

Keswick Film Spring 2013



Keswick Film
at the
Alhambra
St John's Street
Keswick





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 (The Inn 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. Most films are screened on Sundays at 5pm, but check in this brochure. September to December - the 'Autumn Season'. January to April - the 'Spring Season'.

Email us at info@keswickfilmclub.org

Follow us on **Facebook** at www.facebook.com/keswickfilmclub

Or on **Twitter** at www.twitter.com/keswickfilm

Spring Programme 2013

The Alhambra Cinema, Keswick

TICKETS

You do not need to be a member to see the films, but it will save you money if you attend more than 7 films, including all Film Festival films, over the course of the two seasons in the year.

Tickets: £4.50 for non members; £3.50 for members; £2.50 for students, under 16s and benefit claimants.

Membership: £7 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 or the Chair's flat - top flat, 36 Station Street, Keswick, or at any club screening. Membership form available from our website.

Season Pass: £28 (Spring season 2013)

Membership also entitles attendance of Caldbeck Area Film Society at members' rates and vice versa.

Non-members are very welcome.

COMMITTEE

Chair: Vaughan Ames (017687 80969), info@keswickfilmclub.org

Secretary: Ian Payne

Treasurer: Astrid Perrett

Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne

Committee Members: Stephen Brown, Angela Jackson, Anita Leaker, Ann Martin (Festival Co-ordinator), David Miller, Alan Naylor, Mike Rose-Troup, Stephen Pye, Simon Shipman, Lorraine Shipman, Tom Rennie, Abi Wright

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

Sunday 6th January at 5pm

MARGARET

Director: Kenneth Lonergan USA 2011 (15) 150 mins.

'We start and end our season with films that should be mainstream, but aren't. This film took 5 years to see the light of day, but *'...the resulting movie is stunning: provocative and brilliant, a sprawling neurotic nightmare of urban catastrophe, with something of John Cassavetes and Tom Wolfe, and rocket-fuelled by a superbly thin-skinned performance by Anna Paquin'* - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian

Lisa is the 17 year old daughter of a Broadway stage star and goes to private school; it shows. She is mouthy, self-obsessed, sexy but naive, living for the moment. She gets into her mind to buy a cowboy hat and, seeing a bus driver wearing one, she runs alongside, flirtatiously trying to attract his attention to find out where he bought it. The driver cannot resist looking...with disastrous results.

The film then follows Lisa's more and more desperate attempts to make up for the consequences, driven by guilt... or is it righteousness...or just vengeance against the world for putting her in this position?

Anna Paquin, who stars as Lisa, rightfully gets high praise for her role here. Although she had already played Rogue in the 'X Men' series, this was filmed before her leading role in the tv series 'True Blood', and was her first chance to show she could really act. Alongside her, we also get to see Matt Damon and Mark Ruffalo... and even Jean Reno

The director, Kenneth Lonergan, created a real stir with his first film - 'You can count on me' - in 2000 and then all went quiet. Whilst he was successfully writing scripts (including 'Gangs of New York'), the world did not know he was fighting the studio to get 'Margaret' released as he wanted it, getting Martin Scorsese on his side along the way. He eventually accepted this shorter version, but not until 2011 was it finally released.

This is truly a film that belongs in the 'one that nearly got away' mould, which, as Peter Travers says in Rolling Stone *'What a shame. Margaret, for all its flaws, is a film of rare beauty and shocking gravity...Seek it out. You can thank me later'*.

Why is it called 'Margaret'? You will have to come along and find out for yourself.. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.



Sunday 13th January at 5pm

WHEN PIGS HAVE WINGS

(Le Cochon de Gaza)

Director: Sylvain Estibal Palestine 2011 (12A) 98 mins. In English, Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles.

Depending on your mindset, this is either a very appropriate film for now...or not. Are the Palestinians to blame for the conflict in Gaza, or the Israelis? This film tries to take a decidedly slapstick look at the problem and comes out with the answer - 'we should all just learn to live together' Now there's an idea...

Jafaar is a very poor Palestinian fisherman. One day, emptying his nets, he finds he has caught a large pig. As a Muslim, this causes him something of a problem; as a poor Muslim he cannot afford to look a gift, er, pig, in the mouth. He can't eat it because it isn't Halal, he can't sell it to the Israelis because it isn't Kosher. He tries to hide it from his wife, he tries to sell it to the U N. He even tries to... Well I won't spoil it and tell you the rest, but along the way expect some 'belly' laughs.

The second half of the film changes gear, with Jafaar being accused of siding with the enemy and even suicide bombing.

The lead role is taken by Iraqi born Sasson Gabai, who also starred in 'The Band's Visit', a similar attempt to see both sides of this conflict. The director Sylvain Estibal is a French ex-reporter in the Middle East who is now based in Uruguay. He sets out to remain impartial in the conflict, while trying to bring out the absurdities on both sides and to raise the almost impossible issues in the area.

Compared to some of the other films we are showing this year, this is a shoe-string budget movie and, as one of the few critics who bothered to review it says *'If the why-can't-we-all-just-get-along message is simplistic, the film, shot in Malta, and occasionally rough-hewn, has its heart in the right place and is worth 90 minutes of anyone's time'*.

— Bernard Besserglik, Hollywood Reporter. Let's find out.



Sunday 20th January at 5pm

HOLY MOTORS

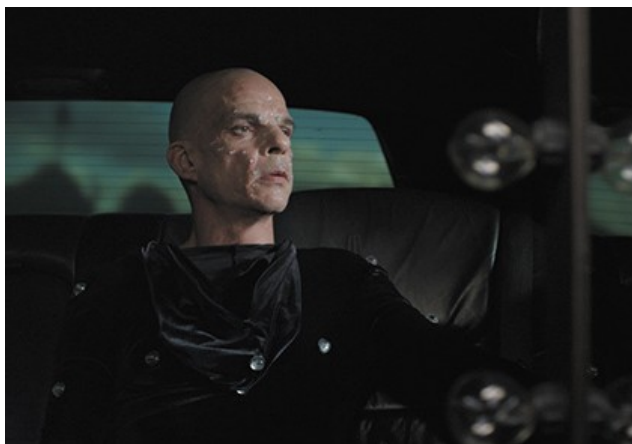
Director: Leos Carax. France/Germany 2012 (15) 115 mins. In French with English subtitles.



This film has had so much hype we felt we just 'had to have it, darling!' It starts with a man (Carax) waking up in bed and going through a hidden door into... a movie theatre. Is the film, then, his dream, or an homage to all films?

We follow the hero/star, Oscar (played, as always in Carax movies by Denis Lavant) as he is driven around Paris in an enormous limousine by his chauffeur Céline (Edith Scob), taking him to various assignments (or film parts?). He is continually changing roles (he has a makeup table in the car), from a concerned father to a beggarwoman, an old man on his deathbed, to an anarchic beast who kidnaps Eva Mendes from a glamour shoot in a cemetery.

Leos Carax, the director, has only made 5 full films (including *'Les amants du Pont-neuf'* and *'Pola X'*), but has always been an enigma: *'Leos Carax...has met the challenge of filming the visions dancing and dueling inside his own internally exploding head. Love him or hate him, Carax does Carax brilliantly'* - Peter Travers, Rolling Stone. Here he takes his favourite star (Lavant) and gives him two hours to show his worth; surely Oscar must put him in line for an Oscar?



Sunday 27th January at 5pm

ELENA

Director: Andrey Zvyagintsev Russia 2012 (12A) 109 mins. In Russian with English subtitles.

In 2003, Zvyagintsev brought us *'The Return'*, feted universally, even here in Keswick. He now brings us *'Elena'*, an almost film noir-like movie which, once again, has brought worldwide critical acclaim, including the Cannes 'Un certain regard' special jury prize.

Elena has married Vladimir, we learn, some ten years earlier. She was his nurse when his appendix burst, and the relationship was upgraded to wife with, apparently, little or no love on either side. She has continued to look after him since.

In the background, we find Elena has a feckless son, Sergei, from a previous marriage who is reliant on Elena bringing him money to support his own family. Vladimir has no time for him, instead doting on his own daughter, Katya, who seems to have little purpose in life beyond getting his money.

So this loveless family life has continued until now, when circumstances clash; Sergei's son needs money to go to college or he will have to join the army, whilst Vladimir has a heart attack and has to face up to his future. His decision does not favour Elena's family and she has to decide what to do to ensure her family are secure.

With a central performance by Nadezhda Markina playing Elena, also to enthusiastic critics, we can look forward to a gripping drama, with overtones of the state of Russia today; people are of no importance, money is all.

'Shoot this film in black and white and cast Barbara Stanwyck as Elena, and you'd have a 1940s classic' - Roger Ebert.



Sunday 3rd February at 5pm

AMOUR

Director: Michael Haneke France 2012 (12A) 127 mins. In French with English subtitles



Our film tonight could be a season highlight. It is one that Dave Calhoun from Time Out says *'..is a devastating, highly intelligent and astonishingly performed work. It's a masterpiece'*.

George (Jean-Louis Trintignant) and Anne (Emmanuelle Riva) are 80 year olds and a very happily married couple. *'Amour'* follows them in their day to day life through the traumas caused when Anna has a stroke and her life begins to close down. What do love and companionship mean when one half of a couple is facing the end? How can we cope? What's the right way to behave? Can anyone else understand what you're going through? Is life always worth living? What role, if any, do kindness and compassion play? And what, actually, do those words even mean in extreme circumstances?

Michael Haneke (who we have previously enjoyed directing *'Hidden'* and *'White Ribbon'*) has already won the Palme D'Or for this film at Cannes, garnering great praise from the critics for its intelligence, intensity and intimacy. On top of this we have the pleasure of seeing Trintignant and Riva *'give breathtaking performances'* - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian - with Isabelle Huppert in support. A masterpiece indeed.



Sunday 10th February at 5pm

THE SARAGOSSA MANUSCRIPT

(Rekopis znaleziony w Saragossie)

Director: Wojciech Has, Poland 1965 (15) 182 mins. In Polish with English subtitles.

Made in 1965, this became a cult classic in America, and was restored in the 1990s, by Jerry Garcia, Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola. The narrative is a kind of 'Don Quixote' on drugs, designed to take us on a series of tales within tales; is there a plot, or are we imagining it all? We follow the adventures of Alfonse van Worden, a Belgian officer, through the Sierra Morena during the Peninsular War. He discovers a manuscript which contains stories which involve him. These stories, and his own adventures, overlap and lead us into a surreal, swashbuckling romp.

'A lost classic for the lost soul in all of us.' - Anton Bitel, Eye for Film

Sunday 17th February at 5pm

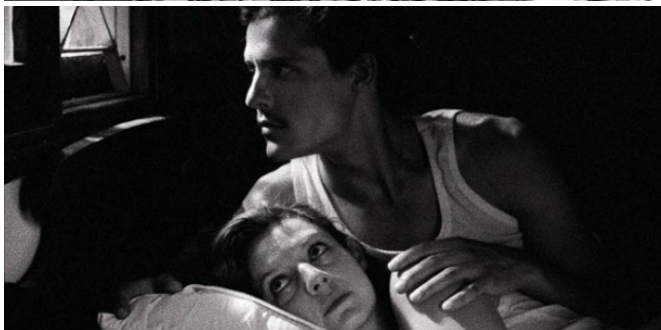
TABU

Director: Miguel Gomes. Portugal 2012 (15) 118 mins. In Portuguese with English subtitles.

This is the latest film from Miguel Gomes, one of the most distinctive directors in contemporary cinema.

We start in Lisbon, where Aurora, on her deathbed, asks to see Ventura, of whom no-one has heard before. When he arrives, his story takes us back to 50 years before when he and Aurora were lovers in Africa. What we see is the history of their illicit love affair, set against Portugal's colonisation of Africa.

'It's a gem: gentle, eccentric, possessed of a distinctive sort of innocence - and also charming and funny.' - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.



The 14th Keswick Film Festival

21st – 24th February 2013

Once again we hope you will all be at the Film Festival and find things you want to see. We are holding the prices the same as last year and the pass will be available for those of you who want to come to the opening party and see lots of great films.

As we go to press we are still confirming films and guests but we can report that one of our themes will be The Senses, with films that feature taste, smell, sight, touch and sound – sometimes from unusual angles. Then we have two fantastic films lined up for Rheged, *Chasing Ice* and *Nostalgia for the Light* – should be great for the big screen.

Music, too, will be a feature. We hope to have *Benjamin Britten – Peace and Conflict*, the new film directed by Tony Britten who is interested in coming and talking about sound-track. We also hope to have a performance featuring children from one of the local schools.

Our now traditional theme featuring great 'Best of the Fests' films will include *Found Memories*, *Yossi*, *The Wave* and *About Elly*.

The Osprey Awards will again be given for the best short films submitted

Register on our website to receive regular news from now till February.

www.keswickfilmfestival.org



Or follow us on Facebook or Twitter



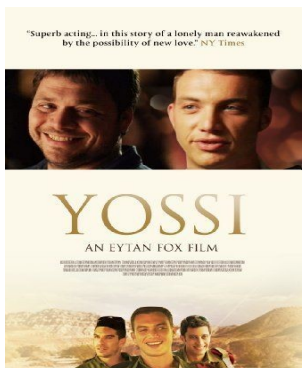
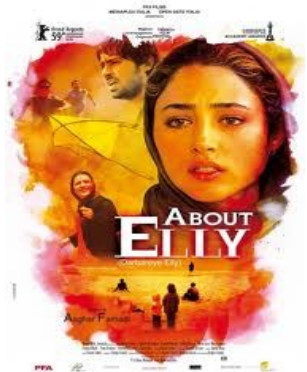
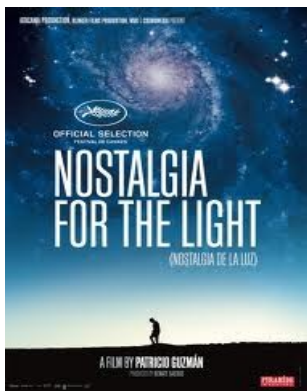
Tickets and passes will be available in January from

THEATRE BY THE LAKE
Open 9.30am to 8pm daily

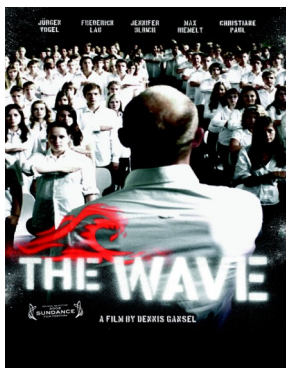
017687 74411

or buy online from the Theatre website via

www.keswickfilmfestival.org



2013 KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL SAMPLER



Sunday 3rd March at 5pm

BULLHEAD (Rundskop)

Director: Michael R Roskam. Belgium 2011 (NC) 124 mins. In Dutch and French with English subtitles.

Jacky Vanmarsenille is the Bull of the title, a hulking, thug of a man, a low-level cattle farmer with a sideline in intimidation for the 'hormone mafia'. With access to all the hormones and a lack of confidence in his own masculinity he has been unable to resist trying the drugs himself, building his body up and his temper at the same time. In this story, based on a true event in Belgium when a meat inspector was killed to stop him revealing the use of growth hormones in the cattle industry, director Michael Roskam takes us into this world of crime, showing the seedy side of Belgium, but the result is more than a thriller, more a dark look into the character of Jacky; a sort of 'farm noir'?

We are tempted from the off just to see Jacky as the macho, low-life thug he appears, but Roskam, by showing us his early life through a series of flashbacks, gradually builds a picture of a seriously damaged man, looking for a way through his life. What could make a man risk his life taking what should be lethal doses of cattle hormones? Don't judge him too harshly until we get to the flashback which reveals all. As in the classic '*Sophie's Choice*', you will know which flashback is THE one when you see it...

Jacky is played by Matthias Schoenaerts (who, himself, bulked-up especially for the part, but not with cattle hormones). He has had rave reviews for the portrayal, and it has already won him the co-starring part in '*Rust and Bone*' shown recently at the Alhambra. '*It's an amazing performance. At times in the film he moves like a bull, he actually looks like a bull*' - Chris Summers, BBC.

The film itself was an unlikely nomination for the Oscar for Best Foreign Language film. Whether Keswick will find this justified or not, we shall see, but Schoenaerts' performance is universally proclaimed. A star is born?



Sunday 10th March at 5.00pm

NO

Director: Pablo Larraín Chile 2012 (15) 118 mins. In Spanish with English subtitles.

Pablo Larraín's Pinochet trilogy finishes here with General Pinochet's attempt to legitimise his Chilean regime by calling a referendum in 1988. The trick was, of course, that both he and the world at large assumed he would win it, but a group of oppositionists (I don't think I dare call them a coalition in England at the moment) had other ideas. Gathering together people who didn't like Pinochet was the easy part; convincing the population that they dared to vote against Pinochet was something else.

The NO campaign hires Rene Saavedra, an advertising hot shot (played by Gael García Bernal of last season's *'Even the Rain'*), who sets out to push the politics into the background and make everyone hope for better times to come.

Having had the second of the trilogy - *'Post Mortem'* - recently, it seemed only right to bring this one to Keswick too. Having seen it in London, I agree with the critics that this is the best of the series. Let's see if you agree.



Sunday 17th March at 5.00pm

THE HUNT (JAGTEN)

Director: Thomas Vinterberg Denmark 2012 (15) In Danish with English subtitles.

Thomas Vinterberg burst onto the scene back in 1995 when he co-created the Dogme 95 Manifesto with Lars Von Trier. Their aim was to make films based on the traditional values of story, acting, and theme, and excluding the use of elaborate special effects or technology. In 1998 he made *'Festen'* on this basis, which won the Jury Prize at Cannes. Since then, he appears to have lost his way, but all critics agree he is back in a big way with this film, where he takes on his familiar theme of group hysteria.

In *'The Hunt'*, Lucas (Mads Mikkelsen of *'A Royal Affair'*) is a temporary kindergarten teacher with many close friends in a close-knit community. Everything goes wrong for him when an accusation is made against him by a small child. The community turns against him and leaves him with no chance to defend himself.



The Hunt becomes a tense drama-thriller, with many gripping scenes, including *'Lucas's appearance at the Christmas Eve church service, which can really only be watched through your fingers.'* - Peter Bradshaw, Guardian

Mads Mikkelsen gets rave reviews from just about everyone, winning Best Actor at Cannes, whilst Vinterberg was nominated for the Palme D'Or.

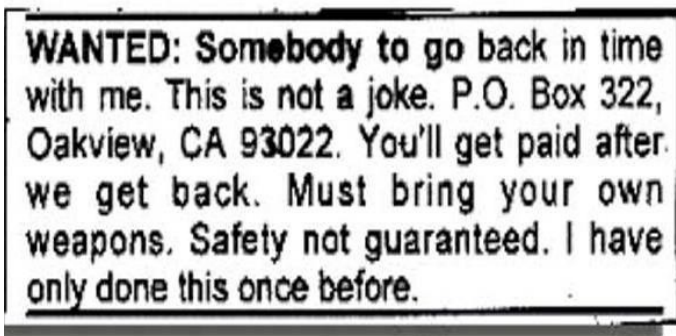
Sunday 24th March at 5pm

SAFETY NOT GUARANTEED

Director: Colin Trevorrow. USA 2012 (15) 86 mins.

We hoped to have this film last season as part of an unlikely 'time travelling' theme, but it was not available...um... in time. Now it has done the rounds in the US and comes to us with high acclaim. A small budget movie from an independent team; what should we expect?

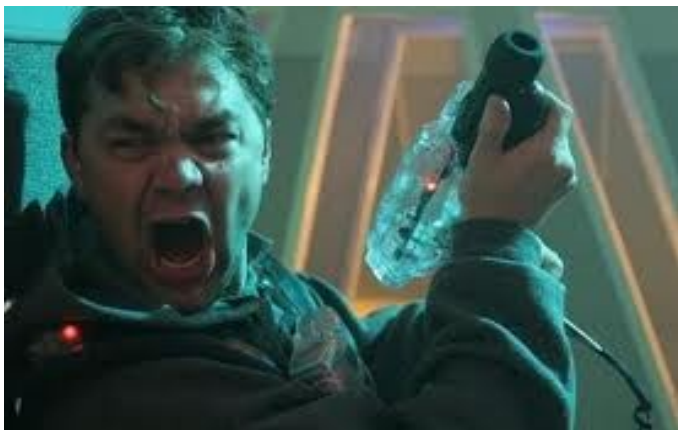
The title comes from an advert placed in a Washington paper :-



Three journalists track down the advertiser, only to discover a supermarket employee with a machine in his garage...Is it for real? The journalist intern Darius (Aubrey Plaza) is given the task of finding out, so, posing as a respondent to the advert, she joins up with Kenneth as they try to travel across time.

So is this just a comedy? Do they manage to travel through time? Will true love win the day? You will have to come along and find out for yourself.

Meanwhile the director, newcomer Colin Trevorrow and actors Mark Duplass (whom the observant amongst you will know from a recent film here *'Your Sister's Sister'*) and Aubrey Plaza (a tv actress in the States) have had great reviews, and the film picked up a couple of awards at the Sundance Festival. *'Hugely enjoyable and consistently laugh-out-loud funny, Safety Not Guaranteed is pretty much the perfect Sundance movie, thanks to an intelligent, witty script, assured direction and terrific performances from its superb cast. Highly recommended.'* - Matthew Turner, View London.



Sunday 31st March at 5pm

CLOUD ATLAS

Directors: Andy and Lana Wachowski, Tom Tykwer . USA 2012
(15) 172 mins.

Perhaps this season can be summed up by 'films to make you think'. If so, this one will definitely fit the part. If there is one thing that unites the critics, it is that you should see this film more than once...and that you will want to! Not content with covering a lifetime, *'Cloud Atlas'* takes us from the past to the future, from 1849 to 2346, through various unconnected stories...or are they?

The continuity is carried by each actor playing different roles in different times; spotting which actor in disguise will be at least one of the topics discussed after the film. And there are stars galore for you here - Tom Hanks and Halle Berry get top billing, but look out for Jim Broadbent, Hugo Weaving and even Hugh Grant and Susan Sarandon...if you can recognize them.

What's it about? A good question. It is a love story, but so much more. I could talk about its spiritual message, but is it really about reincarnation, or Taoism? I could talk about its politics, but is this post-Marxism, or just post Matrix? Maybe it is simply our old friends 'good versus evil', or heroes and anti-heroes. It IS based on David Mitchell's book of the same name, but all I would say is, read the book after you have seen the film, not before.

Cinematically, the Wachowskis directed *'The Matrix'*, so expect some fantastic effects, but there are parts where we are taken into much gentler directions. The directors split the film up between them, so Tykwer (*'Perfume'*, *'Run Lola Run'*) brings his own feel to the movie too. It is science fiction, farce, suspense, even melodrama. Overall, as Roger Ebert says, *'To borrow Churchill's description of Russia, "it is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma." ...But, oh, what a film this is! And what a demonstration of the magical, dreamlike qualities of the cinema.'*

For once we have a big budget movie (\$100m+), and one made in the States, but don't expect to go to sleep; this film is anything but boring. Maybe we should run a competition -'what is it about...?'



Sunday 7th April at 5pm

LET THE BULLETS FLY (Rang zidan fei)

Director: Wen Jiang China 2012 (15) 132 mins. In Mandarin with English subtitles.



'China's biggest domestic hit thus far, Jiang Wen's 'Let the Bullets Fly' owes major debts to Sergio Leone, CGI technology and the prodigious talents of his co-star, Chow Yun-Fat, all of which make for a rollicking, violent, Western-cum-comedy that serves many masters, but adds up to an entertaining hot pot of wry political commentary and general mischief' - John Anderson, Variety. Follow that! We thought we should go out with a bang as it is the end of another season. What better way than a film that is the most popular film in China to date; can they all be wrong?

Expect a high-octane mix of comedy and violence, wrapped up in a gangster-western, all with the great Chow Yun-Fat (of *'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon'* fame) starring in the role of Master Huang.

Crime boss 'Pocky' Zhang (played by the director Wen Jiang) has come to Goose Town, disguised as the ex-governor. He soon falls into a dispute with the Goose Town 'Godfather' Huang. Pretending to try to bring law and order to town, 'the ex-governor' sets about swindling Huang out of his riches and, Robin Hood-like, redistributing the wealth to the poor. When Huang finally meets him, not realising who he is, he offers to pay Pocky a reward for capturing the bandit who has been creating trouble - in other words, Pocky himself.

The combination of Chow's mean baddie, Jiang's agile direction and the rat-a-tat dialogue *'will have you falling out of your seat with laughter'* - Rotten Tomatoes.

'Between the kung fu, the gunplay, a gentle romantic subplot and the extreme gastronomy – there's something for everyone' - Henry Barnes, Guardian.

Something to talk about over those Summer months till we return in September, then...



January

Sunday 6th	5pm	Margaret	A young girl faces the consequences of her actions
American, (15)			
Sunday 13th	5pm	When Pigs Have Wings	What happens when a pig turns up in Gaza
French, (15)			
Sunday 20th	5pm	Holy Motors	An homage to movies; a masterpiece, or a mess?
French, (15)			
Sunday 27th	5pm	Elena	A loveless family argue over the money-pot
Russian, (12A)			

February

Sunday 3rd	5pm	Amour	How do we cope when our life long love is threatened?
French, (12A)			
Sunday 10th	5pm	Saragossa Manuscript	Stories within stories in this 1965 classic swashbuckler
Polish, (15)			
Sunday 17th	5pm	Tabu	A love affair in Africa relived in Portugal
Portuguese, (15)			

Thursday 21st - Sunday 24th 14th KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL

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March

Sunday 3rd	5pm	Bullhead	An everyday story of country folk and growth hormones
Dutch, (NC)			
Sunday 10th	5pm	No	Can the people be convinced to vote against Pinochet?
Spanish, (15)			
Sunday 17th	5pm	The Hunt	A child's accusation changes a man's life forever
Danish, (NC)			
Sunday 24th	5pm	Safety Not Guaranteed	'Come back in time. Bring your own gun'
American, (NC)			
Sunday 31st	5pm	Cloud Atlas	Good and evil meet up from the past to the future
American, (15)			

April

Sunday 7th	5pm	Let the Bullets Fly	China's biggest hit; will we love it as much as they did?
Mandarin, (15)			

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