

Members Only Screenings 2024

VERANDAH ROOM, MALENY COMMUNITY CENTRE

Wednesday 5 June

FEAR EATS THE SOUL – GERMANY, 1974 – SUBTITLES – 94 MIN – DRAMA – M

Regarded as one of the high-water marks in German New Wave cinema of the 1970s, *Ali-Fear Eats the Soul* is an intense portrayal of a relationship, directed by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Emmi, a sixty-year-old German woman, falls in love with Ali, a Moroccan immigrant, twenty-five years her junior. The couple faces rejection from friends on both sides and this puts a strain on their relationship. But the couple fighting a society's prejudice and resentment of their unconventional love must fight some of their own prejudices as well. The film was made in 1974. Has society changed in the last fifty years? How would the couple and those around them act now? What is Fassbinder trying to say in this film?

Wednesday 3 July

THE LAST DAUGHTER – 2022 - AUSTRALIA - 87MIN – DOCUMENTARY – PG

The Last Daughter is the true story of Brenda, a young Aboriginal girl whose first memories are of growing up in a loving white family, as part of the stolen generation. A few years later, she is suddenly taken away again and returned to her family of origin. Consequently, she never really feels she fits in anywhere. Decades later, she goes searching for her foster family, and unravels secrets from her early childhood. This is a story about the problems caused by culture clashes and government inaction and ineptitude. The film is Brenda's contribution to truth telling and reconciliation, something she is passionate about. And it is our contribution to NAIDOC week.

Wednesday 7 August

ALCARRAS – 2022 - SPAIN – 120MIN – DRAMA - M

Alcarras is a remote farming community in Catalonia, where the people speak a dialect of Catalan and grow stone fruit, although low prices have forced some farmers to dig up their trees and install banks of solar panels, producing electricity rather than food. On Quimet's farm, the extended family have gathered for what will be the last harvest, despite his stubborn refusal to change. This is a beautiful, sad, authentic depiction of the drama within one family facing a kind of oblivion, a wonderfully sentimental and deeply moving film that values the strength of family and holding on to old values in a changing world.

Wednesday 4 September

SAINT OMER – 2022 - FRANCE – 123MIN – DRAMA - M

This film is based on the true case of a Senegalese immigrant accused of murdering her 15-month-old daughter. Rama, a bestselling author and academic, lives in Paris and is heading to the town of Saint Omer, to write what her publishers hope will be a delicious report about the shocking case. Like Rama, the defendant Coly is of Senegalese background, well-educated and articulate. Coly's brazen defence, maintained with unflinching, enigmatic conviction is that she was subject to sorcery and spells from her aunts back in Senegal, and she believes this to be a legitimate defence which the court should make an effort to understand. The gripping legal proceedings touch on race, class, gender, culture and the tide of history and power, which resonate with anxieties and confusion that have an unsettling and electrifying effect which we don't entirely understand. Nevertheless, we leave with the sense of being exposed to something profound that remains with us afterwards.

Sunday 22 September

OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN – 2022 – FRANCE – 104MIN – DRAMA - M

This sweet, witty, sad drama addresses a common modern problem – partnering with someone who has children, when you are reaching your own reproductive use-by date. Rachel is a dedicated high school teacher keen to build a relationship with her new partner's five-year-old daughter, while having to share her with her mother, and being fully aware that her own biological clock is ticking. There are tears, but also plenty of comedy in this gentle, heartfelt relationship drama. Its emotions are never far from the surface, but they're unpredictable and that's part of the charm. While not a lot happens, it is more than enough.

Wednesday 2 October

THE GETTING OF WISDOM – 1977 – AUSTRALIA – 100MIN – DRAMA - PG

A seminal work of the Australian movie renaissance of the seventies, Bruce Beresford's film characterises the romantic sentimentality of its day. Highly regarded as one of Australia's finest films about adolescents, *The Getting of Wisdom*, follows the plight of unconventional, awkward, country girl Laura, from her first day at an exclusive 1890s girls boarding school in Melbourne to her graduation four years later. This film exists in a space unaffected by time, with its familiar themes of schoolyard politics and life turning points, including getting teased and fighting back, making friends and dealing with enemies, managing and rebelling against authority figures and going through early stages of sexual exploration. See how many well-known Australian actors you can spot as their younger selves.

Wednesday 6 November

AFTER THE WEDDING – 2005 – DENMARK – 120MIN – DRAMA – M

Well-known Danish director Susanne Bier (*Open Hearts*, *Brothers*) directed and co-wrote this film, which reflects her distinctive and engaging storytelling style. This 2005 Oscar-nominated film centres around Jacob Petersen (Mads Mikkelsen), an idealist ex-hippy from Denmark, who has been running an orphanage in India, now threatened with closure. He returns to Denmark, lured by the prospect of getting funding for the orphanage from businessman Jorgen (Rolf Lassgård), who seems keen to protract Jacob's visit, even inviting him to his daughter's imminent wedding. A weird duel develops between the two men - at its heart, an awful personal secret. Jacob finds himself embroiled in a contemporary dilemma which connects painfully and inescapably with buried aspects of his past. Deciding where his loyalties and his future lie represent the core of the film's drama.

Sunday 17 November

BERGMAN ISLAND – 2021 – IN ENGLISH – 113MIN – DRAMA – M

Searching for inspiration, two film-makers, Tony and Chris travel to Fårö Island, where Ingmär Bergman once lived, loved and made movies. Chris pitches a new story to Tony, asking for his help in finding an ending. Her film will be about a young American filmmaker Amy, who arrives on an island to attend the wedding of a friend and perhaps rekindle a fleeting romance with her first love Joseph. Set over the course of three celebratory days, Chris' incomplete tale unfolds around conflicts between Amy and Joseph, and the brief affair they embark upon. The lines between the film we are viewing and Chris's film begin to blur, eventually melting their respective realities, interchanging objects and even pieces of costumes between the two films. Bergman Island is an intriguing exploration of reality and art in the way they mirror, propel and feed on one another.

Wednesday 4 December

ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER – 1999 – SPAIN – 101MIN – DRAMA – M

Starring Penelope Cruz, this is considered Pedro Almodóvar's best film, which won him the prize for Best Director at Cannes. The basic plot is of a mother travelling to inform her ex about the sudden death of their teenage son. Like all Almodóvar's films, this one is peopled by a motley collection of unlikely characters who provide intrigue and humour, with many twists and coincidences. You don't know where to position yourself while you're watching a film like "All About My Mother," and that's part of the appeal. Despite all that, it is basically a film about love, parenthood, friendship and loyalty, about life, art and acting roles, about re-creating oneself according to one's dreams, and about what, if anything, is truly natural. All the performances are excellent, and the picture is immaculately designed.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SCREENINGS 7PM

Doors open at 6.00 with pizza available for purchase, cash bar, and complimentary tea and coffee.

SUNDAY SCREENINGS 3 PM

Doors open 2.30. Cash bar; complimentary tea and coffee.