



Shop windows: Hilary's sketch of the high street in Highgate shows the intricate detail in every building

Beauty in the brickwork

By John Lawrence

Sometimes it takes a special eye to appreciate the architectural qualities of the buildings we all walk past every day and Hilary Masetti is an artist with such a talent. Her ink and watercolour sketches of some of our local landmarks really bring out their man-made beauty.

You may have seen Hilary and her work at East Finchley Festival in June and last year's I Love N2 pop-up markets - and she's already a regular at Muswell Hill Creatives events, having started her Hilary Sketches business just two years ago.

Highgate and Crouch End."

Materials and method

She works from photos taken from different angles in good light, and sketches the basic outlines in pencil, before adding detail in black ink. She then uses ink and watercolour pencil or ink and brush pen to



Artist: Hilary Masetti



Front of house: Hilary's portrait of the Phoenix Cinema

Local buildings

A local favourite is her colourful sketch of the Phoenix Cinema, and she captured the charm of a row of shops in Highgate high street as a commission for a 40th birthday which was received very warmly. Her sketch of The Flask in Highgate, incorporating its handsome brickwork, beer garden and St Michael's Church in the background, was a favourite at Highgate's Fair in the Square, also in June.

Hilary said she enjoyed drawing the Phoenix in particular because it is an iconic building with so much history behind it. She said: "I am constantly inspired by the stunning architecture found in all pockets of London but especially the local areas of Muswell Hill, East Finchley,

capture their vibrancy, colouring them to show how the light hits them and highlights their features. Often she includes a special human touch like a child pointing at a window display or someone walking their dog.

Hilary added: "I set up my business just two years ago and it's going better than I could have imagined. I have enjoyed drawing from a very young age and benefited hugely from having this as a hobby throughout my life. Being able to do this as a full-time job now with my own studio is an absolute dream come true."

Hilary sells prints and greeting cards of all her work and posts new sketches on her Instagram page @hilarysketches. Find out more on her website www.hilarysketches.co.uk

What's On at the Phoenix in August

By Zalan Pall, general manager



The simultaneous arrival of two much anticipated movies, now labelled on the internet as Barbenheimer, is the cinema event of the year, and along with live opera and theatre, it is happening at the Phoenix Cinema in August.

Playing until Thursday 3 August is Christopher Nolan's much-praised account of the father of the atomic bomb. *Oppenheimer* has been hailed by critics as one of the most important films ever made.

Seen as a hero to many, within a few years Oppenheimer would be vilified as a turncoat and a threat to his country. The film is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of Robert Oppenheimer* and features a moving performance in the title role by Cillian Murphy, of *Peaky Blinders* fame.

Then in Greta Gerwig's *Barbie* from Friday 4 August, Barbie and Ken are having the time of their lives in the colourful and seemingly perfect world of Barbie Land. However, when they get a chance to go to the real world, they soon discover

the joys and perils of living among humans. It's a vibrantly coloured comedy that's also earning great reviews.

For the lovers of arts live, we have a theatrical play and an opera. It is World War II and the boots of the Third Reich echo through the streets of Europe. But on a quiet city corner in the Netherlands, some choose to resist. Corrie Ten Boom and her family risk everything to hide Jewish refugees by the hundreds, and they ultimately face the consequences when they are discovered. *The Hiding Place*, showing on Wednesday 16 August, is their story. This powerful stage presentation was filmed for cinema audiences in Nashville, Tennessee. The following evening on Thursday 17 August, we are screening a performance of Puccini's opera masterpiece *Turandot*, filmed under the stars in the beautiful and historic Arena di Verona.

For full details of our August programme and to book seats, drop into our foyer or visit www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Music festival in the Suburb raises funds to tune of £50,000

By David Melsome

Annual music and literary festival Proms at St Jude's, held in Hampstead Garden Suburb in the last week of June, notched up another success in its 31st year, pulling in large audiences and raising £50,000 for its two charities.

"After three pandemic-struck years, we were back towards 2019 audience levels," said Ron Finlay, Proms Trustee. The money raised each year is donated to Toynbee Hall and the North London Hospice.

Concerts in the 2023 season ranged from Mendelssohn and Beethoven to Viennese favourites, Broadway and jazz standards, and a new arrangement of the score for Fritz Lang's silent movie masterpiece *Metropolis*.

The festival hosted a Schools' Prom involving nine local schools and held a Fanfare Competition for young people. Prize winners in the 11-13 and 14-18 category respectively were Joseph Sainsbury and Nemunis Jusiones, whose Coronation-inspired pieces were played at the start of two of the concerts.

The LitFest weekend hosted top authors such as Times writer Daniel Finkelstein, BBC broadcaster Justin Webb and food guru Henry Dimbleby, talking about and signing



In the nave: A Proms concert at St Jude's

copies of their books.

"Proms at St Jude's was blessed with a week of wonderful weather which really brought out the crowds for our events," said Chair Kate Webster. "We are very grateful to everyone involved, in particular our generous sponsors, supporters and audience members, as well as our very

committed volunteers without whom there would be no festival."

Thinking ahead

The Proms team is holding an Open House at Fellowship House, 136A Willifield Way, NW11 6YD from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Thursday 28 September 2023 people interested in volunteering for next year.