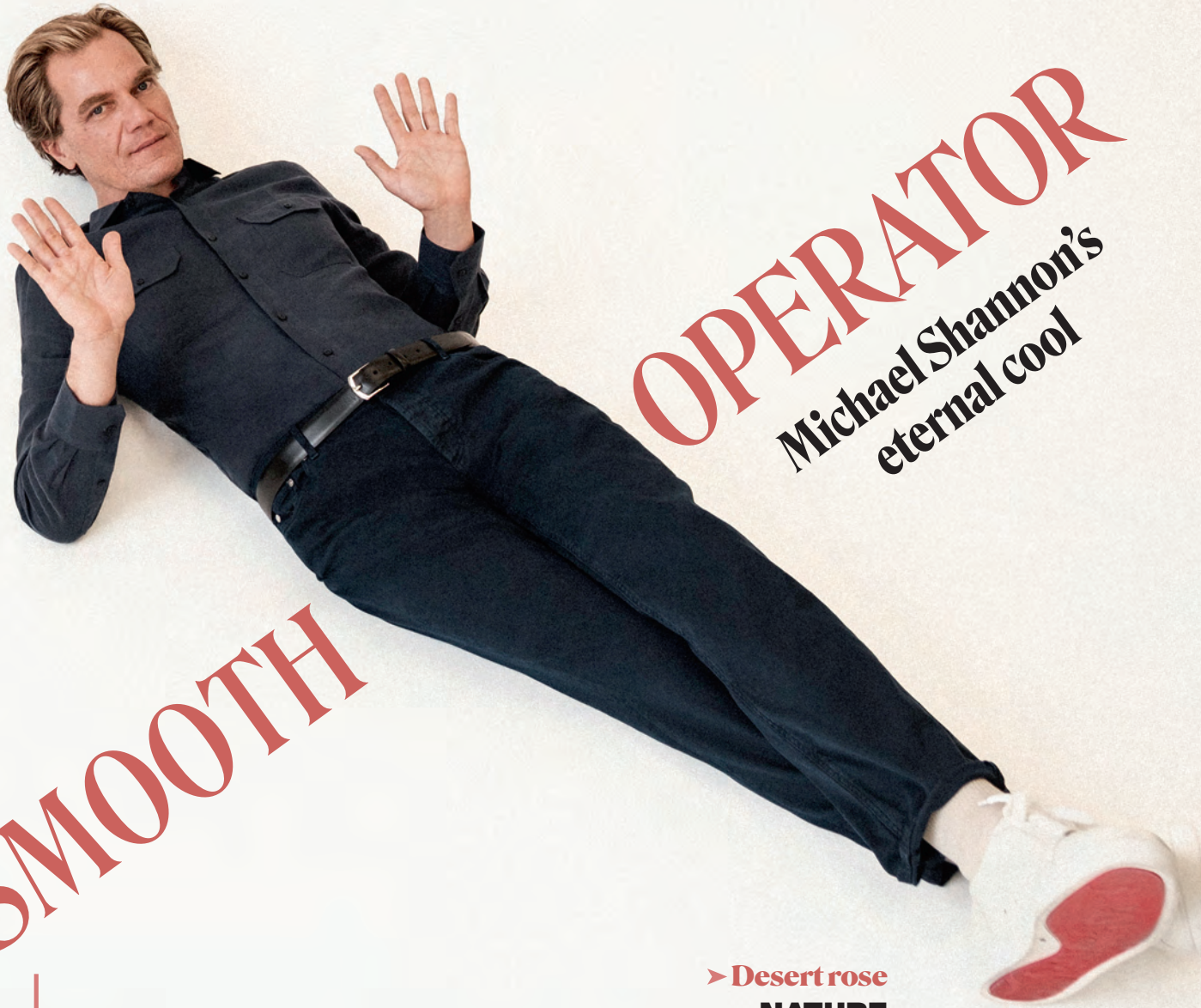


Travel in Technicolor

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# vera

MARCH 2025



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eternal cool

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FINE DINING'S  
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vera

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



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**FEATURES** Actor Michael Shannon shares his love of music, the best Korean fine dining around the globe and on the trail of some of Africa's most endangered wildlife.

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**Mariette Williams**  
Caribbean expert Mariette's words have been featured in publications like *Travel + Leisure*, *Condé Nast Traveler* and *The Telegraph*. This month, she gives us a taste of Montego Bay's surprisingly diverse dining scene. *See p20*



**Hattie Newman**  
For 15 years from her London studio, Hattie has been creating illustrations and papercraft beloved for their tactile charm and exquisite detail. For our K-dining feature, she recreated Korean dishes from restaurants around the world. *See p36*



**Adam Davidson**  
This London-based writer contributes to publications such as *Radio Times*, *SHARP*, *NBC Asian America* and *PAPER*. He spoke with our cover star, Michael Shannon, for this issue and discovered he's one cool customer. *See p26*

Ink

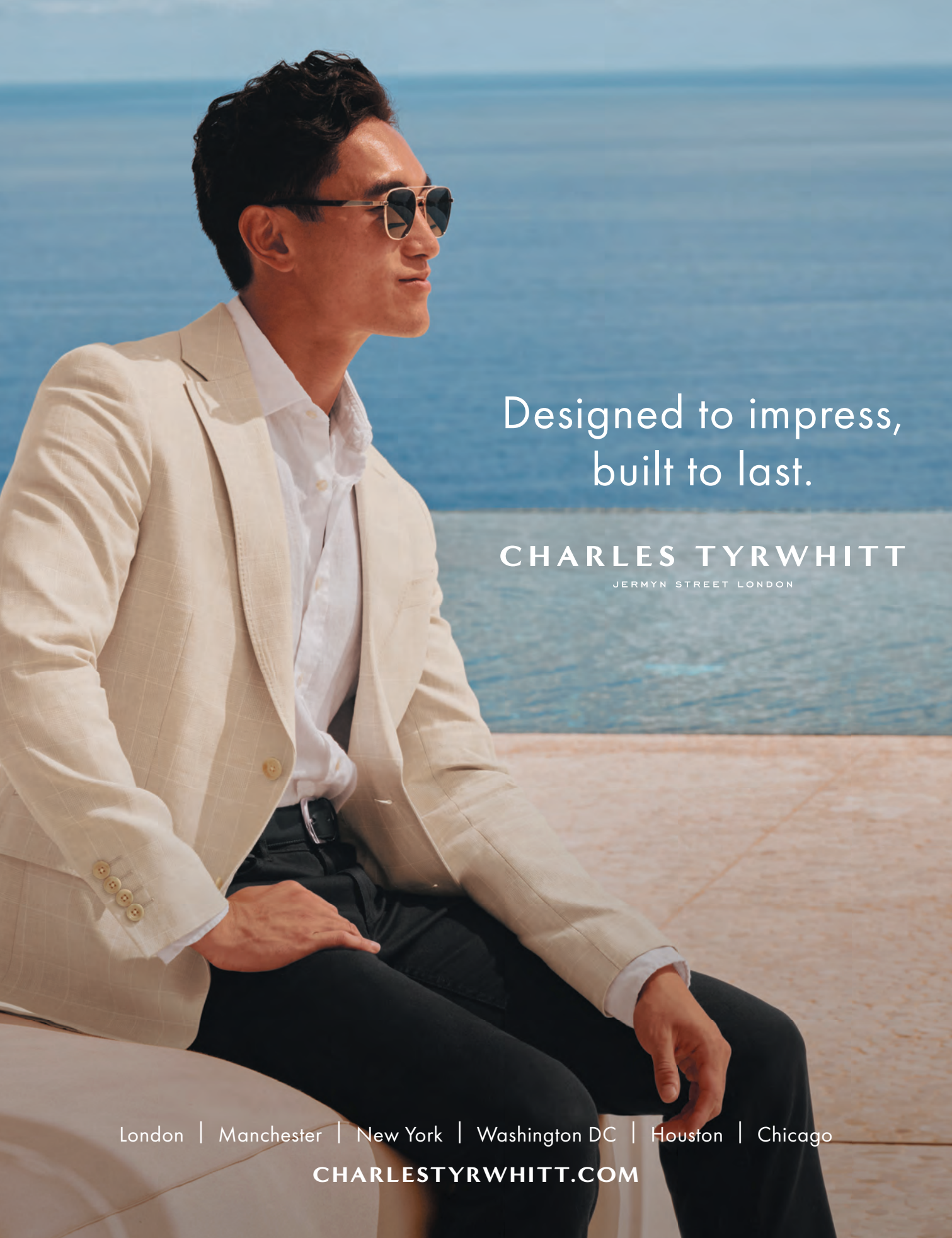
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A man with dark hair, wearing sunglasses and a white blazer over a white shirt, is sitting on a light-colored stone ledge. He is looking out over a vast blue ocean under a clear sky. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a coastal or resort location.

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# RED HOT

MARCH



WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS. PHOTO: MARTIN SCHOELLER. JEFF KOONS WITH FLORAL HEADPIECE. NEW YORK, NY, 2013. © MARTIN SCHOELLER. COURTESY CAMERA WORK

Now showing //

## Showered with flowers in London

► **NO NEED TO WAIT FOR APRIL SHOWERS - SPRING** has come early to London's Saatchi Gallery. Running until 5 May, *Flowers - Flora in Contemporary Art & Culture* explores how botany has inspired human creativity over the past century. In more than 500 works on show, you'll find pieces from design house Marimekko, filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar, textile designer William Morris, and many more. There is also an Insta-friendly, bespoke installation from Rebecca Lewis Law made up of 10,000 dried flowers. Bloomin' lovely.

© FLY TO LONDON

First take //

# REMAKES ARE BEING MADE OVER

English-language versions of foreign films were once hit and miss – now they're nothing but net, finds Al Horner

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS

► **REMEMBER FOREIGN-LANGUAGE** remakes – or, as they say in Danish according to Google Translate, “*Husk genindspilninger på fremmedsprog?*” Throughout the 2000s, Americanised versions of overseas hits were all the rage. Japanese supernatural horrors were relocated to quaint American suburbs (*The Grudge*). Spanish-language psychological thrillers were remade to star Tom Cruise (*Vanilla Sky*). Hong Kong crime capers were transported to Boston (Martin Scorsese’s *The Departed*, based on Cantonese-language *Infernal Affairs*). If a film was a hit abroad, Hollywood would likely scramble onto the scene.

This was based on the assumption that mainstream audiences didn’t want to watch films with subtitles (the “one-inch-tall barrier”, as *Parasite* director Bong Joon-ho has described them). But a lot of these films bombed. Fans of the originals expressed their disappointment in how much magic was lost in translation. And newcomers to these stories were often nonplussed – for every *The Ring* (based on Japanese hit *Ringu*) came a film like the 2013 English-language remake of South Korean classic *Oldboy*.

So the trend for English-language remakes trickled out – or so it seemed. Last year saw another indicator that Hollywood versions of foreign smashes are back in business. *Speak No Evil* (available on Vera) is a bone-chilling tale of terror, adapted from a Danish-Dutch film of the same name. It arrives not long after

*Coda* – director Sian Heder’s Oscar-winning reheat of 2014 French-Belgian film *La Famille Bélier*. And there’s more to come. Deals have recently been struck for a Jodie Foster-directed version of Icelandic thriller *Woman at War*, a remake of the Indian action film *Kill* from the team behind *John Wick* and, most intriguingly, a TV series based on South Korean social satire *Parasite*, courtesy of *The Big Short* director Adam McKay.

Don’t expect this new wave of remakes to be the same as before. We now live in an era of Duolingo and K-pop dominating the charts. Western audiences no longer care about the “one-inch-tall barrier” (see the enormous success of Netflix’s *Squid Game*) and, thanks to streaming, are willing and able to seek out the original instead of waiting for a US remake. As a result, these new films are unlikely to be made for the sake of it, like they once were. *Speak No Evil* and *Coda* both retell existing stories through the lens of a new culture, making subtle tweaks to the stories that have something to say about American attitudes and values.

If that’s the direction of this new host of Hollywood remakes, then we’ll have what the Danish call “*gode tider i biografen*” – good times ahead at the movies.

“WESTERN AUDIENCES NO LONGER CARE ABOUT BONG JOON-HO’S ‘ONE-INCH-TALL BARRIER’”



© WATCH SPEAK NO EVIL



James McAvoy didn't watch the original Danish *Speak No Evil* so that it wouldn't influence his take on his role.



## HERO TIME

### Celebs save the day

1 //



**LEONARDO DICAPRIO** was on a yacht in the Caribbean when his crew received a distress call. DiCaprio and co rescued a man overboard who'd been treading water for 11 hours.

**VERDICT: THERE'S A BOAT, JACK**

2 //



Beloved character actor **STEVE BUSCEMI** reportedly defused a violent pub brawl in Dublin as he was quietly dining out one night. He had been shooting scenes in the city for a forthcoming season of hit Netflix show *Wednesday* with director Tim Burton.

**VERDICT: SEEING STARS**

3 //



Rocker **JON BON JOVI** recently took a break from filming a music video in Nashville to charm a distraught woman down from the edge of a high pedestrian bridge, then gave her a hug.

**VERDICT: I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU**

WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



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Irish singer and DJ **JAZZY** is getting major airplay and awards nods from the Brits. She tells Andy Hill how she's calling the tunes

PORTRAIT: PLASTIC FRUIT STUDIOS

► **JAZZY – YASMINE BYRNE** – is something of a banger specialist. Very much Ireland's rising dance-pop phenomenon, with signature soulful vocals and floor-friendly beats, she's dropped some huge tunes over the past few years, notably on collabs with Irish DJ duo Belters Only – and subsequent releases like *Feel It* and *Somedays* (with Sonny Fodera). Her 2021 platinum-certified hit *Make Me Feel Good* topped the Irish charts and reached number four in the UK, establishing her as a formidable chart performer.

Her 2023 solo debut *Giving Me* made history as the first track by an Irish female artist to hit number one on Spotify Ireland's Top 50, simultaneously reaching a very respectable number three on the UK Singles Chart and leading to residencies at choice spots like Ibiza's Amnesia.

Of Irish-Jamaican heritage, Jazzy cut her stage teeth as part of hip hop collective Powerful Creative Minds. Born in Dublin to a single mother, Jazzy credits music as her refuge while navigating childhood as a mixed-race girl in mostly white communities. Her teenage immersion in the city's club scene – frequenting venues like Hangar and District 8 –

forged a deep love of house music. Now commanding international festival stages and platinum certifications, with her recent EP *No Bad Vibes* picking up plaudits all over the place, the former Tesco bakery worker is living her best life right now. And, lucky old us, she caught up with *Vera* for a little chinwag.

**Hey, Jazzy! Loving the title track to *No Bad Vibes*, super fun and contemporary with a juicy Afrobeat flavour.**

Thanks, I'm flattered! I wrote it on a songwriting camp. The original was proper housey until we

Risingstar //

“I wake up with a melody in my head”



Above: Jazzy DJing at the Electric Picnic Festival 2023, in Stradbally, Ireland

got [producer] Kilamanjaro on it, and he just elevated it to a whole other level. It's a summer track. *No Bad Vibes* – basically does exactly what it says on the tin.

**What's your background in music, have you always been a dancefloor fiend?**

No, it's actually really funny, I don't come from a dance music background at all. Really the first kind of musical experience I had was in school, years ago. There was a music project in class and basically everyone got to learn a string instrument with no cost attached or anything like that, so I learned the violin. I joined the orchestra, went through the grades, and always assumed that was the direction I'd go in musically.

**What sort of tunes were you playing? Could you still dazzle on the violin?**

Oh, yeah. I might be a little rusty, but I could absolutely bust out a few bars of *Orpheus in the Underworld* by Offenbach. That's better known as the can-can.

**66**  
**WHEN I'M IN THE STUDIO AND THINGS START GETTING TOO BUSY ON A TRACK, I'LL JUST STRIP SOMETHING OUT**

**Banger! On the topic of bangers, you work with DJ duo Belters Only. What's the difference, in your expert opinion, between a "belter" and a "banger"?**

Honestly, most places in the world they're probably pretty much the same thing. But I'll say that in Ireland, a "belter" would have to be songs made by my good friends Belters Only.

**How did you meet the lads?**

They lived close by to my area. They were both huge DJs, and I was fans of them, long before we ever got anywhere near the studio together. They heard some tracks I was making with my hip hop band Powerful Creative Minds. Then they had an idea for a song, and we got together.

**And the rest is history. I've seen clips of you playing live with them, looks super fun. Are the crowds you've played to around the world different to Irish crowds?**

When I'm playing in a new place I like to watch and wait, to read the crowd and see what they're feeling. I love playing around the world, Ibiza, Australia, Italy. Especially

when I'm DJing. I might start with a deep house tune, or something techy. Then watch what happens, and go from there.

**What's your preference?**

Right now I'm all about minimal tech vibes, Josh Baker, LP Rhythm kind of thing. I like to drop in cool edits of my own songs, to keep it interesting.

**What's the secret to cooking a certified banger?**

Honestly, I think simplicity is the key. As a DJ, I try not to overcomplicate things. When I'm in the studio and things start getting too busy on a track, I'll just strip something out. That normally makes it more interesting.

**What about writing melodies, where do they come from?**

I could be at home. I'll wake up in the morning, or whatever. Maybe I've had a dream and I wake up with a melody in my head. So I just record it into my phone, and then I go in and try and make something out of that. Or sometimes I just go into the studio and vibe out. Just lay down the track as it comes.

**Any advice for young singers wanting to follow in your footsteps?**

There's a few things I've learned along the way. Mostly don't put pressure on yourself. Social media can get a bit much, especially when you're just starting out. People will troll you for no good reason. You don't have to read the comments.

🎧 LISTEN TO NO BAD VIBES






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Anouk Krantz has travelled across the Americas for her latest work, including this photograph, *Roper*.

Table read //

# COWBOY COUNTRIES

In new book *Frontier*, photographer Anouk Krantz trains her lens on the modern buckaroos of the US and beyond

► **BEFORE SHE BEGAN PHOTOGRAPHING THE** American west, Anouk Krantz had no idea that cowboys still existed. “As an outsider, it came as a great surprise,” she says of the thriving subculture. “You’ll find thousands [of rodeos] every year. It’s a misconception that [cowboy culture] is dying.”

Having grown up in France, Krantz moved to the US in the late 90s. In 2003, she left her gig at Cartier’s corporate offices in New York to pursue photography full time. Her first book, *Wild Horses of Cumberland Island*, took her to a small island in the state of Georgia, where she was fascinated by the wild stallions that roam the land. But she wanted to go deeper, so she hooked up with a rancher in Texas, her first modern cowboy subject. She recalls arriving at his ranch in the early hours of the morning and sitting down for breakfast with his family. “It was quiet,” she remembers. “[The rancher] was very uncomfortable because he still wasn’t sure who I was.” She describes the cowboy culture she encountered as “private”. “They work



Clockwise from below: *The Old West, rodeo in the US and Brazil – Pantaneiro*



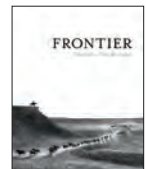
hard and they try to stay out of the spotlight.”

But that rancher soon introduced her to more and she’s since published three books that chronicle modern cowboy culture. Her latest, *Frontier: Cowboys of the Americas*, is her first to go beyond the western USA to capture gauchos and

other horse-mounted herdsman. Within, Krantz’s signature large-scale black-and-white photos bring into sharp focus the ranchers and rodeos of Florida, Nevada, Calgary, Argentina and beyond.

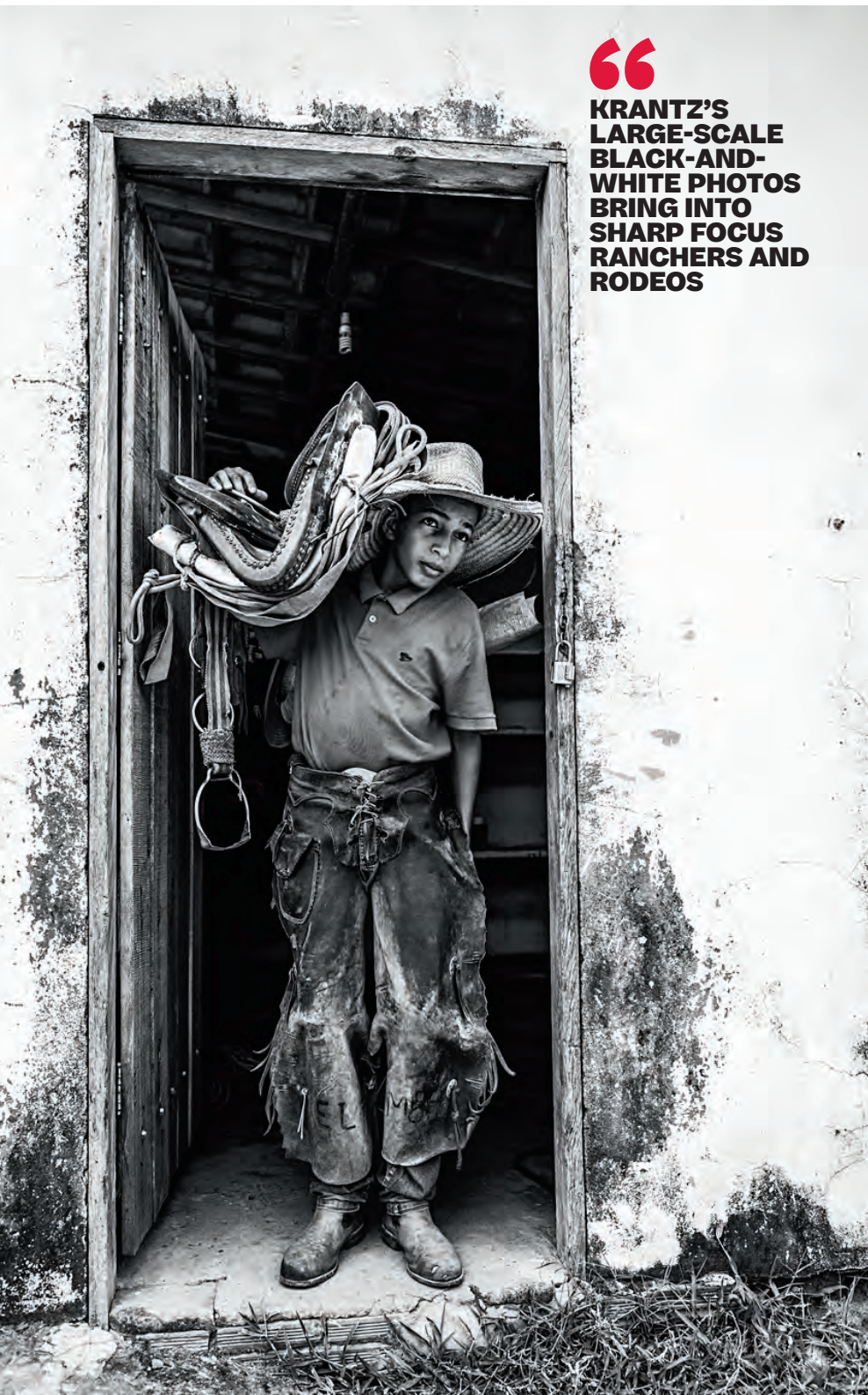
Though cowboys can be found across the Americas, Krantz admits there is something distinctly US about the culture. “They love their country, they love their land, they love their communities and their families, and they want to continue these traditions and stick to these values that we as people have forgotten in our modern world. And they’re very simple values: it’s hard work, it’s integrity, it’s respect.”

● *Frontier* by Anouk Krantz is out now from The Images Publishing Group



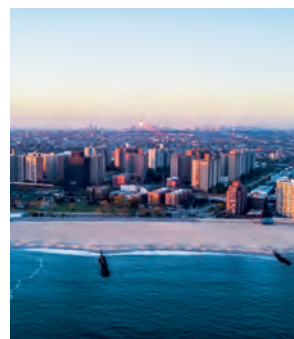


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 BRING INTO  
 SHARP FOCUS  
 RANCHERS AND  
 RODEOS**



WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTOS: © ANOURKHAASSONKRANTZ, ADOBE STOCK

## SET VISIT



## A shore thing in New York

**A** *nora* has hoovered up awards this season with its story of a New York City sex worker (played by Mikey Madison), who secretly marries the young son of a Russian oligarch. Needless to say, it's not happily ever after for them once hubby's family are looped into his antics. Much of the action takes place in Brighton Beach – nicknamed “Little Odessa”, it's home to the city's largest Russian and Eastern European community. By day, locals hit the sand – less crowded than nearby Coney Island Beach – or fill up on *syrniki* (cottage cheese pancakes) and Uzbek lamb samosas at Tashkent Supermarket. By night, they hit the clubs, where the bangers and vodka shots strip away their inhibitions.

📺 WATCH ANORA  
 ✈️ FLY TO NEW YORK







➤ **SOME HOTELS OPEN WITH A WHISPER,** others with an A-list-powered, champagne-fuelled bang. Take The Standard in London – it flung open its doors with a star-packed bacchanal soundtracked by Mark Ronson, and attended by the likes of Emma Stone and Lily Allen. Six years on, it's still one of the city's coolest haunts. And the same will surely be said of the hotel group's latest property, The Manner. Located on leafy Thompson Street – smack-dab in New York's SoHo – it's perfectly positioned as a meeting spot for the downtown set. They're leaning into their plum location by hosting starry fashion week parties and opening two of the neighbourhood's hottest new addresses: all-day restaurant The Otter and cocktail bar Sloane's, hidden behind an unmarked door within the hotel. Between meals and drinks, there's ample opportunity to mingle in the Apartment, where fresh pastries and coffee are served in the morning, wine and fizz in the evening. The design is the work of architect Hannes Peer; each terracotta tile and lick of high-gloss ochre paint references 60s Italian interiors. In each of the 97 rooms, jewel-tone accents and gilded chandeliers lift the earthy colour palette, while writing nooks encourage guests to get creative. The killer views are sure to inspire your manuscript – or, at the very least, the desire for a stiff martini.

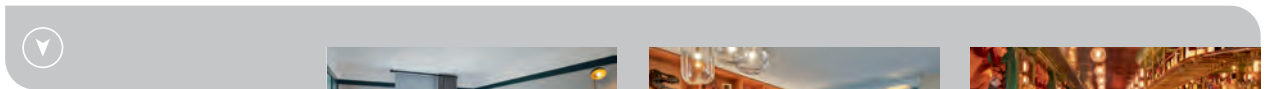


Sleeper hit //

# GETTING A BUZZ ON IN NYC

With celeb-studded parties and cool social spaces, **THE MANNER** has lips flapping

⊗ FLY TO NEW YORK



### KIMPTON ST GEORGE HOTEL, TORONTO

This colossal hotel – 200 rooms and suites set over 14 floors – is a downtown Toronto landmark. Opened in 2022, it has quickly become one of the city's most feted boltholes for its sleek craftsman design.



### VICEROY SANTA MONICA, LA

The Viceroy opened 25 years ago, becoming Santa Monica's premier design-driven beach hotel. Now it's undergone a \$21 million renovation that includes the oh-so-LA pool area with shaded cabanas and natural wood accents.



### BROADWICK SOHO, LONDON

SoHo's best-kept secret is this Martin Brudnizki-designed townhouse hotel. Step through the pink door into his wonderfully eccentric, colourful world of pastels, chintzy florals and marbled wallpaper.

**3 more**  
design hotels

WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTO: CHRIS MOTTALINI, NAOMI FINLAY



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THE LEADING HOTELS  
OF THE WORLD





► **A BRIEF HOP FROM** the bustle of Santa Monica Boulevard on a bijoux backstreet, behold a tiny tree-studded courtyard, decked out in dainty cloud sculptures. Just behind this, the tastefully small dining room of Somni. Cultured Angeleno diners recall this as the legendary two-Michelin star spot that shut up shop during the pandemic. Well, it's so back. Chef Aitor Zabala, ex of El Bullí, oversees a sublime 20-or-so course tasting menu, impeccably plating prime California produce with a suave Spanish accent. Take the *mejillones* – mussels – served with lip-smacking escabeche foam and borage flowers, or this unforgettable floret mushroom dish, *left*, with *champiñones* – button mushrooms – teased into refined floral forms, paired

with a muscular black Ibérico pig and peanut consommé. There are only 14 seats, each oriented in the direction of the chef's counter, so you can watch each tiny miracle of a plate taking shape. Small wonder it's hotly tipped to get its stars back in short order.

Snacks //

# SMALL IS BEAUTIFUL IN WEST HOLLYWOOD

The floret mushroom dish at **SOMNI**, West Hollywood, proves it's the little things that matter in the end

✉ FLY TO LOS ANGELES

DRINKS

## Miso cocktails are in stock

**S**avoury cocktails are all the rage. So naturally miso, that umami mainstay of Japanese meals, has got in on the action. Miso drinks are a broad church – try a Chimera at The Connaught Bar, London, with WhistlePig whisky and Drouin calvados infused with miso caramel, absinthe and bitters. Up in

Manchester, the Demo 5 at Speak in Code (*right*) blends Angel's Envy bourbon with peach, miso and vermouth. Stateside chain Krampus Cove – locations in LA, NYC and San Fran – stirs it up with bourbon, sherry and Bitter Queens Naughty Figgy bitters. And you thought it was just a soup.

✉ FLY TO LONDON, MANCHESTER, LOS ANGELES, NEW YORK & SAN FRANCISCO



WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTO: JILL PAIDER, SPEAK IN CODE





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## Know You Can







# STIR IT UP IN MONTEGO BAY

Beyond rum punch and jerk chicken, MonBay's restaurants offer surprising variety, says expert Mariette Williams





► **IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A MORE PARADISICAL** place to holiday than Montego Bay. Jamaica's second city boasts a pristine coastline and a laid-back vibe that epitomises the Caribbean. But look beyond its world-famous beaches and you'll find a surprisingly diverse dining scene. Montego Bay's restaurants celebrate international flavours in some unique, bucket-list settings. From handmade gnocchi in a 300-year-old sugar mill to rum-marinated ribs at a thatched-roof roadside stop, this is one of the Caribbean's best food cities.

Montego Bay's luxe beachfront resorts offer fantastic dining within. Take the award-winning **SUGAR MILL AT HALF MOON RESORT**, on the former Rose Hall Sugar Plantation, which puts on a masterclass in fusion dining, expertly blending Jamaican and Mediterranean flavours. Popular dishes include the handmade oxtail ravioli with sweet potato dough and breadfruit gnocchi simmered in a coconut pumpkin sauce, while the setting is ideal for a special night out.

MonBay fixture Round Hill Hotel & Villas has welcomed celebrities and dignitaries to its secluded grounds since 1953. **SEASIDE TERRACE** is one of the resort's top restaurants, with dining tables overlooking a private beachfront. The pared-back, seafood-heavy dinner menu changes often, but some staples include tagliatelle with grilled shrimp and scotch bonnet spice-rubbed wahoo fish. Stop by the Cocktail Bar to peek at the collection of photos of guests Pierce Brosnan, Paul McCartney and Ralph Lauren, who owns a villa here and designed the Pineapple House guest rooms and common areas.

The villa-only Tryall Club resort has several great dining options, but the newly opened **OOSHAN BAR & RESTAURANT** is second-to-none for elevated Jamaican fare. The restaurant takes its name from the patois for "ocean", while each dish has handpicked ingredients from local farms and pays homage to Jamaica's national dishes. Order the pepperpot stew, made with callaloo and scotch bonnet pepper, or the spiced seafood boil with lobster, shrimp and clams slowly simmered in a rich saffron broth. Save room for the sweet potato rum pudding.

Beyond the resorts, MonBay excels at waterside dining. Docked in the calm waters of the Montego Bay Marine Park Fish Sanctuary, the two-storey **THE HOUSEBOAT GRILL** serves fresh-as-you-like seafood. You can grab a table in the cosy dining room downstairs, but the real treat is on the upper deck, with its sweeping views of the lights of Montego Bay.

*Left: Sugar Mill at Half Moon Resort is one of Caribbean Journal's Top 50 Caribbean restaurants*

“**MONTEGO BAY'S RESTAURANTS CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL FLAVOURS IN SOME UNIQUE, BUCKET-LIST SETTINGS**”



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If you're looking for great food and entertainment, **PIER 1** ticks both those boxes. Perched on a pier that juts out over the water, since opening in 1986 the restaurant has perfected its salmon cakes, saltfish fritters and grilled conch, with music and entertainment nearly every night.

On the edge of the popular One Man Beach, **MARGUERITES** is a residential seaside home-turned-sophisticated restaurant, with a bevy of awards to its name. A dressed-up crowd can savour gorgeously plated pan-seared scallops, charred calamari and local red snapper. The restaurant's wine list has also garnered attention, winning seven Wine Spectator awards for its extensive collection – there are more than 1,200 bottles in its climate-controlled seaside cellar.

And while MonBay's upmarket restaurants can hold a candle to those in any major city, the more low-key, locally beloved spots are well worth a visit too. Start with **SCOTCHIES**, which has a loyal following for its fall-off-the-bone jerk chicken and pork. The generous sides – rice and peas, festival (deep-fried bread) and roasted yams – are just as delicious as the entrees. Come hungry, pull up a seat under the thatched roof bar and sip a cool Red Stripe beer while you wait.

Outdoor mall the Fairview Towne Centre serves up an eclectic roster of Thai and Indian dishes as well as an impressive sushi menu at **MYSTIC THAI**. All the classics are here: cumin pork dumplings,



Ooshan Bar & Restaurant at The Tryall Club is committed to using fresh, locally sourced ingredients.



Above: Salmon tartare at the Seaside Terrace and sunset dining at Marguerites

spiced samosas and tender tandoori – plus salmon rolls, torched tableside, and spicy salmon uramaki.

Though Jamaica is lauded for its smooth rum, wine bar **UNCORKED WEST** is not to be missed. The cosy restaurant offers salads, pasta and flatbreads – and you'll want to make this a happy hour stopover. Linger over the skillet-baked brie or spring for a customised charcuterie board. The restaurant has a robust menu of shareable bites like bruschetta, bacon-wrapped dates and citrus garlic mussels, which are paired with a wine recommendation from a deep catalogue. You'll come away wishing you could bottle up your holiday in Montego Bay.

✈️ FLY TO JAMAICA



### 3 more Montego Bay must-dos



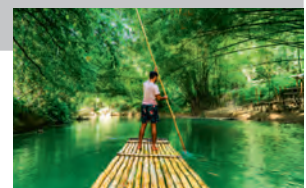
#### DUNNS RIVER FALLS

Visitors and locals come to Dunn's River Falls and Park to climb the rocky falls (make sure you bring water shoes) or soak in the natural pools. Visitors can also zipline over the falls, while younger kids can play at the splash park.



#### MONTEGO BAY CULTURAL CENTRE

Housed in a 19th-century colonial hall, the Montego Bay Cultural Centre offers a rich take on Jamaican cultural history through paintings, and textile and sculptural works.



#### MARTHA BRAE RIVER

Save a few hours to be paddled by an expert guide down the Martha Brae River on a wooden raft with cushioned seating. Bring along a swimsuit and towel if you want to add on a limestone mud massage.



ANOTHER DAY,  
ANOTHER DESTINY

# Les Misérables



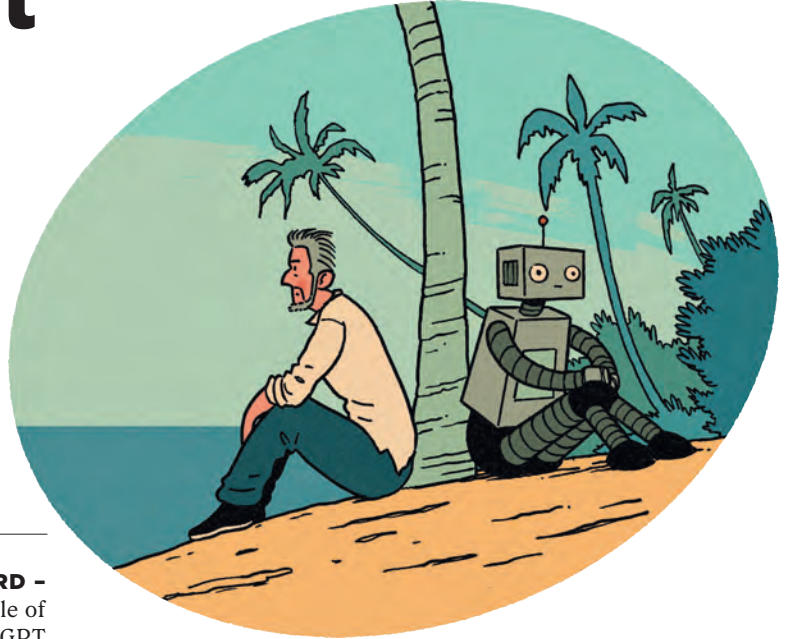


Screen test //

# Can a robot survive on a desert island?

We all know AI is advancing quickly – but could an automaton survive in the wild, as in new film *The Wild Robot*, ask Ralph Jones?

ILLUSTRATIONS: RUBY FRESSON



➤ **AS TECHNOLOGY MARCHES ONWARD** – and it feels as though we might be incapable of scratching our bums without the help of ChatGPT – it’s worth pausing to wonder: could robots do anything without us? If your Roomba broke down your door and whizzed out of your house, could it start a new life of its own, or would it come crawling back with a low battery and a grovelling apology?

In new film *The Wild Robot* a robot named Roz is stranded on an island and forced to learn how to survive, becoming mates with a goose and a falcon. Roz’s ability to adapt prompts the questions: could a robot really survive on a desert island? And can robots teach themselves to help geese to fly?

Roboticians like Nakul Gopalan from Arizona State University often explain robots through the prism of extremely young humans. Gopalan has a robot he is currently teaching to make sandwiches. But he also has an eight-month-old daughter. She, like all babies, is constantly learning new skills. “She has this weird power where she can grab an arbitrary object and bring it to her mouth,” says Gopalan. “My robot can’t do that.”

It’s easier for humans. We’re learning everything all the time. We have vision, motor and language cortices. This makes it possible for toddlers to learn things autonomously. If they were alone they would automatically know that fire was painful and dangerous. A robot wouldn’t. Lacking any concept of pain, it would have no reason not to walk into a fire, bursting into flames. On a desert island it could walk into the sea, incapable of appreciating



by itself that robots don’t make great swimmers. If anything, the goose would be teaching the robot, not the other way around.

So how do robots learn? For the most part they have to copy us. They would need us on the desert island! There have been examples of robots learning basic skills without human intervention but these cases turn out (a) not to be replicable outside the lab, and (b) to have required painstaking preparation from – you guessed it – us humans.

Gopalan deals with robots on a regular basis and has this to say: “Would I feel safe letting my robot make coffee in my grandmother’s kitchen? The answer is an emphatic no.” Because we don’t really know how humans learn, it’s unfathomably difficult to reproduce our own processes in robots. “There is no such thing as robots teaching themselves,” he says.

It is possible, says Gopalan, for a robot to use a large language model and a large visual model to learn; with enough data it might be able to pick up one stick. But if we want the robot to learn to fix its own broken equipment or swim to safety, it ain’t gonna happen. Without us, robots are nothing.

**VERDICT: For the foreseeable future it’s a no.**

© WATCH THE WILD ROBOT



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KEEPING IT



A black and white portrait of actor Michael Shannon. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark t-shirt, with his arms crossed. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left of the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

MICHAEL SHANNON

# COOL

**MICHAEL SHANNON** loves rock music, indie theatre and stealing the screen with riveting, Oscar-certified performances. Adam Davidson meets one of our most intriguing actors

**PHOTOGRAPHS: JUANKR**



MICHAEL SHANNON SWAGGERS ONTO  
*THE TONIGHT SHOW* STAGE AND  
GRABS THE MIC STAND. THOSE FIRST,  
UNMISTAKABLE STRUMS OF REM'S  
*DRIVER 8* ELECTRIFY THE ROOM.  
“THE WALLS ARE BUILT UP STONE BY  
STONE,” CROONS SHANNON, WITH  
THE EASE AND  
CONFIDENCE OF  
A DYED-IN-THE-  
WOOL ROCK  
STAR.

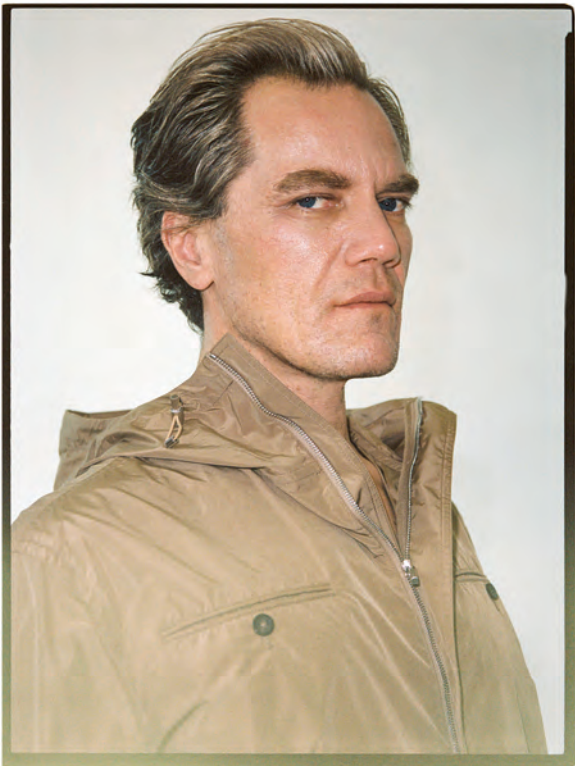
Why is one of the most prolific actors of our generation fronting an alt-rock cover band on a late-night talk show? Well, as I find out when I sit down with the Kentucky-born multi-hyphenate ahead of the release of his directorial debut, Shannon is full of surprises.

“I never had a dream job,” he tells me a few months after his *Tonight Show* gig, looking clean shaven and exuding a relaxed charm even on Zoom. “I wasn’t thinking about jobs when I was a kid, I was just thinking about how to make life bearable. Music helped with that and then acting. I thought I would wind up destitute on the street or something, but the acting thing panned out for me, I don’t know why.”

What started out as a way to “make life bearable” turned into a mega-successful career, with roles in box office hits like *Man of Steel* (2013), *Bullet Train* (2022) and *The Shape of Water* (2017), not to mention earning two Oscar nominations for Best Supporting Actor for his turns in *Revolutionary Road* in 2009 and 2016’s *Nocturnal Animals*.

Now, after decades in front of the camera, he’s in the director’s chair for the first time for *Eric Larue*. The film – which will get a theatrical release this year – is based on a play by Brett Neveu and tells the story of a mother whose son is convicted of murdering three of his classmates. It’s personal to Shannon, as it premiered at A Red Orchid Theatre – the experimental Chicago outfit where Shannon is a founding ensemble member – and it touches on themes









**“I’m working from a place of empathy. That means having empathy for everybody”**

“not a prophet” and “doesn’t ever come up with any solutions to anything”. He does, however, believe in the far-reaching powers of empathy – not only for politicians, which he says is an essential trait for any good leader, but also as an acting tool. It’s something he employed to understand his character in *The End*, in which he plays a petroleum billionaire who builds his family a bunker when the world becomes uninhabitable due to climate change. Though his character’s politics couldn’t be more different from his own, Shannon was eager to take on the challenge.

“I thought it would be fascinating to explore the mindset of that particular human being because there are quite a few of them who seem okay with the notion that we are hurtling towards an irreversible catastrophe, but as long as they are collecting their bags of money, they’re fine with that,” he explains.

“I’m working from a place of empathy. That doesn’t just mean having empathy for people you like or people who are like you, it’s having empathy for everybody,” he adds. “So I wanted to have empathy for this guy and try

he cares deeply about, mainly the violence and trauma of living in contemporary America.

*Eric Larue* was written in the wake of the tragic events surrounding Columbine High School in 1999, where 12 students and one teacher were shot dead by two gunmen. Despite the play being written almost 25 years ago, Shannon tells me that it is a sad indictment of today’s America that he didn’t need to recalibrate the script much.

“Our country is stuck in a particular place and situation and just when we seem to be reaching our fingers over the edge of the hole to pull ourselves out, something grabs us by the ankle and drags us back down again,” he sighs.

It’s insightful to listen to Shannon muse about politics and the state of American society, but he insists that he’s







MICHAEL SHANNON





## “The one thing human beings do that does impress me is that we make music”

and figure out what the heck he is thinking, and how he justifies what he’s doing. It was a harrowing thing to do.”

This trait also comes in handy in Shannon’s day-to-day life, especially when he is walking around New York, the city he has called home since 2007.

“I believe it expands my consciousness when I’m walking around New York City and I’m looking at this huge mass of people rushing around doing whatever it is they are doing. Being able to look at people and consider what life might be like from their point of view,” he says.

Shannon also expands his consciousness through travel – or, as he puts it, getting to know this “blue and green sphere that we are floating around on”. Impressively, he has visited every continent apart from Antarctica, either for work or pleasure. Two of his most memorable work trips were with arguably the world’s best travel buddy, filmmaker Werner Herzog. Their second project, 2009’s *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done*, took them to Machu Picchu, Peru – and Kashgar, China, on an “extremely brief 48-hour trip”, which is now a bittersweet memory for Shannon.

“We went to Kashgar because [Herzog] wanted to film the Uyghur people. Unfortunately, since we’ve been there, these people are being persecuted and rounded up and put in internment camps. It’s a melancholy memory for me because when I was there they were free, happy and living their lives,” he remembers.

It’s clear there are two things that possess Shannon: understanding the world and the people in it – and music. Music was Shannon’s first love (he played bass in his childhood band, The Jehovah Suspects, at his summer camp in Kentucky), and our conversation frequently turns

to his favourite artists and the impact they’ve had on his life.

“To me, music is the most impressive thing that humans do. There’s a lot of things that human beings do, including myself, that I’m not too crazy about, but the one thing we do that does impress me is that we make music,” he says.

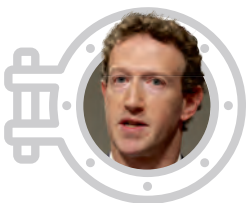
The actor has a particular fascination with live music, which started with his first concert – an early Bob Dylan gig.

“My mom had taken my siblings and I to the Kentucky State Fair and noticed that [Dylan] was playing that night. I think tickets were about \$5,” Shannon says. “It was electrifying. There aren’t words. I wasn’t familiar with any of the music, I was just sitting there as a child watching something happen and it was only later on in life that I started to realise the significance of what I had seen.”

Years later, Shannon is enrapturing audiences with his own with live music performances – he’ll be touring the US and UK this year with musician Jason Narducy. The two have been playing together for over a decade, covering songs from their favourite artists. This time, they’re paying tribute to an all-time favourite, REM, on the 40th anniversary of their landmark album *Fables of the Reconstruction*.

Shannon lived every fan’s wildest fantasy when he played a set in celebration of REM’s 1983 debut, *Murmur*,

## BUNKER MENTALITY ACTUAL BILLIONAIRES’ BOLTHOLES



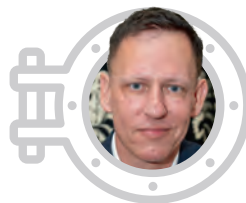
### Mark Zuckerberg

Like Michael Shannon’s character in *The End*, Facebook’s founder has reportedly carved out a 500m<sup>2</sup> bunker beneath his sprawling Hawaiian island compound. What’s not to like?



### Kim Kardashian

Kim and sister Khloé went bunker shopping on an episode of *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*. Kim’s apparently prepped for the apocalypse at her \$60 million home.



### Peter Thiel

The PayPal co-founder was allegedly thwarted in his attempt to build a vast 10-bedroom semi-underground estate in New Zealand. The problem? Planning rules, ironically.



### Donald Trump

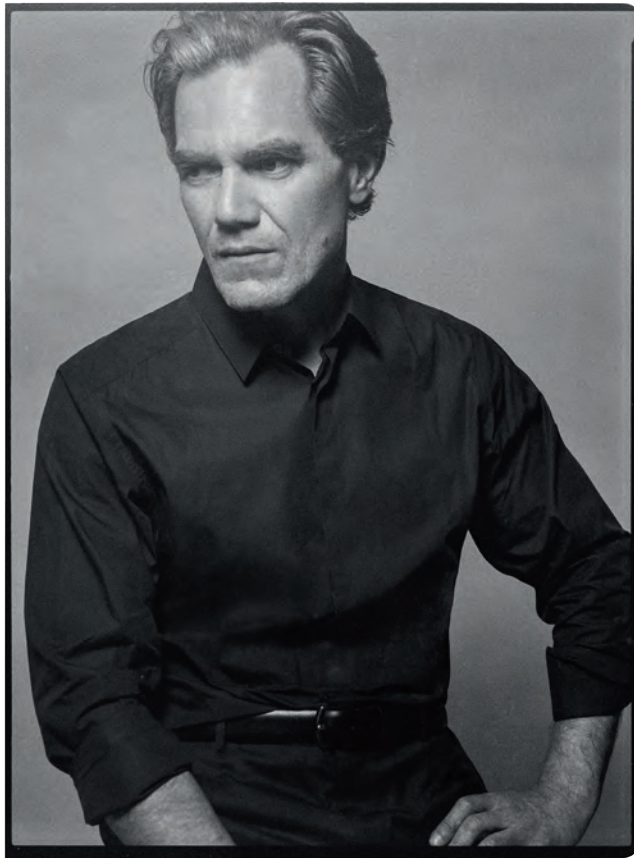
President Trump enjoys access to the Presidential Emergency Operations Center beneath the White House. Described as “the most secure place on Earth” it’s five floors deep and impenetrable.



### Tom Cruise

The superstar is said to have sunk \$10m into a bunker that fits 10 people in the event of the alien attack some Scientologists predict. It has smart air filtration, so deep and impenetrable.





From top right:  
Michael Shannon in  
*Revolutionary Road*,  
*Man of Steel* and  
*Nocturnal Animals*

at the 40 Watt Club in Athens, Georgia. “Between the first and second encore, somebody came up to me and said, ‘Peter [Buck] asked if the band could come onstage and say something.’ I was in adrenaline crazy land doing the show and I didn’t think much of it. I was just like, ‘Of course, they can!’” he remembers. And so the band clamored onstage, the first time they’d appeared together for nearly two decades.

“It didn’t even occur to me until the next day, when the articles started coming out, how significant it was that the four of them were onstage together. It didn’t even click to me that they hadn’t been onstage together for 17 years.”

After a jam-packed start to 2025, Shannon isn’t taking his foot off the gas – he’ll be starring alongside Ruth Wilson in *Moon for the Misbegotten* at London’s Almeida Theatre from 17 June to 16 August. He will also be appearing as James Garfield, the 20th US president, in Netflix’s *Death by Lightning*, and alongside Russell Crowe and Rami Malek in the hotly anticipated *Nuremberg*.

As the interview draws to a close, Michael Shannon must clock-off to rehearse for his upcoming US tour, where he’ll be lighting up the stages at 14 venues across the country. He is living everybody’s dream, even if it’s not his own.

© WATCH A DIFFERENT MAN

## WE LIKE MIKE

MICHAEL SHANNON’S CV



### BORN

Michael Corbett Shannon was born in Lexington, Kentucky, to Donald Sutherland Shannon and Geraldine Hine on 7 August 1974.

### EDUCATION

Shannon attended New Trier Township High School in Winnetka, Illinois, before moving to Henry Clay High School in Lexington.

### FUN FACT

The actor made his film debut with a small role in *Groundhog Day* as half of a newlywed couple.

### KEY WORK

**Revolutionary Road (2008)**  
Michael Shannon made his Hollywood breakthrough with a scene-stealing turn in this Sam Mendes romance – which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

### Man of Steel (2013)

Shannon’s portrayal of General Zod in this superhero tale propelled him to a household name.

### Nocturnal Animals (2016)

Shannon snagged his second Oscar nomination for his chilling turn as Detective Bobby Andes in this Tom Ford-directed thriller.

### The Shape of Water (2017)

Guillermo del Toro’s Best Picture Winner at the Oscars was one of the most talked about movies of the decade, and Shannon played a big part in the buzz with his portrayal of antagonist Colonel Richard Strickland.







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# Seoul



Joel Hart tells us why Korean food is dominating upmarket menus right now – and picks out the tastemakers you need to know

**PAPER ART:**  
**HATTIE NEWMAN**  
**PHOTOGRAPHS:**  
**SUN LEE**

ONCE CONFINED TO ART-HOUSE CINEMA and niche circles, Korean culture now enjoys an unprecedented global presence. In 2024, K-pop cemented its widespread appeal, while *Squid Game* and a wave of less dystopian K-dramas continued to captivate audiences worldwide. It was only a matter of time before eyes shifted towards Korean cuisine. Excitingly, Korean chefs across the diaspora are reimagining their culinary heritage, pushing Korean food into the realm of high-end gastronomy. Building on the complex flavors of fermentation and a deep reverence for high-quality ingredients, these chefs are redefining what Korean food can be. Enter K-dining.



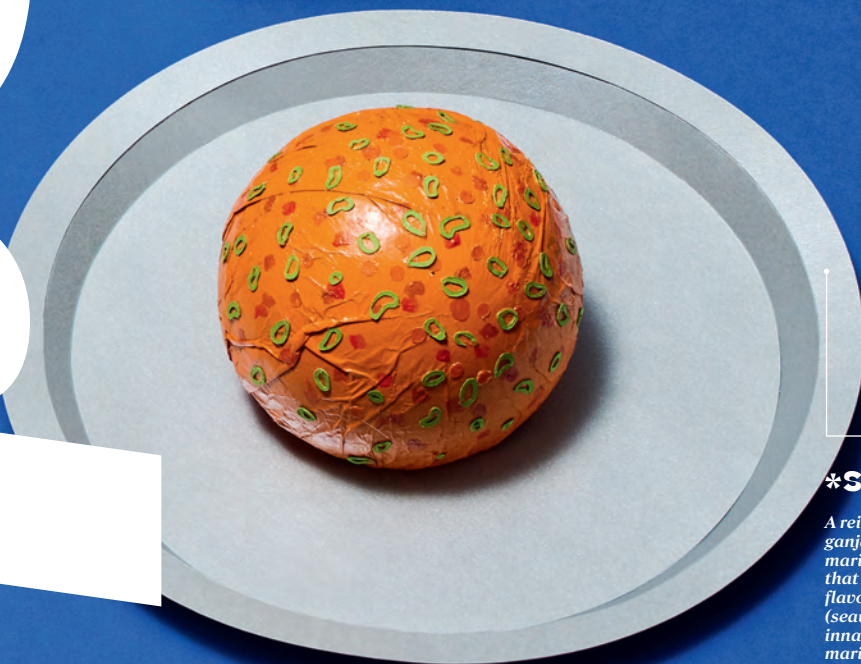
## Atomix

NEW YORK

Awarded sixth spot in 2024's World's 50 Best Restaurants list, Atomix is a 14-seat, U-shaped chef's counter restaurant that proves just how far Korean cuisine has come in New York City. Owners – and married couple – chef Junghyun Park and Ellia Park are leaders of their city's K-wave: Atomix is

the flagship, but they also helm celebrated spots Atoboy and Naro. The aim at Atomix is to explore the equilibrium between the new and the traditional, blending innovative technique with time-honoured practice. It all adds up to an experimental, continually evolving menu, which is one of the most talked about in the world right now.

📍 FLY TO NEW YORK



### \*STAR DISH

*A reinterpretation of ganjang gejang (soy marinated raw crab) that packs the bold flavours of gim (seaweed) rice, crab innard sauce and marinated crab into a delicate tartlet shell, which is then crowned with flying fish roe.*

# Footnote





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“Chef Junsoo Bae blends his Korean upbringing and his expertise in French haute cuisine”



**\*STAR DISH**

*Charcoal-grilled live eel and Sacramento rice elegantly wrapped in a sheet of saline gamtae (seaweed).*

**SSAL**

SAN FRANCISCO

SSAL, in the heart of San Francisco, is a modern Californian restaurant rooted in Korean traditions that offers a single nightly tasting menu in its open-kitchen dining room. The menu develops

spontaneously, guided by seasonal market availability. Chef Junsoo Bae blends his Korean upbringing and his expertise in French haute cuisine, having worked at such heavy hitters as The French Laundry, Bouley and Gramercy

Tavern. Whatever's on offer, it always pushes the limits of Korean cuisine while paying homage to provenance, such as in the hay-smoked Wolfe Ranch quail, a signature dish.

© FLY TO SAN FRANCISCO



**Baroo**  
LOS ANGELES

The *LA Times* Restaurant of the Year winner is a serene, warm space in the city's Downtown district. Chef Kwang Uh's philosophy draws influence from – where else? – René Redzepi of Noma, as well as chef-monk Jeong Kwan's Buddhism-influenced “temple cuisine”. What unites both, as well as Uh's own cooking, is an adherence to traditional fermentation techniques, plus a deep respect for interconnectedness and balance. LA has long been a hotspot for traditional Korean food, but Baroo is leading a revolution in contemporary Korean cuisine in the city. The menu changes regularly but the main dish always comes with a wholesome bowl of rice flavoured with lotus sunchoke gaennip jangajji (perilla leaves), XO sauce and gamtae bugak (fried seaweed with a glutinous rice coating).

© FLY TO LOS ANGELES

**\*STAR DISH**

*Wild black cod braised in soy until caramel coloured, served with dongchimi (winter radish kimchi), lemongrass, buttermilk and green papaya – adding colour and delicate, precise hits of contrasting flavours.*





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## Sollip LONDON

Away from the bustle of Borough Market, this tranquil space in London Bridge has been pushing Korean food in new directions since it opened in 2020. Husband-and-wife

team Woongchul Park and Bomee Ki have cooked in some of Europe's best kitchens, and their food and patisserie is a marriage of Korean flavours with French technique.

The signature daikon tarte tartin and final sweet bite of daechu (jujube) madeleine symbolise the restaurant's playful approach to fusion.

✈️ FLY TO LONDON



### \*STAR DISH

*Version three of Sollip's umami-rich beef tartare, where the meat is seasoned with aged gochujang made in-house and encased in a gothic charcoal shell. It's all served alongside cured daikon and truffle cream.*

**“Husband-and-wife team Woongchul Park and Bomee Ki have cooked in some of Europe's best kitchens”**



**\*STAR DISH**

*Grilled octopus with gochujang aioli, presented with confident simplicity, allowing the pure flavours to shine.*



**Jungsik**  
NEW YORK

In 2024, Jungsik became the first Korean restaurant in the US to have three Michelin stars. Opened in 2011 by Chef Yim Jung-sik, following the 2009 opening of his two-starred restaurant in Seoul,

the accolade reflects his status as a pioneer of modern Korean fine dining. Executive chef Daeik Kim's cooking is meticulous and precise, but that's not to say it's

overserious – you can expect a fair few twists throughout the menu, beginning with the opening dish, a brilliant reimagination of banchan.

✎ FLY TO NEW YORK



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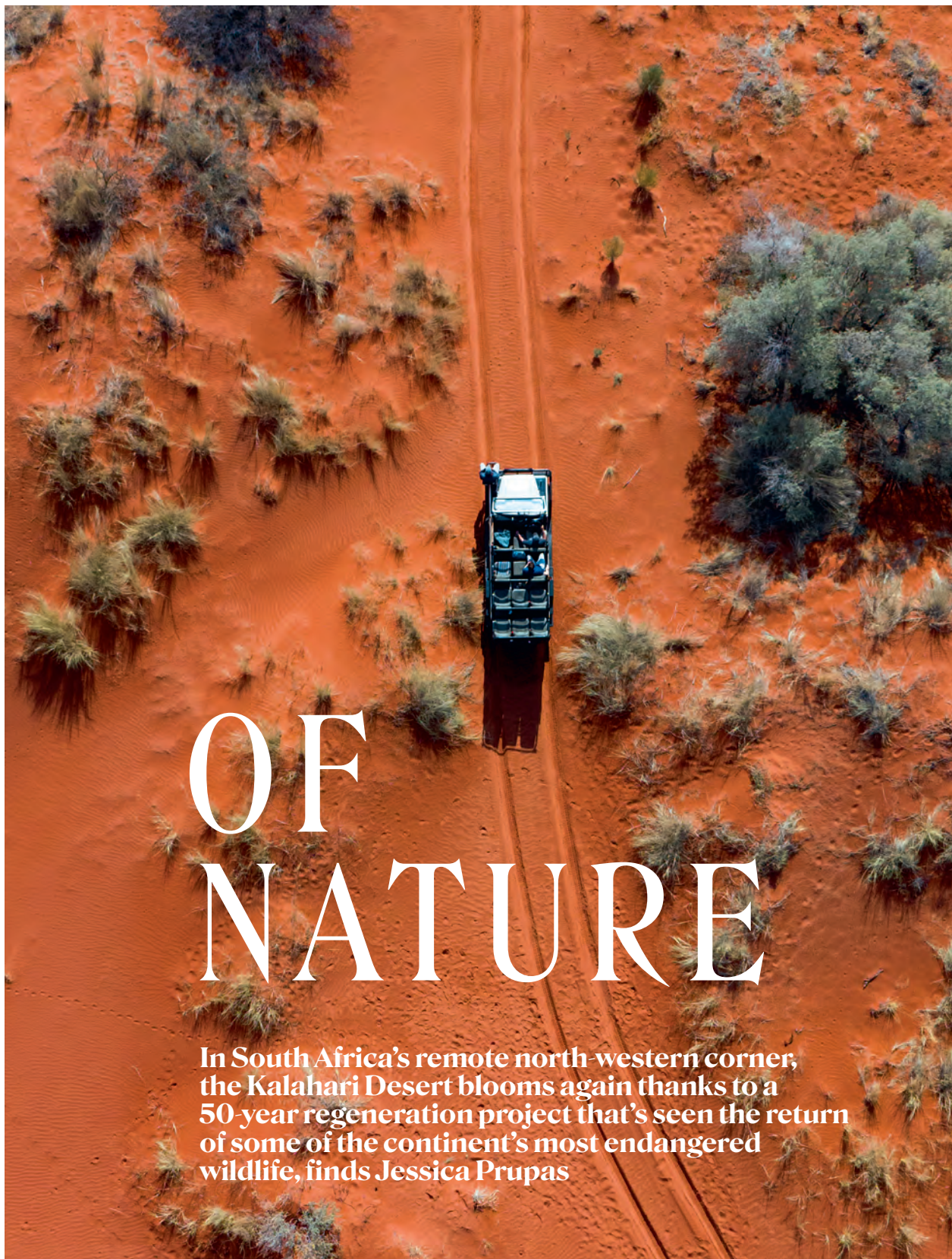




# FORCE







# OF NATURE

In South Africa's remote north-western corner, the Kalahari Desert blooms again thanks to a 50-year regeneration project that's seen the return of some of the continent's most endangered wildlife, finds Jessica Prupas



## MOVING

## QUIETLY,

we make our way through the thicket, kicking up terra cotta-coloured dust with each cautious step. The bush's spindly, spiky branches scrape at my skin as we follow our guide in single file. Wordlessly, he motions at us to crouch and stay quiet as we reach a clearing. Soon I see why: just in front of us, partially

obscured by more shrubbery, there is a pack of ravenous African wild dogs chowing down on a warthog carcass. If this – a rare sighting of one of the world's most endangered mammals – was the only sighting on today's game drive, I would have returned to our lodge happy. But soon we hear scampering feet to our left, and another half-dozen wild dogs loom into view. They stop just a few feet from us, ears alert, their Pollock-like spots illuminated by the golden sunrise.

"Welcome to the Kalahari," says our guide.

I'm at Tswalu, South Africa's largest private game reserve. Stretching 114,000 hectares over the country's wild north-western corner, this is the Kalahari Desert at its most untouched. Tswalu is a remarkable story of regeneration: 50 years ago, this was a patchwork of farms where the land looked drastically different to today. A black-and-white photo hanging in our lodge offers a mind-bending glimpse of Tswalu in the early 1970s – nearly barren, dotted sadly with a few scrubby bushes.

But the reserve's resident ecologist, Wendy Panaino, warns against easy narratives. "There are some stories about old farmland being degraded, and it's now being restored," she tells me after that day's game drive. "That's kind of subject to your opinions. In my opinion it gives the farming community a bad name, which is not what we want at all." She concedes that mistakes were made, but many farmers were doing their best with the information they had at the time. Still, she says, Tswalu has had major successes by taking a non-interventionist approach to conservation. "We haven't done a lot in the way of reintroducing vegetation, because nature does that for us. It's a completely intact system."

By mostly standing back and letting native flora regenerate, Panaino says they've created a "nice environment" for endangered animals to thrive. Here is where conservationists in Tswalu get a bit more hands-on: they've



*Clockwise from top left: Looking out over the Kalahari; a pack of wild dogs chases an antelope; on a game drive; Wendy Panaino at work*

reintroduced a whole gang of critically threatened species into their ecosystem – most famously pangolins, the scaly anteaters in which Panaino has her PhD, but also African wild dogs, desert black rhinos and cheetahs, all of which are now thriving in the semi-arid conditions of Tswalu. It's a remarkable success story that makes Tswalu a leading voice within the conservation sphere and an example to other reserves across Africa.

Our guide, Juan – a sunburnt, Afrikaans-speaking man with boundless enthusiasm and a garrulous tongue – describes the reserve's unique environment as a "desert with a twist". Trundling along the bumpy dirt roads on the next morning's game drive, I can see what he means: this isn't some lifeless expanse of sand – it is remarkably green. Great swathes of brandy bush and blue bush blur as we drive past, while giant camelthorns shade the animals from the gruelling sun. Juan calls these icons of Africa "mother trees" – they are the lifeblood of the desert, feeding and communicating with all other plant life via vast underground fungal networks. "Every single place in the world will have that thing that makes its heart beat. What makes this place's heart beat is the camelthorn tree."

Indeed, it's under a camelthorn tree that we see our first herd of lions later







that day. Our tracker, Sibongiseni (or Sibob for short), spots some fresh markings and guides our Toyota Land Cruiser into the bush; an acrid smell tells us that the cats are close by and they've bagged themselves some breakfast. We stop so close I could reach my hand out and pet them, which Sibob explicitly warns me against. They surround a mangled kudu carcass, its intestines deposited a few inches away and swarming with flies. The cats – all lionesses of varying ages, the males having long ago departed the herd – growl and bare their teeth as they jostle for the meatiest bits, pulling muscles and gristle from cavernous ribs and chewing greedily.

“There's no prize for second place in the Kalahari,” is a refrain Juan frequently comes back to. There certainly were no prizes for that kudu, and any other predator or prey who fails to weather the Kalahari's punishing conditions. It's tough going out here: not a drop of rain falls for three quarters of the year, and competition for food is fierce. Those rare species of predators that have rebounded





thanks to Tswalu's conservation efforts are sometimes numerous enough to cause other problems.

"We started the Cheetah Project because cheetahs were eating us out of house and home," Panaino tells me, referring to a programme they launched to track and manage their cheetah population, led by expert Elizabeth Overton and facilitated by Nelson Mandela University. "We needed to figure out, 'How many cheetahs is sustainable for us?' We pride ourselves on having strong research focus and moving more into that place where research informs management.

*From top: A cheetah and her cub; running into a desert black rhino*

There's a strong research focus on the property."

On the next morning's drive, we pursue a pack of cheetahs through the reserve's far north-western corner, where rolling, dune-dotted plains scorch in the early morning sun. As the cats skulk deeper into the bush, we hop out of the vehicle and follow them on foot. For a moment, it seems as though we've lost them – until we round a corner, and there they are, mere feet away. My heart thumps as I watch these slender animals – whose sinewy bodies are built like spotted race cars – take a much-needed break from their (so far unsuccessful) hunt, panting heavily as they loll about on the patchy grass. Each one of the elegantly speckled cats sports a collar, indicating that their movements and behaviours are being tracked as part of the programme. Tswalu's cheetah and desert black rhino numbers have rebounded so well, the reserve has recently started

distributing some of their population to neighbouring reserves. "It's a huge feather in Tswalu's cap," Panaino says of this particular success. "And I'm not just saying that because I'm wearing the cap."

But the rarest encounter you'll have at Tswalu is with other people. In our three days at the reserve, we only encountered two other safari vans. This is by design: Tswalu's massive land and tightly controlled visitor numbers (a maximum of 40 adults can stay at the reserve at any given time) mean that you really do feel like you're out in some vast, untamed wilderness. Juan calls it "the closest

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

FOUR OF THE MOST ENDANGERED SPECIES YOU'LL FIND ON TSWALU



### PANGOLIN

One of the most trafficked mammals in the world, these scaly, insect-loving animals are highly prized in Chinese medicine. They are the subject of much of Tswalu's research, and have made a remarkable comeback on the reserve.



### AFRICAN WILD DOG

There are only around 6,600 of these canines left. Threatened by habitat fragmentation, which has put them into conflict with humans, they're thriving on Tswalu, with plenty of prey for them to hunt and the vast habitat they require.



### CHEETAH

Africa's cheetah population is in sharp decline due to drought and other climate change-related effects on their habitat. In recent years these fast cats – reaching speeds of up to 120km/h – have made the reserve their permanent home.



### DESERT BLACK RHINO

With only around 6,400 in their ranks, these critically endangered mammals have long been poached for their horns, which are used in traditional medicine and as a status symbol in Asia. On Tswalu, they are meticulously tracked and studied.



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## SOUTH AFRICAN SAFARI



to the truth of reality”, in that you can go miles without seeing another living soul – just how nature intended it. “I think the thing that surprises guests the most here is that you see amazing landscapes, but you hardly see any general game species,” says Panaino. “But that’s how it’s supposed to be. And that’s what makes it so special.”

Not that our time on Tswalu lacks game sightings: apart from the lions, wild dogs and cheetahs, we also saw rhino (both white and desert black), wildebeest, giraffe, oryx and many more. But the encounters you have with each animal are intimate – there aren’t many other places where you can pull up inches from a pack of ravenous lionesses and spend hours observing their kudu-flavoured feast, or hotfoot

*Clockwise from top left:  
Lunch overlooking the  
desert plains; a kudu  
appears; Loapi camp  
seen from on high*



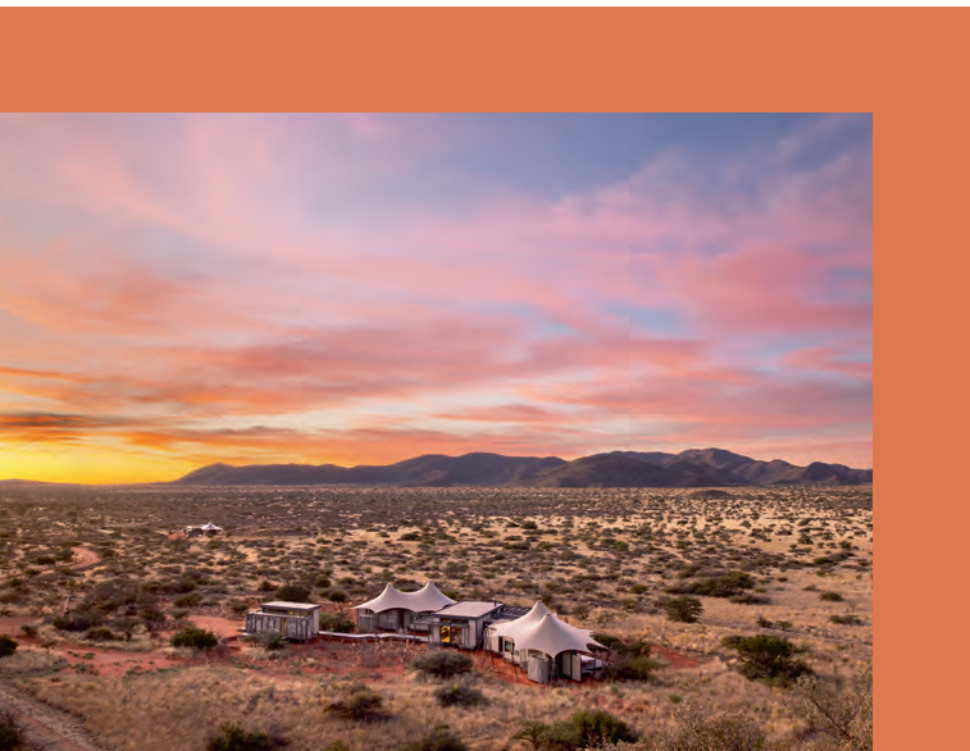
**“There aren’t many places where you can pull up inches from a pack of ravenous lionesses”**

after a rhino in a *Fast & Furious*-style chase, swerving branches rather than other vehicles as you make chase.

Nor are there many other reserves which offer such comfort. At the end of each game drive, Loapi camp awaits us – the newest accommodation on Tswalu, its six private, standalone lodges having opened in 2023. Each one is spaced 100m apart and out of sight from the others, giving guests the impression that they’re alone for miles in the quiet, infinite-seeming depths of the Kalahari (apart from a private butler and chef, both of whom sleep next to the main lodge).

The cleverly designed structure is mostly steel-buttressed glass, taking in 360-degree sweeps of the Kalahari’s epic beauty. Comparing that black-and-white photo, so bleak and lifeless, to what I see from my lodge’s viewing deck after a very early morning drive – the sun still low in the cloudless sky, casting a honey glow over burnished horizons and stirring the chirruping, chattering life in the bush – is like night and day. I recall something Juan said earlier: “Nature can recover, you just have to let it sit.” And thanks to that philosophy, I can recline here, in the middle of a slowly awakening wilderness, and just take in the view.

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# HOTEL



### Get a room

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# GUIDE



## THE MAYFAIR TOWNHOUSE

**THE ONE FOR** a Wilde night

SPLENDIDLY CENTRAL – a mere three minutes to Green Park station and all the glories of London's West End – The Mayfair Townhouse is a flamboyantly sumptuous spot with a proper literary pedigree. Oscar Wilde, no less, stayed among the 15 Georgian townhouses that comprise the hotel and set one of his most famous works, *The Importance Of Being Earnest*, on Half Moon Street. By turns charmingly retro, with Art Deco details, Wildean portraits and velvet

seating, the large rooms feel fresh and contemporary with generous bathrooms, and lashings of marble. The beating heart Dandy Bar has racy mirrored ceilings and serves cocktails like the Cavendish Negroni, with Roku gin, Aperol and banana-infused dry vermouth, and agreeably British snacks like Portland crab on avocado toast. A dreamy base for a storied trip into town.



## DAMU AT THE MANDRAKE, LONDON

**THE ONE FOR** west end wellness



THE FAMOUSLY IDIOSYNCRATIC Mandrake in London's West End is known for doing things differently, always with an uncompromising eye on quality. Its new Damu spa is no different. Named after the Sumerian god of healing and transformation, Damu is the only hotel spa in the world offering guests master herbalist Dr Nonna Brenner's Immune and Energy Longevity Method drops, said to be the secret of suptuagenarian artist Marina Abramović's remarkably youthful look. There's an Austrian Alpine mud cave for a medicinal detox, a haptic multi-sensory floating pool and cutting-edge BBL Moxi laser treatments for rejuvenated skin, plus a tranquillity room, decked out in botanicals and foliage by leading landscape architect Bas Smets. All uncannily chilled out – considering you're a mere stone's throw from Oxford Circus.



## FASANO HOTEL, NYC

### THE ONE FOR *an elevated stay*

IN-THE-KNOW New Yorkers are falling over themselves to gain access to this especially chi-chi outpost of ultra bouji Brazilian hospitality spot Fasano. Technically an extension of the uber-fancy private members' club of the same name, it doesn't look like much from the street. But upstairs, behold the NYC pied-à-terre you've always dreamed of, with interiors flawlessly executed by French architect Thierry Despont – who, as it

happens, supervised the restoration of the Statue of Liberty. It's quite literally dripping in luxury, with Loro Piana cashmere walls, marble bathrooms, hand-picked furniture and artwork loaned from the private collection of founder Gero Fasano. You're bang opposite Central Park, there's a plush on-site sauna and boutique gym. Some apartments have walk-in closets, 3m-high ceilings and windows overlooking Fifth Avenue – a glimpse of the high life.



## GIDLEIGH PARK, CHAGFORD

### THE ONE FOR *tasteful tranquility*

IF YOU'RE YEARNING for a little rural rest and recuperation you can do a lot worse than this delightful 16th-century timber-framed treasure, set deep in the winding lanes of romantic Dartmoor. Aside from its irresistible

profusion of period details – stone fireplaces, mullioned windows, walnut sideboards, clawfoot baths, Madeira decanters – it has 107 acres of grounds to sashay around, with a putting course, tennis court and (naturally) croquet. What really sets it apart? The kitchen. Under the keen eye of returning local hero Ian Webber, Gidleigh Park has deservedly retained its Michelin star. Tuck into the likes of red-legged partridge with girolles and truffle jus, or rich Vulscombe goat cheese with impeccable wine pairings. It's truly a bit special.





## SIRRU FEN FUSHI, MALDIVES

**THE ONE FOR** *pushing the boat out*

SIRRU FEN FUSHI - Private Lagoon Resort is a dreamscape where luxury and sustainability meet in perfect harmony. Situated on the happily remote Shaviyani Atoll, this exclusive island offers pure escapism, with its sprawling villas - beachside, overwater, or jungle-tented - all rocking private pools and round-the-clock butler service. The pièce de résistance? The Coralarium, an underwater art installation doubling as a coral restoration project,

exemplifying its eco-conscious ethos. Dining is a global affair - top-notch sushi at Kata, savour fresh seafood at Azure, or laid-back buffets at Raha Market. For relaxation, the Arufen Spa does bespoke pampering under foliage. Whether snorkeling the Pixar-pretty house reef or biking under palm canopies, Sirru Fen Fushi is barefoot luxury, done right.



## ST PANCRAS RENAISSANCE HOTEL

**THE ONE FOR** *gothic splendour*



ONE CANNOT HELP but gasp at the sheer Hogwartian splendour of this Gothic Revival grande dame overlooking St Pancras station, with its polychromatic brickwork, pointy towers and gold-leaf detailing. That glamorous main staircase? Yup, it served as the backdrop to the Spice Girls' breakthrough video, *Wannabe*. Rooms, and especially suites, are generously proportioned with lancet windows gazing imperiously over central London, or the platforms of its namesake station. The old ticket office - get this - is now Booking Office 1869, a sumptuous drinking and dining space dishing up oysters by the dozen and tongue-in-cheek Yorkshire charcuterie. Take tea at The Hansom, lobster bisque and duck leg sausage at the Midland Grand, or hors d'oeuvres and posh fizz in the Chambers Club. It's the place to be if you're just off the train and really, really want to go to town.





“IMPECCABLY FINISHED... IT’S ALL ABOUT SQUEEZING THE MAXIMUM SENSORY PLEASURE OUT OF EACH DELICIOUS MOMENT”



## THE HARI, LONDON

### THE ONE FOR *high style*

IF YOU'RE SETTING out to woo the design lover in your life then rest assured you'll blow them away at this beautiful Belgravia bolthole. Impeccably finished in colourful tactile fabrics, quality woods and chrome, with a profusion of tumbling foliage, mossy houseplants and popping pink orchids, it's all about squeezing the maximum sensory pleasure out of each delicious moment. And that's before we've got to the restaurant.

Italian chef Angelo Albera rules the roost at Il Pampero, doling out mouthwatering morsels like saffron risotto with a quail ragu and a squid-ink ravioli, followed by a legendary tableside tiramasu. The mezzanine bar is all mood lighting and light bites, with Banksy-inspired artworks, and rooms are just the right side of saucy, with decadent marble bathtubs and complimentary minibars. Chin-chin!





Heretic star Hugh Grant appeared in 1988 horror film *The Lair of the White Worm* very early in his career.

## Sister surprise

Hugh Grant has only latterly received due credit for his acting chops while playing against type. In large part we might credit director Paul King, who cast the English star as duplicitous actor Phoenix Buchanan in 2017's wonderful *Paddington 2*, followed by an unexpected appearance as Oompa-Loompa Lofty in *Wonka*. Now Grant gets to menace two missionary women in Scott Beck and Bryan Woods' *Heretic*.

© WATCH HERETIC

### 65-71// Movies

Here opens up the debate on AI, Paul Mescal and Pedro Pascal cross swords in *Gladiator II*, and Pharrell Williams is the new block kid in *Piece by Piece*.

### 73-77// Television

How Cirque du Soleil managed a Covid high-wire act in *Without a Net*, plus Eddie Redmayne and Lashana Lynch style it out in *Day of the Jackal*.





**79-82 // Audio**

Chvrches' Lauren Mayberry takes a break from touring to tell us about her new solo album, while saxophonist Mike Casey talks *Valencia*.



**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 March.

A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

# WHAT'S ON

MARCH

# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

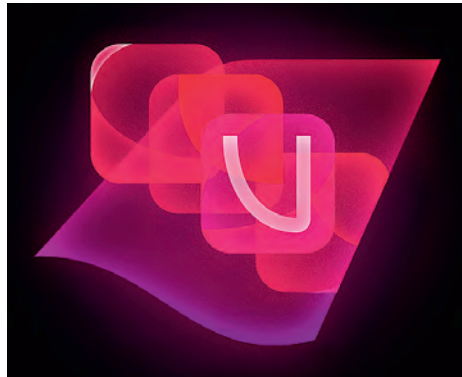
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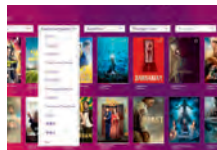
- Select an album from Music, a TV show from TV or a movie from Movies.
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- ⚠ Unsuitable for children
- ♥ Vera Loves

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# MOVIES

CUTTING-EDGE CINEMA

## FACE TIME

AI can make movie stars immortal. But should it?



**THE ACTOR**  
Meena Rayann is a London-

based actor who has appeared in *Game of Thrones*, *Silent Witness* and *Warrior Nun*

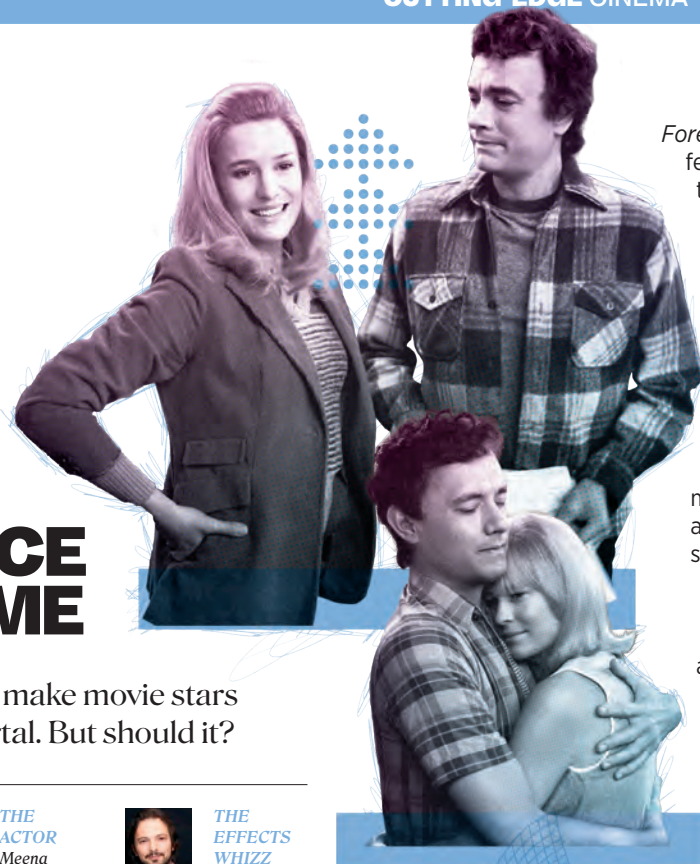


**THE EFFECTS WHIZZ**  
Olcun Tan is an LA-based

Academy member, who has worked on several *Marvel* films as well as *The Revenant*

► **NEW ROBERT ZEMECKIS** flick *Here* makes extensive use of AI face-swapping technology to de-age Tom Hanks – who, for his part, has suggested he wouldn't mind using similar tech to continue starring in movies after his death. We asked an effects wizard and an actor for their hot takes.

**Meena Rayann, actor:** When Chadwick Boseman died, they tastefully staged a funeral for his character in *Black Panther: Wakanda*



*Forever*. Keeping actors alive with AI feels more about maximising profit than telling a story, to me anyway.

**Olcun Tan, FX whizz:** One positive is it can help young creatives who know their trade produce more. In future, everybody using this tool can be like a head chef, doing higher-order creativity without spending ages learning to cut onions.

**MR:** I think all chefs should learn to cut onions first! During my career, slowly learning my craft and training constantly, I've had several epiphanies that have made me into a far better actor.

**OT:** I get it. The technology we've created is cool, but certainly also a little worrisome. Quality training will always be needed, to prompt the best results. I see how resurrecting Tom Hanks blocks potential for new actors.

**MR:** Not just actors, but people in editing, grading, post-production – all the jobs! We all need to fight to be respected. I once tried using

AI to prepare for an audition, it wasn't nearly as good as doing it myself.

**OT:** With AI coming for creative jobs, the attitude must be either ride the bull, or be trampled by the bull. Human creativity will thrive, so long as we're motivated and persistent, and go to work with heart.

“  
**I THINK THE ATTITUDE SHOULD BE EITHER RIDE THE BULL, OR BE TRAMPLED BY THE BULL**”



📺 WATCH HERE

HOT RIGHT NOW



**Gladiator II** ♥

15

Paul Mescal, Pedro Pascal	148 mins
------------------------------	----------

► **ICONIC DIRECTOR RIDLEY SCOTT RETURNS TO ANCIENT ROME** for this thrilling sequel alive with intrigue, bloodshed and spectacle. Paul Mescal stars as Lucius, who's thrust into the brutal world of gladiatorial combat after his home is seized by ruthless emperors. Meanwhile, joining the cast is Denzel Washington, whose mere presence adds gravitas and intensity to an already epic tale. Factor in its stunning battle sequences and gripping narrative, and you have a movie that explores the legacy of the original while forging its own identity as a bold, action-packed drama. For sure it takes some tonal shifts from its predecessor, but this is a lesson in how to follow up a classic.



**HERETIC** ♥

15

Hugh Grant, Chloe East	111 mins
---------------------------	----------

Hugh Grant tops a run of great turns with this tour de force performance as a creepy bloke playing host to two Mormon missionary girls. What happens next? As if we're going to spoil one of the best horror films of recent years. *See right*



**THE RETURN** ♥

!

Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche	116 mins
------------------------------------	----------

Let's face it, Fiennes as Odysseus is enough to sell this movie by itself. Chuck him into a story where the ageing hero goes home to find his wife a prisoner and his son facing death, and you have all the ingredients for absorbing, epic action. *See overleaf*



**HERE**

12

Tom Hanks, Robin Wright	104 mins
----------------------------	----------

Robert Zemeckis reunites with his *Forrest Gump* and *Cast Away* star Tom Hanks for this time-hopping tale based on the graphic novel by Richard McGuire. Its use of de-ageing technology to follow generations of lives makes it a visual marvel. *See opener*



**BIRD** ♥

15

Nykiya Adams, Barry Keoghan	119 mins
--------------------------------	----------

A mysterious stranger (Franz Rogowski) shakes up a young girl's life in Kent in this latest from the brilliant Andrea Arnold. Keoghan is another standout in a gem that blends gritty realism with magical touches, and wowed the judges at Cannes.



**PIECE BY PIECE**

!

Pharrell Williams, Snoop Dogg	93 mins
----------------------------------	---------

Something a bit – make that very – different here with this Lego-animated documentary charting Pharrell Williams' rise to global musical and fashion icon. Like nothing you've seen, it's a unique mix of humour, music and whimsy, in a bold and inventive biographical odyssey.



# Gosh!!

## Five fun facts about Hugh Grant



### 1 He really is posh

Hugh John Mungo Grant wasn't hugely well-off as a lad, but he is nonetheless said to be a descendant of England's King Henry VIII.

### 2 He's an art collector

Following a "drunken" dinner with his dad, Grant bought a Warhol painting of Elizabeth Taylor for £2 million.



### 3 He's faked being his own agent

By having a fake email account and a throwaway name, Grant has set up deals with filmmakers – "saving a fortune".

### 4 He's still close to Liz Hurley

His longstanding ex-girlfriend still looms large in Grant's life. In fact, they serve as each other's kids' godparent.



### 5 His kids can't act

Having seen them in various school plays, Grant says his kids "luckily display no talent", which is fine. Why? "I've never met a happy actor."

WATCH HERETIC

VERA LISTINGS: ANDREW HOLMES WORDS: ANDY HILL

## SCARY STUFF



## Speak No Evil

15

James McAvoy, Scoot McNairy

110 mins

► **THE LESS YOU KNOW GOING IN, THE BETTER** – THIS SLOW-BURNING psychological horror is all the more effective when it catches you off guard. Directed by James Watkins, *Speak No Evil* follows an American family who accept an invitation to visit a British couple they befriended on holiday. What begins as a seemingly innocent reunion quickly turns unsettling, especially when Paddy (James McAvoy) reveals the true depths of his charm and menace, while Mackenzie Davis and Scoot McNairy play the increasingly uneasy guests. What emerges is equal parts suspenseful and horrifying, a chilling exploration of human nature and social niceties that will stay with you long after the credits roll.



### APARTMENT 7A

15

Julia Garner, Diane Wiest

104 mins

This prequel to 1968 horror classic *Rosemary's Baby* goes full-on bleak as a young dancer (Garner, superb) moves into a building harbouring dark secrets. A claustrophobic atmosphere of unrelenting tension keeps you guessing until a final, terrifying reveal.



### HELLBOY: THE CROOKED MAN

15

Jack Kesey, Jefferson White

99 mins

The 1950s Appalachians hide a dark secret in this franchise reboot, with Kesey donning the famous red horns to do battle with a cursed community tormented by witches and a demon. Think folk horror, cooked up the *Hellboy* way.

ANIMATION MAGIC



**Memoir of a Snail** ❤️

15

Sarah Snook, Eric Bana	95 mins
---------------------------	---------

► **STOP-MOTION MAESTRO ADAM ELLIOT RETURNS WITH A WRY AND** slightly surreal tragicomedy that delves into the quirky life of the brilliantly named youngster Grace Pudel. Voiced by Sarah Snook, Grace is a melancholic misfit with a passion for hoarding ornamental snails, guinea pigs and romance novels. Her quiet, peculiar existence is upended by the mysterious absence of her twin brother, Percy (Dominique Pinon), which in turn sparks a deeply emotional and darkly funny journey of self-discovery. The signature stop-motion style of auteur (and Oscar-winner) Elliot brings an odd, tactile charm to Grace's world, while the narrative poignantly explores themes of loneliness, grief and resilience.

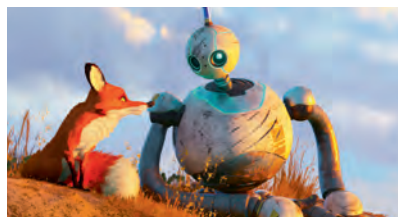


**MOANA 2**

U

Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson	100 mins
------------------------------------	----------

*Moana 2* brings our wayfinding queen and Maui back for another oceanic escapade. New curses, ancient secrets and a crew that includes Moana's toddler sister – it's adventure meets chaos with killer tunes



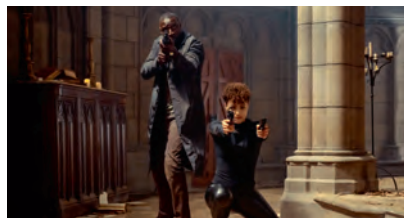
**THE WILD ROBOT** ❤️

U

Lupita Nyong'o, Pedro Pascal	102 mins
---------------------------------	----------

This wonderful sci-fi animation has a heart-melting message, as service robot Roz finds herself stranded alone on an island. Adapting to her surroundings, she adopts an orphaned goose.

CRIME TIME



**THE KILLER**

15

Nathalie Emmanuel, Omar Sy	125 mins
-------------------------------	----------

Hong Kong movie icon John Woo remakes his own 1989 classic here, with *Game of Thrones'* Emmanuel in the title role. Rest assured, the legendary Woo action-movie touch remains the same.



**NICKEL BOYS** ❤️

12

Ethan Herisse, Brandon Wilson	140 mins
----------------------------------	----------

It's rare to see a movie shown from the first-person POV, but *Nickel Boys* is just that. It's set in a brutal 1960s Florida reform school, where Elwood (Herisse) and Turner (Wilson) fight for survival.



**JUROR #2**

12

Nicholas Hoult, Toni Collette	113 mins
----------------------------------	----------

Well into his nineties, Clint Eastwood is still directing superb drama. This one stars Hoult as a juror in a murder trial hiding his own connection to the case. What follows is a proper nail-biter.



MAD LOVE



GIRLS WILL BE GIRLS

15

Preeti Panigrahi, Kesav Binoy Kiron | 118 mins

Rebellion, desire and a Himalayan boarding school – this romantic drama dives into messy mother-daughter dynamics and sexual awakenings to reveal a sharp, tender coming-of-age story.



WE LIVE IN TIME

15

Florence Pugh, Andrew Garfield | 108 mins

This one's a tear-jerker, with Garfield and Pugh dazzling in a decade-spanning romance that explores love, loss and fate's quiet interventions. Funny, sad and insightful, it's an absolute gem.



Anora

18

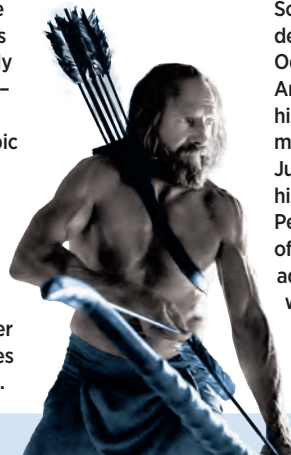
Mikey Madison, Mark Eydelshteyn | 139 mins

► ROMANCE, COMEDY AND DRAMA COLLIDE IN SEAN BAKER'S BOLD, stylish and occasionally near-the-knuckle *Anora* – a modern-day anti-fairy tale with a racy twist. Mikey Madison drops a star-making performance as Ani, a young Brooklyn escort who finds herself swept off her feet by Vanya Zakharov (Mark Eydelshteyn), the charming son of a Russian oligarch. Their whirlwind romance leads to an impulsive marriage, much to the fury of Vanya's disapproving parents, which in turn sets the stage for a riotous clash of worlds. With its vibrant characters, sharp humour and emotional depth, this is the kind of ace storytelling that stays with you.

All Greek to me Is *The Return* faithful to the *Odyssey*?

**Homer back on the big screen?** Woohoo! But if you're hankering after Homer Simpson, bad luck. *The Odyssey* is an 8th-century BC poem, by a very different Homer, retold in part by director Uberto Pasolini in *The Return*.

**D'oh! Is it true to the poem?** The film only covers the – admittedly still crazy long – closing bits of the Homeric epic where Ralph Fiennes as washed-up hero Odysseus and buffer than you've ever seen him, comes home to Ithaca.



**What's the same?** Some adorable details, like Odysseus's dog Argos recognising his worse-for-wear master and Juliette Binoche as his patient missus Penelope fending off the lusty advances of wannabe suitors.

**How does it mainly differ?** In the interests of brevity, *The Return* glosses over the gods, for instance Athena, goddess of love. There's also nothing, not even a cameo, for the Cyclops – one in the eye for classical purists.

WATCH THE RETURN

THE FUNNIES



Sweethearts

15

Kiernan Shipka,  
Nico Hiraga

97 mins

► **A SHARP, FUNNY COLLEGE ROMCOM WITH SHADES OF BOOKSMART.** *Sweethearts* follows Jamie (Kiernan Shipka) and Ben (Nico Hiraga), two inseparable besties navigating the chaos of young adulthood. Their latest wheeze is to dump their high school sweethearts during “Drunksgiving”, the raucous night-before-Thanksgiving tradition in their home town. But, as you might guess, their plan to cut ties and move on doesn’t exactly go smoothly. Directed by Jordan Weiss in her feature debut, the film balances laugh-out-loud moments with a surprising amount of heart, as Jamie and Ben’s friendship is tested by their attempts to grow as individuals. With witty dialogue, relatable characters and a touch of *When Harry Met Sally* vibes, *Sweethearts* has won praise for its fresh take on the challenges of friendship and romance in the transition to college life.



MY OLD ASS

15

Maisy Stella,  
Aubrey Plaza

89 mins

Quirky comedy-drama in the time-travel/body-swap field in which young Elliott (Stella) meets an older version of herself (Plaza). Turns out the older Elliott has a few lessons she wants to impart regarding life, family and, of course, romance.



GOODRICH

!

Michael Keaton,  
Mila Kunis

111 mins

Heartwarming drama, with Keaton superb as Andy, whose life is upended when his wife enters rehab. Left alone with their young kids, he leans on his daughter from his first marriage (Kunis) and finds himself on a steep learning curve.

Movie quiz  
Take on our  
featured films

1 //

The studios behind the animation on *Piece by Piece* have previously recreated the style of the original Lego films on an episode of which long-running classic sitcom?

2 //

Which actor links *Salem's Lot* with three other Stephen King film adaptations: *The Shawshank Redemption*, *The Green Mile* and *The Mist*?

3 //

The lead singer of which English indie duo appears in Andrea Arnold's *Bird* soon after the band's track *Jolly F'cker* airs in the film?

4 //

Psychological drama *Speak No Evil* is the latest from director James Watkins, who is known for writing and directing which two movies credited by some with putting horror back on the map?

5 //

Cult director John Woo has revisited his classic *The Killer* 25 years on with Nathalie Emmanuel in the lead role created by which Hong Kong-born icon?

● Answers on the right



ANSWERS: 1 THE SIMPSONS • EPISODE BRICK LIKE ME (2014) 2 WILLIAM SADLER (DARRINS GILLESPIE) 3 SLEAFORD MOTTS • JASON WILLIAMSON 4 EDEN LAKE AND THE WOMAN IN BLACK (2012) 5 CHOW YUN-FAT • PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



# OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS\*

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

## NEW RELEASES

### A-C

- Across the River and into the Trees
- Am I OK?
- Anora
- Anyone But You
- Apartment 7A
- The Apprentice
- Bad Boys: Ride or Die
- Beetlejuice Beetlejuice
- The Bikeriders
- Bird



- **Blink Twice**
- Boy Kills World
- Civil War
- Conclave
- The Critic

### D-H

- Daddio
- Dandelion
- Deadpool & Wolverine
- Dead Talents Society
- Despicable Me 4
- A Different Man
- Dream Scenario
- Drift
- The Exorcist: Believer
- Firebrand
- Fly Me to the Moon
- Fresh Kills
- The Garfield Movie
- Gasoline Rainbow
- Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire

- Girl You Know It's True
- Gladiator II
- Goodrich
- Grey Matter
- Harold and the Purple Crayon
- Hellboy: The Crooked Man
- Here
- Heretic
- Hit Man

### I-L

- I'll Be Right There
- Inside Out 2
- I Saw the TV Glow
- It Ends with Us
- I Used to Be Funny
- Janet Planet



- **Joker: Folie à Deux**
- Juror #2
- Kensuke's Kingdom
- The Killer
- Kneecap
- Kraven the Hunter
- Laroy, Texas
- Lee
- Lisa Frankenstein
- Little Bone Lodge
- Longlegs

### M-Q

- MaXXXine
- Memoir of a Snail
- Midas Man
- Moana 2
- My Old Ass
- My Spy: Eternal City
- Napoleon

- Nickel Boys
- One Fast Move



- **The Outrun**
- Ozi: Voice of the Forest
- Piece by Piece
- Pinkfong and Baby Shark's Space Adventure
- The Present

### R-V

- Reverse the Curse
- The Return
- Rob Peace
- Salem's Lot
- Saturday Night
- The Silent Hour
- Sing Sing



- **Smile 2**
- Someone Like You
- Space Cadet
- Speak No Evil
- Starve Acre
- Storm Chasers
- Stange Darling



- **The Substance**
- Summer Camp
- Sweethearts
- Tarot
- Thelma

- Transformers One
- Trap
- Tuesday
- Twisters
- Unicorns
- Unsung Hero



- **Venom: The Last Dance**

### W-Z

- The Wasp
- The Watched
- We Grown Now
- We Live in Time
- White Bird: A Wonder Story
- The Wild Robot
- Wolfs



- **Woman of the Hour**
- Young Woman and the Sea
- 1992

### VERA CLASSICS

- Argo
- Arthur
- Batman
- Beetlejuice
- Chef
- The Damned United
- The Devil Wears Prada
- The Duchess
- Dunkirk
- Edge of Tomorrow
- Forrest Gump

- Freaky Friday
- The Hangover
- Horrible Bosses
- The Iron Lady
- I, Tonya
- Moneyball (2011)
- Practical Magic
- The Queen
- Saving Private Ryan
- Selma
- The Social Network
- A Star is Born (1976)
- Star Trek
- Superman
- Warrior

### INTERNATIONAL

- The Count of Monte Cristo
- Crossing
- Emilia Pérez
- Girls Will Be Girls
- KINGDOM: Return of the Great General
- Shayda
- When Fall is Coming
- YOLO



- **37: L'Ombre et la proie**

### INDIAN

- Article 370
- Bachelor Party
- Dhak Dhak
- Fighter
- Garudan
- Ghoomer
- Gulmohar
- Joram
- Kaagaz 2

- Kill
- Main Atal Hoon
- Naguvina Hoogala Mele
- Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe
- Patna Shukla
- Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani
- Sajini Shinde Ka Viral Video
- Sam Bahadur
- Shaitaan
- Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai
- Tarla
- Yaariyan 2
- Zara Hatke Zara Bachke

### NIGERIAN

- Aburo
- Alakada Bad & Boujee
- American Japa
- Farmer's Bride
- A Ghetto Love Story
- Last Call
- The Weekend
- What About Us?
- When the Poor Smile
- Wrong Number

### SHORT FILMS

- Favourites
- Favours
- Meat Puppet
- The Therapist

\* Not all content available on our A339/A350 aircraft

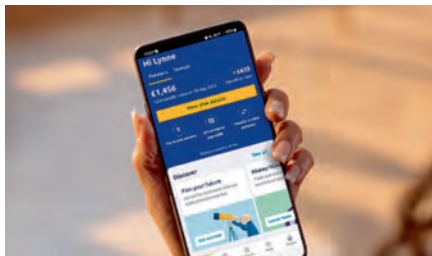
# IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER

Combining your pensions could save you money and hassle

**IN THE 10 YEARS SINCE THE** introduction of auto-enrolment, over 10 million people in the UK have started saving with workplace pension plans. Obviously this is brilliant – more people putting aside money for retirement is a step in the right direction. But if you're like the average Brit and switch jobs every five years or so, it can lead to a confusing situation where multiple pension pots are scattered in different places.

## Come together

This is where pension consolidation comes in. Savvy savers are already slimming the admin burden of maintaining multiple pots, cutting down on paperwork by bringing their pensions together into one pot. Pension consolidation could reduce the charges



## EASY AS 1-2-3

CONSOLIDATION IS SIMPLE WITH STANDARD LIFE

**1**

Visit **Standard Life's pension transfer page** via the QR code.

**2**

Fill in some quick info about your **current pension arrangements**.

**3**

**Standard Life will do the hard work, and can find pots you've overlooked, for free.**

you pay. Consolidating your pensions can offer a clearer view of your pension plans, simplifying future planning by having it all in one place. As with all investments, money invested is at risk.

## Right for you?

It's vital to check you're not losing any special benefits or guarantees an existing pension might have – typically this is more true of older schemes than newer plans. It's vital to compare charges, see if there's any changes to your investment options, and know about any exit fees. If you think combining your pension plans is right for you, why not bring them together into one pension plan? The good news is Standard Life, a leading provider with almost 200 years of experience, can help you out with this. If you're not sure where all your pension pots are, Standard Life's pension finding service can find them for you, for free. Plus you can access all your pension pots in one place, through one intuitive app. So you can plan for a brighter future, today.





WHAT'S ON

# TELEVISION

MARCH

THE GREATEST SHOWS ON EARTH

► **ROLL UP, ROLL UP** for new documentary *Cirque du Soleil: Without a Net* – a film that shows just how skilfully the world-famous, high-budget Montreal-based circus navigated the financial highwire act of the Covid-19 pandemic, juggling massive layoffs with a need to keep the show on the road. We've pulled back the curtain on just what an extraordinary outfit it is behind the scenes...

### Balancing act

When Covid struck, Cirque had to furlough **95%** of its **5,000** strong workforce.



### Greatest showman

Colourful founder Guy Laliberté (*above*) – accordionist, fire-eater and semi-professional poker player – started Cirque in 1984 and spent **\$35 million** to be the first Canadian private citizen in space.

### Clowning glory

Over the years, **77** Olympians have worked for Cirque du Soleil.



## RING MASTERS

The mind-blowing scale of **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL**

“**CIRQUE JUGGLED MASSIVE LAYOFFS WITH A NEED TO KEEP THE SHOW ON THE ROAD**”

### Top earners

Cirque routinely pulls in **\$1 billion** of revenue a year.

### Just the ticket

More than **215 million** people in **70** countries have seen a Cirque show.

### Big shoes

Some **300** people work full-time in the costume department.



### Quiet confidence

Cirque is believed to be the world's biggest employer of mimes (like Julien Cottureau, *above*) – though sources remain tight-lipped.

© WATCH CIRQUE DU SOLEIL - WITHOUT A NET

MUST WATCH



Day of the Jackal ♥

15

Box set	Up to 61 mins
---------	---------------

► **THIS SLEEK REIMAGINING OF FREDERICK FORSYTH'S NOVEL** takes a classic and updates it, delivering a gripping blend of tension and globetrotting intrigue. Eddie Redmayne stars as the titular wild dog, a hitman whose latest job puts him squarely in the crosshairs of MI6 agent Bianca Pullman (an outstanding Lashana Lynch). As their high-stakes game of cat and mouse unfolds across Europe, the narrative explores modern geopolitical tensions while staying true to the novel's edge-of-seat storytelling. Make no mistake, this a thriller for grown-ups, which emerges as one of the best series of the last 12 months – and we have all of series one onboard.



UNTIL I KILL YOU ♥

!

Crime & thrillers	45 mins
-------------------	---------

Based on a true story, this gripping drama stars Anna Maxwell Martin as Delia, a nurse whose path crosses with that of serial killer John Sweeney (played with unsettling intensity by Shaun Evans). What follows is a haunting exploration of trauma, survival and justice. Onboard are all four episodes.



CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: WITHOUT A NET ♥

12

Culture	98 mins
---------	---------

A dazzling behind-the-scenes look at Cirque du Soleil's fight to revive their flagship show post-pandemic, this documentary captures the resilience of performers striving – and succeeding, gloriously – to reclaim their magic in turbulent times. See *opener*



BLOODY LUCKY DAY ♥

!

Crime & thrillers	60 mins
-------------------	---------

Yikes. A taxi ride turns into a nightmare when a driver unwittingly picks up a serial killer in this tense South Korean thriller series. Think a gripping cross between *The Hitcher* and *Collateral*, and you're there. It's based on a "webtoon".



ASIA ♥

Our world	50 mins
-----------	---------

Nature series *Asia* – hosted by Sir David Attenborough – is a visual feast, delving into the continent's extremes to reveal the wildlife, people and cultures that make it so fascinating. A reminder of just how wild and wonderful our world can be. See *overleaf*



LARGER THAN LIFE: REIGN OF THE BOYBANDS ♥

Music	95 mins
-------	---------

Get ready to be transported back in time with this documentary on boyband mania. Diving into the rise of iconic groups such as NSYNC and Backstreet Boys, it blends nostalgia with incisive cultural insight into the 1990s' boyband phenomenon.



# Rockstar

## Chris Rock's best one-liners

**On race**  
 "Black History Month is in the shortest month of the year and the coldest - just in case we want to have a parade"



**On fame**  
 "You're not famous unless people's mothers know who you are"



**On mindfulness**  
 "Why do yoga? To clear your mind? I embrace the clutter in my head"

**On love**  
 "A man is only as faithful as his options"



**On marriage**  
 "Marriage is so tough, Nelson Mandela got a divorce"

**On performance**  
 "Comedy is the blues for people who can't sing"



**On health**  
 "Most people don't realise this, but you can eat organic, all natural, gluten-free food without telling everyone around you"

WATCH EVERYBODY STILL HATES CHRIS

### ALL THE DRAMA



## Showtrial ♥

15

Box set

56 mins

► **SEASON TWO OF SHOWTRIAL RETURNS WITH A GRIPPING NEW CASE** that unpicks weighty themes of justice, power and public perception – and is a total nail-biter. This time around, the story concerns the hit-and-run death of climate activist Marcus Calderwood, who with his dying breath identifies his attacker – a serving police officer. The tense trial that ensues puts PC Justin Mitchell (Michael Socha) under scrutiny, while defence solicitor Sam Malik (Adeel Akhtar) and prosecutor Leila Hassoun-Kenny (Nathalie Armin) must battle it out in court. As the case unfolds, the series explores cultural divisions, police accountability and the media frenzy surrounding such high-profile trials. Series two plays onboard.



## SEAL TEAM ♥

15

Drama

Up to 55 mins

A mix of gripping action and surprising emotional depth, *SEAL Team* introduces us to the elite BRAVO Navy Seals, led by Jason Hayes (David Boreanaz), who tackle dangerous global missions and grapple with the mental toll of their high-stakes profession.



## MIDSOMER MURDERS ♥

15

Box set

120 mins

Right now, there's a bit of trend for what they call "cosy" murder-mysteries (we're looking at you, Richard Osman) and right onbrand is this long-running detective show set in villages dotted around the fictional county of Midsomer – a decidedly dangerous place to live. This is series 21.

CELEBRITY TRAVELOGUES



**Sue Perkins: Into Alaska** ❤️

Our world	60 mins
-----------	---------

► **TALK ABOUT A FREEZE-FRAME. IN THIS ADVENTUROUS THREE-PART** series, funnywoman Sue Perkins dives headfirst into Alaska's untamed wilderness, experiencing the breathtaking and often brutal beauty of America's last frontier. Along the way, she meets the locals – a characterful bunch, to say the least. From self-sufficient homesteaders to doomsday preppers, they all have one thing in common, which is their ability, nay willingness, to embrace life at the extremes. As for our host, she braves bear survival training, and even takes on dog mushing and gold panning. Battling the weather and her own discomfort, Sue uncovers the challenges and joys of living in such a remote, unforgiving landscape.



**PATRICK ARYEE'S WILD WORLD**

Our world	60 mins
-----------	---------

In this series, charismatic biologist Patrick Aryee sets off on a global journey to uncover the hidden connections in nature. Aryee joins local activists and researchers to reveal how all life is intertwined.



**PAUL O'GRADY'S GREAT ELEPHANT ADVENTURE**

Our world	52 mins
-----------	---------

Filmed shortly before his passing, this two-part documentary finds Paul touring elephant rescue centres in Thailand and Laos. His deep affection for these majestic yet endangered creatures shines through.

BIG LAUGHS



**BRASSIC** ❤️

15

Box set	Up to 48 mins
---------	---------------

*Brassic* is a sitcom centring around grifters in Lancashire. As the seasons have worn on (we've got the whole of series six onboard), they've started to dream of a life away from home.



**EVERYBODY STILL HATES CHRIS** ⚠️

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

*Everybody Still Hates Chris* picks up where its predecessor left off, revisiting the humour of growing up in 1980s Brooklyn but it's now animated. It's narrated by Chris Rock himself. See *previous page*



**BOOKIE** ⚠️

Box set	Up to 27 mins
---------	---------------

Sharp humour and tension collide in this fast-paced comedy following veteran bookie Danny, whose world is turned upside down when sports gambling goes legit. We're showing all of series one.



SPORTING LIFE



THE EVOLUTION OF SPORTS

Sports	20 mins
--------	---------

This documentary series examines how sports are constantly evolving – from game-changing tech to athlete branding and the rise of women’s sports. We have episodes covering golf and tennis.



FOOTBALL’S GREATEST STAGE

Sports	30 mins
--------	---------

Series chronicling the history of the FIFA World Cup, showcasing unforgettable moments, legendary players and the global impact of football’s ultimate tournament.



Freediver

Sports	120 mins
--------	----------

► **THIS ACCLAIMED - AND QUITE LITERALLY BREATHTAKING - DOCUMENTARY** dives into the extraordinary world of Alexey Molchanov, one of the greatest freedivers of our time. A gobsmacking chronicle of his various record-breaking attempts, the film offers a look at this extreme sport, and the mental and physical fortitude it demands. At the same time, it acts as a deeply personal tribute to his late mother, Natalia Molchanova, a freediving legend herself, whose influence and tragic disappearance underpin Alexey’s journey. The fact that she disappeared while on a dive adds to a sense of danger, which along with an atmosphere of serene yet perilous beauty, adds to what is a testament to human endurance and resilience.

Beasts from the East  
Cool critters in Asia



**Purple frog**  
This elusive amphibian has mere hours to lay its eggs as the monsoon descends, before it has to hop it underground for another year.



**Snow leopard**  
For two of these reclusive and usually painfully shy fuzzballs, love is very much in the air. Around 4,000m above sea level, to be exact.



**Mudskipper**  
These blobby, enterprising and peculiarly adorable chancers lend whole new meaning to the old cliché about “a fish out of water”.



**Red Panda**  
You might sneakily wonder if they’re technically pandas at all, but Sir David Attenborough says they are. So wind your neck in.



**Pistol shrimp**  
When this pint-size nightmare snaps its claws, it creates a bubble that stuns prey with a shock wave, flash of light and an almighty bang.

# Share the Magic



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# WHAT'S ON

# AUDIO

MARCH

THE RHYTHM DIVINE

## NORTH STAR

Robin Murray catches up with stellar talent

LAUREN MAYBERRY

► **THE LEAD SINGER** of Glasgow synth-pop stalwarts Chvrches Lauren Mayberry has gone it alone on debut solo album *Vicious Creature* – and gives *Vera* the lowdown on overcoming her self-doubt and finding profundity via the medium of pop.

**The new album is a blinder. You must be chuffed.**  
I didn't really know what to expect. I just wanted to prove to myself that I could do this on my own.

**Creatively, you must have felt very exposed?**  
It pushed me as a writer and it's taught me a lot about what I actually bring to the table. I'm good at gut reactions. I'm good at finding the authentic centre.

**How productive were those solo sessions?**  
I wrote 40, 50 songs for this record. And I'm glad I did, because it was part of the search for what the answer could be. The record isn't

the complete answer – it's posing the question.

**Your song *Oh, Mother* is outstanding.**

It's kind of a country song, in terms of the way the lyric goes. I wanted to be more personal and direct on this record. I wanted my own experiences to be in the centre.

**You started out as a drummer – ever tempted to get back behind the kit?**

The way I write is rhythm-based and melody-based, and how the two interact. Writing this record, I'd punch out the beats and we'd work from there – and I think that's quite healthy.

**“ I WANTED VICIOUS CREATURE TO BE THIS THEATRICAL, CHARACTER-DRIVEN THING ”**

**The record is punchy.**  
I wanted it to feel like a good mixtape, to feel fun. I wanted it to be this theatrical, character-driven thing – like an Annie Lennox or Grace Jones record.

**You've been touring for more than a decade now – any neat travel tips?**  
Always take an eye mask – and eating in the new time zone as soon as you get on the flight.

🎧 LISTEN TO VICIOUS CREATURE

FRESH SOUNDS



**Kendrick Lamar** ❤️



GNX  
HIP HOP

➤ **WHAT IS LEFT TO SAY ABOUT KENDRICK LAMAR? THE CALIFORNIAN** has carved a reputation as possibly the most influential voice in hip hop – and among the most inspirational artists in all of modern music – winning a Pulitzer Prize in the process. His albums are not just good, but push boundaries. This latest – his sixth – is no exception. *GNX* is a compact yet electrifying project filled with velocity, power and reflection. Drawing inspiration from an iconic car (the Buick Regal, apparently), the album's dynamic production shifts between lush, cinematic textures and stripped-down beats.



**WICKED CAST** ❤️

*Wicked: The Soundtrack*  
SOUNDTRACK

The soundtrack to the movie version of the Broadway musical features dazzling performances from Ariana Grande – and breakout star Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba.



**POPPY AJUDHA** ❤️



*Poppy*  
POP

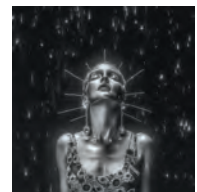
Poppy Ajudha dives deep into identity and self-discovery on *Poppy*, blending jazz, neo-soul and R&B. The genre-fluid sound is as unique as her perspective.



**MICHAEL KIWANUKA** ❤️

*Small Changes*  
R&B & SOUL

Michael Kiwanuka returns with *Small Changes*, his first album in five years. A soulful blend of introspection and mellow grooves, it captures his signature warmth.



**LAUREN MAYBERRY** ❤️

*Vicious Creature*  
POP

Lauren Mayberry steps out solo, trading Chvrches' synth-pop sheen for punk grit and folk-inspired vulnerability. Her raw debut explores identity, resilience and reinvention.

**Not like us**  
Fun facts about Kendrick Lamar

**22**

Grammy Awards, including five for diss track Not Like Us



**Key to the city**  
Lamar was given the key to the city of Compton by Mayor Aja Brown

**His rider**  
Fruity Pebbles, Hennessy, polo socks



**\$111 MILLION**

Big Steppers tour gross

**Pulitzer Prize for Music**  
Lamar's album DAMN is the first hip hop record to win the coveted accolade



“Build your own pyramids, write your own hieroglyphs”

🎧 LISTEN TO GNX



PREMIUM POP



FLO ♡



Access All Areas  
R&B & SOUL

This new version of Flo's *Access All Areas* amps up their soulful harmonies and R&B energy with bonus tracks, reimagining an already scintillating debut. If you want to know why Flo are one of the most exciting voices in modern R&B, then start here.



KATY PERRY ⚠

1432  
POP

Katy Perry's *1432* takes her already pop-packed seventh studio album *143* to new heights with a handful of extra tunes. Bold hooks, playful energy and Perry's signature flair make this deluxe edition a cracking blend of reinvention and irresistible fun.

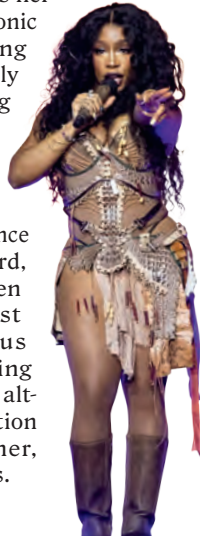
SZA



SOS Deluxe: Lana  
R&B & SOUL

HAVING CEMENTED HER PLACE

as a neo-soul powerhouse with her debut, *Ctrl*, SZA returns with *SOS*, an album that broadens her already impressive sonic palette while staying true to her emotionally raw storytelling roots. Featuring collaborations with Phoebe Bridgers, Travis Scott and a posthumous appearance from Ol' Dirty Bastard, this record is an even more eclectic beast than its illustrious predecessor, blending R&B, indie and even alt-pop. This deluxe edition takes things further, adding 15 new tracks.



COOL CLASSICAL

Jon Batiste ♡

Beethoven Blues  
CLASSICAL

ONE OF THE MOST DARING AND versatile artists of his generation, Jon Batiste doesn't do things by halves. Here he reimagines Beethoven, introducing classical standards such as *Für Elise* and *Moonlight Sonata* to the blues, gospel and jazz improvisation that formed much of his musical upbringing in Louisiana. In essence, he's bridging Beethoven's European formalism with the raw emotional depth of African American traditions, and though purists might grumble, more open-minded critics have praised him for stripping away Beethoven's mythical baggage and making the music feel alive.



VÍKINGUR OLAFSSON

Continuum  
CLASSICAL

The man described as a "breathtakingly brilliant pianist" by *Gramophone* reimagines sacred works by Bach with modern classical brilliance on this latest work. His interpretations represent his personal Bach diary, a dialogue with Bach's music, and are sublime.



VARIOUS

Future: Classical  
PLAYLIST

What happens when modern composers reinterpret the classical world? *Future: Classical* offers a mesmerising blend of cinematic, ambient and minimalist works from some of the biggest stars.



Rap sheet  
The slickest cuts from a new golden age of hip hop

1 //



ICE SPICE, Y2K!  
Y2K! I'm Just A Girl (Deluxe)

Ice Spice taps into early-2000s nostalgia with *Y2K! I'm Just a Girl (Deluxe)*, dropping sharp bars, slick beats and killer collabs. The potty-mouthed rapper brings her signature attitude to this expanded edition.

2 //



TYLER, THE CREATOR  
CHROMAKOPIA

Tyler, The Creator's eighth album is a kaleidoscopic swirl of hip hop, jazz and neo-soul, narrated by his mother, Bonita Smith. Framed as a sonic diary, it combines lush synths, soulful melodies and playfulness.

3 //



SNOOP DOGG, DR DRE  
Missionary (With Instrumentals)

Snoop Dogg and Dr Dre team up again for *Missionary (With Instrumentals)*, bringing back classic West Coast vibes with effortless swagger. Packed with slick beats, laid-back flows and Dre's pristine production.

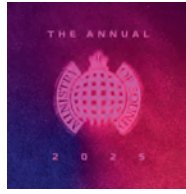
MOVE YOUR FEET



**ANYMA**

*Genesisys (I & II)*  
**DANCE & ELECTRONIC**

Anyma's *Genesisys* pushes techno futurism to new heights, blending ethereal melodies with post-human innovation. The Italian DJ-producer blurs the lines between human emotion and machine precision, crafting a hypnotic, dancefloor-ready odyssey.



**VARIOUS**

*The Annual 2025 - Ministry of Sound*  
**DANCE & ELECTRONIC**

Ministry of Sound's *The Annual 2025* compiles the latest top dance tracks, established floor-fillers to rising stars. Tracks include Belgian-Dutch DJ collab *Thank You (Not So Bad)* featuring singer Dido, DRiIIA's *My Lover's Mind* and *House* by London Grammar.



**JAZZY**

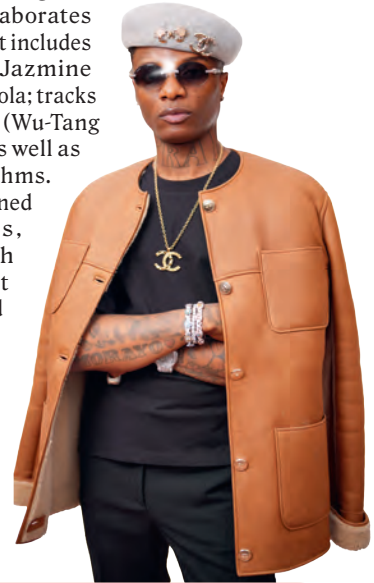
*No Bad Vibes*  
**POP**

Irish artist Jazzy radiates positivity, blending infectious dance beats with slick collaborations. This debut is a masterclass in feel-good energy, showcasing a knack for creating tracks that hit the sweet spot between chilled grooves and bangers. Pure joy.

**Wizkid** ❤️

*Morayo*  
**R&B & SOUL**

➤ **WIZKID'S SIXTH IS A DEEPLY PERSONAL TRIBUTE** to his late mum, Juliana Morayo Balogun, who passed away in 2023. Blending his signature Afrobeats sound with introspective R&B, the Nigerian singer-songwriter collaborates with a stellar line-up that includes Asake, Brent Faiyaz, Jazmine Sullivan, Anaïs and Tiakola; tracks feature soulful samples (Wu-Tang Clan, Gladys Knight) as well as Yoruba percussive rhythms. The whole thing has earned praise from critics, especially for its lush production and heartfelt themes. In short, Wizkid offers a poignant mix of personal reflection and vibrant musicality, solidifying his role as a global Afrobeats pioneer.



**Sax appeal**  
Mike Casey slides into our DMs

The saxophonist's jazz-adjacent new LP *Valencia* is a genre-hopping tour de force.



**Hi, Mike! How much of your new record is improvised?**  
I prefer the term "spontaneous composition". The improvisations are very intentional. With composition it's often one person, with spontaneous compositions it's more of a group effort.

**Why sax of all instruments?**  
I love the width of the sonic range possible with the saxophone. It has a tonal flexibility no other wind instrument has.

**You recorded at The City of Arts**

**and Sciences complex in Valencia, Spain. How did that impact the tunes?**  
Massively. I've always been inspired by and used architecture as a muse and concept. It's majestically avant-garde.

**How is your ADHD reflected in your art?**  
My chaotically diverse back catalogue - from dubstep to classical, via jazz - is a good example. I try to scratch every creative itch. And, for better or worse, my ADHD helps with the absolute devotion and sacrifice. The sheer amount of work required to express

myself emotionally, coherently, in a way that is artistic, and not theory-based.

**Universal Gratitude is a lovely track, what's the story there?**  
After going through some very tough times on a personal level, the year I set aside to make this album was, by contrast, one of the very best of my life. I felt so grateful for that experience I made a song, acknowledging where I was coming from and where I was going with my own inner self-work. It's meant to sound like triumph.

🎧 LISTEN TO VALENCIA





ANYWHERE ANYTIME.

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[FOPE.COM](https://fope.com)

# FOPE

## CAMBRIDGE AUDIO

The Alva ST turntable by Cambridge Audio carries the torch

of previous Bluetooth-compatible vinyl players by the venerable British audio brand and improves on them in several powerful ways. For instance, it's belt driven, instead of direct drive, for better audio performance. It's versatile, too – usable as part of a traditional hi-fi setup, or via Bluetooth connectivity to any number of modern devices or headphones. That means no unsightly connecting cables. It's also something of a looker – feast your eyes on that smooth aluminium and a neutral, lunar-grey finish that suits both classic and contemporary interiors. Ideal, if you're in the market for a turntable that will turn heads.



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

# WHAT'S HOT NOW



## AURA SKYPOOL PODCAST

The AURA Skypool Podcast, shot at the world's highest 360° infinity pool in Dubai, explores stories about reaching new heights. With inspiring guests like Dr Suaad Al Shamsi, the first female Emirati aerospace engineer, and Donna Benton, founder of The Entertainer app, this show is all about defying limits. Season two is coming soon, hosted by Kubi Springer.

● [auraskypool.com/podcast](http://auraskypool.com/podcast)



## BOADICEA THE VICTORIOUS

This luxury British fragrance house, named after the legendary warrior queen, makes mythic, mesmerising scents in gorgeous glass and pewter flacons. Like Opal, *left*, with rose, saffron and cedarwood. Loved for its longevity – with aromas that unfurl gracefully for up to 12 hours – Boadicea is your sensuous secret weapon.

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

WORDS: ANDY HILL

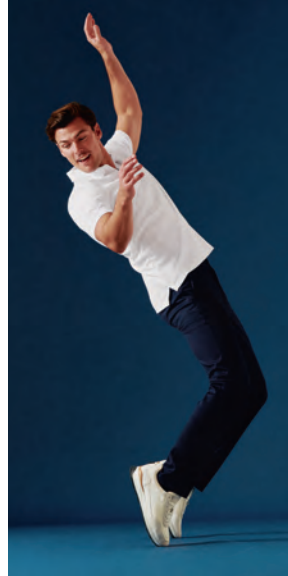




### **SIMPLEXITY TRAVEL**

Simplexity Travel is London's leading bespoke travel management company providing luxury services to corporate and leisure clients. Whether it's handling a complex business itinerary, locating a private island for a unique celebration or planning a captivating city break, we'll help you experience the world in style.

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



### **CHARLES TYRWHITT**

Stride into springtime in these handsome performance chinos, new from Charles Tyrwhitt. Slim-fitting and wrinkle-free in stretch fabric, these smart-casual staples look as dapper in the office as they do on the golf course. With moisture-wicking temperature-regulating properties, they've got you covered, whatever the weather.

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

# BUYS GUIDE

THE VERY BEST IN FASHION, SMART LIVING AND GREAT TASTING TREATS

### **LOVE COCOA**

Dazzle the one who matters most this Mother's Day with the latest toothsome wheeze from Love Cocoa, an ethical chocolate biz founded by James Cadbury, great-great-great grandson of the OG Mr Cadbury. Tippy truffles and creamy ganache infused with Marc de Champagne and raspberry puree, encased in white chocolate and hunks of raspberry. Go on – she's worth it.



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



### **IMPOSSIBREW**

Declared to be officially the UK's Best Non-Alcoholic Beer at the World Beer Awards, IMPOSSIBREW harnesses Social Blend tech to help drinkers unwind naturally, using nootropics and adaptogens. Developed with Dr Paul Chazot, professor of biosciences at Durham University, it's by beer lovers, for beer lovers.

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

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CUBITTS



# CREDITS

VIRGIN ATLANTIC NEWS AND VIEWS

## FIVE GREEN BOTTLES

Raise a glass to our most eco-friendly onboard tipples yet



► **REJOICE! MARCH IS B Corp Month.** “But what is a B Corp?” we hear you cry. It’s any company that meets the most rigorous standards of social and environmental performance. Joyously, a growing number of our onboard drinks brands meet this lofty standard – and here’s just a handful of our favourites.

**Mirabeau La Réserve Rosé**  
Crafted by Londoners Jeany and Stephen Cronk – who moved to Provence to make their organic and regenerative cuvée dream come true – this rosé is from one family committed to achieving a net-zero carbon footprint by 2050. Just like us!

### Two Drifters

This month, customers in Upper can try a cocktail with Two Drifters rum, a smooth drop with aromatic notes of vanilla, chai and cacao husks. The cacao husks are a byproduct of chocolate-making and would otherwise go to waste. Sweet!



### Three spirit

Cruelty-free yet luxuriously decadent, this modish tittle relies instead on the power of adaptogens, nootropics, herbs, distillates and ferments to create a floaty sensation without needing to resort to alcohol.



### Lucky Saint

Inspired by the hazy richness of wheat beer, Lucky Saint is a classic golden lager, brewed with spring water, Pilsner malt, Hallertau hops and classic yeast. Oh, and it just happens to be non-alcoholic. Saints preserve us.



### Sapling

This climate-positive, UK-based spirit brand plants trees for every bottle sold. And its vegan, gluten-free vodka comes in aluminium bottles, which are easy to recycle and lighter in order to reduce carbon. Cheers to that!





► **BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN RED REWARDS** Mastercard. We've teamed up with Virgin Red, Virgin Hotels and Virgin Voyages to create a game-changing credit card that pools the best of Virgin, turning the money you spend every day into Virgin Points so you can treat yourself to rewards. Like what? Like more flights, more island voyages and more poolside

drinks. Plus, if you spend US\$3,000 in your first 90 days – offer open to 31 March 2025 – you'll collect 60,000 Virgin Points as a Boarding Bonus\*. That's enough for two tickets to Europe and back this summer\*\*. So why not take the plunge?



● [virg.in/4hI9sTW](http://virg.in/4hI9sTW)

## Join the crew in... Cape Town

CABIN CREW QUEEN **CARLY J NAVIN** SHARES HER TOP TIPS FOR MAKING MEMORIES IN THE MOTHER CITY



Peace out! Carly living the high life in Cape Town

**1** //

With the pretty coastline on one side and towering Table Mountain on the other, the **Lion's Head hike** is well worth getting out of breath for.

**2** //

I adore animals, especially in their natural habitat. The penguins on **Boulders Beach** are gorgeous – and so used to attention you can hop in for a dip!

**3** //

I love **Cape Point Vineyard**, it's in a beautiful location at Noordhoek looking out over the Cape and toward the open sea – a little off the beaten track.

**TOP TIP**  
You must try at least once **bobotie, a traditional South African spiced minced meat casserole.**



Meet Virgin Atlantic's hotshot creative film manager **LEON TRIGG**



**The role**

I look after video production for Virgin Atlantic. This could be

producing the animated safety video you'll watch on this flight, working on TV ads, or filming and editing destination content to promote our routes.

**The lowdown**

Filming on our own aircraft is a fun challenge – getting access to them for long enough, with tight security, big crews and external lighting, is hard when the planes are so busy. I love getting lost in a city like LA with my camera – meeting, chatting to and filming real people.

**The buzz**

I work with an incredibly lovely and talented team of people, which makes every day a joy. At Virgin Atlantic we're encouraged to bring our authentic selves to work and let our personalities shine through our output. I love the creative process for what it is. But also seeing my work out in the world – like on a giant screen while passing through Waterloo station recently – is a huge thrill.

WORDS: ANDY HILL  
\*THE VIRGIN RED REWARDS MASTERCARD IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO APPLICANTS 18 OR OLDER WHO HAVE AN ADDRESS IN THE UNITED STATES. LIMIT ONE OFFER PER ACCOUNTHOLDER. WHEN YOU OPEN A VIRGIN RED REWARDS CARD 18/2/25 - 31/3/25 AND MAKE NET ELIGIBLE PURCHASES (PURCHASES MINUS RETURNS AND ADJUSTMENTS) OF \$3,000 OR MORE WITHIN 90 DAYS OF ACCOUNT OPENING YOU WILL EARN 60,000 BONUS POINTS. TO RECEIVE POINTS BE SUCCESSFULLY LINKED TO YOUR VIRGIN RED ACCOUNT AND YOUR CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT MUST BE OPEN, IN GOOD STANDING AND NOT DELINQUENT. ALTHOUGH YOU MAY SEE BONUS POINTS POST IN SEPARATE INCREMENTS OF 40,000 AND 20,000. IF EARNED. ALL BONUS POINTS WILL POST TO YOUR ACCOUNT WITHIN 60 DAYS. SEE CREDIT REWARDS PROGRAM WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS. \*\*TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL VIRGIN RED REWARDS MASTERCARD HOLDERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO TRAVEL. TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE IN EVERY CABIN OR ON EVERY FLIGHT. TAXES, FEES AND CARRIER-IMPOSED SURCHARGES APPLY. TO REWARD FLIGHTS AND UPGRADES, VIRGIN ATLANTIC FLYING CLUB MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED AND VIRGIN ATLANTIC FLYING CLUB TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY.



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**1** // Turn on your WiFi-enabled device and connect to the "Virgin-Atlantic" WiFi network.

**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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*RollingStone*  
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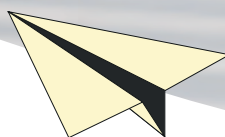
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