



Thu 19 Apr (1 day only) 7.45pm
SWEET COUNTRY (15)

It's 1929 and Sam works for a preacher in the outback of Australia's Northern Territory. When Harry, a bitter and racist war veteran moves into a neighbouring outpost, the preacher sends Sam and his family to help, with dire consequences. Accused of murder, Sam and his wife Lizzie try to stay ahead of an enraged posse in this powerful period drama from Australian director Warwick Thornton. With gorgeous cinematography and impressive performances from Hamilton Morris, Sam Neill, Natassia Gorey Furber and Bryan Brown, Sweet Country is a compelling tale.

Australia, 2017, 113 mins

Fri 20 & Sat 21 Apr (2 days) 7.45pm
YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE (15)

We Need To Talk About Kevin and Ratcatcher director, Lynne Ramsay, makes her long-awaited return with this brilliantly executed minimalist noir starring Joaquin Phoenix. Phoenix plays Joe, a traumatised Gulf War veteran and former FBI agent who has become desensitised to violence and conventional morality. When Nina, a US senator's daughter, is kidnapped by a child sex ring, Joe is tasked with bringing his particular talents to bear upon the perpetrators and affect her rescue.

Less concerned by thriller conventions and its sensational subject matter, Ramsay focuses on her relentless protagonist's psyche, using imagery and Jonny Greenwood's superlative score to create a masterful new work.

UK/France/USA, 2017, 90 mins

Screen **Wednesday** Staffordshire Film Archive

Wed 21 Mar **FINDING WEE PADDY - New Documentary**
 Wed 11 Apr **STOKE CINE AND VIDEO SOCIETY - 2018**
 Wed 18 Apr **VICTORIA THEATRE - THE EARLY YEARS**

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

Our regular car park has been re-named the Beacon Car Park and is now open for our use and is free of charge during the screenings.

If this car park is full you may continue past the entrance and through the barrier ahead of you where you may park in any of the spaces around the back of the University and round to the other side of the Film Theatre building.

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: Joaquin Phoenix in 'You Were Never Really Here'

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



Stoke on Trent's Independent Cinema



15th March -
 21st April 2018

www.stokefilmtheatre.org.uk

College Road ST4 2EF **01782 411188**

Thu 15 Mar (1 day only) 7.45pm

A WOMAN'S LIFE (12A)

Adapted from Guy De Maupassant's novel, *Une Vie*, *A Woman's Life* follows the life of Jeanne le Perthuis de Vauds over 27 years, from rural beginnings, to life married to an aristocrat, and all the painful realisations, dreams and disappointments along the way. Judith Chemla gives a superb central performance as Jeanne, alongside Yolande Moreau and Jean-Pierre Darroussin as her parents, in Stéphane Brizé's compelling story about a woman's experiences in 19th Century Normandy.

France/Belgium (subtitled), 2017, 119 mins

Fri 16 & Sat 17 Mar (2 days) 7.45pm
3.00 pm matinee Saturday

EARLY MAN (PG)

Early Man is the new adventure from Nick Park and Aardman Animations, the much acclaimed creators of *Wallace & Grommit*. Set in the Neo-Pleistocene era it tells the story of courageous caveman hero Dug and his best friend Hognob as they unite their tribe against mighty enemy Lord Nooth to save their home. The voices of Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hiddleston and Timothy Spall, among others, complement Aardman's distinctive stop-motion in a gloriously funny tale of Stone Age football's finest hour.

UK/France, 2018, 89 mins

Tue 20 & Thur 22 Mar (2 days) 7.45pm

THE MERCY (12A)



A haunting maritime biopic from *Man On Wire* director James Marsh. Colin Firth stars as Donald Crowhurst, the amateur British sailor who in 1968 entered the Sunday Times Golden Globe Race, the first non-stop, single-handed, round-the-world yacht race. Marsh captures the inexperience, dramatic struggles and intense loneliness of Crowhurst, to offer an insight into the life of a man who remains a quixotic and mysterious figure in British history. Colin Firth, Rachel Weisz and David Thewlis provide complex, expressive performances in a gripping tale of ambition and adventure.

UK, 2017, 102 mins

Fri 23, Sat 24 & Tue 27 Mar (3 days) 7.45pm

THE SHAPE OF WATER (15)

At the height of the Cold War, two workers in a US government laboratory discover a terrifying secret experiment in this otherworldly fairytale from Guillermo del Toro. Sally Hawkins stars as Eliza, a lonely cleaner who communicates through signing after her vocal chords were removed as a child. Appalled by the cruel experiment, she forms a bond with its subject, an amphibious creature of unknown origin. With subtext and allegory for those who are looking for it, *The Shape Of Water* is a delight, a blend of romantic fantasy, B-movies and Cold War thriller; proof that love takes many forms.

USA, 2017, 123 mins

Thu 29 Mar (1 day only) 7.45pm

DARK RIVER (15)

One of the UK's most distinctive contemporary filmmakers, Clio Barnard follows *The Selfish Giant* and *The Arbor* with this acclaimed Yorkshire-set drama. Ruth Wilson excels as Alice in an atmospheric and layered drama about the old wounds and bitter new grievances prompted when a woman returns home to settle the tenancy of her family's farm. Battling sibling discord in a fraught and fragile situation, Alice must come to terms with her past and the trauma she suffered at the hands of her abusive father. Inspired by Rose Tremain's novel *Trespass*, *Dark River* is an assured and atmospheric work with an acute sense of place.

UK, 2017, 90 mins

Fri 30 & Sat 31 Mar, & Tue 3 Apr (3 days) 7.45pm

LADY BIRD (15)

Greta Gerwig's sweet and much adored ode to adolescence, small towns and the bonds between mothers and daughters. Saoirse Ronan stars as the confused, precocious teenager Christine, or as she prefers to be called, Lady Bird. She's in her last year at a Catholic school and dreams of cosmopolitan culture and Ivy League universities, aspirations that antagonise her mother (Laurie Metcalf), a nurse working tirelessly to keep her family afloat. *Lady Bird* is a moving and gloriously funny film about growing up, mother-daughter relationships and the anxiety of separation.



USA, 2017, 94 mins

Thu 5 Apr (1 day only) 7.45pm

THE NILE HILTON INCIDENT (15)

A rising young police detective in Cairo is assigned the case of a murdered singer in this brilliant Egyptian thriller. Detective Noredin initially views the investigation as just another opportunity to squeeze the usual suspects and pocket a few more bribes, but as he uncovers increasingly disturbing details about the reach of the crime, this ambivalent anti-hero finds his conscience piqued. Based on a true story, this is a political thriller that grips like a vice, an excoriating portrait of systemic corruption, set in the days before the 2011 Tahrir Square uprising.

Sweden/Denmark/Germany/France (subtitled), 2017, 106 mins

Fri 6 & Sat 7 Apr (2 days) 7.45pm

FINDING YOUR FEET (12A)

A heart-warming modern comedy about refinding yourself and starting over, starring Imelda Staunton as Lady Sandra Abbot, who, while celebrating the retirement of her husband of 40 years, discovers he's been having an affair with her best friend. After reluctantly moving in with her estranged sister Bif, she even more reluctantly allows herself to be dragged along to the local community dance class, where a new lease of life, new friends and the possibilities of romance await her. An all-star cast includes Timothy Spall, Joanna Lumley and Celia Imrie.

UK, 2017, 111 mins

Tue 10 Apr (1 day only) 7.45pm

THE MAGIC FLUTE (PG)

The tale of Prince Tamino and his quest to rescue the beautiful Princess Pamina from the clutches of the evil Sarastro. Ingmar Bergman directs this warm and witty adaptation of Mozart's opera with a light touch, highlighting its exuberant theatrical illusion and the emotions conveyed by an excellent young cast. Beginning with the faces of a rapt audience (including Bergman himself) enjoying the overture, in a set replicating a lovely 18th century theatre, in which Bergman presents a performance of musical excellence, dramatic vitality and enormous, effortless charm. A celebration of love, forgiveness, and the brotherhood of man.

Sweden (subtitled), 1975, 137 mins

Thu 12 Apr (1 day only) 7.45pm

A FANTASTIC WOMAN (15)

Chilean director Sebastián Lelio follows the acclaimed *Gloria* with this Academy Award nominated, luminous and life-affirming portrait of a young transgender woman. Marina is a waitress and aspiring singer making tentative steps towards moving in with her partner, Orlando. When he suffers a fatal aneurysm, Marina comes under suspicion by virtue of her gender identity, and is treated like a criminal by doctors, police and most callously by Orlando's family. A superb performance from Daniela Vega as Marina is at the heart of a powerful, touching film about a truly complex, strong, and fantastic woman.

Chile/Germany/Spain/USA (subtitled), 2017, 104 mins

Fri 13 Apr (1 day only) 7.45pm
I, TONYA (15)

Based on the unbelievable, but true events, *I, Tonya* is a darkly comic tale of American figure skater, Tonya Harding, and one of the most sensational scandals in her sport's, or any sport's, history. An irreverent and at times absurd, tragicomic biopic, *I, Tonya* presents the ill-conceived (and even more poorly executed) plan that defines her legacy. Margot Robbie's performance as Tonya is picking up award nominations for its piercing portrayal of Harding's life and career in all of its unchecked and checkered glory.

USA, 2017, 119 mins



Sat 14 & Tue 17 Apr (2 days) 7.45pm

THE SQUARE (15)

Director Ruben Östlund returns with this Palme d'Or-winning satire on art, culture and communication in the digital age, centred on Christian, the chief curator of a respected art museum in Stockholm. On the verge of opening his next exhibition, his life and the museum's reputation is thrown into crisis by a series of troubles, including a backfiring PR campaign, an awkward fling with a journalist and a performance art centrepiece that simply defies wisdom. *The Square* is a funny and bracingly surreal dissection of the art-world starring Claes Bang, Elisabeth Moss and Dominic West.

Sweden/Germany/France/Denmark (subtitled), 2017, 151 mins