FILMBOX

LANGLEY PARK CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

CINEMA FOR ALL

NEIGHBOURHOOD CINEMA

Friday 13th September 2024
Studio 609, 7.30 pm



One Life

12, UK/US/Australia, 2023, 1h 45m
Dir: James Hawes
Writers: Lucinda Coxon, Nick Drake
Based on the book by Barbara Winton
Producers: Iain Canning, Guy Heeley, Joanna Laurie & Emile Sherman
Biography, Drama, History

This poignant and emotional biographical drama follows the life of humanitarian Nicholas Winton, who helped hundreds of children escape German-occupied Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II.

Cast includes (selected)

Sir Anthony Hopkins	Sir Nicholas Winton
Johnny Flynn	Young Nicholas Winton
Lena Olin	Grete Winton
Helena Bonham Carter	Babi Winton
Jonathan Pryce	Martin Blake
Romola Garai	Doreen Warriner
Samantha Spiro	Esther Rantzen

Film Notes by Mike Darbon

As most of you will be aware, **One Life** is a poignant biographical drama that brings to the screen the heroic efforts of Sir Nicholas Winton, who orchestrated the rescue of 669 primarily Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia on the eve of World War II. The film alternates across 50 years between a 79-year-old Winton, played by Sir Anthony Hopkins, reflecting on his past and a 29-year-old Winton, portrayed by Johnny Flynn, navigating the perilous landscape of 1938-39 Europe.

Sir Nicholas Winton's own journey began in Hampstead, London, where he was born to German-Jewish parents who had immigrated to Britain. A stockbroker by profession, Winton found himself in Prague under Nazi occupation where he was moved by the plight of Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. With a sense of urgency, Winton and his colleagues set up an office in Prague and another in London, embarking on a complex operation to save the children of these families.

As you will see in the film, Winton's mission was multifaceted, involving the meticulous planning of transport logistics, the challenging navigation of bureaucratic hurdles and the securing of travel documents. He also had to find willing foster families in Britain who would open their homes to the refugee children upon their arrival. The first train left just a day before the Third Reich invaded Czechoslovakia, breaking the Munich Agreement, in March 1939. The last train departed on August 2 only a month before the outbreak of World War II.

Winton's work remained largely unknown for decades until his wife discovered a scrapbook in their attic, detailing the names and photos of the children he had helped. This discovery eventually led to Winton's story being featured on the BBC television programme, **That's Life** in 1988, where he was reunited with some of the individuals he had rescued, now adults. Coincidentally, these included the mother of a friend and colleague of mine at the BBC – now in her 90's, she is still alive and living happily in the UK today. It was this emotional revelation that introduced Winton to the British public and the world, earning him the affectionate title of *"Britain's Schindler"* and leading to his knighthood in 2002 for services to humanity.

The legacy of Sir Nicholas Winton's rescue mission inspires to this day, serving as a powerful reminder of the difference one person can make when driven by determination and a sense of justice. The British public's response to the Kindertransport was a mix of compassion and pragmatism. While the rescue mission was seen as a noble act, the reality for the children was complex. They had escaped the immediate danger of Nazi persecution, but their integration into British society came with its own set of challenges. If there is one thing you take away from this film, it is that there are still thousands in this world today facing what the children in this film faced nearly 90 years ago. But, as we have seen in the UK over the summer, the world's reaction is, tragically, often nowhere near as compassionate or noble as that of Winton and his compatriots in 1939.

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Our Next Presentations



Wednesday, 25th September 2024
In the Performance Hall at 7.45 pm

The End We Start From

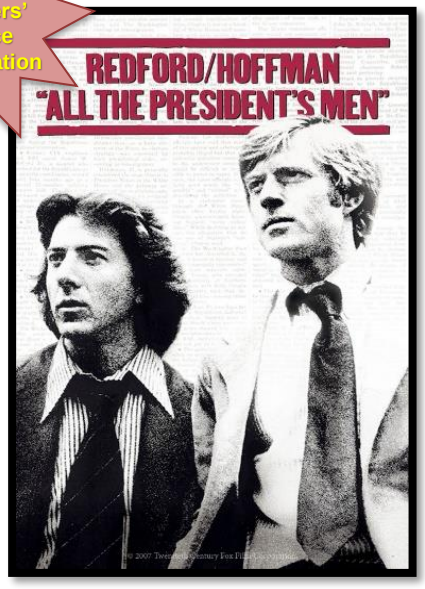
UK, 2023, 15, 1 hr 42 mins
Dir: Mahalia Belo
Drama, Thriller

Extreme flooding forces a woman to flee London with her newborn baby and find refuge amid chaos in this moving and naturalistic survival drama.

Wednesday, 25th September 2024

In Studio 609 at 7.30pm
Members' Choice Presentation:

Our Members' Choice Presentation



All the President's Men

US, 1976, 15, 2 hr 13 mins
Dir: Alan J. Pakula
Drama, History, Thriller

"The Washington Post" reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the details of the Watergate scandal that leads to President Richard Nixon's resignation.

Latest Audience Film Ratings

