

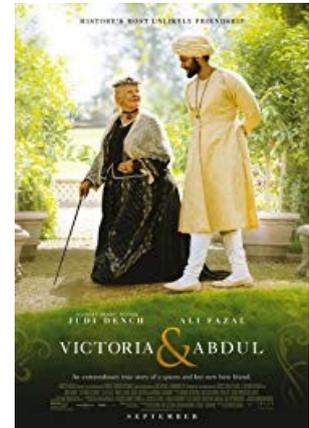
September Meeting:

Waverley Film Society will meet at St John's Uniting Church, 37 Virginia Street, Mt Waverley at 7.40 on **Wednesday, 11th of September**. Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426. Visitors are welcome. Bring your friends.

This month we will screen **Victoria and Abdul (2017)**

Historical/Biography (Queen Victoria strikes up an unlikely friendship with a young Indian clerk. He helps change her attitude towards humanity.)

See page 2 for more information.



Last Month

- Twenty nine people attended. There were four apologies.
- **The Way We Were** recorded a rating of 3.4 stars.
- The Community Raffle raised \$520 for the Society.
- Lyn and Judi provided a special supper of fruit cake and jam scroll.

Next Month

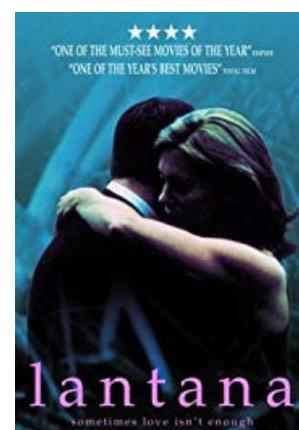
Wednesday, October 9th

Lantana (2001)

Mystery/Thriller. The relationships of four couples unravel after the discovery of a body in the bush in suburban Sydney.

Posters advertising this screening will be available.

Please post them in community spaces.



Victoria and Abdul (2017) (Reference: www.imdb.com)

Director	Stephen Frears	Cast includes:	
Writing	Lee Hall (screenplay) Shrabani Basu (book)	Queen Victoria	Judi Dench
		Abdul Karim	Ali Fazal
Music	Thomas Newman	(See Review below for other major players)	
Cinematography	Danny Cohen		

Review by Bob-the-movie-man (Sept 2017) (abbreviated)

Victoria and Abdul tells the untold story of a hushed-up relationship between an aged Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) and her Indian servant, Abdul Kareem (Ali Fazal).

Kareem is shipped to England from Agra to deliver a ceremonial coin to the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee, together with a grumbling 'stand-in tall guy' Mohammed Kareem finds the Queen as sour, depressed and acidic as her post-Albert reputation would have you imagine. But something clicks between the two, and pretty soon the perked-up queen is learning Urdu and all about the Koran, much to the horror of her successor Teddy, the Prince of Walesa splendid Eddie Izzard and the rest of the royal household, who try desperate measures to derail the relationship.

This film is a complete delight. It's probably best described as a comedy drama.—always a difficult trick for a movie-maker to pull off. But here in the competent hands of director Stephen Frears the comedy is both very, VERY funny, with the drama also being extremely moving. And crucially the transition between the two never feels forced.

I've seen a few critical comments that the film's underlying topic, the subjugation of the Indian state and the queen's role in that, is a "serious topic" and not a suitable subject for a comedy like this. But the film never really gets into these issues in any depth..... The focus of the film is quite rightly on the understandable scandal (for the day) of the queen of England (and hence head of the Church of England) having a spiritual teacher (or "Munshi") who is neither white nor Christian. If there is a criticism to be made of the splendid script by Lee Hallit is that the racial references - and there are a few - feel rather over-sanitised given the tensions that erupt as the story unfolds.

Above all, this is an acting tour de force for Dame Judi, reprising her role as the elderly queen from "Mrs Brown" Her performance is masterly from beginning to end. Ali Karim's performance is almost as impressive, bringing the warmth and compassion to the supporting role that is so sorely needed if the overall balance of the film is to be maintained. The supporting cast is equally stellar with Olivia Williams acidic as Baroness Churchill; Simon Callow as Puccini; Michael Gambon as Lord Salisbury and Tim Pigott-Smith as Henry Ponsonby, head of the royal household. Also of note is Fenella Woolgar as lady's maid Miss Phipps, comical as a the quivering wreck holding the shortest straw in having to face up to her ferocious mistress.

Another star of the show is the Scottish countryside, ravishingly photographed by Danny Cohen with this film probably doing more for the Scottish Tourist Board than any paid for advertising could ever do!

As the film comments it's "Based on a True Story... Mostly", and this tease of a caption both infuriates and intrigues in equal measure. Highly recommended.