



Regular Events

SPORT & FITNESS

- ❖ **Finchley & Hornsey Ramblers Group** Call Vivien 8883 8190
- ❖ **Glebelands Indoor Bowls Club**, Summers Lane N12. New and experienced bowlers welcome.
- ❖ **Keep fit for the Retired** on Wednesdays, Christ Church N12. Call Bridie 8883 5269
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Bowling Club**, Kings Ave, N10. New & experienced bowlers welcome. Tel: 8883 1178.
- ❖ **Pilates** in East Finchley, qualified teacher. Contact Dee on 8883 7029
- ❖ **Pilates class** Wednesdays, 2.15-3.15pm at Youth Theatre, N2. Ring Penny Hill 8444 2882.
- ❖ **Tae Kwon Do** at The Green Man Thursdays 7-9pm 07949 612 706
- ❖ **Tennis club** with four clay courts off Southern Road. Call 8883 7723.
- ❖ **Wood Walk**, meet 10am at Cherry Tree Wood cafe on 1st & 2nd Mon of month for 1 hr walk, Call 8883 8750.
- ❖ **Yoga, breathing & relaxation.** Weekly drop-in classes - N2, N6, N10. Phone Judy on 8444 7783.
- ❖ **Yoga**, pregnancy yoga, meditation classes. Call Sunnah 07941 321 772 or see www.stretchingpeople.co.uk

MUSIC, DANCE & CREATIVE ARTS

- ❖ **Art Classes.** For info call Henry on 8888 5133.
- ❖ **Ballroom Dance Classes**, Wednesday evenings for beginners & improvers. St Mary's Church Hall, N3. 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Ballroom & Latin American Dance Classes**-beginners and improvers. Wed & Fri eve, Bishop Douglass Sch. 8207 2323.
- ❖ **Club Dramatika** drama club for kids. Call 8883 7110.
- ❖ **Creative writing classes** in informal, friendly atmosphere. Tel Sallie Rose 0208 444 7217
- ❖ **Drama Classes** for 11-14 year olds. Mondays at 6.30pm. Contact Carolyn on 07905 481682
- ❖ **East Finchley Writers Group**, Weds at the Old White Lion. Contact Carola 8883 5808 or Lilian 8444 1793.
- ❖ **East Finchley Poetry Writing Workshops.** Monthly on Saturdays. Contact Dennis Evans 8346 9528.
- ❖ **Finchley Jazz Club: Live jazz on Mon 10 & 24 Nov** at 8pm, Wilf Slack Cricket Pavilion, East End Rd, N3.
- ❖ **Line dancing** Tuesdays from 8.30pm at The Constitutional Club. Call Maureen 8440 8530.
- ❖ **Memory Lane Singing Club** - friendly singing club meets every Friday in Finchley. Call Valerie 8458 4508.
- ❖ **Over 50s Tea Dance** at Christ Church, North Finchley. Every Weds, 1pm. 020 8444 0280.
- ❖ **Learn to sing** at Finchley Methodist Church, Ballards La. Call 8888 4412.
- ❖ **Street Dance** every Tuesday at Old Barn for children of various ages. Contact Lorna 07976 203669.
- ❖ **Symphonic Wind Orchestra** Contact Caroline Egan 8340 2706
- ❖ **Tap Dance** for children at Old Barn on Mondays, Call Sharon 8349 4613
- ❖ **Traditional Music** in the Alexandra pub, Church Lane from 8.30pm on the last Thursday of every month.

CLUBS & SOCIAL

- ❖ **Bingo Club** Mondays 7-9pm, Green Man Centre, Contact: Jan 8815 5459
- ❖ **Contact Lunch Club** Tuesdays at the Green Man. Call 8444 1162 to book.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Joanna 8883 0941 or joanna-brunt@cybergal.com
- ❖ **Finchley & District Philatelic Society**, Contact Brian 8444 3251
- ❖ **Friendly Rubber Bridge** at The Old Barn. Contact 8349 4613
- ❖ **Friends of Cherry Tree Wood** www.cherrytreewood.co.uk or call 8883 7544.
- ❖ **Haringey Recorded Music Society** informal meetings locally. Call David Mouldon on 8361 1696.
- ❖ **Highgate Film Society**, call 8340 3343 or email: admin@hlsi.net.
- ❖ **North London Bridge Club**, Muswell Hill. Contact 8348 3495
- ❖ **Jewish Friendship Club** for over 60s, Tuesdays 1-3pm at Muswell Hill Synagogue, Tetherdown. Call Anita Shaw 8886 6140.
- ❖ **Muswell Hill Tetherdown Bridge**, contact 8883 4390
- ❖ **Old Barn pre-school club**, contact 8349 4613/1961
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Probus Lunch Club** for retired professionals. Call John 8883 8114.
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3's. Karen 07957 278860.

The Phoenix of the opera

By Ann Bronkhorst

At the searing close of Richard Strauss's *Salome* two audiences applauded simultaneously, one in the huge New York Metropolitan Opera and the other in the Phoenix Cinema, where the first in a series of ten live satellite transmissions in HD was screened on Saturday 11 October.

To emphasise the immediacy of the experience we saw the orchestral players tuning up and singers greeting each other. Karita Mattila said she was about to sing "murderously difficult music over a massive orchestra." She grinned cheerfully, did some last-minute stretches and announced: "Let's kick ass!"

And we were off, plunged into the extraordinary HD experience. Picture colour and clarity were superb, with close-up shots forcing us into the intense relationships at Herod's court. The Dolby sound was at times almost overwhelming, but the focus remained on the singers throughout the performance, with no glimpse of the conductor, Patrick Summers, or orchestra.

Passion and decadence

It became clear why Mattila needed to be physically fit. Her *Salome* was a restless,

needy (and cruel) spoilt child, constantly prowling, teasing and on the move, a disaster waiting to happen. Lacquered mother Herodias and leering stepfather Herod, finely sung by Kim Begley, completed this dysfunctional family.

From his dark prison below stage Jochanaan (John the Baptist) sung by Juha Uusitalo was winched up into the light at *Salome's* whim, and the confrontation leads to tragedy.

This short but sensational opera made a popular opener for the Phoenix New York Metropolitan Opera screenings. The next one is *Doctor Atomic*, by the contemporary composer John Adams, on Saturday 8 November. The series continues until 9 May and full details are available at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk or from 020 8444 6789 (box office).

A Tale of Two Cities: the Musical

By Sheila Armstrong

The Theatre Upstairs in the Gatehouse Pub in Highgate must be the highest theatre in London. Established for 10 years, it puts on a wide range of plays and musicals. Coming up in November is *Newly* by Wild Thyme Productions and, at Christmas, Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. And it will shortly be playing host to both the Hampstead Garden Opera with *Donizetti* and Garden Suburb Theatre with *Breaking the Code*.

Readers may have had the chance to catch the premiere of *A Tale of Two Cities: A New Musical*, a delightful musical based on Dickens' novel and directed by actor Paul Nicholas.

It is many years since Paul Nicholas played the lead in TV's *Just Good Friends*, years in which he has starred in, produced and directed many successful West End plays and musicals. His collaborators on this musical, Steven David Horwich, David Soames and David Pomeranz have similarly impressive credentials in the business. And it shows.

A Tale of Two Cities had an

unbeatable plot, truly a tale of love, revenge and sacrifice. This was a concert version well suited to The Gatehouse's intimate space with just pianos and a minimal set, but memorable just the same. The cast, experienced and new, young and old, sang the tunes, charming and stirring by turns, with real feeling as the action switched from France to England and back again.

Surely we will see this great show on the West End stage before long.

Visit www.upstairsatthegatehouse.com or telephone 020 83403488 for details of future productions.

Sublime Brahms Requiem

By Marian Bunzl

North London Chorus perform their next concert this month in Highgate. The main work is *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Brahms, who composed the work after the death of his mother. In spite of his sorrow, much of the work speaks of consolation and includes the well known *How lovely is thy dwelling place*. The choir will be performing this sublime work in the composer's own arrangement for two pianos.

The concert opens with Schubert's *Mass in G* (short and lively) when up-and-coming Royal College of Music tenor Richard Tyler will join the other soloists for this work. As a special treat, conductor Murray Hipkin will join the NLC Quartet in Elgar's *Piano Quintet in A minor*.

The concert takes place

on Saturday 22 November, at 7.30pm at St. Michael's Church, Highgate.

For tickets, contact 020 8444 2142. Prices are £16, £12, £8 (£2 off all prices for concessions). Tickets are also available from Les Aldrich Music Shop, 98 Fortis Green Road, Muswell Hill, or at the door.

November at the Phoenix

By Paul Homer, Phoenix Cinema general manager
Last month saw the launch of our first full season of live broadcast operas from the New York Met. In November we're delighted to have two operas. On Saturday 8 November we are broadcasting John Adams's *Doctor Atomic* from 6pm. Adams is a contemporary composer dealing with topical issues. This brilliantly staged production by director Penelope Woolcock is one of the highlights of the season.

Then on Saturday 22 November we have *Le Damnation de Faust*, directed by one of the most imaginative theatre directors currently working, Robert Lepage. Screening these operas gives The Phoenix another strand in our programme. We believe that we should always endeavour to bring cultural screenings of the highest order and the New York Met opera certainly fits well with this philosophy.

We are of course also showing films in November, with two main features this month. From Friday 7 November there is the new film from Agnes Jaoui called *Let's Talk about the Rain*. Those of you who saw *Comme Un Image* will know that Jaoui is an intelligent and questioning filmmaker whose work deserves to be seen.

The second main feature in November is *Waltz with Bashir*.

Some of you may already have had the pleasure of seeing this in our London Film Festival screening. It's an exceptional film, an animated documentary on the Lebanon war of the early 80s. It does what film does best: make a difficult subject accessible and understandable without ignoring the complexities of the situation. It's one that I'm very much looking forward to.

Amongst the many double bills this month, one that's worth a special mention is *Unrelated* and *Under the Skin* on Sunday 16 November. We're delighted to have the director of *Unrelated* for a talk between the two films. *Unrelated* is an impressive debut about relationships across an age gap and an interesting film to accompany.

Call the box office on 020 8444 6789 or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

What's On...

E-mail your listings to: the-archer@lineone.net

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 November

- **Hallowe'en Ghost Walk**; a guided ghost walk around High Barnet and Monken Hadley. Meet at High Barnet tube, top of Meadway, 7.30pm. Prize for spookiest costume. Tickets £6, under 12s £3. More details of this and other walks on 020 8440 6805.

Thursday 6 November

- **Fireworks display** at Martin School, Plane Tree Walk. Everybody welcome. Small entrance fee. Fun starts at 6pm, fireworks at 7pm.

Sunday 9 November

- **Free concert at East Finchley Methodist Church**, High Road, 7.30pm: Byrd song vocal ensemble, madrigals, folksongs and music from *Tallis and Taverner*. Collection in aid of North London Hospice. Disabled access.

Wednesday 12 November

- **Vocal Express**, artsdepot, North Finchley, 6pm. Watch 120 children perform their own originals and jazz standards, in groups and en masse, accompanied by jazz star Cleveland Watkiss and his trio. Vocal Express is a joint venture between the London Jazz Festival and Education Team at artsdepot. Tickets £4. Box office: 020 8369 5454.

Thursday 13 November

- **Open Day at Jennie Mann Flowers**, 63a Church Lane, from 9 am - 9 pm. Enjoy a glass of wine while browsing through the seasonal stock.

Saturday 15 November

- **Art and Craft Fair** at Henrietta Barnett School, Central Square, NW11, 10.30am - 4.30pm. Entrance £2 in aid of the Family Holiday Association. Over 20 stalls selling goods from jewellery, scarves, ceramics and books to lovely toiletries.

Sunday 16 November

- **East Finchley Open Art Fair**, 10.30am to 4pm, Martin School, Plane Tree Walk. Entry free, suggested voluntary donation of £1 per person for Contact. The Archer Calendar 2009 will be on sale, plus ceramics, fine art, jewellery, cards, handmade soap, photography, textiles.

Saturday 22 November

- **Muswell Hill Craft Fair** in aid of the North London Hospice. Wide range of hand-made goods on sale, 10am to 4pm, Tetherdown Hall, Tetherdown, N10. Adults £1, including free cup of tea or coffee.
- **Concert of music by John Dankworth**, followed by Buffet Supper, All Saints' Church, Durham Road, given by Trinity College of Music Jazz Ensemble directed by Malcolm Earle-Smith, 7.30pm. Tickets: supper and concert (pre booked only) £15; concert only £10. Tel 020 8444 9214.
- **Barnet NCT Christmas Fair**, St Paul's Church, Long Lane, N3, 10am - 1pm. Start your Christmas shopping early from our wide range of stalls. Free children's music and dance classes, Santa's grotto, pottery painting and more. Adults £1, children free.

Thursday 20 November

- BBC award-winning jazz vocalist **Ian Shaw** sings songs from his new album, *Lifejacket*, artsdepot, North Finchley, 8pm. This exciting maverick performer takes a highly personal, moving and often hilarious look at being a middle-aged child and embracing love. Tickets £14 (£12 concs). Box office: 020 8369 5454.

Sunday 23 November

- **Sunday Buzz**, artsdepot, North Finchley, 1pm. Japanese baritone saxophone players **Tokyo'n Chutei'nki** play contemporary experimental jazz. Free.

Wednesday 3 to Saturday 6 December

- **Don Giovanni** by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**; Rhapsody Opera perform on stage in full costume in English with piano accompaniment; Studio Theatre, artsdepot, North Finchley, 7pm. Tickets £15 (concessions £13). Box office: 020 8369 5454.