



Small screens down for big screen hit



Screen addiction: *Super Connected* is a multi-media experience

Singer-songwriter and filmmaker Tim Arnold is returning to his roots this September with a special one-night-only event at the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley.

A former pupil of Tetherdown Primary School in Muswell Hill, he moved back to the area 10 years ago and is now showing his nationally acclaimed masterpiece *Super Connected*, about our enslavement to Big Tech, which was shot in and around N2 and N10.

It promises to be a powerful film drama presented as a live experience, with Arnold performing his full album of the same name in sync with the movie. Through 12 interlocking songs, he wrote and directed the film, shaping each scene as a visual expression of the songs.

Described by *MOJO* magazine as "a lush and dramatic piece on our enslavement to Big Tech" with special effects by Valerie Charlton (model maker for *Monty Python and Brazil*), the film also includes a vocal cameo by Stephen Fry. On the night, live sound will be mixed in the cinema by Radiohead's live producer Jim Warren.

After the screening on Friday 26 September, the audience is invited to stay for a 'Screenless Social', an informal, tech-free gathering with cast and crew. Book at phoenixcinema.co.uk

Dictator drama

A new play opening this month in Highgate imagines north London after a future general election won by a new leader who may or may not be a dictator.

Make Britain Great Again, written by Francis Beckett, asks how people and institutions would react to an authoritarian leader who does not like having his views being questioned. It plays Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate Village from

30 September to 5 October, and again from 14 to 19 October, Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30pm, and Sunday at 4pm. Tickets from www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com, phone 020 8340 3488, or in person at the box office.

Review: Bed

Upstairs at the Gatehouse, Highgate

By Jessica Holt

Set entirely on a bed, this playful and poignant solo show invites audiences into the vivid imagination of a boy who has stepped back from the outside world.

Ben Donaghy plays the once-hopeful teenager who now escapes into fantasy: performing stand-up for imaginary crowds, travelling the globe in his mind, and dreaming of a boyfriend who never leaves. The bed becomes his world: a space of comfort, danger, invention, reflection and performance. Blending comedy, movement and heartfelt storytelling, Blending comedy,

movement and heartfelt storytelling, *BED* explores the messiness of identity,



Between the sheets: Ben Donaghy in *Bed*

BED explores the messiness of identity, the fear of intimacy, and the quiet ache of wanting to be understood.

Following performances at Camden and Durham Fringe, *BED* headed to the Edinburgh Festival last month, after being named a Best Newcomer finalist at the North East Culture Awards 2024.



Classics with a modern twist: The OperaUpClose company are coming to the Artsdepot

Opera up close and personal

National touring company OperaUpClose return to Artsdepot in North Finchley this month with a concoction of classics by Puccini, Mozart and Verdi in English translations and with a contemporary twist.

OperaCocktail tells the story of five friends trying to make sense of life and love, and includes much-loved favourites like *Habanera* from

Carmen and Verdi's *Drinking Song* from *La Traviata*. There will be an evening performance on Saturday 13 September and a matinee the same

day, which will be preceded by a chance for the audience to meet the cast. Book tickets at www.artsdepot.co.uk or call the box office on 020 8369 5454.

A night of tribute and voices



Ready to recite: The audience enjoying a reading at the N2 Poetry launch

By Shereen Abdallah

N2 Poetry magazine has reached its 11th edition and this latest was dedicated to the memory of Daphne Chamberlain, a committed member of the magazine's board and also a member of *The Archer* newspaper team for more than 30 years.

It was launched on Sunday 27 July at Pond Square Chapel, Highgate, with an audience of poets and poetry lovers welcomed by founder and local poet Dennis Evans, who began the event with a recitation of Daphne's poem 'Poetry'.

Other poems covered a wide range of subjects from riding

the subway, owning a dog, to clowns in the Old French Quarter. The launch concluded with Steph Bramwell, the publisher of *N2 Poetry*, reciting 'Summer Haiku' by Ruby Joseph, a much-loved writer who sadly East Finchley lost this summer.

Poets also confronted the bloodshed in the Middle East, and in doing so allowed the

evening to provide a rare gift; a space where people from different races and faiths, (or none) could listen and bear witness without judgement, even to voices that challenged their own opinions and beliefs.

To submit a maximum of four poems for N2 Poetry Issue 12, e-mail n2poetry@outlook.com