CLASSIC MOVIES
AT THE REGENT
5–8 MAY
BOOK AT NZIFF.CO.NZ
NZIFF, the New Zealand International Film Festival, celebrating its 40th anniversary in Dunedin this year, claims pride of place as the cultural highlight of Dunedin’s winter. (See this year’s dates below.) Designed to whet your appetite for the annual winter splurge, NZIFF Autumn Events present a lively mix of restored big screen classics, two freshly minted documentaries – and an unforgettable skirmish with hellfire and damnation.

If you’re a Dunedinite who has yet to discover the thrill of a movie on the giant Regent screen, now’s the time to get started. Warning: it may prove addictive, and you won’t get another fix until August. If you’re a visitor, don’t miss this quintessential Dunedin experience.

NZIFF is operated by a non-profit charitable trust intent on expanding the options of filmgoers and filmmakers across Aotearoa New Zealand. Our selection criterion is to head for the ‘best’ across a great variety of genres and styles. Any one of our Autumn Events choices would have been equally at home at NZIFF itself. Big thanks to The Regent for encouraging our expansion into May. Enjoy!

Bill Gosden
Director

**The King and I**

**Director:** Walter Lang  |  **USA 1956**  |  **133 mins**  |  **DCP**  |  **G cert**

**Screenplay:** Ernest Lehman  |  From musical by: Oscar Hammerstein II

**Based on the book by:** Margaret Landon  |  **Songs by:** Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein II  |  **With:** Deborah Kerr, Yul Brynner, Rita Moreno, Martin Benson, Terry Saunders

“Shall we dance?” This perennial favourite of Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals, even now a hot ticket on Broadway, found its definitive production (and cast) in 1956, lavishly scaled for the vast Twentieth Century Fox sound stages. In its gilded fantasy of palace life in 19th-century Siam, an English governess (Deborah Kerr), imported to tutor the King’s many children, famously stands up to the autocratic monarch. In the role of his lifetime the mercurial Yul Brynner commands the screen, his animal grace rendered all the more enticing by his quizzical take on Western novelties. As polygamous monarch and proto-feminist school teacher clash, sparks of forbidden attraction fly. Their chaste consummation on the dance floor is super-charged, an iconic late highpoint in old-school Hollywood romance.

The score abounds with songs that have become standards: ‘Hello, Young Lovers’, ‘Something Wonderful’, ‘We Kiss in a Shadow’. Yul Brynner’s performance won him an Oscar but did nothing to endear the film’s breezy disregard for historical accuracy to the Thai monarchy. The film remains banned in Thailand.

“If you don't go to see it, believe us, you'll be missing a grand and moving thing.”

— Bosley Crowther, NY Times

REGENT THEATRE

Friday 6 May, 11.00 am
Sunday 8 May, 2.15 pm
In a small American town at the height of the Cold War in the 50s, a gigantic extraterrestrial robot with an appetite for cars, railroad tracks and TV antennas crash-lands near the home of nine-year-old Hogarth Hughes. Befriending the enormous visitor, Hogarth tries frantically to keep his new pal’s existence a secret from both his mother and a paranoid government agent.

Based on a children’s book by Ted Hughes, this all-ages sci-fi from animator Brad Bird (The Incredibles, Ratatouille) has amassed a lot of love since its release in 1999. Hughes’ book addresses some big questions – can a machine have a soul? – and the film’s anti-gun agenda is so expertly dramatized that certain right-wing commentators consider it downright treason. Loaded with discussion points, The Iron Giant always remains at heart a movie about an excitable little boy and the biggest toy any child could wish for.

Two new scenes have been added for this spectacular 2015 “Signature Edition”.

Two murderous goons meet their match in a Minnesota cop, the inimitable Frances McDormand as Detective Marge Gunderson, chirpy, relentless and seven months pregnant. You can’t beat the original recipe: the Coen’s landmark ‘true crime’ put-on still tastes mighty flavoursome in this 20th anniversary 4K digital restoration.

“The Coens’ masterpiece… Rarely have the Coens’ sensibilities coalesced more exquisitely than in this alternately comic and brutal caper set in the brothers’ native Minnesota and capped with Frances McDormand’s Oscar-winning performance as the sensible, pregnant police chief Marge Gunderson. Once more into the Midwestern winter? Oh, ya, you betcha.” — Andy Webster, NY Times

“A deep dark American feast of red blood, white fields and police blues… Riveting every crime with their trademark humour, the Coens get career-best performances all round.” — Mark Cubey, Auckland International Film Festival 1996

“A dazzling mix of mirth and malice… A terrific twisted comedy.” — Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

“Like E.T., like Babe, the movie has a child’s heart and an adult’s wit.” — F.X. Feeney, LA Weekly
The great, climactic work in a formidable oeuvre, Kurosawa’s Ran draws on both King Lear and Macbeth to observe the monumental chaos (‘ran’ in Japanese) unleashed when an ageing warlord hands over the reins to his warrior sons.

Completed when the director was seventy-five years old, the film was long in gestation and meticulous in its spectacular execution. Raging battles are delineated with rare clarity and dispassion, while court intrigues are captured with an intimacy that is electrifying. As the old man’s daughter-in-law, Harada Mieko is so intent on mayhem that the mere brush of her lavish robes against the floor can induce dread. Takemitsu Toru’s brilliant score is just as spare and unnerving. This stunning 4K digital restoration premiered at Cannes last year and demands the monster screen we are delighted to provide.

“Kurosawa’s late-period masterpiece, transposing King Lear to period Japan, is one of the most exquisite spectacles ever made, a color-coordinated epic tragedy of carnage and betrayal – passionate, somber, and profound.” — New York Magazine
**The Philadelphia Story**

Director: George Cukor  |  USA 1940  |  112 mins  |  DCP  |  PG cert
Producer: Joseph L. Mankiewicz | Screenplay: Donald Ogden Stewart
Based on the play by: Philip Barry
Photography: Joseph Ruttenberg
Costume designer: Adrian  |  With: Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, James Stewart, Ruth Hussey, John Howard

"George Cukor and Donald Ogden Stewart's evergreen version of Philip Barry's romantic farce, centring on a socialite wedding threatened by scandal, is a delight from start to finish... Katharine Hepburn's the ice maiden, recently divorced from irresponsible millionaire Cary Grant and just about to marry a truly dull but supposedly more considerate type. Enter Grant, importunate and distinctly sceptical. Also enter James Stewart and Ruth Hussey, snoopers from Spy magazine, to cover the society wedding of the year and throw another spanner in the works.

Superbly directed by Cukor, the film is a marvel of timing and understated performances, effortlessly transcending its stage origins... The wit still sparkles; the ambivalent attitude towards the rich and idle is still resonant; and the moments between Stewart and Hepburn, drunk and flirty on the moonlit terrace, tingle with a real, if rarely explicit, eroticism." — Geoff Andrew, *Time Out*

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**Stop Making Sense**

Director: Jonathan Demme  |  USA 1984  |  88 mins  |  DCP  |  G cert
Producer: Gary Goetzman  |  Photography: Jordan Cronenweth
Editor: Lisa Day
Music: Talking Heads  |  With: David Byrne, Chris Frantz, Jerry Harrison, Tina Weymouth, Edna Holt, Lynn Mabry, Steve Scales, Alex Weir, Bernie Worrell

"In 1983, legendary art rockers Talking Heads set out to make a concert film like no other. Independent of their record company, they hired Jonathan Demme, a then-relatively unknown filmmaker, to direct. Working closely with Byrne and the band, he counteracted the MTV style of the era, avoiding quick cuts or cutaways to the crowd in the certain knowledge that the more we see of what's happening on stage, the more immersed and mesmerised we will be.

The dazzling set list aside, it's their film's formal inventiveness that is amazing, beginning with the conceptual crescendo of the concert's construction. It starts with genius frontman David Byrne performing 'Psycho Killer' alone on stage, then adds instruments, stage machinery and musicians with each successive number. That's to say nothing of Byrne's expanding white suit. Frequently cited ever since as the perfect concert movie, *Stop Making Sense* is a pop cultural dispatch from 1983 that stays forever thrilling." — Stephanie Zacharek, *Salon*
**INFO**

**VENUE**
Regent Theatre: 18 The Octagon, phone (03) 477 8597

**TICKET PRICES**

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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students / Film Society / Industry Guilds</td>
<td>$13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens / Children (15 and under)</td>
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<td>Five Trip Pass (use individually or share with friends)</td>
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**CONCESSION DISCOUNTS**

Students, Film Society members and Industry Guild members are entitled to purchase one ticket per session at the discount rate. Student/Membership ID is required – please ensure you bring it with you to the venue to present to staff on request.

**BUYING TICKETS**

Bookings are now open for all screenings. No complimentary passes accepted unless marked NZIFF Autumn Events.

**Advance counter:** The Regent Theatre box office is open Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.30 pm, Saturday 10.30 am to 1.00 pm

**Door sales:** From one hour before the first screening of the day

**HEARING IMPAIRED**

Please note that where foreign language films are indicated as subtitled, this is not the same as full captioning for the hearing impaired.

**CENSORSHIP CLASSIFICATION**

- **G** – Suitable for general audiences
- **PG** – Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers
- **M** – Recommended as more suitable for mature audiences 16 years and over
- **R16** – Restricted to persons 16 years and over
- **R18** – Restricted to persons 18 years and over

**ON THE WEB** [www.nziff.co.nz](http://www.nziff.co.nz)

Register on the website for news updates and the chance to win movie tickets and other great prizes. The site also features more extensive information about NZIFF Autumn Events programmes.

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/nzfilmfestival](http://www.facebook.com/nzfilmfestival)
Become a friend, watch trailers and take part in competitions and discussions.

**TWITTER:** [www.twitter.com/nzff](http://www.twitter.com/nzff)
Keep up-to-date with our Twitter feeds.

**YOUTUBE:** [www.youtube.com/nzintfilmfestival](http://www.youtube.com/nzintfilmfestival)
Watch trailers, interviews and much more.

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**Where to Invade Next**

*Director: Michael Moore | USA 2015 | 119 mins | DCP | In English, Italian, French, German, Finnish, Norwegian, Portuguese and Arabic, with English subtitles | Festivals: Toronto 2015*

*Producers: Michael Moore, Tia Lessin, Carl Deal | Photography: Rick Rowley, Jayme Roy | Editors: Pablo Proenza, T. Woody Richman, Tyler H. Walk*

**INFO**

**NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2016**

**Dunedin, 4 – 21 August**

**REGENT THEATRE**

**Friday 6 May, 1.45 pm**

**Saturday 7 May, 5.45 pm**

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“**A more stimulating, thought-provoking and entertaining call to arms than anything we are likely to hear from an aspiring President over the next year.**” — Allan Hunter, *Screen Daily*

Michael Moore, still the baseball-hatted scourge of corporate America, is back with his first film in six years – and his funniest and most optimistic ever. The invasion promised in the title is a total ruse: he crosses Europe, Scandinavia and the Middle East to reconnoitre social welfare programmes that might usefully be plundered for export to the US, or to any other bastion of free market ideology.

Adopting the posture of an incredulous free marketer himself, he’s agog as a super-fit Italian couple proclaim the benefits of six weeks of paid vacation and five months maternity leave. French public-school kids discuss nutrition and say yuck to Coke and ketchup. Elsewhere successful approaches to addiction, crime and punishment, women’s rights, defence budgets and school homework are expounded to the marauding Moore. His hand-picked parade of patently sane interview subjects is more than enough to make Moore’s round-up of Good Examples a buoyant experience for any progressive spirit.
Janis: Little Girl Blue

Producer: Alex Gibney, Amy Berg, Jeffery Jampol, Katherine LeBlond
Photography: Francesco Carrozzini  Narrator: Chan Marshall

The Witch

Director/Screenplay: Robert Eggers  USA 2015  92 mins  DCP
R16 Violence, horror & content that may disturb  Festivals: Sundance, Melbourne, Toronto 2015
Photography: Jarin Blaschke  Editor: Louise Ford  Music: Mark Korven
With: Anya Taylor-Joy, Ralph Ineson, Kate Dickie, Harvey Scrimshaw, Ellie Grainger

This admiring, perceptive, richly researched and performance-studded celebration of 60s icon and white soul singer supreme, Janis Joplin, was beautifully crafted by Amy Berg (West of Memphis).

“For an intelligent portrait of Janis Joplin, head straight for Amy Berg’s superb new documentary, which incorporates revelatory interviews with family, friends, band members and associates (some long since dead), a good deal of stirring live and archive footage, and a lot of insight from people who knew her well…

Best of all is the chance to reacquaint oneself not only with the real Janis – so naturally charming and funny – and her gigantic voice, but also with Janis the unexpectedly magnificent fashion icon, decked out in boas, tons of rings, big pink sunglasses, gold dresses, striped bellbottoms, the works… To quote a Facebook meme I spotted recently: ‘In a world of Kardashians, be a Janis!’” — John Patterson, The Guardian

“The true draw here is really just Janis: sweet and wild and vividly alive, she takes a little piece of your heart when she goes.”
— Leah Greenblatt, Entertainment Weekly

Puritan terrors of devilry and damnation come screaming to life in this impeccably crafted and thrillingly scary debut. Set in 1630, the film follows a deeply religious family living in self-imposed isolation on the edge of the New England wilderness. As mysterious events occur, not least the sudden vanishing of their newborn son, the family is engulfed in dread. An evil spirit has invaded the forest and the farmyard – or does it lurk within their own sinful hearts?

Writer-director Robert Eggers immerses us in densely researched period recreation and the visual shadings of a 17th-century etching. The actors seem to have emerged from a time capsule, speaking the language of King James and, as Lorde has tweeted, “surrendering their characters’ bodies to possession.”

“The Witch makes exceptional use of a seldom-tapped Puritanical setting to build riveting, slow-burn terror.”
— Jen Yamato, The Daily Beast
NZIFF AUTUMN PREMIERES AT THE REGENT 5–7 MAY

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