



The New Wave of Jazz

Cerys Davies at CLF Art Lounge © Charles Moore

Night by night, the South London music scene becomes more prominent than its rivals east and north. Peckham has become home to London's most enigmatic up and coming artists, carving out own way in a city saturated with wannabes and imitators.

After being named London's cultural epicentre in *Vogue* 2015, Peckham still maintains its rare, unique, undiscovered quality, making every good night of live music here that little bit more special. Peckham retains its working-class roots – a walk down Rye Lane still greets the eye with halal butcher shops, countless street vendors roaring offers of better deals, echoing up the high street. Don't get me wrong, it has changed a lot in the last five years. Slowly but surely, the high street is becoming transformed. You can now have your oat-mocha-choka-boka-latté, a few doors down from where you had spicy tacos and cocktails last night. All crammed in, on a Monday no less. Yet the spirit of Peckham remains untainted, the ageing hipsters of East London are yet to suck the soul out of this place. Here we recommend a few places where you can experience live music in southeast London. And who knows, maybe these places will be your new haunts.

Voodoo Ray's

Walk into the art deco inspired pizzeria at the southern end of Rye Lane on a Thursday night and you're greeted with a cosmic buzz. Abel's Collective, the house band for this jam night of 'cosmic fusion', are a group of young talented musicians brimming with inspiration. Led by the bass player Abel Addington, Abel's Collective lay down classic grooves from the jazz fusion realm with his drummer Jon Onabowu and guitarist Chris Booth. Accompanied by Tom Waters on sax (arguably one of the finest young players on the circuit) and on keys by David Mrakpor (one half of Blue Lab Beats which if you don't know it, get to know it), these musicians politely take turns soloing throughout the evening, leaving the audience enraptured and mesmerised. Sitting in American diner-style booths, it is the perfect evening to enjoy talented musicians with a few of your friends chatting over pizza and a few beers. Be warned – the music can be a bit loud, to the un-

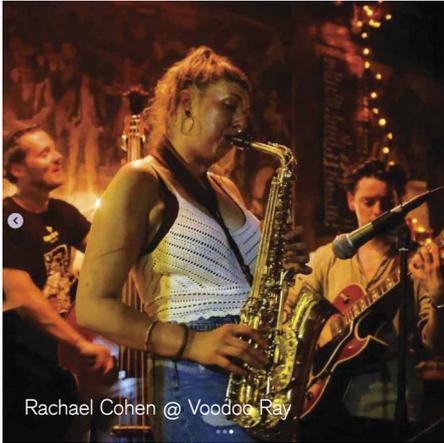
initiated. But a pair of earplugs, or a seat at the back of the room, can help make this a thoroughly enjoyable Thursday night, and the volume is arguably necessary to the music and the experience.

Every Thursday from 19.00, Voodoo Ray's – Peckham, 285 Rye Ln, London SE15 4UA, admission free.

Prince of Peckham

On a Friday and Saturday, the Prince of Peckham is brimming with punters, from the kitchen to the bar. On Sundays, however, one experiences a very different mood. The smooth sound of jazz provides a tranquil wind-down from the weekend accompanied by food from White Men Can't Jerk, serving a combination of classic jerk chicken and Caribbean fusion. When you taste their food, you will find that these white men can indeed 'jerk'. On a typical Sunday, you will be greeted with the Rhythm Section Trio consisting of double bass, keys and guitar. However, on

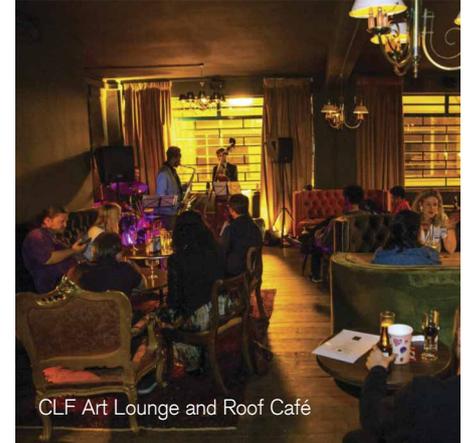
“You can now have your oat-mocha-choka-boka-latté, a few doors down from where you had spicy tacos and cocktails last night. All crammed in, on a Monday no less.”



Rachael Cohen @ Voodoo Ray



Prince of Peckham



CLF Art Lounge and Roof Café

“These musicians politely take turns soloing throughout the evening, leaving the audience enraptured and mesmerised.”

a recent Sunday I had the pleasure of watching Roadman Princess, a new addition to the Rising Sun Collective. The Rising Sun Collective define themselves as a “music & art collective/creator house in Peckham” boasting a plethora of artists under their creator house banner. Some of the names to pass through their doors include Tom Odell, AJ Tracy and Yussef Dayes, a prestigious roll call of alumni. Roadman Princess’ voice is otherworldly. Casually taking stage in a grey suit, done up but with no shirt and poised on black high-heeled boots, on a stool and accompanied only by a very talented guitarist, he began with a few covers before going on to some original material. In awe of his voice, the modest gathering of punters sits reminiscing of past lovers whilst singing along. In short, Roadman Princess is an act you do not want to miss. And I’d recommend seeing him before he starts selling out big venues.

Every Sunday from 20.00, Prince of Peckham Pub, 1 Clayton Rd, London SE15 5JA, admission free

CLF Art Lounge and Roof Cafe

On a cold Wednesday night, my housemates and I attended the CLF Art Lounge and Roof Garden, favouring a relaxed

evening of jazz, rather than the typical pub outing. Located just moments from Peckham Rye station, the venue itself is tucked away behind an old black door, which one would never stumble upon without knowledge of its existence in the first place (you’re welcome). This is the Nu Jazz Generations event, which takes place every Wednesday, hosting a range of promising new jazz musicians, most of whom are currently students. The overall layout is similar to that of a speakeasy, oozing seduction with its array of plush velvet sofas and dim lighting. As well as serving up authentic Dominican food, the venue itself is sponsored by Hennessy, so expect an array of cognac-heavy cocktails on the menu. It’s a sister venue to Bussey Building, a well-known event space home to the infamous club night, ‘The South London Soul Train’. The lounge itself hosts a variety of events from cabaret, comedy, spoken word to live intimate concerts every week on their rooftop garden and speakeasy lounge. The live jazz, organised by Goldsmith’s student Casey Tufnell consisted of several musicians, two of whom stood out, Remi Martin, the aforementioned Roadman Princess, alongside another group of Goldsmiths graduates, The Cerys Eliza Quintet. Their set consisted of old jazz classics with a modern upbeat twist, as well as more recent Amy Winehouse tracks with which the crowd were more familiar, mouthing the words as they watched. A memorable moment was their final song, ‘British Summertime’, an original written by lead singer Cerys who laments over past summer flings, a concept we all know too well. Her voice at the mere age of 21 boasts maturity and soul, a rare find in someone so young.

Every Wednesday from 19:00, CLF Art Lounge and Roof Garden, 4A–12A Station Way, London SE15 4RX, admission free

London is an expensive city; we are all aware of this. We hope this article has highlighted that with getting off the hamster wheel, venturing outside of the typical ‘good places’, great music and evenings are out there for a fraction of the cost. In an era when London can feel like it is losing its authenticity, Peckham re-confirms that London is still cool. Not cool in a ‘trendy’ Shoreditch, crass, hipster plague way; cool as in authentic, talented, and exciting. It’s the reason so many of us go out, live in, or frequent this city. With two Overground stations, or a 20-minute bus from the Northern line at Elephant and Castle, getting to Peckham from anywhere in London is far from difficult. Seeing new music expands your horizons and inspires you in a multitude of ways. Music has been scientifically proven to lower blood pressure, reduce pain and anxiety – so why deprive yourself? Greatness is often just around the corner, and in this case, it’s waiting for you, south of the river.



Isaac Rowlands and Alisha Chopra are both third-year anthropology students at Goldsmiths, University of London. United by their love for live music they both enjoy spending evenings at various local music venues. You can find what they’re listening to on their respective Instagrams, @alishachopra_ and @guccipard