

Keswick Film Spring 2017



**Alternative Films
from Around the World
Every Sunday**

Celebrating our 1000th film!

18th Keswick Film Festival

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, Best Website and Film Society of the Year. Anyone can come to a film, and we have over 200 members who benefit from even cheaper viewings.

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.

Email us at info@keswickfilmclub.org

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

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

Spring Programme 2017

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: £5.00 for non members; £4.00 for members; £3.00 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: £35 (Spring season 2017)

Membership also entitles attendance of Caldbeck Area Film Society and Brampton Film Club at members' rates and vice versa.

You are very welcome to all shows, whether you join or not.

COMMITTEE

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

Vice Chair: David Miller Secretary: David Andrews

Treasurer: Astrid Perrett Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne

Committee Members: Ian Payne (Festival Co-ordinator), Ann Martin, Stephen Brown, Angela Jackson, Alan Naylor, Charlotte Peters, Stephen Pye, Tom Rennie, Mike Newns, John Porter

Keswick Film Club is a voluntarily-run, not-for-profit organisation

Registered Charity No. 1083395

Sunday 8th January at 5pm

HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE

Director: Taika Waititi. New Zealand 2016 (12A) 101 mins.
In English.



I always tell people that there is no such thing as a movie everyone will like but maybe this is the exception that proves the rule. We start the season with the small movie that has somehow swept the world.

Ricky is a troubled and troubling young orphan who has finally nowhere left to be fostered but by a couple living in the middle of nowhere. Bella takes him in, Hec wants nothing to do with him. Trouble soon strikes again, and Ricky goes off into the bush to hide, where Hec tracks him down. But... the world sets out on a massive manhunt to track the two down and they are forced to flee...

What follows is a road movie with no roads; part comedy, part buddy movie, part coming of age, the two wise crack their way through the film, winning each other over, and us along with them.

Sam Neill plays Hec, but it is Ricky, played by Julian Dennison, who steals the show. *'There's brilliant chemistry between Dennison and Neill, the pair quite obviously bouncing off each other; a joy to watch on screen, and as the story progresses you begin to feel like a member of their special pack, gleefully part of the ad-*

venture' – Jack Shepherd, Independent.

AND we get to go on a tramp in the amazing Kiwi bush...how lucky can we get?



Sunday 15th January at 5pm

CHOCOLAT

Director: Roschdy Zem. France 2016 (12A) 119 mins.
In French with English subtitles.



An oppressed black man arrives in Europe to be met by persecution, humiliation and prejudice; a story of our time? Well, in this case, no: a story from the late 19th century. The more things change, the more they stay the same...

Chocolat (Rafael Padilla) was an ex-slave from Cuba who made his way to France via Spain. Doing odd jobs, he meets an English clown, George Footit, who takes him on and they develop the classic slapstick clown routine, with the 'edge' that it is the white man chasing the hapless black fool around. Chocolat went on to be very famous in France, but was never happy with his stereotypical role and fell into bad ways...

Taking the main role here is the marvellous Omar Sy (who we saw in *'Untouchable'* in 2012): *'a man with enough charisma to power the city of lights single-handed, beguiles as half of a Parisian clown act learning the prejudices of his time'* - Phil Hoad, Guardian. You will also recognise James Thierrée who plays Footit - he is Charlie Chaplin's grandson and both looks and moves like him.

So expect lots of clowning around, mixed with some thought-provoking racial politics all held together by some great acting; what's not to like?!



Sunday 22nd January at 5.00pm

THE GOVERNESS

KESWICK FILM CLUB'S 1000TH FILM!

Director: Sandra Goldbacher. UK 1998 (15, F) 115 mins.



Keswick Film Club started showing alternative films back in February 1999 and (ignoring possible counting errors...) tonight is the **1000th film** we have shown! To celebrate this amazing feat, we decided to show the first film again. *'The Governess'* was first shown on 7th February 1999; thanks to all the volunteers and to Tom Rennie and the Alhambra we are still going strong in 2017; here's to the next 1000 films together! Maybe you were at the first? Have you been coming along ever since? Why not let us have any special memories you have?

Set in the 1840s, Minnie Driver plays Rosina in the title role; she has been brought up in a London Sephardic Jewish community but, on the death of her father has to find a job to support her family. She obtains the post of governess to a young girl on a tiny Scottish island, changing her name to Mary to avoid anti-Semitism. The father (Tom Wilkinson) - who spends every possible moment avoiding his wife with his photography hobby - begins to spend time with Mary, whilst his teenage son (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) falls hook line and sinker for her...

I will leave it to one of our favourite critics over the years - Roger Ebert - to summarise the result: *'Photography provides the counterpoint: their dance of attraction begins at arm's length, through the pictures they take of each other. The claustrophobic, isolated Victorian household is a stage on which every nuance, however small, is noticed. And there are rich underlying ironies, not least that by denying their assigned places in society (he as a husband, she as a Jew), they are able for a time to function freely just as two people happy to be together in mind and body'*.

Sunday 29th January at 5.00pm

THE FENCER (Miekkailija)

Director: Klaus Härö. Finland/Estonia 2015 (PG) 99 mins.
In Estonian, Russian and Armenian with English subtitles.



Hidden in this movie about a champion fencer on the run from the secret service in Leningrad in the 1950s, *'Director Klaus Haro brings to light the terrible injustices faced by Estonians conscripted by the Nazi invaders during the Second World War and who are then hunted down by the secret police when the Soviets assume control'* – Trevor Johnston, Radio Times. Endel is hiding in plain sight by taking a job as a PE teacher in a poor, far-flung corner of Estonia. His teaching skills and empathy with his young charges result in some fine would-be fencers, who then want to take part in a competition...in Leningrad.



Härö gets much praise for the way he takes a simple story and builds in the tension, with the help of some good acting all round and some beautiful cinematography - *'The film looks beautiful, too, with bleak, undersaturated landscapes and simple, austere photography establishing a distinct sense of time and place'* - David Clack, Time Out.

Sunday 5th February at 5pm

LIGHT YEARS

Director: Esther Campbell. UK 2015 (12A, F) 89 mins.



This is director Esther Campbell's first feature film and she is already getting compared to the likes of Andrea Arnold, Jane Campion and even Terrence Mallick. A very British film in its social realism, she takes us into the poetic with her use of *'extraordinary images'* - Mick MacCahill, Guardian. **Esther will be with us for a Q & A after the film.**

The story is that of a family split apart by the mental illness of the mother (played by singer-songwriter Beth Orton, to high praise). The children all react in different ways when the father (Muhammet Uzuner, *'Once Upon a time in Anatolia'*) lets them down; Rose goes looking for her Mum, Ewan searches his own self for signs of his mother's illness while Ramona waits for a love as beautiful as her parents had.

'Campbell has obvious trust in her young cast and her own ability to turn everyday settings into a landscape of verdant mystery and imagination' - Trevor Johnston, Radio Times.



Sunday 12th February at 5pm

SIERANAVADA

Director: Cristi Puiu. Romania 2016 (NC) 173 mins.
In Romanian with English subtitles.



Romanian directors have made their mark on the international film scene in the last 10 or 15 years and Cristi Puiu is arguably one of the most influential of these. Starting with *'Stuff and Dough'* in 2001, *'The Death of Mr Lazarescu'* (which we showed here in 2005) through *'Aurora'* in 2010, he has remained controversial. This, his latest film, has now garnered him a nomination for Palme d'Or at Cannes this year.

Set almost entirely inside an apartment where friends and relations are gathered for an event that is at first not explained; only gradually do we work it out for ourselves. In fact, this is Puiu's technique for the whole film - he leaves it to us to decide.

'Puiu offers a talky masterclass in seemingly effortless choreography, moving between characters and among conversations about Communism; 9/11 conspiracies; the Charlie Hebdo murders (which have taken place three days before); the 'junkie' who someone brings with them; food; one ageing man's infidelities; and more' - Dave Calhoun, Time Out.

'As time passes, Puiu is confirming himself as one of the most truly distinctive (and philosophically fascinating) voices of 21st-century filmmaking; in his singularly thoughtful approach to cinematic realism, he is at once rigorous and quietly radical' - Geoff Andrew, Sight & Sound.



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This promises to be one of those films we will be discussing for long afterwards...

The 18th Keswick Film Festival

16th February - 19th February 2017

We come to the exciting weekend of films that for the last 17 years has become a fixture in Keswick's Festival season. Based at the 100 year old Alhambra Cinema and the Keswick Theatre by the Lake plus a day at Rheged's huge screen, there are going to be films for all to see.

This has been a fantastic year for independent cinema and KFF18 will present the films that have been impressing in Toronto, Cannes, Berlin and New York. The latest works from some of KFF's favourite directors, including Andrea Arnold, The Dardennes brothers and Asghar Farhadi, will be undoubted highlights. Add to that a new Critics' Award, challenging documentaries hosted by Keswick Peace and Human Rights Group, The Ospreys and some rather special guests, it means that Keswick will be the place to be in February.

Register on our website for regular news from now till February.

www.keswickfilmfestival.org



Or follow us on Facebook or Twitter



Tickets and passes are available now from

THEATRE BY THE LAKE
Open 9.30am to 8pm daily

017687 74411

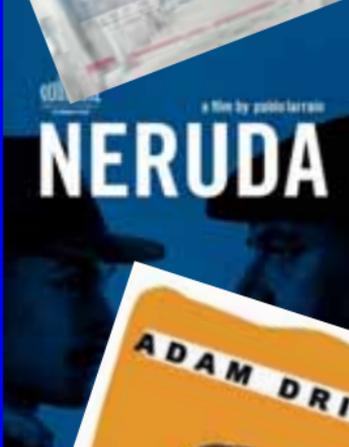
or buy online from the Theatre website via

www.keswickfilmfestival.org



2017 Keswick Film Festival

Just a few of the many films to see!



Sunday 26th February at 5pm

UNDER THE SHADOW

Director: Babak Anvari. UK, Qatar & Jordan 2016 (15, F) 84 mins.
In Persian with English subtitles.



Looking for new things to tempt you with this year, we found this 'chiller' outside our normal scope. Written and directed by an Iranian in exile, it unfolds from a feminist 'cry of anger' into a much weirder 'things that go bump in the night' horror movie: expect to see much about the problems of life for a lone mother and her daughter in post-revolution Iran... then expect the unexpected...

Shideh has been banned from becoming a doctor as a leftist - her husband is not sympathetic: she is a woman after all. He is sent to the front and she is left to look after her daughter in war-torn Tehran, forced to wear chador in the street and steadily losing all freedoms (she watches Jane Fonda workout videos behind closed blinds).

As life gets harder and harder for them, a bomb falls on their apartment block; but has something else arrived with it? Sleep-deprived Shideh gets more and more exhausted. We are gradually taken from the horrors of the world of war and male domination into an equally scary world of djinns and poltergeists. *'It is impossible to know what is real and what is not, what is a result of Shideh's exhaustion and what is a valid response to living in a war zone'* - Sheila O'Malley, Roger Ebert.com.

What makes this film more believable than many straight horror movies is this basis in an already awful reality; it *'offers itself up as an allegory of a nation left permanently damaged by the ravages of its own religio-political transformation'*, as Anton Bitel says on Projected Figures.com.

'As for special effects, did you honestly doubt that peeling duct tape and a sheet of printed fabric, if handled with imaginative brio, could be as frightening as any ten-million-dollar monster?' *O ye of little faith'* - Antony Lane, New Yorker

Sunday 5th March at 5pm

TRAIN DRIVER'S DIARY (Dnevnik masinovodje)

Director: Milos Radovic. Serbia 2016 (NC) 85 mins.

In Serbian with English subtitles.



A story of a train driver bringing up his adoptive son Sima whilst dealing with suicides and accidental deaths on his trains: believe it or not, this is more a comedy than anything. If I tell you that a train driver might inadvertently kill 20 or 30 people in a career, it could get even harder to believe, but writer/director Milos Radovic has *'produced a touching portrayal of a life we struggle to comprehend, whilst striking an incredibly funny tone to match the coping mechanisms of the real life subjects of the story. As a film to simply enjoy, it is near faultless'* - James Baxter-Derrington, The Panoptic.

The film starts with train driver Illija explaining to his counsellor how he has coped with one particular incident where he has killed six gypsies. Even watching this with no subtitles made me want to laugh; actor Lazar Ristovski, who plays Illija, manages to look a lot like John Cleese as he explains what happened!

I don't want you to think this is a heartless comedy romp, however. The bulk of the story tries to show how hard it is for drivers to deal with these events, with Illija doing his best to prevent Sima from becoming a driver like him. As the Raindance Festival reviewer puts it, *'The film has a very difficult balance to maintain between being able to discuss suicide, accidental killing, and trauma in a sincere, but funny manner, and simply making light of these issues. It never fails to fall on the right side of this divide...Milos Radovic triumphs with this must-see sensitive, funny and heart warming portrayal of the psychology of innocent murderers'*.



Sunday 12th March at 5pm

THE BLACK HEN (Kalo Pothi)

Director: Min Bahadur Bham. Nepal 2015 (12A) 90 mins.
In Nepali with English subtitles.



'In a remote Nepalese village, Prakash and Kiran, two 12-year-olds, who despite belonging to different castes, are inseparable best mates. They decide on a plan to raise a hen to earn some money by selling its eggs. Their new business venture seems to be working, but as times get hard, Prakash's father sells off all his chickens including the boy's hen. Prakash and Kiran find out that their hen has been sold to an old man many villages away and set out on an adventure to liberate their prized fowl. However, in their single-minded obsession, the youngsters are oblivious to the growing civil war brewing in the region and they soon find themselves travelling through some very dangerous territory, where their friendship will be put to the test' - from the London Indian Film Festival.

Director Min Bahadur Bham was the first Nepali director to have a film presented at the Venice Film Festival - his 2012 short *'The Flute'*. In *'The Black Hen'*, his first full feature film, he brings alive his own childhood in eastern Nepal. Drawing incidents and stories from his own life, he shows harsh lives unravelling in a devastated land, with a deft combination of humour and tragedy. This film, too, won Best Film at the critics' week in Venice and was the Nepalese choice for Best Foreign



Film at the Oscars. Like *'The Crow's Nest'* last year, we expect *'The Black Hen'* to bring a couple of likable young lads to our screen, but this one should have a lot more added bite with the background of the civil war.

Sunday 19th March at 5pm

THE HANDMAIDEN (Ah-ga-ssi)

Director: Chan-wook Park. S Korea 2015 (NC, F) 144 mins.
In Korean and Japanese with English subtitles.



Prepare yourself for a feast - a feast of sumptuous beauty, of tricks and cons, of twisting loyalties and, yes, of sensual pleasure. Chan-wook Park, until now known for quasi-horror movies like *'Oldboy'* (Festival 2005), has produced this *'lush, romantic, crowd-pleasing melodrama'* - David Edelstein, New York Magazine - adapted from Sarah Waters' novel *'Fingersmith'*. The difference is that she set it in Victorian England, he has moved it to Korea in the 1930s, when Korea was under Japanese rule - everyone is pretending to be Japanese to get on, which gives us the backdrop to the film.

Sookee is hired by Count Fujiwara to be the handmaiden to the woman he is trying to marry, Hideko...but Fujiwara is a Korean con-man, not a Japanese Count, trying to steal Hideko's money and Sookee's past is a lot different from what she pretends. To add to the mystery, she and Hideko begin to fall in love ...

The film is told in three 'chapters', each from a different viewpoint, with the plot getting more involved as we go: *'It's when the twists began and then the twists on the twists that I started to get excited'* - David Edelstein again.

A beautiful, clever thriller, then, with added sensual excitement (you have been warned!); as Tom Huddleston says in Time Out, *'this is smart, sumptuous and wonderfully indulgent, best watched on a wet Sunday with an entire box of chocolates'*. Keswick will, no doubt, handle the weather, you bring the chocolates...

Sunday 26th March at 5pm

THE WHITE KING

Directors: Alex Helfrecht & Jörg Tittel. UK & Hungary 2016 (12A)
89 mins. In English.



Our last film of the year was premiered at the Edinburgh Festival in 2016 and brings together a large cast of stars including Jonathan Pryce, Agyness Deyn and Greta Scacchi (fresh from our festival in February). The main star is Lorenzo Allchurch, who plays 12 year old Djata, and appears in virtually every scene - to great reviews from the critics.

An unnamed dystopian country in the near future. The country is covered everywhere by CCTV and posters advocating civic duty - "DUTY", "SERVE". We follow Djata as he deals with the disappearance of his father, supposedly taken for a work assignment, but we know better... Djata's school life is effectively a military academy, whilst out of school he and his friends try to deal with a couple of adult bullies. *'Essentially refracting Orwell's 1984 through the eyes of a 12-year-old boy, the film succeeds best at evoking its sinister, hermetic world, as young Djata deals with the absence of his political prisoner father'* - Charles Gant, Screen International.



And so we end another year of films in Keswick. We hope you have enjoyed them and that we see you again in September when we start again. Have a great summer!

January

- Sunday 8th 5pm **Hunt for the Wilderpeople**
New Zealand, (12A) Man and boy on the run in the Kiwi bush
- Sunday 15th 5pm **Chocolat**
France, (12A) The first black clown in France
- Sunday 22nd 5pm **The Governess**
UK, (15,F) Our first film...1000 films later!
- Sunday 29th 5pm **The Fencer**
Finland, (PG) Hiding from the authorities as a PE teacher

February

- Sunday 5th 5pm **Light Years includes Q&A with director**
UK, (12A, F) 3 children try to survive their mother's illness
- Sunday 12th 5pm **Sieranevada**
Romania, (NC) Family and friends gather in an apartment

Thursday 16th February - Sunday 19th February

18th KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL



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- Sunday 26th 5pm **Under the Shadow**
Qatar, (15, F) Is it just a bomb that has fallen on their home..?

March

- Sunday 5th 5pm **Train Driver's Diary**
Serbia, (NC) Tragi-comic look at the life of a train driver
- Sunday 12th 5pm **The Black Hen**
Nepal, (12A) Two young boys search for their lost hen
- Sunday 19th 5pm **The Handmaiden**
S Korea, (NC, F) ..the Count, the conman, his wife-to-be, & the lovers...
- Sunday 26th 5pm **The White King**
UK, (12A) Boy's-eye view of Orwellian 1984-like state

Note: F Rated films denote significant female involvement - director, writer or actor

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