



Ree/Buzz

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PALACE NOVA

WALLIS

President's Report

Hello all and welcome to a new shiny 2000 Film Society. Actually, your new committee has already been busily working for you, as the many of you that have come to our screenings so far this year will know. Our traditional O'Week film, *A Clockwork Orange*, was a big success, and our weekly films are attracting large audiences - or is the promise of our fabulous door prizes from the Palace and Wallis Cinemas? For those of you that haven't come along yet, we have a brand new Term 2 programme out. Remember, if you have anything you desperately want to see on the "big" screen, let us know, and we can try and get hold of it. Our updated email discussion list should be up and running, so suggestions, reviews and discussion on things film-related are more than welcome. For those of you more practically oriented, at some stage we will hold training for wannabe projectionists, or if you want to get into making your own film, put your ideas onto the list, see who else is interested and we may be able to help out.

And now it's time to Meet Your Committee! Firstly, yours truly, immediate past secretary and

immediate President, Susan Love. You all know and love her, it's Esther Speight, immediate past president, now President of Vice, aka Veep. The mighty master of the chequebook remains David Ireland, Treasurer. Dutiful Marcus Hicks takes up the post of minute-maker - Secretary and CA delegate.

Next, the general committee: You'll all know the friendly front-of-house faces of Kirk Svenson and Matt Harvey, colleagues of Marcus. Then there's our Minister of Propaganda, aka Posterboy, Guy Olding - if you don't read his taglines, you miss half the fun. The man behind the mailing lists is Webmeister David Drury. General helper-outerers are: Paul Huntley, David Sarkies, Robin Chua, Martin Harris, Patrice San and Beach House girl Alex Jennings. And finally, the reason you're reading this now, Anna Solding, aka Reelbuzz Ed! And hi to our observers from afar, Helen, Mike, Bronwyn and Chris.

- Sue

P.S. This will be my only sentence to mention the Academy Awards. There.

Reviews

Boys Don't Cry
Palace Eastend Cinemas
Directed by Kimberly Peirce

Boys Don't Cry is the sad true story of a woman who passed for a man and won everybody's hearts doing it. Teena Brandon (Hilary Swank) flees the small town she lives in to be able to become Brandon Teena, without anyone knowing her true identity. With his charming innocence



Brandon manages to capture the attention of Lana (Chloe Sevigny), a young woman who wants to get out of town. Brandon and Lana are happy in love until their lives spin out of control when Lana's violent friend John (Peter Sarsgaard) unravels Brandon's double identity.

This is such a strong film. It is not just a beautiful love story but a story of identity, of fear of the unknown, of the implications of class and gender on the lives of young people in a small town. Hilary Swank is mesmerising as Brandon. She won a well-deserved Academy Award for her performance. Chloe Sevigny as Lana and the other supporting actors all do a fabulous job. Not one scene is wasted in the hands of co-writer/director Kimberly Peirce hands. She dares to go close up when it is needed, but also has the ability to step back and let the dynamics between

the characters speak for itself. I cannot remember ever seeing a film depict class in such a true and sympathetic way as this film does.. Despite its particularity it speaks to all of us. Swank says: "we're all trying to find our way in life and figure out who we are, what we want and how to be accepted". At best, this film will open your eyes to your own way of dealing with life. At worst, it will give you two hours of well-structured entertainment. Whichever one applies to you, *Boys Don't Cry* is a must-see!



All About My Mother
Palace Eastend Cinemas
Dir: Pedro Almodovar

All About My Mother is the latest offering from Spanish writer/director Pedro Almodovar. In case the name doesn't "ring a bell" for you, his filmography includes *Live Flesh* (his last, and best film until now); *What have I done to deserve this?*; *High Heels*; *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down* and *Laws of Desire*. Almodovar is the best known post-Franco Spanish filmmaker and he perhaps even rivals Carlos Saura as "the best known". Almodovar will be 49 this year and his films are beginning to show this maturity. I am not saying he is "showing his age" or "getting too old for the job", on the contrary, his age has brought something new to his films. The change began in 1991 with *High Heels* but was not truly evident until *Live Flesh* in 1997. I should note at

this point that we always get his films a year late.

All About My Mother is an emotive tale of people's relationships with their mothers and their attempts to understand their mothers as individual people. The film features two Almodovar regulars (he is one of those directors who reuses actors over and



over and it seems to have paid off). Cecilia Roth,

who has immense charisma, plays the lead Manuela. Her previous Almodovar films include *Pepi, Luci, Bom and the rest of the girls* (Almodovar's first feature in 1980); *Labrynth of Passion* (1982); *Dark Habits* (1983) and *What have I done to deserve this?* (1984). Marisa Paredes is in a supporting role and her previous Almodovar titles are *High Heels* (1991) and *The Flower of My Secret* (1995). Penelope Cruz a well known actress in Europe is also in a supporting role and destined to be an Almodovar regular.

It is not possible to say much about the storyline without giving the whole thing away. The film relies on a certain amount of intrigue as well as drama and humour.

All About My Mother contains the usual spectacularly coloured Almodovarian sets as well as his usual "bent twists". This is a wonderful film that deserved the Oscar it won for Best Foreign Film at this year's Academy Awards. It was presented to Pedro Almodovar by Penelope Cruz and Antonio Banderas, who was one of his regulars in the early

80s. This is one of the best films (English language and foreign) that I have seen in a long time.

Go and see this film!

ChrisB

Twin Falls Idaho
Palace Eastend Cinemas
Directed by Michael Polish

Blake and Francis Falls are twins. What makes them different from most other twins is the fact that they are conjoined (Siamese). They have one arm each, share one middle leg and are joined all along their torso. Blake explains to Penny (Michele Hicks), the woman he is falling in love with, how he cherishes the two minutes of the day when he feels alone; the minute he wakes up and the minute before sleep. It is moving and feels true. The vary talented young Polish brothers (themselves identical twins) have not only, between them, written and directed but they also act the parts of the conjoined Blake and Francis.

Twin Falls Idaho starts off promisingly in a seedy neighbourhood in an unnamed city, where the brothers have taken refuge in a hotel room. Only one day of the year can they walk the streets without being stared at, on Halloween. Although their situation seems too sad for words, Blake and Francis have a way of coping through black humour and love for eachother. It is this brotherly love for Francis, who is always there next to Blake when he wakes up, that is explored and contrasted with the love he feels for Penny.

Unfortunately, the film abandons the fascinating idea of sexual love far too easily. To have been inspired by a pair

of Siamese twins who both married and had 22 children between them, *Twin Falls Idaho* seems tame. Yet the film has merits, especially Mark and Michael Polish's acting and the eerie felling created in the beginning of the film, which brings to mind the Cohen brothers' *Barton Fink*.



Mark explains the film's title this way: "Blake and Francis are twins, their surname is Falls, and when we first see them, they're living in a hotel on Idaho Avenue". The audience is expected to pick up the pieces along the way. I only wish there had been a few more to pick up.



Week-end away

A review of an AUFS Weekend away at Sellicks Beach.

What do you get when you place between 15 and 20 people in a house at Sellick's Beach with a video player, some alcohol, and some movie catalogues? Well the answer is an AUFS Weekend Away.

If you then add in some fine cooking and

excellent company, and you might then get an idea of what this weekend may have been like. Throw in some midnight walks along the beach, an exploration of how high a person can climb up a cliff, and how far someone can walk along the beach, several movies, some cartoons, lots of discussions, some embarrassing quotes, a movie that showed up where it shouldn't have, an overflowing septic tank, and a stray dog, and you'll come close to understanding what a Film Society Weekend Away is like.

For those interested, some photos and a couple of quotes shall shortly be appearing on the web page.

Thanks should go to the Jennings family for the venue and the food, and to Alex Jennings for being such a wonderful host.

For those of you now thinking that they want to go to one of these, another is being planned to occur soon, keep an eye in ReelBuzz, or on your e-mail for announcements.

David Drury



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