

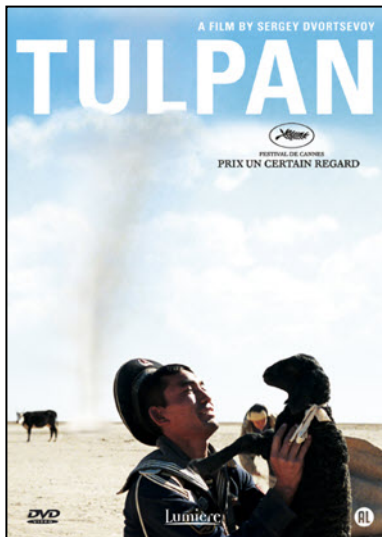
Exclusive Preview for SW Spring Viewing ahead of Cinema Release....

# BATCOMBE BLOCKBUSTERS!



Brenda Blethyn in 'London River'

➤ **Batcombe Film Society** last hosted a SW Viewing in 2004 when the charming Norwegian comedy *Elling* topped the bill. Six years on, the film programme is headlined with something of a scoop with a screening of *London River*, not scheduled for cinema release until 9th July. After the WWII epic *Days of Glory*, Rachid Bouchareb has returned to a smaller canvas with a spare drama starring Brenda Blethyn and Malian actor Sotigui Kouyate as a couple united by the tragedy of the 7/7 bombings. *London River* is to be a BFFS Block Booking title along with *Welcome* also lined up for the 25th April event. This French tale of a Kurdish teenager's attempt to reach England was the most popular film at the ICO Screening Days in Sheffield back in November. Two titles needing no introduction are the Oscar-nominated *The White Ribbon* from controversial Austrian director Michael Haneke and *Fish Tank* which won the Outstanding British Film award for Andrea Arnold at this year's BAFTA.



The last two films to be previewed on DVD couldn't more different. *Tulpan* is set in the dusty sun-bleached flats of Kazakhstan which are deftly transformed into a hotbed of romantic and familial intrigue by writer-director Sergei Dvortsevoy. In another time and place, Martin Provost's *Séraphine* is a gorgeously-photographed life of the painter Séraphine de Senlis. Winner of seven Césars, the film is based on the true story of a simple maid who was discovered as a talented artist on the eve of the Great War.

Six great films plus new shorts, a quiz, DVD Bring & Buy and a great venue - a recipe for another successful SW Viewing - book now!

## ★ BOOKING DETAILS

Three of the last four SW Viewings have given us the not unwelcome problem of catering for a large number of delegates. So, once again for Batcombe, we are continuing with the limit of 120 on overall numbers and only six tickets per Society. The good news is that the ticket price has been pegged at £16 for BFFS Members and Associates. This remains very good value for a full day of new releases and excellent catering from morning coffee through buffet lunch to tea and cakes. Note that vegetarian and vegan requirements can be catered for as long as you fill in the appropriate section of the application form.

The second venue in the Old School House has a capacity of 70 so we will be issuing priority passes, one per Society, when you arrive at reception. This will ensure that at least one delegate from each Society will be able to preview the film - they will be admitted 10 minutes before the screening whilst anyone else can take their chance 5 minutes later. If the venue is over-subscribed, there will still be time to see the other feature in the Jubilee Hall which accommodates over 100.

So round up your Committee members and fill a car for another exciting SW event. A map to find Batcombe and the Jubilee Hall in darkest, but beautiful Somerset can be down-loaded from the SW website.

For anyone about to start their own community cinema, this is also a great opportunity to meet with other organisers from all over the region, as well as the SW Group team. A hard copy application form is enclosed with the mailing or can be downloaded as a pdf from the SW website. Send the form to Hans Hoffbauer, who is our ticket master this time, by Friday 16th April at the latest. See you on the 25th!

# SOUTH WEST SOCIETY NEWS

Some good news of successful grant applications and new start-ups around the region...

➤ **Chudleigh Film Society** have been awarded **£9973** from the Big Lottery Fund. This award, together with a smaller amount from Grass Roots, Devon will enable them to buy their own projector and audio system a big screen and comfortable chairs.



They plan to transform what was once a chapel into Chudleigh's own cinemas. To celebrate, the Society will be organising a special Movie Weekend, at the start of their third season in September.

➤ **Ipplepen gets started!** - The first screening of the recently formed Ipplepen Film Society took place on 17th March with a screening of *Slumdog Millionaire*. Ipplepen is a village with a population of 2,500, halfway between Newton Abbot and Totnes in South Devon. The Society has acquired a national lottery award for equipment and will be showing classic and contemporary films in the village hall on a monthly basis. They also hope in the future to include a couple of 10 minute shorts prior to each main screening, made by the local primary school or other locals. Chairman Geoff King told *FSW*: "We have also had support from our County Councillor's locality fund, the local Co-op and post office and, in particular, from Okehampton Moving Pictures Community Cinema. We are on our way!"

➤ **Langport Community Cinema** Trial screenings by Paul Schilling in February of *A Private Function* and *Bright Star* at the Great Bow Wharf site in Langport has led to the launch of a new cinema club in the Somerset town. The project has received an Arts for All grant of £5800 and is planning a range of community cinema services including a cinema club, monthly matinees for elderly and disabled residents and an after-school Kids



The Chudleigh Committee with the Big Lottery cheque

➤ **An Education for Moviola!** Lone Scherfig's enjoyable film may have lost out at the Oscars but its success at the BAFTAs has resulted in big audiences on Moviola's rural circuit. So far this year there have been over 30 screenings with 40 more scheduled for April and May. Venues from Marlborough Town Hall to Penton Mewsey have been reporting large turn-outs. Overall, Moviola seems to have overcome last season's *Mamma Mia!* effect and maintained good attendances throughout its 80+ screens.

## ◆ Dates for Your Diary

Sun 3 Apr - **Bridport's Film Festival**

Sat 9 Apr *From Page to Screen* is the UK's only festival dedicated to the adaptation of books into films. The exciting programme of 19 events includes Lynn Barber talking about *An Education* and Christopher Isherwood on *A Single Man*. Details from 01308 424204 or 428354.

Thu 8 Apr - **Swindon Film Festival**

Sun 11 Apr *Around the World in 80 Hours* is a journey through World Cinema from Australia, with the beautiful but brutal *Samson and Delilah*, to *Departures* from Japan and *Burma VJ*. Details from 01793 330639

Sat 17 Apr - **ICO Screening Days**

Mon 19 Apr BFI Southbank., London .

Sun 25 Apr **SW Regional Viewing/AGM**

Jubilee Hall, Batcombe, Somerset.

## Have you renewed your BFFS Membership ?

Jaq from the BFFS Sheffield Office tells us that Societies are being more prompt in renewing their Federation membership for 2010 than in previous years. So far, in the SW, 50 out of a possible 70+ Societies have rejoined but that does leave a significant number who have yet to do so. Remember that the services provided nationally and locally depend, in part, on the support of our members. Julia Vickers will be attending our AGM in Batcombe and will be outlining BFFS's plans for the future including new titles for the Block Booking scheme. So, if you haven't done it yet , return your form to Jaq asap!



'Bright Star' screening at Langport and Bridport

DVD  
VIDEO

BRING  
& BUY

If you are coming to the Batcombe Viewing, don't forget to bring some DVDs to the "DVD Bring and Buy". Just donate any unwanted disks to the Bring-and-Buy table and we'll be selling them on the day at around £2/£3. A great opportunity to catch up with films that you haven't seen and to contribute modestly to SW Group funds. The more the merrier!

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

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**Websites:** BFFS National: [www.bffs.org.uk](http://www.bffs.org.uk); SW Group: [www.bffssouthwest.org.uk](http://www.bffssouthwest.org.uk)

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