

Keswick Film Club
Autumn 2008





Keswick Film Club began life in 1998 with the intention of bringing the best of World Cinema to Keswick. Since then it has won many awards from the British Federation of Film Societies including Best Programme four times, and Best Website. In 2006 we were Film Society of the Year. Audiences combine many of our 250+ members, and visitors are very welcome.

LOCATION

The Alhambra Cinema, St. John's Street, Keswick, North Lake District. Leave the Market Square at the south end (Keswick Lodge Hotel) and keep going uphill for 200 metres.

TIME

KFC has two 'seasons', each with its own brochure available in and around Keswick (e.g. T.I.C., Library, Booths) or posted to members. Mostly Sundays at 5pm, but check in this brochure. September to December - the 'Autumn Season' January to April - the 'Spring Season'

SCREENINGS

Screenings begin with a short introduction, followed, time allowing, by a short film. Film notes are available prior to screenings or on the club website, and we have a voting system - give the film a star rating out of five.

Autumn Programme 2008

The Lonsdale Alhambra Cinema, Keswick

TICKETS

Membership is open to everyone and will save you money if you attend more than 5 films over the course of one year, including all Film Festival tickets.

Tickets: £4 for non members; £3 for members; £2.50 for students, under 16s and benefit claimants.

Membership: £5 per year. Reduction of £1 on all Club and Film Festival screenings, £1 off Alhambra's own screenings on Wednesday (or Sunday in the summer)

Join at The Alhambra Cinema, The Necessary Angel (Packhorse Court) or Chairman's House, 50 St. John's Street, Keswick, or at any club screening

Season Pass: £28 (Autumn season 2008)

Membership also entitles attendance of Caldbeck Area Film Society at members' rates and vice versa. Non-members are very welcome.

COMMITTEE

Chairman & Membership Secretary: Rod Evans (017687 74475)

Secretary: Neville Marchant

Treasurer: Tom Rennie

Committee Members: Stephen Brown, Deborah Cowin, Vian Curtis, Anita Leaker, Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), David Miller, Mike Rose-Troup, Ian and Elspeth Payne.

*Keswick Film Club is a voluntarily run not-for-profit organisation
Registered Charity No. 1083395*



Sunday 14th September at 5pm

MONGOL

Director: Sergei Bodrov. Russia /Germany/

Kazakhstan 15 2007 125 mins

In Mongolian with English subtitles

A stunning epic to kick off our season, *Mongol* is filmed in the very lands that gave birth to Genghis Khan. Award-winning Russian filmmaker Sergei Bodrov transports us back to a distant, exotic period in world history; to stunning landscapes of endless space, climatic extremes and ever-present danger. Based on leading scholarly accounts *Mongol* delves into the dramatic and harrowing early years of the boy born as Temudjin in 1162. As it follows him from his perilous childhood to the battle that sealed his destiny, the film paints a multidimensional portrait of a man and leader far from the stereotype of a brutish Genghis Khan.

'With its breathtaking landscapes, bloody battles, bitter betrayals and an aching love story, Mongol is a sumptuously crafted epic.'

WILL LAWRENCE, EMPIRE



Sunday 21st September at 5pm

PERSEPOLIS

Directors: Marjane Satrapi, Vincent Paronnaud.

France 12A 2007 96 mins

In French with English subtitles

Notable for its warmth and humour, Marjane Satrapi's splendid, visually inventive adaptation of her 'strip-cartoon' autobiography is much more a personal work than a political one, but she certainly hasn't endeared herself to the Iranian authorities in this portrayal of life after the Islamic Revolution. Feisty, smart young Marjane is a true force of nature and her parents and lively grandmother applaud her independence. However, they realise that the teenager's lust for life will eventually lead her into trouble with the Ayatollah Khomeini regime, so she's sent to Vienna - but the carefree western ways of her new friends fail to impress her and she yearns for her homeland...

'Here is an adaptation so inspired, so simple and so frictionless in its transformation of the source material that it's almost a miracle.'

PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN



Sunday 28th September at 5pm

YOU, THE LIVING (Du levande)

Director: Roy Andersson. Sweden 12A 2007
94 mins. In Swedish with English subtitles

One of the world's great, individual directors, Roy Andersson presents his surreally witty view of the human condition through a series of hilarious vignettes which expose the love, pain, triumphs and misunderstandings of our lives. Some of you may remember Andersson's excellent *Songs from the Second Floor* which we screened in 2002 – this is less austere and more genuinely amusing, but the Swedish master has lost nothing of his deadpan attitude, portraying people who are desperate for others to acknowledge them, yet are blind to anyone's pain but their own. Named after a phrase by Goethe, *You, The Living* confirms Andersson's status as one of world cinema's true originals.

'Andersson is radically different from anyone else, with a technical, compositional rigour that puts other movie-makers and visual artists to shame.' PETER BRADSHAW, GUARDIAN



Sunday 5th October at 5pm

IN BRUGES

Director: Martin McDonagh.

UK/Belgium 18 2008 107 mins

PHILIP FRENCH (THE OBSERVER):

'Playwright Martin McDonagh, author of The Lieutenant of Inishmore, makes his feature debut as writer-director with In Bruges, a stylish, funny, exciting thriller in a tradition of tales about professional assassins that goes back through Tarantino's Pulp Fiction (1994) and Pinter's The Dumb Waiter (1957) to Hemingway's The Killers (1927). It centres on two Irish hitmen, the edgy young novice Ray (Colin Farrell) and the reflective, more experienced Ken (Brendan Gleeson). They've been sent by their London boss, Harry (Ralph Fiennes), to await their next assignment in the quiet, beautiful, medieval, Belgian town of Bruges...McDonagh's plotting is fiendishly clever, his dialogue crashes in on us like a tide throwing nails ashore with each wave and his black humour is laced with serious moral issues.'

Selected by KFC members' popular request.



Sunday 12th October at 5pm

GONE BABY GONE

Director: Ben Affleck. USA 15 2007 114 mins

The desperately sad coincidence of the Madeleine McCann story delayed this film's release, but it is just that, a coincidence – one that in no way diminishes the impact of Ben Affleck's brilliant debut in a movie (like *Mystic River*, based on a novel by Dennis Lehane) which has won a whole clutch of critics' awards in America. Set in a tough Irish-American district of Boston, private investigators are brought in to help the local cops in their search for abductors and drug money. Affleck coaxes brilliant performances from brother Casey, Amy Ryan, Morgan Freeman and Ed Harris in particular, but the whole cast underlines the virtue of his excellent attention to authenticity. Even so, it's moral ambiguity that steals the show.

'A superior, haunting thriller of abduction, deception and ethical dilemma with a sobering ending - a moral quandary that demands strong debate outside the cinema.' ANGIE ERRIGO, EMPIRE

Saturday 18th October at 5pm

LET'S GET LOST

Director: Bruce Weber. USA 15 1988 120 mins

Twenty years on, in this re-release which offers a uniquely personal insight into the life of the late jazz great Chet Baker, renowned photographer/filmmaker Bruce Weber travels with the elusive jazz vocalist and trumpeter, weaving together excerpts from Italian B movies, rare performance footage, and candid interviews with Baker, musicians, friends, battling ex-wives and his children - in what turned out to be the last year of his life. Winner of the 1989 Critics Prize at the Venice Film Festival, nominated for an Academy Award, *Let's Get Lost* has become an important document in both the career of the filmmaker and the life of a jazz legend.

'This is simply the finest jazz documentary ever made.' DAVID PARKINSON, EMPIRE

'A wide-eyed love letter to a jazz great, very much of its time, sporting stylish visuals and a sublime soundtrack.' CHANNEL 4



Sunday 19th October at 4pm

THE TREE OF WOODEN CLOGS

(L'Albero degli zoccoli)

Director: Ermanno Olmi. Italy 12 1978 186 mins

In Italian with English subtitles

In the tradition of classic Italian neorealist cinema (best example *The Bicycle Thief*) Ermanno Olmi wrote, directed and photographed this epic masterpiece which won him the Palme D'Or at Cannes in 1978. Chronicling the lives of peasant families in Bergamo (Lombardy) at the turn of the 19th/20th centuries, the staggeringly good performances of a large non-professional cast, transmit a powerful unifying force through their shared experience of hardship. Their lives, following the course of the seasons, compare unfavourably with that of the landlord, who owns everything – their homes, fields, crops and livestock – yet the sense of humanity and community shine through brilliantly. *'To see it is to be stirred to the depths of one's soul...a cinematic miracle.'*

ANDREW SARRIS, THE VILLAGE VOICE

Sunday 26th October at 5pm

COUSCOUS

(LA GRAINE ET LE MULET)

Director: Abdel Kechiche. France 15 2007
151 mins. In French with English subtitles

Hugely popular at the Venice Film Festival, and César for Best French Film of 2007, Tunisian-born director Kechiche's latest movie revolves around Slimane, a shipyard worker from an immigrant Arab community in the French Mediterranean port of Sète who is laid off: a blow which the tired, ageing man accepts with bitter fortitude, as he attempts to use the settlement cash to open a couscous restaurant.

This is a deeply moving tragicomedy, exploring through a skilful, laconic narration both the universal search for happiness - not forgetting the part played by food, implied in the title (as you'd expect in a French film) - and the tensions and situations specific to immigrant families.

'A remarkable and thought-provoking work.'

WALLY HAMMOND, TIME OUT

'At last we've found our Ken Loach'

PARIS MATCH





Sunday 2nd November at 5pm

MAN ON WIRE

Director: James Marsh. UK 15 2008 90 mins

A look at tightrope walker Philippe Petit's daring, but illegal, high-wire routine performed between New York City's World Trade Center's twin towers in 1974, what some consider, "the artistic crime of the century."

'At the heart of it all, an ode to the free spirit, a courageous if quite possibly mad individual and the strange beauty of buildings that now represent something entirely different. A well-deserved prize-winner at Sundance this year.'
TONY SULLIVAN, EYE FOR FILM

'The wonder and awe the film generates isn't so much the filmmaker's genius though director James Marsh's talents aren't in doubt - he's crafted and constructed a fine documentary - it's the archive and stock footage and subject matter that leaves one breathless.'
DYLAN MATTHEW, EDINBURGHGUIDE.COM



Sunday 9th November at 5pm

SOMERS TOWN

Director: Shane Meadows UK 12A 2008 75 mins

Our admiration for Shane Meadows' films goes on unabated: *Somers Town* tackles various themes, but the most engaging to watch is the growing friendship between two very contrasted boys: Tommo (Thomas Turgoose, Shaun in *This Is England*) believes himself to be a tough guy, whereas the Polish immigrant Marek (Piotr Jagiello) is more sensitive. Their relationship is richly funny and touching, as they compete for the affections of Maria, the French girl from the café who is always just out of reach. Little wonder that Turgoose and Jagiello each received the jury award for Best Actor at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival, where they had the audience in stitches. The soundtrack too is simply a perfect match, its songs seeming tailor-made for the narrative.

Edinburgh's Michael Powell Award jury said the film was "*the freshest, most imaginative maverick work, deserving of the award.*"



Sunday 16th November at 5pm

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' (NESFARSIT)

*Director: Christian Nemescu. Romania 15 2008
155 mins. In Romanian with English subtitles.*

Nesfarsit meaning 'unfinished', the tragedy of this film is the death in a Bucharest road accident in August 2006 of the director and his sound editor. Nemescu would probably have trimmed his Kusturica-like feature debut, but it is left in all its glorious original state. We are in rural Romania during the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia, when Americans on a military train find themselves unceremoniously shunted on to the sidings because they lack customs documents. A black Balkan farce ensues as soldiers and townspeople try to fraternise, and the grasping stationmaster spots an opportunity...

'Spins a complex dark comedy of near-Shakespearean proportions.'

ALISSA SIMON, VARIETY

Winner, 'Un Certain Regard', Cannes 2007

Sunday 23rd November at 5pm

THE VISITOR

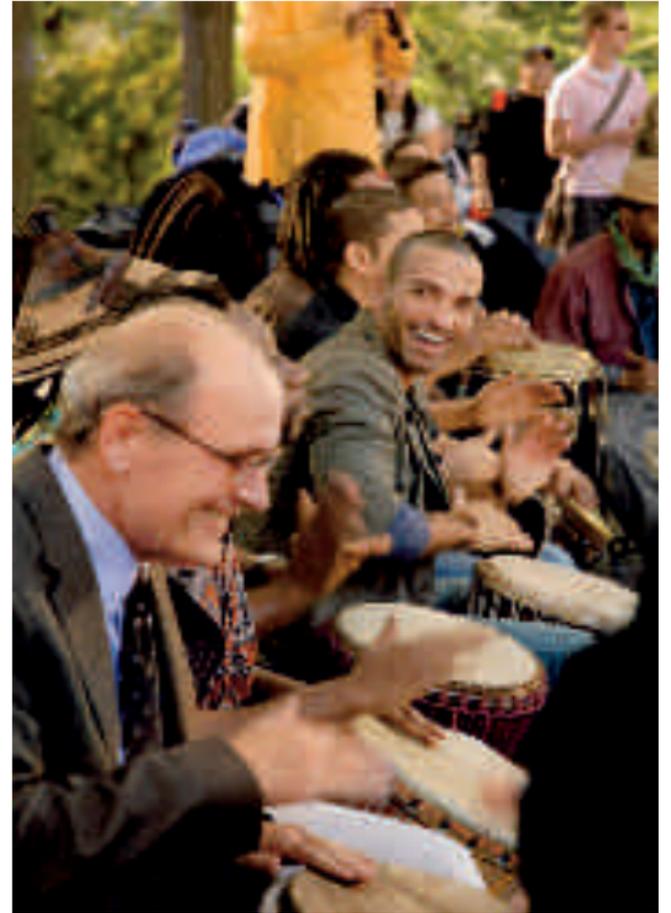
Director: Thomas McCarthy. USA 15 2007
103 mins

Following his very well-received *The Station Agent* (screened by KFC in 2004) Thomas McCarthy's second film centres on Walter Vale, a solemn economics professor masterfully portrayed by Richard Jenkins. Finding himself in New York on business he discovers that two illegal immigrants, Tarek and Zainab, have been tricked into renting his apartment. They strike up an unusual friendship, but the outside world intervenes (unlike *The Station Agent*) when it transpires that Tarek is an illegal immigrant as well as tenant. We soon become immersed in McCarthy's wry humour and quiet wit, and there are some wonderful moments – although the characters are just as memorable as the plot when the whole piece is weighed in the balance.

'A perfectly balanced movie delivering its serious message while remaining lively, charming and thought-provoking.' JIM HALL, 4 FILM



Danai Gurira as Zainab



Sunday 30th November at 5pm

HOPE (NADZIEJA)

Director: Stanislaw Mucha. Poland 15 2007
101 mins. In Polish with English subtitles.

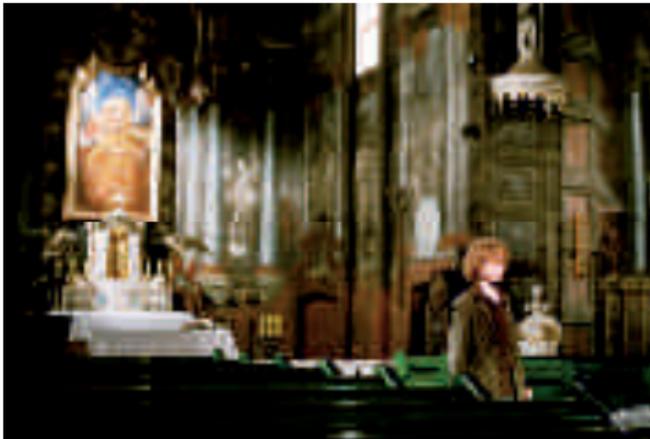
In *Hope*, Francis, a lonely angelic-looking young man who witnesses the theft of a rare painting from a church, finds himself embroiled in a game of blackmail as he tries to make the culprit undo his crime. This beautifully shot thriller-cum-morality tale takes place in shiny modern Warsaw, but there's a fine contrast of darkness and shadows amongst its denizens. Third in the trilogy of films representing not only Dante's concepts of heaven, hell and purgatory but also the Christian ideals of love, faith and hope, all penned by Krzysztof Piesiewicz (responsible too for much of Krzysztof Kieslowski's best work) *Hope* follows Tom Tykwer's *Heaven* (KFF 2002) and Danis Tanovic's *L'Enfer*.

'A powerful idea brought to thrilling life in this dense drama that feels effortless.'

BOYD VAN HOEIJ, EUROPEAN-FILMS.NET

'An intriguing and rewarding film.'

PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN



Sunday 7th December at 5pm

LA ANTENA (THE AERIAL)

Director: Esteban Sapir. Argentina PG 2007
97 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles.

"Once upon a time there was a city without a voice. Somebody had taken away the voices of all its inhabitants. Many, many years went by and nobody seemed bothered by the silence."

In this quirky sci-fi fantasy from Argentina there is rarely a human voice – Mr TV has seen to that – but sound and language have not died, because there is noise, text ("They have taken our voices but we still have words,") and music, and even the one exception of the dictator's favourite singer. Plots and counter-plots ensue in this alluring allegory that, ironically, employs the language of silent film to salute the power of free speech. *'Sometimes cinema tickles the senses, sometimes it tugs at the heartstrings, sometimes it exercises the intellect – but La Antena transmits to all three at once. For Sapir's film is visually beautiful, mentally stimulating, and thoroughly haunting...it would be dumb not to tune in to this extraordinary film.'*

ANTON BITEL, EYE FOR FILM

Sunday 14th December at 5pm

GOMORRAH

Director: Matteo Garrone. Italy tbc 2008 135 mins
In Italian with English subtitles

BOYD VAN HOEIJ, EUROPEAN-FILMS.NET:
'The Neapolitan mafia, known as the Camorra, gets the Syriana treatment in one of the most incisive organised-crime films to emerge from any country since the 1970s. Like the bestselling novel that has been translated into 33 languages (including English), Gomorrah the film should find success far and wide.'

ANDREW O'HEHIR, SALON.COM: 'Garrone finds marvellous, dark, symbolic and poetic images in the appalling and decrepit urban-rural sprawl of Naples... While his movie is about one crime-plagued city (the Camorra is believed responsible for 4,000 murders in Naples since the 1970s), it's hard to avoid seeing it as a broader commentary on Italy's recent social and political paralysis...Gomorrah blends the disparate traditions of Italian cinema -- the crime drama, the melodrama, the art film -- more adeptly than any movie from that country in recent memory.'

Winner, Grand Prix, Cannes 2008



Sunday 21st December at 5pm

IN SEARCH OF A MIDNIGHT KISS

Director: Alex Holdridge USA 15 2007 100 mins

We're a few days early (the midnight kiss is for 10 days hence) but it's fun: newly-single, failed writer Wilson just wants to spend the rest of a very bad year in bed, but he's pushed by a friend into posting an online personal ad on New Year's Eve. That the self-deprecating "Misanthrope to Misanthrope" ad he reluctantly writes gets a response at all is surprising. But then attractively glamorous blonde Vivian is full of surprises, most of them unpleasant. Like a spikier *Before Sunrise*, what ensues is in turn hilarious, deeply touching, chaotic and charming as these two quirky personalities edge through the Los Angeles evening towards midnight.

'One of those raunchy-funny, smart and bitter-sweet no-budget movies that restores your faith in indie film.'

ROGER MOORE, ORLANDO SENTINEL

September 2008

Sunday 14th 5pm **MONGOL**
The rise to power of Genghis Khan, epic storytelling

Sunday 21st 5pm **PERSEPOLIS**
Funny, intelligent animation: an Iranian girl v The Regime

Sunday 28th 5pm **YOU, THE LIVING**
The absurdity of the human condition, Swedish-style

October 2008

Sunday 5th 5pm **IN BRUGES**
Black comedy of not-so-cold-blooded killers

Sunday 12th 5pm **GONE BABY GONE**
Multi award-winning story of a little girl's abduction

Saturday 18th 5pm **LET'S GET LOST**
Classic depiction of jazz trumpeter Chet Baker

Sunday 19th 4pm **THE TREE OF WOODEN CLOGS**
One of the great films of the 20th Century, by Ermanno Olmi

Sunday 26th 5pm **COUSCOUS**
The best French film of 2007 - family and food in Sète

November 2008

Sunday 2nd 5pm **MAN ON WIRE**
'The artistic crime of the century' Extraordinary documentary

Sunday 9th 5pm **SOMERS TOWN**
Shane Meadows goes from strength to strength

Sunday 16th 5pm **CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'**
Daring satirical drama about a Romanian-American stand-off

Sunday 23rd 5pm **THE VISITOR**
Lively, charming, thought-provoking - with a serious message

Sunday 30th 5pm **HOPE**
Enigmatic art theft thriller - a Polish morality tale into the bargain

December 2008

Sunday 7th 5pm **LA ANTENA**
Extraordinary, original, highly-inventive Argentinean satire

Sunday 14th 5pm **GOMORRAH**
Great Italian 'mob' film - Grand Prix winner at Cannes 2008

Sunday 21st 5pm **IN SEARCH OF A MIDNIGHT KISS**
Rom-com 'that crackles with deadpan, spiky humour' Time Out
