

Films of the Commonwealth

About

Get set for a selection of films from the Commonwealth, presented in collaboration with the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Federation Square, Melbourne.

From fascinating features to quirky and thoughtful documentaries, short films, music video and animation – stories from around the Commonwealth come to life on the big screen.

All film screenings are free.

Seating is limited for screenings in the State Library of Western Australia Theatre. The Cultural Centre and State Library of WA are both alcohol free venues.

Road Movie

Director: Dev Benegal
India. 97mins. M

A 1943 Chevrolet truck is a restless young man's ticket to freedom and an escape from the expectations and confines of family. Part road movie, part loving tribute to Indian cinema, director Dev Benegal evokes the magic and wonder of cinema using breathtaking widescreen imagery.

When: Monday 24 October, 12:30pm
Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA-r7zrk5m8>

Murundak: Songs of Freedom

Director: Natasha Gadd and Rhys Graham
Australia. 82mins. M

A moving and triumphant journey into the heart of Indigenous protest music and an inspirational look at the stories and songs that are the essence of Australia. Set against the backdrop of reconciliation, the film blends archival footage with the tour of Indigenous super group The Black Arm Band.

When: Monday 24 October, 6:30pm
Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

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Perth 2011

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJY8z3n3HB0>

<http://www.murundakdocumentary.com/>

Home by Christmas

Director: Gaylene Preston
New Zealand. 95mins. Unclassified 15+ recommended

On his way home from rugby practice in 1940, Ed Preston joins the New Zealand Army to go to World War II. A remarkable true story of resilience, romance, determination and love.

This is a Western Australian premiere screening of *Home by Christmas*.

When: Tuesday 25 October, 12:30pm
Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0Z6TU-XcNg>

<http://www.homebychristmas.com/home/synopsis/>

Barefoot Cinema: The Life and Art of Cinematographer Alun Bollinger

Director: Gerard Smyth
New Zealand. 74mins. Unclassified 15+ recommended

This is an affectionate portrait of the film world's most Zen-like cinematographer, a man who has worked on some of the most seminal New Zealand films over the past 40 years including *The Piano* (Jane Campion), *Vigil* (Vincent Ward), *Heavenly Creatures* (Peter Jackson) and more recently, *Home by Christmas* (Gaylene Preston). The film traces the rise of the New Zealand film industry while offering an ode to creativity and hippiedom.

This is an Australian premiere screening of *Barefoot Cinema: The Life and Art of Cinematographer Alun Bollinger*.

When: Tuesday 25 October, 6:30pm
Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeo2pldgwP8>

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Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Director: Wang Jing, Anocha Suwichakornpong and Kaz Cai
Singapore. 87mins. Unclassified 15+ recommended

This film trilogy by three women Asian directors explores the timeless theme of love. The stories from China (Wang), Thailand (Suwichakornpong) and Singapore (Cai) differ in tone, but all centre around food and meal times. Each story is restrained, controlled and sensitive, reflecting the complexity and beauty of love from various perspectives.

This is an Australian premiere screening of *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*.

When: Wednesday 26 October, 12:30pm
Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sb9lUcnkiXE&feature=related>

Sound of Mumbai

Director: Sarah McCarthy
India/UK. 65mins. Unclassified 15+ recommended

The slums of Mumbai are a long way from the Austrian Alps, but Rodgers and Hammerstein's timeless score for *The Sound of Music* transcends generations and continents to inspire the children of the Bombay Chamber Orchestra. This rousing documentary focuses on charismatic 11-year-old Ashish, who has to overcome his anxieties to sing a solo during the Orchestra's performance at Mumbai's prestigious National Centre for the Performing Arts.

This is an Australian premiere screening of *Sound of Mumbai*.

When: Wednesday 26 October, 6:30pm
Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXmuKT5Mtig>

<http://soundofmumbaimovie.com/>

COMMONWEALTH FESTIVAL

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Mad Bastards

Director: Brendan Fletcher

Australia. 96mins. MA 15+

When: Thursday 27 October, 12:30pm

Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

TJ is a mad bastard, and his estranged 13-year-old son Bullet is on the fast track to becoming one too. After being turned away from his mother's house, TJ sets off across the country to the Kimberley region of Western Australia to make things right with this son. Using music from the legendary Broome musicians the Pigram Brothers, writer/director Brendan Fletcher poetically fuses the harsh realities of violence healing and family.

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJv1AVvPK3Q>

<http://www.madbastards.com.au/>

Fire in Babylon

Director: Stevan Riley

UK. 82mins. PG

When: Thursday 27 October, 6:30pm

Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

When: Saturday 29 October, 12:30pm

Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

With a potent mix of music, politics and sporting prowess, this exuberant documentary charts the rise of the West Indies Cricket team. Intercutting exhilarating match footage from the 70s and 80s with contemporary interviews, Fire in Babylon is about the politics, music and mantra behind these incredible sportsmen and their legendary defiance against oppression.

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9I7qIFu3YDk>

<http://fireinbabylon.com/>

COMMONWEALTH FESTIVAL

Perth 2011

Life in a Day

Director: Kevin MacDonald, Natalia Andreadis and Joseph Michael

UK. 91mins. PG

When: Friday 28 October, 12:30pm

Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

Witness a remarkable user-generated documentary, shot on a single day (July 24, 2010) when the global community was enlisted to capture a moment of their lives on camera. The world responded by submitting more than 80,000 videos to YouTube, representing more than 4,500 hours of deeply personal, powerful films from Australia to Zambia, from the heart of bustling major cities to the most remote regions of the Earth.

Links

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT_UmBHMZYg

Spirit Bear: The Simon Jackson Story

Western Australian premiere

Director: Stefan Scaini

Canada. 91mins. PG

When: Friday 28 October, 2:30pm

Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

This gripping work is based on the courageous true-life campaign by teen activist Simon Jackson to save a rare white Kermode bear from extinction in the face of opposition from the powerful forestry industry. Magnificently shot in British Columbia, the film features Graham Greene (Kicking Bird from *Dances with Wolves*).

This is a Western Australian premiere screening of *Spirit Bear: The Simon Jackson Story*.

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MArcpNkdApE>

COMMONWEALTH FESTIVAL

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How to Start Your Own Country

Western Australian premiere
Director: Jody Shapiro
Canada. 72mins. Unclassified 15+ recommended

When: Friday 28 October, 6:30pm
Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen
When: Sunday 30 October, 12:30pm
Where: State Library of Western Australia Theatre

See the film that asks the question, 'What's to stop you from starting your own micro-nation?' and explores the concept of nationhood through interviews with lawyers, diplomats and the self-appointed leaders of micro-nations around the world. Western Australia's Prince Leonard from the Hutt River Province is one of the many intriguing characters we meet in this quirky film.

This is a Western Australian premiere screening of *How to Start Your Own Country*.

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZdeuBG2H9Ww>

[PayPal founder Peter Thiel funding a plan to build new societies in international waters](#) – Peter Thiel features in the film

Earth

Director: Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield
UK/Germany/USA. 95mins. G
When: Saturday 29 October, 2:30pm
Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

This is the breathtaking feature-length version of the award-winning television series *Planet Earth*. Extraordinary camerawork captures a full year in the life of our planet, beginning in the Arctic wilderness as a polar bear and her two adorable cubs emerge from winter hibernation. Five years in the making and shot in 200 locations across 21 countries, the film's message is clear: we need to take care of our magnificent world.

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeacjOkLjZ0>

COMMONWEALTH FESTIVAL

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Animation from the Commonwealth

90mins. Unclassified 15+ recommended

When: Saturday 29 October, 6:30pm

Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

This Festival special presentation highlights the diversity of contemporary animation drawn from around the Commonwealth. This selection features Oscar-winning short films *The Lost Thing* by Shaun Tan (Australia) and *Ryan* by Chris Landreth (Canada), as well as rarely seen works from India, Africa and the UK. This surprising and beautiful program is a must for cinema lovers and people of all ages.

The program is:

White Hair

Dir: Yuka Takeda

UK, 5mins, 2010

The sudden discovery of a single white hair triggers an episode of obsession and denial.

1st Met

Dir: Ho Yim Khong

Malaysia, 4mins, 2010

Another night, another routine alien cow extraction attempt down on the farm.

Business as Usual

Dir: Kevin D.A. Kurytnik, Carol Beecher

Canada, 4mins, 2010

A cheery animated "calaveras" (Google it) to the people of Earth. A darkly comic look at life in the big city, circa 2110.

White

Dir: Tan Wei Keong

Singapore, 2mins, 2008

If swapping heads seems like a good idea, make sure the new one has a set of eyes.

Srujan

Prod: National Institute of Design

India, 4mins, 2009

A gorgeously crafted sand animation capturing the wondrous seeds of existence.

The Eagleman Stag

Dir: Michael Please

UK, 9mins, 2010

If you repeat the word 'fly' often enough it sounds like you are saying 'life'. This is no help to Peter. His answers lie in the brain of the beetle.

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The Wendy-Lady

Dir: Amy Alexander

Australia, 4mins, 2010

A delicate tale of love, wine, bath-time and never forgetting where you put your rubber ducky.

New Digs

Dir: Martin Sen

South Africa, 2mins, 2010

Our hamster anti-hero makes his getaway – perhaps just a minute too soon for his own good!

Ryan

Dir: Chris Landreth

Canada, 2004, 17mins

An Oscar winning biography into the life of acclaimed Canadian animator Ryan Larkin – an artist who shouldered prodigious talent and destructive demons in roughly equal measure.

The Show

Dir: Rebecca Hayes

Australia, 4mins, 2010

Subtle and touching collisions of tragedy and comedy glimpsed through the behind-the-scenes, everyday pre-show rituals of a raveling carnival troupe.

The Lost Thing

Dir: Andrew Ruhemann and Shaun Tan

Australia, 2010, 15mins

Australia's most recent Oscar winner based on the classic book by Shaun Tan. A tale about a boy who finds a place for a Lost Thing he finds on a beach one day.

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kikA9pUAnWs>

<http://www.thelostthing.com/>

COMMONWEALTH FESTIVAL

Perth 2011

Western Australian short films

A fresh crop of Western Australian short films are on display at the Commonwealth Festival, playing prior to select feature films.

Bingo!

Dir: Kelli Cross

Western Australia, 2011, 5mins

There's more than just bingo on the minds of two overly competitive players whose eyes are fixed on a more masculine prize.

Screens with: *How to Start Your Own Country*

Betrand the Terrible

Dir: Karen Farmer

Western Australia, 2009, 12mins

Betrand and Cassie live on the brink of a fantasy world until a group of bullies shake their faith and force them to decide what they believe in.

Screens with: *Spirit Bear*

Something to Tell You

Dir: Pete Gleeson

Western Australia, 2010, 8mins

Gary's been corresponding with a girl he met on a dating website. The time to meet is drawing near, but there's something she should know about him before they take it to the next level.

Screens with: *Barefoot Cinema: The Life and Art of Cinematographer Alun Bollinger*

Nick Shorts

This special program showcases some recent local work produced in collaboration with the Nickelodeon channel. Highlighting the versatility of local talent and placing it firmly on the international stage, it's a great program for children of all ages. The films are produced with the assistance of ScreenWest, Lotterywest and the Film & Television Institute.

When: Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 October

Time: The films will play intermittently between the features program.

Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

Backstage

Dir: Pierce Davison

Western Australia, 2010, 3mins

Cynthia attempts to audition a new play she has written, but when her teacher forces her to read with Jeremy the performance doesn't go as well as she had hoped.

Hairoes

Dir: Jesse Emmerson and Gaetan Raspanti

Western Australia, 2009, 3mins

Blonde and Goldie must put a stop to the mysterious force that is robbing people of their hair!

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My Extraordinary Little Sister

Dir: Stephen Grant and TJ Beeson

Western Australia, 2009, 3mins

Dreamer Matty Pat must mind his little sister whose hair gives her superpowers!

The Geeks

Dir: Todd Miliias,

Western Australia, 2010, 4mins

Hope desperately wants to be part of her brother's social circle – they are geniuses!

The Paper Tale

Dir: Sohan Ariel Hayes,

Western Australia, 2009, 5mins

A shadow boy cuts himself free from a blank book but falls into a mysterious paper world.

The Surprise

Dir: Stephen Grant and TJ Beeson,

Western Australia, 2009, 3mins

Henry and Gretta are convinced their stepmother is really a STEPMONSTER planning a dreadful surprise!

Children's short film loop

Get ready for some of the best kid-friendly short films. With many made for kids, by kids, these films show that the moving image is a wonderful tool for building intercontinental bridges. These films will have kids and adults grinning, thinking and talking.

When: Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 October

Time: The films will play intermittently between the features program between 11am to 6pm daily

Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

PROGRAM 1

Ormie

Dir: Rob Silvestri

Canada, 2009, 4mins, Animation

Ormie the Pig is determined to get his trotters on a jar of delicious cookies that is just out of reach, on top of a fridge.

Mandarin Peel

Dir: Anna McGrath

Australia, 2009, 5mins

Two girls explore their friendship and the joy of a juicy mandarin in the dry Australian landscape.

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Gerald

Dir: Kyle Neaves

Australia, 2009, 3mins

Seven-year-old Gerald is an ideas man. He is very concerned about global warming and sets about to find a practical solution. Has the answer been right under our noses all along?

Bigbox Singsong John

Dir: Goddard/Brown

Canada, 2009, 2mins, Animation

John is not a leprechaun. He may look like a leprechaun, sound like a leprechaun and have a pot of gold, just like a leprechaun. But, he insists, he is not a leprechaun! Do you believe him?

How Not to Get a Girl

Dir: Josh Nolan-Legudi, Joe Goudie, James Mathias and Edward Wong

Australia, 2010, 5mins

Having trouble landing a lady friend? James and Edward are here to help with their list of what not to do when in pursuit of a girlfriend.

A Duck Out of Water

Dir: Yarraville West Primary School Grade 5 and 6 students

Australia, 2010, 5mins, Animation

Duck Wags is a dog, not a duck, but when his confusing name gets him an invite to The Annual Duck Swimming Carnival, the chance to win a great prize is too good to resist.

Superhuman

Dir: Justin Beckett

Australia, 2010, 10mins, Animation

Nick thought his dad was a superhero. But now he's learning the bitter truth.

Wizard Still and the Haunted House

Dir: Miranda Rose, Noah Maxwell, Oliverio Perry y Fufori, Lucas Austin, Alexandra Kraus,

Australia, 2009, 2mins, Animation

When a mysterious piece of paper blows into Wizard Still's hands, he embarks upon an exciting adventure through a haunted house.

Minnie Loves Junior

Dir: Andy Mullins and Matt Mullins

Canada, 2010, 14mins

Junior loves the ocean. Minnie loves Junior. A beautiful love story about a little girl, a little boy and a big blue sea.

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PROGRAM 2

Searching for Nessie

Dir: Reuben Morgan

Australia, 2011, 10mins, Animation

When two Englishmen set out to search for the Loch Ness Monster, they don't realise that it isn't the monster that they need to beware of.

The Story of the Mean Dragon

Dir: Francis Gélinas

Canada, 2010, 2mins, Animation

When a little boy defeats a very mean dragon he is rewarded with what he wants most of all. A charming story told by a father and his two children.

Talking Books

Dir: Mark Brennan (11yrs), Daniel Meakins (12yrs) and Marion Ross (9yrs)

Australia, 2010, 4mins,

Can books talk? Mr. Read, who lives in the library thinks they can!

Lola the Magnificent

Dir: Annika Salisbury

Australia, 2010, 9mins

Eleven-year-old Harriet is far too sensible for her own good. When she is sent to help the elderly and eccentric Lola clean her house full of strange and magical curiosities, Harriet soon discovers a world of colour and magic that is right at her fingertips.

Joystick Heroes

Dir: Andrew Shanks

Australia, 2010, 9mins, Animation

Freddie "Fury Fingers" is the undefeated champion of City Brawler 2: Nitro Edition, until one day a mysterious opponent challenges his reign. Featuring legendary Australian children's musician Peter Combe.

There's Bliss in the Kiss

Dir: Melanie Beisswenger

Germany/Singapore, 2009, 1min, Animation

A princess on the lookout for Mr. Right is willing to give even the most odd and unlikely candidate a go.

Bigbox Singsong Toes

Dir: Goddard/Brown

Canada, 2009, 1mins, Animation

A singing box considers the pros and cons of having toes.

Toot Toot

Dir: Simon Williams and Brendon Skinner

Australia, 2010, 8mins

Six-year-old Stan is determined to have the best Christmas ever. While he may get into a heap of of trouble along the way, fear not; Stan understands the true spirit of Christmas!

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Flight

Dir: Nicholas Verso

Australia, 2010, 7mins

Jonah dreams of being able to fly away from his life in a housing commission and, after an encounter at the local skate park, he finds his wings in an unexpected way.

Shorts from the Commonwealth

A compilation of short films from various Commonwealth countries, including specially curated programs *Civic Life* and the *Commonwealth Vision Shorts*.

When: Wednesday 26 to Saturday 29 October

Time: The films will play intermittently between the features program between 11am to 6pm daily

Where: Perth Cultural Centre LED Screen

Civic Life: Singapore

Comprising of nineteen 90 second slices of life, *Civic life: Singapore* is a major arts project bringing together artists, communities and audiences to explore, ideas of community, place and belonging.

Wagah

Dir: Supriyo Sen and Najaf Bilgrami

Germany, 2010, 13mins

Each evening on the border between Pakistan and India, both countries engage in a strange ritual of marching 'one-up-manship'. In an effort to demonstrate their strength and country pride, military representatives march against each other in front of a nightly cheering and jeering audience of thousands.

Bingo!

Dir: Kelli Cross

Western Australia, 2011, 5mins

There's more than just bingo on the minds of two overly competitive players whose eyes are fixed on a more masculine prize.

Betrand the Terrible

Dir: Karen Farmer

Western Australia, 2009, 12mins

Betrand and Cassie live on the brink of a fantasy world until a group of bullies shake their faith and force them to decide what they believe in.

Commonwealth Vision Shorts

The Commonwealth Vision Awards is a unique competition promoting excellence in filmmaking around the Commonwealth. Presented annually by the Royal Commonwealth Society, films must address a set theme. This package has eight of the winners from the 2011 competition, which respond the theme 'Women as Agents of Change'.

<http://www.thercs.org/youth/visionawards>

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Meena

By Pratik Jain from India (age 23)

Gold winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Senior Category, 18-30)

The Unlucky Mother

By Anthony Abuah from Nigeria and Rwanda (age 23)

Silver winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Senior Category, 18-30)

Women as Agents of Change

By Faustina Appiah from Ghana (age 25)

Bronze winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Senior Category, 18-30)

Women as Agents of Change

By Himanil Gole from India and Mauritius (age 16)

Gold winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Junior Category, under 18)

Love Never Fails

By Wai Lun Suen from Singapore (age 16)

Gold winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Junior Category, under 18)

Women as Agents of Change

By Raiya Jessa from Canada (age 13)

Silver winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Junior Category, under 18)

Her Red Headress

By Tianyu Han from Singapore (age 16)

Bronze winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Junior Category, under 18)

Change – Official Trailer

By Low Gin Wee, Leonard Pang and Wu Nien Ting from Singapore.

Bronze winner in the 2011 Commonwealth Vision Awards (Junior Category, under 18)

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Partners



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