

Maleny Film Society

Members Only Screenings, October - December 2023

Our free Members Only Screenings are held in the cosy atmosphere of the Verandah Room at the back of the Community Centre. The films are diverse in subject, country of origin, genre and vintage. You will enjoy some recent releases and the possibility of catching up with films you missed before, or wish to see again. Like good books, good films can be worth revisiting. Screenings take place on the first Wednesday evening of the month (and occasional Sunday afternoons).

You are invited to arrive **at 6 pm** (1pm on Sundays), seat yourself cabaret-style, and have a friendly chat over a meal. A selection of pizzas will be available at a cost of \$4 per slice. If you don't wish to share in the pizzas, please bring your own choice of food. Free tea and coffee, and a cash bar, are available. A brief introduction to the film is presented before the **7 pm screening** (2pm on Sundays). Please feel free to stay on afterwards for another cuppa and a chat about the film.

Our upcoming films for October, November and December are as follows.

Sunday matinee, 15th October (1pm for pizza, film starts at 2pm):
The Bridges of Madison County USA (1995) 134 min Drama M

Adapted from the best-selling novel, and set in the rural American Mid West of the 1960s, this highly acclaimed film was produced and directed by Clint Eastwood, who starred in it alongside Meryl Streep. Italian war bride Francesca (Streep) meets National Geographic photographer Robert (Eastwood) who has come to Madison Country to photograph its historic covered bridges. With her family away on a few days trip, Francesca unexpectedly finds herself engaged in an intensely passionate affair with Robert, but chooses to remain with her husband and teenaged children once Robert completes his assignment. Told from Francesca's perspective, this tenderly romantic drama reveals the spontaneity of her love for Robert and how her memories of their affair helped sustain her for the rest of her life. Streep's moving performance earned her an Academy Award nomination as best actress.

Wednesday 1st November (6pm for pizza, film starts at 7pm):
Rear Window USA (1954) 112 minutes Crime drama M

The International Movie Database (IMDb) ranks this classic crime drama as master filmmaker Alfred Hitchcock's best-ever film. Starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly, and featuring several highly-regarded Hollywood actors (Raymond Burr, Wendell Corey, Thelma Ritter), this masterpiece of suspense won numerous awards. Confined to a wheelchair because of a broken leg, a photographer (James Stewart) starts spying on his neighbours from the window of his New York apartment, and becomes convinced that one of them (Raymond Burr) has murdered his wife. After initial skepticism, his girlfriend (Grace Kelly) realises this too, but attracts the murderer's attention. In saving her life, the photographer reveals his own identity. Hitchcock, the master of suspense, delivers a thrilling climax when the murderer breaks into the photographer's apartment, intent on killing him too.

Wednesday 6th December (6pm for pizza, film starts at 7pm):

Like Father Like Son Japan (2013) 120 min Drama M

This thought-provoking, award-winning drama by acclaimed Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda is summarised by Rotten Tomatoes as “sensitively written, smartly directed, and powerfully performed.” Ryota, a successful workaholic businessman, is taken by surprise when he learns that his biological son was mistakenly switched with another baby soon after birth, and that the boy he and his wife are raising as their own, is not theirs. When they meet their son and the other set of parents, who come from a different social background and offer a different perspective on things, the situation becomes complicated. They now face the difficult decision of choosing between the two boys. Poignant and moving, this film explores the nature of parenthood and the thorny issues of raising children. It offers no easy answers, but delivers a tender and hopeful ending left open to interpretation.