



fish

*Things to Come*  
(France/Germany 2016)

DIRECTOR : Mia Hansen-Love  
RUNNING TIME : 100 mins  
RATING : PG13

**Synopsis:**

The poignant new feature from writer/director Mia Hansen is a resonant and affecting portrait of a fifty-something woman who, after living comfortably for many years, must suddenly re-invent her life, when her husband announces that he's leaving her.

**Review:**

In this Berlin Silver Bear winner from Mia Hansen-Løve, Isabelle Huppert delivers a note-perfect warm and wry performance as a philosophy teacher whose life is defined by ideas rather than circumstance, a woman of substance – intellectual, emotional, financial – who faces unexpected constraints and freedoms when the assumed certainties of her domestic life unravel.

We first meet Huppert's Nathalie Chazeaux en route to the tidal island of Grand Bé off Brittany, earnestly discussing the visual quality of music with her husband, Heinz (André Marcon). It's a sunny family scene, but it has a gently portentous air, a sense that, to quote Nathalie's infuriating publisher, "the future is compromised". When Heinz taunts her about her shifting politics, Nathalie scornfully replies that he hasn't changed since he was 18. Yet Heinz has a secret that will prove that love is even less certain than politics or philosophy. "I thought you'd love me forever," says Nathalie, ruefully. "What an idiot."

Hansen-Løve serves up unapologetic discussions of Rousseau, radicalism and revolution in a world in which the Unabomber's manifesto sits side by side with the classics and clerics declare that "doubt and questioning are inextricably bound up with faith". It sounds unbearably heavy, but there is such life in the character of Nathalie that this weight often turns to levity and laughter.

Crucially, Nathalie's profession is central to her existence, unfashionably so for modern cinema. Beyond her marital problems, Nathalie's primary relationship is with her books, a bond that cannot be broken. Indeed, the film's most harrowing spectacle shows her once tightly packed bookshelves riddled with gaping holes after a domestic cull leaves her beloved books lying on their sides. Cont.

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**FILMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS INC**

10.00 am Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2017

8.15 pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017

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## Review: (Cont.)

Yet rather than looking for a trite romantic “solution” to her isolation (there’s a frisson of attraction with her protege, Fabien, seductively played by Roman Kolinka), Hansen-Løve keeps Nathalie purposefully in flux and on the move, Denis Lenoir’s camera constantly catching her striding hither and yon, proceeding as briskly as the film itself.

Mark Kermode, Observer film critic [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com) - 4/9/2016 & 6/3/2017 Edited extracts accessed 21/5/17

## COMING UP:

August	<i>Toni Erdmann</i> (Germany)	Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>
September	<i>The Second Mother</i> (Brazil)	Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>
October	<i>The Fencer</i> (Finland/Estonia)	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>
November	<i>The Last Hammer Blow</i> (France)	Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup>
December	<i>Kumiko the Treasure Hunter</i> (USA)	Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>
February '18	<i>Jimmy's Hall</i> (UK)	Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>

## Message from the President

Welcome everyone to our brand new season. That welcome is both for our new members who have waited so patiently to join our ranks and for our stalwart veterans who are saddling up once again for another journey of cinematic adventures.....and all for the continuing incredible value of \$60 for eleven films.

We, the committee, hope both groups of members find our new season both entertaining, thought provoking and discussion-worthy over a coffee or two. I am confident you will. (If for some reason you have not received your new membership cards yet, please contact us immediately!).

We open our new season with the highly acclaimed *Things To Come*, still drawing large audiences in Sydney. We trust you enjoy it. (Look for a very obvious link to our recent *Macadam Stories*).

Apologies for our shorter-than-normal Newsletter this month. Our hard working Newsletter editor, Liz Stevenson, is taking a short break for some richly deserved rest and recreation in warmer climes than ours. Half your luck Liz. Enjoy. In the meantime, the rest of us will just have to carry on by launching into our new season. Away we go once more. Thank you for joining us.

Yours in Film, **Ross Armfield**



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