

## 18 Jan Les Miserables

Ladj Ly / France 2019 / 104 min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

This multi-nominated film, winner of the Jury Prize in Cannes, is based on real events. Right after France's victory in the 2018 World Cup football, that unified this diverse country in celebration, the scene moves to a divided one in marginalised Parisian suburb Montfermeil (where the director Ladj Ly grew up). Tensions among the cops and within the various local factions run high. Themes of Victor Hugo's Les Misérables are echoed in this gripping, contemporary thriller that ends in a stunning climax. "It is the most incendiary crime film to emerge from French cinema since Mathieu Kassovitz's La Haine", Kevin Maher, Times

## 25 Jan Rocks

Sarah Gavron / UK 2019 / 93 min / Cert 12

An uplifting coming of age film telling the story of Rocks, an East London teenager left to care for herself and her young brother after their mother walks out. Directed by Sarah Gavron and capturing Tower Hamlets in vivid summer colours, the performance of this largely non-professional local cast is raw and honest, exploring the themes of teenage resilience, and female friendship. Bukky Bakray received a BAFTA rising star for her portrayal of Rocks, combining heart-breaking naivety with street smart confidence and joy. "This film is such a rush of vitality. It rocks" Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian "The most authentic film about British teens in years". Clarisse Loughry, Independent

## 01 Feb The Duke

Roger Michell / UK 2021 / 96 min / Cert 12A

A delightful true-crime caper with a terrific lead performance from Jim Broadbent as Newcastle taxi driver, Kempton Bunton who stole Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in 1961 and sent ransom notes demanding more government investment in care for the elderly. Despite his lies and half-truths at the time, we now see Bunton as essentially a good person determined to change the world and save his marriage. How and why he used the Duke to achieve that is a wonderfully uplifting tale, featuring co-star Helen Mirren as his very long-suffering wife. "What a lovely, rousing, finally moving film this is" Xan Brooks, The Guardian

## Contact Information

### SFT membership secretary

Suzan Kerridge 01785 280566 - suzan@filmsinstafford.com

### SFT committee chairman

Graeme Sillitoe 07903 932080 - graeme.sillitoe@gmail.com

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

[www.filmsinstafford.com](http://www.filmsinstafford.com)



Stafford Film Theatre



## Autumn/Winter Season 2021-22

14 Sep Nomadland  
21 Sep After Love  
28 Sep Another Round  
5 Oct Limbo  
12 Oct The Father  
26 Oct Minari  
9 Nov Dear Comrades!  
16 Nov Honeyland  
11 Jan Sound of Metal  
18 Jan Les Miserables  
25 Jan Rocks  
1 Feb The Duke

Our programme starts at 7.30pm with the main feature at 7.45pm, .

**Hopefully we will have no significant Covid restrictions over the season but please be reassured that the theatre has over 400 seats, so there should always be plenty of 'breathing space'!**

### Getting to The Gatehouse Theatre, Eastgate Street, Stafford ST16 2LT

**By car**—North Walls car park ST16 3AD (5 mins walk) - £1 charge in the evening (at time of printing).

**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.

**Cycle stands** are available outside the theatre

### Ticket Prices:

Everyone is welcome (subject to any film's age limit) and you don't need to become a Film Theatre member but if you want to see all or most of the season's films, this can save you up to £2 a film—further details below.

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](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

Full price: £8.50 \*

Concessions: £7.50 \*

\*Ticket prices above include the Gatehouse theatre's booking fee of £2 per ticket.

You can save money by buying a membership ticket

**Membership (cost for 12 films, including booking fee) -**

Full member: £78 (price per film £6.50)

Concessions: £66 (price per film £5.50)

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.



**Welcome back to  
Stafford Film Theatre  
Tuesday nights at  
The Gatehouse  
Sep 2021 - Feb 2022  
[www.filmsinstafford.com](http://www.filmsinstafford.com)**



**14 Sep** **Nomadland**  
Chloe Zhao / USA 2020 / 107 min / Cert 12

Given the events of the last year, we have consciously aimed to provide a season with several uplifting films, including this excellent opening movie. As well as the film winning the Oscar for Best Picture, Frances McDormand also won Best Actress in a Leading Role for her powerful and thought-provoking performance as a woman in her 60s who has lost everything in the Great Recession. She travels through the American West, living in her van as a modern-day nomad. This is a memorable drama set against the beauty of the landscape, forcing us, the audience, to consider what we value, what we should value and how we choose to live our lives.



**21 Sep** **After Love**  
Aleem Khan / UK 2021 / 89 min / Cert 12A

Set in the port of Dover, Mary Hussain (Joanna Scanlan), finds herself a widow following the unexpected death of her husband Ahmed (Nasser Memarzia). A day after the burial she discovers a secret, whilst tidying his things in their Dover home and then sets off to uncover the truth just 21 miles across the Channel in Calais. This is a remarkable debut from director Khan, who handles the subject matter with a delicacy and tenderness that is testament to the quality of its writing and performances. It is brilliantly led by Scanlan, ably supported by Nathalie Richard and newcomer Talid Ariss.

**28 Sep** **Another Round**  
Thomas Vinterberg / Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands 2019 / 117 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

Winner of both the Oscar for Best International Film and its BAFTA equivalent, this is an intoxicating and tragicomic look at male midlife crises. Teachers Martin (Mads Mikkelsen), Tommy, Peter and Nikolaj are stuck in a rut. Unable to share their passions either at school or at home, the friends embark on an audacious experiment: to see if a constant level of alcohol in their blood will lead them to greater freedom and happiness. Written and directed by Thomas Vinterberg (Festen, The Hunt) with a surprising lack of piety. A Hollywood remake is already planned. "A heady, vibrant and funny film" – The Independent

**05 Oct** **Limbo**  
Ben Sharrock / UK 2020 / 104 min / Cert 12A

Recently nominated for two BAFTA awards for Best British Film and Best Debut by a British Writer, Director or Producer, Limbo is a wry and poignant observation of the refugee experience, set on a fictional remote Scottish island where a group of new arrivals await the results of their asylum claims. Amir El-Masry gives an intelligent performance as Omar, a young Syrian musician who is burdened by his grandfather's oud, which he has carried all the way from his homeland. The director spent time working for an NGO in refugee camps where he formed a network of friends whose personal stories inspired the film.

**12 Oct** **The Father**  
Florian Zeller / UK, France 2020 / 96 min / Cert 12A

Anthony Hopkins won Best Actor Oscar 2021 for his deeply moving depiction of a proud ageing man, fiercely resisting help. Trying to make sense of his changing circumstances, he begins to doubt his loved ones, his own mind and even the fabric of his reality. Writer-director Florian Zeller stated "I wanted The Father to be not only a story but an experience; and to be experienced from the inside" – and it truly is! With great supporting performances, especially from Olivia Colman as his empathetic middle-aged daughter, Imogen Poots as a perky new carer, and Rufus Sewell as resentful son-in-law (or is he?!), this is an exceptional and riveting piece of cinema that you won't forget.

**26 Oct** **Minari**  
Isaac Lee Chung / USA, Korea 2021 / 116 min / Cert 12 / Subtitles

Minari traces a Korean family's move from California to Arkansas in 1980s America, driven by the father's dream of starting his own farm, growing Korean vegetables for other immigrants. Based on the director's own childhood, the film vividly evokes the visceral, sensual nature of childhood alongside conflicted adult relationships. This includes of the arrival of Grandma, who brings with her the seeds of the Korean herb, minari, identified as the metaphor for the cycle of regeneration in the immigrant experience. The film has received widespread critical acclaim being described by The Guardian as "infused with a wonderful sentimentality".

**09 Nov** **Dear Comrades!**  
Andrei Konchalovsky / Russia 2020 / 120min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

Shot as if an actual Soviet feature film of 1962, this tells the story of the hushed-up massacre of Novocherkassk workers protesting the state-mandated price rises for essential staples. The city was subsequently sealed off while perceived ringleaders were rounded up, imprisoned or executed. The events are told through Lyuda, a middle-ranking Communist Party official who doggedly persists in believing the party line of sacrifice today for Utopia tomorrow. This is a staggering depiction of real events with intense emotional involvement, superb acting and a compulsive storyline, showing how the Communist ideals differed so much from the reality of everyday life. "Meticulous and majestic" Variety

**16 Nov** **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.

**11 Jan** **Sound of Metal**  
Darius Marder / USA 2019 / 120 min / Cert 15

Sound of Metal was nominated for six Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Actor and won two, one being for Best Sound. Rock drummer Ruben (Riz Ahmed) begins to lose his hearing and discovers that cochlear implants may benefit him, but they are not covered by his medical insurance. Persuaded by his girlfriend, he enters a shelter for deaf recovering addicts but he still wants the implants. Desperate to get the implants and recover his hearing, he sells his former home, a motor caravan, to pay for them. The film uses startling sound design techniques so the audiences can experience Ruben's distorted hearing.