



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We were pleased that so many people enjoyed *Quisling: The Final Days* on many different levels: at our place, my husband (an historian and a WW2 tragic) was able to leap from history to morality. I, on the other hand, only knew the noun. So we have had many interesting discussions and have learnt even more about ourselves. This is the purpose of cinema in general, (and especially of FISH in the Highlands), but also in our fraught world.

EL47 will make us think, too.

Best wishes to all,

Roz Garwen

FISH Membership Renewals for July 2026 to June 2027 are due in May 2026 and are now managed online via our website based member management system.

A reminder that:

- Members are responsible for keeping **ALL** of their information **current** in their profiles on the website (including cards, email addresses, residential addresses and phone details).
- Current members who **do not wish to renew** their memberships are advised to login to the website to see if their membership is set to '**renews automatically**' and if so, they should click on the '**Cancel your membership**' button. Members who have opted to manually renew won't see the 'Renews automatically' text and don't need to do anything.
- All members who have opted for '**renews automatically**' are reminded to **login to the website** and check that their card information is current. If not, payment will not be processed and membership will lapse. A notification email will be sent out **7 days** and another **1 day** prior to renewal date, followed by a renewal confirmation email when renewal has been successfully completed.
- Members opting for **manual renewal** will receive a reminder email **two weeks** and another **4 days** prior to renewal date, these emails will contain instructions on how to renew by logging in to the website. A confirmation email will be sent when renewals have been successfully completed. Failure to manually renew will result in lapse of membership.



FILMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS INC

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Membership is closed

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ACE INTERNET SERVICES HIGHLAND CREATIVE

FILMS IN THE SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS INC

10.00 am Sunday 19th April 2026

8.15 pm Tuesday 21st April 2026

EL47

[Spain 2024]

Director: Marcel Barrna

Running Time: 110mins

Rating:

Synopsis:

This Spanish/Catalan film tells the incredible true story of an act of peaceful dissent and of a grassroots neighbourhood movement that transformed modern Barcelona during the city's boom in the late 1970s.

Review: Jen

Torre Baró is a neighbourhood of shacks on the outskirts of Barcelona, built under very difficult conditions by people from Extremadura and Andalusia. Over time it has simply become a forgotten neighbourhood. Repeated requests for running water, reliable electricity, a doctor, and other basic services have been ignored by the state.

Manolo Vital (Eduard Fernández), a bus driver on line 47 is encouraged by his neighbours to get involved in their fight, and to debunk the City Council's claims that buses cannot climb the hills in the district. At the end of his tether, one day Manolo decides to hijack his own bus and drive it to his neighbourhood, in an act of defiance.

The director shows a side of Barcelona that maybe unfamiliar to you. Waves of immigration took place in 19th /20th century Barcelona and Catalonia when communities expelled from their own homes, fled fascist repression under the dictatorship of Franco.

Life was not easy for them. Though on the outskirts of the city, trying to build a home from the ground up, under the strict control of the regime police, was almost impossible. Each house, including the roof, had to be completed overnight. The police would turn up in the early hours of every morning, and if there was no roof, there was no mercy. The law would knock down the home people had spent all night building.

Emotional with injections of organic humour, this most watchable film will have you pulling for the people being kept down by insurmountable challenges and prejudice.

The 70's were not so long ago when there were no paved streets nor basic amenities. And it's hard to believe that for some, not a lot has changed. Though not on the same scale as the film depicts of 1978/9, the struggle against bureaucratic indifference continues.

A true and sad tale wonderfully told, it's no surprise it has collected a string of awards.

Source: www.weekendnotes.com : Jen 31/5/25 ~ Edited extracts. Accessed 14/1/26.

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COMING UP:

May	<i>The Third Man</i> [UK]	Sunday 17 th & Tuesday 19 th
June	<i>The Teacher who Promised the Sea</i> [Spain] By popular request	Sunday 21 st & Tuesday 23 rd

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Some thoughts on: *Quisling: The Final Days*

Quisling - the final days delivers a intense tragedy of intellectual heft and profound relevance, crafted by cinematic artists in full command of their storytelling. While many directors prefer to platform heroes, director Erik Poppe is fascinated by holding complex, disreputable characters up to scrutiny. For Poppe, there is nothing absorbing about a one-note monster. His purpose is instructive: history with a human perspective. In staging a moral contest between two flawed opponents, Poppe examines authoritarianism (treacherous Quisling) and humanism (Pastor Peder Olsen). Blessed with a meticulous script inspired by the contemporaneous notebook of Peder and Heidi Olsen, with the encouragement of their descendants, Poppe unwinds the story of a good man wrestling for the soul of a bad man. In the process he makes us question our own assumptions about these characterisations.

The dubious Quisling, twice rejected by the Norwegian electorate, a documented anti-semitic since 1935 with a failed coup of 1940 behind his national socialist party, finds with the German invasion (and the relocation away from Oslo of King and Government) the opportunity to declare himself prime minister and install a pro-Nazi regime. Quisling came to be known as the Norwegian Hitler, and the crimes he stood accused of at war's end included deporting innocent Jewish citizens to camps in Poland, and supporting the German war effort. Pastor Olsen - chaplain at a mental hospital considered expert in difficult psychiatric cases - was appointed by his bishop to lead the imprisoned Quisling to contrition. What follows is an eviscerating moral reckoning in the form of dialogue between corrupted Quisling (unable to admit to weakness) and Pastor Olsen (conscientiously determined to extract an admission of culpability).

With a spiritual battle as the narrative framework, Poppe's scriptwriting team gives us contrasting scenes, among which is the forest grave of murdered Norwegian political prisoners and resisters, where we are confronted with Quisling's callous detachment. This is positioned against the Olsen couple's anguish over the fate of their Jewish neighbours - after the choice made to give them up in their own family's best interests - learning at trial that only 12 of the affected 1,000 deportees returned alive. In search of retribution, we're shown the site of execution, with Quisling facing his firing squad with thought only to his personal legacy. Finally we have a meditation on rebuilding after trauma, and the possibility of hope.

Cinematographer Jonas Alarik shows us Quisling's constricted soul, using tightly framed prison cell images, angled to increase our discomfort. Quisling's face is brutally spotlit. In service of a towering performance, Quisling is shot from below, chin jutting, trapped in hubris. His isolation is visually captured in large waiting rooms with restrained palette, in which he sits, small and implacably alone. In contrast, the claustrophobic cell has walls of brackish dark green, conveying the fraught atmosphere of accusation. Alarik compares the intimate lives of the protagonists: Quisling's unwelcoming house draped in luxurious crimson, the couple posed stiffly in front of servants. This is an undemonstrative cohabitation bolstered with formality and status markers. The Olsen home however is comfortable, well-lived in and humble, the couple living purposefully in true partnership. And beautifully shot, the film's last scene gives us the Pastor sitting in contemplation among trees as night falls. Wrongdoing has been confronted and punished, and this simple moment of reflection suggests the enduring worth of living an ethical, spiritual life. Olsen (like Poppe) asserts "my job is to instil hope in others".

Amanda Noakes [Extracts]

Many thanks to our guest reviewer Amanda Noakes. The full version of her most insightful piece can be found on the FISH website – [Quisling Amanda Noakes Review PDF](#)