



WELCOME TO LINCOLN FILM SOCIETY'S AUTUMN NEWSLETTER.....

The Committee would like to welcome all members to its Autumn newsletter, where we try to keep you informed about what goes on behind the scenes.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION..

After all the meetings, discussions, setbacks and delays, the Society is up and running in its new digital form. The Committee is delighted by the result; and judging by the measures that matter (membership numbers, attendances and comments from members), so are audiences.

But while the improvements in sound and vision provided by the new projection format (especially the clarity of subtitling) have been welcomed, there have been other outcomes, which have implications the Committee needs to address. These include

- responding to The Venue's programme of films, which includes some the Society would certainly have wanted to show next season;
- the growing interest in the Society, the rise in membership and the challenge of accommodating everyone who wants to see the films in the programme.

We have seen a steady but regular increase in membership in the last few years and this year, 391 members have joined, an increase of 10% on last season. The average attendance per film by members so far is well over 40%. In addition, the number of people attending as guests is on the increase, averaging 17 per film last season and currently not far short of that figure for this.

As the Committee wants to act in the interests of everyone who wishes to see the films on offer without us having to turn people away, we decided we needed:

- 1 more accurate information on membership and attendance patterns than we had available to us;
- 2 to rethink the Committee's policy on reserved seating, to make sure as many seats as possible were available for members and guests;
- 3 to think through how we manage further increases in demand for membership and guest seats.

Our solutions for this season to these challenges were as follows:

- the introduction of a new membership card, designed to last for more than 1 season, which we would bar-code. Scanning each card as audiences entered the theatre would give us accurate information for the first time on how many people were attending;
- we would restrict the number of reserved seats to 3 categories: those who needed a seat for medical reasons; those members of the Committee on duty at each film; and the sponsors (where relevant) of the film being shown;
- we would seek agreement with Bishop Grosseteste on how we could develop our programme in years to come.

So far, we have obtained some of the information we were lacking. We need more and will keep monitoring the outcomes of our decisions, but we do not expect to introduce any more changes this season.

continued overleaf

CLAPPERBOARD.....

Membership Cards:

Members are reminded to bring their cards to every screening. The Committee has introduced a £2 charge for replacing any card that is lost.

Treasurer:

Rob Sargent, our treasurer, has let it be known that he will be standing down at the end of this season. If any member is interested in helping the Society by taking on this role, please contact the Committee.

Approval ratings:

Members will be able to see the approval ratings for this season's films so far on P.2 and may wonder how they are arrived at. They are based on the reaction slips completed after each film and use the same method of weighting as the British Film Institute and the Independent Cinema Office, as follows

5* = 100

4* = 75

3* = 50

2* = 25

1* = 0

The number of reactions are multiplied by the weightings and the results added together. The total is then divided by the total number of reaction slips completed to give the approval rating.

New Committee

members

We are pleased to welcome 3 new Committee members this season - Adela Nicoara, Les Dicker and Ania Pastuszko - who replace Janet Dobson and David Howard who stood down at last season's AGM.

We were also aware that Bishop Grosseteste is undergoing a significant programme of change, so we wanted to make sure that our future was secure and that the ideas we have for developing the Society were sustainable. We have had a number of discussions with their representatives on these matters and the good news is that we have reached what we think is a very good deal for the Society and its members through a formal agreement, which will allow us to

- continue showing films on Fridays, with occasional screenings on other days;
- increase the number of screenings in our programme over the next 2 years;
- book newer films more quickly, to cut down the time between their release and a Society showing;
- liaise closely on programming, to ensure that we can still offer the most attractive programme of films possible.

ANNIVERSARY YEAR

2013 is Film Society's 60th anniversary year and the Committee has decided that this needs to be celebrated appropriately.

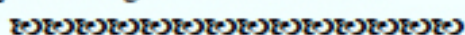
The programme we have planned for the year includes the films for the remainder of this season as well as those we pick for the start of next.

We have also planned a film festival in June. We have been discussing this with partners including the University and Drill Hall, as well as Bishop Grosseteste. The final programme is still to be agreed but aims to include:

- a programme of new releases;
- a season of Best of British films;
- the Book of the Film - talks about well known books, coupled with screenings of the films that were made;
- a quiz night;
- a children's season;
- guest appearances by film professionals.

Full details will be announced in the New Year.

We are still considering the best way to implement these initiatives to make the most of the opportunities that digital cinema give us, and plan to consult members in the coming weeks on your thoughts about our ideas.



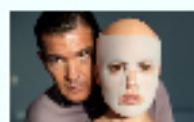
One thing the Committee is not so happy about (following the work done by the College) is what has happened to the bar.

Not so long ago, significant numbers of our audience would meet there after a film to enjoy a drink, chat with friends and share their thoughts on what they had just seen.

Since the College took over the running of the bar (licensing conditions meant that we were no longer able to do that), numbers have fallen away dramatically. We would like to reverse that position and plan to discuss this with the College. But we would like to understand clearly what is putting members off from using the bar, so we will be consulting the membership about this in the New Year and will be glad to hear your views.

....AND AUDIENCE REACTIONS

The Skin | Live In



Approval
Rating
63%

Carnage



Approval
Rating
74%

The Kid With a Bike



Approval
Rating
72%

The Great White Silence



Approval
Rating
83%

The Portuguese Nun



Approval
Rating
46%

Headhunters



Approval
Rating
80%

Troll Hunter



Approval
Rating
61%

Tomboy



Approval
Rating
72%

Shame



Approval
Rating
53%

My Dog Tulip



Approval
Rating
62%