

14 Apr Bait
Mark Jenkin / UK 2019 / 89 min / Cert 15

Tensions simmer between locals and tourists in a Cornish fishing village in this authentic and arrestingly strange tale. Struggling fisherman Martin has personal reason for resentment, forced to sell his parents' harbour-front cottage to a wealthy city-dwelling family who arrive for their summer holiday. And then Martin's van is clamped... Bait's unique visual style, shot in glitchy monochrome on a vintage 16mm cine-camera, with crudely over-dubbed dialogue and sound effects, give it the feel of a recently exhumed 70 year-old artefact. Tough yet funny and poignant, Mark Kermode called it "One of the defining British films of the decade." You won't have seen anything quite like it before.

21 Apr Parasite
Bong Joon-ho / South Korea 2019 / 132 min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

Winner of the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival this South Korean black comedy thriller has many twists and turns. The Kim family of fraudsters lie their way into working closely with the Park family, the picture of aspirational wealth. An interdependent relationship forms between the two families, the Kim children expediently install themselves as tutor and art therapist, while the Parks obviously bankroll their entire household. When a parasitic interloper threatens the Kims' newfound comfort, a savage, underhanded battle for dominance breaks out.

05 May So Long My Son
Xiaoshuai Wang / China 2019 / 185 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

Winner of both Best Actor (Jingchun Wang) and Best Actress (Mei Yong) at the 2019 Berlin Film Festival, this intimate Chinese drama traces a group of friends through personal tragedies and major cultural change. Director Xiaoshuai Wang, a mainstay of Chinese independent cinema, relates how two families endured the Cultural Revolution with its forced abortions and imprisonment for offences deemed to be 'western'. Despite privations and heartbreaks, their dogged resilience sustains their faith in life. Skilful photography, coupled with spellbinding and masterly performances make this film engrossing viewing - our committee members were totally captivated by the families' dilemmas and highly recommend the film to you.

Contact Information

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On rare occasions the programme may change—please check our website before travel.

www.filmsinstafford.com



Stafford Film Theatre



Spring Season 2020

11 Feb Official Secrets
18 Feb Pain and Glory
25 Feb Sorry We Missed You
3 Mar The Farewell
10 Mar Knives Out
17 Mar Honeyland
24 Mar Dirty God
31 Mar Monos
7 Apr Woman at War
14 Apr Bait
21 Apr Parasite
5 May So Long My Son

All films are screened at the Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street Stafford ST16 2LT. Our programme starts at 7.30pm with the main feature at 7.45pm.

Getting to The Gatehouse

By car—Lammascote Gyrotory Car Park, North Walls ST16 3AD (5 mins walk) - free parking in the evening.

By train—Stafford station (10 mins walk)

By bus—Limited evening bus services call at the bus stands in Gaol Square, about 5 mins walk away.

Ticket Prices:

Tickets can be bought from the Gatehouse box office on the night using cash or cards. They can also be ordered in advance by phone (01785 619080) or online at www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

The Gatehouse has agreed not to increase booking fees for the Film Theatre for this season.

Full price: £7 *

Concessions: £6 *

*Ticket prices above include the Gatehouse Theatre's booking fee of 50p per ticket.

You can save money by buying either of the following membership tickets (includes booking fee): -

Membership (total price for 12 films) -

Full member: £59 (price per film just under £5)

Concessions: £47 (price per film just under £4)

Four-film membership - for four of the first six films shown up to 17th Mar

Full member: £24 (price per film £6)

Concessions: £20 (price per film £5)

Personal information given to the Gatehouse box office staff when booking tickets or paying for membership will only be shared with Stafford Film Theatre for its own purposes.



Tuesday nights with Stafford Film Theatre at The Gatehouse Spring 2020

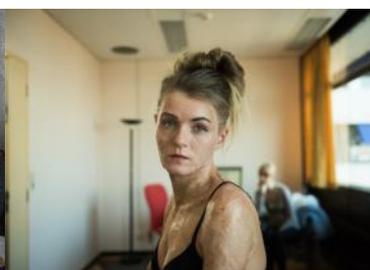


filmsinstafford.com

11 Feb Official Secrets

Gavin Hood / UK, USA 2019 / 112 min / Cert 15

A tense drama based on events in 2003, leading up to the Iraq War. The film tells the story of Katharine Gun, a translator at GCHQ, who leaked a top-secret memo to the press, exposing a joint US/UK illegal spying operation, causing her own life to implode in the fallout. In a star-studded cast (including Ralph Fiennes and Matt Smith), Keira Knightley has received critical acclaim for her "subtle and nuanced performance" as a woman who "had nothing to gain and almost everything to lose" (Mark Kermode). The film has also been described as "a remarkably accurate account of what happened to date.... because the wider story still isn't really over" (Sam Hussein).

**03 Mar The Farewell**

Lulu Wang / China, USA 2019 / 98 min / Cert PG / Some Subtitles

Based on a true story from Director Lulu Wang's own life, The Farewell is a funny, uplifting tale announcing that it is "based on an actual lie". Chinese-American writer Billi is close to her grandmother Nai Nai in China. She discovers Nai Nai has terminal lung cancer and resolves to visit her before it is too late. To disguise the true reason for the visit, the family arrange an impromptu 'marriage' for her visiting cousin who lives in Japan. "It deftly captures complicated family dynamics with a poignant, well-acted drama that marries Chinese culture with universally relatable themes" Critics Summary, Rotten Tomatoes. It won the Audience Award at the 2019 Sundance London Film Festival.

24 Mar Dirty God

Sacha Polak / UK, Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium 2019 / 102 min / Cert 15

Winner of three Golden Calves (best film, best director, best music), this internationally co-produced drama is Polak's English language debut. It tells the story of the aftermath of an acid attack on a young woman who suffers severe burns and her attempts to earn the money to pay for further plastic surgery. Vicky Knight, a burns victim herself, plays the lead role of Jade, to critical acclaim, and the film has been described both as "an authentic portrait of London" (the Guardian) and "positively vibrating with barely suppressed pain, rage and injustice...a sharply observed character study and a damning indictment of our skin deep Instagram culture" (Sight and Sound).

18 Feb Pain and Glory

Pedro Almodóvar / Spain 2019 / 113 min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

Winner of eight awards including the 2019 Cannes Film Festival Best Actor for Antonio Banderas, "Dolor y Gloria" (Pain and Glory) is the latest of at least seventeen films directed by Almodóvar and his seventh collaboration with Penélope Cruz. Banderas plays a film director looking back over his life and loves as he deals with his addictions, his chronic pain and a newfound appreciation of his work. Moscar Bradley (IMDb) writes that "With this gorgeous and unashamedly autobiographical memory piece, Pedro Almodóvar returns to his very best form and certainly gives us his best film in over a decade".

10 Mar Knives Out

Rian Johnson / USA 2019 / 130 min / Cert 12A

This fun modern-day murder mystery stars Daniel Craig who is cast against type as southern private investigator, Benoit Blanc, showing a remarkable talent for comedy in the role. Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is a very successful crime author who lives in an amazing mansion, that would not be out of place in a game of Cluedo. Harlan's large and eccentric family is called to the house for the classic reading of the will. Blanc is the detective who is called in to try and solve the mystery behind Harlan's untimely death just after a family party. Multiple plot twists follow until finally the full truth about the death is revealed.

31 Mar Monos

Alejandro Landes / Spain, UK 2019 / 102 min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

Alejandro Landes' multi award winning film tracks a young group of soldiers and rebels in Latin America as they perform military training exercises by day and indulge in youthful hedonism by night. Rambo, Smurf, Bigfoot, Wolf, Boom-Boom et al form an unconventional bond as they keep watch over an American hostage, Doctora. After an ambush drives the squadron into the jungle, both the mission and the group begin to disintegrate. With a rapturous score by Mica Levi (Under the Skin) Landes examines the chaos and absurdity of war from the unique perspective of adolescence, recalling Lord of the Flies and Beau Travail in a way that feels wholly original.

25 Feb Sorry We Missed You

Ken Loach / UK 2019 / 101 min / Cert 15

In his latest film, nominated for a Palme D'or, director Ken Loach turns his focus on the UK's "gig" economy. Kris Hitchen leads as Ricky, a working man trying to support a family struggling with debt. The chance to become a self-employed delivery driver seems like a golden opportunity but Ricky has not reckoned on a system that has broken the link between risk and reward. This is a powerful drama that takes a cold hard look at working practices in post industrial Britain and their human cost. "As a stripped down, minutely detailed portrait of the daily grind as a back-breaking Sisyphian ordeal "Sorry We Missed You" is engrossing and bluntly persuasive. Justin Chang-Los Angeles Times

17 Mar Honeyland

Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov / Macedonia 2019 / 87 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

Visually stunning and quietly powerful, this is a portrait of a vanishing world in which a determined woman is trying to make her way. Hatidze lives with her ailing mother in an abandoned village in North Macedonia, harvesting honey from wild hives. Her peaceful existence is thrown into upheaval by the arrival of an itinerant family with seven children and a herd of cattle. Hatidze greets the change with an open heart, offering advice on bee-keeping and cautioning about taking too much honey. However, her warnings go unheeded. This documentary, filmed over three years, is beautifully observed and plays more like a thoughtful drama on that way of life.

07 Apr Woman at War

Benedikt Erlingsson / France, Iceland, Ukraine, Denmark 2018 / 101min / Cert 12 / Subtitles

Halla, a middle-aged bicycle-riding choir director, is also a secret eco-warrior, disrupting power lines to stop an aluminium smelting plant destroying the local environment. Halldóra Geirharðsdóttir has created one of the most original and exciting characters to emerge from European Cinema in ages, in a film that is both topical and hugely entertaining. With dazzling cinematography showcasing Iceland's stunning topography, a quirky sense of humour, a novel use of music and a truly astonishing central performance, get ready to meet the year's strongest, most inspirational hero!