

ACOFS Bulletin

Australian Council of Film Societies

NUMBER 32

May 2013

This Bulletin has been compiled and edited by Ian Davidson, (ACOFS President) president@acofs.org.au

This Issue contains information important to your president, secretary, treasurer and programmer, so please pass it on to all your committee people.

In this issue:

1. From the President
2. DVD Competition – winner
3. Changes at the ACMI Collection
4. ACOFS AGM
5. Updated ACOFS Fact Sheets
6. Free Films from Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand
7. Prove your membership with ACOFS
8. Is Your Bulletin Getting Eaten by Your Spam Filter?
9. News From the DVD Distributors
10. New DVDs from the NTLC at the NFSA
11. Another DVD Competition

1. From the President

As we have all experienced, technology is changing the way the movies are brought to us, but are the new innovations to the advantage or detriment of film societies?

When film societies started, back in the 1950's, the only variations were 16mm or 35mm, whether you focussed on features, docs or shorts.

As broadcast TV arrived, and then cable TV, the predictions were that it would be the death knell for film societies, but while numbers dropped for a few years it soon became apparent that the movies available to the masses from these "new technologies" did not satisfy most film society members, so they continued to flourish.

With the "digital revolution", all has changed again – or has it? With digital recording media, digital transmission and computer capabilities available to most people, there are many more ways to deliver, and copy movies. So what is the future of film societies now?

There are now many more variations of what a film society is and could be. Technology wise, they could focus on a range of technology from 16mm through to digital files

delivered on hard drives, to MP4 video clips delivered over the internet. Are they all doing the same job and meeting the same needs? Certainly not. And that is one of the secrets of the recent growth in the number of film societies around. So what do they all do?

- 16MM societies. Yes, there are still societies that relish and celebrate our 16mm heritage, screening the old treasures from the NTLC, ACMI and private collections. Their focus is normally of a historical, film study nature.
- 35mm societies usually have an arrangement with a local cinema to screen films of members' choice. They tend to screen recent "world movies" and provide access to films not otherwise available in that area. As cinemas that have supported 35mm are now moving to digital technology, it requires extra effort to locate the film titles available in the new media – as opposed to the popular fare which is normally available at converted cinemas. The question arises, how will these societies continue to access titles only available on 35mm film? How long will this situation exist?
- DVD societies. Most of the medium and smaller film societies have moved to DVD and Blu-Ray digital projection. Not only is it relatively inexpensive now, but the picture and sound quality can be superb. Most "world movies" and many classics are available on DVD, and the ACOFS DVD rights agreement has made the job of selecting titles relatively easy. In addition, the NTLC has a large collection of "World Movies", classics and unknowns available on DVD at competitive rates.
- Film societies that screen video clips generally use those clips as a launching point for discussion sessions, and have cleared the screening rights directly with the producers of the clip.

So film societies have adapted to technology change, and many have changed their nature to become different organisations from the original definitions of a film society. They do more than just screen movies – which every cinema does - but meet a wider need in the community for getting together in a comfortable location with like-minded people to watch and hopefully discuss films of their choice, or to use a film or clips as an aid to serious discussion.

One wonders what a film society will look like in another 50 years when technology has taken us in directions that we cannot imagine today!

2. DVD Competition - Winner

Congratulations to Sue Leschen of Perry's Pictures Film Society, Tasmania, who won the DVD "Va Savoir (Who knows)" from the last ACOFS Bulletin. There is another DVD competition later in this Bulletin.

3. Changes at the ACMI Collection

Those of you who borrow from the ACMI Collection will have received a letter recently informing you that:-

"Membership and lending activity is now at such consistently low levels that it is no longer practical or viable to continue to provide the service. So regrettably, membership to the [ACMI] Collection and access via lending will now cease. Your current membership will be honoured until its expiry date and you may continue to borrow during this period using the existing process."

Would the closure of the ACMI Lending Collection cause your film society any difficulties? Are you concerned about this?

Nick Richardson, Collections and Access Manager at ACMI is planning to be at the ACOFS AGM on 11th May, and this will be an opportunity to find out more and to let him know of your concerns.

Whether you will be at the AGM or not, please let us know as soon as possible your thoughts and any concerns you have so they may be discussed at the AGM. Email or write to The Secretary of ACOFS – see the addresses at the end of this Bulletin.

4. ACOFS AGM

The next ACOFS AGM is scheduled to be held in Melbourne on the evening of Friday 10th May and all day Saturday 11th May at ACMI, Federation Square, Melbourne. One key topic for discussion is the future of the ACMI film and DVD collection now it is to be withdrawn from public use.

Further details and the agenda have been provided to Federation secretaries and delegates, but if you require copies please contact secretary@acofs.org.au.

5. Updated ACOFS Fact Sheets

The DVD rights agreement Fact Sheet #3B is constantly being updated as new distributors come to our notice or existing ones change their contact details. Download one today to keep up to date. www.acofs.org.au/resources/

6. Free Films from Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand

Tuck Cheong Wong of Malaysia is sending ACOFS the following indie films -- available on DVD for free use to ACOFS connected film societies. We believe all will be subtitled if not in the English language:

1. Love Conquers All (Malaysia)
2. Flower in the Pocket (Malaysia)
3. Flight of an Angel (Philippines)
4. Pepot Artista (Philippines)
5. It Gets Better (Thailand)

Shorts by Tan Chui Mui (Malaysia):

1. A Tree in Tanjung Malim
2. Company of Mushrooms
3. South of South

Register your interest with the ACOFS secretary by writing or emailing to the secretary at the address at the end of this Bulletin.

7. Prove Your Membership with ACOFS

When you apply for membership with your State Federation and have paid your membership fee you should get a receipt and/or a membership certificate. Keep this to show your venue operator or film/DVD supplier to prove membership with ACOFS and to allow them to quote you competitive prices for your DVDS and/or films.

8. Is your Spam Filter Eating your Bulletin?

We have heard reports that some people are not getting their copies of the Bulletin because it is getting caught in their spam filter. Normally the ACOFS Bulletin is distributed to the delegates and secretaries of all registered film societies plus others that have requested to be on the mailing list. If you know anyone who is missing their copy, please ask them to check their spam filter settings or double check with their State Federation to ensure they are on the email list.

9. News from the DVD Distributors

These DVD distributors are party to the ACOFS DVD rights agreement, under which member film societies pay special low prices for their DVD screening rights. As ACOF's part of the agreement, we promote the distributor's catalogues and especially any new acquisitions.

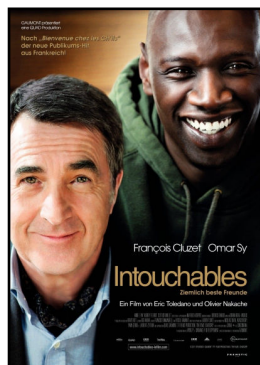
For contact details and websites see ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B on www.acofs.org.au

Ensure your film society is registered with a State Federation to get the best price for DVD screening rights. Any film society not registered with a State Federation may get charged \$150 or more for the rights.

Roadshow

Roadshow charge for their DVD rights on the basis of average audience, so if you have not registered your membership size with your State Federation you may be charged DVD rights at the highest rate!

2 Days in New York
 Amour
 Anna Karenina
 Argo
 Beasts of the Southern Wild
 Bully
 Collaborator
COMING SOON
 Compliance
 Dead Europe
 Flight
 Hitchcock
 Holy Motors
 I, Anna
 Intouchables, The
 Killing them Softly
 Liberal Arts
 Life of Pi
 Lincoln
 Lore
 Man with the Iron Fists
 Master, The
 Mental



Miserables, Les
 Miss Bala
 Monsieur Lazhar
 On the Road
 Paris-Manhattan
 Perks of being a Wallflower
 Quartet
 Ruby Sparks
 Safety not Guaranteed
 Samsara
 Savages
 Sessions, The
 Sightseers
 Silver Linings Playbook
 Tai Chi Zero
 The Giants
 The Guillotines
 To Rome with Love
 Two Little Boys
 Words, The
 Wuthering Heights
 Zero Dark Thirty



Sharmill Films

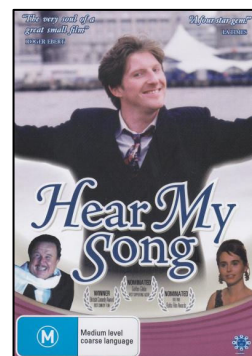
Sleepwalk with me
 Love Story
COMING SOON
 You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet!
 In The Fog
 Polluting Paradise
 Bird, The



Aztec International Entertainment

The Runway
 The Recipe
 Medianeras (Oct 2013)
 Paradise Now
 A Tale of Two Sisters

Hear My Song
 Gunnin' for that no.1 spot
 Bicycle Dreams
 Buddha's Lost Children



Hollywood Gold

Contact: Charles.baylis@shock.com.au

The Keys of the Kingdom

My Cousin Rachel

Topkapi

Pittsburgh

The Devil is a Woman

Desire

Angel

The Invisible Woman



Note: I have seen some of these titles from the Hollywood Gold Series and they are most impressive re-releases. Excellent picture quality – as good as new. Ed

Amalgamated Movies

21 Jump St

Carnage

Django Unchained

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

Here Comes the Boom

Lawrence of Arabia (50th)

Men in Black 3

Pirates: Band of Misfits

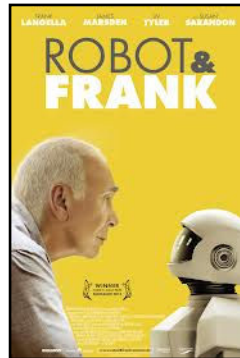
Premium Rush

Robot and Frank

Skyfall

Tootsie (30th)

Vow, The



Regency Film Distribution

Roman Polanski: A Film Memoir

Oxford Blues

Homeboy

Shirley Bassey: A Special Lady



Rialto

Reluctant Fundamentalist, The

Madman

Arbitrage

Bernie

Bill Cunningham's New York

Buck

How Much Does Your Building Weigh Mr Foster?

Illusionist, The

Kid with The Bike, The

Nothing to Declare

Paul Kelly Stories of Me

Royal affair, A

Searching for Sugar Man



Imagine Films International

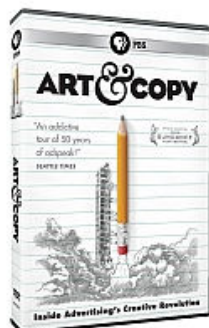
The Film Critics Circle of Australia have nominated Hanna Mangan-Lawrence for Best Performance by a Young Actor for her role as Kit in THIRST.

Curious Films

Other Son, Thewhisper
Broken
Rebelle

Antidote Films

Art and Copy
Make Hummus not War
Careless Love
Whale, The
Coniston
Last Days Here



10. New DVDs from the NTLC (NFSA)

Careless Love
Dispossessed, The
Girl Clock
Man from Kangaroo, The
NFSA: Audio Visual History of Australia [promo]
Occasional Coarse Language
Robbery Under Arms



11. Competition – Win a DVD

We are again offering a free DVD to one lucky reader of the ACOFS Bulletin. This time it will be the British film "The Iron Lady", starring Meryl Streep, which won 2 Academy Awards and a Golden Globe. Just send me an email at president@acofs.org.au with the subject "DVD Competition" and stating your name and the name of your film society. One entry per person, but no restriction on how many entries from each film society. Entries close May 31st.



ACOFS - Australian Council of Film Societies

Incorporated in Victoria: A0057904W ABN: 69 667 887 179

Secretary: Prodos Marinakis, PO Box 2165, Richmond South, Victoria 3121.
Phone: 03 9428 1234, Email: secretary@acofs.org.au

If you want to have the ACOFS Bulletin emailed to you directly, please email me at president@acofs.org.au.