## NEVILLE HAIR & BEAUTY (HAIR), LISA FRANKLIN (MAKEUP) COCOSA (STYLING). PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOM DUNKLEY

## Welcome LETTER



outh London is proud of its diversity, and rightly so. It's something that's clear to see in its street food. At Pop Brixton, the cuisine curious can gorge on everything from Ghanaian dishes from Zoe's Ghana Kitchen to German sausages at World of Wurst. Pop celebrated its second birthday this year, but it's still going strong – so much so that it made the number one spot in our guide to alfresco dining and drinking (page 13). Little ones are catered to in the area, too, with our cover star Ella Mills opening her most family-friendly deli yet in Herne Hill, which she tells us she was drawn to for its strong community vibe.

Another celebration of multicultural south London is the arrival of the first memorial commemorating the two million African and Caribbean servicemen and women who served in the two world wars in Windrush Square. As we go to press, I read that the unveiling ceremony is set to be accompanied on 22 June by a military salute, street masqueraders, puppets and stilt walkers taking inspiration from Trinidad's carnival culture. In the aftermath of the London Bridge terror attack, I can't help but be proud to be a part of an inclusive, creative and welcoming city in which the calendar is packed with events such as this. Turn to our Arena listings section, and dates for your diary include *Shubbak*, London's festival of contemporary Arab culture, which brings a wide-ranging and though-provoking programme of art, music, drama, debate and spoken word events to us

from 1-16 July. There's also the London Indian Film Festival, which returns to cinemas across London including the BFI Southbank this month. Also not to be missed is our special focus on why London's cabaret scene is unique, as various acts bring fun and spectacle to the Underbelly Festival. These are all just a few reasons why I'm supporting the Mayor's powerful #LondonIsOpen campaign. I hope you enjoy the issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together,

Madeleine Howell, Assistant Editor

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