



Talking Pictures

Welcome to Keswick Film Club's 25th Year!

Happy New Year!
Welcome to our **twenty-fifth** film club year!
We start at **4.30 pm on Sunday 7th January** with our usual **pre-film drink** by the stage.

It is not too late to join the club - **online via the Alhambra website.**

£10 gets you a whole **£3.00** off every club film you see until April, and you can save **£15** on a Festival Pass!

Keswick Film Club has now been going since 1998, and has shown upwards of 25 films each year, plus a similar amount at each Festival, resulting in almost 1400 films in total by the end of this season: we do hope you have enjoyed most of them!



Just a very few of the many volunteers who have helped keep the club going this year. Chris Houghton, Sally Bohling, Mike Newns, Stephanie Daly-Parks, Susan Cammish & Michael Bohling. Our thanks to them, and to all the others who have helped over 25 years...and those who will help in months and years to come! The Festival is just around the corner—give it a try!

An interview with... David Miller, KFC Programmer



TP: On our 2nd round of Committee interviews, we thought we would concentrate on asking David how

he picks the films. It really isn't just magic, is it?!

DM: Well, as there is seldom the opportunity to see what is available it comes down to reading reviews and researching film festival awards, especially the audience award. The Club has a long history of focussing on as contemporary a programme as possible and bringing the best of world cinema to Keswick. There are a couple of websites that inform what titles are about to be released and this is a valuable resource. We are extremely fortunate to be able to go for recent releases thanks to having the Alhambra with its new technology. Many Clubs have to wait for a ti-

tle to become available through Filmbank or on disk, which can take 3 months after the cinema release date.

TP: OK, but how do you then decide on a programme?

DM: There are four people on the Selection Committee and all have vastly different views on what constitutes a good film; this is exactly how it should be. We also now send out a list to members to ascertain what choices they would make. It is important that members feel involved and don't believe the programme is a foregone conclusion, nor just the opinion of one person.

So, it usually begins with a long list of titles complete with links to websites that provide critics and general public opinions. These are then discussed by the 4 of us, and there are usually some titles that are 'essential' - based on awards, website information and published articles. For a title where there is no overall Committee opinion then this gets added to the members selection list and the votes then lead to the final selection. This accounts for about half the final programme.

TP: And then? Where do the films come from?

DM: The final action is getting a

title booked, confirmed and terms agreed. This means making contact with the various distribution companies, who can vary from easy and straightforward to making me lose the will to live. Any necessary changes always impact on the other titles in the programme but at the end of the day a programme is in place which we hope will attract sufficient of an audience to keep the Club going.

TP: Which it has done for 25 years! What do you do with any feedback?

DM: Finally, it is then down to you. Some titles do as well as expected and some don't. We try to find out reasons for those less successful choices as these shape future programmes. We do want to, on occasion, challenge perceptions but obviously we never want to alienate our member base.

TP: Definitely not! Can you think of anything which would help?

DM: One aspect that we would like to see more of is suggestions from members. I realise this can be difficult given our aim to screen new releases but I encourage everyone to put their views forward. After all, if it wasn't for you, we wouldn't exist.

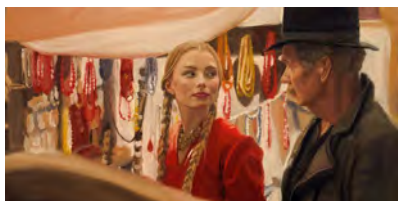
TP: We have been warned! Thanks, David, for a job well done.

Spring Season Films

Another year, another batch of world films for us all to enjoy... AND another Film Festival too!

We finished our last season with some great films and we are hoping there some more that you will love this time too. We have a couple of definite 'Oscar-likelies' - 'Anatomy of a Fall' and 'Poor Things', both are getting great reviews and could keep Keswick Film Club's high record of spotting the winners in advance.

We start off in Finland with the latest comedic look at the world from Aki Kaurismäki. This is followed by an insider look at the Russian invasion of Ukraine in one of the films you chose, '20 Days in Mariupol'.



'The Peasants' is going to be an interesting watch; the makers

filmed in the normal way, then took a paint brush to every frame to produce a literal 'moving picture'; fascinating.

Mid season you have the 24th Keswick Film Festival to look forward to - tickets are now on sale - with another 24 films to see including a European Premiere!

The club continues its usual round the world trip from Finland to Ukraine, Spain to France. February sees us in China, Poland, Japan and UK, and we finish in March visiting USA and Australia before returning to the UK for 'The End We Start From', starring Jodie Comer.

Our Spanish stop is to see '20,000 Species of Bees', which looks like a great family drama, and the Chinese visit is to see 'Lost in the Stars', a cracking thriller we are showing to coincide with the 2nd Mint Chinese Festival at the Alhambra.



We hope you enjoy them all!

Film Club AGM

This year's AGM will be held on 18 February. (Blame the Chair who is away until 12 February!). The annual reports will be circulated by email before then. If you want to stand for the committee, please email info@keswickfilmclub.org or contact the secretary Roger Gook at info@rogergook.com.

Weekly Club Newsletter

Hopefully you are already getting the details of the current week's film and any upcoming events through our weekly newsletters on email. If it has stopped arriving, please check your 'junk' folder first or contact us via email at info@keswickfilmclub.org. If you have not yet signed up, please go to www.keswickfilmclub.org and follow the tab 'Sign up for our email newsletter' there.

25 years... and counting

It doesn't seem possible but I have now been coming to Keswick Film Club for 15 years, and it has been going for 10 more years before that. I think we can be proud of that longevity, and even prouder of the quality of the films. There are many people who deserve a big hand for all of this, but to name a very few, I have to start with Tom Rennie who first listened to the idea of the club back in 1998 and to Rod Evans who carried the club forward for much of the time before me. David Miller has been responsible for choosing the vast proportion of the films, and Ann Martin and Ian Payne have been responsible for our amazing festivals. All the many others will have to be content with an anonymous, but BIG, THANKYOU. Here's to the next 25 years.. And the amazing people who will keep it going then!

Our Audiences grew bigger and bigger until Covid and have

KFC Autumn 2023

La Syndicaliste	91.33%
Paris Memories	88.97%
The Beasts	84.78%
Past Lives	81.12%
Brother	79.72%
The Night Of The 12th	77.85%
Nobody Has To Know	73.84%
Afire	71.63%
And Then Come the Nightjars	67.86%
Small, Slow But Steady	64.20%
Scrapper	63.75%
L'Immensita	63.52%
Pretty Red Dress	63.43%
Master Gardener	56.67%
Passages	49.55%

Average audience size: 73

not recovered YET, though we managed 2 films with 109 people last season and the average went up slightly (by 2!). We do need to keep pushing this as we are barely breaking even over the year. Do keep telling your friends just how brilliant we are!

The 24th Film Festival is coming up fast (29 February to 3 March) and is looking good (as always!). If you haven't been to one yet, or for a while, do come along and see just how good it can be...and get your friends, far and wide, to come along too.

With our smaller committee we really are dependent on you to volunteer as a Helper; the jobs vary in size but are all vital....and fun! I started at the 2010 Festival as a volunteer and haven't stopped loving it yet!

Best films come and go (your vote last season was for 'La Syndicaliste', though I still reckon 'Past Lives' was the best, as did Mark Kermode!) but the BFI recently voted for a very obscure 1975 film as the Greatest film ever made - 'Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles'. I duly tramped down to Liverpool to see it and I can report that it is possibly the most mundane! It was a deliberate attempt to show 3 mundane days in an average mother's life, with nothing much to look at and no action. A hard watch, several walked out...Not my 'best ever'...It did make us think though...