



ReelBuzz

CIRCULATION
150

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Editorial

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT YOU PAID FOR???

As stand-in editor for this issue I've become concerned that you may not be receiving your wonderful ReelBuzz, and after all the work that goes into these things I think it's a shame if that is the case. So, if you are reading this right now, I guess you've got your issue of this fabulous, almost monthly newsletter. If you are not reading this I suggest you dash off an email to aufs@smug.adelaide.edu.au and let the committee know!

If you are not reading this you won't be finding out about:

- our excellent holiday video days
- the weekend away at Goolwa
- the film choosing night

In fact, you'll be missing out on my editorial, and that would be a real (or is it reel?) shame.

Seriously though, it's really difficult to deliver paper copies of ReelBuzz to everyone, so if you know someone who has been missing out, let us know. If you get a paper version but would be happy to download a pdf version, drop us a line and let us know (aufs@smug.adelaide.edu.au).

By the way, did you know that you could come to AUFS committee meetings and join in doing the organising, film reviewing and other general stuff? It's fun, you get to hang out with great people like our Prez and Vice Prez. (I don't really want to mention the general committee because they're a motley lot.) I highly recommend it too! This term AUFS Meetings are on Mondays at 1pm in the Margret Murray room, Level 5, Union Building.

See you there!
Esther Speight

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT MAY-JUNE 2002

IMPERATOR DICIT

In the absence of President Taylor, off on holiday in Camp David or some equivalent, the honorable burden of heading the FilmSoc falls to me. Things have been a bit slow so far this year but most meetings have been reasonably well attended and it's pleasing to see some new and different people getting involved. I'm intrigued that some of the better-attended films so far this year have been the obscurer ones, such as the Indian comedy *Pushpak* and the seriously bizarre *God Told Me To* (not the best film around but it's the sort of thing I joined the club to see). If you want to see more (or less) of such things, or just to add an entry to your social calendar, the film-choosing night for Term 3 is coming up on July 6th. Also, we'll make sure that your holidays just whizz by with a couple of video days and, if that's not enough, a whole weekend of each others' company, lubricated with food, alcohol and the usual selection of weird and wonderful films at our fav beach spot, Goolwa. See elsewhere in this issue for details of all these events: as always, feel free to come and drag your friends along.

In the meantime, keep a look out for these new releases:

Wacko—a slapstick comedy set in a religious commune in the heart of Nevada desert. Endless humour from the cult leader (Ben Stiller) outwitting goofy FBI agents who, motivated by a desire for a positive publicity, are trying to take away Stiller's child wives.

Mel Gibson stars as a lawyer-with-a-conscience in the controversial social-commentary *Roe versus Wade*. So clever is the scripting that, after 3 hours of impassioned and inspiring courtroom drama, you still can't tell which side of the abortion debate Gibson is representing. It received a standing ovation on its American debut even before the projectors started rolling.

Guy Olding, V-P.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The film society is pleased to be able bring its members information about three brilliant events. Check out the reviews below:

Film Choosing Night: The Return

(Part 17)

When: Saturday 6th July, 7pm.

Where: A not so secret city location - Guys place. Call 8232 3183 for details or email guy.olding@student.adelaide.edu.au

Synopsis:

For those who don't know the background to this one, Film Choosing Night is traditionally the night Film Society members get together to eat pizza and choose which films the AUFS will be watching over the next term. Some of the episodes have been patchy or boring but this one has all the makings of a great night out.

Who would have thought that a whole lot of people sitting around arguing about what they want to watch on Thursday nights would be fun... Well, it's not. It's a participation thing. You've just gotta' be there to get it.

The ReelBuzz: Part performance art, part edgy comedy, you've just got to experience it to get it.

BEACH HOUSE MADNESS!

Yes, it's wacky beach house time again

Starring: You, the AUFS member.

Screening: At Goolwa

Commencing: Friday 12th July-Sunday 14th July

Cost: \$8 per night per person.

Bring: Sleeping bag (there are beds), movies you'd like to inflict on others, food, drinks.

Synopsis:

Hard to tell if this is a light comedy, dark thriller or obscure classic, but whatever it is it's Fun (notice the capital F?).

A group of Film Society members head off for a weekend at Goolwa expecting the usual two days and two nights of Film Society madness, but get much more than they bargained for (isn't it always the way with these things?). A movie lovers delight. A must see. 9/10.

Contact details:

If you're thinking of starring in this low budget winner just email me at esther@senet.com.au or phone 0404 809 529 for bookings. Car pool will be available, please leave contact details. RSVP essential.

Blackboards

Director: Samira Makhmalbaf

In Kurdish with English subtitles

Groups of male teachers traverse the mountains between Iran and Iraq, like itinerant workers, looking for pupils. They carry their blackboards on their backs, travelling from town to town and picking up work where they can.

This film follows the fates of two of these teachers as they separately move their way across the mountains encountering farmers, townspeople and nomadic groups. This film asks and answers interesting questions about education. How can

people who have to dodge bullets every day value an education?

One of the teachers, Reeboir, meets a group of children who spend their days perilously smuggling stolen goods across the boarder between Iran and Iraq. How can children who live so close to death take time to learn to write their names?

The blackboards begin as symbols of education and literally become a means of survival to the teachers and the people they meet along the way. An interesting and worthwhile watch.

Diana Davidson

REVIEWS

Crush

Starring: Andie MacDowell

Screening: Cinemas everywhere



Crush is being touted as the Bridget Jones's Diary for the over 40s. I'd like to correct every one right now. Sure it's funny but it has some quite nasty things to say about female friendships at the same time.

Crush is a quite funny film about three female 40 somethings who are on the prowl. They meet once a week to compete for "saddest" dating story of the week. Police Officer Molly is having trouble being an older single mother. Janine is a slim gorgeous doctor in private practice who just can't find Dr. Right, and Kate (Andie MacDowell) is headmistress of a school who seems to be fighting off the idea of ending up with the local minister. Everything goes along hilariously until Kate has an unexpected romp in a graveyard after a funeral with a 20 something ex-student. This soon turns into a serious relationship, much to the dismay of her two friends. This is where the film changes from being an excellent comedy about being in your 40s and looking for love, to having something very dark to say about female friendships. The two friends contrive to show Kate the error of her ways, with tragic results. Oh, but they all stay friends (with friends like these ...), and I suppose some things work out in the end.

The ReelBuzz: Excellent for the first half, very sad toward the end. ESther Speight.

SIDEWALKS OF NEW YORK

Palace Nova East End Cinema

Edward Burns writes, directs, produces and stars in this pseudo-doco movie. Cleverly written and meticulously edited by David Greenwald, it's a look at the interactions people from different backgrounds have under the New York sky, especially romantic and emotional relationships that people create and destroy both consciously and by accident.

The acting comes off well. There is a tangible tension between some of the couples... thereby heightening the characters' realness. Frank Prinzi's cinematography lives up to the task of creating a documentary feel. However,

these techniques become tiresome after a while, so for lovers of pure continuity editing, beware! I found it very rewarding and would recommend it highly.

Felix Staica

MOLOKAI

Directed by Paul Cox. Starring David Wenham. Also Derek Jacobi, Aden Young, Sam Neill, Leo McKern, Peter O'Toole, Kris Kristofferson, Kate Cerebrano & Tom Wilkinson.

Responding to an appeal from the Catholic bishop of Hawaii a young Dutch missionary, Father Damien (David Wenham), volunteers to go to the leper colony on the and anarchy, no doctor or policeman willing to risk his life there. With compassion and sheer determination, Damien battles against abuse and indifference to give respite and restore humanity to those abandoned there.

Father Damien's story is extraordinary. Indeed, this is not his first bio flick:

there was a Spanish Molokai in 1959. This version's strengths are its beautiful photography (though Paul Cox can't resist being arty) and outstanding individual performances. David Wenham dominates the film to the extent that rest of the parts are virtually cameos but there are some beauties among them: Leo McKern as Bishop Maigret is worth the price of admission alone.

If Molokai had finished after the first hour I would have said it was excellent.

Unfortunately, after you've got the hang of the situation and have been impressed by Damien's achievement it doesn't really go anywhere so it's a bit difficult to maintain interest. Other minor criticisms are (1) that film doesn't give you any help with historical context (what is Hawaii's place in the world? how did leprosy come to be such a problem?) and (2) that the focus on the central character has the effect of reducing everyone else to either acolyte or opponent, which carries an unpleasantly smug flavour of belittlement. As it is, I'll say that it's worth watching if you like pretty scenery and have plenty of patience.

Opening at the Palace-Nova Eastend Cinemas on 20th June.

Guy

PROGRAM TERM 2 & HOLIDAYS

ALL FILMS ARE SCREENED IN THE UNION CINEMA, LEVEL 5, UNION BUILDING

Week 11: 30th May

Joint screening with Women in Film and Television (SA). Free admission for all-comers!

GETTING THE DIRT ON TRISH

The director, Sue Brown, a local filmmaker and winner of the Melbourne Film Festival prize, will be present for Q&A.

Plus short film: TBA

Week 12: 6th June

THE NAVIGATOR: A MEDIAEVAL ODYSSEY

1988. Dir: Vincent Ward.

A mediaeval peasant-boy has a vision that promises to protect his village from the Black Death. They dig through the earth to emerge in modern-day Auckland. A sad but moving film exploring the themes of faith and fatalism.

Plus short film: TBA

Week 13: 13th June

Wages of Fear (Le salaire de la peur)

1953. Dir: Henri-Georges Clouzot. Starring Yves Montand & Charles Vanel. An exploitative mining company pays a group of truck drivers to transport a consignment of nitroglycerine across some of the most dangerous mountains on earth. An influential film from Clouzot, master of suspense. Based on the novel by Georges Arnaud.

Plus short film: TBA

Holidays Week 1: Wednesday 10th July

Johnny Depp Video Day

(gold coin donation at door)

10:00am - 8:00pm

10:00 - 12:00 **Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas**

Hilarious drug addled ride through the American dream. Based on the classic book by Hunter S. Thompson, writer for the American Rolling Stone Magazine. A true story!

12:20 - 2:30pm **Ed Wood**

Another true story, about the life of movie director Ed Wood, famous for making the worst movies ever made. His amazing positive attitude and bizarre life is excellent material for this incredible film.

3:00 - 5:00pm **Dead Man**

Bizarre and intense debut feature from American director Jim Jarmusch. Excellent music by Neil Young.

6:00 - 8:00pm **Sleepy Hollow**

Tim Burton's atmospheric and excellent retelling of the legend of Sleepy Hollow.

Holidays Week 2: Wednesday 10th July

Anarchist Video Day (gold coin donation at door) 12:00-8:00pm

A fine selection of anarchist sentimentated films including Libertarias will be shown.

Cast of REELBUZZ #8

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Diana Davidson

Contact us at:

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And a blatant plug for my almost finished web site:

<http://users.senet.com.au/~esther>