

Tue 28 Jan (1 day only) 7.45pm
SYSTEM CRASHER (Cert TBC)

Wild and troubled, 9-year-old Benni (Helena Zengel) is on a quest for love and security, desperate to be back at home with her mother. But Bianca is scared of her own daughter and Benni has already become a "system crasher", the unofficial, controversial name given to children who slip through the cracks. All is not lost however, when a new child care worker offers a seed of hope.

System Crasher is a deeply moving portrait of the vulnerability of childhood, challenging conventional attitudes to innocence and systems of support, with an exceptional, no-holds barred performance from Zengel.
Germany (subtitled), 2019, 118mins

Thu 30 Jan (1 day only) 7.45pm
FIRST A GIRL (U)

First a Girl is a brilliant 1930s British musical to rival Hollywood's best. A sly, sparkling romantic comedy with extravagant choreography, starring Jessie Matthews as Elizabeth, a delivery girl who dreams of treading the boards. After gate crashing and failing her first audition, she meets Victor (Sonny Hale), a fellow reject with a back up gig as a female impersonator. When illness renders him unable to perform, who could possibly take his place? Taking its risqué (for its time) storyline from the 1933 German film *Vicktor und Viktorina*, First a Girl is the glamorous epitome of an unheralded aspect of 1930s British cinema.

UK (B/W), 1935, 93mins

This screening is supported by the BFI Film Audience Network and is part of the BFI Musicals season.



Fri 31 Jan & Sat 1 Feb (2 days) 7.45pm
LITTLE WOMEN (PG)

Greta Gerwig adapts Louisa May Alcott's classic 19th century novel following the March sisters' passage from childhood to womanhood in New England in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Gerwig brings an all-star cast to an enduring favourite, casting Florence Pugh, Emma Watson, Saoirse Ronan and Eliza Scanlan as Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, with Laura Dern and Meryl Streep as the matriarchs.

USA, 2019, 135 mins

Coming Soon
JOJO RABBIT (12A)
THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD (PG)

Screen **Wednesday** Staffordshire Film Archive

Wed 4 Dec	THE BOVEDY ILLUMINATIONS	
Wed 11 Dec	FIRSTS19	6.00-9.00pm
Wed 15 Jan	WHAT'S "IN THE ROUND" COMES AROUND	
Wed 22 Jan	ARRIVE20	6.00-9.00pm
Wed 29 Jan	MACBETH	

Local films from Ray Johnson's Staffordshire Film Archives.

Seats are free and are on a first come, first served basis. Screenings begin at 7.45pm, unless otherwise stated.

Full programme details can be found at www.stokefilmtheatre.org.uk

Booking

Telephone bookings for any film in this programme can be made between 12.30 and 1.30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday only by calling **01782 411188**.

Alternatively, you may book online at www.stokefilmtheatre.org.uk

Every effort will be made to book the seats requested, but we strongly recommend that tickets are booked early to avoid disappointment.

All pre-booked tickets must be paid for in advance and there will be a charge of 50p per transaction to cover the cost of providing this service (please have your Debit/ Credit card details available when phoning). No refunds will be given for uncollected or cancelled tickets.

Tickets are also available on the night of the screening at **The Box Office**, which is open from 7pm.

Seat prices are £6 (full price) and £5.00 (concessions). Cash sales only on the night. Carers accompanying disabled customers to the Film Theatre will be admitted free of charge.

Screen Wednesday (Staffordshire Film Archive) films are free of charge. **No tickets are required** and seats are occupied on a first come, first served basis.

Facilities for disabled people



Audio descriptive narration is available for some films, as indicated by 'Audio description available'.

The Film Theatre is equipped with special facilities to make films available to everyone. Please talk to us about your requirements whatever your disability; alternatively we can be contacted by emailing access@stokefilmtheatre.org.uk

How to find us

The Film Theatre is in College Road, just round the corner from Stoke on Trent railway station.

Parking

Parking is available for Film Theatre patrons on the Beacon Car Park at Staffordshire University. If the barrier is down, press the bell symbol on the panel and the barrier will be raised. If this car park is full, additional spaces may be accessed by continuing on from this entrance and through the next barrier, to spaces at the back of the university and round to the other side of the Film Theatre.

EUROPA CINEMAS
CREATIVE EUROPE - MEDIA SUB-PROGRAMME

Web: www.stokefilmtheatre.org.uk

Email: admin@stokefilmtheatre.org.uk

Weekly updates and advance notices are available from our blog or via email, further details and the RSS feed link may be found on the website



@StokeFilm



StokeFilmTheatre

Director: Grace Jordan; Programming: Russell Heath
Stoke Film Theatre, College Road, Stoke on Trent ST4 2EF
Tel: 01782 411188

Registered Charity no. 504600

Front cover: Emma Watson in 'Little Women'

This has been another Simply Ears Ahead Production • Email: noel@sergeantdesign.com



Stoke on Trent's Independent Cinema



5th December 2019 -
1st February 2020

www.stokefilmtheatre.org.uk
College Road ST4 2EF 01782 411188

Thu 5 Dec (1 day only) 7.45pm

MEETING GORBACHEV (PG)

Werner Herzog and Andre Singer's riveting documentary of Herzog's expansive interview of Mikhail Gorbachev, the now 87-year-old former General Secretary of The USSR. Formed from meetings conducted over a six month period to recount the story of a pivotal political figure. Meeting Gorbachev is a fascinating account of a humanist politician gracefully revealing wisdom and commitment to peace in response to Herzog's sincere inquisition.

UK/Germany/USA (subtitled), 2019, 90 mins

Fri 6 Dec (1 day only) 7.45pm

MONOS (15)

High on a remote mountain in Latin America, a group of young guerillas, watch over a prisoner and dairy cow for a shadowy force known as "The Organisation". Isolated above the billowing clouds and distant gunfire, the teenage soldiers' carefree camaraderie and hedonism is ephemeral, overshadowed by an impending mysterious signal.

One of the most talked about films of the year, Monos is an acclaimed and disquieting tale of war and survival, an original, hallucinogenic and intoxicating thriller from Alejandro Landes.

Colombia/Argentina/Netherlands/Germany, (subtitled), 2019, 102 mins

Sat 7 & Tue 10 Dec (2 days) Early start at 7.30pm

THE IRISHMAN (15)

Martin Scorsese's epic saga of organised crime in postwar America, recounting of the life and times of Frank "The Irishman" Sheeran, the former union official and hitman, and the part he claimed to have played in the disappearance of his life-long friend, Jimmy Hoffa.

Scorsese uses state-of-the-art visual effects to 'de-age' the cast from their 70s through their 30s in an engrossing tale, that audaciously cuts between decades and brings together a stellar cast including Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Joe Pesci, Harvey Keitel and Anna Paquin.

USA, 2019, 209 mins

Thu 12 Dec (1 day only) 7.45pm

MAKING WAVES: THE ART OF CINEMATIC SOUND (12A)

An exploration of the artistry and emotional power of cinema sound from veteran sound editor and first-time director Midge Costin. Costin's immersive documentary celebrates this underappreciated but critical aspect of cinema, through an aural-focused grand tour of film history. Costin interviews unsung sound designers and visionary directors, but the emphasis is on the former, whose recording and mixing board skills shape the way we experience cinema. Exemplary film scenes are presented, and a look at the actual process of sound creation complements the interviews to pay homage to the magic of cinema.

USA, 2019, 94 mins

Fri 13 & Sat 14 Dec (2 days) 7.45pm

LAST CHRISTMAS (12A)

The Film Theatre's festive offering this year is a Christmas musical written by Emma Thompson inspired by and featuring the music and lyrics of George Michael and Wham! She also plays Petra, whose daughter Kate's poor decision making may have played a part in her working all-year-round as an elf in a Christmas shop. Moving from Game of Thrones to romantic comedy, Emilia Clarke plays Kate, who is unwilling to trust herself or all-round nice guy, Tom (Henry Golding). But sometimes you have to listen to your heart, and it has to be said, sometimes you gotta have faith.

UK/USA, 2019, 103 mins

Tue 7 & Thu 9 Jan (2 days) 7.45pm

THE AERONAUTS (PG)

Felicity Jones and Eddie Redmayne take to the air in a heart-racing and breathless adventure story about flight and scientific endeavour. It's 1862 and intrepid balloon pilot Amelia Wren is about to embark on mankind's highest-ever balloon voyage with the headstrong scientist James Glaisher. Both have their reasons to doubt each other and their own place in the world, so rising high above it has its appeal, but as their perilous ascent threatens their survival, self discovery and trust, or least not bickering, could prove to be vital.

UK/USA, 2019, 101 mins

Fri 10 Jan (1 day only) 7.45pm

MARRIAGE STORY (15)

Noah Baumbach's piercing and compassionate look at a marriage breaking up and a family staying together. Adam Driver and Scarlett Johansson deliver some of their finest work as Charlie and Nicole, whose once enviable union and subsequent graceful separation crumbles as their lives diverge. With this premise, Marriage Story could have fallen prey to a mercilessly bleak view of married life, but Baumbach's elegant narrative foregoes despair, finding incidental humour amid rancour and tenderness in the love and life that first brought the couple together.

USA, 2019, 136 mins

Sat 11, Tue 14 & Thu 16 Jan (3 days) 7.45pm

KNIVES OUT (12A)



seemingly none of them have a reason to kill their benefactor.

Knives Out is a classic, cine-literate murder mystery as sharp as a blade, with a stellar cast and unexpected twists and turns from start to finish.

USA, 2019, 130 mins

Fri 17 Jan (1 day only) 7.45pm

JUDY & PUNCH (15)

Judy & Punch is a larger than life fairy tale that reinterprets the origins of the famous puppet show narrative. Turning the traditional story of Punch and Judy on its head as a fierce, darkly comic female-driven revenge story. Mia Wasikowska is terrific as Judy, a famous puppeteer who lives with her husband Punch (Damon Herriman) in the peculiar and peculiarly named town of Seaside; a grim inland place gripped by a frenzy of witch hunts and hangings. When Punch's drinking binges lead to tragedy, Judy is blamed and she finds herself amid the town's outcast heretics and bent on enacting vengeance on Punch and the entire town.

Australia, 2019, 106 mins

Sat 18 & Tue 21 Jan (2 days) 7.45pm

THE TWO POPES (Cert TBC)

Cardinal Bergoglio (Jonathan Pryce) is disillusioned, a contender to be the next pope, but discontent with the direction that the church is taking. Subsequently, his retirement request leads to the traditionalist Cardinal Ratzinger (Anthony Hopkins) emerging from the Conclave to become Pope Benedict XVI. However, the institution still faces a reckoning with itself and the two men find themselves brought together.

Director Fernando Mereilles captures the chemistry between Hopkins and Pryce, who relish the rich dialogue and interplay, as the pontiffs tussle over the future of the Catholic Church.

UK/Italy/Argentina/USA, 2019, 125 mins



Thu 23 Jan (1 day only) 7.45pm

HONEY BOY (Cert TBC)

Adapted from a screenplay by Shia LaBeouf, and based on his own experiences, filmmaker Alma Har'el brings to life a young actor's stormy childhood and early adult years struggling to reconcile with his father through cinema and dreams. LaBeouf takes on the cathartic challenge of playing a version of his own father in a complex film, full of narrative and meta-narrative twists, playing opposite Lucas Hedges and Noah Jupe as Otis at 12 and 22 years-of-age respectively.

USA, 2019, 93mins

Fri 24 & Sat 25 Jan (2 days) 7.45pm

THE REPORT (15)

The American government takes a long hard look at itself in this politically urgent drama. Adam Driver stars as Daniel J. Jones, an idealistic senate aid tasked by Senator Dianne Feinstein (Annette Bening) with delivering a definitive report on the CIA's Detention and Interrogation Program in the face of resistance from powerful establishment figures.

The Report is a compelling thriller that tips its hat to 1970s politically conscious cinema, demonstrating the need for a nation to look clearly-eyed into its darkest hours.

USA, 2019, 120 mins