

South West Newsletter hits.....

100 NOT OUT !

The first edition of a newsletter for the South West Group was issued just over 30 years ago. Following a Viewing Session in Dorchester, the Group had been revived and the single-sided sheet, cut-and-pasted with a Letraset heading, gave details of a second Viewing in Taunton and a proposal for a Group booking scheme to cut the costs of 16mm film hire. Although the name of the newsletter was changed to **Film South West** with issue

#39 in 1989, the main news in our hundredth edition is of SW Viewing

Sessions - the very successful Spring event in Wotton and the coming Autumn Viewing in **South Petherton**. With the rapidly-changing nature of communications, it is unlikely that FSW will reach a double century, not under this editor anyway, but the Group has never been stronger - this issue also has details of even more new venues in our region as well as Societies in their 50th and 61st years. Read on.....

★ South West Society News

★ **Film @ The Pound** will be returning to their hugely improved home at the start of this season. The Pound Arts Centre in Corsham, our hosts for a Regional Viewing in 2003, has undergone a £1.25 million facelift and now offers a 110 seat auditorium with raked seating, air-conditioning and permanent projection. Membership take-up has been the highest ever and they celebrated by dressing up in tiaras and tails for the opening film, **The Queen** !

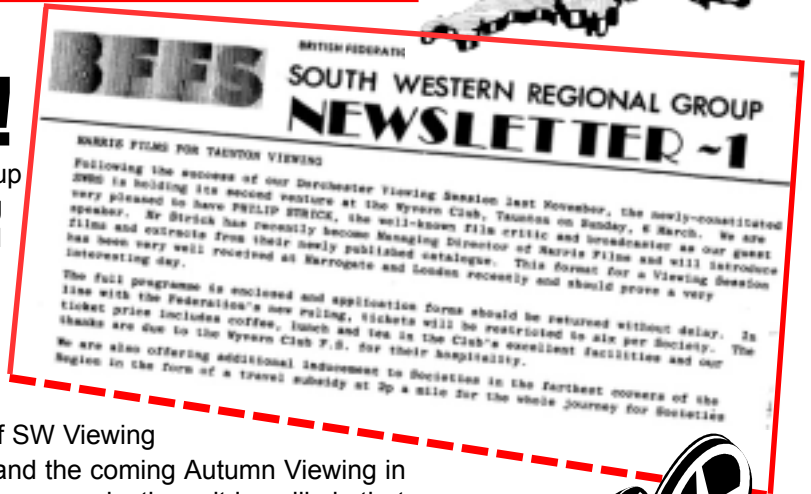
★ **Jersey** started their 61st season under a new name - the change to Jersey Film Society (2007) reflects their decision to go over to commercial screenings requiring a new constitution and a new name. The 16-film season opened with **After the Wedding** at the Jersey Arts Centre - further details on their excellent website www.mnlg.com/jfs/the_site/home.php.

★ **Reel People** celebrated 10 years of community cinema in Kilmersdon by staging Somerset's first village film festival. Eight films were screened over three days in three different venues along with the Moovies Festival Café serving curries and cream teas (not at the same time!). The programme promised something for everyone from the critically acclaimed British film **London to Brighton** to the fascinating Australian **Ten Canoes**.

At the opening reception, the Reel People committee presented Barry and Sarah Fowler with a Cow Called Brenda to thank them for being the driving force behind the Festival and ten years of cinema in the village.



Barry and Sarah... and Brenda



◆ WONDERFUL WOTTON!



Although it happened over three months ago, the Spring Viewing at the Electric Picture House should not go unreported - it was one of the most successful events of recent years with over 80 delegates from 22 Societies enjoying a good selection of films. The high point had to be EPH itself and its eye-boggling new state-of-the-art projection kit courtesy of a UKFC award. Equally impressive was the organisation by the cheerful team of volunteers (see above) who looked after the delegates so well in the EPH and the Town Hall and then went on to run an evening public screening of **M.Hulot's Holiday**. The six feature films were generally well-received, see below, and it is good see how many of the titles have turned up in the new seasons of SW Societies.

Audience Reactions

Little Miss Sunshine	90.4
The Page Turner	78.3
The Prestige	78.0
The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros	67.9
Lost Embrace	54.4
Keane	51.1



Book Now for the South Petherton Viewing - 14 October ➔



★ *The David Hall, South Petherton*

brave performance as **Sherrybaby** in a hard-hitting Indie production whilst Brit Toby Jones steals **Infamous** from his Hollywood co-stars, including Sandra Bullock, Sigourney Weaver and Gwyneth Paltrow, with his portrayal of Truman Capote.

Lunch will be served in Blake Hall but registration will be at the David Hall - note the earlier time of 9.30am with the first film, *Lady Chatterley*, starting at 10 am. The pegged ticket price of £15 (concessions, full-time students only, £13.50) is a bargain for three films, lunch and tea. So round up a car load for **Sunday 14 October** and send in the application form as soon as possible to **Anne Hooper** who is co-ordinating this Viewing. Visit www.pethertonpictureshow.com for links.

Six of the Best for Petherton Picture Show

It's four years since the Petherton Picture Show hosted a South West Viewing - the 2003 bill, shown on George May's 35mm and an array of new digital projectors, was topped by *Whale Rider* and *Être et Avoir*. This time we have digital projection in both the South Petherton venues, the David Hall and across the road in the Blake Hall and the selection is just as exciting, not to mention the excellent catering.

Paul Schilling has come up with an exciting blend of new releases and some overlooked titles from Tibet, India, France and Hollywood. The most recent is Gérard Depardieu's **The Singer** due for cinema release on 28 September and seen by many as a return to form. A second French title is **Lady Chatterley** filmed in Sheffield with a largely unknown Gallic cast and based on D H Lawrence's earlier draft of his novel, *John Thomas and Lady Jane*, creating a fresh and vital film and avoiding the torrid eroticism of earlier versions.

One of the other foreign language titles, **Water**, from Indian director Deepa Mehta was due to follow *Fire* (1996) and *Earth* (1998) in her 'Elements Trilogy' in 2000 but was delayed after Hindu extremists burnt down the sets. We are also previewing one of the BFFS block booking titles **Mountain Patrol (Kekexili)** a tough environmental thriller of poaching in the Tibetan mountains.

The two films from the USA couldn't be more different - Maggie Gyllenhaal gives a



★ *Mountain Patrol*

BFFS National News



★ **National Block Booking Scheme** - this has been running since May and a fair number of bookings have been received for the initial 13 titles including **Half Nelson** which attracted an Oscar® nomination for Ryan Gosling (available from 24 September). Latest addition is the epic documentary, **The Guernica Children**, from award-winning film-maker Steve Bowles (left) telling the story of the Basque children evacuated to Hampshire in the wake of the 1937 bombing of Guernica. Full details from Ros Hill on info@bffs.org.uk.

★ **BFFS 2007 National Conference - Saturday 1st December** - you will be receiving information on this exciting new event which will include training sessions, six new titles from the 2008 booking scheme and an annual dinner. The BFFS AGM will also be held during the day giving members a better chance to discuss the future of the Federation and its services.

South West Society News Extra

★ **Dorchester** celebrated the start of their 50th season with a screening of **The Painted Veil** to launch their new digital projection system provided by the Society in co-operation with Dorchester Town Council. DFS Chair Alexina Gannon singled out the support of Andy Worth of the Dorset Education Technology Centre in making the transition from their Chinese Spectra 35mm projectors, first installed in early 90s, to the new digital kit.

★ **Beer Film Society** has only been going for just over a year but they have certainly got the message that screening films to your community should be fun. There were two surprise guests at their gala showing of **Some Like It Hot** along with a variety show and other fun and games.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sun 14 Oct **SW Regional Viewing**
David Hall, Sth Petherton
Ring 07714 334 576
- Thu 1 Nov **Finest Hour - the films of Humphrey Jennings**
Dartmouth Guildhall 3pm, 8pm
Ring 01803 835849
- 1 - 17 Nov **Bath Film Festival**
www.bathfilmfestival.org
- Sat 3 Nov -
Mon 5 Nov **ICO Screening Days**
The Broadway, Nottingham
Details from website.
- Sat 1 Dec **BFFS National Conference**
The Showroom, Sheffield



Film South West is the Newsletter of the South West Group of the British Federation of Film Societies

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