



## U3A FILM GROUP – PROGRAMME: January – June 2025

Venue: Stewart Bowling Club; Time: 2pm

### Friday 3 January 2025 – Living (2022)

Starring: Bill Nighy

Director: Oliver Hermanns

Running time: 99 minutes

In London 1953, Mr Williams (Bill Nighy) is a veteran civil servant, a cog in the city's stifling bureaucracy as it struggles to rebuild following WWII. After a shattering health diagnosis, it dawns on him that he has not been living life to the full. With a screenplay by Nobel Prize winning Kazuo Ishiguru, Living serves as a heart-rending reminder to value what it is to live. This is arguably Nighy's career-best performance.

### Friday 17 January 2025 – Where the Crawdads Sing (2022)

Starring: Daisy Edgar-Jones, Taylor John Smith, Harris Dickinson, Michael Hyatt

Director: Olivia Newman

Running time: 125 minutes

This is a mystery drama film based on the 2018 best-selling novel. Kya is an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumours of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from town, Kya opens herself to a new and startling world, but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by her community as the main suspect. As the case unfolds, the verdict as to what actually happened becomes increasingly unclear, threatening to reveal the many secrets that lay within the marsh.

### Friday 7 February 2025 – Blinded by the Light (2019)

Starring: Viveik Kaira, Kulvinder Ghir, Hayley Atwell

Director: Gurinder Chadha

Running time: 117 minutes

This comedy drama was inspired by the life of journalist Sarfraz Manzoor and is based on his 2007 memoir "Greetings from Bury Park: Race, Religion and Rock N' Roll". Set in Luton in 1987, the film tells the coming-of-age story of Javed, a British-Pakistani Muslim teenager whose life is changed after he discovers the music of Bruce Springsteen.

### Friday 21 February 2025 – Dark Waters (2019)

Starring: Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway, Tim Robbins

Director: Todd Haynes

Running time: 126 minutes

Cincinnati, Ohio 1998: Up-and-coming corporate attorney Robert Bilott, a new partner at a prestigious law firm, is visited by one of his grandmother's neighbours from West Virginia. Angry farmer Wilbur O. Tennant asks him to sue chemical multinational DuPont. His cows, according to the accusation, are being poisoned by a nearby landfill. Such a mandate is actually out of the question for Bilott, because he normally represents corporations. When he drives to remote Parkersburg to see for himself, his mind changes abruptly. The lawyer sees shocking evidence of the poisoning of the cattle with his own eyes: black teeth, huge tumours and terrible deformities. With the backing of his law firm boss Tom Terp, he files a lawsuit and gains access to confidential company files. While DuPont routinely plays for time, Bilott uncovers a scandal that is also endangering the health of many people. Much to his wife's chagrin, the idealistic lawyer gets stuck in the case, putting his career and health at risk. And yet he doesn't give up.



**Friday 7 March 2025 – The Double Life of Veronique (1991)**

Starring: Irène Jacob, Philippe Volter

Director: Krzysztof Kieślowski

Running time: 94 minutes

This is a captivating drama film which delves into themes of identity, love, and human intuition through the intertwined lives of two women: Weronika, a Polish choir soprano, and her doppelgänger, Véronique, a French music teacher. Despite never knowing each other, the two women share an enigmatic and emotional bond that transcends language and geography. If you're drawn to thought-provoking cinema that explores the intricacies of human connection, this film is a must-watch! It won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and the International Federation of Film Critics Prize at the 1991 Cannes Film Festival. Irène Jacob received the Best Actress award for her remarkable dual performance.

Polish and French, with English subtitles

**Friday 21 March 2025 – Brassed Off (1996)**

Starring: Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald, Ewan McGregor

Director: Mark Herman

Running time: 108 minutes

In existence for a hundred years, Grimley Colliery Brass band is as old as the mine. But the miners are now deciding whether to fight to keep the pit open, and the future for town and band looks bleak. Although the arrival of flugelhorn player Gloria injects some life into the players, and bandleader Danny continues to exhort them to continue in the national competition, frictions and pressures are all too evident. And whose side is Gloria actually on?

**Friday 4 April 2025 – Dream House (2011)**

Starring: Daniel Craig, Naomi Watts, Rachel Weisz

Director: Jim Sheridan

Running time: 88 minutes

This is a mind-bending suspense thriller about a man whose only hope for the future is to decipher a puzzling tragedy in his past. Successful publisher Will Atenton (Daniel Craig), his wife (Rachel Weisz) and two daughters are just settling into their new life in a quaint New England town, only to discover their perfect home has a disturbing history. As Will's dream house quickly becomes a nightmare, his reality unravels and it's up to a mysterious stranger, Ann (Naomi Watts) to help him face the truth about what is wrong with his house.

**Friday 18 April 2025 (GOOD FRIDAY) – NO FILM**

**Friday 2 May 2025 – Land of Mine (2015)**

Starring: Roland Møller, Louis Hofmann, Joel Basman

Director: Martin Zandvliet

Running time: 100 minutes

In post-World War II Denmark, the Danish government puts their hated German prisoners of war to work clearing the 1.5 million landmines from the western beaches of the country. At one such beach, Sgt. Carl Leopold Rasmussen finds himself in charge of one such labour unit and finds they are largely all inexperienced boys. As the boys struggle to complete and survive their dangerous work, Sgt. Rasmussen's hate for Germans gradually cools as he grows to understand the horrific situation these child soldiers are in even as the mines claim more and more victims.

German, with English subtitles



**Friday 16 May 2025 – Man on a Ledge (2012)**

Starring: Sam Worthington, Jamie Bell, Elizabeth Banks, Edward Burns, Anthony Mackie, Genesis Rodriguez, Ed Harris

Director: Asger Leth

Running time: 99 minutes

This is an American action thriller film. The plot revolves around Nick Cassidy (Sam Worthington), an ex-cop who was accused of stealing a precious diamond two years ago. Now that he has escaped from confinement, he stands on a New York City building ledge, convincing everyone that he is about to commit suicide. His goal is to prove his innocence by stalling for time and revealing the truth behind the diamond theft. Police psychologist Lydia Mercer (Elizabeth Banks) becomes involved in the situation, attempting to talk him down while the biggest diamond heist ever committed unfolds. Filming took place in New York City on top of the Roosevelt Hotel.

**Friday 6 June 2025 – Outbreak (1995)**

Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Rene Russo, Morgan Freeman

Director: Wolfgang Petersen

Running time: 127 minutes

Colonel Dr. Sam Daniels has just divorced his wife Robby Keough, who works at the CDC. Out of the blue, he is assigned by his superior General Billy Ford to investigate a lethal disease in an African village with his crew formed by the scientist Casey Schuler and Major Dr. Salt. They are impressed by the disease and Colonel Daniels reports to General Ford his findings afraid of contamination in the USA. However General Ford tells that the disease kills so fast that would never reach their country. However, an African smuggled monkey carrier of the disease is brought to USA and the customs employee Jimbo Scott unsuccessfully tries to sell the animal. He releases the monkey in the woods and spreads the disease in the beginning of an outbreak in a small town in California. Now Colonel Daniels, his ex-wife and their teams must fight the invisible enemy while Colonel Daniels discovers dark secrets from his superior General Donald McClintock.

**Friday 20 June 2025 – The Great Escaper (2023)**

Starring: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson, Graeme Dalling, Myles Olofin

Director: Oliver Parker

Running time: 97 minutes

This biographical drama is based on the true story of 89-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan, who “broke out” of his nursing home in Hove to attend the 70th anniversary D-Day commemorations in France in June 2014. The film marked the final screen performances of both lead actors. Glenda Jackson died nine months after filming was finished, and Michael Caine announced his retirement from acting in October 2023.