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# vera

JULY 2024

## Made in London

Paapa Essiedu is a homegrown hero

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NEW OLYMPIC  
SPORTS

► Vine dining  
THE TASTE  
OF CHINA'S  
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vera

## 7-24// Red Hot

Discover a hidden gem on the Shanghai coast in China, boxer-turned-actor Kali Reis reflects on a knockout role alongside Jodie Foster, and find out why Orlando's bursting with culture amid the theme rides.



## 60-86// What's On

A paranormal expert reviews the new *Ghostbuster* film, *Godzilla* and *Kong* join forces for *The New Empire*, and why we're digging sitcom *Dinosaur*, as well as "emotional junglist" Nia Archives.



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

26 //

**FEATURES** How Paapa Essiedu took over the UK capital, discover the surprise ingredient in Shanghai's dining scene – plus where to try out this summer's new Olympic sports.

## CAMEOS



From *WIRED* and *Esquire* to school kids in Hoxton, London, **Mark Oliver's** clients are as varied as they come. Though he's more into games of the tabletop variety, he loved illustrating the new Olympic events that we'll be watching this summer. See p48



Florida-based **Terry Ward** is our go-to for everything Sunshine State, having lived in Orlando, Jacksonville, Cocoa Beach and now Tampa. Her stories have appeared in *Travel + Leisure*, *Afar* and more. She tells us why Orlando is big on culture. See p20



**Ambrous Young** is an editorial and commercial photographer based in Shanghai, whose work has appeared in *WSJ Magazine* and *Grazia*, among others. We sent him deep into the Chinese rainforest to trace the origins of Yunnanese food. See p38



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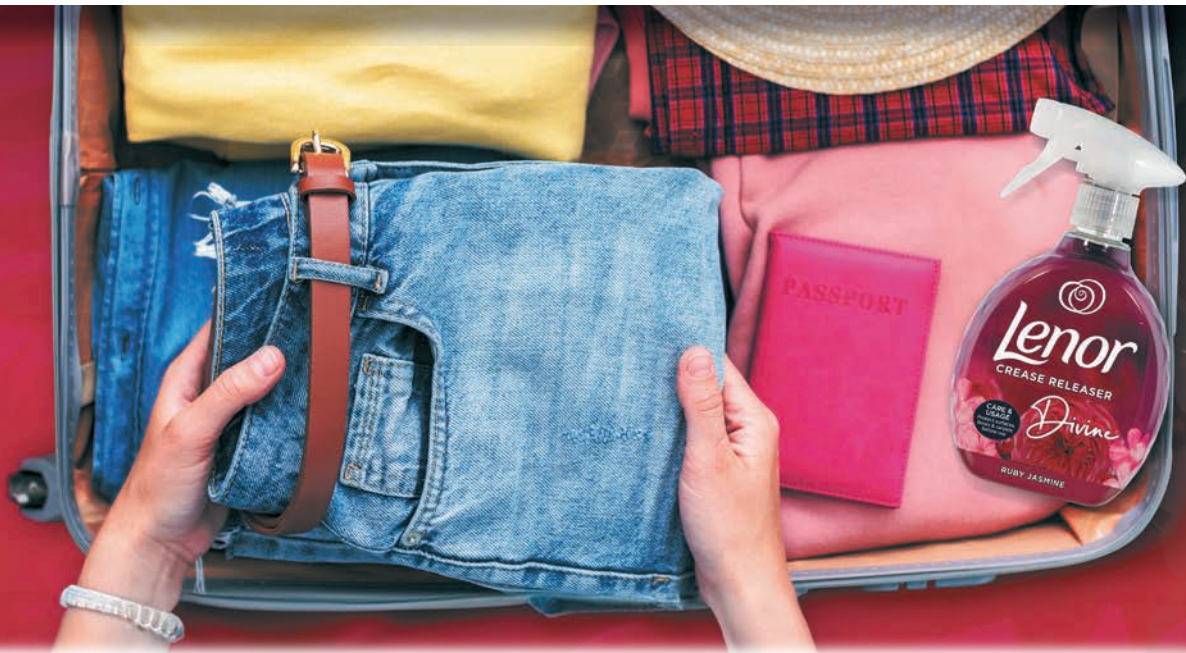
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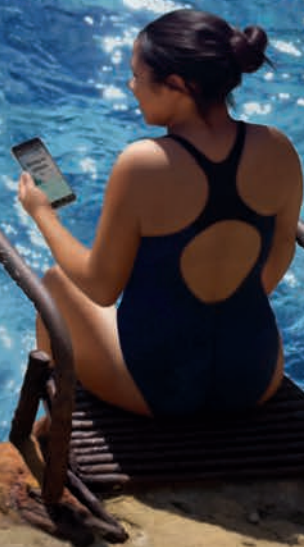
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# RED HOT

JULY



WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTO: QINGYAN ZHU

Coming soon //

## Beach rock in Shanghai

► ON THE FAR SOUTH-EASTERN CORNER OF Shanghai's coast, the Lin-gang Special Area is a futurist enclave of tech and trade. Now it welcomes three new additions – the Lingang Coast Ecological Pavilions – courtesy of Chinese design firm HCCH Studio. The organic, marine-inspired forms of these interactive installations mirror their environment. Pictured is the Plastic Wave Breaker Splash pavilion, made of 228 3D-printed units and meant to evoke the porous nature of Chinese scholar stones. What a gem!

© FLY TO SHANGHAI

First take //

# MONSTER MOVIES ARE LOOKING GOOD

Once crushingly expensive to produce, advances in tech mean the monster genre is in rude health, says Al Horner

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS

► **YOU'VE GOT TO HAND IT TO** him, Godzilla looks great for his age. Like some sort of atomic lizard version of Paul Rudd, the Japanese icon turns 70 this year but is in better shape than ever, with nary a wrinkle on those skyscraper-demolishing scales of his and no signs of checking into a Kaiju retirement home just yet. In fact, quite the contrary. Last year was Godzilla's biggest and busiest yet, teaming up with another iconic movie monster in the ludicrously fun *Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire* (available on today's in-flight entertainment) and winning an Oscar with *Godzilla Minus One*, a moody Japanese-language thriller set in post-WWII Tokyo that snagged Best Visual Effects. Sadly the beast himself didn't appear at the ceremony to give an acceptance speech. I guess it's tricky finding a tux that fits when you're 120m tall.

Godzilla is a reptile in remarkably rude health, in part because the monster movie genre as a whole is enjoying a fantastic purple patch. From the megashark of *The Meg* franchise to the alien of *Nope*, creature features have been abundant of late, with many more on the way. This summer sees new *Quiet Place* and *Alien* extravaganzas smash into cinemas, before next year brings new *Wolfman*, *Cloverfield* and *Jurassic Park* films. The monsters of these films might not quite be Godzilla-sized in stature or icon-status, but they're proof

that snarling CGI teeth have never been more in-demand.

Monster movies are nothing new – in fact, they've always been a fixture at our multiplexes, in part because of their habit of embodying contemporary fears. Godzilla was created as Japan processed the horrors of Hiroshima – a city-flattening metaphor for the destruction wrought by nuclear war. *Cloverfield* was an avatar for the atrocities of 9/11. What's different today is both the frequency of monster movies and the size of set-pieces within. It used to be that effects-heavy spectacles were crushingly expensive to make, limiting creature features to a handful a year. Now, thanks to advances in technology, they're much cheaper for directors to dream up and actualise on-screen: *Godzilla x Kong* was made on a budget of US\$135 million, roughly half that spent on 1998's *Godzilla* movie (\$280m adjusted for inflation). *Godzilla Minus One*, even more impressively, was created on a budget of just \$15m. In 2024, the only limitations when it comes to monster movies are directors' imaginations – which is bad news for CGI skyscrapers but great news for us Kaiju connoisseurs.

**“  
GODZILLA  
WAS CREATED  
AS JAPAN  
PROCESSED THE  
HORRORS OF  
HIROSHIMA – A  
CITY-FLATTENING  
METAPHOR**

© WATCH GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE







King Kong made his big-screen debut back in 1933, scaling the Empire State Building with Fay Wray in hand.

GREEN LIGHT

## Celebs are recycling

1 //



Eco queen **BILLIE EILISH** insisted the vinyl pressings of her new, third album *Hit Me Hard and Soft* be made from recycled materials – from the disc to the packaging it's shipped in.

**VERDICT: RAD GUY**

2 //



*Breaking Bad*'s **BRYAN CRANSTON** used some of his well-earned moolah to build one of the most eco homes ever created on Ventura Beach, California, with solar electricity, rainwater recycling and energy-efficient appliances giving it a net-zero footprint.

**VERDICT: LET HIM COOK**

3 //



English songstress **CHARLI XCX** rocked up to New York's Met Gala earlier this year in a gorgeous, Marni-designed frock made entirely from upcycled vintage T-shirts. Top that!

**VERDICT: T PARTY**

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

# 2024

# Travel Survey

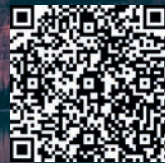
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**Ink**



*True Detective: Night Country* was only boxer-turned-actor **KALI REIS**'s third acting job and her performance is knockout

PORTRAIT: JUSTIN J WEE

► **KALI REIS KNOWS HOW** to cut an intimidating figure on screen and she isn't just acting tough. The 37 year old from Rhode Island has no fewer than six world championship boxing titles to her name, so whenever she looks like she's about to knock someone out in the gruesome and gripping *True Detective: Night Country*, you can rest assured she definitely could.

Reis may still be a relative newcomer to acting, with the latest instalment of the mystery anthology series representing just her third-ever credit, but you'd never guess that from her intense and compelling performance. Clearly Reis's mother, a medicine woman in the Seaconke Wampanoag tribe, was onto something when she gave her daughter the name "Mequinonoag", meaning "many feathers" or "many talents".

In *Night Country*, from writer-director Issa López, Reis is sensational as Evangeline Navarro, a state trooper with divided loyalties who teams up with Jodie Foster's cantankerous police chief Liz Danvers to uncover the truth behind eight

baffling deaths at an Arctic research station. Reis, who's now safely back at home with her French bulldog Quincy Bones, tells *Vera* about the similarities between boxing and acting, getting in the (metaphorical) ring with a two-time Oscar winner and why for her next trick she just wants to make you laugh.

**You grew up in Rhode Island – is it worth a visit?**

Definitely. We have the best seafood. I would recommend Iggy's, in Warwick on Oakland Beach. They have the best clam cakes and chowder.

Rising star //

**“I learned so much from Jodie Foster”**



Above: Starring alongside Jodie Foster in *True Detective: Night Country*

#### How did you start out in a boxing ring?

I was the youngest of five kids in a single-parent household, but boxing wasn't something my brothers did. I loved *Rocky*. I wanted to be either Rocky or Bruce Lee. I got really interested around 10 or 11. It seemed far-fetched until I got wind that a friend of my mother's used to box and I started bugging him. I was persistent, so eventually he came to my house, showed me some things, and hung up a heavy bag so I could practise.

#### What's been your proudest achievement as a boxer?

I won my first world title after I got into a bad motorcycle accident in 2012 and was told I shouldn't box any more. Two years after that I fought for the IBA middleweight title in Bermuda against a fighter who was supposed to be a beast. It was during Native American History Month, in a place that had been a slave port for my actual ancestors, the Wampanoag people from the East Coast. So given all that it became like a ceremonial thing, and

I pummeled that girl from pillar to post.

#### When did you start acting?

I was approached on Instagram! By that point I had three major world titles and I was making some waves in women's boxing. I took it upon myself to talk about and represent the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls movement, which is an issue

we don't see in mainstream media. The director, Josef Kubota Wladyka, was just finding out about the subject, so he messaged me and asked if I'd ever thought about acting. We worked on *Catch the Fair One* together. We just wanted to get the story out there, we never thought I'd end up nominated for an Independent Spirit Award.

#### Are there any lessons from boxing that helped you as an actor?

It's important to be able to take direction, whether that's from a coach or a director. You have to trust that somebody can see something you don't see, and then process that information

and apply it really fast.

#### What did you think when you first read the *True Detective: Night Country* script?

I was like, "Oh snap, this is good!" It made me want to live in [writer-director] Issa's brain for a day! When she first contacted me, I didn't know it was for *True Detective*. I found out just before the audition. I was such a fan of the previous seasons. After getting to read the pilot episode I was like, "This is dope! Are they ready to send me the next one?"

#### How was it going toe-to-toe with two-time Oscar winner Jodie Foster?

I learned so much from her, just from being in the presence of someone who's mastered so many different facets of this industry: acting, directing, producing, writing. The biggest thing she taught me was not to take everything so seriously. I'm an athletic-brained Virgo. I have to perfect everything. Her attitude was more like, "Hey, we'll figure it out."

#### What's next for you?

I've been filming a sci-fi thriller called *Mercy* with Chris Pratt and Rebecca Ferguson. It's a take on what everyday life could look like in the very near future, involving AI, so it's very interesting. Boxing-wise I haven't officially hung up my gloves, but I'm not forcing anything. Acting is definitely number one on the call sheet right now. I want to do a rom com – and my dream is to host *Saturday Night Live*.

© WATCH TRUE DETECTIVE: NIGHT COUNTRY

**66**  
IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE ABLE TO TAKE DIRECTION, WHETHER THAT'S FROM A COACH OR A DIRECTOR. YOU HAVE TO TRUST THEM

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POINTS!**



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Unleash the power of





Following the success of *Jaws*, Columbia gave Steven Spielberg a great deal of control for *Close Encounters...*

Table read //

# CENTURY CINEMA

In honour of Columbia Pictures' 100th anniversary, luxury publisher Assouline has collected the studio's defining moments in a new coffee-table book

► **SEEING COLUMBIA PICTURES' "TORCH lady"** appear on screen is like seeing an old friend. Just a glimpse of that robed icon and you know you're in for a good couple of hours. What was once a small, low-budget production studio is now the third-largest film company in the world, responsible for such classics as *Funny Girl*, *Men in Black* and *Ghostbusters*.

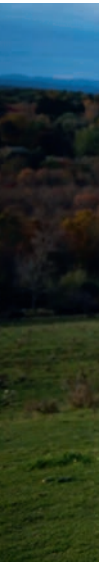
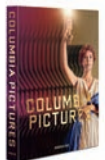
On Columbia Pictures' 100th anniversary proper, publisher Assouline is celebrating "the little studio that could" with a new coffee-table book, *Columbia Pictures: 100 Years of Cinema*. Bestselling author Sam Wasson takes readers on an epic, century-long journey that begins in 1918, when the company – then known as CBC – began production on its first, \$20,000 film, *More to be Pitied Than Scorned*, and explores how Columbia, by shifting focus to screwball comedies in the 1930s, rose from scrappy underdog to one of the "Little Three", competing with the "Big Five"

studios during Hollywood's Golden Age. It was all up from there, as the studio system collapsed and Columbia rose from the ashes. The book examines the role of the studio's controversial founder, Harry Cohn, whose emphasis on speed and simplicity ensured Columbia's longevity.

Movie buffs can marvel over exclusive photography of Columbia's original studio, vintage film posters, and stills of actors and directors larking about on set. Prepare to be left with a newfound appreciation for the scrappy studio that built itself from the ground up, the light of which shows no signs of dimming. Just don't bother thanking them. In the words of Cohn himself: "The word 'gratitude' isn't part of the Hollywood dictionary."

Clockwise from above: Steven Spielberg on the set of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977); outtakes from Kathy Anderson's 1991 "torch lady" photo shoot; Grauman's Chinese Theatre, in 1934; Saoirse Ronan and Timothée Chalamet in Greta Gerwig's 2019 adaptation of *Little Women*

● *Columbia Pictures: 100 Years of Cinema* by Sam Wasson is published by Assouline





“**PREPARE TO BE LEFT WITH A NEWFOUND APPRECIATION FOR THE STUDIO THAT BUILT ITSELF FROM THE GROUND UP**



■ SET VISIT ■



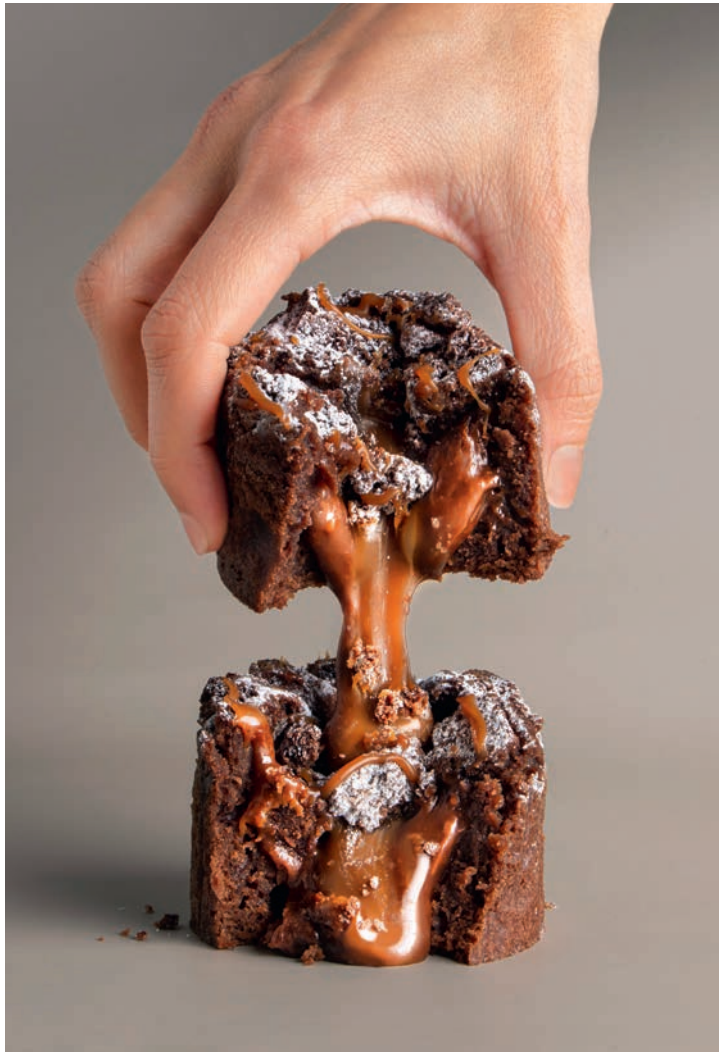
**Ex on the beach in India**

**R**omantic and gently paced, *Three of Us* is an Indian drama about a woman with early onset dementia who visits her sleepy hometown, husband in tow. While there, she runs into a former flame who joins them on their wistful journey along the Konkan coast, in which long-buried passions are awakened. This little-developed stretch on the country's western flank runs from Mumbai to Goa, and offers a peek into India's slow coastal life away from the tourist hordes. It's impossible not to fall in love with the honey-coloured beaches of Vengurla.

📺 **WATCH THREE OF US FLY TO MUMBAI**



**WORDS:** HANNAH WILD, JESSICA PRUDAS **PHOTOS:** ASSOLINE.COM, © PETER SOREL /COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES INC, © KATHY ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY (KATHYANDERSONPHOTOGRAPHY.COM), © BETTMAN/GETTY IMAGES, © WILSON WEBB/COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES, INC., ADOBE STOCK



Snacks //

# GETTING ALL GOOEY IN MIAMI

Molten Mi-cuit au Chocolat at **YANN COUVREUR MIAMI** does all-American indulgence with a saucy French accent

► CELEBRATED FRENCH PASTRY DON

Yann Couvreur already has patisseries on multiple continents. For his first proper US opening he chose party-hard, fun-time Miami. Why? “Pleasure,” he’s fond of saying, is his “only guide”. You best believe there’s pleasure aplenty here. In addition to some agreeably Gallic patisserie staples – coconut framboise raspberry cake, crab mille-feuille whipped up to order tableside – Yann Couvreur Miami is delighting local denizens with a downright formidable brunch. Get a load of his Oeufs à la Coque, soft-boiled eggs with brioche toast and caviar. But if you only get one thing, plump for the Mi-cuit au Chocolat, *pictured*. “Mi-cuit” means “part cooked” – a chocolate and vanilla caramel confection with a dash of salt judiciously balancing a molten centre. No wonder it’s selling like hot cakes.

⊗ FLY TO MIAMI

DRINKS

## Pornstars are going down easy

**B**rassy, bubbly and retro-cool, the classic pornstar martini is enjoying a renaissance in time for high summer. Guzzle a Pornstar 2.0 at Dante (*right*), in Beverly Hills, with haku vodka, passionfruit, guava, egg white, clarified milk punch and champers served on the side. Get stuck

into a Chelsea Star at Merchants, NYC, with vanilla vodka, passion fruit purée and bubbly. Put your lips around the Deluxe Pornstar Martini at London rooftop spot Madison – rosé champagne, Grey Goose, apple, white chocolate angel wings and 24-carat edible gold around the rim. Lovely job.

⊗ FLY TO LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK & LONDON



WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTOS: COURTESY OF YANN COUVREUR, DANTE





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Sleeper hit //

# COUNTRY COMFORTS IN SOMERSET

One of London's favourite chefs, Margot Henderson opens **THE THREE HORSESHOES**, a pub with rooms in a delicious slice of the West Country

► **ON THE SMALL PLANET OF LONDON** restaurants, Kiwi chef Margot Henderson is an icon. She is known for Rochelle Canteen – a Shoreditch landmark beloved for its exquisite, simple dishes – as well as her avuncular presence on the scene. So it's a real boon to the tiny town of Batcombe, Somerset, that the chef has moved in, taking over a 17th-century pub called The Three Horseshoes. It's in a corner of the south-west that's drawn several London chefs in recent years, including Merlin Labron-Johnson, who heads Osip and The Old Pharmacy down the road in Bruton. It's no wonder the Big Smoke's cooking elite are descending on this idyllic place – Henderson herself has praised the abundance of smallholder farmers in the area, saying "everyone has a Tamworth or a bed of asparagus they want to sell". In the restaurant – with its heavy beams and flagstone floor – Henderson showcases the ingredients she's picked up from neighbouring growers, each hispi cabbage and parsnip treated with her signature stripped-back reverence. The menu is ever-changing, but mainstays like rabbit pie and treacle tart hint at the straw-hatted Britishness at its heart. Upstairs, the five guest rooms are kitted out simply and some look out onto the crabtree-dotted courtyard: a vision of the English countryside that's meant to be savoured.



⊗ FLY TO LONDON



**3 more  
foodie stays**



**THE CULPEPER, LONDON**  
The snug but stylish rooms in this 1880s-built pub are on the second floor, sandwiched between the excellent first-floor restaurant and the rooftop bar, where you can sup herbal cocktails with a view of the impressive gardens.



**WYNN LAS VEGAS, LAS VEGAS**  
More of a small city than a hotel, this gargantuan tower houses 20 dining experiences, some of them among the best in the city – The Buffet at Wynn Las Vegas, for one, and Japanese fine-diner Mizumi.



**JOALI, MALDIVES**  
There are four distinct dining experiences in this luxury island resort: Saoke's Japanese-Peruvian in an overwater villa; cicchetti and Italian cocktails at Bellinis; pan-Asian on the beach at Vandhoo; and Levantine plates at Tuh'u.



**'NOTHING  
MATCHES IT'**  
NEW YORK TIMES



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**

THE MUSICAL

BOOK DENNIS KELLY    MUSIC & LYRICS TIM MINCHIN

#MatildaPose

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, LONDON



Design: W&A Photography; Manual studio



Location scout //

# CULTURE FOR THE FAM IN ORLANDO

This Florida city may be synonymous with theme parks, but its more highbrow, kid-friendly pursuits are a draw too, says local Terry Ward

► **FOR ALL THE ROLLER COASTERS**, costumed characters and virtual-reality adventures on tap in Orlando, the city offers a surprisingly cultured side for those who seek it out. When you're ready to give the family a break from park-hopping, there's surely a gallery, installation, concert or comedy club to make everyone smile here in Florida's third-largest metropolitan area.

"One of the things that surprises people who visit is how global we are," says Jennifer Evins, president and CEO of United Arts of Central Florida, a non-profit organisation that works to champion the arts in Orange County. "We have a huge cultural scene that celebrates cultures from around the world because people from all around the world live here."

Decamp from the theme-park corridor to head just north to downtown Orlando, where the 2,700-seat **DR PHILLIPS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**, the city's main performing arts centre, regularly welcomes touring Broadway and Disney shows (often before much of the rest of the country gets them, too). **JUDSON'S LIVE**, an intimate jazz venue with just 150 seats, opened within the centre in early 2024 and has an ongoing live music brunch series that pairs Latin, R&B and soul performers with themed menus for a morning out that locals love. For laughs all can enjoy, **SAK COMEDY LAB** is a longstanding downtown Orlando favourite where a professional ensemble of improv actors regularly takes the stage.

A few miles north of downtown Orlando, in the 18-hectare, lake-dotted **LOCH HAVEN CULTURAL PARK**, museums of all sorts and for all ages await – all within a few minutes' walking distance from each other. Kids with a burning curiosity get a kick out of the **ORLANDO FIRE MUSEUM**, an original 1920s-era red-brick firehouse complete with sliding fire poles and beautifully restored engines. It's staffed by retired volunteer firefighters and free to visit. Stroll five minutes from there to the interactive **ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER**, where "Life" – a new \$13.5 million attraction a decade in the making that opened in spring – spotlights conservation stories from swamp, ocean and rainforest environments. Expect squeals of delight elicited by the free-roaming live animals: sloths, sun conure parrots and golden-headed lion tamarins.

Art figures big here, too. **THE ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART** celebrates its centennial this year – don't miss its extensive collection of 19th- and 20th-century American and African works. **THE MENNELLO MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART**, meanwhile, has an

Left: The Reis Window at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum



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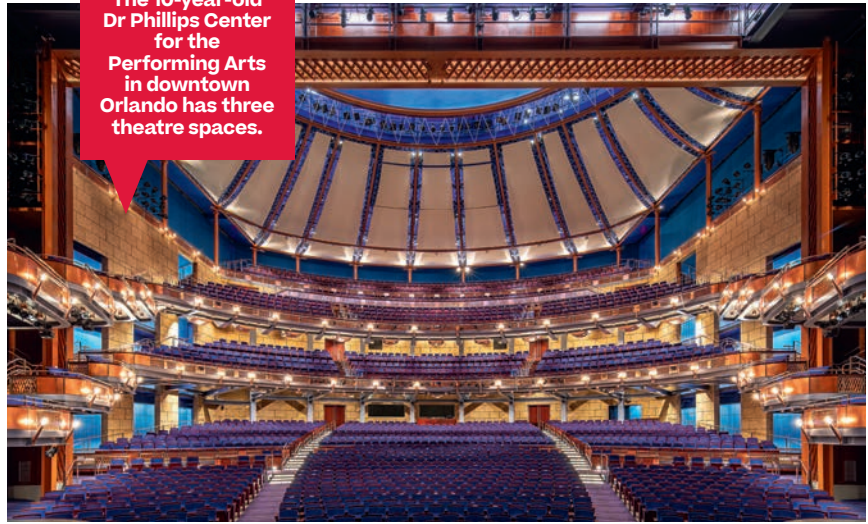
impressive permanent collection that includes a large showing from famed American folk artist Earl Cunningham (he spent the last decades of his life in the coastal city of St Augustine).

Just north of downtown Orlando, nearby **WINTER PARK**'s Park Avenue is where you'll find the incredible **CHARLES HOSMER MORSE MUSEUM**, housing the largest collection of art glass works by Louis Comfort Tiffany (of Tiffany leaded-glass lamp fame), including exquisite jewellery and a chapel interior from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

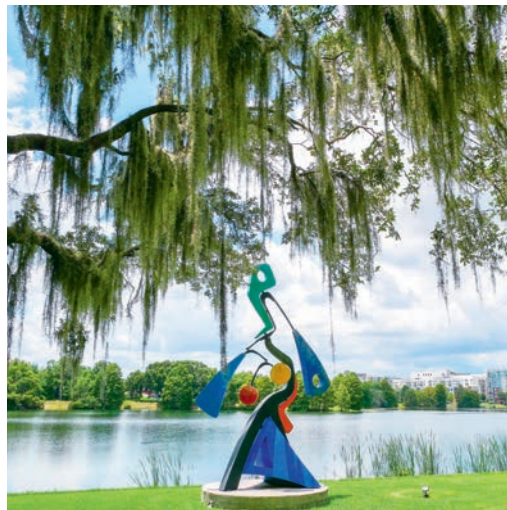
Three miles (5km) north of there is **EATONVILLE**, the oldest all-Black town in the United States. There you'll find the **ZORA NEALE HURSTON NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**, which pays tribute through fine artworks by artists of African descent to the author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, who was born here.

On your way back to the land of theme parks, treat the kids to a stop at the **LAKE NONA SCULPTURE GARDEN**. Its sculptures may be massive – take in Arturo di Modica's mighty *Charging Bull* – but the grassy setting still has plenty of room to run around. Consider popping into the **TITANIC MUSEUM**, too, to see more than 300 artefacts from the doomed vessel. You can even opt to sit down for a re-enactment dinner (don't worry, this meal ends with dessert).

As Jennifer Evins says: "You can come here any time and find something going on that really captures the diversity, international flair and talents of the people who live in Orlando."

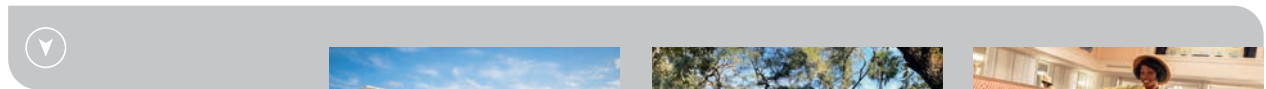


The 10-year-old Dr Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Orlando has three theatre spaces.



Clockwise from top: The auditorium at the Dr Phillips Center for the Performing Arts; Deborah Roberts' *Speak*, 2018, mixed media collage on paper, at the Orlando Museum of Art, and sculpture at the Mennello Museum of American Art

© FLY TO ORLANDO



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Disney's newest character breakfast plays out at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, including appearances from the likes of Aladdin, Princess Tiana and Mirabel Madrigal, from hit *Encanto*.

**3 more Orlando must-dos**

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# Could I steal ancient artefacts?

In *La Chimera*, Josh O'Connor helps himself to priceless artefacts from archaeological sites – but is this a real-life possibility? asks Ralph Jones

ILLUSTRATIONS: RUBY FRESSON



► **IF EVER YOU'VE FOUND YOURSELF SHORT** of cash and wondered about visiting a site of great historical significance in the hope of stealing an ancient treasure, you're not alone. Archaeological looting – the practice of illegally removing specimens from archaeological sites – is a billion-pound industry.

In *La Chimera*, Josh O'Connor plays a former archaeological scholar who falls in with a gang of grave robbers to plunder Etruscan antiquities in 1980s Tuscany. The question is – how difficult would this be in real life?

Dr Marta Andriiovych works at the University of Oxford's School of Archaeology. "The topic is super complicated," she says. "Each country has its own laws about heritage and preservation of natural heritage." One national quirk, for example, is that in some US states you own anything you find under the earth on your private property. In numerous other places, the government owns specimens dug up from beneath the ground – making it a crime to knowingly keep them yourself.

Illegally or unethically obtained artefacts often sit in museums until they are successfully repatriated. The Euphronios Krater, a beautiful ancient Italian bowl, is a great example. Looted in 1971 by grave robbers in a way that may well have resembled the find at the heart of *La Chimera*, the Krater was sold to a couple of art dealers and then to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Despite its illegal provenance, it stayed there for

almost 40 years before returning home to Italy. Famously, the Elgin Marbles may well have also been taken illegally from Greece but still reside in the British Museum. The British Empire, to its shame, has looted countless prized artefacts from the countries it colonised.

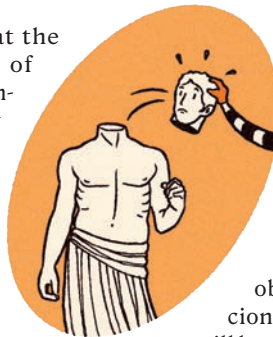
"Nowadays, treasure hunters are smart," says Andriiovych. Because the financial incentives are there for those who think they can sniff something out, criminals can visit specific sites, dig up valuable pieces and leave without a trace.

But stealing archaeological artefacts can be pretty difficult. Looters need to know they have at least some chance of finding something – which is why looting museums during the chaos of war is a much safer bet. Even then, if looters want to sell on the artefacts it can be tricky. A marble statue, for example, can't be melted down like gold. Although the objects may not raise the same suspicions as priceless paintings, thieves can still be caught on the border if they are trying to smuggle a cheeky vase overseas.

Andriiovych doesn't want to make archaeological looting seem appealingly straightforward and it certainly isn't. You'd need a big shovel, a truck, skewed morals and a hell of a lot of determination. But is it possible? Sadly, yes.

**VERDICT: Completely doable. But we don't recommend it.**

© WATCH LA CHIMERA







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# FOPE

L O N

**PAAPA ESSIEDU** is one of Britain's most versatile actors, but one thing shines through most of his roles – a love for his hometown.

D O N

Jonny Ensall chats football, killer squirrels and house prices with the hottest property in the capital **PHOTOGRAPHS: DANNY KASIRYE**

B O Y

PAAPA ESSIEDU



PAAPA ESSIEDU





was forged in London,” says Paapa Essiedu. “I love London and London’s in my bones.” This much is obvious. If you don’t know the 34-year-old actor by name, you’ve probably watched him in a stand-out British drama without realising. He was the stylish lynchpin of brutal crime saga *Gangs of London*, the time-travelling lead in head-spinning sci-fi series *The Lazarus Project*, and was nominated for an Emmy for his role as Kwame in iconic comedy-drama *I May Destroy You*. All of which are set in London. Not just set in London, even – the city is a character in these shows. It’s something Essiedu bounces off. “I’ve never really thought about that,” he considers. “But I guess it is true a lot of my characters have a London... whatever to them.”

That London “whatever” is explored further in his latest film *The Outrun*, out in September – a wonderful British indie flick in which Essiedu plays, you guessed it, a dyed-in-the-wool Londoner. This time he’s the boyfriend of Saoirse Ronan’s character – an alcoholic who escapes the big city pressure to rebuild her life on the remote Scottish island of Orkney. The pair are completely,

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heartrendingly believable as a suffering couple.

“Everyone knows Saoirse Ronan,” Essiedu grins. “I’d always felt she was an astonishing actor. She’s so instinctive. We hit it off pretty much straightaway and got into a rhythm together.”

That rhythm follows the beat of the city: its hectic clubs and pubs, and hot days spent lazing in the park. At one point, Ronan gazes into Essiedu’s eyes on one such summer day and asks, “What’s it like growing up in London?” To which Essiedu replies, “There’s always low-key something going on.”

“That line was unscripted,” he says. “And so that would have come from me.” The film relies on improvisation, allowing Essiedu to be an authentic east London boy a lot of the time. So what did he mean by that line? “There’s always an option to do something or there’s someone to go for a drink with, but that doesn’t necessarily provide you with community or somewhere you feel safe. And then you can end up feeling really lonely.

“London can be an unkind bride,” he reflects. How has he made that relationship work? “I think it’s different for people who come to London to chase the dream, because then you’ve got this idea of what it is,” he says. “Whereas I was in London before I even knew I was in London, so I’ve never really had any removed perspective. I’ve learned to negotiate it in the same way I’ve learned to negotiate my entire life. Though, there is something odd about feeling at home on a Tube train that’s so packed you’ve got your face stuffed in somebody’s else’s armpit.”

Today we’re chatting over Zoom. He’s open, disarming, handsome, funny. He’s also clearly very smart and takes the craft of performance seriously – something, he says, that comes from “playing catch-up” as an actor. Drama wasn’t his first career choice, that was



**“I didn’t know anyone who was an actor. I didn’t really know being an actor was even a career – it was something movie stars did and got rich from”**

medicine. His parents came to London from Ghana, and as the high-achieving child of first-generation immigrants, Essiedu drifted towards being a doctor. “I had a place at medical school,” he recalls. “I question how much my heart was in it, but I always wanted to do something with people.”

Instead he ended up at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and learned to love the theatre, even if it did seem otherworldly. “I didn’t know anyone who was an actor. I didn’t really know being an actor was even a career at that point – it was something movie stars did and got rich from. Coming from Walthamstow, all that felt like it might as well be happening on Saturn.”



Above & top right: Paapa Essiedu alongside Michaela Cole and Weruche Opia in *I May Destroy You*, and in *The Lazarus Project*

Below: Starring in the RSC's *Hamlet*, and with Saoirse Ronan in *The Outrun*

His mother was always supportive of her talented son. She died while he was at drama school, his father already having passed away when he was 14. For Essiedu, negotiating London life became harder than ever. But in the green rooms and wings of London's theatres he found a space to watch and learn and cultivate that elusive sense of community. Guildhall was where he met Michaela Coel, creator of *I May Destroy You* ("Michaela was and is such an important person in my life"). From there he fulfilled the dream of any theatre actor and joined the Royal Shakespeare Company, and at just 25 became the first-ever Black man to play *Hamlet* for the renowned theatre troupe. The role elevated him to the headlines, not just for his performance but also due to ugly arguments around race and casting. Does that role, and that period, stay with him? I ask.

"Yeah, the character folded around me and into me, and I learned a lot about myself," he says. "There are bits that you keep and bits that it's important to let go of because, you know, it's a brutal play about grief, murder, jealousy, hallucination, mental unrest. These aren't all things that you want to take to bed every night for the rest of your life. Learning how to do that helped with *I May Destroy You*, for example, which was [also about] needing to be in proximity to intense and extreme feelings and experiences at the right times, but then allowing them to sail away when they're not required."

When *I May Destroy You* aired four years ago it was an unexpected global hit that elevated Essiedu's profile, while confirming his status as an actor of range and integrity. His character, Kwame, is attempting to negotiate London's queer dating scene, and the show's approach to consent and sexual assault was revolutionary and led to a slew of awards, including BAFTA and Emmy nominations for Essiedu.

## ALPHA PAAPA

PAAPA ESSIEDU'S CV



### BORN

Guy's Hospital, London, in 1990, to Ghanaian parents.

### EDUCATION

Won a scholarship to Forest School in Walthamstow, then attended the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

### FUN FACT

In the moment Essiedu found out he was playing *Hamlet* he was almost hit by bus: "A double-decker flew past so fast, the wing mirror knocked my hat off."

### KEY WORK

**Hamlet, 2016**  
Essiedu became the first Black actor to play Hamlet for the Royal Shakespeare Company, aged just 25.

### Murder on the Orient Express, 2017

Essiedu's first feature film role was as a policeman in Kenneth Branagh's version of Agatha Christie's whodunnit.

### I May Destroy You, 2020

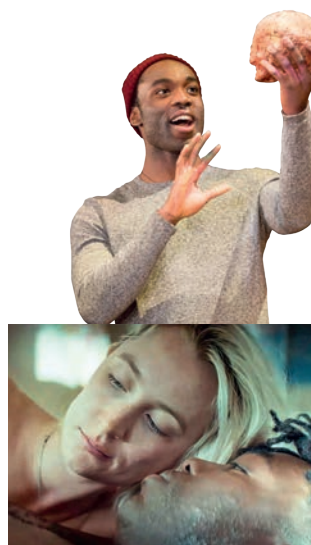
Playing Kwame in the era-defining comedy-drama brought him to global attention.

### The Lazarus Project, 2022-23

Essiedu took the lead role in two seasons of this timely-wimey action sci-fi for Sky.

### The Outrun, 2024

A positive reception at Sundance for this magical film, set in London and Scotland, suggests it's another Brit hit.





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“We were happy to be given the opportunity to speak in those ways and on those subjects,” he says of the series’ legacy. “We weren’t trying to get these awards. We weren’t thinking about the impacts that it was going to have. We were just really focused on telling the story that had been laid out in front of us. It was so simple. That’s something to bear in mind because I think the further up the ladder you get there’s a temptation to start thinking about the endgame before you actually do the thing. That’s never why you got into it in the first place, you know?”

It’s worth pointing out that Essiedu’s name has, for several years, been mentioned in the same breath as James Bond. Most actors who are being considered for such an illustrious role would be gaming out their next moves, ensuring they do everything possible to turn the heads of producers. But that’s not Essiedu’s style. His next project, he tells me, is about “an outbreak of killer squirrels – it’s not cute, they start killing people in a wildlife park”. His big ambition, he claims, is to “try and protect the integrity of choice in the things I do”.

From 15 July he’s starring in a revival of the play *Death of England: Delroy*. Though it’s a one-man show, the piece is part of a series that looks at England through the eyes of several characters and deals with race and politics with unapologetic bluntness. And, yes, Delroy, is a Londoner.

“I’ve always been interested in this idea of Englishness, or Britishness, and what

that means to different people,” he says. Delroy is a working-class Black man who votes Conservative. “Not just Conservative,” Essiedu exclaims. “He voted for Boris Johnson!” I wonder, did the play appeal to him now because of the broader context? This month, the idea of Britishness – still so raw after the divisiveness of Brexit – is tested again by a general election and the Euros football tournament.

“Football becomes a lens through which we experience national identity,” he says, reflecting on the place of the beautiful game in the theatre. Another hit play, *Dear England*, about England manager Gareth Southgate, is also slated to return. “These footballers, they’re the epitome of Englishness above their class or their race or even their gender sometimes... when it’s going well. And as soon as it stops going well, Englishness as a protective cloak is stripped away from you. And then the things that remain are the things that are used against you... I’ve always been fascinated by that.

“With Delroy, his politics are almost in defiance of what is expected of him. When he talks about voting for Boris, he kind of says: is this not allowed? Am I to be told what I am and am not supposed to do in my own country? He’d



**CAPITAL GAINS**

PAAPA'S LONDON HITLIST



**Best park for a lazy day**

Clissold Park, Stoke Newington

**Best pub for a Sunday session**

The Antelope, Tooting Broadway

**Best Ghanaian food**

Kate's Cafe on Balsam Street, Plaistow



**Most unmissable tourist attraction**

Tate Modern – or Big Ben!

**Most romantic to do**

At walk at sunrise in Epping Forest

**Best hidden gem**

The Oyster Shack and Seafood Bar by the Epping Forest Visitor Centre



**Most inspiring view**

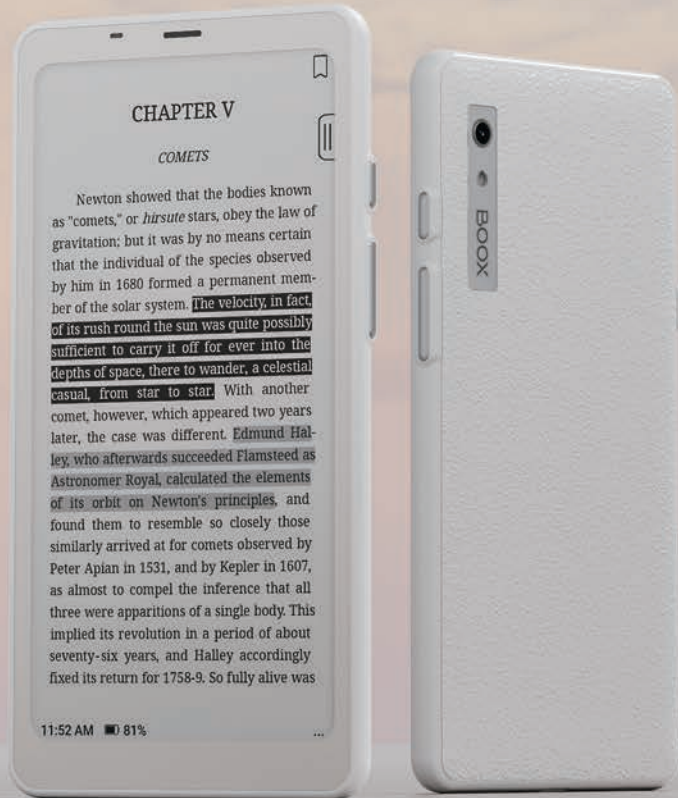
Waterloo Bridge looking towards St Paul's

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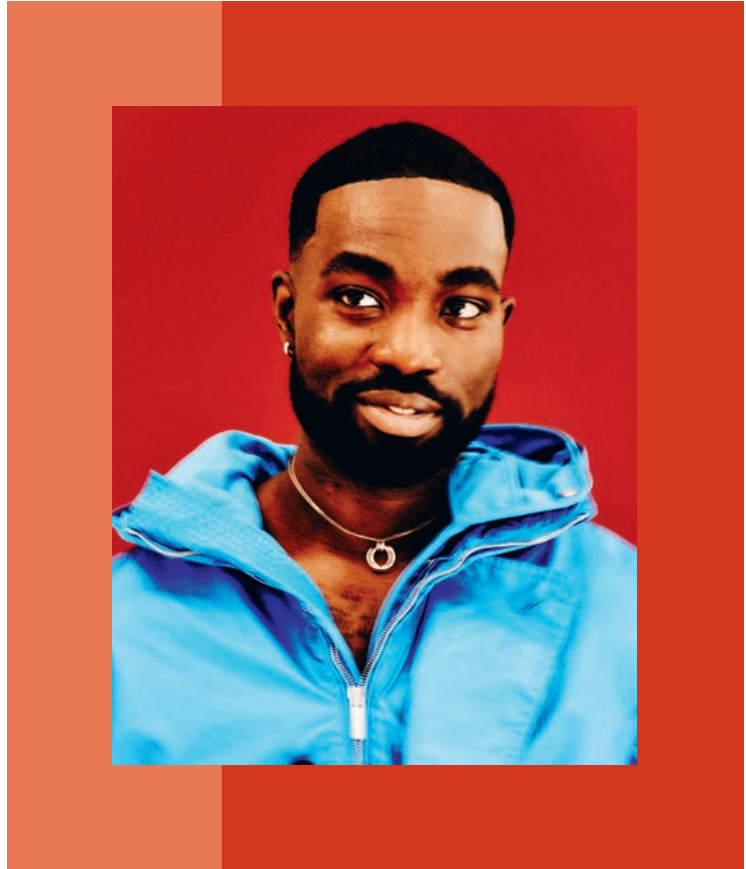


got this fierce commitment to freedom and the liberty that is afforded to him as a payment for being British. And just because he's Black or just because he's working class or just because he does this job, that doesn't mean that you can tell him what to do. A lot of that energy is very familiar, I think, when we look at some of the big political decisions that have been made both here and in America."

Essiedu is keen not to mix his personal politics too much with his approach to characters, but it's clear he's channelling some frustration into these roles. "We live in the world," he shrugs. "We know all the f\*\*king s\*\*t that's going down, both domestically and internationally."

And his beloved London, what's the future for the UK's flagship city – with its towering skyscrapers and exorbitant rents?

"I'm literally looking at a high-rise right now being put up. The costs of being a Londoner and engaging with what London purports to offer us is insane. It's completely f\*\*ked, man, and that will definitely take away from what has historically made London one of the greatest cities in the world, which is its diversity and variety of



**“I remember what it was like going to the theatre for the first time and... feeling unwelcome, or just not being able to get in because the tickets are too expensive”**

culture and story and food and music and experience. London has been a Rubik's Cube for centuries, and I feel like... I was about to say the cube's getting solved. It's becoming more one colour."

It's hard not to equate the experiences of those Black English footballers, so easily put on a pedestal or vilified, with Essiedu's own trajectory. What if he was the first Black Bond? The pressure involved must be immense.

"I'm not in control of the expectations other people have of me," he says, with conviction. "And I'm not hugely interested. But I do have expectation of myself to do what is required to

even make it worth doing this job. As a doctor, you see the impact of the work you do or the value that you have to society. Whereas being an actor, you can get lost down the airy fairy [path of thinking]: what we do makes people happy. And, yeah, sure. But it can be hard to sustain yourself through those moments where you know you're not doing that.

"I've got expectations of myself, and of the work that I do, to have impact," he continues. "Because I remember what it was like going to the theatre for the first time and feeling eyes on you. Feeling unwelcome, or just not being able to get in because the tickets are too expensive. I've got an expectation of myself to try and make it so that the [next] version of me, that is 15 or 18, is feeling those barriers or boundaries less than I was. That's a way of approaching expectation that is way less likely to land me in a nervous breakdown."

Essiedu is a great advocate for London. He represents what is best about the city: its variety and opportunity and freedom of choice. And he's absolutely right. London has to remain the sort of place where anyone can feel at home, even if that means being crammed into a stranger's armpit.

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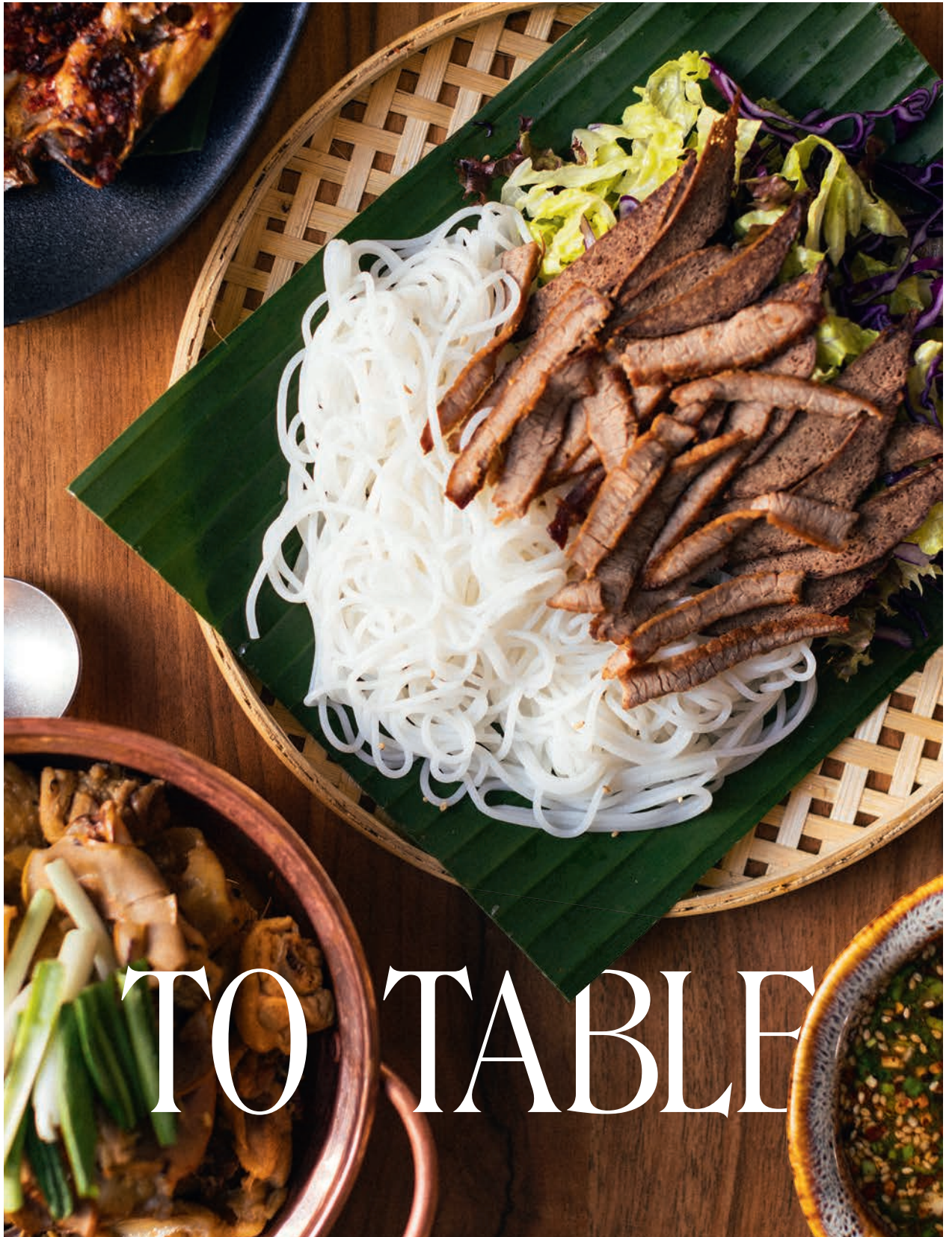
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PHOTOGRAPHS:  
**AMBROUS YOUNG**

# RAINFOREST

**Yunnanese food – made by the many ethnic groups native to China’s far-flung south-western region – was once an obscure delicacy to city dwellers. Now it’s making major waves in Shanghai thanks to a few visionary chefs, finds Laura Martin**



# TO TABLE

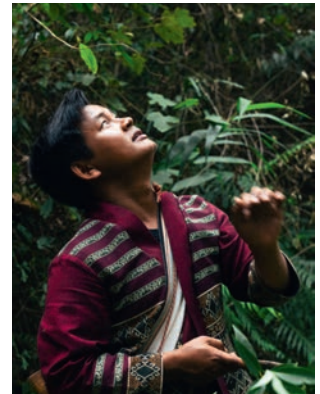
Right: Akon, our guide  
and co-founder of  
Wengwa Rainforest  
Discovery

# IT'S A WARM, HUMID DAY IN THE RAINFOREST OF CHINA.

As we trek through a sliver of the 19,000-hectare Jingmai mountains, there's a sea of green all around us and my eyes quickly get lost. But Akon – a shaman-trained expert who grew up around these parts and is my guide for the day – retains a laser-like focus. Something catches his eye; he stops to pluck a twig from a bush, chopping it off with a machete.

“Try this one!” he says. Normally I'd hesitate to put obscure vegetation in my mouth, but as a child in his home village of Wengwa – not far from where we are now – Akon learned to identify edible plants from just their leaves, stalks and flowers, often from several metres away. This particular one is tubular in shape, and, crunching down into the tart stalk, I get notes of rhubarb and celery. Next, he plucks a dark green, speckled leaf that's reminiscent of cucumber; a few metres further on, I taste sour, date-like brown fruits, and sprigs with a zingy, citrus tang. It's like playing Shazam with my taste buds, and I think to myself: I'm in for one of the most extraordinary lunches of my life.

Akon is the co-founder of Wengwa Rainforest Discovery (WRD), an enterprise that aims to promote the cultural heritage of the rainforest – and the people who have lived there for thousands of years – through food. Currently, they operate out of their two bases, one of which is deep in the Yunnan rainforest found within the Xishuangbanna prefecture, which also hosts visitors at their luxury campsite and restaurant. I'm visiting them at a major milestone, as they get



ready to open a new restaurant in Shanghai called Canopia, which is being billed as a living rainforest in the south-west of the city. It's part of a new wave of restaurants in the city that are focusing on this lesser-understood cuisine from the south-western edge of the vast country, putting the spotlight on ancient flavours and ingredients and serving them up to curious city dwellers.

Akon comes from the Bulang ethnic group, who, alongside other major groups like Dai, Yi, Hani, Zhuang, Bai and Miao, populate the Yunnan province in south-west China. Home to 48.3 million people, the region – popular with Chinese tourists, but rarely those from further afield – is an astonishing part of the country, the landscape spanning snow-capped mountains and cerulean lakes to ancient, sweeping forests in Pu'er (the birthplace of its namesake tea and a UNESCO World Heritage site as of 2023). Today, I'm visiting Yunnan's lush expanse of rainforest at the heart of the Jingmai mountains.

Six years ago, Akon and his French partner, Jean-Charles “JC” Penot, were living in Beijing when they had the idea for







From above: Jean-Charles "JC" Penot serves food to the writer; a dish using forest ingredients

WRD. They decided to move to Wengji village and make it happen. Akon tells me on a bumpy 30-minute Jeep drive from their WRD base in Wengji into the jungle. Their rainforest restaurant, Dae Lae – which means “forest food” in Bulang – is where we’ll be dining today. We have a small sampling of the 220 species of edible plants that have been identified by Akon and WRD’s botanists for food, which will become ingredients

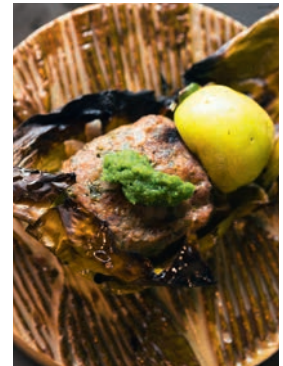
for our lunch. Some of these plants were newly discovered by the team at WRD, unknown even to the local ethnic groups. It’s not necessarily a surprise, since Yunnan province is said to have as much flowering plant diversity as the rest of the Northern Hemisphere put together.

“We wanted to set up a true culinary experience,” explains JC when we arrive at Dae Lae. I’m the only diner at the restaurant today, which has been created out of a customised safari tent, perched on the side of a little lake. “And we soon realised the best way to do that was to copy the ecosystem of nature and reflect it in not only the food, but everything we create.”

Back in 2013, Greenpeace rang the alarm for Yunnan following the destruction of the area’s rainforests, which led to a sharp drop in species diversity. “If measures are not taken promptly, one quarter of Yunnan’s species may become extinct within this century,” the head of Greenpeace’s forest conservation, Wu Hao, warned.

It’s something Akon has witnessed as farming in the region becomes more and more industrialised. “These modern agricultural systems have had a strong negative impact on biodiversity,” he says. “Which is why preserving ancient practices not only maintains ancestral knowledge, but also helps with ecosystem preservation.”

“For most people, these large forests are just green spaces composed of trees and animals. But for us, the rainforest is our food and medicinal supply. Without



**“We figure if people take the time and effort to find us, they’ll be rewarded!”**

**TROPICAL FLAVOUR**

3 CLASSIC YUNNANESE DISHES TO TRY

ILLUSTRATIONS: HIFUMIYO



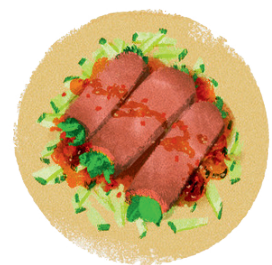
**GHOST CHICKEN**

Traditionally made with the black-skinned chickens of the region, this dish is a herbed, shredded chicken salad mixed with lime juice, chillies, garlic, ginger and coriander.



**CROSSING THE BRIDGE NOODLES**

This is chicken soup topped with rice takes its name from a fable in which a wife takes noodles to her husband studying on an island.



**BEEF-WRAPPED MINT**

A cold dish, perfect for the sticky heat of the rainforest. Cooked slices of beef are wrapped around a bunch of fresh mint leaves and dipped into a spicy dressing.

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By Dr Emma Craythorne

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it, we're lost and powerless. And by losing ancient ingredients, we are also homogenising flavours and culinary heritage."

Settling into the cushioned floor seating, I get to experience their vision through a spectacular eight-course meal. Highlights include surprisingly sweet soft-shell river crabs paired with river moss butter and a salad made with herbs gathered from the forest floor, all cooked in a small pop-up kitchen a few metres from the dining table.

Just 400 people in total have experienced WRD so far – to be expected, since it's a purely word-of-mouth project. "We don't make it easy for people to find us," JC admits of their lack of social media accounts or even a website. "We figure if people take the time and effort to find us, they'll be rewarded!"

Though the opening of Canopia is sure to bag them more fans, the hush-hush business model of WRD will still apply, since the restaurant will host just 12 guests a night. The lucky diners will also forage for their food, then be guided through a similar tasting menu (14 courses rather than Dae Lae's eight) made up of ingredients sourced directly from their rainforest farm and a greenhouse in the Shanghai restaurant.

But they won't be the only ones flying the flag for Yunnanese food in Shanghai. Take Yunnan Bistro, a hip restaurant in the west of the city, which pairs regional dishes with natural wine. Or the zen, natural wood-washed Huma, where the no-reservations policy means people send couriers to wait in the three-hour queue.

"The culture and food [of Yunnan] are quite similar to Thailand, as geographically they're so close," the chef and restaurant owner of Huma, Niu Yun, known to everyone as NY, tells me when I visit her after I've returned to Shanghai. "So, typically in this region, because of the rainforest, there are lots of different herbs, and fresh chilli and lemons in the dishes." NY comes from Yunnan's capital Kunming and lived there until she was 18. In 2014, she opened her first restaurant in Shanghai



From top: A dish at Huma; Niu "NY" Yun, the restaurant's owner

called Slurp, at a time when Yunnanese restaurants were severely lacking in the city. Ten years and several iterations of Slurp later, she's recently opened her fourth restaurant in the city, Pilipala Dai Barbecue, in the Changning district – in part in homage to her mum, who is Dai.

"When I first started out, people weren't that interested in Yunnanese food, but I just loved it and so did my friends," she says. "With so many different ingredients and different flavours from the minority cultures, there's been so much more we can show."



Left and below:  
Food and interior of  
the Lotus Eatery

Bottom: Shanghai  
at night



⊗ FLY TO SHANGHAI

## “Yunnanese culture has a lot of stories to tell. It’s really quite magical down there”

Both Topher and NY tell me that during lockdown, like most countries across the world, Chinese people found themselves unable to travel abroad, meaning they had to visit places in their own homeland instead. Many who were hoping to visit Thailand, Vietnam or Laos chose Yunnan. This newfound interest in the province gave Yunnanese restaurants back in Shanghai a boost. “It’s a culture with a lot of stories to tell. It’s really quite magical down there,” NY says.

I think back to my time in Wengwa. At WRD, I watch the sun, the same colour as the Chinese flag, set over the smoky mountains with Akon. He tells me his dream – apart from earning a Michelin star – is to leave a legacy of his culture’s food that can be passed on to the next generation. “This knowledge of plants and cuisine has been known to the Bulang and other ethnic groups for thousands of years,” he says. “Our work means we’re ensuring this knowledge will be around for years to come.”

NY plates up some of her signatures for me: there’s a spicy salad that includes a pungent root called houttuynia, or, as NY calls it, “fish-smelling grass”. We also dig into a fried tilapia fish with a chilli and lemongrass-infused sauce smeared over the top. It’s one of the best meals I have while in Shanghai – simmering with moreish heat.

“Yunnanese food is definitely having a resurgence in this city,” Chris Brantley, known as Topher, from UnTour Food Tours, tells me over a revolving table spread from the super-popular Lotus Eatery, also in the Changning neighbourhood. This old-school institution has been serving some of the more classic dishes from the region since 2009.

Included in the spread: purple sticky rice, some of the 900 varieties of mushrooms unique to Yunnan and rice noodles. Chris tells me that young Shanghainese are enjoying these rice noodles – rather than wheat – which are synonymous with Yunnan. “There’s a local chain called InClouds that’s gone viral [on social media], because of the rice noodles, but also because of how it’s presented, in a bronze bowl.”

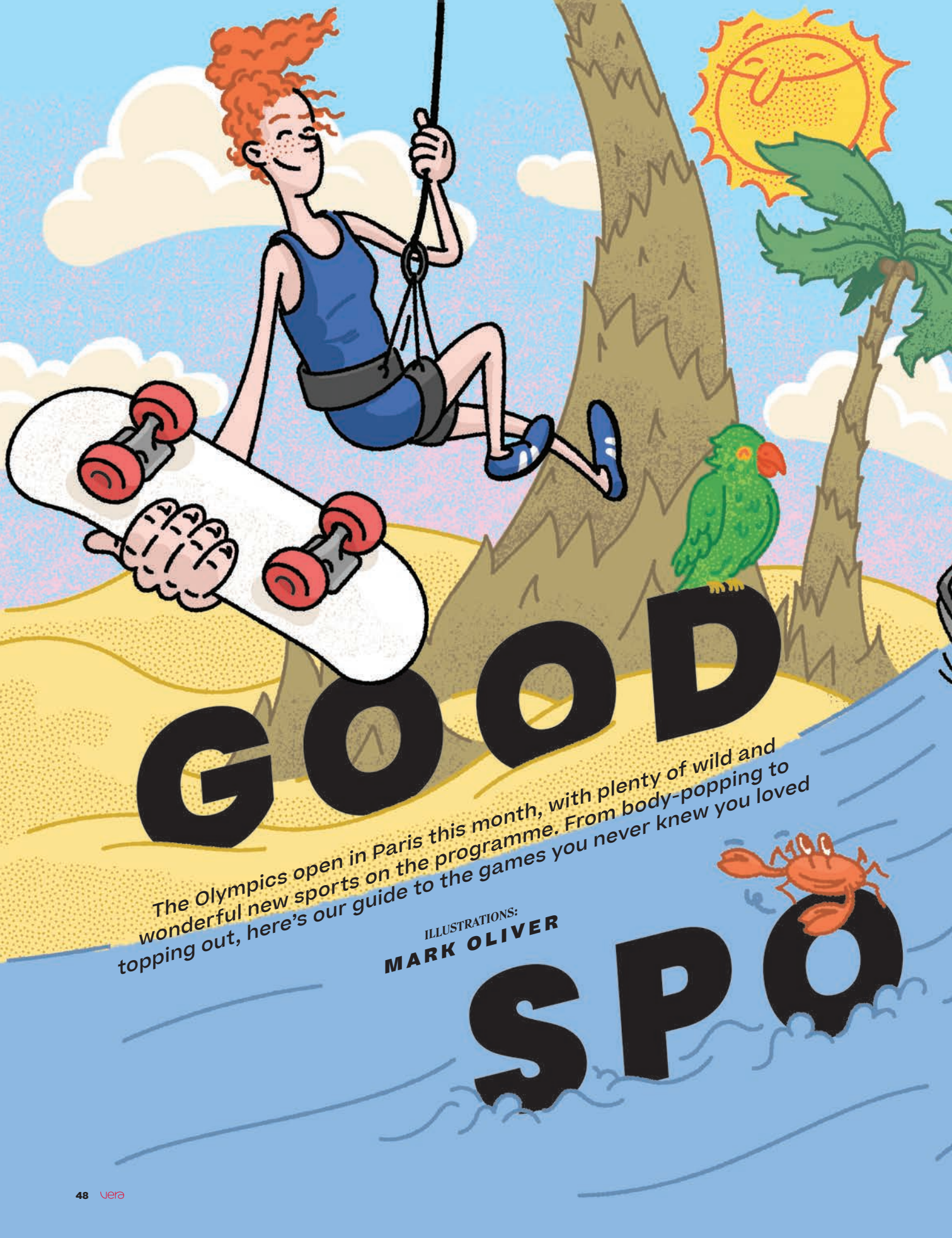


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The Olympics open in Paris this month, with plenty of wild and wonderful new sports on the programme. From body-popping to topping out, here's our guide to the games you never knew you loved

ILLUSTRATIONS:  
**MARK OLIVER**





# SPORTS

## ○ Breaking

### How does it work?

Breaking (or breakdancing) is one of the most explosive and entertaining new sports to be added to the programme for decades. Teams of 16 B-boys and B-girls compete to wow the judges with some literally head-spinning acrobatics.

### Who's the best?

The ever-present USA will have a claim to men's gold thanks to their talisman, Victor Montalvo (aka B-Boy Viktor). The strongest challenge will likely come from the Japanese team.

### Where does it happen?

Breaking and B-boy culture was born out of the Bronx in the 1970s, and a pilgrimage to the community centre at 1520 Sedgwick – aka the birthplace of hip hop – is worthwhile for any wanna-B-boy. Legendary crews like Mastermind Rockers, Incredible Breakers, Supreme Beingz and 5 Crew Dynasty (who also teach kids through their Dynasty Breaking NYC programme) are still competing at B-boy events around the city – follow on Instagram for updates.

### How do I get into it?

Before you attempt to spin like a top for the crowds in Times Square, try a tester breaking class. PMT House of Dance and Brickhouse NYC offer lessons for beginners.

### 📍 FLY TO NEW YORK



Right: Victor Montalvo of the United States performs during the WDSF World Breaking Championship 2023 in Leuven, Belgium



“The scene is built on a sense of possibility and the simple pleasure of hanging out. Not just a sport, but a lifestyle”

Left: Nijjah Huston of the United States competes at the Skateboarding Men's Street Prelims in Shanghai, China, in May

## ○ Street skating

### How does it work?

Street skating is an expression of freedom. It turns the railings, benches and bollards of the concrete jungle into platforms for out-of-this-world tricks. Now an Olympic sport, taking place in specially built parks, it still draws on the rolling feel of real streets.

### Who's the best?

All eyes will be on Nyjah Huston – a California native regarded as the greatest street skater to ever compete.

### Where does it happen?

When street skating began in the 1980s it really did turn cities like LA upside down. Now, most street skaters in LA

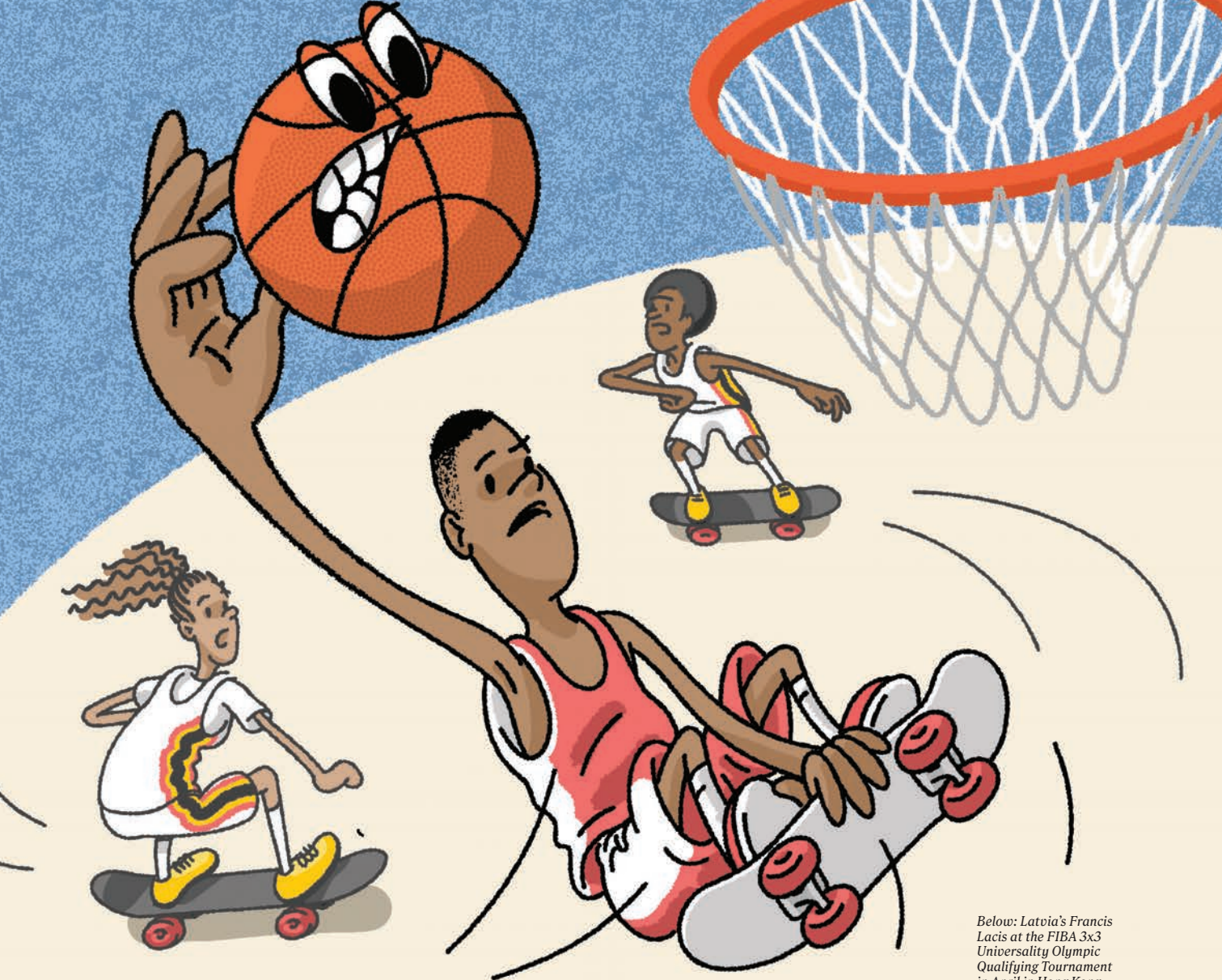
– one of the world's skating meccas – roll down to the palm-fringed skatepark on Venice Beach, but the spirit is still there. It's a scene built on a sense of possibility and the simple pleasure of hanging out. Not just a sport, but a lifestyle.

### How do I get into it?

Venice Beach is a must-skate location, and Kapowui (kapowui.com) has been offering lessons there since 2008. LA's other iconic parks include Stoner Skate Plaza (that's its real name: it's on Stoner Ave) and the Vans Off the Wall Skatepark in Huntington Beach.

FLY TO LOS ANGELES





Below: Latvia's Francis Lacis at the FIBA 3x3 Universality Olympic Qualifying Tournament in April in Hong Kong

## ○ 3 on 3 basketball

### How does it work?

Like normal basketball, but cooler – this is a fast, stylish sport played on a half-court. Games last just 10 minutes but end automatically once any team reaches 21 points.

### Who's the best?

Surprisingly, 3 on 3 is not completely dominated by the US, though they are very good at it. The world's top players are just as likely to come from Serbia, Latvia, Canada and Belgium.

### Where does it happen?

The sport has its roots in the streetball scenes of the US, especially pick-up games on the

open courts of NYC and Washington DC. Now it's played absolutely anywhere there's a hoop: the International Olympic Committee describes it as the "number one urban sport in the world". For an intro to the swagger and silky skills involved look up The Professor, a streetball pro with 5.1 million Instagram followers.

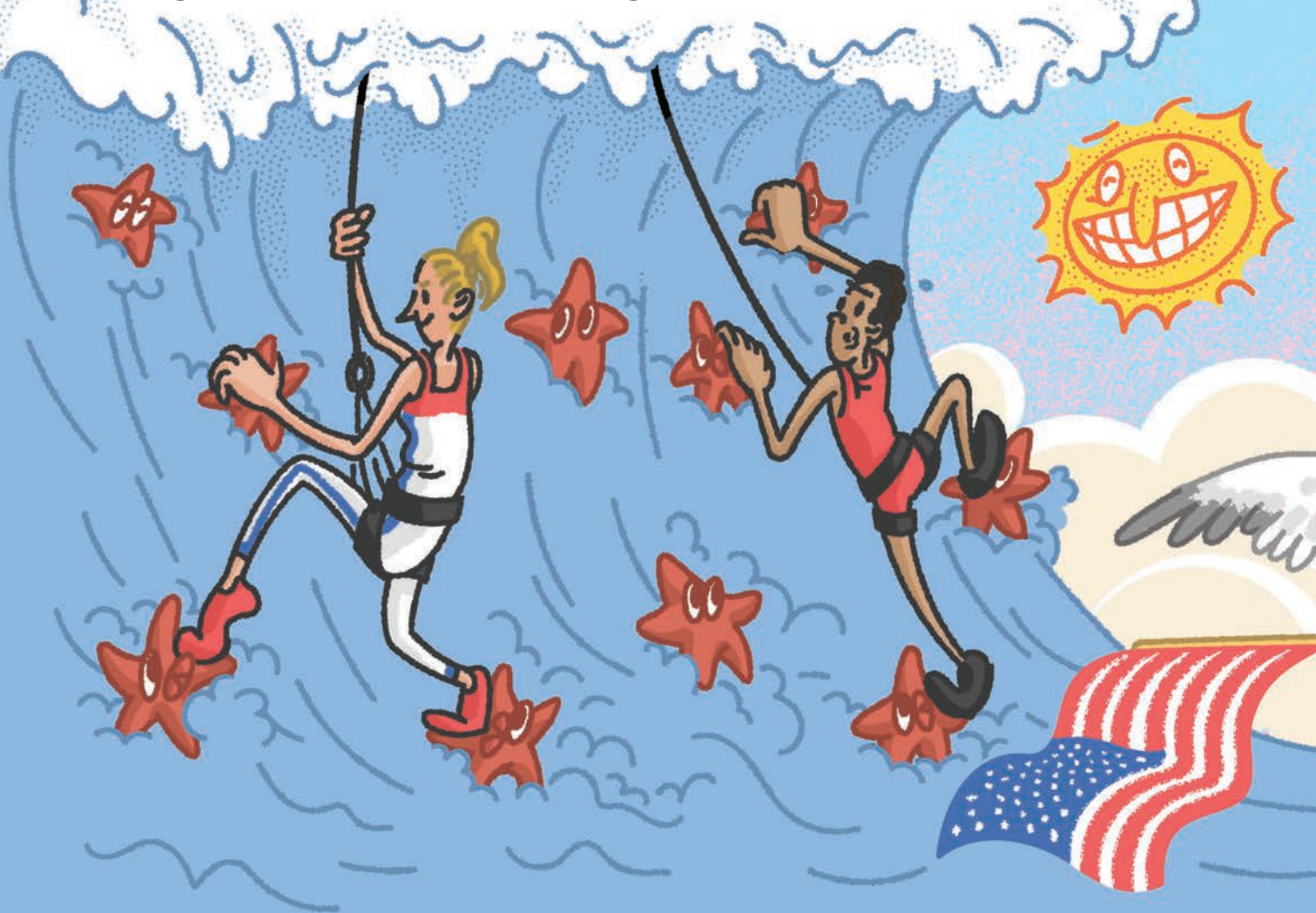
### How do I get into it?

Just find an empty court in any city, but we recommend the sun-drenched concrete of Miami, especially the Instagram-friendly ViceWave courts at Sparks Park in Hialeah or else the classic shorefront courts at Central Beach in Fort Lauderdale.

✉ FLY TO MIAMI



“Follow in the footholds of China’s top competitors at Climbing Factory in Shanghai – a rainbow-coloured climbing mecca with two speed walls to scale”



*Below: Wu Peng of China competes in the Sport Climbing Men's Speed Final/Olympic Qualifier Series Shanghai in May*

## ○ Speed climbing

### How does it work?

Simple: just sprint up a 15m overhanging wall as fast as humanly possible. The best climbers/spider-people do

it in under five seconds.

### Who's the best?

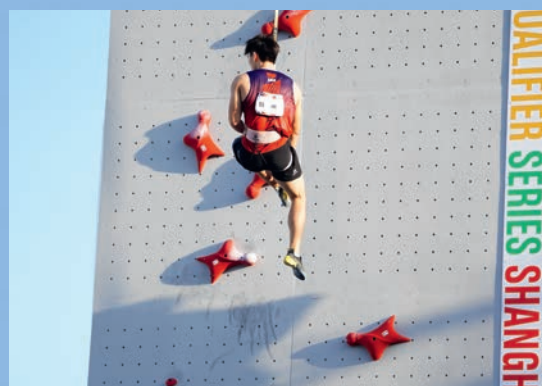
A pair of Americans – Samuel Watson and Emma Hunt – are the names to beat, but China has a uniquely strong men's team this summer and

could easily produce a champion.

### Where does it happen?

Regulation speed walls are all the same, using precisely placed holds. There aren't many in existence around the world,

making it a specialist pursuit for people who are already really, really good climbers. China has been a hotbed of speed-climbing success in the past, producing five-times men's world champion Zhong Qixin, and



Right: Caitlin Simmers (USA) in the opening round of the SHISEIDO Tahiti Pro in May, in Teahupo'o, French Polynesia



## ○ Surfing

### How does it work?

Competition surfing isn't about just, like, totally going with the flow, dude. Riders compete to impress a panel of five judges with the complexity of their manoeuvres during a roughly half-hour session in the water.

### Who's the best?

It's the next generation of surfers from the USA, including top-ranked Griffin Colapinto and Caitlin Simmers, who are expected to make a splash at Paris 2024.

### Where does it happen?

The Olympic surfing competition takes place in Tahiti, French Polynesia (to do it actually in Paris would be in Seine, ahem), though the Caribbean is where the surfing scene is booming right now, with the reef breaks of Barbados, in particular, offering totally tubular waves.

### How do I get into it?

Cattlewash Beach is the spot to catch easy breakers, while the famous barrels of the Soup Bowl await you just around the bay in Bathsheba. Bodie's School of Surf and Barry's Surf Barbados are top-rated surf schools on the south of the island. The Surfer's Cafe, near the fish market in Oistins, is the spot for rum cocktails, grilled catch of the day and stories of waves that got away.

⊗ FLY TO BARBADOS



Paris 2024 contenders Cao Long and Wu Peng.

### How do I get into it?

Follow in the footholds of China's top competitors at Climbing Factory on West Changjiang Road

in Shanghai – a rainbow-coloured climbing mecca with two speed walls to scale. Be warned: it is nowhere near as easy as it looks. Beginners might be pleased to simply reach the top.

⊗ FLY TO SHANGHAI

WORDS: JONNY ENSALL PHOTOS: BETTY IMAGES

# Sandals

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\*Flights with Virgin Atlantic include a brief stop in Barbados. Flights operate three times weekly apart from 07 Oct '24 - 01 Dec '24 when flights are twice per week.



# The luxury HOTEL GUIDE

## Push the boat out

**Every once in a while it's worth spoiling** yourself rotten. Properly switching off, losing yourself in sheer comfort and indulging your pleasure centres. The best way to do that, in our humble opinion? Jumping on a flight somewhere lovely and staying in the nicest place you can find. The following stays are all very different, but they all share a flair for opulence, a reverence for style. And, non incidentally, they all look lush on the 'gram.



**“Heavenly”** is a bold claim, but an apt sum-up of the vibe at the 02 Beach Club & Spa, Barbados. Facing a hypnotic cerulean horizon, this shiny retreat has all the trappings of luxury - an eighth-floor Acqua spa with floor-to-ceiling ocean views, seven bars and lounges, three pools, a swim-up bar - with a side of Bajan flair. From the playful colour-popping sun loungers fitted along 300m of powder-perfect beach, everything inspires joy. Indulge at four



restaurants serving up tapas, fine dining with broad coastal vistas, or grilled fish on the beach. Learn steel-pan drumming, local cooking, or proper domino etiquette in the games room, then retire to big rooms with freestanding tubs or rainfall showers, watching turtles from your balcony.



**02 Beach Club & Spa, Barbados**  
THE ONE FOR ALL-INCLUSIVE PAMPERING

## MATFEN HALL, NORTHUMBERLAND

The one for Gothic romance



All mullioned windows, lofty balustrades and sturdy Victorian chimneys, this 19th-century Gothic beauty is really quite the looker, with its aromatic summer blooms and 121 hectares of parkland. Renovated last year to the tune of £25 million, inside Matfen Hall is every inch the luxury bolthole, with hefty oaken doors and reassuringly swanky Chesterfield sofas. Dine in style in the old library, under dizzyingly ornate ceilings, or drink in the atmosphere at 1832 bar. There's a top-notch spa, with treatments by Germaine de Capuccini, and a world-class golf course with 10-bay driving range, plus a new Clubhouse opening this summer complete with simulators and outdoor dining space. Oh, and the rooms are fit for a duchess - a three-for-two offer is now on - decked out with a refreshingly zero-tolerance attitude to fussy chintz. It's a beaut.







PHOTOS: KODIAK GREENWOOD MARIA STENGARD-GREEN

## Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles

THE ONE FOR GOLDEN-AGE GLAMOUR

### Played over five

hectares of gardens – complete with its very own swan lake – and snugly set among Bel-Air’s famous canyons, this old-school gem is evocative of classic Tinseltown. First built in 1922 as a stable complex – lucky horses – Hotel Bel-Air, Los Angeles, has since hosted Audrey Hepburn, Grace Kelly and Marilyn Monroe. The latter had a photoshoot here, for *Vogue* no less. Splendidly Art Deco inside, outside the building fabric is purest salmon-coloured Spanish Colonial. Rooms, designed by the fittingly upmarket-sounding Alexandra Champalimaud, are understated and tasteful, as befits the secluded location. Special shout-out to the Valmont spa, with seven treatment

rooms and walls hand-painted with real gold, and high-tech cellular beauty treatments like its LED and micro-current facials. A glorious way to get ready for your motion picture close-up.



## MIDSUMMER MILL, COTSWOLDS

The one for rustic repose



There's been a mill on the site of this darling little Cotswold charmer for 700 years. And while indeed the cottage at Midsummer Mill retains a good deal of rustic magic, there's also a heated indoor swimming pool, hand-painted Mark Wilkinson kitchen and two luxurious King bedrooms. It's just one of the many sublime properties available through the Luxury Cotswold Rentals family. Blackpitts Farm (*below*) just up the road in Aldsworth is a bright contemporary farmhouse that sleeps 12, a short walk from legendary pub The Sherborne Arms. Tysoe Manor in Upper Tysoe is stately, manorial and teeming with history - not to mention a plush attic gym and billiard room. Behold these and other bucolic escapes at Luxury Cotswold Rentals, and sister UltraVilla across Europe and beyond.



**This easy-on-the-eye** Grade II-listed Gothic manor perches prettily on the edge of Windermere, in the ravishing setting of the Lake District. Seamlessly blending period charm with cosy mod cons, guests can enjoy access to an on-site cinema, cocktail lounge, and magnificently renovated grand dining room, as well as twin state-of-the-art hot tubs. It's blessed with an aristocratically grand lawn and is cheerfully dog friendly – which is just as well

## Fallbarrow Hall, Cumbria

THE ONE FOR  
A STATELY ESCAPE

amongst England's most striking scenery and long walks – and there's a pool table, if rambling sounds too much like hard work. But the real draw is that view over romantic Lake Windermere, best enjoyed with a sundowner on Fallbarrow Hall's rather lovely private jetty.

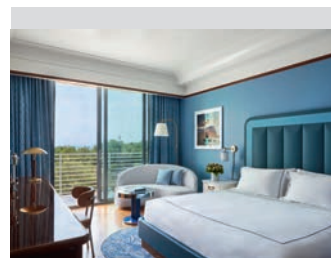


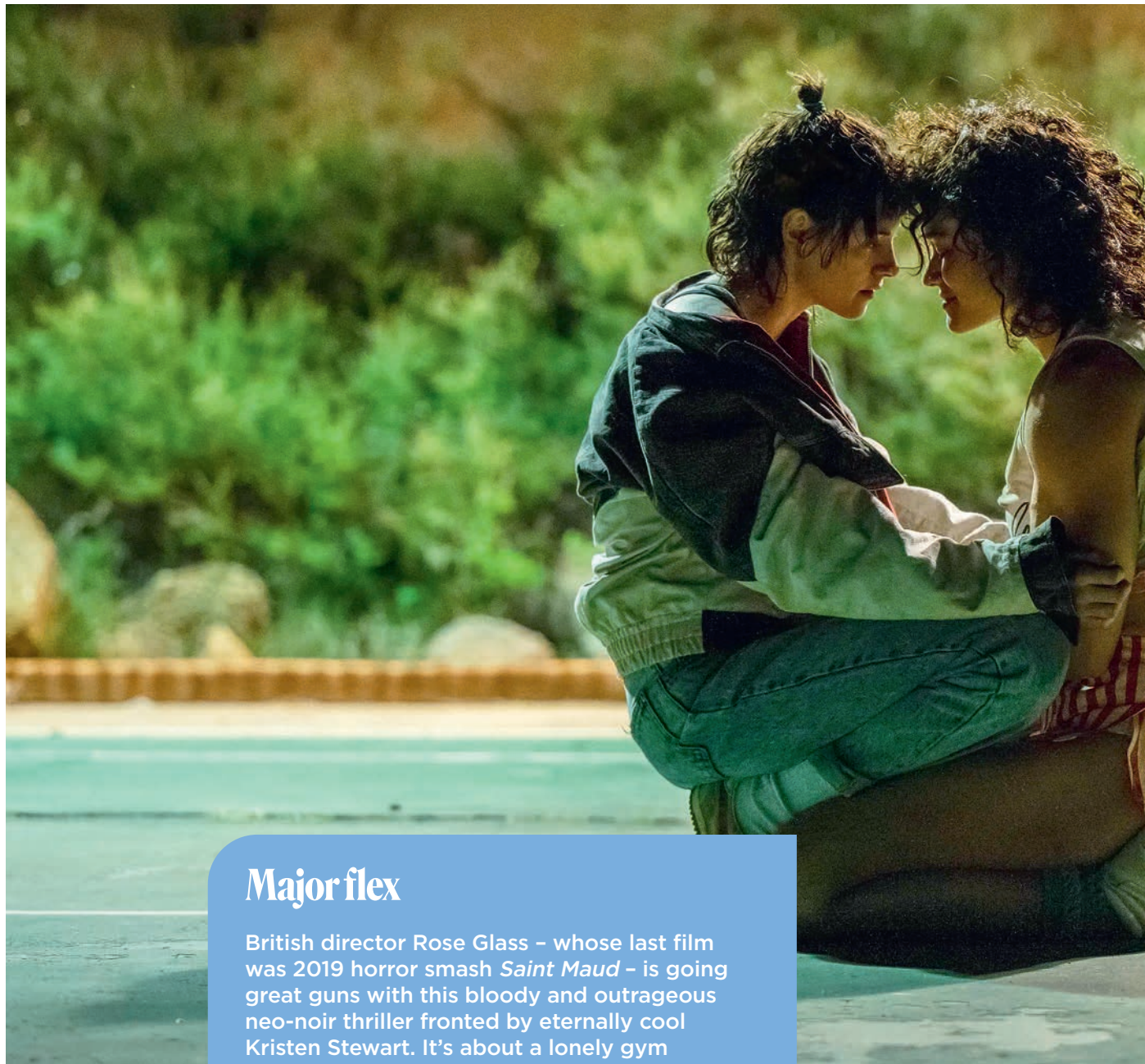
## MR C COCONUT GROVE, MIAMI

The one for Italianate chic



The “C”, since you ask, stands for Cipriani – the legendary hospitality clan founded by family patriarch Giuseppe Cipriani, who started Harry's Bar in Venice back in the 1930s, much loved haunt of Ernest Hemingway and Maria Callas. This swish boutique overlooking Biscayne Bay – a more chillaxed prospect than South Beach up the road – is all heady Italianate glamour, plush terrazzo floors and contemporary splashes of peach-pink and pale blue. Its rooftop restaurant, Bellini – named for Giuseppe's iconic cocktail – serves grilled octopus with artichokes hearts and baked truffle polenta in a semi-formal, Mid-Century setting. It's sustainable, too – all food waste is processed into fertiliser, and the room keys are wood not plastic. Overall, the vibe is nautical, with ocean hues and big porthole windows, so you can enjoy the “C” – and the sea.





## Major flex

British director Rose Glass – whose last film was 2019 horror smash *Saint Maud* – is going great guns with this bloody and outrageous neo-noir thriller fronted by eternally cool Kristen Stewart. It's about a lonely gym manager, Lou (Stewart), who falls for a roided up bodybuilder and trails her to Vegas, only to get dragged into a bunch of nonsense thanks to her own criminal father. "Some say less is more... I am not one of those people," Glass says. Indeed, her OTT filmmaking style makes *Love Lies Bleeding* a grindhouse triumph.

© WATCH LOVE LIES BLEEDING

### 65-73// Movies

Who you gonna call? *Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire*. Plus, *Godzilla* and *King Kong* rise, and we welcome all the *Harry Potter* films onboard.

### 75-80// Television

Why we're into neurodivergence-repping sitcom *Dinosaur*, white-knuckling it at *The Traitors*, and LOLing along to *People Just Do Nothing*.



**83-86 // Audio**

The emotional jungle music of Nia Archives, visiting *The Tortured Poets Department* with Taylor Swift, and we select the best 90s bangers.



**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 July.

A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

# WHAT'S ON

JULY

# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

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

## Welcome onboard

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

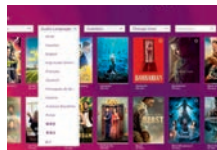
- Select an album from Music, a TV show from TV or a movie from Movies.
- For Music, click on the star symbol next to your chosen track or album.
- For Movies and TV click Save Show/Movie for Later.
- Depending on which aircraft you are on, you'll see a tab or star at the top of your screen.
- Click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



## Languages & accessibility

Some of our entertainment comes with a selection of different audio languages and/or subtitles, which you can find by using the onscreen controls.

**See below for more on your aircraft**



Travelling on one of our **A350** or **A339** aircraft? Select the media type – such as Movies – and filter from the dropdown menu at the top of the screen. Then just touch the screen while the media is playing and click on the icon above to select the desired language/subtitles.



If you are on one of our **789** or **A333** aircraft, select subtitles or audio description from the dropdown menu to see what's available. Once you have made your selection, just touch the screen while the media is playing and select the desired audio language or subtitles from the Language Settings dropdown menu. Now you're good to go – enjoy!

## Kids' Zone

Most of our aircraft feature a dedicated Kids' Zone with content just for kids, rated U or PG (suitable for children aged up to 12). For older kids, you can let them loose in the main section, but we do have parental blocking available if you need it.

### Parental blocking

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### Accessibility

Subtitles, closed captions and audio descriptive titles (AD) are available on a selection of entertainment.

## Viewing guide

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

## Headphones

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

# FALL HEAD OVER HEELS WITH LUXURY

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 **Christopher  
Ward**

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SCAN ME



# WHAT'S ON MOVIES

JULY

HAUNTING FILMS FROM ACROSS THE SPECTRUM

“I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE EGON”



Paranormal expert Evelyn Hollow on **GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE**

► EVELYN HOLLOW IS A PROPER, trained scientist who applies her expertise in the niche but growing field of parapsychology to study otherwise unexplainable phenomena including ghosts and poltergeists.

**Hey, Evelyn! Do you like the new *Ghostbusters* movie?**

I do. And I loved the original films growing up. I wanted to be Egon so badly. They inspired me and a lot of my colleagues, like the respected Dr

Ciarán O’Keeffe, to try to seriously investigate the paranormal. The rebooted movies are interesting to me, too, basing their stories on some quite plausible ideas in occult study.

**Oooh, what sort of ideas?**

What you might call “paranormal architecture”. The *Ghostbusters*’ take is very Hollywood, but the idea that rooms or spaces lined in certain materials attract or repel spirits has a well-founded basis in folklore. The idea

“THE IDEA THAT SOME PEOPLE ACCIDENTALLY OWN PROFOUNDLY HAUNTED OBJECTS IS ALSO FAMILIAR TO ME

that some people accidentally own profoundly haunted objects is also familiar to me.

**Haunted how, exactly?**

There’s an idea called “stone tape theory”. It says certain spaces record events that take place in them, which can be replayed, like grooves on a vinyl record. The idea, as seen in *Ghostbusters*, that objects can harbour mystical properties isn’t so far-fetched either. Footballers have certain boots they believe are lucky and genuinely play badly if they’re not wearing them.

***Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* invokes quantum theory to explain the paranormal, is that legit?**

Quantum mechanics still isn’t fully understood. Eminent scientists struggle to explain the role of neutrinos – aka “the ghost particle” – in our real-life universe. Consciousness remains the last unexplored frontier of science. Energy is always recycled, so maybe our essences can survive death.

**Whoah.**

Some so-called paranormal events are just mould-induced hallucinations or noisy pipes. But so many stories I encounter professionally seem to match, it’s unscientific not to investigate.

**Are you ever scared?**

Nope. I ain’t afraid of no ghost.

● Evelyn Hollow’s *Atlas of Paranormal Places* will be published in September

📺 WATCH **GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE**

HOT RIGHT NOW



**Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire**

12

Rebecca Hall,  
Brian Tyree Henry

115 mins

► **THE FIFTH FILM IN THE MONSTERVERSE FRANCHISE (YES, THERE'S a Monsterverse franchise)** is the sequel to *Godzilla vs Kong*. Eagle-eyed readers will spot that this one has an X between Godzilla and Kong which, as anybody fashionable will tell you, means teaming up, pooling resources. So, far from being at each other's throats, this instalment finds Zilla and Kong being best mates and working together in order to defeat the powerful, frost-breathing Titan monsters from leaving the Hollow Earth and coming up to the Earth's surface. Or something. Meanwhile, there are some humans running around trying not to get stomped.



**ROAD HOUSE** ♥

15

Jake Gyllenhaal,  
Daniela Melchior

121 mins

This remake features a pumped-up Gyllenhaal as bouncer Dalton, who gets a job cracking heads at a lively Florida bar. Pretty soon he's coming up against some very bad guys indeed, one of whom is played by real-life UFC fighter Conor McGregor.



**KUNG FU PANDA 4**

PG

Jack Black,  
Awkwafina

94 mins

You won't be let down by the fourth instalment of the reliable animated series in which Po must find and train a new Dragon Warrior. At the same time, a wicked sorceress plans to summon all the master villains that Po has vanquished in the past.



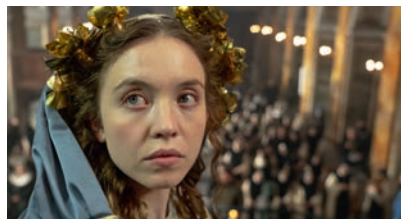
**GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE** ♥

12

Paul Rudd,  
Carrie Coon

115 mins

The new Ghostbusters must join forces with the old ones to ward off a second Ice Age in the latest from the franchise. Very funny and often visually gobsmacking, it features a scene-stealing appearance from Bill Murray. See *opener*



**IMMACULATE**

18

Sydney Sweeney,  
Simona Tabasco

89 mins

Cast somewhat against type, Sweeney is nevertheless brilliant playing a virginal nun, Sister Cecilia, in this effective horror movie. Starting with life at the convent, things get real weird real fast. Suffice to say, it's as creepy as it is gnarly.



**LOVE LIES BLEEDING** ♥

15

Kristen Stewart,  
Dave Franco

104 mins

Brilliant Kristen Stewart headlines this steamy, noirish thriller playing Lou, who falls in love with bodybuilder Jackie. Their love story takes a darker turn when Jackie finds herself drawn into the criminal web of Lou's family – notably her father, played by Ed Harris.

## Putting it on

### How true is *The Long Game*?

#### It's a movie about golf, right?

Yup, *The Long Game* relates the tale of five plucky golf-loving Mexican-American lads in the 1950s who were sick of only ever getting to caddy, never play, at their swanky local golf club.

#### They overcame discrimination?

Racism was sadly par for the course in 1950s Texas. But with the help of sympathetic club member Frank (Dennis Quaid) and school superintendent JB Peña (Jay Hernandez) they came out swinging.

#### Lemme guess, they win the title?

Not to get into spoilers, but they create their own course in the desert, and with iron will and sheer follow-through make it to the final of the 1957 Texas State High School Golf Championship.

#### Is it accurate?

It's based on the well-researched book *Mustang Miracle* by Humberto G Garcia. At a San Antonio screening, locals griped that the uniforms are the wrong colour. But otherwise filmmakers got the story down to a tee.

WATCH THE LONG GAME



## TRUE TALES



### Joika ♥



Diane Kruger,  
Talia Ryder

111 mins

▶ **ONE OF THE FEW FOREIGNERS EVER TO BREAK INTO RUSSIA'S** famed Bolshoi Ballet, Joy Womack was – and still is – an inspiration to millions. As this biopic tells us, the Womack story began in Beverly Hills when she attended the Westside School of Ballet, before later graduating to the Kirov Academy in Washington. It was from there that she made the extraordinary leap to the Bolshoi, which was founded in 1776 and is not only one of the world's oldest dance companies but also one of its most renowned. They don't take many foreigners: Womack was just the second. But if she thought that life would be a bed of roses from then on, she couldn't have been more wrong.



### THE LONG GAME ♥



Jay Hernandez,  
Dennis Quaid

106 mins

If you can imagine *Field of Dreams* except based around the sport of golf, you've got *The Long Game*. Inspired by a true story, it tells of five Mexican-American caddies who created their own golf course in order to learn the game. And that's just the beginning. *See left*



### ORDINARY ANGELS ♥



Hilary Swank,  
Alan Ritchson

117 mins

Prepare to have your heartstrings expertly twanged by this drama starring the reliably superb Swank. She plays Sharon, a hairdresser who rallies her community to help a father save his critically ill daughter and, let's be real here, you're welling up already.

WAR STORIES



One Life ♥

12

Anthony Hopkins,  
Helena Bonham Carter

109 mins

▶ **JUST BEFORE WWII, LONDON STOCKBROKER NICHOLAS WINTON** visited Czechoslovakia in the wake of the Munich Agreement, only to find Jewish families, having fled the Nazis in Germany, living in abject poverty. Horrified by the conditions – and especially affected by the suffering of Jewish children – Winton returned to London determined to help. This, then, is the true story of his efforts, cutting between his work in the late 1930s (where he's played by Johnny Flynn) and his legacy and reminiscences in the present day (played by Anthony Hopkins). And what a legacy it is. Sometimes called “the British Schindler”, it’s no spoiler to say that Winton helped over 600 Jewish children.



THE ZONE OF INTEREST

12

Sandra Hüller,  
Christian Friedel

106 mins

Hailed as a masterpiece, director Jonathan Glazer’s chilling and thoughtful film tells of the Höss family, who live next door to the Auschwitz concentration camp where dad Rudolf is commandant.



THE LAST RIFLEMAN

12

Pierce Brosnan,  
Clémence Poésy

115 mins

One of two films telling the same, rather wonderful story (the other being *The Great Escaper*), *The Last Rifleman* stars Brosnan as a WWII vet who breaks out of his care home to attend a Normandy commemoration.

ANIMATION MAGIC



DC LEAGUE OF SUPER-PETS

PG

Dwayne Johnson,  
Kevin Hart

105 mins

A star-studded voice cast including Dwayne Johnson and Kevin Hart features in this animated DC spin-off in which Superman’s dog, Krypto, must embark on a rescue mission when his master is kidnapped.



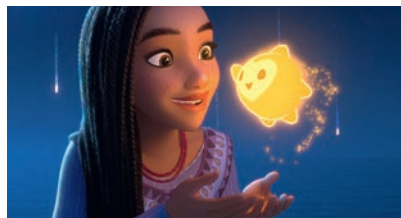
JUSTICE LEAGUE: CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS PART ONE

PG

Matt Bomer,  
Jensen Ackles

93 mins

In this animated feature, the eighth in The Tomorrowverse, DC Comic’s Justice League team must go up against the Monitor’s evil counterpart, known as the Anti-Monitor.



WISH

U

Ariana DeBose,  
Chris Pine

95 mins

Disney’s latest future classic centres on Asha, who makes a wish that is answered by a cosmic ball of boundless energy called Star. With Star’s help, Asha must save her kingdom from King Magnifico.

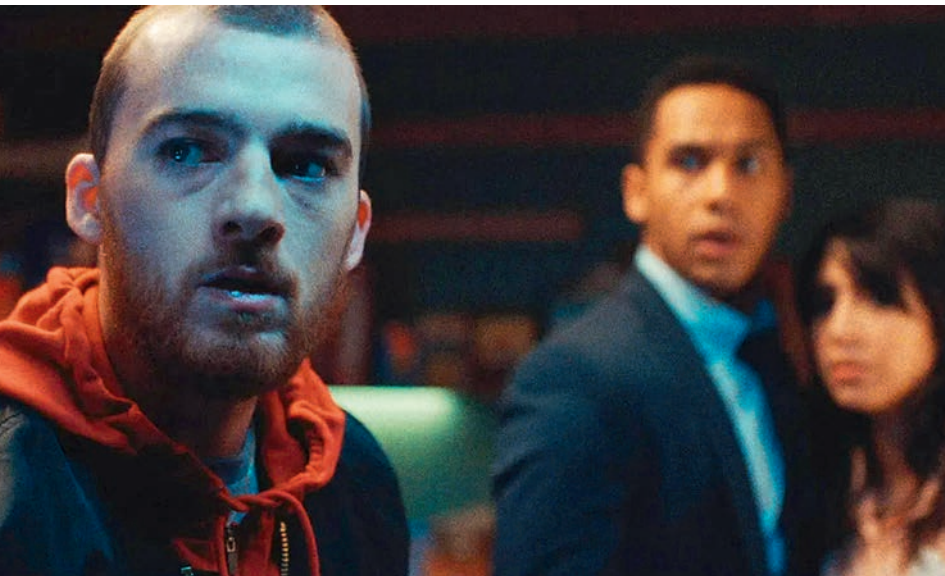


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## DARK DRAMA



### Your Lucky Day



Angus Cloud,  
Jessica Garza

90 mins

► **THE LAST MOVIE MADE BY ANGUS CLOUD BEFORE HIS UNTIMELY** death last year, *Your Lucky Day* begins in suitably intriguing fashion as a bloke purchases a lottery ticket in a convenience store only to discover that he's hit the jackpot: an incredible \$156m. Also in the store are a group of strangers, all of whom have money problems. So when the guy – who's a bit of an arrogant jerk – not only wins but starts bragging about it, they're understandably irked. What happens next? Put it this way, he doesn't get to leave the store and enjoy his winnings. Other than that, we're not telling. You'll get nothing more from us. Zip. Nada.



### IN THE LAND OF SAINTS AND SINNERS

15

Liam Neeson,  
Kerry Condon

106 mins

Thriller set in an isolated Irish village, where Finbar's life of violence catches up with him. Neeson's on top form, but *Game of Thrones* fans will be more excited to know that it features Jack Gleeson.



### THE FIRST OMEN

15

Nell Free,  
Ralph Ineson

90 mins

When a young American is sent to Rome to serve the church, she finds herself knee-deep in a conspiracy. This *Omen* film delivers imaginative killings, plenty of gore and religious dread.

## Warts and all Nerdy facts about the Harry Potter films



# 1 // 2 // 3 // 4 // 5 //

**Writer JK Rowling** insisted only British or Irish actors were hired, meaning Robin Williams was passed over for the role of Hagrid.

**Whenever you see Harry, Ron or Hermione scribbling furiously**, it's probably the actors doing their actual IRL homework, as they were all still technically at school.

**Steven Spielberg was supposed to direct a first – animated – movie** and wanted Haley Joel Osment to play Harry, but his pitch was rejected. Rowling also personally nixed Michael Jackson's plot to turn the books into a musical.



**During production**, Daniel Radcliffe (Harry) got through 160 pairs of spectacles, and 80 wands (he kept using them as drumsticks).

**Rowling first wrote down the names** of the Hogwarts houses – Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff – on the back of an airplane sick bag.

© WATCH ALL THE HARRY POTTER FILMS ONBOARD



# BENNETT WINCH

HANDMADE IN ENGLAND



## The smartest bag on board

Gone are the days of taming unruly suit bags in high winds held only by an exposed hanger, while your wheelie case goes for a wander down the airport ramp. The Bennett Winch Suit Carrier Holdall combines a garment bag and a duffel into a single piece of luggage for those who seek a smarter way to travel.

THE FUNNIES



## Ricky Stanicky

15

Zac Efron,  
Jermaine Fowler

108 mins

► **ZAC EFRON, JOHN CENA... AND THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW,** right? Oh, okay, here's more: coming from the supreme comic mind of *There's Something About Mary* creator Peter Farrelly, *Ricky Stanicky* is a comedy in the vein of *The Hangover* and *Tag* about three lads who invent an imaginary mate, Ricky Stanicky, to take the blame for all their misdeeds. Fast-forward into adult life, and when their partners get suspicious and demand to finally meet Ricky, the trio decide to hire washed-up actor Rod (Cena) to bring him to life. But when Rod takes his role of a lifetime too far, they begin to wish they'd never invented Ricky in the first place.



### UPGRADED

15

Camila Mendes,  
Archie Renaux

104 mins

The kind of rom com you watch on Sunday afternoon when you've had too much vino the night before (or when you're on a flight, natch), *Upgraded* finds Ana boosted to first class and meeting Will – who mistakes her for her boss. Romantic funniness ensues.



### RIDDLE OF FIRE

12

Lio Tipton,  
Charles Halford

104 mins

Three kids who are sent on an errand to deliver a blueberry pie find themselves battling a witch and befriending a fairy, among various off-the-wall adventures. Hailed as one of the best directorial debuts of recent times, this was rightly a huge hit at Cannes.

## Movie quiz

### Take on our featured films

1 //

In *One Life* Anthony Hopkins plays Sir Nicholas Winton, reflecting on his life as an older man, while Helena Bonham Carter is his mother. The two previously appeared together in 1992 in what EM Forster adaptation?

2 //

In *Kung Fu Panda 4*, Viola Davis is the third consecutive Academy Award winner to play a villain in the *Kung Fu Panda* series, following in whose footsteps?

3 //

Sydney Sweeney and Simona Tabasco play nuns in psychological horror *Immaculate*. They have both appeared in different seasons of which HBO resort drama?

4 //

*Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire* is the fifth outing in the series and dedicated to original director Ivan Reitman, whose film *Cannibal Girls* is regularly referenced in the franchise – where does it pop up here?

5 //

Jake Gyllenhaal takes on whose muscular mantle in this year's remake of 1989 bar-fight flick *Road House*?

● *Answers on the right*





# OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS

Make your choice from the A–Z of our pick of the BEST OF THE BEST

## NEW RELEASES

### A–C

- All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt
- All of Us Strangers
- American Fiction
- Anyone But You
- Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom
- Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe
- Arthur's Whisky
- Atonement
- The Beekeeper
- The Blind
- Bob Marley: One Love
- The Book of Clarence
- The Boys in the Boat
- The Burial
- The Caine Mutiny Court-Martial
- The Canterville Ghost
- Carmen (2023)
- Cassandro
- Cat Person
- The Color Purple
- The Creator

### D–H

- DC League of Super-Pets
- Dead Shot
- The Delinquents
- Dream Scenario
- Drift
- Drive-Away Dolls
- Dune: Part 2
- Eileen
- The End We Start From
- The Equalizer 3
- Ferrari

- The First Omen
- Five Nights at Freddy's
- Freelance
- Fremont
- French Girl
- Freud's Last Session
- Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire
- Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire
- Gran Turismo: Based on a True Story
- The Great Escaper
- The Holdovers
- How to Have Sex
- The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes

### I–L

- Immaculate
- Influencer
- Insecure
- In the Land of Saints and Sinners
- In Too Deep
- The Iron Claw
- Joika
- Justice League: Crisis on Infinite Earths Part 1
- Killers of the Flower Moon
- The Kill Room
- Kung Fu Panda 4
- Land of Bad
- The Last Rifleman
- Last Suspect
- Late Night with the Devil
- Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League vs Bizarro League
- The Lesson
- Lights Out
- The Long Game
- Love Lies Bleeding

### M–Q

- Madame Web
- The Marsh King's Daughter
- The Marvels
- May December
- Mean Girls
- Migration
- Miller's Girl
- Mothers' Instinct
- Napoleon
- Next Goal Wins
- The Old Oak
- One Life
- Oppenheimer
- Ordinary Angels
- Origin
- Out of Darkness
- The Painter
- The Pod Generation
- Poor Things
- Priscilla
- Puppy Love

### R–V

- Race for Glory: Audi vs Lancia
- Reality
- Red Right Hand
- Ricky Stanicky
- Riddle of Fire
- Road House
- Role Play
- The Royal Hotel
- Rumble through the Dark
- Saltburn
- Saw X
- Scrambled
- Self Reliance
- She Came to Me
- Silent Night
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse

- Swan Princess: Far Longer Than Forever
- TAZ: Quest for Burger
- Teen Titans Go! & DC Super Hero Girls: Mayhem in the Multiverse
- Thanksgiving
- Trolls Band Together
- Upgraded

### W–Z

- What Happens Later
- Wicked Little Letters
- Wish
- Wonka
- Your Lucky Day

### VERA CLASSICS

- About Time
- Atonement
- Bridget Jones's Diary
- Call Me By Your Name
- Carol
- Crazy, Stupid, Love
- The Departed
- Eastern Promises
- Gangs of New York
- Ghostbusters
- Gladiator
- Goodfellas
- Gremlins
- Harry Potter...
- Indecent Proposal
- Interstellar
- The Karate Kid
- La La Land
- The Lego Movie
- Memento
- Moonlight
- My Own Private Idaho
- No Country for Old Men
- Police Academy
- The Prestige

- Slumdog Millionaire
- Something's Gotta Give
- Starman
- The Terminator

### INTERNATIONAL

- Afamefuna
- Ajosepo
- Angrezi Medium
- Anatomy of a Fall
- The Animal Kingdom
- A Bag of Trouble
- Baahubali 2: The Conclusion
- Bala
- Bernadette
- Bheed
- Bholaa
- Born to Fly
- Daredevil Musthafa
- The Delinquents
- Dream Girl 2
- Drishyam 2
- The Ex-Files 4: Marriage Plan
- Fallen Leaves
- The Great Indian Family
- Golmaal – Fun Unlimited
- Io Capitano
- Insecure
- Kantara
- Kesari the King
- The Kingdom: Flame of Destiny
- La Chimera
- Malaika
- Meeting Funmi's Parents
- Merry Men 3
- Monster
- The Movie Teller
- Perfect Days
- Rocketry: The Nambi Effect
- Shiv Shastri Balboa
- The Silent Intruder
- So Long for Love
- Something Like Gold
- Suzume
- Tanhaji: the Unsung
- Tatsama Tadbhava
- The Teachers' Lounge
- Three of Us
- The Three Musketeers: Milady
- Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar
- Uunchai
- Vikram Vedha
- The Zone of Interest

### SHORT FILMS

- For People In Trouble
- In Too Deep
- An Irish Goodbye
- The Snip
- Strange Way of Life
- The Stupid Boy
- They Grow Up So Fast

### DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SHORTS

- Entitled
- Eulogy for the Dandelion
- Haud Close Tae Me
- The Honeys and Bears
- Lay Me Low
- Old Mother Blackbird
- Swim
- Walks With Me



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WHAT'S ON

# TELEVISION

JULY

FIND YOURSELF IN OUR SMALL-SCREEN SELECTION



From top:  
Dinosaur's  
Nina, Ecie, Lee,  
Ranesh and  
Amber

► **AS A CULTURE WRITER AND AN AUTISTIC** person, I love stories about autism that are realistic, nuanced, heartfelt and entertaining. *Dinosaur*, the show about Nina (Ashley Storrie), a thirtysomething autistic paleontologist whose life and treasured routine are disrupted when her sister announces a whirlwind engagement, is somehow all the above.

My love of pop culture is like Nina's love of dinosaurs – a lifelong passion. I remember as a child making my parents play *Make 'Em Laugh*, the slapstick dance number from *Singin' in the Rain*, repeatedly. I was obsessed with David Lynch's *Dune* – long before *Dune* was cool, which did nothing to help me make friends. Consuming music, films, books and TV helped me understand and connect with people. I dreamed one day pop culture might help others understand people like me.

*Dinosaur* does a great job of that. Not because it perfectly represents all aspects of autism. Even if that were possible, it would make for a poor dramedy. But because it tells one story about one autistic individual really well. Getting more well-rounded autistic characters on TV won't fix all of our problems, but every good story makes us feel more seen.

Why is *Dinosaur* good? Nina is a fully realised character, not just a collection of symptoms, like *Rain Man*'s Raymond. Parts of her story I found tragically true to my own life, like the episode where she overextends herself with too many social obligations and winds up screaming into a bush.

Crucially, *Dinosaur* was co-created and co-written by autistic comedian Ashley Storrie. Far too many popular autism shows, like *The Good Doctor*, were created by and for non-autistic people. Seeing ourselves behind the camera, telling our own stories, is even more exciting than seeing ourselves on screen.

● Sarah Kurchak's memoir *I Overcame My Autism and All I Got Was This Lousy Anxiety Disorder* is out now

“**DINOSAUR TELLS ONE STORY ABOUT ONE AUTISTIC INDIVIDUAL REALLY WELL**”

## I DIG DINOSAUR



Autistic journalist Sarah Kurchak says this new sitcom is a major milestone for neurodivergence on TV

© WATCH DINOSAUR

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK

MUST WATCH



**The Traitors** ♥

15

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

► **IF YOU'VE BEEN TAKING YOUR HOLIDAYS ON MARS THERE'S A** chance you won't have heard of *The Traitors*. Everybody else will know that it's the show hosted by Claudia Winkleman, who gathers a group of contestants and then selects certain "traitors" to work behind the scenes in order to eliminate the "faithful". At the same time, the faithful are trying to work out who the traitors are and get rid of them. Up for grabs is a load of cash, so things soon get heated, and of course the more that numbers dwindle, the greater the stakes, and the more compelling and addictive the whole thing gets. "Addictive" being the operative word here. We have the whole of the second season onboard.



**DINOSAUR** ♥



Comedy	30 mins
--------	---------

Sparkling comedy series, in which Nina's (Ashley Storrie) world is turned upside down when beloved sister Evie (Kat Ronney) unexpectedly announces her engagement. For Nina it's time to take a breath, knuckle down and try – just try – to weather the sibling storm. *See opener*



**THE IMPOSSIBLE WAVE** ♥

Sports	40 mins
--------	---------

Is surfing an Olympic sport? Don't bother Googling, we'll tell you. Yes, it is. And, as this brilliant documentary shows, it's all down to the efforts of keen surfer Fernando Aguerre, an eccentric guy who made it his life's work to see surfing get its gold-ringed status.



**THE REGIME** ♥



Box set	Up to 58 mins
---------	---------------

Kate Winslet heads the cast of this drama series in which she plays the chancellor of an unnamed Central European nation that is unravelling behind the palace walls. We have all of it onboard, so ready, steady, binge! *See right*



**COPA 71** ♥



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

From executive producers Venus and Serena Williams comes this documentary exploring a little known milestone in sporting history: the 1971 Women's World Cup. With record crowds in attendance, it was a crucible for the women's game.



**THE FAMILY STALLONE**



Reality	30 mins
---------	---------

Question: how often do you get the chance to gawp at the private life of a true movie legend? Answer: practically never, until this gobsmacking reality show taking us into the home life of Sylvester Stallone, wife Jennifer Flavin and three daughters came along.

## Top five

### Fun facts about Kate Winslet



#### 1 She tried being a hairstylist

Until slicing off a bit of some dude's ear by mistake. Her victim now cheerfully calls said mangled lughole his "claim to fame".

1 //

#### 2 Her Oscar lives in the loo

Winslet stores her 2009 Oscar in the bathroom, so guests can practise acceptance speeches in the mirror (after washing their hands).

2 //

#### 3 She married Ned Rocknroll

Her man - Richard Branson's nephew - went by the unlikely handle Ned Rocknroll when they wed.

3 //

#### 4 She's bezzies with Leo

*Titanic* co-star Leonardo DiCaprio walked Winslet down the aisle when she married Ned.

4 //

#### 5 She was too good in her new role

*The Regime* director Stephen Frears ticked Winslet off for singing too sweetly for a dictator.

5 //

WATCH THE REGIME

## WINNING



### Novak Unmasked

Sports	52 mins
--------	---------

AS A PLAYER, NOVAK DJOKOVIC IS IMPLACABLE, HIS OUTBURSTS OF emotion all the more surprising for their rarity. He is, after all, a player who has been ranked number one for a record total of 426 weeks in 13 different years, and finished as the year-end number one a record eight times. He has also been part of fascinating, epochal rivalries with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, and in recent years has become embroiled in a Covid-19 vaccine controversy. How do you fit all that into one documentary? The makers of this film have done just that, showing all sides of the mercurial player and showcasing some of the most breathtaking tennis the planet has ever seen.



### MANCHESTER CITY: THE SEASON THAT STARTED IT ALL

Sports	60 mins
--------	---------

Premiership champs Manchester City are the dominant force in UK football. As this documentary illustrates, it all started in the 2011-12 season: City were in second place, eight points behind rivals United with only six games left to play, but what happened next?



### BREAKING OLYMPIA: THE PHIL HEATH STORY

Sports	114 mins
--------	----------

Featuring contributions from Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, among others, this documentary joins legendary bodybuilder Phil Heath as he battles back from injury in the hope of becoming the greatest muscleman ever. To say the result is inspiring is putting it mildly.

BARE JOKES



People Just Do Nothing

15

Comedy	28 mins
--------	---------

► **THE OFFICE WAS BY NO MEANS THE FIRST TV SITCOM TO STYLE** itself as a mockumentary, but there's no doubt the format exploded in its wake, bringing us some truly brilliant shows including the likes of *Parks and Recreation*, *Modern Family* and now this. *People Just Do Nothing* is a very British sitcom based around pirate radio station Kurupt FM and the guys who run it – MC Grindah, DJ Beats and co – who dream of being a famous grime crew. It's fair to say they're slightly deluded about their abilities, but you can't fault them for drive and ambition. You want big plans, this lot have got them. Which means a sharp but warm and heartfelt comedy that gets great word of mouth.



BIG BOYS

15

Box set	27 mins
---------	---------

*The Times* called this university-set sitcom about Jack, who is dealing with grief as well as exploring his sexuality, "one of the most funny, tender, profound, sad-happy comedies [of the] year". Series one is here.



BOARDERS

15

Comedy	47 mins
--------	---------

Five Black kids win scholarships to an elite boarding school and enter a world "just like Harry Potter" in this acclaimed comedy-drama series. It's very funny, yet doesn't shy away from addressing serious issues.

CHILD'S PLAY



RUBBLE & CREW

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

Question: what's more fun than a pup in a construction vehicle? The answer (as you'll soon discover in this super-cute *Paw Patrol* spin-off) is lots of pups in lots of construction vehicles.



KARMA'S WORLD

U

Kids	11 mins
------	---------

Animated series about Karma Grant, an aspiring rapper with big talent and an even bigger heart. She doesn't just want to share her music, she wants to change the world with it.



SANTIAGO OF THE SEAS

U

Kids	30 mins
------	---------

Avast, me hearties, for interactive, animated fun with eight-year-old pirate Santiago and his crew who stage rescues, uncover hidden treasures and keep the Caribbean high seas safe.

EPIC DRAMA



CASA GRANDE



Drama	43 mins
-------	---------

A little bit of soap, a little bit of drama, plus some social commentary thrown in – set in sunny southern California, this shifts its focus between several families in order to tackle themes of class and culture.



Kin



Box set	48 mins
---------	---------



MARY & GEORGE



Box set	Up to 55 mins
---------	---------------

Set during the reign of King James I (King James VI in Scotland), this historical drama focuses on an affair the monarch is reputed to have had with George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. All of series one is here.

➤ **WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A FOUR-YEAR OVERNIGHT SUCCESS, KIN** is the Irish crime series that’s been getting serious word-of-mouth action lately. Revolving around a Dublin crime family, the Kinsellas, the show stars the cream of Irish acting talent, including *Game of Thrones* alumni Aidan Gillen and Ciaran Hinds, as well as the ever-brilliant Maria Doyle Kennedy. There’s a gangland war, of course, but that’s bread and butter for this genre. What elevates *Kin* above the competition – and no doubt the reason it’s been such a slow-burning hit – is the way the show uses its bullet-strewn narrative to tease out themes of blood and family. All of series two is showing here.

Divine comedy  
Live at the Apollo's best lines



“I hate people staying at my house. It upsets my equilibrium. If you want to stay at my house, shave off all your body hair. If you need the toilet, there’s a pub down the road”  
**Rachel Fairburn**



“I actually have epilepsy and I had my first ever seizure during National Epileptic Week. Which was fitting.”  
**Jake Lambert**



“Let’s address it. Female comedy is different to male comedy, right? Because of the vagina. It affects the acoustics”  
**Ria Lina**



“I became a dad 18 months ago. He’s actually nine years old, but I only just started getting involved.”  
**Josh Pugh**

© WATCH LIVE AT THE APOLLO

DRAMA BOX SETS



**Lawmen: Bass Reeves** ♥

12

Box set	Up to 57 mins
---------	---------------

► **WRITER AND PRODUCER TAYLOR SHERIDAN'S NAME IS WHAT YOU** might call a seal of quality when it comes to rugged Stateside drama. His CV includes *Sicario*, *Mayor of Kingstown* and *Yellowstone*, to name but three. Now he's put his name to this, a new mini-series starring the excellent David Oyelowo as the real-life Bass Reeves, one of the first Black deputy marshals, who was responsible for capturing over 3,000 dangerous criminals. We've got the whole season onboard and, as you'll discover should you choose to dig in (which you should), the Reeves story began way before he became the lawman of the title, when he was born into slavery and then... well, let's not get into spoiler territory.



**TRUE DETECTIVE: NIGHT COUNTRY** ♥

⚠

Box set	Up to 69 mins
---------	---------------

Don't worry if you've never seen *True Detective* – each season presents a new story. This one features the ever-brilliant Jodie Foster investigating the sudden disappearance of eight blokes at an Alaskan research station. It's dark, compelling – and we're showing the whole of series four.



**TRIGGER POINT**

15

Box set	Up to 47 mins
---------	---------------

You'd expect this bomb-disposal drama from Jed "Line of Duty" Mercurio to be full of gut-wrenching twists, fiendish double-crosses and, of course, nail-biting races against time. And you'd be right, because that's exactly what you get.

**Reign check**  
*Why Scavengers Reign* rocks



1 //

The backstory – that a corporate space fleet took a dangerous shortcut purely to save costs, hence our heroes being stranded – is horribly plausible.

2 //

The art style – a bit Studio Ghibli, a bit French comic legend Jean "Moebius" Giraud – is gorgeous. No wonder Trey Parker and Guillermo del Toro are fans.

3 //

The critters on planet Vesta are like nothing you've seen. Telepathic bugs. Electric fruit. Musical flora that shoot spikes. Squidgy, berry-eating tripods.

4 //

Once the premise is set up, the real drama unfolds as the castaways struggle with isolation and remorse.

5 //

It scores 100% on Rotten Tomatoes thanks to its dreamlike palette and pacing, punctuated by sometimes brutal violence.



WATCH SCAVENGERS REIGN

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES





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**HADDONSTONE**



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➤ **NOTHING LIFTS THE SPIRITS** quite like an encounter with great art. So while you're sampling the sights and sounds of central London, slip into the Southbank Centre for a spot of inspiration. Just by the River Thames, a short stroll from the London Eye, this beloved cultural institution comprises the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery, plus lively street food markets, restaurants, bars and free public art, like the joyful, family-friendly *Appearing Rooms* fountain.

**SUMMER SPECTACULAR**  
As the UK's largest arts hub, the Southbank Centre showcases world-class visual arts, literature and poetry, talks and debates, classical and contemporary music, dance, comedy and free public event programmes. This year's summer season, *You Belong Here* (Sat 29 June – Sun 8 Sept), is jam-packed with vibrant and diverse art, free riverside performances and family fun.



Below: Tavares Strachan's *Inner Elder* (Nina Simone as Queen of Sheba), 2023, courtesy of the artist



**TRAILBLAZER**

*Tavares Strachan: There Is Light Somewhere* celebrates unsung trailblazers featuring new

sculptural commissions, large-scale collages, and neon, bronze and ceramic work from the Bahamian artist. Also this summer: modern circus from *Afrique en Cirque*, the musical *Frankie Goes to Bollywood* and new play *Home*, Anastasiia Liubchenko's true story of leaving Ukraine. Plus epic skyline views from the Queen Elizabeth Hall Roof Garden.

- Under-12s free. Under-30s just £8 Tue-Fri and after 5pm on Sat (Hayward Gallery only)
- [southbankcentre.co.uk/summer](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/summer)

# WHAT'S ON AUDIO JULY

ALL EMOSH WITH OUR FAVE ARTISTS

➤ **JUNGLE – A GENRE OF DANCE** music defined by frenetic drum patterns, breathless tempos and dancehall sampling – was the defining music genre of early 90s Britain, thanks to artists like Goldie and General Levy. And it's been jolted back to life recently by one 24-year-old from Bradford, north-west England. How? She's only found a way of uniting the tribes of jungle and Britpop. Here's why Nia Archives is making such a big noise...

**1 // Homegrown heritage**  
Britpop and jungle are both quintessentially British genres, and in their fusion Nia has crafted a sound more patriotic than the monarchy, tea, crumpets and cucumber sandwiches. Her nan has run a radio station for decades, so it's fair to say big tunes are in the blood.

**2 // Banging aesthetics**  
Not since Oasis has an act so embraced the Union Jack flag – check out the ol' red white and blue in her teeth on the cover of new album *Silence Is Loud* and emblazoned on her vinyl. Not to mention the frequent allusions to pubs, pints and packets of crisps in her videos and merch.

**3 // Big ambition**  
She's already dazzled big crowds all over the globe,

## UNION BOSS

Music journo Dwayne Wills on **NIA ARCHIVES**, Britain's new giant of jungle music

and was chosen as an opening act for the London leg of Beyoncé's world tour. Who run the world?

**4 // Emotional heft**  
The raucous energy and restless tempo of jungle doesn't usually allow room to discuss feelings and vulnerabilities. But with Nia, it's almost like she rips pages out of her diary and feeds them to her drum machine – those fat breaks lending emotive gravitas to the tender

**66 NIA'S RELATABLE MUSINGS AND WARM MELODIES LEAVE YOU NO CHOICE BUT TO NOD ALONG AND ROOT FOR HER**

tales of romance, family and belonging Nia relates in her lyrics. No wonder her T-shirts bear the legend "Emotional Junglist".

**5 // Top tunes**  
It's all about the songs. And Nia's relatable musings and warm, easy melodies on *Unfinished Business* and *So Tell Me* leave you with no choice but to nod along and root for her. Or pogo around to cuts like *Off Wit* and *Ya Headz*.



FRESH SOUNDS



**Taylor Swift** ♥

*The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*  
POP

► **OPINIONS OFFERED ON TAYLOR SWIFT ARE ALMOST INFINITE.** One thing you never hear, though, is that she needs to increase her workrate. Lazy she is not. This, after all, is an artist who, while mounting the biggest tour the planet has ever seen, found time to re-record an album, *1989 (Taylor's Version)*, as well as an entirely new one, *The Tortured Poets Department*. What you get here is a whole bunch of extra songs that, like its predecessor, were recorded in a variety of studios around the world, with regular collaborators Jack Antonoff and Aaron Dessner present and correct. And it's Taylor, so it's brilliant.



**VAMPIRE WEEKEND** ♥ ⚠

*Only God Was Above Us*  
ALTERNATIVE

The Vamps are back with their first LP since 2019 and the reviews are good because (i) Vampire Weekend are ace, (ii) they've made a cracking album, and (iii) critics can get it right sometimes.



**ST VINCENT** ♥

*All Born Screaming*  
POP

Still making the kind of cerebral quirky art-rock you can dance to, St Vincent's seventh studio album is as good as some of her best work. In fact, it might even be her best.



**LOCAL NATIVES**

*Time Will Wait For No One*  
ALTERNATIVE

Full of California goodness, not to mention wonderful harmonies, *Time...* was recorded at a time the band were confronting parenthood, isolation, loss and identity crisis.



**THE LIBERTINES** ♥ ⚠

*All Quiet on the Eastern Esplanade*  
ALTERNATIVE

If their 2015 comeback album lacked a certain spark, this one's the whole ticket. It's full of the cracking, sparky tunes that made their first two albums required listening.

**The real McCoy**  
Meet Charley Crockett



Country star Charley Crockett has lived a wild life. Descended from 19th-century American folk hero Davy Crockett, he cut his teeth busking in New Orleans, later riding freight trains ("hoboing") around the US, living on raw talent and gumption. Willie Nelson is a fan. Get this – after a 2019 health scare, he had cattle tissue grafted onto his heart. A real-life cowboy.

🎧 LISTEN TO \$10 COWBOY

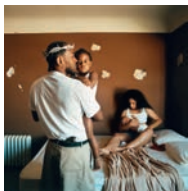
GOES HARD



**BRYSON TILLER**

Bryson Tiller  
R&B & SOUL

Blending hip hop, R&B, and trap is Bryson Tiller, whose fourth album includes guests from Victoria Monét and Clara La San. If you like your MCing with big hit of R&B then dare we say the Kenutcky-born singer-songwriter will be right up your street.



**KENDRICK LAMAR**

Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers  
HIP HOP

There aren't many in hip hop who can hold a candle to Kendrick. Over five albums, his music has become ever more ambitious and conceptual. This one is dense and complex and raw, and while not always an easy listen, it does plenty to reward your patience.

**Nia Archives** ♡

Silence Is Loud  
BREAKING ARTISTS

► **DRUM & BASS FLOURISHES** IN the gloom of underground, but every now and then an artist will pop up from the darkness. Step up Nia Archives, aka Dehaney Nia Lishahn Hunt, who, by way of Manchester, moved to Hackney where she began producing her own jungle and drum & bass tracks. Having failed to win label attention, she released them herself. Acclaim followed, with critics digging her new take on established genres, as well as the way she somehow weaved elements of Britpop into the mix. The result brims with ideas and creativity, and dares you to even try to pigeonhole it. *See opener*



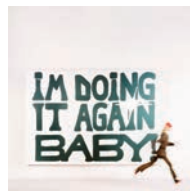
SWEET POP

**Conan Gray** ♡

Found Heaven  
POP

► **AS A TEENAGER, CALIFORNIAN** Conan Lee Gray began carving out a considerable online presence for himself, uploading vlogs, cover versions and original songs to YouTube and later TikTok. A debut studio album, *Kid Krow*,

drew tentative critical approval, while 2022's *Superache* attracted even warmer reviews. *Found Heaven* is the sound of an artist who's arrived. Gray has refreshed his pop palette and created a piece of work that nods to the past as well as emphatically looking to the future.



**GIRL IN RED**

I'm Doing It Again Baby!  
POP

From the Oslo-based queer icon comes this second album of pop-punk bangers. Is it good? Let's just say it's no wonder Taylor Swift chose her for a support slot on the *Eras* tour. "I'm on a new level, something's got me feeling like I could be inflammable," Girl In Red sings.



**MAGGIE ROGERS**

Don't Forget Me  
POP

The third album from indie-popper (and divinity student!) Rogers, this studio outing is replete with songs celebrating the simple joys of life. She has said the result to feel like a "Sunday afternoon", so kick your shoes off, lie back and relax.

**Ultraviolins**  
Dip into the world of classical music – strings attached

1 //



**LEONIDAS KAVAKOS**  
Bach: Violin Concertos

The Greek conductor and violinist gets to grips with some of Bach's finest works. The slow movements "carry us to the place where every human soul would love to be," Kavakos says.

2 //



**LUKA FAULISI**  
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons

Trust violinist Faulisi to come up with a very personal interpretation of Vivaldi's classic *Four Seasons*. A vital part of the classical canon, Faulisi says he was determined not to simply "make one more version" of Vivaldi's work.

3 //

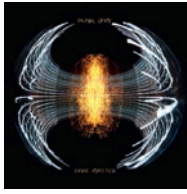


**VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
Classical Greats

You want the best of classical? Then you want the likes of Beethoven, Mozart, Debussy and Dvorak, all of whom you'll find on this collection. Plus many more.



LONG LIVE THE 90s



PEARL JAM ♥ ⚠

Dark Matter  
ROCK

Pearl Jam's 12th album has had critics foaming, with *Uncut* calling it, "a fretful and ferocious record, lyrically preoccupied with things having ended or appearing about to end, but musically much more a blaze of glory than any kind of funeral pyre."



VARIOUS ⚠

The Greatest Year for Music?  
- 1991  
PLAYLISTS

1991: it was the year of peak Madchester and also the year that grunge broke big. What other playlist will give you James's *Sit Down* side by side with Nirvana's *Smells Like Teen Spirit*? Only this one.



VARIOUS ♥ ⚠

The Greatest Year for Music?  
- 1999  
PLAYLISTS

Can you make a case that 1999 was the greatest year for music? The likes of *All the Small Things* by Blink 182, Ol' Dirty Bastard's *Got Your Money* and *All Star* by Smash Mouth say yes, yes, you can. See below



Nirvana ♥ ⚠

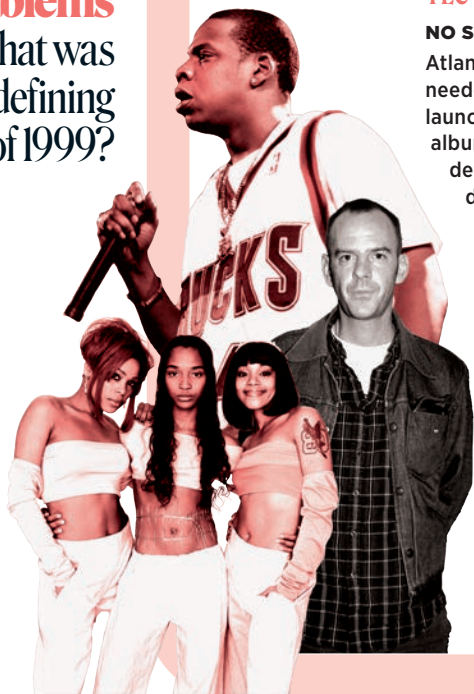
Icons  
PLAYLISTS

► THIS YEAR MARKS 30 YEARS SINCE KURT COBAIN shuffled off this mortal coil. In doing so, he drew a curtain on the musical movement we know as grunge. And – you could argue – cleared the field for the emergence of Britpop. Here, then, is a chance to celebrate an era that ended on 5 April 1994: a playlist that includes many of Nirvana's classic songs, choice live favourites and some deep cuts. What emerges is a portrait of a band that took established rock dynamics and refashioned them, creating new shapes with them.

It's ironic that the death of grunge should herald the birth of Britpop. But, for the time being, let's just enjoy the tunes.



'99  
Problems  
What was the defining hit of 1999?



TLC

**NO SCRUBS**  
Atlanta trio TLC needed a banger to launch their second album after the era-defining success of debut LP *Crazy, Sexy, Cool* and its single *Waterfalls*. Written by future *Real Housewives of Atlanta* cast member Kandi Burruss, *No Scrubs* calls out broke, deadbeat dudes with ideas above their station, and cemented the slang term "scrub" into the Millennial lexicon.

Jay-Z

**HARD KNOCK LIFE**  
Ingeniously smuggling his expletive-laden brand of Brooklyn hip-hop onto mainstream radio all around the globe by co-opting a superficially twee hook from a Broadway musical set in the 1920s, Jay-Z's humungous *Hard Knock Life (Ghetto Anthem)* featured Danielle Brisebois as little redhead Annie, and riffs on the parallels between poverty as experienced by a luckless jazz age orphan and a young African American hustling in the projects.

Fatboy Slim

**PRaise YOU**  
Sampling an obscure cut from Chicago-born activist and soul singer Camille Yarbrough – and a piano line ripped from a vinyl disc distributed by speaker manufacturer JBL to show off the fidelity of its hi-fi gear – Fatboy Slim's phattest tune is an evergreen crowd-pleaser, beloved for its elegant simplicity and affirmational lyric. The multi-award winning video was shot by none other than Spike Jonze, on the princely budget of US\$800.

🎧 LISTEN TO VARIOUS: THE GREATEST YEAR FOR MUSIC? 1999

# DOUBLE TROUBLE



JOE  
ROOT

MARCUS  
SMITH

CHARLES TYRWHITT

JERMYN STREET LONDON

**NIJŪ** In an elegant, understated townhouse in London's Mayfair, a beautiful restaurant run by third-generation sushi master Endo Kazutoshi invites discerning diners to indulge in an informal yet decadent array of Japanese delicacies. Specialising in Katei Ryori-style cooking – meaning “home-cooked food” – NIJŪ curates a world-class menu that prides itself on dishes inspired by seasonal produce and bold culinary experimentation. Michelin-starred Endo Kazutoshi and executive chef Chris Golding oversee a sublime selection of sushi, sashimi and signature dishes from the robata grill. Try NIJŪ's new bespoke sushi bar, refreshed dining spaces, 18-seater private dining room and award-winning, living-room style hideaway cocktail spot, Nipperkin.

● @nijulondon



# WHAT'S HOT NOW



## HADDONSTONE

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● [haddonstone.com](http://haddonstone.com)



## STONEHENGE

The world's most awe-inspiring stone circle – older than the pyramids and the Roman Empire – continues to delight and inspire. Experience the mystique and romance like never before with an unforgettable “stone circle experience”, entering the monument's tranquil heart outside normal visiting hours with an expert guide.

● [english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)

WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTO: © ANDRÉ PATTEDEN/ENGLISH HERITAGE TRUST





### CHRISTOPHER WARD

The world's first online-only premium watch brand, Christopher Ward presents beautiful, British-designed, Swiss-made timepieces at surprisingly low prices. Unlike its competitors, Christopher Ward guarantees a maximum three times mark up on manufacturing price, with no compromise on quality. After 20 years in business, it's still the one to watch.

● [christopherward.com](http://christopherward.com)



### CHARLES TYRWHITT

Summer is upon us, with endless afternoons and balmy, fragrant evenings. Do justice to the season, on holiday or at work, with impeccable menswear choices from Charles Tyrwhitt. Smart, subtly patterned sky-blue striped shorts, paired with a pure linen shirt in a range of bright cheerful colours will keep you feeling – and looking – pretty cool.

● [charlestyrwhitt.com](http://charlestyrwhitt.com)

# BUYS GUIDE

THE VERY BEST IN  
DAYS OUT, NIGHTS IN  
AND ATTRACTIVE  
DESIGNER GOODIES



### SUSAN CAPLAN

As worn by Adele, Beyoncé and Rihanna, Susan Caplan represents the apex of glamour, luxury and sustainability with her world-renowned vintage collection. Each unique, hand-picked piece reflects Susan's peerless instincts as a curator, as seen in London's V&A, the Metropolitan Museum, New York, luxury stores globally and on Netflix's *The Crown*.

● [susancaplan.co.uk](http://susancaplan.co.uk)



### WARWICK BUILDINGS

A family-owned business since 1988, Warwick Buildings prides itself on crafting high-quality timber structures with exceptional design, construction and materials. Its curved-roof garden offices are an eye-catching design classic, with UPVC French double doors, inside and outside spotlights, and Western Red Cedar cladding.

● [warwickbuildings.co.uk](http://warwickbuildings.co.uk)

# PRETTY FLY FOR A WIFI

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**2** // If you don't automatically connect to the WiFi portal, don't worry. Just take a look at the safety card in your seat pocket to see what type of aircraft you're on.

**3** // Then just follow the onscreen instructions to buy a session and get browsing!

### IF YOU'RE ONBOARD...

- An A330neo, A350-1000 or 787-9, open your browser and navigate to [virgin-atlantic-wifi.com](http://virgin-atlantic-wifi.com)
- An A330-300, open your browser and navigate to [airborne.gogoinflight.com](http://airborne.gogoinflight.com)

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