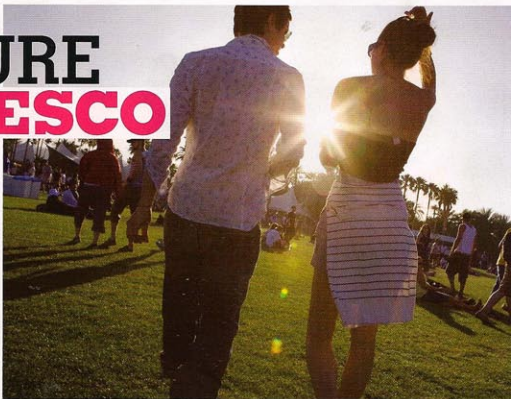


# CULTURE ALFRESCO

What better place to broaden your mind than the great outdoors? Here's our round-up of the events that are a breath of fresh air in more ways than one...

BY BEATRICE HODGKIN



## ART AND SCULPTURE

**Cass Sculpture Foundation**, Goodwood, West Sussex (call 01243 538449; sculpture.org.uk), commissions wild, colourful and ambitious sculptures for outdoor spaces; pieces by Anthony Gormley sit alongside emerging talent, in 26 acres of parkland. The second year for **Jupiter Artland**, Edinburgh (call 0131 257 4170; jupiterartland.org), unveils exciting new site-specific commissions for its 80-acre grounds; work by Cornelia Parker joins those by Anish Kapoor and Andy Goldsworthy. Framing Identity at the **Tatton Park Biennial** (May 8 to September 26; tattonparkbiennial.org) will see giant, experimental outdoor exhibits: think rocking horse rides round the grounds and over-sized lily pads in the lake. Look out for avant-garde art at the **Whitstable Biennale** (from June 19 to July 4; whitstablebiennale.com) on the beach, in the sea, in coastguards' huts and garden sheds.

## THEATRE

The most knock-your-socks-off outdoor stage has to be Cornwall's coastal amphitheatre at **Minack** (call 01736 810181; minack.com). Jump aboard a ferry for plays on **Browsea Island**, Poole Harbour (July 21 to August 6. Call 01202 251987; browsea-theatre.co.uk). Performances by **The National**

## THE BIG SCREEN

As well as an impressive line-up of outdoor theatre, twilight picnics and music, many **National Trust** houses have alfresco film screenings of popular classics like *Grease*, *Top Gun*, *Up and Mamma Mia*. Contact the NT (call 0844 800 1895; nationaltrust.org.uk/events) or organisers **Lady In Red** (lady-in-red.co.

uk). For cinema by the water this September, head for London's **The Scoop**, a sunken open-air amphitheatre by the Thames (call 020 7403 4866; morelondon.co.uk), screening films for free, or **The Cambridge Film Festival** (call 01223 500082; cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk), which shows films beside the River Cam,

that you watch from a punt, à deux. In August the **RSC** also hosts an open-air season of Shakespeare-on-film on the banks of the Avon (call 01789 403444; rsc.org.uk), while the **Royal Opera House** has free ballet and opera screenings in popular squares and parks across the country (call 020 7240 1200; roh.org.uk).

## LITERATURE

At the **Ledbury Poetry Festival** (from July 2 to 11. Call 0845 458 1743; poetry-festival.com), expect sofas on the streets for poetry jams. For literature with rock 'n' roll gumption, head for **Port Eliot** (from July 23 to 25. Call 01503 232783; porteliotfestival.com). For storytelling, try **Beyond The Border** (from July 2 to 4. Call 01446 799100; beyondtheborder.com), in the grounds of St Donats Castle, South Wales.

**Theatre Wales** (call 02920 353070; nationaltheatrewales.org) include promenade plays on the beaches of North Wales (from July 26 to August 1). **Lakes Alive** (call 01539 720252; lakesalive.org) is a festival of outdoor performance in Cumbria with an amazing line-up of events, including circus acts, pyrotechnic shows and outdoor banquets.

## MUSIC

This year is the inaugural **Serenata** (from August 26 to 29. Call 01747 812109; serenatafestival.com), a classical music festival taking place on Dorset's Jurassic Coast. Black-tie event **Henley Festival** follows on from regatta week (from July 7 to 11. Call 01491 843404; henley-festival.co.uk), where you can dine at Michel Roux on the riverside and listen to Welsh baritone Bryn Terfel. Opera alfresco doesn't have to be grand and exclusive – there are myriad less formal, more affordable productions; check the schedules of touring companies like **Garden Opera** (call 020 7241 3563; gardenopera.co.uk) and **Opera Brava** (call 01444 443060; operabrava.co.uk) and your local council's website.