

FILMS 2008/09



**BERWICK
FILM SOCIETY
PROGRAMME**

Welcome!

Now into its third season of films, Berwick Film Society is delighted to bring local film-lovers and visitors a chance to see the recent best of World and European Cinema on the big screen.

Whether the backdrop is colourful India, majestic Iraqi Kurdistan, or the snowbound Midwest, a cornucopia of eclectic characters, intriguing storylines and breathtaking cinematography await our audiences.

All of these, coupled with the grand venue of the Town Hall, Marygate in central Berwick and a warm welcome from us (not to mention a pre-film glass or two of wine in exchange for a modest donation) make for a great evening out.

For the best deal, join as a member – or if you can't, then pay at the door on the night as a guest. Either way, it's good value. So, send us back the cut-out membership form (page 7), stick the Filmshow dates on your calendar and bring yourselves along – we'll do the rest!

Looking forward to seeing you there to experience again the sheer magic of film.

Genni, Maurice, Claire and John, The Berwick Film Society Team



Wednesday 24th September 2008 at 7.30pm

The Counterfeiters (Die Fälscher) (15)

Austria/Germany 2007 | 1hr 39min.

Dir: Stefan Ruzowitzky | Cast: Karl Markovics, August Diehl

Language: German, English subtitles | Type: Wartime drama

Awards: Oscar 2008, Best Foreign Language Film

+ 1 other win, 7 nominations

The engrossing and powerful true story of history's biggest forgery operation set up by the Nazis. A renowned expert counterfeiter, imprisoned during WWII and forced to fake foreign currency by the German command, faces the moral dilemma: to cooperate and survive but bolster the Nazi regime or refuse, risking certain death? A must-see start to our new Season.

"A sharp and compelling war drama that delivers on the promise of its astonishing true-life origins" Dan Jolin, Empire Film Magazine

Wednesday 8th October 2008 at 7.30pm

Amnesty International Fundraiser: Why We Fight (PG)

USA 2004 (UK release 2008) | 1hr 38min.

Dir: Eugene Jarecki | Language: English | Type: documentary

Awards: Sundance Grand Jury Prize 2005 + 3 other wins, 2 nominations

Surveying the scorched landscape of half a century's military activities, Jarecki's shrewd, balanced and intelligent polemic, inspired by Eisenhower's legendary farewell speech, leaves us to both question and answer, without lecturing. Don't be put off by "documentary": this is a moving and important piece of recent film-making.

"Whip-smart and thought-provoking" Kate Stables, Sight and Sound

NOTE: This joint presentation is extra to our programme. All entries £4 on the door. Proceeds donated to an orphanage high school on the Burma/Thai border at Mae Sot where Burmese children lost their parents through military activity by the Burmese authorities.

Wednesday 29th October 2008 at 7.30pm

The Orphanage (El Orfanato) (15)

Mexico/Spain 2007 (UK release 2008) | 1hr 40min.

Dir: Juan Antonio Bayona | Cast: Belén Rueda, Geraldine Chaplin, Fernando Cayo | Language: Spanish, English subtitles

Type: Ghost drama/thriller | Awards: 25 wins, 27 nominations

Prepare to leap out of your seats! This classic and classy supernatural thriller has all the essential ingredients and more. Hugely atmospheric and pulsing with style, convincing acting and skilled cinematography, the master hand of executive producer Guillermo de Toro ("*Pan's Labyrinth*") is very much in evidence. Come experience it, we dare you!

"...encourages the viewer to negotiate between the realistic and the fantastic in probing the film's shadows."

Maria Delgado, Sight and Sound

"Stabs of pure Hitchcock recur throughout"

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian



Wednesday 19th November 2008 at 7.30pm

Lars and the Real Girl (15)

USA 2007 (UK release 2008) | 1hr 46min.

Dir: Craig Gillespie | Cast: Ryan Gosling,
Patricia Clarkson, Emily Mortimer

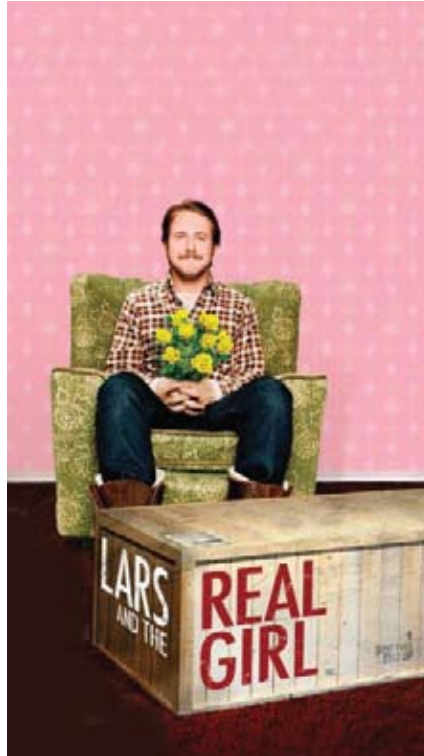
Language: English | Type: Comedy

Awards: Oscar nomination, Best Screenplay
2008 + 2 other wins, 12 nominations

A lonely, acutely shy young man finds it hard to form relationships. Until, that is, he befriends a stunning half-Brazilian/Danish religious missionary – with a difference. Touchingly sweet yet surprisingly untacky and in good taste, this quirky, poignant tale stirs the heart and tickles the mirth buds. Don't miss it!

"A soft-spoken comedy drama with a snowy setting and a warm heart"

Nicholas Barber, Independent on Sunday



28-30 November 2008

**BERWICK FILM &
MEDIA ARTS
FESTIVAL – MINIFEST**



Venue for Minifest films:

The Maltings Theatre, Eastern Lane,
Berwick-upon-Tweed

Programme: available from the
Maltings Box Office from early autumn

**Discounts on entry tickets for all
Berwick Film Society members**
(show membership card when booking
in person).

Festival contact: Victoria Matthews,
Project Manager 01289 303355

email: victoria@berwickfilm-artsfest.com
website: www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com

Tickets: 01289 330999

Wednesday 17th December 2008

at 7.30pm

Half Moon (Niwemang) (cert tbc)

Iraq/Iran/Austria/France 2006 (UK release 2008) | 1hr 54min. | Dir: Bahman Ghobadi

Cast: Kambiz Arshi, Zadiq Behzadapoor

Language: Kurdish, Persian with English subtitles | Type: Mystical journey drama

Awards: 4 wins

A journey through a majestic landscape by a legendary Kurdish musician and his sons to give one final concert in Iraqi Kurdistan, despite opposition from village elders. Visually stunning scenery with traces of dark humour along the way.

"A serious and worthwhile piece of work from a director with a real cinematic language"

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian



Wednesday 28th January 2009
at 7.30pm

The Italian (Italianetz) (12A)

Russia 2005 (UK release 2008)

1hr 32min | Dir: Andrei Kravchuk

Cast: Kolia Spiridonov, Denis Moiseenko, Sasha Sirotkin

Language: Russian, English subtitles

Type: Drama | Awards: 6 wins

A young boy's harsh life in a Russian orphanage could be changed by an Italian couple's desire to adopt him; but he has other ideas. Authentic depiction of provincial Russia could be overlooked amidst the gripping true-life adventures of this determined child which unfolds without sentimentality.

"The atmosphere of this runaway drama is Dickensian"

Anthony Quinn, The Independent



Wednesday 25th February 2009
at 7.30pm

After the Wedding

(Efter Brylluppet) (15)

Denmark/Sweden 2006 (UK release 2007)

2hr 4min | Dir: Susanne Bier

Cast: Mads Mikkelsen, Sidse Babett Knudsen

Language: Danish, English subtitles

Type: Relationship Drama

Awards: Nominated for Best Foreign Film Oscar 2007, 7 other wins and 15 nominations

Incisive drama unravelling the secrets and lies which threaten a wealthy Danish family when a guest appears. A twisting, engrossing story of divided loyalties, acute emotional tensions and electric interaction between characters delivered through powerful acting.

"Here is another elegant and well-turned piece of work, perhaps Bier's most persuasive movie yet"
Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian



Wednesday 25th March 2009 at 7.30pm
The Band's Visit (Bikur Ha-Tizmoret) (12A)
Israel/France 2007 | 1hr 27min | Dir: Eran Kolirin
Cast: Sasson Gabai, Ronit Elkabetz, Saleh Bakri
Language: Israeli, Arabic, English subtitles
Type: Comedy | Awards: 30 wins, 8 nominations

An Egyptian police band arrives in Israel to perform at the Arab cultural centre, ending up in the wrong town on the wrong night in the middle of nowhere. Charming and poignant character observations, exquisitely crafted. A film you watch and still smile about months later.

"This is one of those films that runs at you with open arms, and you'll find it very difficult not to succumb to its warm, warm embrace" David Jenkins, Time Out



Wednesday 29th April 2009 at 7.30pm

36 Quai des Orfèvres (15)

France 2004 (UK release
2006) | 1hr 50min

Dir: Olivier Marchal

Cast: Gérard Depardieu,
Daniel Auteuil

Language: French,
English subtitles

Type: Detective drama

Awards: 9 nominations



Here's our French thriller
par excellence. Two
maverick detectives

jostle for promotion to top dog. The game gets ruthless, the
consequences tough. A blistering drama of corruption, rivalry,
betrayal and revenge, based on real events and starring two iconic
actors. ***Contains scenes of violence.***

"Despite its stylised, sparse, almost graphic-novel aesthetic, the film feels authentically muscular" Wendy Ide, The Times



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

please complete all details in block capitals:

FORENAME(S) SURNAME

ADDRESS

..... Postcode.....

PHONE Email

(Please provide email if you are an email user, as it saves postage costs. We will never pass your details to any third party). Please write your email address clearly to avoid errors when we email you.

"I/We enclose a cheque for £____ for membership 2008/09 (£28 per person, payable to "Berwick Film Society").

Please now mail this form to:

**Berwick Film Society, 79 Main Street, Spittal,
Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1RD, Northumberland.**

(Or, put it in a sealed envelope clearly addressed to us and hand it in to The Maltings box office, Eastern Lane).

Phone: 07779 663860 Website: www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk

Email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk

AUDIENCE RESPONSES TO LAST SEASON'S FILMS (2007/08)

	excellent	good	fair	poor	votes	% favourable
Jindabyne	19	45	11	0	75	78%
Only Human	34	19	0	0	53	91%
Everything Is Illuminated	26	20	3	0	49	87%
Tell No One	46	24	6	1	77	87%
Lives of Others	64	6	0	0	70	98%
Water	28	17	6	1	52	85%
Small Engine Repair	13	32	9	3	57	74%
Orchestra Seats	54	10	3	0	67	94%

Film Seasons are programmed by individuals from the BFS team.

Programming decisions are taken on the basis of past audience feedback, purpose-previewing a wide selection of films and the trust of our membership.



Martins The Printers are proud to support Berwick Film Society, and wish them every success for their 2008/09 season.

Printers of full colour books, catalogues, programmes, brochures and posters.

www.martins-the-printers.com

Berwick Film Society has gratefully received funding towards equipment and operating costs from Berwick Borough Council and Lottery Awards for All.



Berwick Film Society is run entirely by a small group of volunteers:

Coordinator: Genni Poole **Finance:** Maurice Ward
Membership: Claire Ward **Key Volunteer:** John Spiers
Helpers: Jessie Dodds, Rogan Grant, Rob Stankiewicz



Wednesday 27th May 2009 at 7.30pm

The Darjeeling Limited (15)

USA 2007 | 1hr 31 min | Dir: Wes Anderson

Cast: Owen Wilson, Adrien Brody, Jason

Schwartzman | Language: English Type: Comedy

Awards: 3 nominations

What a delightfully quirky film to end our Season! Three brothers take a train voyage across India to “bond” and “find themselves” spiritually. Events overtake and they become stranded with eleven suitcases and a laminating machine. A very different journey ensues. Charmingly likeable, loopy with occasional poignancy. Come enjoy the colourful ride!

“Funny peculiar and funny ha ha, with a spontaneity and energy that gather up a powerful emotional head of steam as it chugs along”

Angie Errigo, Empire Film Magazine

2008	Weds 24th September	7.30pm	The Counterfeiters (15) Fascinating vast WWII forgery operation
	Weds 8th October	7.30pm	Why We Fight (PG) <i>Amnesty International Event*</i> Respected and human polemic on US militarism
	Weds 29th October	7.30pm	The Orphanage (15) Superlative ghost drama, arrestingly scary
	Weds 19th November	7.30pm	Lars and the Real Girl (15) Unexpectedly charming and touching comedy
	Fri 28th-Sun 30th November		Berwick Film & Media Arts Minifest 2008
	Weds 17th December	7.30pm	Half Moon (cert tbc) Mystical journey with breathtaking visuals
2009	Weds 28th January	7.30pm	The Italian (12A) Gripping and unsentimental true-life quest
	Weds 25th February	7.30pm	After the Wedding (15) Superbly acted relationship drama of intensity
	Weds 25th March	7.30pm	The Band's Visit (12A) Beautifully observed cross-cultural encounter
	Weds 29th April	7.30pm	36 Quai des Orfèvres (15) Tough detective rivalry with two French icons
	Weds 27th May	7.30pm	The Darjeeling Limited (15) Indian train/life journey of three quirky brothers

All Film Society films are screened in the Town Hall (Guild Hall), Marygate, Berwick-upon-Tweed at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month (except November & December '08, see details).

Membership is £28 for 9 films plus discounts to the Berwick Film Festival Minifest (November '08).

Non-members pay £4 on the door.

www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk
email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk
Tel: 07779 663860

** Please note, the extra filmshow on 8th October is a fundraiser for Amnesty International, all entries £4*

Front cover: *The Orphanage* Content: Genni Poole
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