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# Programme

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## Mini Russian Season

Foxlowe Films has now been presenting films for six years and we hope to continue to bring Leek and the surrounding area varied programmes of unusual and interesting cinematic experiences. We aim to fill each season with as wide a variety of film genres as possible, sourcing the best in cinema worldwide.

During the last year there have been a number of films coming out of Russia, a country that invites continued interest relating to its politics, culture and way of life. With this in mind we are including in the Spring season what amounts to a mini season of Russian films. We are showing three films of vastly differing style and period. The films cover a period of fifty years from the Communist era under Stalin to the drama and chaos surrounding his death, plus a portrayal of the country in the present day. The films are very different in mood and content, including a heartening true story of one man's adaptation to life under Communism, a wild satire at the time of Stalin's death and a bleak and revealing drama of contemporary life. We hope that you find all three thought-provoking and enjoyable.

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## Loving Vincent (12A)

Oscar-winning British animator Hugh Welchman and his wife, Polish artist and director Dorota Kobiela, have brought together 65,000 oil painted frames - produced by 115 professional artists to form *Loving Vincent*, a stunning cinematic achievement billed as "the first fully painted feature film in the world". *Loving Vincent* delves into the ambiguities of Vincent Van Gogh's life and last days to reconsider the narrative of his death via the stories of his paintings and the people who inhabit them. Originally shot in live-action, before each frame was painted over, the film features stunning performances from Douglas Booth, Saoirse Ronan and Chris O'Dowd.

UK/Poland 2017 91 mins

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Century Women (15)

*20<sup>th</sup> Century Women* is a warm, engaging comedy from Mike Mills set in late 1970s Santa Barbara, California. Dorothea (Annette Bening) is a single mother, raising her teenage son, in a sprawling bohemian house shared by an itinerant carpenter (Billy Crudup) and a punk artist Abbie (Greta Gerwig) with a Bowie haircut. A refreshingly rich and intelligent female-led film with first rate performances from its cast and Annette Bening giving one of her best performances.

USA 2016 99 mins



Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January

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## The Limehouse Golem (15)

In Victorian-era London, intrepid police inspector John Kildare (Bill Nighy) investigates a series of brutal killings that seem to be linked to a fearsome creature of Jewish legend. With the spirits of both Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper seemingly hovering over the proceedings, Kildare finds no shortage of suspects, including Karl Marx and the novelist George Gissing. Adapted from Peter Ackroyd's murder mystery, *The Limehouse Golem* offers a refreshingly feminist, witty take on a classic genre, with terrific performances from a stellar cast including Olivia Cooke, Eddie Marsan, and Bill Nighy.

UK 2016 109 mins

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## In Between (15)

Palestinian director, Maysaloun Hamoud's debut feature film received plaudits internationally and at home but also death threats and a fatwa issued against her. *In Between* details the lives of three Israeli-Palestinian women living in a flat in Tel Aviv: away from the traditions of their families, they find themselves "in between" the free lives they are aspiring to lead and the restrictions still imposed on them. Hamoud said "All three characters represent huge amounts of invisible women; women who have never had their voices raised before in cinema from this part of the world." "It's sassily directed and terrifically acted"

*Financial Times*

Israel/France 2017 96 mins (subtitled)

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## Dunkirk (12A)

In the early days of the Second World War, the German advance into France trapped allied forces on the beaches of Dunkirk, their numbers ever increasing while they patiently awaited evacuation. Christopher Nolan brings a key moment in WWII to life, dramatizing the rescue of 330,000 soldiers, using every serviceable naval and civilian vessel. *Dunkirk* is an immersive film capturing epic drama and individual endeavour, with a star-studded cast. "Nolan's finest film and a superb return to form. Prepare yourself to take flight with his immersive and emotional masterpiece."

*The Mirror*.  
UK/Netherlands/France/USA 2017 106 mins

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January



Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January



Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February



Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

## God's Own Country (15)

Dedicated to keeping his family's farm afloat after his father's stroke and trapped by the loneliness of daily life, Johnny (Josh O'Connor) indulges in binge-drinking and casual sex to numb his frustrations. But when a handsome Romanian farmhand (Alec Secareanu) arrives, Johnny finds himself dealing with unfamiliar emotions. Set against a stunning Yorkshire backdrop, *God's Own Country* is a perceptive and unsentimental ode to love and life and filled with hope for a better future. "An outstanding debut feature" *Daily Express*.

UK 2017 104 mins



Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

## Victoria and Abdul (PG) (TBC)

The extraordinary true story of an unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria's life. When Abdul Karim, a young clerk, travels from India to participate in the Queen's Golden Jubilee, he is surprised to find favour with the Queen herself. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes, much to the annoyance of the royal household and her inner circle. Judy Dench is again excellent in the role she last played in *Mrs Brown*, in Stephen Frears' charming period drama.

UK/USA 2017 112 mins



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

## The Party (15)

Janet (Kristin Scott Thomas) has just been appointed Shadow Health Secretary, the crowning achievement of her career, and decides to celebrate by hosting a few close friends. But as the guests arrive, the reason for her husband Bill's (Timothy Spall) preoccupation becomes clear and the soiree gradually goes up in smoke, along with the canapes and the guests' illusions about themselves and each other. *The Party* is a savage satire of the middle classes, with a killer wit from British director Sally Potter and a cast, including Kristin Scott Thomas, Patricia Clarkson, and Timothy Spall. A comic exploration of the deeper truths behind seemingly liberal convictions. "This is a comedy that bites because it is utterly and urgently of our moment." *Sight and Sound*

UK Black and White 2017 71 mins



Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

## Mini Russian Season

### Loveless (15)

For the first time, we bring the work of the highly acclaimed Russian director Andrey Zvyagintsev (*Leviathan*, *The Return*) to the Foxlowe. Winner of the Jury Prize at Cannes and best film at the BFI London Film Festival, *Loveless* is both a hypnotic thriller and an impassioned, haunting drama, which centres on the disappearance of a young boy. Zhenya and Boris are going through a vicious divorce marked by resentment, frustration and bitter recrimination. Already embarking on new lives, they are impatient to start again, even if it means threatening to abandon their 12 year old son Alyosha. After witnessing one of their fights, Alyosha, ignored and unloved, disappears. In this brilliantly bleak and mysterious drama, Zvyagintsev investigates the microcosm of familial dysfunction against wider societal malaise.

Russia 2017 127 mins (subtitled)



Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

### The Fencer (PG)

The award-winning film *The Fencer*, based on a true story, is an elegantly crafted drama set in early 1950's Russia, during the Soviet occupation of Estonia. Endel Nelis (Märt Avandi), a champion fencer is quietly on the run from the secret service in Leningrad. He manages to get a post teaching at a provincial Estonian school. Before long he sets up an afterschool fencing club and develops an affection for his younger charges. When several kids show promise and skill, Endel must decide whether to risk taking them to Leningrad for a competition.

Finland/Estonia/Germany 2016 98 mins (subtitled)



Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

### The Death of Stalin (15)

Armando Iannucci has produced a brilliantly sulphurous black comedy about the backstairs Kremlin intrigue in the days following the Russian leader's stroke in 1952. In an acerbic satire, adapted from the French graphic novel series by Fabien Nury and Thierry Robin, an all-star cast, including Steve Buscemi, Simon Russell Beale, Paddy Considine, Rupert Friend, Jason Isaacs and Olga Kurylenko, play the remaining members of the Secretariat of the Communist Party vying for power and control. Some very strong language.

France/UK 2017 107 mins (with some subtitles)



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March

## Goodbye Christopher Robin (PG) (TBC)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Goodbye Christopher Robin tells the story of author A.A. Milne and the creation of the beloved 'Winnie the Pooh' stories inspired by his son Christopher Robin Milne. Domhnall Gleeson stars as A.A. Milne, whose life changes when the magical world of Winnie the Pooh takes the world by storm. *My Week With Marilyn* director, Simon Curtis, presents a new biopic, celebrating the books that brought hope and comfort to England after the First World War and revealing the familial consequences of literary success. "Reveals the sadness behind Winnie the Pooh." *The Telegraph*.

UK 2017 107 mins



## Half Term Children's Matinee Screening

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 2 pm

### The Jungle Book - 2016 (PG)

*Iron Man* director, Jon Favreau, re-invents Disney's classic for a whole new generation. Orphaned 'man cub' Mowgli (Neel Sethi) has been raised by wolves deep within the Indian jungle. However, Mowgli's life is threatened by ferocious, man-eating tiger Shere Khan (Idris Elba). With the help of jaguar mentor Bagheera (Ben Kingsley) and loyal bear Baloo (Bill Murray), Mowgli must discover the strength to embrace his destiny and stand up to the fearsome Khan once and for all. Mixing live-action performance with cutting-edge CGI, this promises to be a visually spectacular and exciting family adventure, one featuring an all-star voice cast that also includes Scarlett Johansson as snake Kaa and Christopher Walken as orang-utan leader King Louie. The BBFC rates this film as PG - mild threat - for more information see the BBFC website. "Jon Favreau's beautiful CGI update of Disney's animated classic keeps the songs and the fun, and adds real emotional weight." *The Telegraph*. USA 2016 106 mins (Animation)



**Subsidised Film Tickets: £2 per child, £2 per adult accompanying child.**

*This is our sixteenth season. We have screened 172 films and have sold 7,977 tickets since we started in February 2012. Thanks to all our volunteers and supporters.*

## Wednesday Documentaries

### Life, Animated (PG)

Owen Suskind was a boy of considerable promise, until diagnosed with autism at the age of three. As he withdrew into his silent state, his parents almost lost hope that he would find some way to meaningfully interact with his world. However, that way was found through animated films, especially ones by *Walt Disney Pictures*, which gave Owen a way to understand the world through its stories. This film covers Owen's life and how he manages to become as functional as possible with the help of *Disney* and his family.

UK 2016 92 mins Free entry - donations welcome.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February



### A Plastic Ocean (NC)

The film begins when journalist Craig Leeson, searching for the elusive blue whale, discovers plastic waste in what should be pristine ocean. In this adventure documentary, Craig teams up with free diver Tanya Streeter and an international team of scientists and researchers. They travel to twenty locations around the world over the next four years to explore the fragile state of our oceans, uncover alarming truths about plastic pollution, and reveal working solutions that can be put into immediate effect.

UK 2017 102 min Free entry - donations welcome.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March



### Tomorrow (NC)

Climate is changing but this film (formerly *Demain*) is about the search for solutions to the crisis humanity faces. It is a hugely positive, affirming and inspirational film, exploring creative solutions in the fields of food, energy, transport, economics and education. It visits permaculture farms, urban agriculture projects, community-owned renewable projects, local currencies, creative schools and ambitious recycling projects. It has given a huge boost to community-led projects and is the perfect antidote to the current sense of global despondency. Now in English.

France 2015 118 min Free entry - donations welcome.

*There will be a Fairtrade stall in the bar before each documentary screening.*

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

