

## FROM SHAKESPEARE TO *THE GOOD WIFE*: WENDALL & WOOTTON HIT MELBOURNE FOR INDUSTRY TALKS ALSO FEATURING DAVID FIELD & CEZARY SKUBISZEWSKI

Do Laurence Olivier, *The Good Wife*, Shakespeare and Alien Invasions have anything in common? Punters attending the **Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts** and **Adrian Wootton Talks Shakespeare** series will find out!

Organised 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 Shakespeare** 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.

### **MIFF Accelerator Master-classes:**

Additionally, **MIFF Accelerator** presents several ticketed sessions, including an Acting Masterclass with **David Field** (*Chopper*, *The Rover*, and MIFF 2016's Centrepiece Gala *Down Under*), Editing with **Simon Njoo** (editor of *The Babadook* and MIFF 2016's **Premiere Fund**-supported *Bad Girl*), Production Design with **Ben Morieson** (*Oddball* and MIFF 2016's **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported Opening Night film *The Death & Life of Otto Bloom*), Cinematography with **Andrew Commis** (*The Daughter*, *The Rocket* and MIFF 2016's *Spear*), and Composing with **Cezary Skubiszewski** (*Sapphires*, *Red Dog* and MIFF 2016's **Premiere Fund**-supported *Monsieur Mayonnaise*). More details at <http://miffindustry.com/ticketed-events16>

### **Adrian Wootton Talks Shakespeare:**

Former British Film Institute and London Film Festival Director **Adrian Wootton** returns exclusively to Melbourne for another series of his acclaimed **Illustrated Film Talks**, focusing this year on the rich screen legacy of most filmed author ever - William Shakespeare, who died 400 years ago and whose works have inspired hundreds of screen productions. For more details, see <http://miffindustry.com/adrian-wootton16>

Presented by **MIFF 37°South Market & Accelerator**, the **Wootton Talks Shakespeare** series comprises:

#### **LAURENCE OLIVIER: A life in Shakespeare (Sun 07 August: 5pm to 8pm)**

Wootton frames British actor-director Laurence Olivier (1907-1989) as the 20th Century's greatest progenitor of Shakespeare, ranging from school productions to the London stage, then acclaim with his trio of Shakespeare films as actor-director (1944's *Henry V*, 1948's *Hamlet*, 1955's *Richard III*), to his final Shakespearian performance in a 1983 TV production of *King Lear*. The session includes a special screening of the new one-hour BBC-Film London documentary *All The World's A Screen: Shakespeare on Film*.

#### **SHAKESPEARE goes to Hollywood! (Mon 08 August: 5pm to 7pm)**

From silent cinema onwards, Wootton finds that Hollywood has rarely triumphed with orthodox Shakespeare adaptations but succeeded more when being playful with musicals (*Kiss Me Kate*), westerns (*Yellow Sky*) and science fiction (*Forbidden Planet*) or borrowing his work to underpin contemporary stories (*10 Things I Hate About You*) – although exceptions include Orson Welles, Gus Van Sant (*My Own Private Idaho*) and Baz Luhrmann (*Romeo & Juliet*).

#### **BRANAGH, the Bard & the Brits (Tues 09 August: 5pm to 7:30)**

Whilst the earliest-surviving Shakespeare film is an-1899 British effort, only after Laurence Olivier's directing debut with 1944's *Henry V* did British Cinema and Shakespeare become indelibly linked. Wootton explores this vibrant legacy, which notably includes Kenneth Branagh as well as Franco Zeffirelli (*Taming of the Shrew*) and Roman Polanski (*Macbeth*) shooting their Shakespeare movies in the UK. The session includes a special screening of *Shakespeare's Sister*, two Film London-British Council female-directed Shakespeare-inspired shorts.

#### **SHAKESPEARE: From Globe Theatre to World Cinema (Wed 10 August: 5pm to 7:30)**

Shakespeare was a global stalwart of silent cinema, but, with the talkies, it was Japan's Akira Kurosawa 1957 film *Macbeth: Throne of Blood* that started the modern plethora of Shakespeare adaptations globally. From Bollywood to Russia to Australia and beyond, Wootton describes Shakespeare movies from a variety of languages, periods and

cultures to prove that the Bard's emotional empathy and universality assures his place in world cinema. The session includes a special screening *Still Shakespeare*, five Film London experimental animation shorts inspired by *Othello*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *King Lear*.

**SPECIAL DAYTIME SCHOOL SESSION- From Silent to Sound: Shakespeare on Screen (Tues 09 August: 11am to 2pm)**  
In this session targeted at students (although bookings from the general public are welcome), Wootton chronicles the diverse history, classic movies, and great filmmakers globally who have adapted Shakespeare from 1899 to now, proving that, from Silent to Sound, Western to Musical, British Cinema to Bollywood and more, filmmakers constantly renew the populist link between Shakespeare and audiences. The session includes a special screening of the new one-hour BBC-Film London documentary *All The World's A Screen: Shakespeare on Film*.

**Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts:**

Celebrated LA-based developer, writer and lecturer **Wendall Thomas**, who has written and developed projects for the likes of Disney, 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, see <http://miffindustry.com/wendall-thomas16>

Presented by **MIFF 37<sup>o</sup>South Market & Accelerator**, the **Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts** series comprises:

**GENRE- IT'S ALL A BIG CONSPIRACY: Writing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Thrillers (Mon 01 August, 9.30am-4.30pm)**

Plaudits for the likes of *Argo*, *Michael Clayton*, *Nightcrawler* and *Animal Kingdom* suggest a renaissance for dramatic thrillers, a long-time box office and award-getting genre. This workshop roadmaps thriller writing by examining structures, characters, themes and worlds of recent films and classic 1970s conspiracy films like *Three Days of the Condor*, *The Conversation* or *The Parallax View*.

**GENRE - A FINE ROMANCE: The Past & Future of Romantic Comedy Writing (Tue 02 Aug, 9.30am-4.30pm)**

*Bringing Up Baby*, *When Harry Met Sally*, *Strictly Ballroom*, *500 Days of Summer*: romantic comedies are audience favourites and the genre's conventions often contribute good B-stories in hit comedies like *Bridesmaids* and *Trainwreck*. This workshop examines the genre's requirements, structure, conventions and memorable pairings from 1934 to now – as well as the challenges for the genre in today's market.

**STRUCTURE: WEDDINGS, HEISTS & ALIENS - Importance of Sequences (Wed 03 August, 9.30am-4.30pm)**

Imagine *The Great Escape* without the escape or *Muriel's Wedding* without weddings! From *E.T's* bicycle chase to *Little Miss Sunshine's* "pageant sequence" to *Six Feet Under's* funerals to *Breaking Bad's* Winnebago disaster, sequences provide focus and pace, stick in audiences' memories and form the backbone of TV series and films. Examining a variety of memorable sequences, from funerals to dreams to heists to high school reunions, this workshop breaks-down how they work and how they can be used effectively to strengthen scripts.

**TV & CHARACTER: UNFORGETTABLE SMALL SCREEN RELATIONSHIPS (Thurs 04 August, 9.30am-4.30pm)**

Relationships are central to TV writing: think *I Love Lucy's* best friends, *Kath and Kim's* sparring mother and daughter or *The Good Wife's* competitive lawyers. It's the interplay and evolution of the characters' reactions to each other, and the tensions in the ensemble, that keep audiences returning week after week - or binging for 13 hours in one day! This workshop breaks-down a series of enduring TV relationships, from both drama and comedy, and advises on creating and managing these on the page.

For more details, visit at <http://miffindustry.com/ticketed-events16>

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