

# CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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## BURNING

**Director: Chang-dong Lee South Korea/Japan 148mins**

**Cast: Ah-in Yoo (Jong-su), Steven Yuen (Ben) and Jong-seo Jun (Hae-mi)**

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Churchill once described Russia as a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma, but this description is equally fitting of this South Korean break-out hit for Chang-dong Lee. Even as the film reaches its final denouement, the viewer may still remain perplexed as to what they have just witnessed. However, despite the sense of unease and unknowing the film steeps itself in, it is a pacy, complex and exciting thriller which never fails to hold the attention. The fact that the film was the first time a South Korean picture had made it to the final nine features nominated for Best Foreign Language Film is a testament to its artistic credentials.

Jong-su meets Hae-mi, who used to live in his neighbourhood and a tentative romance begins. This is brought to an abrupt end when she leaves for Africa and asks him to care for her cat whilst she is away. On return, Hae-mi has a new friend in tow, the mysterious Ben (wonderfully played by Walking Dead's Steven Yuen). Ben is rich, ostentatious and seems to have some dark secrets of his own, as he draws his new friends deeper into his world.

Based on a short story by Haruki Murakami, Burning is a character study that seeks to build up the tension, slowly hence the running time, to its emotional conclusion. The film deliberately attempts to keep the viewer at arm's length whilst drawing us in. The final product is an exquisite but chilling film which deals with weighty issues such as class, wealth, sex and male rage. If you are keen to see South Korea finally achieve an Oscar Nomination or even a win for Foreign/Best Film, then we are screening the highly anticipated Parasite at the end of this year's season in June

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### **Our next presentation:**

**Woman At War** will be shown on Thursday 5 December, starting at 8:00pm.

PLEASE NOTE: in response to a request from members at the recent AGM, the club will be holding a **discussion event** after the screening of **CUSTODY** on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January**. It will be held in the foyer of the Cramphorn Studio and will be a chance for members to reflect on the season so far; all are welcome.