
Film study 2026

January 2026: Tea With Mussolini and Godland

We had an enjoyable meeting discussing the 2 films we'd watched based in historical settings.

I think we all really enjoyed **Tea with Mussolini** (1999) which was the story of how the English living in Florence before and during WW2 adapted and behaved during the rise of fascism. The cast and script were fantastic along with the costumes. We weren't too sure how historically accurate it was but it was a lovely kind story as well as a fun send-up of stereotypical English prejudice.

Godland (2022) on iPlayer, was very different. Set in austere late 19th Century Iceland, it was the story of a young Danish priest travelling across dramatic terrain to a community where he was to build a church, but really the beautifully photographed Icelandic landscape was the star. The film was long, and the plot had quite a few discrepancies so to say it was not enjoyed by us all is an understatement, but it certainly provoked a lively discussion.

March 2026: Rashomon

We had an interesting discussion at our March meeting. Everyone disliked or even hated the high school comedies which I had proposed (and which I really like!) and loved the beautiful but austere 1950 Japanese film **Rashomon**. Message received!

For our April discussion we are going to look at two films on childhood and parenthood: **Hideous Kinky** and **Bird**. Both are on iPlayer.



July 2026: King Arther & Destroyer

Our enjoyable discussion of our July films gave us the opportunity to sharpen our critical faculties. We quite enjoyed **King Arthur**, well-made and uplifting, but a bit predictable. A sort of Old Yeller plus zip wires, if you will.

Mark and I were in a minority of two for liking Nicole Kidman's against the type performance in **Destroyer**, although even we enthusiasts thought there were several plot holes.

Next month's films are both on *iPlayer* and both reckoned to be comedies:

The Spin has lifelong pals Dermot and Elvis, quirky, music-loving Tyrone boys who are down on their luck. Hoping to save their much-loved record shop, they embark on a road trip to collect a box of priceless records, meeting an eclectic mix of characters along the way.

Starter for Ten is a comedy about Brian, a 1980s working-class boy stumbling romantically and academically through his first year at Bristol University. He tries to achieve his lifelong ambition to appear on TV quiz show University Challenge and falls in love with his teammate.


