



Lincoln Film Society

(Registered Charity No: 1156478)

Patron: Jim Broadbent

newsletter

Issue N° 9
Winter 2015

The season so far...

Lilting



Audience: 185
Reaction: 74%

Blue Ruin



Audience: 172
Reaction: 57%

The Epic of Everest



Audience: 91
Reaction: 89%

The Past



Audience: 136
Reaction: 77%

Metro Manila



Audience: 127
Reaction: 81%

The Lunchbox



Audience: 191
Reaction: 82%

Stories We Tell



Audience: 164
Reaction: 63%

The Great Beauty



Audience: 177
Reaction: 64%

The Innocents



Audience: 78
Reaction: 61%

Happy New Year from the Committee and welcome to Film Society's latest newsletter. This is published twice a season and used to keep members and audiences up to date with developments. You'll find reports from the 3 standing committees, our new Charitable status and the outcomes from the survey of audience opinion carried out recently.

Committee News

The Officers met The Venue's management just before Christmas to review the past 12 months and the partnership agreement between ourselves. Both parties felt that 2014 had been a successful year (in spite of one or two hiccups). Changes in the working relationship between us were discussed, including transferring projection responsibilities to The Venue's staff and an increase in our booking fees (the first for several years.)

These matters will be considered at the next full Committee meeting on January 21st. We'll also discuss the fact that the Committee has been reduced to 10 people, as a result of changing personal circumstances recently.

If there's anyone reading this who would be interested in helping, please get in touch. We have 4 full meetings a year, including the AGM. The standing committees who do most of the organising, meet more frequently. Each committee member serves on at least one of these standing committees.

Membership Committee News

We have 373 members for the 2014/15 season as against 354 members for the 2013/14 season. This 5% increase is pleasing, the more so because we had about 15% "Churn" and that has reduced the apparent average age of the society. Members are now used to having to bring their cards to each screening to be scanned and because we now have more complete records we can see that some members who did not attend at all last season have nonetheless signed on for another year! Thank you to them, and we hope you get to at least one screening this season.

We also have our first returnees, who spent last year in the Antipodes (and seemed to think this justification for not renewing) but who have thankfully returned safe in time for this season. We were able to join them up again using their existing membership numbers, because we don't reuse numbers. So robust is our membership system method that Nottinghamshire Cricket Club have introduced it. Don't try and use your LFS card there though – it won't wash.

It is our current intention to use the same application windows for membership in 2015 and we will make sure that everyone knows the dates early next year. If you don't have email please make sure that we have a current telephone number for you. When we're chasing members to ensure that their non-renewal is deliberate, telephone is often the medium of last resort.

Programming Committee News

We're already thinking about next season, as we meet in April to select the programme. We source our films in different ways. Most come from the Independent Cinema Office viewing sessions - 3 day screening binges in the Autumn (Derby, in November) and Spring (at the BFI Southbank.) Some willing souls go to film festivals (London, Leeds, Cambridge, Keswick) & we cram in as many films as we can - up to 4 a day. It's tough, but someone has to!... We regularly visit Nottingham and Sheffield, for films not on the festival circuit or listed by the ICO and in March we'll ask members for recommendations (watch out for the announcement.) Then we'll meet to choose the programme.

What do we look for? - films that won't otherwise come to Lincoln, unless for a very limited showing. Anything goes (well, nearly anything - films have to appeal to the majority of this committee), but specifically world and independent films from the previous 6 months, restored and re-released classics, historic/archive titles, documentaries, animations and short films. Occasionally - very occasionally - we'll take a punt on a film we've not seen, such as *Metro Manila*...a title suggested to us by another film society.

We'll shortly provide details of the 2 titles for the blank dates in April & May. *Ida* is already booked for April 10th. We'll be trying to get films that have come out very recently. We're also working on 2 other projects; check out **Coming Up...**(overleaf), for details.

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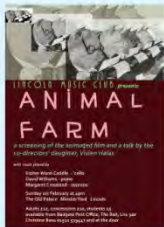
Coming Up....

...**'Secret Stories'** - we're organising a documentary event in March, at the University of Lincoln: details to follow.

...**Magna Carta 800:** we're also currently developing a season of films with The Lincoln Records Society, exploring Magna Carta's influence on individual rights the power of the state. It will run through the year, with screenings at a number of locations. More details soon

...**Animal Farm**

Lincoln Music Club is offering a rare chance to see the Halas and Batchelor animated version of George Orwell's classic book, which is introduced by Vivien Halas, daughter of the co-director. It is being held on February 1st at The Old Palace, Minster Yard at 4pm. Tickets cost £12 (£10 concessions) and are available from Bailgate Post Office, Christine Basu (Tel: Lincoln 519447 or on the door.)



...**membership (2015-16):** will open from May 1st - 31st for existing members and anyone new to the Society who is looking to join. Details (including rates for the new season) will be announced later.

...**Latin American film:** members may like to know about a seminar at the University of Lincoln on February 21st, on Latin American films. The event is being organised by Dr Sarah Barrow, whom some may recall introducing a Latin American weekend the season before last. The event includes the showing of a documentary, to which members are invited. Entry is free: details will be announced via the usual channels.

Marketing and Social Committee News

Even before our first screening for this season the Lincoln Film Society's Social Calendar opened on the evening of Saturday 20th Sept with a very successful Cheese and Wine party held at Washingborough Community Hall. A vast range of cheeses accompanied by a choice of appropriate wines was enjoyed by about forty members and their guests with background music of film themes which had most of us scratching our heads to identify. A raffle formed part of the entertainment and surprise, surprise - the prizes were a choice between a bottle of red or white wine or some chocolates.

The next event on Saturday 1st November again took place at Washingborough. This time we filled the main hall when about ten teams of six to eight competed to become the Lincoln Film Society Quiz Champions. Quizmaster Steve Green produced a very diverting general knowledge quiz. Some highly original team names were invented and the prize for the best name was won by the Magnificent Seven (which included our chairman)!

The next meeting of this committee is on January 14th.

Charity Status

The Society gained charitable status in August last year. Its principle objective is educational - improving local knowledge and awareness of international film.

7 trustees provide oversight: 4 committee members (Richard Hall, Jonathan Killin, John Rossington & Les Dicker) and 3 ordinary members (Ivor Davey, Janice Kearns and Anne Eggleton). You may like to have a little bit of background on each of the trustees.

Ivor Davey: As a film enthusiast and school teacher, I am particularly interested in helping the society promote its educational aims. I am currently involved with film making in Lincolnshire primary schools in the international 'Cent ans de Jeunesse' scheme run by the Cinematèque Francaise and the BFI.



Les Dicker: "My wife and I rejoined Lincoln Film Society in 2006 when we returned to Lincoln after living in Sheffield. I was accepted onto the Committee in 2011 and now serve on the "Finance and Membership" and "Publicity and Marketing" groups."

Anne Eggleton: "I value the opportunity to see what new opportunities charitable status opens up for the Society and I look forward to being a small part of making that happen."



Richard Hall: "Member for nearly 30 years, Chairman since 2000. The Society plays a vital role in broadening the cultural life of Lincoln. I'm keen to see this continue and develop."

Janice Kearns: "my background is in independent TV production for the BBC, ITV & Channel 4. I'm keen to encourage younger people (especially university students) to attend screenings and become more involved in the society."



Jonathan Killin: "secretary since 2012, member since 2010, upon arrival in Lincoln. I'm committed to making the society an enjoyable vehicle for cultural education in the city."

John Rossington: "Member for 10 years, committee member for 5 and Treasurer for two seasons. I'm proud of the value LFS brings to the cultural scene in Lincoln. The Society's heritage is a wonderful asset and I hope it can go from strength to strength".

Gift Aid

The Society can take advantage of Gift Aid which will help our revenue stream and enable us to keep costs under control. Please contact a trustee if you'd like to help The Society this way.

Audience Survey

At the end of last year, we carried out a survey of audience attitudes to developments in the Society in recent years (which have included converting to full digital cinema format, thanks to our partnership with The Venue and BGU), expanding the programme, gaining charitable status and removing any cap on the number of members who could join

The results are very informative: there is significant support for the current strategy of ensuring the programme has a good mix of films from different countries and genres. No one country/genre was more popular than the others. The recent innovations of increasing the number of films being shown and leaning some gaps for films released after the season has also received substantial support.

We were interested to know what you thought future development priorities should be. Here the results were less conclusive: most support was given to proposals to increase the space for more new-release films, include more films from emerging film cultures such as Africa and organise more special events, such as social occasions or festivals. Some 10% of respondents preferred things to stay as they are. There was no significant support for increasing membership numbers or specifically pursuing our main charitable purpose (education).

150 surveys were distributed: 131 replies were received. Of these, 118 were from members (32% of the total number of members this season.) We'd like to thank all who provided this feedback. We'll discuss the information it revealed and report later in the year, probably at the AM.