

thecourt

ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY NEWS FROM
HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM AND EARL'S COURT

November/December/January

A FUN-PACKED WINTER



CHELSEA THEATRE

Putting community at the heart of art

ECDC MASTERPLAN

The response to your feedback

FAMILY EVENTS GALORE

Something for everyone this season



Keeping
Life Local

A huge welcome to the Winter edition of *The Court*

We have a fantastic lineup of events this Winter season for you, with everything from the Guy Fawkes laser extravaganza in both Hammersmith and Fulham at the beginning of the month to the Earl's Court International Film Festival mid-month and a slew of great family outings ending with the Christmas Panto in Chelsea running to December 17th.

There are local plays from The Earl's Courtiers, international

productions at The Finborough and on a more formal note, your chance to visit the Earls Court Development Company Masterplan exhibition detailing plans for culture, neighbourhood, nature and innovation at the development site.

We also speak to the CEO of Chelsea Theatre about his team's efforts to create a new kind of community interaction with the arts on page 8. Dive in!



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CHRISTMAS 2023

CAROLS COMING TO A
GARDEN NEAR YOU



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EARL'S
COURT
COMMUNITY
TRUST

**The
Earls Court
Development
Company**



Guy Fawkes Extravaganza

London's biggest ever laser light shows

will entertain thousands celebrating bonfire night in Hammersmith & Fulham at the Fawkes Festival extravaganza on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 November, held simultaneously at Ravenscourt Park in Hammersmith, and Bishops Park, Fulham.

The multi-coloured laser light shows are the largest of their kind in London. Both are themed around 'a night at the movies' and

will be soundtracked to a compilation of much-loved film scores and classic movie music. The kaleidoscope of colours will be created with special effects, synchronized lights, and flames.

The parks will host a children's funfair, illuminous face painting, LED Stilt Walkers, UV bubble displays and performers. Food and drink from Urban Food Fest will be on offer, including gallons of hot chocolate and

marshmallows to keep you warm.

There will be three shows each night. Each ticket gives you access to all three viewings on the night at 6pm, 7pm and 8pm.

Buy tickets at www.fawkesfestival.com/london. Children three years and under, free, Children 4 to 15, up to £11, Adults, up to £15.



SWEENEY TODD WANTS YOU

Refettorio Felix, 51 Philbeach Gardens, SW5 9EB

Tue 21st to Fri 24th November

Join the Earl's Courtiers for their sensational winter production of Sweeney Todd – the legendary tale of a barber out for revenge – from 7pm at Refettorio Felix.

The evil Judge Turpin lusts for the beautiful wife of a London barber and transports him to Australia for a crime he did not commit. Returning after 15 years and calling himself Sweeney Todd, the now-madman vows revenge, applying his razor to unlucky customers and shuttling the bodies down to Mrs Lovett, who uses them in her meat-pie shop. Though many fall to his blade, he will not be satisfied until he slits Turpin's throat.

Your £45 ticket includes a three course Michelin star-style dinner with half a bottle of wine and the best seats at the famous Sweeney's barbers. Seated by 7pm, show begins at 7.30pm. All proceeds will be donated to the Refettorio Felix and the Earl's Court Community Trust.

Search Earl's Courtiers on eventbrite.co.uk for tickets.

Book Here

EARL'S COURT CHRISTMAS CAROL EXTRAVAGANZA

3 - 15 DEC 2023

Earl's Court Carols in Redcliffe Square

3 December, 18:00, Open to All

Cornwall Gardens

6 December, 18:00, Open to Cornwall, South Kensington and Queensgate Conservation Area

Bramham Gardens

7 December, 19:00, Open to Bramham Gardens Residents Only

Gledhow Gardens

8 December, 18:30, Open to Courtfield Conservation Area

Coleherne Court

9 December, 18:00, Open to Coleherne Court Residents Only

Lexham Gardens

12 December, 19:00, Open to Lexham Conservation Area

Onslow Square

13 December, 18:30, Open to All

Nevern Square

14 December, 18:30, Open to All



Diary of a Film Festival



Earl's Court International Film Festival announces exciting lineup for November.

Earl's Court International Film Festival is an increasingly landmark point in London's film calendar. Demonstrating UK and global cinematic talent from November 10 to 17, the Festival is this year fanning out across new venues in Earl's Court and broader London, with a programme of compelling films, cross-cultural community events and an exclusive gala and awards ceremony.

"As the festival's profile continues to grow, so too does the remarkable array of submissions from both emerging and professionally maturing short film filmmakers," says Caroline Tod-Richardson, Festival Director and associate film producer at Film Earl's Court. "Over three hundred short films have been received for Festival consideration, and an incredible three hundred and sixty additional community-based charity shorts submitted for our inaugural Festival Storytelling Competition, a collaboration with Chelsea Theatre."

The Festival is in fact unique worldwide because it finances, co-produces and premieres the short films it helps make, supporting emerging film talent and creating global visibility and opportunities for emerging British writers, directors, producers and filmmakers.



This year's festival selection includes screenings of *To A Cinder*, a feature film where Film Earl's Court is an associate producer, as well as British, international and First Films shorts in documentary, animation and experimental cinema formats.

Buy your tickets early. The November 13 Soho screening of the best of Earl's Court International Film Festival has already sold out.

Festival Showings & Events

Family Edition: The Best of Earl's Court International Film Festival

November 10, 11am-12.30pm (Matinee)
Chelsea Theatre, 7 World's End Place, SW10 ODR
Free Admission

Earl's Court International Film Festival Opening Night

November 10, 6.45pm-9.30pm
K+K Hotel George Kensington, 1-15 Templeton Place, SW5 9NB
General Admission £10

The Earl's Court International Film Festival at The Troubadour

November 14, 7pm-9pm
The Troubadour, 265-267 Old Brompton Road, SW5 9JA
General Admission £10

Storytelling Competition Event in Chelsea

November 15, 6.45pm-8.30pm
Chelsea Theatre, 7 Worlds End Place, SW10 ODR
Free Admission

Earl's Court International Film Festival Gala at St Cuthbert's

November 17, 6.45pm-9.30pm
Saint Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens, SW5 9EB
General Admission: £15

For more information, including the full festival schedule and ticket details, please visit the official festival website at www.filmearlscourt.com.

Golden Socks & The Three Bears

Chelsea Theatre, London, SW10 ODR
Sat 16th to Sun 17th December

Chelsea Theatre presents Inside Out On Stage's production of Golden Socks and The Three Bears. Join them for this year's Christmas Pantomime spectacular which gives a terrific, modern twist on the classic story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Follow our cheeky Panto Forest Fairy in this all-singing, all-dancing production as she jumps inside

the stories of Pantoland and shakes them up, leaving the audience in heaps of giggles. Be amazed by porridge rapping poems and golden socks galore. As said by baby bear, this Christmas Pantomime will be "just right"!

There will be two matinee showings on 16th December 1.30pm and again at 3.30pm. On 17th December the panto shows at 1.30pm.

Tickets: Children £10, Adults £15. Search for Chelsea Theatre on [ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk).



Earl's Court Christmas Light Switch On

Across Earl's Court Ward
29th November to 14th December

The Christmas Light Switch On has gone from a gentle few carols on Kenway Road with a small band of singers from Our Lady of Victories primary school ten years ago to a whole procession of state dignitaries and crowds of smiling participants cramming Earl's Court Road from across the boroughs. Join them this year:

- 29 November, 5pm, Kenway Road
- 3 December, 6pm, Redcliffe Square
- 6 December, 6pm, Cornwall Gardens
- 7 December, 7pm, Bramham Gardens
- 8 December, 6pm, Gledhow Gardens
- 9 December, 6pm, Coleherne Court
- 12 December, 6pm, Lexham Gardens
- 13 December, 6.30pm, Onslow Square
- 14 December, 6.30pm, Nevern Square

EARL'S COURT CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON

30 NOV 2023

Kenway Road
5pm onwards
Switch on at 6pm



Book Here

Free festive food and warm beverages will give the 8th annual Earl's Court Christmas Light Illuminations a distinctively feel this year. Add in the angelic tones of the local school choirs and we will have you feeling super Christmassy in no time.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PERFORMERS...

Whether you are a talented pianist, singer or just want to be part of a Christmas choir to get in the festive spirit Get in touch today



Email Us

The Art of Residence

Kimberely Gundle talks to Brian Scudder about her artist's residency programme held at the Earls Court Community Hub located in West Kensington, a consequence of The Earls Court Development Company's cultural initiatives created in partnership with The National Portrait Gallery.



The Court Tell me a little bit about your practice and why you were chosen for this residence.

Kimberely People have always been central to my practice and central to my world. I've always drawn and sketched people ever since ever. When I came to London in 1988 to do my Masters at the Slade, I felt very unanchored in society because it was all just very different to South Africa.

I used to catch the underground to university, so I started sketching people on the Underground in the tube carriages. I carry on this practice today. It's kind of capturing fleeting glances of the warp and weft of London society. As you travel from, say, North London to Brixton or Walthamstow, you get a complete change in demographic. So you get a good cross section of humanity.

I've just had an exhibition called *How is the Weather in Your Head?* And this exhibition brought together ceramic portraits I've created of the people I've sketched during Covid, when everybody was so isolated.

I also began posting a visual-thought-a-day on Instagram. My first was on the 20th of March 2020 because I was thinking that we need to stay connected to each other. It's now a daily process. I only do it fairly late at night because it captures the most prominent thought of the day.

It's all got to do with how we process our world in visual terms – so I linked these Instagram thoughts to my portraits. At the front of each portrait is a person and at the back of the ceramic head are my visual diaries, visual thoughts. I've linked the two together.

The response was really interesting because people got to converse about how they were feeling. For an Open House in 2020, I made these ceramic cups, and because we weren't travelling on the underground, I decorated



them with my drawings of people from the underground. When London opened up a bit, I invited people through Eventbrite to come to my house to have English high tea in the garden and drink from these companion cups. I called them companion cups because they are decorated with people. With them, you never need to feel alone again.

The Court That's a lovely idea.

Kimberely What I am doing for this residency is to draw people around the community and put them on the cups so that people will come here to the community centre or wherever the cups are installed, to use the cups for a gathering, for tea and conversation. Because creating communities is very important and you do that through establishing connections.

The Court Tea is a fairly universal constant...

Kimberely Exactly. And it's also non-threatening. When someone comes to visit

and you ask them if they would like some tea, it's a way of making people feel at home.

The Court So the residency is actually a happy extension of your work...

Kimberely Yes. Yesterday I went to Leyland Paint and I got chatting to the guys. I said "I love paint shops. They're my favourite places. I'm doing this artist residency where I'm sketching people, Can I draw you?" They brought me a chair and I drew the guy behind the desk, and then a builder came in and drew him too. That's the way I love to engage. They are just fleeting sketches; they're not huge representations; just capturing the essence of a person.

There are different ways of engaging. The area has a broad community of people, which I'm really enjoying. And people are very friendly in general.

Get in touch with Kimberely:
kimberley@gundle.com; [instagram.com / kimberley_gundle_studio](https://www.instagram.com/kimberley_gundle_studio) and [kimberleygundle.com](https://www.kimberleygundle.com)

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Telling Stories for Social Purpose

One of the few theatres in the world to have been built central to a housing estate is trying to redefine what it means to hold the arts at the heart of a community.

Body Chelsea Theatre was built as part of a vision of what a modern community could look like in the 1960s. It was designed to be integral to a brand-new housing estate containing 750 homes, sitting alongside a school, a youth club, a church and the estate's seven dramatic towers.

This was the World's End Estate, completed in the mid-1970s and covering the area between the King's Road and the river where once Victorian workers' houses stood.

The theatre building has been at the heart of the community ever since, fulfilling a specific community remit. But it seems to have struggled to reach its full potential in recent years, having fallen out of favour with some residents who saw it as separate to their lives.

After the Grenfell fire in June 2017, the theatre building was tested for fire safety and shut down as a result. Rather than lose

hope, an unflagging Board of Trustees raised £2.5 million to have it completely renovated. It opened two years ago to the astonishment of many as an absolutely state-of-the-art cultural space.

Gone was the single theatre hall – replaced by four performance areas inside and outside the building. Two exhibition galleries, six studios and meeting rooms as well as the ability to turn the theatre into a cinema has transformed it physically.

But it is how these spaces are now being used that is making the real difference. We spoke to Paul Adlam, the CEO of Chelsea Theatre and its head of marketing and communications Maggie Razavi about their collaboration with Earl's Court International Film Festival (ECIFF) this year. But their story is so compelling we wanted to cover in a little more depth.

"After two years of having reopened, we've taken stock of what

best we can present for our communities and what the best position is for us to be in the cultural landscape of the city,” Paul told us. “We started off looking at supporting emerging arts. Now that’s great and will continue, but we found that many of the people that come to us already have the confidence or the resources or the education to have their voices heard.

“On the other side, we have the community coming in and through conversation and discussion we’ve realised that there are stories out there that aren’t being told, that need to be heard, and yet the people that have them don’t feel empowered to do it.

Paul and his team have changed their approach to meet this challenge. “Our strategy now is what we’re calling a storytelling strategy. Basically it’s finding pathways for these unheard and denied voices – getting people in, making them feel comfortable, creating a fertile environment for people to tell their stories, then partnering them with collaborative, creative professionals who will make sure that the output is of a good quality. And then making sure it gets the right audiences.”

This last point is crucial. Three thousand people walk through Chelsea Theatre’s doors each month to find an amazing space and an amazing atmosphere, yet many won’t have known it existed beforehand.

“I myself went to a Portuguese deli on the World’s End Estate most Saturdays for two years and I had no idea there was a theatre there,” confides Paul. “It just didn’t register. So getting it known again as a venue and giving it identity and giving people from other parts of London a reason to come; as a community in London, you want to know that people want to come to your area.

“But most of all it’s about letting people know this little jewel box of opportunities is there for them and it is theirs,” he continues. “We were very lucky with the renovation, the building looks very snazzy. But the downside to that was that people thought it was no longer for them. So it’s getting them to take ownership and see themselves as a kind of citizenship.

“That’s a two-way street,” says Maggie. “They come to us with ideas. We help them facilitate those ideas, get funding, help them with project management. So it’s not simply people coming in, it’s about developing things from scratch.”

Chelsea Theatre’s storytelling for social purpose starts in earnest with a festival in the Spring. This will include six new pieces of work

that have their roots in World’s End Estate community stories.

But in many ways it has already started. The Theatre is one of the new venues for this year’s expanded ECIFF, with a Family Edition: The Best of Earl’s Court International Film Festival showing on November 10 between 11am and 12.30pm. Admission is free and parents and children of all ages are welcome. This is being followed by an ECIFF Storytelling Competition on November 15 between 6.45pm and 8.30pm which is also free.

“The theatre is also partner for one of the awards for the film festival. A special award for films that tell stories that have social impact,” says Paul. How fitting.

At time of writing, Chelsea Theatre was showing theatrical and dance performances, poetry and book readings, art exhibitions, mini cultural festivals, music and film events – often running simultaneously – and alongside a host of classes and activities. To find out more, see chelseatheatre.org.uk. It is, after all, just down the road.



Toby Brown is Sweeney Todd
BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET
LIMITED TICKETS SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

21 - 24 NOVEMBER, 7:30PM START

Join us at Refettorio Felix in November as the Earls' Courtiers bring Sweeney Todd to life. Your evening will be filled with laughs, terror and plenty of food and drink.

These winter evenings are all in aid of raising money for Refettorio Felix and The Earls' Court Community Trust

£45 TICKET INCLUDES THREE COURSE DINNER WITH WINE FROM 7PM

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Discover Wonder At Earls Court

See the latest designs and give your views.

Over the summer, we have been evolving our draft masterplan in response to what we have heard. Join us to explore the updated proposals, building on this feedback and our vision to discover wonder at Earls Court.

Our exhibition will set out in more detail the changes we have made since February and our plans for culture, neighbourhood, nature and innovation at Earls Court, all shaped through the feedback we have heard.

This is your opportunity to see the

evolved masterplan designs which the community have helped to shape over the past three years. After this round of consultation, there will be a further update on the plans in spring before we submit our proposals for planning next summer.

Get involved and have your say on the future of Earls Court – our exhibition opens from noon on Wednesday 15 November.

Drop in to see our new models and view our exhibition at Conversation Corner on Lillie Road.

Conversation Corner will be open to the public at the following times:

- 15 Nov – 20 Dec 2023
- Wed, Thurs & Fri: 12pm – 6pm
- Sat: 11am – 3pm

Or sign up to our webinar on December 5, 2023, 6pm–7.30pm. To register your attendance, please visit our website, www.earlscourtdevco.com, email info@earlscourtdevco.com or call 0330 333 1510.

Our team will be popping up across the local area during this period to chat through our masterplan – come and say hello! See our website for when and where.



£180,000 awarded to 23 local organisations as part of annual Earls Court Community Fund

On Monday 2 October, The Earls Court Development Company (ECDC) announced the recipients of its Earls Court Community Fund for the third year running. As a result, 23 charities and community organisations operating in the neighbourhoods surrounding the Earls Court site received vital funding – amounting to a total of £180,000.

The annual Community Fund provides grants that ensure local groups and organisations can continue to provide much-needed support, projects, services, and activities for the community living near to the redevelopment site. The applicants were assessed

by an impartial panel consisting of community representatives from the boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea, as well as Rebekah Paczek, the Director of Public Affairs and Community Relations at ECDC. ECDC is again supporting a wide range of communities in the area through the Community Fund, from displaced women and children to disabled, elderly and vulnerable individuals – providing aid to charities such as Doorstep Library, For Women CIC, Action on Disability and Barons Court Project.

Earls Court is London's latest sports hotspot with the launch of Padel

This autumn, Earls Court brought forward an outdoor Padel showcase court, in collaboration with Padel Social Club. Padel, the world's fastest growing sport, it is often described as a mix of tennis and squash and is an all-inclusive sport accessible to everyone. Padel Social Club pride themselves on building inclusive Padel communities where everyone from die-hard players to first timers are welcome to play and socialise. The showcase court will sit alongside the Padel Social Club bar and social areas where players and spectators are welcome to relax before and after their games. Planning permission has gone in for five further courts. The new facilities



will provide opportunities for local people and Londoners to partake in and enjoy sport. Open seven days a week, 8am–7pm, found

on Empress Space, the meanwhile-use area that's home to BBC Earth Experience and the Earls Court Skills Centre at Empress Place, SW6 1TT.



EARLS COURT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

10 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM [FILMEARLSCOURT.COM](https://www.filmearlscourt.com)



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