

Keswick Film Festival 2023 Programme

Film Programme (subject to change) – Thursday 23rd February to Sunday 26th February 2023

Session	Thursday 23 rd February		Friday 24 th February		Saturday 25 th February		Sunday 26 th February	
Morning					Alhambra 11am	Chile '76	Alhambra 11.00am	All The Beauty And The Bloodshed
					Theatre 11.00am	Fadia's Tree	Rheged 11.00am	Alcarràs
					Rheged 11.15am	EO		
Afternoon			Alhambra 1.00pm	Enys Men				
			Theatre 1.00pm	In Front of Your Face	Theatre 2.00pm	Osprey Short Film Awards	Alhambra 2.00pm	Joyland
			Theatre 3.15pm	Return to Dust	Alhambra 2.00pm	What Do We See When We Look At The Sky	Rheged 2.00pm	The Blue Caftan
			Alhambra 3.30pm	More than Ever	Rheged 2.15pm	Lunana: A Yak in The Classroom		
Evening	Alhambra 7.00pm	Godland	Alhambra 6.30pm	Sick of Myself	Alhambra 5.00pm	Full Time	Alhambra 5.00pm	Boy From Heaven (Cairo Conspiracy)
			Theatre 6.30pm	A Bird Flew In	Theatre 5.00pm	Blue Jean	Rheged 5.00pm	Rodeo
			9.00pm Alhambra	Winners - introduced by Hassan Nazer	Alhambra 8.00pm	Pacification	Alhambra 8.30pm	Broker
			Theatre 9.00pm	Rimini	Theatre 8.00pm	Tori and Lokita		

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Location	Title	Country	Director	Description
Thursday Alhambra 19.00	Godland 12A (2022) 143 min Thanks to Curzon Films	Denmark, Iceland	Hlynur Pálmason	In the late 19th century, a young Danish priest travels to a remote part of Iceland to build a church and photograph its people. But the deeper he goes into the unforgiving landscape, the more he strays from his purpose, the mission and morality. <i>Visually stunning, Godland makes for a marvellous cinematic opener for Keswick Film Festival. With a pair of fine lead performances and some beautiful cinematography, Hlynur Pálmason has created a film that is as beautiful as it is intelligent. Don't miss it. Hey U Guys</i>
Friday Theatre 13.00	In Front of Your Face 12 (2021) 85 min Thanks to Verve Pictures	South Korea	Hong Sang-soo	Former actress Sangok (Lee Hyeyoung) is back in Seoul, after living abroad for many years. She stays with her sister Jeongok (Cho Yunhee) in her high-rise apartment and seem to share most of their lives. The siblings sleep late, have breakfast in a café and visit a restaurant owned by Jeongok's son. But through the details of the day (a spill on her blouse, an encounter at her childhood home), it becomes clear that there is much she is not revealing. These mysterious circumstances seem to have something to do with her decision to meet with film director Jaewon (Kwon Haehyo) to discuss her return to acting. <i>In Front of Your Face is a mysterious, gentle piece of work, unworldly and effortless. Peter Bradshaw Guardian</i>
Friday Alhambra 13.00	Enys Men 15 (2022) 96 mins Thanks to BFI	UK	Mark Jenkin	A wildlife volunteer on an uninhabited island off the British coast descends into a terrifying madness that challenges her grip on reality and pushes her into a living nightmare. Evoking the feeling of discovering a reel of never-before-seen celluloid unspooling in a haunted movie palace, this provocative and masterful vision ... asserts Mark Jenkin (<i>Bait</i>) as one of the U.K.'s most exciting and singular filmmakers. <i>Steeped in 1970s cinema nostalgia, Enys Men is a unique horror movie that's presented as a puzzle for viewers to figure out on their own. Culture Mix</i>
Friday Theatre 15.15	Return to Dust PG (2022) 131 mins Thanks to Modern Films	China	Li Ruijun	Written and directed by Li Ruijun, this Chinese drama follows the lives and hardships of Ma Youtie and Cao Guiying in rural China. They are simple farmers who after an arranged marriage grow to love each other. They move into a series of unoccupied houses which are progressively demolished. Despite being a high-grossing film, Return to Dust was removed without explanation from Chinese streaming services in the run-up to the party congress. <i>Return to Dust has been widely praised by audiences for its realistic and moving depiction of rural life in China. For the same reason it has also drawn criticism from nationalistic voices accusing it of portraying China in a negative light. Guardian</i>
Friday Alhambra 15.30	More Than Ever 15 (2022) 123 mins	Germany	Emily Atef	Hélène and Mathieu have been happy together for many years. The bond between them is deep. Faced with an existential decision, Hélène travels alone to Norway to seek peace, an act that will test the strength of their love.

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	Thanks to Modern Films			A powerful, dignified performance from Vicky Krieps made more poignant by the knowledge that her co-star, Gaspar Ulliel, later died in a skiing accident. <i>More Than Ever's power is understated and controlled. It's a film about life despite death, and a woman desperate to control her fate.</i> Hollywood Reporter
Friday Theatre 18.30	A Bird Flew In 15 (2022) 95 mins Thanks to Jade Films	UK	Kirsty Bell	Filmed in 2021, this is a lockdown drama exploring the effects on a film cast and crew of living alone during covid restrictions. The six interlinking narratives show us how they each cope with enforced isolation: an actor fears her best performance will never be shown and succumbs to depression, an editor agonises that she cannot visit her mother who is sick, a writer yearns for a colleague who has to return to an abusive ex-partner. <i>A Bird Flew In</i> is directed by Kirsty Bell in her debut film and features an ensemble cast including Derek Jacobi and Sadie Frost. <i>The off-beat choice of filming in black and white widescreen is a good one since it underlines the way in which the pandemic cut off individuals from their communities.</i> Film Review Daily
Friday Alhambra 18.30	Sick of Myself 15 (2022) 95 mins Thanks to Modern Films	Norway Sweden	Kristoffer Borgli	Signe and Thomas are in an unhealthy, competitive relationship that takes a vicious turn when Thomas suddenly breaks through as a contemporary artist. Signe lives without ambition, but when her partner suddenly experiences massive success, Signe makes a desperate attempt to regain her status by creating a new persona hell-bent on attracting attention and sympathy. <i>For anyone who's watched a partner realize their dreams, a trusted colleague get promoted, or a friend become famous, and curdled with jealousy and resentment, Kristoffer Borgli has made the film for you.</i> Kevin Jagernauth The Playlist
Friday Theatre 21.00	Rimini 18 (2022) 114 mins Thanks to Sovereign Films	Germany	Ulrich Seidl	Richie Bravo is a once-famous singer who returns from Italy to his Austrian home after the death of his mother. Here he has to pick up with his brother Ewald, his father who has dementia and doesn't realise that his wife is dead, and his alienated adult daughter Tessa, who demands money from him for abandoning her years before. The character of Richie was written for actor Michael Thomas following his impromptu singing of a Sinatra song on a previous shoot. Directed by Ulrich Seidl, Rimini won the Best Feature Film prize at the 2022 Diagonale. <i>Wretchedness, sadness and confrontational grotesquerie once again come together in a movie by Ulrich Seidl</i> Guardian
Friday Alhambra 21.00	Winners PG (2022) 85 mins Thanks to Modern Films	Iran	Hassan Nazer	Iranian comedy is perhaps a genre new to KFF but <i>Winners</i> sets a superb precedent. One day nine-year-old Yahya and his friend Leyla find a precious statue. Sharing a passion for cinema, Yahya's boss Nasser Khan decides to help them find the owner. We are thrilled that that Director, Hassan Nazer will be in Keswick to introduce the film, which is the UK's entry for the Best International Film Oscar. <i>An entertaining adventure that has a lot going on beneath the surface. A story of magic being found in the most unlikely of places, the shining gold statuette at the centre of the piece provides a stark contrast that will make you think as well as smile.</i> Dirty Movies

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Saturday Theatre 11.00	Fadia's Tree U (2022) 86 mins Keswick Peace and Human Rights Group presentation Thanks to Verve Pictures	UK	Sarah Beddington	Fadia, a dynamic Palestinian refugee stranded in Lebanon yearns for the ancestral homeland she's denied. She challenges her friend, the director, to find the ancient mulberry tree that stands as witness to her family's existence, guided only by inherited memories, a blind man and a two-headed dragon. Spanning fifteen years, this story of a friendship that stays connected across a divided land and a fragmented people, adopts a birds' eye perspective to reflect on freedom of movement, exile and the hope of return. <i>The pulse of the story is that rarest thing in 2022 — internationalism. It thrums with quiet rage at how diplomats' crayons cause the sky to fill not just with birds and balloons, but rockets.</i> Financial Times
Saturday Alhambra 11.00	Chile '76 15 (2022) 95 mins Thanks to Verve Pictures	Chile	Manuella Martelli	In Chile in the winter of 1976, Carmen heads off to her beach house to supervise its renovation. Her husband, children and grandchildren come back and forth during the winter vacation. When the family priest asks her to take care of a young man he is sheltering in secret, Carmen steps onto unexplored territories, away from the quiet life she is used to. This feature debut by Manuela Martelli explores one woman's struggle with misogyny and corruption under Pinochet's rule. <i>Chile 76 pays powerful homage to this crucial period in Chile's history. Martelli's sure-handed direction makes impressive use of vibrant visuals, evocative sound design, and a meticulously detailed setting.</i> Peg Aloï Artes Fuse
Saturday Rheged 11.15	EO (2022) 15 88 mins Thanks to BFI	Poland	Jerzy Skolimowski	This is a road film with a difference as we follow the travels and fortunes of Eo, a donkey born in a Polish circus. Inspired by Robert Bresson's 1966 film Au Hasard Balthazar, Director Jerry Skolimowski shows us modern Europe through Eo's eyes, and we experience the happiness and despair of his encounters along the way. Eo won the Jury prize at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival and is Poland's entry for the 2023 Oscars. <i>Bravely updating Bresson with brilliant results, Eo is a donkey-driven drama that will stick with you long after the credits roll.</i> Rotten Tomatoes
Saturday Theatre 14.00	The Ospreys			Our short film competition returns showcasing the best of Cumbria and Cumbrian filmmakers.
Saturday Alhambra 14.00	What Do We See When We Look At the Sky U (2021) 150min Thanks to Verve Pictures	Georgia	Aleksandre Koberidze	<i>What Do We See</i> is picking up a lot of traction on social media and is a proper 'festival film!' In the Georgian riverside town of Kutaisi, summertime romance and World Cup fever are in the air. After a pair of chance encounters, pharmacist Lisa and soccer player Giorgi find their plans for a date undone when they both awaken magically transformed -- with no way to recognize each other. <i>The most entrancingly feel-good movie of the year, which urges you tell anyone who'd listen about its wondrous existence so they can bask in its soul-soothing magic too.</i> LA Times

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Saturday Rheged 14.15	Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom PG (2019) 109 mins Thanks to Peccadillo Pictures	Bhutan	Pawo Choyning Dorji	Ugyen wants to be a singer and move to Australia. However, his National Service requires him to be a teacher and in light of his indifference to the role, he is sent to the most remote school on earth, much against his will. Visually stunning and emotionally uplifting, <i>Lunana</i> , which is the first film from Bhutan to be nominated for an Oscar, may be the hit of the Festival. <i>Endearing and uplifting, a simple tale from the country that measures national productivity in a happiness index, this is both armchair traveller's trek through spectacular Bhutanese wilderness and a journey of self-discovery.</i> Jane Freebury Screening sponsored by KE Adventure Travel
Saturday Theatre 17.00	Blue Jean 15 (2022) 97 mins Thanks to Altitude	UK	Georgia Oakley	In 1988, the Government's clause 28 aimed to prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in schools. Unintended consequences, then, for teacher Jean in this tender film described as a future queer classic, a remarkable debut feature from Georgia Oakley plus a stand-out performance from Rosy McEwen. <i>Rosy McEwen absolutely shines in what should be a star-making turn as a lesbian PE teacher struggling to keep her queerness secret as Section 28 starts to ramp up.</i> Alternative Lens
Saturday Alhambra 17.00	Full Time 12A (2022) 87 mins Thanks to Jade Films	France	Eric Gravel	Call My Agent's Laure Calamy stars as mother of two, she is making ends meet, getting by as the head chambermaid of a five-star hotel in Paris, with only sporadic alimony payments from her ex-husband. Each meticulously planned day starts before sunrise, preparing the kids for school and undertaking a long commute to work. But when a national railway strike breaks out, Julie's routine is thrown into chaos, pushing her into a frenetic race against time that threatens everything she's worked so hard for. <i>...parts domestic drama about a put-upon single mother, and parts like a tense thriller. It really is an unusual blend and it makes for a film that is both unique and memorable.</i> FilmLink Australia
Saturday Theatre 20.00	Tori and Lokita 15 (2022) 88, mins Thanks to Picturehouse Entertainment	Belgium France	Luc Dardenne Jean-Pierre Dardenne	The Dardennes' latest film is set in Belgium, where a young boy and an adolescent girl who have travelled alone from Africa pit their invincible friendship against the cruel conditions of their exile. It was Mark Kermode's Film of the Week upon its release. In his review he said 'While some may balk at the Dardennes flirting with the thriller genre, ... (the two young actors)... keep the film's feet firmly on the ground delivering a hefty emotional punch built in equal measure on empathy, admiration and anguish.' <i>Meticulously controlled but simmering with a tension that is suffused with fury, this treatise on dignity and depravity, aspiration and apathy is the Dardennes at their most accusatory and damning.</i> Empire Magazine
Saturday Alhambra 20.00	Pacification 12A (2022) 165 mins	France	Albert Serra	On an island in French Polynesia a writer returns to her country after having triumphed in France with a novel. However, she is disoriented and in a creative crisis. Faced with the impossibility of writing new works, she decides to accept a simultaneous translation job together with an ambassador. <i>/continued</i>

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	Thanks to Verve Pictures			<p>A strange love attraction begins between them, full of contrasts. Little by little she realizes the cynicism of international politics, with a latent threat of new nuclear tests by the French government. Her love affair with the ambassador will be affected by that conflict, and interest and romance will mix in a confusing and absorbing way until the sad end</p> <p><i>Pacification is not a vicarious experience of luxury; it is an experience of life. Set to its own tidal rhythm, it is one of the most beautiful and rigorously introspective movies of this or any year.</i> Christian Blauvelt IndieWire</p>
Sunday Rheged 11.00	<p>Alcarràs 15 (2022) 120 mins</p> <p>Thanks to MUBI</p>	Spain	Carla Simón	<p>Director Carla Simón has created a superb drama where ties of family and a sense of place are paramount.</p> <p>As far as they can remember, the Solé family have spent every summer picking the peaches from their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Spain. But this year's crop could be their last, as they face eviction. The new plans for the land include cutting down the peach trees and installing solar panels, which causes a rift within the large tight-knit family. For the first time, they face an uncertain future and risk losing more than their home.</p> <p>Winner of the Golden Bear at Berlin.</p> <p><i>There are moments of pure joy still to be had across this final summer, ones which Simón renders with an unhurriedly luxurious gaze where you can feel the dirt, smell the food, sense the sun warm on your skin.</i> The Film Experience</p>
Sunday Alhambra 11.00	<p>All The Beauty and the Bloodshed 15 (2022) 113 mins</p> <p>Thanks to Altitude</p>	USA	Laura Poitras	<p>Bohemia meets Activism in this extraordinary documentary, directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Laura Poitras. All the Beauty and the Bloodshed is an epic, emotional and interconnected story about internationally renowned artist and activist Nan Goldin told through her slideshows, intimate interviews, ground-breaking photography, and rare footage of her personal fight to hold the Sackler family accountable for the opioid crisis that is plaguing the USA.</p> <p>A life and lifestyle unimaginable to the majority of us, Nan Goldin's story is utterly compelling.</p> <p><i>Profoundly engrossing cinematic experience of human resilience. Capturing the form of storytelling through art and the strength that comes to power through art, this larger-than-life portrait of Nan Goldin is unlike anything I've ever seen.</i> Rendy Reviews</p>
Sunday Rheged 14.00	<p>The Blue Caftan 15 (2022) 118 mins</p> <p>Thanks to Verve Pictures</p>	Morocco	Maryam Touzani	<p>In one of Morocco's oldest medinas, Halim and Mina run a traditional caftan store. Trade is busy, particularly with some of the demanding customers. To help keep up they employ a young man Youssef. The talented apprentice shows an utmost dedication in learning the art of embroidery and tailoring from Halim. Slowly Mina realizes how much her husband is moved by the presence of the young man.</p> <p><i>The acting was superb, and the story wonderfully poignant. Patient and carefully crafted, it's about the complexities of love and craft. One of the best films of 2022.</i> Kristy Strouse - Film Inquiry</p>

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Sunday Alhambra 14.00	Joyland 15 (2022) 126 mins Thanks to Studio Soho	Pakistan	Saim Sadiq	The Rana family appears to be a happy and traditional one, hoping for the birth of a boy to continue the line. Assumptions and standards are unravelled when the youngest son secretly joins an erotic dance theatre and falls in love with a trans starlet. Written and directed by Saim Sadiq, this is his first feature length film. It received a standing ovation at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Queer Palm prize for best LGBTQ, queer or feminist theme movie. <i>Sadiq's screenplay navigates a complex web of secrets and lies, pressures and prejudices to create a soulful human drama intent on challenging narrow minds.</i> Screen Daily
Sunday Rheged 17.00	Rodeo 15 (2022) 104 mins Thanks to Curzon	France	Lola Quiveron	Winner of the Coup de Coeur prize at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival, Lola Quivoron's debut feature film is set in the thrilling underworld of motor-cross racing in the Parisian suburbs. Julie Leary starts as Julia, a self-reliant young woman who is drawn into these illegal urban "Rodeos". Her passionate and fearless riding challenge the macho culture as she seeks to find a place in this outcast community. <i>Boasting superb stunt work, a transfixing performance from Leary and fusing together a crime drama and a soulful existential mystery, Rodeo announces the arrival of a gifted and adventurous film maker.</i> ICO
Sunday Alhambra 17.00	Boy From Heaven (Cairo Conspiracy) 15 (2022) 126 mins Thanks to Picturehouse Entertainment	Egypt	Tariq Saleh	Adam, the son of a fisherman, is offered the ultimate privilege to study at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo, the epicentre of power of Sunni Islam. Shortly after his arrival in Cairo, the university's highest ranking religious leader, the Grand Imam, suddenly dies and Adam soon becomes a pawn in a ruthless power struggle between Egypt's religious and political elite. <i>There's an intriguing mix of scorn and paranoia here, together with a yearning for individual figures of decency halfway down the food chain – it reminded me of John le Carré.</i> Peter Bradshaw Guardian
Sunday Alhambra 20.30	Broker 12A (2022) 129 mins Thanks to Picturehouse Entertainment	South Korea	Hirokazu Kore-eda	KFF has screened just about every Kore-eda film and this modern morality tale is another absolute joy. The film follows two brokers (one of whom is played by <i>Parasite's</i> Song Kang-ho) who sell orphaned infants, circumventing the bureaucracy of legal adoption, to affluent couples who can't have children of their own. After an infant's mother surprises the duo by returning to ensure her child finds a good home, the three embark on a journey to find the right couple, building an unlikely family of their own. <i>Bittersweet and beautiful, Broker sits easily amongst Kore-eda's finest films, and as one of the best filmmakers working today that is surely saying something.</i> AWFJ Women on Film