



2023/24

PROGRAMME

Doors open 7pm
Screenings 7.45pm

The Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, BA4 6HE

Free parking ~ Wheelchair access

Licensed bar ~ Tea & coffee

CINEMA
FOR ALL

Friday 22nd September 2023

WINNERS

Hassan Nazer / 2022 / 85 mins / PG

We open the season with a gentle comedy drama celebrating cinema. In 2017 the director, Asghar Farhadi won an Oscar for *The Salesman* but boycotted the ceremony in protest at Donald Trump's anti-Muslim travel ban so the statuette was brought to Iran by a producer. *Winners* is a charming account of what might have happened to it on arrival. The film is set in a remote Padeh village on the edge of the Kavir desert and features characters such as 9 year old Yahya, his friend Leyla and scrap dealers, Saber and disillusioned Naser (played by Reza Najji, who won a Silver Bear acting award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2008). The film was financed entirely in the UK and filmed on location in the director's home-town of Garmsar with local actors.

BBFC insight: infrequent mild bad language, sex references

Persian with subtitles

Friday 27th October 2023

CAIRO CONSPIRACY

Tarek Saleh / 2022 / 126 mins / 12

This is a superb conspiracy thriller set on a Cairo university campus. When Adam (Tawfeek Barhom), the son of a poor fisherman, receives a scholarship to the prestigious Al-Azhar University – a power centre for Sunni Islam – his family see this as a gift from God. However, Adam's situation sours when the school's Grand Imam dies suddenly. Fearing a hardline replacement, the government tasks cynical secret serviceman Colonel Ibrahim (Fares Fares) with recruiting a spy and Adam finds himself on a steep learning curve, caught in a power struggle between warring institutions. An ambitious, complex and satisfying thriller that boldly satirises the politicisation of religion and official hypocrisy and offers a damning indictment of systemic corruption in the power spheres of Egyptian authority.

BBFC Insight: moderate violence, threat, bloody images, sex references

Arabic with subtitles

Friday 10th November 2023

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN

Martin McDonagh / 2022 / 114 mins / 15

It's the 1920s on a remote island off the west coast of Ireland and every day dairy farmer Pádraic (Colin Farrell) calls on his friend Colm and the pair go for a drink at the pub. But one day Colm (Brendan Gleeson) suddenly puts an end to their lifelong friendship. Devastated, Pádraic refuses to accept the rejection and with help from his sister Siobhán and a troubled young islander, sets out to try to repair the damaged relationship. However, the situation deteriorates and Colm gives him a brutal ultimatum. A multi-award nominated and winning tragi-(very black) comedy with stunning scenery and superb performances from the whole cast.

BBFC Insight: strong language, injury detail, domestic abuse

Friday 8th December 2023

LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM

Pawo Choyning Dorji / 2019 / 109 mins / PG

A young teacher from Bhutan, Ugyen (Sherhab Dorji) is assigned to a remote school high in the mountains. He, however, has ambitions to go to Australia and become a singer. After a week-long trek from his home in the capital Thimphu, Ugyen arrives in Lunana.. There's no phone reception, little electricity and limited resources. But there are a host of enthusiastic, bright-eyed children eager to learn, plus new friends to make - and a number of yaks. Shot in staggeringly beautiful locations the film explores the potential for finding contentment in unexpected places and balances gentle humour with life-affirming drama.

BBFC Insight: infrequent mild bad language

Dzongkha with subtitles

Friday 19th January 2024

THE BLUE CAFTAN

Maryam Touzani / 2022 / 122 mins / 12A

The Blue Caftan is a rich, complex, slow-burn drama. Halim (Saleh Bakri) and Mina (Lubna Azabal) run a caftan shop in the historic Salé medina in Morocco, producing exquisitely finished hand-sewn garments. Married for some time, their union nevertheless contains a secret. When Mina falls ill and a young apprentice arrives, the couple face emotional challenges that threaten to upset the careful calibration of their lives. The film is sensual, thoughtful and intensely moving and the director has an authentic eye for physical and emotional details and the intricacies of individual relationships. Brilliantly acted, it's an overwhelmingly tender character study and an investigation into a country's relationship with tradition and modernity

BBFC Insight: moderate sex

Arabic with subtitles

Friday 16th February 2024

CHEVALIER

Stephen Williams / 2022 / 108 minutes / 12A

A vibrant period drama with a modern edge. Set in pre-revolution 18th century France, *Chevalier* tells the extraordinary but largely unknown true story of Joseph Bologne, the illegitimate son of a French plantation owner and an African slave. Joseph was sent to boarding school in France at a young age and proved to be not only a talented fencer but also a highly accomplished and popular musician. He rose to move within the court of Marie Antoinette but ultimately as unrest develops, draws strength from his roots. Kevin Harrison Jr is charismatic and energetic as Bologne in this lively, entertaining film.

BBFC Insight: racism, moderate violence, threat, sex references, brief strong language

Friday 15th March 2024

IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK

Barry Jenkins / 2018 / 119 mins / 15

Barry Jenkins won an Oscar for *Moonlight* and this is another beautifully shot, sensitive film. Adapted from the novel by James Baldwin ("Every black person born in America was born on Beale Street") and set in 1970s New York, it tells the story of how two young people, Tish and Fonny come together but are torn apart when Fonny (Stephan James) is wrongly charged with rape by a vengeful police officer. Fonny's family blame Tish (played by Kiki Layne) for the situation in which he finds himself but she embraces her pregnancy and sets out to prove her childhood friend and lover innocent of a crime he didn't commit. Beautifully shot and with great performances from the whole cast.

BBFC Insight: infrequent very strong language, strong sex

Friday 12th April 2024

FULL TIME

Éric Gravel / 2021 / 88 mins / 12

We finish the season with a breathless and compelling film about the stresses of modern working life. Frazzled mother of two, Julie is struggling to get by on what she earns as head chambermaid at a top Paris hotel and the sporadic alimony payments from her ex husband. Up at sunrise to get her children ready for school before a long commute, her life is a constant, precarious balancing act in which not one moment can be wasted. Just when Julie thinks her situation might improve, an interview for a better job coincides with a paralysing transport strike and she finds herself in a frenetic race against time. The use of sound and a rhythmic score add to the tension and Laure Calamy is terrific as Julie.

BBFC Insight: infrequent strong language, brief sexual harassment

French with subtitles

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 16th July 2024

MEMBERSHIP RATES 2023/24

PER PERSON - £25

Membership this season gives entry to eight films

GUESTS - £5 per film

14 YEARS AND UNDER - £2 per film

As far as possible please pay by card on the door
(we still accept cheques - payable to *Batcombe Film Society* -
and cash but our preference is for payment by card, thank you)

**For further information or to join, please contact
Ann Biddle 01749 850307 or bidann44@gmail.com**

All films are subject to availability and it may be necessary to alter the programme