

Keswick Film Autumn 2014



Keswick Film
at the
Alhambra
St John's Street
Keswick





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 (now 'Cinema for All') 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 200+ 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 Royal Oak) 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'.

Email us at info@keswickfilmclub.org

Follow us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/keswickfilmclub

Or on **Twitter** at www.twitter.com/keswickfilm

Autumn Programme 2014

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: £38 (Autumn season 2014)

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

Vice Chair: David Miller Secretary: Ian Payne

Treasurer: Astrid Perrett Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne

Committee Members: Stephen Brown, Angela Jackson, Anita Leaker, Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), Alan Naylor, Charlotte Peters, Stephen Pye, Tom Rennie, Lorraine Shipman, Simon Shipman.

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

Sunday 14th September at 5pm

THE PAST (Le passé)

Director: Asghar Farhadi. France 2013 (12A) 130 mins.
In French and Persian with English subtitles.



There are two Keswick 'traditions' we didn't want to break; to start the season with a French film and to show all Asghar Farhadi movies. Imagine our pleasure, then, when we found that Farhadi had moved to France for his latest film.

In *'About Elly'*, Farhadi showed what a great storyteller he is, with the disappearance of Elly leaving us guessing whether she had drowned or simply gone home. *'A Separation'* brought him an Oscar for his deeply involving way of showing the trials and tribulations of a couple split over moving countries to help their daughter to improve her life, or staying to care for an old parent in need.

'The Past' continues his study of fractured lives (could there be a trilogy being made here?). Ahmad (Ali Mosaffa) is called to France to finalise his divorce from Marie (Berenice Bejo from *'The Artist'*). On arrival he is soon involved with Marie's problems in her new life - sharing a house with her new lover Samir (Tahir Rahim from *'A Prophet'*) and their three children from previous marriages. The already existing tensions are exacerbated by Ahmad's presence and we are pulled in to their complex relationships and problems; is there something more going on than meets the eye?

Farhadi's script deliberately keeps us guessing about these relationships and *'exerts a tight emotional grip throughout, ratcheting up the tension before delivering a series of heart-wrenching twists and revelations'* - Matthew Turner, View London

The actors, too, all get universal praise, with Berenice Bejo singled out for many awards, including the Cannes Best Actress award for her central role here as Marie. A world star in the making since her nomination for most promising actress in 2001, she appears to be firmly there now.

Let's hope our pleasure at finding the French connection here to start the season is matched by yours, seeing this film that had Asghar Farhadi in the running for the Palme D'Or at Cannes.

Sunday 21st September at 5pm

OMAR

Director: Hany Abu-Assad. Palestine 2013 (15) 96 mins.
In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles.



Set around the wall between Palestine and Israel, the wall is used to show both the political divide and the gap between two lovers. Omar is willing to climb the wall at night, dodging the Israeli sentries to carry love letters to his girlfriend, but is he also involved in political sabotage as well? And Omar has bigger problems than worrying about what we think he might be doing; the Israelis are also on his trail...

This is the second film that director Hany Abu-Assad has had nominated for best Foreign film at the Oscars. In the first - *'Paradise Now'* (2005) - his protagonists are would-be suicide bombers who are shown as ordinary people in their daily lives. Here too, we see Omar more as a lover than a terrorist. Abu-Assad is as interested in what makes people tick as he is in the horrors of the Middle East conflict; Omar's divided loyalties force us to examine what he is going through as a central tenet of this political thriller.

'This gripping Palestinian thriller evokes 'The Battle of Algiers' (1966) in its depiction of not only the psychological pressures faced by people under occupation, but the murky moral consequences of retaliating against one's oppressors' - Dave Kehr, Chicago Reader.

'How do you keep faith in romance when everything in life is falling apart? Abu-Assad's greatest achievement is to give casualties to the heart the same weight as more physical blows. It makes the blood flowing through this political drama a deeper shade of red' - Sophie Monks Kaufman, Little White Lies.



Sunday 28th September at 5pm

THE LUNCHBOX (Dabba)

Director: Ritesh Batra. India 2013 (PG) 104 mins. In Hindi and English with English subtitles.



Mumbai, today. Lunch delivery has been raised to an art form, with armies of 'dabbawallahs' organising the deliveries from home to office with machine-like precision...but what if they get it wrong? Writer/director Ritesh Batra has produced this bitter-sweet look at life in a city, where the everyday trials of commuting mix with the magic of an unplanned liaison based on one such mix up.

Ila is trying to rekindle her husband's love by cooking him an extra special lunchbox, but it ends up on Saajan's desk. They begin to swap chapatti-wrapped notes and a virtual friendship grows; in this Facebook world, will a simple Lunchbox bring them together?

This is an Indian romantic comedy, but it is not Hollywood (or Bollywood); as David Jenkins bluntly points out in *Little White Lies* - *'one will produce a delectable dish which leaves your tastebuds positively humming, while the other will deliver a noxious slurry...More than a tale of random hearts connecting through fast food delivery, this is a heartbreaking movie about things that won't and don't and can't go wrong, going seriously wrong'*. Jenkins

is impressed too by Irrfan Khan (*'Life of Pi'*), who plays Saajan - *'(he) proves here that he may be one of the greatest living actors in the world right now'*. Praise indeed.



Sunday 5th October at 5pm

THREE HOURS (Drei Stunden)

Director: Boris Kunz. Germany 2012 (NC) 100 mins. In German and English with English subtitles.



One of our guiding principles when choosing films is to try to bring you films from all round the world, so it came as a bit of a shock when we realised how few German films we show- the last one was 3 years ago (*'Pina'*). With the help (and prodding...) of a new member - who read and translated the German reviews - we have found *'Three Hours'*; it was not scheduled to be released in the UK so we couldn't find English reviews.

We also break with another 'tradition'; it is a 'Rom-com'! Perhaps understandably given their often mainstream if not blockbuster nature, these are seldom given much time in our programmes. With *'Three Hours'* we bring you young German director Boris Kunz's off-the-wall debut feature film which pays no heed to the traditional genre plot patterns of 'finding, separating, longing'.

Set in a sunny Munich, *'Three Hours'* instead '*portrays a generation in a gorgeous manner*' – kino.de - with the fresh love story of two old friends, an ecology activist, Isabel (highly-rated Claudia Eisinger) and poet Martin, both in their thirties.

In an oft-called-upon rom-com scenario, as Isabel is about to embark on a three year mission against genetic modification in Africa, Martin confesses his love for his old friend at the departure desk. It is at this point, however, where the clichés end as Kunz delivers a comedy which, as well as capturing the ethos of contemporary life and love in Germany in a very realistic manner, also offers us fairy tale scenes such as the main characters having a casual beer with God (you are going to have to see it to understand!).

Hopefully this begins to fill the German gap in our repertoire of films. Do let us know if you have spotted other under-represented countries.

Sunday 12th October at 2pm

****New UK Directors Day. Both Directors will be present****

Continuing Keswick Film Club's support for new British talent, we have two very different films which we hope will show the range of films being produced today.

NEXT GOAL WINS

Directors: Mike Brett, Steve Jamison. UK 2014 (15) 97mins.



With the world cup over, we thought it was appropriate to bring you this documentary; even football hating Mark Kermode loved it- 'Having infamously lost 31-0 to Australia, the "world's worst football team" American Samoa attempt to regain a sense of national pride by enlisting a

coach and a couple of related off-islanders to help them rise from the bottom of the league during the World Cup qualifiers. Whether or not you give two hoots about "the beautiful game" (and I don't), this charming and uplifting documentary will have you cheering for the underdogs and wishing that all footballers were this humble, determined and just plain decent. The star is transgender player Jaiyah Saelua, who tackles hard and comes up smiling, winning the respect of gruff coach Thomas Rongen, a tough nut with personal tragedy in his past who is reduced to tears by the efforts of his team. You'll be the same; watching this was the first time I have ever punched the air because a football sailed into the back of a net. And very probably the last.' **Mike Brett & Steve Jamison should be available for a Q&A after the film.**

Sunday 12th October at 5pm

HERE AND NOW

Director: Lisle Turner. UK 2014 (12A) 82 mins.

Lisle Turner's first film is a gentle town-girl-meets-country-boy drama set in the Wye Valley. He uses this background to simply observe their meeting.



From Peter Bradshaw's review in the Guardian - '17-year-old Grace, a stropky urban teen is forced by her parents to go with them on a supposedly restorative holiday. Grace is furious at being dragged away from her friends to

somewhere she will get no mobile reception, and she senses, correctly, that the trip is designed to help her parents' relationship with each other, but not with her. But then in this alien world of concreteless unsigned lanes she meets Say a young guy with emotional issues not far from her own, and something flowers between them'. **Both Lisle Turner and one of the stars, will be available for a Q&A after the film.**

Sunday 19th October at 5pm

ILO ILO

Director: Anthony Chen. Singapore 2013 (12A) 99 mins.
In Mandarin and English with English subtitles



Nine-year-old Jiale is living with his parents Teck and Hwee Leng in Singapore in the 1990s economic crash. Hwee Leng is pregnant and Filipino Teresa is hired as a nanny-cum-all-round-dogsbody. The family is full of secrets and their already dysfunctional life is further disturbed by the growing bond between Jiale and Teresa.

Director Anthony Chen has won awards before this film for his shorts including Cannes and Berlin Film Festivals, but this is his first attempt at a feature film. Chen, who was trained at Britain's National Film and Television school, is now winning awards (Best first feature film at Cannes) and praise around the globe for this too:-

'Ilo Ilo is a story told with enormous sympathy and flair, and an almost novelistic skill in getting inside the principals' heads. Chen is a real film-maker to watch' - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.

'Shot with extraordinary intimacy and naturalism, and boasting superbly unaffected performances from the core cast' - Mark Kermode, Observer

The story (based on Chen's own life) revolves mainly around the badly behaved Jiale and his relationship with Teresa the impoverished nanny, against the background of the problems imposed on all families in Singapore by the economic crash. As Charlotte O'Sullivan says in the Evening Standard -



'It's tough to go down in the world. This superb drama from Singapore asks what happens when you're already at the bottom?'

Sunday 26th October at 5pm

UNDER THE SKIN

Director: Jonathan Glazer. UK 2013 (15) 108 mins.

Films that are released in spring tend to be missed by us as they don't fit our seasons; 2014 saw two films come out that we felt we should squeeze in and *'Under the Skin'* is the first of these. Director Jonathan Glazer has spent 10 years and 3 writers developing it from the Michael Faber 2000 novel of the same name. His previous work includes the crime drama *'Sexy Beast'* and the mystery *'Birth'*, both rife with stars. He also directed several adverts including the iconic and beautiful Guinness horses-from-the-waves and the Sony exploding-paint, so he is a man who doesn't fit into a particular genre, but likes to do a great job of anything he touches. *'Under the Skin'* continues this trend; difficult to define, with no two critics seeming to agree about its genre even. On the surface it is about an unnamed woman (Scarlett Johansson) travelling the streets of Glasgow, but she appears to be hunting someone specific as she rejects many of those she finds. Is it an example of 'realist' cinema? This strand is emphasized by using not only non-professional actors, but some unprepared passers-by; Johansson actually picked up random people and hidden cameras were used to film their conversations. (So, it could even be a documentary on how ordinary people deal with meeting a celebrity!)

But is she just a stranger as she seems? Is this really a SciFi movie based on an alien from elsewhere? Her posh English accent certainly makes sure the locals in Glasgow know she is not one of them. Or maybe it could even be a horror movie, mainly left off-camera, but...

The film is beautiful, using both the Scottish scenery and CGI to best effect, with a score used to enhance the otherworldly feel.

'This frightening, unearthly film is the most striking achievement yet by (this) director. Under the Skin' is not only genuinely experimental but feels authentically alien—almost something that a documentarist from another world might have shot here on a field mission' - Jonathan Romney, Film Comment



Sunday 2nd November at 5pm

THE KEEPER OF LOST CAUSES

(Kvinden i buret)

Director: Mikkel Nørgaard. Denmark 2013 (15) 97 mins.
In Danish and Swedish with English subtitles.



The Danes have found their way to the top of the tree when it comes to making crime dramas in the last few years. *'The Keeper of Lost Causes'* is their latest in this genre, with the now-expected top notch inter-related caste and crew. The story (taken from a novel by Jussi Adler-Olsen) was written for the screen by Nikolaj Arcel, who wrote the screenplay for *'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo'* and *'A Royal Affair'*, whilst the director Mikkel Nørgaard comes from episodes of *'Borgen'*. You will recognize many of the actors too - the star, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, was in *'The Killing'*.

We join the plot when Inspector Carl Morck returns to work after being shot, for which he has been partially blamed. As punishment, he is banished to the basement to document back cases. Here he is teamed up with Assad and it isn't long before they cannot resist picking up such a case and running with it.

The one they pick is five years old, involving a successful politician who has supposedly committed suicide by jumping off a ferry, but no body was ever found...

The twist the film has to the normal police procedural is that we, the audience, are soon shown what happened; we then follow the police, in an interlocking series of flashbacks, watching the police investigation. The film is more of a 'will-the-police-work-it-out?' rather than a 'who-dunnit?'... Will they, or wont they..?

You will
have to
c o m e
along to
find out!



Sunday 9th November at 5pm

3D NIGHT OUT AT RHEGED WITH OPTIONAL MEAL

BEYOND THE EDGE IN 3D at Rheged

Director: Leanne Pooley. New Zealand 2013 (PG) 90 mins.



We wanted to find a special film to make the most of our 'night out at Rheged' and surely this one has to meet that requirement? There can be no more inspiring place on Earth than the top of Everest; to see it on the huge screen AND in 3D will be the icing on the cake...

The film is a drama/documentary about the first successful bid to climb Everest in 1953, with reconstructions of the climb and fantastic photography of the mountains, all of which is complemented by real interviews from the time.

When Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit, the world was stunned; the result was sent back to England in time to deliberately enhance the crowning of Elizabeth as Queen. What we may not be as aware of is how important New Zealand saw Hillary's achievement. He became an instant hero and remained so all of his life.



Director Leanne Pooley is from

New Zealand and has tried, with this film, to tell us his story. As Dominic Cory says in New Zealand's Flicks.co.nz - *"Undoubtedly the most technically impressive film (not featuring Hobbits or Na'vi) ever mounted in this country, 'Beyond The Edge' is also an emotionally enthralling experience that celebrates one of our nation's greatest achievements with candour and respect".*

It goes down pretty well over here too - *'This is genuinely inspirational stuff, and then some'* - Andrew Lowry, Total Film.

Join us for a meal afterwards too? Contact Rheged to book.

Sunday 16th November at 5pm

PLUTO (Myungwangsung)

Director: Su-won Shin. S Korea 2012(15) 114 mins.

In Korean with English subtitles.



This school-based '*clever, compelling Korean thriller*' - Alan Hunter, Express - continues South Korea's rising prestige in world cinema. There is huge pressure on children to excel at school in the widening class society. '*Pluto*' charts just how far June, one of the few non-wealthy boys at this boarding school, is forced to go to improve his grades to gain entry to the elite universities, and how he is used by the other boys in his school. '*Pluto offers a strong story and a well written script that builds a strong thriller with a few surprises and twists tucked up its sleeves*' - Filmstalker

Sunday 23rd November at 5pm

OF HORSES AND MEN (Hross I Oss)

Director: Benedikt Erlingsson. Iceland 2013 (PG) 81 mins.

In Icelandic with English subtitles.

'*A story of feuding neighbours with the emphasis on the neigh, 'Of Horses and Men' is a filly's-eye view of human folly from Icelandic writer/director Benedikt Erlingsson that's both hysterically funny and oddly moving*' - Emma Simmonds, Little White Lies. A huge success at festivals round the world, this comedy drama takes us into a small community of horse breeders in a vast valley where all human life revolves around their horses and where the horses are happier than the humans. '*Hugely enjoyable tale set in the wilds of Iceland, as romance between humans is kindled by a bond with horses*' - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian



Sunday 30th November at 5pm

MISS VIOLENCE

Director: Alexandros Avranas. Greece 2013 (18) 98 mins.
In Greek with English subtitles



'Miss Violence' begins with a seemingly happy family occasion; a party to celebrate Angeliki's 11th birthday. At some point during the party, for no apparent reason, Angeliki jumps to her death from the balcony of her family apartment. Why?

The family tries to say it was an accident, but as the film follows the back story, we realise there is much wrong in this dysfunctional family, centred on the father. It is only near the end of the film that we find out what made her jump, by which time we have been taken into the darker side of both this family and Greek society in general.

It is not always easy to find reviews of foreign films, but this one has been reviewed by most of the leading critics; nearly all of them can't resist comparing director Alexandros Avranas to Michael Haneke ('White Ribbon', 'Amour') so do not expect an easy ride here. Instead expect an observer's view of some uncomfortable scenes. Like 'Amour', most of the film is set in and around the family home.

'A tale of abuse and denial set in a claustrophobic Athens apartment shows real technique but tips into the bizarre' - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.

Avranas is part of the Greek 'new wave', along with the like of Yorgos Lanthimos ('Dogtooth') and Athina Rachel Tsangari ('Attenberg'), films we haven't shown. This is his second film which has won several awards and been the darling of the Venice Film Festival.



Sunday 7th December at 5pm

DALLAS BUYERS CLUB

Director: Jean-Marc Vallée. USA 2013 (15) 117 mins.

And so we come to the 2nd of our 'Oops! We missed this last season' films. A film that won 3 Oscars, and much acclaim, we just had to have '*Dallas Buyers Club*' in Keswick.

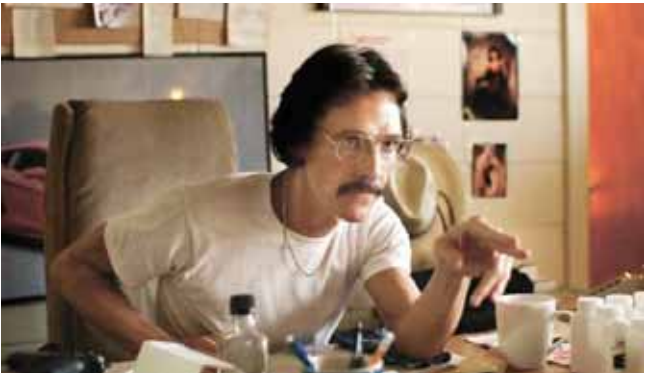
The film is about the real-life Ron Woodruff; you will not like him, nor are you supposed to. In the early 80s, good ole boy Ron was making hay while the sun shone on his life, by day '*a trailer-trash electrician...*', by night a rodeo loving '*...sex-and-drugs hedonist and homophobic-racist outlaw*' - Anton Bitel, Film 4.

In 1986 he is told he has AIDS and is given 30 days to live. Not believing that a heterosexual guy could catch 'the homo disease', he refuses to accept his death sentence and goes out to find a cure on his own.

This is not the normal AIDS film, based around loving gay relationships. Ron continues to hate the state, and continues to hate gays, but what he achieves ends up saving the lives of many of them.

The film has had much press due to the impressive performances of two of its stars; Matthew McConaughey plays Ron, losing 38 pounds to make himself look authentic. Jared Leto plays Rayon, the transgender woman who becomes his friend. Among the 69 awards the film won, these two both won Oscars - for best actor and best supporting actor - for their roles; '*...what McConaughey does here is transformative. Damn, he's good. Ron lived for nearly seven years after his death sentence. McConaughey makes sure we feel his tenacity and triumphs in the treatment of AIDS. His explosive, unerring portrayal defines what makes an actor great; blazing commitment to a character and the range to make every nuance felt*'. '*Leto gives an award-caliber performance of uncanny skill. He makes sure Rayon never loses her caustic wit and touchingly beleaguered grace. Leto is flat-out perfect.*' - Peter Travers, Rolling Stone.

An acting treat awaits us.



Sunday 14th December at 5pm

IDA

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski. Poland 2013 (PG) 80 mins.
In Polish with English subtitles.



A young novice nun is about to take her vows when she is told to seek out her Aunt before deciding. What her aunt tells her puts her on the road to discovering a past she never knew she had...

UK based Polish director Pawlikowski ('My Summer of Love', 'Last Resort') returns to Poland to make this film to great acclaim, including Best Film at the London Film Festival.

Sunday 21st December at 5pm

UNFORGIVEN (Yurusarezaru Mono)

Director: Sang-il Lee. Japan 2013 (15) 135 mins.
In Japanese with English subtitles.



Almost since Hollywood started making Westerns they have borrowed and remade Japanese classic Samurai films - Kurosawa's 'Seven Samurai' becoming 'The Magnificent Seven' for instance. It is very appropriate, then, that there is a Japanese Samurai remake of one of the finest Hollywood Westerns - Clint Eastwood's late classic 'Unforgiven' being given the Samurai treatment here.

The story is the same; Ken Watanabe plays Jubei who has gone into hiding after the close of the Shogun era, but comes out for the reward offered by a group of prostitutes. 'But the plot is just a framework on which director Lee Sang-il and his scriptwriters hang many fascinating ideas: about the country's treatment of its indigenous Ainu people, about the shift from feudalism to 'freedom', and of course – as with any great western – about the rules and ramifications of violence. Unexpectedly brilliant' - Tom Huddleston, Time Out.

September

- Sunday 14th 5pm **The Past**
France (12A) Ahmed finds more than he expected in Paris
- Sunday 21st 5pm **Omar**
Palestine, (15) Love and terrorism in Palestine
- Sunday 28th 5pm **The Lunchbox**
India, (PG) A novel way to meet people

October

- Sunday 5th 5pm **Three Hours**
Germany, (NC) ...to choose; love or saving Africa?
- Sunday 12th 2pm **Next Goal Wins** Includes Q&A with directors
Samoa, (15) What to do with the worst team in the world?
- Sunday 12th 5pm **Here and Now** Includes Q&A with director & star
England, (12A) Urban girl meets country boy
- Sunday 19th 5pm **Ilo Ilo**
Singapore, (12A) A family feuds over bad boy and nanny
- Sunday 26th 5pm **Under the Skin**
Scotland, (15) Scarlett Johansson getting other-wordly

November

- Sunday 2nd 5pm **The Keeper of Lost Causes**
Denmark, (15) An old murder is re-investigated in this Danish thriller
- Sunday 9th 5pm **Beyond the Edge in 3D at Rheged**
Nepal, (PG) On top of the world in 3D
- Sunday 16th 5pm **Pluto**
S Korea, (15) Life can get very nasty in this Korean school
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **Of Horses and Men**
Iceland, (PG) A horse-eye view of love in Iceland
- Sunday 30th 5pm **Miss Violence**
Greece, (18) Why would an eleven year old commit suicide?

December

- Sunday 7th 5pm **Dallas Buyers Club**
America, (15) Maverick cowboy sets out to cure himself of AIDS
- Sunday 14th 5pm **Ida**
Poland, (PG) A young nun-to-be discovers her past life
- Sunday 21st 5pm **Unforgiven**
Japan, (15) 'Go ahead, Samurai, remake my film...'



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