

Film Club Michaelmas 2019

All Somervillians and their guests are welcome. There is no charge but donations are very gratefully received.

Monday 21st October - *The Theory of Everything* (2014)

Wednesday 6th November - *The King's Speech* (2010)

Monday 18th November - *Murderball* (2005)

Monday 25th November - *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* (2007)

Films start at 7.15pm, with a drink beforehand at 7.00pm; venue : MTC

Details of programme:

The JCR Presents Portrayals – four films centred around the lives of real people with Disabilities, as portrayed within popular culture.

The Theory of Everything – Steven Hawking was a brilliant theoretical physicist, and truly one of the greatest minds to ever grace this planet. During his research Hawking developed Motor Neurone Disease, which gradually reduced his ability to talk, swallow, breathe and move. Despite this he still went on to make a phenomenal impact on the Scientific community, and this Academy Award winning 2014 portrayal by Eddie Redmayne is a great insight into the life of one of the smartest humans of all time.

The King's Speech – King George VI (Queen Elizabeth II's father) was crowned King of the United Kingdom after the abdication of Edward VIII. Suffering with a Speech Disorder, George hated public speaking and often avoided it. He sought help from Lionel Logue, an Australian-born speech therapist, through out his adult life, although he never completely overcame his Stammer. In this 2010 portrayal by Colin Firth, you witness how anyone can suffer from a disability, and how beneficial help and support can be, in rather difficult times.

Murderball – Wheelchair Rugby (also known as 'Murderball') grew in popularity over the late 20th century, since its creation in 1976. Also called Quad Rugby in the US, Wheelchair Rugby is a team sport for athletes with a loss of function in both the upper and lower limbs, which is now played in over 28 countries. This documentary follows the rivalry between the Canadian and US teams in the lead up to the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, and was universally praised by critics upon its release.

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly – Jean-Dominique Bauby was a French journalist, author and editor of the French fashion magazine *Elle*. After suffering a major stroke at 43, Bauby was left with Locked-In Syndrome, and completely immobile save for his eyelid. Battling through his condition, and with the help of partner-assisted scanning, he was able to complete his 1997 memoir 'The Diving Bell and the Butterfly' about his life before and after his stroke. Based on the memoir of the same name, this 2007 portrayal by Mathieu Amalric demonstrated the impact that disability can have on life, and the extent to which people can find strength within themselves to achieve despite their conditions.