

FILM STUDY 2025

January 2025: THE DUKE and TRIANGLE OF SADNESS

The Duke is low key, based on a true story and made \$14 million at the box office. It stars Helen Mirren and Jim Broadbent. It was the last film directed by an experienced and well regarded Director, Roger Michell. We loved it: fantastic script based on a true story; brilliant acting and direction; quintessentially English in the tradition of Ealing comedies.

Triangle of Sadness was the first film made in English by Swedish Director Ruben Ostlund. It took \$32 million, has won loads of awards including the Palme d'Or at Cannes – and we hated it!

Triangle did, however, allow us to sharpen our critical faculties on its uneven pace, stereotypical characters, and unnecessary projectile vomiting. After the opening sequences, the plot is predictable, but with an incomprehensible double ending.

February 2025: WONDERBOYS and GOLD RUN

Great discussion in February: *Wonderboys* generally got a thumbs down, despite its star studded cast.



Gold Run, by contrast, was subtitled, concerned a little known aspect of Norwegian history in WW2, was wildly different from Hollywood war films and had no stars that we recognised - and we loved it! Go figure.

March 2025: BLUE VELVET and COMPARTMENT 6

On 24th March, we'll be discussing Blue Velvet and Compartment 6 at our zoom meeting.

Both films are on iPlayer for a month or more. If you are intrigued, offended, enraptured or baffled by Blue Velvet, there is a lengthy Wikipedia article.



Interesting fact: Mark Kermode walked out of a showing of the film, but later changed his mind.

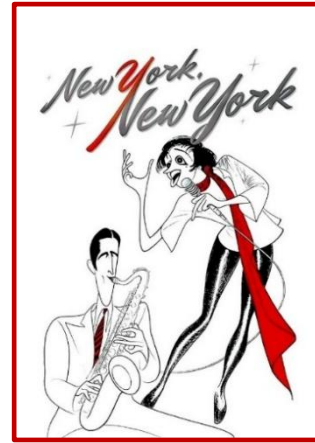
May 2025: SCOTTISH ISLANDS

Interesting compare and contrast in May when we discussed *The Edge of the World* (1937) and *Road Dance* (2015).

Both films were set in a remote Scottish island, had a similar plot and a similar time period. But they couldn't have been more different in style, focus and sense of place.

Lots to sharpen our critical skills during our discussion on Zoom.

In June, we're looking at *New York, New York* and *Brooklyn*.



November 2025: HORROR FILMS

Wide ranging discussion in November of Slasher horror films, which some of us had never seen before.

These films are very popular with the cinema going public with *Halloween* into its 9th or so iteration and *Scream* notching up some 7 versions!

I can't think of more successful franchises which recycle more or less the same formula.



December 2025: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Well we had fun discussing the 2 film versions of Dicken's A Christmas Carol selected by Bridget. A Christmas Carol, or Scrooge, from 1951 starring Alastair Sim was enjoyed by all of us thanks to the excellent cinematography, brisk script and excellent acting. It was felt to stand the test of time well.

Scrooge, the musical adaptation from 1970 starring Albert Finney, got a more critical reception. Some felt the songs were generally not memorable or well sung, and that Finney hammed it up too much, whilst a couple of us enjoyed it immensely.

