

Issue
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Film Notes

JOURNAL OF THE MARYSVILLE FILM SOCIETY

BRAN NUE DAE



Country:

Australia (2009)

Director:

Rachel Perkins

Writers:

Jimmy Chi (stage musical & screenplay)

Kuckles (stage musical)

Reg Crib (screenplay)

Rachel Perkins (screenplay)

Stars:

Rocky McKenzie

Jessica Mauboy

Ernie Dingo

Missy Higgins

Geoffrey Rush

Magda Szubanski

Deborah Mailman

Awards:

3 wins & 17 nominations

Rating:

Bran Nue Dae for a Brand New Year

The **Marysville Film Society (MFS)** will open its 2020 season on Saturday February 8 at 7.30pm with one of Australia's funniest films for many years.

Bran Nue Dae is a charming Australian based, music-driven road movie/romantic comedy starring Academy Award winner Geoffrey Rush that literally bursts onto the screen with unbridled energy and fun.

Loosely based on one of Australia's most beloved and popular musicals, *Bran Nue Dae* is a foot-stomping tour-de-force centering on the romantic adventures of a young aboriginal couple set against the spectacularly beautiful Australian landscape.

The late Jimmy Chi originally wrote *Bran Nue Dae* as a stage musical for the 1990 Perth Festival and it was amazingly successful there. The year after his script won the WA Premier Book Award and since then versions of it have been put on stage in all corners of the country. There is a production coming to Melbourne later this year.

It is completely logical that the film version was directed by Rachel Perkins, one of Charlie Perkins' daughters and herself a big name in Australia. She made the documentary series *First Australians* and feature films like *Mabo*, *One Night the Moon*, *Jasper Jones*, and the television series *Mystery Road*.

Of course, for *Bran Nue Dae* she had access to the cream of the crop of acting Australia. Geoffrey Rush is hilarious as Father Benedictus, Ernie Dingo plays Tadpole with a great sense of malicious fun and Missy Higgins and Jessica Mauboy are their usual lovely voiced, vivacious selves.

But it is the music that drives this movie forward; it is upbeat and life-affirming and fun. It is an incredible mix of catholic hymns, gospel, country and western, West Side Story, and Hollywood.

Bran Nue Dae is a most fitting film to kick-off the 2020 season of great films for the **Marysville Film Society**.

In other exciting news for the Society, the committee is thrilled to announce that local radio station **UGFM** has become a sponsor of the Marysville Film Society. We welcome the crew from UGFM on board and stay tuned to the station for news of exciting activities for the Society in coming months.

Of course, *Bran Nue Dae*, is only the first of the ten films scheduled to be shown on the second Saturday every month from February to November this year. See later in this newsletter for details of coming films.

The Oldest Garden Cinema in the World



The scene in *Bran Nue Dae* when Willie invites Rosie to the movies is set and filmed at the Sun Picture Garden in Broome (pictured, left). This outdoor cinema is the world's oldest picture gardens still in operation, it opened on December 9, 1916.

It is under the direct flightpath of the Broome Airport, a short distance away, and films are frequently interrupted by the sound and lights of a jet landing. Such disturbances, often at a key moment in the film, are usually met with applause by the audience.

In 2009, the cinema hosted the premiere of *Bran Nue Dae*. The stars walked a red dirt carpet and Ernie Dingo performed the film's title song.

Top Australian "Box Office" Hits of 2019

The table below shows the top money earners of Australian cinema in 2019. Be aware, of course, that this is only the Top 10 in relation to Box Office receipts and may not represent the "best" films of the year. How many of them did you see?

Title	Rating	Genre	Box Office in 2019
Ride Like a Girl	PG	Drama	11,77,871
Top End Wedding	M	Comedy	5,255,934
Storm Boy	PG	Drama	4,984,445
Palm Beach	M	Comedy	4,492,490
Hotel Mumbai	MA15+	Crime	3,295,499
Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan	MA15+	Action	2,968,941
2040	G	Doco	1,517,899
Mystify Michael Hutchence	MA15+	Doco	1,149,194
The Australian Dream	MA15+	Doco	1,143,980

Next Screening Saturday 14 March (MiRa, 7.30pm):

Vice (M, 2018, USA) The story of Dick Cheney, an unassuming bureaucratic Washington insider, who quietly wielded immense power as Vice President to George W. Bush, reshaping the country and the globe.