

NEWSLETTER

February - March 2005

BENDIGO FILM SOCIETY

Dear Members and Friends...

Bendigo Film Society Inc.

Member of the Federation of Victorian
Film Societies A14539Z

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Newsletter February – March
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Welcome to the 2005 screenings of the BFS. On behalf of your committee I wish each of you a Happy New Year.

Over recent weeks a collection of excellent films has been selected and sourced to make what I'm sure will be another fine year's viewing.

Members from 2004 will recall being asked to nominate themes for the new season. Five themes were selected from the infinite number available and the long list suggested.

- Strong women
- Films of Jacques Tati
- Films of Peter Greenaway
- Work of Peter Sellers
- Australian Classics

It is clear that any one of these themes could have filled a year's viewing. So we have selected 4 or 5 films from each theme plus a couple of non-theme films to compliment a meal at a local restaurant. (More about these in a later Newsletter)

This year we aim to deliver the newsletter electronically to as many of the members as possible. Please make sure you give us your email address if you are able to access the newsletter electronically.

We have received a Cultural Grant from the City of Greater Bendigo which offsets some of the venue expenses. However we have not been able to renew the Telstra Countrywide sponsorship.

An active, financial membership is required. If half the 2004 members each brought one new member in 2005, we'd achieve an important measure of financial security. So get out your little black books and start a recruitment drive for 2005 membership!

I look forward to seeing you 'at the flicks' this year!

Kevin Vallence - President



BENDIGO FILM SOCIETY

2005 MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE!

Name: _____

(Partner: _____)

Address: _____

Full season \$55

Concession \$39

Partnered \$90 (same mailing address)

Send a cheque to

PO Box 567 Vic 3552

eMail address for newsletters and updates: _____

Telephone: _____

New / renewal

Coming Events

◆ **February 17 7.30p.m.**
Bad Boy Bubby (Dir. Rolf de Heer) 1993, 111 mins
Australian/Italian co-production. A challenging, topical and multi-award winning film. Halliwell's describes it as: '*An odd and disturbing black comedy of a man who replays everything said and done to him; many may find it repugnant, but it offers a skewed & satirical perspective on everyday life and communication.* The film uses 30 other cinematographers, one for each location. The film won awards for best director, best actor, best original screenplay and best editing at the 1994 Australian Film Institute awards.

◆ **February 26-27**
Mini Film Festival

◆ **March 10 7.30p.m.**
The Devil's Playground (Dir. Fred Schepsi) 1976, 95 mins
Deals with the anti-sex attitudes of a Catholic boarding school as a group of young boys struggle to come to terms with their own emotional and sexual identity. Winner of five Australian Film Institute awards, including Best Film, Director, Screenplay, Actor and Cinematography.

◆ **March 24 7.30p.m.**
Mon Oncle (Dir. Jacques Tati) 1956, 98 mins

2005 PROGRAM AVAILABLE AT VENUE

Venue: Campbell Theatrette in the Bendigo Library, Hargreaves S

Some of the movies have not been classified; content may challenge offend or not be suitable for children
The Bendigo Film Society reserves the right to substitute film titles should the need arise

JACQUES TATI

Jacques Tatischeff was born on October 9, 1908. By his early twenties he was well established as a music hall mime comedian.

He experimented with film as early as 1931, creating a tennis sketch that we will see in *M. Hulot's Holiday* (screening 26 Feb) Most of his 1930's films were technically poor and not well edited.

After WWII Tati recommenced film making, becoming preoccupied with creating what he termed a twentieth century Everyman who would be a misfit in a variety of settings.

After financial problems, painstaking preparation and several years, the result was *M Hulot's Holiday*, a film that satirises the universal holiday maker. It also introduces the frightening and endearing character of Hulot, who charges into the seaside resort with all the gusto & sophistication of a three-year-old.

Despite an air of desperate improvisation, Hulot's mishaps were always meticulously planned. Hulot has echoes of many screen clowns in his frenzied attempts to fit in and to keep up appearances.

In *Mon Oncle* (screening 24 March) Hulot, the gentle anarchist often seems withdrawn, a hermit in his own cosy part of town. The film

does *not* show people at their best in a quietly biased, irresistibly sentimental comparison between the old and the new and the widening gulf between them.

In 1949 his film *Jour de Fete* (Screening on 8 Sept) won the prize for best scenario in Venice and the Grand Prix du Cinema at Cannes in 1950. The film was carefully made (built up) over four years and illustrates Tati's habit of testing different visual gags on preview audiences. One critic said that you could watch it with a bout of toothache & it would still make you laugh.

Tati continued making films into the 1970s. But the three films BFS members will see in 2005 are probably his best.

Kevin Vallence
(Abridged from *The Movie: the illustrated history of the cinema*, Vol 40, *Reflections on French Cinema*, and Halliwell's *Film and Video Guide 2003*).



Mon Oncle

Mini Film Festival 26th - 27th February

Saturday 26th February

1:30 - 3:30 *The Miracle Worker* (with Anne Bancroft)

4:00 - 5:45 *M. Hulot's Holiday* (Jacques Tati)

8:00 - 10:30 *Lolita* (with Peter Sellers & James Mason)

Sunday 27th February

2:00 - 3:35 *Sunday Too Far Away* (with Jack Thompson)