA HOTEL, TEL AVIV

This gorgeous 1930s Bauhaus building just off Dizengoff Square was among the city's first proper picture houses and still screens flicks, in addition to being a top-tier boutique hotel.



THE WHITBY HOTEL, NEW YORK

Comfy leather seats – 130 of the suckers – with Dolby Atmos sound and 3D capabilities make a real blockbuster of a cinema at this Midtown masterpiece by ace designer Kit Kemp.

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LOCATION SCOUT

PEAK CHIC IN KINGSTON

With splashy new hotels and great eats, Jamaica's capital is the holiday you're missing, says **Jacqui Sinclair**

J

amaica may be one of the world's most visited islands, but its capital, Kingston, is chronically overlooked. This may be about to change as a raft of new openings is generating

international buzz and drawing a fresh crop of visitors to the Limestone City. The fresh hype around Kingston coincides with Jamaica's 60th year of independence, which is being marked by a year-long calendar of events taking place across the island. For those who want to really get to grips with the soul of Jamaica, Kingston is it. Forget the tired tropes and outdated stereotypes about this town – Kingston is the largest city in the English-speaking Caribbean, a cosmopolitan hub of throbbing energy, urban cool and inimitable Jamaican chic.

Your base will be the **AC Hotel**, a luxe bolthole that has become a meeting spot for Kingston's business elite. After you get settled, hitch a fishing boat to the white sands of **Lime Cay (1)**. This small islet off the Kingston coast is far away from the madding resort crowds – just remember to take snacks and



1

From left:
Lime Cay is
45 minutes'
boat ride away;
Strawberry Hill
boasts 10
hectares of
beautiful
grounds



Kingston is a cosmopolitan hub of throbbing energy, urban cool and inimitable Jamaican chic

2

drinks with you, as there is no restaurant on the beach. And if a long layout doesn't do it, get your pulse down with one of the sumptuous treatments at the elegant **Strawberry Hill (2)**, a pin-drop quiet mountaintop hotel with the best spa – and views – in the city.

In the Barbican district near Liguanea, uptown's commercial hub, two new plazas have become "it" spots for upscale dining. Take a cooking or cocktail class at newly opened **The Kitchen** in Progressive Shopping Centre, which hosts weekly workshops

led by Jamaica's top food personalities. Upstairs on the plaza's rooftop, **Broken Plate** is helmed by Jamaican celebrity chef Damion Stewart. His creative small plates feature new Jamaican cuisine with a Mediterranean touch, like fiery scotch bonnet mussels or guava-glazed chicken lollipops. Across the road at Sovereign North, the wine list at bijou bistro **Uncorked** has been recognised as one of the best in the Caribbean.

The rest of Kingston's food scene is concentrated around the Constant Spring area of ▶



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midtown. At the Marketplace – a popular upmarket food court – **Marianna’s Kitchen** is run by its eponymous owner, a French expat of Egyptian and Syrian origin whose menu of daily changing plates fuses her Middle Eastern heritage with seasonal Jamaican produce. Vegans would do well to visit **Living Food & Juices (3)** at the Lane Plaza for their famous plant-based burgers served between activated charcoal buns.

In central Kingston, **Devon House** is an elegant Georgian mansion-turned-shopping and eating address built by Jamaica’s first black millionaire, George Stiebel. Do not leave the property without a stop at **Devon House I-Scream**, where the tropical-flavoured scoops were recently ranked in the top five ice creams in the world by National Geographic.

Art lovers must reserve a day to explore Downtown – the original old city, where centuries-old, fret-laced buildings are flanked by modern, glass-fronted high rises. **Kingston Creative** leads a free art walk around this fascinating district every last Sunday of the month, but you can book a tour any day of the week for a nominal fee. This one-hour tour takes in the recently developed **Art District (4)**, a colourful little quarter splashed with bright murals that pay homage to Jamaica’s music and history.



3

ROK Hotel overlooks Kingston Harbour and is ideal for visiting local arts venues.



5

Below: The National Gallery of Jamaica was established in 1974 to showcase homegrown art

Nearby, the **National Gallery of Jamaica** at the Kingston Mall is the largest and oldest public art gallery in the English-speaking Caribbean. Currently, it’s hosting the **Kingston Biennial 2022**, an ambitious celebration of homegrown creativity that runs until the end of December. Before heading back uptown, wait for the traffic to ease up at the **ROK Hotel (5)** – a brand-new, 12-storey vote of confidence in Kingston’s ascendant status by the Hilton corporation.

Music is a pillar of Jamaican life, and so the Kingston scene is second to none. **22 Jerk** is a classic spot whose stage regularly hosts impromptu jam sessions from local celebs. **East Japanese**, at the New Kingston Shopping Centre, is a sushi joint by day and a lively music lounge by night, playing Jamaica’s most beloved genre, dancehall. Fresh sashimi and big beats, c’est chic.

✈ Fly to Jamaica



4

3 MORE KINGSTON JAMS



CRAIGHTON ESTATE

Below the cool canopy of the Blue Mountains, this coffee plantation has a proud history. Tour the 200-year-old great house and grounds to learn about coffee production from bean to cup.



JANGA'S

A smart but laid-back “soundbar” in the Barbican district hosting live music acts every night of the week. Listen to local up-and-comers over fragrant curry goat or fresh oysters.



DANYA'S COFFEE BARREL

Run by a mother-daughter duo, this welcoming coffee shop serves overstuffed sandwiches, fresh salads and just-baked pastries on downtown’s Harbour Street. Don’t skip the plantain patty.



Kingston, in your pocket

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RECIPE

Dorset Donkey
A Black Cow twist on the classic Moscow Mule

Black Cow Vodka, 50ml

Morello cherry liqueur, 10ml

Lime juice, 20ml

Stalks of sage, 3

Blueberries, 6

Top up with ginger ale

TRENDING

TOTAL IMMERSION

The average drinks round no longer cuts it and we crave a deeper insight into our tipple. **Alex Barlow** finds the brands offering engaging UK days out for those who want more than just a good sip (though you'll get that, too)

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANTOSH SERGIEW

TILLINGHAM

The lowdown

Based in East Sussex, close to day-out favourite Rye, Tillingham is probably the most forward-thinking winery in the UK, with a growing rep for its delicious natural wines that run a spectrum of different styles: from funky col fondos (Italian-style sparkling) to beautifully finessed – and seriously sought-after – field blends.

The experience

You get to muck in with a lesson in “regen ag” (regenerative agriculture) and the different techniques of production, including the use of qvevri (terracotta pots, buried underground) to make orange wine. Plus, there’s a chic, full-service restaurant or wood-fired pizzas served in an open-sided Dutch barn.

Oh, and another thing...

You can stay. The former Victorian hop barn has been recast as a chic, 11-room boutique hotel.

✈ Fly to London



THE PICKLE HOUSE

The lowdown

Yep, it's pickle juice – as in, the juice that comes from a jar of pickles. Based in Hackney, east London, founder Florence Cherruault started The Pickle House after a visit to New York where she tried a pickleback (a shot of whisky followed by a shot of pickle juice). “It sounded like the weirdest

combination I had ever heard of but once I tried it, I knew I had to find a way to bring it back to London,” she tells *Vera*. Now, her signature bottles – including the Original Pickle Juice, which can give an umami kick to a Dirty Martini, and the spicy tomato Bloody Mary mix – are used by bartenders all over London. They work as fine health tonics or

delicious alcohol-free serves on their own, too.

The experience

This month, to mark the release of horror-comedy *Bodies Bodies Bodies* (starring Pete Davidson), The Pickle House is hosting a series of special screenings at Everyman Cinema King's Cross, offering a selection of deliciously lethal Bloody Marys to sip in those super

plush cinema seats – because nothing pairs better with a murderous slasher romp.

Oh, and another thing...

The Hail Mary, a vodka-based, pre-made Bloody Mary, a collab between Pickle House and Lockdown Liquor Co, is available from Selfridges or thepicklehouse.com.

➤ Fly to London





BOMBAY SAPPHIRE

The lowdown

Set in a former red-brick mill in glorious rural Hampshire, the Bombay Sapphire distillery mixes 1,000-year-old heritage with futuristic Heatherwick-designed glasshouses.

The experience

The Discovery Experience – starting with a G&T, naturally – is a deep dive into the world of gin and includes a tour of the on-site glasshouses, where you'll get a lesson in all 10 botanicals that go into Bombay Sapphire. There's an optional add-on of a gin cocktail masterclass, a one-hour lesson in the Turbine bar on gin-based mixology (of course you get to drink your creation).

Oh, and another thing...

A riverside restaurant with rooms, the Watership Down Inn is where to go for a post-booze bite.

✂ Fly to London

JOHNNIE WALKER

The lowdown

Opened in 2021, Johnnie Walker Princes Street offers way more than the average distillery tour in an eight-floor period building bang in the middle of town.

The experience

Watch the whisky-making process come to life at the Whisky Maker's Cellar experience, where you can taste single malt straight

from the cask in an underground cellar; or opt for the theatrical, full-sensory Journey of Flavour, which includes a tasting of three bespoke whisky cocktails.

Oh, and another thing...

Sunday afternoons see live jazz-funk parties at the very cool 1820 rooftop bar. Tickets include a two-course lunch with two drinks.

✂ Fly to Edinburgh





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TEQUILA
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SCREEN TEST

Can I really fly as fast as Tom Cruise?

INSPIRED BY THE BLOCKBUSTER STAR'S EXPLOITS IN NEW FILM *TOP GUN: MAVERICK*, **RALPH JONES** WONDERS IF HE TOO CAN TRAVEL AT HIGH-HYPERSONIC SPEED

In Tom Cruise's glorious return to the big screen, *Top Gun: Maverick*, his naughty eponymous pilot character gets into all sorts of hot water with his superiors when he pushes a military jet to high-hypersonic speed. But should we believe everything we see in the movies? How easily can a manned aircraft break the sound barrier?

You're probably reading this in a commercial plane; they tend to travel at a leisurely 800km/h. The engines on these aircraft are in the region of three metres in diameter. They're big, they're heavy. Your engine has to be different if you want to travel supersonically. Engines on supersonic jets need to suck in a relatively small amount of air, use kerosene to burn as much of it as possible and accelerate it to high speed before ejecting it out of the back. "They're smaller in diameter," says Dr Paul Bruce, a reader in high-speed aerodynamics at Imperial College London. "More like a long cigar."

To generate maximum thrust, jets often use a technique Dr Bruce calls "cheap" and "dirty": afterburners. If you've ever seen rockets taking off and ejecting lots of fire as they fly into the air, you were watching afterburners in action. These tend to be necessary – if inefficient – in supersonic fighter jets in order to generate enough thrust. A jet using afterburners is said to be operating "wet", by the way.

But breaking the sound barrier – Mach 1 – is no joke and commercial planes avoid it for good reason. As soon as you fly faster than around 965km/h (the speed of sound at high altitude – lower than at warmer temperatures on land), you generate a sonic boom. "The air doesn't know you're coming," says Dr Bruce, "and the only way the air can get out of the way is by forming a shock wave." This, he says, was one of the reasons that



Concorde never fully took off, as it were: it couldn't fly supersonically over populated areas, only the ocean, because the sonic boom was potentially strong enough to shatter windows on the ground. No good getting to New York in three hours if there's glass in everyone else's Shreddies.

If you want to copy Tom Cruise and fly at outrageous speeds like high-hypersonic (Mach 10–25 – up to about 30,000km/h), you need a very special kind of engine. This is because the air has to have travelled through a shock wave and doesn't enter the engine smoothly. This kind of specialised engine, says Dr Bruce, is the kind you'd find on Concorde or most military jets: it has lots of sharp angles and inclined surfaces to manage the air and slow it down so that it can enter the part of the engine where the fuel is burned.

So, yes indeed, it is possible to fly a jet faster – a lot faster – than the speed of sound. But, like a lot of things Mr Cruise does on-screen, we wouldn't recommend it.



 Watch *Top Gun: Maverick*

THE VERDICT

Extremely possible.
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LASHANA

LYNCH

IS

HERE

TO

SLAY

The west London-born star says we may think we got her (007) number with the latest James Bond movie but we ain't seen nothing yet. **Cath Clarke** finds out how Lashana Lynch fought for films like *The Woman King*

PHOTOGRAPHS: DANNY KASIRYE

Dress: Roksan
Earrings: Hirotaka





Dress:
Victoria Beckham
at matches
fashion.com
Shoes: Christian
Louboutin
Earrings: Hirotaka

When the Bond producers approached Lashana Lynch about a role in *No Time to Die* she had reservations, even though the part would see her make history as Nomi, the first Black female 007. Bond may be the kind of career-making, glass-ceiling shattering, once-in-a-lifetime role that most young actors would run towards at 100mph, but Lynch did not gratefully respond thank-you-very-much-where-do-I-sign? First, she needed to sit down with the director and producer to discuss her concerns and thoughts about the character. ▶



VULCAIN

MANUFACTURE DEPUIS 1858

Actually, Lynch tells me, she is mindful of being “quote-unquote grateful”. Being hired, being watched by audiences – she’s earned it. “We’ve all worked hard in this industry, whether you’re an actor, a producer or a journalist. So, it only makes sense to be rewarded. My immediate response can’t be” – she mimics a snivelling grovel – “I’m so grateful for even being thought of, me a mere mortal.” She’s on a roll. “I work hard. Eventually, after 10-plus years in the industry, I deserve some opportunity to do better than yesterday.” Her concerns in *No Time to Die* focused on authenticity; she is passionate that every character she plays be 100% real. She’s looking for moments in a script where Black audience members will nod along in recognition.

With her thoughtful face and easy giggle, Lynch is good company, warm and generous chatting over Zoom from the sofa in her flat in London. She is also undeniably impressive – a one-woman masterclass in strong-minded self-belief. She doesn’t apologise for the space she takes up, never doubts her right to be where she is. I feel every 14-year-old girl in the country should be assigned 15 minutes in her company for a pep talk.

With her career Lynch is on a mission “to speak truth through entertainment”. She believes that movies have the power to reach people in a way that the news doesn’t. “I want every character I play to have some kind of influence on social change or historical reshaping of some sort.”

Well, I say, her new movie *The Woman King* is ticking all the boxes. “Every single box,” she answers, beaming. The film is a historical epic which has been described as the Black female *Braveheart* – though, honestly, after being shown 20 minutes ahead of this interview, it looks like it’s in a league of its own.

The Woman King tells the story of the Agojie, a real-life army of female warriors who defended the West African state of Dahomey (in present-day Benin) during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The all-female Dora Milaje soldiers in *Black Panther* were inspired by the Agojie, who fought with their fingernails sharpened into deadly weapons. The director is Gina Prince-Bythewood and Viola Davis stars as Nanisca, the commander of the Agojie. John Boyega is the Dahomey king.

Lynch plays a lieutenant – “eyes in the back of her head, heart in the back of her chest” – who is in charge of training young warrior girls. “She’s like the hardcore aunt who tells you the truth all the time,” ▶

“I WORK HARD. EVENTUALLY, AFTER 10-PLUS YEARS IN THE INDUSTRY, I DESERVE SOME OPPORTUNITY TO DO BETTER THAN YESTERDAY”

WOMAN KING

LASHANA LYNCH'S CV

Born

Lashana Lynch was born in Hammersmith, London, on 27 November 1987.

Education

She attended Twyford Church of England High School, where she played netball to county level, and was a weekend pupil at the Sylvia Young Theatre School. She later graduated from a BA acting course at the ArtsEd performing arts school in Chiswick, west London.

Fun fact

Initially Lynch set out to be a singer and insists the secret of great acting is finding “musicality” within a script.



Key work

Fast Girls (2012)

Her big-screen debut, a Noel Clarke-written drama about a female relay squad, was released during London’s golden Olympic summer of 2012. Lynch helped promote the film by running up and down the beach at the Cannes Film Festival.

ear for eye (2018)

Lynch first caught the eye of longstanding Bond producer Barbara Broccoli while starring in the Royal Court Theatre production of debbie tucker green’s blistering exploration of race relations on both sides of the Atlantic.

Captain Marvel (2019)

Lynch auditioned for several Marvel movies, including *Black Panther* and *Venom*, before landing a sweet role as USAF pilot Maria Rambeau, best

friend of Captain Marvel – a character she later played herself in *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse Of Madness*.

No Time to Die (2021)

Phoebe Waller-Bridge – of *Fleabag* fame – worked closely with Lynch on Nomi, a chic 21st-century take on the 007 legend. On Lynch’s insistence, Nomi turned out to be a badass ninja secret agent, who is also relatable to young Black girls.

The Woman King (2022)

Lashana stars alongside Viola Davis and John Boyega in the epic true story of an all-female warrior unit that fought bravely to protect the historic west African kingdom of Dahomey during the 19th century.



Dress: Halpern
Shoes: Christian
Louboutin



is how Lynch describes her. "You roll your eyes a little bit, but in the end you're like: she was right."

Lynch grew up sporty, playing netball and athletics, and she threw herself into training for *The Woman King*, doing all her own stunts: "It's in my bones to push through. I shouted a lot at the trainers, but my body wanted it. So, I can look at the screen and say that every single moment is me." She's earned a bit of a reputation in the industry for her action skills. On the set of *No Time to Die*, the stunt team told her that she was the only actor who didn't pick up injuries. "They said to me: there's some big burly men who can't do what you do."

From what I've seen of the film, the fight scenes in *The Woman King* are visceral and raw – when a character gets hit, they look hurt. Lynch nods. "We wanted it to be real, not prettifying up. If we are rolling on the ground, don't brush the dirt off. If I'm sweating, let it drip. If you don't see these women out of breath, no one is going to believe it. I want you to see how exhausting the jobs of these women were."

"IT'S MY ABSOLUTE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE WOMEN I PORTRAY ARE REACHING THE COMMUNITY I CARE ABOUT, THAT I COME FROM AND THAT I WANT TO REPRESENT"

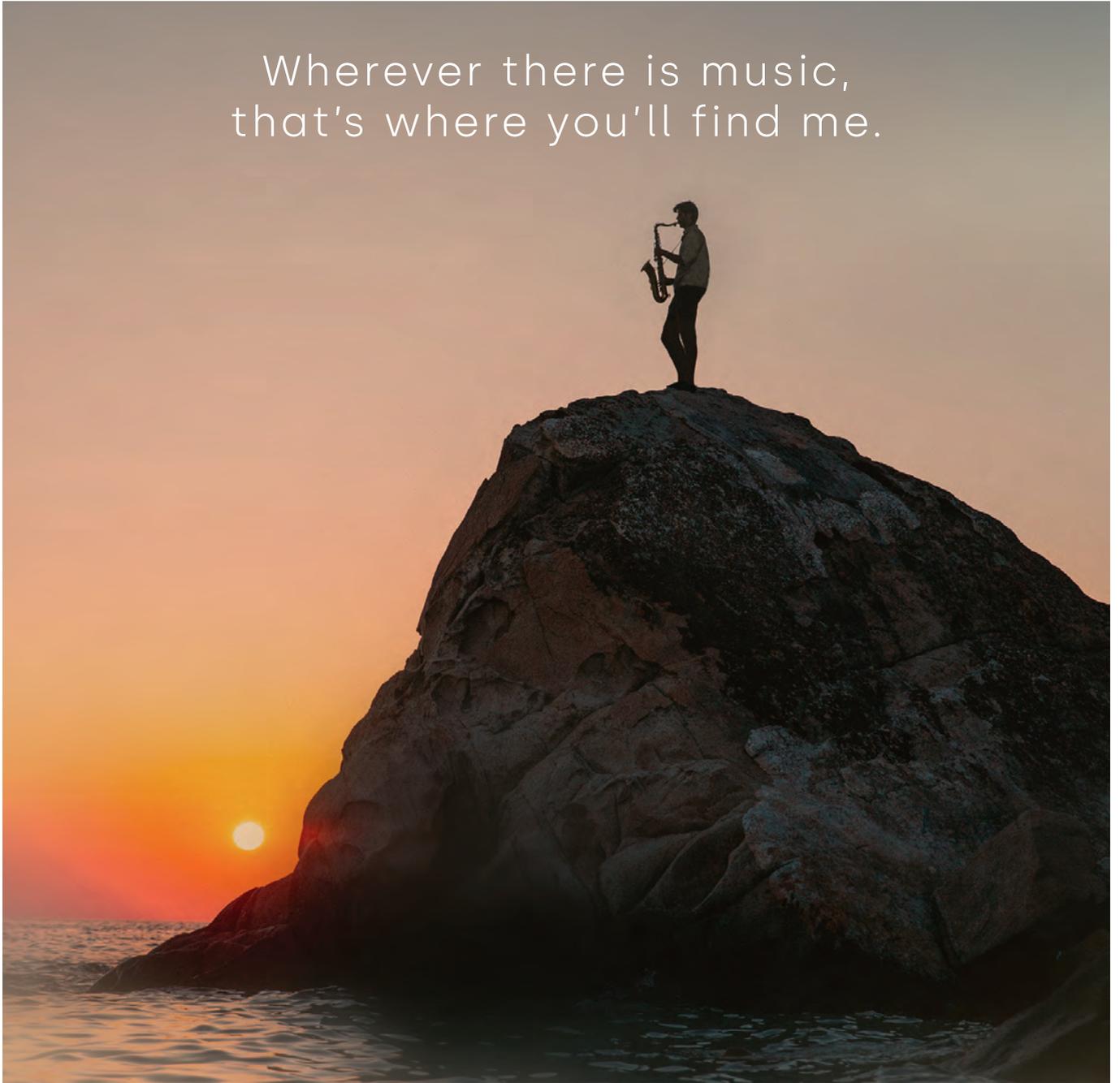
She'd barely heard of the Agojie before being cast in *The Woman King*. The history of these Black women has been ignored, written out of the narrative. "I didn't know enough. It saddened me at the beginning," Lynch says. "But then I realised that we have an incredible opportunity to present them in the most authentic way possible, and really educate ourselves and the world about our lineage. And that's all I really do this for." She laughs at how solemn that sounds, but honestly, she is deadly serious.

I already know the answer but I ask the question anyway: how important is it for her to portray characters on screen that Black women and girls identify with? She answers in one elegant and precise paragraph, words carefully chosen, not a single "um" or "er". "It's my absolute responsibility to ensure that the women I portray are reaching the community I care about, that I come from and that I want to represent, because I can't rely on the world to uplift young Black girls. I can only rely on people like myself who are gonna look out for them, like big sisters in the world. So, yes, it's my job. Some people say it's a bit weighty, but no one else is gonna do it. So I have to." ▶

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Europeans who encountered the Agojie called them “Amazons”. In a recent interview, Viola Davis explained how she found just one book in English about them – written by a white man – that was so vile she read it with a pen in hand to cross out the hateful bits. Lynch nods when I tell her. “It’s scary that we don’t have the language to describe these women and we are still finding it. It took a group of Black women to come together, once again, to educate the world about us, once again.”

That’s a lot, I say. “Yeah, of course it is. It’s a responsibility that we as Black women have to take on while knowing that the world is still not listening. Presenting history, portraying ourselves in the most human way while still being regarded as non-human to many people.” The film, she adds, is an opportunity to discuss the strong Black woman trope. “Because that doesn’t just simply get passed down. It comes from a lot of pain and a lot of trauma. Having to rely on each other to ensure that we don’t break down as we’re trying to push through.”

It sounds exhausting. “Highly exhausting,” she says. She adds that learning about the Agojie was eye-opening to her as a Black woman. “Now I know the kind of strength I’m leaning on, which is incredible. The world gets to learn that through our eyes, which is great.”

Lynch grew up in Shepherd’s Bush, west London, one of three siblings born to Jamaican parents. Her mum was a housing manager, her dad a social worker. She was also partly raised by her grandmother; “She had a really traditional Jamaican mind, fully working class, ready to grind for anything.” Lynch credits her drive and work ethic to her family – “They’re just really determined people.” So as a child she never questioned her ability to do anything. “That’s not to say I was



Top: Dodo Bar Or
Earrings: Hirotaka



WHAT'S IN A NUMBER?

7 FACTS ABOUT 007

1 No one knows for sure why Ian Fleming chose 007 as his hero’s call sign. One theory suggests the former intelligence officer was referencing 0075, an encrypted German telegram decoded by British boffins that convinced the US to enter the First World War.

2 Several other theories exist. One points to 16th-century English explorer John Dee – a giant figure in the establishment back then – who liked to sign off his secret letters to Queen Elizabeth I with a cryptic 007. Although, when you look at it, maybe he was just doodling eyes.

3 Others reckon Fleming copied the number from a local bus route. The 007 route – today run by coach firm National Express – indeed starts near Fleming’s London pad on Ebury Street and travels to within a few miles of his cottage in St Margaret’s Bay, Kent. Worth a shot, at least.

4 In the first Bond book, *Casino Royale*, the hero reveals: “A double-O number means you’ve had to kill a chap in cold blood in the course of some job.” And you think your role is demanding.

5 If we take Ian Fleming’s books as canon, at various points

there’s also an ex-Royal Marine Commando called 006, and a pair of agents called 008 and 0011, who each meet sticky ends.

6 Some folks love to point out that the international dialling code for Russia, home to many an old Bond adversary, is +7, or 007. But dialling codes only

came in after Bond’s debut. Still, has a nice ring to it.

7 Either way, it’s “double o seven”, and never “double zero seven”. A single 0 prefix was tacked onto real-life wartime agents’ serial numbers to indicate they’d been trained – if not licensed, per se – to kill.

ever completely confident. I was a bit shy and very awkward. Still bloody awkward!" she adds with a roar of laughter.

Her first love was singing, then came acting. Her parents and grandmother saw a spark of something immediately. "They were like, get her into some kind of class," she says with a click of the fingers. So she was enrolled weekends at the Sylvia Young Theatre School, where the likes of Amy Winehouse, Daniel Kaluuya and Dua Lipa all trained. Later came a drama degree at the Arts Educational Schools in west London.

To the outside world Lynch's rise and rise has looked effortless, a series of Hollywood blockbusters, one after the another. In 2018, starring in a play by debbie tucker green, *ear for eye*, she caught the attention of one of the producers, Barbara Broccoli, who happens to be the powerhouse behind Bond. She played ace Air Force pilot Maria Rambeau in 2019's *Captain Marvel*, then appeared in Sam Raimi's head-spinning *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*. After *The Woman King* we'll see her next in *Matilda*, a new Netflix adaptation of the West End musical based on Roald Dahl's children's story. Lynch plays sweetness-and-light Miss Honey opposite Emma Thompson's ferocious Miss Trunchbull. Like every other millennial, Lynch grew up on the 1996 *Matilda* movie.

So, I ask, has everything come ridiculously easy? "Nooooo." Lynch throws her head back laughing. "Nothing came easy. I love that I make it seem like that. But it didn't happen that way. It's



Dress:
Gabriela Hearst
Earrings: Hiroataka

"I LOVE THAT I MAKE IT SEEM EASY. BUT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THAT WAY. IT'S ONLY IN THE PAST FEW YEARS PEOPLE LEARNED THAT I EXIST. THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF ANGST"

only in the past few years people learned that I exist. There's been a lot of angst." In leaner times, there were days when she had to choose between putting a couple of quid on her Oyster travel card or buying eggs.

She was thinking about financial security the other day, remembering her days temping as a receptionist. "A few years ago, I was working for the NHS, back and forth between different clinics in London. It would be like: today I can't have breakfast because I need to get on the Tube. Those things were huge at the time."

I peer behind her, looking around her flat. All I can see is a pot plant by the window. Did she keep any souvenirs from *The Woman King*? "I've got a machete next door. It's sharp as hell. It's fierce as hell," she says, giggling.

So, if anyone breaks into your home, you will...?

Lynch picks up my sentence. "I will –" she draws three invisible dots in the air laughing "– ellipsis."

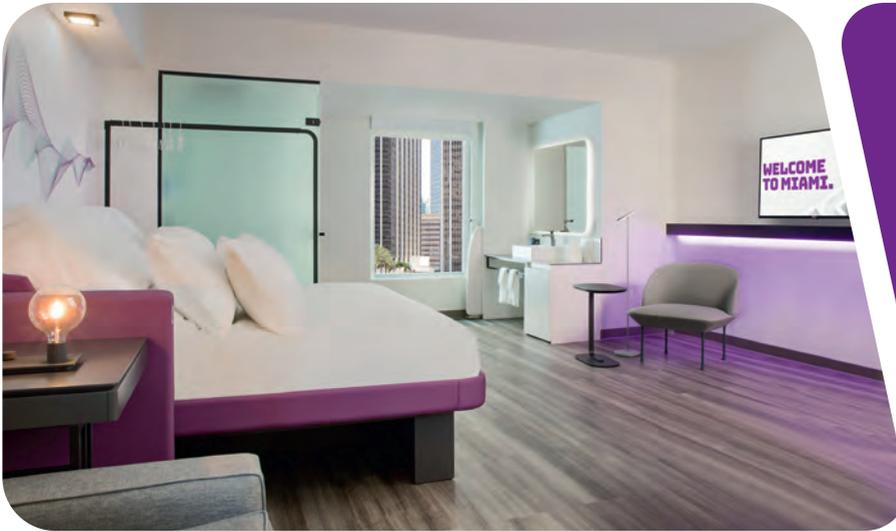
She adds with mock menace: "I know how to use it. Fully."

Is it a good feeling, I ask finally, knowing that she can handle herself? "It's an incredible feeling," she says slowly. "Knowing that I'm finding different levels of handling myself. As a child, my parents, my grandparents, my family taught me how to mentally handle myself, how to be confident and how to speak my mind. Now my body is involved. I can only win."

 Watch *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness* and *No Time to Die*

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H O G W A S H ?



ABSOLUTELY NOT - THIS PIG CAN REALLY PAINT. **VICTORIA BEARDWOOD** HEADS TO A FARM NEAR CAPE TOWN TO MEET THE ART WORLD'S MOST CELEBRATED PORKER, PIGCASSO

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEPHANIE VELDMAN





here's a buzz growing through the art world. An emerging South African painter is on everyone's lips, having recently sold one of her paintings to a German collector for a record-breaking price. Her abstract painting style has been compared to the likes of Jackson Pollock and Francis Bacon, and has already been exhibited around the world.

Soon, NFTs will be minted of her work.

I've come to the artist's unique studio, located in a barn on Farm Sanctuary SA in Franschhoek – South Africa's wine country, about an hour outside Cape Town. Her close collaborator Joanne Lefson greets me and offers me a coffee with nut milk ▶

From above: Farm Sanctuary SA is nestled in South Africa's Western Cape wine country; Joanne Lefson



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(she and the artist are both vegan), which I sip as I watch them set up the artist's work station: several canvases propped against the barn wall, plus a small wooden stump with a paint tray and paintbrush on top. Finally, they chop up enough fresh fruit to fill a large bowl. "She likes to have snack breaks while she works," Lefson explains.

With that done, Lefson hollers at an ear-shattering pitch. Suddenly, the sound of excited scurrying echoes through the barn. A hefty 700kg sow emerges and ambles eagerly towards one of the canvases. Finally, I meet the great Pigcasso.

If you told most people that a pig sold a painting at auction for £20,000, they'd think you were telling porkies. But Pigcasso's the real deal: this year alone she's exhibited in Germany, Spain and the Netherlands, and will do so again next month at the Oxford International Art Fair in the UK. Next year, Lefson is publishing a book about the African sow, called *Million Dollar Pig*. She's even expanded into the world of merch with a line of Swatch watches emblazoned with her face, plus her own range of Pigcasso-branded wines.

Pigcasso has a big presence in the South African tourist industry, too. The sanctuary is a stop for the Franschhoek Wine Tram, a popular hop-on, hop-off train that shuttles passengers around the region. Thoughtfully designed cottages dotted around the farm provide accommodation for visitors and there's even a loft bedroom in Pigcasso's actual barn, so guests can get as close as possible to the paint-slinging pig. Keen to really get a grip on the artist and her life, I booked the latter.

The farm was set up by Lefson in 2016 as a sanctuary for animals that would otherwise be facing slaughter – as was Pigcasso's fate before Lefson rescued her that same year. "I was aware that pigs are very intelligent animals, so I wanted to keep Pigcasso entertained. I put some golf balls, tennis balls and a soccer ball into her stall, and there were some paintbrushes left over from the



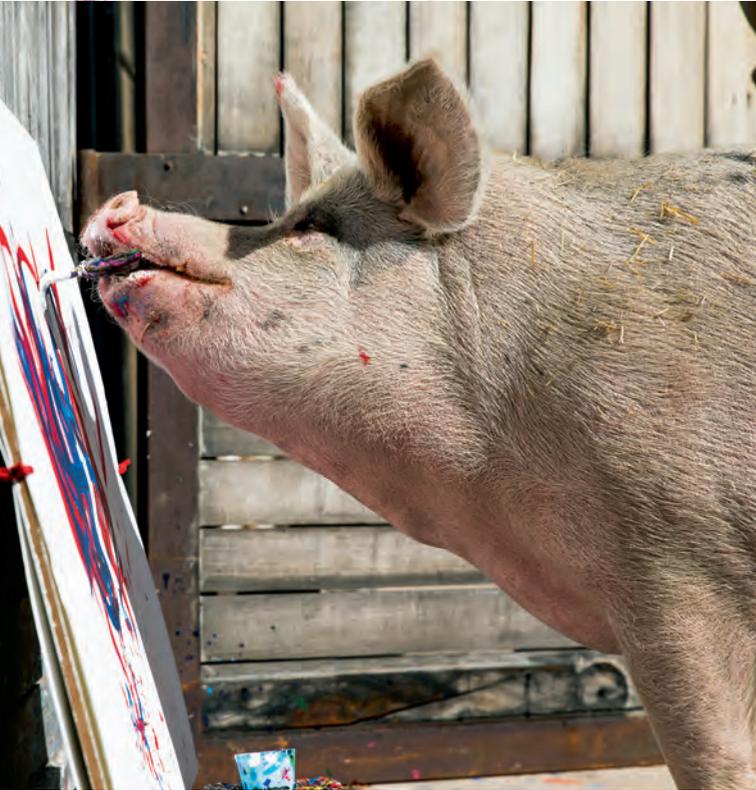
Using specially adapted brushes, Pigcasso applies paint to her artworks; artwork Monty Python (below right)

barn construction in there, too. They were the only things she didn't destroy," says Lefson, laughing. "Instead, she played with them; she was intrigued by them. I started to think there may be something in this."

And so Lefson began to encourage her interest in art. With some positive reinforcement, some practice and some special paintbrushes (Lefson adapted existing brushes to make them easier for Pigcasso to pick up with her mouth), her natural artistic talents quickly became apparent. "I taught her the basics, like picking up a brush, but I could never have taught her how to paint. That was all her," says Lefson.

Pigcasso and Lefson's partnership evokes time-worn debates about the relationship between artist and patron. The paintings are very much a collaboration between the two of them – Lefson decides on the colours, when there's enough paint on the canvas and the themes conveyed by each

“I taught her the basics, like picking up a brush, but I could never have taught her how to paint”



piece. There is a cynical way of viewing their relationship, of course – that Pigcasso is simply a pig who wants treats and Lefson has cleverly marketed the pig’s hunger-motivated canvas trick. But Lefson is insistent that Pigcasso is intelligent enough to have her own creative impulses and Lefson wants the rest of the world to see what she sees. “I’m super grateful this project has gone so well because it helps me with my mission, to inspire people to think differently about farm animals, to be more compassionate to them and to think about what they eat,” she says. “It’s why I rescued Pigcasso, it’s why I set up the sanctuary, it’s why I do what I do. Spreading the message is the most important thing for me.” ▶

AND NOW...

A CRITIQUE OF PIGCASSO'S MONTY PYTHON BY ARTIST AND GALLERIST KATO WONG



Abstract art isn't about realism, it's about feelings. So, what is Pigcasso trying to tell us

about her inner world? The painting's (*below*) name suggests she is a fan of classic British comedy. The colours, too – red, white and blue – also point to the pig's Anglophilia.

But I also see a pig's self-portrait. The composition suggests she knows her shape: she uses red and blue for her trunk, but white for her face and leg. This tells us she knows they are different parts of her body. Her brush strokes are precise and energetic. Her painting is confident.

In Pigcasso's work there is feeling. We learn from this work

that she has self awareness. This challenges our assumptions about the intelligence of animals.

It is important to think about your reaction to Pigcasso. If you don't like it, why? You can use your dislike to find things you do like. Strong reactions are what art is for. We should use them constructively.

If you watch Pigcasso paint, you will see her elation, her energy. Whatever you think of her paintings – and your opinion is as valid as mine – her joyful process means she deserves our respect.

If you enjoy her work I recommend some other masters of abstract art and portraiture: Frank Auerbach, Leon Kosoff, Magda Cordell and Barnett Newman.



Now, watching with bated breath as Pigcasso picks up a brush with her mouth, I am about to see the animal's creative process for myself. Rapidly circling her neck, she dances wild swirls of red paint across the canvas. After a few seconds of work, Lefson clicks, which signals to Pigcasso to stop. Exhausted from her burst of inspiration, she looks around in search of food and munches on watermelon chunks until she regains her strength. And so it continues, a most unusual process. Another swirl, another snack, another swirl, another snack. This is no starving artist.

After 30 minutes, it's over. Pigcasso has produced three colourful pieces – now leant against a fence, drying in the sun – and is creatively drained. Or perhaps she's bored. Or full. After signing her works – dipping her snout into animal-friendly vegan paint and leaving a nose-print on each piece – she saunters off to take her daily mud bath. I beg



“My mission is to inspire people to think differently about farm animals, to be more compassionate”

From above: Stays at the barn (and other accommodation) can be booked through Airbnb; “hog heaven”

her for an interview, but she denies me. The artist needs some time to loll about in muck alone. “She’s the boss, she does what she wants,” says Lefson, laughing.

As I bed down for the night, listening to the snores and snuffles of the animals below me, I reflect on what I witnessed today. Could an artwork painted by a snacking pig truly be worth £20,000? Whether you think Pigcasso’s paintings are works of genius or amateurish eyesores, what makes an original Pigcasso so evocative is everything that goes into it: the collaboration

between her and Joanne, the compassion and care with which they treat one another, and the mission driving it all. It could be the Pigcasso-branded Sauvignon Blanc talking, but I can’t help but think I’ve met one of the greats today and I’m very glad she didn’t end up as a sandwich.

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AUTUMN 2022

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EDITED BY FLO WALES BONNER

GERGEI ERDEI'S BOLD
HOMEWARES DRAW ON
INFLUENCES ACROSS
ART AND FASHION.
BOTTOM RIGHT:
NAPOLI PLACEMAT, £40

It's not just the fashion world we've got our eyes on this month. FLO WALES BONNER profiles three brands dressing up our interiors in style for the new season

HAUTE HOMES

For out-there accoutrements: Gergei Erdei

► It's official: travel is firmly back on the agenda – not least in our homes, thanks to a kaleidoscope of colourful accessories waiting in the wings to transport us to nostalgic times and sunnier climes. Leading the way with this exuberant trend is rising London interiors star Gergei Erdei. Formerly a designer and illustrator at Gucci, he launched his eponymous brand in 2019, quickly winning notable stockists including Selfridges, The Conran Shop and Matches Fashion. His

latest collection – entitled Herculaneum in a nod to his love of classical antiquity – is a wild trip to the 70s via Florida and the Italian Riviera. Seek out the crystal glassware in candy tones, dinner plates hand painted with bright botanical motifs – and the opulent fringed cushions trimmed with recycled yarn.

*gergei
erdei.com*



For luxurious natural textiles: Cultiver

► All-white everything can sometimes risk veering into cold and clinical. This season, it's all about softening up the minimalist monochrome look by introducing natural materials into the mix in warm off-white and ivory tones. For timeless textiles in chic neutral shades, make Aussie brand Cultiver your go-to. Founded in Sydney in 2012, the company brought its elevated home essentials to UK shores earlier this year. Their range – including some ultra covetable bedding – features fine mulberry silks and premium European linens enzyme-washed for extra softness.

cultivergoods.co.uk



DOUBLE CREAM: ANTIPODEAN BRAND CULTIVER SEEKS TO UPGRADE EVERYDAY RITUALS. BELOW LEFT: LINEN DUVET COVER SET, FROM £180

COVER PHOTO: GERGEI ERDEI / PANNA DONKA. PHOTOS: GERGEI ERDEI / PANNA DONKA. TOAST, CULTIVER



For crafty homewares: TOAST

► In reaction to how much of modern life is spent navigating a frenetic digital world – plus how much time we've collectively spent at home of late – it's perhaps no surprise that an appreciation for the slowly crafted, handmade and earthy is big news in interiors at the moment. Exemplifying this grounding, charmingly imperfect aesthetic is beloved British brand TOAST, which, though it started in clothing, has steadily been building a reputation for its beautiful objects for the home that put a deep appreciation for craft at their heart. The brand collaborates regularly with a talented cadre of makers – standout offerings from the latest collection include striking faceted stoneware by Welsh potter Tim Lake and delightfully wonky oak chopping boards by small Northamptonshire company Selwyn House.

toa.st

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£95, mayanjie.com



Bennett Winch holdall

Show your clothes the respect they deserve and transport them in this handsome leather weekend.
£1,450, bennettwinch.com



Mach & Mach pumps

These spectacularly sparkly fuschia heels are sure to add some razzle dazzle to your wardrobe.
£900, net-a-porter.com



Viviers skirt

This made-to-order number from South African luxury house Viviers is destined for new-season parties.
£1,147.90, industrieafrica.com



Forest Rhapsody cleanser

Deeply nourish and care for your skin while you cleanse with Forest Rhapsody's cult favourite.
£58, foresthapsodyskincare.com



Nicholas Daley beanie

Upgrade your woollens collection with this hand-knitted beret by brilliant Brit designer Nicholas Daley.
£195, brownsfashion.com

From spangly party shoes and luxe luggage to vitalising supplements, prepare to stride into autumn looking and feeling fine with our pick of transitional heroes

WORDS: MIRIAM BOUTEBA



Acne scarf

Keep chills at bay while adding an energising pop of pattern to your autumn look. [£230, mporter.com](https://www.mporter.com)



Alaïa crossbody bag

With clever compartments, a statement fastening and a sleek finish, *Le Papa* is a future classic. [£1,600, mytheresa.com](https://www.mytheresa.com)



Ami Doshi Shah necklace

This striking piece detailed with faceted white quartz was handcrafted by artisans in Nairobi. [£423, merchantsnlong.com](https://www.merchantsnlong.com)



Artah tincture

Sleep Tonic harnesses a unique blend of botanicals to ensure you wake up refreshed. [£32, artah.co](https://www.artah.co)



Harry Fane Cartier watch

Hit the big time with this 1975 Cartier Tank Automatique from legendary collector Harry Fane. [£19,200, shop.doverstreetmarket.com](https://www.shop.doverstreetmarket.com)



Fleur of England bra

Crafted from French lace, Fleur of England's *Ela* bra is inspired by the Somerset countryside. [£120, harveynichols.com](https://www.harveynichols.com)



Les Monts sunglasses

These limited edition frames, handmade in Italy, exude an effortlessly cool vintage vibe. [£310, lesmonts.com](https://www.lesmonts.com)



Ninety Percent vest

Made from GOTS-certified brushed organic cotton, this moss-green tank is a perfect layering piece. [£90, ninetypercent.com](https://www.ninetypercent.com)



Annabel's x The Lost Explorer Mezcal

For every bottle of this limited edition mezcal sold, 35 trees will be planted in the Amazon rainforest. [£120, whiskyshop.com](https://www.whiskyshop.com)

ALYSSA MIKIKO DIPASQUALE'S LUXURY BOSTON



Drinks maven **ALYSSA MIKIKO DIPASQUALE** founded Boston's first sake bar, The Koji Club, last year – and her exceptional taste extends beyond tipples. Here, she shares her pick of prime Beantown venues

WORDS: FLO WALES BONNER
PHOTOGRAPH: KRISTIN TEIG

→ THE WELLNESS SANCTUARY

The lush, plant-adorned **Soft Space** – an inclusive massage, movement and recovery studio – is the most idyllic, peaceful place to focus on you and feel good about your body. Trust me, you'll get the best massage in New England here, and there's also a personalised workout programme. softspacewellness.com

→ **THE BOUTIQUE Pod** is where I go to replenish my favourite personal items (body oils, table linens from Fog, cashmere when it's cold). Each item in the shop is perfectly chosen – it's the only place I visit when I need a special gift for someone I love. shop-pod.com

→ **THE DRINKS SPOT** I founded **The Koji Club** to create a safe space to celebrate, learn about and drink really good sake. Our menu shows sake's true diversity and range of flavours, with the perfect snacks to accompany each glass. thekojiclub.com

→ THE HOMEWARES STORE

The ceramics at **Myrth** stand out for their clean aesthetic and gorgeous glazes. Once you own a piece, you'll really appreciate the incredible level of care and detail that goes into its design. Don't miss their charming Moon vases. myrth.us

→ THE SWEET STOPOVER

Each little handcrafted bonbon at the award-winning, women-owned **EHChocolatier** is better than the last, and their flavours, from yuzu to s'mores, are constantly rotating. We serve their chocolates on The Koji Club's cheese plate – much better than apricots. ehchocolatier.com

→ THE RESTAURANT

I'm often elbow to elbow with folks visiting from New York City to slurp the perfect udon noodles at **Yume Ga Arukara**. The chefs hand-make them daily, and even adjust the recipe depending on the weather. There's no better noodle shop in the northeast. yumegaarukara.com

→ THE COFFEE BAR

Café Fixe is a very serious espresso bar in the heart of Brookline. Every detail, from bean to milk, is overseen with great care by owner Maks Milstein himself every day. The only obstacle between you and a great cup of joe is the line of loyal regulars each morning. cafefixe.com

→ THE GROCER

Cruising the aisles of **Maruichi** is a great remedy for wanderlust. This enormous Japanese grocery store is well stocked with ingredients that will help you recreate your favourite otsumami and izakaya dishes without plane tickets. facebook.com/maruichibrookline

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What's On



DO YOU THINK HE SAURUS?

Those fearsome teeth actually belong to a *giganotosaurus*, one of the biggest carnivores ever to walk the Earth, mercifully extinct but resurrected in *Jurassic World Dominion*. Also brought back are *Jurassic Park* originals Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern (pictured right, with DeWanda Wise). The plot: rescuing a poached baby velociraptor. Global dino mayhem ensues.

 Watch *Jurassic World Dominion*



THE BEST OF WHAT'S ONBOARD

63-69

Movies

Back to the danger zone in *Top Gun: Maverick*, back in time to *Downton Abbey: A New Era*.

70-74

TV

If you've never seen slow-burn US detective show *The Sinner*, we'll tell you why it's unmissable...

75-77

Audio

From old classics like Queen to hot new acts like BENEÉ, all the sounds to make your flight fly by.

VERA LOVES



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

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

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

SCREEN TIME

Onboard this month we have

157

Movies

560+

Albums, podcasts & playlists

233+

Hours of TV shows

28

Destination guides

28+

Hours of kids' content



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

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Viewing guide

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

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

Subtitled

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



Pair your device

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

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

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

automatically take you to our WiFi page.

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

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<p>PLATINUM</p>				<p>DIAMOND</p>			

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Must be 21 or older with valid ID to consume alcohol. The Festival promotes responsible drinking. Photos: Courtesy of Getty Images | Sponsors confirmed as of 8.8.2022

WE'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT INTO THE DANGER ZONE

Movies

TIME FLIES

Can it really be 36 years since Tom Cruise flashed that billion-dollar smile and flew his fighter jet like he stole it in *Top Gun*? Get up to speed with our high-octane Maverick then versus now

1986

2022

Cruise vs Cruise

He'd already made waves with turns in *The Outsiders* and *Risky Business*, but *Top Gun* introduced the world to this all-action hero.



Three-and-a-half decades later, Tom Cruise is back playing Pete "Maverick" Mitchell. He still looks great at 60 and insists on doing his own stunts.

Iceman vs Admiral Kazansky

Val Kilmer played "Iceman", whose rapport with Maverick was very much a love-hate relationship: "You can be my wingman any time..."



These days, Iceman has become Admiral Tom Kazansky (still played by Kilmer) and it's on his insistence that Maverick is called back to the Weapons School.

"The need for speed" vs "Turn and burn"

The original *Top Gun* had an arsenal of endlessly quotable lines. Remember "I feel the need... the need for speed"?



Times may have changed, but *Top Gun: Maverick* still contains a few zingers, including "Turn and burn" (whatever that means).

Beach volleyball vs beach football

It's one of the iconic cinema scenes of the 1980s: Maverick and pals oil up their torsos for a sweating, grunting game of beach volleyball.



In one of the many nods to the original *Top Gun*, the sequel sees the new recruits oil up their torsos for a sweating, grunting game of beach football.

The blueprint vs the nostalgia

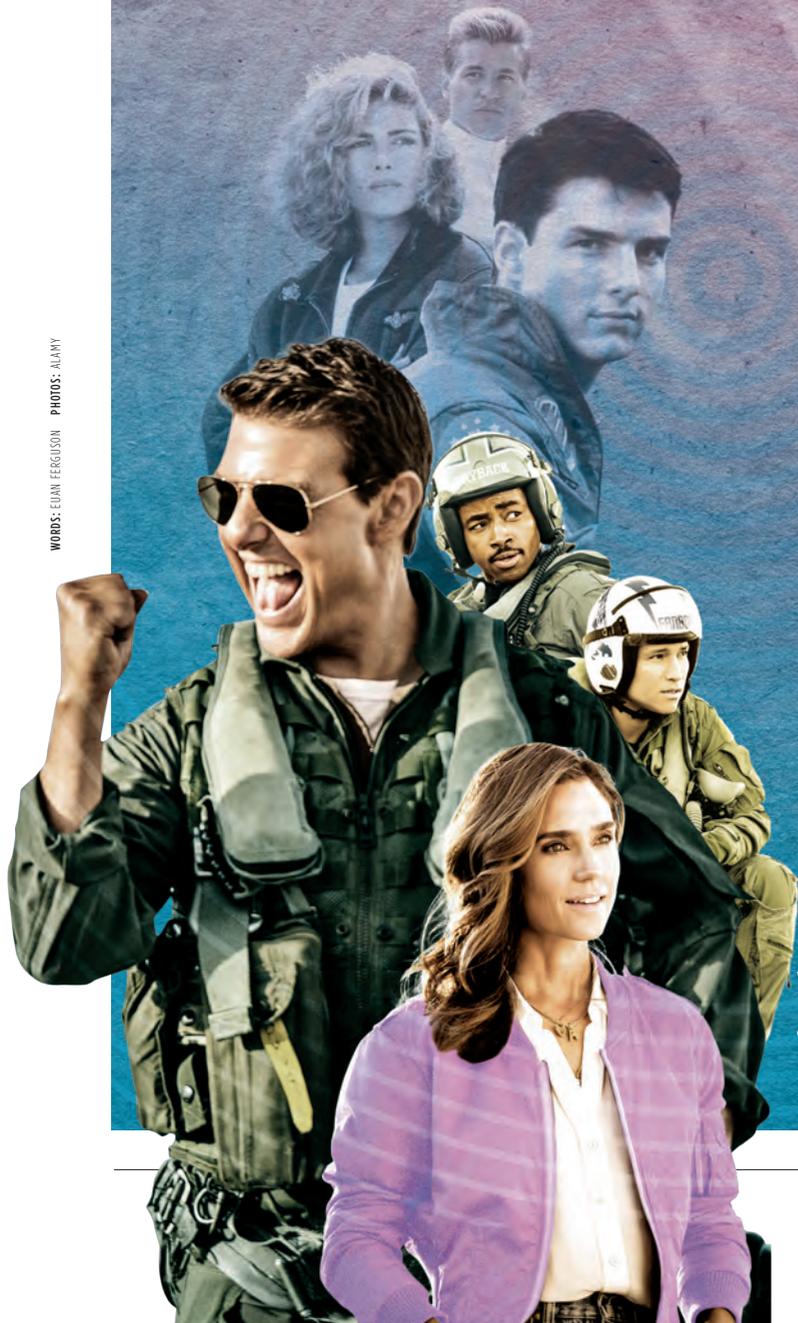
We can never wind back the clock and inhabit the first time we saw Maverick flying upside down or racing a jet on his motorbike...



... but *Top Gun: Maverick* is stuffed with throwback references, starting with the opening featuring Kenny Loggins's theme.

Watch *Top Gun: Maverick*

WORDS: EUAN FERGUSON PHOTOS: ALAMY





Everything Everywhere All At Once 15

Michelle Yeoh,
Ke Huy Quan

139
mins

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



181/2 15

Willa Fitzgerald,
John Magaro

88
mins

Zippy and eccentric satire set during the Watergate scandal of the 1970s. When a White House stenographer (Fitzgerald) obtains the only copy of the infamous 18½ minute gap in Nixon’s tapes, it turns out there are a lot of people who want to know what’s on it... *See right*



The Exchange !

Ed Oxenbould,
Avan Jogia

93
mins

Tim has the idea of importing a new “best friend” in the shape of French exchange student Stéphane in this comedy. Stéphane turns out to be a chain-smoking, sex-obsessed nightmare and while Tim hates him, everybody else thinks he’s wonderful.



Montana Story !

Haley Lu Richardson,
Owen Teague

114
mins

Superbly performed mix of family drama and post-modern western as siblings return to their childhood ranch in order to be with their dying father. In doing so, they must confront some long-buried secrets.



The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent 15

Nicolas Cage,
Pedro Pascal

100
mins

Nic Cage plays Nick Cage in this meta-comedy in which he takes a humdrum acting job only to find himself caught up with a superfan who may not be all he seems. An absolute scream.



The Railway Children Return !

Sheridan Smith,
Jenny Agutter

98
mins

Released in 1970, the first *Railway Children* film is a bona fide family classic. More than 50 years on, this sequel sees Agutter return as Bobbie (a grown-up version of the character she played before) and looks set to become every bit as beloved as its predecessor.

MOVIE BLUFF

WHAT WERE
NIXON'S MISSING
18 1/2 MINUTES?



Nixon? The Watergate guy?
Yes, President Nixon resigned in 1974 when the FBI discovered his lackeys had illegally spied on political rivals during the 1972 election campaign. He tried to cover it up, but never admitted guilt.

So what are these minutes?

Nixon recorded all his meetings. On 20 July 1972 one took place at the White House, where it's believed the cover-up was openly discussed. However, Nixon's loyal secretary Rose Mary Woods "accidentally" deleted 18 1/2 minutes of the tape during transcription.

How convenient.

Yeah, it's driven political nerds crazy for decades now.

Did we ever find out what was on the tapes?

Nope, but a quirky new period comedy imagines what could've happened when a typist (Willa Fitzgerald) and reporter (John Magaro) find a copy.

Is any of it true?

Smart forensic types have been trying for decades to recover those lost 18 1/2 minutes. This highly stylised account is essentially a tissue of lies. Which is fitting.

Watch 18 1/2 Minutes



Top Gun: Maverick ♥

12

Tom Cruise,
Jennifer Connelly

131
mins

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. Nobody but Cruise could have returned to such an iconic movie after 36 years and not seemed ridiculous, and he's backed up by a cast that adeptly mixes nostalgia (Val Kilmer, oh yes) with a different generation (Jennifer Connelly, Jon Hamm, Ed Harris). Given the abundance of high-speed, high-stakes aerial escapades, it almost goes without saying that this one is not for nervous fliers... *See opener*



The Northman ♥

15

Alexander Skarsgård,
Nicole Kidman

136
mins

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



The Batman ♥

15

Robert Pattinson,
Zoë Kravitz

176
mins

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

SCI-FI SMASHES



Dual

Karen Gillan,
Theo James

94
mins

SCI-FI COMEDY set in the near future, where cloning has become a regular and commonplace occurrence, especially in cases of terminal illness. Sure enough, when Sarah (Gillan) is diagnosed with cancer, she goes ahead with the procedure, part of which involves introducing the clone to her family and friends. When it turns out that the cancer is reversible and she makes a full recovery, Sarah decides she no longer wants the copy around – especially since her nearest and dearest seem to prefer it. However, as she quickly discovers, getting rid of the clone involves... well, let's avoid spoilers and just say that it involves a rather unusual process. We'll leave you to discover exactly what the process is, but trust us, it's a doozy.



Jurassic World Dominion

12

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 is the team from the original *Jurassic Park* movies: Dern, Sam Neill and – stealing the show, of course – Jeff Goldblum.



After Yang

Colin Farrell,
Jodie Turner-Smith

96
mins

Set in the near future, *After Yang* explores what happens to a family when their android malfunctions. As dad Jake (Farrell) investigates, questions of bereavement and rules of service arise in a provocative character study.

ANIMATED FUN



The Bob's Burgers Movie

H Jon Benjamin,
Dan Mintz

90
mins

The sitcom *Bob's Burgers* revolves around the hugely likeable Belcher family, who run a burger joint and embark on various adventures together. The movie features the same brilliant voice cast and oddball gags. See right



The Bad Guys

Sam Rockwell,
Marc Maron

100
mins

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



Vivo

Lin-Manuel Miranda,
Zoë Saldana

96
mins

This animated musical adventure features all-new songs from *Hamilton* creator Lin-Manuel Miranda to tell the story of bear Vivo and his owner, Andrés. One day, a message arrives that will change the lives of this music-loving pair forever.

ALL-ACTION HEROES



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 Contractor

15

Chris Pine, Gillian Jacobs	103 mins
-------------------------------	-------------

Action-adventure starring Pine as a private security contractor who, along with his best mate and a grizzled veteran, goes overseas on a covert mission. Now he must escape the enemy and try to find his way home.



Memory

!

Liam Neeson, Guy Pearce	114 mins
----------------------------	-------------

EVER SINCE HE gave his “particular set of skills” speech in *Taken* some 14 years ago, Liam Neeson has carved out a second career as everybody’s favourite autumnal action hero. Put simply, nobody does hangdog combat quite like Liam. Here he is playing hitman Alex, who only kills those who deserve it. Alex’s sense of moral duty can land him in hot water and, sure enough, when something goes wrong on his latest job, Alex knows that not only will the police be on his tail but so will the unpleasant chaps who tried to hire him in the first place. His only option is to take pre-emptive action. There is, however, a wrinkle, and while we wouldn’t want to spoil the surprise, the clue is in the title. With Neeson at his hard-bitten best and Bond veteran Martin Campbell on directing duties, this is thriller nirvana.

Meet the Belchers, the loveable fam at the heart of *The Bob's Burgers Movie*

1: Bob

Cooks burgers for a living, but spends most of his time keeping his ailing diner afloat and his anarchic family under control. Loves: giving burgers cheesy puns for names. Hates: rival Jimmy Pesto and his popular pizzeria.

2: Linda

In a showdown of cartoon matriarchs, Linda would hands-down win best mum/wife. Her love of a good time (and musical theatre and wine) is TV joy. Best line: “Oh, go play ping pong with your ding dong.”

3: Louise

Youngest Louise is master mischief maker. Her biting sarcasm and



FUN IN A BUN!

A tasty guide to Bob's Burgers

devious dealings would be enough to cast her as a villain... if her conscience wasn't always in her way. Superpower: looking cute while sounding evil.

4: Gene

King of the one-liners, middle child Gene rarely opens his mouth without saying something hilariously inappropriate. Best moment: setting up

girl group the Cutie Patooties.

5: Tina

Riddled with anxiety yet brilliantly sassy, Tina's funniest moments revolve around her awkward teen fantasies. Likes: horses, horses with wings, erotic fan fiction, zombies and Jimmy Jr's butt.

Watch *The Bob's Burgers Movie*



Downton Abbey: A New Era ♥



Hugh Bonneville,
Jim Carter

124
mins

THIS SECOND BIG-SCREEN *Downton* outing sees Britain's best-loved stately home playing host to a film crew. This is a situation that comes with problems: there's the clash of cultures as film guys meet the aristocracy and there are rampaging egos to consider, not all of them from the visiting stars. What's more, there are members of the *Downton* staff who have designs on making it big in the film world. Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery) has no such aspirations, but that doesn't stop her getting press-ganged into making her film debut – although perhaps not in the way you might expect. There are even more far-reaching events bubbling away in the background and, sure enough, dramatic upheavals ensue. Movie bliss.



Mr Malcolm's List !

Sope Dirisu,
Freida Pinto

117
mins

A treat for fans of *Bridgerton* and Jane Austen, this period drama set in the high society of 1800s England tells the tale of how Julia (Zawe Ashton) helps her friend (Pinto) gain revenge on a suitor who has spurned her. Timeless themes, glorious period detail.



The Survivor ♥

Ben Foster,
Peter Sarsgaard

129
mins

No doubt about it, *The Survivor* is not exactly an easy watch, focusing as it does on the real-life tale of Jewish boxer Harry Haft, who fought fellow inmates while imprisoned in Auschwitz. After the war, haunted by his actions, Harry goes in search of redemption...

MOVIE QUIZ

Take our trivia test



1

You might think Jeff Goldblum's Dr Ian Malcolm is the human who features most often in the *Jurassic Park/Jurassic World* franchise, but he's beaten by someone who also appears in the *Camp Cretaceous* series. Who?

2

What world record has British actor Jenny Agutter set in *The Railway Children Return*?

3

In *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent* Nicolas Cage plays a version of himself but with fewer tattoos – why?

4

The Contractor is the third film Chris Pine and Ben Foster have acted in together. The first was based on a dramatic coast guard rescue and the second features the duo as sibling bank robbers. Can you name the movies?

5

The Exchange is written by Tim Long, writer and producer on which long-running animated comedy hit?

ANSWERS: 1. DR HENRY WOUZ; 2. THE RECORD FOR PLAYING THE SAME CHARACTER OVER THE LONGEST PERIOD OF TIME: 54 YEARS SINCE THE TV SHOW 3. THE CHARACTER HASHTAG AS MANY WIVES AS THE REAL LIFE STAR 4. THE FINEST HOURS (2016) AND HELL OR HIGH WATER (2016) 5. THE SIMPSONS PHOTO: ALAMY

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
- The Accountant
- After Love
- After Yang
- Ahead of the Curve
- Aik Hai Nigar
- Aki and Pawpaw



- **Ambulance**
- American Underdog
- Argo

B

- The Bad Guys
- The Batman



- **Belfast**
- The Blind Side
- Blue Bayou
- The Bob's Burgers Movie
- The Bodyguard
- Boycott

C

- Cake
- Camino Skies



- **The Card Counter**
- Carlos Ghosn: The Last Flight
- Charming the Hearts of Men
- Chasing Wonders
- Chhalaang
- Cinderella (2021)
- Clean
- The Client

- The Contractor
- CrawlSpace
- Crazy Alien
- Crazy Rich Asians
- Cyrano

D

- Death of a Telemarketer
- Death on the Nile
- Déjà Vu
- The Departed
- The Desperate Hour
- Detective Chinatown 3
- Dil Chahta Hai
- Dinner at My Place



- **Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness**
- Dog
- Don't Breathe 2
- Double Trouble
- Downton Abbey: A New Era
- Dual
- The Duke
- Dunkirk

E

- Endgame
- 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 Stu
- Fatherhood
- Flee

G

- Game Night



- **Ghostbusters: Afterlife**
- Goldfish
- The Good Boss
- The Goonies
- The Great Gatsby
- The Green Knight
- Gunpowder Milkshake

H

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

I

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

J

- Jab We Met



- **Jackass Forever**
- Joe Bell
- A Journal for Jordan
- Julia
- Jurassic World Dominion

K

- Kaagaz
- Khauff
- Kimi



- **The King's Man**

L

- The Last Bus



- **Last Night in Soho**
- 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
- The Lost Daughter

M

- Mama's Big Stick
- Man-Spider
- Mars Attacks!



- **The Matrix Resurrections**
- Memory
- Mera Fauji Calling
- Miss Congeniality
- The Mitchells vs the Machines
- Montana Story
- Moonfall
- Moonshot

- Morbius
- Mother/Android
- Mothering Sunday
- A Mouthful of Air
- Mr Malcolm's List
- Mujh Ko Pata Hai
- Mumbai Saga
- My Best Friend is Stuck on the Ceiling

N

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

O



- **Operation Mincemeat**
- Our Ladies
- The Outfit
- Over Her Dead Body

P

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

Q

- The Quiet Girl

R

- The Railway Children Return
- Ready Player One
- Rising Sun
- Rooney

S

- Saina
- San Andreas

- Set!
- Shane
- Shiddat
- Sing 2
- The Sky Is Pink
- Sonic the Hedgehog 2
- Soolè
- Spencer



- **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

- The Wind Phone
- Wishlist

And more...

- 7 Days
- 18 1/2
- 99 Songs

Television

1. It's a classic detective story

In a small American fishing village, a holidaying detective hears crying in a forest. He rushes to investigate and sees a distraught young woman tumble into the sea from a cliff-top. The more he delves into the tragedy, the less straightforward it seems. This is *The Sinner*. Over eight taut episodes, all showing onboard, the detective peels back the mystery to discover a shocking truth.

2. It had a great genesis

The Sinner began as an adaptation of a novel by German author Petra Hammesfahr, about a troubled woman who stabs a stranger seemingly out of the blue. It was intended as a one-off, but its success demanded a follow-up. The series became a quasi-anthology, with each new run revolving around a brand-new mystery. It's edge-of-your-seat stuff and always smart enough to stay ahead of its audience.

3. It might be the new *Columbo*

What ties all these disparate mysteries together is Harry Ambrose, the central detective. Played by Bill Pullman in what might be a career-best role, Ambrose is the show's heart – shambling and chaotic but deeply empathetic. Season four is officially the end of *The Sinner*, which feels like a monumental shame. It's such a beautiful performance that it should be allowed to roll along forever.

4. It makes the most of its ensemble

Since Ambrose is the only thread throughout the seasons, *The Sinner* has to drag in a whole new ensemble every time it returns. And it has attracted some terrific actors. Jennifer Biel, Carrie Coon, Matt Bomer, Tracy Letts and Chris Messina have all taken part in the past. Season four, meanwhile, features jaw-dropping turns from the likes of Michael Mosley and Frances Fisher.

5. It's worth going back

If you enjoy *The Sinner*, please find a way to track down the preceding series. There's one about a stabbing, one about a cult and one about a car crash, and they're all exemplary.

WHY THE SINNER IS A WINNER

Don't sleep on this one. TV writer **Stuart Heritage** gives us five reasons why Bill Pullman's detective series is a slowburn success

 Watch *The Sinner*



Clockwise from top: Bill Pullman, Jessica Hecht, Frances Fisher, Alice Kremelberg and Mercedes de la Zerda star in the final season of *The Sinner*

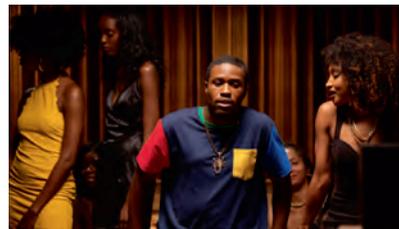
PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK



Mrs America ❤️

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



Wu-Tang: An American Saga ❤️

Box set	Up to 58 mins
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Series dramatising the rise of the Wu-Tang Clan, the New York hip-hop crew that under the stewardship of visionary leader RZA, aka Bobby Diggs, took the genre by storm in the early 1990s.



The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe ❤️

Box set	47 mins
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Eddie Marsan heads the cast in the astounding true-life story of the man who, with only a canoe and more greed than sense, hatched a plan to fake his own death and claim the insurance. What could possibly go wrong? *See p73*



Julia ❤️

Box set	Up to 50 mins
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Starring the brilliant Sarah Lancashire and “Frasier’s brother” David Hyde Pierce, Julia tells the frequently incredible story of real-life cooking pioneer Julia Childs – the brains behind the food television revolution.



The Sinner ❤️

Box set	Up to 56 mins
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The latest season of the ongoing thriller series presents a new case for Bill Pullman’s dogged detective Harry Ambrose (ie it doesn’t matter if you’ve never seen it before). This time he must investigate a tragedy involving the daughter of a prominent family. *See left*



Sweet Tooth ❤️

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

RELATIONSHIPS



Fosse/Verdon ❤️

Box set	Up to 60 mins
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IF YOU'VE HEARD of Bob Fosse then you'll know him as a legendary actor, dancer and – most famously – choreographer, who created the fancy footwork for the likes of *Cabaret*, *Chicago* and *All That Jazz*. Not that he did it singlehandedly, mind you. His muse (and second wife) was Gwen Verdon, who inspired him and in later years became the gatekeeper of his legacy. Starring Sam Rockwell and Michelle Williams, this biographical mini-series tells the story of their romantic and creative partnership, detailing the ups and the downs, and the shifts in power and status that befell them as a couple. Critics were unanimous in their approval.



Scenes from a Marriage !

Box set	50 mins
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This remake of Ingmar Bergman's 1973 series has Jessica Chastain and Oscar Isaac in the leads, and is equally unsparring in its depiction of marriage and divorce through the lens of a contemporary couple.



Kin ❤️

Box set	50 mins
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Kin tells the story of a fictional Dublin gangland war, and speaks to the enduring unbreakable bonds of blood and family. It comes from the creator of drama *Hidden Assets*, while Aiden Gillen and Ciarán Hinds are the rival leaders.

ENGROSSING DOCS



Set! !

Documentary	105 mins
-------------	----------

Did you know table-setting is a sport, complete with its own hotly contested competitions, personalities and rivalries to match? *Set!* takes us behind the scenes as contestants compete for the Best in Show ribbon at the Orange County Fair.



Listening to Kenny G !

Documentary	96 mins
-------------	---------

Anything that's popular attracts its fair share of snobbery and Kenny G is no different: on the one hand he's hated by musical cognoscenti; on the other, he's the world's bestselling instrumentalist. This doc examines the reasons why.



Ahead of the Curve !

Documentary	98 min
-------------	--------

Documentary about Franco Stevens, who after a lucky run on the horses (yes, really) used her winnings to launch *Curve*, a ground-breaking lesbian magazine. Years later, she reaches out to understand what queer women need today.

STRANGER
THAN
FICTION

The real-life
tale of
The Thief,
His Wife and
the Canoe



The thief

Retired prison officer John Darwin (Eddie Marsan) landed himself in serious debt expanding his buy-to-let property empire in the early 2000s. The answer? Fake his own death in a canoeing accident, obv.

His wife

Anne Darwin (Monica Dolan) feigned grief for the police, media and – shockingly – her two sons, who were devastated by Dad’s death. He was hiding next door, by the way, sneaking back and forth through a hole in the back of a wardrobe.

The canoe

John somehow obtained a fake passport and the couple planned a new life in Panama with their ill-gotten insurance payout. However, police were suspicious – not least when John reappeared in 2007 claiming amnesia, leaving his poor wife up the creek without a paddle.

Watch The Thief,
His Wife and the Canoe



Winning Time: The Rise of the LA Lakers !

Box set

60 mins

JOHN C REILLY leads the cast of this star-studded series taking a look at the on- and off-court activities of basketball legends the Los Angeles Lakers. From 1979 onwards, and spearheaded by the arrival of Earvin “Magic” Johnson – played here by Quincy Isaiah – the Lakers were the dominant force in basketball. Not only did they regularly destroy the competition, but they did it with such panache that before long tickets to Lakers games were the hottest in town. Not only that but the Lakers’ superstars, who included Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, led just as colourful lives off-court. So: larger than life, stylish and thrilling.



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...”



Rooney ♥

!

Documentary

103 mins

There are few footballers as storied as Wayne Rooney. This doc not only charts his progress from schoolboy stardom to all-time top scorer for England, but also deals with his, ahem, “shortcomings” as a role model. Currently writing his next chapter as DC United manager in the US.

GETTING TENSE



Trigger Point ♥

15

Box set	60 mins
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IF YOU LIKED *Line of Duty* then the chances are that you're really going to enjoy *Trigger Point*. Why? Firstly because it's written by *LoD* head honcho Jed Mercurio, secondly because it stars the wonderful Vicky McClure in the lead and thirdly because it shares much of that show's DNA. Gut-wrenching twists? They're here. Fiendish double-crosses? All present and correct. A somewhat, shall we say, gleeful approach when it comes to dispatching major characters. Oh yes. Did we also mention nail-biting races against time? With a plot that focuses on police desperately trying to stop a terrorist bombing spree, you can be certain that there are plenty of those.



The Tourist !

Box set	58 mins
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This quirky, tense and surprising thriller series stars Jamie Dornan as "The Man", who finds himself lost in the Aussie outback with no memories of who he is and only a reluctant local, Luci, for company. Much action ensues.



Manhunt !

Box set	60 mins
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Based on the memoirs of former Met detective DCI Colin Sutton (played by Martin Clunes) this award-winning series dramatises the real-life hunt to find the killer of Amélie Delagrang in 2004. We have all three episodes onboard.

CHUCKLES



Awkwafina is Nora from Queens !

Box set	22 mins
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The awesome Awkwafina does just what it says on tin here, helming this very funny sitcom as Nora, a twenty-something woman who lives in Queens where she plays video games and tries to work out what she wants from life.



Brooklyn Nine-Nine ♥

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



Superstore ♥

12

Comedy	22 mins
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The brilliant sitcom *Superstore*, set in a huge chainstore, returns for a fourth season that finds Amy and Jonah returning from their suspension. However, the pair have a secret they must hide from their co-workers.

THE LINE-UP THAT SOUNDS AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS

Audio

IT'S AN APRIL night and one of pop's hottest new acts has just walked onto the Coachella stage in a Barbie pink Valentino dress, complete with a sweeping train and matching platforms. The crowd cheers as much for the high-end fashion as the silky-smooth vocals. It was the latest style triumph on Conan Gray's tour for his album *Superache* – in what has been described by *Vogue* as his “Shakespearean fashion streak”, the American singer-songwriter has sung in frilly white blouses and embroidered blazers, even shimmying on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* in pearls.

Now, Gray isn't the first male popstar to embrace the fun of a more androgynous look. The most famous recently is Harry Styles who, since 2017, has slowly but surely pushed the boundaries for how men in music should dress, one pair of Gucci flares at a time. Others to since embrace the liberating trend for donning traditionally female clothing items include Bad Bunny (minidresses), Lil Nas X (ball gowns), Machine Gun Kelly (crop tops), Yungblud (skirts) and Tyler, the Creator (pink).

Some might suggest flamboyant dressing among men in pop is nothing revolutionary. After all, David Bowie sported a dress on the cover of *The Man Who Sold the World* and Elton John performed in feathers in the 1970s, while Prince's ruffles became iconic in the 1980s. However, in 2022 a much larger group of successful male artists, spanning a diverse range of genres – from rock and soul to rap and reggaeton – is unafraid to bring songs to life by dressing with abandon.

Their freer fashion choices are arguably simply reflective of our more inclusive world – at least within entertainment – where individuality and queerness are celebrated, and sexuality and pronouns are discussed more fluidly. What's more, this sartorial shift has become integral to the music. Whether that's Styles launching his grown-up *Harry's House* album in a Molly Goddard baby-doll blouse and ballet flats, or Gray wearing an ex-girlfriend's knitted V-neck jumper in the music video for his track *Memories*. Because it's not the same as it was – and that's pretty good.

 Listen to *Superache*

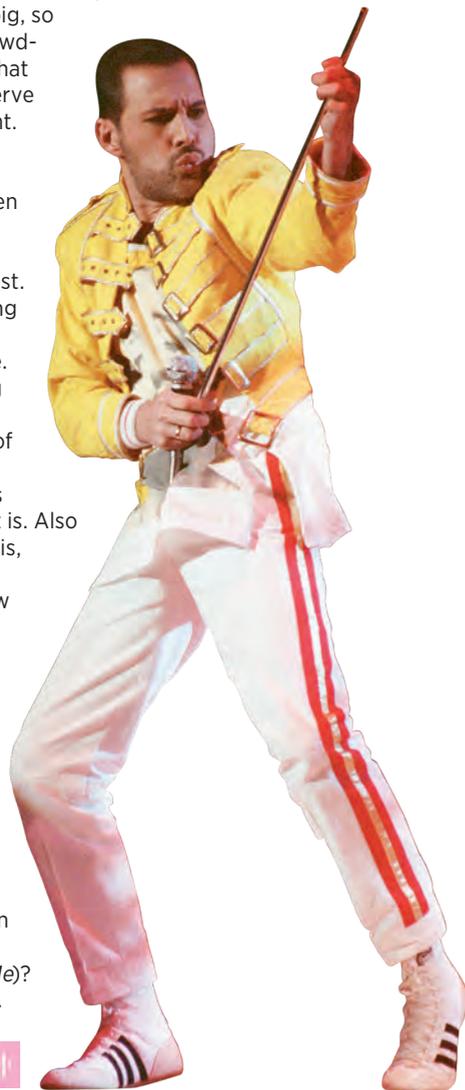
FRILLS, FROCKS AND FUCHSIA

Lauren Clark says male musicians like Conan Gray are finally having fun with fashion's feminine side

Clockwise from left: Conan Gray, Harry Styles and Lil Nas X rock the frock

Electric Live ♥

THERE ARE SOME songs that are just so big, so anthemic, so crowd-pleasingly epic that they simply deserve the live treatment. We've collected a whole load of them, maybe even all of them, for this suitably windswept playlist. Springsteen doing *Born to Run*? You'll find it here. Queen exhorting a crowd to even greater heights of euphoria with *Radio Ga Ga*? It's here, of course it is. Also featured are Oasis, who in 1996 tore Knebworth a new one with a scintillating version of *Morning Glory*. What else? How about REM and *Losing My Religion* or Simple Minds being none-more-widescreen with *Don't You (Forget About Me)*? Yup. Thought so.



Self Esteem !

<i>Prioritise Pleasure</i>	Pop
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Did Rebecca Lucy Taylor, formerly of Slow Club and now performing as Self Esteem, make the best pop album of 2021? Many critics thought so, praising her clever, subversive lyrics and earwormy hooks.



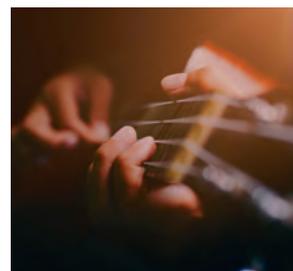
R&B Bangers ♥ !

The world of R&B is notable for its silky lurve songs and ballads, but there are many bangers out there, too. Stop by this playlist which includes Kelis's *Milkshake*, *Creep* by TLC and more.



Maverick(s) ♥ !

Since the whole world is going nuts over the *Top Gun* movie, let's celebrate some other "mavericks". This epic playlist includes *Danger Zone*, plus *Purple Rain* by Prince. See below



Feel-Good Acoustic ♥

A feast of strummed and finger-picked goodness on this playlist. It's got an unplugged version of Florence and the Machine's *Shake it Out*, and *Heartbeats* in a very relaxing fashion.



TOP 5

Musical mavericks

Celebrating the acts who had zero respect for the rules

1 Kenny Loggins, *Danger Zone*
As soon as this belter off the *Top Gun* soundtrack starts, you're there on the aircraft carrier with a young Tom Cruise.

2 Sex Pistols, *God Save the Queen*
These cheeky punk scamps socked it to the establishment in style here.

3 David Bowie, *Rebel Rebel*
Ziggy Stardust introduced millions to gender fluidity and outrageous dressing through the medium of killer tunes.



4 Patti Smith, *Because the Night*
Punk's poet laureate was an articulate leading voice in New York's 1970s counterculture.

5 Prince, *Purple Rain*
Played 27 instruments, employed 10 tailors and changed his name to a symbol. Huge maverick energy.

🔊 Listen to Maverick(s)

PODCASTS



The Vera Magazine Podcast

In this month's edition, we find out how a South African pig became the toast of the art world. Plus, why Kingston is the Caribbean's chicest destination and how Hollywood's undergoing a costume drama takeover.



The Travel Diaries

Podcast in which journo Holly Rubenstein grills a special guest on their earliest childhood travel memory, first place they fell in love with, fave holiday and more.



Jake Humphrey High Performance Podcast

AT 16, JAKE HUMPHREY was sacked from his job at a fast-food restaurant for his poor communication skills. We mention this not to shame him but to highlight just how far he's come, fronting football and motor racing on TV, and now hosting this chart-topping podcast. Jake (along with leading psychologist Damian Hughes) picks the brains of high achievers to find out the secrets of their success.



DISCO IN THE SKY



Nile Rodgers & Chic

<i>It's About Time</i>	Dance
------------------------	-------

This is Chic's first long-playing release in a quarter of a century and what's truly amazing is that none of that funky power has been diminished in the meantime. Their secret? Mr Rodgers.



Pete Tong with the Heritage Orchestra

<i>Classic House</i>	Dance
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He's not the first bloke to give classic house tunes the classical treatment, but Pete Tong might just be the best, with plenty of spine-tingling moments.



Icons – Diana Ross ❤️

HAVING NAILED HER Glastonbury "legends" slot, Diana Ross is once again blipping hard on the cultural radar. But was she ever really off the cultural radar? This career-spanning playlist says not, featuring as it does tracks from her days with The Supremes (aka "the best-selling girl group in US music history") as well as much more up-to-date numbers. So, yes, *Baby Love*. But also *Chain Reaction*, *Love Hangover*, *Stop! In the Name of Love*, *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*, *Your Love Is So Good For Me* and loads more. That's almost half a century of leading the pack, surfing the zeitgeist and releasing hit after hit. We salute you.



HOT YOUNG THINGS

Conan Gray ❤️

<i>Superache</i>	Pop
------------------	-----

Singer-songwriter Conan Gray carved a reputation as "the prince of sad songs". His second album, combines pop bangers with wounded lyrics: the sound of heartbreak you can dance to. See *opener*



! **BENEE**

<i>Lychee</i>	Pop
---------------	-----

Kiwi alt-pop auteur BENEE first came to attention with the hit *Supalonely*. She continues her leftfield take on disco with this EP that combines easy-going melodies with a welcome sense of weirdness.



! **Holly Humberstone**

<i>The Walls Are Way Too Thin</i>	Pop
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A Grantham childhood was an inspiring experience for singer-songwriter Humberstone. "There was no music scene growing up in rural Lincolnshire," she says, "so I just did my own thing." Hear it here.



WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTOS: ALAMY, WARNER BROS., ADOBE STOCK



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HIGH TECH



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ENGINEER SHAUN SANDERSON
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REPRESENTS A NEW DAWN



T

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wing, made from advanced composite materials. The revised wingspan is 64m – wider than the plane is long. This minimises drag so we can fly you further and faster, using much less fuel.

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at the front of the engine. This allows for a very high “bypass ratio” – the volume of cool air providing thrust, compared to the volume that needs burning with fuel. The A330neo has a bypass ratio of 10:1, twice that of the older A330-300. This means that for every 1kg of air

needed by the “core” of the engine, it can move 10kg of air through the bypass duct. That means cleaner, quieter, more fuel-efficient thrust.

And you can feel the difference for yourself flying the new A330-900neo to Boston starting next month. ▶



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Flight Manager **Andrea Burton** just celebrated 20 years in the air with Virgin and loves a balmy Florida sunset



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Brunch is at **The Monroe** – I love its high industrial ceilings and flashes of foliage. Order brioche French toast, with salted-caramel drenched banana and spiced pecans.



Thrillseekers (like me) love **Test Track** at Epcot. Select the features for your dream concept car, then put it through its paces round a winding course like an F1 driver.



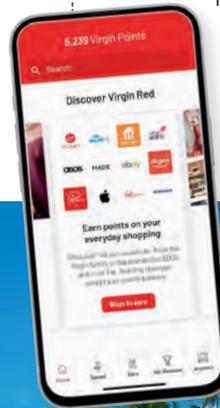
For a joyous, burlesque night out head to **Mathers Social Gathering**, where the gin and tonic comes served in a miniature bathtub, complete with rubber duck.

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WHY I LOVE MY JOB

Tom Barber is Head of Data Management at VHQ in Crawley

“Data touches every part of our organisation, from booking systems and aviation data to baggage handling. My team acts as a hub in

the middle, helping translate and present all that data in a way that's useful to decision makers. I'm a massive aviation nerd, so I get really excited by that. But data can also be harnessed to smooth the

customer's journey. Like using live data from our catering suppliers to help customers in Upper or Premium choose their favourite meals in advance, which helps reduce food waste too. Plus we can tell the crew

exactly where the customer is sitting and if they have any allergies. That really matters. I also love how we can deploy new technologies and new ways of thinking. For instance, during a tricky time with

Covid we quickly developed an app that helped customers find the right queue to breeze through the airport quicker. Using the right approach and the right tools, we try and make your day a little bit easier.”

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