

Keswick Film Club  
Spring 2010



Un Prophète  
4th April



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 are made up of the Club's 250+ members, and our very welcome visitors.

### 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.

## Spring Programme 2010

### 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 (Spring season 2010)

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) [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org)

Secretary: Steve Allen

Treasurer: Tom Rennie

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

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



Sunday 10th January at 5pm

## BRIGHT STAR

Director: Jane Campion. UK/Aus/Fr PG 2009  
119 mins.

*'Beauty is truth, truth beauty'* : John Keats, 1819.  
In London, in 1818, a secret love affair begins between 23 year old English poet Keats, and the girl next door, Fanny Brawne, an outspoken student of fashion. Written and directed by Academy Award winner Jane Campion, *Bright Star* is a riveting drama based on their three-year romance. Campion, in an eloquent, refreshing return to her form of *The Piano* gives us a moving account of Keats' great love and tragic death. With highly professional attention to detail, beautiful cinematography and intelligently understated performances from her actors Ben Whishaw and Abbie Cornish, Campion turns real events from the life of the poet into one of the most gorgeous and satisfying period dramas in recent memory. *'Steadfastness, truth and a simple, blazing, incandescent humanity. This is a literary life story in which life, for once, is the meaningful word'* Nigel Andrews, Financial Times.

**All proceeds from this screening will go to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund.**



LES PLAGES D'AGNES un film de VARDA © 2008-CINE TAMARIS

Sunday 17th January at 5pm

## THE BEACHES OF AGNES (Les plages d'Agnès)

*Director: Agnès Varda. France 18 2008 110 mins  
In French with English subtitles.*

First famous in 1955 for *La pointe-courte*, Agnès Varda's latest film sees the veteran writer-director marking her 80th birthday by looking back over her long and eventful life. *The Beaches of Agnès* is a captivating ciné-memoir, surrealistic and impressionistic, surveying the godmother of the French New Wave's formidable career as a still photographer and filmmaker. Beaches have a special emotional resonance for her and here she takes an unconventional approach to revisiting – both literally and figuratively – places in her past. This touching, subjective film examines her life principally through her relationships with friends, family and creative contemporaries, whilst injecting warmth, skill and playfulness to fully entertain her audience.

*'A deftly assembled, wry and touching self-portrait of Agnès Varda as both a filmmaker and an endearing, indomitable spirit.'*

Jon Fortgang, Channel 4 Film.

César for Best Documentary 2009



Sunday 24th January at 5pm

## BIRDWATCHERS

(La terra degli uomini rossi)

Director: Marco Bechis. Italy/Brazil 15 2008

104 mins. In Portuguese and Guarani with English subtitles.

*BirdWatchers* is an unusual and sympathetic exploration of a diminishing society driven to near extinction by capitalism and colonialism. The opposing worlds of the Guarani Indians (excellent natural actors) and the farmers of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil, engage in a metaphorical as well as a real war. The former are enclosed in reserves, with no other perspective except that of working as semi-slaves in sugar beet plantations; the latter lead a wealthy and leisurely existence owning huge fields with transgenic plantations. But as well as anger, both sides are also fascinated and curious about "the other" - a curiosity that will create a deep bond between the young shaman apprentice Osvaldo, and a farmer's daughter...

*'The script resonates with strong themes that address social and ecological issues regarding the environment versus the pressures of a global economy.'* Matthew Turner, ViewLondon



*Sunday 31st January at 5pm*

## GOODBYE SOLO

*Director: Ramin Bahrani. USA 15 2008 91mins.*

Bahrani's latest humanist portrait adds to his reputation as one of the most distinctive and engaged young auteurs working in America today. On the lonely roads of North Carolina, two men forge an improbable friendship that will change both of their lives forever. Solo is a Senegalese immigrant cab driver, an amiable, compassionate and inquisitive fellow who picks up William, a tough-faced, grumbling old-timer with a lifetime of regrets. Solo, understanding William's grim frame of mind only too well, decides to try to help him find a new lease of life. William is resistant but despite their differences, both men soon realize they need each other more than either is willing to admit: an unlikely but distinctive friendship which has to compete with Solo's own family life...

*'An instantly gripping, funny, quietly persuasive drama that held me from the first frames.'* Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

*'Bahrani is the new great American director. He never steps wrong.'* Roger Ebert  
FIPRESCI Prize, Venice Film Festival 2008



Sunday 7th February at 5pm

## SIN NOMBRE (Without Name)

*Director: Cary Fukunaga. Mexico/US 15 2009  
96mins. In Spanish with English subtitles  
Winner of the New Director's Award at the  
Edinburgh Film Festival, and Cinematography and  
Director Awards at Sundance 2009, Fukunaga's  
debut feature is a riveting film that weaves together  
two heart-wrenching, gritty stories, creating an  
evocative tale of immigrants leaving South America  
for a better life in the States. Vivid, unforgettable  
storytelling grounding you in reality and offering  
hope, it's the beautifully and realistically photo-  
graphed story of Casper, a former teenage gang  
member on the run from his former gangmates, and  
Honduran teenager Sayra, who's dreaming of being  
reunited with her father in a better life in America,  
as they ride the railways north. Almost universally  
acknowledged as one of the best films of 2009.  
'Will linger in the mind long after its devastating  
conclusion. You leave the cinema breathless and  
disquieted but also with a sense of having had  
something important revealed to you. In a very  
strong field, this is the year's best film so far.'*  
Andrew O'Hagan, This Is London

# The 11th Keswick Film Festival

**The Eleventh Keswick Film Festival**

**Dates for your Diary: 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Plans are well under way for the 11<sup>th</sup> Film Festival. This year we are trying it at a weekend which is not half-term. Responding to feedback from people who say it is hard to get here, and that B&Bs are full over the half-term weekend, we hope that this will suit both our regular supporters and our guests to Keswick.

The Festival will start with the Party at the Theatre by the Lake for pass-holders and invited guests, followed by the opening film. We will then have our usual 30 + films over the next three days. This year our themes are 'Best of the Fests', the round-up of winners from international festivals including *Departures*, *London River* and *Welcome*; British Firsts and local films such as *New Town Original* and *Diary of a Bad Lad*, UK premieres and pre-releases. Guests include Tony Grisoni, acclaimed script-writer of the *Red Riding* trilogy and films such as *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*; Jan Dunn, director of *Gypo* and *The Calling*; and maybe more.....New for this year we will have a Festival Hub on the first floor of the Theatre where the KFF Office will be and people can sit and discuss what they have seen with other visitors and guests.

**Pick up a Festival Brochure for full details**

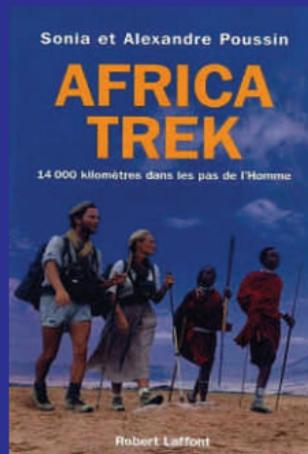
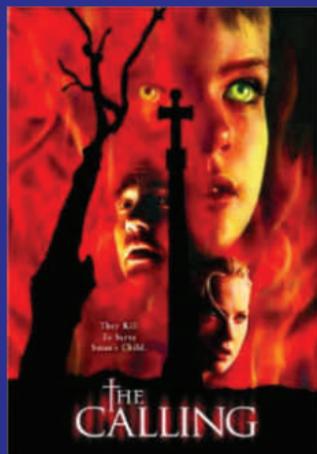
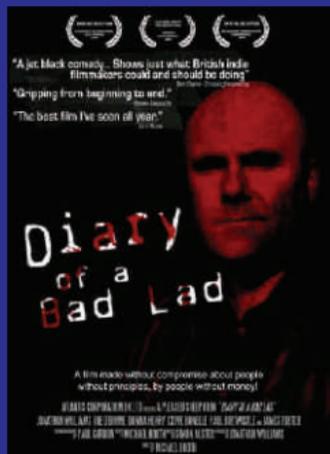
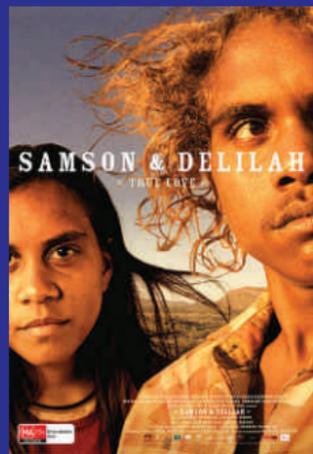
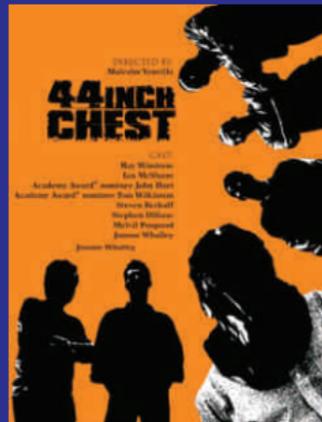
**THEATRE BY THE LAKE - TICKETS & INFORMATION - open 9.30am to 8pm daily**

**017687 74411** or buy online from the Theatre website via

**[www.keswickfilmfestival.org](http://www.keswickfilmfestival.org)**

Visit our new-look website for all the latest Festival news as it happens

Here are just ten of the fine films already selected for the 11th Keswick Film Festival



Sunday 14th February at 5pm

## TULPAN

Director: *Sergei Dvortsevoy. Kazakhstan/Ger 12A 2008 100 mins. In Kazakh and Russian with English subtitles*

His first narrative feature, Sergey Dvortsevoy's film is extraordinary, an exhilaratingly alive and sweet-natured tale set in the barren landscape of a Kazakh steppe. Asa, just demobbed from the navy, returns to live with his sister Samal, her husband Ondas and their three children. Asa dreams of his own flock of sheep, but it appears that until he gets married, his wish will never be granted. He targets a young unmarried woman called Tulpan, whose face he has never seen, but her feelings are not to be taken for granted... Dvortsevoy's documentary background is put to masterly use: his insistence on authenticity allows him to capture some of the most marvellous footage of nature possible. Four years in the making, *Tulpan* is filmmaking of the highest order, reminiscent of Werner Herzog at his best. *'A quiet little gem... This is an eminently lovable film.'* Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian.

Winner: BFI's Sutherland Trophy and 'Un Certain Regard', Cannes 2008



Sunday 21st February at **4pm**

## BARRY LYNDON

*Director: Stanley Kubrick. UK PG 1975 187 mins*  
**With a pre-film talk by Neil Sinyard, Emeritus Professor of Film Studies at Hull University.**

Adapted from Thackeray's novel, the story begins in a small village in Eighteenth Century Ireland: young, unscrupulous Redmond Barry is determined to make a life for himself as a wealthy nobleman, and after enlisting in the British Army he lies, dupes, duels and seduces his way up the social ladder.

It is one of Kubrick's most gripping pictures, with a strong narrative and extraordinarily lush images, presenting a more sympathetic hero than does Thackeray; but Barry is still the rogue who introduces us to a fascinating world of beautifully-played characters who people the writers' imagination, helped by a suave third-person narration from Michael Hordern.

*'It's a work of technical brilliance and considerable beauty.'* Wendy Ide, The Times

*We are grateful to the Stanley Kubrick Estate and Warner Brothers for special permission to borrow this rare print of Barry Lyndon.*



*Sunday 7th March at 5pm*

## NOWHERE BOY

*Director: Sam Taylor Wood. UK 2008 15 98 mins.*

Nominated for 5 BIFA Awards (acting, screenplay and direction) this was chosen as the gala conclusion to the 2009 London Film Festival. Aaron Johnson, Anne-Marie Duff and Kristin Scott Thomas (John Lennon, his mother Julia and his Aunt Mimi) do an excellent job in portraying Lennon's life from 1955, when he was a rebellious 15-year-old living in stifling suburbia with his formidable aunt, until his departure for Hamburg with two other unknowns, Paul McCartney and George Harrison. John's increasing discontent manifests itself in re-establishing contact with his mother whom he previously knew only as Mimi's erratic, highly-strung sister Julia. Authenticity is maintained by a fine script from Matt Greenhalgh (*Control*), and Taylor Wood with her director of photography Seamus McGarvey, who portray post-war Liverpool with loving accuracy.

*'Succeeds in being jaunty, joyful, moving and desperately sad, all without jolting shifts of mood. It's a complex achievement, an unsparing work honouring a complicated man.'* Daily Telegraph



*Sunday 14th March at 5pm*

## THE SEA WALL

*(UN BARRAGE CONTRE LE PACIFIQUE)*

*Director: Rithy Panh. France 2008 12A 115 mins.*

*In French with English subtitles*

Rithy Panh's period epic set in the rich landscape of French colonial Indochina is a highly successful adaptation of Marguerite Duras's acclaimed semi-autobiographical novel.

As the sea rises, the film tells the compelling story of a mother (an outstanding performance by current top actress Isabelle Huppert) who is deceived into investing all her savings in worthless, regularly flooded farmland which is incapable of supporting crops. Dealing with the romantic escapades of both son and daughter, fighting to protect her family from destitution at the hands of a corrupt administration and battling both the colonial bureaucrats and nature itself, she enlists the help of the local villagers, with an elaborate plan to keep out the sea and secure the future of both her family and the local community.

*'Impressively directed...the always excellent Isabelle Huppert gives an intriguingly complex performance'* ViewLondon

*'Robust, enjoyable storytelling.'* Peter Bradshaw

Sunday 21st March at 5pm

## THE WHITE RIBBON

(Das weiße Band - Eine deutsche Kindergeschicht)

Director: Michael Haneke. Ger/Austria 2009 15

144 mins

Winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes 2009, *The White Ribbon* is structured around a series of misfortunes (which give the impression of ritual punishment) befalling the citizens of Eichwald, a rural village in pre-World War I Germany. Half the population works for the Baron, and the stern Protestant pastor wields a strong influence, especially on the children, who appear strangely suppressed...

It's a hugely absorbing film, with most impressive compositions in beautiful black-and-white photography. Commentators have asked whether Haneke's portrait of a sick society is meant to give a pointer to the horrendous war to come and the fascism that quickly followed in its wake.

*'A profoundly disquieting movie, superbly acted and directed. Its sinister riddle glitters more fiercely each time I watch it.'* Peter Bradshaw  
*'It's his least aggressive and most mature film – a masterpiece from a director who is increasingly making a habit of them.'* Dave Calhoun, Time Out



*Sunday 28th March at 5pm*

## DISGRACE

*Director: Steve Jacobs. Australia/South Africa  
2008 15 119mins.*

Starring in this exciting adaptation of the acclaimed novel by Nobel Laureate J.M. Coetzee is John Malkovich, playing the 52-year-old professor who takes a beautiful young student under his wing and into his bed. This is post-Apartheid South Africa, the student is of mixed race, and scandal erupts...

Director and writer (a husband and wife team) have distilled Coetzee's tough novel into a focused, absorbing meditation on race, class, history, sex and the quest for reconciliation. It is a disquieting work to watch (none of Coetzee's punches are pulled, although most of the violence happens off-screen). Excellent acting from Malkovich, Jessica Haines and a fine supporting cast. *'Mr. Malkovich is one of the few actors capable of conveying genuine intellectual depth.'* N Y Times. *'Steve Jacobs has succeeded beautifully in integrating the story into the grand landscape of South Africa.'* J.M. Coetzee.

*'Disgrace is a creditable, serious film which is driven along by its viscerally gripping plotline.'*  
Theo Tait, The Guardian.



Sunday 4th April at 5pm

## UN PROPHÈTE

Director: Jacques Audiard, France 18 2009  
155 mins. In French with English subtitles.

*Un Prophète* is about an illiterate Arab convict who undergoes a harsh rite of passage when he is recruited by the Corsican mob during six years inside a corrupt, brutal prison.

Announcing the film's award of Grand Prix at Cannes, jury chair Anjelica Huston hailed the film as "a masterpiece". She added: "Un Prophète has the ambition, purity of vision and clarity of purpose to make it an instant classic. With seamless and imaginative storytelling, superb performances and universal themes, Jacques Audiard has made the perfect film." Director too of *Read My Lips* and *The Beat that My Heart Skipped*, previously shown to highly appreciative Keswick audiences, Audiard was, with *Un Prophète*, the inaugural winner of the award for Best Feature Film at the 2009 London Film Festival.

*'Audiard's direction and unflagging concern for his central character ensure that A Prophet is never less than believable, thoughtful and, although very uncomfortable at points, incredibly entertaining.'*

Dave Calhoun, Time Out



## January 2010

---

|             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| Sunday 10th | 5pm | <b>BRIGHT STAR</b><br>First love burns brightest: Jane Campion's John Keats story     |
| Sunday 17th | 5pm | <b>THE BEACHES OF AGNES</b><br>The extraordinary and fascinating life of Agnès Varda  |
| Sunday 24th | 5pm | <b>BIRDWATCHERS</b><br>Brazil: Guarani Indians claim their ancestral rainforest lands |
| Sunday 31st | 5pm | <b>GOODBYE SOLO</b><br>An unlikely friendship changes two men's lives                 |

---

## February 2010

---

|             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| Sunday 7th  | 5pm | <b>SIN NOMBRE</b><br>Honduran teenager reunites with father for a new life in USA   |
| Sunday 14th | 5pm | <b>TULPAN</b><br>Love & family in the yurts and on the steppes of Kazakhstan        |
| Sunday 21st | 4pm | <b>BARRY LYNDON</b><br>Skulduggery in 18thC English society: Kubrick's finest film? |

---

Thursday - Sunday: 25th - 28th Feb: **11th KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL**

## March 2010

---

|             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| Sunday 7th  | 5pm | <b>NOWHERE BOY</b><br>The John Lennon story, from boy to Beatle                       |
| Sunday 14th | 5pm | <b>THE SEA WALL</b><br>Indochina: a mother fights to save her flooded land and family |
| Sunday 21st | 5pm | <b>THE WHITE RIBBON</b><br>Sinister happenings in a pre-WWI North German village      |
| Sunday 28th | 5pm | <b>DISGRACE</b><br>Cape Town professor suffers the consequences of his affair         |

---

## April 2010

---

|            |     |   |
|------------|-----|---|
| Sunday 4th | 5pm | <b>UN PROPHETE</b><br>Engrossing story of a young Arab and the Mob in a French jail |
|------------|-----|---|

---