

AMY (R)

31 Jul

Documentary 128 mins UK (2015)

Traces the arc of Amy Winehouse's life and the transformation of this mischief-loving Jewish girl from North London into a peerless interpreter of jazz and soul, to global pop sensation, to her death in 2011, at 27, from alcohol poisoning. Director Asif Kapadia has pieced together the visuals exclusively from archival images, tapping into a trove of home videos, concert material, publicity interviews and recording sessions. Like many who have come of age in the digital era, Amy and her friends seemed to have kept a running record of their lives, cataloging their waking and sleeping hours, their back-seat and backstage lulls. The end of the movie is a gruesome horror show but you don't turn away, because the film has made Amy so touchingly, recognizably human.

SON OF SAUL (R)

18 Sep

Drama 107 mins Hungary (2015)

October 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau. Saul Ausländer is a Hungarian member of the Sonderkommando, the group of Jewish prisoners isolated from the camp and forced to assist the Nazis in the machinery of large-scale extermination. László Nemes' astonishing debut feature follows Saul when he fixates on a boy who survives the gas. "Son of Saul" offers Nemes' harrowing vision of the possibility of peace, at least within oneself. Nemes, who also co-wrote the film, based it in part on secret writings members of the Sonderkommando hid. Winner of last year's Golden Globe after claiming the Grand Jury Prize at its Cannes debut last May.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

One membership form per person

2016 membership fee: \$70

Please Print Clearly

Surname:.....

First name:.....

Postal address:

Suburb:..... Postcode:

Email address:

Phone/mobile:

 Please tick if you would like to receive NFS correspondence via email, includes film changes if applicable, monthly newsletters etc.

Payment options: (Please do not send cash)

Payment by electronic transfer/direct deposit:

The NFS banks with Greater Building Society

- Transfer membership fees to the following account:
BSB: 637 000 Account Number: 718315808
- Account Name: Newcastle Film Society
- Reference / Remitter:

Enter your name & contact phone number
(This will allow payment trail to reconcile membership payments)

- Print a copy of the electronic deposit form and attach it to your completed membership form.

Payment by cheque/money order:

- Cheque/money order payable to 'Newcastle Film Society'

Items to be sent with membership application:

- Membership application completed (only original memberships forms accepted)
- A stamped self - addressed envelope (2016 Membership cards will be mailed to you)
- Cheque/money order payable to 'Newcastle Film Society' or print a copy of the electronic deposit form showing payment.
- Return Membership Application to:
The Secretary - Newcastle Film Society
PO Box 128 | Newcastle 2300

TALE OF TALES

07 Aug

Fantasy Horror 134 mins Italy (2015)

Matteo Garrone's Tale of Tales is based on three folk myths collected and published by the 16th-century Neapolitan poet and scholar Giambattista Basile, of whom the Brothers Grimm were big fans. Unlike the fairy tales we're used to, there are no straightforward morals to be swallowed, and the ever-afters aren't all that obviously happy. Sweet dreams quickly curdle to swirling nightmares. It is a masterpiece of black-comic bad taste and a positive carnival of transgression in which everything is treated with deadpan seriousness.

TIMBUKTU

25 Sep

Drama 97 mins Belgium (2014)

Not far from Timbuktu, now ruled by the religious fundamentalists, Kidane lives peacefully in the dunes with his wife Satima, his daughter Toya, and Issan, their 12 year old shepherd. In town, the people suffer, powerless from the regime of terror imposed by the Jihadists determined to control their faith. Music, laughter, cigarettes and even soccer have been banned. The women have become shadows, but resist with dignity. Every day, the new improvised courts issue tragic and absurd sentences. Kidane and his family are being spared the chaos that prevails in Timbuktu, but their destiny changes when Kidane accidentally kills Amadou, the fisherman, who slaughtered his beloved cow. He now has to face the new laws of the foreign occupants.

THE DAUGHTER

14 Aug

Drama 100 mins Australia (2015)

The debut feature from Australian theatre director Simon Stone is an adaptation of his stage reinterpretation of Henrik Ibsen's, The Wild Duck. The story concerns two families whose skeletons are hauled out of the closet with the arrival of Christian (Paul Schneider), an on/off the wagon alcoholic returning for the marriage of his father Henry (Geoffrey Rush) to a much younger woman. Stone has said that when he sat down to write the screenplay he had neither Ibsen's text nor his own theatrical adaption on his desk or in his mind. What he clearly did retain however, is both his innate understanding of the playwright's original aims and a keen sense of small-town class tensions. The cast includes Sam Neill, Ewen Leslie, and Miranda Otto.

LOVE MARRIAGE IN KABUL

02 Oct

Documentary 85 mins Iran (2014)

A lovingly fashioned tale of the brokering of a marriage amidst the ruins of a country impoverished by decades of war. Mahboba Rawi, founder of Mahboba's Promise, is an Afghan-Australian woman dedicated to help Afghan orphans. Abdul, one of the first orphans she saved, is in love with Fatemeh. They want to marry, but Fatemeh's father wants to give her to anyone who offers the largest dowry. Devastated, Abdul is hoping when Mahboba arrives in Kabul, she will help to make his marriage happen, but Fatemeh's father has unexpected demands. He wants 10,000 Australian dollars or a wife for his eldest son to replace Fatemeh in the household. The fate of the couple hangs on Mahboba's ability to negotiate, but she only has one month and limited resources.

CAROL (R)

21 Aug

Romance 118 mins USA (2015)

An adaptation of a novel by Patricia Highsmith, directed by Todd Haynes. Carol Aird (Cate Blanchett) is a stylish New Jersey homemaker doing some last-minute Christmas shopping in Manhattan when she spies a watchful shop girl named Therese (Rooney Mara). "Carol" traces the two women's friendship that gradually, inescapably, develops into a passionate romance, bringing the audience along on a love affair born of instinct, affinity and the instantaneous connection that Rilke compared to "two solitudes" touching and greeting each other. Taking place in the early 1950's, when love between two women still dared not speak its name, Carol battles her soon-to-be ex-husband and Therese swims into consciousness against the tide of an eager boyfriend, their outer selves express all that goes unspoken, silenced by the conformist culture that engulfs them.

THE WOLFPACK (R)

09 Oct

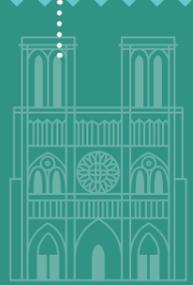
Documentary 90 mins USA (2014)

Locked away from society in an apartment on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, the Angulo brothers learn about the outside world through the films that they watch. Nicknamed the Wolfpack, the brothers spend their childhood re-enacting their favourite films using elaborate homemade props and costumes. With no friends and living on welfare, they feed their curiosity, creativity and imagination with film, which allows them to escape from their feelings of isolation and loneliness. Everything changes when one of the brothers escapes, and the power dynamics in the house is transformed. The Wolfpack must learn how to integrate into society without disbanding the brotherhood.

FRENCH FILM FRIDAY

26 Aug

6.30 pm French mini market

**THE BELIER FAMILY**

16 Oct

Comedy 106 mins France (2015)

A box office smash in France in 2015 that finds humour and inspiration in a disability. Dairy farmers Rodolphe and Gigi Belier are deaf, as is their young son Quentin. The one fully-abled Belier is 15-year-old daughter Paula, who plays an essential role in running the family business. This puts a lot of pressure on a girl yearning to be accepted by her peers and starting to think fondly of the opposite sex. Rodolphe, driven mad by the incompetence and corruption of the local mayor, decides to run for office himself, with the slogan "I Hear You" and Paula must translate her father's speeches and interviews. At first, Paula has no idea she can sing, but when cute classmate Gabriel signs up for choir she follows his lead. Paula discovers a God-given talent for singing, but how do you break the news to your deaf family that you want to be a singer?

PHOENIX

28 Aug

Drama 98 mins Germany, Poland (2014)

Nelly (Nina Hoss), a German-Jewish nightclub singer, has survived a concentration camp, but with her face disfigured by a bullet wound. After undergoing reconstructive surgery, Nelly emerges with a new face, one similar but different enough that her former husband, Johnny (Ronald Zehrfeld), doesn't recognize her. Rather than reveal herself, Nelly walks into a dangerous game of duplicity and disguise as she tries to figure out if the man she loves may have been the one who betrayed her to the Nazis. Evoking the shadows and haunted mood of post-war Berlin, Phoenix weaves a complex tale of a nation's tragedy and a woman's search for answers as it builds towards an unforgettable, heart-stopping climax.

FRENCH FILM FRIDAY

21 Oct

6.30 pm French mini market

**DHEEPAN (R)**

04 Sep

Drama 117 mins Belgium, France (2015)

To escape the civil war in Sri Lanka, a former soldier, a young woman and a little girl pose as a family. They end up settling in a housing project outside Paris. They barely know one another, but try to build a life together - as the threat of escalating gang violence looms over their lives.

EISENSTEIN IN GUANAJUATO

23 Oct

Drama, Comedy 105 mins Belgium, Finland, Mexico (2015)

In 1931, at the height of his artistic powers, Soviet filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein travels to Mexico to shoot a new film to be titled Que Viva Mexico. Freshly rejected by Hollywood and under increasing pressure to return to Stalinist Russia, Eisenstein arrives at the city of Guanajuato. Chaperoned by his guide Palomino Cañedo, he vulnerably experiences the ties between Eros and Thanatos, sex and death, happy to create their effects in cinema, troubled to suffer them in life. Peter Greenaway's film explores the mind of a creative genius facing the desires and fears of love, sex and death through ten passionate days that helped shape the rest of the career of one of the greatest masters of cinema.

MACBETH (R)

11 Sep

Drama 113 mins UK (2015)

Over the years, Shakespeare's Macbeth has attracted some of cinema's heaviest hitters: Orson Welles, Roman Polanski, Akira Kurosawa (whose Throne Of Blood transposes the play to feudal Japan). It has now also attracted Australian filmmaker Justin Kurzel. This new adaptation stars Michael Fassbender as the title character, with Marion Cotillard as his wife. The film begins and ends on the battlefield, as if that were Macbeth's natural hunting ground and Shakespeare's verse is muttered, spat, and moaned without a gleam of rhetorical flourish. Nothing, in short, speaks of grandeur in this depleted land and there's something crazed and almost ridiculous about fighting and killing for the chance to govern it. In Kurzel's thrillingly elemental new adaptation, death is a most literal burden to bear.



NEWCASTLE FILM SOCIETY

Program

2016

newcastlefilmsociety.com
facebook.com/groups/newcastlefilmsociety

Newcastle Film Society presents an international program of recent films, documentaries and classics.

The committee has created more value for its members by including the following events in this year's season.

\$70

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

+5 FRENCH FRIDAY FILMS

6.30 French mini market
7.30 screening

+30 NFS FILMS

+2 WINE & CHEESE NIGHTS

03 April 2016
23 October 2016

ALL FILMS SCREENED ON A SUNDAY NIGHT
7.30 PM IN THEATRE ONE
at Tower Cinemas | King Street, Newcastle

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THIS YEAR!

Admission to these events will only be available to NFS financial members. Tickets will not be sold at the door and are not transferable. The committee reserves the right to alter the program if necessary. Membership is strictly limited. Post your application for membership ASAP to avoid disappointment.

THE DINNER

Drama

92 mins

24 Apr

Italy (2014)

Italian director Ivano De Matteo beautifully adapts Herman Koch's best-seller with an all-star Italian cast in this film about two brothers who seem to have it all. The 'dinner' is a regular event in which two brothers, paediatrician Paolo and lawyer Massimo, meet with their wives at an expensive restaurant despite the women's mutual dislike. However, tensions between the two brothers and their families escalate when a video of Paolo's son and Massimo's daughter beating a homeless woman to death, shows up. De Matteo has brilliantly expanded on elements of the novel resulting in heightened complexities in the characters and a slow burning tension that builds to a surprising climax.

YOUTH (R)

Drama

124 mins

12 Jun

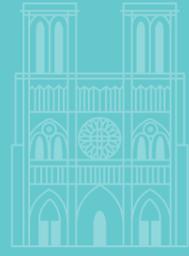
Italy, UK, Switzerland (2015)

Michael Caine takes center stage as famous conductor Fred Ballinger, holed up at a classy resort in the Swiss Alps and shunning civilization. Sneering at an offer from the Queen to return to the British stage in the very first scene, he instead spends his days roaming around the resort and reminiscing about more productive times with Mick (Harvey Keitel), his filmmaker pal. Mick at least thinks he can still deliver, as he spends long hours at the resort trying to write his comeback picture with a team of young writers called "Life's Last Day". With each new twist, director Paolo Sorrentino is always one step ahead of his audience, building a narrative that skips along at an enthralling pace.

FRENCH FILM FRIDAY

6.30 pm French mini market

27 Apr



HOLDING THE MAN

Romantic Drama

127 mins

19 Jun

Australia (2015)

Based on a real-life romance between John Caleo and Tim Conigrave who met at high school and mostly stayed together until Caleo's death in 1992, Neil Armfield's romantic drama chronicles teenage love in the 1970s, an era when homosexuality was illegal. It discusses political action, the AIDS crisis and the battle for mainstream rights that underpins the current push for marriage equality. Neil Armfield's return to filmmaking has a script by Tommy Murphy that is based on an acclaimed memoir by Conigrave that Murphy had previously turned into a successful play. Of the big-name support cast, Geoffrey Rush makes an impact in a cameo as a NIDA drama teacher with some good advice and Guy Pearce gets a powerful moment, as Conigrave's father, with a public display of acceptance of the relationship.

THE ASSASSIN

Historical Drama

105 mins

01 May

Taiwan (2015)

This film earned Hou Hsiao-Hsien the Cannes Film Festival's best director prize. Set during the ninth-century Tang dynasty, "The Assassin" takes place in China's Weibo province, which is beginning to rebel against a crumbling central authority. The lithe lady assassin Yinniang (Hou regular Shu Qi) is dispatched to kill provincial governor Lord Tian (Chang Chen) at the command of the mysterious princess nun (Sheu Fang-yi), who kidnapped and trained the girl as a youth. Old romantic entanglements cause Yinniang to stay her sword, and so "The Assassin" stands as a perverse paradox: a drama about a hit-lady who's reluctant to hit.

THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY

Biography

114 mins

26 Jun

UK (2015)

We first encounter Ramanujan in 1913 Madras, India, as an impoverished 25-year-old whose obsessive, self-taught mastery of mathematics has taken precedent over all other commitments in life, including his job as a shipping clerk and his recently arranged marriage. When Ramanujan writes a letter to Professor G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons) and sends along some of his notebooks, the professor immediately recognizes the untamed brilliance of the young scholar's work, and invites him to come to Trinity College and pursue his studies further. Seeking the appreciation and recognition that have eluded him at home, and hoping to be published immediately, Ramanujan leaves behind his tear-eyed bride and his overbearing mother to embark on the long, dangerous ocean voyage to Britain. Through sweeping period detail and compelling theory the film reiterates how important Ramanujan's work was.

LOOKING FOR GRACE

Drama

100 mins

08 May

Australia (2015)

An intimate, funny and profoundly moving story about chance, fate and the complexities of family life, from director Sue Brooks ('Japanese Story' and 'Road To Nhill'). When rebellious 16-year-old Grace takes off, her exasperated mum and dad (Radha Mitchell and Richard Roxburgh) enlist the help of a close-to-retirement detective and begin the long drive from Perth out to the West Australian wheat belt to try to find her. On the journey, the two must confront the realities of their changing relationship to one another and to their daughter.

DO YOU SEE ME?

Comedy

106 mins

03 Jul

Italy (2014)

A comedy of errors about a talented young woman, Serena (Paola Cortellesi), fighting for her place in the sexist male-dominated profession of Italian architecture. In order to design the building of her dreams, Serena poses as her own assistant to fabricated architect 'Bruno Serena'. For a while she is able to get her foot in the door and no one suspects a thing. She has her own desk and is able to participate in regular meetings. But as time passes, Serena's boss starts to push for more contact with Bruno, and so Serena ropes in her best friend, Francesco, to pose as him and pretend to Skype from Japan.

FRENCH FILM FRIDAY

6.30 pm French mini market

18 Mar



THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY (R)

Drama

106 mins

15 May

Denmark (2014)

Filed in Hungary amid crumbling mansions and overgrown forests and taking its name from a species of butterfly, director Peter Strickland conjures a lush Utopia populated entirely by women in his wondrous erotic study. The typical household consists of a pair of lovers who are also a gentle female scientist and her dutiful maid. Cynthia (Sidse Babett Knudsen) and Evelyn (Chiara D'Anna) belong to such a ménage, and the film is principally concerned with the exploration of their sexual practices and domestic routines. There is the hint of a plot, but what gives it momentum is the audience's gradual discovery of the dynamic between the two women, a daily cycle of ritual and release involving the waning and waxing of affections and the threats posed to bliss by jealousy and boredom.

THE TALE OF THE PRINCESS KAGUYA

Animation

137 mins

10 Jul

Japan (2013)

An elderly bamboo cutter discovers a magic baby in a stalk of bamboo and brings her home to his wife who raises her as their own. The girl grows quickly and soon has a gaggle of friends with whom she runs wild. However, the bamboo cutter has ambitions and brings his wild child to the capital, where he has her made over into a lady, dubs her Princess Kaguya, and offers her up to the noble class as a bride. Directed by Isao Takahata, who co-founded the legendary Studio Ghibli with Hayao Miyazaki, it is gorgeous and hand-drawn, like a watercolor come to glorious life. The story is based on "The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter," a 10th-century Japanese folk tale. The story has lived for centuries and if "The Tale of Princess Kaguya" is any indication, it will continue to.

THE DRAUGHTSMAN'S CONTRACT (R)

Murder, Comedy, Mystery

108 mins

03 Apr

UK (1982)

Peter Greenaway's masterfully baffling, archly-humoured Victorian conceit that combines both a 17th century country house murder-mystery with a witty treatise on sex, lies and draughtsmanship. In Restoration-era England of 1694, a wealthy, gentle, woman and a skilled draughtsman strike a deal - he shall sketch her estate in return for various sexual favours. This dry comedy of manners takes an enigmatic turn when the woman's husband is found dead, with the draughtsman naturally becoming the main suspect.

HORSE MONEY

Drama

102 mins

22 May

Portugal (2014)

A visionary masterwork from the renowned director of COLOSSAL YOUTH, Pedro Costa's HORSE MONEY is a mesmerizing odyssey into the real, imagined and nightmarish memories of the elderly Ventura, a Cape Verdean immigrant living in Lisbon. The time is now, a numbing and timeless present of hospital stays, bureaucratic questioning, and wandering through remembered spaces... and suddenly it is also then, the mid '70s and the time of Portugal's Carnation Revolution, when Ventura got into a knife fight with his friend Joaquim. HORSE MONEY is a self-reckoning, a moving memorialization of lives in danger of being forgotten, as well as a piercingly beautiful work of modern cinema.

A PIGEON SAT ON A BRANCH CONTEMPLATING EXISTENCE

Comedy

101 mins

17 Jul

Sweden (2014)

The Swedish director Roy Andersson's Living Trilogy ('Songs from the Second Floor' & 'You, The Living') began 15 years ago and concludes with this sublime piece of filmmaking. Like the first two films in the trilogy, it is made up of mostly comic sketches with a cast of non-professionals in whose vacant stares we're supposed to see ourselves. Andersson has said that he found his film's unusual title in "The Hunters in the Snow", a 1565 painting by Breughel the Elder of a hunting party returning to their village, dogs scampering round their feet, while in the distance, skaters whirl on a frozen lake. Above them all, a small cluster of birds are sitting in the treetops, simultaneously humble and aloof, peering down inscrutably on this pageant of human busyness. Andersson's films take the pigeon's eye view.

WILD TALES (R)

Black Comedy

122 mins

10 Apr

Argentina (2014)

Written and directed by Damian Szifron and starring an ensemble cast, it was co-produced by Pedro & Agustín Almodóvar. Szifron has remarkable skills as both a director and a storyteller. Each of the six stories here are thoroughly enthralling and all are united by a mordant black humour. Connected thematically in dealing with revenge and retribution, each segment sets up expectations that its successor ingeniously fulfills or surpasses.

A BIGGER SPLASH (R)

Crime, Drama, Mystery

124 min

29 May

Italy, France (2015)

This movie received much acclaim and a Golden Lion nomination when it premiered at the Venice Film Festival earlier this year. "A Bigger Splash" follows an aged rock star (Tilda Swinton) who spends her days on a beautiful Italian isle with her younger boyfriend (Schoonearts). But when their idyllic getaway is interrupted by an old friend and his daughter (Fiennes and Johnson), what seems like a good-natured shakeup quickly devolves into a swirling storm of passion, anger and danger.

FRENCH FILM FRIDAY

6.30 pm French mini market

22 Jul



TANNA

Drama

100 mins

17 Apr

Australia (2015)

Set in the mountainous areas of a Vanuatu island covered in rainforest and dominated by an active volcano, this heartfelt story tells of a sister's loyalty, a forbidden love affair and the pact between the old ways and the new. It is enacted by the Yakel tribe who have rejected colonial and Christian influences. With their documentary backgrounds, co-directors Bentley Dean and Martin Butler continue in the rich vein of dramas made by Australian filmmakers who've returned from remote communities with striking work, made consultatively and with an ear for local voices.

BLACK SOULS

Drama

109 mins

05 Jun

Italy (2015)

A superior Italian gangster movie from director Francesco Munzi. The Carbone family consists of three brothers - Luigi and Rocco, who are engaged in the family business of international drug trade, and Luciano, who has remained in his ancestral town of Africo in the Aspromonte mountains herding goats. His 20-year old son Leo has little respect for his farmer father, but idealizes his Mafioso uncles. When Leo shoots up a bar owned by a rival family with a longstanding blood feud with the Carbone, his reckless actions create trouble that brings the whole family back to Africo for the inevitable bloody showdown.

SUNRISE

Drama

129 mins

17 Jul

France, India (2014)

Inspector Joshi is a grieving father searching for his daughter Aruna, kidnapped years ago when she was six. In his despair, life converges with a recurring dream in which Joshi pursues a shadowy figure who leads him to 'Paradise', a night-club where teenage girls dance to a leering crowd. He is convinced he will find Aruna there and vows to bring her back to Leela, his broken wife.