

2010 Activities Report – Australian Centre for the Moving Image (Associate Member)

1. Acquisitions of the year

Through its annual Exhibitions and Public Programs, ACMI generates a range of new works annually. In the reporting period two streams of programming have created more than 400 new titles. ACMI is internationally recognised for its leadership role in 'Digital Storytelling' and this program continues to produce high quality, deeply personal and moving first-person stories from individuals and communities across Australia. Similarly, mini-documentary projects undertaken in townships across Victoria as part of the outreach program, 'ACMI in the Regions' has produced a series of community archiving works. Masters, sub-masters and access copies were produced for each of these titles and digital representations of the majority were also made available through ACMI's onsite resource centre, the Australian Mediatheque.

A small range of home movies on 16mm and 8mm were donated for review to assess their suitability for inclusion into the ACMI Collection and for possible use as stock footage for digital online projects.

2. Progress and problems in the field of preservation

ACMI endeavours to maintain best practice in the use and storage of the Collections. While we maintain specialised storage for our film collection and monitor conditions for our DVD and VHS collection, we are not actively involved in the archival process of restoration/preservation.

3. Cataloguing, documentation and research

Original cataloguing was done for the new ACMI generated acquisitions of some 400 titles.

Provision of specialist catalogues in a range of subjects including: Indigenous dance, animation, smoking within post WWII films, refugees, Kokoda and Vietnam War material.

4. Film showings, exhibitions and publications (a short summary)

FILM

ACMI screens the very best of Australian and world film in two state of the art cinemas alongside Melbourne's best, most popular and critically acclaimed film festivals.

ACMI Film Programs 2010

Focus On

The *Focus On* strand provides the opportunity to curate large scale retrospective seasons and thematic programs. Seasons are also curated to complement ACMI's major exhibitions as well as to explore in detail the work of international artists and filmmakers. In 2010, the program included Focus On Claudia Cardinale and seasons celebrating the work of Tim Burton.

First Look Film

Featuring a selection of new and newly imported works accompanied by restorations, *First Look* presents films from the cinematic masters and contemporary international works in a specially curated monthly program.

On Film

This strand provides compact and consolidated thematic based mini-seasons for partner events such as film, fashion and music festivals.

Australian Perspectives

This strand continues to be a staple of our program and plays an important role in our industry and cultural development agenda. Featuring a range of new and archival Australian works, the strand also features guest presentations and cultural collaborations.

Long Play

Long Play provides the opportunity for audiences to discover local and international films in extended runs at ACMI.

Freaky Fridays

Freaky Fridays presents an eclectic array of cult and rarely seen works every Friday night.

Kids' Flicks

Kids' Flicks is one of our most popular film programs. Free screenings through school holidays as well as a range of new releases provide an economical, entertaining and quality leisure alternative for kids and families.

Seniors' Cinema

The program features the finest of contemporary art-house cinema and big screen entertainment.

Film Festival Partners

Festival partners 2010:

- > AFI Award Screenings
- > Australian Malaysian Film Festival
- > Festival of Jewish Cinema
- > Hola Mexican Film Festival
- > Indonesian Film Festival
- > Japanese Film Festival
- > La Mirada
- > Little Big Shots
- > Melbourne Cinematheque
- > Melbourne International Animation Festival
- > Melbourne International Arts Festival
- > Melbourne International Film Festival

> Melbourne Queer Film Festival
> Reeldance Film Festival

> VCA Graduate screenings

EXHIBITIONS

Screen Worlds: The Story of Film, Television and Digital Culture

This new, permanent free-entry exhibition celebrates the evolution of world screen and digital culture. From cinema's early beginnings to the rise of television, video games and the digital age, and the rich contribution of Australia, including Indigenous practitioners, to the world of the moving image, the exhibition features hundreds of rare and rarely seen objects, exhibits, displays, images, installations, immersive experiences, interactives moving image clips.

Len Lye

An experimental filmmaker, poet, painter, kinetic sculptor and ebullient personality, New Zealand-born Len Lye (1901–1980) was one of the most innovative artists of the modernist era. Featuring many materials on display for the first time, the Len Lye exhibition was the largest ever survey of Lye's works. It showcased the technical processes and conceptual threads that mark Lye's career, from his earliest sketches, paintings and batiks of the 1920s, through to his photographic work, experimental and documentary films, and the astounding motorised steel sculptures from the 1960s and 1970s.

Dennis Hopper and the New Hollywood

Dennis Hopper and the New Hollywood celebrated the work of extraordinary filmmaker, artist and visionary, Dennis Hopper, (1936–2010). Well known as the director and co-writer of *Easy Rider* (1969), the exhibition highlighted Hopper's career as a rebel and counter-culture icon, filmmaker, actor, artist, and photographer, and his ongoing involvement in, and passion for, film and the visual arts. Film clips with paintings, sculptures and works from Hopper's collection by artists including Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Jenny Holzer and Julian Schnabel featured, along with a special section of clips, behind the scenes footage, and production materials from the Australian film *Mad Dog Morgan* (1976), in which Hopper starred as bushranger Daniel Morgan.

Tim Burton: The Exhibition

Tim Burton: The Exhibition was ACMI's second Australian exclusive exhibition to be presented as part of the prestigious Melbourne Winter Masterpieces series. It went on to set new attendance records in 2010, becoming ACMI's most successful exhibition. During its run, *Tim Burton: The Exhibition* was seen by a record 275,000 visitors. Exploring the art, creativity and imagination of one of Hollywood's most recognisable filmmakers, the retrospective brought together over 700 examples of concept artworks, drawings, paintings, photographs, puppets, costumes and films. Never-before-exhibited paintings, drawings and film props featured, along with new artworks and newly commissioned works designed by Burton, especially for the Melbourne appearance. Tim Burton was in Melbourne for the exhibition's opening and featured in a series of sold out public events that also featured MoMA Director, Glenn D Lowry.

Gallery 2

As part of major redevelopment works of ACMI's physical spaces in 2009, a second new temporary exhibition space was opened on the building's ground floor. Gallery 2 is a purpose built space for commissions and collaborations and features temporary works from local and international moving image makers.

5. Budgetary matters, relations with governmental authorities

Budget has been steady this year with a drive to look at further sponsorship and development opportunities.

6. International relations (FIAF and others)

Our collaboration with the National Film and Sound Archive facilitating delivery of the Australian Mediatheque has been a resounding success. (See section 7).

Film Programs continue to liaise with international organisations in sourcing film prints, examples of which have been given in section five of this overview. As new member of FIAF we are hoping to further develop relations with international film organisations.

7. Special events, and other achievements or difficulties not mentioned elsewhere
(for example: the impact of a new piece of legislation in your country; the opening or closure of a new facility; staffing or structural changes in your institution; a major critical or academic dispute; and so on)

The Australian Mediatheque

September 2010 marked the first anniversary of the opening of the Australian Mediatheque at ACMI. The aim of this unique national screen culture resource centre was to not only provide general public access to ACMI's resources, but also to a range of content partners, including public and commercial television broadcasters, film schools, screen culture bodies, and primary collaborator, the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA).

Since opening, the Australian Mediatheque has achieved its core goal of significantly expanding opportunities for broad general public engagement with a major repository of digital and analogue screen culture resources for learning and entertainment. Importantly, it does so in a way that protects and preserves collection materials for future generations.

Visitors can explore on-demand a wealth of Australian and international screen culture history, spanning film, television, digital culture, video art and sound materials. The Mediatheque offers virtually unlimited access to a national wealth of moving image works, including animation, feature films, documentaries, video art, self generated content, and associated ephemera, sound and reference materials.

In its first 12 months of operation it has welcomed more than 40,000 visitors, who have viewed more than 40,000 hours of moving image materials.