Exploring International Cinema July to December

Welcome to the second edition of The Reel Thing, here is the program for the next six months July to December. I hope you find it interesting and stimulating.

We will finish the year with two newer movies. Storm Boy and Murder on the Orient Express.

Along the way we will see an old favourite in The Dish and the excellent movie Tinker, Tailor, Soldier Spy.

A movie with a Creswick connection in Picnic at Hanging Rock and the foreboding Meet Joe Black.

It is my aim to mix up the offerings to stimulate discussion on the films and the film industry.

If it's a good movie, the sound could go off and the audience would still have a perfectly clear idea of what was going on.

Alfred Hitchcock

Life's like a movie, write your own ending. Keep believing, keep pretending.

Jim Henson
Picnic at Hanging Rock
July 4th

Director: Peter Weir
Writers: Joan Lindsay (novel), Cliff Green (screenplay)
Stars: Rachel Roberts, Anne-Louise Lambert, Vivean Gray
Runtime: 115 min
Release Date: 31 October 1976
Subtitles None

Three students and a school teacher disappear on an excursion to Hanging Rock, in Victoria, on Valentine's Day, 1900. The movie follows those that disappeared, and those that stayed behind, but it delights in the asking of questions, not the answering of them. Even though both the movie and the book it was based on claim to be inspired by real events, the story is completely fictional.

The Author

Rose Lindsay (1885-1978), artist's model, printmaker and author, was born on 5 July 1885 at Gosford, New South Wales, and registered as Rosa, third of nine children of English-born parents John Francis Soady, labourer, and his wife Rosanna, née Gale. Rose was raised in bushland near the Lane Cove River, in the Sydney suburb of Longueville.

Distinguished by her fine, pale skin, deep-set almond eyes, rosebud lips and luscious dark hair, Rose was an artist's model par excellence. Never nymph-like, her body possessed a muscular force suggesting her confident character. In 1902 Julian Rossi Ashton introduced her to the artist Norman Lindsay. She became Lindsay's principal model, and then secret lover. His marriage ended and he moved to London in 1909; next year she joined him.

Late in 1912 Rose and Norman had purchased a house and built a studio near Springwood, in the Blue Mountains.

. On 14 January 1920 at Hawthorn, Strathfield, Rose married Norman with Presbyterian forms. His divorce was made absolute two weeks later. Their children Janet and Helen were born in 1920 and 1922 respectively.

Norman died in 1969. In February 1973 the property at Springwood was purchased by the National Trust of Australia and opened to the public as the Norman Lindsay Gallery and Museum. Rose Lindsay died on 23 May 1978 at the Caroline Chisholm Nursing Home, Lane Cove, and was cremated. Her two daughters survived her.
Bill Parrish, media tycoon, loving father and still a human being, is about to celebrate his 65th birthday. One morning, he is contacted by the Inevitable - by hallucination, as he thinks.

Later, Death itself enters his home and his life, personified in a man's body: Joe Black has arrived. His intention was to take Bill with him, but accidentally, Joe's former host and Bill's beautiful daughter Susan have already met.

Joe begins to develop certain interest in life on earth as well as in Susan, who has no clue who she's flirting with.

**Editors Note** This is a very clever movie that will get into your head. The acting is excellent.
Stanley Kubrick

Stanley Kubrick [July 26, 1928 – March 7, 1999] was an American film director, screenwriter, and producer. He is frequently cited as one of the greatest and most influential filmmakers in cinematic history. His films, which are mostly adaptations of novels or short stories, cover a wide range of genres, and are noted for their realism, dark humour, unique cinematography, extensive set designs, and evocative use of music.

Kubrick was raised in the Bronx, New York City, and attended William Howard Taft High School from 1941 to 1945. He only received average grades, but displayed a keen interest in literature, photography, and film from a young age, and taught himself all aspects of film production and directing after graduating from high school. After working as a photographer for Look magazine in the late 1940s and early 1950s, he began making short films on a shoestring budget, and made his first major Hollywood film, The Killing, for United Artists in 1956. This was followed by two collaborations with Kirk Douglas, the war picture Paths of Glory (1957) and the historical epic Spartacus (1960). His reputation as a filmmaker in Hollywood grew, and he was approached by Marlon Brando to film what would become One-Eyed Jacks (1961), though Brando eventually decided to direct it himself.

Creative differences arising from his work with Douglas and the film studios, a dislike of the Hollywood industry, and a growing concern about crime in America prompted Kubrick to move to the United Kingdom in 1961, where he spent most of the remainder of his life and career. His home at Childwickbury Manor in Hertfordshire, which he shared with his wife Christiane, became his workplace, where he did his writing, research, editing, and management of production details. This allowed him to have almost complete artistic control over his films, but with the rare advantage of having financial support from major Hollywood studios. His first British productions were two films with Peter Sellers, Lolita (1962) and Dr. Strangelove (1964).

A demanding perfectionist, Kubrick assumed control over most aspects of the filmmaking process, from direction and writing to editing, and took painstaking care with researching his films and staging scenes, working in close coordination with his actors and other collaborators. He often asked for several dozen retakes of the same scene in a movie, which resulted in many conflicts with his casts. Despite the resulting notoriety among actors, many of Kubrick's films broke new ground in cinematography. The scientific realism and innovative special effects of 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968) were without precedent in the history of cinema, and the film earned him his only personal Oscar, for Best Visual Effects. Steven Spielberg has referred to the film as his generation's "big bang", and it is regarded as one of the greatest films ever made. For the 18th-century period film Barry Lyndon (1975), Kubrick obtained lenses developed by Zeiss for NASA, to film scenes under natural candlelight. With The Shining (1980), he became one of the first directors to make use of a Steadicam for stabilized and fluid tracking shots. While many of Kubrick's films were controversial and initially received mixed reviews upon release—particularly A Clockwork Orange (1971), which Kubrick pulled from circulation in the UK following a mass media frenzy—most were nominated for Oscars, Golden Globes, or BAFTA Awards, and underwent critical reevaluations. His last film, Eyes Wide Shut, was completed shortly before his death in 1999 at the age of 70.
Looking For Alibrandi

August 1st

Release Date: 4 May 2000

Filming Locations: The Scots College, Bellevue Hill, New South Wales

Runtime: 103 min

Director: Kate Woods

Stars: Greta Scacchi, Anthony LaPaglia, Elena Cotta

Looking for Alibrandi won five awards at the 2000 AFI Awards:

Best Film—presented to producer Robyn Kershaw

Best Lead Actress—Pia Miranda

Best Supporting Actress—Greta Scacchi

Best Adapted Screenplay—Melina Marchetta (adapted from her own novel)

Best Film Editing—Martin Connor

Subtitles None

A teenage girl confronts the crises of growing up -- some typical, some unusual -- in this drama. Josie (Pia Miranda) is the 17-year-old daughter of Christina Alibrandi (Greta Scacchi), a single mother and member of a large extended family of Sicilian immigrants living in Sydney, Australia. While Josie loves her mother, she's grown weary of her strict family, especially her grandmother Nonna Katia (Elena Cotta).

The fact that her relatives still have issues with Christina raising her child out of wedlock hasn't made Josie's life any easier. A good student, Josie has earned a scholarship at a top private school, where she has to deal with Carly (Leeanna Walsman), a racist who often taunts Josie for her Sicilian heritage. Josie is also suffering from the tribulations of teenage romance, as she finds herself attracted to both clean-cut John (Matthew Newton) and working class Jacob (Kick Gurry). Meanwhile, the house is abuzz over a visit from Michael (Anthony LaPaglia), who Josie soon learns is Christina's old flame -- and her father.

Looking for Alibrandi was based on a novel for young people by Melina Marchetta, which was a major best-seller in Australia. Marchetta also wrote the screenplay for this film adaptation.

The film is set in 1990s Sydney, New South Wales.

The entire film was filmed in Sydney, including such locations as Glebe (Alibrandi's house), Bondi Beach, Sydney Central Station on Eddy Avenue, the Studio space and entrance of Sydney Opera House (the Have your Say Day scene), George Street/Anzac Bridge (the scene where Jacob Coote sent Josephine Alibrandi home with his motorcycle), the Scots College and Kincoppal School were also used throughout the film, the main Quadrangle of University of Sydney (the John Barton and Josephine Alibrandi scene), Village Cinema (Jacob and Josie's date) and Oporto (where Josie works part-time).

The film, while not well known in international markets, has received critical acclaim for its insights into both the second-generation-migrant experience and the universal human condition.

Sometimes what you are looking for is closer than you think.
The Place Beyond the Pines

August 8th

Listed as one of the most underrated movies of all time. Ryan Gosling and Bradley Cooper both excel in this multi-layered American epic tackling the legacy of fatherhood

Release Date: 9 May 2013
Runtime: 140 min
Subtitles Yes

A motorcycle stunt rider turns to robbing banks as a way to provide for his lover and their newborn child, a decision that puts him on a collision course with an ambitious rookie cop navigating a department ruled by a corrupt detective.

It stars Ryan Gosling, Bradley Cooper, Eva Mendes, Emory Cohen and Dane DeHaan, with Ben Mendelsohn, Rose Byrne, Mahershala Ali, Bruce Greenwood, Harris Yulin, and Ray Liotta in supporting roles.

A riveting tale of parenting and legacy that spans many years, The Place Beyond The Pines is like three movies in one.

. The cinematography, especially during several bank heists and motorcycle scenes, is superb, and the score by Mike Patton is riveting stuff.

Editors Note. This movie does contain strong language which is in the context of the story. It has an all star cast and the acting is brilliant. It is a movie that lingers after it has finished. It has 5 tissue reading on the Tissueometer.
The museum houses items from Tom Mix’s personal collection, providing a glimpse into the life of one of Oklahoma’s most colourful figures. Those too young to remember the man and his talent are sure to find his story as fascinating as those who watched him ride across the movie screen years ago.

Tom Mix was born on January 6, 1880, in Mix Run, Pennsylvania, to Edwin and Elizabeth Mix. After a stint in the army, Mix moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, where he worked odd jobs. At various times he worked as a bartender, a hand with Zack Miller’s 101 Ranch, and for a short time in 1911 served as marshal in Dewey, Oklahoma. While working for the 101 Ranch, Mix began his movie career. He married five times and had two children: Ruth, born July 13, 1912, to Olive Stokes, and Thomasina, born February 12, 1922, to Victoria Ford. Tom Mix died in 1940, in a car accident on a highway between Tucson and Florence, Arizona.

Tom Mix’s movie career spanned twenty-six years from 1909–35. At various times he was under contract with the Selig Polyscope Company, Fox Film Corporation, Film Booking Office, Universal, and Mascot. In all he made 336 feature films, produced 88, wrote 71, and directed 117. Mix made nine sound feature films and the fifteen-chapter serial Miracle Rider. His movies were famous for quick action and daredevil stunts. Tom and his horse Tony performed their own stunts. Mix was a superb athlete and kept himself in good physical condition. He pioneered many of the early movie stunts. No trick cameras or fake scenes were used because of the limited shooting budgets.

Misinformation and lore seem to abound about Tom Mix. Some of the stories were created as publicity for the studios, others Tom Mix spread himself, and from there the stories multiplied until the truth became hard to find.
In the days before the July 19, 1969 space mission that marked humankind's first steps on the moon, NASA was working with a group of Australian technicians who had agreed to rig up a satellite interface.

That the Aussies placed the satellite dish smack dab in the middle of an Australian sheep farm in the boondocks town of Parkes was just one of the reasons that NASA was concerned.

Based on a true story, The Dish takes a smart, witty, comical look at the differing cultural attitudes between Australia and the U.S. while revisiting one of the greatest events in history.

The set for the dish control room was extremely accurate. It even included some genuine NASA equipment that had been left behind because it was too bulky to ship back to the US. When the real dish staff visited the set they said it was like stepping back in time.

The film is set in the town of Parkes, in New South Wales, Aus., but was actually filmed in Forbes, which is a town a few miles down the road.

The reason for the re-filming is because Parkes has changed over the last 30 years, but Forbes hasn't changed as much - Forbes still looked like a 1960s town, like Parkes did 30 years before.

Editors Note. This is a wonderful movie from the producers of the Castle. It has become just as much of a cult movie.

While bringing about a surprising cultural awakening through works by Ray Bradbury and Vladimir Nabokov, she earns the polite but ruthless opposition of a local grand dame (Patricia Clarkson) and the support and affection of a reclusive book loving widower (Bill Nighy).

As Florence's obstacles amass and bear suspicious signs of a local power struggle, she is forced to ask: is there a place for a bookshop in a town that may not want one?

Based on Penelope Fitzgerald's acclaimed novel and directed by Isabel Coixet (Learning to Drive), The Bookshop is an elegant yet incisive rendering of personal resolve, tested in the battle for the soul of a community.

The Bookshop is a gentle, quiet film in which not a whole lot happens... But it's beautifully evocative of the musty, inviting smell of a bookshop on a cool day, or of the nostalgic pleasure of old photographs.

The film was shot in Portaferry and Strangford, County Down, Northern Ireland, and in Barcelona during August and September 2016. The film won three Goya Awards, including Best Film, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay.
What Does a Cinematographer Do?

The cinematographer or director of photography (DP) is the person in charge of actually shooting the film. He is the head of the camera and lighting departments, and as such he has a big role in the making of any movie. As early as pre-production, the DP has to make some crucial decisions about the look and feel of a movie: is it going to be colour or black and white? Are they shooting digital or film (the latter is becoming rarer and rarer)? If colour is used, will the colours be vibrant and saturated or faded and “dull”? Is the camera going to be omniscient and be wherever it needs to be, or is it tied to a character? Are they going for a more realistic tone, or a expressionistic one.

These are just some of the questions cinematographers have to deal with, and usually they don’t ‘t make these decisions alone. The Director is still the “creative tyrant” who has to oversee and approve of any aspect of the production. But on a set, director and cinematographer are like best friends. One supports the other, and together they should be a well-oiled machine, so efficient that they can, when the planets align, read each others’ mind.

Let us remember that movies are not plays. The power of cinematography consists of evoking emotions of delight, sadness, humour, and fear through the mastery of a cinematic syntax that has been developed for more than a century. Shot sizes, angles, and movements are the heart of exceptional camera work, which, combined with a lighting crafted to enhance emotions, form the essence of cinematography.

The word cinematography comes from the Greek roots kinema (movement) and graph (writing). A good cinematographer does more than merely light a scene or move the camera. He studies the script and creates an elaborate lighting setup and camera work that provoke emotions and strengthen the plot. He communicates a character’s dream, hope, despair, or joy based on where camera and lights are placed.

The director of photography is often called a painter, and his canvas is the screen. His “brushes” are the actors, the lights, the location, the set, the props, etc. These are the elements the DP can control to make each and every shot. And the shot, by the way, is the smallest unit of the film, the building blocks if you will. And like Lego, some can be small and red shaped like brick while others can be big and blue shaped like an automobile. It’s how these pieces are combined that matter.

While writers work with scene units in what’s call the Master Scene format, cinematographers work with the shot. Each shot is paramount, which is why they print out a shot list to make sure all the principals are recorded.

The average Joe in the audience wouldn’t know it, but a lot of energy and time goes into designing every shot. Usually, it starts with the shot size and angle: is the camera going up here or down there? But if they have enough time (and budget), the best DPs will get nit-picky about every little thing in their shots. They will move all the light fixtures one inch to the left if they perceive some improvement. It seems overkill, but that’s what makes the movies awesome. Every professional is in charge of their own universe.

Cinematography ranks among one of the most complex and challenging facets of filmmaking, especially during principal photography, when everything gets hectic. Not only does the cinematographer have the biggest crew on set, but he also has to be in continuous communication with the director and the production designer in order to make sure that they are all on the same page in regards to how the film will look.
Moorambilla Voices Regional Choir offers tremendous opportunities for children in remote NSW. This region has the highest proportion of children under 16 and Indigenous children in the state. 40% of the population is designated low-income. In an area covering one third of the state, there are two qualified music teachers.

This documentary film is a departure from our usual well known movies. It is a low budget portrayal of a children’s choir made with feeling.

As part of exploring cinema it deserves a viewing.

Wide Open Sky follows the heart-warming story of an outback Australian children's choir. Chronicling their journey from auditions to end-of-year concert, the trials of trying to run a children's choir in a remote and disadvantaged region are revealed. Here, sport is king and music education is non-existent.

Despite this, choir mistress Michelle has high expectations. She wants to teach the children contemporary, original, demanding music. It becomes clear for the children to believe in themselves, they all need someone who believes in them.

Set against a landscape of devastating beauty, Wide Open Sky is a moving portrait of the fragile world of possibility that is childhood and reminds us why no child, anywhere, should grow up without music.

One Critics Revue.

I saw Wide Open Sky at the Sydney Film Festival and I haven't been part of a cinema audience that engaged for years - it came from nowhere to win the audience award for docs. It's beautifully put together, funny and interesting and while the reviews seem to insist on calling it 'heartwarming' it's much better than that.

It's about kids and schools in western NSW and a music teacher who travels around and picks kids with talent to come together for a choir that performs one weekend a year, mostly from schools where there are no formal music lessons.
Having been depicted on screen 254 times, Guinness World Records today announces that Sherlock Holmes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective, has been awarded a world record for the most portrayed literary human character in film & TV.

Since his creation in 1887, Sherlock Holmes has been played by over 75 actors including Sir Christopher Lee, Charlton Heston, Peter O'Toole, Christopher Plummer, Peter Cook, Roger Moore, John Cleese, Benedict Cumberbatch, Ian McKellen and Robert Downey Jr (above).

Guinness World Records adjudicator Claire Burgess commented, "Sherlock Holmes is a literary institution. This Guinness World Records title reflects his enduring appeal and demonstrates that his detective talents are as compelling today as they were 125 years ago."

Through a combination of films, television series, dramas and documentaries, Sherlock's appearances beat the character of Shakespeare's Hamlet by 48 portrayals to claim the record.

However, Sherlock is not the overall most portrayed literary character in film. That title belongs to the non-human character Dracula, who has been portrayed in 272 films.
Phar Lap

November 7th

The true story of an Australian racehorse that became a champion, with the help of a local stableboy.

Director: Simon Wincer
Writer: David Williamson
Stars: Tom Burlinson, Judy Morris, Richard Morgan |
Release Date: 11 August 1983 (Australia)

Filming Locations

St James Street, Geelong West, Victoria,
(scenes where someone tries to shoot Phar Lap in the street on his way back from track work)
Geelong Railway Station, Geelong, Victoria,
Spencer Street Station, Melbourne
Centennial Park, Sydney, New South Wales,
Kurnell Sandhills, Kurnell, New South Wales,
La Perouse, Sydney, New South Wales,
Melbourne, Victoria,
Subtitles Yes

Phar Lap, the legendary Australian racing horse, is as well-known today for his mysterious death as for his fabulous accomplishments in life. Beginning at the end, the film flashes back to the day that Phar Lap, despite his lack of pedigree, is purchased on impulse by trainer Harry Telford.

Phar Lap loses his first races, but Telford's faith in the animal is unshakable. Suddenly the horse becomes a winner, thanks to the love and diligence of stableboy Tommy Woodcock.

American-promoter Dave Davis arranges for Phar Lap to be entered in several top races, where his "long shot" status results in heavy losses for the professional gamblers.

Just after winning an important race in Mexico, Phar Lap collapses and dies; though the film never comes out and says as much, it is assumed that the horse was "murdered" by the gambling interests.
Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy

November 14th

Directed By: Tomas Alfredson

Released Dec 9, 2011

Runtime: 128 minutes

Subtitles Yes

Stars: Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Tom Hardy, John Hurt.

Filming Locations: Victoria and Albert Museum,
South Kensington, London, England,

Runtime: 122 min

Subtitles Yes

In the early 1970s during the Cold War, the head of British Intelligence, Control (Sir John Hurt), resigns after an operation in Budapest, Hungary goes badly wrong.

It transpires that Control believed one of four senior figures in the service was in fact a Russian Agent, a mole, and the Hungary operation was an attempt to identify which of them it was. George Smiley (Gary Oldman) had been forced into retirement by the departure of Control, but is asked by a senior government figure to investigate a story told to him by rogue Agent Ricky Tarr (Tom Hardy), that there was a mole.

Smiley considers that the failure of the Hungary operation and the continuing success of Operation Witchcraft (an apparent source of significant Soviet Intelligence) confirms this, and takes up the task of finding him.

Nominated for 3 Oscars, Winner of a BAFTA for Best British Film., nominated 93 times for awards and took out 35.

How do you find an enemy who is hidden right before your eyes?

Editors Note.

Based on a novel by one of my favourite authors[ John Le Carre ]. His novels are so complicated that it is very difficult to translate them to film, this is definitely one of the best attempts.

The cinematography is brilliant

It is interesting to note that in a long career spanning thirty years at the time of the 2012 Oscar nominations, this movie represented Gary Oldman's first Academy Award nomination for acting (Best Actor).
Who has won the most Academy awards?

Katherine Hepburn won four.
Morning Glory 1934,
Guess who’s coming to dinner? 1968,
The lion in winter 1969,
On golden pond 1982.

Meryl Streep has won three
Kramer vs Kramer 1980
Sophies Choice 1983
The Iron Lady 2012

Walter Brennan won three
Come and Get It 1937
Kentucky 1939
The Westerner 1941

Jack Nicholson has won three
One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest 1976
Terms of Endearment 1984
As Good as it Gets 1998

Daniel Day Lewis has won three.
My Left Foot 1990
There will be Blood 2008
Lincoln 2013
The video store that only stocks Jerry Maguire which you can't even rent from

By Dannielle Maguire

While video stores across the world are closing their doors, one is opening them.

But this isn't your average video store, it's a video store that stocks only copies of Jerry Maguire which you can't rent. Why? It's art, guys. The store, which opened in Los Angeles earlier this month is the work of art collective Everything is Terrible.

Something like 11,000 of the tapes are on the shelves of the video store, with a further 3,000 "out back" in case they run out. But that's unlikely. Because you're not allowed to rent anything from this video store.

"That would involve you taking a Jerry from the collection," Everything is Terrible's Dimitri Simakis told US broadcaster ABC. "And that is, of course, not allowed." So what's the point?

The group hopes to raise enough money to build a gigantic pyramid of Jerry Maguire tapes - not DVDs - in the desert. Because why the heck not? After unveiling the project in 2009, the group has spent the better part of a decade collecting these video tapes. Two years ago, Everything is Terrible built a grand throne out of the 7489 tapes they had, with project founders Simakis and Nic Maier telling, the idea sprang from op shop confusion. "Jerry Maguire is a movie version of a piece of white paper, and yet every thrift shop, every flea market, and every fledgling video store has a disturbing amount of Jerry Maguire tapes," Simakis said. "Like a jerk, I started placing them next to each other and taking photos, thinking, 'Oh, this'll be cute! We'll ask fans to post their own Jerry sightings and call it Maguirewatch'."

From there, things quickly got out of hand. People started sending in their tapes, with the collective's website tallying the most generous donors, with some legend called Alex McNeely sending in a whopping 1343 videos.

"It’s gone from sort-of funny, to not as funny, to not even a little funny, to these tapes will be the death of us. "The group aims to one day have all the Jerry Maguire tapes on the planet, a goal which serves a higher purpose than you or I. "The fate of the Jerry is controlled by something far greater than the fickle hand of mere consumer godliness," Maier said. "The Jerrys exist on a cosmic level above all other consumer items."

"The creator made them, released them, and sent us to return them home—for what, we don't know."

"It is a very ‘Noah's yacht’ type of scenario. "Once we have them all, we'll be told what's next and possibly also why and whatnot. "Until then, we're just going to keep mindlessly stacking and moving, moving and stacking..."

Editors Note.

Is this the worlds most pointless video store?
Storm Boy

December 5th

Director: Shawn Seet
Stars: Jai Courtney, Geoffrey Rush, David Gulpilil
Release Date: 17 January 2019
Filming Locations: Adelaide, South Australia, Coorong.
Runtime: 99 min
Subtitles Yes

A beautiful and contemporary retelling of Colin Thiele's classic Australian tale. 'Storm Boy' has grown up to be Michael Kingley, a successful retired businessman and grandfather.

When Kingley starts to see images from his past that he can't explain, he is forced to remember his long-forgotten childhood, growing up on an isolated coastline with his father.

He recounts to his grand-daughter the story of how, as a boy, he rescued and raised an extraordinary orphaned pelican, Mr Percival.

Their remarkable adventures and very special bond has a profound effect on all their lives. Based on the beloved book, Storm Boy is a timeless story of an unusual and unconditional friendship.

An Extract from a Critics Review

I must give praise to the style of filming and the use of landscapes. There is plenty to admire when it comes to the sea and the land of Australia. The choice of music and the way the film transitions between young and old Storm Boy gave me goose bumps mostly due to Geoffrey Rush's stand out performance. I was also left rather impressed by the talented Pelican's used in the film which I later read were all real and trained for the film. I personally haven't seen anything like it in film before and it was great to see the talent and filming of these beautiful creatures.

Overall, Storm Boy is a great Australian film which I feel came to cinemas somewhat under the radar. This is a film that covers so many themes of loss, sadness, love, hate and friendship.

By the end I found it impossible not to be touched by this film, water also leaking from my eyes (and judging by my cinema audience, I wasn't the only one). This is a great film for those who have never heard the tale or perhaps for those who would love to revisit the film and go down memory lane.

It has a 4 tissue rating on the Tissueometer
Murder on the Orient Express is a 2017 mystery thriller film directed by Kenneth Branagh with a screenplay by Michael Green, based on the 1934 novel of the same name by Agatha Christie. The film stars Branagh as Hercule Poirot, with Penélope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Josh Gad, Derek Jacobi, Leslie Odom Jr., Michelle Pfeiffer, Olivia Colman, and Daisy Ridley in supporting roles.

The film is the fourth screen adaptation of Christie's novel, following the 1974 film, a 2001 TV film version, and a 2010 episode of the television series Agatha Christie's Poirot. The plot follows Poirot, a world-renowned detective, as he seeks to solve a murder on the famous trans-European train in the 1930s.

Principal photography began in November 2016 in the United Kingdom; it is one of the few productions in recent decades to have used 65 mm film cameras.

Murder on the Orient Express had its world premiere on November 2, 2017 at Royal Albert Hall in London, and was released in theatres in the United Kingdom on November 3, 2017, and in the United States on November 10, 2017, by 20th Century Fox.

The film grossed over $351 million worldwide and received mixed reviews from critics, with praise for the cast's performances and the production value, but some criticism for not adding anything new to previous adaptations.
Katherine Hepburn

May 12, 1907 - June 29, 2003

Born May 12, 1907 in Hartford, Connecticut, she was the daughter of a doctor and a suffragette, both of whom always encouraged her to speak her mind, develop it fully, and exercise her body to its full potential.

An athletic tomboy as a child, she was also very close to her brother, Tom, and was devastated at age 14 to find him dead, the apparent result of accidentally hanging himself while practicing a hanging trick their father had taught them.

For many years after this, Katharine used his birth date, November 8, as her own. She then became very shy around girls her age, and was largely schooled at home. She did attend Bryn Mawr College, however, and it was here that she decided to become an actress, appearing in many of their productions.

After graduating, she began getting small roles in plays on Broadway and elsewhere. She always attracted attention in these parts, especially for her role in "Art and Mrs. Bottle" (1931); then, she finally broke into stardom when she took the starring role of the Amazon princess Antiope in "A Warrior's Husband" (1932). The inevitable film offers followed, and after making a few screen tests, she was cast in A Bill of Divorcement (1932), opposite John Barrymore. The film was a hit, and after agreeing to her salary demands, RKO signed her to a contract. She made five films between 1932 and 1934. For her third, Morning Glory (1933) she won her first Academy Award. Her fourth, Little Women (1933) was the most successful picture of its day.

But stories were beginning to leak out of her haughty behaviour off-screen and her refusal to play the Hollywood Game, always wearing slacks and no makeup, never posing for pictures or giving interviews. Audiences were shocked at her unconventional behaviour instead of applauding it, and so when she returned to Broadway in 1934 to star in "The Lake", the critics panned her and the audiences, who at first bought up tickets, soon deserted her. When she returned to Hollywood, things didn't get much better. From the period 1935-1938, she had only two hits: Alice Adams (1935), which brought her her second Oscar nomination, and Stage Door (1937); the many flops included Break of Hearts (1935), Sylvia Scarlett (1935), Mary of Scotland (1936), Quality Street (1937) and the now-classic Bringing Up Baby (1938).

With so many flops, she came to be labelled "box-office poison." She decided to go back to Broadway to star in "The Philadelphia Story" (1938), and was rewarded with a smash. She quickly bought the film rights, and so was able to negotiate her way back to Hollywood on her own terms, including her choice of director and co-stars. The film version of The Philadelphia Story (1940), was a box-office hit, and Hepburn, who won her third Oscar nomination for the film, was bankable again. For her next film, Woman of the Year (1942), she was paired with Spencer Tracy, and the chemistry between them lasted for eight more films, spanning the course of 25 years, and a romance that lasted that long off-screen. (She received her fourth Oscar nomination for the film.) Their films included the very successful Adam's Rib (1949), Pat and Mike (1952), and Desk Set (1957). With The African Queen (1951), Hepburn moved into middle-aged spinster roles, receiving her fifth Oscar nomination for the film. She played more of these types of roles throughout the 50s, and won more Oscar nominations for many of them, including her roles in Summertime (1955), The Rainmaker (1956) and Suddenly, Last Summer (1959). Her film roles became fewer and farther between in the 60s, as she devoted her time to her ailing partner Spencer Tracy. For one of her film appearances in this decade, in Long Day's Journey Into Night (1962), she received her ninth Oscar nomination. After a five-year absence from films, she then made Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967), her last film with Tracy and the last film Tracy ever made; he died just weeks after finishing it. It garnered Hepburn her tenth Oscar nomination and her second win. The next year, she did The Lion in Winter (1968), which brought her her eleventh Oscar nomination and third win.

In the 70s, she turned to making made-for-TV films, with The Glass Menagerie (1973), Love Among the Ruins (1975) and The Corn Is Green (1979). She still continued to make an occasional appearance in feature films, such as Rooster Cogburn (1975), with John Wayne, and On Golden Pond (1981), with Henry Fonda. This last brought her her twelfth Oscar nomination and fourth win - the latter currently still a record for any actor.