

Talking Pictures

Issue 26
December
2011

www.keswickfilmclub.org

Spring programme 2012

May I wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year! I hope you enjoy our Spring Programme.

We'd like to invite you as usual to have a drink with us at the beginning of our spring programme, so please do come along at **4.15 p.m. on 8th January** to toast the New Year before our opening film—'*The Well Digger's Daughter*'.

The **spring pass** will be on sale there at **£26** - still a good reduction, with twelve films in this season!

Have you thought about your passes and tickets for the **Festival**? Ring the Theatre on 01768774411 or go to www.theatrebythelake.co.uk

You will see that our spring programme figures the usual mixture of languages and countries, from France and the Czech Republic, to Uruguay and Chile, back to UK via South Korea and the US. We are trying something new this season, with an evening dedicated to short films. After the success of the Ospreys at the last Festival (and hopefully at this one too!), we thought we'd cast our net across the country and see what this very different art form has to offer. We will have a couple of 'long shorts' - up to 30 minutes—and then some very short ones too...

As for the rest, one highlight will be Steve McQueen's follow up to



'*Hunger*' - '*Shame*'. After the IRA hunger strike, this one may make you think for very different reasons; it is about the shame of a sex addict.

We start the season with the first film directed by Daniel Auteuil - '*The Well Digger's Daughter*' - which promises to be a beautiful family drama from Provence. This is followed by '*The Red Machine*', which I saw at the BFFS AGM; I took it as a spoof 'B' Movie, but other audiences have enjoyed it as a straight thriller. I

think you will enjoy it either way!

From Europe, we have a Czech comedy (complete with some innovative animation sequences) and a French 60's sexual sizzler; from South America, a Chilean political thriller and a Uruguayan comedy. We come back via two dramas, one from Korea, one from USA and finish in the UK with some fine English acting, including Ralph Fiennes acting and



directing Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*. Enjoy! V.A

13th Film Festival – 23– 26 February By Ann Martin



Do you remember Kaleidoscope? It was a leading Arts programme on Radio 4. Tony Palmer, founder presenter on this and Night Waves on Radio 3 and now often on Front Row will be one of our guests this February at the Film Festival.

He will be introducing two of his almost 100 films, films on composers from the Beatles to Britten. We will be showing *Wagner* on Sunday in the Theatre by the Lake Studio, and *Bird on a Wire* the 70's film about Leonard Cohen.

Then we will be opening with *In Love with Alma Cogan*, a delightful

first feature film by composer Tony Britten set in Cromer with original music, starring Roger Lloyd Pack and Niamh Cusack.

Music is one of our themes this year - 'Sounding Good'. Other themes include 'Looking Good' - our fantastic winning films from all over the world. This year we have UK premieres of *Little Moth* from China, *David and Kamal* from Israel/USA, and *Vacation* from Japan.

Sometimes people think Film Festivals are very serious and obscure and not for them. We have this year brought what has been described as the funniest film ever in our 'Feeling Really Good' theme - *Welcome to the Sticks*. And it is joined by comedic films from Turkey, *Pardon*, from the US *No Pain, No Gain* and from Spain *Mia Sarah*.

Then at Rheged on the Saturday we will be showing great films for out-

door enthusiasts - *Call of the White and Sherpas, the True Heroes of Everest* and the remastered *The Great White Silence*.

A new collaboration with the Keswick Peace and Human Rights Group brings films and speakers to the Theatre during the festival. At 9.30 on each of Saturday and Sunday mornings there will be films with speakers, one on the Kurdish issues, the other on child detention.

And then we have a number of great films old and new with John Hurt, a double of *An Englishman in New York* with *The Naked Civil Servant*, plus *Lou* and *Melancholia*.

All this and more can be explored further on our website at www.keswickfilmfestival.org and details of the programme and tickets will be available after Christmas.

Whether you come every year, or haven't been before, I hope you can make it this year!

Fancy Making a Film?

An interview with Deb Cowin, Film Club Vice Chair

I was talking to Deb Cowin recently and it occurred to me that many of you may not know there are film-makers amongst us! I asked Deb to tell me how it all started.

'A couple of years ago, regular KFC members Johnnie Walker and Vian Curtis judged the Cumbria Short Film Awards for the Keswick Film Festival. It was a "we could do that!" sort of experience—so they decided to team up and start making films. Thus was born "Buffo Films"'

'So what was the result?' I asked.

'Club members may remember their first 3 minute offering—"Natterjack", shown before "I am Love" in the Autumn 2010 season and their follow up, "Toad's Hour" before "Enemies of the People" in the spring.

Their next venture was a longer drama vérité style documentary "Type 2 Fun", based on the Lakes Adventure Race in August 2010'

How did they manage to film that? It all sounds pretty exciting!

'Johnnie and Vian tore around the county on a Ducati motorbike at all hours of the day and night, to get shots of our local team. They also wanted to document why people put themselves through such extreme challenges '

I can't understand that either! What was the answer?

'What's the better feeling when finishing work early, a long summer Bank Holiday Weekend ahead of you? A few jars in the pub, a spot of shopping and then nestling down with your favourite takeaway in front of the TV... Or you could grab 3 mates, get up at 4.00am, do a quick half marathon across treacherous sands before biking, running, paddling and scrambling your way non-stop for 4 days on precious little sleep

over 400km round some of the most challenging terrain in England. Is that the kind of thing that would get you up off the couch?'

Frankly..no (!), I'll just watch the film! How has the film done?

'It premiered to a packed audience at the Keswick Mountain Festival this year and has since been seen in Hollywood!'

Excellent! What is Buffo up to now?

'Buffo is now a group of collaborative film makers working locally in Keswick. If you had been up and about early enough in Pack Horse Court in October, you would have seen the crew working on their latest film "Bulb" – a dramatic short film about a man confronting his nemesis – a light bulb!'

Well, I should have guessed! It is at times like this I realise why I enjoy WATCHING films so much! I'll leave the making to you. Thanks, Deb...

KFC Autumn 2011

Incendies	92.21%
Before The Devil Knows Your Dead	85.75%
In A Better World	85.23%
Life Above All	82.14%
Armadillo	78.77%
Pina 3D	78.06%
Outside The Law	76.81%
The Adventures of Adele Blanc-Sec	76.70%
Princess of Montpensier	72.41%
Mary And Max + Harvie Krump	71.43%
Confessions	65.91%
Young Hearts Run Free	64.04%
Tree of Life	59.75%
Louise-Michel	50.31%
A Small Act—no score yet	

Average audience size: 104

Those hidden jobs...

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first season as Chair of Keswick Film Club, but have to admit I am very relieved to have made it to the end! When I volunteered to take over from Rod I told the Committee that there was no way I was going to do as much as Rod did; we would have to share it out more. Everyone agreed and I thought it was going to be easy... Well, we shared it out and there was still a lot to do! My gratitude to Rod for doing so much for the club is now even higher! So

here are just a few of the jobs that get done to keep the club running.. And that don't always get noticed!

First, obviously, we have to pick the films. The club owes a lot to David Miller here; we got 4 or 5 of us together to decide the programme, but David had done the lions share in advance. This is no mean feat, I realise now, when most of the films we have are new releases so we cant really review them! I think you will agree, most of them are pretty good!

Elsbeth Payne took on the thankless task of Membership Secretary this year, making sure the money gets in and keeping the records up to date; we couldn't exist without YOU, but we do need to know where you live! A job well done, Elspeth!

Let's have a quick look at the website (hopefully you all do—I reckon it is the best Club Website in the country!) Stephen Brown does ALL the work here, which is continual, as it is updated each week with film notes, scores and reports. Once again, thanks, Stephen; it should win awards EVERY year!

On a weekly basis, you will have spotted the box office workers and the introductions, but you wont have seen all the work that is done behind the scenes at the Alhambra. Robert Royall and Tom Rennie (who has been our Treasurer for many years (another BIG thank you due there!)) take care of making up the films (putting them on those huge reels!) and projecting them. A big thanks to them both!

And then there are the Reminder reviews (and on the website); if you want to find out what the film was about, read John Stakes. I research the films in advanced, but, somehow, John always finds more.

There are LOTS more jobs, but a last mention to Elspeth and Ian Payne, without whom none of our 'food' events would have happened! Cheers! And I haven't even got to Ann Martin and the Festival..wow! V.A