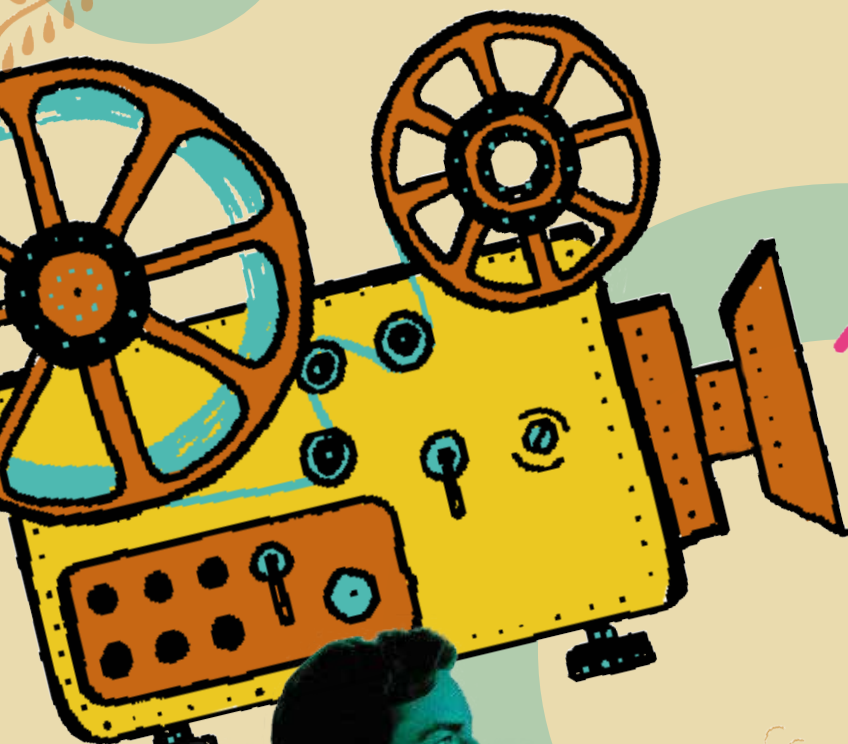


**16 - 31 JULY 2022**



# **BALSALL HEATH**

**FILM FESTIVAL**



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## **FILM FESTIVAL**

A film festival in Balsall Heath?! But we don't even have any cinemas...

Once upon a time it seemed there was a cinema on every block in this part of the city, and in the 60s and 70s it was a destination for South Asian audiences from across the region and beyond. Although most of those buildings are now gone, their memory lives on, and for a couple of weeks this summer many local venues will be opening their doors to film. Dive in to find talks, walks, screenings, workshops and outdoor events, and to see your city in a different light.

Balsall Heath Film Festival is produced by Flatpack in partnership with The Gap, Ikon Gallery, Moseley Road Baths, Saheli Hub, Birmingham Indian Film Festival and South Asian Arts Collective.

It has been made possible with support from The Active Wellbeing Society and the National Lottery through the British Film Institute.

**Tickets can be booked at:**

[flatpackfestival.org.uk/projects/balsall-heath-film-festival](http://flatpackfestival.org.uk/projects/balsall-heath-film-festival)

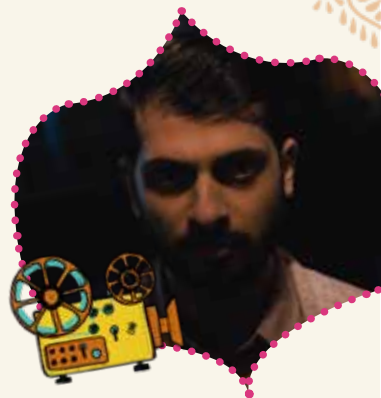
# SHOWINGS

## **Don't Eat My Brain / Dimag Math Khao**

**Saturday 16 July, 14:00-15:30, Moseley Community Hub**

**Free entry, booking required**

This event will showcase a series of short films exploring themes of mental health and wellbeing in South Asian communities. The programme will include a local premiere of mental health charity Taraki's award-winning short film *What Could Go Wrong*, shot in Balsall Heath and centred around the topic of Punjabi men's mental health. The films will be followed by a discussion with Taraki's founder and director Shuranjeet Singh, alongside other speakers exploring conversations around mental health.



## **A Joyful Noise with Faisal Hussain**

**Saturday 16 July, 16:30-18:00, Moseley Community Hub**

**Free entry, booking required**

The first time qawwali master Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan performed outside Pakistan or India was in Balsall Heath in 1979, at an event promoted by Oriental Star Agencies at the now-demolished Luxor Cinema. This music had a massive impact on artist Faisal Hussain when growing up, and his company True Form Projects recently embarked on a project to illuminate Oriental Star's archives. For this conversation event he'll be reflecting on music and faith, and Balsall Heath as a cultural hot spot.

Presented in association with Ikon Gallery's Migrant Festival (14-17 July).



## **Osman Yousefzada in Conversation**

**Saturday 16 July, 19:00-20:30, Moseley Community Hub**

**Free entry, booking required**

Osman Yousefzada is an artist who works across different disciplines including moving image, sculpture, garment making and performance. His youth in Balsall Heath in the 80s and 90s was the basis for his first book *The Go-Between*, published earlier this year. It was a strict upbringing and filmgoing was off limits, but cinema has played an important part in his artistic development. During this discussion he'll be sharing clips from some formative movies including classic Bollywood, Merchant-Ivory and Eddie Murphy.

Presented in association with Ikon Gallery's Migrant Festival (14-17 July).





## Balsall Heath on Film

**Sunday 17 July, 12:00-13:30, Moseley Community Hub**

**Free entry, booking required**

In 1973 writer Tara Prem spent a few weeks in Balsall Heath researching possible stories, and after visiting the cinema she was inspired to write a script about a young film-fan who gets to meet the fictional star Shalini. This became the half-hour drama *A Touch of Eastern Promise*, partly filmed at the Imperial on Moseley Road and broadcast on the BBC in 1973. Jaswant Sidhu ran the cinema at the time, and his son Amarjit helped to arrange locations and made a brief cameo appearance. Today he'll be revisiting the film and talking about his memories of the Imperial.

This event will also include a first opportunity to see a more recent portrait of B12. *Spirit of Balsall Heath* was commissioned by the National Trust as part of ongoing work by a coalition of organisations working to secure the long term future of Moseley Road Baths, and made by locally based filmmaker Rachel Gillies.

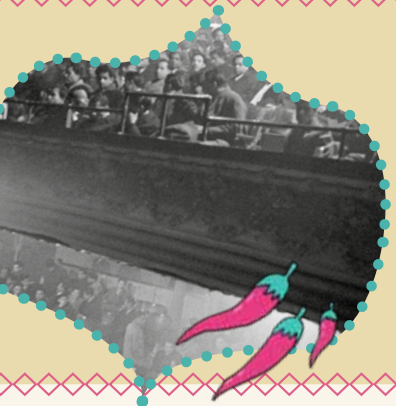
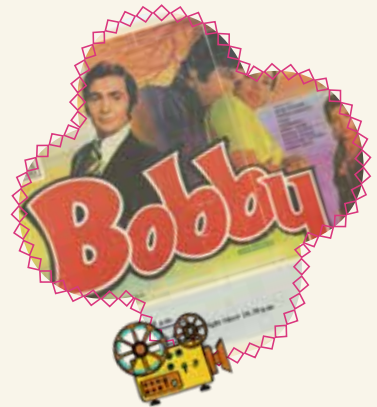
## Bobby

**(Dir: Raj Kapoor India 1973, 169 mins)**

**Sunday 17 July, 14:30-17:30, Moseley Community Hub**

**Free entry, booking required**

Made in the same year as *A Touch of Eastern Promise*, *Bobby* turned Hindi cinema on its head with its emphasis on youth. The son of a rich businessman (Rishi Kapoor, the director's son) meets the daughter of a poor fisherman (Dimple Kapadia, in her movie debut). Sparks fly. The parents disapprove. Cue lovelorn singing in fields of flowers, with a lush soundtrack by Laxmikant-Pyralal featuring the late Lata Mangeshkar. This one-off screening is presented in partnership with Birmingham Indian Film Festival.



## Movie Mahal

**Tuesday 19 July, 18:30-20:30,**

**Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**

**Free entry, booking required**

Get behind the scenes of two lost picturehouses - the Waldorf on Walford Road and the Imperial in Balsall Heath. A conversation event with special guests the Randhawa family - who ran the Waldorf until the early 80s - and Amarjit Sidhu, whose father Jaswant opened one of the UK's first full-time South Asian cinemas in 1961.

## Rocks

**(Dir: Sarah Gavron, UK 2019, 93 mins)**

**Friday 22 July, 19:00-20:45, The GAP**

**Tickets: £4**

What do young people need to survive and thrive in the world today? And why do we live in a society that excludes young people? These are questions that have shaped The GAP's Other-Wise Project, and they're also at the centre of Rocks. The title character (Buky Bakray) is a 15 year old schoolgirl who finds herself caring for her younger brother when her mum walks out. A beautiful, warm-hearted film about a group of friends in east London, developed in collaboration with the cast.



## Balsall Heath Bollywood Bazaar

**Saturday 23 July, 12:00-15:00, Saheli Hub**

**Free entry**

Join Flatpack Festival, Saheli Hub, and South Asian Arts Collective for a collaboration of community, arts, and film at this family friendly event. SAAC will be hosting one of their iconic Bazaars and with spoken word, live music, arts and crafts and a Bollywood dance workshop, there won't be a dull moment in the day! For movie lovers, stick around and keep a lookout on the day for a screening of an Indian classic.



## In My Blood it Runs

**(Dir: Maya Newell, Australia 2019, 84 mins)**

**Friday 29 July, 19:00-20:30, The GAP**

**Tickets: £4**

This powerful observational documentary follows Djujan Hoosan, an Arrernte Aboriginal boy living in Alice Springs, to explore how education systems are designed to exclude and punish those who are understood as 'other'. Director Maya Newell (Gayby Baby) shines a piercing light on the inequalities and barriers within Australian society, and how in the face of this Indigenous cultures fight and celebrate themselves, in order to survive. This film draws on issues explored in The GAP's Other-Wise Project.



## Wonderland Memory Box: South Asian Cinema

**Sunday 24 July, 11:00-15:30,**

**Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**

**Free entry**

Do you remember seeing Asian movies on the Soho Road or the Moseley Road? Come along and share your stories and images about movie-going in the 60s and 70s at this free drop-in session. If you have pictures or programmes from the likes of the Alhambra, the Luxor, the Waldorf or the Elite you can get them scanned as high-resolution digital copies.





## **Colour Box: Swimming Shorts & Blowing Bubbles**

**Sunday 31 July, 10:00-14:00, Moseley Road Baths**

**Free entry**

Moseley Road Baths hosts a day of aquatic-themed films and activities for children of all ages.

Taking over the (water-free) Gala pool, we'll be screening a selection of family-friendly short films about divers, swimmers and boating with brilliant animation and a hilarious Buster Keaton short. Artist Sarah Hamilton Baker will also be running drop-in workshops creating optical toys and bubble art.

## **Balsall Heath Cinema Walk**

**Sunday 31 July, 11:30-13:00, meet outside Saheli Hub**

**Free entry, booking required**

It's hard to believe it now, but at one point B12 was a film-going destination. This Sunday morning stroll will take you from the river Rea up to the Stratford Road, exploring the locations where Balsall Heathans escaped the daily grind for the comfort of the movies. Along the way we'll learn about the life of a silent film pianist, the ABC Minors Song, and how South Asian cinema and rock concerts helped to keep some of these places alive.



## **Waldorf Revival: Amar Akbar Anthony**

**Sunday 31 July, 14:00-17:30, Shree Ram Mandir**

**Tickets: 50p**

At this very special afternoon screening the Waldorf Cinema will spring back to life forty years after it closed down, as the Randhawa family present 1977 classic *Amar Akbar Anthony* about three brothers separated at birth.

Film is in the blood for the Randhawas. During the 50s and 60s Naranjhan Singh Randhawa toured the UK showing Indian and Pakistani movies to first-generation audiences. Throughout the 70s his son Avtar managed the Waldorf Cinema in Sparkbrook, welcoming many South Asian stars and offering a vital space for the local community. He in turn brought his teenage sons Raj and Jodi into the family business, until the arrival of VHS killed off the Waldorf along with many other local picturehouses.

The building has been a Hindu temple ever since, but for one day only it will become a cinema again. Expect a time-travel experience inspired by the main feature, including 1970s music, 1970s refreshments and even 1970s ticket prices.

Presented in association with Birmingham Indian Film Festival.



# VENUES



## **Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**

Chamberlain Sq, Birmingham B3 3DH

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/bmag>

## **The GAP**

498 Moseley Rd, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9AH

<https://www.thegapartsproject.co.uk/>

## **Moseley Community Hub**

496 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, B12 9AH

<http://www.moseleycommunityhub.org.uk/>

## **Moseley Road Baths**

497 Moseley Rd, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9BX

<https://moseleyroadbaths.org.uk/>

## **Saheli Wellbeing Hub**

257 Edward Rd, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9LF

<https://saheli.co.uk/>

## **Shree Ram Mandir Temple**

8 Walford Rd, Sparkbrook, Birmingham B11 1NR

Wonderland: Birmingham's Cinema Stories is at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery until 30 October. A new interactive exhibition exploring 125 years of film-going across the city, as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival.

[www.flatpackfestival.org.uk/projects/wonderland](http://www.flatpackfestival.org.uk/projects/wonderland)

تو بالنسبہ بنتی فلم فیسٹیول کے  
بارے میں اردو میں پڑھیں برائے  
ممبرانے ٹیکس کوڈ اسکین کریں۔



بھالسال ہیث فلیلم فیسٹیول بھارے  
پنجاہی وائس پڑھن لایہ وریبا وکرہ  
QR کوڈ ٹو مسکن وکرہ



**Produced by:**



**Supported by:**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**In partnership with:**

the **GAP**

**IKON**



**Sāheli  
Hub**



**Tickets can be booked at:**

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