



Cornwall's Penwith Film Society have good reason to feel.....

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY!



Sally Hawkins in her Silver Bear winning role

Penwith is to host the Cornwall Gala Screening of Mike Leigh's new film, **Happy-Go-Lucky** on Wednesday 16 April at the Savoy Cinema in Penzance. This coup for the society has been arranged thanks to the generosity of the film's producer Simon Channing Williams who recently became a PFS life member. Channing Williams will both introduce the film and offer a 30-minute Q&A afterwards. He'll be accompanied by several "props": trophies and awards won over the years, including a BAFTA, an Oscar, a Golden Lion, and a Palme d'Or. The film had its world premiere at the Berlin Film Festival in February where it was enthusiastically received and won a Silver Bear for Sally Hawkins as Best Actress .

"This is a huge privilege for the PFS and its entire membership," said PFS chairman Steve Payne. "This gala screening caps a terrific year for us. Last year we were awarded top prize for Best Film Programming by the British Federation of Film Societies, and our current membership is at record levels. Life is good for the PFS right now! "

See www.penwithfilmsociety.co.uk for further details.

★ BFFS SW Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the SW Group will be held after lunch at the Wincanton Viewing on 27 April. There will be a chance to raise any concerns and Julia Vickers, the BFFS Partnerships and Strategy consultant, will be there to answer your questions (BFFS Block Bookings, Filmbank, vanilla DVDs, funding etc). There will also be elections to the Group Executive – a number of people have had to stand down this year so we do need volunteers to join the Executive. This only involves 3 or 4 meetings a year and the Group would welcome new ideas and enthusiasm even if you have only recently joined the BFFS. Contact Brian Clay or volunteer on the day!

◆ SON OF RAMBOW RULES!

The ICO Screening Days at bfi Southbank last month previewed over 20 new releases and re-issues in the three cinemas. Way ahead at the top of the ratings was the British comedy **Son of Rambow** which received a deserved round of applause from the NFT1 audience. Otherwise, the overall ratings were down on previous years, due to a higher proportion of Ds and Es than usual. That shouldn't deter Film Societies from booking titles such as the impressive Spanish psychological thriller **The Orphanage**, produced by Guillermo Del Toro, **The Banishment**, the second film from the Russian director of **The Return** or John Sayles' latest **Honeydripper** about the birth of rock n' roll. Also worthy of attention were the animated version of Marjane Satrapi's graphic Iranian novel, **Persepolis**, and **Son of Man**, just added to the BFFS's block booking roster.



Bill Milner is Son of Rambo

Audience Reactions - Top 15

Son of Rambow	83.6
Persepolis	75.6
Joy Division	75.0
The Orphanage	74.7
The Banishment	74.5
Honeydripper	74.0
Redacted	70.4
Lars and the Real Girl	68.6
The 39 Steps	65.9
Happy-Go-Lucky	65.1
You, The Living	65.0
Housewife's Choice	64.9
Son of Man	64.1
When a Woman Ascends the Stairs	62.8
My Brother is an Only Child	59.9

Book Now for the Wincanton Viewing - 27 April ➡ ➡

Six Great Runners at Wincanton !

Following the successful Viewing at South Petherton back in November, the SW Group caravan has moved up the A303 to Wincanton. Our hosts for the event on **Sunday 27 April** are the town's Film Society, now well into their fourth season after being launched in September 2004 with a screening of *Cold Mountain*. Their venue is the King Arthur's Community School Performance Enhancement Centre (P.E.C.) with tiered seating for 140 with a second screen for this Viewing in the School Hall.

The film selection has attempted to capture some of the titles that have fallen between the ICO Screening Days but are likely to be under consideration for next season - **Michael Clayton**, with George Clooney and Tilda Swinton, the stylish **Golden Door** and the Oscar-winning **The Counterfeiters**. The programme also includes the documentary **In the Shadow of the Moon** with stunning original NASA film footage and the first feature in the Gaelic language, **Seachd**. The ever-expanding BFFS Block Booking catalogue is represented by the darkly humorous **Fear and Trembling** from French director Alain Corneau. There will also be Paul Schilling's selection of shorts and a surprise, not-so-silent, movie short after lunch before the AGM.

The ticket price of £15 (concessions, full-time students only, £13.50) remains a bargain for three films, lunch and tea - a great day out thanks to Wincanton, with the support of Yeovil Cinémathèque. So send off the application form (also available as a download from the BFFS SW website) directly to **Paul Schilling** to arrive no later than 23 April, for catering numbers - remember to fill in your main course choices on the form.

Further details on the venue including a map are to be found on the Society's excellent website www.wincantonfilm.co.uk.

South West Society News

★ **Axbridge**, now renamed **The Roxy**, has won over £9000 from *Awards for All* to allow them to install a high definition DVD system with surround sound. Their venue, in a former coaching inn in the North Somerset village, will also be upgraded. Chair Juliet Maclay, in whose house The Roxy is located, hopes they can be a successor to the Welsh mini-cinema *La Charette* featured on the BBC's Culture Show last month.

★ **Film W by SW** continues its amazing progress with trial screenings in Painswick (16 April), Cullompton (3 May) and North Wraxall (6 May). First seasons are being launched by the Torbay Film Club and the Portishead Film Society with the help and support of the project and its manager Chris Baker.

★ **The Global Village Film Festival** celebrated its fifth outing this March with even more screenings in Corsham and surrounding villages, Lacock, Biddlestone, Neston, Box and Colerne. The opening double bill of **Once** and **Venus** at the newly refurbished Pound Arts Centre set the seal of success on the week's events which ended with a sell-out screening of Harold Lloyd's **Safety Last** with a new live score composed by James Harpham.

★ **Dorchester** marked the 50th anniversary of their first AGM with a screening of **Smiles of a Summer's Night** shown in their first season. To commemorate Bergman's monochrome comedy, the committee dressed in black and white and a presentation was made to the longest serving member Elma Wyatt (who wore red!).



SW Website Changes

If you log on to the Group's website www.bffssouthwest.org.uk, you will see some changes arising from migration to a host with more room. Webmaster Dave Watterson, who started and ran the SW site for over ten years, has handed over the baton to Hans Hoffbauer - many thanks to them both. The latest addition to the site is the **annual listing of film titles** for next season. You should have received a WORD copy by email but updates will be on the website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 27 Apr
10am - 7pm

SW Regional Viewing
Wincanton - 01747 853224
to book before 23 April.

Sun 11 May
2 - 7pm

Coen Brothers Film Day
Shaftesbury Arts Centre
Introduced screenings of
Blood Simple and **No
Country for Old Men** plus
tea! Ring 01747 853224.

Sat 27 Sep
Sun 28 Sep

BFFS National Conference
including **Film Society of
the Year Award Ceremony**
at the Cutlers Hall, Sheffield
on the Saturday. More
details later.

Sat 8 Nov
Mon 10 Nov

ICO Screening Days
Edinburgh Filmhouse

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

Secretary/Editor: Brian Clay, 44 Stoke Lane, Bristol BS9 3DN. Tel: 0117 9620 635. briandclay@hotmail.com

Equipment Loans: Paul Schilling, 5 Well Lane, Enmore Green, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8LP. Tel: 01747 853224

Websites: BFFS National www.bffs.org.uk; SW Group: www.bffssouthwest.org.uk

BFFS Registered Office: Unit 315, The Work Station, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield S1 2BX. Company No. 1391200 England & Wales, Charity No. 276633.