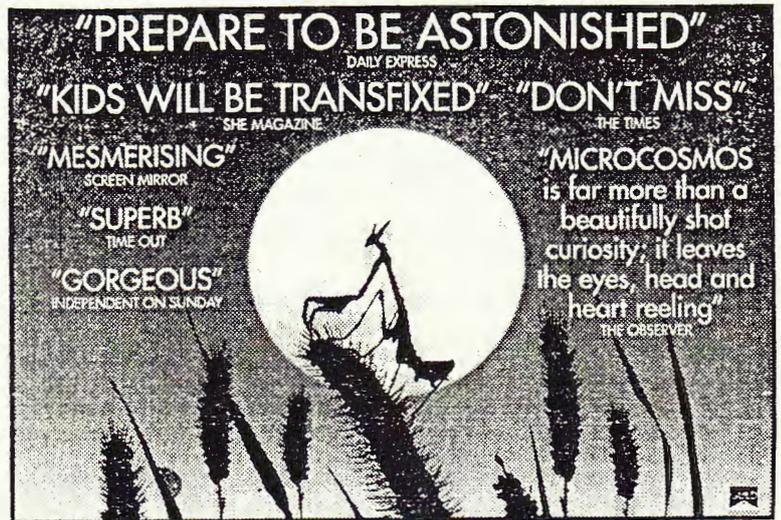




MICROCOSMOS

France, 1997; 75 mins, Cert. U

Directors: Claude Nuridsany &
Marie Perennou
Narrator: Kristin Scott-Thomas
Starring: Seven Spot Ladybird
Swallow Tail Butterfly
Rhinoceros Beetle
Arygyronet Spider
Burgundy Snail



One of the gems of last year's Cannes Film Festival and winner of 5 'Cesars' [the French Oscars], biologists and filmmakers, Nuridsany and Perennou put a lifetime of observation, two years' preparation, three patient and painstaking year's filming, (using specially created camera and lighting equipment), and exposed 80 km of film to bring 'Microcosmos' to the screen.

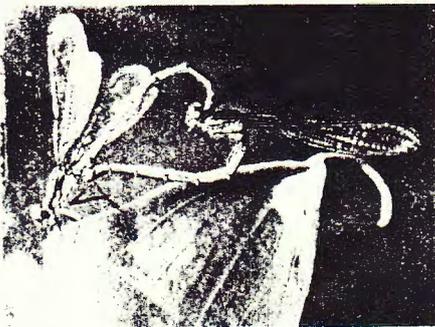
Think of David Attenborough and you are still way short of the miraculous camera work, sound and editing on view here. The action takes place over the course of a composite summer's day in an ordinary meadow in Aveyron. The swooping camera takes the audience into the heart of the pasture, providing a bug's-eye view of an environment where blades of grass are as tall as skyscrapers. In this world, time moves faster - an hour is like a day; a day is like a season; and a season is often a lifetime - whilst natural phenomenon that we take for granted, such as wind, rain, storms and even sunset, can spell disaster.

All this is shown in gigantic close-up, with sound effects that television cannot hope to match. Anyone with a phobia of creepy-crawlies will probably find the film extremely uncomfortable; on the other hand, maybe staring at a spider filling a 10 foot screen could be the best way to confront your fears!

'Microcosmos' features a cast of thousands, none of whom can speak or act. Apart from a short introduction by Kristin Scott-Thomas, the only sounds are those made by the insects themselves, plus the selection of symphonic pieces that compliment their actions to perfection. What separates this film from your average "Wildlife



on One" is that the directors set out to observe and entertain, rather than inform and explain. So a Mexican stand-off between a tiger-striped spider and a grasshopper is captured with all the tension of Clint Eastwood confronting Lee van Cleef and a pair of horny snails tickling each other's tentacles surpass the steamy antics of Kim Basinger and Mickey Rourke. Ladybirds copulate ecstatically, wasps roar by like Formula 1 cars, bees come into land like 747s and the valiant attempt of a dung beetle to roll his cargo up a steep incline is a real crowd-pleaser. [Incidentally, Lee the grasshopper furnishes Clint the spider with an excellent packed lunch !] The climate intrudes violently into this pastoral idyll; for example, raindrops fall like atom bombs on an ant colony who thought that things couldn't get worse after the decimation wrought by a red pheasant with a beak like a pneumatic drill.



The whole scene is accompanied by music ranging from opera to military fanfares, wittily mirroring the creatures' movements in sly, understated, ways. 'Microcosmos' is as gripping and moving as any human drama; it has an unerring sense of pace - each scene, (and the film as a whole), ends just before it begins to wear thin. Moreover, with sex, ritualistic violence, tribal warfare, laughs aplenty and yet more sex, it's funny, awe-inspiring, spectacular and surprisingly gripping.

IAN SOWERBY

NB. Turn to the back page of the notes and you'll see a list of next Season's films. I'm already looking for volunteers to write the programme notes for each of the films, from articles and reviews provided by me. All you have to do is to edit them together with your own observations and let me have the completed copy in good time before the playdate. If you are interested in having a go next season, (like 10 members did this year), please give me a ring on (01256) 766673 - office hours or (01344) 772463 - evenings. Thanks.

Ian Sowerby

WNCC Members' Reactions Summary
19th Season, 1998-99.

Title (No. of Reactions)	Score >>3>>>4>>>5>>>6>>>7>>>8>>>9>>>10
9= Road to Morocco (33).....	7.52
5 Mrs. Brown (45).....	7.93
16 Twelve Monkeys (23).....	6.00
14= Letter From My Village (20).....	6.50
7= Grosse Pointe Blank (38).....	7.58
6 Ridicule (46).....	7.78
2 It's A Wonderful Life (27).....	8.41
9= Shooting Stars (27).....	7.52
4 The African Queen (32).....	8.06
12 The Boston Strangler (37).....	7.24
11 The Wings Of The Dove (42).....	7.29
14= The Blue Angel (28).....	6.50
1. The Full Monty (36).....	8.50
3. Le Grand Chemin(29).....	8.07
13. Romeo & Juliet(31).....	6.58
7= L A Confidential (25).....	7.58

Average Score (through 16 films) = 7.44 [1996/7 = 7.10; 1997/8 = 7.13]

HELEN SAYERS

NB Due to impending motherhood, Helen is giving up her reactions reporting at the end of this season. If anyone out there fancies trying their hand at producing a witty compendium of members' reactions to each film, please let me know.
Ian Sowerby.

SEEN THE FILM ... VISIT THE LOCATION



WHO'S IN IT? Ian Bannen, David Kelly and Fionnula Flanagan.
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Someone in an Irish village has scooped the lottery, and two local 'gold-diggers' — Jackie O'Shea (Bannen) and Michael O'Sullivan (Kelly) — aim to befriend the winner as soon as they find out who it is. The trouble is the winner, Ned Devine, dies from the shock of it all. But if O'Sullivan can convince the lottery administrator that he is Devine then the village can benefit from Ned's winnings. It's farce, fortune and lottery fever.
WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN? The movie would have you believe it's the village of Tully More in Ireland, but it's actually filmed in and around Cregneash on the Isle of Man. The stunning panoramas of the cliffs, unspoilt coves and James Nesbitt falls for Susan Lynch in Waking Ned



James Nesbitt falls for Susan Lynch in Waking Ned

CAN YOU RELIVE THE MOVIE? Yes, easily. The Isle of Man is small — about 30 miles by 13 — but has fantastic moorlands, glens and castles. The TT motorcycle races (May 31-June 11) have been a major tourist draw for years, so unless you're a bike fan, you may want to avoid visiting then.
WHO GOES THERE? Premier Holidays has breaks at several hotels in Port Erin, within walking

distance of Cregneash. A seven-night break at the Port Erin Imperial Hotel until May 12 costs £285 per person (twin share), including return flights from Liverpool (supplement added from many other airports), hotel transfers, accommodation with breakfast and complimentary golf/tennis at Port St Mary. Details on: 01223 516266.

From 'The Daily Mail'

COMING NEXT

ON THE

BIG SCREEN

20th SEASON

WOKING'S NEW CINEMA CLUB presents

Forthcoming Attractions

<u>Playdate</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cert</u>	<u>RT</u> <u>(mins)</u>
1999				
September 16 th	The Truman Show (USA) Director: Peter Weir	1998	PG	102
September 30 th	Sliding Doors (USA/GB) Director: Peter Howitt	1998	15	98
October 14 th	Central Station (Brz/Fr/Sp/Jap) Director: Walter Salles	1998	15	110
October 28 th	October (Russia) Director: Sergei Eisenstein	1928	PG	105
November 11 th	Hilary & Jackie (GB) Director: Anand Tucker	1998	15	122
November 25 th	Bringing Up Baby (USA) Director: Howard Hawks	1938	U	102
December 9 th	As Good As It Gets (USA) Director: James L Brooks	1997	15	138
2000				
January 13 th	Shakespeare In Love (USA/GB) Director: John Madden	1998	15	120
January 27 th	Mildred Pierce (USA) Director: Michael Curtiz	1945	PG	109
February 10 th	Shall We Dance? (Japan) Director: Masayuki Suo	1996	PG	118
February 24 th	Night Of The Hunter (USA) Director: Charles Laughton	1955	15	93
March 9 th	The Apartment (USA) Director: Billy Wilder	1960	PG	125
March 23 rd	Life Is Beautiful (Italy) Director: Robert Benigni	1998	PG	116
April 13 th	Annie Hall (USA) Director: Woody Allen	1977	PG	94
April 27 th	Gods & Monsters (USA/GB) Director: Bill Condon	1997	15	105
May 11 th	The Whales Of August (USA) Director: Lindsay Anderson	1987	U	90
May 25 th	Smallest Show On Earth (GB) Director: Basil Dearden Plus: Annual General Meeting	1957	U	80

All films will be screened on Thursday evenings, commencing at 8.00 pm, except for May 25th when the film will follow the AGM, at approximately 9.20 pm.

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- > £32.00 Single
- > £58.00 Double
- > £24.00 Concessions

For more information contact:

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Woking GU24 0AA
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