

U3AC Film Group

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 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 2025

30 September Firebrand Dir: Karim Ainouz: UK 2023 (120 mins)

In Tudor England, Catherine Parr, (Alicia Vikander), reluctantly agrees to become the sixth wife of the tyrannical King Henry VIII (Jude Law). Her consent to marry him carries great personal risk, given that her predecessors are either vanquished, beheaded or dead. Perceived as a threat by Henry's courtiers, they start to cast doubts about her fidelity and turn the increasingly paranoid king against her.

**7 October Conclave Dir: Edward Berger: UK/USA 2024 (120 mins)
[Member Request]**

This is a political thriller film, based on the 2016 novel by Robert Harris. In the film, Cardinal Thomas Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) organizes a conclave to elect the next pope and finds himself investigating secrets and scandals about the major candidates.

14 October Riefenstahl Dir: Andres Veiel: Germany 2024 (115 mins)

This is a German documentary about the German filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl. In an interview the film's director said that the documentary warns of the rise of the far right in the contemporary world. In the last conversation Leni has on the phone in the film she says that it will take one or two generations for Germany to rediscover its role in terms of morality, virtue, and order.

21 October So Long, My Son Dir: Wang Xiashuai: China 2019 (185 mins)

This film portrays the journey of two families, with non-chronological flashbacks, explaining the course of their lives. It speaks of affection, getting married, having and raising children (with the one-child policy), collective dismissal because of economic reform ups and downs in life, grief and many social changes in China, resulting in complicated life experiences. **[Please note the 185 mins running length of this film]**

****** 28 October - CAMBRIDGE FILM FESTIVAL – NO U3AC FILM GROUP FILM ******

4 November The Quiet Girl Dir: Colm Bairéad: Ireland 2022 (94 mins)

This Irish coming-of-age drama film set in 1981, follows a withdrawn nine-year old girl raised by neglectful parents among other siblings who experiences a loving home for the first time when she spends the summer on a farm in Rinn Gaeltacht, County Waterford, alone with a married couple who are distant relatives. This film is mostly in the Irish language although it contains parts in English.

11 November Yojimbo Dir: Akira Kurosawa: Japan 1961 (111 mins)

In this Japanese samurai film directed by the great Akira Kurosawa, a rōnin* arrives in a small town where competing crime lords fight for supremacy. The two bosses each try to hire the newcomer as a bodyguard. Over the years this film has become widely regarded as one of the best films by Kurosawa and one of the greatest films ever made.

(* Ronin is a Japanese term that can be translated to 'wave man'. Ro means wave, and nin means man or person. The term was used to describe the masterless samurai who were constantly in flux and floating, like a wave)

18 November The Pawnbroker Dir: Sidney Lumet USA 1964 (116mins) [Member's Request]

In Nazi Germany, Sol Nazerman a German – Jewish university professor, is sent to a concentration camp along with his family. He witnesses his two children die and his wife raped by Nazi officers before she is killed. 25 years later in New York, Nazerman is haunted by his memories. He operates a pawnshop in an East Harlem slum while living in an anonymous Long Island housing tract with his sister-in-law who is also a Holocaust survivor. Numbed and alienated by his experiences, he has trained himself not to show emotion. This is an extremely strong film, with a very powerful performance from the great Rod Steiger.

25 November Picnic at Hanging Rock Dir: Peter Weir: Australia 1975 (107 mins)

Set in Victoria, Australia, in 1900, the film is about a group of female boarding students who vanish at Hanging Rock while on a Valentine's Day picnic, and the effects the disappearances have on the school and local community. This parable of imperial anxiety and sexual hysteria is a classic of Australian new wave cinema, and in my view a haunting and rather special film.

2 December My Man Godfrey Dir: Gregory La Cava: USA 1936 (94 mins)

My Man Godfrey is a 1936 American screwball comedy film. The film's story concerns a socialite who hires a derelict to be her family's butler and then falls in love with him. The film stars William Powell and Carole Lombard who had been briefly married years before appearing in the film.

9 December Top Hat Dir: Mark Sandrich: USA 1935 (101 mins)

This is a much loved 1935 American screwball comedy film in which the legendary Fred Astaire plays an American tap dancer named Jerry Travers who arrives in London to star in a show. He meets and attempts to impress Dale Tremont (Ginger Rogers) to win her affection. Songs by Irving Berlin, "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails", and "Cheek to Cheek" have become American song classics. "Top Hat" was the most successful picture of Astaire & Rogers' partnership.

Our first show after the Christmas break will be at 1.00 pm on Tuesday 13 January 2026

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.