

Keswick Film

January - March 2020



Now in our 21st Year!

The Best of World Cinema
Every Sunday

21st Keswick Film Festival



Keswick Film
at the
Alhambra
St John's Street
Keswick



www.keswickfilmclub.org

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Keswick Film Club comes of Age!

Keswick Film Club enters its 21st year! You might ask 'What is the point of a film club?' Our club began life in 1998 with the simple intention of trying to bring films to Keswick on Sunday nights that would not be shown otherwise; foreign movies, some by first-time directors and, yes, even some arty ones. The idea of a film festival started the following year. The popularity of the films made the programmers more adventurous, expanding their choices to the best of World Cinema: by 2004, 'Whale Rider' (from New Zealand) brought in an audience of 241. The festival, meanwhile, had become an annual event, showing films at both the Alhambra and Theatre by the Lake, where 'March of the Penguins' (from France) showed to 256 people in 2006.

We have continued showing the best of World Cinema to this day, regularly getting well over 100 people to our most popular films (but happy to show more obscure films to small audiences on occasion!) and recently still equalling those early numbers: 241 people crammed themselves into the Alhambra to see 'Edie' in 2018, whilst we had more than 150 people at three Sunday films last year.

And it isn't just you that like the Club! Along the way we have won many awards from the British Federation of Film Societies (now 'Cinema for All') including **Best Programme** four times, **Best Website** and even **Film Society of the Year**.

The Club also prides itself on being friendly so why not come along and give us a try? You may not enjoy every film we show, but we are sure you will enjoy a lot of them. There is no need to join, just come along and see for yourself!



*We really hope to see you one Sunday night.
There will always be one of us in the foyer waiting to greet you - why not pop in and say hello?*

*Vaughan Ames
club chair*

COMMITTEE 2019

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

Vice Chair: David Miller Secretary: Roger Gook

Treasurer: Paul Titley Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne

Committee Members: Ian Payne (Festival Co-ordinator), Ann Martin, Stephen Brown (Webmaster), Angela Jackson, Alan Naylor, Stephen Pye, Tom Rennie, Mike News, Nicki Baker

Where are these films shown?

We are very lucky to be able to show both the Club and the Festival films in the (newly decorated!) Alhambra Cinema. Walk from the Market Square at the south end (by The Royal Oak) and keep going up St. John's Street for 200 metres until you see the Alhambra on your right. Now over a century old, the Alhambra is a 'must-see' in its own right!

When are these films shown?

Most Club films are screened on Sundays at 5pm, but check in this brochure: there are two Club 'seasons', each with its own brochure, available in and around Keswick (e.g. Library & Booths).

The **21st Keswick Film Festival** is from **27 February 2020 to 1 March 2020**.

For more information **Email** us - info@keswickfilmclub.org or see our award-winning **website** - www.keswickfilmclub.org.

You can follow us on **Facebook** - Keswickfilm
or **Twitter** - @keswickfilm.

We even have a weekly email - see our website to signup.

How much will it cost?

Not only do we bring you these great films from around the world, but they won't cost you the Earth either! Even if you do not want to join, it will only cost you £6.50 to see a film - or only £3.00 for students, under 16s and benefit claimants.

...and what if I join the Film Club?

Then the real savings start! For £10 per year, you get:-

- A reduction of £1.50 on all Club screenings (to £5)
- £1 off Film Festival screenings
- £2.50 off a Friend of the Alhambra Card (to £10 - which then saves you £2 on most films you can see there)
- The option to buy Season passes: the spring pass this year will get you in to all 12 films for £40
- To attend Caldbeck Area Film Society and Brampton Film Club at members' rates and vice versa
- A copy of this brochure posted to you each season
- A copy of 'Talking Pictures', our members' newsletter

Join at The Alhambra Cinema at any club screening. A membership form is available from our website or at the cinema. Post your application to the membership secretary at 10 Briar Bank, Cockermouth, CA13 9DL.

Can I help run the Film Club?

We are always looking for extra help, both for the club and the festival. Just see us after a film, or email us and we'll get back to you. Thank you in advance!

Sunday 5th January at 5pm
LA BELLE EPOQUE

Director: Nicholas Bedos. France 2019 (15) 1hr 55min.
In French with English subtitles.

We have always tried to start a new season with something not too heavy, ideally comedic as well, which often leads us to France: this year is no exception. What better than a French comedy that also stars Daniel Auteuil and Fanny Ardant?



We join Victor and his wife Marianne having an evening out in *La belle époque*, courtesy of Time Travellers - 'a company run by his son's best friend Antoine. In a variation on *West-world*, the company use movie sets and actors to construct elaborate fictions for wealthy clients'- Alan Hunter, Screen-Daily. Later, when Marianne throws Victor out, he decides to 'go back in time' again, this time to 1974, the year he first met Marianne. With a well-researched and rehearsed team, they allow him to revisit his best year and fall in love with Marianne all over again...or is he just falling for the actor playing Marianne..?

Director Bedos 'successfully jumps through the many creative hoops he sets and in the process pulls off the most thoroughly entertaining big-screen French farce in a very long time, one that's both classical and modern; he uses all the old tropes but convincingly adorns them with up-to-the-minute attitudinal and technological trappings.

The director also gets immaculate work from his players, beginning with the superb old pros Auteuil and Ardant, who display the energy of players half their age and effortlessly layer the film with a veneer of Gallic knowingness and sophistication' - Todd McCarthy, Hollywood Reporter. Sounds like a good start to the season to us!



Sunday 12th January at 5pm

MARRIAGE STORY

Director: Noah Baumbach. USA 2019 (15) 2hr 16min. In English.



As I write this, *'Marriage Story'* has won four awards at the Gothams, usually a good guide to which films are frontrunners for the Oscars. Directed by Noah Baumbach (*'The Squid and the Whale'*, *'Francis Ha'*, *'The Meyerwitz Stories'*) with many big stars including Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver and Laura Dern, this may be no surprise to us.

As you may have guessed from the title, this is a story about a marriage between Nora (Johansson) and Charlie (Driver), but one that is breaking up; played in flashbacks from an idyllic relationship to where Nora says *'it's about to become "a street fight", in which legality trumps love and "genius" becomes an "asset", the spoils of which must be divided equally'* - Mark Kermode, Guardian. Their child is at the centre of the row, especially as Nora has moved to Los Angeles from New York, and their lawyers are making it worse...

All the actors get good reviews, especially the pairing of Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver.

The end result might well bring to mind *'Kramer v Kramer'* (for the divorce scenes) or even *'Annie Hall'* (for the humour), but, as Mark Kermode goes on to say, *'this often hilarious heartbreaker is simply Baumbach's best film to date – insightful, sympathetic and rather beautifully bewildered'*.

This is the first of two Netflix films we have been able to get this year, which is a talking point in its own right. See you there!



Sunday 19th January at 5pm
CORPUS CHRISTI (Boze Cialo)



Director: Jan Komasa. Poland 2019 (15) 1hr 55min.
In Polish with English subtitles.



Whilst in juvenile detention, Daniel is drawn to religion and thinks about joining a seminary. This proves impossible because of his criminal record, whereupon he travels to a small rural town to take up a job in a sawmill once he is paroled. *'A little grey lie lets him take the identity of the young new priest, Tomasz, that the town is expecting, and soon Daniel is performing mass and hearing confessions while the older resident curate dries out in rehab for a while'* - Leslie Feferin, Guardian - *'The plot takes an interesting turn when Daniel learns that a tragic road accident has traumatised the community, and he discovers an unexpected skill at pastoral care as he tries to help heal the damaged psyches of the bereaved – many of them barely younger than himself'*.

So far, so good, but, as Jennie Kermodé says in Eye for Film, *'It's when he begins to wing it - to speak from the heart - that he discovers he really has something to give, and the realisation that he's actually helping people prompts him to reassess his own potential... An intelligent and provocative film which alternately charms and unsettles, Corpus Christi is Poland's entry for the 2020 Best Foreign Language Oscar. It's a small town drama with much bigger connotations and it thoroughly deserves its place on the world stage'*.



Sunday 26th January at 5.30pm

A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD TO FIND

Director: Abner Pastoll. UK 2019 (18) 1hr 37min. In English.



Hold on to the edge of your seat; tonight we are off for this Season's gritty crime drama. Her husband is dead and the police won't believe it was murder; her son has gone totally mute since he died; she is living in poverty in Belfast and her mother looks down on her plight as 'the wrong life choices'. What more can go wrong for Sarah Collins?

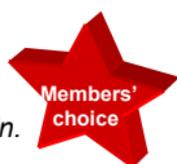
Well, it hasn't even started yet. When a loser drug dealer breaks in to her home and insists on hiding some drugs there, 'just for five days', it might not have been too bad, but he has stolen them from a big-time drug lord...who wants them back... 'Sarah reacts against criminals, she's patronised, ignored, irritated and hit on by almost everyone – a supermarket security guard who takes her for a hooker, a social worker who assumes a broken window must be her fault, police more interested in a noise complaint than a killing, and her endlessly disappointed mother' - Kim Newman, Sight & Sound.

Sarah is forced to go from frightened, grief-stricken widow, put upon by an uncaring system, to protective parent, to gun-toting film noir blonde.

Some great acting holds the plot together - 'Sarah Bolger makes a slightly implausible character arc completely convincing, graduating from panicky improvisation to grim determination [ably supported by] Edward Hogg, as the teeth-baring Mancunian crime boss prone to discoursing on the correct use of metaphor [who] confirms his standing as a sorely underused asset of the UK film industry' - Phil Hoad, Guardian.



Sunday 2nd February at 5pm
NON-FICTION (Doubles vies)



Director: Olivier Assayas. France 2018 (15) 1hr 48min.
In French with English subtitles.

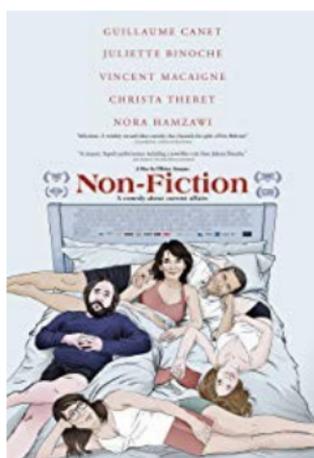


Another French comedy to keep you cheerful, this time with just about everyone having a 'double life'; most are having affairs, one man is writing books about it whilst his lover's husband is publishing them. To add to the mix, some great acting including Juliette Binoche; what more can you want on a winter's evening?!

It being a French film, we can offer much clever talk too; it being an Olivier Assayas film, we can also offer depth - *'What sets Assayas apart from some of his critically adored contemporaries is that his films aren't just formally elegant; they're brimming with ideas. In 'Non-Fiction', as in much of his work, he celebrates France - the seductive beauty and richness of its culture - even as he pokes, prods and challenges it. He sees possibility in an increasingly interconnected world (his own movies, with their international casts and multilingualism, are themselves a product of that interconnectedness). He also sees loss, humour and absurdity. France is a country known for struggling with change. Part of Assayas' greatness as a filmmaker is his ability to make that struggle look so deeply human'* - Jon Frosch, Hollywood Reporter.

So what is it all about..? Alain has always published Leonard's 'autofiction' books; until now. They disagree on most things. Meanwhile Alain's wife Selena has been having an affair with Leonard for years, whilst Leonard's wife is too busy saving the world to care. While all this is going on, Alain wants to modernise, so he has hired Laure to bring his firm into the digital age...and you can guess what else they share.

A French farce, sort of, but with lots to make you think about too...What fun!



Sunday 9th February at 5pm

SONS OF DENMARK (Danmarks sønner)

Director: Ulaa Salim. Denmark 2019 (15) 2hr 3min.

In Danish and Arabic with English subtitles.



'Shakespeare famously proclaims in Hamlet: "There is something rotten in the state of Denmark". In 'Sons of Denmark' something is indeed very rotten in the Scandinavian country.

This superb Danish movie operates like a police thriller mixed with politics, and it raises many urgent questions. Those who like Scandi-noir will enjoy the twists and turns of the plot, accompanied effectively by the score of Mozart's Requiem' - Michael McClure, DMovies.

It is 2025, Denmark. A year ago, a terrorist bomb has killed 23 people in Copenhagen. In the wake of this, the National Movement Party, lead by Martin Nordahl, is tipped to win the election with an openly fascist agenda. Many fear this, including the immigrant population.

In the first half of the film, we concentrate on Zakaria, a young Muslim, who wants to do something about this. He is recruited by a militant Islamic Group. In the second half, we see the view of Ali, who is lead to believe "he will be fine" if Nordahl comes to power...

As John Parker John asks in Entertainment Focus - *'Ulaa Salim's feature directorial debut, 'Sons of Denmark' explores the complex subject of radicalization in this blisteringly relevant and pulsating thriller. Set in an alternative version of Denmark, dealing with extremely topical and provocative material, the film holds a mirror up to contemporary Europe (and America) and basically asks the question: do you like what you see?'* A provocative film, then, which tries to show us the dangers of complacency.



Sunday 16th February at 5pm

BAIT

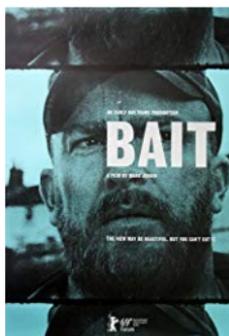


Director: Mark Jenkin. UK 2019 (15) 1hr 29min. In English.



A local pub, for local people...well, no more. The tourists are taking over this Cornish village and the fishermen are losing out. Do they give in and make money from the tourist trade, or try to soldier on with what little

fish they are allowed to catch? "Bait" is both an impassioned paean to Cornwall's proud past, and a bracingly tragicomic portrait of its troubled present and possible future. It's a genuine modern masterpiece, which establishes Jenkin as one of the most arresting and intriguing British film-makers of his generation... [it] looks set to become one of the defining British films of the year, perhaps the decade' - Mark Kermode, Guardian.



Sunday 23rd February at 5pm

THE TWO POPES

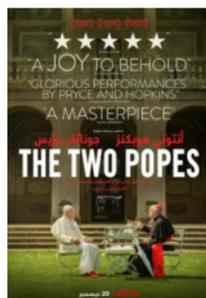
Director: Fernando Meirelles. UK/Italy 2019 (12A) 2hr 5min. In Latin, English and others with English subtitles.



If I tell you this is basically a dialogue between Pope Benedict and (soon to be) Pope Francis you might expect some weighty discussions...but would you expect comedy? If I tell you they are played by Anthony Hopkins and Jonathan Pryce, you will expect some great acting.

All of this is true here: 'Fernando Meirelles' film deftly pulls off the knotty challenge of dealing lightly with complex dynamics and weighty themes, all delivered by pitch-perfect performances from two veteran British thespians. Funny, engrossing and thoughtful, the result is Meirelles' most entertaining and watchable film since 'City Of God' - Ian Freer, Empire.

Netflix have finally realised they have to allow their films to show in real cinemas so come and along and enjoy this one while we can!



The 21st Keswick Film Festival

27th February - 1st March 2019

Welcome to Keswick Film Festival

The programme takes us across the globe, with outstanding films from Europe, across Asia, South America and the USA.

Maintaining our tradition of the last 20 years we have a mix of films that challenge and inform, that will make you laugh and make you cry and take you from the edge of your seat to the very, very back.

Add in the Osprey short film awards and the amazing talent to be seen in the showcase of our local Arts students, Keswick is the place to be this spring.

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



2020 Keswick Film Festival

Just a few of the many films to see!



First show for 50 years!

Dance of the Seven Veils



Sunday 8th March at 5pm

THE THIRD WIFE

Director: Ash Mayfair. Vietnam. 2018 (15, F) 1hr 36min.
In Vietnamese with English subtitles.



A very beautiful film about a forbidden topic; a young girl, May, taken as Hung's third wife, after Ha and Xuan, finds herself having to compete to exist.

'In May and in Ha and Xuan, there are all the women and girls of the past who've been ignored, abused, forced into competition with one another, made to endure a degradation of spirit and a commodification of body so complete it should have resulted in their annihilation... But with 'The Third Wife' new talent Mayfair reclaims just a few of those silvery strands from the neglect of history and weaves them into a film so sensuous we can lose ourselves in it, but so vividly real we might also be able to find ourselves there' - Jessica Kiang, Variety.



Sunday 15th March at 4.30pm

A HIDDEN LIFE

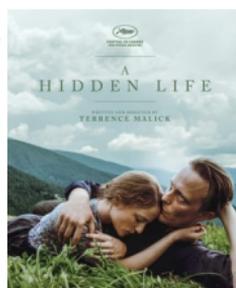
Director: Terrence Malick. USA. 2019 (NA) 2hr 53min.
In English and some German with English subtitles.



Terrence Malick is back to his best: *'A Hidden Life' is a lucid and profoundly defiant portrait of faith in crisis. It's an intimate epic about the immense strength required for resistance, and the*

courage that it takes for one to hold fast to their virtue during a crisis of faith, and in a world that may never reward them for it. It is, without question, the best thing that Malick has made since 'The Tree of Life' - David Ehrlich, IndieWire.

So we can expect his usual soul-searching, his usual beautiful scenery. This one is *'... inspired by a life that is little-known - hidden, perhaps. Franz Jägerstetter was an Austrian conscientious objector during the second world war who made a personal stand for his anti-Nazi beliefs by refusing to take the Hitler oath as a Wehrmacht conscript'* - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.



Sunday 22nd March at 5pm

BACURAU

Directors: Juliano Dornelles & Kleber Mendonça Filho. Brazil 2019 (18) 2hr 11min. In Portuguese with English subtitles.

Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes, this feels like a Sergio Leone western...on steroids. 'Set deep in the north-eastern Sertão - the Brazilian outback - it mashes up many themes and influences, but is chiefly a scream of satirical defiance against new president Jair Bolsonaro, the far-right globaliser who made his international statesman debut at Davos last year, famously promising to make the country more open to foreign trade. This movie's closing credits pointedly note that the production created 800 jobs' - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.



Teresa gets a ride in a water truck to her grandmother's funeral; Bacurau is in dispute with the authorities and needs the water. As if this and the funeral aren't enough for the tight-knit community, there is a bunch of foreigners holed up nearby, armed to the teeth with hi-tech gear. And then the village disappears off GPS systems, and their mobile phones stop working...

The film deliberately switches genres, going from tragedy to comedy to action drama and, yes, do expect some blood. As Peter Bradshaw finishes, 'It is a really strange film, beginning in a kind of ethno-anthropology and documentary style, becoming a poisoned-herd parable or fever dream and then a Jacobean-style bloodbath. It is an utterly distinctive film-making, executed with ruthless clarity and force'.

And to quote one of our programme team who went to see it, 'It is just brilliant'. I'll go with that!



Sunday 22nd March at 5pm
THE TRUTH (La vérité)



Director: Hirokazu Koreeda. France 2019 (PG) 1hr 46min.
In French and English with English subtitles.



What a great way to finish our year! The opener at Venice Festival, directed by one of Keswicks favourites Hirokazu Koreeda (*'Koreeda has proved himself to be a master of the slow-build human drama, a conjurer of small details that bed down and take root until his pictures burst into flower like a late cherry blossom'* - Xan Brooks, Guardian) trying out his first film outside Japan; starring Catherine Deneuve (*'[she] comes heaving through every scene like some formidable gunship, wreathed in cigarette smoke, running on scotch and all but scattering the supporting cast'*) and Juliette Binoche (a second helping from her this season) with Ethan Hawke thrown in for good measure. Wow!

Deneuve plays Fabienne, an aging diva (good casting there then) who has just written an autobiography called "The Truth", though there appears to be little truth in it that her daughter Lumir can discover. When Fabienne takes on a mother role in a film which also rings bells for Lumir, we have the plot for a disturbed family - just the job for Koreeda!

If Koreeda's 'Shoplifters' was about discarded people coming together to form a family, perhaps 'The Truth' is the opposite, where flesh-and-blood relations have to figure out how to forgive, or at least to understand, each other. Even working in another language and on another continent, he once again captures the intricacies of the human condition' - Alonso Duralde, The Wrap.

We hope you have enjoyed our 21st year and look forward to seeing you again in September. Have a great summer!



January

- Sunday 5th 5pm **La Belle Epoque**
France, (15) Going back in time to relive his love...or is he?
- Sunday 12th 5pm **Marriage Story**
USA, (15) The story of, well, a marriage. But one going wrong
- Sunday 19th 5pm **Corpus Christi**
Poland, (15) Untrained priest, but will he turn out to be good?
- Sunday 26th 5pm **A Good Woman is Hard to Find**
UK, (18) A mother is forced to fight for her life

February

- Sunday 2nd 5pm **Non-Fiction**
France, (15) Lives too strange to be true...except in a French farce
- Sunday 9th 5pm **Sons of Denmark**
Denmark, (15) Fascism threatens in Denmark after terrorist bomb
- Sunday 16th 5pm **Bait**
UK, (15) Fisherman v tourists in a Cornish village
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **The Two Popes**
UK, (12A) A lively, funny discussion between the two pontiffs

Thursday 27th February - Sunday 1st March

21st KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL

www.keswickfilmfestival.org

March

21st
Year!

- Sunday 8th 5pm **The Third Wife**
Vietnam, (15, F) Three women compete to survive
- Sunday 15th 4.30 **A Hidden Life**
USA, (NA) Terrence Malick is back with a story of resistance
- Sunday 22nd 5pm **Bacurau**
Brazil, (18) A village is disappearing off the map...
- Sunday 29th 5pm **The Truth**
France, (PG) Koreeda directs Catherine Deneuve as an aging Diva

Note: F Rated films denote significant female involvement - director or writer
Front page picture is from 'Non-Fiction' (2 February)



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