## Giant film and TV studio from Troubadour Theatres to open in Brent Cross

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huge new film and TV studio is to open in <u>Brent Cross</u> early next year, the area's regeneration venture has revealed.

The 150,000 sq ft "Brent Cross Studios" will be launched by Troubadour Theatres, a firm specialising in setting up temporary performance spaces. It will contain a single 27,000 square foot filming studio.

The <u>company</u> was behind the acclaimed <u>pop-up</u> King's Cross Theatre – which housed the Olivier Award-winning <u>production</u> of <u>The Railway Children</u> and <u>Lin-Manuel Miranda</u>'s In The Heights – and counts <u>Netflix</u> and <u>MTV</u> as clients.

Troubadour will open the studio in the former Toys 'R' Us building on Tilling Road, NW2, and has secured a three-year lease. Old storerooms will be converted into set and costume workshops and prop rooms.

In addition to filming space, the site will have offices and workshops. The aim is to bring "an ecosystem of local and international film and media houses" and their creatives to the area, as well as complementary entertainment firms.

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Helena MacKenzie from Film London said: "With no sign of production slowing down in London, its launch is very timely and we welcome the investment into this very accessible area of London."

There will also be a film academy for aspiring young creatives.

The opening is part of the £6 billion Brent Cross Town regeneration project — one of the most ambitious launched since the start of the pandemic.

The 15-year scheme will span 180 acres and have 6,700 homes, three million sq ft of office space and 50 acres of parks. A new Brent Cross West station is due by the end of 2022.

Troubador's Oliver Royds and Tristan Baker said: "We strongly believe that this studio will quickly become an integral part of the community in the heart of an area going through regeneration."

The Brent Cross Town project is being delivered by Argent Related and Barnet Council.

Argent Related's Nick Searl said the opening is "a fantastic addition to the development" and "will attract world-class TV productions and film houses".