

Bridport FILM SOCIETY

WORLD CINEMA ON YOUR DOORSTEP

56th Season:

21 September 2021 –

22 March 2022



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Screening at the
Bridport Arts Centre

Welcome to our 56th season - a year late.

It's good to be back. Following the total cancellation of the 2020-21 plans, and an unwanted curtailment of the previous season, we are delighted to back in business. As ever we are endeavouring to offer film-lovers a carefully balanced programme of world and independent cinema. Many of the films featured here were originally planned for last season but we have continued to monitor releases, reviews, and cinephile websites to identify films that may be of interest and have added some more recent releases. Our films are chosen on a balance of genres, nationality, style, and tone and there always comes a point in our selection process when, in order to keep the programme to just 12 titles, we have to reject some really excellent films. Those are hard decisions to make. We also try to keep to sensible running times. When a film is much longer than 2 hours (but is in our view fully worthy of inclusion) we try to make it clear so you are all aware in advance. We are confident that our selection this year will again delight, inspire and provoke you.

We will be continuing with the popular short film at the start of most screenings and are grateful to the DepicT! Encounters Short Film and Animation Festival (www.depict.org), hosted at Watershed in Bristol, for allowing us to show these.

Our first screening this year is 8th Grade which was originally intended for screening in March 2020 as the last film of that season. So, in fact, there will be 13 films this season. Please note that although most films are shown fortnightly, there is just **one** week between 8th Grade and the start of the new programme. Our fortnightly screenings are highly sociable with a pre-film bar and we think you'll agree that membership (at just under £3 a film) offers amazing value for money.

Please also note that because of Covid distancing requirements the capacity of the Arts Centre has been severely reduced, so instead of our usual 210 we have to limit membership this year to 100. All applications will be handled online through our website and full instructions can be found there. It will be first come, first served and the membership **will** be capped at 100.

We look forward to seeing you again.

Tristan



The Films

8th Grade

21 September 2021

by Bo Burnham | USA | 2018 | 1h 34mins | English



Thirteen-year-old Kayla endures the last week of her, thus far, disastrous 8th grade year. Burnham's feature film debut is a deeply thoughtful observation on the universal truths of the agony, ecstasy and everything in between of growing up. Elsie Fisher is outstanding in the lead role: her smart, observant performance gives the audience instant access to her vulnerabilities, hurt feelings and quiet determination. *TA*

"The real genius of Eighth Grade is its universality - an honesty and compassion that cut across generational boundaries." Mark Kermode.



Foxtrot

28 September 2021

by Samuel Maoz | Israel | 2019 | 1h 54mins | Hebrew & German with English subtitles



Jonathan is doing military service in the middle of nowhere guarding a border post. His parents are informed that their son has died but they are unable to find out details. There was a mix-up, he is alive and the father fights for his return. They encounter cover-ups and impenetrable bureaucracy. Eventually, they get permission for Jonathan to return, but at what cost? *NH*

"Maoz creates a deadpan J'accuse, razor-edged and hugely original. The truth? It is unmissable." Financial Times.



Birds Of Passage

12 October 2021

by Cristina Gallego & Ciro Guerra | Colombia | 2018 | 2h 06mins | Wayuu & Spanish with English subtitles



A sympathetic and restrained story of an ancient way of life, corrupted by the capitalist system. It examines the strength of indigenous cultural norms and taboos under the pressure of temptation and greed; how a functional community is destroyed satiating the demands of a less honourable foreign state. It's about drugs, but not cops and robbers; it's about loyalties betrayed. *JD*

"Really terrific, with the trappings of genre cinema without sacrificing any of the authenticity of the filmmakers." Mark Kermode.



Shooting the Mafia

26 October 2021

by Kim Longinotto | USA | 2019 | 1h 37mins | English



A gripping documentary about 86-year-old photographer Letizia Battaglia. Intercut with stories of her personal life, her stark, sometimes shocking, images of the Mafia and their victims, reveal the true underbelly of Sicily. She bravely exhibited her images in places such as the small, mafia controlled, town of Corleone, thus helping to galvanise public opinion against the mafia in the 1990s.

A remarkable and brave woman. *NH*

“This candid and passionate documentary portrait.” *New Yorker.*



The Perfect Candidate

9 November 2021

by Haifaa al-Mansour | Saudi Arabia | 2021 | 1h 44mins | Arabic with English subtitles & English



Maryam is a young doctor in a Saudi hospital working within a colossal gender divide, whose purpose is to make women inaudible and invisible. Routinely patronised by her male supervisors she, almost accidentally, finds herself running for election to the city council. Despite the community's struggle to accept her as the town's first female candidate, her creative and ambitious campaign becomes a symbol for a larger movement. *TA*

“A candid, often wryly amusing glimpse of life inside the Saudi kingdom.”

Washington Post.



First Cow

23 November 2021

by Kelly Reichardt | USA | 2019 | 2h 02mins | English



A Western with a difference set in a fur trading post in Oregon in the late nineteenth century. Hardly any guns, but a surprisingly tense drama erupts from a little business built on milk stolen from the first cow brought into the territory to satisfy the head man's nostalgia for the niceties of posh English cuisine. A realistic portrayal of survival in the frontier, relationships of settlers with the First Nations tribe and each other. *JD*

“This is a bold, perceptive portrait of early America.” *Independent.*



Proxima

7 December 2021

by Alice Winocour | France & Germany | 2019 | 1h 47mins | French, English, German, Russian with English subtitles



Alice Winocour's *Proxima* is a poignant tribute to a mother's resilience. We follow the lead up to Sarah's first mission – a year-long stint on the International Space Station, as part of final preparations for the first human expedition to Mars. Despite the obvious focal point of the journey, "Proxima" is mostly invested in the minutiae of Sarah's professional path and the painful intersections it has with her family life. *RM*

"The drama ramps up to a satisfying final act and the emotional value of "Proxima" soars high above the fray." IndieWire.

Promising Young Woman

11 January 2022

by Emerald Fennell | USA | 2020 | 1h 54mins | English



Promising Young Woman is Emerald Fennell's provocative tale of a woman reeling from her best friend's sexual assault and subsequent suicide. She spends her evenings in clubs, pretending to be falling-down drunk to entice predatory men, only to wreak revenge by demonstrating her icy sobriety at an appropriate moment. She isn't drunk at all, and the hunter is about to become the hunted. *RM*

"It's sharply and boldly laid out and it's jolting to witness how it refuses to let anyone off the hook." The Hollywood Reporter.

Les Misérables

25 January 2022

by Ladj Ly | France | 2020 | 1h 44mins | French & Bambara with English subtitles



Set in the aftermath of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, the film is based on a real-life occurrence of police violence in 2008. Following characters within the commune of Montfermeil, a theft from a teenager spirals into the threat of a huge crisis. The film's title is a reference to the Victor Hugo novel of the same name, written and partially set in Montfermeil. *TA*

"It is the most incendiary crime film to emerge from French cinema since Mathieu Kassovitz's La Haine." The Times.

The Third Murder

8 February 2022

by Hirokazu Kore-eda | Japan | 2017 | 2h 05mins |
Japanese with English subtitles



Attorney Shigemori takes on the defense of a murder suspect who served jail time for another murder 30 years ago. His chances of winning the case seem low, as his client freely admits his guilt, even though he faces the death penalty if convicted. But as he digs deeper into the case, Shigemori begins to doubt whether his client is actually the murderer. *TA*

"An intriguing investigation into truth and the nature of justice. Those two aren't necessarily in sync." *SF Chronicle*.



There Is No Evil

22 February 2022

by Mohammad Rasoulof | Iran | 2021 | 2h 31mins |
Persian & German with English subtitles



Four gripping stories intricately woven showing life in different settings in contemporary Iran and examining critically a citizen's options under an oppressive regime. Does one comply, rebel or find a way to opt out? And how will that choice affect your life, relationships and conscience? The film was shot secretly in Iran and smuggled out; a masterpiece, but not one the regime there would like. *JD*

"A powerful work of moral courage and urgency." *RogerEbert.com*.



The Divine Order

8 March 2022

by Petra Volpe | Switzerland | 2017 | 1h 37mins |
Swiss German, German, Italian with English subtitles



In 1971, a young housewife organizes the women of her town to petition for the right to vote. Here, in the Swiss countryside, little or nothing is felt of the huge social upheavals in other parts of the world. Nora is a retiring, quiet person, well-liked by everyone - until she begins to campaign publicly and pugnaciously for women's right to vote. *RM*

"Cleverly, the focus here is on small, ordinary lives, women who will never be remembered in the history books" Glenn Kenny, *Roger Ebert*.



2040

22 March 2022

by Damon Gameau | Australia | 2019 | 1h 32mins | English

Exempt

A positive guide to the workable “regenerative” community projects that can help combat climate change. Gameau explores what we can do with the resources available now, imagining the great things that could happen by 2040, when his daughter will be a young woman. Looking at various aspects of our impact on the environment: energy consumption, the food we eat, transport, farming methods, etc, he impartially discusses the choices we have. A film to raise awareness and instigate debate. *NH*



“2040 is a rare climate documentary with an optimistic message.” *New York Times*

Join the Society

2020 – 21 Season Membership Annual Subscriptions

Adult	£35
Students (over 16 and under 25)	£20

- Applications can be made online only at www.bridportfilmsociety.co.uk and are accepted on a first come basis.
- Membership is limited to 100 because of the Covid-reduced capacity of the venue and is transferable within a family (provided over age 16).
- Because capacity is so limited we will not, with apologies, be able to admit guests this season



Film Evenings

Films are screened on Tuesday evenings at 7.45pm, beginning on Sept 21st exclusively for members.

There will be one week between the first and second films, and thereafter fortnightly.

Our venue is the Bridport Arts Centre.

Doors open at 7pm.

Membership cards must be presented at the door



Diary dates for the 56th Season

September 21
September 28
October 12
October 26
November 9
November 23
December 7
January 11
January 25
February 8
February 22
March 8
March 22

8th Grade
Foxtrot
Birds Of Passage
Shooting The Mafia
The Perfect Candidate
First Cow
Proxima
Promising Young Woman
Les Miserables
The Third Murder
There Is No Evil
The Divine Order
2040

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For more information,
contact us:

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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
Ninette Hartley



World cinema on your doorstep