

A community newspaper for East Finchley run entirely by volunteers.



Star turn: Actor Celia Imrie, producer Cat White and director Amelia Sears at the Phoenix premiere.
 Photo Adriana Saetta

Phoenix premiere for film exploring coercive control

The Phoenix Cinema hosted the premiere of a short film late last year in the presence of its stars Celia Imrie, Juliet Stevenson and

Call the Midwife's Hannah Morrish.

Ceres was written by Morrish, directed by Amelia Sears and produced by Cat White from

award-winning Kusini Productions. A modern retelling of the myth of Ceres and Proserpina, the film is inspired by true events and tells the story of a daughter seeking refuge from her emotionally abusive partner at the home of her estranged mother.

Morrish said: "I wrote *Ceres* to explore the complexities of coercive control, specifically without the presence of the perpetrator. Too often, the perpetrator is put front and centre in screen depictions of emotional abuse. Instead, I wanted to explore the effects of intimate partner abuse on a mother-daughter relationship, weaving in the myth of the mother and daughter relationship of Ceres and Proserpina. It is a profound myth, and one that reminds us of the power of female bonds."

The Phoenix premiere was held ahead of the International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The filmmakers are working alongside Women's Aid to fundraise and advocate for their mission.

Arts and music event comes to the High Road

By Diana Cormack

A weekend festival of arts and live music later this month will be the next event in East Finchley Town Team's drive to bring more people to the High Road to support local shops, cafés and restaurants.

'High Road Live' will run from Saturday 28 to Sunday 29 January, with associated events in the two previous weeks. It follows on from the Town Team's successful 'Sustainability' day back in September.

Activities will be centred at the Finchley Youth Centre and the Phoenix Cinema but included in the weekend and the fortnight prior will be the Bald Faced Stag, Maddens and the Old White Lion, who will be hosting live music, open mic sessions, quiz nights and jazz.

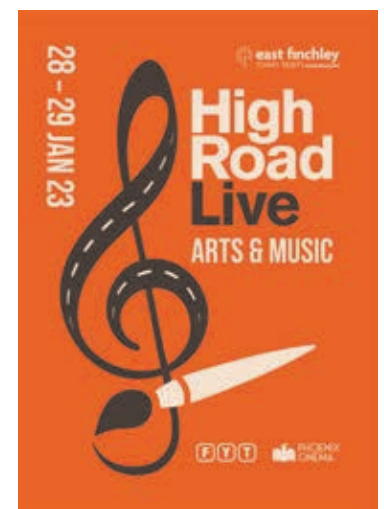
On Saturday 28 January, up-and-coming talent will be on show at Finchley Youth Centre, 142 High Road, with Fixation Academy of Performing Arts offering free activities and workshops, as follows:

- 2.45pm Glitter art (with sustainable glitter) and music in the foyer, followed by workshops for 11-16 year olds in the theatre and dance studio.
- 3pm-3.45pm: Drumming and Tik Tok Dance
- 4pm-4.45pm: Contemporary Dance and Songwriting/Singing
- 5pm-5.45pm: Musical Theatre and Youth Theatre Acting

Drop-in sessions at the rear of Finchley Youth Centre from 3pm-5.45pm include Lego (on International Lego Day) and art-drawing workshops.

All workshops are free and bookable through Fixation's website: fixationacademy.co.uk. A limited number of spaces will be available on the door. There will be waiting areas for parents and friends.

Visit fixationacademy.co.uk/children-classes for details of other free taster sessions for 3-16 year olds in January.



On Sunday 29 January activities take place in the Phoenix Cinema, 52 High Road, where three special films will be shown.

- 12pm: *Matilda the Musical*, at
- 4.30pm: *Grease* is the word and you can dress up and join in
- 7.30pm Steven Spielberg's autobiographical new movie *The Fabelmans*.

See www.phoenixcinema.co.uk for booking information.

East Finchley's Got Talent

At 2.30pm, the Phoenix will also host East Finchley's Got Talent to be co-hosted by MOBO award winner Pat 'Have Mercy' Leacock from East Finchley Festival and members of the Town Team. At 6.30pm, the bar will be open and there'll be a chance to check out the East Finchley Open Artists' photography exhibition in the foyer.

Activities and information may be updated throughout January so keep an eye on the website www.ILoveN2.co.uk/high-road-live and follow the Town Team socials @eftownteam for updates.

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