



ICONIC FILM
GOODFELLAS (1990)



Reviewed by Daniel May

Quite simply put, Goodfellas is one of the greatest films ever made. I realise this is a rather bold statement, one that may not be agreed upon by the masses, but, if you have watched this film as many times as I have and appreciate it for its brutal honesty (and lack of Hollywood fluff), you may just come to the same conclusion.

Director/genius Martin Scorsese was the man who brought Goodfellas to the big screen in the early nineties. Based on Nicolas Pileggi's best-seller Wiseguy, the re-named Goodfellas chronicles thirty years of true-life mobster turned FBI informant Henry Hill (Ray Liotta).

The film begins with Hill as a blue-collar Brooklyn boy, who idolises the local neighbourhood 'wise guys' from his bedroom window. As soon as he gets their attention and his chance to be a part of the 'family' he does not hesitate in taking it up. Along with his partner Tommy DeVito (Joe Pesci) and with the help of his mentor Jimmy Conway (Robert De Niro), Hill rises through the ranks of the 'family' to become mafia Don Paulie's (Paul Sorvino) right hand man.

After many years of living the good life as a respected mobster and being a pivotal part in the Lufthansa heist, things start to fall apart for Hill when he makes some unruly and drug induced decisions, which not only puts his personal family

in jeopardy but also his mobster family. He soon finds himself looking over his shoulder from not only the risk of being put in jail for the rest of his life by the FBI but for an even more definitive fate - being 'whacked' by his friends.

Liotta, De Niro and Sorvino are utterly fantastic in their roles, and you could easily be mistaken for thinking that they had lived the life of crime in a past life. The stand-out performance, however, undeniably comes from Joe Pesci in his Academy Award winning performance as the wild and psychotic Tommy DeVito.

Yes, the extreme violence in the film is at times uncomfortable to observe and will certainly not suit everyone, but there is no denying how astonishingly well Scorsese (with the close help of Pileggi) constructed Goodfellas, from not only its masterful screenplay and brilliant soundtrack, but to its openness and integrity to tell the account of what actually happened in this period of organised crime in America without holding any punches.

Indisputably, Goodfellas is the closest challenger to The Godfather's deserved standing as the best gangster film ever made. Masterpiece and classic are two words that are often used far too easily when describing overly hyped and hugely marketed films when they are premiered, but, as far as Goodfellas is concerned these words don't seem quite enough to describe its brilliance.

If you are looking to spend sometime discovering or re-visiting the gangster film genre, I strongly recommend the following five features:

1. Goodfellas
2. The Godfather Trilogy
3. Donnie Brasco
4. Casino
5. The Untouchables

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA

The Metropolitan Opera kicks off its 2011-12 Live in HD season at Cinema City with a live broadcast of Donizetti's Anna Bolena, a Met premiere, on October 15th, starring soprano Anna Netrebko in the tour-de-force title role.



The opera, a thrilling dramatisation of the tragic final days of Anne Boleyn—whose husband Henry VIII spurns her and has her sentenced to death—will be conducted by Marco Armiliato and directed by David McVicar. The cast includes Russian mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Gubanova as Anna's romantic rival, Giovanna (Jane Seymour); Russian bass Ildar Abdrazakov as the cruel Enrico (Henry VIII); American tenor Stephen Costello as Anna's first love, Lord Percy; and American mezzo-soprano Tamara Mumford as the queen's devoted page Smeton.

Anna Bolena kicks off the sixth season of The Met: Live in HD when it is transmitted live to Cinema City, as well as movie theaters around the world on October 15, hosted by star soprano Renée Fleming.

Live in HD transmissions were seen by 2.6 million opera lovers worldwide last season and are currently transmitted to more than 1600 theaters in 54 countries around the world. In the UK, Anna Bolena will be broadcast to 77 cinemas.

- Sat 15 Oct, 6.00
ANNA BOLENA (Donizetti)
- Sat 29 Oct, 6.00
DON GIOVANNI (Mozart)
- Sat 5 Nov, 4.00
SIEGFRIED (Wagner)
- Sat 19 Nov, 6.00
SATYAGRAHA (Glass)
- Sat 3 Dec, 5.30
RODELINDA (Handel)
- Sat 10 Dec, 6.00
FAUST (Gounod)
- Sat 21 Jan, 6.00
THE ENCHANTED ISLAND (Handel, Rameau, Vivaldi & others)
- Sat 11 Feb, 5.00
GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG (Wagner)
- Sat 25 Feb, 6.00
ERNANI (Verdi)
- Sat 7 Apr, 5.00
MANON (Massenet)
- Sat 14 Apr, 6.00
LA TRAVIATA (Verdi)

CinemaCity



We Need To Talk About Kevin

MAIN FEATURES

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1- 6 OCT | DRIVE (18) |
| 1- 13 OCT | MELANCHOLIA (15) |
| 7-13 OCT | TYRANNOSAUR (18) |
| 7-20 OCT | TYRANNOSAUR (18) |
| 14-20 OCT | MIDNIGHT IN PARIS (CERT TBC) |
| 21 OCT - 10 NOV | THE DEBT (15) |
| | WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT KEVIN (CERT TBC) |
| 28 OCT - 17 NOV | THE HELP (CERT TBC) |

HALLOWEEN SCREENING

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| MON 31 OCT, 8.45pm | GHOSTBUSTERS (PG) |
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LIVE EVENTS

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| MON 28 NOV, 7.00 | MARK KERMODE: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE MULTIPLEX |
| WED 30 NOV, 6.30 | ANDY KIRKPATRICK: COLD WARS |

For full listing call 0871 704 2053 or visit

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