





**U3A FILM GROUP – PROGRAMME: September – December 2024**











**Venue: Stewart Bowling Club; Time: 2pm**





**Friday 6 September 2024 – Midnight in Paris (2007)**

Starring: Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates, Adrien Brody, Carla Bruni, Marion Cotillard, Tom Hiddleston, Michael Sheen

Director: Woody Allen                      Running time: 90 minutes















Midnight in Paris is a delightful 2011 fantasy comedy film written and directed by Woody Allen. Set in the romantic city of Paris, the film follows the journey of Gil Pender (played by Owen Wilson), a screenwriter who grapples with the shortcomings of his relationship with his materialistic fiancée (Rachel McAdams). As the clock strikes midnight each night, Gil embarks on a whimsical adventure through time, finding himself transported back to the vibrant artistic scene of 1920s Paris. During these magical escapades, he encounters famous writers, artists, and cultural icons of that era. The film received critical acclaim and won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. It was also nominated for three other Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Art Direction.





**Friday 20 September 2024 – Enemy at the Gates (2001)**

Starring: Jude Law, Joseph Fiennes, Rachel Weisz, Bob Hoskins, Ed Harris

Director: Jean-Jaques Annaud                      Running time: 125 minutes













Based on true events, it's 1942 and Stalin has sent Kruschev to personally oversee the city of Stalingrad's defence. Danilov, a political officer encounters Vasilli Zaitsev, a simple soldier who possesses an extraordinary skill – he is a first class shot and has an iron will. Danilov realises that he could be moulded into exactly what Kruschev needs in order to boost troop morale. Zaitsev joins a sniper unit and his dangerous missions are chronicled and embellished, and before long a hero has been born. Danilev becomes jealous of the man he created when both men fall in love with Tania, a courageous comrade fighting in the ranks alongside them. Eager to break the Russians new found resistance the Germans draft in Major Konig, their own celebrated sniper. As the battle wages on, these two sharpshooters engage in their own personal deadly duel, stalking each other amongst the rubble of Stalingrad. The action is powerful and the drama intense.





**Friday 4 October 2024 – Captain Phillips (2013)**

Starring: Tom Hanks, Barkhad Abdi, Barkhad Abdirahman

Director: Paul Greengrass                      Running time: 135 minutes











Captain Phillips is a multi-layered examination of the 2009 hijacking of the U.S. container ship Maersk Alabama by a crew of Somali pirates. It is – through director Paul Greengrass's distinctive lens – simultaneously a pulse-pounding thriller, and a complex portrait of the myriad effects of globalization. The film focuses on the relationship between the Alabama's commanding officer, Captain Richard Phillips (Tom Hanks), and the Somali pirate captain, Muse (Barkhad Abdi), who takes him hostage. Phillips and Muse are set on an unstoppable collision course when Muse and his crew target Phillips' unarmed ship; in the ensuing standoff, 145 miles off the Somali coast, both men will find themselves at the mercy of forces beyond their control.



**Friday 18 October 2024 – Marie Antoinette (2006)**

Starring: Kirsten Dunst, Jason Schwartzman, Rip Torn

Director: Sofia Coppola                      Running time: 118 minutes



The retelling of France's iconic but ill-fated queen, from her betrothal and marriage to the Dauphin – the future Louis XVI – at 14, to her reign as queen at 19, and to the end of her reign as queen, and ultimately the fall of Versailles. The opulent French court is steeped in conspiracy and scandal. Without guidance and adrift in a dangerous world, the young girl rebels against the isolated atmosphere of Versailles and becomes France's most misunderstood monarch.





**Friday 1 November 2024 – Goodbye Mr Chips (1939)**



Starring: Robert Donat, Greer Garson, Terry Kilburn

Directors: Sam Wood, Sidney Franklin



Running time: 114 minutes



An old classics teacher looks back over his long career, remembering pupils and colleagues, and above all the idyllic courtship and marriage that transformed his life.



**Friday 15 November 2024 – Thor (2011)**



Starring: Chris Hemsworth, Anthony Hopkins, Natalie portman, Tom Hiddleston, Stellan Skarsgard

Director: Kenneth Branagh



Running time: 115 minutes



This is our first foray into the highly-lucrative Marvel Studios film franchise. The world has many heroes – but only one is a god. When the arrogant warrior Thor (Chris Hemsworth) is banished to Earth from his homeworld of Asgard, he must fight to reclaim his lost powers. Pursued by an invasion force sent to destroy him, the fallen God of Thunder must rise to the battle and learn what it takes to become a true hero. The film was converted to 3D in post-production, but we show the non-3D version. Anthony Hopkins said the film “is a super hero movie with a bit of Shakespeare thrown in”.



**Friday 6 December 2024 – The Reader (2008)**



Starring: Kate Winslet, Ralph Fiennes, Bruno Ganz

Director: Stephen Daldry



Running time: 125 minutes



The Reader opens in post-war Germany when teenager Michael Berg becomes ill and is helped home by Hanna, a stranger twice his age. Michael recovers from scarlet fever and seeks out Hanna to thank her. The two are quickly drawn into a passionate secret affair. Michael discovers that Hanna loves being read to and their physical relationship deepens. Hanna is enthralled as Michael reads to her from "The Odyssey," "Huck Finn," and "The Lady with the Little Dog." Despite their intense bond, Hanna mysteriously disappears one day and Michael is left confused and heartbroken. Eight years later, while Michael is a law student observing the Nazi war crime trials, he is stunned to find Hanna back in his life – this time as a defendant in the courtroom. As Hanna's past is revealed, Michael uncovers a deep secret that will impact both of their lives. The Reader is a story about truth and reconciliation, about how one generation comes to terms with the crimes of another.



**Friday 20 December 2024 – Waking Ned (1998)**



Starring: Ian Bannen, David Kelly, Fionnula Flanagan

Director: Kirk Jones



Running time: 91 minutes



The lucky winner of the national lottery is Ned Devine, so taken by his good fortune that he now can't be waked, because he died from the shock of it! News of the win spread quickly in the scenic little Irish village of Tully More, but not the secret news of Ned's demise. With lottery officials closing in to confirm the prize claimed by the deceased Devine, Ned's closest friends scheme to keep the prize money close to home, in memory of Ned of course! But as the plot twists humorously, they learn it is hard is to keep such a secret in a small town.

