

## AYR FILM SOCIETY AGM - 18.10.2018

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Good evening everyone and welcome to our Annual General Meeting followed by the screening of this week's film - 'My Life as a Courgette'.

A retrospective look at season 2017-18 indicates that we screened 22 film titles, plus the silent movie for 'The Organist Entertains' series on the 7th of September 2017. A further five were screened for the FOKUS - Films from Germany season. Over and above this, we also took part in 'Tamfest', screening two more titles with the required 'Zombie' theme on the 27th and 28th of October last year. (Sadly to very small audiences). All in all we showed 30 titles between the 7th of September 2017 and the 1st of March 2018. This was our biggest programme ever and all of the titles except 'Silent Movie' were included in the membership fee of £60.00. Amazing value, I think you would agree?

The most popular films from our main programme were: - in top spot at No.1 - TRUMBO (USA 2015) with 96.75%. No.2 - with 96.27% - A UNITED KINGDOM (UK 2016); No.3 at 93% - MUSTANG (Turkey 2016); No.4 - with 89.58% - JULIETA (Spain 2016), and No.5 - at 88.54% - THE OLIVE TREE (Spain/Germany 2016). As a matter of interest - SILENT MOVIE (USA 1976) with live organ accompaniment by Gordon Cree, achieved 91%. All the films in the FOKUS series received marks in the high 80's and 90's.

Once again, we are taking part in this year's 'FOKUS - Films from Germany' event, and this time all titles will be screened on regular Thursday nights, which should make it easier for more of our members (and guests) to come along and enjoy some really great cinema. We will be producing a printed programme as usual and the information is already on our website. Just Google Ayr Film Society to see what's on offer and to have a peek at all the trailers. A brief run-down of the dates and titles are: On Thursday 29 November 2018 - at the usual time of 19.30 hrs - we have 'IN THE AISLES' (In den Gaengen) Directed by Thomas Stuber . Finish time 21.40; On Thursday 10 January 2019 - at 16.15 hrs we will be screening the documentary 'BEUYS' directed by Andres Veiel. This is about Joseph Beuys - the 'Man with the hat' who appears to most people as a visionary - a man ahead of his time. The film finishes at 18.05 and is followed at the usual time of 19.30 hrs with 'NAOMI'S JOURNEY' (Naomis Reise) Germany and Peru 2016 - finishing at 21.05. Finally - on Thursday 24 January we have another two titles. 'THE QUEEN OF NIENDORF' (Koenigin von Niendorf) at 16.30 - finishing 17.40. This is followed by 'WESTERN' - a German, Bulgarian and Austrian co-production and directed by Valeska Grisebach - finishing at 21.35. Once again, we would like to thank both Goethe-Institut Glasgow and Filmhouse Edinburgh for inviting us to participate.

Ayr Film Society took part in FILM SOCIETY OF THE YEAR awards in Sheffield during November 2017. Ron returned as the proud bearer of another Certificate of Distinction for best programming. This year's event has already taken place in September and once again, Ron was there to collect an Award of Commendation for best programming. We are delighted to have received three awards over the past three years. Thanks to Ron (and also to Sheila Cameron) for all the preliminary work which was done to enter for these awards.

I would - on behalf of your committee - like to extend a huge Thank You to all of you - our members and guests for your continued support. I would also like to thank all of the committee for their hard work before, during and after each screening and for all the background work which is quietly carried out at other times.

I am sure you will all join with the committee to pay tribute to our former Chairman and Honorary President Peter Taylor, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Peter was one of the founder members of the society and a committee member for most of the 47 years of our existence. Peter was always in love with the world of the cinema and was steeped in film lore. We have much to thank Peter for and the committee have recognised this by naming the annual screening of vintage films (which he loved) as 'Peter's Choice'. The first film bearing this title will be screened on the 15th of November - an Australian film directed by Philip Noyce from 1978. The title is 'NEWSFRONT'. We hope that as many people as possible are able to attend.

And now - to our committee. First of all - many, many thanks to Ron Currie with his dual role of Treasurer and Secretary and...much more besides. Ron publicises our society and what we are showing in many outlets and we cannot thank him enough for his massive contribution. To our technical team of John Callan, Ian McKinnell, Paul Stewart and Karl Hartmann - thank you all. Also to our long-standing committee members Mary McQuaker, Eleanor Danks and Alan Stewart. To all our other members too - Eibhlin Corrigan, Rishaad Ait El Moudden, Yolanda McCall and Gerda Scott. For health reasons., Yolanda has decided to step down from committee temporarily, but will continue to add things to the website on our behalf. Thanks to Ian McKinnell too for all his work on our new website and Rishaad Ait El Moudden for his work on Pay Pal and data protection. A special thanks to John Callan as well for all the work he and his team continue to carry out during set-up and shut down each film evening.

A special mention of our former committee member (and still on the committee in spirit and from afar) - Chie Hasegawa. Chie is still battling with leukemia at home in Japan and continues to write and email us with all her news. She tries to see most of the films we have in our current programmes and sends her very best wishes to all of us at Ayr Film Society. She is looking forward to the day she can join us once again.

One more upcoming event I would like to mention is our charity screening on Thursday the 31st of January next year. We are screening 'The MESSENGER' - an amazing documentary revealing the struggles of songbirds world wide, which is giving us an urgent message about the health of the planet. Apart from the chilling message it is a stunning film with superb photography. We are showing this in conjunction with RSPB Central Ayrshire Local Group and all the money raised will go to RSPB Scotland to help with habitat loss in South-West Scotland. Tickets for this event are £5 and will be on sale from November onwards. We hope to make the evening a huge success.

Finally - a big thank you to Lynne, Bob, Rory, Jamie and all of the Town Hall staff who are on hand to offer help each film evening.

I now have pleasure in handing over to Ron Currie who has all the finance details and many other issues, events and more to tell you about.

Thank you all for joining us this evening.

Tony Scott  
Chair. Ayr Film Society.