

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN @ 40

A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIP ON SCREEN

ACADEMIC RESEARCH CONFERENCE 10TH-11TH APRIL



Location: University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, 6 Somerset Pl, Swansea SA1 1RR

Dates: Thursday 10th – Friday 11th April 2025

Conference Organiser: Becky Ellis (r.ellis@uwtsd.ac.uk)



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

CANOLFAN
Dylan Thomas
CENTRE

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN @ 40

A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIP ON SCREEN

THURSDAY 10TH APRIL

Time	Venue	Event
4pm	Bar/Vivian Hall	Registration - teas/coffees on arrival
4.30pm	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	Welcome by the Conference Team (Becky Ellis, Jenny Stewart, Hilary Jaques)
4.45pm	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	Introduction by Susan Siedelman (pre-recorded)
5.00pm	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	<i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> screening
6.30pm	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	Susan Siedelman Q & A (pre-recorded)
7pm-10pm	Sessions by Mumbles Brewery, Swansea	Meal/drinks and 'La Quiz-la Bonita' – a female friendship themed quiz Who will be found to be in a 'league of their own'?



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

CANOLFAN
Dylan Thomas
CENTRE

DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN @ 40

A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIP ON SCREEN

FRIDAY 11TH APRIL

Time	Venue	Event	
9.30am	Vivian Hall	Registration - teas/coffees on arrival	
10am	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	Keynote (Chaired by Jenny Stewart)	
		Susan Siedelman and Women Filmmakers of the 1980s	Dr Claire M. Jenkins
11.00am	Vivian Hall	Break	
11.15am	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	Panel 1: Material Girls – Gal Pals on Screen (Chaired by Hilary Jaques)	
		Desperately Seeking Better Friends: A case study of 'bad' female friendship in <i>Valley Girl</i> (dir. Martha Coolidge, 1983)	Megan Mitchell
		Female friendship and solidarity on Wall Street: <i>The Associate</i> (dir. Donald Petrie, 1997) and <i>Working Girl</i> (dir. Mike Nichols, 1988)	Dr Jenny Stewart
		'Maybe we could be each other's soul-mates', or maybe... not. Friendships and fall outs in HBO's <i>Sex and the City</i> and <i>And Just Like That</i> .	Kate McNichols
		Not so Pretty in Pink - Female Friendship in the Rom Com - A Close Study of the film <i>Bridesmaids</i> (dir. Paul Feig, 2011)	Becky Ellis
1pm	Vivian Hall	Lunch	



DESPERATELY SEEKING SUSAN @ 40

A CELEBRATION OF FEMALE FRIENDSHIP ON SCREEN

FRIDAY 11TH APRIL

Time	Venue	Event	
1.30pm	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	Panel 2: Beautiful Stranger – Framing Oppositions (Chaired by Becky Ellis)	
		Desperately Seeking Sauron: ‘One earring to rule them all’ an exploration of male and female friendships and enemies in the films of <i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> (dir. Susan Seidelman, 1985) compared with the three <i>Lord of the Rings</i> films (2001-2003)	Melody Bridges
		‘I just can’t figure out how two girls can be so different and be such good friends’ (<i>Gentlemen Prefer Blondes</i>): The Attraction of Opposites: female friendships in film	Christine Bell
2.30pm	Dylan Thomas Lecture Theatre	Panel 3: Who’s That Girl – Star Images (Chaired by Jenny Stewart)	
		Blurred Lines: ‘Into the Groove’ in <i>Desperately Seeking Susan</i> (dir. Susan Seidelman, 1985)	Marie Bennett
		Ladies We Talk About: Female Friendship in Barbara Stanwyck’s Pre-Code Roles	Carolyn Owen King
3.30pm	Vivian Hall	Break	
3.45pm		Express Yourself: Making Stories about Women – A Film-maker’s Perspective (Chaired by Becky Ellis)	
		Women Talking and You Are Listening: The Making of <i>Victoria</i> (2024)	J Sivaranjini
4.30pm		The Power of Goodbye End of Conference	

