



Millennium
AUDIO VISUAL

Proudly presents the

10TH CANBERRA
INTERNATIONAL

FILM FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER TO
SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2006

PROGRAM

*Farewell
Electric Shadows*



ELECTRIC SHADOWS
City Walk, Canberra City

→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ Welcome

After ten years, it is very gratifying to be able to say that the Canberra International Film Festival has never been bigger, better or stronger. We have screened over 155 films in that time, all of them Canberra premieres, and a large proportion of Australian premieres. Our place on the international film festival calendar is now extremely well established.

The Festival began in 1996 screening just 14 films. This year we will be presenting 26 films. And what better way to celebrate our tenth anniversary than to re-screen the film that started it all, our 1996 Opening Night film, 'The Horseman on the Roof', a galloping French romantic epic starring Juliette Binoche and Olivier Martinez. When it was made in 1995, it was by far the most expensive French film ever made. This year it will be our closing night film, thus book-ending ten years of the festival.

This year we have a dazzling line-up. From heart-wrenching dramas, to light-hearted comedies, from in-depth character studies to sweeping love stories, thought provoking documentaries, a musical and even a monster movie. But above all, they are films that will entertain you, transport you, and maybe even change you a little.

Our partnership with the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) has strengthened this year. It is an important relationship for both the NFSA and the Festival. Apart from screening recently restored classics, this year, the Ken G. Hall Award and the Celebrating 50 years of Television showcase will be held in conjunction with the Festival.

This year we are delighted to welcome and introduce to you our principal corporate partner, Millennium Audio Visual, who are Canberra's finest audio visual company. We look forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership.

The Festival committee also extends its sincere gratitude to our many other sponsors and supporters that allow us to present such a dynamic festival.

Special thanks go to the ACT Government as well as the Australian Film Commission, and our major partners the University of Canberra, DHL Worldwide Express, The Canberra Times, 666 ABC Canberra and Ronin Films. To our many other corporate and media partners and supporters, we applaud your enthusiasm in supporting an international film festival for Australia's national capital. Enjoy!



Michael Sergi
Artistic Director

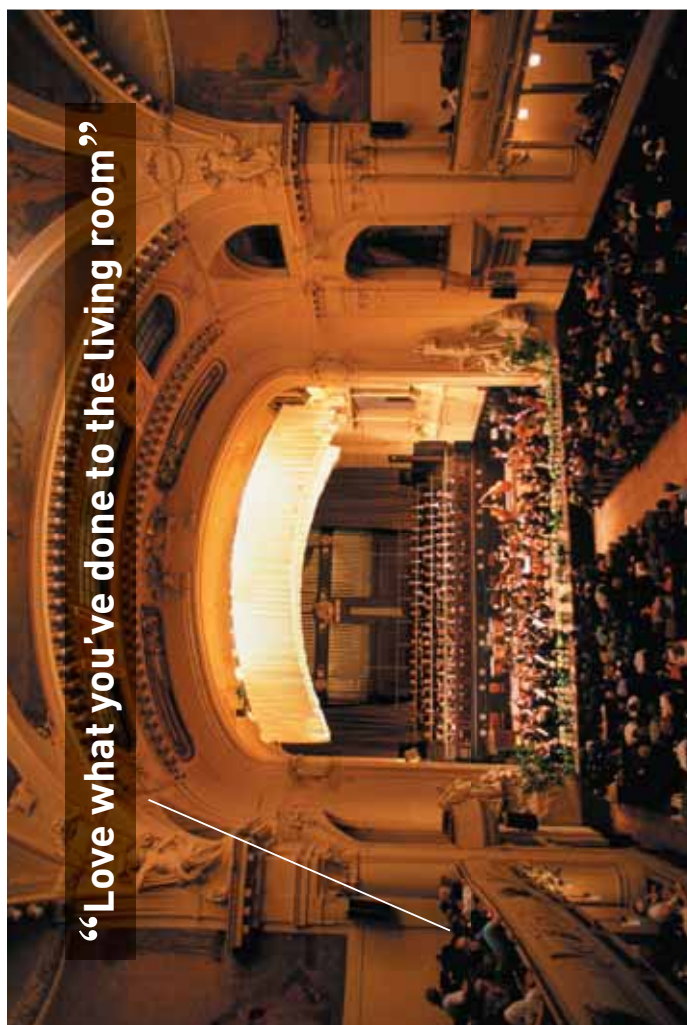
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“Love what you've done to the living room”

→ Program at a glance

7.00 PM THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER ←

DATE	FILM	ORIGIN	SCREENING TIME
OCTOBER			
THURSDAY 26	THE VALET	FRANCE	7.00 PM
FRIDAY 27	HUNT ANGELS – Introduction plus Q & A with Director Alec Morgan and Producer Sue Maslin	AUSTRALIA	6.00 PM
FRIDAY 27	THE HOST	SOUTH KOREA	8.30 PM
SATURDAY 28	THE MAKING OF HUNT ANGELS – NFSA	AUSTRALIA	12 Noon
SATURDAY 28	FESTIVAL OF TELEVISION PRESERVATION NFSA THEATRE – SESSION 1	AUSTRALIA	2.00 PM
SATURDAY 28	LOWER CITY	BRAZIL	4.00 PM
SATURDAY 28	DRIVING LESSONS	UK	6.00 PM
SATURDAY 28	HEADING SOUTH	FRANCE	8.30 PM
SUNDAY 29	FESTIVAL OF TELEVISION PRESERVATION NFSA THEATRE – SESSION 2	AUSTRALIA	2.00 PM
SUNDAY 29	TO PLAY & TO FIGHT – Introduction and Q & A with Director Alberto Arvelo Mendoza	VENEZUELA	4.15 pm
TBA	TO PLAY & TO FIGHT – Seminars & Workshops – check website for details	VENEZUELA	
SUNDAY 29	LITTLE RED FLOWERS	CHINA	6.00 PM
SUNDAY 29	THE SECRET LIFE OF WORDS	SPAIN	8.30 PM
MONDAY 30	SABAH	CANADA	6.00 PM
MONDAY 30	BEAUTY IN TROUBLE	Czech	8.30 PM
TUESDAY 31	PURE HEARTS	DENMARK	6.00 PM
TUESDAY 31	WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?	USA	8.30 PM
NOVEMBER			
WEDNESDAY 1	SISTERS IN LAW	UK	6.00 PM
WEDNESDAY 1	THE HOUSE OF SAND	BRAZIL	8.30 PM
THURSDAY 2	THE KEN G. HALL AWARD – NFSA THEATRE	AUSTRALIA	6.30 PM
THURSDAY 2	REQUIEM	GERMANY	6.00 PM
THURSDAY 2	MOUTH TO MOUTH	SWEDEN	8.15 PM
THURSDAY 2	THE VALET	FRANCE	8.30 PM
FRIDAY 3	THE NOTORIOUS BETTIE PAGE	USA	6.00 PM
FRIDAY 3	AFTER THE WEDDING	DENMARK	8.30 PM
SATURDAY 4	COME BACK AFRICA	USA	4.00 PM
SATURDAY 4	HALF NELSON	USA	6.00 PM
SATURDAY 4	THE ELEMENTARY PARTICLES	GERMANY	8.30 PM
SUNDAY 5	OKLAHOMA!	USA	3.00 PM
SUNDAY 5	THE PUFFY CHAIR	USA	5.00 PM
SUNDAY 5	THE METHOD	ARGENTINA	6.00 PM
SUNDAY 5	THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF	FRANCE	8.30 PM



THE VALET La Doublure

Country: France
Language: French
Duration: 85 minutes
Distributor: Sharmill Films
Director: Francis Veber
Starring: Daniel Auteuil / Kristin Scott Thomas / Gad Elmaleh

Second
Screening
Thursday
2 November
8.30 pm



CANBERRA
PREMIERE

Pierre Levasseur is an important CEO who is photographed with his lover – a world-famous model.

In an attempt to save his marriage, he tries to convince his wife that the model is not his lover, but that of François Pignon – a porter who happened to be passing by and ended up in the photo. To make his story believable, Pierre convinces François and Elena, the model, to move in together and pretend to be a couple.

Things become increasingly complicated as tensions arise effecting everyone's real love interests – especially when Pierre's wife discovers the truth and the real games begin!

This laugh out loud comedy is a hilarious case of mistaken identity, friendships, touching moments and a lot of shameless farce.

'Veber keeps the jokes coming at a neck-breaking speed

– *european-films.net*

'It is one of the best films of 2006.'

★★★★★ – *Matchflick*



→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ 6.00 PM FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER

8.30 PM FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER ←

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

HUNT ANGELS

Q&A
after the movie

Country: Australia
Language: English
Duration: 85 minutes
Distributor: Palace Films
Director: Alec Morgan
Starring: Ben Mendelsohn / Victoria Hill

In the late 1930s, Rupert Kathner and Alma Brooks began a movie-making spree that took on the Hollywood barons, a Police Commissioner and the cultural cringe – all in their passionate pursuit to make Australian films.

Based on a true story, *Hunt Angels* is set when Hollywood ruthlessly dominated the Australian film industry. On the run from police across thousands of miles, they would stop at almost nothing to get their films made. It's kind of an Aussie *Bonnie and Clyde*.

This fascinating story is told using digital innovations that incorporate real actors into photographs and archival footage of the times.

'Brooks and Kathner's mission to create an Australian alternative to the Hollywood-dominated newsreel and cinema landscape is as topical today as it was in the 30's' – *Matt Riviera*

'Ben Mendelsohn and Victoria Hill are great as the low-budget filmmakers' – *REVIEW*



The Director Alec Morgan and Producer Sue Maslin will introduce the film and provide a Q&A after the movie.

A session on the making of HUNT ANGELS will be held at the National Film & Sound Archive at 12 noon on Saturday the 28th October – see following page for details.

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

THE HOST Gwoemul

Country: South Korea
Language: Korean
Duration: 119 minutes
Distributor: Madman Films
Director: Joon-Ho Bong
Starring: Kang-ho Song / Hie-bong Byeon

One day, in front of countless people on the banks of the Han River, a creature reveals itself in a shocking display of horror and mass slaughter. In an instant, the riverbank is turned into a gruesome sea of blood. Gang-du, who operates a snack bar on the riverbank, witnesses his only daughter being taken up by the creature.

The sudden and shocking appearance of the creature renders the government and state powerless to act. The once-ordinary citizen, Gang-du, and his family are thrust into an unstoppable showdown with the monster to rescue his daughter.

The Host is a dark comedy, layered with rich detail, humour and a delightful irony in even the most disturbing situations.

'On almost every level, there's never quite been a monster movie like *The Host*' – *VARIETY*

'Finally, a movie that is so refreshingly entertaining that it puts most blockbusters to shame' – *Beyond Hollywood*

'It's great entertainment with some brilliant moments of shock and terror'

★★★★★ – *Film Stalker*

This is the real thing'

★★★★★ – *EyeForFilm*



→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ 12 NOON SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

2.00 PM SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER ←

NATIONAL FILM & SOUND ARCHIVE THEATRE
McCoy Circuit, ACTON

THE MAKING OF 'HUNT ANGELS'

THE SESSION

Peeling Back the Layers:
Compositing for 'Hunt Angels'
by Alec Morgan



Australian feature *Hunt Angels* is the subject of a fascinating session on film compositing. The film combines the original elements from the 1930s with actors and digitally composed footage, merging them together to create a fluid feature film about two of Australia's pioneering filmmakers (Rupert Kathner and Alma Brooks) as they default on creditors, dodge investors, and manage to make nineteen successful feature films in fifteen years. Director Alec Morgan presents an inspiring session on how it worked to meld live action, archival footage and digital composition to create a seamless whole.

Biography

Alec Morgan has had extensive experience as a scriptwriter and director for film and television. His documentaries include the multi-award winning *Lousy Little Sixpence* (1983), *Admission Impossible* (1992), and *The End of the Earth* (1990), which won Best Environmental Film at the New York Film Festival in 1990. Morgan was also co-writer and co-director of the series *Our Century* (1999) and *Dusty Hearts* which won best short film at the Asia-Pacific Film Festival. *Hunt Angels* is his first feature film.

1ST FESTIVAL OF TELEVISION PRESERVATION

Presented by The National Film and Sound Archive

Venue: National Film & Sound Archive Theatre
McCoy Circuit, Acton

In 2006 the National Film & Sound Archive begins an on-going celebration of 50 years of Australian TV – and counting – with this inaugural annual review of the newly acquired, the neglected and the plain unlikely from our broadcast television – complete, and in their original context. The NFSA Festival of TV Preservation will also be what it says it is: a celebration of the work of moving image archives in preserving these moments.

Thanks to the NFSA's Moving Image Branch and Preservation and Technical Branch for their assistance with this program. Titles courtesy and with thanks to David Hinley, Crawfords Australia Pty Ltd (Don Samulenok); Grundys Television (Kylie Connolly, Stephanie Payne); Channel Seven (Lisa Savage); Network Ten; Unilever Australia (Nick Goddard) and Coca Cola Amtil (Ruth Chope).

Program one: HECTOR'S DETECTIVES

Duration: 100 mins **Unclassified:** 15+

Hector's Ds step back to allow some powerful guest performances in two surprising episodes from the NFSA's Crawfords collection. With special thanks to Crawford's Australia

Homicide epi 211: "I Mick Byrne" (1967, 48 mins) gives a special meaning to the standard disclaimer that episodes were "...based on actual case record...s", as legendary TV and film dramatist John Dingwell (*Sunday Too Far Away*) retells the tragedy of the Ronald Ryan case little more than a year after Ryan became the last man hanged in Australia.

Cop Shop, Epi 109 (1978, 50 mins) is an extraordinary accident of support casting, as Joanne Samuel, Steve Bisley and a bearded Mel Gibson guest as a trio doing an inside pay role job – just a year before all three would rise to stardom as the leads in *Mad Max*.



→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

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→ 4.00 PM SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

6.00 PM SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER ←

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

LOWER CITY

Cidade Baixa

Country: Brazil
Language: Portuguese
Duration: 98 minutes
Distributor: Madman Films
Director: Sergio Machado
Starring: Lázaro Ramos / Wagner Moura / Alice Braga

Deco and Naldinho have been friends since childhood and grew up on a seedy waterfront in Salvador. One is black, the other white, but they see themselves as brothers.

Lower City tells a story with emotional intensity and a high eroticism that makes a lacerating impact. It's about a violent triangular romance between a stripper, a boxer and a thief. It's a tale of how two friends fall apart over a woman who loves them both. *Lower City* powerfully brushes aside any hint of glamour with tough, candid performances of pity, jealousy, longing and love.

This is a story of a tension that waivers between brutality and steamy sex.

WINNER: Award of the Youth – Cannes Film Festival 2005

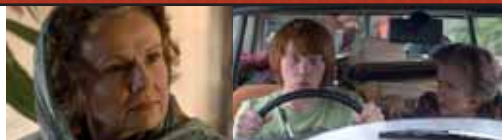
'Brazilian filmmaker Sergio Machado scores a strong debut with this look at young hustlers in a lovers' triangle.' – *Chicago Sun-Times*

'this is a beautifully made film' – *Salon.com*

'the action in this character-driven film is scintillatingly sexy' – *VARIETY*

★★★★★

– *Entertainment Weekly*

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

DRIVING LESSONS

Country: UK
Language: English
Duration: 98 minutes
Distributor: Hopscotch Films
Director: Jeremy Brock
Starring: Julie Walters / Laura Linney / Rupert Grint

Growing up is a bit like learning to drive, there are lots of things you're not meant to do and staying on the straight and narrow can be difficult.

Ben's misfortune was to be born into a family with his dad a preacher and his over-bearing mother simply self-righteous. But he breaks out of his imposed cocoon with the help of a retired actress played exquisitely by Julie Walters, and achieves his rite of passage.

Driving Lessons is gentle, charming and a hilarious comedy about the coming of age. It will keep you snickering all the way through bible class!

WINNER: Best Actress (Julie Walters) – Moscow International Film Festival 2006

WINNER: Special Jury Prize – Moscow International Film Festival 2006

'titillatingly eccentric' – *British Jaffer*

'Walters chews up scenery in grand manner' – *VARIETY*

'Driving Lessons is just right' – *Film Exposed UK*

'Walters is worth the price of admission' – *Shadows on the Wall UK*

★★★★★ – *BBCi Films*



→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

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→ 8.30 PM SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER

2.00 PM SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER ←

CANBERRA
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HEADING SOUTH

Vers le sud

Country: France / Canada
Language: French / English
Duration: 108 minutes
Distributor: Potential Films
Director: Laurent Cantet
Starring: Charlotte Rampling / Karen Young / Ménothy Cesar

It's sex, sea and sun for three ladies who are on the wrong side of forty and going through an enchanted interlude. Lonely, forsaken and neglected by men in their native countries, they indulge in carnal exultation by paying a few dollars to handsome young Haiti men.

Charlotte Rampling plays Ellen, a French literature professor from Boston. Brenda is an unfulfilled wife from Savannah, and Sue a sexually frustrated but good-natured Canadian factory worker. The girls don't care too much about the neighbouring poverty, or about the country's violent dictatorship. Their issue is that two of them have their sights set on the same man – Legba – and he is fed up with being a stud!

As touching as it is disturbing, *Heading South* is an unconventional exploration of desire and longing, with superb performances and direction.

WINNER: 'CinemAvvenire' Award (Cinema for Peace Award) – Venice Film Festival 2005

WINNER: Marcello Mastroianni Award – Venice Film Festival 2005

'its quietly terrific – *The Washington Post*

'a powerful cocktail of not just sex and love but race, poverty, colonialism and jealousy' – *The New York Post*

'A beautifully written, seamlessly directed film'

★★★★★ – *The New York Times*

★★★★★ – *The Baltimore Sun*

★★★★★ – *Film Threat*

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Program two: EARLY TV REALITIES

Duration: 90 mins **Unclassified:** 15+

Samples of TV genres that never seem to leave us, including:

- the children's animation **The Flying Doctor** (1962, 5 mins), drawn by renown architect Robin Boyd;
- **Big Beat 65** (1965, 25 mins), a TV special featuring then Australian tourists Roy Oberson and The Rolling Stones;
- The game show **Personality Squares** (1967, 25 mins), a forgotten earlier version of the Blankety Blanks format top heavy with stars like Jackie Weaver, Johnny O'Keefe, and the uncannily-Ugly Dave Gray-like comedian Fred Bamberger
- Plus '**Psyched-Out Ads**': prize-winning late 1960s Australian TV commercials, showing psychedelic and underground cinema influences – and some of the talent the filmmakers would bring to Australian feature films in the 70s.

NATIONAL
FILM
& SOUND
ARCHIVE
AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

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→ 4.30 PM SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

6.00 PM SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER ←

AUSTRALIAN
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TO PLAY & TO FIGHT

Tocar y luchar

Q&A
after the movie

Country: Venezuela
Language: Spanish
Duration: 70 minutes
Distributor: Explorart Films
Director: Alberto Arvelo Mendoza

To Play and To Fight presents the captivating story of the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra – an incredible network of hundreds of orchestras formed within most of Venezuela's towns and villages. Initially a modest program, designed to expose rural children to the wonders of music, the system has become one of the most important and beautiful social phenomena in modern history.

This documentary portrays the inspirational stories of world-class musicians trained by the Venezuelan system, including the Berlin Philharmonic's youngest player Edicson Ruiz and world-renowned conductor Gustavo Dudamel. There are interviews with many of the world's most celebrated musicians including the great tenor Placido Domingo, Claudio Abbado, Sir Simon Rattle, Giuseppe Sinopoli, and Eduardo Mata.

To Play and To Fight is an inspirational story of courage, determination, ambition and love – showing us that those who dream can achieve the impossible.

'There is no more important work being done in music than what is being done in Venezuela.' – *Sir Simon Rattle*

'I thought I had entered the Teresa Carreno, instead I had entered paradise.' – *Placido Domingo*

The Director Alberto Arvelo Mendoza from Venezuela will introduce the film and provide a Q&A after the movie.

Alberto is joined in Australia by two musicians from the Venezuela Youth Orchestra. Please see www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au for full details on these workshops, seminars and sessions.

Our sincere thanks to the Embassy of Venezuela for making this visit possible.



Bolivarian Republic
of Venezuela /
Embassy in Australia

LITTLE RED FLOWERS

Kan shang qu hen mei

Country: China / Italy
Language: Mandarin
Duration: 92 minutes
Distributor: Fortissimo Films
Director: Zhang Yuan
Starring: Dong Bowen/Ning Yuan/Chen Manyuan/Zhao Rui/Li Xiaofeng

Qiang, a four year old rebel, is deposited in a Beijing kindergarten. From the outset, he refuses to toe the line. Effectively orphaned, Qiang has difficulty adjusting to the school's regimen of how and when to eat, dress, wash his hands or even use the bathroom. The formation of good habits however, is rewarded with coveted little red flowers – but since Qiang can't dress himself and still wets his bed, he can't earn any.

Little Red Flowers is a touching, artful exploration on socialisation that also manages – without pandering or softening its point – to be quite adorable as well.

WINNER: The Confédération Internationale des Cinémas d'Art et d'Essai (CICAIE) Award – Berlin International Film Festival 2006

'Utterly winning film, with a lead performance by anklebiter Dong Bowen that will charm the hardest heart' – *VARIETY* (Derek Elley)

'Comically alive, delicately observed ... sharply etched, emotionally precise ... Little Red Flowers is relaxed, playful, and open' – *Screen International* (Patric Z McGavin)

'Little Red Flowers captivated the crowd, and captured our hearts.' – *Cinematical*

★★★★ – *CineFacts*

→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ 8.30 PM SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

8.30 PM SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER ←

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

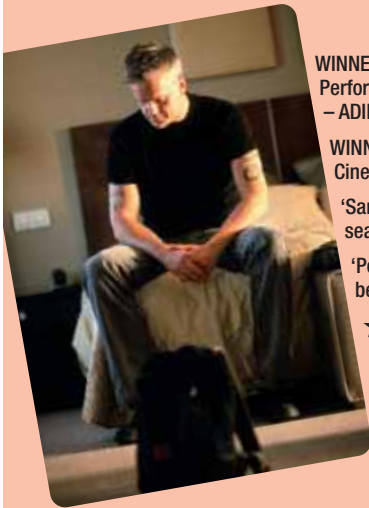
THE SECRET LIFE OF WORDS

La Vida secreta de las palabras

Country: Spain
Language: English
Duration: 112 minutes
Distributor: Dendy Films
Director: Isabel Coixet
Starring: Tim Robbins / Sarah Polley / Julie Christie

There is an accident on an isolated oilrig off the coast of Northern Ireland. A mysterious woman, who is trying to forget her past, is brought to the rig to look after one man who is seriously injured. A strange intimacy develops between them and neither will emerge unscathed – it will change their lives forever.

A film about the weight of the past, the silence before a storm, a Spanish cook, a goose and above all else, the power of love in the most terrible of circumstances.



WINNER: Best Director (Isabel Coixet) & Best Performance in a leading role (Tim Robbins) – ADIRCAE Awards 2006

WINNER: Best Film & Best Screenplay – Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain 2006

'Sarah Polley gives a wonderfully searching performance' – *VARIETY*

'Polley and Robbins have rarely been better' – *eye Weekly*

★★★★★ – *Out Now!*

★★★★★ – *Moovienet*

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

SABAH

Country: Canada
Language: English
Duration: 81 min
Distributor: Potential Films
Director: Ruba Nadda
Starring: Arsinée Khanjia / Shawn Doyle / Fadia Nadda

Sabah is turning 40 and lives a quiet life with her mother in Toronto. She is a smart, attractive Muslim Arab whose passion and independence have been dulled by 20 years of duty to her loving yet demanding family.

While her spirit isn't crushed, it has certainly packed its bags and taken a small vacation. Things used to be different, but Sabah's family retreated into a conservative Arab lifestyle following her father's death.

Sabah must confront her family in order to make them realise that living happily in Canada requires bending the rules of their own culture. What results is a clash of values and a test of love's ability to transcend two divided cultures.

WINNER: Youth Jury Award – Valladolid International Film Festival 2005

'this is an excellent movie' – *Montreal Mirror*

'a classically playful cinematic love story ... Sabah's journey is a trip worth exploring' – *Stephen Cole, Toronto Globe and Toronto Mail*

'a picture that dares to look at Muslim culture from both within and without critically and yet not without a leavening sense of humour and affection' – *Peter Howell, Toronto Star*

'Sabah is a sweet romantic tale about true love and overcoming adversity' – *Toronto Sun*

Canadian High
Commission

→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ 8.30 PM MONDAY 30 OCTOBER

6.00 PM TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER ←

AUSTRALIAN
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BEAUTY IN TROUBLE

Kráska v nesházích

Country: Czech Republic
Language: Czech
Duration: 110 min
Distributor: Menemsha Films
Director: Jan Hřebejk
Starring: Anna Geislerová/Roman Luknár/Jana Brejchová/Jirí Schmitzer

From the Director of *Pupendo* and *Up and Down*, comes this romantic drama.

Marcela is an attractive wife and mother of two children while her husband Jarda has resorted to stripping stolen cars in order to support his family. Marcela can't take the constant pressures and life of crime.

Will Marcela withstand the family dependence and the sexual addiction that binds her to her rehabilitated husband or will she chose an older, well-to-do Czech expatriate who she happened to naively meet?

Beauty in Trouble is full of unexpected twists and humour.

'Beauty in Trouble' was selected to participate in the main competition at the 41st annual Karlovy Vary International Film Festival where the film had its world premiere on 2 July 2006.



Embassy of the
Czech Republic

PURE HEARTS

Rene Hjerter

Country: Denmark
Language: Danish
Duration: 86 minutes
Distributor: Danish Film Institute
Director: Kenneth Kainz
Starring: Anders Matthesen / Laura Bro / Helle Hertz

Pure Hearts is about a young man named Kriss who has an obsession with the old black and white movie *Rene Hjerter*. Kriss watches the movie at least once a day, every day, all year round. He lives in an institution for the criminally insane, and together with his best friend Willy they only want one thing out of life – to watch *Rene Hjerter* and with its female star, Linda.

One day, one of the other mental patients makes a mean remark about the movie, and Kriss knocks him out, leading the staff to take away the movie. Kriss and Willy respond by escaping and search for the real Linda – but the real world is not exactly what they expected.

Pure Hearts is about facing life, dreams and fears amidst a world of make-believe.

'uplifting meld of real life and the movies' – *VARIETY*



Scene from *Rene Hjerter*.

→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

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→ 8.30 PM TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER

6.00 PM WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER ←

CANBERRA
PREMIERECANBERRA
PREMIERE

WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 93 minutes
Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing
Director: Chris Paine

This revealing documentary investigates the birth and death of the electric car.

It was among the fastest, most efficient production cars ever built. It ran on electricity, produced no emissions and catapulted American technology to the forefront of the automotive industry. The lucky few who drove it, never wanted to give it up.

So why did General Motors crush its entire fleet of EV1 electric vehicles in the Arizona desert? Maybe the answers lie in the cultural and economic ripple effects that reverberated through the halls of government and big business.



By the closing credits, there's little doubt who killed the electric car.' – *New York Post*

'Naturally appealing to environmentalists and techno motor heads, this film's story also unfolds like a good murder mystery, broadening its scope into areas such as grassroots organizing, corporate conspiracies, and governmental interference.' – *Marjorie Baumgarten, Austin Chronicle*

Runs efficiently on its own energy and sincerity, which makes it not unlike the car it mourns. – *Terry Lawson Detroit Free Press*

Fierce, deftly entertaining work of muckraking journalism.' – *Ty Burr, Boston Globe*

★★★★★ – *Entertainment Weekly*

★★★★★ – *The New York Times*

★★★★★ – *The Hollywood Reporter*

SISTERS IN LAW

Country: UK / Cameroon
Language: English
Duration: 106 minutes
Distributor: Women Make Movies
Director: Kim Longinotto and co-director Florence Ayisi
Starring: Beatrice Nambangi Ntuba / Vera Nkwate Ngassa

This fly on the wall documentary delves into a local courtroom drama in a small town in Cameroon, West Africa. It follows two women, the state prosecutor and the judge, as they fight sexist attitudes and societal norms with an acute desire for justice and their own firm brand of compassion.

Without fanfare, we are put into the heart of these very intimate dramas that enthrall, disturb and delight.

Sisters in Law is incredibly moving and at times unsettling but most importantly, it moves away from the stereotypes and gives a fresh perspective on the African people.

WINNER: Prix Art et Essai, Directors Fortnight – Cannes Film Festival 2006

WINNER: Special Jury Mention Europa Cinemas – Cannes Film Festival 2006

WINNER: Audience Award – International Documentary Festival, Amsterdam 2006

WINNER: Best International Documentary – Real Life on Film Festival, Melbourne 2006

'Positively soars ... who are these women, and can they please take over the world soon?' – *The New York Times*

'The women are so compelling, and the sense of justice so satisfying, I can't imagine any audience resisting' – *The Nation*

'This is a story of real heroism that will leave you weeping, laughing and singing' – *Salon.com*

★★★★★ – *San Francisco Chronicle*

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→ 8.30 PM WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER

6.30 PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER ←

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

THE HOUSE OF SAND

Casa de Areia

Country: Brazil
Language: Portuguese
Duration: 103 min
Distributor: Fortissimo Films
Director: Andrucha Waddington
Starring: Fernanda Montenegro / Fernanda Torres

Brought to life by the stunning cinematography of Ricardo Della Rosa, *The House of Sand* celebrates the struggles, passions and hidden desires of people trapped by their fate.

In 1910, Áurea follows her husband to the middle of a desert in Northern Brazil. Áurea is pregnant and wants to leave but getting out is difficult. Her husband Vasco is possessed by the determined belief that he can make this desolate place fertile – a belief that sees him buried through his own insanity. With only her mother as company, Áurea is left to raise her child in a house surrounded by sand dunes.

The House of Sand is a beautiful and unique story that is both visually and emotionally arresting.

WINNER: Alfred P Sloan Feature Film Prize – Sundance Film Festival 2006.



'Magnificently renders a fresh view of life' – *VARIETY*

'As original as it is lovely' – *The Los Angeles Times*

'a surprisingly lush and colorful romance blossoms in its bleak and gorgeous desert setting'

★★★★ – *The New York Times*

House of Sand is a brilliant tale'

★★★★ – *Film Threat*



2006 KEN G. HALL AWARD

Presented by The National Film and Sound Archives

Ken G. Hall AO, OBE is recognised as one of Australia's leading film directors and producers.

The National Film and Sound Archive initiated the Ken G. Hall Award in 1995 in honour of Hall's advocacy of cinema and its preservation. The award acknowledges individuals, groups of individuals or corporations for their outstanding contribution to the art of moving image and its preservation.

The NFSA will present the 2006 Ken G. Hall Award at a special function on 2 November, and celebrate the unique film career of this year's recipient. This event is open to the public and will include a Q & A session.

Details available closer to the event, please see the NFSA's website at

www.nfsa.afc.gov.au

<<http://www.nfsa.afc.gov.au/>> or the Festival website

www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au

<<http://www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au/>>.

Bookings essential: (02) 6248 2000

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→ 6.00 PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER

8.15 PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER ←



CANBERRA
PREMIERE

REQUIEM

Country: Germany
Language: German
Duration: 93 minutes
Distributor: Bavaria Film International
Director: Hans-Christian Schmid
Starring: Sandra Hüller / Burghart Klaußner / Imogen Kogge

This extraordinary film is based on a true story set in southern Germany in the 1970's.

Michaela is a 21 year old epileptic who grew up in a deeply religious family. Her father is kind but weak, and her mother cold hearted and distant. Michaela's first year away from home is at university – where she gets a taste of freedom, friendship and love.

The experience cracks open the shell of faith and family within which she had always felt secure and protected. The result is a frightening breakdown. Michaela finally seeks help from a priest, who only reinforces her conviction that she is possessed.

Requiem is a story of a fragile human being – lost in a world of moral ambiguity.

WINNER: FIPRESCI Prize & Silver Berlin Bear Best Actress (Sandra Hüller) – Berlin International Film Festival 2006.

'A stunningly played story of faith vs. family.' – *VARIETY*

'The film's finale is spine-chilling' – *european-films.net*

★★★★★ – *Out Now!*

★★★★★ – *CineFacts*



AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

MOUTH TO MOUTH

Mun Mot Mun

Country: Sweden
Language: Swedish
Duration: 92 minutes
Distributor: Swedish Film Institute
Director: Björn Runge
Starring: Peter Andersson / Leif André / Magnus Krepper

Vera ran away from home a year ago. Her family now lives in chaos as they share the responsibility and heavy guilt of driving her away.

She is about to turn 18 and is living with Morgan, a criminal, who takes advantage of her loneliness and uses her as a prostitute to get money for drugs and debts. Vera's dad becomes desperate as she rejects his attempts to make contact, but he is on a mission – to get her back before it's too late.

The film is a careful dissection of an apparently happy family, living in the seemingly carefree society that is Sweden. Unsurprisingly, such happiness is simply an outer veneer!

WINNER Best Supporting Actor (Magnus Krepper) – Guldbagge Awards (Golden Beetle Awards 2006)

'a moving story of people trying to make the best of their lives' – *VARIETY*

'The film has drugs, violence, battery, prostitution, suicide and other assorted ills, but credit Runge's screenplay for making them feel part of a coherent whole rather than a tick-off list of increasing improbabilities.' – *Boyd van Hoeij, european-films.net*



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→ 8.30 PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER

6.00 PM FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER ←



CANBERRA
PREMIERE



CANBERRA
PREMIERE

THE VALET

La Doublure

Country: France
Language: French
Duration: 85 minutes
Distributor: Sharmill Films
Director: Francis Veber
Starring: Daniel Auteuil / Kristin Scott Thomas / Gad Elmaleh

Pierre Levasseur is an important CEO who is photographed with his lover – a world-famous model.

In an attempt to save his marriage, he tries to convince his wife that the model is not his lover, but that of François Pignon – a porter who happened to be passing by and ended up in the photo. To make his story believable, Pierre convinces François and Elena, the model, to move in together and pretend to be a couple.

Things become increasingly complicated as tensions arise effecting everyone's real love interests – especially when Pierre's wife discovers the truth and the real games begin!

This laugh out loud comedy is a hilarious case of mistaken identity, friendships, touching moments and a lot of shameless farce.



'Veber keeps the jokes coming at a neck-breaking speed.'
 – *european-films.net*

'It is one of the best films of 2006.'
 ★★★★★ – *Matchflick*

THE NOTORIOUS BETTIE PAGE

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 91 minutes
Distributor: Dendy Films
Director: Mary Harron
Starring: Gretchen Mol / Chris Bauer / David Strathairn / Lili Taylor

Bettie Page modelled in New York from 1950 to 1957, but her impact far outstripped her relatively brief career.

Bettie grew up in a conservative religious family in Tennessee. After an abusive marriage and a brutal gang rape, she fled to New York and became a photo model sensation. Bettie's legendary fetish poses made her the target of a Senate investigation into pornography, and transformed her into an erotic icon who continues to enthrall fans world-wide today.

The Notorious Bettie Page captures a vanished but not entirely unfamiliar America – where sex is a secret obsession that can incite furor at the highest levels of government!

'a joyful, heartfelt movie' – *Salon.com*

Gretchen Mol is hot stuff in every sense of the term' – *Rolling Stone*

★★★★★

– *The Chicago Sun-Times*

★★★★★

– *Entertainment Weekly*



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→ 8.30 PM FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER

4.00 PM SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER ←

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

AFTER THE WEDDING

Efter brylluppet

Country: Denmark / Sweden
Language: Danish
Duration: 120 minutes
Distributor: Danish Film Institute
Director: Susanne Bier

From the makers of *Open Hearts* and *Brothers*, comes this sweeping and gut-wrenching drama by one of Denmark's foremost filmmakers.

It's about Jacob Petersen, who has dedicated his life to helping street children and now runs a struggling orphanage in one of India's poorest regions. When the orphanage is threatened by closure, Jacob receives an unusual offer of 4 million dollars from a businessman – but there are conditions!

Not only must Jacob return to Denmark, he must also take part in the wedding of the businessman's daughter. The wedding proves to be a critical juncture between past and future and catapults Jacob into the most intense dilemma of his life.

This is one of the most emotionally devastating films of the year, and one of the most important.



'A critical and commercial hit in Denmark' – *VARIETY*



– *AHOT FILM Denmark*

★★★★★ – *Filmz Denmark*

COME BACK AFRICA

Presented by The National Film and Sound Archive

Country: English / Afrikaans
Language: English
Duration: 95 Minutes
Distributor: Cinteca di Bologna
Director: Lionel Rogosin
Starring: Miriam Makeba / Vinah Makeba / Zachria Makeba / Molly Martin

Courtesy Cinteca di Bologna

A revelation for those who admired CIFF's 2005 South African hit film *Drum* is this new restoration of US documentary pioneer Lionel Rogosin's celebration of Johannesburg's Sophiatown, as it actually was in late 1950s apartheid-era South Africa.

Made in collaboration and written with *Drum* magazine staff, Rogosin shot the footage in 1958, dodging white authorities to give the impression he was in the country to film a travelogue about African music.

The film was completed just months before Sophiatown's vibrant rainbow community was demolished to make way for new white suburbs. The use of actual settings and non-professional actors in telling the story, set a tone of reality at the cutting-edge of the documentary cinema of the time. The images are still haunting five decades later; particularly cameo appearances by many of the black intellectuals and artists of the South African Black Renaissance of the late 1950s – including singer Miriam Makeba and writer Henry Nxumalo (the central character in dramatised *Drum*).

'the film conveys the last snapshot of a great literary generation before it was scattered into exile by the political repression following the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960' – *Ntongela Masilela*

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AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

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→ 6.00 PM SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER

8.30 PM SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER ←

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

HALF NELSON

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 106 minutes
Distributor: THINKfilm
Director: Ryan Fleck
Starring: Ryan Gosling / Shareeka Epps

This honest and inspirational film explores the precarious relationship between a man struggling with his own demons, and a young black girl on the verge of losing her innocence.

Dan is a high school teacher in Brooklyn and Drey is one of his students. They are both lonely souls who wander the planet looking to attach some semblance of meaning to their chaotic lives. Their relationship is unremarkable until Drey finds Dan collapsed in a toilet cubicle at the high school gym.

It is from this pivotal moment that a tentative friendship builds between these two unlikely allies, creating one of 2006's most arresting films in the process.

WINNER: Best Actor (Ryan Gosling) – Golden Space Needle Award – Seattle International Film Festival 2006

WINNER: Best Director (Ryan Fleck) – Jury Award – Philadelphia Film Festival 2006

WINNER: Best Film FIPRESCI Prize – San Francisco International Film Festival 2006

'A compelling drama that establishes Ryan Gosling as one of the finest actors of his generation.' – *USA Today*

'an exceptional American film' – *The New York Times*

★★★★★ – *Entertainment Weekly*

★★★★★ – *Los Angeles Times*

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

THE ELEMENTARY PARTICLES

Elementarteilchen

Country: Germany
Language: German / English
Duration: 113 minutes
Distributor: Celluloid Dreams
Director: Oskar Roehler
Starring: Moritz Bleibtreu / Christian Ulmen / Franka Potente

In *The Elementary Particles*, two half brothers struggle with intimacy issues in a compelling tale of fate, fortune and self-destruction.

While they share the same mother, their differences are extreme. Michael, an introverted molecular biologist, is emotionally detached from people. He is far more interested in genetic research than women. He quits a prestigious job to return to Ireland for a project that he abandoned three years earlier – asexual reproduction.

Bruno is a high school literature teacher with an unfortunate eye for coeds. He has seen his life fall apart including his marriage – thanks to sexual fantasies. Professionally, his writing is too racist and reactionary for even the most sympathetic of publishers.

Surely, a bad mother can't be the blame for psychological damage and sexual frustration – the excuses are just a little too convenient!

WINNER: Silver Berlin Bear (Best Actor Moritz Bleibtreu) – Berlin International Film Festival 2006.

'Dream cast of top German thespians – *VARIETY*

'This is a lyrical, compelling movie that rages against the emptiness of modern living.'

★★★★★ – *BBCi Films*

'It's a film filled with emotion' ★★★★★ – *Filmstalker*

★★★★★ – *MovieMaz-Germany*



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→ 3.00 PM SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

5.00 PM SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER ←



Presented by The National Film
and Sound Archive

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AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

OKLAHOMA!

Country: USA 1955
Language: English
Duration: 145 Minutes
Distributor: Park Circus. *Re-issue on restored digital & new 35mm prints*
Director: Fred Zinnemann
Starring: Gordon MacRae / Shirley Jones / Rod Steiger / Gloria Grahame / Charlotte Greenwood / Gene Nelson / Eddie Albert

THE PUFFY CHAIR

Country: USA
Language: English
Duration: 85 minutes
Distributor: The Duplass Brothers
Director: Jay Duplass
Starring: Mark Duplass / Kathryn Aselton

This exquisite new 50th anniversary restoration of Rogers and Hammersteins' signature work is that rare movie musical that should be seen as well as heard.

Set in Indian territory just after the turn of the century, the high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colourful background against which Curly – a handsome cowboy – and Laurey – a winsome farm girl – play out their love story.

Although the road to true love never runs smooth with these two headstrong romantics, there appears to be no doubt they will succeed.

The pleasures that await rediscovery include Fred Zinnemann's big sky settings, Agnes de Mille's ground-breaking choreography, the Bollywood colour palette of Australian Orry-Kelly's costumes, and support from actors better known for Hollywood thrillers, including Rod Steiger and Gloria Grahame.

WINNER: Best Music, Scoring of a Musical Picture – Academy Awards 1956

WINNER: Best Sound, Recording – Academy Awards 1956

'...you can virtually reach out and touch the corn.' – *Heather Osborn, NFT program notes*

'If you've never seen this, don't miss it!' – *Classic Film Guide*

'The combination of musical magic and nostalgia make this a classic'
– *Patrick Peters, Empire*

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With the support of the Embassy of the
United States of America

Josh's life is pretty much in the toilet. He's a failed NYC indie rocker and a failing booking agent – but he sees potential victory in a really bad idea!

He decides to purchase a 1985 Lazy Boy on eBay, just like the one his dad had when he was a kid. Josh drives cross-country with girlfriend Emily for the chair and delivers it to his father as a surprise birthday gift. But when younger brother Rhett ends up coming along for the ride, it's three people, a giant purple puffy chair in a too-small a van – one of them has to go before the trip is through.

WINNER: Audience Award – South By Southwest Film Competition 2005

'a smart and painfully funny debut feature by filmmaker brothers Jay and Mark Duplass.' – *VARIETY*

'The Puffy Chair would be hell to watch if it weren't so funny' – *Austin Chronicle*

'The Puffy Chair combines great original comedy and solid acting to make a fun movie.' – *Film Threat*

'a near-perfect relationship-trauma comedy. It's ragged in all the right ways, just like the way we love and wake up to the realization that love has gone sour.'

★★★★★ – *Austin Chronicle*

'The Puffy Chair is the funniest, saddest and most emotionally honest romantic comedy to come along in years

★★★★★ – *LA Weekly*

★★★★★ – *Washington Post*

★★★★★ – *Los Angeles Times*



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→ 6.00 PM SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

8.30 PM SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER ←

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

THE METHOD

El Método

Country: Argentina
Language: English / Spanish
Duration: 115 minutes
Distributor: Madman Films
Director: Marcelo Piñeyro
Starring: Eduardo Noriega / Eduard Fernández / Carmelo Gómez

How far would you go to get a job? That's the question confronting seven applicants at a mysterious Madrid firm in this entertaining drama. It places *Survivor* in a boardroom where immunity challenges are not allowed, and where the reward is questionable.

Downstairs in the street, out of sight but within earshot, demonstrators march against globalisation. Inside, is a company that reduces workers to lab rats that must work their way through the maze to that magical piece of cheese – the job!

Not one applicant is unemployed, so why go through it? Perhaps the intrigue is *The Method* used in the interview!

WINNER: CEC Award Best Adapted Screenplay (Mateo Gil, Marcelo Piñeyro) & Best Supporting Actor (Carmelo Gómez) – *Cinema Writers Circle Awards, Spain 2006*

'Gripping, exciting, thought provoking, and all around brilliant! The film is delightful.' – *Reel.com*

'a drama that sees plenty of sparks fly.' – *iofilm*

'funny and thought-provoking' – *Live Journal*



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10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1996 – 2006

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF

Le Hussard sur le toit

Country: France
Language: French / Italian
Duration: 135 minutes
Distributor: Palace Films
Director: Jean-Paul Rappeneau
Starring: Juliette Binoche / Olivier Martinez



The year was 1996 and the opening night of a brand new international film festival. Audiences buzzed while stars dazzled the screens in an exciting new French romantic film that in 1995 was by far the most expensive French film ever made.

This year it is our closing night film, book-ending ten years of the Canberra International Film Festival.

The Horseman on the Roof is a rousing, galloping, French romantic epic about beautiful people and thrilling adventures in breathtaking landscapes.

Angelo is an Italian fugitive whose wealthy mother purchased his rank of colonel. But cholera has struck France and every stranger is accused of having caused the epidemic. As Angelo runs from Austrian and French pursuers, he falls into the life of the abandoned Pauline.

In a time of war and disease, Angelo gallantly agrees to help Pauline find her ageing aristocrat husband. Angelo, duty bound – or so he thinks – cannot but offer to escort her on her journey...

WINNER: Best Cinematography – César Awards, France 1996

WINNER: Best Sound – César Awards, France 1996

'It is pure cinema, made of action, beauty, landscape and passion, all played with gusto, and affection.' – *Roger Ebert*

'A ravishing spectacle of epic proportions' – *Box Office Magazine*

'a romantic epic set in places that will make your mouth water' – *Washington Post*

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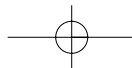
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→ Notes

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Weekdays

Ross Solly 5:30-9am	Alex Sloan 10am-noon	David Kilby 1-2pm	Louise Maher 4-6pm
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Electric Shadows

Electric Shadows began as a repertory cinema in 1979, and has been a Canberra icon ever since. It has long been established as a lively component of Canberra's cultural life and owned and operated by film identities Andrew and Merrilyn Pike.

Over the years, Ronin developed a marketing style that reflected the belief that a cinema, if run with the right intention, can build up a strong sense of community around it and have always maximised involvement with the local community in as many ways as possible.

It established a Preview Club with some 700 members where they attended free screenings personally introduced by Andrew Pike. Andrew also wrote newsletters to over 4,500 subscribers, talking about films and giving news up-dates on what is happening at the Ronin Cinemas.

In addition, Electric Shadows held fund-raising screenings for community groups, screened films by local filmmakers, and showcased community film Festivals – all of which have assisted to the development and identity of a 'local' cinema.

In December 2006, Electric Shadows as we know it, will come to an historical end. It will move to new premises on Bunda Street in the heart of the city with a 9-screen state-of-the-art complex that will provide Canberra with the best of world cinema for generations into the future.

The name will carry on and it will be known as the Dendy Electric Shadows Cinema and can claim to be one of the great cinemas of the world and a national flagship. The cinema will set a new benchmark for best quality film presentation, and will be a film destination where Australian and World premieres and special events will feature regularly.

Goodbye
Electric Shadows,
and thanks for the
memories.

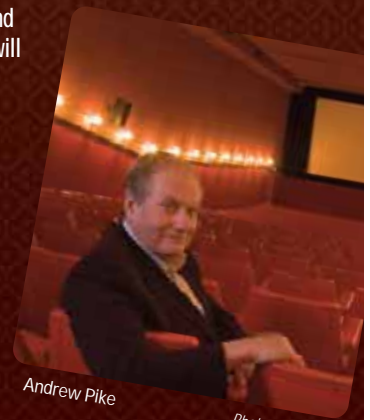


Photo Hommage

→ canberrafilmfestival.com.au

→ FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Facts



WHERE: Electric Shadows Cinema,
City Walk, Canberra City

WHEN: Thursday 26 October – Sunday 5 November 2006

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	\$15
Concession card holders	\$13
Seniors/students	\$9
Pensioners/children	\$8
Six Tix	\$54

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