

## The Isles FILM FESTIVAL- 2020

February 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>

**Wow ! This is actually the 12<sup>th</sup> year I have been sharing my love of films with fellow Isles film lovers !**

**Good films are not in short supply; rather, the difficulty for me has always been to narrow down which films to share with you. As in each festival, selection becomes more and more difficult. This year is no different. Culling the list has been quite a challenge. I present a selection of meritorious, thought-provoking international films for your viewing.**

*Enjoy.*

*Tova Fisch*

Title	Genre-Year	Actors/Director	Synopsis
<p><b>FIDDLER: MIRACLE OF MIRACLES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>English</i> 2019</p> <p>Wed. Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm</p> <p>Gala Dinner 6:00pm <i>(Bring your appetite)</i></p>	<p>Documentary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">97 mins</p>	<p>Original Broadway Director- Jerome Robbins</p> <p>Original Lyrics and Music- Jerry Bock &amp; Sheldon Harnick</p>	<p>Fiddler on the Roof in Korean? Sung by the Temptations?? First staged in 1964, who would have thought the story would have both international and inter-cultural resonance. Contributions from a range of interviewees – including people attached to the original production, such as producer Hal Prince, lyricist Sheldon Harnick, and fans of the show, including Hamilton creator <u>Lin-Manuel</u> Miranda – help us understand how Fiddler became a massive international hit. What makes this doc personal are the organically introduced digressions. What elevates it brilliantly is that it demonstrates how universal this distinctly Jewish musical has been embraced by many cultures and how it is still influential today. Since its Broadway debut, the musical has played every day — for 55-plus years — somewhere on Earth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fiddler on the Roof- a musical that almost didn't happen.</i></p>
<p><b>THE SPANISH PRISONER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>English</i> 1997</p> <p>Thurs. Feb. 27th 2:00pm</p>	<p>Mystery, Drama, Thriller</p> <p style="text-align: center;">110 mins</p>	<p>Campbell Scott, Ben Gazzara, Felicity Huffman, Steve Martin</p> <p>Director/Writer David Mamet</p> <p><i>For those of you who know Mamet, this film is unique because there is no swearing.</i></p>	<p>Do you enjoy Hitchcock where everything takes place in full view? Did you enjoy The Usual Suspects? The movie does not take place in Spain and has no prisoners. The title refers to a classic con game. Our lead is an electronics whiz whose invention gets him caught up in a world of greed, corruption, intrigue and murder. We are <u>shown</u> everything we need to know to solve the mystery, yet we are also <u>misdirected</u>, as in a good con or magic trick. Is it a perfect setup? with a perfect finale? Roger Ebert wrote of The Spanish Prisoner <i>"The end of a magic trick is never the most interesting part; the setup is more fun, because we can test ourselves against the magician, who will certainly fool us. We like to be fooled. It's like being tickled. We say "Stop! Stop!" and don't mean it."</i></p> <p>AWARDS: Edgar Allen Poe Award- Nominee Best Picture</p>
<p><b>THE FAREWELL PARTY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hebrew</i> <i>(English Subtitles)</i> 2014</p> <p>Thurs. Feb 27th 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Drama, Comedy</p> <p style="text-align: center;">97 mins</p>	<p>An ensemble cast. Ze'ev Revach, Levana Finkelstein, Aliza Rosen</p>	<p>A unique compassionate story about a group of friends in a Jerusalem retirement home. They find it hard to see their friends pass away from debilitating illnesses. Then, one friend asks another for a very personal favour. Presented with compassion and with humour, it will touch each of us in a very personal way.</p> <p><i>This "is a story about life. Always honest, graceful and funny it explores with deep compassion its characters familial and romantic relationships."</i> -Tirdad Derakhshani, Philadelphia Inquirer</p> <p>This film proves that a good story and script, with the right actors and director, can overcome a small budget.</p> <p><i>"..bittersweet ...with black humour"</i></p>

<p><b>GOOD BYE, LENIN!</b></p> <p><i>German</i> (English Subtitles) 2003</p> <p>Fri. Feb 28th 2:00pm</p>	<p>Comedy, Drama</p> <p>118 mins</p>	<p>Director, Wolfgang Becker; Daniel Bruhl</p>	<p>A dedicated young German pulls off an elaborate scheme to keep his mother alive. Having a heart attack and falling into a coma after seeing her son arrested during a protest, Alex's socialist mother, Christiane remains comatose through the fall of the Berlin wall and the German Democratic Republic. Upon his mother's awakening, Alex is told that the slightest shock could prove fatal. Clever and loving son Alex therefore, strives to keep the fall of the GDR secret from his mother (such a good son )-but how? And how long can he keep up the ruse?</p> <p><u>AWARDS:</u> Golden Globe Nominee- Best Foreign Language Film; AARP Movies for Grown-UPS; Berlin International Film Festival- Winner-; London Critics Film Award- Best Foreign Language Film; US Comedy Arts Festival- Best Foreign Language Film; Golden Eagle Awards, Russia- Nominee, Best Foreign Language Film; BAFTA Nominee- Best Film Not in the English Language;</p>
<p><b>THE GUILTY</b></p> <p><i>Danish</i> ( English Subtitles) 2018</p> <p>Fri. Feb 28th 7:00pm</p>	<p>Drama Suspense</p> <p>88 mins</p>		<p>A police officer who has been demoted to emergency dispatcher receives a call from a woman in the process of being kidnapped. Set within 2 rooms, you see only the officer and hear the voice on the other end of the phone. The suspense begins almost immediately as you are drawn into his decision making. The film does not let go even when it is over.</p> <p><u>AWARDS:</u> National Board of Review, - Winner Best Foreign Film; Sundance Film Festival- World Cinema Dramatic Audience Award- Sundance Film Festival ; Grand Jury Prize, World Cinema Drama-Nominee Torino Film Festival- Audience Award and Winner-Best Actor; Washington DC Film Festival-Special Circle Jury Award;</p>

<b>12<sup>th</sup> ISLES FILM FESTIVAL at a GLANCE</b>			
	<b>Wed. Feb 26th</b>	<b>Thurs. Feb 27th</b>	<b>Fri. Feb 28th</b>
<b>2:00 PM</b>		<p><b>THE SPANISH PRISONER</b> 110 Minutes <i>Mystery, Drama, Thriller</i></p>	<p><b>GOOD BYE, LENIN!</b> 118 Minutes <i>Comedy, Drama</i></p>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<p>6:00 pm - GALA DINNER Food + Wine</p> <p><b>FIDDLER: MIRACLE OF MIRACLES</b> 97 Minutes <i>Documentary</i></p>	<p><b>THE FAREWELL PARTY</b> 97 Minutes <i>Drama, Comedy</i></p>	<p><b>THE GUILTY</b> 88 Minutes <i>Drama Suspense</i></p>