



We still love a ‘real’ story – Lawrence of Arabia director voted ‘Favourite British Film Director’

David Lean, director of film classics Lawrence of Arabia and Brief Encounter has beaten Danny Boyle (Trainspotting, 28 Days Later), and chronicler of moral decline, Mike Leigh to be voted our favourite British film director in a poll run by publisher Rough Guides and social networking site myfilms.co.uk.

The poll, which was conducted to coincide with the publication of The Rough Guide to Film, may have placed Lean (33%) ahead of Boyle (27%) and Leigh (22%), but it’s not necessarily a case of ‘the old ones are best’. Lean’s contemporary Michael Powell attracted only 9% of the vote, with Nicholas Roeg not much further ahead with just 11%.

Rough Guides Reference Publisher Andrew Locket feels Lean may have won “because he captures a very British spirit of adventure based on real life stories”. With Rough Guide to Film co-author Richard Armstrong believing it may be “nostalgia for the big real locations in Lean’s work in this age of CGI.”

Author Tom Charity feels Lean possibly fared better than his contemporaries simply because his films are better remembered: “We’re beginning to see the films of the past slip away from popular memory. I think Lean’s showing speaks to the enduring respect for one film in particular, Lawrence of Arabia, which has been bolstered by its re-release in the early 1990s.”

The Rough Guide to Film presents the world of cinema through the lens of its leading directors and aims to inspire and aid the movie-lover in a lifetime of great film viewing. It profiles over 800 directors and reviews over 2000 films – “every one worthy of your time”.

Notes to Editors

- Results are based on the votes of 2285 visitors to myfilms.co.uk
- The Rough Guide to Film was published this month, £18.99, ISBN: 9781843534082
- Richard Armstrong, Tom Charity, Lloyd Hughes and Jessica Winter are the co-authors of The Rough Guide to Film.
- Myfilms.co.uk is a film-centric social networking site supported by the UK Film Council
- For further information or a review copy of The Rough Guide to Film please contact the Rough Guides press office on 0207 010 3701 or press@roughguides.com

