

The
Fifth
Keswick Film
Festival

13—15
February 2004



**Stephen Frears
Retrospective**

A selection from his hugely varied TV and film work , plus a free talk on the work of one of the UK's finest filmmakers

Best of the Fests

The pick of global festival successes

Box o' Shorts

Championing short filmmaking

Buried Treasure

Unearthing suppressed films



Pull-out programme

Welcome to the Club's fifth cinematic celebration hosted by The Alhambra Cinema and Theatre by the Lake.

In addition to the cream of World Cinema, shorts and suppressed films, we turn the spotlight on one of today's key directors, Stephen Frears.

To coincide with the Festival, **Theatre by the Lake** is screening four days of film linked to this year's *Best of the Fests* theme.

Mon 9 February at 7.30pm

Le Corbeau (The Raven) (PG)

Dir: Henri-Georges Clouzot. France 1943 1hr 33mins. (Subtitled)
Pierre Fresnay, Pierre Larquey, Micheline Francey
The inhabitants of a provincial town are turned against one another by the actions of an anonymous poison-pen letter writer. An extraordinarily misanthropic vision from the director of *Les Diaboliques* and *The Wages of Fear*.

Tues 10 February at 7.30pm

Nowhere in Africa (15)

Dir: Caroline Link. Germany 2001 2hrs 20mins. (Subtitled)
Andrew Sachs, Diane Keen, Juliane Koehler
Europe, 1938. As the storm clouds gather, a German-Jewish family escape to Kenya. As time passes, they struggle to overcome their sense of loss and come to love their new home. Winner of last year's Best Foreign Language film Oscar.

Wed 11 February at 7.30pm

L'Homme du train (The Man on the Train) (12A)

Dir: Patrice Leconte. France 2001 1hr 30mins. (Subtitled)
Jean Rochefort, Johnny Hallyday
The chance meeting of a retired schoolteacher (Jean Rochefort) and a mysterious gangster (French rock icon Johnny Hallyday) leads to an unlikely friendship. A funny and literate tale of two men *d'un certain age*.

Thurs 12 February at 7.30pm

Frida (15)

Dir: Julie Taymor USA 2003 2hrs 2mins.
Salma Hayek, Alfred Molina, Mia Maestro, Roger Rees
From her complex relationship with her husband-mentor Diego Rivera and her affair with Trotsky to her romantic involvement with other women, this stunningly-shot portrait of a political, artistic and sexual revolutionary carried off the 2003 Oscar for Best Art Direction.

Tickets for all Theatre by the Lake pre-festival films £4.00 (discounts £3.00)

STEPHEN FREARS

Stephen Frears is one of the most important and versatile directors of the modern cinema, equally at home in film and television, comedy and drama, Britain and America. Beginning his career as an assistant to Karel Reisz and Lindsay Anderson, he has worthily carried on the legacy of those two great mavericks of British cinema. Just the brief selection of titles here give some hint of his range -- genre parody (*Gumshoe*), period drama (*Dangerous Liaisons*), anti-Thatcherite thriller (*The Hit*), modern film noir (*The Grifters*), not to mention his incisive observations on race, exploitation and multi-cultural Britain in *Dirty Pretty Things* and on the political machinations of New Labour in *The Deal*. He has worked with some of the best writers around -- Kureishi, Bennett, Poliakoff, Hampton, McGovern -- and he has brought to them a visual flair worthy of vintage Minnelli. Hostile to the notion of 'auteurs', Frears has nevertheless carved out a distinctive cinematic terrain of his own, featuring recurrent themes of otherness, the family, the outsider, power, politics and sexuality -- in other words, everything (to paraphrase Billy Wilder) that makes life worth living. Frears is one of those directors who makes British cinema worth fighting for.

On going to press, we hope to welcome Mr Frears to Keswick

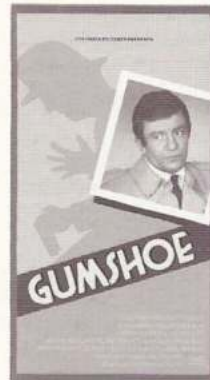
13th February at 6.15 pm
(Theatre by the Lake)

Gumshoe (15)

Dir: Stephen Frears 1971 UK 1hr 24mins
Albert Finney, Billie Whitelaw, Frank Finlay

The festival kicks off with Stephen Frears' first feature, a wonderful pastiche of noir murder mysteries. More than a series of Bogart in-jokes, it features some fine performances -- Finney in particular is superb as the Liverpool bingo-caller-turned-sleuth.

"Beautifully observed and hilariously funny"
Time Out



STEPHEN FREARS

14th February at 1.00pm
(Theatre by the Lake):

FREE FREARS ON TV (two free screenings):

1. Mr Jolly Lives Next Door

Frears directs this anarchic *Comic Strip* film, first screened in 1986 on Channel 4. The regular *Strip* artists (Mayall, Edmondson and Richardson) co-star with special guests, Peter Cook and Nicholas Parsons. (Video projection) **PLUS:**

2. The Deal

The acclaimed political drama outlining the 'marriage' between Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, culminating in the famous Granita restaurant meeting. Frears returned to TV to direct David Morrissey and Michael Sheen in this compelling film, which was broadcast on Channel 4 the night delegates arrived at the 2003 Labour Party conference. (Video projection)

14th February at 3.30 pm
(The Alhambra)

Dangerous Liaisons (15)

Dir: Stephen Frears 1988 US 2hrs

John Malkovich, Glenn Close, Michelle Pfeiffer, Uma Thurman

A sumptuous tale of sex, scandal and intrigue. Faithful to Laclos' 18thC novel,

Frears and scriptwriter Christopher Hampton succeed sublimely in capturing the mores and ethos of these French aristocrats who live for manipulation and sexual power games. Malkovich is superb as the philanderer Valmont, as is Glenn Close playing the Marquise de Merteuil, with whom he plots the undoing of saintly Madame de Tourvel (Michelle Pfeiffer)

"A first-rate piece of work by a director who's daring and agile... It's heaven – alive in a way that movies rarely are." Pauline Kael, *The New Yorker*

Best Screenplay, Art Direction, Costume Design, Oscars 1988

14th February at 8.30 pm
(Theatre by the Lake):

The Grifters (18)

Dir: Stephen Frears 1990 US

1hr 59mins (16mm)

Anjelica Huston, John Cusack, Annette Bening

Roy (Cusack) is a practitioner of the small-con, cheating bartenders of \$10, cheating sailors out of their cash. The other 'grifters', girlfriend Myra (Bening) and mother Lily (Huston) don't like each other one little bit. Not in their league, but caught squarely in the middle of this feline conflict, Roy is repelled by both options and carefully dances between the two women. Wonderful script, acting and direction.

"Brisk, sleekly contoured, with a sophisticated sense of cynical fun.... skirting the edge of parody, it's the most puckish of film noirs." *Washington Post*

Nominated: Best Director, Best Writing, Best Actress and Best Supporting Actress Oscars 1991



STEPHEN FREARS

15th February at 1.00 pm
(Theatre by the Lake):

The Hit (18)

Dir: Stephen Frears 1984 UK
1hr 40mins (16mm)

John Hurt, Tim Roth, Terence Stamp, Laura Del Sol

Willie Parker (Stamp) used to be a gangster. After betraying his former colleagues, he fled to Spain where he thought he could hide from their vengeance. For ten years he manages but one day two hitmen kidnap him. Their orders are to escort him to Paris where he is to stand 'trial'. But it is a long way to Paris...An offbeat crime drama featuring excellent performances. All the usual conventions and stereotyping are turned on their heads. Well received on its release, *The Hit* made very little impression at the box office. This is a rare screening; do not let it go by this time round.

"A quietly unsettling film, this one is well worth the watch"
Entertain Us.com

Best Actor, Evening Standard British Film Awards 1985

15th February at 8.30 pm
(The Alhambra)

Dirty Pretty Things (15)

Dir: Stephen Frears 2002 UK
1hr 37mins

Audrey Tautou, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Sergi Lopez

Frears sympathetically shines a light on the normally unseen world of exploited illegal immigrants in modern-day London. These invisible people keep the economy running, yet struggle to keep their own lives. A chance discovery brings out the full horror of the shady goings on in a seedy hotel. What does the discoverer do? It is not possible to go to the police, but to do nothing brings into danger the lives of other people. This excellent thriller manages to combine social observation and political comment. We also meet a whole host of vulnerable, proud people reduced to doing almost anything to survive. A film that sheds light on dark places and practices.

"Directed with Frears' habitual professionalism and sensitivity"
Wally Hammond, Time Out

**Sergio Trasatti Award (Frears), Venice Film Festival 2002
ALFS Award, London Critics Circle Film Awards 2003**



STEPHEN FREARS

14th February at 9.30 am
(Theatre by the Lake)

Free Talk by Neil Sinyard

DANGEROUS LIAISONS:

Passion, Power and Politics in the films of Stephen Frears

Neil Sinyard is Reader in Film Studies at Hull University. He has written over twenty books on the cinema and is co-editor of the MUP series on British Film Makers. His most recent books are on Fred Zinnemann, Graham Greene, and 50s British cinema.



15th February at 6.15 pm
(Theatre by the Lake)

Free Talk by Neil Sinyard

RED MENACE: reflections on the Hollywood blacklist during the era of HUAC and McCarthy

Neil discusses 'The Hollywood Ten' and his encounters with Mankiewicz and Zinnemann as they described to him the famous Screen Directors Guild Meeting of 1950. A fascinating insight into the purges of 'progressives' in Hollywood.

Talk ends at 7.15 with a 20-minute break before:

15th February at 7.35 pm
(Theatre by the Lake)

The Filmmakers' Interview

Tickets: Non-members £3.00, Keswick Film Club Members £2.00

Neil Sinyard in conversation with Karl Francis (*One of the Hollywood Ten*), Paul Tickell (*Christie Malry's Own Double Entry*) and Nick Moran (*Christie Malry and Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*) on the troubled paths their projects took to reach the screen. Questions will be invited from the audience.

BOX O' SHORTS

14th February at 1.00 pm (The Alhambra)

Short Film Programme

Running time: approx. one hour

Keswick Film Festival's celebration of the best of short filmmaking, including award-winning work from last October's Kino Film Festival.

BEST OF THE FESTS

13th February at 8.30 pm
(The Alhambra)

In America ⁽¹⁵⁾

Dir. Jim Sheridan 2002 Ireland/UK
1hr 45mins

Samantha Morton, Paddy Considine, Sarah Bolger, Emma Bolger, Djimon Hounsou



Two of the most explosive young talents working on the screen, Morton and Considine, unite to star in the semi-autobiographical fairytale of New York from Oscar nominee Sheridan (*In the Name of the Father, My Left Foot*). Reeling from the death of their infant son, an Irish family relocate to Hell's Kitchen in Manhattan, where they struggle to establish themselves. Intimately told by their 11-year-old daughter Christy (Sarah Bolger), a child wise beyond her years, this is a funny, heartfelt and humane comedy-drama, blessed by magnificent performances from the actors and devoid of the usual clichés. It is sentimental but never mawkish and at times quietly profound.

"Capable of portraying subtle simplicity and intimate emotional strength... a story inspired by truth." David Trier, Movie-Vault.com

Nominated Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, British Independent Film Awards

14th February at 11.00 am
(The Alhambra)

Belleville

Rendez-Vous

(*Les Triplettes de Belleville*) ^(12A)
Dir: Sylvain Chomet Fra/Can/Belg
2002 1hr 21mins



Animation with the voices of: **Michèle Caucheteux, Jean-Claude Donda, Michel Robin, Monica Viegas**

(In French with English subtitles)

Like all brilliant animation this one appeals to all ages. Madame Souza has a grandson called Champion — not the most sporty of boys but he loves his tricycle. Grandmother sees an opportunity and trains Champion to compete in the Tour de France. Will he make it? Will he win? This is a wonderfully inventive and stylish piece of animation with a twisted and sophisticated plot and one dazzling set piece after another. A handcrafted labour of love with astonishing attention to detail and richness of content. A pure delight from beginning to end. What is the French for 'Don't miss it'?

"Exhilarating stuff" Philip French, The Observer

Nominated, Best Foreign Film, British Independent Film Festival 2003

BEST OF THE FESTS

14th February at 6.15 pm
(Theatre by the Lake)

Cloud Cuckoo Land

(Certificate TBC)

Dir: Matt Dickinson 2003 UK
1hr 32mins

**Derek Jacobi, Steve Varden,
Boo Pearce, Jane Wall**



Shot near Keswick, this film received an emotional 5-minute standing ovation at its Italian world premiere in September 2003. Sandy Kenyon (played by debutant Steve Varden) dreams of becoming a pilot — his problem is cerebral palsy and serious mobility difficulties. Facing suspicion and hostility, his determination leads him into uncharted waters (for him) of daring, love and fulfilment. On reading the script and viewing test scenes, Derek Jacobi was eager to offer his help last summer, and shooting was successful despite some of the worst weather that the Lake District could throw at the crew while filming took place.

"Leading role...performed with a realism and a depth which are unique in the history of cinema." Francesco Maselli, Europacinema Jury President

**Special Jury Award, Europacinema
Film Festival 2003**

14th February at 8.30 pm
(The Alhambra)

Young Adam (18)

Dir: David Mackenzie
2003 UK/Fr 1hr 37mins

**Ewan McGregor, Tilda Swinton, Peter Mullan, Emily
Mortimer**



A faithful adaptation of Scottish writer Alexander Trocchi's 1957 cult novel. Ewan McGregor plays Joe, a rootless young drifter who finds work on a barge travelling between Glasgow and Edinburgh, owned by Les and his wife Ella. One afternoon they discover the corpse of a young woman floating in the water. Accident? Suicide? Murder? As the police investigate and a suspect is arrested, we discover that Joe knows more than he is letting on. *Young Adam* (MacKenzie's second feature) is a remarkable achievement, meticulously crafted with Giles Nuttgens' beautiful widescreen cinematography and with a superb soundtrack by David Byrne (of Talking Heads fame). A film brimfull of scenes that make a lasting impression. Not to be missed.

"Awe-inspiring, beautiful and authentically moving. It's close to perfection." Uncut

**Best Film, German Film Awards 2002
Nominated Best Film,
Berlin International Film Festival 2002**

BEST OF THE FESTS

15th February at 10.30 am
(The Alhambra)

Etre et Avoir (U)

Dir: Nicolas Philibert France 2002
1hr 44mins

**George Lopez and the children
of his class**



(In French with English subtitles)

An uplifting documentary film which follows primary school teacher, Georges Lopez, over the course of a year in an isolated dairy-farming region in Auvergne, France. This is not your ordinary village elementary: all the children -- they are aged four years to eleven -- are taught together in a single classroom. Lopez demands respect and admiration from his students, helping them develop into confident, able kids who will be able to hold their own at senior school. His work is his life, and this makes all the more poignant his devastating and unexpected revelation at the end. A beautifully sensitive portrait of a unique school and, a very special teacher.

"A thoroughly delightful documentary" Peter Bradshaw, Guardian

**Best Documentary,
European Film Awards 2002**

15th February at 1.00 pm
(The Alhambra)

Respiro (12A)

Dir: Emanuele Crialese Italy
2002 1hr 36mins

**Valeria Golino, Vincenzo
Amato, Francesco Casisa**



(In Italian with English subtitles)

Respiro is an evocative, subtle dramatisation of the life of a particular family who live within an isolated fishing community on the Sicilian island of Lampedusa. The film concentrates on the trials and tribulations that beset the beautiful, but emotionally unstable, wife of a fisherman and a mother of three. It is, however, much more of a tapestry, not only paralleling a local folk tale, but also stitching together vignettes of a society that seems almost completely removed from modern day existence. The stark beauty of the sun-drenched island is used to great effect as a backdrop for the characters' domestic disputes and miniature dramas and provides haunting images superbly shot by cinematographer Fabio Zamarion. Golino is suitably gorgeous, but the find is Casisa whose burgeoning physicality and maturity, thrown into a protective role as he is forced to deal with oddities of his mother's behaviour, is a major contribution.

"A life-affirming film, strong in its energy, about vivid characters" Roger Ebert

Best Film, Critics' Week Cannes 2002

BURIED TREASURE

15th February at 10.30 am
(Theatre by the Lake)

Winter Kills ⁽¹⁵⁾

Dir: William Richert 1979 USA
1hr 36mins DVD projection

**Jeff Bridges, John Huston,
Anthony Perkins**



This little-seen 1979 film is an adaptation of a novel by *The Manchurian Candidate* author Richard Condon. It plunges into the JFK assassination and the conspiracy theories that surround it. *Winter Kills* provides a perfect, absurd finale to the half-decade of post-Watergate paranoid thrillers that preceded it and compares favourably to the grand unified conspiracy-theory fictions that followed, such as Oliver Stone's *JFK* and James Ellroy's book *American Tabloid*. Financed by soft-porn distributors with a sideline in the drug trade, the production continually ran out of money, at one point forcing Richert to make another movie, *The American Success Company*, in order to raise funds for its completion. Though *Winter Kills* met with glowing reviews, it received a limited release in only a few cities, prompting Condon to write an article blaming the Kennedys and the military-industrial complex. Perkins' character's possible involvement went without comment.

"Exhilarating kaleidoscope of a movie" Amazon.com

15th February at 3.30 pm
(The Alhambra)

Christie Malry's Own Double-Entry ⁽¹⁸⁾

Dir: Paul Tickell 2000 UK/It 1hr 29mins
**Nick Moran, Neil Stuke,
Kate Ashfield**



(In English/Italian with English subtitles)

In this visually audacious, updated adaptation of the short novel by cult writer BS Johnson (who committed suicide in 1975), Moran plays the eponymous, none-too-gifted nerd, waging war on his enemies — real and imagined — using a simple, if highly effective credit and debit system. Though shot well before 11 September 2001, Christie Malry's Own Double-Entry is bizarrely prophetic in places too — with its scenes of terrorism, governmental panic, and planes over the Middle East (direct results of Malry's extra-curricular activities). Interwoven throughout is a joint storyline — set in the 15th century and concerning Leonardo Da Vinci and the Franciscan monk who originally dreamt up the Double Entry. The film is further enhanced by a terrific soundtrack by Auteurs frontman Luke Haines. (Notes from Channel4Film)

Subject to availability, Paul Tickell will take part in a Q & A session at the end of the screening.

"One of the most powerful and deeply immersive cinematic experiences you'll ever have." Total Film

BURIED TREASURE

15th February at 3.30 pm
(Theatre by the Lake)

The Stunt Man ⁽¹⁵⁾

Dir: Richard Rush 1979
USA 2hrs 11mins
DVD projection

Peter O'Toole, Steve Railsbeck, Barbara Hershey



Richard Rush's 1979 film bucked the studio system with its multi-layered story-telling and interesting themes. It also provided Peter O'Toole with one of his best screen roles. In spite of being nominated for three Academy Awards — Best Actor, Best Director and Best Adapted Screenplay — studio politics buried the film and it has languished in cult semi-obscure ever since. Vietnam veteran Cameron (Steve Railsbeck) is on the run from the police when he stumbles onto the set of a war movie. A megalomaniac Eli Cross (Peter O'Toole) is directing the movie. Taking the place of a dead man, Cameron becomes a stunt man and starts to fall in love with the leading lady played by Barbara Hershey. Is Eli trying to capture the stunt man's death on film? In addition, what happens to a paranoid man when illusion and reality change places?

Thanks to Anchor Bay Entertainment for permission to screen *The Stunt Man* and for the kind provision of the DVD.

"A virtuoso piece of film making" The New Yorker

National Society of Film Critics of America Award 1981

15th February at 8.30 pm
(Theatre by the Lake)

One Of The Hollywood Ten ^(NC)

Dir: Karl Francis 2000 UK/Spain
1hr 49mins

**Jeff Goldblum, Greta Scacchi,
John Sessions, Peter Bowles**



The true story of Herbert Biberman, one of the directors who was blacklisted and jailed for his leftist sympathies during the McCarthy era. Although expelled from the Directors Guild and harassed by the FBI, Biberman went on to make *Salt of the Earth* (1954), an independent, neorealist film about striking miners in New Mexico which was initially banned in the USA by an Act of Congress. Now, however, it is regarded as one of the most important political films ever made. Biberman was married to actress Gale Sondergaard (played by firebrand Greta Scacchi) whose Oscar-winning career was cut short by his unflinching idealism. Director Karl Francis shifts skilfully between scenes of glamour and oppression, sticking close to this compelling history.

The story of its creation and lack of distribution is as interesting as the film itself and, subject to availability, Karl Francis will take part in a Q & A session after the screening.

Festival Diary: 13—15 February 2004

For tickets, etc., see back page.

	Alhambra Cinema	Theatre by the Lake
Friday 13th 5.45 pm		Festival Welcome
Friday 13th 6.15 pm		<i>Stephen Frears:</i> Gumshoe (15)
Friday 13th 8.30 pm	<i>Best of the Fests:</i> In America (15)	
Saturday 14th 9.30 am		<i>Stephen Frears:</i> Free Talk: Passion, Power, Politics
Saturday 14th 11.00 am	<i>Best of the Fests:</i> Belleville Rendez-Vous (12A)	
Saturday 14th 1.00 pm	<i>Best of the Fests:</i> Short Film Programme	<i>Focus on TV:</i> The Deal/ Mr Jolly Lives Next Door
Saturday 14th 3.30 pm	<i>Stephen Frears:</i> Dangerous Liaisons (15)	
Saturday 14th 6.15 pm		<i>Best of the Fests:</i> Cloud Cuckoo Land (TBC)
Saturday 14th 8.30 pm	<i>Best of the Fests:</i> Young Adam (18)	<i>Stephen Frears:</i> The Grifters (18)
Sunday 15th 10.30 am	<i>Best of the Fests:</i> Etre et Avoir (U)	<i>Buried Treasure:</i> Winter Kills (15)
Sunday 15th 1.00 pm	<i>Best of the Fests:</i> Respiro (12A)	<i>Stephen Frears:</i> The Hit (18)
Sunday 15th 3.30 pm	<i>Buried Treasure:</i> Christie Malry's Own Double-Entry (18)	<i>Buried Treasure:</i> The Stunt Man (15)
Sunday 15th 6.15 pm		<i>Buried Treasure:</i> Neil Sinyard Talk & Interview
Sunday 15th 8.30 pm	<i>Stephen Frears:</i> Dirty Pretty Things (15)	<i>Buried Treasure:</i> One of the Hollywood Ten (NC)