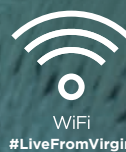


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Wired



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in love with jazz

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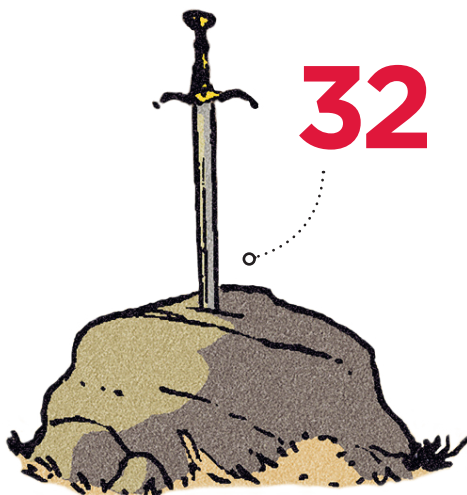
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↓ Skate escape

Oscar-nominated doc
Minding the Gap shows
how troubled teens seek
solace in skateboarding

Bing Liu didn't set out to make a personal documentary. The original concept for *Minding the Gap* was a straight skate video, but as he travelled, meeting skateboarders, it developed into something deeper, darker and more personal.

"I began interviewing skateboarders: 'What does boarding feel like?', 'Who do you love more, your mom or your dad?'" he says. "These conversations often turned into therapy sessions." The stories had a common theme – how skateboarders deal with toxic masculinity and abuse – which struck a chord with Liu. He was eight when his mother married an abusive man. He turned to skateboarding to escape.

"I slowly discovered, after many bruises and broken bones, that I'd regained a sense of control over my pain," he explains. "Most importantly, I found myself much happier in a group of outcasts in the streets than at home."

Returning to Rockford, Illinois, for the project, Liu became an active participant, and the culmination of the film is a difficult but cathartic confrontation with his mother. It's hard-hitting stuff, but it's also hopeful. **CB**



Watch
**Minding
the Gap**
onboard now



↓ Space cadet

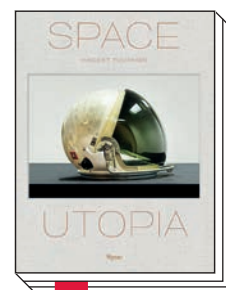
Go into orbit without leaving your seat
with an out-of-this-world new book

As Virgin Galactic plans to send passengers into space, one man prefers to contemplate the cosmos with his feet on terra firma.


Vincent Fournier has spent the last decade photographing the past and future of space exploration – from relics of the 1960s space race to possible missions to Mars. “I was fascinated by Kubrick’s *2001: A Space Odyssey*,” he says. “It evokes this idea of being an archaeologist of the future. I love how the film provides glimpses of what’s to come, such as the first portable laptops or the robot HAL, a precursor to AI.”

Fournier has created an awe-inspiring series called *Space Utopia*, collected in a new book. It features images that were shot in observatories in the Atacama Desert, the Mars-like landscape of Utah (above), launch sites in the US, Russia and South America, plus behind-the-scenes at Virgin Galactic.

So, did Fournier get his name on the latter’s all-important list? “I’d love to see the Earth from space,” he says. “But I’m more interested in the evocation of space than going there. It’s the dream, the mystery, that really interests me.” **CB**
vincentfournier.co.uk



Space Utopia by Vincent Fournier
(Rizzoli, \$75) is out now

 Check out our **Spaced out**
genre onboard now

Tom, Dick and Harry

Famous roles turned down by The Mule's Clint Eastwood

John McClane in *Die Hard*

Clint owned the rights but decided to make *The Dead Pool* instead. The role made Bruce Willis a star.

Captain Willard in *Apocalypse Now*

Clint was offered Martin Sheen's part, but he didn't fancy the lengthy Philippines shoot.

Two-Face in *Batman*

Clint was set to play Two-Face in the campy 1960s TV show, but it got cancelled.

James Bond

Clint was asked to play Bond after Sean Connery, but said it was "somebody else's gig". Step forward George Lazenby.

Superman

Clint declined to don the cape, saying, "Nah, that's not for me." Christopher Reeve swept in.



Nicole Kidman

The A-lister on playing an LAPD officer with a past in *Destroyer*

What first drew you to the role of Erin Bell?

"I grew up watching Pacino and all of those badass men in the late 1970s doing these roles, but I hadn't seen a woman do it. I relished the idea of jumping in with a female director [Karyn Kasuma] and attempting to do a character that was angry and shameful and vengeful and yet very, very human. I hope she's human."

How do you approach a difficult role like this?

"First it's like, 'I hope we can get there.' And then I get the fear and go, 'I can't do it!' Then I try to pull out, and then I get told, 'You can't pull out!' And so then we're off and running [laughs]."

What was it like on set?

"For a film like this you have a limited budget. It's scrappy filmmaking, which I adore. When I started out [in Australia] you sit on an apple box and you're lucky to have some money to make a film and you're working 16-hour days just to try and get it done. So this was going back to those roots, which I love doing because I believe in that kind of filmmaking, and I believe in, even when you're at your peak, going right back to where you began."

Did you go method?

"I stayed in character for most of it. I know everyone goes, 'That's method acting.' I don't know what it is, it's just my kind of acting. And I don't always do it, but this one I had to because it would have felt like a performance. So, I didn't really speak to anyone and I said to Karyn, 'I'll get to know you after the film.'"

Did it bring you down?

"Yeah it did, and my husband said, 'Don't ever do a role like this again! This really is the destroyer,' but he's very supportive [laughs]. But yeah it was almost like I was in a depression for most of it: I started walking like her; a lot of times I'd just wear the costume home. It got bad!"



Watch **Destroyer** onboard now



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Seeing double

Dogs and people look more alike than you think

At owners never know if their kitty's gaze says cool indifference or pure hatred. But dog people never doubt the connection between them and their pets. Don't believe us? Watch *A Dog's Way Home*, where Bella the pooch travels 400 miles to reunite with her owner.

In the last decade, behavioural scientists have found that people look so much like their pets that strangers can match them through pictures alone. Even Bella and her

owner Lucas (Jonah Hauer-King) share more than a passing resemblance.

It's an idea that photographer Gerrard Gethings plays with in his latest project, *Do You Look Like Your Dog?*, where he searched the UK for 50 canine-human lookalikes. His series, pictured above, is now a card game. **CB** *Do You Look Like Your Dog* by Gerrard Gethings (Laurence King, £15) is out now



Watch *A Dog's Way Home* onboard now



Waiting to exhale

A new diving documentary will leave you gasping

Highly lucrative and deeply dangerous, saturation diving is an extreme form of scuba, where professional divers live in a submersible vessel under the sea for weeks on end so they don't have to decompress. Like the sound of it? Just you wait.

Directed by Richard da Costa and Alex Parkinson, and billed as "*Gravity* meets *Touching the Void*", *Last Breath* tells the story of diver Chris Lemons, who was stranded on the ocean floor with just five minutes of oxygen left during a freak storm in 2012.

"That fear of being trapped on your own, that sense of abandonment, I think that's something everyone can tap into," says Parkinson. "It's black and cold and not knowing whether help's ever going to come for you – all of that gave me genuine chills, and as a filmmaker that's a good sign."

It sure is. We won't spoiler what happens, but don't expect to have any fingernails left by the end. "It's great to watch people have a physical reaction to it," says Da Costa. "We wanted it to have a rollercoaster element."

And what do they think of saturation divers now they've spent some time in their world? "They're all nutters!" Da Costa says. "They get well paid, but you'd be happier in prison." Consider yourself warned. MG



Watch **Last Breath** onboard now



Plus points

What's comedy-drama *The Upside* made of?



Green Book

+



Driving Miss Daisy

÷



Get Hard

=



The Upside



Watch **The Upside** onboard now



Show and tell

These props made Alan Partridge the man he is today. In a way.

Watch
This Time
with Alan
Partridge
onboard now

1. Tower of London Beefeater bear

Alan's girlfriend Sonja wanted to go to London, a place Alan despises. To persuade him she placed a giant Beefeater bear in their static home. Alan's response: "Beefeaters do not live in caravans."

2. Corby trouser press

A low point. While living in the Linton Travel Tavern, Alan dismantled this retro hotel room

staple and was forced to call reception to admit he didn't know how to put it back together again.

3. Shop-soiled Terry's Chocolate Orange

Ever the Lothario, Alan managed to secure a job lot of these as Valentine's Day gifts in 1998. Promises weren't kept about storage, however, turning them into "one big dark chocolate cricket ball".

4. Leather driving gloves

A recent addition. In a business meeting Alan slapped a colleague around the face with them like a Nazi interrogator. He later apologised.

5. Medium-sized Toblerone

During a bout of being "clinically fed up", Alan drove to Dundee in his bare feet while stuffing himself with Toblerones

– not small ones, either, but medium-sized.

6. Microwaved apple pie

Alan weaponised this hot dessert. "If I squeeze it, a jet of molten Bramley apple is going to shoot out," he warned. "Could go your way. Could go mine. Either way, one of us is going down."

7. Photo of Roger Moore

This took pride of place on Alan's bedside table.

Moore was meant to be a guest on his chat show *Knowing Me Knowing You*, but only got as far as Chiswick roundabout.

8. Kidney dish and two egg cups

To cover himself up when going to the bathroom, Alan prevented any untoward nudity by cupping himself – not with an actual cup, but a kidney dish and two egg cups. RC



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Larking about

Inspired by new doc *London: 2000 Years of History*? Meet the Thames' most intrepid treasure hunter

Steve Brooker has a rare talent for digging up the past. As one of London's 50 or so mudlarks – amateur archaeologists licensed to scour the Thames foreshore for artefacts – the man nicknamed “Mud God” routinely unearths items that cast new light on the city's rich history.

“Walking along the river you can find things from the Mesolithic period, World War II or medieval times – all within 20ft,” he says. “There are two tides a day and with each one the river sorts out spectacular things in a long line.”

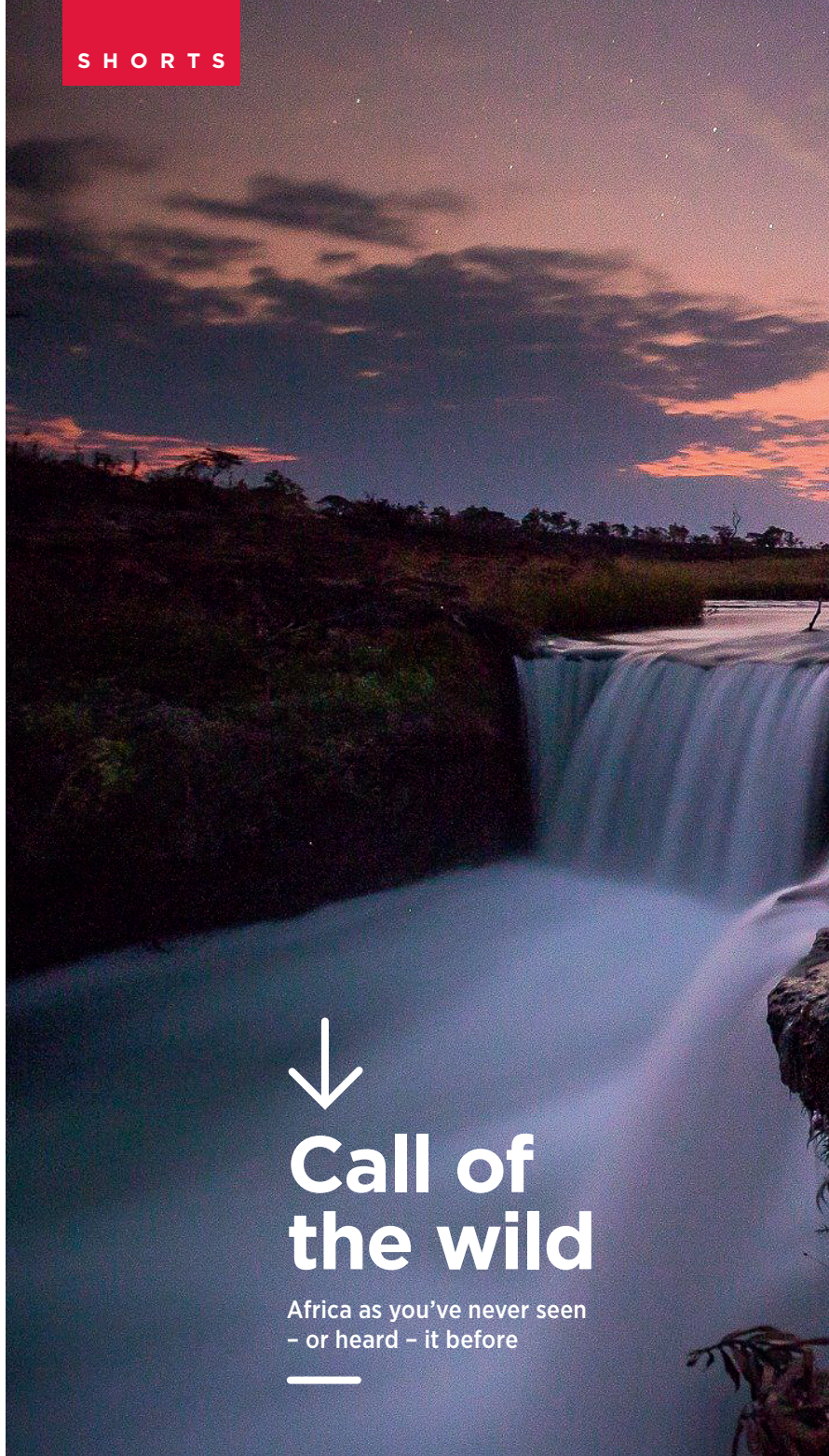
Among the treasures he's pulled from the sludge – an effective preserving agent because of its lack of oxygen – are a polished stone axe head from 5,500BC, a Roman child's shoe, medieval brooches and Elizabethan clay pipes.

“My favourite finds are personal items that show how people lived,” he says. “There are coins belonging to Georgian sailors who carved pictures into one side indicating the things they missed while at sea. It's always sex and booze.”

Since Brooker first started patrolling the river banks more than 25 years ago, the popularity of mudlarking has skyrocketed, and he now leads tours for wannabe Mud Gods.

“Mudlarking used to be extremely nerdy, but now I get lots of rock stars and movie A-listers,” he says. “Everybody loves the idea of picking up an artefact that could change history.” PDV thamesandfield.com

Watch *London: 2000 Years of History* onboard now



Call of the wild

Africa as you've never seen – or heard – it before

Word up

Some fun facts about the Oxford English Dictionary, and a new film about its founding

5

The first volume of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (covering “A” to “Ant”) was published in 1884. It took five years.



It took Mel Gibson 20 years to get *The Professor and the Madman* made. He plays OED editor James Murray.



Documentary-maker Neil Gelinas has a novel way of filming elephants. “I talk to them and let them know I mean no harm,” the American director explains. “I adopt this calm tone and that seems to chill elephants out.”

His Doctor Dolittle skills came in handy while making *Into the Okavango*, which follows explorers on a four-month expedition across Botswana, Namibia and Angola to highlight the threats to the rivers feeding the Okavango Delta – a source of water for a million people and lots of wildlife.

“I’ve never seen anything like the Okavango Delta,” he says. “It’s like

nature on steroids. It’s so beautiful and so intense. We just don’t have that many wild places left, so the value of these things is immense.” Gelinas’s journey took him past a host of toothy critters, including crocodiles, lions and one animal that, unlike the elephants, didn’t respond to a good chat.

“One of our boats was flipped completely vertically into the air by a hippo,” he recalls. “It was scary but, more than anything else, I was disappointed in myself that I didn’t capture the moment!” PDV



Watch *Into the Okavango*
onboard now

PHOTOS: GREG FUNNELL, ALAMY, GETTY IMAGES



Dr William Chester Minor (Sean Penn), a madman and convicted murderer, submitted some 10,000 words.

70

Originally, it was estimated that creating the *OED* would take 10 years, but it ended up taking 70.



William Shakespeare invented some 1,000 words now found in the *OED*, including addiction, bedazzled and swagger.

600,000

Number of words from around the world contained in the third edition. There are also 2.4m quotations.



Today, a new word is added to the *OED* every two hours. New entries this year include Aperol and chipmunky. CB



Watch *The Professor and the Madman*
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REMEMBERING
THE DECADE
TASTE FORGOT

IN AT THE



Having tested the waters in *The Favourite*, Nicholas Hoult is immersing himself in historical drama for Tolkien. But will he sink or swim?



MATT GLASBY



EMILY SHUR



DEEP END

Shirt by
Officine Generale.
Trousers by
Brunello Cucinelli

Previous suit
by Daks. Shirt
by COS. Shoes
by Loriblu





Normally, child actors grow up to be bitter, broke and – whisper it – a little bit weird. But clearly no one gave Nicholas Hoult the memo. Handsome, successful and remarkably grounded, the 29-year-old Brit has described himself as the “lovechild of Hugh Grant and Colin Firth”, and is as self-deprecating as his two “dads”.

Speaking down the phone from Canada where he’s visiting family, he apologises profusely when we tell him that we’ve read a lot of his recent – reasonably

awkward – newspaper profiles. And every time the questions threaten to get too personal he offers more erms and ahs than a *Four Weddings and a Funeral* cut scene. “I wouldn’t say that doing an interview’s my favourite thing...” he explains, before adding, “No offence.” None taken.

An actor since the tender age of three, Hoult was talent-spotted while watching a play with his mother. Although he’s worked solidly ever since, in the likes of *Skins*, the *X-Men* franchise and *A Single Man*, he first came to popular attention in the charming 2002 Nick Hornby adaptation *About a Boy*, starring Grant, Toni Collette and Rachel Weisz, who he calls his “acting parents”.

His actual parents are a piano teacher (mum) and a pilot (dad), so becoming a creative high-flyer was always on the cards. Has he ever – no offence – had a proper job? He laughs: “I mean technically, I suppose, no. Because I’ve been doing it since I was a kid, the closest I’ve ever had to a normal job was doing work experience at Bracknell Leisure Centre.” It’s fair to say the leisure industry’s loss has been Hollywood’s gain.

Unlike Firth and Grant, Hoult has avoided the usual British actor’s apprenticeship in fusty period pieces, choosing primary-hued fantasies such as *Clash of the Titans*, *Jack the Giant Slayer* and *Mad Max: Fury Road* instead. Until, that is, he got his mitts on the script for *The Favourite*, a cock-eyed black comedy directed by Yorgos Lanthimos and set in the intrigue-ridden court of Queen Anne (Oscar winner Olivia Colman) in 1708.

“I think that audiences are hungry for

original, slightly different angles and new takes on things,” he says. “I’m not normally a fan of dry British costume dramas, they aren’t really my cup of tea, but reading the script had me giggling and laughing, and I was like, ‘Wow, this is incredible!’ Then putting Yorgos’s directorial eye and tone into that world, it just >

“Dry British costume dramas aren’t my cup of tea”

A man with short dark hair and light blue eyes is sitting in a wooden chair. He is wearing a brown turtleneck sweater under a blue and white checkered blazer. He is looking off to the side with a slight smile. The background is a purple brick wall. The lighting is soft and even.

**“The closest I’ve
ever had to a
normal job was
doing work
experience at
Bracknell
Leisure Centre”**



made for a unique movie that's funny and bizarre but also emotional and twisted in terms of what was going on between these characters and how they affect each other."

In the film, a power struggle between the Queen, her confidante/lover (Weisz) and her new maid (Emma Stone), Hoult plays scheming politician Robert Harley, who peacocks around in full 18th-century regalia. How did he find that? "I mean, yeah, I survived," he says a little ruefully. "They were such a fire hazard, the big wigs. We were shooting with either natural light or candlelight, so I had this huge flammable wig on, tottering around in heels. It was a learning curve for sure."

When he's not shooting, Hoult splits his time between London and LA, living with his girlfriend, the model Bryana Holly, and baby son. Does he see any parallels between the vicious, tooth-and-claw politics of *The Favourite* and the sticky situations playing out in the US and UK? "I mean what can you say about it?" he begins. "Look around, there's very few things that I think people feel safe with in politics at the moment. It's a bit of mess everywhere, really, isn't it? It's interesting because with *The Favourite* you get a view of how the whims of a few people can change the outcome of entire countries and I think we're seeing shades of that right now."



Hoult's next role is a canny combination of costume drama and fantasy. *Tolkien* sees him playing *The Lord of the Rings* author, a scholar of philology (the study of languages) who fought in the Great War, married his childhood sweetheart, Edith (Lily Collins), and invented his own imaginary universe – a lot of life to fit into one movie.

As a youngster, Hoult was given a copy of *The Hobbit* by *About a Boy* directors Chris

and Paul Weitz. "I loved it, of course, it's a classic, isn't it?" he says now. "I mean fantasy films and stories have always been something that I've loved, that transportive effect of them, of being somewhere completely different and using your imagination to go along with these worlds and help create them in your mind's eye."

But reading the books was just the beginning. "I knew Tolkien's work but very little about him going into this," he says. "To be honest with you, I was mispronouncing his name, which I think maybe a lot of people do. It's easy to look at it and think 'Tol-kin', but it's pronounced 'Tol-keen'." That must have made for an awkward first day on set, we suggest. "No, I'd done some research before then," he says evenly, the nearest he gets to sounding peeved. "I'd have been pretty rattled if on the first day I realised I couldn't pronounce it."

The film's most striking scenes show Tolkien in the trenches, feverish and shell-shocked, imagining fire-breathing dragons and wraith-like riders amid the smoky chaos of battle. They're gorgeously evocative, but crawling through acres of mud doesn't look much fun. "I really thrive in those sorts of environments," counters Hoult. "I quite enjoy them as a balance to being in smart collars and nice tea rooms. But yeah, it was December in a field outside Manchester, so it was freezing. The bomb craters would freeze overnight when there was water in them, so we'd crack the ice, pull the ice out, then I'd go and lay in them. The sets were incredible, but pretty cold."

Ironically, these scenes bring to mind the staggering First World War documentary *They Shall Not Grow Old* (also available onboard) directed by none other than Peter Jackson, the cinematic custodian of Tolkien's legacy. With his English accent >



Suit by
Bode. Jumper
by COS

Right as Robert
Harley in *The
Favourite*

and elfin features, was Hoult ever asked to be in Jackson's *Hobbit* films – or, at 6ft 2in, was he too tall? “To play a Hobbit perhaps, but there are other characters,” he says tantalisingly. “And now Amazon is doing its version of that world as well...” So would he consider taking a part in that? “Obviously I’m a fan of Tolkien’s work, and the worlds that he’s created and the characters that live in them, the depth they go to, so I mean yeah, in the right circumstances, of course.” You read it here first.



By just about any metric, Hoult's doing pretty well for himself. And while nobody's suggesting that scraping a 2:2 from Plebsville Polytechnic is more fun than being a famous actor, does he ever feel that he's missed out on some of life's more ordinary adventures? “I don't know,” he says, clearly meaning the opposite but not wanting to sound conceited. “The fact that I missed university or whatever, you miss out on some stuff, but in my job I'm very fortunate because I'm always finding new elements of life, or history, all these sorts of things. There's always an element of learning – you get quite a broad overview of general knowledge, I think, because you're always telling a story from a different era, or a different world. So you're learning about new people and characters, and you end up in odd places, chatting to interesting people: it's education through experience.”

With someone less well-adjusted, the idea of a “repressed British man” (his words) taking refuge in such fantasy worlds might suggest he wants to escape from reality. But for Hoult it feels more like a way of avoiding boredom. “In this line of work you're always shooting somewhere different or on the road,” he says. “It's quite a nomadic lifestyle, which I've got very used to and enjoy. I love the excitement of it, that thing where you can receive a phone call at any minute saying, ‘Right, this is happening, you need to be on a plane tonight, going here for this.’ That sense of adventure that it gives you, it stops you from feeling stagnant.”

With *Tolkien* and *X-Men: Dark Phoenix* set to rule the summer, plus a supporting role in Aussie Western *The True History of the Kelly Gang* up next, there's little chance of that.

But the times they are a-changing in other ways. In *Tolkien*, Harry Gilby plays a younger version of Hoult's character. Did he find that unsettling? “I've never been asked that before,” he laughs. “But yeah it is kind of weird actually. I grew up playing the younger versions of people, so it made me realise I'm no spring chicken anymore.” There's life in the old boy yet. ■



Watch **The Favourite** onboard now

Is he too tall for Tolkien? “To play a Hobbit perhaps, but there are other characters...”

T-shirt and trousers as before. Coat by Ports

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Grooming **Stacey Panepinto**
Location **The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel**



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in *Tolkien*

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A Knight's Tale



An illustration of a city skyline, likely London, featuring the Shard and the Gherkin. The scene is framed by a large tree with a thick trunk and dark foliage. An owl is perched on a branch in the upper right. The sky is a warm, orange-pink color. The foreground is filled with dark blue leaves and branches.

With a courtly nod to *The Kid Who Would Be King*, we dig deep into the big book of Arthurian legends



MIKE PEAKE



R FRESSON



As legends go, the story of King Arthur is an absolute humdinger, what with knights, a bearded, shape-shifting wizard, round tables, evil half-sisters and, of course, Excalibur, a sword with magical powers. Uncertainty lingers over which bits of the story – if any – might be true, but that hasn't stopped plenty of people around the world from spending large chunks of their life investigating it, writing about it and even making movies about it. Inspired by the new film *The Kid Who Would Be King*, which updates the legend to modern-day Britain, we spoke to four Arthur aficionados, including the movie's writer/director, Joe Cornish.





SARAH PEVERLEY
Medievalist
and professor
of English at
the University
of Liverpool

Having been raised on stories of King Arthur and Robin Hood, Peverley dreamed of being a tough princess long before Disney got in on the act. "I wanted to be the type who could wield a sword, because that knight in shining armour isn't always going to show up, is he?" she says. "Later, I became interested in these legends' original sources, and that's

how I sustained my love of King Arthur."

While Arthur is said to have lived around the fifth century AD, it's not until the 12th century that the most famous account of him was written, by which time he was already a powerful figure of folklore. "The jury's still out on whether or not he was real," says Peverley. "Although the Arthur as we know him today would have been very different to a real king of that period."

Arthur would have been a leader at a time when the country was being torn apart by war and infighting between different tribes – not quite the romantic backdrop that's often depicted.

"He has come to represent a golden age where everything was brilliant," explains Peverley. "His tales were all about adventure and what makes a good king, and his story of how that all falls apart is a poignant one."

Arthur-inspired TV and film productions, she notes, often seem to come out in times of crises. The BBC's *Merlin*, for example, came out around the last recession, and perhaps it's no coincidence that *The Kid Who Would Be King* is out now. Might Peverley be quietly matching modern politicians to characters from Arthurian legend?

"I'm not," she laughs, "but I could probably think of your wise adviser type or your evil witch who wants to ruin everything. I'm not going to put names to that, though!"

If you want to go hunting for Excalibur, her top tip is Dozmary Pool on Bodmin Moor in Cornwall, or the lakes around Snowdonia. And for the record, while she lists her hobbies as playing the harp, being near the sea and stargazing, she insists she's not a modern-day reincarnation of one of the most enduring figures in the story: the Lady of the Lake, to whom Excalibur had to be returned.

"If I was, though," she says, "would I actually tell you?"

"King Arthur is like Star Wars for the Dark Ages"



JOE CORNISH
Writer and
director of
*The Kid Who
Would Be King*

"I first had the idea when I was 12," says Cornish. "I'd just seen John Boorman's *Excalibur* at a friend's house and it had a big effect on me."

He also saw Spielberg's *ET* around the same time and loved the idea that such an amazing thing could happen to a normal suburban youngster. "I sort of put the two ideas together in my imagination and

thought it would be good to make a movie about a young British kid who found Excalibur," he says.

Over the decades, the story's socio-political angle never lost its lustre. "In the original myth, Britain is divided and all the different tribes are warring against each other, and even in the 1980s that felt like a pretty relevant idea, what with Thatcherism dividing everybody," he says. "I think it's pretty resonant now, too." A series of workshops with school kids helped Cornish understand how youngsters felt about the world, and British actor/director Andy Serkis's son Louis was cast in the lead role.

But not everything went to plan. One

of the young actors was resting a sword on his foot when it sliced through his trainers and nicked his skin. Then there was Excalibur, which had a crystal on it which glowed when evil was nearby.

"There was a wire running up the actor's sleeve attached to a battery pack," sighs

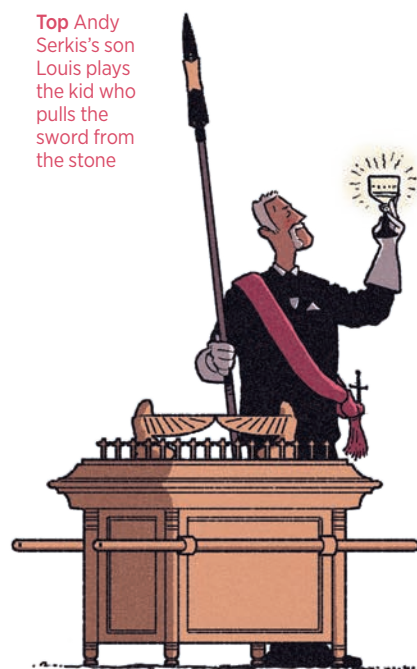
Cornish. "It kept disconnecting, it kept screwing up – it made my life a misery."

That didn't stop him from squirrelling the prop away in his bedroom when the movie was finished, however. "It would make a weird news story if I fought off a burglar with it," he laughs.

As to whether or not the story of King Arthur is true, Cornish is convinced there's something to it, even if it's only metaphorical. "But it's all so deep in the past that it's counter-intuitive to go looking for answers," he says. "It's sort of like *Star Wars* for the Dark Ages."

So who would sit at Cornish's round table? Barack Obama for one – plus his long-time comedy pal Adam Buxton. "That said," he admits, "I'm not sure me forming the round table is the best way to go." >

Top Andy Serkis's son Louis plays the kid who pulls the sword from the stone





**ROLY
ROTHERHAM**

Fellowship of
the Knights
of the Round
Table of
King Arthur

First, a quick explainer: the Fellowship was created by wealthy businessman Frederick Glasscock in 1927. Glasscock's firm manufactured powdered custard, and he was fascinated with the story of King Arthur. He envisaged a more inclusive version of an organisation named The Knights of the Round Table, which had been

started back in the 14th century by King Edward III. His dream was to open it up to everyone – women included – and to aspire to the ideals of the knights: the preservation of chivalry, knighthood, gallantry and virtue. To do this he set up his HQ in Tintagel, Cornwall, where King Arthur is supposed to have been conceived.

"He bought the old town hall and he built on the back of it to create the home for the Fellowship," says current head Rotherham, whose official title is Knight Seneschal. "We have members in almost every country you can name, and the reason we keep going is to keep alive the Arthurian ideals of chivalry – we also support children's hospice movements in every country we're present in."

Rotherham first became hooked on the Arthur legend as a five-year-old when he was given a book about the king by his uncle. He still has it, and during a career that saw him serve on the Queen's staff and also as a lecturer, he found time to visit a number of historic sites in search of key pieces of the Arthur/Holy Grail/Spear of Destiny puzzle.

"People have said to me, 'What would you do if you found the Holy Grail?'" says Rotherham. "I always tell them I'd put it back and wouldn't say anything because if I told anybody I'd be responsible for taking away part of people's dreams."

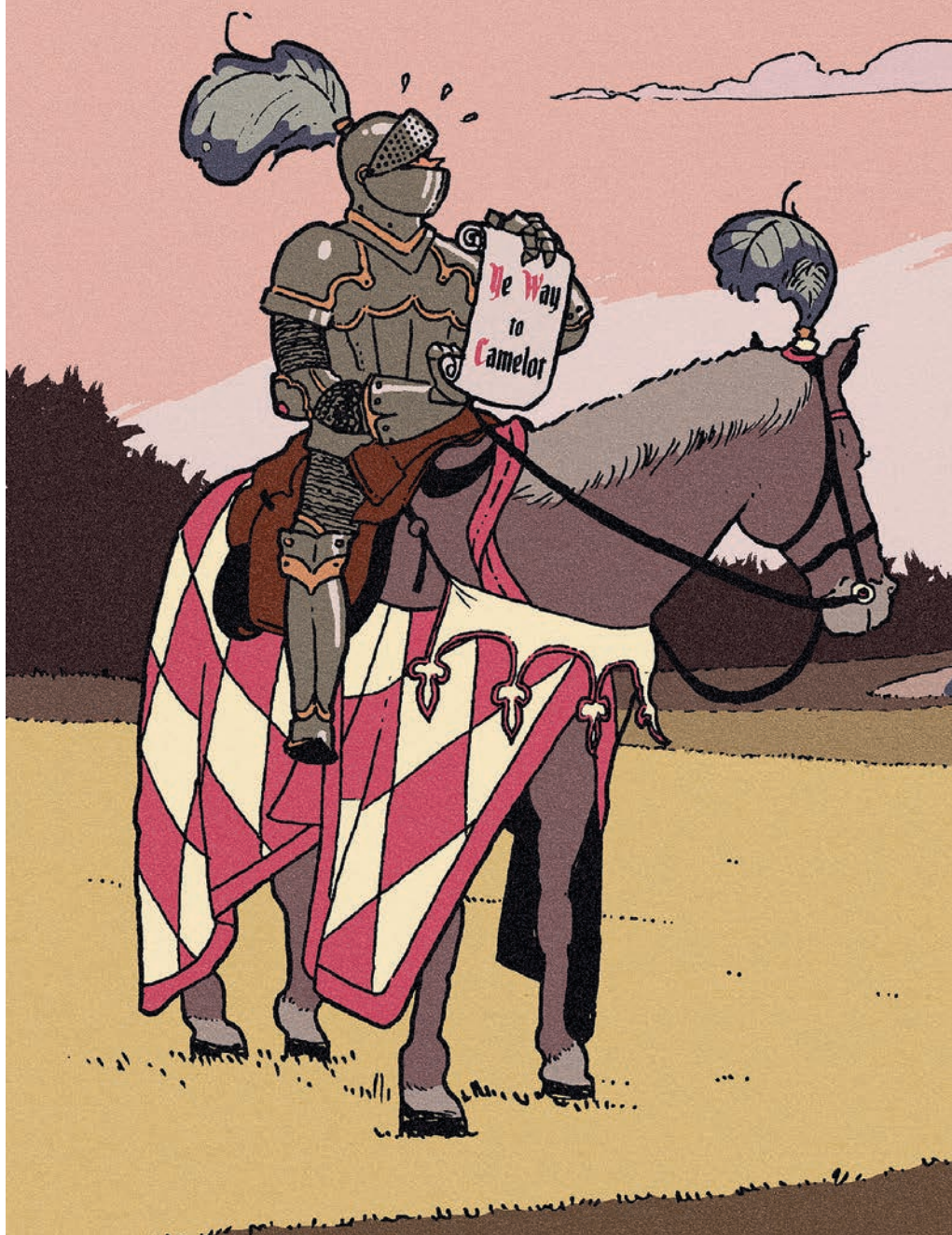
He certainly takes it all seriously, but he admits that the Fellowship has a fun side, too, and insists that it hasn't proven difficult to prise younger members away from their iPads and get involved "especially when we point out that there's actually a couple of games they

"If I found the Holy Grail I'd put it back and say nothing because I'd be taking away part of people's dreams"

can play which are based on Arthurian legends", he chuckles.

A scholar of medieval cookery, Rotherham says that the meal he would make for Arthur – who, he believes, is only sleeping "ready to come back in England's greatest hour of need" – would begin with a dish that dates back to ancient Egypt and was served to Ramesses the Great.

"It's pigeon breasts cooked in strong beer with berries," says Rotherham. "For the main we'd have a late-medieval dish: salmon and asparagus pie with a ginger and cinnamon butter."





**SIMON
KEEGAN**
Arthur
aficionado,
author and
investigator

Keegan is a journalist who caused a flurry of excitement when he concluded that Arthur was from the north of England and that Camelot may have once stood near Huddersfield.

"It all added up," explains Keegan. "They call it Occam's Razor, don't they? That the simplest explanation is often the right one."

The theory had him delving into

a Welsh poem called *Y Gododdin*, which has what many believe to be the earliest reference to Arthur and which also refers to a battle that took place in Catterick in north Yorkshire. "The next meaty reference to Arthur is a book that lists 12 battles, the majority of which took place around Hadrian's Wall," says Keegan.

More sleuthing saw him researching ancient princes and kings whose names began with the letters "Arth". There were five or six, but only one lived in the right place at the right time: around 480AD. "He was called Arthwys ap Mar – a historically documented British leader that I believe should be identified as Arthur," says Keegan.

He's not the only one to locate Arthur and Camelot "up North" – the 2004 *King Arthur* film did the same – but Keegan says his book *Pennine Dragon* was the first to associate Arthur with this particular Northern king.

The writer's quest for the truth has led him all over the UK, and he's made some interesting discoveries. One of which sounds a little like the Holy Grail...

"It's in a museum near Stoke," says Keegan, "a chalice, and it was found near Hadrian's Wall. It is inscribed with three or four of the battle sites which I have identified as Arthur's battles, and it also has the word *Draconis* on it, which means 'dragon'."

Keegan also thinks he's solved the sword in the stone myth. "The word 'stone' in Latin is *saxo*," he says. "I think something's got mixed up and he actually got his sword from a Saxon."

Having spent years researching the legend, Keegan says he's giving himself some time off. "I think I'll leave Arthur alone for a while until I get the itch again," he says. "It's been a puzzle for 1,500 years, so another couple more won't make any difference." ■



Watch **The Kid Who Would Be King** onboard now

SEARCH PARTIES

Mythical movie quests and how successful – or not – they are



Golden Fleece

Jason and the Argonauts
Success? After a lot of faffing about, yes



Holy Grail

Monty Python and the Holy Grail
Success? Nope



Arc of the Covenant

Raiders of the Lost Ark
Success? Confiscated by the US government



Declaration of Independence

National Treasure
Success? Yes



Philosopher's Stone

Harry Potter
Success? Found but then destroyed



Trident of Atlan

Aquaman
Success? It's onboard, so watch and find out

Anything goes in the Caribbean – and that includes the soundtrack. From jazz stars to country standards, St Lucia is really switching things up



**CLAIRE
BENNIE**



**WILL
BREMIDGE**

Getting into



the groove



A

"All Caribbean islands have a very different flavour when it comes to music," Richard Payne says over the sound of gently breaking waves and fingers meticulously scaling a keyboard. "The well is very rich for us to tap into. All are highly rhythmic. All are very colourful. And we're all trying to find our own colour. For me, it's something that's strongly rooted in jazz sensibilities but with a Caribbean rhythm."

An accomplished pianist who runs the St Lucia School of Music, Payne is a passionate jazz advocate. We meet at Jambe de Bois, a restaurant on Pigeon Island, an idyllic national park connected to the main island. There's nowhere better to chat about the local scene – as we sip cool Piton beer, Payne tells us that this is where the biggest nights of the St Lucia Jazz Festival are held. "I opened for John Legend here back in 2007," he says with pride.

But surely jazz is better suited to the smoky basement bars of New Orleans or New York than the Caribbean? While it's hard to reconcile with St Lucia's non-stop sunshine, jazz has actually been played in this part of the world for almost 100 years, fusing the classical music enjoyed by European settlers with the thumping, soulful drums brought over from Africa. And every May (from 4-12 this year), St Lucia plays host to one of the world's best jazz festivals.

Payne credits Luther François, St Lucia's godfather of jazz, as his greatest inspiration. A pioneer of Caribbean jazz, François founded the festival almost 30 years ago. "When it first started in 1991, a lot of jazz heavyweights such



as Herbie Hancock and George Benson came, and the audience really embraced it,” says Payne. But as the festival gained in popularity, it attracted bigger names such as Lauren Hill, Elton John, Kool & the Gang and Amy Winehouse. “It became more of an RnB festival,” says Payne. “People came for the party than the music. The ticket prices were high; the artist fees were high.”

A few years ago, the festival’s organisers realised that the format was unsustainable. Now the money is now spread across four events: the jazz event, the carnival in July, a roots/soul event in August and a Creole heritage festival in October. Lower artist fees mean that the organisers can invest more in local talent, and because the event is so high-profile, everyone wants to be involved.

“People will always make a comparison between the old version and the new,” agrees Payne. “But previously there was such a focus on the headliners. Now it’s a chance for our best and brightest musicians to shine. The standard has really gone up

and we’ve got some young artists now performing at a level they couldn’t have if it wasn’t for the jazz festival.”



Two sounds dominate the island’s radio stations: country and soca. If you haven’t heard of soca, imagine Notting Hill carnival with the volume and energy dialled up to 11. Experience it at the Friday night Jump Up at Gros Islet, where you can twerk along with the locals (try some rum punch for Dutch courage). The chances are you’ll be shimmying to the local sub-genre of soca called Dennerly Segment, characterised by its infectious beats and Creole lyrics.

Jahim Etienne is the man who created the sound. “I realised that every island had their own music. Soca actually comes from Trinidad, reggae comes from Jamaica and zouk is an African style,” he says. “All these things influenced me to create a new genre.”

Dennerly Segment tunes have a lot in common with traditional Creole folk songs, from the instruments (cornshell trumpet, cowbell, clacking bamboo) to the lyrical content – “like a soap opera in song”, according to Etienne. Older St Lucians were scandalised by its risqué content, but then reggae was once deemed subversive too. “There was a lot of kickback from the radio stations,” admits Etienne, “but it just made people more curious. Now the sound is getting around – to Trinidad, Barbados and even the States. People realise a party isn’t a party without Dennerly Segment.” >

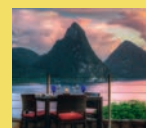
“Every island has their own music – soca actually comes from Trinidad”

The right notes

These iconic St Lucian hotels are the best places to enjoy jazz on the island



Anse Chastanet
The sunset jazz cruise is a highlight, with smooth sax by Barbara Cadet’s student Rob.



Jade Mountain
Kick back, relax and listen at the open-air dining space atop Jade Mountain.



Cap Maison
This northern option is well placed for the festival. Don’t miss Sunday lunch at The Naked Fisherman.

Previous
Richard Payne.
Left The Boo
Hinkson band.
Left Rodney
Bay Marina



Tune into Radio 100 on a Sunday afternoon and you won't believe what you're hearing. DJ Steve Anius doesn't play jazz or Dennerly Segment. His playlist features country songs by the likes of Tammy Wynette and Jim Reeves, plus music by St Lucian talent such as LM Stone and Cowboy Sealey. "Country is huge now," says Anius. "But since about 2000 it's become really big here."

Anius says it first came here during World War II, when two US Air Force bases were established on the island. But, as with jazz, it only became popular when St Lucia began producing country stars of its own.

Local talent LM Stone is a stickler for the classics, singing an entrancingly gravelly rendition of John Denver's *Take Me Home, Country Roads* one night at Anse Chastanet's bar. Stone is a close friend of Anius, who saw his potential right away. "I took him to Nashville," says Anius. "There was a big competition of around 50 contestants. He was the only non-white guy who entered, but he won."

Country, like jazz, originates from the southern United States, hundreds of miles away. So what is it that resonates with the St Lucian people? Academics have noted similarities between country and *kwadril*, the indigenous music played with fiddle, banjo and guitar. DJ Anius agrees. "It's the lyrics and the rhythm," he says. "With some of the songs you only need to hear it once and you can sing along. The words are easy and distinctive, so is the rhythm and the beat. It's similar to Creole folk songs."



A classically trained musician and singer, Barbara Cadet was born in Manchester but has lived in St Lucia for the past few decades. She's an incredible saxophone player, a delight to speak to and one of the few female instrumentalists in St Lucia. "Fusion jazz, that's where I'm at," she says after a dinner performance at the exclusive Jade Mountain hotel. "But I definitely throw in some Caribbean sounds too. I like to interpret folk songs in my own way."


A regular at the Jazz Festival, Cadet likes to shine a spotlight on other performers, particularly women. "I started a nine-piece vocal group called the Sisterhood," she says. "We were on the main stage in the second year. Whenever I can bring people on with me, I will!" Cadet now mainly performs solo and as part of a quartet. "I'm so grateful for what I do," she says. Like Payne, the event has allowed her to open for some amazing artists – Patty LaBelle, John Legend, Clifford Brown – although that's not the biggest name she's performed for. "In 2012 I played for 10,000 people at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee," she says.

She might not get to play for royalty this year, but the great and the good of the jazz world have even more reason to visit the island. That's because this year's event is curated by New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center. It's the first time that the non-profit organisation has taken the creative reins



"I play fusion jazz but I like to throw in Caribbean sounds too"

at a festival. The line-up features artists in residence, including Etienne Charles and Christian McBride, plus heavyweights such as Gregory Porter and Dianne Reeves. Richard Payne will be on stage with his students from the School of Music, as will Barbara Cadet, who can't wait. "Every night is a new experience," she says. "And with the festival I love the chance to introduce jazz to a brand new audience." ■

 Listen to **Gregory Porter** onboard now



Gregory Porter

The jazz powerhouse talks setlists, soul food and his trip to St Lucia

On playing St Lucia

"People have said for so many years – why haven't you done St Lucia? It's definitely been a long time coming, and performing when Jazz at Lincoln Center is curating is a big deal – their standards are very high."

On choosing a setlist

"Any place I haven't performed before I give a cross-section of my music: jazz, soul, gospel, blues. The extraordinary thing about music festivals is how people gather in celebration. It's particularly special at a destination festival – people will take days off work and travel far. They really care about music and life."

On keeping things local

"I get a kick walking around listening to different music. What I say to young musicians is: you have to infuse what you have from your environment and experiences into your music. That will make your sound unique. The moment I did that I started to have success in my career."

On eating with the best

"I was a chef for years and I still cook when I can. Food tells you a lot about people. You can go to high-end restaurants, but I want to know what grandma's cooking because that's more real and soulful. I did that on my first Russian tour. I found a kitchen full of grandmas and spent the day learning to make borscht. I can't wait for a taste of St Lucia."

Left DJ Steve Anius. Above Castries. Below Barbara Cadet





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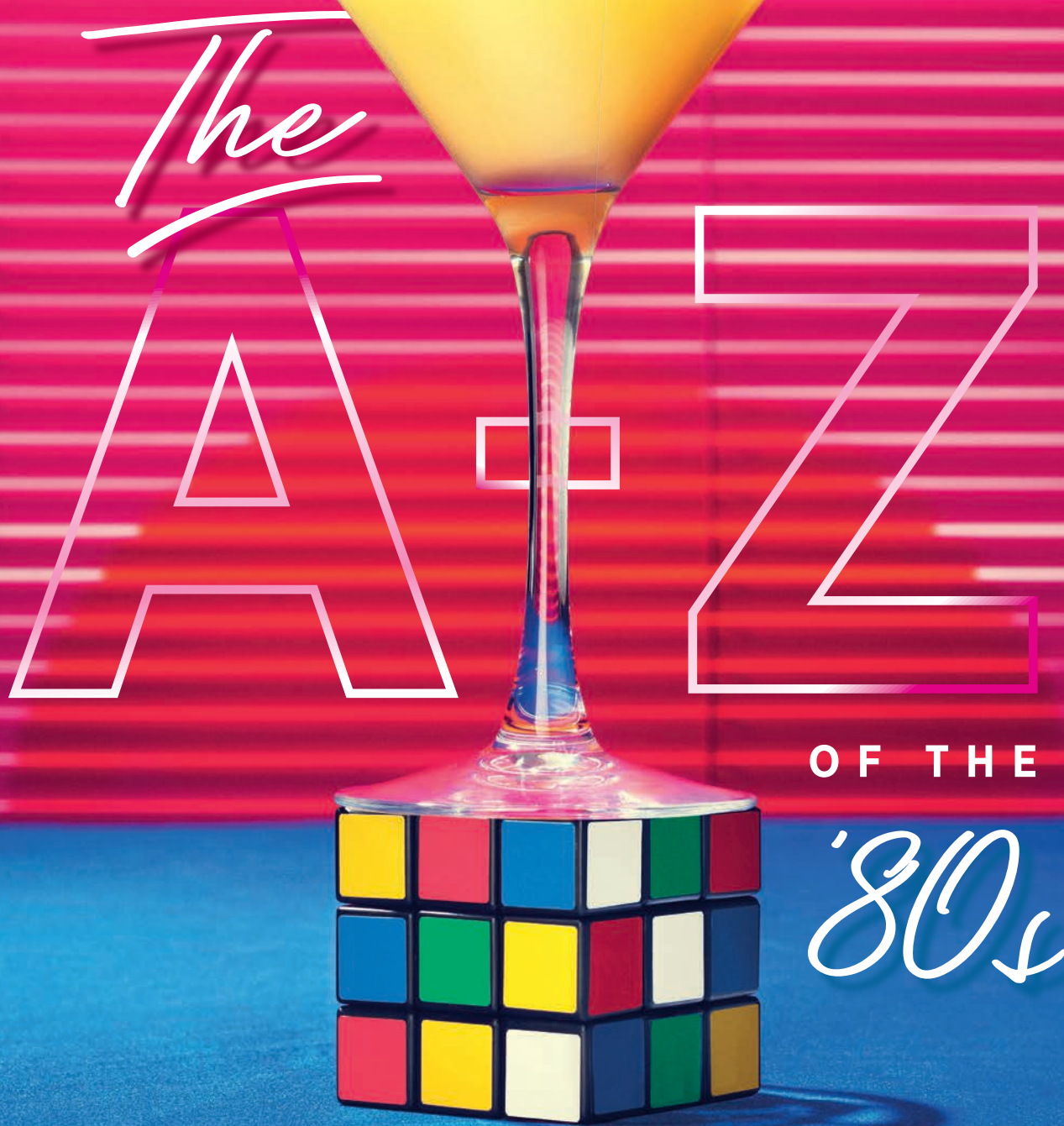
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ANDREW
DICKENS

LYDIA
WHITMORE



Dust off your shoulder pads – here are 26 reasons
why everything was better in the '80s



A is for Air Jordans

Michael Jordan wasn't the first to lend his name to a pair of trainers – as far back as 1973 tennis player Stan Smith teamed up with Adidas, while Kenny Dalglish's Puma football boots were once the studs to be seen in. However, when Jordan joined forces with Nike in 1984, fashion changed forever. Suddenly kids who had never even smelled a basketball were hi-topping their way along high streets. And they still are.

B

is for Bros

The impact of Bros is such that middle-aged women still weep in their presence. Twins Matt and Luke Goss (plus Craig Logan) came, conquered and collapsed into obscurity until a 2017 reunion. They weren't the decade's only boybands – the UK had the Bs with Brother Beyond and Big Fun – but none rose and fell as sharply as Bros.

Watch **Bros: After the Screaming Stops** onboard now





C

is for Care Bears

Within a few years, these characters with twee names like Tenderheart Bear and Funshine Bear graduated from greeting cards to cuddly toys, films and global fame. And still nobody knows why.



The Etch-a-Sketch was created in France, and its original name was Télécran. Catchy

is for Etch A Sketch

Game? Toy? Stationery? Whatever Etch A Sketch was, it killed the artistic ambitions of countless children with its frustrating limitations of having to draw with a single, continuous line. Imagine a child's drawing of a human

face formed this way. Then imagine a human with that face. Scary stuff. Sure, the marketing showed us quite good images of the Taj Mahal etc, but no ordinary person could create those – and even if they did, it then had to be wiped from existence. Insert sad, square-faced emoji here.

D

is for Diet Coke

Pre-1982, Coca-Cola already had a sugar-free version – Tab – to rival Diet Pepsi, but it was Diet Coke's introduction, with its sexy silver get-up, that really kickstarted the alt-cola revolution. Marketed squarely at figure-conscious women, it allowed them to "healthily" wash down their family-sized buckets of fried chicken. It also gave the world a TV ad where the men were – finally – objectified,

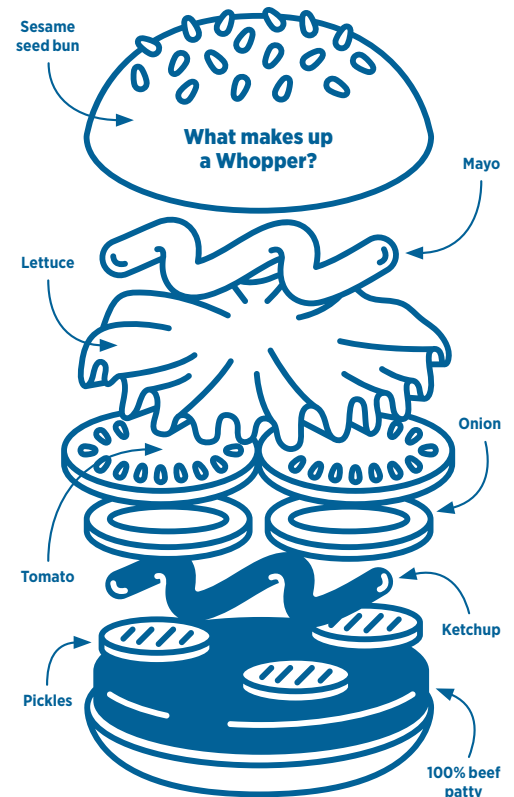


and spawned the myriad Cokes you get all over the world today, from caffeine-free guava and beef, to ginseng infused with ambition. Or something.

F

is for Fast food

With the honourable exception of Wimpy, the '80s was when fast food began to get exciting in the UK. Burgers had cool names like Big Mac and Whopper (right). Crispy, oil-soaked, sodium-laden french fries were superior to our classic chunky chips. There were kids' meals with gifts, milkshakes required a spoon to eat, and pizzas arrived in deep pans. It was so thrilling you ignored the fact that, on reflection, the Hamburglar was a terrible role model.





1989 Game Boy hit Tetris was the first game to be played in space



is for Hedgehog

Before the term “canapé” entered the lingo, British party food could be summed up in one word: yellow. And nothing was more yellow than the hedgehog. Its pineapple and cheese-chunk spines were the centrepiece to wakes and weddings alike.

G

**is for
Game Boy**

Nintendo's Game Boy arrived in the dying months of the '80s, the natural conclusion of a game-obsessed decade that saw millions of children furiously wagging their joysticks in front of Ataris, ZX Spectrums and Commodore 64s as home computing was born and caught fire. The Game Boy took the logical next step: outside.



I

is for Iron Lady

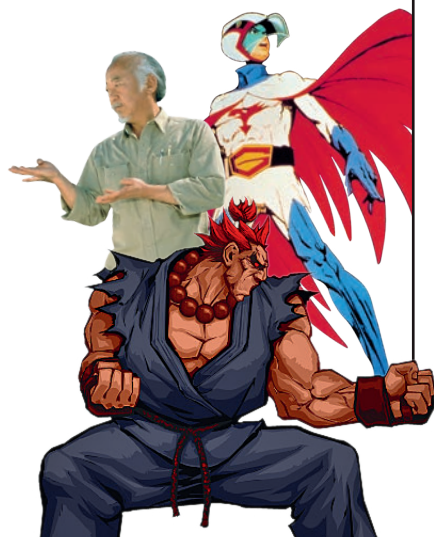
Worshipped by some for her neo-liberal economics and quasi-dictatorial style, despised by others for precisely the same reasons, Margaret Thatcher made a lot of people rich and a lot of people angry. Despite being the UK's first female PM, and winning three elections, she's remembered as more Cruella de Vil than Churchill.



J

is for Japan

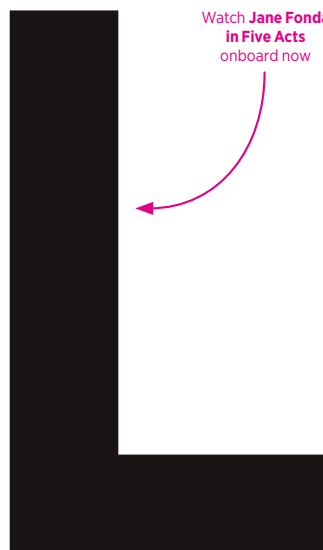
From arcade games like Street Fighter, to anime cartoons like Battle of the Planets, to cars with sci-fi styling, to Blade Runner's aesthetic, to songs such as Big in Japan, to all the best gadgets, the '80s had a severe crush on Japan.



K

is for Knight Rider

With shows like *Knight Rider*, *The A-Team* and *The Dukes of Hazzard*, the '80s was a joyous time for family-friendly, car-flipping, gun-toting (but with no one getting shot), Saturday teatime entertainment.



Watch **Jane Fonda** in **Five Acts** onboard now

is for Leg warmers

The likes of Fame, Flashdance and Jane Fonda (who revolutionised the fitness world with her aerobic workout video) meant that every '80s female ankle was covered in a thick woollen tube, whether dancing, welding or doing nothing at all.

M

is for Maradona



The Hand of God
Argentina vs England in the 1986 World Cup quarter-final. Argentine striker Diego Maradona fists the ball over goalie Peter Shilton, calling it "the hand of God".



The Foot of God
Four minutes later, Maradona scored the "goal of the century", passing four players before sliding the ball past Shilton - with his foot this time.



The Good God!
Maradona almost singlehandedly guided Argentina to the title in a performance that, with hindsight, might have been fuelled by more than just genius.



is for Ninja Turtles

Everyone's favourite sewer-dwelling, pizza-guzzling Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles made their debut in 1987. Two recent movies show that Turtlemania is going strong.

O

is for Out of this world

The '80s produced some stellar sci-fi films. The likes of *Aliens*, *Back to the Future*, *Blade Runner*, *ET*, *The Terminator* and, of course, *Weird Science*, had fun, imagination, great lines and, most of all, heart – a big, red, glowing one.

Check out our **Spaced Out** genre onboard now



P

is for Perms



Jon Bon Jovi

Not just a musical hero, but a hair hero, too. With his bouncing bouf, Bon Jovi had a perm that would have made Deirdre Barlow jealous.



Dolly Parton

Defying the laws of physics, Dolly had an impeccable perm even bigger than her voice. Rumour has it Kenny Rogers once lived in it.



Kevin Keegan

Footballers' hair added panache to the beautiful game and we owe it all to Keegan, who wore his poodle-perm loud and proud.



Kylie Minogue

Before she was the queen of pop, Kylie was the princess of the perm, her curls bouncing on to our screens in *Neighbours*.



is for Queen at Live Aid

To be the standout act at the biggest gig in history, out-rocking the likes of U2, Led Zeppelin, Bowie and Madonna, when you've been on the decline for years and your lead singer is terminally ill. Well, that's quite good, isn't it? Queen's 1985 performance at Live Aid is 20 minutes of pure brilliance. You can watch Rami Malek's expertly recreated, Oscar-winning version of that night in *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Watch **Bohemian Rhapsody** onboard now



R

is for Rubik's Cube

The world's best-selling puzzle game ever also holds the record for the "puzzle most likely to sit in a drawer only one-sixth completed". With more than 43 quintillion options, all but the truly dedicated (or those prepared to swap the stickers around) considered doing just one side a hell of an achievement.

S

is for
Snowball

Three things said "Christmas" in the '80s: crying to *The Snowman*, bookmarking the Argos catalogue, and egg-based cocktails. Oh yes, the Snowball: foamy, curdled and bittersweet.



Recipe

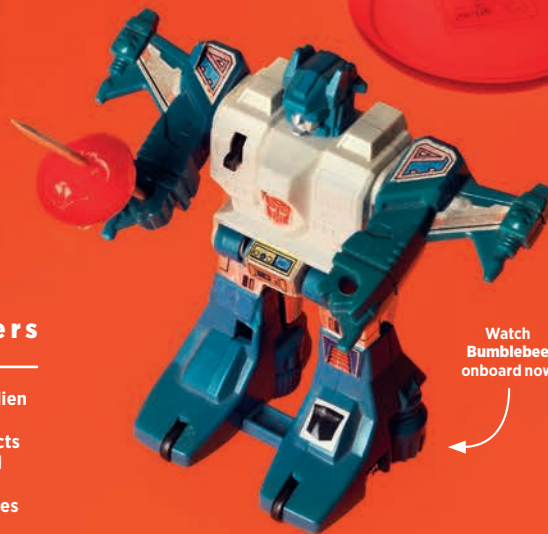
Fill a glass with ice. Add 50ml advocaat, then top with lemonade. Stir, add a cherry, and toast!



T

is for
Transformers

An everyday tale of alien robots who can turn themselves into objects of inexplicably varied sizes. Check out how many of your favourites you can spot in the 1987-set film *Bumblebee*.



Watch
Bumblebee
onboard now



U

is for Underwear

Back in the day, undies were just a functional barrier between your bits and your clothes, but that changed forever in 1983. The catalyst was

Bruce Weber's photo of Tom Hintnaus (fittingly, a pole-vaulter) in his Calvin Kleins being displayed above Times Square: the moment pants went XXXL.



WE HOPE TO MEET THE ELEPHANTS

EVERY YEAR BELOW THE MARULA
TREES WHICH IS WHY WE CREATED
THE AMARULA TRUST TO
PROTECT THEM



MADE
FROM
AFRICA

Drink Responsibly

V

is for Viennetta

Its Italian-sounding name wasn't because Italy makes the best ice cream in the world, but because it resembled a palace so beautiful it could induce Stendhal syndrome.



The biggest ever Viennetta was a whopping 2.7 metres



W

is for Walkman

In the '80s, to spool was cool. VCRs brought cinema into the home, while the Sony Walkman took music out of it. Cassettes changed our cultural lives.



Listen to George Michael onboard now



X

is for X-rated pop

When Frankie Goes to Hollywood's *Relax* was banned by the BBC but still sold millions, raunch became trendy. Just George Michael, whose *I Want Your Sex* single required a Monogamy Mix.



Y

is for Yuppies

Gordon Gecko (Michael Douglas) in *Wall Street*



Z

is for Zippy



Kids' TV in the '80s thrived on bizarre domestic situations like the one in *Rainbow*, where Zippy – a puppet of unknown origin – lived with a pink hippo, a human and a 6ft bear. Marvellous. ■

Watch **The '80s Greatest** onboard now

PROMOTION

BOLD, BRIGHT AND BRILLIANTLY BRITISH

Think daringly and dress distinctively with
Boden's SS19 collection

There's nothing quite like the feeling of setting off on an adventure and taking yourself to places you've never been to before. Trying new things and seeing new sights is liberating, confidence-boosting and reminds you to savour the small stuff.

With its new spring/summer campaign, Boden wants to capture that sense of wanderlust and bring it straight to your wardrobe. The famous British brand is inviting fans everywhere to choose bolder outfits, venture off the well-beaten colour path and inject some excitement into their everyday style, with feel-good, go-anywhere designs.

It's that injection of joy into a serious world of fashion that's been Boden's mantra since its beginnings, when founder Johnnie designed eight menswear pieces to sell by mail-order catalogue from his London flat.

That was 1991 and back then he enlisted friends as models. One pal from Oxford, who was due to help out, cancelled because of a hangover. Had this not been the case, one of Boden's first models would have been Hugh Grant.

Now, the brand is world-renowned for its vibrant womenswear and menswear, while children across the globe have Mini Boden to thank for their characterful and unique wardrobes. Expect flattering cuts, mood-enhancing colours and London-designed prints. Oh, and smiling models. How refreshing.

**Quote VERA for 20% off +
free delivery and returns at
boden.com***



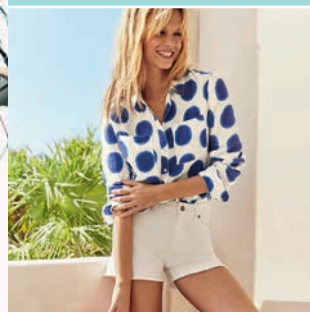
*The 20% off plus free standard UK delivery and returns is valid until 11:59pm on 31 July 2019. Exclusions apply, including gift vouchers, clearance and other selected items (visit boden.com/exclusions for a full list). Free returns applies to UK orders that do not solely contain clearance items. This offer is only valid for use at boden.com or at a Boden stand-alone store and cannot be redeemed in any Boden concessions within John Lewis stores or online at John Lewis or Next Label. This offer is not for resale or publication and cannot be applied to orders retrospectively. This offer is only valid on personal orders and cannot be used in conjunction with any other JP Boden & Co Ltd offer.





DRESS FOR LIVING

Meet the Boden SS19 range



FOR NEW HORIZONS

This lightweight linen shirt is just made for lounging in the garden or al fresco cocktails on your holiday this summer.



FOR MINI-SUNSEEKERS

There's plenty of choice for the little ones, with the new Mini Boden range full of snazzy styles and bright ideas for the upcoming holidays.



FOR RELAXED VIBES

Easy and comfortable, yet stylish and confident, Boden's latest range for men is full of soft tees, smart polos and poolside fashion.



RAISE YOUR GLASS. ERASE MALARIA.

The origins of tonic water lie in mankind's age-old fight against the planet's deadliest disease. That's why Fever-Tree is supporting Malaria No More UK, to raise awareness so that together we can be the generation to end malaria for good. From 22nd April until the end of May, we're asking Fever-Tree drinkers to raise a glass to malaria's demise.

SHARE YOUR PHOTO AND WE'LL DONATE £5*

- 1 | POST A 'CHEERS' PICTURE ON TWITTER OR INSTAGRAM (MAY WE SUGGEST A G&T?)
- 2 | ADD A CAPTION MENTIONING @FEVERTREEMIXERS, @MALARIANOMOREUK AND #MALARIAMUSTDIE
- 3 | TAG A FRIEND (OR A FEW) TO GET THEM INVOLVED



drinkaware.co.uk
for the facts

*18+ only. Enter between: 22/04/19 & 31/05/19. To enter: log onto your Instagram or Twitter account and post/tweet a photo of any drink using the hashtag #MalariaMustDie and tag @fevertreemixers. Fever-Tree will donate £5 for each photo of a drink uploaded with the hashtag and @fevertreemixers tag, up to an aggregate maximum of £150,000 to the registered charity Malaria No More UK. Max 1 (one) entry per social media platform per person. Visit fever-tree.com/malaria for full T&Cs. Promoter: Fevertree Limited.

NATURALLY BEAUTIFUL

For the past three decades, Alex Monroe has been hand-crafting jewellery with its deep roots in the English countryside



Alex Monroe had the sort of childhood that wouldn't have been out of place in an Enid Blyton novel. He grew up in a big house in the middle of the Suffolk countryside, where he and his four siblings passed time with village fêtes, sailing on the River Orwell and running free in the great outdoors – possibly fuelled by lashings of ginger beer. And like so many people who had an idyllic time of it all growing up, the memories continue to shape his work, which, in his case, is designing luxurious jewellery.

For more than 30 years now, Alex has been handcrafting pieces in sterling silver under his eponymous brand. Throughout his collection of rings, earrings and necklaces, you'll find a vintage aesthetic that embraces English eccentricities and nostalgia for a bygone era.

For anyone seeking timeless designs that can be worn for decades to come, there's plenty to pique your interest. Alex's love of nature runs right the way through his designs. Sapphires are ethically sourced from Sri Lanka and Madagascar, while recycled materials – whether gold, silver, paper or plastics – are used whenever possible.

It's not just the designs that celebrate the old-fashioned way of doing things. Every stage of the production process is carried out by hand, from cleaning and casting, to setting and the final quality check. Alex still works alongside teams based both in London and Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter. This bespoke way of working means that truly unique items can be commissioned – a platinum engagement ring, perhaps?



Alex Monroe jewellery is available in more than 16 countries, from established independents to prestigious department stores. Alex opened his first boutique in London Bridge in 2011, and this summer will see the unveiling of a second store, forming a central London flagship on Covent Garden's Floral Street. With renowned neighbours such as Paul Smith and Petersham Nurseries, it feels like the perfect spot for the brand.

While Alex may be a city man now, the beauty of the countryside lives on through his jewellery.

Enter FLY10 online or mention Vera instore for 10% off before 31 July 2019
alexmonroe.com



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Due to different entertainment systems on our aircraft, the programming line-up may vary



DESTROYER

MISS BALA

THE MULE
and so much more

See page 60 for
our handset guide

Don't miss our TV show,
What's on Vera, for the top
entertainment picks this month

The water boy

Jason Momoa rules
the waves in Aquaman

Let us entertain you

Vera is our award-winning world of dazzling entertainment, including a line-up of carefully curated movies, documentaries, TV and audio*. But how you access Vera depends on what kind of aircraft you're on



Using your own headphones?

We provide headphones, but if you want to use your own, please note that the audio output on the inflight entertainment is designed to work with the headphones provided. That means it might be louder than expected if you're using your own headset.

Loose change?

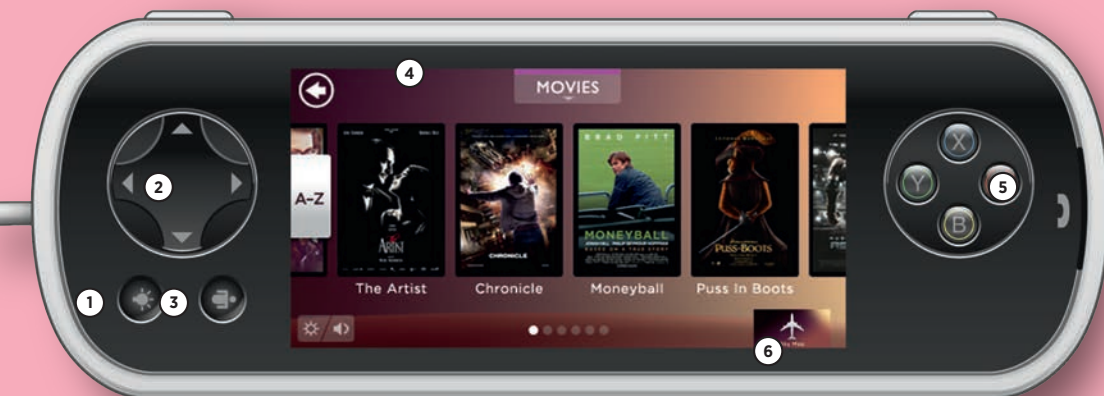
Don't forget to put your unused foreign currency in our Change for Children envelope, which can be found with your headset.



Parental blocking

If you want to block certain options for a seat or row, by rating or by specific content, please talk to a member of the cabin crew.

***Please note:** due to the different entertainment systems, the line-up may vary



Premium and Upper Class handset

1. Light
2. Up/Down Left/Right
3. Cabin crew
4. Touchscreen
5. Select
6. Press this at any time to view Skymap on your handset

- Use our simple touchscreen technology on selected aircraft. Just touch any of the tabs at the top of the screen and your choices will appear. Then scroll through the selections by pressing the arrows or swiping backwards or forwards.

- On some aircraft you will need to use a handset to navigate Vera. Instructions for use are shown here. You can return to the main menu from any section of our entertainment selection by using the handset to move the cursor.

Economy handset

(On selected aircraft)

1. Screen off
2. Volume
3. Home
4. Select
5. Up/Down Left/Right
6. Cabin crew
7. Phone
8. Light
9. Rewind/Play Pause/Forward
10. Stop



Upper Class handset

(On selected aircraft)

1. Info
2. Control screen cursor
3. Volume up
4. Volume down
5. Reading light
6. Cancel cabin crew call
7. Cabin crew call

Available in all cabins

(On selected aircraft)

1. Navigation
2. Select
3. Volume
4. Light
5. Cabin crew
6. Rewind
7. Stop
8. Forward
9. Play/pause



MOVIES



The best film, TV and music. Yours for the taking



Vera Loves

To find the best movies onboard this month, look out for our heart symbol

At Virgin Atlantic we're proud to be one of the few airlines that selects their own movie and TV content: it's all chosen by us, just for you. Look out for anything labelled Vera Loves – that means we think it's the best of the best. This month we've got a knockout turn from Nicole Kidman in *Destroyer*, feel-good drama in *The Upside* (left) and Jason Momoa saving the day in *Aquaman*. Read on for our top cinema picks this May.

THIS MONTH'S FULL MOVIE LISTINGS

Aquaman	12	Fantastic Beasts:		Mary Poppins Returns	U	Secret Superstar	12
Arctic	12	The Crimes of Grindelwald	12	Mary Queen of Scots	15	A Simple Favour	15
Ash is Purest White	!	The Favourite	15	Miss Bala	15	Smallfoot	U
Bad Times at the El Royale	15	First Man	12	Missing	!	Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety	12
Badhaai Ho	!	Forever Young	!	Mortal Engines	12	Soorma	12
Beautiful Boy	15	Freaky Friday		The Mule	15	Spider-Man: Into	
BlackKkKlansman	15	The Front Runner	15	My Dinner With Hervé	!	the Spider-Verse	PG
Bohemian Rhapsody	12	The Girl in the Spider's Web	15	The Nun	15	A Star is Born	15
Boy Erased	15	Glass	15	The Nutcracker and		Tumhari Sulu	PG
Bumblebee	PG	Green Book	12	the Four Realms	PG	The Upside	12
Can You Ever Forgive Me?	15	The Hate U Give	12	The Old Man & the Gun	12	Venom	15
Christopher Robin	PG	Hichki	PG	Pad Man	12	Vice	15
Colette	15	I Am Your Mom	!	Padmaavat	12	Vox Lux	15
Crazy Rich Asians	12	If Beale Street Could Talk	15	The Predator	15	Welcome to Marwen	12
Creed II	12	Instant Family	12	A Private War	15	What Men Want	15
Destroyer	15	The Island	!	The Professor and the Madman	!	When Sun Meets Moon	!
Devdas	PG	Johnny English Strikes Again	PG	Project Gutenberg	!	Widows	15
A Dog's Way Home	PG	Jonathan	15	Raazi	12	The Wife	15
Dumplin'	12	Kadvi Hawa	!	Ralph Breaks the Internet	PG		
Escape Room	15	The Kid Who Would Be King	PG	Robin Hood	12		
Eternal Wave	!	The Looming Storm	!	Searching	12		
		Manmarziyaan	12	Second Act	12		

*See the onscreen listings for our selection of classic movies

Viewing guide



Not suitable for nervous flyers



Unsuitable for children



Audio descriptive title



English subtitles



Vera Loves

MOVIE HIGHLIGHTS



Aquaman ♥

12

Action, 139 mins

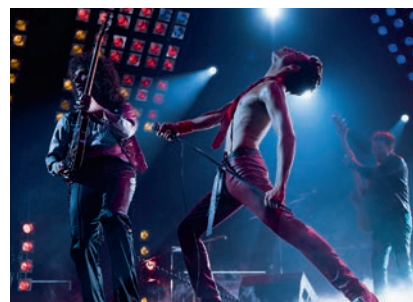


Jason Momoa, Amber Heard, Willem Dafoe

Italiano, Español, 中文字幕, עברית

DC superhero movies may have been having a tough time competing against Marvel's all-conquering output, but the truth is that, with the possible exception of *Batman vs Superman: Dawn of Justice*, they're always good value.

This one finds Momoa reprising his role as Arthur Curry, aka Aquaman, the human-born heir to the underwater kingdom of Atlantis. With help from Mera (Heard) he goes on a quest to prevent a war between the ocean- and land-dwellers.



Bohemian Rhapsody

12

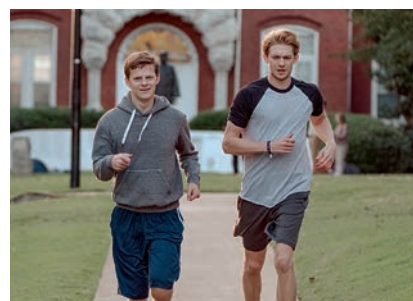
Drama, 134 mins



Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español

This biopic of Freddie Mercury and Queen is a delight. Not only is the music fantastic throughout (natch), it also boasts an Oscar-winning performance from Malek and a stunning sequence set at 1985's Live Aid.



Boy Erased

15

Drama, 115 mins



Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español, 中文字幕

Joel Edgerton adapts Garrard Conley's memoirs about a boy (Hedges, superb) made to undergo "gay conversion" by his parents (Kidman and Russell Crowe). The result is a powerful, riveting drama.



Arctic ♥

12

Drama, 97 mins



Mads Mikkelsen, Maria Thelma Smáradóttir

Français, Deutsch, Italiano

A plane-crash survivor (Mikkelsen) stranded in the Arctic must decide whether to stay safe in camp or embark on a trek through the unknown to try and reach civilisation. Nervous passengers steer clear.



Beautiful Boy ♥

15

Drama, 112 mins



Steve Carell, Timothée Chalamet

Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

Based on the best-selling memoirs by real-life father and son David and Nic Sheff, this moving addiction drama features standout performances from Carell and Chalamet. Be prepared for an emotional rollercoaster.



Can You Ever Forgive Me?

15

Drama, 106 mins



Melissa McCarthy, Richard E Grant

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español

Usually found making us laugh our socks off in the likes of *Bridesmaids*, *Spy* and *Ghostbusters*, McCarthy changes gear and shows considerable dramatic chops in the acclaimed true-life story of writer Lee Israel.



Colette

15

Drama, 111 mins

Keira Knightley, Dominic West

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

Knightley is tremendous in this biopic of the eponymous French novelist, who had to fight to make a name for herself and her work, helping to challenge and ultimately change gender norms.



Escape Room

15

Horror, 100 mins

Deborah Ann Woll, Tyler Labine

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano

It was only a matter of time before somebody came up with a movie like this. Six strangers find themselves trapped inside a deadly attraction, and must use their wits to survive. Nervous passengers steer clear.



The Favourite

15

Drama, 118 mins

Olivia Colman, Rachel Weisz

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano

With superb performances and weapons-grade swearing, this leftfield historical drama focuses on frail Queen Anne (Colman), as her close friend Lady Sarah (Weisz) and servant (Emma Stone) jostle for her favour.



Creed II

12

Drama, 130 mins

Michael B Jordan, Sylvester Stallone

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

The second *Creed* film finds Rocky (Stallone) training heavyweight contender Adonis Creed (Jordan) to fight the son of Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren from *Rocky IV*). The result is yet another boxing classic from Stallone and co.



A Dog's Way Home

PG

Family, 96 mins

Ashley Judd, Bryce Dallas-Howard

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español, 中文字幕

Get ready to fall in love with Bella, the canine hero of this heart-melting movie. When she's placed with a new family she misses her original owners so much that she begins a 400-mile, two-year trek home.



Destroyer

15

Crime, 124 mins

Nicole Kidman, Sebastian Stan, Toby Kebbell

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

As a young LAPD officer, Erin Bell (Kidman) was placed undercover with a gang of bank robbers. Now – gnarled, older, addicted – she finds that earlier experience coming back to haunt her. That, however, is

all you're going to get from us concerning the twisty-turny plot. Suffice to say that *Destroyer* is grimy and hard-hitting, with a heck of a sting in its tail and a magnificent, vanity-free central performance from Kidman.

MOVIE HIGHLIGHTS



Miss Bala

15

Crime, 104 mins

Gina Rodriguez, Anthony Mackie, Ismael Cruz Cordova

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español

This remake of the 2011 Mexican thriller of the same name features a committed performance from *Jane the Virgin* star Rodriguez. She plays Gloria, a make-up artist who heads to Tijuana to help her friend Suzu (Cristina Rodlo)

prepare for the eponymous beauty contest. When Suzu is kidnapped, Gloria sets out to save her – only to find herself drawn into a war between the DEA and the drug cartels. Gloria, however, will stop at nothing to rescue her pal.



Green Book

12

Drama, 130 mins

Viggo Mortensen, Mahershala Ali

Español, 中文字幕

This Best Picture Oscar winner is the true story of a black jazz musician (Ali) who employs a white driver (Mortensen) to tour the segregated Deep South in the 1960s. It's a beautifully told, funny and affecting tale.



The Hate U Give

12

Drama, 133 mins

Amandla Stenberg, Regina Hall

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano

A superb adaptation of a brilliant novel, this powerful drama boasts a star-making performance from Stenberg as a teenager who witnesses a policeman shooting her friend. But can she, ahem, do the right thing?



First Man

12

Drama, 141 mins

Ryan Gosling, Claire Foy

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano, 中文字幕

This awards-nominated biopic of astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, wrings drama out of a story that we already know thanks to superb direction and a stunning performance from Gosling.



Glass

15

Thriller, 129 mins

James McAvoy, Bruce Willis, Samuel L Jackson

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español, 中文字幕, עברית

The third part in M Night Shyamalan's superhero series finds *Unbreakable*'s David Dunn (Willis) locked in a mental hospital with evil Mr Glass (Jackson) and creepy Kevin (McAvoy), last seen in 2016's *Split*.



If Beale Street Could Talk

15

Drama, 119 mins

Kiki Layne, Stephan James

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

The new film from Barry Jenkins, the director of the Oscar-winning *Moonlight*, is, like its predecessor, a story of romantic awakenings in the African-American community. It's powerful, bittersweet stuff.



Instant Family

12

Comedy, 117 mins



Mark Wahlberg, Rose Byrne

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

This heart-warming comedy-drama stars Wahlberg and Byrne as a childless couple who decide to adopt three young siblings at once. Lots of family laughs ensue, but there's an emotional pay-off too.



Mary Poppins Returns

U

Family, 130 mins



Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

She's back! Only this time she's looking after the children of the kids she looked after in the original film. Oh, and she's played by Emily Blunt. Otherwise, this has all the fun, magic and great songs you'd expect.



Mortal Engines

12

Action, 128 mins



Hera Hilmar, Robert Sheehan

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano, 中文字幕

Produced by Peter Jackson, and based on the novels by Philip Reeve, *Mortal Engines* is a visually stunning, fast-paced sci-fi adventure set in a steampunk future where cities are giant machines on wheels.



Jonathan

15

Sci-fi, 95 mins



Ansel Elgort, Patricia Clarkson

It's virtually impossible to say what happens in *Jonathan* without spoiling the plot or reducing the pleasure of its slow reveal – so we won't. Suffice to say it's an intriguing sci-fi drama which, though hardly action-packed, is never less than utterly enthralling.



The Kid Who Would Be King

PG

Action, 120 mins



Louis Ashbourne Serkis, Denise Gough

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español, עברית

Fantastical family comedy as young Alex (Serkis) stumbles upon the mythical sword in the stone: Excalibur. Now he must assemble a band of knights to take on the wicked enchantress Morgana (Rebecca Ferguson).



The Mule

15

Crime, 120 mins



Clint Eastwood, Bradley Cooper, Manny Montana

Italiano, Español, 中文字幕, עברית

Directed by and starring the one and only Clint Eastwood, *The Mule* is based on an incredible true story. Clint plays Leo Sharp, a Korean War veteran who became a drug courier for the Sinaloa Cartel in his eighties.

Don't expect oodles of action – this is a more reflective piece that's as much about ageing as it is about drug gangs. Needless to say, it's anchored by a superb central performance from its 88-year-old leading man.

MOVIE HIGHLIGHTS



Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse ♡

Family, 117 mins

Shameik Moore, Jake Johnson, Hailee Steinfeld

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

PG



Teenager Miles Morales becomes the Spider-Man of his reality – ie not our reality, where Peter Parker is Spider-Man (duh!) – and then joins forces with five counterparts

from other realities in order to stop a dimension-straddling baddie. Oh, never mind the plot, it's the cutting-edge, eye-candy animation you have to see here, which is truly amazing.



Robin Hood

12

Action, 116 mins



Taron Egerton, Jamie Foxx

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano, 中文字幕

Egerton stars as hardened Crusader Robin Hood, who mounts a revolt against the English crown. If you're in the mood for full-blown action with a bit of romance chucked in, then you've come to the right place.



Second Act

12

Romance, 103 mins

Jennifer Lopez, Vanessa Hudgens

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español, 中文字幕

When a kid doctors her CV, store worker Maya (Lopez) is given a second shot at a high-flying career. Can J-Lo maintain the subterfuge and make a romance work? Well, as this is a rom-com she'll give it her best shot.



The Old Man & the Gun ♡

12

Crime, 93 mins

Robert Redford, Sissy Spacek

Français, Español, 中文字幕

Redford's final film before retiring finds him playing Forrest Tucker, a real-life criminal who escaped San Quentin and went on a crime spree at the age of 70. Casey Affleck is the cop in pursuit. Spacek, the woman he loves.



The Professor and the Madman !

Drama, 125 mins



Mel Gibson, Sean Penn

An onboard exclusive here because you won't find this in UK cinemas. When Professor James Murray (Gibson) is tasked with compiling a new dictionary, he turns to Dr WC Minor (Penn), imprisoned in Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum.



A Star is Born ♡

15

Drama, 136 mins



Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

The umpteenth remake of *A Star is Born* has earned plaudits aplenty. Lady Gaga excels as Ally, a singer mentored (and romanced) by seasoned musician Jack (Cooper, who directs). As good as its reputation suggests.



The Upside ♥

12

Comedy, 126 mins



Bryan Cranston, Kevin Hart

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

Despite its glitzy cast, this is an understated gem. Cranston plays a quadriplegic billionaire who hires Hart, a parolee, as his carer. What begins as a professional relationship soon develops into a friendship.



What Men Want

15

Comedy, 117 mins



Taraji P Henson, Josh Brener

Français, Deutsch, Italiano, Español, 中文字幕

A loose remake of 2000's *What Women Want*, this comedy follows a sports agent who gains the ability to hear men's inner thoughts. Given that our hero is played by Henson, you can be sure of a good time with this one.



Widows

15

Crime, 129 mins



Viola Davis, Michelle Rodriguez

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano

Star-studded reworking of Lynda La Plante's TV thriller (with a script by *Gone Girl*'s Gillian Flynn) about four women who come up with a plan to clear their dead husbands' debts. How? Well, it isn't legal, let's put it that way.



Vice

15

Drama, 100 mins



Christian Bale, Amy Adams

Français, Deutsch, Español, 中文字幕

Bale is virtually unrecognisable as former US Vice-President Dick Cheney in this biopic. He's ably supported by the likes of Adams, Steve Carell and Sam Rockwell, but this is his film all the way, and he's sensational.



Welcome to Marwen

12

Drama, 116 mins



Steve Carell, Janelle Monáe

Français, Deutsch, Español, Italiano, 中文字幕

True story about Mark (Carell), who recovers from a brutal attack by building a WWII model village and imagining himself into it (shown using stop-motion animation). Soon, his demons are coming back to haunt him.



Vox Lux

15

Drama, 114 mins



Natalie Portman, Jude Law, Willem Dafoe

The second film from actor-turned-director Brady Corbet sees Portman and Law heading a starry cast for an intriguing look at the highs and lows of celebrity culture. Portman plays Celeste, one of a pair of sisters (the other is Stacy Martin) who

were catapulted to stardom after writing a song about surviving a school shooting. Years later, they're still dealing with the fall-out from both events, with varying degrees of success. Law plays their manager and Dafoe narrates.

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CLASSIC

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LIGHT

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The best film, TV and music. Yours for the taking



Vera Loves

To find the best TV shows onboard this month, look out for our heart symbol

The way we consume TV is changing, and here at Virgin Atlantic we're adapting with the times. That's why we've cherry-picked the best shows out there, just for you. Addicted to boxsets? We've got plenty onboard, including crime drama *Tin Star*. Love laugh-out-loud comedies? Check out *Derry Girls* (left). Want an immersive documentary? Don't miss the truly gripping *Last Breath*. Read on for our top picks this May.

THIS MONTH'S FULL TV LISTINGS

ARTS

Gregory Porter: One Night Only
The Pirates of Penzance
Tate Britain's Great Art Walks

BOXSETS

The '80s Greatest
American Woman
Arrested Development
Castle Rock
Cheat
The Cry
A Discovery of Witches
Dynasties
Flack
Fortitude
Killing Eve
Les Misérables
The Little Drummer Girl
Love Is
Luther
No Offence
The Returned (Les Revenants)
The Sinner
Sons of Anarchy
Succession
Taboo
This Time with Alan Partridge
Tin Star
True Detective
Waco
The West Wing

COMEDY

American Dad!
Better Late Than Never
The Big Bang Theory
Black-ish
Brooklyn Nine-Nine
Camping
Catastrophe
Derry Girls
F Is for Family
Family Guy
Friends
It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia
Kidding
The Kids Are Alright
Modern Family
New Girl
Not Going Out
The Orville
Russell Howard's Stand Up Central
Shameless US
Task Master
Upstart Crow
Young Sheldon

DOCUMENTARIES
Biggie & Tupac
Bros: After the Screaming Stops
Charm City
Crime + Punishment
The Farthest
Free Solo

Jane Fonda in Five Acts

Kurt & Courtney
Last Breath
Minding The Gap
Senna
They Shall Not Grow Old

DRAMA

Criminal Minds
Empire
Grey's Anatomy
Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.
Mrs Wilson
Once Upon a Time
The Resident
Scandal
Snowfall
Star Trek: Discovery

ENTERTAINMENT

Deadliest Catch
Dragons' Den
First Dates
Flirty Dancing
Gordon, Gino & Fred's Road Trip
Ice Road Truckers
Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure
QI
The Shop
The World's Most Extraordinary Homes

FACTUAL

Alaska's Grizzly Gauntlet
Billy Connolly: Made in Scotland
David Bowie:
Sound and Vision
Donal's Meals in Minutes
Hidden Britain by Drone
Inside Mandarin Oriental
Into the Okavango
London: 2000 Years of History
Mars: Inside SpaceX
Mexico Untamed
One Strange Rock
Pandas
The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds
Secrets of the Space Station
Stacey Dooley Investigates
Who Do You Think You Are?

SHORTS

Baby I'm Yours
Bao
Great Big Story: LA
Great Big Story: San Francisco
Great Big Story: Washington
Patriot
Wave

SPORT

Anthony Joshua:
The Road to Klitschko
Being Kevin Pietersen
Goodwood Festival of Speed 2018
Middle Aged Men in Lycra

Viewing guide



Not suitable for nervous flyers



Unsuitable for children



Vera Loves

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**English
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Dancers: Emma Hawes and Francesco Gabrielle Frola. Art Direction: Charlotte Wilkinson. Photo © Jason Ball

TV SPOTLIGHT



Don't miss these TV shows inspired by the 1970s and 1980s



Brothers up in arms

Bros twins Matt and Luke Goss attempt to reconcile their differences in an uplifting new documentary

When Bros, one of the 1980s' best-loved pop acts, bid farewell to their fans at Wembley Stadium in August 1989, many thought it was for good.

Made up of twins Luke and Matt Goss – hence the name – plus bassist Craig Logan, Bros had hits such as *When Will I Be Famous*. But the spotlight proved too intense and they split up, never to reform. Or so it seemed.

All that changed in 2017, with a reunion concert and a new documentary, *Bros: After the Screaming Stops*. Luke and Matt have a lot of catching up to do, and the film shows them gradually repairing their relationship while rehearsing for the biggest show of their lives.

Funny, feisty and surprisingly moving, the results caused a social-media storm. Whether you're an old fan or a new convert, one thing's for sure: Bros are back.

 Watch Bros: After the Screaming Stops onboard

Step back in time

Three more awesome shows set in the past



American Woman

If you're wondering what Alicia Silverstone (*Clueless*) has been up to, then here's your answer. This new comedy show sees her playing Bonnie, a posh single mother struggling to raise her two daughters in LA – while simultaneously dealing with her tangled love life.



The Kids Are Alright

Set during the 1970s, this acclaimed American sitcom features a high level of period detail. The action involves a pair of working-class parents in an Irish-Catholic family trying to raise their eight kids during a time of great social change – and it's very funny indeed.



Snowfall

A hard-hitting series set in 1980s LA during the early days of crack cocaine, *Snowfall* explores the epidemic and its ongoing impact on the city. The show follows three stories: a teenage drug dealer, a CIA operative, and a Mexican crime boss's niece.

TV HIGHLIGHTS



Castle Rock ♥



Boxset: 10 episodes / 44-60 mins

Drama

Much excitement greeted the release of this horror anthology show – not surprising given that it's created by JJ Abrams, based on Stephen King stories and stars the likes of Melanie Lynskey, Bill Skarsgård, Jane Levy and Sissy "Carrie" Spacek. We have the skin-crawling first season onboard.



Catastrophe ♥



Season 3 / 1 episode / 26 mins

Comedy

Sharon Horgan and Rob Delaney's Bafta award-winning comedy about life as a struggling couple is excruciatingly well-observed and always brilliantly funny. In the opening episode of season three, one or two darker plot turns ensure uneasy moments among the laughs.



Cheat ♥



Boxset: 4 episodes / 60 mins each

Drama

Be warned: ITV's *Cheat* is addictive stuff. Centred around a dangerous relationship between university professor Leah (Katherine Kelly) and her student, Rose (Molly Windsor), events quickly spiral out of control – with terrible consequences. We have all four eminently bingeable episodes onboard.



Flack ♥



Boxset: 6 episodes / 60 mins each

Drama

The always-brilliant Anna Paquin (*The Piano*, *X-Men*) is the star of this new series exposing the dark arts of image management and public relations. Paquin plays Robyn, an American publicist – or “flack” – working in the celebrity-hungry London

PR world. Although she's great at her job (natch), she's nevertheless a complete self-saboteur when it comes to her personal life (also natch), the result being tasty drama for the rest of us. There's strong support from Sophie Okonedo and Genevieve Angelson.



Derry Girls ♥



3 episodes / 23-30 mins each

Comedy

This uproarious comedy is an unholy mix of *Father Ted* and *The Inbetweeners*. Following the exploits of a teenager during the Northern Irish Troubles of the early 1990s, it's full of the kind of relatable scrapes that'll have you howling with laughter and wincing in recognition at the same time.



Free Solo ♥



99 mins

Documentary

Thrilling, vertigo-inducing documentary following climber Alex Honnold as he becomes the first person to ever “free solo” climb Yosemite's vertical 900m El Capitan – a feat he achieved with no ropes or safety gear. Seriously, nail-biting doesn't even begin to cover the experience.



Gregory Porter: One Night Only ♥

94 mins

Arts

Concentrating primarily on songs from his most recent album, *Nat King Cole & Me*, as well as fan favourites from *Liquid Spirit* and *Take Me to the Alley*, this brilliant concert film – taken from the opening night of Porter's sell-out run at London's Royal Albert Hall – sees the jazz singer at his very best.



Middle Aged Men in Lycra

45 mins

Factual

You've probably seen them (or maybe you are one yourself): those regular guys who transform into Lycra-clad cycling superheroes at the weekend. Enter their secret world with this good-natured documentary and discover what makes them tick – or pedal, as the case may be.



Minding the Gap ♥

93 mins

Documentary

Three young men bond over skateboarding to escape their volatile families in Bing Liu's acclaimed documentary. What emerges is an ace skateboarding film (and these scenes are superb) that also touches on wider social issues in ways that are both inspiring and emotionally affecting.



Last Breath ♥

12

85 mins

Documentary

The true story of one man's fight for survival, this documentary is in the heart-stopping tradition of *Touching the Void*. A commercial diver is stranded on the seabed with only five minutes of oxygen and no chance of rescue for more than 30 minutes. The result is an unbelievably tense 85 minutes.



Into the Okavango

!

90 mins

Factual

Presented by National Geographic, this eye-opening documentary shows how one of Earth's last surviving wilderness areas – the Okavango Delta in Botswana, southern Africa – is under threat. It follows passionate conservation biologist Dr Steve Boyes as he brings together a river bushman and a young



The Little Drummer Girl

!

Boxset: 6 episodes / 60 mins each

Drama

The BBC's last John le Carré adaptation was *The Night Manager*, so hopes were high for this new one. It doesn't disappoint. The story is set in the 1970s and focuses on Charlie, a young English actress (played by *Fighting with My*

Family star Florence Pugh) who's recruited by spooks Alexander Skarsgård and Michael Shannon to infiltrate an assassin's terror cell. It boasts all the usual Le Carré hallmarks of suspense and intrigue. You won't want to miss it.

TV HIGHLIGHTS



London: 2000 Years Of History

1 episode / 60 mins

Factual

London is now a global metropolis, but 2,000 years ago it was still an uninhabited swamp. This series explores that glorious and gory transformation, taking viewers through the defining moments of England's capital city, from its origins as Londinium right up to the building of Crossrail in the 21st century.



The Orville

!

Season 2 / 2 episodes / 43 mins each

Comedy

Nobody knew what to make of the first season of Seth MacFarlane's new show, about a pilot who embarks on an interstellar mission only to discover that his ex-wife is the first officer. However, its creator/star took the time to fine-tune things for this second season, and the results really hit the mark.



The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds

Season 4 / 1 episode / 60 mins

Factual

If you know it, you love it – it's the award-winning series that features toddlers in their element. With all the ups, downs, tears, tantrums and triumphs of the playground, the show explores how children make and break friendships, stand up for themselves, and find their place within the social group.



This Time with Alan Partridge ♡ !

Boxset: 6 episodes / 25 mins each

Comedy

After a spell at North Norfolk Digital radio station, Alan returns to his spiritual home, the BBC, following a 17-year gap. He's been asked to co-host the magazine show *This Time* with the super-professional Jennie Gresham (Susannah Fielding), and although it's only supposed

to be temporary that doesn't stop him trying to capitalise on the opportunity – especially when there's bad news about the original host. Needless to say, it all makes for fabulously funny, cringe-worthy comedy. Familiar faces Felicity Montagu and Tim Key complete the gang.



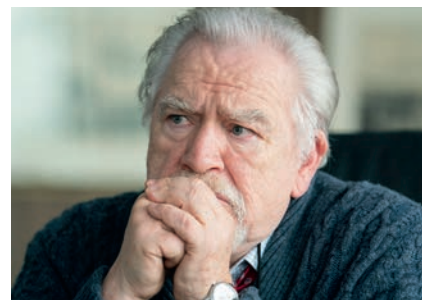
Star Trek: Discovery

!

2 episodes / 50 mins each

Drama

The latest spin-off from the ever-expanding Star Trek universe (in fact, the first new TV material since *Star Trek: Enterprise* wrapped way back in 2005) is a prequel to the much-loved original show, exploring the Federation-Klingon war through the eyes of the crew of the USS Discovery. Jason Isaacs stars.



Succession

!

Boxset: 10 episodes / 56-66 mins

Drama

Premiere of a provocative, biting funny HBO drama series that explores themes of power, politics and family through the eyes of an ageing, uber-wealthy media mogul and his four grown children.



Taskmaster



Season 7 / 1 episode / 45 mins

Comedy

Five game guests start this seventh season: comedian James Acaster, *The Inbetweeners Movie*'s Jessica Knappett, actress Kerry Godliman, stand-up Phil Wang and old TV hand Rhod Gilbert. But can they complete the kooky challenges set by host Greg Davies and his assistant Alex Horne?



They Shall Not Grow Old

15

99 mins

Documentary

From director Peter Jackson, this WWI documentary is one of the most staggering films of recent times. Using ground-breaking computer restoration technology, it features coloured footage of Allied soldiers as you've never seen them before, bringing home the reality of life in the trenches.



Upstart Crow



1 episode / 30 mins

Comedy

Writer Ben Elton revisits *Blackadder* terrain for this successful sitcom. David Mitchell (*Peep Show*) plays William Shakespeare, who, despite the meddling of friends and family, not to mention his arch-rival Robert Greene, is trying to create great art. Will he succeed? Only time will tell.



Taboo



Boxset: 8 episodes / 56 mins each

Drama

Co-created by star/executive producer Tom Hardy, his father, Chips, and *Peaky Blinders* show-runner Steven Knight, *Taboo* has an impeccable, if unusual, pedigree. It revolves around a former adventurer driven by revenge as he attempts to rebuild his dad's shipping empire in Victorian London.



True Detective



Boxset: Season 3 / 8 episodes / 60 mins each

Drama

The award-winning HBO drama returns for a third season, this year focusing on a macabre child-murder case in Arkansas that plays out over the course of 35 years, and starring Mahershala Ali, Stephen Dorff and Carmen Ejogo.



Tin Star



Boxset: Season 2 / 10 episodes / 50 mins each

Drama

Now in its second season, this violent thriller series stars Tim Roth (*Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction*) as Jim Worth, the police chief of a remote Canadian town called Little Big Bear. In the first season, the arrival of an oil refinery overseen by Elizabeth

Bradshaw (Christina Hendricks from *Mad Men*) was the catalyst for Worth's darkest secrets to be revealed. In this second season, the whole of which is available onboard, Worth and his family are trying their damndest to deal with the fallout.



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MUSIC SPOTLIGHT



The best film, TV and music. Yours for the taking

Urban legends

The RnB stars you need to check out onboard your flight this month



The urban music scene is in rude health. Over the past couple of years the genre has gone from underground to mainstream, and now top 10 albums, sell-out tours and the Mercury Music Prize are within reach for the boldest and best.

Onboard this month we've got a great selection for you to dip into. **Giggs** is a Peckham-born grime MC who stands out for his gritty tones, which he pairs with seriously fat beats. He's long been a dominant force in the London rap scene, and his fourth album, *Landlord*, went straight to number two – no mean feat for an independent artist.

Mabel is another British star to watch. Music is in her DNA (she's the daughter of Neneh Cherry and Massive Attack producer Cameron McVey) and her voice sounds like honey, but her trip-hop tracks show she's not to be messed with.

Across the pond, one of hip-hop's power players – and a regular at the top of the charts – **Drake** needs little introduction. But 2019 is shaping up to be one of his biggest years thanks to a massive tour and the much-anticipated follow-up to last year's career-defining *Scorpion*.

Finally, Oakland-born **Kehlani** first made her mark on *America's Got Talent* back in 2014, and is now one of America's most respected RnB songwriters thanks to her emotionally charged lyrics and concise, catchy songs. Tune in and check out her latest. **CB**



Listen to all these Urban acts onboard now

MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Vera is on Spotify! Follow our playlists at Virgin Atlantic Vera

A tiny taster of our awesome audio



AJ Tracey

AJ Tracey

Urban & RnB

UK rapper Tracey is the first to admit that he's both "cheeky" and "arrogant", and indeed it's his self-belief that shines through on this storming debut. From its atypical cover through to guest spots from Not3s, Giggs and Jay Critch, it's clear that we're in the presence of something a bit different and rather special here.



Chaka Khan

Hello Happiness

Pop

Short is very, very sweet in this case, because even though Chaka's latest album is only seven tracks long, each one is a potential chart-buster.



Giggs

Big Bad

Urban & RnB

Giggs is that rare UK rapper known on both sides of the Atlantic. But his lyrical concerns are quintessentially English and his vocals are unique.



Drake

So Far Gone

Urban & RnB

Check out Drake's debut album from 2009. Not only is pretty much every track a classic, but it also provides the perfect means to trace the evolution of his style.

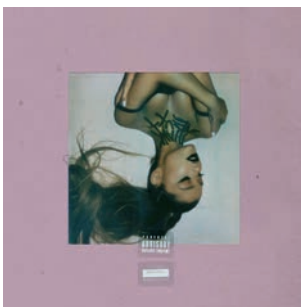


Kehlani

While We Wait

Urban & RnB

Californian singer/rapper Kehlani made waves with her brilliant debut *SweetSexySavage*. This mixtape serves as a stop-gap before album number two.

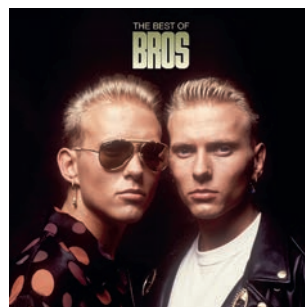


Ariana Grande

Thank U, Next

Pop

Possibly her most personal album yet, this was created after the death of her ex-boyfriend and a break-up with her fiancé. The result is an instant pop classic.



Bros

The Best Of

All Time Greats

After *that* documentary, it's time to dive into this compilation of the boys' hits, including *When Will I Be Famous?*, *I Owe You Nothing* and, um, some others.



Florida Georgia Line

Can't Say I Ain't Country

Country

The duo's fourth album is a beer-fuelled celebration of Saturday nights on the town – with added cowboy hats. A couple of soulful slow jams vary the pace.



Mabel

Ivy to Roses

Urban & RnB

Neneh Cherry's daughter has great tunes, a brilliant voice and the attitude to match. *Ivy to Roses* is a reissue of her debut mixtape featuring extra material.



The List



Luke Spiller Vera Exclusive

We talk exclusively to The Struts frontman Luke Spiller about the music he can't live without, including tracks by The Darkness, Desmond Dekker and Queen.

His master's voice

Luke Spiller's craziest quotes

"I remember wearing eyeliner to school. A few kids said stuff, but everyone else was like, 'Well, that's Luke the rock star.'"

"Are we lacking showmanship in rock'n'roll? Yes. Am I complaining? No. Because it leaves a clear open road for me."

"We're already massive rock stars in our heads. Only our circumstances will change so we can afford to go out more often."

"I'm the greatest singer of my generation. It's just a matter of time before everyone else realises it."



Nina Nesbitt



The Sun Will Come Up,

The Seasons Will Change

Pop

The Scottish singer-songwriter follows her 2014 debut with the same mix of folk and pop – not to mention brilliantly acute lyrics.



Yonaka

Creature

Alternative

Yonaka like to mix punk, indie and metal. Singer Theresa Jarvis says world domination is their aim, and listening to this EP it seems possible.



Virgin People Playlist



Engineering Apprentice Rebecca Hoibak has put together a groovy playlist. "I love to sing along to these tunes," she says. "This playlist will get your body moving and vocal chords performing."



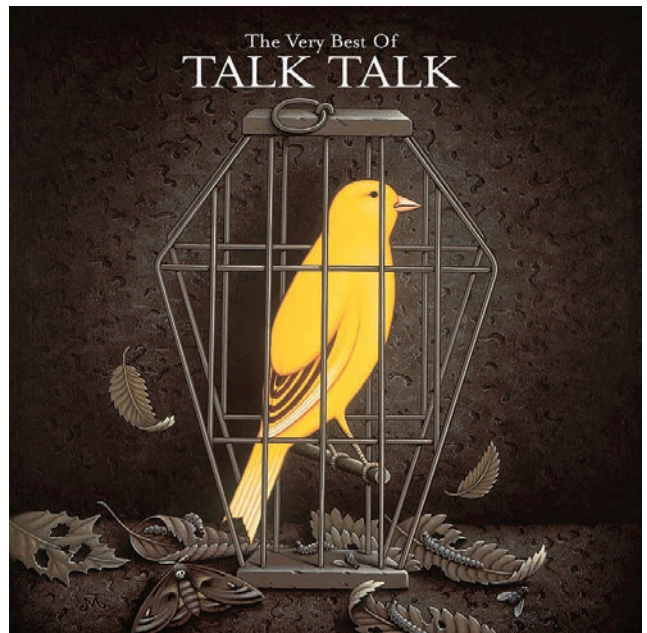
The Prodigy



The Day Is My Enemy

Dance

The tragic death of Keith Flint robbed us of a true original. This sixth album is a face-melting mix of pumped-up breakbeats, snarling riffs and manic rapping.

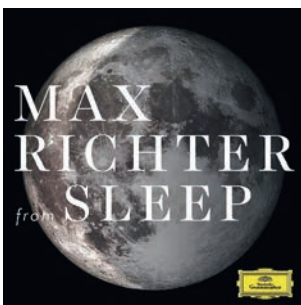


Talk Talk

The Very Best Of

All Time Greats

The music world united in grief at the passing of Talk Talk main man Mark Hollis in February. Featuring the cream of the shimmering, brainy pop he made with Talk Talk, this 1997 compilation is a great place to go whether you're a long-time convert or a curious first-timer.



Max Richter

From Sleep

Classical

Max Richter's compositions are a mix of classical and ambient. *Sleep* was an eight-hour epic, but this one-hour edit is more manageable and still beautiful.



Vangelis



Nocturne

Chill

A solo piano affair featuring new tracks inspired by night-time and his long-held passion for space, plus new versions of iconic hits such as *Chariots of Fire*.



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Representative example

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CREDITS

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE VIRGIN ATLANTIC TEAM

Southern belle

Virgin Atlantic's first route to South America is a real cracker. Say olá to São Paulo

Virgin Atlantic's first foray into South America has been announced. As part of our ambitious growth plan, a new daily service will launch between London Heathrow and São Paulo in 2020. This means the Amazon rainforest is within easy reach, and the buzzing multinational offices of Brazil's commercial capital are ready and waiting for business travellers.

"We're very excited to be flying to a new continent for the first time," says Juha Jarvinen, Virgin Atlantic Executive Vice President - Commercial. "There are a significant number of corporate customers who can now enjoy the Virgin Atlantic experience on this busy international route. But it's not all about business - I'm also thrilled to introduce an exciting new destination that acts as a gateway for leisure travel within the rest of Brazil and beyond." Tickets go on sale later this year - keep your eyes peeled.

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK



Make your own mind up

The latest changes to our styling policy maximise comfort without compromising Virgin Atlantic's signature style

Here at Virgin Atlantic, we're always ahead of the curve. Which is why, in a shake-up of our uniform and styling policy, we're proud to be the first airline in the world to let our female Cabin Crew ditch the make-up – and let our male Cabin Crew wear make-up, if they want.

“As an airline, we've continuously pushed the boundaries and tried to do things differently to the rest of our industry. Over the past year, we've listened to our people and recognised that times have changed,” says Mark Anderson, EVP of Customer Experience. “These new guidelines offer an increased level of comfort, but they provide our people with much more choice to express who they want to be at work, and it's exactly that environment we want to champion at Virgin Atlantic.”

Here's what has changed:

- Female Cabin Crew are no longer required to wear any make-up. They are, however, still very welcome to wear any of the existing palette of make-up (including lipstick and foundations) set out in Virgin Atlantic's guidelines. In another airline first, male Cabin Crew can also wear make-up if they wish.

- Trousers are now available as an option for all women and will be provided as standard when joining Virgin Atlantic.

- High heels no longer have to be worn on the ground (they are not required to be worn onboard anyway.)



Icons of change

These new high-flyers celebrate our diversity





Rock on

How a rock'n'roll choir raised money at Gatwick

Jayne Roscoe knows a thing or two about putting on a show. Before she came to work at Virgin Atlantic she spent many years working for the BBC. Five years ago she joined us in our small occupational health team, which looks after the physical, financial and mental wellbeing of our people. That's incredibly important stuff. So what was Jayne doing one morning in March belting out classic tunes with 200 friends for our customers at Gatwick Airport? It's called Rock Choir, it's show business and it's truly uplifting.

Rock Choirs exist all over the UK, and they offer fantastic benefits for both the audiences and the singers. "It's therapeutic, social and fun, and learning the words is good for the brain," says Jayne, who practices in her car on the way to work. As well as entertaining our customers, the choir collected money for our charity partnership, WE.org.

Jayne first heard about WE.org from a friend's daughter who went on an early Virgin Atlantic scholarship trip. "I remember thinking this was an amazing thing that Virgin Atlantic did for young people," she said. "Then when I joined the airline I got to see the impact the charity has from the other side and thought this would be a great thing to get behind."

Rock Choir welcomes people of all ages and abilities, no audition required. Find out more at rockchoir.com. **Follow Ruby, the Virgin Atlantic Blog, for all the latest news, behind-the-scenes views and travel**



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companion tickets or upgrades as you spend more on your card (terms and conditions apply).

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Representative example

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Credit limits will vary based on your individual circumstances



After almost 35 years of our famous Flying Lady figurehead design, we're saying hello to five new faces that represent the modern men and women of Britain. Daley, Meera,

Oscar, Rey and Zadie are the fabulous Flying Icons that will adorn our brand new A350-1000 fleet, four of which arrive this year followed by another eight by 2021.



Pretty fly for a WiFi

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

How to connect

1 Turn on your WiFi-enabled device and connect to the "Virgin-Atlantic" WiFi network on a B787-9 or A330-200 and to "gogoinflight" on all other aircraft.

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

- A B787-9* or A330-200*, open your browser and navigate to virgin-atlantic-wifi.com
- All other aircraft**, open your browser and navigate to airborne.gogoinflight.com

3 Just follow the onscreen instructions to buy† a session, and then get browsing!

Shout about it

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

Making the most of your data

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

Who supplies my WiFi?

The Internet Service Provider (ISP) on the B787-9 and A330-200 is T-Mobile and the ISP on all other aircraft is Gogo. The ISP is responsible for the WiFi service, customer care and billing.

*WiFi is provided by Panasonic

**WiFi is provided by Gogo

†You can pay using all major credit cards





WE Day 2019

We look back at this year's incredible event

For the sixth year running, we were so proud to be co-title supporters of WE Day UK in March. This inspiring event brings together 12,000 students and their teachers to reflect on social issues, and celebrate the actions they've taken to support their local and global communities.

Some incredible speakers, leaders and young people took to the SSE Arena stage in London to share their stories, including 15-year-old quadruple amputee Isabelle Weal. She shared the emotional story of how she became a national trampolining champion.



Our very own Jaymey McIvor also joined the line-up – describing how he had been part of the WE Schools programme himself, winning a place on the Virgin Atlantic

scholarship trip, and later becoming cabin crew for Virgin Atlantic.

Alongside performances from Liam Payne, Pixie Lott and Brit Award-winner Tom Walker, it was an honour to be joined by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex as they told the enthusiastic crowd, "To be among all of you progressive, motivated, open-minded change-makers is what gives us hope for the future."

WE Day is just one part of WE's mission to create a world where all young people are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of



change. We have partnered with them since 2010, and our people and customers have raised over £5.5 million to support their cause. They're delivering sustainable change in overseas communities, as well as inspiring young people in the UK to "be the change" they want to see in the world through an empowering schools' programme.

If you would like to help support their amazing work, please place any loose change or foreign currency you have in the Change for Children envelope and hand it to one of our cabin crew. To keep it safe, please don't leave it in your seat pocket. Thank you!

Change
is in the air

Change is in the Air is the name we give to our sustainability programme, because we believe that sustainability means changing things for the better. We're pioneering ways to reduce our

environmental impact, improve our supply chain and support communities around the world. Visit virginatlantic.com/changeisintheair to learn more about our sustainability programme.

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Our scheme, in partnership with offsetting expert ClimateCare, finances renewable energy and natural resource conservation projects around the world, helping people from poorer communities access cleaner, safer, affordable energy and reduce carbon emissions. Visit virginatlantic.com/changeisintheair to offset your flight.

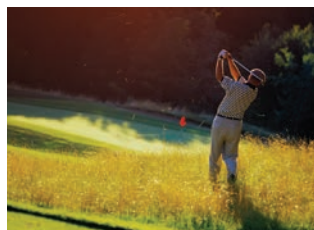


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Enjoy fine dining in the award-winning Wernher Restaurant, or lunch and afternoon tea in the elegant lounges. Play a round of golf on the 18-hole course, then sample a modern twist on traditional fare in the oak-beamed Adam's Brasserie. For pure relaxation indulge in the infinity swimming pool, treatments and heat therapy suites of The Spa.

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Luton Hoo Hotel, Golf & Spa, The Mansion House, Nr. Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 3TQ



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