



Keyboard skills: Yuliia Humeniuk plays her recital at All Saints Church. Photo Mike Coles

Eye-opening recital by Ukrainian accordionist

By Sue Sutherley

There was an enthusiastic audience for the fundraising recital by the Ukrainian accordionist, Yuliia Humeniuk, at All Saint's Church, Durham Rd, N2, on the evening of Saturday 26 October.

As The Archer reported in September, Yuliia has been living in East Finchley under the Homes for Ukraine scheme since June 2022 and has just started an MA course at the Royal Academy of Music.

She played a very interesting and varied programme, which showed off her phenomenal technique and musicianship. Yuliia introduced each piece, and also gave us a fascinating history of the accordion.

The programme included Bach, Mozart, and a passionate piece called Reflections by her music professor in Kharkiv. In the second half she was joined by the clarinettist Ben Atkinson for a rousing Spanish piece called Anantango, and by the distinguished pianist, Julian Jacobson, who accompanied

her for a contemporary concerto by the French accordionist, R. Galliano.

The concert was a great success. The audience absolutely loved it. "Eye-opening and wonderful", "a revelation to hear music of that calibre played on an accordion", "such a gifted performer" were some of the comments overheard afterwards over a glass of wine.

The audience was very generous, and the concert raised over £700 towards Yuliia's tuition costs, but she still needs to raise another £5,000 to cover this year's fees, so any contributions to her GoFundMe site would be very much appreciated. You can donate by going to www.gofundme.com and searching for "Ukrainian accordionist".

Lost fans find way to the Phoenix

By Yasemin Delen Mokhtari

The Phoenix Cinema last month hosted the UK premiere of Getting Lost, a heartfelt and definitive retrospective on the Primetime Emmy-winning show Lost and the lasting impact on its cast, crew and devoted fandom from its six-season run between 2004 and 2010.

The premiere on Saturday 2 November was attended by the documentary's director and producer Taylor Morden, who joined fans for a lively Q&A session after the screening. Morden, who discovered the series on DVD and followed it passionately until its finale, first considered making a documentary a decade ago.

The project was powered by Lost fans. The production company Popmotion Picture's crowdfunding goal of \$42,000 was met within two days, ultimately reaching an immense \$250,644. "We knew Lost fans social media but we had no idea it was going to go so well," Morden told The Archer. Enthusiasm around the documentary meant that the project scope



Cult favourite: Fans of the TV series Lost packed out the documentary screening at the Phoenix Cinema

snowballed and gained momentum throughout production, with some final interviews recorded and new footage added only four weeks before the international premiere in September.

Getting Lost is not a behind-the-scenes montage. "We're telling a story about pop

Rare showing for masterpiece by controversial director

By Ruth Anders

The Phoenix Cinema enjoyed an extraordinary evening in early November when the film An Officer And A Spy (French: J'accuse) enjoyed its UK premiere to mark the opening of the 2024 UK Jewish Film Festival.

Extraordinary partly because the film is mired in controversy because its director is Roman Polanski. His 1977 guilty plea to a charge of having sex with an under-age girl and subsequent flight from court proceedings in Los Angeles to avoid imprisonment are notorious and distributors throughout the English-speaking world have refused to be involved.

However it was shown at the Venice Film Festival in 2019 where it received a standing ovation and was awarded the Grand Jury Prize. It was released in France three months later but had not been shown in Britain before this Phoenix screening.

Venice Festival director Alberto Barbera defended the film at the time, stating: "We are here to see works of art, not to judge the person behind it. I hope we can just discuss the quality of the film and not Polanski and the case with LA County."

Bestselling author

What made the Phoenix screening even more notable was that a question and answer session was conducted afterwards with the film's writer Robert Harris, a friend and collaborator of Polanski's, whose novels have consistently topped the bestseller lists. a 15,000-page novel into a screenplay is no easy task. I'm much happier writing novels!" Harris and Polanski adapted the screenplay from Harris's book of the same



Face-off: Jean Dujardin and Louis Garrel in An Officer and a Spy

name. During the Q&A, Harris commented: a 15,000-page novel into a screenplay is no easy task. I'm much happier writing novels!"

The Dreyfus Affair

The name J'accuse came from the infamous 1890s court case and Émile Zola's article in l'Aurore in which the famous author accused many French people of continuing to support the blatantly erroneous and anti-semitic accusations against the victim, Captain Alfred Dreyfus.

This writer found the film a riveting two-hour watch. Can the man and the controversy surrounding him be separated from the art? The Phoenix is proud of its anti-boycott stance and would surely profit from a dedicated season of the film. Despite its availability to stream, nothing can beat the

big screen.

Since first visiting the Phoenix in 1961, personally I had never seen every seat filled until this screening. A sell-out show surely deserves more than one viewing in the UK. I very much hope those in charge at the Phoenix will consider further screenings.

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