

Welcome to Presteigne Screen

Once again we bring you a great new programme of recent films as we try to recover ground lost to the Covid pandemic. However, we may have to adjust our procedures as the season progresses. As before, tickets will be available for advance purchase through WeGotTickets, a simple online booking system – we recommend this as a way to pay as it helps avoid congestion at the door – see the website for full details.

For the latest information go to
www.presteignescreen.org.uk

According to the Welsh government regulations (August 2021) audience members must wear a mask while in cinemas and we are subject to that rule. Please bring a mask and be prepared to wear it while attending. We will review the regulations as they are updated. Please also note that disabled access to the Assembly Rooms is currently limited.

info@presteignescreen.org.uk

Single Film Door Ticket £5.00 Students £3.50

Available on the door at this price (tickets booked online incur a small supplement charged by the ticketing system provider). Student Ticket: available to students with appropriate ID.

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 2021/2022 and available for purchase until the end of January (season ticket does not include fundraisers or any special events). Not available online.

All films are shown on Fridays (unless otherwise stated) at 8 pm in the Assembly Rooms, Broad Street, Presteigne LD8 2AD, which are 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 running over 130 minutes may be shown with a short interval. Seats are limited within the auditorium and cannot be guaranteed so please come early to avoid disappointment. Doors usually open at 7:30 pm.

Disabled access to the upper floor is temporarily unavailable as the lift is being replaced.

Further information: Pete MacKenzie: 01544 370202 or Tony Lawson: 01544 260326
Presteigne Screen would like to thank Mid-Border Arts for their continued support.

Cover images: Front - *First Cow* Back - *Nomadland*

PRESTEIGNE SCREEN

AUTUMN
WINTER
2021



Great films for our 46th season including:
Nomadland, First Cow, Rocks, After Love,
The Last Bus and Sound of Metal

www.presteignescreen.org.uk

Nomadland



September 10 USA 2020 101 mins 15

Frances McDormand (*Fargo*, *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*) is at the centre of this beautifully crafted fictionalised documentary (and Oscar winner), directed by Chloé Zhao with exceptional intelligence and style. McDormand plays Fern, a victim of the 2008 recession and recently widowed who reacts to her new circumstances by embracing the possibility of freedom and life on the open road. She joins a community of like-minded nomads, roaming the country in camper vans, looking for seasonal work and friendship. McDormand's subtle and understated performance is supported by a cast of mostly real nomads whom she meets along the way.

The Last Bus



November 5 UK 2021 86 mins 12A

Bereaved pensioner Tom (Timothy Spall) decides to carry his wife's ashes from John O'Groats to Land's End where they first met, using only his bus pass. Director Gillies MacKinnon (*Hideos Kinky*) and noted TV screenwriter Joe Ainsworth (*Holby City*) ensure that cantankerous Tom experiences bemusement and sympathy along the way. His determination to overcome Britain's creaking public transport reflects his abiding love for his late spouse, played in flashback by Phyllis Logan (*Downton Abbey* – both TV and film) but inevitably the success of the enterprise, in every sense, is a tribute to Spall who gives perhaps his best, most nuanced turn since *Mr Turner* or *The Party*.

Rocks



September 24 UK 2020 93 mins 12A

A multi-award-winning film featuring an outstanding cast of young actors, this is a marvellous coming-of-age drama set in London. Shola, nicknamed Rocks, is a teenage girl who is left to look after her younger brother when they're abandoned by their feckless mother. So she turns to her circle of school friends, a varied and lively group of girls. In hands other than the talented director Sarah Gavron's this could have been a mawkish and miserable story, but instead it's a tale of resilience and resourcefulness that feels fresh and very real. Bukky Bakray is outstanding as Rocks, and her relationships with her brother and friends are charmingly played out. Not to be missed.

After Love



November 19 UK 2020 89 mins 12A

Having transitioned from mild-mannered Anglican to devout Muslim housewife, Fatima (Joanna Scanlan) finds her husband Ahmed (Nasser Memarzia) lying dead in their Dover lounge. What follows is both heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting as she soon discovers that Ahmed had a second wife and family just across the water in France. Scanlan, best known as the slyly comic actor in TV's *The Thick Of It* and *Getting On*, gives an extraordinarily powerful, grief-infused performance aided by a multilingual cast little known here, including French soap star Nathalie Richard as Ahmed's other wife who is now also confronting the shocking news. (S)

First Cow



October 8 USA 2019 122 mins 12A

Foraging for food and at odds with fellow fur-trappers in early 19th-century Oregon, 'Cookie' (John Magaro) discovers a Chinese fugitive, King-Lu (Orion Lee), lurking in the forest. Once they've set early mistrust aside they set up a modest business that, hilariously, depends on stealing milk from the one and only cow introduced to the region by a pompous English agent (Toby Jones). Along with her regular co-writer, Jon Raymond, and cinematographer Chris Blauvelt, director Kelly Reichardt infuses this engrossing tale with the same earthy and deeply-felt values that defined America's pioneering years, and which she so effectively also delivered in *Meek's Cutoff*.

Sound of Metal



December 3 USA 2019 120 mins 15

Newbie director Darius Marder and co-writer Derek Cianfrance (*The Place Beyond the Pines*) tell the tale of heavy-metal drummer Reuben Stone (Riz Ahmed) who suddenly loses his hearing while touring America with his singer/partner Lou (Olivia Cooke) in their mobile home. Any resemblance to *Nomadland* ends right there, for although Lou is clearly sympathetic she realises her career could now be over, too. We then follow Reuben's efforts to come to terms with deafness, much aided by the charismatic Joe (veteran stage actor Paul Raci) at a retreat for the similarly afflicted. It's arguably Ahmed's best – and Oscar-nominated – performance since *Nightcrawler*.

Limbo



October 22 UK 2020 114 mins PG

A group of refugees are forced to live on a bleak and sparsely inhabited Scottish island in the Outer Hebrides while they await their asylum claims. The only amenities appear to be a school, a telephone kiosk and a bus stop. The drama centres on Omar, a Syrian, played by Amir El-Masry, who carries with him everywhere a music case containing his oud, a kind of lute – an instrument he loves and his only link to the home he left behind. This wry and poignant tale has its inevitable sadnesses but there's also a good deal of humour. El-Masry gives a brilliant performance, supported by *Borgen*'s Sidse Babett Knudsen and the outstanding direction of Ben Sharrock.

Deerskin



December 17 Fra 2019 86 mins 15

With the darkest of humour, Oscar-winning Jean Dujardin (*The Artist*) who as George is inexplicably obsessed with the titular animal hide and spends his last €7000 on a fringed suede jacket whose vendor throws in a home movie camera for free. Bizarrely, he then decides to rid the world of lesser jackets, filming them in the process along with a bored, bemused bartender (Adèle Haenel) who gifts him further deerskin attire as his obsession gets ever more twisted. Writer-director Quentin Dupieux has form with offbeat films such as *Rubber* and *Reality*, and his own editing and cinematography are deployed here to hugely enjoyable effect. (S)