

Top 10 films

Reviews: PHILIPPA HAWKER
JAKE WILSON



SOUTH SOLITARY (116 mins) M

A YOUNG woman (Miranda Otto, pictured) accompanies her uncle (Barry Otto) when he goes to work at an isolated lighthouse off the Tasmanian coast in the late 1920s. The island's inhabitants include the assistant lighthouse keeper, a reclusive World War I veteran (Marton Csokas). Shirley Barrett's feature makes the most of the location and its impact on lives. It also respects the reticence of the era in which it is set. The restraint and embrace of awkwardness are deceptive elements; there is a melancholy and a quiet audacity about *South Solitary* that's an unexpected pleasure. **Selected.** PH

INCEPTION (148 mins) M

REMARKABLE spectacle that feels, despite its dizzying special effects and alluring premise, less than it might have been. A psychological action-adventure about espionage through dreams, Christopher Nolan's film is as complicated as you would expect, and it invites stimulating comparison with all kinds of dream-related works, ranging from *eXistenZ* to *Last Year At Marienbad* to a famous episode of *Dallas*. But there's something a little too single-minded about its execution and tone, despite the visual flourishes and labyrinthine plot. **General.** PH

ME AND ORSON WELLES (114 mins) PG

A NEWCOMER to movies, Christian McKay does a marvellous job of playing the young artistic wunderkind in Richard Linklater's loving but far from reverential imagining of Welles' 1937 production of *Julius Caesar*. **Selected.** JW

STILL WALKING (115 min) G

JAPANESE director Hirokazu Kore-eda quietly and unerringly observes the awkward reunion of three generations in the course of a day and night. A son and daughter visit the seaside home of their elderly parents on the anniversary of the death 15 years before of a sibling, a golden boy whose loss still weighs heavily. Scrupulously depicted domestic routines, presided over by the grandmother — a complex figure of control and disappointment — serve to keep some kind of uncomfortable peace. Yet, while conflict never erupts in this delicately realistic, measured and graceful film, the emotions it depicts are no less raw and deeply felt. **ACMI, today and tomorrow, 11am.** PH

CENTURION (97 mins) MA

SET in 2nd-century Britain, Neil Marshall's extremely gory but well-made action-adventure stars Michael Fassbender from *Inglourious Basterds* as the leader of a band of Roman soldiers stranded behind enemy lines. **Selected.** JW

SECOND HAND WEDDING (94 mins) PG

AN OBSESSED bargain hunter (Geraldine Brophy) threatens to derail her daughter's wedding in this engagingly daggy Kiwi comedy. The affection in the central portrait makes up for weak spots. **Selected.** JW

LITTLE ROSE (118 mins) R

NEW work by Polish director Jan Kidawa-Blonski, set in Poland in the 1960s, about

the ramifications of an eminent writer's relationship with a much younger woman. It's a liaison initiated at the behest of her lover, who works in the secret service, and wants to gather evidence about the author's political leanings. The young woman, code-named Little Rose, discovers in the course of the new relationship that her mission is more challenging than she could have imagined. The director and producer will be at the screenings. **Classic Elsternwick, tomorrow, 1pm and 3.30pm.** PH

THE WAITING CITY (103 mins) M

AN AUSTRALIAN couple, played by Joel Edgerton and Radha Mitchell, travel to Kolkata to collect the Indian child they have adopted. As they wait for the paperwork to be finalised and find different ways to experience the city, their relationship is thrown into sharp relief, in a range of ways. Writer-director Claire McCarthy has created a moving, immersive work, nuanced and strongly felt. **Selected.** PH

ANNIE HALL (94 mins) M

WOODY Allen hit an early peak — and won several Oscars — with this freewheeling, semi-autobiographical 1977 romantic comedy in which he stars opposite his old flame Diane Keaton, chatting to the camera about their ultimately doomed relationship. **Astor, tomorrow, double feature with Manhattan (1979) at 9pm.** JW

WORLD ON A WIRE (204 mins) Unrated 18+

NEW German cinema icon Rainer Werner Fassbinder made his one foray into science fiction with this intriguing, mannerist epic about a virtual-reality experiment gone awry, made for German TV in 1973 and only recently "rediscovered". **ACMI, tomorrow, noon.** JW

DVD of the week ELECTRA GLIDE IN BLUE (Shock) M

THE aptly poetic title refers to the make and colour of a motorcycle beloved of the film's central character in this beautifully shot 1973 counterpoint to *Easy Rider*. The only feature from director James William Guercio, it's the tale of a Vietnam veteran-turned-highway cop (Robert Blake) alienated and adrift in the polarising climate of 1970s America. PH

FILM QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I am a soldier of Rome. I will not yield."
Virilus (Dominic West) in *Centurion*.

FILM & GAME CLASSIFICATIONS

G GENERAL	MA 15+ RESTRICTED NOT SUITABLE FOR PEOPLE UNDER 15. UNDER 15s MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ADULT GUARDIAN.
PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE RECOMMENDED	R 18+ RESTRICTED TO 18 AND OVER
M RECOMMENDED FOR MATURE AUDIENCES	CTC CHECK THE CLASSIFICATION

GERALDINE BROPHY HOLLY SHANAHAN
RYAN O'KANE AND JOHN ROWLES

Second-Hand

WEDDING

Cheryl's planning the perfect wedding. There's just one problem - her mother.

NOW SHOWING
Waverly Pinewood, Cameo Belgrave
Metro Boronia, Mornington
Deakin Mjldura, Wangaratta
Echuca Paramount

"A beautiful and extremely powerful film." Vogue Magazine

Radha Mitchell Joel Edgerton

The Waiting City

In between hope and despair is a place of joy.

"A gem of a feature with dynamic lead performances by Mitchell & Edgerton."

Metro Magazine

"A moving, immersive work, nuanced and strongly felt."

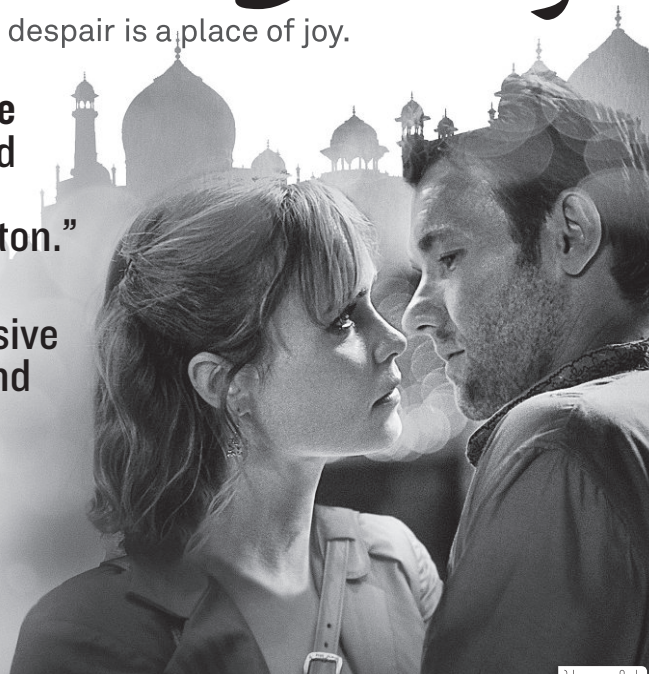
Philippa Hawker, The Age



Lynden Barber, Weekend Australian



David Stratton, At The Movies, ABC TV



Mature themes and coarse language

NOW SHOWING

NOVA, RIVOLI, KINO, PALACE WESTGARTH, PALACE COMO, DENDY BRIGHTON, PALACE BALWYN, SUN THEATRE YARRAVILLE, CAMEO BELGRAVE, PINWOOD WAVERLEY, SORRENTO & STATE HOBART CINEMAS

ADVANCE SCREENINGS TODAY AND SUNDAY

FROM THE WRITER OF THE QUEEN AND FROST/NIXON

"CAPTIVATING... DAZZLING PERFORMANCES..."
The New York Times

MICHAEL SHEEN DENNIS QUaid HOPE DAVIS HELEN MCCRORY

CLINTON. BLAIR. THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

HBO FILMS PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BBC FILMS A RAINMARK FILMS PRODUCTION A KENNEDY/MARSHALL PRODUCTION A FILM BY RICHARD LONGCRANE MICHAEL SHEEN DENNIS QUaid HOPE DAVIS HELEN MCCRORY
"THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" WITH NINA GOLD MUSIC BY DANIEL PHILLIPS COSTUME DESIGNER CONSOLATA BOYLE EDITOR JIMMY J. KILIAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ALEXANDRE DESPLAT PRODUCED BY MELANIE OLIVER PRODUCED BY MARIA BAJRUKOVIC PRODUCED BY BARRY ACKROYD
WRITTEN BY KATHLEEN KENNEDY DIRECTED BY FRANK MARSHALL CASTING BY ANDREW HARRIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHRISTINE LANGAN PRODUCED BY PETER MORGAN PRODUCED BY FRANK DOELGER PRODUCED BY TRACEY SCOFFIELD PRODUCED BY ANN WINGATE PRODUCED BY PETER MORGAN PRODUCED BY RICHARD LONGCRANE
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Sexual references and infrequent coarse language

IN CINEMAS AUGUST 5