

# Talking Pictures

## Thoughts on the Eighth Keswick Film Festival

### Keswick Film Club A.G.M. 25th March

**This is your 'official' notice of the AGM which is to be held on Sunday 25th March, at the Alhambra at 4.00 p.m. - before the German film *Requiem*. (AGM details and 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 audience size of the films so far:

Offside: 66.2% (115 audience)

Shanghai Dreams: 77.0% (108)

The Page Turner: 81.7% (140)

The Passenger: 54.9% (113)

Keane: 67.5% (100)

Breaking & Entering: 80.4% (136)

I Saw Ben Barka Get Killed: 54.7% (68)

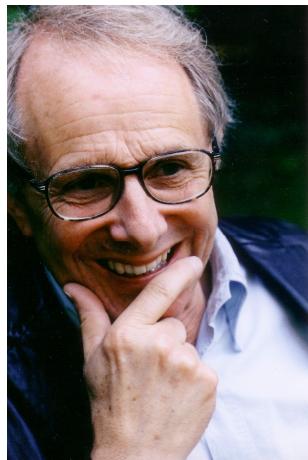
Last September, Keswick Film Festival came close to dying – or at least taking a gap year – because of the disappearance of the key organisers. But we took a deep breath and a bit of a gamble – and look what happened! The feedback from KFF8 Festival-goers has been extremely positive, the committee has had a good deal of fun (despite the hard work) and the financial downturn of 2006 has been emphatically reversed. With slightly fewer films this year, the average audience size was up, from 85 to 92, so we thought we must be doing something right.

To give some idea of what our 'customers' thought of it, here are two quotations, verbatim, from the audience questionnaires which appear typical: 'Outstanding! KFF goes from strength to strength – many thanks to everyone involved in making it happen. Enjoyed the opening buffet – even better than last year. Hard to know what could be improved for next year (though I thought that last year and you still managed it!) Looking forward to KFF9 already!'

'Excellent organisation, warm hospitality. A selection of excellent, thought-provoking films. A slight

clash between Director Arnold and Pan's Labyrinth. We opted for the director as the film is on general release. Gala was a great beginning. Wonderful food. Thereafter it was sandwiches...'

The second quote hints, of course, at several other people's criticisms: the advent of Ken Loach and



Ken Loach

Andrea Arnold, largely after the programme was fixed, did create a feeling of excitement and we were lucky and very grateful that they agreed to put in an appearance, but it put paid to our efforts to space the shows out a little so that people could eat. And there were the perennial arguments about the value of introductions, the screening of films in the morning, the

inclusion of shorts, European versus non-European films, the value of retrospectives – all of which will be addressed by the committee once again in an attempt to please all of the people all of the time. But the free tea and coffee for pass-holders was universally popular!

Only the weather let us down really: far too nice, especially on the Sunday, and several responders admitted that they might have gone to more films otherwise. 'Twas ever thus, for KFF... Book your holidays for mid-February in Keswick.

So thanks to everybody once again: Tom and Joan at the Alhambra, the Theatre people – Dave and his front of house and 'volleys' team, Sophie and management, Clive and box office, projection and technical staff; the KFF committee and helpers – David, Mike, Deborah, Darren, Vian, Stephen, Janine, Gemma, Robert, Richard, Alex, Nick (great work on the website), Sylvia, Margaret, and last but very far from least, Ann – who not only tied it all together but put in most of the work.

And well done and thank you too, all you members of KFC who offered such loyal support – I have a sneaking suspicion that you enjoyed yourselves... RFE

#### Festival audience response scores

The Lives of Others	91.8%	Unconscious	75.0%	Borat	64.6%
My Name is Joe	89.4%	Cathy Come Home	73.8%	Freedom Writers	62.5%
Ladybird Ladybird	85.7%	Kes	73.2%	Ten Canoes	61.5%
After the Wedding	84.5%	Esma's Secret	73.0%	Happy Feet	59.5%
Pan's Labyrinth	81.9%	Miss Potter	72.4%	NW FilmArchive	57.5%
Mountain Patrol	77.9%	Deep Water	70.8%	Perfume	57.3%
We Shall Overcome	77.3%	37 Uses Dead Sheep	69.4%	Box o' Shorts	55.9%
Little Miss Sunshine	77.0%	Red Road	68.3%	This Film is n y r	52.7%
Apocalypto	76.5%	The Host	67.9%	Play	50.0%
Land & Freedom	75.0%	Bamako	65.2%		

# Keswick Film Club AGM: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007. 4.00pm

## Agenda:

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2006 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. D David Miller is retiring completely this year, and I am 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 11th March 2007.

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. Two members of the Club Committee have already expressed their willingness to become trustees: Deborah Cowin and Ann Martin, but this is no bar to further nominations.

Any members interested in helping on the KFC Committee are invited to say so at or before the AGM. Rod Evans, Chairman.  
Tel: 017687 74475  
[info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org)  
Irena Grajewska,  
Secretary.  
[Irenathatsme@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Irenathatsme@yahoo.co.uk)

**Please come to the meeting -we need your ideas and suggestions**

## BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards

You'll remember that KFC has won a few awards over the last few years, and that we were over the moon with being 'Film Society of the Year 2006.'

Well, that one's almost impossible to win in successive years, so we've had a go in three other categories: Best Website, Best Marketing and Best Programme.

We know so far that we've been short-listed in all three, but we're looking forward to the results on 3rd March, when Ann and Richard will be there at the NFT hoping to pick up a gong or two from our old friend Nicolas Roeg (he was here at the Festival in 2003). Much more anticipation than for the Oscars!



Andrea Arnold,  
guest at KFF8

## 'KFC on the Road'

With a Festival to plan and deliver, we haven't been exactly hyper-active lately, but since the last 'Talking Pictures' we've been to Brigham to screen *Mrs Henderson Presents* and *Phantom of the Opera* and to Mungrisdale for *A Touch of Class*. Our UKFC-funded equipment (they like us to say that) will soon be put to good use again with our screening of



*The Lion in Winter* at Mungrisdale on 16th March and *The Constant Gardener* at Brigham on 23rd March. Both very good films, and if



you missed them or would like 'another chance to see', the village halls would doubtless be delighted to extend a welcome. Many thanks as always to Robert and Richard for their willingness to turn out to further our outreach.