



## Bus reliability: the concerns continue

By Daphne Chamberlain

Transport for London have said that they recognise concerns over reliability on bus route 263, and have looked at whether increasing the frequency of service was possible. However, scheduling is remaining at one bus every 10 minutes.

In a letter to East Finchley Bus Watch, they acknowledge that the buses are often overcrowded, but blame this on the effect of below-standard reliability. They maintain that by improving reliability and ensuring buses operate to the scheduled times, overcrowding should decrease.

They do not consider that extending route 17 from Archway to North Finchley would be financially viable. Meanwhile, overcrowding on routes along Holloway Road is being relieved partly by extending the 263 to the Nag's Head.

Consultation Manager

Stephen O'Connor apologised for not consulting Bus Watch about this recent extension. The group are registered as stakeholders who should be consulted about changes and extensions to routes. This was not done, but Mr O'Connor said that their comments made in 2007 were taken into account.

He said, "We will continue to closely monitor route 263 to ensure the reliability is maintained, so that buses are not overcrowded".

*THE ARCHER will print the response from Bus Watch in our next edition. Please let us know your views, too. Our contact details are on page 2.*

## Review: *The Hide* (15)

By John Lawrence

For anyone who thinks they don't make films like they used to, *The Hide* (see director's profile, right) is a cinematic treat. Suspense, comedy and terror mix together powerfully in a story that twists and turns like a startled bird in flight.

Alex MacQueen plays a birdwatcher who must share his creaking wooden hide on the mudflats of the Thames Estuary with an unexpected and mysterious guest, played by Phil Campbell. Poles apart in character, both men harbour secrets and neither can walk away.



Alex MacQueen, left, and Phil Campbell in a scene from *The Hide*.

Director Marek Losey paces the film beautifully. The mannerisms and obsessions of each man are gradually exposed as the camera watches their conversation unfold.

The tension of the plot, the smart script and the precision of the acting make this a British movie to savour in all its intricate detail. They do still make 'em.

## A filmmaker to watch

Marek Losey has spent 14 years making some of our most memorable commercials. He's directed 30-second slots giving us comedian Matt Lucas craving Crème Eggs and the Honey Monster body popping for sugar puffs.

Now Marek, who lives with his family in Lankaster Gardens, is moving into the world of full-length films, but making a breakthrough is not easy.

### Best of British

His first feature *The Hide* (see review, left), a tense encounter between two men in a bird-watching hide on the Thames Estuary, has picked up a clutch of awards from film festivals. However, what it doesn't have is a distribution deal to get it into UK cinemas.

"It's getting good reviews but it has just two characters and a plot where you can't give too much away so it's not an easy film for a company to market," said Marek.

Nevertheless, *The Hide* is getting a high profile. It has been shown on Film4 as part of the British Connection series and will be the opening film at the Best of British season at the ICA in London. You can catch it there for two weeks from 5 June.

"The aim is to get as many critics, journalists and members of the public to have a look at the film and get behind it," said Marek. "It would be great if we could get it out to film lovers and shown at somewhere like the Phoenix Cinema."

Shot over 10 days at Pine-wood Studios and on location on the Isle of Sheppey, *The Hide* cost just £100,000.



Director Marek Losey is trying to get a distribution deal for his debut film to get it into cinemas like the Phoenix. Photo by John Lawrence

### Film in the family

Marek comes from a family of filmmakers. His grandfather was the celebrated director Joseph Losey, who made *The Boy With Green Hair* starring Dean Stockwell in 1948 and *The Servant* starring Dirk Bogarde in 1963. Marek's father Gavrik Losey produced *The Great Tycoon* starring Anthony Quinn.

"I've enjoyed 14 years in advertising and feature films are

something I've always wanted to do but given the family history I've been a little reluctant to make that step because it takes a great deal of intellectual maturity. It's taken me this long to feel I might be able to do it," said Marek.

His next project is based on the dramatic life story of Phyllis Pearsall, the inventor of the London A-Z. His hope is that a big-name female star will come on board to play the lead.

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