

FILMS 2019 / 20



BERWICK
FILM SOCIETY
PROGRAMME

Hello and welcome to BFS season 2019/20

It's time for another exciting line-up of films from all over the world and we invite you to be part of the BFS audience. Take a browse through these pages to see what's in store!

The big streaming companies are increasingly dominating the scene, encouraging more people to watch films from their sofas via laptops and TV, rather than going out and keeping cinema alive. One consequence is that foreign language films are being whisked in and out of UK cinemas all too briefly. Let's turn this around! The whole sensation of experiencing films from other countries – hearing the language, sensing the tastes and aromas, learning about other cultures and social issues, seeing amazing visual panoramas – together create a stimulating and enriching watch on that all-important big screen, as part of a community audience. Subtitles? It's easy to get used to them – just ask our many regular filmgoers!

So sign up and give it a go: at £38 for 11 films it's really good value – and we've selected the very best. Bar and restaurant facilities are available on our filmnights, providing a special evening of food, drink and movie at our venue, The Maltings.

Whether you become a BFS passholder or buy tickets on the door or online, we'd be delighted to see you soon!

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





10 September 2019 at 7.30pm Everybody Knows (Todos lo saben) (15)

Spain/France/Italy 2018 (UK release 2019) | 2hr 13m | Dir: Asghar Farhadi | Javier Bardem, Penélope Cruz, Ricardo Darín | Language: Spanish, Catalan, with English subtitles | Awards: 4 wins, 31 nominations

In a new departure for Iranian writer/director Asghar Farhadi (*The Salesman, A Separation*), he conceives a European-based mystery drama, collaborating with top-grade hispanic actors Penélope Cruz, Javier Bardem and Ricardo Darín.

Laura (Cruz) travels from Buenos Aires with her two teenage children to a family celebration in the wine-producing region outside Madrid where she was born. A dramatic event interrupts the joyful aftermath, creating fear and tension while revealing half-buried jealousies, long-held resentments and brooding suspicions. Secrets from the past transpire to permeate the present.

Recognisable is Farhadi's focus on tangled family faultlines. Anchored by its illustrious lead actors, the unravelling layers of this classic-styled conundrum unearth much more than the final reveal.

"Farhadi's storytelling has overpowering force" Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

"[This] immensely watchable and thematically complex tale in some ways plays out like a deceptively conventional Agatha Christie-style whodunnit"

Michael O'Sullivan, The Washington Post



Tuesday 15 October 2019 at 7.30pm
Cold War (Zimna wojna) (15)

Poland/France/UK 2018 | 1hr 28m | Dir: Pawel Pawlikowski | Cast: Tomasz Kot, Joanna Kulig, Borys Szyc | Language: Polish, French with English subtitles
Awards: 34 wins and 99 nominations including 3 Oscar nominations

Poland 1949. Composer Wiktor and aspiring singer Zula become lovers, despite their discordant temperaments and diverging ambitions. As Stalinism intensifies, they are led abroad in pursuit of music and the obsession of their *amour fou*, journeying via divided Berlin, Yugoslavia and the jazz clubs of 1950s Paris. Sometimes together but more often apart, they are ultimately drawn back to their native Poland.

Director Pawlikowski, who has previously worked extensively in the UK, dedicates the film to his parents, on whom the two main characters are loosely drawn. While contrasting the sweeping scope of his historical canvas with a taut elliptical narrative, the opulent black and white cinematography and an eclectic musical soundtrack enrich the fabric of this fast-moving and turbulent romance.

"A sweeping tale of passion and politics set in the shadow of the iron curtain"
Mark Kermode, The Observer

"A glorious throwback, rekindling the glory days of New Wave cinema"
Geoffrey Macnab, The Independent

Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 7.30pm

Capernaum (Capharnaüm) (15)

Lebanon/US 2018 (UK release 2019) | 2hr 6m | Dir: Nadine Labaki | Cast: Zain Al Rafeea, Yordanos Shiferaw, Boluwatife Treasure Bankole | Language: Arabic, Amharic with English subtitles | Awards: 29 wins, 36 nominations including Oscar & BAFTA for Best Foreign Language Film 2019

Zain is a feisty, street-savvy youngster who must grow up fast amidst his harsh urban environment. Precariously surviving in a shanty Beirut neighbourhood, his hard-bitten family scrape together a living however they can. After escaping, confronting harsh obstacles, breaking the law and paying the consequences, Zain is driven to take legal action against those he deems ultimately responsible.

This multi-award winning film is an undeniably powerful experience, principally due to the street-cast children, who act with instinctive brilliance. As a reality check and unashamedly furious voice for the voiceless, *Capernaum* is a compassionate tribute to the resilience of the human spirit, a battle cry for the forgotten and discarded, which offers seeds of hope in unexpected places.

"In its unbroken gaze and visionary sweep, [Capernaum] already feels like a landmark"
Robbie Collin, The Telegraph

"Capernaum's odyssey paints [Zain] as a resourceful figure fighting impossible odds rather than the passive child victim..." Kate Stables, Sight and Sound





3 December 2019 at 7.30pm **Woman at War (Kona fer í stríð)** (12A)

Iceland/France/Ukraine 2018 (UK release 2019) | 1hr 41min | Dir: Benedikt Erlingsson | Cast: Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir, Jóhann Sigurðarson, Juan Camillo Roman Estrada | Language: Icelandic with English subtitles | Awards: 24 wins, 13 nominations

From the same director/writer as *Of Horses and Men*, here is a playful take on a serious global and topical issue that has captivated audiences world-wide with its wit and warmth.

We're trekking across the verdant highlands of Iceland for a rebellious adventure in the company of amiable environmental warrior Halla. A Joan of Arc-style activist, she sets off on a solo campaign against the heavy industrial companies threatening her beloved landscape. Jogging along with bow and arrow in her rucksack, she dodges surveillance helicopters, becoming stealthily determined to outwit her pursuers. Meanwhile the government escalates its tactics to discredit Halla and halt her endeavours – before she creates even more havoc.

"...Amid the jet-black comedy, which takes as its catastrophic subject matter the despoliation of planet Earth... [Woman at War] transcends national and cultural boundaries, making this a truly universal treat"

Mark Kermode, The Observer

Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 7.30pm

Yuli: The Carlos Acosta Story (15)

Spain/Cuba/UK/Germany 2018 (UK release 2019) | 1hr 55mins | Dir: Icíar Bollain
Cast: Carlos Acosta, Edilson Manuel Olbera Núñez, Mario Sergio Elías, Santiago Alfonso,
Keyvin Martínez, | Language: Spanish, English, with sub-titles | Awards: 3 wins, 14
nominations

The memoirs of superlative Cuban dancer Carlos Acosta (“Yuli”) form the core of this captivating feature film, written by Paul Laverty (*I Daniel Blake*) and directed by Icíar Bollain (*The Olive Tree, Even the Rain*). Reluctantly obeying his volatile father’s insistence that he train hard throughout his youth and fulfil the potential to be the first black dancer to perform ballet’s most famous roles, Acosta later went on to become Principal Dancer with Cuba’s National Ballet and then with The Royal Ballet, London.

With insight into the conflictive experiences of growing up in Cuba, interwoven with bursts of inspirational dance demonstrating the dynamic talents of the Acosta Danza ensemble today, *Yuli* blends physical creativity, heartfelt filmmaking and a compelling life story into a unique biopic.

“[Yuli] gives clarity and context to the dance, while the dance gives the story texture, a touch of the intangible and a chance to luxuriate in the moment”

Lyndsey Winship, The Guardian

“Heartbreakingly perfect” Kevin Maher, The Times





Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 7.30pm
The Guilty (Den skyldige) (15)

Denmark 2018 | 1hr 25m | Dir: Gustav Möller | Cast: Jakob Cedergren and various voices | Language : Danish with English subtitles | Awards: 30 wins, 33 nominations

Engage your mind and let loose your imagination to picture the events unfolding outside the police station setting of this riveting and unusual drama.

A demoted officer, restricted to desk work and police dispatching, picks up an urgent appeal from an abducted woman. Seeking to redeem himself but confined to the station, he must rely on others to respond as he attempts to coordinate their interventions, using the only tool he has: a telephone.

With a deft screenplay at its core (and a nod to *Locke*, screened by BFS in 2015), the skilful solo acting and astute direction ramp up the tension of this smart Danish thriller in its exploration of control and guilt. The result? Minimal ingredients, maximum impact.

"What a flat-out brilliant film this is...a must-see masterclass in cinematic suspense"
Cath Clarke, The Guardian

"Tautly plotted, precisely paced and grippingly played"
David Parkinson, Empire Magazine

APPLICATION FOR BFS SEASON PASS 2019 / 20 – please complete in block capitals:

£38 FOR 11 FILMS + FILM FESTIVAL INVITE & DISCOUNTS

FORENAME..... SURNAME

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE.....

PHONE EMAIL New to BFS? Tick here

IMPORTANT: Please tick box to confirm your agreement to receive BFS screening information.
We will never pass your details to any third party. Note: Season subscriptions are non-transferable.

I/We enclose a cheque for £____ for Season 2019/20 (£38 per person, payable to Berwick Film Society)

Please mail this form to: **Berwick Film Society 79 Main Street Spittal Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1RD**
Alternatively, pay by bank transfer (email us) or on film nights by cheque or cash.

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



AUDIENCE RESPONSES TO LAST SEASON'S FILMS (2018/19)

	excellent	good	fair	poor	votes	% favourable
A Fantastic Woman	72	82	31	7	192	79%
Custody	97	49	4	2	152	90%
Lost in Paris	71	67	22	7	167	80%
In Between	66	76	24	3	169	80%
Scribe	73	70	44	6	193	77%
The Square	40	66	45	11	162	71%
Faces Places	111	46	5	0	162	91%
In the Fade	110	47	4	0	161	91%
The Rider	77	72	17	6	172	82%
The Wife	133	59	19	7	218	86%
The Eagle Huntress	130	44	10	4	188	90%

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 the current 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 received setting up funding from several sources. To meet current hire and running costs BFS relies on season subscriptions. BFS is a registered charity no.1174531

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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 advice.

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

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

Subscriptions/Website: John Spiers

Stewards: Bob, Chris, Cian, Hilary, Mike, Peter, Ros, Sarah

We need more volunteers for occasional or regular help.
Contact: genni@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk



Tuesday 25 February 2020 at 7.30pm **Styx** (12A)

Germany/Austria 2018 (UK release 2019) | 1hr 34min | Dir: Wolfgang Fischer | Cast: Susanne Wolff, Gedion Oduor Wekesa | Language: German with English sub-titles | Awards: 25 wins, 17 nominations

An overworked emergency doctor takes time out from her demanding job to fulfil a long-held dream to sail single-handedly across 5,000 kms of open Atlantic ocean. A competent helmswoman, she sets off, revelling in the freedom of the high seas. Unexpectedly coming across a desperate situation, she must suddenly make perilous choices which are perhaps the most challenging yet faced, in moral territory she has never before encountered.

With visceral action, sparse dialogue and the natural elements generating a soundtrack, this is a thoroughly absorbing voyage drama which confronts the plight of those peoples facing dire straits as individuals, instead of media statistics.

"It's a vital, highly intelligent movie, that is both a first-class thriller and a biting commentary on our current world" Olly Richards, Time Out

"Powerful, potent cinema" Kevin Maher, The Times



Tuesday 17 March 2020 at 7.30pm
3 Faces (Se rokh) (15)

Iran 2018 (UK release 2019) | 1hr 40min | Dir: Jafar Panahi | Cast: Behnaz Jafari, Jafar Panahi, Marziyeh Rezaei | Language: Persian, Azerbaijani, Turkish with English subtitles | Awards: 4 wins, 6 nominations

Still living under long-term house arrest, banned Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi devises a further probe into his society, this time through a rural mystery. A famous actor abandons her film set, accompanied by the director (played by Panahi) to embark on a search for a young woman who appears to have taken a drastic stand against her family's filial control. In the remote villages of Iran, traditional patriarchal customs appear firmly intact, sometimes playfully observed here, at other times disconcerting. As a quasi-realist allegory, such insight into Iranian traditions in a little-seen region underpins this film's quiet impact.

Championing Iranian New Wave cinema, Panahi's works have received universal critical acclaim. Screening it worldwide represents a stand against those authorities who attempt to prevent its release.

"Part intriguing mystery, part examination of clashing traditional and modern cultures, it once again exhibits [director] Panahi's ability to interrogate Iran's inner divisions without imposing judgements" Raphael Abraham, The Financial Times

Tuesday 31 March 2020 at 7.30pm
Ash is Purest White (Jianghu ernü) (15)

China/France/Japan 2018 (UK release 2019) | 2h 16m | Dir: Jia Zhangke
Cast: Zhao Tao, Liao Fan | Language: Mandarin with English subtitles
Awards: 20 wins, 25 nominations

Rapid social change in modern China gives the setting for this complex story of love and loyalty in the *jianghu* criminal underworld. Qiao enjoys status as girlfriend to Bin, kingpin of a local gangster network in Datong – until a younger generation of mobsters bids for power. The determination of Qiao to survive the ensuing years requires all her ingenuity to adapt to transformations of places and people.

As the action shifts across the regions of China between years 2001-2017, it reveals an epic portrait of social upheaval. At its centre is an astonishing chameleon-like performance by Zhao Tao (wife of director Jia Zhangke) as the indomitable Qiao.

“Ravishing, self-referential film about a woman in love with a mobster”
Giovanni Camia, Sight & Sound

“Engrossing, surprising and affecting, held together by a towering performance from [Zhao Tao]” Ian Freer, Empire Magazine

Note: Contains one scene of violent beatings





Tuesday 28 April 2020 at 7.30pm Happy as Lazzaro (Lazzaro felice) (12A)

Italy/Switzerland/France/Germany 2018 (UK release 2019) | 2hrs 8 min
Dir: Alice Rohrwacher | Cast: Adriano Tardiolo, Agnese Graziani, Luca Chikovani
Language: Italian with English subtitles | Awards: 14 wins, 40 nominations

In a corner of rural Italy seemingly frozen in time, a community of peasant workers on a tobacco estate endure almost feudal conditions. Among them is Lazzaro, a guileless youth with the features of a saint, who uncomplainingly does the bidding of those around him, including spoilt Tancredi, son of the cruel landowner Marchesa. Is Lazzaro simply a naïve underling, or does his innocence prove too good for the world around him?

This enigmatic fable unfolds with a touch of the magical and hints of pagan myth alongside its biblical references. Yet it remains rooted in hard-edged realism about the eternal lot of the dispossessed, while never abandoning an underlying note of wonder and hopefulness.

"Happy as Lazzaro could be a biting social commentary, a religious parable or a beguiling, supernatural tale. Perhaps it is all three"
Alexandra Pollard, The Independent

"One of the freshest films of the year" Jonathan Romney, Film Comment

Tuesday 19 May 2020 at 7.30pm

C'est la vie (Le Sens de la fête) (15)

France 2017 (UK release 2018) | 1hr 55min | Dir: Olivier Nakache, Eric Toledano | Cast: Jean-Pierre Bacri, Gilles Lellouche, Suzanne Clément
Language: French with English subtitles | Awards: 21 nominations

A wedding banquet in a picturesque chateau must be planned and executed to perfection. Enter Max, one drillmaster of a catering organiser with a lot on his plate: his girlfriend is flirting, his staff team is in disarray, the groom is a precious pain in the derrière and the hired singer has his own musical wishlist.

The melting-pot of personalities make this comedy of errors into a delightful watch that is not entirely frivolous. Avoiding the saccharine pitfalls of standard wedding movies, this one breezes along, chaotically indulging us in congenial French wit seasoned with a soupçon of poignancy. Enjoy its winning charm!

"The two directors are more than ever masters of the bitter-sweet comedy in the French style. They prove it again with this little gem of a film, a gallery of portraits both fierce and tender" Fabrice Leclerc, Paris Match

"French comedy with some good laughs" Nigel Andrews, The Financial Times



2019

Tuesday 10 September 7.30pm

Thurs 19 – Sun 22 September
Daytime & evening screenings

Tuesday 15 October 7.30pm

Tuesday 19 November 7.30pm

Tuesday 3 December 7.30pm

2020

Tuesday 14 January 7.30pm

Tuesday 28 January 7.30pm

Tuesday 25 February 7.30pm

Tuesday 17 March 7.30pm

Tuesday 31 March 7.30pm

Tuesday 28 April 7.30pm

Tuesday 19 May 7.30pm

Everybody Knows (15)
Secrets surface at a family celebration

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival
BFS passholder discounts & invitation

Cold War (15)
Music and passion through fractured Europe

Capernaum (15)
Growing up the hard way in Beirut

Woman at War (12A)
Mid-life eco rebel dodges drones

Yuli: The Carlos Acosta Story (15)
From Cuban roots to world class dancer

The Guilty (15)
A police dispatcher hangs on the line

Styx (12A)
Ocean adventure turns into human plight

3 Faces (15)
Journey with a mission through rural Iran

Ash is Purest White (15)
Lives redrawn in a Chinese landscape

Happy as Lazarro (12A)
Timeless fable of Italy's class divide

C'est la vie (15)
Wedding banquet plans descend into maelstrom

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 £38 and includes free entry to all films listed, plus discounts at Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival 19-22 September 2019. Apply by downloading the form from our website, use the cut-out form inside our brochure, or sign up at any BFS filmnight. It's a terrific deal!

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
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