

# Open Film

## Society 2023 & 2024



## Open Film 2023

October 11 6.30 P.M.

### THE QUIET GIRL

Gaelic 2022 94 minutes Colm Bairéad

In 1981 Cáit is sent by her dysfunctional family to live with relatives on a farm in County Waterford. She blossoms, finding a new way of life and forming a close relationship with her uncle Seán, who accepts her as a daughter. She discovers that her aunt and uncle had a son who died tragically. Then her parents come to get her.



October 18 6.30 P.M.

### PARIS 13<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

French 2021 106 minutes Jacques Audiard

The eponymous high-rise neighbourhood acts as backdrop for the complicated love lives of four young adults. From the shifting sands of this quadrangle, we watch and hope for some sign of lasting happiness to emerge. With a sharp script and a sexy synthpop soundtrack, this is 'a film that speaks to the moment' (*Time Out*).

October 25 6.30 P.M.

### BROKER

Korean 2022 129 minutes Hirokazu Kore-eda

Two volunteers at a church adoption agency take advantage of babies being left anonymously by offering the infants for sale on the black market. When one young mother has second thoughts, the scam is discovered. She joins the scammers in their quest to find adoptive parents, with unexpected and darkly comic results.



November 1 6.30 P.M.

### EO

Polish 2022 88 minutes Jerzy Skolimowski

The veteran Polish director's story follows a donkey, EO, on his travels through Europe after being 'freed' from his home in a circus. Predictably, EO has little control over his future and struggles for existence. Our sympathy is aroused for this animal, but what about countless others? Jury Prize at Cannes.



November 1 8.10 P.M.

### HIT THE ROAD

Persian 2021 94 minutes Panah Panahi

A family makes a tense trip through remote northern Iran. The elder son says little. His mother banters with her grumpy husband. The hyperactive younger son winds everyone up. The family have told the boy that his brother is leaving to get married. In fact they are heading for something far more disagreeable. Best film at London 2021.

NO FILM ON 8 NOVEMBER

November 15 6.30 P.M.

### THE BLUE CAFTAN

Arabic 2022 122 minutes Maryam Touzan

Set in Morocco, Halim is a skilled tailor of caftans while wife Mina assists. Although fully aware of his sexuality, her love for him has grown. As her health begins to fail Halim takes on an apprentice, Yossef. The relationship between the men deepens, but a jealous hostility develops between Mina and Yossef.

November 22 6.30 P.M.

### SAINT OMER

French 2022 123 minutes Alice Diop

In northern France, Senegalese student Laurence is on trial for murdering her 15-month-old daughter. Laurence does not dispute her actions, merely her sanity, blaming depression. Watching events is novelist Rama. As Laurence paints a picture of an abusive past, Rama remembers her own troubles. Grand Jury Prize at Venice.

November 29 6.30 P.M.

### THE GOOD BOSS

Spanish 2021 116 minutes Fernanda Leon de Aranoa

Julio (Javier Bardem) has a family business, which has been shortlisted for an award. When the judges visit, he is revealed to be a bombastic cynic, who covers up dodgy practices. The factory is being harangued by an ex-employee with a loud hailer; Julio starts an affair with an intern. An amusing lesson about practising what you preach.



December 6 6.30 P.M.

### THE GRAVEDIGGER'S WIFE

Somali 2021 82 minutes Khadar Ayderus Ahmed

Guled is a gravedigger in Djibouti; he chases ambulances and hopes to dig the resulting grave. His wife Nasra is ill and soon she desperately needs an operation costing \$5000, which is way beyond their means. Guled decides to return to his remote village and claim his share of the family goat herd.

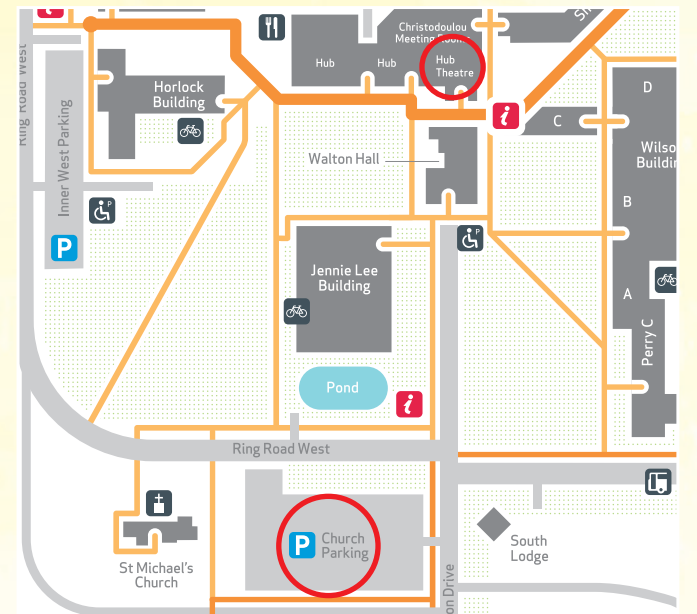


December 6 8.05 P.M.

### WINNERS

Persian 2022 85 minutes Hassan Nazer

An Oscar statuette gets lost on its journey from California to Iran. It is found on a road by two young children, Yayha and Leyla, who scavenge the local dump for items to sell. He is a movie addict and realises the importance of their discovery. A humorous and gentle story that reveals how the poor of Iran survive.



You can visit our website at <http://www.openfilmsociety.co.uk/>

The Open Film Society may be contacted by emailing [j.p.twomey@open.ac.uk](mailto:j.p.twomey@open.ac.uk). Films will be shown in the Open University Hub Theatre on Walton Hall Campus, entrance to which is from Brickhill Street (V10) or Groveway (H9). Please park in Church Parking (see map). Full membership of the Society costs £85 (equivalent to £2.83 per film). Associate membership (5-film pass) at £30 allows entry to any FIVE films. Guests are welcome with tickets (1-film pass) on sale at the door 15 minutes before each performance at a cost of £8 per film (£6 concessions with proof of status). No one under the age of 16 can be admitted.



# Open Film 2024

January 3 6.30 P.M.

## COMPARTMENT NO. 6

Russian 2021 108 minutes Juho Kuosmanem

Travelling by train from Moscow to Murmansk, a female Finnish student meets a gruff Russian miner. He is inconsiderate and rude. Then after a break in the journey, shared experiences emerge and his behaviour improves. Is there hope for this unlikely pair?



January 10 6.30 P.M.

## PLAN 75

Japanese 2022 113 minutes Chie Hayakawa

In a Japan of the not-too-distant future, people over 75 are invited to make an early exit from this world without any fuss. Michi, being 78, is inclined to sign up, but her newly found contact with a telephone adviser turns to friendship and threatens to undermine her resolve. Will she change her mind? Will she be allowed to?



January 17 6.30 P.M.

## OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN

French 2022 103 minutes Rebecca Zlotowski

Rachel, a schoolteacher in her thirties, is single and worries about having a family. She falls for Ali who has a young daughter, Leila, on whom Rachel dotes. So far, so good, except Ali's ex is hovering nearby. Can this familiar situation be resolved to anyone's satisfaction? A skilful, sweet and sad film.

January 24 6.30 P.M.

## OFFICIAL COMPETITION

Spanish 2021 115 minutes M. Cohn, G. Duprat

Two Argentinian film-makers working in Spain have cast Penélope Cruz as an eccentric director making a film about the rivalry between two brothers. She casts rivals, a movie star (Antonio Banderas) and a respected stage actor, as the brothers. This is the set-up for a very entertaining satire on film-making.

January 31 6.30 P.M.

## SMALL BODY

Italian 2021 89 minutes Laura Samani

In 1900, Agata's baby is stillborn and so sent to Limbo, the state to which Catholic theology consigns the innocent but unbaptised. Agata hears of a church in the mountains, where infants are brought back to life for just one breath, to baptise them. She sets off with the little body in a box.



February 7 6.30 P.M.

## CLARA SOLA

Spanish 2021 106 minutes Nathalie Álvarez Mesén

This engrossing drama, set in Costa Rica, is a character study of a 40-year-old woman who tries to free herself from the repressive conservative conventions that prevail in her remote village. It is a very sensual film, mixing religion, mysticism and sexuality, together with a touch of magic realism, in a richly rewarding way.

February 14 6.30 P.M.

## VORTEX

French 2021 142 minutes Gaspar Noé

Near the Stalingrad metro station in Paris, a retired psychiatrist is losing her wits following a stroke, while her still-lucid husband and their son struggle to cope with the calamity unfolding in front of them. Shot in split-screen format, this is a demanding film but 'a work of wintry maturity, and real compassion' (*The Guardian*).

February 21 6.30 P.M.

## RETURN TO DUST

Mandarin 2022 131 minutes Ruijun Li

Ma and Cao are desperately poor and forced into marriage by their families. They are no longer young but work for each other in brutal conditions. The film tells of their developing love. After being a hit in China, the film was withdrawn from streaming services, probably for the unflattering picture it paints.

February 28 6.30 P.M.

## THE BEASTS

French/Spanish 2022 137 minutes Rodrigo Sorogoyen

With plans to start a vegetable farm, Antoine and Olga leave France for a fresh start in deepest Galicia. Alas the dream turns sour: xenophobia and animosity await them. As tension escalates, the antagonism can only end in violence. Multiple awards at festivals around the world.

March 6 6.30 P.M.

## 1976

Spanish 2022 95 minutes Manuella Martelli

In Santiago, Chile in 1976, a grandmother slowly and terrifyingly starts to understand what is happening to her country under Pinochet's repressive rule. What begins as domestic drama slowly turns into a very suspenseful thriller, with an excellent central performance and a nerve-jangling score.



March 13 6.30 P.M.

## LEONOR WILL NEVER DIE

Filipino 2022 99 minutes Marika Ramirez Escobar

Leonor is an aging screenwriter in Manila. Well past her best, she is glued to the TV, paying little attention to her exasperated son and even less to the bills. When a falling TV set lands on her head, she goes into a coma, where she enters one of her own unfinished screenplays. Special Jury Prize at Sundance.

March 20 6.30 P.M.

## RETURN TO SEOUL

French/Korean 2022 119 minutes Davy Chou

A 25-year-old French woman arrives in South Korea, where she was born. She decides to find her biological parents and contacts an adoption agency. Over five years of coming and going, we see her view of herself, her family and her identity undergoing significant changes. This is a deeply moving, personal story.

March 27 6.30 P.M.

## GODLAND

Icelandic 2022 142 minutes Hlynur Pálmason

In the late nineteenth century, a young Danish pastor goes to Iceland to build a church. Everything goes haywire: a river crossing results in tragedy, illness strikes, he quarrels with his guide. It sounds eternally bleak, but the ferocious beauty of Iceland consoles us. For Scandi-noir fans, this wryly observed film is a must.

April 3 6.30 P.M.

## THE BIG HIT

French 2020 105 minutes Emmanuel Courcol

Etienne teaches drama in a prison. He decides to produce Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, a play in which famously 'nothing happens – twice'. With support from the warden and with much nervous energy from the cast, it proves to be a hit. Matters get more challenging when the show goes on tour.

NO FILM ON 10 APRIL

April 17 6.30 P.M.

## NO BEARS

Persian 2022 106 minutes Jafar Panahi

Jafar Panahi plays himself directing a film remotely while he lives in a village near the Turkish border. He gets involved in a dispute with the village about a potentially compromising photo. Issues of freedom, responsibility and unintended consequences mix in this multi-layered film. The director is now in prison.

April 24 6.30 P.M.

## TIGERS

Swedish 2020 116 minutes Ronnie Sandahl

The autobiographical story of a talented 16-year-old footballer who moves from obscurity in Sweden to the more demanding world of Italy and discovers that the streets of Milan are not paved with gold.

May 1 6.30 P.M.

## ONE FINE MORNING

French 2022 112 minutes Mia Hansen-Løve

Sandra is a Parisian widow with a young daughter who struggles to find a care home for her terminally ill father. A further complication comes in the form of Clément, a married man with whom she starts an affair. As the two key relationships in her life move towards crises, Sandra has decisions to make.

May 8 6.30 P.M.

## ALCARRÀS

Catalan 2022 120 minutes Carla Simón, Sonia Castelo

A family of peach farmers in a small Catalan village faces eviction when the local landowner dies. This intelligent drama smoothly blends domestic issues with a spiky political conscience. Vivid cinematography and natural performances combine to provide a moving story.

May 15 6.30 P.M.

## CAIRO CONSPIRACY

Arabic 2022 126 minutes Tarik Saleh

Adam is fortunate to win a scholarship to a prestigious university in Cairo. The government is trying to appoint its candidate as Grand Imam of the university and Adam is recruited as a spy. He is soon enmeshed in a political conspiracy which puts him in mortal danger. Best Screenplay at Cannes.

May 22 6.30 P.M.

## LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM

Dzongkha 2019 109 minutes Pawo Choyning Dorji

A young Bhutanese teacher dreams of becoming a singer in Australia but is sent to a remote village for a year. With no electricity, textbooks or blackboard, he soon wants out. But the children love him and he adapts. He keeps a yak in the classroom, for the fuel it provides. After a year Australia beckons, but perhaps not happiness.