

# newsletter

August – Sept.

# BENDIGO FILM SOCIETY

## These Months' Events

### Thursday 26 July

7:30 **Wine & Shorts**

including the four finalists of

**Burning Shorts** – local talent, 2001

9:30 **Paths of Glory** – Kubrick, 1957  
(11:00)

### Thursday 9 August

7:30 **A Clockwork Orange** –

Kubrick, 1971

10:00 **Tetsuo: the Iron Man** –

Tsukamoto, 1989

(11:10)

### Thursday 23 August

7:30 **1900 (Novecento)** –

Bertolucci, 1976

(11:40)

### Thursday 6 September

7:30 **The Apple** – Makhmalbaf, 1997

9:15 **Radiance** – Perkins, 1997

(10:40)

### Thursday 20 September

7:30 **Bertolucci shoots 1900** –

Olmastroni, 1975

9:00 **The Shawshank Redemption** –

Darabont, 1994

(11:20)

### Thursday 4 October

7:30 **Meshes of the Afternoon** –

Deren 1943

8:00 **La Reglue du Jeu (Rules of the**

Game) – Renoir, 1939

(9:50)

## Dear Members and Friends...

The *Mid-Winter Movie Marathon* was daunting to plan, but the night went smooth as anything and almost 200 came through the doors. It was pleasing to see so many of Bendigo's student population using this opportunity to chill-out after a busy Bruce-Week (their 1<sup>st</sup> week of 2<sup>nd</sup> semester). It was even more encouraging to receive their compliments about the event and choice of movies.

Many looked at awe at the documentary on the 1968 pop-festival in *Monterey* that we screened 2:45-4am. Most of the audience weren't even born when Hendrix and The Who tortured their musical instruments on stage! I couldn't help noting that that was the only thing violent; the audience in those days was remarkably behaved, either doped to the eyes or the red-ribcords must have had some sort of soothing influence.

During the Marathon, we kicked-off our theme on Stanley Kubrick with his 1963 cold-war black-comedy *Dr*



*Strangelove*. Frightening timely with Bush reviving Reagan's star-war defence.

On the issue of war, *Das Boot* was similarly critical. After the harrowing tension of hunting and being hunted for 199min, the futility of it all was brought home in the last five minutes, when the boat sank after all.



British art-house, at least going by the compilation *The Fat of the Land*, seems specifically designed to annoy. This was our first screening where many walked out, including the projectionist. *Chinatown*, hailed by some as 'the perfect film' got them back however.

The *Early Edison Films* were interesting and a must, of course, for any film society. Noyce's *Newsfront* was re-released recently; and this re-appraisal of Australian cinema may help to revive our national film industry.

Late June, the Film Society assisted with the screening and judging of *Burning Shorts*. A miniature film festival giving local youth the opportunity to present their productions. You'll find a full report elsewhere in this newsletter. Thursday 26 July, we will screen the four finalists. Please show your support and turn up that night; we'll also have bread, wine, a selection of shorts, and will conclude that night with Kubrick's *Paths of Glory*.

Hmmm, I hate to say it, but we do need more members. So do advertise our existence and bring your friends along.

Meeuwis, President BFS.


# Stanley Kubrick

## director and show-off

by Harry Oldmeadow

(H.Oldmeadow@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au)



Stanley Kubrick is one of the great show-offs of the American cinema – “Hey! Look, no hands!” His films are marked by a stylistic bravado and technical derring-do which is sometimes radically innovative, sometimes simply bombastic. But as with that other stupendous egotist of the American cinema, Orson Welles, much can be forgiven a director of such prodigious talents and immense ambitions, even when aspiration and realisation fail to meet. Kubrick's career is punctuated by acclaim, controversy, and failure (again, the comparison with Welles is irresistible). In my view his most successful films were *Paths of Glory* (1957), *Dr Strangelove* (1964), *A Clockwork Orange* (1971) and *Full Metal Jacket* (1987) - in each of these he found the appropriate style with which to work through a intense thematic preoccupation - whilst *Lolita* (1962), *Barry Lyndon* (1975), *The Shining* (1980) and *Eyes Wide Shut* (1999) have accumulated both admirers and detractors. Kubrick was also involved in several grandiose projects which never came to fruition, including an epic about Napoleon, and came to grief as a short-lived director of *Spartacus* (1960) and *One-Eyed Jacks* (1961). It is no surprise to discover that Kubrick was a chess enthusiast and an avid photographer, these interests signalling his rather cerebral approach to film-making and his preoccupation with visual creativity. The four films on offer in the BFS program constitute some of Kubrick's most arresting work, and it is particularly pleasing to see the neglected *Paths of Glory* being screened again. 

### Bendigo Film Society Inc.

Member of the Federation of Victorian Film Societies A14539Z

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Newsletter August – September  
volume 1 issue 4

Editor: Meeuwis Boelen  
copy for next issue: 28 September

### Sponsors



## Thursday 9 August

7:30

### Clockwork Orange,

Stanley Kubrick, UK, 1971.


Nominated for four Academy Awards in 1971, 'A Clockwork Orange' is a harrowing journey through a near-future world of decaying cities, murderous adolescents and nightmarish technologies of punishment and crime. Based on the novel of the same name by Anthony Burgess. Cast includes Malcolm McDowell, Patrick Magee, Michael Bates and Warren Clarke.



### 10:00 Tetsuo: Iron Man,

Shinya Tsukamoto, Japan, 1989.

A violent array of flashbacks, fast-forwards and nightmarish dream sequences. The action centres around a metal fetishist who tries to insert pieces of metal into his skin. A car accident gives him strange powers and his body begins to painfully mutate into a synergy of flesh and metal. Meanwhile the man who ran him down finds his own body also transforming into a metallic monster.

This bizarre, fantasy mixes black humour and sexual imagery with a hypnotic post-industrial soundtrack. In Japanese with English subtitles 



### Stanley Kubrick – theme:

17 February

**The Shining**, 1980

May (Star Cinema)

**2001: A Space Odyssey, 1968**

20 July

**Dr Strangelove**, 1963

26 July

**Paths of Glory**, 1957

9 August

**A Clockwork Orange**, 1971

15 Nov

**Eyes Wide Shut**, 1999

(under consideration)

# LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!


by Casey Wright  
(casey@pobox.com)

The City of Greater Bendigo, Cultural Development and Events and the Bendigo Film Society recently held the *Burning Shorts* 'Short Film Awards' at the Old Fire Station in View Street. The event was part of the *Raw View Youth Arts Festival* on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July.

Youth, between the ages of 12 to 26, were invited to make a short film about anything as long as it was for the general viewing public. Well it just shows how many budding young filmmakers there are in the Bendigo area. We had films ranging from depictions of the end of the world to a sex symbol's battle with his adoring fans. The production of the films was terrific. The use of camera angles and lighting showed a great understanding of filmmaking. Thankfully TV has not destroyed the imagination of the youth of Bendigo.

There was no red carpet on the opening night but the packed house showed the support for these events is very strong. It turned out to a great opportunity for the filmmakers to see their work on the BIG SCREEN for the first time. The response from the audience was fantastic. On the night awards were presented to the 3 finalists, with the winner receiving a membership to the Bendigo Film Society. An audience award was also presented.

The winners have been invited to screen their films at the Wine and Shorts night this coming Thursday. We encourage all members to come along to show their support. It might be a good idea to get a few autographs, just in case they end up becoming the next Baz Luhrmann.

The Bendigo Film Society would like to thank Cultural Development and Events for the opportunity to be involved with the Festival. Special thanks go to Nadia Reid and Lynda Newton. 

## Thursday 26 July


7:30 **Bendigo's youth presents**  
**Dragonfly** – Jeremy Silver,  
Castlemaine, 2001.

## Members'

## Benefits

Apart from the ridiculous low entry (\$6.60, "Kiddie's entry") that Joan, the proprietor of the **Star Cinema**, charges, BFS members enjoy concessional rates at the Bendigo Cinema. We have reciprocal

If each member recruits one friend only, we'd be right


arrangements with the **Heathcote** and **Castlemaine** film groups. Your BFS membership entitles you free access to their screenings. Don't forget to trial the **Bendigo Library's Music Section**, again for free. As BFS member, you can borrow two items for a week, twice during the year. 

We encourage all members to come along to show their support

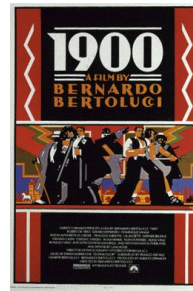
**The Movie** – John Gavin, Quarry Hill, 2001.

**Details** – Louise Bryant & Francesca Jackson-Webb, Strathdale, 2001.


**Zombie Holocaust** – Steven McDonald, Quarry Hill, 2001.

Followed by shorts, supper and (9:30) Kubrick's *Paths of Glory*. 

**Thursday 23 August**  
**7:30 1900-Novecento,**  
Bernardo Bertolucci, Italy, 1976.



This is a lyric-melodramatic celebration of the rise of socialism, the fight against fascism, and the struggle of classes and

generations in a northern Italian peasant community in the province of Emilia from the turn of the century to 1945. In contrast to the modernism of his earlier works, Bertolucci sought to construct a popular-national epic by adopting the form of the classical realist novel, using basically linear construction and character approached through readily recognisable psychological mechanisms. Bertolucci also incorporated elements of other genres such as the supernatural, the folktale, farce and forms of the grotesque. Further, he challenged the commercial norms of the industry - 1900 was originally in two 3 hour parts. Running time 247min, in English. 



Donald Sutherland, plays Atilla in 1900. A terrific portrayal of a terrifying character.

### membership application

name: \_\_\_\_\_

(partner: \_\_\_\_\_)

address: \_\_\_\_\_

eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

**BENDIGO**  
FILM SOCIETY

half-season \$30

concession \$25

partnered \$45

send a cheque to PO Box 567 Vic 3552

or turn-up

## Thursday 6 September

7:30 **The Apple**,  
Samira Makhmalbaf, Iran, 1997,


Two girls locked in the home for eleven years finally get a chance to go out and play. Like many recent films from Iran, this one has a simple plot line, light humour, a humanitarian streak, and resonance due to its use of metaphor and rather complex themes. What's most harrowing




about the film is that it's based on a real life event and the principal characters play themselves. *The Apple* was directed by 18 year-old Samira Makhmalbaf, who shot this film with film stock left over from her father's (Mohsen Makhmalbaf) *Sokhout*. In Farsi with English subtitles.

### 9:15 **Radiance**,

Rachael Perkins, Australia, 1997.

Three sisters are reunited after the death of their mother; their lifestyles a world apart from each other. Eldest sister Cressy (Rachael Maza), has found success as a classical singer and rejected her past life to pursue a career overseas. Middle daughter Mae (Trisha Morton-Thomas) resents Cressy's success and feels bitter at being the one whose had to stay behind to care for their senile mother. Youngest sister Nona (Deborah Mailman), is vibrant, sexually promiscuous, pregnant, and unlike her sisters, loyal to the memory of their mother. In the brief time the sisters spend together, they learn the painful memories and secrets that has distanced them from one another, and as the family's intrigue is revealed the sisters can finally unite together. 

### Sick of Cake-Stalls?

The BFS can assist with the selection, booking and screening of a movie, booking of the theatrette, and whatever else that makes your **Film-Evening Fundraiser** a successful event. Contact the committee for more info. 

## Thursday 20 September

7:30


### **Bertolucci Shoots 1900**

Luca Olmastroni, Italy, 1978.

Documentary made during the shooting of director Bertolucci's 'Novecento'. Includes several statements by Bertolucci on his attitudes to filmmaking. In Italian with English subtitles.

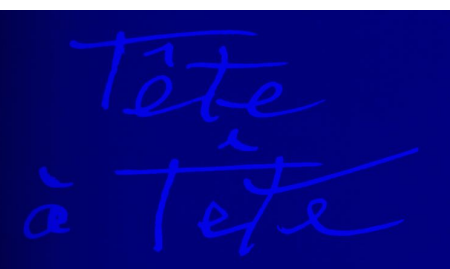
### 9:00 **The Shawshank Redemption**

Frank Darabont, USA, 1994.

An unforgettable story of hope, friendship and survival inside a maximum security gaol. Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins), a New England banker convicted of murdering his wife and her lover, is sent to Shawshank State Prison where he meets "Red" Redding (Morgan Freeman), a seasoned lifer. Despite twenty years on the inside, the prison bars fail to contain their spirits and the pair forge an unlikely friendship that overcomes pain, suffering and ultimately leads to a chance at freedom. 



Frank Darabont



In May, the BFS presented movies by and about Henri Cartier-Bresson for the Art Gallery. One of our members, inspired by the movie *Reunion*, 1962, wrote the following poem.

#### Rogues' Gallery, Satan's Century (Snaps at an Henri Cartier-Bresson exhibition)

Movers and shakers, quite, quite still,  
Trapped at the borders of their hell:  
Ego – ergo – into night;  
Few from these shadows look for light.

In middle-age, in truth I see  
The masters of my Arts Degree  
(And mistresses of poise *cum* pain  
Who'd never trust a kiss again):  
A century where stance was style  
Draining the simple right to smile.

Faith vivisected, Hope decried,  
And Charity betrayed in pride:  
Leo the Thirteenth fell, unnerved,  
*Hearing* the monster to be served.

But, maybe, through their eyes I reach  
A prayer they would not frame in speech:  
"O 'infinitely gentle ... thing'  
Transform our wilful suffering,  
Dissolve our world; make good our loss  
Of Life once founded on a cross."

© Andrew Huntley  
Strathdale, 2001

All films are shown at the Campbell  
Theatrette in the Bendigo Library,  
Hargreaves Street.

**Some of the movies have not been  
classified;** content may challenge,  
offend or not be suitable for children.

Membership \$30 half-season,  
\$25 concession, \$45 partnered.  
**To join, send a cheque or turn up.**

