

Talking Pictures

**Keswick
Film Club
A.G.M.
30th March**

**This is your
'official' notice of
the AGM which is to
be held on Sunday
30th March, at the
Alhambra at 4.00
p.m. - before *The
Diving Bell and the
Butterfly*
(AGM details and
agenda overleaf)**

**Audience responses to
the Spring season's films**

**If you don't receive our email
messages, you might like to
know the scores and audience
size of the films so far:**

- Michael Clayton: 78.1%
(210 audience)
- The Witnesses: 71.3.0% (92)
- True North: 79% (148)
- The Counterfeiters: 90.1% (129)
- Assassination of JJ: 72.1% (162)
- 2 Days in Paris: 65.1% (151)
- Shadow of the Moon: 93.5% (91)
- Familia Rodante: 60.2% (95)

Running the Festival: Ann's view

This is the second year I have been involved in running the Film Festival and its been a lot of fun. Previously I hadn't done anything like it - I've run other things, like a council's services to the homeless, a software company and part of a Xmas Hamper company, but not a film festival. To begin with I just put my hand up to help with sponsorship but in a moment there I was being encouraged to be the Director and run it. I've preferred to call myself the co-ordinator because that's what I do - the Festival comes together through the efforts of a number of people.

When I started I had a list of what needed to be done - not a very long list really:-

- Get some money in - sponsorship and advertising
- Work out a budget
- Marketing, advertising and the web site
- Film Selection and guests
- Venues, party, food
- Volunteers and rota

And after all - it had run for seven years so lots of people knew how to do things and helped me get going even if the committee had drifted away. A new group soon

came together and it seems to work well.

As for sponsorship there are three routes, public organisations like Allerdale Council and Cumbria County Council, Trusts that finance the Arts, so this year we have received money from The Hadfield Trust and private companies and individuals. We have some generous companies and people and I think it part of my responsibility to make sure that if they want some benefit to their organisation we do our very best to deliver that. We have advertisers who have supported us for some years too.

Each year we have tried to do something different so, for example, my memory of coming to the Festival was great films but awful curled up sandwiches! The restaurants generously supplying food for the party has helped create a different atmosphere. Some things don't work so well - the workshops for kids were under-subscribed last year so we are not trying them again this year, but the shorts competition was good, the Feb Film was well attended and the feedback

was good.

There was concern about the cost and the Festival running at a loss so I had a tight hold on the purse strings and got free train tickets for guests from Virgin Rail, reduced the cost of the marketing and probably have a reputation around town for being a 'meanie'. Anyway, we ended up wiping out the deficit and so now the Festival is on a better financial footing.

I enjoy chasing guests, writing the press releases and working with the students who design the brochure and passes, and as a newcomer I have got to know people through the Festival. But, of course, no-one would come if the films weren't right and Rod's fantastic knowledge with a little help from his friends on the committee in putting together the programme is crucial. Chasing up the film distributors is a thankless task - they are frustratingly silent.

And then of course there are the volunteers - those you see and those you don't, like Robert and Tom in the projection box or Stephen working on the web-site from Leeds. And gradually the Festival comes together.....

FebFilm audience response scores

	*	**	***	****	*****	Votes	Audience	Scores
Under the Mud	2	11	20	28	18	79	137	65.51
Gypsy Caravan	1	3	11	20	29	64	95	78.52
The Singer	1	8	15	29	12	65	111	66.54
Seachd	2	8	21	26	12	69	212	63.77
Heima	5	7	19	22	9	62	140	59.27
Once	0	3	8	36	30	77	151	80.19
The Band's Visit	0	1	3	40	39	83	125	85.24
Control	2	3	5	25	36	71	172	81.69
We Are Together	0	0	8	20	20	48	70	81.25

Take three films... by women directors

By Mike Rose-Troup

Water (Deepa Mehta), KFC October 2007
The introduction to this film was very powerful: background on the political opposition to filming the story in India and the oppression of Hindu women in that country set the scene for a powerful dramatisation of the plight of a widowed child bride set in the 1930s. The impact of the story on our audience, the sexual abuse of 8 year old Chuyia and the doomed romance of her friend, was evident; after the screening people were visibly moved by what they had seen. One thing that struck me was the way the style of the film worked together with the content. How lightness of touch conveyed the cultural normality of the situation of the widows while the romantic cinematography and exotic colours of the costumes and dyes added to the emotional appeal. This approach can be contrasted with the realism shown in the documentary *Born into Brothels* (2004), about the life of women and their children in the red light district of modern Calcutta, made by the eccentric photojournalist Zana Briski (KFC March 2006).

Waitress (Adrienne Shelly), KFC December 2007

Adrienne Shelley was murdered shortly before *Waitress* was released and this has inevitably coloured appreciation of her film. Distributors hoping to repeat the success of the previous years 'leftfield' hit '*Little Miss Sunshine*,' picked the film up from the Sundance Film Festival after her partner's emotional introduction to the first screening. The problem for me was a lack of sympathy with any of the cardboard characters. Waitress Jenna has no more than fairy tale relationships with her loathsome husband and

her handsome doctor (who turns out to be more frog than handsome prince) and escapes them both with a comic book resolution (with one bound she was free!) when she inherits a fortune from the irritable but kindly old proprietor of the pie shop. The pie jokes were funny and the set up between the co-workers in the pie shop was too good to be wasted but the intentions for the film were not properly realised. *Chocolat* (Lasse Halstrom), 2000, gave a better account of the transformational powers of cooking.

Two Days in Paris (Julie Delpy), KFC February 2008

This was a clever and very funny film. Well, at least I thought so! But the overall audience response was less appreciative; perhaps too many of the witticisms were salacious. There were certainly some challenges, but, I thought, to the characters in order to serve the plot, rather than to the audience. One visitor was disappointed that it was 'American/French rather than French/French'; the homage to Woody Allen evidently interpreted as imitation instead of, well, homage. The way in which the 'openness' of the Parisian relationships and the confrontation of racism and sexism discomfited the uptight New Yorker certainly entertained me. But perhaps we are used to a more intellectual or even political slant from French cinema. As Rod Evans commented, it's evidence of how difficult it can be to find a cracking good comedy that will appeal to everyone. But an overall score of less than that of *Waitress* - astonishing!

And a final thought; is there anything in these three films that tell you they were directed by women?

KFC AGM: 30th March 2008 4.00pm

Agenda:

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the 2007 AGM.
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Appointment of Trustees
7. AOB

At the AGM, one-third of the Trustees of the Club are required to retire from office. David Miller and Tom Rennie are retiring this year,

but willing to serve again. Any other members who would like to become trustees at the AGM must be nominated not less than 14 days before the meeting. Such nominations, accompanied by a statement of the person's willingness to be appointed, should be received by the Secretary at 50 St John's Street, Keswick CA12 5AG by 16th March 2008.

If there are any such nominations, all members will be circulated again, not

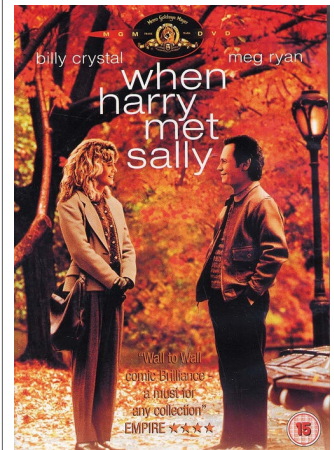
later than 7 days before the meeting, to inform them of the proposal to appoint that person as a trustee. Any members interested in helping on the KFC Committee are invited to say so at or before the AGM. Rod Evans, Chairman. Tel: 017687 74475 info@keswickfilmclub.org Neville Marchant, Secretary. nevillemarchant@aol.com

Please come to the meeting - we need your ideas and suggestions

KFC on the Road

Once again, our festival planning and its calls on time have dissuaded us from going out into the highways and byways actually looking for work, but there are 3 evenings of 'film in the community' for us this spring, two of which will have happened by the time you read this, and one to come at Mungrisdale on 18th April.

Programmed (by the 'customers') for the romanti-



cally inclined, *When Harry Met Sally* was screened on the auspicious 29th February at



Mungrisdale, but, last minute news, *Casino Royale* couldn't attract an audience at Portinscale.

Come to Mungrisdale on 18th April if you'd like to see:

