

Keswick Film Club

Autumn 2010



Keswick Film Club
at the
Lonsdale Alhambra
St John's Street
Keswick



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 280+ 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 website, and we have a voting system - give the film a star rating out of five.

Autumn Programme 2010

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 2010)

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

Secretary: Ian Payne

Treasurer: Tom Rennie

Committee Members: Vaughan Ames, Stephen Brown, Deborah Cowin, Angela Jackson, Anita Leaker, Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), David Miller, Elspeth Payne, Mike Rose-Troup.

*Keswick Film Club is a voluntarily-run, not-for-profit organisation
Registered Charity No. 1083395*

Sunday 12th September at 5pm

I AM LOVE (Io sono l'amore)

Director: Luca Guadagnino. Italy 2009 15
120 mins. In Italian with English subtitles

To open our new season we've chosen this critically-acclaimed love story, which, set in the late 1990s within a super-rich family called the Recchis, depicts the haute bourgeoisie in the throes of passion. In their Milanese villa, a marbled and gilded cage too large and ornate for normal family life, the family gathers to celebrate the birthday of its patriarch, sparking off a narrative that sees the carefully controlled, hyper-refined sphere of the Recchis come under increasing strain. With a marvellous central performance from Tilda Swinton, this superb film touches on many different complexities, bearing a resemblance to *King Lear* and Visconti's *The Leopard* and depicting a world on the cusp of change, where the grand old order struggles against rowdy new challengers.

'Elegantly directed and exquisitely photographed, the movie is a triumph, and so is Swinton.' New York Observer

'A work of masterly daring and skill.' Dave Calhoun, Time Out



Sunday 19th September at 5pm

STILL WALKING

(Aruitemo, aruitemo)

Director: Hirokazu Koreeda. Japan 2008 U

114 mins. In Japanese with English subtitles.

Reminiscent of the success of *Departures*, yet another highly-regarded Japanese film demands a place in our programme.

Tensions arise within a Yokohama family as they gather for the annual remembrance of their eldest son, who died 15 years earlier, attempting to save a drowning child. For some of them the festive gathering is an endurance test, but good cheer is the order of the day, and Koreeda's treatment of their modest joys and gentle resentments is actually full of humour, with energetic mother Toshio ruling the roost from the bustling kitchen whilst her retired doctor husband flees to the sanctuary of his examining-room to escape his tussling grandchildren. Koreeda handles the family dynamics skilfully, generating much warmth as counterpoint to the discordant notes, and creating a bittersweet gem.

'This is a higher order of storytelling, and this gentle, lovely film is impossible to watch without a lump in the throat.' Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian



Sunday 26th September at 5pm

LEBANON

*Director: Samuel Maoz. Israel 2009 15 93 mins.
In Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles.*

Samuel Maoz, soldier-turned-filmmaker and director of this Golden Lion winner at the 2009 Venice Film Festival, goes back to his harrowing experience of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to construct his testament to the nightmare of war. Much of it set inside an Israeli tank, and exploring the same battlefield as last year's brilliant *Waltz with Bashir*, this tense and claustrophobic film is an equally compelling tour de force: brilliant camerawork and extraordinary sound design reproduce the anguish of the four soldiers trapped in their hellish confinement, as their tank is dispatched to search a hostile town – a simple mission that turns into a devastating ordeal. If you liked *Das Boot*, *The Hurt Locker*, *Waltz with Bashir*, you'll love this.

'It's an astonishing feature debut that will amaze and upset, and has the strength to ask larger questions without ever forgetting its intimate roots.' Empire



Sunday 3rd October at 5pm

LE CONCERT

*Director: Radu Mihaileanu. Fr/It/Bel/Rus 2009
15 123 mins. In French and Russian with English
subtitles.*

Former Bolshoi conductor Andr i Filipov, disgraced for supporting Jewish musicians under Brezhnev's regime in the '80s, is now a mere cleaner at the Bolshoi. Intercepting a fax inviting the Bolshoi to perform in Paris, he resolves to reunite his old orchestra and take one last chance to re-enter the big time. Helped by his loyal friend Sacha and their old manager Ivan, Andrei tries to persuade all his musicians, but things start to unravel when they get to Paris... Essentially a larky comedy caper, the film's themes of lost opportunity and growing old strike the right emotional notes, and Mihaileanu manages his cast and amusing script astutely. Well-paced, well-developed characters...and Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto of course.

'A superbly directed, beautifully acted French farce that's both powerfully emotional and laugh-out-loud funny. Highly recommended.' Matthew Turner, ViewLondon

'M lanie Laurent and the music are sublime'
Empire



Sunday 10th October at 5pm

CITY OF LIFE AND DEATH (Nanjing, Nanjing)

Director: Chuan Lu. China 2009 15

132 mins. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

The story takes place in 1937, shortly after the beginning of the Sino-Japanese War. The Imperial Japanese Army has just captured the temporary capital of the Republic of China, and what follows is now known as the Nanjing Massacre. Commander Lu leads a small Chinese unit of regular and irregular combatants in defensive street-to-street fighting against a vastly superior army. This third feature by Chinese writer-director Lu Chuan (*The Missing Gun* and *Kekexili: Mountain Patrol*) presents other key individuals - a humane Japanese officer, a 'comfort woman', a Schindler-like figure who saved many civilians - who dramatise and give heart to the authentic story of terrible events which still cannot suppress the human instinct for survival.

'One of the finest films of the year so far, it is harrowing, shocking and searingly emotional... the picture has the grandeur of a classic. It should be witnessed.' Kate Muir, The Times



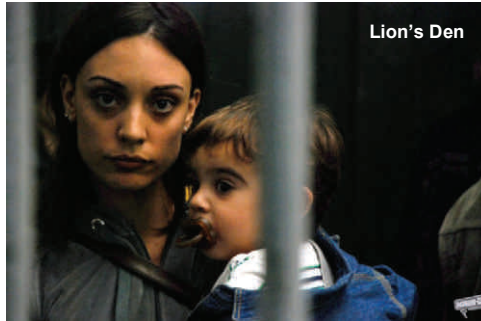
Sunday 17th October at 5pm

REVANCHE

Director: Götz Spielmann. Austria 2008 15
121 mins. In German with English subtitles.

Nominated for Best Foreign Film at last year's Oscars, there's a very noirish feel about *Revanche* which presents typical characters from the genre - the ex-con with big ambitions, the Ukrainian prostitute, the local cop, his restless wife - whose lives are entangled in unforeseen ways. Although we start off in the grim streets and sleazy milieu of Vienna's red-light district, most of the action is set amid the woods and lakes of Austria's quiet countryside. When things take a bad turn, the film time and again overturns expectations: scenarios are unguessable, deliberate pacing lets us look deeper into the characters' lives than most crime movies would trouble to do. Revenge is indeed uppermost, but this is that rare beast, a thoughtful thriller.

'This riveting study of desire, isolation, guilt and redemption bears the influence of both Robert Bresson and Michael Haneke, and proves surprisingly optimistic in its assessment of human weakness.' David Parkinson, Radio Times



Sunday 24th October at 5pm

LION'S DEN (LEONERA)

Director: Pablo Trapero. Argentina 2008 15
132 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles.

'It doesn't take more than a few minutes into Lion's Den to realize that this film is several cuts above the genre standard (women in prison). Versatile Argentine helmer Pablo Trapero shakes off the leisurely lethargy of his recent Born and Bred in a riveting, high-pitched drama blessed by the extraordinarily edgy performance of actress/producer Martina Gusman as a middle-class college girl who finds herself pregnant and in prison for murder.' Deborah Young, The Hollywood Reporter.

'Filmmaking at its most provocative and thoughtful, grappling with serious issues of justice even as it explores the internal emotions of its characters. There are moments of almost unbearable anguish along the way, as well as scenes of tenderness and compassion. By the end we feel like we have lived through this ordeal with Julia. We understand her inner strength in a horrific situation. And we also feel her unstoppable, raging need for freedom.' Rich Kline, Shadows on the Wall

Sunday 31st October at 5pm

THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES (El secreto de sus ojos)

*Director: Juan José Campanella. Argentina 2009
15 129 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles.*

Winner of the 2009 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, Campanella's thriller is set in Buenos Aires in 1999, and centres on retired investigator Benjamin whose efforts to write a novel are frustrated when he finds himself unable to shake off his memories of a twenty-five year old unresolved rape and murder case. It highlights too the turbulent nature of Argentina in the 1970s, a period in which the country was descending into military dictatorships. Benjamin's search for the truth will put him at the centre of a judicial nightmare, as the mystery of the heinous crime continues to unfold, testing the limits of a man seeking justice and personal fulfilment.

Beautifully made and superbly written, this is an emotionally absorbing thriller with a terrific central performance from Ricardo Darin.'

ViewLondon. *'Here is a man (Campanella) who creates a complete, engrossing, lovingly-crafted film.'* Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times



Sunday 7th November at 5pm

THE HEADLESS WOMAN

(La mujer sin cabeza)

Director: Lucrecia Martel. Argentina 2008 12A
87 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles.

This latest masterpiece by writer-director Lucrecia Martel (*La Cienega*, *The Holy Girl*) features Maria Onetto playing Verónica, an elegant, middle-aged dentist, who, driving along a lonely road, hits something - a dog? - but later she gradually becomes more and more unhinged, in the belief that she may have killed a little boy. The suspense occasioned by her doubt and guilt, coupled with several superb acting performances, drives this thriller to its unsettling conclusion.

Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*: 'In the past decade, there have been three great films about guilt, denial and the return of the repressed: Mike Leigh's *Vera Drake* in 2004, Michael Haneke's *Hidden* in 2005 – and this is the third, *The Headless Woman*...It is a masterly, disturbing and deeply mysterious film about someone who strenuously conceals from herself the knowledge of her own guilt.'

'In what could be one of the greatest films ever made about the emotional realities of a damaged mind, this giddily disorientating latest from Lucrecia Martel is a work of frenzied genius.' David Jenkins, *Time Out*



Maria Onetto



Lucrecia Martel

Saturday 13th November at 5pm

L'ENFER (HELL)

Director: Claude Chabrol. France 1994 15 mins. In French with English subtitles.

Not a weekend of hell, but two fascinating chances to experience the inferno of passion in *L'enfer*. Chabrol's version, starring one of France's top actresses, Emmanuelle Béart, (*Manon des sources*) was said by Time Out to be 'a work of enthralling virtuosity', and indeed, Chabrol, stalwart of the 'nouvelle vague', working alongside and in competition with such as Rohmer, Truffaut and Godard, gained the reputation of being 'the French Hitchcock' through this and similar films like *Le Boucher*, *Le beau Serge*, *La Cérémonie* and *La Femme infidèle*.

In this film, Paul (François Cluzet), the hard-working owner of a charming lakeside hotel, begins to suspect that his wife Nelly (Béart) is being unfaithful. As the pace and severity of Paul's delusions increase, so does the tension and drama in a brilliant exploration of the depths of a man's disturbed psyche. Béart lights up the whole movie with her vivacious and sensuous performance as the wife Paul cannot trust.



Emmanuelle Béart,
François Cluzet



H-G Clouzot and
Romy Schneider

Sunday 14th November at 5pm

L'ENFER D'HENRI-GEORGES CLOUZOT

Director: Serge Bromberg. France 2008 15 mins. In French with English subtitles.

In 1964 Director Henri-Georges Clouzot (*The Wages of Fear*, *Les Diaboliques*) started to make a film called *L'enfer*. He never finished it; it nearly finished him. In 1992, Clouzot's widow sold the script to Claude Chabrol who did then make the film, releasing it in 1994. In 2005, Clouzot's widow made available the film that her husband had shot and this was reconstructed to make the movie-cum-documentary *Henri-Georges Clouzot's Enfer*, completed in 2009. You have the opportunity to see both and can compare and contrast the two versions. Is Clouzot's work a lost masterpiece or did Chabrol do the script justice? You decide...

'Up there with *Lost in La Mancha* as a glorious chronicle of film-making folly, this is a beguiling account of a movie that never happened.' Kevin Maher, The Times.

'A must-see' Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian.

Sunday 21st November at 5pm

MOTHER (MADEO)

Director: Joon-Ho Bong. South Korea 2009 15
128 mins. In Korean with English subtitles.

Following his critical successes with *The Host* (2006) and *Memories of Murder* (2003), Joon-Ho Bong continues his perceptive evocation of a rural community hiding dark secrets. Do-jun is the 27-year-old mentally challenged son who still lives with his mother (Hye-Ja Kim's remarkable tour de force) in a small, ordinary South Korean town. Bong weaves an engrossing portrait of the feisty Korean widow who is unafraid of crossing a few moral boundaries in her attempt to prove her emotionally fragile son innocent of murder. Her maternal instinct comes into play with fearsome intensity when she finds that only she can clear his name. A fascinating fight for her version of justice, the film is also a superb murder mystery, with twists coming thick and fast at exactly the right moments.

'The film is labyrinthine and deceptive, and not in a way we anticipate. It becomes a pleasure for the mind.' Roger Ebert. *'You never know where Mother is going to go next. All you know is that you're in the hands of a master with an appreciably bent sense of humor.'* Ty Burr, Boston Globe



Sunday 28th November at 5pm

WHITE MATERIAL

Director: Claire Denis. France/Cameroon 2009

15 106 mins. In French with English subtitles.

Taking place during an unspecified African civil war, Claire Denis's *White Material* is, like her *Beau Travail*, an extraordinary fusion of sound and images, evoking a wide range of emotions, memory and experience. Through Maria (brilliant acting again from Isabelle Huppert) a fierce and fearless white woman who refuses to abandon her coffee crop when confronted by a world gone mad, Claire Denis presents the themes of remaining strong in the face of danger, the marginality of being a white woman in black Africa, our attempts and failures to understand the world and ourselves, and the intimacy and frailty of human relations. All with the support of Christophe Lambert as Maria's ex-husband, Isaach De Bankolé as 'The Boxer', an inspirational Che-like guerrilla fighter, and music by Tindersticks, this is what Jason Solomons of The Observer calls 'a superb and complex film.'

'There's no better filmmaker working in the world right now.' Nick James, Sight and Sound



Sunday 5th December at 5pm

SKELETONS

Director: Nick Whitfield. UK 2010 NC 93 mins.
Davis and Bennett (played by odd couple Ed Gaughan and Andrew Buckley), two hassled reps in ill-fitting black suits, are psychic cleaners who specialise in exhuming difficult and painful memories, rattling through the skeletons in bedroom cupboards to excise occult energies. Using antiquated-looking gadgets and bantering through their jobs, they have a Pinteresque quality which in no way diminishes the relief they can bring their clients. Peter Bradshaw: *'We might just have found our own Charlie Kaufman in Nick Whitfield, a former actor and stage dramatist whose feature-film debut won the Michael Powell award at the Edinburgh Film Festival this year. It's intensely and pungently English, eccentric, strangely heartfelt, and very funny: a film I watched to the incessant accompaniment of my own giggling.'*

Anton Bitel, Film4: *'Skeletons is a true original and with its pitch-perfect performances, surreal streak of humour, strong sense of place and poignant notes of melancholy, Whitfield's debut might just be the finest cult film to have come from Britain since Withnail and I (1987). That is high praise indeed.'*



Sunday 12th December at 5pm

DOWN TERRACE

Director: Ben Wheatley. UK 2009 15 89 mins.
At last, the British gangster film which so many aspirants have been trying to bring to the big screen, hitherto with little success. Winner of both BIFA Raindance Award, and Jury Prize at the Raindance Film Festival 2009, Ben Wheatley's debut feature is the portrait of a Brighton-based family (middle-aged gangster Bill and wife, Maggie) who live in the council's Down Terrace. 34 year old son Karl, just released from prison has been grassed up, so the "family business", on the rocks anyway, has to be seriously attended to: a course of action which leads to absolute mayhem. Seeking analogies, critics have paid such varied compliments as *'Brighton Rock* reworked in the style of *The Royle Family*', *'The Sopranos* meet Mike Leigh', *'directing style comparable to Ken Loach or the Coen Brothers*', *'workaday pub-crawler gravitas of a Ray Davies (Kinks) lyric*', *'Harold Pinter purring in his grave*', but Wheatley's originality and talent look likely to set him on the path of considerable individual success. *'Highly entertaining black comedy... Very dry, very droll.'* Philip French, the Observer

Sunday 19th December at 5pm

LA DANSE - The Paris Opera Ballet

*Director: Frederick Wiseman. France/US 2009
PG 159 mins. In French with English subtitles.
Dancing towards Christmas...*

'American documentary-maker Frederick Wiseman is often described as cinema's foremost chronicler of Western institutions, from welfare offices (Welfare) and schools (High School) to research laboratories (Primate) and even entire towns (Aspen).

For his thirty-eighth film, and his second about a ballet company after 1995's 'Ballet', Wiseman documents three months spent in the opulent halls, rehearsal rooms and performance spaces of Paris's Palais Garnier, home of the Paris Opera Ballet. With his long-time cinematographer John Davey, a single camera assistant and a crate of Super 16 film, he works his minimalist magic to utterly immersive effect, adding another quietly transcendent movie to his unique body of work...

'La Danse is an example of cinema at its most musical, an awe-inspiring celebration of body, mind and movement.' David Jenkins, Time Out



September 2010

- Sunday 12th 5pm **I AM LOVE**
Tilda Swinton is superb in a very special Italian romance
- Sunday 19th 5pm **STILL WALKING**
Highly praised Japanese family drama
- Sunday 26th 5pm **LEBANON**
Bravery under fire, but an excoriating indictment of war

October 2010

- Sunday 3rd 5pm **THE CONCERT**
Superb music and an uplifting comedy about a true band of misfits
- Sunday 10th 5pm **CITY OF LIFE AND DEATH**
Brilliant dramatisation of the Japanese rape of Nanking in 1937
- Sunday 17th 5pm **REVANCHE**
Thoughtful thriller: riveting action and convincing psychoanalysis
- Sunday 24th 5pm **LION'S DEN**
Motherhood behind bars - a gripping and moving Argentinian story
- Sunday 31st 5pm **THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES**
Best film of the year? An Oscar for this fascinating judicial puzzle

Thurs- Sun: 10th - 13th Feb 2011: **12th KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL**

www.keswickfilmclub.org

November 2010

- Sunday 7th 5pm **THE HEADLESS WOMAN**
Guilt and doubt drive this masterly psychological thriller
- Saturday 13th 5pm **L'ENFER (HELL)**
Claude Chabrol's classic story of jealousy and passion
- Sunday 14th 5pm **L'ENFER D'HENRI-GEORGES CLOUZOT**
Documenting the major French filmmaker's 'lost' version
- Sunday 21st 5pm **MOTHER**
She'll stop at nothing to prove her son's innocence
- Sunday 28th 5pm **WHITE MATERIAL**
White African farmer defends her crops in face of civil conflict

December 2010

- Sunday 5th 5pm **SKELETONS**
Removing them from the cupboard can comically improve your life
- Sunday 12th 5pm **DOWN TERRACE**
Really good new Brit gangster film, very noir, very funny at times
- Sunday 19th 5pm **LA DANSE - Le Ballet de l'Opéra de Paris**
'Cinema at its most musical...awe-inspiring' Time Out

www.keswickfilmfestival.org