



What's On at the Phoenix in December

By Zalan Pall,
general manager



An action epic, a children's favourite, classics, live opera and ballet, plus many more treats await you at Phoenix in December.

Napoleon, from Friday 8 December, is Ridley Scott's spectacle-filled action epic that details the rise and fall of the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, played by Oscar winner Joaquin Phoenix and also starring Vanessa Kirby from *The Crown* as Josephine.

Based on the extraordinary character at the centre of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, Roald Dahl's most iconic children's book **Wonka** tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today. It plays from Friday 15 December.

For the lovers of screen arts, we will have the Met Opera's **Flancia en el Amazonas** on Saturday 9 December and the Royal Opera House's **The Nutcracker** on Tuesday 12 December. We also celebrate the New Year with the **Berliner Philharmoniker in Concert** on Sunday 31 December.

Elsewhere in December, we carry on with our fantastic Powell and Pressburger classic season by screening **I Know Where**

We're Going on Sunday 3 December, **Black Narcissus** on Sunday 10 December and **The Red Shoes** on Sunday 17 December.

Then from Boxing Day, **Next Goal Wins** follows the American Samoa soccer team on their journey from no-hopers to qualification for the 2014 World Cup. In this heartfelt underdog comedy, the team hires down-on-his-luck, maverick coach (Michael Fassbender) hoping he will turn their fortunes around.

From Monday 1 January we are screening **One Life**, starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and a tremendous cast. The film pays heartwarming tribute to the remarkable humanitarian effort of Nicholas Winton, who helped save hundreds of children from the Nazis on the eve of the Second World War.

Become a Friend of the Phoenix and help the cinema stay independent. Friends packages include free tickets and discounts off regular ticket prices and refreshments. It's a Christmas present that can be used again and again. Find out more at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or ask at the box office.

Family church opens its doors

A new family-centred church community has launched at the Tarling Road Community Hub, N2, with an open invitation to all families to join its after-school services for activities, songs, Bible stories and creative prayers.

The weekly gatherings of Families Church take place every Tuesday during school term from 3.30-4.30 pm. The newly launched church is the first new venture from church@five, a church based on the neighbouring estate of Strawberry Value. Its leader, Revd Helen Shannon, wants to see every estate and low-income

area of the UK have access to an open, accessible church community.

"Everyone's welcome to come and celebrate the goodness and kindness of the N2 community. We're just wanting to provide a space to help make that happen," she said. Find out more on Facebook at 'families.church.tarling.road'

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Sophie has the station all sewn up

By Ruth Anders

The winner of Transport for London's recent Art in Bloom competition has found a different and imaginative way of recording urban scenes. The only stipulation from TfL was that entries must feature one of the stations entered for their Underground in Bloom competition.

Sophie Levi-Kallin uses fabric to create images of inner-city landscapes, including her winning impression of East Finchley Tube station. She was inspired by a photo she took from the Tube train one day on her journey home, and her win was celebrated at a recent event at City Hall.

North Finchley-based Sophie has been creating textile art for the last two years, picturing scenes as diverse as the Oxo Tower in Waterloo, South Kensington's Natural History Museum, the Dollis Brook Viaduct and our own Phoenix Cinema. Together with her mother, brother and sister, also artists, she has held exhibitions at Burgh House in Hampstead and Lauderdale House in Highgate.

In her day job she deals with demand on the Underground, analysing those travelling, and calculating how future demand may develop and how services might be changed to meet those demands. This includes quantifying the benefits of installing



Material girl: Sophie Levi-Kallin and her fabric creation

step-free access in stations, something close to many travellers' hearts.

The mother-of-three told *The Archer*: "I work part-time for TfL, and make my collages on other days when the children are at school. My job tends to be rather maths- and analysis-based, so I need an artistic outlet to satisfy my creative side. I only use scraps or found fabrics,

never buying anything; I only machine, never hand-stitch; and no sticking, painting or dyeing."

Sophie only creates images taken from real life, and added: "I love it when people recognise the places in my fabric pictures." You can see more about Sophie on her Instagram account @sewthescene and her website www.sewthescene.co.uk

Tales from a career coping with the stars

By Claire Biek

Celebrity personal assistant and long-time N2 resident Merryl Futerman has written her first book which, funnily enough, is about a young celebrity PA living in, you guessed it, the local area, specifically Muswell Hill.

From the get-go, *Don't Make a Scene* is fast-paced and fun, exposing the reality of a job that many think of as glamorous whilst revealing jaw-dropping stories about the life of a personal assistant to the stars.

You can be sure that although the stories in the book are fictitious, they are somewhat based on real life, with one case in point in the first chapter being an outlandish request regarding a Parka coat.

As you might have already guessed, Merryl wrote from what she knows. She was a celebrity PA for 25 years, counting the likes of Julian Clary and Jonathan Ross amongst her clientele. Although she enjoyed her job, she'd always wanted to be a writer, loving the imagination and escapism of fiction.

She said the idea for *Don't Make a Scene* came to her over her years in the job, developed from an accumulation of stories and experiences. She'd attended a few writing classes in the past, but really it was lockdown putting her job on hold that finally gave her the chance to pursue her dream.

Having lived in East Finchley and Muswell Hill for the last 30 years, Merryl decided to set her book here. She has always loved the area's individuality, particularly East Finchley's, noting the



Funny stories: Merryl Futerman celebrates her first novel

Phoenix, Campbell & Syme, and Cherry Tree Wood as some of her favourite local spots.

To help build up anticipation, Merryl has decided to hide some of her books around the area. If you're lucky enough to find one, do contact her (you'll find a note inside) and then pass the book on.