

# Talking Pictures

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

## Autumn programme 2012

So our fourteenth film club year begins, starting on Sunday 16th September.

**Please renew your subscription** by returning the enclosed slip - £7 gets you a pound off every film you see all year, including the festival.

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 16th September** and tell other members what you have been doing since we last met up. See you there!

I think we have a fabulous programme of films for you this season, ranging from a box-office smash in France to a self-financed UK sci-fi.

As usual we visit many countries on our journey, passing through Canada and the US, Turkey and the Middle East, and dropping into Hungary, Spain, Denmark and Portugal on our way back to the UK. We also have award winning films and famous directors alongside total newcomers. A veritable feast!

We start the season in Denmark with a period love affair, laced with political intrigue—'A Royal Affair' - which



should wet our appetites without being too heavy. We are having another 'Gala night' in November, where we hope to have the UK directors of two films to introduce and discuss their films with us, over a free buffet (which may be just as well as the directors of one of these films had to sell their house to finance the film!)

We also visit Rhaged again, this time to see the visual beauty of 'Samsara'.

The French box-office smash is 'Untouchable',

with Francois Cluzet playing a rich paraplegic with a black carer, together creating a huge hit comedy.

We also have a couple of films showing the power of women in different ways, and two showing the power of water...and that is not to mention our films from classic directors Moll and Ruiz...or my favourite 'The Beasts of the Southern Wild'... A var-



ied season indeed, with something for all, I hope! - VA

### Films, Films, Films... An interview with David Miller, KFC Programme Selector and film buff extraordinaire



There are several people in Keswick that help choose our films but David Miller's vast knowledge and interest in film has been an important factor in keeping our award winning programme so vital. 'How did it start', I asked him?

I became involved with Keswick Film Club during the first film festival; by recommending possible titles for future screenings I earned an immediate place on the selection committee!

'Apart from Keswick, you also got

*involved at the national level..?'*

The opportunity arose to become a member of the Management Committee of the British Federation of Film Societies (BFFS). I joined with the view that KFC could learn a lot from other Clubs but things did not quite go to plan. Having made my views known about the then state of the BFFS, I was immediately made Vice Chairman. With only 18 months total experience of things BFFS, following an injury to the then Chair, I had to step up to the mark and remained there for 7 years. This period saw much upheaval, challenge and change. My recent appointment as a Vice President of the BFFS is an honour that I hope I can live up to.

*'And I know that you got involved internationally too...'*

Yes, I have served on a number of juries representing the International Federation of Film Societies (IFFS). This gives me exposure to films that I would otherwise never

see and many have gone on to feature in both the Club and Festival programmes. The most recent IFFS jury was that for the Galway Film Festival.

*'Tell us a bit about Galway'*

This time we were asked to judge shorts. The shorts programme was concentrated over the final weekend of the festival. I arrived on the second day and managed to fit in 17 features before duty called. Galway attracted a huge number of guests and virtually every film had its director, producer, cast and goodness knows who else in attendance! The festival used the main Town Hall theatre, two screens at the not-too-distant multiplex and a mobile film truck parked just outside the Town Hall. All in all there was a great a buzz and many of the Irish premieres were jam packed.

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The main guests were Director Frank Stapleton and actress Isabelle Huppert. Frank rode on a tide of emotion as he is now severely disabled and confined to a wheelchair but his joy was plain for all to see; Isabelle was a gracious, if fleeting, presence. I missed her interview due to jury duties but this seemed to have been well received. I'm not convinced of the choice of 'Heaven's Gate' to showcase her talent, but then again it is a film that is currently being re-evaluated.

*(Did I mention his knowledge of film?!)* 'So how did the jury work?' Jury duty was an interesting experience. The Spanish juror had a

very different perspective to that of the Irish juror and, in turn, my views were as individual as theirs! What this does result in, of course, is a highly deserved winner. Trying to whittle down some 30 shorts to one winner was probably more demanding and arduous than previous experiences. You have to gather your thoughts very quickly, be able to record why one title was 'better' than another and on occasion you had less than 2 minutes viewing, then about 30 seconds of darkness to gather your thoughts before the next presentation was on screen. After much debate (and I mean much, hence missing the entire Huppert interview as well as all of Heaven's Gate) we settled on 'Here To Fall'.

*'So you recommend it to anyone who has a chance then...'*

All-in-all a wonderful experience. As BFFS policy is changing for 2013 it may be that fewer opportunities will arise for nomination to an IFFS jury. However, it is to be hoped that at some point the chance will come again and I look forward to bringing you another festival report in the not too distant future.

*'I know you are now hoping to get elected to the British Film Institute as well. What drives you on?'*

It is being part of a team that wants to bring the very best of cinema to as wide an audience as possible that motivates me. Cinema is an important part of my life and has given me such a lot of enjoyment that if I can influence more people to watch more films then what I do is certainly worth the effort.

*'Cheers to that, David!. Thanks'*

**KFC Spring 2012**

Well Digger's Daughter	86%
The Swimming Pool	53%
Red Machine	73%
Poetry	74%
Surviving Life	58%
The Pope's Toilet	72%
Post Mortem	45%
Shorts	68%
Shame	64%
Albatross	72%
Mother & Child	70%
Coriolanus	84%

Average audience size: 99



**35mm, DVD... Digital and Blu Ray**  
**Vaughan Ames, KFC Chair**

Keswick Film Club has always had a lead on many other clubs round the country because we meet in a cinema. When you talk to other clubs, their problems start with where to meet, who is going to put the chairs out in the village hall and, very importantly, how long they have to wait for the good films to come out on DVD.

We, on the other hand, have gained by being at the Alhambra. First of all, we could get films earlier because we had 35mm, then Alan Towers upgraded the seating and gave us a very comfortable place to watch them.

The times are changing again; 35mm is being driven out by the arrival of Digital Cinema with its incredible quality pictures and sound. Some still argue for the 'warmth' of film, but digital is winning the battle so fast that 35mm is almost a thing of the past. So where does that leave Keswick Film Club?

Fear not! Once again we have been rescued by the Al-

hambra, this time by Tom Rennie investing in Digital equipment. As I write this, the equipment should be arriving and, by the end of August, the Alhambra will be ready to show 35mm, Digital, DVD or Blu Ray films.

Most of the cinemas in the country have changed to digital now. The speed of this change has been incredible; when we came to book this season's films, nearly all of them were only available in Digital...unless we wanted to wait for 35mm or DVD! So, for the first time, Keswick Film Club will be Digital at the Alhambra as well as Rheged!

We should all thank Tom for making this change. Without it, we would be unable to bring you many new releases. So, while you sink into those comfy cinema seats, think about those other clubs, sitting on their benches in their village halls, hoping to get a DVD release of some of our films in a few months time...