

Bridport **FILM** SOCIETY

WORLD CINEMA ON YOUR DOORSTEP

58th Season:

26 September 2023 – 19 March 2024



www.bridportfilmsociety.co.uk
info@bridportfilmsociety.co.uk

Screening at the
Bridport Arts Centre



Welcome to our 58th season

Welcome to the wonderful world of cinema!

Bridport Film Society is a vibrant community that has been celebrating the art of filmmaking for 58 years, providing a platform for movie enthusiasts to come together and immerse themselves in the magic of film. We believe that films have the power to inspire, provoke thought, and transport us to different realms of imagination. Through carefully curated screenings, we aim to foster a sense of discovery and exploration, offering a carefully balanced programme of world and independent cinema that reflects the breadth and depth of the cinematic medium.

In making our selection each season we continually monitor releases, reviews, and cinephile websites to identify films of interest, and welcome recommendations from members and friends. Over a period of six months or so we view, discuss, and argue about scores of films before making a final selection based on a balance of genres, nationality, style, and tone. There comes a point in our selection process when, in order to keep the programme to just 12 films, we have to reject some really excellent films and those are hard decisions to make.

We like to start each section (in September and January) with films that will lighten moods and lift spirits and we hope we have been able to do so again. We will be continuing with the popular short film at the start of each screening and will be looking for more of a mix of sources this year, including films made by local talent.

Our fortnightly screenings are highly sociable and although, with the agreement of our members at the last AGM, we have had to raise the cost of membership a little, we think you'll agree that at just over £3 a film this still offers amazing value for money. The Arts Centre will continue to provide us with a bar at the start of each screening.

For our first screening we have chosen *Lunana: A Yak In The Classroom*, a delightful film from Bhutan. In 2022 it became the first Bhutanese film to get an Oscar nomination for best international feature.



Tristan

The Films 2023

Lunana: A Yak In The Classroom

Pawo Choyning Dorji | Bhutan | 2019 |
1h 49' | Dzongkha with English subtitles



An aspiring singer living in the capital of Bhutan dreams of getting a visa to Australia, but finds himself posted to the world's remotest school. After an arduous 8 day trek he finds no electricity, no textbooks, no blackboard. Though poor, the villagers extend a warm welcome, but he faces the daunting task of teaching the children without any supplies. He wants to quit, but learns of the hardship in the lives of the beautiful children he teaches, and is transformed through the amazing spiritual strength of the villagers. **LW "Altogether irresistible"**. Paul Whittington, Irish Independent.

26 September 2023



Broker

Hirokazu Kore-eda | S Korea | 2022 | 2h 09' |
Korean with English subtitles



In the South Korean city of Busan, a woman leaves her infant outside a church near the "baby box", there to collect abandoned children. It is taken by traffickers to sell on the illegal adoption market. This is the premise of Broker, an unexpectedly sweet film. Kore-eda brings a gentle humanity and playfulness to stories that might otherwise be unbearably grim. His characters find tenderness and camaraderie in harsh circumstances. **TA**

10 October 2023



Cairo Conspiracy

Tarik Saleh | Egypt | 2022 | 2h 01' |
Arabic with English subtitles



A tense political drama exploring the ruthlessness of a corrupt authoritarian state where the politics extends to corruption of the clergy. In the period following Egypt's regime crushing the Arab Spring uprising, the state's secret service is tasked with ensuring the "right" candidate gets elected as spiritual leader of the Islamic faith to keep the dissenting Muslim Brotherhood under control. Naturally the pawns in the game are dispensable. Fascinating stuff. **JD Cannes Film Festival 2022 - Best Screenplay and Journalism awards.**

24 October 2023



The Quiet Girl

Colm Bairread | Ireland | 2022 |
1h 34' | Gaelic with English subtitles



Rural Ireland 1981. Nine-year old Cait is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth. RM

“The Quiet Girl technically lives up to its name but speaks volumes about the transformative power of what it means to be loved.”

Anne T Donahue, Globe and Mail.

7 November 2023



Plan 75

Chie Hayakawa | Japan | 2022 |
1h 53' | Japanese with English subtitles



Chie's dystopian debut about an opt-in euthanasia scheme for the elderly is less an argument about the merits and ills of the practice than a searing interrogation of how capitalism has made it too expensive to grow old with dignity. Her quietly realist treatment makes for haunting viewing. It is precisely the ordinariness of Plan 75's visuals that pricks the viewer's conscience. The film's exploration of life's sacredness, and its tender portrait of elderly relationships, transcend cultural specifics; it's a resonant lesson in humanism. TA

21 November 2023



Love According To Dalva

Emmanuelle Nicot | France/Belgium | 2022 |
1h 27' | French with English subtitles



A brilliant debut film about the care system in Belgium and its handling of a case of child abuse, but told through the eyes of the innocent victim Dalva whose truth is on a different planet from the rest of society. Sensitive told, yet scary when you consider how the power of indoctrination and disinformation can sway a person's belief system: how truth is not absolute, and ethical behaviour is just a belief system. On our planet, at least, it has a happy ending. JD

“Negotiates its disturbing subject matter with delicacy, sensitivity and honesty.”

Wendy Ide, Observer

5 December 2023



Official Competition

Mariano Cohn, and Gastón Duprat | Spain | 2022 |
1h 55' | Spanish with English subtitles



A dark, witty send up of the movie-making industry and those that inhabit it, the film stars Penelope Cruz as eccentric director Lola Cuevas, tasked by billionaire businessman Don Humberto to secure his legacy. Working with a hot literary novel, which she adapts for screen Cuevas recruits two very different actors to play brothers. Rivero (Antonio Banderas) is a global superstar whilst Torres (Oscar Martinez) is a theatre traditionalist who values his craft. Both take an immediate and visceral dislike to each other and the clash of the egos begins. *DS*



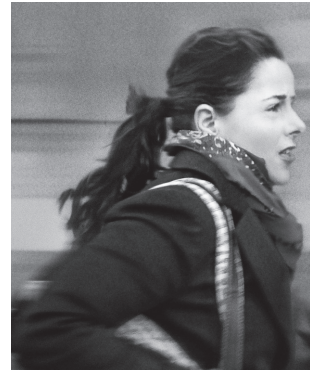
9 January 2024

Full Time

Eric Gravel | France | 2023 |
1h 28' | French with English subtitles



Call My Agent!'s Laure Calamy gives a barnstorming performance as a single mother of two children barely keeping afloat, with debts mounting and unpaid alimony. Her childcare options are running out; her job is stressful; her commute to the centre of Paris, is precision-timed. Just when she thinks there's a chance of a new job opportunity a strike paralyses the entire transport network. Director Gravel uses every tool at his disposal in this propulsive drama matching the nervy, lurching camera with a galloping, tumbling electronic score. *TA*



23 January 2024

The Blue Caftan

Maryam Touzani | Morocco | 2022 |
1h 58' | Arabic with English subtitles



A story about a man, his wife, and the new apprentice, in their traditional caftan store in one of Morocco's oldest medinas. It's about craftsmanship and love, in so many ways. It's about leaning on each other and trusting one another. The story is moving and gives hope and understanding for what they all go through - and cannot control. Terrific acting and wonderful storytelling. *LW*

"It's a gentle piece of Arabic-language storytelling, one that softly, slowly enfolds the audience rather than propels them on a journey."

Wendy Ide, The Observer



6 February 2024

Close

Lukas Dhont | Belgium Netherlands France | 2022 | 1h 45' | Dutch/French with English subtitles



In rural Belgium thirteen-year-olds Leo and Remi are best friends who exhibit a deeply intimate but innocent pre-adolescent affection for one another, but they drift apart after the intimacy of their relationship is questioned by schoolmates. When tragedy strikes, one is forced to confront why he distanced himself from his closest friend. Beautifully shot with astonishingly natural and engaging performances from the two boys (non-professional actors), it is heartbreaking. *TA*

20 February 2024



Alcarras

Carla Simon | Spain | 2022 | 2h 15' | Catalan with English subtitles



Carla Simón's award-winning story of a peach farmer struggling to make ends meet asks many important questions about our relationship with the land and the human cost of progress. Capitalism never looked more brutal than in this new Catalan-language movie about an extended family of fruit farmers in the town of Alcarràs, people whose unhappiness and dysfunction are created by market forces. *RM*

"This is a really shrewd, empathic and subtle movie which engulfs you in its dust and sweat and heat."

Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*.

5 March 2024



Fadia's Tree

Sarah Beddington | Lebanon | 2022 | 1h 22' | English & Arabic with English subtitles



While millions of birds migrate freely in the skies above, a dynamic Palestinian refugee stranded in Lebanon yearns for the ancestral homeland she's denied. She challenges her friend, the film's director, to find the ancient mulberry tree that stands as witness to her family's existence, guided only by inherited memories, a blind man and a two-headed dragon. Spanning 15 years, this story adopts a birds' eye perspective to reflect on freedom of movement, exile and hope of return. *LW*

"It's a film that sets anger ... to one side in favour of a sombre, supportive, emotional portrait."

Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

19 March 2024



Followed by the Annual General Meeting

Join the Society

2023 – 24 Season Membership Annual Subscriptions

Adult £40

Students (over 16 and under 25) £20

- To apply for membership please send a request to bridportfilm@gmail.com. Applications will be accepted on a first-come basis, and you will receive instructions on how to pay online. Membership cards can be collected at the door at your first screening.
- Membership is limited to approximately 210 because of the capacity of the venue and is transferable within a family (provided over age 16).

Guests

Members may request guest tickets by email at £5 each for non-members (students £2).

Details of how to do so are on membership cards.

Please be at the venue by 7.30pm to claim your guest tickets or you may lose them.

Guest requests received after midday on the day of the screening may not be honoured.

Our agreements with film distributors dictate that we may not sell unreserved tickets at the door on the evening of the film.

Non-members must remember to pre-book as guests are accepted on a space-available basis only.

If not pre-booked, you will be turned away.

Film Evenings

Films are screened fortnightly on Tuesday evenings at 7.45pm, beginning on Sept 26th, exclusively for members and guests.

Our venue is the Bridport Arts Centre.

Doors and the bar open at 7pm.

Membership cards must be presented at the door



Get In Touch

For further information, please contact us:

- email bridportfilm@gmail.com
- visit our website at www.bridportfilmsociety.co.uk
- visit our page on facebook



Diary dates for the 58th Season

2023

26 September	<i>Lunana: A Yak In The Classroom</i>
10 October	<i>Broker</i>
24 October	<i>Cairo Conspiracy</i>
7 November	<i>The Quiet Girl</i>
21 November	<i>Plan 75</i>
5 December	<i>Love According To Dalva</i>

2024

9 January	<i>Official Competition</i>
23 January	<i>Full Time</i>
6 February	<i>The Blue Caftan</i>
20 February	<i>Close</i>
5 March	<i>Alcarras</i>
19 March	<i>Fadia's Tree</i>

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For more information, contact us:

facebook: [Bridport Film Society](#)

email: bridportfilm@gmail.com

Or visit our website:

www.bridportfilmsociety.co.uk

Committee

Chris Pike, *Chair*

Julia Borland, *Treasurer*

Rosie Mathisen, *Secretary*

Deb Smith, *Membership*

John Dalton

Tristan Allsop *Selection*

Committee Chair

Laraine Welch

Diana Segal

Brian Kelly



World cinema on your doorstep