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April 2023

Tiffany Haddish Mogul in the making



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Cameos



KARAN KUMAR SACHDEV

Mumbai-based Karan's work has previously been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London and LeBook Connections in Paris. We sent him to the jungle to photograph India's tiger kings. **See p44**



JENNA SCATENA

Fourth-generation San Fransisco Jenna loves reporting on her home city for outlets like BBC Travel, AFAR, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and *Travel + Leisure*. She takes us on a tour of Frisco's cinematic gems. **See p22**



DANIEL DYLAN WRAY

Based in Yorkshire, in the UK, Daniel writes about music and culture for such titles as *The Guardian* and *Time Out*. For this month's issue of *Vera*, he scoured the world for note-perfect listening bars. **See p39**

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

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Editor Jessica Prupas **Art Director** Pete Allison **Sub Editor** Omer Ali **Photo Director** Tracey Griffin **Picture Editor** Katie Byrne
Publisher Louise Burt **Advertising & Media Partnerships** Patrick Dunne, Alessia Stefani, Anya Mrkic, Daisy Heyes, Eleanor Asquith **Head of Talent** Jess Reikhi
HR and Careers beinkredible@ink-global.com **Commercial Creative Director** Mat Wiggins **Ad Operations Manager** Jamie Rabey **Print and Logistics** Martin Dunphy
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TO ADVERTISE IN VERA MAGAZINE EMAIL PATRICK.DUNNE@INK-GLOBAL.COM OR PHONE +44 (20) 7625 0700

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THINGS TO GET OBSESSED WITH RIGHT NOW

Red Hot

COMING SOON

BLOOMIN' LOVELY WASHINGTON, DC

Back in 1912, the mayor of Tokyo gave 3,000 cherry trees to Washington, DC. Ever since, the US capital is lit up by the photogenic blossoms when they bloom from late March to mid-April. The best spot to admire these hot-pink beauties is on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial, where you'll have a panoramic view of thousands of flowers coming to life along the Tidal Basin.

✈ Fly to Washington, DC

WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

D

oes anyone reading this happen to be in charge of the Olympic Games? If so, can I take this moment to suggest an exciting new event for Paris 2024? It's called the Mid-Blockbuster Toilet Dash

and it's a sport that cinemagoers will be very familiar with. It used to be that films were around 90 minutes in length. Of late, though, movies have been getting longer and longer, making it harder to get through an entire screening without needing to perform a lung-busting sprint to the bathroom and back. Three-hour run-times are increasingly the norm in 2023 – leading to a new generation of cinephile Usain Bolts getting very good at lightning-quick loo trips, determined not to miss an important reveal.

The brilliant *Babylon*, *Tár* and *The Fabelmans* – all available on today's in-flight entertainment – each push the three-hour mark. Ditto such recent releases as James Cameron's box office-conquering *Avatar: The Way of Water*, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*, *Dune*, *The Batman* and *No Time to Die*. There was a time when Hollywood tried to make films as brief as possible to maximise the number of screenings that cinemas could fit into a day, therefore selling more tickets. Recently, however, studios have been offering more bang for their audiences' bucks, as Tinseltown increasingly finds that the only thing able to draw the crowds into cinemas are bumper-length movies with epic effects.

Long films have always existed – *Lawrence of Arabia* lasts practically as long as a flight from London to Arabia – but a glance at some of 2023's most anticipated movies shows they've never been in finer fettle. Horror auteur Ari Aster's eagerly awaited new movie *Beau Is Afraid* was rumoured to be four hours long before a recent trim, with another three-hour-plus odyssey from Martin Scorsese incoming – *Killers of the Flower Moon* marks his return after 2019's *The Irishman*, which itself ran for three hours and 29 minutes.

Why's this happening? It could be that prestige TV has given audiences a craving for novelistic stories, where more episodes allow audiences to



Brad Pitt has stamina: 72% of movies he has starred in run over two hours. That's some 32 films.

get to know complex characters a bit better. It could be that in a TikTok-dominated world of bite-size content, filmmakers are rebelling and going in the opposite direction. Either way, audiences are winning – as *Babylon*, *Tár* and *The Fabelmans* show, it's a great time for big-screen stories paced like a marathon, not a sprint. Great news for moviegoers – just stay away from the king-size cola at the concessions stand, unless you're a gold-medal level Mid-Blockbuster Toilet Dasher.

📺 Watch *Tár*, *Babylon* and *The Fabelmans*



ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

GLASS ACTS

Celebs are bottling bubbles



Sparkling wit **Jay-Z** launched his very own Champagne and – underlining his savvy business chops – recently sold half to Moët Hennessy.

VERDICT: Moët money



Bubbly chanteuse **Mariah Carey** is behind Angel Champagne, a glitzy premier cru from the French villages of Chouilly and Le Mesnil-sur-Oger.

VERDICT: All I want for Christmas is Cru.



Vintage heartthrob **Leonardo DiCaprio** is investing heavily in sustainable Champagne Telmont, a French house dedicated to fancy renewable hooch.

VERDICT: Corking idea



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RISING STAR

“Gloria Steinem is my mum’s friend”

FROM HER PARENTS’ FAMOUS PALS TO CLASSIC POETS, POP STAR SAMIA TELLS **LEONIE COOPER** ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND PLACES THAT INSPIRE HER

HEARTFELT. VULNERABLE. TOUGH. In a post-Phoebe Bridgers world, Gen Z singer-songwriters get to be all three. Samia, who released her breakthrough second album *Honey* at the start of this year, is at the head of the pack, crafting bold, deeply confessional electronic balladry that has won her legions of dedicated fans. Born to actors Kathy Najimy (who you might recognise from *Hocus Pocus* or as the voice of *King of the Hill*’s Peggy) and *Old School*’s Dan Finnerty, there’s stardust running through Samia’s veins. We called her up to talk poetry, puppies and an iconic family friend.

Where in the world are you right now?

I’m in Nashville, I just got home from tour. I’m really happy to be here with my boyfriend and my dog, but I feel sort of purposeless. I need a hobby or something!

Tell us more about the dog, please.

She’s perfect. She’s a hound dog mutt from somewhere in Alabama. We got her almost exactly a year ago and she’s the sweetest in the world.

Is she allowed to come on tour?

She’s visited twice – she came to the Asheville show and she came to the Nashville show, and she did a really good job. So I think maybe it’s on the cards for the future. But I’m afraid she’d pee all over the bus.

You visited Disneyland on tour, was that planned?

It was very much planned in advance! It was in our tour schedule. It’s one of my favourite things ▶





to do in life, so I try to make time for it. I have eight or nine rides there that are absolutely necessary – like, you’ve got to do Splash Mountain. It was made for people to experience joy and that’s a really special thing. It’s so funny, I was talking with my roommates about Disneyland just this morning – I feel like it’s my whole personality now.

How long have you lived in Nashville?

I moved here two years ago. I was wanting to get out of New York because I’d been there for 10 years and during the peak of the pandemic it was just really desolate and changed a lot. I wanted to move to Austin, Texas, but then I met my boyfriend and he lived here. It’s been great. I’m really interested in the DIY music scene and the people making indie music here. That community is really growing and it’s really exciting to see. My friends’ bands are making some of the most special music I’ve ever heard. There’s this band

Below: Samia performs at the Pitchfork Music Festival at London’s Roundhouse last November



called Venus & the Flytraps here and I’m their biggest fan.

You act too – is there anything in the pipeline?

I don’t love it unless I really love the story. It’s just more fun for me to tell my own story. I also think the industry is a little bit too image oriented for me. But if there was a really good play or something, I would love to be a part of that. I like biography – it’d be cool to do a biopic.

Lana Del Rey is a huge influence on the new album. What do you love about her?

She really sticks to her guns, and she’s so sure of who she is. Her voice is really, really unwavering. As a writer, I admire that a lot. That’s something that I aspire to be able to do. I’ve never seen her play live though – I think I would die, I don’t think I could handle it!

“I WRITE MY OWN POETRY AND I THINK THAT’S WHY I GOT INTO SONGWRITING – IT’S MY FAVOURITE THING TO DO”

Your work was compared to that of the writer Raymond Carver by NPR – how did that feel?

That was a huge honour. I had just picked up one of his poetry books at the record store the day before I saw that. I’m a big poetry nerd. Maya Angelou is my favourite probably, and Anne Sexton and William Carlos Williams. I write my own poetry and I think that’s why I got into songwriting – it’s my favourite thing to do, it’s what got me through school. I would love to release my own poetry book; I have one that’s done, I’m just waiting until I work up the courage to release it.

Gloria Steinem officiated at your parents’ wedding – is she a family friend?

She’s friends with my mom, so I had the privilege of being around her growing up and getting to learn from her, which is unbelievably special. She’s pathologically humble, she won’t give advice, but just being adjacent to her is a special feeling. She’s very normal and modest.

Honey recently came out to an incredible reaction – what are your plans for album three?

I think I’m already making another one; I’ve got four new songs. Being on tour is really rejuvenating and has replenished my well of creativity.

 Listen to Honey

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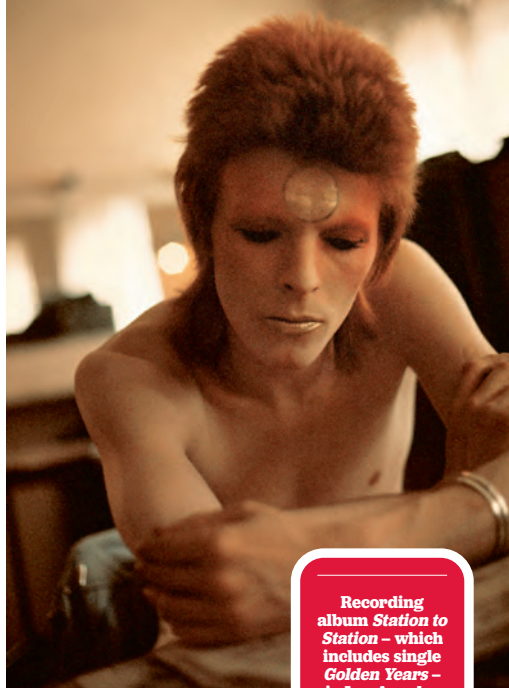
SNAPS OF THE STARMAN

Photographer Geoff MacCormack reveals in a new book deeply personal portraits of his childhood friend **David Bowie**

When Geoff MacCormack met David Robert Jones, they were two music-obsessed eight-year-olds in the London suburb of Bromley, Kent. They bonded over their shared love of American rock 'n' roll and the R&B-flavoured tunes being played on Radio Luxembourg. A decade later, David Jones became David Bowie – a global sensation and one of the most influential pop artists of all time.

Throughout the rest of Bowie's life, he and MacCormack stayed close. When his friend went on the road, MacCormack followed him – from LA to Japan on a sailboat, and then back to the UK from Japan through Russia on the Trans-Siberian Express, taking candid snaps along the way. Now all those images are being published for the very first time in *David Bowie: Rock 'n' Roll With Me*.





Recording album *Station to Station* - which includes single *Golden Years* - in Los Angeles in late 1975.



WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTOS: GEOFF MACCORMACK, ADOBE STOCK

Throughout Bowie's life he stayed close with Geoff MacCormack

Clockwise from above: Sleeping on the Trans-Siberian Express; adopting the Ziggy Stardust persona; in LA's Cherokee Studios; shooting paper cups and in the mirror



The book charts the two boys' lifelong friendship. MacCormack wasn't, in his words, "a professional photographer on a paid session clicking away". His amateur status allowed him to "subtly select the moment" he wanted to capture, resulting in deeply intimate portraits of one of the world's brightest stars.

Expect loads of candid backstage photos and early snapshots in this book. But what's MacCormack's favourite memory of his friend? "His 50th birthday concert at Madison Square Garden. At the end, he sang *Space Oddity*. There he was, some 30 years after he'd written it, on a big stage, singing his first hit and smiling."

David Bowie: *Rock 'n' Roll With Me* is published by ACC Art Books



SET VISIT

The wheel deal in Margate

In Sam Mendes-directed drama *Empire of Light*, Olivia Colman plays Hilary Small, who works in a cinema where she forms a salutary relationship with a new employee. Hilary's place of work will be instantly familiar to anyone who's been to Margate, in the UK - most of the scenes were filmed at Dreamland, an entertainment complex whose iconic sign and giant Ferris wheel loom over the Kentish coastal town. The film made use of its Art Deco interiors, forming an intriguing backdrop for the fictional *Empire of Light*. And though the real thing doesn't actually have a cinema, it's still pretty as a picture.

✂ Fly to London





SNACKS

LORD OF THE RINGS

The deluxe donuts at **Donutelier by Roladin** in London run circles around the competition

DONUTS HAVE SUFFERED from bad press over the years. Why? For their association with greasy funfairs, probably. And Homer Simpson. Well, now they're having a glow-up thanks to Roladin – an Israeli bakery group known for their decidedly chichi takes on sweet treats. Their new space on London's Charing Cross Road is very glam indeed – from the stripy awning out front to the marbled countertops and brass cake stands within, all wittily spot-lit by lamps shaped like patisserie piping bags. Never mind all that,

how are the donuts? Dang fine. Check out the ludicrously indulgent St Honore – named after the French patron saint of pastry chefs – with salted caramel, mascarpone cream and a caramelised vanilla profiterole plonked on top. Or scoff the Pistachio with Chantilly cream, dried raspberry and almond sable. We promise it'll make you all gooey inside.

✂ Fly to London



From top: Pistachio is one of the highlights at Donutelier, which is open in the centre of London till 10pm daily

DRINKS



Clarified cocktails pack a punch

Full transparency: clarified cocktails are nothing new. Benjamin Franklin was a fan. Just add milk and lemon juice to a boozy mixture, leave for a few hours, then strain through cheesecloth. Voilà, no imperfections. But “milk punch”, as it's also known, is having a moment. Case in point: the new Jelas in NYC (the name is Malay for “clear”) serves only lucid drinks. The Milk Punch at London EDITION has a lively slug of brandy, while Blyth & Burrows in Portland, Maine, goes Big In Japan with a vodka cocktail that's clarified with coconut milk. So, vegans, you're in the clear.

✂ Fly to New York

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a sparkling turquoise cay and hummingbirds frolicking under your balcony as you stand aperitif in hand, you might be forgiven for thinking, “This is lovely, but is it really Soho House?” Most famous as a network of sophisticated urban pieds-à-terre, the hotel and private members group now does barefoot luxury. Soho Beach House is on dinky Canouan island in St Vincent and the Grenadines, a short “puddle jumper” flight from St Lucia. While brand standards are on point – suave bar, pop-up Cowshed spa, Frette linen – it radiates a more laid-back, less busy vibe. There are no TVs in the rooms or desks.



But there is a beach. And hammock seating. And a palapa-shaded restaurant serving boat-fresh ceviche, roasted breadfruit and

papaya sorbet, which you can scoff on a jetty if you fancy. Every room has a balcony and the WiFi is very good – not that you’ll be needing it here.

✂ Fly to St Lucia

3 MORE BEACHY BOLTHOLES



THE OCEAN CLUB, BAHAMAS

Modern refinement meets retro charm – there’s a resident jazz pianist and Versailles-styled gardens – plus world-class fish tacos at this glamorous Nassau haven.



BAY GARDENS HOTEL, ST LUCIA

At the heart of the island’s entertainment hub, Rodney Bay, this Caribbean getaway has everything: a giant lagoon pool, seafood-heavy dining and all the watersports you could want.



FAENA, MIAMI

Baz Luhrmann and his Oscar-winning designer wife Catherine Martin signed off on the glitzy look of this bouji pad, with exquisite pan-Asian cooking from Manila-born chef Paul Qui.



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LOCATION SCOUT

CINEMATIC SAN FRANCISCO

From epic car chases in *Bullitt* to dizzying heights in Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, this West Coast city looks great in the pictures. **Jenna Scatena** tells us why SF is a film lover's paradise

Below: Steve McQueen races round San Fran in a dark green 1968 Ford Mustang GT in classic *Bullitt*

S

peeding through the streets of San Francisco – through Potrero Hill up to San Bruno Mountain State Park – Steve McQueen’s Ford Mustang set the standard for onscreen car

chases in 1968’s *Bullitt*. It may not have the same movie-making mythos as Los Angeles, but San Fran has formed the backdrop for many iconic film moments – so much so that even a casual stroll around the city reveals cinematic history on each corner and up every hill.

The beloved San Francisco International Film Festival (SFFILM) – running 13–23 April – solidifies SF’s reputation as a movie-lover’s paradise. Founded in 1957, SFFILM is the longest-running film festival in the Americas, presenting unique stories from around the world. Outside the festival, there are plenty of year-round opportunities to take a cinematic journey through this telegenic city.

The best place to start is at **Foreign Cinema (1)** – a restaurant in the Mission District that takes the dinner-and-a-movie concept to the next level. Favourites like *Young Frankenstein*, *High Fidelity* and *Gypsy* are projected onto a wall in a romantic interior courtyard that feels like it could be the setting for a Fellini film. Instead of popcorn, the James Beard Award-nominated chefs serve dishes like five spice duck breast with roasted garlic Yukon hash and grilled lavender-brined pork chop with warm leek and farro salad.



Even a casual stroll around the city reveals cinematic history on each corner and up every hill

Or if you’d prefer to dine at an actual celeb’s restaurant, then head across town to film director Francis Ford Coppola’s own **Cafe Zoetrope**, which deserves an Academy Award for the decor alone. Housed within North Beach’s historic Sentinel Building – a copper-patina flatiron structure – it sets the stage for an epic meal with walls adorned with old Hollywood photos (Coppola’s production company used to be upstairs). Italian-American dishes populate the menu like spaghetti with beef, pork and veal meatballs. But the house speciality is the Caesar salad, invented in this very building at Caesar’s Grill in 1924 and made fresh each day. Scan the extensive wine list and you’ll find exclusive bottles from Coppola’s wineries.

One of the best places for film-star sightings is just a few blocks away at **Tosca Cafe**. This century-old restaurant and watering hole has been a magnet for Hollywood actors passing through and local celebrities stirring up gossip (Sean Penn and Bruce Springsteen have been among its enthusiastic patrons). Order any of the inventive cocktails and you won’t be disappointed, but the Tosca Negroni, made with citrusy Amaro, and the vodka-based, warmly spiced Mamma Mia are standouts.

In the heart of the Mission District you’ll find one the oldest continuously run cinemas in the USA – and you have no excuse to miss it, that ▶



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2

Walt Disney first sketched Mickey Mouse on a train ride from NYC back to Hollywood in 1928.

glowing neon sign dominates the street. The **Roxie Theater (2)** is a local treasure dating back to 1912 and the interior has barely changed in decades, with vintage film posters and speckled red carpeting in the lobby. It shows hard-to-find films and hosts local festivals, including the San Francisco Documentary Festival and the San Francisco Short Film Festival.

San Franciscans also have a thing for outdoor movie screenings: Dolores Park, the Presidio and Fort Mason double as hugely popular pop-up outdoor cinemas. As of last year, the Bay Area got its very first year-round outdoor theatre: **The Cut**, located in the Transbay neighbourhood. Here, a 7m-wide LED screen brings mainstream hits, cult classics and local film programming to viewers who can relax on bean bags or deckchairs. Concessions are offered from a full bar as well as some excellent nearby food trucks.

The city's museums also offer a fascinating look behind the silver screen. Hidden in the Presidio

National Park, you'll find George Lucas's film studio, Lucasfilm, where series like *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones* are brought to life. While you can't tour the super-secret studio, the **Lucasfilm lobby** hosts an amazing museum and sculpture garden open to the public featuring props and tributes to Lucas's best work. Just a short walk away, you can also delve into another icon of film history at **The Walt Disney Family Museum (3)**, with hands-on exhibitions and animation workshops for young and old.

For an ideal closing act to your cinematic voyage, relax at the **AMAC Kabuki 8** and the **Kabuki Springs & Spa** in Japantown. Within this theatre and spa complex, you can indulge in a shiatsu massage at the traditional Japanese-style bathhouse before taking your cinema seat. Don't forget to order a cocktail before sinking into a comfy lounge chair.

Housed in a flatiron-style building in the Mid-Market district, you won't find a more appealing base than **Proper Hotel SF (4)**. It's a favourite celebrity hangout, located amid the dazzling theatres and busy markets of the neighbourhood. Take in camera-ready sweeps of the city from the rooftop bar, then call it a wrap.



3



Right: Proper's flagship hotel features Kelly Wearstler interiors and three "dining destinations"

4

✈ Fly to San Francisco

3 MORE MUST-SEES IN SAN FRANCISCO



EXPLORATORIUM

Get lost in the world of science and technology on San Fran's waterfront. With hundreds of interactive exhibitions and activities, people of all ages will pick up some fun new facts here.



SF BOTANICAL GARDEN

The cascading meadows, wetlands, and forests at Golden Gate Park are a marvel. Explore the educational programmes, informative talks on horticulture and art installations across the grounds.



SFMOMA

One of the largest contemporary museums in the US, SFMOMA is a must-visit. Until 29 May, you can see work by Bay Area artists like Cathy Lu and Binta Ayofemi for free on Floor 2.



San Francisco, in your pocket

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

PHOTOS: ANDRE STOCK, ALAMY; LEONARD MARTIN HUGHETT, THE EARLIEST KNOWN DRAWING OF MICKEY MOUSE, 1928; COURTESY WALT DISNEY FAMILY FOUNDATION; ©DISNEY; MARILYN TILLEY, @EXPLORATORIUM / EXPLORATORIUM; SMOHETA EXPANSION OF THE NEW SPHORA, 2016; PHOTO: © HEIKRIK KARI, COURTESY SFHOMA

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SCREEN TEST

Can I change my identity?

ON THE LAM IN *BANDIT*, JOSH DUHAMEL ASSUMES A NEW PERSONA. BUT HOW EASY IS IT TO ERASE THE PAST, **RALPH JONES** WONDERS

E

ver wanted to make a fresh start? Wanted to grow a shaggy beard, wear sunglasses indoors and be known only as JJ McLegend? Of course you have. You're only human.

Mainly because we are all painfully aware of the mistakes and flaws that make up our imperfect lives, we yearn to wipe that dirty slate clean, conjuring a new persona out of thin air.

In *Bandit*, Josh Duhamel's motives are a little less honourable: he escapes from prison in Michigan and uses a fake identity to start robbing banks when he arrives in Canada. Though this is literally about as illegal as it's possible to get, is it possible in this age of surveillance? If you wanted to create a new identity for perfectly innocent reasons, would you be able to?

Private detective Peter Torley warns bluntly: "To get a new identity, you would have to do something illegal, unless you had the cooperation of the state." If you wanted to give yourself a new birth certificate, trying to retrospectively alter the footprint you have left on the world, the government would have to do it for you. But, in practice, they never would. "You can't change the DNA of who you are," says Torley.

There are plenty of things you can do to minimise your online past. You can opt out from data collection companies, painstakingly delete your old online accounts and even pay companies like DeleteMe to remove your information from the web to the best of their ability. In the EU and the UK, GDPR Article 7, called the "right to be forgotten", upholds citizens' rights to have their data erased from search engines – though this right isn't absolute (it only applies, somewhat ominously, when the personal data in question "is no longer necessary in relation to the purpose for which it was collected").



You can't vanish but you can make your old self much harder to find.

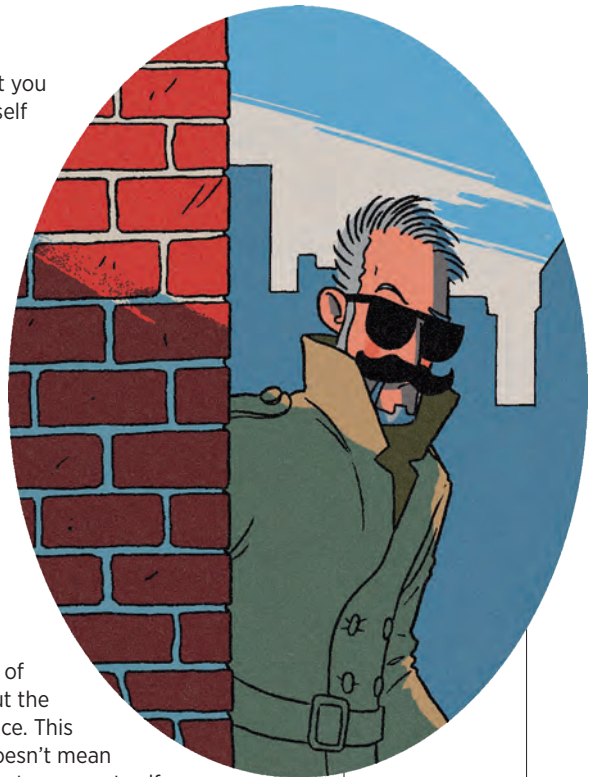
You can also change your name by deed poll. "I've had many cases where people have changed their name," Torley says. This decision will quickly help you create an entirely new person: you can get a new passport and driving licence, and will begin to leave a paper trail, scattering evidence of your existence about the

place. This doesn't mean that your past self will magically disappear. But it does mean that you have legitimately willed a new person into the world – a little like giving birth but without all of the pain.

A whole new persona will make your life more complicated in the short term:

you'll need to correct everyone as they get your name wrong and you'll need to tell your utilities providers all about it. But you'll know if it's the right thing for you. The mess will be worth it. You'll finally be you, free to live as you had always imagined. Pleased to meet you, Mr JJ McLegend, sir.

 Watch *Bandit*



THE VERDICT

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UP WAY THE ALL

After a decade lighting up our screens with her candid hilarity, Tiffany Haddish is eyeing up her next big move: becoming a bona fide mogul. She talks to **Al Horner** about striving in Hollywood and turning pain into purpose

PHOTOGRAPHS:
JOSEFINA SANTOS

MOST CELEBS RETURN



from Oscars night with an impending hangover. Tiffany Haddish returned with a new job title and a new, very famous best friend. "I'm now Sir Elton John's official gardener!" says the comedian, beaming, the morning after a night spent enjoying the Hollywood awards extravaganza in the company of pop royalty. "I said to him, 'I heard you have the best garden in England. Can we have high tea in your garden? I'll help you pull weeds, I'll do it all.' He was like, 'Err... I have someone to do that for me. But sure, honey!' That's a legally binding invite," says the 43-year-old, who wasn't exactly short of work before adding "horticulturist to the Rocketman" to an already-glimmering CV.

Haddish, you see, is one of America's most in-demand entertainers: an actress, stand-up and author whose promotional appearances on late-night talk shows are funnier than most comics' actual movies. Examples? The time on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* when she described making strange sexual advances at Leonardo DiCaprio. Or the time on *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* when she described doing something - ahem - incredibly unhygienic in an ex-boyfriend's Nikes after discovering that he'd been cheating. Or the time... well, you get it. Tiffany

Haddish is funny. If she's half as good at tending to plants as she is telling uproarious stories, or inhabiting wild-eyed characters like the ones she played in hit comedies such as *Girls Trip*, *Night School* and *The Carmichael Show*, then Elton's petunias are about to flourish like never before. ▶

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That particular career departure may have to wait, however. Haddish is busy, she tells me, building an empire. How is she going to do that? Well, the first part of her “strategy”, as she calls it, is taking on meatier leading roles. She plays a rogue agent opposite Nicolas Cage in *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*; at the end of April, she returns as wily crime-fighter Detective Danner for a second season of hilarious whodunnit *The Afterparty*; and soon she’ll appear in *Haunted Mansion*, Disney’s upcoming blockbuster based on the hit theme park attraction.

The next step is giving other would-be filmmakers a leg up. “I want to have my own studio where I can provide a platform for people to tell the stories they think the world should see,” she explains. Sure, she’s already won a Grammy (Best Comedy Album, for 2019’s *Black Mitzvah*).

“IT’S REALLY IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE I PUT EVERYTHING OUT THERE AND DON’T HIDE YOUR PAST, YOU CAN NEVER RUN AWAY FROM”

And, yes, in 2018, she was named one of *Time* magazine’s 100 most influential people on the planet. But all that was just the beginning. “It feels like I’m sitting in front of a big bonfire with a bunch of s’mores on sticks all cooking in there and I’m trying to make sure none of them melt.” The comic grins at her way of describing having a lot of projects in the pipeline, each one another notch in her quest for Hollywood domination.

It’s hard to imagine any of the movies she’s currently working on, either as an actor or producer, having a story quite as dramatic as her own. Haddish’s 2017 memoir *The Last Black Unicorn* detailed how she grew up in a Los Angeles family almost ripped apart by an abusive stepfather, who she alleges tampered with the

CELEBRITY GUEST LIST

THE HILARIOUS STARS OF THE AFTERPARTY



JOHN EARLY

A cult stand-up fave whose outrageous comic style has shaped characters across an array of US comedy shows.

See him in: *Search Party*



ILANA GLAZER

Her sitcom *Broad City* blazed the trail for feminist comedy in the 2010s.

See her in: *The Planet Is Burning*



SAM RICHARDSON

He’s been in every great new US comedy series – from *Detroiters* to *Veep*.

See him in: *I Think You Should Leave...*



JAMIE DEMETRIOU

The Cypriot-British surrealist sketch comedian is best known for skewering London estate agents.

See him in: *Stath Lets Flats*



JACK WHITEHALL

British stand-up who lampoons poshness is making his name with big roles in blockbusters.

See him in: *Jungle Cruise*

The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a luxurious spa facility. In the foreground, a large, rectangular swimming pool with clear blue water is visible. The pool is surrounded by a light-colored stone deck. On the deck, there are several lounge chairs with dark blue cushions and white pillows. In the background, a large, modern building with a dark roof and large windows is visible. The building has a covered outdoor area with a bar and seating. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is serene and relaxing.

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brakes of her mother's car in a deliberate attempt to kill them. The aim, she says, was to collect a life insurance payout. Instead, the resulting crash left Haddish's mother, Leola, with brain damage that made her quick-tempered and violent. Haddish became the primary caregiver to her four siblings; it's uncertain what became of the stepfather.

"If I could [change things] I would, but maybe then I wouldn't be where I'm at now. I wish it all didn't happen the way it happened, but those things did happen and I learned valuable lessons from them," the comedian reflects today. "I think it's really important to make sure I put everything out there and don't hide. Your past, you can never run away from," she continues, explaining her reason for writing the book. "I got all these messages and videos from people saying they could relate, that my story helped them, that it was a blessing to know they weren't the only ones who suffered."

The book's bleak spots don't end there: there's tales of being homeless as Haddish attempted to get her career in comedy off the ground. There are accounts of alleged domestic abuse at the hands

"I LEARNED FROM ROGER RABBIT THAT BEING FUNNY COULD HELP ME... NOW THAT I'M OLDER, I CAN SEE THAT LAUGHTER ALSO HEALS"

of an ex-husband who she married, divorced and married again. It's remarkable that her comic style is so joyous and upbeat, given the darker sides of humanity that she's been a witness to, I tell her. "You gotta use suffering like fertiliser. You gotta let something grow from it," she replies, sighing. "Any time someone disappoints me, it reminds me I'm not here on this planet to be dependent on other people and their actions. I'm here to do a job that God bestowed upon me. And that job is to bring joy." Haddish looks at it all with a Zen philosophy: if there weren't toxic people in this world, there would be less need for comedy to provide an escape from the storm clouds. She'd be out of a job.

It was at an early age that Haddish learned how laughter could be a tool this way. When she was little, she recalls watching the movie *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. One scene in particular stood out, when Bob Hoskins' cranky private eye Eddie Valiant asks the riotous cartoon bunny why everyone is so nice to him. "A laugh can be a very powerful thing. Why, sometimes in life, it's the only weapon we have," Roger replies, lighting a fuse in the young Californian. "I learned from Roger Rabbit that being funny could help me [get other ▶

FUNNY BUSINESS

TIFFANY HADDISH'S CV



Born

3 December 1979
in Los Angeles,
California.

Education

El Camino Real High School, where she was the school mascot, before being offered the choice of attending the Laugh Factory Comedy Camp or undergoing psychiatric therapy at 17. She chose the former.

Interests

Bee-keeping, loving Oprah Winfrey, wearing a unicorn onesie at home and being unashamedly messy – the day we speak with Haddish, she's fixing an untidy bedroom by converting it into a walk-in closet.

Key works

Girls Trip (2017)

The movie that confirmed Haddish as a vital new voice in US comedy, acting alongside Regina Hall, Queen Latifah and Jada Pinkett Smith in the tale of four friends travelling to a music festival in New Orleans.

The Carmichael Show (2015–17)

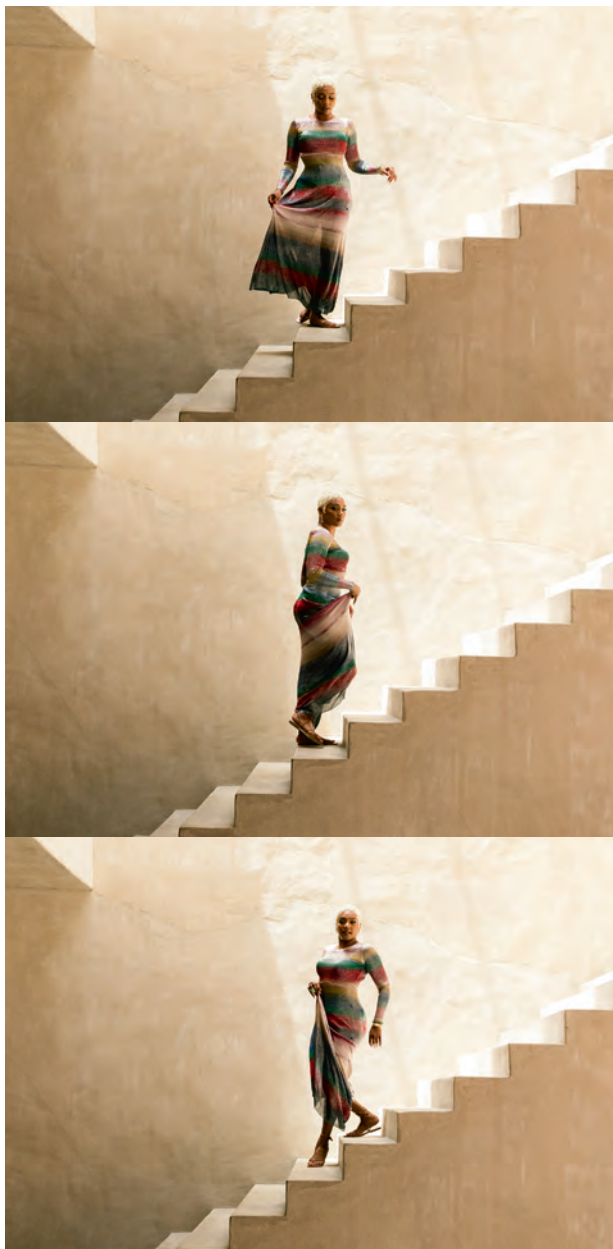
Three seasons of hilarity following a fictionalised version of comedian Jerrod Carmichael's family. Haddish lights up the screen as lead character Bobby's estranged wife turned roommate.

The Card Counter (2021)

An exciting glimpse at Haddish's dramatic chops. In legendary *Taxi Driver* writer Paul Schrader's gambling drama, Haddish plays the love interest to Oscar Isaac's PTSD-wracked poker player.

Alongside Nicolas Cage in freewheeling star vehicle *The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent*





people to] do my homework. It could help me keep the bullies back," she says. It even helped her soothe the violent tantrums of her traumatised mother. "Now that I'm much older, I can see that laughter also heals," she says, adding that there's something beautiful about how, decades after a movie about a detective set her on her path towards comedy, she's now playing one in *The Afterparty*. "It's like picking a plum off a plum tree

at the right time, when it's all juicy and mwah! I just love it."

Don't expect the 43-year-old to stick to playing Sherlock-esque investigators forever, though. There's a whole host of different parts Haddish hopes to take on as her new era as a leading lady begins in earnest – action star included. "If I could get 75% of what Tom Cruise gets paid, I'm jumping outta all the planes. Want to throw me off the Empire State Building? If someone promises to take care of my animals [if a stunt goes wrong,] then let's do it. Want me to eat snakes and wrestle rhinos? I'm there!" Haddish, it's worth adding, is currently building the physique of an international super spy. Every morning of late, she's gone to the beach to do callisthenics as part of an exhaustive exercise regime ahead of her starring role in a biopic about pioneering American athlete Florence Griffith Joyner.

That part promises to showcase more of Haddish's dramatic flair and is the kind of left turn we should expect more, she says, as her empire continues to build. The more milestone parts she gets, the more grateful she becomes that

"IF I COULD GET 75% OF WHAT TOM CRUISE GETS PAID, I'M JUMPING OUTTA ALL THE PLANES. WANT ME TO EAT SNAKES? I'M THERE!"

she didn't listen to the advice of the idiots who told her this type of success was out of reach for someone like her. "I get quite emotional about how there were so many times people told me to quit. That women can't be funny. That I should try to get pregnant by someone rich and just sit down somewhere," she says. She got the last laugh. Haddish now is not just a leading light in Hollywood, but a leading light in her community – for the past few years, she's been working towards opening a Black-owned grocery store in South Central Los Angeles that will empower the entire neighbourhood.

"I never want to be nobody's role model. I make mistakes. My decisions ain't always the best ones." She laughs. "But I think I can be an inspiration to keep trying to be better." And that's what drives Tiffany Haddish on – why, she says, in the upcoming weeks, months and years, she wants to work harder than ever to make this empire happen. Which means she'll be working both behind and in front of the camera to bring her unfiltered hilarity to the masses. Bad news for Elton's garden – but great news for us.

 **Watch The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent**

CHARLES TYRWHITT

JERMYN STREET LONDON

A photograph of two men in blue suits walking through a modern, brightly lit interior space, possibly a train station or airport. The man on the left is younger with curly hair, wearing a blue suit, a light purple shirt, and a matching tie. He is pulling a black rolling suitcase. The man on the right is older with grey hair and glasses, wearing a blue suit and a white shirt. He is carrying a black shoulder bag and holding a smartphone. They are both smiling and looking at each other. The background features a large, industrial-style metal and glass structure.

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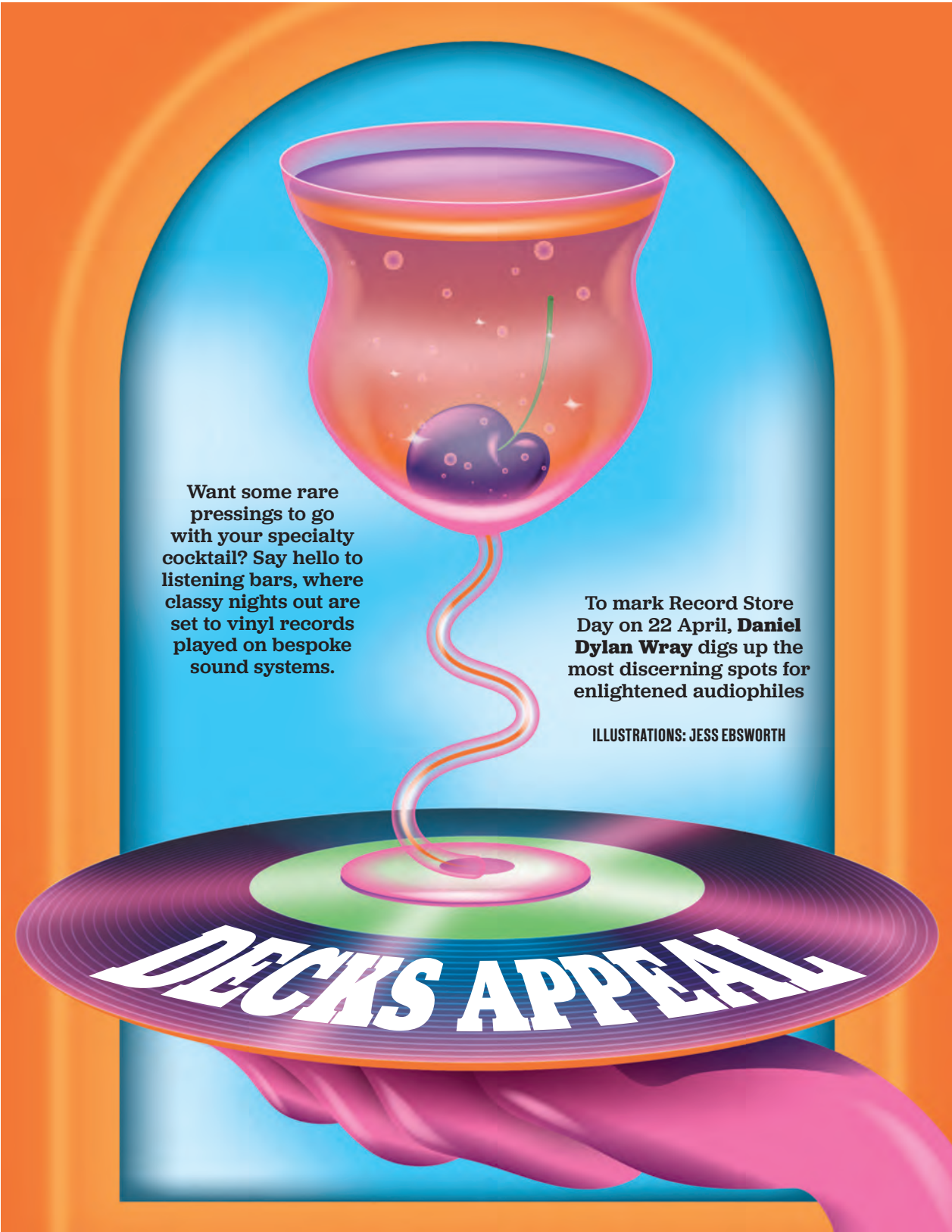
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Want some rare pressings to go with your specialty cocktail? Say hello to listening bars, where classy nights out are set to vinyl records played on bespoke sound systems.

To mark Record Store Day on 22 April, **Daniel Dylan Wray** digs up the most discerning spots for enlightened audiophiles

ILLUSTRATIONS: JESS EBSWORTH

DECKS APPEAL

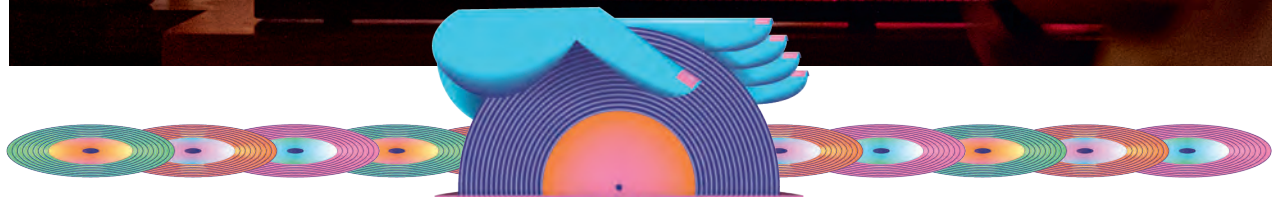
DANTE'S HIFI MIAMI

Top notes:
Sophisticated with a laid-back twist

Hi-fi music in a “comfortable, lo-fi” setting is the vibe here, according to the owners – except their definition of lo-fi probably isn’t the prevailing one. Though it seats just 50, it’s a sleek, elegant affair, with plush Mid-Century leather furniture and gold velvet curtains. The sound system is all analogue, including a vintage tube amplifier, so the tunes sound as good as the place looks. With over 8,500 records stocked – and guest DJs that have included Jarobi White from A Tribe Called Quest – it’s a place teeming with sonic possibilities.

When in Miami, listen to... KC and the Sunshine Band, *Do It Good*. A vibrant, punchy record from the Miami band that goes down as easy as a beach-side cocktail.

✂ Fly to Miami



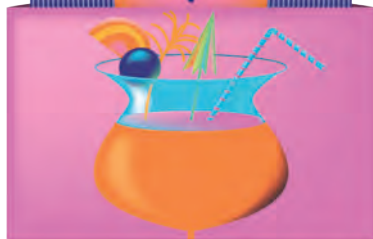
ROMANO TEL AVIV

Top notes:
Fun, straight up

Run by Eyal Shani, one of Tel Aviv’s most celebrated chefs, the modern Israeli menu here is as much a draw as the tunes and drinks – think fish shawarma with whipped tomatoes or burgers in between soft

challah buns. Step out of the always-busy restaurant-bar-lounge into the courtyard, where local selectors play vinyl seven nights a week through a custom sound system, making for a lively party atmosphere where dancing is definitely encouraged.

When in Tel Aviv, listen to... *Monotonix, Not Yet*. This album, recorded with



legendary producer Steve Albini in Chicago, is a frenetic blast of punk, noise and garage rock.

✂ Fly to Tel Aviv





GOLD LINE LOS ANGELES

Top notes:
Cali-chic meets
obsessive
crate-digging

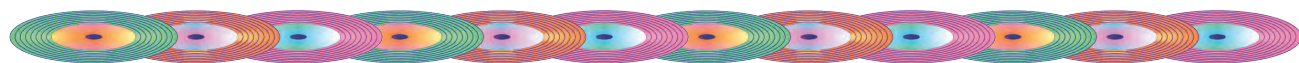
Owned by Peanut Butter Wolf – founder of celebrated LA record label Stones Throw, the office of which sits above it – this bar in Highland Park contains over 8,000 records from his personal collection. So expect some eye-popping rarities spanning hip hop, soul, funk, electro, jazz and the like. On top of the vast in-house pile, there's also a vintage Rock-Ola jukebox for punters. Stylistically, Gold Line merges the homely with the industrial: brick walls



behind the bar make way for cosy wood panelling and low lighting in the listening area. Drinks focus on highballs and classic cocktails, along with natural wine, mezcal and Japanese whisky.

When in Los Angeles, listen to... *The Beach Boys, Pet Sounds.* Few artists encapsulate the sun-drenched West Coast like the Cali boys.

✂ Fly to Los Angeles



APT 115 AUSTIN

Top notes:
Gourmet menus
and good music

Austin has been experiencing an explosion in listening bars lately (see also: Long Play Lounge and the newly opened second location of Dante's HiFi at Soho House Austin), so you can expect some great

variety in its scene. Take APT 115, a restaurant that pairs fine dining with fine records. Here you can indulge in the chef's elaborate and impressive tasting menu or just come for the wine – they have 400 bottles of mostly small production and low intervention varieties. But the music isn't just background here: the tunes are as thoughtful

as the food, with a 100% vinyl policy.

When in Austin, listen to...

The 13th Floor Elevators, The Psychedelic Sounds of the 13th Floor Elevators. Released in 1966, many see this Texan classic as the progenitor of psychedelic rock.

✂ Fly to Austin

EAVESDROP NEW YORK

Top notes:
Serious tune time

Feel like a boogie? Tough luck – this bijou, 36-seater Brooklyn bar is all about sitting and listening intently to rare records selected by hotly tipped local DJs. The space was built on the same design principles as a recording studio, with a custom-built sound system that deserves your full attention. Get stuck into small plates, natural wines and craft cocktails as you let the music – an eclectic mix that spans everything from electronic to jazz to experimental music – wash over you.

When in New York, listen to...

Television, Marquee Moon. The CBGB regulars embrace art-rock and expressive guitar to make a quintessentially NYC record.

✂ Fly to New York





JUMBI LONDON

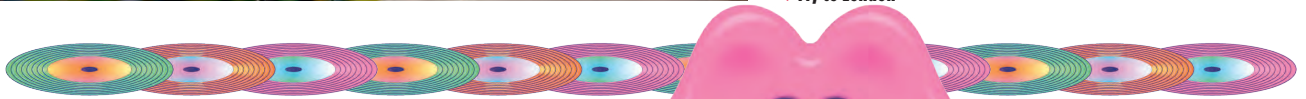
Top notes:
Eclectic Afro-Caribbean flavours

With a floor-to-ceiling vinyl collection that immediately catches your eye upon entry, Jumbi has already positioned itself as a key part of London's contemporary music scene since it opened last year. It's a vinyl bar and restaurant that celebrates the sounds and food of the African-Caribbean diaspora, so expect knockout cocktails – from classic rum drinks to clarified milk punch – and a menu of dumplings, plantain, and Trinidad-inspired flat breads that are as tasty as the good-time atmosphere.

When in London, listen to...

Little Simz, *No Thank You*. A joyous mix of hip hop, gospel, soul and funk, Little Simz's music is contemporary London.

✂ Fly to London



ONE PARK CAPE TOWN

Top notes:
Versatile-cool

One Park is a listening bar, record shop, gallery, radio station and restaurant all rolled into one – making it the centre of Cape Town social life. The listening bar isn't just an addendum, though, it's the first of its kind in the whole country and it boasts an immaculately designed custom system. While great local DJs like Nabihah Iqbal spin the decks, order their famous sticky lamb ribs with mint

chutney and wash it down with a Bird's Eye cocktail of fresh turmeric, chilli, orange liqueur and Leonista reposado. A delicious night out guaranteed.

When in Cape Town, listen to...

Abdullah Ibrahim, *Mannenberg – Is Where It's Happening*. This record, led by the anti-apartheid track of the same name, holds a special place in the history of South African music. Recorded by Ibrahim in 1974 under his former name, Dollar Brand.

✂ Fly to Cape Town



HARLAN RECORDS SAN FRANCISCO

Top notes:
Cosy with a side of soulful selects

Music literally covers every inch of this laid-back space: vinyl records stretching into their thousands line the walls; the bar is backdropped by vintage radios once collected by the owner's grandfather. Combined with warm wood panelling and flickering candles, the effect is that of a cosy speakeasy.

Music-wise, expect plenty of soul and funk played through a high-end, bespoke sound system. Their cocktails, like the Snoop Dogg-inspired Gin 'n' Juice, are the shiznit.

When in San Francisco, listen to...

Sly and the Family Stone, *There's a Riot Goin' On*. Soulful and innovative.

✂ Fly to San Francisco

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TIGER



FIFTY YEARS AGO, INDIA'S BENGAL TIGERS WERE ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION. NOW THE POPULATION IS THRIVING THANKS TO THE SANKHALAS, A THREE-GENERATION CONSERVATION DYNASTY. **TAMARA HINSON** HEADS TO THE JUNGLE TO MEET THE YOUNGEST OF THE THREE MEN, AND HOPEFULLY SPOT ONE OF THE FEARSOME BIG CATS

PHOTOGRAPHS: KARAN KUMAR SACHDEV



KINGS



Previous page:
Third-generation
conservationist
Amit Sankhala
Left: On the path
of Bengal tigers
in Bandhavgarh
National Park

AMIT

Sankhala is certain I'll see a tiger. He tells me this as we bump along the dirt roads of Bandhavgarh National Park, India's tiger country – 1,540km² of swaying grassland and tropical forest where the mighty Bengal tiger roams freely. As we drive past gaggles of langur monkeys and slender sal trees scarred with claw marks, I'm getting increasingly desperate. So far on our safari, we've spotted twerking peacocks, a plodding elephant and a herd of snuffling wild boar, but India's most famous cat has eluded us.

Amit isn't stressed, though. "Don't worry," he says, adjusting his Ray-Bans and stretching across the back seat of the open-top Jeep. "You'll get your tiger."

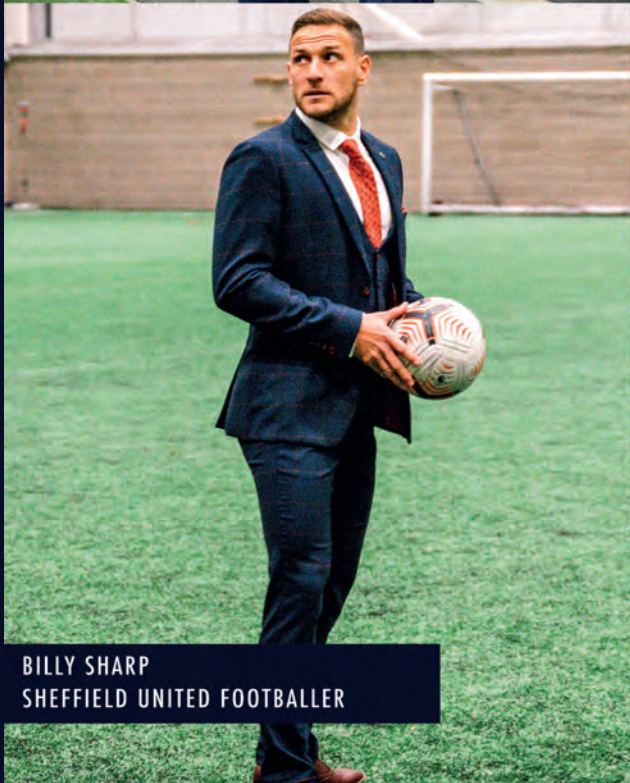
If anyone can promise this, it's him. Amit is a third-generation conservationist – his grandfather, legendary tiger-whisperer Kailash Sankhala, helped shape Project Tiger, a landmark conservation project that's credited with bringing India's Bengal tigers back from the brink of extinction. Now, 50 years after the project began, Amit tells me tiger numbers are flourishing across the country. ▶



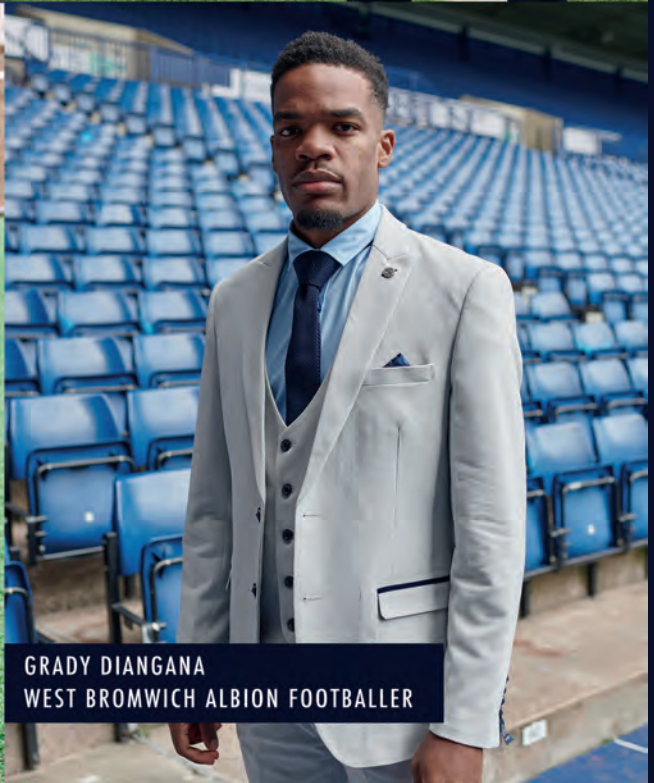
JORDAN PICKFORD
EVERTON FOOTBALLER



DOMINIC CALVERT-LEWIN
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BILLY SHARP
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But it's been a long road to get here. It all started in the 1950s, during Kailash's tenure at India's Forest Service, where he issued hunting permits. At the time, shooting tigers was a common blood sport and Kailash's friend goaded him to pick up a rifle.

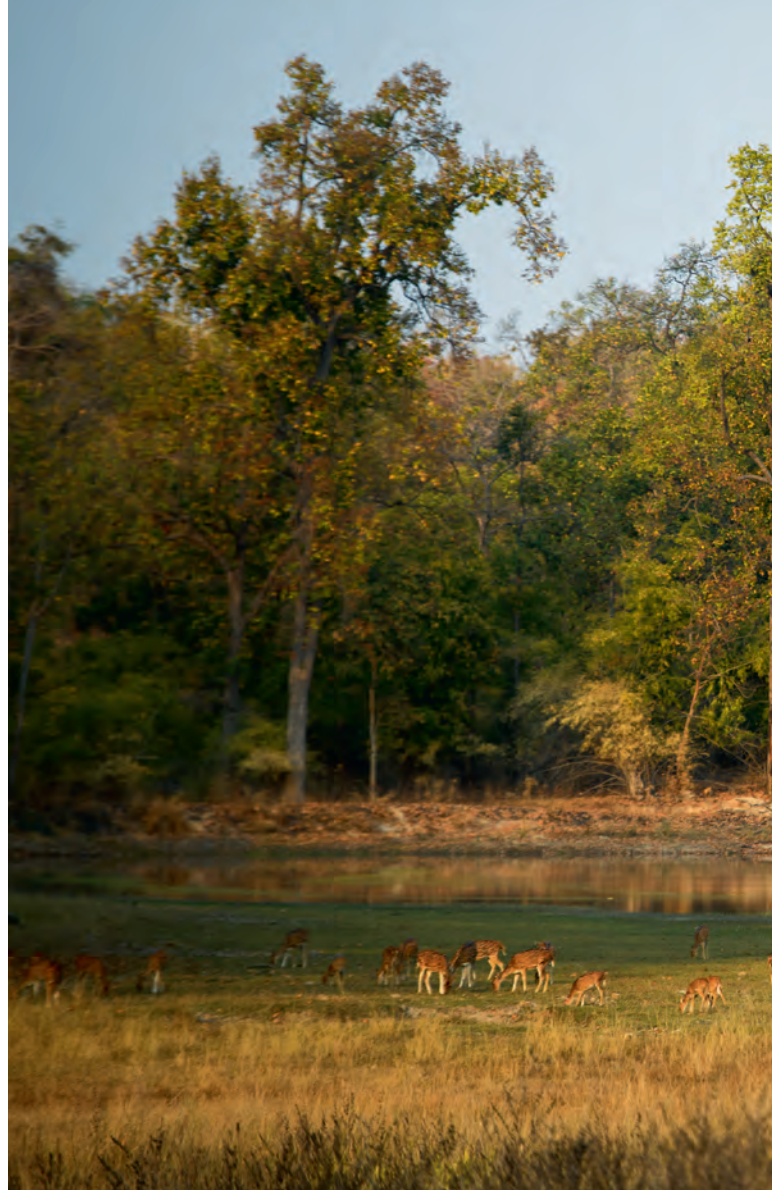


"He'd never killed a tiger," Amit tells me as we pass a grazing herd of sambar deer. "And when he finally did, he was traumatised."

After that watershed moment, Kailash decided to dedicate his life to protecting India's tigers. What followed was an illustrious career in conservation that was filled with hard-won achievements – like when, in 1969, he convinced Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to ban tiger hunting. After Kailash conducted India's first tiger census and discovered there were only 1,827 tigers left in the country, Gandhi launched Project Tiger and appointed him director. Kailash relocated entire villages to create tiger reserves – a drastic approach that paved the way for the tigers to make their comeback.

"His attitude was different to mine, but the challenges were different," says Amit. "You had to move human-animal conflicts out of places rather than incentivising locals to stay."

After Kailash saved tigers by segregating them from humans, Pradeep – Amit's father, who also



“MY FATHER’S GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT WAS CREATING A SUSTAINABLE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN REMOTE PLACES”

grew up to be a conservationist – had the task of bringing them back together. So, in an effort to reconcile tourism and animal conservation, he opened Kanha Jungle Lodge, India's first eco-lodge, in 1989. The lodge I'm staying at, Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge, with its cosy brick villas scattered across a jungle clearing, was opened by Pradeep in 1992. Amit recalls childhood holidays here, when he'd explore the park from atop an elephant – which dropped him back at the lodge afterwards.

But today it's a Jeep, not an elephant that returns me to the lodge after a long day without any tiger sightings. I'm dusty and disappointed – but luckily I'll be heading out again at the crack of dawn, my final chance to catch those elusive cats before I head back to Mumbai. I'm comforted by Amit's optimistic

words as I discuss the day's sightings with other guests, surrounded by Sankhala family artefacts like Kailash's beloved binoculars. On a table nearby, we're watched over by a photo of Kailash embracing Jim, a tiger who once lived in his home.

I think about the three-hour journey I took to get here from Jabalpur, the local airport – an epic drive that winds through forested valleys and farming villages shaded by mahua trees. It calls to mind something Amit told me earlier that day. "My father's greatest achievement was creating a sustainable tourism industry in remote places," he said. "Back then, getting here from Delhi involved a 19-hour train ride."

The lodges not only provided locals with employment, but reignited Indians' deep-rooted

From top: A family photo of Kailash Sankhala with Jim, a sickly tiger he adopted from Delhi Zoological Park; spotted deer; a langur monkey; and a medal awarded to Kailash in recognition of his work at Project Tiger



BURNING BRIGHT

3 MORE PLACES TO SPOT BENGAL TIGERS



Jim Corbett National Park

Uttarakhand's forested sanctuary – India's first national park – is famous for its tigers, as well as its leopards and wild elephants. A plum position at the foothills of the Himalayas means that the landscape is as enthralling as the wildlife.

Bandhavgarh National Park

The former hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Rewa, Madhya Pradesh's national park has come a long way – it's now home to the highest number of Bengal tigers in the world. Don't miss the various nods to the park's past, including an enormous crumbling sandstone statue of Hindu god Vishnu.



Kanha National Park

This fauna-crammed reserve is home to leopards, striped palm squirrels, common langurs, jackals, sloth bears, hyenas and, of course, tigers. The wildlife shares some stunning real estate among forested plateaux and sprawling, grassy plains.



**“ALMOST ALL THE WILDLIFE WHICH EXISTED
IN INDIA CENTURIES AGO STILL EXISTS.
NO OTHER COUNTRY CAN SAY THAT”**



love of the natural world. “In India, we’ve always loved our wildlife,” Amit told me. “Today, in Bandhavgarh, 90% of visitors are Indians.” Their continued presence is a boon for the tiger population – proceeds from lodges help fund Tiger Trust, a conservation-focused NGO founded by Kailash (Amit is a trustee).

Like his father, Amit believes passionately in involving the public in conservation. He’s helped launch several community-centric initiatives through Tiger Trust – including a programme that trains former poachers as park rangers. Tiger Trust also engages communities living near national parks, either through educational activities or by offering employment. His personal mantra hints at his holistic approach: “Save the tiger and you’ll save everything around it.”

Thanks in large part to the Sankhalas, it’s locals’ voices that are loudest in India – an unusual dynamic in the world of conservation. “Some 90% of Africans haven’t been on safari,” he tells me. “When they’re building a highway through the Serengeti, who’s shouting the loudest? Tourists and a bunch of conservationists.”

This symbiosis between the Indian government and its people means that India has become a conservation leader. “Almost all the wildlife which existed in India centuries ago still exists,” says Amit. “No other country can say that. Yes, there’s conflict, but the tigers, sloth bears, snow leopards and elephants? They’re still here.”

Roaming around Bandhavgarh, you can see the impact Amit, Pradeep and Kailash have had on the locals. The three men have all encouraged people to really listen to the natural world; today, guides in the park rely on instinct, not

crackling radios, to find wildlife, and there are no guns. They also hand over phones on entry, which minimises the risk of high-speed dashes to see kills relayed by colleagues.

My safari guide, Sumit, was armed only with a book listing Bandhavgarh’s bird species. Without the help of a radio, he frequently asked our driver to stop so he could listen for alarm calls from animals – the most reliable of which came from barking deer, apparently – or examine animal tracks.

As for Amit’s promise of a tiger? Well, the next morning, we pile into the Jeep again. Within a few hours, we’ve racked up sightings of wild boar, mongoose, eagles and plum-headed parakeets, but still no tiger. Then, as our Jeep bounces through a forested area, Amit notices tracks pressed into the red dirt. “There’s a tiger ahead,” he announces, in the way a passenger in a car might casually warn the driver about a rabbit in the road. And then it happens. We turn a corner to see a tiger plodding slowly down the dusty track. Occasionally he pauses to sniff a tree trunk, curling his lips and exposing fearsome teeth as he inhales scent marks left by other tigers. For several minutes we follow the cat slowly, halting the Jeep when he pauses. He’s huge, but his fur’s markings, a tiger’s equivalent of a human fingerprint, are even more impressive – a beautiful tapestry of dark stripes, swirls and spots.

When he eventually lumbers into the thick forest, I say a silent thank you to the big cat for gracing us with his presence. Then a thought occurs: if this tiger could talk, he’d probably have a few words of thanks for Amit, too.

From left: Forest ranger Ram Pratap Baig, who has patrolled Bandhavgarh National Park for 20 years; telltale claw marks in a tree trunk; the climax of the trip: a sighting of a Bengal tiger



■ bandhavgarh-national-park.com
✗ Fly to Mumbai



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Conrad Maldives Rangali Island is an idyllic island paradise with a twin-island design brimming with lush tropical greenery and unparalleled access to the Indian Ocean.

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The Maldives

HOTEL GUIDE



THE RITZ-CARLTON MALDIVES, FARI ISLANDS

THE ONE FOR EXQUISITE HARMONY

From the imagination of legendary architect Kerry Hill, this sublime resort on North Malé Atoll comprises beachfront and overwater villas that sit harmoniously in a heavenly setting. A Ritz-Carlton Spa featuring Bamford products, in a serene ring configuration, coupled with access to “Aris Meeha” butlers, promises guests the ultimate enchanting escape.

ritzcarlton.com/maldives



Cora Cora Maldives
THE ONE FOR A CULTURED STAY

Fancy a barefoot

guitar lesson on bone-white sand? Or a cookery class clueing you into authentic island flavours? If you can tear yourself away from the twinkling waters of the Raa Atoll, the team at Cora Cora Maldives are all about helping you live your best life. There's plenty to discover between glorious nature - soothing birdsong through the thatched roof of your villa, the staccato skitter of crabs along the boardwalk, eagle rays gliding over the house reef - and exceptional cuisine, like the Italian spot Acquapazza®, with its pizza oven shipped from Rome, Thai street food at Ginger Moon® or Japanese Teien®, with top-tier

sushi and sake. Vast land and water-based activities, underwater classical music, an in-resort museum with artefacts showing the rich history of the Maldives. Impeccable luxury touches, premium all-inclusive available, a lively kids' club and a glass-bottomed spa, just 45 minutes by seaplane from Malé's Velana International Airport. Cora Cora Maldives, quite simply, strikes a chord.

coracoraresorts.com



KUDA VILLINGILI

The one for **contemporary Asian chic**



Balance is everything at this

uncannily beautiful haven poised amid the turquoise splendour of North Malé Atoll. Aesthetic balance, in its blend

of 21st-century Asian minimalism and rustic Maldivian style. Natural balance, in its celebration of abundant local wildlife - hawksbill turtles, dogfish tuna and eagle rays. Spiritual balance, with Kuda Villingili's organic cosmetics, traditional massage treatments and peaceful elevated yoga pavilion. You can bob about in the main pool - among the longest in the Maldives - or join in a tennis tournament or a few frames on the billiard table. Dining options run the gamut from bold Japanese-Peruvian fusion at signature restaurant Mar-Umi to upscale Singaporean street fare at Hawkers, and flame-grilled Indian-Arabic kebabs and mezze with a Korean accent. Bold souls can head out to the high seas for a spot of big-game fishing, or try surfing at nearby Chicken's Break - among the top 10 surfing spots in the entire world. Again, it's all about balance.

kudavillingili.com



Beauty comes in many forms, but rarely as flawless as this high-end getaway on the exclusive Fair Islands. Its fine architectural fabric - all sourced sustainability, part of a planet-conscious ethos that runs through Patina like a golden thread - is courtesy of Brazilian architect Marcio Kogan and reflects his signature tropical modernist aesthetic. Ultra contemporary villas with glass walls that retract on three sides, and bespoke furniture from design bigwigs like BassamFellows and Studio MK27. In the bathrooms, it's all exfoliating seaweed

Patina

THE ONE FOR
CONSCIOUS
AESTHETES

soap and, last thing at night, you'll find a 3D-printed vitamin gummy on your pillow. Modern art is everywhere, the highlight being James Turrell's Skyspace light gallery. The main restaurant is zero waste and plant-based. Two-Michelin-star chef Nick Brill is also a DJ. It's beautiful, truly.

patinahotels.com



ONE&ONLY

The one for **serenity seekers**



One&Only Reethi Rah's distinctive overwater bungalows, each graced with terrazzo bathtubs for two and sweeping decks leading directly into the sea, should be high on any discerning traveller's bucket list. Reethi Rah literally translates as Beautiful Island - 44 hectares of luscious tropical paradise to explore, with unforgettable fishing, sailing, snorkelling and scuba diving. Six decadent restaurants offer a plethora of options - from plant-centric Botanica led by Aussie chef Brent Savage to Fanditha on the north of the island serving out Middle Eastern treats like chicken shawarma and lamb enjoyed, for best results, on a daybed. Play tennis on a floodlit court or hang out at the turtle rehabilitation centre; amble along 6km of pristine snow-white beaches or indulge yourself at the stylish, ocean-facing One&Only Spa, which features sophisticated Asian-inspired luxury beauty treatments.

oneandonlyresorts.com/reethi-rah



THE STANDARD, MALDIVES

The one for lifestyle happenings



If ever a hotel group had a reputation for being a bit racy it's The Standard.

The Standard Highline, straddling NYC's eponymous repurposed trainline, is a big draw with New York's hip young party crowd. Ditto the couture-stylish London branch. The Standard Spa on Miami Beach is all about indulgent wellness. This new outpost in the Maldives is a touch more grown-up - kids' club notwithstanding. Scratch the surface and it's tons of fun for kids of any age. Take the glitterball over the bathtub, those hot pink accents on the headboards, the (actual) glass-bottomed overwater dance floor. The spa revels in CBD foot rubs, there's barbecue, beats and more at the beachfront BBQ Shak or fish curries at gorgeous Guduguda. For a break, each of the 115 villas - overwater or settled on the beachfront - has its own private lounge deck and plunge pool. And you're not far from the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Hanifaru Bay, home to manta rays, whale sharks and other wild party animals.

standardhotels.com/maldives



Huvafen Fushi means Dream Island in the local Dhivehi language. This exclusive resort - part of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World collection - is all swaying palms, soft sand and a supernaturally clear lagoon. Each room has a private plunge pool and many have a glass floor offering a colourful window into the local wildlife. If you fancy, the resident marine biologist can even talk you through it all. The food is

top-tier, as you'd expect - notably Salt, a Japanese spot with spicy Latin overtones, Raw, serving all-organic goodness over the lagoon, and Forno, serving pizzas poolside. The real headliner is the spa, though - imagine having a Teresa Tarmey facial 8m underwater as clownfish and stingrays glide by inches away, just like in some kind of wonderful dream.

huvafenfushi.com



Huvafen Fushi
THE ONE FOR A LUXURIOUS IMMERSION

Coco Collection

THE ONE FOR
ECO-CONSCIOUS
LUXURY

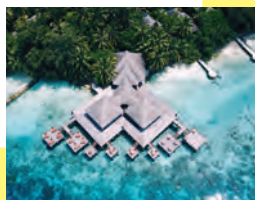


With a raft of

leading awards for sound sustainable practice, the two idyllic properties of this respected Maldivian brand – Coco Bodu Hithi and Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu – genuinely care about their local environments and the role they play within them. So that's no single-use plastics, for a start. Of the resorts, Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu (*above*) is set amid the scenery of the southern Baa Atoll. From this month, stay in its all-new deluxe pool villas, complete with four-poster bed and sunken bath. Cowrie restaurant is a revelation in pan-Asian and

international sophistication, and all fish is line-caught, naturally, because the turtles prefer it that way. Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu also offers a castaway experience on Embudhoo private island while Coco Bodu Hithi (*below*), in North Malé Atoll, boasts its very own colourful "house reef" with hawksbill turtles, native nurse sharks and majestic manta rays, overwater hammocks and chef Lisa Goodwin-Allen, currently in residence.

cococollection.com



VILLA RESORTS

The one for a refreshing getaway



This recently rebranded network of family-owned resorts believes in giving guests the ultimate high-end escape with next-level attention to detail and local



creative flair throughout. Two Villa Resorts are relaunching this month. Both have impeccable design credentials in-room thanks to London design studio House Nine, menus overseen by Michelin-star chef Conrad Gallagher and wine selected by top sommelier Kent Scheermeyer. The Villa Park resort (*below*) is all about exotic pleasures, with groovy activities like open-air cauldron bathing amid the lush forest foliage, coconut crafting classes and an eye-opening island-wide art trail. The Villa Nautica resort (*above*) is more of a cosmopolitan affair, with a chic quayside vibe pitched at the upscale yachting set. Enjoy nifty little touches like cosy handwoven hammocks, or convivial seawall picnics on a rug with good wine. There's even a chance to enrol in a tough, rope-based sailor workout class to keep you looking shipshape.

villaresorts.com



A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT
AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

What's On

GETTING CARRIED AWAY

For musical romance *La La Land*, director Damien Chazelle evoked French films of the 1960s, such as *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, and 1950s American classics like *Singin' in the Rain*. For *Babylon*, which features Margot Robbie, Brad Pitt and Toby Maguire, he's gone back to an earlier, more decadent period - Hollywood in the 1920s - inspired by such stars as Clara Bow.

Watch Babylon



THE BEST OF WHAT'S ONBOARD

63-69

Movies

Check out the films everyone's talking about, from *The Banshees of Inisherin* to *Tár*.

71-74

TV

We have all of *Happy Valley* showing onboard, plus great new comedies like *Avenue 5*.

75-77

Audio

Catch up on the best new music, from The 1975 and Raye to Little Simz and Sam Smith.

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 April.

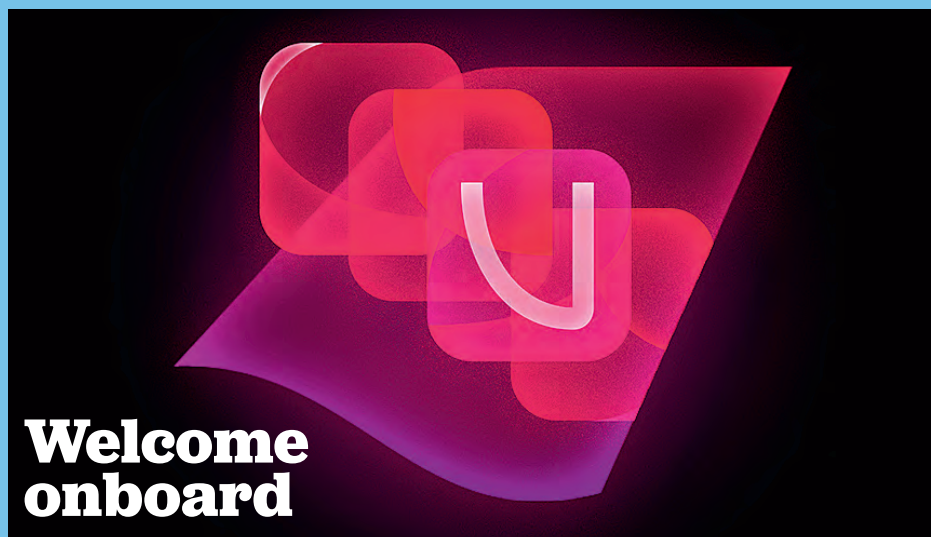
THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Tune into **Vera**, our genre-busting world of entertainment

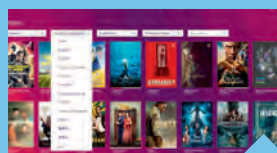
ARE YOU A fan of grime, rock, pop or classical music? Do you like dark movie thrillers or light-hearted comedies? Whatever you're into, we have it onboard. But what if you've got eclectic taste and you like all these things – and more?

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Viewing guide

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 Unsuitable for children

 Vera Loves

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ritzcarlton.com/maldives

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THE RITZ-CARLTON

MALDIVES, FARI ISLANDS

THE WORLD'S BEST PERFORMANCES

Movies

“DON'T CALL ME MAESTRO”

Leading conductor **Alice Farnham** gives *Vera* her notes on the hit new Cate Blanchett movie, *Tár*



IN THE FILM *Tár*, Cate Blanchett plays Lydia Tár, a fictional conductor, who also happens to be a bit of a monster. I'm a conductor, but I don't behave like her. I don't like being called Maestro. I don't know many conductors who do, for that

matter. Although a male conductor once told me, "Women can't conduct because their breasts get in the way." That's why for the past 10 years I've been encouraging more women into conducting. There's no shortage of female musicians, after all.

Tár presents conductors as these all-powerful figures on the podium. In reality, that power is an illusion. Conductors don't make a sound. The orchestra is everything – a group of extraordinarily talented individuals, each as well-trained in their

discipline as a doctor or world-class athlete. But they need direction. They could play without me, but it wouldn't be as thrilling. Conductors are a bit like salespeople or cheerleaders: their job is to get us invested, to make us care about the music.

And what music. Mahler's Fifth Symphony, around which *Tár* revolves, is all drama and romance. I was a trumpeter in my youth and remember inhabiting its opening passages around the time I first fell in love.

“Cate Blanchett skipped *Tár*'s premiere to come to my book launch”

Does the movie do a good job of representing my world? Well, I've never punched anybody at the podium. Yet. Cate did her homework – incidentally, she skipped *Tár*'s premiere, after the red carpet, to come to my book launch – but the film is fiction, so you don't need to be in the music world to enjoy it. I love courtroom drama without being a lawyer or a murderer. And, for the record, we don't have any female conductors employed at Lydia Tár's world-class level. Yet.

■ Alice Farnham's *In Good Hands* is published by Faber & Faber

📺 Watch *Tár*



HOT RIGHT NOW



The Banshees of Inisherin ♥

15

Colin Farrell,
Brendan Gleeson

114
mins

MARTIN MCDONAGH'S FILM has been rightly praised by everyone who's clapped eyes on it, as well as hoovering up awards across the globe. The simple reason is that the director of *In Bruges* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* has turned his talent for quirky comedy-drama to this determinedly small but perfectly formed story of two long-time friends (Farrell and Gleeson) who, on a remote Irish island, fall out for reasons that aren't at all apparent to at least one of them. You need to see it for the brilliant dialogue, the note-perfect performances and the lingering feeling that you've just watched something genuinely profound.



Tár ♥

15

Cate Blanchett,
Noémie Merlant

158
mins

On one thing we can all agree: Blanchett owns this acclaimed, provocative and very timely drama. As Lydia Tár, a conductor accused of sexual abuse, she gives a note-perfect performance that has, quite rightly, been nominated for every award worth having.



The Fabelmans ♥

12

Seth Rogen,
Michelle Williams

151
mins

Steven Spielberg's most personal movie yet tells of young Sammy Fabelman, who aches to be a movie director. However, Sammy soon discovers that his family life may not be all it seems. What emerges is (yet another) masterpiece from the master.



Babylon

18

Brad Pitt,
Margot Robbie

168
mins

Lengthy and challenging, *Babylon* wrenches wonderful performances from Pitt and Robbie to tell the story of excess and depravity in early Hollywood. It's fair to say that critics have been divided, but those who loved it, *loved* it.



Fall ♥

15

Grace Caroline Currey,
Virginia Gardner

107
mins

Thrill-seeking besties Becky and Hunter attempt to climb a 2,000ft tower in this taut thriller. Naturally, things don't go according to plan, but as to what happens next – well, you probably won't be tempted to climb up high after this.



She Said

15

Carey Mulligan,
Zoe Kazan

129
mins

The investigation into movie mogul Harvey Weinstein is the subject of this drama focusing on *New York Times* reporters Megan Twohey (Mulligan) and Jodi Kantor (Kazan). The result is an absorbing slice of procedural journalism that details the legwork in full.

PURE ESCAPISM



Adorable facts about Tom Hanks

1

He collects typewriters

Hanks owns over 250 manual typewriters. Why? For their clacky sound. He says it reminds him of a “blacksmith shaping sentences, hot out of the forge of your mind”.

2

He started at the bottom

Hanks once worked as a hotel bellhop: he carried Cher’s suitcase and gave Sidney Poitier a lift to the airport.

3

He gets shouted at a lot

According to Hanks, the line most often shouted at him in the street isn’t “Run Forrest!” It’s “Willlllsonnn!”

4

He was briefly a Python

Hanks temporarily occupied John Cleese’s spot in the landmark British comedy troupe Monty Python at a show commemorating late Beatle George Harrison.

5

He keeps his brother in work

Jim sounds just like older brother Tom, and routinely voices Woody the cowboy in video games and shorts.

Watch A Man Called Otto



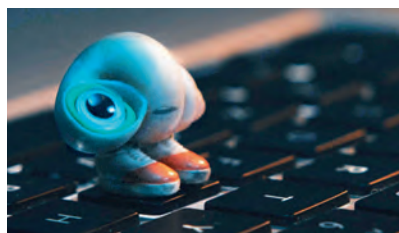
Roald Dahl’s Matilda the Musical ♥



Emma Thompson,
Lashana Lynch

117
mins

IF YOU LOVE to see top thespians chewing the scenery, you will be overjoyed to see Thompson on brilliant form as cruel headmistress Agatha Trunchbull in this musical adaptation of Roald Dahl’s novel. Newcomer Alisha Weir, meanwhile, is tremendous as the eponymous telekinetic pupil whose powers, not to mention her love of reading, help her overcome various obstacles (Trunchbull among them) and help her teacher, Miss Honey (Lynch). There are great supporting turns from Stephen Graham and Andrea Riseborough, but mainly it’s a case of Dahl’s plot and characterisation, Tim Minchin’s songs and, of course, Thompson doing her thang with considerable panache, all coming together.



Marcel the Shell with Shoes On ♥



Jenny Slate,
Dean Fleischer-Camp

90
mins

Whimsical animated delight in which a one-inch tall shell called Marcel is discovered by an Airbnb guest and then goes on to become an unlikely viral internet sensation. Trust us, whether you’re an adult, a child or something else entirely, you will fall in love with Marcel.



EO ♥



Isabelle Huppert,
Lorenzo Zurzolo

88
mins

Polish filmmaker Jerzy Skolimowski doesn’t churn out movies, but when he does make one, the results are always worth a watch. So it is with this drama following the life and times of a donkey called EO. Plot and story? Not so much. Eccentricity and originality? Plenty.

TRUE STORIES



The Lost King

12

Sally Hawkins, Steve Coogan	108 mins
-----------------------------	----------

KING RICHARD III of England was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, but for reasons way too complicated to go into here, his body went missing. Where was it? Nobody knew. That's how come it was missing. Until 2012, that was, when if you happened to be glancing at a newspaper or TV, you will know that his remains turned up buried beneath a car park in Leicester, which was surprising, to say the least. Much of the credit for this discovery goes to crusading historian Philippa Langley who, in this true-life telling of the tale from legendary (and Leicester-born) director Stephen Frears, is played by the ever-brilliant Hawkins. Also starring is Coogan, as Langley's ex-hubby, who has considerable misgivings, not just about her quest but also her somewhat unconventional research techniques.



Bandit ❤️

15

Josh Duhamel, Elisha Cuthbert	125 mins
-------------------------------	----------

Telling the mainly true story of a criminal who goes on a bank-robbing spree while being hunted by cops and trying to hold down a relationship, *Bandit* is by turns funny, dramatic, action-packed and heartfelt.



Bank of Dave

12

Rory Kinnear, Joel Frye	107 mins
-------------------------	----------

This true-life story of Burnley man Dave Fishwick (Kinnear), who in 2011 set up his own bank in order to serve his community, does the impossible: it takes the world of banking, and turns it into funny and supremely charming entertainment.

ALL THE FEELS



The Son

15

Hugh Jackman, Vanessa Kirby	123 mins
-----------------------------	----------

No doubt about it, *The Son* is an emotionally shattering experience: Jackman and Kirby play a couple who must look after Jackman's grown-up son – and let's just say the new arrangement doesn't go well.



A Man Called Otto ❤️

15

Tom Hanks, Mariana Treviño	126 mins
----------------------------	----------

Billed as “the grumpiest man in America”, Otto is possibly the worst next-door neighbour ever – however, things change when a young family moves in nearby and he strikes up a relationship with mum Marisol.



The Whale

15

Brendan Fraser, Hong Chau	117 mins
---------------------------	----------

You might have heard about this one. It stars Fraser in a career-reviving turn as an obese teacher attempting to reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter. Much drama ensues in what is a rewarding watch.

BLACK STORIES



**Whitney Houston:
I Wanna Dance with Somebody**

12

Naomi Ackie,
Nafessa Williams

145
mins

Featuring a stunning turn from Ackie as one of the greatest performers the world has ever seen, this biopic details an incredible yet troubled life, tragically cut short in 2012.



The Inspection

15

Jeremy Pope,
Gabrielle Union

95
mins

Writer-director Elegance Bratton's acclaimed debut is the tale of Ellis, who decides to join the Marines having been turfed out of his home for his sexuality. There he finds prejudice – but also camaraderie and fellowship.



Till

12

Danielle Deadwyler,
Jalyn Hall

140
mins

IN 1955, AFRICAN-AMERICAN boy Emmett Till was kidnapped, tortured, killed and his body thrown in the Tallahatchie River. He was accused of telling a white woman she looked like a movie star and whistling at her. This biopic focuses on his devoted mum, Mamie (Deadwyler), who insists that Emmett's coffin be left open so the world should see what happened to her son. Soon the murder makes national headlines, and Mamie is inspired to go further and seek justice for Emmett through the courts. Deadwyler is superb as Mamie, an inspirational woman whose search for truth would go on to have an enormous effect on the civil rights movement. In the hands of director Chinonye Chukwu, this is by no means an easy watch and nor should it be. It is, however, an essential one.

ANSWERS: 1: ONCE UPON A TIME; 2: IN HOLLYWOOD; 3: LYONS; CREATED THE WORLD'S FIRST BUSINESS COMPUTER; TO MANAGE; ORDERS; 3: THE BLACK WITCH PROJECT; 4: RALPH FIENNES; 5: THEIR CHARACTERS' SWEATERS WERE KNITTED BY THE SAME ELDERLY WOMAN. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



MOVIE QUIZ

TAKE ON OUR
FEATURED FILMS

1

Margot Robbie and Brad Pitt top the bill in *Babylon*, about Hollywood's depraved early years. They also both star in another recent film about the dissolute end of Hollywood's golden age. What is it?

2

Aimee Lou Wood's character Margaret takes a job in a Lyons Corner House in *Living*. Even though the last Lyons tea shop closed in

3

1977, the British chain played a vital role in changing all our lives. How?

4

Emma Thompson plays villainous headteacher Miss Trunchbull in *Roald Dahl's*

5

Matilda the Musical but originally the role was slated for another Brit, set to appear in Wes Anderson's upcoming Dahl adaptation, *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar*. Who?

The Banshees of Inisherin's Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson appear together in director Martin McDonagh's *In Bruges*, but something else unites them in *Banshees*... What is it?

Answers on the left



Empire of Light ♥

15

Olivia Colman,
Micheal Ward

114
mins

SET IN MARGATE in the 1980s, *Empire of Light* stars Colman as Hilary, who works at the eponymous Empire cinema. Despite being married, she is having an affair with her boss, Donald (Colin Firth), and soon starts making eyes at new co-worker Stephen (Ward), a Black colleague who attracts the attention of local racists. As her various romances threaten to collide, Hilary's mental health worsens and her life begins to unwind – with terrible consequences for those around her. In the hands of director Sam Mendes, who wrangles great performances from an excellent cast and a handsomely mounted 1980s setting from acclaimed cinematographer Roger Deakins, this is a great drama and a potent love-letter to cinema.



Living ♥

12

Bill Nighy,
Aimee Lou Wood

102
mins

In this Brit drama, Nighy plays a buttoned-up council worker who decides he needs to experience life in full after being diagnosed with cancer. Things change even more drastically when he meets a young co-worker with a real zest for life.



My Policeman

15

Harry Styles,
Emma Corrin

113
mins

By any standards, Harry Styles is so hot right now (as *Zoolander's* Mugatu might say). He's won Grammy awards, Brit awards, acting accolades and now the lead in this acclaimed drama about a love triangle between a married cop, a museum curator and his partner.



MOVIE BLUFF

WHO IS DAVE FROM FILM BANK OF DAVE?

Let me guess, a man of high interest?

Indeed. Dave Fishwick (above) is a former minibus salesman turned millionaire entrepreneur who set up a local “bank” to serve struggling folks in his community of Burnley, Lancashire, in the UK. Now there's a film about him.

Nice. True story?

Mostly. In the movie, Dave sets up a friendly lending firm after noticing, in the wake of the 2008 financial crash, people in his community getting into difficulties. The company is successful, and generously donates profits to local causes like food banks and schools.

So where's the lie?

In real life Dave has yet to be officially granted a banking licence, despite being a beloved and indispensable pillar of his community. But, mainly, 80s rockers Def Leppard didn't technically fly in from America to play a benefit concert in support of Dave, as they do in the movie. Dave is just a fan.

That's a lie, but an awesome lie.

Yeah, credit where credit's due.

Watch Bandit

OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS

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

A

- La Abuela
- Accident Man: Hitman's Holiday
- After Yang



- Amsterdam
- Aquamant

B

- Babylon
- Badhaai Do
- Bandit
- Bank of Dave
- The Banshees of Inisherin
- Barbarian
- Benediction
- Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2



- Black Adam
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever



- Bodies Bodies Bodies
- Breaking



- Bros
- Bullet Train

C

- Catch the Fair One
- Chakkar

- Chehre
- Cinderella (2021)
- Clean
- Clerks III



- Confess, Fletch

D

- Dangerous Game: The Legacy Murders
- DC League of Super-Pets



- Don't Worry Darling
- Downton Abbey: A New Era
- The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson

E

- Easter Sunday
- Edge of Tomorrow



- Emily the Criminal
- Empire of Light
- EO

F

- The Fabelmans
- Fall
- Family Camp
- Father Stu
- Fatherhood
- Fisherman's Friends: One and All

G

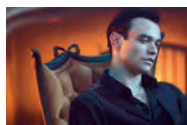
- G-Storm

H

- The Hangover
- Hotel Transylvania: Transformania

I

- The Inspection



- The Invitation

J

- Joyride
- Juniper



- Jurassic World Dominion

K

- Kabir Singh
- Kataksha

L

- Lamhe
- Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League: Gotham City Breakout



- Lightyear

- Living
- The Lost King
- A Love Song
- Luka Chuppi
- Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile

M

- Mama's Affair
- A Man Called Otto
- Maqbool

- Marcel the Shell with Shoes On
- Margaux
- Medieval



- Men
- The Menu
- Mimi



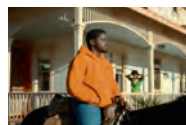
- Montana Story



- Morbius
- Mothering Sunday
- Mumkin
- My Policeman

N

- Naina
- Nice View



- Nope
- Notre Dame On Fire

O

- Obara'm
- The One for Sarah
- The Order of Things

P

- Passport
- Pearl
- Pirates
- Princess of the Row

R

- Resident Evil: Welcome to Raccoon City
- Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical



- Rogue Agent

S

- Sardar Udham
- Scooby-Doo! and the Curse of the 13th Ghost
- Secret Headquarters



- See How They Run
- She Said



- Shotgun Wedding
- Significant Other
- Smile
- The Son
- The Stand Up
- The Storied Life of AJ Fikry
- Strange World
- Studio 666
- Suffernama
- The Survivor
- The Swearing Jar
- Tad the Lost Explorer and the Curse of the Mummy

T

- Tar
- Teen Titans GO! & DC Super Hero Girls: Mayhem in the Multiverse



- Thor: Love and Thunder

- Three Thousand Years of Longing
- Ticket to Paradise
- Till
- To Leslie
- Tom and Jerry Cowboy Up!
- Too Cool to Kill



- Triangle of Sadness
- Troy
- True Things

U

- Umma
- The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent
- Uncharted

V

- Vivo

W

- The Whale
- Where the Crawdads Sing
- Wokè



- The Woman King

And more...

- 83

Less metal. Same mettle.



When asked for feedback on the C60 Trident, our Forum said "...make one that still gets noticed, without feeling its presence as much on your wrist." This new **C60 Trident Pro 300** is the result. Same widths. Same lug-to-lugs. Yet an average 1.75mm lower profile across the range. By using a sapphire case back, it's an average 14.67g lighter, too. This means its depth rating is now only as good as a Submariner. To compensate: we've added extra lume, a new bezel and an optional screwed-link bracelet. Plus actual compensation of £94 average saving. Less. And more, then?

Do your research.

 Christopher
Ward

christopherward.com



SCAN ME

BOLDLY GOING WHERE NO OTHER IN-FLIGHT OFFERING GOES

Television

FIVE REASONS... AVENUE 5 IS OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD GOOD

Sci-fi comedy is a notoriously tricky genre to pull off, but this brilliant Armando Iannucci satire is a blast. **Andy Hill** explores why

1 The cast is stellar

In the near future, a luxury interplanetary cruise liner gets into trouble, turning an eight-week jolly into a multi-year existential nightmare. The raw incompetence of those supposedly in charge – Hugh Laurie as phoney captain Ryan Clark, Josh Gad (*Frozen's* Olaf) as juvenile billionaire tech bro Herman Judd – set the scene for the ultimate high farce.

2 It's actually funny

As you'd expect from writer Armando Iannucci (*Veep*, *The Thick of It*, *Alan Partridge*) the banger lines come thick and fast, from the note-perfect corporate hogwash of Judd "fracking merchandise ideas" to everybody's mounting frustration at their grim near-term prospects "breathing recycled farts". A neat running gag centres around elderly astronaut Spike Martin (born 1996), whose claim to fame is being the first Canadian to walk on Mars.

3 It's stylish AF

HBO didn't scrimp on budget and the future – terrifying premise aside – looks great, all glossy wearable tech and hologram phones. The set will no doubt remind viewers of mid-period *Star Trek*,

but in truth *Avenue 5* is closer in tone to the 90s reboot of *Babylon 5*. The costumes are on point too, especially the hairstyles – shout out to brittle Mission Control lead Rav Mulcair (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and her gorgeous gravity-defying barnet.

4 It holds a mirror up to us

The best science fiction reflects the foibles of contemporary society back at us. As such, *Avenue 5's* chief targets are buccaneering tech CEOs riding roughshod over people, the shallow gloss of public relations and the emptiness of the content industry. Customer service culture also gets a kicking, not least from an implacable woman named Karen (Rebecca Front).

5 It has a message

Mild spoiler, but there's an eerily familiar scene where guests decide to flat-out deny reality, with grisly consequences. Back on Earth – where a scripted reality show about the stricken spaceship is swiftly commissioned and aired – there's a critical lithium shortage. And the food chain is screwed, even as guests onboard fret about the dwindling condiment supply.

Watch *Avenue 5*

From left: The *Avenue 5* cast includes Zach Woods, Suzy Nakamura, Nikki Amuka-Bird, Hugh Laurie, Rebecca Front, Josh Gad and Lenora Crichlow

MUST-WATCH



Happy Valley ❤️

15

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

IT'S DIFFICULT TO recall a drama capturing the public imagination quite like *Happy Valley*. At heart it's a police procedural, with exhausted cop Catherine Cawood trying to keep order in the Calder Valley. Problem being that most of the trouble (what trouble? Oh, kidnap, rape, murder, that kind of thing) is being caused by the villainous Tommy Lee Royce, who Catherine hates for personal reasons that soon become clear. What makes *Happy Valley* great is that not only does it come from Sally Wainwright, but it features outstanding performances from its cast, especially James Norton as the evil Tommy and Sarah Lancashire, who completely inhabits the part of Catherine. We have all three seasons onboard. *See right*



Avenue 5 ❤️

!

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

From the hideously talented Armando Iannucci – the man behind *Veep* and *The Thick of It* – *Avenue 5* is a sci-fi comedy starring Hugh Laurie as the captain of an interplanetary spaceship. What can go wrong? Well, tune in and you'll find out. *See opener*



A Life in Ten Pictures: Bruce Lee ❤️

!

Culture	50 mins
---------	---------

Engrossing documentary series in which the life of a cultural icon is examined via a series of images. How many images? The clue is in the title. This episode finds US martial arts icon Bruce Lee under the spotlight. In a tragically short career, he made almost 30 cracking movies.



The White Lotus ❤️

15

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

If you're of the broad-minded persuasion, you'll absolutely love this. Featuring holidaymakers thrown together at a very expensive resort, it's funny, shocking, dramatically insightful and we have all of series two onboard.



Louis Theroux Interviews... Stormzy !

Factual	60 mins
---------	---------

Who can get UK rap legend Stormzy to open up on matters of the heart, mental health and everything in between? Why, our very own Louis Theroux, of course. The platinum-selling star reveals the pressures of being a global role model.



Blitzed: The 80s Blitz Kids' Story ❤️

!

Documentary	90 mins
-------------	---------

One of the most far-reaching post-punk genres was the New Romantic movement, which began at London nightclub Blitz, and included the likes of Visage, Ultravox and Duran Duran. Style, music and attitude. As this film documents, they had it all.

VALLEY GIRL

Sgt Catherine Cawood's funniest lines

British crime drama *Happy Valley*, penned by Sally Wainwright, features a wry Yorkshire detective with the sharpest wit on the box

On romance

"The be-all and end-all isn't necessarily to get myself hitched to the first flaky tw•t of a man who happens along."

On tasing

"Obviously I was trying to shoot him in the chesticles, not the family jewels."

To a drunk mate

"Get up, that pavement's going to get very chilly if you stay there much longer... that's where doggies do their wee-wees."

On indecent exposure

"A semi-naked man at lunchtime in Sowerby Bridge? How could I stay away?"

On yoga

"We were farting like billy-o after the first few moves. We gave off enough methane to melt a polar ice cap. We had a flood the week after."

Watch *Happy Valley*



Young Rock



Comedy

30 mins

AS AN ACTOR and personality, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson manages to encapsulate several different traits at once: he's an inspirational and very much larger-than-life character, but he's also humble and often quite self-effacing at the same time. Plus - as anyone who's seen him teaming up with Kevin Hart in the *Jumanji* movies will know - he's very, very funny indeed. All of these are qualities he brings to *Young Rock*, an autobiographical sitcom set in three different timelines which details his journey from awkward kid to college football player and, finally, a pro wrestler. It all adds up to a show that's not just funny, but also heartfelt and at times rousing and inspiring. The Rock, in a nutshell.



Shining Vale

15

Box set

30 mins

This new horror-fantasy series starring Courteney Cox and Greg Kinnear begins as Patricia and Terry Phelps move from the city to Connecticut - and find their new house may be haunted. Mira Sorvino and Sherilyn Fenn also appear in season one, which screens onboard.



I Love That For You

!

Box set

30 mins

This quirky comedy with a *30 Rock* vibe revolves around Joanna (the brilliant Vanessa Bayer), who gets a job as a presenter on a TV shopping channel. However, she has a secret. A very, very big secret. We have the whole of the first series onboard for your delectation.

STAR MEN



Moonage Daydream ❤️

15

Music	134 mins
-------	----------

WITH THE GREATEST of respect, anybody who thinks that Sam Smith and Harry Styles are bravely challenging convention and pushing the boundaries of gender fluidity needs to take a history lesson - beginning with this documentary. Fact is, David Bowie got there first and here's the footage to prove it. Brett Morgen's award-winning, freewheeling documentary weaves together live concert material with previously unreleased material from Bowie's archive. What emerges is a portrait of Bowie as a consummate musician and performer, but also a creative force who was his own artistic statement, paving the way for generations of young pretenders.



Right Here, Right Now ❤️ !

Music	90 mins
-------	---------

Brighton, 2002, and DJ Fatboy Slim decides to host a free beach party. He expects around 40,000 fans to turn up. But, as this eye-popping documentary explains, over a quarter of a million fans turn up on this epochal day.



George Michael: Freedom Uncut ❤️ 15

Music	87 mins
-------	---------

George Michael was working on this documentary at the time of his death. What has emerged is a feature-length film in which he allows us access to his memories, thoughts, unseen footage and never-before-seen photographs.

KIDS LOVE



Big City Greens

Kids	22 mins
------	---------

Disney's animated adventure focuses on Bill Green, his two children, Cricket and Tilly, and their new life with Gramma, who occasionally pretends to be a wicked "swamp witch". The Greens are duly unsettled by life back in Smalton.



Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League: Gotham City Breakout U

Kids	75 mins
------	---------

Having refused to take a holiday for what seems like an age, Batman agrees to let Batgirl and Nightwing take him on a long overdue trip - leaving Gotham City in the care of the Justice League.



Noodle & Bun

Kids	21 mins
------	---------

Follow the adventures of Noodle and Bun, a cute cat and dog that get up to all sorts of mischief. Mind you, it wouldn't be much of a show if they behaved themselves all the time, now, would it?

CELEBRATING THE ART AND CRAFT OF SONGWRITING

Audi

FOR THE RECORD

Hit podcast *Tape Notes* offers a deep dive into making music. **Andy Hill** gets inspired by four artists' smartest insights

WE ALL LOVE a banger. But do we ever give any thought to how modern records are actually made? On his podcast *Tape Notes*, DJ and champion of new music John Kennedy sneaks us into the studio with top artists for a behind-the-scenes look at the magic of modern production. Music nerds will love the songwriting and software masterclass. Everybody else can enjoy little pearls of wisdom from these honey-voiced pop idols...

🔊 Listen to *Tape Notes*

Chvrches

TOP TIP: "It's okay to go down a wrong path during the process of recording a song. But always keep the first demo you made of that song close by. That way you can check back. If you've lost what got you excited in the very beginning, roll back and start again."

The 1975

TOP TIP: "Don't intellectualise stuff, you'll just end up in a quagmire."

When David Lynch gets asked how he directs, he says, 'I read the script and the first thing I think of, I film that. I don't think about it.' Oh, and if you don't like it, it probably sucks."

Finneas

TOP TIP: "Taste is everything. Do I like how it sounds? If I do, then it is correct."

Understand the delineation between the 'correct' way to do something and whether you like it or not. People in the music world will always tell you you did something incorrectly. But your taste is all

Glass Animals

TOP TIP: "Playing a character can be a really useful writing tool."

When you write from somebody else's point of view that's really powerful. Beyoncé does it with her Sasha Fierce alter ego. Messing with identity like that depersonalises us, which is a nice trick."



The 1975 ♥

Being Funny In A Foreign Language

Alternative

NOBODY COULD ACCUSE Matty Healy, frontman of Manchester's The 1975, of being a shy and retiring sort. The man's got attitude like McDonald's got burgers. Why, just the other day he was taking that other Manc motormouth, Liam Gallagher, to task for failing to reform Oasis and as for his feud with Yungblud... well, let's just say this one will run and run. Healy, however, has the tunes to back up his occasionally confrontational style. *Being Funny In a Foreign Language*, the band's fifth album, slightly (just slightly, mind) reins in the musical excess for a collection that highlights the band's talent for mixing radically different styles without tending towards the raggedness that has dogged previous albums. Their best yet? Matty Healy thinks so, of course.



Raye ♥

My 21st Century Blues

Pop

Even though she's one of the most-streamed artists in the world, Raye still struggled to get this album released. Finally, after tussles with her label, here it is, and it's already yielded a number one single, *Escapism*. See below



Little Simz ♥

No Thank You

Hip hop

Despite the fact that Simz's fifth album dropped at the end of 2022, it was still named Album of the Year in all the places that matter. Why? Because its blend of hip hop, gospel, soul, funk and IDM is intoxicating.



Sam Smith ♥

Gloria

Pop

Although they've recently unveiled a tendency for outrageous and eye-popping visuals, Sam Smith has stopped short at attempting anything new with their music. Thus, this third album is business as usual.



Samia ♥

Honey

Pop

"This record is about learning to see the love around you," says US singer-songwriter Samia of her second long-player. The result is an album of sometimes sad and often comic indie-inflected pop-rock that critics love.

VIBES

Hooray for Raye!

Meet your new favourite popstar

You'll have heard Raye on the radio
In 2014 the 17-year-old Croydon-born singer signed to Polydor and sang on big hits *Bed* with David Guetta and Jax Jones' *You Don't Know Me*.

But she couldn't

release her own stuff
Despite writing bangers for Beyoncé, John Legend and Charli XCX, Polydor were reluctant to let Raye fulfil her four-album deal. Frustrated, in 2021



she vented: "I'm done being a polite pop star."

So they let her go
And earlier this year Raye released her stellar debut solo album as an independent. *My 21st Century Blues* is a lush patchwork of

doo-wop through hip hop, soul to pop.

Literally she's all about catharsis
Raye's album tackles a dizzying range of issues head-on, from body dysmorphia to addiction.

🔊 Listen to *My 21st Century Blues*

PODCASTS



John Kennedy: Tape Notes ♥

Radio X presenter John Kennedy knows a thing or two about music. Here, he reunites an artist and producer to talk about their collab. See *opener*



Celebrity Catch Up: Life After that Thing I Did

Entertainment journo Genevieve Hassan hooks up with the stars of much-loved films, TV shows and music of the 1980s to the 2000s.



Edith Bowman Soundtracking ♥

DURING AN ILLUSTRIOUS career that has taken her from MTV, through Capital Radio and Channel Four's *Ri:se*, Edith Bowman has never lost touch with her two major passions: films and music. And, indeed, has been a reliable tastemaker on both fronts. Her most recent venture (actually, it's over 350 episodes old, so not recent at all) is the *Soundtracking* podcast in which she combines those two loves by button-holding a variety of film directors, actors, producers and composers to talk about the music that inspired them and how they use it in their work. Music to your ears.



DIVAS FOREVER



Icons - Billie Holiday

Few artists deserve "icon" status as much as Billie Holiday. A jazz singer, yes, but as this career-spanning playlist amply proves, nobody quite sang the blues like Billie.



Icons - Annie Lennox

Not many artists can go from fronting a huge influential band like Eurythmics to an equally successful solo career. Annie Lennox can. For proof of her genius, apply within.



Whitney Houston ♥

<i>I Wanna Dance With Somebody</i> (The Movie: Whitney New, Classic and Reimagined)	Pop
--	-----

WHILE THE NEW Whitney Houston biopic features all the classic songs, it raises the issue of what to do with the accompanying soundtrack album. After all, those wanting a souvenir of the cinematic outing could just as easily stick on her greatest hits. The solution is this rather spiffing set, in which many of the legend's most iconic songs have either been remade or completely remixed. Included on remix duty are guest artists Clean Bandit and SG Lewis, as well as Jax Jones, Kygo and Darkchild - all names to conjure with. If that sounds like heresy, many classics are included in their original form.



ROCK 2.0

Måneskin ♥

<i>Rush!</i>	Rock
--------------	------

For their third album, the Italian rockers have taken inspiration from Radiohead and jetted to LA to work with legendary producer Max Martin. The result is "utterly unstoppable".



! Icons - Foo Fighters

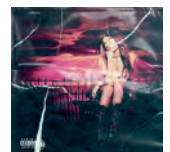
When Nirvana's drummer Dave Grohl launched the Foo Fighters in 1995, the press predicted a copycat grunge offshoot. Some 13 million album sales on, they couldn't have been more wrong.



Leah Kate !

<i>Alive and Unwell</i>	Pop
-------------------------	-----

If spiky, female-fronted power pop is your thing then you're really going to like Leah Kate. Fire up this debut album and head straight to viral hit *10 Things I Hate About You*.





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CREDITS

Virgin Atlantic news and views

J

immy and Vanessa Logue, it's fair to say, are big fans of Virgin Atlantic. "We

love Virgin. We could fly with anybody, but we choose to fly with the airline because we feel safe. We feel like part of the family."

Born with cerebral palsy, Jimmy worked at Luton Airport until he was made redundant after 9/11. "I remember noticing how Virgin always took extra care of their passengers," he says.

"When I fly now, the crew are always prepared for my needs, always approachable and never glum."

The Logues' talent for sniffing out deals has led them to take 111 Virgin flights to date. "We'd always write to HQ to say thank you. Richard Branson read our notes and invited us on the inaugural flight to Chicago in 2007 as VIP guests sitting with his parents. It was so special."

Despite Jimmy's ongoing health problems, this year the Logues are off to Boston, Atlanta and Seattle.

"Every flight is still an adventure. It feels like Christmas Day each time we board."



MEET THE FANS

THE LOGUES HAVE TAKEN 111 FLIGHTS WITH US – HERE'S TO A SPECIAL BOND



ROYAL HIGHNESS

Our new plane honours HM The Queen Elizabeth II



If you're lucky enough to be flying between Heathrow and the US today there's a chance you're travelling aboard

Queen of the Skies, our shiny new Airbus A330neo. Named after the late Queen Elizabeth II – with registration

G-VEII, get it – she's the jewel in the crown of our new, more fuel-efficient, carbon-friendly fleet.



The Caribbean's premier sailing regatta features crews from around the world

ON THE DECKS

Annual island regatta **Antigua Sailing Week** is back with the wind in its sails



"I GET SO excited for Antigua Sailing Week," says our lively Caribbean Country Manager Hannah Swift (pictured). "It's such a good way to experience the beautiful Antiguan coastline. And a great party." The annual event –

one of the leading happenings on the worldwide sailing calendar – is back and bigger than ever with crews all over the world coming to compete. As co-sponsor – Official Transatlantic Airline, no biggie – Virgin Atlantic offers preferred rates to sailors and supporters. The event takes place from 29 April to 5 May. "It's fun for sports fans, or those who just crave some sunshine," reckons Hannah. "Whatever floats your boat."

PASSPORT TO CHANGE

We're on a mission to promote STEM education for the next generation with our partners. Scan the QR code, find our charity bag when you disembark or ask the crew to help you make a contactless donation.



PRECIOUS CARGO

OUR ONGOING RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES IN TURKEY AND SYRIA

THE EARTHQUAKES THAT struck Turkey and northern Syria in February were a tragedy. Within days our people arranged all the permits and logistics for the first of two special cargo flights, carrying 64 pallets of clothing and 31,000 coats to help with the freezing temperatures, plus nearly a tonne of baby milk powder. Teams from across the business pulled together, after a request from Magen David Adom UK, with fuel donated by Air BP. Dave Geer, our Senior Vice President of Operations, was on the flight. "We'll continue to look for opportunities to help where needed, using our business as a force for good."



Virgin Atlantic operated one of the first UK aid flights to Turkey



WHY I LOVE MY JOB

Crew Performance Manager Mark Crouch helps our crew live their best lives while on duty "I've worked for Virgin for 27 years now and I can honestly say I've never had a bad day. I started off working as cabin crew as I thought

it looked glamorous and fun. I was right! Today my role is all about working alongside our cabin crews, helping them feel valued and respected, and giving them the tools they need to provide excellent

service and create exceptional experiences for our customers. That has to come from the heart and it has to start in the briefing where I always try to set the tone by being as positive, bright and upbeat as possible. I also

work in the recruitment team conducting our award-winning assessment centres. It's a bit like speed dating, a lot of candidates with some already working for other airlines, but their ultimate dream is to work for Virgin.

I feel so much pride when I see successful candidates in the Vivienne Westwood uniform striving to make us the Most Loved Travel Company. I love inspiring our teams, creating that bond. It never gets old."

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

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1 Comprising of **100 villas and suites**, each one has been expertly designed to reflect the spirit of the Maldives and is prevalent in all of the nine accommodation categories.

2 It's freedom time and at Cora Cora Maldives the Premium All Inclusive - **Gourmet Meal Plan®** is present in every detail of the resort, giving guests the unmissable opportunity to experience an array of dining possibilities.

3 **MOKSHA® Spa & Wellbeing Center** believe that everyone deserves a special place to just BE themselves. A place to energise and replenish, to chill out and have fun, to explore and discover for kindness and selfcare.

4 Cora Cora Maldives is the first resort in the Maldives to showcase a licensed art gallery and museum **Dutch Onion®**. With over 400 incredible local artefacts in the collection, guests can explore the rich history of the Maldives.