

Maleny Film Society

Members Only Screenings, August –December 2022

We are pleased to present our upcoming program of Members Only films from August through to October. Our screenings are held in the cosy atmosphere of the Verandah Room at the back of the Maleny Community Centre, on the first Wednesday evening of the month.

We invite you to **arrive at 6pm**, seat yourself cabaret - style, and enjoy a friendly chat over a shared meal. A selection of pizzas will be available at a cost of \$6 per person. If for dietary reasons you are unable to share in the pizzas, please bring your choice of food and share in the enjoyment of cabaret-style dining and friendly conversation around your table. Free tea and coffee, and a cash bar, will be available. A brief introduction to the film will be presented before **the 7pm screening**. We cordially invite you to stay on afterwards for another cuppa, and an informal discussion of the film.

We encourage you, as film society members, to take advantage of these free screenings which are additional to our main Saturday program. Details of individual films are given below. As you can see, we are offering a special matinee screening on Sunday 16th October.

Wed 3rd August: The Picture show Man (AUS 1977) Comedy/drama G 98 min

Set in the late 1920s, this film follows the adventures of a 'picture show man' who tours around the country towns of western NSW showing silent films. He travels in company with his pianist, his rebellious son, and an American who is both erstwhile partner and rival. Starring veteran character actor John Meillon as the 'picture show man' and Rod Taylor as the American who aims to capture the market by introducing "talkies", this endearing and quirky Aussie comedy reveals an underlying drama which emerges as its story unfolds.

Wed 7th September: September MOS film was replaced with **Walkabout** (Australia 1971)

Wed 5th October: Love and Death (USA 1975) Comedy PG 85 min

This vintage Woody Allen film, set in Moscow at the time of the Napoleonic invasion, received accolades from both critics and fans when released and remains a classic example of his early work. Its humour, ranging from outrageously zany to almost subtle, owes debts to Chaplin, the Marx Brothers and Bob Hope in its use of slapstick, situational humour, facial expressions, and wordplay. Boris (Woody Allen) and Sonja (Diane Keaton) plot to assassinate Napoleon but predictably fail, with unfortunate consequences for Boris, an accidental war hero and coward at heart. Much of the dialogue was scripted as a comic parody of the works of classic Russian literature, using music by classic Russian composers for dramatic emphasis, and some scenes are a parody of classic films by Ingmar Bergman and others.

Sunday Matinee, 16th October:

Drive My Car (Japan 2021) Drama (subtitles) MA15+ 179 min

Please arrive at 1pm to share pizza and a chat prior to the 2pm start of the film

A renowned stage actor/director learns how to cope with his wife's unexpected death when he receives an offer to direct a new production and is assigned a female chauffeur who is also dealing with grief from her own past. Wary of one another at first, they start to share their stories and form a bond. Unexpected revelations add depth to how they relate to each other. This powerful drama by Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi won the award for Best Screenplay and two other awards at Cannes in 2021, followed in 2022 by winning the Oscar for Best International Feature Film at the Academy Awards as well as the Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language film.

Wed 2nd November: The Swallows of Kabul (original title "Les Hirondelles de Kabool") (France 2017) Drama M (Animation with subtitles) 81 min

This naturalistic 'watercolour style' animation is an adaptation of Algerian writer Yasmina Khadra's novel set in Kabul. During the early days of Taliban rule, the lives of two very unlike families become entwined through a chance encounter. Moshen, a shopkeeper whose business has been destroyed, and his beautiful wife Zunaira, a former teacher now confined to home, despair at life under the Taliban. Atiq, a prison guard whose wife Mussarat is dying, begins to question his Islamic fundamentalism and Taliban ideology. The unexpectedly evolving relationships between these couples highlight the constraints of daily life under the Taliban and the despair of those oppressed by its harsh regime. At times confronting, at times compassionate, and at all times intensely gripping, this animation delivers its powerful narrative in a way it would be impossible to deliver with live actors.

Wed 7th December: Golden Voices (Israel 2019) Drama M (subtitles) 88 min

We are pleased to announce that Our Members Only film for 7th December is the 2019 Israeli comedy, *Golden Voices*, described as "the whimsical comic hit of the Jewish International Film Festival". Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1990, Victor and Raya Frenkel are among the many Russian Jews who seize the opportunity to immigrate to Israel and start a new life. They leave behind their decades-long careers as the 'golden voices' of Soviet film dubbing. Although now in their sixties, they hope to use their vocal training skills and experience to establish new careers. But adjusting to life in Israeli society proves quite a cultural shock, and their initial attempts to find work lead to some bizarre and unexpected outcomes - at times amusing, at times painful, and at times absurd. To tell you more would prove a spoiler. Suffice it to say that Australian movie magazine FilmInk described the film as "utterly charming and profoundly moving", and David Stretton thought it not only "charming" but "original, unusual and quite disarming". *This film is screened with subtitles*