



2007 : Season Two

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

July 11 (7:30pm)

DEAD OF NIGHT

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(UK 1945) 103 min.

Dirs: Alberto Cavalcanti, Charles Crichton, Basil Dearden, Robert Hamer **Cast:** Mervyn Johns, Googie Withers, Basil Radford, Michael Redgrave

Yes, it's an Ealing horror film – although this would not have seemed incongruous in 1945. A



middle-aged architect is summoned to a house in the country, and when he's introduced to the five guests at dinner he recognises them from a recurring nightmare – although all he can remember about the nightmare, apart from the fact that it ends horribly, is that the terror begins the moment one guest at the table breaks their glasses. This is the cue for the other guests to tell similarly unsettling stories that have happened to them, and these stories form the basis of an anthology of classic horror in the old British style (the five segments, by different directors, have titles like *The Haunted Mirror*; one of them is based on a short story by H.G. Wells). The frame story is not forgotten, and there's a twist (luckily not well known) at the end.

July 25 (7:30pm)

THE FAR COUNTRY

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(USA 1955) 97 min.

Dir/Prod/Wri: Anthony Mann **Cast:** James Stewart, Ruth Roman, Corinne Calvet, Walter Brennan



In 1896, Jeff Webster (Stewart) a confirmed loner sees the start of the Klondike gold rush as

a golden opportunity to make a fortune in beef. He brings his herd to Alaska and finds nothing but trouble. Solid western set against colourful backdrop of mining camp towns.

August 8 (7:30pm)

CELIA

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(Australia 1987) 103 min.

Dir: Ann Turner **Cast:** Rebecca Smart, Nicholas Eadie, Victoria Longley, Mary-Anne Fahey

This debut feature from director Ann Turner provides a childish perspective on growing up in Melbourne suburbia in the late 1950s through the eyes of eight year old Celia. Celia's family are relaxed and comfortable in their suburban conservatism until the arrival of their new Communist neighbours creates social tension. The parallel narrative in which Celia yearns for a pet rabbit in the midst of a government drive to eradicate a rabbit plague provides an intimate view into the broader story of political persecution in the Menzies era.



August 22 (7:30pm)

A LETTER TO THREE WIVES

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(USA 1949) 103 min.

Dir: Joseph Manciewicz **Cast:** Jeanne Crain, Linda Darnell, Ann Sothern, Thelma Ritter, Celeste Holm

Wonderful ensemble acting by three women (Crain, Darnell and Sothern) who each receive a letter from a female friend saying she has run off with one of their husbands, but she doesn't say which one. The film then examines the three marriages in flashback. A witty, acerbic study of the institution of marriage in 1940s middle America. The ending, as we discover which husband it is, is quite moving.



September 5 (7:30pm)

DET SJUNDE INSEGLET (*The Seventh Seal*)

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(Sweden 1957) 96 min.

Dir: Ingmar Bergman **Cast:** Gunnar Björnstrand, Bengt Ekerot, Nils Poppe, Max von Sydow, Bibi Andersson

Bergman's *The Seventh Seal* is widely acknowledged as one of the most important films of all time. Von Sydow, in the role that really cemented his career, is disillusioned knight Antonius Block, returning from the crusades in the 14th century. Despite having



fought for Christianity, he finds his faith has dissipated, and searches for proof of God's existence. Enter Death. With a black cowl and white face, Death has come to fetch him. Antonius manages to win a respite: he challenges Death to a game of chess.

September 19 (7:30pm)

MIDNIGHT

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(USA 1934) 80 min.

Dir: Mitchell Leisen **Cast:** Claudette Colbert, Don Ameche, John Barrymore, Francis Lederer, Mary Astor

Eve Peabody (Colbert) is stranded in Paris with nothing but the evening gown on her back. After a flirtation with taxi driver Czerny (Ameche), she crashes a society party and is recruited by a millionaire to lure away his wife's lover but what's going to happen when the taxi driver starts looking for her? Billy Wilder and long time writing partner Charles Brackett produced this witty and Lubitsch-inspired script. Colbert was the queen of sophisticated comedy and Leisen polishes it all with his style of visual luster. One of the great screwball comedies of the 30s.



October 3 (7:30pm)

L'HISTOIRE D'ADÈLE H (*The Story of Adèle H*)

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(USA 1975) 96 min.

Dir: François Truffaut **Cast:** Isabelle Adjani

Like its contemporary, Karel Reisz's *The Gambler* (1974), Truffaut's character study is a



poetically-minded exploration of the quest we want to fail, in order to gain from the experience. Seeing the luminous Isabelle Adjani in her breakthrough role carries the same discomfiting erotic charge of Jennifer Connelly in *Requiem For A Dream*, as a fragile beauty seeks to reach a pure state through the willful subjugation and, eventually, elimination of self. Truffaut's unsentimental gaze creates a haunting, unforgettable portrait of obsession.

October 17 (7:30pm)

THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(USA 1952) 91 min.

Dir: Fred Zinnemann **Cast:** Julie Harris, Ethel Waters, Brandon de Wilde, Arthur Franz

Based on a celebrated novel by Carson McCullers. A lonely motherless teenage girl becomes obsessed with her brother's forthcoming wedding, and tries to get closely involved. A wonderful performance from Harris, already in her 20s, and Waters who plays a kindly black housekeeper who tries to help the young girl through a difficult adolescent period. De Wilde is her uncomprehending younger brother. Zinnemann handles the story with great sensitivity.



October 31 (7:30pm)

MORTE A VENEZIA (*Death in Venice*)

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(Italy 1971) 130 min.

Dir: Luchino Visconti **Cast:** Dirk Bogarde, Björn Andrésen, Silvana Mangano, Marisa Berenson

Gustav von Aschenbach (Bogarde) is an artist of the kind who believes strongly in the purely intellectual nature of beauty. He's resting on the Venetian island of Lido (the part of Venice that's instantly recognisable – now as much as in the 1910s, when the film is set – as a seaside resort). He becomes fascinated by a young boy also staying at his hotel, and the more he regrets his fascination with the boy's physical beauty, the more fascinated he becomes; he takes to following the boy around, and remains on the island despite the (true) rumours that Venice is



in the grip of a plague. In Thomas Mann's novel, Aschenbach is a writer; in the film, he's a composer, which makes less sense: the excerpts from Mahler's 3rd and 5th symphonies we hear on the soundtrack are as lush and sensuous as it's possible to get, and it's hard to imagine Aschenbach writing them. But lush music (and images) suit the mood precisely, and the sheer inexorable *flow* of the film is hard to resist.

November 14 (6:30pm)

6:30pm - Annual General Meeting

Come along and have your say.

Followed at 7:30pm by.....

IVAN GROZNYI 1

(*Ivan The Terrible Pt 1*)

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(USSR 1944) 99 min.

Dir: Sergei Eisenstein **Cast:** Nikolay Cherkasov, Ludmilla Tselikovskaya, Seragoma Birman



The first of a three-part epic about the life and times of the Czar that unified Russia. The film starts with Ivan being crowned Tsar of Russia, a ceremony which is vehemently opposed by the aristocratic and wealthy families, who see

his dream of a Great Russian State as a threat to their wealth and power. Originally commissioned by Stalin himself, this film sought to revive the infamous Tsar as a great leader and the historical precedent of Russia's dictatorship. Eisenstein spent two years making hundreds of sketches for every scene and detail in the film and he had a clear vision of the film's powerful imagery.

November 28 (7:30pm)

KAKUSHI-TORIDE NO SAN-AKUNIN (*The Hidden Fortress*)

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(Japan 1958) 138 min.

Dir: Akira Kurosawa **Cast:** Toshiro Mifune, Misa Uehara, Minoru Chiaki, Kamatari Fujiwara, Susumu Fujita

Often described as being Kurosawa's most accessible film, this tells the story of Princess Rokurota Yuki and her protector General Makabe convincing two peasants to assist them to carry a fortune in gold through war-torn 16th century Japan, to enable the Princess to raise an army and regain her throne. Kurosawa gives this simple story great depth through revealing the true natures of the characters as they are tested on the journey, and also manages to create a visually interesting film through his use of



decentred composition that has often been compared to traditional Japanese art in its style. *The Hidden Fortress* is also famous as being the film that most influenced the making of George Lucas's original *Star Wars* film.

December 12 (7:30pm)

HANNAH AND HER SISTERS

Print courtesy of the National Film and Sound Archive.

(USA 1986) 103 min.

Dir: Woody Allen **Cast:** Barbara Hershey, Mia Farrow, Dianne Wiest, Michael Caine, Max von Sydow

Allen plunges into the midst of another talkative, dysfunctional family in New York. At the heart of the family are three sisters (Hershey,



Farrow and Wiest) whose lives and passions intertwine. The film focuses on their loves, hates, insecurities and the men they are involved with, including Caine, Von Sydow and Allen himself. Great performances all round in one of Allen's most successful and popular films.



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