

FILMS 2016 / 17

**BERWICK
FILM SOCIETY
PROGRAMME**



Greetings and welcome to another line-up of great films!

Berwick Film Society is delighted to present its eleventh programme of top quality, hand-picked titles. We invite you to browse here and discover the wonders in store for this season.

BFS is an entirely independent, small-scale local organisation with a reputation for showcasing the best of independent film from around the world. We welcome you, whether you stay near or far, to join our audience for a journey of insightful, stimulating and memorable screenings!

Sign up for a season and you'll receive free entry to 11 films for £35 (so a fraction over £3 per film), each one previewed and carefully selected. They're all unmissable! But attend 6 and your season pass has paid for itself, compared with buying tickets on the door. Try us and discover what BFS is all about.

Our venue, The Maltings Cinema, offers digital sound & vision technology; BFS hires the bar service before and after the film for our audience to relax and chat; and The Maltings Kitchen provides delicious pre-filmshow suppers from 6pm. Get tempted by the whole package!

Film Societies like BFS are important because we give world-class, independent films the airing they deserve, bringing international cultures close to your doorstep. Don't miss out! Join us now and experience the very best of world cinema – and a great evening to look forward to each month.

Genni, Maurice and John, the Berwick Film Society Team.

Website: www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk Email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk Tel: 07779 663860

Berwick Film Society 79 Main Street Spittal Berwick upon Tweed TD15 1RD





Tuesday 13 September 2016 at 7.30pm

Trumbo (15)

USA 2015 | 2hr 4min | Dir: Jay Roach | Cast: Bryan Cranston, Diane Lane, Helen Mirren, John Goodman | Language: English | Awards: 3 wins & 37 nominations

Smart, articulate and highly talented, screenwriter and novelist Dalton Trumbo's political allegiances landed him in hot water during the political paranoia of the 1950s McCarthy era. So much so that he became one of the House Un-American Activities Committee's ostracized ten. These ten individuals were banned from producing films – no studio would dare touch them – forcing them to work underground, using pseudonyms and front-writers. Trumbo's scripts included *Roman Holiday*, *Spartacus* and *Exodus*.

Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad*) was nominated for an Oscar for his lead role, a Trumbo simmering with indignation at his treatment while busily writing scripts in the bathtub. Helen Mirren shines as Hedda Hopper, the notoriously vicious gossip columnist and fork-tongued leader of the collusive media witch-hunt. Here, then, is one of Hollywood's most intriguing inside stories.

"Celebrating the bravery of one man holding tight to his fundamental rights, Trumbo is a winning, lively film" Henry Barnes, The Guardian

"Cranston is superb. He goes at lines like a mutt at a mutton bone" Nigel Andrews, FT.com



Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 7.30pm

Youth (15)

Italy/France/UK/Switzerland 2015 | 2hr 4min | Dir: Paolo Sorrentino

Cast: Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel, Rachel Weisz, Jane Fonda | Language: English

Awards: 13 wins & 40 nominations

Italian maestro Paolo Sorrentino's rich meditation on life, love and loss. With highly stylised visuals as his trademark, a wonderfully poignant and humorous observation is skilfully crafted for our delectation.

A retired composer (Michael Caine) passes his days in the company of a fading film director (Harvey Keitel) at a peaceful Swiss retreat they both frequent, sharing their professional, romantic and parenting regrets. Other guests come and go, including (lookalike) footballing legend Maradona and a stunning beauty queen, each indulging in body pampering and surreal laid-on entertainment. The casting is inspired, Michael Caine playing a wistfully reflective older man, while Jane Fonda's cameo role is marvellously acerbic.

Youth plays out like a spell-binding symphony, with sharp and soft notes, in keys of joy and pathos.

"The movie is gorgeously filmed, with nearly every scene a dreamscape" Michael O'Sullivan, Washington Post

"The wry, flamboyant cinematic opera of Paolo Sorrentino reaches new heights of showy, utterly tasteful magnificence" Lee Marshall, Screen Daily

Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 7.30pm
The Second Mother (Que horas ela volta?) (15)

Brazil 2015 | 1hr 52min | Dir: Anna Muylaert | Cast: Regina Casé, Helena Albergaria, Michel Joelsas | Language: Portuguese with English subtitles | Awards: 20 wins and 8 nominations

For several years, Val has dedicated herself to being nanny and second mother to the young son of a wealthy São Paulo family. She lives with the guilt of leaving behind a daughter, Jessica, in Northern Brazil, raised by relatives and almost a stranger to her. Now Jessica wants to come to the capital to enrol at college. Suddenly the daily routine and dynamics of the household are disrupted and unspoken class barriers challenged.

With a deceptively light touch, filmmaker Anna Muylaert wanted this story to expose the fact that most middle-class women in Brazil hire nannies to care for their children while they are out at work. The nannies themselves are thereby not free to raise their own kids, but must support them by sending home their hard-earned cash, creating a social paradox.

Regina Casé makes a wonderful nanny with a naturally humorous manner, while the gentle narrative is revealing, beautifully nuanced and thoroughly absorbing.

"Anna Muylaert's close setting cleverly lends itself to broader reflections on tradition, but [actor Regina] Casé makes the story sing. Utterly convincing" Kat Poole, Empire Magazine





Tuesday 29 November 2016 at 7.30pm

Hector (15)

UK 2015 | 1hr 27min | Dir: Jake Gavin | Cast: Peter Mullan, Keith Allen, Natalie Gavin | Language: English | Awards: 2 nominations

This British independent film casts Scottish actor Peter Mullan against type, in one of the finest portrayals of his considerable career.

Grizzled drifter Hector sets out on his annual odyssey from Scotland to London where a homeless shelter offers a hearty Christmas meal and a warm welcome. Pondering that this could be the last time he can make the journey with distance becoming an increasing obstacle, he decides to call in on his past along the route. The cross-country trek brings chance encounters, companionship new and old, some cruel disappointments and humorous joys.

With a strong supporting cast, Mullan transforms this gentle observational drama into a sympathetic and enlightened study of human frailty. He might be down, but Hector's hanging in there!

"...a character-driven and essentially hopeful film, whose positive notes rest on the spirit of its central character" Demetrios Matheou, Sunday Herald

"A likeable, thought-provoking film about friendship, community and kindness" Stephen Carty, Radio Times

Tuesday 10 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Knife in the Water (Nóż w wodzie) (PG)

Poland 1962 | 1hr 36min | Dir: Roman Polanski | Cast: Leon Niemczyk, Jolanta Umecka, Zygmunt Malanowicz | Language: Polish with English subtitles

This uber-cool and playful psychological drama unfolds over 24 hours, as an affluent married couple pick up a young hitchhiker and invite him to join their sailing weekend. The tensions of their confinement on the small yacht are gradually amplified amidst the wide and empty expanses of a calm lake in the north of Poland – captured in crystalline cinematography and accompanied by a soulful jazz score.

Roman Polanski's first feature displeased the Polish authorities of 1962, but it announced to the world a new and unorthodox talent. He was rewarded with a Venice Festival prize along with BAFTA and Oscar nominations, and half a century later his film remains bracingly crisp and modern.

"Taut, tense, half tongue-in-cheek, half powerfully sinister, it is debatable whether Polanski has ever made a better film" Empire Magazine

"Roman Polanski's sensational 1962 debut ... is an example of how a superlative director makes a film from the simplest materials"
Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian





Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 7.30pm

Mountains May Depart (Shan he gu ren) (cert tbc)

China/France/Japan 2015 | 2hr 11min | Dir: Jia Zhangke | Cast: Zhao Tao, Zhang Yi, Liang Jingdong | Language: Cantonese, Mandarin with English subtitles | Awards: 10 wins & 13 nominations

Following three characters tossed around by time, tide and the onward march of progress over the span of a quarter-century, director Jia Zhangke's latest epic gives rare insight into the impact of a China fast evolving into a capitalist superpower.

Beginning in a Northern province in 1999 with a young woman and her two friends in jubilant millennial mood, it later leaps forward into 2014 where each of their lives has radically shifted and polarised, as China spirals through a tumultuous period. Finally ending up in Australia in 2025 where prosperity beckons, the key characters find their middle-aged selves living in a gilded cage, far removed from the expectations of their youth.

"Mountains May Depart is never less than a work of soaring ambition and deeply felt humanism, as [director] Jia longs not so much to turn back the hands of time, but to ever so slightly slow them down" Scott Foundas, Variety

"[It] is a mysterious and in its way staggeringly ambitious piece of work from a film-maker whose creativity is evolving before our eyes"

Peter Bradshaw @ Cannes Film Festival

APPLICATION FOR BFS SEASON PASS 2016 / 17 – please complete all in block capitals:

£35 FOR 11 FILMS + FILM FESTIVAL DISCOUNTS / FREE SCREENING

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PHONE Email New to BFS? Tick here

Please provide email if you are an email user, as it saves postage costs. We will never pass your details to any third party.
Please write your email address clearly to avoid errors when we email you. Note: Season passes are not transferable.

I/We enclose a cheque for £____ for Season 2016/17 (£35 per person, payable to Berwick Film Society)

Please mail to: **Berwick Film Society 79 Main Street Spittal Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1RD Northumberland.**

Website: www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk Email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk Phone: 07779 663860



AUDIENCE RESPONSES TO LAST SEASON'S FILMS (2015/16)

	excellent	good	fair	poor	votes	% favourable
X + Y	101	30	9	2	142	90%
Tangerines (Festival)	–	–	–	–	–	93%
Human Capital	52	63	18	0	133	81%
Leviathan	36	44	28	8	116	73%
Cycling with Molière	42	63	25	0	130	78%
Difret	93	33	2	0	128	93%
The Connection	60	47	9	1	117	85%
Wild Tales	70	39	11	1	121	87%
The Salt of the Earth	95	27	12	1	135	90%
Phoenix	32	47	29	8	116	72%
Theeb	53	56	13	3	125	82%
Brooklyn	102	24	8	0	134	93%

Film Seasons are programmed by the BFS team.

Programming decisions are taken on the basis of past audience feedback, purpose-previewing a wide selection of films, title availability and the trust of BFS supporters.



Martins The Printers proudly support Berwick Film Society in their eleventh season and wish them every success.

Printers of full colour books, catalogues, programmes, brochures and posters. From one copy to many thousands we are able to meet your needs.

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Berwick Film Society has received past funding support from several sources. To meet current running costs BFS relies on subscriptions to its film seasons.

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We acknowledge with warm thanks the work of Martins the Printers and Simprim Studio in the production of this brochure and Greenwood Accountants for their valued support.

Berwick Film Society is run entirely by a small team of volunteers:

Coordinator: Genni Poole **Finance:** Maurice Ward

Subscriptions: John Spiers

Stewards: Anne, Bob, Bruce, Harriet, Leslie, Marion, Peter, Sue.

We need more volunteers for occasional or regular help.

Contact: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk



Tuesday 28 February 2017 at 7.30pm

Marguerite (15)

France/Czech Republic/Belgium 2015 | 2hr 9min | Dir: Xavier Giannoli

Cast: Catherine Frot, André Marcon, Michel Fau | Language: French, Italian with English subtitles | Awards: 6 wins & 13 nominations

Sumptuous 1920s Paris. A wealthy diva holds court in her castle home, eager to sing her heart out to an expectant gathering. There's just one problem: she can't hold a note. Yet the sycophantic audience, some bemused, some devoted, encourage her delusion with bountiful applause. Basking in the limelight, Marguerite attracts a regular following, blissfully oblivious as she indulges her life's passion: to sing.

Gasp at (thankfully few) grating renditions of classic opera pieces as you might, this story, based on the original character of Florence Foster Jenkins but shifted from New York to Paris, becomes less painfully voyeuristic and more touchingly melancholy as Marguerite, played exquisitely by Catherine Frot (*Le Dîner de cons*, *The Page Turner*), lives out her dream.

Be ready to put your fingers in your ears and open up your hearts, to the unique Marguerite!

"Giannoli and Frot ensure that Marguerite is never the butt of the joke. On the contrary, she embodies something admirably unruly – a devotion to music that transcends the stifling disappointments of real life" Mark Kermode, The Observer



Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 7.30pm

Embrace of the Serpent (El abrazo de la serpiente) (12A)

Colombia/Venezuela/Argentina 2015 | 2hrs 5min | Dir: Ciro Guerra | Cast: Nilbio Torres, Jan Bijvoet, Antonio Bolivar | Language: Catalan, German, Portuguese, Spanish with English subtitles | Awards: 20 wins, 13 nominations including Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Language Film 2016

In the 1900s, two explorer scientists travelling forty years apart follow similar routes in search of a sacred healing plant, relying on the wisdom of Karamakate, an Amazonian shaman and last survivor of his people.

Plunged into the very heart of the Amazonian forest, canoeing along the great thundering river with the explorers and their guide, we witness their amazement, their fears, and the ways of life altered irredeemably by the impact of colonialism and threatened with extinction by the Colombian rubber barons of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Nominated for Best Foreign Language Oscar of 2016, *Embrace of the Serpent* is an astounding journey, laying to rest any lingering myth of western superiority. A mind-blowing experience which will imprint itself on the memory.

"At once blistering and poetic, not just an ethnographic study but also a striking act of cinematic witness" Justin Chang, Variety

"[Karamakate's] a vision of pride and of tragedy... but also just a man facing the unstoppable current of history. Good luck finding a richer, more fascinating character at the movies this year than he." Jordan Hoffman, The Guardian

Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 7.30pm

Mustang (15)

Turkey/France/Qatar/Germany 2015 | 1hr 37min | Dir: Deniz Gamze Ergüven
Cast: Günes Sensoy, Doga Zeynep Doguslu, Tugba Sunguroglu | Language: Turkish
with English subtitles | Awards: 38 wins & 47 nominations

In a remote Turkish village far from the influences of cosmopolitan Istanbul, five ebullient siblings rail against the strict boundaries of a traditional upbringing, driven by an innate desire to become free-spirited young women. Their rollicking antics start out innocently, but the reaction from family is swift and determined, igniting a united wilfulness. Powerful bonds between the sisters strengthen as their futures are lined up.

This feature debut from Turkish-French writer-director Deniz Gamze Ergüven has swiftly gained both high regard and controversy, inviting debate about family honour and tradition versus the influences of Western modernity, with all its inherent risks. Despite the incendiary issues raised, there is lightness of touch and the unfettered joyfulness of being young which radiate throughout this bold film.

"Mustang is a deceptively simple tale bearing an urgent message" Tim Grierson, Screen Daily

"It is shot in a naturalistic style with most of its power deriving from the sensitive observation of the characters rather than pursuing a purely feminist agenda"
Richard Mowe, Eye for Film





Tuesday 25 April 2017 at 7.30pm

The Brand New Testament (Le Tout Nouveau Testament) (15)

Belgium/Luxembourg/France 2015 | 1hr 53m | Dir: Jaco Van Dormael | Cast: Pili Groyne, Benoît Poelvoorde, Yolande Moreau, Catherine Deneuve | Language: French with English subtitles | Awards: 11 wins & 12 nominations

What if the Bible was all wrong and God's *daughter* came down to earth, to set the record straight?

In this playfully irreverent concept, God is a human meanie living in Brussels, who plots for our toast to land jam-side down. On searching God's computer, his young daughter Ea discovers that her father is scheming to limit the lifespan of selected individuals. Determined to foil his evil intentions, she sets out to sabotage the dastardly plan by finding six fresh disciples and creating a brand new testament. But will she be in time to halt her father's rapidly-approaching deadline?

With wackily inventive visuals, a satirical storyline and off-the-wall characters, this is absurdist cinema, the refreshing antidote to sensible filmmaking!

"...in an age dominated by religious intolerance and violence, Van Dormael's inquisitive, playful optimism might just offer audiences attuned to his wavelength something quietly and genuinely radical" Leigh Singer, Sight & Sound

"A film with a big heart and an even bigger imagination" Cath Clarke, Time Out

Tuesday 23 May 2017 at 7.30pm

Julieta (15)

Spain 2016 | 1hr 36min | Dir: Pedro Almodóvar | Cast: Emma Suárez, Adriana Ugarte, Rossy de Palma | Language: Spanish with English subtitles | Awards: 1 win & 1 nomination

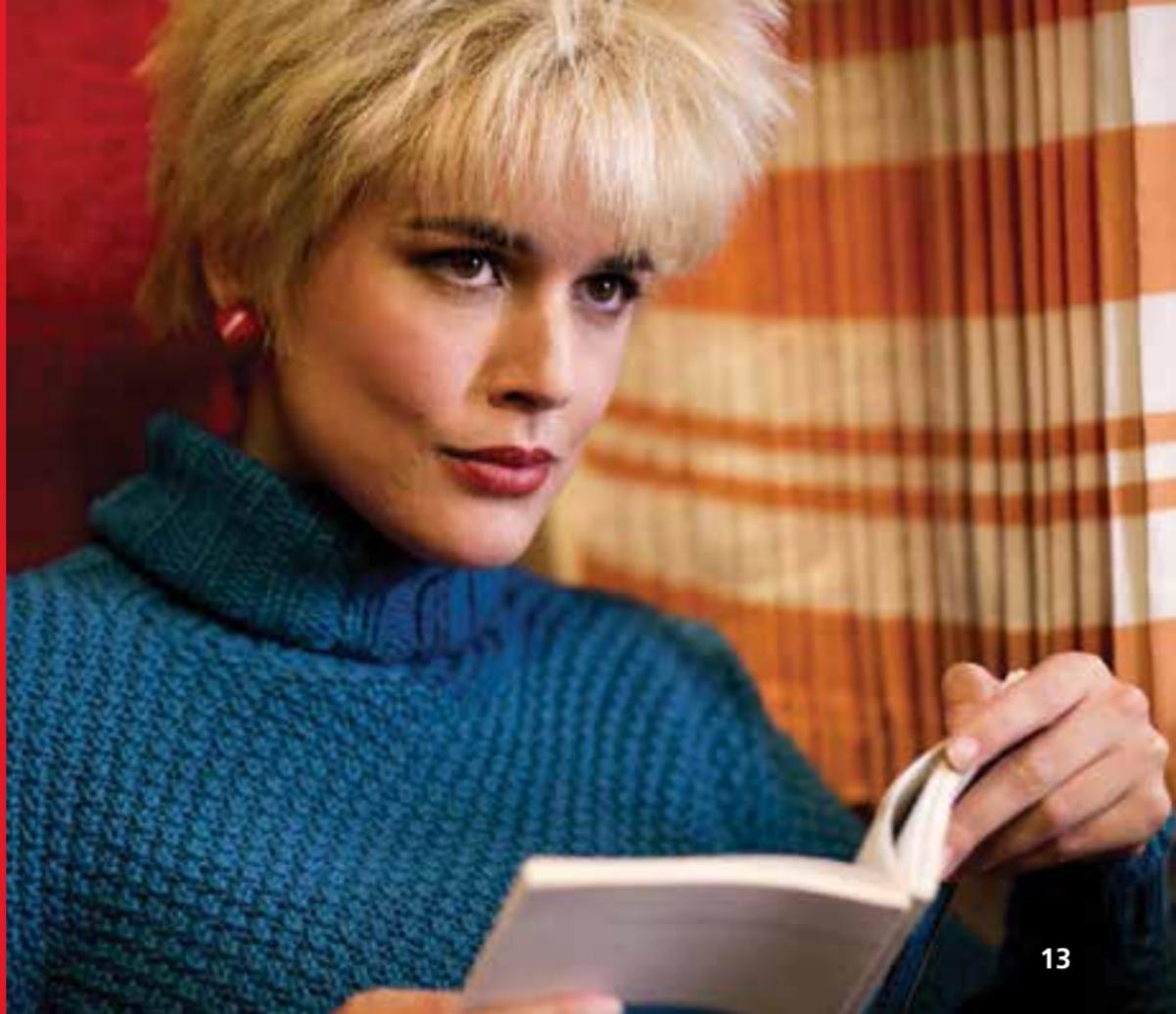
Paying tribute to the 2004 book *Runaway* by Canadian author Alice Munro, acclaimed Spanish film auteur Pedro Almodóvar has interwoven three of her short stories, emerging with a richly-layered character portrait of a woman, traversing thirty years.

Julieta unravels into an alluring mystery drama in which the mother of the title, putting hurt aside, decides to track down the daughter who walked out of her life twelve years earlier.

Vibrant colours splash the screen, complemented by a jazz-inflected soundtrack as *Julieta* first rewinds, then advances into an intriguing story of destiny, guilt and obsession. There are hints of Hitchcock here – and it works quite beautifully.

"A moody, moving return to form" Beth Ryan, Telegraph

"It's like an unexpectedly dry martini in a dazzling Z-stem glass"
Tim Robey @ Cannes Film Festival



2016	Tuesday 13 September	7.30pm	Trumbo (15) Blacklisting of a top Hollywood film-writer
	Wed 21 – Sun 25 September		Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival BFS Screening to be announced
	Daytime and evening screenings		
	Tuesday 18 October	7.30pm	Youth (15) Reflections on life from a Swiss hot tub
	Tuesday 15 November	7.30pm	The Second Mother (15) Class differences collide in a Brazilian household
	Tuesday 29 November	7.30pm	Hector (15) Affable hobo searches for reconciliation
2017	Tuesday 10 January	7.30pm	Knife in the Water (PG) Polanski's debut of cool undercurrents
	Tuesday 31 January	7.30pm	Mountains May Depart (cert tbc) Saga of dreams and realities in modern China
	Tuesday 28 February	7.30pm	Marguerite (15) Tone-deaf diva struts among her peacocks
	Tuesday 14 March	7.30pm	Embrace of the Serpent (12A) Mesmerizing tribute to lost civilisations
	Tuesday 28 March	7.30pm	Mustang (15) Bittersweet tale of five coltish sisters
	Tuesday 25 April	7.30pm	Brand New Testament (15) Madcap spin on holy origins
	Tuesday 23 May	7.30pm	Julieta (15) Intoxicating mystery from Pedro Almodóvar

Berwick Film Society screenings take place in The Maltings Cinema, Eastern Lane, Berwick-upon-Tweed on a Tuesday evening once a month (with two extra films in January and March). See details adjacent. BFS Seasons run from September to the end of May.

A season pass costs £35 for 11 films, plus free screening and discounts at Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (21-25 September 2016). Apply by downloading the form from our website, use the cut-out form inside our brochure, or sign up at any BFS filmnight.

Everyone is welcome to our filmshows. If you don't hold a Season Pass, you can buy tickets at The Maltings box office on the night or book in advance online via their website. BFS reserve the right to replace any film within the programme if deemed necessary. In such a case, advance notice will be provided via email or the website below.

For screening, season pass and film information:
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