

# Keswick Film Club

## Autumn 2011



**Keswick Film Club**  
at the  
**Lonsdale Alhambra**  
St John's Street  
Keswick



Keswick Film Club began life in 1998 with the intention of bringing the best of World Cinema to Keswick. Since then it has won many awards from the British Federation of Film Societies including Best Programme four times, and Best Website. In 2006 we were Film Society of the Year. Audiences are made up of the Club's 280+ members, and our very welcome visitors.

### LOCATION

The Alhambra Cinema, St. John's Street, Keswick, North Lake District. Leave the Market Square at the south end (Keswick Lodge Hotel) and keep going uphill for 200 metres.

### TIME

KFC has two 'seasons', each with its own brochure, available in and around Keswick (e.g. T.I.C., Library, Booths) or posted to members. Mostly Sundays at 5pm, but check in this brochure. September to December - the 'Autumn Season' January to April - the 'Spring Season'

### SCREENINGS

Screenings begin with a short introduction, followed, time allowing, by a short film. Film notes are available prior to screenings or on the club website, and we have a voting system - give the film a star rating out of five.

## Autumn Programme 2011

### The Lonsdale Alhambra Cinema, Keswick

### TICKETS

Membership is open to everyone and will save you money if you attend more than 5 films over the course of one year, including all Film Festival tickets.

*Tickets:* £4.50 for non members; £3.50 for members; £2.50 for students, under 16s and benefit claimants.

*Membership:* £7 per year. Reduction of £1 on all Club and Film Festival screenings, £1 off Alhambra's own screenings on Wednesday (or Sunday in the summer)

Join at The Alhambra Cinema, The Necessary Angel (Packhorse Court) or Chairman's house, top flat, 36 Station Street, Keswick, or at any club screening

*Season Pass:* £30 (Autumn season 2010)

Membership also entitles attendance of Caldbeck Area Film Society at members' rates and vice versa. Non-members are very welcome.

### COMMITTEE

Chairman & Membership Secretary:

Vaughan Ames (017687 80969) [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org)

Secretary: Ian Payne

Treasurer: Tom Rennie

Committee Members: Stephen Brown, Deborah Cowin, Angela Jackson, Anita Leaker, Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), David Miller, Alan Naylor, Elspeth Payne, Mike Rose-Troup, Stephen Pye.

*Keswick Film Club is a voluntarily-run, not-for-profit organisation*

Sunday 11th September at 5pm

## THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF ADELE BLANC-SEC

Director: Luc Besson. France 2010 12A

107 mins. In French with English subtitles

After some criticism that last year's films tended to be a bit 'dark', we open our new season with a light-hearted comedy adventure romp, a 'mix of *Amelie* and *Indiana Jones*' – *Empire*. Famed big-budget French director Luc Besson ('*The Fifth Element*') has adapted the story from two Jacques Tardi comic books and proves, once again, 'anything Hollywood can do, he can do with buckets more visual flair' – *Time Out*

Picture 'les bons temps' in Paris, 1911, where Adele's sister lies near to death after an accident. Tomb raiders in Egypt bring back Mummies - speaking French of course! - and a pterodactyl egg, which is brought to life...naturally. Our unflappable heroine Adele tries to resolve it all, whilst evading her arch nemesis Dieuleveult – Mathieu Almeric well disguised (after his recent 'On Tour', who can blame him?)

Come along and enjoy yourself; our season is but young and there is time for darker nights to come ...



Sunday 18th September at 5pm

## LOUISE-MICHEL

Director: Benoit Delepine. France 2008 12A  
94 mins. In French with English subtitles.

*'A tale of two genderless freaks fighting the good fight for the little man also offers a rousing reminder of the power (and eccentricities) of the pissed-off proletariat' - David Jenkins, Time Out*  
Delepine's follow-up to Aaltra (seen at our 2005 festival) seems to set out to upset everyone, starting with the dead. A black comedy with the courage of its bad-taste convictions; a film to love or hate, but not to sleep through!

A group of fired female employees from a toy factory reject the idea of spending their redundancy on a nude calendar and opt instead for Louise's idea to pay for a hitman to kill the boss that put them out of work. This might not have been such a bad idea if they hadn't hired the inept Michel. Things go from bad to worse when Michel attempts to sub-contract the hit to a series of highly inappropriate assassins.

*'A darkly funny film in the same vein as Micmacs, this French crime caper gives political correctness le boot' - David Parkinson, Empire*



Sunday 25th September at 5pm

## BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

Director: Sidney Lumet. US 2008 15 117 mins.

Tonight's treat is shown as a Tribute to Sydney Lumet who died earlier this year. He directed this one in 2008 at the age of 84, and showed here that *'the director of 12 Angry Men, Serpico and The Verdict was not only still working, but doing some of his best work'* - *Empire*.

Two brothers (Philip Seymour Hoffman and Ethan Hawke) with very different money problems agree to rob a jewellery store—owned by their parents - which goes horribly wrong. The remainder of the film, flashing back and forth, takes us into an investigation of those affected by the robbery, revealing a very tangled web indeed. The film's direction, writing and acting combine to give us a tense thriller with *'a texture more akin to real life than Hollywood. Superior fare, packed with insight and suspense.'* - *Time Out*, which left Peter Bradshaw of the Guardian needing *'hours to relax my tensed-up muscles'*.



Sunday 2nd October at 5pm

## MARY & MAX

Director: Adam Elliot. Australia 2009 12 80 mins.

Is this our first claymation film?! The director Adam Elliot won an Oscar for his 2003 short Harvey Krumpet (which we will show first tonight) and returns here with a simple comedy of a eight-year old girl (voice by Toni Collette) from Melbourne who randomly writes a letter to a middle-aged Jewish New Yorker with Asperger's Syndrome (who's voice gives us a second chance to listen to Phillip Seymour Hoffman). Rather than throw the letter away, he replies, starting a 20 year correspondence between the two unloved, lonely pen pals, where they discuss everything under the sun from pets to taxidermy, obesity to agoraphobia.

Does this work in clay? It *'manages to be sickly cute, alarmingly grotesque and right-on at the same time—often in the same scene'* - Andrew Pulver, *Guardian*. *'This dark gem plays out like Wallace and Gromit directed by David Lynch'* - Tim Evans, *Sky Movies*. Reviewers and audiences seem to love it, what will Keswick Film Club make of it?



Sunday 9th October at 5pm

## ARMADILLO

Director: Janus Metz Pedersen. Denmark 2010 15 105 mins. Danish with English subtitles.

A completely different film to last week, this documentary was made over six months, following some Danish troops on a tour of duty in Helmand province, Afghanistan. As such, we see the new troopers start out from Denmark and growing gradually indifferent to the locals as the reality of their situation takes hold. Trying to befriend the locals is not an easy task when you are seen as 'just another man with a gun'

The courageous director and photographer lived with these troops and manage to show all scenes without judgment, even the one which became notorious in Denmark, showing the Danes killing five injured Taliban troopers with a grenade. Was this a war crime, or were they protecting themselves?

This film gives us the chance to witness Afghanistan from the frontline in what even the US online magazine Salon decided was *'a mesmerizing and terrifying documentary that can stand among the greatest war movies ever made'*

Sunday 16th October at 5pm

3D NIGHT OUT WITH OPTIONAL FOOD

## PINA IN 3D AT RHEGED

Director: Wim Wenders. Germany 2011 U

106 mins. In German with English subtitles.

The trailer for this film asks 'Is it Dance? Is it Theatre? Or is it simply life?' We **move to Rheged** for this week to find out in this marvellous 3D tribute to Pina Bausch by Wim Wenders.

Bausch was a German choreographer who was a leading influence in the modern development of 'Tanztheater' - dance theatre.

Wenders sets out to deliberately use 3D to explore the use of space on a stage as part of choreography and '*proves that the third dimension can be much more than icing on the cake*' - Tim Robey, *Telegraph* The film began as a collaboration with Bausch herself, until her unfortunate death before it was completed. Expect lots of dancing from Bausch's major works, but also expect to see the dancers move out into the streets of Wuppertal to bring her ideas to life.

We will be organising transport to Rheged...and why not stop for a meal afterwards? Watch this space...



Sunday 23rd October at 5pm  
**IN A BETTER WORLD**  
(Haevnen)

Director: Susanne Bier. Denmark 2010 Unrated  
119 mins. In Danish with English subtitles.

The winner of the 2011 Oscar for the 'best foreign film'. Can we build a better world by helping our tormentors or fighting them? Two contrasting stories are counterpoised, the link being that the fathers of two boys take the opposite view to their sons. We see one of the fathers working as a Doctor in Africa facing the dilemma 'should he help an injured warlord or not?' (if you saw 'Of Gods and Men' last season you might guess what his decision is), whilst the boys decision to fight back against the school bully has different consequences.

*'Is violence so deeply ingrained in the human character that even the best of us will embrace it? Or can we transcend our instincts and find a higher law?' - A.O.Scott, New York Times*

Using the internal family arguments to juxtapose the political ones, maybe Bier has made the allegory too obvious? You will have to come along to find out for yourself.



*Sunday 30th October at 5pm*

## **YOUNG HEARTS RUN FREE**

*Director: Andy Mark Simpson. UK 2011 12A 93 mins. Followed by Q & A with the director*

Mark is a likeable teenage artist living in a Northumbrian mining village in 1974, during the mining strike. He falls in love with a London girl that no-one likes and decides to escape to art college in London. Unfortunately, he tries to fund this by strike-breaking and scabbing on his family and friends...

This appears to be the small budget film to end all small budgets. With the most expensive films coming in at \$300m, this one cost about \$30K. It is the first film by Andy Mark Simpson, who wrote it, financed it and directed it, and he is still only 28.. He wrote it as a teenager and took four years to complete with the help of local unknown actors. It has still managed to win some awards in the UK and USA. This may not be the most polished film you ever see, but if you, like me, enjoy small budget movies and new directors, it is one to see...

As an added bonus, Andy will be coming along to answer some questions; possibly 'how did you make a film for less than a car?' will be the first one!



*Sunday 6th November at 5pm*

## **CONFESSIONS**

**(Kokuhaku)**

*Director: Tetsuya Nakashima. Japan 2010 15 106 mins. Japanese with English Subtitles)*

What would you do if your four year-old has been murdered by some school kids that you happen to not only know, but teach as well? In the opening to this film, Nakashima's teacher tells her class she has just poisoned the milk of the two responsible with the HIV virus.

*'A bleakly, furious anti-people film, in which almost every character is a vicious tyrant or a deserving victim' - Tom Huddleston, Time Out*, this is not an easy film. It examines Japanese Youth culture and extreme bullying, using flashbacks to show the 'confessions' which lead the teacher (Takako Matsu) to such an act.

*'A typically edgy Japanese schoolyard horror, with some serious—and uncomfortable—things to say' - Kim Newman, Empire*

Sunday 13th November **at 4pm**

**\*\*GALA NIGHT! A DOUBLE BILL AND FOOD**

## THE TREE OF LIFE

Director: Terrence Malick US 2011 12A 139 mins.

When Rod Evans stood down as chair we asked him to chose two films to make a 'Gala night' as a last thank you from the club, for all he did for us. Today is the result. We start the evening **at 4pm** with a real thought-provoker. The winner of this year's Cannes 'Palme d'Or', Malick also inspired some Cannes critics to boo. The basic plot has Jack O'Brien (Sean Penn) thinking back over his life, especially his upbringing in 1950's Waco, by his very strict father (Brad Pitt) and loving mother (Jessica Chastain). But Malick has a much, much higher target here; nothing less than the nature of the universe and the possibility of God. *'This is visionary cinema on an unashamedly huge scale' - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.* Most reviewers have not been able to resist comparing this to Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey, both visually and in its scope; we will be able to discuss our views afterwards, in the break for food, and drink ; *' a film like this will generate extreme reaction, pro and con' - Tom Charity, LoveFilm.* What will YOU think..?

Sunday 13th November **at 7.30pm**

**- ALL FOR THE PRICE OF ONE FILM! \*\***

## INCENDIES

Director: Denis Villeneuve. Canada 2010 15 130 mins. (French & Arabic with English Subtitles)

Our second film will start **at 7.30pm**. Incendies is a devastating mystery thriller. A dead mother, Nawal, leaves instructions in her will to her two twins, to deliver two letters to their unknown father and brother. What follows is their journeys, from Canada to the Middle East, and into their pasts.

*'The crucial territory covered is fixed in the heart. The film gathers momentum from its images, including the three dots Nawal tattooed on the heel of her missing son. I'll say no more. Incendies is best opened fresh. But there is no way you'll get it out of your dreams' - Peter Travers, Rolling Stone*

This film was nominated for the Oscar for best Foreign Film and has won various awards at film festival this year.

Rod has found two great looking films here—and surprised all that know him by not choosing a French one! A good Gala night is promised for all.



Sunday 20th November at 5pm

## PATAGONIA

Director: Marc Evans. UK 2011 15 114 mins.  
(in Welsh and Spanish with English Subtitles)

In 1865, 163 Welsh settlers emigrated to Patagonia for a new start and their community still exists today. Evans uses this to set up a 'double road movie' - a couple from Wales set out for Patagonia to photograph Welsh chapels and reinvigorate their failing relationship, whilst an old lady from the colony in Patagonia comes to Wales with a young neighbour to visit her mother's farm and rediscover her past. Along the way, *'Patagonia is spiced with moments of intense passion and melodrama, as well as humour'* - *Little White Lies*.

*The film is about displaced persons seeking to find themselves...but the landscapes...are most powerful'* - Derek Malcolm, *Evening Standard*  
And possibly my favourite quote of the season—  
*'Easily the best film set in Wales and Argentina out this month'* - David Edwards, *Mirror*



Sunday 27th November at 5pm

## LIFE, ABOVE ALL

Director: Oliver Schmitz. South Africa 2010 12A  
100 mins. In Sotho with English subtitles.

Chanda is a 12 year-old South African who knows what a hard life really is. Her baby sister dies, her mother is suffering from 'the bug' (AIDS), her step father is a drunk and the villagers blame divine judgment against her mother for bringing all the trouble on herself. Chanda—played by the terrific Khomotso Manyaka—is forced to take on running the family. The family's only friend, Mrs Tafa, tries to help the situation by moving Chandra's mother out of the village, but Chandra, who knows she needs her mother, no matter how ill she is, goes in search of her.

Oliver Schmitz—who directed 'the Apartheid-era film Mapantsula' in 1988— brings us this film about the brutal and dark world of AIDS where the reactions of the community in denial only help to bring on their own destruction.

*'Deeply moving without resorting to sentiment....it lightens the load with smart character humour and a sense of hope for the future. A very rewarding watch' - Anna Smith, Empire*



Sunday 4th December at 5pm

## OUTSIDE THE LAW (*Hors-la-loi*)

Director: Rachid Bouchareb France/Algeria 2010

15 138 mins. French /Arabic with English subtitles

Withnail and I (1987).

Revolutionaries or terrorists? Freedom fighters or criminals? The Algerian Independence struggle 50 years ago has not been the subject of many films, with the Battle of Algiers the most famous. It is the setting for Bouchareb's film of three brothers growing up in French Algeria, losing their father on VE day in Setif where the French massacred thousands of protestors and then meeting up again in 1950's France in the days of the FLN terror tactics. His outlook is humanist, not political, as he looks at the events that lead the three men to this point.

We had the first part of Bouchareb's loose trilogy in 2007's 'Days of Glory', which so impressed President Chirac that he changed the law on pensions to African war veterans, previously denied to them.

The second part of the trilogy looks and feels more like an artistic Mobster movie than anything—sharp action in dark settings. 'Somewhere between *Bertolucci* and *Michael Mann*' - Johnathan Romney, *Independent on Sunday*.



Sunday 11th December at 5pm

## PRINCESS OF MONTPENSIER

Director: Bertrand Tavernier. France/Germany  
2010 PG 139 mins. In French with English subtitles.

*'A young noblewoman is torn between passion, duty, companionship and ambition, each quality personified by a different man' - Variety*

Tavernier continues his masterful direction of films with this adaption of Madame de Lafayette's 1622 novella. In a 16th century France dominated by Catholic and Protestant battles, we meet Marie de Mezieres (Melanie Thierry), who is soon forced to become the Princess of the title against her will; she is already in love with a Duke. Her new husband soon rushes off to war, leaving her in the hands of an ageing Count. Tavernier then follows the Princess through the conflicts of a woman with no rights to decide for herself but trying to get the best of all options.

*'Moving and thought-provoking, this has something for all, but especially for those who like to believe that films can be as boldly intelligent as they are entertaining' - Los Angeles Times*



*Sunday 18th December at 5pm*

## A SMALL ACT

*Director: Jennifer Arnold. US 2010*

*12A 88 mins. In English and Kikuya.*

Our last movie for this season is another documentary, to put you in the Christmas spirit, about the effect of another type of gift.

In the 60's and 70's, a Swedish woman, Hilde Back, gave a regular donation to sponsor the education of a Kenyan schoolboy, Chris Mburu. Chris went on to graduate from Harvard Law school and became a leading figure in the United Nations.

If this wasn't reward enough, Chris decided to seek out the stranger who helped him, and to set up the Hilde Back Education Fund to help further Kenyan children. This fund is now giving hope to poor children, but further agony to those who just fail to qualify; could this be worse than the no hope they had before?

From the daughter of Holocaust victims, to an act of altruism, to the promise of help for future generations; the 'butterfly effect' at its very best.

Happy Christmas everyone!



## September 2010

- Sunday 11th 5pm **THE ADVENTURES OF ADELE BLANC-SEC**  
French, 12A Luc Besson shows Hollywood how to make a good romp
- Sunday 18th 5pm **LOUISE-MICHEL**  
French, 12A Black bad-taste comedy
- Sunday 25th 5pm **BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU ARE DEAD**  
US, 15 A Sydney Lumet classic. Crime does not pay

## October 2010

- Sunday 2nd 5pm **MARY & MAX + HARVIE KRUMPET**  
Australia, 12 Claymation pen pals discuss the problems of the world
- Sunday 9th 5pm **ARMADILLO**  
Danish, 15 Documentary of war in Afghanistan
- Sunday 16th 5pm **PINA IN 3D AT RHEGED**  
German, U Wim Wenders special 3D tribute to Pina Bausch
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **IN A BETTER WORLD**  
Danish, unrated Oscar winner contrasts 'love your enemy' with 'fight them'
- Sunday 30th 5pm **YOUNG HEARTS RUN FREE**  
UK, 12A Low budget love story set in the 1974 miners strike

## November 2010

- Sunday 6th 5pm **CONFESSIONS**  
Japanese, 15 Japanese teacher takes revenge on school killers
- Sunday 13th 4pm **THE TREE OF LIFE + FOOD + INCENDIES**  
US, 12A Canada, 15 Gala Night. Two films, food and good conversation.
- Sunday 20th 5pm **PATAGONIA**  
UK, 15 The Welsh on the road in Patagonia, and vice versa
- Sunday 27th 5pm **LIFE, ABOVE ALL**  
S Africa, 12A A young girl's fight to survive against all odds

## December 2010

- Sunday 4th 5pm **OUTSIDE THE LAW**  
Algeria, 15 Three men take on France in the struggle for Independence
- Sunday 11th 5pm **PRINCESS OF MONTPENSIER**  
France, PG Tavernier's masterful period piece. Love or duty?
- Sunday 18th 5pm **A SMALL ACT**  
US, 12A A donation changes peoples lives for ever