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barbican

Barbican Cinema programme **October 2025**

Festivals, Seasons and Special Events:

- **New East Cinema: Visions of Ukraine: Queer Shorts from Ukraine: What Will You Do When the War Continues?** – Thu 2 Oct
- **All Kaiju Attack: Earth SOS! – *Godzilla vs Biollante*** – Tue 7 Oct + ***Son of Godzilla*** + intro by Toshiko Kurata – Sat 25 Oct
- **Dance Umbrella Festival 2025: Sunday Shorts** – Sun 12 Oct
- **Animation at War: *Heroic Times* + intro** – Wed 22 Oct
- **Doc'n Roll Film Festival** – Thu 23 Oct – Mon 1 Nov
- **Family Film Week** – Sat 25 Oct – Sun 2 Nov
- **Oska Bright Film Festival: Wild Women** – Mon 27 Oct
- ***Imitation of Life*** + introduction by Ellen E Jones – Mon 27 Oct

Regular Programme strands:

- **Family Film Club:**
 - **SAILFest & Family Film Club** – Sat 4 Oct
 - ***Song of the Sea*** – Sat 11 Oct
 - ***The Wizard of Oz*** – Sat 18 Oct
- **Senior Community Screenings:**
 - ***The Tale of Daye's Family*** – Mon 13 Oct
 - ***Mirai*** – Mon 27 Oct
- **Silent Film & Live Music: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*** – Sun 26 Oct
- **Experiments in Film: Both Sides Now 10** – Thu 30 Oct

Event Cinema:

- **Royal Ballet & Opera Live: *Tosca*** – Wed 1 Oct
- **MET Opera Live in HD: *La Sonnambula*** – Sat 18 Oct
- **NT Live: *Mrs Warren's Profession*** – Thu 23 Oct

Younger audiences are in for a treat this October with Barbican Cinema's **Family Film Week**, which returns with an international programme to inspire the next generation of film fans, taking place over half-term. There's also the regular [Family Film Club](#), with screenings every Saturday morning, which include the animation ***Song of the Sea*** and the classic family favourite ***The Wizard of Oz***.

The Barbican is also pleased to welcome back the twelfth edition of [Doc'n Roll Film Fest](#), the UK-wide premier Music Documentary Festival, with a lineup of five feature-length documentaries that delve deep into the world of alternative music and trailblazing artists.

All Kaiju Attack: Earth SOS! is a season of Japanese monster movies which began in September and continues with the titles ***Godzilla vs Biollante*** and ***Son of Godzilla***. The Barbican season **Animation at War** also continues with a screening of ***Heroic Times***, a masterpiece of Hungarian animation which brings to life a brutal period of Central European medieval history, and is being shown in the UK for the first time.

New East Cinema presents the final programme in the **Visions of Ukraine** season, with **Queer Shorts from Ukraine: What Will You Do When the War Continues?** - a unique selection of Ukrainian LGBTQ+ films which highlight the plethora of challenges the community is facing as a direct result of the Russian invasion.

Further highlights include a screening of **Douglas Sirk's** 1959 masterpiece **Imitation of Life**, which has been programmed to celebrate the recipient of the 2025 Kraszna-Krausz Moving Image Book Award, ***Screen Deep: How film and TV can solve racism and save the world***, written by the journalist and broadcaster **Ellen E Jones**.

Also in October, the long-term Barbican collaborators **Dance Umbrella** present **Sunday Shorts**, an afternoon of short films around the theme of movement; and **Experiments in Film** screens **Both Sides Now 10**, a dynamic compilation of artists' film and video works from the UK and Hong Kong.

The ever popular **Silent Film & Live Music** strand is back this month with a special screening of the 1920 landmark horror ***The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari***, which remains as terrifying over a hundred years after it was originally released. This will be presented with a new electronic score performed live by Spanish electronica musician **Caliza**.

Oska Bright Film Festival also returns in October with **Wild Women**, a programme of shorts made by disabled women. Expect the unexpected in this whacky, joyful, programme.

Festivals, Seasons and Special Events

New East Cinema:

Visions of Ukraine: Queer Shorts from Ukraine: What Will You Do When the War Continues? (15*)

Thu 2 Oct, 6.30pm

Cinema 2

Simeiz

Ukraine 2022, Dir Anton Shebetko, 18min

In the Soviet era, an underground gay resort arose in the Crimean village of Simeiz. It would become a significant meeting point for members of the LGBTQ+ community from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia until Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Before Curfew

Ukraine 2023, Dir Angelika Ustymenko, 23min

Two queer people meet on the train and, reimagining **Richard Linklater's *Before Sunrise***, spontaneously decide to get out in Kyiv and spend the day together. It is romance framed by war, in which intimate conversations and moments of tenderness are interrupted by the sounds of explosions – contrasts too familiar to many Ukrainians today.

What Will You Do When the War Continues?

Ukraine 2025, Dir Vladyslav Plisetskiy, 38min

Using his own biography, performances, and recordings of phone calls with his father, **Vladyslav Plisetskiy** explores the deep connection between the personal and the political, as the director's own search for identity becomes intertwined with the context of war, and the army's denial of queer soldiers' existence.

All Kaiju Attack: Earth SOS!

Godzilla vs Biollante + introduction by kaiju expert Steven Sloss (12A*)

Japan 1989, Dir Kazuki Ōmori, 104min

Tue 7 Oct, 6.20pm

Cinema 1

Godzilla vs Biollante is a high point for the Godzilla film series, with a fantastical vision of a kaiju antagonist engineered from the cells of a rose, the dead daughter of a scientist and Godzilla's own DNA. Continuing the upsurge in quality heralded by **The Return of Godzilla** (1984), the final Godzilla film of the 1980s boasts great special effects and some of the best suitmation and miniatures in the series.

Son of Godzilla + introduction by Toshiko Kurata (PG)

Japan 1967, Dir Jun Fukuda, 85min

Sat 25 Oct, 4.15pm

Cinema 3

Once again, humanity's meddling with nature leads to disaster, as scientists seeking to control the weather unleash a dangerous horde of giant insects. **Son of Godzilla** introduces a number of new kaiju to the franchise: mutated mantis creatures (Kamacuras), a predatory monster spider (Humonga) and, less horrifyingly, Minilla, Godzilla's child.

To view the full season press release:

www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room/all-kaiju-attack-earth-sos

Dance Umbrella Festival 2025:

Sunday Shorts

Sun 12 Oct, 3.30pm

Cinema 3

Presented as a feast of short works, the programme has a particular focus on filmmakers from Taiwan whose work has movement at its heart, whether through directorial choices, editing processes or presence of the physical body on screen.

bulabulay mun?

Taiwan 2022, Dir Tjimur Dance Theatre, 12min

This film originates from the wounds of war and colonial history, looking beyond collective or national memory — it digs into the deep cracks that still echo inside the body.

Somewhere Beyond Right and Wrong, There is a Garden. I Will Meet You There

Taiwan 2023, Dir Yin-Ju Chen, 16min

Drifting between worlds seen and unseen, this quietly powerful film by **Yin-Ju Chen** weaves mysticism, collective memory, and the echoes of trauma into a meditation on the fragile bond between the self and the cosmos.

Si So Mi

Taiwan 2017, Dir Zhang Xu Zhan, 5min

A stop-motion animation by Taiwanese artist-filmmaker **Zhang Xu Zhan**, which transforms traditional funeral imagery into a surreal, celebratory ritual.

The Silence of Sirens

Taiwan 2023, Dir Tzu-An Wu, 6min

A meditation on cinema as a dance of light, emotion, illusion, and an embryology of images.

Spinning

Japan 2023, Dir Ai Ozaki, 11min

This visual diary draws on daily footage captured across the seasons to reveal both the shifting landscape around the filmmaker and her own inner transformation.

S/Z Rye Green Berry

Taiwan 2025, Dir Cherlyn Hsing-Hsin Liu, 20min

Dancing across boundaries in both content and form, this short explores cross-dressing in various traditional Asian operas.

The films will be followed by a ScreenTalk with curator **Emily Shin-Jie Lee** and guests.

Animation at War:

Heroic Times + Introduction

Hungary 1984, Dir József Gémes, 79min

Wed 22 Oct, 6.20pm

Cinema 3

Based on the epic poem cycle *The Toldi Trilogy*, we follow the rise and fall of a young man blessed with superhuman strength, who aspires to the ideals of chivalry and pledges his sword to the crown, only to discover the harsh realities of violence, greed and hunger for power.

Director **József Gémes** and the team at Hungary's **Pannónia Filmstúdió** spent several years creating thousands of oil paintings that drew inspiration from the romanticism of 19th century Hungarian art. The result is a uniquely powerful and rich study of the pageantry, mythology and ideology of war – and an animated film like no other.

Recently restored by the **National Film Institute of Hungary**, this screening is an opportunity to discover this glorious landmark in animation history, shown for the first time in a British cinema.

Doc'n Roll Film Festival

Thu 23 Oct – Mon 1 Nov

Cinema 1 + 2

Doc'n Roll Film Festival is back in the Barbican Cinemas for its 12th edition from 23 October with a line-up that rocks, grooves and moves. From punk to folk, Latin to jazz, these music stories bring the noise, the struggle and the soul to the big screen. This year's line-up champions voices that shaped genres and influenced generations, from underground rebels to global icons.

Each screening comes with a chance to hear directly from the filmmakers and artists who lived it. Running through to Mon 1 November, it's a front-row seat to music history in the making.

Doc'n Roll Film Festival will be announcing their programme on Tue 23 Sep.

Family Film Week 2025

Sat 25 Oct – Sun 2 Nov

Cinema 2 & 3

The Barbican's **Family Film Week** returns for another edition, featuring the best children's films from around the world, with new releases, special previews, activities, introductions and special events.

The full programme will be announced on **Wed 17 Sep**.

Oska Bright: Wild Women (15)

Dir various, 70mins

Mon 27 Oct, 6.30pm

This programme of shorts will send you on a wild ride; it will be crazy, joyful and unexpected.

Oska Bright proudly uses the F-rating, which is designed to support and promote women and redress the imbalance in the film industry.

With less than 5% of disabled people working in the UK film industry, Oska Bright Film Festival is driven to make change happen. Working internationally with industry partners and funded by the BFI, our team produces the BAFTA and BIFA qualifying Oska Bright Film Festival, promotes accessible screenings, runs training for venues and develops skills for aspiring filmmakers.

Imitation of Life (12) plus introduction by Ellen E Jones

US 1959, Dir Douglas Sirk, 125min

Mon 27 Oct, 7pm

Cinema 1

Douglas Sirk's 1959 masterpiece ***Imitation of Life*** centres on the relationship between two women – **Lana Turner** and **Juanita Moore** (who received an Oscar nomination) – whose lives become deeply intertwined after a chance encounter. Through their intersecting lives, Sirk explores themes of race, class, and gender, using the framework of melodrama to present a poignant counterpoint to the ideals of 1950s suburban America.

Ellen E. Jones is a British journalist, broadcaster, and author specializing in film and television. She is known for co-hosting the BBC's flagship film and TV program **Screenshot**, and writes for The Guardian and Empire magazine. Her book ***Screen Deep: How film and TV can solve racism and save the world*** explores the potential of screen storytelling to address social issues.

Regular Programme Strands

Family Film Club

SAILFest & Family Film Club

Sat 4 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

FFC is delighted to be partnering with **SAILFest**, the UK's first festival dedicated to celebrating the best in South Asian illustration and literature. Families will get the chance to meet, watch and create with some of the most talented South Asian authors and illustrators in the UK.

Further details to be announced shortly.

www.sailfest.org.uk

***Song of the Sea* (PG)**

Ireland, France, Denmark, Luxembourg 2014, Dir. Tomm Moore, 94min

Sat 11 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

A gorgeous folk-tale inspired story from the creatives at Cartoon Saloon. A young boy called Ben, finds his 4-year-old mute sister, Saoirse, is a mythical creature called a Selkie and the pair set off on an adventure to discover the magical secrets of their family.

***The Wizard of Oz* (U)**

US 1939 Dir Victor Fleming 102min

Sat 18 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

Come along with Dorothy for an evergreen adventure, in one of the most sumptuous Technicolour musicals ever committed to film. In Kansas, Dorothy (**Judy Garland**) and her loyal dog Toto are bracing themselves for a tornado...and wake up in a colourful world of witches, flying monkeys and the yellow brick road.

Senior Community Screenings:

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

The Tale of Daye's Family

Egypt 2024, Dir Karim El Shenawy, 104min

Mon 13 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

Marsm presents a screening of **Karim El Shenawy's** uplifting journey of hope, music and belonging, screening as part of A Season of Arabic Culture. Daye, a 14-year-old Nubian with albinism is gifted with a hauntingly beautiful voice, and embarks on a journey from Aswan to Cairo to audition for the Egyptian version of *The Voice*.

***Mirai* (PG)**

Japan 2018, Dir Mamoru Hosoda, 98min

Mon 27 Oct, 11am

Cinema 2

Animator Mamoru Hosoda (***Summer Wars***, ***Wolf Children***) returns with a fantastical comedy of love passed down through generations.

Silent Film & Live Music: *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* (U)

Germany 1920, Dir Robert Wiene, 75min

Sun 26 Oct, 3pm

Cinema 1

A screening of this landmark German horror, presented with a new electronic score performed live by Spanish electronica musician **Caliza**.

In the small German town of Holstenwall murders have been occurring. When Francis' friend Jane goes missing his suspicions fall on a local fairground impresario and hypnotist Caligari (**Werner Krauss**) and the somnambulist Cesare (**Conrad Veidt**) under his control.

The Cabinet of Dr Caligari is famous above all for its contorted, non-naturalistic sets that aim to express inner states of being. But it is hugely innovative and influential in other ways too – pioneering the twist ending and giving us the movies' first mad psychiatrist.

Experiments in Film:

Both Sides Now 10 (15*)

Thu 30 Oct, 7pm

Cinema 2

This milestone tenth edition reflects on a decade of creative and cultural exchange, showcasing works that explore identity, heritage, queerness, speculative futures, and digital storytelling.

With bold aesthetics and experimental approaches, the programme captures the diversity and complexity of our times, while remaining accessible, thought-provoking, and visually compelling.

Event Cinema

Royal Ballet & Opera Live: *Tosca*

Wed 1 Oct, 6.45pm

Cinema 2

A romance, a tragedy and a thriller – travel to 19th century Rome with Puccini's passionate, political opera.

MET Opera Live: *La Sonnambula*

Sat 18 Oct, 6pm

Cinema 1

Nadine Sierra stars in **Rolando Villazón's** adaptation set in the Swiss Alps, about a lover, her fiancé, and their rivals.

NT Live: *Mrs Warren's Profession*

Thu 23 Oct, 6pm

Cinema 1

Bernard Shaw's incendiary moral classic explores the clash between morality and independence, traditions and progress, all through the lens of a mother and daughter.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

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Box office: www.barbican.org.uk

National Theatre Live:

Standard: £20

Barbican members: £16

Young Barbican: £10

Royal Ballet & Opera Live + Met Opera Live:

Standard: £20

Barbican members: £16

Young Barbican: £12

Events/Seasons/Festivals:

Standard: £14

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: £14
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/Week** 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** £7 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](#), 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.

