

Statement of support from The Ethical Property Company

May 2026

The Ultimate Picture Palace holds a very special place in the heart of East Oxford. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such a historic and much-loved independent cinema on our doorstep, one that is treasured not only by the local community but also by visitors from across the city. It truly feels like a gift to us all.

What makes the Ultimate Picture Palace so unique is its openness and accessibility. In a city where many spaces can feel out of reach, it remains welcoming to everyone. As an independent cinema, it brings a richness and diversity of storytelling that is increasingly rare, showcasing international films, powerful documentaries, and thoughtfully curated programmes that both entertain and inspire. The opportunity to hear from filmmakers and gain deeper insight into their work makes the experience even more meaningful.

At a time when it can be difficult to fully switch off and engage, the Ultimate Picture Palace offers something genuinely special: a space where people can come together, be present, and connect with stories, and with each other, in a deeper way.

Here at the Old Music Hall, just a short walk away, we feel a strong connection to that same sense of heritage and community. Built in the 1890s as a place for performance and entertainment, we are proud to continue that legacy today as part of Ethical Property, supporting charities, social enterprises, and organisations working to create positive social change. Our building is home to a vibrant community, and it's not uncommon to hear conversations in our shared spaces about the latest film at the UPP or excitement about an upcoming screening.

East Oxford is a place where independent organisations can truly thrive, contributing to a rich and diverse cultural life. The Ultimate Picture Palace is at the very heart of that. Its loss would be felt deeply, not just as the closure of a historic building, but as the loss of a much-valued shared space that brings joy, sparks conversation, and offers moments of reflection and escape at the end of a busy day.