

FROM *LADYBIRD* TO MARLON BRANDO: WENDALL & WOOTTON HIT MELBOURNE

Acclaimed Hollywood-based script developer **Wendall Thomas** and London-based film culture tsar **Adrian Wootton** return exclusively to Melbourne this August for a packed program of talks and seminars presented by the Melbourne International Film Festival's **MIFF 37th South Market & Accelerator Lab**.

Both the **Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts** and **Adrian Wootton Talks Tinseltown Trailblazers** series are ticketed events open to the general public, including film or media students, aspiring or existing screen practitioners, and film culture aficionados! Tickets are on sale now at <http://miff.com.au/industry-public-access-events>

Celebrated LA-based developer, writer and lecturer **Wendall Thomas**, who has written and developed projects for the likes of Disney, Warners and Showtime, returns with more of her secrets to unlocking the art of film scripting with a series of four standalone all-day seminars comprising:

- **CHARACTER: FIVE ELEMENTS FOR GREAT SCREEN CHEMISTRY (Mon 06 August, 9.30am).** Some film relationships endure in the collective imagination; from *Casablanca* to *The King's Speech* to *The Shape of Water*, this seminar outlines the key elements to creating memorable screen chemistry.
- **SPOTLIGHT: LADYBIRD - INDIE TO OSCARS (Tue 07 Aug, 9.30am).** Exploring the elements behind the success of *Lady Bird*, this seminar includes a scene-by-scene breakdown (including character, structure, dialogue, imagery and tone) of the Golden Globe-winning and Oscar-nominated film from writer/director Greta Gerwig (*Frances Ha*).
- **DIALOGUE: UNLOCKING THE MAGIC OF VOICE-OVER (Wed 08 Aug, 9.30am).** Drawing on examples from *Double Indemnity* and *Whale Rider* to *Sex and the City* and *House of Cards*, this seminar examines myriad techniques to create vivid voice overs and explores how to use those techniques to enhance your own scripts.
- **STRUCTURE: MASTERING THE DREADED SECOND ACT (Thurs 09 Aug, 9.30am).** In a market that favours genre-benders and complex structures like *Get Out*, *Lion*, and *I, Tonya*, writing the second act is more challenging than ever. This lecture examines the pitfalls and possibilities of second acts, through an in-depth, scene-by-scene look at this "desert" in three recent, successful, soundly-structured screenplays.

Former British Film Institute and London Film Festival Director **Adrian Wootton** has more of his acclaimed **Illustrated Film Talks**, this year focusing on the end of Hollywood's Golden Age and four legendary performers, who each broke the mould, achieved worldwide fame and shaped film history. The **Wootton Talks Tinseltown Trailblazers** series of two-hour lectures comprises:

- **SIDNEY POITIER: Breaking Barriers (Mon 06 Aug: 5.15pm).** The first black actor to win both an Oscar and Golden Globe, for *Lilies of the Field*, Poitier became a top-grossing star with three 1967 films concerning race: *In the Heat of the Night*, *To Sir, with Love* and the infamous *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. Wootton traces the remarkable life of Poitier, who is now 91 and venerated as an author, activist, diplomat and humanitarian.
- **MARLON BRANDO: Bad Boy & Activist (Tues 07 Aug: 5.15pm).** Acclaimed, influential and controversial, Brando (1924-2004) broke through with *Streetcar Named Desire*, *Wild One*, and his Oscar-winning turn in *On the Waterfront*. Wootton describes Brando's complex career (from the highs of *Last Tango In Paris* and *The Godfather* to the lows of *Mutiny on the Bounty* and the Australian-shot *Island of Dr Moreau* and his reputation for difficulty), his colourful personal life (including obesity and 11 children), and his political activism - most famously refusing his *Godfather* Oscar over poor treatment of Native Americans.
- **AUDREY HEPBURN: Style Icon to Humanitarian (Wed 08 Aug: 5.15pm).** Audrey Hepburn (1929-1993) graced such classics as her Oscar-winning turn in *Roman Holiday*, *Breakfast at Tiffanys*, and *My Fair Lady* with iconographic appearances. From childhood in Nazi-occupied Holland, to ballerina training in London, to Hollywood stardom, and multiple award wins, Wootton chronicles the life of this actor, dancer, model and style icon who is also remembered for tireless humanitarian work with UNICEF.
- **TONY CURTIS: Screen Legend to Painter (Thurs 09 Aug 5.15pm).** Over a six-decade career, Tony Curtis (1925-2010) worked with big directors like Kubrick, Kramer and Wilder and made indelible 1950s impressions in *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Defiant Ones*, *Some Like it Hot* and *Operation Petticoat*. While chronicling Curtis's long life (including childhood poverty, adult addictions, six marriages, and fathering six children including Jamie Lee Curtis), and illustrious career (including being a surrealist painter in later life), Wootton also recounts his own 2008 interview with Curtis.

• More event details, and ticket sales, are at <http://miff.com.au/industry-public-access-events>

• For media enquiries & interview requests, contact: