

# HARROGATE FILM SOCIETY



2024 - 2025

SEASON 69

# THE SOCIETY

A very warm welcome to our 69th Season.

We hope you agree it's going to be good one! Our hard-working, creative, volunteer, committee of film enthusiasts have set ourselves the challenge of making it as good as, or even better than last year's season! A tall order indeed, when you consider some of the indicators! The highest ever star ratings, comments which include "The best season ever", "We can't wait for Monday evening to see the next film", "Outstanding choices", "It just keeps getting better and better".

Once again, we have scoured the globe to find some great world cinema and award-winning films that may not have had much screen time in local cinemas.

The cinematic experience provided by the Odeon, together with the warm welcome and professionalism of the Odeon staff, contribute to the high levels of satisfaction.

Thanks to our members who supported us last season, our membership achieved a post-covid record! Thanks also to our "drop ins" who chose to attend only certain films, you all contributed to achieving a viewing experience "like it used to be".

Please come along and be part of a shared viewing and shared community experience. You will receive a very warm welcome and what I believe is the best value night out in Harrogate.

Paula Stott

## WHAT DO WE OFFER?

- Fifteen carefully curated full-length films.
- Four social evenings at the Odeon (wine or soft drink included).
- An opportunity to participate in "Film Club" facilitated discussions (with refreshments) after selected films.
- Reduced entry price for additional selected Harrogate Film Society events.
- Headsets are available for those with hearing difficulties.

# MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone aged 16 and over.

## Full season of 15 films:

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Adults    | £52.50 |
| Under 25s | £30.00 |

## Guests: Pay at the desk before screening or online to beat the queues.

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Adults    | £6 |
| Under 25s | £3 |

# HOW TO JOIN

- Visit our website and pay online: [www.harrogatefilmsociety.org](http://www.harrogatefilmsociety.org)
- Join at a screening using a cheque or credit/debit card – no cash please.
- Pay by bank transfer Harrogate Film Society, sort code 60-12-26, a/c no. 30531950 then email us – [membership.harrogatefilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:membership.harrogatefilmsociety@gmail.com)
- Make a cheque payable to Harrogate Film Society and send to:  
HFS / Julia Dodd – 9 Appleby Court, Knaresborough, HG5 9LU



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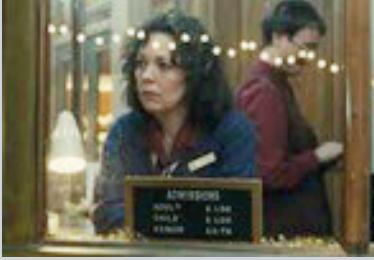
Films are (usually) shown in Screen 2 at the Odeon, East Parade, Harrogate HG15LB. The exception this year is our season opener – Empire of Light (Screen 5).

Parking is free after 6pm but you must display an orange parking ticket - available from the Film Society stall in the foyer.

## EMPIRE OF LIGHT (15)

9th September

Director : Sam Mendes | UK | 2022 | 115 minutes



Directed and written by Sam Mendes, this is a heartfelt, and humane film. It is an engrossing, poignantly observed and beautifully acted drama about love, life and the fragile art of movie-going. But it also doesn't shy away from the brutality and the racism that's happening in the streets outside. Olivia Colman is at her best in the leading role. P.S.

## THERE IS NO EVIL (15)

23rd September

Director : Mohammad Rasoulof | Iran/Germany | 2020 | 151 minutes



In 2020, Rasoulof was sentenced to a year in prison for three of his movies. This anthology, with four dramas related to capital punishment, was one of them. The stories offer variations on the crucial themes of moral strength and the death penalty that ask to what extent individual freedom can be expressed under a despotic regime and its seemingly inescapable threats. Not an easy watch but worth it. J.D.

## THE BLUE CAFTAN (12)

7th October

Director : Maryam Touzani | Morocco/France | 2022 | 122 minutes



A tender film with beautiful performances- about love, in all of its nuances. A tailor and his wife working in a Moroccan medina, struggling to keep up with demand, employ a young apprentice and their three lives become inextricably entwined. When illness challenges them, the characters must evolve and they do so with acceptance, grace and ultimately hope. A sensitive and powerful portrayal of the complexities of the human heart. R.C.

## AMERICAN FICTION (15)

21st October

Director : Cord Jefferson | USA | 2023 | 117 minutes



An intelligent and very funny take on many topical sensitivities relating to race, class and cultural life. A frustrated black academic and highbrow novelist vents his frustration with the American literary world pandering to black stereotypes by writing a satirical work under a pseudonym. However, the joke soon begins to take on a life of its own. Jefferson's directorial debut won numerous awards and received five Oscar nominations. M.S.

## PERFECT DAYS (PG)

4th November

Director : Wim Wenders | Japan | 2023 | 124 minutes



Perfect Days, suggested by a member, charmed our committee with its gentle, life affirming tale of a Japanese cleaner finding the perfect in the simple routine of every day. Legendary German director Wim Wenders's quietly profound movie follows the life of a man satisfied with living in the now and watching Komorebi, the play of sunlight through the leaves. M.H.

## GAGARINE (PG)

18th November

Directors : Fanny Liatard & Jérémy Trouilh | France | 2020 | 98 minutes



This mesmerising debut feature takes on a magical quality as 16-year-old Youri defies both the authorities and gravity in a mission to save his home and the community he loves. Built in 1961, at the dawning of the space age, the Cité Gagarine housing estate on the outskirts of Paris is now in disrepair and threatened with demolition, but our young hero has different ideas! D.I.

## CHINATOWN (15) MEMBERS CHOICE

2nd December

Director : Roman Polanski | USA | 1974 | 130 minutes

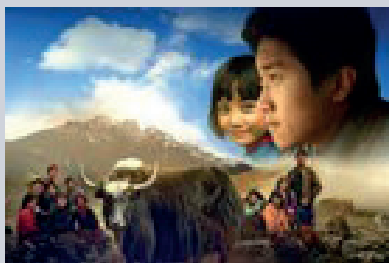


A modern film noir mainly set in a sun-drenched Los Angeles of the 1930s. We follow Jack Nicholson as a private detective piecing together the truth about a complex web of corruption and deceit involving Faye Dunaway. Its themes of power, greed, and moral ambiguity resonate today. The film's single Oscar was for its script but its brilliant performances, directing, design and cinematography mean it's an American classic. M.E.

## LUNANA : A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM (PG)

16th December

Director : Pawo Choyning Dorji | Bhutan/China | 2020 | 110 minutes



Lunana : A Yak in the Classroom was Bhutan's first ever Oscar nominated film and focuses on a young trainee teacher, Ugyen, who aspires to move to Australia but ends up being posted to the remotest school in the world. So begins this charming, gentle culture-clash film which muses on happiness and community values. M.H.

## PAST LIVES (12A)

6th January

Director : Céline Song | South Korea/US | 2023 | 105 minutes



Past Lives follows two childhood friends over the course of 24 years, sharing a common bond, but leading very different lives in different countries and cultures. Universal themes of time passing, and the role of destiny are explored in a delicate and sophisticated manner. This remarkable, poignant film début was nominated for an academy award for best picture. P.S.

## PLAN 75 (15)

20th January

Director : Chie Hayakawa | Japan | 2022 | 113 minutes

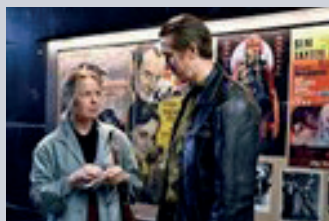


Japan in the not-too-distant future where Euthanasia is legal and encouraged for a rapidly ageing population. This understated, thought-provoking drama follows the fortunes of 3 people, Michi an elderly Japanese resident, Maria a Filipino care worker and Himorou, a Plan 75 salesman. Set in a dystopian future, this debut film is grounded in the very possible here and now. M.H.

## FALLEN LEAVES (12A)

3rd February

Director : Aki Kaurismäki | Finland | 2023 | 81 minutes



You will find yourself rooting for Ansa and Holappa, two lonely souls who must overcome a series of obstacles in their search for love and happiness. Set in modern-day Helsinki, HFS favourite, Aki Kaurismäki, has crafted a delightful film in his own inimitable style that charmed Cannes to win the 2023 Jury Prize. Love will find a way! D.I.

## THE ZONE OF INTEREST (12A)

17th February

Director:Jonathan Glazer | UK/Poland | 2023 | 105 minutes



Rudolf Höss and his family enjoy an idyllic lifestyle apparently oblivious to the horrors of the camp beyond their garden wall. Mrs Höss delights in the spoils of war, whilst her husband and his team discuss the most efficient operation of the gas chambers with cold detachment. Glazer's portrayal of human indifference to the suffering of others is uncomfortable but essential viewing. N.L.



## COPA 71 (PG)

**3rd March**

Directors : James Erskine & Rachel Ramsay | UK | 2023 | 90 minutes



The greatest story never told! Erased from history by FIFA for over 50 years, now you can see the incredible story of the first Women's Football World Cup in all its glory on the big screen! The players recount their experiences alongside amazing highlights from the matches. Their legacy is the current success and upward trajectory of the Women's game. You won't forget the story of the Women of '71! Ninety minutes of pure drama! D.I.

## ANATOMY OF A FALL (15)

**17th March**

Director : Justine Triet | France | 2023 | 151minutes



When her husband Samuel is mysteriously found dead in the snow below their secluded chalet, Sandra becomes the main suspect when the police begin to question whether he fell or was pushed. The trial soon becomes a psychological journey into the depths of Sandra and Samuel's complicated marriage. Winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 2023.D.I.

## WILD MEN (15)

**31st March**

Director : Thomas Daneskov | Denmark | 2021 | 104 minutes



A mid-life crisis can manifest itself in many ways. Martin, a Danish office worker, feels the urge to escape his home and family and live as a hunter gatherer in the Norwegian mountains. There, he meets a petty criminal and is pursued by his wife and children, their rabbit, a world-weary detective, and drug smugglers. By turns funny, heartwarming, and occasionally violent, the film takes its characters and their emotions seriously, supported by a wonderful cast and set in gorgeous scenery. M.E.

## SCREEN DATES 2024 – 2025

**Screenings are on Mondays at 7.30 p.m. unless stated otherwise.**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 9th September  | <b>* EMPIRE OF LIGHT</b> (UK)                                  |
| 23rd September | <b>** THERE IS NO EVIL</b> (Iran/Germany)                      |
| 7th October    | <b>THE BLUE CAFTAN</b> (Morocco/France)                        |
| 21st October   | <b>AMERICAN FICTION</b> (USA)                                  |
| 4th November   | <b>PERFECT DAYS</b> (Japan/Germany)                            |
| 18th November  | <b>GAGARINE</b> (France)                                       |
| 2nd December   | <b>CHINATOWN</b> - 50th Anniversary<br>- Members' Choice (USA) |
| 16th December  | <b>* LUNANA : A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM</b><br>(Bhutan/China)     |
| 6th January    | <b>* PAST LIVES</b> (S. Korea)                                 |
| 20th January   | <b>PLAN 75</b> (Japan)   |
| 3rd February   | <b>FALLEN LEAVES</b> (Finland)                                 |
| 17th February  | <b>THE ZONE OF INTEREST</b> (UK/Poland)                        |
| 3rd March      | <b>COPA 71</b> (UK)  |
| 17th March     | <b>**ANATOMY OF A FALL</b> (France)                            |
| 31st March     | <b>* WILD MEN</b> (Denmark)                                    |

**\* Social with wine/soft drinks at the Odeon, from 6.45 p.m.**

**\*\* N.B. Film screened at 7.15 pm**

- Film Club discussion after certain films – to be arranged
- English subtitles for foreign language films

**[www.harrogatefilmsociety.org](http://www.harrogatefilmsociety.org)**

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