

PRESS RELEASE

COVENT GARDEN LAUNCHES OUTDOOR “CINEMA ON THE PIAZZA”



- *Covent Garden, the Royal Opera House and Luna Cinemas have partnered to offer London's only free open air cinema on Covent Garden's Piazza*
- *From Friday 11th – Sunday 13th September, a three day al-fresco cinema experience will offer matinee showings of *The Greatest Showman*, *Back to the Future* and *Mrs Doubtfire*; and evening screenings from the Royal Opera House of *Swan Lake*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *La Bohème**

This September Covent Garden will launch a one of a kind cinema experience in the heart of the iconic Piazza. From Friday 11th until Sunday 13th September, *Cinema on the Piazza* will transform the historic area into a free open air cinema. Showing two films a day – a feature film matinee and an evening screening of the Royal Opera House's most loved shows, it will offer a unique experience for visitors to enjoy al fresco culture in the heart of London's West End.

The three-day programme will allow audiences to experience some of the Royal Opera House's most popular performances just a stone's throw from the world renowned venue, including *Swan Lake*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *La Bohème*. There will also be afternoon matinee performances for everyone with *The Greatest Showman*, *Back to the Future* and *Mrs Doubtfire*. Tickets to this unique event are complimentary, and can be booked through <https://www.coventgarden.london/whats-on/cinema-piazza>; a donation to support the Royal Opera House is encouraged.

Complimentary tickets are available from the Luna Cinemas website from today, and will include a seat on a director's chair for everyone to watch the performances. Covent Garden's most loved restaurants will be available for order online and collection on the evening, including fish and chips from **The Oystermen**, pizza from **Buns & Buns** or bacon scones from **Frenchie**. There will also be an open air bar offering cocktails and snacks throughout each performance too, as well as al fresco dining options available across the estate from the likes of SushiSamba, The Ivy Market Grill and Petersham Nurseries' La Goccia.

Michelle McGrath, Executive Director Capco Covent Garden said: “Covent Garden has always been a proud supporter of the arts and culture, so hosting an open air cinema to showcase some of the Royal Opera House’s most loved productions is a fantastic opportunity to support one of the nation’s leading cultural institutions, whilst offering visitors to Covent Garden the chance to experience world-class culture for free, in a completely unique setting.

Alex Beard, Chief Executive, Royal Opera House said: “It has been fantastic to see the ROH connect with new and diverse audiences in such creative ways over the last few months, and this partnership with Capco and Luna Cinemas is particularly exciting. Making use of our iconic location in the heart of Covent Garden, these screenings will provide audiences with a truly memorable ROH experience - be it your first time seeing an opera or ballet, or your hundredth.”

George Wood, Founder of The Luna Cinema said: “We are thrilled to bring our Luna big screens to a site as iconic as the Covent Garden Piazza. There can’t be many more stunning and historic backdrops in Central London for a big screen, and to have access to some of the Royal Opera House’s most popular productions, just a stone’s throw from the venue itself, makes it even more special.

This summer, more than ever, the need for socially distanced open air events as a route back for all forms of entertainment and culture seems greater than ever. It’s with a mixture of joy and relief that we are able to welcome our audiences back to open air screenings and the Luna team has worked tirelessly to modify our events to incorporate social distancing. All audiences can feel safe coming to the events, safe in the knowledge each guest is given seating spaced carefully apart, allowing them to enjoy an un-compromised outdoor cinema experience. And where better to do it than in Covent Garden, right next to the iconic Royal Opera House.”

Cinema attendees can enjoy a pre or post dinner at one of the restaurants and bars across the estate, which are also offering indoor and al fresco dining across the pedestrianised streets. They can also shop at Covent Garden’s mix of the best of British and international fashion, beauty and lifestyle retailers which are now open offering a unique open-air shopping experience.

To book tickets, or for any additional information please visit
<https://www.coventgarden.london/whats-on/cinema-piazza>

Details

Address: West Piazza, Covent Garden

Nearest tubes: Covent Garden (Exit Only) / Leicester Square / Tottenham Court Road

Nearest train stations: Waterloo / Charing Cross

Programme

Friday 11th September:

- La Boheme at the Royal Opera House – 4.30pm
- The Greatest Showman – 7pm

Saturday 12th September:

- Back to the Future – 4pm
- Swan Lake at the Royal Opera House – 7pm

Sunday 13th September:

- Mrs Doubtfire – 4pm
- Alice in Wonderland at the Royal Opera House – 7pm

Safety Information

Each screening will take place in the fresh air, with social distanced seats allowing the audience to keep safely apart at all times. Tickets for all the screenings will offer designated seats per booking group, with seating laid out in advance for each person, ensuring guests have space to kick back and enjoy the setting safely. Seating will be sanitised between each screening, and bookers can choose whether to book a two person or four-person pitch, though all members of each party must be from no more than two households. Larger groups from more households can sit in adjacent pitches. The cinema will offer ample hand sanitising facilities for all guests, allowing attendees to safely relax and enjoy the ultimate cinema experience under the stars.

- Ends -

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About Capco Covent Garden:

Covent Garden is a leading retail and dining destination and is one of the most vibrant estates in the heart of central London. The area is now home to a wide variety of British, global and independent brands including Chanel, Tom Ford, Ganni, Balthazar and

SUSHISAMBA, with upcoming openings from American Vintage and The Big Mamma Group.

www.coventgarden.london

About Capital & Counties Properties PLC (Capco):

Capital & Counties Properties PLC is one of the largest listed property investment companies in central London and is a constituent of the FTSE-250 Index. Capco's landmark estate at Covent Garden was valued at £2.2 billion (as at 30 June 2020) where its ownership comprises over 1.2 million square feet of lettable space. The company is listed on the London Stock Exchange and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

www.capitalandcounties.com

About The Royal Opera House:

The Royal Opera House wants to give everyone access to exceptional ballet and opera. As The Royal Ballet, The Royal Opera and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, we bring together the world's most extraordinary artists in more than 500 performances every year on our two stages.

We are open every day from 10am. Across the 2018/19 Season we welcomed more than one million people through our doors as ticketholders, participants in our programme of free and ticketed daytime events, and as visitors to our bars, cafes, restaurants and shop. A further one million people enjoyed our work in cinemas, at free screenings and through streamed and televised performances up and down the UK. Our ongoing partnership with the BBC saw 11 of our productions broadcast across their platforms last Season.

During the 2018/19 Season our three flagship ROH learning programmes – Create and Sing, Create and Dance and Design and Make – supported teachers from 1,394 schools, 81% of which were outside London, bringing arts to children and young people the length and breadth of the country.

About The Luna Cinema:

The Luna Cinema was founded in 2008 by George Wood with a showing of *Some Like It Hot* at Dulwich Park in South London. It is now the largest provider of outdoor and pop-up screenings in the UK. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Luna Cinema has also recently launched The Luna Drive-In Cinema, a drive-in cinema offering across beloved sites in the UK.