

Berwick Film Society Autumn Programme 2024



Wednesday
11 September 7.30pm
The Taste of Things
 (La Passion de Dodin Bouffant) (12A)

France, Belgium 2023 | 2hrs 15m
 Dir: Anh Hung Tran | Cast: Juliette Binoche, Benoît Magimel | Language: French (subtitled)

Sun-kissed rural France, the 1880s: château-owning gourmet Dodin strives for culinary perfection. Gracing his kitchen for twenty years labours his highly esteemed cook and part-time lover Eugénie (Juliette Binoche), who produces with demure expertise the lavish dishes he formulates. Appreciative, well-to-do friends are indulged, while the pair's enduring relationship gently simmers. A gastronomic voyeur's feast and carnivores' delight... (though a vegan's bad dream).

"There's a serene emotional harmony between Dodin and Eugénie, but also an enduring, intensifying pleasure in each other's company...expressed through food rather than words"

Wendy Ide, The Guardian



Wednesday
25 September 7.30pm
Nezouh (12A)

Syria, UK, France, 2022 | 1hr 43mins
 Dir: Soudade Kaadan | Cast: Hala Zein, Kinda Alloush, Samer al Masri
 Language: Arabic (subtitled)

Even as Damascus is besieged, husband and father Mutaz adamantly refuses to leave the family home for an uncertain future, impervious to the blown walls, an evacuated suburb and the fears of his wife Hala for their safety, especially that of young daughter Zeina. This surprisingly gentle film, with unexpected glimpses of magical realism, suggests that living under fire can include factors other than mortal danger, including patriarchal quandaries, teenage hopes and dreams, shifting gender dynamics; all amidst a precarious family life.

"A tender Syrian drama with hope at its heart"
 Kevin Maher, The Times



Wednesday
16 October 7.30pm
Evil Does Not Exist
 (Aku wa sonzai shinai) (12A)

Japan, Spain 2023 | 1hr 46mins
 Dir: Ryūsuke Hamaguchi | Cast: Hitoshi Omika, Ryō Nishikawa | Language: Japanese (subtitled)

In the woodland hamlet of Harasawa where life is beautifully simple and the pure spring waters sustain the surrounding inhabitants, taciturn widowed father Takumi lives with his young daughter. Two strangers arrive from Tokyo to deliver their company's proposal to create a 'glamping' resort, a project which will directly impact the villagers' way of life. At a heated gathering, city interests and locals' concerns clash and polarize. Can a compromise be found – and with what result? Expect the unexpected.

"An ambiguous, elegantly told story of a lakeside community's resistance"
 Nicolas Rapold, Sight and Sound



Wednesday
30 October 7.30pm
The Teachers' Lounge
 (Das Lehrerzimmer) (12A)

Germany 2023 | 1hr 38mins
 Dir: Ilker Çatak | Cast: Leonie Benesch, Anne-Kathrin Gummich | Language: German, Polish (subtitled)

A dedicated new teacher comes up against a modern school's systems when pupils are suspected of an escalating series of thefts from the teachers' staff room. Professional ostracizing and lack of privacy are two of several contentious issues to surface as the investigation widens amidst defensive parents, sparring pupils and inter-staff allegiances. A superbly-crafted, compelling film. Oscar nominated 2024.

"Eschewing the cosy, reassuring tropes of the typical inspirational teacher movie, this is a far more worthwhile drama about the true grit required to succeed in this toughest of occupations"

Alistair Harkness, The Scotsman



Wednesday
13 November 7.30pm
If Only I Could Hibernate
 (Baavgal Bolohson) (12A)

Mongolia, France, etc. 2023 | 1hr 39m
 Dir: Zoljargal Purevdash | Cast: Battsooj Uurtsaikh, Batzorig Sukhbaatar
 Language: Mongolian (subtitled)

Young physics genius Ulzii could win a scholarship through a national competition. While their mother seeks work in the countryside, he and his younger siblings face a harsh winter alone in their rudimentary yurt edging the Mongolian capital. Torn between his family and the competition, Ulzii risks losing the chance that could eventually lead him out of poverty. Like him, Mongolia is a country striving to find its place in a changing world.

"The film is careful to portray its characters as individuals attempting to break free of economic shackles rather than victims of circumstance"

Nikki Baughan, Screen Daily



Wednesday
27 November 7.30pm
Rose (PG)

Denmark 2022 | 1hr 46mins
 Dir: Niels Arden Oplev | Cast: Sofie Gråbøl, Lene Maria Christensen
 Language: Danish (subtitled)

Accompanied by her sister, Inger (superbly portrayed by Sofie Gråbøl of *The Killing*) embarks on a much-anticipated coach trip to Paris, where she had once fallen in love. When she discloses having a psychiatric condition to fellow travellers, Inger faces both sympathy and prejudice. Inviting us to look beyond a misunderstood disorder and its associated characteristics, this sensitively delivered narrative follows their adventure, with its highs, lows, laugh-out-loud moments and touching connections.

"Though it occasionally flirts with feel-good formula, there's real substance here and a good deal to enjoy"

Jennie Kermode, Eye for Film

JOIN BFS!

Become a member for just £10 at any point in the BFS film Season, January to December. You're then eligible to buy up to two tickets to each filmshow for around *half the normal cinema ticket price* (subject to availability). BFS screens 12 films a year, from January to May and September to November.

Choose the films you want to see for £5 per member's ticket (current price) for that Big Screen Experience. All our films are carefully selected – we'd love you to see them all!

Joining BFS is simple: just follow the instructions on the *Sign Up* page of our website: berwickfilmsociety.co.uk (if you don't have internet access, speak to the BFS team on any filmnight). In return, as well as the great ticket discount, you'll receive our printed brochure twice a year by post (or download it online) and a reminder email before each BFS film.

Book your BFS tickets via The Maltings website, or in person from their box office, or by phone (01289 330999). We recommend booking in advance (tip: collect tickets ahead to avoid queues at the box office on BFS film nights).

Members of the public are also welcome at BFS filmshows, at the venue's normal ticket prices.

ABOUT BERWICK FILM SOCIETY

BFS has been screening independent films since 2006, bringing top quality, international movies to Berwick and its surrounding communities. Our filmshows attract audiences from near and far, made up of BFS members, their film-loving friends, visitors and the public.

This brochure outlines the six carefully curated films chosen for Autumn, forming the second part of the 2024 BFS Season (see dates overleaf). For further details check out our website: berwickfilmsociety.co.uk including how to join, film insight and audience ratings for recent film seasons.

The BFS Team consists of Genni (Coordinator), John (Membership) and Maurice (Treasurer) who give their time and experience to bring quality films to Berwick, ably assisted on film nights by our stewards. The Team share a desire to **keep cinema alive** in the face of film streaming. If this matters to you too, please support films on the Big Screen – come and join us at a real cinema!

BFS filmnights currently take place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in The Maltings main theatre (see dates over). The on-site cafe offers pre-filmshow food & drinks from 6pm to complete your evening (booking recommended).

Now add these dates to your calendar and come spend the evening with us, for that special film experience!

Website: www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk

Email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk

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Content: Genni Poole

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