



Illawarra Film Society
presents an international program of
recent films, documentaries and classics

30 FILMS FOR \$90!

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ILLAWARRA FILM SOCIETY
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UIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG 2522

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All Films Screened at 7pm on Sundays

Greater Union Cinemas
Burelli Street, Wollongong

Admission to subscribers only



No screenings on 31 March, 14 & 21 April, 12 & 19 May,
9 & 30 June, 7 July, 22 September, 15 & 22 December

Alliance Francaise Film (12 May)
and Sydney Travelling Film Festival (19 May)

3 March

The Giants

[Belgium 2012]

It's Summertime. Brothers (Seth 16 and Zak 13 and three quarters) have again been left to fend for themselves by their neglectful single mother at the family's cottage in the verdant and isolated Luxembourg countryside. Just like every holiday before, they have resigned themselves to another mundane summer, but things shift dramatically after they strike up a friendship with local kid Danny, and the most perilous - and greatest - journey of their lives begins. Together, as the boys scavenge for food, steal their grandfather's car and pursue harebrained schemes to make money, they find their bravado repeatedly punctured by the rigours of an adult world they cannot comprehend.

84 min

10 March

Jiro Dreams of Sushi

[USA 2011]

Jiro Dreams of Sushi is a quiet yet enthralling documentary that chronicles the life of Jiro Ono, the most famous sushi chef in Tokyo. For most of his 85 years, Jiro has been perfecting the art of making sushi. He works from sunrise to well beyond sunset to taste every piece of fish; meticulously train his employees; and carefully mold and finesse the impeccable presentation of each sushi creation. Although his restaurant Sukiyabashi Jiro only seats ten diners, it is a phenomenon in Tokyo that has won the prestigious 3-Star Michelin review, making him the oldest Michelin chef alive. JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI chronicles Jiro's life as both an unparalleled success in the culinary world, and as a loving yet complicated father of two. Eldest son Yoshikazu is the heir apparent to the sushi empire, but Jiro is not ready to retire or to relinquish any of his responsibilities. With a famous father guiding and critiquing every decision, Yoshikazu is unable to reach his fullest potential. However, he is proud to learn from a true sushi master, thus revealing the inner struggle of how a dutiful son shows reverence to his father yet control over his own domain.

83 min

17 March

In the Fog

[Russia 2012]

Western frontiers of the USSR, 1942. The region is under German occupation, and local partisans are fighting a brutal resistance campaign. A train is derailed not far from the village, where Sushenya, a rail worker, lives with his family. Innocent Sushenya is arrested with a group of saboteurs, but the German officer makes a decision not to hang him with the others and sets him free. Rumours of Sushenya's treason spread quickly, and partisans Burov and Voitik arrive from the forest to get revenge. As the partisans lead their victim through the forest, they are ambushed, and Sushenya finds himself one-to-one with his wounded enemy. Deep in an ancient forest, where there are neither friends nor enemies, and where the line between treason and heroism disappears, Sushenya is forced to make a moral choice under immoral circumstances.

128 min

24 March

X

[Australia 2011]

Two unsuspecting young women are plunged into a deadly game of cat and mouse in Jon Hewitt's high-octane erotic thriller X. High class escort Holly is retiring, kissing her call girl life goodbye. She just has one last night on the job to get through. Meanwhile, teenage runaway Shay arrives in the city broke and alone, doing whatever it takes to get through her first night on the streets of Kings Cross.

85 min

7 April

Where do we go Now?

[Lebanon 2011]

Written and directed by Nadine Labaki, this heart-warming modern fable follows Labaki's impressive directorial debut Caramel. Set in a small, isolated Lebanese village, a group of Muslim and Christian women band together to ingeniously devise a plan to distract the local menfolk in an attempt to defuse mounting inter-religious tensions. Most days, the women gather at the cafe of feisty Christian widow Amal (Labaki) to work on joint projects and share gossip and song. These resourceful women, of all ages, shapes and sizes, united by their unwavering friendship, try almost every means at their disposal. As a series of chaotic incidents tests the women's ingenuity, can they manage, with their usual sass, to successfully stave off the fall-out from the distant war? Extraordinarily inventive and often comical, Where Do We Go Now? received a five minute standing ovation at its Cannes premiere, and won the Audience Award at the 2011 Toronto Film Festival.

100 min

28 April

Girl Model

[USA 2011]

Despite a lack of obvious similarities between Siberia and Tokyo, a thriving model industry connects these distant regions. Girl Model follows two protagonists involved in this industry: Ashley, a deeply ambivalent model scout who scours the Siberian countryside looking for fresh faces to send to the Japanese market, and one of her discoveries, Nadya, a thirteen year-old plucked from the Siberian countryside and dropped into the center of Tokyo with promises of a profitable career. After Ashley's initial discovery of Nadya, the two rarely meet again, but their stories are inextricably bound. As Nadya's optimism about rescuing her family from their financial difficulties grows, her dreams contrast against Ashley's more jaded outlook about the industry's corrosive influence.

80 min

5 May

The Angel's Share

[UK 2012]

A bittersweet comedy about a Glasgow boy locked in a family feud who just wants a way out. When Robbie sneaks into the maternity hospital to visit his young girlfriend Leonie and hold his newborn son Luke for the first time, he is overwhelmed. He swears that Luke will not lead the same stricken life he has led. On community service Robbie meets Rhino, Albert and Mo for whom, like him, work is little more than a distant dream. Little did Robbie imagine that turning to drink might change their lives - not cheap fortified wine, but the best malt whiskies in the world. What will it be for Robbie? More violence and vendettas or a new future with 'Uisge Beatha,' the 'Water of Life'? Only the angels know...

104 min

26 May

Shadow Dancer

[UK/Ireland 2012]

Based on the book by Tom Bradby. Single mother Collette McVeigh is a Republican living in Belfast with her mother and hardliner IRA brothers. When she is arrested for her part in an aborted IRA bomb plot in London, an M15 officer, Mac, offers her a choice: lose everything and go to prison for 25 years or return to Belfast to spy on her own family. With her son's life in her hands, Collette chooses to place her trust in Mac and return home. But when her brothers' secret operation is ambushed, suspicions of an informant are raised and Collette finds herself and her family in grave danger.

101 min

16 June

Flipped

[USA 2011]

When second-graders Bryce and Juli first meet, Juli knows it's love. Bryce isn't so sure. In the days and years ahead, Bryce (Callan McAuliffe) does all he can to keep his wannabe girlfriend at arm's length - and the smart, independent-minded Juli (Madeline Carroll) continues to give him the benefit of the doubt. This tender coming-of-age romantic comedy from director Rob Reiner takes the pair from grade school to junior high, through triumph and disaster, family drama and first love, as they make discoveries that will define who they are - and who they are to each other.

89 min

23 June

Stella Days

[Ireland 2011]

A small town cinema in rural Ireland becomes the setting for a dramatic struggle between faith and passion, Rome and Hollywood and a man and his conscience. *Stella Days* is the story of a man, a story about the conflict between love and duty, hope and faith, and between the excitement of the unknown and the security of the familiar. It encapsulates the dilemma of Ireland in the mid-1950s - on the cusp of the modern but still clinging to the traditions of church and a cultural identity forged in very different times.

89 min

14 July

Toomelah

[Australia 2012]

In the remote Indigenous community of Toomelah, Daniel - a sensitive, troubled 10 year old boy from a broken home - dreams of being a gangster. When he is kicked out of school he befriends a local gang leader, until a rival gangster arrives back from jail to reclaim his turf. A showdown ensues and Daniel is caught in the middle, leaving him with a choice to make about his uncertain future. The film is set entirely in the remote Indigenous community of Toomelah, located on the NSW, QLD border. It was created as a mission during the 1930s, bringing together Gamilaroi and Bigambal people from the surrounding area. The film reveals the challenges facing the young Gamilaroi people of the Toomelah Community. Robbed of much of their traditional culture by Government policy, it is a community on a cultural edge, struggling for an identity. It is a provocative and yet comic story that transports audiences inside the community, creating an authentic world and way of life that is '*Toomelah*'.

97 min

21 July

Force of Nature

[Canada 2010]

Approaching age 75, scientist Dr. David Suzuki, known by many as the leading environmentalist in Canada, is giving a lecture in Vancouver. As he stands behind the lectern, he tells many reasons why he and we should care about the environment. With the human population growing exponentially and humans having increasingly longer life expectancies, we as a species are having a larger footprint on the environment. Much of what is man made in the world, such as the economy, democracy and the dependence on fossil fuels, are treated as unchangeable forces of nature, when in reality they can and should be viewed critically, especially in their long term consequences on life on the planet. He also tells of the interconnectedness we are as a species without most really realizing it, and that we should have a stronger connection to place and what that means.

93 min

28 July

Baby Call

[Norway 2011]

Anna and her eight year old son Anders are under the witness protection program following a difficult relationship with Anders' father. They move into a large apartment complex. Anna becomes overprotective of her son and even buys a babycall to keep track of him. Soon, strange noises from other apartments appear on the monitor, and Anna overhears what might be the murder of a child. Meanwhile, Anders' mysterious new friend starts visiting at odd hours, claiming that he has keys for all the doors in the building . . . Does this new friend know anything about the murder?

96 min

4 August

Norwegian Wood

[Japan 2010]

'I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me', Toru Watanabe's (Kenichi Matsuyama) remembers back to his life in the 1960's. At heart, he is deeply devoted to his first love, Naoko (Rinko Kikuchi), a beautiful, introverted young woman. But their complex bond has been forged by the tragic death, at 17, of Kizuku (Kengo Kora), her boyfriend and his best friend. When he meets Midori (Kiko Muzuhara), he is intrigued and infatuated by this girl who is everything that Naoko is not - outgoing, vivacious, self-confident. With the damaged Naoko living reclusively in a country retreat under Reiko's (Reika Kirishima) gentle care. Watanabe 'commutes' between the two, unable to choose - until fate intervenes. Based on the novel by Haruki Murakami.

133 min

11 August

A Patch of Blue

[USA 1965]

Accidentally blinded by her prostitute mother Rose-Ann at the age of five, Selena D'Arcy spends the next 13 years confined in the tiny Los Angeles apartment that they share with "Ole Pa", Selena's grandfather. One afternoon at the local park, Selena meets Gordon Ralfe, a thoughtful young office worker whose kind-hearted treatment of her results in her falling in love with him, unaware that he is black. They continue to meet in the park every afternoon and he teaches her how to get along in the city. But when the cruel, domineering Rose-Ann learns of their relationship, she forbids her to have anything more to do with him because he is black. Selena continues to meet Gordon despite Rose-Ann's fury, who is determined to end the relationship for good.

105 min

18 August

Wish You Were Here

[Australia 1993]

Wish You Were Here is a psychological drama/mystery starring Joel Edgerton, Felicity Price and Teresa Palmer. Four friends - husband and wife Dave and Alice, and Alice's sister Steph and her new boyfriend Jeremy - lose themselves in the fun of a carefree South East Asian holiday. However, only three return back to Australia. Dave and Alice come home to their young family desperate for answers about Jeremy's mysterious disappearance. When Steph, returns not long after, a brutal secret is revealed about the night her boyfriend went missing. But it is only the first of many. Who amongst them knows what happened on that fateful night when they were dancing under a full moon in Cambodia?

93 min

25 August	[France 2K]	L’Oiseau
Sandrine Kiberlain (Mademoiselle Chambon), in her finest performance yet, stars in this elegant portrait of Anne; she is discreet, secretive, a mystery to herself. She does without love and it suits her fine. However, an unexpected encounter finds Anne making her way back upstream, and we watch her joy for life return.		
	93 min	
8 September	[Iran 2K 2011]	This is Not a Film
Jafar Panahi, banned from filmmaking for 20 years and sentenced to 6 years in prison, made this effort with co-director Mojtaba Mirtahmasb, inside his Tehran apartment and smuggled it to the Cannes Film Festival on a USB stick inside a cake. An extraordinary act of defiance that is a must for audiences everywhere.		
	75 min	
15 September	[Australia 1973]	Wake in Fright
<i>Wake in Fright</i> tells the story of what happens to John Grant, a young schoolteacher, en route from his outback post to a summer holiday in Sydney which he never reaches. Instead, he experiences what has been described as ‘an orgiastic weekend of blind drunkenness, gambling, male rape and savage kangaroo hunting.’ On its release in 1971 some critics suggested that the ‘violent realism’ of Wake in Fright ‘will shock and disgust and trigger off tidal waves of indignation from those who still believe our outback is the backbone of the nation’. Despite this the film was chosen as the official Australian entry for the Cannes Film Festival. On its re-release 40 years later, in a digitally restored format, film critics David Stratton and Margaret Pomeranz agreed it shows ‘something that Australia embraces as part of its ethos, this hard drinking, wild mateship...treating women badly’. Wake in Fright is, as Stratton suggestst is ‘a great milestone in Australian cinema history’.		
	104 min	
29 September	[USA 2011]	Margaret
<i>Margaret</i> centers on a 17 year old New York city high school student who feels certain that she inadvertently played a role in a traffic accident that has claimed a woman’s life. In her attempts to set things right she meets with opposition at every step. Torn apart with frustration she begins emotionally brutalising her family, her friends, her teachers and most of all herself. She has been confronted quite unexpectedly with a basic truth, that her youthful ideals are on a collision course against the realities and compromises of the adult world.		
	150 min	
6 October	[Spain 2011]	The Skin I Live In
Ever since his wife was burned in a car crash, Dr. Robert Ledgard, an eminent plastic surgeon, has been interested in creating a new skin with which he could have saved her. After twelve years, he manages to cultivate a skin that is a real shield against every assault. In addition to years of study and experimentation, Robert needed a further three things: no scruples, an accomplice and a human guinea pig. Scruples were never a problem. Mariia, the woman who looked after him from the day he was born, is his most faithful accomplice. And as for the human guinea pig...		
	120 min	
13 October	[Hungary 2011]	The Exam
The 1956 Revolution has fallen. Terror reigns. Appointed by the Soviets, the new prime minister – a very paranoid János Kádár –orders that each and every National Security officer’s loyalty be tested according to new and rigorous directives. Jung is a super-ambitious cultural NS officer living undercover as a private teacher. Jung’s task is to gather information and forward it to his superiors. Markó is Jung’s immediate superior, and also his only friend. Now, Markó, a war hero and a legend amongst the officers, is ordered to monitor Jung’s apartment and activities for a day to test his friend’s loyalty to the new regime. What sets out as routine surveillance takes a wild turn when Markó uncovers disturbing secrets in Jung’s life; secrets that can easily destroy the careers of both men.		
	89 mins	
20 October	[USA 1953]	Roman Holiday
Princess Anne embarks on a highly publicized tour of European capitals. When she and her royal entourage arrive in Rome, she begins to rebel against her restricted, regimented schedule. One night Anne sneaks out of her room, hops into the back of a delivery truck and escapes her luxurious confinement. However, a sedative she was forced to take earlier starts to take effect, and the Princess is soon fast asleep on a public bench. She is found by Joe Bradley, an American newspaper reporter stationed in Rome. He takes her back to his apartment. The next morning Joe dashes off to cover the Princess Anne press conference, unaware that she is sleeping on his couch. Once he realizes his good fortune, Joe promises his editor an exclusive interview with the Princess.		
	118 min	

27 October	[Canada 2010]	Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould
An enigmatic musical poet, world-renowned pianist Glenn Gould continues to captivate twenty-seven years after his untimely death. His inimitable music and writing reveal and insightful world-view that we are still unravelling – his complex recording technologies, including overdubbing, was unprecedented. Though there have been many documentaries about Gould, most are distracted by his eccentricities, focusing on the pills, gloves, and scarves while missing the man and message behind the music. <i>Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould</i> pierces through the myths, revealing the man beneath the icon. <i>Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould</i> weaves together an unprecedented array of never before seen footage of Gould, photographs and excerpts from his private home recordings and diaries plus personal interviews with Gould’s most intimate friends and lovers, some who have never spoken about him publicly before, to reconstruct his thoughts on music, art, society, love, and life.		
	109 min	
3 November	[UK/USA 2011]	This Must be the Place
In <i>This Must Be The Place</i> , Sean Penn plays Cheyenne, a bored, retired, wealthy American goth rock star living in Dublin (and looking a lot like Robert Smith). He’s a complex character, bumbling around town with friends and living in an enormous mansion with his down-to-earth wife of 35 years, Jane (Frances McDormand.) When he learns of the death of his father - who he has been estranged from for over 30 years - he returns to America to embark on a road trip that will change him forever. His quest is driven by the revelation that his father was humiliated in Auschwitz at the hands of an SS officer, who may still be alive and living in America. Cheyenne’s search takes him across the heartland of a country now foreign to him, encountering some great people as he is reawakened to the possibility of reconciliation and self-discovery. This is a rare film that is able to mix stunning originality and elegance with real humanity. Penn is riveting, beguiling and downright perplexing in a performance that reminds you why he is one of the greats. Featuring a terrific soundtrack with music and lyrics by David Byrne and Will Oldham.		
	118 min	
10 November	[Iran 2012]	A Separation
<i>A Separation</i> is an utterly compelling and profound film that focuses on a contemporary Iranian middle-class couple who separate, and the intrigues which follow. The film received the Golden Bear for Best Film and the Silver Bears for Best Actress and Best Actor at the 61st Berlin International Film Festival. Nader and Simin have been married for fourteen years and live with their eleven-year-old daughter Termeh in Tehran. Not exactly out-of-love, Nader and Simin are attempting to divorce on the grounds of irreconcilable differences. They have acquired visas to emigrate from Iran - Simin is anxious to ensure a better future for Termeh, but Nader refuses to leave his elderly father who suffers from Alzheimer’s disease. When the judge refuses to formalise their separation, Simin departs the family home, leaving the obstinate Nader to hire a housekeeper. Razieh is a devout, impoverished woman who tends to the apartment and Nader’s father. When Nader returns one day to find his father alone, it leads to an altercation that has unexpected consequences.		
	123 min	
17 November	[USA 2012]	Samsara
The team behind Baraka reunites for another journey around the world in Samsara, exploring themes of birth, life, death and rebirth through stunning visuals and music. ‘Samsara’ is a Tibetan word that means “the ever turning wheel of life,” and the film is an unparalleled sensory experience. Baraka director Ron Fricke reunites with producer Mark Magidson to expand on their effort to portray the connections between humanity and nature in a bold way. Shot for over four years and across 26 countries, the film transports us through multiple cultures to sacred grounds, disaster sites, industrialized zones and natural wonders. By dispensing with dialogue and descriptive text, the filmmakers subvert our expectations of a documentary. Instead, they encourage our own interpretations inspired by mesmerising visuals and musical compositions that infuse the ancient with the modern. Through powerful, breathtaking images pristinely photographed in 70mm and a dynamic music score,Samsara shows how our life cycle mirrors the rhythm of the planet. The filmmakers give us privileged access to profound scenarios.		
	108 min	
24 November	[Canada 2012]	Stories We Tell
Stories we tell peels the complex life of Diana, an aspiring actress and mother, and the shockwaves that a series of impulsive actions unleash on her children, husband and community. With this groundbreaking new feature that seamlessly blends past and present, the real and the imagined, Polly’s characteristically unflinching yet compassionate gaze delivers a level depth of depth and emotion only hinted at by her acclaimed earlier dictorial works, <i>Away from Her</i> and <i>Take this Waltz</i> . Making Stories we Tell all the memorable is the revelation that the mother depicted - and family in question - is Polly’s own.		
	102 min	
1 December	[Canada 2012]	Monsieur Lazhar
The story is set in Montreal, where the beloved teacher of a year 6 class has abruptly passed away. Having learned of the incident in the newspaper Bachir Lazhar (Fellag), a 55-year old Algerian immigrant, makes his way to the school and offers his services as a substitute teacher. He’s in the right place at the right time, and is quickly hired to fill in. The substantial cultural gap between Lazhar and his new class is immediately apparent, but little by little, Lazhar comes to understand this motley but endearing group, among whom are Alice (Sophie Nelisse) and Simon (Emilien Neron), two charismatic pupils particularly affected by their teacher’s passing. Yet while the class begins to heal nobody in the school is aware of Lazhar’s painful past nor do they suspect that his own place in the world is in jeopardy.		
	92 min	
8 December	[USA 1947]	It’s a Wonderful Life
George Bailey has spent his entire life giving of himself to the people of Bedford Falls. He has always longed to travel but never had the opportunity in order to prevent rich skinflint Mr. Potter from taking over the entire town. All that prevents him from doing so is George’s modest building and loan company, which was founded by his generous father. But on Christmas Eve, George’s Uncle Billy loses the business’s \$8,000 while intending to deposit it in the bank. Potter finds the misplaced money and hides it from Billy. When the bank examiner discovers the shortage later that night, George realizes that he will be held responsible and sent to jail and the company will collapse, finally allowing Potter to take over the town. Thinking of his wife, their young children, and others he loves will be better off with him dead, he contemplates suicide. But the prayers of his loved ones result in a gentle angel named Clarence coming to earth to help George.		
	130 min	

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If paying by Direct Deposit, please follow the instruction sheet carefully.

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ILLAWARRA FILM SOCIETY

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