

Abergavenny Film Society

2022-2023



21 September 2022



The Outfit

USA 2022 106 Minutes

Director: Graham Moore



Mark Rylance stars as a British tailor caught up in a 1956 Chicago mob war in this precision-tooled crime thriller from Oscar winner Graham Moore (*The Imitation Game*). Leonard Burling isn't just a tailor. He's a cutter, and there's a big difference. Mark Rylance is superb as this very precise, very correct British master cutter who moved to Chicago after the Second World War. Ten years later his clientele includes wise guys from the powerful Boyle crime family. On a white-hot night of mob violence Leonard's shop becomes the epicentre of a tense and bloody power struggle. The screenplay sizzles with pungent dialogue and clever twists as Leonard attempts to stay alive and keep loyal secretary Mable (Zoey Deutch) from joining the mounting pile of corpses. Alexandre Desplat's slinky jazz score adds the finishing touch to this beautifully arranged and executed thriller.

5 October 2022



Hive

Kosovo/Switzerland/Albania/North Macedonia 2021

84 Minutes

Director: Blerta Basholli



A major award-winner at Sundance, *Hive* is an outstanding first feature from director Blerta Basholli. In March 1999, the Kosovan village of Krusha e Madhe was the site of a massacre that left 240 people dead or missing. Seven years later, the villagers live without knowing the fate of their loved ones. Fahrije (Yllka Gashi) has become everything to her family - home maker, plumber and provider. She hopes to start a small business selling the relish ajvar. Her determination to move on inspires the other women but is also a source of bitter conflict in a deeply patriarchal community.



Hive became the first film in Sundance history to win all three main awards – the Grand Jury Prize, the Audience Award and the Directing Award – in the World Cinema Dramatic Competition.

19 October 2022



Made in Bangladesh

Bangladesh 2019 95 Minutes

Director: Rubaiyat Hossain



Shimu (Rikita Nandini Shimu) works long and physically punishing shifts at a Dhaka garment factory. After a fire at the factory sends all the workers fleeing in panic into the streets, they all mourn the death of one of their co-workers. This catastrophe ripples through the consciousness of these poor women workers who share their feelings of grief, anger, helplessness, and hopelessness. A labour advocate (Shahana Goswami) contacts Shimu and invites her to bring some of her co-workers to a meeting where she explains the value of organizing a union to defend the workers' rights. Shimu proves to be a resourceful young woman as she gathers the necessary signatures to apply for union recognition. She is elected president but faces criticism from some of her co-workers who are fearful of losing their jobs. In this colourful drama, director Hossain draws out a bold and inspiring performance from Rikita Nandini Shimu as a leader who comes into her own as she faces formidable challenges in the fight against rampant corruption and injustices in the textile industry.

Amiens International Film Festival 2019 – Winner – Prix Spécial du Jury fiction - Best Film

2 November 2022



Another Round

Denmark 2020 117 Minutes

Director: Thomas Vinterberg



Mads Mikkelsen reunites with Thomas Vinterberg (*The Hunt*) in this spirited and thought-provoking drama that asks if a regular tippie is the key to unlocking the best version of yourself. Four friends, all teachers at various stages of middle age, are stuck in a rut. Unable to share their passions either at school or at home, they embark on an audacious experiment: to see if a constant level of alcohol in their blood will help them find greater freedom and happiness. Underscored by delicate and affecting camerawork, director Vinterberg's spry script, co-written with regular collaborator Tobias Lindholm, uses this bold premise to explore the euphoria and pain of an unbridled life. At its heart is Martin, an unappreciated tutor, husband and father. Playing a once brilliant but now world-weary shell of a man, the ever-surprising Mikkelsen delivers a touching, note-perfect performance including surely one of his most lithe and memorable onscreen moments to date.



Academy Award for Best International Feature 2021

16 November 2022



Bacurau

Brazil/France 2019 130 Minutes

Director: Kleber Mendonça Filho



A bracing mash-up of genres and political comment, *Bacurau* offers stinging insights into the state of modern Brazil and the legacy of colonialism. Set in the near future, it follows Teresa (Bárbara Colen) as she returns home to attend her mother's funeral. *Bacurau* is a forsaken backwater in the scrublands, deprived of basic amenities and state support. Its citizens have been sold as prey for a safari of foreign hunters. As the deranged killers close in, the villagers prepare to fight back using a psychotropic drug as their secret weapon. *Bacurau* is a fiery, violent and original film with a nod to classic westerns.



Festival de Cannes 2019 – Jury Prize

30 November 2022

Cert TBC

Our Memory Belongs to Us

Syria/Denmark/France/Palestine 2021 90 Minutes

Director: Rami Farah



Nearly 10 years after the beginning of the Syrian revolution, three Syrian activists, Yadan, Odai and Rani reunite on a theatre stage in Paris. Through life-size projections onto a big screen, director Rami Farah confronts the three men with footage, some of it their own, depicting events that changed their destinies forever. Watching the brutal footage together, they reflect on their personal journeys, revive their collective memory, and wonder what is left of their hopes and dreams. Their reunion serves as a unique window into the complexity of the situation in Syria where a peaceful uprising was replaced by a ferocious war. Rami Farah is a Syrian dancer, actor and filmmaker. Farah's meeting with the revered Syrian director Omar Amiralay, who would later go on to be his mentor, marked a turning point in his approach to filmmaking. Amiralay had also encouraged Farah to 'go search for the truth', resulting in his graduation from The Arab Film Institute in 2007, where Rami made a 35-minute documentary about the Golan Heights entitled *Silence*. After he fled Syria, he entered France where he made his most recent work, *Our Memory Belongs to Us*.

14 December 2022



Our Ladies

UK 2019 100 Minutes

Director: Michael Caton-Jones



Lock up your loved ones. The girls of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour are heading to the big city and nobody is safe. Michael Caton-Jones' adaptation of Alan Warner's novel The Sopranos does not disappoint. A school trip to an Edinburgh singing competition is just the ticket for a group of rowdy, vodka-fuelled Highland girls in search of adventure, shopping and a good time. A deft balance of hilarity and poignancy with breakthrough performances from a talented ensemble cast, Derry Girls meets Fellini's I Vitelloni in a film that is guaranteed to steal your heart.

4 January 2023



Parallel Mothers

Spain/France 2021 120 Minutes

Director: Pedro Almodóvar



Spanish auteur Pedro Almodóvar's new feature film follows two women, Janis (Penélope Cruz) and Ana (Milena Smit), whose paths cross in a hospital where they are about to give birth. Both are single and became pregnant by accident. Janis, middle-aged, has no regrets and is exultant. The other, Ana, an adolescent, is scared and repentant. Janis tries to encourage her as they move like sleepwalkers through the hospital corridors. The few words they exchange in these hours will create a very close link between them, which, by chance, will develop and complicate, changing their lives in a decisive way.



Venice Film Festival 2021 – Winner – Best Actress – Penélope Cruz

18 January 2023



Compartment No. 6

Finland/Estonia/Germany/Russia 2021

107 Minutes

Director: Juho Kuosmanen



As a train weaves its way through Russia to the Arctic Circle, two strangers share a journey that will change their perspective on life. A young Finnish woman escapes an enigmatic love affair in Moscow by boarding a train to the Arctic port of Murmansk. Forced to share the long journey and a tiny sleeping car with a Russian miner, the unexpected encounter leads the occupants of compartment number 6 to face the truth about their own yearning for human connection. With atmospheric 35mm cinematography, director Kuosmanen captures a hint of romance in the desperate cold of The Arctic.



Festival de Cannes 2021 – Joint Winner – Grand Prix

1 February 2023



Maudie

Canada/Ireland 2016 116 Minutes

Director: Aisling Walsh



Based on a true story, *Maudie* is an unlikely romance set in 1930s Nova Scotia in which the reclusive Everett Lewis (Ethan Hawke) hires a fragile yet determined woman named Maudie (Sally Hawkins) to be his housekeeper. Aspiring artist Maudie spends her life battling rheumatoid arthritis, but when discovered, her colourful paintings establish her as one of Canada's most iconic artists. With Hawkins at her engaging best in a rare leading role, and Hawke bringing humanity to an initially difficult character, *Maudie* is a moving exploration of a fascinating life.



Canadian Screen Awards 2016 – Winner of seven awards

15 February 2023



The Invisible Life of Eurídice Gusmão

Brazil/Germany 2019 139 Minutes

Director: Karim Ainouz



Eurídice (Carol Duarte), 18, and Guida (Julia Stockler), 20, are two inseparable sisters living under the oppressive guard of their father, Manuel (Antônio Fonseca), the patriarch of their conservative household. It's 1950 in Rio de Janeiro and the girls dream of better lives abroad: Eurídice, as a professional pianist in Vienna, and Guida as the wife of a Greek sailor she is smitten with. When both have their hopes shattered, the heartbreak is harder to bear due to the separation from each other also forced upon them. As the years pass, each sister struggles to build a meaningful and fulfilling life. Among the daily hardships, the greatest battle is against the fate that separated them. Will they find each other in time to overcome oppression that suffocates them?



Festival de Cannes 2019 – Winner – Un Certain Regard

1 March 2023



The Toll

UK 2021 82 Minutes

Director: Ryan Andrew Hooper



This Welsh thriller mixes the dark comedy of the Coen Brothers with the antihero of Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns as the past catches up with a former criminal. Brendan (Michael Smiley) is content with his life as a lone toll booth operator in a small Welsh town. But when a familiar face from his previous life of crime resurfaces, it sets off a madcap chain of events that lead to a showdown of epic proportions. Meanwhile, local traffic cop Catrin's (Annes Elwy) investigation into a robbery has her unknowingly heading directly into the thick of the action.

15 March 2023

Everything Went Fine



France/Belgium 2021 113 Mins

Director: François Ozon



A daughter is forced to reconcile her past with her father when he contacts her with a devastating final wish in François Ozon's powerful family drama. André (André Dussollier) has never been the easiest of fathers. When he suffers a debilitating stroke and calls on his daughter Emmanuèle (Sophie Marceau) to help him die with some dignity, she finds herself faced with a painful decision. An adaptation of Emmanuèle Bernheim's memoir, *Everything Went Fine* is both a detailed portrait of family relationships and a frank account of the process involved in assisted dying. Featuring stunning central performances by Marceau and Dussollier, as well as a scene-stealing cameo by Charlotte Rampling as André's ex-wife, *Everything Went Fine* finds Ozon tackling a difficult subject with intelligence, sensitivity and humour.



Festival de Cannes 2021 – Nominee – Palme d'Or

29 March 2023

Bangla Surf Girls



Bengal 2021 86 Minutes

Director: Elizabeth D. Costa



Elizabeth D. Costa's *Bangla Surf Girls* shows us the struggle with being pressured into conforming to tradition despite your aspirations and the resilience in young women to push against the social tide. At times brutal with its honesty, this beautifully compelling documentary is fantastic. Shobe, Aisha and Suma break away from the drudgery of their lives by joining a surf club in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The girls fight family pressure and social judgement for a few hours on the waves. They gain confidence as their natural skills and prowess gain attention and praise. Soon they are poised to make history as the first women surfers in Bangladesh. The odds are stacked against them but the girls refuse to give up. Balancing the freedom of the waves with the restrictive realities of their circumstances, we experience the thrill and struggle of coming of age in a developing country.

Vancouver Asian Film Festival 2022 – Best Feature



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Trailers for the films can be found on our website:

<http://www.abergavennyfilmsociety.com/>