

## Far North

UK 2007

**Director**

Asif Kapadia

**Screenplay**

Asif Kapadia

Tim Miller

Based on *True North* by

Sarah Maitland

**Director of Photography**

Roman Osin

**Music Orchestrated**

Dario Marianelli

**Cast**

*Saiva*

Michelle Yeoh

*Loki*

Sean Bean

*Anja*

Michelle Krusiec

*Ivar*

Gary Pillai

89 minutes

*Our next screening...*

8½ (Italy)

19 January 2010

Dir: Federico Fellini

A rare screening of the 1963 classic, 90 years since Fellini's birth.

Welcome back! We hope you've had a great festive break, and that you're looking forward to the ten gems of world cinema that we've lined up for you between now and May. Tonight we're delighted to screen Asif Kapadia's most recent film, after showing his stunning *The Warrior* (90.1%) back in our 2003/04 season.

Kapadia has described the film as a dark fairy story rather than a straight narrative. Indeed, when the final act comes it is both chest-freezingly shocking and entirely apposite with the three-handed Greek tragedy that he has steadily developed from the first opening sequences. Yeoh's portrayal of Saiva as both seasoned survivor and conflicted victim brings the full tragic portent of her flash-backed past straight into her present actions and wavering gaze, transfixing throughout. Equally spellbinding is the epic polar scenery, beautifully rendered by Roman Osin. Mountainous, awesome and utterly punishing, *Far North* is best seen on the big screen to appreciate in full the world the characters live in, and Kapadia's sizeable achievement in capturing and so poignantly weaving it to his characters' story. An absorbing, disturbing and exceptionally composed filmic fable.

Some four years in the making, and by all accounts an arduous and demanding shooting experience, *Far North* marks a stunning return to a more personal form of cinema for director Asif Kapadia. Having followed up his sparse and lovingly received samurai drama *The Warrior* with an unhappy excursion into Hollywood with Sarah Michelle Gellar remake *The Return*, Kapadia and producer Bertrand Faivre searched long and hard for a project that would reignite their creative fires. With *The Warrior* representing the East and *Far North* the North, the film marks the second part in a planned series of collaborations between Kapadia and Miller covering the four points of the compass. A direct lineage is also maintained with Kapadia retaining the hub of the creative personnel that made his debut such an unforgettable experience and one of the standout works in recent British cinema. Shot on the stunning archipelago of Svalbard, the furthestmost Northern settlement in the world, as well as on the Arctic mainland of Norway, this sparse and crisply composed variation on Don Siegel's *The Beguiled* is a frequently exhilarating work that offers a relatively rare glimpse into a world and a way of life rarely depicted on screen.

Paul Griffiths, [EyeForFilm.co.uk](http://EyeForFilm.co.uk)

Jason Wood, *Little White Lies*

