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OLDER WOMEN IN FILM STUDY DAYS

The Phoenix Cinema in collaboration with Film London is proud to present a series of events examining the representation of Older Women in films. Following on from a successful pilot event in March Film London are supporting the project to explore why film roles for older women are both poor in quantity and in quality with a shocking absence of films that portray older women in a positive light.

The three-event series which commence on Thursday 29th September attempts to redress the balance by screening a selection of films that represent older women in a positive way and by combining the screenings with an introduction and a panel discussion from practitioners in the field. A selection of academics, writers, actresses, casting agents and other industry professionals will be exploring why there is such a lack of roles and suggesting ideas to counteract the predominant situation.

The details of each event are:

1. Tuesday 29th September 10am - 2pm
Theme: Older women in a changing society / relationships with younger generations

Feature Film: **Alexandra** (PG). 2007 Dir. Aleksandr Sokurov

The film uses stunning documentary-like images of the Chechen conflict as the back drop to the story of the relationship between a grandmother and her son. With Galina Vishnevskaya once one of Russia's finest singers, as an ageing grandmother arriving at a Russian army base outside Grozny to see her soldier grandson.

She is appalled by the filth and the privations the troops endure and an encounter with a local stallholder convinces her that the occupied are as desperate as the occupiers. The war is shown as both bloody and futile and Sokurov's palpable sense of outrage is quietly impressive.

Panel Guests: Actress Richenda Carey, rest tbc

2. Tuesday 27th October 10am - 2pm
Theme: Women and Power

Feature Film: **Since Otar Left** (15) 2003 Director Julie Bertucelli

The one joy in the lives of a mother and daughter comes from the regular letters sent to them from Paris from the family's adored son, Otar. When the daughter finds out that Otar has died suddenly, she tries to conceal the truth from her mother, changing the course of their lives forever

Panel Guests: tbc

THE PHOENIX: PROJECTING THE INDEPENDENT SPIRIT SINCE 1910
Patrons: Mike Leigh Maureen Lipman Ken Loach Michael Palin Bill Paterson Victoria Wood

"The best single screen cinema in London", Time Out
"My idea of heaven." Mark Kermode

3. Tuesday 24th November 10am - 2pm

Theme: Women as the holders of memory

Feature Film: **Mid-August Lunch** (U) 2009 Director Gianni Di Gregorio

A man unexpectedly finds himself talking care of four women, three of whom he barely knows, in this touching and funny film from Italy. Gianni (Gianni Di Gregorio) is a man in his mid-fifties who still lives with his mother, Valeria (Valeria De Franciscis), who is well into her nineties. When Gianni falls behind on the rent their landlord makes him a deal -- the debts will be forgiven if the landlord's elderly mother can stay with Gianni and Valeria for a few days during the mid-August holiday. Gianni grudgingly agrees, but is upset when the landlord also shows up with his aging aunt Maria. Word spreads that Gianni is running an informal home for the elderly, and Gianni's family doctor asks a similar favour of him. While Gianni scrambles to look after the various needs of four elderly women, it soon becomes clear the ladies have strongly differing views on a number of subjects, making his job all the more difficult

Panel Guests: tbc

Tickets £6; Box office 020 8444 6789 or www.phoenixcinema.co.uk

Note to journalists:

The Phoenix is the oldest purpose-built cinema in constant operation in the country. We show a range of great films from around the world, as well as holding events with directors, producers, writers and actors. We also have a busy education programme for all ages.

2010 sees the Centenary of The Phoenix when we will carry out a £1,070,000 Restoration Project of our grade II listed building.

For more information on the Phoenix please contact Paul Homer
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