

# ACOFS Bulletin

## Australian Council of Film Societies

---

NUMBER 52

OCTOBER 2017

*This Bulletin has been compiled and edited by Ian Davidson, (ACOFS President) [president@acofs.org.au](mailto: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 who are not on email.**

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

---

In this issue:

1. From the President
2. The ACOFS DVD agreement
3. News from the DVD Distributors
4. New Titles from the SLC at the NFSA
5. News from the NFSA
6. Films from the Norwegian Embassy
7. New in TYSPOM
8. Drop Me a Line
9. Trivia



### 1. From the President

What value is an “Unknown” film?

Many film societies aim to screen “unknown gems” from the past, or “unknown” independent films from around the world, but are they attracting the membership numbers they deserve?

If a society wants to attract new members, the temptation is to screen recent well-known films, relying on the distributors’ own publicity and media reviews to make the programme sound attractive. But this tends to drive the society towards being just another cinema screening popular movies.

A film society should ideally, be different from a local cinema. We are not in the business of competing with the cinemas but rather complementing them. A big part of this is in the “social” aspect of the film society (which ACOFS and the Federations are always emphasising) but a society needs to pay attention to their programming to continue to be special.

The biggest difficulty in programming “unknown” films is that the films are just that – unknown! A society relying on these film titles for their publicity will find it difficult to

attract new members. They will need to include some better known titles to attract new members, but that is not to say they should abandon their ideals.

As well as programming to attract new members, a society needs to persuade existing members to rejoin each year, and that is more likely if they found the past year interesting and enjoyable. And that is where the good “unknown” film can play a part. If there have been real surprises, real gems, and really memorable movies, then perhaps that will persuade members to rejoin -but only if the “unknown” film is good enough. In a way it is a pity that if a film is really good, it ends up on the wider cinema circuit!

ACOFs and the State Federations have sourced a number of independent “unknown” films from Canada, Indonesia, Vietnam, The Philippines, Malaysia and Australia and made them available through the FVFS Indie Library, where they are available for a small or zero cost. ACOFS and the State Federations have previewed all of these films and those reviews are available on the FVFS website [www.fvfs.org.au](http://www.fvfs.org.au) under their “Indie Library” tab.

A new source of “unknown” films has now been added to the ACOFS list – The Embassy of Norway has kindly made available a number of feature and short films, free to film societies. We can thank the IFFS (The International Federation of Film Societies) for this initiative. See the item later in this Bulletin. We hope to preview and prepare reviews for each of these films also.

We are now following up an offer from the Oaxaca Film Festival (Mexico) for a series of short films from their official selection. More on this as it develops.

This email explains the background:

*“I am writing to you on behalf of Oaxaca FilmFest.  
(<https://www.oaxacafilmfest.com/>).*

*As you are well aware of by now, our region has recently been crippled by three major earthquakes.*

*Thus, we have been forced to postpone this eighth edition of our event.*

*There have been many consequences due to this decision but the one I am writing about today is the loss of screening for our artists.*

*I would like to offer you access to our short cycle library (all official selected films of this year’s edition) with absolutely no strings attached.*

*Our objective simply being that our filmmakers have the exposure they lost out of due to the postponement of our event.”*

Email me with your ideas and comments at : [president@acofs.org.au](mailto:president@acofs.org.au)  
Ian Davidson, President ACOFS

## 2. The ACOFS DVD Agreement

See [www.acofs.org.au/resources/](http://www.acofs.org.au/resources/) .The latest version was ready for uploading to the website on 5<sup>th</sup> October 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 more than once 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](http://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". [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com) can usually help with alternative titles and the director's name.
6. ACOFS members can be very thankful that the screening rights fee has not changed for many years, still being a flat \$55 (with GST) for most distributors. We believe this is because societies have been honest in their dealings with the distributors, have "owned up" to all their screenings, and used the "agreement" wisely. In order to get the best from your rights from Roadshow (who operate a sliding scale for their rights charges) remember to keep ACOFS informed of your membership numbers AND your average attendance (if not 60% of members) each year. If your numbers have changed, you may be paying an incorrect amount for your rights with Roadshow.

### 3. 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](http://www.acofs.org.au) (Updated regularly).

#### Amalgamated Movies

*(Steven Snell) Now the distributor responsible for handling Madman rights bookings.*

Baby Driver  
 Becoming Bond  
 Conspiracy of Faith, A  
 Country Doctor, The  
 David Lynch – The Art Life  
 Eagle Huntress, The  
 Free Fire  
 Gleason  
 Jasper Jones  
 Life



Odyssey, The  
 Ride, Le  
 Risk  
 Rough Night  
 Saint Amour  
 Smurfs & the lost Village  
 Spiderman  
 T2 Trainspotting 2  
 Tomorrow  
 Toni Erdmann

#### Antidote Films

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

Web address [www.antidotefilms.com.au](http://www.antidotefilms.com.au).

Gore Vidal: The United States of Amnesia, USA, 2013, 83 mins. 7.8 stars on IMDb.

Monsieur Mayonnaise, Australia, 2016, 93 mins, 8.0 on IMDb.

More than Honey

Partly Fiction. Doco. Explores Harry Dean Stanton's amazing life. 7.4 Stars on IMDb

School Life, 99 mins. Follows a year in the life of two inspirational teachers.

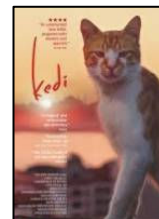
#### Hi Gloss

Good Time

Kedi, Turkey, 2016, 79 min, 7.8 on IMDb.

Salesman, The

Like Crazy



#### Madman

*Madman titles (non-theatrical rights) are now handled by Amalgamated Movies – Steven Snell. See their listing above. Contact details are in ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B.*

## **Roadshow Films**

(Contact TBA – No longer Chrystal) Refer to [paul\\_mackenzie@roadshow.com.au](mailto:paul_mackenzie@roadshow.com.au)  
Big Little Lies

## **Ronin Films**

(Andrew Pike)

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](http://www.roninfilms.com.au) for details and purchase prices.

Big Bad Love, 26 min.

Elettra, 48 mins.

Ella. Doco about the indigenous dancer Ella Havelka.

End of the Rainbow, 2007, 83 mins.

Freedom Stories DVD now includes six short films.

Memoirs of a Plague, 77 mins.

Smut Hounds – censorship in the 60’s, Aust, 9 mins. (Features David Stratton)

Woman with an Editing Bench, 15 mins.

## **Sharmill Films**

(Bec Brown)

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

Heal the Living

The Ornithologist

## **Shock**

(Naomi Kume)

Hard Target

Streets of Fire

Quarantine

Punisher, The

Stealth

Dante’s Peak

Daylight

Brief Encounters

Hounds of Love.

## **Umbrella Entertainment**

(Danielle Bertozzo) Please contact Danielle at [theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au](mailto:theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au) for screening enquiries or call 03 9020 5134.

Umbrella are constantly offering special deals on their range of titles and regularly add to the list of titles available for streaming.

More titles are 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](mailto:customerservice@umbrellaent.com.au) .

Contact [theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au](mailto:theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au) for bookings or call on 03 9020 5134.

## 4. 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](http://loans.nfsa.gov.au)

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

- 14 - Diaries of the Great War (9072412) 2014
- 4 Konige = 4 Kings (9072371) 2015
- African Metropolis (9072411) 2013
- Kafkanistan (9072385) 2015
- As We Were Dreaming (9072403) 2015
- Animation in the Nazi period (9072409) 2009
- Animated avant-garde - artistic animated films in Germany in the 20s and 30s (9072406) 2010
- Father (9072402) 2015
- Bagdad Cafe (9072375)
- Stage and Dance, Ludwig Hirschfeld-Mack, Wassily Kandinsky, Kurt Schmidt, Lothar Schreyer (9072415) 2014
- Stage and Dance - Oskar Schlemmer (9072404)
- Born to Dance/ Lady Be Good (9072410) 2008
- Celeste (9072383) 1982
- Chronicler of the Uniquely Normal (9072421) 1989
- Coconut Hero (9072373) 2015
- The Cut (9072401) 2014
- The Baader Meinhof Complex (9072427) 2008
- The Bomberpilot & The Reign of Naples (9072423) 2013
- The Dam & Film or Power (9072424) 2014
- The Flying Dutchman in Manaus (9072394) 2007
- The Green Table (9072400) 2000
- A Bright Beach on the River Saale - An Arts Centre Recounts (9072431) 2010
- The Party Secretary & A Weimar Film (9072399) 1976
- The Student of Prague (9072390) 1913
- The Guardian and His Poet (9072378) 1978
- The 120 Days of Bottrop (9072393) 1997
- Die Folgen Der Tat = Consequences of the Act (9072372)
- The Legend of Rita (9072392) 2000
- The Respectable. Witness the white rose & No! Witnesses of the resistance in Munich 1933-1945 (9072420) 2015
- Suck Me Shakespeare (9072432) 2013
- Quatsch Und Die Nasenbarbande = Fiddlesticks (9072367) 2014
- Woman At The Clavichord & In Georgia (9072398)
- Transit Camp Friedland (9072377) 2015
- Peaceful Days & Royal Baths (9072419) 1983
- Fritz Bauer: Talks, interviews and speeches (9072428) 2014
- Fritz Bauer: Death by Instalments (9072381) 2010
- Hedy Lamarr: Secrets of a Hollywood Star (9072425) 2006
- Tour de Force (9072380) 2014
- Hordur (9072370) 2014
- Labyrinth of Lies (9072382) 2014
- Born in 45 & Three of Many (9072384)
- Cat and Mouse (9072391) 1967 Beirut Parc = Kick Off! (9072369) 2016
- Max Beckmann - Departure (9072417) 2012
- My Friend the Murderer/ Al Capone of the Palace (9072422) 2012
- People to each other & Under the lantern (9072426) 2014
- Nargis: When Time Stopped Breathing (9072430)

Even More Animations for Kids (9072413) 2015  
 Phoenix (9072397) 2014  
 Planet Goethe (9072414) 2016  
 Save Raffi! (9072388) 2015  
 Reuber (9072386) 2013  
 Screening the Poor 1888 - 1914 (9072407) 2011  
 Civil Servants (9072387) 2015  
 State-Theatre # 1-6 Lagos, Tehran, Berlin, Detroit, Beirut, (9072405) 2015  
 Two Great Adventurers - South: Sir Ernest Shackleton's heroic expedition to the Antarctic /  
 Snow, Sand & Savages: The life of Frank Hurley(9072433) 2009  
 Superegos (9072416) 2014  
 A German Youth (9072376) 2015  
 Cursed Love of German Film (9072389) 2016  
 Victoria (9072395) 2015  
 Dancing Cigarettes and Elks – German Animation Film in Advertising and music videos  
 History of German Animated Film VI (9072408) 2011  
 Before the Wedding/After the Wedding (9072396)  
 Then Is It the End? (9072429) 2015  
 Visiting Werner Nekes (9072418) 2013  
 Zuckerbaby (9072379) 1985

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.

## 5. News from the NFSA

The following message from the Chair of the Board at the NFSA is repeated here for your information.

*Dear Ian,*

*I wanted to write and personally tell you the very exciting news about the outcome of our recruitment process for a new CEO of the NFSA.*

*We are delighted that we have appointed Jan Müller. Jan is a globally-recognised leader in digital culture and public engagement. He visited the NFSA to deliver the keynote speech at our Digital Directions symposium in 2016.*

*In Jan, we have secured a CEO with an international reputation whose experience reflects the need for cultural institutions to focus on reaching our communities in both the physical and virtual realms to maximise the value of our collections.*

*His knowledge of digitisation and the audiovisual industries is world class. He also understands the importance of great programming and collaborations so people come to know and love the work of archives and museums. It is hard to imagine anyone else better placed to lead the NFSA to deliver on our Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and beyond.*

*He will take up his position, based in Canberra, in October, and you will have an opportunity to meet him before long.*

*I know you will join us in welcoming Jan to this important role and thank you, as always, for your support and interest in our wonderful asset, the NFSA.*

Regards,

GABRIELLE TRAINOR - Chair of the Board, NFSA.



## 6. Films From the Norwegian Embassy

It was through an item in a report from the IFFS (International Federation of Film Societies) that we first became aware of an offer from the Norwegian Embassy to provide a selection of recent Norwegian films free, to film societies. ACOFS followed this up and



as a result, a package of films is now in the Canberra office of the Norwegian Embassy awaiting bookings from registered Australian Film Societies.

Your contact at the embassy in Canberra is Merete Aarhaug, 02 6270 5715, Merete.Aarhaug@mfa.no

Detailed information on each film and a booking form is on the ACOFS website under [www.acofs.org.au/resources/](http://www.acofs.org.au/resources/)

The films are:

**Feature Films:**

- The Wave, 2015, 105 min
- Before Snowfall, 2013, 96 min.
- Blind, 2014, 96 min.
- In Order of Disappearance, 2014, 116 min.
- Staying Alive, 2015, 83 min.
- 1001 Grams, 2014, 943 min.



**Features for Younger Audiences:**

- The Tough Guys, 2013, 74 min.
- Kick It!, 2014, 100 min.
- Operation Arctic, 2014, 87 min.

**Documentaries:**

- The Optimists, 2013, 92 min.
- Siblings are Forever: The Grand Journey, 2015, 75 min.
- Brothers, 2015, 110 min.



**Short Films for Adults:**

- Small Talk, 21 min.
- Bird Hearts, 25 min.
- The Good Life – Over There, 29 min
- Sami Boy, 9 min
- Oslo's Rose, 7 min.
- Northbound, 11 min.

**Short Films for Kids:**

- Morningbird and Murrelton on Winter Holiday, 8 min.
- The Captain, the Pilot and the Singer, 7 min.
- Bendik & the Monster, 10 min.
- Herman's Heart, 8 min.
- Foul, 6 min.
- The Marathon Diary, 8 min.
- Me and My Moulton, 14 min.

**Classic:**

- Pathfinder, 1987, 88 min.

## 7. New in TYSPOM

### TYSPOM Film Library updates for ACOFS Bulletin October 2017

*Updated: Thursday, 28 September 2017*

- Over 400 more thought-provoking films – mainly documentaries -- have been added to the **TYSPOM Film Library** over the last 3 months. Below, is a sample.
- Available only to ACOFS-registered Film Societies.
- DVD (returnable) + postage (both ways) + screening rights = \$25 (or less).
- Enquiries & bookings: Prodos: [info@tyspom.org](mailto:info@tyspom.org) Website: <http://TYSPOM.org>

TYSPOM Film Library				
Name of film	Country	Year	Length	Type
Trains: The Steam Pioneers	UK	2010	50 min	doco
Empress of Ambition: Catherine The Great	USA	2006	90 min	doco
Killing Reagan	USA	2016	120 min	docu drama
Why Does Evil Exist? (The Story of God)	USA	2016	9 X 45 min	doco series
The Real Robin Hood	USA	2010	120 min	doco
Inside North Korea	USA	2007	50 min	doco
The Geek Shall Inherit the Earth	USA	2016	45 min	doco
Lincoln: American Mastermind	USA	2009	50 min	doco
Narco Bling	USA	2011	45 min	doco
Pope vs Hitler	USA	2016	90 min	doco
The Man Who Can Fly	USA	2011	45 min	doco
Work & Happiness: The Human Cost of Welfare	USA	2017	58 min	doco
Freedom and representation: The politics of Magna Carta	UK	2016	50 min	doco
Comic Book Superheroes Unmasked	USA	2005	90 min	doco
Beyond The Moon (Failure Is Not an Option Part 2)	USA	2008	100 min	doco
Russia (World History of Organized Crime)	USA	2001	45 min	doco
Who Wrote the Bible?	USA	1997	150 min	doco
No Guts, No Glory (Filthy Riches)	USA	2014	45 min	doco series
Jobs vs. Gates (American Genius)	USA	2015	45 min	doco
LEGO (Ultimate Factory)	USA	2011	50 min	doco



## 8. Drop me a Line

I am getting very little feedback from readers of The Bulletin so I can't help wondering whether it is all worthwhile. It does take some effort to compile this information four times per year, but if it is of little interest to anyone I see no point in continuing.

But, if you read this and feel enthusiastic enough, why not send me a brief email and tell me.....

Did you receive this, and other issues of the Bulletin, in good time?

Which items were of greatest interest?

Were you interested in the new acquisitions?

Are there other possible items that would be more interesting?

Please send all comments to [president@acofs.org.au](mailto:president@acofs.org.au)

Many thanks. Ian Davidson, editor.

## 9. Trivia

Did you know that the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) has a section on the biographies of most film actors as per the following extract:

*Charles Spencer Chaplin was born in Walworth, London, England on April 16, 1889, to Hannah Harriet Pedlingham (Hill) and Charles Chaplin, both music hall performers, who were married on June 22, 1885. After Charles Sr. separated from Hannah to perform in New York City, Hannah then tried to resurrect her stage career. Unfortunately, her singing voice had a tendency to break at unexpected moments. When this happened, the stage manager spotted young Charlie standing in the wings and led him on stage, where five-year-old Charlie began to sing a popular tune. Charlie and his half-brother, Syd Chaplin spent their lives in and out of charity homes and workhouses between their mother's bouts of insanity. Hannah was committed to Cane Hill Asylum in May 1903 and lived there until 1921, when Chaplin moved her to California.*

And much more....

And of course, some trivia...

*A much-repeated story claims that he once entered a Charlie Chaplin lookalike contest and finished third! In some versions of the story, he came in second.*

*Stan Laurel was his understudy on the English stage.*

*When both Stan Laurel and Chaplin moved to America they shared a room in a boarding house.*

*On July 6, 1925, he became the first actor to appear on the cover of Time magazine.*

---

### ACOFS - Australian Council of Film Societies

Incorporated in Victoria: A0057904W ABN: 69 667 887 179

**Secretary**, Email: [secretary@acofs.org.au](mailto:secretary@acofs.org.au)

If you want to have the ACOFS Bulletin emailed to you directly, please email me at [president@acofs.org.au](mailto:president@acofs.org.au) Our website is [www.acofs.org.au](http://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.