# Parthenope shines at Cannes as Thunderbolts adds fresh twists to MCU



The latest cinematic offerings in UK theatres include notable releases such as *Parthenope* and *Thunderbolts*, both now available to audiences. Directed by Paolo Sorrentino, *Parthenope* stars Gary Oldman and Celeste Dalla Porta in a richly woven narrative that spans several decades. Set against the picturesque backdrop of Naples, the film explores the coming-of-age journey of a young woman born by the sea in 1950, embodying Sorrentino's signature style that channels the visual splendour reminiscent of Fellini. This film follows its prior selection at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, highlighting its artistic merit and director’s evolving cinematic voice.

Similarly, *Thunderbolts* enters the fray as a notable addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Florence Pugh returns as Yelena Belova, the adopted sister of Black Widow, inciting further intrigue as she battles against Julia Louis-Dreyfus’s character, Valentina Allegra de Fontaine. The film promises to engage fans of the franchise through its intricate character dynamics and narrative developments.

In addition, Edinburgh's Folk Film Gathering, taking place until 11 May, is celebrating its return at venues such as the Cameo and the Scottish Storytelling Centre. This year’s event includes a blend of new and archival cinema complemented by live music and storytelling. Notable performances feature Irish fiddler Benedict Morris, Welsh harpist Gwen Màiri Yorke, and a Ukrainian choir from Edinburgh, aiming to create a rich cultural experience that encapsulates diverse folk stories.

The Queer East Festival is also in full swing until 18 May across various London venues, showcasing over 100 films celebrating queer culture from East and Southeast Asia. Among its highlights is the UK premiere of the documentary *Edhi Alice*, delving into the transgender experience in South Korea through the eyes of activist Ilrhan Kim.

On the concert scene, the US alt-rock duo Twenty One Pilots is bringing their tour to Glasgow from 5 to 14 May, in support of their seventh album *Clancy*, which intertwines narratives from a nearly decade-long conceptual series. This arena tour promises an engaging spectacle, blending musical intricacies with visual flair.

Also noteworthy is the revival of *Excursions of Mr Brouček* at Barbican Hall, London, on 4 and 6 May. Conducted by Simon Rattle, this rarity composed by Janáček serves as a satirical commentary on capitalist greed, following the titular character's whimsical adventures through time and space.

Art enthusiasts can explore Huma Bhabha’s exhibition alongside Alberto Giacometti at the Barbican Centre beginning 8 May, while Lisa Milroy's latest works showcase expansive representations of the sky at the Kate MacGarry Gallery, reflecting her artistic evolution.

The stage continues to mesmerise, with performances such as *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi’s Wives* at the Arcola Theatre until 31 May, and *Takeaway*, which highlights the struggles of a Caribbean family business adapting to contemporary challenges, also running at the Liverpool Everyman theatre until 17 May.

For those interested in streaming, *Poker Face*, a quirky detective series starring Natasha Lyonne, is available on Sky Max, while *The Handmaid’s Tale* returns for its sixth season on Channel 4, further exploring its continuing narrative of resistance against a patriarchal regime.

This week’s cultural offerings reflect a vibrant arts landscape across cinema, music, theatre, and visual arts, providing diverse experiences for audiences to engage with both contemporary issues and timeless narratives.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.filmdates.co.uk/films/1011488-parthenope/> - This source confirms that 'Parthenope' was released in UK cinemas on 2 May 2025, supporting the article's mention of its availability to audiences.
2. <https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/marvel-movies/thunderbolts-release-date-trailer-cast-plot-marvel/> - This article details the release of 'Thunderbolts' in UK theaters on 1 May 2025, aligning with the article's statement about its availability.
3. <https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/marvel-movies/thunderbolts-director-says-the-movie-tries-to-start-fresh-with-all-its-characters-even-bucky-barnes-who-made-his-mcu-debut-14-years-ago/> - This source discusses director Jake Schreier's approach to giving each character, including Bucky Barnes, a fresh start in 'Thunderbolts', supporting the article's mention of character dynamics.
4. <https://www.gamesradar.com/entertainment/marvel-movies/thunderbolts-cast-and-character-guide-whos-who-in-the-marvel-phase-5-movie/> - This guide provides information on the cast and character dynamics in 'Thunderbolts', corroborating the article's mention of Florence Pugh's return as Yelena Belova and the film's character developments.
5. <https://www.filmdates.co.uk/films/1011488-parthenope/> - This source confirms that 'Parthenope' was released in UK cinemas on 2 May 2025, supporting the article's mention of its availability to audiences.
6. <https://www.filmdates.co.uk/films/1011488-parthenope/> - This source confirms that 'Parthenope' was released in UK cinemas on 2 May 2025, supporting the article's mention of its availability to audiences.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/may/03/going-out-staying-in-complete-guide-weeks-entertainment> - Please view link - unable to able to access data