

# Keswick Film

January - March 2025



**Now in our 26th Year!**

**The Best of World Cinema  
Every Sunday  
PLUS...**

**25th Keswick Film Festival!**

— Est. 1998 —  
**KESWICK**  
— Film Club —

**Keswick Film  
at the  
Alhambra**



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



## *25 years of Keswick Film Festival*

Keswick Film Club reached its 25th year last year, now it is the turn of the Film Festival. Running since 2000, there have been over 600 films shown - and this year will be a special 25th Anniversary! Look out for details soon.

The Club prides itself on being friendly so, if you haven't been before, or not for a while, why not come along and see some great World films... and bring your friends! You may not enjoy every film we show, but we are sure you will enjoy a lot of them. There is no need to join, just come along and see for yourself!

You might ask 'What is the point of a film club?' Our club began life in 1998 with the simple intention of trying to bring films to Keswick on Sunday nights that would not be shown otherwise; foreign movies, some by first-time directors and, yes, even some arty ones.

The popularity of the films made the programmers more adventurous, expanding their choices to the best of World Cinema: by 2004, 'Whale Rider' (from New Zealand) brought in an audience of 241. The festival, meanwhile, had become an annual event, showing films at both the Alhambra and Theatre by the Lake, where 'March of the Penguins' (from France) showed to 256 people in 2006.

We have continued showing the best of World Cinema to this day, regularly getting well over 100 people to our most popular films (but happy to show more obscure films to small audiences on occasion!). Only last season we filled the Alhambra with 157 watching 'The Outrun'.

And it isn't just you that likes the Club! Along the way we have won many awards from the British Federation of Film Societies (now 'Cinema for All') including **Best Programme** four times, **Best Website** and even **Film Society of the Year**.



*We really hope to see you one Sunday night. There will always be one of us in the foyer waiting to greet you - why not pop in and say hello?*

*Vaughan Ames  
Club Chair*

### **COMMITTEE 2025**

Chair: Vaughan Ames (07909 878018), [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org)  
Vice Chair: David Miller Secretary: Roger Gook  
Treasurer: Paul Titley Membership Secretary: Elspeth Payne  
Festival Director: Ian Payne

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

## *Where are these films shown?*

We are very lucky to be able to show both the Club and the Festival films in the Alhambra Cinema. Walk from the Market Square at the south end (by The Royal Oak) and keep going up St. John's Street for 200 metres until you see the Alhambra on your right. Now over a century old, the Alhambra is a 'must-see' in its own right!

## *When are these films shown?*

Most Club films are screened on Sundays at 5pm, but check in this brochure: there are two Club 'seasons', each with its own brochure, available in and around Keswick (e.g. Library & Booths).

The **25th Keswick Film Festival** is from **6 March 2025 to 9 March 2025**.

For more information **Email** us - [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org) or see our award-winning **website** - [www.keswickfilmclub.org](http://www.keswickfilmclub.org).

You can follow us on **Facebook** - Keswickfilm  
or **X/Twitter** - @keswickfilm.

We even have a weekly email - see our website to sign up.

## *How much will it cost?*

Not only do we bring you these great films from around the world, but they won't cost you the Earth either! If you do not want to join, it will cost you the same as any other Alhambra film - £9.50.

## *...and what if I join the Film Club?*

Then the real savings start! For £10 per year, you get:-

- A reduction of £3.50 on all Club screenings (to £6)
- The chance to vote for your choice of films next season
- £1 off each Film Festival screening
- To attend Caldbeck Area Film Society and Brampton Film Club at members' rates and vice versa
- A copy of 'Talking Pictures', our members' newsletter

**Join** via the Alhambra Cinema website

## *Can I help run the Film Club?*

We need regular help to run the film shows, both for the club and the festival. Our emails each week will give details of what would help that week. If you are willing, just

- Reply to the weekly email,
- see us after a film,
- or email us direct at [info@keswickfilmclub.org](mailto:info@keswickfilmclub.org) and we'll get back to you.

Thank you in advance!

Sunday 5th January at 5pm

## ANORA

Director: Sean Baker. USA 2024 (18) 2hr 19min. In English.



Happy New Year everyone, and welcome back to our 26th year. We hope you have saved some energy after the Christmas break as we start back with the Palme d'Or winner at Cannes - 'a wild ride' and 'absolutely breathless', 'one of the films of the year' as Mark Kermode describes it on Kermode and Mayo's Take. If you don't believe him, how about Deborah Ross in the Spectator - 'I know you won't believe it's as good as everyone is saying it is until you hear it from me so here you are: yes, it's as good as everyone is saying it is.

*It stars Mikey Madison - who is a total knockout - as a sex worker who marries the son of a Russian oligarch. But this is not 'Pretty Woman'. This film takes 'Pretty Woman' and smashes that fantasy over its knee, but with heart and soul and in a way that is as compelling as it is surprising'.*

Ani is introduced to Vanya in the club where she works, who pays to dance with her, then for sex then for her as a week-long 'girlfriend', before asking her to marry him. BUT, and it is a very big BUT, Vanya is the son of a Russian oligarch who is definitely NOT pleased with the arrangement. He sends his henchmen to sort it...

You can expect the time to fly here; action, romance, comedy and some sadness, all combined with the energy of this strong and tough woman who is out to protect her best interests.



Sunday 12th January at 5pm

## ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT

Director: Payal Kapadia. India 2024 (15, F) 1hr 58min.  
In Hindi, Malayalam and Marathi with English subtitles.



*'As the first Indian feature invited to compete at Cannes in nearly three decades, Payal Kapadia's narrative debut would be notable enough; that the movie is so delicately felt and sensuously textured is cause for outright celebration'* – Justin Chang, New Yorker. Her film (which went on to win the Grand Prize at Cannes) tells the story of 3 women... and a big city.

The city is Mumbai, a bustling huge metropolis, never still, teeming with people and stories, where nothing seems permanent. The women all work at a hospital: Prabha is a senior nurse, Anu a trainee and Parvaty, a cook. Their stories are separate but interlocking.

Prabha's husband has moved to Germany and has not been heard from since. Anu is secretly in love with a Muslim boy. These two women share a flat that neither could afford alone. Parvaty is about to be evicted from her shanty house, a victim of the mass development in super-rich Mumbai. Their stories are told *'in the most delicate, moving way possible. She*

*[Director Kapadia] is also about to mount a quiet, sneak attack on your soul'* – David Fear, Rolling Stone. He goes on to say *'It's possible to contrast those captured cityscape moments that opened the film and feel like the destination you have arrived at by the time the credits play over some local youngster dancing in the distance, is a world away. But the journey to that sensation, courtesy of Kapadia's heavenly work, is far, far richer than you could have possibly imagined'*.



Sunday 19th January at 5pm  
**BLITZ**



Director: Steve McQueen. UK 2024 (12A) 2hr 0min.  
In English.



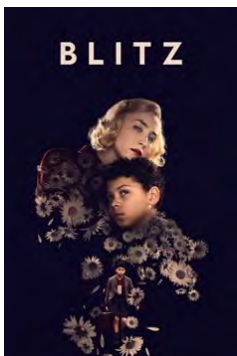
Steve McQueen puts his genius to work on this drama about the bombing of London in the war, whilst Saoirse Ronan acts her heart out as a mother whose son goes missing.

Rita lives in a working-class neighbourhood trying to survive the threat of bombs whilst working in a factory and volunteering at a shelter. Afraid for her son George's life she, like many others, sends him to the country. George, however, wants to stay in London and jumps the train. *'Blitz'* follows George's story trying to get home and Rita's attempts to find him.

As you might expect of a McQueen film, *"Blitz" explores more than the emotional and physical tensions of the era. It also uncovers the racial prejudices in Britain at the time*, Monica Castillo, RogerEbert.com. George is biracial and it is only his experiences on this journey that make him embrace his black identity.

*'...it's when 'Blitz'... shows the darker side of the Blitz that it really hits hard. Its curiosity is its strongest suit, as McQueen's script lays bare divisions that see working-class families barred from taking shelter in Tube stations, socialism taking root underground, and racism rife.*

*McQueen isn't questioning the courage or endurance of the city and its people through these brutal days. But he is probing our relationship with this over-lionised period of our history, though, and finding it hopelessly romanticised' – Phil de Semlyen, Time Out.*



Sunday 26th January at 5.00pm

## MY FAVOURITE CAKE

Directors: Maryam Moghadam, Behtash Sanaeeha .  
Iran 2024 (12A, F) 1hr 37min. In Iranian with English subtitles



Marin is 70 years old and has lived alone for decades since her husband died and her children left home. Even her weekly meeting with her previously wild friends have slipped to monthly...and now yearly. Feeling isolated and lonely, she decides to take her future into her own hands and 'sets out to revamp her love life. Before long, her eye is caught by taxi driver Faramaz. Throwing caution to the winds, she engineers a night to remember, filled with music, dance and brain-bruising quantities of wine. But plans have a way of going awry in this lovely, intimate, tragicomic tale of late-blooming love in the shadow of Iran's repressive regime' – Fatima Sheriff, Little White Lies.

*'In its gentle way, this is a subversive piece of film-making. Its directors, Maryam Moghadam and Behtash Sanaeeha, were prevented from travelling to Berlin in February for the film's world premiere after the Iranian authorities confiscated their passports, having taken issue with scenes of hijab-free boozing, dancing and a terrific sequence in which Mahin faces down the "morality police". Perhaps more radical than the censor-bating, though, is the fact that 'My Favourite Cake' trains its lens on lonely, ordinary older people – a demographic all too frequently invisible to film-makers the world over. A rare delight' – Wendy Ide, Observer.*



Sunday 2nd February at 5pm

## THE UNIVERSAL THEORY

Director: Timm Kröger. Germany 2023 (15) 1hr 58min.

In German with English subtitles.



*'A sumptuous homage to Hitchcock packaged as a Metaphysical Noir' - Jessica Kiang, Variety. All is not what it seems! It is 1961. We join Johannes, a student, off to a conference in Switzerland with his amazingly grumpy tutor. They are joined by a Professor, who helped the Nazis in the war. 'Their hotel, when they arrive, is a connoisseur's*

*delight. There's a crusty receptionist who needs to be bribed to offer up a room in direct tribute to The Lady Vanishes; a small bellboy given to blurting out 'Heil Hitler!'; and a man with a scarred face – and that's just the welcoming committee. Over on the piano is Karin...' - Fionnuala Halligan, Screen Daily.*

Johannes feels a strange déjà vu with Karin. *'The fact that Karin can relate entire stories from Johannes' childhood that he's never told anyone does little to disavow him of the notion of their peculiar connection' - Jessica Kiang again. Tunnels in the mountains, flashing lights and sinister figures on the mountainside all add to the mystery which deepens when Karin disappears...*



Sunday 9th February at 5pm

## BLACK DOG

Director: Guan Hu. China 2024 (12A) 1hr 50min.

In Mandarin with English subtitles.



What looks like a Mad Max setting, or maybe a Clint Eastwood loner western, is in fact set on the fringes of the Gobi Desert in China. The loner here is Lang – just released from long-term jail and returning to his hometown. But the town is being destroyed to

make ready for the 2008 Beijing Olympics; the population is being relocated and the only job he can find is as a dogcatcher helping to round up the seemingly endless pack of feral dogs... One of these, the Black Dog of the title, becomes Lang's buddy of course.

Winner of the Un Certain Regard award at Cannes Film Festival it manages to be a thriller, with some sideswipes at the state of China today, and plenty of dry humour. *'Hu sprinkles in dream-like visions of life in flux. Solar eclipses, venomous snakes on the loose... The presence of a flirty, effervescent circus performer called Grape suggests romance. But among these arid landscapes and the increasingly deserted cityscape, eerily beautiful as they all are, love can't easily blossom. The town is an abandoned playground for dreams that never quite came true' - Phil de Semlyen, Time Out.*





Sunday 16th February at 5pm

## THE CRIME IS MINE



Director: François Ozon. France 2023 (15) 1hr 42min.  
In French with English subtitles.



François Ozon's latest takes a stage play from the 1930s and produces a frothy, beautiful, #MeToo film for the 2020s full of twists and turns, comedy and drama; what more could we ask for?

*'Nadia Tereszkievich is Madeleine, a glamorous young actress who has looks, style and panache but, alas, no money and only a modicum of talent. To make things worse for her, it is made clear that opportunity comes at a price. When a famous producer attempts to rape her and is subsequently found dead, she is accused of murder. But where she sees only the prospect of ruin, her friend Pauline (Rebecca Marder) sees an opportunity. An up-and-coming lawyer, she represents Madeleine in court, turning the trial into a public sensation focused on the awful treatment of vulnerable young women by obnoxious men, and the actress suddenly finds herself achieving a level of fame she could only have dreamed of, placing her in high demand'* – Jennie Kermode, Eye for Film. BUT... did she do it?

The costumes are magnificent, the cast is stellar and *'clearly having an absolute blast with this peppy comedy crime romp – none more so than Isabelle Huppert, who sweeps imperiously into the film's third act in a cloud of frizzy ginger curls and gloriously self-important absurdity'* – Wendy Ide, Observer.

Hold everything – you can't miss this one!



Sunday 23rd February at 5pm  
**IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE**

Director: Kar-Wai Wong. China 2000 (PG) 1hr 38min.  
In Cantonese and Shanghaiese with English subtitles.



In this beautiful film chosen by Carol Rennie to fit in this, the Chinese Film Festival weekend, we return to one of the first films ever shown by the club in 2001. Winner of more than 40 awards when it was released, including best actor and cinematography at Cannes, and rave reviews such as *'probably the most breathtakingly gorgeous film of the year, dizzy with a nose-against-the-glass romantic spirit that has been missing from the cinema forever'* – Elvis Mitchell, New York Times - whether you saw it then or not, this is a great chance to see a classic film.

When two new neighbours realise their partners are having an affair *'they're drawn closer together by the sense of mutual humiliation and their own innocent courtship begins. But companionship and understanding, not sex, are the central issues of this sensually hypnotic wade through the emotions of a repressed culture. Sumptuously shot in tight corners, cramped corridors and tiny alleyways for maximum intimacy, the unspoken longing of the star-crossed lovers is both palpable and poignant'* - Alan Jones, Radio Times.

The emphasis here is on the 'mood' rather than the 'love'; the feelings that are stirred by these would-be lovers held back by propriety fill the film; it is the words not spoken, the passions not played out that are all important.



A magnificent movie.

Sunday 2nd March at 5pm

## THE PROBLEM WITH PEOPLE



Director: Chris Cottam. Ireland 2023 (15) 1hr 42min.  
In English.



A very Irish comedy... written by an American; you won't be shocked to know there are a lot of Irish gags, a family split down the middle and an American with bigger plans for the area than the Irish half of the family.

Colm Meaney plays Ciaran whose sick father Fergus wants him to find the American cousin and heal the family rift. Job done, Ciaran invites cousin Barry over to meet the family. So far so good, but when Fergus dies, he has changed his will and left half his money to Barry...not so good for Ciaran.

*'There's plenty here that's by the book, from the playful stereotyping of some of the villagers to the founding of the family feud in a dispute over a red-headed woman, but it's well played, and the American proves a little wlier that most of his archetypal predecessors, giving as good as he gets when Ciáran tries to break with his father's promises... Underlying the comedy there's a touching exploration of grief and of the toll taken by serving as a carer for a long time. It gives the film heart and much-needed gravity so we can understand the strength of feeling behind the various conflicts, even when it's the pettiness of the characters' behaviour that drives the story' – Jennie Kermode, Eye for Film.*



# The 25th Keswick Film Festival

**6<sup>th</sup> March - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

## **Welcome to Keswick Film Festival**

The programme takes us across the globe, with outstanding films from Europe, across Asia, South America and the USA.

Maintaining our tradition of the last 25 years we have a mix of films that challenge and inform, that will make you laugh and make you cry and take you from the edge of your seat to the very, very back.

Add in the Osprey short film awards and the amazing talent to be seen in the showcase of our local Arts students, Keswick is the place to be this spring.

Register on our website for regular news from now till February.

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

Or follow us on Facebook or X (Twitter)

**Tickets and passes are available from 1 January at**

**THE ALHAMBRA CINEMA**

**017687 72195**

**or buy online from the Alhambra website via**

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



# 2025 Keswick Film Festival

Just a few of the many films to see!



Sunday 16th March at 5pm

## THE GIRL WITH THE NEEDLE



Director: Magnus von Horn. Denmark 2024 (15, F) 1hr 55min.  
In Danish with English subtitles.



Set in Denmark in the post-world-war-one 1920s, this is based on a true story and was nominated for the Palme d'Or at Cannes. *'It is about a world in which women's lives are disposable and in which the authorities are disapproving of and*

*disgusted by their suffering – and set at a time in which the first world war had normalised the idea of mass murder'* – Peter Bradshaw, Guardian.

We are following the life of poverty-stricken seamstress Karoline, whose husband is missing, presumed dead. She has an affair with the factory manager and ends up pregnant. Although he says he will marry her, his mother will not allow it and Karoline has the choice of performing an abortion (with the needle of the title) or being an unmarried mother. At this point she meets Dagmar, a shopkeeper, who tells her she can get babies adopted, for a fee...



Sunday 23rd March at 5pm

## THE LAST DANCE



Director: Anselm Chan. Hong Kong 2024 (12A) 2hr 6min.  
In Cantonese with English subtitles.



Hong Kong wedding planner Dominic loses his business and switches to running a funeral business. It is actually going quite well except that his business partner is an old-school Taoist priest Master Man, who has no time for his

new commercially oriented youngster. Dominic realises however that they could be complementary - "Taoist priests transcend the soul of the dead. Agents transcend the soul of the living." – as he explains to Master Man, "Living can be hell for some people". The plot thickens still further on the entry of Man's daughter...

*'This likable Cantonese-language comedy drama starts out as an odd couple story but evolves into something more complex and satisfying: a film about tradition, gender roles and family tensions, with Master Man's straight-talking paramedic daughter Yuet increasingly taking a central role in the story'* – Wendy Ide, Observer – whilst Mark Kermode simply says *'oddly profound'*.



Sunday 30th March at 5pm  
**THE ROOM NEXT DOOR**

Director: Pedro Almodóvar. USA/Spain 2024 (12A, F)  
1hr 47min. In English.



We end our year with the latest from one of the world's greatest directors. Incredibly, this is Almodóvar's first ever winner at a major European Festival (Venice this year), and it comes with his first English language film. Taking on the very topical issue of assisted dying, he nails his 'colours' firmly to the 'yes' camp here, whilst also showing his anger at the lack of movement over climate change.

Tilda Swinton's Martha is dying of cancer. She asks her old friend Ingrid (Julianne Moore) to be in 'the room next door' when she intends to stop the pain by self-euthanising - in the next room to allow Ingrid to claim she knows nothing and becoming a criminal.

Almodóvar also uses the separate room concept to take on several side issues, as his films always do, in the conversations and flashbacks the two women share.

*"The Room Next Door" is about many things, but I took away two powerfully interconnected messages, beautifully rendered through Almodovar's inimitable melodramatic voice. The first is that, sometimes, nothing is more important than being present for someone else. Two, there is beauty in every moment on this earth if you look for it* – Brian Tallerico, RogerEbert.com. Part of that beauty comes from films such as this: Almodóvar's colours flow through it all.



Have a great spring and summer everyone. See you in September!

## January

- Sunday 5th 5pm **Anora**  
USA, (18) Rich Russian boy marries a sex worker
- Sunday 12th 5pm **All We Imagine as Light**  
India, (15, F) The story of 3 women... and Mumbai
- Sunday 19th 5pm **Blitz**  
UK, (12A) Steve McQueen's take on the London Blitz
- Sunday 26th 5pm **My Favourite Cake**  
Iran, (12A, F) 70 year old Marin decides to restart her love life

## February

- Sunday 2nd 5pm **The Universal Theory**  
Germany, (15) Homage to Hitchcock packaged as a Metaphysical Noir
- Sunday 9th 5pm **Black Dog**  
China, (12A) Chinese loner befriends a feral dog
- Sunday 16th 5pm **The Crime is Mine**  
France, (15) An actress is accused of murdering a rapist
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **In the Mood for Love**  
China, (PG) A breathtakingly beautiful love story

## March

- Sunday 2nd 5pm **The Problem with People**  
Ireland, (12A) Irish family find their American cousin... and fall out

Thursday 6th March - Sunday 9th March

## 25th KESWICK FILM FESTIVAL

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

- Sunday 16th 5pm **The Girl with the Needle**  
Denmark, (15, F) True story of a woman and her unwanted child
- Sunday 23rd 5pm **The Last Dance**  
Hong Kong, (12A) Businessman and his Taoist monk partner
- Sunday 30th 5pm **The Room Next Door**  
Spain/USA, (12A, F) Almodóvar and assisted dying

Note: F Rated films denote significant female involvement - director or writer  
Front page picture is from 'The Room Next Door' (30 March)



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