

23 Jan **Lion**
Garth Davis / Australia, UK, USA 2016 / 118 min / Cert PG

Lion is a biographical drama, nominated for six Oscars and starring Dev Patel, Rooney Mara and Nicole Kidman. Based on the memoir of Saroo Brierly, it is the true and inspiring story of a man's search for his birth family. The film opens with the trials and tribulations of the five-year old Saroo who accidentally gets onto a train which takes him thousands of miles across India to Kolkata, where he faces many dangers and challenges. We see his move to Australia and his carefree life until, at the age of twenty five, and armed with only a handful of memories, he sets out to find his lost family. This is a thoughtful and uplifting story.

30 Jan **Frantz**
François Ozon / France, Germany 2016 / 114 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

With strong echoes of Hitchcock, this new film by director Ozon (Jeune et Jolie. Swimming Pool) is a subtle, sensitive mystery movie. Grieving for her lost fiancé (Frantz) - killed in the trenches during the First World War - Anna stumbles across Adrien, a strange young Frenchman laying flowers on his grave. Gradually she invites him into her life in small-town Germany – but all is not quite what it seems. Frantz's young lead, Paula Beer, won the Venice Film Festival 2016 emerging talent award for her luminous performance in this inter-war years romance, where all are still coming to terms with the losses and disruption of the Great War... and maybe a chance for redemption.

06 Feb **Hidden Figures**
Theodore Melfi / USA 2016 / 126 min / Cert PG

Based on a true story, a film that attracted three Oscar nominations and was hailed by Radio 5 Live's Mark Kermode as a 'really enjoyable crowd-pleaser' brings into long-overdue focus the undervalued, crucial contribution to NASA's space programme of female African-American mathematicians. It's 1960 and JFK has ushered in a supposedly progressive era. However, the Americans lag behind the Soviets in the space race, and while Washington is reaching for the stars, some of their key analysts are obliged to use segregated toilets. The pioneering roles of the punning title are beautifully acted by Octavia Spencer, Taraji P Henson and singer/model Janelle Monae, with Kevin Costner and Kirsten Dunst for once overshadowed.

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



Stafford Film Theatre

Autumn/Winter Season 2017-18

12 Sep **Moonlight**
19 Sep **Their Finest**
26 Sep **Elle**
3 Oct **The Eagle Huntress**
10 Oct **The Handmaiden**
24 Oct **I Am Not Your Negro**
31 Oct **A Man Called Ove**
7 Nov **Personal Shopper**
21 Nov **The Salesman**
23 Jan **Lion**
30 Jan **Frantz**
6 Feb **Hidden Figures**

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. All programmes are subject to change.

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—Some buses stop outside and evening buses on most other 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

Full price: £6.50 *

Concessions: £5.50 *

*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: -

Membership (total price for 12 films) -

Full member: £54 (price per film £4.50)

Concessions: £42 (price per film £3.50)

Four-film membership - for four of the first six films shown up to 24th Oct

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
Sep 2017 - Feb 2018**



12 Sep Moonlight
Barry Jenkins / USA 2016 / 111 min / Cert 15

At last, your opportunity to see why Moonlight deservedly prised the Oscar from La La Land's grasp. Using three different actors to trace a troubled life through boyhood to manhood, the film is about growing up poor, black and gay in Miami. Yet it's much more than a coming-of-age picture, prompting questions about love, family, addiction, friendship, role models, homophobia and the meaning of masculinity. The subject matter means it's not an easy watch, being at times unbearably personal, but as the New York Times summed up its storyline, cinematography and use of music, it is 'from first shot to last, about as beautiful a movie as you're ever likely to see'.



19 Sep Their Finest
Lone Scherfig / UK 2016 / 114 min / Cert 12A

London 1940. To her own astonishment, a young Welsh woman, played by Gemma Arterton, is hired by Richard E Grant's character as a scriptwriter for a wartime propaganda film aimed at boosting Britain's flagging morale. With the best young actors involved in the military, vain ex-matinee idol Ambrose Hilliard (Bill Nighy) is roped in. Although it stays 'pleasingly light' as the Radio Times review put it, with 'a beautifully balanced cast of old stalwarts and rising stars', a plot laced with romance and comedy never sugarcoats the problems engulfing Blitz-ravaged London. Adapted from Lissa Evans' novel Their Finest Hour, this is an engaging celebration of a forgotten facet of British cinema.

26 Sep Elle
Paul Verhoeven / France, Germany, Belgium / 130 min / Cert 18 / Subtitles

Elle opens with a shocking scene of a violent sexual assault, but thereafter traces a plot narrative which has been ascribed the status of a new genre by the Guardian - 'the rape revenge black comedy'. Within the context of multiple sub-plots, director Verhoeven delivers what Variety magazine also described as 'a complex, compassionate, often corrosively funny examination of unconventional desires'. Isabelle Huppert, in a dazzling performance as Michele, is both rape victim and CEO of a video game company specialising in violently eroticised medieval fantasy. Her reaction to the attack and subsequent quest to track down her attacker defy both convention and audience expectation.

03 Oct The Eagle Huntress
Otto Bell / UK, Mongolia / 87 min / Cert U / Subtitles

This highly regarded documentary has much to enjoy, be it a coming of age story, feminist fable or touching love story between father and daughter. It depicts the quest of 13-year-old Aisholpan, a member of the isolated north western Mongolian tribe, the Kazah, determined to break the male-only tradition of eagle hunting, which has prevailed for seven generations. As well as its stunning location and staggering cinematography, the film also provides access into a unique culture and community and was described by one influential American reviewer as 'a movie that expands your sense of what is possible'.



10 Oct The Handmaiden
Park Chan-wook / S.Korea, Japan / 144 min / Cert 18 / Subtitles

Adapted from Sarah Walters' highly acclaimed novel, Fingersmith, the film shifts the book's setting (Dickensian England) to 1930s Korea, under Japanese colonial rule. Such a startling alteration in both era and location does not detract from the original novel's impact in the complexity and shock of its plotting. The film was described by Empire magazine as 'a superlative thriller and a deeply erotic character study'. The Guardian's Peter Bradshaw also noted that it 'wrongfoots you at every turn'. The location of the film is equally unsettling: a hybrid of western gothic mansion and palatial Japanese residence, the beautiful, mysterious and sinister features of which perfectly complement the labyrinthine twists of the plot.

24 Oct I Am Not Your Negro
Raoul Peck / USA, France, Belgium, Switzerland 2017 / 92 min / Cert 12A

The late novelist and social commentator James Baldwin pulled no punches in exposing racism in the USA. This Oscar-nominated film, narrated by Samuel L Jackson, turns an abandoned book (in which Baldwin assessed slain civil rights leaders Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Medgar Evers) into a brilliant documentary. In one clip from the Dick Cavett Show, he sets out, with fiery eloquence, the way prejudice remained endemic in reputedly enlightened times. The host and fellow guests shuffle uneasily in their seats... Graham Norton it isn't. Marlon Brando, George W Bush, Bob Dylan and Charlton Heston also appear in a production which proves that non-fictional film can equal compelling drama.

31 Oct A Man Called Ove
Hannes Holm / Sweden, Denmark, Norway 2016 / 116 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

This black comedy, based on Fredrik Backman's bestselling novel, is being touted as potentially *the* feelgood film of 2017. Ove is a grumpy, grieving mechanic who dislikes strangers on sight, who rigidly enforces pedantic bye-laws of his residential block, and is ready to end it all a year after his wife has passed away and he has been made redundant. A string of Ove's suicide attempts are thwarted by a series of comically mundane interruptions, which introduce him to a new neighbour and they form an unlikely friendship. Nominated for best foreign film Oscar and won European Comedy film of the year at the European Film awards in 2017.



07 Nov Personal Shopper
Olivier Assayas / France, Germany, Czech Rep, Belgium 2016 / 105 min / Cert 15

Kristen Stewart plays Maureen, a young American woman living in Paris in the former home of her twin brother, Lewis, who has died from a congenital heart condition which they both share. She is waiting for a promised, reassuring sign from Lewis on 'the other side'. Meanwhile, to make a living, she works as a personal shopper for Kyra, a wealthy socialite. Picking up a Best Director award from Cannes, Olivier Assayas has fashioned a ghost story, a meditation on grief, a withering picture of the fashion industry, and above all a stylish mystery of ambiguity and suspense with what the Guardian describes as 'a dash of pure Hitchcockian brilliance'.

21 Nov The Salesman
Ashgar Farhadi / France, Iran, Qatar 2016 / 143 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

From director Farhadi (About Elly, A Separation, The Past) comes another compelling drama, set in modern-day Iran. This film follows Rana and Emad, a young middle-class couple, whose marriage becomes increasingly strained after a traumatic incident. As amateur actors they are rehearsing the Arthur Miller play Death of a Salesman, which somehow mirrors the cracks in their relationship. The film, shot in Tehran, explores challenging questions of morality and retribution. The Salesman received great critical acclaim and won multiple awards, such as an Oscar for The Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards this year, while Shahab Hosseini (Emad) took the Best Actor award at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival.