



Stories to tell: The young filmmakers who took part in the Reel Lives project

## Reel lives of young people in care

By David Melsome

The Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley was the venue for the screening of a new short film showcasing the talents, thoughts and feelings of six young people with experience of the care system.

Created as part of charity Live Unlimited's Reel Lives project, it encouraged the group, all aged 15 to 25, to learn new film-making skills and to be the narrators of their own stories.

Jasmine, 15, who took part in the project, said: "I really loved my experience, it was amazing. I think it boosted my confidence, being in front of the cameras. Through the film we were able to tell our stories so other people in the same situation do not feel alone."

Sue Cocker, project manager for Live Unlimited said: "The young people approached the film making process with such openness and honesty, with each person's story as individual and

unique as they are."

Their film, which was funded by Barnet's Community Innovation Fund, is available to view on Live Unlimited's website [www.liveunlimited.org.uk](http://www.liveunlimited.org.uk) and is well worth a watch.

### Age UK carols

Age UK is hosting a Christmas carol concert at the Ann Owens Centre, Oak Lane, N2, on Monday 12 December from 3pm to 4.30pm, with festive singing, music and mince pies. To book, contact [teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk](mailto:teresa.gallagher@ageukbarnet.org.uk) or phone her on 07502 989 403.

### Choir's 40th

Alyth Choral Society, which is celebrating its 40th year, gives its members the opportunity to perform the great oratorios, many of which are based on biblical tradition, alongside Jewish music, works by prominent British composers and songs from stage and screen.

This year, the choir gave two performances: one in spring to celebrate the late Queen's Diamond Jubilee with songs from around the British Isles, and a summer concert featuring Handel's *Jephtha*. Their year will finish with Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, and Whitacre's *Five Hebrew Love Songs* in a performance at their home base in the North Western Reform Synagogue in Alyth Gardens, NW11, on Sunday 11 December.

The society was founded in 1982 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Synagogue. To celebrate the choir's 40th anniversary, there will be a performance of Haydn's masterpiece *The Creation* in July next year.

The choir rehearses for two hours each Tuesday evening in term time and new members are welcome. Find out more at [www.alythchoralsociety.org](http://www.alythchoralsociety.org)

### Gifts galore

Tarling Road YMCA is holding its Christmas Fair on Sunday 4 December from 1pm to 5pm at the Tarling Road Community Centre in Fallows Close, N2. Enjoy face painting, mince pies, a tombola and plenty of ideas for Christmas presents.

## What's On at the Phoenix in December

By Zalan Pall, general manager



An apocalyptic drama, a biopic, plenty of Christmas films, classics and an exciting drag event are all to be enjoyed at the Phoenix Cinema in December.

At once hilarious and horrifying, lyrical and absurd, ordinary and apocalyptic, Noah Baumach's *White Noise* from Friday 9 December dramatises a contemporary American family's attempts to deal with the mundane conflicts of everyday life.

*Charlotte*, also from Friday 9 December, is an animated drama that tells the true story of Charlotte Salomon, a young German-Jewish painter who comes of age in Berlin on the eve of the Second World War.

Barnet's Premiere Drag family That's Drag invite you along on Wednesday 14 December because 'fetch' is gonna happen as the annual *Mean Girls Drag-a-Long* comes to the Phoenix followed by an after-party.

We're excited to announce a bunch of Christmas-themed films including *Gremlins*, *Home Alone*, *The Grinch*, *Arthur Christmas*, *Die Hard*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *The Holiday*.

Sunday 18 December sees Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander* as the next entry in our classic season. We start the new year with *Queen of Spades* from 8 January, a 1949 British fantasy-horror film based on the 1834 short story of the same name by Alexander Pushkin.

We also have an exciting New Year's Eve music event, a screening of the *Berliner Philharmoniker NYE concert* on Saturday 31 December. Find our full programme at [www.phoenixcinema.co.uk](http://www.phoenixcinema.co.uk) or drop into our foyer any time.

## How absurd

The AB Drama company are bringing their Evening of Conceptual Absurdity back to Finchley Youth Theatre in the High Road, N2, on Sunday 8 January.

Company member Martin Szalla says: "In 2018 and 2019 AB Drama performed similar shows at the same venue. The best ever absurdist actor, Boris Johnson, took over in 2019. Now, as the absurd Downing Street shows have lost some of their top performers, AB Drama are here to fill the gap, performing their experimental, strange, absurd fringy stuff."

The core of AB Drama are Martin and his sons Iulian and Lionel, who lived in East Finchley in those years, Peter McCarthy and Dante Lee Harris. They will be accompanied by local actors and friends. For more details, visit [abdrama.net](http://abdrama.net)



Absurdist: Martin Szalla

## Author's wish come true

Finchley author Adrienne Conway has published a new novel called *The Rejuvenation of Maggie Marks*, about a 57-year-old woman who gets a second chance at life after one day waking up 22 years younger.

Adrienne, a former actress who became a successful TV scriptwriter, had the idea for her novel after moving to Spain and living there for 12 years. Now back in Finchley, her book is published on Amazon. Adrienne said: "I am told over and over again how relatable it is, that no one writes for the older woman, or how they feel about ageing, and how happy they are to live the fantasy world of my character and her journey."



Right: Novelist: Adrienne Conway

### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Church of England  
35a Durham Road, East Finchley,  
London N2 9DP

### Christmas Services

**Sunday 18th December**

Get in the mood for Christmas!!  
6.00 pm Christmas Carol Service

**Saturday 24th December  
Christmas Eve**

4.00 pm Crib Service

9.00 pm Sung Mass of Christmas Night

**Sunday 25th December  
Christmas Day**

8.00 a.m. Mass of the Dawn  
10.00 am Sung Mass of the Day

For more details, contact:

Fr Ian Chandler  
020 8883 9315

or check our website:  
[www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk](http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk)