

12 May

A Pale View of Hills

Kei Ishikawa / Japan, UK 2025 / 123min / Cert 12A / Partly subtitled

In this atmospheric adaptation of Nobel Prize-winner Kazuo Ishiguro's debut novel, *A Pale View of Hills* drifts between memory and imagination as Etsuko, now living in England, reflects on her strained relationship with daughter Niki and the shadow of her older daughter Keiko. Her recollections return to post-war Nagasaki and her enigmatic friend Sachiko, whose presence becomes increasingly unsettling. Lush, meditative, and quietly gripping, the film blends psychological mystery with lyrical visuals, drawing us into a world where the past is never quite what it seems and remembering becomes its own act of reckoning. "Drifting through the uncertain space between memory and history – a beautifully restrained film" *The Upcoming*

19 May

Dead of Winter

Brian Kirk / UK 2025 / 98 min / Cert 15

This action thriller stars Emma Thompson as widow Barb and is set in northern, snowy Minnesota. Barb wants to scatter the ashes of her husband by the lake where they first met so she sets off by herself. She loses her way in a snowstorm and stops at a remote cabin where she notices blood on the snow and sees a young woman trying to escape from an armed man. She is hours from the nearest town and there is no phone service. She is the young woman's only hope and what ensues is a desperate fight for survival.

About Stafford Film Theatre and could you help?

The Film Theatre was formed in 1949 and is run entirely by a group of enthusiastic volunteers. We are a friendly bunch and aim to give everyone a warm welcome on Tuesday evenings.

Could you help us? You don't need to be a movie buff, but just enjoy watching critically acclaimed British and foreign films that you might otherwise not have a chance to see on the big screen in Stafford. Tasks behind the scenes and on film evenings are shared among committee members and we usually have no more than 5 or 6 evening meetings a year, including those where we choose future films. We would particularly value anyone who has experience in publicity, marketing and social media to strengthen the work that we are doing to attract more filmgoers.

If you think you may be interested please have a chat with one of us on a Tuesday evening or give us a call or send an email using the details below.

Contact details

Membership secretary Suzan Kerridge 01785 280566

Email membershipSFT@outlook.com

Chair Richard Clark 07971 429146

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The Choral

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H is for Hawk

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31 Mar

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I Swear

12 May

A Pale View of Hills

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Dead of Winter

Our programme starts at 7.30pm with the main feature at 7.45pm. On rare occasions the programme may change. Please check our website before travel.

Getting to The Gatehouse, Eastgate St Stafford ST16 2LT

By car—Lammascote Gyratory Car Park, North Walls

ST16 3AD (5 mins walk) - £1.10 charge in the evening.

By train—Stafford station (10 mins walk)

By bus—Evening buses—Gaol Square and Duke Street

By cycle—NCN 5 & 55 to Stafford. Stands outside theatre

Prices—including cheaper tickets for young people and an option to split the cost of membership for the season

Everyone is welcome (subject to any film's age limit) and you don't need to become a Film Theatre member, but if you want to see all or most of the season's films, this can save you up to £2.50 a film—further details below.

Tickets can be bought from the Gatehouse box office on the night using cash or cards. They can also be ordered in advance by phone (01785 619080) or online at www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk

Full price: £12 Over 60: £11 Under 25: £7.50

Membership (cost for 11 films)

Full member: £104.50 Over 60: £93.50 Under 25: £60.50

Half-season option for either the first 6 films (or the last 5)

Full member: £57 (£47.50) Over 60: £51 (£42.50)

Under 25: £33 (£27.50)

All ticket prices above include the £3 booking fee levied by the Gatehouse theatre for each film



Stafford Film Theatre



**Great films on the
BIG screen with Stafford
Film Theatre
at The Gatehouse
Spring 2026**



filmsinstafford.com

3 Mar The Choral

Nicholas Hyntner / UK 2025 / 112 min / Cert 12A

Ralph Fiennes stars in this story by Alan Bennett set in Yorkshire in 1916. As war rages on the Western Front, the local Choral Society, determined to press ahead, decides to recruit local young males to swell its ranks. Despite suspicions that he has something to hide, their best bet seems to be Dr Guthrie (Fiennes) - driven, uncompromising, and recently returned from Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the whole community discovers that the best response to the chaos that is laying waste to their lives is to make music together. "Leaves us with a heartbeat of wit, poignancy and common sense" *The Guardian*.



24 Mar Sentimental Value

Joachim Trier / Norway 2025 / 133 min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

Having been estranged from his daughters, Nora and Agnes, once renowned film director Gustav re-enters their lives after the death of their mother. He thinks that a new script is the best that he has written and asks Nora to play the lead role. After she declines, Nora soon discovers that the part has been given to an eager Hollywood star. Focussing on the problematic relationship between the sisters and their father, the film explores emotional conflicts and the challenges of healing and forgiveness within a family. "An intimate exploration of family, memories and the reconciling power of art" *Pat Mullen POV Magazine NZ*

14 Apr Hamnet

Chloe Zhao / UK / 2025 / 125 min / Cert 12A

This is a powerful story of love and loss, starring Jess Buckley and Paul Mescal who both give stellar performances as Agnes and Shakespeare in this adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's novel, *Hamnet*. The story is set against the background of a small village in sixteenth century England, with luscious scenery, where Agnes hones her skills at making herbal medicines. The film follows the relationship between Agnes and William and the impact of the tragic death of their eleven year old son, Hamnet, which inspired Shakespeare's play, *Hamlet*.

10 Mar H is for Hawk

Philippa Lowthorpe / UK 2025 / 114 min / Cert 12A

After the sudden loss of her beloved journalist father, Cambridge academic Helen Macdonald retreats into grief — until a wild goshawk named Mabel crashes into her life. In a bold, haunting adaptation of the acclaimed memoir, Helen's attempt to tame this fierce creature becomes a raw journey of sorrow, survival and self-rediscovery. Featuring a brilliantly empathetic and moving performance from Claire Foy as Helen, with Brendan Gleeson as her father, the film plunges us into the wild heart of loss — and dares to ask whether healing can take flight. "Foy is terrific in a film which balances bruising candour about mental health issues against arresting wildlife photography and a fervent appreciation of the natural world." *Screen International*

31 Mar Sorry, Baby

Eva Victor / USA 2025 / 103 min / Cert 15

A directing debut from comedian Eva Victor. She plays Agnes, who has a great career as the new English professor at a Massachusetts university, but is struggling to process a traumatic event from her time as a postgrad. When a beloved friend on the brink of a major milestone visits, Agnes starts to realise just how stuck she's been and begins to work through how to move forward. With deadpan delivery emphasising the humour and the pain and recalling Kenneth Lonergan's dramas with piercing honesty and confident tread, this is a tale of self-compassion and companionship. With a cute kitten.

21 Apr The President's Cake

Hasan Hadi / Iraq 2025 / 105 min / Cert 12A / Subtitles

A tragicomic portrait of life under dictatorship and winner of the Camera d'Or at Cannes. Iraq, 1991: 9-year-old Lamia lives in poverty with her grandmother, in a marshland village of rush-built homes on stilts and everyday journeys by canoe. Disaster strikes when she is selected by her school to make a cake for Saddam Hussein's birthday. Against the odds, she sets out on a determined journey through the big city in search of ingredients, with her friend Saaed and her pet rooster. This compassionate, tragicomic film balances light and dark in its child's eye view of the moral collapse resulting from poverty and authoritarianism.

7 Apr Islands

Jan-Ole Gerster / Germany, USA, UK 2025 / 120 min / Cert 15 / Some subtitles

Tom (Sam Riley), a washed-up tennis pro, coaches tourists in a middling resort on Fuerteventura in the Canary Islands. Drawn to the mother of one of his students, Tom agrees to show the family the island. However, when the father, Dave, disappears after a night of heavy drinking, suspicion falls on Tom and Dave's wife, Anne (Stacy Martin). With subtle, convincing performance, Sam Riley's Tom begins to discover a new world whilst the mystery deepens. Posing a growing, unanswered question, with shades of Hitchcock and sly humour, this is film noir in blazing sunlight - thoroughly entertaining and engaging.

5 May I Swear

Kirk Jones / UK 2025 / 120 min / 15 Cert

This funny, heartfelt and emphatically moving film dramatises the true story of Tourette syndrome campaigner John Davidson. It chronicles his quest to live normally in a world that insisted on calling him different. Diagnosed at aged 15, John's Tourette's made him the target of bullying and violence. He is now one of the UK's most passionate advocates for greater awareness for which he received an MBE. With a committed central performance from Robert Aramayo supported by Maxine Peake, Shirley Henderson and Peter Mullan, *I Swear* is a powerful look at an astonishing life. It takes in the frustration and fatigue of being persistently misunderstood and the wit, grit and resolve that saw Davidson seek to define himself on his own terms.

17 Mar No Other Choice

Park Chan-wook / S Korea 2025 / 139 min / Cert 15 / Subtitles

What happens when unemployment pushes a decent man beyond his breaking point? In *Parasite* director, Park Chan-wook's latest darkly satirical thriller, long-time paper-mill manager Yoo Man-su is cast aside and, desperate to support his family, hatches a chilling plan to eliminate the competition for his next job. Visually bold and intensely cinematic, the film fuses razor-sharp social critique with electrifying set pieces and dark humour. Park's signature style turns Man-su's moral unravelling into a tense, exhilarating spectacle — an enjoyably twisted, gripping ride that lingers long after the credits roll. "Sensational state-of-the-nation satire." *The Guardian*