

## Keswick Film Club presents: Second Keswick Film Festival

### Festival Opener:

#### 9 Feb at 10.00am (Alhambra)

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN THE WEST** (15) Italy 1968  
2hr 45min

Dir: Sergio Leone. Starring: Henry Fonda, Claudia Cardinale, Jason Robards, Charles Bronson.

The best Western ever made? With scriptwriting collaborators Argento and Bertolucci, one of the greatest film scores from Morricone, and a cast including a blue-eyed Fonda, how could Leone fail to produce a masterpiece. The famous fifteen-minute opening scene is as audacious as anything you will see on screen. "Critical tools needed are eyes and ears – this is cinema" Paul Taylor, Time Out

### Literature Through the Lens:

#### 9 Feb at 1.15pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES** (The Strange Ones) (12) France  
1950 1hr 47min (subtitles)

Dir: Jean-Pierre Melville. Starring: Nicole Stéphane, Edouard Dhermitte, Jacques Bernard.

The Melville/Cocteau collaboration creates a magical film which captures the visual and textual elements of Cocteau's work with stunning accuracy. Music by Bach and Vivaldi, a mesmeric narration and vivid monochrome photography add subtle, menacing beauty to this inexorable tale of defiance, which unfolds like Greek tragedy and portrays youth in its most decadent and macabre form.

"Melville's lucid interpretation of Cocteau's poetic vision achieved a lightness of touch much admired by the writer." Chris Petit, Time Out

#### 9 Feb at 6.00pm

**LA TRAVIATA** (U) Italy 1982 1hr 49min

Dir: Franco Zeffirelli. Starring: Teresa Stratas, Plácido Domingo, Cornell McNeil.

Dumas's story, transformed into Verdi's hauntingly beautiful opera, gains yet another dimension as cinema by Zeffirelli. The overture begins and we are drawn into the tragedy – Violetta is alone and dying, while bailiffs empty her once magnificent salon. Brilliant depictions of that lost world through flashbacks further intensify the poignancy of the love story as it winds to its moving end. BAFTA Awards, 1984, 'Best Production Design/Art Direction' and 'Best Costume Design'.

#### 9 Feb 8.30pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**THE HOUSE OF MIRTH** (PG) UK 2000 2hr 20min

Dir: Terence Davies. Starring: Gillian Anderson, Eric Stoltz, Dan Ackroyd.

The ravishing but penniless socialite, Lily Bart (Anderson), learns that only marriage will bring her acceptance in the brutal, brittle climate of turn-of-the-century Manhattan society where appearances are all. Her heart-breaking situation (jealousy and malice threaten) infuses a period drama that produces an astute commentary on our society.

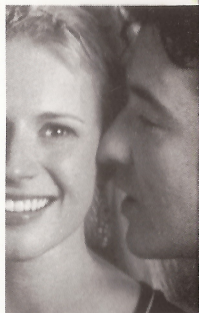
"A consummate adaptation of the classic Edith Wharton novel" Derek Malcolm

#### 10 Feb at 10.30am (Theatre by the Lake)

**FAHRENHEIT 451** (12) UK 1966 1hr 52min

Dir: François Truffaut. Starring: Julie Christie, Oskar Werner, Cyril Cusack, Anton Diffring.

Truffaut's remarkable adaptation of Ray Bradbury's sci-fi novel about an alarming future where books are banned: they make people unhappy and they burn at the temperature of the title. We witness the fireman, Montag (Werner), torn between his wife and a dissident teacher (both played by Christie) and his choices in the eternal search for happiness.



#### 10 Feb at 2.00pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**FREE TALK** (details to be confirmed)

#### 10 February 3.30pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**HIGH FIDELITY** (15) US/UK 2000 1hr 53min

Dir: Stephen Frears. Starring: John Cusack, Iben Hjejle, Todd Louiso, Jack Black.

Nick Hornby's best-selling tale of a man, his music and his problems with commitment is transposed from London to Chicago with surprisingly good results. Frears, Cusack and the *Grosse Pointe Blank* team have produced a film which some believe is even better than the book.

"Touching, intelligent and very funny" Alexander Walker, Evening Standard

#### 10 February at 8.30pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**TIME REGAINED** (Le Temps Retrouvé) (18) France/Italy 1999 2hr 42min (subtitles)

Dir: Raoul Ruiz. Starring: Catherine Deneuve, Emmanuelle Béart, Vincent Perez, John Malkovich.

Based on the last volume of Marcel Proust's monumental novel *À la recherche du temps perdu*, this sumptuous adaptation demands all of Ruiz's visual inventiveness and technical virtuosity. Proust looks back on his life, loves and memories shaped by the decadent French aristocracy amongst whom he wandered, capturing their monstrosity with his brilliant novelist's eye.

"A great work...a cine-literary miracle. For Heaven's sake, GO!" Alexander Walker, Evening Standard

#### 11 Feb at 1.00pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**MANSFIELD PARK** (15) UK/US 1999 1hr 52min

Dir: Patricia Rozema. Starring: Frances O'Connor, Johnny Lee Miller, Harold Pinter.

Combining elements of Jane Austen's novel with material from her journal, Patricia Rozema has crafted a most successful screen adaptation. Witty, passionate and believable, the protagonists prove once again that the course of true love seldom runs smooth, but this Fanny Price, poor relation oppressed by wealthy relatives, is a feisty lass.

"One of the most accomplished, audacious literary adaptations in recent memory" Time Out

#### 11 Feb at 6.00pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**MISS JULIE** (15) US 1999 1hr 40min

Dir: Mike Figgis. Starring: Saffron Burrows, Peter Mullan, Maria Doyle Kennedy.

Brilliant acting illuminates this masterpiece of love and humiliation across class boundaries. In a battle of wills between the Count's beautiful daughter (Burrows) and his footman (Mullan), love and tenderness, but also anger, hate and feelings of inadequacy alternate in a superbly effective and faithful interpretation of Strindberg's drama.

"A superb translation of the play, biting relevant, mesmerising, sexy" Alan Morrison, Total Film

#### 11 Feb at 8.30pm (Theatre by the Lake)

**TITUS** (18) US 2000 2hr 42min

Dir: Julie Taymor. Starring: Anthony Hopkins, Jessica Lange, Jonathan Rhys Meyers.

Against an authentic backdrop of ancient Rome, in this seldom-performed story of bloody double revenge, Hopkins is magnificent as Titus Andronicus, the Roman general returning home from his defeat of the northern Goths, whose Queen (Lange) remains a formidable adversary. Horror, pathos and the blackest of humour are blended in a most intelligent and audacious interpretation.

"Boldly imagined and brimming with passion, a striking addition to Shakespeare's filmography" Time Out

### Coen Brothers Retrospective:

#### 9 Feb at 3.30pm (Alhambra)

**BLOOD SIMPLE** (18) USA 1984 1hr 38min

Dir: Joel Coen. Starring: John Getz, Frances McDormand, Dan Hedaya, M Emmet Walsh.

A modern film noir in which greed and lust trap the characters in an escalating, nightmarish terror. This was the first collaboration from the brothers Coen, made on a limited budget, with strong central performances and a plot which twists in upon itself to delicious effect.

"A remarkably assured debut...hugely enjoyable"

Tom Milne, Time Out

#### 10 Feb at 11.00am (Alhambra)

**FREE TALK** (details to be confirmed)



SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS

#### 10 Feb at 6.00pm (Alhambra)

**FARGO** (18) USA 1995 1hr 37min

Dir: Joel Coen. Starring: Frances McDormand, Steve Buscemi, William H. Macy.

The plan of incompetent criminal Jerry (Macy) to ransom his wife goes horribly wrong when his henchmen bungle the kidnap and pregnant cop (McDormand) is called in to investigate. Boasting wonderful performances from McDormand and Macy (a veteran of Mamet plays), Fargo mixes humour, suspense and mystery with wry social observation. Beautifully written and, finally, very moving.

"Films like Fargo are why I love the movies" Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times

#### 11 Feb at 10.30am (Alhambra)

**SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS** (U) USA 1941 1hr 30min

Dir: Preston Sturges. Starring: Joel McCrae, Veronica Lake, Robert Warwick.

When film director, John L. Sullivan (McCrae) sires of his escapist movies, he hits the road as a hobo to seek background for his planned work of social seriousness, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Partly inspiring the Coens' latest outing, this is Sturges (a lasting influence on the brothers) at his most satirically comic and exuberantly anarchic.

"An outstanding film that never stops dazzling" Steve Grant, Sunday Times

#### 11 Feb at 2.00pm (Alhambra)

**FREE TALK** (details to be confirmed)

#### 11 Feb at 3.30pm (Alhambra)

**O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU?** (12) USA 2000 1hr 47min

Dir: Joel Coen. Starring: George Clooney, John Turturro, Tim Blake-Nelson, Charles Durning.

George Clooney is a vainglorious charmer who breaks from a chain gang in a tale loosely based on Homer's *Odyssey*. The Coens' most recent film is a glorious mix of road movie, musical, and Preston Sturges-type screwball comedy (the title is an allusion to the film Joel McCrae wants to make in *Sullivan's Travels*).

"Exceptional...George Clooney is excellent...a sublime experience." David Stubbs, Uncut

### Short Films:

#### 10 Feb at 12.30pm (Alhambra)

**BOX O' SHORTS II – SHORT FILM PROGRAMME**

Keswick Film Festival returns the spotlight to the work of regional filmmakers. The medium of the short film remains the breeding ground for new artistic talent, but gets woefully inadequate screening. An opportunity to spot the filmmakers of the future.

### Best of the Fests:

#### 9 Feb at 8.30pm (Alhambra)

**LES RESSOURCES HUMAINES** (Human Resources) (tbc) France 1999 1hr 43min (subtitles)

Dir: Laurent Cantet. Starring: Jaill Lespert, Jean-Claude Vallod, Chantal Barré.

Highly-regarded at the Edinburgh Festival, and praised by the extremely hard-to-please French critics, Cantet's extraordinary debut feature examines the emotional and political impact of social change. Franck arrives as Director of Human Resources, new broom at the ready, at the factory where his father has worked on the shop-floor for 30 years.

"Human Resources is a masterpiece of social realism that easily stands comparison with the best of Ken Loach" Screen International

#### 10 Feb at 8.30pm (Alhambra)

**RING** (15) Japan 1998 1hr 35min (subtitles)

Dir: Hideo Nakata. Starring: Nanako Matsushima, Miki Nakatani, Hiroyuki Sanada.

A cult phenomenon in the Far East, this is a chilling tale of an investigation into rumours that students, having watched a mysterious video, received a phone call telling them that they will die in one week's time. Seven days later they are dead. The investigators find themselves racing against the same deadly deadline.

"It will scare the living hell out of you" Mark Kermode, Sight and Sound

#### 11 Feb at 8.30pm (Alhambra)

**THE WIND WILL CARRY US** (Bad ma ra khahad bord) (U) Iran/France 1999 1hr 58 min (subtitles)

Dir: Abbas Kiarostami. Starring: Behzad Dourani, the villagers of Siah Darih.

Kiarostami reclaims his crown as 'greatest living Iranian film director' – no small tribute to the last two years of fine films from that country. This Venice Festival Jury Prize-winning tale of an encounter between westernised sophisticates from Teheran and apparently simple villagers provides a "subtle personal debate about the value of being alive", as the Variety critic put it. "An eerily flawless masterpiece" Gilbert Adair, Independent on Sunday