

# Talking Pictures

## The Delights of Spring 2008

We trust you'll give the thumbs up to our new Spring Brochure, which gives all the details of an exciting line-up for Sunday evenings. There's also a foretaste, on the centre pages, of what is in store for FebFilm, the first and smaller of our Festival events in 2008. As the main event will be in April, it's really too early to say much about the programme for that, but certain films are being carefully stored and mulled over to make sure they are of the necessary calibre to maintain our traditions.

release to compete with what we've chosen.

Which is...? Well, there are 3 British, 3 French and three American, with one each from Austria/Germany, China,



Christian Bale, Steve Zahn: *Rescue Dawn*

Argentina and Romania. 2 'big' American films with George Clooney and Brad Pitt (separately), which are in danger of receiving less attention than they merit, 2 small British films, but little gems, I think you'll agree.

And that leaves one American film directed by a German, (Werner Herzog) celebrating the feats of a German-born US Navy pilot, and one great British documentary celebrating American achievements in space.

The French? Well, they just know how to make great films, don't they, German language

films have impressed mightily in the last year or two, and the Argentinian and Romanian film industries are no slouches these days either. We had to wait a long time for the distributors to give us the go-ahead on the brilliant-sounding Palme d'Or winner *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*, but it's here on 23rd March; the Austrian *The Counterfeiters* has attracted great interest this autumn, and *Born and Bred* continues the line of thoroughbreds from Argentina.

Which just leaves *Lust*,



*Caution*, adding to the list of fine movies by Ang Lee that KFC has screened over the years - but this time he has left the USA to take a close look at spying in WW II Shanghai.

We like the look of all of them (of course!) I hope you do too. R.E.

**The new season begins on Sunday 6th January!!**

**A convivial start to 2008**

We can't quite match the corporate hospitality likely to be doled out by George Clooney's New York law firm in *Michael Clayton*, but we'd like to see you at the Alhambra for a drink at 4.15 before the screening.

This has always seemed a good way to start the new 'term' so do come and renew acquaintance or make new friends.



Martin Compston in *True North*

As for Sundays in spring, you can look forward to the customary mix of languages, themes and genres - although we didn't find room for a 'classic' this time. Apologies to those who really enjoy them, but there didn't seem to be an outstanding new print on

## Sight & Sound's Top Ten, 2007

### Your Christmas discussion topic?

We often like to compare our season's choices with what the 'best' critics in the business have voted as their year's top films. This autumn there's a little less overlap than last year - we didn't think the Lynch/Fincher/Cronenberg creations were quite right for KFC, and the Bob Dylan biography didn't even win selection for FebFest.

- 1 *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* (Cristian Mungiu)
- 2 *Inland Empire* (David Lynch)
- 3 *Zodiac* (David Fincher)
- 4= *I'm Not There* (Todd Haynes)
- 4=*The Lives of Others* (Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck)

- 6 *Silent Light* (Carlos Reygadas)
- 7= *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* (Andrew Dominik)
- 7= *Syndromes and a Century* (Apichatpong Weerasethakul)
- 7= *No Country for Old Men* (Ethan and Joel Coen)
- 7= *Eastern Promises* (David Cronenberg)

But two of those are in our spring selection, one was screened at KFF8, and *Silent Light* and *No Country for Old Men* are both probables for the Festival in April.

We could be accused of overlooking *Syndromes and a Century*, but dipping deep into the arthouse too often (*Climates* was 7= on the S & S Top Ten list last year!) might occasion apoplexy... Your comments would be very welcome, as always.

Last year's remarkable fact repeated for you: neither ticket prices nor subs have risen since the Club was founded in 1998.

And we're still in the black!

Do think about the advantage of buying a spring season pass: you can see all 13 films for only £26

## Thoughts on the Ninth Keswick Film Festival

### Keswick Film Festival – Twice as good!

And it's not just us saying it: for FebFilm, the weekend of film at the Alhambra on 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February, we have *Control*, Anton Corbijn's film about the fractured life of Joy Division singer Ian Curtis, which took home five awards, including best picture, at the British Independent Film Awards. Then there's *Heima*, the



film featuring Iceland and music from Sigur Ros which is “an astoundingly beautiful film both as a visual and in sound. It manages to cram the open wilderness of Iceland into a roughly 100 minute feast for the eyes and ears and leaves you wanting for more.”

Speaking of wilderness, there's a special treat for lovers of the great



outdoors with *Seachd - the Inaccessible Pinnacle*. A good number of local

people will have made their attempt on the 'In-Pin', and will really appreciate the story for which this king of the Cuillins is a backdrop.

Add to those *The Singer* with a



stunning performance by Gerard Depardieu, *The Band's Visit* “gentle, artful, unassuming, culture-clash comedy”, *Once* which got the Audience Award at Sundance for its Irish folk singer hero and his girlfriend, an immigrant Hungarian musician - and *When the Road Bends: Tales of a*



*Gypsy Caravan* “a potent combination of ethnography and concert film”. We are keeping a slot or two for Ken Russell's films – he hopes to come to the Festival, and for the Bollywood movie

recently filmed in the Lake District which is almost finished, waiting only for English subtitles.

The great thing about this weekend is you can see all the films. Because the Theatre is being extended we cannot use it until the main Ninth Keswick Film Festival in April so February is a mini-fest just at the Alhambra. There will be an opening party on the Friday night for pass-holders, in the Masonic Hall opposite the Alhambra. And, who knows, we may be keeping a surprise up our sleeves for the opening evening.

Passes are on sale now for both



### The Band's Visit

February and April. If you buy both at once you get discounts and if you buy before Christmas you get even better prices. What more do you need to sort out your Christmas present list?

You can find more information about both events from the website [www.keswickfilmfestival.org](http://www.keswickfilmfestival.org). Online tickets are available from the Theatre by the Lake [www.theatrebythelake.com](http://www.theatrebythelake.com), or phone the Theatre on 017687 74411.

**Ann Martin, Festival Coordinator  
December 2007**

### Did you see our audiences' favourites this autumn?

Most popular (exc. Waitress)	%
Water	92.50
Days of Glory	89.34
Moliere	84.52
The Battle of Algiers	83.14
The Namesake	82.10
Tell No One	81.34
Sketches of Frank Gehry	78.75
The Seventh Seal	78.24
Night of the Sunflowers	77.44
This Is England	77.02
Bombs at Teatime	73.10
Hallam Foe	71.56
Climates	50.00

### Our websites

I wonder how many of you have [www.keswickfilmfestival.org](http://www.keswickfilmfestival.org) and [www.keswickfilmclub.org](http://www.keswickfilmclub.org) prominent on your 'Favourites' list? You doubtless realise what a wealth of information Stephen's offering out there in the ether - clearly, the BFFS doesn't award Best Website for nothing.

Not only info about the films to come, but a great archive now of what we've shown in the last 9 years.

Just checking on the poor score for *Climates*, I found within seconds that no, it wasn't the worst this decade, there was *Innocence* with 41.7% and *Primer* with 41.1%, both in spring 2006. We probably made the same comment then: 'worth screening if some of our members loved them'!

### Keswick Film Club Committee

**Your Committee has changed a little this autumn: it now looks like this:**

Stephen Brown (Webmaster)  
Deborah Cowin  
Neville Marchant (Secretary)  
Ann Martin (Festival Coordinator)  
David W Miller (Chairman, BFFS)  
Tom Rennie (Treasurer)  
Elspeth Payne  
Ian Payne  
Rod Evans (Chairman, Mem. Sec.,  
Editor of *Talking Pictures*)

**Contact:**  
Stephen via [www.keswickfilmclub.org](http://www.keswickfilmclub.org)  
Ann via [info@keswickfilmfestival.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmfestival.org)  
Tom at the Alhambra  
Rod via [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org) or  
telephone 017687 74475