

# Talking Pictures

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www.keswickfilmclub.org

## Autumn programme 2011

So our thirteen film club year begins, starting on Sunday 11th September. **Please renew your subscription** by returning the enclosed slip - we have finally had to give in and put our prices up, but it is still only £7.

Getting the job done before the opening evening is tremendously helpful: there's no need to fill in your contact details if they haven't changed.

You might like to think too about the advantage of buying an autumn pass: you can see **all 16 films this autumn for only £33**

We'd like to invite you as usual to have a start of season drink with us, so please do come along at **4.15 p.m. on 11th September** to swop your summer (?!) stories with other members... see you there!

A new year for the club and I am lucky enough to be the new Chair. I can only hope to do this job as well as Rod did. Only time will tell.. Our Autumn Season programme continues to bring you some of the best films from around the world, with films from Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Africa, USA, Australia and the UK. We have possibly our first Welsh language film (?), two documentaries and even a 'claymation' movie! The highlight of the season may well be our 'Gala night', which brings you not only two films for the price of one, but some free snacks at half time too!

Rod has picked two



great films, including the much talked about 'Tree of Life'; the winner of the Palme D'Or at Cannes, it had some critics cheering whilst others booed. So...is it life changing...or not? This should give us much to discuss during our break before we sit down to see 'Incendies', a thriller set in the Middle East. A great night is set for 13th November! The Film Club has always tried to support

up and coming UK Directors. This Season we are showing 'Young Hearts Run Free', the first film by Andy Mark Simpson, who will be coming along to answer questions after the film. Set in the



1974 miners strike, this is an example of what can be done with very little money indeed! We are off to Rheged again to see Wim Wenders' 'Pina'. He set out to use 3D to explore the use of space on a stage. On Rheged's IMAX screen, this promises much. *Vaughan Ames*

### It wasn't about the films... By Rod Evans



Rod accepting Best Film Club Award 2006

Starting to muse over the last 12 years of helping to keep KFC and the Festival afloat (I had to muse - probably 'ramble' is nearer the

mark - when Vaughan asked me to write something for *Talking Pictures*, and if the Chairman says 'jump!' you ask 'how high?') it was the disparity between the two major activities of KFC - the Festival and the seasonal programme - that seemed to call for comment. The smooth progress of the one, with gradually increasing audiences and ironing out of minor difficulties, was in considerable contrast to the other, the Festival very nearly foundering in mid-stream.

When our founder, Tony Martin, suggested in early 1999 with his usual fizzing enthusiasm that we hold the world's first film festival of the new millennium (was it? Never mind, we felt good about it!) the committee's response was 'what a good idea', little understanding what would be involved. Basically, three or four of us struggled to bear the load for five years, but we were running out of

steam until the arrival in 2005 of Alex Greenwood, full of fresh ideas and relevant experience. That was fine for a couple of years, with bright new thinking and audacious programmes, but Alex found herself having to choose between career and Fest, and her supporters couldn't contemplate reverting to something simpler and more viable, so the Festival was on the point of death, only a casting vote keeping the shrunken organisation in existence, when the life-saving advent of Ann, with her positive, non-nonsense, business-like approach led to five years of re-establishing, rationalising and genuine achievement, helped greatly by the generous efforts of her faithful committee. And I feel extremely lucky that we've found someone as competent and friendly as Vaughan to take over the chairmanship and all that it entails. Long may they all continue...

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## It wasn't about the films...

By Rod Evans

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But looking back for highlights, I was shocked to find memories of encounters with celebrities flooding my mind. Normally about as impressed with celeb culture as your average pine marten, I had to find a reason for such seeming hypocrisy: the best rationale must be that the directors we've had here in Keswick (and encountered elsewhere) are people of real distinction, with a solid body of work behind them that one can genuinely admire. So these memories come to the top of the pile: being invited by Jack Cardiff to be a stuntman in his next film (don't ask!), chatting with Stephen Frears about the salutary aspects of the education he appears to deplore (he was a pupil at the school where I used to teach), being

able to tell Ken Loach that he made my favourite film ever, having a delightful conversation when we won Film Society of the Year with Anthony Minghella, who was such an empathetic person that he gave one the feeling that the doings of Keswick Film Club were the most fascinating topic possible, dinner with Ken Russell and Derek Malcolm almost next door to Ken's old home in Borrowdale... But these thoughts are starting to sound Michael Winnerish, so let us move on and just say that these are the kind of opportunities to feel part of the great British film industry that the Club can provide to anyone willing to serve on the committee.

So what other reasons are there for people to devote their time and energy? You might think – I did once – that being able to choose the films that go up on the big screen, and look forward to enjoying them on a Sunday evening, or for three full days in February, would be the most

obvious benefit accruing from volunteering for the cause. But as the years passed, it became more and more evident that there were three even more rewarding aspects of helping to run a film club. One was the pleasure of seeing people regularly who were interesting characters in themselves and who were (often!) of like mind, enjoying the same kind of cinema. Closely linked to that was witnessing the making of acquaintances and friendships amongst Club members, even though the process could take several years. Thirdly – probably most importantly – the thrill of attracting a large audience to a film that you have backed as a winner (aesthetically of course, forget the takings!). In the end, it's the people who count, not the celluloid. Is that a shocking admission for someone professing to promote the seventh art?

## KFC spring 2011

The Wildest Dream	90.57%
Of Gods and Men	96.14%
Loose Cannons	82.35%
The Harimaya Bridge	79.59%
Enemies of the People	78.57%
Peepli Live	75%
The Kids are All Right	73.64%
Alamar	73.16%
The Arbor	68.21%
Certified Copy	67.86%
Leap Year	54.17%
On Tour	47.69%
Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past	39.39%

Check your website for more details:-

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

Average audience size: 112

## KFC on the Road

Did you know that your Film Club owns and runs the equipment to show films outside the cinema? Well, it does...and we do!

We have a projector, screen, speakers and the relevant electronic gadgetry to put on pretty good quality film shows. We have had this since 2005 and have been running shows since 2006. Several villages have been able to have a cinema thanks to this. At the mo-

ment of writing, we are nearing the end of a season of Italian films at the Roman Festival in Maryport, and have shows scheduled for Mungrisedale in the autumn. This has all depended on the ability and willingness of a few people, especially our projectionists Robert Royall and Steve Allen without whom it would be impossible. This is all to the benefit of the film club, as it keeps the interest in films and awareness of our club higher in the area, AND, it is good for the local communities who can show films where otherwise they couldn't; a definite win-win!

At the moment we have a few ideas of other places we might be able to take the club to, but we would need extra volunteers to do this; we can't continue to expect 2 or 3 people to give up their evenings. Are you interested? You can start by just helping the projectionists set up, but if you are keen, you could take on the projection role (this is not rocket science, just need to know which buttons to push)...who knows, you might end up showing films to the whole club on Sunday nights!

It would also be useful if you have any ideas where we could put on film shows; maybe a village show, or a festival..

If you are interested in helping, or have any ideas for new outlets, let me know through the club email or ring me on 017687 80969.

*Vaughan Ames*

## Festival Snippets

Yes, Festival 2012 is already in the planning stage! A couple of interesting possibilities to look forward to... How about a TWENTY FOUR HOUR film! We are hoping to get this clever amalgam of film clips showing every minute of the day, subject to finding somewhere to show it... And the Lancaster Choir may be back, this time with some Wagner for us... Watch this space!