



R29 Writers' Entertainment & Culture Picks For August

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August sees the last UK bank holiday until Christmas, so be sure to take full advantage of all the cultural offerings that occur on the final weekend of the month (we'll be at Notting Hill Carnival but you might prefer to take in the sights and sounds of Reading and Leeds).

Elsewhere, there are some top new films and docs out (we have some suggestions for ones that don't feature bombs and guns, as much of summer cinema seems to do). There is new music, too, from comeback queen Kesha and Queens of the Stone Age. Plus there is some exciting new television on offer for when you've had enough of the sun. Well, hopefully.

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Gillian Orr, Senior Editor

London Feminist Film Festival, Rio Cinema, Dalston, London, 17-20th August

The independent [festival](#) celebrating feminist films past and present from international women directors is back. There are Indian documentaries, German movies and plenty of panel discussions. You can find the full programme [here](#).

Queens Of The Stone Age, *Villains*, 25th August

"Just come and love me how/ Like the way you used to do", announces Josh Homme on the album's first single "The Way You Used To Do". Following that advice, I will be picking up the new record from a band I have loved since 2002 when they put out *Songs For The Deaf*. If their initial single is anything to go by, they are still loud, loud, loud. Just the way I like them.

***A Ghost Story*, in cinemas 11th August**

It's worth checking out the unusual [trailer](#) for *A Ghost Story*, which sees Casey Affleck come back to haunt his former lover Rooney Mara wearing everybody's favourite budget Halloween costume: a white sheet with holes cut out for eyes. David Lowery's follow-up to *Ain't Them Bodies Saints* promises to be a quiet, existential treat amid a summer of noisy blockbusters.





Georgia Murray, Fashion & Beauty Writer

Sunfall, Brockwell Park, 12th August

Sunfall is back after a successful inauguration last year, bringing underground and in-demand DJs to south London's Brockwell Park and beyond. A festival of two halves, you can party in the park by day or join for a club session at night (or both, if you have the stamina). With Gilles Peterson, Floating Points, Theo Parrish and Helena Hauff spinning the decks, expect a tropical amalgamation of house, hip hop, jazz, soul, techno and disco. The perfect way to round up summer, I think.

***Disjointed*, Netflix, 25th August**

New Netflix show *Disjointed* follows 'cannabis legend' Kathy Bates, who ropes in her son and his friends to help her run her LA-based weed dealership. There are too many perfect things about this. I've loved Kathy Bates since her turn as a sass-talking American in *Titanic*, and she drew me in to watch *American Horror Story*, even though it absolutely terrified me. Plus, we all know how good the regular-American-folk-as-drug-lords trope plays out (*Breaking Bad*, RIP). Sit down with this one, and make sure you have plenty of snacks for the munchies at hand.





Natalie Gil, News Writer

Wilderness, Cornbury Park, 3rd-6th August

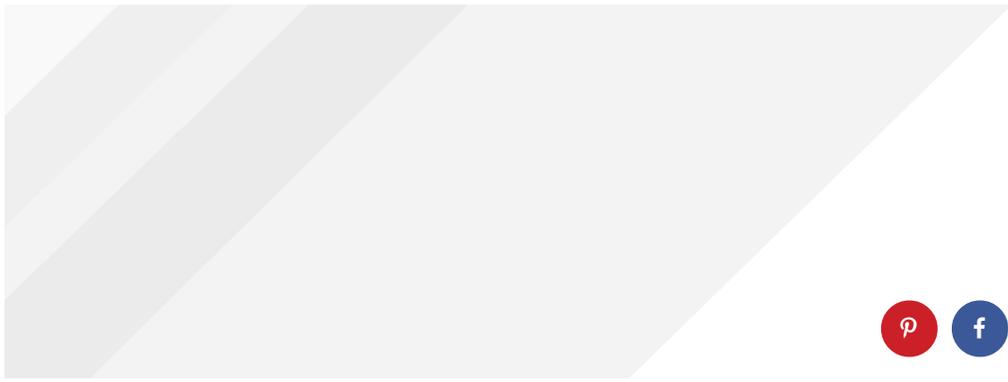
I've already been to a good number of gigs and festivals this year, so Wilderness will be less about the tunes for me and more about the experience. I've never been to the Oxfordshire festival before and if I had a pound for every time someone told me how "amazing" or "magical" it was, I'd be rolling in cash, so I've got high hopes. The first activity on the agenda? Getting some Pimm's down me for the Dutch courage to go lake swimming. Weather permitting.

Michael Jackson's *Thriller*: An Audio Visual Experience, XOYO, London, 12th August

It's been 35 (!!!) years since the King of Pop released *Thriller*, the album that changed the music industry and frankly, the world, forever. After wiping most of the music from my iPod (yes, I still have one) earlier this year and remembering how phenomenal 95% of MJ's music is, I've been listening to him a lot more recently and can't wait to see the videos for "Thriller", "Billie Jean" and "Beat It" brought to life with a full live band and visuals.

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Alice Casely-Hayford, Fashion & Beauty Editor

Notting Hill Carnival, London, 26th-28th August

This is my happy place. As a Londoner born and bred, Notting Hill Carnival is a true triumph of community spirit and a celebration of the multiculturalism and richness of our great city. After the series of heartbreaking atrocities that have struck London over the past few months, from terrorist attacks to the Grenfell Tower fire, this is a beautiful opportunity for Londoners and visitors to unite with love, compassion and resilience.

Matisse in the Studio, Royal Academy, London, from 5th August

This exhibition focuses on the artist's treasured objects (from furniture and textiles to figures from all around the world) and their role within his work. As a big Matisse fan, I can't wait to delve into his personal possessions and learn more about their significance and inspiration in his art.

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***The Mist*, Netflix, 25th August**

If you haven't seen the film version of this Stephen King novel then get to it right away. It was made by the guy behind *The Walking Dead* before it got silly, so expect lots of familiar faces if you were a fan of the show. This new Netflix TV series looks just as creepy as the film, thank goodness. It's about a town that is shrouded in a mysterious mist (hence the name, duh) that traps the residents inside with no idea what's going on. Things escalate further when the things that live inside the mist start to reveal themselves. Very interested to see how the TV series treats one of the best endings to a film I've ever seen...

***Elmet* by Fiona Mozley, out now**

Elmet is the book that received all the press last week for being chosen for the Man Booker Prize longlist. Its author Fiona Mozley is 29, British and the second youngest person ever to be nominated. What. A. Lass. The book is about Daniel, who grew up with a bare-knuckle boxer for a father who taught his children to hunt and forage in the Yorkshire countryside while living in the house he built for them with his bare hands. All the while, however, unwanted outside influences were closing in around them. I cannot WAIT to read this book.

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Katy Thompsett, Sub Editor

***Eden: Paradise Lost*, Channel 4, 7th August**

Hands up who watched *Eden* this time last year? Yeah exactly. C4's naked attempt to emulate the success of BBC1's *Castaway* was such a snooze-fest – and, crucially, lacking a Ben Fogle 2.0 – that it was quietly mothballed. Only no one bothered to tell the participants... One year later, we get to see what happened and, brilliantly, shit appears to have got very real indeed. The trailer is curiously absent online but I caught it on TV the other day and it was mostly fire and shouting. Lots of shouting. I'm calling it the IRL companion piece to *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Wayne McGregor's +/- Human, The Roundhouse, London, 10th-28th August

A while back, my sister and I queued for *hours* to get into the Rain Room at the Barbican. (Hey, it was a slow day.) Now, the guys behind that whole experience have got together with choreographer par excellence Wayne McGregor and The Royal Ballet to create +/- Human, a fusion of dance and immersive installation that promises, among other things, “a mysterious flock of flying spheres”. Oh, and the music's by actual electronic legends Warp Records. I. Am. Excited.

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David Farrell, Marketing Intern

Kesha, *Rainbow*, 11th August

Don't call it a comeback! To say that Kesha has had a tough time of it lately would be a staggering understatement. Since 2013 she has been embroiled in a very public legal dispute

with her former producer Dr. Luke; at one point, it seemed like there was to be no light at the end of the tunnel for the "Tik Tok" singer. Then, last month, a reborn Kesha burst out of obscurity with defiantly feminist lead single "Praying", which showcased a drastic change in style and attitude. That she is even releasing music is a triumph for women everywhere.

Brighton and Hove Pride, 4th-6th August

Brighton has a reputation as the most LGBTQ+ friendly city in the UK and you'd better believe that we don't like to disappoint the 300,000 strong visitors who come to the annual Pride event each year. The city is transformed into a pink(er) paradise with angel wings, skintight gold hot pants and rainbow bow ties – and that's just what I'm wearing this year! The event includes Brighton Festival with live music from Pet Shop Boys and Years and Years, but it's the Village Party which really makes Brighton Pride unmissable. A whole section of the seafront is dedicated to hosting one of the biggest street parties in the UK, with revellers painting the town pink until the wee hours. Anything goes at Brighton Pride so why not smother yourself with glitter and join us! Tickets are available [here](#).

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Fatima Twiggy Jalloh, Editorial Intern

Boy Better Know Takeover, the O2, London, 27th August

BBK are taking over the O2 this summer and the lineup is looking absolutely fantastic! My favourites MHD, A\$AP Rocky, J Hus and Ghetts will be hitting the stage with the best in British grime.

Step, released 11th August

An inspirational documentary following a group of young women in Baltimore who have found strength, motivation and happiness through performance. I can't wait to see how they journey through their struggles to success. Check out the [trailer here](#).

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