

Abergavenny Film Society

2023-2024



20 September 2023



Cairo Conspiracy

Sweden/France/Finland 2022

121 Minutes



Director: Tarik Saleh

The gripping and critically acclaimed new thriller from Tarik Saleh (*The Nile Hilton Incident*, *The Contractor*), follows Adam, a young man who is offered a place to study at the Al-Azhar University in Cairo. Shortly after his arrival in the city, the university's highest-ranking religious leader, the Grand Imam, suddenly dies and Adam becomes a pawn in a ruthless power struggle between Egypt's religious and political elite. As he struggles to balance a range of competing interests that favour different leaders, he soon finds that he must fight for his very survival as the succession intensifies.



Festival de Cannes 2022 – Winner Best Screenplay and nominated for Palme d'Or

4 October 2023



Lunana – A Yak in The Classroom

Bhutan 2019

109 Minutes

Director: Pawo Choyning Dorji



Enchanting, entertaining and gloriously filmed, *Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom* follows a daydreaming young teacher who discovers an unlikely path to contentment after being posted to a remote school dizzyingly high up in the Himalayan mountain village of Lunana. Beautifully photographed in extraordinary mountain locations, this poetic and enchanting drama earned Bhutan the country's first ever Oscar nomination and gives a fascinating insight into a region largely uncharted on screen.

Kids' Games (Short Film)

Spain 2022

11 Minutes

Director: Bernabé Rico



Leo becomes the centre of attention at his school party.
Bernabé Rico explores prejudice in society in this delightful short film.

We are very grateful to Bernabé for his kind permission to screen his film.

18 October 2023

Love According to Dalva



Belgium/France 2022

88 Minutes

Director: Emmanuelle Nicot



Featuring an extraordinary performance from Zelda Samson as Dalva, a 12-year-old girl who is home-schooled and hidden from society by her father. One evening, when the police forcibly take her into foster care, Dalva must learn to understand that her father's abuse is not what real love is. With the help of her new roommate Samia and social worker Jayden, she gradually steps into a childhood that was almost lost.

Rotterdam International Film Festival 2023 – Winner – Audience Award

1 November 2023

The Gravedigger's Wife



Finland/Germany/France/ Somalia/Qatar 2021

83 Minutes

Director: Khadar Aydreus Ahmed



Winner of Best Film at the African Movie Academy Awards, Khadar Ayderus Ahmed's *The Gravedigger's Wife* is set in Djibouti City where Guled (Omar Abdi) works hard to support his wife and son. The deaths of others provide him with a living as a digger of graves. His wife Nasra (Yasmin Warsame) has an infected kidney. Life-saving surgery is possible but the cost is extortionate so Guled embarks on an epic quest to try and raise the money. An involving, suspense-filled tale of survival that culminates into a celebration of love and family.

Africa Movie Academy Awards 2021 – Winner – Best Film

15 November 2023



All The Beauty and The Bloodshed

USA 2022

122 Minutes

Director: Laura Poitras



Certificate 18 – strong sexual images

Nominated for Best Documentary at the 2023 Academy Awards, *All The Beauty and The Bloodshed* is the extraordinary story of internationally renowned artist and activist Nan Goldin who established the advocacy organisation, P.A.I.N. (Prescription Addiction Intervention Now). Told through her slideshows, intimate interviews, ground-breaking photography and rare footage of her fight to hold the Sackler family accountable for the opioid crisis, this sometimes-explicit documentary is directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Laura Poitras (*Citizenfour*). Deeply personal and urgently political, it follows the past and present lives of Goldin from P.A.I.N.'s actions at renowned art institutions through her epic *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency* to her legendary 1989 NEA-censored AIDS exhibition, *Witnesses: Against Our Vanishing*.

Venice Film Festival 2022 – Winner – Golden Lion

29 November 2023



Close

France 2022

105 Minutes

Director: Lukas Dhont



Certificate 12A - suicide references, homophobia, upsetting scenes

Winner of the Grand Prix award at Cannes 2022 and nominated for Best International Feature Film at the 2023 Academy Awards, *Close* is an elegant, poetic and empathetic study of youth from acclaimed writer-director Lukas Dhont. Thirteen-year-olds Léo and Rémi are inseparable best friends who are as close as brothers. However, as they start a new school year, the pressures of burgeoning adolescence challenge their bond with unexpected and far-reaching consequences. With incredible performances from newcomers Eden Dambrine and Gustav De Waele, Dhont's evocative second film is a profoundly moving coming-of-age story that will have an enduring impact.



Festival de Cannes 2022 – Winner Grand Prix

13 December 2023



Polite Society

UK 2019

104 Minutes

Director: Nida Manzoor



Certificate 12A - Moderate threat, violence, sex references, infrequent strong language

We Are Lady Parts creator Nida Manzoor directs this wickedly funny crowd-pleaser brimming with hi-jinks, high kicks and some Bollywood style razzle-dazzle.

British Pakistani schoolgirl Ria (Priya Kansara) is an expert martial arts fighter and dreams of a career as a stuntwoman. Her big sister Lena (Ritu Arya) has dropped out of art school and is drifting in limbo until a whirlwind romance threatens to carry her off. What is the possible appeal of handsome, sensitive and wealthy geneticist Salim (Akshay Khanna)? Now Lena is abandoning all her dreams to become his wife and move to Singapore. Something doesn't add up and a distraught Ria is determined to uncover the truth. Is plotting to kidnap Lena from her own wedding a step too far?

Ding Dong (Short Film)

Wales 2002

3 minutes

Director: Tracey Spottiswoode



Weddings often breed disputes or ding dongs and this wedding, located at St Catwg's Church, Cadoxton, Barry, is no exception. The wedding is about to begin but there aren't enough bellringers and Emma is expecting a peal of bells for her big day. The problem must be solved before the vicar (Philip Madoc) carries out his madcap plans for alternative chimes.

Cast: Philip Madoc, Ifan Huw Dafydd, Huw Caredig, Chloe Williams, Luke Evans.

We are very grateful to The National Screen and Sound Archive of Wales, Aberystwyth, for their kind permission to screen this film.

3 January 2024



1976

Chile/Argentina 2023

97 Minutes

Director: Manuela Martelli



Certificate 15 – strong language

In the coastal Chilean town of Las Cruces during the third year of Pinochet's dictatorship, a middle-aged woman named Carmen (Aline Kuppenheim) finds herself thrown into a dangerous situation that aligns her with the opposition movement. While renovating her family's beach house, she is persuaded by local priest Father Sanchez (Hugo Medina) to take in Elías (Nicolás Sepúlveda), a man on the run from Pinochet's police force, triggering a quiet revolution in Carmen's own life.

Palm Springs International Film Festival 2023 – Winner – Best Ibero-American Film

17 January 2024



The Road Dance

UK 2021

117 Minutes

Director: Richie Adams



Life in the Scottish Hebrides is harsh. Some call it 'the edge of the world.' For the beautiful Kirsty, her love for Murdo and their shared dreams of America promise escape from the scrape of the land and a stifled destiny. However, The Great War changes everything when Murdo is conscripted. The night before the young men go off to battle, tragedy is set in motion as villagers swirl and sup at a 'road dance.'

Based on the acclaimed novel by John MacKay, *The Road Dance* is adapted for the screen and directed by Richie Adams.

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2021 – Winner – Audience Award

Deloping (Short Film)

UK 2022

7 Minutes

Director: Jon Olav Stokke



On July 21st 1792, Mary and Emma settled their differences the only way they knew how: a duel to the death!

We are very grateful to Jon Olav Stokke for his kind permission to screen his film which was made in Wales.

31 January 2024



Broker

South Korea 2022

129 Minutes

Director: Hirokazu Kore-eda



Heartwarming, funny and moving, *Broker* is the outstanding new film from Hirokazu Kore-eda, the acclaimed director of *Shoplifters*. On a rainy night in Busan, So-young (Lee 'IU' Ji-eun) leaves her baby Woo-sung outside a 'baby box', a safe place set up in Korean churches for new mothers to leave unwanted infants. Instead, he's picked up by Sang-hyun (Song Kang-ho, *Parasite*) who runs an unofficial adoption brokerage and plans to find him a new home. So-young tracks down both Sang-hyun and his business partner Dong-soo (Gang Dong-won) and decides to join their pursuit (alongside a seven-year-old stowaway from a nearby orphanage), but as they search for Woo-sung's new family, the unlikely group evolves into something of a family themselves – unaware they're being tailed by two detectives (Bae Doona and Lee Joo-young) who are determined to stop them.



Festival de Cannes 2022 – nominee - Palme d'Or

14 February 2024



The Beasts

Spain/France 2022

139 Minutes

Director: Rodrigo Sorogoyen



Based on real events, Denis Ménochet and Marina Foïs play a married couple whose dream of moving to the countryside turns into a living nightmare in Rodrigo Sorogoyen's hugely suspenseful fourth feature. After moving to a small village in Spain's Northwest, Antione and Olga's peaceful life is drastically uprooted. When they are approached by Norwegian developers who are willing to pay the residents of the neighbourhood to build a wind farm on their property, Antione and Olga are the only residents who vote against the development. This sparks anger in two local brothers whose rising tempers push the situation to the point of no return.

San Sebastián International Film Festival 2022 – Winner – Best European Film

28 February 2024



The Eight Mountains

Italy, Belgium, France 2021

147 Minutes

Directors: Felix van Groeningen, Charlotte Vandermeersch



Certificate 12A – Infrequent strong language

Winner of the Special Jury Prize at Cannes, *The Eight Mountains* is a staggeringly beautiful, uplifting tale of lifelong friendship. One summer, 12-year-old Pietro and his family leave Turin to rent a house amidst the grandeur of the mountain country in Italy's Aosta Valley. It is the village that Bruno calls home. The two boys forge a bond that will stretch over decades as Bruno stays rooted to the mountains and Pietro travels far and wide. A lyrical adaptation of the Paolo Cognetti bestseller, this outstanding film depicts how lives are shaped by the landscapes where we live and the people we meet.



Festival de Cannes 2022 – nominee - Palme d'Or and Winner - Jury Prize

13 March 2024

TBC

The Invisible Girl

Peru/Spain/Chile 2022

105 Minutes



Director: Dorian Fernández-Moris

Certificate TBC – moderate sex, brothel scenes

Juan, a public official, is on the run from the law and the tragedy that scarred him for life. Reina, a teenager, is escaping the sexual and moral abuse she suffered as a child in the sexual exploitation camps of La Pampa, an area controlled by gold mining mafias. United by fate, they embark on a journey to find Reina's family in the lawless territory of the Peruvian Amazon, plagued by crime and greed.

Gramado Film Festival 2022 – Best Foreign Film – Winner

27 March 2024



The Blue Caftan

France/Morocco/Belgium/Denmark 2021

122 Mins

Director: Maryam Touzani



Certificate 12A – moderate sex

Set in the Moroccan town of Salé, *The Blue Caftan* follows Mina and her husband Halim, who run a small shop selling traditional caftans in one of the country’s oldest medinas. In order to keep up with demand, they hire a talented young man as an apprentice. Slowly Mina realises how much her husband is moved by his presence in this emotionally complex and tender depiction of a relationship.



Festival de Cannes 2022 – nominee – Un Certain Regard Award



20 September	Cairo Conspiracy	12A
04 October	Lunana – A Yak in The Classroom + Kids’ Games	PG
18 October	Love According to Dalva	15
01 November	The Gravedigger’s Wife	12A
15 November	All The Beauty and The Bloodshed	18
29 November	Close	12A
13 December	Polite Society + Ding Dong	12A
03 January 2024	1976	15
17 January	The Road Dance + Deloping	15
31 January	Broker	12A
14 February	The Beasts	15
28 February	The Eight Mountains	12A
13 March	The Invisible Girl	PG
27 March	The Blue Caftan	12A