

90th SEASON

EDINBURGH
FILM
GUILD

PROGRAMME 2019/2020

The Edinburgh Film Guild, established during 1929-1930, is the oldest continuously running film society in the world.

The Guild is run and managed by volunteers.

The Guild has its own cinema and clubrooms within the Filmhouse building, which are located next to Screen 3.

Our 30-seat cinema has a state-of-the-art digital projector and a 5.1 sound system.

You can enjoy a drink and a chat in the Guild Clubrooms before a Sunday screening.

Between October 2019 and March 2020 the Guild will be showing over 60 films, three a week:

- Sunday afternoon, starting at 4:30pm
- Sunday evening, starting at 7pm
- Friday evening, starting at 8pm

We do not sell tickets for individual films, or for any specific films. Members choose the films that they wish to see within the terms of their membership.

Please note: Our cinema is small, so – while this is not normally an issue – **seating is always subject to availability.**

How to join:

Becoming a member is easy. You must be aged 18 or over, and you can join in person before any of our screenings or online.

Membership:

Full Membership.....£75

(complete 2019/20 season of films)

Basic Membership.....£25

(5 tickets - any 5 films)

Top-Up Membership.....£25

(5 tickets - any 5 films). 'Basic' Membership

can be topped-up until it reaches £75, when it automatically becomes Full Membership.

PROGRAMME 2019/2020

Screening List (in date order):

OCTOBER — NOVEMBER 2019

90th Season Celebration | Silent/Early Sound Era
Dark Corners | Film Noir
Classic Swashbuckling Adventure
Masahiro Shinoda | Japan
The Old Dark House | Gothic Horror

NOVEMBER — DECEMBER 2019

Czech New Wave
Alexander Korda | British Period Drama
Alberto Lattuada | Italy
Heavens Above Comedies
Keith's 'Giallo' Favourites
Surreal Fantasy | Animation
Special Screening: Christmas/AGM

JANUARY — FEBRUARY 2020

Criminal Adaptations | Georges Simenon
Hungary Under Stalinism
Masaki Kobayashi | Japan
Georges Franju | France
European Political Conspiracy

FEBRUARY — MARCH 2020

British Comic Thrillers
Psychological Westerns
Cine de Rumberas | Music, Melodrama and Noir
China | Filmmaking in the 1990s
Alt. Sci-Fi | Time Travel
Paul Verhoeven | Early films

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Bed and Sofa



The Docks of New York



A CELEBRATION

The Edinburgh Film Guild celebrates its 90th season with a selection of classic films from the golden era in which the Guild was founded.

Bed and Sofa

(Tretya Meshchanskaya)

Sunday, 6 October 2019 at 4:30pm

Abram Room | USSR | 1927 | 86 min | silent

A Moscow wife's frustrations with her husband come to a head when he invites an old friend to share their cramped apartment. *Bed and Sofa* portrays the realities of the Moscow working poor as well as contentious subjects such as polygamy and abortion. It is now considered a landmark film because of its humour, naturalism, and its sympathetic portrayal of women. Cast: Lyudmila Semyonova, Vladimir Fogel, Nikolai Batalov

"Few films before or since have come so close to their people and their feelings. Every shot, detail, gesture, glance, reflection draws us deeper into these three likeable, imperfect people and their interaction."
(David Robinson)

The Docks of New York

Sunday, 13 October 2019 at 4:30pm

Josef von Sternberg | USA | 1928 | 75 min | silent

Life changes for a blue-collar worker (George Bancroft) on New York's depressed waterfront, after he saves a woman (Betty Compson) who is attempting suicide. Expressionist set designs, fog-shrouded environs, the striking cinematography of Harold Rosson and sensual performances by Bancroft and Compson make this one of the legendary director's finest works, and one of the most exquisitely crafted films of its era.

The Docks of New York is "probably the last genuinely great silent film made in Hollywood [rivalling] Chaplin's masterpieces of the 1930s." (Charles Silver, *Museum of Modern Art*, New York)

90th SEASON | 1929/1930 – 2019/2020

Piccadilly

Under the Roofs of Paris

The Threepenny Opera

Piccadilly

Sunday, 20 October 2019 at 4:30pm
E.A. Dupont | UK | 1929 | 108 mins | silent

Piccadilly is a sumptuous showbiz melodrama seething with sexual and racial tension. A young Chinese woman (Anna May Wong), working in the kitchen at a London dance club, is given the chance to become the club's main act which soon leads to a plot of betrayal, forbidden love and murder. *Piccadilly* is one of the pinnacles of British silent cinema.

"*Piccadilly*, restored to its original glory, was a genuine revelation to me. It's a bold, beautifully crafted, completely modern picture... One of the truly great films of the silent era." (Martin Scorsese)

Under the Roofs of Paris

(Sous les toits de Paris)
Sunday, 27 October 2019 at 4:30pm
René Clair | France | 1930 | 92 min | French with English subtitles

In this irrepressibly romantic portrait of the crowded tenements of Paris, a street singer (Albert Préjean) and a gangster (Gaston Modot) vie for the love of a beautiful young woman (Pola Illery). This witty exploration of love and human foibles, told primarily through song, captures the flamboyant atmosphere of the city with sophisticated visuals and groundbreaking use of the new technology of film sound.

"The first French "talkie". Clair wisely played his strongest hand in creating this landmark film, finding clever ways to weave musical themes throughout the picture and making strategic use of his limited opportunities to attach dialog and other sound effects to the moving images." (David Blakeslee)

The Threepenny Opera

(Die 3 Groschen-Oper)
Sunday, 3 November 2019 at 4:30pm
G.W. Pabst | Germany | 1931 | 110 min | German with English subtitles

The distinctive melodies of composer Kurt Weill and the theatrical daring of dramatist Bertolt Brecht unite under the direction of German auteur G. W. Pabst in this classic adaptation of a Weimar era cultural landmark. Set in the impoverished slums of Victorian London, *The Threepenny Opera* follows underworld anti-hero Mackie Messer (a.k.a. Mack the Knife) as he tries to woo Polly Peachum and also elude the authorities. With its vivid evocation of corruption and dread, offset by Weill's irresistible score, the film remains a benchmark of early sound cinema.

Dark Corners | Film Noir

Detour

Sunday, 6 October 2019 at 7:00pm

Edgar G. Ulmer | USA | 1945 | 69 min

Chance events trap hitch-hiker Al Roberts (Tom Neal) in a tightening net of film noir trouble. "Stripped of the glamorousness that gives other film noir pictures their appeal, *Detour* presents us with the genre, in its rawest form." (*PopOptiq*)

"Very highly recommended." (*Blu-ray.com*)

The Dark Corner

Sunday, 13 October 2019 at 7:00pm

Henry Hathaway | USA | 1946 | 99 min

Lucille Ball stars in this polished gem of a film noir. "Cunningly plotted and ominously atmospheric, a down-at-heel private eye (Mark Stevens) finds himself accused of a murder he didn't commit. *The Dark Corner* is a deadly thriller laced with style and pitch-black wit." (*DVDBeaver.com*)

Criss Cross

Sunday, 20 October 2019 at 7:00pm

Robert Siodmak | USA | 1948 | 88 min

The driver of an armoured truck and his lovely ex-wife conspire with a gang to have the truck robbed en route.

Cast: Burt Lancaster, Yvonne De Carlo, Dan Duryea

"The real story is about love, betrayal, obsession, and fate, all of the things that make for the best films noir." (*Noir of the Week*)



Detour

CLASSIC SWASHBUCKLING

Adventure

Fanfan la Tulipe

Sunday, 27 October 2019 at 7:00pm

Christian-Jaque | France | 1952 | 99 min | French with English subtitles

Legendary French star Gérard Philipe swashbuckled his way into film history as the peasant soldier Fanfan in Christian-Jaque's devil-may-care romantic action-comedy, set in eighteenth-century France. To avoid a forced marriage to a local lass, Fanfan joins Louis XV's army, but finds himself getting into close scrapes and tight squeezes with Gina Lollobrigida's impostor fortune-teller, Adeline. Brimming over with dazzling stunts and randy innuendo, *Fanfan la Tulipe*, which won the Best Director prize at Cannes, remains one of France's all-time favourite films.

Fanfan la Tulipe



The Horseman on the Roof

The Horseman on the Roof

(Le Hussard sur le toit)

Sunday, 3 November 2019 at 7:00pm

Jean-Paul Rappeneau | France | 1995 | 129 min | French with English subtitles

It is 1832, and Provence is ravaged by cholera. Angelo (Olivier Martinez), a young Italian officer on the run from Austrian secret police, meets Pauline de Theus (Juliette Binoche), a young lady on a mission. Meeting once again by chance, they decide to travel the chaotic country together in search of Pauline's husband.

"It is pure cinema, made of action, beauty, landscape and passion, all played with gusto, and affection." (Roger Ebert)



The Horseman on the Roof

Masahiro Shinoda

(篠田 正浩)



Pale Flower

Pale Flower

(乾いた花 *Kawaita hana*)

Friday, 11 October 2019 at 8:00pm

Masahiro Shinoda | Japan | 1964 | 96 min |
Japanese with English subtitles

In this cool, seductive jewel of the Japanese New Wave, a yakuza (Ryo Ikebe), fresh out of prison, becomes entangled with a beautiful and enigmatic gambling addict (Mariko Kaga); what at first seems a redemptive relationship ends up leading him further down the criminal path. Bewitchingly shot and edited, and laced with a fever-dream-like score by Toru Takemitsu, this gangster romance was a breakthrough for the idiosyncratic Masahiro Shinoda. The pitch-black *Pale Flower* is an unforgettable excursion into the underworld.



Double Suicide

Double Suicide

(心中天網島 *Shinjū: Ten no Amijima*)

Friday, 18 October 2019 at 8:00pm

Masahiro Shinoda | Japan | 1969 | 104 min |
Japanese with English subtitles

Many films have drawn on classic Japanese theatrical forms, but none with such shocking cinematic effect as director Masahiro Shinoda's *Double Suicide*. In this striking adaptation of a Bunraku puppet play (featuring the music of famed composer Toru Takemitsu), a paper merchant sacrifices family, fortune, and ultimately life for his erotic obsession with a prostitute.



The Old Dark House

Friday, 25 October 2019 at 8:00pm
James Whale | USA | 1932 | 72 min

Seeking shelter from a storm, five travellers are in for a bizarre and terrifying night when they stumble upon the Femm family estate. Cast: Boris Karloff, Charles Laughton, Eva Moore, Gloria Stuart, Melvyn Douglas, Raymond Massey

"A letter-perfect template for nearly all haunted house chillers to come – it's also an oddly modernist parade of all things bizarre and dysfunctional!" (*The Terror Trap*)

"A witty, atmospheric chiller with loads of laughs, it doesn't make for a great scare film, but it is one heck of a fun old dark house comedy with solid direction from James Whale (*Bride of Frankenstein*). The 4K restoration looks astounding, a very attractive presentation through and through." (*McBastards Mausoleum*)

The Old Dark House

The Haunting

The Haunting

Friday, 1 November 2019 at 8:00pm
Robert Wise | UK | 1963 | 112 min

"Haven't you noticed how nothing in this house seems to move until you look away and then you just catch something out of the corner of your eye?" A scientist doing research on the paranormal invites two women to a haunted mansion. One of the participants soon appears to be losing her mind. Cast: Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, Richard Johnson, Russ Tamblyn, Fay Compton.

The Haunting was No.1 in Martin Scorsese's list of the Scariest Movies Of All Time.

"This is a classic not-to-be-missed." (*The Terror Trap*)

"*The Haunting* is one of the best paranormal movies ever made, if not THE best." (*Oh, The Horror!*)

Our film for **Hallowe'en**



The Legend of Hell House

Friday, 8 November 2019 at 8:00pm
John Hough | UK | 1973 | 95 min

A physicist, a psychic and the only survivor of a previous visit are sent to the notorious Hell House to prove or disprove survival after death. It's up to the team to survive a full week in isolation, and solve the mystery of the Hell House. Cast: Pamela Franklin, Roddy McDowall, Gayle Hunnicutt.

"It really doesn't matter whether or not things could "possibly" be true in *The Legend of Hell House*. Like any good ghost story, the proof is in the presentation. With nice performances, moody production design and brisk direction, this film...is a lot of fun and has the requisite amount of chills. Recommended." (*Blu-ray.com*)



Black Peter



Black Peter



Black Peter

Black Peter

(Cerný Petr)

Sunday, 10 November 2019 at 4:30pm

Milos Forman | Czechoslovakia | 1964 | 90 min | Czech with English subtitles

An sympathetic look at the alienation of Czech youth, Forman's first fiction feature depicts the miserable title character at his day job and after work when he clashes with his old-fashioned father and pines for a classmate. A major work in the Czech New Wave.

"Simply an irresistibly wry and witty look at life's little pitfalls, full of affection for every last one of the characters." (*Time Out*)

Intimate Lighting

(Intimní osvetlení)

Sunday, 17 November 2019 at 4:30pm

Ivan Passer | Czechoslovakia | 1965 | 74 min | Czech with English subtitles

The story revolves around a countryside reunion between old musician friends. One had left their small hometown to become "successful"; the other stayed behind, teaching music, playing in the local chamber music quartet and even at the occasional funeral.

"In [director] Passer's hands, understatement is a powerful weapon. This delicate comedy proves perhaps the gentlest example of all Czech New Wave cinema – but also one of its genuine masterpieces." (Paul Allen, *Eye For Film*)



Intimate Lighting

Two major works
of the

Czech New Wave

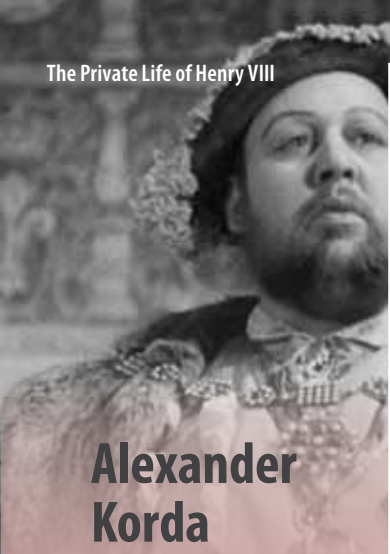
Both films are presented from **new 4K restorations** of the Czech National Film Archive.



Intimate Lighting



Intimate Lighting



The Private Life of Henry VIII

Alexander Korda

Alexander Korda is one of the most important filmmakers in the history of British cinema. Mixing stately period drama with surprising satire, these films are milestones in grand 1930s moviemaking.

The Private Life of Henry VIII

Sunday, 24 November 2019 at 4:30pm
Alexander Korda | UK | 1933 | 96 min

Charles Laughton gulps beer and chomps on mutton, as King Henry VIII, the ultimate anti-husband. Alexander Korda's first major international success is a raucous, entertaining, even poignant, peek into the boudoirs of the infamous king and his six wives. Charles Laughton won the 1933 Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance. The film was also the first British production to be nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture.

The Private Life of Don Juan

Sunday, 1 December 2019 at 4:30pm
Alexander Korda | UK | 1934 | 87 min

Douglas Fairbanks Sr. makes his final big-screen appearance with Korda's deliciously satiric deflation of the Don Juan persona. Having fled Seville by faking his own death, the now ageing lothario returns to find he is totally forgotten. Can Merle Oberon's raven-haired beauty coax him back into business? *Don Juan* was a rare "talkie" for Fairbanks, and an oblique comment on the actor's own persona as the brash Hollywood icon in obvious decline.


Rembrandt

Sunday, 8 December 2019 at 4:30pm
Alexander Korda | UK | 1936 | 85 min

Charles Laughton once again teams up with Korda for this moving, elegantly shot bio-pic about the Dutch painter. Opening at the height of Rembrandt's career, the film traces his tragic descent into loneliness and isolated self-expression, by way of his wife's death, the unveiling of *Night Watch*, and in old age the Church's excommunication of his maid and lover, Hendrickje Stoffels (Elsa Lanchester). Though black and white, *Rembrandt* is shot with an attention to light and shade that is the hallmark of Rembrandt's own work.



The Private Life of Don Juan



Rembrandt

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019 | SUNDAYS, 4:30PM



Alberto Lattuada

The Italian director's most notable films

Lights of Variety (Luci del varietà)

Sunday, 10 November 2019 at 7:00pm

Alberto Lattuada, Federico Fellini | Italy | 1950 | 97 min | Italian with English subtitles

A beautiful but ambitious young woman joins a travelling troupe of third-rate vaudevillians and inadvertently causes jealousy and emotional crises.

Cast includes: Giulietta Masina (*La Strada*).

Lights of Variety features “the onstage and backstage antics of a provincial troupe of lovably inept vaudeville performers. Their hand-to-mouth existence is bathed in a warm glow of compassion. It is through their love for their rumpled characters that [co-directors] Fellini and Lattuada can make us smile and identify with their endless travails.” (Andrew Sarris)

The Overcoat (Il Cappotto)

Sunday, 17 November 2019 at 7:00pm

Alberto Lattuada | Italy | 1952 | 107 min | Italian with English subtitles

A poor city clerk (Renato Rascel) is given the chance to buy a new overcoat, because he overhears some confidential information at work. Not wanting this information to get out, his boss bribes him for his silence. The screenplay is adapted from a short story by Nikolai Gogol.

“Alberto Lattuada is a grossly unappreciated directorial talent.” (Andrew Sarris)

Mafioso

Sunday, 24 November 2019 at 7:00pm

Alberto Lattuada | Italy | 1962 | 102 min | Italian with English subtitles

In Alberto Lattuada's brilliant dark comedy *Mafioso*, auto-factory foreman Nino (Alberto Sordi) takes his modern, sophisticated wife (Norma Bengell) and two blonde daughters from industrial Milan to antiquated, rural Sicily to visit his family and get back in touch with his roots. But Antonio gets more than he bargained for when he discovers some harsh truths about his ancestors — and himself. One of the first Italian films to look frankly at the Mafia, Lattuada's gloriously funny character study is equal parts culture-clash farce and existential nightmare.



Here Comes Mr. Jordan

Here Comes Mr. Jordan

Sunday, 1 December 2019 at 7:00pm
Alexander Hall | USA | 1941 | 94 min

Boxer Joe Pendleton (Robert Montgomery) dies 50 years too soon, due to an error in heaven, but is granted a new life as a millionaire playboy.

“Witty and brilliantly acted, a true Hollywood classic that still has a lot of meaningful things to say about the ways people choose to live their lives.” (*Blu-ray.com*)

Heaven Can Wait

Sunday, 8 December 2019 at 7:00pm
Ernst Lubitsch | USA | 1943 | 112 min

Spoiled playboy Henry van Cleve (Don Ameche) dies and arrives at the entrance to Hell, a final destination he knows he deserves after living a life of profligacy. The devil (Laird Cregar), however, isn't so sure Henry meets Hell's standards. Convinced he is where he belongs, Henry recounts his life's deeds, both good and bad, in the hope that "His Excellency" will arrive at the correct judgment.

“*Heaven Can Wait* is one of Ernst Lubitsch's greatest, most emotionally complex works, and...the film's florid images match the beauty of Samson Raphaelson's script.” (*Slant Magazine*)

(Note: For information on our Sunday, 15 December 'Christmas & AGM' film see page 30)



Heavens Above

Comedies

Keith's Giallo* Favourites

In recognition of the late Keith Hennessey Brown's contribution to the Edinburgh Film Guild



Perversion Story (Una sull'altra)

Friday, 15 November 2019 at 8:00pm

Lucio Fulci | Italy | 1969 | 108 min | Italian with English subtitles

An unscrupulous doctor (Jean Sorel) is accused of murdering his wife (Marisa Mell) as part of an insurance scam, despite her apparent reemergence as a high-class stripper.

"Quite a dark and seductive thriller...done with a 'gotcha' sense of humour." It sells itself as a mainstream thriller, but then ditches the old playbook of these types of films and "has a little bit of sleazy fun. Not only does the experiment work, but now it looks awfully stylish too. The icing on the cake is a chic jazzy score with heavy psychedelic beats." (*Blu-ray.com*)



The Bird with the Crystal Plumage

(L'uccello dalle piume di cristallo)

Friday, 22 November 2019 at 8:00pm

Dario Argento | Italy | 1970 | 98 min | Italian with English subtitles

An American writer (Tony Musante) and his English girlfriend (Suzy Kendall) are stalked by a serial killer terrorizing Rome after the writer witnesses a murder attempt on a woman's life.

"A stylish 1970s slasher which became the benchmark for generations of 'giallo' thrillers. A heady mix of art and artifice, sexuality and psychology, murder and madness." (Mark Kermode)

"*The Bird with the Crystal Plumage* is a startling achievement." (*Blu-ray.com*)



A Lizard in a Woman's Skin

(Una lucertola con la pelle di donna)

Friday, 29 November 2019 at 8:00pm

Lucio Fulci | Italy | 1971 | 104 min | Italian with English subtitles

The increasingly unhinged daughter (Florinda Bolkan) of a British politician is accused of killing her hedonistic neighbour after she witnesses the murder in a dream.

"Widely considered to be Lucio Fulci's most stylish film, *A Lizard in a Woman's Skin* is a feast for the eyes and a true classic of the giallo genre. The film looks lovely in high-definition and one can finally appreciate the brilliance of Ennio Morricone's dreamy soundtrack. Very Highly Recommended." (*Blu-ray.com*)

*The term 'giallo' denotes a visually provocative, often erotically charged, sub-genre of Italian thrillers/horror. The name is derived from the famous yellow-bound crime novels which formed the bases of many of the scripts.

Invention for Destruction

(Vynález zkázy)

Friday, 6 December 2019 at 8:00pm

Karel Zeman | Czechoslovakia | 1958 | 82 min | Czech with English subtitles

A scientist and his aide are abducted by pirates who want to use his newest invention for world domination.

Invention for Destruction is a heartfelt homage and love letter to Jules Verne's wonderful tales of science and adventure. It is daringly inventive – breaking new ground in its combination of live action, animation and design.

Zeman's "finest and most accessible film. An imaginative delight. Once seen, never forgotten." (*Senses of Cinema*)



Invention for Destruction



Alice

Alice

(Neco z Alenky)

Friday, 13 December 2019 at 8:00pm

Jan Švankmajer | Czech Republic | 1988 | 86 min | Czech with English subtitles

A surreal adaptation of Lewis Carroll's classic children's book, Alice (Kristyna Kohoutova) follows her stuffed rabbit through a portal inside her dressing-table to be whisked away to Wonderland.

While the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and Cheshire Cat are still present, the familiar magical world and bizarre characters have undergone an unsettling transformation in the director's vision through the stop-motion animation of dead animals, puppets and other assorted objects.

A "triumph of the creative imagination... like any great surrealist work, it invests the most ordinary household objects with a strange, even shocking sublimity. (Anton Bitel, *Eye For Film*)

[Note: Previously shown in 2015]

Surreal Fantasy | Czech
Masters of Animation

PROGRAMME 2019

OCTOBER 2019

Date	Film	Time
Sun 6 Oct	Bed and Sofa (p.4)	4:30
	Detour (p.6)	7:00
Fri 11 Oct	Pale Flower (p.8)	8:00
Sun 13 Oct	The Docks of New York (p.4)	4:30
	The Dark Corner (p.6)	7:00
Fri 18 Oct	Double Suicide (p.8)	8:00
Sun 20 Oct	Piccadilly (p.4)	4:30
	Criss Cross (p.6)	7:00
Fri 25 Oct	The Old Dark House (p.9)	8:00
Sun 27 Oct	Under the Roofs of Paris (p.5)	4:30
	Fanfan la Tulipe (p.7)	7:00

Hallowe'en Special Screening:

The Haunting

Friday, 1 November 2018 at 8:00pm

See page 9 or 30 for details.

NOVEMBER 2019

Date	Film	Time
Fri 1 Nov	The Haunting (p.9)	8:00
Sun 3 Nov	The Threepenny Opera (p.5)	4:30
	The Horseman on the Roof (p.7)	7:00
Fri 8 Nov	The Legend of Hell House (p.9)	8:00
Sun 10 Nov	Black Peter (p.10)	4:30
	Lights of Variety (p.12)	7:00
Fri 15 Nov	Perversion Story (p.14)	8:00
Sun 17 Nov	Intimate Lighting (p.10)	4.30
	The Overcoat (p.12)	7:00
Fri 22 Nov	The Bird with the Crystal Plumage (p.14)	8:00
Sun 24 Nov	The Private Life of Henry VIII (p.11)	4:30
	Mafioso (p.12)	7:00
Fri 29 Nov	A Lizard in a Woman's Skin (p.14)	8:00

DECEMBER 2019

Date	Film	Time
Sun 1 Dec	The Private Life of Don Juan (p.11)	4:30
	Here Comes Mr. Jordan (p.13)	7:00
Fri 6 Dec	Invention for Destruction (p.15)	8:00
Sun 8 Dec	Rembrandt (p.11)	4:30
	Heaven Can Wait (p.13)	7:00
Fri 13 Dec	Alice (p.15)	8:00
Sun 15 Dec	The Murder of Father Christmas (Christmas Screening & Guild AGM) (p.30)	4:30

Christmas Screening & Guild AGM:

The Murder of Father Christmas

Sunday, 15 December 2019 at 4:30pm

See page 30 for details.

PROGRAMME 2020

JANUARY 2020

Date	Film	Time
Sun	Night at the Crossroads (p.18)	4:30
12 Jan	Angi Vera (p.20)	7:00
Fri	Spotlight on a Murder (p.22)	8:00
17 Jan		
Sun	A Man's Neck (p.18)	4:30
19 Jan	Oh, Bloody Life! (p.20)	7:00
Fri	Judex (p.22)	8:00
24 Jan		
Sun	Panique (p.19)	4:30
26 Jan	The Midas Touch (p.20)	7:00
Fri	Illustrious Corpses (p.23)	8:00
31 Jan		

FEBRUARY 2020

Date	Film	Time
Sun	The Watchmaker of St. Paul (p.19)	4:30
2 Feb	Harakiri (p.21)	7:00
Fri	I Am Afraid (p.23)	8:00
7 Feb		
Sun	The Hatter's Ghost (p.19)	4:30
9 Feb	Samurai Rebellion (p.21)	7:00
Fri	I...For Icarus (p.23)	8:00
14 Feb		
Sun	Otley (p.24)	4:30
16 Feb	Salón México (p.26)	7:00
Fri	The Visitors (p.28)	8:00
21 Feb		
Sun	Gumshoe (p.24)	4:30
23 Feb	Victims of Sin (p.26)	7:00
Fri	Timecrimes (p.28)	8:00
28 Feb		

MARCH 2020

Date	Film	Time
Sun	The Ox-Bow Incident (p.25)	4:30
1 Mar	Black Snow (p.27)	7:00
Fri	Turkish Delight (p.29)	8:00
6 Mar		
Sun	Pursued (p.25)	4:30
8 Mar	The Story of Qiu Ju (p.27)	7:00
Fri	Soldier of Orange (p.29)	8:00
13 Mar		
Sun	The Gunfighter (p.25)	4:30
15 Mar	Not One Less (p.27)	7:00
Fri	The Fourth Man (p.29)	8:00
20 Mar		

Note: Brackets (p.1,2,3 etc) show the page number with details of each film.

Criminal Adaptations



Based on
the crime
stories
of
Georges
Simenon

Night at the Crossroads

(La Nuit du carrefour)

Sunday, 12 January 2020 at 4:30pm

Jean Renoir | France | 1932 | 75 min | French with English subtitles

A gang of thieves utilize a crossroads garage as their hideaway. During their last caper, the gang has accidentally killed a jewel thief. As Inspector Maigret (Pierre Renoir) investigates, the heat is on.

"Moody and surreal...a magically delicious femme-noir. If you like your noir dark, sexy, mysterious and sharply witty, go for it!" (*filmsnoir.net*)

"Renoir builds the atmosphere brilliantly. This film is smart, silly, funny, and exciting in roughly equal measures, using a mysterious murder and its aftermath as a way of closely examining this societal microcosm, pulling apart the seams to observe what's underneath." (*seul-le-cinema.blogspot.com*)



A Man's Neck

(La Tête d'un homme)

Sunday, 19 January 2020 at 4:30pm

Julien Duvivier | France | 1933 | 98 min | French with English subtitles

Willy Ferrière is dead broke and his mistress is costing him a lot. One day, in a pub, he says that he would give 100,000 francs to get rid of his wealthy aunt. An unseen patron of the pub lets him know it's a deal. The aunt is murdered and Ferrière, as her heir, becomes the obvious suspect. But Inspector Maigret (Harry Baur) feels something is wrong.

"A dark and morally complex crime procedural which found [director] Duvivier's stylistic acumen reaching new heights of expressive brilliance." (*Slant Magazine*)



Panique

Sunday, 26 January 2020 at 4:30pm

Julien Duvivier | France | 1946 | 98 min | French with English subtitles

Monsieur Hire (Michel Simon) is a quiet, eccentric and gentle man who is identified as chief suspect by a frightened community after a woman is murdered.

"Panique exposes the dangers of mob mentality, delivering as well a pointed allegory for the behavior of Duvivier's countrymen during the war. [It's filled with] macabre comedy, piercing pathos, and a mad blend of realism and rococo expressionism. This dynamic and balanced film restoration...makes a significant case for *Panique* as one of the most moving and beautiful of unjustly neglected noirs." (*Slant Magazine*)



The Watchmaker of St. Paul

(*L'Horloger de St Paul*)

Sunday, 2 February 2020 at 4:30pm

Bertrand Tavernier | France | 1973 | 105 min | French with English subtitles

Watchmaker Michel Descombes (Philippe Noiret) is a mild-mannered man living alone in the city of Lyon. Michel's quiet life goes into upheaval when he discovers his son Bernard (Sylvain Rougerie) has murdered a local factory foreman. As he works with the detective (Jean Rochefort) on the case, he realises how little he knows about his son's life.

"An extraordinary film – the more so because it attempts to show us the very complicated workings of the human personality, and to do it with grace, some humor and a great deal of style." (Roger Ebert)



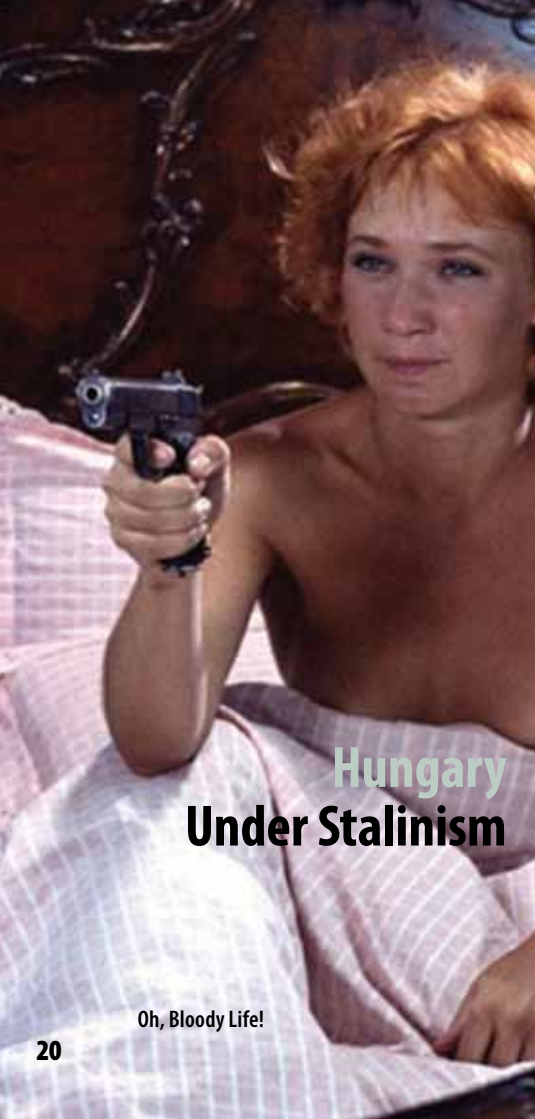
The Hatter's Ghost

(*Les Fantômes du chapelier*)

Sunday, 9 February 2020 at 4:30pm

Claude Chabrol | France | 1982 | 120 min | French with English subtitles

Labbé (Michel Serrault), a hatter in a French provincial town, appears to lead the life of a respectable citizen but is in fact a serial murderer. The only person to suspect this is his neighbour, Kachoudas, an Armenian tailor (Charles Aznavour). The traditional elements of a thriller are kept to a minimum in *The Hatter's Ghost*; instead the film becomes a tragically poignant portrait of a man driven to murder and insanity.



Hungary Under Stalinism

Oh, Bloody Life!

20

Angi Vera

Sunday, 12 January 2020 at 7:00pm

Pál Gábor | Hungary | 1979 | 96 min | Hungarian with English subtitles

Angi Vera (Veronika Papp) is a shy 18-year-old assistant nurse living in postwar Hungary. When she speaks out publicly about problems at her hospital, she's not condemned by the new Stalinist regime – she's earmarked for big things. Sent to a party training school with other "chosen" pupils, Angi Vera becomes a voluntary victim of an authoritarian political system which seeks to undermine her individuality.

"A finely crafted psychological study of an individual in a constraining social context." (*Film Reference*)

Oh, Bloody Life! (Te rongyos élet)

Sunday, 19 January 2020 at 7:00pm

Péter Bacsó | 1984 | 108 min | Hungarian with English subtitles

Budapest, 1951. Lucy (Dorottya Udvaros) is a singer and actress of Jewish aristocratic background who is considered to be a "class enemy" by the repressive Stalinist regime. This government bias threatens to destroy her career before it begins and Lucy is deported to a labour camp farm to be "re-educated."

Péter Bacsó gave "full rein to his anti-Stalinism with black comedies such as *Oh, Bloody Life!*, set in the 1950s and concerning the deportation of "suspicious" Hungarian citizens." (Ronald Bergan, *The Guardian*)

The Midas Touch (Eldorádó)

Sunday, 26 January 2020 at 7:00pm

Géza Bereményi | Hungary | 1988 | 104 min | Hungarian with English subtitles

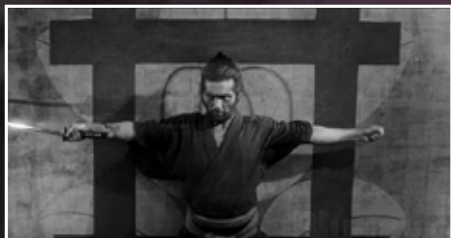
The story takes place in Budapest on the eve of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956. It is largely set in the Teleki Square fleamarket, where Monori (Enikő Eszenyi), a black-market trader, uses his wiles to establish himself as King of the Market. The Stalinization of Hungary does little to alter Monori's way of life. He accumulates an illegal hoard of gold, with which he believes he can buy anything and everything. Award: Best Director (Géza Bereményi) European Film Awards, 1989



Angi Vera



The Midas Touch



Harakiri

(切腹 Seppuku)

Sunday, 2 February 2020 at 7:00pm

Masaki Kobayashi | Japan | 1962 | 135 min |
Japanese with English subtitles

An elder ronin Samurai arrives at a feudal lord's home and requests an honorable place to commit suicide. But when the ronin inquires about a younger Samurai who arrived before him things take an unexpected turn. Cast: Tatsuya Nakadai, Shima Iwashita, Akira Ishihama, Yoshio Inaba.

Award: Special Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival 1963.

"Masaki Kobayashi's direction is often wondrous to behold. Along with his cinematographer, the director infuses *Harakiri* with a sumptuous aesthetic that emphasises space and the geography of the places characters find themselves in." (*PopOptiq*)

"Structured with intricacy and precision, the storyline alternates between present and past, using its extended flashback sequences to delay and then detonate narrative revelations like so many time bombs." (*Slant Magazine*)

"You are in for a very, very special treat. Very Highly Recommended." (*Blu-ray.com*)

Masaki Kobayashi



Samurai Rebellion

(上意討ち 拝領妻始末 Joiuchi—hairyo tsuma shimatsu)

Sunday, 9 February 2020 at 7:00pm

Masaki Kobayashi | Japan | 1967 | 121 min |
Japanese with English subtitles

When the ruling lord forces the son of Samurai Isaburo Sasahara (Toshirô Mifune) and his unwanted mistress (Yoko Tsukasa) into marriage, the two fall in love despite all expectations. However, when the ruler orders his former mistress to rejoin his household two years later, Sasahara must decide whether he is willing to see his son (Gô Katô) and daughter-in-law's marriage torn apart.

"Kobayashi's *Samurai Rebellion* heralded a new generation of "rebel samurai" films, made by directors who came of age artistically in the 1960s and took rebellion to new heights of iconoclasm, violence, and visual flair." (Donald Richie)

"Standing out in both Kobayashi's career and samurai cinema more broadly, *Samurai Rebellion* is a rare treat. It somehow feels specifically situated while simultaneously timeless and universal. The film's commentary on social and political power dynamics still resonates today." (*Senses of Cinema*)

Georges Franju

Spotlight on a Murderer

(Pleins feux sur l'assassin)

Friday, 17 January 2020 at 8:00pm

Georges Franju | 1961 | 92 min | French with English subtitles

An old count hides just before he dies to annoy his heirs. Searching a manor for the count's body, his heirs are killed off one by one. Cast includes: Jean-Louis Trintignant, Dany Saval and Pascale Audret.

"A delightfully playful romp through Agatha Christie territory, whose script is mischievously aware of the hoariest old murder-mystery clichés and gleefully exploits as many of them as possible." (*DVD Beaver*)

"Franju is the real star here, choreographing a fun dance of potential victims while keeping his camera extremely active, kind of like a sleuth looking for clues. Highly recommended." (*Blu-ray.com*)

Franju's film style is "a poignant fantastic realism inherited from surrealism and... science cinema, and influenced by the expressionism of Lang and Murnau."
(Claire Clouzot)

Judex

Friday, 24 January 2020 at 8:00pm

Georges Franju | France | 1963 | 97 min | French with English subtitles

This effortlessly cool crime caper is a marvel of dexterous plotting and visual invention. *Judex* kicks off with the mysterious kidnapping of a corrupt banker by a shadowy crime fighter (Channing Pollock) and transforms into a thrillingly complex web of deceptions. Combining stylish sixties modernism with silent-cinema touches and even a few unexpected sci-fi accents, *Judex* is a delightful bit of pulp fiction and a testament to the art of illusion.

"A dark and often quite cynical but also unusually poetic film that works as a stylish crime drama as well as a surrealistic superhero film. Highly recommended." (*Blu-ray.com*)

Judex

European Political

Conspiracy



Illustrious Corpses

(Cadaveri eccellenti)

Friday, 31 January 2020 at 8:00pm

Francesco Rosi | Italy | 1976 | 127 min | Italian with English subtitles

Inspector Rogas (Lino Ventura) is assigned to investigate the mysterious murders of some Supreme Court judges. During the investigation he discovers a complex plot involving the Italian Communist Party. Awards: David di Donatello Award for Best Film and Best Director (Francesco Rosi).

"Rossi's striking compositions, the pervasive ambience of conspiratorial evil, the deeply cynical finale, and a series of excellent and committed performances, make this an essential 1970's Italian political thriller." (Shaun Anderson, *The Celluloid Highway*)



I Am Afraid

(Io ho paura)

Friday, 7 February 2020 at 8:00pm

Damiano Damiani | Italy | 1977 | 120 min | Italian with English subtitles

After a policeman (Gian Maria Volontè) survives an assassination attempt, he is assigned as a bodyguard to a judge (Erland Josephson). His fears increase when he learns that the upper echelons of police and government are linked to an outbreak of political violence. Music by Riziero – "Riz" – Ortolani.



I... For Icarus

(I... comme Icare)

Friday, 14 February 2020 at 8:00pm

Henri Verneuil | France | 1979 | 129 min | French with English subtitles

Thriller inspired by the conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of JFK. After a fictional president is assassinated, a determined, tough prosecutor (Yves Montand) investigates the emerging conspiracy behind it. Music by Ennio Morricone.

The film was awarded the Grand prix du cinéma français for Best Film in 1979. It received five César Award nominations, including Best Film, Best Actor (Yves Montand), Best Screenplay, Best Music and Best Production Design.

British Comic Thrillers

Otley

Sunday, 16 February 2020 at 4:30pm

Dick Clement | UK | 1968 | 91 min

Gerald Arthur Otley (Tom Courtenay) is a charming scrounger who stumbles unwittingly into espionage, murder and double crossing as he is mistaken for a spy, kidnapped, and becomes romantically embroiled with a sexy foreign agent, played by Romy Schneider.

“Otley is a thief, a rogue, a liar, a scrounger, a seducer of other men’s wives, and he’s no good at any of these things, and not much good at anything else either, not even at being the layabout he so naturally is. But he has no malice in him and he loves life, even as it baffles and overlooks him.” (Pierre Greenfield)

“Adeptly balancing thrills and laughs, this Sixties comic spy thriller...is a stellar addition to the British canon of post-Bond spy flicks.” ([dvdbeaver.com](#))

Gumshoe

Sunday, 23 February 2020 at 4:30pm

Stephen Frears | UK | 1971 | 86 min

Nightclub comedian Eddie Ginley (Albert Finney) realises his love for writer Dashiell Hammett’s detective stories by putting an ad in the paper as a private eye.

“This brilliant feature debut from director Stephen Frears is an affectionate and uniquely British tribute to the Hollywood detective movies of the 1940s. The movie is chock full of direct references to such classics of the genre as *The Thin Man*, *The Maltese Falcon*, and *The Big Sleep*.” ([dvdbeaver.com](#))

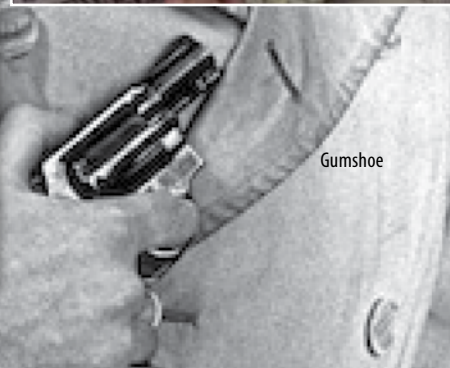
Handled with “affection and great good humor, as well as with the awareness that it’s impossible to make a 1935 American private-eye movie in 1972, especially if one is English.” (Vincent Canby)



Otley



Gumshoe



Gumshoe



Psychological Westerns

The Ox-Bow Incident

Sunday, 1 March 2020 at 4:30pm

William A. Wellman | USA | 1943 | 75 min

Wanderers Gil Carter (Henry Fonda) and Art Croft (Henry Morgan) ride into a small Nevada town plagued by cattle thieves. Initially suspected of being the rustlers themselves, they eventually join a posse out to get the criminals. When the posse closes in on a group that could be the fugitives, they must decide on a course of action, with numerous lives hanging in the balance.

"The Ox-Bow Incident inaugurated a darker look at the American West and a deepening of thematic content dealt with in screen Westerns. Faithfully adapted from Walter Van Tilburg Clark's Western classic, director William A. Wellman and screenwriter Lamar Trotti made an "adult Western" that initially found favor with critics, if not audiences, and eventually came to be recognized as a taut screen masterpiece for its frank, and frankly fearless, portrayal of vigilante justice and the psychology of the mob." (Justin Mory, *ZekeFilm*)

Pursued

Sunday, 8 March 2020 at 4:30pm

Raoul Walsh | USA | 1947 | 102 min

"Haunted by hazy memories of his family's murder, a New Mexico rancher (Robert Mitchum) struggles to confront his traumatic past and unearth the unidentified killers. Anchored by an intricate flashback structure, an atypically tortured and vulnerable performance by Mitchum, and chiaroscuro frontier cinematography by James Wong Howe, this genre-bending noir/western/Oedipal psychodrama is mid-career Walsh at his finest." (Elliott Stein, *Brooklyn Academy of Music*)

"A superb Western film noir, with Mitchum pursued through near-epic landscapes of the mind by the... demons of childhood trauma, and the narrative boldly structured around flashback insights which gradually provide both a key to his identity and the inexorable impetus for a violent catharsis." (*Time Out*)

The Gunfighter

Sunday, 15 March 2020 at 4:30pm

Henry King | USA | 1950 | 85 min

"A superb Western, almost classical in its observance of the unities (clock-watching as obsessively as *High Noon*, it's an altogether tougher, bleaker film), and a ground-breaker in its day with its characterisation of Gregory Peck's notorious gunfighter Jimmy Ringo as a man just about over the hill, haunted by the dead weight of his reputation, the fear of loneliness, the certainty of dying at the hands of some fast-draw punk. Riding into the small town where the wife and child he abandoned are living incognito, he insists on waiting in the saloon in the hope that she will agree to see him. Magnificently directed and shot, flawlessly acted by Peck and a superb cast, governed by an almost Langian sense of fate, it's a film that has the true dimensions of tragedy." (*Time Out*)

Cine de *Rumberas*

MUSIC, MELODRAMA AND NOIR



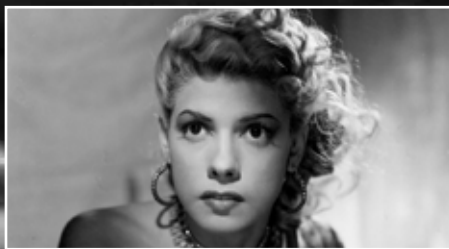
Salón México

Sunday, 16 February 2020 at 7:00pm

Emilio Fernández | Mexico | 1949 | 95 min |
Spanish with English subtitles

Mercedes (Marga Lopez) works at the Salón México cabaret in Mexico City where she “sells her services” in order to send her younger sister to an exclusive boarding school. But an infernal triangle, a violent homme fatal and a sympathetic cop threatens to thwart Mercedes’ selfless sacrifice and destroy her dreams for her sister’s future. *Salón México* is melodrama infused with social realism, strong religiosity and patriotism, but this is also Mexican film noir, and style is everything. Marga Lopez won the Mexican Academy of Film Award for Best Actress.

The *películas de cabareteras* (dance hall films) is a specifically Mexican film genre, involving working-class women forced to earn a living in dance halls and as prostitutes, and their relationships with the men who abuse them. Its main stars were the so-called *rumberas*, dancers of Afro-Caribbean musical rhythms.



Victims of Sin (Victimas del pecado)

Sunday, 23 February 2020 at 7:00pm

Emilio Fernández | Mexico | 1951 | 90 min |
Spanish with English subtitles

A young prostitute, Violeta (Ninón Sevilla), pulls a baby out of a rubbish bin, after a brutal pimp (Rodolfo Acosta) forces the mother to put it there. Thus begins a monumental struggle between Violeta and the pimp, as Gabriel Figueroa’s camera prowls the underbelly of Mexico City. Ninón Sevilla’s wild and erotic Afro-Cuban cabaret numbers betray a determination to rebel against the machismo of the pimp. Cuban superstar Rita Montaner, Mexican singer Pedro Vargas and Mambo King Pérez Prado provide the soundtrack to this grimiest of Mexican film noirs.



CHINA | filmmaking in the 1990s



Black Snow (本命年)

Sunday, 1 March 2020 at 7:00pm

Xie Fei | China | 1990 | 99 min | Mandarin with English subtitles

Xie Fei's film captures the social impact of political change at the time. A semi-literate young man, Li Huiquan (Jiang Wen), deprived of schooling during the Cultural Revolution, is released from a labour camp. He arrives back in his native Beijing to find that he has no family, prospects or friends, just his underworld contacts trying to drag him back into a life of crime. "Urban alienation and despair mark this dark, politically daring story. Director Xie Fei's gritty tone and subject blazed a trail for Sixth Generation filmmakers 'underground' provocations." (*Rotterdam Film Festival*)

Awards: Silver Bear, Berlin International Film Festival 1990; Best Film, Hundred Flowers Awards 1990



The Story of Qiu Ju (秋菊打官司)

Sunday, 8 March 2020 at 7:00pm

Zhang Yimou | China | 1992 | 100 min | Mandarin with English subtitles

In a small town in China, village chief Wang (Lei Laosheng) ends an argument with the peasant Qinglai (Liu Peiqi) by beating him. Incensed, Qinglai's indomitable and heavily pregnant wife, Qiu Ju (Gong Li), demands an apology from the village chief. When this is refused, Qiu Ju embarks on a search for justice. Awards: Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival 1992; Best Film, Hundred Flowers Awards 1993; Best Film, Golden Rooster Awards 1993

"The movie's style and narrative seem inspired by postwar Italian neorealism, which attempted to tell the stories of ordinary people with ordinary problems." (Roger Ebert)



Not One Less (一个都不能少)

Sunday, 15 March 2020 at 7:00pm

Zhang Yimou | China | 1999 | 102 min | Mandarin with English subtitles

In a remote mountain village school, the teacher must leave for a month and the mayor can find only a 13-year old girl (Wei Minzhi) as substitute. The teacher leaves one stick of chalk for each day and promises the girl an extra 10 yuan in pay if there are no fewer students when he returns than when he left. Within days, poverty forces the class troublemaker, Zhang Huike, to leave for the city to find work. Wei Minzhi is determined to bring him back.

Awards: Golden Lion, Venice Film Festival 1999; Best Film, Hundred Flowers Awards 1999

Alt. Sci-Fi

Time Travel



Timecrimes



The Visitors

The Visitors

(Les Visiteurs)

Friday, 21 February 2020 at 8:00pm

Jean-Marie Poiré | France | 1993 | 107 min | French with English subtitles

When a wizard's spell goes awry, 12th-century Gallic knight, Godefroy de Papincourt, Count of Montmirail (Jean Reno), and his dim servant, Jacquouille la Fripouille (Christian Clavier), find themselves transported to 1993. Startled and perplexed by modern technology, Godefroy and Jacquouille run amok.

"The Visitors was a huge hit in France. It is a comedy that relentlessly celebrates its own vulgarity (although is not itself a vulgar film). The film bounces off all of this with considerable comic energy and a great deal of inspired silliness." (*The Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy Film Review*)

Timecrimes

(Los cronocrímenes)

Friday, 28 February 2020 at 8:00pm

Nacho Vigalondo | Spain | 2007 | 92 min | Spanish with English subtitles

Hector (Karra Elejalde), a well-fed husband, is idly scanning the woods near his home when his binoculars snag on an impromptu striptease. Compelled to investigate, he discovers a dead beauty (Bárbara Goenaga) and a lurking attacker. Fleeing to a nearby laboratory, he is hidden in a tank by a nervous scientist (Nacho Vigalondo), and emerges to discover that an hour has passed – backwards.

"Timecrimes makes sci-fi lemonade out of low-budget lemons. Constructing a looping, economical plot and directing like a fire marshal in a flaming building, [Director Vigalondo] conjures urgency and disorientation from the thinnest of air. (*New York Times*)

Director "Vigalondo impressively combines thriller, dark comedy and even slapstick elements without making things feel forced." (*Amber Wilkinson, Eye For Film*)

Paul Verhoeven | Early Films

Turkish Delight (Turks fruit)

Friday, 6 March 2020 at 8:00pm

Paul Verhoeven | Netherlands | 1973 | 108 min | Dutch with English subtitles

A young woman (Monique van de Ven) offers a ride to a hitchhiking sculptor (Rutger Hauer) and embarks upon a difficult romance with him. Award: Golden Calf Award for Best Dutch Film of the Century, Netherlands Film Festival 1999.

"The contrast of emotions, the wild tonal shifts from dark comedy to harrowing violence to warm and sexy love story to tear-jerking tragedy, keep the audience constantly off-balance. It's a stunning film, shocking even more for its raw, messy emotionality than for the copious sex and nudity spread across its frames." (*Only the Cinema*)



Soldier of Orange (Soldaat van Oranje)

Friday, 13 March 2020 at 8:00pm

Paul Verhoeven | Netherlands | 1977 | 149 min | Dutch with English subtitles

The film traces the lives of a group of rowdy friends between 1938 and 1945, from their time at a Dutch university to their entanglement in World War II, as their country is dragged into the conflict by Hitler's invasion.

"A brilliant cast includes Rutger Hauer, Jeroen Krabbé. Not only is the story breathtaking, the music composed by Rogier van Otterloo works perfectly with the film. An excellent film about friendship and the harsh reality of war." (*Taste of Cinema*)

"Although the plot is highly eventful and the tone epic, it is not without elements of Verhoeven's trademark envelope-pushing sex and violence. It also possesses several other great trademark Verhoeven moments." (*DVDBeaver*)

The Fourth Man (De vierde man)

Friday, 20 March 2020 at 8:00pm

Paul Verhoeven | Netherlands | 1983 | 102 min | Dutch with English subtitles

A man (Jeroen Krabbé) who has premonitions of impending danger begins an affair with a woman (Renée Soutendijk) who may lead him to his doom.

"*The 4th Man* starts off like a superb Hitchcock thriller, only to morph into a wonderfully mean-spirited surreal comedy owing as much to Buñuel as to Hitchcock. With its enigmatic blonde seductress, bisexual writer, and aura of upscale depravity, *The 4th Man* in many ways foreshadows *Basic Instinct*. But where that film was essentially a dire B-movie partially redeemed by its abundant style, *The 4th Man* boasts a screenplay that does justice to Verhoeven's warped vision." (Nathan Rabin, *AV Club*)

"*The 4th Man*...feeling of a feature-length hallucination." (Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*)



Special Screenings



Hallowe'en

The Haunting

Friday, 1 November 2019 at 8:00pm

Robert Wise | UK | 1963 | 112 min

"Haven't you noticed how nothing in this house seems to move until you look away and then you just catch something out of the corner of your eye?" A scientist doing research on the paranormal invites two women to a haunted mansion. One of the participants soon appears to be losing her mind. Cast: Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, Richard Johnson, Russ Tamblyn, Fay Compton.

The Haunting was No.1 in Martin Scorsese's list of the Scariest Movies Of All Time.

"This is a classic not-to-be-missed." (*The Terror Trap*)

"*The Haunting* is one of the best paranormal movies ever made, if not THE best." (*Oh, The Horror!*)

Christmas/AGM

The Murder of Father Christmas

(L'Assassinat du Père Noël)

Sunday, 15 December 2019 at 4:30pm

Christian-Jaque | France | 1941 | 104 min | French with English subtitles

As an Alpine village prepares to celebrate Christmas, the centerpiece for the occasion — a valuable ring referred to as St Nicholas — is stolen. The normally close-knit community, already fearful and suspicious following the theft, is also shocked to find that the man who has played the village Père Noël for many years (Harry Baur) appears to have been murdered.

This was the first film released in France during the Nazi Occupation. *Films de France* says that *L'Assassinat du père Noël* is "one of the most blatant examples" of a film containing "an allegorical subtext" — the killing of Father Christmas symbolising "the loss of cherished ideals". By "juxtaposing the innocent realm of childhood fantasy with an adult world mired in fear and corruption [symbolic of Nazi Occupation], Christian-Jaque transforms a whimsical murder mystery into a cogent morality tale."

The film will be followed by the Edinburgh Film Guild AGM and Christmas Party.





“Vive the Guild!”

A bit of history: Philip French on the Edinburgh Film Guild, marking its 75th anniversary in 2004

Before the coming of television, video cassettes, media studies, the art house, the National Film Theatre and its regional equivalents, the principal source of systematic serious film-going was the film society movement. That’s where we saw – often in joyfully masochistic discomfort – new foreign language movies, the canon from the silent and the talking eras. There are few alive today who attended the first British institution of its kind, known simply as the Film Society, launched in London in 1925 to show avant-garde work and films banned by over restrictive censors. Its founding members included Bernard Shaw, H G Wells, Roger Fry and John Maynard Keynes, and it was one of the few occasions when all kinds of artists and intellectuals came together in Britain to celebrate the great new art of the 20th century. This Film Society was already a legendary organisation when my friends and I began to pay serious attention to the cinema in the years following World War II and discovered with something like awe that in 1929 the Society had put on a double bill of John Grierson’s

Drifters and Sergei Eisenstein’s *Battleship Potemkin*, with both directors present. The Film Society closed in April 1939, but a decade before it expired, it had inspired the creation of the **Edinburgh Film Guild**, which to this day shows no sign of dimming the lights. From the Guild came the Edinburgh Film Festival that has run alongside and complemented the Edinburgh International Festival since its inception in 1947.

From the start, the Guild spread its net as those trawlers celebrated in *Drifters*, including classics from the silent period which had just then come to a close, documentaries, foreign movies and works from the international avant-garde. “The old London Film Society” wrote Grierson in 1951, “was the first to break from somewhat exclusive attention to the avant-garde and take the longer and harder way of the Russians and more purposive users of the cinema. But it was the Edinburgh Film Guild which completed the movement – as the London Film Society did not – and saw the infinite variety of a Film Society’s obligations to all categories of the medium”. Having been inspired by London, the Guild did not take its cues from there or look to the English metropolis for leadership. Like the Auld Alliance with France, it looked directly abroad, establishing its own cultural links and exerting its own vision, as has its creation, the Film Festival.

Long before Ingmar Bergman achieved belated fame in London with *The Seventh Seal* and *Wild*

Strawberries, which led to the screening of his earlier films there, his work was well known in Scotland through the percipience of the Guild’s organisers. Among those, I must mention my late friend Forsyth Hardy, co-founder of the Guild and the Festival, who died in 1994. Long-time film critic of *The Scotsman*, biographer of Grierson, author of books on Scandinavian Cinema, Scotland on Film, and a charming history of the Guild and the Film Festival itself, he produced a couple of hundred films for the various Scottish Government Departments. He was also co-editor of the seminal *Cinema Quarterly*, another offshoot of the Guild, published between 1932 and 1935. Hardy was a beacon of common sense, a man of catholic tastes and wide sympathies, but an enemy of cant, pretentious jargon and ideological judgements. Meeting him every August at the Festival was one of the highlights of my cinema-going year. No one, not even Grierson, has made a greater contribution to the Scottish film culture. It is good to find that what he helped to create – the Guild and the Festival – is flourishing and responsive to change.

On this auspicious occasion, I can only resort to the language of the Auld Alliance and say, Vive the Guild!
— Philip French, 2004

Philip French (28 August 1933 – 27 October 2015) was an English film critic who began writing for *The Observer* in 1963, and continued to write criticism regularly there until his retirement in 2013. Upon his death, French was referred to by his *Observer* successor Mark Kermode as “an inspiration to an entire generation of film critics.”

EDINBURGH FILM GUILD

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