

14 Jan Perfect Days

Wim Wenders / Japan, Germany 2023 / 125 min / Cert PG / Subtitles

Wenders' best film since *Wings of Desire* is a heart-warming Oscar-nominated drama which finds beauty and serenity in the everyday. Kôji Yakusho won Best Actor in Cannes for his portrayal of Hirayama, a fastidious, solitary man who takes pride in his work as a toilet cleaner and finds joy through music (his collection of classic rock and pop cassettes), reading (second-hand paperbacks), photography (film camera) and trees. *Perfect Days* is a gentle and quietly profound character study of an analogue man in a digital world, a love letter to Tokyo and a case for leading a simpler way of life.

21 Jan Challengers

Luca Guadagnino / USA, Italy 2024 / 131 min / Cert 15

Following a triangle of relationships between tennis prodigies, *Challengers* vividly communicates the pains and gains of the professional tennis circuit. Josh O' Connor captures the charisma of talented but wayward Patrick; Mike Faist exemplifies boyhood buddy Art's dogged discipline; Zendaya personifies beautiful Tashi's talent, discipline and love for the game. We see the single-mindedness of elite athletes – attractive maybe but not necessarily nice or loveable? Former world Top-10 player Andrea Petkovic wrote: "It's not the best movie I have ever seen. But it is the best tennis movie. Maybe even the best sports movie. Sorry, Moneyball"

28 Jan Io Capitano

Matteo Garrone / Italy, Belgium, France 2023 / 122 min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

Seydou and Mousa, two Senegalese teenagers seduced by the promise of a better, more exciting time in Europe, embark on a journey across Africa toward the Mediterranean Sea. They face a series of grave hardships including a dangerous trek across open desert and potentially deadly encounters with counterfeiters, thieves and traffickers. Bustling with energy, with vivid details from the director's research and the real-life experiences of former migrants, and in turn both horrifying and beautiful, this timely film was Oscar nominated for best international feature and the lead actor won an award at the Venice Film Festival.

About Stafford Film Theatre

Formed in 1949 and entirely run by volunteers, the Film Theatre shows critically acclaimed British and foreign films that you might otherwise not have a chance to see on the big screen in Stafford. The main auditorium in the Gatehouse where we screen our films provides the authentic cinema experience. You are guaranteed a warm welcome, we always encourage feedback on our films and suggestions for future seasons, and there's even a free raffle each week!

Contact details

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10 Sep
17 Sep
24 Sep
1 Oct
8 Oct
15 Oct
29 Oct
5 Nov
12 Nov
14 Jan
21 Jan
28 Jan

The Bikeriders
The Zone of Interest
American Fiction
The Teachers' Lounge
The Outfit
Driving Mum
Rose
The Boy and the Heron
Kneecap
Perfect Days
Challengers
Io Capitano

Our programme starts at 7.30pm with the main feature at 7.45pm. On rare occasions the programme may change. Please check our website before travel.

Getting to The Gatehouse, Eastgate St Stafford ST16 2LT

By car—Lamascote Gyrotory Car Park, North Walls ST16 3AD (5 mins walk) - £1.10 charge in the evening.

By train—Stafford station (10 mins walk)

By bus—5E/8A/9/875 (check timetables before travel)

By cycle—NCN 5 & 55 to Stafford. Stands outside theatre

Prices—including new cheaper tickets for young people and an option to split the cost of membership for the season

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 £2.50 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

Full price: £12 Over 60: £11 Under 25: £7.50

Membership (cost for 12 films)

Full member: £114 Over 60: £102 Under 25: £66

Half-season option (for either the first 6 or the second 6 films)

Full member: £57 Over 60: £51 Under 25: £33

All ticket prices above include the £3 booking fee levied by the Gatehouse theatre for each film



Stafford Film Theatre

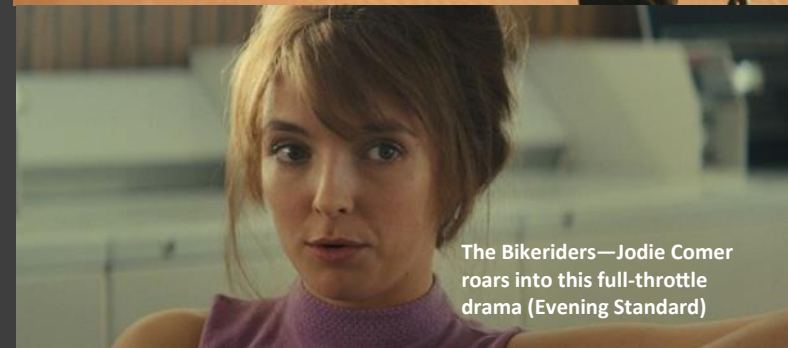


The Zone of Interest—Jonathan Glazer's unforgettable Auschwitz drama is a brutal masterpiece (The Guardian)

Great films on the BIG screen with
Stafford Film Theatre
at The Gatehouse
Sep 2024—Jan 2025



Io Capitano—A swashbuckling, award-winning portrayal of the European migrant crisis (Irish Times)



The Bikeriders—Jodie Comer roars into this full-throttle drama (Evening Standard)

filmsinstafford.com

10 Sep The Bikeriders

Jeff Nichols / USA 2023 / 116 min / Cert 15 / **Speech subtitles, to help audience members with hearing loss**

Set in 1960s Chicago, this is an absorbing drama based on true events. We follow the rise and decline of fictional motorbike club, The Vandals, through the eyes of Kathy (Jodie Comer, giving a riveting performance). She is married to Benny (Austin Butler), who is expected to be the successor to leader Johnny (Tom Hardy). The country changes with the return of the Vietnam veterans, as does the bikers club. "Jodie Comer, Austin Butler and Tom Hardy are magnetic in this power struggle-cum-love triangle inspired by Danny Lyon's 1968 photographic study of Chicago bikers." (The Guardian).

1 Oct The Teachers' Lounge

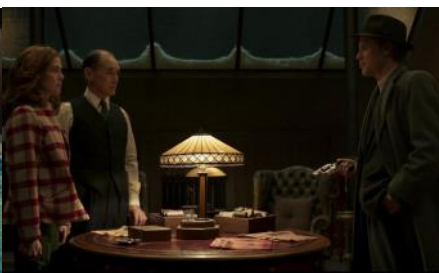
Ilker Catak / Germany 2023 / 98 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

A gloriously intense thriller about things that can happen every day – and the dramatic impact of a few wrong decisions, even if taken with good intentions. Leonie Benesch (The Crown) plays Carla, a dedicated young German high school teacher. When a series of thefts occur and one of her students is suspected, she does some modest detective work – with unexpected consequences. She then tries to mediate between outraged parents, opinionated colleagues and aggressive students, but is relentlessly confronted by the school system structures, overlaid with national, racial and class resentments. As we will Carla to transcend the obstacles and threats, the more desperately she tries to do everything right, the more she seems to approach disaster.

29 Oct Rose

Niels Arden Oplev / Denmark / 2022 / 106 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

Sophie Gråbøl (The Killing) stars as Inger in this poignant and tender film, involving the relationship she has with her sister which is greatly challenged on a coach trip to Paris. In response to Inger's announcement on the coach that she has mental health issues, there is a mixture of responses from pity to discrimination from the other coach passengers. On arrival in Paris it becomes clear that Inger has a hidden agenda involving somebody from her past. This is a funny and uplifting film which handles the issues and related discrimination with sensitivity and tenderness.



17 Sep The Zone of Interest

Jonathan Glazer / UK 2023 / 105 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

The most requested film by our members and the winner of both the Oscar and Bafta for the best foreign language film. Based on Martin Amis' novel of the same name, it tells the story of Rudolf Hoss who is a devoted family man. He lives with his wife and young children in an attractive villa close to his work as the commandant of the Auschwitz extermination camp. The film has been described as a landmark movie, hugely important, that's unafraid of difficult ideas. It does not show what is happening close to the family home, but the events are heard. The picture won the Oscar for best sound.

08 Oct The Outfit

Graham Moore / UK 2022 / 105 min / Cert 15

Set in a gentlemen's outfitters in Chicago in 1956, this old-fashioned crime thriller has a strong dialogue driven story with lots of twists on the way. Mark Rylance gives a stellar performance as Leonard Burling, a master tailor from Saville Row. Most of Leonard's customers are gangsters who use his back room as a place for trading messages. He turns a blind eye, until a visit one evening has devastating consequences. With its action in a single location, it has been likened to a Hitchcock thriller. "The Outfit follows a pattern set by countless flicks of the past, but its freshness is in the intelligence and surprise of the script" (Empire)

5 Nov The Boy and the Heron

Hiyao Miyazaki / Japan 2023 / 124 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

Hayao Miyazaki's first film in 10 years, The Boy and the Heron is set in 1940's wartime Japan and follows the story of Mahito a twelve-year-old boy who has lost his mother and moves with his father to a new rural town, following his father's re-marriage. There Mahito struggles to fit in, then meets a talking heron who leads him into a forbidden tower and then on into a fantastical world full of strange animals and magical characters that echo the world he has left. A coming-of-age story, the Boy and the Heron explores grief, acceptance, and redemption. "A strikingly beautiful densely detailed fantasy" (The Guardian)

24 Sep American Fiction

Cord Jefferson / USA 2023 / 116 min / Cert 15

Thelonius "Monk" Ellison is a literature professor and novelist whose highbrow fiction works sell poorly. Angered by the accusation that his writing ignores 'the African-American experience', Monk pseudonymously pens a stereotypical 'Black' novel which gains widespread acclaim. Soon he's complaining to his agent: "The dumber I behave, the richer I get." This delightful satirical comedy is an Oscar and Critic's Choice winner for best adapted screenplay. "Elegantly walking a line between absurdist satire and family drama, this is a clever send-up of how the broadness of Black culture gets reduced to cliché." (Empire).

15 Oct Driving Mum

Hilmar Oddson / Iceland, Estonia 2022 / 113 min / Cert 12 / Subtitles

Middle-aged and disappointed, Jón, spends his days knitting and listening to the radio with his domineering elderly mother, on their rural Icelandic farmstead. With his life overtaken with looking after his home and his mother's needs, Jón's isolated world is upended when she suddenly dies. Having left him a series of instructions to follow upon her death, Jón sets out on a journey across Iceland to honour her final wishes – including being buried in her home village. Strapping her into his Ford Cortina, and with the beloved family dog Brezhnev in tow, he sets off on his strange odyssey. With his late mum still nagging him from the back seat, he meets a variety of peculiar and charming strangers en route, and encounters some ghosts from his past too...

12 Nov Kneecap

Richard Peppiat / Ireland, UK, 2024 / 105 min / Cert 18

Kneecap is a comedy/drama set in west Belfast in 2019, describing the rise of Belfast based hip hop trio, Kneecap. Fate brings together disillusioned music teacher, JJ, and self-confessed low-life scum, Naoise and Liam Og. Under the name 'Kneecap', the band begin moulding their language to fit their anarchic and hedonistic lives. However, to get their voices heard the trio must overcome police, paramilitaries and politicians as well as realising that their worst enemies are often themselves. This is an original and exhilarating biopic.