

Bridport **FILM** SOCIETY

WORLD CINEMA ON YOUR DOORSTEP

61st Season:

29 September 2026
to 16 March 2027



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

Screening at the
Bridport Arts Centre



Welcome to our 61st season.

I was elected to the committee of the Film Society in March 2026. Therefore, this has been the first time I have had the privilege of assisting with the selection of what the committee hopes will be a well-received season of films and the production of this brochure.

The committee works tirelessly throughout the year to select films from around the world which sit outside the cultural mainstream. Quite simply, you are unlikely to see these films on a big screen elsewhere in the UK - other than the arts centres of major cities. To put our programme together we continually monitor new releases, reviews and cinephile websites. Dozens of films are then screened by the committee and narrowed down to a mere 12 titles. These span the widest possible range of genres and cultures – in order to provide a consistently rich and satisfying six-month long cinematic experience.

Watching films and deciding which are the best ones to screen may sound like a relatively easy task. It is, in fact, a formidable one - shaped by the strong sense of personal dedication of each committee member. There are many films which do not make the final cut – due to the rigorous selection process we follow. We watch the films with objective eyes and sometimes cast aside our own personal preferences. The films we have selected represent some of the finest world cinema out there. We also hope our selections will resonate with you - the members. This process has been assisted, over the years, by the scores and comments you have submitted after each film.

This year we have selected films from countries as diverse as Denmark, France, Palestine, Iraq, Iceland, Greece and Spain. The films reflect the turbulent world we live in and do not always make for comfortable viewing. However, we also believe the films reflect the complexities, frailties and contradictions underpinning human experience. They also stand as a testament to the imagination and creativity of the writers, directors, actors and cinematographers who poured such time, skill and passion into making them.

Our fortnightly screenings are sociable events and at just under £4 a film this represents amazing value for money.

The Arts Centre will continue to provide us with a bar at the start of each screening.

Leon.

The Films 2026

DJ Ahmet

Georgo M. Unkovski | North Macedonia | 2025 | 1h 39' | Turkish, Macedonian and English with English subtitles



DJ Ahmet follows a 15-year-old shepherd from a remote North Macedonian village who discovers electronic dance music as an escape from his strict father, village traditions and first love. The Sundance award winning film, set in a striking rural landscape, is an uplifting coming of age story that is warm, funny and full of energy. *KH*

"An unforgettable ensemble, laugh-out-loud comedy and heartsore drama make writer-director Georgi M. Unkovski's story of a teenage boy defying his traditional community feel like a revelation." Carlos Aguilar, Variety.

29 September 2026



Young Mothers

John-Pierre Dardenne and Luc Dardenne | Belgium | 2025 | 1h 45' | French | Belgian with English subtitles



Originally screened at the Cannes Film Festival, this quasi-documentary drama introduces five new young actresses. Set in Liege, Belgium, in a state-run home for young mothers-to-be and new mothers, each character has experienced a challenging upbringing. They must now strive to learn life and mothering skills in a busy communal environment. A slice of social realism, and moving natural performances, as the young mothers are supported to make life altering decisions regarding whether they can keep their babies or will have them adopted. *IC*

"Empathetic, gritty, and non-judgemental... ...A deeply moving watch," Imdb

13 October 2026



The President's Cake

Hasan Hadi | Iraq | 2025 | 1h 45' | Arabic with English subtitles



In 1990's Iraq Lamia aged nine has been picked from her class to make a cake to celebrate the birthday of Saddam Hussein, the president. People across the country are struggling to survive so the task is an onerous one but Lamia sets off into town with her grandmother and her pet cockerel. Meeting some vivid characters, she uses her wits and imagination to gather the ingredients for the cake, or face the consequences. *DS*

27 October 2026



Hen

10 November 2026

György Pálfi/Hungary | 2025 | 1 h 36' |
Greek with English subtitles



Quirky, engaging odyssey of a hen - chronicling its escape from a battery farm to a seaside restaurant and how it learns to survive against the odds. The muck and mayhem of both animal and human farmyards are depicted here with the chicken observing the complexities and darkness underpinning human behaviour. **LB**

"...an amazing feat of animal training and deft editing, and it's all so weirdly cheering." Leslie Felperin, The Guardian.



Blue Heron

24 November 2026

Sophy Romvari | Canada | 2025 | 1h 31' | English



This semi-autobiographical story explores the impact of mental illness on a Hungarian immigrant family. Set on Vancouver Island in the 1990s and told through the eyes of eight year old Sasha, the story follows the strange behaviour of half-brother Jeremy (Edik Beddoes) which becomes increasingly destructive and dangerous. Mother and Father struggle to cope but little is offered by way of support. In a flash forward we meet adult Sasha (Amy Zimmer) who discovers that present day understanding of Jeremy's problems could have led to different outcomes. **ML**

"Memory is slippery and trauma can create a false impression of what really happened. It's a bold and moving message from a powerful film." Philip de Semlyen, Time Out



Memoir of a Snail

8 December 2026

Adam Elliot | Australia | 2024/1 h 45' | English



The worst possible things that could happen, happen to orphaned twins Gracie and Gilbert but still they carry on with their lives, writing to each other from opposite ends of Australia, motivated solely by the hope of being reunited once more. With the soft-spoken Gracie narrating, it's easy to be lulled into a sense of ease and comfort. The film is as dark and edgy as it is sentimental and hopeful. **LW**

"It's very funny, but it's also extremely poignant and at times, it's heartbreaking." Mark Kermode

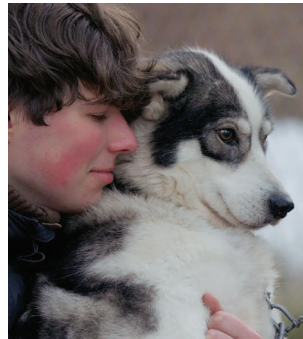


Folktales

Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady | 2025 | Norway |
1h 45' | Norwegian with English subtitles



In this visually stunning documentary, three teenagers head for Pasvik Folk High School, 200 miles above the Arctic Circle where they will spend a year learning dog-sledding, hunting and bushcraft. All have self-doubts. Hege who is grieving for her father tends to overthink things and feels disconnected, Bjørn Tore lacks friends and thinks he's annoying and Romain is socially anxious and struggles with negativity. At the school they face difficult mental and physical challenges which ultimately change their lives and their self-belief. *ML*



5 January 2027

Romeira

Carla Simon | Spain | 2025 | 1h 54' | Spanish and
Catalan with English subtitles



In 2004, Marina, an 18 year old orphan, travels to Vigo to obtain the necessary documentation for her university scholarship application, meeting her long estranged paternal grandparents and many members of her biological father's family. With her mother's diary in hand, what starts as an administrative quest unfolds as a quietly observed, beautifully acted family study as long buried family secrets are revealed. Simon not only excavates her own past in this semi-autobiographical tale but also examines the blind spots in Spanish history. *DS*



19 January 2027

From Ground Zero

Rashid Mashawari | Occupied Palestinian Territory |
2024 | 1h 52' | Arabic with English subtitles



A collection of 22 films from Gaza, showing the destruction of the territory through the eyes of film-makers and civilians. Their struggle to survive continuous bombardment and engage in the creative act depicts courage and hope against the backdrop of one of the worst humanitarian disasters of our age. *LB*

"From Ground Zero" has value beyond its report from Hell in that it shows that, after a catastrophe, art is not only still possible but necessary" Matt Zoller Seitz, Roger Ebert.com



2 February 2027

The Last Viking

Anders Thomas Jensen | Denmark | 2026 |
1h 56' | Danish with English subtitles



A finely acted and wild Nordic black comedy. Full of cartoonish violence and off-beat humour, with a central character who believes he is John Lennon.

A tale of two brothers. One (Anka) is newly released from a long prison sentence and has asked his brother (Manfred) to bury the cash proceeds of his robbery. Manfred has experienced some trauma in his life, so cannot remember where it is buried, and so begins Anka's quest to unlock his brother's memory, and a chance for the brothers to re-connect. IC



16 February 2027

The Stranger

François Ozon | France | 2025 | 2 h 02' |
French with English subtitles



In French Algeria, a young man drifts through life and love with mysterious detachment, and when accused of murdering an Arab man, indifference is his only alibi. François Ozon's fresh take on Albert Camus's classic novel, *L'Étranger*, one of the most widely read stories in France, is beautifully shot in black and white, a classic of existentialism, winning the 2026 Lumière Award for Best Film. KH

The Stranger “passionately honours the original text while bringing a contemporary perspective to its themes of empire and race.” Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian.



2 March 2027

Rebuilding

Max Walker-Silverman | American | 2025 |
1h 36' | English



A gently humanist story of the American West, *Rebuilding* follows Dusty, a reserved, divorced father whose ranch has burned down in a devastating wildfire. Now living in a trailer community on a government-run campsite, Dusty finds solace with his new neighbours who have also lost everything where he begins quietly to reassemble his life. He starts reconnecting with his ex-wife Ruby and young daughter Callie-Rose. Filmed against the backdrop of southern Colorado, *Rebuilding* is a moving portrait of resilience and human connection in the wake of loss. LW



16 March 2027

Followed by the Annual General Meeting

Join the Society

2026 – 27 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).
- Members may bring occasional guests (see below).

Guests

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

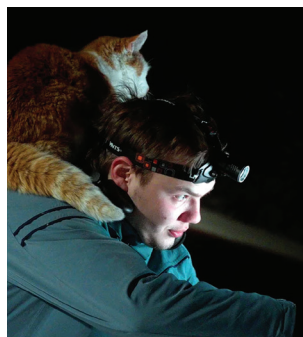
Details of how to do so are on membership cards.

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 and 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 beginning on September 29th, exclusively for members and guests.

Our venue is 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 61st Season

2026

September 29	DJ Ahmet
October 13	Young Mothers
October 27	The President's Cake
November 10	Hen
November 24	Blue Heron
December 8	Memoir of a Snail

2027

January 5	Folk Tales
January 19	Romeira
February 2	From Ground Zero
February 16	The Last Viking
March 2	The Stranger
March 16	Rebuilding

Bridport FILM SOCIETY

For more information, contact us:

facebook: Bridport Film Society

email: bridportfilm@gmail.com

Or visit our website:

www.bridportfilmsociety.co.uk

Committee

Rosie Mathisen, Chair
Julia Borland, Treasurer
Deb Smith, Membership

Film Selection Group

John Dalton
Diana Segal
Laraine Welch
Mandy Lowe
Isabel Chapman
Leon Brown
Keith Hatch



World cinema on your doorstep