

members-only screenings program 1 2023

1 Feb **Antoinette Dans Les Cevennes**

7pm 96 Mins | France | 2020 | Comedy | M

Inspired by a Robert Louis Stevenson novel, this light-hearted and charming French comedy follows the adventures and misadventures of a young school teacher taking a hiking holiday in the mountains of southern France. Looking forward to holidaying there with her married lover and father of one of her pupils, Antoinette is dismayed when he tells her he must take his wife and children instead. Impulsively, she decides to go there too, but on her own. Following local advice, she hires a donkey to carry her belongings but it proves to have a mind of his own. Things don't go smoothly, especially when she tries to evade any encounter with her lover and family.

1 Mar **Mansfield Park**

7pm UK | 1999 | Comedy Romance Drama | 110 mins | M

In this modern version of Jane Austen's classic novel set in the English countryside of the early 19th Century, we follow the adventures of its heroine Fanny Price. Growing up in a poor family, Fanny is taken away to live on a grand country estate with her wealthy uncle, his wife and their children, to be brought up properly and marry someone of quality. Her uncle decides whom she should marry, but she has other ideas. In this non-traditional interpretation, Fanny proves herself a capable woman with a modern perspective on a woman's place in society and independent views on the social issues of the times. All this makes for a witty and entertaining movie.

5 Apr **Life is Beautiful**

7pm Italy, 1997 (subtitles) | 116 min | Drama/Comedy | PG

Italian actor Robert Benigni co-wrote, directed, and played the lead in this box office success which won several Oscars, the Cannes Grand Prix, and many other international awards. Actress Nicoletta Braschi, Benigni's real life wife, plays his wife on-screen. Benigni excels as a carefree Jewish waiter who falls in love, marries and has a son. Then their lives are disrupted by the Second World War, and they are sent to a Nazi concentration camp. To help his young son survive the horrors of the camp, the father combines willpower with imagination to turn their experience into a humorous game. In dealing with the tragedy of the Holocaust, the film offers a message of hope amidst desperation.

3 May **Hotel Rwanda**

7pm Hotel Rwanda | USA, 2004 | Drama | 121 minutes | M

This award-winning drama is based on events that took place during the 1990s Rwanda genocide, when Hutu militias were killing the formerly dominant Tutsi. An educated and compassionate hotel manager of Hutu ethnicity and his Tutsi wife use their four star hotel to shelter more than a thousand Tutsi refugees fleeing violence at the hands of Hutu gangs. Together with a UN peacekeeping officer, they undertake difficult and protracted negotiations with the militia leaders. Using a combination of bribery, concessions and careful diplomacy, they save the lives of the sheltering Tutsis. This powerfully moving drama, full of suspense, at times tense and confronting, delivers in the end a triumph of humanity over inhumanity.

14 May **A Hero**

2pm Iran, 2021 (subtitles) | Drama | 127 minutes | PG

A man imprisoned for non-payment of a debt is released on two days' leave, and tries to convince his creditor to withdraw his complaint in exchange for part payment of the debt. With his girlfriend, he hatches a scheme to find the money needed, but things don't work out as planned. He finds himself hailed mistakenly as a Good Samaritan and hero, confronting him with a moral dilemma that proves too difficult to resolve. However, it enables him ultimately to gain a better understanding of the difference between right and wrong. This acclaimed and award-winning drama by Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi is full of surprises and delivers powerful performances from its lead actors.