

# Keswick Film Club

## Autumn 2009



Penelope Cruz  
Pedro Almodovar  
*Broken Embraces*



[www.keswickfilmclub.org](http://www.keswickfilmclub.org)

Keswick Film Club began life in 1998 with the intention of bringing the best of World Cinema to Keswick. Since then it has won many awards from the British Federation of Film Societies including Best Programme four times, and Best Website. In 2006 we were Film Society of the Year. Audiences are made up of the Club's 250+ members, and our very welcome visitors.

#### **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 web-site, and we have a voting system - give the film a star rating out of five.

## **Autumn 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 (Autumn 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) [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org)

Secretary: Steve Allen

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 13th September at 5pm

## HOME

*Director: Ursula Meier, Switz/Fr/Belg 15 2008  
95mins. In French with English subtitles.*

A comedy, but an unsettling one - as Swiss-French director Meier put it: 'rather like an inverted road movie.' In the middle of the countryside, a father, a mother and their three children live happily on the edge of a motorway that has been disused for the past ten years. When the road works are suddenly completed, and the first cars drive past, the nightmare begins.

Combining great acting by Isabelle Huppert and her colleagues, superb cinematography by Agnès Godard - Claire Denis's loyal DoP - and a fine soundtrack which contrasts the harsh sounds of 'civilization' with the peacefulness of the natural landscape backed by a beautifully-chosen, wide range of music, this should start our season in memorable style.

*'Meier's contemporary and enticing tale of spiralling humour and darkness is an accomplished debut.'* PAUL GRIFFITHS, EYE FOR FILM



Sunday 20th September at 5pm

## SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK

Director: Charlie Kaufman, US 15 2008 124 mins

Philip Seymour Hoffman stars as a theatre director (it's the opening night of his production of 'Death of a Salesman') attempting to re-enact his life as it is occurring. From the relentless imagination of Charlie Kaufman, writer of *Being John Malkovich* and *Adaptation*, comes an examination of the mind: losing grip of one's self; the fractured, self-possessed mind of the artist; the interplay of waking lives and dreams, or waking lives and memories – all these are themes that drive Kaufman's first film as both writer and director, raising such questions as 'Is everyone a hero of his own drama and an extra in everyone else's?

*'This is a movie designed to provoke, entertain and infuriate, that boldly goes into areas where few films from the English-speaking world nowadays dare penetrate.'*

PHILIP FRENCH, THE OBSERVER

*'A soul-altering, heart-changing, brain-transplanting masterpiece.'*

MATTHEW DE ABAITUA, FILMFOUR



*Sunday 27th September at 5pm*

## O'HORTEN

*Director: Bent Hamer, Norway 12A 2007  
90 mins. In Norwegian with English subtitles.*

Odd Horten is a 67-year-old Norwegian train driver who discovers after hanging up his timetable for the last time that there is still light at the end of the tunnel. After attending a party at which his colleagues see him off by pretending to be steam engines, Horten settles into retirement by embarking on a mini-odyssey which brings him a host of new experiences and eccentric encounters, involving a deal of visual humour. Reminiscent of the work of Aki Kaurismäki and Roy Andersson, Bent Hamer's film maintains a balance between dark reality and theatrical irony as the rising tide of melancholy is complemented by his fine sense of the ridiculous.

*'A brilliantly pitched exercise in droll comedy with a tender message about seizing the day.'*

JON FORTGANG, FILMFOUR

*'Thoughtful, funny, slightly sad and superbly crafted.'* DAVE CALHOUN, TIME OUT



*Sunday 4th October at 5pm*

## SLEEP FURIOUSLY

*Director: Gideon Koppel. UK U 2008 94 mins.*

'How brave of distributors New Wave Films to pick up such a seemingly uncommercial project and present it to the public in such a tough economic climate, even if the film only pops up on a bare handful of screens across the country. In an ideal world, such boldness would yield rich reward - and there'd be a receptive climate for reflectively quiet, intensely personal, experimentally poetic documentaries such as this.

As it is, such fare is generally restricted to film festivals - such as Edinburgh, where *sleep furiously* premiered to favourable notices last June. *Sight and Sound* hailed Koppel, a Liverpool-born, Slade-educated artist who teaches in London and Paris, as "the unfussiest film-maker since Bresson," describing his film as "quite simply, a masterpiece."

NEIL YOUNG, JIGSAW LOUNGE

*'The spirit of Dylan Thomas hovers over this lyrical documentary about a Welsh farming community...unusually tender and eccentric.'*

SAM WIGLEY, TOTAL FILM



Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm

## EVERLASTING MOMENTS

(Maria Larssons eviga ögonblick)

*Director: Jan Troell, Swe/Den/Fin 15 2008 110 mins. In Swedish & Finnish with English subtitles.*

Favourably compared to the work of Ingmar Bergman, Jan Troell's film introduces us to a woman who experiences an artistic awakening after being introduced to photography. Based on real-life events, the story opens at the start of the 20th century and centres on Finnish housewife Maria Larrson (Maria Heiskanen), who struggles to care for her large brood of children and manage her abusive, alcoholic husband, Sigge. The film is beautifully shot throughout and delivers a strong message about personal integrity and the fulfilment that come from finding an artistic outlet. It's also a deeply understanding film which resists the usual clichés of violent husband melodramas.

*'Beautiful, tender, truthful... The acting all around is of the highest order and Maria Heiskanen's magnificent performance is a portrait of human goodness and decency, utterly lacking in sentimentality, sanctimony or self-conscious martyrdom.'* PHILIP FRENCH, THE OBSERVER



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm

## CHERRY BLOSSOMS (Kirschblüten - Hanami)

*Director: Doris Dörrie, Germany tbc 2008 127 mins*

*In German and Japanese with English subtitles.*

In this modern homage to Ozu's 1953 masterpiece *Tokyo Story*, Dörrie's moving and fascinating film begins with Trudi (Hannelore Elsner) being told by doctors that her husband, Rudi (Elmar Wepper), has a fatal illness - one whose progression is difficult to predict. Trudi keeps the knowledge of his fate to herself, encouraging him to take a trip with her to Japan. All he will agree to however is a trip to Berlin to visit their son, Klaus and daughter, Karolin - a minor disaster since neither their son, nor his family, nor Karolin has time for them. So the story progresses towards Japan in an entirely unexpected way, and cherry blossoms become a metaphor for life's ephemeral beauty...

*'A big hit in its native Germany, this bouquet of nicely observed private moments packs an unexpectedly profound emotional punch.'*

ROB DANIEL, SKY MOVIES

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 5pm  
**FUGITIVE PIECES**

Director: Jeremy Podeswa, Can/Greece 15 2007  
106 mins. In English and Greek with English subtitles.

Adapted from the novel by Anne Michaels, Jeremy Podeswa's drama stars Stephen Dillane as a Toronto-based writer struggling with demons from his Polish past. When the Nazis murdered his parents and dragged away his sister, he was rescued by a Greek archaeologist before being taken after the war to Canada. Here, Jakob, who has become a writer struggling to articulate his childhood horrors, must exorcise the ghosts of his past if he is to close a traumatic chapter of his life and find serenity in the present. As much about memory as about the Holocaust, *FUGITIVE PIECES* is a touching testimony to the power of remembrance and redemption, and the high quality of cinematography, acting and musical score play their full part in creating a memorable film.

*'One of the most delicate, approachable and rewarding Holocaust movies of recent years.'*  
WALLY HAMMOND, TIME OUT



Sunday 1st November at 5pm  
**KATYN**

Director: Andrezej Wajda, Poland 15 2007  
121 mins. In Polish, German and Russian with English subtitles.

'Polish veteran Andrezej Wajda tackles an event close to his – and his country's – heart in 'Katyn', a poignant drama that traces the lasting effects of a national tragedy, the memory of which started to warp almost as soon as it happened....The principal success of Wajda's stately, widescreen and exquisitely shot film lies in its sober attempt to mirror the fragmented truth of a genocide. For half a century, the perception of Katyn was clouded by ideology: it was a distortion whose ripples were felt at the most intimate of levels. Wajda is excellent at portraying the lingering corruption of this top-down rewriting of history.'

DAVE CALHOUN, TIME OUT

*'This powerful, heartfelt and important drama from one of the great names in world cinema deserves to be seen in Britain.'*  
PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN



*Sunday 8th November at 5pm*

## THE GROCER'S SON (LE FILS DE L'ÉPICIER)

*Director: Eric Guirado, France 12A 2007  
99 mins. In French with English subtitles.*

In order to keep alive the family's grocery shop Antoine is forced to go back to his home town when his father has a heart attack. Unwillingly driving the family van from hamlet to hamlet, delivering supplies to the few remaining inhabitants, his attitude gradually changes when accompanied by his Parisian friend Claire... To achieve documentary-like realism, director Éric Guirado shot portraits of travelling tradesmen in southern France: his film affectionately observes their gruff, self-reliant customers and respects these hardy, weather-beaten but also funny and endearing people. Ultimately, this French box-office hit is about the coming-of-age of a man rediscovering life and love in the countryside.

*'Unfolding amid the dappled sunshine and dusty roads of Provence, this is a film that lifts your spirits.'* ALLAN HUNTER, DAILY EXPRESS

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November



## KEN RUSSELL WEEKEND SPECIAL

GUEST APPEARANCE IN CONVERSATION WITH DEREK MALCOLM,  
AND SCREENING OF FILMS **SONG OF SUMMER** AND **MAHLER**

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME KEN TO THE ALHAMBRA IN A RETURN TO KESWICK, AND  
LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING HIM TALK WITH DEREK MALCOLM (CURRENTLY FILM CRITIC OF THE  
LONDON EVENING STANDARD AND PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES).

Both films were shot in Borrowdale, and both, in their separate ways, are typical of Ken Russell's highly-regarded skill as a filmmaker and his brilliant inventiveness and ability to capture emotion and inspiration. Ken once described *Song of Summer* as his best piece of work, and Derek Malcolm goes one further: *'The best film ever made about a composer'*. Variety says of *Mahler*: *'It mirrors admirably, movingly and even excitingly, the moments of (musical) creation and inspiration, and the torment and basic loneliness of the artist.'*

*Song of Summer* should be screened on Saturday (but please check) and *Mahler* on Sunday at 5pm. Final details of the timetable for the weekend, including the talk(s) will not be available until nearer the time, so please look out for posters, check in the local press, or ask for information (page 2 of this brochure). If time allows we will also screen Ken Russell's *The Devils* on the Saturday.



Sunday 22nd November at 5pm

## 35 SHOTS OF RUM (35 RHUMS)

Director: Claire Denis, France 12A 2008  
100 mins. In French with English subtitles.

Claire Denis creates a subtle family drama about the close connection between widower Lionel and his daughter, Joséphine. Since the early death of her mother, she and her father have depended on one another, living together until her adulthood. However, she and Lionel realize that the time for them to move on may have come... This portrait of the deep bond between father and daughter is portrayed through secret smiles, stolen glances and comfortable silences, as other relationships come into play. With Agnès Godard's fluid camerawork, the film builds into a richly textured meditation on family, friendship, love and loss.

*'This outstanding new film from Claire Denis demonstrates her fluency and mastery in the kind of movie-language that is rich, quietly complex and subtle - and very un-Hollywood... tremendously moving. A film to be savoured.'*  
PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN



Sunday 29th November at 5pm

## BROKEN EMBRACES (Los abrazos rotos)

Director: Pedro Almodovar, Spain 15 2009  
128 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles.

*'A lavish, noirish melodrama sparkling with Pedro Almodovar's trademark humour... devilishly clever and shrewdly cast with a stable of Almodovar regulars, the storyline casts a particularly gorgeous Cruz as an actress struggling to escape the suffocating constraints of the ageing millionaire lover who has bankrolled her career. The film is awash with references to the noir genre, Italian neo-realism and even to the director's own quirky oeuvre... It's a rollicking struggle that, in the hands of consummate ringmaster Almodovar, is a joy to watch.'*  
BARRY BYRNE, SCREEN INTERNATIONAL  
*'Almodovar has always managed to combine elegance and exuberance, and his latest movie is no exception: a richly enjoyable piece of work, slick and sleek, with a sensuous feel for the cinematic surfaces of things and, as ever, self-reflexively infatuated with the business of cinema itself.'* PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN



Sunday 6th December at 5pm

## WONDERFUL TOWN

*Director: Aditya Assarat, Thailand 12 2007  
89 mins. In Thai with English subtitles.*

Ton, a Bangkok architect comes to the rural community of Takua Pa in South Thailand, in order to supervise rebuilding work in the wake of the devastation caused by the 2004 tsunami. He chooses to stay in a small, rundown hotel owned by the shy Thai-Chinese Na who is bringing up her gangster brother's child. The two tentatively embark on a relationship, but Na's brother Wit does not take kindly to the news... Tension and suspense abound as we witness the development of their passion against the backdrop of a wounded landscape and a bruised population. *'This delicate, delightful and nearly note-perfect debut feature from young Thai director Aditya Assarat offers more evidence of the tremendous film renaissance underway in East Asia...an irresistible picture, engaging from its first shot to its last.'* ANDREW O'HEHIR, SALON.COM *'A beautifully made, superbly acted and emotionally powerful drama that's well worth seeking out.'* MATTHEW TURNER, VIEWLONDON

Sunday 13th December at 5pm

## FISH TANK

Director: Andrea Arnold, UK 15 2009 123 mins.

Andrea Arnold goes from strength to strength in this, her second feature (following *Red Road*), in which she develops her very personal style of story-telling and coaxes extraordinary performances from her leading actors.

An entirely credible portrait of the emotional and sexual development of a teenage girl coping with her tough life on a Thames Estuary estate, it's a treatment which has been described as Ken Loachian realism from the female viewpoint. Arnold's sensitive, imaginative and intimate portrayal of the girl, her family and Mum's new boyfriend is as successful as her depiction of the wider world in which Mia (Katie Jarvis) lives. Winner of the Jury Prize, Cannes 2009.

*'The performances of Jarvis and Fassbender are outstanding and their chemistry fizzles — and then explodes. It is another highly intelligent, involving film from one of the most powerful voices in British cinema.'*

PETER BRADSHAW, THE GUARDIAN





Sunday 20th December at 5pm

## JOYEUX NOËL

Director: Christian Carion, Fr/Ger/UK/Belg/Rom  
12A 2005 116 mins. In English, French, and  
German with English subtitles.

In this profoundly moving story of the human spirit rising above appalling suffering, we see German, French and Scottish soldiers trapped in the gruesome trenches of what would soon be recognized as the worst and most pointless slaughter the world had yet seen. But on this 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an extraordinary Christmas truce, it is also a work of nostalgia for a time when war was still imagined to be a glorious and dangerous sport. With gorgeous music (from classical arias to Scottish bagpipers), lovely photography, sufficient enquiry into the morality of warfare, we have fine performances from Guillaume Canet, Daniel Brühl and Alex Ferns enjoying some civilized bonhomie amid the carnage.

*'Destined to unite audiences across the continent and become a holiday season perennial.'*

BOYD VAN HOEIJ, [european-films.com](http://european-films.com)

## September 2009

Sunday 13th	5pm	HOME The motorway opens and change hits a French family's life
Sunday 20th	5pm	SYNECDOCHE, NEW YORK Is there light at the end of the tunnel? Is there a tunnel...?
Sunday 27th	5pm	O'HORTEN The strangeness, humour and melancholy of ageing

## October 2009

Sunday 4th	5pm	SLEEP FURIOUSLY A beautiful documentary about life in rural Wales
Sunday 11th	5pm	EVERLASTING MOMENTS Fascinating, rich, turn-of-the-century Swedish drama
Sunday 18th	5pm	CHERRY BLOSSOMS Beautifully symbolising the impermanence of existence
Sunday 25th	5pm	FUGITIVE PIECES Tender, haunting adaptation of the best-selling novel

## November 2009

Sunday 1st	5pm	KATYN An exploration of the brutal tragedy in Poland's Katyn Forest, 1940
Sunday 8th	5pm	THE GROCER'S SON Bittersweet prodigal's return to the lush landscapes of Provence
Saturday 14th Sunday 15th		KEN RUSSELL WEEKEND: SONG OF SUMMER, MAHLER, and KEN in conversation with DEREK MALCOLM
Sunday 22nd	5pm	35 SHOTS OF RUM 'One of the most emotionally-eloquent films you'll see this year,'
Sunday 29th	5pm	BROKEN EMBRACES Almodovar's latest, starring a sparkling Penelope Cruz

## December 2009

Sunday 6th	5pm	WONDERFUL TOWN Devastating drama from the post-tsunami Thai coast
Sunday 13th	5pm	FISH TANK Superb performances in Andrea Arnold's fine second feature
Sunday 20th	5pm	JOYEUX NOEL 95th anniversary of the extraordinary events on WWI front line

**[www.keswickfilmclub.org](http://www.keswickfilmclub.org)**

For February: **[www.keswickfilmfestival.org](http://www.keswickfilmfestival.org)**