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## From the President



I hope everybody's managed to get through the lockdown in one piece; it's been a really difficult period for everybody.

Now that the Ring of Steel has disappeared and there is a little more freedom, things are starting to feel a bit like 'normal'.

I trust you are all busy trying to prepare a 2021 program with the hope that our societies will be in a position to gather and once more share in the friendship and shared movie watching experience.

The FVFS committee has decided to waive the 2021 affiliation fees in recognition that many of our societies may be struggling with the financial impact that the pandemic has given us. We are fortunate that the Federation has a sound bank balance and that we are in a position to weather this current storm.

Please keep up to date with the current indoor restrictions on gatherings. The latest guidance can be found at [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus). At the time of writing the maximum for an indoor community gathering was 20 people with several other conditions. It's become a bit of a complex area, so make sure you understand the current requirements.

Let's all hope that 2021 brings us the normality we are all craving. Please take care over the festive season and all the best for your Film Society in the new year.

Cheers, Andrew

## David's top 13 since ReelNews #126



Our Patron, David Stratton AM

**LA BELLE EPOQUE** - France/Belgium, 2019, Com/Dra/Rom, 115 min, 7.4 on IMDb.

Dir: Nicolas Bedos. Stars: Daniel Auteuil, Guillaume Canet, Doria Tillier.

– an outstanding French film about a man who is able to return to a key moment in his past life.

**LES MISERABLES** - France, 2019, Crime/Dra/Thr, 104 min, 7.6 on IMDb.

Dir: Ladj Ly. Stars: Damien Bonnard, Alexis Manenti, Djibril Zonga.

– nothing directly to do with Victor Hugo, this is a drama about policing the unruly and sometimes violent outer suburbs of Paris.

**ADAM** - Morocco/France/Belgium, 2019, Drama, 98 min, 7.2 on IMDb.

Dir: Maryam Touzani. Stars: Lubna Azabal, Nisrin Erradi, Douae Belkhaouda

– two women help one another in the narrow streets of old Casablanca.

**THE TRANSLATORS (Les Traducteurs)** - France/Belgium, 2019, Myst/Thr, 105min, 6.4 on IMDb.

Dir: Regis Roinsard. Stars: Lambert Wilson, Olga Kurylenko, Riccardo Scamarcio.

– a clever, tricky, twisty mystery that will almost certainly keep you guessing to the end.

**MEASURE FOR MEASURE** - Australia, 2019, Drama, 107 min, 5.7 on IMDb.

Dir: Paul Ireland. Stars: Hugo Weaving, Harrison Gilbertson, Daniel Henshall – Paul Ireland’s superior Melbourne-set crime drama, from the team that made *PAWNO*, is a skilful modernisation of Shakespeare’s play with a very fine performance from Hugo Weaving as a crime boss.

**I AM GRETA** - Sweden, 2020, Doco/Bio, 97 min, 3.1 on IMDb.

Dir: Nathan Grossman. Stars: Malena Ernman, Antonio Guterres, Arnold Schwarzenegger. – documentary on climate change activist Greta Thunberg – of great interest.

**MISS JUNETEENTH** - USA, 2020, Drama, 99 min, 6.3 on IMDb.

Dir: Channing Godfrey Peoples. Stars: Nicole Beharie, Kendrick Sampson, Alexis Chikaeze. – African-American mother and daughter are involved in a beauty quest in a Texas city.

**HOPE GAP** - UK, 2019, Dra/Rom, 100 min, 6.7 on IMDb.

Dir: William Nicholson. Stars: Annette Bening, Bill Nighy, Josh O’Connor. – Annette Bening and Bill Nighy are excellent in a drama about the end of a long marriage.

**CORPUS CHRISTI** - Poland/France, 2019, Drama, 115 min, 7.7 on IMDb.

Dir: Jan Komasa. Stars: Bartosz Bielenia, Aleksandra Konieczna, Eliza Rycembel. – superb Polish drama about an ex-convict who poses as a priest in a small town.

**NEVER TOO LATE** - Australia, 2020, Com/Dra/Rom, 95 min, 5.2 on IMDb.

Dir: Mark Lamprell. – a very amiable Australian comedy with lovely performances from Jacki Weaver, Jack Thompson, James Cromwell, Dennis Waterman and others.

**NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS** - USA/UK, 2020, Drama, 101 min, 7.3 on IMDb.

Dir: Eliza Hittman. Stars: Sidney Flanigan, Talia Ryder, Theodore Pellerin.

– a grim but most impressive drama about a 17-year-old small town girl who finds herself pregnant.

**A LION RETURNS** - Australia/ United Arab Emirates, 2020, Drama, 91 min, 8.1 on IMDb.

Dir: Serhat Caradee. Stars: Maha Wilson, Serhat Caradee, Danny Elacci.

– a superb, tense drama set on a suburban street in an Australian city. A young terrorist has returned secretly from Syria – why?

**BRAZEN HUSSIES** - Australia, 2020, Doco, 93 min.

Dir: Catherine Dwyer. Stars: Martha Ansara, Suzanne Bellamy, Shirley Castley.

– a fine Australian documentary about the birth of the women’s movement, with some great archive footage.

## Affiliation Misconceptions

There are a few misconceptions relating to affiliating with the FVFS which need to be clarified.

1. Membership with the FVFS expires on 31st December each year, and although a reminder might be sent out by email or in ReelNews, re-affiliation forms are not sent to existing members.
2. Affiliation forms can only be obtained by accessing the FVFS website, under the tab “Join/Rejoin membership”, where they can be downloaded in PDF format.
3. An electronic version of the affiliation form is also available on the FVFS website, and this method of rejoining is generally quicker, easier, and less prone to error.
4. The FVFS is NOT your parent organisation. We are an independent organisation to which member organisations pay an annual fee to join. If you operate under the guidance or rules of an Arts group (for example) then that organisation is your Parent Organisation.
5. The FVFS assumes that the job of dealing with

correspondence and completing applications such as re-affiliating with the FVFS would normally be done by the secretary, but accepts that this is not possible in some cases, so make allowance for that option in the affiliation form.

6. The FVFS is happy to provide a separate invoice if needed, but is unable to before the application form is complete and the appropriate fee calculated by the form. Note that the last section of the affiliation form is in the form of an automatically generated invoice, which should satisfy most accountants.
7. The preferred method of payment is by EFT because our local bank has now closed and cheques lodgement has become more difficult.
8. When paying by EFT ensure that the paying organisation is referenced. We know the payment is to the FVFS, and what it is for, but not who it is from if your name is missing from the reference field. This reference is for our benefit, not yours!
9. Most banks will now support payment by EFT, either with just one payer, or using a two payer method. If not, the FVFS accepts EFTs from an individual, on behalf of the organisation. That individual would be able to claim the payment from the organisation treasurer when presented

with the invoice and/or receipt.

10. The FVFS acceptance of your membership will be provided in an email containing confirmation of payment, a receipt and current membership number (Often necessary when organising DVD rights with distributors).
11. In many cases our confirmation and receipt email may end up in your spam folder, so don't forget to check there before approaching the FVFS for a missing receipt.
12. You don't need to wait for your AGM before re-affiliating, as it could mean several months of non-membership. If you are unsure of your new office bearers, give us your best guess at re-affiliation time, and follow up after the AGM with any new names and contact details by email.

Note that, as announced in a separate article, the FVFS has waived 2021 membership fees for any 2020 member, and to make re-affiliation even easier this year, we have removed the requirement of completing the re-affiliation form. The FVFS will automatically re-affiliate every 2020 member on 1st January and email you with a confirmation. However, you will need to contact the FVFS if any of your details change between 2020 and 2021.

## **FVFS renewal Fees waived for 2021**

Most film societies and film festivals had to suspend their operations in 2020 due to COVID-19, and many have decided to refund members' fees or offer a reduced fee or free membership in 2021. Many will be out of pocket as a result, which may severely impact their balance sheet in 2021.

The FVFS executive has decided to assist FVFS members by waiving the FVFS membership fee for all 2020 members when their membership is renewed in 2021.

The FVFS has had almost normal income in 2020, but reduced expenses because we did not have a face-to-face AGM or Regional Information Days, nor did we visit any member organisations. Also, with our healthy reserves, the FVFS can afford to assist our members by this simple gesture.

The 2021 membership re-affiliation will occur automatically on 1 January, for all 2020 financial members of the FVFS.

The FVFS will assume all member details will remain the same, so there is no need for you to complete the usual application form, but please email the treasurer at [treasurer@fvfs.org.au](mailto:treasurer@fvfs.org.au) if there are any changes to your office bearers or their contact details.

The usual application fees will apply for any new applicants, who will also need to use the normal on-line application form.

Here's hoping 2021 will work out to be a better year for everyone than 2020.

- Ian Davidson, Treasurer, FVFS



## What happened to 2020?

*Hi there and on behalf of the Sale Film Society Committee, I hope that you and your loved ones are well and have done their best to get through 2020.*

*It won't come as a surprise to you that COVID-19 has made the last 11 months memorable for all the wrong reasons.*

*While regional Victoria has avoided some of the lockdown restrictions our friends in Melbourne have experienced, there is no indication of when theatres and cinemas will be open once again.*

*As a consequence, the Committee has decided to draw a line under 2020 and look optimistically to 2021.*

*Those of you that have paid membership fees for 2020 have a choice.*

*If you would like a refund of those monies, please send an email with your name, membership number and bank details to [salefilmsoc@gmail.com](mailto:salefilmsoc@gmail.com) and we will process the refund immediately.*

*The second option is to roll that membership over to 2021, where we can hopefully hit reset and get back to watching movies on the big screen.*

*We are hopeful of recommencing a film season in February 2021, although, as mentioned above, there is no indication that cinemas and theatres will be open at that point. It is rather a leap of faith on our part!*

*Thank you for your support. The Sale Film Society is a nice addition to the cultural life of Sale and we hope to see you all again in the new year.*

*If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a ring on 0401 660 314 and we can talk it through.*

*Best wishes*

*On behalf of the Sale Film Society Committee,  
Gerard*

This email to Sale Film Society members explains their options. What options are you offering your members? - Editor

## Beloved movies that Roger Ebert hated

There are few film critics who have earned a legacy more revered than the late Roger Ebert. The Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and movie reviewer is one of the absolute best at his craft, and his knack for writing simple-yet-elegant and deeply profound works of film appreciation and criticism are some of the finest writing you'll ever find from movie reviews. Nevertheless, when it came to his opinions on a few of the most popular films of the 20th/early 21st century, Ebert didn't always agree with the general consciousness. In fact, there were times when Ebert's film opinions went completely against the norm.

"Stanley Kubrick's **A Clockwork Orange** is an ideological mess, a paranoid right-wing fantasy masquerading as an Orwellian warning. It pretends to oppose the police state and forced mind control, but all it really does is celebrate the nastiness of its hero, Alex... But they've really hyped A Clockwork Orange for more than it's worth, and a lot of people will go if only out of curiosity. Too bad ... It is just plain talky and boring. You know there's something wrong with a movie when the last third feels like the last half."

"**Dead Poets Society** is not the worst of the countless recent movies about good kids and hidebound, authoritarian older people. It may, however, be the most shameless in its attempt to pander to an adolescent audience. The movie pays lip service to qualities and values that, on the evidence of the screenplay itself, it is cheerfully willing to abandon. If you are going to evoke Henry David Thoreau as the patron saint of your movie, then you had better make a movie he would have admired."

- Will Ahton - <https://www.cinemablend.com/>  
Will Ashton is an entertainment writer based in Pittsburgh, PA. His writing can also be found in The Playlist, Cut Print Film, We Got This Covered, The Young Folks, Slate and other outlets. He also co-hosts the weekly film/TV podcast Cinemaholics with Jon Negroni and he likes to think he's a professional Garfield enthusiast.

## NORTH BELLARINE FILM FESTIVAL 2020



Online Edition

[www.northbellarinefilmfestival.org](http://www.northbellarinefilmfestival.org)

13 14 15 November

### North Bellarine Film Festival's Digital Edition Announced

The North Bellarine Film Festival has moved entirely online this year. The festival's 2020 digital edition will be held from November 13-15 offering an exciting selection of films from around the world.

The festival will open on Friday, November 13 at 7:30 pm with the Australian Premiere of the Turkish film, *Toprak*. The film will be shown exclusively in Australia. A further 61 short films will also be available on demand throughout the weekend.

Themed programs will highlight international, experimental and Pride films besides a focus on Australian and Iranian shorts. There will also be a program of documentaries.

The 2020 Emerging Filmmaker Award which recognises a Victorian filmmaker 25 years of age or younger will be announced at a special event on Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 pm. The top rating award films submitted this year will be shown followed by the presentation of the winner. The awards program will also be available on demand.

Film details are at:

[www.northbellarinefilmfestival.org](http://www.northbellarinefilmfestival.org) where tickets will go on sale in November. *Toprak* and the shorts programs will be \$10 while the emerging film award program will be \$5. Festival updates are on Facebook and Instagram.

#### ☆☆☆ FILM QUIZ ☆☆☆

##### Test your movie knowledge!

1. Which singer starred in 'The Bodyguard'?
2. Which actress Keaton starred in "Father of the Bride II"?
3. "I Saw the Light" was a 2016 biopic of which country music legend?
4. Which Holly won an Oscar for a silent role in "The Piano"?
5. Which silent movie star was played by Robert Downey Jr in 1992?
6. Which Welsh actor starred with Jodie

7. Foster in "The Silence of the Lambs"?
8. Which Bob starred in "Mona Lisa" before finding it "good to talk"?
9. Who is Donald Sutherland's actor son?
10. What is the first name of "Pulp Fiction" director Tarantino?
11. Which Nick co-starred with Barbra Streisand in "The Prince of Tides"?
12. Which Johnny starred as Edward Scissorhands?

Answers on the last page

## Tell your story.

Items for possible publication are welcome, especially your StarBox results, info about your film society's activities and any ideas you would like to share.

**Please send your submissions for articles to  
reelnews@fvfs.org.au**

**Deadline for February 2021 issue:  
January 20 at the latest.**

**Please send StarBox scores to starbox@fvfs.org.au**

### Note:

If you are submitting an article for inclusion in ReelNews, please add your name and FS to the article so that you can be credited as the author.

**To make life easier for the editor, please send your articles in Word format or in the body of the email, and send your jpeg images separately.**

**And please ask someone to proofread your article before submission. Thank you!**

### Quiz answers:

1. Whitney Houston
2. Diane
3. Hank Williams
4. Hunter
5. Charlie Chaplin
6. Anthony Hopkins
7. Hoskins
8. Kiefer
9. Quentin
10. Nolte
11. Depp

**A brief reminder** to all members to ensure your contact details as shown on the FVFS website are kept up to date. They are intended to be used by DVD distributors as well as potential new members, so it is important that they are current.

Check [www.fvfs.org.au/members/](http://www.fvfs.org.au/members/) to check the contact details for your society. When you re-apply for membership with the FVFS each year, you are asked to check these contact details but it appears that many applicants approve the details without actually checking the website. In some cases the contact is not the secretary of the film society, so unless you tell us when there is a need to change the details, they will remain the same. We will only change the details at your request.

If you are unsure about publishing your email address, consider setting up a generic email account, such as [fredsfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:fredsfilmsociety@gmail.com) and arranging for it to forward all incoming emails to the address of your current secretary.

### REMEMBER: Your first StarBox is free!

To receive your FREE StarBox, just email the FVFS at [admin@fvfs.org.au](mailto:admin@fvfs.org.au) and we can post one.

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The FVFS does not necessarily endorse the statements or views contained in any personal articles, letters to the editor, films etc., mentioned in this newsletter.

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