

**FILMS 2011 / 12**



**BERWICK  
FILM SOCIETY  
PROGRAMME**

Hello and welcome to BFS Season 2011/12

Now on to our sixth season of film screening, Berwick Film Society is raring to bring you the latest treasure-trove of international cinema, between September 2011 and May 2012.

This selection is one big, delicious picnic : a whole variety of movies, from Brazil to Australia to Chad. Over and above our monthly film shows there are two *Mid Month Select* titles squeezed in for good measure! We launch the BFS programme with Neil Brand who presents his own show *The Silent Pianist Speaks*. A live event of classic film clips, piano accompaniment and chat – a cracking start!

Dip into these pages to discover our fantastic line-up of 11 films for £28, a great price we've held for three years. Sign up for a Season Pass **by 1st September** and you'll also receive free entry to the BFS screening at this year's Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival (23-25 September) and further Festival discounts. If you're not a Season Pass holder you are still welcome to any of our film nights. Simply pay the box office ticket price, currently £5.

Pre-filmshow suppers and drinks are available at our venue, The Maltings. After the screening, come and chat to us, we're always interested in your reactions to our choices.

We welcome you warmly for more great BFS films on the big screen. See you there!

**Genni, Maurice and John, the Berwick Film Society Team.**

www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk Email: info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk Tel: 07779 663860  
Berwick Film Society 79 Main Street Spittal Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1RD



Wednesday September 28th 2011 at 7.30pm  
**The Silent Pianist Speaks – Neil Brand** (Live Event)

BFS proudly welcomes Neil Brand, the 'doyen of silent film pianists' to Berwick. This, his own critically acclaimed show, left both audiences and reviewers at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in awe of the Silent Era's great filmmakers and the magic of the accompanists who breathed life and sound into their work.

Neil uses clips from some of the greatest moments in silent cinema to illustrate his career and the special place of music within silent film. From earliest comedies and thrillers, through silent ciné-verité, to the glories of Hollywood glamour and the immortal duo Laurel and Hardy, Neil provides improvised accompaniment laced with laconic commentary.

With 25 years of accompaniment experience plus extensive music score writing for orchestras, radio and TV and having recently co-starred in Paul Merton's touring homage show *Silent Clowns*, Neil Brand is considered one of the finest exponents of improvised silent film accompaniment in the world.



Wednesday 26th October 2011 at 7.30pm

**Oranges and Sunshine** (15)

UK, Australia 2011 | 1hr 40min | Dir: Jim Loach

Cast: Emily Watson, Hugo Weaving, David Wenham

Language: English | Type: True Drama

Inspired by meeting some of the people affected by one of the most heart-rending and long-hidden social outrages of recent UK history, Ken Loach's son Jim has ventured into directing his own first feature.

This is the true story of the remarkable exposé by one woman determined to redress an unforgiveable act the UK and Australian governments colluded over, ignored, then later denied, for which one hundred and thirty thousand people paid the price.

*"...a powerful, deeply moving, understated account of a major social injustice."* Philip Read, The Observer

*"Emily Watson is on staggering form. A powerful real life story told with sensitivity and grace."* Time Out

Wednesday 23rd November 2011 at 7.30pm

**Of Gods and Men (Des hommes et des dieux)** (15)

France 2010 | 2hr 2min | Dir: Xavier Beauvois | Cast:

Lambert Wilson, Michael Lonsdale | Language: French

with English subtitles | Type: True Drama | Awards:

Winner Palme D'Or 2010, BAFTA nomination 2011, 4 other wins + 1 other nomination

A contemplative account of the real-life story of a group of French Trappist monks who reside, work and pray inside a Catholic monastery in Algeria during the '90s. Living in harmony with an impoverished, largely Islamic village community, they come under threat and must decide on their future.

**Note:** contains one brief gory scene

*"A profound, immaculately acted movie. Its words are carefully considered, its images eloquent. The subject matter is urgently topical, the themes raised eternal and universal."*

Philip French, The Observer

*"An overwhelming fusion of portraiture and drama and perhaps one of the most sensational things I have seen on the big screen."* Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian



Wednesday 7th December 2011 at 7.30pm

**Loose Cannons (Mine vaganti)** (12A)

Italy 2010 | 1hr 53min | Dir: Ferzan Ozpetek

Cast: Riccardo Scamarcio, Alessandro Preziosi, Nicole Grimaudo | Language: Italian with English subtitles

Type: Comedy Drama | Awards: 2 nominations

Set in sun-kissed Puglia, this breezy, al dente comedy from award-winning director Ozpetek lifts the lid off a multi-generational household coming to terms with a rapidly modernising world.

A traditional family, busy grooming the sons to take over the business, is about to get the rug pulled from under its feet. Whilst pointing a satirical finger at the contradictions of chauvinist Italian culture, above all this is a genial and wicked bit of fun.

*"With its oddball characters, bittersweet tone and sunny outlook, this is easily the most Almodovar-esque of Ozpetek's films."* Screen International

*"Slickly funny and polished romantic comedy."*  
David Parkinson, Empire Magazine



Wednesday 11th January 2012 at 7.30pm

**Animal Kingdom** (15) **S**

Australia 2010 | 1hr 53min | Dir: David Michôd

Cast: Jacki Weaver, Guy Pearce, James Frecheville

Language: English | Type: Crime Drama

Awards: Golden Globe and Oscar Nominations for Best Supporting Actress + 21 wins, 22 other nominations

A criminal family in Melbourne is at war with the Armed Robbery Squad who want to bring them down. The matriarch (an acclaimed performance by Jacki Weaver) is determined to protect her sons, no matter how deadly the depths to which they descend.

**Note: Contains themes and scenes of violence and threat.**

*"A dark rites-of-passage story meets lethal Shakespearean drama, with low-key performances that artfully get under the skin."* Damon Wise, Empire Magazine

*"Animal Kingdom is skilfully lit and edited and the performances are remarkable."* Philip French, The Observer

**S** denotes our Mid Month Select screening





Wednesday 25th January 2012 at 7.30pm

**Wild Target (Cible émovante)** (15)

France 1993 | 1hr 27min | Dir: Pierre Salvadori

Cast: Jean Rochefort, Marie Trintignant, Guillaume Depardieu | Language: French with English subtitles

Type: Comedy | Awards: 2 César nominations

The solitary life of stony-faced hitman Victor is interrupted by the accidental arrival of a naïve young man (played by Gérard Depardieu's son Guillaume), who just might have his uses and a deft female thief whose demise Victor should be regarding as his next "job".

Droll dialogue, flying jokes with precision landings and an adept cast result in a sublime dark comedy.

*"A blend of farce, romantic comedy and social satire."* Film 4

*"A deliciously dark affair that gave its veteran lead one of the best roles of his career."* Neil Smith, Total Film

**APPLICATION FOR BFS SEASON PASS 2011 / 12** – please complete all 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 Season 2011/12 (£28 per person, payable to "Berwick Film Society").

Please mail to: **Berwick Film Society 79 Main Street Spittal Berwick-upon-Tweed TD15 1RD Northumberland.**

**Website: [www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk) Email: [info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk) Phone: 07779 663860**



## AUDIENCE RESPONSES TO LAST SEASON'S FILMS (2010/11)

	excellent	good	fair	poor	votes	% favourable
Mark of an Angel	57	50	14	4	125	82%
Welcome	60	32	1	2	95	89%
The Secret in Their Eyes	79	17	4	1	101	93%
The Market	15	25	14	2	56	74%
Lebanon	22	32	5	1	60	81%
Behind The Sun	59	39	4	2	104	87%
The Concert	79	25	8	0	112	91%
Sin Nombre	13	14	12	5	44	70%
Still Walking	31	54	16	0	101	79%
The White Ribbon	34	50	13	6	103	77%
My Afternoons with Margueritte	114	25	0	0	139	96%

Film Seasons are programmed by the BFS team.

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



Martins The Printers are proud to support Berwick Film Society and wish them every success for their 2011/12 season.

Printers of full colour books, catalogues, programmes, brochures and posters. From one copy to many thousands we are able to meet your needs.  
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Berwick Film Society has gratefully received past funding support towards equipment from Lottery Awards for All and for preview event attendance from Northern Film & Media.

NORTHERN  
FILM + MEDIA  
Investing in people and ideas



We also acknowledge with warm thanks the continued support of Martins the Printers and Simprim Studio in the production of this brochure.

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

**Coordinator:** Genni Poole **Finance:** Maurice Ward

**Website / Membership:** John Spiers

**Stewards:** Jessie Dodds, Derek Hood, Kath Keenan, Marion Matthewman, Jenny Prince, Peter Watts and Sue Watts.

Thanks go to our former Membership Coordinator Claire Ward.

To offer stewarding help, contact [info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk)



Wednesday 29th February 2012 at 7.30pm

**Waste Land** (PG)

UK, Brazil 2010 | 1hr 30min | Dir: Lucy Walker

Language: Portuguese with English subtitles

Type: True Lives Documentary | Awards: Oscar nomination 2011, 5 wins + 2 other nominations

Top-selling contemporary artist Vik Muniz takes us on an emotional journey from Jardim Gramacho, the world's largest landfill on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, to the heights of international art stardom. Muniz collaborates with the brilliant catadores, pickers of recyclable materials, sharing their hopes and aspirations whilst he tries to change their lives through his art.

*"What astounds isn't their poverty, but their joie de vivre, a reminder of humanity's ability to transcend its surroundings through art or just plain optimism."* Matt Glasby, Total Film

*"Muniz is a gifted, modest and altogether delightful man and his project is both aesthetically fascinating and philosophically stimulating."* Philip French, The Observer



Wednesday 14th March 2012 at 7.30pm

**Bicycle Thieves (Ladri di biciclette)** (U) **S**

Italy 1948 | 1hr 34min | Dir: Vittorio de Sica | Cast: Lamberto Maggiorani, Enzo Staiola, Lianella Carell | **Language:** Italian with English subtitles | **Type:** Classic Drama | **Awards:** Academy Award & BAFTA winner 1950 + 14 other wins

Vittorio De Sica's remarkable drama of desperation and survival in Italy's devastating post-war depression earned a special Oscar award for its affecting power. Shot in the streets and alleys of Rome, the director uses the environment to frame his moving tale of a desperate father whose new job pasting up cinema posters is at risk. Cast with non-actors and filled with street scenes, this landmark film helped define the Italian neo-realist approach with its mix of day-to-day detail, poetic imagery, and tough love.

*"De Sica's haunting movie uses natural light and real locations to create a marvellous atmospheric backdrop."* James Christopher, The Times

*"De Sica has artfully wrapped (music) into a film that will tear your heart, but which should fill you with warmth and compassion."* Bosley Crowther, The New York Times

**S** denotes our Mid Month Select screening

Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 7.30pm

**Farewell (L'Affaire Farewell)** (12A)

France 2009 (UK release 2011) | 1hr 53min | Dir: Christian Carion | Cast: Emir Kusturica, Guillaume Canet | **Language:** Russian, French, with English subtitles | **Type:** Espionage Thriller

Events depicted in this astonishing true story were the catalyst for the end of the cold war and the collapse of the USSR. Moscow in the 1980s: a disillusioned KGB officer makes contact with a young French businessman working in the city. Soon both are embroiled in danger. Assiduous direction coupled with taut performances reflect a return in style to the spy thriller of substance and quality.

*"a tight, tense and tragic package of the personal and political entwined, with Kusturica's huge presence at its soul."* Kevin Harley, Total Film

*"[His] intelligent handling should make Christian Carion's compelling picture a solid international success."* Todd McCarthy, Variety





Wednesday 25th April 2012 at 7.30pm  
**A Screaming Man (Un homme qui crie)** (PG)  
Chad/Cameroon/Burkina Faso/France/Belgium 2010  
(UK release 2011) | 1hr 32min | Dir: Mahamat Saleh  
Haroun | Cast: Youssouf Djaoro, Diouc Koma, Djénéba  
Koné | Language: French, Arabic with English subtitles  
Type: Drama | Awards: Palme D'Or nomination + four  
wins

A family man strives to retain his job as a hotel pool attendant in present-day Chad against the backdrop of a country ripped apart by civil war. Daily and longer term decisions must be taken in order to secure a future, but at what personal cost? Compassionate performances and striking cinematography make this gently-paced film one which will linger in the memory.

*"Beautifully understated, Haroun gives his story room to breathe and the tenderness to touch the heart. A thoughtful tale of fathers and sons."* William Thomas, Empire Magazine

*"The best African film in recent memory."*  
Nigel Andrews, The Financial Times

Wednesday 30th May 2012 at 7.30pm  
**Potiche** (15)  
France 2010 (UK release 2011) | 1hr 43min  
Dir: François Ozon | Cast: Catherine Deneuve,  
Gérard Depardieu, Fabrice Luchini  
Language: French with English subtitles  
Type: Comedy | Awards: Venice Golden Lion  
nomination 2010

A bristly tyrant who runs his factory and household with an iron fist is about to experience a shift in power. With a stalwart cast of the ever-elegant Catherine Deneuve and a robust Gérard Depardieu, the ebullient humour of this French delight set in the 1970s makes for a joyously featherlight end to our season. A bientôt!

*"Ozon's comedy is a uniquely French skew on the gender politics of the home and the workplace ... funny, fast and fondly made."* Anna Smith, Empire

*"François Ozon delivers a brassy, colourful comedy of shifting political attitudes in the '70s with Catherine Deneuve on fine form."* David Jenkins, Time Out



2011	Fri 23rd – Sun 25th September		<b>Berwick Film &amp; Media Arts Festival</b>
	Daytime and evening screenings		Free BFS screening and discounts
	Weds 28th September	7.30pm	<b>The Silent Pianist Speaks : Neil Brand</b> The maestro film accompanist presents his own show
	Weds 26th October	7.30pm	<b>Oranges and Sunshine</b> (15) Dramatised exposé of tragic 1950s social injustice
Weds 23rd November	7.30pm	<b>Of Gods and Men</b> (15) True story of Catholic monks' community in Algeria	
Weds 7th December	7.30pm	<b>Loose Cannons</b> (12A) A pasta-making dynasty is in for a surprise	
2012	Weds 11th January	7.30pm	<b>Mid Month Select: Animal Kingdom</b> (15) <b>S</b> Dark drama of criminal family conflict downunder
	Weds 25th January	7.30pm	<b>Wild Target</b> (15) Sublime black farce with assassin, thief and parrot
	Weds 29th February	7.30pm	<b>Waste Land</b> (15) How an art project changed Rio garbage pickers' lives
	Weds 14th March	7.30pm	<b>Mid Month Select : Bicycle Thieves</b> (U) <b>S</b> Landmark classic set in post WWII Rome
	Weds 28th March	7.30pm	<b>Farewell</b> (12A) Cold war espionage which changed history
	Weds 25th April	7.30pm	<b>A Screaming Man</b> (PG) A hotel pool attendant makes a fateful decision
	Weds 30th May	7.30pm	<b>Potiche</b> (15) A trophy wife sashays out of the display cabinet

Film Society screenings are held in the Maltings Theatre, Eastern Lane, Berwick Upon Tweed at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of each month except in November and December (see dates adjacent), plus two additional screenings called *Mid Month Select*. The BFS season runs from September to the end of May.

A Season Pass costs just £28 for 11 films *plus* free screenings and discounts at Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, 23-25 September 2011.

BFS filmshows are open to all. If you don't hold a Season Pass, pay £5 at the Maltings box office on the night.

BFS reserve the right to replace any film within this programme if deemed necessary. In such a case, advance notice would be provided via mailing and press announcements.

For screening, season pass and film information :  
[www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.berwickfilmsociety.co.uk)  
 Email: [info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk](mailto:info@berwickfilmsociety.co.uk)  
 Tel: 07779 663 860

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