

# ACOFS Bulletin

## Australian Council of Film Societies

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NUMBER 68

November 2021

*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!**

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### 1. From the Editor – Ian Davidson [editor@acofs.org.au](mailto:editor@acofs.org.au)

Are you keeping up with technology? Do you need to?

In about 2002, or shortly after, most film societies upgraded their technology from 16mm projection to digital projection from a DVD source. Some even went one step further, and used HD BluRay as the source, once there were sufficient titles available on BluRay.

Technology has moved on since then (as it usually does) and some of the latest movies are available on 4K (aka UHD) on BluRay discs. We are told this gives about four times the resolution of HD BluRays, which are themselves, a higher resolution than available on DVDs.

We at ACOFS would be very interested to hear from you regarding your thoughts on the possibility of expanding your operations to incorporate 4K, or are you satisfied with everything that DVDs can offer? At the moment, there is not a lot of material available on 4K, but I am informed that at JB HiFi, for example, there are already 600 UHD titles available, many of them remastered from older film classics. The NFSA and Umbrella have also started to remaster some of the older “classics”, soon to be released on 4K BluRay discs.

Modern TVs, especially the larger, “Smart TVs” are already 4K capable, although to date not much is being broadcast in UHD, and streamed material is typically less than



UHD. So the technology is around, and it is probably just a matter of time before we see it everywhere. So is your film society going to stay put, catch up, or get ahead of the trend?

Would it be helpful if ACOFS were to provide guidelines on UHD issues, covering what is possible, likely costs, programming choices etc.?

Write in to the editor of The Bulletin and let us know your thoughts.

## **2. Who are we?**

### ***Australian Council of Film Societies - ACOFS***

Founded in 1949 – and still going strong – ACOFS (Australian Council of Film Societies) is the peak national body of the Australian film society movement not-for-profit film screening organisations.

Each state in Australia has its own independent ACOFS-affiliated Federation of Film Societies – run by individuals based in that state – dedicated to looking after the interests of individual film societies in that state. They are:-

- Federation of Victorian Film Societies inc.
- WA Federation of Film Societies,
- Tasmanian Federation of Film Societies,
- Federation of Queensland Film Societies,
- NSW Federation of Film Societies.
- SA Federation of Film Societies.

In turn, the members of each state federation are individual, non-profit film societies (and other not-for-profit film screening organisations) from within the relevant state. Over 140 Australian film societies, film clubs and film festivals are members of these state Federations. Film societies are thus represented, through ACOFS, nationally and internationally across the commercial, government, and non-profit sectors.

This multi-level structure ensures that decision-making is kept decentralised, transparent, and diverse thus accommodating the widest range of viewpoints and interests possible; vital to a movement based on freedom of expression.

### ***State Federations of Film Societies***

There are many reasons why a film organisation should become a member of a state federation, including the following:

- To be formally recognised as a serious, properly constituted non-profit film society, festival or film venue/cinema.
- To take advantage of preferential film hire rates and DVD rights charges.
- To take advantage of the insurance policies available through the Federations.
- To access and to share knowledge, support, and ideas across Australia with fellow film societies.
- Through their state delegates to ACOFS, to have a national and international voice with government authorities, commercial film distributors, and other bodies that directly or indirectly affect the film society movement of Australia.
- To be able to participate in Information days and gatherings organised by the state federations.

We invite you to explore the vast wealth of information and ideas available across the ACOFS website at [www.acofs.org.au](http://www.acofs.org.au) especially the ACOFS bulletin, the many Fact Sheets, and through the ACOFS website, contacts for each of the state federations, and their informative websites.

And don't hesitate to contact ACOFS if you have further questions or want to discuss starting or registering your Film Society! [secretary@acofs.org.au](mailto:secretary@acofs.org.au)

### **3. What does it mean to be “non-theatrical”?**

To be able to take advantage of the special DVD screening rights agreement between ACOFS and the DVD distributors (who represent the DVD rights owners) a film society must meet the following conditions

- Be a current member of a State Film Federation, who in turn is a member of ACOFS.
- Seek permission to screen that DVD and receive permission from the rights owner, or their representative.
- Screen the DVD “non-theatrically” (ie to members only).
- Not charge individual admission to the screening.
- Not promote the screening without clearly stating “Members only”.

It is a sound policy to ensure that a DVD is available for purchase before seeking the screening rights, but not necessarily sound to actually purchase it first. There is always the possibility that permission is not forthcoming for a DVD already purchased, but on the other hand, there is always a small chance that a DVD is no longer available for purchase after rights have been agreed. It is a matter of choice which to do first! It is certainly unwise to publish a program or promote any screening before screening rights have been agreed.

Now getting back to the definition of a “non-theatrical” screening.

Cinemas operating commercially will normally be using DCP equipment (Digital Cinema Package) and obtain the movie by hard drive memory, USB memory or downloaded over the internet, and pay screening rights based on a percentage of the ticket sales. In some cases a flat fee is agreed as a compromise.

Where screenings are made to an audience comprising members of a film society, club, or similar organisation, a “non-theatrical” screening rights fee may be charged, providing no person is charged for actual admission to an individual screening. This fee is typically a lot less than the commercial fee charged to cinema operators.

The ACOFS screening rights agreement available to film societies affiliated with any State Film Federation belonging to ACOFS provides even more attractive rights fees, as long as the film society follows the agreed rules and procedures. These are laid down in the ACOFS Fact Sheet 3A. How to find the appropriate distributor to contact, and their contact details, is provided in ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B. These are both available on free download from [www.acofs.org.au/resources/](http://www.acofs.org.au/resources/).

The relevant State Federations which are members of ACOFS are:-

- Federation of Queensland Film Societies,
- Federation of Victorian Film Societies inc.
- NSW Federation of Film Societies.
- SA Federation of Film Societies.
- Tasmanian Federation of Film Societies,
- WA Federation of Film Societies,

It follows that if a DVD in your possession does not have an Australian distributor then it is very likely that no-one in Australia holds the Australian screening rights for that DVD, This may be because the rights were never taken up in Australia, or the rights have expired here. This does not mean you are free to screen that DVD without permission. Expired Australian screening rights is not the same as it being in the public domain and free for all. It simply means that the screening rights are managed by the

owner of the international screening rights, and that is who you would need to approach for permission to screen. That is not an easy prospect, but it is covered by the above-mentioned ACOFS Fact sheets.

A society wishing to obtain screening permission for a particular DVD needs to be able to quote their Federation membership number to the rights owner when they seek the rights. This is a membership number granted annually by the State Federation to prove membership with ACOFS.

## 4. Reports From State Federations

### FVFS – Victoria

Owing to restrictions brought down by the State Government to counter the Covid virus, very few film societies or festivals have been operating in 2021, and this is likely to be the case for the remainder of the year.

Nevertheless, the FVFS has managed to continue operating, with committee meetings being held by Zoom, and we have moved forward with some projects. Our newsletter ReelNews has continued to be published quarterly.

Because most film societies and festivals have had to suspend operations for most of this year, the FVFS has waived membership fees for both 2021 and 2022 for all existing members. Despite the difficulties we have had 2 new member societies join the FVFS in 2021, and now have a total of 82 member organisations.

## 5. News From the DVD Distributors

*These titles have been provided by the respective distributors as being either new acquisitions or titles of interest to film societies. Only distributors who have provided information are included here, but all distributor contacts are still listed in ACOFS Information Sheet 3B. These lists are an indication of who holds the screening rights for the films/DVDs, but these distributors can not necessarily supply the DVDs.*

*ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B, which is updated regularly, can be downloaded from [www.acofs.org.au/resources](http://www.acofs.org.au/resources)*

*The contact details are included here only where they have changed recently.*

**The latest update of Fact Sheet 3B was on 24 June 2021, so if you don't have the latest, download it from [www.acofs.org.au/resources](http://www.acofs.org.au/resources).**

### Amalgamated Movies

Also, see their website:- [www.amalgamatedmovies.com](http://www.amalgamatedmovies.com)

French Exit

Unholy, The

Peter Rabbit 2

Peninsula

Last Call

Collective

Painter And The Thief, The

Supernova

United Way, The

Dissident, The

Saint Maud

Girls Can't Surf

Vault, The

Runaway Joe



### Antidote Films

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

Love Opera

*And watch the following on FREE download*

School Life

Irish Pub, The

Utopia  
WACO  
Death of a Gentleman  
Most Dangerous Man in America, The  
Coming War on China, The

### **Limelight**

*(Rights Booked through Amalgamated)*

Father, The  
Days of the Bagnold Summer  
Gardener, The  
Miss  
Skies of Lebanon  
Diana's Wedding  
Escape from Mogadishu  
Mermaid in Paris, A  
Jonsson Gang, The  
Helmut Newton: The Bad and the Beautiful



### **Madman**

*(Rights Booked through Amalgamated)*

Freshman Year

### **Roadshow**

*According to Domenic Malsom, all up-coming film availabilities are listed on the Collections section of the Roadshow website at: <https://ppl.roadshow.com.au/collections> .*

Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre

Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard

In the Heights

No Sudden Move

### **Ronin Films**

*For member 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. Many of their titles are now available from KANOPY STREAMING, but approach Ronin for the DVD or digital file and screening rights at a film society. Craig McConnell on [orders@roninfilms.com.au](mailto:orders@roninfilms.com.au)*

Night Prowler, The: 85 mins (DVD or digital file)

Weather Diaries, The: 91 mins (DVD or digital file)

Breathing Life into Boodja (2021), Doco, 48 mins.

Terra Nullius (1992) (Re-mastered 2021), 21 mins.

Nitram

Snowtown

High Ground

Australian Dream, The

Jasper Jones

Green Bush (2005). 26 mins.

Totem & Ore (2019), 98 mins.



### **Also from Ronin**

Australian Film 1900 – 1977 A Guide to Australian Film Production. (Book) \$45

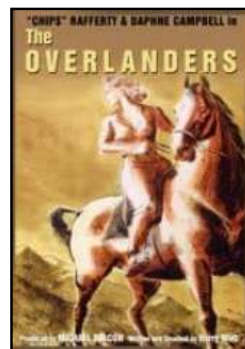
### **Umbrella Entertainment**

*For a full list of all Umbrella Entertainment Public Performance Rights List, contact*

[sales@umbrellaent.com.au](mailto:sales@umbrellaent.com.au)

Apex

Ascendant (2021) Directors cut.  
 Babadook, The (2014) (4K)  
 Beast, The (La Bete) (1975) (BR)  
 Behemoth (2020)  
 Big Steal, The (1990) (BR)  
 Black and White (2002) (BR)  
 Buena Vista Social Club  
 Bush Christmas  
 Bye Bye Morons (2020)  
 Coming Home in the Dark (2021) (BR)  
 Crash  
 Devil's Playground (1978) (Blu-Ray)  
 Driving Miss Daisy  
 Dune Drifter  
 Eye See You (2002) (BR)  
 Fire (2020)  
 First Love (2019)  
 Gunda (2021)  
 Harder they Fall, The (1956) & Requiem for a Heavyweight (1962) (BR)  
 Head On (1998) (BR)  
 How To Deter A Robber  
 I Aim at the Stars (1960) & Man on a String (1960) (BR)  
 Ida (2013 (BR & DVD)  
 Initiation (2020)  
 Just a Gigolo (1978) (BR)  
 King Otto (2021)  
 La Strada (1954) (BR)  
 Lapsis (2021)  
 Lost in Translation (BR)  
 Man From Hong Kong, The (Blu-Ray)  
 My Brother Jack  
 Never look Away (2018) (BR)  
 Nicole Kidman: Australian Icon Collection (1983 – 1996)  
 Outpost (2008) (BR)  
 Overlanders, The (1946) (BR)  
 Panda Vs Aliens  
 Paper Tigers, The  
 Possessed, The  
 Possession (1981) (BR)  
 Prisoners Of Ghostland, The  
 Ride the Eagle (2021)  
 Right Hand Man, The (1987) (BR)  
 Sex and Zen (1991) (BR)  
 Shame (1988) (BR)  
 Showgirls (1995) (BR)  
 Sirens (1993) (BR)  
 Slumber Party Massacre (2021)  
 Sniper, The (1952) (BR)  
 Streamline  
 Stir Crazy (1980) & Hanky Panky (1982) (BR)  
 Stunt Rock (Blu-Ray)  
 Super Mario Bros  
 Tarantula (1955) & The Incredible Shrinking Man (1957) (BR)  
 Turkey Shoot (1982) (BR)





Undead 2003 (Blu-Ray)  
Wild One, The (1953) (BR)

*Remastered onto 4K by Umbrella*  
Breaker Morant  
Nightmares  
Malcolm (1986)  
Malcolm's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Undead  
Stunt Rock  
Man from Hong Kong  
Black and White



Achela: [theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au](mailto:theatrical@umbrellaent.com.au)  
Call on 03 9020 5136 or [sales@umbrellaent.com.au](mailto:sales@umbrellaent.com.au)

*For Australian titles in the Umbrella catalogue, Umbrella may be able to assist you to invite the director to attend your screening for a Q and A.*

*(Contact Umbrella for a full list of non-theatrical titles or 4K restorations.)  
Umbrella also invite you to inspect their new on-line store. [www.Umbrellaent.com.au](http://www.Umbrellaent.com.au)*

## 6. Drop me a Line

Thank you to all the readers who have emailed me. If you want to have your say, please send all comments, suggestions and articles to [ian24davidson@gmail.com](mailto:ian24davidson@gmail.com)

This newsletter is intended to reflect information and news from all societies, so please let us know about anything of interest at your society.

Many thanks for all contributions. Ian Davidson, editor.

## 7. Random Thoughts

Another thought on slightly odd translations:-



## 8. Letters

## 1. From Lithgow Film Society

(Not really a letter, but an announcement in Dress Circle).

### **LOCAL FILM SOCIETY RE-OPENS WITH ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

While most film societies remain closed because of Covid 19 restrictions, the Lithgow Valley Film Society in the Central West of NSW reopened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August with the classic British movie *The Magic Box*, the story of Frieze Greene played by Robert Donat. To ensure they complied with the regulations, the society invested in a temperature gun, installed a hand-sanitizing station and sneeze screens at the counter and where tea and coffee is served. Members were restricted to every second seat reducing the overall seating from 64 to 35. The re-opening came at a critical time when funds were almost depleted. Movies are continuing on a weekly basis. The local newspaper, the *Lithgow Mercury*, featured a full-page article about the re-opening and the measures taken to comply with government regulations which included having to register as a Covid-Safe business. All volunteers now wear rubber gloves and face masks and the cinema is completely disinfected before and after each session. Paper cups for tea and coffee replace the previous-used ceramic mugs and the only food served at interval is factory-wrapped biscuits and slices.



## 9. Future Deadlines

We aim to distribute *The ACOFS Bulletin* at the start of February, May, August and November and would be happy to receive articles for publication at any stage – but note our deadlines are the end of the month preceding publication.

Items we hope to receive include new acquisitions and special DVD announcements from distributors, and items of interest to our film society readers, especially from members of other film societies.

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### **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 [editor@acofs.org.au](mailto:editor@acofs.org.au)      Our website is [www.acofs.org.au](http://www.acofs.org.au)

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#### **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.*