

Peterborough Arts Cinema

Films that make you think

Thursday 26th April at 7:30pm

Daphne (2017)

15 | 1h 28min UK

Director; Peter Mackie Burns.

Stars; Emily Beecham, Geraldine James, Tom Vaughan-Lawler

Daphne, 31, Londoner. Busy days, hectic nights, friends, people, lovers, are all welcome distractions from the constant and creeping feeling that her life is somehow stuck. Too young too settle quietly, too old to keep on messing about without aim. One night, an unexpected event slowly but steadily forces her to confront this existential limbo head on, and start looking very closely at the person she has become.



Liking the Unlikeable

Too often cinema casts women as say single professional woman in need of a man, kooky girlfriend, best mate, supportive wife. Just think Sandra Bullock, Meg Ryan or even Jennifer Lawrence in “Silver Linings Playbook”.

Occasionally certain films will explore more complex female characters that do not meet these sets. These women are flawed and audiences may see them as unlikable. Yet they stick in the mind and seem to present something deeper. From the actress’s point of view they can find a “real” person and the results are often unforgettable.

Darling (1965)

Young, attractive and vivacious, model Diana Scott (Julie Christie) is firmly decided to become rich and famous. After a series of ladder climbing relationships she becomes the bored, trophy wife of a middle-aged Italian aristocrat. She is selfish, self indulgent and highly desirable yet also a “product” of a changing society.

Julie Christie won the Oscar for best Film actress

Poor Cow (1967)

A young woman, Joy (Carol White), repeatedly makes poor life choices. After a succession of relationships with seedy types, her son goes missing. This was Ken Loach’s first film and characteristically he does not judge. It should have been Terence Stamps’s film but it is Joy that sits in the memory.

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1969).

A liberated young schoolteacher in Edinburgh instructs favoured girls in the ways of life. When her two affairs come to light, her job becomes at risk. Can she depend on her pupils? She is pro fascist, elitist and naïve.

Maggie Smith won the Oscar for best Film actress

A Woman under the Influence (1974)

John Cassavettes’s movie tells of a mother, Mabel (Gena Rowlands), succumbing to mental illness. She tries so hard to be the perfect wife, the perfect mother, the perfect lover. Her increasingly bizarre behaviour puts her children at risk and her husband (Peter Falk) has her committed.

Gena Rowlands was nominated for an Oscar for Best Film Actress.

Fish Tank (2009)

Mia (Katie Jarvis), an aggressive fifteen-year-old girl, lives on an Essex estate with her tarty mother, Joanne, and precocious little sister Tyler. She has been thrown out of school and is awaiting admission to a referrals unit and spends her days aimlessly. She begins an uneasy friendship with Joanne's slick boyfriend, Connor. The break up causes her to consider infanticide.

Winner Grand Jury Prize, Cannes.

Alex O'Reilly

