



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



January 2017

Stages of Half Moon

Celebrating the rich heritage of Half Moon Theatre

Exhibition and events: 12 January - 3 April 2017



Launched with a bang last week, we are delighted to have on show in our ground floor entrance hall, our new exhibition [Stages of Half Moon](#). This display explores the history of Half Moon Theatre from 1972 to 2016, featuring previously unseen original photographs, programmes and other documents celebrating the theatre's rich past across the three Tower Hamlets buildings it has occupied - 27 Alie Street in Whitechapel, 213 Mile End Road (now the Half Moon pub) and its current base at 43 White Horse Road. The exhibition was researched extensively in the collections by Half Moon staff here at Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives, where we hold a large number of original programmes. Fans of Dan Jones, whose paintings we exhibited two years ago, will be able to see one of his previously unseen art works on display.

You can also check out the exhibition online via its dedicated website - www.stagesofhalfmoon.org.uk - which includes interviews with over 100 people who have been involved with the company in various capacities over the years: artistic,

backstage and administrative; as an audience member or youth participant. Stages of Half Moon is a continuing project and anyone who has a connection to the company is welcome to get in touch. Anyone keen to contribute personal stories, photographs, reviews, design sketches and programmes should email history@halfmoon.org.uk.

Events programme

To tie in with the exhibition we have programmed some events relating to theatre heritage in the East End. Just drop in - all events are free and no booking is required.

Theatre Heritage Day

Saturday 4 February, 2.00-4.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

[Facebook event link](#)

Join us for a packed afternoon of talks on different aspects of theatre history in the East End. Our distinguished speakers are:

- Dr Janice Norwood on nineteenth century theatre in the East End
- Carole Zeidman on the history of Wilton's Music Hall
- Erin Lee on the [Black Plays Archive](#), including *Elmina's Kitchen* by Kwame Kwei-Armah, set in Clapton
- Isabelle Seddon on the Jewish East End's contribution to twentieth century political theatre
- Ashraf Neswar on the history of Tower Hamlets Council's annual Season of Bangla Drama

Women in East End Yiddish Theatre

Thursday 23 March, 6.30-7.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

[Facebook event link](#)

Join David Mazower for this talk exploring the role immigrant women played in the development of Yiddish theatre in the East End. Women were a key part of the Yiddish theatre's appeal, whether as chorus girls, music hall singers, dramatic actresses, or running their own theatre companies. Talented, independent and unconventional, their personal lives and relationships were followed as closely as their stage careers. David is a BBC journalist, author of *Yiddish Theatre in London* and curated a major exhibition on the subject for The Jewish Museum.



Clara Young, c.1910

Public consultation: Architectural heritage in Tower Hamlets

The council is currently holding a public consultation on the Tower Hamlets Local List.

The Tower Hamlets Local List identifies locally important heritage assets that are valued by the local community. These are known as 'non-designated heritage assets' and include buildings, a structure or feature, which whilst not statutorily listed by the Secretary of State for its national importance, is felt by the council to be of local importance due to its architectural, historical and townscape significance.

Buildings are added to the local list in recognition of their value as irreplaceable historic assets which contribute to the

quality of the local environment by enhancing the street scene and sustaining a sense of distinctiveness. Groups of buildings that contribute significantly to the appearance of a street are also eligible for inclusion on the Local List.

The purpose of the Local List is to ensure that care is taken over decisions affecting the future of these buildings, structures or features, and that their special status is taken fully into account. Alterations should respect the particular character and interest of the heritage asset, and any works carried out should use appropriate materials and retain any features of architectural or historic interest.

The council is currently consulting on draft Local List Selection Criteria and a draft nomination process for additions to the Local List.

Please visit the council's Local List webpage for further details:

http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/environment_and_planning/conservation/Locally_Listed_Buildings.aspx

The Local List consultation will run until Tuesday 31 January.

If you have any queries regarding the consultation please contact: placeshaping@towerhamlets.gov.uk



Abdul's music shop, Brick Lane, 1985.(c) Raju Vaidyanathan

Now on tour! Brick Lane Born exhibition

We're delighted to announce that our exhibition of photos by Raju Vaidyanathan will now tour Idea Stores - the innovative library and lifelong learning service in Tower Hamlets. The exhibition is now on show with its contents split between the following locations until 27 March:

Idea Store Watney Market, Floors 1 and 2

- Photos of young people, football, and leisure

Idea Store Whitechapel, Floor 4 Gallery

- Photos of markets, shops and streetscapes

After this, the exhibition will tour to:

Idea Store Bow, 4 - 26 April

Idea Store Canary Wharf, 2 - 30 May

To see further photographs from the exhibition, check out our [Facebook page](#) or search the hashtag [#BrickLaneBorn](#) on Twitter.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2017

Tower Hamlets Council is marking the annual commemoration with a [range of events](#) organised by Jewish Care and the Jewish East End Celebration Society. As part of this programme, we have curated an evening of short films and are also hosting an exhibition - details below. All events are free and no booking is required.

Film screening

Thursday 26 January, 6.30pm-7.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

[Facebook event link](#)

Our double-bill of black & white short films both feature archival footage, though only the first, depicting the horrors of fascism up close, is a documentary. The second film was shot in 1950s London in a lightly fictionalised tale of a European refugee starting to set up a new life here.

* **Night & Fog** (30 minutes, dir. Alain Resnais, France, 1956)

This early documentary by the famed director of Hiroshima mon amour blends archive footage of the concentration camps alongside oral testimony. Though only half an hour long, it is often voted among the best documentaries of all time. A graphic and upsetting film, this screening is not suitable for children.

* **Refuge England** (27 minutes, dir Robert Vas, UK, 1959)

Director Robert Vas was brought up in a Jewish ghetto, and arriving in London during the experimental cinema verite movement, his early films avoided the imposition of a formal narrative so as to present unfettered the images and sounds captured by his camera. This, his first film, depicts a refugee's arrival in London after Hungary's 1956 revolution.

Exhibition: Hidden Histories

Monday 16 - Tuesday 31 January

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

Also as part of Holocaust Memorial Day 2017, we will be hosting a small display curated by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust in 2011, in which survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Rwanda, Bosnia and Cambodia reveal an object from their lives before genocide and its significance to them. Further information about Holocaust Memorial Day can be found here: www.hmd.org.uk

History Hoppers

Tuesday 31 January, 11.30am-1.30pm

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives

[Facebook event link](#)

If you're curious about archive collections and enjoy looking through old pictures and newspapers, drop in to explore original historical library and archive sources which help to tell the story of Tower Hamlets. Tea / coffee and biscuits will be provided! Free, no booking required.

From this month onwards, History Hoppers will be moving to the new time of 11.30am-1.30pm on the last Tuesday of every month. We hope this will encourage staff and students based nearby to pop in. Next History Hoppers dates will be:

Tuesday 28 February, 11.30am - 1.30pm

Tuesday 28 March, 11.30am - 1.30pm

LGBT Tower Hamlets

Make History Now! Photography competition



Dean Atta

Thursday 16 February, 6.00-7.30pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives

[ELOP](#), in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council, is pleased to announce the launch event for an upcoming photography competition, part of LGBT History Month in Tower Hamlets.

Members of the public will be invited to submit their photographs of LGBT+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) life in the borough of Tower Hamlets, to capture a contemporary record of the queer community in all its diversity.

The submissions will be added to the archives of Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives and will be exhibited in our entrance hall this summer, as part of the annual Pride

celebrations.

Details of how to enter the competition, and the prizes available, will be revealed at this free-to-attend launch event - which will also feature food, drinks and a performance by poet [Dean Atta](#), a Writeidea festival favourite who has been described as "one of the UK's finest poets" and "the Gil Scott-Heron of his generation".

Other events organised by ELOP for LGBT History Month include a school conference for Year 10 pupils, a T- Party in partnership with Trans Network London and a health and wellbeing fayre.

All are welcome to attend the launch, where you can also find out more about the Tower Hamlets LGBT Community Forum which is co-ordinated by ELOP on behalf of the council.

Women's History Month

The first woman mayor of Bethnal Green

Saturday 18 March, 2.30-3.45pm
Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives
[Facebook event link](#)

March is Women's History Month. Delve into the archives at this fascinating talk about the life and career of **L. Dorothea Benoly**, the first woman Mayor of Bethnal Green, who served from 1933-1934. Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives holds personal diaries of her time in office, as well as her scrapbook of photos, invitations, and newspaper clippings, which you will have a chance to browse first-hand. Free, no booking required.

We are also hosting an event on **Women in East End Yiddish Theatre** - see above for details.



L. Dorothea Benoly, Mayor of Bethnal Green

Toynbee Hall seeks volunteers!

Toynbee Hall is desperately seeking volunteers to help with the digitisation of their archive collection, now stored at London Metropolitan Archives. They are looking for volunteers who can offer a minimum of half a day per week to create and edit digital images of the collection. Full training will be provided by London Metropolitan Archives. Some basic computer skills would be preferable. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

For more information visit <http://www.toynbeehall.org.uk/opportunities/417/archive-digitisation-volunteer> or contact Eleanor Sier, Heritage Learning and Participation Manager, 0207 392 2986, eleanor.sier@toynbeehall.org.uk

Opening hours

Monday: 9am-5pm (exhibition only)
Tuesday: 10am-5pm
Wednesday: 9am-5pm
Thursday: 9am-8pm
Friday: 9am-5pm (exhibition only)
Saturday*: 9am-5pm (*first and third Saturdays of the month only)
Sunday: closed

Contact us

Send us your enquiry via email, phone or letter at

Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives
277 Bancroft Road
London E1 4DQ
Phone: 020 7364 1290
Email: localhistory@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Visit our website
www.ideastore.co.uk

Search our online catalogue
www.THcatalogue.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@LBTHarchives](https://twitter.com/LBTHarchives)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

