

GIFFORD FILM CLUB

Films for 2023 Feb-June

Gifford Village Hall Doors open 7.30 Film starts at 8.00

Feb 10 ELVIS PG-1 (Starts 7.45)

With electrifying performances from Austin Butler as Elvis and Tom Hanks as Colonel Parker, Baz Luhrmann's whirlwind biopic is cinematic dynamite. The film explores the life and music of Elvis Presley (Austin Butler), seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks). The story delves into the complex dynamic between Presley and Parker spanning over 20 years, from Presley's rise to fame to his unprecedented stardom, against the backdrop of the evolving cultural landscape and loss of innocence in America. Central to that journey is one of the most significant and influential people in Elvis's life, Priscilla Presley (Olivia DeJonge).

March 10 BELFAST PG-13

Kenneth Branagh's black and white film, *Belfast* set in Northern Ireland in 1969 begins with the August riots that kick-started the Troubles. This autobiographically based film is a deeply soulful portrait of a family in peril, culled from Branagh's childhood. It's a movie of formal beauty, precise performances, complex and textured writing (also from Branagh) and enough comic one-liners and classic Van Morrison tracks to make you forget that you're watching a drama about seething sectarian hatreds. Branagh took the award for Best Original Screenplay at the Oscars and for Outstanding British Film at the Baftas.

April 14 LIVING PG-13

Sentiment and understatement meet in this beautifully melancholy (end-of-) life drama, based on *Akira Kurosawa's* low-key 1952 gem, *Ikiru*. Its lovely, earnest British remake, *Living*, follows a paperwork-laden company man by the name of Mr Williams (*Bill Nighy*) who discovers he hasn't got much time left to live. Adapted by legendary Japanese novelist, *Kazuo Ishiguro*, the cultural translation works well swapped to a 1953 London setting – paying homage to the dreary post-war feel of the original film. In that period of increased cultural homogeneity and tight-lipped conformity, the story makes all the more sense, as Mr Williams begins to reconsider what makes life worth living – with the stinging notion that it often occurs to us too late.

May 12 BENEDICTION PG-13

Written and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Terence Davies, *Benediction* explores the turbulent life of WWI poet Siegfried Sassoon (Jack Lowden). The writer and soldier was a complex man who survived the horrors of fighting in the First World War and was decorated for his bravery but who became a vocal critic of the government's continuation of the war when he returned from service. His poetry was inspired by his experiences on the Western Front, and he became one of the leading war poets of the era. Adored by members of the aristocracy as well as stars of London's literary and stage world, he embarked on affairs with several men as he attempted to come to terms with his homosexuality. At the same time, broken by the horror of war, he made his life's journey a quest for salvation, trying to find it within the conformity of marriage and religion

June 9 GOLDEN OLDIE Members' Choice: *THE APARTMENT* 1960s or *THE MAGGIE* 1954