



The Main Feature

Season 42 – Issue 7 – Screening 8 December 2022

Guardians of the Galaxy

USA 2014

122 mins, Certificate PG-13

Director James Gunn
Screenplay James Gunn and Nicola Perlman, based on Marvel Comics *Guardians of the Galaxy* by Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning

Cinematography Ben Davis
Music Tyler Bates

Cast
Chris Pratt Peter Quill/Star Lord
Zoe Saldana Gamora
Dave Bautista Drax
Vin Diesel Groot (voice)
Bradley Cooper Rocket (voice)
Karen Gillan Nebula



This is the second of Pauline and my choices, and probably a film you never expected to see at the club. When we were trying to think of a film that was completely different, something we would never usually show, the thought of a Marvel film started as a joke but the more we thought about it the more it seemed to be a good idea. The club does have a history of showing surprising films that goes back to the first chairman of the club, Tony Rozelaar. He had been a member of the original Woking Cinema Club in the early 1970s and always said the reason it was not a success was because it showed too many black and white films with subtitles (there's nothing wrong with a couple of black and white films with subtitles every season) so when he became involved with Woking's New Cinema Club he wanted it to show all types of film. If you look back at some of the early seasons you will find a number of surprising films, some that were successful at the time but seem to have disappeared (*Breaking Away*, *My Brilliant Career*, *Q The Winged Serpent*), others that seemed a bit obscure when we showed them but are now thought of as classics (*An American Werewolf in London*, *Boyz n the Hood*, *Gremlins*) and some that were box office hits showcasing Hollywood at its best (*Fame*, *Desperately Seeking Susan*, *Blade Runner*) which is the category that *Guardians of the Galaxy* fits into.

Marvel Films that feature characters that appear in Marvel comics have become the highest-grossing film franchise of all time, having grossed over \$27.9 billion at the global box office. The films are released in groups called "phases"; its first film in phase one being *Iron Man* released

in 2008, and *Guardians of the Galaxy* in 2014 was part of phase two which became known as *The Infinity Saga*. *Guardians of the Galaxy* was actually made in the UK with a lot of it being filmed at Longcross Studios in Chobham (which some older members might remember as the Tank Factory) and you might recognise the Millennium Bridge across the Thames, in one scene. The main filming took place between July and October 2013 but it then took another six months to complete the 2,750 visual effect shots that make up approximately 90% of the film. The film had a budget of \$230 million but made \$773 million worldwide. Described by one critic as “Blessed with a loose, anarchic B-picture soul that encourages you to enjoy yourself even when you're not quite sure what's going on. The scruffy Guardians are irreverent in a way that brings the first Star Wars film to mind.”



The film tells the story of Peter Quill, aka Star Lord, who was abducted from Missouri as a child in 1988 and raised by a group of alien thieves and smugglers called the Ravagers. During his travels he teams up with: Gamoria, an orphan from an alien world who seeks redemption for her past crimes. She was trained by her adopted father, Thanos, to be one of his personal assassins (“I know who you are Peter Quill and I am not some starry-eyed waif here to

succumb to your pelvic sorcery!”); Drax, a warrior who seeks to avenge his family's death at the hands of Ronan, a Kree warrior (“Nothing goes over my head! My reflexes are too fast, I would catch it!”); Rocket Raccoon, a genetically-engineered raccoon-based bounty hunter/mercenary and master of weapons and battle tactics (“There ain’t no thing like me, except me”) and Groot, a tree-like humanoid, who is the accomplice of Rocket. (“I am Groot”). This collection of misfits (the Guardians) forms an uneasy alliance when they realise that Star Lord has stolen an ancient orb that everybody seems to want and who are willing to pay a large amount of money for. You don’t need to know much more than that although the orb that everyone is chasing contains the Power Infinity Stone which ends up as part of the Infinity Glove that Thanos will use in *Avengers Endgame*, the last film of phase two which at the time of its release became the highest grossing film of all time. *Guardians of the Galaxy* is a funny, irreverent film filled with heart, action, good performances, a great soundtrack and characters that by the end of the film you care about.

As this is the Christmas showing I know you’re all thinking what’s this film got to do with Christmas? Well, nothing really, except it’s just the type of film you might watch on Boxing Day afternoon slumped on the sofa after having too many mince pies and find you quite enjoyed it even if you didn’t quite understand it. Happy Christmas.

Stephen Lock

Breaking News: If you’ve enjoyed tonight’s film and have access to Disney + you might want to watch *The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special* that’s on over Christmas. SL



We thank Red Eye for subsidising the cost of printing these notes. Red Eye Print, Unit 2D, Lansbury Estate, 102 Lower Guildford Road, Knaphill, GU21 2EP Tel: 01483 772111

Beyond Cinema

When I was a kid, just starting out on my career as a film enthusiast, it was enough excitement to get the bus from my village to the local town and sit in the dark with a lot of other people to watch a film. The only problem was the bus arrived too late for the start of the film, so I had to wait until it finished and stay for the start of the next showing to work out the plot. It's made me keen to arrive in good time ever since. But it seems the younger generation are no longer satisfied with these humble pleasures. Step forward Secret Cinema, a company which turns simple films into Theatrical Events and the audience becomes part of the action. Here's what they say:

The Experience

In a secret location, we open up the doors to an evening of suspense and spectacle beyond any film-lover's imagination. Dressed as part of the cast, you can choose to blend right in with the crowd or take centre stage as your reality blurs with that of the story.

The Story Begins

Whilst our show is the pinnacle of your experience, the story begins before you arrive. An online invitation will be sent closer to the show date with a login to a dedicated website. Here you gain access to a previously unexplored part of the story as well as details of the secret location, your bespoke identity, mission and the encouraged dress code for the evening.

Enter the Secret World

Turn imagination into vivid memories as you leave your distractions at the door. All phones are sealed to ensure you experience the world through your own eyes, and not your screen. Whether you choose to be swept up in missions or simply explore the intricate, iconic locations as the action unfolds around you, no two shows are the same. Expect an evening filled with action, dance and plenty of surprises, as a film classic is brought to life in front of your eyes.

Every secret world is unique

With staggering ambition and a remarkable attention to detail, our evenings are ever-evolving but equally enchanting. We have travelled back to the future with Marty McFly, danced under acid rainstorms in a futuristic dystopian China Town, sung our hearts out along the cobbled streets of belle epoch Paris, joined the heroic Rebel Alliance, and had the time of our lives at Kellerman's Resort.

Among other previous productions are: *Casino Royale*, *Blade Runner*, *Casablanca* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel*.

Tempted? Take a look at <https://tickets.secretcinema.org/>.

Michael Hipkins

Comments and reactions to: **L'Eclisse**

No of reaction slips received = 18

Average score = 3.00

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

Rubbish – waste of time

One of the worst films I have ever seen is an understatement. I was glad to see 'Fine' when the end of the film came

A very boring film!

Goodness knows how bad the films that didn't make the cut were!

Disjointed – slow – dreary. Not sure of the significance of long scenes in the Stock Exchange to the plot!

Some remarkable images, bordering on the surreal. But in the sixty years since the film appeared our concerns and fears have moved on, so this has not aged well

How to evaluate this film? How did Antonioni get away with this and the other two in the trilogy?

Too slow and disjointed

A 'tulip-like' dog of a film

A victory of style over substance. Tedious to the nth

Beautiful pictures but could do with a plot

Agonising. Tedious. Kill me!

Position	Film	Average score
1	The Duke	7.75
2	Seven Chances	7.61
3	Mandela and de Klerk	7.47
4	After Love	7.36
5	Flee	6.79
6	Day for Night	6.57
7	L'Eclisse	3.00

Forthcoming attraction: 12 January 2023 – **Belfast**



Kenneth Branagh has produced his most personal and affecting film yet with Belfast. Set in the titular city during the 1960s and amid The Troubles, innocent and sweet young boy Buddy (newcomer Jude Hill) is growing up in a community he loves with a caring mother (Catriona Balfe) and a father (Jamie Dornan) working hard away from home to provide for the family. Buddy loves school, his friends, his grandparents (Ciaran Hinds and Judi Dench) and even has a young crush. However, the civil discord engulfing the country around him means that little Buddy's world will change forever. Inspired by his own childhood, Branagh has helmed a touching and gorgeous black and white portrait of the small world of his youth and examined a tumultuous period in history through the eyes of a child.

Mirror