



And the Oscar goes to...

A fabulous film ceremony came to the Phoenix Cinema when Fortismere School chose the venue for its 17th annual School Oscars.

Students from the Year 9 Film Project had worked in groups writing, filming, acting and editing their own short films, which were then judged by a panel. A full audience turned up to see the films shown on the big screen and watch the creators of the winning films being presented with their trophies.

Lauren Overs, the Head of Drama at Fortismere, said: "The Drama department is a truly special place. Over the last 17 years we have used our amazing industry contacts to broaden our curriculum: from work experience, to masterclasses and backstage visits.

"I love the creativity our students bring to the course and their total commitment to us has meant that strong bonds have formed over the years. Many alumni are still involved in what we do; often bringing their work in or sharing their expertise."



Prize-giving: Fortismere students enjoy their own Oscar ceremony



Technicolor: Sunshine and showers on the last day of June gave rise to a beautiful rainbow over the sun-dappled Phoenix Cinema, captured by front-of-house staff member Jakub Kaczmarek.

What's on at the Phoenix in August

By Zalan Pall, general manager, Phoenix Cinema

A highly anticipated thriller, incredible documentaries plus crowd-pleasing family films, fine winemakers and old classics are all combining to make August a month to enjoy at the Phoenix.

The month starts with mysteries and secrets in *Where The Crawdads Sing*, starring

Daisy Edgar Jones. Then from 8 August, *Fire of Love* tells the true story of French couple Katia and Maurice Krafft, who died in a volcanic explosion in Japan doing the very thing that brought them together: unravelling the mysteries of our planet, while simultaneously capturing the most explosive volcano imagery ever recorded.

From 12 August Ari Folman's new animation film *Where Is Anne Frank?* opens, and promises to be one of the most bold and ambitious films this year. An important must-see for all ages.

From 13 August, we are proud to present *Blind Ambition*, a documentary about four Zimbabwean refugees who were forced to flee their home country in search of a better life. It tells the story of how they became Africa's best and most unlikely sommeliers, going on

to compete in the World Wine Blind Tasting Championships, the Olympics of the wine world. The Phoenix audience will be able to enjoy a wine-tasting session to accompany these special screenings.

Our next entry in our classics season on 14 August is Wim Wenders' extraordinary *Paris, Texas*. Meanwhile, for families, we have *Minions: The Rise of Gru* from 5 August, *Tad The Lost Explorer* from 19 August, and *DC League of Super-Pets* from 26 August.

We round August off with *Official Competition*, from the 26th, in which a wealthy businessman hires a neurotic director to produce his crowning achievement. It's a brilliant art film. For times and booking details, pop into the Phoenix foyer or visit its new-look website at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Inside a football club's year of glory

By David Gritten

It's a book with a bizarre title: *Just a Bus Stop in Hounslow*. That may not ring many bells in East Finchley but to its author, local resident Greville Waterman, it makes perfect sense.

Greville, a businessman, mediator and autogenic therapist, has long been a loyal fan of Brentford Football Club, who recently enjoyed a rare season in the Premier League, finishing 13th after enduring no less than 86 years languishing in lower divisions.

Their glorious 2021-22 season is the book's subject. And its title? It comes from a game in 2018 against Queen's Park Rangers, whose fans mocked and irritated Brentford's with the disparaging chant: "You're just a bus stop in Hounslow."

That incredible year

Last season proved they were far more. For one thing, they beat the mighty Arsenal in their first game and Greville jumped at the chance to write a book about their year in the top rank.

"When the club was promoted, and I'm sure not many of us believed that day was ever going to happen, I thought it was an incredible time and we needed to rejoice in it and make the most of it," he said. "I also thought we needed to have a record of it that we could read, smile at and look back on in years to come.

"I made a few comparisons with the club's history and looked up 1935, the previous time they got promoted to the top tier. They survived for just



Red and write: Author Greville Waterman

one season and it was 31,449 days till they were promoted again. So the book is a record, an analysis of an incredible year in the life of Brentford FC."

Depth and detail

Greville outlines the innermost workings of Brentford FC, while describing what went on both on and off the pitch. "I

wanted to explain the innermost workings of the club and its function. Hopefully there's something in it, both for Brentford fans and non-Brentford fans."

It's a fascinating read and he's done the club proud. Not 'just a bus stop in Hounslow', then ...

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East Finchley
Church of England**

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