



# ReelBuzz

Monthly Publication of the Adelaide University Film Society

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## PRESIDENTSREPORT

Welcome back to term 2! Firstly a bit of house keeping, in case you didn't know, your beloved president 'Esther' was overthrown at the last AGM in a bloody coup containing high level violence and supernatural themes. Now I, 'Michael,' rule supreme with a lead-based fist, backed by my Katana wielding committee. All hail Michael and his malevolent rule!! Mwuhahahahahaha!! Ahem....

Ok, in week two we are showing 3 Japanese films over three nights in Multicultural week joint screenings! On May the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> we will be showing the films 'Aiki' and 'Tsuru Baka' with the Japan Australia Friendship Association. These will require a gold coin donation. While on the 4<sup>th</sup> we will be showing 'Azumi' with both Jafa and the Overseas Students Association which will be \$2 at the door, with food and drinks provided afterwards.

We will also be giving away way more passes and DVD's as door prizes during each screening over the first couple of weeks.

Then it's back to the regular (free) Thursday night screenings. What's showing? Well you voted right!? And since I wrote this before you voted, let's keep it generic by simply saying they are fantastic films!!!

We'll enjoy the rest of this totally revamped issue of Reelbuzz, done by our Reelbuzz editor Cassie!

**Michael**

## EDITORSWORDS

Hello fellow film fanciers, welcome to the second issue of ReelBuzz for 2005!

We have had a bit of a change of design due to problems opening the old files and just because I thought it was time for a change. I would love to hear any feedback, you can email me at [editor@aufs.org](mailto:editor@aufs.org). That goes for story ideas, events you hear about or if you would like to volunteer to be interviewed for the new Member Profile section. Our gutsy el' presidente was first in line, so see his quick profile on the back page.

On Monday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May I am going to be interviewing Mark Vicente, maker of the film *What The Bleep Do We Know!* This movie is described as "part documentary, part story, and part elaborate and inspiring visual effects and animations." Find out more at <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0399877/> or <http://www.whatthebleep.com/>

I am asking all you AUFS members to email me suggestions for questions, so if there is anything you would like to know from Mark here's your chance! Send your questions to [editor@aufs.org](mailto:editor@aufs.org) by 12pm Monday. I will pick the top 5 to 8 questions to ask Mark and publish that interview in the next edition of ReelBuzz.

There is loads of stuff happening this term with the Jafa screening and the truckload of giveaways so make sure you get involved!

Enjoy your films,

**Cassie**



# Film Reviews

## 5 CHILDREN AND IT

Directed by John Stephenson

Starring Kenneth Branagh, Zoe Wanamaker, Freddie Highmore, Jonathon Bailey, Jessica Claridge, Poppy Rogers, Tara Fitzgerald, Alex Jennings and more.

A review for children.

At the beginning of the last century, there was a Great War. Fathers, and even mothers, had to leave their children, put on big heavy uniforms and go to fight for their country. And sometimes they didn't come home.

In such times children have to be very brave, in a grown up sort of way, and learn to look after themselves and their brothers and sisters, even if they are still very little.

The five children in this story are lucky enough to have an uncle in the country that they can stay with. He is very rich and lives in a big old castle by the sea.

They are sad as they kiss and hug their mother and father good-bye at the railway station. Especially the youngest boy, Robert (Jonathon Bailey, you might have seen him acting in *Finding Neverland*). He is a headstrong boy who always speaks his mind and he shares a special relationship with his father. His father gives him his compass because he knows that Robert will be able to keep his brothers and sisters 'on track'.

But it is the eldest brother Cyril who has to be the responsible one that all the children must listen to. Robert doesn't like that at all and challenges his brother's authority all of the time. Fortunately Cyril is a wise young man and allows Robert to have his way, often. As a result the children follow him and have some very exciting adventures. That is how they meet 'It'. 'It' is a pretty cool computer generated fairy, of a different kind. 'It' becomes a good friend and helper of the children.

There is magic in this film but the kind of magic that doesn't last for ever. The children have to learn that magic will always fail and that it is then that they have to know what to do for themselves.

*Lou Crow*

## THE SEA INSIDE

Directed by Alejandro Amenábar.

Starring Javier Bardem, Belén Rueda and Lola Dueñas.

Have you ever thought about what life would be like if you could move no other muscles than those in your face? Would you still think life was worth living?

Almost thirty years ago Ramón Sampredo, the main character in *The Sea Inside* was paralysed in a diving accident. Ever since then he has been trying to convince those around him that the answer is no. He no longer wants to live when he can't enjoy living the way he used to. He thinks of life as a gift, not an obligation.

Surrounded by his loving family and a couple of women who are drawn to him for reasons of their own, he spends his days writing with his mouth, listening to music and bickering with his nephew. Julia (Rueda) is a lawyer who supports his cause and wants him to write about it. Rosa (Dueñas) is a local woman with two young children who tries to convince him that life is worth living. He befriends them both and he enriches their lives as much as they enrich his.

Occasionally he flies out of his window over the rolling hills to the sea that once ruined his life. These scenes when Ramón, in his dreams, leaves his bed and the camera follows him out the window are very strong, both visually and emotionally. There is some kind of escape for him, after all.

But ultimately dreaming isn't enough for Ramón. His battle to die with dignity takes him all the way to the courtroom and over the course of months we begin to understand that, for Ramón, it is about love. The ones who really love him will help him die.

All the performances are excellent in this thought provoking and beautiful film. Bardem has been made to look at least thirty years older but his charms still shine through and we understand why the women around him are drawn to him. Ramón is a fascinating man and *The Sea Inside* is ultimately a sad but tender portrayal of man whose convictions lead him to places most people never even contemplate going.

*Anna Solding*

### Term 2 Programme

The film choosing night was a great night, lots of fun was had by all. If you missed this one you really should try and come along to the next one! There is a shortlist of films and members can vote for their favourites at: <http://aufs.org.master.com/teaxis/master/search+/form/Election.html>.

Votes will be taken until 9pm on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Once the votes have been tallied a special edition of ReelBuzz will be on line and available at screenings detailing the term 2 programme.



# Film Reviews

## BAD EDUCATION

Directed by Pedro Almodovar

Starring Gael Garcia Bernal, Fele Martinez, Daniel Gimenez Cacho.

Tracing a course up along the sequin embodied bodice, past breasts, defined, the camera comes to rest on the face of an angel, in drag. Slowly she turns her gaze into ours. This is the stunning opening sequence of Bernal in a dress. It is an impersonation that suits him well, possibly even enhancing his male persona. This is the best I have seen of Gael Garcia Bernal.

Cool European intelligentsia. Manic dragsters, aging manic dragsters watched through strips of comic book poster pop. Brilliantly contrived sexual theatrics are delivered. The cinematography is hugely entertaining. Bravo Almodovar.

But what of the story? Does all this sound and fury signify anything?

"The Visit" queries Enrique, as Ignacio, now Angel, an out of work actor, insists that he read his movie script, a story of their shared youth in a Catholic boarding school.

Is this, I wonder, the return of the wrongly-done, to visit, in fine detail, revenge upon the wrong-doers?

Enrique is a successful Spanish movie director. We learn from the script that as a boy he had precociously declared, in response to his young lover's fear of the wrath of God, that he did not believe in God. He was a hedonist. He was also removed from that school leaving his beloved at the mercy of Father Manolo. This sinner of the worst kind was unashamedly besotted by the sweet child, Ignacio. He was able, even supported it seems, to do absolutely anything that his lust dictated.

It all gets a little difficult to follow at times as narratives interweave and characters appear and reappear in different guise. But it somehow doesn't really matter all that much.

Meanwhile the mother smiles painfully from her heart wrenched body, sends food to her sons in the city and pleads that they are good boys and not to be judged.

*Lou Crow*



## THREE DOLLARS

Directed by Robert Connolly director of 'The Bank'  
Based on a novel by Elliot Perlman

Dubbed "the epic story of an ordinary man" this movie certainly lives up to it. We start the movie with David Wenham's character, Eddie, saying "every nine and a half years I see Amanda. This is not a rule. It does not have to happen but it does. Most recently was today. I had three dollars." We find out that Amanda, (played by Sarah Wynter) is Eddie's first love from when we was a child; they used to play together all the time, until her father moved her away. I mention Amanda because she is important to the story as she occasionally enters it, but more so for Eddie's thoughts of her. Eddie is married to Tanya, (played by Frances O'Connor) and they have a happy life, that is, until Tanya loses her income from research grants and Eddie decides to make a moral stand on his assessment of some land, which as a chemical and soil engineer, bring about shattering conclusions.

In this movie you, as well as Eddie, find out how much life can give and take and how far a little change will get you. From his perfect life to the depths of despair, this movie is a great watch. We see the little things that Eddie does near the beginning of the film, which greatly affect the latter part of the movie. This movie is a great mix of serious drama and true to life situations, with a good smattering of comedic value. I recommend this movie if you enjoy good true to life Australian drama, or you would like a change from the same old American feel good movies. Definitely worth all 'Three Dollars.'

*Alexander Godfrey Massy Gartly*



# Back Page

## Writing Reviews

This year AUFS has extended the opportunity to review films to all members. AUFS sponsors such as Palace Nova offer free movie tickets to our review group in return for reviews. It is only fair that with this responsibility we offer some tips and guidelines to writing good reviews.

- 1. No plagiarism.** This is something that we check for before publishing reviews. If you do want to use something from another review use quotes and give credit to the source.
- 2. Do not give away the ending.** Or any other major plot twist for that matter. The idea is to constructively encourage the reader to see the film and make up their own mind whether they like it or not.
- 3. Constructively encourage the reader to see the film.** Or at least decide whether it is something that they might be interested in. Try not to just describe the story and rate the film. Discuss the construction, direction, actors/ actresses, genre etc.
- 4. Be Objective.** A cartoon or gory horror movie may not be your cup of tea, but give it a fair go. When you enter the theatre blank your mind of all other opinions you have heard and pretend you have never seen the actors in anything else. Then give your opinion.
- 5. Research reviewing technique.** There are some great sites that provide help on how to review sites. If you are new to reviewing, please read some. Your reviews will be better for it.

Go to <http://www.aufs.org/links.php#reviews> for some great links to film review sites.

## Getting to know you...

**Michael Hill, AUFS President**

**Age:** 22

**5 Random titles from your DVD collection:**

Ghost in the Shell,  
Snatch,  
Zoolander,  
Kill Bill vol 1,  
Donnie Darko



**If you were stuck on a desert island and you had a TV and DVD player (and a power source), what 3 movies would you choose to have with you to pass the time?**

Donnie Darko,  
Fight Club,  
Pirates of the Caribbean (To help escape the island)

**What movie are you embarrassed to admit you own?**

Urotsukidoji: Legend of the Overfiend

**If you could make one film, what sort of film would it be?**

A suspense-horror film about a tough, jaded, femme-fatale hunter (like that girl in 'The Quick & the dead') who leads a squad of heavily armed, jungle savvy mercenaries and a film maker from National Geographic, into the uncharted Australian Wilderness to rescue the missing daughter of a rich millionaire. One by one the group gets killed off by an unknown species of blood thirsty creatures. They are cunning, lightning fast, unbelievably stealthy and can smell foreigners. Eventually the film maker realises that these creatures are "Drop bears", (the mythical cro-magnon equivalent of the koala) and the squad must follow legends such as smearing themselves in vegemite to cover their scent in order to survive. The movie never provides a clear picture of the threat in question, and aims to mix elements of Predator & Congo to terrify tourists!

### EDITOR

Cassie Childs

### CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Hill

Alexander Godfrey Massy Gartly

Lou Crow

Anna Solding

### FEEDBACK

We would love your feedback!

Let us know if you would like to see something improved in ReelBuzz or if you have a suggestion for article or just tell us how great ReelBuzz is!

Email: [editor@aufs.org](mailto:editor@aufs.org)

The AUFS committee can be contacted @ [committee@aufs.org](mailto:committee@aufs.org)