



Travel Guides designed by insiders.

LONDON'S FINEST THEATERS - AWAY FROM THE WEST END

Beyond London's Theatreland, you'll find a scattering of smaller venues offering promising new programming and forgotten gems



Mandy Hegarty
Travel writer

ABOUT US

THE BUGGL TEAM.

We are a small team banded together to solve the major problems that exist around travel planning. We've lived in your shoes for years, trying to seek authentic and matched trip advice to no avail. Buggl was built as your vehicle to ride in every time you need inspiration about a place to go.

OUR MISSION.

Our goal is to give people a better opportunity to experience delightful life moments when they travel. This only happens when people begin to trust in one another and not on reviews or ratings of places online anymore. Bringing the life back to travel means pulling local people out of the shadows of those review sites and onto a place where they share their expertise on what they love to do in their location. It's only possible to travel well by harnessing the relationship between travelers and locals.

Our aim is give everyone an equal chance to have beautiful trips.

OUR STORY.

This isn't a company. If you unraveled our DNA it would read like a passport stamped with ink from all over the world. We've each had unique and memorable experiences traveling down the street or around the world that have changed us as individuals and humans. If you've traveled like us, you know it's possible to grow as a person when you travel right. If you haven't traveled like us, this platform will give you the ability to do so. It's time to TRUST in other people again to help navigate you through the world.



ABOUT ME



Mandy Hegarty

Travel writer

Traveler Since

1987

Age

26

Interests and Activities

Travel writing, Film, Food, Drink

WHO AM I?

Mandy Hegarty is a 20-something freelance writer who covers all things travel, food and film. Born and bred in Dublin, she has spent the last few years living and working in New York and London, where she is now based. She started south of the Thames before moving up to the East End, and works as a sub-editor for expert travel writing service World Words (www.world-words.com). Some of her favorite things include good coffee, cheese, gothic literature, Christmas, markets and cinemas.

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT TRAVEL?

Travel has always been a strong passion of mine. I've lived in Ireland, the UK, the US and Canada, and have traveled extensively around Europe and Latin America.



OVERVIEW

Beyond the borders of London's Theatreland, out in the distinctly less flashy London boroughs, there is a host of smaller and lesser-known theaters that are often overlooked by visitors. Here are some of the most interesting venues I've come across.

LOCAL PERKS AND KNOWLEDGE

London's theater scene is concentrated around the prestigious West End, which occupies the area between The Strand to the south and Oxford Street to the north. Within these narrow confines, you'll find a collection of late Victorian and Edwardian stages hosting a range of impressive productions, from high-profile musicals to star-studded plays.

But out in London's other boroughs, there is another theater scene that's thriving. One that features newer writers on the cusp of success and experimental productions in their debut runs. Take a chance on one of these more intimate venues and you might just catch the next big thing before it reaches the West End.

A photograph of a theater stage. A large red curtain is pulled back, revealing a stage set. On the stage, there is a person wearing a bright yellow robe, standing next to a large, dark, draped object. The background of the stage set features a large, glowing, abstract shape. The theater is dimly lit, with a few people seated at round tables in the foreground. The text "LOCAL SECRETS" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

LOCAL SECRETS



Wilton's Music Hall



See and Do

Wellclose Square, London E1, UK 020 7702 2789

Hidden away down an East End alley, this beautiful theater began its life as an 18th-century alehouse, before the stunning music hall was added in the 19th century. In the following decades, it served as a Methodist mission and by the time the 1960s rolled around, it was destined for demolition. It survived destruction, but not dereliction and fell into decline in the late 20th century. Since then, Wilton's has slowly but surely been brought back to life. It continues to host a variety of performances and events in its gorgeous high-ceilinged hall, which still has original period features.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

It is like entering a time capsule

RATING



Make Your Trip

CATEGORY

City Performances

Hidden

NEED TO KNOW

Architecture

Culture



Arcola Theatre

RATING



Make Your Trip

CATEGORY

Performances

NEED TO KNOW

Culture

Theater



See and Do

24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL, UK 020
7503 1646

Based in a converted paint factory in the rapidly gentrifying neighborhood of Dalston in East London, the Arcola Theatre has a reputation for presenting edgy new works and forgotten classics. It is also eco-friendly and the theater has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon footprint through the use of solar panels, recycled materials and other sustainability measures.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

A hip and vibrant theater venue

Pleasance Theatre



See and Do

1 North Rd, Carpenters Mews, London N7 9EF,
UK 020 7609 1800

With a sister venue up in Edinburgh, this intimate two-auditorium theater brings a taster of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to London year-round. The programming focus is on emerging new talent and inventive productions, with special emphasis given to comedy acts, including sketch and stand-up.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The memorable productions

RATING



Good Detour

CATEGORY

Performances

NEED TO KNOW

Culture

Theater

Comedy



Theatre 503

RATING



Good Detour

CATEGORY

Performances

NEED TO KNOW

Culture

Theater



See and Do

The Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Rd,
London SW11 3BW, United Kingdom 020 7978
7040

This humble pocket-sized theater, attached to The Latchmere pub in Battersea, has big ambitions. Selecting the most innovative and adventurous new works, it hosts productions from promising new talent. Taking a gamble on yet-to-be-established writers has paid off; in 2010, they received an Olivier award for best new play for Katori Hall's "The Mountaintop."

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The chance of discovering a new writer



Finborough Theatre



See and Do

118 Finborough Rd, London, London SW10 9ED, United Kingdom 0844 847 1652

This pint-sized above-pub theater seats just 50 and has a reputation for showcasing rising stars. Aside from the intelligent, well-selected new works, the Finborough Theatre also looks to the past on occasion and dusts off old and neglected plays for a new generation.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The intimate surroundings

RATING



Good Detour

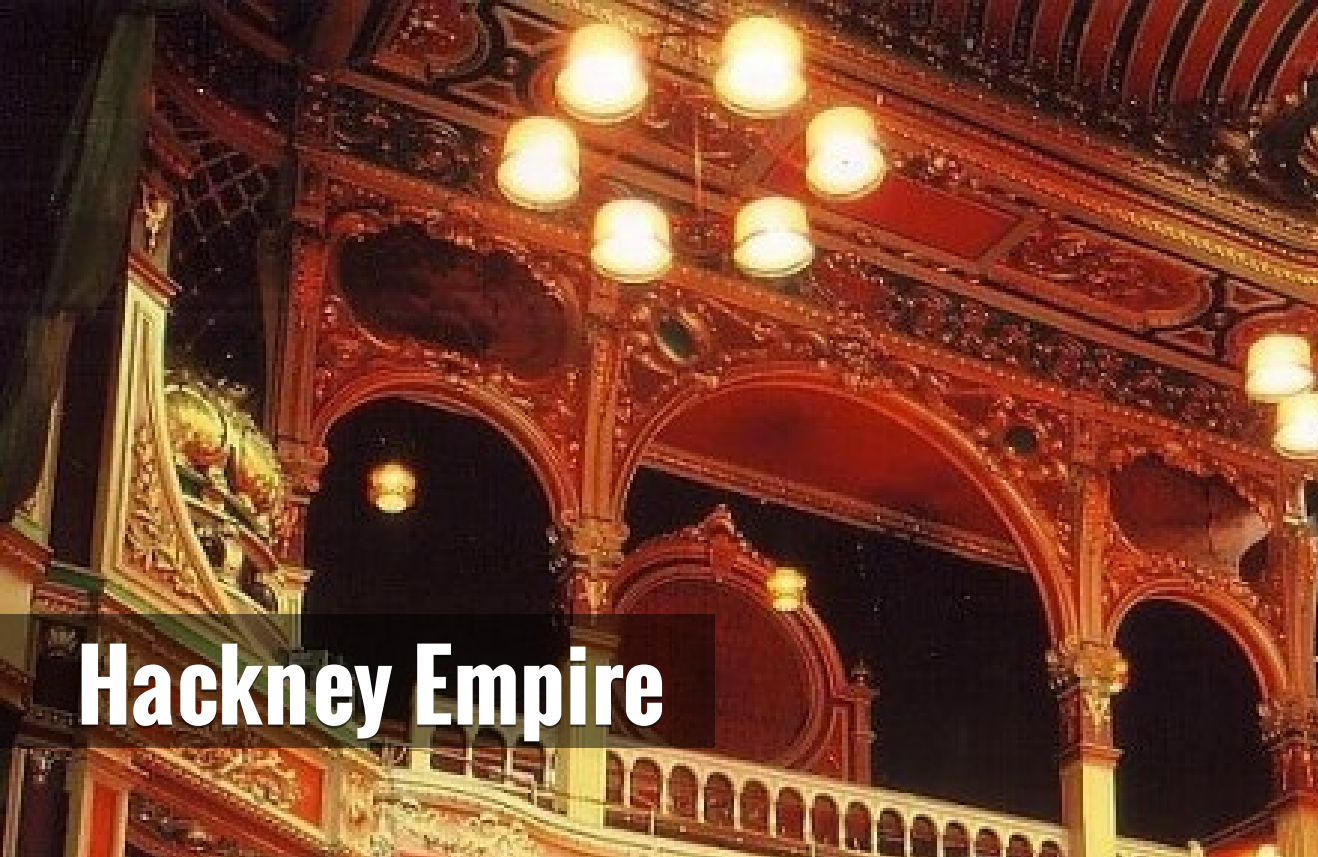
CATEGORY

Performances

NEED TO KNOW

Theater

Culture



Hackney Empire

RATING



Good Detour

CATEGORY

Performances

NEED TO KNOW

Theater

Culture



See and Do

298 Mare Street, London E8 1EL, UK 020 8985 2424

This grand turn-of-the-century theater was state of the art when it first opened, equipped with electric lights, central heating and an in-built projection box. Apart from hosting plays, concerts and variety shows, it has also functioned as a TV studio and a bingo hall. After undergoing extensive restoration in the early 2000s, the glorious building, with its gilt cherubs, domes and ornate décor, is now in tip-top shape. Its Christmas pantomime is rated among London's best.

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT IT HERE

The lavish interior

BEFORE YOU GO

I. WHAT TO TAKE

Your tickets and an open mind.

II. GETTING AROUND

All venues listed can be reached by the Tube, buses or Overground trains.

III. MONEY AND TIPPING

Most venues have a bar, so bring some cash for drinks or pre-theater snacks.

IV. SAFETY AND SECURITY

All these locations are generally very safe.

V. USEFUL PHONE NUMBER, WEBSITES AND LOCAL APPS

Check individual websites for listings and opening hours.

VI. Local Notes

Tickets for shows at these venues are generally cheaper than West End shows, however — due to limited space and high demand — they can often sell out, so it's best to purchase tickets well in advance.



www.buggl.com