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CINEMA OBSCURA

New season, fresh location

WIVELISCOMBE'S film society, Cinema Obscura - awarded "Best New Film Society" by British Federation of Film Societies in 2000 - will be commencing its seventh (yes we have reached seven!) season of award winning films on Sunday 24th September.

The 2006/7 programme will include several films being shown for the first time in the South West.

The season kicks off with Silvio Soldini's Bread and Tulips (cert12), a charming but wistful comedy of "rediscovered love" starring Licia Maglietta as Rosalba - a fortysomething mother of two who gets left behind on a family vacation and who winds up in Venice.

This film will have other mothers reaching for both their hankies and their travel agents' phone numbers.

When the film opens, Rosalba is wearing orange tennis shoes, an orange visor and burgundy leggings - the very latest in trashy Euro-tourist wear.

By the end, she's negotiating Venice's maze of streets and canals in a simple shift, her childbearing hips rocking seductively from side to side. Venice has liberated her inner bohemian.

Established and new members are sure to enjoy the new venue as Cinema Obscura is moving location to the Sports and Arts Hall at Wiveliscombe Primary

School - still screening on Sunday evenings, doors open from 7pm with the main feature commencing at 7.30pm. Full membership is £25 (couples £45) with guest entry being £4.00.

Mark Reynolds, Cinema Obscura's chair, said: "Cinema Obscura has put together another season of great and individualistic films which members and their guests will remember and savour."

"With our move to the Wiveliscombe Primary School Hall we also hope to significantly improve the comfort for our audiences."

The full season of films is:

24th September, Bread & Tulips (12) dir: Silvio Soldini

22nd October, Night of Truth (18) dir: Fanta Regina Nacro

19th November, Hidden (15) dir: Michael Haneke

21st January, The Sun (PG) dir: Alexander Sokurov

18th February, Untold Scandal (18) dir: E J-Yong

18th March, Head On (18) dir: Fatih Akin

15th April, Tropical Malady (12A) dir: Apichatpong Weerasethakul

20th May, Machuca (15) dir: Andrés Wood

Full details of this season of films from John Alder 01984 624102 or Eddie Gaines 01984 624657.



OUR PLAYGROUP IN WIVELISCOMBE OFFERS FREE SESSIONS PER TERM TO 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS FOR TERM AFTER 3rd BIRTHDAY

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Festival of Silent Cinema

ANOTHER first for the 10 Parishes! The first Wiveliscombe Festival of Silent Cinema will be held from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th September.

The idea for bringing Silent Film to Wivey came about before the 10 Parishes Festival last year and there are plans to incorporate it into the 2007 Festival.

Interest in silent films has mushroomed recently (with Silents seasons at the NFT, successful screenings of silent films at the Bath, Nottingham and Salisbury Festivals and the Exeter Phoenix, BBC4's Silent Britain season, Paul Merton's series on silent comedies, The Lost World of Friese-Greene on various BBC channels, and even commercial outlets like MVC stocking silents) so the decision to bring fascinating silent film to this area is almost a natural progression!

Why, in these high-definition, surround-sound, digitally-enhanced times, would anyone want to watch silent films?

The answer is, of course, that masterpieces are not invalidated by subsequent technological developments. The best silent comedies are still hilarious, as Merton demonstrated. The best dramas still tell us something about human emotions, how people lived, loved and hoped in different times and different social conditions.

Many silent films can still impress with their stylistic and technical daring; for example,

the decision to bring fascinating silent film to this area is almost a natural progression!

the decision won't be made until mid-August.



Silent Moves: They didn't talk but they certainly moved

experts still puzzle over how some effects in Buster Keaton's mid-1920s films were achieved.

The makers of several recent action adventures have emphasised they have rejected computer-effects (CGI), and gone back to using stunt-men and real mechanical effects because audiences are tiring of CGI - where anything is possible, nothing is surprising.

One exciting thing about silent films is that most actions were done for real, usually by the stars. Keaton and Harold Lloyd did their own stunts, some of which were genuinely life-threatening. Lillian Gish nearly lost an arm after hours lying on an ice-flow in Way Down East. It's the immediacy, the feel of authenticity, and the experimentation with techniques that were not yet commonplace, that make silent films so alive.

A grant application to Awards for All was submitted last month and the decision won't be made until mid-August.

But the organisers of the festival are going ahead with their plans to show the films in the new hall of Wiveliscombe Primary School, beginning on the Friday afternoon with a free show of comedy shorts for the pupils.

There will then be screenings of features over the weekend, followed by the first film (a "talkie", of course) in Cinema Obscura's new season on Sunday night.

For the Saturday screenings we will have live accompaniment from Jan Kopinski, the distinguished Anglo-Polish jazz saxophonist who is also an expert on silent films, and Steve Iliffe, the keyboard-player from his band Pinski Zoo. This is a real coup for Wivey as Pinski Zoo has an impressive international reputation.

Look out for flyers with programme details soon! More information from, and offers of help to Barry Witherden 01984 629114 or Pauline Homeshaw 01984 624564.

—Red Hat - red hot!—

SATURDAY 1st July, the hottest day of the year so far, saw the launch of 'Red Hat', the Wiveliscombe Art and Craft Co-operative.

Local people came to meet the artists and enjoy a glass of wine, whilst browsing the well-stocked shelves. Brian Sharman, a classical musician, entertained shoppers; his wonderful lute and guitar playing complemented the ringing of the till!

Red Hat consists of eight local artisans brought together to launch what is a new concept for our town. The primary motivation is to bring high quality, locally produced goods to the community without the cost and constraints of a traditional gallery.

From a selection of greetings cards to precious metal jewellery and fine art, there is something available for most tastes and budgets.

The founder members divide costs and labour equally and run the shop, which is open Monday to Saturday 10.00am - 5.30pm and Sundays in high season, on a rota basis.

Resident artist, Claire Rice, can be seen on most days working in the front of the shop, and will welcome anyone who wants to see her work or commission a painting.

Other members of the co-operative will be working at their particular craft on their duty days, with the exception of Raamy Nadim our resident potter (too messy) and our artist in wood, Peter

Vernon, (too noisy), both of whom will welcome passers by for a chat about their art.

Jewellers, Penny Mackreth and Annie Collins create wonderfully unique and desirable pieces from hand made beads and intricate wirework.

Trish Perrin and Ann Sharman our talented textile artists, offer two very different styles of work. Trish

makes one-off statement bags and all manner of lovely fabric pieces for the home, whilst Ann, creates stunning embroidered landscape scenes, inspired by her immediate surroundings.

Muralist Annie Phillips is able to come to your home and paint a picture to your specification directly onto a wall. Or, indeed, a

moveable feast, a mural painted on board!

So, if you're looking for a gift, a souvenir or a special treat for yourself, come along to Red Hat - Locally produced art with local people in mind.

For more information about joining the co-operative etc. telephone Claire Rice 01984 623806.

Jeremy Browne MP visits Red Hat



THE founding members of 'Red Hat', the Wiveliscombe Art and Craft Co-operative, welcomed local MP Jeremy Browne to their shop at 14 High Street on Friday 14th July.

Pauline Homeshaw, the organiser of the popular 10 Parishes Festival, introduced the artists, some of whom were remembered by Mr Browne from his visit to the exhibitors at last September's events.

A keen supporter of the arts, Mr

Browne spent a pleasant morning chatting informally with the assembled artists and crafters about their wares.

In fact, he made a number of purchases which included a beautiful, tactile wooden jewellery box made by co-op member Peter Vernon, a vibrantly coloured bowl from local potter Raamy Nadim, and a greetings card from Ann Sharman, featuring a print of one of her exquisite landscape embroideries.