



accelerator

FROM BRIDESMAIDS TO DICKENS: WENDALL & WOOTTON HIT MELBOURNE!

MELBOURNE: What do the enduringly popular myriad screen adaptations of Charles Dickens' novels and the monster box office success of *Bridesmaids* have in common? Punters attending the **Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts** and **Adrian Wootton Talks Dickens** series will find out!

Organized by the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) Industry Programs Unit, which stages film financing event **MIFF 37°South Market** and the **Accelerator** emerging director workshop, the **Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts** and **Adrian Wootton Talks Dickens** series are ticketed events open to the general public – be they film or media students, aspiring or existing screen practitioners, film aficionados or just the plain curious!

Celebrated LA-based developer, writer and lecturer Wendall Thomas, who has written and developed projects for the likes of Disney, Warners, Paramount and Universal, returns exclusively to Melbourne for more of her popular series unlocking the secrets of films' script structure with a series of four standalone all day seminars. For more details on each seminar, and to book tickets, see http://miff.com.au/films/film_talks/wendallthomastalksscripts.

Presented by **MIFF 37°South Market & Accelerator**, the **Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts** series comprises:

- **DIALOGUE WRITING: YOU TALKIN' TO ME? - The Importance of Dialogue and Subtext in Film Writing (Mon 06 August, 10am-5pm).** Drawing on the masters of character and dialogue, from Billy Wilder to James L. Brooks, this seminar examines a variety of tools and approaches to developing unique, memorable characters' voices.
- **CHARACTER: CREATING GREAT RELATIONSHIPS ON SCREEN (Tues 07 August, 10am-5pm).** This seminar examines memorable screen relationships (think Butch and Sundance, Harry and Sally, or King and Tutor in Screenplay Oscar-winner *The King's Speech*) scene-by-scene to give practical advice on combining dialogue, action, back-story, conflict and emotion to create vivid, timeless relationships.
- **SCENE BY SCENE: BRIDESMAIDS - Breaking down the hit (Wed 08 August, 10am-5pm).** This seminar examines the special alchemy of plot dynamics, characterizations, scene structure, dialogue, tone and pacing which made this 2011 phenomenon a genuine \$300 million global hit.
- **STORY & STRUCTURE: THE MULTI-STORY, MULTI-PROTAGONIST NARRATIVE - Does Three Act Structure Apply? (Thurs 09 August, 10am-5pm).** This seminar de-mystifies this complex – yet potentially rewarding and powerful - approach to film writing as seen in such celebrated classics as *How to Marry a Millionaire*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Gosford Park*, *The Breakfast Club*, *Lantana* and *Little Miss Sunshine*.

Meantime, former British Film Institute and London Film Festival Director Adrian Wootton returns exclusively to Melbourne for another series of his acclaimed **Illustrated Film Talks**, this year celebrating Charles Dickens - the most screen-adapted author of all time. For more details on each talk, and to book tickets, see http://miff.com.au/films/film_talks/adrianwoottontalksdickens

Presented by **MIFF 37°South Market** and **The Wheeler Centre**, the **Wootton Talks Dickens** series, comprises:

- **THE LIFE OF DICKENS (Fri 17 Aug, 11am-12.30).** This session examines the life and times of Dickens, his literary legacy and innovations, his key fascination with - and lasting influence on – crime fiction, and his inspiration for countless screen adaptations. This talk is preceded, at 9.30am, by a screening of **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported feature documentary *First Fagin* narrated by *Harry Potter* star **Miriam Margolyes** (film tickets sold separately).

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- **DICKENS ON FILM (Sat 18 Aug (talk and screening) 4.30 – 7pm).** Liberally sprinkled with slides and film clips, this talk examines the legacy of Dickens screen adaptations from 1898 to the present, and highlights Dickens as an innovator of narrative, character, subject and imagery - and shows how he influenced the creation of the cinematic medium itself. ***This session includes (at the end of the talk at 6pm) a special screening of the documentary Dickens on Film (director: Anthony Wall; Producer: Adrian Wootton; 60 mins)***
- **DICKENS: CRIME FICTION & FILM (Sun 19 Aug, (talk and screening) 4.30 – 7pm).** With a plethora of slides and film clips, this lecture draws on Wootton’s research into Dickens’s fascination with, and writing about, true crime, social injustice and penal reform, his fictional work in and influence on the crime fiction and detective genre in literature (including his collaboration with other authors, such as Wilkie Collins). ***This session includes (at the end of the talk at 6pm) a special screening of the documentary Dickens in London (Director Chris Newby; Writer Michael Eaton; 63mins)***

The **Wootton Talks Dickens** series kick-off *Melbourne Celebrates Dickens* season from 17-26 August, a part of the global *Dickens 2012* initiative, that encompasses events from **MIFF 37^oSouth Market, The Wheeler Centre, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)** and the **Melbourne Writers Festival**. Co-ordinated by the Charles Dickens Museum and Film London with the Dickens Fellowship, *Dickens 2012* (www.dickens2012.org) is a global celebration of the life and work of Dickens marking the bicentenary of his birth. *Dickens 2012* supporters include Sir Derek Jacobi, Sir Cameron Mackintosh and Miriam Margolyes OBE.

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