

GlenViewings Presents

The British Are Coming

“Because I have a right to be heard. I have a voice!” – King George VI

“Yes, you do.” – Lionel Logue

(*The King's Speech*)

The King's Speech

118 min/R/2010
June 17

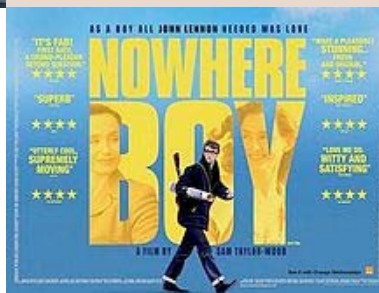


Another Year

129 min
PG-13/2010
July 29
2 & 6:30 PM

Made in Dagenham

113 min/R/2010
July 15
2 & 6:30 PM



Nowhere Boy

(99 min/R/2009)
August 19
2 & 6:30 PM

These four films epitomize the best of recent British filmmaking. Each is a story about the discovery and a search for identity – with the main characters ultimately seeking happiness and fulfillment with a little help from their friends.

The central characters examine moments from the nation's past, defining characteristics, and where they are going as a people. Oscar winning *The King's Speech* and the breezy but provocative *Nowhere Boy* and *Made in Dagenham* all look back fondly on history, celebrating personal achievements that are now national triumphs. In contrast, as the only film set in the present, *Another Year* stands out as being the most melancholy, with its moving depiction of the fragile happiness now found in a more complex, less easily defined society. *Another Year's* lost and tragic Mary, as portrayed by Lesley Manville, is a stunning performance to rival Colin Firth's inspiring turn in *The King's Speech*.

In watching each film, we see that class distinctions and a struggle to find a comfortable sense of self still define cinematic depictions of British society, but also see that these limits can be broken through tenacious personal will power – or what was once known as “keeping a stiff upper lip.” Though stuttering King George and emotionally torn John Lennon may be blessed by privileged status or innate talent, the journey to find their voice is just as difficult as it is for the working-class women of the Dagenham Ford plant or the ordinary people of *Another Year*.

Ultimately, the films all suggest that friendships forged and maintained across barriers are what make life worthwhile. Memorable moments come from fleeting expressions of warm kindness; the witty verbal jousting between the King and his speech therapist, Lennon and McCartney's first songwriting sessions, or the defiant unity of the Dagenham Ford workers striking for equal pay. Take the time this summer to forge your own special relationship with these four powerful, often eccentric films, from across the Atlantic.

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“Why couldn’t God make me Elvis?” - John
 “Cause he was saving you for John Lennon!” – Julia
 (*Nowhere Boy*)

Reel to Reel

	The King’s Speech	Made in Dagenham	Another Year	Nowhere Boy
Director	Tom Hooper	Nigel Cole	Mike Leigh	Sam Taylor-Wood
Producers	Iain Canning Emile Sherman Gareth Unwin	Stephen Woolley Elizabeth Karlsen	Georgina Lowe	Robert Bernstein Douglas Rae
Writer	David Seidler Colin Firth	William Ivory	Mike Leigh	Mike Greenhalgh
Actors	Geoffrey Rush Helena Bonham Carter	Sally Hawkins Miranda Richardson Rosamund Pike	Lesley Manville Jim Broadbent Ruth Sheen	Aaron Johnson Anne-Marie Duff Kristin Scott Thomas
Budget	\$13 million	\$8 million	\$8 million	\$2 million
Revenue	\$405,449,190	\$12,395,087	\$18,124,262	\$6,413,733
Awards	Oscar winner: Best Picture, Director, Actor, Screenplay	Bafta nomination: Best British Film	Oscar nomination: Best Screenplay	Bafta nomination: Best British Film

Did You Know?

- After having the idea for *The King’s Speech* in the 1980’s, writer David Seidler wrote to the Queen mother (played by Helena Bonham Carter in the film) asking for permission to tell her family’s story. She consented – but only if he waited until after she had died. She lived until 2002. Seidler also suffered from a stammer as a child.
- *Made in Dagenham* was originally titled *We Want Sex*, and was distributed with that title in countries such as Germany and Italy.
- *Nowhere Boy* is based on a novel by John Lennon’s half-sister, Julia Baird.
- Director Mike Leigh and his cast collaborated and improvised on the characters and scenes in *Another Year* to form a script, before filming in just 12 weeks.

Things to Explore

- What are the quintessentially “British” elements of each of the films?
- Three of the films reflect on Britain’s past. In what ways do they still hold relevance for the modern day, and in what ways has society moved on?
- What do these films tell you about the past and continued importance of class and gender roles in British society?
- Though it is the only film dealing with fictional characters, *Another Year* is arguably the most “realistic” of the four films. Do you agree? Why could this be?

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“On a scale of one to ten, how happy would you say you are, Janet?” - Mary

“One.” - Janet

“One. I think there’s room for improvement there, don't you?” – Mary
(*Another Year*)

Library Resources

1) **The King’s Speech: How One Man Saved the British Monarchy**, Mark Logue
Drawing directly from speech therapist Lionel Logue’s newly discovered diaries, this book by his grandson adds detail to the story told in the film.

Copy	Material	Location
941.084 LOGUE.M	Book	Nonfiction

2) **The English: Portrait of a People**, Jeremy Paxman
This controversial modern essay by an award-winning British journalist explores “what it means to be English in the 21st century,” as well as looking at defining traditions and stereotypes.

Copy	Material	Location
942 FAX	Book	Nonfiction

3) **John Lennon: The Life** Phillip Norman
Norman’s biography of the mercurial Beatle is acclaimed for delving into the early years of Lennon’s life, just as *Nowhere Boy* does. It also tells a frank account of his incredible rock and roll career up to and including his tragic assassination.

Copy	Material	Location
781.66 LENNON	Book	Nonfiction

4) The King’s Speech (DVD)

Copy	Material	Location
DVD KIN	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

5) Happy Go-Lucky (DVD)

Another Year director Mike Leigh’s previous film, with *Made in Dagenham* star Sally Hawkins.

Copy	Material	Location
DVD HAP	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

6) Made in Dagenham (DVD)

Copy	Material	Location
NEW DVD MAD	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

7) Nowhere Boy (DVD)

Copy	Material	Location
NEW DVD NOW	DVD, Fiction	Audiovisual Room

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“How will we cope? We're women. Don't ask such stupid questions.” – Rita O'Grady
(*Made in Dagenham*)

Online Resources

The King's Speech

<http://www.kingsspeech.com>

The official website contains information on each of the principal cast and crew members, video and photo extras, and links to resources for stutterers.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAhFW_auT20

A recording of the original King George VI broadcast speech to the British Empire from Buckingham Palace on September 3rd, 1939, the eve of WWII.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/52254012>

An 1937 article in the Australian Women's Weekly on the work of Lionel Logue and his relationship with the King of England. A great read!

Made in Dagenham

<http://www.madeindagenhammovie.com/>

The most notable feature of the film's official website is a section listing organizations based in the US still fighting for equal rights for women who endorse the film.

<http://www.workersliberty.org/story/2008/07/14/we-brought-ford-empire-its-knees>

A 2008 article celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Ford workers strike, featuring testimony from many of the women who were originally involved.

Another Year

www.sonyclassics.com/anotheryear/

The official website for the film, containing casts and crew bios and more.

<http://blog.moviefone.com/2011/01/01/mike-leigh-interview-another-year/>

An excellent interview in which the notoriously evasive Mike Leigh opens up on his style.

Nowhere Boy

www.nowhereboy.com

The official site has really excellent features, including thoughts on the film from members of John's first band The Quarrymen, and director Sam Taylor-Wood's revelations of how she got insights and approval from Yoko Ono and Paul McCartney during filming.

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IF YOU LIKED **The British Are Coming...**

***About a Boy* • Chris and Paul Weitz/100 min/PG-13/2002**

--Based on the novel by Nick Hornby, eligible bachelor Will's (Hugh Grant) lifestyle is changed irrevocably when he meets the bright, but slightly awkward, 12-year-old Marcus.

***An Education* • Lone Scherfig/100 min/PG-13/2009**

--Coming-of-age story of a London teenage girl (Carey Mulligan) who places her future in jeopardy when she replaces her traditional education with an education of a different sort from an older, more sophisticated suitor (Peter Sarsgaard).

***Billy Elliot* • Stephen Daldry/110 min/PG-13/2000**

-- Set during a 1984 miners' strike in Durham County, the story of a poor English coal miner's son who dreams of being a ballet dancer.

***Calendar Girls* • Nigel Cole/108 min/PG-13/2003**

-- Based on actual events, this feel-good story about a group of working-class British housewives who became overnight celebrities by posing for a nude calendar in order to raise more than 500-thousand pounds for a new leukemia unit.

***Fish Tank* • Andrea Arnold/122 min/NR/2009**

--Mia is a foul-mouthed 15 year-old, suspended from school with too much time on her hands when her troubled, single mother brings home a new boyfriend. Features Katie Jarvis in a break-out role.

***Hunger* • Steve McQueen/96 min/R/2008**

--Historical drama that chronicles the final months of the life of Bobby Sands (Michael Fassbender), the Irish Republican Army activist who protested his treatment at the hands of British prison guards with a hunger strike.

***The Madness of King George* • Nicholas Hytner/107 min/PG-13/1994**

--Based on Alan Bennett's acclaimed play *The Madness of George III*, This film takes a dark-humored look at the mental decline of King George III (Nigel Hawthorne) of England.

***Of Time and the City* • Terrence Davies/74 min/NR/2008**

--Filmmaker Terrence Davies' documentary of his life growing up in Liverpool using newsreel footage, his own voiceover commentary and classical music of the period.

***Richard III* • Richard Loncraine/105 min/R/1995**

--This adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tale of treachery is transplanted to a fictionalized England in the 1930s. Features Ian McKellen, Annette Bening and Jim Broadbent.

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***This Is England* • Shane Meadows/103 min/NR/2006**

--British filmmaker Shane Meadows poignant look back at his own youth in this semi-autobiographical comedy drama that examines skinhead culture in the U.K. in the summer of 1983.

***Young Victoria* • Jean Marc Vallee/105 min/PG/2009**

-- A historical look at the turbulent early years of Queen Victoria (Emily Blunt), who was crowned at the age of 18 and her ill-fated marriage to Prince Albert (Rupert Friend) that would prompt her into a life of mournful seclusion.

Coming soon to U.S. theaters: *The First Grader, Submarine, The Debt, Archipelago, Self Made.*

Also Directed by Mike Leigh:

All or Nothing (128 min/R/2002)

Naked (126 min/NR/1993)

Topsy Turvy (160 min/R/1999)

Also Starring Colin Firth:

Girl with the Pearl Earring (99 min/PG-13/2003)

A Single Man (99 min/R/2009)

Also Starring Geoffrey Rush:

Elizabeth: The Golden Age (114 min/PG-13/2007)

Shine (105 min/PG-13/1996)