

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

Hello to all our members,

The Film Society program is back at mostly full-strength in 2021, and the Warburton Film Festival is rapidly approaching (**June 19-20**).

The Oscars took place late last month (April 25), and while I'm happy for the results and some of the milestones involved, there were quite a few films I'd hoped would win instead, and the event was an overall flat affair lacking in energy.

Until 2021, only six women had ever been nominated for Best Director, and only

one – Kathryn Bigelow – ever won, but 2021 had two female nominees in the same year, which is an exciting step forward. This year also saw Riz Ahmed as the first Muslim nominated for an acting Oscar for his leading role in *Sound of Metal*.

Nomadland won Best Picture. I had little investment in the Best Picture category this year, as I'd only seen two (*Minari* and *Promising Young Woman*) of the eight nominees up to that point (I watched *The Father* and reviewed it for this past week's issue of the Star Mail after the Oscars). I would have been thrilled if either *Promising Young Woman* or *Minari* won. If you've seen *Nomadland* and enjoyed it, feel free to send me your thoughts on it.

Nomadland director Chloé Zhao became the first woman of colour, and second woman overall, to win Best Director. I was hoping Emerald Fennell would win for *Promising Young Woman*, but Fennell did win Best Original Screenplay for said film (and *The Father*, based on the play by Florian Zeller, won Best Adapted Screenplay).

Anthony Hopkins won his second Oscar for his remarkable leading role in *The Father*, and Frances McDormand won her third and fourth Oscars for *Nomadland* (Best Leading Actress and Best Picture, as one of the producers).

Daniel Kaluuya won Best Supporting Actor for his role as Fred Hampton in *Judas and the Black Messiah*,

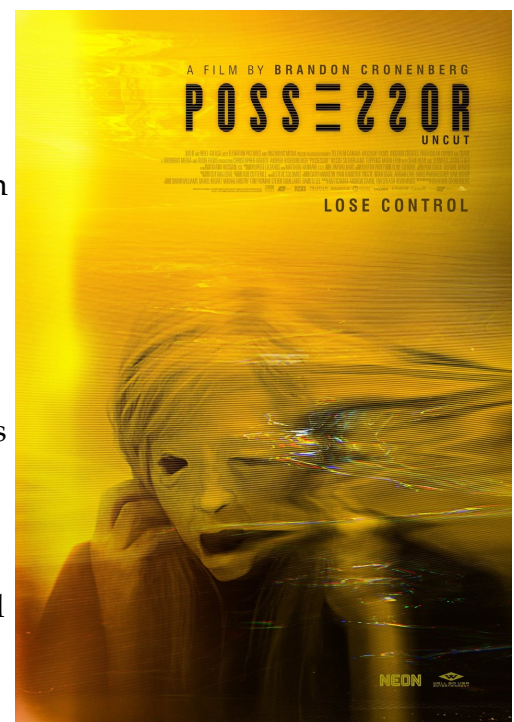
and the wonderful Youn Yuh-jung won Best Supporting Actress for her role in *Minari*, delivering a bitingly witty yet gracious speech.

Some of the snubs still sting to this day.

Tom Holland deserved a Best Leading Actor nomination for his poignant, deeply authentic performance in *The Devil All the Time*, and Alison Brie deserved a Leading Actress nomination for her heartbreaking role in *Horse Girl*.

Elisabeth Moss should have been nominated for Best Leading Actress for her traumatised yet resilient performance in *The Invisible Man*; I even saw jokes on Twitter in early 2020 about how Moss would sweep the Oscars because no-one else's movies got to the cinemas in time before lockdown. *The Invisible Man* is one of the most excruciatingly suspenseful, tightly-structured films I've ever seen, so Leigh Whannell should have been nominated for Best Director.

If I had my way, I would award a special gender-neutral joint acting Oscar to Andrea Riseborough and Christopher Abbott for *Possessor*, as their performances are so compelling and complementary, it's impossible to separate them.



The Oscar Academy significantly widened the criteria for film eligibility due to the Covid pandemic, including provisions to allow films that had a planned cinema release but could only come out on streaming services to still be nominated. However, the Academy still shows a certain snobbishness toward films released exclusively online, in stark contrast to the Emmys, which welcome streamed TV shows.

Cinema is cinema, and thus a worthy art form, whether screened in a cinema, sent straight to DVD or streamed online.

I hope the Academy recognises this fact going forward, after the pandemic eases.

Cheers.
Seth

MAY SCREENINGS

May's film, *Amour*, will screen on **Tuesday May 11** at the Arts Centre in **Warburton** and on **Tuesday May 18** at the Memo in **Healesville**.

You must book your seat through the following link:

<https://yarraranges.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/sales/sales?ev=7175,7181&ismenuhide=true&isincludeprivate=true>

You can find the full 2021 program on the Yarra Ranges Film Society website:

www.yarrarangesfilmsociety.org.au

GUEST PASSES ALLOWED AGAIN

Due to the easing of restrictions, guests are now allowed at monthly screenings again.

As with before, each Society member is allowed to bring one guest per year, but you must book these guests beforehand with the above link.

STAR BOX RATING FOR *LIVING IS EASY WITH EYES CLOSED*



Healesville: 3.6

Warburton: 3.8

Average: 3.7

FRITZ'S POEMS

Living Is Easy With Eyes Closed

'Living is Easy, with eyes closed,' they say
And everyone did it – in their own way.
With shouts of “HELP” heard often and loud,
People filling in with their own crowd.
Revolting against established convention.
Doing things you should not mention
It was a wild time but not all bad
With a new sense of freedom people had.
The movie showed it all – quite intense,
But to me, like the period it did make sense.

F.R
14.4.21

Poetry Group Invitation

If you like poems, enjoy rhythm and rhyme
There is a group here and now is the time
To join up and do some writing
With others that also find it exciting.
If you are interested, give it a go
And see Fritz after the show.

(03) 59662787

F.R. 17.4.21