



OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Hello to all our members,

The Film Society is finishing off the year with a French comedy-drama about love and maturity in October, an Australian drama about an intense connection between strangers in November, and a classic Scottish comedy-drama about a small village resisting the intrusive oil industry in December.

But first: there is some important official business for us to take care of over the next couple of weeks.

The Annual General Meeting is tomorrow, where we will be assembling the new committee and raising and addressing certain issues among the whole society. All members are welcome to attend, and we encourage members from the Warburton and Healesville chapters to nominate themselves or others as new committee members.

We hope to see you all at the AGM tomorrow.

The current committee is very close to finalising next year's program. The online poll, open to all members, will be active until October 16. Please select your choices for next year's program by following the link below.

I hope you enjoy the remaining films in our program, and I hope you'll be satisfied with next year's program.

I still think science fiction and horror are drastically under-represented in our screening calendars and DVD libraries, but don't let me sway your voting (tee hee)...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is open to all Film Society members, will be held at the **Upper Yarra Arts Centre** in Warburton on Tuesday **October 8 at 7 PM**, before Warburton's Film Society screening.

There will be a door prize: a free one-year double-membership for one lucky Film Society member.

Film Society members are also encouraged to nominate themselves for the Film Society committee, as we are always open to new faces and fresh ideas.

NEXT YEAR'S GENERAL PROGRAM

The committee is very close to finalising the screening program for next year.

We have taken your suggestions, trimmed out any that are either unavailable or too long, and made them into a shortlist, which is now live online for you to vote on.

Follow the link below to the online poll, and choose up to 11 films you would like us to screen in 2020.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MF6HZZJ>

2019 CHRISTMAS DINNER

We will be having our annual Christmas dinner at **6 PM** on **December 10** at the Upper Yarra Arts Centre in **Warburton**, and **December 17** at the Healesville Memorial Hall in **Healesville**.

Entry is **\$10**, and you are strongly advised to book ahead. Contact details for booking will be included in the following issue of this newsletter (November).

Members will be able to renew their membership at the dinner, or in February at our first 2020 screening.

EFTPOS for membership renewal will be available at the dinners.

STAR RATINGS AND REVIEW FOR *YOUTH*



3.5 from Healesville

3.6 from Warburton's viewers

3.55 overall

My rating: **2 out of 5**

Youth is a funny, beautifully-shot drama rich in themes of age and maturity, but fails to engage due to its thin characters and one big glaring technical issue.

Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel and Rachel Weisz all deliver strong, natural performances, and the film has an appropriately slow, languid pace. You feel like you are watching a life unfold, with its fits and starts and sometimes-crawling progress, and this slow pacing is especially fitting as the main characters contemplate their lives while nearing their end.

Moreover, Fred's (Caine) stubborn refusal to let go of the past and conduct his piece with another singer, Mick's (Keitel) ego and possessiveness toward his beloved creative partner Brenda (Jane Fonda), and Lena's (Weisz) extreme despair and envy after the break-up of her marriage, also effectively suggest that age does not automatically generate wisdom.

However, Fred and Mick's contemplation of their mortality often feels hollow. Fred mentions that he can't remember his parents, and he believes that Lena (his daughter) will someday no longer remember him. This notion, along with their petty bets and covetously discussing a romance they both missed out on long ago, feels less like coming to terms with age and more the effect of massive narcissism.

My grandmother (I call her 'nana') turns 91 in November, but she is still very sharp and has clear memories of her young childhood, parents and grandparents.

Actor Jimmy's (Paul Dano) character arc, in which he feels bitter that most of his fans only remember him for a schlocky robot role and he ends up cosplaying as Hitler, has a flat resolution that hardly makes any sense, as it's unclear what he learned or what he'll be doing next with this vague knowledge.

While the film has engaging individual scenes of the characters discussing their problems, there is little sense of them changing or growing until right at the end, with Fred's development and final epiphany backloaded into the final ten minutes or so.

While I appreciate the scenes of Miss Universe (Mădălina Diana Ghenea) and Brenda standing up for themselves and disproving male assumptions about them, *Youth* still objectifies Miss Universe at every opportunity, treating her as an object to ogle, which is terrible.

Moving onto that one big glaring technical issue, the editing in *Youth* is **atrocious**. The film has so many abrupt, jarring cuts to new settings or characters completely unrelated to the previous scene. This rough editing impairs a sense of flow or progression, and thus renders the characters' journeys harder to follow or invest in.

Youth is a prime illustration of a remark video essayist Dan Olson of Folding Ideas made in 2016:

'My Lord, editing is going down the crapper these days...'

OCTOBER'S SCREENING

Aurore

2017 French drama

Rated M

89 minutes (approx.)



Aurore is a sensitive drama about a middle-aged woman whose lust for life is renewed when she, by chance, meets her old high-school sweetheart.

WARBURTON SCREENING: Tuesday October 8

HEALESVILLE SCREENING: Tuesday October 15

NOVEMBER'S SCREENING

Ellipsis

2017 Australian drama

Rated M

85 minutes (approx.)

WARBURTON SCREENING: Tuesday November 12

HEALESVILLE SCREENING: Tuesday November 19