



Film suggestion guidance for members and guests

When recommending a film for inclusion in next seasons programme, please bear in mind the following criteria that are applied to all films considered for screening, including those from Committee members!

Exclusion Criteria

- A film should not be too mainstream or “Hollywood;” i.e., has it been shown at the local Odeon?
- Any film previously shown by RFS will not be considered.
- Any film with a running time of very significantly more than two hours will be excluded. (For films of particular merit, we can probably accommodate a running time up to 2 hours 30 minutes long).
- Films that have, or are likely to be, shown on TV (i.e., BBC or Film4 productions) - although this has become increasingly difficult to avoid in the post-COVID era. This is no reflection on the quality of the material, simply that Murphy’s Law dictates that the film will be on TV just before we have planned to screen it!
- Films that have been screened extensively on multiple streaming services - recognising that many films are now available to stream either at the time of their theatrical release or shortly thereafter.
- All films must have been seen and approved by a committee member – the principal driver for people joining the society is knowing that they are getting a season of curated films. i.e., the film must be available to be vetted.

Programme Balancing.

We are a “World Cinema” Society and strive to screen films of recent international repute. Films of this type may, however, be excluded from our final programme for one of the following reasons:

- If there are several in the list from the same country.
- If there are several in the list from the same genre.
- No more than one documentary per season is selected (a membership-driven request).
- In addition to the seasonal ‘classic’ choices, no more than one film of more than five years old is selected (a membership-driven request).
- The unavailability of a distributor and source for a DVD or Blu-Ray with English subtitles.
- RFS does try and source films from foreign distributors should the film be of particular merit.
- The unavailability of a licence to screen the film – such as when there are no UK distribution companies or when the film is funded by a subscription-based streaming services, such as Netflix and others, who hold the exclusive distribution rights to an increasing number of films.
- Uncertified films, where there are financial and practical difficulties in obtaining a certificate or a certification waiver.