



NEWSLETTER 2

Flash news: The Phoenix Southampton Film Theatre is now on FaceBook

Dorn

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing on October 4th of **Doreen Hedger**, who has died of complications following a hospital operation. A proud resident of Romsey, Dorn, as she was much more commonly known to friends, joined the Phoenix Council in September 1998 and served faithfully until she felt she could no longer commit herself fully to her post in March of this year. We are deeply indebted to Dorn not only for her dedication to and enthusiasm for the Phoenix but also for the great warmth and kindness she brought to her friendships. She loved films, having started going to the movies at an early age, and she had a particular love for Italian cinema. A familiar face to Phoenix members as well as UF volunteers, she would happily chat with them as she gave out Weekly Film Notes at our table. Dorn will be much missed by her friends and especially her family, with whom our thoughts are very much at this time.



If you have read our Newsletter 1, or had that first MailChimp mailout, or just keep up with things in your own way, you should be aware that you can now watch National Theatre Live screenings in the Union Films Cinema. This is a new venture that makes good use of the excellent sound and vision capabilities of the UF cinema. Screenings will be on the same days as other venues presenting the same shows, but with a key difference, the price of a ticket. Full price tickets for each presentation will be £10, whilst students will pay £5 for a ticket. At the time of writing, **Hamlet**, featuring Benedict Cumberbatch has just happened, but still to see this term will be **Follies** on Thursday November 16.

Stephen Sondheim's legendary musical is staged for the first time at the National Theatre and broadcast live to cinemas. Directed by Dominic Cooke (*The Comedy of Errors*), it stars Tracie Bennett, Janie Dee and Imelda Staunton playing the magnificent Follies in this dazzling new production, and in addition it features a cast of 37 and an orchestra of 21.



Following that production, UF will screen **Young Marx**, to be broadcast live on Thursday December 07 from the Bridge Theatre in London. Without giving away the storyline, and quoting from the website "Europe's most feared terrorist is hiding in Dean Street, Soho, broke, restless and horny, yet still a frothing combination of intellectual brilliance, invective, satiric wit, and child-like emotional illiteracy. His only hope is a job on the railway, but that aside, there's still no one in the capital who can show you a better night on the piss than Karl Heinrich Marx!" Nicholas Hytner, who directed Alan Bennett's wonderful **The History Boys** and **The Lady in the Van** (both shown at the **Phoenix**), here directs Rory Kinnear and Oliver Chris as Marx and Engels respectively in this new comedy written by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman.

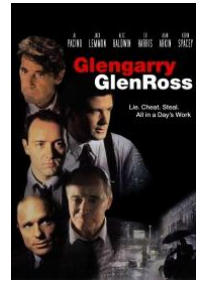
There will be more features added, including the possibility of Encores for screenings you may have missed, and already scheduled for the Spring term is **Julius Caesar**, again with Nicholas Hytner at the helm and starring Ben Whishaw (Brutus), Michelle Fairley (Cassius), David Calder (Caesar), and David Morrissey (Mark Antony). You can check the NT Live website for fuller details of all their presentations at <http://ntlive.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>



Sex and drugs and nasty words?

What do you need to know about a film before you see it?

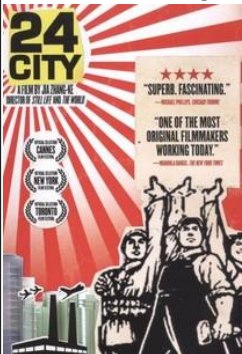
A good few years ago when we were still at Boldrewood we showed **Glengarry Glen Ross** in our Autumn season. Immediately after the film, I was accosted by a couple of members who were aghast at the amount of "language" they had heard from Al Pacino and the other stars of the film. Indeed it is an expletive-laden movie, with the f-word used fairly frequently, and even the appalling c-word unforgiveably used twice. I'm not sure that the members who complained were particularly prudish, but rather they were upset that they had not been warned beforehand what to expect in the film. Remembering that evening's conversation made me realise that nowadays many cinemas add information along the lines of "includes mild sexual references, occasional violence, drug abuse, nudity" and so on. In a recent Harbour Lights programme, we were warned that hot from the cutting room **The Zookeeper's Wife** contains "moderate violence, threat, nudity", but such things are not restricted to modern day movies. Remember the "swearing" in **Tootsie** (1982) in which the "F" word is used twice, though there was no warning given? If you saw John Wayne in **The Alamo** back in 1960, you might have expected at least "occasional violence", and indeed there were frequent fisticuffs and gunfights (with men being killed!) throughout, and it is true that the words damn, dammit and hell are heard. I found both these titles thusly annotated in a recent edition of a well-known television listings magazine, where you might expect such comments since television is a family entertainment source. But the cinema industry has taken these things to heart and anything deviating from pure Disney seems to get a warning notice in the programme. Yet we do not do so at the Phoenix, even all those long years since **Glengarry Glen Ross**, and whilst we have discussed it at Council meetings, the general feeling amongst us is that we are not about to change that policy. It is true that we do get walk-outs from some films, and people do vote E and write comments about such issues as sex or violence in a movie, but to be honest, we probably get more negative reactions to the use of what one person called wobblicam, or dodgy subtitles, or the heating (or lack of it) in the Cinema than we do about excessive heroin use, or over exposure to bare bums and other bits. We have faith in our members in the same way evidently that our members do in our film selection committee, since so many of you take advantage of our Early Early Bird offer without even knowing any of the film titles you will be seeing, let alone what nasty, offensive content they may include. In my case, I tend not to bother to read the warnings, though I would have appreciated one being attached to the new **Dunkirk** film which Adrian and I saw back in July. That warning would have read "possibly the worst film you have ever seen" alongside the equally accurate "frequent violence and swearing". What do you think? Should we warn you about such things in our programme?



MailChimp

Bananas in your Inbox

In case you didn't know it, every now and then we send out a MailChimp message from the Phoenix. Such mailouts might be sent to inform members about a last minute change to our programme (a distributor might have messed up on sending the print of a film, for example) or to remind members not to miss a special event coming up (such as our Christmas event, etc.). The mailouts are sent to all members who have given their email address (legibly!) on their application form, and at any time, members can unsubscribe from the mailings (though we are sure you wouldn't want to do that!) Our first of this year went out on September 28th, to remind you all of our start-up for the new academic year. If you don't think you are on our emailing list, or did not get the mailout at that time, please let one of the Phoenix Council members know, giving her or him your email address to be added to the list. Additionally, it might be worth checking your spam or junk box in case your PC, laptop, mobile, tablet, Xbox, Apple AR glasses, etc. (!) sent our missives there. No way could anything to do with the Phoenix be considered spam, junk or even trash, as you will surely agree!



Although we have no Chinese films in this year's programme, you have an opportunity to watch **24 City** (2008, dir. Jia Zhangke) for free, with the added attraction of a short talk about contemporary Chinese cinema. Professor Stephanie Donald (University of New South Wales) and Dr. Corey Schultz (University of Southampton) will be presenting their research at the upcoming event "Transforming China: Jia Zhangke's **24 City**" on Wednesday, Oct. 25th from 16:30 to 19:30 in the UF Cinema. After their talk, they will be screening the film. The event, immediately before our screening of **After the Storm**, is free and open to the public.

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