



NEWSLETTER 1



We're back, and with a programme just bubbling with exciting and wonderful films from around the globe. The **Phoenix** Film Selection committee worked long and hard in the early summer months and you will now have our new brochure showing the 29 films to be screened. Some festival events remain in our programme, whilst others have gone, hopefully on a temporary basis. In November the 9th **Southampton Film Week** will take place across Southampton, with our contribution being the highly rated Chinese film **The Assassin**. The new **SoGerman** network has been set up by the University of Southampton German department and we have been pleased to screen a film to link in with that; this has taken the place this year of our participation in the Hispanists' **Día de los Muertos** fiesta, which has been held over this year. Perhaps we shall see these two events alternating in the future, but whatever happens, we will remain keen to be involved.



Phoenix, we have a (nice) problem!

Already, with two weeks into our new season, our audience numbers have risen, with, amazingly, the "House full" notices needed for our screening of **Almanya- Welcome to Germany**. In truth, we accept that on that evening, there were some seats unoccupied as the presentation got under way and we turned away members who arrived too late for that start. It has caused us to discuss urgently a (nice) problem that we have not experienced in a long time (I do recall we were full house back in 2001 at Boldrewood for **Tea with Mussolini!**) and we have sought advice from our **UF** colleagues on dealing with it if it happens again. The outcomes of our discussions are as follows, and we hope our members will understand our concerted attempts to deal with this potential problem should we face it in the future – above all we do not wish to turn away people from our screenings, and must recognise the need to accommodate as many folk as turn up on a Wednesday evening.

So, we will be endeavouring to start our presentations promptly at 8 p.m., box office functioning permitting. Anyone arriving after that time may be refused entry, even if they hold a membership card or a ticket for the film. As much as anything late entrants can seriously disrupt the enjoyment of the evening of those already in the auditorium. **This means that we ask all members, whether Full, Associate or new to the Phoenix, to arrive in plenty of time, to be sure of getting your (favoured) seat.**

The same may occur if we find that we have every seat occupied by 8 p.m. To ensure we maximise the full use of the 225 seats available, we will have a **UF** volunteer asking people to "budge along" if there are seats vacant in the middle of a row, for example. It would be helpful if on arriving members could be alert to this and be prepared to occupy seats without leaving gaps.

We will be holding a small number of seats in the back row of the main auditorium on either side of the nearest aisle to the entrance for members with mobility difficulties; we shall try to monitor how many are needed and used each week.

Union Films

New Union Films manager **Evie Reilly** has taken her place at the helm, with **Max Hayman** as Head Projectionist, in charge of a group of new and familiar faces amongst the behind-the-lens operators. They have gathered around them the usual excellent team of volunteers, including some students who have been with us in the past.



Forthcoming **UF** presentations this term include the original **Ghostbusters**, **The BFG**, **Jason Bourne**, **The Purge: Election Year** (no not starring Donald Trump), **Bridget Jones's Baby**, **The Magnificent Seven** (the remake, but why bother?), and **The Girl on the Train**. Tickets available (in advance) for all these at Reception, and details at <https://www.unionfilms.org/films/>

On your small screen at the big screen?

Every year we say the same thing at the start of the year, and we even have a regular slide showing our requests for good cinema etiquette, but still there are those who think that spoiling other people's enjoyment of the movie is of little or no importance. Clearly some of you feel very strongly about this; late last year, we were delighted to read a member's recent comment which went thus: "There was someone diagonally in front of me who kept checking her mobile phone. Please ask people not to do this as it is so distracting." And that member is in good company because a few months ago, esteemed *P.M.* presenter on BBC Radio 4, Eddie Mair, no less, wrote in the *Radio Times* magazine that "Cinemas have long since stopped working for me; I don't want my viewing interrupted by ill-mannered moronic behaviour". He continued by expressing how he has found it increasingly difficult to watch a film in the cinema without one kind of annoyance or another preventing him from enjoying his night out. He wrote: "I attended the world première of a film last week. Hopes were high that a crowd at such a classy event would defy the cinema norm and actually shut up during the film. By and large this was a successful aspiration, but, as ever, the usherperson chose to seat me directly in front of a couple who sincerely believed the rest of us wanted to hear their insightful commentaries on the movie. (These are the kind of people) whose stage whispers (about the film) put you in mind of Brian Blessed in full sail". And the behaviour which spoils others' enjoyment happens in multiplexes, arthouse cinemas, and humble film societies like the Phoenix.



Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones



So we have also agreed with UF on our policy over mobile phones and eating whilst a film is being screened at the Phoenix. May we once again ask all our members to switch off their mobile phones (i.e. not onto "silent") and put them out of sight. If eating, please ensure this is also "silent" (i.e. no crisp bag rustling, or popcorn chomping!). This may seem a bit draconian, but we do want all our members to enjoy our films to the full. It is worth pointing out that some of our

films have little or no musical soundtrack, and may have periods when there is also little dialogue, so any noises in the auditorium are magnified at such times. So may we ask you to respectfully the other folk watching the film. That means no chatting whilst the film is on, keep your eating as silent as possible (and remember that some people find the smell of popcorn odious!), and PLEASE mobile phones switched OFF for the duration. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Quiz time

No, it's not yet time for our annual Festive Film Quiz which will carry valuable prizes after our last film of this term *The Lady in the Van*, but [The Oxfam Smart Phone Proof Music & Film Quiz](https://www.facebook.com/events/779252765549008/) which will take place at [The Shooting Star Bar and Grill](#) on Bevois Valley Road. Go to the Oxfam Southampton website at <https://www.facebook.com/events/779252765549008/> or call in at Oxfam Music by the Bar Gate for more info.

We show films with **sensitive soundtracks** so
For everyone's enjoyment, our custom is...

- **Get seated before** the film starts at 8pm
- **Silence** phones and put them **out of sight**
- Please unwrap and eat **foods silently**
- Reserve **commenting** to the end
- Respect those wanting to see the **end credits**



Rear seats are for the **volunteers** that run the show