
OPENLine - April 2007 // Issue 158

News for independent screen practitioners in Victoria.au

Welcome to the April issue of OPENLine

Keats might have described autumn as "season of mists, and mellow fruitfulness" but OPEN CHANNEL's own 'Ode to Autumn' (aka April OPENLine) consists of announcing the Raw Nerve winners; opportunities for film and video makers; member discounts and giveaways; and of course, our cornucopia of short and accredited courses! Read about our exciting new initiative Video Slam, which could be described as the "Backyard Blitz" of digital filmmaking!

OPEN CHANNEL was proud to be a judge at the inaugural Melbourne Kurdish Film Festival, held at the University of Melbourne, March 21 - 22. It was heartening to support international filmmakers who struggle to produce films under politically oppressive conditions. In his welcoming speech Dr Muhammad Kamal asked "What shall we expect from a nation which is deprived of basic rights, even [the] right to speak its own language? How could Kurdish cinema under these repressive circumstances be born? Is there Kurdish cinema?"

The vibrancy, courage and persistence demonstrated by the films shown proved that Kurdish cinema has its own fierce and distinct voice. Opening night featured a retrospective screening of Jane Mills' seminal documentary film on celebrated and 'rebel' Kurdish film director Yilmaz Guney, made just before his death in 1984. Recurrent themes in Guney' films such as political and cultural tolerance, and the right to individual expression, are just as pertinent in today's Kurdish cinema.

For the full transcript of Dr Kamal's speech go to:

http://openchannel.org.au/pdf/OPENLine_2007-158_Kurdish-Cinema.pdf

FRAMED #02: VIDEO ONLINE held on March 29 at Digital Harbour presented opportunities for alternative online video distribution sites. Unfortunately Greg Dee of C31 was unable to attend, but assures us he will be part of a future FRAMED seminar. His shoes were more than amply filled by the redoubtable and entertaining Bryce Ives, General Manager of SynFM. OPEN CHANNEL thanks both Bryce and Anna Helme for their valuable contribution. You can download Andrew Garton's seminar preamble "How Video Got Online", a sort of new media bedtime story, by going to:

<http://openchannel.org.au/framed/02.html>

We look forward to seeing you at our next FRAMED seminar on April 26.

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__2007 RAW NERVE: WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Raw Nerve is an initiative aimed at emerging filmmakers that assists in the development and production of high quality short films (maximum: 10 minutes) on digital video. Raw Nerve gives new filmmakers, who have never previously received funding from a government film agency, the chance to move from no-budget filmmaking to a more professional approach with the help of a small budget and equipment, technical support, advice and guidance from OPEN CHANNEL.

OPEN CHANNEL is proud to announce the four successful finalists in this year's Raw Nerve:

- Scott Alexander (Lapse)
- Brett Stanning (Play)
- Caro McDonald and Tany Curnow (Salt of the Earth)

- Matthew Lockett, Chris Curran and Romy Toor (Letter)

We would also like to make mention of two very close runners up, who will receive a script advice session for their applications:

- Luke Jones (Anima)
- Sophie Boord (Fur)

Very special thanks to our script assessors: Chris Ryan and Andrew Garton (OPEN CHANNEL), Annie O'Hanlon and Claire Jager (AFC).

Thanks to all the applicants, every one of which made a sterling effort with their submissions. We look forward to seeing you again, your ideas further honed and clarified in the next round.

__ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR TO TUTOR NEW WORKSHOP!

OPEN CHANNEL is thrilled to announce that master director Alkinos Tsilimidos ('Tom White', 'Em 4 Jay') will be tutoring this four-week full-time Directing Actors for Screen workshop, aimed at students who wish to pursue a professional career in directing film and television drama. Melbourne-born director Alkinos has been described as one of Australia's most important contemporary film directors. He is renowned for his uncompromising approach to stories of social relevance, and his reputation for being an 'actor's director' makes him an ideal choice for this workshop.

Students will learn how to work with actors to produce the most convincing performances in this high level and intensive workshop that focuses on directing drama for the screen. It offers a unique look at 'real world' scenarios, dealing with casting agencies and working professional actors and directors. This course is the first in a series of specialist workshops designed by OPEN CHANNEL, which combined become the Advanced Diploma of Screen (CUF60101).

Dates: April 23 - May 17 2007
Enrolment Deadline: April 12 (All applicants will be interviewed)
Cost: \$2,500

More information:
Lulu Wilson (Accredited Training Coordinator) / (03) 8610 9304
<accredited@openchannel.org.au>

__JOIN OPEN CHANNEL NOW AND WIN!

Not an OPEN CHANNEL member? If you join now, not only will you receive great membership benefits such as giveaways, discounts and invitations to special events, you'll also go in the running to win a Nutrimecs hamper containing skin care, perfumes, body/hand lotions and much more valued at \$600, but only if you join before April 20 2007.

Visit our website to sign up now:
http://openchannel.org.au/a_join.html

Nutrimetics hamper compliments of Bruce Atkins, Senior
Consultant for Nutrimetics.

__OPENForum: SEND US YOUR COMMENTS!

This is a new regular section for publication of your feedback,
comments, issues, reviews and news. We want to hear from you!
Please send your comments to <marketing@openchannel.org.au>.

Preference will be given to comments that are short and
succinct: maximum length is 100 words (we reserve the right to
edit comments for length). Please include your full name.

+ OPPORTUNITIES

__ ARTS LAW WEEK: VIDEO SLAM_CALL FOR REGISTRATIONS

VIDEO SLAM Needs You!

Want to learn how to use Creative Commons licenses and work
with a team of highly charged and talented people? OPEN CHANNEL
is calling for registrations for participation in a new
production initiative, Video Slam.

Video Slam is a new Arts Law Week initiative from OPEN CHANNEL
exploring the use of Creative Commons licenses for the creation
of original digital content.

Over 48 hours filmmakers, writers, programmers, sound and video
artists will slam out a 10-minute digital short from content
found largely on the Web.

Individuals and teams will each create unique fragments towards
a complete narrative, perhaps one editor to each scene, or five
composers scoring two minutes a-piece, or three actors
performing the same part directed by four directors!

The final piece will be simulcast from Horse Bazaar to
Federation Square, OC Online and EngageMedia.

If you have skills or interests in any of the following areas,
complete our registration form or write to us for more
information. We're looking for:

Directors, Camera and Sound operators, Editors, Musicians
and/or Composers, Sound and Lighting Designers, Writers,
Actors, Audio/Visual artists, Graphic Designers, Animators, 3D
artists and most importantly, Production Assistants.

Registration form:
<http://openchannel.org.au/artslaw/>

DEADLINE: 20 April 2007

Registration fee: \$22 / \$15 OC Members

More information:

<artslaw@openchannel.org.au>

All registrants will be reviewed by our esteemed Video Slam coordinators: filmmakers and audio visual artists Dale Nason, Tintin Wulia and Andrew Garton. Also participating in the Video Slam are Elliot Blesdoe (Creative Commons Clinic) and Shaun Miller (Marshall's & Dent).

Thanks to Horse Bazaar, Creative Commons Clinic and Federation Square for their support.

__ATTACHMENT OPPORTUNITY ON A NEW TV SERIES

City Homicide is Channel Seven's exciting new Drama Series. The Camera Department is delighted to offer an attachment opportunity for an aspiring camera crew member with relevant experience and an interest in television production. City Homicide is in production from April - September 2007 and the attachment will run for 10 weeks full-time during this period.

The deadline for applications is 5pm Wednesday April 11 2007.

More information:

<http://www.filmvic.gov.au>

__FED SQUARE CURATED PROGRAM: CALL FOR WORKS

Calling all artists, film makers, culture jammers and public interventionists - here's a unique opportunity for you to get up on Melbourne's biggest digital wall. In May 2007 the Fed Square Big Screen will be the canvas for a screening program of short films, DVD's and animations celebrating the street art subculture that flourishes in Australian international streets.

If you are an artist creating work in public spaces or a film maker focusing on the subject of DIY and street art in the public realm, then submit short films, DVD's and animations of your graff, stencilling, pastes, stickers, media subversion, projection, intervention, hi-tech/lo-tech, installation now!

International entries welcome.

Early submissions encouraged.

More information and entry guidelines:

Charity Bramwell / 0423 176 035 / <wideyedkid@yahoo.com.au>

DEADLINE: 20 April

__d/Art/07 FESTIVAL: CALL FOR WORKS

d/Art/07 marks the tenth annual edition of d/Lux/MediaArts' screen and digital media arts festival, and will be presented in a program of screenings and an exhibition in Sydney in July

2007.

d/Lux/MediaArts is now calling for works in the following categories - Screen: Experimental single channel video works with a maximum duration of 15 minutes; Web: Online works suitable for exhibition in a gallery environment; Locative / Mobile: Artworks specifically made with or for mobile technologies. The nature of the artwork may range from video to games to locative and social networking applications; Transmedia: Artworks that are a mix of all of the above, that have unique components across video, web and/or mobile.

More information and entry forms:
<http://dlux.org.au/dart07>

DEADLINE: 30 April 2007

__ MIFF: CALL FOR ENTRIES

MIFF is calling for feature films and feature documentaries.
Entries by April 20.

More information:
<http://www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au>
<miff@melbournefilmfestival.com.au>

__ CSAR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Centre for Scholarly and Archival Research (CSAR) at the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) has been established to encourage and facilitate research into Australia's historic and contemporary moving image and recorded sound culture. The NFSA is seeking applications from established researchers and audiovisual practitioners with a record of significant achievement for the CSAR Research Fellowships.

Senior academics, scholars, writers, filmmakers, artists and archival professionals from Australia and overseas are encouraged to apply.

The fellowships involve a residency at the NFSA in Canberra, with accommodation supplied.

More information and application forms:
<http://www.nfsa.afc.gov.au>

__ FILMAKA.COM: CALL FOR ENTRIES

After the success of its first four contests, California-based Filmaka has launched its fifth contest 'The Secret'.

Submissions are accepted till 30 April 2007.

Filmaka.com is new online competition, juried by award winning filmmakers including Werner Herzog, Neil LaBute, Paul Schrader and Wim Wenders, and founded by leading independent producers

and financiers. Filmmakers have a new chance to enter each month, and submissions are accepted in 10 different languages.

More information, rules, terms and conditions:
<http://www.filmaka.com>

+ MEMBER GIVEAWAYS & DISCOUNTS

__HALF NELSON GIVEAWAYS

'Half Nelson', a powerful and inspiring story of friendship, has been described as independent filmmaking at its best. Ryan Gosling ('The Notebook') stars as Dan Dunne, a Brooklyn high school teacher whose deviation from the standard curriculum (into areas of politics, philosophy & life) makes him more popular with his students than with the school's principal. But his troubled personal life eventually begins to intrude on his career, and his secret is discovered by one of his students.

"Witty, harrowing and glinting with edge, Half Nelson is 2007's must-see indie." TOTAL FILM

OPEN CHANNEL members have the chance to WIN tickets to this film. For the chance to win one of FIVE double passes please email <marketing@openchannel.org.au> with "HALF NELSON" in the subject heading.

Please include your membership number and address; only winners will be notified.

Competition closes Friday April 13.

Tickets are valid from Friday April 20 to Sunday April 22 at Cinema Nova, Palace Cinema Como and Palace Brighton Bay.

__HEY, GOOD LOOKING! GIVEAWAYS

'Hey, Good Looking!' (Comme t'y es belle!) the smash-hit romantic comedy will screen in Melbourne commencing April 5 for an exclusive season at Classic Elsternwick Cinema. An audience favourite at the 2007 Alliance Française French Film Festival 'Hey, Good Looking!' has been described as "Desperate Housewives meets Sex in the City" chronicling the chaotic lives and loves of four savvy women in modern-day Paris.

OPEN CHANNEL members have the chance to WIN tickets to this film. For the chance to win one of TEN double passes to please email <marketing@openchannel.org.au> with "HEY, GOOD LOOKING" in the subject heading.

Please include your membership number and address; only winners will be notified.

Competition closes Friday April 13.

Tickets are valid for the exclusive limited season at the Elsternwick Classic from April 5.

___ MELBOURNE FILMOTECA: LATIN AMERICAN, SPANISH + PORTUGUESE FILMS

Melbourne Filmoteca holds monthly screenings of Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese film and video at ACMI. This month's screening features 'El Metodo' ('The Method') (Marcelo Piñeyro, Spain/Argentina, 2005).

With a terrific ensemble cast (Eduardo Noriega, Najwa Nimri, Carmelo Gomez, Natalia Verbeke), acclaimed Argentinean director Marcelo Piñeyro (Plata Quemada, Kamchatka, Tango Feroz) explores the dark side of the human psyche.

Present your OPEN CHANNEL membership card or quote your membership number to purchase tickets at the concession price!

When: Thursday April 26 at 7.30pm
Where: ACMI, Federation Square
Cost: Adults \$12 / Concession & OC Members \$9

On sale at ACMI box office (8663 2583) or online:
<http://www.acmi.net.au/tickets>

More information:
<http://www.melbournefilmoteca.org>

Check out the EL METODO website (and have a look at the trailer) at:
http://www.onpictures.com/peliculas/el_metodo/

+ EVENTS

___ FRAMED #03: CITIZEN MEDIA

SEARCHING FOR VIRTUAL ROSEBUD

Our next free FRAMED seminar will examine challenges faced by alternative and community media in Australia and will present highlights from Our Media Conference held in Sydney 9 – 13 April.

OURMedia Australia is an international network and forum founded in 2001 by a group of engaged academics interested in advancing the democratic potential of community, alternative and 'citizens' media. The theme of this year's Conference is 'Roles and Challenges for Community, Alternative and Citizens' Media in the 21st Century'.

Alternative media in Australia has a strong and long tradition of citizen engagement, experimental arts and community participation, providing different outlets for news, artistic practices, new media arts and cultural engagement.

FRAMED #03 will examine Australia's vast array of alternative and tactical media groups working on innovative online networks and new media environments, in the ongoing search for the utopian ideal!

Bring your lunch or enjoy the light refreshments on offer.

When: Thursday April 26, 12.30 - 1.30pm
Where: Digital Harbour Theatre,
The Innovation Building,
1010 Latrobe St, Docklands
Cost: FREE EVENT

More information and registration:
<http://openchannel.org.au/framed/03.html>

FRAMED is presented by Digital Harbour in association with
OPEN CHANNEL and AFTRS, Melbourne.

__ARTS LAW WEEK: RIGHTS ONLINE

Arts Law Week Victoria 2007 presents practical information and workshops concerning legal issues for Victorian artists and arts organisations. As part of Arts Law Week, OPEN CHANNEL and the Association for Progressive Communications will be presenting a free seminar RIGHTS ONLINE discussing issues that reflect the digital content industry.

Artists were pioneers on the net, now the net is pioneering artists... is MySpace truly your space, does YouTube care about you? What can you do, what can't you do and who owns what you put there?

Speakers: Andrew Garton (OPEN CHANNEL, APC.au), Shaun Miller (Marshall's & Dent Lawyers), Jarmal Richard (JDR Legal).

When: Wednesday 9 May, 7 - 9pm
Where: Cinema Nova, 380 Lygon St, Carlton
Cost: FREE

More information:
<http://openchannel.org.au/artslaw/>

__ACCA EXHIBITION PROGRAM, NEW07

For the fifth year running, ACCA continues its ground-breaking series of commissions from some of Australia's brightest and best contemporary artists including Damiano Bertoli, Christian Capurro, Nick Devlin, Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro, Anastasia Klose and Brendan Lee.

Working in a wide range of media, including video, sculpture, photography and installation, projects demonstrate a reinvestigation of raw materials, daggy technology, hands on manipulations, movie myth and '60s utopianism... and a little bit of romance.

When: 20 May 2007
Where: ACCA, 111 Sturt St Southbank

More information:
<http://www.accaonline.org.au/>

__ACMI: POMPIDOU VIDEO ART 1965 - 2005

Assembled from one of the world's great collections, explore the largest history of video art ever seen in Australia. Centre Pompidou Video Art 1965-2005 includes pivotal works by Bill Viola, Tony Oursler, Nam June Paik and Bruce Nauman. Originally adopted by artists to document their performances, the field of video art has expanded along with developments in technology. The exhibition traces the trends and historical milestones of the genre, from the first appearance of video art in the 1960s to the present day.

Curated by Christine Van Assche, Curator of New Media at the Centre Pompidou, the exhibition provides an important opportunity to view many groundbreaking video artworks never before shown in Melbourne.

When: Until 27th May

Where: ACMI, Federation Square, Flinders St.

More information:

<http://www.acmi.net.au/>

+ SHORT COURSES IN APRIL

__EASTER IS SO MUCH MORE THAN CHOCOLATES AND BUNNIES!

OPEN CHANNEL members receive great discounts on short courses. Courses offered in April include:

- LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE!

New York-born professional cinematographer Ben Speth will have you spellbound experimenting with light before you can say 'Gregg Toland' with this three-day 'enlightening' short course.

Dates: April 20, 21, 22

Enrolment deadline: April 13

- WRITE YOUR SHORT FILM

'You talking to me?'

Where would popular culture be without 'Here's looking at you, kid' or 'I'm king of the world'? Explore filmmaking from the writer's perspective. Through screenings, discussion and in-class writing, you'll be encouraged to shape your stories into strong narratives - and memorable dialogue. Go ahead, make our day.

Dates: Thursdays April 19 to May 31, 6.15pm - 9.15pm

Enrolment deadline: April 13

- FINAL CUT PRO - INTRODUCTION

This intensive weekend course has a maximum of three participants, ensuring plenty of hands-on learning with our

fabulous trainer Matthew Rooke. You'll get to work with footage shot in Antarctica used for Matthew's documentary that screened on the ABC last year.

Dates: April 13, 14, 15
Enrolment deadline: April 10

More information:
Lizzy Peeler (Short Course Coordinator) / (03) 8610 9300
<shortcourses@openchannel.org.au>
http://openchannel.org.au/t_shortcourses.html

__WANTED: SHAKE TUTOR

OPEN CHANNEL is seeking an experienced Shake practitioner to add to our Tutor Database.

Please email your CV to Lizzy Peeler at
<shortcourses@openchannel.org.au>

__SHED 4 CREATIVE PRECINCT

At its new Shed 4 home, OPEN CHANNEL is creating a precinct of filmmakers, writers, digital artists and designers, interactive media producers, and collectives. SHED 4 offers Melbourne's creative community:

- office and/or studio tenancies
- rehearsal and event spaces
- production space
- creative workshops (eg, set construction)
- props/other storage

SHED 4 consists of 4,000 square metres of prime space at Docklands with ample parking and waterfront views. Low-cost hire charges are available.

OPEN CHANNEL @ SHED 4 is located at North Wharf Road, Victoria Harbour, Docklands.

More information:
<http://openchannel.org.au/shed4/>

+ CLASSIFIEDS

__PRODUCER/ PROD MANAGER WANTED FOR SHORT FILM

I'm looking for a production manager/ associate producer to help produce my VCA School of Film & TV graduating film 'Little Wing'. The film is a dramedy about the struggles of growing up and the magic we all lose as we become adults. It's told through the eyes of 5 year old Billy, a shy recluse whose life changes when he loses his first tooth!

I am shooting on Super 16mm over about 5 days between June 30 and July 9. I'd like to start working with someone fairly soon

so between us we can start to lock everything in. I'd love to work with someone who is interested in being involved in the whole process – from helping with casting and locations, through to marketing the film to international festivals at completion of the post production period.

Interested? Email your CV and details to:
Polly Staniford
<februaryfilms@hotmail.com>

COPY & CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION:
Friday April 27 2007

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