

Talking Pictures

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www.keswickfilmclub.org

Spring programme 2017

May we wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year! We 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 - *'Hunt for the Wilderpeople'*.

The **Spring Pass** will be on sale there at **£35** - still a great bargain, with eleven films this season!

Have you thought about your passes and tickets for the **18th Keswick Film Festival**? On sale now; You can ring the Theatre on 017687 74411 or book online via www.keswickfilmfestival.org

We are pleased and proud to announce that one of our films this spring will be the 1000th film shown by the club since it began in 1999! We decided to mark the occasion by showing that first film again - *'The Governess'*. Not sure how many of you were around then, but it would be good to have your thoughts on the club as a whole whether you were or not.



We start the season with a film close to my heart - *'Hunt for the Wilderpeople'* - as it is made in the New Zea-

land bush, a place I love. A big hit around the world, this should be 'one for everyone'. We have a promise from new director Esther Campbell to come along for a Q&A after her critically acclaimed *'Light Years'*, and we finish with another UK film - *'The White King'*.

Between these, we take our usual trip around the world: from France - with Omar Sy lighting up *'Chocolat'* - to Finland for the drama *'The Fencer'*; from Serbia for the tragi-comedy *'Train Driver's Diary'* to South Korea for a sensual thriller *'The Handmaiden'*, and even to a chiller from Qatar - *'Under the Shadow'* and a drama from Nepal called *'The Black Hen'*.

I deliberate but we seem to have a theme of young stars; our first and last films both star young actors, as do *'Light Years'* and *'The Black Hen'*, whilst *'The Fencer'* is set in a school. I wish it was deliberate, but it is just an accident of film release dates!



I should also like to give a mention to the EIGHTEENTH (!!) Keswick Film Festival. It is the first one Ian Payne has directed and it is looking good, with some cracking films, some great guests and a few new ideas; don't miss it!

An interview with...

**David Andrews,
Club Secretary**



David will be new to many of you, but he became an active member of the committee last year and volunteered to be secretary when Ian took over as Festival Director. So, David, how did you get into films?

My mum told me the first film I saw was *Dumbo* when I was three but I slept through most of it. I'm still liable to drop off in cinemas and theatres - well, it's dark. *Not in our films we hope! When*

did you discover 'art' films?

As a child we used to go to one of the local cinemas from time to time but I only noticed independent and continental cinema after I started work in libraries in Hull. Soon after I began we opened a new central library (or a large extension of the old one) which included a cinema. The first film shown was *Elvira Madigan* (1967) and I was hooked by the beauty and difference from the usual run of commercial films.

When we moved to Whitehaven back in 1970 we soon discovered the then film club at Rosehill theatre. The club and its introductions didn't last, but films which were different from those in local cinemas - though usually in English - have continued and I hope that when it opens after redevelop-

ment that will continue.

Did you get involved with Rosehill before Keswick?

I've volunteered there as an usher, on the bar and so on for a few years and seen films sometimes with tiny audiences.

So what brought you to Keswick?

It was a few years ago that we got round to trying the Keswick film festival, thoroughly enjoyed it, and after a year or two graduated (?) to the film club as well.

Well some of us think the club is better! What films do you like best?

Just keep giving me beautiful European films and I'll be happy. *We'll do our best. Thanks for volunteering for Secretary; we always need volunteers!*

Keswick Film Club 1000 films on - past, present and future

- Vaughan Ames

It seems like a good time to crow over the club's history; 1000 films on, I think it is fair to say Keswick Film Club has done remarkably well! I apologise for any mistakes or omissions here as I haven't been around all that time...

It all started with an idea from Tony Martin (who has gone on to start film clubs elsewhere; how lucky were we that he started here?!) It kicked off in February 1999, followed by the first festival in 2000. I believe the only original committee members still active are Tom Rennie, David Miller and Stephen Brown, so we have also been lucky to have a continual renewal of keen activists to keep it going.

Right from the start, it hit the ground running, winning the British Federation of Film Society (BFFS) award for 'Best New Film Society' in the first year and 'Best Programme' award for most of the next 5 years before winning 'Film Society of

the Year' in 2006; you may not realise when you come along to films - as I didn't - but if you ever attend the BFFS AGM (now 'Cinema for All') Keswick is famous and stands in high esteem from many of the newer clubs; we decided to stop entering for awards some years back to give the others a chance!

The club already had 150 members by 2000, and had audiences over 100 soon after - it even filled the Alhambra in 2001 with 260 people seeing 'Himalaya'! By 2004, the audiences were averaging over 100. With these large audiences, the number of foreign language films was increased successfully, to the point where it is now almost a rarity to have an English one; is this good for you? Feedback is always good. The Festivals kept up and built on this success, with guests such as Nicolas Roeg boosting the numbers.

2006 saw the start of 'KFC on the Road': this may not even be known to many of you, but the idea of taking films to small villages was a major part of us winning 'Film Society of the Year'. It is still running now, but only at Mungrisdale and Wigton, where the local enthusiasts now do most of the work!

2006/2007 saw the first 'blip' in the rise when the festival ran into money problems and almost came to an end; Ann Martin arrived in the nick of time to rescue it and put it on a sound footing which continues to this day.

A word has to be said for our website; it has grown from the beginning and won 'Best Website' in 2007 & 2008; they changed the awards eventually as no-one else could compete! If you don't know it, take a look; Stephen Brown still keeps it (and the festival site) superbly with new info each week.

Membership peaked in 2010 at 297 - possibly due to more accurate records when Elspeth Payne took over! We still have around 220, and audience numbers continue to average between 100 to 110, so hopefully all is still good, despite you all having larger screens at home and the faster availability of films to download; the 'big screen' and friendly audiences still make it all work while! As far as I can see, the largest audience is still Himalaya, though 16 films have had over 200 with 'Whale Rider' - 241 - and several festival films - 'March of the Penguins' (256) and 'The Raven on the Jetty' (255) - topping the list. Our most popular films to date? 'Departures' wins with 96.74%, with 'Home from Home' getting 95.31% and 'McCullin' getting

KFC Autumn 2016

Film	score
A War	91.33%
The Innocents	87.64%
Mustang	85.62%
The Clan	85.21%
Julieta	85.19%
Son of Saul	84.82%
Sweet Bean	82.97%
Burn, Burn Burn	82.94%
Adult life skills	75.00%
Dheepan	74.65%
Victoria	74.14%
Embrace of the Serpent	73.03%
Land of the Enlightened	68.88%
Tale of Tales	62.20%
Childhood of a Leader	46.03%
Our Little Sister	n/a

Average audience size: 97

94.44% at the 2013 Festival. Let us hope we can beat even these figures in the future!

Where do we go from here?

The club depends on several things:-

1. First and foremost YOU need to continue to come! If we do things you don't like, please tell us; don't just drop out.
2. We need the Alhambra to continue to have us. You will have read the great news that Tom and Sylvia have now bought the cinema for them and their family, who will continue to run it when they arrive in about a year; we owe the Rennies a huge debt of thanks for this!! (One way to thank them is to go the cinema of course; they can't survive with just the club film once a week...)
3. We need volunteers to run the club. Vivaly, **we need a new treasurer**; Astrid Perret has done a tremendous job since 2012 but cannot do the job past July 2017. We NEED YOU! Can you handle figures? Please let me and/or Astrid know if you are willing or want to know more.
4. I am also trying to break down some of the jobs I currently do. Paul Martin has already volunteered to set up the Alhambra and deliver posters round town on Mondays; I'll be back offering more soon! Please let me know if you can help, however little time you can offer!