

WHITEHORSE FILM SOCIETY Inc FILMS FOR 2010

Feb 20th GRAN TORINO; USA, 2008, 116 mins (M) Drama

Dir: Clint Eastwood. Stars: Clint Eastwood, Christopher Carley

Disgruntled Korean War vet Walt Kowalski attempts to reform his neighbour, a young Hmong teenager, who tried to steal Kowalski's prized possession - his 1972 Gran Torino.

Mar 06th THE VISITOR; USA, 2007, 104 mins, (M) Drama

Dir: Thomas McCarthy. Stars: Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman.

A moving drama about a widowed college professor who returns from a trip to find a young couple, who turn out to be illegal immigrants, living in his apartment as a result of a real estate scam.

Mar 20th WELCOME TO THE STICKS; Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis, France, 2008, 106 mins, (M) Comedy

Dir: Dany Boon. Stars: Kad Merad, Dany Boon

Philippe, a postal officer, attempts to scam an inspector and is immediately banished to the distant, unheard of town of Bergues in the Far North of France. Leaving his child and wife behind, he discovers they speak an incomprehensible dialect called Ch'ti. He expects a dreadfully cold place inhabited by hard-drinking, unemployed rednecks, but maybe it's not that bad.

Apr 03rd FROST/NIXON; USA, 2008, 116 mins, (M) Dra./Hist.

Dir: Ron Howard. Stars: Frank Langella, Michael Sheen

A dramatic retelling of the post-Watergate television interviews between British talk-show host David Frost and former president Richard Nixon. But as cameras rolled, a charged battle of wits resulted that changed the face of politics forever.

Apr 17th TULPAN; Germ/Rus+, 2008, 100 mins (M) Com/Dra.

Dir: Sergei Dvortsevoy. Stars: Tolepbergen Baisakalou, Ondas Besikbasov

On the steppes of Kazakhstan, Asa lives in a yurt with his sister Samal, her husband Ondas, and their three children. Asa calls on Tulpan, the only single girl in the area. Her response and Asa's later trips to talk to her form an arc of hope against the harsh land.

May 01st LAST RIDE; Australia, 2009, 90 mins, (M) Drama

Dir: Glendyn Ivin. Stars: Hugo Weaving, Tom Russell

A desperate father takes his ten-year-old son, Chook, on the run after committing a violent crime. As the two travel across the South Australian desert and toward an unknown future, their troubled relationship and the need to survive see them battling the elements and each other. Chook eventually takes control and the choices he is forced to make have a devastating effect on both their lives.

May 15th I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG; Il y a longtemps que je t'aime, France, 2008, 117 mins (M) Dra/Mystery

Dir: Philippe Claudel. Stars: Kristin Scott Thomas, Elsa Zylberstein

This powerful story of familial struggles and redemption follows a shell-shocked Juliette who returns to live with her young sister Lea after 15 years in prison. An enormous critical and box office success in France, Scott-Thomas' phenomenal performance has been highly acclaimed.

Jun 05th BOY IN THE STRIPED PYJAMAS; UK/USA, 2008, 94 mins, (M) Dra/War

Dir: Mark Herman. Stars: Asa Butterfield, Zac Mattoon O'Brien

Set during World War II, a story seen through the innocent eyes of Bruno, the eight-year-old son of the commandant at a concentration camp, whose forbidden friendship with a Jewish boy on the other side of the camp fence has startling and unexpected consequences.

Jun 19th LEMON TREE; Etz Limon, Isr/Germ/Fra, 2008, 106 mins (M) Drama

Dir: Eran Riklis. Stars: Hiam Abbass, Doron Tavori

The story of a Palestinian widow who must defend her lemon-tree field when a new Israeli Defense Minister moves next to her and threatens to have her lemon grove torn down. Perhaps an allegory of the root causes for the troubles between Israel and the Palestinians.

Jul 03rd SAMSON & DELILAH; Australia, 2009, 100 mins (MA) Drama

Dir: Warwick Thornton. Stars: Rowan McNamara, Marissa Gibson

Samson and Delilah's world is small - an isolated community in the Central Australian desert. When tragedy strikes they turn their backs on home and embark on a journey of survival. Lost, unwanted and alone they discover that life isn't always fair, but love never judges.

Jul 17th MOLIÈRE; France, 2007, 120 mins (PG) Com/Hist.

Dir: Laurent Tirard. Stars: Romain Duris, Fabrice Luchini

It is mid-seventeenth century Paris and Moliere is an impetuous 22 year-old, his theatre troupe is a failure, he is bankrupt and in prison because he can't pay his debts. When his jailers let him go, he disappears for several months in which he meets an unfaithful husband and his beautiful wife, the object of his desire and a conniving courtier who leads them all into trouble.

Aug 07th DAN IN REAL LIFE; USA, 2007, 98 mins (PG) Com/Dra/Rom.

Dir: Peter Hedges. Stars: Steve Carell, Juliette Binoche

Widower Dan Burns finds his job as professional advice columnist much easier than his role as father looking after his three rebellious daughters. At the annual family holiday in Rhode Island, Dan meets Marie at the local bookstore and is besotted by her. Little does he know she is his younger brother Mitch's new girlfriend, who is also staying with the whole extended family.

Aug 21st YESTERDAY; South Africa, 2004, 96 mins (M) Drama

Dir: Darrell Roodt. Stars: Kenneth Khambula, Leleti Khumalo

After falling ill, Yesterday learns that she is HIV positive. With her husband in denial and young daughter to tend to, Yesterday's one goal is to live long enough to see her child go to school.

Sep 04th CHANGELING; USA, 2008, 141 mins (MA) Dra/His.

Dir: Clint Eastwood. Stars: Angelina Jolie, Gattlin Griffith

Los Angeles 1928. A grief-stricken mother takes on the LAPD to her own detriment when it stubbornly tries to pass off an obvious impostor as her missing child while also refusing to give up hope that she will find him one day.

Sep 18th EASY VIRTUE; UK/Can., 2008, 97 mins (PG) Com/Rom.

Dir: Stephan Elliott. Stars: Jessica Biel, Ben Barnes

A Noel Coward story - a delicious comedy of manners. Between the wars a young Englishman returns home after marrying "the wrong sort of woman", and battle lines are soon drawn. A clever and funny film about England's declining aristocracy.

Oct 02nd SON OF A LION; Australia, 2007, 92 mins (PG) Drama

Dir: Benjamin Gilmour. Stars: Sher Alam Miskeen Ustad, Niaz Khan Shinwari

In the tribal areas of Pakistan lies a town where the local industry is the handcrafting of firearms. It has been this way since long before the "war on terror". Eleven-year old Niaz works with his father learning how to make and test weapons. The father, Sher, expects his son to follow the tradition, but Niaz has different ideas.

Oct 16th CAMEL; Sukkar banat, Fra/Lebanon, 2007, 95 mins (M) Com/Dra.

Dir: Nadine Labaki. Stars: Nadine Labaki, Yasmine Elmasri

Caramel mainly centres on the daily lives of five Lebanese women living in Beirut, each with a problem. This produces a web of storylines but it is very easy to follow even with the English subtitles. It's daring, given its country of origin and worth the hour and a half spent indulging in this prickly, sweet Caramel.

Nov 06th SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE; UK, 2008, 120 mins (MA) Drama.

Dir: Danny Boyle & Loveleen Tandan. Stars: Dev Patel, Saurabh Shukla

A Mumbai teen who grew up in the slums, becomes a successful contestant on the Indian version of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" He is suspected of cheating, and while being interrogated, he relives events from his life history which explain why he knows the answers to seemingly impossible questions.

Nov 20th HAPPY-GO-LUCKY; UK, 2008, 118 mins (M) Com/Dra.

Dir: Mike Leigh. Stars: Sally Hawkins, Eddie Marsan, Elliot Cowan

A look at a few chapters in the life of Poppy, a cheery, colourful, flaky(?) North London schoolteacher whose optimism tends to exasperate those around her. When her bike is stolen she decides to get a driving licence - not a frivolous task!

Join the Whitehorse Film Society to view good films in comfortable surroundings and meet other people with similar interests. All screenings are at the Willis Room, Whitehorse Civic Centre, Nunawading at 7.45 pm, unless otherwise advised.

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