

Keswick Film Spring 2016



**New Films from Around the World
Every Sunday**

Classic Films on Tuesdays

Keswick Film Festival in February

Keswick Film
at the
Alhambra
St John's Street
Keswick





www.keswickfilmclub.org



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 (now 'Cinema for All') including Best Programme four times, Best Website and Film Society of the Year. Anyone can come to a film, and we have over 200 members who benefit from even cheaper viewings.

LOCATION

The Alhambra Cinema, St. John's Street, Keswick, North Lake District. Leave the Market Square at the south end (The Royal Oak) 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. Most films are screened on Sundays at 5pm, but check in this brochure. We are showing '**Classic films**' on Tuesday nights again this season.

Email us at info@keswickfilmclub.org

Follow us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/keswickfilmclub

Or on **Twitter** at www.twitter.com/keswickfilm

Spring Programme 2016

The Alhambra Cinema, Keswick

TICKETS

You do not need to be a member to see the films, but it will save you money if you attend more than 7 films, including all Film Festival films, over the course of the two seasons in the year.

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 or the Chair's flat - Top Flat, 36 Station Street, Keswick - or at any club screening. Membership form available from our website.

Season Pass: £30 (Spring season 2016 - does not include Tuesdays) Membership also entitles attendance of Caldbeck Area Film Society at members' rates and vice versa.

You are very welcome to all shows, whether you join or not.

COMMITTEE

Chair: Vaughan Ames (017687 80969), info@keswickfilmclub.org

Vice Chair: David Miller Secretary: Ian Payne

Treasurer: Astrid Perrett Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne

Committee Members: Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), Stephen Brown, Angela Jackson, Alan Naylor, Charlotte Peters, Stephen Pye, Tom Rennie, Mike News, John Porter, David Andrews

*Keswick Film Club is a voluntarily-run, not-for-profit organisation
Registered Charity No. 1083395*

Sunday 10th January at 5pm
LA FAMILLE BÉLIER

Director: Eric Lartigau. France 2014 (12A) 106 mins.
In French with English subtitles.



We always try to get the season started with a film which will open your hearts to the joys of watching foreign films without making you work...too hard. *'La Famille Bélier'* seems to be made just for us; it is French, it has some ideas to make you think, whilst remaining, at heart, a comedy drama to sit back and enjoy. What better way to get over the January blues?

Paula is 16 years old and lives with her younger brother, Quentin, and their Mum and Dad, who are simple, if eccentric, dairy farmers. All is as it should be...except Paula is the only one who is not deaf.

The family lives as normal a life as possible (Dad even wants to stand as Mayor), though Paula is left to translate to the outside world, leaving her family very dependent on her. When she meets Gabriel, she decides to join his choir to be around him; not a problem to start with, but what happens if her singing talent leads her away from home?

So the bigger issues, then, are scattered amongst the comedy. It is all held together by some great acting: local stars François Damians and Karin Viard play the parents with Luca Gelberg (the only actual deaf actor) playing Quentin, but the main plaudits are reserved for Louane Emera (Paula) who won the César for most promising actress here - *'It wouldn't work, though, without the Julia Stiles-ish Emera's solid-gold knockout performance: both singing and signing, while describing a young woman overcoming understandable reservations about allowing her voice to be heard'* - Mike McCahill, Guardian. Appropriately, she was discovered via her singing talents in the French version of *'The Voice'*.



Sunday 17th January at 5pm

MARSHLAND (La isla mínima)

Director: Alberto Rodriguez. Spain 2014 (15) 105 mins.
In Spanish with English subtitles.



Juan and Pedro are two mismatched cops searching for two teenage girls who have disappeared in a remote part of Andalusia. It is post-Franco Spain and the lingering Fascist sympathies of the area are not helping their investigation. The locals don't seem to want to know, preferring to think the girls have just run off rather than accepting anything more sinister can have happened to them.

'The script uses the thriller format to lock together the personal, the social and the political in what adds up to not only a darkly ambiguous thriller but a portrait of an isolated community, and a whole society, in flux: a marshland' - Jonathan Holland, Hollywood Reporter.

If you, like me, enjoy film noir and crave the days when thrillers were full of clever scripts and false endings, then this one is for you.

'Aware that we've seen this story before – the buddy-cops-hunt-a-rural-killer plotline isn't exactly new – director Alberto Rodríguez crams the film with red herrings, dead leads, oddball supporting characters and murky political subtext. He leads us out into the wilds and back again, throwing in the odd fist fight and car chase to keep things ticking along. The result is a taut, visually sumptuous and hugely entertaining thriller' - Tom Huddleston, Time Out.



Sunday 24th January **at 4.30pm**

HARD TO BE A GOD (Trudno byt bogom)

Director: *Aleksey German. Russia 2013 (18) 177 mins.*
In Russian with English subtitles.

'I haven't read Hard to Be a God'; I only know German's movie is a standalone soul-socker; maybe the greatest film since the millennium began' - Nigel Andrews, FT



'Though it delves into the worst extremes of human ugliness, German's film is exhilarating, moving, funny, beautiful and unshakeable – a danse macabre that whirls you round and round until the bitter end.

Even when German's film is over, it's not really over. Whenever you close your eyes, it's still playing' - Robbie Collin, Telegraph.

Hard to describe this amazing film; some scientists have gone to a different planet which is just like Earth, but locked into the middle-ages. As travellers, they are not allowed to influence anything, though they are treated like gods...Is it really another planet, or just a view of us and where we might be heading?

Be warned, this is not going to be an easy ride; BUT it just might be your favourite film of the millennium too!

Tuesday 26th January at 5pm

TUESDAY CLASSICS - A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Directors: *Sam Wood, Edmund Golding. USA 1935 (U) 96 mins.*

The classics proved popular last season so we are going to carry on. The 'theme' this season is 'as chosen by members': all three were requested by you!

We kick off with a Marx Brothers classic from 1935. With all their usual mixture of anarchy and slick timing, this time they are 'organising' the New York Opera as they try to get two friends hired at the expense of real talent. Maybe this picture will explain it all..?



Sunday 31st January at 5pm

HECTOR

Director: Jake Gavin. UK 2015 (15) 87 mins.

If you saw 'Lady in the Van' with the great Maggie Smith, then imagine this is a 'Man without a Van', starring the great Peter Mullan; you can see why it wasn't a difficult decision for us to want to show it.



Peter Mullan plays Hector, an itinerant who appears to have been on the move for a long time, but we are not told why or for how long. The story concentrates on showing that his life may have its bleak points but most of the time it is just like yours and mine: eating, washing and shopping are shown as his daily routine, even if he does it at the motorway service station where he happens to have been dropped by his latest hitched ride. He has no desire to change his life, in fact he seems happy with it, laughing and telling stories with the friends he has made along the way.

As we meet him, Christmas is coming and he is trying to get down to London to share some Christmas cheer at a homeless hostel with his friends there.

Written and directed by first-timer Jake Gavin, who has put his previous experience as a reporter and homeless hostel volunteer into showing Hector as a likeable, ordinary man, not an invisible cipher by the roadside.

"Hector" is thought-provoking cinema at its best, taking a man who will make you smile and placing him in situations that'll make you cry, and evoking a host of emotions through a series of social interactions. With Peter Mullan's enormously heartfelt performance at its core, the film allows us as an audience to take a step back and look at the bigger picture, and to place value in the things we hold most important. Being dealt a bad hand is in no way aligned with being a bad person, or a lesser person at that, and Jake Gavin's brilliantly written and directed story is a glowing example of this' - Gary Arnot, Cinema Perspective.

Sunday 7th February at 5pm

TANGERINES (Mandariinid)

Director: Zaza Urushadze. Estonia 2013 (15) 87 mins.
In Russian, Georgian and Estonian with English subtitles.



It is the 1990s, many Estonians are living in Georgia when the civil war between Georgia and Abkhazia breaks out. Caught in the fighting, most Estonians flee the area, but Ivo stays behind to help his neighbour Margus harvest the crop of tangerines. The fighting overruns their area and Ivo finds himself nursing two injured soldiers, Niko and Ahmed. This would be difficult enough if Niko and Ahmed were on the same side... Ivo is forced to prevent them from killing each other in his house.

The result is *'a tremendous, old-fashioned anti-war film, by turns touching, moving and suspenseful'* - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.

'Tangerines' was only beaten to the Oscar for the Best Foreign film by the wonderful *'Ida'* which we showed in 2013, but it is only recently that *'Tangerines'* got a UK release: maybe this is just as well as *'it contains moments of great joy and hope as it reflects the way heightened emotions can shift from hatred to hilarity in a heartbeat. Given everything that has been happening across Europe this past summer, it couldn't be a more timely or poignant film'* - Allan Hunter, The List.



Sunday 14th February at 5pm

MY SKINNY SISTER (Min lilla syster)

Director: Sanna Lenken. Sweden 2015 (15) 95 mins.

In Swedish with English subtitles.

The title gives much away about this film; we are looking at a girl with eating problems, but, rather than see it from her viewpoint, or even from an adult's point of view, we are watching it all from her sister's angle. What it doesn't tell us is that the sister is younger - 12 in this case - and that she sees her sister as a role model.



Katja is an adolescent schoolgirl, but becoming a bit of a star as a figure skater. In trying to increase her fitness and her success, she is secretly suffering from anorexia and bulimia. Alongside her, sister Stella is suffering from prepubescent anxieties about her own body and sees Katja as perfect.

First time director Sanna Lenken was partly inspired by her own battles with anorexia but, by placing Stella as the central character, she allows the film to be much more about her young jealousies and the relationship problems caused by Katja's eating difficulties, making the film much more lightweight (no pun intended!) and fun to watch.

Katja is played by former child pop star Amy Deasismont, but it is new discovery Rebecka Josephson - discovered only one month before shooting began - who steals the show as Stella.

'The film is mostly shot at Stella's eye level as she cowers perpetually in the shadow of scary adults and beanstalk teenagers. The restless, jittery handheld camera work by Moritz Schultheiss absolutely adores Josephson's thick copper-colored tresses and comically stern features. Blessed with a freckled moon face that registers every tiny tremor of anguish and mischief, she is both convincingly awkward and winningly natural, even when she breaks into fluent English to converse with non-Swedish characters. A child star is born in Lenken's warmhearted dramatic treatment of an evergreen subject' - Stephen Dalton, Hollywood Reporter.

Sunday 21st February at 5pm

SUNSET SONG

Director: Terence Davies. UK 2015 (15) 135 mins.



'Sunset Song' starts with a sweeping shot of a cornfield, which comes to rest on Chris as she rises up out of the corn: we are about to watch a film about country life and a young woman's coming of age there.

Whilst the photography is beautiful, Chris's life is certainly not: She loves the life on the farm, even though she dreams of other things, but her father (played by Peter Mullan, our second sight of him this season) is an old fashioned patriarch who rules his family with a rod of iron.

It is not till Chris meets Ewan that she begins to see there could be happiness at home too but even that lies under the shadow of the approaching First World War...

'Sunset Song' was adapted - from the classic 1932 novel by Lewis Grassic Gibbon - by writer/director Terence Davies; 'Patriarchal regimes and the broken clockwork of dysfunctional family life are hallmarks of Davies films dating right back to his debut, 'Distant Voices, Still Lives'. To 'Sunset Song' he also brings some of the impressionist wanderings that characterised his last film, 2011's 'The Deep Blue Sea' - Henry Barnes, Guardian.

Chris is played by Agyness Deyn, who, if the reviews are correct, has stepped brilliantly from top model to top actress in this role (via 'Electricity', seen here in 2014).



Tuesday 23rd February at 5pm

TUESDAY CLASSICS - BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Director: David Lean. UK 1945 (PG) 86 mins.



'Sheer perfection - the gold standard of tragic romances whose influence can still be seen to this day' - Keith Uhlich, Time Out.

The joy of having 'member's choice' for the classics season is that you pick such great films as this! We did think of having it ('One of cinema's classic love stories' - Kate Muir, Times) on Sunday as it was Valentines Day but there really were too many films to fit in the season; sorry.

David Lean wrote and directed '*Brief Encounter*', taking it from the Noel Coward play '*Still Life*'. It was his 5th film before he went on to direct so many other famous films such as '*Lawrence of Arabia*', '*Doctor Zhivago*' and '*A Passage to India*'. It earned him the Grand Prize at Cannes and an Oscar nomination for Best Director.

The stars were Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard; '*She is Laura: the good little housewife to a drab, inattentive middle-class worker bee, trudging through a repetitive, stultifying existence somewhere in suburbia. He is Alec: a doctor whose equally loveless union has driven him to find solace in work. Their chance meeting in a station café develops first into a casual friendship, then gradually, guiltily into something neither of them can fully understand or admit*' - Tom Huddleston, Time

Out. Look out for other faces too - Stanley Holloway, Joyce Carey and Cyril Raymond, who plays the 'drab, inattentive worker bee' husband so well.

The encounter may be brief, but it is oh! so beautiful, oh! so...English!



The 17th Keswick Film Festival

25th February - 28th February 2016

We come to the exciting weekend of films that has become part of the traditions of Keswick. Based at the 100 year old Alhambra Cinema and the Keswick Theatre By the Lake plus a day at Rheged's huge screen, we hope there are films for all to see.

Themes this year include the work of women film directors, a celebration of jazz - very apt for Keswick with its well known Jazz Festival -and an exploration of the relationship between film and memory. There will also be a showcase of the 'Best of the Fests' - a selection of award-winning films from prestigious festivals across the globe, such as Berlin, Cannes, Venice and Toronto.

We continue our relationship with the Keswick Peace and Human Rights group, and the Osprey Awards will again be given for the best short films submitted. And, as usual, we will have some surprise guests along...

Register on our website for regular news from now till February.



www.keswickfilmfestival.org



Or follow us on Facebook or Twitter

Tickets and passes are available now from

THEATRE BY THE LAKE
Open 9.30am to 8pm daily

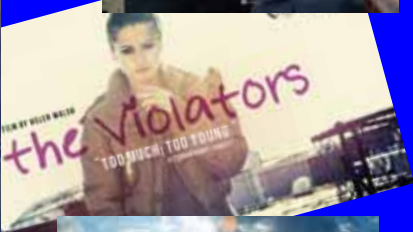
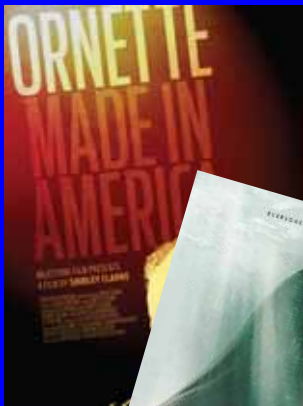
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2016 Keswick Film Festival

Just a few of the many films to see!



Sunday 6th March at 5pm

ROOM

Director: Lenny Abrahamson. Ireland/Canada 2015 (15) 118 mins.

The title is not 'A Room' or 'The Room'; just 'Room'. Ma has been kept in Room against her will for years, Jack was born here. Room is Jack's universe. Room is what Ma dreams of, what she hasn't got.

Ma is played by Brie Larson (*'Short Term 12'*) who is already being talked about for an Oscar, while Jacob Tremblay as Jack gets equally loud plaudits. With the screenplay by Emma Donoghue from her own Booker-shortlisted book, Director Lenny Abrahamson

has created a film which is 'several things by turn: creepy, frightening, exhilarating and then frightening and exhilarating all over again' - Kenneth Turan, LA Times. One not to be missed!



Sunday 13th March at 5pm

THE CROW'S EGG (Kaakkaa Muttai)

Director: M Manikandan. India 2014 (PG) 91 mins.

In Tamil with English subtitles.

Try to imagine a world where you are so poor that a slice of pizza can become your ultimate dream. This is the world of self-named Big and Little Crow's Egg - two brother's from the slums of Chennai. Scraping an existence the best they can, their lives are changed by the opening of a pizza shop: all they want is to try the mysterious food.

Much like *'Wadja'* (2013) and her desire for a bike, the boys set out to try to save enough money to reach their dream; much like her, nothing is ever as easy as it seems.

'Deceptively simple, this charming film about dreams evolves in the most unexpected way, endearing us to its two young slum boy protagonists in the process' - Louise Keller, Urban Cinefile.



Sunday 20th March at 5pm

RAMS (Hrútar)

*Director: Grímur Hákonarson. Iceland 2015 (NC) 93 mins.
In Icelandic with English subtitles.*



After the success of 2014's 'Of Horses and Men' we bring you another Icelandic film - 'Rams' - a story of sheep and men.

Two men specifically - Kiddi and Gummi - two brothers who run sheep farms next door to each other...but they haven't spoken for 40 years until now, when circumstances force them to speak at last.

This sweet little film 'morphs from gentle near-absurdist comedy to something close to tragedy...a simply but skillfully told tale of the hardships of isolated rural life in Iceland even today' -Todd McCarthy, Hollywood Reporter.

Tuesday 22nd March at 5pm

TUESDAY CLASSICS - SOME LIKE IT HOT

Director: Billy Wilder. USA 1959 (12) 120 mins.

For our last classic this season, we go back to comedy with Billy Wilder's gender-buster. Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis are on the run from the mob disguised as women - Josephine and Daphne (don't ask!). They board a train as part of an all-women band, whose singer and ukulele player (naturally) is Marilyn Monroe. The inevitable love triangle is further complicated by yet more disguises, and a real millionaire who decides to chat up Daphne...

Voted by the American Film Institute in 2000 as the best comedy film ever, this has to be a film to watch over and over. As Roger Ebert said 'Wilder's 1959 comedy is one of the enduring treasures of the movies, a film of inspiration and meticulous craft'.



Sunday 27th March at 5pm

YOUTH

Director: Paolo Sorrentino. Italy 2015 (15) 118 mins. In English.



And so - with Easter upon us - we come to the end of our season. Our last film is really beautiful and appropriate to the season change - Paolo Sorrentino's latest film (his first in English) is all about old folks looking back on their lives and trying to decide whether it is worth trying just one more time. Can he turn Winter into Spring..?

Sorrentino specialises in films about youth and age, life and death, but never forgets to show how beautiful the world is (viz *'The Great Beauty'*, 2014 Oscar winner). *'Youth'* is no exception: *'there are intense visions of both sagging, bloated flesh and the transient bloom of ravishing sexuality - while the exquisite camerawork is itself always a reminder of how much beauty there is in the world'* - Dave Sexton, Evening Standard.

The film is inundated with stars: Michael Caine plays Fred Balingier, an aging, retired classical composer who is in a luxurious sanatorium for a health check ('At my age, getting in shape is a waste of time'). His daughter and assistant is played by Rachel Weisz and his best friend, Mick Boyle, a major film director, is played by Harvey Keitel. Along the way we also meet Jane Fonda and Paul Dano plus a pot pourri of pop stars playing themselves.

Fred is offered the chance to play one last concert for Prince Philip's birthday; should he come out of retirement or not? Mick is trying to get one last film written and directed; can he finally come up with the last line of the film?

Sorrentino mixes in music and musings to give us plenty to think about and enjoy: *'This film really appears to be peering inside the director's mind, and it's chaotic and fascinating. Most bizarre are the fictional representations of real-life characters who infatuate him, including surreal musings on Diego Maradona, Hitler, a levitating Buddhist and a veiled Arab woman. 'Youth' may take place in one location but Sorrentino brings the world to it'* - Kaleem Af-tab, Independent.

Unlike Fred and Mick here, we always think it is worth trying one more time; we'll be back in the Autumn! Have a great Summer.

January

- Sunday 10th 5pm **La Famille Bélier**
France, (12A) An everyday story of (deaf) country folk
- Sunday 17th 5pm **Marshland**
Spain, (15) Two Cops hunt two missing girls in post-Franco Spain
- Sunday 24th 4.30 **Hard to Be a God**
Russia, (18) A world trapped in the middle ages with no way out
- Tuesday 26th 5pm **Tuesday Classics: A Night at the Opera**
USA, (U) The Marx Brothers do their best to spoil the opera
- Sunday 31st 5pm **Hector**
UK, (15) A man with no van on the road to London

February

- Sunday 7th 5pm **Tangerines**
Estonia, (15) Two injured soldiers sheltering in a neutral home
- Sunday 14th 5pm **My Skinny Sister**
Sweden, (15) Two sisters share problems growing up
- Sunday 21st 5pm **Sunset Song**
UK, (15) Two lovers, a Scottish farm...and World War One
- Tuesday 23rd 5pm **Tuesday Classics: Brief Encounter**
UK, (PG) Two people meet and fall in love

Thursday 25th February - Sunday 28th February

17th KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL



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March

- Sunday 6th 5pm **Room**
Eire, (15) Mother and son try to escape from captivity
- Sunday 13th 5pm **The Crow's Egg**
India, (PG) Two young brothers try to save enough for a pizza
- Sunday 20th 5pm **Rams**
Iceland, (NC) Two brothers fight over their sheep
- Tuesday 22nd 5pm **Tuesday Classics: Some Like It Hot**
USA, (12) Two musicians on the run fight over Marilyn Monroe
- Sunday 27th 5pm **Youth**
Italy, (15) Two old men try to decide what to do with their lives



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