

THE ART OF LIVING

MARIANKA SWAIN SHARES HER CAPITAL CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

EXHIBITION PICASSO 1932: LOVE, FAME, TRAGEDY

Tate Modern focuses on one crucial year in Picasso's life – his "year of wonders". More than 100 paintings, sculptures and drawings illustrate his prolific output, while private photographs provide a glimpse of his complex personal life.

In 1932, Picasso created some of his best-loved works, from vivid portraits to Surrealist masterpieces. Tender depictions of his wife and son are in striking contrast to the sexually charged paintings of his new lover, Marie-Thérèse Walter.

Three of the latter will be shown together for the first time since they were created in just five days:

the iconic trio of *Nude, Green Leaves and Bust, Nude in a Black Armchair and The Mirror*.

The year ended traumatically, with Walter falling ill – an event that inspired Picasso's scenes of rescue and rape. From family to eroticism, passion to darkness, the exhibition captures a furiously creative moment in the great artist's career.

Until September 9
Tate Modern, Bankside SE1
Adults £22, under-12s free
www.tate.org.uk



'Woman on the Beach'



'Reclining Nude'

COMMUTER CORNER

The latest must- binge true crime series is Audible podcast *West Cork* (free with a monthly trial). Jennifer Forde and Sam Bungey examine the 1996 murder of French film producer Sophie Toscan du Plantier, whose body was found near her holiday home in Ireland's West Cork. It's a gripping tale of violence in a seemingly peaceful rural spot, with major twists and fascinating access to a lead suspect.

How are you livening up your commute?
Let us know via Twitter @Move_To



FILM LADY BIRD

Greta Gerwig's directorial debut is a triumphant take on the coming-of-age story: equally hilarious and agonising. She draws on her own childhood in Sacramento, California, which perhaps explains the film's searing authenticity, but its pitch-perfect naturalism also heralds Gerwig as a serious talent.

Saoirse Ronan's endearingly flawed teenager, brimming with unearned confidence, longs to be in New York – "where culture is". She's oblivious to her cash-strapped parents' sacrifices, which leads to conflict with her blunt mother, deftly played by Laurie Metcalf.

Yet their intimacy means a constant swing between arguments and singalongs, tears and mutual pleasure. It's a perceptive portrait of the mother-daughter relationship at this fraught stage – inextricably bound, yet unable to understand one another's point of view.

With great turns from Timothée Chalamet, Lucas Hedges and in particular Saoirse Ronan as Lady Bird's long-suffering best friend, this is a beautifully observed piece about home, whose importance sometimes only becomes apparent in the rear-view mirror.



THEATRE MARY STUART

A coin toss decides which parts Juliet Stevenson and Lia Williams will play on the night: Protestant Elizabeth I, or her Catholic rival Mary Queen of Scots. Robert Icke's modern-dress version of Friedrich Schiller's play immediately asserts that power is an illusion, and historical truth is slippery.

Stevenson and Williams wear androgynous suits, but female leadership is under the microscope. The pair are constantly defined by gender; courtiers fear women's "crocodile tears", but should really fear their ability to shape-shift.

Both queens understand that survival depends on how they're perceived. Stevenson's dignified Mary is variously damsel, mother, ruler, lover or martyr. Williams's sardonic Elizabeth employs masculine swagger, but also weaponises sensuality.

John Light, Rudi Dharmalingam, Elliot Levey and Michael Byrne are compelling as the similarly performative politicians – court acting as a microcosm for a fractured, uncertain nation.

Hildegard Bechtler's stone-walled set is both castle and dungeon, and the revolve evokes the fickle wheel of fortune. A stunning climax (accompanied by an original Laura Marling song) asks which queen is ultimately trapped and which liberated. History as a vital modern thriller.

Until March 31
Duke of York's Theatre,
Covent Garden WC2N
Tickets from £10
www.atgtickets.com

