

## CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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### EVIL DOES NOT EXIST

Monday 29 January 2026

106 mins

Hopefully, this is one of those films which will linger, “rippling around in the mind” as the Guardian’s film critic Peter Bradshaw found, long after its final scenes.

At first, it’s a cut-and-dried case about corporate capitalism despoiling a pristine environment and ruining the lives of the folk who live in it. Here is Takumi, living with his young daughter Hana in a beautifully unspoilt village, a short drive from Tokyo. This in itself is an issue: are there any ‘idyllic’ such environments anywhere near the major capitals of the world? Discuss! But this is post-pandemic times and the Government is dishing out grants to get companies and the ‘economy’ going again. Ring any bells close to home? Swathes of land are being bought up by a Tokyo company to get this cash for a ‘glamping’ site for well-off city tourists. The septic tank for the site threatens the pristine water supply which Takumi is using for the economy of the village. Could he be ‘exploiting’ the water?

Then the film explores the morally conflicted representatives of the company, two young people sent to smooth over the locals, even offering Takumi himself a job as caretaker on the glamping site. Is everyone a victim: company executives, its paid employees, as well as the local villagers and the apparently ‘untouched’ environment? It would seem that the villagers themselves are ‘interlopers’, part of a government plan to encourage farming after the 2nd world war, itself changing, even ‘damaging’, the environment.

Also there will be director Hamaguchi’s camera work to ponder: the unhurried pace, the camera gazing at the sky for long periods as Takumi walks through the forest, the camera attached to the rear bumper of his car and shuddering away as he collects Hana from school. Those of you who have seen ‘Drive My Car’, Hamaguchi’s 2021, and much longer, road movie, will possibly remember similar unhurried cinematic techniques and style.

If any impressions do ‘linger’ and ‘ripple’ in the aftermath of watching this movie, do let us have them via the reaction slips and/or the website comments.

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Our next screening: *ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT* on Thursday 12 February. If not already used, do think about bringing a guest with your member’s discounted guest tickets.