

Talking Pictures

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www.keswickfilmclub.org

Spring programme 2013

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 6th January** to toast the New Year before our opening film - 'Margaret'.

The **spring pass** will be on sale there at **£28** - a great bargain, with thirteen films this season!

Have you thought about your passes and tickets for the **14th Keswick Film Festival?** On sale in January; You can ring the Theatre on 017687 74411 or online via www.keswickfilmfestival.org

Belgium, France, USA, Russia, Portugal, Gaza, Poland, Chile and China; where else could you tour the world of cinema so well?

We have a mix of films from 'those that got away' to 'those that will make you think', from big budget to home-made and even a couple of black and white ones. One that did get away, even from us, was 'Vertigo'; having just been voted the best film ever, I expected the distributors to really push it...instead they have put it on hold! Should we show it next season?

We finish the season with a couple of big budget movies—'Cloud

'Atlas' from the US should leave us debating what it is all about, and 'Let the Bullets Fly', China's biggest hit so far; do the Chinese know what makes a good film? Time to see. We start with another film that has slipped through the net - 'Margaret'. Director Kenneth Lonnergan had to fight for 5 years to get it



released. Another film which has caused a stir which we couldn't resist is Leos Carax's 'Holy Motors' with a potential

Oscar performance from his star Denis Lavant;



another film to make us think...

With apologies to those who aren't so keen on my favourite - small budget movies - we have a comedy sci-fi called 'Safety Not Guaranteed' in March.

Under a new genre comes 'farm noir' 'Bullhead' from Belgium - a story of country folk and... growth hormones! And lots, lots more. I hope there is something there for you to enjoy.

An interview with... Ann Martin, Keswick Film Festival Director Anyone know how to run a Film Festival?



With our Film Festival coming up to its fourteenth year and last year being such a big success, it seemed a good time to talk to the person who holds it all together.

Ann, I know you have run the Festival since 2007; how did that come about?

I had moved to Keswick shortly before, but been coming up for years and going to the Club on a Sunday when I was here. Rod sent an email out for people to help and I replied. At that time there had been some problems and it was likely there wouldn't be one that year. I was at a meeting when the committee were saying they couldn't do any more and unless they could find someone to run it,

it wouldn't happen. I heard myself volunteer!

Had you done anything similar before?

No, I hadn't ever even been to one - but lots of people gave me advice. And I suppose quite a lot of the marketing and admin were things I have done all my life, just not around film.

And do you go to other festivals?

Well, after a year or two I thought I ought to see how others do it so I went to Berwick-on-Tweed, a town of a similar size. Then Jan Dunn, one of the directors who came a few years ago told me about the Festival of English Film at Dinard. I went to it and found it really good fun so I've been there three times now. It's where I met John Hurt and his wife.

Well, that was great for us, with John becoming the Patron of Keswick Film Festival. What do you like most about running the Festival?

The actual event. Having run it so often now I am used to the tasks and others on the committee have got roles that they are familiar with and do each year. I really enjoy it all coming together. I like trying to

think up new things for it too - like the Rheged partnership a couple of years ago or the Keswick Peace and Human Rights Group films with speakers last year, which we are doing again this year. We are also getting the schools involved this year, making a film and soundtrack for performance on the Friday plus Carlisle college are having a film-related art exhibition at the theatre.

The Club, too, gains from these things; Rheged, for instance has resulted in our annual film and meal. Samsara was fantastic recently... And the worst thing about running it?

The gap between the cost and the revenue is about £4k each year so I'm always thinking about how to bridge it with grants and sponsorship.

Yes, funny how everyone, including me, runs for cover when you ask for money making ideas! And your efforts actually left the festival in profit in 2012. Thanks, Ann. Let's hope that 2013 brings the best festival yet. Remember to get YOUR ticket!

Best Films in Keswick and the UK - What a good year for Keswick film!

I hope I am not the only one who think we have been really lucky this last few months. First the Alhambra went digital, with its first showing at our opening night in September (if you missed Tom's opening speech, ask someone about it - you missed a treat in itself!). The quality of the picture has to be seen to be believed; if you think you are looking at the pixels when you stand up close, you are actually looking at the screen itself, which is made of netting to allow the sound through.

This has allowed both the Alhambra and the club to keep bang up to date with the latest films. I hope you managed to get in to see

'Skyfall', not because it is being seen as one of the best Bond films (I don't think it was), or even because it has become the best selling film in the UK, but because seeing the Alhambra completely full, with a queue right round the back was better than the film itself! TV is all very well, but it really doesn't compete with the cinema.

Tom also showed a season of 'Shakespeare at the Globe' at the Alhambra which was a different experience again; these films were of live performances at the open air Globe Theatre in London—it actually rained during one of them! Sitting in the front row as I did was just like being at the Globe. Let's hope the Globe continues to film these; if so, don't miss them. As I write this, 'The Hobbit' is about to hit Keswick and the UK. Another 'must see' film, let's hope we enjoy it here at the Alhambra.

As a club, our overall aim is to bring films to Keswick that would not be shown otherwise, so we liaise with Tom before deciding the programme for the season. To show you how well this has worked this year, here is a list of the top 5 films that the British Film Institute came up with as the 'best for 2012':-

1. The Master - to be shown at the Alhambra soon
2. Tabu - on our programme for the Spring
3. Amour - on our programme for the Spring
4. Holy Motors - on our programme for the Spring
- =5. Beasts of the Southern Wild - on our Autumn programme
- =5. Berberian Sound Studios - on at the Alhambra in the autumn

Not bad for a small town in the middle of nowhere! And I haven't even mentioned the fantastic festival... Looking at the scores below, the actual choice of film seems to have pleased most of us, with only one getting bad reviews. Several of these films were suggested by club members; keep them coming. Could 2013 be even better..? V.A

KFC Autumn 2012

A Royal Affair	90.34%
Monsieur Lazhar	86.21%
The Monk	60.86%
Cafe de Flore	61.22%
The Turin Horse	66.00%
Even the Rain	90.13%
The Source	84.46%
Once Upon a Time in Anatolia	59.86%
Two Years at Sea	32.04%
Dimensions	71.57%
The Kid with a Bike	79.95%
Samsura at RHEGED	87.10%
Beasts of the Southern Wild	73.99%
The Mysteries of Lisbon	77.86%
Untouchable	NA
Where do we go now?	NA

Average audience size: 110



How do we work out that Audience Score? Vaughan Ames, KFC Chair

Every week many of us vote as we come out of the film on the 'response slips'. Have you ever wondered how (or even why) your 5 star vote turns into that weird

percentage we quote here? I know I did. Well, I'll try to explain; with apologies for the maths!

The 'why?' is easy. It enables us to compare our results with other clubs who have a different number of members; 25 five star votes is a lot better if you have 25 members than if you have 250. It also means we can compare different films with a different audience size. The system has evolved through many phases since the 1960s, being backed by the BFFS in the 70's. So 'how?' is it done. There is a standard formula; it doesn't really matter what this is, it just has to be the same everywhere to enable the comparison. The one that was chosen is basically a 'weighted' average. What does that mean? If we all gave a film '1 star', it would result in an average of 0%; if we all gave it '5 stars' it

would score 100%. For those interested in the maths, this becomes:-

$(5 \text{ star votes} + (0.75 \times 4 \text{ star votes}) + (0.5 \times 3 \text{ star votes}) + (0.25 \times 2 \text{ star votes}))/\text{total votes}$

An example might help; Lets say there are 50 votes for 5 star, 44 for 4 star, 32 for 3 star, 24 for 2 star and 10 for 1 star. So, the total voting is 160, and the sum of the votes would become

$(50 + (0.75 \times 44) + (0.5 \times 32) + (0.25 \times 24)) = 50 + 33 + 16 + 6 = 105$

We would then divide this by total votes- 160 - and we get, as a percentage, 65.63%

So nothing is added for any 1 star votes, they simply bring the score down by counting in the total; if you really don't like a film, this is the vote to give it! Likewise if you love it, 5 star is your vote. Now there's a surprise...