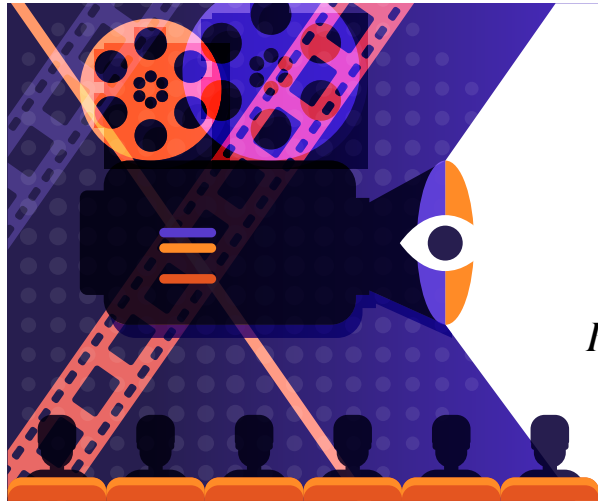


thecourt

The Film Issue



Keeping
Life Local



Lights, Camera, The Court...

This issue we welcome back the Earls Court Film Festival 2018 with a special film edition of The Court.

Now in its fourth year, the Festival has gone from strength to strength, growing at an incredible pace not only swiftly establishing itself as a major festival for emerging short film makers but developing into an annual event the community can be proud of, attracting films of the highest quality from all over the world.

This year the Festival runs from 26th October – 9th November. During that time there will be screenings, community film events, celebrations and, of course, a gala to honour the winners of this year's competitions.

The Earls Court Film Festival awards two prestigious prizes. The

Earls Court Shorts Prize is for the best short film commissioned by the Film Festival itself. Every year, the Film Festival is proud to help finance a number of local film makers to make films in the area, which then compete for this prize. The Earls Court Submissions Prize, with £1,000 for the winner, is hotly contested. This is an open competition which, this year, has attracted a phenomenal number of submissions from all over the world. Just 23 films have made it to the Festival and these will be screened in various Earls Court venues over the two weeks of the festival.

The selection covers a wide range of genres including comedy, thriller, surreality, drama and documentary. And there are a number of famous faces featuring including Game of Thrones' Gemma Whelan and Sir Lenny Henry. There are also some beautiful animation films exploring family and friendship. Festival short

films tell stories of love, memory, upheaval, facing challenges, injustice, humour and hope.

Come along to the Earls Court Film Festival 2018, laugh, cry, be inspired and take part in this wonderful short film festival. If you leave with just one new thought, that thought may change your life.

A word from our sponsors

Earls Court Partnership Limited is delighted to be the principal sponsor of the Earls Court Film Festival 2018.

Earls Court Partnership Limited, is an innovative joint venture between Capital & Counties Properties PLC (Capco) and Transport for London (TfL), which will enable the development of early phases of the Earls Court Masterplan. We are proud to sponsor the Earls Court Film Festival and help bring people together through such investment in creativity and the arts.



BRITISH PROPERTY AWARDS
2017 & 2018
★★★★★
GOLD WINNER
ESTATE AGENT IN KENSINGTON

tlc

Est. **50** 1968

Voted Best Agent in Kensington & Chelsea, two years running



Oh, and by the way, we have the most handsome office managers in Kensington too! Available for a cuddle anytime at one of our three offices in Earls Court.



THE INTERVIEW

A nervous interviewee fidgets with a pen while awaiting his interview. Which is mightier - the pen or the man?

POP! OUT

Mina arrives home and her roommates have filled the living room with balloons for her birthday, but she is terrified of balloons. She tries to act normal but the situation gets out of control.

PLAY ON

A teenage boy tries to reconnect with his recently deceased father through music and black magic.

A BLIND DOG

Animation from India. An owner celebrates his close connection to his blind dog.

MAYBE IT'S ME

An animator tries to recreate his childhood memories: the summers, the house, the sea, the sound of the cicadas.



WISE GIRL

A young woman, who walks, talks and dresses like a prohibition gangster is caught between a boy who fancies her and some loan sharks. With Gemma Whelan from Game Of Thrones, Alex Carter from Cuffs, Joe Pasquale and Harriet Thorpe.

EIGHT DAY

A story about a man, trying to figure out his role in a never-changing world while facing crucial life questions.



BITTER SEA

A single mother, an immigrant in London, finds a job and place to live, but the landlord has a strict "no children allowed" policy. How can she hide her daughter in the flat?

FEEDBACK

Is the relentless online need for feedback changing who we are?

RUN RABBIT

Two bullies are forced to face the dramatic consequences of their actions.

THE UNITED GUYS NETWORK

Loving newlywed husband Paul is making the other guys in the neighbourhood look bad. Time for The United Guys Network to step in and teach him how to be a 'real' husband.

DOMESTIC POLICY

In 1919, a tea lady eavesdrops on a top-secret government meeting called to solve the latest, gravest, problem facing the British Empire. Starring Lesley Manville.

MEN TALK ABOUT MOTHER

Three men remember their mothers in this animated documentary. With interwoven monologues and hand drawn animation, this film explores one of the central relationships of our lives.



STILL LIFE

A life model with body insecurities finds solace in the art that depicts him.

SAMIRA'S PARTY

The bonds between a fourteen year old boy and his disabled mum are tested on a trip to the supermarket. Starring Jodhi May.



A GIRL GOES FOR DINNER

A young woman travels to the home of an older man for her evening meal. As they sit down to eat, darker motives begin to reveal themselves.

THE PURPLE PLAIN

An elderly woman recalls her childhood dreams: All her life she wanted to touch the sky, and when space flight became a reality, this determined young pilot reached out.

SOME SWEET OBLIVIOUS ANTIDOTE

When 13 year old Ivie starts speaking in Shakespearean verse her friends find it weird and her mother is outraged. Can she find a cure? Starring Sir Lenny Henry.

WREN BOYS

Conor drives his nephew to prison to visit a battle-worn inmate. Their visit is one born of a new 21st Century Ireland, which casts a critical eye on tradition. But within the prison walls, progress operates at a different pace; and runs alongside the threat of violence.

SUPPORT

Two estranged siblings meet in their dying father's hospital room. Chris agrees with the doctors who advise them to turn off his life support, but his sister Rachel refuses.

YOUNG HEARTS

Two young people decide to run away.

ONE

A film from Russia. An old man in an empty train. Where is he going and why?

NEW DOG OLD TRICKS

The Kid is on the run from his old employers, with a laptop full of dirty secrets. He's being followed by an Agent of the old school... an old dog with no time for these new digital tricks.

EARLS COURT Shorts

The Earls Court Film Festival 2018 is proud to premiere two films commissioned by the festival, made in Earls Court by local film makers.



GOLEM

Frank, an Historical Walking Tour Guide finds himself venturing a little too close to his subject matter: the dastardly Gloucester Road Golem. Then the line between history and historian become blurred.



MEMORIES LOST TO SLEEP

A woman has an out of body experience whilst sleeping. Her spirit curiously travels around the city in the middle of the night, receiving flashes of memories calling her back to the forest...

EARLS COURT FILM FESTIVAL Venues

St. Cuthbert's Church

60 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London SW5 9EB

The Bolton

326 Earls Ct Rd, Earls Court, London, SW5 9BQ

The Prince

14 Lillie Road, West Brompton Crossing, London SW6 1TU

Festival Special Events (invite only) will be held at K+K Hotel George

1 - 15 Templeton Place, LONDON, SW5 9NB

(The festival organisers are very grateful for the kind support of General Manager Philip Chambers and Sales Manager Laura Berbecaru)



SHORT STORIES FROM THE SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL

The Earl's Court Film Festival was founded in 2014 when Sean Duffy, Caroline Tod Richardson and Toby Brown, with the Earls Court Community Trust, decided they wanted to make short films where Earl's Court was the principal filming location. Over four years, they have co-produced 12 short films, many of which have gone on to feature at other Film Festivals and even won awards, including BFI London Film Festival and Sundance. In 2016 they decided to expand the festival to include short film submissions. Now receiving over 100 submissions, the Festival not only believes in screening amazing films, but building strong relationships with emerging film-makers.



EARL'S COURT SHORTS AROUND THE WORLD

Every year the Earls Court Film Festival commissions a number of homegrown short films. Last year's films have gone on from Earl's Court to conquer the world.

At just 8 years old Jonah Paull won Best Performance in a Short Film at the Young Artist Academy Awards, Hollywood's longest running awards for young talent, also known as 'Kiddie Oscars'. Paull won the award for his role in the ECFF Short, *Last Day of Summer*. Previous winners of the award include Leonardo DiCaprio, Natalie Portman, Drew Barrymore, Winona Ryder and many more.

Courted by writer & director Andres Heger-Bratterud, was ECFF's first longer short filmed in Earl's Court in 2017. It has been nominated for Best British Short at the Iris Prize, the largest LGBTQ film festival in the world and a BAFTA qualifying film festival. The film follows Stuart, a 72-year old Jehovah's Witness with a secret he's been hiding since childhood.

Sean Duffy, co-director of the Festival says "It's all about Earl's Court and community as we continue to bring colour and vibrancy into our neighbourhood through drama and film."

MUSICAL EARL'S COURTING

Burgeoning pop star iiola chose Earl's Court and the Pergola in Barkston Gardens as the backdrop for her music video, *Sickly Sweet*. The story is about a man who sweetly, and simultaneously, courts three different women in Earl's Court and their weaponised confectionary response when they discover his philandering. The video is the collaboration of film makers, Kaki Wong, Chloé Deleplace and Isabella Bruno. You can watch the video on Youtube: youtu.be/MsE673TJNGE



THE FESTIVAL REACHES OUT

Every year the Earls Court Film Festival takes films to the young and old in the community who may not be able to get to the festival venues. This year, along with a schools event there will be two screenings for older Earl's Court residents living at Inkerman House and Sybil Thorndike House. Last year's event included a screening of the ECFF Submissions 2017 winner *Saad's Olive Tree*. The film tells the story of a young Syrian boy who is blinded in a mortar attack and the strong loving bond between mother and son.

FILMS CHANGING MINDS

The power of film to influence, persuade and change minds is one of its most integral qualities. Film Earls Court, the producers of the festival, are determined to produce films that will do just that. *Jan*, produced by Caroline Tod Richardson is the haunting story of a Bangladeshi refugee and her family, seeking asylum in the UK. The kidnapping of her children in 2004 is only the beginning of her troubles, in a story which raises difficult



questions about the asylum-seeker process. This film was made with the kind support of Asylum Link Merseyside and is now being used by asylum charities to highlight the problems asylum seekers face.

"*Jan* was my first charitable film," says director Tom Young, "and it was a humbling and powerful experience which I'll never forget. Apart from, inevitably, learning a huge amount about making this kind of film, I also met some extraordinary people at Asylum Link Merseyside. I felt privileged to hear such incredible stories first hand. I'm absolutely delighted *Jan* is proving to have a life within the national Charity sector, and is delivering Jan's incredible and courageous story to so many people on an ongoing basis. It's a story that deserves to be heard."

"Very gently we are beginning to show Jan's film to the rest of the world," says Ewan Roberts from Asylum Link Merseyside. "Used in our Roadshows, it is a first hand account of someone's journey, the obstacles and the hardships faced by many asylum seekers and their families as they struggle to make their way in a strange and often hostile environment. People who have seen it describe the film as 'powerful' and 'moving'."



FROM FILM TO GARDEN SQUARE

Film Festival co-founder Toby Brown has brought a number of classic musical films to life in Earl's Court including the *Wizard of Oz* and *Alice in Wonderland*. This year beautiful

Barkston Gardens once again hosted the Earl's Courtiers and their production of *Oliver!*. In June, over 50 local children performed as pickpockets and urchins with over £10,000 raised for charity from the 1500 audience members who attended; and they all Wanted MORE! As part of the festival, a film of the play's highlights will be screened, recapturing those magical summer nights.

SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF A PRIEST

The Earls Court Film Festival is backing a crowdsourced funded documentary which explores the life and work of Bill Kirkpatrick a local priest who, in the 80s, found himself at the centre of London's most strident gay community, besieged and scapegoated during the darkest moments of scaremongering about AIDS. The film uncovers how he helped so many stricken in the community come to terms with the disease and how his quiet work helped turn public opinion from hysteria to understanding and sympathy. Funding has been raised through St Cuthbert's Church fundraising campaign, Film Earls Court, Caroline Tod Charitable Trust and Kickstarter.



CASEY HENNESSY – FESTIVAL WINNER 2017

This time last year, *The Snail* was awarded Best Earls Court Short at the 2017 Earls Court Film Festival. In advance of this year's event, *The Court* caught up with its writer and director, Casey Hennessy, to find out how the festival helps emerging independent directors create something unique.

Chosen as the best of five shorts co-produced in the Earl's Court area, *The Snail* is a quirky glimpse into a child's imagination with undertones of a global reckoning for humanity. Quite what that reckoning is has been left entirely for the audience to decide – a combination of simple premise, seamless construction and limited dialogue make the film deliberately open handed.

"All I wanted was for the viewer to be taken away from reality for a small moment in time," says writer and director Casey Hennessy. "People have interpreted it in lots of different ways, but my initial idea was for it not to mean anything – nothing more than an expression of the power of

imagination. I wanted the audience to take it where they wanted it to."

The Snail is just one in a growing line of films made thanks to the work of local residents Sean Duffy and Caroline Tod Richardson, who since 2015 have developed a local infrastructure that helps new and emerging film-makers and screen writers with grants and logistical support. Films are shot in the Earl's Court area during the spring and summer and are then shown and judged at the festival alongside a large and growing number of submissions from elsewhere in the UK.

"It is really refreshing to see a genuine passion for the community from the organisers," says Hennessy. "A friend said to me that ECFF has grown to the point where it could charge submission fees, and I thought it was commendable that they don't. When film-makers struggle to get these things made, the last thing they need is to pay money to show them. It is really encouraging for people trying to make it in the industry."

It also helps Earl's Court continue to have an impact on the arts – and not only as a location. "*The Snail* was entirely shot in the area – on Child's Walk. I had originally had a completely different idea for a location and was a little apprehensive. I wanted it to be on a council estate and that would have made it much darker. But Caroline gave me this compete curve ball and took me to see the sort of place where any tourist would snap a photo – and it made sense. It helped show things colourfully as children love to



do and created a better juxtaposition to sweeten the blow."

Hennessy is an accomplished director of commercials in her waking life and says producing an independent piece has both pros and cons. "No one is commissioning you, so everybody you work with is running off your drive and passion. Everything, from the creative process to begging, borrowing and stealing to get it made is hard – but it is also a great thing. I wanted to make something I didn't have anyone to answer to or solve a brief or put client logos on."

She is currently writing her next short. "I plan on making it longer than *Snail* – the standard ten to 15 minute length," she says. "It's about two best friends leading dead-end lives in the Midlands. They break into a supermarket and run riot. It's a true story."

And advice for any would-be film-makers? "Don't wait for other people to tell you what you can and can't do. Just find a way to get it done."

See caseyhennessy.co.uk/portfolio-item/snail-trailer-for-a-taste-of-things-to-come.

EARLS COURT FILM FESTIVAL

The Judges

The judges for this year's nominations include:



LEIGH LAWSON

Leigh is an eminent actor with a long career on stage and screen, starring in Roman Polanski's iconic *Tess* as well as Franco Zeffirelli's *Brother Son*, *Sister Moon*.



KEVIN MAHER

Kevin is a writer, journalist and film critic, whose work appears in *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, and *The Observer*. His debut novel, *The Fields*, was listed in the 2013 Waterstones 11, a literary book prize for first time authors.



JENNY RUNACRE

Jenny is prolific actress and director. She starred in Pier Paolo Pasolini's *The Canterbury Tales*, John Huston's *The Mackintosh Man* as well as *The Passenger*, *The Duellists*, *Jubilee*, *The Lady Vanishes*, and *The Witches*.



TOBY RUSHTON

Toby is an actor, writer and script editor whose credits include *Welcome to the Punch*, *Monsters* and *The Sweeney*. His work in Children's screenwriting includes *Horrid Henry* and *The Roly Mo Show*.

Dancer, presenter and performer Wayne Sleep will also be joining the judging panel at the Gala on Friday 9th November.

Filming's a Feature of Earl's Court

As a vital and photogenic part of London, Earl's Court is no stranger to the orange direction signs that suddenly appear overnight affixed to lampposts. They bear cryptic initials and are actually signposts to guide all the production vehicles, lighting, cameras, catering etc. that need to converge at a filming location. Brompton Cemetery is, perhaps, our most used film location, instantly recognisable in films like *Afraid of the Dark* (1991), *Jack and Sarah* (1995), *Goldeneye* (1995) *Wings of the Dove* (1997), *Johnny English* (2003), *Storm Breaker* (2006), *Eastern Promises* (2007) and *Sherlock Holmes* (2009).

But other corners of The Court area have also played host to film and TV crews, lending their distinct atmosphere and unique architectural heritage to the dramas.

In John Landis's classic macabre comedy *An American Werewolf in London* (1981) David (David

Naughton) is bitten by a werewolf but survives, he wakes up in, what was, the Princess Beatrice Maternity Hospital at the corner of Finborough Road and Lillie Road. His nurse Alex (Jenny Agutter) lives around the corner at 64 Coleherne Road and it is there, after they have struck up a friendship, that he first turns into a werewolf.

In *Basic Instinct 2* (2006) Sharon Stone, returns as Catherine Tramell the knickerless, leg-uncrossing, criminal seductress. It is at a party, in one pivotal scene shot at 15 Collingham Gardens, that Dr. Michael Glass (David Morrissey) is drawn into her web.

Cult director, Danny Boyle spent three days in 2013 at 72 Courtfield Gardens shooting scenes for his movie *Trance*, starring James McAvoy. For a man who doesn't travel much, Roman Polanski has a long reach when directing. *The Ghost* (2010) starring Ewan McGregor and Pierce Brosnan is based on Robert Harris' book about

a ghost writer, hired to complete the memoirs of a former British Prime Minister, uncovering secrets that put his own life in jeopardy. Hogarth Road is the backdrop for a number of scenes.

Ewan McGregor also stars in *Trainspotting* as a drug addict who, briefly, tries his hand at being an estate agent in London. He finds it impossible to sell the dingy first floor flat on the corner of North End Road and Talgarth Road, opposite the Famous Three Kings pub, as, "a beautifully converted Victorian town house, ideally located in a quiet road near to the local shops and transport."

Director Richard Loncraine chose two major Earl's Court locations for his star studded *Richard III* (1995). St Cuthbert's Church was used as the atmospheric ballroom at King Edward's palace and the lower floors of the Exhibition Centre served as the backstage area for Richard's Nuremberg style rally.

The Exhibition Centre also doubled for Gotham City in Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* (2008). It was in the kitchens that the Joker, played by Heath Ledger in his most memorable role, first met the gangsters.

The beautiful "Arab Room" of Leighton House was chosen by Terry Gilliam for *Brazil* (1985) and also featured as The Varsity Club in *Keep The Aspidistra Flying* (1997).

And the crews keep coming. In the recent Billie Piper and Carey Mulligan BBC thriller *Collateral*, 28 Bramham Gardens is the centre of the drama while right now on BBC 3 iPlayer you can watch Luke McQueen's *Britain's Hidden Vampire Crisis* spoof documentary mostly shot in good old Brompton cemetery.



Pop Over to the Pop Up High Street

This summer saw the opening of the next phase of the brand new pop-up high street, West Brompton Crossing. The revitalised Prince Pub on Lillie Road, is now joined by a deli, a rotating community space, a bike repair shop and café. A complimentary loyalty card for West Brompton Crossing is available for local residents, offering discounts and seasonal promotions. If you are interested in receiving a loyalty card, please email info@myearlscourt.com. The Court went to find out a bit more about the new spaces.

THE CROSSING – THE COMMUNITY SHOP

This is a unique retail store created as a space for the local community, it aims to provide a free permanent pop-up area for local artists, students, designers and businesses.

Dedicated to hosting temporary takeovers and exhibitions, The Crossing aims to allow new local businesses to experience and learn how to promote and sell its products in a supportive and pressure-free environment. For customers it supplies an ever changing box of delights.

The store comes with all amenities provided and free of charge, including electricity, Wi-Fi and water. There will also be a selection of modular furniture available so that each tenant can create their own unique environment in which to showcase their brand.

The Crossing opens with a residency from brands backed by the Prince's Trust. Over the coming weeks this will include luxury pet accessories from Paws with Opulence, shoe brand House of Spring, and handmade fashion designs from War & Drobe.



Kevin Sutton, The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme Manager for the South of England is thrilled by the new space. "It's so important for us to work with organisations that celebrate entrepreneurship and create spaces for new businesses. Paws with Opulence, House of Spring and War & Drobe will benefit hugely from the shoppers that this innovative high street will attract."

The War & Drobe team, the first tenant at the Community Shop, told us "We were delighted to be the first tenant at The Crossing. Our garments are proudly handcrafted in London and our 'local first' ethic fits well with the community spirit at West Brompton Crossing. The Crossing is a brilliant initiative which allows brands like ourselves to have their own pop-up in a supportive and pressure-free environment."

THE HOARDER

Deli, greengrocer and coffee shop offering a variety of fresh, natural and specialist foods, The Hoarder brings its own special modern touch.

Jacob Pover and Michael Mulcay, the people behind Earls Court's latest delicatessen, told us

"Our new and first home at West Brompton Crossing is the perfect fit for our brand. The Hoarder offers unique and local products, that inject life into the daily shop. With more than 100 fresh items stocked in our shop, we hope the Earl's Court community will be amazed by the quality and variety from local producers."

PEDAL BACK CYCLING

Pedal Back Cycling was formed by two South London ladies with a simple mantra; bikes coffee, lifestyle. Pedal Back Cycling aims to create a warm and welcoming hub where you can get your bike serviced or fixed whilst relaxing with a coffee, piece of cake or craft beer. With an open workshop, honest advice and a relaxed and fun approach to cycling, Pedal Back Cycling puts the city cyclist at the head of the pack with an emphasis on cool, funky bikes and accessories and sound advice on your bike. Nicky and Ria, founders of Pedal Back Cycling, said, "Pedal Back Cycling are so excited to be opening our doors at West Brompton Crossing. Pop in and join the club, grab a coffee to go or stay a little longer for a chat, the Pedal Back Cycling gang are looking forward to meeting you!"



The Crossing



Hawkesdown House School

For Boys & Girls
aged 3 to 11 years

27 Edge Street, Kensington, London W8 7PN
Telephone: 0207 727 9090 Email: admin@hawkesdown.co.uk
www.hawkesdown.co.uk



19 SEPTEMBER

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH, SW5 9EB

EARL'S COURT

7 PM

£8

"THIS AMAZING FILM IS A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT, SERVING TO BRING A LIGHT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL, VISCERAL ATTITUDES OBSTRUCTING WOMEN'S EQUALITY."

MERYL STREEP

"INDIA'S DAUGHTER IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS OF THE 21ST CENTURY. WHAT A VITAL AND INCREDIBLE POWERFUL TOOL IT HAS GIVEN TO US ALL."

EMMA THOMPSON

AN EVENING WITH FILM DIRECTOR LESLEE UDWIN

SCREENING INDIA'S DAUGHTER DOCUMENTARY 1HR

Q&A WITH LESLEE UDWIN 1HR

BUY YOUR TICKET HERE

www.tickettailor.com/events/aneveningwithlesleedudwin/



Notable Buildings – The Penta

This time we look at one of the tallest, and most extraordinary, buildings in the south of the area.

BY THADDEUS BELL

Presently known as the Holiday Inn, at the time the 25-storey hotel was built, in the early seventies, it was called the Penta.

The name was not an architectural derivation, its cruciform shape had more than five side, or less if you looking at the number of ways the windows face, but came from the number of airlines that backed its creation, guaranteeing bookings from its inception: AlItalia, Swiss Air, Lufthansa, BEA and BOAC. It was built in 1971-2 in a time when the West london Air Terminal dominated the service industries of Earl's Court.

The Terminal itself was situated over the road in what is now Sainsbury's and Point West. Passengers would book in to their flights, have their bags checked in, and then were bussed out to Heathrow, directly to their aeroplanes. With the Terminal, Earl's Court became notorious for its abundance of cheap hotels and other visitor services, from restaurants to brothels, catering for the transient air passengers as well as visitors attending all the trade shows at the Exhibition Centre.

On top of that, airlines often struggled to house their crews when stopping over in London and the scheme for the Penta was devised.

It could be argued that the first step to the re-gentrification of the area was building a hotel big, and modern, enough to drain the local boarding rooms, hostels and seedy



hotels; making room for longer term tenancies and a community more invested in the area. Did the hated Penta actually save Earl's Court?

The chosen architect was Richard Seifert, London's own skyscraper king who also built Centrepoint and the NatWest building (which, like a stick of rock, is designed in the shape of their triangular logo when seen from the air) now known as Tower 42 since the bank moved out. Seifert set about creating a surprising monolith of concrete in the genteel confines of redbricked Ashburn Gardens.

The houses which backed on to two sides of the garden square, on Ashburn Place and Cromwell Road, were demolished and Seifert was charged with only using the same footprint as the houses demolished so the garden square might be preserved. Seifert's first plans were in fact much bigger than the eventual building, with a bridge across Cromwell Road directly to the Terminal building, and although he eventually did keep nearly the same foundational square footage as the demolished buildings, its bold design branched in different directions and, along with the service outbuildings, left what greenery there was in awkward shapes and unusable as a garden.

The building includes an underground car park with a wide 6 story base for restaurants, lobby and



conferencing areas. It utilises a cross shaped footprint entirely at diagonals to the square and surrounding buildings, as if to emphasise its modernity and difference. Then the main, narrower, tower rises above the base. For an apparently fundamentally functional building there is still a moment of, what seems, complete fancy as two of its faces employ medieval style jettying, complete with concrete brackets; so parts of the tower overhang the base, just as ancient London houses would overhang the street, perfect for throwing out the slops. Like a jenga tower, these opposing overhangs drive the weight of the tower into a narrower area requiring less intrusive internal supporting walls within the lower parts.

The Penta was, and is, an extraordinary building as much for its setting as its somewhat brutalist design. The Cromwell Road, west of Gloucester Road was considered outside any conservation restrictions and little credence was given to concerned conservationists, seen as stick-in-the-muds standing in the way of progress. So the building was created more in contrast rather than sympathy to surrounding architecture or community, purposely paying almost no attention to the style or heights or light expectations of surrounding buildings. It was a bold sign of the new rather than anything which reflected the past. The only skyscraper for miles, it still proudly announces its presence to anybody coming in from Heathrow as soon

as they hit the elevated section in Brentford and visible from most viewpoints in London.

Its incongruous design not only angered its neighbours but, in an article entitled "Bad Dreams Coming True", *The Architectural Review* described the Penta as "a terrifying interruption of the weave of this part of London." Dave Walker of *The Library Time Machine* blog points out that, even so, "The writer did admit that the large site meant it could sit out of alignment with the buildings next to it which caused less harm to the street layout. 'What the passer-by sees is an apparently chaotic pile forcing its way upwards through successive layers of low level impediments.'"

Today this much maligned building is facing a re-appraisal. Hated by its neighbours for decades, developers now propose to demolish it and build two more modern, squarer, taller buildings in its place whilst restoring a garden square; even if it is one much smaller than the original and in, of course, a much longer shadow. With problems like asbestos lined rooms in the current building, a careful demolition and rebuild could take up to a decade according to the developers.

Residents and architectural conservationists, faced with this future plan, are finally giving this long-loathed building a new appreciation.

More information about this notable building and its future can be found at queensgateinv.com

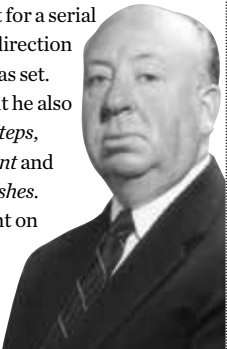
The Court's Blue Plaques – A Tour – Part 2

Earl's Court has always been a neighbourhood of tolerance and many of Britain's eccentrics have found a home here. Continuing our journey around Earl's Court's Blue Plaques we find a world famous film director, the preeminent actress of her age, a beloved comic writer and presenter. All of them with their own slight and charming eccentricities.

Sir Alfred Hitchcock (1899–1980)

– 153 Cromwell Road SW5 0TQ

The notorious film director moved in to the top floors of this house on Cromwell Road after directing his first film *The Pleasure Garden* and getting married. He made his first thriller shortly after moving in, *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog*, about the hunt for a serial killer and the direction of his career was set. Whilst resident he also made *The 39 Steps*, *The Secret Agent* and *The Lady Vanishes*. Hitchcock went on to Hollywood to become one of the most iconic film



directors of all time making films like *Rear Window*, *The Birds* and *Psycho*. "Blondes," he said, "make the best victims. They're like virgin snow that shows up the bloody footprints."

William Rushton (1937-1996)

– 9 Wallgrave Road SW5 0RL

Though not an official English Heritage one, this blue plaque was installed by Comic Heritage for the much beloved satirist, comedian, artist and writer. A founder of the magazine *Private Eye*, Rushton became familiar to millions as one of the cast of the BBC satirical show *That Was The Week That Was*. He was cast in numerous films and was



such a stalwart of the Radio 4 show *I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue*, that he was also honoured with a plaque in Mornington Crescent tube station. A reference to the enigmatic game of the same name that he played on the show. Never afraid to offend, he once described German as "the most extravagantly ugly language, it sounds like someone using a sick-bag on a 747."

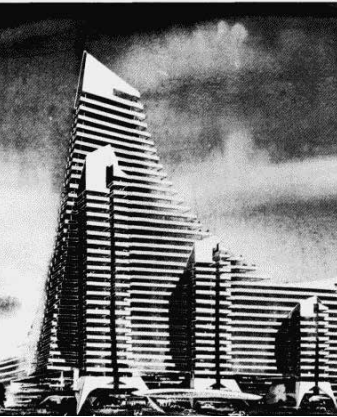
Dame Ellen Terry (1847-1928)

– 22 Barkston

Gardens SW5 0ER
A child bride to the eminent Victorian painter George Fredrick Watts, Terry was already separated by 17. Coming from a theatrical family (her grandnephew



was John Gielgud) she trod the boards from an early age and for seven decades. She rose to become a national star and through years of playing Shakespeare roles, became an expert on the Bard, lecturing around the world. While living here she had a famous correspondence with George Bernard Shaw who offered her acting advice and tried to lure her away from Henry Irving's influence. The house exterior was notable for lavish floral displays on the balcony and window-sills. "My little home!", she exclaimed to one interviewer, "only full of twopenny-halfpenny things; but I love them all for dear associations' sake". Her collection included Sarah Bernhardt's lace handkerchief, and spectacles that had belonged to Sir Arthur Sullivan, Irving and Whistler.



ST PHILIP'S SCHOOL

LEADING BOYS' PREP (7-13) IN KENSINGTON

www.stpschool.co.uk

6 Wetherby Place | London SW7 4NE | Tel (020) 7373 3944 | f.kendall@stpschool.co.uk

Approximately half of all leavers since 2010 to:
Day Dulwich, KCS Wimbledon, St Paul's, Westminster
Boarding Ampleforth, Eton, Harrow, Winchester

"Parents are relaxed and confident that their boys will do well" - Good Schools Guide 2017

"Pupils' attitudes to learning are exceptional" - Ofsted 2018

"Tailored curriculum ensures that pupils gain places at their first choice of senior school" - Ofsted 2018

thecourt

CALENDAR

October-November 2018

For further listings details, please check www.thecourt.london and with the venue or organiser to confirm dates and times. All listings correct at time of going to press. If you'd like to see your event below, please send listings in the same format to listings@thecourt.london.

ART & DESIGN

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Lustrous Surfaces
Until 21 Oct 2018
Fashioned from Nature
Until 4 Nov 2018
The Future Starts Here
Until 4 Nov 2018
See website for Free tours, talks and family events.
A Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7
T 020 7942 2000
W vam.ac.uk/whatson

LEIGHTON HOUSE

SAKBEH CIVILISATIONS SUPPER CLUB
Fri 18 Oct, 7pm
This evening explores the fusion of Sicilian and Middle Eastern influences expressed through food and song.
£58 (includes a drink, food and entertainment)

PUPPET CREATION
Sat 20 Oct, 2pm to 3.30pm
Expert puppet makers Knuckle and Joint teach children to make their own puppet inspired by the magic of Leighton House.
Children £3; FREE for accompanying adult

OTTOMAN COURT MUSIC
Tue 23 Oct
Be transported by the wonderful music of Baha Yetkin and Alexandros Koustas exploring the traditional Turkish Makams and the rhythms of the Ottoman Court.
£12; £9.50 student discount
A Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 8LZ
W rbko.gov.uk/subsites/museums/leightonhousemuseum/whatson1.aspx

THE LINLEY SAMBOURNE FAMILY HOUSE COSTUMED TOURS
Every Sat, 11am to 12.15pm (Adults £10, concs £8)
Wed 31 Oct; Wed 5 Dec, 7pm (£12)
As guests of Mrs Sambourne or her parlour maid Mrs Reffell, this actor-led tour provides a dramatic account of life at 18 Stafford Terrace, based on Marion Sambourne's diaries. Advance booking is essential.

HALF-TERM FAMILY COSTUMED TOURS
Mon 22 Oct 2018, 11am to 12.15pm, and 2pm to 3.15pm
Special costumed tours for families suitable for children aged 5 and over.
Adults £10, Concs £8
Advance booking is essential.

B 18 Stafford Terrace, London W8 7BH
W eventbrite.co.uk/o/18-stafford-terrace-8361776557?s=42434801

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART

STEWARTS RCA SECRET 2018
30 Nov to 6 Dec
Stewarts RCA Secret is London's original postcard exhibition where supporters can own artwork by some of the world's most celebrated artists as well as graduates and students through a £60 donation is made. All proceeds go to the RCA Fund.

A RCA Kensington Gore SW7 2EU or **T** 020 7590 4444 **W** rca.ac.uk

ROYAL BRITISH SOCIETY OF SCULPTORS
DUOLOGUE
To 2 Dec, Mon to Fri
11am to 5pm & Sat 12 midday to 5pm
Former President of the Royal Academy, Phillip King CBE joins forces with Brazilian-born Alexandre



da Cunha to spend a week of practical exchange and discussion in the studio space here at Dora House.
Free
A 108 Old Brompton Road, SW7 3RA **T** 020 7373 8615
W rbs.org.uk

THEATRE

THE FINBOROUGH THEATRE

A funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Gynecologic Oncology Unit – by Halley Feiffer
To 27 Oct
Vibrant - A festival of Finborough Playwrights
To 25 Oct
A 118 Finborough Road SW10 9DE
T 020 7244 7439 See website for details and to purchase tickets
W finboroughtheatre.co.uk

BARONS COURT THEATRE

Eavesdropping Again - by John Patterson
To 13 Oct
Angel Theatre Company are back at Barons Court once more with a follow up to their Eavesdropping and More Eavesdropping. Always sell out.
£12-£18

Sex Magick – by Natasha Zierhofer
15 Oct to 20 Oct
Smash Hit written all over this one. Barons Court has been looking for a really good comedy for some time – and we've found one. How about a play with strong visual comedy and clowning elements, as well as black magic, sexual healing, indigenous rituals and cross-dressing?
£10-£12

A Barons Court Theatre, Curtain's Up pub, 28a Comeragh Road, W14 9HR
T 020 8932 4747
W offwestend.com/index.php/theatres/shows/42

DRAYTON ARMS THEATRE

MUCH ADO ABOUT SALSA
25 to 13 Oct
Down in sunny Cadiz, young Faith is due to marry Calvin, who adamantly refuses to learn to dance. Roped in by her charismatic father, Leon, to inspire Calvin onto the dancefloor, ex flames Bea and Ben re-ignite their spiky and passionate association – rather against their wills.
A Drayton Arms Theatre, 153 Old Brompton Road, SW5 0LJ
T 020 7835 2301
W thedraytonarmstheatre.co.uk



MUSIC, COMEDY, POETRY

MUSIC AT ST CUTHBERT'S CHORAL EVENSONG

21 Oct, 6pm
Sung by our new voluntary choir, St Matthias Singers
Free

IN MEMORIAM.
COMMEMORATION
MOTETS OF THE RENAISSANCE
27 Oct, 7.30pm
Our resident ensemble The Lacock Scholars present a concert of polyphony by the Portuguese

composer Duarte Lobo (c.1565-1646) under their director, Gregory Skidmore.
Free entry with a collection
A 50 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London SW5

NELL's JAZZ AND BLUES

FAIRPORT CONVENTION
17 Oct, 7pm
£25
STEVE FORBERT
21 Oct, 7.30pm
£18
THE HANDSOME FAMILY
22 Oct, 7pm
£25
THE SKATALITES
26 Oct, 7pm
£25
KAKKMADDAFAKKA
29 Oct, 7pm
£15
ANDY FAIRWEATHER LOW & THE LOW RIDERS
2 Nov, 7pm
£25

A 3, North End Crescent, W14 8TG
T 020 7792 1200
W nellsjazzandblues.com

THE TROUBADOUR CLUB

Every Sun, Jazz with Sebastian de Krom and Friends
Every Mon, Night Jazz at the Troubadour
Every Tue, Troubadour Jazz (No cover charge)

Dirty Canvas Club
Oct 19, 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
CountryLine Presents Remember Monday single release party
Oct 21 7pm (Doors 6.30pm)
Chris Youlden
Mon Oct 22 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Independent Musicians Collective present Funk, Soul and Disco Classics!
Oct 23 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
London Rocks presents The Trembling Wilburys
Oct 24 8pm (Doors 7.30pm)
Second Sons + Eat This

Oct 25 8.30pm (Doors 7.30pm)
Alpha 2 Omega Reggae Night
Oct 27 8pm (Doors 8pm)
Raquel Rodriguez + Special Guest
Nov 1 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Mike Dennis + Special guest
Nov 2 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Raquel Rodriguez + ANA
Nov 7 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Lauren Ray - Inside This Silence UK Tour
Nov 13 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Raquel Rodriguez + Nigel Hall + ANA
Nov 15 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Dirty Canvas Club
Nov 16 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Raquel Rodriguez + ANA
Nov 21 8.30pm (Doors 8pm)
Alpha 2 Omega Reggae Night
Nov 24 8pm (Doors 8pm)
Open Sun-Wed 7pm-midnight; Thu-Sat 7pm-2am.
A 263 Old Brompton Road, SW5
T 020 7370 1434
W troubadourlondon.com – tickets available online.

THE COURT CROSSWORD NUMBER 2

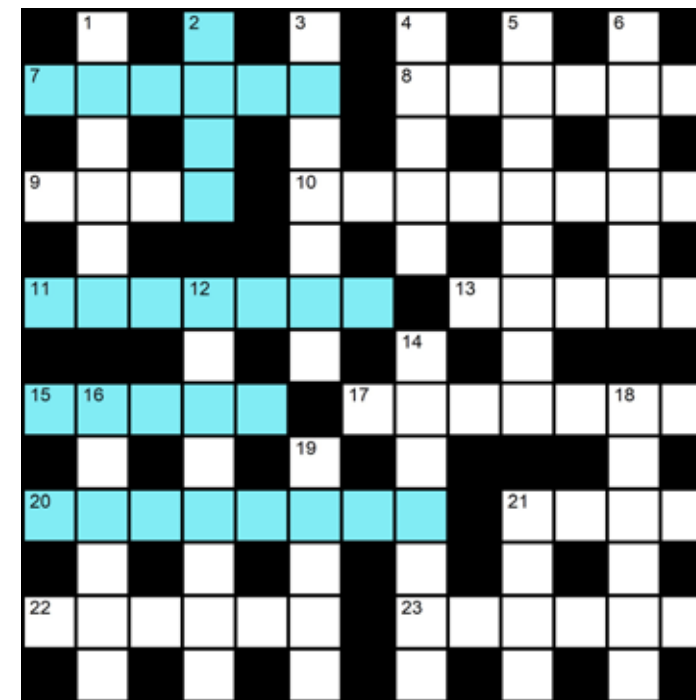
A cryptic crossword with a bit of local knowledge. Five clues (in blue) point to local place-names - this time all of them on the Fulham side of the Court area.

ACROSS

- Royal Automobile Club man does a 100mph down local road. (6)
- Ancient drink with an exclamation of hurt in grassy lea. (6)
- Ski lift leads to what sounds like a hot drink ban. (1-3)
- Unwanted, inappropriate and messily drawn-out. (8)
- Local road led the young Henry V to a water crossing. (7)
- Shutter without a silencer will speak. (5)
- Gibbons are not on a local green estate. (5)
- The lands of an eastern king are meatier maybe. (7)
- Local crescent confuses U-Boat men. (8)
- Gas that illuminates back, no end. (4)
- Hot sauce for angry artists. (6)
- Felicitate beyond fate to evoke and draw out. (6)

DOWN

- Greek letter sent to young sheep father without an old penny. (6)
- Local road burning gas ball. (4)
- Official investigation re: Quiny collapses (7)
- Pour out and there's nothing left. (5)
- Fred Astaire's favourite drink? (3,5)
- French exchange can exist around what belongs to us. (6)
- Bare fury rages for a month. (8)
- Nets going up around university catch the infatuated. (7)
- End picnic and up pace for glacial topping. (3,3)
- Second rate second number chewed. (3-3)
- Oven-cook right before mixing in oats. (5)
- Conditional clause after upsetting an innocent person. (4)



Last issue's Crossword Winner was Russell Levinson who will receive a bottle of wine.





EARL'S COURT FILM FESTIVAL

26TH OCTOBER –
9TH NOVEMBER 2018

SCREENINGS

THE BOLTON | THE PRINCE | ST CUTHBERT'S

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM FILMEARLSCOURT.COM

SPONSORED BY

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

EARLS | COURT



EARL'S COURT
COMMUNITY
TRUST



The
Qualified
Property
Professionals

SUPPORTED BY
EARL'S COURT COMMUNITY TRUST