

BRITISH FEDERATION OF FILM SOCIETIES MARCH NEWSREEL

NEWS

BFFS SPRING NATIONAL VIEWING SESSION, 21st May, South Hill Park, Bracknell

BFFS is delighted to announce that we will be hosting a Spring National Viewing Session on 21st May 2011, at South Hill Park, Bracknell, Berkshire.

In view of the cancellation of the ICO Screening Days, BFFS were keen to make sure that film societies and community cinemas continue to enjoy the opportunity to preview recent and forthcoming films for your upcoming programmes, at a weekend. In spite of the short timescale we will be bringing you a full day of at least 8 films including selections from upcoming Booking Scheme titles, popular new releases, shorts and archive film.

In addition to the Spring National Viewing Session, the Regional Groups of BFFS will be hosting Viewing Sessions as usual around the country during April and May – we hope that you'll be able to attend one of these events near you.

For more details go to: <http://bffs.org.uk/newsandevents/events/>

We can announce the first titles to be confirmed for the Viewing Session are:

- **Benda Bilili!**: a remarkable documentary following a band from the streets of Kinshasa on a journey that takes them to the stages of Glastonbury.
- **Mammuth**: a multi Cesar nominated French comedy starring Gerard Depardieu as a retiree fighting for the right to his state pension.
- **Ballast**: a universally acclaimed American independent telling a story of grief and redemption in a depressed Mississippi Delta.
- **The Great White Silence**: the expertly restored film record of Captain Scott's mission to the South Pole by the trip's official cinematographer Herbert Ponting, who re-edited his footage into this remarkable feature in 1924.

We will be announcing more details and titles very soon, so keep your eye on your inbox.

FILM SOCIETY NEWS

NEW FEATURED EXHIBITOR: MANCHESTER AND SALFORD FILM SOCIETY CELEBRATES 80 YEARS

To help celebrate 80 years of continuous film screenings, Manchester and Salford Film Society is BFFS's current featured exhibitor. Many thanks to Robert Taylor for putting together a brief history of the group, which you can read below.

UK PREMIERE OF MARWENCOL AT NEWCASTLE COMMUNITY CINEMA

Saturday March 26th 2011. Annesley Hall, Newcastle, County Down

Last summer saw Northern Irish BFFS Members, Newcastle Community Cinema premiere the Oscar-nominated documentary Restrepo several weeks before general release, as part of the Dogwoof Ambassador programme. The trend continues with an exclusive showing of the yet-to-be released Marwencol, the major talking-point documentary at American independent movie festivals throughout 2010.

Head to www.newcastlecinema.org/ or search 'Newcastle Community Cinema' on Facebook

WIMBLEDON FILM CLUB RECOMMEND THE INDEPENDENT BRITISH COMEDY 'ROUND IRELAND WITH A FRIDGE'

Based on his best-selling book, comedian/writer Tony Hawks has taken the brave decision to distribute the film himself on a £100 or 40% of ticket revenues (whichever is greater) basis. The film sold out at recent

Wimbledon Film Club screening and may also appeal to film societies across the country.
If you would like to screen the film it can be booked directly from Ash Alexander (Fridge d'Or Films) at fridgefilm@gmail.com.
www.roundirelandwithafridge.com

EVENTS

BFFS SOUTH WEST GROUP

- BFFS Devon and Cornwall Network Film Day : 10th April 2011, Launceston Town Hall
- BFFS South West Group Spring Viewing Session and AGM : 1st May 2011, Electric Picture House, Wotton Under Edge

BFFS YORKSHIRE GROUP

- BFFS Yorkshire Group Viewing Session: 22nd May 2011, National Media Museum, Bradford
- BFFS Yorkshire Group AGM: 19th June 2011, The Courthouse, Otley
- BFFS Yorkshire Group Residential Weekend: 2nd - 5th December 2011, Cober Hill Conference Centre, Scarborough

ACCESS CINEMA VIEWING SESSION, THURLES, IRELAND

Access Cinema, the body that supports independent and community cinema in Ireland, is opening their doors to British delegates wishing to attend their viewing session. For more information email: info@accesscinema.ie

FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS, FESTIVALS

Borderlines Film Festival : 25 March-10 April 2011

London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival : 31 March-6 April 2011

London Independent Film Festival : 14-25 April 2011

East End Film Festival : 27 April-2 May 2011

LIDF - The London International Documentary Festival: 5-15 May 2011

Edinburgh International Film Festival : 15-26 June 2011

NEW RELEASES

Louise-Michel: Axiom Films, 1 Apr

Passenger Side: Axiom Films, 1 Apr

Cold Weather: Axiom Films, 15 Apr

A Small Act: Dogwoof, 15 Apr

Sweetgrass: Dogwoof, 22 Apr

BFFS BOOKING SCHEME NEWS

NEW TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!

- **Born in '68**
- **Eyes Wide Open**
- **Fit**
- **Villa Amalia**
- **Loose Cannons**
- **Budrus**
- **Collapse**
- **How Much Does your Building Weigh, Mr Foster?**
- **Into Eternity**
- **No Impact Man**
- **Son of Babylon**
- **South of the Border**
- **Enemies of the People**
- **This Prison Where I Live**

- Gasland

- Involuntary

COMING SOON

- Life, Above All
- Heavenly Creatures
- Enter the Void
- Benda Bilili!

More information on the BFFS Booking Scheme new and featured titles will be included next Booking Scheme Newsletter, due to be sent out next week. If you wish to add your name to the mailing list get in touch with BFFS Booking Scheme Coordinator Bryony Forde at bryony.bffs@googlemail.com

BFFS PROMOTES

Kirin launch the 'Kirin First Cut' Short Film Competition

To find out more about this exciting competition from Kirin, head to:
<http://bffs.org.uk/newsandevents/news/Kirin.html>

REMINDERS

BFFS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2011

Membership for 2011 is open now. For the joining form and guidance notes please visit:
<http://www.bffs.org.uk/membership>.

If you would like to receive this newsletter in PDF form, please email bryony.bffs@googlemail.com

THE BFFS TEAM

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD FILM SOCIETY - CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF FILM

To help celebrate 80 years of continuous film screenings, Manchester and Salford Film Society are BFFS's current featured exhibitor. Many thanks to Robert Taylor for putting together a brief history of the group.

The Society was set up in 1930 as the Salford Workers' Film Society, with pronounced political aims. Films from the Soviet Union were favoured and, when Pudovkin's *Storm over Asia* was banned by Salford's Watch Committee in 1931, shows were moved to Manchester. The Society went on to win praise from the press for showing films that would not otherwise have been seen in the city - these also included contemporary French works, silent German classics and British documentaries. However, large-scale support from the industrial working-class was not forthcoming, and in 1937 the Society had to be reconstituted, when its present name was adopted. The remaining pre-war years were highly successful and, by 1939, there were over 1,200 members, 75% of whom came from south Manchester.

The Society weathered the many difficulties of the war-years and approached the subsequent reconstruction with active support for the foundation of the North West Film Council (just as it had previously helped to found the BFFS). Although membership was never again to reach pre-war levels, a varied programme of films was pursued, as well as many weekend conferences. And Hollywood features began to appear – in 1956, for instance, the programme included *The Philadelphia Story*, a film somewhat removed in ambiance from that of the early shows. Of course, this demonstrated a more inclusive view of film, and the Society continued to show recent and classic films and also reflected new trends such as the French New Wave, Free Cinema and the American underground.

Nevertheless, there was increasing competition from television and art-houses. With membership-numbers falling, doubts were expressed about whether the Society could survive. But what appeared to be the greatest threat, the advent of home-video and DVDs, contributed to a revival, since the new technology provides a means of showing a wide range of films with greater ease and reliability, at a high standard of projection. A new venue, the Club Theatre in Altrincham, provides not only a purpose-built auditorium but also a bar – a key ingredient in building up the social aspects of membership.

Like any voluntary organisation, the Society owes its survival to its dedicated organisers - in particular, in the earlier days, Reg Cordwell, whose own century in 1996 coincided with that of the cinema itself, and Tom and Marjorie Ainsworth, who maintained an active momentum for over 50 years. The Society may no longer be contemplating the Revolution, but it is democratic – suggestions for films to be shown are actively sought from members, and each season's programme is based on a members' ballot. This has not resulted in any dilution of the Society's objectives, and the current season includes outstanding contemporary films as well as recognised classics. Membership is rising, and a firm balance is maintained between income received and the programme offered. We are now looking forward to the next 80 years.

www.mandsfs.org.uk



Former Secretary, the late Tom Ainsworth, receiving the Charles Roebuck Cup for his personal contribution to the Film Society movement from Tony Curtis in 1987



Current secretary John Grieve receives a special BFFS award from Anthony Minghella in 2006