



# NEWSLETTER 3

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## FESTIVALS SPECIAL

As this Newsletter 3 appears, we are entering a period in our programme where the word Festival starts appearing alongside some of the films in our brochure. So as Michael Caine said, and Cilla Black (and Cher) sang on the soundtrack of the film *Alfie*, what's it all about?

**SOUTHAMPTON FILM WEEK: November 9-18 celebrating film across the city**

Starting in just nine days from the appearance of this newsletter, the 11<sup>th</sup>

SOUTHAMPTON FILM WEEK begins. City Eye's chief and main SFW organiser, Susan Becket talks about the festival.

City Eye's plans to host this year's Southampton Film Week from its new base at the new arts centre in Guildhall Square have been rather hindered by delays to the Company's relocation there. Not to be thwarted, however, City Eye is focusing on events in other venues and though SFW18 might be a slightly reduced affair, it will still offer exciting and unusual cinema events as you have come to expect!



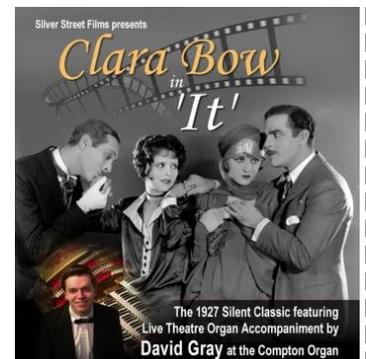
 The SFW: Shorts competition has grown again this year with almost 100 short films of up to 10 minutes in length submitted from across the world. This year the Screening and Awards ceremony finds a new home at NST City and will take place on Saturday 10 November. 14 shortlisted films will be screened and compete for awards including The Michael Fuller Award for Best Film and for the Regional Filmmaker Award. Join us on the red carpet and celebrate some wonderful international filmmaking alongside that of our local talent.

Still on the short film theme Southampton Solent University is hosting a free screening of BAFTA shorts on Tuesday 13 November at 7.30pm, an event which we are delighted is supported by the BFI Network, which is also hosting a filmmakers networking event at 5.30pm (venue in Guildhall Square to be confirmed!). Over the last year City Eye has been developing its relationship with Into Film which is the national youth agency for film and as a result SFW, in collaboration with the Into Film Festival, will host a screening of British Council Shorts for school groups on the morning of 15 November again at NST City.

Wednesday 14 November is of course Phoenix night with Rachel Stephens'  **Losing Face** and **Filmworker** – which we are absolutely thrilled about.

Also that day we begin our celebration of music and film – always an essential strand for SFW! Solent Showcase Gallery will host a screening of **Sun Ra: Space is the Place** (1974) as part of its Afrofuturism show.

Overlapping with this is the 1927 *It* starring Clara Bow, at the 02 Guildhall with live Compton organ accompaniment from David Gray. Music and film continue into Friday 16<sup>th</sup> with another offer from 1927 - Fritz Lang's magnificent **Metropolis** at Turner Sims. Paired with live music from Stephen Horne at the piano and Martin Pyne on percussion, you can expect a thrilling experience of this seminal film.



Whilst all effort is made to confirm dates, times and venues it is the nature of a festival that sometimes some shuffling may be required! Please do check the SFW website at [Southamptonfilmweek.com](http://Southamptonfilmweek.com) – where you will find more information and booking details along with any amendments and more films and events to inspire some additional viewing as part of SFW18.



## **FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK: November - December nationally**

Later this term, we screen **Rock 'N'Roll**, the first of two movies forming a part of, and involving our participation in, the 26<sup>th</sup> **FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL UK**. The other film we have selected from this touring festival is the fine comedy **C'est la Vie** (here on May 29 2019), from Olivier Nakache and Eric Toledano, who gave us the

wondrous **Intouchables**, still our (twice!) highest scoring audience vote film in this century. Here is an introduction to the **FFFUK** (you can download the full 2018 programme at [frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/FFF2015/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FINAL-LITE-French-Film-Festival-2018.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2Ejwdi9MP-qLmZWpF7Nonh\\_djypDh2QF4H9UM5QYVCgGDHqbHI0yztwvI](http://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/FFF2015/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/FINAL-LITE-French-Film-Festival-2018.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2Ejwdi9MP-qLmZWpF7Nonh_djypDh2QF4H9UM5QYVCgGDHqbHI0yztwvI)).

**BIENVENUE and welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> Edition of the French Film Festival UK which every November and December brings you the best of Francophone cinema from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Quebec and French-speaking African territories.**

For the first time this year the Festival has established informal links with the Festival International du Film Francophone in Namur in Belgium, with whom we share titles and ideals. We look to strengthen those ties in the future. Another innovation is the collaboration with the Mobile Film Festival (based in Paris) who have offered a selection of one-minute short films to be shown before features – and all shot on smart phones or tablets.

Thanks to support from Creative Scotland's new Film Festivals Fund the Festival has extended its geographical spread to Orkney and Shetland, as well as expanding the Learning Programme for schools and mixing in events and screenings in non-traditional locations in Glasgow and Edinburgh aimed at new audiences. Support from the BFI Audience Award has helped to sustain the Festival's presence in England and Northern Ireland.

About **Rock'N Roll**, here at the Phoenix on November 21, their excellent programme booklet notes: Guillaume Canet pokes fun at himself and real-life partner Marion Cotillard with wild abandon. And he doesn't hold back on lampooning his actor's ego, cinema's obsession with youth, and even takes a pot shot at the shoddy way actors are treated by casting directors. It works beautifully and Cotillard more than matches Canet for making fun of her image in the media of a serious, slightly manic actress. Canet, plays a 43 year-old actor who has a successful career and steady home-life, until he is told by a young actress that he is not very 'rock 'n' roll'. And from the monthly *French Cinema Review*, they note that the film is "Perceptive, funny and at times oddly moving."

## **MEXICO WEEK: 24 October - 2 November**

And as you read this the University of Southampton's MEXSU Mexico Week has been *paseando* through the *plazas, calles* and *avenidas* of the city, to coincide with the famous Mexican celebrations of the *Día de los Muertos/Day of the Dead*, for which there will be an offering set up. Sadly this year, the Phoenix was not able to find a Mexican film of sufficient quality to be included in their excellent programme. We had one potential title, Celso R. García's **La delgada línea amarilla (The Thin Yellow Line)**, but barring our getting a copy from Mexico (or Spain), but without English subtitles, we could not screen it.



Nevertheless, you should note that **Coco**, a wonderful and entirely appropriate Disney/Pixar animation, directed by Lee Unkrich and featuring the voices of Gael García Bernal and Cheech (of & Chong fame) Marin), was included in the programme of events, as was (twice) a live performance by the fabulous Mariachi Fiesta! Band. The full programme includes the final two events shown below, still available as this Newsletter appears.

November 1 19:30 Bitter Pineapples production Studio 144 / Free

November 2 20:00 Mexican Society Day of the Dead party The Cube, SUSU Building (42) / £4

And finally, whilst we are on the subject of Festivals, an appeal to our members. If you ever, in your travels, visit a cinema, or watch a festival screening, anywhere in the world, please do ask for a spare copy of their programme for us. They are a useful resource for us to see what other 'world' cinema programmers are taking seriously. It is a window on some films that may not ever make it to UK distribution, but deserve a showing. Who knows, because of such help, you could assist us in including a real rarity in our Phoenix programme in the future.