

Keswick Film Club
Spring 2009



The Silence of Lorna - 22nd March



Keswick Film Club has just completed 10 years of its existence. Intending to bring the best of World Cinema to Keswick, it has won many awards from the British Federation of Film Societies including Best Programme four times, and Best Website for the last 2 years. In 2006 we were Film Society of the Year. Audiences consist of many of our 250+ members, and visitors, who are very welcome.

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.

Spring Programme 2009

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 for non members; £3 for members; £2.50 for students, under 16s and benefit claimants.

Membership: £5 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, 50 St. John's Street, Keswick, or at any club screening

Season Pass: £28 (Spring season 2009)

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

COMMITTEE

Chairman & Membership Secretary: Rod Evans (017687 74475)

Secretary: Neville Marchant

Treasurer: Tom Rennie

Committee Members: Stephen Brown, Deborah Cowin, Vian Curtis, Anita Leaker, Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), David Miller, Mike Rose-Troup, Ian and Elspeth Payne.

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

Registered Charity No. 1083395



Sunday 11th January at 5pm

OSS-17: CAIRO, NEST OF SPIES
(OSS-17: LE CAIRE, NID D'ESPIONS)

*Director: Michel Hazanavicius. France 12A
2006 99 mins. In French with English subtitles*

Don't expect political correctness in this spy spoof which sends up Agent OSS-117, the 'French Bond' (although he actually predates 007): Hubert Bonisseur de la Bath is a supercool smug character who displays both a ridiculous hero-worship of his nation's uninspired statesman, President René Coty, and a superiority akin to that of Peter Sellers' Clouseau. The year is 1955, and OSS-117 has been sent to Cairo to monitor the growing Suez crisis, make contact with beautiful agent Larmina (Bérénice Bejo) and promote France's ambitions in the area – more scope for Hazanavicius's cheeky satire. Add in the loving care devoted to the period treatment, and it's no surprise that this has been such a box-office hit in France.

*'This light-hearted pastiche is a recommended
antidote to 'Quantum of Solace.'*
WALLY HAMMOND, TIME OUT



Sunday 18th January at 5pm

HUNGER

*Director: Steve McQueen. UK/Ireland 15 2008
90 mins*

Turner Prize-winning artist Steve McQueen co-wrote and directed this account of the IRA hunger strike led by Bobby Sands which gives a compelling and visionary approach to a pivotal moment in British and Irish modern history. Beginning with the 'dirty protest' in the Maze Prison, McQueen wants us to live through this act of self-debasement "I want to show what it was like to see, hear, smell and touch in the H-block in 1981," states McQueen, who also gives us a fine central dialogue between Bobby Sands and his priest crystallising the battle between 'the system' and the revolutionary, who will always fight to keep his faith, regardless of the cost. Michael Fassbender recreates the Sands character in brilliant and deeply-moving fashion, in this multi award-winning triumph. *'Anchored by Fassbender's turn, Hunger is as much about the personal as the political. The real breakthrough, though, is McQueen, who turns in a film that dazzles and challenges in equal measure.'* EMPIRE



Sunday 25th January at 5pm

I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG (Il y a longtemps que je t'aime)

Director: Philippe Claudel France 12A 2008
117 mins. In French with English subtitles

Sometimes it is difficult to preview a film without revealing too much of the content. Events affect every action, every aspect of character, and, as in this case, they should be viewed with no preconceptions. However we first meet Juliette (Scott Thomas), a haunted-looking, middle-aged woman in an ill-fitting overcoat, awaiting the arrival of her sister Lea (Elsa Zylberstein). Clearly their first meeting for a long time, we wonder where she has been during her long, mysterious absence. Writer-director Philippe Claudel reveals his secrets gradually, but the interplay of both characters is the key, and we watch fascinated as Juliette reveals her secrets and gradually transforms her life. Prize-winner at Berlin IFF 2008.

'Scott Thomas's performance, easily the best of her career, (is) the centre of a deeply involving, beautifully acted and expertly constructed human drama by and for grown-ups.'

PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN



Sunday 1st February at 5pm

ASHES OF TIME REDUX

Director: Wong Kar Wai. China (Hong Kong) 15 2008 93 mins. In Mandarin and Cantonese with English subtitles.

A labour of love from Wong Kar Wai (*Chungking Express, In the Mood for Love, 2046*) who was never satisfied with his 1992 version of *Ashes of Time*. His consistent themes (loneliness, disconnection, obsession with the past) and characters (proud, haunted, imperially alone) are unchanged, but this remastered print enhances cinematographer Christopher Doyle's adoring close-ups and impressive desertscapes with luxurious colour restoration.

The desert dweller Ouyang (Leslie Cheung) is a broker and hostel-provider for itinerant swordsmen and their prospective clients, trying not to suffer the pangs of losing the woman (Maggie Cheung) who married his brother.

There's a powerful poetry running through it all, as Wong eschews the banalities of mainstream narrative for visual abstraction, beauty and the mysteries of time.

'Visually beautiful and the performances have a purity to match.' EYE FOR FILM

Sunday 8th February at 5pm

BADLANDS

Director: Terrence Malick. USA 15 1973 94 mins

Acting, cinematography, musical soundtrack and direction are startlingly memorable in this BFI re-issue of Malick's American masterpiece.

'This first, magnificent outpouring of the sporadic genius of cinema's equivalent to JD Salinger, Terrence Malick, still seems terrifically modern. That's partly down to the career-best performances of Martin Sheen and Sissy Spacek as garbage-collector Kit and naive schoolgirl Holly (who narrates), the misfit young couple who, like savage innocents, create a brief idyll and end up leaving a trail of blood through the unforgiving Montana badlands... a stunning but gentle essay on freedom and necessity, life and death.'

WALLY HAMMOND, TIME OUT

'Terrence Malick's thriller is rightly revered as one of the most astonishing debuts in cinema. Its reissue is a wonderful chance to discover why.'

JAMES CHRISTOPHER, THE TIMES

Badlands



Sunday 22nd February at 5pm

SUMMER HOURS (L'Heure d'été)

Director: Olivier Assayas. France 12 2008
98 mins. In French with English subtitles

Enthusiastic word-of-mouth tributes persuaded us to programme this July 2008 release, in which Olivier Assayas explores the troubled fate of a priceless private art collection following the death of the materfamilias. It's a quintessentially French look at how a family deals with death and legacy, and Juliette Binoche, Jérémie Renier and Charles Berling are typically brilliant in their portrayal of siblings at odds with each other over the disposal of priceless artefacts (loaned to the producers by the Musée d'Orsay) which represent their family's personal history. An intelligent and tender exploration of nostalgia, mortality, property and the power of memory.

'Assayas's most fully satisfying film for some while, a warm, wise drama about the tensions and mysteries of family life. ...beautifully performed, intelligently written and fluently directed.'

GEOFF ANDREW, TIME OUT

The 10th Keswick Film Festival

The Tenth Keswick Film Festival

Dates for your Diary: 12th – 15th February 2009

This year we are back to the usual Festival format for the 10th anniversary. So the fun starts at 6.30pm at the Theatre by the Lake with the Opening Party for passholders and invitees, followed by the opening Film. Then there will be about 30 films over the next three days, ending at about 10pm on Sunday.

This year we have a number of guests, and there will be a free screening on Saturday morning for kids of all ages of *Millions* with Frank Cottrell Boyce (winner of the B.I.F.A. Best Screenplay Award) talking about the film. We will have a Q&A with the showing of *Of Time and the City*, and following the strand of music from FebFilm last year we're including a number of similarly-themed films: *Young@Heart*, *The Pied Piper of Hutzovina*, plus films of Patti Smith, Heavy Load and Philip Glass – something for everyone. And of course there will be the usual selection of the best of world cinema supplementing the great spring programme of the Film Club. And for Shorts fans we have the two competitions again this year with the best Shorts being shown on Sunday morning.

Pick up a Festival Brochure for full details

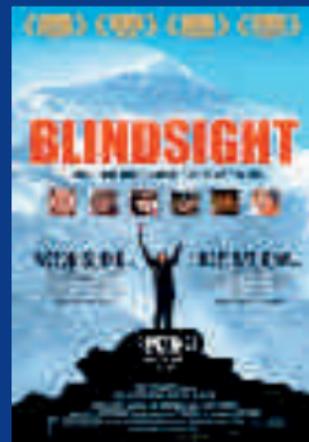
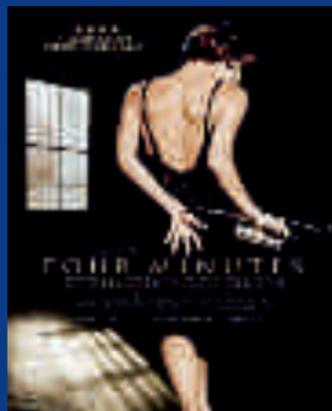
THEATRE BY THE LAKE - TICKETS & INFORMATION - open 9.30am to 8pm daily

017687 74411 or buy online from the Theatre website via

www.keswickfilmfestival.org

Visit our new-look website for all the latest Festival news as it happens

Here are just eight of the fine films already selected for the 10th Keswick Film Festival



Sunday 1st March at 5pm

THE MAN FROM LONDON (A Londoni férfi)

Director: Béla Tarr. Hungary/Fr/Ger 12 2007
139 mins. In Hungarian with English subtitles
Adapted from a little-known novel by Georges
Simenon (creator of Maigret), Béla Tarr's first
film since Werckmeister Harmonies (2000) has
resembled in its slow evolution the long takes for
which the auteur is famous. After one of these, a
long, slow pan up the prow of a ship at night, we
see Maloin, a switchman at a railway station
situated by a ferry harbour, watching the arrival
of the last ferry, perched in his control room on
high, from where he can see the whole bay.
What ensues depicts the moral restlessness that
grips a man after witnessing a shocking event.
Spot Tilda Swinton in the role of his wife, and be
prepared to let Tarr's vision, his eerie music and
prowling camera wash over you...
Palme d'Or nominated, Cannes 2007.

*'This is pure cinema. Pure Tarr... a film of bitter
and constant dark beauty.'*

KEVYN KNOX, THE CINEMATHEQUE



Sunday 8th March at 5pm

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

Director: Danny Boyle UK 15 2007 120 mins.
In English and subtitled Hindi.

Winner of the Audience Award at Toronto IFF, this
is the story of how an impoverished Indian teen-
ager became a contestant on the Hindi version of
"Who Wants to be A Millionaire?". Danny Boyle's
film is a breathless, exciting story, both heart-
breaking and exhilarating, about a Mumbai orphan
who rises from rags to riches on the strength of
his lively intelligence. Boyle bridges the two Indias
(wealthy, aspiring middle-class and extreme
poverty, both brilliantly portrayed by the director)
using the device of the TV programme, telling the
story of Jamal's wretched upbringing and the
intuition with which he improvises his way up
through the world. We're treated to a script by
Simon Beaufoy (The Full Monty), the involvement
of A.R. Rahman, the king of Bollywood music, and
a touching love story to boot ...

'Buoyant and life-affirming' VILLAGE VOICE
*'It is one of those miraculous entertainments that
achieves its immediate goals and keeps climbing
toward a higher summit.'* ROGER EBERT

Sunday 15th March at 5pm

WALTZ WITH BASHIR

*Director: Ari Folman. Israel 18 2008 90 mins
In Hebrew with English subtitles*

Animation seems an unlikely vehicle for documentary, but here it works brilliantly. It's a remarkable, hallucinatory and deeply disturbing work, unlike any animated film you'll have seen before: hand-drawn in a colourful comics style, it portrays Folman's struggle to recapture his lost memories of Israel's ill-fated 1980s war in Lebanon, when he was a young draftee. With no memories of his time in Lebanon (except that he knew he had seen combat and witnessed the Sabra and Shatila massacres of September 1982, when pro-Israeli Lebanese Christian militiamen carried out a near-genocidal campaign of murder in two Palestinian refugee camps) he decided to try to cope with severe depression by contacting former military comrades, a psychiatrist friend and a neurologist who specializes in memory impairment. This is the extraordinary result, winner of the Audience Award at Warsaw IFF, and nominated for the Palme d'Or at Cannes 2008.

'A blistering, powerful work.' DAILY TELEGRAPH
'Devastatingly good.' ANTON BITEL, FILMFOUR



Sunday 29th March **N.B. 2.30 pm**

CHE

Director: Steven Soderbergh. Spain/Fr/USA 15 2008. 257 mins.

In Spanish with English subtitles

A rare chance to see the whole of this masterly biopic by Steven Soderbergh, who said, while paying tribute to Walter Salles's *The Motorcycle Diaries*, "Now, there's a trilogy" when *Che* was released. Benicio del Toro (Best Actor, Cannes 2008) provides an excellent physical and emotional performance as the asthmatic Argentine doctor who became Latin America's most legendary revolutionary since Simón Bolívar. At times warm and witty, at times cruel and dogmatic, Che is portrayed as the often brilliant strategist and tactician of guerrilla warfare, but also the jungle leader in Bolivia who made crucial mistakes leading to his own death. Historians will discuss the political weightiness of Soderbergh's portrait, and its ideological and historical precision, but as a depiction of one man's rise to greatness and ultimate fall, we can but admire his energy and vision.

'Nobody who saw it here (Cannes 2008) will ever forget it.' ANDREW O'HEHIR, Salon.com



Sunday 22nd March at 5pm

THE SILENCE OF LORNA (LE SILENCE DE LORNA)

*Directors: Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne. Belgium
2008 105 mins. In French with English subtitles
TBC. Winner, Best Screenplay, Cannes 2008.*

The film is set in Liège (Belgium), their familiar home town, but this is new territory for the Dardenne brothers (*Rosetta*, *Le Fils*, *L'Enfant*), in that it is more like a thriller than anything they have done before. And the brothers take to making telling moral points about the murky underside of European affluence in this quicker-paced tale of immigration, centring on the title character, a courageous Albanian immigrant played by Arta Dobroschi. There's a series of tricky narrative revelations and switchbacks, involving a low-life local mobster (Fabrizio Rongione) in a conspiracy to murder Lorna's pathetic junkie husband, Claudy (Dardenne regular Jérémie Renier), but feelings can change and Lorna is stretched in different directions by the hand of fate.

*'Another immensely subtle, skilful emotional
drama from the Belgian masters.'* JONATHAN
CROCKER, TOTAL FILM



Sunday 5th April at 5pm

THREE MONKEYS

(Üç maymun)

Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan. Turkey 2008 TBC
109 mins. In Turkish with English subtitles

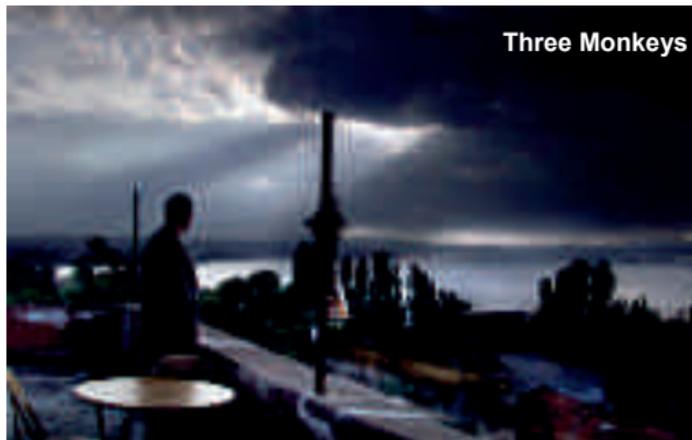
More plot-driven than his preceding films, Ceylan's latest is neatly conceived and supported by cinematography and soundtrack of high quality. Intense mood permeates every perfectly composed frame from which the director builds an atmosphere of oppression reflecting the interior discontent of his characters. A former photographer, the director finds shades of colour, tricks of light, and uses of shadow which enhance his story of family tensions in most impressive fashion, meriting him the Best Director Award at Cannes 2008.

'Astute psychological insights and sharp sense of moral and dramatic irony ...when it turns up, see it – and marvel!'

GEOFF ANDREW, TIME OUT

'A thing of mental, sonic, and visual beauty... This is a must.'

JAMES CHRISTOPHER, THE TIMES



Three Monkeys



Sunday 12th April at 5pm

THE WRESTLER

Director: Darren Aronofsky. USA 15 2008
109 mins.

A magnificent role for Mickey Rourke as Randy Robinson, an ageing wrestler grappling with his emotions as much as with his opponents in this Golden Lion Winner at Venice 2008. There are inevitable comparisons with Marlon Brando, as Rourke, having emerged from his prize-fighting and plastic surgery of recent years gives the performance of his life in a role that allows for a gamut of emotions in a rich, patient spell of intimate storytelling. There's no avoidance of the pantomime in the wrestling ring, but director Aronofsky skilfully blends the real emotions of the wrestlers' camaraderie and their connections with their families and friends, and achieves a sensitive connection with his audience which is likely to be hugely involved with the fate of this part-heroic, part-tragic figure.

'Rourke creates a galvanizing, humorous, deeply moving portrait that instantly takes its place among the great, iconic screen performances.'
TODD McCARTHY, VARIETY.

Saturday 19th April at 5pm

THE CLASS (ENTRE LES MURS)

Director: Laurent Cantet. France 15 2008
128 mins. In French with English subtitles.

Cannes 2008 Palme d'Or winner, Laurent Cantet returns to the contemporary social and work-related issues of his earlier features (*Ressources humaines*, *L'Emploi du temps*). The film's story, based on a novel by François Bégaudeau (who also plays the fictionalised version of himself) recounts his experiences as a teacher who tries to impart French language and life lessons to a school class of 14-year-olds during one school year. The lively characters in this class, reflecting the mixed ethnicity of Paris's twentieth arrondissement, and teacher François's connection with them, their parents and his colleagues, tie in themes of civil unrest and French republicanism as an ideal, but above all director and actor/author allow the children to talk – which is utterly fascinating.

'Place The Class on your must-see list and keep it there until you do.' ANDREW SARRIS,
NEW YORK OBSERVER



January 2009

Sunday 11th 5pm **OSS-17: CAIRO, NEST OF SPIES**
Tired of Bond? Try the cooler, funnier French version!

Sunday 18th 5pm **HUNGER**
Bobby Sands in the Maze - Sight & Sound's best film of 2008

Sunday 25th 5pm **I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG**
Intense French family drama starring Kristin Scott Thomas

February 2009

Sunday 1st 5pm **ASHES OF TIME REDUX**
The definitive version of Wong Kar Wai's beautiful film

Sunday 8th 5pm **BADLANDS**
Terrence Malick's amazing debut, re-issued in a new print

12th-15th 10th **KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL**

Sunday 22nd 5pm **SUMMER HOURS**
Juliette Binoche stars in a story of a family's treasured legacy

March 2009

Sunday 1st 5pm **THE MAN FROM LONDON**
Moral restlessness, film noir, brooding cinematography: pure Tarr

Sunday 8th 5pm **SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**
'Unstoppable cinematic energy' (LA Times) in Danny Boyle's latest

Sunday 15th 5pm **WALTZ WITH BASHIR**
Strong story of war and memory from Israel - powerful imagery

Sunday 22nd 5pm **THE SILENCE OF LORNA**
Dardenne brothers' European thriller - acclaimed punchy drama

Sunday 29th 2.30pm **CHE**
Epic life to epic movie: Soderbergh's long look at Che Guevara

April 2009

Sunday 5th 5pm **THREE MONKEYS**
Film as art: powerful, intense family drama from the Turkish master

Sunday 12th 5pm **THE WRESTLER**
Pro wrestler seeks a comeback - a hugely impressive performance

Sunday 19th 5pm **THE CLASS**
Lovely, intelligent film, full of humanity, vigour and revelation
