



Record Successes at the 2007 BFFS Film Society of the Year Awards...

SOUTH WEST WINS AGAIN!



Steven Horner - *Bridport Programme Notes*

Nic Roeg and Catriona Stares *CinéGuernsey-Marketing*

Simon Whiffen - *CinSoc Best Student Society*

Catriona Stares *CineGuernsey-Engholm Prize*

★ BFFS Oscar® Triumphs ★

Donna Anton - *Penwith Best Programming*

South West film societies were extremely successful at the annual Film Society of the Year Awards ceremony in Cinema 1 of the newly-named bfi Southbank in London on Saturday 3 March. On this occasion, BFFS

welcomed Nic Roeg the acclaimed British director of *Performance*, *Walkabout* and *Don't Look Now* to present the prestigious awards.

Eight societies from the South West won a total of thirteen awards including six of the seven categories outright as well as the overall prize of the Engholm Trophy for Best Film Society of the Year which went to **CinéGuernsey**. Catriona Stares from the Channel Island society also picked up the top award in two other categories, Best Marketing and the Community Award ... all in its second year!

Penwith, based in Penzance, won Best Film Programming and **Bridport** shared the Best Programme Notes prize with Bracknell. CinéSoc at **Exeter University** was judged the Best Student Society and Distinctions went to **Swindon** and **Trowbridge** for Best Programme Notes and to **Dorchester** for Best Marketing and Publicity. The new venture, **Cinema by the Sea**, based in Looe in South Cornwall, won a Distinction in the Best New Society category. Commendations also went to **Penwith** and **Bridport**....phew!

Many of the winners crossed over to the National Theatre for the ICO's Reception attended by BFFS President Derek Malcolm and Leslie Hardcastle, bfi member-Governor and winner of the Roebuck Cup at the FSoY awards.



SW Winners at the NT Reception Swindon (with Derek Malcom, top) Dorchester (left) and CinSoc (above)

◆ FILMS TOO AT bfi SOUTHBANK !

★ The ICO-managed Screening Days at bfi Southbank featured an interesting selection of titles, mostly destined for art-house release this spring. Canadian actress Sarah Polley's debut as a director, **Away From Her**, topped the ratings with a moving performance from Julie Christie as an Alzheimer's sufferer. Other films with high reactions included **Black Gold**, an eye-opening documentary on the coffee trade, **Tell No One**, a smash hit thriller from France and the latest from Susanne Blier **After the Wedding**, a Danish family saga as powerful as *Festen*.

Julie Christie *Away From Her*



bfi Southbank- Top Ten Features

Away From Her	84.8
After the Wedding	83.9
Black Gold	81.3
Tell No One	81.1
Amazing Grace	78.4
Los Olvidados	76.1
Bombs at Teatime	76.0
This is England	75.0
Why We Fight	75.0
Tough Enough	72.8



Book Now for the Wotton under Edge Viewing - 29 April ➔



Oscar® Winner To Top Bill at Wotton

Venues for South West Viewings don't come more luxurious than the Electric Picture House in the Gloucestershire market town of Wotton under Edge – raked plush seats, a wide screen and the latest in digital projection make for the complete cinema experience (see www.wottoneph.co.uk for a detailed look). Run entirely by volunteers, the EPH is a great example of what can be done with community cinema. So, the SW Group is delighted to have been invited to Wotton and have tried to match the occasion with a strong line-up of the latest in World Cinema from Hollywood to the Phillipines. Some, like *Little Miss Sunshine*, will need little introduction – an independent gem that went on to win Golden Globes and an Oscar® for Alan Arkin. Miss Sunshine herself, Abigail Breslin, also appears in *Keane* which is a tour-de-force for British actor Damian Lewis. The final US offering, *The Prestige*, is the latest from British director Christopher Nolan following his successes with *Memento* and *Insomnia*.

The foreign language titles encompass a neglected comedy from Italy in *Lost Embrace*, one of the 2006 art-house hits, *The Page Turner*, and a new release from the Phillipines, *The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros* - this last coming-of-age tale of a young gay boy won awards at Sundance, Montreal and Berlin.

There will also be time to preview two sets of new shorts - the BFFS-backed *Best v. Best Vol.2* and Jan and Dave Watterson's *Feedback 2007* selection.

Lunch and tea will be served at the second venue, in the Town Hall down the street, used as a theatre and community centre, but registration will be at the Picture House from 10 am.

★ *Little Miss Sunshine* - Abigail Breslin

The pegged ticket price of £15 (concessions, full-time students only, £13.50) is a bargain for three films, lunch and tea. So, send in the application form, round up a car-load for **Sunday 29 April** and take the M5 to junction 14 and follow the B4509 to Wotton under Edge for a great day out!

Film West by South West ~ Latest

The SW Group's project to assist in the setting-up of new venues for community cinema in the far west of our region took a big step forward in St Austell last month. Many of the people involved with film production and exhibition in Cornwall met with the Film WbySW project team and members of Looe and Penwith Film Societies to agree on how to make the best use of existing resources in the county to respond to the nearly 30 enquiries received by Project Manager, Chris Baker, since its launch last October. The exciting outcome is an **INFORMATION DAY** to be held on **14 April** at the Old Grammar School in Redruth, courtesy of Cornwall Arts Centre Trust, from 10.00am. The day will include demonstrations of equipment and talks on funding, programming, publicity etc as well as the screening of locally-produced short films. Full details from Chris on 0117 9721987 or 07800 586379.

DVD Booking News

★ **National Block Booking Scheme** - negotiations with distributors are well advanced and, all being well, details of the BFFS's exciting new scheme will be sent out in April with bookings being taken from 1st May. Potential titles may include *Maximo Oliveros* and *Lost Embrace*, both being previewed at Wotton, as well as many other new releases - *Red Road*, *Days of Glory*, *Away from Her*. The scheme will rent DVDs at a standard flat rate to all BFFS-member societies regardless of their mode of operation and will operate on a show-and-send-on basis. So hang on before booking your next season!

★ **Axiom Films** are offering a new deal when you book one of their titles (*Lost Embrace*, *Half Nelson*, *Why We Fight*). They will provide DVD copies of the film shown plus a small selection of others from their catalogue in a small stand on a sale or return basis; unsold copies and the stand would be picked up by a courier. They will also provide promotional material and merchandise for raffles or competitions. Contact Lisa Cullen on 020 7243 3111.

South West Group AGM

The Annual General Meeting will take place on **29 April**, after lunch at the Wotton Viewing in the Picture House.

The Group welcomes new members on the Executive as well as new ideas of the ways in which we can improve our services to member Societies and raise funding in these difficult times. Contact Regional Secretary Brian Clay on 0117 9620 635.

Axbridge Oscar® Launch



Fiona Quinn and Juliet Maclay came dressed for the Oscars® at Axbridge Film Society's inaugural screening. For more details of this unique cinema venture, see the SW website.

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

Block Bookings: Paul Schilling, 5 Well Lane, Enmore Green, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 8LP. Tel: 01747 853224

Websites: BFFS National www.bffs.org.uk; SW Group: 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.