



Bumper screening day at Batcombe



113 delegates from 24 Societies/Community cinemas enjoyed Batcombe's legendary hospitality with great food and films. The highest scoring films were the feel-good "The Peanut Butter Falcon" and the outstanding documentary "Honeyland" both achieving scores of over 90% accompanied by some great shorts sourced by Chris Baker. We've already heard that some groups have shortlisted both "The Peanut Butter Falcon" and "Bait" for their forthcoming seasons, while "Transit" and "Aniara" were the most divisive titles of the day, one delegate describing the latter as "absolutely brilliant" while others were less convinced! We will continue to monitor the take-up of the featured titles by South West-based member groups – please let **Chris Baker** know if you will be programming any of them (including the shorts).

Audience reaction scores are shown overleaf.

Reaction scores for main features

The Peanut Butter Falcon	92.2%
Honeyland	91.3%
Bait	70.5%
The Third Wife	68.8
Transit	58.0%
Aniara	57.4%



Reaction scores for shorts

Quiet Carriage	87.5%
The Neighbour	83.9%
Gladiators on Wheels	81.1%
Facing it	78.7%
Special Delivery	66.4%
Circuit	53.4%



A selection of photos taken at Batcombe. More details of the Viewing Session are on the Cinema for All South West website. [SW website](#) .



A massive thank you goes to Virginia Membrey and her fantastic team for making it such a memorable day. Thanks too to Helen Ostle for her wonderful work on the Viewing Day brochure and to the Cinema for All SW Executive for their additional support.

We are thrilled that Lost in Film in Lostwithiel have agreed to host the Cornwall leg of the Spring Viewing on 29th March 2020 but we are in need of a host for the Eastern leg, hopefully on the 22nd March. If you can help please contact Jane Sanders on 01934 842940 – all you need is a team of helpers, a venue with two suitable viewing rooms, somewhere to eat and meet and we will help with advice, expertise and anything else that's needed!

Representatives from 23 Film Societies/Community Cinemas attended.

Batcombe, Bath, Beer, Blandford, Bradford on Avon, Budleigh
Chudleigh, Clapton & Wayford
Dorchester
Highworth
Ilminster
Kilmesdon
Lyme Regis
Platform Cinema
Shaftesbury, Shipham, Swindon
Taunton, Teignmouth, Thornbury, Tiverton
Warminster
Yeovil Cinematheque

Cinema for All Community Cinema Conference 20th-22nd Sept 2019

A personal view from Daron & Rose of Topsham Film Society

The conference has been a great source of ideas so we were very keen to go again. We are very grateful to have had financial support from CFA's On the Ground Project run by Ellie Ragdale who gave us free entrance tickets and The Film Hub SW whose £300 travel and accommodation bursary which allowed us to travel hundreds of miles to sunny, shiny Sheffield.

We have learnt from past experience to get there early on Friday if we wanted to explore the city as the schedule for the conference is jam packed full of workshops, film screenings and catching up with other film societies.

Friday night started with another excellent masterclass from Rebecca Ellis, I am not generally a fan of musicals but her talk on cult musicals made me look at them in a totally different way, I thoroughly enjoyed the Little Shop of Horrors. After the film there was a chance to chat with other delegates which is always so interesting and inspiring.

Saturday we registered and met up with the ever enthusiastic event organisers of CFA. Over the next 36 hours, between the two of us we saw 6 ½ films including an interesting Q&A with director Jeanie Finlay, took part in panel sessions, workshops, masterclass, the awards ceremony and party.

The programme of films was not an easy, relaxing experience but frequently hard hitting, with thought provoking material and we were warned on more than one occasion to have our tissues ready. The films ranged from the exquisitely beautifully filmed *The Third Wife* to the extraordinary Syrian video documentary *For Sama*. Another film *We the Animals* had amazing performances by three boys, who are first time actors, dealing with dysfunctional parents, I loved the use of animated sequences when Jonah who uses writing and drawing in a secret diary to explore his inner thoughts and emotions.

At the 50th film society of the year awards, it was great to see all types of community cinema represented, and to see the young student winners, who are so engaged and dedicated, they are the next generation of film makers and film industry leaders. We might try out for an award next year but it is intimidating as the standard is very high. One of my highlights was the debate compered by Danny Leigh....Should the main concern of community cinemas be the development of community, reducing isolation etc. which is what we aim to do within our community especially encouraging the older members to come along. Or should the main concern be the dissemination of 'great' cinema, with all the connotations that that phrase has of elitism or is it perhaps education & opportunity? I changed my mind during the debate from one side to the other, and decided our 'main 'concern is an amalgamation of the two concepts, a tricky balance.

We came away brimming with ideas we could implement within our own film society.... We would like to encourage more of these events to be held nearer the West Country... Here's hoping....

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