

## December Meeting:

Waverley Film Society will meet at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley (MEL 61 E2), at **7.40** on **Wednesday, 14th of December**. Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426

The management recommends the **wearing of masks** as the meeting room is a confined space.

This month we will screen ***The Flying Deuces (1939)***

Ollie has fallen in love, but she is married. To forget her, he joins the French Foreign Legion.



**Christmas Party.** Please bring along a small plate of treats to share at supper time.

**The 2023 Program.** Many thanks to Anne and Brian for putting together next year's program. It is based on the preferences expressed by members. Printed copies will be available at the meeting for those who did not receive it by email.



## Last Meeting

- Twenty members attended and there were five apologies
- We welcomed the return of Brian, Ann, and Beverley
- *Grease* scored 2.9 stars
- Members returned their selections for the 2023 program
- Members will bring a small plate of treats to celebrate Christmas at the December meeting.

## Next Meeting

The film to be screened on Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 is:

### ***Arsenic and Old Lace (1944)***

A Brooklyn writer of books on the futility of marriage risks his reputation when he decides to tie the knot. Things get even more complicated when he learns on his wedding day that his beloved maiden aunts are habitual murderers.



**Posters are available** for posting in community spaces to advertise the society and the next screening.

## THE FLYING DEUCES (1939) *(Reference: www.imdb.com)*

**Director:** A. Edward Sutherland

**Writers:** Ralph Spence, Charley Rogers,  
Fred Schiller and Harry Langdon.

**Cinematography:** Art Lloyd

**Editing:** Jack Dennis

**Music:** John Leipold and Leo Shuken

**Cast includes:**

Stan Laurel	Stan
Oliver Hardy	Ollie
Jean Parker	Georgette
Reginald Gardiner	Francois
Charles Middleton	Commandant
James Finlayson	Jailor

### Trivia

- On the set of this film, Oliver Hardy met his future wife, script supervisor Virginia Lucille Jones.
- Jean Parker, who played Oliver Hardy's "love interest" in this picture, played his daughter in *Zenobia* (1939) the same year.
- Stan Laurel spoofs Harpo Marx when he strums on his bed spring and plays it like a harp. Marx was famous for playing the harp in (almost) every Marx Brothers movie; in fact, he dubbed Stan's playing in this film.
- The facade of the arched hangar featured in the film was later seen in *Casablanca* (1942). It had been built two months before the original Metropolitan Airport opened in 1928.
- In this movie, set in 1939, the Legionnaires are shown wearing the blue and white uniform that was discarded during World War I.
- When Ollie tells Stanley that he plans to commit suicide by drowning, he says, "It's a far, far better thing than I have ever done before." He is quoting from the classic novel "A Tale of Two Cities" by Charles Dickens.
- Favourite line? [Stan and Ollie have just heard that they will be executed the next day]  
Oliver: Here's a nice pickle we're in. Shot at sunrise!  
Stanley: I hope it's cloudy tomorrow!

**Review: Decent Laurel & Hardy Feature With Some Fine Moments** *(Snow Leopard 2004)*

It's pretty hard to sustain the Laurel and Hardy brand of humour for a full-length picture, but "Flying Deuces" does so pretty well. Not all of it maintains the pace or the level of their best short features, but there some good scenes and some fine moments that reflect the comic duo near the peak of their form.

The story tries to squeeze as much as possible from Stan and Ollie joining the Foreign Legion in order to help Ollie forget his troubles. Though there is plenty of action and a variety of settings, the best scenes are still the ones with the two of them by themselves, when their timing and teamwork can take over. The rest of the cast, and some of the settings, are mostly there only to nudge the plot along from time to time.

Aside from a handful of slow stretches, most of it is good entertainment. There's more than enough to make it worth seeing for fans of Laurel and Hardy.