



Wotton's Electric Picture House Celebrates 1000th Show...

## MAMMA MIA, HERE WE GO AGAIN!



*Catherine Johnson with fans and EPH volunteers*

Back in August, when most Societies in our region were getting ready for their new seasons, the folk at Wotton Electric Picture House were celebrating their 1000th show with a packed house for *Mamma Mia!* Organiser Jeff Walshe was amazed to find a surprise guest in the audience - Catherine Johnson, the writer of the original hit musical and the film adaptation, who grew up in the area. Catherine is now the patron of EPH who are heading for 40,000 'bums on seats' for nearly 400 films since their re-opening in 2005....and *Mamma Mia* is still selling out!

### ★ SW Societies Dipped at the Post!

Societies from the region made a good showing at the BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards in Sheffield at the end of September but, for the first time in many years, failed to win in any of the eight categories. Penwith, CinéGuernsey, Lympstone and Shaftesbury Arts Centre all won Distinctions whilst CinéGuernsey won a Commendation in the Community Award category. Reel People from Kilmersdon received a special mention in the overall contest for the Engholm Prize and must take consolation as remaining one of the only Societies to have received the Film Society of the Year award on two occasions.



*Ralph Willett with Derek Malcolm and Julieanne Crothers-Gibson*

### ◆ WONDERFUL WINCANTON

For the record, the South West Viewing at Wincanton back in the Spring was a record-breaker! Over 130 delegates from 33 existing or emerging Societies made the trip to King Arthur's Community School to enjoy a great day of previews with high scores for most of the six titles. The British-made documentary on the moon landings, *In the Shadow of the Moon*, topped the reactions (see below). It was also good to see the BFFS block booking title *Fear and Trembling* being well received as well as many of the shorts on offer in BFFS deals with Bitesize and Cineclub. The highlight of the day had to be the bonus screening of the Buster Keaton classic *One Week* with the inspired piano accompaniment from James Harpham.



*James Harpham at Wincanton*

#### Audience Reactions

In the Shadow of the Moon	90.9
The Counterfeiters	83.0
Fear and Trembling	78.1
Seachd - The Inaccessible Pinnacle	77.2
Michael Clayton	72.7
Golden Door	59.0
One Week	91.4

SW Co-Chair was on hand at the ceremony in the Cutlers Hall to receive the awards to Shaftesbury and Lympstone from BFFS President Derek Malcolm and Julieanne Crothers-Gibson, Chair of the new BFFS Board.

Only seven Societies from our region entered this year so maybe next year, with more entries, the South West can return to the winning ways of recent years...it's up to you!

**Book Now for the Exeter Viewing - 26 October** ➡ ➡

## Summer Releases for Exeter University Viewing !

It's only three years since we were last guests of Exeter University's CinSoc for a South West Viewing when the controversial *Kinsey* topped the ratings. They have kindly invited us again, on **Sunday 26 October**, and, thanks to Nick Keen's superb 35 mm projectors, we are able to offer a number of very recent releases in the Devonshire House cinema. Both Shane Meadow's charming comedy *Somers Town* and the bitter-sweet farce from Uruguay *El Bano del Papa* only came out in cinemas back in August, shortly after the very French drama *Summer Hours*. A second venue will also offer recent titles on DVD - *The Visitor*, from the director of *The Station Agent*, and the quirky lo-fi romance *In Search of a Midnight Kiss*, from the exciting new line-up of BFFS Block Bookings (the 2008/09 catalogue is just out). A third recent release is to be confirmed.

The ticket price remains at £15 (concessions, £13.50, for full-time students only), a bargain for three films, lunch and tea; registration will be from 9.45 am with the first screenings at 10.30 am. The day is also a good opportunity for new and prospective venues to meet and quiz those already experienced in community cinema. So send off the application form, available as a download from the BFFS SW website, directly to **Anne Hooper** to arrive no later than 22 October so we can finalise catering numbers. Further details with maps of the Exeter campus are to be found on the website [www.bffssouthwest.org.uk](http://www.bffssouthwest.org.uk).



*The Pope's Toilet on its way to Exeter!*

## South West Society News

★ **Money, money, money**, to carry on the Abba theme, is the good news story for a number of our new Societies in the South West.....

★ **Looe - Cinema by the Sea**, have been awarded a grant of £3000 from Cornwall County Council and *Awards for All* Lottery funding of around £10,000 to allow them to move home and expand their programming. The money, along with funds that they have raised themselves, will allow the Society, only founded in May 2006, to move to a new venue offering much better facilities. They also have plans to provide film shows for children and young people. The move is likely to take place in February next year. See [www.looefilmsociety.org.uk](http://www.looefilmsociety.org.uk).

★ **Lympstone Film Society** ran their first film-making workshop for young people back in the summer, part-funded by their recent *Awards for All* grant. The two-day event involved six members of the village youth club and a charismatic young professional film-maker, Exeter-based, Ben Sherriff (<http://sherriff-hd.com>) working to produce a 5 minute short. Combining tea and time travel, this was enjoyable to make and to watch. Contact Lympstone's Don Mildenhall via *Film South West* if you have questions about the practicalities and lottery funding.

★ **Film W by SW** - at the Wincanton AGM, Chris Baker reported on the great success of the BFFS SW project to help new venues start-up, initially in Cornwall and Devon, and more recently throughout the region from Painswick to Portland. Since the AGM, there have been even more trial screenings - Cullompton, South Brent and Chudleigh in Devon, Lostwithiel in Cornwall, Kilve in Somerset and North Wraxall and Kington Langley in Wiltshire. The scheme, funded by the Lottery through South West Screen, has exceeded all expectations.



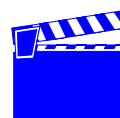
## 'Persepolis' most-shown in SW

Over forty Societies in our region have sent in their 2008/09 programmes to Hans Hoffbauer and they can be found on the SW website. The title being shown most across the region is *Persepolis*, with 17 screenings, followed by *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, *The Kite Runner*, *The Counterfeiters*, *Happy-Go-Lucky* and *Son of Rambow*, all with eleven or more showings. Another statistic to emerge is that the total number of different titles is approaching 200 and includes classic films from *The Lady Vanishes* to *Fred and Ginger*.



*Marjane Satrapi's 'Persepolis'*

If you have only just finalised your selection or haven't sent in your programme yet, please keep Hans happy and fill the blanks on the website!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 26 Oct **SW Regional Viewing**  
10am - 7pm Exeter University - 0207 794 2838  
before 22 October to book.

Thur 30 Oct **Bath Film Festival**  
to Sun 9 Nov The brochure for this year's exciting mixture of previews, recent releases, classics and special events is just out.  
Box Office 01225 463362 or 0871 7042061, website [www.bathfilmfestival.org.uk](http://www.bathfilmfestival.org.uk).

Sat 8 Nov - **ICO Screening Days**  
Mon 10 Nov 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](mailto: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](http://www.bffs.org.uk); SW Group: [www.bffssouthwest.org.uk](http://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.