

Membership

Membership of the Society is open to anyone aged 16 and over.

Abergavenny Film Society is even better value if you become a full member. Membership costs £42.00 for a season of 14 films (£38.00 for over 60's, £25 for students and other concessions on production of proof of status). You will also receive reduced admission to Brecon Film Society.

Tickets for individual screenings are available on the door. Tickets cost £5.00, (£4.50 for over 60's, £3.00 for students and other concessions on production of proof of status). All tickets are available on the evening of screening.

For details contact Carol Phillips on 01600 780263.

For details of Brecon Film Society, contact Judith Fitton on 01874 623166.

Aelodaeth

Cynigir i bawb o oedran 16 a throsodd ymaelodi â'r gymdeithas.

Gwerth gwell byth yw mynd yn aelod llawn o Gymdeithas Ffilm Y Fenni. Pris aelodaeth yw £42.00 am dymor o 14 ffilm (£38.00 dros 60 oed, £25 i fyfyrwyr a consesiynau eraill ar ôl dangos tystiolaeth o statws). Ceir hefyd fynediad rhatach i Gymdeithas Ffilm Aberhonddu.

Pris tocynnau i'r sawl nad yw'n aelodau westeion yw £5.00 (£4.00 dros 60 oed a £3 i fyfyrwyr a consesiynau eraill ar ôl dangos tystiolaeth o statws). A cheir y rhain ar noson y dangosiad.

Am fanylion, cysylltwch Carol Phillips â 01600 780263.

Am fanylion Cymdeithas Ffilm Aberhonddu, cysylltwch Judith Fitton â 01874 623166.

Showings

Films are shown on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm, at the Melville Theatre, Drama Centre, Pen-y-Pound, Abergavenny.

Doors open at 6.45pm.

We have a licensed bar and coffee available before the film and during the interval.

Members are guaranteed a seat if they arrive by 7.20pm.

Dangosiadau

Dangosir ffilmiau ar nos Fercher am 7.30pm, yn y Theatr Melville, Ganolfan Ddrama, Pen-y-Pound, Y Fenni.

Agorir drysau am 6.45yp.

Mae coffi ar gael cyn y ffilm ac yn ystod yr egwyl.

Mae bar ar gael nawr ym mhob dangosiad.

Sicrhair sedd i aelodau sy'n

cyrhaedd erbyn 7.20yp.

How to find us



14 FILMS
DIGITAL PROJECTION



Le Concert *The Concert*

France (2009) 119 mins

Director: Radu Mihaileanu



A film about music but you don't have to be a classical music aficionado to appreciate this gem of a film; similarly you shouldn't be put off that it has been described as a commentary on 20 years of post-communist Eastern Europe.

What it actually offers is a simple tale exquisitely told. A janitor, (Aleksey Guskov) gets a chance to relive his glorious past as conductor of the Bolshoi when he decides to take his own (fake) orchestra to perform in Paris. A farcical comedy leavened with beautiful music, moments of melancholy and emotion as director Mihaileanu shows a great knack for story telling.

14 Mar 12

My Dog Tulip

USA (2009) 83 mins

Directors: Paul & Sandra Fierlinger



A charming story of one man and his German Shepherd, *My dog Tulip* has an appeal broader than one might first expect. Animated in a highly stylised manner and, with a voiceover (by Christopher Plummer) full of dry humour that draws the viewer in, the story unfolds gently and with wry observation throughout. Very much an adult cartoon (with its focus on toilet training and mating), the story isn't really about a dog. It's about a man finding the love of his life. The first full-length animation to be hand-drawn without paper (using computer tablets), the slightly 'scratchy' effect of the visuals adds to its quirky appeal.

The film will be followed by the AGM



FILM DIARY 2011

21/09/11	La tête en friche <i>My afternoons with Marguerite</i>
05/10/11	Winter's Bone
19/10/11	Les Plages d'Agnès <i>The Beaches of Agnès</i>
02/11/11	Pranzo di ferragosto <i>Mid-August lunch</i>
16/11/11	L'affaire farewell <i>Farewell</i>
30/11/11	Okuribito <i>Departures</i>
14/12/11	Benda Bilili! <i>Followed by the Christmas social.</i>

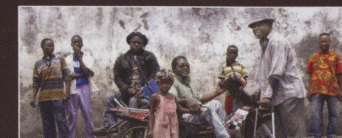
FILM DIARY 2012

04/01/12	Des hommes et des dieux <i>Of Gods And Men</i>
18/01/12	Me and Orson Welles
01/02/12	Life Above All
15/02/12	The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec
29/02/12	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
14/03/12	Le Concert <i>The Concert</i>
28/03/12	My Dog Tulip <i>Followed by the AGM</i>



Acknowledgements

The Society is a member of the British Federation of Film Societies (Registered Charity Number 276633)



abergavennyfilmsociety.com

SYNOPSIS BY
DAVE TYLER

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La tête en friche *My afternoons with Margueritte*

France (2010) 82 mins

Director: Jean Becker

21 Sep 11



An intelligent, sensitive, heart warming, comedy in which Gerald Depardieu plays a simple man in a small village in South Western France, who is befriended by an elderly lady (Gisèle Casadesus) who reads to him in the park. A touching, light but not superficial film in which the performances are sharp and well observed, the relationships between the locals are finely depicted and often laugh-out-loud funny. The whole thing reeks of Gallic charm.

Director Jean Becker has a long pedigree of heart-warming films and manages to create such a sympathetic double act from the hulking Depardieu and the bird-like Casadesus that the audience is carried along by the whimsical story.

Winter's Bone

USA (2010) 100 mins

Director: Debra Granik

05 Oct 11



Gritty yet poetic, Debra Granik's portrait of life in the poverty-stricken Ozark Mountains is remarkable for the central performance of Jennifer Lawrence in her first film role. Ree Dolly (Lawrence) is the stoical youngster who embarks on a mission to find her absentee father before the family home is forfeited as a bail bond.

As she digs deep into a local community of ne'er-do-wells and small time crooks, she disturbs the predominantly masculine hierarchy and conspiracy of silence. At times feeling like a noir thriller, at others an essay on America's blindness to its impoverished underclass, the film creates a world that the viewer cannot ignore.

Les Plages d'Agnès *The Beaches of Agnès*

France (2008) 110 mins

Director: Agnès Varda

19 Oct 11



It would be easy – but misleading – to describe this simply as an autobiography of the French artist and film-maker. It is more like a tour through her memory, represented in diverse and fascinating ways. Varda and her late husband Jacques Demy were at the vanguard of the French New Wave of cinema and this unique documentary reflects her artistic and unconventional personality, including many excerpts from her earlier works.

Beaches form the backdrop to a series of often surreal monologues and serve as a symbol of constancy as Varda tells us of various upheavals in her life.

Pranzo di ferragosto *Mid-August lunch*

Italy (2008) 75 mins

Director: Gianni Di Gregorio

02 Nov 11



Not as lightweight or insignificant a story as it might appear, this comedy/drama takes a loving look at the lives of four elderly ladies and the man, Gianni, (Gianni DiGregorio, who also directs) who finds himself taking care of them all almost by accident over the course of an August public holiday when their own families 'have better things to do'.

Much of the dialogue feels improvised (several of the leading ladies are non-actors) and the overall tone is of a relaxed, languid meditation on companionship. Mixed with the gentle comedy and occasional dramatic moments is an unsanctimonious message about how society perceives, and treats, the elderly.

L'affaire farewell *Farewell*

France (2009) 113 mins

Director: Christian Carion

16 Nov 11



Based on a true story, this cold war thriller boasts a light touch and understated performances that make for a very exciting film experience. Soviet intelligence agent Sergei Grigoriev (Emir Kusturica), torn between his communist ideals and the recognition of his state's inevitable failings, passes classified documents to French engineer Pierre Froment who, in turn, alerts the US with ultimately far-reaching consequences. The atmosphere is authentically sober and lightened by touches of irony and humour. The central performances are strong enough to compel the viewer onward as we try to understand the complex motivations of the main characters.

Okuribito *Departures*

Japan (2008) 130 mins

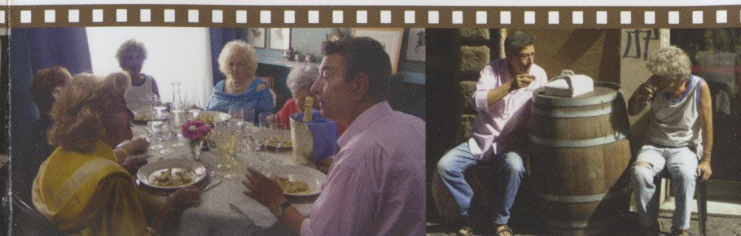
Director: Yōjirō Takita

30 Nov 11



This Oscar-winner looks at the Japanese rituals surrounding funerals and how they are perceived by society. Daigo Kobayashi, a young musician, finds himself out of work and ends up working (accidentally) in a funeral home as a "Nakonashi", making the intricate, and respectful preparations for the journey of the deceased into the next life.

Despite the approbation of his family and friends, Daigo gradually begins to appreciate the meaning of what he does and, at the same time, the wonder of life itself. The story moves effortlessly from light comedy to moving drama thanks largely to an excellent cast. Even the details of the undertakers' rituals themselves are surprisingly absorbing.





Benda Bilili!

DRC (2010) 86 mins

14 Dec 11

Director: Renaud Barrett



The poverty-stricken, often disabled, men and boys that make up Staff Benda Bilili show a resilience and strength of character that wouldn't be out of place in a WW2 action film, except that this is a documentary and these irresistibly endearing people are musicians rather than soldiers.

This happy and joyous musical follows the band of friends on a journey from the streets (literally) of Kinshasa to luxurious European hotels as their raw, energetic music finds a wider audience thanks to the film-makers themselves funding a demo CD on the band's behalf. Director Barrett has created a genuinely inspiring record of a remarkable true story.

The film will be followed by the Christmas social.

Des hommes et des dieux Of Gods And Men

France (2010) 122 mins

04 Jan 12

Director: Xavier Beauvois



A small group of French monks in Algeria face a dilemma when threatened by fundamentalist extremists: should they leave, as the authorities insist, or stay and complete 'God's mission'? The palpable inevitability of violence is counteracted by the depiction of the monks' lives: quiet contemplation and simple, often surprisingly humorous conversations and superb religious music. Full of subtly powerful performances, one standout is elderly but jovial brother Luc (Michael Lonsdale) the group's doctor, defying the escalating chaos in his determination to continue treating those who need his help. Beautifully made and genuinely moving, this is ultimately a film not about religion, but about faith in humanity.



Me and Orson Welles

UK (2008) 114 mins

18 Jan 12

Director: Richard Linklater



A hugely entertaining backstage drama from cult US film-maker Linklater, this is far more than a vehicle for teen heartthrob Zac Efron. Indeed the film belongs to previously unknown Christian McKay as Welles, in a performance that is part impression, part possession from beyond the grave.

Efron is the teenager who finds himself in a 1937 stage production (headed by Welles) and his love story with Claire Danes (who is excellent) is engaging enough. It is in the moments when McKay's Welles is on - screen that the film really takes flight. This performance captures the ego, the passion and the genius of one of film's greatest legends.

Life Above All

South Africa (2010) 100 mins

01 Feb 12

Director: Oliver Schmitz



This raw emotional drama manages to avoid mawkishness despite extremely powerful subject matter, predominantly because of the superb acting on show from the ensemble cast, including several talented youngsters. Central to the story is the universal shame and hypocrisy associated with HIV/AIDS in modern South Africa.

Twelve-year-old Chanda (Khomotso Manyaka) is the effective head of a family devastated by a disease they refuse to discuss or even acknowledge (when it is mentioned, it is simply "the bug"). This uplifting, tightly told drama follows Chanda showing remarkable courage often against the advice of those around her. The film is ultimately rewarding in its message of hope and family love.



The Extraordinary Adventures of Adèle Blanc-Sec

France (2010) 107 mins

15 Feb 12

Director: Luc Besson



As ever, director Luc Besson handles the fast-moving action comedy very adroitly in this high-spirited adaptation of a 1970s French comic. The story is a chaotic romp that demands immediate suspension of disbelief: Louise Bourgois as the title character is a bizarre cross between Indiana Jones and Besson's own Nikita, feisty and fun as a glamorous tomboy adventurer-cum-writer in 1912 France.

Like the best of Besson's work, it combines some stunning visual ideas, and once the viewer accepts the pterodactyls and mummies, it is easy to relax and enjoy a solid old-fashioned adventure fantasy told with great panache and knowing humour.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

USA (1966) 131mins

29 Feb 12

Director: Mike Nichols



Deserved winner of 5 Oscars and 3 BAFTAs, the film of Edward Albee's play is considered by many to be a near-perfect piece of movie-making. Anyone who needs a reminder of the greatness of the late Elizabeth Taylor need spend just a few minutes in the company of her Martha: an irresistible force of vitriol and sadness as she spars with husband George (Richard Burton). In director Nichols' Hollywood debut the one-set play is maintained in feel; claustrophobic and tense, with the viewer drawn to the performances rather than the production. Black comedy at its blackest.

