



Est 1914

Iconic Leeds cinema to reopen this June following completion of transformational redevelopment project

Under embargo until:
Thursday 8th June 2023

New website (live from 8th June): HPPH.co.uk
Images available for use: bit.ly/3OVPqKw

We will be hosting a press day on Monday 26th June, between 12-6pm. More details will be circulated soon, but please email if you're interested in attending.



The Hyde Park Picture House, one of the UK's oldest and most treasured cinemas, is to reopen its doors on Friday 30 June, as work on its refurbishment nears completion.

Thanks to support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the 109-year-old Leeds cinema has successfully carried out significant restoration works throughout the past two years, including repairs to its façade and external lamppost, the restoration of original terrazzo flooring, and the refurbishment of its nine gas lights which will be lit for every screening.

The Picture House Project, which received funding from Leeds City Council and the Garfield Weston Foundation, has also introduced new accessible facilities, including a ramped entrance, Café Bar, Community Room, platform lift and wheelchair accessible toilet. A brand-new 50-seat second screen, located in the cinema's basement, will open later in July - allowing the Picture House to expand its programme and bring to Leeds even more award-winning films from around the world.

The cinema reopens at the end of June with Wes Anderson's critically acclaimed *Asteroid City*, followed by a summer of screenings and launch events for each of the Picture House's distinct programme strands. Events being announced today include:

- A preview screening of endearing new Dutch documentary *Shabu* (4th July), accompanied by a director Q&A - which launches the cinema's weekly documentary strand, **Tuesday Wonders**.
- A season of films in partnership with Leeds International African Arts Festival (from 11th July), as part of the Picture House's new **Cinema Africa!** strand celebrating the best new African film.
- A special screening of Yorkshire classic *Brassed Off* (30th July), with a Q&A with director Mark Herman - launching the cinema's new classics strand, **reRUN**.

During its opening week, the Picture House is also holding a series of open days, where audiences are invited to visit the cinema, explore the new and refurbished spaces, enjoy free films on the big screen and see archive material up close in the new Community Room.

More screenings and events will be announced over the coming days and weeks, with tickets available via the cinema's new website which launches today. Designed and built by local Leeds agencies Rabbithole and Let's Dance, visitors to HPPH.co.uk can learn more about the cinema, its unique history and the work that's been carried out in recent years, with regular stories published via its new online journal.

Alan Gay, Chair of the Leeds Heritage Theatres Board, said:

"Hyde Park Picture House is a crucial and much-loved part of the Leeds Heritage Theatre's family of venues, a community asset and an important heritage venue in the city. We're grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for all their support throughout this project, enabling us to restore and enhance this beautiful cinema and bring film and the history of film to new audiences. As we move towards re-opening after this extended period of closure, we cannot wait to welcome the people of Leeds back to the Picture House and look forward to showing the cinema to a new generation of film goers."

Chris Blythe, Leeds Heritage Theatres CEO, said:

"When we started work on the Picture House project in 2015 we had no idea of the challenges ahead and how long our original timeline would have to be extended. Nor did we fully appreciate the support and love so many people across the city and nationally would show for our cinema. As we stand on the cusp of re-opening, we are looking forward to a bright future with this gem of a Picture House restored and more accessible than ever before."

Helen Featherstone, Director, England, North at The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said

"Hyde Park Picture House is absolutely a place to see captivating stories on the silver screen, and in addition the venue is at the heart of many fantastic stories for the people of Leeds, and even further afield. We're thrilled that money raised by National Lottery players has preserved this majestic building as a mainstay of the city's rich, and evolving, cultural heritage. We can't wait for the doors to reopen for the community to enjoy this special place once more and continue to build on that important heritage for future generations."

Cllr. Jonathan Pryor, Leeds City Council's executive member for economy, culture and education, said:

"It's hugely exciting to see such a cherished piece of the city's cultural landscape opening its doors once more after what has been a once-in-a-lifetime heritage project. Film has a special place in the story of Leeds and the Hyde Park Picture house has been a cornerstone of that story for more than a century. It's wonderful to know this venue's unique character has been protected and preserved and that it will continue to welcome audiences for many more generations to come."

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For further enquiries & interviews, contact Ollie Jenkins (HPPH Marketing & Communications Manager): ollie@hpph.co.uk
Details about HPPH, including the cinema's history, visitor and access information, can be found at: HPPH.co.uk
HPPH is on Twitter & Instagram via @HydeParkPH. For posts relating to the project, search #PictureHouseProject

Notes to Editor

The Hyde Park Picture House is a nationally connected, locally focused, community cinema; providing audiences with an inclusive space to explore and discover. Opened in 1914, the Picture House screens the best films from around the world, and delivers inspiring projects for the communities of Leeds. HPPH.co.uk

Leeds Heritage Theatres is comprised of Leeds Grand Theatre, City Varieties Music Hall and the Hyde Park Picture House. A registered charity (charity no. 500408), Leeds Heritage Theatres provides a positive, inclusive, and sustainable environment in which to entertain, educate and inspire. leedsheritagetheatres.com

The Picture House Project is the name of the cinema's redevelopment project. The project began in 2014, following the cinema's centenary, to establish ways in which the cinema's accessibility and sustainability could be improved. Following a feasibility study commissioned by the Friends of Hyde Park Picture House, the cinema made a successful application to The National Lottery Heritage Fund. After a two-year development period, the Heritage Fund confirmed its £2.3million grant for the scheme, to support both capital works, as well as an extensive activity programme, aimed at celebrating and promoting film and cinema heritage in the region. In March 2020 the Picture House closed in anticipation of work beginning on the project. The start of work was delayed for a year due to Covid, with work beginning in spring 2021 following further support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Culture Recovery Fund.

The Picture House Project team consists of architects Page\Park, engineers Buro Happold, quantity surveyors Gardiner & Theobald and project managers Avison Young. The works have been delivered by Triton Construction.

Substantial match-funding for the scheme has also come from Leeds City Council and the Garfield Weston Foundation. Additional funding for the project has also come from Film Hub North, The Gwyneth Forrester Trust and The Pilgrim Trust.

Page\Park is an award-winning architectural practice undertaking work across the UK from their studios in Glasgow and Leeds. The Employee-Owned practice prides itself in providing responsive solutions rooted in the needs and experience of local people and communities. pagepark.co.uk

The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Using money raised by The National Lottery, the Heritage Fund inspires, leads and resources the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK. More than £30 million raised each week goes to good causes across the UK.

heritagefund.org.uk. Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook & Instagram. #NationalLotteryHeritageFund.

Rabbithole is a creative studio based in Leeds and Glasgow specialising in brand strategy, identity design & web. They have been working with HPPH since 2022 to renew their brand identity ahead of reopening. rabbithole.co.uk

Let's Dance are a small creative agency working with charities, independents and organisations doing social good. They have been working with HPPH and Rabbithole on the build of the cinema's new website. letsdance.agency