



SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Hello to all our members,

Some of the Film Society's biggest events, namely the Healesville Mini Film Festival and the Warburton Film Festival, are long behind us, but the committee is eagerly preparing for next year's film festivals and general program, and we're slowly putting together the logistics of the December Christmas dinner.

Like with the film society's calendar, some of the year's biggest releases – in the case of *Avengers: Endgame*, the biggest box-office success of all time (not adjusting for inflation) – are already behind us, but we still await some exciting releases in the coming months.

Ad Astra looks to be an intriguing sci-fi drama, and shows an impressive commitment to realism within its space setting.

Joker looks very derivative of *Taxi Driver*, but it still seems to be an eerie, darkly funny film about the origins of Batman's arch-nemesis, and star Joaquin Phoenix is an exceedingly versatile and poignant actor.

With an R-rating, *Deadpool* director Todd Phillips at the helm and Linda Hamilton and James Cameron returning, *Terminator: Dark Fate* will hopefully recapture the gritty feel, harrowing tension and narrative cohesion of the first two Terminator films.

The committee has settled on a trio of acclaimed French films for next year's Mini Film Festival, and due to a scheduling switch, we'll have had two Michael Caine films in a row this year – *The Italian Job* in August and *Youth* in September – which is rather amusing.

There will be no more Alternative Film Spotlights. I feel the series has run its course, as I have no more ideas for discussing cinema from unexpected sources.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming films in our calendar.

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 join the Film Society committee, as we are always open to new faces and fresh ideas.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Bea at:
beawickskaandorp@hotmail.com

NEXT YEAR'S MINI FILM FESTIVAL

The committee has completed the program for next year's Healesville Mini Film Festival.

We will be showing a triple-feature of acclaimed French films from recent iterations of the Alliance Française French Film Festival.

The films are:

<i>Custody</i>	2017 drama	Dir: Xavier Legrand
<i>Who You Think I Am</i>	2019 drama	Dir: Safy Nebbou
<i>Just To Be Sure</i>	2017 comedy	Dir: Carine Tardieu

NEXT YEAR'S GENERAL PROGRAM

The committee is close to finalising next year's general program, but we are still eager to hear your ideas.

Members will be able to write down their suggestions for next year's program at September's screenings (**September 10** at **Warburton**, and **September 17** at **Healesville**),

but we invite you to send us your ideas by email.

We will hold a closed committee meeting (likely on September 23) to create the shortlist based on your written and emailed suggestions. The shortlist will then be released as an online survey, like with last year's program, for you to vote on for the final program.

Please email your ideas for next year's program to:
info@yarrarangesfilmsociety.org.au

YRFS PROGRAM UPDATE

Just a quick reminder: since *The Italian Job* (December's intended film) was screened last month (August), *Local Hero* will now be playing in **December** as our final film for the year.

FRITZ'S POEM

The Italian Job

August 2019

The Italian Job turns reality round
With stunning events and sights and sounds.
Where a bunch of madmen lark over the town,
Turning style and beauty upside down.
The 'self-preservation' society
Trashing every single propriety.
Where chaos is created in a beautiful town
And cars in the Alps are sent crashing down.
Where underworld bosses behave like kings
And order their lackeys to do crazy things.
Where the heist is successful – nobody hurt
And cars escape through sewers and dirt.
But the most unbelievable thing by far –
Mini Coopers beating every Italian car!



F.R.

STAR RATINGS AND REVIEW FOR *THE ITALIAN JOB*



3.6 from Healesville

3.6 from Warburton's viewers

3.6 overall

My rating: **4 out of 5**

The Italian Job is a suspenseful and funny thriller full of quirky characters, clever dry humour and impressive stunts.

Michael Caine conveys a scrappy charm as Charlie Croker, a recently-released

criminal who plots to steal \$4 million in gold ingots from the streets of Turin by orchestrating a catastrophic traffic jam.

The Italian Job is remarkably well-paced: the first two acts clearly establish the parameters of the heist and how much Charlie's crew stands to gain, the obstacles for his crew to overcome and the extensive preparation their heist requires.

This steady progression amplifies the tension of the final act, which is a frenetic but frequently amusing sequence of Charlie's crew out-driving and outwitting the Turin police.

The Italian Job also has some strikingly modern narrative elements. The team's computer expert Professor Peach (Benny Hill) must hack Turin's traffic control computer, in a plot-point that anticipates hacking operations in plenty of cyberpunk films decades later, and the looming economic threat of China provides further (and mildly xenophobic) motivation for Charlie to pull off the heist.

The film has a perfect literal cliffhanger ending, in which we get to have our dramatic cake and eat it too: Charlie's crew succeeded in the heist, but are still teetering on the edge of failure, with the cut to credits leaving their situation tantalisingly to our imaginations.

The only significant factor that bumped my rating down by a star was some of the offensive jokes and stereotypes. None of the few female characters in this film serve any narrative function, and while Professor Peach is portrayed as a loveable weirdo, the repeated gag of him sexually assaulting a fat woman is not fucking funny.

SEPTEMBER'S SCREENING

Youth

2015 Italian comedy/drama

Rated MA15+

124 minutes (approx.)



Youth is a meditative, funny drama about two elderly best friends regaining their love of artistic creation and mending their family relationships while staying at an expensive spa in the Swiss Alps.

WARBURTON SCREENING: Tuesday September 10

HEALESVILLE SCREENING: Tuesday September 17

OCTOBER'S SCREENING

Aurore

2017 French drama Rated M

89 minutes (approx.)

WARBURTON SCREENING: Tuesday October 8

HEALESVILLE SCREENING: Tuesday October 15