



2011 Season Two

Screening since 1990

On alternate Wednesdays, 6:00pm
National Library of Australia

Parkes Pl, Parkes, ACT

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Patron Bruce Hodsdon

July 6

MCCABE AND MRS. MILLER

(USA 1971) 121 min. DVD

Director Robert Altman **Cast** Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, Rene Auberjonois, Keith Carradine, Shelley Duvall

Set in the Pacific Northwest in the early 1900s, charismatic big talker John McCabe (Beatty) arrives in a young town to set up a warehouse/tavern. Mrs. Miller (Christie), a professional madam, arrives soon after construction begins. She offers to use her experience to help McCabe run his business, while sharing in the profits. The warehouse thrives and McCabe and Mrs. Miller draw closer. Soon, however, the mining deposits in the town attract the attention of a major corporation, which wants to buy out McCabe. He refuses, and his decision has major repercussions for him, Mrs. Miller, and the town.

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National Film and Sound Archive*

July 20

THE 400 BLOWS

(French 1959) 99 min. DVD

Director Francois Truffaut **Cast** Jean-Pierre Leaud, Patrick Auffay, Claire Maurier, Albert Remy, Jeanne Moreau

French director Francois Truffaut saw his film-making very much in autobiographical terms and in 1959 he began a series of films based upon the progress through life of alter-ego, Antoine Doinel (Leaud). In this, the first of the series, Truffaut explored



himself as a youth in Paris. Feeling rejected by his family, he turns to a life of petty crime, before a lucky break helps land him on his feet. One of the key films in the so-called French New Wave.

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

August 3

LOVE ME TONIGHT

(USA 1932) 96 min. 16 mm

Director Rouben Mamoulian **Cast** Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald, Charles Ruggles, Myrna Loy, Charles Butterworth

A Paris tailor (Chevalier) arrives at a great French castle to collect a bill run up by the scapegrace son of the family. To keep his mission a secret he is introduced as Baron Courtelin and held as an honoured guest. This gives him the chance to romance a lovelorn princess (MacDonald). This was the first "integrated" musical where script



and music are so closely related that each song serves the story. That is no surprise since Mamoulian (who served as both director and producer) chose one of Broadway's top song writing duos Rodgers and Hart to write the score first and then wrote the script to fit.

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

August 17

THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS

(Italian/Algerian 1965) 117 min. DVD

Director Gillo Pontecorvo **Cast** Yacef Saadi, Jean Martin, Brahim Haggiag, Tommaso Neri

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Reel McCoy 3 months \$15,
6 months \$30, 1 year \$45

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various rates, details at screenings
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Without sacrificing characterisation – or sacrificing it as little as possible – Pontecorvo shows us the struggle between Algerian liberation forces and French colonialists from an unclouded god's-eye view. While sympathising with the Algerians (the film was partly funded by the newly-constituted Algerian government), Pontecorvo doesn't sugar-coat facts: he makes it



quite clear that the freedom fighters we are invited to admire are also terrorists, and the merciless Colonel Mathieu (Martin) has what seem to him impeccable reasons. "Should we remain in Algeria?" Mathieu asks. "If you answer 'yes', then you must accept all the necessary consequences." Pontecorvo agrees – then shows us the consequences.

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

August 31

DAVID COPPERFIELD

(USA 1935) 130 min. 16 mm

Director George Cukor **Cast** Freddie Bartholomew, Frank Lawton, W.C. Fields, Lionel Barrymore, Basil Rathbone, Elsa Lanchester

**JOINT SCREENING WITH THE DICKENS
READING GROUP - ACT**

This is the fourth film version, and the first with sound, of Charles Dickens' famous novel *David Copperfield*, and was a huge box office success. It tells the epic story of the life of David Copperfield (Bartholomew) from childhood into adulthood. This film adaptation successfully compresses the story, with its many curious characters, without compromising its spirit.

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

September 14

LANTANA

(Australia/Germany 2001) 121 min. DVD
Director Ray Lawrence **Cast** Anthony LaPaglia, Geoffrey Rush, Barbara Hershey, Kerry Armstrong, Rachael Blake

Plagued with grief over the murder of her daughter, Valerie Somers (Hershey) suspects that her husband John (Rush) is cheating on her. When Valerie disappears, Detective Leon Zat (LaPaglia) attempts to solve the mystery of her absence. Lantana on the surface is a murder mystery but is more a psychological drama. Ray Lawrence skilfully uses the stellar



cast and the setting of the suburbs of Sydney to involve us in the lives and lies of four couples. The disappearance of one character and the resulting suspicion entangles all the others.

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National Film and Sound Archive*

September 28

A CANTERBURY TALE

(UK 1944) 124 min. DVD
Director Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger **Cast** Eric Portman, Sheila Sim, Dennis Price, John Sweet, Charles Hawtrey

This film is a war story, a whodunit, a story of unlikely friendship, and a mystical love letter to the ancient magic still evident in the English county of Kent, home to the historic town of Canterbury. A beautiful young farm labourer (Sim), an amateur historian (Portman), an English soldier (Price), and an American soldier (Sweet) are brought together by a particularly odd mystery: someone in the village is sneaking out at night to pour glue into the hair of local girls. But our four main characters have been brought together not as sleuths but as pilgrims: their common destination is Canterbury.

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

October 12

THE BAND WAGON

(USA 1953) 112 min. DVD
Director Vincente Minnelli **Cast** Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse, Oscar Levant, Nanette Fabray, Jack Buchanan

In one of the finest MGM musicals, Fred Astaire stars as an ageing musical star who hopes a Broadway play will restart his career. However the play's director wants to make a

pretentious retelling of Faust and brings in a ballerina (Charisse) who clashes with Astaire. This is the film that made the song "That's Entertainment" famous. It was nominated for 4 academy awards,



produced by Arthur Freed and written by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. Comden and Green had honed their talent for satire on *Singin' in the Rain* a year earlier. In *The Band Wagon* they created a literate and witty turn on the old story of people putting on a show.

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

October 26

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

(USA 1966) 131min. DVD
Director Mike Nichols **Cast** Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, George Segal, Sandy Dennis

Our tribute to Elizabeth Taylor
GUEST SPEAKER Luke McWilliams, host of the weekly radio show 'The Movie Club'
A fitting tribute to the late great Elizabeth Taylor, this is the role that most people regard as her best acting performance. The two women (Taylor and Dennis) won Oscars, and the men (Burton, Segal and director Nichols) were nominated. This damning case



against the idealised version of marriage (offered up too many times in the movies), adapted from Edward Albee's one-set play but transferred beautifully into cinema, still resonates with force and fury even today.

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

November 9

UNCIVILIZED

(Australia 1936) 79 min. 16 mm
Director Charles Chauvel **Cast** Dennis Hoey, Margot Rhys, Ashton Jarry, Kenneth Brampton

GUEST SPEAKER Professor Jeff Brownrigg
This Australian feature is a strange

mixture of genres. It provides endless opportunity for film buffs and historians to explore representation of the outback, Aboriginals and women. It is a romantic adventure set in a mythic Queensland where a female journalist sets out to investigate rumours of a wild white man ruling an Aboriginal empire. With its comic book settings, shot in northern Queensland and Palm Island, this film was an attempt to break into the American market.

**Followed by our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
COME ALONG AND HAVE YOUR SAY**

*Print courtesy of the
National Film and Sound Archive*

November 23

THE DISCREET CHARM OF THE BOURGEOISIE

(France/Italy/Spain 1972) 101 min. DVD
Director Luis Buñuel **Cast** Fernando Ray, Delphine Seyrig, Stephane Audran, Bulle Ogier

GUEST SPEAKER Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Director-General of the NLA

Sick and tired of the pretentious, middle-class Canberra social outings you so frequently find yourself at? Then you need to come along and get in on the joke of *Bourgeoisie*, the quintessential Buñuel cinematic experience. The dinner party that never gets underway, the martini ice cubes that must be exactly zero



degrees, the restaurant that has run out of water, ... The banality of the bourgeois within the complexity of Buñuel's storytelling never fails to amuse and captivate. It won the Best Foreign Language Oscar in 1973.

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