

To mark the release of two new films about contemporary rural life, **MODERN LIFE** (see page 6) and **SLEEP FURIOUSLY** (opening on 29 May), the Cambridge Film Trust presents a programme that celebrates a rich cinematic tradition of rural films. From the harsh beauty of natural landscapes to the bonds that bind communities together, these films avoid being seduced by urban nostalgia for a 'simple life' and instead explore the countryside in all its complexity.



SUNDAY 26 APRIL, 2.30

DIARY OF A COUNTRY PRIEST (U)

Director: Robert Bresson. Starring: Claude Laydu, Nicole Ladmiral, Martine Lemaire, André Guibert. France 1951. 115 mins. French with English subtitles.

Bresson's classic fourth film tells of a young priest arriving in his first parish, suffering from both ill health and the hostile treatment from his rural congregation. Unfolding through diary entries that reveal his crisis of faith, this beautiful film is all the more moving for its formal purity.

SATURDAY 2 & SUNDAY 3 MAY, 12.00

LONGING (15)

Director: Valeska Grisebach. Starring: Andreas Müller, Ilka Welz, Anett Dornbusch, Erika Lemke. Germany 2006. 86 mins. German with English subtitles.

Markus is a metalworker and volunteer fire fighter, who enjoys a comfortable family life near Berlin. But his perfect world is shaken when he helps out at a car accident, which leads him to take a lover in another town. Grisebach, a former documentary filmmaker, uses a simple and effective shooting style to unfold a story of betrayal and desire.

SUNDAY 3 MAY, 8.00

LE SOUFFLE (15)

Director: Damien Odoul. Starring: Pierre-Louis Bonnetblanc. France 2001. 77 mins. French with English subtitles.

David is a teenager living on his uncle's farm, craving excitement and frustrated by the monotony of country living. Poetically shot in black and white, this dark film powerfully reveals the rawness of adolescence in a rural setting that is both beautiful and cruel, isolated and yet strongly communal.

THIS FILTHY EARTH (15)

Director: Andrew Kotting. Starring: Shane Attwooll, Rebecca Palmer, Demelza Randall. UK 2001. 111 mins. Loosely inspired by Emile Zola's 'The Earth', this film tells the story of two sisters whose lives on a family farm are disrupted by two men, a brutal villager greedy for their land and a gentle stranger offering the possibility of escape. It is a simple, almost primal tale portraying the beauty and bestiality of a life viscerally and sexually tied to the land.

DOUBLE BILL

SUNDAY 10 MAY, 5.00

WILL IT SNOW FOR CHRISTMAS? (12A)

Director: Sandrine Veysset. Starring: Dominique Reymond, Daniel Duval. France 1996. 91 mins. French with English subtitles.

Set against the backdrop of changing seasons and the tough routine of farm life in the south of France, this is a moving story of a mother and her seven illegitimate children. Far from presenting this life as a drudge, Sandrine Veysset conveys the pleasures of a child's universe, a land of dreams, play, and motherly love.



DOUBLE BILL

ÊTRE ET AVOIR (U)

Director: Nicolas Philibert. France 2002. 104 mins. French with English subtitles. This extraordinary documentary shows a year in the life of a tiny, rural school. The child-height camera takes us into the magical world of the schoolchildren's minds as they learn and grow; it also follows their teacher, Mr Lopez, as he helps them through life's difficulties.

SUNDAY 17 MAY, 4.30

THE SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE (PG)

Director: Víctor Erice. Starring: Fernando Fernán Gómez, Teresa Gimpera, Ana Torrent, Isabel Tellería. Spain 1973. 98 mins. Spanish with English subtitles. It is 1940. Six-year-old Ana and her sister Isabel watch Frankenstein at a travelling cinema, leaving Ana powerfully affected by the experience. Soon their games of make-believe lead them into adult territory. Perhaps the greatest Spanish film of the 1970s, it captures the intense atmosphere of a small Castilian village in the aftermath of a devastating civil war.

DOUBLE BILL

LAND WITHOUT BREAD (CERT TBC)

Director: Luis Buñuel. Spain 1933. 30 mins. French with English subtitles. A surrealist documentary portrait of the impoverished people living in the Las Hurdes region of Spain.

SATURDAY 23 MAY, 2.30

JOUR DE FÊTE (U)

Director: Jacques Tati. Starring: Jacques Tati, Guy Decomble, Paul Frankeur. France 1949. 80 mins. French with English subtitles. Internationally acclaimed as an innovative comic masterpiece, Tati's feature debut is a hilarious exposé of the modern obsession with speed and efficiency, set amidst the rural surroundings of a tiny French village.

SUNDAY 24 MAY, 8.30

LADY CHATTERLEY (18)

Director: Pascale Ferran. Starring: Hippolyte Girardot, Marina Hands, Jean-Louis Couollo'ch. Belgium/France/UK 2006. 168 mins. French with English subtitles. Drawing on the second and most tender version of D.H. Lawrence's tale of burgeoning desire, Ferran's moving film relates how Constance, trapped in a bleak, passionless life, experiences an awakening of the senses with her solitary gamekeeper.



A registered charity, the Cambridge Film Trust hosts special seasons such as Rural Europe throughout the year. We also run the Cambridge Film Festival (17 - 27 September 2009) and are now accepting submissions from filmmakers across the globe. If your short, feature or documentary is a must-see, visit our website to find out how to submit: www.cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk. Free entry is granted to filmmakers based in the Eastern region as part of the Festival's mission to promote local talent.