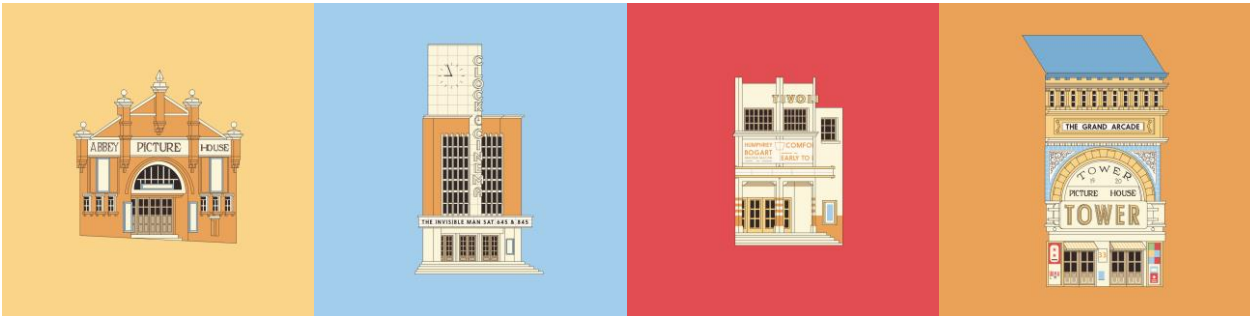


Press Release:
Friday 14th August 2020

80 LEEDS CINEMAS REDISCOVERED AS NEW HERITAGE PROJECT LAUNCHES TODAY



From small neighbourhood picture houses to gigantic super-cinemas, Leeds was once home to an incredible 80 cinemas – a new interactive heritage project can now reveal.

Launching today, the Hyde Park Picture House's *Hiding in Plain Sight* project brings together years of research with new artwork from Adam Allsuch Boardman – to provide an illustrated history of cinemas in Leeds.

Available online at: www.lostcinemas.co.uk – the brand-new project website will allow users to navigate the city and visit the locations of dozens of past cinemas, many of which have survived and are still visible today. Cinemas which have long been closed but can still be seen include Kirkstall's Abbey Picture House, the Clock Cinema in Harehills and Leeds city centre's iconic Majestic Cinema – to name just a few.

Alongside illustrations and archive photographs – many of which have been provided by Leeds Libraries from their Leodis archive – visitors to the website will also be able to contribute to the project directly by submitting memories or photos they have of specific cinema venues. Supported by Leeds Inspired and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the aim is for the website to become a living archive, which continues to grow and evolve through ongoing engagement with Leeds residents, old and new.

The launch of the project is being marked by an accompanying exhibition at independent bookshop Colours May Vary, which also opens today. On display are the colourful and detailed new illustrations produced by Leeds-based Adam Allsuch Boardman – with large prints featuring the artists' favourite 12 cinemas.

Laura Ager, the Hyde Park Picture House's creative engagement officer and the project's lead, said:

"For me, one of the most exciting aspects of this project has been its interactivity, as well the way it mixes research methods.

Adam's detailed illustrations have revealed some interesting links between historic cinemas in the city and delving into the central library's archives has been really rewarding.

Now we will begin drawing on people's own observations – photos and memories – to see what else we can find out about our city's cinema heritage. It feels like a genuinely co-produced and collaborative piece of research."

Illustrator and project researcher Adam Allsuch Boardman added:

"Having highly enjoyed working with the Hyde Park Picture House on previous illustrative ventures, I was thrilled to be invited to produce imagery to celebrate the role of cinemas in the Leeds community.

During my research with Laura, I was drawn to the characteristic facades of each cinema. Whether it's the intricate terracotta brickwork, or hand-painted and electric signage, each building tells a unique story of its place in Leeds' cultural history. To do my best in honouring their dynamic, grand and eccentric architecture, I felt compelled to systematically draw as many cinemas as possible.

I am very proud of my illustrative part in the project and believe the artwork and interactive website will communicate the colourful cinematic heritage of Leeds to a wider audience."

Hiding in Plain Sight sits within a wider programme of activity being delivered by the Hyde Park Picture House and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund – helping to celebrate Leeds' cinema history. This includes *The Picture House Project* – a multi-million pound redevelopment, which aims to secure the future of the 106 year old Picture House for generations to come.

With additional funding support coming from Leeds City Council, Garfield Weston and the BFI – work on the scheme is expected to begin later this year, following recent delays caused by COVID-19.

-Ends-

Notes to Editor

An information pack about this project, including downloadable media assets, can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2PSVe80>. The project lead Laura Ager and illustrator Adam Allsuch Boardman are available today and over the weekend for interviews. Please contact Ollie Jenkins (Marketing & Communications Manager) to arrange: ollie@hydeparkpicturehouse.co.uk | 07525062558

Hiding in Plain Sight is a project delivered by the Hyde Park Picture House, in collaboration with artist and researcher Adam Allsuch Boardman. Funding support has been provided by Leeds Inspired and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Photographic contributions to the project website have been provided by Leeds Libraries. The new project microsite www.lostcinemas.co.uk will go live by 12noon on Friday 14th August.

Adam Allsuch Boardman is a freelance illustrator, writer and animator. Previous clients have included national museums, Grizzly Games, Apple, WSP and Nobrow. Adam first became involved with the Hyde Park Picture House in 2016, when he exhibited works based on the building for his graduation show at Leeds Arts University. The works featured an in-depth study of the Hyde Park Picture House; ranging from detailed architectural drawings, to meticulous renderings of the ephemera spread around the cinema. Adam's first published book, 'An Illustrated History of Filmmaking' was published by Nobrow in 2018, and his second book 'An Illustrated History of UFOs' is due to be released in Autumn 2020. www.facebook.com/aaabillustration

The Hyde Park Picture House first opened in 1914, the Grade II listed Picture House is one of the UK's oldest cinemas. Beginning its life shortly before the outbreak of the First World War, it gained popularity by screening patriotic dramas and newsreels to boost morale during the action. The Picture House survived the advent of 'talkies' in the 1920s and continues to screen the very best independent, art house and classic films from around the world, as well as special live events with filmmakers, artists and academics. www.hydeparkpicturehouse.co.uk

The Picture House Project. In December 2018, the Hyde Park Picture House received confirmation of a £2.3million National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, allowing it to begin work on the Picture House Project – a vital redevelopment that will secure the future of the historic cinema. Due to recent delays caused by the coronavirus pandemic, building work on the project is expected to begin later this year, with a revised timetable to be announced in the autumn.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund invests money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under foot to the historic parks and buildings that help articulate our history, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.heritagefund.org.uk

Leeds Inspired manages two grant schemes to support arts events and arts projects taking place in Leeds. As well as funding projects, they also run a listings website, promoting thousands of gigs, exhibitions, performance and screenings from hundreds of independent venues in the city. www.leedsinspired.co.uk

Colours May Vary is a Leeds based independent shop. Established in 2012, they have a particular focus on graphic art and design, typography, illustration and product design – and a commitment to supporting fellow independents in Leeds. Since launching their gallery space in 2014 they have hosted exhibitions by Peter Mitchell, Matthew the Horse, Alex Sickling and Laura Slater amongst others. Their *Hiding in Plain Sight* exhibition is open Monday – Saturday, 10am – 4pm, from Friday 14th August – Wednesday 30th September. www.coloursmayvary.com

For media enquiries please contact:

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