

**THE
BEST OF
WHAT'S
ONBOARD**

**MOVIES
IT'S SCREEN
TIME IN THE
CINEMA**

**TV
WE'VE
HIT PEAK
COMEDY**

**AUDIO
THE PODCAST
THAT KNOWS
THE SCORE**

virgin atlantic 

Travel in Technicolor

Wen

May 2023

**Free
bird**

**Bill
Hader
on life
after
Barry**



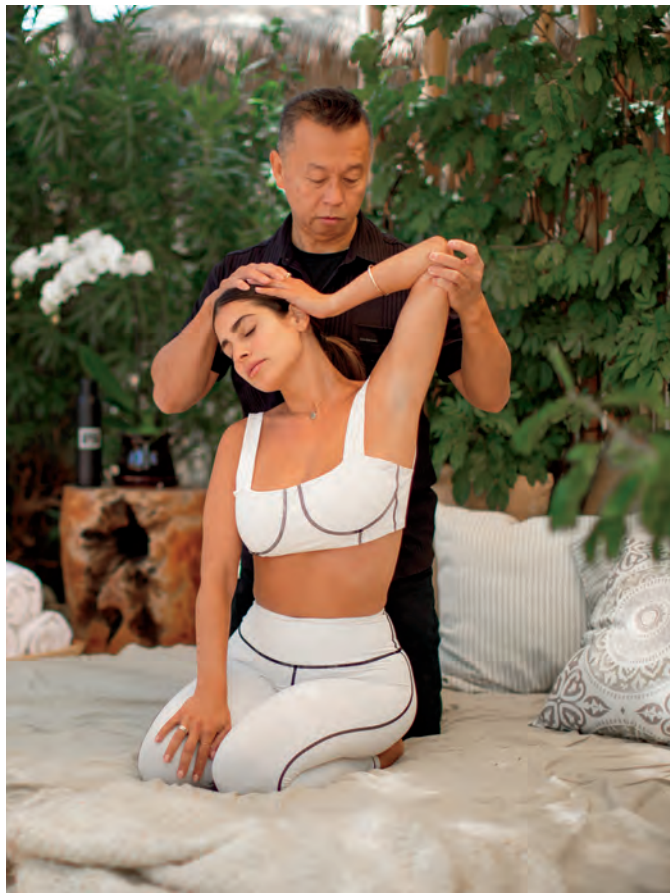
A LEGACY OF WHOLE HEALTH BODY, MIND, SPIRIT



We believe that you have the power to rebuild your life and to rediscover the joy of healthy living. Through guided fasting and holistic spa treatments, you see a glowing, physical transformation unlike any other. Start your morning with a breathwork class, indulge in an uplifting body polish, and then examine your biorhythmic response to different sound waves. The clarity and peace of mind that you begin to feel are amplified by the vast Mojave Desert surrounding us. Deserts across cultures are revered as a place of spiritual renewal, and ours is

no exception. The twenty acres at We Care Spa have been cultivated to enhance the healing energy of this sacred space. Find your moment of calm while walking the labyrinth under our lemon grove, or broaden your perspective beneath the spectacular nighttime sky. Retreating to this miracle in the desert opens a world of tranquility and revitalization. The access to state-of-the-art amenities and wellness-minded accommodations at We Care Spa elevates your experience to our highest standards of holistic luxury.

SINGLE DAY, 2, 5, AND 7-NIGHT RETREATS



WE CARE SPA

— SINCE 1986 —

DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CA, UNITED STATES
WWW.WECARESPA.COM | +1 888.220.6165 | @WECARESPA

Stainless steel.



In 1972, famed designer Gérald Genta created an oxymoron. Priced more than many precious metal rivals, the 'luxury stainless steel timepiece' was not an immediate success. But eventually its tough, elegant body, integrated bracelet and patterned dial caught on. A watch that dressed up for dinner. Or down, at the pool. Today's 41mm, base automatic of that original watch costs £22,850 more than the new **'Twelve'** - named for its dodecagon-sided bezel and rear lock ring. Our watch is thinner, goes deeper and offers a choice of C1/BL Grade X1-lumed dials. A polished, brushed and sandblasted case of daylight (and night time) robbery?

Do your research.

 **Christopher
Ward**

christopherward.com



SCAN ME

Cameos



AL HORNER

Al is a regular contributor and film critic who also writes for *Empire*, *Little White Lies* and more. For this month's cover story, he chatted to his comedy hero, Bill Hader, about laughing through anxiety. **See p26**



VIRGINIA MOURA

This illustrator and designer – originally from Rio but currently based in NYC – has drawn colourful figures for brands like Google, Revlon and Amex. Find her corgis in our right royal London story. **See p37**



STUART HERITAGE

This journalist and *Vera* contributor is a regular voice in *The Guardian*, where he writes about film, TV and music. This month, he makes the case that this is a golden age for small-screen comedy. **See p71**



26-34

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

IN THIS ISSUE

7-24

Red Hot

Hot-air balloons take off in London, Duck & Waffle offers a gastro take on Scottish faves in Edinburgh and how to take a lower-impact holiday in the Maldives.

26-51

Features

Bill Hader says goodbye to *Barry*. Plus, how to live like a royal to mark coronation day and meet the couple who are raising awareness of LA's historic buildings.

58-77

What's On

Discover the "screenlife" genre in *Missing*, catch up on such new classic comedies as *Barry* and *Avenue 5*, and join presenter Edith Bowman for *Soundtracking*.

79-82

Credits

Virgin Atlantic Football Club travels to Delhi for a game and learn how you can help children around the world by giving to Passport to Change.

COVER PHOTO & THIS PAGE: BEAU GREAY/FLUNK ARCHIVE

Ink Editor Jessica Prupas Art Director Pete Allison Sub Editor Omer Ali Photo Director Tracey Griffin Picture Editor Katie Byrne
Publisher Louise Burt Advertising & Media Partnerships Patrick Dunne, Jennifer Brown, Anya Mrkic, Daisy Heyes, Eleanor Asquith Head of Talent Jess Rekhi
HR and Careers beinkredible@ink-global.com Commercial Creative Director Mat Wiggins Ad Operations Manager Jamie Rabey Print and Logistics Martin Dunphy
Pre-Press KFR Repro CEO Michael Keating CFO Jim Campbell CCO Steve Rowbotham Business Development Director Jonny Clark
Head of Finance Phil McIlwaine For Virgin Atlantic: IPEC Manager Sharon Noyau

TO ADVERTISE IN VERA MAGAZINE EMAIL PATRICK.DUNNE@INK-GLOBAL.COM OR PHONE +44 (20) 7625 0700

Vera is published on behalf of Virgin Atlantic by Ink. All correspondence should be addressed to: Vera, Ink, Blackburn House, Blackburn Road, London, NW6 1RZ. ink-global.com
© All material is strictly copyright and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission of the copyright holder. All prices and data are correct at the time of publication. Opinions expressed in Vera are not necessarily those of Virgin Atlantic and Virgin Atlantic does not accept responsibility for advertising content. Any pictures or transparencies supplied are at the owner's risk.
The paper in Vera magazine contains a biocide based on Silver Chloride that has been tested and shown to be effective on viruses including feline coronavirus.





NATIONAL
BRIOCHE DAY
MAY 14TH

ENJOY

A TASTE OF PARIS

WITH THE US AND UK'S BEST-TASTING BRIOCHE BRAND*



Add a touch of Paris for breakfast, lunch and dinner with our golden and light brioche. For recipe inspiration and ways to make everyday magnifique, head to www.stpierrebakery.com

AVAILABLE IN STORES ACROSS THE USA AND UK

*Consumer sensory hall tests Jan 2022, St Pierre vs. UK competitor brands and private label (brioche burger bun & brioche loaf), N=202

THINGS TO GET OBSESSED
WITH RIGHT NOW

Red Hot



COMING SOON

BLOWING HOT AIR IN LONDON

Things are looking up in the Big Smoke. Why's that? Because the sky will be speckled with a colourful flock of hot-air balloons for the Lord Mayor's Hot-Air Balloon Regatta, which makes its return on one of 14 or 21 May, or 2 July, after a three-year pause. The event raises funds for charity and kicks off from Battersea Park at 5.30am, where dozens of balloons will be released into the heavens. What a gas.

✂ Fly to London

FIRST TAKE

SPY MOVIES ARE HANGING IN THERE

Classic secret agent capers are still making major cash grabs, says **Al Horner**

Here's a challenge for you, readers. Your mission, should you choose to accept it: name something that Hollywood loves more than a secret agent. For over a century now, viewers have been shaken and stirred by stories of spies skulking in the shadows, thwarting clandestine plots by megalomaniac baddies. From Bond to Bourne, we've had more undercover operatives on our screens over the years than a certain 007 has had vodka martinis.

Like diamonds, spy movies are forever, it seems: after Daniel Craig brought his tenure as James Bond to an end in 2021's *No Time to Die*, some wondered whether the genre might vanish like one of Q's invisibility cloaks, but no. Between *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre* – Guy Ritchie's latest action-filled caper, available on today's in-flight entertainment – and the unstoppable *Mission: Impossible* franchise, which returns again this summer, Tinseltown's spy infatuation continues.

Signs of the spy movie's enduring appeal are all over the place – even in the all-conquering Marvel Cinematic Universe. You'd think that in a world of superheroes, a gadget-deploying espionage expert would have to take a back seat. Try telling that to Scarlett Johansson's Black Widow, however – a Russian superspy who doesn't have powers like the Hulk or Thor, but is up there with

the most popular Avengers nonetheless. It's probably also no accident that 2014's *Captain America: The Winter Soldier*, inspired by 1970s spy thrillers, is arguably the most critically adored entry in the MCU.

So, what gives? Why can't Hollywood get enough of spy movies? The obvious answer is that the genre frequently makes eye-watering amounts at box office – not quite “one trillion dollars!” to quote one of the best spy movies of all, *Austin Powers*, but not far off either. There's also something inherently cinematic about the way spy movies jet-set from location to location, not to mention their explosive action set-pieces. But perhaps it's something bigger that keeps spy movies so fresh.





Operation Fortune... is the fifth film directed by Guy Ritchie to star Jason Statham.

The genre frequently riffs on real-life political intrigues as they happen. The Bond franchise has reflected everything from Cold War tensions to the looming threat of media moguls in its 60 years on screen. The Bourne series, meanwhile, sets Matt Damon's amnesiac protagonist on a collision course with post-9/11 paranoia. Spy movies, in short, have become adept at reflecting our world back at us.

Whatever turns the real world takes next, whatever the next globo-political threat challenging the West, expect espionage thrillers to be there along the way. Now if you'll excuse me – this column will self-destruct in five, four, three, two, one...

 Watch Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre

IT'S LIT

Celebs are in the (book) club



Model-slash-influencer **Kaia Gerber** runs a wildly popular book club, chewing over works by Tennessee Williams and Albert Camus with her nine million Insta followers.

VERDICT: Poutstanding



Late-night chatshow host **Jimmy Fallon** also runs an on-off book club, which recommends kids stories and cool contemporary fiction to get Americans inspired by the magic of reading.

VERDICT: Speaks volumes



Whenever socialite **Kendall Jenner** is snapped on the 'gram reading tomes by such heavyweights as Chelsea Hodson their books sell out, so she's said to be launching a book club of her own.

VERDICT: Cover star

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

ABBA[®] Voyage

A concert like no other



See ABBA on stage in a concert 40 years in the making.

ABBA have created the kind of concert they always wanted, performing for their fans at their very best: as digital versions of themselves backed by today's finest musicians.

Blending cutting-edge technology, spectacular lighting, and some of the most beloved songs ever written, ABBA take to the stage in a whole new way. Located in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the stunning, purpose-built arena houses one of the most popular groups in history in a **'Ground-breaking'** (Metro) concert that really **'Needs to be seen to be believed'** (BBC).

Only at the **ABBA[®] Arena**, London | abbavoyage.com

RISING STAR

“I grew up feeling like an outcast”

YELLOWJACKETS’ SOPHIE THATCHER IS THE NEW QUEEN OF SCREEN OUTSIDERS. SHE TELLS JONNY ENSALL ABOUT BEING SPOOKED AS A KID

THERE’S SOMETHING INTRIGUINGLY spooky about Sophie Thatcher. The 22-year-old star of TV show *Yellowjackets* and upcoming horror *The Boogeyman* specialises in playing traumatised characters trying desperately to escape their ghosts. “I’m looking around at all the pictures on my wall,” she murmurs, distantly. “And yeah, they’re all clearly haunted.”

Thatcher is sat on the floor of her NYC apartment and the art is all her own work. In between shooting seasons of *Yellowjackets* – a gender-reverse *Lord of the Flies* about a group of teenage girls stranded in the Canadian wilderness in 1996 – the Chicago native likes to paint, make music and be a casual style icon. Her choppy mullet hairstyle has been the subject of countless fashion blogs.

But it’s that almost supernatural survival instinct that defines both Thatcher and her *Yellowjackets* character Natalie (a role she shares with Juliette Lewis, who plays Nat in the present day). Even more so after she got into a life-changing scooter accident in real life. So, what scares her and what keeps her going?

***The Boogeyman* is your latest leading role. Who or what is the boogeyman?**
The boogeyman is a very, very bad guy who’s been around for a really long time. There are cave drawings of the boogeyman. It has that ancient mythos.





“ONE DAY WHEN WE WERE SHOOTING, I HAD A WEIRD OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE WHERE I WAS LIKE, WHAT AM I DOING FOR MY JOB?”

Did you believe in it as a kid?

Yeah, I couldn't sleep if my closet door wasn't closed. My bedroom door had to be closed, too, because I was always scared of seeing a figure in the hallway. I think that's what makes it so terrifying – that it can take on other shapes and voices to lure you in. I'm not really scared by anything gory, just because I've been on the other side and I know that it's all fake.

You had a gory experience yourself, in a scooter accident that earned you some replacement teeth. What was that like?

It made me realize that life is pretty fragile and that the freak accidents that happen to other people can also happen to you. It meant I was going through a period of high anxiety filming *Yellowjackets*. It put me fully in survival mode. I just had to get through it. I think it helped with Natalie, because she's so entirely focused on surviving and getting food.

Speaking of food, cannibalism is a big theme in *Yellowjackets*...

It's such a strange thing to think about, because to some extent, I have so much empathy for Natalie. You can't judge, because they're in such

From above: Sophie Thatcher in *Yellowjackets*, and with co-stars Samantha Hanratty and Juliette Lewis at the 2nd Annual HCA TV Awards last summer



a worst-case scenario. On set we're very light about it. But I remember one day when we were shooting, I had a weird out-of-body experience where I was like, “Oh, this is wrong. This feels weird. What am I doing for my job?” People want to go to that other world in their free time, but I don't get it. As if there isn't enough darkness already?

It's also a show about girls being awful to each other, in a way that feels refreshing. Do you think it's true to life?

Absolutely. Karyn Kusama [executive producer on *Yellowjackets*] has said that, even if there wasn't cannibalism involved, or the accident, the girls would

have still gotten at each other in some other violent way because they're that age and female dynamics are so, so complicated. Female rage has been shown on TV in a very glamourised way and I think this is an uglier, grittier way of showing it. And more realistic.

Do men understand that?

I think there's a disconnect with men, sometimes. They're just not going to understand certain aspects of female dynamics. They might think that it's over the top, that it doesn't get to that point, but it does.

Do you read the comments online?

It's hard for me with my anxiety not to go through every comment. Last year was pretty bad – I was in my apartment, on a mattress on the floor, on Reddit, looking at all the comments and spiralling. I'm too sensitive for that. I think I'm just getting into the headspace where I'm like, some people aren't gonna like what I do. That makes what I'm doing better.

In *Yellowjackets* you play a younger version of Juliette Lewis. What did you learn from her?

She's spewing wisdom every day. She talks in such a strange, poetic way sometimes – she's such a true artist. She's different. I grew up feeling like an outcast and, I think, playing younger her has forced me to have more confidence and forced me to be stronger.

 Watch *Yellowjackets*

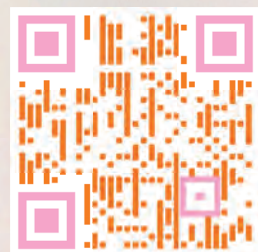
Clothes that make you feel amazing

The home of multi-wear fashion (items that can be worn in multiple different ways). Styles that can be dressed up or down for all bodies, shapes and ages. Fun colour palettes and exclusive prints in sizes UK 6-26 US 0-22.

Ombre Mini
Vienna Dress

NEVER FULLY DRESSED

Stores: East London | New York (coming soon)
International Shipping



I

t's 8am in Aurora, New York. I'm standing on the white-columned porch outside Rowland House – a chic guesthouse set within a grand Federal-style pile, one of five

mansions that make up the storied Inns of Aurora. Rousing birds chirp out their morning recital; leaves rustle in the wind; all is still. Until a muddy John Deere tractor pulls up the circular driveway.

Matt, a professional outdoorsman and employee at the Inns of Aurora, shouts a greeting at me over the deafening rumble of the engine. “Howdy!” He’s here to pick me up for our morning survivalism course, where, in the space of an hour, I’ll learn all the basic skills I need to not die in the wilderness.

The Inns of Aurora has been offering this outdoor skills course – plus other survivalist activities like archery and knot tying – since the pandemic, mostly to city dwellers who are looking for a relaxing weekend upstate with a side of disaster preparedness. And they aren’t the only ones: in England, the Bear Grylls Survival Academy offers courses on the manicured grounds of the Beaverbrook estate, while uber-luxe resort The Ranch at Rock Creek in Montana has a range of outdoorsy lessons on the docket, including fly fishing and a “frontier skills” course.

Though the Inns of Aurora’s outdoor courses have been going for a while, Matt tells me they’ve exploded in popularity recently. He puts this down partially to the popularity of disaster TV shows like *Yellowjackets* and *Alone*. Bigger than that, though, is the new, scary frequency of extreme weather events – that’s why the Inns of Aurora has started offering indoor survival skills courses as well, where Matt teaches people how to stock their pantries and reinforce their homes in case of hurricanes or blizzards.

But today, we’re headed to the woods so I can learn some much-

GREAT OUTDOORS

STAYING ALIVE UPSTATE

Hotels are combining pampered luxury with crash courses in outdoor survival. **Jessica Prupas** faces down the forest in New York State



The interiors of each Inns of Aurora property are designed by owner Pleasant Rowland, founder of the American Girl doll brand



Rowland House is set on Cayuga Lake, the longest of New York's central Finger Lakes.



needed wilderness skills. The tractor sputters to a stop on the edge of an oak forest on the Inns' property. We hop out and start up the trail, squelchy underfoot from last night's rainfall. The first thing Matt does is show me the contents of his backpack which, like an overstuffed clown car, contains a comedically vast arsenal: a bunch of Bic lighters; a portable filtering "straw"; a large bottle of water; and a tarp. Matt tells me that he thinks everyone should always travel with these survival tools - no matter if they're going on a long road trip through a remote national park or catching a flight to the Bahamas.

"For me, it's about planning ahead. Why wouldn't you put a Bic lighter in [your backpack]?" he says. "For 99 cents you can get three of them or something."

He shows me how to make a proper fire by building the kindling into a little tepee shape, then igniting it with the Bic lighter. I learn how to shelter myself from wind, find drinking water and stay warm. At the end of it all, I can't say that I could win a season of *Survivor*, but I could at least buy myself a few days if I find myself stranded. For now, though, it's off to the spa, where I'll happily get lost for an afternoon.

■ innsofaurora.com
✈ Fly to New York



SET VISIT

An Ace time in LA

Babylon's opening scene - an epic, hallucinatory 1920s rager featuring masked dancers and an actual elephant - surely belongs in the canon of all-time greatest on-screen parties. Director Damien Chazelle orchestrated this orgiastic masterpiece at the United Artists Theatre, a gilded 1,600-seat space originally built in 1927. These days it's part of the Ace Hotel, where it's used for a programme of live events - which, unfortunately, does not include parties with large zoo animals and Margot Robbie.

✈ Fly to Los Angeles

WORDS: JESSICA PRIPAS PHOTOS: INNS OF AURORA RESORT & SPA, SAMANTHA ESTRADA/STOCKSY.COM, COURTESY OF ACE HOTEL DTLA, STEPHEN KEVIN JOHNSON





SLEEPER HIT

A hidden treasure in the BVI

UPSCALE RETREAT THE HIDEOUT IS A SECRET WORTH KEEPING

THE ISLAND OF Jost Van Dyke is named after a 17th-century Dutch pirate. His entire vibe, apparently, was picking off luckless galleons as they passed what we call the British Virgin Islands, then hightailing it back to these idyllic shores and lying low. His spirit is still alive – in name, anyway – at The Hideout, a boutique cluster of seven fancy villas on stilts, perched arrestingly on the paradisiacal arc of White Bay on Jost Van Dyke’s south-west coast. Some villas – reassuringly plush with rustic-deluxe wood, glossy marble and private plunge pool – face the island’s sumptuous tropical interior. Others look to the flawless blue horizon



and hallucinatorily pretty beach. Food wise, it’s a leisurely barefoot amble over to popular local spot Hendo’s Hideout for conch fritters, pulled-pork tacos and signature Painkiller cocktails with pineapple, coconut and a healthy slug of rum. Mr Van Dyke would surely approve.

✈ Fly to Antigua

3 MORE ISLAND GETAWAYS



CAP MAISON, SAINT LUCIA

This lavish clifftop boutique hotel offers a “proposal concierge” service, where you can pop the question on a gorgeous rocky outcrop as your diamond ring is ziplined over to your private table.



CONRAD MALDIVES RANGALI ISLAND, MALDIVES

Set across two private islands, this ultra-luxe resort comprises several large private villas overlooking the sea. Don’t miss the undersea restaurant with coral views.



SANDALS DUNN’S RIVER, JAMAICA

Opening this month, the latest addition to the Sandals portfolio is a 260-room all-inclusive beauty in Ocho Rios. Twelve restaurants serve everything from Caribbean to South American cuisine.

FEEL THE ALLURE

OF THE

Caribbean



Sandals

Scattered across eight idyllic Caribbean islands you'll discover our 17 breathtaking, all-inclusive resorts. You can enjoy creatively crafted cocktails and indulge in mouth-watering cuisine at up to 16 on-resort restaurants, all included within your stay. If you're looking for a bit of adventure, look no further - we include that too with unlimited land and water sports. Here at the World's Leading All-Inclusive Resorts we've been perfecting our all-inclusive offering for over 40 years, leaving you to sit back, relax and enjoy all that's included.



SANDALS.CO.UK | 0800 742 742





SNACKS

DUCK DUCK HOOSE IN EDINBURGH

London “gastro diner” **Duck & Waffle** heads north with a menu of local faves, like deep-fried Mars bars

FOR OVER A decade now, Duck & Waffle has confidently weathered all manner of restaurant industry flaps from its lofty nest atop a London skyscraper. And now it’s migrating to a shiny new location in Edinburgh. Are they basically keeping everything the same? Nope. Instead, they’re gussying up local Scottish delicacies with oodles of wit and flair. Consider the Deep-Fried Mars Bar waffle, a calorific wonder first dreamt up back in the 90s at a Scottish chip shop, here served with hazelnut ice cream and sweetmeat fudge

– all piled on the joint’s trademark pillowy waffles. For best results, pair with a Porridge Punch cocktail, another clever Duck & Waffle wheeze with Woodford Reserve bourbon and pistachio orgeat. The new space is chock-full of fun nods to Scotland, like a gorgeous mirrored copper tunnel inspired by whisky stills and a chic tartan menu that totally fits the bill.

✂ Fly to Edinburgh



From top:
Duck & Waffle’s
Deep-Fried
Mars Bar
waffle and the
Porridge Punch

DRINKS



Foamy cocktails are a gas

Once upon a time, back in the early noughties, foam was all the rage, part of an El Bulli-inspired fad for molecular gastronomy and dinner made with science-y apparatus. Well, foam is back, baby. Get a faceful of tiny bubbles at Ochre in London’s National Gallery

– the pretty Sunflowers Sour is a masterpiece in egg whites inspired by the Van Gogh painting. Lullaby, in NYC, crowns its gin and grapefruit Bohemian Rhapsody with elderflower-rhubarb foam, while Bar Kaiju in Miami has fun with it by dispensing spiced corn foam as a “bump” onto patron’s fingers, putting the foam in FOMO.

✂ Fly to London, New York & Miami

qobuz

REDISCOVER MUSIC

The true sound is out there



*Music streaming, downloads, and beyond.
The most authentic sound quality.
First-class original editorial.
A committed community of music lovers.*



W

hen most people think of the Maldives, two things tend to spring to mind: beautiful beaches and climate change. One of the world's lowest-lying countries, residents

here are acutely aware of the threat posed to them by rising sea levels. As if that wasn't enough, a large influx of visitors in recent years – combined with limited refuse facilities – means that waste disposal has become a serious issue. Luckily, all sorts of initiatives are springing up to help savvy travellers experience the archipelago in a more sustainable way.

If you're concerned about energy use, check into one of the resorts using solar panels to replace (or offset) the diesel generators these remote islands normally rely on for power. Relax at **Club Med's Finolhu Villas** on Malé Atoll knowing it was the first resort in the Maldives to become entirely solar-powered. Some 6,225m² of solar panels are integrated into the design – find them on rooftops or above the jetty, where they double up as sunshades. This trend is building momentum across the country, with **LUX* South Ari (1)** on Ari Atoll boasting the world's largest solar system floating at sea, plus rooftop panels on all the villas (keep an eye on the Live Solar Tracker in each room, which tells you how much energy is being produced).

Moving north to Baa Atoll and Noonu Atoll, **Soneva Resorts** has found an ingenious workaround to the Maldives' notoriously limited recycling facilities. The staff at their Eco-Centro complex carefully sort through the rubbish and find creative ways to reuse what they find – from turning kitchen waste into compost to using styrofoam as villa insulation. Take a “back of house” tour to learn about the resourceful ways they recycle waste. At Soneva Fushi, you'll find Soneva Art and Glass – the only hot-glass

LOCATION SCOUT

ECO TRIPPIN' IN THE MALDIVES

It's not easy being green in such a remote place, says **Sarah Harvey**, but new earth-friendly projects are making it easier to experience the Maldives while being kinder to the planet



2

Left: Families can enjoy expert-guided snorkelling trips of the reef to embed their eco credentials at Amilla Maldives Resort



All sorts of initiatives are springing up to help savvy travellers experience the archipelago in a more sustainable way



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO ON OUR FLYING CLUB. JOIN THE CLUB TO EARN POINTS ON EVERY VIRGIN ATLANTIC FLIGHT

studio in the Maldives, where each year approximately 1,200 glass bottles from Soneva Fushi, Soneva Jani and neighbouring resorts in Baa Atoll are melted down and upcycled into one-of-a-kind pieces. Visit the studio to pick up something special from visiting artists or make your own trinket at one of their glassblowing classes.

Little climate champions can also join the good fight at **Amilla Maldives Resort and Residences (2)**.

The hotel offers a Mini Marine Biologist course that gets kids acquainted with the incredible biodiversity of Baa Atoll. After a series of worksheets, quizzes and games, a marine biologist will take them on a guided snorkelling tour of the reef, where efforts to regenerate coral are underway. Upon completion, they'll receive a certificate, badges and a backpack decorated with a print of a long-tailed tropicbird, a rare local bird. ▶



Guests at **Coco Bodu Hithi** can go gardening underwater and plant coral in the island's lagoon.

3

Or you could take the whole family to a reef clean-up. Lots of resorts plan clean-up activities – like **Coco Bodu Hithi** (3) on the North Malé Atoll, which also organises coral- and tree-planting sessions.

Cora Cora Maldives

resort on Raa Atoll organises monthly reef clean-ups year-round. Keep an eye on their website for official dates.

As an alternative to diesel-powered activities, consider some lower-impact ways to enjoy watersports. Almost every resort island or guesthouse island has a watersports centre – such as the excellent **Maverick Style** in Malé, which rents wind-powered mini catamarans. These bijou fibreglass sailboats make excellent alternatives to Jet Skis. Novices can learn the ropes on a supervised session or opt to sail solo if you



4

Above: The organic garden at Six Senses Laamu provides herbs and salad for meals and therapies at the resort



5

already have a licence. If you're not up for that, windsurfing or sea kayaking can offer a similar adrenaline rush.

Much of the food in the Maldives is imported, which means chefs have had to rely on ingredients with a heavy carbon footprint. Luckily, more and more restaurants are championing “zero air miles” cuisine and either growing their own ingredients or using local producers.

The Alif Alif Atoll island is one of the biggest agricultural producers in the Maldives, albeit with only 2km by 1km of landmass to work with. Some high-end resorts, such as **Six Senses Laamu** (4), have their own organic gardens as well. Take a free tour to see 40 different herbs, microherbs and salad leaves growing at Six Senses, or book a table at Leaf, the resort's farm-to-table restaurant, where you can enjoy dishes such as homegrown barigoule artichokes with rosemary, sage and spinach.

Roots (5), at the Patina Maldives resort in the Fari Islands, has also been making waves for its vegetarian set menu made from ingredients from their unusually large garden. Dishes like the fried okra with seasonal spices, lime and curry leaves make eating your greens – and eating green – easy.

✈ Fly to the Maldives

3 MORE MUST-DOS IN THE MALDIVES



VAADHOO ISLAND BEACH

The water at this white-sand beach on Huvadhu Atoll is known for the glorious nighttime display of bioluminescent plankton, which lights up the lapping waves like a star-studded galaxy.



PRODIVERS

In November-April (western atolls) or May-October (eastern atolls), you can dive with majestic manta rays. Choose an ethical dive company such as Prodivers, which works closely with the Manta Trust.



MALDIVIAN PALACE

This rustic 500-year-old palace on Haa Alif Atoll is the former home of Sultan Thakurufaanu, who liberated the country from the Portuguese. Many northern resorts/guest houses run excursions here.



The Maldives, in your pocket

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

PHOTOS: PATINA MALDIVES/FARI ISLANDS, SIMON HILBOURNE/THE MANTA TRUST, ALAMY, DOUG PERDINE

Saturday night takeaways...

With a slice of paradise.



PORTELET BAY,
ST. BRELADE

Enjoy a slice of paradise on the soft sands of Portelet Bay where you can order wood-fired pizzas from a tropical beach shack just footsteps away from shimmering blue waters...

Start planning your trip at jersey.com

JERSEY.
CURIOUSLY
BRIT...(ISH)



SCREEN TEST

Can I go undercover for the FBI?

IN *THE MAN FROM TORONTO*, KEVIN HART'S CHARACTER ENDS UP GOING UNDERCOVER FOR THE FEDS. BUT COULD IT ONLY HAPPEN IN THE MOVIES? ASKS **RALPH JONES**

Of all the cool things you can do in life - flipping a pancake first time; throwing a piece of bread that a duck manages to catch in mid-air - does anything beat the covert thrill of going undercover for the FBI? Yes, I'm talking about the Feds here. The big boys. I'm talking about you, wired up and wearing a fake beard, using a codename like The Goose, pretending to be a criminal in order to reel in some big naughty fish for the Feds.

In *The Man from Toronto*, Kevin Hart's fitness entrepreneur character finds himself in a similar position: through happenstance he is recruited by the FBI as an undercover informant helping them to nab a Venezuelan dictator. This is classic Hollywood fare, of course. It isn't something that you or I could do. Or is it?

The practice of using confidential informants has been commonplace within the FBI for decades. It is perfectly legal and considered to be the most important way of obtaining information about potential felons. Informants can be innocent civilians or people with a criminal past, who are sometimes granted legal immunity for their efforts. "Civilians are a cleaner way to generate inside information," says LaRae Quy, a former counterintelligence agent with the FBI. "If the informant has a criminal background, two things pop up for consideration: are they still involved in criminal matters? If so, the FBI can't turn a blind eye to their illegal activities. Second, can they be trusted to produce information of integrity?"

When they are unsure whether or not taking on an informant might be too risky, the FBI liaise with the Department of Justice. Unlike cooperating witnesses, confidential informants do not necessarily have to testify in court.



Their real identity is concealed and they are given a code name, says Quy, which is used in their communication with the Bureau. "Their value is that they are close to the investigation and can provide insider information." As well as being given code names, informants are actually able to break the law, if the FBI consider it necessary. Yes, you read that right!

Though the FBI cannot guarantee that they will pay their informants, they frequently do. These payments depend on the "timeliness and quality of the information," says Quy. This is obviously a tricky area, as informants can be perceived to want to provide any information if it means receiving money in exchange. Between 2012 and 2018, the FBI paid informants almost \$300 million.

So - the money's good and you'll get not just the thrill of feeling like you're in *The Wire* but also brownie points for helping out the authorities. So - would the FBI take you on? "Lack of candour, unreliability, and failure to produce accurate and timely information would make an individual unsuitable as an informant," says Quy. Well, that rules me out. But if you think you'd stand up to the pressure, get on the phone to the Feds. Tell them The Goose wants to talk.



 Watch *The Man from Toronto*

THE VERDICT

It's a big yes - if you can keep it to yourself.



MARC DARCY

DRAPERS MENSWEAR BRAND OF THE YEAR | TREBLE WINNERS

WWW.MARCDARCY.CO.UK

Bill Hader

CHILL



BILL

After a marathon five years as the creator and star of HBO's megahit *Barry*, Bill Hader can finally put his feet up when the series concludes this month. But for such an overthinker, downtime can be dangerous. He tells **Al Horner** how he's finally learning to relax (sort of)

PHOTOGRAPHS: BEAU GREALY

B



Bill Hader is wondering how he got here. Not literally, of course; when *Vera* speaks to the comedian on a sunny day in LA, he's at home, having escaped from the edit suite on the fourth and final season of his HBO series *Barry* for a few precious hours. No, when the 44-year-old wonders how he got here, he means something else entirely. "There's definitely a feeling of, wait, what the hell just happened?!" he laughs, reflecting on a roller-coaster five years as the co-writer, director and leading man of the smash hit comedy-drama that put a hit out on his reputation as a zany-faced funnyman, and reinvented him as one of America's most daring – and darkest – storytellers.

Can you blame him for feeling disorientated? A few years ago, the Oklahoman was best known stateside as the wild- ▶

EXPERIENCE LONDON'S UNMISSABLE EVENT OF THE SUMMER



 **MLB**
WORLD TOUR

 **LONDON** 
SERIES

2023

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS vs CHICAGO CUBS
JUNE 24 - 25, 2023. LONDON STADIUM

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS AND
VIP HOSPITALITY TODAY**

ticketmaster.co.uk/mlb

eyed impressionist from *Saturday Night Live*. Internationally, it was supporting turns in screwball comedies like *Superbad*, *Popstar* and *Trainwreck* that defined him. Not anymore. *Barry*, about a contract killer who longs to be an actor, made Hader a hitman in more ways than one, delivering HBO a new prestige TV smash hit – and rewarding him with a deluge of Emmy awards, rave reviews and adoration. Now, the star is readying to say goodbye, contemplating what comes next – and wondering who he'll become without the character who, for five years, has been an outlet for the highly-strung side of his personality.

"It hits me in waves," he says. "One moment I'll be like, this is fine, and then the next..." It was 2018 when *Barry* debuted on screens, born from a number of sources. One influence was an uptick in violence coursing through the American news cycle, each day seemingly beginning with TV reports on another mass shooting. "Can someone who did awful things be redeemed? Or after you perpetuate violence against someone, are you just damned? That was really interesting to me," recalls Hader. Another inspiration was his curiosity as to what it would be like for someone like him to be an assassin



"I DEFINITELY FELT THAT, WHEN I WAS AT *SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE*, FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE, THAT WAS THE PINNACLE"

– pretty damn funny, he and the show's co-creator Alec Berg concluded. "These guys don't know they're the bad guys," the writer-director-performer chuckles. "I like [stories] where bad people don't stop being people because they kill people. They still have stupid, trivial conversations like the rest of us."

Another key factor in *Barry*'s creation was the comedian's lifelong struggle with anxiety. If the show at times has the strangulating feel of a panic attack, it's because this is a man who's had a number of them himself: in an SAT exam as a kid (he ran out and hid in a screening of *Mars Attacks!*); in a hotel lobby one night in his twenties, while working as a production assistant on movies like *Scorpion King*. And many, many times, surprisingly, on the set of *Saturday Night Live*. "I definitely felt that, when I was at *Saturday Night Live*, for a lot of people, that was the pinnacle. If you're into sketch comedy or improv, in the United States, that is the job," he explains. To be on that show was ▶

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

THE CELEBRITY SPOOFS THAT HADER MADE HIS NAME WITH



DANIEL DAY-LEWIS

There Will Be Blood? There will be laughs, more like, when you Google Hader's pitch-perfect impression of the legendary actor.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

Working as an assistant on Arnie movie *Collateral Damage* before Hader was famous, he encountered the Terminator himself – and came away with a sterling impression that he breaks out in TV interviews.



CLINT EASTWOOD

In 2012, the movie icon made a Super Bowl ad for Chrysler. Hader responded with an *SNL* parody, growling, "Get off my damn lawn!"

SETH ROGAN

Hader has no excuse not to do a great impression of his *Superbad* castmate – he's been in enough movies with the comedian. His rendition of Rogan exclaiming, "I really don't give a shit!" in a conversation about glasses is gold.



AL PACINO

Now we know what it's like to hear the *Heat* superstar say: "I love film. I love women. I love wine. I love kangaroos. Hey, why not?"



the highest honour for someone like him, whose Monty Python-obsessed dad back home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, turned him onto comedy at an early age, leading him to move to LA, where he attended prestigious improv school Second City aged 24. Why wasn't he happy, he wondered? Why did he so often find himself crying and shaking moments before he was due to go on?

He tried to cope by disappearing into characters and impressions of celebrities on *SNL*. It became his calling card. One character, a New York tour guide named Stefon with a penchant for abysmal nightclubs ("Located in a haunted synagogue, this upper lower side hotspot is the creation of Italian reggae singer Rasta Primavera!"), lives on in particular infamy. Eventually, though, he decided to leave the show, intent on making good on his long-held dream of moving behind the camera and forging a new reputation that's more reflective of his European arthouse tastes. "I had to write my own scripts and my own parts, because then I'm in charge of my own destiny. No one was going to cast me in something like *Barry*. So I had to write it myself."

"I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S A MIDWESTERN THING, BUT I'VE ALWAYS HAD THIS FEELING LIKE I'M RUNNING ON WATER. IF I STOP I'LL GO: BLOOP!"

He explains that his experience making *Barry* didn't just transform his career – it altered him as a person. For starters, it turned him into an unlikely sex symbol, much to his confusion ("No one called me hot until I started killing people," he's joked previously). But diving so deep into the flaws of his despondent character also forced him into "understanding myself, accepting the parts of my personality I don't love and doing what work I can on that," he confides. The autonomy of writing and directing his own show failed to give him control over his anxiety: "I had a couple of panic attacks while editing," he admits, adding that there were multiple awards ceremonies – nights that should have been celebrations for Hader and his *Barry* collaborators – that sent him "out of my mind, flipping out" and desperately "trying to catch my breath".

Hader isn't sure of the source of his anxiety, which no amount of success has been able to mute. "I don't know if it's a Midwestern thing, but I've always had this feeling like I'm running on water. If I stop I'll go: bloop!" He motions his hand like a rock plummeting to the ocean floor. "So instead I have to run fast enough to carry on." It isn't fame he's been scared of losing: "The ▶

SUPER GOOD

BILL HADER'S CV



Born

7 June 1978 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Education

Edison Junior High and Cascia Hall Preparatory School – before moving to California after a bad break-up to attend legendary improv school Second City.

Interests

Reading. "Writers like George Saunders hit upon universal truths," he says. "You can tell the exact moment in my career when I discovered Russian literature because there were no jokes anymore – just death!"

Key works

Saturday Night Live (2005–13)

Hader became a household name as one of the show's most-utilised featured players.

Superbad (2007)

Greg Mottola's raunchy comedy stars Hader as a debauched cop who befriends Christopher Mintz-Plasse's McLovin, embarking together on a night to remember.

The Skeleton Twins (2014)

One of the first glimpses of Hader's more sombre side, appearing opposite *SNL* colleague and friend Kristen Wiig in this indie dramedy about two siblings.

Barry (2018–23)

You've seen *Breaking Bad*, right? Hader's tale of a contract killer's search for redemption in art is essentially that show in reverse.

From top: Hader in *Barry* and alongside Seth Rogen in *Superbad*



BANKSIDE

Triptych

LONDON SE1

Iconic architecture to view.
Iconic architecture to live in.



With iconic views of the River Thames, St Paul's Cathedral and the City, and unrivalled cultural attractions of the Tate Modern, Borough Market and Shakespeare's Globe on your doorstep, Triptych Bankside allows you to live amongst icons.

Facilities include:

- 24 hour concierge
- Landscaped gardens
- Cinema, business lounge & games room
- Secure underground parking*

*Available by separate negotiation.

2 & 3 bedroom apartments from £1,630,000

Completions from Q3 2023

Book your private viewing | +44 (0)20 7126 7480 | [triptychbankside.com](https://www.com.com)



JTRE
LONDON

Barry poster has never had my name on it. That has never been something I'm interested in," he explains. Instead, he thinks it's a fear of what might happen when he sits still – how his anxiety might overcome him. "I feel less anxious while I'm on set, doing all these jobs, than when I'm sitting at home. I never feel it on set."

Which is perhaps why he's already planning his post-*Barry* life. "I'm writing movies!" he beams, warning fans to expect the unexpected. "I have three ideas. One of them is for me to star in and that's a big comedy, so I'm swinging back the other way [from *Barry*]. It's important to swerve. Not everything I make after *Barry* is going to have that tone. I do like fun, funny movies and don't want to turn my back on those stories." He's been "offered meetings" with studios behind big franchise movies and superhero sagas, he says: "I've gotten those calls. But, as of today, the thing that most interests me is making things myself. I know as an actor it was really hard [doing] something you weren't passionate about – those times it wasn't a story that felt like you'd catch on fire if you weren't telling it. That obsessiveness is what I'm looking for."

But those projects can wait. For now, in the immediate aftermath of *Barry's* final episodes, Hader is going to try to do the hardest thing of all – just sit still. "I'm learning to trust that I'll be fine if I go bloop, you know? If I go underwater, I'll swim back up, treading water, swimming



“TODAY, THE THING THAT MOST INTERESTS ME IS MAKING THINGS MYSELF. THAT OBSESSIVENESS IS WHAT I’M LOOKING FOR”

around and having fun. I don't have to be always trying to reach another continent on the other side of the world," he laughs. A new era in his career, and a new outlook to go with it? It doesn't matter how he got here. Bill Hader is exactly where he ought to be.

 Watch Barry



THIS IS NOT YOUR KID'S BACKYARD TREE HOUSE.

Rare is the resort that can boast impeccable architectural design, unmatched privacy and world-class amenities. Rarer still, one that provides all this *and* a nonstop parade of Montana's finest wildlife just beyond your window. But that's the promise of each and every Haus at the green o. Exquisitely designed with floor-to-ceiling views and materials in perfect sync with your surroundings, you'll discover out here, the line between where nature ends and luxury begins is very fine indeed. Please join us.



thegreeno.com | Greenough, Montana | 866-929-6260

DISCOVER BRITAIN'S FINEST

There's nowhere better than **Regent Street**
and **St James's** to celebrate this coronation year.



Join us and be part of a historic moment in England's capital. From Royal Parks to Royal Palaces, the best of British cuisine and more – spend a day in the heart of London.



Discover the Royals' favourite shops and tuck into a timeless afternoon tea



Plan your visit with over 50 ways to enjoy a royal day out



REGENT
STREET

ST JAMES'S
LONDON

regentstreetonline.com
@RegentStreetW1

stjameslondon.co.uk
@StJamesLondon



Finish with a toast to an iconic day out in central London



**HOW
TO
BE...**

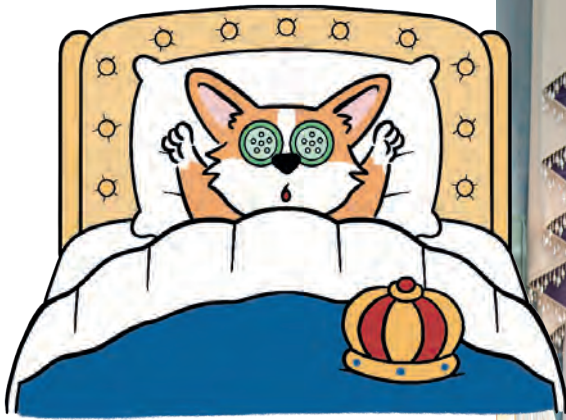


KING

FOR A DAY

This month, the UK's new monarch, King Charles III, officially gets his crown – so why not celebrate by royally living it up? **Tom Howells** tells you how to swan around London like a proper sovereign. All hail the (temporary) king!

ILLUSTRATIONS: VIRGINIA MOURA



RISE IN A CLASSIC LONDON BOLTHOLE

6.30AM

Assuming you haven't landed the box room at Clarence House – King Charles' official London residence, having eschewed Buckingham Palace – see in sunrise at Belgravia's **The Goring**. The Beeston Place pile is a vision of verdant shrubbery and Union Jacks outside; velvet-draped, old-school opulence in. It's London's last family-owned luxury hotel and a milieu to which you're now accustomed. Temporarily, at least.



PHOTOS: THE WOLSELEY, BURLINGTON HOUSE; ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS; LONDON © FRASER MARR; ROYAL COLLECTION TRUST / © HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III 2023. JAMIE FODDER ARCHITECTS © FORBES WASSIE



LOAD UP ON AN EPIC MORNING SPREAD

Morning means eggs royale at **The Wolseley**: the beloved, mittel-European-style grand café down on Piccadilly. The place may have lost a bit of its soul since the departure of longtime owners Corbin and King, but as far as perfect plates of poached eggs, smoked salmon, muffins and hollandaise go, there is no more esteemed breakfast (and breakfast it must be, brunch being a ghastly hodgepodge of a meal unbecoming of HRH).





DRAIN THE ROYAL COFFERS

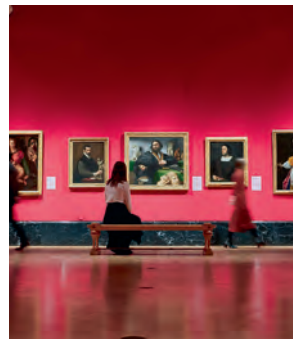
In his former life as the Prince of Wales, King Charles III awarded 159 royal warrants – a mark of regal approval given to shops and trades – and the rarefied enclaves of Mayfair and Piccadilly are chock-full of appointed emporia. Get shod at fancy bootmaker **John Lobb** on Jermyn Street. Stock up on hilariously baroque shotguns at Audley Street’s **Purdey**. Clear out **Hatchards** bookshop’s stock of *Spare* on Piccadilly. Load up on Highgrove-inspired scents at **Penhaligon’s** perfumers on Regent Street, and even stinkier cheeses at Jermyn Street’s **Paxton & Whitfield**. Finally, head into **Fortnum & Mason**, bursting from your double-breasted jacket (courtesy of Savile Row outfitters **Gieves & Hawkes**), as you reach for one of the store’s 42 different marmalades.



GRAB A BIT OF CULTURE IN THE CITY’S RAREFIED GALLERIES



With your material whims sated, you’ll want culture. **The Royal Academy** is the one. Founded in 1768 – and shifted to its current ornate surroundings in Burlington House 100 years later – it’s home to such gems as the UK’s sole marble Michelangelo sculpture, Giampietrino and Boltraffio’s 16th-century copy of Leonardo’s *The Last Supper*, and Mary Moser’s swooning *Summer* still life of c1780. Buckingham Palace’s in-house **Queen’s Gallery** is a doozy, too (especially if you’re into Georgian fashions, the focus of a current show). And, if you’re back in the Smoke next month, enjoy an array of royal studies at the **National Portrait Gallery**, which reopens 22 June.





TRUEFITT&HILL

EST. 1805 • ST. JAMES'S • LONDON

TRUEFITT&HILL

EST. 1805 • ST. JAMES'S • LONDON



COLOGNE

100 ml e 3.38 fl. oz.

GROOMING MEN FOR GREATNESS SINCE 1805

TRUEFITTANDHILL.CO.UK

LUNCH ON (WHAT ELSE?) A CORONATION CHICKEN SANDWICH



The creamy, curried concoction was invented by Constance Spry and Rosemary Hume of

Marylebone's Cordon Bleu cookery school for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953 – so let's head back to Marylebone Village and **Paul Rothe**, an ageless deli-café that does a faultless version. Their egg mayo is an equally delicious contingency for vegetarians.

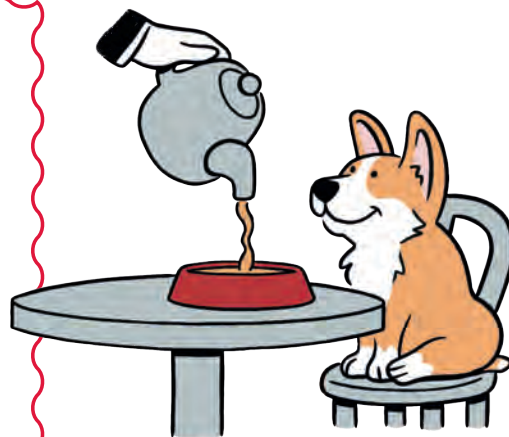


IMMERSE YOURSELF IN SOME EPIC HALLS OF HISTORY



Any and all of London's Royal Palaces are resplendent, but the **Tower of London** has the most varied (and morbid) appeal. The imposing fortress was built in the 1070s by victorious invader William the Conqueror. In the centuries since, it's acted as a bijou royal residence, impenetrable state prison and – for unfortunates like Henry VIII's exes Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard – somewhere to rest one's head (after it was hacked off on Tower Green). The longstanding Yeoman Warders will tell you all about it. Elsewhere, take a minute to eyeball the six resident ravens – mystic guardians of the Tower since Charles II's reign – and the sparkly Crown Jewels themselves.

Then, hop back on the District Line to **Westminster Abbey**. The lofty Gothic icon is ground-zero for royal doings: weddings; funerals; coronations. There are 30 royal predecessors buried here – starting with medieval Edward the Confessor and ending with George II in the 1700s, after which the bodies were shipped out to Windsor.



SEE OUT THE AFTERNOON WITH A SWEET TREAT

Queen Elizabeth II reportedly took afternoon tea each day between 3pm and 5pm, and so shall you. Wend your way back to **Fortnum & Mason**, which has been serving little cakes and strong brews in the tea salon for over 200 years. To celebrate the coronation, they've launched a special champagne afternoon tea that's fitting today. ▶



PHOTOS: PAUL ROTHE & SON, GETTY IMAGES, DEAN AND CHAPTER OF WESTMINSTER, FORTNUM & MASON, NICOLE FREEMANN PHOTOGRAPHY



6PM

SETTLE IN FOR A FEW WELL-DESERVED SNIFTERS

Back in 2021, Charles and Camilla visited Clapham Old Town's **Prince of Wales** pub to pull a couple of pints of local Wandle bitter. It's well worth the trek from central London: a higgledy gem strewn with old Tube signs, kitschy wartime ephemera and other charming tat. If SW4 seems a schlep, jump off the Northern Line a few stops earlier and duck into another **Prince of Wales**, this time on Kennington's idyllic Cleaver Square. It's another timeless, wood-panelled den, with the added boon of an al fresco boules court – perfect for these sun-dappled, early-summer evenings. Onwards to dinner.



7PM

DINE AT A STORIED LOCAL RESTAURANT

Maiden Lane stalwart **Rules** claims to be London's oldest dining room and serves a menu of Brit fare that might not have changed since it opened in 1798. Think roast haunch of game or steak and kidney puddings, all washed down with pewter tankards of Black Velvet, a silken blend of champagne and Guinness. If such gutsy titbits don't polish your sceptre, head to Kingly Street for natty wine and nifty small plates at **Bar Crispin**, say; or killer vegan tacos at **Club Mexicana**. Those more intrepid might make for King Charlie's favourite curry house: **Brilliant**, in Southall.



9PM

FINISH THE DAY IN CINEMATIC STYLE

Head to Chinatown and namesake **Prince Charles Cinema**. The West End's last independent movie theatre shows new releases, sing-a-long versions of classic musicals and cult gems – this month including a *Terminator/Robocop* double-bill, surely Charles' faves.

✕ Fly to London



CHARLES TYRWHITT

JERMYN STREET LONDON

The sky's the limit
for sharp summer
dressing.

In-store: London | Manchester | New York | Washington DC | Houston | Chicago

CHARLESTYRWHITT.COM

LOST





ANGELES

BEYOND ALL THE GLAMOROUS HOLLYWOOD SITES, THERE'S ANOTHER LA TOURISTS DON'T OFTEN SEE. IT'S A PLACE WITH GRAND ART DECO BUILDINGS AND MID-CENTURY BUNGALOWS THAT HAVE HOUSED THE CITY'S DREAMERS, ARTISTS AND NEWCOMERS FOR DECADES. **JESSICA PRUPAS** MEETS THE COUPLE WHO WANT TO SHOW EVERYONE THIS "OTHER" LA - BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS

PHOTOGRAPHS: MATHEW SCOTT

IN DOWNTOWN LA, THERE'S A BASEMENT THAT NOBODY SEES.

Ninety-nine percent of Angelinos won't have even heard of it. But it contains the last remnants of a 1920s-era speakeasy. It's a ruin now, but most of the original mural still decorates the crumbling walls, all colourful scenes of men and women on the razz. The bar hatch remains, as does the graffiti – hilariously lewd scribbles drunkenly drawn on every surface.

It's amazing, and I'm grateful to Richard Schave and Kim Cooper for taking me there. They run Esotouric, a company that takes visitors and locals to little-known historic sites you definitely won't find on a tourist map. Places that, despite being as crucial to Los Angeles' history as the Walk of Fame or the Hollywood sign, get passed over time and time again.

But Richard and Kim have a problem: a lot of the places on their tours are in danger of disappearing. In rapidly changing LA, the sites Kim and Richard love – and teach others to love as well – are constantly being threatened by a perfect storm of gentrification, political complacency and greed. "They've strangled creativity," says Richard. "The only people who are happy are the developers and they will never have enough money."

That's why Kim and Richard have, by necessity, become urban preservationists and activists. When they're not running tours, they're running digital

awareness campaigns that focus on specific historic sites that have come under threat. Over the years, they've amassed a large community through Esotouric's blog, where Kim and Richard trace their preservationist crusades like detectives in a pulp noir novel. They've also built close relationships with local housing activists – like Sylvie Shain, a tenant of Hollywood's historic Villa Carlotta apartment block. When new owners planned to gut the building and turn it into a hotel, Kim and Richard helped launch a historic preservation and tenants' rights campaign. It was a success: hotel plans were scrapped and

Sylvie was allowed to move back into the building. "Kim and Richard have been tremendous contributors to the preservation of the city of LA," Sylvie tells me.

But the couple's coronation as figureheads for LA's historic preservation was, essentially, an accident. Kim and Richard met when they both attended the same small arts programme at a California university. According to Kim, it was not love at first sight. "We had a strong, almost mystical reaction of hating one another," she tells me.

They reconnected years later through a mutual friend and found they had plenty of complementary interests. Kim was obsessed with true crime and hoping to write a book in the genre; Richard, who was working towards a computer science degree, was taken by the nascent powers of Web 2.0 and blogging. He suggested that Kim start a blog where she'd post about one true-crime story per day. Often, the stories she'd write about

would take place in Los Angeles and her readers became interested in visiting in real life the places she'd describe. "We started hearing from readers all saying the same thing: you're writing about the neighbourhoods. We're Angelinos. We've never been to these neighbourhoods. Will you give us a tour?" Kim remembers.

So Kim and Richard began offering tours of their city's little-visited corners and neglected historic sites. But the more they did each tour circuit, they noticed a troubling trend. "We had these routes we ▶



Clockwise from above: Century-old graffiti scribbled on the basement walls of the Hotel Barclay, which hosted a betting ring; a mural left over from a 1920s speakeasy in the basement of the Hotel Barclay; Kim and Richard in the lobby of the King Edward





THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE HOTEL BARCLAY HOSTED RAUCOUS GILDED AGE SHINDIGS, WHILE THE GUEST ROOMS WERE THE SITES OF GRISLY MURDERS

and temporary labourers. Eventually, as poverty rose in the area and businesses moved out of Skid Row, the hotels were essentially abandoned, their owners allowing them to sit vacant for decades.

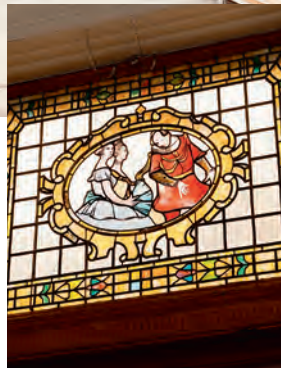
It's here that I first meet Kim and Richard. They're an unusual pair at first blush: he's dressed like an urban cowboy in a Stetson hat and cargos; she's sporting a black, witchy-chic dress and coat, too warm for the sunny LA day. They show me around the neighbourhood, wending through Skid Row's secret corners and private buildings like modern-day Hardy Boys. The speakeasy is in the basement of the Hotel Barclay, a grand Beaux-Arts building that stands six imposing storeys tall on the corner of Fourth and Main Street. Like most

hotels in the area, the Barclay has seen its fair share of intrigue. The ground floor - with its original stained glass windows and intricate plasterwork still intact - hosted raucous Gilded Age shindigs and distinguished, ladies-only parlour parties. Its guest ▶

were doing over and over, and we quickly saw that stuff was disappearing," says Richard. "We needed to be a beacon and say, 'Wait, they're not allowed to cover that sign up, it's a landmark.'"

Although, Kim tells me, Los Angeles has "one of the strongest historic preservation ordinances" in the country, they are often left unenforced by local government, and so the burden falls on the building's owners or local activists to ensure LA's historic buildings don't fall into disrepair - or, worse, are illegally demolished.

Today, one of Kim and Richard's biggest campaigns centres around the historic hotels of Skid Row, a 20-block district in downtown LA. Iconic residences like the Hotel Barclay, the King Edward and the Cecil Hotel (famously the subject of a Netflix true crime series) were built around the turn of the last century to house the city's working travellers



From top: The original sign outside the Hotel Barclay; a stained glass window in the Cecil Hotel; Kim and Richard leading a tour around Hollywood



Travel Insurance with you in mind

Travel insurance designed by travellers

- ✓ Up to £10M medical expenses including repatriation
- ✓ Available for UK & European residents even if you're already abroad
- ✓ Cover for cameras and gadgets available
- ✓ Extreme sports and activities covered, including trekking and scuba diving

Get immediate cover
[true traveller.com](https://www.true traveller.com)

★ REVIEWS.io
★★★★★

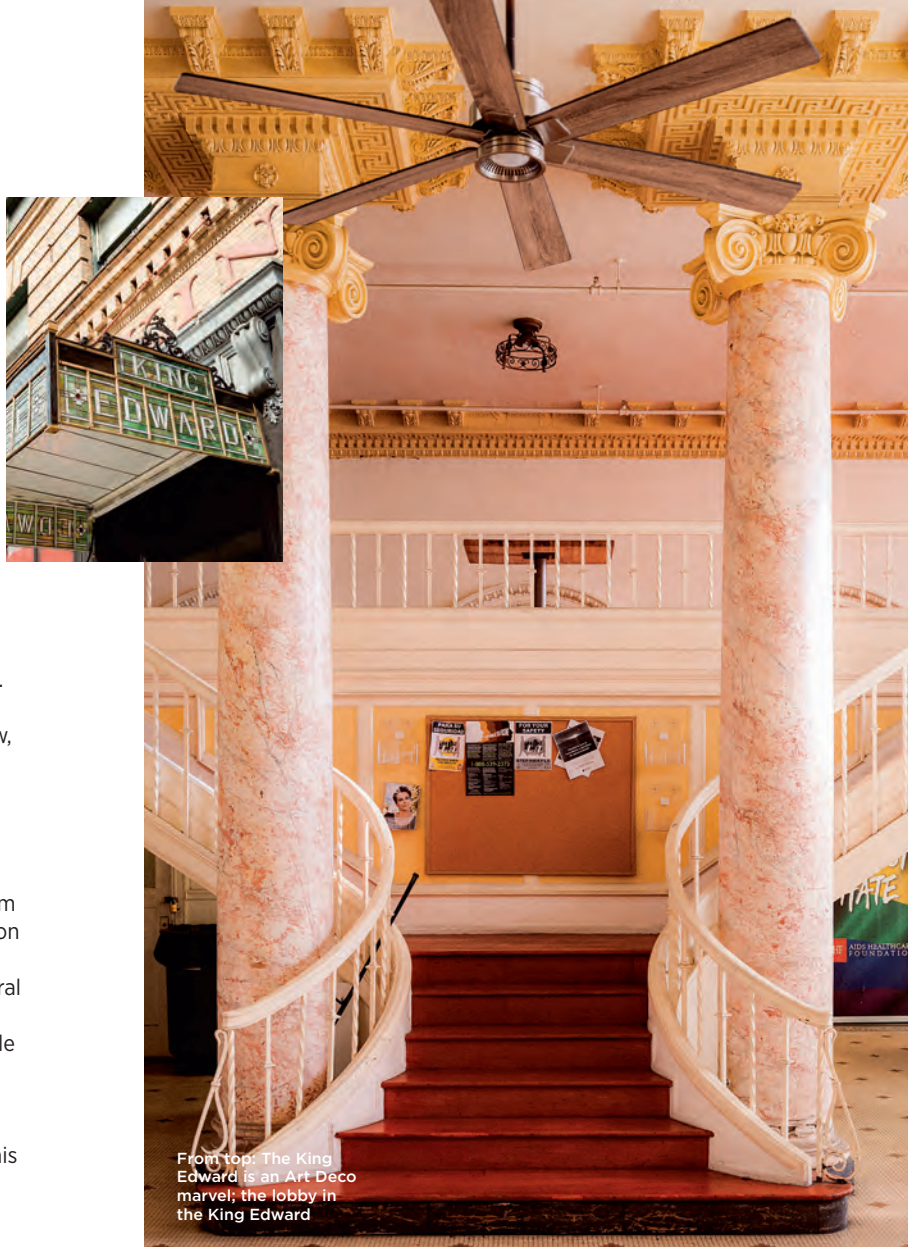
true traveller

rooms, meanwhile, were the sites of grisly murders and theatrical suicides – like when, in 1920, a man named William Edward Collier fatally swallowed cyanide in front of a hotel employee after his wife asked him for a divorce.

Around the corner, the King Edward stuns: its elegant lobby gleams with fat faux marble columns, Grecian mosaic tile floors and a wraparound staircase whose red-carpeted steps lead up to a sprawling mezzanine. It was built in 1906 by master architect John Parkinson who, after finding early-career success in Seattle, lost his investments in the Panic of 1893 and became destitute. As the story frequently went, Parkinson decided to start over in a newly booming California. He settled in Los Angeles, where he rebuilt his architecture empire brick by brick. Looking at it now, you can see this narrative in the King Edward's design – its unapologetic opulence feels like all of Parkinson's ambitions made real.

Skid Row, and Los Angeles more generally, was once a magnet for strivers and people seeking second chances, and soon it will be again: with Kim and Richard's help, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation – the world's largest AIDS organisation – has purchased the King Edward, the Barclay and several neighbouring hotels with the intention of converting them into affordable housing for people in need. Once totally desolate, the Barclay is now filled with people; soon the King Edward will be, too. In a neighbourhood with one of the highest populations of unhoused people in the country, this will have a huge impact.

Kim and Richard couldn't be more thrilled with Skid Row's new trajectory. A cornerstone of their



From top: The King Edward is an Art-Deco marvel; the lobby in the King Edward

CITY OF ANGLES

LA'S SECRET SITES



VEDANTA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Hidden in Hollywood Dell, dig out this whitewashed temple and monastery for spiritual talks, yoga classes, and a bookshop where you can get to grips with this ancient Indian philosophy.



BRADBURY BUILDING

Legend has it that architect George Wyman consulted a Ouija board before taking on this commission, a Victorian behemoth built in 1893 that is now one of LA's oldest commercial buildings.



DUTCH CHOCOLATE SHOP

Step past a nondescript lobby and you'll find this perfectly preserved restaurant and sweet shop dating back to 1914. Shoppers would dine among tiled walls depicting scenes of Dutch life.



AUTOMOBILE CLUB OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The auto club's historic headquarters is a stunning example of the Spanish Colonial Revival architecture style that was popular in the state in the 1920s.



MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS

Founded in 1924, this is a surprising oasis of calm located right below the Hollywood sign. Be sure to stop by the gift shop, where the nuns sell their famous pumpkin bread.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS: VEDANTA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, GETTY IMAGES, HUNTER KERHART, SHUTTERSTOCK, WESLEY DOMINICAN PROVINCE



THE UNIVERSALITY OF LA'S PROBLEMS IS WHAT RESONATES WITH PEOPLE ON THE TOURS

work as preservationists is ensuring Los Angeles remains an accessible, affordable place so that the world's artists and dreamers can still find a home here. "The stories that we tell are about a city where all sorts of weird people were able to do whatever their hearts desired," says Kim. "Find each other and do awful things to each other – and wonderful things, and fall in love and, you know, change the world, come up with new ideas, make records that people still listen to."

The next day, I join one of Kim and Richard's public tours. This time we're in the nucleus of LA's dream factory: Hollywood. With a ragtag group of mostly Angelinos – including some housing activists that have worked with Kim and Richard over the years – I'm shown around the

neighbourhood's famous Mid-Century bungalows and apartments, places that have long offered refuge for the city's creatives. The sun-dappled, Spanish-Colonial façade of the Chateau Alto Nido is instantly recognisable to film fans as the home of screenwriter Joe Gillis in *Sunset Boulevard*. Across the freeway, the Hollywood Tower apartment complex – which served as inspiration for Disney's Twilight Zone Tower of Terror rides – looks uncanny, like a spire-topped castle that was air-dropped from Normandy to the corner of Franklin and Vista Del Mar.

Next to the old Capitol Records Tower – where the eponymous record company was once headquartered – we see the Yucca Argyle Apartments, a typical 1950s complex that still contains some of Hollywood's last remaining rent-controlled units. Plans to build a large mixed-use tower in the area with market-rate apartments were tabled a few years ago, which, if realised, would mean that the Yucca Argyle would be demolished. We hear about the artists and activists who have made the building their home over the years, and about the long-time residents who are refusing to move to make way for the new development, despite being threatened with eviction.

It's a story that, coming from London, I'm all too familiar with. Richard tells me that the universality of LA's problems is what resonates with people on their tours. "We have had people from Shanghai on our bus that are like, you could literally give this bus tour in Shanghai, you'd just need to do the translation."

Before the tour ends, a resident of the Parva Sed Apta Apartments – another iconic Tudor-styled complex that was

made famous as the place where author Nathanael West wrote *Day of the Locust* – offers to bring us to the roof of the building. From there, we can see across east Hollywood and beyond, to the Hills and the Hollywood sign that lords over the city, as if to remind you where you are wherever you go.

I think about something Richard said earlier. "I want to fight for Los Angeles as a sane, liveable space because I knew Los Angeles when it used to be affordable and more equitable. It produced the world as we know it." Here, looking out on the city that's being forever immortalised, I get the feeling that he's right.

From top: The Alto Nido apartment block features in films like *Sunset Boulevard*; Richard outside the famous Hollywood Tower

■ [esotouric.com](https://www.esotouric.com)
✖ Fly to Los Angeles

NEW FRAMELESS

LONDON'S MUST VISIT
IMMERSIVE ART EXPERIENCE

"SPECTACULAR"



42 MASTERPIECES
4 GALLERIES
1 TICKET

BOOK NOW



Van Gogh Cezanne Monet Dalí Kandinsky Rembrandt Turner

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

SWITCH IT UP

Feast sustainably



NEAT BURGER

NICE BUNS

Neat Burger is on a mission to make eating plant-based food an experience, not a sacrifice. Whether you're a seasoned vegan, a flexitarian trying to eat less meat or simply a conscious person wanting to do better, Neat Burger has got you. Green megastars Leonardo DiCaprio and Lewis Hamilton are backers, its 100% plant-based menu is already all over London and it has just opened a shiny new stateside outlet in NYC's Nolita neighbourhood.

Reducing your meat intake is a no-brainer for lowering emissions. So go get some.

25 Cleveland Place, NYC 10012 / neat-burger.com / [@neat.burger](https://www.instagram.com/neat.burger)



CHARLES TYRWHITT

GREEN SLEEVES

Menswear brand Charles Tyrwhitt – originally from Jermyn Street, London – believes that looking sharp and looking after the planet are a great fit. That means Charles Tyrwhitt’s stylish clobber is made to last – no fast fashion here. And they’re serious about extending the life of products through reusing and recycling – enter their pioneering Shirt Recycling Scheme. Simply bring your old shirts – Tyrwhitt or otherwise – into any Charles

Tyrwhitt store in the US or Great Britain and if they’re in decent condition, they’ll be resold to support local charities, like the British Heart Foundation in the UK. If not, they’ll be sensitively recycled and never wind up in a landfill. Last year Charles Tyrwhitt rescued 60,000 shirts this way, raising over £1.2 million for the British Heart Foundation alone. Because when it comes to looking dapper, Charles Tyrwhitt is a cut above.

charlestyrwhitt.com

FIVE ECO-FRIENDLY

FOOD & DRINK WALES

TASTE MAKERS

Already renowned for its crystal rivers, rugged coastlines and soaring peaks, Wales is increasingly making a name for itself in the culinary world. The range of produce is wide, with regional nuances in flavours, processes and techniques. From responsible farming and fishing practices, to B-Corporation certification, eco-friendly packaging processes and a fair work ethos – these are just some of the elements that define an industry striving to have one of the most sustainable food and drink supply chains in the world. Taking good care of the landscape is entirely at one with crafting the finest ingredients in a sustainable fashion, which is not only conscientious from an environmental point of view, but also leads to some unforgettable flavours. And what flavours. In 2022 alone, 182 products won a prestigious Great Taste award. The focus is on high-quality food and drink produced by passionate people who care about what they do and the impact it has on their natural environment.

Learn more at gov.wales/foodanddrinkwales



PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK



GREEN O HOTEL

A CLEAN BREAK

Abraham Lincoln, no less, declared in 1864 that his “favourite state has not yet been invented. It will be called Montana, and it will be perfect.” Set in 15,000 hectares of gorgeous wooded ranchland, the exclusive, adults-only Green O retreat combines all the enchanting benefits of Montana’s pristine rural heartland, with peerless 21st-century design and luxury. That means 12 spectacular one-bed Hauses bristling with the finest in Scandi and Japanese design touches – heated granite-tiled bathroom floors, floor-to-ceiling windows, sustainable wood from naturally fallen local trees – and a top-tier nightly tasting menu under the supervision of Chef Brandon Cunningham. Stays also come with your own Lexus UX Hybrid model for exploring, plus you get access to all facilities at the local sister resort Paws Up, including its equestrian centre and spa. All the trappings of modern luxury in a knockout backwoods setting? Honest Abe would most definitely approve.

thegreeno.com

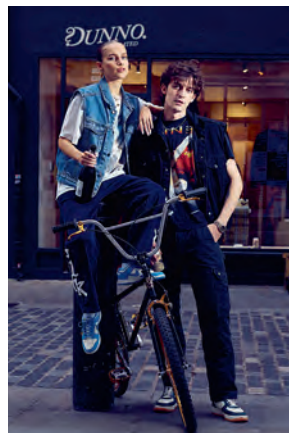
INSPIRATIONS

It’s easy being green with these low-impact ideas

SOHO

STYLE CONSCIOUS

London’s Soho has been at the cutting edge of style since forever. And it’s still as relevant today, with eco-conscious boutiques and fashion houses setting the pace in terms of chic sustainability. Like French ready-to-wear icons A.P.C., where new indigo denim is half price when you trade in your old jeans. Dunno. Curated sells next-level vintage garms, while GANNI’s hot dresses are made from 100% recycled nylon.



CARNABY

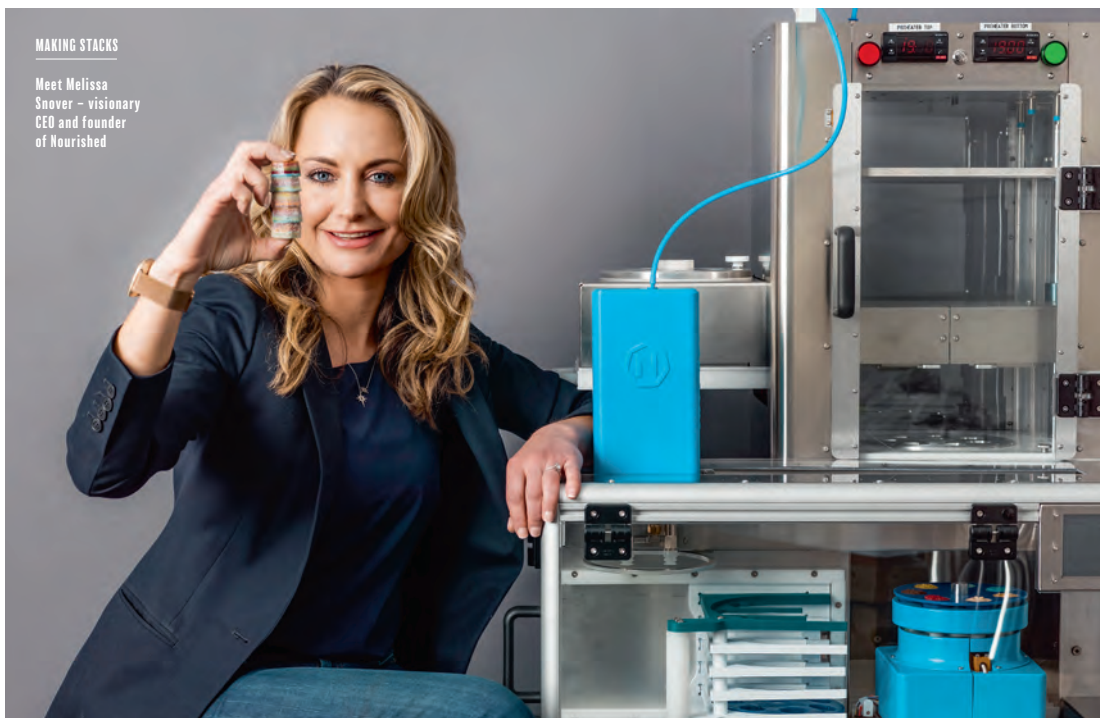
THE BEE’S KNEES

There’s a real buzz around London fashion district Carnaby. Why? It has partnered with DEFRA to install four dedicated beehives to home 160,000 bees, plus 26 green roofs and walls, 9 trees, 738 window boxes, 131 planters and 18 bird boxes. Not to mention the Kingly Court water fountain that’s already saved 100,000 plastic bottles. You might say, it’s quite the hive of activity.



MAKING STACKS

Meet Melissa Snover – visionary CEO and founder of Nourished



HEALTHY OBSESSION

One woman's quest to make wellness work for everybody

"The idea for Nourished came to me at airport security," reveals CEO and founder Melissa Snover. "I took out my laptop, which snagged the ziplock bag I was carrying all my supplements in. Cue embarrassing scrabbling on the floor to pick them all up, annoying my fellow travellers." There must be a better way, she thought. "It's hard to stay healthy when you fly a lot."

Already in the futuristic business of 3D-printing confectionery, Snover realised she could apply similar technology to making vitamin gummies. "I knew right away I wanted them chewable, bespoke and rainbow coloured."

A born entrepreneur, Snover read every book she could find on the topic, earned a nutritionist's licence and adapted her 3D printers to the task of producing supplements.

Laser-focused on quality – "Mum would say I'm ambitious, I'd say stubborn" – Snover acquired patents and scoured the world to find the best-quality ingredients. Like resveratrol for improving cognition, curcumin to fight inflammation and sustainable collagen from recycled eggshells. "Rigour is our rule," says Snover. "We don't include anything that doesn't have at least one double-blind placebo-controlled trial."

Nourished is 100% natural, FDA-approved, aesthetically pleasing, sugar-free and great tasting. And each batch is unique. "Our customers are intelligent," says Snover. "I just want to give them the right tools to live their best lives."

Try Nourished and get 40% off at get-nourished.com

SWEET SUCCESS

Nourished is the highest-rated product in its category in the UK





Cookswood

Luxury Holiday Homes

- Private Gated Estate
- Freehold Plots
- Stamp Duty Savings
- 365 Day Occupancy
- 10 Year Build Warranty
- 24 Hour Security
- Luxury Spa and Gym
- Private Mineral Lake
- Direct Trains to London
- Ideal Investment

Nestled in the rolling hills of Somerset in the ancient woodlands of Stoke St Michael lies the unique 450-acre Cookswood Estate. A private, luxury development of 143 sustainable holiday homes, all benefitting from open meadow, woodland or elevated lakeside views.




BOOK A PRIVATE TOUR www.cookswood.com TEL: 01761 232889

==== A WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT ====
==== AT YOUR FINGERTIPS ====

What's On

SHOUT OUT TO TIM

When the Royal Shakespeare Company announced their intention to stage a musical adaption of Roald Dahl's beloved book *Matilda* in 2010, they knew they needed some bangers and there was only one man for the job - musical comedy rogue Tim Minchin. He pulled it out of the bag. Now you can sing along to all his soaring numbers in the joyous, toe-tapping film adaptation.

 Watch Roald Dahl's *Matilda the Musical*



THE BEST OF WHAT'S ONBOARD

63-69

Movies

Delve into the screenlife genre with *Missing* and catch up on the films everyone's talking about.

71-74

TV

See if you agree with our writer that this is a golden age for small-screen laughs.

75-77

Audio

Join Edith Bowman as she investigates the mesmerising world of movie soundtracks.

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 May.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

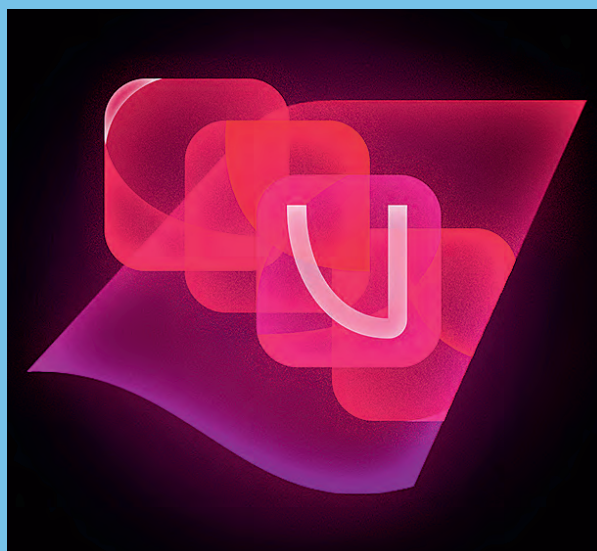
Tune into **Vera**, our genre-busting world of entertainment

WELCOME ONBOARD

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

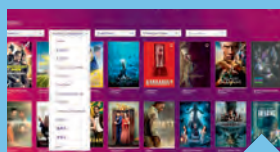
Well, on our aircraft you can **create your own bespoke playlists** for music and watchlists for TV and movies. Here's how:

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



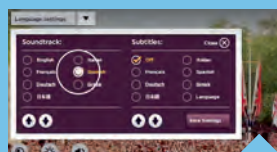
Languages

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



On one of our **A350** or **A339** aircraft? Then select the media type – such as Movies – and filter from the dropdown menu at the top of the screen.

Alternatively, just touch the screen while the media is playing and select the desired audio language and/or subtitles. Sit back and enjoy!



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

Kids' Zone

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


Parental blocking


If you want to limit which content is available by BBFC rating at a particular seat, please talk to a member of the cabin crew.

Accessibility

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

Viewing guide

 Not suitable for nervous flyers

 Unsuitable for children

 Vera Loves

Headphones

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



**THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING
ORIGINAL BROADWAY MUSICAL**



JERSEY BOYS

THE ULTIMATE FEEL GOOD MUSICAL

**BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT
JERSEYBOYSMUSICAL.CO.UK
OR BOOK VIA YOUR CONCIERGE**

SEE IT NOW | TRAFALGAR THEATRE AT TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Share the Magic



Coca-Cola[®]

Real Magic™

© 2023 The Coca-Cola Company. All rights reserved.
COCA-COLA, REAL MAGIC, COCA-COLA ORIGINAL TASTE, COCA-COLA ZERO SUGAR and
THE CONTOUR BOTTLE are registered trade marks of The Coca-Cola Company.

ALL THE LATEST HITS ONSCREEN

Movies

EXTREMELY ONLINE

Nail-biting Gen-Z thriller *Missing* is the latest example of the “screenlife” genre. **Andy Hill** asks why that’s suddenly a thing

SCREENLIFE

IS A decidedly newfangled genre of filmmaking.

Its big idea?

Everything you see

in the film takes place on screens. FaceTime calls, Instagram and old home movies are deftly cut together to tell a story. It’s been around a while – cult webcam slasher *The Collingswood Story* (2002) was arguably first. But as technology progresses and our lives move ever-more online, so too does the depth and breadth of the screenlife movement.

In *Missing*, a single mother mysteriously vanishes on holiday in Colombia with a guy she met via a dating app. Her tech-savvy Gen-Z daughter June (Storm Reid) uses the online platforms at her disposal to track mum down – cue on-the-fly Google translating, frantic chats with gig-economy cyclists and a lot of

sneaky password hacking.

What’s most compelling is the familiarity. June isn’t a hacker. She’s a

normal girl, using tools we all use every day for pretty much everything. *Missing* is engaging because we’re always looking at a screen, and the sheer range of screens – one moment a laptop, the next a Ring doorbell, then a satnav, then an SUV reversing camera – keeps things pacy and exciting.

Missing producer Timur Bekmambetov coined the term screenlife and has made several movies in the genre, not least cult horror *Unfriended* (2015), which earned \$64 million at the box office on a budget of \$1 million. Screenlife is relatively cheap to make and there’s quite a few examples on the horizon – look out for Bekmambetov’s religious dystopia *Resurrected* or LGBTQI+ Disney screenlife comedy *Howdy, Neighbor!*

The more we live our lives mediated by screens – our jobs, our romances, our chill time – the more screenlife makes sense. Indeed, in future, will anyone bother to make a movie that isn’t screenlife?

 Watch *Missing*

Missing is engaging because the sheer range of screens keeps things pacy and exciting

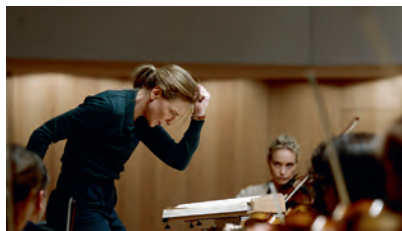


Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre ♥ !

Jason Statham,
Aubrey Plaza

114
mins

WHILE GUY RITCHIE'S output can be a bit hit-and-miss, this latest is definitely in the hit category. Presumably at some point during pre-production Ritchie thought, "What would it look like if we mashed up *Mission: Impossible* with *Snatch*?" And then invited old mucker Jason Statham along to find out. The result is a cracker – an innately stylish, rollicking espionage adventure that, as well as featuring plenty of gripping set-pieces, more plot twists and narrative handbrake turns than you can shake a stick at, and Statham in suitably growly mode, also includes an absolutely side-splitting, showstopping, scene-stealing turn from Hugh Grant. *See right*



Tár ♥ 15

Cate Blanchett,
Noémie Merlant

158
mins

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

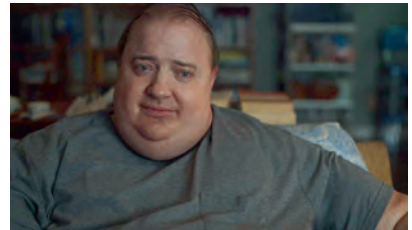


Call Jane 12

Elizabeth Banks,
Sigourney Weaver

122
mins

Banks (who has also written and directed *Cocaine Bear*) leads the cast in this acclaimed drama. She plays 1950s housewife Joy who, in order to have a lifesaving abortion, must make contact with a mysterious underground women's network called The Janes.



The Whale 15

Brendan Fraser,
Hong Chau

117
mins

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



Women Talking ♥ 15

Rooney Mara,
Claire Fo

104
mins

Winner of the best screenplay Oscar, *Women Talking* uses its superb ensemble cast to tell the true-life story of a community of women who, in the wake of a sexual assault revelation, must decide on a course of action.



Missing ♥ 15

Storm Reid,
Nia Long

111
mins

If we tell you that this is a film told almost entirely on a PC screen, you might move on. Don't. Its tale of a teen who hunts for her missing mother using only the tech at her fingertips is proper edge-of-your-seat stuff – and has a wicked twist in its tail. *See opener*

ALL THE FEELS



TOP 5

Wild facts about Guy Ritchie

1

He's a martial artist

This director of such violent romps as *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre* (2023) has black belts in both Shotokan karate and Brazilian jiu-jitsu.

2

He's a versatile cat

He also directed the trailer for video game *Call of Duty: Black Ops II*, ads for Haig Whisky and H&M (both starring David Beckham) and Disney's live-action *Aladdin*.

3

He was married to Madonna

Ritchie met the queen of pop at a party at Sting's wife Trudie Styler's house. He and Madonna divorced in 2008.

4

He owns a pub

His Lore of the Land boozery in London's Fitzrovia serves Gritchie beer, brewed on Ritchie's Wiltshire estate.

5

He's selling BBQs

An avid outdoor cook, Ritchie's stylish line of WildTable outdoor BBQs and leg warmers enjoy a cameo role in *The Gentlemen* (2019).

📺 Watch *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre*



Wildflower ♥

Alexandra Daddario,
Jean Smart

105
mins

YOU MAY NOT expect it, but *Wildflower* is a coming-of-age comedy based on a dramatic true story, which follows Bea Johnson (Kiernan Shipka) from birth to graduation. The drama? She's navigating life with intellectually disabled parents and an extended family that can't quite agree on the best way to help. An accident leads her to A&E, where her family gathers at her bedside, including her grandmother (Smart), aunt (Daddario) and doting uncle (Reid Scott). Together they begin to reminisce, recalling the steps along the path that have led them to Bea's bedside. What emerges is a bittersweet and soul-searching drama that finds moments of great uplift, and features terrific performances from all concerned.



Aftersun ♥

Paul Mescal,
Frankie Corio

102
mins

From first-time director Charlotte Wells comes this sweetly romantic and really rather brilliant coming-of-age drama about an 11-year-old girl, Sophie, who while on holiday with her dad befriends older teenagers and begins to learn about life.



The Banshees of Inisherin ♥

Colin Farrell,
Brendan Gleeson

114
mins

Martin McDonagh has turned his talent for quirky comedy-drama to this determinedly small but perfectly formed story of two long-time friends (Farrell and Gleeson) who, on a remote Irish island, fall out for reasons that aren't at all apparent to at least one of them.

KIDS LOVE



Puss in Boots: The Last Wish ❤️



Antonio Banderas,
Salma Hayek

102
mins

HANDS UP WHO can remember the first appearance of Puss in Boots (or – if you're feeling especially pedantic – this particular incarnation of him)? That's correct, it took place almost 20 years ago, in *Shrek 2*, when the adorable (but deadly) Puss, voiced by Banderas, absolutely stole the show. Since then, Puss has broken out of the *Shrek* films in order to front the 2011 spin-off, where his trademark mix of suave, deadly and unbearably cute saw him facing off against the dastardly Humphrey Alexander Dumpty. In this new instalment, Puss is aghast to discover that he's lost count of his nine lives. Has he lost seven of them? Or was it eight. Either way, he must now launch a quest to restore his lives by finding the mythical Last Wish. Brilliant, as ever.



Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical ❤️



Emma Thompson,
Lashana Lynch

125
mins

Everyone loves to see top thespians chewing the scenery, so you will be overjoyed to see Thompson on brilliant villainous form as cruel headmistress Agatha Trunchbull in this musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's novel.



Hotel Transylvania: Transformania ⚠️



Andy Samberg,
Selena Gomez

88
mins

Four instalments down the line, the chances are that you're familiar with the *Hotel Transylvania* franchise. This time round, an experiment finds Johnny turning into a monster and all the monsters turning human.

OUTLAW VIBES



Assassin Club



Henry Golding,
Noomi Rapace

134
mins

Unlike *Fight Club*, *Assassin Club* doesn't have rules – it just has two possible options: kill or be killed. This is what hitman Morgan (played by Henry Golding of *Crazy Rich Asians*) discovers when he's hired to kill six people.



Bandit



Josh Duhamel,
Elisha Cuthbert

125
mins

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



The Man from Toronto



Kevin Hart,
Woody Harrelson,

110
mins

Hart and Harrelson make a great pairing as a hitman and a loser who are mistaken for each other at an Airbnb. True, the critics have not been kind, but if it's funny, undemanding entertainment you're after, this is your man.

CUTE AND FUNNY



House Party

Tosin Cole, Jacob Latimore	100 mins
-------------------------------	-------------

If you're of a certain age (which is a nice way of saying, if you're ancient) you'll remember the original *House Party*, a raucous comedy starring duo Kid 'n' Play. This new version is described as a "remix" – but the laughs comes just as fast.



The Storied Life of AJ Fikry

Kunal Nayyar, Lucy Hale	105 mins
----------------------------	-------------

A very sweet and romantic tearjerker here, with Nayyar as Fikry, who in the wake of his wife's death is falling into ever deeper despair. However, a visitor to his bookstore is about to change his life. You'll have to watch to see how.



80 for Brady

Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda	98 mins
----------------------------	------------

A REDOUBTABLE CAST of evergreen performers stars in this sports comedy movie. Who, you ask? Try Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field playing lifelong friends who are huge fans of the New England Patriots (an American football team), particularly star quarterback Tom Brady. The quartet became big Brady fans back in 2001 while celebrating a successful course of chemotherapy. Over 15 years later and the same ladies are making plans to host a Super Bowl party when it occurs to them to actually visit the big game in person. Costs are sky high, but thanks to a lucky win on a local radio show the ladies find themselves with tickets for the big game. Pretty soon, big plans are being made, and the fun and fearless foursome embark on once-in-a-lifetime trip.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES



MOVIE BLUFF

WHO WAS THE FLYING BANDIT?

Some sort of dastardly airborne criminal?

Pretty much. The Flying Bandit – real name Gilbert Galvan Jr – robbed 59 Canadian banks and jewellery stores over a record-breaking mid-1980s spree, after escaping from a Michigan prison and fleeing over the border.

Could he actually fly, though?

No. But he zoomed around the country on first-class flights. He told his wife he was away on business trips. She never suspected a thing, apparently.

How did he pull it off?

Galvan (pictured left with the actor who plays him in the movie, Josh Duhamel, at the film's premiere in LA) dressed impeccably and handed tellers a note telling them to hand over the loot. He netted \$600 in cash at his first robbery

and worked his way up to a \$1.2 million jewellery heist. His thefts totalled \$250,000 in cash and more than \$2 million in jewellery. He later flogged his ill-gotten gains via colourful gangland fixer Tommy (Mel Gibson).

Did he get caught?

Big time. A cackhanded accomplice left a gun at the scene, which led to Galvan being banged up in a Wisconsin federal jail. Talk about a rough landing.

Watch Bandit



The Fabelmans ♥

12

Seth Rogen,
Michelle Williams

151
mins

IN TERMS OF commercial success and critical clout, Steven Spielberg is without doubt our greatest living filmmaker, so the fact that *The Fabelmans* is his most personal movie yet is really quite significant. How personal is it? Well, it tells of young Sammy Fabelman, who aches to be a movie director and in doing so relates Spielberg's own story. During filming, the cast were given access to the great man's stash of home movies and pictures, in order to convincingly portray thinly fictionalised versions of himself and his family. "It was overwhelming," says star Paul Dano. "And it was sort of a heavy cloak to bear because we were with someone who was having a big experience every day, revisiting and reworking through a part of their life."



Babylon

18

Brad Pitt,
Margot Robbie

168
mins

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



A Man Called Otto ♥

15

Tom Hanks,
Mariana Treviño

126
mins

Billed as "the grumpiest man in America", Otto (Hanks on reliably fine form) is possibly the worst next-door neighbour ever. However, things change when a young family moves in nearby and he strikes up a relationship with mum Marisol.



1

In *The Man from Toronto*, Woody Harrelson's character shares what disturbing connection with the actor's own father?

2

Stylish thriller *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre* is the fifth collaboration between director Guy Ritchie and star Jason Statham – can you name the previous four?

3

Women Talking is the fourth feature from Oscar winner Sarah Polley, who was the child lead in what controversial 1988 feature from a member of the Monty Python team?

4

Coming-of-age drama *Afternoon* looks back on the holiday of a girl and her father in which beach resort in south-western Turkey?

5

Call Jane director Phyllis Nagy previously worked with actors Cory Michael Smith and John Magaro on which 2015 movie also featuring a woman's first name in the title?

Answers on the right

OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS

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

A

- Accident Man: Hitman's Holiday
- Aftersun



- Amsterdam
- Assassin Club

B

- Babylon
- Badhaai Do
- Bandit
- Bank of Dave



- The Banshees of Inisherin
- Barbarian
- Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2
- Black Adam
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever
- Bodies Bodies Bodies



- Bros
- Bullet Train

C

- Call Jane



- Catch the Fair One
- Chakkar
- Chehre
- Cinderella (2021)

- Clerks III
- Close

D

- Dangerous Game: The Legacy Murders



- Don't Worry Darling
- The Drover's Wife: The Legend of Molly Johnson

E

- Easter Sunday
- Emily the Criminal



- Empire of Light
- EO

F

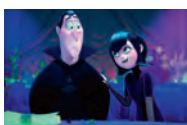
- The Fabelmans
- Fall
- Family Camp
- Father Stu
- Fisherman's Friends: One and All

G

- G-Storm

H

- Hera Pheri



- Hotel Transylvania: Transformania
- House Party

I

- The Inspection

- The Invitation

J



- Joyride
- Jungle Cry

K

- Kabir Singh
- Kataksha

L

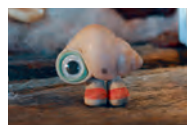
- Lamhe
- Lego DC Comics Super Heroes: Justice League: Gotham City Breakout
- Lightyear



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

M

- Mama's Affair
- A Man Called Otto
- The Man from Toronto
- Maqbool



- Marcel the Shell with Shoes On

- Margaux
- Medieval
- Men
- The Menu
- Mimi
- Missing

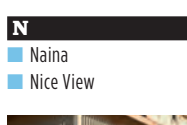
- Montana Story



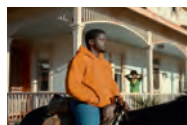
- Moon Man
- Morbius
- Mothering Sunday
- Mumkin



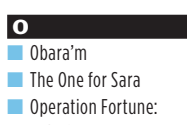
- My Policeman



- Naina
- Nice View



- Nope



- Obara'm
- The One for Sara
- Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre

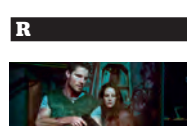


- The Order of Things



- Passport
- Pearl
- Pirates

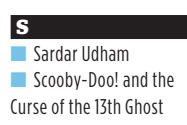
- Princess of the Row
- Puss in Boots: The Last Wish



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



- Rogue Agent



- Sardar Udham
- Scooby-Doo! and the Curse of the 13th Ghost
- See How They Run
- She Said



- Shotgun Wedding
- Significant Other
- Smile
- The Son
- The Stand Up
- The Storied Life of AJ Fikry
- Strange World
- Suffernama
- The Swearing Jar



- Tad the Lost Explorer and the Curse of the Mummy
- Tar
- Teen Titans GO! & DC Super Hero Girls: Mayhem in the Multiverse

- Three Thousand Years of Longing



- Ticket to Paradise
- Till
- To Leslie
- Tom and Jerry: Cowboy Up!
- Too Cool to Kill



- Triangle of Sadness
- True Things



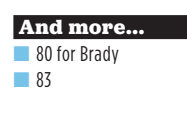
- Vivo



- The Whale
- Where the Crawdads Sing



- Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance with Somebody
- Wildflower
- Wokè
- The Woman King
- Women Talking



- And more...
- 80 for Brady
- 83



DESIGNED FOR ADVENTURE



The new LIFT4 eFoil provides an experience unlike anything you've felt before. Experience a newfound sense of freedom flying over water on our easy-to-learn, durable electric hydrofoil surfboards. The experience is yours to have. Learn more and find a demo location at:

www.liftfoils.com

TWENTY-FOUR CARAT SHOWS

Television

WE ARE CURRENTLY living through a gilded age of guffaws. Never before have so many shows catered to so many different groups of people with such total panache. Luckily for you, we have cherrypicked some highlights purely to prove my point.

If you like classic ensemble sitcoms, there's **Avenue 5**. Created by Armando Iannucci, it would be easy to call it "Veep in space", but that hardly does the show any justice at all. Set aboard a drifting tourist spacecraft crewed by absolute numbskulls, at heart *Avenue 5* is a classically constructed sitcom, although its big secret is how much current-day satire it can pack into the premise.

Then there's **I Love That For You**, which is possibly the most overlooked gem of the last couple of years. *Saturday Night Live*'s Vanessa Bayer plays an out-of-her-depth home-shopping-network employee, who foolishly plays for sympathy by pretending that a childhood illness has returned. It's funny and silly and warm and sad – and it's created by Bayer, who the world needs more of.

Don't be afraid to veer away from the mainstream, though. **Los Espookys** – created by other *SNL* alums, Julio Torres and Fred Armisen – is a drifting, hallucinogenic comedy about horror fanatics operating in a fictional Latin American country. It is like nothing else you have ever seen and is so shamelessly bold that it could only really be made now. If that isn't a sign of a golden age of comedy, nothing is.

And then there's **Barry**. Not just the best comedy of recent years, but possibly the best drama too. Bill Hader (*SNL*, again) plays a hitman who longs to become an actor. It sounds goofy and it is, but it's also dark. *Breaking Bad* dark. *Barry* is flat-out incredible. We should all be so lucky that we exist at the same time that it does.

📺 Watch *Avenue 5*, *I Love That For You*, *Los Espookys* and *Barry*

IS THIS A NEW GOLDEN AGE FOR COMEDY?

Critic **Stuart Heritage** certainly thinks so.

Los Espookys is a drifting comedy so shamelessly bold it could only really be made now

From top: *Avenue 5*, *I Love That For You*, *Los Espookys* and *Barry*, starring cover star Bill Hader

MUST-WATCH



Abbott Elementary ♥

Comedy

22 mins

PROVING THAT THE mockumentary format still has plenty of life in it is this US comedy revolving around an underfunded school in Philadelphia. The Willard R Abbott Elementary School is a predominantly Black establishment where a documentary crew is hard at work making a film on the lives of the various teachers who work there. Now, you might think that a group of stressed and misguided idealistic teachers dealing with what are occasionally truly horrendous school conditions is not a recipe for great comedy. But you know what? Great comedy is exactly what it is. *Abbott Elementary* teases great performances from its cast and it satirises the US school system – in sidesplitting fashion. *See right*



Avenue 5 ♥

Box set

30 mins

From writer Armando Iannucci, who brought us the best comedy of recent times (*Veep*, in case you didn't know), *Avenue 5* is a sci-fi comedy starring Hugh Laurie as the captain of an interplanetary spaceship. What can go wrong? Heaps, it turns out.



Little Fires Everywhere ♥

Drama

60 mins

Class, family, racial tensions. You name it, there's a tension for it in this handsomely mounted drama starring Reese Witherspoon and Kerry Washington as mums from different sides of the tracks on a collision course. Watch the first five episodes here.



House of the Dragon ♥

18

Box set

60 mins

Hands up who remembers a little-known series called *Game of Thrones*? Here's the prequel series and, as with *GoT*, it has less to do with dragons than it has to do with action, political intrigue and Machiavellian plotting.



We're Here !

Factual

60 mins

Meeting the need for more programmes about drag artists comes *We're Here*, in which former *RuPaul's Drag Race* contestants visit small towns and persuade residents to take part in what are often life-changing one-off shows.



Los Espookys !

Drama

60 mins

This superb sitcom follows a bunch of friends who form a new company, *Los Espookys*, with the aim to create horror film-themed parties and events, as well as pranking people into thinking that horror situations are real. What we have here is a genuinely original comedy.

ROLL CALL

Who's who in Abbott Elementary?

Janine Teagues

Real-life comedian Quinta Brunson plays the idealistic second-grade teacher in this award-winning US school mockumentary she also wrote and created.



Melissa Schemmenti

This wisecracking South Philly veteran loves her job and cheerfully calls in favours from shady connections to equip her underfunded classroom.



Gregory Eddie

Substitute first-grade teacher and on-off love interest Mr Eddie is stoic and non-confrontational to a fault. A sweet guy, he learns to speak up for himself eventually.



Jacob Hill

An overwhelmingly corny history teacher, Jacob is a pessimistic foil to Ms Teagues' boundless optimism. But he's loveable and, when it matters most, pure class.



Watch Abbott Elementary



I Love That For You ♥



Box set

30 mins

THIS QUIRKY COMEDY with a *30 Rock* vibe revolves around Joanna (the brilliant Vanessa Bayer), who gets a job as a presenter on a TV shopping channel. The problem is that in order to get the job, she's lied about having cancer. Joanna is so insanely likeable that you, the viewer, will quickly forgive her for spinning this terrible web of deceit. But of course her bosses and co-workers – many of whom go on to forge great friendships with her – are unlikely to see things the same way. Much of the tremendous fun of this show revolves around Joanna's attempt to keep her cancer secret safe, while things really kick up a gear when her sympathetic colleagues announce plans to host a special fundraising day.



Barry ♥



Comedy

30 mins

Down-in-the-mouth actor Bill Hader created and stars in this comedy about a hitman from the Midwest who moves to Los Angeles, only to find himself hooked by the city's theatre arts scene. Funny, quirky and onboard for you to binge on in its entirety.



Rhod Gilbert: The Book of John

15

Comedy

73 mins

If you've ever seen Welsh stand-up comedian Rhod Gilbert on a panel show (his appearances on *Would I Lie to You* are legendary) then this stand-up showcase filmed at the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff will be right at the top of your watch list.

TRUE STORIES



Titanic: 25 Years Later with James Cameron ❤️

Factual

60 mins

KNOWING HOW IT ended (the boat sinks) didn't stop *Titanic* becoming the masterpiece that we know today. A masterpiece that, for a while, was also the most successful film ever made. A quarter of a century after the movie first opened, director James Cameron took time off from the *Avatar* sequels in order to make this anniversary documentary. As he explains, the original film was conceived as a living history, a way of honouring those souls lost in the 1912 tragedy. Here he revisits that idea, looking back at the choices he made while checking up on the latest research.



Branson ❤️



Box set

60 mins

Documentary series delving into the storied life and high-flying adventures of Virgin founder Richard Branson. Features insights from family members, business associates, and journalists, plus decades of archival and home-video footage.



Salvatore: Shoemaker of Dreams



Documentary

110 mins

The shoemaking Salvatore in question is Salvatore Ferragamo who – as we learn in this documentary – created shoes for Hollywood stars such as Charlie Chaplin and Greta Garbo before being elevated to shoemaking royalty.

FOR TEENS



Raven's Home

Kids

20 mins

Disney sitcom about single mum Raven (actor and singer Raven-Symoné), who raises her twin children, Nia and Booker, along with her friend Chelsea. Things take a turn when Raven's son starts displaying psychic abilities.



Big City Greens

Kids

22 mins

Disney's animated adventure focuses on Bill Green, his two children, Cricket and Tilly, and their new life with Gramma, who occasionally pretends to be a wicked "swamp witch", as they return from the city to Smalton.



BUNK'D

Kids

22 mins

This spin-off from Disney sitcom *Jessie* finds Emma, Ravi and Zuri leaving New York and heading off to Moose Rump, Maine, to stay at Camp Kikiwaka – where their parents met as teenagers – and start a new life. Lots of fun lies ahead.

GET TO KNOW THE SCORE

Audio

Hey, Edith Bowman. Why make a podcast about movie soundtracks?

Over the years I've done loads of work around film and music. But I felt no one was celebrating – or even talking about – the special relationship between those two worlds. I once interviewed JJ Abrams, who told me how early in his career an editor made him watch the start of *Star Wars* without music. It's not the same! That inspired me. Plus, I'm curious. And a bit nosy. I just want to learn.

Why do soundtracks matter?

They're a great way of introducing people to music they might not otherwise hear. Growing up, I never felt classical music was in my life. Actually it had been, for years, just through film. My kid recently discovered jazz through *Whiplash*. Also, countless orchestras and talented people in the music world – like the amazing Natalie Holt,

“John Williams’ *Indiana Jones* score took me on an adventure, as if on a magic carpet ride”

TRACK STAR

Legendary broadcaster **Edith Bowman** tells **Vera** all about her podcast celebrating the magic of movie soundtracks

who I interview on the podcast – get to play for massive global audiences via their soundtrack work.

What have you learned making the pod?

So much. Lots of vocabulary, like “needle drop”, which is when an existing, usually famous, record is used. There are several approaches to soundtracks. Some composers write purely from the script. On the other hand, in *Joker*, Hildur Guðnadóttir’s cello score was played live on set as they shot Joaquim Phoenix’s bathroom scene, inspiring his performance. Also I’ve learned some bands – not all bands – take the mickey. They needn’t charge young filmmakers a million quid per song.

What’s your earliest memory of soundtracks?

Going to the cinema as a kid, when it was a real treat, to see *Indiana Jones*. John Williams’ score taking me on an adventure, as if on a magic carpet ride.

If there was an Edith Bowman biopic, who would do the soundtrack?

Every day is a different vibe. But let’s say the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, with Hildur Guðnadóttir’s cello coming in for the more serene scenes.

🎧 Listen to Soundtracking with Edith Bowman



Caroline Polachek ♥

<i>Desire, I Want to Turn...</i>	Breaking
----------------------------------	----------

Once upon a time, Polachek was the lead singer of synth duo Chairlift. Now she's gone solo with this debut, where synth – and indeed pop – reign supreme, and her idiosyncratic vocals are given even more prominence.



Miley Cyrus ♥

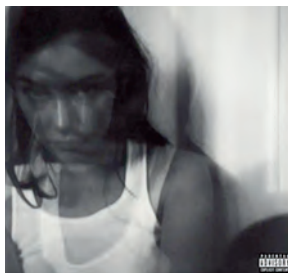
<i>Endless Summer Vacation</i>	Pop
--------------------------------	-----

Once the, ahem, “butt” of jokes thanks to her *Wrecking Ball* video, Miley has since won over the doubters with a series of brilliant releases. This one, which is divided into AM and PM sections, has had critics in raptures.

Waves Rush In

<i>Under the Static</i>	Pop
-------------------------	-----

WHEN SAM BRANSON (son of Richard) chose his artist name, he picked *Waves Rush In* “to represent the waves of life. Whether waves of light, waves of energy, waves of the ocean or waves of emotion, they connect us all.” In 2021, he made his mark with the release of the EP *Seasons Change*, which saw him gaining critical accolades as well as building a community of kindred spirits who, as he says, “see the world through compassionate eyes; those who believe in truth and authenticity; those conscious travellers who love to explore – internally and externally – and wish to celebrate the best of humanity.” Now comes the debut album, a work that is woven from a lifetime of passion, adventure, love, loss and everything in between. In short, it’s a document of a life truly lived.



Gracie Abrams ♥

<i>Good Riddance</i>	Alternative
----------------------	-------------

LA-born popster Gracie is the daughter of director JJ Abrams, and thus has creativity and an ability to think outside the box written into her DNA. Both are attributes that inform this second EP of indie-pop.



The Lathums ♥

<i>From Nothing to a Little...</i>	Alternative
------------------------------------	-------------

If you’ve heard the single *Struggle* then you’ll know to expect something very special from this second album from Wigan’s finest. And if by any chance you haven’t heard *Struggle* then may we suggest you do so.



5 reasons Caroline Polachek should be on your radar



She’s a legit artist
Caroline Polachek made her name as half of indie darlings Chairlift. She now alchemises non-traditional songs into smart, groundbreaking pop.

But she’s not afraid of kitsch

Polachek’s new LP
Desire, I Want To Turn Into You is a high-camp masterpiece, complete with Spanish guitars and children’s choir. Also, she co-wrote a song with Elon Musk, about Harambe the gorilla.

Her influences are on point
She cites Björk, Fiona Apple and Nicki Minaj among her inspirations, and insists Celine Dion is a key artistic touchstone. Her childhood in Japan inspires strange, angular melodies.

She rules the zeitgeist
Caroline has already written for Beyoncé, collaborated with Charli XCX and recorded a cover of *Bang Bang* for the new *Minions* film.

🔊 **Listen to Desire, I Want to Turn Into You**

SMOOTHLY DOES IT



Kali Uchis !

<i>Red Moon In Venus</i>	R&B/Soul
--------------------------	----------

Gorillaz fans will need no introduction to Kali Uchis. She featured on their 2017 album *Humanz* and has since released three solo joints of her own.



Kelsea Ballerini !

<i>Rolling Up the Welcome Mat</i>	Country
-----------------------------------	---------

Country-pop sensation Ballerini recently announced her divorce from fellow country singer Morgan Evans, and this EP is her musical response to that event.



Samara Joy ♥

<i>Linger Awhile</i>	Jazz
----------------------	------

BORN IN NEW YORK'S Bronx into an intensely musical family, Samara Joy was as musical as the rest of her talented family, spending her formative years singing in gospel groups. It was a little later that she first fell in love with jazz, and lucky for us that she did: in 2019 she won the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, then recorded her self-titled debut album. This second album, *Linger Awhile*, is already the winner of the Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Album. It's a work that truly delivers on all the early promise.



PODCASTS



Soundtracking

Edith Bowman combines her love for films and music by buttonholing a variety of directors, actors, producers and composers to talk tuneage.

See  *opener*



High Performance

Footy host Humphrey – along with leading organisational psychologist Damian Hughes – picks the brains of high-achievers to find out the secrets of their success.



Rosie Wilby: The Breakup Monologues

HAVING BEEN DUMPED in 2011, Rosie Wilby embarked on a quest to investigate, understand and conquer the psychology of heartbreak. These days she specialises in using a mix of humour, memoir and even science to unpack questions about modern life, and ways of beginning, maintaining and ending relationships. For this podcast, Rosie and a rotating cast of performer pals cast back to past breakups.

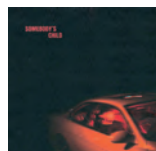


GUITAR ISN'T DEAD

Somebody's Child ♥

<i>Somebody's Child</i>	Breaking
-------------------------	----------

This album finds Dublin-born Cian Godfrey, aka Somebody's Child, reflecting upon difficult mental health experiences, as well as growing up in Dublin.



Inhaler

<i>Cuts and Bruises</i>	Alternative
-------------------------	-------------

Inhaler include one Elijah Hewson (son of U2's Bono), so you should just appreciate that musical talent runs in the family, because this album of indie-leaning rock is very good indeed.



You Me at Six

<i>Truth Decay</i>	Rock
--------------------	------

Hailing from Weybridge in Surrey, rockers You Me at Six are absolutely huuge. This is their eighth album and looks like taking them to even huuger heights.





Kids travel for free

on our direct service from
Heathrow Central* to London Paddington

Our trains offer a non-stop journey, comfortable seats, plenty of luggage space and complimentary Wi-Fi. Plus kids 15 years or under travel FREE** when accompanied by a full fare paying adult.

SCAN HERE
TO BOOK:



Speak to a representative located at the station today or visit Heathrowexpress.com

*Heathrow Terminals 2 & 3. **For terms and conditions visit: www.heathrowexpress.com/kidstravelfree



CREDITS.

Virgin Atlantic news and views

I was genuinely humbled,” says Kyle Reynolds, the Virgin Atlantic crew member who founded Virgin Atlantic Football Club. Last month Kyle joined a squad to see the work of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in Delhi. Run by the BOSCO Refugee Assistance Programme, the initiative they visited supports persons forced to flee with education, healthcare, livelihoods and other assistance.

“The incredible work they do helping these young people, with some help from donations by Virgin customers, is breathtaking,” says Kyle. “Also, we played football – and they humbled us 4-1.”

Kyle reckons seeing the work in person helps galvanise efforts to fundraise back home. “I feel energised to go and raise awareness, and inspire the rest of our team to raise even more money for this vital cause. That’s the goal, anyway.”



Virgin Atlantic Football Club takes on refugees for a game in Delhi

PASSPORT TO CHANGE

Helping children towards a brighter future



Alongside our partners like UK for UNHCR, we’re on a mission to help the next generation. That means helping kids

everywhere build a brighter future for themselves and the world through science, tech, engineering and maths. Scan the

QR code, find our charity bag when you disembark, or ask crew to help you make a contactless donation.



© JACK'S PIC!



JOIN THE CREW IN... SHANGHAI

Cabin Crew Legend **Jack Morgan** shares his favourite spots around the booming Yangtze port



Thai Gallery is a Shanghainese and Thai fusion restaurant located in the heart of Jing'an, situated on a lake with dry ice covering the water at night.



I'm an avid skincare enthusiast and **SkinCity 5.5** is my fave. Fusing traditional techniques with state-of-the-art tech, the massage and facial are among the best in the world.



Jing'an Temple is a spectacular Tangmi Buddhist temple, featuring the largest jade Buddha in the country, and many other fascinating sculptures and gold peaks.



TOP TIP: Shanghai's Metro system is incredible – stay in the Old City and access anywhere for under £1.

Below:
Sir Richard Branson hails Virgin Atlantic's success in New York

CAB CLASS

CELEBRATING OUR LUXURIOUS NEW A330NEO EXPERIENCE IN NEW YORK CITY

A LONDON TAXI has been treating lucky New Yorkers to a taste of the style and comfort of our shiny new A330neo planes. Virgin founder Richard Branson took to the streets of Manhattan last month in the tricked-out cab, featuring built-in wireless charging pads, luxurious seatback screens, signature mood lighting, afternoon tea, our classic Ruby Slipper cocktail and, of course, our chic Vivienne Westwood-clad cabin crew. Lucky passengers won prizes including Flying Club points, access to our award-winning Clubhouse, two return tickets to London and an invite to our ruby (40th) anniversary celebrations next year. Sir Richard's first stop? The new Virgin Hotels NYC location. Fare enough.



WHY I LOVE MY JOB

Cargo Operations Manager Kirk Murray is a lifelong believer in the power of freight

"I've been at Virgin 27 years, since I left school. People don't think of us as a freight airline, but it's a critical part of the business, right

there under your feet. And it throws up some fascinating challenges. When the plane is full at the front with passengers, we fill up the back with heavy loads. Balance matters. We need to fill up as much as we can,

so it's a bit like Tetris. The cargo itself can be anything – classic cars, multimillion-pound artworks, live tropical fish. Yes, we've even transported snakes. Smoked salmon for restaurants is a big one for us, as we're faster than ships.

During the pandemic, we basically transitioned to being a cargo-only airline. I remember preparing a plane for a run to Shanghai to pick up vital PPE – stepping out onto the airfield at Heathrow and

hearing the birds, which was a first. I love that anything can happen, and there's a huge buzz from encountering challenges and overcoming them. The team jokingly call me Captain Kirk, which gives you an idea of the banter we share."

We are the face of seamless travel.



BETC

No matter where you're heading in the world, SkyTeam member airlines offer you more convenient connections, more fast-track services than any other alliance thanks to SkyPriority, the broadest set of loyalty benefits at 970+ airports around the globe.

To learn more about how SkyTeam can make your travel smoother visit skyteam.com



PRETTY FLY FOR A WIFI

Now you can post selfies, binge-read your favourite e-book, brag about your hols to your mates, or even catch up on some work while flying above 10,000ft with Virgin Atlantic

HOW TO CONNECT

- 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.

If you're onboard...

- A 787-9 or an A350-1000, open your browser and navigate to virgin-atlantic-wifi.com
 - An A330-300, open your browser and navigate to airborne.gogoinflight.com
- 3 Just follow the onscreen instructions to buy a session and then get browsing!

SHOUT ABOUT IT

Tweet or take a pic with #LiveFromVirgin and let the world know you're connected above the clouds.

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR DATA

Remember to switch off your device's automatic app updates and synchronisations. That way you can avoid using up your data on the boring background stuff while you're busy browsing, tweeting and sharing.

BABYLONSTOREN

A TASTE OF SUNSHINE

*Proud to be the official rosé of
the RHS Chelsea Flower Show
since 2021. An elegant, dry rosé
from our RHS-accredited gardens
near Franschoek, South Africa.*



Available to buy and
have delivered from
our friends at
The Newt in Somerset



BABYLONSTOREN
Mourvèdre Rosé
THE OFFICIAL ROSÉ OF THE
RHS CHELSEA
FLOWER SHOW
2023



Please sip responsibly | www.babylonstoren.com

TWO ADULTS. THREE CHILDREN. FOUR COUNTRIES. DODDLE.



If you're dreaming of your next American road trip, wishing for a wild adventure in Africa, or looking for that next wave down under, we can make it happen. Easy.

TRAVELBAGTM
OUT THERE MADE EASY

Call 0203 740 5814 or scan the QR code to book your next adventure.

