



March at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema manager

So many great films were released in January and February that we have, understandably, missed a couple; such is the lot of a single screen cinema. So in March we're having a couple of weeks of playing films that we've not had the chance to show yet.

The Kite Runner, which opens on 7 March, is set in Afghanistan and tells of the unlikely friendship between two boys whose lives are changed forever when the Taliban take political control of the country. Wonderfully adapted from Khaled Hosseini's novel, it's a powerful and touching film.

From 14 March, we're playing *The Orphanage*. Produced by Guillermo Del Toro, it's a high-class thriller, set in an abandoned orphanage, that will stay with you for days. Very much in the vein of Del Toro's directorial work, the film is dark and atmospheric. It's scary but it is certainly not a schlock-movie. The film is directed by Juan Antonio Bayona; he sent in a show reel of his work to Del Toro, who was so impressed he offered to produce Bayona's debut

feature. And this is it.

As ever we have some great matinée screenings on Sunday afternoons in March. On 9 March we launch Hitchcock's *The Lodger*, the first in a series of great silent films with live piano accompaniment. Over the rest of the year we'll be having silent film events which really show off the great acoustics of our barrel-vaulted auditorium. On 30 March, we have the Phoenix films of 2007 as voted for by you. We'll be screening *The Lives of Others* and *Control*, both of which are excellent pictures.

One highlight for April is the new Mike Leigh film *Happy-go-Lucky*. I hope to see you at the Phoenix soon. Our box office is on 020 8444 6789 and our website is www.phoenixcinema.co.uk.

Guess that gadget

By Sheila Armstrong

Maurice Collins gave a fascinating talk at the end of January to the Finchley Society based on his collection of antique gadgets. Society members turned out in force and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

Maurice, of Beech Drive, made the occasion interactive by inviting the audience to guess what each gadget was for before going on to talk about it. Prizes were given for correct answers.

The gadgets ranged from his most prized possession, an early 20th century Teasmaid from New Zealand, to hot water hair curlers, a dynamo-powered shaver and a brothel alarm clock.

Starting more than 30 years ago with his son, he began by combing rubbish tips, finding many treasures there over the years, but of course now he uses eBay.

His collection is housed at home but he has plans to open a museum in Shoreditch in 2009. He has written two books, *Ingenious Gadgets* and *Eccentric Contraptions*, all the proceeds of which go to Kith and Kids, the charity Maurice set up to help families of children with learning difficulties.

Maurice has the honour of appearing in the book *Eccentric London (the Bradt Guide to Britain's Crazy and Curious Capital)*, by Benedict le Vay. The caption accompanying his photograph describes him as an eccentric collector. What's more, *THE ARCHER* gets a mention too. Under the heading *Twelve Rather Strange Sculptures*, it describes our old friend Archie at East Finchley tube station and part of it says: "The Archer was by Eric Aumonier and has since become the district's emblem: the community newspaper is called *THE ARCHER*."

Natacha plays

Jazz Café

East Finchley resident Natacha Atlas is an Arabic/world music artiste known for her Middle-Eastern crossover.

She had a top 10 chart hit in France with an Arabesque cover version of the famous Françoise Hardy song *Mon Amie la Rose* for which she won an award for best female singer in France in 2000. She is off to Los Angeles for a recording and will return to perform at the Jazz Café, Camden, on 8 April. Check www.myspace.com/natachaatlasofficial

Something you really ought to see

By Janet Maitland

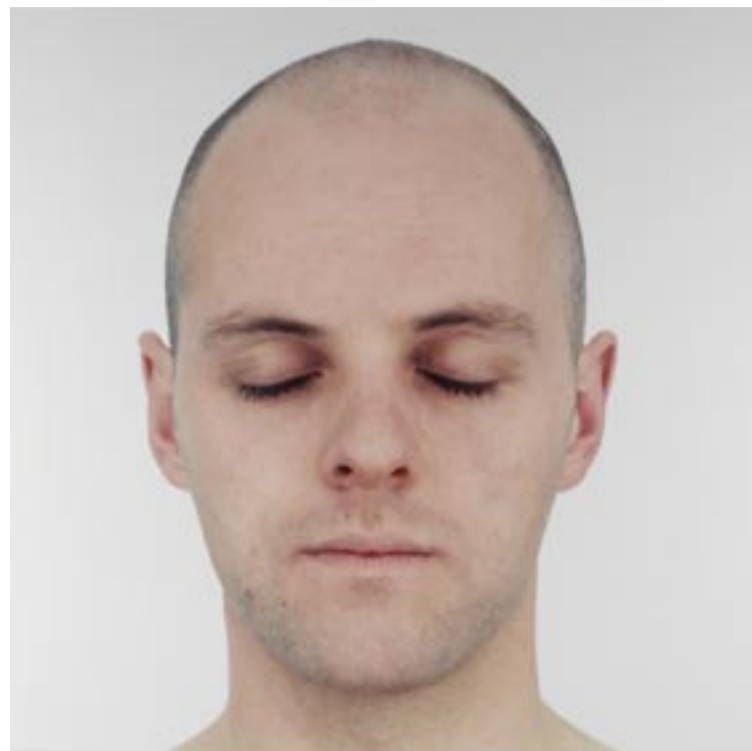
The artsdepot in North Finchley is the only London venue hosting *Something I'll Never Really See*, a touring exhibition of photographs from the V&A collection, featuring over 40 images by leading contemporary photographers.

The exhibition is startling. The images are huge, their sharp colours bursting from the white walls, their subject matter compelling. A Russian fisherman huddles over a hole in the ice, bundled up in layers of fabric and plastic, looking like a clumsily wrapped parcel. A strangely expectant bathroom interior turns out to be a set constructed for the pornography industry. A teenage Kate Moss stands gawkily under some fairy lights in mismatched knickers and vest, as if in a documentary about anorexia.

Playing with the truth

The images belie the notion that photographers merely try to reflect the real world. The exhibition shows us that, like painters, they interpret reality by playing with the truth and blurring its boundaries.

Some of the photographers in fact deliberately satirise the relationship between painting and photography. *Photography is Dead, Long Live Painting*, by



Gavin Turk: *Portrait of Something I'll Never Really See*, 1997, © the artist/Victoria and Albert Museum, London

David Hockney, is a photograph of two images of yellow sunflowers side by side, both in the style of Van Gogh, one image a painting, the other a photograph. *Action Photo*, by Vik Muniz, is a photograph of a picture he painted (in chocolate syrup) of Jackson Pollock, the artist, painting a picture.

At the heart of the exhibition is the concept that photography

gives us the chance to observe something that we'll never really see, because photographs not only translate rather than depict reality; but also capture moments in time that will never exist again.

The exhibition is at the artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, North Finchley, until 31 March. It's open every day from 12 - 4pm and entry is free.

Meet the new man at the Windsor Castle

By Linda Dolata

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, familiar to many as previous landlord of The Five Bells pub in East End Road, has recently brought his charm and expertise to The Windsor Castle pub, in The Walks, off Church Lane.

His pub has a real buzz of activity around it these days. There is Thai food freshly cooked on the premises by experienced chef Dang, available every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 4pm until 9.30pm, and all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday, alongside an English menu, and Sunday roast with all the trimmings.

Patrick hosts a pub quiz every Monday and Wednesday, commencing at 9pm, and he says he's quite happy to host an earlier one as well if someone comes forward to organise it.

There are no plans to get Sky TV (hurrah), but there are plans to put on live entertainment on

Saturday evenings.

There is already a small, but very pretty beer garden, and plans to open a much larger one at the back of the pub to cater for families with children, especially in the summer.

There has been a beer house on the site of the Windsor since the late 1700s, close to what was the Old Drovers' Road, one of

the toll-free back roads of the district. Cattle, sheep and pigs were driven down here to the weekly pig market at Market Place, or onwards into London.

To celebrate his arrival, Patrick is offering 50p off your first drink if you visit The Windsor Castle in March and take this article with you.

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