



The town supports the Film Festival

Keswick's Festival season starts with the Film Festival in February. And this year, as usual we have a round –up of great films, guests and events at the Theatre and the Alhambra. And after the opening film at the Alhambra on the Thursday evening, *The Dark Horse* from New Zealand we are excited that Tom Rennie will be showing *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. Whilst outside the Festival – don't try to get in with your Festival Pass, - it will add to the general excitement of the weekend.

During the day though the Alhambra will be joining in the screenings that go on all day and into the night with nearly 30 titles being shown over the weekend. The programme is on the website now with details of all the films and we just wait to hear if we will be welcoming Sir John Hurt this year.

We expect to sell about 3,000 tickets for the event as a whole with many people coming to see over 12 films over the weekend. There is a free family showing of *Into the Woods* on Saturday morning at the Alhambra and as usual we have films supported by speakers from the Keswick Peace and Human Rights Group. David Alton will be coming to speak about North Korea at the showing of *Camp 14* on Saturday and Rachael Rodway from the Carlisle Food Bank will be speaking at the showing of *Breadline Kids* on Sunday morning.

We like to involve the town and the local schools so we are delighted that some of the cafes and restaurants are supporting us by giving free teas and coffees or even a pint to people who have a Festival Pass and buy a meal. So far Star of Siam, Casa Bella, Magnolia and the Dog and Gun have joined in and the YHA who sponsor us each year are offering free tea and coffee and will be screening shortlisted short films and other free films. Two years ago John Hurt kicked off the reading scheme at Ullswater Community College and this year we are delighted that Gemma Jones and others from *Radiator* will be doing the same. *Radiator* is a film based in Mungrisdale filmed in the actual cottage that Tom Browne, director and actor was brought up in.

Gemma Jones and the other star Richard Johnson both have long acting careers in film and TV. Gemma's spreads from Z-cars, through *The Devils* and *Bridget Jones Diary* to being in some of the Harry Potter films. *Radiator* is on Friday timed to fit with their schedule. We are also welcoming the director and star of *Shongram*, a film we hoped to show last year with our Bangladeshi film strand as Munsur Ali made the film based in 1971 Bangladesh in part to help other UK Bangladeshis understand this part of their country's history.

With nearly 30 films this year we are sure there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Website: <http://www.keswickfilmfestival.org>

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