

CHELMSFORD FILM CLUB

An Independent film society based in Chelmsford

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ON FALLING

Thursday 12 March 2026

The human cost of the online convenience shopping revolution is, arguably, still to be properly addressed in cinema, or any other art form. Or maybe the 'revolution' is actually over and we might possibly begin to see a post-revolution resistance movement developing soon? The high-street as a place for shopping is dead. We use it now to drink coffee (with a pastry?), or maybe do a bit of 'work' on the laptop? Discuss!

The 2020 Oscar winner *Nomadland* was, rightly or wrongly, criticised in some quarters for going easy on working conditions in the Amazon warehouse where the director was allowed to film. Scotland-based Portuguese film-maker Laura Carreira's film *On Falling* returns us to the subject, reminding us that the business of choosing items in the gigantic and ironically named 'fulfilment centre' is not done by robots but stressed human beings with the Steinbeckian job description of "pickers", rushing along vast warehouse shelves, their work rate ruthlessly assessed by digital handsets. (Echos of Ken Loach's *Sorry We Missed You*, whose company Sixteen Films also produced this film).

Portuguese film star Joana Santos gives an excellent performance as Aurora, an exploited worker at one of these so-called "fulfilment centres", getting a lift to and from work with a Portuguese colleague, being gently reminded to contribute to the petrol. There are rewards for Aurora: a chocolate bar which the manager beamingly tells her to choose from a box on his desk.

Aurora is on the edge: always hard-up, hungry and suffering from unrequited love. When she finally decides to change course and seek alternative employment she experiences a crisis of identity, forcing her to look inward and inspect her life. And maybe it is not too late.

AT THE END OF THIS FILM THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AUDIENCE TO STAY BEHIND AND DISCUSS THE SEASON'S FILMS AND THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB. Meet in the Foyer.

Our next screening: *THE ROOM NEXT DOOR* directed by Pedro Almodovar. This is the last of our ten movies in this 2025/26 season. A raffle will be held; winning tickets drawn before the start of the film.