



Award winning titles lined up for South West Viewing.....

# SIX OF THE BEST FOR CORSHAM !



*Kristin Scott Thomas in 'I've Loved You So Long'*

The excitement of the current awards season is brought to Corsham on **Sunday 8 March** with the selection of the new releases to be previewed at South West's latest Viewing Day. Leading the line-up are BAFTA winners - *I've Loved You So Long* selected as 'Best Film not in the English Language' and *Hunger*, the intense study of hunger-striker Bobby Sands that gave Steve McQueen the Carl Foreman award for best debut feature. Another BAFTA nominee was *Waltz with Bashir*, the animated documentary based on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, which is also up for the Foreign Language Oscar® at this year's ceremony. And to stretch the award theme to breaking point, Hiam Abbass, the Palestinian star of *Lemon Tree* was last seen in *The Visitor* for which co-star Richard Jenkins has been Oscar-nominated!

The other two titles are recent additions to the BFFS Block Booking scheme - *Summer*, which earned star Robert Carlyle the Best Actor award at last year's Edinburgh Film Festival, - and *Emma's Bliss*, from German director Sven Taddicken which was well-received at the 2008 Bradford and Bath Film Festivals.

Since our last visit to Corsham in 2003, the Pound Arts Centre has had a major refurbishment and offers two modern auditoria to do the film selection justice. We are also certain of a great welcome from our hosts, Film @ the Pound, guaranteeing a great day.



So, get those application forms filled in - they are available as a pdf on the SW website or as a hard copy with this newsletter. Send them as soon as possible, to Ralph Willett who is our Ticket Master this time. See you on the 8th!

*The Pound Arts Centre, Corsham*

## ◆ **MOVIOLA ON THE BBC!**

Early morning viewers of BBC Breakfast a week or so back will have seen our own Phill Walkley sporting a Moviola T-shirt at a Fordingbridge screening of their latest runaway hit which is proving to be Dorset's answer to *Mamma Mia!* even equalling that film's attendance records in some halls. A BBC film crew were there to investigate the appeal of *Morris - A Life with Bells On* which has been playing to packed houses throughout the Moviola region. The documentary-style comedy with an all-star cast was shot partly in Poole and Wimborne with Bournemouth's sands even standing in for California. Moviola has had an exclusive run with the film but bookings are on hold whilst the film-makers continue their bid for a nationwide commercial release - a number of societies have shown an interest so we will let you know when the embargo is lifted.



*Dominique Pinon in MORRIS*

## DVD BRING & BUY

Bring your unwanted DVDs to the Corsham Viewing and donate them to our Bring-and-Buy table. We'll be selling them on the day at around £2/£3, so a great opportunity to catch up with films you haven't seen and to contribute modestly to SW Group funds. The more the merrier!

**Book Now for the Corsham Viewing - 8 March 2009**

SW Group wins £3000 Lottery funding for Devon & Cornwall Initiative....

## FILM WEST by SOUTH WEST - The Sequel!



**Chris Baker at the 2008 AGM mapping out the campaign**

Chris Baker has been successful in an application to South West Screen and the RIFE Lottery fund to help the South West Group build on its Film WbySW initiative. An award of £3000 has been secured for the Group to follow up the project with some development work, with a view to establishing a locally-based network which will be the first point of support for community cinema in Devon and Cornwall. Chris is also applying to Awards For All to supplement the South West Screen funding, to enable Film WbySW to continue to support emerging community cinemas in the region. New and established societies and clubs in the two counties have already received preliminary details of the plans for the Network. It is hoped to convene a meeting soon to take soundings on what people want to help them develop community cinema in the region. The Awards for All funding will also enable the Group to continue with trial screenings and organise another Information Day. For more details, contact Chris on 07800 586 379.

## Meanwhile... the Show Goes On!

Although the original Film WbySW funding is spent, the SW Group has decided to carry on responding to the many enquiries, which keep coming from all sides, by dipping into its modest financial reserves and calling on its volunteers. So, trial screenings have continued to launch new screens .....

★ **Shipham**, a Somerset village just north of Cheddar, provided an almost text-book perfect lesson in how to get a new venue up and running. Many weeks of planning and a great attention to detail culminated in a sell-out screening of **Happy-Go-Lucky** in the impressive Shipham Village Hall last month. Over 120 villagers enjoyed the big-screen experience provided by the SW Group's kit, in the capable hands of Chris Baker, of course. Norma and Keith Scanlon, Jane Sanders and an enthusiastic committee ensured that all went right on the night - down to the impressive array of film-themed cakes from Cupcake Kitchen. More films are lined up for the next three months including **Michael Clayton** on 6 March and **Persepolis** on 24 April.

★ **Wellow** had their trial screening two days earlier in their Village Hall a few miles south of Bath. The film was the Leonardo Di Caprio thriller **Blood Diamond** and the response has encouraged Jackie Halle and the local team to apply for an Awards for All grant and set up a second trial.

## ★ BFFS NATIONAL NEWS

### DONNA TAKES THE BFFS HELM

Last month, Donna Anton formally took over as Chair of the BFFS Board of Trustees, following the resignation, for personal reasons, of Julieanne Crothers-Gibson. Most recently secretary of Penwith Film



**Donna Anton at the 2007 FSoY Awards**

Society, Donna writes: *"A Chicago-born Greek residing in the far reaches of West Cornwall perhaps doesn't make me the least likely person to chair the BFFS board, but it's probably close. I can, however, assure you that my enthusiasm for the organisation and for community cinema transcends the barriers of distance!"*. The other officers elected at the meeting until the 2009 AGM were Richard Grayson as Vice Chair and Jim Dempster as Treasurer.



**Jane Sanders and the Shipham team at the launch plus the clapperboard cupcakes!**

★ **Elsewhere** new prospective film venues are at various stages of development including **Kilve**, Somerset, **Holt** and **Kington Langley** both in Wiltshire and the Great Bow Wharf in **Langport**. The SW Group is also helping new start-ups outside our region, booking films for Little Witley in West Worcestershire.



- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**
- Sat 14 Mar - **Global Village Festival**
  - Sat 21 Mar - Sixth annual celebration of world cinema for the Corsham area - See <http://www.fatp.co.uk/ff09/ff09.html>
  - Sat 18 Apr - **ICO Screening Days**
  - Mon 20 Apr - bfi Southbank. Details soon on [www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk](http://www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk)

### STOP PRESS - NATIONAL WEBSITE RELAUNCHED

The BFFS's national website has had an exciting face-lift with a revamped homepage in lively red and black. New features will be added over the next few weeks but check it out now at the old address [www.bffs.org.uk](http://www.bffs.org.uk).

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

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