

18 AUG

**CAPHARNAUM**

Drama (R) • Lebanon (2018) • 123 mins

The title refers to the ancient city on the Sea of Galilee whose name is now a stand-in for anarchy and disorder. Lebanese filmmaker Nadine Labaki takes to the slums of Beirut to follow the plight of Zain, a 12-year-old boy doing five years in jail for stabbing a so-called "son of a bitch". The boy had lived with his parents, Souad and Selim in an apartment of unadulterated squalor, where Zain and his siblings were regularly used to sell drugs. Their business turns to human trafficking when the couple decide to sell Zain's 11-year-old sister, Sahar, to their landlord Assad. The price is a few chickens. The sorrow inherent in this tale would be unbearable without the film's flashes of humor and performances by a cast of nonprofessionals that are moving beyond measure.

25 AUG

**BIRDS OF PASSAGE**

Drama • Columbia (2018) • 125 mins

Ciro Guerra and Cristina Gallego's astounding epic about the origin of the Colombian drug trade told through the perspective of a proud indigenous family. Birds of Passage isn't out to reinvent the wheel regarding drug-lord narratives. What it brings to the party by setting its near-folkloric narco tale within the insular indigenous Wayuu community deep in the hills of North Colombia is more than just genre exotica (the Wayuu were never subjugated by the Spanish). Part anthropological study, part rise-and-fall epic, this regional spin on the "family business" saga makes you rethink the notions behind why we watch crime flicks past the vicarious thrills. It's both foreign and familiar. It's a capitalism-is-a-virus cautionary tale. It's the sort of second-hand trip too close to the sun that reminds you why history repeats itself the minute human nature enters the picture.

01 SEP

**THE BALLAD OF BUSTER SCRUGGS**

Black Comedy Western (R) • USA (2018) • 132 mins

Joel and Ethan Coen initially conceived the film as a six-part television series before consolidating the six stories into a feature that premiered at the Venice Film Festival. They have given us a hilarious, beautifully made, very enjoyable and rather disturbing anthology of stories from the old west. Saddle up for a rowdy, hilarity and hellfire western full of riding, fighting, hanging, shooting, gold prospecting and bloody massacres with philosophical musings about the inevitability of dying. Each tale is prefaced with the sight of an old book, "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs". A hand turns the pages and we see these stories in print, themselves prefaced by an illustrated plate previewing a dramatic incident from what's to come.

08 SEP

**DOGMAN**

Crime Thriller • Italy (2018) • 101 mins

Matteo Garrone's Dogman returns the film-maker to the realist mob world of his 2008 film Gomorrah, but goes further than that film in explaining the toxic emotional inadequacy of gangsterism – its brutality, its sycophancy, its pusillanimity, its craven addictions. In a dilapidated Neapolitan suburb, the pint-sized, mild-mannered Marcello runs a dog-grooming business, caring for the neighbourhood pooches and raising his young daughter, Alida, for whom he'd do anything. He's popular. But there's a specific reason for that. Marcello is no angel: he deals coke on the quiet and has indirectly created a monster: a violent tough guy and poisonous bully called Simone who has been turned into a raging cokehead through Marcello's business. Marcello soon becomes swept up in a criminal plan he wants nothing to do with.

15 SEP

**THE HEIRESSES**

Drama (R) • Paraguay (2018) • 95 mins

Asunción, Paraguay, 2013. Sixty-somethings Chela and Chiquita have been living together for more than thirty years, their relationship armoured against anything like homophobic complaint by the prerogatives of wealth and class. Times have changed though and with debts mounting the couple begin to sell-off some precious heirlooms to stay afloat. But the financial situation proves untenable and convicted of fraud, Chiquita is sent to prison by a court order. Suddenly, the sheltered Chela must fend for herself. Swallowing her pride, she reluctantly begins working as a chauffeur for the wealthy women of the neighbourhood. The changed circumstances lead her to, perhaps for the first time, contemplate her life and the choices she's made... Writer-director Marcelo Martinessi exquisitely balances character study with shrewd commentary on class, desire and privilege to tell an intimate and serenely rewarding story of loss, loyalty and self-determination.

20 SEP **FRENCH FRIDAY**

6.00pm French mini market | 7.00pm Film Screening

22 SEP

**BIG FISH AND BEGONIA**

Animation • China (2016) • 103 mins

A visually breathtaking Chinese animation that gives ancient Taoist myth a Studio Ghibli make-over. There is a mystical race of beings that control the tide and the changing of the seasons, but one of these beings, a young girl named Chun, wants to experience the human world, not simply observe it. When she turns sixteen, Chun is allowed to transform into a dolphin and explore the human world. However, she soon learns this world is a dangerous place. Chun is nearly killed in a vortex, but saved by a human boy at the cost of his own life. Moved by his kindness and courage, she decides to give the boy life again, but this power comes at a price. Chun will have to face adventure and sacrifice in order to protect the boy's soul until it is ready to return to the human world.

29 SEP

**NEVER LOOK AWAY**

Drama (R) • Germany (2018) • 189 mins

Inspired by the early life and career of renowned contemporary artist Gerhard Richter, Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (The Lives of Others) once again looks into the dark corners of his country's recent history. Opening with the notorious 1937 Degenerate Art exhibition organized by the Nazis, the film tells the parallel stories of a doctor involved in "cleansing" allegedly racially inferior people and of a young boy who is fascinated by art. That child later comes of age amid the chaos of postwar German partition: as a man living in East Germany, Kurt has a job creating propaganda billboards while pining to be an artist. Meanwhile, the doctor, Seeband, is captured by the Soviets and interrogated for his role in the Nazi eugenics program. The intertwined fates of these two men forms the dramatic focus of this reflection on the two sides of the German Democratic Republic's political and ideological past.

06 OCT

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD**

Drama (R) • USA (2019) • 120 mins

Quentin Tarantino's ninth film is a sprawling tale of counterculture California and the final days of Hollywood's Golden Age. Set in 1969's LA, the two lead characters are Rick Dalton (Leonardo DiCaprio), former star of a Western TV series and his longtime stunt double Cliff Booth (Brad Pitt). Both are struggling to make it in a Hollywood they no longer recognize, but Rick has a very famous next-door neighbour, Sharon Tate. Tarantino has said "I'm very excited to tell this story of an LA and a Hollywood that doesn't exist anymore." Cinematographer Robert Richardson added, "I think the tone of it is – it's difficult to describe because it's very fresh, but it oscillates between humorous, serious, spooky; it's playful. It's not easily describable."

13 OCT

**HAPPY AS LAZZARO**

Mystery • Italy (2018) • 130 mins

Beloved by audiences and critics at Cannes (where it was awarded the Best Screenplay prize), Alice Rohrwacher's new film is a beguiling allegory of love, loss and compassion exploring the troubled soul of Italy. Its summer at Inviolata, an isolated rural estate, where an extended family of tobacco farmers toil under the rule of a domineering marchesa and where the handsome and hard-working Lazzaro, a young man imbued with a saint-like innocence, is alternately adored and taken advantage of. When the marchesa's self-absorbed son, Tancredi first visits the fields, he senses an opportunity and embroils Lazzaro in an audacious plan to swindle his mother. Channelling the spirit of Pasolini, Rohrwacher's fascinating tale casts a wondrous spell, and confirms her status as one of the most inventive and compelling voices in contemporary Italian cinema.

20 OCT

**STORM BOY**

Drama • Australia (2019) • 120 mins

This new version of the Colin Thiele's 1964 book about the relationship between a pelican and the son of a beach-dwelling hermit not only compares favourably with the original, it often outdoes it, offering more story and substance. The new film stages things a little more dramatically. It casts the story as a flashback told by an ageing corporate exec Mike (Geoffrey Rush) to his grand- daughter Madeline. She, like many in the community is angry that his company, which she is soon to be part of, wants to develop the beach where Mike raised three pelicans as a child with his reclusive fisherman dad and indigenous friend Fingerbone Bill. Though less subtle in its contemplation of environmental devastation, coping with loss and change and letting go of the ones you love, this four-decades-later remake still flaps its way into viewers' hearts like its intrepid pelican hero.

25 OCT **FRENCH FRIDAY**

6.00pm French mini market 7.00pm Film Screening

27 OCT

**HIGH LIFE**

Sci-Fi (R) • France (2019) • 110 mins

Claire Denis reorients the sci-fi genre around bodies, babies and black holes in her masterfully mystifying event-horizon nightmare. Her English-language début doesn't give a damn about physics and not just in the way that bodies tumble wrongly out of airlocks and nobody seems to spend a moment of their day engaged in cosmic problem-solving. In the science fiction of Denis' forbiddingly austere and audacious imagining, the science is biology: Out here, we are not made of stars but of blood, hair, spit and semen. A group of death-row inmates, imprisoned for crimes only ever vaguely outlined, have been offered commutation and a chance at redemption if they will man this mission to investigate the "Penrose Process" - a real-world theory propounded by physicist Roger Penrose whereby energy might be extracted from a region close to a black hole...

03 NOV

**ONE LAST DEAL**

Drama • Finland (2018) • 95 mins

An elderly art dealer Olavi is about to retire. A man who has always put business and art before everything, even his family, cannot imagine life without love. At an auction, an old painting catches his attention. Olavi suspects it is worth much more than its starting price, which is low because its authenticity hasn't been confirmed. Olavi's instincts kick in. He decides to make one last deal in order to earn some proper pension money. At the same time, Olavi's daughter Lea, whom he hasn't seen for years, asks him to help her with his teenage grandson Otto. Together with Otto, Olavi starts to investigate the background of the painting...

10 NOV

**SORRY ANGEL**

Drama (R) • France (2018) • 132 mins

Paris, 1993. Jacques is a semi-renowned writer and single father in his thirties trying to maintain his sense of romance and humour in spite of the turmoil in his life and the world. While on a work trip to Brittany, he meets Arthur, an aspiring filmmaker in his early twenties, who is experiencing a sexual awakening and eager to get out of his parochial life. Arthur becomes instantly smitten with the older man. From writer-director Christophe Honoré (Love Songs, Dans Paris) comes a mature and deeply emotional reflection on love and loss, youth and aging. In its inter-generational snapshot of cruising, courtship, and casual sex - Jacques' forty-something neighbour Mathieu rounds out the triumvirate - Sorry Angel balances hope for the future with agony over the past in an unforgettable drama about finding the courage to love in the moment.

17 NOV

**ROMA**

Drama (R) • Mexico (2018) • 135 mins

Oscar winner Alfonso Cuarón's screenplay was kept hidden from the actors (mostly non-professionals) until the day of shooting as he wanted audiences to feel the chaos of life in Roma, the upscale district of Mexico City where he grew up. At first it seems like the mother, Sofia, is the centre of this upper-middle-class household. But Sofia is clearly distracted by the chronic philandering of her doctor husband, Antonio and the burden of keeping his infidelities hidden from her children. Responsibility for raising the kids falls to the maid, Cleo. She is the beating heart of Roma, as well as the lens through which the filmmaker projects his recollections of the past into a tumultuous present where questions of race, class, violence and besieged humanity continue to reverberate.

24 NOV

**TBA** ??? • ??? • ??? mins Mystery end to the year

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership No: (office use only)

2019 membership fee: \$85

Surname:.....

First name:.....

Postal address: .....

Suburb:..... Postcode: .....

Email: .....

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 Bank

- 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 (2018 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

NEWCASTLE



FILM SOCIETY

CELEBRATING

40 YEARS WITH 40 FILMS

newcastlefilmsociety.com

facebook.com/groups/newcastlefilmsociety

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

# \$85 MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES:

# 35 NFS FILMS

# +5 FRENCH FRIDAY FILMS



# +2 WINE & CHEESE NIGHTS

31 March  
24 November



ALL FILMS SCREENED ON A SUNDAY NIGHT

7.00pm | CINEMA VMAX  
WESTFIELD KOTARA | 46/89 PARK DVE

# vmax 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.

31 MAR

## COLD WAR

Drama (R) • Poland (2018) • 89 mins

In the ruins of post-WWII Poland, pianist Wiktor is commissioned by the Soviet state to form a musical ensemble to help rekindle national pride. Whilst touring the villages in search of talent he meets the beautiful Zula, a fiery and charismatic singer with a past and the two fall passionately in love. When a performance in Berlin offers the pair an opportunity for escape to the West, a last-minute decision finds them stranded on either side of the Iron Curtain. As the years march on, Wiktor and Zula – whether through political circumstance or personal impetuosity – struggle to find their moment in time. Pawel Pawlikowski (Ida) won the best director award at Cannes for this tale, taking us from the countryside of Poland to the streets of East Berlin, from Paris to Yugoslavia, over 15 turbulent years – crossing boundaries that are musical, geographical, political and ultimately existential.

07 APR

## THE INSULT

Drama • Lebanon (2018) • 113 mins

In today's Beirut, a civilian dispute blown out of proportion finds Tony, a Lebanese Christian and Yasser, a Palestinian refugee, facing off in court. As the media circus surrounding the case threatens a social explosion in divided Lebanon, Tony and Yasser reconsider their values and beliefs as revelations of trauma complicate their understanding of one another. The Insult is rooted in Lebanon's tense ethnic and religious mix and the unhealed scars of the 15-year Civil War that ended in 1990. In a country that is a weathervane for Middle Eastern tensions, it's a bold and timely play with fire, but also a sensitive, good-humoured probe into human weakness – especially of the male kind.

12 APR **FRENCH FRIDAY**

6.00pm French mini market | 7.00pm Film Screening

14 APR

## SHOPLIFTERS

Drama (R) • Japan (2018) • 121 mins

After one of their shoplifting sessions, Osamu and his son come across a little girl in the freezing cold. At first reluctant to shelter the girl, Osamu's wife agrees to take care of her after learning of the hardships she faces. Although the family is poor, barely making enough money to survive through petty crime, they seem to live happily together until an unforeseen incident reveals hidden secrets, testing the bonds that unite them. Winner of the Palme d'Or 2018, Shoplifters is a complex, subtle, mysterious film that builds to the most extraordinary surprise ending, a twist-reveal worthy of psychological suspense noir.

21 APR

## JIRGA

Drama • Japan (2018) • 78 mins

A modern morality tale about a former Australian soldier, Mike, who returns to Afghanistan to find the family of a civilian he accidentally killed during the war. Seeking forgiveness, he puts his life in the hands of the village justice system (the Jirga). Jirga has heavy questions on its mind, about the caveats we put around compassion and what pursuing forgiveness demands of ourselves and other people. How, as a soldier, do you apologise for sins committed during wartime? In what ways should victims and innocent parties respond?

28 APR

## THE WILD PEAR TREE

Drama (R) • Turkey (2018) • 188 mins

Sinan, an aspiring writer, returns home after university hoping to scrape together enough money to publish his first novel. He wanders the town encountering old flames and obstinate gatekeepers and finds his youthful ambition increasingly at odds with the deferred dreams of his gambling-addict father. As his own fantasies mingle with reality, Sinan grapples with the people and the place that have made him who he is. Episodic and unfolding in a series of Chekhovian vignettes, this is a portrait of the young artist told in reverse. Generally, the protagonists of such stories have escaped their home towns and are looking back on their experiences from the outside. Sinan, though, is coming back to where he started. Directed by Nuri Bilge Ceylan (Once Upon a Time in Anatolia; Winter Sleep - winner of the Palme d'Or 2014)

05 MAY

## BLACKKLANSMAN

Comedy/Drama (R) • USA (2018) • 135 mins

Spike Lee's Cannes Grand Prix winner is a stranger-than-fiction tale ("based upon some fo' real, fo' real shit") of an African American cop infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan in the early 1970s. Produced by the team behind Get Out (it was Jordan Peele who brought the story to Lee), BlackKlansman slips seamlessly from borderline-absurdist humour to all-too-real horror, conjuring an urgent blend of sociopolitical period satire and contemporary wake-up call.

12 MAY

## C'EST LA VIE

Comedy • France (2018) • 115 mins

A cantankerous French caterer has to try and create a fairytale wedding while relying on the most disorganized group of waiters, cooks, photographers and wedding singers in the history of holy matrimonies in C'est la Vie. This is an expertly assembled, tartly played and hugely enjoyable romp from directors Eric Toledano and Olivier Nakache, whose Intouchables became a monster hit a few years ago. Working his last wedding event, Max is just trying to get through the night, but has to deal with a cast of offbeat characters and a girlfriend who's flirting with a young server.

19 MAY

## EVERYBODY KNOWS

Drama • Spain (2019) • 132 mins

Soon after Laura (Penélope Cruz) arrives from Argentina for a wedding at her family's estate in Spain, her rebellious teenage daughter is kidnapped in the dead of night. Desperate, Laura turns to old flame and family vineyard keeper Paco (Javier Bardem) and a tightly wound game of whodunit plays out on the estate. Working within the suspenseful trappings of an arthouse soap opera, revered Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi explores his trademark concerns of class tension, family secrets and domestic angst, while Cruz and Bardem, at the top of their game, are pushed to emotional extremes.

26 MAY

## DISOBEDIENCE

Drama (R) • Britain (2017) • 114 mins

When a beloved north London rabbi dies, his estranged only child, photographer Ronit (Rachel Weisz), returns home from New York to mourn him. Reconnecting with her childhood friends Dovid and Esti (Rachel McAdams), Ronit is reminded of the suffocating restrictions of the religious community she fled, as well as her untenable teenage love affair with the otherwise devout Esti. The question of whose disobedience, and what kind of disobedience it is, are at the heart of this absorbing and moving love story from Chilean director Sebastián Lelio, his English language debut, following very quickly on the heels of his Academy Award winning film A Fantastic Woman.

02 JUN

## ÁGA

Drama • Bulgaria (2018) • 96 mins

Bulgarian writer-director Milko Lazarov's second feature brought down the curtain on the 68th Berlinale. An older Inuit couple Nanook and Sedna lead a solitary, self-sufficient existence in their yurt on a snow-covered plateau in this paean to a dying culture as global warming and the modern world encroach on their remotest of outposts. Spring is coming earlier than usual, ice fishing is no longer bountiful, and airplane exhaust trails cross the sky with ever-increasing frequency. Its impact relies heavily on Kaloyan Bozhilov's majestic widescreen cinematography as Lazarov explicitly engages with one of the most famous and controversial ethnographic films ever made: Robert Flaherty's Nanook of the North (1922), a landmark in early documentary that blends fiction and nonfiction aspects as it depicts the daily lives of Inuits in the Canadian Arctic.

09 JUN

## THE PRICE OF EVERYTHING

Documentary • USA (2018) • 98 mins

With unprecedented access to pivotal artists and the white-hot market surrounding them, The Price of Everything dives deep into the contemporary art world, holding a mirror up to our values and our times where everything can be bought and sold. Nathaniel Kahn's documentary asks why some artists draw huge multimillion-dollar bids at auction houses while the work of others goes barely noticed. Jeff Koons, famed for his stainless-steel replicas of balloon creatures and outsized sculptural celebrations of sublime and banal iconography, is arguably, the most successful living artist. Yet many of his recent works are made by a battalion of fabricating minions. Painter Larry Poons, on the other hand, was once considered a peer of Frank Stella and Jasper Johns but, seemingly unbothered by success, he ploughs on untroubled by wealth or acclaim, working away on his lusciously colourful abstractions in his upstate New York studio.

16 JUN

## TERROR NULLIUS

Revenge Fable • Australia (2017) • 55 mins

Hitch a ride into the dark heart of Australia with Soda\_Jerk's Terror Nullius, a blistering, badly behaved sample-based film that confronts the horror of our contemporary moment. Equal parts political satire, eco-horror and road movie, it's a rogue remapping of national mythology, where a misogynistic remark is met with the sharp beak of a bird, feminist bike gangs rampage and bicentenary celebrations are ravaged by flesh-eating sheep. By intricately remixing fragments of Australia's pop culture and film legacy, Terror Nullius interrogates the unstable entanglement of fiction that underpins this country's vexed sense of self. Following the success of The Was, their 2016 collaboration with The Avalanches, Soda\_Jerk return with a work that's dark, hopeful, irreverent and urgent. (Formed in Sydney in 2002, Soda\_Jerk is a two-person art collective who work at the intersection of documentary and speculative fiction)

23 JUN

## BURNING

Mystery Thriller • South Korea (2018) • 148 mins

Based on a Haruki Murakami short story, Korean master Lee Chang-dong's remarkable new thriller Burning was the most acclaimed film of Cannes, setting a record for the highest-ever score achieved in the 18-year history of Screen International's prestigious critics' poll. Novelistic in scope, grandeur and impact and featuring three remarkable performances, it's a gripping psychological study of thwarted love, ambition and obsession.

30 JUN

## SUMMER 1993

Drama • Spain (2018) • 96 mins

In Carla Simón's touching autobiographical film, six-year-old Frida looks on in silence as the last objects from her recently deceased mother's apartment in Barcelona are placed in boxes. Although her aunt, uncle, and younger cousin Anna welcome her with open arms, it's only very slowly that Frida begins to get used to her new home in the countryside. Punctuated by moments of youthful exuberance and mature ruminations, this coming of age drama is an extraordinarily moving snapshot of being a child in an adult world, anchored by flawless performances by its two young stars.

07 JUL

## WESTWOOD: PUNK ACTIVIST ICON

Documentary • Britain (2018) • 84 mins

Since igniting the punk movement with ex-partner and Sex Pistols' manager Malcolm McLaren, Dame Vivienne Westwood has been redefining British fashion for over 40 years and is responsible for creating many of the most distinctive looks of our time. The film blends archive, beautifully crafted reconstruction and insightful interviews with Vivienne's fascinating network of collaborators, guiding us on her journey from a childhood in postwar Derbyshire to the runways of Paris and Milan. This is an intimate and poignant homage to one of the true cultural icons of our time, as she fights to maintain her brand's integrity, her principles and her legacy in a business driven by consumerism, profit and global expansion.

12 JUL **FRENCH FRIDAY**

6.00pm French mini market | 7.00pm Film Screening

14 JUL

## UNDER THE TREE

Black Comedy • Iceland (2018) • 89 mins

A man is accused of adultery and forced to move in with his parents while he fights for custody of his four-year-old daughter. There he is gradually sucked into a dispute between his parents and their neighbors over an old and beautiful tree. The film's director, Hafsteinn Gunnar Sigurðsson, has said his inspiration for Under the Tree was Iceland's high rate of "neighbour rage": over-the-fence feuds between ordinary respectable people. He skillfully constructs his film as part-thriller, part-intelligent relationship drama, topped with a juicy dollop of savage black comedy.

21 JUL

## SUSPIRIA

Horror (R) • Germany (2018) • 152 mins

Dario Argento's 1977 landmark of horror clearly enthralled Luca Guadagnino (Call Me By Your Name, A Bigger Splash). His version in six acts with an epilogue has Susie Bannion, a sheltered Mennonite from Ohio, arriving in late Seventies Berlin to attend the prestigious Helena Markos Dance Academy. Immediately, she is hit with reminders of German history, from the Nazi era to the Berlin wall straight outside the academy's doors. The Baader-Meinhof Gang throws bombs in the streets and danger is everywhere, especially inside the academy where Madame Blanc (Tilda Swinton) enlists Susie to perform in Volk, a modern dance piece where a wrong move can cause bodily injury... Swinton stuns in the role, playing the chain-smoking taskmaster with an intensity and sudden flashes of warmth that make all the girls her slaves. The score from Radiohead's Thom Yorke creates an inescapable feeling of melancholy and mystery.

28 JUL

## THE GUILTY

Crime Mystery (R) • Denmark (2018) • 85 mins

A police officer, Asger, temporarily assigned to emergency dispatch duty takes a desperate call from a kidnapped woman. The minutes that follow are so taut, that you almost forget to breathe but there's more to The Guilty than a race against the clock. Drop by drop, information is fed to us about the incident that left Asger confined to desk duty. On the phone, he also veers wildly from the what-to-say-to-in-a-kidnap-scenario instructions given out at the Police Academy. Is Asger a good guy going the extra mile, or does he have a dangerous delusion of himself as a crusading cop? Or is it more complicated than that? This is Denmark's entry for the Best Foreign Language Oscar.

04 AUG

## THELMA

Thriller • Norway (2018) • 116 mins

Thelma, a shy young student, has just left her religious family in a small town on the west coast of Norway to study at a university in Oslo. While at the library one day, she experiences a violent, unexpected seizure. Soon after, she finds herself intensely drawn toward Anja, a beautiful young student who reciprocates Thelma's powerful attraction. As the semester continues, Thelma becomes increasingly overwhelmed by her intense feelings for Anja - feelings she doesn't dare acknowledge, even to herself - while at the same time experiencing even more extreme seizures. As it becomes clearer that the seizures are a symptom of inexplicable, often dangerous, supernatural abilities, Thelma is confronted with tragic secrets of her past, and the terrifying implications of her powers.

11 AUG

## ASH IS THE PUREST WHITE

Drama • China (2018) • 141 mins

In his 13th collaboration with wife and muse Tao, director Jia Zhang-ke crafts an emotionally propulsive drama that doubles as a damning state of the nation. Brandishing the director's usual penchant for kinetic action, Ash is the Purest White examines the choices that not only make, shape and break relationships, but also lives – not to mention an increasingly changing China. It's 2001, and Qiao's existence revolves around gangster Bin, but she steers clear of his underworld antics. When they're attacked in the street, she fires the gun that saves him and then lands in prison for having an unlicensed weapon. Released five years later, Qiao expects to pick up where their romance left off, only to discover that love and loyalty have become elusive concepts.

16 AUG **FRENCH FRIDAY**

6.00pm French mini market | 7.00pm Film Screening