



South West Group membership hits new high...

# NOW WE ARE 70!

In 2011, membership of the South West Group broke through the 70 barrier for the first time as we welcomed a number of new venues dedicated to community cinema. As 2012 dawns, this edition of *Film South West* looks at some of these new members in our region as well as looking forward to the films that we may be showing in the coming year including *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* (below), which was included in many critics' choices for the Top Ten Films of the Year.



'Smiley realised that film selection for 2012 was going to be difficult...!'

➤ **35 Years On!** When the South West Group was restarted in 1976, there were less than twenty BFFS Societies in the region. Since then, the total has increased dramatically especially in recent years with the advent of digital projection. Many of these new venues were given a helping hand in getting started by the volunteers of the Group and last year was no exception with five new start-ups from Launceston to North Curry; the latest additions are....

➤ **Honiton Community Cinema** was launched back in September when Paul Schilling screened Kevin McDonald's *Life in a Day* at the Devon town's Mackarness Hall. An enthusiastic audience encouraged the new committee to book a season of films - the next show will be Cary Kukunaga's *Jane Eyre* on 20th January, with projection by BFFS SW whilst Honiton look for funding for their own equipment.

➤ **Roadwater Community Cinema** in North Somerset provides an example of BFFS members helping their neighbours get off the ground. Founding member, Christos Yianni visited Shipham, commended as a 'Best New Film Society' in 2010, for advice on the equipment that Roadwater plan to buy for their new venture.

➤ **Horton New Village Hall** in Somerset opened in August 2009 after villagers raised nearly £400,000 for the new build. They joined BFFS in October 2011 and were delighted to hear just before Christmas that they been successful in gaining a Lottery grant for 50% of the costs of full DVD projection kit. FSW asked organiser, Glyn Ottery, why he thought their bid was successful: "... because we were able to demonstrate a real need in the village and surrounding area. We also were able to target a specific group of people, the 14 – 18 year olds. I also think that requesting only 50% of the total needed was a key factor!" A trial screening is planned for 9th February, with the support of BFFS SW, ahead of the first show with the new equipment on 19 April.

◆ **PREVIEWING FILMS FOR 2012...**

★ This autumn, South West organisers had two opportunities to preview possible titles for coming seasons in 2012. Over 90 delegates travelled to Matthews Hall in Topsham for the SW Viewing in October. Full details have been posted on the website but, for the record, the Moviola release, *Mao's Last Dancer*, topped the voting:

**Topsham Viewing Ratings**

Mao's Last Dancer	90
Incendies	88
Oranges & Sunshine	84
A Separation	72
Win Win	70
Le Quattro Volte	60



★ Later in November, some SW societies joined the 130 delegates at the ICO Screening Days at the Broadway Cinema

In Nottingham. *The Artist*, strongly tipped for Oscars, topped the ratings followed by the re-issue of *La Grande Illusion* and Roman Polanski's latest *Carnage* starring Jodie Foster and Kate Winslet. The other top features were:

**Broadway, Nottingham - top features**

The Artist	90
La Grande Illusion	82
Carnage	82
The Descendants	81
Once Upon a Time in Anatolia	77
Into the Abyss	75
Breathing	74
The Well Digger's Daughter	73
Dreams of a Life	72
Las Acacias	71
Shame	70
Red Dog	69
Headhunters	66



Horton New Village Hall



## Films of the Year 2011

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...

### • *Sight & Sound* (Various critics)

1. The Tree of Life
2. A Separation
3. The Kid with a Bike
4. Melancholia
- 6=. The Turin Horse
- 6=. Once upon a Time in Anatolia
8. We Need to Talk About Kevin
9. Le Quattro Volte
- 10=. This is Not a Film (*In Film Nist*)
- 10=. Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy

### • *Observer* (Philip French)

1. Archipelago
2. The Artist
3. The Deep Blue Sea
4. Hugo
5. The King's Speech
6. Midnight in Paris
7. Le Quattro Volte
8. A Separation
9. The Skin I Live In
10. True Grit



### • *Financial Times* (Nigel Andrews)

1. Melancholia
2. Le Quattro Volte
3. Poetry
4. Margaret
5. Rango
6. Snowtown
7. A Separation
8. My Dog Tulip
9. Cave of Forgotten Dreams
- 10=. Kill List / Dreams of a Life Weekend / Archipelago Tyrannosaur / Black Pond



'The Artist' tipped for 2012 Oscars

### • *Film South West*

- *Ralph Willett*
  - Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy
  - True Grit
  - Pina!
  - The Guard
  - Page Eight
- *Brian Clay*
  - Animal Kingdom
  - Incendies
  - We Need to Talk about Kevin
  - Take Shelter
  - A Separation
- *Paul Schilling*
  - Le Quattro Volte
  - The Tree of Life
  - Incendies
  - Arrietty
  - A Separation
- *Anne Hooper*
  - The Artist
  - Jane Eyre
  - The Deep Blue Sea
  - A Dangerous Method
  - The Adventures of Tintin

### • *Radio 5 Live* (Mark Kermode)

1. We Need to Talk about Kevin
2. Le Quattro Volte
3. Benda Bilili!
4. The Artist
5. A Separation
6. Senna
7. Melancholia
8. Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy
9. Hugo (3D!)
10. Kill List
11. Tyrannosaur

### • *Guardian* (Jason Solomons)

1. The Artist
2. Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy
3. Dreams of a Life
4. Moneyball
5. The Deep Blue Sea
6. Putty Hall
7. Animal Kingdom
8. Norwegian Wood
9. Drive
10. Post Mortem

### • *Time Out* (Various critics)

1. The Tree of Life
2. Le Quattro Volte
3. Margaret
4. Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy
5. We Need to Talk about Kevin
6. Senna
7. The Skin I Live In
8. Melancholia
9. Pina!
10. The Artist



One of 2011's Top Choices: *A Separation*



## 2012 DIARY

Sun 19 Feb

### Tribute to Michael Gough

Shaftesbury Arts Centre, 13 Bell Street, Shaftesbury SP7 8AR

3 pm

### *The Films of Michael Gough*



Guest of Honour, Henrietta Gough, introduces excerpts from some of the film and TV productions made by SAC's President who died in 2011. These will include, after tea, his starring role in the documentary, *Vincent the Dutchman*. Tickets: £11 including tea and cake; SAC members & benefit holders/students £9. Box Office 01747 854 321.

### Michael Gough in '*Brideshead Revisited*'

Thu 1 Mar -

### Swindon Film Festival

Sat 10 Mar

Details from 01793 330639

Sun 29 Apr

### SW Spring Viewing / AGM

The David Hall, South Petherton, Somerset.

A day of new releases and the South West Group AGM - details later.

### Renew your BFFS Membership for 2012!

Jaq and Bryony will shortly be sending out application forms for membership renewal by email and on the BFFS website. If the Federation and the South West Group is to continue providing support to the non-theatrical sector, it is vital that all film societies, clubs and community cinemas re-join by returning the down-loaded application form to the Sheffield office as soon as possible. If you don't have access to the internet, contact Brian Clay at the address below. In addition to the DVD booking scheme, now with over 400 titles, 2012 will see new on-line resources, exclusive to BFFS members, including programme notes. Don't miss out!

**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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