

Highbury Film Club Animation Festival 2 & 3 June 2017

Highbury Film Club is based at Highbury Theatre in Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield. We are currently running our third season of films and this is our first themed festival. Membership of Highbury is £1 per person, if not already a member, and all film tickets are £5. Food is available in the local pub at the end of the road, The Boldmere Tap. If we get the demand, we will organise a discussion forum on the Saturday at 1630.

Highbury Players have been the resident theatre company for 75 years and theatre tours will be available during the weekend at 2130 on Friday and 1045 on Saturday.

Friday 2 June at 7.30pm

Belleville Rendezvous (2003)

directed by Sylvain Chomet, certificate 12, running time 77 mins

A French/French Canadian delight with virtually no dialogue, Belleville Rendezvous is richly detailed, loaded with surreal touches, and a delightfully charming comedy. The film tells the story of the elderly Madame Souza on a quest to rescue her grandson Champion, a Tour de France cyclist, who has been kidnapped by the French mafia and taken to the city of Belleville (an amalgam of New York City, Montreal and Quebec City). She is accompanied by Champion's loyal but obese hound, Bruno, and joined by the extraordinary Triplets of Belleville, music hall singers from the 1930s, whom she meets in the city. You could say the triplets are the real stars of this film which received two Academy nominations for Best Animated Film and best Original Song.

Saturday 3 June at 11.30am

My Dog Tulip (2009)

directed by Paul and Sandra Fierlinger, certificate 12, running time 80 mins

My Dog Tulip, an absolute treat from start to finish, is an American independent animated feature film based on the 1956 memoir of J R Ackerley, BBC editor, confirmed bachelor and novelist. It is the story of Ackerley's fifteen-year relationship with his Alsatian dog. As in the original memoir, the film portrays detailed descriptions of canine behaviour with which all dog owners will be familiar, including Tulip's bowel movements and sex life. The film is geared toward an adult audience and was adapted, directed and animated by Paul Fierlinger with backgrounds and characters painted by his wife, Sandra. Christopher Plummer narrates Ackerley's voice, Isabella Rossellini is the voice of the vet, and Lynn Redgrave, in her last film performance, is the voice of Ackerley's sister Nancy.

Saturday 3 June at 2.30pm

Song of the Sea (2014)

directed by Tomm Moore, certificate PG, running time 92 mins

Song of the Sea is an Irish 2014 animated fantasy drama film aimed at children. Song of the Sea is the story of a 10-year-old Irish boy Ben who discovers that his mute sister Saoirse, whom he blames for the apparent death of his mother, is a selkie who has to free faerie creatures from the Celtic goddess Macha.

It is directed and co-produced by Tomm Moore, written by Will Collins from Tomm Moore's story. It is an international co-production from Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, France, and Luxembourg, and is the second feature film by Cartoon Saloon. The film is hand-drawn. The film received overwhelming acclaim and was nominated for the Best Animated Feature Academy Award in 2015.

Saturday 3 June at 7.30am

Persepolis (2007)

directed by Vincent Paronnaud and Marjane Satrapi, certificate 12, running time 96 mins

Persepolis is a French film based on Marjane Satrapi's autobiographical graphic novel telling the story of her coming of age during the 1979 Iranian Revolution. The title is a reference to the ancient Persian city of Persepolis. The film is presented in the black-and-white style of the original graphic novel. The present-day scenes are shown in colour, while sections of the historic narrative resemble a shadow theatre show. The film was co-winner of the Jury Prize at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. In her acceptance speech, Satrapi said 'Although this film is universal, I wish to dedicate the prize to all Iranians'. The film was nominated for the Best Animated Feature Academy Award.