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NOVEMBER 2024

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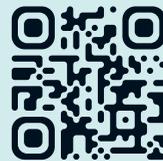
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vera

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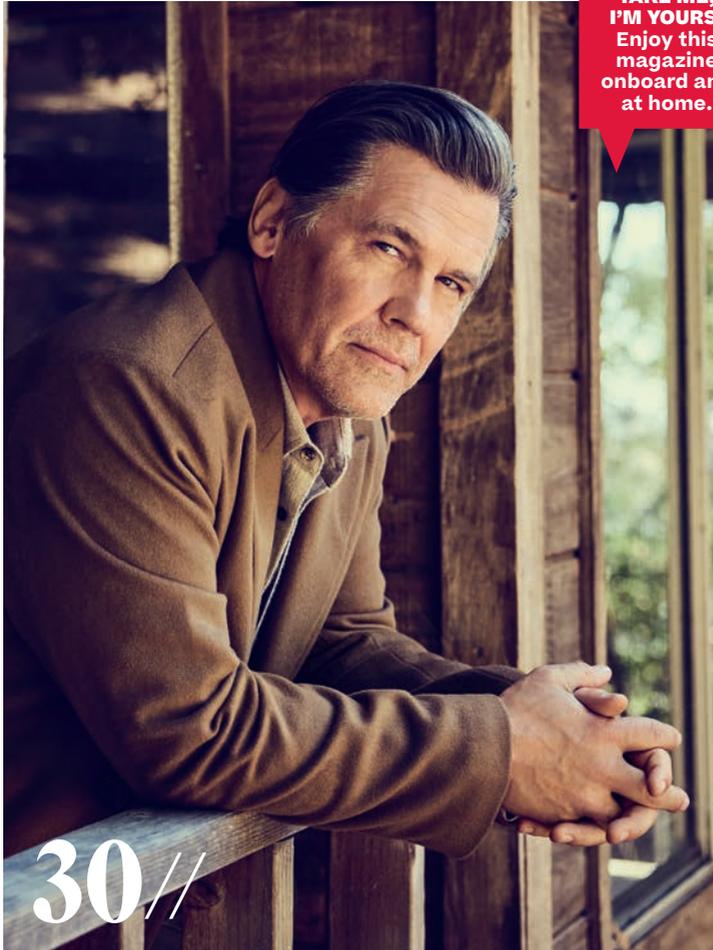
Tim Burton's gothic renaissance in London, a new photography book celebrates pop icon Prince and getting crafty on holiday in the Maldives.

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Improving men's mental health in the workplace, blowing off steam with an accomplished clarinettist and crew member Twyana picks her favourite hotspots in Miami.



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

30 //

**FEATURES** Josh Brolin is turning a new page on his life and career, where US presidential hopefuls chow down on the campaign trail and why vinyl is hot again in Mumbai.

## CAMEOS



**Ilka & Franz** are a photo and director duo based in London, known for their sense of humour and distinctive colour palette. For this issue, we asked them to recreate in a studio the most iconic dishes from the American presidential trail. See p40



Photographer **Karan Kumar Sachdev** is based in Mumbai and has exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery in London, *Le Book Connections in Paris* and as part of the *British Journal of Photography's Portrait of Humanity*. Here he captures the vinyl scene of his home city. See p48



**Tom Howells** is a London-based writer and editor whose work has appeared in the *Financial Times* and *Vogue*. Ahead of the release of his new book, *Weird London*, he takes us on a tour of all that is esoteric, eerie and downright strange in the *Big Smoke*. See p16

Ink

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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

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Printed on Revive Silk 100% recycled certified paper

PHOTOGRAPHER: COVER & THIS PAGE: JOE PUBLISE; STYLIST: SAMANTHA MCMILLAN; GROOMER: KIM VERBECK; PRODUCER'S ASSISTANT: BEN CARROLL; CLOTHES: COVER: SHIRT: THOM SWEENEY; JEANS: AG; THIS PAGE: T-SHIRT: PAGE BOTTOM-DOWN SHIRT: RAILS; OVERCOAT: VINCE JEANS; AG

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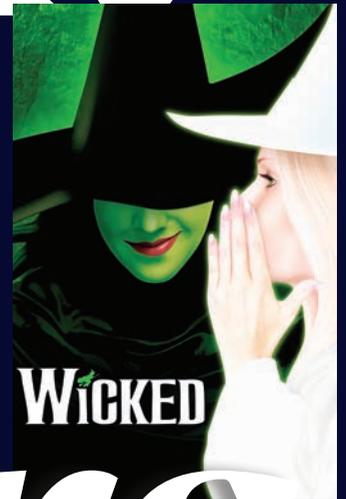
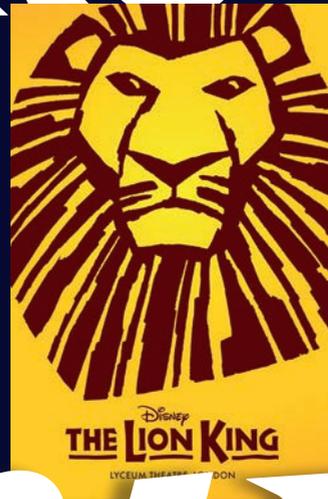
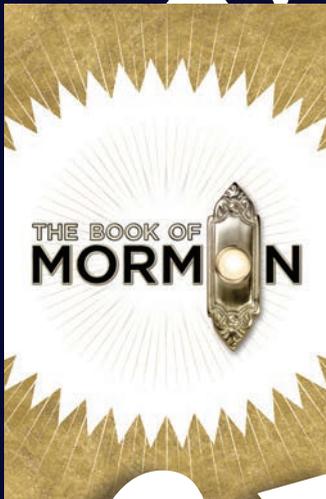
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# RED HOT

NOVEMBER



WORDS: JESSICA PRUPAS PHOTO: SURROUNDED, 1996 © TIM BURTON

Now showing //

## Gothic romance in London

► **TIM BURTON IS GETTING A MAJOR HAT TIP AT LONDON'S** Design Museum. Credited with bringing gothic culture into mainstream cinema, the director – of such classics as *Edward Scissorhands* and *Beetlejuice* (as well as its recent sequel) – has built a world that's distinctly his own. *The World of Tim Burton* runs until 21 April 2025 and explores the auteur's unique aesthetic through drawings, photographs, paintings, sketchbooks and set designs, including a bunch of artefacts from Burton's personal collection. Dark days ahead.

© FLY TO LONDON

First take //

# SEQUELS ARE BEING MADE OVER

The formula of pairing familiar actors with fresh faces is being ditched and something new taking its place, says Al Horner

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY FALLS

► **THIS SUMMER, DISASTER MOVIE** *Twisters* sent a question blowing through Hollywood: are we witnessing a comeback for standalone sequels? For a long time, that pejorative phrase was used to describe a film set loosely in the same universe as a previous box office smash, but without any of the old cast or characters. Oftentimes they were greenlit by the studio to make an easy buck. *Home Alone 3* without Macaulay Culkin; *Ace Ventura Jr* and *Evan Almighty* without Jim Carrey... The list goes on.

Now, it's becoming the hot new trend in Hollywood franchise-making. For a decade, the box office has been dominated by so-called "legacy sequels" – spectacles that bring back old characters from classic franchises, played by their original actors and paired with rising stars who appeal to Gen Z. These films' inherent blend of nostalgia and new beginnings has been lucrative – 2015's *Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens* and *Top Gun: Maverick* (2022), rank among the highest-grossing films of all time.

When *Twisters* – a follow-up to 1996's *Twister* – was announced in June 2020, many assumed it would be a legacy sequel, with Helen Hunt's Dr Jo Harding surely likely to cameo alongside a cast of storm-chasing young guns. Instead, the film (available on Vera) takes the spirit of the original and charts its own course. *Twisters* has no characters from the original. In fact, it contains only one nod to the hit that spawned it – a

weather device for measuring tornadoes named Dorothy. When Dorothy is destroyed in the opening scene of the movie, it feels symbolic of a breed of sequels tearing up what came before and doing something new.

Ridley Scott's upcoming *Gladiator 2* is said to have little connection to the epic from 2000. Liam Neeson, meanwhile, is soon to star in a standalone sequel to spoof smash *The Naked Gun*, hot on the heels of *A Quiet Place: Day One*, itself a standalone prequel.

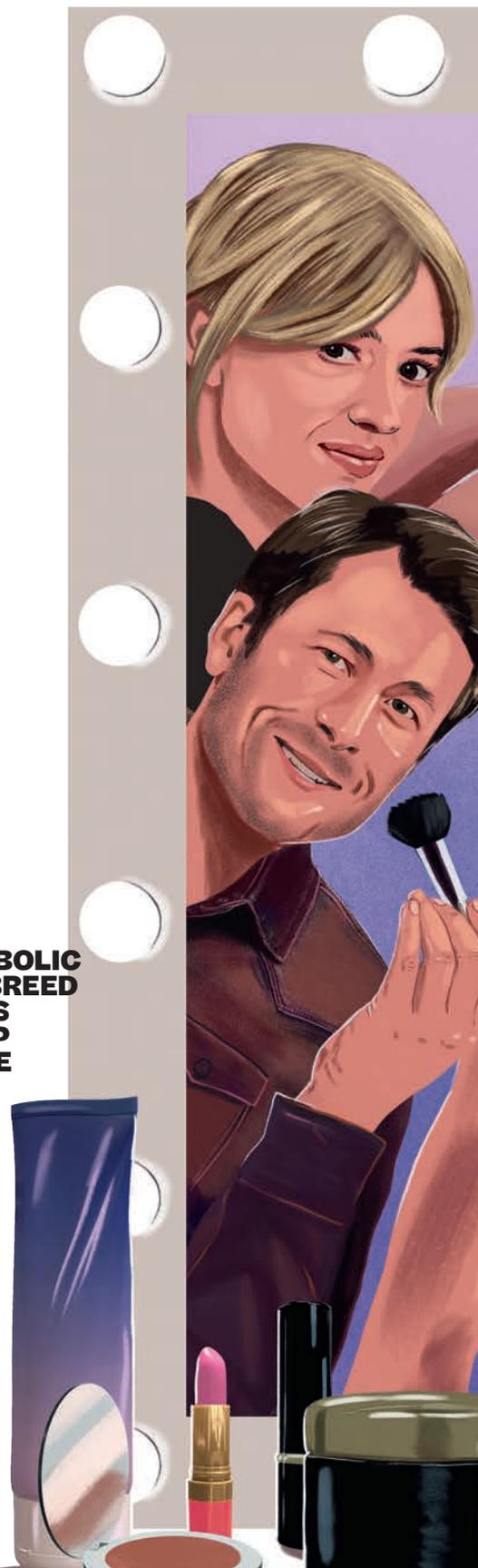
All this, analysts will tell you, comes not a moment too soon. Recent legacy sequels have struggled to strike a chord, suggesting that moviegoers are growing weary of nostalgia fests and want original takes on existing IP. This year's

*Ghostbusters: Afterlife* was a critical misfire, while *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny* conspired to lose money in 2023.

Legacy sequels aren't totally over yet, of course. Tim Burton's recent *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* – which saw original star Michael Keaton rub shoulders with Gen Z fave Jenna Ortega – was a box office hit. But if *Twisters* is anything to go by, a storm is coming to shake up sequels.

“**TWISTERS FEELS SYMBOLIC OF A NEW BREED OF SEQUELS TEARING UP WHAT CAME BEFORE**”

© WATCH TWISTERS &amp; A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE







To bulk up for his role in *Gladiator 2*, Paul Mescal trained for 45 minutes six days a week and “ate a lot of chicken”.

INKAGAIN

## Celebs have regrettable tats

1 //



**KENDALL JENNER** drunkenly had the word “Meow” tattooed on the inside of her lower lip. “It was literally the first thing that came to my mind,” she told Ellen DeGeneres.

**VERDICT: CAT-ASTROPHIC**

2 //



**ED SHEERAN** asked buddy Saoirse Ronan to tattoo the title of hit *Galway Girl* on his arm, after the actor starred in the music video. Only problem? She mischievously spelled it “Galway Grill”.

**VERDICT: ED’S COOKED**

3 //



Doe-eyed **RYAN GOSLING** tried to tattoo himself with a “monster’s hand dropping a bloody heart... but I did it myself with a tattoo kit, so it looks like a cactus.”

**VERDICT: PRICKLY SITCH**



Table read

# HE'S GOT THE LOOK

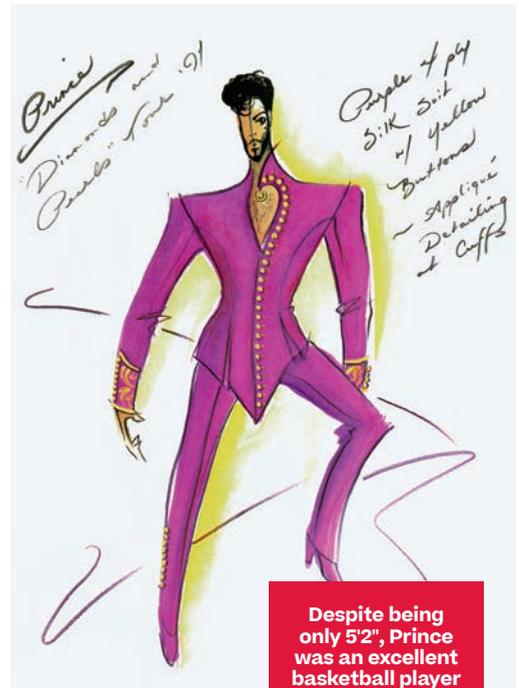
A new coffee-table book features rarely seen photos of pop's most enigmatic icon

➤ **HAS THERE EVER BEEN A MUSE AS** universal, as timeless, as beguiling, as Prince? With his exceptional sense of style and inimitable swagger, the pop idol was catnip to photographers. A new publication from ACC Art Books – simply titled *Prince: Icon* – looks at the Minnesota-born singer's hypnotic power in front of the lens.

Curated with the help of photographer and longtime Prince confidante Steve Parke, the coffee-table tome features more than 100 pages of candid photos, album covers and backstage snaps taken by the High Priest of Pop's nearest and dearest. There are a lot of private, intimate moments here that give invaluable insight into the man beneath the purple bell bottoms.

Personal essays from the singer's intimates – including illustrious artists and photographers like Robert Whitman, Rob Verhorst and Jimmy

*Left to right: In Detroit on the Purple Rain Tour, 1984; design for the "million button jacket", which Prince wore on tour and in the video for Sexy MF, Paisley Park playground, 1990, and in Paris, 1988*



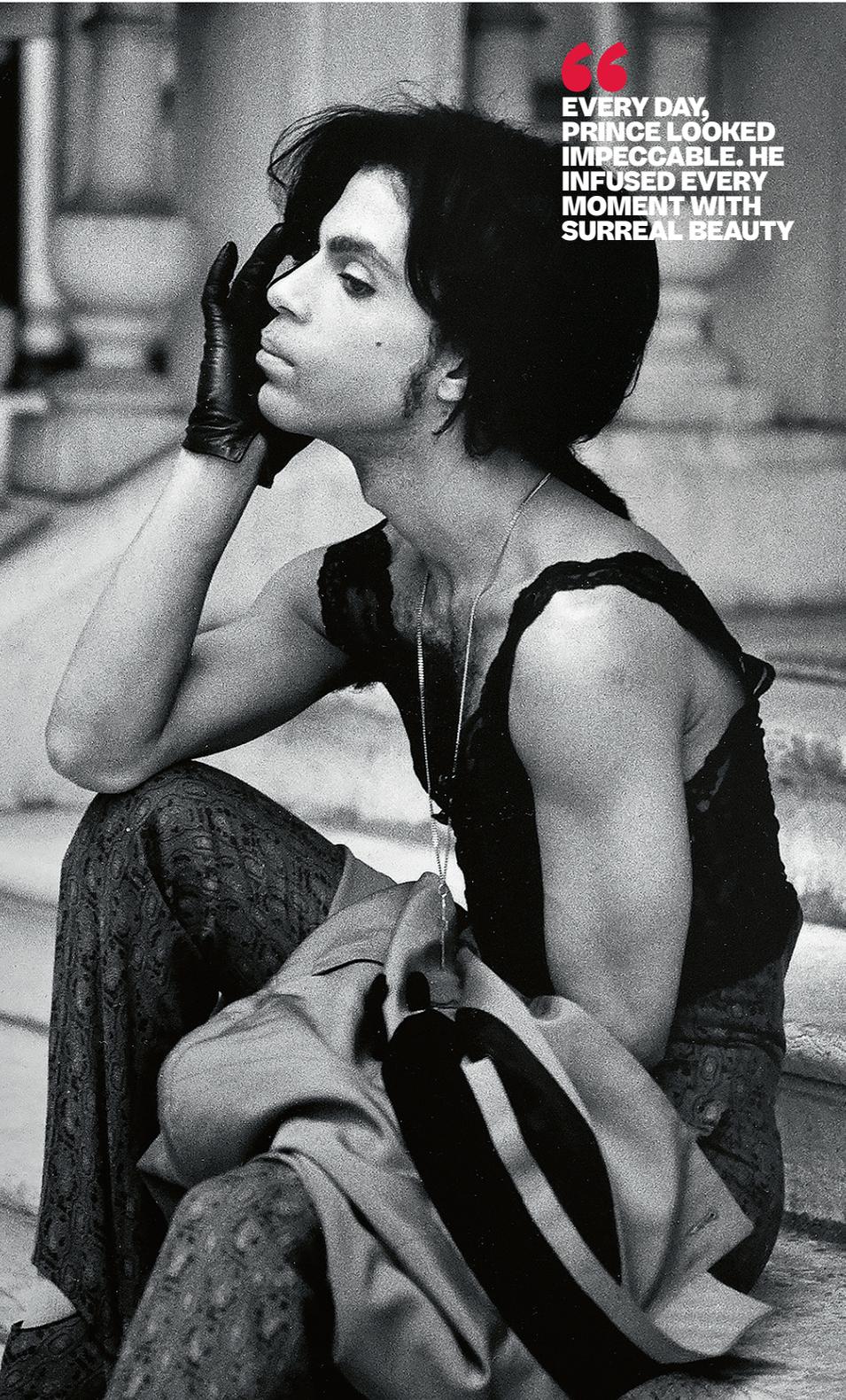
Despite being only 5'2", Prince was an excellent basketball player and part of his high school junior varsity team.



Steinfeldt – allow us a further peek into Prince's chaotic, creative world. One golden nugget comes from the singer's longtime costume designer, Stacia Lang, who describes her days working at Paisley Park, Prince's multi-use production facility outside Minneapolis. She remembers how, after spending the morning at her drawing table, she would hear "the wonderful rhythmic clicking of those famous high heels", signalling that her boss had come into work. "Every day, Prince looked impeccable," she writes. "With perfect make-up, coiffed hair and the bespoke clothing that was so expertly executed in our fully staffed wardrobe workroom, he infused every moment with surreal beauty."

● *Prince: Icon* is published by ACC Art Books





“  
**EVERY DAY,  
 PRINCE LOOKED  
 IMPECCABLE. HE  
 INFUSED EVERY  
 MOMENT WITH  
 SURREAL BEAUTY**

WORDS: JESSICA BRUPAS PHOTOS: GOVIER DE ROOS, STACIA LANG, STEVE PARKER, SOPHIE ROUX. COURTESY OF US SPACE & ROCKET CENTER/MARTY SELLERS/SELLERSPHOTO.COM

SET VISIT



## Spacing out in Alabama

**E**mma Roberts plays a ditzzy party girl who lands herself a gig at NASA after her friend beefs up her resume in this year’s *Space Cadet*. She’s shipped off to Houston – NASA’s real-life training facility – where it quickly becomes apparent that hiring her was an astronomical mistake. All the fish-out-of-water hilarity wasn’t filmed in Texas, but in Huntsville, Alabama, at the US Space & Rocket Center. This museum opened in 1970, just after the Apollo 12 Moon landing, and displays Apollo-programme rockets and aircraft, as well as a bunch of other fascinating space-exploration artefacts. It’s located within the Marshall Space Flight Center, NASA’s biggest research site, which you can explore on a decidedly terrestrial vessel: a bus.

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She made her breakthrough with musical movie *In the Heights*. Now **MELISSA BARRERA** is killing it as horror's new sovereign

PORTRAIT: SARAH KRICK

► **MELISSA BARRERA DIDN'T**

always seem destined to become this decade's preeminent scream queen. A self-described "musical theatre geek" born and raised in the north-eastern Mexican city of Monterrey, the 34 year old grew up dreaming of the bright lights of Broadway and starred in the film version of Lin-Manuel Miranda's musical *In the Heights* before horror movies came calling.

It was after starring in the successful 2022 reboot of *Scream* and its sequel *Scream VI* that Barrera grabbed her chance to join the pantheon of horror greats alongside the likes of *Halloween's* Jamie Lee Curtis and star of *The Exorcist* Linda Blair. She's since made a string of thrilling, modern horror classics, including reuniting with *Scream* directors Tyler Gillett and Matt Bettinelli-Olpin for *Abigail*, a gory fright-fest about a group of criminals who kidnap a young ballet dancer with a sinister secret.

When we speak, Barrera is on her way to get clothes fitted for an appearance at the Venice Film Festival, but from the back of a car speeding across Los Angeles she finds time to tell *Vera* about

her favourite scary movies, dealing with culture shock in New York and how a teenage crush on Hugh Jackman led her into the monstrous clutches of *Abigail*.

**What are your memories of growing up in Monterrey?**

I loved it. It's a beautiful mountain city with lots of things to do in nature. I had the best childhood there. Now that I'm thinking about having a family, I'm like, "Should I go back and try to give them the childhood I had?" There's great food on every corner, so no matter

Rising star //

**“I'm honoured to be called a scream queen”**



From above: Melissa Barrera in *Abigail*, and with Anthony Ramos in *In the Heights*

where you go you're going to have an amazing meal. I still miss it.

**You left to study musical theatre at New York's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts. Was the Big Apple everything you expected it to be?**

It was a culture shock. It was my biggest dream to go to school in New York because I just wanted to be on Broadway. When I got there it was overwhelming. During orientation week this dude said to me, "Hey, there's this students of colour meeting we should go to." I had no idea what that meant. That day was when I started to understand who I was in the United States and that people saw me as an other, as a minority. I enjoyed school while we were in class, though. I think that's probably why I like being an actor, that I can escape into another person's life.

**How did that experience lead to you being cast in *In the Heights*?**

For me, that was a dream 10 years in the making. When I was in college *In the Heights* was on Broadway. I must have seen it like 16 times and I thought, "That's gonna be me one day." Ten years later I had lived an entire new life in Mexico City, doing soaps and theatre. I'd moved to LA and then the announcement for the movie of *In the Heights* came around. It was such a full-circle moment for me to be able to play that role.

**The next year you landed a lead role in the reboot of *Scream*. Do you like scary movies?**

I grew up obsessed with them. I was the friend that forced everyone at the sleepover to watch something really scary. I distinctly remember the *Final Destination* franchise being our go-to. To this day if I see a truck with logs on the back, I pull over.

**What drew you to *Abigail*?**

I love monsters! Vampires, Frankenstein, werewolves, anything related to monsters. I watched *Van Helsing* every day on repeat when it came out.

I was very much in love with Hugh Jackman, to be fair. I always thought being in a movie with creatures would be fun, so this was a no-brainer.

**How do you feel about being called a "scream queen"?**

Honoured! I know what that title

means and all the iconic actresses that have come before me. I get a lot of scripts for horror movies and I think it's some of the most fun you can have as an actor. When else do you get covered in that much blood?

**Your next film, *Your Monster*, seems tailor-made for you: a horror movie about musical theatre.**

Isn't that crazy? I love musical theatre. I love horror. I love rom coms. There's a creature in it. It's like they put all the things I love in a blender. We shot the whole movie in 20 days and the ambitiousness was insane. There was even a whole musical that we actually shot at the end! It was crazy, but I've never laughed as much making a movie as I did making that one.

**What does the future hold for you?**

Right now I'm having sleepless nights choosing between a movie and a TV show. It feels like a *Sliding Doors* moment and I don't take it lightly. I hadn't worked all year but when it rains, it pours!

© WATCH ABIGAIL

**“ I GET A LOT OF SCRIPTS FOR HORROR MOVIES AND I THINK IT'S SOME OF THE MOST FUN YOU CAN HAVE AS AN ACTOR ”**

*Davidoff*

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ON THE MOVE



THE TRAVEL HUMIDOR EXPLORER



The short /

# SURREAL CITY 1 //

Writer Tom Howells' new book confronts all that is strange, eerie and unexplainable in London

SEVEN STARS, CHANCERY LANE

This tiny lawyers' pub – sat behind the Royal Courts of Justice and filled with dusty legal curios, old-school film ephemera, and an array of taxidermied bits and pieces – is supposedly one of London's oldest (1602) and absolutely its most atmospheric. The Stars' appeal can be drawn down to the convivial atmosphere, the indefatigable charm of landlady Roxy Beaujolais and an ever-present barfly in The General, the pub's resident cat, who can usually be found hogging one of the few seats while wearing an Elizabethan-style ruff.

● 53 Carey Street, WC2

➤ **HOW DO YOU DEFINE WEIRD? IT'S A** nebulous question I was required to confront while compiling and writing *An Opinionated Guide to Weird London*, a dinky gazetteer documenting a trove of the strange and shadowy corners of this multifaceted metropolis. Does it evoke the merely quirky? The uncanny? Or something more outright sinister? In the end, I turned to the wisdom of the late cultural theorist Mark Fisher. The weird, he wrote in 2016's *The Weird and the Eerie*, encompasses "that which does not

belong. The weird brings to the familiar something which ordinarily lies beyond it."

It's a sentiment that more than applies to London. Here, in our culturally fertile capital, the weird's roots and tendrils can be found everywhere: from its subterranean bedrock, to the viscous mud of the Thames foreshore, and the lofty eaves and spires of its vertiginous skyline. Layer upon layer of bizarre history, esoteric traditions and irreverent interventions become abundant when you start to notice them.





**JEREMY BENTHAM'S AUTO-ICON, BLOOMSBURY**

Revolutionary philosopher and founder of utilitarianism Jeremy Bentham's radical ideas continued well after dying. He demanded that, when he passed, his corpse be preserved and set on display at University College London. In 1832 he got his wish and

the smartly dressed stiff still sits pretty in a glass case in the Student Centre. Only the head is fake; the original, rendered grotesque by the conservation process, was for many years displayed in its own box above the icon but, after a spate of student thefts, was moved to safety in the archaeological department, where it remains.

● 27-28 Gordon Square, WCI

**“ HERE, IN OUR CULTURALLY FERTILE CAPITAL, THE WEIRD'S ROOTS AND TENDRILS CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE**



**CHARLES JENCKS' COSMIC HOUSE, HOLLAND PARK**

Many, with the onset of middle age, would be content with a dinky cottage by the sea. American landscape designer Charles Jencks, on the other hand, fancied something more alternative. Enter the Cosmic House: a postmodern fever dream built between 1978 and 1983 that sees his wild ruminations of myth, cosmology, symbolism and history made real.

● 19 Lansdowne Walk, W11

**The Cosmic House is open Wednesday-Friday from April -December and must be booked in advance.**



**4 //**

**NOVELTY AUTOMATION, HOLBORN**

Engineer, inventor and broadcaster Tim Hunkin's pint-sized paean to the seaside arcades of old is an offbeat work of art. The machines on display are both

windows into the man's gloriously fevered mind and, occasionally, vehicles for social commentary. Among the exhibits: a mechanised dash around an Amazon-style fulfilment centre and a tug-of-war on the "divorce simulator".

● 1A Princeton Street, WCI



# 5 //

## HOXTON STREET MONSTER SUPPLIES, HOXTON

This dispensary of bespoke items for the “living, dead and undead” isn’t simply a spot for a bit of novelty shopping. It’s actually operated by the Ministry for Stories, a charity set up by author Nick Hornby to encourage creative writing in children. Look out for edible Cubed Earwax and Fang Floss gardening twine.

● 159 Hoxton Street, NI

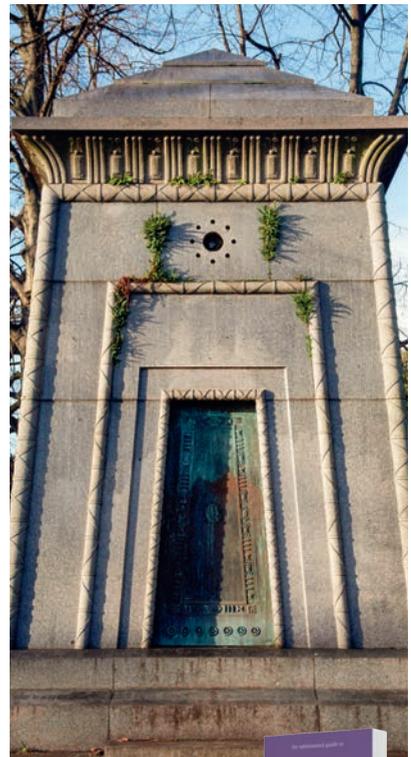
# 6 //

## TOMB OF HANNAH COURTOY, WEST BROMPTON

With its austere avenues, weeping angel statues and snake-clad tomb doors, Brompton Cemetery passes as the spookiest of London’s Magnificent Seven cemeteries. But the weird apex comes in the form of the tomb of Hannah Courtoy, who died in 1849. This cod-Egyptian

mausoleum is said to house a working time machine created by inventor Samuel Alfred Warner and Egyptologist Joseph Bonomi from mysterious hieroglyphs discovered on a dig (all funded by Courtoy herself). The tomb’s imposing stature and mysterious symbols seem to support the theory, though the key is long gone.

● Fulham Road, SW10



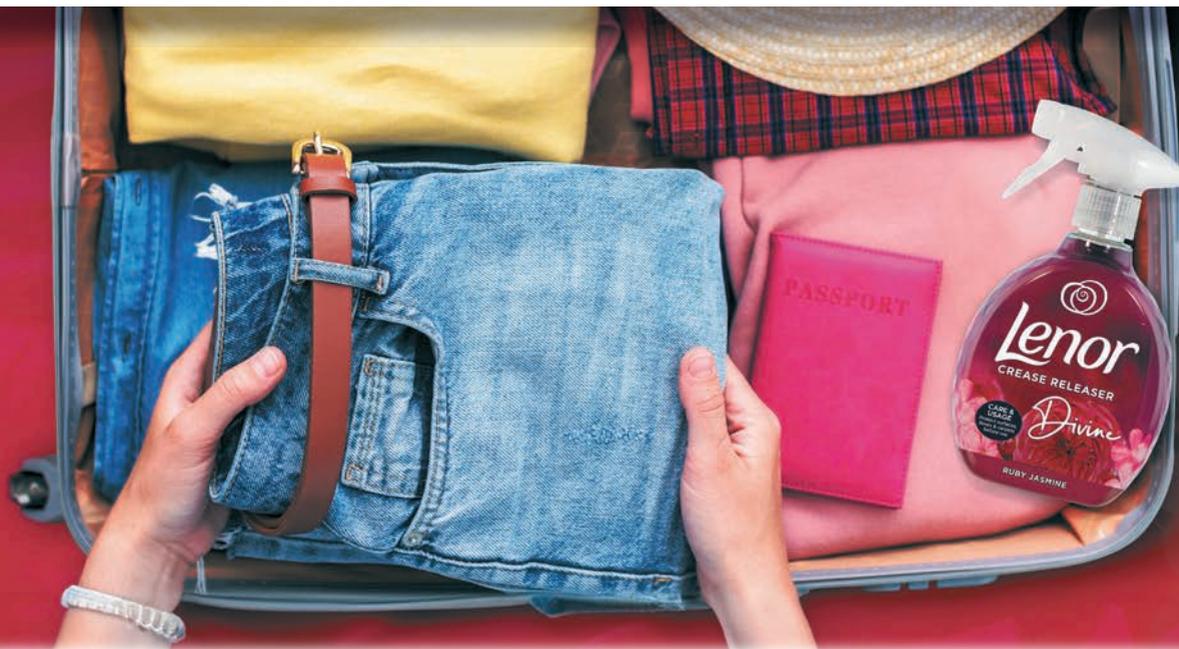
● An *Opinionated Guide to Weird London* is published by Hoxton Mini Press

⊗ FLY TO LONDON



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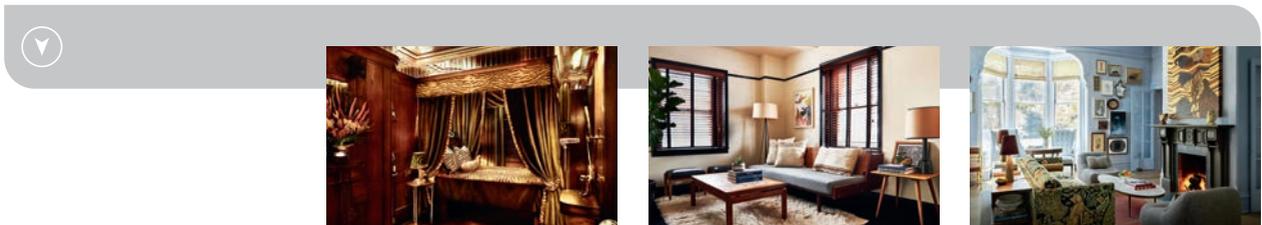
► **KIT KEMP IS A PLAYFUL, VIVACIOUS** British designer with a knack for uncanny colour clashes and exquisitely judged eclecticism. New Yorkers, it seems, can't get enough of her. Behold, the Warren Street Hotel, Kemp's third opening in the city. Every surface, every wall, every fascia, inside and out, carries a charismatic, Kempish statement – like the baby blue facade, which stands out a mile in russet-coloured Tribeca; the buttercup-yellow lobby, punctuated with fine art, from skipping-stone tables to vivid Abstract Expressionist canvases; or the well-unholstered drawing room, all whimsical knick-knacks and knockout lampshades. Rooms rock Rococo oversized headboards, floor-to-ceiling windows and retro turntables with vinyl by Bowie and Buena Vista Social Club, best enjoyed marinating in aromatic bath products – pink pepper, cedar wood, patchouli – from Kemp's own cosmetics line. Downstairs, an elegant brasserie doles out NYC classics – steak au poivre, Long Island duck – on fine china, while next door The Orangery serves afternoon tea. Simply spiffing.

✉ FLY TO NEW YORK

Sleeper hit //

# A BRIT OF CLASS IN TRIBECA

The kaleidoscopically colourful **WARREN STREET HOTEL** is a love letter to English eccentricity



### HOUSE OF GODS, EDINBURGH

Slap bang in the centre of town, this Orient Express-inspired masterpiece of maximalism is a visual feast of mirrorballs, Gucci flamingo wallpaper and flowery four-poster beds with in-built mood lighting.

### FREEHAND, NYC

This Lexington Avenue hotel occupies a red-brick gaff that once housed a Prohibition-era bootleg operation. Its design is similarly storied, with Mid-Century furniture and custom pieces from emerging artists dotting every room.

### THE MADRONA, CALIFORNIA

This historic Sonoma mansion, built in the 1880s, has been tastefully brought up to date by San Fran aesthete Jay Jeffers, with generous high ceilings, original fireplaces and top-tier textiles everywhere.

**3 more decorative digs**

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Snacks //

# A HAPPY ACCIDENT IN MIAMI

Tart and sweet, *Oops, I Burned the Key Lime Pie* at **TORNO SUBITO** is a tongue-in-cheek triumph

► RESTAURATEURS OF

Massimo Bottura's calibre – his three-Michelin-starred Osteria Francescana in Modena, Italy, is arguably the best restaurant in the world – are seldom renowned for their sense of humour. But when his pastry chef accidentally fumbled a dessert, Bottura celebrated by launching a deconstructed dish named *Oops, I Dropped the Lemon Tart*. Such playfulness sets the tone for his new opening, *Torno Subito* in Miami. Its plum rooftop location is decked out in jocular stripes and cartoonish colours – candy apple-red bar, Minion-yellow pizza oven, stripy banquettes and a vibe that cheerfully identifies as “urban circus”. The food? Top-tier tortellini with succulent pork and

Parmigiano Reggiano sauce (the stuffed pasta at Osteria Francescana is legendary). Less serious? *Oops, I Burned the Key Lime Pie*, a playfully overcooked dessert with citrus crumble, foam and lime ice cream, a tribute to blunders, missteps and mishaps of all kinds.

⊗ FLY TO MIAMI

DRINKS

## Tomatoes are hitting the sauce



ince chef Molly Baz broke the internet with her tomato martini, bars

around the world have followed suit. Relish a Greenhouse Highball at Seed Library, London, with single-malt whisky, celery, fermented cricket garum (an ancient condiment) and “Technicolor tomato” – tomato infused with

apricot. The Antipasti Dirty Martini at Caruso's Grocery, Washington, DC, mixes Moletto tomato gin with olive brine, mozzarella and basil. And the Heirloom Martini at NYC's Swan Room blends heritage toms, basil eau de vie – brandy, basically – and a generous slug of Grey Goose. Tastes mighty vine.

⊗ FLY TO LONDON, NEW YORK & WASHINGTON, DC



WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTOS: CRISTIAN GONZALEZ, SEED LIBRARY

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Location scout

# GETTING CRAFTY IN THE MALDIVES

Forget fly-and-flop, Maldivian resorts are letting guests unleash their inner artist, finds Estella Shardlow





► **THE MIDDAY HEAT ON MEDHUFARU**

island is intense, but it has nothing on **SONEVA FUSHI**'s glass studio. The furnace hits 1,300°C – enough to melt empty bottles from the resort's restaurants into malleable, glowing orange globs, like the one I'm brandishing on the end of a 5ft-long blowpipe. Guided by resident artist Tala Kaalim, I dip the molten glass into a turquoise pigment then exhale through the pipe, making the orb slowly inflate like a white-hot balloon. It's rolled against a wooden block and hollowed out with tweezers until a new, cylindrical form emerges: a tumbler the colour of the Indian Ocean, shaped by my own breath. As souvenirs go, this is pretty special.

Bespoke recycled glassware by more experienced hands than mine can be found decorating Soneva Fushi's villas or displayed for sale in the (blissfully air-conditioned) boutique and art gallery. Artists are invited to take up residency at this paradisiacal place and produce glassworks to be sold here – an inspired way to recycle tonnes of waste glass.

Let's be honest, most vacationers haven't historically picked this tropical destination for its buzzing creative scene. But that might be changing. So **GLASSCYCLE** – the island nation's first and only hot glass studio – is part of a wider art-making movement emerging in Maldives tourism. Resorts have been launching their own gallery spaces and artist residencies. In-between snorkelling and sunbathing, vacationers are picking up paintbrushes or learning to throw on pottery wheels.

**JOALI** led the way, billing itself as the Maldives' first "art immersive" resort when it opened in 2019. Site-specific installations are dotted through its manicured grounds, from Zemer Peled's porcelain coral-inspired forms in the spa to Porky Hefer's woven manta ray installation among the palm trees. **THE ART HOUSE** offers weekly classes in pottery and painting. Flexing its creative chops further, Joali enlisted Tatiana Gecmen-Waldek, an art consultant for the likes of Armani and Cartier, to curate its inaugural Art Week festival in April last year. Programming included a virtual-reality experience by Jeanne Susplugas and hand-embroidery demonstrations by Maldivian sisters Hajja and Joule. The dates of the next festival are yet to be announced, but keep an eye on their calendar.

Like Joali, **PATINA MALDIVES** has an island-wide art trail – monumental photographic prints, hand-woven tapestry and a beachfront installation of

Left: *Blowing glass at Soneva Fushi*

**“  
A WIDER  
ART-MAKING  
MOVEMENT IS  
EMERGING IN THE  
MALDIVES AND  
RESORTS HAVE  
BEEN LAUNCHING  
THEIR OWN  
GALLERY SPACES**



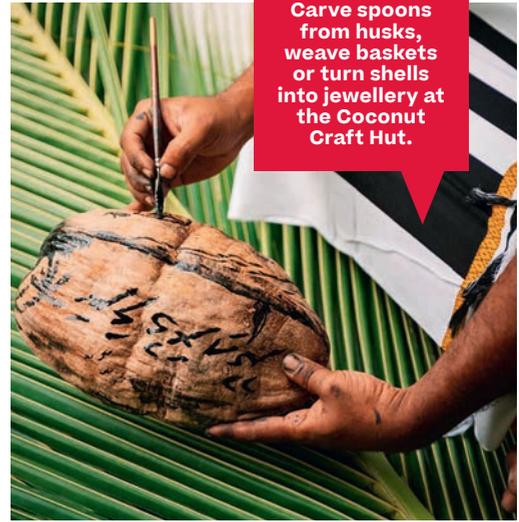
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mirrored columns are all part of the mix. There's an impressive line-up of workshop spaces for crafting unique souvenirs, complete with laser-cutting machine, woodworking tools or 3D printer. **THE CLAY STUDIO** offers wheel-throwing sessions, pot painting or even moulding clay structures to add to the resort's artificial reef as part of coral conservation efforts. **FARI ART ATELIER**, the resort's creative hub, has a permanent collection plus a show of eco-themed abstract canvases created by Sassan Behnam-Bakhtiar during his 2024 residency. The Iranian-French artist has turned ground-up shells and corals from the island's shores into natural pigments.

Infusing these tropical islands with artworks not only gives guests something nice to look at during their stay, it can also support the Maldivian creative community in turn. Although capital city Malé has a flourishing arts scene, few visitors experience it on their way to resort stays. Bringing galleries and workshops in-house, then, is a chance to platform local talent and heritage crafts. Take **ONE&ONLY REETHI RAH**. Its patron, Maldivian painter Kurahaa Rappe, runs an academy in Malé for emerging artists, and handpicks the most promising for stints as Artistic Guides at the resort's studio as well as showcasing their own work in The Gallery.

Below: Patina Maldives hosts an island-wide art trail and the Nautilus Maldives celebrates creative crafts in its Art of Bohemia programme



Carve spoons from husks, weave baskets or turn shells into jewellery at the Coconut Craft Hut.

On top of offering painting classes and exhibitions in its serene lakeside studio, **KANDIMA MALDIVES** stages one of the country's biggest creative gatherings, KULA Art Festival, each January. **THE NAUTILUS** has a pop-up beachside gallery planned for the upcoming holiday season, part of its ongoing *Art of Bohemia* programming. Maldivian artists are creating site-specific eco-themed pieces for **VILLA PARK**'s new art trail, while the resort's Coconut Craft Hut showcases islanders' ingenuity with this abundant natural ingredient. The complimentary craft classes at **SUN SIYAM** also make use of found objects like palm leaves or driftwood. One thing's for sure, in a destination as naturally beautiful as the Maldives, no aspiring artist is going to be stuck for inspiration.

⊗ FLY TO THE MALDIVES



**DIVE BUTLER FINOLHU**

*Blue Planet*-worthy scenes take place in Hanifaru Bay from June to November as hundreds of manta rays converge to guzzle on plankton. Dive Butler Finolhu offers snorkelling excursions at Seaside Finolhu Baa Atoll Maldives Resort.



**ANANTARA KIHAVAH OBSERVATORY**

Free from light pollution, the Maldivian night sky is an astronomers' dream. Peer through the country's strongest telescope at this resort's overwater observatory instructed by SKY Gurus.



**TROPICSURF**

The consistent swells, six-month-long season and uncrowded, world-class breaks make the Maldives one of surfing's best-kept secrets. Ready for some Indian Ocean wave action? Tropicsurf operates all-abilities camps.

**3 more Maldivian must-dos**

PHOTOS: © SONEVA, PATINA MALDIVES/GEORG ROSKE, VILLA PARK, MALDIVES, THE NAUTILUS MALDIVES, DIVE BUTLER/ELENA TRANNIER, ANANTARA, KIHAVAH, TROPICSURF



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Screen test //

# Could you fake a Moon landing?

How easy would it be to duplicate man stepping on Earth's nearest natural satellite – as in rom com *Fly Me to the Moon*? asks Ralph Jones

ILLUSTRATIONS: RUBY FRESSON



► **HERE'S A QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE** man landed on the Moon? As well being the perfect ice-breaker at weddings, this is a conspiracy theory that has hounded space professionals for decades. Some people think Neil Armstrong didn't step on the Moon in 1969 and that the whole thing was cooked up in a film studio.

In *Fly Me to the Moon*, Scarlett Johansson plays an ad executive tasked with staging a faked Moon landing in case the real one doesn't go to plan – a scenario that plenty of Moonspiracists believe. But, in tech-savvy 2024, would we be fooled by this ploy? And how could it be accomplished?

Richard Costin, co-founder of VFX company Rumble, is confident that our eyes could certainly be deceived. But the illusion wouldn't be straightforward. "The key, if you genuinely wanted to fool people, would be to try and undersell it," he says. If Costin was hired by NASA to pull the wool over people's eyes, he would make sure the footage was "simple and realistic", rather than shiny and glamorous as it is in the movies. The difference between Hollywood and real life, of course, is that real life is more boring.

Instead of George Clooney, whose face would be hidden beneath a space helmet, it would make more sense to use stunt performers or dancers, Costin says. In order to emulate Moon movement, you would need people who could easily simulate other people's actions. (Costin says he might give Andy Serkis a call, in fact.) The trickiest element would be having the astronauts bounce up and

down convincingly. Instead of attempting this digitally – far too much work – Costin thinks they could be on a circus rig and the VFX team would paint out the wires in post-production.

His instinct is to cleave as closely to the original 1969 footage as possible – with some concessions, like the quality of the camera, for example. A team would build a real surface that looked like the Moon; the background would be black, potentially with a tiny Earth visible in the distance; and, when performers stepped on the ground, dust would come off it. One of Costin's VFX jobs would be to depict this dust coming off the boots in a way that looked consistent with zero gravity, not a studio in Beaconsfield.

Another key element would be having a scientific consultant nearby – not a problem, of course, if NASA is funding the fakery. This would mean that questions about whether stars should be visible (they aren't in the original footage) or whether the American flag should be waving (it is in the original), could be answered confidently. Without this, any VFX team would be open to being exposed.

So, with Costin's help, you absolutely could make everyone look really silly for believing we landed on the Moon again. As we did land on it the first time. You do know that, right? Right...?

**VERDICT: With VFX and a science consultant, anything is possible, baby.**

© WATCH FLY ME TO THE MOON





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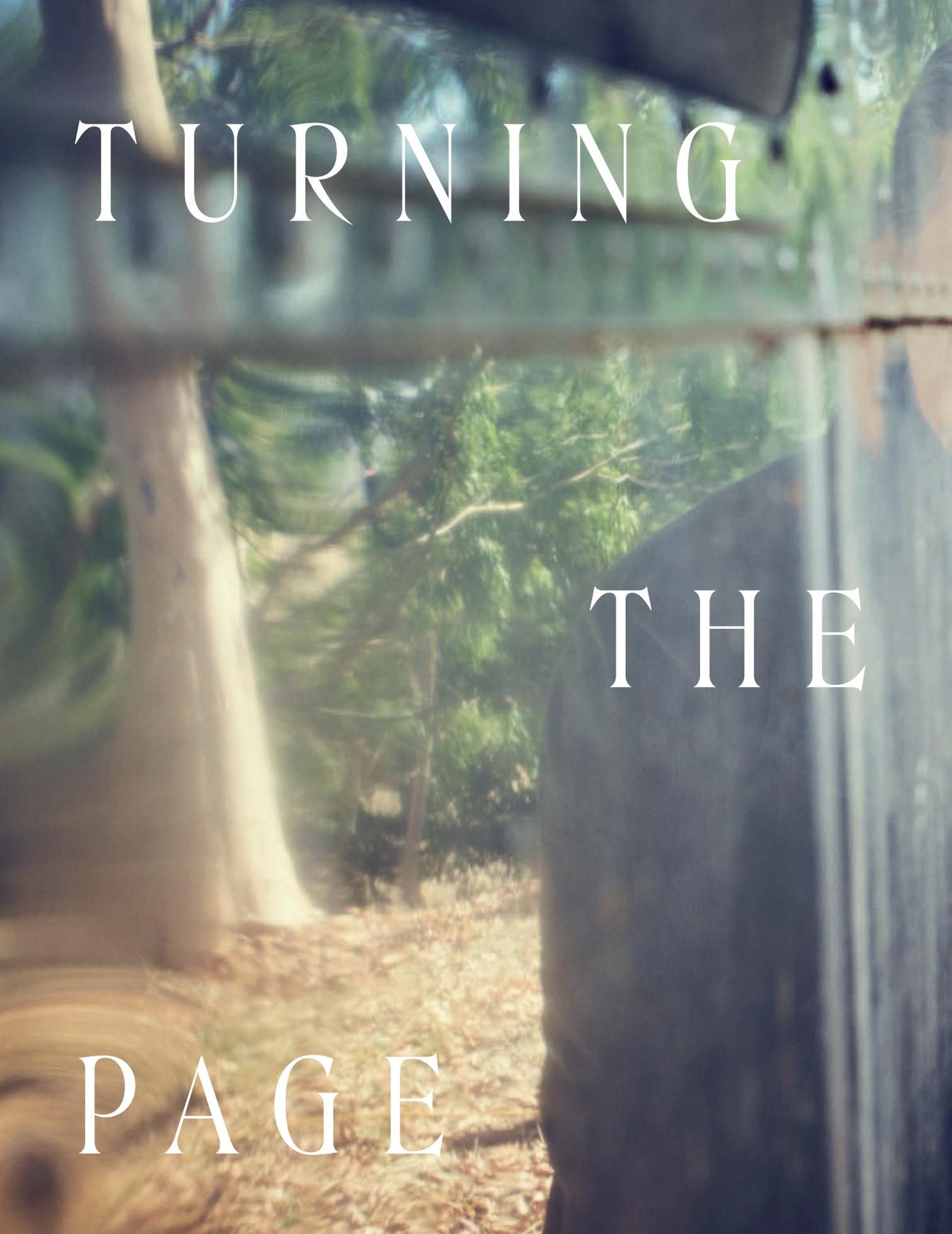
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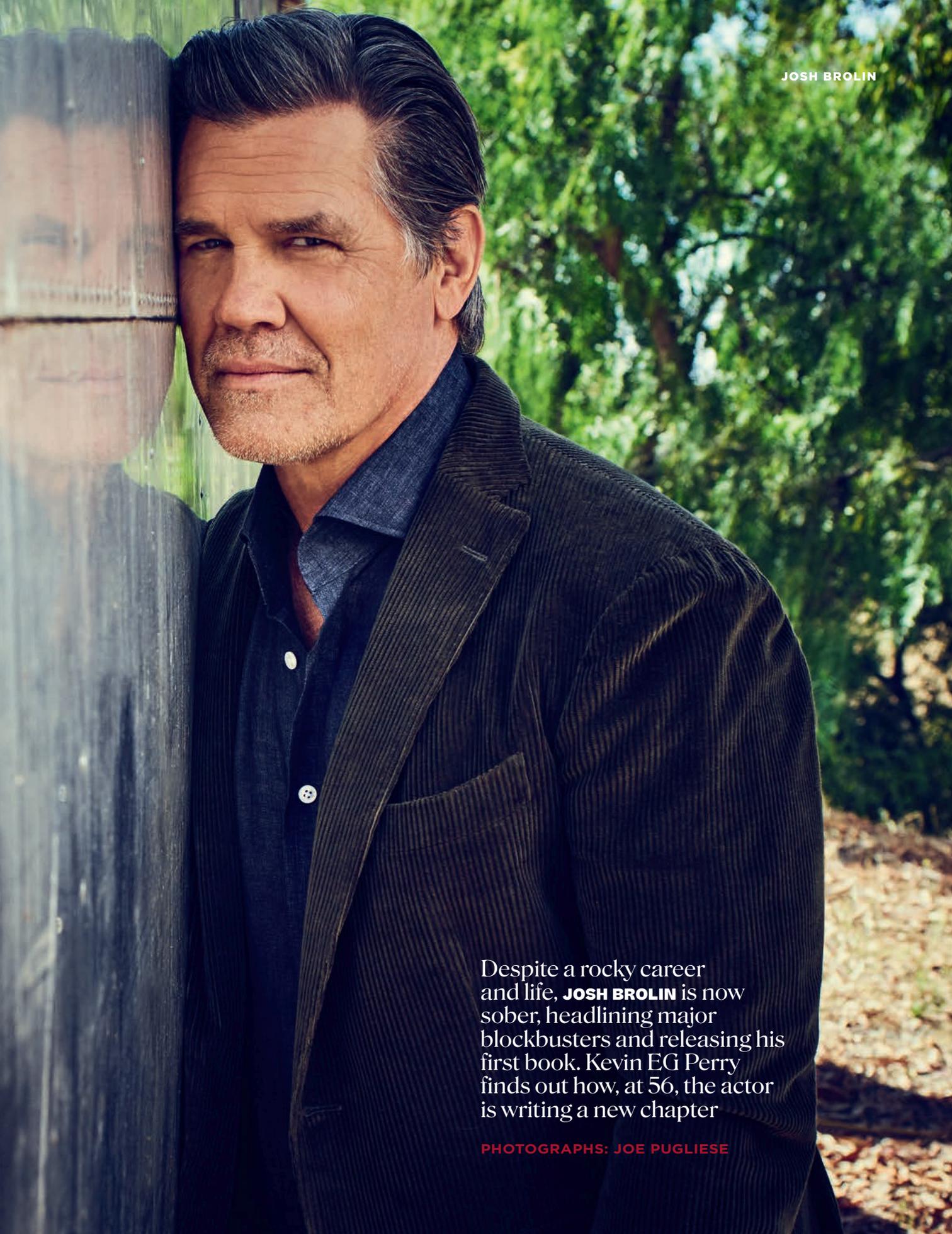
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JOSH BROLIN

Despite a rocky career and life, **JOSH BROLIN** is now sober, headlining major blockbusters and releasing his first book. Kevin EG Perry finds out how, at 56, the actor is writing a new chapter

PHOTOGRAPHS: JOE PUGLIESE

JOSH BROLIN SLOWS  
HIS BIG BLACK  
PICK-UP TRUCK TO  
A CRAWL AS SOON  
AS HE SPOTS THE  
INJURED DEER ON  
THE MOUNTAIN ROAD  
AHEAD OF US.

He gives the wounded animal a wide berth and pulls up alongside a sheriff already on the scene, exchanging a few words of concern and expressing brotherly solidarity with the lawman's watchful task. A moment later we pull away, continuing our winding descent from the remote Malibu film ranch where the 56 year old has spent the morning being photographed for the cover of this month's *Vera*. For the first time in the few hours we've spent together, Brolin falls into a contemplative silence.

The Oscar-nominated star of *No Country For Old Men* and *Avengers: Endgame* may have inherited his surname and his good looks from his TV-famous father, James Brolin, but he wasn't born into a movie career. Rather than spending his childhood amid the glitz and sheen of Hollywood, Brolin grew up with dirt under his fingernails on a ranch outside Paso Robles, several hours north up the California coast, where his fierce and unpredictable mother Jane Cameron Agee kept a sort of menagerie. "Whether I was birthing mountain lions, or cleaning wolf cages, or feeding 65 horses at 5.30 in the morning at eight years old... it was a pain in the ass," Brolin tells me with a grin that breaks through his powder-white goatee. "But I look back on it now and I'm happy. Once directed properly, it gave me the ability to face fear in a very productive way... like with writing this book."

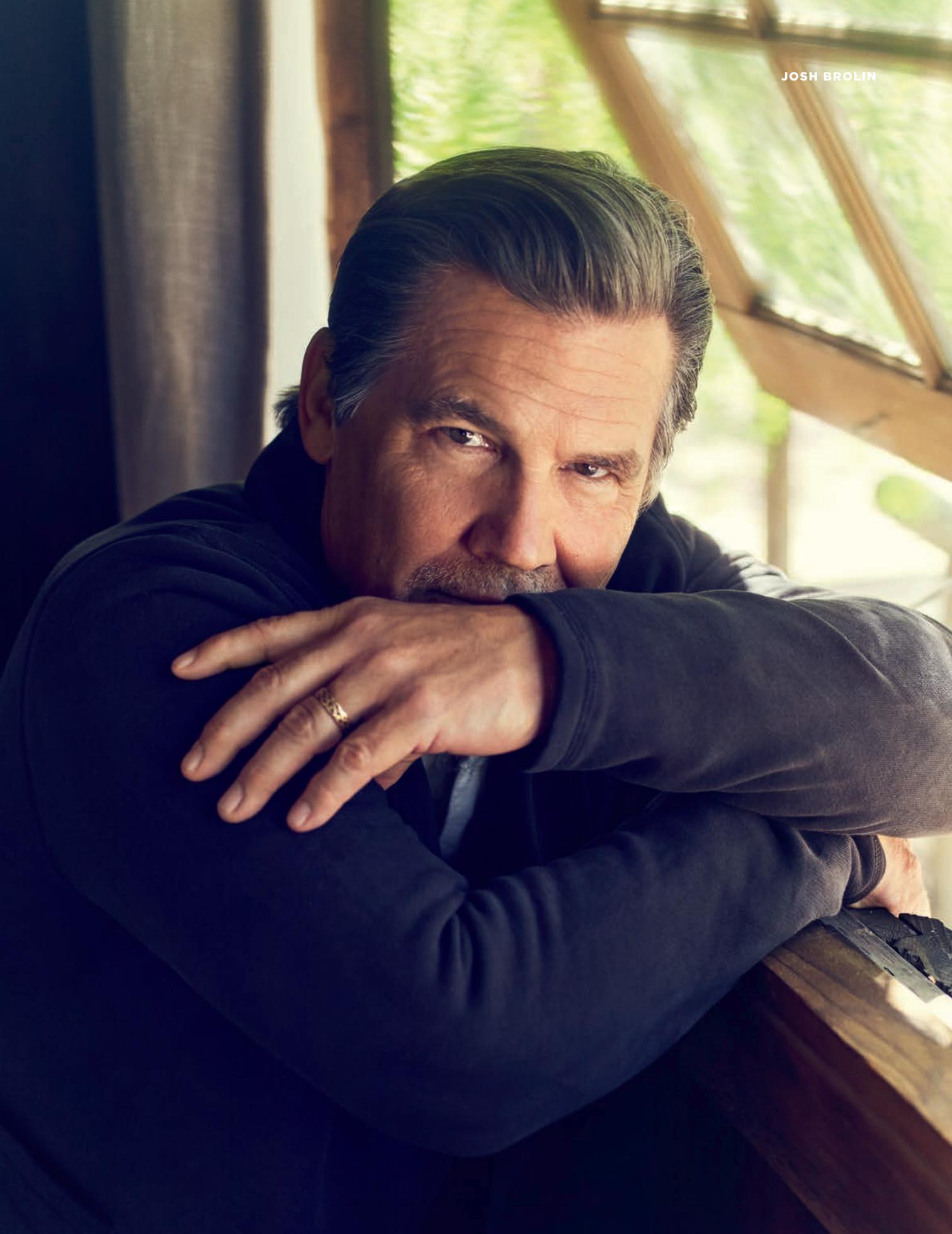
The book in question is *From Under the Truck*, Brolin's new memoir that's about as far from a clichéd celebrity autobiography as you're ever likely to encounter. He calls publishing it "the scariest thing I've ever felt in my life". It's a raw, surprising and deeply affecting work from a man who dreamed of being a writer long before he ever stumbled his way into his father's profession. "It's what I've always loved, number one," he tells me earnestly

Previous pages:  
Jeans: AG  
Shirt: Thom Sweeney  
Blazer: Boglioli

Right: Henley: Rails  
Jacket: Billy Reid  
Jeans: AG



JOSH BROLIN





about writing. “I’ve never not done it every day.”

From *Under the Truck* throws out conventions like chronological time to skip back and forth between tales of love and loss, professional victories undone by alcoholism, childhood trauma and drug-fuelled teenage escapades. There are skittering poems, romantic vignettes and keenly observed dialogues that read like kitchen-sink dramas. At the heart of it all there’s Jane, a hard-drinking, rabble-rousing, larger-than-life character who preached the gospel of country and western, and raised her son to be an ass-kicker in her own image before driving drunk into a tree and dying at 55. “I had no plan to write a book. I just started writing and then when I finished I realised I was 55,” Brolin says softly. “I went, ‘Jesus Christ, I thought my mom was old when she died.’ I thought she’d lived a good, full life. I realised she was young, super young. There was a whole other life to be lived.”

Brolin’s own life is proof of the possibility of second acts and even further

**“I had no interest in acting. Zero. I didn’t care for what my dad did. It made him go away a lot. The fluctuations in money made no sense to me”**

reinventions beyond that. At 13 he was dropping acid in the Santa Barbara suburb of Montecito, a member of a punk rock surf crew known as the Cito Rats, watching friends die young and assuming a similar fate awaited him. When his mother predicted he’d follow in his father’s footsteps, he pushed back hard. “I don’t know if I’ve ever told anybody this,” he says, running a hand through his salt-and-pepper hair. “At one point she said, ‘You know you’re going to be an actor.’ I had no interest in acting. Zero. I didn’t care for what my dad did. It made him go away a lot. The fluctuations in money made no sense to me. I hated that she said that. It made me hate it even more.”

Things changed when he took a high school improv class. He liked making people laugh by transforming into someone else, liked having to think on his feet. When he was kicked out of home he went to stay on his dad’s couch. “I just started going on audition after audition,” he remembers. “Maybe the Brolin name made people curious, but I also know people tried to stop me getting jobs because I was Brolin’s son. *The Goonies* was like the 300-and-something audition. I went back in six times because they wanted to make sure I was right for that part.” He was and a bandana-wearing,

*Above: Jeans: AG  
Shirt: Thom Sweeney  
Blazer: Boglioli*



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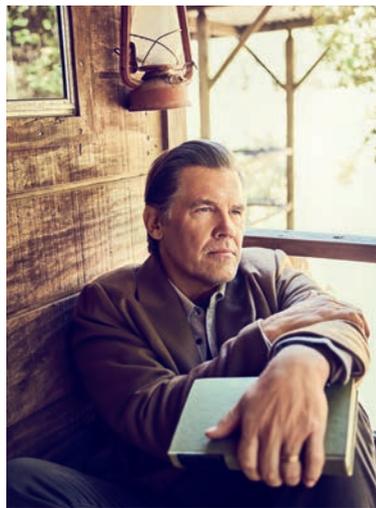
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17-year-old Brolin made his screen debut in the much-loved adventure classic in 1985. "It was a silver platter experience," he says. "It was all downhill after that!"

Almost before he realised it, Brolin's promising future was behind him. He followed *The Goonies* with a string of forgotten films. "What did I do after *Goonies*?" Brolin asks rhetorically. "I was in the business 22 years and nobody cared." In the book, Brolin juxtaposes his memories of *Goonies* with his impressions of landing the lead role in the Coen brothers' Oscar-winning *No Country for Old Men* over two decades later. "Those are the two milestones," he explains.

The role remade his career overnight. "Before *No Country* I wasn't making any money," Brolin says matter-of-factly, explaining he took up day trading to support his two kids from his first marriage to actress Alice Adair. "I was always a numbers person, the geek in school that would ask the math teacher for extra work, so I was good at it. I realised I was watching fear and greed, and success had everything to do with discipline. I made more money trading than I'd ever made from acting up to that point."

After *No Country*, he had his pick of roles and specialised in giving masculine archetypes thoughtful dimension. He earned an Oscar nomination in 2009 for rendering the "pathetic" Dan White sympathetic in Gus Van Sant's *Milk*, and gave vivid life to the frozen-banana-inhaling, hippie-stomping cop "Bigfoot" Bjornsen in Paul



Below: T-shirt: Paige  
Button-down shirt: Rails  
Overcoat: Vince  
Jeans: AG

Right:  
Trousers & overcoat:  
John Varvatos  
T-shirt: Rails  
Sweater: Brioni

Thomas Anderson's sublime stoner noir *Inherent Vice*. Days before shooting the latter, Brolin and his now-wife Kathryn Boyd were on a drunken night out in Costa Rica when a stranger stabbed him in the gut. Only the fluke that the blade went directly into the thick umbilical ligament around his belly button saved his life. "I'm not going to win the lottery," he says, shaking his head with a laugh at his luck. "I just get to live."

It was one of many moments that convinced Brolin, in 2013, that it was time to get sober. "I'm not proud of a lot of stuff I did," he reflects. "I was pretty crazy back then. I was very reactive when I drank." He recognised the darker sides of his mother's character in himself and realised he didn't want his story to end the way hers had. "Having a mother like Jane was amazing, but it was also awful," he says. "I don't really wish that on anybody." He wanted something different for his own kids. "It wasn't necessarily a conscious choice, but it's about breaking that chain. I think they thought, 'He's a good dude, but he's crazy.' That was the general perception. When I first got sober, [musician] Eddie Vedder said to me, 'Surprise everyone with a happy ending.'"

So he did. He rose to a new challenge: blockbuster roles such as Thanos – the finger-snapping baddie bent on wiping out half of all life – in the box office-conquering *Avengers* films. Then

## ME TIME RANKING CELEBRITY AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

### THE BEST

#### Patti Smith, *Just Kids* (2010)

An unforgettable portrait of New York, cultural revolution and young love.



#### Keith Richards, *Life* (2010)

A frank and funny insight into inventing the job of rock 'n' roll star – including his patented sausage and mash recipe.

#### Carrie Fisher, *The Princess Diarist* (2016)

Witty and self-deprecating, Fisher makes having an affair with Harrison Ford seem relatable.



#### Lena Dunham, *Not That Kind of Girl* (2014)

*Girls* creator Dunham later described publishing a memoir at 28 as a "fool's errand".

#### Jennifer Lopez, *True Love* (2014)

This photo-heavy diary offers self-help platitudes and little real insight into the pop star's divorce from Marc Anthony.



#### Steven Tyler, *Does the Noise in My Head Bother You?* (2004)

A rambling tale of rock stardom where the stories tail off.

### THE WORST

JOSH BROLIN

**“I look back on my childhood now and I’m happy. Once directed properly, it gave me the ability to face fear in a very productive way... like with writing this book”**



there were meaty collaborations with Denis Villeneuve in tightly wound thriller *Sicario* and both instalments of sci-fi epic *Dune*. More importantly, for Brolin, there was the chance to prove himself the writer he'd always hoped to become. Along with the memoir he's written a play, *A Pig's Nest*, also partly inspired by his wild, wildlife-filled upbringing. Meanwhile, at home, he sees bright flashes of his mother's sense of freedom in his two young daughters, whose toy unicorns and baby dolls are strewn colourfully around inside the truck.

We're finally nearing the base of the mountain. As we hit the layer of fog that lingers above the Pacific Coast Highway, our phones chirrup to life to let us know we've returned to the zone of phone reception. I tell Brolin he can drop me anywhere I can call a car, but he won't hear of it. He's already decided he's driving me home himself, hours out of his way. Maybe because he can't bring himself to leave me stranded on the roadside, like the deer up the mountain. Maybe because he hasn't finished telling me about the surprise of a happy ending.

Right before his mother died in 1995, he was visiting her at home when he found her crying in the kitchen. Not from pain, but from pride. She was developing a TV idea about animal rescues and for the first time in her life felt she was being taken seriously. "Her whole life she had felt like the woman with the beard, the snake with two heads," Brolin explains. "She was just opening up to the fact that maybe she wasn't just a freak... and then she died. For me to live that out and to get past my own reactive Cito Rat mentality... there was survivor's guilt for a while, but now it's up to me to celebrate every moment I get to keep going."

● From *Under the Truck: A Memoir by Josh Brolin* is published by Harper Collins on 21 November

© WATCH DUNE: PART TWO

## GOONIE DONE GOOD

JOSH BROLIN'S CV



### BORN

Josh James Brolin was born in Santa Monica, California, on 12 February 1968 to actor James Brolin and casting director and wildlife conservationist Jane Cameron Agee.

### KEY WORK

#### **The Goonies (1985)**

A teenage Brolin got his first big break in the beloved adventure-comedy about a gang of kids who go in search of pirate treasure.

#### **No Country for Old Men (2007)**

After a downturn in his career, Brolin returned playing the lead in this Cormac McCarthy adaptation from the Coen Brothers that won the Oscar for Best Picture.

#### **Milk (2008)**

Brolin was nominated for the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role in Gus Van Sant's biopic of Harvey Milk.

#### **Dune: Part One & Part Two (2021-24)**

After working with Denis Villeneuve on the acclaimed thriller *Sicario*, Brolin reunited with the director to play the warrior-poet Gurney Halleck, mentor to Timothée Chalamet's Paul Atreides.

*From top right: As Brand (second from left) in The Goonies, as Gurney Halleck in Dune and as Llewelyn Moss in No Country for Old Men*

*Above: T-shirt: Paige Button-down shirt: Rails Overcoat: Vince Jeans: AG Boots: Brolin's own Sunglasses: Oliver Peoples*

### EDUCATION

Raised on a ranch outside Paso Robles in central California, he attended elementary and middle school in nearby Templeton. From the age of 11 he went to Santa Barbara High School.

### FUN FACT

Brolin's stepmother is Barbra Streisand. His father married the star in 1998 when the couple were in their mid-50s.



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As the USA picks its new chief,  
Andy Hill looks at what presidential  
hopefuls eat on the campaign trail

PHOTOGRAPHS: ILKA & FRANZ

# ALL THE PRESIDENTS' menus

APPLICANTS FOR THE MOST HIGH-STAKES, HOTLY contested job on Earth – the US presidency – jump through all manner of hoops to prove their worth to a sceptical electorate. And no stunt is more fraught with peril than eating, in public, on the campaign trail. Can a candidate simultaneously show cultural sensitivity, empathy, robust everyman credentials and avoid slopping secret sauce down their shirt? You may scoff. But the last time Democrats won Texas (in 1976), it was because Republican Gerald Ford choked on a tamale in front of the flabbergasted Texan press. In 2003, Democrat nominee John F Kerry committed a serious Philly faux pas, ordering upmarket Swiss cheese the-people Cheez Whiz. But when it goes right, the PR boost is big – like when Dem hopeful Pete Buttigieg pandered to lowans at their State Fair by ordering a deep-fried Oreo, sagely dodging the phallic hot dogs. Here are some other presidential candidates who somehow managed to avoid making a meal of it...





# Chili half smoke

**BEN'S CHILI BOWL,  
WASHINGTON, DC**

\*\*\*\*\*

Barack Obama stopped by Ben's Chili Bowl on U Street, a charmingly retro mustering point for DC's movers and shakers with its rock 'n' roll chequered floor, and opened by Trinidadian

immigrant Ben Ali and his young American wife Virginia in 1958. Obama asked how much for the joint's iconic half-smoke. "You didn't see the sign?" replied a server, referring to an actual declaration posted outside

the restaurant: "Obama eats for free!" After the then president-elect sat down to eat his grilled dog - with a side of chili-topped French fries and an iced tea - he declared his meal "terrific" and slipped server



Jermaine Jefferson a generous tip. As you'd expect from the change candidate.

© FLY TO WASHINGTON, DC

Ridged potato chips



Grilled quarter-pound smoked gourmet sausage, equal parts beef and pork



Chili sauce, made from a 66-year-old secret recipe

French's yellow mustard

Warm steamed bun

Chopped white onion

Iced tea





# Breakfast burrito

CJ'S CAFE, LOS ANGELES

Earlier this year, when he was still in the current presidential race, Joe Biden and his sizeable Secret Service retinue swung by CJ's Cafe in the Baldwin Hills district of

Los Angeles. This much-loved spot pulls off a homely trifecta of brunch, Southern American soul food and Mexican goodies with panache. How was the quintessential

elder statesman supposed to demonstrate he's still just average Joe underneath? Ordering a south-of-the-border-inspired breakfast burrito, with a tumbler of OJ to

wash it down. The commander in chief stuck around for pictures afterwards and impressively kept any malarky to a minimum.

FLY TO LOS ANGELES



“Can a politician play his man-of-the-people card at a venue named after Marie Antoinette’s palace?”



Small shot of strong Cafe La Carreta espresso

Pastelitos de Guayaba puff pastry filled with guava, often served alongside



Natural brown sugar, whisked to create a layer of caramel foam

### Cuban coffee VERSAILLES, MIAMI

\*\*\*\*\*

Can a politician play his man-of-the-people card at a venue named after Marie Antoinette’s lavish palace? Versailles – by no means as ritzy as its Baroque namesake,

but plenty attractive with its balustraded fascia, etched mirrors and chandeliers throughout – has been a hub for Miami’s Cuban American diaspora for over half a

century. When Senator John McCain stopped by Little Havana during his ill-fated 2008 campaign, he sat down for Cuban coffee – espresso style, short, sweet – with community

leaders. Sadly for McCain, his remarks on economic policy didn’t cut through and Florida elected Obama. Let them eat cake, indeed.

☉ FLY TO MIAMI

# Mushroom asada tacos

TACOTARIAN, LAS VEGAS

\*\*\*\*\*

Vice-president Kamala Harris made an unscheduled stop at this Las Vegas taqueria back in 2021. Tacotarian, a hip chain where the tacos are all plant-based, was recommended to Harris by senator Cory Booker, who

happens to be vegan. Harris's order? Mushroom asada tacos. Staff later reported Harris told them she tries to steer clear of meat before 6pm every day. Tacotarian enjoyed a surge of social media buzz after receiving the

blessing of this Gen Z friendly politician. Harris, ever the savvy political operator, just wanted to avoid any beef.

✈️ FLY TO LAS VEGAS





Corn tortilla

White onion

Portobello mushrooms seasoned with asado powder (garlic powder, onion powder, lime and salt)

Chili powder

Cilantro



**“Tacotarian enjoyed a surge of social media buzz after receiving the blessing of this Gen Z friendly politician”**



Macaroni and cheese



Collard greens



Chicken brined for 12 hours so it's seasoned to the bone

Salt, pepper and a super-secret spice mix by owner Tracy Gates



Candied yams



Batter, made with ultra fine White Lily flour (mixed with a little cake flour) to make it light and crispy

## Fried chicken

BUSY BEE CAFE, ATLANTA

\*\*\*\*\*

During his pitch for the Democratic nomination in 2008, Bernie Sanders befriended Killer Mike, one half of hip hop duo Run the Jewels. Between campaign stops, Mike took Sanders for soul food at the Busy Bee Cafe, Atlanta. Founded by Lucy

“Mama” Jackson back in the Jim Crow era, the Busy Bee’s Civil Rights credentials are flawless – Martin Luther King, Jr, was apparently keen on Mama’s ham hocks. Sanders tucked into the spot’s crunchy fried chicken, pressure-

fried to hold in the flavour using non-greasy peanut oil. Mike later reported that the lunch was just “two angry radical guys, one 74 and white, one 40 and Black, finding common ground”. MLK would be chuffed.

✪ FLY TO ATLANTA

  
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THE NEW FRAGRANCE BY GISADA SWITZERLAND

**TITANIUM**  
EAU DE PARFUM

PHOTOGRAPHS: KARAN KUMAR SACHDEV

# Spin City

record **1**

In India, a growing number of music fans are swapping Spotify for turntables and lovingly curated record collections. Tamara Hinson heads to Mumbai to meet the people at the forefront of the country's record revolution





## In a dimly lit mezzanine at Mumbai coffee shop Ink 'n' Brew,

Avan Roy carefully drops the needle onto his next record – Pink Floyd’s *Money*. As its heavy bass fills the room, the gaggle of locals seated around the small space nod approvingly, buzzing to dissect that night’s selection and swap fresh perspectives with fellow music nerds.

Welcome to Ink 'n' Brew’s vinyl listening session, where Mumbai musos gather around a turntable to listen to carefully curated records and share their love of wax (and occasionally tats – it’s also a tattoo parlour). These weekly summits are popular – attendees are seated cheek-by-jowl when I visit. It makes sense, since a growing number of Indians are ditching streaming services and rediscovering the joys of analogue music. This is most evident in Mumbai, where record shops are opening at pace and vinyl-lover meet-ups fill the social calendar.

While British cities experienced their own vinyl revivals around a decade ago, fuelled by middle-aged music fans nostalgic for the good old days, many of Mumbai’s new vinyl fans are Gen Z. Roy, who is hosting tonight’s listening session, is 18 years old, born long after vinyl’s first wave. He says his love of the format stems partly from a desire to disconnect from the tech that fills our every waking moment. “It’s the physical element,” he says. “It’s about removing the record from the sleeve, putting it on the turntable and flipping it over. It’s about having music in my hands, not on my phone. When I listen to Spotify I’ll end up texting someone – it’s easier to get distracted.”

These listening events provide opportunities to enjoy vinyl without splurging on records and turntables – although more young Indians are



Opposite: Nehal Shah of India Record Co

Inset: Coffee at Ink 'n' Brew; customers enjoying a listening session



## MUMBAI MUSIC LOVERS

doing just that. For those who want to invest, their first port of call is India Record Co. It's India's first female-owned independent record store, headed by Nehal Shah. Her west Mumbai office feels like a slick co-working space, complete with leaf-print wallpaper and framed album artwork on the walls.

Records are stored off-site and meetings with clients are by appointment only, almost always soundtracked by a much-loved record spinning on the turntable. Today, she opts for Billy Joel, dropping the needle on *52nd Street* and unleashing the guitar riffs of opener *Big Shot*.

The 35 year old's duties range from sourcing rare cuts for clients to curating music collections and recommending turntables. She refers to her customer base as a community, one whose members connect via the meet-ups she organises and the WhatsApp groups she has created. "Recently, a 17-year-old Swiftie from the group chat sent me a video in which she introduced a 55-year-old member to Taylor

### "We're seeing more artists putting out records and Bollywood artists remastering old tracks on vinyl"

Swift," she says. "He then introduced her to John Coltrane."

Nehal's music tastes are similarly diverse. "I'll often listen to hip hop in the morning and jazz in the afternoon," she says, adding that vinyl broadens her tastes. "Before [discovering records], I'd get closed off - I'd listen to Pink Floyd on Spotify and it would suggest similar music. Algorithms decided my favourite music, not me."

As another example of the power of vinyl to expand one's horizons she mentions Hema, a 64-year-old Bangalorean woman who credits Nehal with her newfound love of funk. "Last year her son got in touch because he wanted to buy



Above: Audio treasures at Chor Bar, one of the largest flea markets in India

her a turntable and some records," says Nehal, who put together a starter vinyl collection of what she refers to as "classics" - such as Abba and Green Day. "She'd never been interested in vinyl and scolded him for spending so much." However, Nehal's carefully curated record selection piqued her interest and Hema now has more than 200 records. It didn't stop there. "She wanted to learn how to mix and persuaded a Bangalore DJ to teach her the basics. Recently, she played a set at one of our events. She says vinyl changed her life."

Nehal also wants more artists to see vinyl as a legitimate format. "Some of my favourite Indian indie artists aren't on vinyl and I want to preserve their music," she says. "The music my grandfather loved is still alive because there was this physical transformation - the music was pressed. If Sinatra's music had only been on Spotify, would we still be listening to it?"

Her one bugbear? She wishes the new generation of vinyl fans treated their records with more TLC. "Much of my time is spent educating my clients about how to clean their records. My

MORE MUMBAI SPOTS FOR VINYL FANS

### Records Coffee

Head to Records Coffee, one of Mumbai's hippest coffee shops, to choose a record to play on the turntable. Records Coffee's vinyl selection is chosen by nearby music store Revo Records, and there's a team of vinyl-loving staff on hand to help customers select records and use the turntable.

● [records.coffee](https://records.coffee)





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grandparents' generation would spend one day a month washing their records," says Nehal, who offers cleaning and maintenance services. "[But my clients'] attitude is: 'Take my money and clean my records, I don't have time.'" She laughs when she imagines her grandfather's reaction. "He'd say, 'There's no way you're touching my records.'"

Nehal's love of music was shaped partly by her grandfather, who introduced her to his vinyl collection, including records from old Bollywood stars. The Bollywood record market was a major driver of vinyl sales in the country, produced domestically by The Gramophone Company of India (now called Saregama). But when the 90s rolled around and cassette tapes became king, vinyl production ceased almost completely in India.

Now, most of the vinyl sold in India is pressed in Eastern Europe and extras such as import duties explain why records cost twice as much here. Independent musicians are wary of pressing records that won't sell but Nehal, determined to prove there's an untapped market, recently convinced several artists to let her press their music. The records, pressed in Germany and produced under the Indian Record Co banner, sold in a flash. "Now these artists realise there's a market for vinyl, too."

Pilak Bhatt, a 65-year-old former accountant and current owner of Music Circle, a bijou record shop north of the city, admits vinyl's high price point is an obstacle for some. Nevertheless he tells me he's seeing more and more young customers come into his shop, many of whom have had their interest piqued by vinyl-loving relatives. "One of the reasons vinyl is popular again is

because Indians have a lot of disposable income right now," he says. As we chat, his sari-clad assistant Hemangi flits between ceiling-height shelves, meticulously cataloguing their 25,000 records. "Other countries are in recession, but India's GDP is growing."

Pilak, who sources records from private collectors and record fairs worldwide, says this appetite hasn't gone unnoticed by Indian musicians. "We're seeing more artists

putting out records and Bollywood artists remastering old tracks on vinyl." Does he ever regret swapping suits for Santana T-shirts, like the one he's wearing today? "Absolutely not," he says. "I just love spreading the joy of music."

His regulars include 31-year-old Kinjal Gosar, who's typical of this new breed of vinyl fans. At her Mumbai apartment, a turntable takes pride of place in the lounge. Kinjal's love of vinyl was nurtured at listening sessions at Adagio, a guitar store and co-working space which hosts regular events for Mumbai's growing army of vinyl devotees. Today, her record collection spans many genres and includes numerous rarities, such as the Christmas compilation album released by now-defunct UK label Ronco Records in 1973. She opens the double-sided sleeve to show me a

Below: Pilak Bhatt of Music Circle in a Santana T-shirt



MORE MUMBAI SPOTS FOR VINYL FANS

## Chor Bar

At India's Chor Bar flea market there are several stalls specialising in vinyl, typically piled high alongside gramophones and turntables. The most famous example is the Haji Ebrahim Record Store – come here to root through boxes stuffed with everything from rare Abba cuts to Gujarati and Bengali records.

● @hajiebrahimrecord



## MUMBAI MUSIC LOVERS

spectacularly intricate pop-up landscape depicting snow-dusted cottages and a reindeer-pulled sled.

In 2022 Kinjal founded Drocer Record, a one-stop-shop for music lovers. She doesn't have a shopfront because her business is more than a record store – she not only sells records, turntables, speakers and amplifiers, but also sets up sound systems for her clients and helps them choose equipment. Her clients range from veteran vinyl fans searching for rarities such as the collectors' edition of Bob Marley and the Wailers' *The Complete Island Recordings* – currently listed at £633 on Drocer's website – to teenagers who've decided to embrace the world of analogue. For these people, Kinjal acts as a guiding hand, putting together starter-pack record collections and selecting accessible turntables for novices.

Many of her customers fell in love with old LPs during Covid, when they were stuck at home with parents whose record collections had previously gone unnoticed. "They started taking an interest in vinyl," says Kinjal, adding that records offered a tactile experience at a time when many spent enforced lockdowns glued to screens. "When you're listening to Spotify, the music becomes white noise,



Main: Kinjal Gosar and feline friend at Drocer Record

Inset: Ronco's festive vinyl rarity

**“When you're listening to Spotify, the music becomes white noise, background music. But vinyl is the next best thing to a concert”**

background music. But vinyl is the next best thing to a concert.”

Kinjal is determined to make vinyl more accessible, not just through the listening parties she now helps organise at places like record shop Adagio, but by making it more affordable, using her knowledge of hardware to recommend sound systems within her customers' budgets. "I don't want to upsell – I want to help them get whatever they need for the budget they have, and when they come to me, we'll start with a conversation about what they can afford." Despite the higher costs, she feels India's vinyl revival is in safe hands. "Gen Zs love their music and are the people who will carry this on, and they're ready to invest."

MORE MUMBAI SPOTS FOR VINYL FANS

### Adagio

Vinyl listening nights take place at this co-working store and guitar boutique every Thursday. Music is taken incredibly seriously here – lights are dimmed and phones are turned off when the records are played, and afterwards attendees discuss the music they've just listened to.

● [facebook.com/adagio72](https://facebook.com/adagio72)



● [inknbrew.com](https://inknbrew.com), [indiarecordco.in](https://indiarecordco.in), [musiccircle.co.in](https://musiccircle.co.in), [drocerrecord.com](https://drocerrecord.com)

⊗ FLY TO MUMBAI





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# H

HERITANCE  
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Stunning beach and overwater suites

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Immerse in Maldivian village life



PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

## THE SPORTS & LEISURE

# HOTEL



### Play time

IS "ACTIVE HOLIDAY" a contradiction in terms? Sure, lazy days on a beach towel or sun lounger doubtless have their charms, but sporty breaks offer their own unique rush. Surfing, skydiving, hiking, racquet sports – the following hotels are all about pushing your limits and going the distance....

# GUIDE

## MARIAN RESORT & SPA, WALES

### THE ONE FOR *peak relaxation*

THERE'S A DELIGHTFULLY rustic holiday-camp vibe to the accommodation at Marian Resort & Spa, with its endearing cabins splayed up the hillside between the North Wales mountains and a graceful amble down to the coast. Lovers of fresh air rejoice. Still, there's no shortage of luxury on hand at the aptly named Serenity Spa, where they're all about nurturing your inner glow and natural vitality – think soothing music, soft lights and subtle

scents. Detoxify and rejuvenate in the modern sauna and steam room, before a bracing soak under the hydrotherapy bucket shower. Treat yourself to a rubdown with pink salt grains, a “hot rocking relax massage” or sustainable honey-based goodness from TRIBE517 before a nightcap at the Lounge Bar – real inner peace.



## IFURU, MALDIVES

### THE ONE FOR *hitting new highs*



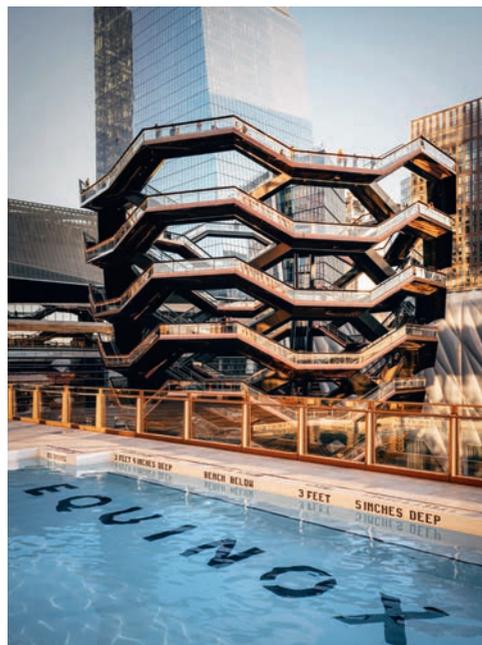
FOR A FRESH PERSPECTIVE on the Maldives, why not make your grand entrance from 13,500ft? The Ifuru private island retreat, set on a secluded spot on the dazzlingly pretty Raa Atoll, recently created the region's first permanent skydiving drop zone. High-altitude Indian Ocean adrenaline rushes aside, Ifuru is also something of a looker at sea level – get a load of the hot-pink lifeguard station, or swish modern styling at no fewer than 147 beach suites and villas, many with private beachfront pools and direct access to the sandy shore. Eat astonishingly well – it's all-inclusive, 24/7 – at six restaurants. Palm Grill for fresh fish cooked over charcoal. The Waterfront does irresistible Asian fusion, or poolside pizzas followed by cocktails and late-night tunes at Hubba Hubba bar, the place to see and be seen. There's a night tennis court too, if you're not done serving looks.

## THE SAMLING, CUMBRIA

### THE ONE FOR *country pursuits*

PERCHED PRETTILY SOME 350ft above the eastern fringe of Windermere, there's no finer spot to take in the Lake District's bountiful charms. See why poet William Wordsworth dedicated great swathes of verse to this idyllic corner of England, amid acres of ornamental garden, a Georgian harbour, wildflower pasture, bosky woods, and a Disneyesque supporting cast of kestrels, rabbits, deer and songbirds.

The area is pretty much walking Shangri-La, all winding paths and photogenic vistas, and the nearby lake has its own achingly pretty jetty for impromptu boat trips with a slim book of verse. The Gothic-Revival Samling is quite a looker in its own right, all cream walls, velvet upholstery and carefully chosen artwork. Chef Robby Jenks's restaurant is a revelation and the 600-strong wine list, like the knockout views, will really go to your head.



## EQUINOX HOTEL, NEW YORK

### THE ONE FOR *high-end wellness*

OCCUPYING 14 STOREYS of a Hudson's Yard skyscraper, Equinox Hotel New York has lofty ideals. Yes, it's pretty, with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking river and skyline. But it's also pretty fit. Get a load of the indoor saltwater lap pool, or the mammoth 5,600m<sup>2</sup> fitness club with outdoor barrel saunas. The space-age spa offers straight-up revivifying magic – take the new Salmon Polynucleotides Rejuvenation, which uses fish DNA to reverse the signs of ageing, or the body-sculpting Icoone Roboderm for eliminatng cellulite. In-room you'll find the RoomBar, which alongside decent cocktails serves superfoods, recovery aids and sleep supplements. And spa-quality bathroom goodies with herbs you'll spot growing along The High Line. Talk about upscale.



## ADAARAN SELECT MEEDHUPPARU, MALDIVES

**THE ONE FOR** reef encounters

COUPLES LOVE THIS tropical haven with its bevy of beautiful beach and overwater villas. Get a load of those reassuringly swanky wooden interiors and widescreen views over the sparkling Indian Ocean. Behold top-notch facilities – nine restaurants and bars, like high-end Mediterranean at Thavaa, a globetrotting buffet at Jaafaiy, a plum pizzeria at Café Mass, and ice cream

with a side of magic and fire shows at Halaboli Bar. There's a fantasy Balinese-inspired spa doing Pevonia Botanica facials to a lulling zen soundtrack. But the main draw is surely the house reef, graced with an abundance of dazzling coral formations and well populated with kaleidoscopic fish, sharks, turtles and rays. All abilities are welcome to enjoy this immersive romantic retreat.



## SEABIRD OCEAN RESORT & SPA BY HYATT, SAN DIEGO

**THE ONE FOR** surfin' USA

ALWAYS FANCIED YOURSELF a bit of a surfer? Treat yourself to a swell break across the board at Seabird Ocean Resort & Spa by Hyatt, San Diego. Not only is it right on the beach – just up the road from Disneyland and San Diego Zoo

– you can take lessons with local experts and straightforwardly stash all your equipment on site. Feeling wiped out? Retire to your chic, minimalist Cali-rooms, with soothing palettes of sleek grey and tasteful pops of sky blue. Savour a cocktail on the roof terrace, dip into ocean-facing Sunny's Spa & Beauty Lounge, then dine on proper local produce with Michelin flair. It's a SoCal escape without peer (well, there is a rather lovely pier).



## HERITANCE AARAH, MALDIVES

**THE ONE FOR** *making a splash*

WATERSPORTS – OF ALL sorts – are in at this award-winning all-inclusive idyll. Waterskiing, flyboarding, catamaran sailing or sunset fishing – you can really get your feet wet at Heritance Aarah Maldives. Set gem-like in the pretty Raa Atoll, the daytimes are a blur of cerulean serenity, spellbinding wildlife and thatched overwater bungalows, with pared-back decor (to better show off the neighbourhood's natural glories), private sun decks and deep tubs. Hungry? Dine privately on talcum sand at Ginifati – grilled fish in mussel broth with miso eggplant and a stiff rum punch – or Tokyo streetfood at Hathaa. The spa is ultra special, or hone your beach volleyball chops – it's somewhere you'll love to return.



FRESH FROM A MAJOR refurbishment, the Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood offers a finely balanced blend of contemporary style, luxurious comfort and Edinburgh's distinctive heritage charm. From the relaxed atmosphere of the Great Room lobby,

restaurant and bar to artwork inspired by Sir Eduardo Luigi Paolozzi – an Edinburgh-born artist celebrated for his sculpture and graphic art – the property's new look puts style at the forefront. Updated rooms have generously appointed bathrooms, with access to the Holyrood Spa, gym and pool. Location-wise, it's right in the heart of the Old Town – 15 minutes from Waverley station and walkable to world-renowned visitor attractions. Plus Edinburgh's peerless city and coastal golf courses are a short drive away.



## EDINBURGH MARRIOTT HOTEL HOLYROOD

**THE ONE FOR** *afternoon tee*

A photograph of Mia Goth on a red carpet. She is wearing a dark, backless, form-fitting dress and has long, wavy blonde hair. She is looking to her right with her hand near her face. In the background, other people and photographers are visible, some holding cameras. A hand holding a bouquet of white and pink roses is visible in the lower-left foreground.

Mia Gypsy Mello da Silva Goth was born in London in 1993 to a Brazilian mother and Canadian father.

## Goth revival

One-time model Mia Goth (*pictured*) made her movie debut 10 years ago aged 20 in Lars von Trier's *Nymphomaniac*. But it was with writer-director Ti West's 2022 slasher *X* that she really made her name - in a double role as star Maxine Minx and sporting extensive prosthetics as elderly protagonist Pearl. *X*'s release was accompanied by its prequel, *Pearl*, co-written by Goth, and now comes a sequel, *Maxxxine*.

© WATCH MAXXXINE

### 69-75// Movies

Get carried away with *Twisters*, whisked off your feet by *Fly Me to the Moon*, tickled silly by *Despicable Me 4* and freaked out by *Longlegs*.

### 77-81// Television

Documentary *Citizen Sleuth* uncovers that not all podcasters have a clue, while *Endeavour* traces Inspector Morse's early career.





**83-86 // Audio**

Bleeping good video game music, Sabrina Carpenter is *Short n' Sweet*, Sofi Tukker toast *BREAD* and King Gizzard bring forth their 26th album.



**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 November.

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# WHAT'S ON

NOVEMBER

# THE CHOICE IS YOURS

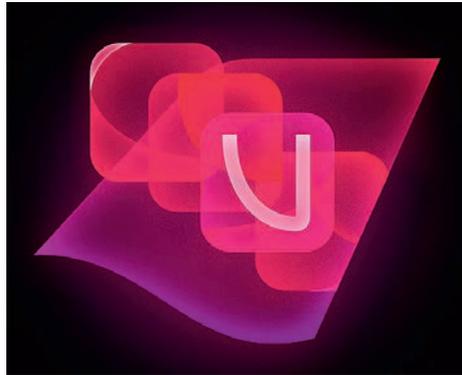
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# WHAT'S ON MOVIES

THUNDEROUSLY GOOD FILMS

## DON'T GET IT TWISTED



Is real-life storm chaser Melanie Metz blown away by blockbuster **TWISTERS**?

► **METEOROLOGIST,** storm chaser and photographer Melanie Metz has been chasing severe weather across the United States for more than 20 years. We ask if the new *Twisters* movie is all hot air...

### Do you remember your first storm?

I've been fascinated by weather since I was six years old. I saw my first tornado up close when I was 23 – the most perfectly photogenic funnel just descended out of the sky.

### Is storm tracking more science or instinct?

Nowadays there's plenty of technology available to help. Some chasers constantly eyeball weather data on their devices. I'm a bit more instinctive than that, watching



the skies, picking up subtle clues: updrafts, how the clouds are rotating.

### How do you stay safe?

The number one safety issue is traffic. More storm chasers have died in car accidents than tornadoes, driving all night, in a hurry, or with poor visibility.

### Are storm chasers adrenaline junkies?

In the movie you see some chasing online likes, that's real. "Zero metering" folks try to get dangerously close. But chasers are often the first to report dangerous weather and help with rescue efforts.

### In *Twisters* they use tech to control storms. Is that real?

Silver iodide for seeding clouds – and launching absorbent materials to tame storms – works in theory. But the sheer scale of supercells, and the logistical challenge of getting enough absorbent material to site, is far-fetched.

### Did you like the movie?

I did. *Twisters* was well received by the community.

My only gripe? They don't kiss at the end. I'm a sucker for a whirlwind romance.

● [MelanieMetz StormChasing.com](https://www.MelanieMetzStormChasing.com)

© WATCH TWISTERS

Clockwise from top: Glen Powell, Daisy Edgar-Jones and Anthony Ramos star in *Twisters*

## SHOOTING THE BREEZE

A STORM-CHASING GLOSSARY

### SUPERCCELL

A cyclic thunderstorm with rotation that can birth a tornado.

### MOTHERSHIP

A photogenic, perfectly rotating storm that looks like a UFO.

### BEAR'S CAGE

The zone of danger under a rotating wall cloud, where a tornado forms.

“**MORE STORM CHASERS DIE IN CAR ACCIDENTS, DRIVING ALL NIGHT, OR WITH POOR VISIBILITY**”

HOT RIGHT NOW



**Fly Me to the Moon** ♥

⚠️ 12

Scarlett Johansson, Channing Tatum	132 mins
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► **A FAB ROMANTIC COMEDY STARRING JOHANSSON AS MARKETING expert Kelly and Tatum as NASA launch director Cole. The pair are thrown together when Kelly is tasked with staging a fake Moon landing in case Apollo II doesn't quite make it. The pair couldn't be more different: Cole, the strait-laced space nerd; Kelly, the marketing maven with a murky past. Needless to say, they clash over everything – because that's the kind of rom com this is – including corporate sponsorships, sneaky government directives and Kelly's chaotic PR tactics. The other thing they can't quite agree upon? The fact that they're falling for each other the whole time. Because of course they are.**



**DESPICABLE ME 4**

U

Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig	94 mins
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The fourth – yes, fourth – instalment of the franchise finds Gru welcoming new family member Gru Jr, who's determined to torment his dad. As if that wasn't headache enough, criminal mastermind Maxime Le Mal has escaped prison and he wants revenge.



**SING SING** ♥

15

Colman Domingo, Clarence Maclin	105 mins
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Heart-warming, life-affirming and a whole lot more besides, *Sing Sing* tells the true story of Divine G (Domingo), an innocent man in the eponymous prison. While serving his time, Divine G finds purpose in a theatre group, discovering how art can transform lives.



**TWISTERS** ♥

12

Daisy Edgar-Jones, Glen Powell	122 mins
-----------------------------------	----------

Troubled Kate Carter (Edgar-Jones) returns to Tornado Alley with her friend Javi. Joined by reckless storm chaser Tyler Owens (Powell), they face a life-or-death battle as a series of massive tornadoes converges over Oklahoma. *See opener*



**BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE**

⚠️ 15

Will Smith, Martin Lawrence	115 mins
--------------------------------	----------

Will Smith is back in this fourth *Bad Boys* team-up with longtime sparring partner Martin Lawrence. Be warned, though: among the explosions and car chases are scenes that may not be suitable for nervous passengers.



**HORIZON: AN AMERICAN SAGA – CHAPTER 1**

15

Kevin Costner, Sienna Miller	181 mins
---------------------------------	----------

Director-star Kevin Costner debuts the first part of his long-awaited western quadrilogy. Co-starring Sienna Miller and Sam Worthington, it chronicles a 15-year span of pre- and post-Civil War turmoil. And it's as handsome and well-crafted as you'd expect from its creator.

# Top five

## Fun facts about Tom Hardy



### 1 He loves reality TV

Tom Hardy says he watches it for role research. "It's great people-watching. I steal characters from *Come Dine with Me*."

### 2 He met his wife on set

Hardy wooed Charlotte Riley while he was playing Heathcliff in a 2009 version of *Wuthering Heights*.



### 3 He was a rapper

Tom and his chum Ed recorded under the name Tommy No 1 + Eddie Too Tall, dropping a mix tape called *Falling On Your Arse* in 1999.

### 4 Leonardo DiCaprio gave him a tattoo

After losing a bet to his *Revenant* co-star, Hardy had to have "LEO KNOWS ALL" inked on his bicep.



### 5 He prefers playing villains

"I play a lot of scary blokes," says Hardy. "Villains are much more interesting than leads, who are, mostly, really boring."

WATCH THE BIKERIDERS

## THE HORRORS



### Little Bone Lodge ♥

15

Joely Richardson,  
Neil Linpow

93 mins

➤ **FANS OF DON'T BREATHE AND HUSH, GET READY TO BE HAPPY.** *Little Bone Lodge* is a tense horror-thriller set in the Scottish Highlands, where two criminal brothers take a family hostage in a remote farmhouse. Standard home-invasion scenario, you're thinking. You're wrong. There's the pressing matter of what the brothers did and how their boss will react to some bad news they have for him. There's the even more pressing matter of the householders, who are not in fact the helpless innocent victims they at first appear. Matter of fact, this house harbours a secret darker than anything the brothers could have imagined. Suffice to say, the night turns into a bloody struggle for survival.



### I SAW THE TV GLOW

15

Justice Smith,  
Brigette Lundy-Paine

100 mins

Creepy horror following high school kid Owen, who's drawn into a mysterious late-night TV show. As Owen's obsession with the show deepens, reality becomes less, well, real, and he and his best pal are thrust into a terrifying collision of fiction and truth.



### MAXXXINE

18

Mia Goth,  
Lily Collins

103 mins

The blood-soaked sequel to *X* and *Pearl* reunites director Ti West with his brilliant star Mia Goth, who plays aspiring actress Maxine Minx. Just about to get her big break, she finds herself targeted by a killer. But our Max isn't going down without a fight...

FUNNY GIRLS



Am I OK?

15

Dakota Johnson,  
Sonoya Mizuno

86 mins

► **WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY STAND-UP COMEDIAN TIG NOTARO,** *Am I OK?* is a smart, genuinely funny exploration of friendship, identity and the roller coaster of self-discovery. Lucy (Johnson) is 32, stuck in a dead-end job and questioning her sexuality just as her bestie Jane (Mizuno) gets offered a dream job in London. Cue an emotional re-evaluation of life, love and everything in between. It's a mix of heartfelt moments, hilarious awkwardness and that inevitable realisation that adulting is just winging it most of the time. And when you factor in standout performances from Johnson and Mizuno, the result is smart, funny and refreshingly relatable.



SPACE CADET

12

Emma Roberts,  
Tom Hopper

110 mins

Comedy in which a party animal (Roberts) turns out to be the best hope for NASA thanks to her smarts, heart and moxie. And if *Legally Blonde* has just popped into your head then you're not the only one.



THE IDEA OF YOU ♥

15

Anne Hathaway,  
Nicholas Galitzine

115 mins

Rom com massive, get ready: Hathaway is Solène, a 40-year-old single mum who begins an unexpected romance with the 24-year-old lead singer of the hottest boy band on the planet (Galitzine).

LEST WE FORGET



SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

15

Tom Hanks,  
Matt Damon

169 mins

The opening to Spielberg's WWII classic is rightly acclaimed as one of the best (as in: most realistic) battle scenes ever filmed. The rest, as Tom Hanks' battle-weary squad embark on a rescue mission, is just as good.



DUNKIRK

12

Harry Styles,  
Cillian Murphy

106 mins

Showing the evacuation of Dunkirk from three different perspectives, Nolan's garlanded, star-studded epic is an incredible, immersive spectacle and a fitting testament to real-life valour.



THE GREAT ESCAPER

12

Michael Caine,  
Glenda Jackson

96 mins

Sir Michael Caine revels in this heart-warming true-life tale of WWII veteran Bernard Jordan, who was so determined to join the 2014 D-Day commemoration that he ran away – from his nursing home.



SURREAL DRAMA



TUESDAY

15

Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Lola Petticrew	111 mins
--	----------

Louis-Dreyfus plays a mother, Zora, whose daughter, Tuesday, is visited by a bird of Death (a parrot) intent on taking her away in this fairy-tale tear-jerker. Determined, Zora refuses to give in without a fight.



Longlegs

15

Maika Monroe, Nicolas Cage	101 mins
-------------------------------	----------

► FULLY DESERVING OF ITS REP AS THE SCARIEST FILM OF THE year, *Longlegs* is a chilling horror starring Nicolas Cage in vintage form. Set against a backdrop of eerie 1970s Oregon, the plot revolves around FBI agent Lee Harker (Maika Monroe) as she tracks a serial killer leaving cryptic satanic messages at every murder. As Lee unravels clues, dark forces begin to take hold, blurring the line between good and evil, and making her question whether she's becoming the very monster she's chasing. Wearing its occult themes and psychological depth on its sleeve, *Longlegs* balances supernatural horror with a disturbingly real sense of dread, not to mention a compelling detective story.



ARCADIAN

15

Nicolas Cage, Jaeden Martell	91 mins
---------------------------------	---------

With a plot that revolves around brothers trying to keep their wounded dad (Cage) safe while being hunted by nasty creatures, this is brilliantly nerve-jangling stuff - wear gloves to protect your nails.

Movie bluff  
Is *Young Woman and the Sea* true to life?

**It's that film about the cross-Channel swimmer right?** Yep, Daisy Ridley puts in her most immersive performance to date as Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim from France to England in 1926.

**Must have made serious waves.** Indeed, it was a massive deal at the time. Ederle, an American, was a media darling. She enjoyed what remains to this day the biggest and most rapturous homecoming victory parade for any athlete in New York City history.



**Cool, so the movie does her justice?** Eh, it implies that Ederle didn't have much success beforehand. Whereas at the 1924 Olympics she won two individual bronze medals and a gold in the 4x100m freestyle relay.

**Any other deviations?** Dastardly trainer Jabez Wolfe may or may not have tried to poison her. And the gap between her two crossing attempts is reduced from a year to weeks. Fair enough - it means the film doesn't proceed at a crawl.

© WATCH YOUNG WOMAN AND THE SEA

ON THE ROAD



**The Bikeriders** ♥

15

Austin Butler,  
Tom Hardy

116 mins

▶ **WITH A CAST THIS STACKED, THE PLOT MAY ALMOST FEEL LIKE AN** afterthought – but here it is anyway. A gritty dive into 1960s motorcycle culture, *The Bikeriders* finds headstrong Kathy (Jodie Comer) falling for Benny (Butler), a charismatic member of the Vandals Motorcycle Club. As the club expands and new chapters crop up, Benny faces a brutal choice between his love for Kathy and his loyalty to the increasingly dangerous gang, led by Johnny (Hardy). Power struggles, violence and the toxic allure of the outlaw life take their toll, leading to devastating consequences for all involved. An intoxicating brew, then, and one that brilliantly captures the raw, rebellious spirit of the era, with the looming threat of violence always a heartbeat away – all of it buoyed by the significant star wattage of its eye-catching leads.



**ONE FAST MOVE**

15

KJ Apa,  
Eric Dane

106 mins

High-octane action with a dash of romance and lots of feels, as we join speed-junkie Wes reconnecting with his dad to chase a dream of bike-race glory. Gradually, Wes begins to break down emotional walls with Pa – as well as burning rubber on the track.



**DADDIO**

⚠

Dakota Johnson,  
Sean Penn

100 mins

This is what you call a two-hander, in that Johnson and Penn are the only two actors in it: she grabs a cab at the airport; he's her philosophical driver. Two brilliant performances carry the day in what emerges as a thought-provoking, occasionally uncomfortable piece.

**Movie quiz**  
Take on our featured films

1 //

Counterintuitively, Scarlett Johansson-Channing Tatum rom com *Fly Me to the Moon* doesn't feature Frank Sinatra's famous take on the title song but a version by which US singer-songwriter?

2 //

Smart teen horror *I Saw the TV Glow* features at its heart a fictional TV show called *The Pink Opaque*, which is named after a compilation by which British indie band?

3 //

Joely Richardson's housebound horror *Little Bone Ridge* was released in North America under a different title – what is it?

4 //

Delightfully manic *Despicable Me 4* is the sixth animated feature-film series to have four parts – can you name the other five recent franchises to grace cinemas at least four times?

5 //

Occult thriller *Longlegs*, starring Nicolas Cage, boasts heavyweight horror heritage – how?

● *Answers on the right*



# OUR COMPLETE MOVIE LISTINGS\*

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

## NEW RELEASES

### A-C

- Abigail
- All of Us Strangers
- Am I OK?
- Anyone But You
- Arcadian
- Asphalt City
- Babes
- Back to Black
- Bad Boys: Ride or Die
- The Bikeriders
- The Blind
- Bob Marley: One Love
- The Book of Clarence
- Boy Kills World
- Candy Candy Lane
- Challengers
- Civil War

### D-H

- Daddio
- DC League of Super-Pets
- The Dead Don't Hurt
- The Delinquents
- Despicable Me 4
- Dream Scenario
- Drift
- Drive-Away Dolls
- Dune: Part 2
- Eileen
- The Equalizer 3
- The Exorcist: Believer
- Ezra
- The Fall Guy
- Firebrand
- Fly Me to the Moon
- The First Omen
- Fresh Kills
- Freud's Last Session
- Furiosa: Mad Max...

- The Garfield Movie
- Gasoline Rainbow
- Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire
- Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire
- The Great Escaper
- Harold and the Purple Crayon
- Hit Man

### I-L

- The Idea of You
- Immaculate
- Inside Out 2
- If
- I Heard the Bells
- Insecure
- In the Land of Saints and Sinners
- In Too Deep
- Irena's Vow
- The Iron Claw
- I Saw the TV Glow
- ISS

- I Used to Be Funny
- Janet Planet
- Joika
- Journey to Bethlehem
- Justice League: Crisis on Infinite Earths Part 1
- Kinds of Kindness
- Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes
- Kneecap
- Kung Fu Panda 4
- Land of Bad
- Laroy, Texas
- Late Bloomers
- Late Night with the Devil
- Lisa Frankenstein
- Little Bone Lodge
- The Long Game
- Longlegs

- Love Lies Bleeding

### M-Q

- Madame Web
- MaXXXine
- May December
- Miller's Girl
- The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare
- Monkey Man
- Mothers' Instinct
- Música
- My Spy: Eternal City
- Napoleon
- One Fast Move
- One Life
- Ordinary Angels
- Out of Darkness
- The Pod Generation
- The Present
- A Quiet Place: Day One

### R-V

- Red Right Hand
- Reverse the Curse
- Ricky Stanicky
- Riddle of Fire
- Road House
- Role Play
- Scrambled
- Sing Sing
- Someone Like You
- Space Cadet
- Sting
- Summer Camp
- Sweet Dreams
- Tarot
- Thanksgiving
- Tuesday
- Turtles All the Way Down
- Twisters
- Unsung Hero

- Upgraded

### W-Z

- The Watched
- We Grown Now
- Wicked Little Letters
- Young Woman and the Sea
- Your Lucky Day

### VERA CLASSICS

- About Time
- Arthur Christmas
- Bad Santa
- Call Me By Your Name
- Carol
- Chef
- Crossing
- The Damned United
- Dunkirk
- Edge of Tomorrow
- Elf
- Ghostbusters
- Gremlins
- Harry Potter...
- Horrible Bosses
- The Karate Kid
- The Lego Movie
- Memento
- Moneyball (2011)
- Moonlight
- My Own Private Idaho
- The Polar Express
- Police Academy
- Practical Magic
- Saving Private Ryan
- Selma
- Starman
- The Terminator

### INTERNATIONAL

- 12.12: The Day
- The Animal Kingdom

- Beomjoedosi 4
- Born to Fly
- La Chimera
- Creation of the Gods I
- The Delinquents
- Drishyam 2
- The Ex-Files 4: Marriage Plan
- Fallen Leaves
- Fly Me to the Moon
- Golmaal - Fun Unlimited
- If You Are the One III
- Io Capitano
- Monster
- Perfect Days
- Shayda
- Suzume
- The Teachers' Lounge
- The Three Musketeers: Milady
- YOLO
- The Zone of Interest

### INDIAN

- Baahubali 2: The Conclusion
- Bachelor Party
- Bheed
- Bholaa
- Coat
- Dhak Dhak
- Doctor G
- Dream Girl 2
- Garudan
- Ghoomer
- The Great Indian Family
- Jawan
- Kill
- Main Atal Hoon
- Naguvina Hoogala Mele
- Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe
- Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani

- Satyaprem Ki Katha
- Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai
- Three of Us
- Tiger 3
- Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar

### NIGERIAN

- Aburo
- Afamefuna
- Ajosepo
- Insecure
- Last Call
- Malaika
- Meeting Funmi's Parents
- Merry Men 3
- The Silent Intruder
- What About Us?
- Wrong Number

### SHORT FILMS

- Favourites
- Favours
- For People In Trouble
- In Too Deep
- Meat Puppet
- The Snip
- The Therapist
- They Grow Up So Fast

### DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY SHORTS

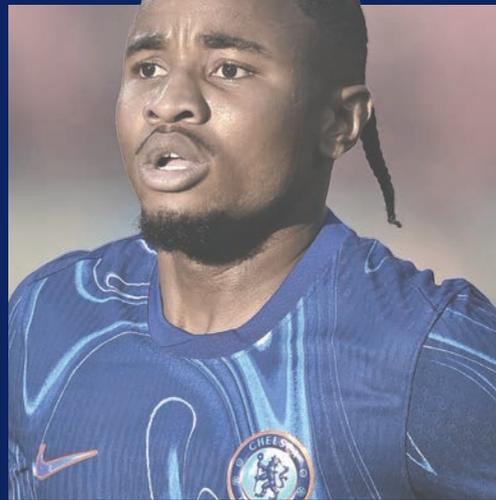
- Entitled
- Eulogy for the Dandelion
- Haud Close Tae Me
- The Honeys and Bears
- Lay Me Low
- Old Mother Blackbird
- Swim
- Walks With Me

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

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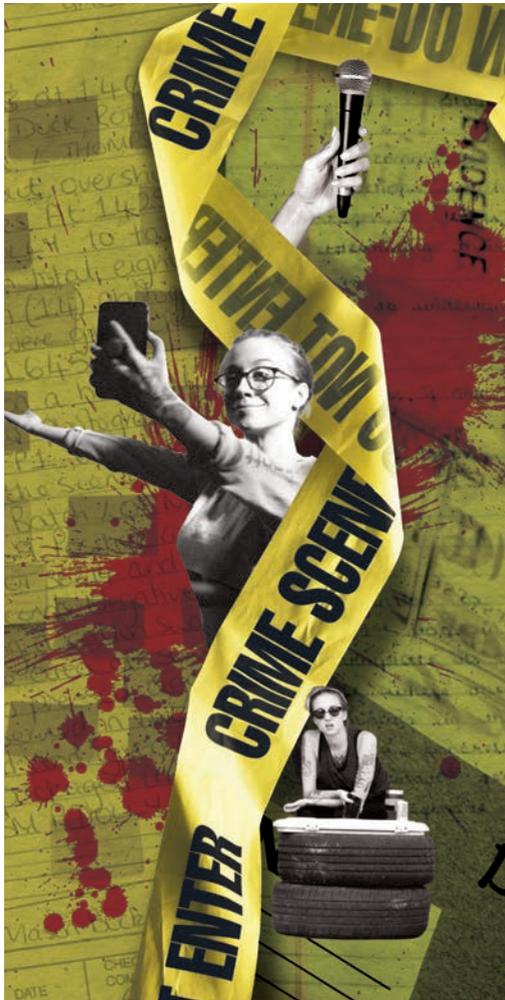


WHAT'S ON

# TELEVISION

NOVEMBER

UNCOVERING HIDDEN GEMS



## A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES

True crime podcasts are wildly popular. But do hosts sometimes go too far in pursuit of ratings, asks Hannah Verdier?

► **LISTENERS ARE THIRSTY FOR THEIR NEXT** true crime fix. And here's the rub. Some podcasters, like Emily Nestor, go rogue trying to satisfy demand, recklessly stirring up trauma in pursuit of content. That's the conceit of new documentary *Citizen Sleuth*. Its focus is Nestor, who has no background in forensics, crime or legal journalism. Just buckets of curiosity – and a love of murder stories.

On her podcast *Mile Marker 181*, Nestor was determined to convince listeners a mildly suspicious road accident was in fact a murder. She's not the first podcaster to chance her arm. *Serial* kick-started the true crime boom 10 years ago. Sarah Koenig's sleeper hit pod uncovered fresh evidence in the case of Adnan Syed, who was jailed for the murder of his girlfriend Hae Min Lee. *Serial*'s fame provoked new interest in Syed's plight and he was freed – though his conviction was eventually reinstated. Distressingly, Lee's family felt it "reopened wounds".

Dabbling in people's personal lives can be damaging for all involved. The hosts of the *Morbid* podcast, Ash Kelley and Alaina Urquhart, ran into trouble with their discussion of Brittane Drexel's murder: their gossipy conjecture led to the vague conclusion that the victim's friends were involved, sparking online hate.

Despite the consequences for the victims, there's a big market out there, even for recounting grisly closed cases. That's what another podcast, *My Favourite Murder*, does. They even sell "Stay sexy, don't get murdered" merch. Think that's in poor taste? *Missing in Arizona* uses AI to recreate the voice of a man wanted for killing his wife and children.

In *Citizen Sleuth* we see Nestor unravel for want of evidence. It's impossible not to get drawn in. She gets a "True Crime" tattoo, and conducts a cringeworthy interview with the local sheriff. Maybe some jobs are best left to the professionals after all.

“**IN CITIZEN SLEUTH WE SEE EMILY NESTOR UNRAVEL FOR WANT OF EVIDENCE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO GET DRAWN IN**”

© WATCH CITIZEN SLEUTH

MUST WATCH



Mr Bates vs The Post Office ♥

12

Box set	Up to 51 mins
---------	---------------

▶ **FORGET THE TRAITORS, THE BIG TV EVENT OF THE YEAR WAS** this true-to-life retelling of the Post Office scandal that shocked the nation. Toby Jones is outstanding as the determined Alan Bates of the title, leading the charge of sub-postmasters who were wrongfully accused of fraud due to a faulty IT system. Showing the hundreds of innocent lives ruined by an unforgiving system that refused to admit its mistakes, the show doesn't shy away from the emotional toll, and there are moments of devastating heartache alongside the inspiring legal battles. At its centre, Jones delivers a quietly powerful performance, portraying Bates with a mix of determination and vulnerability. All four episodes are onboard.



HERE WE GO ♥

15

Box set	29 mins
---------	---------

This hilarious British sitcom captures the misadventures of the dysfunctional and very chaotic Jessop family - including Katherine Parkinson, Alison Steadman and Mica Ricketts - all filmed for posterity by youngest son Sam. Season two is onboard in its entirety.

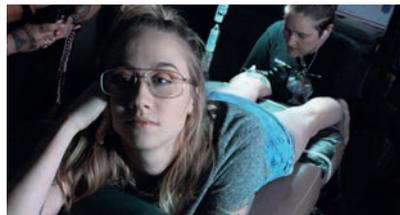


HOT ONES

!

Factual	25 mins
---------	---------

For anyone who's ever yearned for a TV show all about hot chicken wings, and the appreciation of said wings by various entertainers and sportspeople - who divulge juicy info while munching away - we present *Hot Ones!* *Fifty Shades* star Jamie Dornan, above, is just one guest.



CITIZEN SLEUTH !

Documentary	82 mins
-------------	---------

The ethics of true-crime podcasting are laid bare in this documentary following Emily Nestor, a podcaster from West Virginia. While investigating a local death, Emily blurs the line between fact and entertainment. See *opener*



BOLLYWED ♥

Reality	22 mins
---------	---------

Now in its second season, this addictive reality show revolves around the Singh family, who run a wedding dress shop in the heart of Toronto's Little India. The kids plan to modernise, but Mum and Dad want to keep things as they are.



EVERY LITTLE THING ♥

Documentary	93 mins
-------------	---------

Amid the glamour of Hollywood, a woman embarks on a journey by caring for wounded hummingbirds. Truly as enchanting as it sounds, this documentary weaves a tale of love, fragility and healing, and celebrates the profound impact of small, tender acts.

# Simply the rest

## Big ideas from The Rest Is... vodcasts

SPORT!

**Thierry Henry on life goals:**

“For a very long time all I wanted was the approval of my dad. I got it from billions of people, I just wanted it from my dad”



HISTORY!

**Dominic Sandbrook on chocolate’s saucy past:**

“Chocolate was associated with promiscuity in the 18th century. It was erotic – an aphrodisiac”



SHOWBIZ!

**Richard Osman on weapons filmmakers throw into rivers on movies, but rarely retrieve:**

“There’s enough guns down there to arm a small country”



GAMES!

**Marina Hyde on why, despite making more money, video games lack the cultural cachet of movies:**

“Movie critics help films get taken more seriously”



© WATCH THE REST IS... ENTERTAINMENT, THE REST IS... FOOTBALL, THE REST IS... HISTORY

### BEHIND THE SCENES



## The Grand Indian Hotel ♥

Factual entertainment

47 mins

➤ **IF YOU WANT A CHEEKY PEEK BEHIND THE VELVET CURTAIN OF INDIA’S** most iconic hotels then we, like the characters in this show, are happy to oblige. *The Grand Indian Hotel* joins the Oberoi Hotel Group to show the mix of luxury and (organised) chaos that goes on behind the scenes. Stealing the spotlight is our onboard episode, set in The Oberoi New Delhi as it scrambles to open a swanky new restaurant led by a Michelin-starred chef – just in time for the India Art Fair. The staff rush around to make sure guests are kept happy, juggling everything from banquets to blowouts. It’s opulence with a side of hustle – all in a day’s work at one of India’s most high-pressure playgrounds.



### INSIDE ROYAL KENSINGTON & CHELSEA ♥

Factual entertainment

45 mins

Drop into Britain’s wealthiest borough, right in the heart of London. Revealing royal connections, £20 million homes and exclusive clubs – as well as exploring how monarchs shaped the area – it’s a glamorous peek into regal neighbourhood life.



### WINDSOR CASTLE

Factual

60 mins

Delve into the rich and storied history of the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world: Windsor Castle. Go behind the scenes and enjoy unrivalled access to the official residence of King Charles II, and explore the castle’s history through archive footage and expert testimony.

CRIME THRILLERS



**Endeavour** ❤️

15

Box set	Up to 133 mins
---------	----------------

► **THE SECOND SPIN-OFF FROM INSPECTOR MORSE, ENDEAVOUR** takes us back to the 1960s and 70s, where we follow a young Morse (played by Shaun Evans) as he navigates the murky waters of crime-solving in Oxford. Fresh from dropping out of university and a brief stint in the Royal Corps of Signals, Morse joins the police force, already jaded but sharp as a flick knife. His superior, DI Fred Thursday (the ever-brilliant Roger Allam), quickly spots Morse's potential, taking him on as his protégé and offering him a lifeline when he's ready to quit. The mysteries are satisfyingly complex, with each episode oozing period charm and that unmistakable Oxford atmos. All three episodes of season nine are onboard.



**SILENT WITNESS**

18

Crime & thrillers	Up to 60 mins
-------------------	---------------

Emilia Fox leads the cast as pathologist Dr Nikki Alexander in this long-running series. Onboard we have a two-parter where she and Jack (David Caves) investigate what looks like the work of a serial killer.



**THE JETTY**

Box set	58 mins
---------	---------

Gripping drama featuring starring Jenna Coleman as a cop who investigates a holiday-home fire. As she digs deeper, she uncovers all sorts of twisted connections. The whole of the first series is onboard.

THE ARTS



**THE SHIMMERING EXTRAORDINARY** ❤️

Music	17 mins
-------	---------

Celebrating diversity through ballet, the short pieces that make up *The Shimmering Extraordinary* tell the personal stories of six diverse dancers, each of whom has overcome personal challenges.



**I AM: CELINE DION** ❤️

12

Documentary	102 mins
-------------	----------

An intimate look at the career of the legendary singer, as well as her battle with stiff-person syndrome. What emerges is a heartfelt tribute to her fans and a powerful testament to Dion's resilience.



**WALDBÜHNE 2024: A SUMMER NIGHT, FIRE & PASSION** ❤️

Culture	83 mins
---------	---------

Berliner Philharmoniker's *Waldbühne* concert is conducted by Kirill Petrenko and features piano whizz Yuja Wang. Mussorgsky and Ravel's greatest hits fill out the programme.



SITCOM CENTRAL



SCHITT'S CREEK ♥

Box set	22 mins
---------	---------

This Emmy-winning sitcom joins the fallen-from-grace Rose family. Watch for David's fashionista flair, Alexis' charm, Johnny's pragmatism and Moira's scene-stealing antics. Series six is onboard.



BIG BOYS ♥

15

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

*The Times* called this sitcom about two lads dealing with grief and sexuality "one of the most funny, tender, profound, sad-happy comedies [of the] year". We have the whole of the second season onboard.



Mr Bigstuff ♥



Box set	25 mins
---------	---------

► **SIBLING RIVALRY HITS NEW HEIGHTS IN THIS CHAOTIC COMEDY-drama** starring Danny Dyer and Ryan Sampson. Sampson is Glen, a neurotic suburbanite with a perfectly mundane life, including a certain type of very private dysfunction and a shoplifting fiancée. Enter Dyer as Lee, his alpha-male brother with two habits: one, a predilection for prescription drugs, the other, a penchant for carrying their dead dad's ashes around in a biscuit tin. With the brothers forced to live together in an Essex cul-de-sac, it's not long before their so-called perfect lives start to unravel in the most brilliantly disastrous way. As you might imagine, *Mr Bigstuff* is a riotously enjoyable experience. You can binge on all of series one.

Little wings  
Rescuing  
LA's tiny  
birds

Wisdom from **Sally Aitken**, the filmmaker behind *Every Little Thing*, a documentary about a woman (Terry Masear) who runs a sanctuary for injured hummingbirds in LA.



**Hummingbirds are tricky to film, but you've been rewarded for your patience.** "I couldn't resist the cinematic juxtaposition between the vast sprawling cityscape of LA and these tiny, injured birds, their movement, their eyelashes."

**Each bird has its own character.** "It was important I helped viewers experience the birds in the way Terry sees them. She's all business, a medic by temperament. But she is attuned to their distinct personalities and needs."

**There's a nobility in what Terry does.** "We don't celebrate kindness or compassion enough in popular media. But acts of empathy and compassion make life worthwhile. Caring for the vulnerable is an act of greatness."

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# WHAT'S ON AUDIO

NOVEMBER

## SOUNDTRACKS OF OUR LIVES

➤ **FROM SPARTAN** bleeps and bloops in the 1980s, to modern symphonic extravaganzas, video game music has levelled up. Yet, however basic or elaborate the tunes, game soundtracks always resonate beyond their original context. Why? The OG tracks are nostalgic, while newer stuff underlines just how ambitious games have become. Here are five classics of the genre that push all the right buttons.

### Sonic the Hedgehog

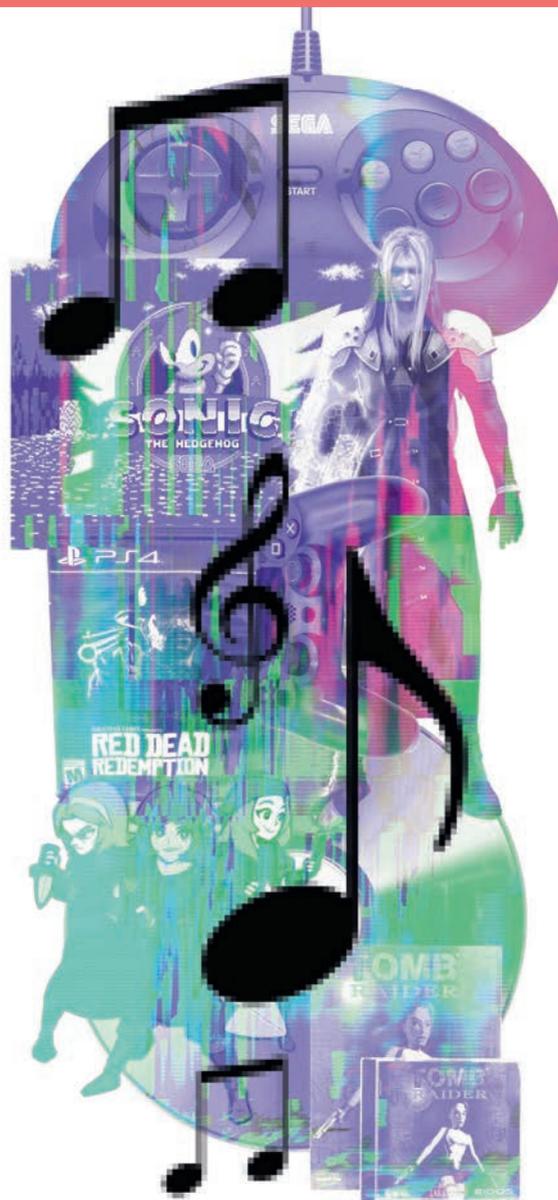
Masato Nakamura was bassist in J-pop band Dreams Come True when Sega commissioned him to compose the music for their newfangled 16-bit platform game. The console's chip could only handle six notes at once, making Sonic's rich sound world all the more impressive.

**VERDICT: WORTH A SPIN**

### Final Fantasy VII

Revolutionary when released in 1997, this sequel elevated the *Final Fantasy* series from nerdy guilty pleasure to mainstream worldwide hit. Its soundtrack – in particular the haunting, arpeggiated prelude by Nobuo Uematsu – regularly appears on grown-up classical lineups.

**VERDICT: FINAL BOSS**



## ARCADE FIRE

Certified player Andy Hill breaks down some winning video game soundtracks

### Crypt of the NecroDancer

Danny Baranowsky is one of a growing cohort of composers who specialise in video game music. His masterpiece? *Mausoleum Mash*, from this dungeon game. The hook is you do better when you move to the soundtrack's rhythm.

**VERDICT: MOVE MUSIC**

### Red Dead Redemption 2

Neo-soul smoothie D'Angelo was such a fan of Wild West riding adventure *Red Dead Redemption*, developers invited him to become a play tester. For the sequel, he even wrote and recorded a song – the sublime *Unshaken*. Horsepower elsewhere comes from Willie Nelson and Josh Homme.

**VERDICT: WELL, SHOOT**

### Tomb Raider

The mellow harps and synth choir that accompany Lara Croft come courtesy of composer and ex-choirboy Nathan McCree. *Tomb Raider* fans even raised £160,000 on Kickstarter to get the first three games' soundtracks recorded by an orchestra at Abbey Road Studios.

**VERDICT: BANGERS**



🎧 LISTEN TO VARIOUS:  
ULTIMATE VIDEO GAME ANTHEMS

FRESH SOUNDS



**Sabrina Carpenter** ❤️

Short n' Sweet  
POP

➤ **HERE'S THE ALBUM THAT FIRMLY PLANTS SABRINA CARPENTER** among pop's elite. Already a pro at balancing the whole actress-slash-singer-songwriter thing, Sabrina's sixth studio outing is a playful yet introspective take on love inspired by flings and her not-so-lofty stature. The sounds? Imagine a fusion of pop, disco, country, rock, and R&B. The feel? Breezy, sharp and packed with attitude, best exemplified by the monster single *Espresso*, which remains as vital as the first time you heard it. The verdict? One of the year's best pop albums, dripping with a fresh, sophisticated charm that's hard to top.



**BEABADOOBEE** ❤️

*This Is How Tomorrow Moves*  
POP

If you haven't heard of Beabadoobee, then just know Taylor Swift is a huge fan of her lyrically barbed indie-pop. This is Bea's third album and it's produced by Rick Rubin.



**POST MALONE** ❤️ ⚠️

*F-1 Trillion: Long Bed*  
POP

The sixth studio album by US rapper and singer Post Malone marks his transition to country music – and since it's such a special occasion, he's invited some pals along to help.



**LUNA LI** ❤️ ⚠️

*When a Thought Grows Wings*  
POP

The second album from Canadian dream-popper Luna Li captures the essence of personal growth and transformation. It's about turning small thoughts into real action.



**KING GIZZARD & THE LIZARD WIZARD** ❤️ ⚠️

*Flight b741*  
ROCK

The 26th album by the King features blues rock and is a truly collaborative effort, with various members taking lead vocals. As they themselves say, it's inward-looking but fun.

**Trend watch**  
Country music is making hay

**#1**

In February, Beyoncé became the first Black woman to top the country charts



**99%** spike in searches on Depop for "cowboycore" fashion this year

**63%** Increase in country songs being streamed in the UK

**1 BILLION** views of #CountryTok on TikTok



"My definition of country music is simple. It's when someone sings about their life and what they know, from an authentic place." Taylor Swift



🎧 **LISTEN TO VARIOUS: FUTURE: COUNTRY**

POP NOIR



LEATHERS

Ultraviolet  
ALTERNATIVE

The brainchild of visual artist Shannon Hemmett and Jason Corbett – both of band Actors – Leathers blend fantasy and reality with a neon-drenched aesthetic. This debut album explores synth-driven dream pop, darkwave and shoegaze.



CHLÖE

Trouble in Paradise  
R&B & SOUL

One half of the Grammy-nominated sibling duo Chlöe x Halle, Chlöe has been active as a solo and featured artist since 2021. She's called this, her second album, a "summer fling" and "a coming-of-age celebration". Guest appearances seal the deal.

The Dare

What's Wrong with New York?  
ALTERNATIVE

DJ-PRODUCER HARRISON PATRICK Smith, best known to the world as The Dare, finally drops his debut album *What's Wrong with New York?* – and it's a cheeky love-hate letter to the city's party scene in all its beautiful chaos. Recorded in his NYC home and studio, the album's an indie-sleaze fever dream, dripping with early 2000s electroclash vibes. For proof, check the presence of Dylan Brady (100 geecs), Emile Haynie, and Romil Hemnani, who all helped to create this gritty mashup.



UPBEAT VIBES

Sofi Tukker

BREAD  
DANCE & ELECTRONIC

SOFI TUKKER ARE QUITE LITERALLY the best dance act you've never heard of, sneezing dancefloor classics seemingly at will. Who are they? The dynamic duo of Sophie Hawley-Weld and Tucker Halpern met at university and bonded over their love of international sounds and house music. With Sophie's Brazilian upbringing and Tucker's background in basketball (before he turned to music after an illness), the pair create music that blends global influences with beats so infectious they rightly should wear a mask. This is their third LP.



HONNE

Ouch  
POP

In a manner not dissimilar to the brilliant Eels, Deptford's Honne tap into their melodic roots with heart-tugging songwriting. The duo blend 90s hip hop and modern pop, weaving a narrative from teenage crushes to family life.



PIX3L

PIX3L  
CHINESE

PIX3L (pronounced "Pixel", of course) is a Hong Kong Cantopop boy group formed through ViuTV's reality talent show *King Maker II*. This debut album includes their breakthrough hit *Braceless* and features an appearance from Jace Chan.

In the clouds  
Some of the best new ambient and classical to chill to

1 //



MAX RICHTER  
In a Landscape

The *Guardian* ranked Richter's 2004 *The Blue Notebooks* the 21st-greatest work of classical music since 2000. Now, 20 years on, Richter returns to the themes he explored on that landmark album.

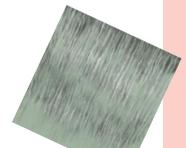
2 //



ISATA KANNEH-MASON,  
LONDON MOZART  
PLAYERS, JONATHAN  
BLOXHAM  
Mendelssohn

Isata explores Felix Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto No 1, Fanny Mendelssohn's rediscovered Easter Sonata, and transcriptions by Liszt and Rachmaninov.

3 //



ÓLAFUR ARNALDS  
The World Is Finally Quiet

Icelandic multi-instrumentalist Arnalds wears the crown when it comes to affecting ambient. The seven tracks on this EP are as immersive and beautiful as ever – and check out some of his earlier critically acclaimed works.



PURE SONGCRAFT



**MORGAN WADE** ♥

*Obsessed*  
**COUNTRY**

Crafted in a haze of jetlag and loneliness, this is Wade's fourth studio album. Though she's stripped out the gloss of her previous outing, a grittier sound gives her voice room to shine, blending hallucinatory imagery with late-night anxieties.



**VALLEY**

*Water the Flowers, Pray for a Garden*  
**ALTERNATIVE**

The Canadian indie-pop threesome's third album is the band's most personal and intimate to date, and delves into such issues as navigating life during a time of love and loss, providing a showcase for raw and authentic songwriting.



**DAVID KUSHNER**

*The Dichotomy*  
**POP**

The debut from singer-songwriter Kushner explores contrasts. Across these often beautiful and introspective tracks, Kushner delves into the duality of human emotions, creating a heartfelt connection through his unique lyrical storytelling.

**Rex Orange County** ♥



*The Alexander Technique*  
**POP**

► **REX ORANGE COUNTY IS IN FACT ONE GUY** – Alexander O'Connor – and his music has been described as “a bright blend of hip hop, jazz and bedroom pop”. This, his fifth album, is like rummaging through his messy but fascinating mind – and it's a cracker. Leaning into his quirks more than ever, Alex serves up melancholic piano riffs, witty lyrics and genre-hopping arrangements that take you from soft folk to cinematic flair. It's an introspective journey where he swaps catchy hooks for complex emotions. His dry humour and lyrical vulnerability feel like chatting with an old friend about life's little existential crises. Not exactly easy listening, but for those in the know, it's Alex at his most undiluted and charmingly odd.



**Calvin-ism**  
Calvin Harris' ultimate bangers



**Feat Dua Lipa**  
**ONE KISS**

This starry-eyed slice of summer pop from Scottish producer Calvin and then-rising British-Albanian superstar Dua Lipa was only her second number one, but his ninth. What makes it so darn good? Tropical, nostalgic deep house, and the sense of being a teensy bit tipsy, dancing, in some hot place. It's very 90s, yet glossy in a distinctly 21st-century way. And it's about love at first sight. On holiday! The best kind.

**Feat Sam Smith**  
**PROMISES**

Joining forces in an inspired collab with soulful softie Sam Smith, *Promises* evokes hot-blooded nightclub courtship better than any record in recent memory. Remixed by everybody from Mousse T to David Guetta, Calvin's OG production – sparse, minimal, all chonky house piano and splashy hi-hats – is unsurpassable. That giggling, flirty lady you hear? Immensely talented Canadian singer-songwriter Jessie Reyez, who not only supplied guest vocals but co-wrote the song.

**Feat PARTYNEXTDOOR**  
**NUH READY NUH READY**

A rare and rather refreshing excursion into dancehall, this Caribbean-tinged belter sounds like nothing else Calvin has ever done. Singer PartyNextDoor – who Harris refers to breathlessly as “a genius” – delivers an irresistible patois-accented vocal over booty-shaking grooves. The lyrics? It's a breezy, cheeky anthem for commitment phobes who'd rather get down than settle down.

🎧 LISTEN TO 96 MONTHS

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Countdown to  
**Christmas**

Things to do  
and gifts to  
buy at the most  
joyous time of  
the year...

**Spark joy  
at Battersea  
Power Station**

✱ Battersea Power Station – now an electrifying shopping and leisure hub – turns on the style this season (from 7 November) with Art Deco-inspired decorations and over 150 glittering trees. Take to the ice at Glide, London's only riverside rink, join the North Pole workforce at the School for Elves, or try a floristry masterclass with Moyses Stevens. Pick up gifts from top brands and indie markets, and enjoy 50 bars and restaurants, like Dishoom and El Pastor. Then visit Lift 109 for views of London from atop the chimney, just like Santa.

[batterseapowerstation.co.uk](http://batterseapowerstation.co.uk)





## Give ethically with Lilly & Jude handbags

Lilly & Jude handcrafts gorgeous one-of-a-kind luxury bags from premium rescued leather. What's rescued leather? Scraps of perfectly good leather discarded by large manufacturers, salvaged before being sent to landfill and upcycled into something special. No two Lilly & Jude bags are the same – so you can show your love with something unique and thoughtful.

[lillyandjude.co.uk](http://lillyandjude.co.uk)



## Get in the spirit at Nicholson's Pubs

Take a well-earned pit stop from your central London shopping trip with a pint of Guinness or festive mulled wine at one of the Nicholson's Pub Collection's outstanding taverns across the West End. The Wellington, at 251 The Strand (nearest Underground station: Charing Cross/Temple), has a chatty atmosphere and pretty Edwardian decor. The Clachan – just behind Liberty department store (Oxford Circus) – is a gateway to buzzy Soho. And The White Lion (pictured), on James Street (Covent Garden), is perfect for grabbing lunch before hitting up Covent Garden Market.

[nicholsonspubs.co.uk](http://nicholsonspubs.co.uk)



## Make merry at The Great Christmas Feast

Gloriously ambitious, and extraordinarily moving, *The Great Christmas Feast* is a dazzling festive treat. Somehow it's both an immersive theatrical take on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and an indulgent Victorian-inspired three-course meal – think decadent chicken with pickled beets and samphire relish, confit duck breast with all the trimmings and Twelfth Night Cake with Christmas pudding ice cream. There's first-class original music, ace cocktails and atmospheric sets from the talented team behind Gingerline and Secret Cinema.

[christmasfeast.thelostestate.com](http://christmasfeast.thelostestate.com)



## Take afternoon tea with the Grinch

✳ Notorious humbug the Grinch is trying – and failing – to upset everybody’s festive merriment as usual. But never fear – a Grinch-themed Routemaster bus is touring central London sights from November serving scrumptious afternoon tea with turkey finger sandwiches, shortbread cookies, camomile tea and more, plus lovely veggie, halal and gluten-free options. You’ll take home an exclusive souvenir travel cup, and an onboard entertainer will delight with Grinch-related pranks as you whisk past Big Ben, Hyde Park, Nelson’s Column and, of course, Green Park.

[b-bakery.com](http://b-bakery.com)



## Inspire wonder with Theatre Tokens

Theatre Tokens are Gift Cards or eGifts that can be used at more than 300 theatres across the UK, including in London’s West End. They never expire and, in a world where we’re all trying to consume less, they offer the gift of a magical night out and memories that will last longer than any old gift socks.

[theatretokens.com](http://theatretokens.com)

## Snuggle up with Charles Tyrwhitt

✳ Warm up the man in your life this Christmas with one of Charles Tyrwhitt’s cloud-soft cashmere jumpers. Sourced from Inner Mongolia, where the native cashmere goat has adapted over centuries to thrive in frosty conditions, it’s the perfect wool to wear this winter. Warm yet lightweight and breathable, he’ll neither feel the chill nor overheat. In a range of collar styles and colours, each jumper is garment washed for superior softness – you can even pop them in the washing machine. So gift him Tyrwhitt’s knitwear – you can always steal it for yourself later...

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



WORDS: ANDY HILL PHOTO: CHARLIE ROUND-TURNER



## Let the countdown commence with Love Cocoa

✱ Nothing says festive cheer like a swanky advent calendar. Your daily confectionary hit is part of what makes the season special. Love Cocoa is a B Corp chocolatier founded by James Cadbury, great-great-great grandson of the OG Mr Cadbury. Made with the best ethically sourced single origin cacao, the calendar is gold-embossed, plastic-free and chock full of truffles, emblazoned with a high-street scene celebrating the first Love Cocoa shop, opening this month on London's South Molton Street.

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

## MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY

Whisk that special someone away on a

magical musical getaway to the Greek island of Skopelos (really The O2, London, shhh) for an irresistible evening of dinner theatre. *Mamma Mia! The Party* promises a mouthwatering four-course Greek feast – spanakopita, sharing mezze, braised lamb stifado – accompanied by the hit songs of ABBA performed by dazzling singers and dancers, with an adorable love story and a spicy after-hours disco to finish. Conceived by ABBA legend Björn Ulvaeus, with English script by beloved broadcaster Sandi Toksvig, the show is celebrating five years in London and – until 15 November – stars Antony Costa of boy band Blue.



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

# WHAT'S HOT NOW



### i-BRATE

Arrive at your destination looking dewy and alert with i-BRATE, a clever cosmetic gizmo that tackles puffiness, fine lines and dark circles around your eyes by stimulating circulation and lymphatic drainage. Portable, ergonomic and stylish, so it's ideal for flights, i-BRATE is the brainchild of beauty entrepreneur Gini Zdesar. Use code VS20 for 20% off.

● [ibrate.beauty](http://ibrate.beauty)



### GOUQI

Michelin-garlanded chef Tong Chee Hwee (Hakkasan, The Ritz-Carlton) presents Gouqi, a high-end Chinese restaurant off Trafalgar Square, London. With deft takes on classics like Legendary Peking Duck and bold new formats – Dim Sum afternoon tea is divine – Gouqi means great food in a buzzy, opulent space or chic private dining rooms.

● [gouqi-restaurants.co.uk](http://gouqi-restaurants.co.uk)



### LA MAISON COUTURE

Championing timeless, exceptional jewellery, sourced with makers and the environment in mind, La Maison Couture is a leader in ethical couture. Its new Busia Collection by designer Tomasz Donocik is inspired by small gold-mining communities in Uganda, with proceeds supporting artisans, social projects and nature regeneration.

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



### SIMPLEXITY TRAVEL

Simplexity Travel is London's leading bespoke travel management company, providing luxury services to corporate and private clients who expect the very best. Whether handling complex business itineraries or locating a private island for that once-in-a-lifetime celebration, it's all about making dream trips a reality.

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

# BUYS GUIDE

THE VERY BEST IN FASHION, SMART LIVING AND GREAT NIGHTS OUT



### CHARLES TYRWHITT

Keep the inclement weather at bay with this smart quilted jacket from Charles Tyrwhitt. With a poppable collar for high-level insulation and warmth plus a clever double-ended zip, it's water resistant and snug thanks to 100% recycled wadding. Look the part in the country or city with olive green or swish navy finishing.

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



### FRESHA

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● [fresha.com](http://fresha.com)



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# CREDITS

VIRGIN ATLANTIC NEWS AND VIEWS



## HIGH NOTES

How our musician colleague Jane is calling the tune

### ► VIRGIN ATLANTIC COLLEAGUE

Jane Unwin has been with us for over 24 years. "I work in fatigue risk management," says Jane. "It's not wearing the red uniform, it's not public facing, but it's vital, making sure team rotas are carefully managed and staff well rested so they can look after our customers properly." She's also an accomplished clarinettist, playing in the Central Band of the Royal British Legion. "My first gig for them was the memorial service for

Dame Vera Lynn at Westminster Abbey." Jane has played several high-profile events, including at Wimbledon and the BBC.

"We're playing

our annual Remembrance Concert in Epsom on 10 November, then gearing up to entertain the crowds at St Pancras Station with Christmas music on 18 December. All profits go to the Poppy Appeal." Do Jane's musical life and job at Virgin have much in common? "Bass clarinet, like fatigue risk, isn't the most prominent role. But you'd notice if it wasn't there."

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



Jane – and with the Central Band of the Royal British Legion





## MINDFUL MAN

How one Virgin legend is stepping up for mental health



➤ “I WANTED TO create safe spaces where men could talk about their problems and share stories without judgment,” says Jason

Goodman, a customer relationship management lead for Virgin Atlantic. His Mindful Men group is going from strength to strength.

“We meet up about once a month to go on walks or share lunches. I’ve connected with so many different types of people.” This month – with the Movember initiative shining its annual spotlight on men’s mental health – Jason hopes the idea catches on elsewhere. “The importance of mental health can’t be overstated. It just needs men to start talking.”

**1 in 4**  
men suffer poor mental health

● [thecalmzone.net](http://thecalmzone.net)



Meet Virgin Atlantic’s journey manager for ground experience **JANINE WALSH**



### The role

My job is to make sure the section of your Virgin Atlantic journey that happens on the ground – before the airport, at the airport and just after you arrive – runs as smoothly and seamlessly as possible.

### The lowdown

I try to make complex things simple and stress-free. Recognising that travel requirements and processes can be complex for some people, I make sure we send a tailored travel checklist and airport pointers in advance to make sure everybody is prepared. Communicating relevant information necessary for navigating connecting flights matters.

### The buzz

I get a genuine kick out of helping customers and working collaboratively across teams to make a difference to people’s journeys. That might be through better signage, or ensuring that help is at hand when needed, so you can find your way. I love joining the dots, and systematically eliminating those pain points.



“Party in the city where the heat is on” – Miami



## Join the crew in... Miami

CABIN CREW SUPERSTAR **TWYANA ANDERSON** SHARES HER ULTIMATE TIPS FOR LIVING YOUR BEST LIFE IN THE 305

**1** //

For a healthy start to your Miami adventure, head to **Raw Juice** in Brickell – they have hands-down the best açai and smoothies in the entire city.

**2** //

Immerse yourself in world-beating aesthetics with a tour of the **Design District**. It’s all gorgeous couture shopping, galleries and funky pop-ups.

**3** //

For an über-stylish night out, grab a drink at **Sexy Fish**. I love the lime cocktail with Hendricks and green pepper. The decor will knock your socks off.

**TOP TIP**  
**Patch Of Heaven is a mindful nature sanctuary, ideal when you get hot and bothered in the city.**



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

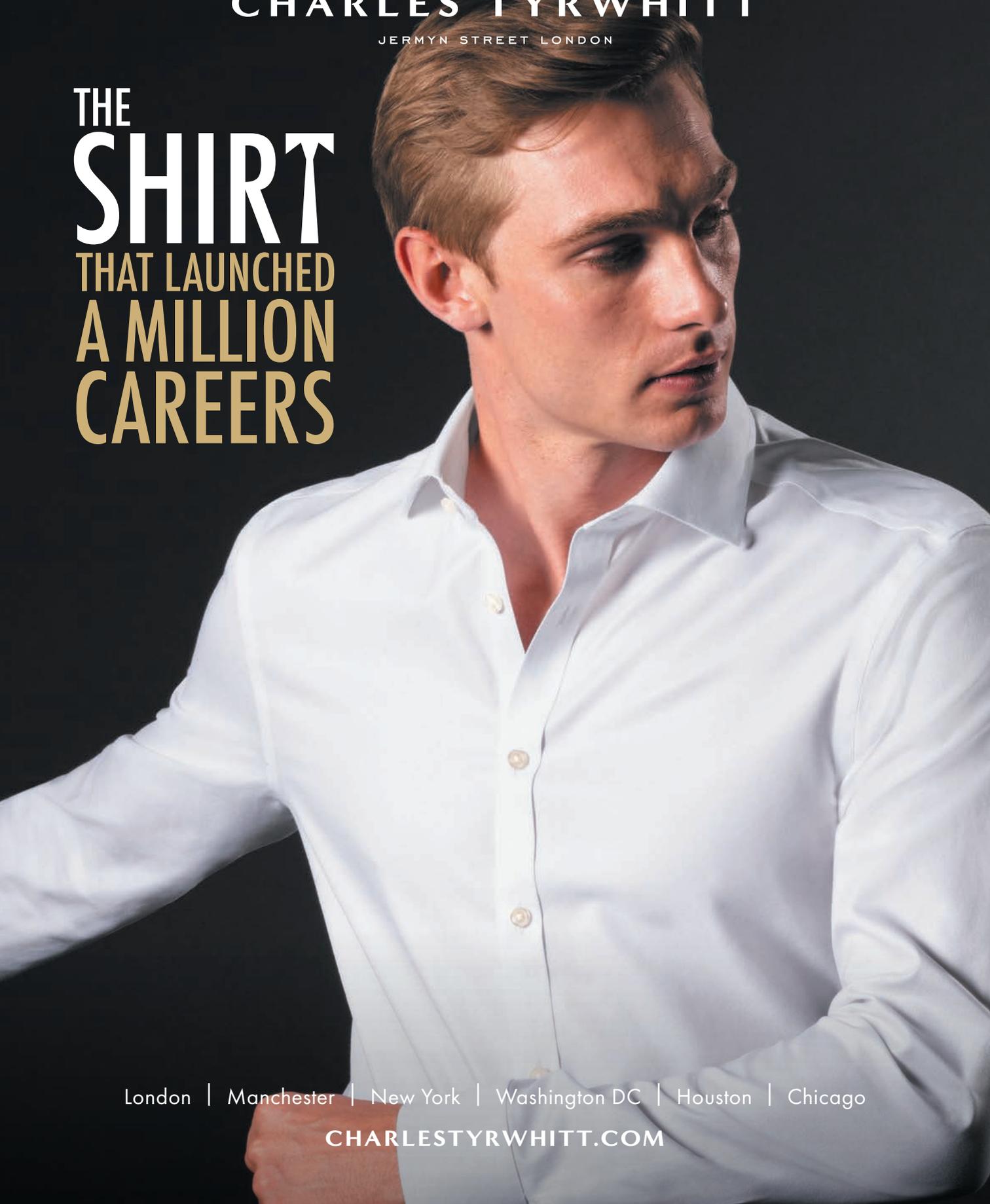
### IF YOU'RE ONBOARD...

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

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