

# Keswick Film Autumn 2012



**Keswick Film**  
at the  
**Alhambra**  
St John's Street  
Keswick



[www.keswickfilmclub.org](http://www.keswickfilmclub.org)

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 (The Inn 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. Most films are Screened on 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, and a short film if time allows. Film notes are projected prior to screenings or on the club website, and we have a feedback system - please give the film a star rating out of five.

## Autumn Programme 2012

### The Alhambra Cinema, Keswick

#### TICKETS

You do not need to be a member to see the films, but it will save you money if you attend more than 7 films, including all Film Festival films, over the course of the two seasons in the year.

*Tickets:* £4.50 for non members; £3.50 for members; £2.50 for students, under 16s and benefit claimants.

*Membership:* £7 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 or the Chair's flat - top flat, 36 Station Street, Keswick, or at any club screening. Membership form available from our website.

*Season Pass:* £33 (Autumn season 2012)

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

#### COMMITTEE

Chair: Vaughan Ames (017687 80969), [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org)

Vice Chair: Deb Cowin Secretary: Ian Payne

Treasurer: Astrid Perrett Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne

Committee Members: Stephen Brown, Angela Jackson, Anita Leaker, Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), David Miller, Alan Naylor, Mike Rose-Troup, Stephen Pye, Simon Shipman, Lorraine Shipman, Tom Rennie, Abi Wright  
*Keswick Film Club is a voluntarily-run, not-for-profit organisation*

*Registered Charity No. 1083395*

Sunday 16th September at 5pm

## A ROYAL AFFAIR

(En kongelig affære)

Director: Nikolaj Arcel Denmark 2012 (15)  
137 mins. In Danish with English subtitles

We start the season with a period love affair, but one which is laced with the political arguments of its time. The young English princess Caroline (Alicia Vikander) was sent to Denmark in 1766 to forge the alliance of the two states by marrying the insane King Christian (Mikkel Boe Folsgaard). This might have been a footnote in history but for the arrival of the German doctor Struensee (Mads Mikkelsen) as the King's physician.

Struensee was a political radical who set about influencing the King, attempting to bring in Enlightenment policies to a reactionary court - before the French Revolution remember - whilst having an affair with the Queen at the same time. Nikolaj Arcel (*'The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo'*) concentrates on the characters more than the politics, giving us a film about three strong characters caught up together, but showing a little known period in history where progress fought reaction much as in the Middle East today.



Sunday 23rd September at 5pm

## MONSIEUR LAZHAR

Director: Philippe Falardeau. Canada 2011  
(12A) 94 mins. In French with English subtitles.

'Monsieur Lazhar', nominated for the Best Foreign film at the 2012 Oscars, is a French Canadian comedy drama which starts with a tragedy. An eleven year old boy discovers his teacher has committed suicide in the classroom. Monsieur Lazhar, an Algerian immigrant to Canada, reads about this in the paper and presents himself at the school as a substitute teacher for the class, claiming twenty years experience back in Algeria.

The film then follows the class through the next six months, watching them get over the shock of the suicide and Lazhar learning how to teach them.

But there are other secrets to unfold in his life...

This is a small-life drama, which *'you could almost describe as a morality tale, but it's more thought-provoking than debate-provoking, its strength is the realness of the emotions and authenticity of the detail'* - Cath Clarke, Time Out

The actors are mainly children (who come in for all round praise), whilst Mohamed Fellag has won several awards for his acting in the lead role.



Sunday 30th September at 5pm

## THE MONK (Le Moine)

Director: Dominik Moll. Spain 2011(15) 101 mins.  
In French with English subtitles.

Dominik Moll has made very few films, but those ('Harry, He's here to help', 'Lemming') have left his fans wanting more, including one of our members who requested this film. 'The Monk' is a French film, based on the 1776 novel by English writer Matthew Lewis, set in Spain.

Ambrosia is abandoned as a baby outside a Capucin monastery and is brought up to become an unrivalled and popular preacher whose sermons draw large crowds. All is going well for him, until a masked monk comes on the scene, when a series of temptations gradually pull him from the straight and narrow; no-one, however good, is free from temptation.

What results is a sultry, romantic horror movie, but don't expect 'The Devils', this is a much more introspective film, beautifully filmed, with a universally acclaimed but uncharacteristically restrained performance from Vincent Cassel as Ambrosia, powering the film forwards.



Sunday 7th October at 5pm

## CAFE DE FLORE

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée Canada 2011 (15) 120 mins. In French with English subtitles.

*'Café de Flore' is intoxicating, romantic, pretty damn mad, and it just doesn't care.* - Trevor Johnston, Time Out

Two apparently unrelated love stories in time and place... In 1969 Paris, single mum, Jacqueline, is trying to bring up Laurent, her Down's Syndrome son. She has built an intense bond with him, which causes her heartache when he falls in love with a classmate.

Meanwhile, we move to Montreal in 2011, where DJ Antoine has a love triangle of his own; he is in love for the second time, but his former long-term lover will not accept he has gone.

Director Vallée does not make clear if there is a link (beyond love) between the stories; instead, using music as the link, he switches between time and place, blurring the lines as he goes. Vanessa Paradis, better known to us as a singer, has won various awards for her role as Jacqueline.

*'Bold and uncompromising, passionate and profound, this is an intoxicating triumph that bristles with sly innovation'* - Alan Jones, Radio Times



Sunday 14th October at 5pm

## THE TURIN HORSE

(A Torinói ló)

Director: Béla Tarr, Ágnes Hranitzky Hungary 2011 (15) 145 mins. In Hungarian with English subtitles.

Béla Tarr has not made many films, but has had critical acclaim for triumphs such as (*'Werckmeister Harmóniák (2000)'*, *'Sátántangó (1994)'*) He tells us this is to be his last movie and he has chosen to sign off with an apocalyptic, end of days story.

He begins by telling us that Nietzsche watched a horse being mistreated and was so upset he never worked again, never recovered, dying eleven years later. Tarr's film then imagines the life of the unknown horse, following the horse and its owner through six days on a subsistence farm, where the horse refuses to drink or work and their subsistence, their very existence is threatened.

A bleak film, certainly, but one which critics and audiences alike have praised - *'The movie exerts an eerie grip, with echoes of Bresson, Bergman and Dreyer, but is utterly distinctive'* - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian; *'Thrilling, beautiful and nearly heartstopping'* - Nigel Andrews, FT



Sunday 21st October at 5pm

## **EVEN THE RAIN** (También la lluvia)

Director: Icíar Bollaín. Spain 2011 (15) 103 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles.

'Even the Rain' shows a film company arriving in Bolivia to make a film about Columbus arriving in America and starting the exploitation of native Americans. The trouble is that the film company starts off by exploiting the locals in the same way Columbus had. Their mistake is to hire Daniel, who turns out to be a local leader in the fight against privatisation of the water resources; the 'double storyline' is set. (We are in 2000 when there was a genuine fight against Bechtel Corp, who lost their battle to charge the locals for water.)

Our film has good credentials; it was written by Ken Loach's screenwriter Paul Laverty (and, indeed, the director Icíar Bollaín appeared in Loach's 'Land and Freedom'). *'Their point is that exploitation, inequality and misplaced ideals cross the centuries, but so too do smart, disenfranchised folk willing to take a stand.'* - Dave Calhoun, Time Out. We last saw Bollaín as director of 'Take My Eyes' (2005 Festival). Let's hope she has learnt the lesson of history but, as Roger Ebert pointed out - *'I looked in vain for a credit saying, "No extras were underpaid in the making of this film."*



Sunday 28th October at 5pm

## THE SOURCE

(La source des femmes)

Director: Radu Mihaileanu. Africa/Middle East 2011

(15) 135 mins. In Arabic with English subtitles.

Our second film in a short season of 'the power of water' movies takes us to an unnamed country in Africa or the Middle East where time (and the village men, apparently) have stood still for centuries. The women of the village are still forced to fetch water via a dangerous path to the local mountain spring, while the men laze around the village. This might have gone on forever but for the spirited resistance of Leila (Leila Bekhti), who encourages her fellow women to withhold sexual favours until the men get a pipe...er... laid.

The 'Love strike' hits the national news and the basis for our comedy drama is set; a sort of 'Made in Dagenham' for the Arab Spring..?

The director, Radu Mihaileanu, who has directed eight films ('The Concert' (2009)), comes from a communist, Jewish background, but is more interested in a feel-good, humanist approach, while Leila Bekhti and Biyouna are singled out by the critics for their performances.

Who will win this battle of the sexes? Wait and see...





Sunday 4th November at 5pm

## ONCE UPON A TIME IN ANATOLIA

(Bir zamanlar Anadolu'da)

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan. Turkey 2011 (15) 150 mins. In Turkish with English subtitles.

*'Nuri Bilge Ceylan is one of the most significant movie-makers to have emerged this century ...His finest work to date, 'Once Upon a Time in Anatolia', is a carefully controlled masterpiece.'* - Philip French, Observer. This feeling was echoed at Cannes, where the film won the Jury Prize in 2011.

The story is played out in one night as we watch 12 men searching the Steppes for a dead body. Gradually we realise that two of the men are suspects for the murder, the others are policemen, gravediggers, a doctor... There is little in the way of traditional action, instead Ceylan leaves it to us to work out what has happened, what is going on, with the dialogue just giving us hints; like the police, we can only gradually understand the crime.

As the film moves towards daylight, the focus switches more towards the doctor. Their meeting with a young woman unsettles him...*'just as, we imagine, Ceylan hopes to unsettle us as he takes us with him on this compelling, masterly journey.'* - Dave Calhoun, Time Out



Sunday 11th November at 5.00pm

**\*\*GALA NIGHT! A DOUBLE BILL, GUESTS,**

## **TWO YEARS AT SEA**

*Director: Ben Rivers. UK 2011 (U) 91 mins.*

After last year's successful Gala night, we thought we should do it again, this time with new British films and guest directors as our theme.

In contrast to our other film today, *'Two Years at Sea'* is a very uncomplicated documentary, filmed in grainy monochrome with little or no talking.

Ben Rivers' is building a reputation as a good experimental filmmaker. Here, he spends time filming Jake Williams, a recluse by choice who lives in an isolated, cluttered house deep in the forest in Aberdeenshire. We follow him in his day to day activities, eating, fishing, chopping wood, building a raft, with teasing, partial shots, leaving us to decide if this is just a pretty visual film of life on the edge of society, or a deeper *'semi-blank canvas on which to draw your own ideas about living'* - Dave Calhoun, Time Out. The critics and audiences all seem to love it, though the critics are more split on its worth. Hopefully, with Ben Rivers introduction, we will be able to fill the canvas for ourselves.

Sunday 11th November at 7.45pm

**AND FOOD - FOR THE PRICE OF ONE FILM! \*\***

## **DIMENSIONS: A LINE, A LOOP, A TANGLE OF THREADS**

*Director: Sloane U'ren UK 2010 (NC)*

Our history of supporting up and coming UK directors continues with this 'period sci-fi' from the new team of U'Ren and Ant Neely who decided to sell their house to get this movie made. We hope to have them both here today to tell us about it.

If you could revisit your childhood...which moment would you choose? And what price would you pay? So runs the trailer for the film. Stephen and Conrad, our heroes, grow up wanting to be scientists. They want to invent a time machine to go back to rescue Victoria, who died when they were young... But have they really grown up? Did Victoria ever exist? Is the past really THE past, or just one of the infinity of possible pasts that exist? And, in that past, did Victoria love Stephen or Conrad? A tangled thread indeed, with multiple possibilities looping round them.

This film still has no distributor but, even without, won the best film award at the Boston Sci-Fi Festival 2012 and at the London Independent Film Festival 2012. Not bad for a period drama!



Sunday 18th November at 5pm

## THE KID WITH A BIKE

(Le gamin au vélo)

Directors: Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne Belgium  
2011 (12A) 87 mins. In French with English subtitles.

The Dardenne brothers have built their reputation on a series of award winning social-realist dramas around children based in the backstreets of Belgium. This one is no exception, both in its subject and its awards (sharing the Jury Prize at Cannes 2011 with 'Once Upon a Time in Anatolia').

Here, 12 year old Cyril (Thomas Doret) is frantically cycling or running round town trying to find the father who has abandoned him to social services, as he cannot believe his father doesn't want him. Desperate for a father figure, he falls in with 'Wes', a local drug dealer. Cyril's potential to become good or bad, especially influenced by adults, is the Dardennes' theme. His chances of turning out well are improved by a chance meeting with Samantha (Cécile de France), who agrees to 'foster' him at weekends, but Cyril does his best to mess this up too...

'The Dardennes brothers have been called the nearest to Ken Loach in Europe and it's a tribute they well deserve' - Derek Malcolm, Evening Standard





Sunday 25th November at 5pm

**NIGHT OUT AT RHEGED WITH OPTIONAL FOOD**

## **SAMSARA (AT RHEGED)**

Director: Ron Fricke. USA 2011 (12A) 102 mins. No language.

Prepare yourself for an experience like no other; our film today is not so much a documentary, more of a meditation. Filmed on glorious 70mm in 25 countries over 5 years, 'Samsara' is a visual trip, in both senses of the word.

Ron Fricke came to fame as the cinematographer on 'Koyaanisqatsi', and went on to specialise in non-narrative films that explore our relationships with the world about us. Samsara is a Sanskrit word for 'the ever turning wheel of life', and Fricke attempts to 'follow a loose arc from birth through dehumanization, destruction and death to spiritual transcendence' - David Rooney, Hollywood Reporter. Using only his camera to tell the story, he shows the beauty AND the ugliness in the world.

Fricke is famous for his cinematography, so expect beautiful camerawork, carried along by a soundtrack from Michael Stearns. AND we see this at Rheged, so come along.. and let yourself sink into the experience.



Sunday 2nd December at 5pm

## BEASTS OF THE SOUTHERN WILD

Director: Benh Zeitlin. USA 2012 (12A) 93 mins.

This might be our movie of the season; from the moment in the trailer where 6 year-old star Quvenzhané Wallis tells her Daddy 'I'm the man' I was hooked. 29 year old newcomer Benh Zeitlin, brings us this 'magic realist', post apocalyptic adventure, starring Wallis as Hushpuppy (a universally-agreed 'star in the making') and a bunch of other non-actors who convert the Bayou into 'Bathtub'. A storm is coming, and with it the prehistoric Aurochs. Hushpuppy has to stay strong to survive. Whether this is 'Mad Max' territory, or just a small child's imagination, we'll have to wait to find out.

*'Sometimes miraculous films come into being, made by people you've never heard of, starring unknown faces, blindsiding you with creative genius. Beasts of the Southern Wild is one of the year's best films'*- Roger Ebert. Festivals from Sundance to Cannes have agreed with him.



Sunday 9th December at 2pm

## MYSTERIES OF LISBON

(Mistérios de Lisboa)

Director: Raoul Ruiz, Chile/France 2010 (15) 272 mins. In Portuguese with English subtitles.

Raoul Ruiz died last year having directed over 100 films, many of which did not reach Britain. He was born in Chile and was inspired by authors such as Gabriel García Márquez, who wrote complicated stories moving through time and place...and back again.

Today we have Ruiz's last movie, which gives us four and half hours to cover much of the 18th and 19th centuries, following the life of Pedro da Silva, flying backwards and forwards in a series of flashbacks. He starts out as a young orphan in a home and we learn he is the son of a rich noblewoman...or possibly not. We learn more and more of his life and others around him via a series of unreliable narrators so that we are never sure if what we learn is true; as in life, others see your life through their own. Even the characters themselves change from scene to scene.

*'Ruiz displays a mastery of cinematic and storytelling technique that ensures this epic saga remains utterly engrossing'* - David Parkinson, Empire

**NOTE** This film will begin at 2.00pm and there will be an interval..don't let its length put you off!



Sunday 16th December at 5pm

## **UNTOUCHABLE** (Intouchables)

Directors: Olivier Nakache, Eric Toledano. France  
2012 (NC) 112 mins.

By all accounts this is a little movie with a big heart, BUT one that has broken all box office records in France and done well all across Europe...so we just HAD to have it in Keswick to see what the fuss was about!

It's not a new story; rich, white guy with a black servant, who learn to like each other. Although it does star François Cluzet, the other actors are relative unknowns (One of whom, Omar Sy has, however, won the Best Actor César award). It's not a clever comedy - *'You will laugh, you will cry, you will cringe'* - A O Scott, NY Times.

Based on a true story (believe it or not), we have Philippe, a rich paraplegic, who is bored by all the applicants for a job as his carer, so he hires Driss, a wise-talking Senegalese who only applied so that he could get welfare benefits. Driss manages to improve Philippe's life whilst getting himself out of the poverty trap.

That's it... So why has it proved so popular? *'Not a great film but a warm one that pushes the viewer's emotional buttons so deftly it feels like a massage. My guess is that you will laugh and cry at all appropriate moments. Resistance is futile.'* - Richard Corliss, TIME.

Enjoy the massage...



Sunday 23rd December at 5pm

## WHERE DO WE GO NOW?

Director: Nadine Labaki. Lebanon 2011 (12A) 110 mins. In Arabic with English subtitles.

Not exactly a Christmas movie, but it is a comedy and it is at least about Peace in our Time. Audiences seem to like it - it even won the audience award at the Toronto Film Festival - but critics are split.

The scene is a small un-named village in an un-named Middle East country, where the locals are split between Muslims and Christians. Since the coming of TV, at the smallest excuse, the men are liable to pick up their arms and fight each other. The women are fed up with losing their husbands and sons in these futile fights, and they decide it is time to stop. First they sabotage the TV, then they invent miracles and even...but I won't spoil it by telling you all their schemes.

The second in our 'power of women' season, this one is not so easy to take as *'The Source'*, possibly because the arguments and the solutions are harder to understand. Nadine Labaki, who also directed *'Caramel'*, seems to be saying that wars would not happen if women were to run society. Believe that or not, enjoy the comedy... and have a happy Christmas!



## September

- Sunday 16th 5pm **A Royal Affair**  
Danish, (15)  
Love, royalty and politics in 1766
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **Monsieur Lazhar**  
French Canadian, (12A)  
Algerian immigrant takes over after the teacher commits suicide
- Sunday 30th 5pm **The Monk**  
French, (15)  
Even the most devout are open to temptation

## October

- Sunday 7th 5pm **Cafe de Flore**  
French Canadian, (15)  
Two love stories, different times and places ..are they related?
- Sunday 14th 5pm **The Turin Horse**  
Hungarian, (15)  
Bela Tarr signs off with an apocalyptic, end of days story
- Sunday 21st 5pm **Even the Rain**  
Spanish, (15)  
The local film crew fight a battle against water privatisation
- Sunday 28th 5pm **The Source**  
Arabic, (15)  
Village women go on a 'love strike' to get a water pipe line

## November

- Sunday 4th 5pm **Once Upon A Time in Anatolia**  
Turkish, (15)  
A night trip to find a dead body turns up more than expected
- Sunday 11th 5pm **Two years at Sea + FOOD + Dimensions**  
UK, (U), UK, (NC)  
Gala Night. Two films, guests, food and good conversation.
- Sunday 18th 5pm **The Kid with a Bike**  
French, (12A)  
The kid rushes round looking for his Dad and life's meaning
- Sunday 25th 5pm **Samsara at Rheged**  
USA, (12A)  
A documentary meditation on the world

## December

- Sunday 2nd 5pm **Beasts of the Southern Wild**  
USA, (12A)  
A magical story of survival, aurochs and love
- Sunday 9th 2pm **The Mysteries of Lisbon**  
Portuguese, (15)  
Raoul Ruiz directs his last film - an epic saga through 100 years
- Sunday 16th 5pm **Untouchable**  
France, (NC)  
France's best selling film tries to make us laugh too
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **Where Do We Go Now?**  
Arabic, (12A)  
Muslim and Christian women unite to stop their men fighting