



ACMI in association with Free Range Science presents

Free Range Films: Documentaries of the Natural Kind

Curated by Richard Sowada

Fri 27 Nov – Sun 6 Dec 2009

Free film events in Marysville and Halls Gap!

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and Free Range Science are bringing a free program of recent film festival favourites to both Marysville and Halls Gap this December.

Documentaries of the Natural Kind is a celebration of screen culture with a knock-out program of some of the very best blue-chip science and natural history documentaries of recent years.

In collaboration with Free Range Science, an organisation dedicated to bringing science to regional Australians, ACMI has programmed a series of natural documentaries which will be the focal point of community events also featuring free barbeques and even a director Q&A.

The season includes such documentaries as Werner Herzog's *Encounters at the End of the World* (2009) a remarkable look at the men and women who have dedicated and risked their lives for the cause of science in the far reaches of Antarctica. *Encounters at the End of the World* was nominated for Best Documentary at the 2009 Academy Awards.

A treat for lovers of astronomy, *In the Shadow of the Moon* (2007), is a visually stunning film reuniting the surviving crew members from every Apollo mission as well as incorporating never-before-seen archival footage direct from NASA. The Marysville screening is followed by a Q&A with director David Sington.

Also screening in the season is acclaimed BBC documentary *Earth* (2007) and *The Fox and the Child* (2007), the true story of a young girl who befriends a fox and attempts to tame it, narrated by Kate Winslet and directed by Luc Jacquet, the award-winning director of *March of the Penguins* (which took out the 2006 Academy Award for Best Documentary).

ACMI Head of Film Programs, Richard Sowada says it is enormously pleasing to be bringing these excellent big screen works to regional audiences.

"Films like these are usually the domain of the film festival circuit and it's always such a shame when that's the limit of their big screen outing. It's a great pleasure working with Free Range Science along with government and science agencies in bringing these excellent big screen works to regional audiences in such an interesting context. It's something new for me and I hope something new for the audience" he said.

This program brings the spectacular world of science and natural history to the big screen in an event for the whole family.

Documentaries of the Natural Kind has also been facilitated by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) and the 2009 World Congress of Science and Factual Producers (WCSFP), a four day international congress dedicated to celebrating the best in science and history programs.

The series runs from Friday 27 November to Sunday 6 December 2009.

- ends -

Full program overleaf

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, IMAGES OR INTERVIEWS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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PROGRAM:

Free Range Films: Documentaries of the Natural Kind

***Earth* (G)**

Alastair Fothergill & Mark Linfield, 95mins, UK, 2007, 35mm/DVD, Courtesy: Hoyts

Marvel at the wonders of Mother Nature in this breathtaking feature-length version of the award-winning television series Planet Earth.

Extraordinary camerawork captures a year in the life of our planet, beginning in the Arctic wilderness as a polar bear and her two cubs emerge from winter hibernation.

Five years in the making and shot in 200 locations across 21 countries, the film's message is very clear: we need to take care of our beautiful world.

Halls Gap: Fri 27 Nov, 11am & 1pm (School Screening)

Marysville: Sat 5 Dec, 1pm

***In the Shadow of the Moon* (G)**

David Sington, 109mins, UK, 2007, 35mm, Courtesy: Madman Cinema

Between 1968 and 1972, nine U.S. spacecrafts and twelve men voyaged to our closest celestial neighbour. *In the Shadow of the Moon* unites the surviving crew members from every Apollo mission to candidly recollect their roles in NASA's history-making endeavours at the height of the 'Space Age'. Featuring beautiful archival material released by NASA for the first time, this is uplifting and visually stunning.

Halls Gap: Fri 27 Nov, 7pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 6:15)

Marysville: Fri 4 Dec, 6pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 5:15 and Q&A with David Sington to follow screening)

***The Fox and the Child* (G)**

Luc Jacquet, 94 mins, France, 2007, 35mm/DVD, Courtesy: Hopscotch Films.

The latest film by Luc Jacquet, the award-winning director of *March of the Penguins* (which took out the 2006 Academy Award for Best Documentary), was shot in the spectacular Jura mountains near the Franco-Swiss border where the filmmaker grew up. Narrated by Kate Winslet, Jacquet's gorgeously photographed film revolves around a young girl who befriends a fox and attempts to tame it.

Halls Gap: Sat 28 Nov, 1pm

Marysville: Sun Dec 6, 1pm

***Encounters at the End of the World* (G)**

Werner Herzog, 99mins, USA, 2009, 35mm/DVD, Courtesy: Shock Entertainment

Directed by the awarded and acclaimed filmmaker Werner Herzog *Encounters at the End of the World* is a remarkable look at the men and women who have dedicated and risked their lives for the cause of science.

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With only his cameraman in tow, Herzog travels to the far reaches of Antarctica, capturing the alien beauty of this rarely seen landscape, while giving us a glimpse of nature at its most extreme. It was nominated for best documentary at the 2009 Academy Awards.

Halls Gap: Sat 28 Nov, 7pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 6:15)

Marysville: Sat 5 Dec, 6pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 5:15pm)

LISTING INFORMATION

Halls Gap:

Centenary Hall, 111 Grampians Rd, Halls Gap.

Earth: Fri 27 Nov, 11am & 1pm (School Screening)

In the Shadow of the Moon: Fri 27 Nov, 7pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 6:15)

The Fox and the Child: Sat 28 Nov, 1pm

Encounters at the End of

the World: Sat 28 Nov., 7pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 6:15)

Marysville:

Outdoor Screen, Adjacent to the Car Museum, Darwin St, Marysville

In the Shadow of the Moon: Fri 4 Dec, 6pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 5:15) and Q&A with David Sington

Earth: Sat 5 Dec, 1pm

Encounters at the End of

the World: Sat 5 Dec, 6pm (complimentary BBQ and pre-film drinks from 5:15pm)

The Fox and the Child: Sun 6 Dec, 1pm

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