

<p>Volume 26 Number 2 FEB 2023</p>		<p>Website https://www.williamstown-film-society.org Email michaeljslee58@gmail.com Phone 0478 624 528</p>
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Council Chamber of the Town Hall, 104 Ferguson St, Williamstown, 7.30pm, Wednesday 22nd February, 2023.

2023 Program

Latcho Drom

Latcho Drom (Safe Journey) is a sensual and sensuous visual and aural tribute to gypsy culture by Tony Gatlif. The filmmaker calls it "a tone poem." It opens with a band of Indian gypsies, or Rom, crossing a desert and then settling down beneath a tree for an extended ritual. For these people, music, song, and dance are food for the soul. Without narration or dialogue, the film moves next to the slums of Istanbul, and then to Romania where an old man chronicles in a ballad the downfall of the dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. An elderly woman sings about those who lost their lives at Auschwitz. In France and Spain, gypsies express their joys and sorrows, the ups and downs of their vagabond existence as outsiders. This spellbinding film, with its passionate dance sequences and its dramatic music, will bring out the gypsy in you. *(Review by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, Spirituality & Practise website)*

This difficult-to-categorize masterpiece by Tony Gatlif (1993) is many things at once: a Gypsy "docu-musical" (actually an adroit mixture of documentary and fiction) in 'Scope and stereo featuring musicians, singers, and dancers from India, Egypt, Turkey, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, France, and Spain; an epic account of Gypsy migrations over the past thousand years; a political statement about Gypsy persecution that never descends into bitterness; a poetic evocation of the passing seasons; and a gorgeously filmed and edited compilation of some of the most joyous, soulful, and energizing music and dancing you're likely to encounter, taking on the musical forms and styles of each successive country (including Django Reinhardt-style jazz in France and flamenco in Spain). All this is threaded together so subtly and expressively by Gatlif (himself a Gypsy), with a minimum of speech and narration, that the music and filmmaking often seem indissoluble. When dogs bark or the camera cranes up exuberantly into the treetops, it's every bit as musical and rhythmic as the performances, and the pulse is so infectious that you may feel like dancing. *(By Jonathan Rosenbaum, 2nd February 1995, Chicago Reader)*

Starbox Results

	5	4	3	2	1	Average
The Drover's Wife	13	13	4	0	0	4.5

To watch a trailer (& read more) head to the 2023 program on our website
[https://: www.williamstown-film-society.org](https://www.williamstown-film-society.org)