

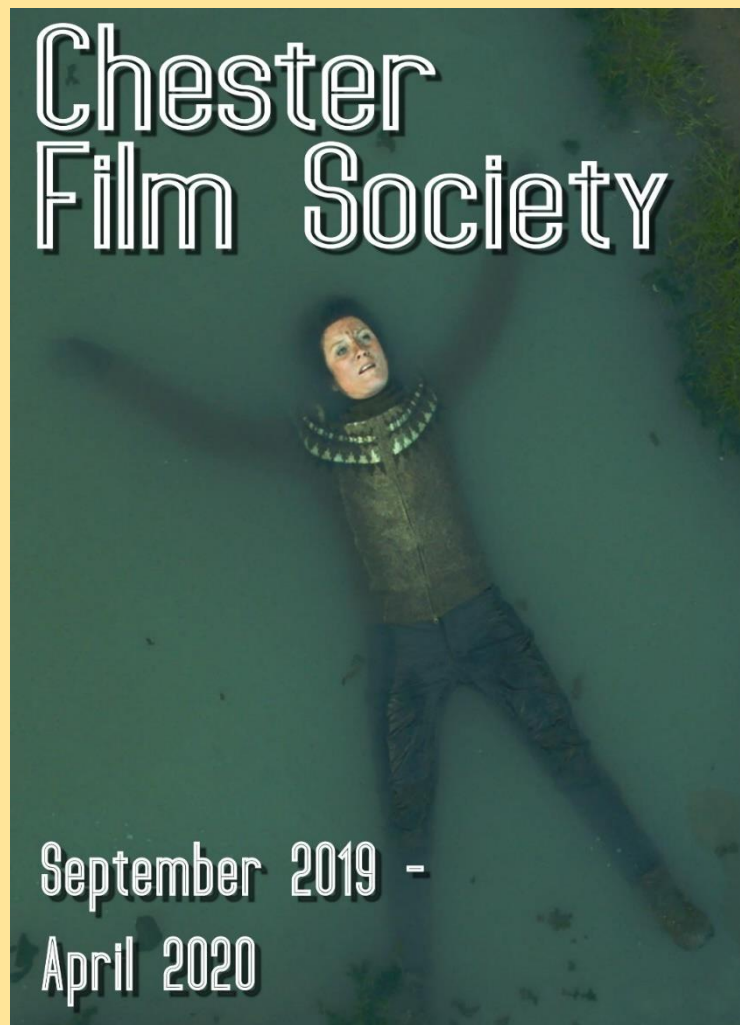
Chester Film Society

Annual Report

and

Accounts

Season 2019-20



2019-2020 Season

The season was planned to show 18 feature films from September 2019 to April 2020. However, with the Coronavirus restrictions coming into force after the Chester International Film Festival ended on 15th March, we had to cancel our final four films screenings.

All of the 14 films we showed were at St Mary's Creative Space.

Attendance

The total audience for all 14 films was 1,334; an average attendance of 74 people per film. Included in this figure were 348 "Guests" who paid on the door.

The films

Our audience's highest rated films were:

9.19 – Capernaum

8.34 – The Guilty

7.94 – Mountain

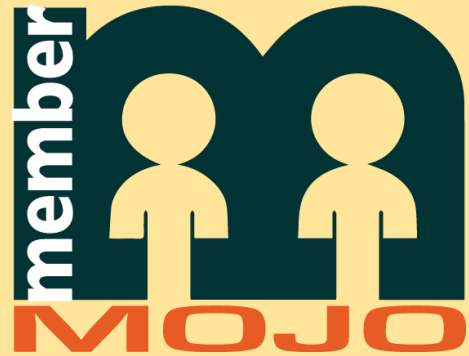
7.90 – The Tin Drum

7.84 – The Guardians and 1945



Membership

This season, we introduced online membership subscriptions using the web-based Membermojo Membership Management Software.



This proved highly effective and resulted in a total of 109 members signing up online. Twelve members chose to subscribe by cash/cheque and we had three Honorary Members, making a Season total of 124.

Programme Brochure

As in all previous seasons, we published a printed programme brochure which was mailed to all previous members in the last five years, together with a local distribution to cafes, library and other public places. For the future, we will be considering an entirely online version, perhaps with a printed single page flyer.



Chester International Film Festival

The Festival ran from Friday 6th March until Sunday 15th March and comprised seven feature films and a separate Chester Animation Film Festival event – all showed at Storyhouse, Chester.

This year, the Festival was sponsored by The Institute for Social Responsibility at Edge Hill University and included a Welcome and Closing Drinks Reception.

As previously at Storyhouse, all costs for the use of venue, projection and film licencing were covered by Storyhouse. As well as their own publicity on their website and printed events programme, the Film Society produced our own printed brochure, the costs covered by the sponsors.

The Festival drew record attendances – 590 across all eight screenings (including the Animation Festival event), an average of 74 per film. This compares very favourably to 2019 which had an average attendance of 50 over six screenings.

The overall conclusion was that the Festival was very successful and we hope to put it on again at Storyhouse in 2021. There are some lessons to be learned and improvements that can be made which we will take forward into next year's planning.



The Committee

By the end of 2019, the Committee was down to just five active participants and calls were put out for people to volunteer to join and help with the organisation of the Society.

We had five people come forward to agree to come onto the Committee who were formally co-opted at an online meeting in April 2020.

As we have not been able to hold an AGM at the end of this season, the following people will be put forward for formal election at the earliest available screening of the next season, subject to their agreement:

2019-20 Committee:

Rachel Cross

Linda Cloet

Jo Crotty

Mike Graham

Anne Ord Sykes

Jan Woodhouse

Co-opted Committee Members

David Gill

Adina Hilgard

Jenny Spick

Donna Whittington

Richard Whittington

Planning for the 2020-21 Season*

While there remain many social restrictions in place and a great deal of uncertainty of the near future, planning for the next season – our 50th year – has so far been concentrating on contingencies.

We hope to bring a season of films beginning in September 2020 through to April 2021, but fear that circumstances may mean that a curtailed season could be more likely. Much will depend on the opening of venues, continuing restrictions on social distancing and not least, the availability of films to screen. Regarding the latter, we continue to look at contemporary World Cinema as the focus for our programme.

We will certainly be continuing with online membership subscriptions when the season is ready to commence and details will be announced as soon as possible.

We thank all our members and guests for their support throughout the least season and the difficult times in which we find ourselves.

In the meantime, we have been contacting our separate email subscribers on a weekly basis with recommendations of films to see on both TV and streaming platforms, courtesy of Cocoa, Jo Crotty's cockapoo. Enjoy the films, keep in touch and we will see you all again soon!

***Note:** this was written before announce the decision was made not to move ahead with the planning of a 2020-21 Film Season. The following statement was made on 23rd May:

Due to the ongoing uncertainty with respect of the restrictions on events in public venues, the Committee met to discuss the likelihood of putting on a 2020-21 Film Season, either in full or part. The expectation of ongoing physical distancing restrictions for some time would make it untenable to screen films in either of our two venues of St Mary's and the Grosvenor Museum. We also need to feel that public confidence in attending cinema venues has been restored before we can consider presenting film screenings again.

Instead, we hope to continue our relationship with Storyhouse with the 2021 Chester International Film Festival in March 2021 and will start planning for that later this year. With nearly 600 attendees, the 2020 Film Festival at Storyhouse was our most successful yet, so we hope to do even better in 2021! Details on this will follow once they are confirmed.

Appendix: Accounts

Chester Film Society - Income & Expenditure for Season 2019-20

Season Running Costs				
<i>Expenditure</i>			<i>Income</i>	
Publicity (programmes)		£719.57	Membership subs	£4,800.00
Venue hire			Guest tickets	£1,740.00
	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>£478.00</i>		
	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>£968.00</i>		
		<u>£1,446.00</u>		
		£1,446.00		
Film licences			Bar sales	£653.00
	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>£581.00</i>		
	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>£1,091.00</i>		
		<u>£1,672.00</u>		
		£1,672.00		
Film discs		£250.33	Cash float	£588.60
Projection Services		£740.00		
MemberMojo (<i>Membership Admin</i>)		£350.35		
Insurance		£236.09		
Cinema for All Membership		£95.00		
Equipment				
	<i>Rubber mat</i>	£39.68		
Petty Cash for opening night		£60.00		
Committee attendances				
	<i>London, Sheffield</i>	£1,197.50		
Sundries (Admin, website, stationery)		£414.58		
Bar drinks/snacks		£480.15		
		£7,701.25		£7,781.60
Season: PROFIT		£80.35		

Additional notes.

As these accounts have always run in accordance with the Bank Statement, there is no provision for accruals.

Any invoices received after the 1st April, are shown in the current years accounts.

Appendix: Accounts

Film Festival			
<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>Income</i>	
Publicity flyers-sponsored	£0.00	Animation entry fees	£330.81
Tickets for helpers and speakers	£140.00	Ticket sales	£0.00
Animation Festival prize trophy	£53.30		
Speaker's expenses	£16.29		
Film classification (Animations)			
2018/19	£120.00		
Advertisements			
2018/19	£50.00		
2019/20	£75.00		
	<u>£125.00</u>		
	£125.00		
	£454.59		£330.81
Film Festival: LOSS		-£123.78	

Social Night			
<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>Income</i>	
Food & Drink		Tickets x 75	x 80 £1,050.00
2018/19	£384.37		
2019/20			
Wine & soft drinks	£310.28	Raffle	£200.00
Food (Ahmed's)	£850.00	Drink sales	£290.00
Food (desserts)	£66.28		
	<u>£1,226.56</u>		
	£1,226.56		
Venue Hire	<i>tbp</i> £0.00		
Projection Services	£40.00		
Decorations and sundries	£170.62		
	£1,821.55		£1,540.00
Social Night: LOSS		-£281.55	

Bank Balance as at 31 March 2019 £5,054.27

Bank Balance as at 31 March 2020 **£4,388.98**