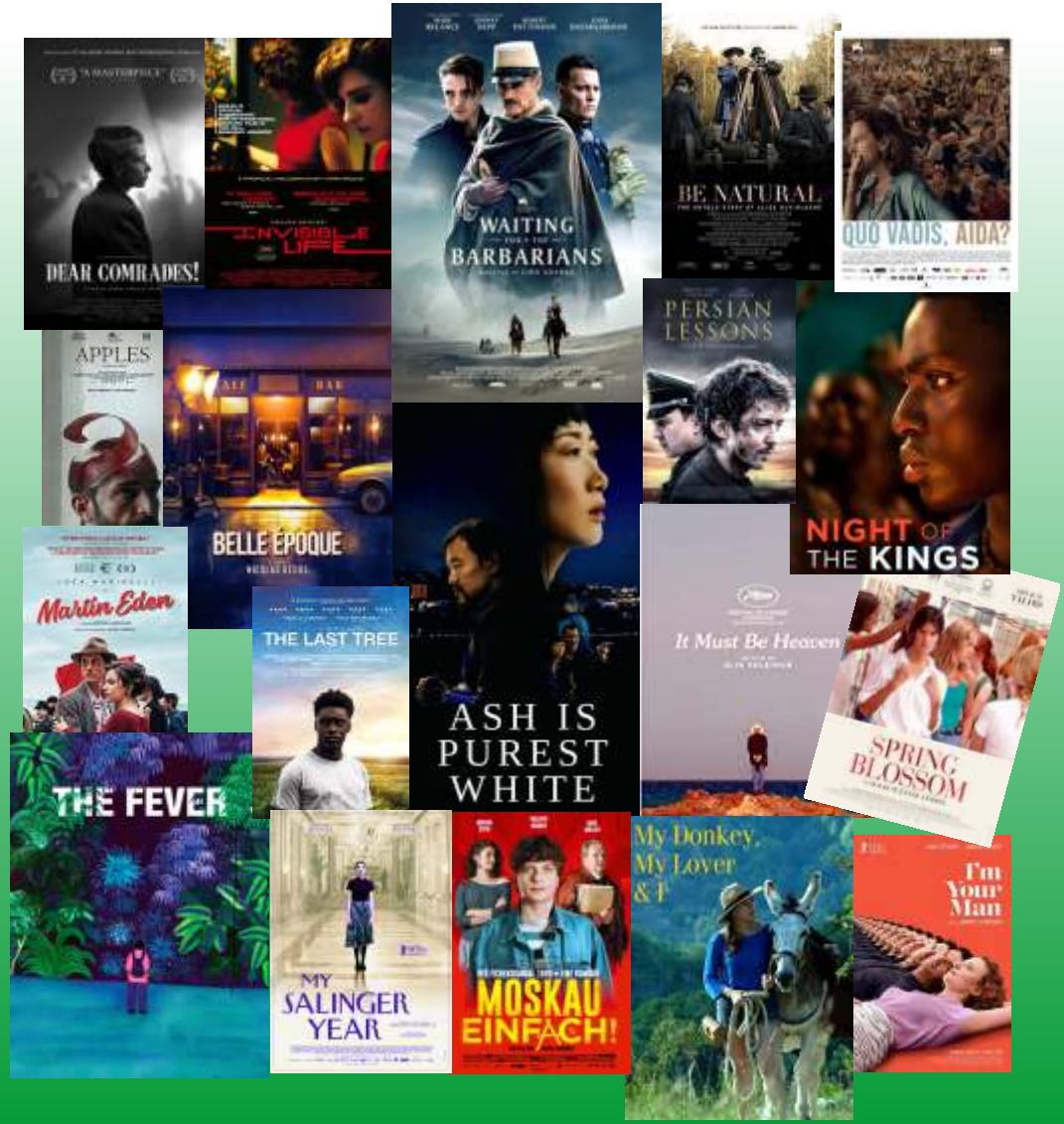
# LOUTH FILM CLUB

## THE BEST OF WORLD ART HOUSE CINEMA

## 2022 PROGRAMME




www.louthfilmclub.com

MONDAY 4 JULY 7.30pm

## Spring Blossom

*Suzanne Lindon / France / 2021/ subtitled / 73 mins / Cert PG*

A pretty, serious 16-year-old girl, bored by the shallowness of youth, becomes infatuated with a caring 30-something actor. It's a film of wistful, tender, inoffensive charm (very rare), and gently observant exploration (rarer still) of nice people (pretty well unheard of nowadays). Finally, there's no sex! (Has this director ruined her career?)



MONDAY 18 JULY 7.30pm

## Ash is Purest White

*Jia Zhang-ke / China / subtitled / 2019 / 133 mins / Cert 15*

A story of troubled love, spanning the years from 2001 to 2017 in a criminal underworld setting. The film is a piece of mesmerising and meditative "pure cinema" from the director of *Still Life*, *A Touch of Sin* and *Mountains May Depart.* It also explores some of the consequences of the tensions between China's rapid economic expansion and its traditions.



MONDAY 1 AUGUST 7.30pm

## Be Natural

*Pamela B. Green / US / 2018 / some subtitles / 98 mins / Cert PG*

An absorbing piece of cinema history, telling of French woman Alice Guy-Blaché, a pioneering filmmaker from the very earliest days. It calls out to be seen by those interested in how cinema came about and evolved in the first decade of the 20th century. With archive footage of Alice herself, it has a vibrant fascination.



MONDAY 15 AUGUST 7.30pm

## Persian Lessons

*Vadim Perelman / Russia / 2020 / subtitled / 127 mins / Cert 15*

Gilles, a young Belgian, is arrested by the SS and avoids death in a concentration camp by pretending to be Persian. Fortunately, the commandant needs to learn Farsi and Gilles is appointed teacher. He invents a fake language in order to survive. One really roots for the success of his deception. An involving and accomplished work.



MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 7.30pm

Undecided Film

MONDAY 10 JANUARY 7.30pm

## La Belle Époque

*Nicolas Bedos / France / 2019 / subtitled / 115 mins / Cert 15*

A sixty- something man's life is upset when he and his wife part but he is then offered a transformative experience in which he can live a life (in a special studio) in the era of his choice. Good, rich, old-fashioned production values and French stylistics are plentiful - and, of course, Daniel Auteuil is always watchable.




MONDAY 24 JANUARY 7.30pm

## The Fever

*Maya Da-Rin / Brazil / 2019 / subtitled / 98 mins / Cert 12*

A middle-aged Desana native works as a security guard at Manaus harbour, far away from his native surroundings. He begins to suffer from a mysterious fever. The film has an involving, even mystical, air as Justino struggles with modernism. The central role is mesmerising and his situation is presented with a powerful visual poetry.



MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 7.30pm

## My Donkey, My Lover and I

*Caroline Vignal / France / 2021 / subtitled / 96 mins / Cert 15*

An attractive teacher has an affair with the father of a pupil. When he and his wife go on a hiking trip for a week, Antionette secretly follows, having hired a donkey. She develops a chemistry with the donkey that begins to exceed that between the two lovers. Savour the Gallic wit and fresh air.



MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 7.30pm

## The Last Tree

*Shola Amoo / UK / 2019 / 99 mins / Cert 15*

Femi, a British boy of Nigerian heritage, has had a happy childhood in rural Lincolnshire but now has to move to inner London to live with his unsympathetic mother. He struggles with the changes of culture and environment and lands in trouble. There is sombreness here but Amoo tells the story with a gentle wistfulness.



MONDAY 7 MARCH 7.30pm

## One Way to Moscow

*Micha Lewinsky / Switzerland / 2020 / subtitled / 97 Mins / Cert 15*

Paranoia rules! As the Berlin Wall falls, the authorities in Switzerland spy on thousands of citizens. In this comedy of errors, a young police officer is assigned to infiltrate a group of theatricals – but along comes romantic attachment. It is a sharp, well-made, intelligently witty, hugely enjoyable romp that addresses mind and heart.



MONDAY 21 MARCH 7.30 pm

## Quo Vadis, Aida?

*Jasmila Zbanic / Bosnia and Herzegovina / 2020 / subtitled / 101 mins / Cert 15*

Aida is a UN translator trying to secure safety for her family at the time of the Srebrenica massacre in July 1995. The film succeeds in focussing on both the personal and the larger picture of UN impotence. Zbanic has devised an absorbing, humane and observant film with a touch of poetry – and an intelligent thriller.



MONDAY 4 APRIL 7.30pm

## It Must Be Heaven

*Elia Suleiman / France, Qatar, Palestine / 2019 / subtitled / 102 mins / Cert 15*

In this masterly cross between Jacques Tati and Buster Keaton (as it has been frequently observed) the director, writer, and actor, Elia Suleiman, travels to Paris and New York in imaginative and bewildered style. The inventive vignettes express beautifully the nervousness and unsureness of Palestinian sensibilities and a baffled and hurt humanity.




MONDAY 25 APRIL 7.30pm

## Martin Eden

*Pietro Marcello / Italy / 2019 / subtitled / 129 mins / Cert 15*

Based on Jack London's 1909 novel and set in pre-war Italy, a poor, rough but intelligent young sailor meets a cultured, rich young woman and wants education and to become known as a serious writer. He struggles and succeeds, living life intensely. Few films nowadays reveal a whole way of life with such seductive and engaging style.



MONDAY 9 MAY 7.30pm

## My New York Summer (aka 'My Salinger Year')

*Philippe Falardeau / Canada / 2020 / 101 mins / Cert 15*

A young woman and aspiring writer lands a job in a literary agency in New York that looks after the notoriously reclusive J D Salinger. Its engaging wit, and narrative, and even that touch of visual oddity makes it reminiscent of Woody Allen. It has a now rare touch – light-footedness and charm.



MONDAY 23 MAY 7.30 pm

## Night of Kings

*Philippe Lacôte / France, Côte d'Ivoire / 2021 / subtitled / 93 mins / Cert 15*

A young man, sent to the notorious La Macao prison in the Ivorian forest, is called by 'the boss' to tell a story as the red moon rises. It is told with a remarkable visual, dream-like chemistry. The contrast between the fallen hearts and his memories as a boy is achingly beautiful at times.



MONDAY 6 JUNE 7.30pm

## I'm Your Man

*Maria Schrader / Germany / 2021 / subtitled / 104 mins / Cert 15*

A woman enters an experimental relationship with a humanoid powered by AI. He (It?) is played in a manner reminiscent of 'Data' in Star Trek, as he figures out human meanings with his algorithmic prowess. Altogether it makes for a fascinating and troublesome watch, quite moving at times. "I'm talking to myself", she says.



MONDAY 20 JUNE 7.30pm

## The Invisible Life of Euridice Gusmao

*Karim Ainouz / Brazil / 2019 / subtitled / 140 mins / Cert 18*

Two sadly-parted sisters from Rio de Janeiro each believe the other to be living out her dreams far away. The colour, energy and passion at play here would put almost Gauguin in the shade. This is pure cinema of loss, longing and gift, a pretty well flawless mix of cinematography, design, performance, pace and music.



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MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 7.30pm

## Waiting for the Barbarians

*Ciro Guerra / Italy (in English) / 2019 / 114 mins / Cert 15*

From the director of Embrace of the Serpent and Birds of Passage comes the tale of an administrator (Mark Rylance on top form) of an isolated desert outpost in an unknown past. It is a powerful portrayal of how efficiency can lead to evil, and how a good man will inevitably suffer tortures just by being good.



MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 7.30pm

## Apples

*Christos Nikou / Greece / 2020 / subtitled / 91 mins / No Cert*

A worldwide viral pandemic causes amnesia. A middle-aged man finds himself placed in a recovery programme for bringing back his identity. We have tragedy combined with some deadpan comedy in a strangely told but apposite story that says, as one reviewer suggested, “that pandemics create new normals”.



MONDAY 17 OCTOBER 7.30pm

## Dear Comrades

*Andrey Konchalovskiy / Russia / 2020 / subtitled / 121 mins / Cert 15*

The story behind the massacre of strikers in an old Cossack town in USSR. Lyudmila is a party executive whose daughter goes missing. The film conveys starkly the anger and frustration at play, and while the camera doesn’t hide from the horror, it holds itself at sufficient distance for the viewer to reflect. There’s little that’s *in-yer-face.*



MONDAY 31 OCTOBER 7.30pm

**Undecided Film**

MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 7.30pm

## By the Grace of God

*François Ozon / France / 2019 / subtitled / 138 mins / Cert 15*

An intelligent, thoughtful and unrushed exploration of how a group of men who, as children, were abused by a priest successfully attempt to pursue the Catholic Church in France for action. There is genuine humanity at the back of this.



MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER 7.30pm

**Undecided Film**

MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 7.30pm

**Undecided Film**