

The 100 greatest arts tweeters

General

★ 1 Perez Hilton @perezhilton

So over-the-top, it's hard to believe he's real, but the celebrity blogger can keep you guiltily detained for hours. Hyperventilating from the Hollywood Hills, Hilton displays child-like glee at celebrity birthdays: "Hey @ladygaga! Happy birthday, bitch!!! BornThisDay LOVE YOU!!!! xoxo," read a recent post. Britney exclusives are a favourite. All the bubblegum pop-stars are here.

★ 2 Arts Council England @ace_national

Twitter-savvy users gazed up the ACE on cuts results this week, but the ACE does send out summaries of speeches at its conferences and advertise Arts Council jobs.

★ 3 Arts Desk @theartsdesk

A commendable gush of self-edited

film, gig, concert and exhibition reviews by respected critics.

★ 4 Ekow Eshun @ekoweshun

The former ICA director champions ethnic minorities, highlighting the *Midsomer Murders* all-white village debate and the death of the rapper Nate Dogg.

★ 5 Stephen Fry @stephenfry

Whether he has seen Watteau's drawings, has been surfing YouTube for Daniel Craig in drag or has just had acupuncture ("a miracle"), the polymath will share it. He generously follows 52,762.

★ 6 Jeremy Hunt @jeremy_hunt

Creative tweeting might not be his forte, but it's reassuring to know the Secretary of State for Culture has visited the Olympic Park.

★ 7 Piers Morgan @piersmorgan

The transatlantic broadcaster puffs and preens with his famous friends Freddie Flintoff and Lord Sugar and reveals all about the time he met a rabbi in a lift.

★ 8 Charlotte Higgins @chiggi

The *Guardian's* hyperactive chief arts correspondent weighs in on everything from tutus to techno.

★ 9 Norman Lebrecht @nlebrecht

The commentator is not afraid to outrage, whether he's sharing news about sacked musicians or deploring a decision by the Arts Council.

★ 10 Matthew Cain @matthewcainC4

Whether he's watching a film about paraplegic musicians in the Congo or has received a royal sticker album, Channel 4's culture editor shows infectious enthusiasm.

★ 11 BBC Front Row @BBCFrontrow

Previews plus listen again reminders about who's been on the Radio 4 programme that evening.

★ 12 Caitlin Moran @caitlinmoran

"A woman yes, but still funny," is how our fearlessly irreverent columnist describes herself; we'd have to agree.

★ 13 Ed Vaizey @edvaizey

More signs of life here than other MPs, but a bit of a stop-start flow from Vaizey; when you disappear from Twitter for more than a day, it's like disappearing for a century on Earth.

Comedy

★ 14 Russell Brand @rustyrocks

What a talent: to be charming and insulting simultaneously. "I hear @katyperry rocked Manchester — she's the new Noel Gallagher. I'll have to watch her eyebrows don't join-up." When not engaging in banter with his wife ("you little twerp"), Brand can be professional: he'll gladly tell you what it's like to be at the Oscars or in *The Simpsons*. Expect a couple of tweets a day.

★ 15 Chris Addison @mrchrisaddison

The politically impassioned comedian can tweet 60 times in 24 hours; he has recently called Conservative co-chairman Baroness Warsi "an idiot".

★ 16 Bill Bailey @billbailey

Swerving from a clever quip about Libya to a picture of an accessory for a disco-loving dog, Bailey covers it all.

★ 17 Frankie Boyle @frankieboyle

As well as plugging his appearances, he occasionally insults colleagues (Mark Watson is "a sell-out" and "a c***").

★ 18 Chortle @chortle

Four or five snappy, pun-filled updates a day with links to their website reviews of stand-up shows and insider news; they follow only their sister sites.

★ 19 Miranda Hart @mermhart

The Radio 2 presenter has asked "peeps" to supply her with questions for her guests David Baddiel and Will Young.

★ 20 Josie Long @josielong

Before a tirade against the arts cuts took over, the comedian took whimsical trips to the Brontë parsonage or the Ashmolean Museum.

★ 21 Eddie Izzard @eddieizzard

A steady stream of hard-hitting posts about Libya, Yemen and British politics, plus follower interaction.

★ 22 Stephen Mangan @stephenmangan

When not composing nonsense poems, the actor digs up YouTube clips of yoga farmers, at least he used to in the days before the arts cuts.

★ 23 Dara O Briain @daraobriain

The *Mock the Week* presenter has been championing AV by comparing voting systems worldwide.

★ 24 Mark Watson @watsoncomedian

The comedian worries that his baby resembles Wayne Rooney and that his wife is obsessed with *Angry Birds*, but has mainly been advertising his Australian tour.



T

Follow our arts team @timesfilm, @timesmusic, @timestelevision, @timesvisualarts and @timesfestivals

Pop

★ 25 Imogen Heap @imogenheap

An astounding number of followers, 1,516,213, for a London-born artist who isn't quite a household name. Yet. The Grammy award-winner has been charting the progress of her latest single, *Lifeline*, sourced from sounds uploaded by her fans in painstaking detail. A Twitter innovator, she wore a dress to last year's Grammys displaying her live feed.

★ 26 Lily Allen @lilyroseallen

The singer-turned-fashion designer has been fuming over "the d***" who leaked her wedding details to the press (in case you're not on Twitter, you're no longer invited).

★ 27 Kanye West @kanywest

Infrequent tweets as much about style and attitude as about music. **BBC6 Music @BBC6Music** A detailed signposting to posts on their website; Elbow, Björk and Pink Floyd are the sorts of names to watch.

★ 28 Justin Bieber @justinbieber

"Watching Yogi bear, don't judge me," read a recent post; you must be a believer now.

★ 29 Britney Spears @britneyspears

Feel the love between Brit and Bieber on this official feed that the self-confessed "boring homebody" shares with her manager.

★ 30 George Michael @georgemichael

Wake up to the "sad news" that his sock is "a goner", go to sleep to a clip of his Labrador saying goodnight: hilarious.

★ 31 Katy Perry @katyperry

Perry and Calvin Harris have been squawking at each other after the DJ allegedly dropped out of her Dublin show. Usually, Perry posts enthusiastic updates and interacts with fans.

★ 32 Lady Gaga @ladygaga

That the queen of fame is the most followed person on Twitter has little to do with what she tells the "little monsters". Keeping the real Stefani Germanotta under wraps, the singer mainly plugs new releases. But one tweet made headlines:

★ 33 Paste magazine @pastemagazine

Stream the latest new music and catch-up on film reviews and news at this indie-leaning feed of American cool.

★ 34 Popjustice @popjustice

If you have strong feelings about vintage *Top of the Pops* shows (or the quality of Mint Feasts), tune into Peter Robinson's independent music feed.

★ 35 Record of the Day @recordoftheday

As the name suggests, a new track every day from unsigned acts or recognisable names (Guillemots are a recent offering).

Film & TV

★ 37 Jonathan Ross @wossy

You can hear Wossy speak when you read his tweets. He's personable and prolific. The broadcaster chats freely about culture (he loved *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*), his children (of course) and his pug, Mr Pickle — complete with adorable pictures, if you like that kind of thing.

★ 38 British Film Institute @bfi

The BFI's speciality tweet is a quotation from a film-maker born on the day of posting.

★ 39 Cannes @cannes 2011

Come May 11, when the festival starts, this feed (in French and English) will be indispensable for the latest screenings from the yacht brigade.

★ 40 Cinematical @cinematical

The AOL-owned account has an informal feel, with features and a recent rant about Jennifer Garner's youthful Miss Marple.

★ 41 Armando Iannucci @aiannucci

The self-described "comedy satwitterist" swings from despairing over world crises to revelling in fictional swearsy film remakes (*Hannah and her Effing Sisters*).

★ 42 Indiewire @indiewire

This news and reviews feed from the New York site is aimed at "independent-minded film-makers and moviegoers" and has an aptly warm and chatty feel.

★ 43 Guy Lodge @guylodge

Johannesburg-born Lodge blogs about movies, soundtracks and occasionally Britney.

★ 44 Kate Muir @muirkate

Razor-sharp mini-reviews with star ratings from *The Times's* indispensable our chief film critic.

★ 45 Michael Caine @themichaelcaine

"Just got over flu, stopped worrying about that, started worrying about Egypt, might want the flu back." Cute.

★ 46 Peter Serafinowicz @serafinowicz

The comic actor tries out material. "Dear Sir/Madam, Your transgender operation was a partial success."

★ 47 Charlie Sheen @charliesheen

The words "fastball", "warlock" and "winning" will never be the same again; the disgraced actor follows Paris Hilton, Sylvester Stallone and Piers Morgan.

★ 48 David Schneider @davidschneider

The comic actor's quirky take on topics of the day suits highbrow affairs (Ed Miliband's marriage) as much as it does gossip (Rebecca Black's singing).

★ 49 Digital Spy @digitalspy

Gossip posts from the TV, music and showbiz site.

★ 50 Peter Sciretta @slashfilm

The rolling news linked to the Hollywood-based website *Slash Film* is less biased towards horror and sci-fi than its title suggests.

★ 51 The Hollywood Reporter @thr

A constant stream of great analysis on film (Elizabeth Taylor), TV (*Mad Men*) and music (Rihanna) with the expected American bias.

★ 52 Time Out @timeoutfilm

Reviews from their critics mostly, with news about London talks and screenings.

★ 53 Total Film @totalfilm

The UK-based film magazine loosely structures its posts (Tuesdays are Top Five days, on Wednesdays you can ask a question), but mostly it unveils movie posters.

★ 54 Ultra Culture @ultraculture

When you've had enough of overly serious critics, head to Charlie Lyne's perky and respected film-fan feed, linked to a blog Lynn started three years ago, aged 18.

★ 55 Variety @variety

A wealth of screen business news from around the world from the LA-based magazine.

★ 56 Melissa Silverstein @mselil

Based in New York, Silverstein runs the *Women in Hollywood* website and posts a Hollywood feminist of the day on her Twitter feed, among starry film news.

Theatre

★ 57 Royal Shakespeare Company @theRSC

Last year's innovation was *Such Tweet Sorrow*, a version of *Romeo & Juliet* played out over five weeks in tweets across the site. The current stream of tweets is more mundane, but perhaps more practical. There's a steady flow of links to blogs on the company's website, new production announcements and rehearsal pictures.

★ 58 Dominic Cavendish @domcavendish

The *Daily Telegraph* critic knows how to get hold of tickets for those must-see plays, just follow his links.

★ 59 Edinburgh International Festival @Edinfest

Just launched. If you have ideas for the feed, you could apply for their digital marketing job; the details are on Twitter, the deadline is noon today.

★ 60 Kneehigh @wearekneehigh

Disappointingly little insider information from Emma Rice's company, but a cheery tone.

★ 61 Mark Shenton @shentonstage

The London-based critic posts his spiky one-line reviews and news at commendable set-changing speed.

★ 62 Kevin Spacey @kevinspacey

Considered updates from the Old Vic artistic director, but maybe he will give more away when he returns to the stage in *Richard III*.

★ 63 National Theatre @nationaltheatre

Ticket sale updates mostly, with the odd link to a review.

★ 64 Lyn Gardner @lyngardner

The *Guardian's* theatre critic has been engaging with companies who have lost funding this week.

★ 65 Paines Plough @painesplough

The company are so enthusiastic about their productions that a recent post about Mike Bartlett's *Love, Love, Love* in Leicester noted a dog "barked approvingly" at the curtain call.

★ 66 Samuel West @exitthelmming

Having been so anti-cuts, the actor and director has been doling out sympathy this week.

★ 67 The Stage @thestage

Follow to find out when new stories and reviews appear on the site.

★ 68 West End Whingers @westendwhingers

The often optimistic Andrew and Phil mainly tweet signposts to blogs and reviews on their website.

★ 69 Whatsonstage.com @whatsonstage

Reviews, news, interviews and gossip flow into this handy feed linked to the comprehensive UK theatre website run by Terri Paddock.

★ 70 Young Vic @youngvictheatre

Enthusiastic posts encouraging young people to go to the theatre, with competitions for books and tours. See over for dance, classical & opera, and visual art



Tweet and lowdown: left to right, Perez Hilton, Russell Brand, Imogen Heap, Jonathan Ross and, representing the RSC, William Shakespeare