



## Number 8

# Autumn 2023 Programme

## Welcome

As autumn approaches, we are pleased to present a packed programme of events, screenings, and more.

Enjoy live music from **Treorchy Male Choir**, **The Fireballs**, and a magical evening marking the midwinter solstice with **Orchestra of the Swan**. Adventurous audience members are invited to join us in **Discovering Antarctica** and travel to the furthest corners of our universe in **Watch This Space**, while little explorers and their grown-ups might prefer to journey downstream to meet **The Ugly Duckling**.

Top quality ballet and opera on screen include **Matthew Bourne's** iconic **Swan Lake** and the new season from the **Royal Opera House**, plus there's another captivating Exhibition on Screen: **Klimt & The Kiss**.

Our cinema programme features a host of new releases from **Oppenheimer** to **Barbie**, plus foreign-language films **L'immensità** and **Maigret**. We're also delighted to present a Maggie Smith series, headlining with **The Miracle Club**, plus favourites **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**, **Gosford Park** and **Quartet**.

What's more, our Foyer will be buzzing with events and exhibitions!

Emma Bangham, Programme Manager

## The Foyer

**Foyer Folk: Caley Groves Trio** Sat 9 Sep - 8.00pm

This dynamic trio of jazz and gypsy jazz guitarist Caley Groves (*Montreal Jazz Festival, BBC Proms*), Mike Green on double bass, and rhythm guitarist Chris Quinn deliver dynamic arrangements of hot swinging jazz and cool ballads. £10

**Language Cafés** French - Thu 14 Sep & Thu 9 Nov; Italian - Thu 12 Oct, 6.30pm onwards

Practice your language skills by chatting and mingling in a friendly environment. Whether you're a beginner or multilingual, everyone is welcome! We are open throughout the evenings with appropriate music, and themed drinks available. Admission free. See our film listings for tie in screenings at 7.30pm on these evenings.

**Sip & Sketch** Thu 21 Sep, 26 Oct & Thu 16 Nov, 1.00 - 4.00pm

Join us for these informal afternoons sketching a 'still life' whilst socialising and enjoying a cuppa. Whether you're a keen sketcher, like to doodle, or just fancy trying something new, everyone is welcome. Drop in any time during the session to sip and sketch! Admission free. The Oct session will be led by artists Linda Nevill and Lindsay Pritchard (see p.32).

**Worcester Guitar Quartet** Sat 7 Oct - 8.00pm

Enjoy an evening of vibrant Latin American music performed by Worcester Guitar Quartet, with support from the Worcester Youth Guitar Ensemble. £8

**Meet the Artists: Linda Nevill & Lindsay Pritchard** Sat 14 Oct, 12.00 - 2.00pm

An informal opportunity to meet and find out more about the artists whose work is on display in the *Beyond the Horizon* exhibition (see p.32).

**Foyer Folk: Dave Ellis & Boo Howard** Sat 14 Oct - 8.00pm

Dave, 'one of the six best guitarists in the world' (*Melody Maker*), and Boo (bass, vocals) of The Dave Ellis Band fame, are a duo renowned for their powerful songwriting, exquisite guitar playing and beautiful harmonies. £10

**Sing-Along in the Foyer** Fri 27 Oct - 8.00pm

Join us for a fun sing-along, where we raise our voices and a glass or two as we sing a variety of songs - featuring a few spooky hits alongside sing-along favourites with lyrics provided. No singing ability required! Admission free.

**Foyer Folk: The Lost Trades** Sat 11 Nov - 8.00pm

A vocal harmony trio with a Laurel Canyon vibe, Jamie R Hawkins, Phil Cooper and Tamsin Quin were brought together by a love of modern folk and roots. They perform original songs, using stringed instruments and percussion to accompany soaring vocal harmonies. £10

## Events

### **Rotary Club of Pershore presents Jack Boskett: Railways to Royalty**

Join Jack for an entertaining evening helping Pershore Rotary Club to support the Midlands Air Ambulance. Jack will show you a selection of his photographs on the big screen and go behind the scenes to tell the stories that accompany his iconic images.

With many accolades in his thirteen years as a professional photographer, Boskett's work is widely recognised in national papers and magazines. You will be surprised at the variety of subjects that this 'Jack-of-all-trades' has turned his hand to - photographing railways, royalty and everything in between.

You don't have to be a royalist or rail enthusiast to enjoy this show - there are plenty of laughs to be had through the twists and turns along the way!

Organised by the Rotary Club of Pershore.

**Saturday 2 September - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £15

2hrs 15mins (inc. interval)

### **Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake**

This thrilling, audacious and witty production took the dance world by storm, shattering convention and turning tradition upside down by replacing the female corps-de-ballet with a menacing male ensemble.

Now returning to cinemas, “as bold and beautiful as ever” (★★★★★ *The Telegraph*), Matthew Bourne and award-winning designers Lez Brotherston and Paule Constable have created a spellbinding re-imagining of the iconic New Adventures ballet. Starring Will Bozier as The Swan/The Stranger, Liam Mower as The Prince, and Nicole Kabera as The Queen.

Collecting over thirty international accolades including an Olivier Award and three Tonys on Broadway, Matthew Bourne’s powerful interpretation of Tchaikovsky’s beloved tale is a passionate and contemporary *Swan Lake* for our times. Filmed live at Sadler’s Wells Theatre, London in 2019.

**Friday 15 September - 7.00pm; Saturday 30 September - 3.00pm**

Tickets: £16, 16 & under £10

2hrs 7mins, Cert PG

### **The Royal Opera: Das Rheingold**

When a precious hoard of gold is stolen from the river Rhine, it unleashes a chain of destructive events, pitting gods and mortals against one another for generations. Wagner’s Ring cycle boasts some of the greatest music ever written for the opera stage. Join us as we embark on a spectacular journey into the world of myth, dream and memory, with the figure of Erda - Mother Earth herself - at its centre.

Antonio Pappano conducts Barrie Kosky’s bold new imagining of *Das Rheingold* - heralding the start of a new Ring cycle for The Royal Opera - with an outstanding cast including

Christopher Maltman (Wotan) and Christopher Purves (Alberich).

Conductor: Antonio Pappano

Theatre Director: Barrie Kosky

Sung in German with English subtitles.

Recorded at the Royal Opera House, London.

**Thursday 21 September - 7.15pm**

Tickets: £17, Seniors £16 (Friends £1 discount)

2hrs 50mins

**PODS presents**

**Back to the 80s Singalong**

Dig out your neon leg warmers and journey back in time, singing your heart out to the biggest 80s bangers alongside Pershore Operatic and Dramatic Society.

Whether you 'want to break free' or 'just wanna have fun', this is your opportunity to sing along with the talented cast of PODS to classic pop tunes - from Culture Club to Queen, and everything in between!

Lyrics will be displayed on the big screen and seat dancing is encouraged!

This event is a private hire.

**Saturday 23 September - 2.30pm & 7.30pm**

Tickets: £10

## **The Royal Opera: L'elisir d'amore**

Expect sun, fun and vocal acrobatics in Laurent Pelly's much-loved staging of Donizetti's intoxicating and witty comedy.

Country boy Nemorino is determined to win the haughty Adina's heart, but she refuses to give him the time of day. Can Doctor Dulcamara's so-called 'elixir of love' work its magic?

Conductor Sesto Quatrini makes his house debut, as does soprano Nadine Sierra in the role of Adina. She is joined by Liparit Avetisyan, Boris Pinkhasovich, and the incomparable Bryn Terfel as the genial wheeler dealer Doctor Dulcamara.

Conductor: Sesto Quatrini

Director: Laurent Pelly

A co-production with Opéra national de Paris.

Broadcast live from the Royal Opera House, London.

**Thursday 5 October - 7.15pm; Encore: Sunday 8 October - 2.00pm**

Tickets: £17, Seniors £16

3hrs 30mins (inc. interval)

## **The Flowers Band in Concert: An Afternoon of Stage & Screen**

The Flowers Band return to Number 8 to perform a selection of music from stage and screen.

The band will play music spanning several decades, including *Braveheart's* emotive, 'For the Love of a Princess', 'Feed the Birds' from the iconic 1964 film *Mary Poppins*, and music from

Disney's *Fantasia*. Star soloists will be on display, including Paul Richards (soprano cornet), Lauren Chinn (flugel) and Principal Cornet Player, Luke Barker.

There will be something for everyone in this varied programme, including the key ingredient of any brass band concert - music from *Brassed Off!*

This event is a private hire.

**Saturday 7 October - 3.00pm**

Tickets: £18, Seniors £15, Students £9, 16 & under £5  
2hrs (inc. interval)

**A Little Life**

James Norton (*Happy Valley*, *Grantchester*) stars in the English language premiere of Hanya Yanagihara's bestselling novel *A Little Life*, staged by visionary director Ivo van Hove (*A View from the Bridge*).

This critically-acclaimed play - also starring Luke Thompson (*Bridgerton*), Omari Douglas (*It's A Sin*) and Zach Wyatt (*The Witcher*) - follows four college friends in New York City: aspiring actor Willem, successful architect Malcolm, struggling artist JB, and prodigious lawyer Jude. As ambition, addiction, and pride threaten to pull the group apart, they always find themselves bound by their love for Jude and the mysteries of his past. But when those secrets come to light, they finally learn that to know Jude is to know the limitless potential of love.

Filmed live at the Savoy Theatre, London.



## **Tuesday 10 October - 7.00pm**

Tickets: £16, Seniors £15, Students £10

3hrs 40mins (inc. interval), Cert 18

### **Nureyev's Don Quixote**

Filmed in 1973 over 25 days in an airport hangar during 40 degree heat, Rudolf Nureyev and Sir Robert Helpmann, along with The Australian Ballet, created the film *Don Quixote* - also known as *The Impossible Dream*. Filmed when Nureyev was at the peak of his career, this cinematic triumph captures one of the finest ballet performances ever caught on camera and has been lauded as one of the best dance films ever made!

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, audiences around the world will be able to enjoy, for the first time, the re-mastered, restored and re-orchestrated film on the big screen. The screening will also include an introductory short film, *A Little of Don Quixote*.

“Something more than cinema, greater than dance, it was like a moving painting by a great artist.” *Atlantic Herald*

## **Saturday 14 October - 7.00pm**

Tickets: £12, Friends £11, Students/16 & under £10

2hrs 8mins

### **Discovering Antarctica: Heroic Tales of Shackleton, Crean & Scott**

Tom Crean, intrepid Antarctic explorer and one of Ireland's unsung heroes, is brought to life in this dramatic and humorous solo performance by Aidan Dooley.

Set during the golden age of Antarctic exploration (1901-1916), discover the riveting stories of the man who served alongside Scott and Shackleton in three of the most challenging ventures to the great white continent, including the ill-fated Endurance expedition.

This award-winning play takes you to the edge of your seat and beyond, as it re-enacts many of the era's heroic endeavours. This includes Crean's infamous 36-mile solitary trek to base camp during the Terra Nova expedition to rescue his comrades, described by Antarctic historians as the finest feat of individual heroism from the entire age of exploration.

**Friday 20 October - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £13, Friends £12

1hr 15mins

## **The Fireballs**

Returning to Number 8 by popular demand, The Fireballs promise to get your toes tapping with another fantastic evening of rock 'n' roll hits from the late '50s and '60s. From Buddy Holly, Bill Haley, Chuck Berry, Eddie Cochran, and Elvis Presley to the 'British sound' and homegrown talents Cliff Richard and the Shadows, Billy Fury, Johnny Kidd and the Pirates, and Tommy Steele, the band will take in both sides of the Atlantic in a set filled with favourites and bursting with energy.

Accomplished musicians and confident performers, the band have been entertaining audiences for over a decade - good golly! Don't miss your chance to rock around the clock with The Fireballs!

**Saturday 28 October - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £16

1hr 45mins (inc. interval)

### **Sea Legs Puppet Theatre: The Ugly Duckling**

Float downstream with the Story Man in this gentle, musical adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale of belonging and identity.

Meet a host of colourful characters as they run the troubled duckling out of the farmyard into a cold, lonely wilderness. Journey through the seasons as the hapless creature finds his way in a hostile world - but do not worry! In a grand musical finale to melt even the coldest of hearts, a happy ending awaits our humble hero.

Sea Legs have been producing high quality children's puppet theatre since 2001. Set on the banks of a magical river, with brilliant storytelling, fantastic puppets and a delightful musical score, *The Ugly Duckling* is a wonderful show for little ones and their families.

**Thursday 2 November - 2.00pm**

Tickets: £8, 16 & under £6

45mins + meet the puppets, suitable for ages 3+

## **Treorchy Male Choir**

We're delighted to welcome the Treorchy Male Choir to share their magnificent voices and love of music.

Internationally celebrated, the choir has enchanted audiences around the world for more than 140 years. From their Royal Command Performance for Queen Victoria to their appearance at the Royal Variety Show more than a century later, they continue to play to packed houses.

The most recorded male voice choir in history, with more than ninety albums to their name, Treorchy enjoys an unbeaten competition record and has performed with the likes of Tom Jones, Ella Fitzgerald, Julie Andrews, Burt Bacharach and Shirley Bassey.

As a registered charity, Treorchy Male Choir is devoted to raising funds for worthwhile causes and giving pleasure to others. Long may this continue!

**Saturday 4 November - 7.00pm**

Tickets: £22

2hrs 10mins (inc. interval)

## **The Royal Ballet: Don Quixote**

Based on Miguel de Cervantes' epic novel of the same name, this energetic ballet regales the adventures of the eccentric nobleman Don Quixote and his faithful squire Sancho Panza, as they help to bring a vivacious young couple, Kitri and Basilio, together.

This 19th century ballet is enlivened by Ludwig Minkus' spirited score and is a wonderful showcase for the virtuosity of The Royal Ballet's Principal dancers. Created for The Royal

Ballet a decade ago, Carlos Acosta's exuberant production featuring Tim Hatley's characterful designs brings the heat and romance of Cervantes' classic novel to life.

Choreography: Carlos Acosta after Marius Petipa  
Music: Ludwig Minkus

Broadcast live from the Royal Opera House, London.

**Tuesday 7 November - 7.15pm; Encore: Sunday 12 November - 2.00pm**

Tickets: £17, Seniors £16, 16 & under £10  
3hrs 30mins (inc. intervals)

### **Watch This Space**

Join astronomer, writer, and TV science presenter Will Gater as he explores the many extraordinary things humans see when they look to the stars. This thrilling new stage show delves into some of the biggest questions we have ever asked: what's 'out there', what are the stars, and what is our place in the immense cosmos that we call home?

Blending spectacular visuals, live demos and inspiring storytelling, *Watch This Space* will take you on a journey like no other, jumping from our small corner of the Milky Way to some of the most distant objects in the known universe.

If you've ever marvelled at the latest pictures from orbiting telescopes or pondered on the wonders of space, this show is for you. A starry night sky will never look the same again...

**Friday 10 November - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £14, Students £10, 16 & under £8  
1hr 45mins (inc. interval)

## Dear Ted...

Worcestershire-based actor Tom Simpson presents a semi-biographical play based on extracts from genuine letters sent home to his great grandfather Ted by his brother Fred during WWI. This one-man show follows Fred's journey as he makes the transition from the coal mine to the front line. Desperate for adventure and hopeful for a greater destiny, he will jump at any opportunity that presents itself. When Great Britain declares war on Germany in 1914, naïve colliery horse driver Fred will finally get his adventure - but at what cost?

The production has gained critical acclaim from its previous outings at the Henrician theatre in Evesham and the Etcetera Theatre at the Camden Fringe. Expect a versatile set, wartime song and a Private on a mission!

This event is a private hire.

**Saturday 18 November - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £8, Seniors £6

1hr

## Exhibition on Screen: Klimt & The Kiss

Gustav Klimt was a titan of the Art Nouveau movement, creating decadent new worlds which merged tender sensuality, ancient mythology and radical modernity. Discover the scandalous life and the rich tapestry of extraordinary influences behind Klimt's *The Kiss*, one of the most recognised and reproduced paintings in the world. Painted in Vienna around 1908, the evocative image has captivated viewers with

its mystery, sensuality and dazzling materials. But just what lies behind the appeal of the painting - and who was the artist that created it? A close study of the painting takes us to the remarkable turn of the century Vienna when a new world was battling with the old.

A powerful and passionate new film directed by Ali Ray (*Frida Kahlo, Mary Cassatt - Painting the Modern Woman*).

**Tuesday 21 November - 7.00pm**

Tickets: £12, Students £10

1hr 30mins

### **Tenors Unlimited - A New Era**

Tenors Unlimited, the 'Rat Pack of Opera', was formed to expand on the perception of what a 21st century tenor could be. Their varied repertoire includes classical favourites, crooner and pop hits along with their original compositions. They have performed worldwide alongside Sting, Katherine Jenkins, Beyoncé, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and more, have appeared on television and radio, and at prestigious venues such as the Royal Albert Hall.

Celebrating 20 years, Jem and Paul feel they are at their best as a duo. Their wit, musical understanding of one another and joy to be on stage truly reflects the past and serves as a real celebration as they take Tenors Unlimited into a new era. Indulge yourself in an exciting evening's entertainment as these great showmen captivate you with soaring vocals, velvet harmonies and humour!

**Saturday 25 November - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £25

2hrs (inc. interval)

### **Orchestra of the Swan: Midwinter**

Midwinter represents a symbolic dividing line - a sacred moment at the year's end where old gives way to new, despair transforms into hope and darkness becomes light. Since prehistory, humans have celebrated this transition in rituals, often involving food and drink, dancing and music.

In this atmospheric evening of live music and spoken word, you will join the Orchestra of the Swan musicians on a seasonal journey to mark the rich tradition of the midwinter solstice. The programme's musical pendulum swings between the ancient and the contemporary, the religious and the secular, the familiar and the unknown - from Corelli's 'Christmas Concerto' to The Pogues' 'Fairytale of New York' as you have never heard it before. The evening will also feature readings from the works of Charles Dickens, Robert Macfarlane, Dylan Thomas, and more.

**Thursday 30 November - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £16, 16 & under £10

1hr 50mins (inc. interval)

### **A PODS Christmas Spectacular**

A fabulously festive show from Pershore Operatic & Dramatic Society with brilliant vocals, stunning choreography, comedy



sketches, fantastic costumes, and imaginative projections, all set to music from a live band.

Featuring hits from Christmas crooners Bing, Barlow and Bubl , popular tunes from Rod Stewart, Elvis and Ariana Grande, plus magical numbers from *Polar Express*, *Elf* and *A Christmas Story*, there's something for everyone. Treat yourself to an evening of sheer enjoyment!

**Monday 4 - Friday 8 December - 7.30pm; Saturday 9 December - 2.30pm & 7.30pm**

Tickets: Mon £12, Tue - Thu £14, Fri £16, Sat matinee £12, Sat evening £16

### **The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker**

Join Clara on a magical Christmas Eve adventure. Marvel at the brilliance of Tchaikovsky's score, as Clara and her enchanted Nutcracker fight the Mouse King and visit the Sugar Plum Fairy in the glittering Kingdom of Sweets.

Peter Wright's much-loved production keeps true to the spirit of this festive ballet classic, combining the thrill of the fairy tale with spectacular dancing - a sparkling festive treat for the whole family!

Choreography: Peter Wright after Lev Ivanov

Music: Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky

Live from the Royal Opera House, London.

**Tuesday 12 December - 7.15pm; Encore: Sunday 17 December - 2.00pm**

Tickets: £17, Seniors £16, 16 & under £10

2hrs 50mins (inc. interval)

**GreenMatthews present**  
**A Christmas Carol: In Concert**

Brimming with warmth, wit and wonder, this unique retelling of Dickens' tale is brought to life with an array of traditional and modern instruments and authentic musical arrangements.

Modern-day balladeers GreenMatthews - Chris Green (voice, guitar, mandocello, piano), Sophie Matthews (voice, flute, English border bagpipes) - and special guest Jude Rees (voice, oboe, melodeon) take the well-loved festive adventure back to its Victorian fireside roots.

**Saturday 23 December - 7.30pm**

Tickets: £15, Friends £14, 16 & under £10  
2hrs 15mins (inc. interval)

**Also Booking Now**

**Save the Date - NT Live** Thursday 23 November - 7.00pm

*Title to be announced*

**Christmas With The Flowers Band** Saturday 16 December - 2.00pm

**Royal Opera House 2023-24 Cinema Season**

*Rusalka* Wednesday 24 January - 6.45pm; *Manon* Sunday 11 February - 2.00pm; *Madama Butterfly* Tuesday 26 March - 7.15pm & Sunday 31 March, 2.00pm; *Swan Lake* Thursday 25 April - 7.15pm & Sunday 28 April - 2.00pm; *Carmen* Tuesday 7 May - 6.45pm; *Message in a Bottle* Thursday 30 May - 7.20pm; *Andrea Chenier* Tuesday 18 June - 7.15pm

**Jo Caulfield - Here Comes Trouble!** Friday 8 March - 7.30pm

## Films

**Film Ticket Prices Full Price £9 Concessions £8.50**  
**Monday - Friday Daytime, Full Price £8 Concessions £7.50**  
**Family Film Offer** Selected films tickets just £6!

(ST) **Subtitles for those with hearing loss. AD))) Audio Description.**

AD))) - Details of which films will have audio description are not always available in advance, please contact us to check.

### **Oppenheimer (15)**

This epic thriller from Christopher Nolan tells the story of the enigmatic man who risked destroying the world in order to save it. Cillian Murphy stars as the physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, the man who led the team to develop the atomic bomb and spent the rest of his life in its shadow. Also starring Emily Blunt as his botanist wife Kitty, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Florence Pugh, Rami Malek and Kenneth Branagh.

“...a triumph, like witnessing history itself being split open.”  
*The Telegraph*

**Fri 1 Sep - 7.30pm; Mon 4 Sep - 11.00am & 7.30pm; Tue 5 Sep - 7.30pm**

Dir. Christopher Nolan, 3hrs, AD)))

## **The Velvet Queen (12A)**

High up on the Tibetan plateau amongst unexplored valleys lies one of the last sanctuaries of the wild world. In this breathtaking documentary, renowned wildlife photographer Vincent Munier and adventurer and novelist Sylvain Tesson venture into the magnificent snowy wilderness to search for rare animals.

For several weeks they explore the valleys hoping to spot the elusive snow leopard.

“A dazzlingly beautiful film.” *Le Parisien*

**Thu 7 Sep - 7.30pm**

Dir. Marie Amiguet & Vincent Munier, 1hr 32mins, French with subtitles, 2021

## **Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One (12A)**

Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and his IMF team embark on their most dangerous mission yet: to track down a terrifying new weapon that threatens all of humanity before it falls into the wrong hands. With control of the future and the fate of the world at stake, and dark forces from Ethan's past closing in, a deadly race around the globe begins. Confronted by an all-powerful enemy, Ethan is forced to consider that nothing can matter more than his mission - not even the lives of those he cares about most.

“Tom Cruise’s greatest stunt yet ... stupendously entertaining ...” *The Telegraph*

**Fri 8 Sep - 7.30pm; Mon 11 Sep - 11.00am & 7.30pm (ST);  
Tue 12 Sep - 7.30pm**

Dir. Chris McQuarrie, 2hrs 43mins

### **Paris Memories (15)**

After an idyllic date night full of red wine and a late-night motorcycle ride home, Mia (Virginie Efira) stops at a Parisian bistro to take shelter from a downpour. Her reprieve is shattered when a gunman opens fire. Three months later, still unable to pick her life back up and remembering only fragments of that night, Mia decides to investigate her memories to find a way back to happiness.

“...a sensitive, careful film with real emotional intelligence.”

*Time Out*

**Thu 14 Sep - 7.30pm**

Dir. Alice Winocour, 1hr 43mins, French with subtitles

### **Barbie (12A)**

The surprise critical hit of the summer, *Barbie* is a smart and funny satire that sees Barbie (Margot Robbie) venture out of Barbie Land to experience what it's like to live in the 'real' world. With great performances all round, including a scene stealing turn from Ryan Gosling as Ken.

“...one of the most inventive, immaculately crafted and surprising mainstream films in recent memory...” *Independent*

**Sat 16 Sep - 7.30pm; Mon 18 Sep - 11.00am & 7.30pm; Tue  
19 Sep - 7.30pm**

Dir. Greta Gerwig, 1hr 54mins, AD)))

## **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (12A)**

'There is nothing like a Dame!' and we're all set to celebrate Dame Maggie Smith prior to the release of her latest film *The Miracle Club* (see p.26).

We begin our series of films with this classic starring Maggie as a headstrong young teacher in a private school in 1930s Edinburgh. Miss Brodie ignores the curriculum and influences her impressionable 12-year-old charges with her romanticised world view. Her controversial teaching philosophy draws the ire of the school's headmistress (Celia Johnson) and, as Miss Brodie becomes entangled in a love triangle, her behaviour towards her pupils becomes increasingly manipulative.

**Fri 22 Sep - 7.30pm; Mon 25 Sep - 11.00am**

Dir. Ronald Neame, 1hr 51mins, 1969

## **Gosford Park (15)**

Our Maggie Smith celebration continues with this murder mystery set in the 1930s from *Downton Abbey* writer Julian Fellowes and acclaimed director Robert Altman. A group of the rich and famous gather at a country house for a weekend shooting party, their needs catered to by the staff below stairs. When a murder occurs, they all become suspects. Along with Maggie Smith, the impressive ensemble cast includes Helen Mirren, Michael Gambon, Kristen Scott Thomas, Clive Owen, Alan Bates, and more.

**Fri 29 Sep - 7.30pm; Mon 2 Oct - 11.00am**

Dir. Robert Altman, 2hrs 18mins, 2001

## Theater Camp (12A)

This fresh and funny mockumentary follows drama instructors Amos (Ben Platt - *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Pitch Perfect*) and Rebecca-Diane (Molly Gordon - *Booksmart*) working at a rundown theatre camp in New York. When the camp comes under threat of closure the instructors, staff and students set out to stage a masterpiece, in the hope of keeping their beloved summer camp afloat.

“...an endearing ode to creativity, and a reminder of the importance of artistic community.” *The Atlantic*

**Sat 30 Sep - 7.30pm; Mon 2 Oct – 7.30pm**

Dir. Molly Gordon & Nick Lieberman, 1hr 33mins, AD)))

## Name Me Lawand (PG)

Lawand is a young Kurdish refugee who has been deaf since birth. After a treacherous journey and a year in a refugee camp, a deaf volunteer helps Lawand join the Royal School for the Deaf in Derby. This new life comes under threat when the family face deportation. Along with members of the Derby community, the family begin a new quest - a fight to stay in the place they now call home. A heartwarming documentary about the strength that language gives us, and of the power of friendship and community.

**Tue 3 Oct - 7.30pm (ST)**

Dir. Edward Lovelace, 1hr 31mins, AD)))

## **Scrapper (12A)**

It's said that it takes a village to raise a child, but twelve-year-old Georgie (Lola Campbell) has other ideas. Living alone since her beloved mum died, Georgie fills the flat they shared with her own special magic. But when her absent father Jason turns up out of the blue, she's forced to confront reality. A dreamy, witty and unmissable tale of family and fresh starts. Winner of the Grand Jury Prize, World Cinema (Dramatic) at Sundance Film Festival 2023.

**Fri 6 Oct - 7.30pm**

Dir. Charlotte Regan, 1hr 24mins

## **Quartet (12A)**

Our Dame Maggie Smith series continues with an opportunity to enjoy this warm-hearted drama on the big screen. At a home for retired musicians, plans for the annual concert to celebrate Verdi's birthday are disrupted by the arrival of Jean (Smith), a once-popular opera singer - and eternal diva! Jean's ex-husband (Tom Courtenay) still stings from her past infidelity but the other residents try to convince Jean to join them in a performance of *Rigoletto*. Also starring Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins, Michael Gambon and Sheridan Smith.

**Sat 7 Oct - 7.30pm; Mon 9 Oct - 11.00am**

Dir. Dustin Hoffman, 1hr 38mins, AD))), 2012



## **L'immensità (12A)**

Penelope Cruz stars in this vibrant drama set in a sun-drenched Rome during the '70s. Clara (Cruz) is unhappily married to her philandering Italian husband but doesn't want to break up their family. Glorifying in her role as mother to their three children Clara finds joy in the day to day, often to be found singing and dancing to pop songs as she lays the table. When oldest child, 12-year-old Adriana, adopts the name Andrew and introduces herself in their new neighbourhood as a boy, the family's bond is pushed towards breaking point.

**Thu 12 Oct - 7.30pm**

Dir. Emanuele Crialesi, 1hr 39mins, Italian with subtitles

## **My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (cert tbc)**

Your favourite Greek family is heading to their homeland. Join the Portokalos family as they travel to a family reunion in Greece - a heart-warming and hilarious trip full of love, twists and turns. Opa! The film reunites many from the original cast including Nia Vardalos as Toula and John Corbett (*Sex and the City*) as Ian.

Screenings subject to confirmation:

**Fri 13 Oct - 7.30pm; Mon 16 Oct - 11.00am & 7.30pm; Tue 17 Oct - 7.30pm**

Dir. Nia Vardalos, running time tbc

## **La Syndicaliste (15)**

Isabelle Huppert stars in this French thriller telling the true story of the Irish national Maureen Kearney - a trade union organiser in the French nuclear industry who turned whistleblower. After denouncing secret deals that shook the sector, Kearney's life is suddenly upended when she is violently assaulted in her own home. The police investigation is carried out under pressure. As it progresses, new elements create doubt in the minds of the investigators. At first a victim, Maureen soon becomes a suspect.

**Thu 19 Oct - 7.30pm**

Dir. Jean-Paul Salomé, 2hrs 2mins, French with subtitles

## **The Miracle Club (12A)**

Our Maggie Smith series reaches its grand finale with this heartwarming and inspiring story of forgiveness, friendship, and family set in the late '60s.

Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Agnes O'Casey star as three close friends from Ballygar, Dublin, who have always dreamt of going to Lourdes. When a chance to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town arises, Lily (Smith), Eileen (Bates) and Dolly (O'Casey) seize the opportunity to escape.

Having never even left Dublin - let alone Ireland - the journey provides them with an opportunity to let their hair down, celebrate life and delight in some sweet independence. The trip also gives them a chance to reflect on their own lives, with each of the women in search of their own personal miracles. But when they are joined by Chrissie (Laura Linney), recently returned from a decades-long exile in the USA, old wounds are reopened, and bitter truths exposed.

Forced to confront each other and their pasts, the friends realise that the miraculous can be found closer to home than they had believed.

**Sat 21 Oct - 7.30pm; Mon 23 Oct - 11.00am & 7.30pm (ST);  
Tue 24 Oct - 7.30pm; Wed 25 Oct - 2.00pm; Thu 26 Oct -  
7.30pm; Fri 27 Oct - 4.00pm & 7.30pm**

Dir. Thaddeus O'Sullivan, running time tbc, AD)))

### **Just Super (U)**

Discover the hero within! Hedvig's family have a secret - for years, they have passed the mantel (and mask) through the generations to ensure their beloved town is protected by a superhero. When Hedvig's father loses faith in his abilities, can Hedvig step up to prove that she is ready for superhero status? With the help of her delightfully canny Grandma and relying on her own geeky knowledge, Hedvig pulls on the super-suit and goes on a mission to save the day for her family - and the entire town.

**Mon 30 Oct - 2.00pm; Wed 1 Nov - 11.00am**

Dir. Rasmus A. Sivertsen, 1hr 16mins

### **Haunted Mansion (12A)**

Inspired by the classic theme park attraction, *Haunted Mansion* tells the story of a single mother (Rosario Dawson) and her son who enlist a motley crew of so-called spiritual experts to help rid their home of ghosts. A spooky comedy drama with a cast including Owen Wilson, Danny DeVito, Jamie Lee Curtis and Jared Leto.

Please note, *Haunted Mansion* contains several sequences with flashing lights that may affect those who are susceptible to photosensitive epilepsy or have other photosensitivities.

**Mon 30 Oct - 7.30pm; Tue 31 Oct - 11.00am; Fri 3 Nov - 2.00pm**

Dir. Justin Simien, 2hrs 3mins, AD)))

### **A Haunting in Venice (cert tbc)**

Kenneth Branagh returns as famed detective Hercule Poirot in this thrilling murder mystery. Based on the novel *Hallowe'en Party* by Agatha Christie, the film is set in eerie, post-WWII Venice on All Hallows' Eve. Now retired and living in the world's most glamorous city, Poirot reluctantly attends a séance at a decaying, haunted palazzo. When one of the guests is murdered, the detective is thrust into a sinister world of shadows and secrets.

Screenings subject to confirmation:

**Tue 31 Oct & Fri 3 Nov - 7.30pm; Mon 6 Nov - 11.00am & 7.30pm**

Dir. Kenneth Branagh, running time tbc

### **Pearl (15)**

Trapped on her family's isolated farm, Pearl (Mia Goth) must tend to her ailing father under the bitter and overbearing watch of her devout mother. Lusting for a glamorous life like she's seen in the movies, Pearl finds her ambitions, temptations, and repressions all colliding in this stunning, technicolor-inspired American gothic shocker.

“...riotously entertaining throughout ... a dead ringer for a 1940s melodrama were it not for all the axe violence and hayfork skewering.” *The Observer*

**Thu 2 Nov - 7.30pm**

Dir. Ti West, 1hr 42mins, AD)))

### **Maigret (15)**

Gérard Depardieu brings to life one of the most beloved characters from 20th century crime fiction in this drama set in 1953 Paris, based on Georges Simenon's best-selling novels. When a beautiful young woman is found dead in Place Ventimille there is nothing to identify her, and no witnesses. Charged with investigating her murder, world weary Inspector Jules Maigret (Depardieu) endeavours to piece together her story.

**Thu 9 Nov - 7.30pm; Wed 15 Nov - 2.00pm**

Dir. Patrice Leconte, running time tbc, French with subtitles

### **Poor Things (cert tbc)**

From the director of *The Favourite*, this drama tells the incredible tale of the evolution of Bella Baxter (Emma Stone), a young woman brought back to life by unorthodox scientist Dr. Godwin Baxter (Willem Dafoe). Under Baxter's protection, Bella is eager to learn. Hungry for the worldliness she is lacking, Bella runs off with Duncan Wedderburn (Mark Ruffalo), a slick and debauched lawyer, on a whirlwind adventure across the continents. Free from the prejudices of her times, Bella grows steadfast in her purpose to stand for equality and liberation.

Screenings subject to confirmation:

**Sat 11 & Tue 14 Nov - 7.30pm**

Dir. Yorgos Lanthimos, running time tbc

### **And Then Come the Nightjars (15)**

Adapted for the screen from Bea Roberts' multi-award-winning stage play, *this touching drama* tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a Devon farmer (David Fielder) and the vet (Nigel Hastings) who is assigned to cull his precious herd. A heartwarming story of friendship and survival set against the backdrop of the 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak.

**Mon 13 Nov - 11.00am & 7.30pm**

Dir. Paul Robinson, 1hr 21mins

### **The Old Oak (15)**

For what may be his last film, director Ken Loach brings you this story about the landlord (Dave Turner) of the last remaining pub in a run-down village in the Northeast, fighting to hold onto his business. The Old Oak is a special place. Not only is it the last pub standing, it is the only public space in the village where people can meet. Many young people have moved away, and what was once a thriving and proud mining community struggles to keep old values alive. Anger and resentment bubble beneath the surface of the village and when Syrian refugees are housed in its empty houses, tensions rise.

**Fri 17 Nov - 2.00pm & 7.30pm**

Dir. Ken Loach, 1hr 53mins

## **Past Lives (12A)**

After decades apart, a South Korean woman (Greta Lee) now living in New York reconnects online with the man (Teo Yoo) who was once her closest childhood friend. Years later, they are reunited in New York for one fateful week as they confront notions of destiny, love, and the choices that make a life. This heartrending modern romance won the Audience Award at Sundance Film Festival.

“...remarkable debut ... one of the most effective films of the year.” *The Guardian*

**Mon 20 Nov - 11.00am & 7.30pm**

Dir. Celine Song, 1hr 46mins

## **The Great Escaper (cert tbc)**

Starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson, this bittersweet drama tells the true story of Bernard Jordan (Caine) the WWII veteran who escaped from his care home in June 2014 to attend the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landings in France. Jordan's 48-hour adventure sparked a police search and made headlines around the world, thrusting him and his beloved wife Irene (Jackson) into the media spotlight.

The film marks the last on-screen appearance of *Glenda Jackson*, who died on 15 June this year.

Screenings subject to confirmation:

**Fri 24 Nov - 7.30pm; Mon 27 Nov - 11.00am & 7.30pm (ST);**

**Tue 28 Nov - 7.30pm**

Dir. Oliver Parker, running time tbc

## **Gallery**

### **Joe McLaren - 'Unconsidered Earth'**

A selection of small scraperboard works and paintings by book illustrator Joe McLaren, featuring pictures of places, both real and imagined. Joe's clients have included Penguin, Faber, Random House, Orion, Folio, Portobello, Whites Books, John Murray, Oxford, Vintage, The Times, and The Guardian.

**Thursday 24 August - Wednesday 13 September**

### **'Number 8 Open Exhibition 2023'**

Showcasing the work of the very best artists and photographers from within and beyond the county of Worcestershire, this exhibition includes a variety of different styles and mediums. Each piece featured was selected following an open call for submissions.

**Thursday 14 September - Wednesday 11 October**

### **Linda Nevill & Lindsay Pritchard - 'Beyond the Horizon'**

Created using oil paint and soft pastels, these vibrant landscapes and seascapes explore the excitement Linda and Lindsay feel when painting en plein air. At the mercy of the elements while painting, the artists then work in their studios to recreate their sensory memories of lakes and fells, sea and coast. Meet the artists - see p.3.

**Thursday 12 October - Wednesday 1 November**



## **Pershore Arts - 'Line & Form'**

Pershore Arts, a friendly society of amateur and professional artists, photographers and crafts people, are pleased to return to Number 8 for their annual exhibition. Featuring work in different media and styles, members will explore line, shape and colour in their own distinctive and unique ways.

**Thursday 2 - Wednesday 22 November**

## **Sylva O'Dell - 'Sylva Spirits'**

Sylva O'Dell's watercolour paintings explore the haunting and enchanting side of the natural world in a stained glass window style. The artworks are inspired by pagan folklore, witchcraft and the magical and weird illustrations found in medieval manuscripts.

**Thursday 23 November - Thursday 14 December**

## **Crafts**

### **Carice Green - Hedgerow Inspirations**

Based in rural Worcestershire and inspired by the wildlife and landscape of home - teasels, poppy seeds, twigs and ferns - Carice creates beautiful, timeless pieces. Using traditional screen-printing techniques, she creates graphic silhouettes before printing onto lampshades, cushions, scarves, mugs and tableware.

**Thursday 24 August - Wednesday 4 October**

### **Janet Butler - 'Craft for Good'**

In her debut exhibition, Pershore-based crafts maker Janet Butler showcases a selection of intricately crafted patchwork cushions, table mats and table runners. All proceeds from the sale of items will be donated to the Dogs for Good assistance charity in Banbury.

**Thursday 5 October - Wednesday 15 November**

### **Lorraine Bates - 'Wild Edge of Wenlock'**

Potter Lorraine Bates' work has always explored the use of rock, minerals and fossils. This new collection, a collaboration between Woodsetton Art Pottery and The Lapworth Museum of Geology, includes pieces that incorporate materials harvested, with the permission of Natural England, from the Wenlock strata between Malvern and Shropshire.

**Thursday 16 November - Wednesday 3 January**

## Creative Courses

### Pop Up Painting

**Van Gogh: Thursday 21 September, 7.00pm - 10.00pm**

**Frida Kahlo: Thursday 23 November, 7.00pm - 10.00pm**

Join artist Kay Mullett for an informal evening of painting and produce your own version of a well-known artwork to take home with you.

In September's workshop, take inspiration from the bold colours and expressive, dramatic brushwork of influential Dutch painter Van Gogh to create your own *Café Terrace at Night* painting.

In November, try your hand at Mexican folk art inspired by Frida Kahlo's *Self Portrait*. Kahlo took inspiration from nature and Mexican artefacts, mixing elements of reality and fantasy in her work.

All art supplies including canvas, paint, brushes and aprons are provided, with Kay on hand to offer advice and guidance.

Cost: £26 (includes a glass of wine/soft drink & nibbles)

### Chance to Dance Weekly Classes

A popular exercise-based dance class for those age 55+. Learn fun routines to music from the past and present in energetic sessions that will increase flexibility, build strength and maintain fitness. There is also a **Gentle Chance to Dance** class offering a more relaxed approach to dancing with the majority of the session taking place seated.

**Autumn Term places available**

Contact us for details