



NEWSLETTER 11

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SWVG - Thank you

Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group members are very grateful to the Phoenix for the chance to make a collection when we screened **The Promise**.

SWVG befriends asylum seekers and provides practical support such as finding a solicitor, accommodation and medical treatment until their case is resolved. Destitute asylum seekers may receive weekly subsistence money as well as temporary accommodation. SWVG also campaigns locally and nationally for a fairer asylum policy. Liz Statham who volunteers for the group has written: "A very big "Thank you" to the Phoenix committee for letting us make a collection at **The Promise**. We raised £200.00 ... a great contribution to supporting destitute asylum seekers in Southampton. I'd be grateful if you'd let members know in the next newsletter how grateful we are. Many thanks, Liz."

God let Barabas flog Coen (anag.)

It's been awards season, and in case you missed the flurry of excitement (?) about the various gong ceremonies amidst the recent flurries of snow, here are the lists of the nominations and winners (***) in the categories that matter most to the **Phoenix** programme.

The BAFTAS	The GOLDEN GLOBES	The OSCARS
Best film not in the English language	Best motion picture – foreign language	Best foreign language film
Elle (Fra/Ger/Bel)	In the Fade (Ger/Fra) ***	A Fantastic Woman (Chile) ***
First They Killed My Father (Cam)	Loveless (Russia)	The Insult (Lebanon)
The Handmaiden (S Korea) ***	The Square (Swe/Fra/Ger/Den)	Loveless (Russia)
Loveless (Russia)	A Fantastic Woman (Chile)	On Body and Soul (Hungary)
The Salesman (Iran/Fra)	First They Killed My Father (Cam)	The Square (Swe/Fra/Ger/Den)

Mobile phones "Incessant mobile phone checking throughout the film two rows in front of me was very irritating" (comment written on a voting slip earlier this term)

We regularly receive complaints from Members about folks in our audiences using their mobile phones whilst the film is being screened. May we request all of you who come to a Phoenix film to ensure your phone is switched right off, that is to say no noise, no light, nothing. It is so distracting to see a small rectangular light come on in the corner of your eye when someone responds to a message or checks the time etc. on their mobile. Please, NO MOBILE PHONE USE DURING OUR FILMS. Thank you.

And for next year ... As we end the Spring Season, please may we ask you to keep giving us your suggestions for films for next year. The Film Slection Committee, under Stephen's expert guidance, and with John's encyclopaedic knowledge of films generally, will be meeting soon after Easter to draw up our Definites/Probables/Possibles/No Hoppers lists, so do let us know of anything you have seen that you think is worthy of our discussion. So far the following titles have been written on voting slips, maybe even yours!

By The Time It Gets Dark; Disturbing the Peace; Call Me By Your Name; Hidden Figures; The Viceroy's House; In Between; The Killing of a Sacred Deer; The Leopard; Leningrad Cowboys Go America; Breathe; Kedi; Moolaadé; Mimosas; Back to Burgundy; Mother; The Fits; The Cider House Rules; "Lady Bird"; Happy End; The Greatest Showman; 3 Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri; Etat de Siège; 120 Battements Par Minute; I Am Not a Witch; Padman; Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool; Makala; Drifting Clouds; Félicité; Insyriated; Captain Fantastic; Loveless; A Fantastic Woman; The Cave of the Yellow Dog; Heartstone; and any silents from Buster Keaton.

The term's films. Your comments. A selection.

The Salesman

Well crafted. Plot held throughout. Shows that hand-held can work, with care.

A gripping tragedy.

Beautiful portrayal of human frailties and vulnerability.

The film was an interesting look at a culture lacking in law-abiding behaviour, yet very polite in other ways.

Too constricted by the environment – a very unlikely story.

Att: 131 86.1%



Tanna

Absolutely amazing film, had it all – photography, soundtrack, story – the lot. Phoenix at its best.

He beats the hell out of Romeo!

A universal message, beautifully depicted.

So good to see a true story come to life. We shouldn't be mean to each other.

Looked fantastic, but too drawn out.

Ooh, those handwoven sisal condoms look uncomfortable!

Att: 144 87.9%



The Promise

Thank you for reminding us of a genocide which is rarely talked about. And it's happening again.

Very absorbing, but harrowing. Will we never learn?

Very moving depiction of human butchery. Scary as Turkey is going back to its old ways now.

What a way to Hollywood-ise a superb subject – stylised, sanitised, sentimentalised, clinical, awful treatment of a deeply unsettling story.

Heart-stopping, brilliant film.

Att: 143 88.1%

Aquarius

Extraordinary. Gripping. I look forward to reading your notes.

Good acting and photography – rather too much sex. Confusing chronology.

Interesting, but far too long.

Disappointingly inconclusive ending – did the termites win?.

Films like this are why I come – keep it up!

I do enjoy films with strong older women. Brilliant performance from the luminous Sonia Braga, but this was far too long.

Better than Buñuel's dinner party, but not much better!.

Att: 132 72.7%



Welcome to Germany

Very entertaining, and a relief to have a positive spin on a difficult situation.

Perhaps a little clichéd, but very lovely nonetheless.

Rare to get a feelgood film, but it had enough sharp edges to stop it being too schmaltzy.

Brilliant, a warm, moving story, made better by the lack of political correctness.

Sehr gut.

Carry On Asylum Seeker!

Germanic irony with Mike Leigh thrown in. Quite witty and overplayed well.

Att: 162 87.9%

After Love

Absorbing and brilliant, hypnotic.

It's always the children who suffer.

Beautifully acted and set. Needed some "history" to make an 'A' ... some understanding of how they got there.

Good, but harrowing

She should have dumped him at the beginning and we could all have gone to the pub.

Love's ... Labours ... Lost.

Claustrophobic.

Att: 130 76.3%



The Other Side of Hope

A serious film for our times underscored by a wry sense of humour.

Wonderful sense of "odddness" and great soundtrack too.

The difficulties of being in the wrong place at the wrong time and the kindness of strangers.

Charmingly deadpan.

I think this film give me a feel of real. I believe it is a true story. But I can (?) not understand the deep meaning of it.

Wonderfully quirky, indeed pure quirk!

A+++

Att: 151 81.9%



The Shepherd

Right about it being a Western, but what were the sheep for? Not eaten, no sign of milking? Quite believable though.

Very sad, suggestive and indicative of human nature and its contrasts. Moving.

Although hand-held cameras are distracting, it was very atmospheric.

Hand-held camera and too many close-ups strained my eyesight.

Beware of men called Julian who offer to show you round their slaughter-house.

So no happy ending then.

Att: 133 80.6%



Happy



Easter