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# Play's utopian vision rings warning bell for humanity

## Sci-fi production raises moral dilemmas for audience

by **Steve Spencer**  
[bexleytimes@archant.co.uk](mailto:bexleytimes@archant.co.uk)

Mark Campbell's production of Karel Capek's 1920 play *Rossum's Universal Robots* provides an entertaining evening at Edward Alderton Theatre, Bexley.

It seems a curiously dated world of science fiction with a "living intelligent workforce" manufactured from artificial flesh in large industrial vats at Rossum's factory.

Yet, the "doctors" in charge of the process are plagued by a moral dilemma and undertake experiments to imbue their soulless mass-pro-

duction with feelings. The outcome sees the robots leading a murderous revolt with the inevitable overthrowing of the ruling forces.

Using a modern translation and an incisive approach to direction Mark Campbell creates a production with pace which engages and amuses.

There are moments of pure eccentricity coupled with the thought-provoking consequences of social manipulation.

The cast is uniformly convincing. Kevin Coward (Harry Domain) plays the driven general manager of the factory with eyes on profit and megalomaniac aspirations.



■ **Geraldine Mullins and Kevin Coward**

## Charity pancake race seeks town's fastest flippers

A charity pancake race will take place in Bexleyheath on Tuesday.

Organisers are looking for 16 teams of four to take part at 11am. Entry is £10 per person or a donation and frying pans and pancakes will be provided for the entrants.

Community fundraiser Kimberley Wheeler said: "It's going to be brilliant. This is the first ever Bexleyheath Pancake Race and all funds raised will go to the

Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice."

The hospice provides free specialist end-of-life care for people with terminal illnesses, as well as supplying support for their families, friends and carers.

Race winners will be declared the "fastest flippers in Bexleyheath" and receive a frying pan while the team who finishes last will be given the customary wooden

spoon.

This year's event is being sponsored by funeral directors W Uden & Sons Ltd and is organised in partnership with Marriott Bexleyheath and Bexleyheath Bid.

Pancakes will be on sale between 10.30am and 2pm with all proceeds going to the hospice.

For more information contact Miss Wheeler at [kimberleywheeler@gbch.org.uk](mailto:kimberleywheeler@gbch.org.uk) or on 020 8319 9230.

## £10,000 may be scooped in hospice draw

There's £10,000 up for grabs in the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice Lottery Rollover this week.

The draw is made tomorrow and one number is drawn at random and if this number is held by an active player then they win the entire rollover prize.

If no player has the number then the prize increases by £200 for the next week either until it is won or up to a maximum of £10,000 at which point it will be won by one lucky player, guaranteed.

The hospice lottery has a guaranteed top weekly prize of £1,000 to be won, plus two prizes of £50 and 20 prizes of £10 each week.

Profits go directly towards funding hospice services which cover Greenwich and Bexley.

It costs £2 a week and players can join by visiting [www.communityhospicelottery.org.uk](http://www.communityhospicelottery.org.uk) or by calling 020 8319 9240.

Single tickets are available to purchase from the hospice reception, at Bostall Hill, Abbey Wood and at hospice shops.

## Cable car link is closer to completion

Plans to build a cable car over the River Thames, starting in North Greenwich, came a step closer to completion last week.

Transport for London submitted details of the planning permission to allow construction work to continue.

A number of councillors were consulted along with the Transport and Highways Agency,

The car will run from the O2 arena in North Greenwich to the Excel Exhibition Centre at the Royal Victoria Docks in Newham.

It will be part of the Oyster card network but fares have yet to be set. The full cost of the project is expected to be around £60million.

The cable car development is not connected to the Olympics but work is expected to be completed sometime this summer. It is not required to be finished by the time the Olympics start on July 27.




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All messages shall be published w/c 12<sup>th</sup> March  
Deadline for notices Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 5.00pm

*My Mum*

Media House | 539 High Road | Ilford | Essex | IG1 1UD



■ **Pancake flippers train for the big race**

## Young urged to turnout and vote

Young people in Bexley and the surrounding area are being encouraged to vote in the upcoming election for the mayor of London and the London Assembly.

London Elects, which organises the election, launched a social media campaign on Valentine's Day to try and find one teenager from each borough who will turn 18 on May 3, the day of the elections.

London Elects' Sarah Garrett said: "We want young people who love London as much as we do to join us to make sure the capital's young people know how to have their say on May 3."

■ **For more information contact @LondonElects on Twitter, like them on Facebook or email [info@londonelects.org.uk](mailto:info@londonelects.org.uk)**

## Boris plants 10,000th tree sprucing-up streets

Mayor of London Boris Johnson has marked the completion of his trees and parks promises by planting the 10,000th street tree.

Of that figure 294 trees have been planted in the Erith area of Bexley partly thanks to RE: LEAF, a partnership of organisations brought together by the mayor since early 2010.

When elected in 2008 Mr Johnson promised to spend £6million

to improve parks across the capital, partly by ditching then-mayor Ken Livingstone's newspaper *The Londoner*.

Twenty nine boroughs have benefited from this shift in resources.

The mayor said: "Over the last four years, Londoners have benefited from thousands of new trees and 11 fantastic parks have been spruced up.

"This work is part of my vision to bring the best of our village life into this busy city."

Mr Johnson also called community-minded Londoners to his Team London initiative to plant even more trees.

The mayor's goal is to increase tree cover in the city from 20 per cent to 25 per cent by 2025.

For more details contact [www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon](http://www.london.gov.uk/teamlondon)