

March Meeting: 7.30 Starting Time

Waverley Film Society will meet at St John's Uniting Church, 37 Virginia Street, Mt Waverley on **Wednesday, 13th of March.**

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm, followed by the film screening.

Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426. Visitors are welcome. Bring your friends.

This month we will screen ***The Blue Angel (1930)***

This film has German dialogue, but good sub-titles

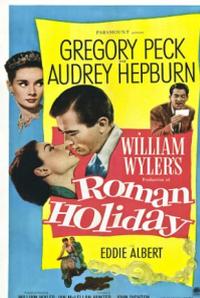
See page 2 for more information.

**The Gary and Warren Smith Community Raffle**

Books of raffle tickets will be provided to those who ordered them last month. Additional books are available for those who were unable to attend.

Please return the ticket stubs and cash proceeds at the April or May meetings.

This is an important fundraiser for the Society and helps to maintain our low subscription rates. Many thanks, Jenni, for co-ordinating this year's raffle.

**Last Month**

- Thirty six people attended, including seventeen visitors. There were seven apologies.
- **Roman Holiday** recorded a rating of 4.5 stars.
- Anne Dixon outlined the process for selecting our 2020 program.
- Jenni Sampson volunteered to coordinate the Community Raffle due to Barry's unavailability.

Next Month

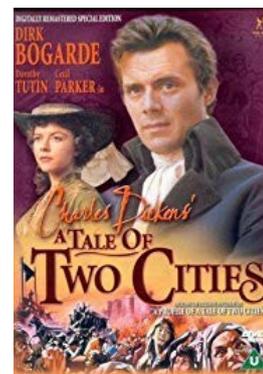
Wednesday, April 10th

***A Tale of Two Cities* (1958)**

Drama/history

During the turbulent days of the French Revolution, Frenchwoman Lucie Manette falls in love with Englishman Charles Darnay, who's hiding his true identity and purpose.

Posters advertising this screening will be available. Please post them in community spaces.



The Blue Angel (1930)

(Reference: www.imdb.com)

Director	Josef von Sternberg
Writing	Heinrich Mann (novel) Carl Zuckmayer, Karl Vollmoller, Robert Liebmann
Music	Friedrich Hollaender
Cinematography	Gunther Rittau and Hans Schneeberger

Cast includes:	
Emil Jannings	Professor Immanuel Rath
Marlene Dietrich	Lola Lola
Kurt Gerron	Kiepert, The Magician
Rosa Valetti	Guste, His Wife
Hans Albers	Mazeppa, the Strong Man
Reinhold Bernt	Der Clown / The Clown
Karoly Huszar	Proprietor of the Blue Angel

Trivia

- The film is loosely based on Heinrich Mann's novel "Professor Unrath."
- Josef von Sternberg's and Marlene Dietrich's love affair, which began during production of this film, caused quite a tabloid scandal and ultimately led to the dissolution of von Sternberg's marriage. On March 31, 1930, the night of the film's triumphant premiere in Berlin, the couple absconded to New York in order to begin a film career together in the United States.
- This was Emil Jannings' first film back in his native country after an abortive trip to Hollywood. Hoping to become a star of American films, Jannings was soundly rebuffed because no one could understand his accent.
- The coming of sound was dealt with differently in different countries. In Europe they tended to be less keen to ditch the qualities of silent pictures, and their early talkies are generally low on dialogue and use sound more as an embellishment than a means of imparting information.

Review: The Little Songbird

(Bethany Cox 15 March 2017)

Despite Marlene Dietrich actually appearing in several silent films in her native Germany, it was 'The Blue Angel' that made her a star and rose her to international fame. It was also the film that started the famous and iconic 7-film collaboration of Dietrich and director Josef von Sternberg.

'The Blue Angel' may not be the best film of theirs, but is still very good and a knockout first collaboration for them. Of the German and English language versions, there is no doubt in my mind that the German version is the superior one being better paced and more natural. 'The Blue Angel's' only real drawback is to do with pacing, taking a little too long to get going and then later on parts feel rushed, abruptly introduced and not quite developed enough.

Most memorable about 'The Blue Angel' is Dietrich on cruel and seductive form while singing her songs with sincerity, standing out especially being her iconic rendition of "Falling in Love Again" with her in a top hat and black stockings perched on the bar stool. Her character may not be likable but it's a complex one and Dietrich succeeds in making her real.

It is easy to overlook Emil Jannings, in his first talking picture, however, the story of 'The Blue Angel' really being his, detailing of an enamoured man led to his downfall. It is a performance full of wonderful moments (like his facial expression in the mirror and at the end), succeeding in making a real character in a way that's eccentric and poignant.

Kurt Gerron, who met a tragic end (at Auschwitz) just over a decade later, is also good.

Sternberg directs as sumptuously as to be expected and with adroit atmosphere. 'The Blue Angel' looks good, aside from occasional choppy editing, especially in the clever and luminous use of light and shadow lighting and cinematography that's atmospheric and classy. The music fits beautifully and enhances the mood, "Falling in Love Again" being a signature song of Dietrich's for very good reason. Further good things are a script that has a good balance of the comedic and the tragic, done amusingly and movingly, and a story that's disturbing and emotional, especially the heart-wrenching ending. Overall, a very good film and more than just historical interest.