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barbican

Family Film Week 2025 Sat 25 Oct – Sun 2 Nov

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



Hola Frida, Canada/ France 2025, Dirs Karine Vézina & André Kadi

- ***Hola Frida!*** (U*) – Sat 25 Oct
- **Animal Friends Shorts Programme** (U*) + pre-film **Small World Cinema** activity – Sun 26 Oct
- ***The Legend of Ochi*** (12A) + intro – Mon 27 Oct
- **Tara Franks + Animated Adventures** (U*) – Tue 28 Oct
- **Library Rhyme Time + Zog** (U) – Wed 29 Oct
- ***The Secret of Kells* + *Éiru*** (PG*) – Wed 29 Oct
- **Relaxed Screening: *Bad Guys 2*** (U)+ **Villainous Film Quiz** – Thu 30 Oct
- ***E.T. The Extra Terrestrial*** (U) + intro – Thu 30 Oct
- ***Little Ghost Laban: Back Again*** (U*) + spooky decorations – Fri 31 Oct
- ***Tales from the Magic Garden*** (U*) – Sat 1 Nov
- ***Kpop Demon Hunters*** (PG) – Sat 1 Nov
- **Special Preview: *In Your Dreams*** (PG) – Sun 2 Nov

The fun kicks off on Sat 25 Oct with **Hola Frida** (Canada/ France 2025), a beautiful animation about the legendary artist **Frida Kahlo**, and her childhood growing up in Mexico. Having screened at festivals around the world, this delightful film is a joyful introduction to the world of this renowned creative and feminist icon.

The programme continues Mon 28 Oct with the stunning fantasy adventure **The Legend of Ochi** (US 2025), set in an island village in which an isolated young girl named Yuri is raised to fear an elusive animal species known as ochi, but when she discovers a wounded baby ochi has been left abandoned, she escapes on a quest to bring him home.

Tue 28 Oct sees **Tara Franks + Animated Adventures Shorts Programme**, in which parents and toddlers are encouraged to sing and move to the beat with Tara Franks, the creative force behind **Tots Tunes**. She has selected a range of international music guaranteed to get all generations dancing, which will then be followed by a curated programme of toddler friendly short films from all over the world.

The **Secret of Kells** (Ireland/France/Belgium 2010) screens Wed 29 Oct and is **Cartoon Saloon's** first feature from 2010, followed by **Éiru**, their latest short film, an enchanting story exploring the balance and understanding between humans and the natural world.

On Thu 30 Oct, **Family Film Week** heads back to the early 1980s with a special screening of **E.T. The Extra Terrestrial** (US 1982), **Steven Spielberg's** masterpiece has been programmed to complement **The Legend of Ochi** (screening earlier in the week). This is an opportunity for younger audiences to see this Oscar winning classic on the big screen, and enjoy its universal story of growing up, understanding, tolerance, and learning to say goodbye.

Further programme highlights include **The Bad Guys 2** (US 2025) + **on stage Villainous Film Quiz**, a chance to catch up with the latest adventure from the not-so-criminal criminals; **Tales from the Magic Garden** (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia 2025), a beautiful stop motion animation about family and the healing power of the imagination; and the phenomenally successful **K-pop Demon Hunters** (US 2025), a dynamic, action-fueled animation with the catchiest songs on the planet!

There's also the specially curated **Animal Friends Shorts Programme**, three new animations about animals and their unlikely friendships alongside an activity from Small World Cinema; and **Library Rhyme Time**, a fun session of singing along to story books and the best nursery rhymes, complemented by a screening of the hit animation **Zog** (UK 2018), about a young dragon who is keen to learn how to fly, based on the **Julia Donaldson** classic

Family Film Week closes on Sun 2 Nov with a special preview of Netflix's animation **In Your Dreams** (US 2025). Set in a limitless dream world, this follows the adventures of 12-year-old Stevie and her 8-year-old brother Elliot, who discover a magical picture book that says the Sandman can make any dream a reality. This enjoyable comedy drama sensitively navigates family anxieties as well as having the perfect blend of humour, adventure and heart.

Susie Evans, the Family Film Week Curator, says:

"This October half term, we've put together a smorgasbord of films and activities designed to invite little ones to young teens into our cinemas to enjoy the big screen experience. We hope that audiences will enjoy our mix of new releases, international festival hits, classics to revisit and specially curated shorts programmes – alongside books, games and self-led activities in the cinema café all week."

Screenings and Events:

Sat 25 Oct

Hola Frida (U*)

Canada/ France 2025, Dirs Karine Vézina & André Kadi, 82min

Sat 25 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

Our first film in Family Film Week 2025 is a gorgeous new animated story of **Frida Kahlo's** early life in Coyoacan, Mexico.

Based on the book *Frida, c'est moi*, by Sophie Faucher and Cara Carmina, this sparkling tale takes its inspiration from the artist's childhood and how young Frida Kahlo's tenacious resilience and imagination lead her on a powerful creative journey.

Age suggestion: 5+

Son of Godzilla (PG)

Japan 1967, Dir Jun Fukuda, 85min

Sat 25 Oct, 1pm

Cinema 2

A family screening of a Kaiju classic, screening in partnership with the Barbican's season **All Kaiju Attack: Earth SOS!** this is an opportunity to introduce young cinephiles to classic characters, special effects gone-by and the joys of an old-school monster movie!

Once again, humanity's meddling with nature leads to disaster, as scientists seeking to control the weather unleash a dangerous horde of giant insects. Before the film starts, the curators Alex Davidson and Susie Evans, will give a short Kaiju inspired introduction and test the audience's monster knowledge!

Age suggestion: 9+

Sun 26 Oct

Small World Cinema presents Matchbox Habitats

Sun 26 Oct, 10.30am

Cinema Cafe

We're delighted to welcome **Small World Cinema** to the Barbican for the first time! Founder of SWC, Saskia van Roomen, will be in the Cinema Café before the screening, helping the audience get creative to make mini animal habitats inspired by today's films.

+ 11.30am Animal Friends Shorts Programme (U*)

Animals and their unlikely friendships take centre stage in this shorts programme curated especially for Family Film Week.

Capybaras

France, Chile, Dir Alfredo Sodeguit 10min

A family of Capybaras hiding from local hunters, find unexpected refuge in a nearby chicken coop. Based on his award-winning picture book, director Alfredo Sodeguit, has created a striking story of how accepting others enriches us all.

Head in the Clouds

France 2024, Dir Rémi Durin, 11min

Painterly visuals tell the story of Alphonse, a plucky squirrel, who loves to photograph clouds but sometimes the animals around him don't understand his hobby.

The Drifting Guitar

Switzerland 2025, Dir Sophie Roze France, 30min

A travelling weasel who sells neckties is constantly wandering from place to place, but when she ventures into the forest and meets a friendly hedgehog, they discover a lost guitar and their destinies are changed forever.

Age recommendation: 5+

Mon 27 Oct

***The Legend of Ochi* (12A) + intro**

US 2025, Dir Isaiah Saxon, 95min

Mon 27 Oct, 1.45pm

Cinema 2

Set on a remote village on the island of Carpathia, Yuri has been raised to fear ochi. But, when she discovers a wounded baby ochi who has been left behind, she escapes on a quest to bring him home.

With influences ranging from *My Neighbour Totoro*, *The Dark Crystal*, *The Black Narcissus* and *E.T. The Extra-terrestrial*, director **Isaiah Saxon** has created a charming and jaw dropping world, mainly using practical effects in a refreshing departure from Computer Generated Images (CGI).

With a short introduction from curator, Susie Evans, to talk a bit about the film and its influences.

Age suggestion: 9+

Tue 28 Oct

Tara Franks + Animated Adventures Shorts Programme (U*)

Approx total event runtime: 60min

Tue 28 Oct, 10.30am

Cinema 2

We're delighted to welcome back Tara Franks, the creative force behind [Tots Tunes](#). She'll take us through the paces of music she's picked out from all over the world to get us dancing and shaking to the beat! Followed by a specially curated toddler friendly selection of international short films, perfect for young audience members in the early stages of their big screen adventure.

Age suggestion: 3+

Film programme:

Animanimals: Woodpecker

Germany 2024, Dir Julia Ocker, 4min

A woodpecker finds a musical solution to a problem.

First Flight

Germany 2025, Dir Adrian Jaffé, 3min

A beautiful stop motion about learning to fly in unusual ways.

Baby Bee's Boot

UK 2024 Dir David Eden 5min

A baby bee loses his boot in an enchanted garden, filled with rhymes, songs and nature.

Animanimals: Mammoth

Germany 2024 Dir Julia Ocker 4min

A family of woolly mammoths form an unlikely friendship with a crab.

Hoofs and Skates

Lithuania 2025, Dir Ignas Meilūnas, 12min

A piglet and a cow overcome their fears when they learn to skate on an icy lake – but what lurks underneath? A lovely stop motion with charming humour and beautifully made models.

Wed 29 Oct

Library Rhyme Time + Zog (U*)

UK 2018, Dir Max Lang & Daniel Snaddon, approx total event runtime: 60min

Wed 29 Oct, 10.30am

Cinema 2

Come along 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 children's librarian. And after that, settle back into your cinema seat for a screening of the much loved Julia Donaldson story of **Zog**, an accident prone dragon training hard to be the best student in his class – a gorgeous treat on the big screen.

Age suggestion: 3+

***The Secret of Kells + Éiru* (PG*)**

Ireland/France/Belgium 2009, Dirs Tomm Moore & Nora Twomey, 71 min

Éiru

Ireland 2025, Dir Giovanna Ferrari, 12min

Wed 29 Oct, 2pm

Cinema 2

Cartoon Saloon's first feature from 2009 on the big screen, followed by their latest short film *Éiru*. In ***The Secret of Kells***, twelve-year-old Brendan lives in the Abbey of Kells, a remote medieval outpost under siege from raiding Vikings. One day a celebrated master illuminator arrives from foreign lands carrying an ancient but unfinished book, brimming with secret wisdom. This beautiful beginning to Cartoon Saloon's folktale trilogy is a visually ravishing masterpiece.

And in *Éiru*, Cartoon Saloon's enchanting new short film, a young girl is desperate to be a part of her warrior clan's fights, but when she volunteers to discover why the water in their village has dried up she learns that being a champion can take many forms.

Age suggestion: 8+

Thu 30 Oct

Relaxed Families: *The Bad Guys 2* (PG) + on stage Villainous Film Quiz

US 2025, Dir Pierre Perifel & JP Sans, 104min

Thu 30 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

After the events of the first film, The Bad Guys are attempting to re-enter society and get honest jobs, but the arrival of an audacious new super-villain known as the Phantom Bandit throws suspicion their way. Soon Mr. Wolf and his pals are drawn into a high stakes heist that could bring down not only the gang, but the entire planet. With wall to wall wise-cracks, fast-paced action and zippy animation – this sequel is an absolute blast, not to be missed on the big screen!

Before the screening starts, we'll be hosting our annual Villainous Film Quiz to find out how well you know your cinematic scallywags!

Please note: this will be a relaxed screening in an environment that is specially tailored for a neurodiverse audience, as well as those who find a more informal setting beneficial.

Age suggestion: 6+

***E.T. The Extra Terrestrial* (U) + intro**

US 1982, Dir Steven Spielberg, 115min

Thu 30 Oct, 2pm

Cinema 2

To complement our Monday screening of *The Legend of Ochi*, we're screening one of the films that influenced it, giving audiences the opportunity to introduce young ones to the iconic Spielberg classic.

When a young alien accidentally gets left behind on Earth and is befriended by a local boy, Elliot, the pair form a strong friendship that is tested to its limits. The climactic bicycle flight accompanied by John William's soaring score is one of the most exhilarating moments in cinema history and a must see on the biggest screen possible!

With a brief introduction from curator, Susie Evans, about *E.T. The Extra-terrestrial* and other films it connects to.

Age suggestion: 6+

Fri 31 Oct

***Little Ghost Laban: Back Again!* + Spooky decorations in the foyer**

Sweden 2024, Dir Lasse Persson, 44min

Fri 31 Oct, 10.30am

Cinema 2

This charming anthology of stories is an adaptation of popular books from Sweden and introduces audiences to Laban – a young ghost who is afraid of the dark.

Living in Gomorransol Castle with his family and the royal owners is hard for Laban because however much he tries to haunt people, he only ends up scaring himself!

And after the film – why not stick around in the foyer and get creative? We'll provide you with some spooky bunting sets to colour-in and decorate to take home with you.

Age suggestion: 4+

Sat 1 Nov

Tales from the Magic Garden (U*)

Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia & France 2025, Dir Patrik Pass Jr Jean-Claude Rozec, 71min

Sat 1 Nov, 11am

Cinema 2

This gorgeous stop motion animation is a beautiful exploration of family bonds and the healing power of imagination.

When three siblings go to stay with their grandpa, soon after their beloved grandma has passed away, Susan – the middle sister – becomes the family storyteller. During her stay, she weaves three wonderful tales of magic, friendship and courage that bring joy and connection into their family life again. An utterly charming animation that celebrates creativity and its power to connect us to those we cherish.

Age suggestion: 5+

Kpop Demon Hunters (PG)

US 2025, Dir Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans, 100min

Sat 1 Nov, 1.15pm

Cinema 2

If you've not experienced the phenomenon that is KPDH, or even if you've viewed it 100 times already - now is your chance to live it out on the big screen!

Kpop superstars Rumi, Mira and Zoey use their secret identities as demon hunters to protect their fans from an ever-present supernatural threat. Together, they must face their biggest enemy yet – a rival boy band of demons in disguise. This fun, energetic animation is full of snappy one-liners, bubble-gum vibrance and the catchiest songs that will leave you singing long after the film has finished.

Age suggestion: 8+

With thanks to Netflix

Sun 2 Nov

Special Preview: *In Your Dreams* (PG)

US 2025, Dir Alex Woo, 91min

Sun 2 Nov, 11.30am

Cinema 2

A preview of a brand new animation set in a limitless dreamworld – an end of school holiday smasher!

Stevie and her younger brother, Elliot, magically journey into the world of dreams in search of The Sandman, the fabled figure who promises to make their wildest dreams come true. Along the way, they discover that as long as they have each other, they can overcome anything—even their worst nightmares.

This fantastic animation sensitively navigates family anxieties as well as having a perfect blend of comedy, adventure and heart. Featuring the voice talent of Simu Liu, Craig Robinson, Cristin Milioti and Omid Djalili – this special preview an unmissable half term treat!

Age recommendation: 7+

With thanks to Netflix

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](#), 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.

