



Programme notes 43rd season, film 8

Programme for tonight – 25th January 2012

DRIVE (18)

Dir. Nicholas Winding Refn, USA 2011, 100mins

Starring Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan, Christina Hendricks & Ron Perlman.

By day "Driver" (Gosling) is a Hollywood stunt man, but by night he makes his real money in the criminal underworld as top-flight getaway driver. When pretty but very married next-door neighbour Irene (Mulligan) is menaced by hoods, he steps in to protect her and her little boy, only to find himself in an escalating conflict between the local thugs and the Mafia.

Note – this film is categorised 18 due to some brutal and realistic violence.

Next Film Night – 1st February 2012

THE MAID (*La nana*) (15)

Dir. Sebastián Silva, Chile/Mexico 2009, 96mins (subtitles)

With engaging performances and story telling, this film offers a pleasing take on a bourgeois family and its servants. When a new maid is taken on to help maid Raquel (Catalina Saavedra), who has worked for a comfortable Santiago family for more than 20 years, jealousy and resentment build up and sabotage follows.

Deadpan, handheld technique allows the director to mine mundane situations for subtle hazard but also to take his story in unexpected directions, initial reticence preserving the potential for surprise. There's a similar quality to Saavedra's performance, whose Raquel is now downtrodden, wily and vulnerable. The result offers a fruitful ambivalence far richer than any butler-did-it cliché. (*Ben Walters*)

Your comments on MIDNIGHT IN PARIS shown on 11th January

Member rating: 86%: Voting A-26, B-19, C-5, D-0, E-0

Member comments: Despite being Woody Allen, I enjoyed the film - I did wonder how many more names could he include! Woody Allen's typical style - more please. Magical film - transported - must read Hemingway! Wonderful imaginative depiction of what happens in Paris after midnight. Superb - Woody Allen back to his best! Unusual but very entertaining. Excellent - took us all into a fantasy world. Funny, bizarre, brilliant!! The time shift didn't work for me. A great film to start 2012 - a fantasy I should love to go on! A beautiful fantasy of a film, spun along by perfect music, parfait! A welcome return to form for Woody! Keep 'em coming. Beautiful evocative photography in Paris, imaginative story; one of Woody Allen's best perhaps. Fabulous, fantastical fun! A good Woody Allen compared with recent form! The perfect antidote to *Wuthering Heights* [shown on 7 January]. You can hear Woody Allen's voice a bit too much sometimes. Could have cut the early Paris travelogue, but a good concept well executed. Brilliant! Lovely, romantic escapism - and Paris at its best. Absolutely brilliant. Imaginative and charming. Very clever and amusing. A+. Enjoyable fantasy - great travelogue for Paris. My kind of fairy story - plus musical accompaniment! A very enjoyable film - great views of Paris. Excellent, very funny. An interesting story, enjoyable. Very gentle and light-hearted. Whimsical and very charming. A quirky one CFS - a knowledge of early 20th century historical figures was almost essential; easy watching though! An easy to watch film to start the CFS year; well shot with some good scenery at the start. Light-hearted fun. I had a permanent smile on my face throughout - great to see Woody Allen finally back on form. Enthralling film - very enjoyable and crazy. Who else but Woody Allen? Indulgent but a clever plot and most enjoyable. Loved it all, especially the music: Well filmed even in the rain.