

ACOFS Bulletin

Australian Council of Film Societies

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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 office bearers and film society programmers. Please also pass it on to all your committee and other interested 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

The first item in this issue focusses on the financial responsibilities of your organisation's committee. While all member film societies and film festivals are certified as not-for-profit, this does not mean that they should run at a loss. Having a deficit every year is a fast way to oblivion. In fact your organisation should run a small surplus, but this surplus must be fed back into your organisation and used to help meet your stated objectives. The following article covers issues that are important to ensure you do so responsibly.

Two new items offer new possibilities to the programmer. Section 5 introduces the possibility of getting a DVD of your choice made on-demand. Further details are in Section 6.

Section 4 describes the arrangement we have negotiated with Park Circus in Glasgow for obtaining screening rights from many DVDs not available in Australia, or for which the rights have expired here. It may cost a little more, but the outcome may be acceptable if it is for that one special title you need to complete your program.

And now a completely different topic: In some years there are so many good films around that I can't decide which to program at my film society. In other years there are so few good films around that I can't decide which to select !
How do you select the films for your film society? Email me at :
president@acofs.org.au

Ian Davidson, President ACOFS

2. Keep Your Group Compliant

These tips from "Our Community Matters" and cover some important matters.

If you are on the committee of a film society or similar organisation it is your responsibility to make sure the group is financially healthy and fulfilling its regulatory responsibilities. You can't delegate that responsibility to others, and closing your eyes and hoping for the best isn't going to cut it either.

Here are 10 tips for staying healthy:

1. **Be Wary of Late Reports.** The Committee, (ie Board), must agree on how often it needs to receive reports from the treasurer and insist that they be delivered on time. Late reports can be a sign of trouble (ranging from a simple failure of meeting targets to deliberate omissions).
2. **Watch The Budget.** Your organisation should set a budget at the start of each financial year and the committee should check progress against that budget at least quarterly. Any large variations in income or expenditure should be investigated immediately.
3. **Check the Bank Accounts.** The treasurer should table the latest bank statements at each meeting and if the financial statements do not match the statements it is time to ask some questions.
4. **Two signatures always.** No one person should have control of the money going out. Your rules should specify two signatures on every cheque or internet banking payment for any amount above an agreed petty cash figure. Most banks can accommodate these needs.
5. **Never, Ever, Sign a Blank Cheque.** Yes, it does still happen, but it should not!
6. **Benefit From Double Handling.** Ensure the person who collects the money (membership, supper donations, sales) is not the person banking it. Having two people's hands on every transaction helps to safeguard against leakage.
7. **Create an Annual Calendar.** Keeping track of insurance payments, annual return obligations, AGM notification, committee meetings etc, can be hard to do if they are irregular or annual. Create an annual calendar of key dates for reporting and renewals and check the list at each committee meeting. This can also help the treasurer keep on top of the budget.
8. **Assign Responsibilities.** As responsibilities or jobs are assigned, note them in the minutes, then follow up at the next meeting to keep track of progress.
9. **Ask Lots of Questions.** As a committee member it is your responsibility to ensure you have all the information to make good decisions. Never shy away from asking questions. If someone evades answering, that's a reason to ask more questions.
10. **Trust the Process, Not the Person.** We all like to think that everyone can be trusted, and this is usually the case. To guard against the rare case where it is not, ensure you have strong, non-negotiable rules in place. Your organisation's rules and financial framework should comprise policies and procedures that live well beyond each committee person.

Write in to us with your thoughts to president@acofs.org.au

3. The ACOFS DVD 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. See www.acofs.org.au/resources/ .The latest version was uploaded to the website on 5th May 2017.

Things to remember:

1. The ACOFS agreement applies only to member film societies that screen DVDs non-theatrically (ie to their members only).
2. The society needs to provide their own copy of the DVD. The agreement does not presume supply of the DVD from the distributor, although the society may make their own arrangements in this regard for an extra charge.
3. Arrange the rights well ahead of the screening to avoid the risk of still not having permission by the screening date, thus requiring a programme change at the last minute. Don't risk having to screen without permission.
4. If you screen the DVD twice then you need to advise the distributor.
5. If you are having trouble locating the rights holder in Australia, check out the Censor's database – www.classification.gov.au . If not listed, try another spelling of the title, or try searching under the director's name. Eg, "The Noble Family" is not listed but "Nosotros Los Nobles" is there, and so is the director "Alazraki". IMDb will help with alternative titles and the director's name.

4. Finding DVD Rights From the UK.

ACOFS has done some research and negotiating on your behalf, and we believe we have something that will be of use to many programmers who have reached dead-ends in their search for rights holders.

Have you ever been in the situation where you cannot find a distributor in Australia for the DVD you wish to screen? Perhaps the DVD was never released here or the rights have expired. Either way you have tried the recommended procedure of checking the censor's database (www.classification.gov.au) and that lead nowhere.

So your choice has been to screen that DVD without permission (which strictly, is not supported by the Australian Copyright laws) or you have had to find the owners of the international rights and seek their permission. That would usually take considerable time and ended up costing as much as \$500 for the screening rights.

ACOFS has been in touch with a company in the UK who hold rights for many DVD titles that do not have a rights holder in Australia, and are prepared to sell screening rights to Film Society members of ACOFS at a reasonable charge. This charge may be more than we have negotiated with Australian companies but it is better than individuals have been able to negotiate directly.

The company is Park Circus, and is located in Glasgow.

Their website is www.parkcircus.com.

Park Circus represents over 25,000 titles internationally although these are mostly for theatrical rights. However, the British libraries they represent also include non-theatrical. There is a search function at the site for finding requested film titles.

From the so-called "Orphan DVDs" societies have identified to date, the following have been confirmed as available through Park Circus:

The 39 Steps

The African Queen

Fried Green Tomatoes

The Red Shoes

And based on my research, the following may also be available through Park Circus:

24-hour Party People
Butterfly Tongues
Contempt
A Kind of Loving
Last of the Mohicans
Monsoon Wedding
Reach for the Sky
Secrets and Lies
Song of the Sea
Timbuktu
Whistle Down the Wind
Withnail and I

The procedure to obtain screening rights for any of the films handled by Park Circus is as follows:

1. Ensure the rights are not available from an Australian company or from the NFSA. Follow the process described in Fact Sheet 3A and 3B.
2. Search for the title in www.parkcircus.com/films
3. If you find the title (and it is the correct director and year) contact Graham Fulton at park Circus (graham@parkcircus.com) with the following information:
 - a. Introduce yourself, state the film society you represent, and say you wish to purchase DVD non-theatrical screening rights under the agreement Park Circus has with ACOFS.
 - b. The title of the film, director and year.
 - c. Say you are seeking screening rights to screen your own copy of the DVD, at your film society, at a non-theatrical screening.
 - d. Specify the location and date of the screening.
 - e. Indicate the expected audience size
 - f. Provide an email address for him to bill you.
4. If approved, Graham will get back to you with approval and an invoice in Australian dollars which will be payable at the time of the screening. The rights charge may depend on the actual title and the size of the audience, and will probably be a minimum of \$120 (Australian dollars).
5. When due, pay Park Circus, preferably by bank transfer to the account specified on the invoice. They do not accept PayPal or credit card.
6. Notify dvdrights@acofs.org.au so we can monitor the progress of this agreement.
7. Note that even if the society finds the title at Park Circus there is still no guarantee that the non-theatrical rights can be approved for an Australian screening. Ask for confirmation.

As indicated in the last point, please keep ACOFS informed on whether you use this agreement and how well it works or whether it needs adjusting in any way.

5. DVDs Made on Demand?

Have you noticed the offer from Umbrella? (see under their heading below). They are asking you, the customer, what you would like to see released on DVD or BluRay. It may be a classic, a new release, shorts compilations, or docos etc. Give them a try and let us know the outcome. This seems like an offer too good to miss.

6. News From the DVD Distributors

Owing to space constraints this issue contains only the distributors who have new acquisitions or have some changes in their contact details.

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

Amalgamated Movies

(Steven Snell)

Hell or High Water, MA

The Neon Demon, R

Sunset Song, M

War, M

Life Animated, PG

The Wave, M

Free To Run, PG



Antidote Films

The Coming War on China. UK, 2016, 113 min, John Pilger. On sale \$29.95.

Guilty Pleasures.

Antidote charge just \$35+ GST for screening rights for most of their DVD titles.

Web address www.antidotefilms.com.au.



Hi Gloss

The Salesman, (A Farhadi), Best Foreign Language Film Oscar 2017.

Les Hommes de L'ombre Season 2

Madman

To arrange screening rights for any Madman DVD contact Kyle at Madman kyle@madman.com.au. 03 9261 9200.

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 them before committing to a screening, and give plenty of notice!

New available titles:

Zero Days

Paterson

Salt and Fire

The Galahs

The Music of Strangers

Hell or High Water

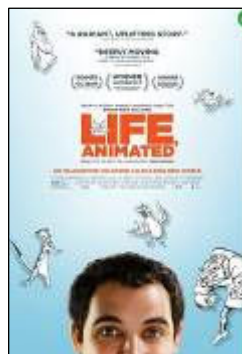
Life, Animated

A War

Sunset Song

Fanfononia

Ants on a Shrimp



Ronin Films

(Andrew Pike)

The MacDougall Tapes. Aust, 261 mins. Doco. (Dir Andrew Pike). Suggested G rating.

Namatjira. Aust. 118 mins. Doco. (Dir Scott Rankin) Suggested PG.

Shock Room, Australia, 2015, 70 min, Doco/History. M

Shark Tracker, Aust/France, 2002, 47 mins. Doco. PG

China's 3 Dreams. Aust/China, 2014, 85 mins, Doco/History, G

Ella, Australia, 86 mins, G
 On The Banks of the Tigris: The Hidden Story of Iraqi Music. Aust. 2015. 79 mins. G
 The Trial, Aust? 2009, 52 mins. Doco. Suggested PG.
 Still Our Country, Aust? 88 mins. Doco. G
 The Drover's Boy, Aust. 11 Mins. Doco, Suggested PG

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 recommended \$50 plus GST for DVD screening rights. www.roninfilms.com.au for details and purchase prices.

Sharmill Films

(Bec Brown)

See their new website: <http://www.sharmillfilms.com.au/film>

Frantz (D: Francois Ozon) (June 1st)

Heal The Living

Lady Macbeth

Ornithologist, The

Slack Bay

Shock

(Naomi Kume)

Winter at Westbeth

Dancer

Interview with a Murderer

Housesitter

Fletch

Fletch Lives

The Jerk

All Night Long

Urban Hymn

Cinema Cult – The Day of the Jackal

Cinema Cult – Criss Cross



Umbrella Entertainment

(Achala Datar)

New DVDs:

Death in Brunswick, Aust, 1990, Comedy/crime/thriller.

Zach's Ceremony, Aust, 2016, Doco/family/history.

Teenage Kicks, Aust, 2016, Drama.

Autopsy of Jane Doe

Rough Stuff

Suspiria – 40th Anniversary of cult thriller film on Blu-ray (4k Transfer)

A Bag of Marbles (Un sac de billes)- Popular at Alliance French Film Festival

150 MLG's (La Fille de Brest)- Popular at Alliance French Film Festival

Dark Diamond (Diamant Noir)- Popular at Alliance French Film Festival

Also Available,

Sophie and the rising Sun

Scobie Maloney

It's a Wonderful Life

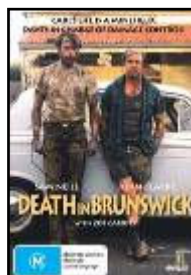
Cinema Paradiso

Bicycle Thieves

The 400 Blows

8 ½

Tanna



Shine
The Last Emperor
La Dolce Vita
The Autopsy of Jane Doe (now streaming)
Dogs in Space, Adventures of Barry McKenzie (Streaming free. Promo code WATCHFREE)

More titles available for Public performance screenings, go to <http://www.umbrellaentfilms.com.au/public-performance/>

Also 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.

Many titles can be manufactured "on demand", or streaming, including many with John Clarke; Death in Brunswick, The Games. They also have Westerns and classics.

Want something special on DVD that you cannot get anywhere else? Create a list of what you want on DVD and send your list with the subject: "What We Want on DVD and Blu-Ray" to Umbrella at: customerservice@umbrellaent.com.au.

Contact theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au for bookings or call on 03 9020 5134.

7. 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 1,603 DVD and BluRay titles, of which 870 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

The following licenced DVD titles are listed as having been added in the last 90 days:
Adopted

After Winter Comes Spring (Winter Ade), 1988
Almanya – Welcome to Germany, 2011
Chandani: Daughter of the Elephant Whisperer, 2010
Children of the Moon (Mondscheinkinder), 2006
The Council of Birds (Zerrumpelt Herz), 2014
Crazy, 2000
The Edukators (Die Fetten Jahre Sind Vorbei), 2004
Fitzcarraldo, 1981
The Golem, 1920
Heavenly Location (Gottliche Lage)
Hen in a Boat (Flussfahrt Mit Uhn)
Herta Muller – The Alphabet of Fear
In Between Worlds (Zwischen Welten), 2014
Jakob the Liar
Life is all You Get, (Das Leben Ist Eine Baustelle), 1997
Master of the Universe, 2013
The Pasta Detectives, 2014
Photo: OSTKREUZ, 2015
Short and Good in Hollywood, 2013
Tough Enough, 2006
Westwind (Am Ende Kommen Touristen)
Who Am I – No System in Safe, (Kein System Ist Sicher), 2014



Also don't forget that the SLC may have some older titles which you will not be able to get elsewhere. Even where the original Australian distributor no longer holds current rights, the SLC may have purchased the screening rights themselves.

8. News from the NFSA

According to the March NFSA Newsletter they are offering "5 for the price of 3" 16mm shorts until 30 June 2017. But you must book by email or phone. Email nontheatric@nfsa.gov.au Ph 1800 012 175.

(It is interesting that the NFSA Newsletter seems to have reverted to the use of the older term NTLC, rather than the more recently adopted term SLC! - Ed.)

Other interesting items in the newsletter follow.

“NTLC Highlights

A recent audit of the NTLC has provided some great insights on the diversity and scope of this unique collection. Highlights include:

- The NTLC reached a huge audience of over 28,000 last year;
- 25% of NTLC clients are located regionally;
- In the last financial year 28.5% of titles borrowed were on 16mm;
- A **consolidation** of the top 60 films borrowed from the NTLC in the last three years revealed that 55.7% were Australian films, a marked difference when compared to Australian box office figures;
- The top five most borrowed NTLC titles include: *Adam’s Rib*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Casablanca*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and *Red Dog*.

Renewals & acquisitions

For those who may not have heard or who are unsure, NFSA is happy to re-confirm our commitment to the NTLC – to both the maintenance and expansion of this special collection.

As promised in earlier communications to our mailing list, 2017 has seen the reactivation of a program of renewals and acquisitions.

We are currently in the process of renewing the licenses of 29 titles which were due to expire by June 2017 selected from our top 100 most borrowed titles. In the coming months, we will be continuing this work, with a broad (but not exclusive) focus on Australian titles and those unavailable through commercial distributors.”

9. New in TYSPOM

- Over 50 more thought-provoking films – mainly documentaries -- have been added to the TYSPOM Film Library over the last 3 months. Mainly documentaries. Below, is a sample.
- Available to ACOFS-registered Film Societies.
- DVD (on loan) + postage (both ways) + screening rights = \$17 (or less)
- Enquiries & bookings: Prodos: info@tyspom.org
- Website: <http://TYSPOM.org>

Available after May 25 2017				
Name of film	Country	Year	Length	Type
Arthur & George	UK	2015	3 X 60 min episodes	Docu drama
Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War	USA	2016	90 min	Doco
First Man on the Moon	USA	2014	60 min	Doco
Hunting the Elements	USA	2012	120 min	Doco
Inside Einstein's Mind	USA	2015	60 min	Doco
Is America in Retreat?	USA	2017	60 min	Doco
Love & Valor: One Couple's Intimate Civil War Letters	USA	2012	90 min	Docu drama
Martin Luther	USA	2002	120 min	Doco
Napoleon: Soldier, Lover, Emperor, Statesman	USA/France	2005	4 x 55 min episodes	Doco series
One World Trade Center: Super Skyscrapers	USA	2014	60 min	Doco
Projections of America	USA	2016	60 min	Doco

Sweetness: The Botany of Desire	USA	2008	60 min	Doco
The Bletchley Circle (Season 1)	UK	2013	4 X 45 min episodes	Drama series
The Conquistadors	UK/Spain	2001	4 X 60 min episodes	Doco series
The Hidden Child	USA Netherlands	2006	60 min	Doco
The Inquisition: Debunking the Myths	USA/Spain	2016	4 X 60 min episodes	Doco series
The Pilgrims	USA	2014	120 min	Doco
Torchbearer	USA	2016	94 min	Doco
Trailblazers: The New Zealand Story	NZ	2017	60 min	Doco
Wales: The Golden Thread of Faith	USA/Wales	2013	3 X 30 min episodes	Doco series
Yanks for Stalin	USA	1999	50 min	Doco

10. Trivia

Here is another of the best known quotes from the movies.

"You've got to ask yourself one question: 'Do I feel lucky?' Well, do ya, punk?"
(Dirty Harry, 1971)

Are there any other contenders for most well known quote?

ACOFS - Australian Council of Film Societies

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Secretary, 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 Our website is www.acofs.org.au

NOTES:

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.

ACOFS and the State federations do not necessarily endorse the statements or view contained in any personal statements in articles, letters to the editor or in the films mentioned in this Bulletin.