

Keswick Film

September - December
2018



Our 20th Fantastic Year!

**The Best of World Cinema
Every Sunday**

k
— 20th Anniversary Year —
KESWICK
Film Club

**Keswick Film
at the
Alhambra
St John's Street
Keswick**



www.keswickfilmclub.org



Welcome to the 20th year of Keswick Film Club!

We are very proud to be entering our 20th year of bringing alternative films to Keswick. We always try to select films that will expand your awareness of the amazing talent out there in 'Cineland', and hopefully entertain you at the same time. Surely lasting twenty years is pretty good proof that we are succeeding? The Club also prides itself on being friendly so please don't think we are a bunch of 'arty nerds'; you may not enjoy every film we show, but we are sure you will enjoy a lot of them. There is no need to join, just come along and see for yourself!

Our club began life in 1998 with the simple intention of trying to bring a different range of films to Keswick on Sunday nights; the idea of a film festival started the following year. The popularity of the films made the programmers more adventurous, expanding their choices to the best of World Cinema: by 2004, 'Whale Rider' (from New Zealand) brought in an audience of 241. The festival, meanwhile, had become an annual event, showing films at both the Alhambra and Theatre by the Lake, where 'March of the Penguins' (from France) showed to 256 people in 2006.

We have continued showing the best of World Cinema to this day, regularly getting well over 100 people to our most popular films (but happy to show more obscure films to small audiences on occasion!) and recently still equalling those early numbers: 241 people crammed themselves into the Alhambra to see 'Edie' earlier this year and 255 were at the Theatre by the Lake to see 'The Raven on the Jetty' in 2014.

And it isn't just you that like the Club! Along the way we have won many awards from the British Federation of Film Societies (now 'Cinema for All') including Best Programme four times, Best Website and even **Film Society of the Year**.



So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who got the Club going and who keep it going twenty years later. Cheers to them... and to all the volunteers who keep it running for the next twenty years!

*Vaughan Ames
club chair*

COMMITTEE 2018

Chair: Vaughan Ames (017687 80969), info@keswickfilmclub.org
Vice Chair: David Miller Secretary: David Andrews
Treasurer: Paul Titley Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne
Committee Members: Ian Payne (Festival Co-ordinator), Ann Martin, Stephen Brown (Webmaster), Angela Jackson, Alan Naylor, Stephen Pye, Tom Rennie, Mike Newns, Roger Gook

Where are these films shown?

We are very lucky to be able to show both the Club and the Festival films in The Alhambra Cinema. Walk from the Market Square at the south end (by The Royal Oak) and keep going up St. John's Street for 200 metres until you see the Alhambra on your right. Now over a century old, the Alhambra is a 'must-see' in its own right!

When are these films shown?

Most Club films are screened on Sundays at 5pm, but check in this brochure: there are two Club 'seasons', each with its own brochure, available in and around Keswick (e.g. Library & Booths).

The **20th Keswick Film Festival** is from **28 February 2019 to 3 March 2019**.

For more information **Email** us - info@keswickfilmclub.org or see our award-winning **website** - www.keswickfilmclub.org.

You can follow us on **Facebook** - Keswickfilm
or **Twitter** - @keswickfilm.

We even have a weekly email - see our website to sign up.

How much will it cost?

Not only do we bring you these great films from around the world, but they won't cost you the Earth either! Even if you do not want to join, it will only cost you £6.50 to see a film - or only £3.00 for students, under 16s and benefit claimants.

...and what if I join the Film Club?

Then the real savings start! For £10 per year, you get: -

- A reduction of £1.50 on all Club screenings (to £5.00),
- £1 off Film Festival screenings and
- £1 off Alhambra's own screenings on Wednesday (or Sunday in the summer).
- The option to buy Season passes: the autumn pass this year will get you in to all 15 films for £50
- To attend Caldbeck Area Film Society and Brampton Film Club at members' rates and vice versa.
- A copy of this brochure posted to you each season
- A copy of 'Talking Pictures', our members' newsletter

Join at The Alhambra Cinema or the Chair's flat - Top Flat, 36 Station Street, Keswick - or at any club screening. A membership form is available from our website or at the cinema.

Can I help run the Film Club?

We are always looking for extra help, both for the club and the festival. Just see us after a film, or email us and we'll get back to you. Thank you in advance!

Sunday 9th September at 5pm

C'EST LA VIE (Le sens de la fête)

Directors: Olivier Nakache, Éric Toledano. France 2017 (15)
1hr 57min. In French and Tamil with English subtitles.



We start the new year with a comedy/drama that should get us all in the mood again; It's French and comes from the directors of *'Untouchable'*, the film which went down so well in 2012. What could possibly go wrong?! Well, picture the scene...*'A bitter, laconic wedding planner; his chip-on-her-shoulder protégé; an egomaniacal groom; a post-nervous breakdown waiter who can't stop hitting on the bride: These are but a few of the pieces that form the rollicking French farce, 'C'est la vie'. Manic and earnest, the meticulously constructed plot whips by at a breakneck pace'* - Brent McKnight, Seattle Times.

The wedding is set in a 17th Century chateau but it looks like both the staff and the guests, not to mention the couple themselves, are all out to make the planner's job as hard as possible. *'Like expert jugglers at a slapstick circus, the directors keep most of the characters and their faults and needs neatly in the air, with the rhythm hardly flagging and the tone buzzy and bustling throughout without becoming exhausting'* - Boyd van Hoeij, Hollywood Reporter.

...And you have to love a film that changes its original French title to... A French title. Ah well; *c'est la vie...* come on along and enjoy yourself!



Sunday 16th September at 5pm

IN THE FADE (Aus dem nichts)

Director: Fatih Akin. Germany 2017 (18, F) 1hr 46min.

In German, Turkish and Greek with English subtitles.



Prepare yourself to be sad, angry and thrilled all at once... Katja is a loving wife and mother. Life is looking better and better for her family as both parents recover from drug addiction and become good citizens, when both her husband and son are killed in a bomb blast. Katja is devastated, failing to hold herself together as the crime is investigated. The police think it is drug-related, but could it be something a lot worse? And how will Katja cope if those to blame are not caught and punished?...

There are effectively three parts to this film; the crime, the trial and the post-trial, all of which hang on Katja and, specifically, on the acting of Diane Kruger who plays her. In a film that has itself won many awards for Best Foreign Film, including the Golden Globe in USA, Diane Kruger won Best Actress at Cannes Film Festival, and huge praise from every reviewer I can find:-

'Kruger is at the centre of almost every scene... It's a mercurial performance, subtly modulated...the inarguable power of Kruger's performance remains an open-and-shut case' - Mark Kermode, Observer.

'Scene by scene, she's riveting... Through action, inaction and second thoughts in (the) finale, she goes through all these agonies in virtual silence, and still seems a remarkably legible figure' - Tim Robey, Telegraph.

'If you've only ever seen Kruger in 'Troy', 'the National Treasure' series or even 'Inglourious Basterds', nothing will prepare you for what she brings to 'In The Fade'... she gives the film a real and raw potency, by turns bruised and vulnerable, then angry and resolute' - Ian Freer, Empire.



Sunday 23rd September at 5pm

LEAN ON PETE

Director: Andrew Haigh. UK (USA) 2017 (15) 2hr 1min. In English.



Andrew Haigh's '45 Years' went down well in Keswick in 2015. 'Lean on Pete' was released just too late for us to get it last season; it gets a viewing here with thanks to one of our members who suggested it.

Haigh continues his compassionate style of directing, but this time in America with a story about Charley, a 15-year-old boy, and his father. *'The collapse of Charley's fragile home life is softened by finding a new purpose elsewhere. He earns cash helping out likable old racing hand Del (Steve Buscemi), who enters horses in scrappy local competitions'* - Dave Calhoun, Time Out. *'In ways I wouldn't spoil, 'Lean on Pete' becomes something of a road movie about a boy and a horse... Charley's situation becomes increasingly desperate and moving, but never in a way that feels melodramatic. The main reason for that is the incredible trust that Haigh places in Plummer... This is such a subtle, beautiful performance'* - Brian Tallerico, RogerEbert.com.



Sunday 30th September at 5pm

THE HEIRESSES (Las herederas)

Director: Marcelo Martinessi. Paraguay 2018 (12A, F) 1hr 38min. In Spanish and Guarani with English subtitles.



Winner of awards at Berlin and Seattle, 'The Heiresses' is a beautiful look at the problems and opportunities when life changes unexpectedly as 'A withdrawn, middle-aged gay woman slowly inches out of the shadows of her dissatisfaction as she's forced to navigate a life separated from her more outgoing partner of 30 years... Minor-key and subdued to a fault, the drama nonetheless builds emotional involvement by infinitesimal degrees through its acute observation of characters and social context and its ultra-naturalistic performances' - David Rooney, Hollywood Reporter.

Sunday 7th October at 5pm

CUSTODY (Jusqu'à la garde)

Director: Xavier Legrand. France 2017 (15) 1hr 33min.
In French with English subtitles.



It feels as though saying anything about this film's plot will give too much away; let's just say we are watching a custody battle between a soon-to-be-ex-married couple. This has been done many times before, from *'Kramer v Kramer'* to *'A Separation'* but, as Odie Henderson says in RogerEbert.com - *'Watching 'Custody' I was reminded of one of Roger's tenets: "It's not what a movie is about, it's how it is about it."* Writer/director Xavier Legrand's feature length debut is about a bitter custody battle, but he has chosen to execute his plot as a quiet, brutally relentless psychological thriller. *'Custody'* filters the majority of its terror through Julien Besson (Thomas Gloria), the 10-year-old boy at the centre of his parents' vicious legal struggle. This device never feels exploitative, because as any child of divorce will tell you, the dissolution of one's parental unit is traumatic even when the split is amicable. And this is not an amicable split'.

I can also tell you that the film starts in court, where Antoine Besson is arguing for joint custody of Julien whilst his soon-to-be-ex-wife is arguing against. Is Antoine the innocent husband whose wife has set his kids against him, or is he the violent person she claims..?

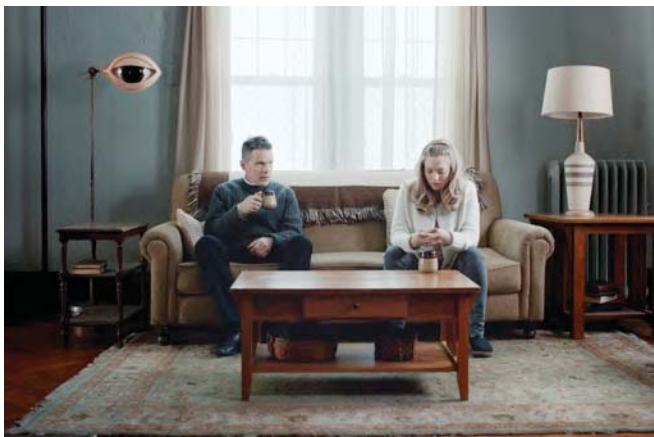
The acting of all the cast gets great reviews, especially Thomas Gloria - *'he has a very expressive face that often fills the screen in silence while his body telegraphs the sad resignation of one who feels helpless'* - Odie Henderson again - whilst Xavier Legrand's direction won him the Silver Lion at Venice: he *'seems precociously adept at turning the screws of suspense'* - Anthony Lane, New Yorker.



Sunday 14th October at 5pm

FIRST REFORMED

Director: Paul Schrader. USA 2017 (15) 1hr 53min. In English.

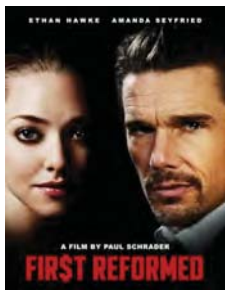


With thanks to one of our members who suggested this film.

'It's been a long journey for Paul Schrader, the screenwriter who gave us American classics such as 'Taxi Driver', 'Raging Bull' and 'American Gigolo'. In recent years, [he] also delivered a string of not-so-classics such as the tawdry and embarrassing Lindsay Lohan vehicle 'The Canyons' and the Nic Cage clunker 'Dog Eat Dog', both of which he directed. It was fair to think Schrader's best work was far in the rearview, and he would ride off as a once-vital talent who faded into the sunset. Now comes 'First Reformed', which Schrader wrote and directed, and it shows a raging fire still burns deep within the 71-year-old. 'First Reformed' is a passionate, unnerving and almost unbearably tense drama about faith, conviction and the rotting core of life on our planet. It's the Schrader many hoped was still alive and kicking but doubted we would ever see again. What a comeback' - Adam Graham, Detroit News.

Ethan Hawke plays Toller, pastor of the First Reformed Church, the oldest church in Albany County, New York. Mary (Amanda Seyfried), part of his tiny, diminishing flock comes to Toller to get him to talk sense into her husband who is beset with doubts over their forthcoming baby - his radical environmental views makes him fear for the baby. Toller, who is himself full of doubts, tries to help, but his own fears make him less than convincing...

'Ethan Hawke, whose great gift as an actor is that you can almost never see him acting, is superb as the troubled pastor who is driven towards desperate acts by his concerns about the world around him' - Wendy Ide, Observer.



Sunday 21st October at 5pm

COLD WAR (Zimna wojna)

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski. Poland 2018 (15) 1hr 28min.

In Polish and various languages with English subtitles.



If you loved Pawel Pawlikowski's Oscar and BAFTA-winning last film *'Ida'* as much as we did you won't be at all surprised that we have included his new *'Cold War'* in this season. This, too, is winning awards: at Cannes Film Festival, Pawel Pawlikowski won the Best Director award and the film was nominated for the Palme d'Or.

The film shows the meeting between Wiktor, a travelling musician and Zula, who comes to an audition for his folk group. It then follows the two folk musicians around Cold War Europe, weaving their love and the politics of the time into *'a crisply controlled saga of romantic torture, glamour, forbidden border crossings and more betrayals than you can shake a black silk stocking at'* - Stephanie Zacharek, Time.

Wiktor and Zula have a complicated relationship over the years, which is held together by the music: *'The music does the feeling for them - and the music, like their relationship, changes. We have folk chorals that speak of lost loves, sweetly wounded jazz twinkling in French cafés, and the furious, overpowering charge of rock 'n' roll'* - Bilge Ebiri, Village Voice.

Which only leaves me wondering, is the *'Cold War'* of the title about the political times of the countries they travel though; or is it more about the relationship between the two lovers..?



Sunday 28th October at 5pm
SUMMER 1993 (Estiu 1993)

Director: Carla Simón. Spain 2017 (12A, F) 1hr 37min.
In Catalan with English subtitles.



6 year-old Frida is taken to live with her aunt and uncle after her parents have died. She befriends their 3 year-old daughter, but the summer is not as idyllic as it might seem...

'In its subtlety, richness and warmth it is entirely beguiling – complex and simple at the same time. It is also very moving. 'Summer 1993' is about childhood and a child's fraught relationship to the adult world, and has some of the most miraculous child performances I can remember seeing recently, although the concept of "performances" and "acting" are meaningless with children this young: two little girls of six and three years old...What a lovely film it is' - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.



Sunday 4th November at 5pm
MARLINA THE MURDERER IN 4 ACTS

Director: Mouly Surya. Indonesia 2017 (15, F) 1hr 33min.
In Indonesian with English subtitles.



If you can picture Sergio Leone directing a feminist western in Indonesia you are on the way to seeing what Mouly Surya has succeeded in doing here: after being told she is going to be robbed

and raped in half an hour, Marlina prepares for the 'Robbery', then goes on her 'Journey' for revenge; you will have to come and see the movie to find out what the other two acts are... *'The story is essentially a revenge fantasy like many another, but its feminist slant never feels rhetorical or heavy-handed. The whole thing is handled with sly wit as well as unfailing stylistic smarts, which makes for a very satisfying package' - Godfrey Cheshire, RogerEbert.com*



Sunday 11th November at 5pm

COCOTE

Director: Nelson Carlo de Los Santos Arias. Dominican Republic
2017 (NA) 1hr 46min. In Spanish with English subtitles.



Some films we show pick themselves because the director is well known, or the film has won prizes, others jump out at us because they look new and different; this is definitely in the second camp. To start with, it comes from the Dominican Republic, unusual in itself. Secondly, the director, Nelson Carlo de Los Santos Arias, in his first fiction feature film, appears to be trying to adapt the 'rules' of film-making to develop his own style: *"Cocote", is a dazzling collage of styles and approaches in which every scene - practically every shot - feels different from the one that came before. Evoking the restless unpredictability of a late-period Jean-Luc Godard film, de Los Santos Arias's images shift form almost constantly - from film to video, from black and white to colour, from widescreen to full frame - as the writer-director experiments with a vast array of aesthetic stylings, everything from slow-cinema stillness to ethnographic vérité to lustrous film noir. The result is an invigorating, if slightly exhausting, parade of near-perpetual innovation, in which the only constant is the filmmaker's stylistic dynamism'* - Keith Watson, Slant Magazine. We can only support any endeavour to evolve the art of film-making.

Alberto is returning to the Republic to attend his murdered father's funeral. A fervent evangelical Christian, he is already worried by the local Christian customs which coalesce in the ecstatic hybrid rituals of the *'rezos de los nueve'*. His fears are increased as he begins to realize that his family expect him to take revenge on the local criminal boss who was responsible for the murder. The film builds to a crescendo as Alberto tries to decide what to do...

So we can expect a thriller, some wonderful shots of the Dominican scenery and way of life, mixed with some innovative filming; this is going to be a film we remember..!



Sunday 18th November at 5pm

LUCKY

Director: John Carroll Lynch. USA 2017 (15) 1hr 28min. In English.



It is fitting that the last film of one of the great character actors, who rarely took the main part, was written for him to star in. Harry Dean Stanton, who died last year at the age of 91, is credited with 204 roles. He had been acting since 1954;

probably his best known part was in *'Paris, Texas'* in 1984 - a rare lead role for him.

'Lucky' is directed as an homage by John Carroll Lynch - who has almost as many acting roles himself: *'Beginning as a broad comedy before blossoming into a wry meditation on death and all the things we leave behind... Lynch's directorial debut is a wisp of a movie, blowing across the screen like a tumbleweed, but it's also the rare portrait of mortality that's both fun and full of life'* - Eric Kohn, IndieWire.



Sunday 25th November at 5pm

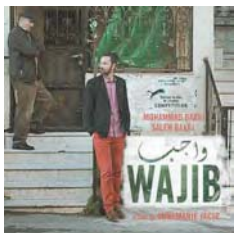
WAJIB (A martfüi rém)

Director: Annemarie Jacir. Palestine 2017 (NA, F) 1hr 36min.
In Arabic with English subtitles.



Director Annemarie Jacir uses a simple road trip around Nazareth to explore the different 'truths' of life as seen by Palestinians in Israel. Father and son (as are the actors), are hand delivering invites to a wedding;

Abu Shadi - who has lived here all his life - and Shadi - who now lives in Italy - argue about their different views of how to survive, about what is important; about pragmatism and idealism. *'It's easy to wear a rose-coloured pair of designer Italian glasses when you are observing from a distance, whereas Shadi's father faces the compromises needed to rub along successfully in his homeland'* - Amber Wilkinson, Eye for Film.



Sunday 2nd December at 5pm

SHOPLIFTERS (Manbiki kazoku)

Director: Hirokazu Koreeda. Japan 2018 (NA) 2hr 1min.
In Japanese with English subtitles.



Hirokazu Koreeda has been recognized as a great director - the 'heir' to Yasujiro Ozu - since *'Nobody Knows'* (2004), winning many awards around the world, but it has taken till now for him to win the Palme d'Or at Cannes with this, his latest film. I first fell in love with his work back in September 2010 when the film club showed *'Still Walking'*. Since then, we have had most of his films and they have all gone down well in Keswick.

Always the master of family dynamics, here his family is more a house full of people living on the margins of society: *'ShoPLifting is practised by a middle-aged construction worker and the young boy he treats (and has trained) like a son; the labourer's wife works on a job-share scheme in a laundry; another young woman performs in a peep-show parlour; while the eldest of the make-shift 'family' lives off her former husband's pension and other more mysterious sources of income...Typically for Koreeda, the generally becalmed, affectionate tone builds slowly towards scenes that are finally deeply moving without ever being mawkish. Boasting excellent performances all round (with the writer-director once again demonstrating his expertise with children), 'ShoPLifters' is another charming, funny and very affecting example of Koreeda's special brand of tough-but-tender humanism'* - Geoff Andrew, Time Out. The family dynamic is changed by a young girl they 'rescue' from the streets...

'The director has always been good at showing love manifest itself in surprising ways, and his ability to tell this story with a minimum of sensationalism and judgment feels like a small miracle' - Bilge Ebiri, Village Voice.



Sunday 9th December at 5pm
AMERICAN ANIMALS

Director: Bart Layton. USA 2018 (15) 1hr 56min. In English.

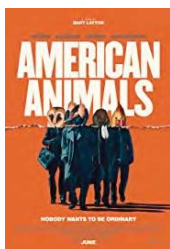


Partly a true-life crime drama, partly a comedy, director Bart Layton has certainly come up with a new way to view the classic heist movie. Rotten Tomatoes describes it as *'The unbelievable but true story of four young men who brazenly attempt to execute one of the most audacious art heists in US history. Determined to live lives that are out of the ordinary, they formulate a daring plan for the perfect robbery, only to discover that the plan has taken on a life of its own'*.

Warren and Spencer, a couple of college kids in 2004, inspired each other to set up 'the perfect crime', as much to prove to themselves that they were not just ordinary people as to make money. They decided to steal a rare, valuable book from their Kentucky university which was only guarded by the aging book librarian. *'[The kids]' meticulous preparations begin with typing "how to plan a heist" into Google and continue with watching every heist film ever made, though they manage to overlook the primary lesson of all such films - that something always goes wrong'* - JR Jones, Chicago Reader.

The film starts off fairly light-heartedly but gets darker when the two would-be master criminals bring in two other friends to help (why would they need four people to steal one book from a helpless librarian..?). *'By the time Warren's squaring his shoulders to taser the rare-books librarian (Ann Dowd, always a treat), 'American Animals' has veered from sorta-true-crime quasi-comedy into a Scorsese-inflected look at the realities of attempting a theft of this magnitude'* - Sara Stewart, New York Post.

Whatever the genre of the film, it sounds like it should keep us talking after the event. *'American Animals' is one of the year's smartest, most captivating films, and Layton stages it with the precision of a perfect crime'* - Adam Graham, Detroit News.



Sunday 16th December at 5pm

UNDER THE TREE (Undir trénu)

Director: Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson. Iceland 2017 (15) 1hr 29min.
In Icelandic with English subtitles.



As you sip your sherry under your Christmas tree, wondering whether to put a star or just a light on the top, spare a thought for those with larger problems in the world...like Atli here in Iceland. Forced to move back home with his parents for reasons I'll let him explain when you see the film, he finds himself in a battleground between his parents and their neighbours; is the tree in his parents' garden beautiful as they believe, or just blocking the sun as the neighbours argue? "Can't they just move their chairs over a bit into the sun?"

It being an Icelandic film and a comedy, you can guess the argument doesn't stop there; even their pets are at loggerheads (inevitably, one family has a dog, the other a cat...) and the temperature rises with the heat of the Icelandic summer sun...*'snippy comments give way to petty cruelties that eventually escalate to an absolute breakdown of social order... "Has everyone lost their mind?" one character cries at one point'* - Ann Hornaday, Washington Post.

She continues - *'Sigurdsson clearly has his finger on the pulse, not only of smoothly engrossing filmmaking, but also his own anxious times. 'Under the Tree' is a stylish, bluntly effective parable for an increasingly uncivil and irrational age'*, whilst Bruce DeMara, in the Toronto Star thinks - *'Sigurdsson throws in some nice stylistic touches throughout to create an alternating mood of absurdity and foreboding'*.

So we finish our 20th Autumn Season as we began, with a comedy which we hope will put you in a good mood for your Christmas festivities. We continue our 20th Year celebrations in January with our Spring Season of films, and we have our 20th Film Festival at the end of February. Have a great Christmas everyone; see you in 2019!



September

- Sunday 9th 5pm **C'est la Vie**
France, (15) A wedding that goes wrong...c'est la vie!
- Sunday 16th 5pm **In the Fade**
Germany, (18,F) A bomb blast changes a life forever
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **Lean on Pete**
UK, (15) A boy and a horse on the road
- Sunday 30th 5pm **The Heiresses**
Paraguay, (12A,F) There is life without her partner after all

October

- Sunday 7th 5pm **Custody**
France, (15) Who should be allowed to look after the child?
- Sunday 14th 5pm **First Reformed**
USA, (15) A pastor with doubts struggles to help others
- Sunday 21st 5pm **Cold War**
Poland, (15) Love, music and politics in 1950s Poland
- Sunday 28th 5pm **Summer 1993**
Spain, (12A,F) A small girl tries to find her feet in her uncle's house

November

- Sunday 4th 5pm **Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts**
Indonesia, (15,F) 'Satay' feminist Indonesian Western
- Sunday 11th 5pm **Cocote**
Dominican Republic, (NA) Christian morals versus local customs
- Sunday 18th 5pm **Lucky**
USA, (15) Harry Dean Stanton's last movie
- Sunday 25th 5pm **Wajib**
Palestine, (NA,F) A road trip round Nazareth... and idealism

December

- Sunday 2nd 5pm **Shoplifters**
Japan, (NA) A family struggles to survive; shoplifting helps
- Sunday 9th 5pm **American Animals**
USA, (15) Students plan the perfect heist; what could go wrong?
- Sunday 16th 5pm **Under the Tree**
Iceland, (15) What price peace when the tree causes a shadow?

Note: F Rated films denote significant female involvement - director, writer or actor
Front page picture is from 'Shoplifters' (2nd December)



www.keswickfilmclub.org



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