



Light fantastic: The frontage of the Phoenix Cinema is bathed in its new LED colours. Photo Mike Coles

Phoenix puts on light show

The frontage of the Phoenix Cinema in the High Road is on dazzling form after its old and broken neon lights were completely replaced with bright new LEDs that can change colour. The front of the building has also been repainted.

“The new lighting is more energy-efficient, so helps with our electricity bills, and I also think it fits well with East Finchley Town Team’s aim to

spruce up the High Road and make it more welcoming,” said chair of trustees Alison Gold. “The place is looking better than it has for years. I genuinely

think it is one of the best looking cinemas around now.”

The Phoenix was able to replace the lighting thanks to funding provided by Barnet Council with the support of East Finchley councillor Arjun Mittra.



Full power: North London Chorus in performance at St James' Church in Muswell Hill.

Choral favourites come to restored church

Following North London Chorus’s programme of works by Cherubini and Mendelssohn in July, the well-regarded local choir takes to the stage again in December at St James Church, Muswell Hill, to perform two completely different baroque choral favourites.

Marc-Antoine Charpentier’s 1690 *Messe de Minuit pour Noël* is probably the most popular of his mass settings. He takes the words of the liturgy and sets them to some of the best-known tunes of the day, most notably Christmas carols.

In contrast, the choir will also perform Handel’s towering masterpiece *Dixit Dominus*. Composed when Handel was only 22, this virtuosic setting of Psalm 110 for five-part chorus and soloists comprises nine movements which rival each other for brilliance and beauty.

The Meridian Sinfonia will accompany the choir on period instruments including lute, organ, harpsichord and strings, and the programme will be completed with Corelli’s *Concerto grosso in G minor ‘Fatto per la*

Notte di Natale’ arranged for two recorders.

Fill the church

Musical Director Murray Hipkin said: “Following extensive repairs to the roof, and restricted space at our last two concerts, St James Church is now operating at full capacity. It would be wonderful to fill the church for this exciting concert. Please do help us spread the word.”

The concert takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday 3 December at St James Church, N10 3DB. Tickets priced £25/£21 reserved, £13 unreserved and concessions £2 off are available from tickets.northlondonchorus.org. Unreserved tickets are available at Les Aldrich music shop, Fortis Green Road, N10, and St James Church bookshop.

What’s On at the Phoenix in November

By Zalan Pall, general manager



A tender drama, an environmental documentary, live comedy, live opera and ballet, festival films, queer and surreal classics can all be enjoyed at the Phoenix in November.

In *Living*, playing from Friday 4 November, veteran civil servant Bill Nighy receives a medical diagnosis that inspires him to move to the south coast and cram some fun into his remaining days. He meets a sunny young female colleague who seems to have the pep that had previously escaped him.

La Traviata is the next spectacular production in the MET season on Saturday 5 November.

We are also excited to announce a live comedy night at the Phoenix! We are delighted to confirm that Sara Pascoe, Steen Raskopoulos, Amy Gledhill and Joshua Bethania will all be on stage on Sunday 6 November.

Then on Tuesday 8 November we have a special screening and live Q&A for *Father Earth*, the true story of one man’s attempt to help save the planet by converting a derelict church on a windswept

island in Orkney into an eco-friendly recording studio, having driven a G Wiz electric car there all the way from London.

Sunday 13 November sees Luis Bunuel’s *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie* as the next entry of our classic season. And for lovers of ballet, we have *The Royal Ballet - A Diamond Celebration* on Wednesday 16 November and *Matthew Bourne’s Nutcracker* on Sunday 20 November.

The highly anticipated Jewish Film Festival arrives with four films between Monday 14 and Sunday 20 November.

We also have these exciting events: *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* on Thursday 17 November, hosted by Barnet’s Drag Troupe, and *Black History Walks: Ancient Egypt spectacular - 100th anniversary Tutankhamen* on Sunday 20 November.

Find our full programme at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or drop into our foyer any time.



Sunflowers and smiles: The Garden Suburb Theatre cast of *Calendar Girls* get ready for their show this month.

Calendar Girls come together to make a date for your diary

Directed by East Finchley resident Miriam Clark and performed by Garden Suburb Theatre at the Upstairs At The Gatehouse theatre in Highgate from 24-27 November, *Calendar Girls* (the play not the musical) by Tim Firth is both a comedy and a moving portrait of true friendship amongst individuals who understand that helping those in need can be life fulfilling.

It is based on the true story of eleven Women’s Institute members who posed nude for a calendar to raise money for the Leukaemia Research Fund, with plenty of laughs and tears

along the way. Tickets are priced at £14 and £16 and are available via www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com or by calling the Box Office on 020 8340 3488.

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