



Townsville Cinema Group

One of Australia's oldest film societies Established in 1962

Newsletter June 2011 - Vol 50 No 3

Screening at WARRINA CINEPLEX every second Thursday at 7.15 PM sharp
Sixteen double-feature programmes per year (plus bonus screenings)
Non-members \$12 per screening

From the Committee

The next event to celebrate our 50th birthday is a retrospective night of Australian films on July 7. We will be screening 'Journey out of Darkness' and 'They're a Weird Mob', both, if all goes to plan, introduced by a guest speaker.

Other activities planned are an outdoor open screening of the Rocky Horror Picture Show scheduled for August 13, a movie-themed concert by the Barrier Reef Orchestra in October, and in early November a fancy-dress dinner to launch Reel Time, the book "celebrating 50 Years of the Townsville Cinema Group."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM took place on Thursday **5 May 2011** from 7:30 PM, first outdoors at the Thuringowa Library and later continued in the Hodel Room. Eight 'ordinary' members were present, almost outnumbering the committee members. At the AGM we endorsed the President's and Treasurer's report, elected a new management committee, accepted 350 members, and re-appointed our auditor.

El Presidente did not want to be nominated again for the function this year, as Bill thinks that after three years in the job, it is time for someone else to lead the Group. And Mark did not want to be part of the politics of committee meetings any more, but still enjoys the radio and text smithing work for the Group. The new name on the committee is Elisabeth Pegg, and Malcolm Campbell takes over her invitation as our new invited guest. Floris van der Leest will be your president, at least until the next AGM in 2012. Your full (re-)elected committee is listed in the text box in the right column.

We also accepted - not unanimously - the proposed motion for partial mid-year membership, which reads as follows:

Subject to the membership numbers limit, the membership fee for partial year membership (a) is 70 per cent of the ordinary membership fee amount, rounded up to the nearest 5 dollars and (b) is available from 1 July each year.

After closing the meeting, we toasted the new committee with a few drinks.

MEMBERSHIP

We've reached our cap of 350 members. Non-members are eligible to attend any screening night for just \$12 for the double, that is, a screening that has not been filled by members until 5 minutes before the projection starts.

FILM FESTIVAL AT SEA

If you really enjoyed David Stratton in Townsville, and you have some time in early January and roughly \$4000 to spend, then you can join him for a two-week cruise to New Zealand on the 5-star Volendam. Most afternoons David will introduce a film of his picking and conclude with a Q&A session.

FREE FILM FESTIVAL 3-4 JUNE

Celebrating its 12th year, the Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival returns with more remarkable storytelling.

Dancenorth will host **Message Sticks** in Townsville on June 3rd and 4th and invites you to join this celebration of Indigenous talent.

The 2011 festival opens with Beck Cole's debut feature **Here I Am**, and showcases other Indigenous filmmakers illustrating the great diversity of Indigenous culture and artists.

PROGRAMME:

7.00PM Fri 3 Jun: 'Here I Am'
followed by Q&A with Beck Cole
2.00PM Sat 4 Jun: 'Shifting Shelter 4'
3.30PM Sat 4 Jun: 'On The Ice'

WHERE: Dancenorth, corner Walker & Stanley Streets, Townsville CBD

TICKETS: Limited to 200 (free) tickets each session, available on the door. Box Office and bar open 1.5hrs prior.

Don't forget that TCG is featuring in a small radio spot on 4TTT (103.9FM) on Wednesday evenings (from 7:15 PM): Mark will be discussing the up-coming films, providing additional background information and trivia.

Monthly Movie Trivia

Tor Johnson, Swedish born professional wrestler died on 12th of **May**, 1971. Tor is best remembered for the string of roles he played in numerous Ed Wood films. The scariest thing about Tor was his acting, however his face has been used as a model for Halloween masks.

On **June 8th**, 1988 the John Waters film Hairspray was released in France. The cast included talk show host Rikki Lake, Debbie Harry, Pia Zadora (best known for her lack of acting ability), Ric Ocasek (lead singer with The Cars), Sonny Bono, and Divine. John Waters' films are best known for their quirky casting and their complete lack of good taste.



26 May

25 Carat (Kilos)

(25 Kilates) Spain 2009 86 min [Aztec] MA15+ Strong violence, coarse language and a sex scene

Director: Patxi Amezcua

Cast: Francesco Garrido, Aida Folch, Manuel Morón.

Unsettling, fast-paced and brilliantly acted underworld thriller in Barcelona.

There is the boxer turned debt collector, the bump-and-grab petty thief, the gambling addicted fence, and the dirty cop looking to unload goods lifted from busts. Far from being master criminals, these are - for the most part - every day people simply trying to scrape by and, as a result, the film packs an emotional punch far greater than most crime films.

Kay is trapped in a dead end life and she knows it. She inhabits a dismal flat with her father - a petty fence with a king-size gambling addiction - in whose scams she must always play a part if only to keep dad from prison or worse. Her preferred means of income? Staging car accidents to rob the other party - a simple scam that tends to serve her well but when it fails, it fails badly. Which is precisely what has happened moments before she

Management Committee

Floris van der Leest (President), Heidi Michaels (Secretary), Bruce Gibson-Wilde (Treasurer & Web Manager), John Batterham, Sabine Carter, Simon McConnell, Elisabeth Pegg, Han Pikaar, Vicki Strelan and Bill White.

Thank you to:

Andrew Urban & Louise Keller from Urban Cinefile for giving permission to freely use their reviews;
Townsville Bulletin, for independent previews of our programmes; and
The Townsville City Council for providing a meeting room for the AGM.

happens to meet Abel, a stranger who simply catches a look in Kay's eye and comes to her aid despite knowing perfectly well that she was in the wrong.

For his part, Abel's a washed out boxer turned debt collector for a petty gangster who pays him a share of what he collects.

The Double Hour

(*La doppia ora*) Italy 2009 95 min [Aztec] M - Coarse language and sex scenes

Director: *Giuseppe Capotondi*

Cast: *Kseniya Rappoport, Filippo Timi*

A rich psychological or maybe even a supernatural thriller - one of Venice Film Festival's big surprises.

Sonia comes from Ljubjiana and works as a waitress. Guido is an ex-policeman and works as a guardian at a villa. They meet on a speed date. He's a regular client, but it's the first time for her.

They don't say much; the attraction is instinctive. They get to know each other in a matter of days, and show each other their wounds. They're on the point of falling in love... when Guido dies, unexpectedly, during a break-in at the villa he's supposed to be guarding. Sonia finds



herself alone once again, coping with a death for which she can find no sense. And for which some people even hold her responsible.

While Sonia's past comes back to her, with all its unresolved knots, the reality around her starts to break down ...

9 June

Welcome

France 2009 110 min [Palace] M - Coarse language and themes

Director: *Philippe Lioret*

Cast: *Vincent Lindon, Firat Ayverdi*

An emotionally affecting drama about intersecting lives, unlikely friendships and the hope of new beginnings.

Bilal, a 17-year-old Kurdish refugee, has spent the last three months of his life travelling across Europe so he can reunite with his girlfriend, who recently emigrated to England.

His journey comes to an abrupt halt when he is stopped in Calais, on the French side of the Channel. Deciding to swim across, Bilal goes to the local swimming pool to train, where he meets Simon, a middle-aged swimming instructor in turmoil over his imminent divorce.



Blue Valentine

USA 2010 120 min [Palace] MA15+ a scene of explicit sexual content

Director: *Derek Cianfrance*

Cast: *Ryan Gosling, Michelle Williams*

The film centres on a contemporary married couple, charting their evolution from lovers over a span of years by crosscutting between time periods.

Dean meets Cindy when they're in their late teens; he's working for a moving company, she's a college student visiting her grandmother at a nursing home. Cindy is dating Bobby, her boyfriend from high school, but as she gets to know Dean better, the mutual attraction grows.

Years later, Dean and Cindy are married and have a daughter, but they're clearly



not as happy as they once were: Dean loves his daughter but feels distant from his wife. They have to look after an elderly relative, and when Cindy bumps into Bobby, it's clear he still holds a grudge. Dean and Cindy go away for a weekend together at a hotel, but it doesn't take long for them to realize that the magic isn't coming back.

A raw, beautiful picture of love uniting and dividing; tender, real and heartfelt.

23 June

Unmade Beds

UK 2009 92 min [Madman] M - Coarse language and sex scenes

Director: *Alexis Dos Santos*

Cast: *Déborah François, Fernando Tielve, Michiel Huisman*

The quirky story of immigrants Vera and Axl who both squat in the same hip London warehouse but whose paths never cross until fate steps in.

Axl is coming from Spain travels to find his father, who left him during his childhood, leaving Axl without remembering anything about him. Belgian girl Vera just wants to overcome her recent break-up. They both try alcohol, random sex



encounters, dancing, music, but neither of them finds what they are looking for. Until their stories come together in the melting-pot of 21st century London.

This dreamlike film with a kick-ass pop soundtrack has a lively, romantic spirit that recalls the playfulness and spontaneity of the French New Wave.

The Hedgehog

(*Le herisson*) France 2010 100 min [Madman] M - Mature themes

Director: *Mona Achache*

Cast: *Josiane Balasko, Garance Le Guillermic, Togo Igawa*

Inspired by "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" written by Moroccan-born French novelist & philosopher Muriel Barbery.



Set in an upper-class Parisian apartment building, this is the story of an unexpected encounter, that of Paloma Josse, an exceptionally intelligent and suicidal 11-year-old girl, of Renee Michel, a discreet and solitary porter, and of the enigmatic Mr Ozu.

Paloma is a serious, but deeply bored girl, who has decided to kill herself on her twelfth birthday. Her parents (a neurotic, snobbish mother living on champagne and valium and a workaholic politician father) scarcely know she exists. Fascinated by art and philosophy, she documents her life and immediate circle through her camera viewfinder, drawing incisive observations on the world around her.

As her appointment with death approaches, she is forced to re-evaluate things when she befriends Renee Michel, the frumpy, grumpy concierge in her apartment building. This woman has a huge library and a passion for Tolstoy. She's also prickly and unapproachable.

Both of them welcome the arrival of the new tenant: the courtly, cultured Kakuro Ozu, a well-to-do Japanese man who manages to get beneath Renee Michel's exterior by the simplest of means.