

ACOFS Bulletin

Australian Council of Film Societies

NUMBER 45

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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 programmers, so please pass it on to all your committee people - including those not on email.

And please ensure it does not get caught up in spam filters!

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1. From the President, Ian Davidson – Are you on Top of the ACOFS DVD Rights Agreement?

Judging from the queries we receive from time to time it is clear that not everyone is perfectly at home with the ACOFS Rights agreement, and what it covers (and does not cover) and how to go about finding DVD rights!

- The ACOFS DVD rights agreement is an agreement made between the co-operating DVD distributors in Australia with ACOFS (on behalf of all Member State Federations and their member film societies). It specifies that member film societies may screen their own copy of a DVD to their members providing they first get permission from the appropriate Australian rights owner, and then be charged an agreed rate for that screening. At the moment that agreed rate is \$50 + GST, although Roadshow have implemented a sliding scale between \$40 and \$100 (+ GST) based on the size of the society.
- The agreement only applies to DVDs and BluRays obtained separately by the film society. They may own the DVD or borrow it from a friend or DVD library. In some

cases the DVD might be supplied by the relevant DVD distributor for a fee, but that is outside the scope of this agreement.

- The agreement does not cover 16mm or 35mm films or DCP (Digital Cinema Packages).
- The agreement applies only where the DVD is projected to members of the film society (ie a “non-theatrical” screening). Where members of the public are admitted, especially when charged for admission, it is considered to be a “theatrical” screening and the agreement does not apply. The exception is where limited numbers of potential members are permitted to “come-and-try” a film screening at no charge - but that can only be a couple of times each!
- The agreement does not generally include outdoor screenings because it is usually difficult to segregate the film society from the general public.
- The agreement does not apply to titles booked from the SLA at the NFSA, nor when you hire a DVD from a company and that hire rate includes the rights.

“But how do you find the rights holder in the first place?” I hear you ask.

- A good place to start is the Censorship board database www.classification.gov.au. If the title has not had censorship classification, then it is very likely not with any distributor in Australia. The listing however, often distinguishes between DVD, 35mm and DCP, with each being handled by different companies.
- Another source of information is the reviewers, some of whom state the distributors of the title they are reviewing – eg Urban Cine-file. Some sales outlets also list the distributor on their website.
- Approach the relevant Australian distributor according to your findings. Even if they have the theatrical screening rights it does not mean they necessarily have the non-theatrical rights also. The distributor listed on the classification website or sales website may not be the company to contact as many are represented by other distribution agents. ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B, which is updated regularly, will give you the latest known contacts for all co-operating rights owners.
- See www.acofs.org.au/resources/ for your latest copy of Fact Sheet 3B (The latest version is dated 14th January 2016)
- Through a special arrangement, ACOFS handle the film society rights bookings for Madman titles. Contact dvdrights@acofs.org.au to book a Madman title.

Key things to remember:

- Get the rights agreed BEFORE promoting the title.
- If you screen it twice, pay the rights twice.
- You will generally be invoiced after the screening. Please pay promptly.
- Do your homework BEFORE approaching the distributors with dates and titles wanted. They do not have time to go through your “shopping list” of possible titles on the off chance they may handle some of them.
- If the rights are not owned by an Australian company or have “expired” in Australia, they have probably reverted to the international owner of those rights, such as the film production company. It does not follow that they are free to screen in Australia.
- Because film rights exist for the lifetime of the author of the title (ie director or producer) plus 70 years, very few film titles are in the public domain (ie no rights applicable). So unless you are certain, you should assume that someone, somewhere holds the screening rights for what you wish to screen.
- Approaching an overseas rights holder can have an unpredictable result. Most seem to expect a rights charge of 200 Euro (\$315) or more but if you are lucky you could find a director or producer happy to give you permission for free.

2. The ACOFS DVD Rights Agreement

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/. There have been some changes to the contacts. The latest version was uploaded on 14th January 2016.

The ACOFS agreement applies only to fully paid up societies that screen DVDs non-theatrically (ie to members only) and only where the society sources their own copy of the DVD. The agreement does not cover supply of the DVD from the distributor, although the society may make their own arrangements in this regard.

If you screen a DVD as a fund-raiser, or admit general public (whether charged or free) it is considered a “theatrical screening” and you will need to approach the distributor for a quote for the screening rights as they are likely to be more expensive than the ACOFS agreed non-theatrical rights.

3. ACOFS AGM 2016

Current plans are that the 2016 ACOFS AGM will be held at the Courtyard Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre, 397 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading, Victoria on Saturday 28th May 2016. It will be an all-day meeting (9:00am – 5:00pm) – lunch supplied.

There will be an opportunity for a social dinner after the meeting and if enough interest, a movie from the FVFS Indie Library.

Earlybirds should also be able to get together at 6:00pm on Friday 27th May for dinner.

4. News From the DVD Distributors

These are all the DVD distributors who are party to the ACOFS DVD rights agreement, under which member film societies pay special affordable prices for their DVD screening rights. As ACOFS' part of the agreement, we promote the distributor's catalogues and especially information on any new acquisitions. Information provided by the distributors since the last Bulletin is listed below.

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

Roadshow

(Crystal Remington)

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

Check ACOFS Info Sheet 3A for details.

Madman

(Susan Davidson at ACOFS) dvdrights@acofs.org.au

Hunt, The

Life is a Miracle

Palio

Two Days One Night

Please remember Susan does have a life outside the film society movement and would appreciate sufficient notice to be able to confirm your booking in plenty of time.

Note that Madman does not hold non-theatrical screening rights for all titles listed on their website. Some titles might only have commercial or home entertainment rights while other titles might be listed by Madman on behalf of other smaller distributors. So always check apparent Madman titles with dvdrights@acofs.org.au before committing to a screening, and give plenty of notice!

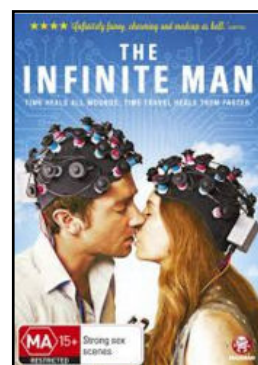
Accent Film Entertainment
(George Papadopoulos)

All Interactive Distribution
Amalgamated Movies
(Steven Snell) Can usually ship a copy if required.

Antidote Films
(Originally known as Gil Scrine Films.) (Ruari Elkington)
Antidote will now charge just \$35+ GST for screening rights for most of their DVD titles.

Aztec International Entertainment
(Nicki Jackson)

Bonsai Films
(Jonathan Page)
Desert, The (Argentinian zombie film, 2014)
Hemel (Dutch, 2012)
Infinite Man, The (Australia, 2014)
Marwencol (2010 Doco)
Tribe, The (Amazing Ukranian sign language film, 2014)



Beyond Home Entertainment
(Jason Behan)

Chapel Distribution
(Mark Spratt)

Cinema Plus
(Claire Phillips)

Closer Productions
(Ivan Vukusic)

Curious Films
(Stephen Fitzgibbon)

Defiant Screen Entertainment (Was Anchor Bay)
(Simone Murray)

Entertainment One (Was Hopscotch)
(Emily Batts)

Gryphon Entertainment

Hanabee Entertainment

Heritage Films
(Di Tunnington)
Believe Me (New release)
Courageous Heart, A
Different Drummers (New Release)
Freedom (New release)
From the Rough (New release)
When Love is Not Enough



Hi Gloss Entertainment

(Simon Killen)

- About Elly
- Two Autumns, 3 Winters
- Best of Enemies
- Family Affair, A
- Gardening With Soul
- Great Museum, The
- Human Capital
- Italy: Love it or Leave it
- Journal de France
- Lygon St – Si Parla Italiano
- Minister, The
- Skylab

Imagine Films International

(Megan George)

Jump Street Films

(Jamie Bialkower)

Leapfrog Films

Magna Pacific

(Jason Behan)

Novofilm

(Gerald Lawson)

Palace Films

(Tony Zrna)

Peacock Films

(Lyn Shannon)

Pinnacle Films

(Donnah Kosman)

Nightingale, The

Potential Films

(Mark Spratt)

Regency Film Distribution

(Lee Hunter)

Rialto Distribution

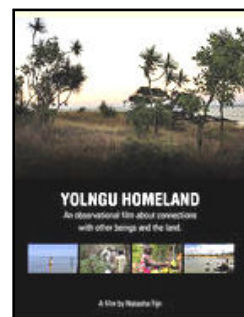
(Hayley Weston) Or book the rights through Roadshow.

Ronin Films

(Andrew Pike)

Buy the DVD (With rights included) for the Community Association rate of \$75 or pay for the rights for \$50 and borrow the DVD from them for free. Most are shorter length documentaries.

For member purchase prices refer to the “private purchase” price, but remember you then have to pay the appropriate screening



rights fee. Ronin will accept the standard \$50 plus GST for DVD screening rights.

Looking for Light (83 min)

Prison Songs (Aust, 56 Mins)

Yolngu Homeland (Aust 58 mins)

Ronin Films about climate change:

2 Degrees

Fierce Green Fire, A

Inertia Trap, The

Smarter Country

Hungry Tide, The

Prof Will Steffen

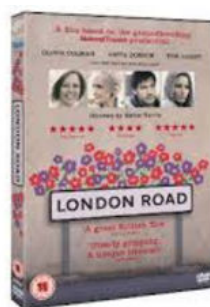
See www.roninfilms.com.au for details and purchase prices.

Sharmill Films

(Bec Brown)

London Road

Mommy



Shock

(Naomi Kume)

Fantasy Island – season 1 and 2

Gidget – the complete season

Gnome Alone

Hammer Horror Collection

Hollywood Gold – Films of Barbra Streisand

Just Shoot Me – seasons 1, 2 and 3

Mad About You – seasons 1 and 2

Ned and Stacey

Newsradio – season 1 and 2

Partridge - Family season 1 and 2

Stanley Kramer Collection

The Flying Nun – season 1 and 2



Titan View

(James Hicks)

Umbrella Entertainment

Umbrella have a new address – see ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B.

(Achala Datar)

8 1/2

Angel Baby

Dolce Vita, La

Eat Drink Man Woman

Franklin Wild River

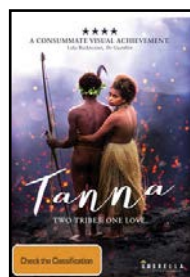
Frog Dreaming

Mission, The

Of Horses and Men

Sleuth (1972)

Tanna



There are many more titles available for Public performance screenings - go to their website <http://www.umbrellaentfilms.com.au/public-performance/> and keep an eye on their website for their regular sales of **DVDs** that may be of interest to film societies and film buffs for as little as \$3 each. They often include Classics, Australian, Children, French

Collection, Anzacs, Box sets, etc. Subscribe to the Umbrella newsletter on their website for all the latest bargains.

Vendetta Films

(Cameo England)

Vendetta still handle The Angels' Share



5. DVD Titles in the FVFS Indie-Library

The following titles are in the FVFS Indie-Library, and available for loan to authenticated film society members in all Member State Federations.

	Title	Country	Rights + handling	Average stars*	
1	Day in a Life, A	Canada	\$35	3	 <p>Flight of an Angel</p>
2	Blue Lies	Australia	\$35	3.5	
3	Crushed	Australia	\$20	3.5	
4	Flight of an Angel	Philippines	\$10	3.5	
5	Flower in the Pocket	Malaysia	\$10	2.8	
6	Four of a Kind	Australia	\$35	4.5	
7	It Gets Better	Thailand	\$10	3.5	
8	Little Lies	Australia	\$35	3	
9	Man from Coxs River	Australia	\$35	4.2	 <p>Sita Sings the Blues</p>
10	McLean's Money	Australia	\$35	4.1	
11	Pearls of the Far East	Vietnam	\$35	4.7	
12	Pepot Artista	Philippines	\$10	3.5	
13	Sita Sings the Blues	USA	\$10	4	
14	Songs They Sang, The	Australia	\$10	3.5	
15	What I Have Written	Australia	\$10	3.5	
16	Saving the Turtles of Port Hedland (short)	Australia	\$10	3.3	
17	Who Am I? (new addition)	Bhutan	\$35	3.2	

*Average stars from the FVFS viewing panel, from a possible 5.

All are written up on the FVFS website, with reviews from the FVFS viewing panel. Check them out at www.fvfs.org.au/indie-films/

6. New Titles from the SLC at the NFSA

The SLC (Screen Lending Collection) is part of the NFSA (National Film and Sound Archive) in Canberra. There are over 1,412 DVD and BluRay titles, of which 889 are feature films available for loan to film societies at \$22 (as at January 2016 - including rights and delivery to you). See their catalogue at loans.nfsa.gov.au

These DVD titles have been added in the last 90 days and are available for screening by film societies:-

Apartment in Berlin, An (2013)

Art Girls (2013)

Beloved Sisters (2014)

Concrete Love: The Boehm Family (2014)

Escape to Berlin (1961)

Godsend, A (2014)



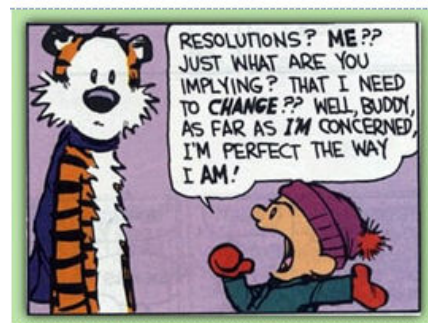
I Feel like Disco (2013)
Letter, The & Film of Authority, A (Two Films)
Parents (2013)
Schoenefeld Boulevard (2014)
Visions of Asian Megacities: The Asian Experiment (2015) [Betacam]

Also don't forget that the SLC has many older titles, with rights, that are not available for screening otherwise as the Australian distributor no longer hold current rights for them.

7. End Credits!

And to finish up, here is a misquoted tip from an anonymous author!

If you are running a film society make sure you are doing the best you know how, until you know better. And then, when you know better, do even better!



ACOFS - Australian Council of Film Societies

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1. *If clicking on a highlighted link in this newsletter does not take you to your Internet browser, try copying it and pasting it into your browser search bar.*
2. *Please ensure your spam filter is NOT set to capture our emails which include relevant material from ACOFS, such as this Bulletin.*

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