

For immediate release: Mon 7 July

barbican

Barbican Cinema programme: August 2025

Festivals, Seasons and Special Events:

- **Hidden Figures: Stephanie Rothman** – Tue 29 Jul – Thu 14 Aug
- **Outdoor Cinema 2025: Film nights under the stars** – Wed 20 Aug – Sun 31 Aug

Regular Programme strands:

- **Experiments in Film: The Cinema of Qiu Miao-jin + ScreenTalk with filmmaker Evans Chan** – Sat 16 Aug
- **Senior Community Screenings:**
 - ***Memoir of a Snail*** – Mon 4 Aug
 - ***Santosh*** – Mon 18 Aug
- **Relaxed Screenings:**
 - ***The Phoenician Scheme*** – Mon 4 Aug
- **Pay What You Can Screenings** – Every Fri

In August the Barbican is delighted to present a late summer programme of **Outdoor Cinema 2025: Film nights under the stars**. Now in its 5th year, this is a sparkling lineup of films, set in the dramatic surroundings of the Barbican Sculpture court, with a tempting selection of food stalls and bars.

Supported by Associate Partner **Mastercard** and Destination Partner **Culture Mile BID**, there's something for all tastes, including ***Dune***, ***Little Shop of Horrors***, ***Fantastic Mr. Fox***, ***Fire Of Love***, ***Beau Travail***, ***Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives***, ***The Return of Godzilla***, ***Babymother***, ***Grave of the Fireflies*** and **Björk's Cornucopia**.

Other highlights this month include **Hidden Figures: Stephanie Rothman**, which invites audiences to take a walk on the wild side, in 1970s LA, with the trailblazing **Stephanie Rothman**, who challenged Hollywood to create feminist works within the exploitation subgenre. **Barbican Cinema** presents her work, as a season, to UK audiences for the first time and is also pleased to announce that Rothman joins us for a ScreenTalk (via Zoom), after screenings of her 1973 cult classic ***Terminal Island*** and her 1974 comedy ***The Working Girls***.

Experiments in Film presents **The Cinema of Qiu Miao-jin and ScreenTalk with filmmaker Evans Chan**, this is a memorial screening honouring **Qiu Miao-jin**, a pioneer in Taiwanese queer literature and author of ***Notes of a Crocodile***, marking 30 years since her untimely death.

Senior Community Screenings in August include the bittersweet Oscar-nominated animation ***Memoir of a Snail***, and the compelling thriller ***Santosh***. **Relaxed Screenings** include **Wes Anderson's** all-star ensemble ***The Phoenician Scheme***, a delightful tale of comedic espionage and intrigue.

Festivals, Seasons and Special Events

Hidden Figures: Stephanie Rothman

Tue 29 July – Thu 14 Aug

Cinema 3

Stephanie Rothman's career began in the early 1960s when she was hired by the cult director **Roger Corman**, going on to make seven feature films between 1966 and 1974. At the time her work was celebrated in women's film festivals and praised by feminist critics, but in recent years it has been re-discovered by a new generation of fans. The August programme, curated by **Selina Robertson** (Club des Femmes and Birkbeck) and **Isabel Moir** (London Film Festival), begins with ***The Student Nurses*** (US 1970), a box office hit, which took the popular 'nurse' sub-genre of exploitation films and imbued it with a feminist edge.

Hidden Figures is a regular Barbican Cinema strand, which celebrates filmmakers who, despite directing ground-breaking films, have been neglected in the canon of world cinema. Directors previously featured include **Lina Wertmüller**, **Euzhan Palcy**, **Ha Gil-jong**, **Jacqueline Audry**, **Idrissa Ouédraogo** and **Binka Zhelyazkova**.

August screenings:

***The Student Nurses* (18*)**

US 1970, Dir Stephanie Rothman, 89min

Tue 5 Aug, 6.30pm

Cinema 3

The first in a popular 'Nurses' cycle of exploitation films that other directors went on to (mis)direct. Despite working within the confines of second-wave exploitation, Rothman introduced women's liberation ideas and subjects into her work whilst delivering box office gold for producer Roger Corman. Four nursing students finishing their education are faced with professional and personal challenges as they wade through the tumultuous and ever-changing political and social landscape of 1970s LA.

***Group Marriage* (15)**

US 1972, Dir Stephanie Rothman, 82min

Thu 7 Aug, 6.30pm

Cinema 3

Young LA couple Chris (Aimée Eccles) and Sander (Solomon Sturges) want an open relationship but when their twosome becomes a sixsome, and the group decide to legalise their relationship in a 'group marriage', they attract media attention which brings trouble, prejudice and a run up against the law. Rothman's first film (post Corman) unfolds like a proto queer text, as polyamory, gay life and alternative, collective utopian living are delightfully explored in her first fully-fledged comedy.

***The Velvet Vampire* (18*)**

US 1971, Dir Stephanie Rothman, 80min

Tue 12 Aug, 6.30pm

Cinema 3

Young couple Lee (Michael Blodgett) and Susan (Sherry Miles) meet the mysterious Diane (Celeste Yarnall), who invites them to her secluded desert home. Little do they know that this temptress is a centuries-old vampire, becoming objects of her own desires.

With psychedelic visuals and surreal dream sequences, Rothman foregrounds sexual agency and pleasure, exploring the shifting values of the early 70s as erotic tensions arise in the California desert.

Rothman plays with the conventions of the genre, prioritising a feminist perspective and playful exploration of gender roles by subverting the common trope of the male vampire, thereby allowing Diane to project her dark feminine desires.

***The Working Girls* (15) + ScreenTalk with Stephanie Rothman (via Zoom)**

US 1974, Dir Stephanie Rothman, 80min

Thu 14 Aug, 6.15pm

Cinema 3

The Working Girls captures Rothman's heart and politics, as three young single women in Los Angeles look for their place in the world. Each character reflects the challenges and misogyny Rothman faced as a female filmmaker in 1970s Hollywood.

Although set during a chronic recession, seen today, the film oozes a distinctly dreamy Californian carefreeness and lightness, punctuated throughout with Rothman's razor-sharp humour. Rothman's final film leaves us imagining what could have been, if her filmmaking career had not been curtailed by a lack of opportunities.

To view the full press release:

www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room/hidden-figures-stephanie-rothman

Outdoor Cinema 2025

Film nights under the stars

Wed 20 Aug – Sun 31 Aug

Barbican Sculpture Court

The Barbican Cinema Curators have put together an original line-up from some of the best visual storytellers of our time, with films from **David Lynch**, **Wes Anderson**, **Claire Denis**, **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**, **Gina Prince-Bythewood**, **Koji Hashimoto**, **Julien Henriques**, **Isao Takahata**, and **Sara Dosa**, that demand to be seen on the big screen.

Outdoor Cinema 2025 opens Wed 20 August with ***Dune***, **David Lynch's** cult adaptation of Frank Herbert's novel, which is a thrilling and unique sci-fi extravaganza by one of cinema's most exciting visionaries.

Running over 11 days, the series closes on Sun 31 August with the beloved cult musical ***Little Shop of Horrors***, about a nerdy florist trying his luck at finding romance with the help of a giant man-eating plant, which is complemented with a catchy soundtrack and cameos from **Steve Martin**, **Jim Belushi** and **Bill Murray**.

*Outdoor Cinema 2025 is supported by Associate partner **Mastercard** and Destination Partner **Culture Mile BID**.*

Full programme:

***Dune* (12A)**

USA 1984, Dir David Lynch, 131min

Wed 20 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Decades after its mixed reception, ***Dune*** can now be reevaluated as a truly unique and thrilling sci-fi extravaganza by one of cinema's most exciting visionaries. The production design and visual effects, not least the scenes with the gigantic sandworms, and the

extraordinary, Oscar-nominated sound design make for an incredible cinematic spectacle.

This screening is part of the Barbican's wider [Frequencies: the sounds that shape us](#) season.

***Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives* (12A)**

Thailand 2010, Dir Apichatpong Weerasethakul, 109min

Thu 21 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Exploring themes of memory, afterlife and reincarnation, this is an intense, dreamlike journey into another world, including a memorable encounter with a forlorn princess and a talking catfish. The film deservedly won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

This screening is part of the Barbican's wider [Frequencies: the sounds that shape us](#) season.

***Love & Basketball* (12A)**

USA 2000, Dir Gina Prince-Bythewood, 124min

Fri 22 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Monica (Saana Lathan) and Quincy (Omar Epps) are two childhood friends who fall in love whilst following their joint passion for basketball. This semi-autobiographical drama is a great triumph for Black female representation both on and off-screen, that also brought a much-needed female gaze to the sports movie canon.

***The Return of Godzilla* (12A*) + recorded intro by kaiju expert Steven Sloss**

Japan 1984, Dir Director: Koji Hashimoto, 103min

Sat 23 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Koji Hashimoto's reboot returned to the dark roots of the first film, updating the film's sociopolitical commentary for the late Cold War era. Here, the radioactive monster returns to wreak destruction on Japan and subsequently inflames tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. The imaginative special effects and 1980s aesthetics update Godzilla for a new era.

This screening is part of the Barbican's wider [Frequencies: the sounds that shape us](#) season.

***Fantastic Mr. Fox* (PG)**

USA 2009, Dir Wes Anderson, 87min

Sun 24 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

A heist caper stitched with corduroy and velvet-pawed uprising; *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is as clever in spirit as it is in style. Joined by an all-star cast, including **Meryl Streep**, **Bill Murray** and **Jason Schwartzman**, **George Clooney's** smooth-talking Mr. Fox – a charismatic schemer with a taste for adventure and expertly toasted cider – cannot resist one more heist.

***Babymother* (15)**

UK 1998, Dir Julien Henriques, 82min

Tue 26 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Shot on location in Harlesden, North London, Anita (**Anjela Lauren Smith**) is a young mother who dreams of becoming a dancehall star. The rhythms of London's reggae scene are woven through Julien Henriques' stylish and pioneering film.

This screening is part of the Barbican's wider [Frequencies: the sounds that shape us](#) season.

***Grave of the Fireflies* (12A)**

Japan 1988, Dir Isao Takahata, 89min

Wed 27 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Michio Mamiya's heartbreaking score washes over this exquisite animation, bringing a rich depth of emotion to the story of Seita (Tsutomu Tatsumi) and Setsuko (Ayano Shiraishi), a boy and his younger sister who are left homeless during bombing raids, forced to find ways to survive amidst the devastation.

***Fire Of Love* (PG)**

Canada/ USA 2022, Dir Sara Dosa, 98min

Thu 28 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Maurice and Katia Krafft were two volcanologists and explorers who died doing what they loved – unravelling the mysteries of volcanic eruptions. Awe-inspiring imagery and deeply immersive soundscapes allow us to experience the incredible explosive power of volcanoes up close, assembled from several hours of previously unseen 16mm film.

***Beau Travail* (15)**

France 1998, Dir Claire Denis, 93min

Fri 29 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Voted one of the 10 best films of all time in a recent Sight & Sound poll, *Beau Travail* delves into the tensions within a French Foreign Legion, when the arrival of a handsome young soldier provokes a crisis in Galoup, a grizzled sergeant-major (**Denis Lavant**). Jealous and inexplicably shaken, Galoup resolves to destroy the younger man.

This screening is part of the Barbican's wider [Frequencies: the sounds that shape us](#) season.

***Björk's Cornucopia* (12A)**

Portugal 2025, Dir Ísold Uggadóttir, 98min

Sat 30 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Björk's latest concert film is an electrifying experience; one that is underscored by a poignant socio-political message about the need for climate change action. A fantastical, fungi-inspired set design, wild floral and aquatic visuals and stunning costumes designed by Balmain's Olivier Rousteing and Iris van Herpen.

This screening is part of the Barbican's wider [Frequencies: the sounds that shape us](#) season.

***Little Shop of Horrors* (PG)**

USA 1986, Dir Frank Oz, 105min

Sun 31 Aug, 8.30pm

Barbican Sculpture Court

Frank Oz's adaptation of the off-Broadway smash hit musical is a mega-blast of fun and is crammed with showstopping hits. **Rick Moranis** plays Seymour, a nerdy guy working in a failing florist, who longs for the love of his colleague, Audrey (**Ellen Greene**). In the shop's basement, Seymour secretly nurtures a strange plant, which he names Audrey II, which brings in new customers and revitalises the business but, to his alarm, grows into a bloodthirsty monster...

To view the full press release:

www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room/outdoor-cinema-2025

Regular Programme Strands

The Cinema of Qiu Miao-jin (15) + ScreenTalk with filmmaker Evans Chan

Sat 16 Aug, 2pm

Cinema 3

Deeply influenced by cinema, **Miao-jin** wove film into her writing and quietly explored filmmaking herself. The program features ***Ghost Carnival*** (1994), a poignant story about identity and mortality, and ***The Love and Death of Montmartre*** (2019), a hybrid documentary reflecting on Miao-Jin's impact on Taiwan's LGBTQ+ culture.

Curator **Eleanor Lu** introduces the event, with a post-screening discussion led by the filmmaker **Evans Chan**.

Senior Community Screenings:

Welcoming 60+ cinema goers to watch the latest new releases every other Monday morning:

***Memoir of a Snail* (15)**

Australia 2024, Dir Adam Elliot, 94min

Mon 4 Aug, 11am

Cinema 2

A tragicomedy from Academy Award-winning animator **Adam Elliot**, recounting the life of a melancholic woman called **Grace Pudel** - a hoarder of snails. This is a poignant and hilarious chronicle of the life of an outsider finding her confidence and silver linings amongst the clutter of everyday life.

***Santosh* (15)**

UK/France/Germany 2024, Dir Sandhya Suri, 127min

Mon 18 Aug, 11am

Cinema 2

Young widow Santosh inherits her husband's job as a police officer in the rural bad lands of India, in this thrilling tale of moral conflict from British-Indian director Sandhya Suri.

Relaxed Screenings

Relaxed screenings take place in an environment that is specially tailored for a neurodiverse audience, as well as those who find a more informal setting beneficial:

***The Phoenician Scheme* (15) (AD)**

US 2025, Dir Wes Anderson, 101min

Mon 4 Aug, 6.10pm

Cinema 3

One of the most anticipated films of the year, **Wes Anderson** returns with an all-star ensemble in this tale of comedic espionage and intrigue.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

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Outdoor Cinema 2025

Standard: £18

Barbican Members: £14.40

Corporate Members: £13.50

Young Barbican: £10

Under 14: £10

Events/Seasons/Festivals:

Standard: £13

Barbican members: £10.40

Corporate Members: Varied Discount

Young Barbican £6

Concessions: £11

Under 18s: £6

ScreenTalks

Standard: £14.50

Barbican members: £11.60

Young Barbican: £6.00

New Releases:

Standard: £13

Barbican members: £10.40

Young Barbican £6

Concessions: £11

Under 18s: £6

Pay What You Can Screenings: tickets available from £3-£15 on a new release title every Friday, for customers where ticket price may be a barrier, or for those who want to help others enjoy a visit to the cinema.

- **Family Film Club** Under 18s: £2.50 / Over 18s: £5.
- **Parent & Baby screenings:** Standard: £6.
- **Senior Community Screenings:** £6
- **Relaxed Screenings** welcome cinema goers to an environment that is specially tailored for a neurodiverse audience, tickets are £6.
- **Magic Mondays** £6 all new release screenings.
- **Young Barbican** £6 all new release screenings and curated programmes for 14 - 25-year-olds - when they sign up.

There is £1.50 booking fee for purchases made online / # Certificate to be confirmed

* This film has been locally classified by the City of London Corporation.

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](#), our Resident Orchestra, and a London base for the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our Artistic Associates the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar Arts](#), [Cultural and Heritage Trust](#), and [Serious](#), and our other associates and partners including [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [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

