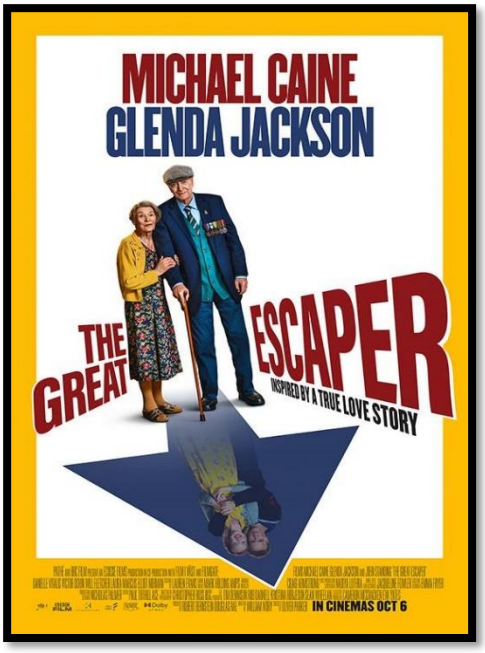
FILMBOX

LANGLEY PARK CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

CINEMA FOR ALL

NEIGHBOURHOOD CINEMA

Thursday, 18th April 2024
Performance Hall, 7.45 pm



The Great Escaper

12, UK/France, 2023, 1h 36m
Dir: Oliver Parker
Writer: William Ivory
Producers: Robert Bernstein, Douglas Rae
Drama, Romance

The true story of Bernard Jordan, a WWII veteran who secretly leaves his care home to attend the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings is told in this poignant British drama, which contains upsetting scenes and moments of wartime threat.

Cast includes (selected)

Michael Caine	Bernard Jordan
Glenda Jackson	Irene Jordan
John Standing	Arthur
Wolf Kahler	Heinrich
Jackie Clune	Judith
Will Fletcher	Young Bernard Jordan
Laura Marcus	Young Irene Jordan

Film Notes by Mike Darbon

The Great Escaper is a poignant biographical drama that captures the adventurous spirit of Bernard Jordan, an 89-year-old WWII Royal Navy veteran and former Mayor of Hove in the 1990's. Directed by actor turned director Oliver Parker, known for films as diverse as **Johnny English Reborn**, **Shakespeare's Othello**, **Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest** and the film version of Dad's Army, it stars the legendary Michael Caine as Bernard and the late Glenda Jackson as his wife, Irene. The story is a heartwarming tribute to Jordan's daring escape from his care home in Hove to attend the 70th Anniversary D-Day Landings celebrations in Normandy. His journey was not just a nostalgic trip but a salute to his fallen comrades and a testament to the enduring legacy of the human spirit.

Bernard's escapade made headlines, symbolizing the undiminished courage of the wartime generation. Upon his return, he was celebrated as a hero, his story resonating with people worldwide. Sadly, Bernard died in January 2015, a little over six months after his "great escape". The casting of Caine and Jackson brought depth and gravitas to the roles of Bernard and Irene, with Jackson delivering her final, stirring performance before her own passing in June 2023. Caine, who announced his retirement in October 2023, leaves open the question of whether this might be his swansong. But so far, he seems to be sticking to his word.

In addition to films already mentioned, Oliver Parker was also responsible for the revival of the **St Trinian's** franchise in the early 2000's. Brother of Nathaniel Parker, best known for his performances in the BBC crime drama series, **The Inspector Lynley Mysteries**, he is also the son of celebrated GP and gardener, Lady Jill Parker and her husband, Sir Peter Parker, best known as the one-time chairman of British Rail. Meanwhile, William Ivory, the screenwriter, hails from Nottinghamshire and is known for his BAFTA-nominated works, such as **Common as Muck**, that often reflect his East Midlands roots. The combination of Parker and Ivory brings a wealth of experience and personal touch to the film, which is further enriched by their backgrounds—Parker, the son of a railway executive and a writer, and Ivory, a former binman turned acclaimed writer.

The Great Escaper is more than a film; it's a celebration of resilience and the indomitable will to honour one's past. With stellar performances and a director and writer duo who infuse the narrative with authenticity and passion, this film promises to leave audiences both inspired and moved. It stands as a fitting tribute to both the characters it portrays and the remarkable actors who bring them to life.

As a footnote, another film, **The Last Rifleman** starring Pierce Brosnan and released around the same time as **The Great Escaper**, is also loosely based on Bernard Jordan's story.

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Our Next Presentations



Wednesday 8th May 2024

In Studio 609 at 7.30 pm

The Old Oak

15, UK, France, Belgium, 2023, 1h 53m
Dir: Ken Loach
Drama

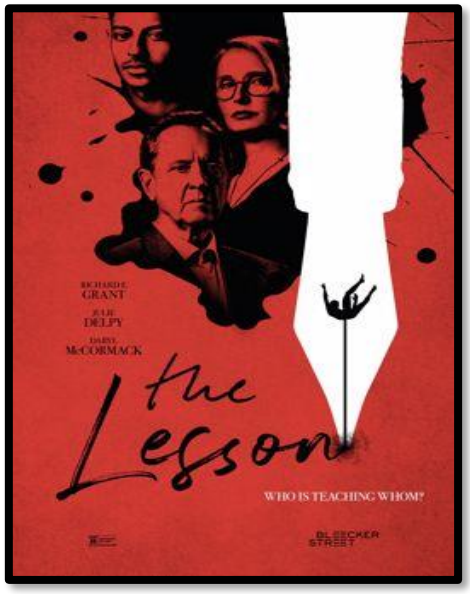
Pub landlord TJ Ballantyne, living in a once thriving mining community in County Durham, struggles to hold on to his pub, the one remaining public space where people can meet in the town. Tensions rise when Syrian refugees are placed there, but Ballantyne strikes up a friendship with one of the refugees. .

Thursday, 23rd May 2024

In Studio 609 at 7.30pm

The Lesson

15, UK, 2023, 1h 43m
Dir: Alice Troughton
Thriller



Liam, an aspiring and ambitious young writer, eagerly accepts a tutoring position at the family estate of his idol, renowned author J.M. Sinclair. But soon, Liam realizes that he is ensnared in a web of family secrets, resentment, and retribution.
Warning: This elegant, darkly comic drama contains themes involving the issue of suicide.

Latest Audience Film Ratings

