



DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Hello to all our members,

It's a Christmas/New Year miracle.

Well, not quite, but we come bearing good tidings and good value to Film Society members.

Here is a quick statement from **Vivienne Bond**, our President:

It is disappointing that we have not been able to have our monthly screenings throughout the year.

Please be aware that your membership of the Yarra Ranges Film Society will be rolled over into 2021 without any additional fee.

A new membership card will be created for you.

If you do not wish to be a member in 2021, please email the Society secretary, Bea Wicks-Kaandorp at info@yarrarangesfilmsociety.org.au

We hope to see you soon.

Vivienne Bond
YRFS President

While the news coming out of New South Wales is unsettling, it seems Victoria is still very much on top of its viral situation.

Most of us enjoyed a safe Covid-normal Christmas (we visited my grandparents and I cooked a delicious turkey and asparagus frittata for lunch), and the cinemas have fully reopened (with density limits and painstaking hygiene programs, of course).

Wonder Woman 1984 came out on Boxing Day, and it's gotten a markedly mixed reception: many viewers found it vibrant and uplifting, others found it endearingly camp and over-the-top in the style of eighties blockbusters, while others found it poorly-paced and badly-written. I've wanted to see this film for a long time, so I reserve my judgement until I can see it in cinemas myself (and I may review it first-thing in next year's paper).

The Mountain Views Mail and its sister publications ran my Worst and Best Films of 2020 lists in the second-last and last issues of the year (respectively).

My Worst list remained pretty consistent throughout the year (with the worst film of the year being the repulsive "romantic" thriller *365 Days*), but my Best list saw a last-minute change with Brandon Cronenberg's *Possessor* suddenly taking the number-one spot.

Possessor is a layered, confronting and brilliantly-written science fiction horror film about an elite assassin who uses brain-implant technology to get close to her targets, only for her host to resist, their minds clashing and blending together.

Possessor is not for the squeamish, but it's a superbly-paced nightmare that builds to a remarkable twist, and director Brandon Cronenberg is actually the son of iconic body horror director David Cronenberg, who is perhaps best-known for his grisly 1986 remake of *The Fly*.

2020 has been an extremely rocky year, but I think we can look forward to a much better 2021. Victorian vigilance has effectively eliminated Covid in our state, a quality rigorously-tested vaccine is on its way, and normal life is returning (and we're getting a Doctor Who special on New Year's Day :D).

Cheers.
Seth