

# Talking Pictures

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

Spring programme 2018

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 before the first film, so please do come along at **4.15 p.m. on 7th January** to toast the New Year before our opening film - *'Marjorie Prime'*.

The **Spring Pass** will be on sale there at **£33** - still a great bargain, with eleven films this season! **Another great benefit for members only!**

Have you thought about your passes and tickets for the **19th Keswick Film Festival**? What a great Xmas present too! On sale now; You can ring the Theatre on 017687 74411 or book online via [www.keswickfilmfestival.org](http://www.keswickfilmfestival.org)

As it is the spring season, the Film Festival will dominate our viewing as usual, but don't forget the club films! There are 11 films to enjoy, starting with a thought-provoking US comedy drama about memory - *'Marjorie Prime'* - and ending the other side of the world with a Maori comedy drama about family - *'Boy'*. Between the two, there are plenty of goodies



too. *'Call Me by Your Name'* is a beautiful love story from Italy, while *'Loveless'* takes us to cold war Russia,

where a child has gone missing. We have the new Michael Haneke film - *'Happy End'* - for you to ponder on; is it as good as *'Amour'* was or not?

There is a spiritual trip through the Moroccan mountains for you to enjoy - *'Mimosas'* - and a fascinating look at the wilder side of women in Israel - *'In Between'* - which might make you rethink some of your ideas.

Have you ever seen a Pakistani western...which is feminist?! *'My Pure Land'* is just that.

Equally rare, maybe, is a Senegalese film about the problems of a single mother *'Félicité'* trying to collect money for her injured son.

Can we really have a season these days

without visiting Scandinavia? Well this time we have a Norwegian



dark sci-fi, *'Thelma'*, which should fit the bill. That just leaves our Hungarian movie *'Strangled'*, a police drama which involves state intervention too. AND I haven't even mentioned the Festival! 3 days of films to get you through the dark February days. Hope you enjoy it all!

## An interview with... Carol Rennie, new co-owner of the Alhambra.



Tom told us here in 2013: "the operation of the Alhambra as a "Family Business" is a viable concern...I am pretty sure that when the lease ends in 2017 I will hand it over to someone younger": Were you part of this plan from the beginning, when did you decide to join your father in the business?

Well, clearly Dad was thinking about this way earlier than I was! I used to do the odd stint as an usherette, selling ice-creams in the balcony, but I never imagined taking it on! Alan and I both think it was the other who was the real mover behind the idea. It probably became a serious possibility in 2015, when we upped sticks for a temporary post in Holland. Dad's 'family business' idea had clearly been percolating, so we were primed when Graves offered Dad

the freehold. We all bought the building together in December 2016, and moved here this August. Three months in, we feel pretty confident that the steepest part of the learning curve is behind us. (You may still notice the odd jarring transition in lighting, sound and screen-size!)

*And what plans do you have for the cinema?*

You will have noticed our new website with online booking, new weekly programme email, and wider repertoire of films. We're improving our advertising, and are already seeing an increase in numbers. Less noticeable is the shiny new roof! The next stage of refurbishment will be the balcony ceiling and stairwell. We will be getting an alcohol licence, so people can enjoy a drink during the intervals, or with a film. And then, a remodelling of the foyer to create a bar/circulation area, to make those intervals much less pressed, and so that people can hang out here before or after a film. *Are you a cinema fan yourself?*

Well, I would do miserably in a film quiz. (Now there's an idea - we

could host a film quiz night in the new bar, if any of you would care to run it?!) However, I am a student of literature, and love film nearly as much. I'm not that interested in plot, more in beautiful writing/cinematography, evocation of mood, and insights into relationships - so I like films that explore these issues. I'm so glad we have a film club in Keswick - in Leeds I was a regular at the Hyde Park Picture House, in Edinburgh the Filmhouse and Cameo, and several in London. I have lived in lots of countries, and speak a number of languages: I love foreign films, and subtitles are no impediment - vive la diversité!

*Vive L'Alhambra! Thanks for keeping it going for us all!*

## Reflections on Brexit and the Film Industry

By Vaughan Ames

There is much talk of the pros and cons of Brexit in the press and the news - I apologise for creating even more, but it has already had a knock-on effect on our club (viz the cost of films at the festival last year). I thought I would take a brief look around the net for what else might be in store for film lovers; is it the end of the film world as we know it, or the start of a brave new world of great new films? Most especially, how will it effect the British scene?

Surprise, surprise a bit of both might be true. First off, the fall in the pound instantly meant our film makers were a lot cheaper than they had been for foreign film makers; 15 years ago, they supplied

*The costs of several of our European films went up last year after the fall in the pound due to Brexit. I wondered where this might be leading...*

spent less than half the money on UK films, in 2016 it was 85%. So we can expect more Disney money (such as the latest Star Wars) to reach us.

From our perspective, the opposite is probably more important; many independent UK films have been made in Europe, which will now cost more for UK film makers PLUS the changes to freedom of movement for specialist film workers could make it harder, if not impossible for film making to cross our borders.

UK tax laws at present mean that films made here get 25% tax credit, which again tempts the big US giants to make films here. Leaving the EU could help or hinder this:-

1. The EU laws stops UK supporting more than 80% of the cost AND insists on certain tests, both of which the

UK could drop once we leave.

2. BUT once we start negotiating trade deals with the US direct, there is nothing to stop them placing barriers to protect their industry.

There is a whole lot of detail out there, as you would expect, which is waiting, like the rest of Britain to see what our government negotiate. Overall, my impression is that the possible 'gains' would probably help the blockbuster market more whilst the 'losses' will effect independents more - so many of our club films may either go up in price or, worse still, just not get made at all. I can't see this issue being top of the government agenda, so keep your fingers crossed!

### KFC Autumn 2017

Land of Mine	90.96%
The Graduate	90.76%
In Syria	88.81%
A Man Called Ove	86.79%
The Olive Tree	85.83%
Frantz	84.27%
The Midwife	82.61%
The Other Side of Hope	79.26%
God's Own Country	72.92%
The Age of Shadows	69.86%
Hotel Salvation	68.62%
Aquarius	59.69%
Certain Women	45.30%
The Ghoul	44.23%
After the storm	n/a

Average audience size: 111

### Weekly Club Email

Most of you will already get the weekly email throughout the club year, giving you details of the current week's film and any upcoming events. If you don't receive it, or it has stopped arriving, maybe we have no emailid for you, or we have the wrong one (there are still about a half a dozen that fail each week!).

All you need to do is email us at [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org) and we'll add you to the list!

### Data Protection

From May 2018 we need to you to positively agree to share contact details in line with the General Data Protection Regulation. We will therefore be contacting you in the new year; we ask that you reply so that we can continue to keep you in touch with what we are doing. Watch this space!

### Club Costs revisited

As we reported at the AGM, we are looking at ways to keep the

club financially viable. Firstly, we wanted to try to attract bigger audiences! Please keep trying to bring extra people; your success last season brought in about £50 extra each week so we hope the selection of films keeps you coming! Just one extra person each would bring in £1200 next season. If only twenty of us could recruit someone to the club, that would be £200 up front plus all the tickets they would buy over the year.

We have also tried to market the club in Penrith, and to make bigger efforts in Keswick and Cockermouth, by distributing a leaflet, which had some success.

Up front, we have also decided to 'invest to save'; we have had one meeting with a marketing expert in order to improve the ways we advertise (or not!). Roger Gook, who joined the committee at the AGM, has volunteered to try to get some of the ideas to happen, so we hope this will help.

And remember the price for NON-MEMBERS is going up to £6.00 from January, so we hope to encourage a few more people to join. As members, this means you will save £2.00 per film!

Lastly, have you got your tickets for the festival yet? Come along...and bring a friend!