

# Talking Pictures

## Keswick Film Club A.G.M., 26th March

This is your 'official' notice of the AGM which is to be held on Sunday 26th March, at the Alhambra at 4.00 p.m. - before Michael Winterbottom's *A Cock and Bull Story*. (AGM details overleaf)  
Agenda overleaf

### Audience responses to the Spring season's films

If you don't receive our email messages, you might like to know the scores and size of audience of the films so far:

Howl's Moving Castle: 79.2% (160 audience)

The Sea Inside: 91.1% (77)

The Last Mitterrand: 80.4% (90)

Sophie Scholl: 89% (100)

The Night of Truth: 76.5% (73)

Primer: 41.1% (97)

Crash: 84.8 (114)

## Thoughts on the Seventh Keswick Film Festival

If you came to see what was going on at the Festival - and many did, with more than a third of the 160 weekend passes sold being taken up by KFC members - you'll have some interesting tales to tell and opinions about what was on offer - all of which we hope to hear about in the near future, if you haven't already had your say on the website, the questionnaire, or in conversation with committee members.

Here at the coal-face we were very pleased with how it all went, not only in terms of the basic statistics of numbers attending and financial viability, but also in the ambiance, that 'buzz' so dearly beloved of organisers, and awaited with bated breath as a sign that audiences are happily engaging with what they see on the screen and with the people around them.

The number of people taking their seats to watch a film was increased by over 50% on last year's Festival: income didn't quite match that figure, but a very healthy increase gave a

sound basis for taking the event forward and developing it as a major attraction in the arts calendar of Cumbria. The organisers were delighted to feel that their efforts were worthwhile: Director Alex Greenwood saw the fruits of all her extremely hard work in juggling full-time paid



Popular Music

employment with almost full-time planning and delivery of a film festival, Nick Graham confessed to actually enjoying this event more than others in which he had played important roles - despite devoting virtually all his time to creating and handling the festival website and to making and developing contacts with sponsors and public bodies to ensure that

the event was affordable; Alan Smith, with his incredible eye for detail and indefatigable commitment to the cause, ranging over the whole gamut from programming to projection of the films will be sorely missed next time (unless he changes his mind!), while Darren Horne, in the throes of moving house and a Master's degree which involved shooting a film in the thick of Festival preparations did a great job in organising the short film competition and programming shorts.

We were much indebted too to our volunteers - you can't run a festival without them - David W, Simon, Alex M, D David, Liz, Karen: sorry if I've missed anyone. Impossible to thank all concerned of course, but we are enormously grateful to Tom and his team of projection-ists at the Alhambra, to Joan who waved her managerial wand, and to everyone at Theatre by the Lake for our enjoyment of a venue that much enhances the whole event.

And thanks to you for coming along, of course - we hope you enjoyed yourselves!

## Sight & Sound's best films of 2005

By common consent, the UK's best-staffed film magazine, Sight & Sound delivers an annual verdict on the year's Best Ten Films. While not slavishly following their opinions - indeed much of our programming is done before S&S reviews the films on release - we like to keep within touching distance of films acclaimed by the top critics.

So it was good to read in

January their choices of 2005's Top Ten (or 14, as they cheated and gave 4 films 10=). They agreed with us on 10 of them: *Brokeback Mountain*, *A History of Violence*, *2046*, *The Consequences of Love*, *Moolaadé*, *Tropical Malady*, *The Beat That My Heart Skipped*, *Head-On*, *Howl's Moving Castle* and *The Sun*. Editor Nick James commented: 'near-unanimous festival acclaim

for such films as Michael Haneke's *Hidden*, Cristi Puiu's *The Death of Mr Lazarescu* and the Dardenne brothers' *The Child* has not translated into votes. Perhaps we'll see them on next year's list... I wish *The Beat That My Heart Skipped* was nearer the top; and I regret the absence of Lucile Hadzihalilovic's stunning debut *Innocence*.'

You still have four of these to look forward to before mid-April, ladies and gentlemen.

Keswick Film Club AGM:  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2006. 4.00pm

Agenda:

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2005 AGM.
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Appointment of Trustees
7. AOB

At the AGM, one-third of the Trustees of the Club are required to retire from office. Alan Smith is retiring completely this year, and Ian Picken is retiring but willing to serve again. Any other members who would like to become trustees at the AGM must be nominated not less than 14 days before the meeting. Such nominations, accompanied by a statement of the person's willingness to be appointed, should be received by the Secretary at 50 St John's Street, Keswick CA12 5AG by 12th March 2005.

If there are any such nominations, all members will be circulated again, not later than 7 days before the meeting, to inform them of the proposal to appoint that person as a trustee. The Trustees have the power to appoint additional Trustees and to invite members to serve on the Committee. Any members interested in helping on the Committee are invited to say so at the AGM. Rod Evans, Chairman. Tel: 017687 74475. rod.evans@ntlworld.com Irena Grajewska, Secretary. renathatsme@yahoo.co.uk Please come to the meeting -we need your ideas and suggestions

## KFC Change of Secretary Alan leaves, Irena arrives

It is your Editor's greatest regret of 2006 that the Club is losing the services of Alan Smith, who has decided make a fresh start in pastures new. In his five and a half years with the KFC Alan has worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm to promote our interests through a whole range of activities: he has probably made his greatest mark in the eyes of the membership by designing our two latest brochures. But programming, publicity in general, projection of DVD screenings and Festival films, production of membership cards and passes, audience response handling, and, for the last 15 months, secretaryship, have all been part of his remit: you could say that Alan will be missed!

However, we adapt to change, and it is a great pleasure to welcome Irena Grajewska as our new Secretary. Irena describes herself professionally as a project manager, but her activities spread across a number of fields from photography (have you seen her pictures on the website?) to working at the Theatre, so you will probably know her face. She certainly won't have to try to do all that Alan has been doing, but we hope Irena has a very happy time in her new 'job'.



## BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards

You'll know how successful we've been over the last few years in winning 'Best Programme'. It seemed to be getting a little repetitive, so we decided this year not to apply for that award, but to try instead in three other categories: Film Society of the Year, Best Website and Best Marketing. The results will be declared on 11th March, and Alan will be there at the NFT hoping to pick up a gong or two from the 'mystery film celebrity'.

## Reza Bagher



No, Reza's not the celebrity in question, but it was a real pleasure to meet him at the Festival and to listen to his stories and charming comments about what a fine city Keswick is! If you heard his interview with Nick, you may be surprised to hear that he was operating in his fourth language (after Farsi, Swedish and German), so not merely a successful film director...

## 'KFC on the Road'

With a Festival to plan and deliver, we haven't been exactly hyper-active lately, but Portinscale have asked us back to put on another screening, and Mungrisdale have booked us for Friday 3rd March (7pm). Our UKFC-funded equipment (they like us to say that) will again be put to good use with, coincidentally, both venues asking for Tea With Mussolini. If any of you would like to help, or indeed to be in the audience, please let us know.



Maggie Smith, Judy Dench, Joan Plowright, Cher, Lily Tomlin

## On-line

The Club's website has details on all our activities — past and present. Visit: [www.keswickfilmclub.org](http://www.keswickfilmclub.org) [www.keswickfilmfestival.org](http://www.keswickfilmfestival.org) for a complete listing of the season's and festival films, plus news, reviews and the chance to vote on your favourite films.

Do use the new email facility to have your say on any particular film or matters in general. We're 'interactive', and we'd love to hear from you.