



Street protest: A still from the film *Everybody to Kenmure Street*. Photo courtesy Phoenix Cinema

Stories of solidarity

By Zalan Pall

This year's Refugee Week took place from 15 to 21 June and the Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley put on a special event in aid of the annual celebration of the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees.

Partnering with Refugees at Home, the UK's largest independent hosting charity for people seeking sanctuary, the cinema held a special screening of Sundance award-winning documentary *Everybody to Kenmure Street*.

Tying in with this year's Refugee Week theme of courage, the film blends re-enactments with crowd-sourced footage of the Home Office attempt to detain two Sikh men in Pollokshields, Glasgow, in May 2021 and the successful act of

civil resistance that followed. The screening was followed by a panel discussion where some of the charity's volunteers reflected on the film, and their own experiences and motivations for supporting refugees.

One of them, local resident Karen Goodman, had a particular connection to the film. She said: "Kenmure Street has a long history of welcoming refugees. In 1938, my great-great aunt lived there after fleeing Vienna. My mother later came on the Kindertransport in

1939. As a child I spent many school holidays there in the 60s amongst the refugees who were welcomed and lived in harmony with the residents."

Refugees at Home, who this year are celebrating their 10th anniversary, are always looking for more hosts to open their homes and support people fleeing war, violence, and persecution. To find out more or arrange a call with a member of the team, visit refugeesathome.org.

Great oaks from little acorns grow

By Diana Cormack

With more than 1,000 signatures collected for the petition to save the trees and green space at Park House opposite East Finchley Tube station, it wasn't so surprising to see such a large audience for a recent screening of the documentary film *Making a Mini-Forest*.

On a hot evening in late June, Earthwatch Europe hosted the screening at the Phoenix cinema as part of London Climate Action Week. Greeted at this free event with welcome drinks in the foyer, participants got the chance to meet others sharing an interest in community environmental action.

The particular topic featured was the Tiny Forest movement which has evolved since the removal of old growth and

native forests, with a detrimental effect on local biodiversity and recognised contribution to climate change.

In many countries, people have been using the Japanese Miyawaki Method, an afforestation technique using small pieces of land to create dense areas of native vegetation, for example planting mini-forests.

The film showed this happening in France, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and

the United Kingdom, with London reckoned to already have more than 40 of them. Planted and cared for by young and old, it showed how people with a passion can join together to re-green their surroundings. Contact hello@earthwatch.org.uk for more information.

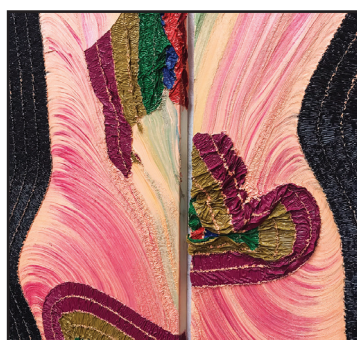
The audience appreciated the Q&A session that rounded off the evening, with everyone grateful for the air-conditioning cooling the auditorium.

Dynamic works on the walls of the Phoenix

Paintings by abstract artist Alexis Harding are on show at the Phoenix Cinema in August.

Harding mixes oil paint and household gloss to create a dynamic style

that he calls 'grunge abstraction'. The artist has staged more than 30 solo exhibitions in the UK and internationally and won the John Moores Painting Prize in 2004.



Mixed media: A detail from one of Alexis's works

What's on at the Phoenix in August

By Zalan Pall, general manager

A mythical epic, a delicate drama, a summer kids' season, Spanish classics, exhibitions plus many more await you at the Phoenix Cinema in August.

Reinvigorating an ancient adventure with majestic sweep and sterling work by its colossal ensemble, Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* (showing all through August) imbues myth with primal human feeling.

At her family's home on a Finnish island, young Sophia explores the natural world with her father and grandmother (Glenn Close). Adapted from Tove Jansson's beloved novel, *The Summer Book* (7 August) is a delicate account of growing up and growing old.

As part of our Kids' Summer Holiday Season, we are launching the Phoenix Summer Film Passport, a fun activity to encourage children and families to enjoy more films at the Phoenix over the holidays. Children can collect stamps throughout the summer by watching our featured family films: *Toy Story 5* (1 August), *The Magic Faraway Tree* (7 August), *Minions & Monsters* (14 August), *Animal Farm* (28 August). Tickets are only £4 for kids all summer! The Phoenix invites you to our



summer season of Almodovar classics, celebrating the legendary director's colourful tales of melodrama and metafiction in all their vibrant glory, leading up to his new release: *Bitter Christmas* (28 August); *All About My Mother* (2 August), *Talk to Me* (9 August), *Bad Education* (16 August) and *Volver* (23 August).

We also have an exciting season of Exhibition on Screen encores: *Cezanne* (1 August), *Hockney* (8 August), *Hopper* (15 August) and *Leonardo* (22 August).

Find full details of screenings at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or pop into our foyer.

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