

# Time Out

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## STEVE COOGAN GUEST EDITS TIME OUT!

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**Dance Umbrella: Tiago Guedes**

See Tue.

**Flamenco Flamen'ka** See Thur.

**Influx Dance** Croydon Clocktower, Katharine St, Croydon, CR9 1ET. 020 8253 1030. West Croydon rail. Wed 7.30pm; £10, cones £5-£7.50. [croydonclocktower.org.uk](http://croydonclocktower.org.uk). A triple bill of contemporary dance from Bawren Tavaziva, Yael Flexer and Joanne Willmott.

**\* Manon** See Sat.

**\* The Mariinsky Ballet** See Mon.

**Play Ball** artsdepot, 5 Nether St, Tolly Ho Corner, North Finchley, N12 0GA. 020 8369 5454. **\* Finchley Central**. Wed 8pm; £15, cones £13. [artsdepot.co.uk](http://artsdepot.co.uk). Winner of the 2006 Place Prize, Nina Rajarani, takes Bharata Natyam into places it has never been before. 'Play Ball' is her take on laddish life in London, from the football pitch to the City boardroom. Testosterone-fuelled all the way.

**Russian Roulette** See Mon.

**Sujata Banerjee Dance Company** Purcell Room, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, SE1 8XX. 0871 663 2585. **\* Waterloo**. Wed 8pm; £13.

[southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk). Innovative dance theatre work using kathak, narrative and music to re-tell the story of an extraordinary woman from the eighteenth century.

**West Side Story** See Tue.

## Noticeboard

### Go dancing

**Classes online** For full dance class listings see [timeout.com/london/dance](http://timeout.com/london/dance)

### Danceboard

**Adam Linder wins Place Prize** The 25-year-old former Royal Ballet dancer Adam Linder has won this year's Place Prize for his piece 'Foie Gras'. Linder's work was chosen by a judging panel including poet Lemn Sissay and architect John Pawson, and he banks £25,000 alongside the honour. Choreographer Dam Van Huynh won the audience prize every night during the ten final performances, and takes home £10,000 as a result.

**\* Dance Umbrella: Back at the BBC** BFI Southbank, Belvedere Rd, SE1 8XT. 0844 412 4312.

**\* Waterloo/Embankment**. Thur 6.10pm; £8.60, cones £5.25-£6.25.

[danceumbrella.co.uk](http://danceumbrella.co.uk). **\* Oct 9**. A selection of rarely seen dance films from the BBC archive, including early work from Richard Alston, Aletta Collins and Michael Clark, as well as a Dance Umbrella-themed edition of 'Omnibus' from 1984 and an interview with US dance critic Sally Banes, author of 'Terpsichore in Sneakers'.

**Independent Dance: Crossing Borders** Siobhan Davies Studios, 85 St George's Road, SE1 6ER. 0870 730 1414. **\* Elephant & Castle**. Tue 7pm; £5, cones £2.50 (£1.50 for entire series). [independentdance.co.uk](http://independentdance.co.uk). **\* Oct 14**. A weekly series of conversations with artists from within and outside dance. This week, artist Clare Twomey is in conversation with Siobhan Davies.

**London Ballet Circle** Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL. 07870 116 302. **\* Holborn**. Thur 6.30pm; £6, mens £3. **\* Oct 9**. The London Ballet Circle hosts an interview with David McAllister, artistic director of the Australian Ballet.

**\* FREE Exhibition: Sylphides and Faeries** Royal Opera House, Bow Street, WC2E 9DD. 020 7304 4000. **\* Covent Garden**. Mon-Sat 10am-3.30pm. [roh.org.uk](http://roh.org.uk). **\* Feb 2009**. An exhibition of puppetry, costumes, designs, prints and photographs on a magical theme including Margot Fonteyn's costume from 'Les Sylphides'.

### FOR MORE LISTINGS

**\* [www.timeout.com/london](http://www.timeout.com/london)**

# DVD

## Pills and spills



**Dave Calhoun** examines four British films from the 1960s – all now on DVD – that offer a glimpse into how radical change rubbed against conservative forces in that extraordinary decade

Britain and the 1960s: the pill, radical changes in the law relating to homosexuality and abortion, rising immigration and a widening generation gap. As our society was dealing with rapid change, so too was our cinema in its own, curious way. There were well-known, enduring films of the period that tackled 'new' social issues and preceded both the Abortion Act of 1967 and the Sexual Offences Act (which decriminalised homosexuality) of the same year – for instance, Dirk Bogarde brought homophobia to screens in 'Victim' in 1961, while Michael Caine blundered his way through unwanted pregnancy and abortion in 'Alfie' in 1966. Babies – born and unborn – were the unsung co-stars of the decade's cinema: just recently, the DVD release of 1968's 'Up the Junction' reminded audiences of the enduring culture of backstreet terminations that Mike Leigh was later to portray less hysterically and with the wisdom of hindsight in 'Vera Drake' in 2004.

This week sees the release on DVD of four other films from the 1960s, some better known than others and each of which contributed to our cinema's



**Careless whispers** (clockwise from top) Carol White in 'Poor Cow'; Ian MacKellen and Sandy Dennis in 'A Touch of Love'; Thora Hird and June Ritchie in 'A Kind of Loving'

### 'A Kind of Loving' is a pre-pill tale of babies and marriage

new social consciousness and reflected changing attitudes and enduring values in British society. To watch them isn't always edifying in a purely critical sense, and some of the filmmakers' attitudes now appear dated and even patronising, but each film offers its own window into elements of the changing national psyche. Interestingly, each was also based on a novel or a play – a fact which in the case of at least three of the films reflected a new movement in literature by working-class writers (as opposed to the generally more upscale provenance of the filmmakers).



The earliest of the four films are Tony Richardson's 'A Taste of Honey' from 1961 (based on Shelagh Delaney's play) and John Schlesinger's 'A Kind of Loving' from 1962 (from Stan Barstow's novel). The first tells of Jane (Rita Tushingham), a young Salford woman who falls pregnant by a black sailor before moving in with a gay male flatmate – but not without encountering pain and prejudice along the way. The same industrial north setting was the background to 'A Kind of Loving', a pre-pill tale of a couple (June Ritchie and Alan Bates) whose relationship automatically – and unhappily – turns into marriage when she falls pregnant.

Later in the decade came Ken Loach's 'Poor Cow' (from Neil Dunne's novel), his 1968 portrait of a mother (Carol White) struggling to survive after her husband is jailed. Also from that time, and the least known, is Waris Hussein's 1969 'A Touch of Love' (from Margaret Drabble's novel), which proved that portraits of hardship were not the exclusive preserve of working-class subjects.

It's worth pondering that last film, the rarest of these titles: serious in subject but shaky in execution, 'A Touch of Love' again offers unwanted pregnancy as the dish of the day. But what makes Hussein's film unusual is that it's set among the liberated folk of London's upper-middle-class media and literary set. Sandy Dennis is Rosamund, the daughter of 'high-minded Fabian economists', who lives alone in a flat north of Oxford Street and who we first meet mulling over the results of a positive pregnancy test in the old British Library.

Rosamund has an unsure approach to relationships and when she falls pregnant by one of the men in her life (a dashing television presenter played by Ian MacKellen) she's left to raise a child alone. The film arrived a year after the Abortion Act came into force yet loudly claimed that for many – including those of the 'enlightened' metropolitan class – little had changed: an early scene shows Rosamund contemplating an abortion with the help of a bottle of gin and a steaming bath. In retrospect, as at the time, it's a sad, shocking image. 'A Kind of Loving', 'A Taste of Honey', 'A Touch of Love' and 'Poor Cow' are all released on Monday.

[timeout.com/film](http://timeout.com/film)

### Also out this week ...

Caligula: Imperial Edition', 'Silent Voices', 'Criminal Justice', 'Gone Baby Gone', 'Ruins'