



*The Workshop Film Group presents:*  
**The 39<sup>th</sup> Residential Film Weekend**

October 4 – October 6, 2014  
 Metropole Guest House, Katoomba.

Saturday 5 October

2.00	Children Of The Silk Road	War drama	DVD (120 Mins)
4.30	Smarts Labyrinth: A Portrait Of The Artist Jeffrey Smart	Documentary	DVD (57 Mins)
Dinner 6pm – 8pm			
8.00	Adams Rib	Comedy drama	DVD (103 Mins)
10.15	Nosferatu	Silent horror	Blu-ray (63 Mins)

Sunday 6 October

Breakfast 8 am – 9 am			
9.00	Lonely Hearts	Comedy drama	DVD (95 Mins)
11.00	The Remarkable Mr Kaye	Documentary	DVD (50 Mins)
Lunch 12.00 pm – 1.45 pm			
1.45	Japanese Story	Drama	DVD (106 Mins)
3.45	Cosi	Drama	DVD (98 Mins)
Dinner 6pm – 8pm			
8.00	The Quiet Earth	Science fiction	DVD (91 Mins)
9.45	Year Of The Dogs	Documentary	DVD (86 Mins)

Monday 7 October

Breakfast 8 am – 9 am			
9.00	The Peach Girl (Taohua Qi Xue Ji)	Romance	DVD (94 Mins)
11.00	Mohammed Alis Happy Day Feast	Documentary	DVD (55 Mins)
Lunch 12.15 pm – 1.45 pm			
1.45	Buster Keaton Collection	Silent comedy	VHS (55 Mins)

*NB. Provisional program – all the films have been booked but the order of showing may change. Mark Joffe was invited to present his film Cosi but has advised his film commitments exclude him from introducing the film. The director of Smarts Labyrinth, Geoff Bennett has been invited to introduce his documentary but has yet to confirm.*

## *Documentaries and shorts:*

### **SMARTS LABYRINTH: A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST JEFFREY SMART**

*Dir: Featherstone Productions, Australia DVD 2010 57 mins, col, Cast: Jeffrey Smart.*

A portrait of one of Australia's most important post war painters, Jeffrey Smart. The film opens at Smart's enchanting villa at Urbino in Tuscany. He is embarking on a portrait of fellow painter Margaret Olley. We trace the progress of this painting throughout the film. He talks illuminatingly about his distinctive style and subject matter and the meaning behind it. We learn that although his paintings of lonely figures set in bleak industrial landscapes under dark brooding skies suggest early 21st century decay he, on the contrary, sees the post industrial society as a thing of great beauty. Smart drives through the urban Italian landscape searching for and finding a location to paint. He visits an ancient church in Tuscany where he reveals his fascination with Piero Della Francesca, he also visits Cezannes studio in the south of France where he pays homage to the 'master'.

### **The REMARKABLE MR KAYE**

*Dir: Paul Cox, Australia DVD 2011 50 mins, col, Cast: Norman Kaye.*

A portrait by the filmmaker Paul Cox of Norman Kaye, actor, musician and passionate lover of life. Norman Kaye and Paul Cox first met in Melbourne in 1967. Norman, a music teacher and 'after hours' actor, and Paul, a stills photographer, both discovered in each other a mutual desire to explore their ideas and dreams through film. So began a 36 year working relationship that ceased only as the curtains of Alzheimer's disease gradually closed around Norman.

### **YEAR OF THE DOGS**

*Dir: Michael Cordell, Australia DVD 1997 86 mins, col.*

The people of Footscray are battlers and so is their football team, the Bulldogs. The club is close to broke and the AFL keeps trying to kill them off for the sake of the national competition. Footscray sees it as the big end of town versus the little end of town. But the people of the western suburbs remain passionate about their footy club. It's the heart and soul of the west.

### **MOHAMMED ALIS HAPPY DAY FEAST**

*Dir: Nicky Tyndale-Biscoe, Australia, DVD 1998 55 mins, Col.*

Having survived war in Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen, Mohamed and his wife Halima arrive in Australia with a renewed optimism, and set about establishing their dream cafe. As the first year unfolds, life is not as they expected. Mohamed is an optimist, with an eye on the future, Halmia looks patiently towards resolving the past. In their dealing with customers, local council officials, the immigration department and

marketing mavericks, we experience their cultural perspective on our world, ripe with humour, hope and misunderstandings.

## ***Films:***

### **CHILDREN OF THE SILK ROAD**

*Dir: Roger Spottiswoode, Australia, DVD, 2008 120 mins, col, Cast: Jonathan Ryys Meyers, Radha Mitchell, Yun-Fat Chow, Mitchell Yeoh, Guang Li, Lin Ji, Matt Walker.*

People thrown into an unexpected and desperate situation discover their capacity for love and responsibility. A young Englishman, George Hogg, comes to lead sixty orphaned boys on a journey of over 500 perilous miles across the snow-bound Liu Pan Shan mountains to safety on the edge of the Mongolian desert. And how, in doing so, he comes to understand the meaning of courage. During his journey, Hogg learns to rely on the support of Chen, the leader of a Chinese communist partisan group who becomes his closest friend. He soon finds himself falling in love with Lee, a recklessly brave Australian nurse whom war has turned into an unsentimental healer on horseback. Along the way Hogg befriends Madame Wang, an aristocratic survivor who has also been displaced by war, who helps the young Englishman, his friends and their sixty war orphans make their way across mountain and desert regions to a place of safety near the western end of the Great Wall of China.

### **ADAMS RIB**

*Dir: George Cukor, USA, DVD, 1949, 103 mins, b&w, Cast: Katherine Hepburn, Spencer Tracey, David Wayne, Tom Ewell, Judy Holliday, Jean Hagen.*

When a woman attempts to kill her uncaring husband, prosecutor Adam Bonner gets the case. Unfortunately for him his wife Amanda (who happens to be a lawyer too) decides to defend the woman in court. Amanda uses everything she can to win the case and Adam gets mad about it. As a result, their perfect marriage is disturbed by everyday quarrels.

### **NOSFERATU**

*Dir: F W Murnau, Germany, Blu-ray, 1922, 63 mins, b&w, Cast: Max Schreck, Alexander Granach, Gustav von Wangenheim, Greta Schroeder.*

Wisbourg, Germany based estate agent Knock dispatches his associate, Hutter, to Count Orlok's castle in Transylvania as the Count wants to purchase a isolated house in Wisbourg. Hutter's trek is an unusual one, with many locals not wanting to take him near the castle where strange events have been occurring. Once at the castle, Hutter does manage to sell the Count the house, but he also notices and feels unusual occurrences, primarily feeling like there is a dark shadow hanging over him, even in the daytime when the Count is unusually asleep. Hutter eventually sees the Count's sleeping chamber in a crypt, and based on a book he has recently read, believes the Count is really a vampire or Nosferatu. While Hutter is trapped in the

castle, the Count, hiding in a shipment of coffins, makes his way to Wisbourg, causing death along his way.

### **LONELY HEARTS**

*Dir: Paul Cox, Australia, DVD, 1981, 95 mins, col, Cast: Wendy Hughes, Norman Kaye.*

In this offbeat comedy, an unlikely romance develops between a flamboyant, middle-aged piano tuner and an extremely timid office worker. Won AFI award best film.

### **JAPANESE STORY**

*Dir: Sue Brooks, Australia, DVD, 2003, 106 mins, col, Cast: Toni Collette, Gotaro Tsunashima, Matthew Dyktynski, Lynette Curran, Yumiko Tanaka, Bill Young.*

Against the background of an Australian desert, Sandy, a geologist, and Hiromitsu, a Japanese businessman, play out a story of human inconsequence in the face of the blistering universe. The end of the journey leaves no one capable of going back to where they started from. An emotional punch with a mesmerising performance from Toni Collette. *Won 8 AFI awards, best film, director, actress, screenplay, cinematography, music score, editing and sound.*

### **COSI**

*Dir: Mark Joffe, Australia, DVD, 1996, 98 mins, col, Cast: Ben Mendelsohn, Toni Collette, Rachel Griffiths, Barry Otto, Aden Young, Jacki Weaver, Pamela Rabe, Kerry Walker, David Wenham, Colin Friels, Paul Chubb, Colin Hay.*

Lewis is a young Sydney amateur theatre director at his first experience: he is offered a job with a Governmental program for the rehabilitation of mentally ill patients in a Sydney institution for mentally ill. His project is overrun by one of the patients Roy who wants to put on stage *Cosi Fan Tutte* (Mozart). None of the patients in the cast is able to sing and none of them knows Italian which is the language of the libretto. Through a lot of difficulties Lewis and his cast develop a deep understanding. The play smartly adapted for the unusual cast is finally produced: lots of unforeseen situations solved 'a la crazy way' but indeed brilliantly. Great success and sad farewell of the director from his cast. *Won AFI award best adapted screenplay.*

### **THE QUIET EARTH**

*Dir: Geoffrey Murphy, New Zealand, DVD, 1985, 91 mins, col, Cast: Bruno Lawrence, Alison Routledge, Peter Smith.*

A man wakes up to find himself literally alone in the world, and goes about trying to find other survivors, as well as to find out what happened. He suspects that a government research project he was involved in had something to do with the disappearance of everyone. Eventually he finds several other people, and once they begin to trust each other they try to figure out why they were left on earth. *Won eight New Zealand film and television awards including best film.*

### **THE PEACH GIRL (TAOHUA QI XUE JI)**

*Dir: Bu Wancang, China, DVD, 1931, 94 mins, col, English subtitles. Cast: Lingyu Ruan, Yan Jin, Wong Kwai-ling, Chow Lee-Lee, Langen Ham.*

Ruan plays Lingu, a peasant girl, who falls in love with the landlord's son De'en, played by Jin, who fathers her child. He promises marriage but is forbidden by his mother to see her because of class differences. De'en finally comes to Lingu's side, as she lies dying. The landowner relents after her death and allows her son to raise the child. The final scene with De'en, his mother and Lingu's blind father at the tomb shows the reconciliation. The grieving young man looks at the grave and says, "We will meet again on the other side"

### **BUSTER KEATON COLLECTION (THE PALEFACE, ONE WEEK, THE LOVE NEST).**

*Dir: Buster Keaton, USA, VHS, 1923, 55 mins, b&w, musical soundtrack. Cast: Buster Keaton, Joe Roberts (The Paleface and The Love Nest), Sybil Sealey (One Week), Virginia Fox (The Love Nest)*

Features three Keaton films. In the first film, 'The Paleface', Keaton is an absent-minded entomologist who wanders into the midst of tribal warfare while chasing a butterfly. The second film, 'One Week', features Keaton trying to build a pre-fab house for his new bride, but a rival has sabotaged the blueprints. The third film, 'The Love Nest', has love-smitten Keaton joining a whaling ship crew.

*All films are screened courtesy of the Non-Theatrical Lending Collection, National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra.*



*For bookings and further information, please contact:  
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