

11th CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Thursday 25 October – Sunday 4 November 2007

PROGRAM



What will you see next . . .

DENDY CINEMA

Dendy Cinemas Canberra
Level 2, North Quarter
Canberra Centre

Plus events and screenings
@ Arc Cinema
National Film and Sound Archive
McCoy Circuit Acton



canberrafilmfestival.com.au

1 FESTIVAL | 11 DAYS | 20 COUNTRIES
38 FILMS | 51 EVENTS

The Canberra International Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of

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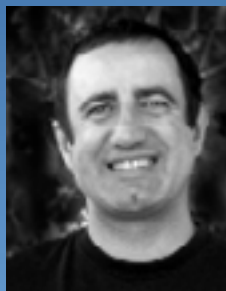
With special thanks to

Ronin Films, Mirrabooka Marketing & Design, Intrinsic Digital,
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Samuel Smith & Son,
The Waldorf Apartment Hotel Canberra

Welcome

A new year, a new beginning and a new cinema!

This year we commence an exciting new partnership with Dendy Cinemas Canberra. This multi-screen, state-of-the-art cinema complex offers unparalleled luxury from which to experience an around-the-world cinematic journey over 11 unforgettable days.



However, this is not the only state-of-the-art cinema from which to enjoy this year's cinematic smorgasbord. The Canberra International Film Festival has grown to such an extent that we are delighted to present 6 of our 38 films at the new, purpose built, Arc Cinema at the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA). Our partnership with the NFSA continues to strengthen and the future looks very exciting for our official second venue.

A festival of this size is only made possible because of the commitment and firm belief of our festival partners. Our founding partner, The University of Canberra, Australia's Capital University, continues its unwavering support for the festival, and it's future ambitions. DHL Worldwide Express, who have been transporting large, and heavy, 35mm film prints from the far corners of the earth, in record time and with steadfast efficiency, for this their 11th year.

Special thanks are also extended to our Government partners, the ACT Government and the Australian Film Commission for their continued, and very vital, financial assistance. Our heartfelt gratitude is also extended to our major partners The Canberra Times, 666 ABC Canberra, Millennium Audio Visual, Pirion Printers, Bearcage Productions, Prime and Capital Magazine. Our special thanks also to our cultural partners, particularly the Embassy of the United States of America, and the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

When the festival began in 1996 the program consisted of 14 films. This year there are 38 films, plus industry workshops, Q & A's with visiting directors and actors, and other events. Our growth has been organic and carefully managed.

The future looks very bright for the Canberra International Film Festival. I sincerely hope that the many thousands of festival goers who enjoyed the 2006 festival will be as excited by this year's program as I am, and that our expanded range will entice many more to sample the worldly delights that the Canberra International Film Festival has to offer.

Michael Sergi
Artistic Director

canberrafilmmfestival.com.au

PROGRAM AT

DATE	FILM	ORIGIN	TIME
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OCTOBER

Wednesday 24	Elizabeth: The Golden Age	UK	7.00 pm
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Thursday 25	Twice Upon a Time	France	6.15 pm
	<i>A Street to Die</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>
	The Black Madonna	Denmark	8.30 pm

Friday 26	Heavyweights	Germany	11.00 am
	Hunting & Gathering	France	6.15 pm
	Valley of Flowers	India	8.30 pm

Saturday 27	Heavyweights	Germany	12.30 pm
	Cold Trail	Iceland	2.30 pm
	<i>Imitation of Life</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>4.30 pm</i>
	An Old Mistress	France	6.00 pm
	<i>Paprika</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>
	Across The Universe	USA	8.30 pm

Sunday 28	The Art of Crying	Denmark	1.00 pm
	Boxing Day	Australia	3.15 pm
	Ira & Abby	USA	5.15 pm
	Lost in Beijing	China	7.30 pm

Monday 29	Cold Trail	Iceland	11.00 am
	Manufacturing Dissent	USA	6.15 pm
	Out of the Blue	New Zealand	8.30 pm

Tuesday 30	The Black Madonna	Denmark	11.00 am
	The Art of Crying	Denmark	1.00 pm
	Adam & the Devil	Turkey	6.15 pm
	The Edge of Heaven	Germany	8.30 pm

Wednesday 31	Manufacturing Dissent	USA	11.00 am
	Bella	Mexico	6.15 pm
	The Yacoubian Building	Egypt	8.30 pm

A G L A N C E

DATE	FILM	ORIGIN	TIME
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NOVEMBER

Thursday 1	Valley of Flowers	India	11.00 am
	Adam & the Devil	Turkey	1.15 pm
	The Diving Bell & the Butterfly	France	6.15 pm
	<i>Temple of Dreams</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>
	Interview	USA	8.30 pm
Friday 2	Ira & Abby	USA	11.00 am
	Lost in Beijing	China	1.15 pm
	Black Water	Australia	6.15 pm
	Transylvania	France	8.30 pm
Saturday 3	Crossing the Line	North Korea	2.00 pm
	Buddha's Lost Children	Netherlands	4.00 pm
	<i>Imitation of Life</i>	<i>USA</i>	<i>4.30 pm</i>
	You Kill Me	USA	6.00 pm
	<i>Words from the City</i>	<i>Australia</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>
	Beaufort	Israel	8.15 pm
Sunday 4	Canvas	USA	12.30 pm
	Crocodile Dreaming +	Australia	2.30 pm
	2 Mums & A Dad	Australia	
	Unfinished Sky	Australia	5.00 pm
	I Served the King of England	Czech	7.00 pm

NOTE:

Films in italics will be presented at ARC Cinema, National Film & Sound Archive, Acton Circuit, Acton.

All other films are presented at Dendy Cinemas Canberra, Bunda Street Canberra Centre.

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

'Vibrant, intelligent and intellectually curious ...'

Todd McCarthy – VARIETY

'Blanchett's performance is truly majestic and the Academy might wish to make amends for not giving her the award ten years ago'

*– Alan Hunter,
Screen International*



***Elizabeth: The Golden Age*
opens nationwide on 15 November 2007**

6.30 pm WEDNESDAY, 24th

VIP
OPENING
NIGHT
EVENT

ELIZABETH: THE GOLDEN AGE

OCTOBER

Country:	UK	Genre: Drama
Language:	English	
Duration:	114 minutes	
Distributor:	Universal Pictures	
Director:	Shekhar Kapur	
Starring:	Cate Blanchett / Geoffrey Rush / Clive Owen / Abbie Cornish / Samantha Morton	

This thrilling tale is a story of one woman's crusade to control love, crush enemies and secure her position as a beloved icon of the western world.

Reprising the roles they originated in seven-time Academy Award nominated *Elizabeth*, Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush return for a gripping historical thriller laced with treachery and romance in *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*. Joining them in the epic is Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh, a dashing seafarer and newfound temptation for Elizabeth.

Queen Elizabeth I (Cate Blanchett) faces a challenge for her throne by the powerful Spanish King Philip II (Jordi Molla) who is determined to restore England to Catholicism.

Preparing to go to war to defend her empire, Elizabeth struggles to balance ancient royal duties to her country, and an unexpected vulnerability in her love for Raleigh. Meanwhile, away from her court, her trusted advisor, Sir Francis Walsingham (Geoffrey Rush), uncovers more devious, familial threats to her throne.

'Blanchett gives another brilliant performance
that keeps you riveted to her every move ...
Impeccably shot and acted ...'

— COMINGSOON.net

www.elizabeththegoldenage.com.au

6.15 pm THURSDAY, 25th



TWICE UPON A TIME

Désaccord parfait

M

OCTOBER

Country:	France / UK / Romania	Genre: Comedy
Language:	French / English	
Duration:	92 minutes	
Distributor:	Dendy	
Director:	Antoine de Caunes	
Starring:	Charlotte Rampling / Jean Rochefort	

Starring two of the great figures in French cinema, Charlotte Rampling and Jean Rochefort, *Twice Upon A Time* is a sentimental comedy about two hugely proud and talented people who sailed past each other like ships in the night.

Thirty years ago they were lovers and their affair fascinated a nation as they were one of the most flamboyant couples of the 1970s. Louis (Rochefort), was the ultra-famous French filmmaker and Alice (Rampling), was his star actress and muse. Then came the break-up. It too, was public and painful. They have not met since. But Alice, who has established herself as a first lady of English theatre is asked to present Louis with a lifetime achievement award. She is married and has a son and a dog that snores ... but the game is on again ... delightfully!

'Together, they are like flint and steel, which is to say, they spark.....warm and entertaining'.

Cinematic Intelligence Agency

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

7.30 pm THURSDAY, 25th

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive

McCoy Circuit Acton



NATIONAL
FILM
& SOUND
ARCHIVE
AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

A STREET TO DIE

WORLD
PREMIERE

PG

Country:	Australia
Language:	English
Duration:	91 minutes
Distributor:	National Film and Sound Archive
Director:	Bill Bennett
Starring:	Chris Haywood / Jennifer Clough

OCTOBER

As minor symptoms become a debilitating illness, Vietnam veteran Col Turner and his wife slowly awake to the nightmare of exposure to Agent Orange and its even more damaging side-effects: official denial, silence and bureaucratic obstruction. Like the great films of Ken Loach, director Bill Bennett's (*Backlash*, *Kiss or Kill*) first feature coaxed powerful drama, as well as a powerful sense of social injustice, from a story that could come from any Australian suburb. Still one of the finest works in the great local tradition of a realist and politically-committed Australian cinema, *A Street to Die* stands also as maybe the best and most convincing performance of the film's star, Chris Haywood (in an AFI-award-winning role), who worked with Bennett to improvise key scenes.

This is a world premiere of a new restoration from the National Film and Sound Archive's Atlab/Kodak project.

The star of the film Chris Haywood, along with Bill Bennett, and the Director of Photography Geoff Burton, will introduce the film.

canberrafilemfestival.com.au

8.30 pm THURSDAY, 25th



THE BLACK MADONNA

Den Sorte Madonna

**AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE**

**Second
Screening**
Wednesday
31 October
12.30

OCTOBER

Country:	Denmark	Genre:	Action/Comedy/Drama/Romance
Language:	Danish		
Duration:	90 minutes		
Distributor:	Danish Film Institute		
Director:	Lasse Spang Olsen		
Starring:	Anders W. Berthelsen / Tuva Novotny / Ole Thestrup / Nicolas Bro		

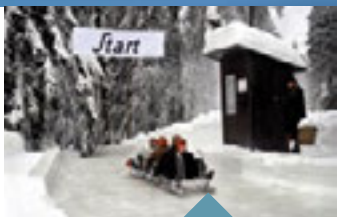
An action packed romantic comedy from one of Denmark's favourite directors, Lasse Spang Olsen and featuring two of Europe's hottest comedy actors Anders W. Berthelsen and Tuva Novotny.

Maria's life has crashed and burned, and now she has ended up working as a part-time stripper. Her father, Kurt, is a petty criminal who can't stop thinking about the one big heist that will finally make him. Foolishly he partners up with a Russian criminal gang to steal a priceless Russian icon, the Black Madonna.

That's when Gustav, a troubled cop, gets in the way. He'll stop at nothing to catch Kurt, and Maria goes to extraordinary lengths to prevent him. Soon, she is off to Poland with Gustav in hot pursuit. Add a couple of Kurt's goofy henchmen, who are trying to steal the icon from the Russians, and the laughs never stop.

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

813000am TUESDAY, 26th



HEAVYWEIGHTS

Schwere Jungs

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

Second
Screening
Saturday
27 October
12.30

OCTOBER

Country:	Germany	Genre: Comedy
Language:	German	
Duration:	94 Minutes	
Distributor:	Bavaria Film International	
Director:	Marcus H. Rosenmüller	
Starring:	Sebastian Bezzel / Michael Grimm / Antoine Monot Jr.	

From breakout director Marcus H. Rosenmüller (*Grave Decisions*) comes an exciting, breathtaking adventure that sparkles with humour and dazzling action sequences.

The hapless carpenter and would-be bobsledder Gamser is training like mad with his friends to make the national qualifications for the Winter Olympics in Oslo – Germany's first Olympic Games since the end of the war. However, another stronger team has been selected to represent Germany. Worse yet, it's headed by Gamser's old childhood rival, Dorfler, a wealthy brewery owner, who is already the official world champion.

The tension between the two teams becomes intolerable. When it turns out that neither can win, the men have to make an important decision: either they maintain their hostility, or they pool their creative energies for young, post-war Germany.

★★★★★ – outnow.ch

★★★★★ – FILMSTARTS.de

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

6.15 pm FRIDAY, 26th



HUNTING & GATHERING

Ensemble, c'est tout

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

M

OCTOBER

Country:	France	Genre: Romantic Comedy
Language:	French	
Duration:	97 minutes	
Distributor:	Palace Films	
Director:	Claude Berri	
Starring:	Audrey Tautou / Guillaume Canet	

Hunting & Gathering is a romantic French tale entwined with comedy and drama: A memorable new film from Claude Berri, a prolific writer-director best known for two of the most popular French films of the 1980's, *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources*.

Bringing together some of France's brightest young stars, *Hunting & Gathering* follows the lives of four people who will not only get to know each other, but live with each other and ultimately, learn to love each other.

Camille, a strange young woman, cleans offices at night even though she is a very talented artist. Franck is a chef who is rough on the surface but tender deep down, and who looks after his grandmother Paulette, a fragile old woman with a great sense of humour whom he has freed from a nursing home. Then there is timid, intellectual Philibert, a fading young aristocrat who invites the three characters to share his apartment.

'Frothy & intelligent in all the right places' – european-films.net

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.30pm ~~THURSDAY~~ **THURSDAY, 26th**



VALLEY OF FLOWERS

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

**Second
Screening**
Thursday
1 November
12.30

OCTOBER

Country:	India / France / Japan / Germany		
Language:	Hindi / Japanese	Genre:	Romance / Adventure
Duration:	155 minutes		
Distributor:	Madman Cinema		
Director:	Pan Nalin		
Starring:	Milind Soman / Mylène Jampanoï / Naseeruddin Shah		

Valley of Flowers is a great Asian love story and the second film from Indian director Pan Nalin, whose début *Samsara* (2002) won widespread acclaim.

Valley of Flowers is an unforgettable tale about passion, death and reincarnation. It is a mesmerizing Himalayan epic that spans two centuries, from the Silk Route of the early 19th Century to the bustling metropolis of modern-day Tokyo.

When Jalan (Milind Soman), an outlaw leader, allows the beautiful Ushna (Mylène Jampanoï) to join his band, their fortunes temporarily improve; but soon, admiration flowers into obsession, blindness and supernatural peril, as the lovers delve too far in pursuit of their desire.

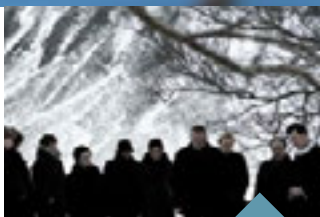
As their success increases and is seemingly unstoppable, so the love between Jalan and Ushna mounts in intensity, until they seem to have entered a world of their own.

WINNER: Jury Award Best Feature – 2007 Los Angeles Indian Film Festival

..‘a haunting, ethereal love story that traverses two centuries’.
Cineuropa News

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

2.30 pm SATURDAY, 27th



COLD TRAIL

Köld slód

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Second
Screening
Monday
29 October
12.30

OCTOBER

Country:	Iceland	Genre: Thriller
Language:	Icelandic	
Duration:	99 minutes	
Distributor:	Icelandic Film Centre	
Director:	Björn Br. Björnsson	
Starring:	Pröstur Leó Gunnarsson / Elva Ósk Ólafsdóttir	

Cold Trail is a suspenseful and atmospheric thriller set in the beautiful wilderness of northern Iceland. It revolves around a ruthless tabloid reporter, Baldur, who will go to any length to dig up a sensational story.

A security guard is killed in a remote and supposedly haunted Power Station in the highlands. At first, Baldur has no interest in the story; that is, until he discovers an extraordinary connection to the dead man.

He travels to where the death occurred and soon discovers that nothing is what it seems in this isolated place. The crew working at the Power Station live in a close knit community and don't like strangers. They illegally hunt reindeers – a business organised by Petur who is the head of security – and Baldur's presence is jeopardising the business!

But it's Baldur's discovery of criminal events that occurred twenty-five years earlier that places his life in grave danger.

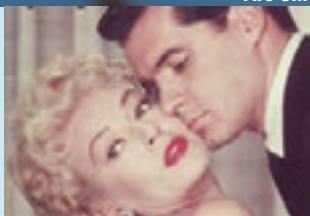
This is a chilling thriller with an ending that will surprise even the most accomplished arm-chair detective.

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

4.30 pm SATURDAY, 27th

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive

McCoy Circuit Acton



NATIONAL
FILM
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AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

IMITATION OF LIFE – 1959

unclassified

15+

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

OCTOBER

Country:	USA
Language:	English
Duration:	125 Minutes
Distributor:	Universal Pictures
Director:	Douglas Sirk
Starring:	Lana Turner / Jeffrey Hunter / Sandra Dee / Troy Donahue

In temporary financial 'embarrassment', Lana Turner's white, single mother/struggling actress crosses paths with a loving Afro-American housekeeper, also struggling to raise a daughter. Out of convenience, the two share domestic security and co-parenting. Years pass, the struggling actress becomes a diva, and despite the romantic temptation of suitor (Jeffrey Hunter)—the protagonists bond across America's racial and gender divide. Meanwhile their daughters (Sandra Dee, Juanita Moore) become women whose lives rebound with destructive consequences, against these barriers of skin colour and the feminine role. The swatch-book for Todd Haynes' homage *Far from Heaven*, *Imitation of Life* was the highest statement of 'Sirkian' melodrama: director Douglas Sirk's unique hybrid of the form of Universal Studio 'weepies' he made in 1950s Hollywood, and the thematic content of the radical theatre he'd directed in 1920s Germany.

A new restoration of Director of Photography Russell Metty's original brilliant Technicolor, courtesy of the Academy Film Archive, Los Angeles.

canberrafilemfestival.com.au

6.00 pm SATURDAY, 27th



AN OLD MISTRESS

Une vieille maîtresse

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

OCTOBER

Country:	France / Italy	Genre: Drama
Language:	French	
Duration:	104 minutes	
Distributor:	Potential Films	
Director:	Catherine Breillat	
Starring:	Asia Argento / Fu'ad Ait Aattou / Claude Sarraute	

An Old Mistress is the new film from Catherine Breillat, the director who broke new ground (and challenged Australian censorship standards with *Romance* in 1999).

The film is beautifully photographed and full of rich characters – an intimate chamber piece full of betrayals, confidences and secrets.

On the eve of the wedding of Ryno de Marigny to the virtuous Hermangarde, Ryno's mistress of 10 years, the tempestuous Vellini refuses to accept that their passionate love affair has come to an end. The film is the story of their affair, as told to Hermangarde's grandmother, the Marquise de Flers, by Ryno, bookended by the events of the days leading up to and immediately after the marriage.

An adaptation of an early 19th century literary classic *An Old Mistress* stars Asia Argento as a Spanish courtesan who imperils the happiness of the young engaged couple.

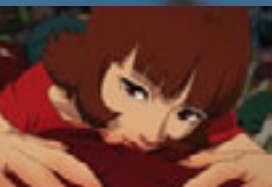
'Aattou's intensity combines a heartfelt yearning with a physicality that makes his beating heart audible under his period clothes'. – european-films.net

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

7.30 pm SATURDAY, 27th

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive

McCoy Circuit Acton



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PAPRIKA (Anime)

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

M

Country:	Japan
Language:	Japanese
Duration:	90 Minutes
Distributor:	Sony Pictures Releasing
Director:	Satoshi Kon
Anime:	Sci-Fi Mystery

OCTOBER

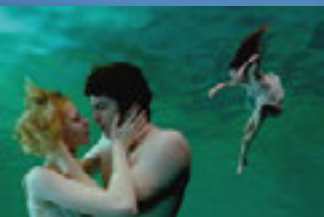
Dr Atsuko Chiba is a genius scientist by day and the kick-ass dream warrior Paprika by night. But then Dr Chiba's proto-type is stolen; a device that can enter people's dreams and explore their unconscious thoughts. It will take the skills of both of her personalities (and the help of a burnt-out police detective, suffering from cinophobia), to save Tokyo from annihilation, and to survive a world where dreaming, being awake and the virtual world of the Web are becoming indistinguishable.

Director Satoshi Kon is Miyazaki's only rival to the title of the most visionary of Japan's anime directors, with hallucinogenic films like *Tokyo Godfathers* and *Perfect Blue*. Here, style is complimented by his material, adapted from a story by the Japanese Phillip K Dick, Yasutaka Tsutsui. The result is not just a cartoon for grown-ups, but for our darkest side.

'a kind of a fever-dream shared by characters and viewers alike, Paprkia's explosions of... parading paraphernalia send us hurtling helplessly into an evermore sophisticated animated universe' *Tom Mes – Film Comment*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.30 pm SATURDAY, 27th



ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

Country:	USA	Genre: Drama / Musical / Romance
Language:	English	
Duration:	134 Minutes	
Distributor:	Sony Pictures	
Director:	Julie Taymor	
Starring:	Jim Sturgess / Evan Rachel Wood	

This groundbreaking musical is a love story set against the backdrop of the turbulent 1960's amid the radical times of anti-war protest, the struggle for free speech and civil rights, as well as mind exploration and rock 'n roll. Featuring 33 Beatles songs that defined a generation, this story is at times gritty, whimsical and highly theatrical.

The star-crossed lovers, Lucy (Evan Rachel Wood) and Jude (Jim Sturgess), along with a small group of friends and musicians, are swept up into the emerging anti-war and counterculture movements with 'Dr Robert' (Bono) and 'Mr Kite' (Eddie Izzard) as their guides. Tumultuous forces outside their control ultimately tear the young lovers apart, forcing Jude and Lucy – against all odds – to find their own way back to each another.

Director and co-writer Julie Taymor, uses a combination of live action as well as painted and three-dimensional animation, to magnificently reinvent the drama and passion of the 1960's.

'Here is a bold, beautiful, visually enchanting musical... The experience of the movie is joyous'.

★★★★★ *Roger Ebert – Chicago Sun-Times*

'This ambitious musical balances its visual outrageousness with a moving story'.

★★★★★ 1/2 *Rich Cline – Shadows on the Wall*

'The story is specifically designed to encourage appreciation of the director's visual flair and the sheer joy of the music. And such visual flair it is; and such joyful music'.

★★★★★ 1/2 *Antagony & Ecstasy*

'Fab, fun, soulful and moving. It isn't just another movie about the momentous events of the '60s, but rather a valentine to the era's artistic and idealistic spirit as symbolized by the music of The Beatles'.

(★★★★★ *IGN MOVIES*

OCTOBER



THE ART OF CRYING

Kunsten at græde i kor

**AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE**

**Second
Screening**
Tuesday
30 October
1.00

OCTOBER

Country:	Denmark	Genre: Black comedy
Language:	Danish	
Duration:	105 minutes	
Distributor:	Danish Film Institute	
Director:	Peter Schønau Fog	
Starring:	Jesper Asholt / Hanne Hedelund / Jannik Lorenzen / Julie Kolbeck	

The Art of Crying looks at life inside the home of a rural Danish family during the seventies – a family where life has gone horribly wrong.

Life isn't easy for 11-year-old Allan. His father has 'psychic nerves' and regularly threatens to kill himself. His mother has given up, his older brother has moved out, and the family's small dairy store isn't doing well. When his older sister stops spending the night on the couch with her father, it's up to Allan to keep the family together. His father lives for the times he gets to recite his famously eloquent eulogies and make the mourners weep in chorus. Soon, Allan is lending a hand to make sure there are enough funerals to keep his father happy.

This truly unforgettable film is an impressive feature debut for director Peter S. Fog and has just been selected as the Danish entrant for the 80th Academy Award nominations in the category of Best Foreign Language Film.

WINNER: Grand Jury Prize – AFI Los Angeles International Film Festival

WINNER: Youth Jury Award – San Sebastian International Film Festival

WINNER: Tokyo Grand Prix – Tokyo International Film Festival

'this refreshingly unconventional pic tackles its taboos with compassion, grace and wit'. *Jonathan Holland*

3.15 pm SUNDAY, 28th



BOXING DAY

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

OCTOBER

Country:	Australia	Genre: Drama
Language:	English	
Duration:	82 minutes	
Distributor:	Smoking Gun	
Director:	Kriv Stenders	
Starring:	Richard Green / Tammy Anderson / Misty Sparrow	

Boxing Day is a remarkable new Australian drama, boldly conceived in real time and shot as a single take. It's the story of a father's desperate struggle to reunite his estranged family.

The film documents the events across the course of a single afternoon in the life of Chris – a recovering alcoholic and alienated father.

Living alone on home detention, Chris is preparing Christmas lunch for his teenage daughter when an old friend turns up and exposes the disturbing truth about his ex-wife's new boyfriend.

The film documents the journey of a family teetering on the brink of disintegration. As the situation escalates inexorably we are drawn into the compelling story of a father who must finally decide to expose the dark and disturbing secret that threatens to tear his family apart.

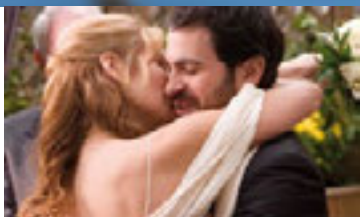
'An admirably tough, unsentimental, no-nonsense little picture, which marks Stenders – and Green – as considerable talents'.

Neil Young – Film Lounge

'Stenders is an audacious local filmmaker and one of a handful exploring aspects of life for urban Aborigines. Stenders's skilled use of non-professional actors, light-weight digital cameras and editing equipment, and dramatic improvisation is particularly effective'. *Richard Phillips – WSWS*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

5.15 pm SUNDAY, 28th



IRA & ABBY

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Second
Screening
Friday
2 November
11.00

M

Country:	USA	Genre: Romantic Comedy
Language:	English	
Duration:	105 minutes	
Distributor:	All Interactive Distribution	
Director:	Robert Cary	
Starring:	Jennifer Westfeldt / Chris Messina / Frances Conroy / Judith Light	

OCTOBER

Ira and Abby is a sweet, hilarious and slightly subversive romantic comedy that examines the issues of marriage, monogamy and whether 'I do' is the only path to life-long love and happiness.

Ira Black is brilliant, neurotic, Jewish and has so many issues he can't fit them into 12 years of analysis. Abby Willoughby is a free spirit who works in a gym and is better at solving her friends' problems than selling memberships. When the two meet, the impossible happens: they fall in love, meet each other's parents and decide to get married, all in a few breathless hours.

WINNER: Audience Award – Los Angeles Film Festival

WINNER: Best Actress – US Comedy Arts Festival

WINNER: Best Feature – US Comedy Arts Festival

'Ira & Abby radiates a breathless charm, due in no small part to Ms. Westfeldt's sharp dialogue and engagingly unmannered performance'. [New York Times](#)

'Ira and Abby may be a divorce comedy, but the perfect marriage of two comically inspired minds, director Robert Cary (*Anything But Love*) and writer/star Jennifer Westfeldt (*Kissing Jessica Stein*) is irresistible'. [WBAI Web Radio](#)

'Ira and Abby is launched with an infectious elation, a no-guts-no-glory take on love that's joyous'... [Variety](#)

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

7.30 pm SUNDAY, 28th



LOST IN BEIJING

Ping Guo (2007)

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

**Second
Screening**
Friday
2 November
1.15

OCTOBER

Country:	China	Genre: Drama
Language:	Mandarin	
Duration:	112 min	
Distributor:	Films Distribution	
Director:	Yu Li	
Starring:	Tony Leung Ka-fai / Bingbing Fan / Dawei Tong / Wang Mei	

Lost in Beijing is a sweet and sour tale about sex and the desire for parenthood in the social reality of the new generations in Beijing.

Like a lot of girls her age, Liu Ping Guo (Fan Bingbing) struggles to get by. Between her income as a foot masseuse and her husband's (Tong Da Wei) job as a high-rise window cleaner, the two can just barely afford a dingy apartment and life's most sacred essentials. For now, their marriage is kept secret – as Liu could be fired if her boss Lin Dong, were to find out she was attached. While there is no sex at his masseuse parlour, Lin Dong likes his pack of girls to be young, single and flirty. The more they flirt, the more money comes in.

Lin Dong has a drunken sexual encounter with his employee, Ping Guo, in full view of her husband Kun, who is unfortunately cleaning the window to the apartment at the time. Ping Guo's subsequent pregnancy leads to an in-depth exploration of the social and ethical dilemmas which ensue between the parties involved, including Ling Dong's barren wife. All of which leads to the question, what is the real cost of a baby – emotionally, financially and morally?

WINNER: Jury Prize – 2007 Bangkok Film Festival

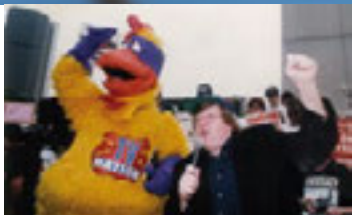
'an involving highly accessible portrait of an emotional ménage a quatre in the modern-day Chinese capital'. *Derek Elley – Variety*

'Yu Li's film excels in the area so richly explored by Chinese directors before her – the role of women in modern Chinese society'.

★★★ 1/2 – *EyeForFilm.co.uk*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

6.15 pm MONDAY, 29th



MANUFACTURING DISSSENT

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

M

Country:	Canada	Genre: Documentary
Language:	English	
Duration:	96 minutes	
Distributor:	Films Transit	
Director:	Rick Caine / Debbie Melnyck	

OCTOBER

Manufacturing Dissent is a topical documentary seeking to separate fact, fiction, and legend.

The film chronicles Michael Moore on tour during the promotion of *Fahrenheit 9/11*, all the while exploring the politically charged climate in America that has prompted Moore's ascension from documentary filmmaker to icon of the political left.

Manufacturing Dissent is an examination of the phenomenon of Michael Moore – the man, his movies and his methods – a dissection by two self-described 'progressive liberals'.

'Canadian documentarians Debbie Melnyk and Rick Caine draw heavily upon interviews with Moore's critics, acquaintances, former colleagues and long-time observers to produce a warts-and-all portrait'.

Joe Leydon – Variety

'Manufacturing Dissent' is an admirably honest and thoroughly rewarding piece of documentary filmmaking, and a must not only for fans of Moore, but for anybody interested in where the boundaries of documentary filmmaking ethics lie'.

Christiaan Harden – Movie Review

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.30 pm MONDAY, 29th



OUT OF THE BLUE

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

OCTOBER

Country:	New Zealand	Genre: Drama
Language:	English	
Duration:	103 minutes	
Distributor:	Dendy	
Director:	Robert Sarkies	
Starring:	Karl Urban / Matthew Sunderland	

From the last place on earth comes a true story of extraordinary courage and survival by ordinary people caught in inexplicable violence.

This chilling docudrama recounts the tragic events of New Zealand's largest mass-murder that took place in the small seaside town of Aramoana, on 13 November 1990.

Delivered with unvarnished realism, *Out of the Blue* depicts the confusion, horror and tedium of residents trapped in the village while local loner, David Gray, armed with a high-powered automatic rifle, stalks his victims. Nick Harvey is one of a handful of local police officers who risk their lives trying to find him and prevent more killings. The eventual realisation of the toll that Gray exacted – including several very young children – is handled with wrenching restraint.

'With first rate direction and cinematography ... an effectively harrowing and non-exploitative recap of real-life events'.

Dennis Harvey – Variety

'Certainly the most hardened New Zealand film to emerge since Once Were Warriors'.

★★★★★ – *The Lumiere Reader*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.36 pm TUESDAY, 30th



ADAM & THE DEVIL

Adem'in trenleri

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

Second
Screening
Thursday
1 November
1.15

OCTOBER

Country:	Turkey	Genre: Drama
Language:	Turkish	
Duration:	100 minutes	
Distributor:	IFR Turkey	
Director:	Baris Pirhasan	
Starring:	Cem Özer / Nurgul Yesilcay	

In a world flooded by threatening images of angry, fanatic Islam on the warpath, this is a heart warming story of the human spirit.

On the first day of Ramadan, Hasan arrives at a railway station in the middle of the Anatolian wilderness. He has with him a young wife and a young daughter. He has heard that the small station community needs an imam to lead the prayer ritual and teach the children Koran during the holy month. Before too long, realizing how aloof he is with his wife and daughter, the townspeople decide that for all his impassioned preaching, his mellifluous calls to prayer and committed worship, Hasan is essentially a cruel and heartless man. They start to develop an almost hostile attitude towards the imam.

But is there more to this man and his relationship with his family than meets the eye?

'Heart-warming and crowd pleasing ... this is one of the most satisfactory products to have emerged from Turkey during the last 12 months'.

Dan Fainaru –SCREENDAILY.COM

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.30 pm TUESDAY, 30th



THE EDGE OF HEAVEN

Auf der anderen Seite

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

M

Country:	Germany / Turkey	Genre: Drama
Language:	German / Turkish / English	
Duration:	120 minutes	
Distributor:	Sharmill Films	
Director:	Fatih Akin	
Starring:	Nurgul Yesilcay / Baki Davrak / Tuncel Kurtiz / Hanna Schygulla	

The Edge of Heaven criss-crosses between Germany and Turkey following characters that are entwined through a chain of events including activism, old age and prostitution.

Nejat is disapproving of his widowed father's choice of a live-in girlfriend, Yeter, who is a prostitute. But he grows fond of her when he discovers she sends money home to Turkey for her daughter's university studies.

Yeter's sudden death distances father and son. Nejat travels to Istanbul to search for Yeter's daughter Ayten, a political activist who has fled the Turkish police and is living in Germany. Rebellious Ayten is befriended by a young woman, Lotte, who invites her to stay in her home – a gesture not particularly pleasing to her conservative mother. When Ayten is arrested, deported and imprisoned in Turkey, Lotte travels to Turkey and gets caught up in the seemingly hopeless situation of freeing Ayten.

WINNER: Best Screenplay – 2007 Cannes Film Festival

'Packs a considerable emotional wallop in a quiet, inclusive way'. *Derek Elley – Variety*

'It bypasses any simple comparisons to recent convoluted choral works such as *Crash* and *Babel* and offers pleasing touches of Kieslowskian non-coincidences'. *Boyd van Hoeij*

– *european-films.net*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

OCTOBER

6.15 pm WEDNESDAY, 31st



BELLA

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

PG

Country:	Mexico / USA	Genre: Drama
Language:	English / Spanish	
Duration:	91 minutes	
Distributor:	Hopscotch	
Director:	Alejandro Gomez Monteverde	
Starring:	Eduardo Verástegui / Tammy Blanchard / Manny Perez	

OCTOBER

Bella is a true love story about how one day in New York City changed three people forever.

An international soccer star (Eduardo Verástegui) is on his way to sign a multi-million dollar contract when something happens that brings his career to an abrupt end. A waitress (Tammy Blanchard), struggling to make it in New York City, discovers something about herself that she's unprepared for. In one irreversible moment, their lives are turned upside down – until an impetuous action brings them together and turns an ordinary day into an unforgettable experience.

WINNER: People's Choice Award – Toronto International Film Festival

'An engaging and accomplished piece of work – with the film's superb performances contributing heavily to this vibe....Blanchard delivers a searing, unexpectedly powerful performance'.

Reel Film

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.30 pm WEDNESDAY, 31st



THE YACUBIAN BUILDING

Omaret yakobean

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

OCTOBER

Country: Egypt **Genre:** Drama

Language: Arabic

Duration: 161 minutes

Distributor: Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Director: Marwan Hamed

Starring: Adel Imam / Yousra /
Nour El Sherif

The *Yacoubian Building* offers a revealing insight into the secular world of a modern Islamic country, which include indulgence in alcohol, sexual promiscuity, political corruption and personal betrayals.

The lives and loves of a handful of Egyptian aristocrats – some wealthy, others living in shabby gentility – set the stage for this epic-scale drama, based on a best-selling 2002 Egyptian novel. It is a sprawling and boisterous tale that tracks the ups and downs of Egyptian society through the tenants of a decaying downtown Cairo residence.

WINNER: International Jury Award – São Paulo International Film Festival

'It is as sprawling as the land of the pyramids and as universal as vaudeville'. *Ron Wilkinson – Monsters and Critics*

'The filming, sets and costumes are lavish, the cast are the stars of the country and the cinematography is luxuriant.... consistently entertaining' *Reel.com*

'A sprawling, star-studded epic that spans all social classes in today's Cairo....distinguishes itself both as the most expensive Egyptian film ever made and, despite its nearly three-hour running time, one of the most watchable'. *Deborah Young – Variety*

★★★★ – *Eye for Film*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

6.15 pm THURSDAY, 1st



THE DIVING BELL & THE BUTTERFLY

Le Scaphandre et le papillon

**AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE**

Country:	France	Genre: Drama
Language:	French	
Duration:	112 minutes	
Distributor:	Icon Film	
Director:	Julian Schnabel	
Starring:	Mathieu Amalric / Emmanuelle Seigner / Marie-Josée Croze	

The Diving Bell and the Butterfly is both inspirational and beautiful. It is the remarkable true story of Jean-Dominique Bauby (Mathieu Amalric), a successful and charismatic editor-in-chief of French Elle, who believes he is living his life to its absolute fullest when a sudden stroke leaves him in a life-altered state. In these few bewildering moments, his life was forever changed.

While the physical challenges of Bauby's fate leave him with little hope for the future, he begins to discover how his life's passions, his rich memories and his newfound imagination can help him achieve a life without boundaries.

'The Diving Bell and The Butterfly may be avant-garde and bold, but it's also plain-spoken and real – a movie well worth seeing, with images and lessons that strike with power and don't let go'.

James Rocchi – Cinematical

'Amalric's delightful interior monologue – by turns wry, sardonic, panicky and lascivious – proves continually involving'.

Justin Chang – Variety

'Imagine a Spike Jonze-Charlie Kauffman-Michel Gondry-style film but with a warm, beating heart instead of cool, detached hipster irony'.

James Rocchi – Cinematical

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

7.30 pm THURSDAY, 1st

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive

McCoy Circuit Acton



TEMPLE OF DREAMS

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

NOVEMBER
MA

Country:	Australia 2007
Language:	English
Duration:	93 Minutes
Distributor:	Jotz Productions
Director:	Tom Zubrycki
Genre:	Documentary

This new film by one of Australia's most esteemed documentary filmmakers, Tom Zubrycki, returns to the urgent themes of *Molly & Mobarak*, *Billal* and his studies of youth and ethnic relationships in modern Australia.

Immersed in the social milieu of western Sydney's Lebanese-Australian community, it keeps up with the driven idealism of youth leader Fadi Rahman as he converts a Masonic temple into a Muslim youth centre, without government assistance, against local council opposition and in the glare of sensational media attention that followed the London bombings and the Cronulla riots.

Cutting down 18 months of footage and experiences into a charged one and a half hours, Zubrycki re-confirms his place as a master of observational filmmaking, in the commitment he gives to his story, and to his understanding of the concerns of its protagonists.

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.30 pm THURSDAY, 1st



INTERVIEW

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

MA

NOVEMBER

Country:	USA	Genre: Drama
Language:	English	
Duration:	83 minutes	
Distributor:	All Interactive Distribution	
Director:	Steve Buscemi	
Starring:	Steve Buscemi / Sienna Miller	

Interview is a rare directorial work from Steve Buscemi, one of the most highly regarded actors in the USA. He both directs and stars in this sexually charged drama about the power of the media, truth and celebrity.

Self-destructive journalist Pierre Peders (Buscemi) is no stranger to violence and inhumanity. Having made his name as a war reporter, he has travelled the world seeing some of the most horrifying sights imaginable. So he feels that his current puff-piece assignment, an interview with pop diva, TV and movie star Katya (Miller), is beneath his dignity. Each is scarred in their own way, aching from deep, hidden pain. But honest revelations give way to punishing deceptions. Their confrontation evolves into a passionate verbal chess game spiked with wit, intrigue and sexual tension, capped with a riveting ending with a twist.

'...keeps you watching because its two stars do. Mr. Buscemi always steals his scenes with stealth, nibbling where other actors chew and gulp. His evident lack of vanity is its own kind of vanity, one that is well matched by Ms. Miller's utter confidence. For once, she holds the screen, not just decorates it'. *New York Times*.

'Still, sharp dialogue and good performances keep it interesting. The film suggests a level of talent in Sienna Miller that she rarely gets a chance to show'. *Liz Braun – Sun Media*

'Miller's gutsy tour de force and the kick of watching Buscemi, as actor and filmmaker, turn an experiment into a mesmerizing battle of wills'.

★★★★ 1/2 *Peter Travers – Rolling Stone*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

6.15 pm FRIDAY, 2nd



BLACK WATER

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

NOVEMBER

Country:	Australia	Genre: Thriller
Language:	English	
Duration:	90 minutes	
Distributor:	All Interactive Distributor	
Director:	David Nerlich	
Starring:	Maeve Dermody / Ben Oxenbould / Diana Glenn	

Based on a true story, *Black Water* is a tale of survival set in the eerie, crocodile-infested mangrove swamps of Northern Australia.

This psychological thriller poses the questions – What would you do? How would you get out alive?

Grace, her boyfriend Adam and younger sister Lee decide to take a river tour while holidaying up north. As they drift into the mangroves, the boat is capsized and their guide disappears. Realising they have been attacked by a crocodile, Adam drags Grace to the safety of a tree while Lee is stranded on top of the upturned boat. The trio must try to reclaim their boat and get back down the river while evading the menace lurking below.

Black Water's tense narrative pits its three protagonists against nature at its most hostile and unforgiving.

'A cut above the rest ... the stylish visuals ... pay terrific shock dividends'

Alan Jones – Fangoria

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.30 pm FRIDAY, 2nd



TRANSYLVANIA

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

M

Country:	France	Genre: Drama
Language:	French / Romanian / English	
Duration:	103 minutes	
Distributor:	Potential Films	
Director:	Tony Gatlif	
Starring:	Asia Argento / Birol Ünel	

NOVEMBER

From Tony Gatlif, director of *Latcho Drom* and *Gadjo Dilo*, *Transylvania* is a haunting love-story, set in the hallucinatory landscapes of post-communist Romania. The film was honoured by being selected as the official closing film at the Cannes Film Festival in May this year.

Zingarina (Asia Argento) ventures into Transylvania, accompanied by her close friend Marie and her guide and interpreter Luminitsa, to track down a Romanian musician who has left her pregnant. After being cruelly rejected, Zingarina leaves her companions in the midst of an emotional meltdown, and finds that Roma life is rootless and unsettling. Things soon change however, when she meets a travelling trader...

'...was chosen to close May's Festival de Cannes this year, and it is easy to understand why: It's a love story involving rough-diamond protagonists, raucous gypsy music, majestic landscapes and an upbeat ending, deftly blended by one of the unsung heroes of art house cinema'. *Bernard Besserglik – The Hollywood Reporter*

'...those who like his (Gatlif's) life-on-the-edge romanticism will get more than their money's worth from this'. *Leslie Felperin – Variety*

'Her wordless, improvised reactions... is a career-best performance'. *Andrew Pragasam – Film Exposed*

'Channelling her sultry, if slightly off the wall charm, Argento is remarkable'... *Laura Bushell – BBCi-Films*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

2.00 pm SATURDAY, 3rd



CROSSING THE LINE

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

NOVEMBER

Country:	UK / North Korea	Genre: Documentary
Language:	Korean / English	
Duration:	90 minutes	
Distributor:	Madman Cinema	
Director:	Daniel Gordon	
Narrator:	Christian Slater	

Daniel Gordon's mesmerizing documentary is an extended portrait of James Joseph Dresnok (Comrade Joe), the last American defector in North Korea. Visiting the former U.S. soldier in the secretive country he's called home for more than four decades, Gordon offers valuable insights into life in the impoverished land.

In 1962, a U.S. soldier sent to guard the peace in South Korea deserted his unit, walked across the most heavily fortified area on earth and defected to the Cold War enemy, the communist state of North Korea. He then simply disappeared from the face of the known world. He became a coveted star of the North Korean propaganda machine, and found fame acting in films, typecast as an evil American. He uses Korean as his daily language and has three sons from two wives. He has now lived in North Korea twice as long as he did in America. At one time, there were four Americans living in North Korea. Today, just one remains. Now, after 45 years, the story of Comrade Joe is told.

'Film's rarity value and still-hot subject matter make this required viewing on the festival circuit and cable channels'. *Derek Elley*
– *Variety*

'Dresnok comes across as honest and credible, and his story is absolutely fascinating'. *Elizabeth Kerr* – *The Hollywood Reporter*

'The film is so visually stunning it keeps the audience entertained the entire time'. *Zack Haddad* – *FILM THREAT*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

4.00 pm SATURDAY, 3rd



BUDDHA'S LOST CHILDREN

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

PG

Country:	Netherlands	Genre: Documentary
Language:	Thai	
Duration:	97 min	
Distributor:	Aztec International	
Director:	Mark Verkerk	

NOVEMBER

Buddha's Lost Children is a feature-length documentary film about Phra Khru Bah, a Thai Buddhist monk – armed only with his faith and master Thai boxing skills – who wages an inspirational battle to help educate orphaned children, fight drug abuse, and preserve a vanishing way of life.

Set in the Golden Triangle of Thailand, an area notorious for drug trafficking and abuse, *Buddha's Lost Children* is refreshingly vivid, honest and heart-warming. Khru Bah's humour, his tough love, and his compassion are revealed and his incredibly positive influence on the region is evident.

Under his care, the young boys train and meditate rigorously. Khru Bah teaches them how to be responsible and respectful, and as the documentary progresses, life lessons are learnt with friendship and brotherhood strengthening their growing sense of identity.

'WINNER: Grand Jury Prize for Documentary – AFI Festival Los Angeles

WINNER: City of Rome Prize

WINNER: Silver Dove – Leipzig DOK Festival

WINNER: Best Documentary Award – Sonoma Film Festival

WINNER: Jury Award Best Documentary – Newport Beach Film Festival

'An unforgettable story and exquisite cinematography'. *AFI Festival Los Angeles*

'This gorgeously lensed journey is not one the viewer will soon forget.' *The Georgia Straight*

'Inspirational and gives new meaning to the phrase 'grassroots Buddhism'. *Happinez*

'For this extraordinary real-life adventure that recounts a superb tale of a heroic undertaking to create a better world, and all this brought to the screen with a breathtaking cinematic sensibility'. *DOK Leipzig Jury report*

4.30 pm SATURDAY, 3rd

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive

McCoy Circuit Acton



**NATIONAL
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& SOUND
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AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

IMITATION OF LIFE – 1934

unclassified

15+

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

NOVEMBER

Country:	USA	Genre: Drama / Romance
Language:	English	
Duration:	111 Minutes	
Distributor:	Universal Pictures	
Director:	John M. Stahl	
Starring:	Claudette Colbert / Louise Beavers	

Although the setting of this 1934 classic is the cynical era of Depression USA, the plot seems mostly the same. But director John M. Stahl's earlier reading of novelist Fannie Hurst's bestseller has been so overshadowed by Douglas Sirk's remake it's a re-discovery.

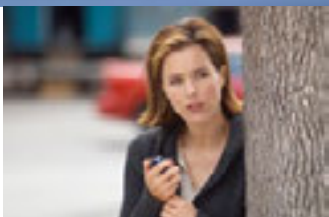
Charting the rise of Claudette Colbert's pancake empire—built by exploiting the tasty recipes and trusting nature of her live-in housekeeper, 'Aunt' Delilah (Louise Beavers, one of the rare Afro-American stars of the 1930s)—it keeps closer to Hurst's plot and to its ironic view of American race relationships.

With this and films like *Leave Her to Heaven* (1945) Stahl is acknowledged as Sirk's only rival for mastery over classic Hollywood melodrama. So watch closely: in its subtlest use of camera-track, acting gesture, cutting and even Colbert's stellar presence, the first *Imitation of Life's* eye for detail undermines every homily that falls from its character's mouths.

This new 35mm print is courtesy of The Library of Congress film archive.

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

6.30 pm SATURDAY, 3rd



YOU KILL ME

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

M

NOVEMBER

Country:	USA	Genre: Comedy / Crime / Thriller
Language:	English	
Duration:	92 minutes	
Distributor:	All Interactive Distribution	
Director:	John Dahl	
Starring:	Ben Kingsley / Tea Leoni / Dennis Farina	

You Kill Me is a street-smart mob comedy with a fabulous cast led by Ben Kingsley, and a director who is a master in the thriller genre.

Frank Falenczyk (Kingsley) loves his job. He just happens to be the hit-man for his Polish mob family in Buffalo, New York. But Frank's got a drinking problem and when he messes up a critical assignment that puts the family business in peril, his uncle sends him to San Francisco to clean up his act.

Frank is not a touchy-feely kind of guy, but he starts going to AA meetings, gets a sponsor and a job at a mortuary where he falls for the tart-tongued Laurel (Leoni), a woman who is dangerously devoid of boundaries. Meanwhile, things aren't going well in Buffalo where an upstart Irish gang is threatening the family business.

When violence erupts, Frank is forced to return home with unlikely assistance from Laurel.

'With an eclectic mix of strong-minded thespians all pulling in slightly different directions, this shape-shifting genre hybrid successfully commingles 12-step therapy, romantic comedy and hit-man thriller. 'You Kill Me' should appeal to those who like their humour (and love stories) quietly outrageous'.

Ronnie Scheib – Variety

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

7.30 pm SATURDAY, 3rd

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive

McCoy Circuit Acton



**NATIONAL
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AUSTRALIAN FILM COMMISSION

WORDS FROM THE CITY

**AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE**

NOVEMBER

Country:	Australia
Language:	Australian English
Duration:	85 Minutes
Distributor:	Film Camp Pty Ltd
Director:	Natasha Gadd / Rhys Graham

This AFI-Award-nominated music-doco explores Australia's exploding and (sub-) culturally dynamic hip-hop scene.

Through a long hot summer of gigs, festivals and interviews with the movement's creative vanguard, it follows acts like Wire MC, Downsyde, Layla, Adelaide's savvy Hilltop Hoods, Fijian-Australian MC Trey, Canberra's own Koolism and the ultra-political stylings of Melbourne's TZU.

Words from the City has the skill to know when to just hang with its subjects. Directors Gadd and Grahams' achievement is to make a connection with them and their context: sometimes in ethnicity, sometimes in a search for a meaningful style or language, but often (and despite the outsider's impression that hip-hop is a cultural import) in what is worth celebrating in the modern Australian suburban vernacular.

Sydney-based hip-hop artist Brothablack will perform live in the NFSA Courtyard, from 6.30pm before the screening.

'Not just for fans of hip-hop (who will love it!), this film is for anyone with an interest in the vitality of language, politics and attitude' – *Sydney Film Festival*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

8.15 pm SATURDAY, 3rd



BEAUFORT

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

NOVEMBER

Country:	Israel	Genre: Action / Drama / War
Language:	Hebrew	
Duration:	125 minutes	
Distributor:	Bavaria Film International	
Director:	Joseph Cedar	
Starring:	Oshri Cohen / Ami Weinberg	

This powerful film recounts Israel's evacuation of the Southern Lebanese mountaintop fortress called Beaufort in 2000.

Although there's criticism here of military strategy, the script endeavours to maintain a politically neutral stance, sticking to the ground soldiers' points of view, rendered convincingly here by the cast and the director, Joseph Cedar, himself a veteran of the first Lebanon war.

Beaufort tells the story of Liraz Liberti, the 22 year-old outpost commander, and his troops in the months before Israel pulled out of Lebanon. As evacuation day grows tantalizingly closer, Hezbollah increases the shelling from neighbouring hills to make it look like they have chased the Israelis out. This is not a story of war, but of retreat. There is no enemy, only an amorphous entity that drops bombs from the skies while terrified young soldiers try to find a way to carry out their mission despite the constant threat of death.

WINNER: Silver Berlin Bear Best Director – Berlin International Film Festival

'The cast put in an excellent performance.....captures the realities of a futile attempt to hold onto national pride at the expense of human lives'.

★★★★ EyeForFilm.co.uk

... 'a very worrying message of what war actually does to real people. A strong anti-war film indeed'

★★★★ Filmstalker

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

12.30 pm SUNDAY, 4th



CANVAS

AUSTRALIAN
PREMIERE

PG

NOVEMBER

Country:	USA	Genre: Drama
Language:	English	
Duration:	101 minutes	
Distributor:	All Interactive Distribution	
Director:	Joseph Greco	
Starring:	Marcia Gay Harden / Joe Pantoliano / Devon Gearhart	

Canvas is a beautiful and powerful story that is both heart breaking and heart warming. This semi autobiographical film tells the inspirational story of a ten-year-old boy coping with his mother's schizophrenia.

Chris just wants to be normal but Mary, his mum, has bouts of paranoia and delusion that give new meaning to the term dysfunctional family. His dad works constantly, struggling to pay the doctor's bills, leaving little time or energy for his son.

However, together, they find new-found love, understanding and respect – but above all else, they inspire each other with hope that ultimately fulfils a special promise made long ago.

'A triumphant, beautifully acted film' *Rolling Stone*

'Boasts terrific performances from its three leads – Joe Pantoliano, Marcia Gay Harden and young Devon Gearhart – and well deserves exposure beyond the festival circuit'. *The Hollywood Reporter*

'Canvas deserves the highest accolades, not only as a brilliant artistic vision and cinematic achievement, but as a statement for social awareness America has long needed'.

Nate Hansen – Sedona Red Rock News

'(Audiences) will experience the joy of discovery in Greco's fact-based drama –not just in its perspective on schizophrenia and the effect of the disease on one Florida family, but in Joe Pantoliano's cliché-demolishing performance'. *John Anderson – Variety*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

2.30 pm SUNDAY, 4th

CROCODILE DREAMING

CANBERRA
PREMIERE



M

Country: Australia

Genre: Drama

Language: English

Duration: 25 minutes

Distributor: Ronin Films

Director: Darlene Johnson

Starring: David Gulpilil / Tom E Lewis

The Director of *Crocodile Dreaming*, Darlene Johnson will conduct a Q & A session after the screening of her film.

This riveting drama starring David Gulpilil and Tom E Lewis marks the remarkable fiction film debut of writer-director Darlene Johnson, after a distinguished career in documentaries such as *Stolen Generations* and *Gulpilil: One Red Blood*.

The film is a visually beautiful fable about two estranged brothers who are in a race to hunt down a legendary crocodile, Big Tooth. Separated at birth, the brothers have different fathers. One is readily accepted as a fully fledged member of the tribe and is looked on to fulfil the duties of jungaiy, an important ceremonial role which obliges him to be caretaker for his mother's dreaming, the crocodile totem. The other, whose father was white, is younger and has had to struggle to fit into the tribe who sees him only as a 'yella fella'.

FINALIST! Best Short Fiction – 2007 ATOM Awards.

CANBERRA
PREMIERE

2 MUMS & A DAD



Country: Australia

Genre: Documentary

Language: English

Duration: 51 minutes

Distributor: Ronin Films

Director: Miranda Wills

Sally Ingleton, the producer of *2 Mums & a Dad*, will conduct a Q & A session after the screening of the film.

2 Mums and A Dad is an outstandingly observational documentary which won the Audience Vote at this year's Sydney Film Festival. It's a story about the rocky road of 3-way parenting, a unique exploration of the nature of family in today's complicated society.

Fiona is 33 and wants to have a baby. But her partner, Kellie, is a woman and sperm isn't handy. Fiona has a solution: an English gay guy from work wants to be a dad. 'Fiona and Kelly want their child to have a father. It seems perfect...but is it?

NOVEMBER

5.00 pm SUNDAY, 4th



UNFINISHED SKY

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

NOVEMBER

Country:	Australia	Genre: Drama / Romance
Language:	English	
Duration:	90 minutes	
Distributor:	Palace Films	
Director:	Peter Duncan	
Starring:	William McInnes / Monic Hendrickx	

Unfinished Sky is a powerful, poetic and sensual love story that peels away layers of hurt and mistrust to reveal the beauty of freedom, hope and choice.

It is the powerful tale of a reclusive farmer and a refugee who fall in love, despite their resistance. This is a complex story of emotions, trust and betrayal, and of strength drawn from the land. A love story with a thriller twist, played out against the harsh beauty of the rural landscape.

As they communicate through signs, pictures and a gradual understanding of each other's language, John and Tahmeena both begin to recover faith in themselves and trust in humanity.

'With exceptional cinematography, great narrative sense and strong performances elicited from his cast, director Peter Duncan has crafted a complex and engrossing drama that brings the world closer together'. *Jane Schoettle – Toronto International Film Festival*

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

7.00 pm SUNDAY, 4th



I SERVED THE KING OF ENGLAND

Obsluhoval jsem anglického krále

**CANBERRA
PREMIERE**

NOVEMBER

Country:	Czech/Slovakia	Genre:	Comedy/Romance/War
Language:	Czech		
Duration:	120 minutes		
Distributor:	Rialto Distribution		
Director:	Jirí Menzel		
Starring:	Ivan Barnev / Oldrich Kaiser / Julia Jentsch		

I Served the King of England is a compelling and stunning look at the glamorous life of old-world Prague. It is a sumptuously told tale of childlike wonder in the face of darkest corruption and war, mixing high comedy, surreal sequences and genuine drama. The story is in the wise, if somewhat jaundiced hands of Jiri Menzel, one of the great figures in Czech cinema. Jiri Menzel, leapt to international renown with his 1966 classic, *Closely Watched Trains*.

As a young man, Díte (played by Ivan Barnev) is ruled by his emotions. Greed dictates his goals in life and lust finds him in the arms of a variety of beautiful women. He works his way from a hotel in a small village, to an expensive spa resort, to the grand Hotel Pariz in Prague. Oblivious to political changes, he eventually becomes a millionaire, and buys the resort hotel he once worked at. The irony is delicious when two communist messengers come knocking at his door.

WINNER: FIPRESCI Prize – 2007 Berlin International Film Festival

WINNER: Best Film – 2007 Czech Lion

WINNER: Best Director – 2007 Czech Lion

'Enthralling picaresque story mixing high comedy with darkest political and social satire'. [Ray Bennett – The Hollywood Reporter](#)

'a quintessential Czech film'. [Jason Pirodsky – expats.cz](#)

'Menzel has crafted a visual extravaganza ... A crowd-pleaser that deserves to reach a wide audience'.

★★★★★ 1/2 – [eyeforfilm.co.uk](#)

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5:30-9am



Alex Sloan
9am-noon



David Kilby
1-4pm



Louise Maher
4-6pm

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Thank you.



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A faded, light blue background image of a person performing a handstand, positioned in the lower left quadrant of the page.

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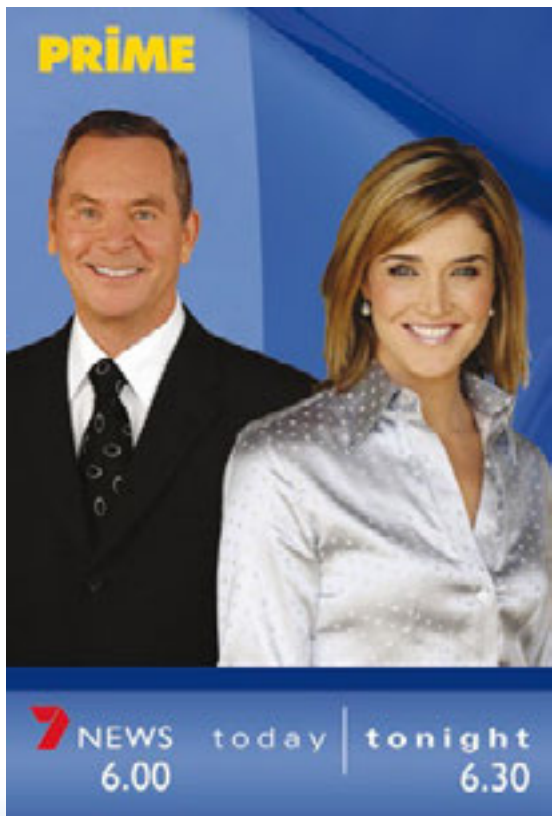
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THE 2007 NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE LONGFORD LYELL LECTURE



The National Film and Sound Archive's annual Longford Lyell Lecture offers a national or international screen personality the opportunity to discuss cultural issues of major relevance to the art, industry and scholarship of the moving image.

PATRICIA LOVELL

Join Patricia Lovell AM, one of the central figures in the re-emergence of the Australian film industry, at 6 pm, Tuesday 23 October at the National Film and Sound Archive for the 2007 Longford Lyell Lecture.

The event is free but RSVP is required by 19 October for catering purposes please.

More details at www.nfsa.afc.gov.au or contact (02) 6248 2000.

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EVENTS AT CIFF

VIP OPENING NIGHT

The much anticipated sequel *Elizabeth: Golden Age* will be screened as the opening night film on Wednesday 24th October. CIFF are thrilled to be opening the Festival in such regal style.

OPENING NIGHT SPECIAL GUEST

Multi-award winning actor Chris Haywood will be our special guest on opening night to officially open the 2007 Festival.

Chris Haywood has been working in the Australian film and TV industries since 1974. His feature debut was in Peter Weir's classic *The Cars that Ate Paris*. He is well remembered as the larrikin Curly in *The Man From Snowy River* and Corporal Sharp in *Breaker Morant*. His recent credits include *Human Touch*, *The Widower*, *Jewboy* and *Jindabyne*.

FREE CIFF WORKSHOP

Filmmakers Bill Bennett and Geoff Burton will host the annual CIFF workshop in the Boardroom of the National Film and Sound Archive on Saturday 27th October from 10am – 1pm. Join two of Australia's most respected film makers for a fascinating workshop where they share their wealth of knowledge of a combined 55 year history in the Australian film and television industry.

Please note that latecomers will be admitted no later than 20 minutes after the start of the workshop.

Q & A SESSIONS

[Thursday 25th October, Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive](#) – Filmmakers Bill Bennet and Geoff Burton along with actor Chris Haywood will introduce their film *A Street to Die*. A Q & A will follow the screening.

[Sunday 4th November](#) – The Director of *Crocodile Dreaming*, Darlene Johnson will introduce her film at 2.30pm. Darlene will also conduct a Q & A session following the screening in the Dendy Cinemas. Share an informal chat and discover her passion for telling Australian stories.

[Sunday 4th November](#) – The Producer of *2 Mums & a Dad*, Sally Ingleton will conduct a Q & A session following the screening of her film. Gain a perspective on the role of a producer in the Australian film industry from a writer and director widely admired for her documentaries: *Mao's New Suit* and *Painting Country*.

LIVE PERFORMANCE

[Saturday 3rd November, Courtyard, National Film and Sound Archive](#) – Sydney based Hip Hop artist Brothablack will perform live from 6.30pm before the screening of music doco, *Words From the City*.

Visit the FESTIVAL CLUB at Dendy Cinemas and enjoy a relaxing drink before or after a film.

Please visit our website for further information and details on other CIFF events.

canberrafilmfestival.com.au



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FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Facts

WHERE: Dendy Cinemas Canberra
Level 2 North Quarter Canberra Centre

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive
McCoy Circuit Acton

WHEN: Thursday 25 October – Sunday 4 November 2007

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.

DENDY TICKET ENQUIRIES: 02 6221 8900

ADULTS	CONCESSIONS/STUDENTS
\$15	\$12

SENIORS	CHILDREN
\$9	\$11

6 TIX	10 TIX
\$66	\$99

ARC TICKET ENQUIRIES: 02 6248 2000

ADULTS	ALL CONCESSIONS
\$9.50	\$8

10 ticket 'Max' pass (available for Arc sessions only)
\$70

CIFF Festival 6 Tix and 10 Tix pass are not available for sessions at the NFSA's Arc cinema.

www.nfsa.afc.gov.au

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

for the full festival program

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