

# Lauren Laverne unplugged... Grazia's arts columnist on charity haiku, Alice In Wonderland and the genius of Gorillaz

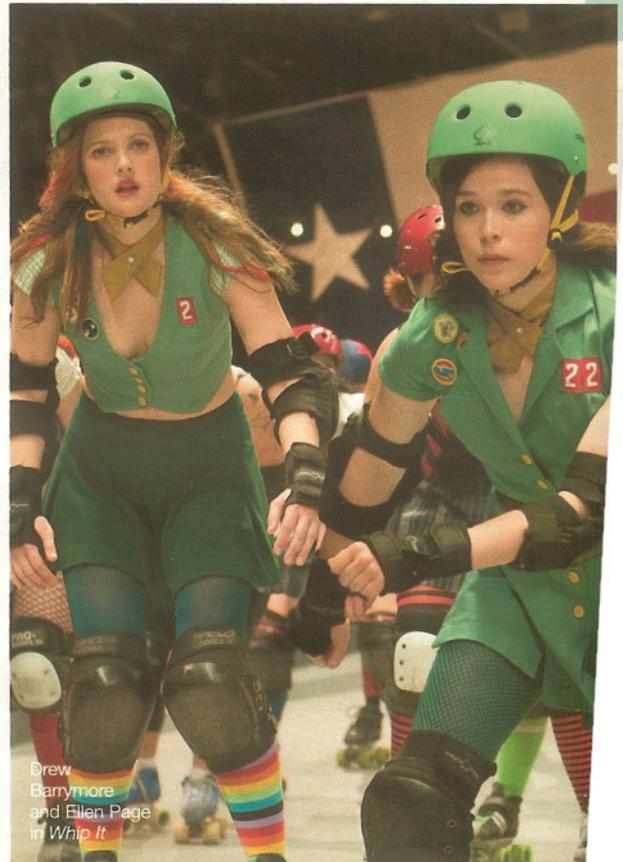


Catch Lauren Laverne's BBC 6 Music radio show from 10am until 1pm every weekday

Main photo: Oliver Pearce. Painting: Portrait Of John Edwards

## CULTURE IN BLOOM!

London in spring is joyous, especially this week. Two fabulous festivals are due to bloom along with the daffs: first up is the London Word Festival, a celebration of the nominative, adjectival and otherwise (think music, literature, theatre and live art), taking place at a selection of unorthodox venues in the ultra-cool East End. Highlights include the creation of a full-size chip shop, which then serves up screen prints rather than battered cod and mushy peas, and a one-man staging of MR James's ghost story *Oh, Whistle And I'll Come To You, My Lad*. Meanwhile, the South Bank is abuzz with the Birds Eye View film festival, a celebration of female film with a killer bill. Drew Barrymore will be popping by to screen her directorial debut, *Whip It*, there'll be a masterclass from Oscar-nominated filmmaker Susanne Bier, and *Blonde Crazy*, a season of screenings at the BFI paying homage to celluloid's most iconic blondes. 7 Mar-1 Apr, [www.londonwordfestival.com](http://www.londonwordfestival.com); 4-12 Mar; [www.birds-eye-view.co.uk](http://www.birds-eye-view.co.uk)



Drew Barrymore and Ellen Page in *Whip It*

### No rider required

Spookily enough, this week's biggest albums come from artists who don't actually exist. First, Damon Albarn's virtual supergroup Gorillaz releases *Plastic Beach*, boasting an eclectic contributor list: Snoop Dogg, Bobby Womack and Guy Garvey. Then, from beyond the grave comes Jimi Hendrix's *Valleys Of Neptune*, an authentic collection of a dozen previously unreleased tracks. Literally unreal. [www.myspace.com/gorillaz](http://www.myspace.com/gorillaz); [www.jimihendrix.com](http://www.jimihendrix.com)



### Down the rabbit hole...

If this week's release of Tim Burton's *Alice In Wonderland* has left you as keen as me to remain the other side of the looking glass, why not head to open-air performance *Alice In Woodland*, staged among the snowdrops of Valleyfield Woodland Park, followed by a Mad Hatter's tea party? All care of Fife's Kinetic Theatre! 7 Mar, [www.kineticgroup.org](http://www.kineticgroup.org)



### Tortured genius

It would be hard to find a more picturesque location for a gallery than Warwickshire's Grade I-listed country mansion, Compton Verney, but its new exhibition is anything but picture-postcard cosy. It focuses on the visceral genius of Francis Bacon and the film and imagery that inspired his work. *Francis Bacon: In Camera*, 27 Mar-20 June; [www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk)

### Haiku for ActionAid

Charity poems, about ladies! Like Yoko, who wrote one. It's good. Released to coincide with International Women's Day, *See Me, Hear Me, Read Me*, £15, features haikus (17-syllable poems) from the likes of Judi Dench, Bonnie Greer and Carol Ann Duffy. Pre-order at [www.actionaid.org.uk](http://www.actionaid.org.uk).



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