

VHC Film Club

Review of films for the season 2017/8

The Cuddington and Sandiway Village Hall Winter Film Season for 2017/18 will have a Hollywood theme. After the embarrassment this year at the Oscars, when the wrong film was announced as the Best Picture, it was thought that audiences would like to make up their own minds so no less than four of this year's top Academy nominations are being shown. The season kicks off on September 13th with the film that many thought would win, *La La Land*, a Hollywood musical love story, and it is followed up in October with the actual winner, *Moonlight*, described by Mark Kermode in the *Observer* as a "heart-breaking, uplifting, minor-key masterpiece". Later, in December, audiences can see *Hidden Figures*, a film based on the true stories of three African-American women who rose through the ranks of NASA tasked with calculating the launch of astronaut John Glenn into space, and in January, the stunning *Lion* will be screened. Featuring moving performances by Nicole Kidman and Dev Patel, this Australian-made film tells the story of a lost boy transported from India to Tasmania.

The English film-making tradition is represented by *Their Finest* (November). Set in London during the Blitz a film-crew set off to make a film that will warm the hearts of the nation. Based on the comic novel *Their Finest Hour and a Half* by Lissa Evans, it features an outrageous part for Bill Nighy as what Peter Bradshaw in the *Guardian* describes as "a colossally proportioned scene-stealer". Some other scene-stealers, Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine and Alan Arkin, feature in another comedy, *Going in Style* (February). Three seniors decide to buck retirement and rob a bank...problem is, they don't even know how to handle a gun!

In March the season will be offering something very different with the highly acclaimed documentary, *Tomorrow (Demain)*. A surprisingly feel-good movie, it looks at the world's ecological crisis and investigates the solutions accessible to everyone, shedding light on concrete initiatives that already work and showing us, in a positive way, what the world of tomorrow could really be.

The final film of the season in April returns to the Hollywood theme with a showing of a restoration of one of the most beloved of all American films, *The Graduate* which is 50 this year. A sensation on its original release in 1967, *The Graduate* earned Mike Nichols a Best Director Oscar, introduced the music of Simon & Garfunkel to a wider audience, featured one of the most famous seductions in movie history and introduced the world to the young Dustin Hoffman, who coincidentally is 80 this year!

All showings are supported by Arts Alive *Flicks in the Sticks* and are at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month from September to April. Tickets are £3.50 and refreshments are served afterwards. Everyone is welcome.