Welcome to Presteigne Screen Presteigne Screen aims to provide a varied programme of films embracing all subjects and genres. Come and join us at Presteigne's Assembly Rooms.

www.presteignescreen.org.uk

For this year's festival we have again added an extra Friday date to our usual programme. Details shown below. info@presteignescreen.org.uk

\* Borderlines 2018 \*

# The Death of Stalin

# Friday 2 March UK 2017 106 mins 15 £5.50



Amando lannucci's skills as a contemporary satirist (*The Thick Of It*) now address the demise of Soviet Russia's last great tyrant. Starring many of Britain's funniest character actors (Paul Whitehouse, Simon Russell-Beale, Michael Palin etc.), opening scenes depict a potty-mouthed Stalin barely holding together a vast, impoverished empire and a crew of fawning courtiers. Following his fatal heart attack, these warring colleagues back-stab their way along the route of succession. Brimful of splenetic, politically incorrect discourse with subtexts shockingly relevant to current times, lannucci brilliantly concocts a seamless torrent of laugh-out-loud humour.



## Single Film Standard Ticket £5.00 Students £3.50

Admits one person - buy on the night. Student Ticket: available to students with ID. Students must be of an appropriate age for the certification of the film that they wish to attend.

# Seven Film Season Ticket £25.00

Admits one person to any seven films of their choice and offers a substantial reduction over the standard entry. Valid for the 2017/2018 (43rd) season and available or renewable until the end of January (season ticket does not include any fundraiser or special events).

All films are shown on Fridays (unless otherwise stated) at 8.00 pm in the Assembly Rooms which is located in the centre of Presteigne (entrance at the foot of the clocktower next to the library). Refreshments are available beforehand.

(S) indicates subtitles, where known. Films over 130 minutes may be shown with a short interval. There is a limit of 100 seats within the auditorium. Seats cannot be guaranteed so please come early to avoid disappointment. Doors open at 7:30 pm.

The Assembly Rooms have disabled access and toilet.

For further information contact: Pete MacKenzie 01544 370202 or Alex Dufort 01544 260577 Presteigne Screen would like to thank Mid Border Arts for their continued support.

# PRESTEIGNE SCREEN Winter/Spring 2018

Great films from around the world including: The Party, My Pure Land, Frantz, Lost in Paris, The Death of Stalin, and The Florida Project

# **43rd Season**

Lost in Paris



Gentle and clever but also very knowing, this visual comedy from writer/directors Dominique Abel and Fiona Gordon, echoes the mood of their past successes such as *Rumba* (2008). It also brings Jacques Tati to mind, but this time the recipe includes French veteran Emmanuelle Riva (remember Haneke's Oscar-winning *Amour?*) along with Abel and Gordon themselves. Riva is dotty Aunt Martha who invites Fiona to Paris, but then promptly disappears, after which Fiona manages to fall into the Seine only to be rescued and robbed by the homeless Dom (Abel). Both witty and wry, *Lost in Paris* delivers a little edgy social satire while also paying homage to the city itself. **(S)** 

#### **Hotel Salvation**





Faint whiffs of the *Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* permeate this affecting Indian comedy-drama from debut feature director Shubhashish Bhutiani. Rajiv (Adil Hussain, *Life Of Pi*) is a stressed-out accountant whose decidedly sprightly 77 year-old dad, Daya, announces his plan to spend his final days in the holy city of Varanasi on the banks of the River Ganges. Unfortunately for Rajiv, dad wants his son to travel with him to a run-down hotel whose proprietor is plainly keen that his guests check out for good, and quickly. Much of the ensuing, gentle humour involves Daya's acceptance of mortality and Rajiv's anxiety to get it over with and return to work. **(S)** 

#### Afterimage



In this moving, valedictory work the great Polish director Andrzej Wajda reprises the theme of Stalinist oppression that consumed him for his entire professional life. He both celebrates and mourns another towering talent, the Polish avant-garde artist Wladyslaw Strzeminski who, in this late '40s setting, is first denied his teaching job, then his artistic freedom, finally being reduced to penury because he refuses to embrace the 'socialist realist' kitsch that is the only officially sanctioned art form. Strzeminski (Boguslaw Linda) was crippled (losing an arm and leg in WW1), a strong metaphor for a creative environment in which his art is destroyed but his spirit remains unbowed. (S)

#### Logan Lucky



Having officially 'retired' in 2013, director Steven Soderbergh re-joins the fray with Rebecca Blunt's script about the ill-fated Logan brothers – Jimmy (Soderbergh regular, Channing Tatum) and Clyde (Adam Driver) – who plan to rob Charlotte Motor Speedway. Referencing his highly successful heist franchise, Soderbergh claimed it's 'an inversion of an *Oceans* movie' although it certainly has some wonderfully comedic moments not least when the siblings' inexperience compels them to spring safecracking jail-bird Joe Bang (an improbably blonde Daniel Craig). Seth McFarlane, Hilary Swank and Katie Holmes add to the very considerable fun.

#### **The Party**



Filmed in monochrome, this is maverick director Sally Potter (*Orlando, Ginger & Rosa*) at her acerbic best with Janet, a self-regarding politician (Kristin Scott Thomas) throwing a little soiree to celebrate her Cabinet appointment. Guests include her jealous best friend, (Patricia Clarkson), a pair of bickering lesbians, a coked-up financial shark whose mislaid his wife and Janet's terminally gloomy husband (Timothy Spall). Shot in real time with magnificent turns from all concerned, events rapidly spiral out of control and the staggeringly unexpected results manifest dark social commentary cunningly woven within the highest heights of farce.

#### Frantz



Our second monochrome offering of the season, François Ozon (*Potiche*) has another complex heroine Anna (Paula Beer), implying that in the wake of WW1, a big lie causes less pain than a simple truth. She's the German ex-fiancée of the titular Frantz, killed by French troops whose grave she regularly tends. Unexpectedly joined there by Adrien (Pierre Niney, *Yves Saint Laurent*) who claims to have known Frantz before the war, an uneasy, initially hostile relationship develops between the two and Frantz's parents. Based loosely on Ernst Lubitsch's *Broken Lullaby*, subtleties and surprising twists deliver much more than a challenging moral fable. (S)

### My Pure Land

(Borderlines) £5.50



British director Sarmad Masud's taut debut feature is also, deservedly, the UK's foreign language entry for the 2018 Oscars. It's a female-led siege thriller; as sparse and striking as a western, but based on a shocking true story. In rural Pakistan, a mother and her daughters must defend their home from their violent uncle; who recruits a local militia of 200 bandits to his cause. But the women - led by eldest daughter Nazo (Suhaee Abro) - fight back. Switching between past and present to reveal the lives that led the women to this place, Masud's film is eloquent on female strength and resistance in the face of patriarchy. A really special film; beautifully shot, performed and realised. **(S)** 

# **The Florida Project**



A dip into childhood set in a marginal, survive-onyour-wits adult environment. Six-year-old Moonee and her chaotic mother Halley hustle for a living on the wrong side of the metaphorical tracks, where the right side – just over there – is the fantasy land of Disney World, 'the Florida project' that Walt Disney developed in the early '70s. Together with her pals, Moonee, street-wise beyond her years, delights in their scrapes and cheeky adventures as they brush up against the harsher realities of adult life, including Halley's drift into sex work. But at least they're watched over and intermittently helped by their gruff, warmhearted landlord Bobby (a superb Willem Dafoe).