

We are delighted to announce a season celebrating the life and work of Lord Richard Attenborough (1923 - 2014).

Join us for an unforgettable journey through his ground-breaking works, both in front of and behind the camera in a unique season exclusive to The Chiswick Cinema.

TRAFALGAR CINEMAS CHISWICK CINEMA

LORD RICHARD ATTENBOROUGH

Centenary Year Celebrations
June 2023 Onwards

Original painting by Ryan O'Keefe

THE ANGRY SILENCE Season Launch + Q&A Sunday, 18th June	GANDHI Sunday, 9th July	THE GREAT ESCAPE Sunday, 30th July	SHADOWLANDS Sunday, 10th September	OHI WHAT A LOVELY WAR Saturday, 11th November
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Additional films, special guests, Q&As and intros to be announced at future dates. Season programmed by Michael Attenborough CBE and Chris Parker. Designed by Aguado Polo Design

Booking and Ticket Information Can Be Found Here:

<https://www.chiswickcinema.co.uk/attenborough-centenary/>

Press Enquiries are Welcome to cparker@tragalgarcinemas.com

"I was very touched and excited by the Chiswick Cinema's desire to present a year's retrospective of my father's work, in what would have been his 100th year and am delighted to lend it my wholehearted support."

- Michael Attenborough C.B.E.

"There's not a single person working in the British film industry that doesn't owe a colossal debt to Dickie Attenborough. That cannot be true of anyone else working anywhere in the world in any other national film industry."

- Lord David Puttnam

"We have a unique opportunity at The Chiswick Cinema and for me this season embodies the scope of talent and history in our community; the creativity and dynamism of the venue; and the limitless scope for what an independent cinema can be in 2023."

- Chris Parker, The Chiswick Cinema Marketing Executive

About the Celebration Season

A legend and champion of British cinema, his work as an actor, director, and producer, saw him apply his remarkable humanity and versatility to a breadth of subjects. His contributions to the film industry have left a lasting impact on cinema. From his early triumphs as a talented actor to his celebrated directorial masterpieces, Richard Attenborough's films have left an indelible mark on the cinematic landscape. This season offers a unique opportunity to rediscover his remarkable contributions to the art of storytelling.

The Chiswick Cinema have the unique privilege of programming this celebratory season with Richard's son Michael Attenborough C.B.E. Launching on the 18th June 2023 with a Q&A evening and drinks reception, the season will continue into 2024 with works of Richard's from both sides of the camera. Five films from his vast repertoire are now on sale, with future screenings added and announced at later dates.

This season of films celebrates Attenborough's skill as a filmmaker and his principles as a man. Powerful humanistic themes, socially conscious advocacy, and emotionally resonant performances pervade these thought-provoking films. The celebrations will also include rare insights into images and items from the Attenborough archive. Generously shared with us by the Attenborough family. Selected talks and Q&As will be announced at later dates.

Member free tickets apply. Prices have been calibrated to make the season as accessible as possible. Group bookings and discount requests are welcome to info@chiswickcinema.co.uk. We're keen to ensure we mark Lord Attenborough's legacy by sharing in his educational and philanthropic work where possible.

We hope you can join us as we pay tribute to a true visionary.

The Chiswick Cinema sincerely wish to thank the Attenborough family for their support and generosity in supporting this season.

Season programmed by Michael Attenborough CBE and Chris Parker

Original painting by Bryan Organ

Design by Aguado Polo Design

Season (on sale now)

1. The Angry Silence, Sunday 18th June, 18:30

Q&A – 18:30-19:00, Film 19:00, Drinks 20:30

Dir. Guy Green, Drama, 91 mins, UK [1960] (PG)

The season will begin with Michael Attenborough C.B.E in conversation to introduce both this film and the others in the season. A complimentary drinks reception in the Porsche Centre West London Taycan Lounge on the second floor of the cinema follows the screening.

The film explores themes of individuality, peer pressure, and social conformity in a factory setting with a unique political view that kickstarted a debate still all-too-relevant to this day. Set in an English factory, the searing drama tells the story of Tom Curtis, played by Attenborough, a worker who refuses to participate in a strike led by his colleagues. Tom's decision not to join the strike is met with hostility and resentment from his fellow workers, who perceive him as a traitor to their cause and send him to Coventry as a result.

As the film progresses, Tom becomes the target of intimidation and isolation, facing intense pressure from his co-workers to conform to their collective actions. The story dissects the dynamics of groupthink and the consequences of going against the majority. With an exploration of the themes of individual conscience, personal integrity, and the price one pays for standing up for their beliefs; this is a vital and important social work from the era.

Attenborough's compelling performance portrays the character's inner turmoil and resilience in the face of adversity. His nuanced role captures the struggle between personal convictions and societal pressures, bringing depth and emotional weight to the story and signifying his instinctive capability on screen.

Michael Attenborough on the film:

“THE ANGRY SILENCE marked a significant moment in Dad's career. He had just decided to give up acting, as he felt he was being dreadfully typecast. So he formed Beaver Films with Bryan Forbes. ‘Angry’ was their first project, but was deemed utterly uncommercial by all the studios, so they decided to do it on a tiny budget and on a profit-share basis. However, no one would take on the leading role for no money. So Dad had to play it! The film was a huge success, earned Dad a BAFTA nomination and transformed his career!”

2. Gandhi, Sunday 9th July, 18:30

Dir. Richard Attenborough, Biopic, 191 mins, UK [1982] (PG)

Attenborough's magnum opus, this sweeping historical epic charts the life of Mahatma Gandhi and his struggle against the British Empire for Indian independence. A life long passion project for him, Attenborough's labours were well rewarded when the film won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Director. Ranked by the BFI as the 34th best British film of the twentieth century, this is a visual and emotional marvel not to be missed on the big screen. Attenborough's sure handed direction is evidenced in the bountiful panoramas, inspiring message and mesmerising performances and score.

Michael Attenborough on the film:

'My Dad was first asked to direct GANDHI eighteen years before it was eventually made and six years before he directed his first movie. Nobody would put up the money. But he would not be deterred. It eventually won eight Oscars, including Best Film and Best Director.'

3. The Great Escape, Sunday 30th July, 16:00

Dir. John Sturges, War, 172 mins + Intermission + Entr'Acte, USA [1963] (PG)

Michael Attenborough on the film:

'THE GREAT ESCAPE was his first Hollywood film, though, ironically, not shot in Hollywood. It marked the start of a deep friendship with Steve McQueen, who asked for Dad to play opposite him in his next film - THE SAND PEBBLES.'

4. Shadowlands, Sunday 10th September, 18:00

Dir. Richard Attenborough, Biopic, 126 mins, UK [1993] (U)

Presented in proud partnership with Chiswick Book Festival and Chiswick in Film Festival.

Michael Attenborough on the film:

'SHADOWLANDS was Dad's favourite of all the movies he directed. Perhaps because it enabled him to focus above all on the performances and the chance to work with Tony Hopkins again, whom he directed five times. He was not a religious man and naturally struggled with grief; indeed like CS Lewis, who was religious. A decade later personal grief was to hit him very hard.'

5. Oh! What a Lovely War, Saturday 11th November, 18:30

Dir. Richard Attenborough, Musical, 138 mins, UK [1969] (PG)

Michael Attenborough on the film:

'OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR marked his directorial debut. Preceded, as ever, by a universal refusal by the studios to back the movie. Except Paramount, for whom Dad personally auditioned all the songs. And to whom he fibbed outrageously as to the array of stars who had agreed to appear. He then proceeded to sign them all up! The film was, thankfully, wonderfully received.'

About Richard Attenborough (1923-2014)

“I have absolutely no doubt that without Richard Attenborough right now there would be no British film industry he was that important”—Alan Parker

Attenborough's style as a filmmaker was characterized by his commitment to storytelling, his attention to detail, and his ability to tackle complex subjects with empathy and thoughtfulness. Attenborough had a strong sensibility and distinct humanism that ran through his career, often choosing stories that explored the triumphs, struggles, and resilience of individuals. His works showcased the human condition with empathy and understanding, often underscored by a spotlight on injustices and a championing of social change.

With sweeping scope and grandeur, Attenborough's films often featured large-scale lavish productions that were behemoth undertakings, especially by today's standards. A solid attention to detail in production design, costumes, and cinematography unifies all his works. Many of the films in this season, are pinnacles of the medium in terms of scale and immersion.

As well as his film-making, Attenborough's philanthropic work was characterized by his commitment to humanitarian causes, social justice, and the welfare of children and vulnerable individuals. His dedication to these causes was not limited to financial contributions but also involved active engagement and advocacy. His efforts made a significant impact on raising awareness and supporting initiatives that aimed to create positive change in society. From the Gandhi Foundation, to Anti-Apartheid activism; to his presidency of the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign; Attenborough's profound heart had huge reach.

About Michael Attenborough C.B.E

“I was very touched and excited by the Chiswick Cinema's desire to present a year's retrospective of my father's work, in what would have been his 100th year and am delighted to lend it my wholehearted support.”

Michael Attenborough is a British theatre director, who has made significant contributions to the theatrical world. With a similar attention to detail as his father, his work is marked by a deep textual understanding and the utmost integrity in his storytelling. Attenborough's career in theatre spans several decades, during which he has worked on numerous notable productions and held prestigious positions including Artistic Director at the Hampstead Theatre, Principle Associate Director at the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), Artistic Director at the Almeida Theatre and then as a freelance director, both nationally and internationally. A Chiswick resident and Founding Member of the cinema, without his remarkable passion, guidance and contribution, this season would not be possible.

About Chiswick Cinema

A five screen independent cinema in West London, the venue is approaching its second year anniversary. With strong support from Members and the local community, the cinema is proud to champion British film's extensive history with a diverse cultural programme.

Travel information:

<https://www.chiswickcinema.co.uk/contact/>

The Chiswick Cinema,
94 – 96 Chiswick High Road,
W4 1SH

Contact information: info@chiswickcinema.co.uk

Chris Parker, Marketing Executive, Season Co-Programmer

"I am immensely proud to have co-programmed and co-organized this captivating season of films on Richard Attenborough. Through his cinematic brilliance, we are able to celebrate a true visionary whose storytelling has touched hearts and inspired generations. It is an honour to share his remarkable legacy with our audience and invite them to immerse themselves in the magic of his films. How rare an opportunity it is to be able to see and learn the things I have in researching this season and I'm thrilled to share them with our audience. To discover such warmth and compassion in understanding his life has been remarkable and inspiring, both as a person and a film-maker. Together, let us explore the depth of Attenborough's artistry and witness the enduring power of cinema. We have a unique opportunity at The Chiswick Cinema and for me this season embodies the scope of talent and history in our community; the creativity and dynamism of the venue; and the limitless scope for what an independent cinema can be in 2023."

Chris Parker is a filmmaking graduate of the Northern Film School, with a specialism in directing. With nearly ten years of cinema experience, he maintains his experimental filmmaking and writing alongside full time work. In his role as Marketing Executive for Chiswick Cinema, he has specialised in programming cine-literate retrospectives and diversifying the cinema's slate into an engaging, multi-cultural arts roster with almost 40 Q&A events delivered in under two years.

Keiichi Furuya, General Manager

"I'm extremely proud and excited to be able to say that The Chiswick Cinema will be celebrating the works of legendary actor and filmmaker Lord Richard Attenborough for his centenary year with a season of his greatest films; both in front of and behind the camera."

Lord Attenborough's illustrious career will be available once again on our big screens, and we have been incredibly fortunate to have his son, Michael Attenborough, generously support the season with never-before-seen exclusive access to archive photos, memorabilia and stories which will accompany our rich season.

The planned programme will also have once in a lifetime Q&A sessions which will no doubt make every screening an unmissable special event, only available at The Chiswick Cinema. Join us for something truly unique, the magic of cinema to celebrate one of the World's greatest artists."