

Wimbledon Film Club Chairman's report, 2016

We have had another great season, opening with the Damián Szifron's extraordinary Wild tales followed by more excellent films including our Black History Month film, The Good Lie, with lead actor, Arnold Oceng, along as guest speaker. We had two other guest speakers, Kevin McCarron introducing, Listen up Philip, and Rupert Lloyd introducing, Theeb.

The new WFC website continues to be a big success – stylish and informative, together with the online advance booking and joining facility. Matt Sanders continues to manage the site, liaising with WFC Committee member, Penny, on content. We usually well and is appreciated by those members who use it. We generally sell 15 - 30 tickets in advance.

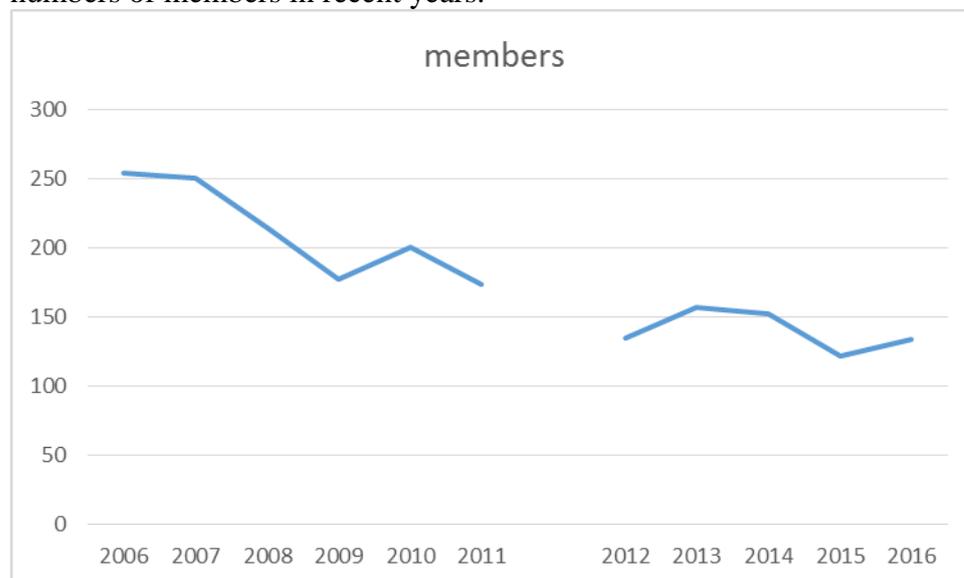
The shift of screenings from Thursdays to Tuesdays led to a drop in attendance figures last year but our recent spring season* shows some signs of recovery, with several films sold out or close to being sold out.

	AUDIENCE (ranked) *Spring 2016		AVERAGE SCORE (ranked)
THE SECOND MOTHER	103*	WHIPLASH	4.8
MANDARIINID	94*	MANDARIINID	4.6*
TIMBUKTU	87	THE GOOD LIE	4.6
TANGERINE	84*	SALT OF THE EARTH	4.6
A PIGEON SAT ON A BRANCH REFLECTING ON EXISTENCE	84	LA FAMILLE BELIER	4.5*
WHIPLASH	82		
LA FAMILLE BELIER	81*	ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL	4.5*
THE GOOD LIE	76	WILD TALES	4.4
ME AND EARL AND THE DYING GIRL	76*	MARSHLAND	4.3*
MARSHLAND	76*	LIKE FATHER LIKE SON	4.3
HUMAN CAPITAL	73	THE SECOND MOTHER	4.2*
		THEEB	4.2*
THEEB	70*	NIGHTCRAWLER	4.2
SALT OF THE EARTH	69	TIMBUKTU	4.1
SLOW WEST	69	HUMAN CAPITAL	4.1

LISTEN UP PHILLIP	64	SLOW WEST	4.1
WILD TALES	57	WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS	3.9
NIGHTCRAWLER	54	TANGERINE	3.2*
WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS	49	LISTEN UP PHILLIP	3.0
LIKE FATHER LIKE SON	48	A PIGEON SAT ON A BRANCH REFLECTING ON EXISTENCE	2.5

Note that the best attended films tended to be in our Spring 2016 season, indicating that there may be some recovery from the low attendances that followed our shift to a Tuesday night (unfortunately it has not been possible to move back to a Thursday evening). The audience scores are also encouraging with an average score of 4.1. The overall most successful film of the year is Mandariinid - the only film in the top five for audience and feedback scores. The overall least successful films, *ie* in the bottom five for both attendance and feedback scores, were What We Do in the Shadows and Listen Up Philip.

We have 134 members at present compared to 122 for same period last year. This is a slight turnaround, or at least flattening off from the general trend towards reducing numbers of members in recent years.



(note 2006 – 2011 were calculated on end-of-season numbers)

A greater emphasis on social media may have helped. We would appreciate member's help with promoting the club.

We would greatly appreciate members volunteering to help out with screening nights and other routine tasks (for example, leaflet distribution) when we are short-staffed. We would also like members to volunteer to distribute leaflets to local outlets (bars, café's libraries, *etc.*).

I would like to thank all of our WFC committee who put a lot of their own time and effort (unpaid!) into successfully running the club.

WFC's own short film festival, Wimbledon International Film Festival (SHORTS), enjoyed a good year with about 180 entries from all over the world. The Festival screened in collaboration with Bookfest for the first time. This was a big success as we had attendance on the night of nearly 200, more than in any previous year. The quality of the shortlisted films was, usual, excellent, and drew many complementary comments from our professional judging panel.

Plans for 2016/2017

There are two main items on the agenda to discuss: proposal to move back to Thursday screenings and new membership ticket prices both to offset increased costs and to provide funds for a social media campaign to help to increase our membership.

Proposed 2016/17 Programme

Autumn Season: Wild Tales (opener), Listen Up Phillip (in association with Bookfest), The Good Lie (Black History Month), What We Do in the Shadows, Slow West, 3-Iron, Salt of the Earth.

Spring/summer 2016 upcoming films (provisional) include: Padre Padrone (members' choice), Me and Earl and the Dying Girl, Marshland.

We propose a small increase in the membership rate for concessions of £24 to £25. This reflects our need to generate more income from our predominant membership group.

This year we plan to run SHORTS once again in collaboration with Bookfest with the festival scheduled for the evening of 1 October. We have changed our submission platform from Withoutabox to Filmfreeway, which appears to be working well as the number of submissions is up from last year.

Johnjoe McFadden
Chair, Wimbledon Film Club