

**More new SW venues in 2007 and more to come in 2008...**

SOUTH WEST BOOM!

The past year has been a vintage one for the South West Group with an unprecedented number of new start-ups, mainly arising from the *Film West by South West* project, that has pushed the Group's full membership past the seventy mark. There were two highly successful Viewings in Wotton under Edge and South Petherton. This edition of Film SW reviews these developments and events as well as a round-up of the best films of 2007 and a look forward to the special film events already lined up for 2008.

*'Water' topped the ratings at South Petherton in 2007*

◆ Film West by South West Up-date

So far, the initiative, led by Chris Baker, has helped set up four new screens in Cornwall including **Cinema by the Sea** in Looe, which won a Distinction in the New Film Society category in the BFFS's Annual Awards back in March. In the second half of 2007, the focus moved to Devon with a new venue launched in **Lympstone** and a lot of activity in the Torbay area. And the process shows no sign of slowing down in 2008 as the project has eleven prospects on its books from Teignmouth to Portishead and Painswick. Here's a round-up of some of these new and prospective screens...

➤ **Torbay Film Club** had a trial screening of *The Lives of Others* at the end of November, projected by Chris Baker, attracting an audience of 65. a first season is planned from April at Torbay Museum.

➤ **Teignmouth Film Society** had an audience of 150 for *Pan's Labyrinth* also in November, at the Community College Arts Centre and are promising 12 films a year with a strong local input.

➤ **Portishead Film Society** has a trial screening of *Little Miss Sunshine* lined up for the Gordano School on 7th February.



➤ **Lympstone** launched their new venture back in September with a full house of 115 for *Cinema Paradiso* and have continued with successful monthly screenings. In December, they had a 'Black and White' evening featuring films from the Marx Brothers and Buster Keaton and are planning matinees of classic for an older audience this January.

◆ NEW TITLES FOR NEXT SEASON

★ An exciting selection of new releases were up for consideration for the coming 2008-09 season at two Viewing events held back in the autumn. The South West event, hosted by the Petherton Picture Show, attracted over 90 delegates from 23 Societies to the charming Somerset village. Top ratings went to Deepa Mehta's *Water* and the other Capote movie *Infamous* but it was good to see one of the BFFS's block booking titles, *Mountain Patrol*, doing so well. There was also good support for the three shorts shown again available through special deals from the Federation.. The full details of the reactions can be found on the SW website but, for the record, the votes for the features were as follows....

South Petherton - top features

Water	89.5
Infamous	87.5
Mountain Patrol - Kekexili	81.3
The Singer	74.3
Lady Chatterley	70.7
Sherrybaby	64.3

★ In November, the ICO-managed Screening Days were showcased at the excellent Broadway Cinema in Nottingham. Amongst the two dozen titles, the latest of the BFFS block booking releases, *KZ*, made a good showing whilst *Lady Chatterley* fared better than at South Petherton.

Broadway, Nottingham - top ten features

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly	87.2
Sicko	86.5
Lady Chatterley	84.4
The Band's Visit	77.8
4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days	76.6
KZ	75.0
Finest Hour	75.0
La Antena	71.2
Eastern Promises	71.1
The Assassination of Jesse James	71.0

★ *The Band's Visit* for 2008-09 Seasons ?**Top Films of 2007 and Dates for Your New Diaries**

Films of the Year 2007

Here is our usual round-up of the top film choices by some of the critics to help you with your selections for your next season....

•Guardian (Various critics)

1. Control
2. Eastern Promises
3. Silent Light
4. The Lives of Others
5. Zodiac
6. Away from Her
7. Climates
8. Ratatouille
9. 12.08:East of Bucharest
10. Letters from Iwo Jima

Observer (Philip French - alphabetical)

1. The Assassination of Jesse James
2. Atonement
3. Bamako
4. Goya's Ghosts
5. Letters from Iwo Jima
6. The Lives of Others
7. Ratatouille
8. The Singer
9. This is England
10. Zodiac

•Time Out (Various critics)

1. A Prairie Home Companion
2. Climates
3. Bourne Ultimatum
4. The Lives of Others
5. Don't Touch the Axe
6. Bamako
7. Syndromes and a Century
8. Ratatouille
9. The Family Friend
10. Control
11. Golden Door
12. Silent Light

• The Big Issue (Edward Laursen)

- Venus
- This is England
- Michael Clayton
- Ten Canoes
- Climates
- Ratatouille
- And When Did You Last See Your Father



Michael Clayton

• Venue (Bristol/Bath)

- The Lives of Others
- Ratatouille
- Inland Empire

Also recommended

- This is England
- The Bourne Ultimatum
- The Counterfeiters
- Ten Canoes
- Jindabyne
- Hot Fuzz

• Film South West (Brian Clay)

- This is England
- Atonement
- Sicko
- The Darjeeling Limited
- Golden Door
- Michael Clayton
- KZ
- The Band's Visit
- The Kite Runner
- Jindabyne

• Film South West (Ralph Willett)

- Water
- 3.10 to Yuma
- Michael Clayton
- Lady Chatterley
- Sicko



BFFS Film Society of the Year

You will have read in last month's *NewsReel* that the BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards ceremony has been moved from the crowded schedule of the ICO Screening Days in March. It has been decided to give the event greater prominence by making it an integral part of the second BFFS National Conference to be held 27 - 28 September at the Showroom, Sheffield. The venue for the FSoY awards ceremony will be the Sheffield's magnificent Cutlers Hall on the evening of Saturday **27 September 2008**.

Details of how to enter the competition and the categories will be released soon so start work on those entries now and reserve the dates in your new diaries!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thu 24 Jan

BOLLYWOOD/HOLLYWOOD Dartmouth Film Society invite you to a Curry Night followed by a screening of Deepa Mehta's award-winning film. Tickets from Rob Bird on 01803 835849.

Sun 17 Feb

Yeovil Film Day - DANCE
Yeovil College: *The Red Shoes, Chicago, 42nd Street* plus Cinematheque cake and an optional Italian meal. Contact Kim Rixon 01935 841262.

Sun 24 Feb

Coen Brothers Film Day
Shaftesbury Arts Centre
Event has been **POSTPONED** due to unavailability of films. New date to be announced.

Sat 8 Mar -
Mon 10 Mar

ICO Screening Days
bfi Southbank. Details from the ICO website.

Sat 8 Mar -
Sat 15 Mar

Global Village Festival
Fifth annual celebration of world cinema for the Corsham area. Details from 01249 715 704.

Sun 27 Apr

SW Regional Viewing/AGM
Wincanton Film Society with the support of Yeovil Cinematheque are our hosts at King Arthur's Community School for a day of film previews. Details later.

Sat 27 Sep

BFFS Film Society of the Year Award Ceremony
Cutlers Hall, Sheffield.

Top Banana for Bath!

Congratulations to Chris Baker and all the folks that put together the **Bath Film Festival** on winning a Top Banana award from *Venue* magazine. In the Top Film Festival category they fought off competition from Bristol's Slapstick silent film festival and the short film festival Encounters. Chris says: 'We were tremendously honoured to receive this award against such tough competition from our friends in Bristol. Shame we had to give the banana back after the photo was taken!'



Stuart Fiddes and Chris Baker

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