



Did you take that photo on your phone?

On display in the foyer of the Phoenix Cinema in the High Road throughout October will be the East Finchley Open Artists photographic group autumn exhibition, including this shot entitled 'Japanese tourists in Paris' by Archer photographer Mike Coles. The exhibition will be available to view during cinema opening times.

Review: Camden Fringe

Upstairs at The Gatehouse, Highgate
By Jessica Holt

As part of the Camden Fringe season Upstairs at the Gatehouse in Highgate, I was fortunate enough to catch two excellent and contrasting productions in one evening.

The first was Brother Wolf's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* performed by the award-winning actor, writer and producer James Hyland in which Dr Jekyll gives a final lecture on the duality of mankind directly to the audience.



Transformer: James Hyland

With stark lighting and the actor's only prop a lectern we are taken into the world of evil. James Hyland brilliantly transforms from the respectable Dr Jekyll to the evil Mr Hyde and at one point plays a prostitute with great aplomb. His performance is a master class in the use of body, voice and space. The transitions from one character to another are mesmerising.

As Dr Jekyll attempts to analyse the nature of evil in his lecture the audience is

helped by the references to Jack the Ripper. Questions are raised such as who was Jack the Ripper? Was it Mr Hyde? But we all know he had to be a surgeon or a doctor. I would leave it there except to say Dr Jekyll's only friend was his lectern which transformed with him, a pub bench, an operating table and much more besides.

Tragi-comedy

The second treat of the evening was FML, a tragi-comedy about four unhappy people who live close to Beachy Head, a notorious suicide spot. Yet this play is very funny.

All the actors play interesting characters with great wit and skill. Their faultless comic timing ensures we laugh with them, never at them. They do have serious issues to contend with. Joe, played by John Berry, and Jane, played by co-writer Elly Tipping, are dealing with an inability to communicate, and Joe's greater fondness for his dog.

Fran, played by Annie McKenzie, is painfully lonely and Jim, played by John Cormack, is terminally ill. All the characters strive for happiness believing everyone else is somehow happier.

One of the strong messages of the play is about community: through helping others we can help ourselves. My only criticism would be there were too many set changes. This company is creative enough to overcome this minor flaw in design.



Playwright: Paul Kalburgi

Full circle for Paul

An acclaimed play by a writer who has recently moved into East Finchley is getting a 10th anniversary revival at the famous Old Red Lion Theatre in Islington this month.

Almost the Birthday Party is written by Paul Kalburgi and is described as a 'Pinteresque dark comedy'. Originally staged for a three-week run at London's Etcetera Theatre in 2014, the absurdist romp has since been produced by theatre companies across the UK. Paul originally lived in Squires Lane, N3. As a budding playwright 20 years ago, he wrote sketches for fringe shows by day and worked as an usher at the London Palladium in the evenings. Now he has returned to live in the area with his family. This new production stars Bernard O'Sullivan and John Rayment. It can be seen from Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 October at 7pm. To book, go to www.oldredliontheatre.co.uk

What's On at the Phoenix in October

By Rob Kenny,
executive director



Our Pedro Almodovar retrospective season at the Phoenix has been very popular and culminates on Sunday 6 October with his 2016 drama *Julieta*, his 20th feature film. And that will herald the arrival at the end of October of the director's first English-language offering *The Room Next Door*, starring Julianne Moore and Tilda Swinton. This film will be fresh from its sold-out London Film Festival screenings and has already won the best film award at the Venice Film Festival.

In Restless Dreams: The Music of Paul Simon, directed by Oscar-winning Alex Gibney and screening on Sunday 13 October, is the definitive musical biography of Paul Simon, one of the greatest songwriters and performers in the history of rock'n'roll.

Granted unprecedented access to the making of a new album, the filmmakers also show never before seen footage of Simon's extraordinary career,

from Simon & Garfunkel to the phenomenal global success of Simon's solo album *Graceland*.

Kicking off the Metropolitan Opera's new season of Live in HD performance broadcasts on Saturday 5 October will be Offenbach's *Les Contes D'Hoffmann*, starring French tenor Benjamin Bernheim in the title role of the tormented poet.

Then the Royal Ballet's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* screens on Tuesday 15 October, with an encore screening to follow later in the month. Tumble down the rabbit hole in this ballet adaptation of Lewis Carroll's famous family story. Journey through Wonderland with Alice and encounter a host of curious characters in Christopher Wheeldon's unique theatrical interpretation. Find out more about the Phoenix Cinema's October screenings and book tickets at www.phoenixcinema.co.uk, or pop into our foyer.

In memory of my father

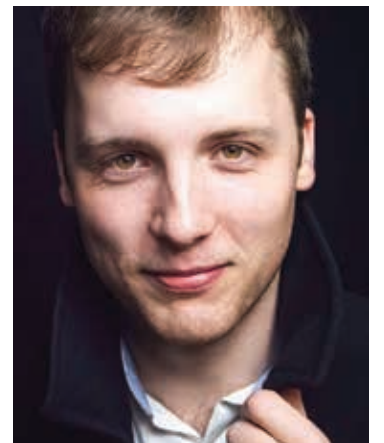
By David Melsome

A freelance musician is putting on a charity fundraising recital in East Finchley in memory of his father who passed away ten years to the day of lung cancer.

Brass player Adam Crighton grew up in Aberdeen and studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London. He has lived in N2 for the last year. Since graduating, he's played with the Philharmonia, the Orchestra of The Royal Opera House, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, and performed in various shows in London's West End and at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre.

Ten years ago, when Adam was 18, his father David was diagnosed with lung cancer at the age of 62. The disease spread rapidly and he did not make it through a scheduled operation.

"On the day of the operation on 21 October 2014 I was in London, and once it was clear that something was wrong, I got to Heathrow for the first flight I could catch back home, but due to strong winds my flight was delayed by



Fundraiser: Adam Crighton

a couple of hours, and I didn't make it back in time to see him before he passed," said Adam. "My father's lifelong career was working as a childcare social worker, something he cared about deeply. It is for this reason that one of the charities I will be fundraising for is Befriend A Child, a charity in Aberdeen that provides opportunities to children growing up in hardship. The aims of this charity are identical to what my father spent his whole career doing."

Everyone is welcome to enjoy Adam's music recital on Monday 21 October at Holy Trinity Church, Church Lane, N2. The concert will be at 4pm and last around two hours, including an interval with refreshments. Entry is free with donations at the door.

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