

# VERNON FILM SOCIETY FILM GUIDE



PRIVILEGE. AMBITION. DESIRE.  
AT BRIDESHEAD EVERYTHING  
COMES AT A PRICE.

## BRIDESHEAD REVISITED

MATTHEW GOODE  
BEN WHISHAW  
HAYLEY ATWELL  
AND  
EMMA THOMPSON  
AND  
MICHAEL GAMBON

PIVOTAL FILMS. A CECILIA COMPANY. BY BEST FILMS. PRESENTS  
A FILM BY JULIAN ARPADY. STARRING MATTHEW GOODE, BEN WHISHAW, HAYLEY ATWELL,  
EMMA THOMPSON AND MICHAEL GAMBON. "BRIDESHEAD REVISITED" CAPTURA  
L'AMOUR, L'AMBITIONE E LA DESIRE IN UNO DEI PIU' GRANDI ROMANZI  
DELLA LETTERATURA INGLESE. UN FILM DI JULIAN ARPADY. CON  
MATTHEW GOODE, BEN WHISHAW, HAYLEY ATWELL, EMMA THOMPSON  
E MICHAEL GAMBON. "BRIDESHEAD REVISITED" CAPTURA L'AMOUR,  
L'AMBITIONE E LA DESIRE IN UNO DEI PIU' GRANDI ROMANZI  
DELLA LETTERATURA INGLESE. UN FILM DI JULIAN ARPADY. CON  
MATTHEW GOODE, BEN WHISHAW, HAYLEY ATWELL, EMMA THOMPSON  
E MICHAEL GAMBON.

VERNON TOWNE THEATRE

ADMISSION - \$6.00

## JANUARY - MARCH 2009

## HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

MONDAY, January 12

United Kingdom - 99 min

PG (Coarse language)

Mike Leigh, often a highly political filmmaker, returns to his comedic roots in the delightful *Happy-Go-Lucky*, which had its premiere at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®. This latest work t shows the sheer versatility of one of the cinema's master filmmakers. Blessed with a vibrant ensemble cast, deft direction and a genuinely witty script, *Happy-Go-Lucky* is a vastly appealing comedy about life, love and knowing how to have fun. Poppy (Sally Hawkins) is a flamboyant, free-spirited elementary school teacher. As she rides her bicycle through the streets of central London, she smiles and waves at acquaintances and strangers alike; she's constantly taken with life. After her beloved bicycle is stolen, Poppy decides to take driving lessons from the Axle "good driving is no accident" School of Motoring. There she meets Scott, her hypersensitive driving instructor, and Tim, a social worker from the school system who, fully appreciates her effervescent attitude. Leigh and his cast have fun exploring the ins and outs of this classic romantic scenario. There is a part of Poppy in each of us, urging us to laugh out loud, even during many of life's terribly unfunny moments. Leigh's good-natured comic spirit successfully steers us through light and dark moments, shaping Poppy into one of his most memorable creations.



**"Sally Hawkins offers an Oscar-worthy performance as Poppy, the funny, kind-hearted, and mischievous protagonist."**

- Premiere

## BRIDESHEAD REVISITED

MONDAY, January 26

United Kingdom - 133 min

PG (Nudity, sexually suggestive scene)

After creating such light-hearted crowd-pleasers as *Kinky Boots* and *Becoming Jane*, Julian Jarrold is back with a remarkable feature film venturing into more dramatic territory. Epic in scope, *Brideshead Revisited* explores ideas of love, class, religion and other themes sure to leave the viewer with much to think about. Based on Evelyn Waugh's 1945 classic novel, the film tells the story of young artist Charles Ryder and his complex love affair with the aristocratic Flyte family. After Charles meets Sebastian Flyte during his first year at Oxford, the two boys quickly develop a deep friendship. When Sebastian takes his new friend to the Flyte family home, Charles develops an immediate love for Sebastian's sister Julia. The story continues across the span of years, chronicling the complex relationships that form between Charles, Sebastian, Julia, the staunchly Catholic Flyte matriarch, Lady Marchmain (Emma Thompson), and the free-spirited Flyte patriarch, Lord Marchmain (Michael Gambon). Above all, however, it is the relationship between Charles and Julia, one defined by unrequited love, that haunts and ultimately casts a spell on the viewer. The film also evocatively explores how religion can play a crucial role in both fostering and destroying relationships, and how faith is not something that can easily be replaced once it has been questioned. With excellent performances from the entire ensemble cast, *Brideshead Revisited* is sure to win the hearts of all who see it.



**"It's a great piece of work in a movie that... deserves to be seen even if you swear undying allegiance to the BBC mini-series."**

- Christian Science Monitor

## I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG

MONDAY, February 9

France - 117 min

G (No advisory)



A Special Presentation at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®, this is the touching and emotional debut of director Philippe Claudel. The film tells the moving story of two sisters rediscovering their relationship after years of separation. Reaching beyond the traditional family drama, Claudel's film, which won the Prize of the Ecumenical Jury at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival, crafts a sophisticated examination of forgiveness. Immediately following her release from prison after serving a fifteen-year sentence for committing an inexplicable crime, Juliette (Kristin Scott Thomas) reunites with her sister Léa, having not seen her since childhood. Léa, who is now married with two adopted children, warmly accepts her older sister into her home. As Juliette struggles to overcome her demons, she finds it increasingly difficult to adapt to her newfound freedom. In what can best be described as a career-defining achievement, Scott Thomas delivers a commanding performance that underscores the dynamic relationship of the two siblings. Given its serious subject matter, the film could have remained dramatically downbeat throughout, but Claudel interweaves flashes of dry humour and moments of uplifting warm-heartedness with extremely smart dialogue, offering additional complexity to a visually stunning film.

**"Performances this strong and direction this sensitive make us simply grateful to have an emotional story we can sink our teeth into and enjoy ."**

- Los Angeles Times

## FROZEN RIVER

MONDAY, February 23

USA - 97 min

PG (Coarse language, violence)



Courtney Hunt's striking directorial debut, won the Grand Jury Prize for best dramatic feature at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. The feature chronicles the friendship between two disparate women, one white and the other Native American, in the Mohawk reservation area straddling the American-Canadian border on the St. Lawrence River. Veteran actress Melissa Leo (*21 Grams*) a powerful and affecting performance as Ray Eddy, a poor working mother of two who forms an unusual friendship with Lila Littlewolf, a tough, street-smart Mohawk woman who makes ends meet by smuggling illegal immigrants into the United States. After Ray's husband runs out on her, she is left to take care of her sons in a run-down trailer home. She soon encounters Lila and is at first manipulated into doing a run for a smuggling ring. Out of necessity, the two women soon find themselves collaborating on the illegal enterprise. *Frozen River* integrates the best elements of intimate character studies with a narrative that keeps spiralling in various unanticipated directions. The end result is a tense, humanistic portrait about individual courage and sacrifice in the unforgiving netherworld of human trafficking,

**"Made with uncommon skill and assurance, the film never succumbs to rank sentimentality, but it manages to get at the nuances of human relationships."**

- Washington Post

## THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES

MONDAY, March 23

USA - 110 min

PG (Violence, coarse language)



A Gala screening at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival®, this is a powerful and moving story of love, friendship and courage in small-town America. Adapting Sue Monk Kidd's bestselling novel of the same name, director Gina Prince-Blythewood has created a heartwarming tale of trust and self-discovery. Set in South Carolina in 1964, *The Secret Life of Bees* stars the talented and charismatic Dakota Fanning as young protagonist Lily Owens. Lily suffered the trauma of losing her mother at a very young age and still has not come close to recovering from the loss. Now a young teen, Lily leads an almost reclusive life on a peach farm, where she lives with her volatile father (Paul Bettany) and is left largely to her own devices. Luckily for Lily, her caregiver is also her sole friend, Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson, *Dreamgirls*). Together, they decide to flee the farm and embark on a journey to a nearby small town where Lily hopes she will uncover some of the secrets of her mother's – and her own – past. Their sojourn takes them on numerous adventures, but they are finally taken in by the witty and spunky Boatwright sisters. While there, they discover the world of beekeeping and honey-making as well as the far more expansive world of trust, kindness and forgiveness. The film has all the ingredients of a feel-good film journey for all ages.

**“An affecting ensemble piece that's destined to generate a fair share of awards-season buzz.”**  
- Hollywood Reporter

### FILM SCHEDULE

Jan. 12 Happy-Go-Lucky  
Jan. 26 Brideshead Revisited  
Feb. 9 I've Loved You So Long  
Feb. 23 Frozen River  
Mar. 6-12 Annual Film Festival  
Mar. 23 The Secret Life of Bees

### FILM TIMES

5:15 and 7:45 pm  
Advance tickets on sale  
at theatre and  
Bean Scene Coffee House  
1 week prior to each film

The Vernon Film Society is proud to be a member of THE FILM CIRCUIT



filmcircuit.ca

FILM CIRCUIT GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN FILM:



Special thanks to: The Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada, The Department of Canadian Heritage, The McLean Foundation and the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation

**WINNER OF THE PETER F. DRUCKER AWARD FOR CANADIAN NONPROFIT INNOVATION**

Film Circuit provides filmgoers in underserved communities transformative experiences through access to Canadian and international independent films. Film Circuit plays a leading role in building markets and audiences for Canadian film.

[www.vernonfilmsociety.bc.ca](http://www.vernonfilmsociety.bc.ca)