

Established in October 1999 with the much-valued contribution of the Arts Picturehouse Cambridge management, the aim of the U3AC Film Group is to show a wide range of the best in both historic and contemporary world cinema from all countries, generations and genres, and our programmes take a robust and adventurous approach to the history of cinema. The Group's shows take place at the Arts Picturehouse every Tuesday during term time, and our films are shown in Screen 2 or mainly in Screen 3. There are no ads or trailers which means that all of our films commence **promptly at 1.00 pm** other than when an epic or exceptionally lengthy film is shown, and members are kindly requested to adhere to the start time of 1.00 pm as a dark cinema can be hazardous. Members are most welcome to attend our post screen discussions and to make suggestions for future showings.

The cost of our season of Tuesday shows remains at **£45 per term**.

**Members are kindly requested to ensure that all electronic devices are switched off or in the case of mobile phones switched to silent mode, and under no circumstances should photography/filming take place in the cinema.**

### Autumn term 2023

#### 3 October **Thelma & Louise** Dir: Ridley Scott: USA 1991 (130 mins)

Thelma and Louise - a bored housewife and a straight-laced waitress at a coffee shop – are best friends who are sick of what they've settled for. Deciding to escape the tedium of their everyday lives, the pair sneak off in Louise's '66 T-bird convertible for a three-day trip with no husbands, no boyfriends and no problems. But things don't go quite according to plan when an encounter with a drunken, foul-mouthed would-be rapist transforms their quiet getaway into a cross-country escape that will change their lives forever.

#### 10 October **The Talented Mr Ripley** Dir: Anthony Minghella: USA 2000 (139 mins)

The Fifties- Manhattan lavatory attendant, Tom Ripley, borrows a Princeton jacket to play piano at a garden party. When the wealthy father of a recent Princeton grad, Dickie Greenleaf, chats Tom up, Tom pretends to know the son and is soon offered \$1,000 to go to Italy to convince Dickie to return home. In Italy Tom attaches himself to Dickie and to Marge, Dickie's cultured fiancée, pretending to love jazz and harbouring homoerotic hopes as he soaks in luxury. Besides lying, Tom's talents include impressions and forgery, so when the handsome and confident Dickie tires of Tom, dismissing him as a bore, Tom goes to extreme lengths to make Greenleaf's privileges his own. This is a fine adaptation of the original Patricia Highsmith novel.

#### 17 October **EO** Dir: Jerzy Skolimowski: Poland/Italy 2022 (88 mins)

Directed and co-written by *Deep End* Polish director Jerzy Skolimowski, *EO* is a strikingly beautiful and mesmerising vision of modern Europe through the eyes of a donkey who embarks on an epic journey experiencing cruelty and kindness, while bearing witness to the follies and triumphs of humanity. Inspired by the great French film director Robert Bresson's 1966 film, *Au Hazard Balthazar*, this visually inventive film places the viewer directly in the heart and mind of the four-legged protagonist. **[Jeremy Warning – U3AC animal lovers should bring tissues]**

#### 24 October **CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL – NO U3AC FILM GROUP FILM**

#### 31 October **Jules et Jim** Dir: François Truffaut: France 1962 (106 mins) **[Member's Request]**

Truffaut's hugely popular French New Wave classic sees the late Jeanne Moreau at her most ebullient as Catherine, a Parisian beauty caught up in a complex ménage à trois with the two friends of the title – one Austrian, the other French – just before World War 1. A romantic roller-coaster of a movie, it's fast, funny, stylish and affecting all at once.

#### 7 November **All Quiet on the Western Front** Dir: Lewis Milestone: USA 1930 (136 mins)

This classic film follows a group of German schoolboys, talked into enlisting at the beginning of World War 1 by their jingoistic teacher. The story is told entirely through the experiences of the young German recruits and highlights the tragedy of war through the eyes of individuals. [I urge U3AC readers to read/re-read the great novel by the German writer Erich Maria Remarque, and on which this film is based - as powerful today as when it was written].

#### 14 November **Faces, Places** Dir: Agnès Varda/JR: France 2017 (94 mins)

In this documentary the late French director Agnès Varda, and the photographer and muralist JR journey through rural France and form an unlikely friendship. [I am showing this as a tribute to one of our long-standing members, the late Brian Westcott who died earlier this year and was a great fan of Varda's work].

**21 November                      Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans                      Dir: Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau: USA 1927  
(95 mins)**

One of the undisputed pinnacles of **silent** cinema, this lyrical masterpiece from the director of *Nosferatu*, and *Faust*, is a study of betrayal, love and reconciliation. Seduced by a vamp from the city, a man from a small fishing village plans to murder his wife during a boat trip to town. However, both reach their destination unscathed and there amid a dazzling panoply of urban attractions, the couple rediscover their love for each other. This restored masterpiece "one of the most enchanting and heart-rending experiences that cinema can offer", and last shown to this Group in 2005, now incorporates the first restoration of the film's wonderful original soundtrack.

**28 November                      The Blue Caftan                      Dir: Maryam Touzani France/Morocco/Belgium/Denmark  
(118 mins)**

This Moroccan Arabic-language drama film directed by Maryam Touzani depicts a woman (Mina) and her closeted gay husband (Halim) who run a caftan store in the medina of Salé, Morocco, and hire a talented young man as an apprentice. Slowly Mina realises how much her husband is moved by his presence. *The Blue Caftan* is an emotionally complex, richly empathetic depiction of a partnership sustained through storms and challenges. Superb performances, sly humour, glowing photography and a strong throughline of social defiance make this a profoundly satisfying pleasure.

**5 December                      Babette's Feast                      Dir: Gabriel Axel: Denmark 1987 (103 mins)  
[Member's Request]**

Babette's Feast is an Oscar -winning tale of everyday passion, magic and miracles in which a chef (the late Stéphane Audran) prepares an extravagant banquet for her employers. This marvellous film is based on the story of the same name by Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen), and was the first Danish film of a Blixen story, and also the first to win the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

**12 December                      The Shop Around the Corner                      Dir: Ernst Lubitsch: USA 1940 (98 mins)**  
Set in a lovingly evoked Budapest in the run-up to Christmas, Lubitsch's deliciously delicate comedy focuses on the various obstacles blocking the path of potential lovers, played by James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan, fellow workers in a gossip-ridden emporium who are unaware they're in fact courting one another by mail in an anonymous correspondence. Lubitsch's fabled 'touch', here at its highest, contributes to what is arguably Hollywood's most exquisitely romantic depiction of the old central Europe and is of course "*perfect seasonal fare*".

**Our first show after the Christmas break will be at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 16 January 2024**

### Tickets for U3AC Film Group screenings

Tickets for single shows are available on the door for the standard cinema ticket price. U3AC members can get a reduced-price ticket by first purchasing a U3AC 10-week Term Card (or adding this to your existing Picturehouse Membership), and then obtaining a paper ticket (at no additional cost) on the day.

1. Buy a 10-week film term card for the discounted price of £45. This allows you entry to each of the 10 films screened at 1 pm each Tuesday of the term, at no extra cost.
  - To get set up, register at any till at the Cambridge Arts Picturehouse near the beginning of a term. Bring your U3AC membership card as proof of eligibility to this scheme.
  - The Picturehouse staff will issue you with a plastic Picturehouse Membership card, which stores your 10 free U3AC screening ticket credits on it, lasting the whole of the 10-week term.
  - Please keep this card and renew it at any Arts Picturehouse till before each term (you cannot do this over the phone or on the U3AC or Picturehouse websites).
  - **Note:** If you already have a plastic Picturehouse Membership card, either one for which you've paid an annual fee or a prior U3AC Term Card, Picturehouse staff will add the current U3AC term to your existing card.
2. You will need a paper ticket to gain entry to each week's U3AC film.
  - Present your plastic Picturehouse Membership card at any till in the cinema to get your 'free' ticket to the current week's U3AC film.

Show this to the usher at the door to gain entry to the film.