



NEWSLETTER 6

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And the wooden spoon goes to ...!

Oooh, it's hard! Well, we are okay with the picture quiz. Gosh, that one was easy! Can you give us a clue with this one, please? (as if!!) Oh, um, er, we know that one, it's on the tip of our film reel ...



Just some of the comments on the night of our legendary Phoenix Festive Fun Film Quiz as your fevered film minds wrestled with the obscure and forgotten titles, the movie links (it was Paris, by the way, "France" was just too vague, I'm afraid!) and the difference between Quentin Tarantino, Betty Boop and Lee Remick.

Well done to all of you who took part, and we hope you enjoyed the finale to our Autumn season. We would have given the Brexit at Tiffany's team a prize just for their name, but we feared an instant demonstration at the exits by the Gilets Jaunes. The quiz and a separate set of answers are available on our website. Anyway, once again thank you for your support throughout 2018, and I guess if you are reading this, you are already back and enjoying our Spring season. And remember, with or without Arnie as questionmaster, we'll be back! so start re-reading your Halliwell's now!

Team name	Score/136	Pos'n
SANTA'S LITTLE HELPERS	117	1
BREXIT AT TIFFANY'S	111	2
THE BIBLIOPHILES	107	3
LES GILETS JAUNES	102½	4
PAT'S PETS	97	5=
SAMANTHA	97	5=
CARRY ON TENNIS	96	7
PLAN B	95	8
THE MINCE PIES	91	9
THE HAS BEENS	90	10
THE 2 OF US	87½	11
5 WINES AND 6 MINCE TART	77	12
THE CHRISTMAS SWEATERS	74	13
THE DESERTERS	73	14
THE UNDECIDED	67½	15
THE SHAMBLES	65	16

In A Perfect (Phoenix) World!

Since 2016, there have been three films with the title **In a Perfect World**, and we have screened none of them at the Phoenix. Even the 1993 Kevin Costner/Clint Eastwood movie **A Perfect World** didn't make it to our programme, but nevertheless, we strive to be the perfect film society for all our members. We sincerely hope that what the Phoenix does meets with our members' satisfaction, at all times, at least on the whole. Your comments on the voting slips are always read very carefully each week, in addition to your film suggestions. Your reactions to our films covers the gamut of the votes available, but are, of course, very subjective. Nevertheless, in a more general way, we accept that from time to time, there are issues that arise that relate less to the film, or there are things that members ask us about, with a view to improving things. So, in no particular order, here are some of those issues that members have mentioned in dispatches over the past year or so. And if your particular worry isn't aired this time around, part two will appear in our next Newsletter.



The lighting in the Cinema: It's too bright. It's too dark. When should it come up at the end of a film? The lighting in the Cinema is fixed and controlled from the projection box and even then cannot be changed easily. We can ask for certain changes, but in general we are limited in our choices. It is not quite a case of the lights being on bright or down low, but it is difficult to find exactly what is best for all times of our screening evenings. We accept that many of you like to read the Weekly Film Notes whilst waiting for the film to start, so we have asked for the lights to be sufficiently bright for that (but see below). Equally, there are many who like to watch the credits at the end of a film, for which at least semi-darkness is undoubtedly best. At the same time, there are those who want to leave their seats once

those credits start rolling, and we have to be aware that this can happen safely. Another dilemma that is not easy to solve, but we are working on it.

The (sound of) our pre-film music: Is it necessary? Is it too loud? The musics playing prior to a film starting is a relatively recent addition to what we hope is your full evening's entertainment, with all the music played before a film having strong links to the movie itself in some way. Clearly, we have hit the right note for some of you, who have commented positively on what has been played over the Cinema PA. However, the sound level has not always been judged appropriately (usually too noisy) so in response to a number of complaints we now try to ensure it is not too loud to drown out conversation, whilst at the same time offering an apposite prelude to the evening's film.

The colour of paper for our Weekly Film Notes: Impossible to read under the lights! Never read them, I want to make up my own mind. Again, when we have the WFNs printed, we try to choose paper colour that may link, albeit loosely, with the movie. However, Adrian is regularly telling me that the text when printed on certain paper colours available to us simply renders that text illegible. We are working to find a compromise, avoiding colours that are really tricky, without forcing you into an early visit to Specsavers.

The introductions: To introduce or not to introduce, that is the question! There is at least one person in the Cinema every week who would give his eye teeth not to appear on stage to introduce the film, and indeed some of you have said you would be happy not to have to listen to the drivel that is offered by him each Wednesday. Despite saying to ourselves that we would drop the intros, they are still there, and for now at least whilst that situation obtains, we hope very much they add something (however small) to your evening's enjoyment. As for the all-singing, all-dancing microphone, don't blame us, we're just the messenger. To ensure it works in future, we may ask all members to bring along two spare AA batteries for emergency use!



The back rows of seating: Another hoary old chestnut, but those seats are kept free for good reason as previously explained. A summary of our policy on this, from Newsletter 9 March 2017, reads: we reserve the back row for our volunteer UF staff so they can come in late or continue to work on the show without disturbing the rest of the audience. We also have a few people with mobility difficulties together with those accompanying them. They either need seats near the first aisle so we allocate a small number of designated seats accordingly, or some of the rear seating space. Voilà.

Little blue light (and the green ones sometimes!): Most of you are probably completely unaware of this issue, but if you sit down near in the front rows of the Cinema, more or less in the middle, you may see a little blue light just below and behind the screen, that is permanently on, even when we have all gone home. We have asked what it is (Sorry, no idea.), who would know about it (Sorry no idea!!), and most pertinently, how it can be switched off (Sorry, no idea!!!). End of, with our apologies! As for the occasionally flashing little green lights up on the ceiling, we simply ask Why travel to the Arctic when we have our own aurora borealis right here in Southampton? Seriously, and sadly once again, no idea, so resolving this is a work in progress. However, you may rest assured that the minute we find a sparky who can ensure it never happens again, s/he will get a "Gaffer" credit in a subsequent Newsletter.

A Thank you note from Southampton Amnesty International

Dear Phoenix Members,



On behalf of the Southampton group of Amnesty International I would like to thank the Phoenix film society and its members not just for kindly taking part in Amnesty's Write for Rights campaign, but also for marking the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights each year by showing a human rights related film. The members of the Phoenix sent 74 beautiful and heartfelt cards to Atena Daemi, an Iranian woman jailed for speaking against the death penalty in her country, and to Gulzar Duishenova, a campaigner for the rights of people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. They also very generously donated £37.08.

Thank you and best wishes. Giampaolo D'Alessandro Chair - Southampton-City group of AI