



## Foxlowe Films

**The Great Gatsby** (15)  
17th September

Baz Luhrmann's retelling of F. Scott Fitzgerald's great American novel stars Leonardo DiCaprio as Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire fond of parties and lavish living. Arriving in New York during the roaring 20's, Midwesterner, Nick Carraway enters Gatsby's world. Soon, however, Carraway will see the cracks of Gatsby's nouveau riche existence, where obsession and tragedy await. Luhrmann's extravagant use of colours and contemporary soundtrack offers escapism and a stylish interpretation of a classic novel.

*Australia/USA 2013 143 mins*

**Beware of Mr Baker** (15)  
24th September

Legendary Cream drummer, Ginger Baker, is one of the original Wild Men of Rock, blessed with a preternatural musicianship which takes him on an amazing journey with some of the greatest musicians in the world, but cursed by a self destructive drive. From his tough childhood, early years on the London jazz scene, battle with heroin addiction, abandonment of wife and child and love of polo, this remarkably candid documentary of an important musician also provides a searing portrait of a man in free fall. A stunning film, "insanely enjoyable" Nigel Williams, Financial Times. *USA 2012 92 mins*

**Mud** (12A)  
1st October

This rich and engaging thriller/coming of age tale set in the Deep South centres on the friendship of two teenage boys, Ellis and Neckbone, and their discovery of a fugitive on an uninhabited island in the Mississippi. The fugitive, Mud,

is back in the neighbourhood to meet his childhood sweetheart, Juniper. The boys seize upon this romance, trying to work towards a successful tryst for the couple, but reckon without those on Mud's trail. With a superb script, this is classic American storytelling. "A wonderful, piquant modern-day variation on "Huckleberry Finn" Lou Lumenick, New York Post.

*USA 2012 130 mins*

**Tess** (15)  
8th October

Roman Polanski's 1979 sumptuous, visually striking, adaptation of Tess of the D'Urbervilles, starring an unforgettable 17-year-old Nastassja Kinski in the tragic title role, has been stunningly digitally restored and premiered in Cannes last year. Originally the winner of 3 Oscars for its cinematography, artistic direction and costumes, with Wessex painstakingly re-created in France, Polanski undertook Tess, in memory of his murdered wife Sharon Tate. "Outstanding" Philip French, The Observer.

*France/UK 1979 180 mins*

**Wadjda** (PG)  
15th October

This groundbreaking first feature film shot entirely in Saudi Arabia (where cinemas are illegal), is also the first by a female Saudi filmmaker. It offers a moving, rarely seen picture of everyday life in Riyadh, through the eyes of a girl unwilling to surrender what she wants. Wadjda (Waad Mohammed) is a feisty, funny and wholly unconventional 10 year old girl determined to scrounge enough money to buy a bicycle, despite the fact girls aren't allowed bicycles. A complete delight. "This is boundary-pushing cinema in all the best ways, and what a thrill it is to hear those boundaries creak" Robin Collin, Daily Telegraph. *Saudi Arabia 2012 98 mins (subtitled)*

## A Peak District Thing

ERICA BROOK was at the preview of the current Gallery exhibition which displays the work of painters, Lewis Noble and Louise Rolland, ceramicists, David Howton and Kevin Millward, and the quilts of Mandy Noble.

This is an exhibition which raises questions which don't have easy answers. It is a disparate show, the two painters having similar approaches to their work, with one leading the way towards more abstract concepts of painting. We have two ceramicists both of whom claim landscape influences, but each distinctly separate from the

Whereas Cézanne's was largely the physical response of what met his eye, Lewis Noble is engaging also with the senses, and an emotional, ever changing and challenging lived experience of scene, weather, the qualities of the elements, and of course, his materials, paint on canvas, amongst other things. He allows the concept of time

passing to blur the edges of the fixed reality of a frozen scene as he becomes increasingly involved in his place in landscape and his materials. Lewis Noble's set of accomplished paintings is set against Louise Rolland, who, at times, indicates greater experimentation with her materials, Kevin Millward, with his irregular cream



other, and finally, we have quilts, which, beautiful as they are, do not relate to the rest of the exhibition.

Derbyshire-based landscape painter, Lewis Noble, is the main contributor. He is inspired by all the diversity Nature brings. Lewis's telling comment: '*Painting outside is very important to me. Landscape is noisy, continuous and constantly changing. The challenge is to make something that is more than a frozen moment and contains all the time it took to look at it*' brings to mind Cézanne's initially puzzling remark "I only paint what I see", an approach which eventually led to the concept of time in painting and the Cubist movement.

glazed bowls, and David Howson's pedastalled bowls, each of whom reveal the influence of the natural world on their work.

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## Changing role of women

The Extraordinary Leek Embroidery Society: Textiles, People, Places exhibition at the Nicholson Institute is an impressive testimony to the work produced by a group of Leek women during Victorian and Edwardian times, writes Erica Brook. Not only displaying the beautiful work produced but also working practices and materials, this exhibition is well worth a prolonged and studied visit. (ends 14th September)

It does not finish here, though. To take us into the twenty-first century, a walk up Stockwell Street and into the Foxlowe Heritage rooms gives further documentation on the Wardle family with the adjacent room being devoted to five contemporary women and their work in textiles.

Stacey Harvey-Brown, Sarah Burgess, Jane Clowes, Brenda Tolchard, and Fiona Wilson, each show examples of their work: weaving with Stacey Harvey-Brown, photograph of an installation by Jane Clowes, an installation by Brenda Tolchard, and embroideries by Fiona Wilson, and Sarah Burgess, with an additional piece which can only be called sculpture, again by Sarah Burgess.

Sarah's work is inspired by the hand, and its complexity. Her drawing skills, and her recognition of their value show in the many depictions of the hand, not now in pencil, but in embroidery, layered, transparent fabric, with designs overlaying to create further designs.

All the work in this small exhibition invites curiosity not just of working practices, but of the ideas behind the pieces, nebulous, ethereal, illusive, often, but leading us down pathways possibly beyond the intent of each individual creator. An inspirational post script to the work of the women of the Leek Embroidery Society.

## Wirksworth Festival

Opening event is the weekend Art & Architecture Trail, 7th & 8th September with 170 artists exhibiting at some 60 venues including the heritage railway station where DAVID HUNT's paintings will be on show in a restored railway carriage. If you have never been you are in for a real treat seeing good quality painting, ceramics, textiles, sculpture exhibited in private homes, churches, halls and the railway carriage.

### "Just the Job for Lunch"

"With an interesting and good menu this place should become very busy when people have discovered it. Art lovers will love it as the gallery extends into the dining area. Friendly staff and excellent service Lunch here was a treat we were not expecting. Used to the soup and something style this was a refreshing change catering for those with dietary needs as well as all others. The lunch menu has sufficient choice to cater for most tastes but also is limited enough to make choosing easy...and their specials are really special. When in Leek do not miss this one...situated at the top of the market square next to the big church. Next time I must look at the gallery too."

*Reviewed 8 July 2013 in Trip Advisor*

## Foxlowe Garden News

ALISON McCREA reports on a rapidly increasing range of produce in the Foxlowe garden

What a difference a heat wave makes! The terrace and garden are a particular attraction to Foxlowe visitors at present and the gardeners are delighted that their produce is now being used in the café.

to protect the plants by the fence from the encroaching weeds beyond. We plan to develop this bed more once we have had a chance to build up fertility and reduce soil acidity where there was once a coal ash path.



Our very creative chefs have been making strawberry cheesecake, milk shakes and other delights with our own strawberries, savoury scones with our Foxlowe herbs and elderflower fizz - very River Cottage and of course totally local. We have lemon sorrel and lovage, which may well appear in salads soon, and we are working to establish a supply of borage flowers for summer drinks.

The new fence beyond the large lawn is now acting as a support for spaghetti marrow plants. These are unusual squashes that produce spaghetti-like strands after cooking and taste great with melted butter and black pepper. The small squashes are already visible but will be much bigger come the autumn.

Other unusual veg plants are the purple podded peas, a heritage variety, that are growing up a wigwam of branches salvaged from the recently felled trees. The woodchips generated from the rest of these branches are helping

Our most recent development is the introduction of green hay, supplied by the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust from a species-rich hay meadow reserve in the Weaver Hills, to increase the number of interesting and colourful plant species in our Staffordshire Knot meadow.

We will be making hay by turning the cut grasses and other plants until they dry and ripen, dropping their seeds on the areas of ground that have been prepared by scarifying. For this reason, the hay will be left in place until completely dry and ripe and then raked off.

Past experience has shown that the next best treatment after cattle grazing for pushing these seeds further into the soil is people partying, so we hope to get plenty of willing volunteers to help with this!

If you have any queries about the garden or would like to offer plants or time, please 'phone or text Alison McCrea on 07753 172564 and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

