

## 2007 : Season One

Patron: Bruce Hodsdon

Screenings fortnightly on  
Wednesdays at 7:30 pm  
unless otherwise stated.  
National Film & Sound Archive  
McCoy Cct, Acton, ACT

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$45  
or 6 months \$30 or 3 months \$15  
Membership covers entry to all screenings.

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Programme produced by John Carroll

### February 7 (7:30pm)

#### ANNIE HALL

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1977) 93 min.

**Dir:** Woody Allen **Cast:** Woody Allen, Diane Keaton,  
Tony Roberts, Carol Kane, Paul Simon, Shelley  
Duvall, Janet Margolin, Christopher Walken



The Woody Allen film that critics and fans count as his most influential, if not his best, *Annie Hall* guides us through the ups and downs of the relationship between Alvy Singer (Allen) and the titular character (Keaton). Allen uses animation, slapstick, cameos, voiceovers, stand-up, straight-to-camera monologues, split screen and subtitles, amongst other techniques, to strengthen the main romantic plot. *Annie Hall* won four Oscars (Best Film, Actress, Director and Screenplay), and significantly changed the type of film Allen made (he moved well away from his earlier silly comedies to the type of film we know him for today).

### February 21 (7:30pm)

#### MOUTH TO MOUTH

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(Australia 1978) 96 min.

**Dir/Prod/Wri:** John Duigan **Cast:** Sonia Peat,  
Kim Krejcs, Ian Gilmour, Sergis Frazzetto

This gritty low budget Australian independent film is a well directed exploration of life on the edge in a squat in Melbourne. Peat and Krejcs give fine performances as the two young female leads, trying to survive after running away from foster homes. The film gives insight into the moral pressures on those living on the margin of Australian cities.

#### plus A SAUCER OF WATER FOR THE BIRDS

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(Australia 1993) 9 min.

**Dir:** Ann Shenfield

This animation is a meditation on the relationship between public history and personal memory, as it is played out in the dynamics of the family.

### March 7 (7:30pm)

#### APUR SANSAR (*The World of Apu*)

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(India 1959) 117 min.

**Dir:** Satyajit Ray **Cast:** Soumitra Chatterjee,  
Sharmila Tagore, Alok Chakravarty

Apu (Chatterjee), a jobless ex-student in Calcutta, is invited by an old college friend to a village wedding. The groom turns out to be mad, but tradition dictates that the young bride must be married to *someone* — so the bride's family,



in desperation, turn to Apu himself, who returns to his humble quarters in Calcutta a married man. Ray made the first two films in his Apu trilogy with next to no resources, and no experience, and they'd made his international reputation; by the time he made the third, he'd made two more films, and had found the confidence to move away from his literary sources and make the conclusion to the trilogy almost entirely his own work. Some find the third film less special, closer to melodrama than the previous two. Whether it is or not, it may still be the most moving, and you don't need to have seen the earlier films to follow it.

### March 21 (7:30pm)

#### PANIC IN THE STREETS

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1950) 96 min.

**Dir:** Elia Kazan **Cast:** Richard Widmark, Jack  
Palance, Zero Mostel

Before he made *On The Waterfront* director Elia Kazan was location-shooting on the New Orleans waterfront in this thriller with a medical twist. *Panic in the Streets* is an edgy and at times frenzied chase-noir that takes us on a tour through an unusually exotic — and irreparably lost — tenderloin. Widmark, Palance in his debut and especially Mostel contribute memorable performances for this great actors' director.

PLUS >>>>

#### plus WRONG WAY BUTCH

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1950) 10 min.

**Dir&Cast:** Dave O'Brien **Narr:** Pete Smith

This amusing short produced in association with the US Dept of Labor was an Oscar nominee in 1950. It follows the activities of a very accident prone poster boy.

### April 4 (7:30pm)

#### BOUDU SAUVÉ DES EAUX (*Boudu Saved from Drowning*)

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(France 1932) 81 min.

**Dir:** Jean Renoir **Cast:** Michel Simon, Charles  
Granval, Marcelle Hainia, Severine Lerczinsk

A tramp, Boudu (Simon) loses his dog and tries to drown himself in the river. He is rescued by



wealthy bookseller Edouard Lestingois (Granval) who takes him home. Despite the protests of his wife (Hainia) and his maid/mistress (Lerczinsk) Edouard tries to improve the life of the man he has saved. But the tramp is not grateful. Renoir (who would address the same themes later in *The Rules of the Game*) teamed up with Simon (as star and producer) to create this subversive comedy. This film's deep focus photography, long takes and real locations gives it a dramatic realism and also captures 1930s Paris in exquisite detail.

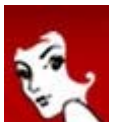
#### plus LA PETITE MARCHANDE

#### D'ALLUMETTES (*The Little Match Girl*)

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(France 1928) 29 min.

**Dir:** Jean Renoir **Cast:** Catherine Hessling,  
Jean Storm, Manuel Raady

Renoir creates a bleak and symbolic fantasy based on the Hans Christian Andersen story.



**April 18 (7:30pm)**

**THE RATS OF TOBRUK**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(Australia 1944) 68 min.

**Dir:** Charles Chauvel **Cast:** Peter Finch, Chips Rafferty, Grant Taylor, Pauline Garrick

This iconic Australian film dramatises the legendary defence of Tobruk by Australian infantry forces, through the lives of three



ordinary soldiers played by Rafferty, Taylor and Finch. The film was recreating relatively recent events, so Chauvel went to great lengths to create realism and authenticity. A massed tank attack was filmed at dawn near Singleton and war-torn Tobruk was reconstructed in a set at Camden in NSW. Other scenes were filmed on the sand dunes of Cronulla, in Queensland and Papua, using documentary footage from front line cameramen. The film was very popular and was praised by returned servicemen for its treatment of the tragedy of war.

**plus CINESOUND REVIEW:  
No.568 - Kokoda Front Line**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(Australia 1942) 10 min.

**Dir&Cinematographer:** Damien Parer

This newsreel, about Australian troops on the front line of the war in New Guinea, won an Academy Award in 1942.

**May 2 (7:30pm)**

**HARLAN COUNTY USA**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1976) 103 min.

**Dir:** Barbara Kopple

Contemporary and archival footage tells a gripping tale of a bitter yearlong strike between the Harlan County coal miners and the Eastover Mining Company. Striking for better working



conditions the miners are met with violence from the company-hired gun thugs and their union-hating leader Basil Collins. The miners' wives led by Lois Scott refuse to be intimidated and rally against the gun thugs. Ending in tragedy, the film is notable for its powerful use of folk music and for the film maker Barbara Kopple breaking the rules of documentary film-

making with her direct involvement in the conflict in an attempt to stop the violence. *Harlan County USA* won the 1977 Academy Award for Best Feature Length Documentary.

**May 16 (7:30pm)**

**HUOZHE (To Live)**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(China 1994) 125 min.

**Dir:** Yimou Zhang **Cast:** Gong Li, Ge You

Officially banned in China despite, or because of, its international success at the 1994 Cannes Film Festival where it was entered in competition without Chinese governmental permission, winning the Jury Prize while Ge You won Best Actor. Adapted from Yu Hua's novel *To Live*, the film spans the life of a family throughout four decades of socially and politically turbulent Chinese history beginning in 1946.



**May 30 (7:30pm)**

**RIDE THE HIGH COUNTRY (aka Guns in the Afternoon)**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1962) 94 min.

**Dir:** Sam Peckinpah **Cast:** Joel McRea, Randolph Scott, Edgar Buchanan

An ageing ex-lawman (McRea) takes on one last job, transporting a shipment of gold from a rough mining camp. He calls in an old friend (Scott), and they reflect on the paths their lives have taken. Loyalties are severely tested when Scott hatches a plan to steal the gold. An elegiac western played out in a tough environment, with an archetypal climax in a haunting autumnal landscape. Considered by some to be Peckinpah's finest (and least violent) film.

**June 13 (7:30pm)**

**EASY LIVING**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1937) 88 min.

**Dir:** Mitchell Leisen **Cast:** Jean Arthur, Ray Milland, Edward Arnold, Franklin Pangborn, William Demarest, Robert Greig

A sassy comedy about getting on in 1930s America. Written by Preston Sturges before he began directing, it is filled with rich,

sophisticated eccentrics battling with life and society, and sexy, wisecracking young things on the make. Arnold plays ageing millionaire, JB Ball ("The Bull of Broad Street"), who, in a fit of temper, throws his wife's mink coat out the penthouse window.



It falls on a struggling young woman, Mary Smith (Arthur) who uses its power to open doors to New York society. Behind one of these doors she finds Ray Milland ...

**plus THE OLD MILL**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1937) 9 min.

**Dir:** Wilfred Jackson

This Disney colour animation showing animals living in an old mill when a storm blows up won an Oscar for *Best Short Subject - Cartoon*.

**June 27 (7:30pm)**

**THE GENERAL**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1927) 75 min.

**Dir:** Clyde Bruckman & Buster Keaton **Cast:** Buster Keaton, Marion Mack

Keaton's masterpiece tells the story of Johnnie Gray (Keaton), a southern train engineer who loves his train *The General* and his girl Annabelle Lee (Mack). When the civil war



starts and the army won't accept him, Annabelle writes him off as a coward, but when Union soldiers steal *The General* (and Annabelle too) Johnnie follows them behind enemy lines. He rescues the train and the girl and then flees back south with the Yankees in hot pursuit. A flop when released, this film was recently voted one of the 10 best films of all time. In its most famous stunt a real train is sent onto a burning bridge and into the chasm below.

**plus EASY STREET**

(Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.)  
(USA 1917) 20 min.

**Dir&Wri:** Charles Chaplin **Cast:** Charles Chaplin, Edna Purviance, Eric Campbell

A reformed drunk, Charlie gets a job as policeman on the beat in the toughest section of town. Perhaps the most highly regarded of the Mutual comedies, a cleverly worked out story which lends itself to allegorical interpretation.

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AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION