



Famed director chronicles city life

By James Luxford

Just weeks after being one of the few independent cinemas to be part of the London Film Festival, the Phoenix Cinema once again welcomed the film industry through its doors, this time for a very special screening with director Terence Davies.

The 63-year-old, who is renowned for his outspoken opinions on Hollywood as well as his award-winning films such as *Distant Voices*, *Still Lives* and *The House of Mirth*, was in East Finchley to screen his new movie *Of Time & The City*, as well as taking part in a Q&A after the film. The film has been heralded as a masterpiece and was premiered at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year.

Of Time & The City is a chronicle of his hometown Liverpool. Archive footage combines with classical and contemporary music, as well as a narration from Davies himself. Both a love letter

and a lament, it casts its eyes over the development and, in some cases, destruction of the society

in which he grew up. It is a work that anyone who has grown up in a city can appreciate.



Veteran film director Terence Davies in a Q&A session with journalist Ian Haydn-Smith after a screening of his eulogy to the Liverpool of his childhood.. Photo courtesy Phoenix Cinema.

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR

By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Franchise of Solace

These are dangerous times. Money is not enough, there is no view to a till, diamonds are not really forever and tomorrow may not be dying, but it sure smells funny. Now is the time for a man for all seasons, a man who is more than a man for any reason. Now is time for the fantasies of an old Etonian to come to life. Now is the time for Bond.

Bond is not just Bond, he is a complete lifestyle. It's a world of girls, guns and guts lifted straight out of the 1950s and dropped into a cinema near you. They may have updated, modernised, regenerated and restyled him, but Bond is still Bond. And Bond girls are still everything Ian Fleming wanted them to be. Only an ex-public schoolboy could drag as many double meanings as Fleming does every time he introduces another 20-something beauty.

When it comes to Bond girls, what can be more obvious than Pussy Galore who starts off as a committed lesbian but ends up in bed with Bond. Then there's Mary Goodnight, or when Ian Fleming wanted to get blindingly obvious, Holly Goodhead. Don't forget Plenty O'Toole or Honey Rider emerging naked from the sea in 'Dr No'. Only a schoolboy of limited imagination wouldn't get the message.

The message they didn't get was the same one the folks who made the film didn't get either, the idea that these girls might have something other than sand between the ears. In the books they are more than eye candy; in the films, eye candy is all they are. The latest in a long line are Olga Kurylenko as Camille, the number one Bond girl and, fresh from stabbing Alec D'Urberville in the BBC version of *Tess*, Gemma Arterton as Agent Fields. Maybe she should have hung on to the knife.

Now we have a new Bond, a new film and a new franchise. The new Bond is an advert for watches, airlines and cars. Even Coke gets in on the act with Coke Zero Zero Seven; and there's still the Aston Martin.

And, finally, the plot. Not that the plot matters, all anyone needs to know before settling down with the popcorn is that the baddies are bad, Bond is good and that, just when it looks as though the world is doomed, a public school-educated, tuxedo-wearing, glorified civil servant will save the world. Shame it doesn't happen like that in real life.



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Sights and sounds of childhood

Neil McNaughton grew up in Liverpool at the same time as Terence Davies. He was at the *Of Time & the City* screening and here gives his impression of the film.

Though I am now a Finchley resident, the film made a great impact on me as I am a contemporary of Terence Davies, also brought up in Liverpool, albeit in a middle class suburb, unlike his very working class roots.

For Davies, childhood was firmly rooted in his sense of place. He defined his childhood in terms of the sights and sounds of the city.

The film could have been made about anywhere, he insisted, as long as the movie maker had the same kind of relationship with their birthplace.

More character

These days East Finchley certainly has more character than it used to, but whether it can develop any of the iconic symbolism of Liverpool must be open to considerable doubt. Such was the discussion, along with many other reactions, mostly positive, among members of the Phoenix Film Club which met at the Bald Faced Stag later.

The club meets on the first Tuesday of every month. Just go to the early evening performance and assemble in the front bar of the Stag afterwards for a lively discussion on the latest film.



Harpist Margaret Knight plays at the 100th birthday celebrations at Finchley Memorial Hospital. Photo by Sippy Azizollah.

Finchley Memorial Hospital celebrates centenary

By Sippy Azizollah

The story of Finchley Memorial Hospital dates back as early as 1896 when the residents of Finchley needed a local hospital due to a smallpox outbreak. It was in 1908 that Finchley Cottage Hospital, as it was then known, opened with 18 beds on a site at Fallow Corner given by Ebenezer Homan.

On Saturday 18 October, the hospital celebrated its 100th birthday with a marquee party. Chair of Barnet PCT Sally Malin welcomed Daniel Homan, who talked about the creation of the hospital by his great, great, great, great grandfather.

Music and dance

Entertainment for the celebrations was started by harpist Margaret Knight and next on stage was a group of Barnet College students who performed a dance routine based on medical remedies and the war.

Museum of nursing

To the side of the main tent was a smaller one housing a museum of nursing through the ages and also showing beautiful pictures of poppy fields painted by children in the area.

There were also activities going on inside the hospital. You could get your blood pressure tested and have a breath test to see how healthy your lungs were. I'd like to give special thanks to Louanna Prince, press officer for Barnet PCT, for taking the time to show me around on what was a really fantastic afternoon.

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