

podium

FROM THE BARBICAN CENTRE FOR RESIDENTS

Contact details

Ali Ribchester, Personal Assistant to Nicholas Kenyon,
020 7382 7005 aribchester@barbican.org.uk
(office hours). If you wish to speak to Barbican Centre
management out of office hours, please ring the
Silk Street Reception on **020 7382 7308**.

Podium is available in large print.
Contact **Ali Ribchester** on **020 7382 7005** if you
would like a copy sent to you.



Welcome

Welcome to the Barbican Centre in 2010.

2009 was a remarkable year: we achieved record ticket sales, increased attendances, received high praise for our artistic programme, four Olivier Awards for *Black Watch*, and in the face of a difficult recession had a strong commercial year. It is clear that audiences want what we have to offer them.

This year begins with some of the great pioneering names of the artistic world gathering at the Barbican: director Peter Brook in the Theatre, maverick artist and designer Ron Arad in the Gallery, and composer/conductor John Adams with our resident orchestra the LSO in the Concert Hall; an extraordinary galaxy of talent. I hope you will be there.

As you know, the important development of apartments in Frobisher Crescent has created some unexpected issues for our cinemas 2 and 3 which are located directly below them. Intensive discussion has taken place and we outline in Podium the steps we are taking to address the issues. I want to assure you personally that we will be consulting as widely as possible as we move forward. A series of meetings is taking place, at which we want you to be fully involved. They began just before Christmas and continue through this year. I hope you will not hesitate to contact Leonora Thomson, our Head of Communications, or Ali Ribchester in my office, if you need more information about this.

I wish you all a very happy and successful new year, and hope that the Barbican Centre with its wealth of artistic offerings will play a leading part in your year's activities.

Sir Nicholas Kenyon
Managing Director



Ron Arad Architects, Design Museum Holon, Israel, 2004–09.

Ron Arad: Restless

18 Feb – 16 May 2010 Barbican Art Gallery

Bold, experimental and inventive, Ron Arad defies categorisation. This internationally acclaimed London-based maverick is variously described as a designer, architect and artist. *Ron Arad: Restless* is the first major exhibition of Arad's work in the UK. It opens at Barbican Art Gallery on 18 February 2010.

It explores three decades of Arad's designs from his early post-punk approach of assembling products from readymade parts to his exclusive and highly polished sculptural furnishings. Featuring a dramatic exhibition design by Ron Arad Associates using the latest LED display technology, Ron Arad: Restless also includes architectural designs and immediately recognisable mass produced pieces. Highlighting the significance of experimentation, process and materials in Arad's work, the exhibition offers a timely insight into the development of objects from initial idea and fabrication to finished design.

Inspired by Ron Arad's infectious curiosity and boundless sense of freedom, Barbican Art Gallery will be celebrating his work with a host of talks,

workshops and lively, late-night gallery activities. For more information please see www.barbican.org.uk/artgallery

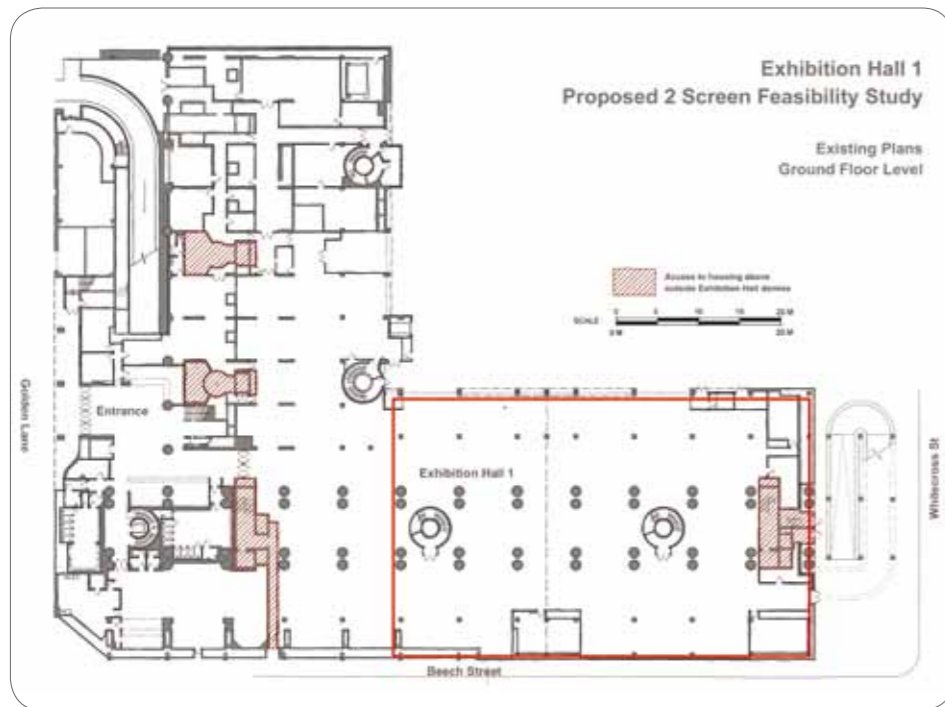
Invitation to Residents

We are delighted to invite residents to an exclusive private view of our new exhibition in the Barbican Art Gallery, *Ron Arad: Restless*.

The private view will take place on Tuesday 23 February 2010 from 6.30 – 8pm where you will be able to enjoy the exhibition and have a glass of wine. As always there are a limited number of places which will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

To RSVP, email Ali Ribchester (aribchester@barbican.org.uk or tel 020 7382 7005) by 16 February 2010.

Proposed cinemas relocation



Proposed area in Exhibition Hall 1 for cinema space (red box)

As some of you will have already heard, the City of London Corporation and Barbican Centre are jointly looking into the possibility of relocating Cinemas 2 and 3 from their current locations on Level 4 of the Barbican Centre, to a space within Exhibition Hall 1 on the corner of Beech Street and Whitecross Street. Our proposal is to build two new state of the art cinemas at street level, which will be far more accessible than the present Cinemas 2 and 3. In December 2009 the City Corporation agreed to fund the process up to the stage when designs are submitted for planning permission. As you will all know, the conversion of the former City University space in Frobisher Crescent has created 69 residential apartments which are due for completion by the end of March this year. It was originally thought that the sound from Cinemas 2 and 3 – located on Levels 4 and 5 – would be able to be contained by insulation works and would not affect the flats above. However, following extensive testing during the summer quiet period it became clear that this would not be the case.

It is vital for the Barbican to maintain its excellent and varied Cinema offering, and so while continuing to operate Cinema 1 in its present location we are proposing to move Cinemas 2 and 3 permanently to another location. We have considered in detail other possible options, but

the conclusion is that Exhibition Hall 1 is by far the best option. In fact, this change will be an exciting development for Barbican Film and for a neglected corner of the City; the Barbican's cinema offering will not suffer as a result, and indeed, we believe that in the long term it will bring benefits, not only to Barbican Film, but also to the surrounding area.

Unfortunately we will have to cease film showings in Cinemas 2 and 3 from April 2010 – although we will be keeping the spaces in use as conference facilities, and for talks and lectures which do not create a similar level of sound.

The new cinemas in Exhibition Hall 1 could potentially include: two cinemas in a double height area that would be enclosed in purpose-built acoustic boxes (to ensure any sound is effectively contained), a café/bar, retail space and a coffee shop. Positive aspects of this option include the fact that any noise can be controlled, and a new entrance to the cinemas from Beech Street should lead to a visible improvement of the whole area.

We are however very conscious of the potential disruption this may cause, and of the building's Grade II listed status, which is why we are beginning a process of consultation with residents and stakeholders as soon as the principle of the move has been agreed. Any potential disruption

that construction may cause to residents will be carefully considered and managed with the input of residents.

We are also aware that there is concern that there will be a negative impact on the Barbican's film offering during the re-building period. Due to the reduced capacity, there will have to be some temporary change in the cinema offer, but we are committed to continuing a range of diverse arts projects, special film seasons and new releases in the existing Cinema 1, which will continue to operate fully.

The information below explains the suggested project timetable, how you can contact us during the planning process and provides answers to some questions we have already been asked.

What happens next with the proposal?

The suggested timetable for the project is below; these dates are however meant as a guide and are subject to change:

- 31 Mar 2010: Cinemas 2 and 3 close
- Feb – June 2010: Design in progress and ongoing consultation with residents
- June 2010: Submission of planning and heritage application and Committee approvals to progress.
- June – Nov 2010: Formal planning and Heritage consultation
- 31 Dec 2010: Exhibition Halls close
- Nov 2010 – April 2011: Tender construction contract and building regulations application
- April – December 2011: Mobilisation and construction on site
- Early 2012: Cinemas open to the public

How can you feed in to the process?

This proposed project was initially discussed with House Group Reps at the meeting held here at the Centre on Wednesday 16 December. The minutes to these meetings are public and can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.barbican.org.uk/residents>. This was our first opportunity to involve residents in the discussions as approval had to be sought from Policy and Resources Committee (19 November 2009) and then from the Court of Common Council (10 December 2009) to progress this idea to design stage. This means that the City of London has approved the scheme in principle and is funding the process until the designs are submitted for planning permission. It will then be subject to all the standard approval and planning processes. As you can see from the minutes, at that initial meeting on 16 December there was support for the scheme in terms of the enhancement it would bring to the neglected corner of Beech Street and Whitecross Street and the increased accessibility of the cinemas to the general public. We will continue to update House Group Reps at our regular meetings, and we are in contact with the Barbican Association via the Chair.

We know that many more of you will have views and we would welcome your thoughts and comments about the proposal. We are dedicated to keeping you informed and involving all residents throughout the process.

There are several ways in which this will happen:

- Future Podium newsletters will contain regular updates on the planning process as well as providing answers to some of your questions
- A drop-in session has been organised on **Wednesday 10th February from 6–8pm** in Exhibition Hall 1. This an opportunity for you find out more information, see the space, and meet with Barbican Centre Management to talk through any concerns and queries you may have, in person.

Your comments

You can email comments to consultation@barbican.org.uk. All of these will be read by us and responses regularly posted on the Residents page of the Barbican website (www.barbican.org.uk/residents) and the most frequently asked questions will be featured in future editions of Podium.



Exhibition Hall 1 as it currently looks

Frequently Asked Questions

Below is an FAQ featuring some of the questions we have already received:

Are you just moving the problem from Frobisher Crescent to Ben Jonson House?

This is absolutely not the case. We can reassure you that the relocation to Exhibition Hall 1 will be built in such a way as to guarantee sound protection from the cinema screenings into nearby residential areas. There is double-height space which will enable a 'box within a box' to be built that does not touch the walls in Exhibition Hall 1. Cinemas 2 and 3 do not currently have sufficient head room for this sound proofing to be installed, but this is possible in Exhibition Hall 1 because of its height.

Why do the cinemas have to be closed – can't they stay open till the new ones are built?

Understandably, many of you are concerned that we cannot keep Cinemas 2 and 3 open during the construction of the new cinemas, but unfortunately we cannot keep them open once the first residents can move into new flats which the developers advise us is from 1 April 2010. After 31 March 2010 we have no option but to cease film showings in

Cinemas 2 and 3 – although we will be keeping them open as conference facilities, and for talks and lectures, and in Cinema 1 we will continue to programme our range of diverse arts projects, special film seasons and new releases. The estimate of two years closure is we hope a maximum to allow for planning and consultation issues: the actual construction period will be much shorter.

When did you first know about this problem, and has the Exhibition Hall licence change from last year got anything to do with it?

It was only some months ago that further detailed tests (during the quiet period over the summer) confirmed the extent of the possible sound leakage and made it clear that the intended insulation on site of the existing cinemas could not be guaranteed to work. It was then that potential solutions began to be discussed in terms of moving them, and we would stress that this is not at all related to the previous licence application that we sought for the Exhibition Halls last year.



Do Something Different Weekend

6 & 7 Mar 2010

With scores of weird and wonderful ideas in the brew, the fourth Do Something Different Weekend here at the Centre coincides with EAST, a Greater London Authority festival championing the best of East London.

Hosted by Dot Comedy's News Desk who will keep you updated with the top stories over the weekend, the two day fun fest is set to surprise and excite Londoners, kids and adults alike in our special activity areas; Move, Hear, Make, Watch, Noise, Craft and Play.

Move

Try Yoga or learn new moves in our Bollywood or Rajasthani Folk Dance classes.

Watch

Enjoy a whole host of performances for your family, including LSO, Barbican Young Poets and percussion ensemble Sankorfa.

Play

Take on your friends and family in Ron Arad Ping Pong and go on an interactive adventure around the centre in Captain Barbican.

Make

Drop in and add to our colourful Rangoli floor installation, Animate Your City or make your own Flower Garland to wear.

Craft

Learn how to make Indian inspired Lanterns or use collage to create your own skyline in Collage the City.

Noise

Turn up the volume and make some noise in our Percussion Workshops, have a go at Indian Singing or work with LSO orchestral players.

Other special events include... make your own house and join the community in Home Sweet Home, and join in and play with our young drummers as they take you through original beats and rhythms in World in Motion Drumming.

Some activity is free, some drop in, some ticketed – but all is fun!!

Don't rush home on Saturday, stay for our special LATES night as the foyers will continue to buzz with activity until late into the evening.

To plan your fun days over the weekend visit www.barbican.org.uk/different



11 & 12 Peter Brook – C.I.C.T./ Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord

Forthcoming highlights

Over the next couple of months the Barbican Centre has a range of exciting events for you to come and see. One of the things we have been most asked for by residents is for another opportunity to see **Barbi-topia**.

If you missed it first time round there will be another chance to catch the popular programme of films about the genesis of the Barbican Estate on Thursday 11 March at 8.45pm. The programme will be introduced by **David Heathcote**, design and architectural historian and author of **Penthouse Over the City: The Barbican and Modern Living**.

There is also the opportunity to see more of the city's past on screen in these two special matinee screenings on Saturday 6 March as Barbican Film presents an unmissable chance to explore the moving image heritage of London with a focus on its East End. **Reel City: London in Motion** starts with a screening of **Liquid History: A Journey along the Thames and London's Waterways**^{UP} introduced by Patrick Wright, writer and presenter of the BBC's **The River: The Thames in our Time** at 1.30pm. A screening of **Somewhere Decent to Live** with panel discussion follows at 3.30pm.

During February we welcome the **New York Philharmonic** with their new Music Director **Alan Gilbert**. His first tour of Europe with the Philharmonic will bring him to the Barbican on 3 and 4 February. We are excited to welcome the orchestra as an International Associate of the Barbican Centre, with regular residencies from 2011–12 onwards.

The Philharmonic's first concert here at the Barbican in February features the UK premiere of EXPO by **Magnus Lindberg**. As well as the Lindberg premiere the concert programmes at the Barbican include works by Berg, Haydn, Prokofiev, Schubert, Sibelius and John Adams. The soloist in Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 is **Yefim Bronfman**; Adams' **The Wound-Dresser** features baritone **Thomas Hampson**, the Philharmonic's current Artist-in-Residence.

From Paris, **Peter Brook** makes a highly anticipated return to the Barbican with a new

production in English, **11 and 12** (Friday 5 – Saturday 27 February 2010). The play explores an extraordinary conflict in West Africa under French occupation and shows the consequences of a dispute over whether a certain prayer should be recited 11 or 12 times. The production, a barbicanbite 10 co-production, receives its UK premiere in the Barbican Theatre and is part of an extensive UK and international tour.

Our cinema team also presents their **Directorspective** season looking at the challenging film work of Peter Brook.

More details of all the productions mentioned can be found on our website: www.barbican.org.uk

Searcys' Burns Night Supper

Monday 25 January 2010 from 7.30pm

Cost: £30 per person to include a welcome drink and a splendid three course dinner

Come and celebrate the life and works of the national poet of Scotland, Robert Burns, in Searcys Barbican restaurant.

This three course inclusive Searcys menu has been specially created by our Head Chef, Quentin Fitch, to chase away the winter chills.

Start with a welcoming whisky cocktail; a hearty Scotch broth; a main course of haggis, neeps and tatties followed by cranachan – the well loved traditional highland dessert made with raspberries, whisky and oatmeal; speciality coffees and Scottish shortbread.

For reservations contact: monika.witkowska@searcys.co.uk or call 0207 588 3008



The Barbican is provided by the City of London Corporation as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation