



## CHRISTMAS FILM SCREENING (MATINEE)

SUN 05 DEC 3.00PM

### A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

DIR. SAM WOOD

USA 1935

92 MINS

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA is one of the great Marx Brothers comedies featuring some of their most brilliant routines (including the unforgettable stateroom scene). It follows Groucho, Chico and Harpo as they battle an arrogant opera tenor in an attempt to help their friend Ricardo take centre stage and win the heart of Rosa.

*"Enjoy the rib-tickling delights of the Brothers' surreal anarchy as Groucho and Chico discuss contract negotiations ("That's what they call a Sanity Clause"; "You don't fool me, there is no Santa Claus!")... it's guaranteed to have you giggling from one end of the musical scale to the other." - BBC Films*  
*"The quick-fire routines are brilliant; the one-liners crack like gunshots." Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian*

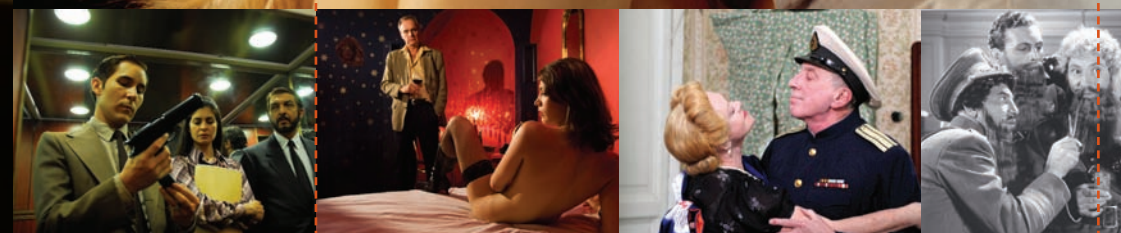
THE ABOVE FILM WILL BE SCREENED IN A PARTY ATMOSPHERE WITH CAROL SINGING, SPOT PRIZES AND LIGHT REFRESHMENTS 30 MINS PRIOR TO SCREENING.

Admission: € 6/5 (concession)

Information/booking Town Hall Theatre phone 091-569777- online booking [www.tht.ie](http://www.tht.ie)

## TRIBUTE TO FREDDY DIVINEY, PROJECTIONIST

GFS would like to acknowledge the contribution that Freddy, our projectionist, who retired earlier this year, has made to the society. Freddy has had a long career in Galway extending back to his days in the old Town Hall Cinema, the Claddagh Palace and more recently in the Omniplex. When the Society moved from the University to the new Town Hall in the mid nineties, Freddy became our projectionist and has served us well ever since, solving many technical difficulties and rescuing us from the occasional near disaster. We are sure that members will join us in wishing him a long and happy retirement.



## GALWAY FILM SOCIETY

AUTUMN/WINTER SEASON 2010  
26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

INFORMATION/BOOKING TOWN HALL THEATRE  
PHONE 091/569777

access CINEMA

arts  
council  
Galway



EUROPA CINEMAS  
MEDIA PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

[WWW.ACCESSCINEMA.IE](http://WWW.ACCESSCINEMA.IE)

GFS Galway Film Society



SUN 26 SEPT 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## HEARTBREAKER



DIR: PASCAL CHAUMEIL

FRANCE 2010

104 MINS

Alex is a smoothie seducer secretly hired by glowering fathers to break up their daughters' unsuitable relationships. Yet he's a gigolo-assassin with principles. Alex won't get involved unless he judges the relationship to be unhappy anyway, and won't actually sleep with the target. He is commissioned by a wealthy magnate to be "bodyguard" for his daughter Juliette. Does Alex stay professionally detached and resist the urge to fall heart-shatteringly in love with lonely, vulnerable Juliette? **Heartbreaker**, starring some of France's most acclaimed stars, Romain Duris (*The Beat That My Heart Skipped*) and César Award winner Vanessa Paradis (*Girl on the Bridge*) is shot in the glamour and whimsy of Monte Carlo. This charming and unique romantic comedy will have audiences buckling with laughter and Chaumeil beautifully illustrates that love and laughter are the best universal languages.

The following short film will be screened before the feature:

## THE HERD

DIR: KEN WARDROP

IRELAND 2009

4 MINS

A farmer finds a deer befriendng his herd of cattle.

SUN 03 OCT 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## REVANCHE



DIR: GÖTZ SPIELMANN

GERMANY 2008

122 MINS

**Revanche** ("revenge"), which won the Best European Film award in the Panorama sidebar at Berlin, is a stylish and suspense-filled thriller. Alex is a disgruntled, ex-con working in a Viennese brothel. His only respite is his love for Ukrainian prostitute Tamara who reluctantly plies her trade in the same brothel. While out in the sun-dappled countryside, Susanne and inexperienced cop Robert have just moved into their new home. Two couples in seemingly diametrical opposition are brought into one another's spheres after a deadly botched robbery sets Spielmann's taut tale in motion. The pleasures here are threefold: the intelligently constructed screenplay that never tips its hand to the viewer; the gorgeous compositions and rural locations filmed by Spielmann and cinematographer Martin Gschlacht; and, above all, the performances of the actors who ground their characters in the milieu they have found themselves in, make them human and believable, and then demonstrate that insurmountable differences are not necessarily so.

Won a number of awards including the Europa Cinemas Label, Berlin Film Festival 2008

SUN 10 OCT 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## A ROOM AND A HALF



DIR: ANDREY KHRZHANOVSKIY

RUSSIA 2009

130 MINS

A unique journey to the earlier life of Nobel Prize winning Russian poet Joseph Brodsky and the USSR, the country of his youth. Asked in an interview if he was planning to come back to see his fatherland, Joseph Brodsky said that if he did so, it would be anonymously. Khrzhanovsky presumes that Brodsky actually made the trip and this is the inspiration that underlies A Room And A Half. The poet travels by ship to the country of his youth, taking the audience along as he crosses not only geographical barriers but barriers of time as well. We are transported back to the 50s and 60s in the USSR and the atmosphere of the country's cultural capital, St. Petersburg. Stylistically, the film is a perfect blend of fiction, historical footage and animation, smoothly intertwined with one another in a highly original manner. The basic facts are all connected with the life of Joseph Brodsky and his milieu. It is a fantastic, unique voyage to the country's past and its genius - delicate, intimate, revealing.

ACCA Jury Award Mar del Plata Film Festival 2009

MEMBERSHIP/SEASON TICKET FOR ALL NINE FILMS  
GUEST ADMISSION TO SINGLE FILMS  
INFORMATION/BOOKING: TOWN HALL THEATRE  
ONLINE BOOKING:

€38/34 (Concession)  
€8/6 (Concession)  
Phone 091 569777  
www.tht.ie

SUN 17 OCT 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## GAINSBOURG



DIR: JOANN SFAR

FRANCE 2009

121 MINS

Its hard for those outside France to imagine quite how big a star Serge Gainsbourg (1928-1991) was in 20th-century French culture. From the mid-1960s he was ubiquitous in the French media: the high-profile liaisons with the likes of Birkin and Bardot, the drinking, the smoking and the rest but, first and foremost, he was a genius of French chanson whose brilliant lyrics elevated him to the status of poet. As a musical biopic, Gainsbourg gives generous expression to the singer-songwriter's brilliance in a narrative which retraces the major steps in Gainsbourg's musical trajectory from obscure pianist to cabaret artiste to major pop-culture phenomenon. Sfar reminds fans and newcomers alike why in spite of everything Serge Gainsbourg remains such a national treasure. His combination of realist narrative and poetic animation make it both a touching biopic and an inspired musical.

The following short film will be screened before the feature:

## ELEANOR

DIR: KARL BELLI &amp; MICHEL PETIT

IRELAND 2010

5 MINS

Seemingly from nowhere, Eleanor turns up one day in the streets of Paris, capturing the heart of a young man she meets there. When she disappears for parts unknown, the air is heavy with her presence.



SUN 24 OCT

## NO FILM

SUN 31 OCT 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## THE SECRET IN THEIR EYES



DIR: JUAN JOSÉ CAMPANELLA

ARGENTINA 2009

129 MINS

**The Secret in Their Eyes** which won Best Foreign Language Film at the Academy Awards 2010, is a suspenseful crime drama with a love story at its core. Retired from his career in Argentina's criminal court, Benjamín Espósito (Ricardo Darín) begins writing a novel about a case from his past that continues to haunt him. In 1974, a beautiful young newlywed was raped and murdered in her home while her husband worked at the bank. Espósito was sent to investigate the horrifying crime. Looking at the gaze of a man in photos from the murdered woman's college years, a younger Espósito instinctively feels he has his killer. Tracking down the suspect becomes a personal obsession that draws him into ever-riskier situations. The case also intensifies Espósito's relationship to his young boss, Irene Menéndez Hastings (Soledad Villamil). Campanella's tightly paced feature pairs smart dialogue with powerful, moving performances. Darin and Villamil, two of Argentina's best actors, bring an electric sense of unspoken longing to their scenes together, an intimacy of mutual suppression.

SUN 07 NOV

## NO FILM

SUN 14 NOV 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## LEAVING



DIR: CATHERINE CORSINI

FRANCE 2009

90 MINS

Kristin Scott Thomas stars as Suzanne, married for twenty years to physician Samuel (Yvan Attal) and mother of two grown children. When Spanish handyman Ivan (Sergi Lopez) arrives to build an office for her it is only a matter of time before we slip into a predictable Lady Chatterley scenario. Less predictable is the way in which Suzanne seizes the chance to create a new life for herself and the manner in which the influential Samuel vents his fury by freezing bank accounts, blocking employment opportunities and doing everything in his power to attack their happiness. Catherine Corsini is comfortable in classic Claude Chabrol territory, delving beneath the calm surface of bourgeois life to uncover the dangerous currents that lurk beneath. There is an unfussy elegance to Corsini's direction as she builds a steady intensity through a succession of brief sequences and strong performances. Kristin Scott Thomas was born to suffer on screen but there is a steeliness beneath her anguished features that conveys some of the fire in a woman who has finally found the moment to regain control of her life, whatever the price she might have to pay. We seem to be witnessing her in her prime as French cinema offers her the kind of demanding roles she was born to play.

SUN 21 NOV 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## UNDERTOW



DIR: JAVIER-FUENTES LOEN

PERU 2009

100 MINS

Miguel lives in a small picturesque village on the coast of Peru where he works as a fisherman supporting his expectant wife, Mariela. The two are seemingly happy and in love, but what Mariela doesn't know is that when Miguel leaves to allegedly repair fishing nets, he is really going to see Santiago, with whom he has been having a long-lasting affair. No one truly knows what happened when Santiago suddenly disappears. But Miguel knows the truth — Santiago has drowned, to come back as a spirit that only he can see. When local gossip forces Miguel to confront the truth, he must decide whether to move forward with his life or help Santiago's soul find peace. A lyrically beautiful film, **Undertow** manages to depict a great and complicated love affair amidst macho Latino culture in a creative way; it is no wonder that this film was honoured with an Audience Award at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. Noted for its breath taking views of Peru's seaside and its organic performances, Undertow is a brave and startling work.

Winner - Audience Award, Sundance Film Festival 2010

Winner - Audience Award, Miami Film Festival 2010

Winner - Sebastian Award, San Sebastian International Film Festival 2009

Winner – Best First Feature, Galway Film Fleadh 2010

SUN 28 NOV 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## IN THE BEGINNING



DIR: XAVIER GIANNOLI

FRANCE 2009

130 MINS

**Galway Film Society, in association with the IFI's French Film Festival and access>CINEMA, is pleased to present an exclusive screening of À L'Origine (In The Beginning).**

Based on a true-life story, a recently released conman stumbles on a small community in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region, whose inhabitants have been struggling to make ends meet ever since a huge construction site for a nearby motorway was abandoned some years earlier. Posing as an employee of construction giant CGI for a minor scam, Paul finds himself inundated with questions about what the locals assume can only be the reopening of the site. When he realizes the town's out-of-business subcontractors are offering 15% in cash to secure their participation, he decides to reopen the site by setting up a "subsidiary" of CGI with a staff of one: himself. Cluzet's portrayal of Paul as a fumbling opportunist who finds himself involved in something larger than himself, rather than as a smooth-talking evildoer, makes it easier to root for him. The film blends social critique, character drama and crime into one smooth whole. Giannoli's film is his second feature chosen for Cannes after his Depardieu starrer *The Singer* (2006). In *The Beginning* which has won numerous awards, is a subtle and accomplished work, which has resonances, perhaps, for viewers in contemporary Ireland.

SUN 05 DEC 8.15<sup>PM</sup>

## MOTHER



DIR: BONG JOON-HO

SOUTH KOREA 2009

128 MINS

Director, Bong Joon-ho was chosen in a recent book (*Take 100: The Future of Film: 100 New Directors*) as one of the most promising and daring film directors in world cinema. Hye-ja (Kim Hye-ja) runs a herbal apothecary, and performs unlicensed acupuncture to make ends meet. She is constantly on the look out for her son Do-joon (Won Bin), who easily gets into trouble. When high school girl Ah-jung is found dead and dangling halfway from a rooftop, incriminating evidence points to Do-joon as the killer. Neither the district police, nor the lawyer whom Hye-ja must pay through the nose for, show any sympathy or patience to Do-joon's case. Frustrated, Hye-ja decides to find the killer herself. Her biggest suspect is Do-joon's hoodlum buddy Jin-tae. However, she soon learns that there is no one she can trust in her close-knit village. Bong Joon-ho concentrates on one character with smothering intensity to examine the primal quality of motherhood. At the same time this is a superb murder mystery, with twists coming thick and fast yet always at the right moments.

The following short film will be screened before the feature:

## THE PARTING

DIR: IVAN MCMAHON

IRELAND 2010

6MINS

A mother struggles to come to terms with the death of her young son.

