Make A Date For... The Birds Eye View Film Festival

'Ninety-three per cent of what we see is from a male perspective, which might be amazing but it's a bit daft, isn't it?" laughs Rachel Millward. So seven years ago she set out to redress this 'ridiculous imbalance' by founding Birds Eye View, a film festival dedicated to celebrating and supporting women film-makers.

This year's biggest causes for celebration include Courtney Hunt's Frozen River (pictured), about single mothers smuggling illegal immigrants through a Mohawk border crossing and the big surprise nomination of this year's Oscars; a guest appearance by American Psycho director Mary Harron, whose masterclass is probably the festival's hottest ticket; and a special commission from Birds Eye's 'cross arts' strand – a screening of 1923 silent Salome, starring 'mesmeric lesbian Hollywood icon' Alla Nazimova with new live accompaniment by Bishi.

For Millward, the 'supporting' part of Birds Eye View's mission is just as important as the screenings, making this all-women festival seem necessary rather than patronising.

'In novels it's about 50/50 male/female now,' she says. 'Only 11 or 12 per cent of screenwriters are women and it is really important to think about that. It's not that there aren't a lot of talented female writers, it's just that they're not moving into film. And I think it's because Hollywood marketers have decided what kind of stories cinema should tell. It's easy to put women in a box and tell them the kind of films they can make.'

Let's hope Birds Eye View helps them take a fresh peep outside it. *LI-Z*

Thu until Mar 13, various venues, times and prices. www.birds-eye-view.co.uk