

# Welcome

to our new 23/24 season of the best in cinema from across the globe. The 23/24 selection of films deals with the big themes in life - love, laughter, redemption and forgiveness.

We also dive into darker waters, with challenging subjects such as revenge, grief, corruption and murder!

All our films will be in the Garret theatre in Storyhouse, Chester.

## CFS membership for 23/24

Annual membership for this season is £65 | guests £7/£4 [U25s]  
Card payments only

Please visit our website for more information and detailed film reviews:

[www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk](http://www.chesterfilmsociety.co.uk)



CHESTER  
FILM  
SOCIETY

# CIFF

Chester International Film Festival

+ the Animation Festival

returns March 1-8 2024 for a week of ground-breaking world cinema and animation.



## 23 The Outfit

1hr 45m (USA 2022) Cert: 15  
Directed: Graham Moore

To survive a fateful encounter with the mob, an elderly English tailor, or cutter, as he keeps insisting, must outwit a dangerous group of gangsters who take shelter in his shop on a tensely long night.



## 12|10 Love According to Dalva

1hr 23m (Belgium/France 2022) Cert: 15  
Directed: Emmanuelle Nicot

A young girl struggles to cope in the aftermath of parental abuse in this emotionally intense Belgian drama which handles its uncomfortable subject matter with sensitivity, respect, and restraint.



## 26|10 Cairo Conspiracy

2hr 1m (Sweden/France/Finland 2022) Cert: 12  
Directed: Tarik Saleh

The threat of state-sanctioned violence hangs over a male student after he is recruited as an informant in a deadly power struggle between the political and religious establishment in this dark Egyptian conspiracy drama.



## 02|11 Martin Eden

2hr 9m (Italy/France 2019) Cert: 15  
Directed: Pietro Marcello

An aspiring writer, navigates societal complexities, love, and self-discovery in early 20th-century Italy, revealing the struggles and sacrifices of artistic ambition when he falls for a wealthy woman, to the disappointment of her family.



## 23|11 The Beasts

2hr 18m (France/Spain 2022) Cert: 15  
Directed: Rodrigo Sorogoyen

A French couple's new life farming in a Galician village is disrupted by hostility, intimidation, and escalating acts of violence from a neighbouring local family in this brooding thriller about familial bonds and forgiveness.



## 07|12 Winners + Smile

1hr 25m (UK 2022) Cert: PG  
Directed: Hassan Nazer

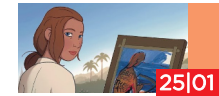
Persian language drama in which two young children find a lost Oscar statuette in their remote Iranian village and decide to find its owner. Showing with Chester Animation Festival winning entry 'Smile'.



## 11|01 24 The Quiet Girl

1hr 31m (Ireland 2022) Cert: 12  
Directed: Colm Bairéad

Academy Award and BAFTA-nominated Irish drama in which an unhappy and neglected girl from a dysfunctional family is sent to live with foster parents for the summer who are coming to terms with an unspoken loss of their own.



## 25|01 Charlotte

1hr 32m (Canada/Belgium/France 2021) Cert: 12  
Directed: Tahir Rana and Éric Warin

An animated biopic of the German-Jewish painter Charlotte Salomon inspired by her autobiographical painting series, *Life? or Theatre?*



## 08|02 Azor

1hr 40m (Argentina/France/Switzerland 2021) Cert: 12 Directed: Andreas Fontana

A Swiss banker visits Buenos Aires to handle the business concerns of his missing associate. Gripping drama that elegantly slips the viewer into its cold embrace and never loosens its grip.



## 22|02 Close

1hr 44m (France/Netherlands 2022) Cert: 12  
Directed: Lukas Dhont

Devastating drama in which the move to high school forces two lifelong young friends apart and leaves one of them struggling to understand what happened to their friendship.



## 21|03 Clara Sola

1hr 46m (Swe/Cos Rica/Bel/Ger/Fra 2021) Cert: 15 Directed: Nathalie Álvarez Mesén

Costa Rican drama in which a woman experiences a sexual and spiritual awakening after years of repression by her community.



## 04|04 Nostalgia

1hr 58m (Italy/France 2022) Cert: 12  
Directed: Mario Martone

Italian drama in which a man returns to his hometown of Naples after 40 years, stirring up a past he's tried to keep buried.