

Open Film

Society 2026 & 2027



October 21 6.30 P.M.

LOVE

Norwegian • 2024 • 120 minutes • Dag Johan Haugerud

After a chance encounter on an Oslo ferry, a straight female doctor and a gay male nurse consider the possibilities of love without sex, or vice versa. Praised for its light touch, cool jazz score and pastel cinematography, the film is a gentle study of an unusual relationship. Winner of the Independent Critics Award at Venice.

October 28 6.30 P.M.

MOTEL DESTINO

Portuguese • 2024 • 115 minutes • Karim Aïnouz

Motel Destino is a sex hotel in northern Brazil. When 21-year-old Heraldo checks in, nobody realises that he is a hitman who has just screwed up and is now on the run. In the chaos unleashed by his subsequent deeds, the establishment starts to live up to its name! Nominated for the Queer Palm at Cannes 2024.

November 4 6.30 P.M.

THE ICE TOWER

French • 2025 • 117 minutes • Lucile Hadzihalilovic

Clara Pacini plays Jeanne, a 15-year-old who reads Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen before running away. She meets Marion Cotillard, who is playing the Snow Queen in a film based on the book. It's a visually arresting film with a heady mixture of realism, fantasy and great music. Winner of the 2025 Silver Bear.



December 2 6.30 P.M.

FROM HILDE WITH LOVE

German • 2024 • 125 minutes • Andreas Dresen

Berlin 1942: Hilde (Liv Lisa Fries) is a member of an anti-Nazi group. She falls in love with another member Hans and becomes pregnant before being caught by the Gestapo. This film, based on a true story, shows how much of normal life remained amidst the 'banality of evil'. Best Actress at the 2025 German Film Awards.



December 9 6.30 P.M.

RED SOIL

French • 2020 • 86 minutes • Farid Bentoumi

Nour takes a job as a nurse at a chemical works in southern France, only to discover that the company is covering up accidents and pollution. Her father, as shop steward, has helped hide the bad deeds. She is also up against the community, who value the jobs. An eco-thriller co-produced by the Dardenne brothers.

December 16 6.30 P.M.

THE BRUTALIST

English • 2025 • 216 minutes • Brady Corbet

Emigrating to Pennsylvania in 1947, Hungarian architect László Tóth (Adrien Brody) is enlisted by a wealthy industrialist to build a great monument. A film filled with incident and detail and an intermezzo! Winner of three Oscars and the Golden Globe for Best Drama.

Open Film 2026

September 30 6.30 P.M.

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT

Persian • 2025 • 103 minutes • Jafar Panahi

A car pulls into a garage after hitting a dog. Mechanic Vahid hears something that reminds him of prison – the creaking of a prosthetic leg. Is it the guard who tortured him? There follows a bizarre set of events that reunites a group who have all suffered at the hands of the Iranian state. Winner of the 2025 Palme d'Or.

October 7 6.30 P.M.

YOUNG MOTHERS

French • 2025 • 106 minutes • Jean-Pierre & Luc Dardenne

Five young women and their children are housed in a centre for teenage mothers in the Belgian city of Liège. They are counselled on how to care for their babies, how to deal with issues of addiction and depression. We see how adoption causes torment that spans generations, but as ever with the Dardennes, realism is mixed with hope.

October 14 6.30 P.M.

THE RETURN

English • 2024 • 116 minutes • Uberto Pasolini

After 20 years away, Odysseus (Ralph Fiennes) is washed ashore at Ithaca, haggard and unrecognisable. His wife Penelope (Juliette Binoche) is being hounded by suitors. Their son Telemachus faces death at their hands. Odysseus, scarred by his experiences, is no longer the mighty warrior. Can he win back all he has lost?

November 11 6.30 P.M.

LITTLE TROUBLE GIRLS

Slovenian • 2025 • 90 minutes • Urška Djukić

Set in a Roman Catholic girls' school in Slovenia, this is a coming-of-age movie with a difference. With the choir making a trip to Italy, 16-year-old Lucija is about to experience a personal collision between religious conviction and emerging adolescent impulses. Slovenia's official candidate for Best International Feature at the Oscars.

November 18 6.30 P.M.

PALESTINE 36

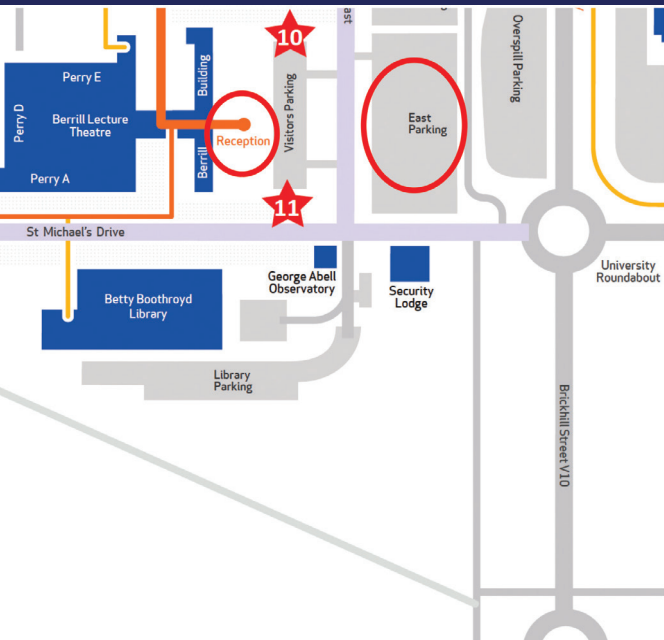
Arabic • 2025 • 119 minutes • Annemarie Jacir

Arab teenager Yusuf lives in a village, but works in Jerusalem, where he chauffeurs for a wealthy Palestinian couple. The British High Commissioner (Jeremy Irons) is granting Jewish settlers land owned by Arabs for centuries. Brutish officers, like Captain Orde Wingate, harass imprison and sometimes kill those Arabs who resist.

No film on 25 November



Rose of Nevada (March 10 2027)



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.

Films will be shown in the Open University Berrill Lecture Theatre on Walton Hall Campus, entrance to which is from Brickhill Street (V10) or Groveway (H9). Park in East Parking (see map).

Full membership of the Society costs £94 (equivalent to £3.03 per film). New Year part-season ticket is £62. Associate membership at £32 allows entry to any 5 films. Guests are welcome with tickets (1-film pass) on sale at the door 15 minutes before each performance at a cost of £9 per film (£7 concessions with proof of status).

No one under the age of 16 can be admitted.

Open Film 2027

January 6 6.30 P.M.

THE SECRET AGENT

Portuguese • 2025 • 161 minutes • Kleber Mendonça Filho

From the director of *Aquarius* we get a thriller set in Recife during the 1977 Carnival, when the military dictatorship was also in full swing. Left-winger Armando is on the run with a price on his head. Seeking to flee Brazil with his young son, he contacts a dissident network. Best director at Cannes.

January 13 6.30 P.M.

THE PRESIDENT’S CAKE

Arabic • 2025 • 105 minutes • Hasan Hadi

Set in the Mesopotamian Marshes after the invasion of Kuwait, Lamia is saddled with baking Saddam Hussein’s birthday cake for the ‘celebration’ in her school. In spite of dire poverty and economic sanctions, she sets to work with her grandmother. A poignant tale that won the 2025 Caméra d’Or at Cannes.

January 20 6.30 P.M.

SIRÂT

Spanish/French • 2025 • 114 minutes • Oliver Laxe

A father, accompanied by his young son, searches for his missing daughter in Morocco during some unspecified civil unrest. He believes she has been travelling around music raves, and so teams up with some ravers. Beautiful landscapes and music make a wonderful backdrop to this absorbing film with an explosive ending.



January 27 6.30 P.M.

DJ AHMET

Turkish/Macedonian • 2025 • 99 minutes • Georgi M. Unkovski

Teenager Ahmet lives with his dad and younger brother on a tiny farm in the mountains of North Macedonia. Ahmet worships his neighbour Aya. She has lived in Germany but is back to be married off to an older man. So Aya can practise dance routines with her friends, Ahmet turns DJ.

February 3 6.30 P.M.

JULIE KEEPS QUIET

Flemish • 2024 • 100 minutes • Leonardo van Dijl

Julie is a tennis prodigy. Jeremy, the head coach at her school, is suddenly suspended when another player, Aline, commits suicide. What appears like a ‘me too’ moment becomes complex and contradictory. The suspicions about Jeremy are vague and unclear; Julie is conflicted and reluctant to speak. A subtle and enigmatic film.

February 10 6.30 P.M.

DREAMS

Norwegian • 2024 • 110 minutes • Dag Johan Haugerud

The intimate fantasies of a 17-year-old girl about her French teacher are discovered by her mother and grandmother. Is this a queer awakening or just a crush? Featuring a largely female cast, it captures generational differences but treats all with compassion. Winner of the Golden Bear at Berlin.

February 17 6.30 P.M.

MONGREL

Taiwanese/Mandarin • 2024 • 128 minutes • Chiang Wei-liang

Oom is a migrant care-worker in rural Taiwan. He tends to individuals in the mountains. To survive he works for a local gangster, who fails to pay his workers for months and continually abuses them. Among his patients is Hui, a man living with cerebral palsy. They develop a bond, which soon causes conflict with the boss.

February 24 6.30 P.M.

THE STRANGER

French • 2025 • 122 minutes • François Ozon

Based on the 1942 novel by Albert Camus, a French man, Meursault, living in Algiers, shoots and kills an Arab man, for no apparent reason. Even when confronted with the guillotine, he refuses to explain or to show any remorse or compassion. Ozon captures perfectly the inhumane indifference that lies at the dark heart of the book.

March 3 6.30 P.M.

SOUND OF FALLING

German • 2025 • 155 minutes • Mascha Schilinski

In the Altmark district of Saxony–Anhalt, four generations of women live with their hopes and disappointments. The men are often ciphers, but the true star of the film is the centuries-old farmhouse, which seems to absorb and transmit all the human memories. Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes.

March 10 6.30 P.M.

ROSE OF NEVADA

English • 2025 • 114 minutes • Mark Jenkin

A sci-fi movie set in Cornwall, where the fishing boat Rose of Nevada reappears 30 years after being lost. A crew is found to take it out again. But when it next returns, the crew are strangers who seem to come from another time. Shot with 16-mm stock and hand-edited sound, the result is well suited to the eerie subject.

March 17 6.30 P.M.

THE COURAGEOUS

French • 2024 • 83 minutes • Jasmin Gordon

Ophelia Kolb plays Jule, a single parent bringing up 3 children in the Swiss canton of Valais. Making no concessions to social norms, Jule is an unsettling character with implications of a dark past. Her care for her children often looks like neglect, but she is courageous and believable. An enigmatic film with beautiful locations.

March 24 6.30 P.M.

MY FATHER’S SHADOW

Yoruba/English • 2025 • 93 minutes • Akinola Davies Jnr

In the chaos surrounding the annulment of the 1993 election by the Nigerian military, Fola and his two sons have to make a journey to Lagos. In just one day, two young boys get to know a father whose main contribution to their lives has been absence. ‘It’s a rich, heartfelt and rewarding movie’ (Guardian).

March 31 6.30 P.M.

PRIMAVERA

Italian • 2025 • 110 minutes • Damiano Michieletto

Girls at a Venetian orphanage in 1716 are trained as musicians and give concerts for the patrons. Their new tutor is Antonio Vivaldi, who picks out one violinist as exceptional. The film relates her story, with a special focus on her relationship with Vivaldi. A superb period tale, with excellent performances and wonderful music.



April 7 6.30 P.M.

A PRIVATE LIFE

French • 2025 • 103 minutes • Rebecca Zlotowski

Lilian Steiner (Jodie Foster) is an American psychiatrist working in Paris. A furious patient accuses her of years of wasted therapy and threatens to sue. Another patient, Paula (Virginie Efira) has died and her daughter reveals that it was suicide, using pills prescribed by Lilian. Lilian calls in her ex (Daniel Auteuil) to help untangle the mess.

April 14 6.30 P.M.

GOOD ONE

English • 2024 • 89 minutes • India Donaldson

On a trip to the Catskills with her father and his friend Matt, teenager Sam’s superior camping skills are of great benefit to the men. She is praised as ‘a good one’ but they still treat her as their inferior. Sam’s patience runs out when her father dismisses her concerns about Matt’s behaviour. A sensitively observed feminist fable.

April 21 6.30 P.M.

THE UNIVERSAL THEORY

German/French • 2023 • 118 minutes • Timm Kröger

A sci-fi film, with hints of Hitchcock, that is set in a snowy 1962 Switzerland. It features strange clouds and avalanches, and even stranger people. A physics conference is due to start but cannot do so as its keynote speaker may be dead. With many cinematic references, this won the Independent Critics Award at Venice.

April 28 6.30 P.M.

KONTINENTAL ’25

Romanian • 2025 • 109 minutes • Radu Jude

With a title inspired by Rosellini’s Europe ’51, this black comedy stars Eszter Tompa. She plays a bailiff in the city of Cluj who evicts an old man and then faces a personal crisis when he commits suicide. The absurdism is anchored by a great performance from Tompa and the director won the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay (2025).

May 5 6.30 P.M.

MAMI WATA

English/Fon • 2023 • 107 minutes • C. J. Obasi

In a Nigerian coastal village, the priestess acts as intermediary between the people and the all-powerful mermaid goddess Mami Wata. When the village children sicken, dissatisfaction takes hold and conflict follows, setting old against new, male against female. Vividly shot in black and white, it features an incredible oceanic soundscape.

May 12 6.30 P.M.

NOUVELLE VAGUE

French • 2025 • 106 minutes • Richard Linklater

The Nouvelle Vague is just taking off in late-1950s Paris. We meet many of the protagonists and enjoy their cultured conversations. In particular, we meet enigmatic Jean-Luc Godard and see how he managed to make his debut film À Bout de Souffle (Breathless). Stunning black-and-white photography, and believable casting and performances, make this a must for any film buff. Followed by a showing of

May 12 8.25 P.M.

À BOUT DE SOUFFLE (BREATHLESS)

French • 1960 • 90 minutes • Jean-Luc Godard

This film introduced many techniques that we now take for granted, for example jump cuts, which were a novelty in 1960. It is a simple story. A petty criminal (Jean-Paul Belmondo) kills a policeman, steals a car and ends up in Paris, finding a lover (Jean Seberg). He is betrayed and it all falls apart. But what a way to tell a tale!