

For immediate release: Tue 1 Oct 2024

barbican

Barbican Family Film Week 2024

Sat 26 Oct – Sat 03 Nov

The Barbican's ever popular [Family Film Week](#) returns this October half term with the best children's films from around the world, including new releases, special previews, alongside activities, introductions and special events.



Fox and Hare Save the Forest, Netherlands 2024, Dir Mascha Halberstad

- ***Fox and Hare Save the Forest* (U) + free pre-film workshop – Sat 26 Oct**
- ***Momo in Dubai* (U) – Sun 27 Oct**
- **Rhyme Time + *The Gruffalo* (U) – Mon 28 Oct**
- ***Ultraman: Rising* (PG) + Ramzee Draw Along. Relaxed Families – Wed 30 Oct**
- ***Kensuke's Kingdom* (PG) + intro with composer Stuart Hancock – Wed 30 Oct**
- ***Despicable Me 4* (U) + Villainous Film Quiz – Thu 31 Oct**
- ***The Pinchers' High Voltage Heist* (PG) + Louie Stowell Draw Along – Thu 31 Oct**
- ***Boy and the World* (PG) – Sat 2 Nov**
- ***The Imaginary* (PG) – Sat 2 Nov**
- **Special Preview: *That Christmas* (cert tbc) – Sun 3 Nov**

The fun kicks off on Sat 26 Oct with the film ***Fox and Hare Save the Forest*** (Netherlands 2024), a gentle animation following a group of animal friends who embark on an adventure when a lake threatens to submerge their forest home. Full of fun songs and sweet characters, this is a charming introduction to the big screen experience for little cinema goers.

This follows with the UK Premiere of ***Momo in Dubai*** (India 2023) on Sun 27 Oct, a captivating, zany comedy which tells the story of 7-year-old Momo and his family, who excitedly travel from Kerala to Dubai to spend the summer with their father, who's based there for work. The reality of the holiday, however, is a little less glamorous than Momo had imagined - but he is determined to enjoy himself one adventure at a time! Anchored by an excellent lead performance, this enjoyable family film from India is part of the **Rewriting the Rules: Pioneering Indian Cinema after 1970** programme in the Barbican cinemas and **The Imaginary Institution of India: Art 1975–1998** free weekend in the Curve Gallery.

Family Film Week continues Mon 28 Oct with **Rhyme Time and *The Gruffalo***, a fun, relaxed morning session for toddlers and young ones – with singing, clapping and chatting along to the best nursery rhymes and story books lead by the Barbican's Children's Librarian. This follows with a special anniversary screening of ***The Gruffalo*** (UK 2009), this beautiful animation, based on the classic children's book written by Julia Donaldson dazzles on the big screen and is a treat for all the family.

Parents and children are invited to get creative in our Relaxed screening, ***Ultraman: Rising + Ramzee Draw Along*** (Tue 29 Oct) with the renowned comic writer and illustrator **Ramzee**, who, before the film, will demonstrate how to draw Kaiju characters. Based on the popular Manga character, ***Ultraman: Rising*** (US 2024) is a fresh new take on the super-hero vs monster dynamic with fizzing action sequences and fantastic animation.

Other creative talent taking part in Family Film Week include the composer **Stuart Hancock** introducing two screenings of the hit film ***Kensuke's Kingdom*** (UK/ Luxemborg 2023) on Wed 30 Oct. Adapted for the screen from the novel by **Michael Morpurgo**, this beautifully drawn story – about a young boy who finds himself washed ashore on a Pacific island – celebrates harmony with nature and the fierce power of friendship.

Further programme highlights include ***Despicable Me 4*** (US 2024) + **Villainous Film Quiz** (Thu 31 Oct), with Gru, Lucy and the whole team back for another adventure, preceded by a family film quiz about all the best children's movie villains; ***The Pinchers High Voltage Heist*** (Sweden 2024) + **Louie Stowell Draw Along** (Thu 31 Oct), an afternoon of creative fun with the writer-illustrator **Louie Stowell**, author of the hugely popular *Loki* books; the tenth anniversary of the Oscar nominated ***Boy and the World*** (Brazil 2024) (Sat 2 Nov); and the new animation ***The Imaginary*** (Japan 2023) (Sat 2 Nov), full of magic and danger, from the makers of ***Mary and the Witch's Flower***.

Family Film Week closes on Sun 3 Nov with a very special preview of ***That Christmas*** (UK 2024), based on the charming trilogy of children's book by the award-winning writer-director **Richard Curtis**, starring **Brian Cox** as Santa and **Fiona Shaw, Jodie Whittaker** and **Bill Nighy** as the residents of a sleepy Norfolk seaside town where things don't go to plan one Christmas. Not released on Netflix until 4 Dec, this early preview also features a new song written **Ed Sheeran** for the film and is the perfect way for families to get into a festive mood early.

Screenings and Events:

Free Workshop

Sat 26 Oct, 10am

Cinema 2 foyer

Come along and get creative in our free, artist led, craft activity themed around the morning's film.

***Fox and Hare Save the Forest* (U*)**

Netherlands 2024, Dir Mascha Halberstad, 71min

Sat 26 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

Fox and Hare are best friends and live together in their cosy house surrounded by trees but one day a rambunctious Beaver moves to the river nearby. Suddenly, the forest is filling with water and the animals must escape the rising puddles – but what could be causing this strange flood,

and how will they figure out how to stop it?

Age recommendation: 4+

UK Premiere: *Momo in Dubai* (U*)

India 2023, Dir Ameen Aslan, 104min. Malayalam with English subtitles.

English subtitles read aloud via headsets (optional).

Sun 27 Oct, 11:45am

Cinema 2

When Momo's father can't get time off from work to visit his family in Kerala, he instead invites them all to visit him in UAE for a month. 7-year-old Momo is delighted as he misses his dad and is desperate to visit the Burj Khalifa – the tallest skyscraper in the world. The reality of the holiday, however, is a little different to the glamorous plans he'd imagined – but Momo is determined to enjoy himself one adventure at a time!

Age recommendation: 6+

Rhyme Time + *The Gruffalo* (U)

UK 2009, Dirs Max Lang + Jakob Schuh, event time approx 55 min

Mon 28 Oct, 10 am

Cinema 2

We're delighted to be collaborating with the Barbican Library for our first ever in-cinema **Rhyme Time**. Come along at 10am for a fun, relaxed session of singing, clapping and chatting along to the best nursery rhymes and story books – all led by **Adenike Johnson**, the Barbican's fantabulous children's librarian! Following this audiences are invited to a special anniversary screening of the animated version of ***The Gruffalo***.

Age recommendation 3+

Ultraman: Rising* + *Ramzee Draw Along* (PG) – Relaxed Families

US & Japan 2024, Dir Shannon Tindle & John Aoshima, event runtime approx 115 min.

Film with HoH Captions.

Wed 30 Oct 11am

Cinema 3

Family Film Week is excited to welcome the brilliant storyteller-illustrator **Ramzee** to the cinema this morning. Before the film he will take us through the paces of how to draw some cool Kaiju and get the audience feeling creative! And after that, sit back with your pen and paper and draw along as you watch the movie in a relaxed* screening environment.

Based on the popular Manga character, ***Ultraman: Rising*** is a fresh new take on the super-hero vs monster dynamic with fizzing action sequences and fantastic animation.

Age recommendation: 7+

*Relaxed Families screenings are open to all, but tailored especially for a neurodiverse audience, as well as those who find a more informal setting beneficial.

Kensuke's Kingdom* (PG) + intro from composer **Stuart Hancock*

UK, Luxembourg & France 2023, Dirs Neil Boyle, Kirk Hendry 84 min

Film with HoH Captions.

Wed, 30 Oct, 2.15pm and 3pm (both screenings include intros from Stuart Hancock)

Cinema 2 & 3

A young boy finds himself washed ashore on an island in the Pacific in this animated adaptation of former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo's stunning novel.

Kensuke's Kingdom tells the story of a family looking for a fresh start sailing across the Pacific Ocean, when their young son Michael is swept away in a storm. Finding himself on a seemingly deserted island, Michael soon discovers that he and his dog are not the only ones out there.

Age recommendation: 7+

***Despicable Me 4* (U) + Villainous Film Quiz**

US 2024, Dirs Chris Renaud + Patrick Delage, 94min

Film with HoH Captions + Live intro/quiz with BSL

Thu 31 Oct, 11.30am

Cinema 2

Gru and Lucy - along with Margo, Edith, Agnes and new addition Gru Jr. are swept off into a witness protection programme because the cockroach obsessed super villain Maxime Le Mal is

on the loose. Blending into a new town is tough, but things get even harder when their young villainy-obsessed next-door neighbour gets wind of Gru's true identity.

Featuring the voice talents of Steve Carrell, Kristen Wiig, Joey King, Sofia Vergara and Will Ferrell. And don't forget to come along with your thinking caps on because before the film starts, we'll be hosting an in-cinema film quiz all about the best baddies you love to love!

The Pinchers High Voltage Heist + Louie Stowell Draw Along (PG*)

Sweden 2024, Dir Leif Lindblom, total event run time approx. 110min
Swedish with English subtitles. Subtitles read aloud in English via headsets (optional). (live intro/Draw along with BSL)

Thu 31 Oct, 2.15pm

Cinema 2

Get ready for a morning of creative mischief with writer-illustrator, **Louie Stowell** – author of the deliciously naughty *Loki* books. Before the film, Louie will lead a drawing demo inspired by favourite baddies, rogues, scoundrels and scallywags – the villains you love to love!

Ture has his heart set on becoming a police officer one day; he takes his morals very seriously and never lies or steals. Unfortunately, his family – The Pinchers – are a notorious gang of thieves constantly on the look out for their next heist! But, when Ture discovers his beloved dog is stolen property – he must make a choice: give up his best friend to its rightful (and decidedly shady) owner or figure out a way of bending the law to keep his pet.

Recommended age 8+

Boy and the World (PG*)

Brazil 2014, Dir Alê Abreu, 80min

Sat 2 Nov, 11am

Cinema 2

A rare delight on the big screen – we're hosting a special 10th Anniversary screening of the Oscar nominated animation from director Alê Abreu.

Without dialogue, we follow a young boy's journey from his home in the countryside to strange lands. Visually ravishing animation sweeps the audience along as the boy searches for his father, but also finds his way to cotton fields, to robotic factories, to a city favela, to futuristic worlds in the sky. Touching on themes of environmentalism, industrialisation, political upheavals and family bonds – this is an utterly unique adventure.

Age recommendation 7+

The Imaginary (PG)

Japan 2023 Yoshiyuki Momose 105min. In English. With HoH captions.

Sat 2 Nov, 14:00

Cinema 2

Rudger, Amanda's imaginary friend, finds himself in peril when he learns that he can disappear if his creator ever forgets him. Chased by the villainous Mr Bunting (a creature who hunts and eats Imaginaries) and his spine-chilling sidekick, Rudger escapes to 'the town of Imaginaries' where he finds friends that might be able to help him return to Amanda before it's too late. Based on *The Imaginary* by A.F. Harrold, this intricate animation from Studio Ponoc is a delightfully scary treat

Age recommendation 8+

Special Preview: *That Christmas* (cert tbc)

UK 2024, Dir Simon Otto, 91min (10.45am show with HoH captions)

Sun 3 Nov, 10.45am + 1pm

Cinema 2

Based on the charming trilogy of children's books by the award-winning writer-director Richard Curtis (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Notting Hill*, *Love Actually*), *That Christmas* follows a series of entwined tales about family and friends, love and loneliness, and Santa Claus making a big mistake.

Age recommendation: tbc

ENDS

Notes to Editors

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Box office: www.barbican.org.uk

All film tickets: **£2.50** under 18s / **£5.00** for adults

No unaccompanied adults or children

There is £1.50 booking fee for purchases made online

Age recommendations are suggestions only – responsibility lies with parent/guardian.

Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), and a London base of the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other associates and partners including the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [the BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Britten Sinfonia](#), [Cheek by Jowl](#), [Darbar Festival](#), [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [Drum Works](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), [Serious](#), and [Trafalgar Entertainment](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

About Barbican Cinema

We connect audiences with a curated programme of international cinema; from celebrated filmmakers to ground-breaking and under-heard voices from past and present.

Our programmes are presented in Cinemas 1 in the main centre and Cinemas 2&3 on Beech Street. Our programme ranges from thematic seasons that respond to today's world, to new releases, ScreenTalks, cross-artform collaborations, family events, access screenings and event cinema that presents the performing arts on screen.

We showcase the work of emerging filmmakers, as well as less familiar work of exceptional filmmakers from the UK and around the world.

We champion the work of Barbican Young Programmers and give stage to emerging musicians in our ongoing film & live music series which includes our flagship collaboration with the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

As part of a cross-arts centre, our cinemas are a cultural space for people to share the viewing experience. We strive to be inclusive in everything we do; providing platforms for the widest possible range of filmmakers and ensuring we are an open, welcoming and accessible venue for all our audiences.