

Keswick Film Festival 2024 Programme

Film Programme (subject to change) – Thursday 29th February to Sunday 3rd March 2024

Session	Thursday 29 th February		Friday 1 st March		Saturday 2 nd March		Sunday 3 rd March	
Morning					Theatre 11.00	Mayor plus The Present (120 mins)	Alhambra 11.15	Ajoomma (90 mins)
					Alhambra 11.00	Between The Lights (104 mins)	Rheged 11.15	Tótem (95 mins)
					Rheged 11.15	Samsara (113 mins)		
Afternoon			Theatre 13.00	Melody (85 mins)	Theatre 14.00	The Osprey Short Film Awards (120 mins)	Alhambra 14.00	The Zone of Interest (105 mins)
			Alhambra 13.00	Nezouh (100 mins)	Alhambra 14.00	Blackbird, Blackbird, Blackberry (170 mins)	Rheged 14.00	Four Daughters (107 mins)
			Theatre 16.00	My Sailor, My Love (103 mins)	Rheged 14.00	The Taste of Things (145 mins)	Alhambra 17.00	American Fiction (117 mins)
			Alhambra 16.00	lo Capitano (121 mins)	Theatre 17.30	Maman (111 mins)	Rheged 17.00	The New Boy (116 mins)
					Alhambra 17.30	Evil Does Not Exist (106 mins)		
Evening	Alhambra 1900	Between The Lights (104 mins)	Theatre 18.30	A Stage of Twilight (107 mins)				
			Alhambra 18.30	Scala!!! (96 mins)	Theatre 20.00	Eureka (140 mins)		
			Theatre 21.00	Lost in the Night (122 mins)	Alhambra 20.00	Close Your Eyes (169 mins)	Alhambra 20.00	Monster (126 mins)
			Alhambra 21.00	Tiger Stripes (95 mins)				

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Location	Title	Country	Director	Description
Thursday Alhambra 19.00	Between the Lights (PG) 104 mins Thanks to Michael and David Groom	UK 2023	Michael Groom	<p>After a triumphant debut in New York, Michael and David Groom's first feature film has its European Première here in Keswick.</p> <p>Set within the ancient walls of York (the UK's most festive city) and the stunning natural beauty of the Lake District, <i>Between the Lights</i> is a romantic drama with a liberal dose of the supernatural, in which we visit our characters over three consecutive Christmases. When sceptical scientist Alice falls for reluctant medium Jay, she's taken on an odyssey of love, loss and discovery that will turn her world upside down.</p> <p><i>Between the Lights is a nuanced, supernaturally tinged romantic ghost tale with echoes of A Ghost Story and Truly Madly Deeply. You really feel like you've been on a meaningful journey by the end.'</i> Piers Nightingale</p>
Friday Theatre 13.00	Melody (tbc) 85 mins Thanks to Hassan Nazer and Dreamlab	Iran/ Tajikistan 2023	Behrouz Sebt Rasoul	<p>Melody teaches music at a hospice for children. The thirty children are having a party at the end of autumn and ask Melody to compose a piece using the sounds of thirty different birds. She goes to her home village to record the birdsong and is helped by the caretaker of the family home, Mango. When they find just 20 birds, Mango makes Melody understand that only the old village singer knows where the other birds are, but bird hunters have forced him out of the village.</p>
Friday Theatre 16.00	My Sailor, My Love (12) 103 mins Thanks to Signature Entertainment	Finland/ Ireland 2022	Klaus Härö	<p>Howard, a retired sea captain, refuses any help from his daughter Grace. My Sailor, My Love is a story about this guilt-affected daughter-father relationship. But it's also a love story between two elderly people, proving that a new beginning is never too late.</p> <p><i>My Sailor, My Love is a romantic drama that manages to be both tender and laced with integrity.</i> Hilary White. Sunday Independent</p>
Friday Alhambra 16.00	Io Capitano (tbc) 121 mins Thanks to Altitude	Italy 2023	Matteo Garrone	<p>Italy's entry for the 2014 Oscars (and a Golden Globe nominee) is an Homeric fairy tale that tells the adventurous journey of two young boys, Seydou and Moussa, who leave Dakar to reach Europe. A contemporary Odyssey through the dangers of the desert, of the sea and the ambiguities of the human soul.</p> <p><i>Steered by Sarr in a spellbinding performance, this is a mesmerizing watch for the most part, running the gamut of positive idealism at the film's opening to clinging on to the vestiges of hope at the finale.</i> The Film Stage</p>

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Friday 18.30 Theatre	A Stage of Twilight (tbc) F 107 mins Thanks to Brian Long	USA 2022	Sarah T Schwab	Cora (Karen Allen) is faced with a life/death decision after her husband Barry (William Sadler), has been diagnosed with a terminal heart disease. He informs her that he will spend his final days alone in order to spare her the emotional distress of watching him die. Their neighbour who acts as their surrogate son, is contemplating his own life choices, which become influenced by the couple's circumstance. Although A Stage of Twilight is about death, it is also about the joy of life, about growing in love, and about finding human connection amidst loss.
Friday 18.30 Alhambra	Scala!!! (18) F 96 mins Thanks to BFI	UK 2023	Ali Catterall, Jane Giles	Follow the rise and fall of the world's wildest cinema in the riotous new doc from co-directors Ali Catterall and Jane Giles, who will be presenting the film in Keswick. In a cavernous building near Kings Cross, reverberating from the rumbling tube trains below, London's legendary Scala cinema ran from 1978-1993. A site of permissiveness, subversiveness and transgression during the politically turbulent, post-punk, pre-digital Thatcher years, it was legendary for its anything-goes attitude and the sheer excitement it generated around repertory film – with all-nighters, trash/horror/arthouse double and triple bills.
Friday Theatre 21.00	Lost in the Night (18) 122 mins Thanks to Sovereign Films	Mexico 2023	Amat Escalente	In a small mining town in Mexico, Emiliano searches for those responsible for the disappearance of his activist mother. Receiving no help from the police, he finds a clue that leads him to the wealthy Aldama family. <i>Escalante's storytelling vigour and his way with an unsettling image keep this film's voltage high.</i> Peter Bradshaw Guardian
Friday Alhambra 21.00	Tiger Stripes (tbc) F 95 mins Thanks to Modern Films	Malasia 2023	Amanda Neel Eu	The first amongst her friends to hit puberty, Zaffan, 12, discovers a terrifying secret about her body. Ostracised by her community, Zaffan fights back, learning that to be free she must embrace the body she feared, emerging as a proud, strong woman. <i>Writer-director Amanda Nell Eu maintains a blackly comical undercurrent even as things get very freaky indeed, exploring big themes through lenses of culture, gender and religion. And Zafreen Zairizal shines in a complex and physically demanding role.</i> Shadows on the Wall
Saturday Alhambra 11.00	Between the Lights (PG) 104 mins	UK 2023	Michael Groom	See Thursday 29 th February, above

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Location	Title	Country	Director	Description
Saturday Theatre 11.00	Mayor (tbc) 89 mins	UK/USA 2020	David Osit	<p>This year's selection by the Keswick Peace and Human Rights Group is a double bill of films from Palestine, set in the occupied West Bank prior to both the current conflict and the election of Israel's current governing coalition.</p> <p>Both films portray the triumph of the human spirit over the daily challenges of life while under occupation, whilst not minimising the personal cost.</p> <p>Mayor is a real-life political saga following Musa Hadid, the Christian mayor of Ramallah. His immediate goals: repave sidewalks, attract tourists, and plan the city's Christmas celebrations.</p> <p>(Keswick Peace and Human Rights Group selection)</p>
	The Present (tbc) 24 mins	Palestine 2020	Farah Nabulsi	
Saturday Rheged 11.15	Samsara (U) 113 mins	Spain 2023	Lois Patiño	<p><i>Samsara</i> is a story split in two: two continents, two communities, two belief systems, two sets of experiences and inner lives. Between them lies a sensory pathway, all light and sound. The viewer is only asked to close their eyes and travel with it.</p> <p>Every morning, a Buddhist teenager visits an elderly woman's home to read her <i>The Bardo Thödol</i>, a guide for the journey between death and the next rebirth. On her last day, the young man whispers the book's final passages in her ear, closes his eyes, and meditates alongside her, as she embarks on a transformative journey into what lies beyond.</p> <p><i>Lois Patiño proposes a poetic (and unique) experience between reality and a dream. Cinemania</i></p>
Saturday Theatre 14.00	The Ospreys Free entry			<p>Our annual celebration of short films by Cumbrian film makers, or featuring our wonderful county. Your chance to see the best of new and emerging talent.</p>
Saturday 14.00 Alhambra	Blackbird, Blackbird, Blackberry (15) F 110 mins	Georgia 2023	Elene Naveriani	<p>A 48-year-old woman living in a small Georgian village, Etero (Eka Chavleishvili) never wanted a husband. Commanding and intelligent, possessed of a stoic independence and a dry wit, she cherishes her freedom as much as the mille-feuille she repeat-orders at her local café. But when a passionate encounter brings a new recklessness into her life, she must decide whether to pursue love or continue alone. Grappling with a personal revolution, Etero seeks her own happiness.</p> <p><i>An endearing, bittersweet portrait of an independent woman at the mercy of society's entrenched expectations. Screen International</i></p>

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Saturday 14.00 Rheged	The Taste of Things (PG) 145 mins Thanks to BFI	France 2023	Anh Hung Tran	<p>Juliette Binoche and Benoît Magimel star in The Taste of Things, a mouth-watering ‘gastromance’ by Tran Anh Hùng (The Scent of Green Papaya) that won him Best Director at Cannes 2023. France, 1885: Celebrated gourmet Dodin (Magimel) lives on an idyllic Loire Valley estate alongside Eugénie (Binoche), his cooking collaborator of over 20 years. Normally Dodin devises the dishes while Eugénie executes them to perfection, but when she finally allows him to cook for her, their relationship takes an unexpected turn.</p> <p><i>Linger on the tongue like a sip of Châteauneuf-du-Pape, the film leaves one feeling a little drunk, desperately hungry and entirely alive.</i> Wall Street Journal</p>
Saturday 17.30 Theatre	Maman (Mom) (tbc) 111 mins Thanks to Hassan Nazer and Dreamlab	Iran 2021	Arash Aneessee	<p>Maman lost all the beautiful things she once had – including her name, her job and her husband – years ago, after the outbreak of the war. Now she works as a cab driver and lives with two of her three sons in a small apartment. In order to maintain her maternal authority, she keeps her sons apart from each other and of course from a piece of land she owns. Just when she gets rid of the wife of her youngest son, the other son decides to marry one of his colleagues. And the story develops in two parallel worlds: in the world of the real and the world recreated in a film script the youngest son is writing...</p>
Saturday 17.30 Alhambra	Evil Does Not Exist (tbc) 106 mins Thanks to Modern Films	Japan 2023	Ryūsuke Hamaguchi	<p>Takumi and his daughter Hana live in Mizubiki, close to Tokyo. One day the villagers become aware of a plan to build a camp site nearby, offering city residents a comfortable “escape” to nature. It becomes clear that the project will have a negative impact on the local water supply.</p> <p><i>Evil Does Not Exist is an alluring ecological voyage with a gripping sense of morality at its core.</i> Jeff Nelson, Guy at the Movies</p>
Saturday 20.00 Theatre	Eureka (tbc) 140 mins Thanks to Sovereign Films	Argentina 2023	Lisandro Olonso	<p>Alaina is tired of being a police officer in the Pine Ridge Reservation and decides to begin her journey with the help of her grandfather: she will fly through time and space to South America, and everything will feel different when she hears the dreams of other people, those who live in the forest. But there will be no definitive conclusions... Birds don’t talk to humans, yet if only we could understand them, they would surely have a few truths to tell us.</p> <p><i>"An enriching experience" - The Guardian</i></p> <p><i>"A heady, thought-provoking and often beautiful experience, artistic minimalism at its most elasticated and textured" - Cineuropa</i></p>

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Saturday 20.00 Alhambra	Close Your Eyes (tbc) 169 mins Thanks to Verve Pictures	Spain 2023	Victor Erice	<p>Legendary filmmaker Víctor Erice (<i>Spirit of the Beehive</i>) comes back with <i>Close your Eyes</i>, a compelling reflection about identity, memory and filmmaking. The film also reunites Erice with Ana Torrent, 50 years after <i>Spirit of the Beehive</i>.</p> <p><i>More than two and a half hours are condensed into a moment of indescribable beauty that captures, as few have achieved, the power of resurrection that this blessed art has.</i> Ricardo Gallegos</p>
Sunday 11.15 Rheged	Tótem (tbc) F 95 mins Thanks to Verve Pictures	Mexico 2023	Lila Avilés	<p>Mexico's entry for the 2024 Oscars Director Lila Avilés' (<i>The Chambermaid</i>) latest film is set in a large house where, over a long day, family and friends meet for the birthday of 7-year-old Sol 's father, but as it will likely be his last, it is also a farewell ceremony.</p> <p><i>Subtle but thoughtful family drama in which acclaimed director Lila Áviles accurately reflects the different nuances of each character and shows the different ways in which each of them faces an imminent tragedy within the family nucleus.</i> IMDB</p>
Sunday 11.15 Alhambra	Ajoomma (tbc) 90 mins Thanks to Rediance films	Singapore 2022	Shuming He	<p>A solo trip to Korea becomes a wild adventure for a middle-aged Singaporean woman, where she embarks on a journey of self-discovery and unlikely bonds are formed.</p> <p><i>A frothy, but emotionally rewarding caper about second chances and living life to the fullest.</i> James Marsh, South China Morning Post</p>
Sunday 14.00 Rheged	Four Daughters (tbc) F 107 mins Thanks to Modern Films	Tunisia 2023	Kaoutha Ben Hanir	<p>Fact and fiction mix in Kaouther Ben Hania's astonishing hybrid docudrama, screened in Competition at Cannes this year, which stars professional actresses alongside real family members in a retelling of a Tunisian mother's heartbreak over two of her daughters' departures to fight for the Islamic State.</p> <p>Olfa (Hend Sabri) is the mother of four daughters. One day, her two eldest, Rahma and Ghofrane, leave to fight for IS in Syria. Some years later, Ben Hania invites two actresses into the frame, bringing the viewer closer to the stories of Olfa and her daughters, and in combining direct interviews with dramatic re-enactments, attempting to understand their relationships, their past, and the process of radicalisation.</p> <p><i>An intimate meditation on motherhood, sisterhood, rebellion and hope, and an experiment into the power of imagination and performance, Four Daughters takes the building blocks of filmmaking and uses them to craft something cathartic, affecting, original and rare.</i> Independent Cinema Office</p>

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<p>Sunday 14.00 Alhambra</p>	<p>The Zone of Interest (12A) 105 mins</p> <p>Thanks to 24 Films</p>	<p>UK/USA 2023</p>	<p>Jonathan Glazer</p>	<p>The commandant of Auschwitz, Rudolf Höss, and his wife Hedwig, strive to build a dream life for their family in a house and garden next to the camp. The film portrays the idyllic life that the family of the Nazi commandant enjoyed in a sumptuous house next to the concentration camp right in the middle of the Holocaust.</p> <p><i>A deeply chilling and precisely engineered nightmare that is the best and most important film of 2023, our shared year of blind eyes and buried heads.</i> Barry Hertz, Globe and Mail</p>
<p>Sunday 17.00 Rheged</p>	<p>The New Boy (15) 116 mins</p> <p>Thanks to Signature Entertainment</p>	<p>Australia 2023</p>	<p>Warwick Thornton</p>	<p>The follow-up to his searing, highly acclaimed western Sweet Country (2017), Warwick Thornton returns with this artful, fiercely political tale of spiritual worlds colliding, starring newcomer Aswan Reid alongside Cate Blanchett (who also co-produced). Australia, 1940s: Renegade nun Sister Eileen (Blanchett) presides over Indigenous boys deliberately orphaned by the authorities in the Australian Outback. In her orphanage, no Indigenous values, language or practices are allowed. The arrival of a new boy (Reid) unsettles the monastery, as do his mysterious, perhaps supernatural, abilities – which only increase Sister Eileen’s fervour for Christ to be his guide.</p> <p><i>Featuring an astounding performance from Reid, transfixing cinematography and a haunting score from Nick Cave and Warren Ellis, The New Boy is an engrossing, ambiguous study of spirituality, culture and colonisation that draws on Thornton’s own childhood experiences of attending Catholic boarding school and a particular chapter in Australian history.</i> Independent Cinema Office</p>
<p>Sunday 17.00 Alhambra</p>	<p>American Fiction (15) 117 mins</p> <p>Thanks to Curzon</p>	<p>USA 2023</p>	<p>Cord Jefferson</p>	<p>Winner of the Toronto International Film Festival People’s Choice Award</p> <p>Monk is a frustrated novelist who is fed up with the establishment that profits from Black entertainment that relies on tired and offensive tropes. To prove his point, he uses a pen name to write an outlandish Black book of his own, a book that propels him to the heart of hypocrisy and the madness he claims to disdain.</p> <p><i>This pitch-perfect combination of dry, observant satire and relatable family drama elements is one of the most accessible end-of-the-year awards contenders.</i> Newman times-Herald</p>

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Sunday 20.00 Alhambra	Monster (PG) 126 mins Thanks to Picturehouse	Japan 2023	Kore-eda Hirokazu	<p>When her young son Minato starts to behave strangely, his mother feels that there is something wrong. Discovering that a teacher is responsible, she storms into the school demanding to know what's going on. But as the story unfolds through the eyes of mother, teacher and child, the truth gradually emerges.</p> <p><i>Kore-eda's Monster is an astonishing, intimate tale; its dense plotting and subtle foreshadowing keep you in suspense until the shattering finale. It's a profoundly poetic tale and one of the year's best dramas.</i> Rendy Jones, Xtra Magazine</p>
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Note: **F** rated films denote significant female involvement – director and/or writer