



**Night of the Hunter**

**17th December 7.00pm**

### **The Visitor**

**Dir:** Thomas McCarthy USA 2007 106 mins

**Cert:** PG

**Starring:** Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman, Danai Jekesai Gurira, Hiam Abbass

**Language:** English

McCarthy's modest tale of friendship is a welcome alternative to the prevailing political rhetoric that promotes fear of "enemies in our midst". Concern over the mistreatment of immigrants and government abuse of the Patriot Act make *The Visitor* a topical film,

McCarthy's heartfelt, often funny, story is the self-discovery of Connecticut widower Walter Vale (Jenkins), who befriends the Syrian drummer Tarek (Sleiman) and the Senegalese street vendor (Gurira) who have rented his rarely visited pied a terre through the kind of scam that victimises immigrants in New York every day.

Their uneasy meeting turns into a tentative friendship and Walter, a stiff WASP who exhibits many symptoms of "white man's disease", begins playing the conga drum under Tarek's patient instruction. Anything he does requiring rhythm is an instant joke, but the academic has a crash course in immigrants' reality when Tarek is arrested rushing through a subway turnstile by cops who drag him away to an immigration jail.

When Tarek's mother, Mouna (Palestinian actress Hiam Abbass), visits from Detroit, an unlikely romance is sparked between the man, who just lost his wife, and the woman who fears losing her son.

Cont'd

Alongside McCarthy's tender treatment of strangers who would never meet, except for chance forming a human bond, is a chilling view of life for immigrants who have the bad luck of being caught by law enforcement.

Decisions seem to be made and carried out in the spirit of Franz Kafka. In McCarthy's script, everything takes place under our noses, and most citizens are unaware or indifferent. Jenkins gives a poignant performance as the awkward professor who slowly lets his feelings show, and then learns his tax dollars have paid for the deportation of a man who poses no threat.



**The Visitor**

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# Movie Night at Tallaght Library



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**24th September 7.00pm**

**Pan's Labyrinth    El Laberinto del Fauno**

Dir: Guillermo del Toro    Mexico/Spain/USA 2006

119mins    Cert: 16

Starring: Ariadna Gil, Doug Jones, Ivana Baquero, Maribel Verdu and Sergi Lopez

Language: Spanish

The year is 1944 in fascist Spain. Young Ofelia is forced to move into her stepfather's home, now that her mother, Carmen, is about to give birth. She hates her new life and her new father, the tyrannical Captain Vidal. He is intent on snuffing out the brave *maquis*, rebel forces who, despite all odds, refuse to allow their spirits to be crushed by the fascists. Ofelia finds an ally in Mercedes, Vidal's servant, who is secretly helping the rebels. She also discovers a labyrinth near the house and meets its grotesquely fawnlike keeper Pan, who gives her three dangerous tasks to complete.

With great ingenuity, an incredible sense of timing and an ability to connect the real and the imaginary with his themes and characters, del Toro is able to weave seamlessly between reality and fantasy, giving the story a fluidity that maintains its suspense throughout.

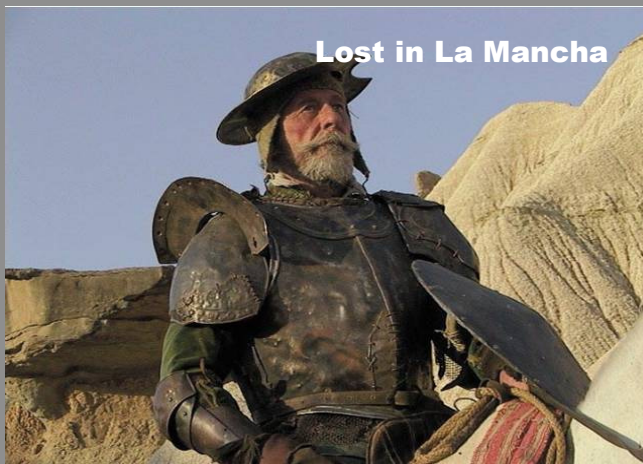
- Diana Sanchez, Toronto International Film Festival, 2006



**Pan's Labyrinth**

**Movie Night at Tallaght Library!**

Tallaght Library Movie Night will get underway again for the Autumn with a great selection of movies. Come along and enjoy a movie, tea/coffee and a chat with other movie fans. And bring a friend!



**Lost in La Mancha**

**29th October 7.00pm**

**Lost in La Mancha**

Dir: Keith Fulton & Louis Pepe UK/USA 2002 93mins

Starring: Tony Grisoni, Philip A. Patterson, Rene Cleitman, Terry Gilliam.

Language: English

This documentary records the disintegration of one of the most expensive film projects ever attempted in the European film industry. Terry Gilliam had invested ten years preparing the adapting Cervantes' novel, and he managed to raise \$32 million for the budget. The young documentarists joined up with the film crew eight weeks prior to the start of shooting and from then witnessed chronic problems: language barriers between the crew, flighty actors and a storm which shut everything down. Terry Gilliam eventually even lost his own script – when filming stopped the insurance company claimed it.

**26th November 7.00pm**

**The Night of the Hunter**

Dir: Charles Laughton USA 1955 93mins

Cert: CLUB

Starring: Robert Mitchum, Shelley Winters, Lillian Gish

Language: English

*The Night of the Hunter* is a truly compelling, haunting, and frightening classic masterpiece thriller-fantasy, and the only film ever directed by the great British actor Charles Laughton. The American gothic, Biblical tale of greed, innocence, seduction, sin and corruption was adapted for the screen by famed writer-author James Agee. Although one of the greatest American films of all time, the imaginatively-chilling, experimental, sophisticated work was idiosyncratic, film noirish, avant garde, dream-like expressionistic and strange, and it was both ignored and misunderstood at the time of its release.

Robert Mitchum gave what some consider his finest performance in a precedent-setting, unpopular, and truly terrifying role as the sleepy-eyed, diabolical, self-appointed serial killer/Preacher with psychotic, murderous tendencies while in pursuit of \$10,000 in cash. Lillian Gish played his opposite - a saintly good woman who provided refuge for the victimized children.

The disturbing, complex story was based on the popular, best-selling 1953 Depression-era novel of the same name by first-time writer Davis Grubb, who set the location of his novel in the town of Moundsville, WV, where the West Virginia Penitentiary (also mentioned in the film) was located. Grubb lived in nearby Clarksburg as a young teenager.

In addition, the visual-striking black-white photography of Stanley Cortez (who also shot Welles' black and white *The Magnificent Ambersons* (1942)) and the evocative musical score of Walter Schumann (mixing hymns, children's songs, and orchestral music) are exceptional. However, the film was not nominated for a single Academy Award, in a year when the romantic drama *Marty* (1955) unaccountably won the Best Picture Oscar.