# **Contents** January 2016





# **Queen of hearts**

Nora Ephron made films that helped define the modern romcom, as well as forging a confessional intimacy that influenced a generation of female comics. By **Hannah McGill** 

# REGULARS

5 Editorial In memoriam

#### Rushes

- 6 In the frame: Jez Stewart takes the pulse of the UK's animation industry
- 8 **Object Lesson: Hannah McGill** listens out for bells in the movies
- 9 The Five Key: films about sisters
- II **Online: Simran Hans** talks to Cecile Emeke about her singular body of work
- 13 Dispatches: Mark Cousins explores some intriguing parallels between Doctor Who and James Bond

#### The Industry

- 14 **Development Tale: Charles Gant** on the low-budget British drama *Radiator*
- **The Numbers: Charles Gant** reports on the box-office success of *Brooklyn*
- 16 Brewster: Ben Roberts considers how to get younger viewers to be more adventurous in their cinema choices

# Obituary

18 Penelope Houston

#### Wide Angle

- 60 **Profile: Ashley Clark** on the films of the Ethiopian-born, US-based Haile Gerima
- 62 **Soundings: Sam Davies** looks at the work of Haitian photographer and documentarian Leah Gordon
- 63 **Primal Screen: Geoff Brown** explores the early years of the talkies in Britain
- 64 **Artists Moving Image: Neil Young** celebrates Peter Tscherkassky's tiny, exquisitely crafted films
- 65 **Festival: Giovanni Vimercati** reports from DocLisboa

# III Letters

# Endings

112 **Adam Batty** ponders the enigmatic final exchange in Godard's *Breathless* 

## FEATURES

#### 22 COVER FEATURE Call of the wild

Alejandro González Inárritu talks to Edward Lawrenson about how his decision to shoot his gripping true-tale revenge western *The Revenant*, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy, in sub-zero conditions in the Canadian wilderness turned the film's production into a feat of Herzogian endurance

# 28

# Treasures from the deep

A series of tales inspired by lost or abandoned films from cinema history are stitched into an elaborate mosaic in Guy Maddin and Evan Johnson's 'ectoplasmic splooge' of a movie *The Forbidden Room*. **Adam Nayman** talks to the film's directors

### 32

# Love in a cold climate

Nick James talks to Terence Davies about his lush adaptation of the classic 1930s novel *Sunset Song*, which tells the story of a farming family's hardscrabble existence in Scotland in the years leading up to World War I

# 36

# Fight the power

In a series of taut dramas and combative documentaries the Haitian director Raoul Peck has taken aim at everything from the class system and the iniquities of capitalism to the brutal injustices of history and the bureaucratic failures of international aid. By **Ashley Clark** 

# 46

# FILMS OF THE YEAR: 2015

The ballots are in for our poll of the best films of 2015, voted for by 168 critics. **Nick James** introduces the results and asks what they say about the year's cinema PLUS **Pamela Hutchinson** looks at what 2015 had to offer lovers of silent and archive films, **Nick Pinkerton** surveys the year's action movies, **Nick Roddick** examines how new platforms affected the landscape of film distribution this year, and **Jemma Desai** and **David Edgar** consider how questions of representation and identity informed much of the year's most urgent and important critical discourse