

Here are some contributions from Theatre and Cinema Group members. Please keep them coming for next month!!

From Rosemary:

One of my favourite films has to be '**ET**'.

Some people say it's a child's film as the adults play a minor role and the events centre round a young boy, Elliot, and an alien, ET. but that doesn't matter, such is the charm of the two main characters.

Elliot, an American ten year old schoolboy befriends a lost alien who has been accidentally left behind when his flying saucer returns to outer space without him. There are some heart wrenching moments [tissues needed] and some funny and uplifting ones and I defy anybody not to laugh when ET drinks cans of beer from the fridge and consequently ends up drunk.

It has a happy/sad ending depending on your point of view; there's no cruelty to animals involved, no four letter words and sex scenes are absent! It's usually shown after Christmas time when the days are short, weather dismal and there's a feeling of anti-climax in the air.

Just draw the curtains, grab a box of Kleenex and enjoy this wonderful tale of an unlikely and rewarding friendship.

The second film is titled '**The Way**' starring Martin Sheen. It's about a small group of unlikely travellers who accidentally meet on the journey. They are all pilgrims of a sort treading the long distance footpath known as the Camino de Santiago or Way of St James in northern Spain. Martin Sheen is mourning the loss of his son, the other three who join him on the way are all attempting to come to terms with their problems. The film accompanies the unlikely quartet as they walk. All strangers at the beginning but by the end of the trail are friends having found strength and comfort in each other.

It's not a powerful film but very watchable and one that can be viewed more than once and kept in your collection to be lent out to friends.

From Hazel:

Oliver

One of my favourite musicals is '**Oliver**'. The film starring Ron Moody as Fagin was excellent - who will forget his "You've Gotta Pick a Pocket or Two", "Reviewing the Situation" and "Cheerio, But Be Back Soon".

We saw the amateur stage production at the Theatre Royal in Bath way back in 1968.

BODS (Bath Operatic and Dramatic Society) were top notch, and their Fagin was as good as if not better than Ron Moody.

We also saw the stage production at The Palladium in 1996 starring Jim Dale as Fagin. Again, a wonderful performance by someone I only knew

from the Carry On films - some people are so versatile. The stage sets were particularly spectacular, and very cleverly changed from one scene to the next.

The story, although dark in some parts, transports you into a different world, and all the characters play an essential role. You may have guessed that my favourite character is Fagin!!!

From: Sue & Trevor:

A few years ago we had a short break in London to celebrate our golden wedding anniversary.

We hadn't booked to see anything so went to Leicester Square to see what was on. We chose "**Kinky Boots**", not knowing anything about it.

Since then it has been on the t.v. and the cinema. We were in the upper circle, no lift, it seemed very high, but had a good seat where we could see and hear the show.

We both enjoyed our evening, it was a "feelgood" show based on a true story of a boot factory in Northampton.

If we ever go to a show in London again, we shall get seats lower down and closer to the stage!

Best Wishes

Sue and Trevor