

THE



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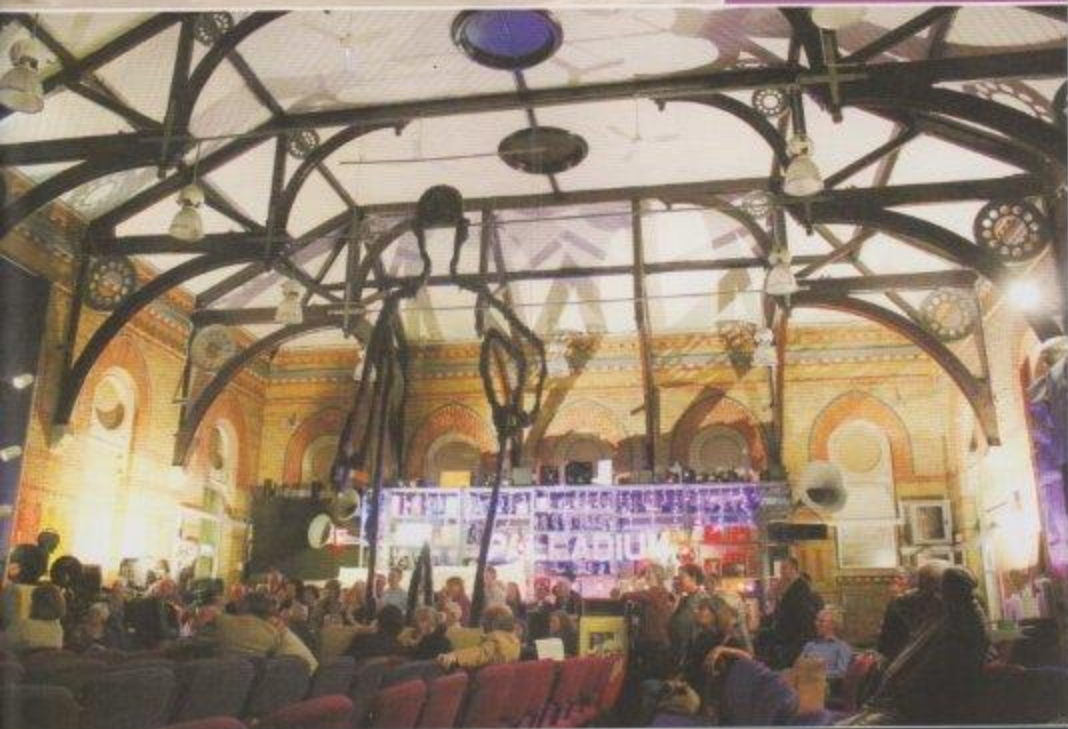
Veteran

The Magazine of the British Cinema and Television Veterans



Crisis at The Cinema Museum

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PLUS:



The Newsletter of the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund

FRONT COVER STORY

Crisis at The Cinema Museum



Part of the recent events brochure. Claire Bloom, of course, was selected by Charles Chaplin to co-star in *Limelight* (1952).

<p>Kennington Classics: Sense and Sensibility (1995) Wed 13 Sep 19:30 Award-winning Ang Lee film based on Jane Austen's 1811 novel. £5.</p>	<p>South Social Meets India Sun 17 Sep from 14:00 Film and Q&A, dance workshops, Sushkumar Marji fusion band, Vishnu Narayanan Food Passion, Ticker, spiritus or Biletto.</p>	<p>The Celluloid Sorceress's 35mm Cult Saturday Sat 23 Sep from 11:00 All day, all 35mm, all rare, all cult. Trick or Treat (1986), Manhunter (1986), Razorback (1984) and more.</p>	<p>Exploding Cinema's Disposable Film Night Sat 30 Sep 19:00 An evening of film made on mobiles, scanners, laptops, keys and other strange formats. £5.</p>	<p>Annex Tower Hamlets Group: Persepolis (2007) Sat 8 Oct 18:00 Animated film about a young girl during the Iranian Revolution based on Marjane Satrapi's graphic novel of the same name.</p>	<p>Blinking Buzards UK Buster Keaton Society Sat 14 Oct 16:00 Quarterly meeting showing beloved Buster Keaton gems. £10 in ship on door.</p>
<p>Kennington Noir: Sudden Fear (1952) Thu 14 Sep 19:30 'Woman in distress' melodrama with Oscar-nominated performance from Joan Crawford. 35mm.</p>	<p>Babylon Sister (2017) 14:00 Feel-good, song-soaked tale about an Indian family emigrated to Italy celebrates sisterhood and diversity.</p>	<p>The Vita Project: Dog Day Afternoon (1975) Wed 27 Sep 19:00 Al Pacino as a bank robber hoping to fund his lover's operation. £5 minimum donation.</p>	<p>Alborado Presents Gas Leaks (2014) Chilean documentary about the Pinochet regime's destruction of art.</p>	<p>Kennington Classics: The Way Ahead (1944) Wed 11 Oct 19:30 Conscripts called up to the infantry appear a hopeless bunch – but a sergeant and lieutenant mould them into a team. £5.</p>	<p>An Evening with Claire Bloom CBE Sat 14 Oct 19:30 Jonathan Rigby talks to Claire about a career on stage, film and TV. She debuted on stage at 15 and on film in Chaplin's <i>Limelight</i> (1952). Ad: £14 (£13 conc). Door: £15 (£14).</p>
<p>Transgender Film Festival Fri 15 Sep 18:00, 20:00 & 22:00 Traumkino LGBTQIA shorts, plus <i>Thirsky</i> (2016) & <i>Elia</i> (2015). £5.</p>	<p>Hotel Salvation (2016) 17:00 Comedy-drama on life, death and family in the holy city of Varanasi.</p>	<p>The Great War Series with Julia Cave Thu 28 Sep 19:30 Julia explains how war veterans were interviewed on film for the new BBC2 channel in 1964.</p>	<p>Alborado Presents The Cambridge Squatter (2017) Docu-fiction on the residents of an abandoned hotel in Sao Paulo.</p>	<p>Kennington Noir: Piffal (1948) Thu 12 Oct 19:30 Post war American bias is shaken to its core in this tale of a company man's discontent and infidelity.</p>	<p>Misty Moon presents Carry On Girls Sun 15 Oct 14:00 An afternoon in the company of some of the lovely Carry On ladies. Ad: £14 (£13 conc). Door: £15 (£14).</p>
<p>Jake Arnott Film Night Sat 16 Sep 19:30 Author of seven novels including <i>The Long Firm</i> and <i>His Kidnappers</i> which made TV dramas. Jake will be showing clips and discussing the movies that have inspired, inspired and entertained him.</p>	<p>Kennington Bioscope presents Filibus (1915) Wed 20 Sep 19:30 Crime drama/science fiction with genderfluidity elements. £5.</p>	<p>Screening of London Symphony (2017) Fri 29 Sep 19:30 Brand new silent film portrait of the city and a celebration of its culture and diversity. Q&A with director.</p>	<p>Kennington Talks: The Girl from 10th Avenue (1935) Sun 8 Oct 14:00 Dumped by his fanzine prominent lawyer goes on a bender and winds up marrying shop girl. £5.</p>	<p>Cinema Museum Bookstall Sat 14 Oct 14:00 Film and cinema books, magazines and stills for sale. FREE.</p>	<p>Kennington Bioscope: Underworld (1927) Wed 18 Oct 19:30 Gangster saves his ex-lawyer from booze – but then kills for his girl. £5.</p>

For almost twenty years, The Cinema Museum (TCM) has leased its premises at Kennington – the Master's House, once the administration block of the Lambeth Workhouse – from the South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) which runs mental health services for much of south London.

Founded by Ronald Grant and Martin Humphries, TCM has built up a huge collection of cinema memorabilia from the era of traditional picture houses: staff uniforms, carpets, poster and stills frames, seating, signage, film stills and posters, etc. etc. as well as a film and VHS tape archive.

It has developed into the home of a rich and varied programme of screenings and live events, with a particular emphasis on British cinema, classic Hollywood and silent films that valuably complements the work of the BFI Southbank (which seems more focussed on current and recent cinema). TCM provides regular tours – and an extended one arranged for BCTV members attracted a large turnout in May 2015.

TCM's occupancy has been subject to various renewals, sometimes after previous leases have expired, and currently has a lease extending only to next March. SLaM has put on the market the adjacent site of the disused Woodlands nursing home, once part of the huge Lambeth Hospital,



Veterans on our visit in 2015 view samples of cinema carpets and enjoy a film show after being addressed by Commissionaire Hardcastle. (Photographs by Allen Eyles.)

and attached to it the building in which the Cinema Museum operates, inviting sealed bids and intent on selling both properties to the highest bidder.

This is despite negotiations dating back to 2007 for the Cinema Museum to buy its site from SLAM. In October 2016, SLAM and TCM agreed that the whole site would be valued independently and a direct sale made to TCM in partnership with a housing association which would develop the Woodlands site. Unfortunately, SLAM has repeatedly changed its property manager (TCM reckons at least ten times) as well as other senior staff, lost records of meetings and even denied that there was any arrangement to sell the building.

TCM is in a Grade II listing building in a conservation area, with a particular connection to cinema history in that the young Charlie Chaplin lived here when it was the Lambeth Workhouse. TCM has been designated an Asset of Community Value by Lambeth Borough Council and this provides a moratorium of six months for TCM to raise the money to match any accepted bid for the whole site. The TCM building has some further protection under planning law, having been designated by Lambeth Council in 1997 for use only as a cinema museum.

The whole site has attracted the interest of various smaller developers, some of whom have bothered to visit The Cinema Museum.

The fear is that a new purchaser, having made the highest bid, could dramatically increase the rent that TCM would have to pay, forcing it to close.

Nearly 250 people crowded into TCM for a crisis meeting on 30th October and a petition on change.org attracted over 14,000 signatures within two weeks. TCM has the support of: Kate Hoey, MP for the area; Neil Coyle, MP for neighbouring Southwark; Lib Peck, Leader of Lambeth Council; Paul McGlone, Deputy Leader; senior planners in Lambeth and Southwark; local councillors in Lambeth and Southwark; and local community groups and political parties.

TCM's director, Martin Humphries, has stated: "We will continue to work positively with any developers and housing associations that are interested in purchasing the whole site, and we will be as helpful to South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust as we can in their disposal aims. [...] Our aim remains to try to encourage SLAM to re-engage with us, with a view to working out a solution that offers:

- A sustainable future for The Cinema Museum
- A profitable sale for SLAM
- Affordable housing for the people of Lambeth

Among TCM's future aims, with the help of The Chaplin Foundation, is to turn the former Male Receiving Wards from the workhouse era, opposite the main entrance to the Museum, into "a museum space that reflects on the life of Chaplin and his links to Lambeth and the Lambeth Workhouse".

For the current programme at TCM, go online to www.cinemamuseum.org.uk

To sign the petition online, go to www.change.org/search and enter Cinema Museum. Addressed to SLAM's chief executive, Dr. Matthew Patrick, the petition had 17,257 supporters on 24 November.



Portraits signed by celebrities appearing at The Cinema Museum and vintage star portraits and seat standards in a corridor. (Photographs by Allen Eyles.)