



A Look Back at 2009 and Forward to 2010...

HAPPY NEW DECADE!

Over the past ten years, community cinema has boomed in the South West with BFFS membership rising from 30 societies in 2000 to around 70 for 2008 and 2009, many of the new screens being set up by SW Group initiatives. This success has been reflected by a sharp rise in attendance at SW Viewings culminating in two sell-out events last year in Corsham and Shaftesbury. This issue of *Film South West* brings news of recent developments in the region with the usual round-up of the best films of 2009 and looks forward to events planned for 2010.



Will Film Societies be *'Looking for Eric'* in 2010?

• South West News

- **Ken Loach to visit Shipham!** - in only their second year, Shipham Film Society in Somerset have pulled off an exciting coup in having Ken Loach accept their invitation to attend a screening of *Looking for Eric* on 23 April. Organiser Norma Scanlon told *FSW* "...we're so excited - a real-life film director in Shipham!"
- **Langport Community Cinema** - BFFS SW is to stage a trial screening next month at the Great Bow Wharf site in the west Somerset town. Paul Schilling reports that this is to be the start of exciting plans for a range of community cinema services including a cinema club, monthly matinees for elderly and disabled residents and an after-school Kids Club. Other possible initiatives include a programme of Polish language films and links with local film-makers.
- **The Wotton Electric Picture House** completed their fourth year back in October passing 60,000 admissions for 1600 shows featuring 450 films. One of its founders, Jeff Walshe, told *FSW* that they had just added the Xpand 3D set-up to their DCI projection. The South West Group have been invited to return for a Viewing in the Spring 2011 so a 3D demo may be on the cards. They have also been screening a locally produced short, *'then, Voyager'*, which they recommend to Film Societies.

- **BFFS Award for Chudleigh**
As reported in *FSW 106*, three new SW Societies, who were all part of the *Film WbySW* project, were recognised in the BFFS's annual 'Oscars' award ceremony back in September. At the Shaftesbury Viewing, Carole Smart of **Chudleigh Film Society** received their Distinction certificate from Jaq Chell from the BFFS Sheffield office.



★ Chudleigh receive award

◆ NEW TITLES PREVIEWED IN 2009

★ Two events were held in the autumn of 2009 to preview new features for possible inclusion in programmes in 2010. Details have been posted on the relevant websites but for the record, here are the highlights.

Shaftesbury Arts Centre Film Society hosted the BFFS SW Viewing in their refurbished venue and attracted a sell-out audience of 127 from 32 Societies from as far away as Lerryn in Cornwall and Lymington 'over the border' in Hampshire.

The headline of a very enjoyable day was that three of the top four titles were new additions to the BFFS Block Booking catalogue including the over-looked French comedy, *Conversations with My Gardener*. Surprisingly, given its top position in a number of 2009 top tens (see over), Claire Denis's *32 Shots of Rum* divided the audience down the middle as the ratings show:

Shaftesbury - top features

Burma VJ	92.0
Looking for Eric	91.9
Conversations with My Gardener	89.8
Frozen River	82.6
Mid-August Lunch	80.1
35 Shots of Rum	59.6

★ Top of the ratings at the ICO Screening Days held in Sheffield in November was another BFFS title, *Welcome*, a gripping French film on exile and refugees. The other top features were:

The Showroom, Sheffield - top features

Welcome	85.9
A Prophet	84.0
Departures	84.0
Capitalism: A Love Story	81.9
Nowhere Boy	80.6
Precious	77.7
L'Affaire Farewell	75.0
MICMACS	70.9
The Queen of Spades	70.8

Films of the Year 2009

Here is our usual round-up of the top film choices made by some of the media critics, plus BFFS contributors, to help with your programme selections later this year...

• **Radio 5 Live** (Mark Kermode)

1. Let the Right One In
2. Slumdog Millionaire
3. Anvil! - The Story of Anvil
4. The White Ribbon
5. Antichrist
6. Moon
7. Helen
8. Gran Torino
9. A Serious Man
10. White Lightnin'

• **Sight & Sound** (Various critics)

1. A Prophet
- 2=. The Hurt Locker
- 2=. 35 Shots of Rum
4. The White Ribbon
5. Let the Right One in
- 6=. Up
- 6=. White Material
- 8=. Bright Star
- 8=. Antichrist
10. Inglourious Basterds

• **Observer** (Philip French - chronological) • **Venue** (Bristol/Bath)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Slumdog Millionaire | Anvil! The Story of Anvil |
| 2. Il Divo | Up |
| 3. Let The Right One In | Let the Right One In |
| 4. Antichrist | Coraline |
| 5. The Hurt Locker | The Cove |
| 6. Broken Embraces | The Hurt Locker |
| 7. Up | Star Trek |
| 8. The White Ribbon | Fish Tank |
| 9. A Serious Man | Mesrine: Parts 1 & 2 |
| 10. Me and Orson Welles | A Serious Man |

• **Guardian** (Xan Brooks)

1. Let the Right One In
2. 35 Shots of Rum
3. Antichrist
4. The White Ribbon
5. Tony Manero (Pablo Larrain)
6. sleep furiously
7. Il Divo
8. The Wrestler
9. Adventureland
10. The Hurt Locker

• **Film South West** (Brian Clay)

- The Hurt Locker
- Looking for Eric
- Slumdog Millionaire
- Let the Right One In
- Katalin Varga
- Moon
- An Education
- Me and Orson Welles
- Nowhere Boy
- Wendy and Lucy

• **BFFS National** (Donna Anton)

- In the Loop
- Katyn
- Encounters at the End of the World
- Rachel Getting Married
- The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo
- Gran Torino
- Frost/Nixon
- Let the Right One In
- Milk
- A Serious Man

• **Film South West** (Ralph Willett)

- In the Loop
- The Hurt Locker
- Me and Orson Welles
- An Education
- Burma VJ
- Il Divo
- Let the Right One In
- Flame and Citron
- Moon
- Red Cliff (John Woo)



Coen Brothers' *A Serious Man*



Everyone's Choice: *Let the Right One In*



2010 DIARY

Sun 21 Feb



François Truffaut Day

Shaftesbury Arts Centre, 13 Bell Street, Shaftesbury SP7 8AR
3 pm **Les Quatre Cent Coups**
followed by
5.25 pm **Love on the Run**
Tickets: £9 including tea and cakes. Box Office 01747 854 321.

March

Yeovil Film Day - has been postponed until a Sunday in March. For the new date, consult www.cinematheque.org.uk

Sat 13 Mar -

Global Village Festival

Sat 20 Mar

Seventh annual celebration of World Cinema cinema for the Corsham area. Details from 01249 715 704.

Thu 8 Apr -

Swindon Film Festival

Sun 11 Apr

Around the World in 80 Hours
Details from 01793 330639

Sat 17 Apr -

ICO Screening Days

Mon 19 Apr

bfi Southbank. Details later.

Sun 25 Apr

SW Regional Viewing/AGM

Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, Somerset for a day of new releases and the SW Group AGM. Details later on the SW website.

Renew your BFFS Membership now!

At the BFFS AGM in September, it was reported that national membership had shown a healthy increase in 2009. If the Federation (and the SW Group!) is to continue providing support to the non-theatrical sector, it is vital that all film societies and community cinemas renew their membership as soon as they receive the application forms. Highlights for members in 2010 will include:

- § Even more brand new titles on the National Block Booking Scheme
- § Access to the new interactive website
- § National Conference and Regional Viewings
- § Access to the latest digital projection kit

Don't miss out - return your form to Jaq at the Sheffield office asap!

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

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