

The week's guide to what's worth seeing

Showing now

Opera North's new touring production of Mozart's **The Marriage of Figaro** is a "rattling good show", set in a crumbling English country house (Daily Telegraph). 14 March, Lowry, Salford; then Newcastle and Hull, until 28 March (operanorth.co.uk).

A powerful exhibition of work by the leading Civil Rights-era photographer who later directed *Shaft*, **Gordon Parks: We Shall Not Be Moved** features "vivid depictions of the daily disgrace of the Jim Crow South" (Guardian). Until 11 April, Alison Jacques, Cork Street, London W1 (alisonjacques.com).

Turner & Constable: Rivals & Originals is a "thrilling" exhibition marking the 250th anniversary of the births of Britain's greatest landscape painters. It brings together more than 170 works, many of which haven't been seen in the UK for decades (Daily Telegraph). Until 12 April, Tate Britain, London SW1 (tate.org.uk).

Book now

Vivienne Westwood: Rebel – Storyteller – Visionary will celebrate the career of the late fashion designer, and include pieces from rarely seen private collections. Opens 28 March, The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham (thebowesmuseum.org.uk).

INK Festival, the short play festival, is returning with 70 new plays as well as comedy, poetry and workshops. Hugh Bonneville, Alistair McGowan, Jan Ravens and Jon Culshaw are



Parks's Airline Terminal, Atlanta, Georgia (1956)

among the big-name performers. 16-19 April, various venues around Halesworth, Suffolk (inkfestival.org).

Dan Pearson and Sarah Raven, titanic figures in the world of garden design and horticulture, are among the speakers at this year's **Festival of Gardens and Nature** in Ireland. The two-day celebration of the natural world will also feature workshops, music and talks, by the chef Thomasina Miers and the actor Dominic West. 2-3 May, Ballintubbert Gardens & House, Co. Laois, Ireland (festivalofgardensandnature.com).

Just out in paperback

Flesh by David Szalay (Vintage £9.99). Last year's Booker Prize-winner follows the travails of an inscrutable Hungarian. It's a "revelatory" story; "it's also a book with lots of sex, sexily told" (Sunday Times).



Best books... Neil Jordan

The film director – who made Mona Lisa, The Crying Game and The End of the Affair – picks his five favourite books. His latest novel, The Library of Traumatic Memory, has just been published by Head of Zeus at £20

The Futurological Congress by Stanislaw Lem, 1971 (Penguin Modern Classics £9.99). I came to this through Tarkovsky's mesmerising film, *Solaris*, which led to the novel by Lem that it was based on, and then on to this strange, warped, comic masterpiece. Set in a Hilton in a future Costa Rica, it turns everything, including the very idea of science fiction, on its head.

James by Percival Everett, 2024 (Picador £9.99). I would have mentioned *Huckleberry Finn*, but Everett's version has all of the wit of the original

and provides a dazzling spin on its racial presumptions.

The Third Policeman by Flann O'Brien, 1967 (Harper Perennial £9.99). One of the most overused words these days is "surreal". There has to be another term for Flann O'Brien's journey into life, death, on a policeman's bicycle. Its humour disguises an all-too-real relentless, dreamlike horror. OK, it's surreal.

The Last Tycoon by F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1941 (Penguin Modern Classics £9.99). There

is something haunting about an unfinished masterpiece. And this is an unfinished masterpiece about an unfinished character, Monroe Stahr. His pursuit of his dead wife's double, and the bleak romanticism of the affair it leads to, are – like the unfinished mansion out in Malibu – part of the spell.

Ficciones by Jorge Luis Borges, 1941-1956 (Everyman £15.99). I met Borges at a literary conference in Dublin, where I was also lucky enough to meet Angela Carter. I got to make a movie, *The Company of Wolves*, of Angela's spin on fairy tales. I would have loved to do the same with Borges's short stories. The games he plays with reality in these fictions are profound and, like *Funes the Memorious*, who acquires perfect recall after falling from a horse, never to be forgotten.

Television

Programmes

The Race for Ancient Egypt in Colour Two-part story – told using footage that has been coloured for the first time – of the period between the Wars when the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb led to a battle for control of Egypt's ancient artefacts. Sat 14 March, C4 19:15 (60mins).

Liza: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story As Liza Minnelli's memoir hits the shelves, the BBC revisits Bruce David Klein's absorbing 2025 documentary about the flamboyant star. Sat 14 March, BBC2 21:15 (100mins).

The Other Bennet Sister In this new drama series, *Pride and Prejudice* is retold from the viewpoint of Mary Bennet – the overlooked middle sister. With Ruth Jones and Richard E. Grant as Mr and Mrs Bennet. Sun 15 March, BBC1 20:00 and 20:30 (30mins each).

Walter Presents: The Eclipse In this French thriller, a young woman's disappearance fractures a rural community. Tue 17 March, C4 00:10 (55mins).

Black Waters: The Sea Empress Disaster Documentary about the 1996 oil spill from a Libyan tanker and its impact on the Pembrokeshire coastline. Thu 19 Mar, BBC2 21:00 (60mins).

Films

Cabaret (1972) Liza Minnelli and Joel Grey star in Bob Fosse's musical set in prewar Berlin. Sat 14 March, BBC2 22:55 (120mins).

Nobody (2021) Watchable action thriller about a downtrodden suburban dad drawn into an escalating cycle of revenge after a break-in. Wed 18 March, Film4 21:00 (110mins).

Coming up for auction

Christie's **Modern British and Irish Art Day Sale** of work from the 20th and 21st centuries includes pieces by Craigie Aitchison, R.B Kitaj, Celia Paul, John Minton, Stanley Spencer and Walter Sickert. Among the highlights is Minton's portrait of Stanley Spencer (est. £40,000-£60,000). 19 March, Christie's, King St, London SW1 (christies.com).

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