



ReelBuzz

Monthly Publication of the Adelaide University Film Society

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello, literate film goers!! Every word you read here enhances your mind and increases your IQ!! Isn't that empowering!? It's not true, but you at least look intellectual reading this. You may not realise it, but if you look VERY, VERY slowly out the corner of your eye you will see other people looking at you out the corner of theirs! Right now they are thinking... "Wow, that literate person looks so intellectual; enhancing both their mind and IQ with that relevant President's report! Oh no, that literate person can see me out the corner of their eye. I'd better pretend I'm not looking at them. I hope they can't read my mind...I'd better wrap a towel around my face!" It's true! Read their mind!! Try it. =)

Moving on... I'd like to thank everyone who was able to turn up during Multicultural Week and support our joint screenings of Japanese films with the OSA and Jafa! Cheers! Have a pat on the back and some Tab. Thanks also to our sponsors, in particular Inside Film, Film Ink, Buena Vista International, Mercury Cinemas, Palace Nova East End Cinemas, & Foster PR Workshop for your support, passes, and promotional giveaways etc.

On an email related note, if you feel your inboxes have been flooded recently by discussion emails, sorry about that but there's simply been a lot of discussion regarding the upcoming weekend away. It happens. Normality will return.

Speaking of the Week End Away, this is ridiculously cheap, ridiculously fun, and a great opportunity to unwind after exams! It's at a Beach House in Goolwa! Come along for a fun filled, action packed, yet effortless and I

completely relaxing weekend!! If you have any questions feel free to ask.

Also there is the next film choosing night too!! This is where you get to determine the short list of films that the rest of the society votes upon over the internet!! Stand up and have a say! Food & drinks will be provided. The details should be somewhere in this newsletter, or you will receive them by email. It's not until July the 16th, so it's a while away, but put it in your diary now and start thinking up films you'd like us to show. What have you wanted to see and can't get at your local video store? Or what would you simply like to see!?

Hope to see there and good luck with exams and general tribulations in life!! =)

Michael Hill (AUFS President)

EDITOR'S WORDS

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

Unfortunately my interview with Mark Vicente, the maker of the film 'What the bleep do we know' did not go ahead. Our schedules clashed and the interview had to be cancelled.

There has been so many great reviews coming my way it is a shame I can't publish them all! I really do hope to have time next semester for a couple more ReelBuzz issues than we have seen this semester!

That's all from me as Michael took all the space ;)

Cassie



Film Reviews

Peaches

Those of you who have been waiting the long seven years for Craig Monahan's (The Interview) second film can now rest assured that he hasn't disappeared from the face of Australian cinema — he was simply waiting for the right script. Peaches is the story of Steph, a young woman who, on the night of her coming-of-age birthday, receives her dead mother's journal. The next day she begins working at the factory where both her mother and father (also dead) worked. The two narratives interplay to tell a story of the past and the present, both of which are the deciding factors for Steph's future. It is a story of love: between men and women, friends and mother and daughter (adoptive but nonetheless).

Newcomer Emma Lung is impressive as she portrays a naïve yet mature-beyond-her-years girl on the verge of womanhood. Her lover Alan (played effortlessly by Hugo Weaving) is complex: you want to hate him but you somehow understand him. Jacqueline McKenzie is Jude, Alan's ex lover and Steph's adoptive mother. Though she's meant to be stifling and void of any joy, McKenzie is subtle and entirely believable. The storyline is emotional and the mood is somewhat melancholy, save for fleetingly charming flashbacks to the past and scenes between Steph and Brian (Matt Le Nevez), Alan's half brother. Though the movie is quite heavy, emotionally, it is never overdone or slow. The score (by David Hirschfelder, Shine) is striking — a haunting play on the themes of a lost past, a trapped present and an uncertain future.

The seven year wait was perhaps too long and I could even say the outcome was slightly anticlimactic but Peaches is a story that draws you in and deserves critical praise for the smoothness of its telling.

Heather Taylor Johnson

The Machinist

Trevor Reznik is a lonely, insomniac machinist that is slowly dying since he hasn't slept in a year. His life feels like a timeless, half-awake, half-asleep nightmare. (The way reviewers feel early in the morning without food, sleep or coffee.) He starts falling apart when he is responsible for a co-worker being maimed in a workshop accident. Trevor becomes consumed with confusion, guilt, and increasingly paranoia: He keeps finding enigmatic post-it notes, his co-workers appear to be conspiring against him, and who is the new temp guy on the other side of the factory floor? To make things worse his power gets cut so he has to live in the dark, his fatigue causes him to space out at times; all the while he is trying to get to the source of his problems...

This film is a psychological drama that has a similar 'feel' to the Memento, The Game and the start of Dark City. It is directed by Brad Anderson (Next Stop Wonderland) and stars Christian Bale (from American Psycho, Equilibrium, & Batman Begins) and Jennifer Jason Leigh. I've not been as impressed by an actor as much as I was by Christian Bale's performance as Trevor Reznik in this film. Not only is his acting outstanding, but his commitment too; he clearly lost a dangerous amount of weight to play his role in this film, and showed a capacity to hold a film on his own!

The Machinist is well filmed with elements of grey, black and other cold, bleak colours dominating every scene to enhance the moody trance-like reality in which Trevor lives. The Hitchcock-like audio effects also contribute well to the atmosphere of the film!

The Machinist is a gripping, film with a superb plot, and comes together perfectly! If you like psychological dramas see this one!

8/10

Michael Hill

Weekend Away @ a beautiful beautiful beach house in Goolwa

8th - 10th of July!! Only \$10 to stay each night (Includes dinner)!!

This year the Film Society is having its weekend away at a beautiful beach house in Goolwa! If you want to meet other film society members but you didn't want to talk during screenings, and have missed film choosing nights, and find the internet too creepy, well don't put it off any longer COME ALONG to the beach house!!

Bring a beach ball, DVD's, snacks, alcohol, plans, whatever, so long as it won't soil the carpet, you can bring it!! This is pretty much THE SOCIAL EVENT of the year for the Film Society! If you want to bring friends do so, they can join at the beach house!

Arrangements

We plan upon heading up there on the afternoon of FRIDAY 8th of July, and leave midday-ish on SUNDAY the 10th of July. We will help you car-pool for transport up and back! If you want to head up or leave at irregular times, let us know! You may not be the only one, and we may still be able to arrange car pool transport for you if you have to leave early or arrive late!

I wanna come along!!

Groovy! What now then? Well email president@aufs.org to confirm your coming along if you haven't communicated it already, and email discussion@aufs.org for any Q&A, or to suggest ideas, or simply to clarify things if you like!?

See you there! =)



Film Reviews

Tibet: Cry of the Snow Lion

This Documentary is heart breaking in how it brings light to the plight of the Tibetans. I thought I knew something about the problems of Tibet and why they were as they were, but really I was ignorant of the real effects. This documentary takes the audience from great suffering as we see the Tibetan peoples persecuted and beaten by the Chinese military, to great joy as we see the children that are sent to Darhamsala in India to be looked after and taught their Tibetan ways. As well as the suffering of the Tibetan people, their temples burnt and destroyed, their religion crushed, we also see great scenic views of Tibet and the Himalayas; from the snow-bound peaks to the gently rustling fields of wheat. In this documentary we see what a negative impact China has had on the people of Tibet. The Chinese treat the Tibetans as second-class citizens, the Tibetans are not allowed to practice their religion, nor their culture and must abjure the Chinese immigration. The holy city of Lhasa is filled with Chinese immigrants seeking work from a government that gives tax breaks to those that will move from Mainland China.

The Joyous part of this documentary is to be seen with the indomitable will of his Holiness the Dalai Lama and his people. Exiled to Darhamsala the Dalai Lama strives to bring his people the freedom they seek through non-violent means. We have all seen him at one time or another on the TV talking about the freedom of his people, but have we ever stopped to think about what he is saying? I know I haven't till I saw this documentary. I won't lie and say this documentary has no bias, but it does point out one side of the argument that is often not heard: the striving of the Tibetan people to be free. The Tibetans were a free people many years ago, then a buffer state between China and India, all the while they are the children of the mind.

I recommend going to see this movie, even if you don't care about their plight, at least open your eyes and then think about it. This documentary also shows how the Chinese government, as well as depriving the Tibetans of their freedom, they too deprive their own people.

Alex M-G

Upside of anger

Directed by Mike Binder.
Starring Joan Allen, Kevin Costner.

Terry Wolfmeyer wakes up one morning to find her husband gone. She phones the office and finds that, surprise surprise, her husband's attractive Swedish secretary has just resigned and gone back to Sweden. With his obvious infidelity and desertion weighing heavily on her mind, Terry dives headlong into a drunken, sullen, bitchy, nasty, fog that sets in for the entire three or so years of the film's span.

Luckily for Terry, on the first day of her drunken, sullen, bitchy, nasty, decline, Denny Davies (Kevin Costner), a retired pro baseball star, drops in to chat with her husband. He finds Terry getting drunk and feeling very sorry for herself. They form a friendship based on mutual drunkenness and Denny's genuine good humour.

Meanwhile, Terry's four daughters have to deal with their father's complete absence as they grow through the next couple of years without him. It is especially hard for them without his support in their battles to assert themselves over their domineering, and often drunk, mother.

The four actresses playing Terry's daughters are the best elements in this film. They deftly portray young women trying to get on with their lives in unfortunate circumstances. With the youngest still in high school, the eldest about to graduate from university, they are all struggling to come to terms with suddenly finding themselves in a "broken home." Unfortunately, their vast acting skills and their warm portrayal of their characters can't save this film from being completely dominated by Joan Allen's unsympathetic portrayal of the nasty Terry. It is evident from the beginning of the film that we are meant to feel some kind of sympathy for her, but she is so nasty and domineering with her daughters, and so completely oblivious to their pain at their father's leaving, that it's impossible to feel any sympathy for her at all.

The Upside of Anger gives the impression that it's meant to be a movie that leaves you all warm and fuzzy, that it's meant to be a film about growing through adversity, but it never hits the mark.
I give it a 1 out of 5.

Esther Speight

Sin City Competition

Just correctly answer these questions ->
Send your answers to editor@aufs.org by the 25th of June
The first correct entry drawn will win a double pass to the preview of the new movie Sin City
Wed 29th June, 7pm, Greater Union Adelaide City.

Who/what was:

- The youngest best actor Oscar winner
- The oldest best actor Oscar winner
- The youngest best actress Oscar winner
- The oldest best actress Oscar winner
- The shortest performance by a best actor
- The shortest performance by a best actress
- The only Best Picture-winning sequel



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Film Choosing night

AUFS Film Choosing Night!!

Again?!

Yes that's right! YOU have to help choose the shortlist of films for the next term!! It's your democratic responsibility. If you don't rock up it's like not voting or being a communist. You're not a communist* are you??

What happens?

Members like YOU will arrive, meet each other discuss films etc, and then go through catalogues & search engines for films & pre-film shorts before voting on the shortlist.
FREE food & drinks will be provided.

(Food includes snacks, fast food and in all probability pizza, if you have specific preferences, eg Vegan etc we will do our best to cater for you too! Drinks include soft drinks and what is hopefully and adequate amount of alcohol, B.Y.O. in case it is inadequate.)

When & Where?

The film choosing night is on Saturday July 16th at 7pm. It will be at a mystery location that only Film Society members can know about! It is aptly named: "Peter's House". Where is that? An email will be sent out detailing this! If you can't wait or have missed the email then email filmchoosinghost@aufs.org to get the address.

What if I can't rock up?!

Films you nominate are a LOT more likely to get picked if you rock up and encourage others to vote for them, but if you can't rock up, you are more than welcome to email them to (filmchoosinghost@aufs.org). Not everyone may have heard of your film, so don't forget to include a bit on what the film is about and why it's so great!!

**The AUFS does not have problems with communists. Communists are more than welcome at the film choosing night & so are their communist film choices. The president apologizes for any offence taken. =)*



Getting to know you...

Alex Ozdowski, AUFS Media Liaison



Age:22

5 Random titles from your DVD collection..

Garden State,
Fear and Loathing in Las Vega's,
SpiderMan,
Reservior Dogs and
Animatrix

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?

Well at the moment I would have to choose Fear and Loathing, Garden State and Pulp Fiction

What movie are you embarrassed to admit you own?

Legally Blonde 2..... I didn't buy it it was a gag gift!!!

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

It would be an action, comedy with a twist of horror and monkeys on roller skates!! And this is why people have never let me make a film.

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