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barbican

Rebecca Fons joins Barbican as new Head of Cinema

The Barbican is delighted to announce that **Rebecca Fons** has been appointed as the new Head of Cinema at the Barbican. She will take up the role in early September 2025.

Rebecca is a film curator, arts administrator, and educator and brings a wealth of experience to the role. She joins the Barbican from the Gene Siskel Film Center, a public programme of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where she is currently working as the Director of Programming. Rebecca is also the Programming Director for the historic Iowa Theater in her hometown of Winterset, in Iowa.

Rebecca previously served as Programming Director for FilmScene in Iowa City and as Education Director for The Chicago International Film Festival. She was co-founder of the Chicago event series *Destroy Your Art*, and in 2022 was named Chicagoan of the Year in Film by the Chicago Tribune. Rebecca holds an MA from Columbia College Chicago.

Rebecca was appointed after an extensive international recruitment campaign led by Arts Consulting Group, and in her new role as Head of Cinema will oversee the Barbican's dynamic film programme, taking a leading role in the development of the cinema strategy.

On joining the Barbican, Rebecca Fons, said:

"I am honoured to join the talented Barbican team, and work alongside my colleagues to uphold the Centre's revered history of presenting distinct, thoughtfully curated cinema; while shepherding creative collaboration across disciplines at the Barbican, and exploring what we can create together beyond the frame. Film has been my passion and profession for over two decades, and the opportunity to facilitate the coming together of friends, neighbours, and strangers for the collective moviegoing experience is a great privilege.

I am eager to connect with our audiences, artists, students, and partners, and, together with the cinema team, look forward to sharing with you seasons that are daring, diverse, and exceptional. The moment the lights go down and the screen begins to glow is as powerful as ever - I'll see you at the cinema!"

Devyani Saltzman, Director for Arts and Participation at the Barbican, said:

"I'm incredibly excited to welcome Rebecca to the Barbican. Her love and knowledge of film, her experience helming the Gene Siskel Film Center, connected to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her passionate and collaborative approach to leadership, will only allow us to build on the amazing work of the Barbican cinema team whilst contributing to realising our renewed artistic vision going forward. I can't wait for her to join us."

Barbican Cinema presents the best international new releases, ScreenTalks with filmmakers, major curated seasons and leads in the presentation of the performing arts on screen.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

**For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:
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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](#), who produce the [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), alongside other associates and partners including [Doc'n Roll Film 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

