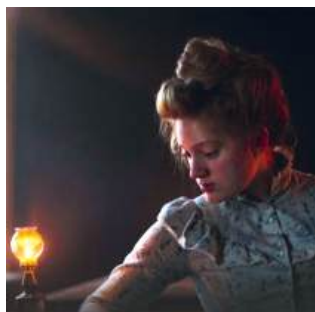


Berwick Film Society: Winter into Spring 2025



Wednesday
22 January at 7.30pm
Rosalie (15)

France, Belgium 2023 | 1hr 55m
Dir: Stéphanie Di Giusto | Cast:
Nadia Tereszkiewicz, Benôit
Magimel | Language: French
(subtitled)

Rural Brittany following the Franco-Prussian war: Rosalie's father agrees to her marrying a debt-laden café proprietor who needs her dowry. She hides a secret, but hopes to be accepted and loved for herself. Inspired by historical case studies, director Di Giusto champions those who refuse to conform to society's beauty norms, shifting the protagonist's attitude to one that challenges those of her beholders.

"The second film by [this] writer-director carries itself with the noble authority of a historical biopic...a message of feminist empowerment that also doubles as an all-purpose paean to society's marginalised misfits"
Guy Lodge, Sight & Sound



Wednesday
26 February at 7.30pm
Heart of an Oak
(Le chêne) (U)

France 2022 | 1hr 20m
Drs: Michel Seydoux, Laurent
Charbonnier
Cast: the animal residents

In a charming ode to life, nature is given space to express itself through the seasons, without commentary. Celebrating a 200 year old oak tree and its creature inhabitants, peaceful beauty abounds as the critter dramas unfold. Taking eighteen months to film, the crew patiently spent several of those on tree lookout. With stunning camera work, razor-sharp editing and a little drone help, this is skilled filmmaking and a joyous escape into the natural world.

"Lush and vibrant cinematography plus a 'cast' of real animals make Heart of an Oak an enthralling celebration of nature"
Katie Smith-Wong, New Scientist



Wednesday
19 March at 7.30pm
Comandante (15)

Italy 2023 | 2hrs 2mins
Dir: Edoardo de Angelis
Cast: Pierfrancesco Favino,
Johannes Wirix | Language: Italian,
Flemish (subtitled)

During the Battle of the Atlantic in WW2, Italian submarine commander Salvatore Todaro, was responsible for the sinking of the Belgian ship Kabalo after it attacked. The ship, though from a neutral country, was carrying parts for the British. As the ship's crew was hurled into the sea, a remarkable event occurred which forced the submarine to risk travelling openly on the sea's surface for three days, making it highly susceptible to enemy forces. This is the fact-based dramatisation of a highly unusual and little-known incident.

"De Angelis offers some muscular film-making, with decent action sequences"
Catherine Bray, The Guardian

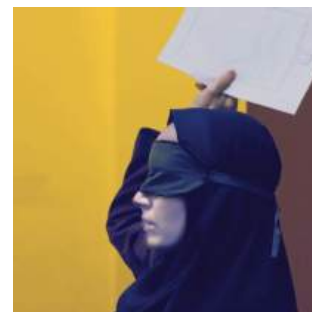


Wednesday
16 April at 7.30pm
All We Imagine as Light (15)

India, France, etc. 2024
1hr 58mins | Dir: Payal Kapadia
Cast: Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha
Language: Malayalam, Hindi,
Marathi (subtitled)

Three women friends navigate their individual social and personal quandaries while working as nurses, living frugally at the edges of the frantically-paced modern metropolis of Mumbai. Largely filmed at night-time, light or darkness is used to emphasise or transform the characters' moods or situations, while a beach town visit away from city pressures provides the space for the friends to formulate and express their desires and for their ideals to manifest unexpectedly.

"...the moving story of the lives of three women as well as a thrumming, lyrical portrait of contemporary Mumbai"
Isabel Stevens, Sight and Sound



Wednesday
30 April at 7.00pm
The Seed of the Sacred Fig (15)

Iran 2024 | 2hrs 48m
Dir: Mohammad Rasoulof
Cast: Missagh Zareh, Setareh Maleki
Language: Farsi (subtitled)

In this taut Farsi-language drama from director Mohammad Rasoulof, a controlling father's appointment as an investigating judge for Iran's revolutionary courts creates schisms between him and family, deepening when government forces clamp down hard on protestors during political unrest. This film was made secretly and smuggled out under threat of government censorship and targeted punishment. Its director escaped from the country just in time.

"...a mesmerisingly gripping and controlled parable-thriller in which the paranoia, misogyny and rage of the Iranian state are mapped seamlessly onto an ordinary family unit"
Robbie Collin, The Telegraph



Wednesday
14 May at 2pm and 7pm
Radical (12)
(NB: at Maltings Berwick Barracks)

Mexico, U.S. 2023 | 2hrs 7m
Dir: Christopher Zalla | Cast:
Eugenio Derbez, Jennifer Trejo
Language: Spanish (subtitled)

A failing primary school in a troubled Mexican border town receives an influx of fresh air in the shape of affable new teacher Sergio Correa. Using unorthodox teaching methods aimed at imbuing pupils with ideas, philosophy and critical thinking – plus a sprinkling of fun – he initially bewilders the kids and confounds colleagues, yet he perseveres. Based on a true story, this film is shamelessly uplifting whilst not bypassing the socio-economic troubles currently confronting many Mexican communities.

"...If it reaches just one struggling student or one burned-out teacher...it could well change the world"
Pat Padua, Washington Post

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 filmnights currently take place on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in The Maltings main theatre (see dates over). The MAY 14th film will be different: there will be TWO screenings on this date in The Maltings Cinema at Berwick Barracks, at 2.00pm and 7.00pm. Booking for both May screenings must be made in advance as seating will be allocated.

This brochure outlines six carefully curated films chosen for the Winter Into Spring half of our 2025 BFS Season. Further films will follow from September to the end of the year. For further details check out our website berwickfilmsociety.co.uk including how to join, film insight and audience ratings for recent BFS film seasons.

BFS has been screening independent films since 2006, bringing the best of international cinema to Berwick. Our audiences travel from near and far, made up of members and the visiting or resident public.

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

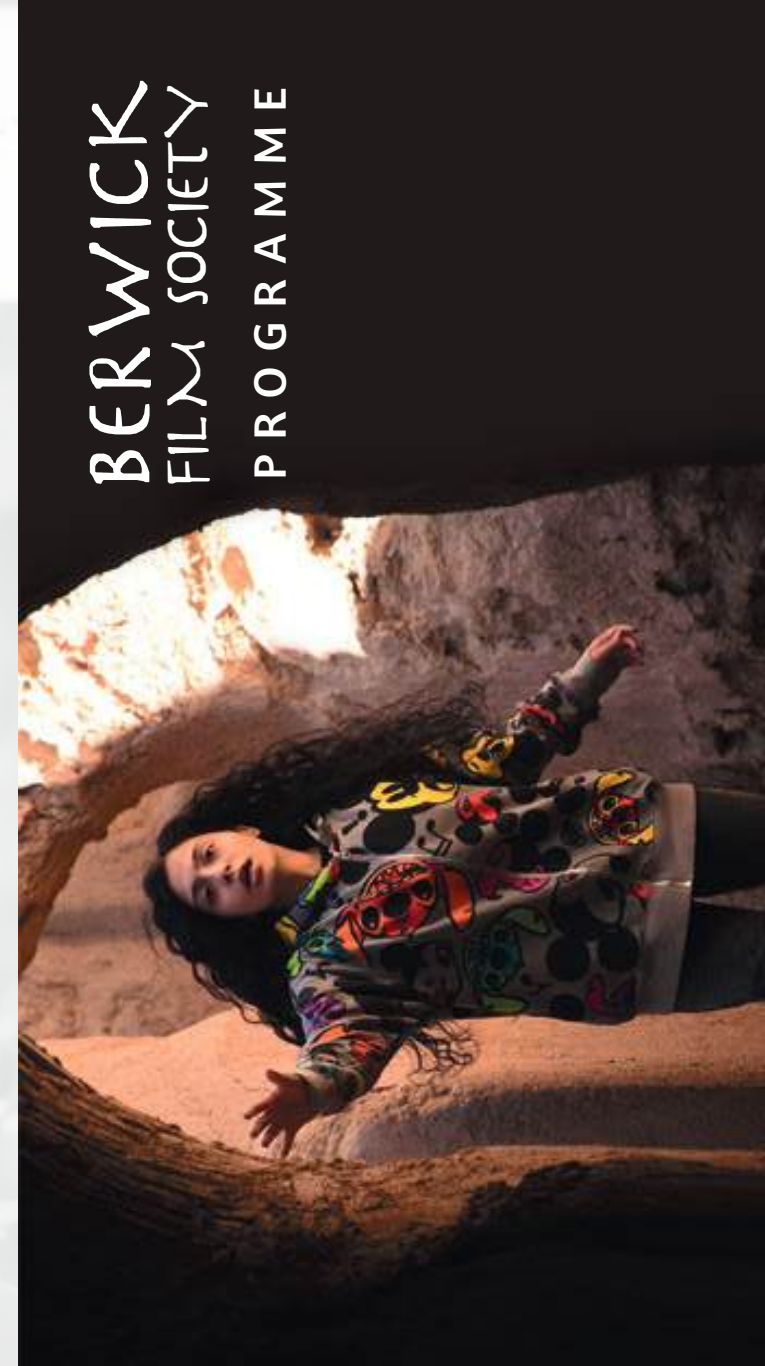
Website: www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk

Email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk

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Content: Genni Poole

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BERWICK
FILM SOCIETY
PROGRAMME



FILMS Jan – May 2025