

Press Release

Laughs and thrills at the Hippodrome anniversary weekend

The famous Hippodrome in Bo'ness celebrates its first anniversary this weekend with a trio of classic films from 1975 - the year it was thought to have closed forever as a cinema.

After being restored to glory in a major refurbishment and with a , the pre-Art Deco Hippodrome was re-reopened in April last year and has proved a real hit.

1975 was a vintage year for landmark films and the three to be shown in the anniversary weekend were suggested by members of Big Screen Bo'ness

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (15) - the hilarious Python take on the Grail legend which was shot on location in Scotland at Doune Castle, Argyll and Castle Stalker in Glencoe. King Arthur and his knights embark on a low-budget search for the Grail. Showing on Saturday, April 24 at 2.30pm and again on Thursday, April 29 at 8pm.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (15) is very much a cult classic. A crazy, glitzy musical paying affectionate homage to the B-movie horror and sci-fi classics of the 1950s, it features a young Susan Sarandon playing the blushing honeymoon bride who arrives with the groom at the castle of king of camp: Dr. Frank-N-Furter.! Dressing as the characters is not compulsory - just recommended! Showing on Saturday, April 24 at 8pm.

And just when you thought it was safe to go back to the cinema the third anniversary movie is **Jaws (PG)** Spielberg's Oscar-winning monster suspense movie, launched the era of summer movie blockbusters, is probably as scary as ever and hasn't aged at all. Showing on Sunday, April 25 at 2.30pm.

Tickets cost £5.25 (£4 concession), and although there is usually no need to book ahead, you can by contacting the Steeple Box Office on 01324 506850 (Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 4.45pm) and reserving a seat at the Hippodrome itself..

The Hippodrome was restored as part of the Bo'ness Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI), with the 1926 decorative scheme reinstated, new seating installed and original seating restored and digital and 35mm projectors fitted to offer the best cinema experience.

Since it re-opened on April 9, 2009 The Hippodrome has sold more than 18,600 tickets and screened more than 186 films.

The A-listed building, brainchild of Bo'ness film-maker Louis Dickson and designed by local architect Matthew Steele, was originally opened on March 11, 1912, is a rare example of pre-Art Deco cinema architecture, and Scotland's oldest purpose-built picture house.

Falkirk Council (21/04/2010)

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