

# The Flicks

Newsletter of the Pontardawe Film Society

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or visit our web address at: <http://www.pontardawefilm.co.uk/index.htm>

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## The Flicks

*When we launched The Flicks back in the previous century, we were in a hurry and we were ignorant. We didn't know that the Apollo cinema chain has a glossy magazine called 'Flicks' and a national film organisation also once had a newsletter called 'The Flicks'.*

*So, we need a new title for the newsletter - any ideas? It needs to be something that won't need changing again. I'll buy a pint (or glass of wine) for whoever's nomination I like the most. (DR)*

## The girl on the bridge

*(La fille sur le pont)*

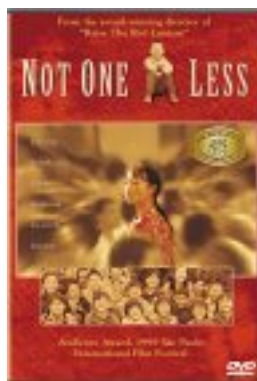
4th December

This film provided a fine finish to 2000, enough non-members attended to nearly pay for the film, two new members joined, and it was very popular with all who attended.

- |             |    |
|-------------|----|
| • Excellent | 17 |
| • Good      | 5  |
| • Moderate  | 1  |
| • Not good  | 0  |
| • Bad       | 0  |

One day I shall have to produce a 'Your greatest hits' list of all the films we've shown.

## Not one less Saturday 27th January



Just a coincidence, but our new year starts with a Chinese film shown at the weekend of the Chinese New Year celebrations. We're also hoping members will take the opportunity of this being a Saturday to introduce new members. The more members we have, the more viable we become. Ultimately, we're hoping to show more films and more cheaply.

*Not one less* is a film that should attract many people because it has been around long enough for people to have seen the many favourable reviews it has had.

Set in modern China and made in 1999, it tells the story of a young teacher as she goes in search of one of her pupils who's left school and gone to the city. The film says much about school life in modern China, and the hardships endured by villagers in trying to ensure their kids get an education. But don't just expect to be informed - this is a 'beautiful' and emotionally involving film.

## Monday 5th February *The Luzhen Defence*

A genius falls in love with a society beauty - a 'brilliant, visually stunning film about the madness of big time chess'.

Directed by Marlene Gorris, this is a sensitive visually stunning romance based on a story by Vladimir Nabokov and captures that writer's dark irony. Staring John Turturro and Emily Watson, this is an Anglo-French production that has won acclaim from both viewers and critics.

# Film selection

*With our spring programme already under way, and summer on our minds, it is time to consider what films to show during May, June, & July. As previously, we want suggestions from members in time for us to book them and publicise them through the Arts Centre's brochure. So, if you have any suggestions, please let one of the Executive Committee know, or email me at [dmrea@pontardawefilm.co.uk](mailto:dmrea@pontardawefilm.co.uk). In the meantime, these items may help you select.*

## Spring viewing day

As part of its support for film societies, the British Federation of Film Societies Welsh Group is now organising one-day viewing sessions, twice a year. (Previously, it organised one two-day viewing sessions per year). The aim of these sessions is to show movies, sufficiently in advance of their release, so that film societies can add them to their annual programme and produce their programme for the year ahead. It is also an opportunity for members to meet and share news, experiences, and opinions. But while there is plenty of time for this over coffees, lunch, and the evening meal, most of the day consists of film watching.

If you haven't done this before, this can seem quite a daunting prospect, but some of us have been now and have thoroughly enjoyed the day. The films are generally of very high quality and unlikely to be seen elsewhere. Long established film societies find them invaluable to their programming and publicity efforts.

This Spring, we are promised an exciting programme. The viewing day will be on February 10th at Aberystwyth Arts Centre. It will cost £15 - which includes coffee and dinner. The programme is:

### American Movie

*'The most entertaining documentary in ages'. A director goes to 'hilarious lengths to get his vision on screen'. Poignant realism, eccentric characters, and comedy, combined.*

### Water drops on burning rocks

*Uncomfortably funny based on Fassbinder's first play. Themes are manipulation in relationships, gay politics and bourgeois morality.*

### Goya in Bordeaux

*Vivid spectacle is promised in this film as Goya's career from court painter to post-impressionism is told, bringing his canvases to life on screen. An unusual film about the agonies of an exiled genius.*

### Xiu Xiu: the Sent Down Girl

*A beautifully filmed tragic story of a girl sent to the plains of Tibet during China's cultural revolution.*

### Momento

*This thriller was nearly selected by our members for our Spring season. It is not being shown at the Pontardawe Arts Centre on the previous Wednesday (7th February). Its billed as a hugely satisfying film with a tricky plot that makes it 'worth seeing twice'.*

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For more information, reservations, and travel arrangements etc, just contact David Rea (Secretary), on (01792) 863412 or at [dmrea@pontardawefilm.co.uk](mailto:dmrea@pontardawefilm.co.uk)

If you want to stay for the dinner, you'll also need to specify whether you want a vegetarian or non-vegetarian meal.

## Film reviews

From the very beginnings of our Film Club, it has been obvious that seasoned film societies and film buffs, all rely on **Sight and Sound**, the magazine of the British Film Institute. It's monthly and costs £45.50 pa. It is the most authoritative source of film news - tells you what's happened before its happened!

For those of us (most of us!) who are less committed, Sunday newspapers and the Friday Guardian are probably the best source of commonly available films. But an increasing amount of film reviews are now available on the internet.

The **Guardian's** reviews are easily available (and they'll email you everyday if you have a hotmail account!). The site is at <http://www.filmunlimited.co.uk/>

If you want to get away from reviewer opinion, and find out what ordinary film viewers think about the films they see, then go to the **International Movie Data Base** (at <http://uk.imdb.com/>). This site has an excellent search facility with dozens of links to actors, directors, etc.

The **BFI** also has a site, it's packed with further film links, including special links to Asian or African films. It's at <http://www.bfi.org.uk/index.html>

Another good source of unusual but promising films are the major film festivals. They happen around this time of year and are widely reported on TV and elsewhere. But they also have web sites. Check out **Sundance**, at <http://www.sundancechannel.com/> or **Cannes**, at <http://www.cannes-festival.com/>

Then, when you've found a film you think you want to see - tell us!