



NEWSLETTER 5

The Southampton Film Festival 1986-1994 (part three)

The 9th **Southampton Film Week** came and went back in November, and now as 2017 gets under way City Eye will be looking ahead to the tenth anniversary of the annual film fest across the city. Those of you with good memories will remember the original Southampton Film Festival which ran for several years back in the 20th century. In our Newsletter 4 exactly two years ago, we reached 1989 in our brief re-view of that original series of cinematic events in Southampton. So it seems time to move the story on to the start of the nineties ... With four years of experience, the organising committee was keen to maintain the momentum of success for promoting cinema across the city, so cometh the new decade, cometh too exciting new films and new venues as the old Cannon Cinema in Above Bar, soon to go to the great cinema cemetery in the Hollywood Hills, was joined by the Cannon Multiplex



(what we now know as Cineworld). The Festival opened at said multiplex with Nic Roeg's **The Witches** starring Anjelica Houston, and closed with Krzysztof Kieslowski's **A Short Film About Love**, and there were plenty of examples of fine World Cinema throughout the 11-day event. Oaklands Cinema (run by a future Chair of the Phoenix!) screened Tavernier's **Life and Nothing But** and another French title from François Dupeyron, **A Strange Place to Meet**, whilst films at the Mountbatten (now hidden under the new "Spark" at Solent University) included **Yaaba** (Burkina Faso) and Jodorowsky's **Santa Sangre** (Italy). The Phoenix, then screening films at Boldrewood, presented two nights of the Australian film **Celia**, a debut direction by Ann Turner, and what eventually morphed into Union Films screened **Henry V** and **Local Hero** in the old Debating Chamber. The Festival organising committee, chaired by Wyn Jeffery, included Jason Best, who has gone on to become a distinguished film reviewer, Phoenix regular and movie-maker in his own right Phil Peel, as well as that young Oaklands movie manager, and also James Tilmouth, whom some of you may remember was the very successful manager at the Above Bar Odeon from the 1970s onwards. The Gantry, now well and truly hidden beneath the Mayflower student halls of residence, was still alive and kicking at the time, albeit occasionally screening film reels in not quite the right order (yes, 'tis true), and presented Aki Kaurismaki's wonderful **Leningrad Cowboys Go America**. They also ran live events about the Daleks, and one about the *Ruth Rendell Mysteries*,



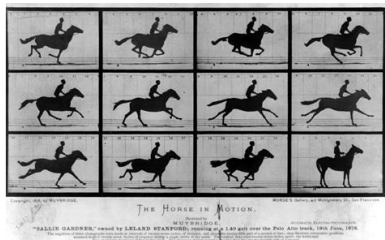
showing "how those tales were transported from the pen of Britain's most popular crime writer and transformed into an acclaimed (local) TVS series". My favourite of that year was Bruce Weber's fabulous biopic of Chet Baker, appropriately called **Let's Get Lost**, but there was a host of other great films on show with some big names in the credits, Roland Joffé, Paul Newman, Kenneth Branagh, Satyajit Ray, Michael Moore and Harrison Ford. 121 film-related events in a wonderfully successful Festival; would 1991 be able to keep up the cinematic pace?

Other Arts activities on campus

The Phoenix has always been keen to share information about any cultural activities that we feel might be of interest to our members; we are proud to have been able to work with departments across the University in connection with our film programme. Our links with the German Department back in October, with **Almanya: Willkommen in Deutschland** and films we have shown in the past linked to the Mexican *Día de los Muertos* are two examples. And keen to tell you what is going on elsewhere than here every Wednesday evening, we will continue to do our best to inform you when we think there are activities taking place that might be of interest to you. So, supporting that mission, may we remind you of the Southampton Decorative & Fine Arts Society the local branch of NADFAS. Their events, held regularly in Building 46 (Physics), may offer something of interest to your tastes – between now and June there are lectures on Giotto, Grayson Perry, and Gauguin. For information about the local group, you can email them at info@southamptondfas.org.uk or go to their website www.southamptondfas.org.uk




The University of Southampton also runs various courses under its **Lifelong Learning** programme (<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/index.page>) There are two film-related events being run in the **LL** series that may possibly be of particular interest to Phoenix members:



February 18th: Journeys in Film Film has from its very first days been a way of relaying images of travel and escape. From early travelogues in exotic lands to fantastical visions of imaginary worlds, cinema provides an invitation to explore distant realities, as well as to see the world around us anew. This study day will delve into the importance of journeying to film, as seen in genres like the road movie, sci-fi and fantasy as well as documentary realism. It will consider the journeys taken by film itself, from financing and shooting to distribution and exhibition across global networks of festivals and film theatres. It will offer ways of understanding movies as moving pictures, demonstrating the artistry of films in producing thrilling speed and epic action or their opposite, stasis. In an age of global interaction and migration, it will also provide insight into the political and ethical issues surrounding film, both as an industry and as a way of commenting upon our contemporary lives.

May 6th: Women and British Film Since the 60s, British cinema has been lauded by critics and awards ceremonies for films that fit into the genres of social realism or costume drama. Films like **Kes** (Ken Loach) or **Chariots of Fire** (Hugh Hudson) or, a bit in between, **The Full Monty** (Peter Cattaneo). Some of the most internationally popular British films of recent times have been helmed by women: **Mamma Mia**, directed by Phyllida Lloyd, **Bridget Jones's Diary**, directed by Sharon Maguire, and even **Fifty Shades of Grey**, directed by Sam Taylor-Johnson. Women directors have also created important social realist films, like Lynne Ramsay's **Ratcatcher**, and significant costume dramas, like Amma Asante's **Belle**. This study day will explore the role of women filmmakers in British film. We will discover and discuss key films by critically lauded directors, but also consider women screenwriters, documentaries by women, and British films by women immigrants. Though the numbers of women working in British film are disproportionately low, women have been central to the ongoing vitality of British cinema in a global age.



 **The Phoenix** now has a **MailChimp** account, which allows us to send occasional brightly coloured informative emails to our members. For example, we sent out our last one just before Christmas, subject line reading appropriately enough "Happy Christmas from the Phoenix Council". We know that some people are understandably wary of such things as MailChimp mailouts. However, we do try to keep our newsheets straightforward, brief and helpful, and they are certainly a good way for us to let members know at short notice of any changes we might occasionally be forced to make to our programme. If you think you didn't receive our Christmas message, it does not mean that we don't like you, but possibly that it went into your spam or "trash" folder. Please check that folder to be sure. Alternatively, it is just possible that we may not have been able to decipher your email address on your membership application form! In either case, if you are uncertain about your Phoenix MailChimp status, please let Graham know and give your email address to be added to the membership list. Over 50 per cent of you *did* read the Xmas message and we had some very complimentary responses to it, for which many thanks.

The Phoenix Festive Fun Film quiz is now available on our website if you missed it at the end of our Autumn season or just want to try it out with your friends. And for those who were there, here are the team scores in ascending order (I'm sure you know which team you were in!):

- 14th: 41 pts. A Silly Name (winners of the wooden spoons)
- 12th=: 59 pts. The Round the Corner Crew *and* The Wooden Spooners
- 11th: 64 pts. Flash One For All
- 10th: 70 pts. Not Yet
- 9th: 71 pts. Keeping On
- 8th: 73 pts. The Flying Hargleys



- 6th=: 82 pts. Roger's Glory *and* The Magnificent 6
- 4th=: 88 pts. The Mince Pies *and* We Haven't Decided Yet
- 3rd: 92 pts. The Buccaneers (winners of a packet of wine gums)
- 2nd: 95 pts. The Bookies (winners of a box of Waitrose Shortbread Selection)
- 1st: 107 pts. The B Team (winners of two bottles of AOC)

Well done to everyone who took part; if you weren't top film buffs this time around, you never know, you may be a wine gums winner next Christmas! If you play(ed) it at home and score(d) higher, a virtual bottle of wine is on its way to you! And finally, another link to help improve your cineknowledge, don't forget that **BBC Radio 5 Live** has a great weekly two hour film discussion show with our favourite reviewer, Mark Kermode, sparring with Simon Mayo every Friday at 2 p.m.