

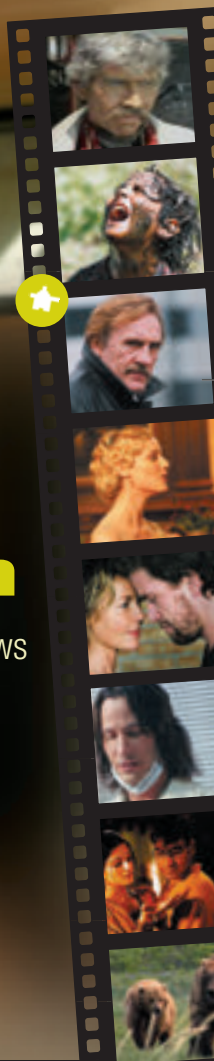
The **9th** Canberra **International** Film Festival

27 October — 6 November

NOW SHOWING
TRAVELLERS & MAGICIANS BROADWAY THE GOLDEN AGE
A COMMON PLEASANT TOWN ALL
THE WOODSMAN IN SONGS

2005 **Program**

Electric Shadows
City Walk
Canberra City



www.canberrafilmmfestival.com.au



Welcome

The **9th** Canberra International Film Festival

It is with genuine enthusiasm that I welcome you to the 9th Canberra International Film Festival. After nine years the Festival has become a Canberra landmark, and the city's premiere cinema event.

The Canberra International Film Festival has always looked to the future. And as we look forward to the tenth festival in 2006 it is exciting to know that next year the festival will hopefully be presented in the new Dendy Films/Electric Shadows Cinema complex in Bunda Street.

The film and television landscape in Canberra has undergone considerable change in the past ten years, and it is pleasing to know that the Festival has been a significant partner in propelling that change. Along with our sister festival, the Canberra Short Film Festival, we have helped raise the profile of quality cinema and filmmaking. We have dared our local filmmakers to dream.

A short while ago, local filmmaker Duane Fogwell had a sell out season here at Electric Shadows for his short film, *The Milkman*. Such an event would have been unheard of ten years ago. But we believe that it is a sign of things to come.

This year's festival is our biggest so far with 24 films from 16 countries, 11 of which are Australian Premieres. We have war dramas, amazing nature documentaries, and political dramas, along with cops and robbers movies, and an historical documentary about the sex industry. There are touching romantic dramas, and stories of terrorist atrocities; films that celebrate the love and compassion that fires the human spirit, and films that explore just how cruel humans can be. It also has romantic

comedies, coming-of-age stories and films that praise strength and dignity of character.

There is abundant entertainment to suit everyone so I warmly encourage you to come along and experience this year's thrilling collection of top quality international and Australian films.



Michael Sergi

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2005

CANBERRA

INTERNATIONAL
FILM
Festival

Program at a glance

OCTOBER

DATE	FILM	ORIGIN	SCREENING TIME
THURSDAY 27	Workshop: John Maynard	AUSTRALIA	1.30 PM
THURSDAY 27	36 Quai des Orfèvres	FRANCE	7.00 PM
FRIDAY 28	Up and Down	CZECH REPUBLIC	6.15 PM
FRIDAY 28	Innocent Voices	MEXICO	8.30 PM
SATURDAY 29	The Glenmore Job Film & Discussion: Making Low Budget Films	AUSTRALIA	4.00 PM
SATURDAY 29	Chinaman	DENMARK	6.15 PM
SATURDAY 29	Brothers	DENMARK	8.30 PM
SUNDAY 30	Major Dundee Film and Q & A with Australian actor Michael Pate	USA	3.15 PM
SUNDAY 30	Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill	USA	6.15 PM
SUNDAY 30	Raincoat	INDIA	8.15 PM
MONDAY 31	Drum	SOUTH AFRICA	6.15 PM
MONDAY 31	Kissed by Winter	NORWAY	8.15 PM

NOVEMBER

DATE	FILM	ORIGIN	SCREENING TIME
TUESDAY 1	Inside Deep Throat	USA	6.15 PM
TUESDAY 1	Palermo Hollywood	ARGENTINA	8.15 PM
WEDNESDAY 2	The Great Water	MACEDONIA	6.15 PM
WEDNESDAY 2	Vinci	POLAND	8.15 PM
THURSDAY 3	Omagh	IRELAND/UK	6.15 PM
THURSDAY 3	Sophie Scholl – The Final Days	GERMANY	8.15 PM
FRIDAY 4	Thumbsucker	USA	6.15 PM
FRIDAY 4	Merry Christmas	FRANCE/GERMANY	8.15 PM
SATURDAY 5	Blacktown Film & Discussion: Acting in Low Budget Films	AUSTRALIA	4.00 PM
SATURDAY 5	36 Quai des Orfèvres	FRANCE	6.15 PM
SATURDAY 5	Stolen Life	CHINA	8.30 PM
SUNDAY 6	A Fistful of Dynamite	ITALY	3.00 PM
SUNDAY 6	Grizzly Man	USA	6.00 PM
SUNDAY 6	Russian Dolls	FRANCE	8.15 PM

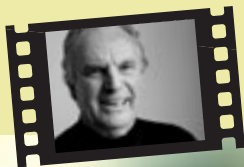
Canberra **International** Film Festival



October

Thursday 27

1.30–4.00 pm



WORKSHOP: John Maynard

presents a workshop on

'The Filmmaking Process – From Concept to Distribution'

**NOT TO BE
MISSED**

An invaluable workshop with one of Australia's most respected producers giving practical advice on the filmmaking process from concept to distribution with particular emphasis on making sense in your own backyard!

Presenter: John Maynard

John is well known as a producer with an eye for talent, producing the debut feature films from directors Jane Campion (*Sweetie*), Vincent Ward (*Vigil, The Navigator*), Rowan Woods (*The Boys*), and Robert Connolly (*The Bank, Three Dollars*). Maynard has had three films In Competition at the Cannes Film Festival (an unrivalled Australian record), and *The Boys* In Competition at the Berlin Film Festival. He has been nominated for Best Film at the AFI Awards for *The Boys*, *All Men Are Liars*, *The Bank*, and won the AFI for Best Film in 1988 for *The Navigator*.

In May 2003 John was awarded an Honorary Masters Degree at the Australian Film Television and Radio School for his commitment, as a creative producer, to ground-breaking independent cinema, for nurturing new Australian talent and reflecting diverse themes of social and cultural relevance.

In September 2005, The Australian Screen Directors Association (ASDA) awarded their highest honour to John, The Cecil Holmes Memorial Award for his support of directors and ASDA.

John has championed policy change at the highest levels in the film industry, consulted to major government agencies and introduced innovative feature film financing.

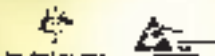
Where: Meeting Room, National Film & Sound Archive, McCoy Crescent, Acton

Cost: \$35 Students \$10

Bookings: (Essential) Phone Sonia at BDW Special Events on 02 6298 5000; or email sonia@bdwspecialevents.com.au

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The Australian Screen Directors Association (ASDA)
National Film and Sound Archive, a division
of the Australian Film Commission



See pages 8 and 24 for details on more exciting CIFF Seminars offering further opportunities to hear from well known and respected Australian film personalities.

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

October
Thursday 27
7.00 pm



36 Quai des Orfevres

Country: France
Language: French [English subtitles]
Duration: 110 minutes
Distributor: Sharmill Films
Director: Olivier Marchal
Starring: Daniel Auteuil / Gerard Depardieu /
 Andre Dussollier / Roschdy Zem /
 Daniel Duval



**Second
 Screening**
 Saturday
 5 November
 6.15 pm

This film is a tense 'policier' in the tradition of Jean-Pierre Melville and the best of French 'film noir'. France's two biggest male stars, Gerard Depardieu and Daniel Auteuil, come together in a gripping drama of two rogue cops – once friends but now mortal enemies. One is ruthlessly corrupt, the other is obsessively determined to bring him down. When their CID chief announces his retirement, he makes it clear that whichever cop can bring down an elusive heist gang will be his favoured successor. The two men take each other to the lowest of ethical and moral depths in pursuit of the chief's job at head office – 36 Quai des Orfevres. This is a hard-hitting gritty tale of honour and betrayal based on actual events.

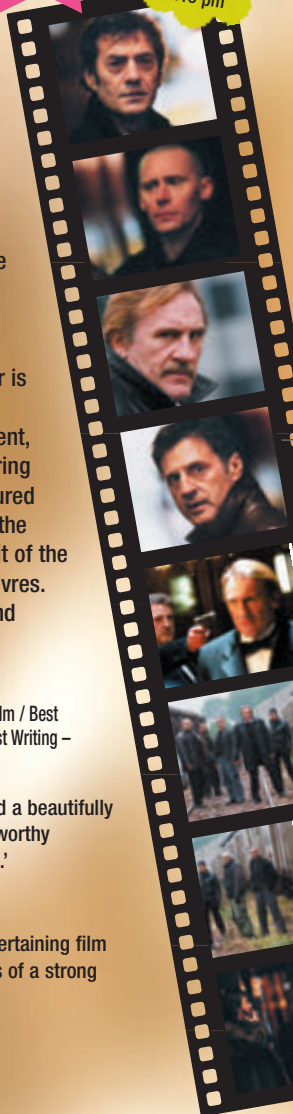
NOMINATED: Best Actor / Best Director / Best Editing / Best Film / Best Sound / Best Supporting Actor / Best Supporting Actress / Best Writing – César Awards France 2005

'Former police officer Olivier Marchal has directed a beautifully acted, shot and scored cop thriller that is a very worthy addition to France's near domination of the genre.'

★★★★★—*Reeling Reviews*

'36 Quai des Orfevres is an accomplished and entertaining film that is bolstered by the impeccable performances of a strong lead and supporting cast.'

—*Strictly Film School*



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Canberra **International** Film Festival



October
Friday 28
6.15 pm



Up and Down *Horem Pádem*

Country: Czech Republic
Language: Czech [English subtitles]
Duration: 108 minutes
Distributor: Czech Television Telexport
Director: Jan Hřebejk
Starring: Petr Forman / Emília Vášáryová / Jan Triska / Ingrid Timková

From the director of the 2004 Festival hit *Pupendo*, *Up and Down* is a poignant comedy that is superbly acted and directed. It begins in the dead of night near the Czech-Slovak border, when two smugglers come across an abandoned child. Their discovery starts a series of tragic and comic events. Meanwhile, in a small Prague apartment, Franta and Mila are dreaming of having a child. Franta is on probation because of his hooliganism behaviour and is not allowed to adopt, and Mila is unable to conceive. However, Milan decides to cash in her savings and sets out to buy a baby from a pawnshop!

WINNER: Best Actress / Best Director / Best Film / Best Screenplay – Czech Lion Awards 2004.

'Foreign films can be as enchanting as ever, and perspective-expanding too. The latest proof is *Up and Down*, a wonderfully funny, giddily intricate Czech comedy.'

★★★★★—*Wall Street Journal*

'*Up and Down* captures Prague life with a fervour that's comical but a longing that's serious; no one is easy to pigeonhole.'

★★★★★—*Entertainment Weekly*

'A powerful Czech drama with comic flourishes.'

★★★★★—*Salon.com*

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

October

Friday 28

8.30 pm



Innocent Voices *Voces Inocentes*



Country: Mexico
Language: Spanish [English subtitles]
Duration: 110 minutes
Distributor: Lions Gate Films International
Director: Luis Mandoki
Starring: Carlos Padilla / Leonor Varela /
 Xuna Primus / Gustavo Muñoz

Set in the mid 1980s during El Salvador's civil war, this film is seen through the eyes of an eleven-year-old boy. Chava lives in fear of being recruited either into the army or into the guerrilla forces. This gut-wrenching and powerful story depicts his life in a state torn apart by war, and the everyday ordeal of families facing appalling atrocities. However, there is humour and romance amidst the tragedy and the film is ultimately a moving celebration of the human spirit. This powerful film has been applauded at many international film festivals, and it is one of the most honoured Mexican films in recent years.

WINNER: Silver Award Best Make Up / Best Special Effects / Best Supporting Actress – Aerial Awards Mexico.

WINNER: Glass Bear Award – Berlin International Film Festival 2005

WINNER: Stanley Kramer Award – PGA Golden Laurel Awards 2005

WINNER: Best Film Golden Space Needle Award – Seattle International Film Festival 2005

★★★★★—*Out Now, Magazine*

The Observer

The Guardian

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Canberra International Film Festival



October
Saturday 29
4.00 pm

Film & Discussion

SPECIAL PREVIEW

In Your Dreams

Did you really think your dreams were your own? Welcome to Dreamworx. When you go to sleep, they go to work...

Duration: 7 minutes
Director: Greg Williams
Producer: Melanie Coombs / Bridget Lloyd-Jones

FEATURE SCREENING

The Glenmoore Job

Country: Australia
Language: English
Duration: 53 minutes
Distributor: Melodrama Pictures
Director: Greg Williams
Starring: Simon Lyndon / Saskia Burmeister



It's not that Warren doesn't like Glenmoore. It's just that after doing time, he'd rather be lying under a palm tree up north. But he's here to deliver on a promise he made to his cellmate Sumo. So now he has a photograph of a girl, a house, and a psychopathic guard dog to make friends with. One last job.

In law-abiding Glenmoore, as part of his parole, Warren is forced to join a local support group where he meets a couple of delusional delinquents and a pair of strange old ducks who'd rather play poker than talk. The group hasn't had a new member in years, let alone one who is a real criminal. It upsets their routine, and it soon becomes clear that somebody wants Warren gone. Warren would rather be gone himself, but it's not easy to get the job done with Sally following him around. An aspiring thief, she has big plans for Warren. He's not getting away that easily.



Stay on to meet Melodrama Pictures Company Director and Producer Melanie Coombs, Writer/Director Greg Williams and Producer's Associate Bridget Lloyd-Jones for a seminar on 'Making Low Budget Films'

Melanie Coombs Producer and Company Director of Melodrama Pictures produced *Harvie Krumpet*, winner of the 2003 Academy Award for Short Film – Animation.

Bridget Lloyd-Jones arrived at Melodrama Pictures the same day as the Academy Award nomination for *Harvie Krumpet*.

Writer/director Greg Williams began making films in 1995 and is best known for his successful short films, *Rubbernecking*, *Vitalogy* and *In Your Dreams*.

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

October
Saturday 29
6.15 pm

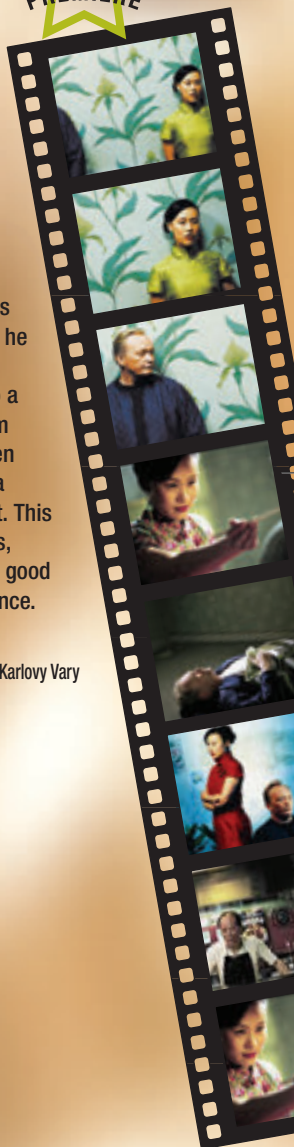


Chinaman *Kinamand*

Country: Denmark
Language: Danish [English subtitles]
Duration: 88 minutes
Distributor: Danish Film Institute
Director: Henrik Ruben Genz
Starring: Charlotte Fich / Bjarne Henriksen /
Paw Henriksen / Mette Agnete Horn

This Danish film is a subtle and touching comedy about a plumber who is tired of life and in a rut. After his wife of 25 years leaves him, his journey to rebuild his life begins as he eats his way through the menu at the local Chinese takeaway. The owner talks him into a marriage of convenience with his sister from China. A delicate romance blossoms between these two damaged, fragile individuals but a secret gives their relationship a fateful twist. This unconventional movie explores cultural gaps, expresses delicate emotions and provides a good laugh at the same time. An uplifting experience.

Winner: Toronto FIPRESCI Prize / Award of Ecumenical Jury – Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2005



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Canberra **International** Film Festival



October
Saturday 29
8.30 pm



Brothers *Brodre*

Country: Denmark
Language: Danish [English subtitles]
Duration: 110 minutes
Distributor: Arkles Entertainment
Director: Susanne Bier
Starring: Ulrik Thomsen / Connie Nielsen /
Nikolaj Lie Kaas / Solbjorg Højfeldt

From the director of the Danish feature, *Open Hearts*, comes this moving and humane drama. Michael, a Danish soldier with the UN, disappears while on a peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan. The report of his death gives direction to Michael's younger brother, Jannik, who begins to help Michael's wife Sarah and their two daughters through their grief. Over time, it becomes clear that Jannik and Sarah have developed mutual feelings that go beyond sympathy. And then, as everyone feels they have moved on, the traumatized Michael is released from imprisonment in a Taliban camp. Shockwaves rock the family and now they must deal with the emotions and dilemmas of his survival.

WINNER: Best Actress / Audience Award Best Feature Film – Bodil Awards 2005

WINNER: Audience Award – Sundance Film Festival 2005

WINNER: Special Jury Prize – Indianapolis International Film Festival 2005

'Imaginative and immensely engrossing film.'

★★★★★ —*San Francisco Chronicle*

'Gripping from start to finish.'

★★★★★ —*Newsweek*

'Everyone involved...are in peak form in this unflinching look at repressed feelings and emotional devastation.'

★★★★★ —*The Hollywood Reporter*

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

October
Sunday 30
3.15 pm



Major Dundee extended version

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 136 minutes
Distributor: Sony Pictures
Director: Sam Peckinpah
Starring: Charlton Heston / Richard Harris /
Jim Hutton / James Coburn /
Micheal Pate



Film &
Q & A

Presented by the National Film and Sound Archive, this film is a fully restored 35mm re-release of Sam Peckinpah's 1965 classic masterpiece. Sony Pictures have returned 12 minutes of footage to the film including, three crucial scenes and a new score to what's probably Hollywood's first 'revisionist' Western.

Major Dundee's epic plot is about the pursuit of an elusive Apache bandit. A group of men follow Major Dundee to Mexico to rescue children kidnapped by Apaches. Their mission is filled with unexpected danger and adventure. *Major Dundee*, filmed entirely in Mexico, is one of the most exciting films that Peckinpah made, and shows the director at his peak. It is a wonderfully lively tale of the west and of revenge.

'If you want to see the missing link between John Wayne's squint and Clint Eastwood's sneer, look no further than Charlton Heston in *Major Dundee*.'

—*Entertainment Weekly*

'It's hard to imagine *The Wild Bunch* having the depth and grace it did without Peckinpah having this experience to draw on, and for that masterful film alone we're grateful to have *Major Dundee* back among the living again.'

—*Los Angeles Times*



Legendary Australian actor and cast member in *Major Dundee*, Michael Pate will be introducing this Australian Premiere and will be available following the screening for a Q & A.

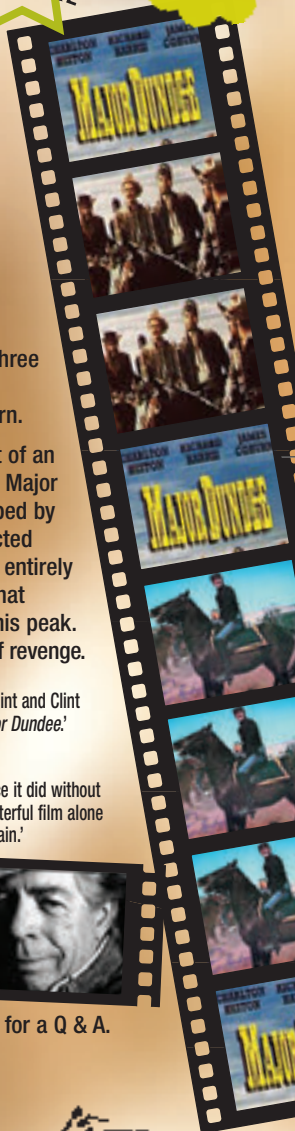


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Canberra **International** Film Festival



October
Sunday 30
6.15 pm



Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 83 minutes
Distributor: Gil Scrine Films
Director: Judy Irving
Starring: Mark Bittner
Parrot Stars: Connor / Olive / Mingus / Picasso /
Sophie / Pushkin / Tupelo

This highly acclaimed, feature-length documentary will make you laugh, cry and your heart soar. It is the story of a Bohemian St. Francis living in San Francisco and his remarkable relationship with a flock of wild red-and-green parrots. Mark Bittner, a former street musician, is a homeless seeker of truth who falls in with the flock as he searches for meaning in his life. Unaware that the wild parrots will bring him everything he needs, this rare and intelligent documentary from the USA has romance, comedy and unexpected dramatic potency.

'This is an excellent movie – by all means, flock to it!'

★★★★★—*Film Threat*

'Beguiling, moving and just plain fun documentary.'

★★★★★—*Baltimore Sun*

'In watching the birds and the man with an affectionate, curious eye, the filmmaker builds a story of surprising emotional resonance.'

★★★★★—*Entertainment Weekly*

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

October
Sunday 30
8.15 pm



Raincoat

Country: India
Language: Hindi [English subtitles]
Duration: 120 minutes
Distributor: MG Distribution
Director: Rituparno Ghosh
Starring: Ajay Devgan / Aishwarya Rai /
Annu Kapoor / Mouli Ganguly

One rainy day, six years later, two estranged lovers meet to play out a daring game of words. *Raincoat* is a story about love that endures despite circumstances, separation and hopelessness. Niru and Manoj grew up in the same village and were childhood sweethearts. But Niru married a wealthy man and moved away. Manoj travels to Calcutta looking for work but also with the hope of finding Niru. Narrated against the backdrop of a rainy afternoon in the monsoon season, a borrowed raincoat literally becomes instrumental to bring out the love Niru and Manoj have nurtured in their hearts for each other since childhood.

WINNER: Best Actress – Indian Zee Critics Choice Awards 2005

NOMINATED: Crystal Globe Award – Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2004

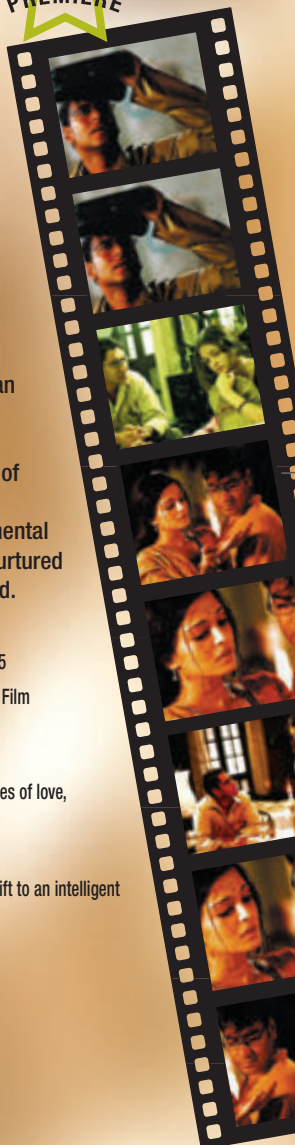
NOMINATED: Best Actress – Indian Filmfare Awards 2005

'A moody expertly acted and directed meditation on the realities of love, loneliness, and life.'

★★★★★ —*Film Threat*

'Raincoat is an elegiac tale told with earnestness – Ghosh's gift to an intelligent audience. Watch it and be overwhelmed.'

★★★★★ —*EFilmCritic.com*



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Canberra **International** Film Festival



October
Monday 31
6.15 pm



Drum

Country: South Africa
Language: English
Duration: 94 minutes
Distributor: Magna Pacific
Director: Zola Maseko
Starring: Taye Diggs / Tumisho Masha /
Moshidi Motshegwa / Fezile Mpela

Drum is a unique film that vividly captures a vital part of South African political and pop-culture history. *Drum* tells the story of Henry Nxumalo, South Africa's leading black investigative reporter in the 1950s. Henry is exposing the apartheid regime's darkest secrets in the first magazine aimed at a black readership – *Drum*. It is a story of courage and determination in the face of brutal oppression. It is the story of Henry Nxumalo, a man who believed the pen was mightier than the gun. While he paid the ultimate price, it was the beginning of the struggle that some three decades later, finally led to freedom for the people of South Africa.

WINNER: Grand Prize Etalon de Yennega – Ouagadougou Panafrican Film & Television Festival 2005.

WINNER: FIPRESCI Prize – Zanzibar International Film Festival 2005

'*Drum* is an engaging look at an important moment in history, anchored by a fantastic lead performance by Diggs.'

★★★★★—*Reel Film Reviews*

'This story is so compelling and eye-opening...and the cast is not only excellent, but obviously committed to getting the truth out.'

—*Shadows on the Wall*

'This is an interesting story that's well told by South African director Zola Maseko. Its portrayal of the era's black culture is far more complex than anything we've seen before.'

—*Exclaim*

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

October
Monday 31
8.15 pm



Kissed by Winter *Vinterkyss*

Country: Norway
Language: Norwegian / Swedish
[English subtitles]
Duration: 80 minutes
Distributor: NonStop Sales
Director: Sara Johnsen
Starring: Annika Hallin / Kristoffer Joner /
Fritjof Såheim

Kissed by Winter is the story about two accidents; one suspicious, the other impossible to accept. After a tragic event, Victoria, a successful doctor, moves to a small Norwegian village. She tries to forget the past and move on with her life by devoting herself to her job, but she finds it impossible when a local boy is found dead in the snow. As Victoria becomes entangled in the fate of the dead boy, she becomes close to his parents and begins an affair with Kai, a villager who is suspected of accidentally killing the boy. However, Victoria soon proves to be a greater mystery than the case under investigation. The truth about the boy in the snow, and Victoria's own past, is slowly brought to the surface.

WINNER: Best Actress Award – 2005 Brussels Festival of European Film

WINNER: Best Actress Award – 2005 Norwegian International Film Festival

WINNER: Haugesund Nordic Debut Amanda Award – 2005 Norwegian International Film Festival

'*Vinterkyss* makes for hypnotic viewing'

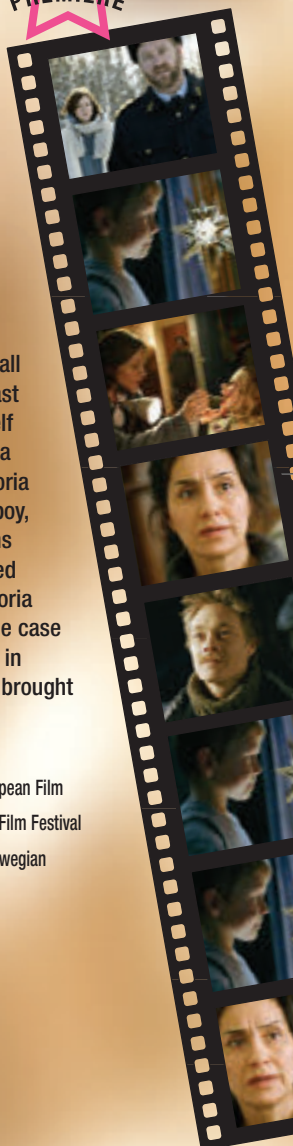
—*europeanfilms.net*

'Top-class performance'

—*Variety*

'A great film in every way'

—*Nordlys*



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Canberra International Film Festival



November

Tuesday 1

6.15 pm



Inside Deep Throat

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 92 minutes
Distributor: Dendy Films
Director: Fenton Bailey & Randy Barbato
Narrator: Dennis Hopper
Starring: Linda Lovelace / Hugh Hefner / Alan M. Dershowitz

The hard-core porn 'classic' *Deep Throat*, was filmed in six days for \$25,000 and grossed over \$600 million, making it the most profitable film in motion picture history. It was banned in 23 states in the USA and now, more than 30 years later comes this brilliant documentary that examines the legacy this infamous and provocative film has left on society. *Deep Throat* changed America: it legitimised porn and sent the sexual revolution to dizzying heights. *Inside Deep Throat* looks back at that amazing phenomenon, its causes and effects, and the underworld figures involved. The documentary has been highly acclaimed and widely celebrated at festivals world-wide.

'Nimble, engrossing, and journalistically eye-opening, a movie that pulls into focus 30 years of porn in America. It also pulls no punches.'

★★★★★—*Entertainment Weekly*

'There's nothing preachy about this slick and funny doc (narrated by Dennis Hopper), which as a brief history of how porn spurted into the mainstream has all the money shots you could ask for.'

★★★★★—*Empire Magazine*

'Delightful, insightful documentary.'

★★★★★—*New York Magazine*

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

November
Tuesday 1
8.15 pm

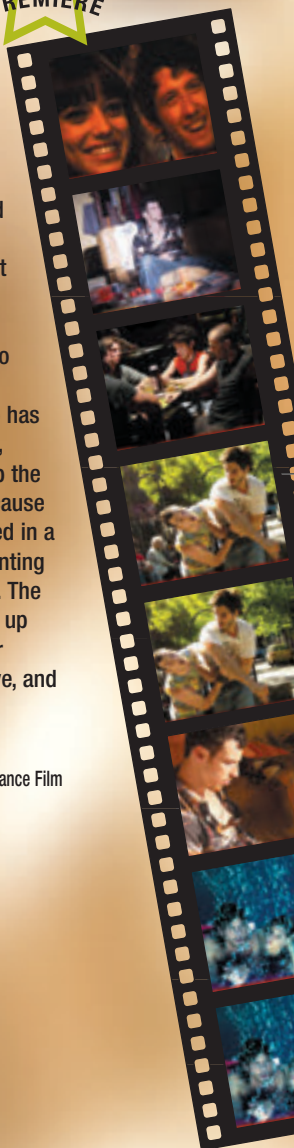


Palermo Hollywood

Country: Argentina
Language: Spanish [English subtitles]
Duration: 113 minutes
Distributor: American Video Films
Director: Eduardo Pinto
Starring: Brian Maya / Matias Desiderio /
 Manuela Pal / Cristina Banegas

In a country that has been broken down and corrupted by political chaos, Pablo and Mario, two thieves in their twenties, are best friends. Although they come from very different backgrounds, they help each other out by committing petty crimes to help Pablo support his family, and for Mario to become financially independent from his own. Mario has become increasingly infatuated with Julieta, Pablo's sister. The nights and excesses keep the friends busy until, in a twist of fate, and because of their own ignorance, they become involved in a kidnapping that goes horribly wrong, confronting the two, and hurting their friendship forever. The tragedy triggers a chain of events that ends up taking their lives to the limit. This tests their friendship and exposes their true loyalty, love, and possible hate for one another.

NOMINATED: Grand Jury Prize World Cinema Dramatic – Sundance Film Festival 2005



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Canberra **International** Film Festival



November
Wednesday 2
6.15 pm



The Great Water .. *Golemata Voda*

Country: Macedonia
Language: Macedonian [English subtitles]
Duration: 90 minutes
Distributor: Media Luna Entertainment
Director: Ivo Trajkov
Starring: Saso Kekenovski / Meto Jovanovski /
Maja Stankovska / Mitko Apostolovski

The Great Water is a story of emotional dislocation and resilience, of friendship and betrayal. It follows the life of Lem Nikodinoski from childhood through to his time as a high-ranking political figure in the Macedonia's communist government. An elderly Lem is rushed to hospital fighting for his life, and as he nears death, his only memories are of life as a twelve-year-old boy in an authoritarian orphanage. The film is based on the novel of the same name by acclaimed author Zhivko Chingo.

OFFICIAL ENTRY: Best Foreign Language Category, The Oscars® 2005 & Best Foreign Language Category, The Golden Globe® Awards 2005

'What makes the film worth watching are the extraordinary performances by the more than 250 children cast as orphans.'

—*The New York Times*

'Nicely acted and stylishly photographed.'

—*New York Post*

'This strange and beautiful Macedonian feature is a welcome reminder that national cinemas still exist.'

—*Chicago Reader*

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Canberra **International** Film Festival

November
Wednesday 2
8.15 pm



Vinci

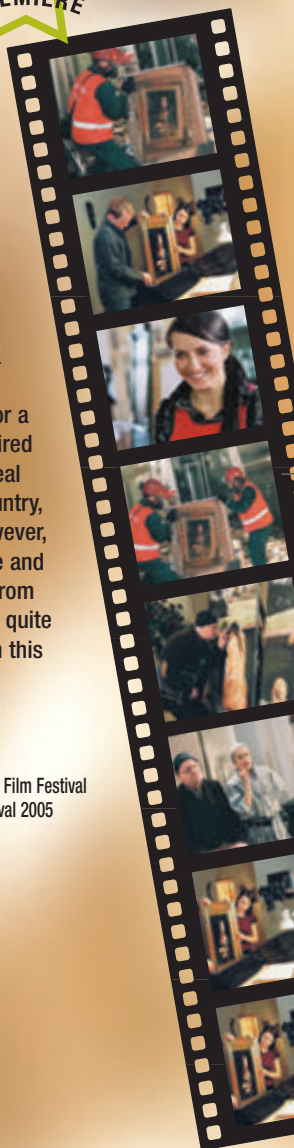
Country: Poland
Language: Polish [English subtitles]
Duration: 108 minutes
Distributor: High Point Films
Director: Juliusz Machulski
Starring: Borys Szyc / Robert Wieckiewicz / Jan Machulski / Kamilla Baar



A lively and thoroughly engaging crime caper from Poland, set in the world of classic art. The film follows the exploits of Tsuma, a mildly crooked convicted ex-cop who is temporarily released from gaol for health reasons. While on the outside, Tsuma hooks up with his old pal Julian who, unbeknown to Tsuma, has given up crime for a job in law enforcement. Together they are hired for the biggest heist of their careers – to steal one of the most famous paintings in the country, Leonardo da Vinci's 'Lady With Ermine'. However, Julian is against stealing a national treasure and comes up with his own plan to con Tsuma from stealing the real da Vinci. But things are not quite so straight forward – who is conning who in this film with more twist than a Polish braid?

WINNER: Best Screenplay – Polish Film Festival 2004

OFFICIAL SELECTION: Moscow Film Festival 2005, Gothenburg Film Festival 2005, Copenhagen Film Festival 2005, Karlovy Vary Film Festival 2005



www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au

Canberra International Film Festival



November

Thursday 3

6.15 pm



Omagh

Country: Ireland / UK
Language: English
Duration: 106 minutes
Distributor: Rialto Entertainment
Director: Pete Travis
Starring: Gerard McSorley / Michelle Forbes
 Brenda Fricker / Stuart Graham

On Saturday 15 August 1998, a car bomb exploded on Market Street in Omagh, Northern Ireland killing 28 people and injuring 220 others. How do individuals of a peacefully integrated community recover from such an event? What kind of courage and strength is needed to move forward? This hauntingly powerful and illuminating film is an account of the surviving families' frustrated quest for truth and justice. The film is a scathing, but sensitively realised portrait of ordinary people repeatedly entangled – first, in a protracted war for sovereignty and then, in a high-stakes game of diplomacy – in a compromised and perhaps doomed investigation.

WINNER: Best Single Drama – BAFTA Awards 2005

WINNER: Golden Nymph Award for Best Performance by an Actor / Actress & Best Television Film – Monte Carlo TV Festival 2005

WINNER: Best Actor / Best Irish Film – IFTA Awards 2004

'Thanks to McSorley's superb performance and Pete Travis' disciplined direction, Omagh powerfully conveys the devastation wrought by sectarian violence on both individuals and the wider community.'

★★★★—*Eye Weekly*

'Shot in vérité-styled camerawork and natural lighting, Omagh is a hauntingly powerful, illuminating, and uncompromisingly rendered account of the August 15, 1998 car bombing.'

—*Strictly Film School*

'The production values of Omagh are excellent.'

—*European Films.net*

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Members will be able to pre-purchase tickets to Omagh from the Canberra Irish Club.

★ On Sunday 6 September 1998, the Canberra Irish Club was honoured to have a visit from Her Excellency Mrs Mary McAleese the President of Ireland and her husband Dr Martin McAleese. News had broken prior to the visit of the Omagh bombing and the club informed the President of Ireland that it would donate a sum of Five Thousand Dollars towards the Omagh fund.

Paul McCullough SECRETARY MANAGER

www.canberrafilmmfestival.com.au

Canberra **International** Film Festival

November
Thursday 3
8.15 pm



Sophie Scholl – The Final Days

Sophie Scholl – Die Letzten Tage

Country: Germany
Language: German
 [English subtitles]
Duration: 117 minutes
Distributor: Bavaria Film International
Director: Marc Rothemund
Starring: Julia Jentsch / Fabian Hinrichs /
 Gerald Alexander Held /
 Johanna Gastdorf



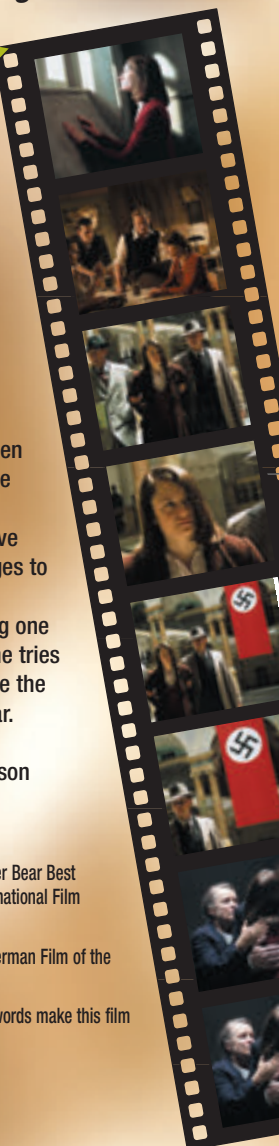
This is a powerful drama about wartime resistance, and is easily one of the best from Germany on this subject in recent years. It's Munich 1943 and Sophie and Hans Scholl are members of the White Rose ('Weiße Rose'), a resistance group against the Nazi regime. When they circulate fliers at their university, they are caught by a caretaker who calls the Gestapo. They are imprisoned and subjected to intensive interrogation. In the beginning, Sophie manages to bluff the Gestapo but Hans finally confesses everything. Sophie stands by her ideals during one of the most compelling courtroom trials as she tries to protect the other group members, and force the German people to face the truth about the war. On February 22nd, the Scholls and their aide Christoph Probst are found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death.

WINNER: Silver Bear Best Actor / Silver Bear Best Actress / Silver Bear Best Director / Prize of the Ecumenical Jury – 55th International Film Festival Berlin 2005

WINNER: Audience Award / Best Performance by an Actress / German Film of the Year / Outstanding Feature Film – German Film Awards 2005

'The sheer power of Jentsch's performance and Sophie's own words make this film an absolute must-see.'

—*Europeanfilm.net*



www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au

Canberra **International** Film Festival



November

Friday 4

6.15 pm

**Special
Advance
Screening**



Thumbsucker

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 94 minutes
Distributor: Columbia TriStar/ Sony Pictures
Director: Mike Mills
Starring: Lou Taylor Pucci / Kelli Garner / Keanu Reeves / Vince Vaughn / Benjamin Bratt

This is a wonderful, quirky comedy-drama boasting a star-studded cast. Addiction can take many forms – often drugs, gambling, sex and food. But for Justin Cobb, it's thumb sucking. Justin is a bright, but awkward high-school teen who sucks his thumb whenever he is stressed. He wants to quit but nothing works. He tries everything from putting ink on his thumb to hypnosis from his New Age orthodontist, played by Keanu Reeves. He is so desperate that when a school psychologist suggests using medication to help him focus, Justin leaps at the chance – despite his loving mother's concern. In a refreshingly original and humorous spin, the meds begin to work. But are they a cure, or really a curse?

WINNER: Silver Bear Best Actor – 55th International Film Festival Berlin 2005

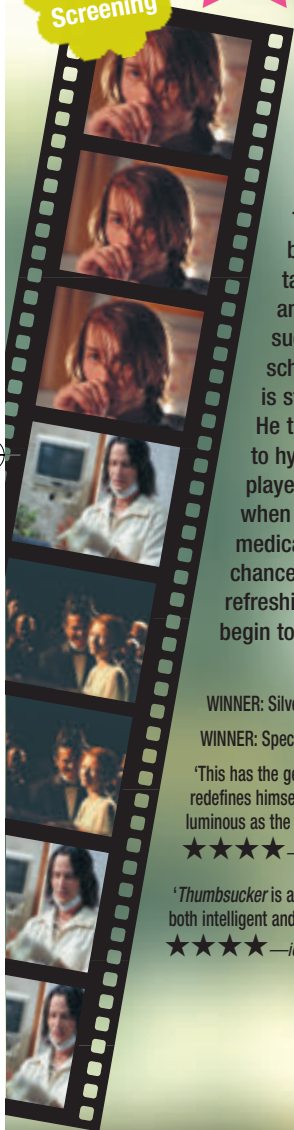
WINNER: Special Jury Prize – Dramatic, Sundance Film Festival 2005

'This has the gentle off-kilter charm of early Cameron Crowe. Keanu Reeves redefines himself as the hugely amusing New Age dentist. Tilda Swinton is luminous as the hero's mom.'

★★★★—*Seattle Weekly*

'Thumbsucker is accomplished in almost every respect...that rare trick of being both intelligent and funny.'

★★★★—*iofilm.co.uk*



www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au

Canberra **International** Film Festival

November

Friday 4

8.15 pm



Merry Christmas *Joyeux Noël*



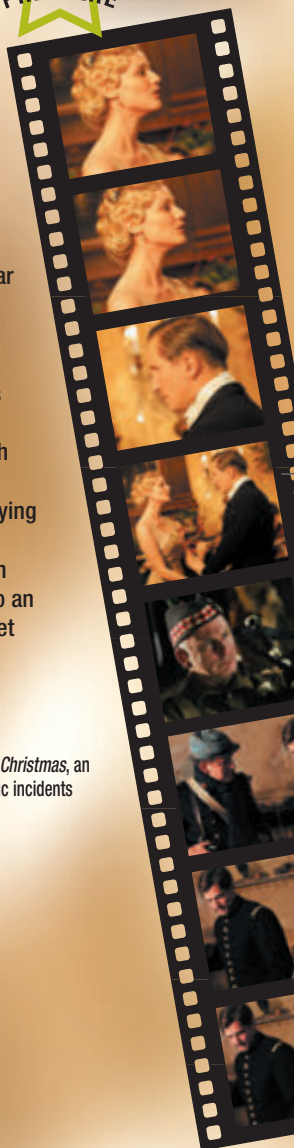
Country: France / Germany
Language: French, German & English
 [English subtitles]
Duration: 110 minutes
Distributor: Hopscotch Films
Director: Christian Carion
Starring: Diane Krüger / Benno Fürmann /
 Guillaume Canet / Gary Lewis

Merry Christmas is a beautiful film about war and peace. It is Christmas 1914 during WWI when three days of truce is celebrated between the German and allied forces in Flanders, on the French/Belgian border. This extraordinary true story is seen through the amazed eyes of a Scottish minister, a French lieutenant, a German tenor and a Danish soprano. It is about the unthinkable – the laying down of weapons in the trenches for the exchange of Christmas gifts. It is not only an exploration of duty versus humanity but also an intelligent and powerful film with humour, yet bittersweet consequences.

OFFICIAL SELECTION: Cannes 2005

'The message is powerful with storytelling to match in *Merry Christmas*, an exploration of duty versus shared humanity based on authentic incidents from the first year of WWI.'

—Variety



www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au

Canberra **International** Film Festival



November

Saturday 5

4.00 pm

Film &
Discussion

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

Blacktown

Country: Australia
Language: English
Duration: 92 minutes
Distributor: POD Films
Director: Kriv Stenders
Starring: Niki Owen / Tony Ryan

Love can be difficult at the best of times, and the remarkable *Blacktown* is a disarmingly honest tale of love-against-the-odds. Niki, an office worker, has the worst luck with men. When a date turns sour, an Aboriginal bus-driver called Tony rescues her from being dragged into a car, but then insists on walking her home. From these tense beginnings Sydney writer-director Kriv Stenders, charts a tentative romance between two lost souls searching for a way through life's emotional confusion. It's an intensely moving film with raw authenticity, aching tenderness and emerging passions.

FESTIVALS: Sydney Film Festival / Melbourne International Film Festival / Brisbane International Film Festival

NOMINATED: FIPRESCI Award for Asia Pacific – 14th Brisbane International Film festival 2005

'Though clearly ultra-low budget, *Blacktown* is one of the most accurate and sensitive portrayals of a relationship's trajectory to have appeared in recent years.'

—Hilary Harper, ABC Melbourne



Following the screening, meet the stars Niki Owen and Tony Ryan who will lead a discussion on 'Acting in Low Budget Films'.

www.canberrafilmmfestival.com.au

Canberra **International** Film Festival

November
Saturday 5
6.15 pm



36 Quai des Orfevres

Country: France
Language: French [English subtitles]
Duration: 110 minutes
Distributor: Sharmill Films
Director: Olivier Marchal
Starring: Daniel Auteuil / Gerard Depardieu /
 Andre Dussollier / Roschdy Zem /
 Daniel Duval

This film is a tense 'policier' in the tradition of Jean-Pierre Melville and the best of French 'film noir'. France's two biggest male stars, Gerard Depardieu and Daniel Auteuil, come together in a gripping drama of two rogue cops – once friends but now mortal enemies. One is ruthlessly corrupt, the other is obsessively determined to bring him down. When their CID chief announces his retirement, he makes it clear that whichever cop can bring down an elusive heist gang will be his favoured successor. The two men take each other to the lowest of ethical and moral depths in pursuit of the chief's job at head office – 36 Quai des Orfevres. This is a hard-hitting gritty tale of honour and betrayal based on actual events.

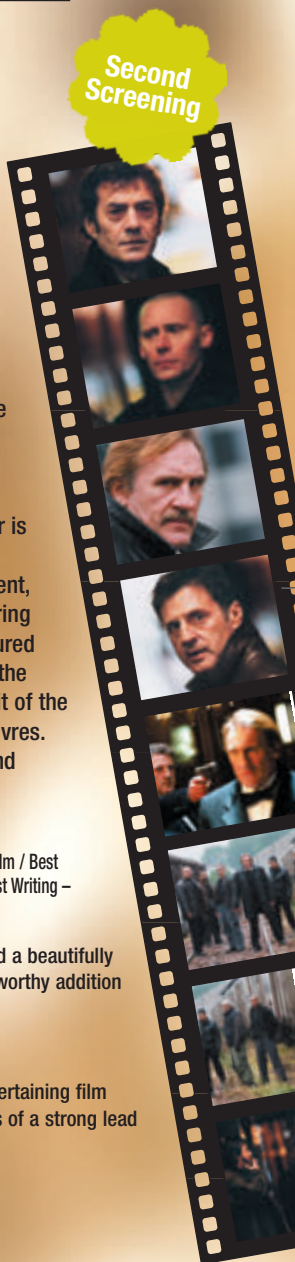
NOMINATED: Best Actor / Best Director / Best Editing / Best Film / Best Sound / Best Supporting Actor / Best Supporting Actress / Best Writing – César Awards France 2005

'Former police officer Olivier Marchal has directed a beautifully acted, shot and scored cop thriller that is a very worthy addition to France's near domination of the genre.'

★★★★★ —*Reeling Reviews*

'36 Quai des Orfevres is an accomplished and entertaining film that is bolstered by the impeccable performances of a strong lead and supporting cast.'

—*Strictly Film School*



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Canberra **International** Film Festival



November

Saturday 5

8.30 pm

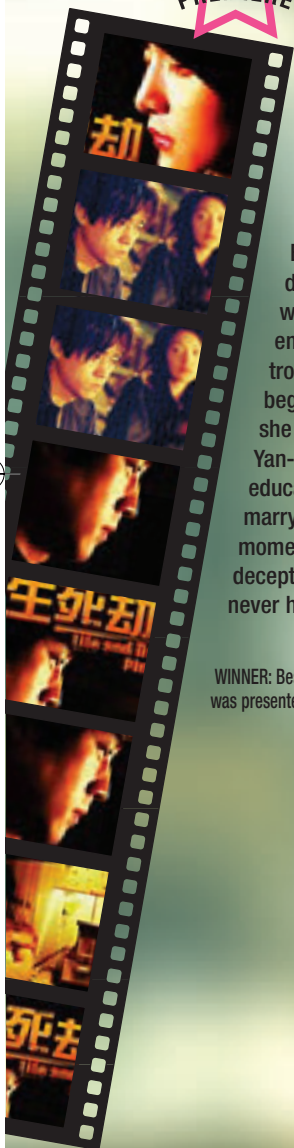


Stolen Life *Sheng Si Jie*

Country: China
Language: Mandarin [English subtitles]
Duration: 90 minutes
Distributor: Arc Light Films
Director: Li Shaohong
Starring: Wu Jun, Zhou Xun / Wang Peiyi /
 Su Xiaoming / Cai Ming

Banned in its homeland, this highly acclaimed drama from China follows Yan-ni, a young woman who starts college believing she is embarking on a new life away from her troubled family – but it's not quite the new beginning she anticipates. On her way to school, she meets Mu-yu and falls in love. It appears Yan-ni's life is going well. She is getting a good education and living with the man she wants to marry. What she doesn't know is that from the moment they met, Mu-yu began an intricate deception that will lead to a tragic loss she could never have imagined, and change her life forever.

WINNER: Best Film Award – New York Tribeca Film Festival 2005. The award was presented by Robert De Niro



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Canberra **International** Film Festival

November
Sunday 6
3.00 pm



A Fistful of Dynamite „ *Giù la testa*



Country: Italy
 Language: English
 Duration: 157 minutes
 Distributor: Chapel Distribution Release
 Director: Sergio Leone
 Starring: James Coburn / Rod Steiger /
 Maria Monti / Rik Battaglia /
 Franco Graziosi

When an Irish Republican Army demolition expert (James Coburn) with a price on his head runs to Mexico and teams up with a Mexican bandit (Academy Award winner Rod Steiger), they become heroes of the revolution of 1913. *A Fistful of Dynamite* (originally titled *Duck, You Sucker*) is an action-packed adventure from director Sergio Leone (*The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*).

Juan Miranda, the bandit, and John Mallory, the demolitions expert, stage a daring break-in to a bank that is being used as a prison for political prisoners in order to free them, hold off an entire army at a bridge so that their comrades can escape, and stop a military train loaded with munitions and troops.

Violent, lyrical, engaging and driven by one of Ennio Morricone's most exceptional, unpredictable scores, *A Fistful of Dynamite* has all the wallop of a large stick of TNT.

WINNER: Best Director – David di Donatello Awards 1972

'The combination of Leone's obsessive close-ups, Ennio Morricone's melodious music, and the comradely chemistry of Coburn and Steger ignite an emotional explosion comparable to that of *Once Upon a Time in the West*.'

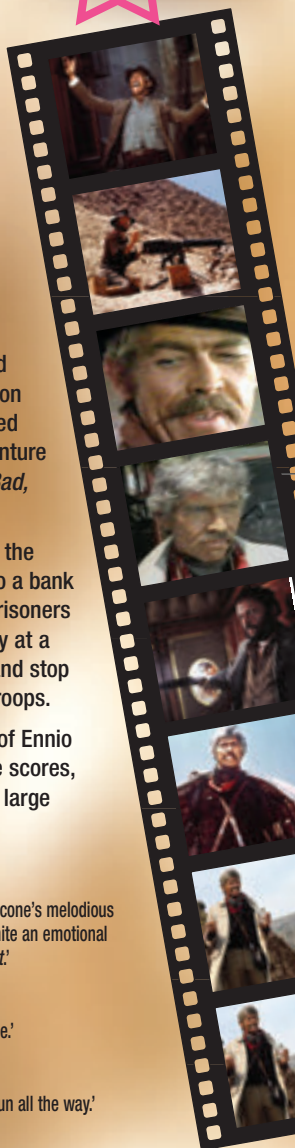
—Andrew Sarris, *New York Observer*

'The new print is good, and the 20 restored minutes are choice.'

—Elvis Mitchell, *New York Times*

'A marvelous sense of detail and spectacular effects – good fun all the way.'

—Don Druker, *Chicago Reader*



www.canberrafilm**festival.com.au**

Canberra International Film Festival



November

Sunday 6

6.00 pm



Grizzly Man

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 103 minutes
Distributor: Mad Man Cinema
Director: Werner Herzog
Starring: Timothy Treadwell / Amie Huguenard

Timothy Treadwell presumed he could live safely among the grizzly bears of the Alaskan wilderness, making his death as sensational as his life. Along with his partner Amie Huguenard, he was eventually killed and devoured by one of his beloved grizzlies to whom he had devoted years of study. Herzog uses Treadwell's own incredible video footage, shot during his time in the wild, and takes his story to unexpected emotional frontiers and startling landscapes of the mind. This film is about the defiance of the ordinary, the rejection of the obvious and the relentless obsession for more. A startling and involving new film from the German master who has given us some of the best German cinema over the last 30 years.

WINNER: Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize – Sundance Film Festival 2005

NOMINATED: Grand Jury Prize – Sundance Film Festival 2005

'A brilliant documentary about an American saint and fool – a man who understands everything about nature except death.'

★★★★★ —*The New Yorker*

'A brilliant portrait of adventure, activism, obsession and potential madness that ranks among Werner Herzog's strongest work.'

★★★★★ —*Variety*

'Mr. Herzog is also no ordinary filmmaker. It is the rare documentary like *Grizzly Man*, which has beauty and passion often lacking in any type of film.'

★★★★★ —*The New York Times*



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Canberra **International** Film Festival

November
Sunday 6
8.15 pm



Russian Dolls *Les Poupées Russes*



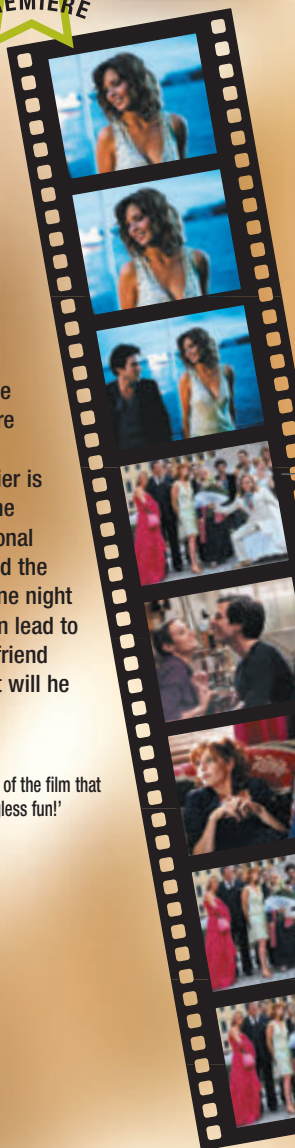
Country: France
Language: English / Russian / French / Spanish / Italian [English subtitles]
Duration: 125 minutes
Distributor: Palace Films
Director: Cédric Klapisch
Starring: Kevin Bishop / Romain Duris / Kelly Reilly / Audrey Tautou / Cécile De France

Five years after the making of *The Spanish Apartment*, the cast, Xavier, William, Wendy, Martine and Isabelle, reunite for a Russian wedding in St Petersburg. With their carefree student days behind them, the characters are close to 30-years-old and are dealing with weighty career and relationship issues. Xavier is at a crossroads in his career and far from the renowned novelist he aimed to be. His personal life is not much better as he struggles to find the right girl, although plenty are on offer. His one night stands and seductions with beautiful women lead to nothing. He stays in contact with his ex girlfriend Martine and his lesbian friend Isabelle – but will he ever bring his life into focus?

'*Russian Dolls* is a more finely wrought, well-matured version of the film that inspired it. Which, however, does not exclude a lot of meaningless fun!'

—*European Films.net*

★★★★★—*Ecranlarge.com (French)*



www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au

Canberra **International** Film Festival

The **9th** Canberra **International** **Film Festival**

FACTS

- WHERE:** Electric Shadows Cinema, City Walk, Canberra City
- WHEN:** Thursday 27 October – Sunday 6 November 2005
- RATINGS:** The Office Of Film And Literature Classification Ratings are included where films have been classified at the time of printing. All other films are classified R18+. For further details or enquiries please contact the Festival office.
- TICKETS:** Pre purchase tickets: Electric Shadows Cinema City Walk, Canberra City
- TICKET ENQUIRIES:** 02 6247 5060

TICKET PRICES

Adults	\$14
Concession card holders	\$12
Students	\$12
Six Tix	\$54

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Food & Film or Film & Drink packages available for Festival Patrons
Phone: 02 6262 9623

FILMFOOD FIESTA DEAL - \$22 PER PERSON AT:

Montezumas Mexican Restaurant

Proud supporter of the Mexican film Innocent Voices
197 London Circuit, Canberra City. For bookings phone: 02 6248 0062

SHAMROCK SPECIAL

Pre purchase tickets to Omagh also available at **The Canberra Irish Club** at the special price of \$12 for members and guests.
6 Parkinson Street, Weston ACT 2611 Phone: 02 6288 5088



Our visiting producers, directors and actors choose to stay at **The Waldorf Canberra** – the Festival place to eat, drink and stay
Phone: 02 6229 1234

CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL INC

GPO Box 2495, Canberra ACT 2601
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Canberra **International** Film Festival

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