

Press Release - 19th September 2024 *For immediate release*

SOUTHWARK CINEMA TO RE-OPEN WITH AN LGBTQ+ FOCUS

After closing their doors for the final time in January 2023, the Kino Cinema in Bermondsey Square is to undergo a refresh and upgrade. The cinema will relaunch in late 2024 as The Arzner.

The space has been closed for over a year and half, depriving local residents of access to this well loved amenity.

Once reopened, the cinema's programming will focus on LGBTQ+ and independent film. The refreshed offering will showcase new releases, prolific films that progressed queer cinema and lesser known titles that have been overlooked or forgotten. Full programming and details will be available soon on social media.

The Arzner will offer a fully stocked bar with specialist mixologists, offering both indoor and outdoor seating.

The cinema is to be named after the director Dorothy Arzner. An incredibly important voice in Hollywood's golden age, Arzner was an openly queer filmmaker and the only female director between 1934-1943.

The Arzner is to be refreshed by Simon Burke and Piers Greenlees, the pair responsible for the successful revival of The Rising Sun pub on Harper Road, now known as The Rising SE1.

Southwark is proudly home to one of the largest LGBTQ+ populations in the country and The Rising SE1 is currently the only permanent LGBTQ+ venue in the area. The addition of more queer spaces and cultural spaces will be a strong benefit for all Southwark residents.

Simon Burke Co-Founder of The Arzner said:

"As queer spaces continue to close, we've been blown away by the reception of The Rising SE1. We're ready to bring our experience, expertise and film background to The Arzner to create more queer spaces in the area. We're delighted for this to be a fully accessible venue too, which is critical to ensuring people have equal access to entertainment spaces"

Piers Greenlees, Co-Founder of The Arzner said:

"The UK film industry is globally respected and responsible for producing some of the most notable LGBTQ+ films. We are excited to provide a new cultural home for queer cinema in the capital.

The Arzner, named after a forgotten legend and vital queer filmmaker Dorothy Arzner, will be a new cultural space for the community.

We look forward to welcoming all to The Arzner"

ENDS

Contact: 02045781478 hello@thearzner.com

Notes to Editors:

High res images available [here](#).

The Arzner will be open from late 2024.

Sunday - Wednesday 12pm-11pm and Thursday - Saturday 12pm-Midnight.

The bar will be dog friendly, entirely plant based and fully accessible.

Follow The Arzner on Instagram @TheArznerSE1