



The Main Feature

Season 42 – Issue 1 – Screening 8 September 2022

The Duke

UK 2022

96 mins. Certificate 12A

Director	Roger Mitchell
Screenplay	Richard Bean and Clive Coleman
Music	George Fenton
Photography	Mike Eley

Cast

Jim Broadbent	Kempton Bunton
Helen Mirren	Dorothy Bunton
Fionn Whitehead	Jackie Bunton
Anna Maxwell Martin	Mrs Gowling
Matthew Goode	Jeremy Hutchinson QC



I have never understood why famous works of art are stolen. After all, they cannot be put on display. There is a theory beloved of the media that high-profile art heists are carried out by gentlemen thieves, or on behalf of nefarious connoisseurs hoping to gloat over their spoils in secret lairs. Apparently, it's not like that. According to the Scotland Yard detective who set up the Art and Antiques Squad at Scotland Yard, art thieves 'are professional criminals who view art and antiques as a soft touch, offering potentially high rewards and/or the ability to utilise the asset as a form of collateral to fund other areas of criminal activity'. And the asset tends not to be used for ransom. Rather, high-profile stolen paintings can accrue a new value on the black market – typically around three to 10% of a painting's total estimated value as reported in the media. Once this value has been determined, a stolen painting can then be offered as collateral to help secure a loan to finance illicit endeavours.

Or the purpose of theft can be to make a point. Cast your mind back to Christmas Day 1950 when four students from Glasgow stole the Stone of Destiny from under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey (breaking the stone in the process) to raise a debate about Scottish nationalism. Or the theft of several paintings from the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester in 2003. The paintings were recovered from a nearby public lavatory (dubbed by the popular press – you've guessed it – as 'The Loo-vre') with a note which said 'We did not intend to steal these paintings, just to highlight the woeful security.'



Which brings us to tonight's film *The Duke* which is based on the true story of Kempton Bunton (Jim Broadbent). In an interview, his grandson Christopher Bunton said he was passionate about the BBC. He had been imprisoned more than once for refusing to pay the licence fee. 'He felt TV was a cure for loneliness for pensioners and war veterans and at that time there wasn't much else for

people who were isolated and alone. My grandad actually recognised the value of the BBC, so he felt it should be made available to everybody that needs it and this was part of his campaign for free TV licences for pensioners.'

How does this link to the theft from the National Gallery? The British Government had just stepped in to prevent Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington being sold to an American art collector and thereby being removed from the country. The Government paid £140,000 and the picture was hung in the National Gallery. Then the portrait disappears. Like at the Whitworth, the theft was to make a point – not about security but about Government policy towards pensioners and war veterans.



The Duke stars two Oscar winners. Jim Broadbent has a lengthy filmography, including WS Gilbert in Mike Leigh's 1999 film *Topsy Turvey*, and he won an Academy Award as Best Supporting Actor in *Iris* (2001) directed by Richard Eyre. Starring alongside Broadbent is Helen Mirren as his wife, Dorothy Bunton, who has a similarly distinguished film career, notably as the eponymous heroine of *The Queen* (2006) directed by Stephen Frears for which she was awarded an Oscar, a BAFTA and a Golden Globe for Best Actress. Previously she played another British monarch, Queen Charlotte in *The Madness of King George*. *The Duke* is directed by Roger Mitchell, who was married to Anna Maxwell Martin (who plays Mrs Gowling). His previous works include *Notting Hill*, *Venus* and *My Cousin Rachel* as well as directing in the theatre and on television. *The Duke* was his last project – he died unexpectedly in September 2021 aged 65.

Michael Hipkins



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Here – with thanks to Eugene Smith - are the answers to quiz set at the end of last season

Oscar, Oscar

1. The season started with the two most recent Best Film Winners (**Parasite** and **Nomadland**), following a recent tradition with the winners from 2016 (**Moonlight**) and 2018 (**Green Book**) also shown in the last 2 seasons. 2017's winner is missing – what was it?
2. Name the other film for which Nomadland's Frances McDormand won the Best Actress Oscar (shown by the Club in 2019)?
3. Which US President commented: "The winner is a movie from S Korea. What the hell is that all about? [...] Can we get 'Gone with the Wind' back, please?"
4. And which "divine" US actress/singer tweeted in response "I'm more upset that a parasite won the White House."

Location, Location...

Where were the following films set?

5. Bait
6. Baby Driver
7. Portrait of a Lady on Fire
8. Breakfast at Tiffanys

Everyone's a Critic

Match the comment to the film

9. "Not my fish and chips"
10. "Good of its kind – but no more please"
11. "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party"
12. "A Fairy Tale for adults"
13. "Upstairs, Downstairs on acid"

- A. Bait
B. Breakfast at Tiffanys
C. Baby Driver
D. The Personal History of David Copperfield
E. Parasite

Rest in Peace

Name the recently departed directors of:

14. The Last Picture Show
15. Betty Blue

Name

16. The actress who played JoJo's mother in **JoJo Rabbit**
17. Holly Golightly's cat
18. The Sino-American actress/rapper/comedian who bridged the generations in **The Farewell**
19. The sport played in **Permission**

Links

20. Where...links the diner waitress in **Baby Driver** and the ageing Director from **Pain and Glory**?

Oscar, Oscar

2021's Best Film winner was CODA

21. What does CODA stand for?
22. It is a remake of which 2015 French film (shown by the Club in 2017)?
23. Which streaming service bought the film (for \$25m) after its debut at the Sundance Film Festival?
24. Who was (possibly) "walking in the air" after the film's success?
25. What was the Danish winner of the Best Foreign Film Oscar in 2020?

Everyone's a Critic

Match the comment to the film

26. "One can only hope that the husband has an awful life in future"
27. "Some great action sequences, but really just high-class hokum"
28. "Uplifting and depressing at the same time"
29. "Gave a historical context for the French to invent photography"

30. "Packs an emotional wallop"

- A Permission
B Crimson Pirate
C The Farewell
D Nomadland
E Portrait of a Lady on Fire

Name...

31. The 2 functioning alcoholics cited in **Another Round**
32. The bare-chested star of the **Crimson Pirate**
33. The title music of **Breakfast at Tiffanys**
34. The instrument toted around in **Limbo**
35. The director, supporting actor and writer of **JoJo Rabbit**
36. Where Katherine Gun worked in **Official Secrets**

Rest in Peace

Name the recently departed stars of:

37. In the Heat of the Night
38. A Bout de Souffle (Breathless)
39. Body Heat
40. Les Parapluies de Cherbourg

And finally...who links

41. **Stalin** and **Dickens**?

The Answers

1. The Shape of Water
2. Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri
3. Donald J Trump
4. Bette Midler
5. Cornwall
6. Atlanta
7. Brittany
8. New York City
9. Bait – A
10. Baby Driver – C
11. The Personal History of David Copperfield – D
12. Breakfast at Tiffanys – B
13. Parasite – E
14. Peter Bogdanovich
15. Jean-Jacques Beineix
16. Scarlett Johansson
17. Cat
18. Awkwafina
19. Futsal
20. Surrey [Lily James is from Esher; Antonio Banderas lived in Cobham]
21. Child of Deaf Adults
22. La Famille Bélier
23. Apple +
24. Aled "The Snowman" Jones, father of Emilia Jones (plays main character)
25. Another Round
26. Permission – A
27. Crimson Pirate – B
28. Nomadland – D
29. Portrait of a Lady on Fire – E
30. The Farewell – C
31. Hemingway and Churchill
32. Burt Lancaster
33. Moon River
34. Oud
35. Taika Waititi
36. GCHQ, Cheltenham
37. Sidney Poitier
38. Jean Paul Belmondo
39. William Hurt
40. Nino Castelnuovo
41. Armando Iannucci [writer-director of **The Death of Stalin** and of **The Personal History of David Copperfield**]

Comments and reactions to: **Larceny Inc**

No of reaction slips received = 11

Average score = 6.27

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

A bit of a laugh

Amiable, but slight

Entertaining; and good to see Edward G Robinson playing against his usual type

A sufficiently silly film to end the season with

Thoroughly entertaining

Position	Film	Average score
1	Official Secrets	8.15
2	Breakfast at Tiffany's	7.20
3	Another Round	7.17
4	Nomadland	7.13
5	Parasite	7.07
6	The Farewell	6.85
7	The Personal History of David Copperfield	6.67
8	Permission	6.60
9	Pain and Glory	6.59
10	The Crimson Pirate	6.42
11	Larceny Inc	6.27
12	Portrait of a Lady on Fire	6.22
13	Baby Driver	6.19
14	Limbo	6.18
15	JoJo Rabbit	6.04
16	Bait	5.35
17	My Dog Tulip	2.47

Forthcoming attraction: 22 September 2022 - **La Nuit Américaine (Day for Night)**

Francois Truffaut turns to filmmaking itself for his story. From the first day's shooting to the last, he mixes comedy and intimations of drama but keeps it mainly a love letter to the cinematic art, more pointedly commercial films. Variety

And the remainder of the 42nd season ...

13 October	Mandela and de Klerk	USA, 1997	23 February	The Mole Agent	Chile, 2020
27 October	Flee	Sweden, 2021	9 March	The Perfect Candidate	Saudi Arabia, 2020
10 November Double Bill	After Love Seven Chances	UK, 2020 USA, 1925	23 March	Elvis	USA, 2022
24 November	L'Eclisse (The Eclipse)	Italy, 1962	13 April	Midnight Cowboy	USA, 1969
8 December	Guardians of the Galaxy	USA, 2014	27 April Double Bill	Pickpocket Varjoja Paratiisissa (Shadows in Paradise)	France, 1958 Finland, 1986
12 January 2023	Belfast	UK, 2022	11 May	Under the Wire	UK, 2018
26 January	Son of Saul	Hungary, 2016	25 May	Dream Horse + AGM	UK, 2021
9 February	The Bandwagon	USA, 1953			