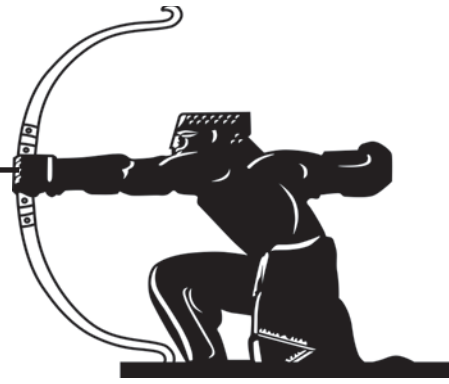




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The Archer

Local News is our Aim



ISSN 1361-3952

September 2024 No. 365

Delivered free to 10,000 homes and businesses across East Finchley

Second screen will transform Phoenix Cinema

By John Lawrence

The Phoenix Cinema has revealed £500,000 plans for its long-awaited second screen that it hopes will ensure the historic venue's survival for "another 100 years".

The new 23-seater is being designed to fit in the space previously occupied by the café, radically altering the layout of the cinema's upper level.

last November for £400,000.

Huge investment

The Phoenix will be hoping to emulate the Rex Cinema in Dalston and the Lexi Cinema in Kensal Rise, which opened second screens in 2017 and 2021.

"Single-screen cinemas struggle to survive," said Mr Kenny. "We've wanted a second screen for many years and this is our opportunity. It's a sizeable investment to make but it will be the salvation of the cinema. We want to be

around for another 100 years." Planning permission for the second screen has been granted and construction is expected to start this month, lasting around six weeks. Refurbishment of the main auditorium will start after that and last around a month.

The Phoenix will remain open throughout and maintain its programming by swapping between the two screens. Ticket prices are expected to be reviewed once the whole project is complete but the cinema has not yet confirmed by how much they will change.

Inside the new Screen 2, turn to page 3.



New era: The Phoenix Cinema

This major construction work in a building that originally opened in 1912 will be accompanied by an extensive refurbishment of the existing main auditorium to introduce more comfortable seating throughout, a bar area at the rear and new speakers



Executive director, Rob Kenny

to improve sound quality. Rob Kenny, the Phoenix's executive director, said the entire project was "a major step forward" and would be "the salvation of the cinema". It has been made possible by the recently completed sale of a largely unused car park space behind the main building, which was put on the market



All to play for: Yuliia Humeniuk is hoping to make a career out of her musical talent

A new future in the world of music

When Russia invaded Ukraine, Yuliia Humeniuk took the painful decision to leave her family in the Russian-occupied zone north of Crimea and make the difficult journey to a new life here in the UK. Two years after arriving in East Finchley, she has a place to study at the prestigious Royal Academy of Music. Read the full story on page 7.

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