

FILMS 2017 / 18



BERWICK
FILM SOCIETY
PROGRAMME

Welcome to BFS film season 2017/18

There are now several easy ways to see films without leaving your sofa, but here are a few excellent reasons that make it so worthwhile coming out to a BFS filmshow: you'll be seeing carefully-selected, world-class films you may not come across elsewhere; you'll be watching these on the big screen (with much greater sound and visual impact) and you'll be sharing the experience with an appreciative, informed audience. Combine this with pre-filmshow refreshments available at our venue The Maltings and voilà! – a truly satisfying evening out. Filmgoing should be a completely immersive, stimulating experience and – in a nutshell – that's what Berwick Film Society offers.

So come around the globe with BFS: this season we have a wonderful selection of wicked comedies, alluring mysteries and feverish dramas from Finland, Spain, Iran, Japan, Sweden, Nepal, Canada, France, the UK and more. Sign up for this season of films for £35 (well under half the ticket price equivalent) by filling in the application form in this brochure or downloading it from our website, giving you free entry to each one of our top-notch, memorable titles. It's a terrific deal!

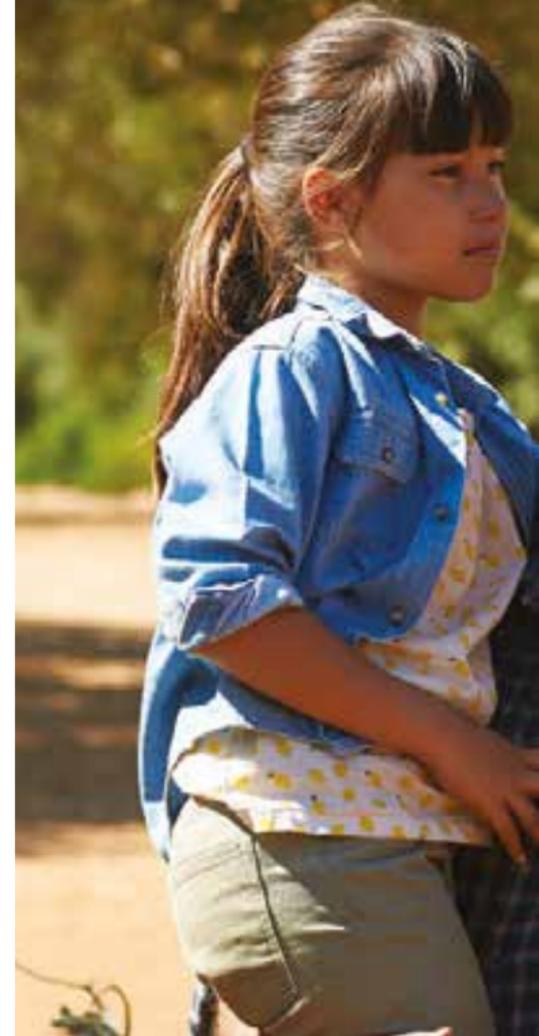
The value of film can't be expressed better than by quoting the words of one of the best-known directors of our time, Martin Scorsese:

"Now more than ever, we need to talk to each other, listen to each other and understand how we see our world, and cinema is the best medium for doing this"

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 12 September 2017 at 7.30pm

The Olive Tree (El olivo) (15)

Spain/Germany 2016 (UK release 2017) | 1hr 40min | Dir: Icíar Bollaín | Cast: Anna Castillo, Javier Gutiérrez, Miguel Ángel Aladrén | Language: Spanish etc. with English subtitles
Awards: 3 wins & 14 nominations

Due to the long-standing current economic crisis in Spain, many ordinary lives have been uprooted. In this contemporary story, a typical family of northern-Spanish olive growers are feeling the impact. To raise much-needed funds, they sold a beautiful, thousand year-old olive tree to a supposedly eco-conscious energy company, which promptly shipped it off to Germany.

This breaks the grandfather's heart and he hasn't spoken since: for him the tree symbolised the family's history and way of life. His feisty young granddaughter Alma is determined to defy the odds and find a way to repair her grandfather's broken spirit.

An honestly-delivered, involving narrative created by writer Paul Laverty (*I, Daniel Blake; Even the Rain*) and director Icíar Bollaín (*Even the Rain, Take My Eyes*) with their signature good humour and sagacious social perception.

"Commentary on a changing Europe underpins The Olive Tree but the human relationships are most poignant here" Dave Calhoun, Time Out

"An earthy, quietly stirring Spanish fable that finds familial, regional and environmental grievances inseparably tangled in its branches" Guy Lodge, Variety



SPECIAL EVENT

Tuesday 10 October 2017 at 8pm
Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans (U)

USA 1927 | 1hr 34min | Dir: F.W. Murnau | Cast: George O'Brien, Janet Gaynor | Silent with English intertitles. **Live musical accompaniment**

Sometimes hailed as the pinnacle of American silent film, *Sunrise* is a fusion of German expressionism and Hollywood studio effects. In 1927, leading German director Murnau was invited to work at Fox studios with assurances of complete artistic freedom. He brought his characteristic use of stylised sets, flowing camerawork and intricate lighting to tell a story of classic simplicity: in a '3-act' structure, the lives of a simple farmer and his wife pass through temptation, remorse and atonement.

Although it appeared just at the arrival of the talkies, *Sunrise* could only have been conceived as a film without spoken dialogue, and it reasserted the qualities which belong uniquely to the world of silent film.

BFS welcomes Jane Gardner & Co. to accompany this famous silent film, with the musical score written and performed especially for Berwick Film Society's presentation. Between them, these four musicians have many impressive credentials.

Tuesday 31 October 2017 at 7.30pm

The Salesman (Foruŝhände) (12A)

Iran/France 2016 (UK release 2017) | 2hr 4min | Dir: Asghar Farhadi | Cast: Shahab Hosseini, Taraneh Alidoosti, Babak Karimi | Language: Persian with English subtitles
Awards: 9 wins & 18 nominations including Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film 2017

With his distinctive directorial style, Asghar Farhadi (*A Separation*) has created his second Oscar-winner (Best Foreign Language film of 2017), a quiet drama which morphs into a low-key, tense mystery.

Two actors, a husband and wife, rehearse for an amateur stage production of *Death of a Salesman* in Tehran, which the husband also directs. When an event changes both of their lives, the show must go on, despite symbolic cracks forming.

A shifting of sympathies is engendered as the lead characters' emotions brood under the surface while their behaviour polarises, calling into question the couple's ability to understand and respond to each other's reactions.

Filed in neorealist style, with naturalistic acting and a fastidious script, rarely has onscreen domestic discord proved so absorbing.

"With exquisite patience and attention to detail, [writer and director Farhadi] builds a solid and suspenseful plot out of ordinary incidents, and packs it with rich and resonant ideas"
A. O. Scott, New York Times





Tuesday 21 November at 7.30pm

Sweet Bean (An) (PG)

Japan/France/Germany 2015 (UK release 2016) | 1hr 53min | Dir: Naomi Kawase
Cast: Kirin Kiki, Masatoshi Nagase, Kyara Uchida | Language: Japanese with English subtitles | Awards: 6 wins & 6 nominations

An affecting Japanese drama about the delights of cooking, the wonders of nature and the spiritual legacy a wise old woman leaves behind.

As the cherry trees come into their short blossom, a determined elderly lady Tokue (played by veteran actor Kirin Kiki) walks into a baker's street booth in response to an advert and offers to share her recipe for a sweet bean paste. Concerned about the toll the job could take, dispirited vendor Sentaro is initially reluctant to take her on.

A respectful friendship develops between Sentaro and Tokue eventually allowing them to reveal to each other their hidden pasts.

Contemplative reflections on two lives which have become lonely for different reasons offer a poignant exemplar of how secrets shared can unexpectedly connect individuals with diverse life experiences.

"This is one intensely lovely film. [Director] Kawase enfolds it in an invitingly meditative hush" David Noh, Film Journal International

Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 7.30pm

Lady Macbeth (15)

UK 2017 | 1hr 29min | Dir: William Oldroyd | Cast: Florence Pugh, Christopher Fairbank, Cosmo Jarvis, Naomi Ackie | Language: English | Awards: 11 wins & 7 nominations

Based on a short novel by Russian writer Nikolai Leskov (which was adapted into a Shostakovich opera), this recent much-lauded film version is set in north-east England, amidst stark hues and windswept moorland.

The domestic scenario is one of sparse realism: it's 1865 and a young woman is the trophy-bride in a soulless household where she is suffocatingly observed. Like a caged bird, she yearns for release.

This provides the canvas for a disturbing, brutish portraiture of power structures where women and servants are regarded as disposable.

Desperate passions aroused become dangerously reckless and just when the scenario couldn't be more darkly disquieting, events pack further wallop. Compared, *Madame Bovary* was positively angelic.

"Brisk and sure-footed, Lady Macbeth outclasses many of its peers...because of its dramatic intelligence and its skill at filleting contemporary relevance from a classic literary source" Pamela Hutchinson, Sight & Sound

Note: Contains scenes of brutality, strong sex and powerful language





Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7.30pm

It's Only the End of the World (Juste la fin du monde) (15)

Canada/France 2016 (UK release 2017) | 1hr 37min | Dir: Xavier Dolan | Cast: Nathalie Baye, Vincent Cassel, Marion Cotillard, Léa Seydoux, Gaspard Ulliel | Language: French with English subtitles | Awards: 11 wins & 22 nominations

The incapacity to listen to one another through a fog of self-absorption is at the core of this blistering depiction of family dysfunction. When a son reappears after a long gap with ominous news to disclose, he smacks into a wall of pent-up resentment, as old feuds are cruelly exposed and familial rivals jostle for position.

With a strong cast (Marion Cotillard, Vincent Cassel) this contentious film, from Canadian-French director Xavier Dolan (*Mommy*) and based on a play by Jean-Luc Lagarce, was a highly successful release in France, won awards in both France and Canada and has divided audiences and critics everywhere else. Love it or hate it : you decide.

"It's a film that intentionally makes watching it uncomfortable, as if we are ourselves caught in the claustrophobia... Yet how bracing it is, such snatches of virtuoso flair"
Tom Birchenough, theartsdesk.com

"This is a pressure cooker of anxiety, a film with the dials turned up to 12... the uncompromising ear bashing here is an intentional, black comic effect"
Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

APPLICATION FOR BFS SEASON PASS 2017 / 18 – please complete all in block capitals:
£35 FOR 11 FILMS + FILM FESTIVAL DISCOUNTS & FREE SCREENING

FORENAME(s) SURNAME

ADDRESS

.....

..... POSTCODE

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 2017/18 (£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 (2016/17)

	excellent	good	fair	poor	votes	% favourable
Trumbo	90	28	4	1	123	92%
April and the Extraordinary World	34	32	3	2	71	85%
Youth	76	49	30	9	164	79%
The Second Mother	44	74	30	3	151	76%
Hector	71	64	10	1	146	85%
Knife in the Water	23	50	44	11	128	67%
The Music of Strangers	90	23	7	0	120	92%
Marguerite	51	47	21	5	124	79%
Embrace of the Serpent	49	46	30	8	133	76%
Mustang	96	32	8	1	137	91%
The Brand New Testament	70	29	13	3	115	86%
Julieta	58	58	16	1	133	83%

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 twelfth 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.

www.martins-the-printers.com

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

JHGREENWOOD & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



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: Bob, Bruce, Dot, Harriet, James, Peter, Sue

We need more volunteers for occasional or regular help.

Contact: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk



Tuesday 30 January 2018 at 7.30pm

A Man Called Ove (En man som heter Ove) (15)

Sweden 2015 (UK release 2017) | 2hr 6min | Dir: Hannes Holm | Cast: Rolf Lassgård, Bahar Pars, Filip Berg | Language: Swedish & Persian with English subtitles
Awards: 13 wins & 23 nominations

Cantankerous. Grumpy. Querulous. Not your ideal neighbour!

Ove is a nit-picking obstructionist with a mission: to ensure everyone in his gated community abides by the residents' regulations, to the letter. He's not a popular man – even with the local cat.

When a new family move into the neighbourhood, their chaotic friendliness throws Ove into confusion. From this auspicious development we learn of the bittersweet past which led him to become the person he is.

This gloriously humorous film portrayal (based on an international best-selling novel) offers a salutary reminder : that within every miserable-minded misanthrope, there's a beating heart – and just perhaps, a story to tell.

"A darkly funny, tragic and ultimately heartwarming story about the life of one lonely but extraordinary man" Devan Coggan, Entertainment Weekly

Note: Contains scenes of attempted suicide



Tuesday 27 February 2018 at 7.30pm

Les Cowboys (12A)

France 2015 (UK release 2016) | 1hr 44min | Dir: Thomas Bidegain
Cast: François Damiens, Finnegan Oldfield | Language: French, English & Urdu
with English subtitles | Awards: 2 wins & 8 nominations

What impact does it have on a family when one member goes on an obsessive search for another member? That is the premise of this mystery drama set in eastern France. A young woman disappears and her father, from a family of country & western aficionados and a popular member of his community, devotes his waking hours to tracking her down.

Father and son comb the countryside following all possible leads, their quest taking them through contrasting landscapes and different cultures.

The storyline from director-writer Thomas Bidegain (*Rust and Bone*) is a nod to John Ford's 1956 film *The Searchers*, but has a contemporary hypothesis which hits home, loud and clear.

"Written with passion and interpreted with fervour, this explosive subject, beautifully staged by [director] Thomas Bidegain already resonates like a thunderbolt"
Christine Haas, Paris Match

Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7.30pm
The Black Hen (Kalo Pothi) (12A)

Nepal/France/Germany/Switzerland 2015 (UK Release 2016) | 1hr 30min
Dir: Min Bahadur Bham Cast: Khadka Raj Nepali, Sukra Raj Rokaya, Jit Bahadur Malla | Language: Nepali with English subtitles | Awards: 1 win & 4 nominations

Here, BFS is delighted to be presenting its first programming choice from Nepal and a debut from the film's director.

Two young boys, from different social castes and creeds within their small Nepalese village community, are inseparable friends.

In a spirit of enthusiastic enterprise, they decide to raise a hen (gifted by a sister), with the plan to sell her eggs. But when the eponymous hen goes missing, the boys set out on a journey full of risk, against a backdrop of ongoing civil strife, to discover just what has happened to their precious bird.

"From such a simple beginning, director Min Bahadur Bham is able to portray an entire society in microcosm" Geoffrey Macnab, The Independent

"There's a rough and ready enchantment – a magic of mood and landscape – in this prizewinning Nepalese film" Nigel Andrews, Financial Times





Tuesday 17 April 2018 at 7.30pm

Frantz (12A)

France/Germany 2016 (UK release 2017) | 1hr 54min | Dir: François Ozon | Cast: Pierre Niney, Paula Beer, Ernst Stötzner | Language: French & German with English subtitles
Awards: 3 wins & 19 nominations

In this sumptuously-produced period drama, a mysterious stranger is spotted at the graveside of a young German soldier in the immediate aftermath of World War One. The soldier's grieving fiancée is eager to identify the visitor's connection to her lost love. As a Frenchman appearing in a small German town, the stranger finds himself shunned as the enemy. Yet he has a story to relate.

With unequivocal visual beauty, director François Ozon (*Potiche*, *In the House*) demonstrates his quintessential versatility of style, using lustrous monochrome, interspersed with flashes of colour and complemented by a stylised production, to evoke a past era of elegance and fresh-felt pain. Based on a French play, the beguiling narrative ensures a satisfying unpredictability, right to the end.

"It is every bit as handsome, teasing and therapeutically smart as we've come to expect from the prolific French director" Robbie Collin, The Telegraph

"A fine bilingual cast, haunting period detail and a provocative approach to a twisting story carry the day" Kate Taylor, Globe and Mail

Tuesday 15 May 2018 at 7.30pm

The Other Side of Hope (Toivan tuolla puolen) (12A)

Finland 2017 | 1hr 40min | Dir: Aki Kaurismäki | Cast: Sakari Kuosmanen, Sherwan Haji, Kati Outinen, Tommi Korpela | Lang: Finnish, Arabic and Swedish with English subtitles | Awards: 3 wins & 2 nominations

A Finnish husband walks out on his marriage and embarks on a change of direction, taking over a restaurant with an identity crisis and its resident team of oddball employees.

Meanwhile, a refugee arrives in Finland and while waiting for his asylum application to be processed, must find a way to survive. His priority is to be reunited with his sister, missing since they became separated while escaping from Syria.

Two disparate narratives and diametric moods somehow connect in this tender fusion of poker-faced drollery, topical circumstances and contrasting cultures, from the Finnish master of melancholy wit, Aki Kaurismäki. The result is both a heart-breaker and a side-splitter.

"The film is devilishly funny, economically constructed...Finnish screen writer [Kaurismäki] employs his usual sensitivity" Ryan Gilbey, The Guardian

"It all adds up to a gently loving fable...that home can be wherever you find it"
Nick Jones, Sight & Sound



2017

Tuesday 12 September 7.30pm

The Olive Tree (15)
Quest for a beloved ancient tree

Wed 20 – Sun 24 September
Daytime and evening screenings

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival
BFS Screening to be announced

Tuesday 10 October 8.00pm

Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans (U)
Silent classic with **live music accompaniment**

Tuesday 31 October 7.30pm

The Salesman (12A)
Acting couple's domestic drama

Tuesday 21 November 7.30pm

Sweet Bean (PG)
Old hands bring fresh business

Tuesday 5 December 7.30pm

Lady Macbeth (15)
Dark gothic rebellion in the north-east

2018

Tuesday 9 January 7.30pm

It's Only the End of the World (15)
Family strife up-close and personal

Tuesday 30 January 7.30pm

A Man Called Ove (15)
Curmudgeon rules the neighbourhood

Tuesday 27 February 7.30pm

Les Cowboys (12A)
Pursuit of a missing teenager

Tuesday 27 March 7.30pm

The Black Hen (15)
A special bird flies the coop

Tuesday 17 April 7.30pm

Frantz (12A)
Mysterious interloper, friend or foe?

Tuesday 15 May 7.30pm

The Other Side of Hope (12A)
Droll tragi-comedy from Finland

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

A season pass costs £35 and includes free entry to all films listed, plus discounts at Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 20-24 September 2017. 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 and the website below.

For screening, season pass and film information:
www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk
Email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk
Tel: 07779 663 860

Front cover: *Frantz*
Design: Simprim Studio

Content: Genni Poole
Print: www.martins-the-printers.com