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A poem for Jack

By Andrew Shirlaw

Actress Maureen Lipman and friends presented a special event at the Phoenix Cinema on 8 October in celebration of the life and work of her husband Jack Rosenthal.

Ms Lipman, together with her daughter Amy Rosenthal and fellow writers and actors Colin Shindler, George Layton and Caroline Bernstein, read passages from Jack Rosenthal's autobiography.

The acclaimed dramatist and three times BAFTA award-winning author lived for many years in Muswell Hill. He wrote

his autobiography, which was completed posthumously by Ms Lipman, as a screenplay.

The Phoenix screened *Jack The Lad* and also *Eskimo Days* starring Ms Lipman and Tom Wilkinson as part of the special event.

Maureen composed the following poem, which she read to the audience:

*Here's to the legendary Phoenix,
The primary venue to see flicks,
In Little Miss Sunshine you'll hear every punchline,
For Al Gore you'll need man-sized Kleenex.*

*We've raised cash for the disabled ramps,
We've a foyer with spotlighted lamps,
We've got a cake in the foyer and shots of Charles Boyer
But the seating's still giving us cramps.*

*The interior's packed full of feeling
But the place and the paint are a-peeling.
While the staff are professional and some seats concessional,
The bulbs still poke out through the ceiling.*

*The Odeon's got ten screens per block
Showing acres and acres of schlock
But I say with temerity for cinema verité
We do have the cream of film stock.*

*Well, that's quite enough of the vocals
But thanks for supporting your locals.
We know you old groovers really care about movies
So sit back and find your bi-focals.*

*If Eskimo Days dots all your dashes
And Jack the Lad moistens your lashes
Let's look lovingly back and, remembering our Jack,
Raise the Phoenix back up from the ashes.*



Maureen Lipman on a previous visit to The Phoenix. Photo by Erini Rodis

Get your home ready for Christmas

By Helen Drake

Have you ever wondered how to get that perfect 'look' for your Christmas dinner table, or agonised about how to arrange that beautiful bunch of flowers given by a guest? Well, help is at hand. Come along to an Open Day on Thursday 30 November, 9am-9pm at Jennie Mann Flowers, 63a Church Lane.

As part of their new Flower School, which is offering courses throughout December, the staff at Jennie Mann will be running flower-arranging demonstrations throughout the day and will be on hand to offer tips on arranging all sorts of house flowers with an emphasis on the Christmas season.

Jennie Mann will also be displaying their Christmas gift range including unique Christmas decorations and bespoke flower arrangements, china,

glassware vases, jewellery and other gifts and cards exclusively sourced from European suppliers. There will be a 15 per cent discount on any purchases made on the day.

Beautician Mandana, who is based at Jennie Mann, will also be on hand as she launches skin-care specialists Sothys' special Christmas offers on their range of products. There will be a 15 per cent discount on all book-

ings made, and gift vouchers bought, on the day.

Refreshments will be available to warm the body and soul.

For more information, phone Kathy at Jennie Mann on 020 8365 2284 or e-mail kathy@jenniemann.com. The flower arranging demonstrations will run at the following times: 10am, 12 noon, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm.

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