

What's On

GIG

Donny & Marie

The O2



Donny and Marie Osmond kick off their UK tour at The O2 on Sunday, marking the 50th anniversary of their entertainment careers.

Following a run of sold-out performances in Las Vegas, the showbiz siblings will perform 11 dates in the UK and Ireland.

The tour promises a lively mix of the brother and sister act's classic hits, spanning five decades that have seen Donny and Marie collectively release more than 70 albums.

■ Jan 20, doors 6.30pm, £52.25-£85.25, theo2.co.uk.

EXHIBITION

Murder In The Library

British Library



The British Library investigates "whodunnit", with an exhibition on the crime fiction genre, which accounts for a third of book sales.

Murder In The Library explores the history and development of crime and detective fiction, from the 19th century to the present day, and features favourites including Agatha Christie and Arthur Conan Doyle.

There's a host of artefacts on display, from manuscripts and artwork to rare audio recordings.

■ From Jan 18-May 12, FREE, all day, bl.uk.

TALK

Michael Winterbottom

Barbican



Director Michael Winterbottom watches and discusses his new film *Everyday* which stars John Simm and Shirley Henderson and focusses on a film separated by jail.

Filmed over five years, *Everyday* uses the repetitions and rhythms of everyday life to explore how a family copes with separation. In between prison visits, Karen and the children battle on with everyday life and despite disasters and trials the family still manages to pull together.

■ Jan 17, 8.45pm, various prices, barbican.org.uk.

Writer weaves unsettling myth from modern worry

INTERVIEW

From having it all to ending up with nothing, play tackles a woman's dilemma

Sarah Graham
The Wharf

Olivier Award-winning actress Kathryn Hunter returns to the Arcola Theatre in a surreal, mythical production called *Mare Rider*.

Written by the theatre's executive producer Leyla Nazli, the play is inspired by modern women's fears and desires about childbirth and motherhood.

Described as "unsettling and deeply moving", *Mare Rider* tells the story of migrant woman Selma who is taken to Homerton hospital for an early birth.

Nazli said: "She has grown up with the myth of a character called Elka, whose job is to steal and eat new born babies, but she doesn't think the character will visit her in Hackney."

Elka, played by Hunter, is "a mythical character, very eccentric and very poetically written – she comes from another world".

When Selma wakes up, having lost her baby, she is visited by Elka and believes the mythical character is responsible.

"It's a surreal scenario – you don't know if it's a dream or if it's real," said Nazli of the fantastical journey the two women begin, a journey which features mermaids, seahorses and mares ridden at night.

Elka's night-time mare rides are an unsettling metaphor for the woman's nightmare, inspired by a myth Nazli grew up with in eastern Turkey.

"I think it's an Irish myth, but



Leyla Nazli was one of the first Royal Court 50 writers chosen to celebrate the theatre's anniversary year in 2006

What was your inspiration?

"A lot of my friends have careers and don't have partners or children yet and are wishing or waiting for the right person."

growing up in east Turkey the myth was called Elka and it stuck with me," she said. "It represents an early form of feminism.

"A lot of my friends are in their mid-30s or early-40s, they've worked on their careers and don't have partners or children yet and are wishing or waiting for the right person, or having problems because they've left it too late. I was inspired by this issue.

She admits she has no answers. "Modern society takes our instincts away – by the time you've established your career, your home and all this it's too late," she said.

"It's our right to fight for our careers and our freedom, but at what cost?"

Mare Rider follows Nazli's first

play, *Silver Birch House*, which was produced at the Arcola in 2007.

After co-founding the theatre in 2000, Nazli first began writing a few years later.

Her surreal second play is part of an EU-funded project called Europe Now – a collaboration between theatres in the UK, Sweden, Turkey, Holland and Germany.

As part of the project, *Mare Rider* will go to Sweden after its run at the Arcola, where it will tour five Swedish cities, before moving on to Berlin.

■ *Mare Rider*, from Jan 22-Feb 16, Arcola Theatre, arcolatheatre.com.

Doctor's on call for regular appointments

FILM

Doctor Who season

BFI Southbank

Time Lords might roam free around the cosmology and chronology, but for mere mortals, 50 years is a milestone.

And that's the span that *Doctor Who* has been a fixture (with some interruptions) on the small screen.

To celebrate the half-century of our favourite Dalek battler, BFI Southbank is hosting events once a month throughout the year, featuring each of the 11 Doctors in chronological order.



Matt Smith is the latest Doctor

Fans will get the chance to see episodes plucked from deep in the recesses of the BBC archive with question and answer sessions following with people instrumental in creating the Doctor's universe.

The first of these was held last Saturday and was the debut from 1963, starring William Hartnell. Titled *The First Doctor: An Unearthly Child*, it saw fans introduced to The Tardis and the Doctor's first human companions, Ian and Barbara.

Episodes featuring the Doctor portrayed by Patrick Troughton and then Jon Pertwee are next to be screened, with Troughton's *Tomb Of*

The Cyberman already scheduled for February 9.

Doctor Who's executive producer Carole Skinner said: "We're delighted that in this 50th year for the show we have such brilliant support from the BFI for our celebration of *Doctor Who*'s cultural heritage

"Some of the stories we're going to show are thrilling, surprising, funny and just plain classic TV."

Further episodes and dates are to be confirmed at later dates. Tickets cost £10 for non-BFI members and £8.50 for members.

Go to bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Rob Virtue