

# The Main Feature

Season 40 - Issue 5 - Screening 14 November 2019

## *Todos lo saben (Everybody Knows)*

USA  
2018  
133 min  
Certificate: 15

|                 |                                         |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Director        | Asghar Farhadi                          |
| Screenwriter    | Asghar Farhadi                          |
| Music           | Javier Limón                            |
| Cinematographer | Jose Luis Alcaine                       |
| Producers       | Álvaro Longoria<br>Alexandre Mallet-Guy |

### Cast:

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Penélope Cruz    | Laura     |
| Javier Bardem    | Paco      |
| Ricardo Darín    | Alejandro |
| Eduard Fernández | Fernando  |
| Bárbara Lennie   | Bea       |
| Inma Cuesta      | Ana       |
| Carla Campa      | Irene     |



Here is a film that crosses continents, both in its story and in the people who made it. Director and screenwriter Asghar Farhadi is an Iranian, whose earlier film *A Separation* WNCC showed in October 2012 (brief notes available on our website if you want to check that one out).

This story is set in a wine-growing village in Spain. Laura and her family have left Madrid for a new life in Argentina, from where she returns home with her children for a family wedding. Her husband, Alejandro, is prevented by work commitments from making the trip.

Every family occasion in a film exposes secrets and grudges, and this is no exception. At the wedding party, a local boy is happy to share some local common knowledge that 'everybody knows' with Irene, Laura's teenage daughter. Irene later disappears and a more recent event in village history is exposed. Is there a connection between what's happening now and what occurred four years ago?

More than that would entail spoilers, so you can watch the story unfurl at Farhadi's pace.

WNCC has shown other films based around someone returning to their home (or ancestral home) and causing a stir: *Coming Home* (season 38, 2018), *Jean de Florette* (season 8, 1988), *Shadow of a Doubt* (season 33, 2013). There are plenty of other examples, including *Rebecca*, *Shane*, *Bad Day at Black Rock* and *The Best Years of Our Lives*.



Those who have remained may resent the newcomer and close ranks. Or locals regret staying instead of seeking a new life, like the one who has returned. All manner of emotions bubble up, often reopening old wounds and making you understand why someone would want to leave. No-one has a monopoly on the truth but everyone has a view.

*Todos lo saben* opened the 2018 Cannes Film Festival, where Farhadi was a nominee for the Palme d'Or. Cruz and Bardem have both been lavished with praise and nominations for awards. All three, along with supporting cast and crew, were nominated for a variety of Spanish awards (some of which they won).



Critics and public alike commented that Cruz and Bardem were able to turn in particularly powerful performances because they were acting in their first language. Unless you are genuinely bilingual, it's hard to speak with the intonation and speed that a native speaker can achieve without effort. Let's hope that these performances are well served by the subtitles on this occasion!

Gill McGlashan

With thanks to our Chairman Iain for spotting this ...

## Aberystwyth: The town where cinemas stayed open as WW2 began

By Chris Wood

Not usually known as a seat of rebellion, Aberystwyth was the only town to defy the government and have cinemas open at the outbreak of World War Two.



*A sign in London shows where the nearest cinema is*

In the first week of the conflict in September 1939, all places of entertainment were closed on the orders of the Home Office. But from 4 to 8 September, Aberystwyth was the only town in Great Britain to ignore this and have cinemas open. This led to a government climb down with all venues open by the weekend.

It was on 3 September 1939 that Great Britain declared war on Germany after it ignored an ultimatum to cease its invasion of Poland. Following this, the Home Office declared that all places of entertainment should be closed down "until the scale of the attack is judged". Writing in *The Times* on 5 September, George Bernard Shaw called it "a masterstroke of unimaginative stupidity". Despite this verdict, all venues in Britain adhered to the directive - all apart from those in Aberystwyth.

"The Second World War broke out on 3 September which was a Sunday when most cinemas were normally closed," said Ceredigion Museum's former curator Michael Freeman. "On the second day all cinemas remained closed except for one, the Pier Pavilion cinema, Aberystwyth, which was due to show *The Mad Miss Manton* with Barbara Stanwyck and Henry Fonda. "On the fourth day of war, the Coliseum, Aberystwyth opened, having obtained delivery of its films."

The town's third cinema, the Forum on Bath Street, was undergoing renovation.

A report about the cinemas remaining open in the *Cambrian News* said: "Both had received permission from the chief constable provided that they had someone listening for the air raid siren. Special notices about the risks during an air raid were placed in the cinemas."

While the chief constable of Cardiganshire JJ Lloyd Williams said he used his "discretionary powers" and declared "all places of entertainment are now available to the public", this brought an angry response. "The Home Office states that neither the chief constable nor anybody else has the power to open a theatre or cinema without Home Office permission," it said in a statement. "They are closed under Home Office orders and that is rigid."

While the Pier Cinema was closed on the Thursday, the town's other two opened, meaning it was still the only British town where films were being shown. By the Saturday, the Home Office's resistance had waned and it sanctioned all venues in "neutral areas" - those not in areas in danger of being bombed - opening until 22:00.

This was on the proviso a member of staff would be posted to listen for air raid warnings. But while the government could not close the Pier Cinema down, it was its position near the coast which eventually led to it having to shut its doors. "[It] was closed from the 1 October 1941 until 1 April 1942, because of the concern that mines in the Irish Sea might blow it up," Mr Freeman said.

"A mine did explode near it in October 1942 and as a result, the pier was closed from then on, presumably until the end of the war." A report written by the chief constable and kept at the Ceredigion Archives described sea mines washing up between Llanon and the Dyfi Estuary.

"In consequence of the danger existing from such mines, a notice prohibiting the use of the Aberystwyth Pier and cinema was issued by myself on the instruction of the naval authorities," it said.

The Pier Cinema eventually reopened, but in 1960, it was damaged by fire and closed, never to show a film again.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-4971568>



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## Comments and reactions to: **Before the Flood**

No of reaction slips received = 23

Average score = 7.17

| Score | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| ~     | ~ | ~ | ~ | ~ | 2 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 |    |

### ***Increasing human consumption correlates with global warming***

*Powerful documentary. I wish it had been a fictional disaster movie*

***OK, I'm convinced ... but what about everyone else, including politicians?***

*Things are even worse now – after Trump et al*

***Surprisingly gripping which came as a shock***

*Trump – have you seen this film?*

***An excellent choice for One World Week***

*Deserves wider distribution*

***Are the politicians listening? And where is the leadership?***

*A wake-up call – does what it says on the can*

*What a powerful but depressing film*

***It takes the human race a long time to learn a new approach or to change. Can't give a mark to the film***

| Position | Film             | Average score |
|----------|------------------|---------------|
| 1        | The White Crow   | 7.29          |
| 2        | After the Flood  | 7.17          |
| 3        | Stan and Ollie   | 6.92          |
| 4        | Ballon (Balloon) | 6.91          |

## Forthcoming attraction: 28 November 2019 - **DOUBLE BILL**



### **Sherlock Junior**

A film projectionist longs to be a detective, and puts his meagre skills to work when he is framed by a rival for stealing his girlfriend's father's pocket-watch.

*"The impeccable comedian directs himself in an impeccable silent comedy."*

### **La Tortue Rouge (The Red Turtle)**

A man is shipwrecked on a deserted island and encounters a red turtle, which changes his life

*"The Red Turtle adds to Studio Ghibli's estimable legacy with a beautifully animated effort whose deceptively simple story boasts narrative layers as richly absorbing as its lovely visuals."*

