

The Main Feature

Season 31 - Issue 16 (screening 12.5.11)

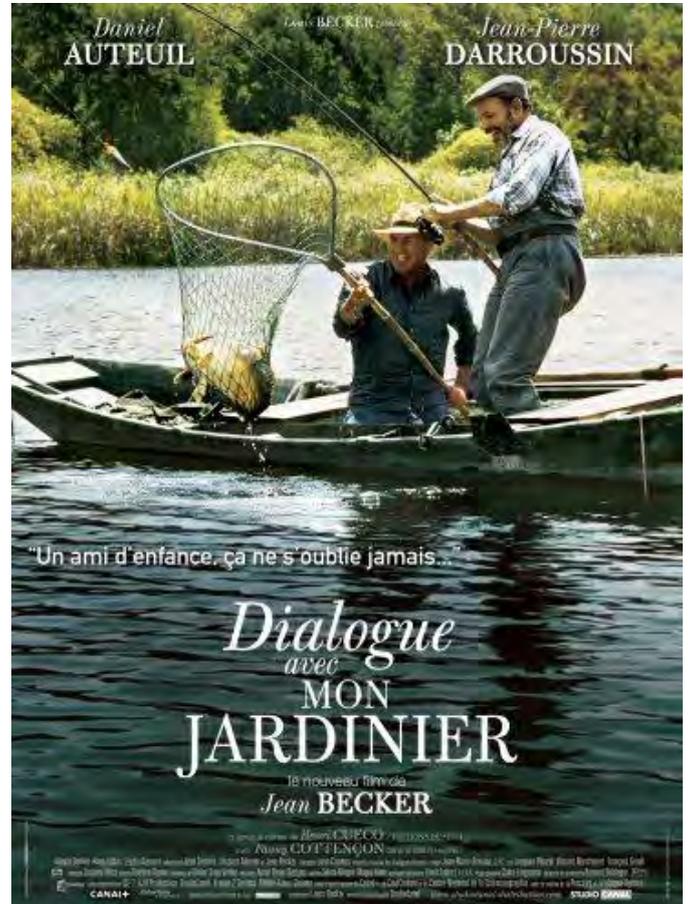
Conversations with my gardener

France Certificate 12A
 UK release 21.11.08 109 minutes

Directed by Jean Becker
 Produced by Louis Becker
 Music Score by Ahmet Gulbay

Cast

Daniel Auteuil	The artist
Jean-Pierre Darroussin	The gardener
Fanny Cottençon	Hélène, the artist's wife
Elodie Navarre	Carole, his daughter
Alexia Barlier	Magda, his girlfriend
Hiam Abbass	The gardener's wife
Roger van Hool	Tony



Daniel Auteuil last appeared at the Cinema Club in Hidden in which he starred with Juliette Binoche.

That was a very intense and intriguing film which required great concentration on the part of the audience to fully understand what was happening. Conversations With My Gardener is a much gentler film which makes fewer demands on our 'little grey cells'.

Auteuil plays a fairly successful middle-aged artist who has grown weary of his sophisticated but shallow Parisian lifestyle.



Moreover his wife is leaving him, he is alienated from his daughter, and - tut-tut! - his mistress is having an affair. He decides to move back to the house he has inherited from his parents in the depths of the French countryside and rediscover his roots.

When he gets there he is disappointed to discover that the once-impressive garden has become a wilderness and in order to convert it back into a vegetable garden he decides to engage a gardener,

The new gardener, Léo, played by Jean-Pierre Darroussin, is a retired railway worker. More importantly they discover that they had been friends and comrades-in-mischief at school. As the gardener gets to work, he and the artist talk about where their lives have gone since they last saw each other. They recall a prank which had got them into trouble when they were 12.

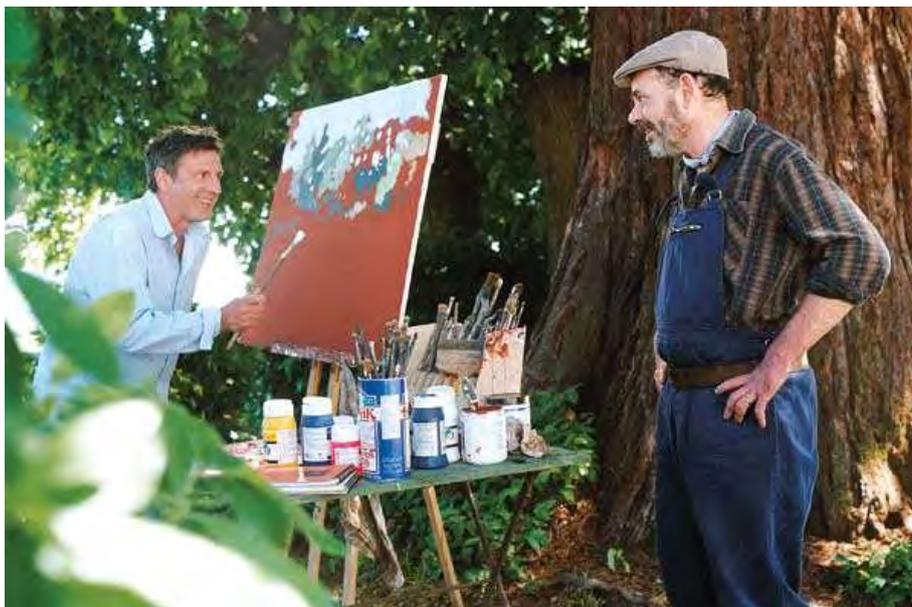
Over the months that follow under the warmth of the summer sun they chat about life, love, work, family, vegetables and anything else that crosses their minds as they casually recount their life's stories and what they learned along the way. The artist is intrigued by his friend's simple and honest view of the world. He is an uncomplicatedly happy man and helps the artist to examine his values and to see the world in a different light.



This is a rather charming and quite unpretentious film. Not a lot happens which some seem to think is not uncommon in French films - wrongly, of course! But the attractive pastoral scenery and the fine, sensitive acting of the two leads combine to make this a very pleasing experience.

The film is based on a book written by a real-life artist, Henri Cueco, now in his 80's and, like the artist in the film, living partly in Paris and partly in a rural area of France. The book is called Dialogue Avec Mon Jardinier which is also the film's French title. Not all the events depicted in the film appeared in the original book.

Daniel Auteuil, like Gérard Dépardieu, appears in many, many French films and usually in films which are well worth seeing. He first came to prominence playing the crafty Ugolin, nephew of the wily Cesar played by Yves Montand in Jean de Florette. He received the Bafta award for Best Supporting Actor for this role in 1987.



In the same year he won the French equivalent, the César Award for Best Actor for this same role and he won a second César Award for Best Actor for The Girl on the Bridge in 2000. He has also received nominations for Best Actor at the César Awards on 10 other occasions, a record which few actors can rival.

Jean-Pierre Darroussin is less well-known. His early career was largely as a stage actor but he has also had a successful career in films in recent years. He received a Nomination for Best Actor at the César Awards in 2008 for his performance in this film.



British Federation of Film Societies is holding their Spring National Viewing Session on:

Saturday 21st May at South Hill Park, Bracknell *(30 minute drive from Woking):*

Of the 8 films planned for the Viewing Session, BFFS has confirmed these titles:

- Ballast
- Benda Bilili!
- The Great White Silence
- Into Eternity
- Life, Above All
- Mammuth
- My Dog Tulip

(Synopsis of the films available in the side room tonight)

Cost to members is £15, which allows entry to as many films as you can see in the day

If you would like to attend this significant local event please see a Committee member tonight or contact Iain McGlashan on 01344 307816 or email iain@gillmcglashan.waitrose.com

Reactions toGilda – 28th April 2011

Score	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Votes	~	~	~	2	2	5	8	15	2	1	1
Total received	– 36			Average Score – 6.31							

Your Comments

Not a really great film but Rita Heywoth is so watchable!
 I enjoyed the singing
 Was there a sub-plot in there somewhere Johnny?!

Giltzy Hollywood – all flash and no substance!
 Nostalgic and hammy, but fun!
 The plot kept me guessing right up until the end
 Good to see one of Hollywood's oldies
 Hollywood studio production at its most skilful, however it's a bit dated, too many slow dissolves.
 The last half didn't live up to the first – a comical ending
 Wish the film had been in colour so I could appreciate her glorious hair
 Great fun – some good repartee, a chance to see a real golden oldie star and a happy ending!
 "I understand you're going home Gilda. Take me with you" – Surprise, surprise!! Pure fantasy but enjoyable.

Another era (thank heavens)
 Genuinely corny but a golden oldie
 Just too dated now I'm afraid
 A film noir with a happy ending!
 And did they live happily after?
 Great old film!

A bit creaky but Rita Hayworth a revelation!

A typical film from America of the 1940's and 1950's but now somewhat slow and dated.
 They don't make films like that anymore – why not? – a really enjoyable evening and the cake!

Position	Film	Average Score
1 st	Invictus	8.02
2 nd	An Education	7.83
3 rd	Le premier jour de reste de ta vie	7.54
4 th	Everlasting Memories	7.46
5 th	Kongekabale (<i>King's Game</i>)	7.36
6 th	The Hurt Locker	7.09
7 th	A Touch of Class	6.97
8 th	Cherry Blossom	6.88
9 th	Appaloosa	6.8
10 th	Europa, Europa	6.59
11 th	Gilda	6.31
12 th	Oyster Farmer	6.02
13 th	Ushpizin	5.94
14 th	Fish Tank	5.79
17 th	Paranormal Activity	2.75

Our next presentation at
 9.30pm after our AGM
 on Thursday 26 May:



15 Poole Road, Woking Tel: 01483 596280

sponsors photocopying of *the main feature*

