

Federation of Victorian Film Societies Inc

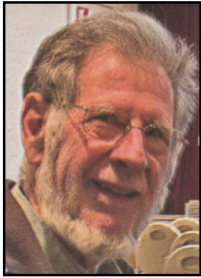


INFORMATION SHEET 31

Finding DVD Screening Rights

This Information Sheet contains the slide presentation from the FVFS Information Day on 11th November 2023 at Maldon Vic.

Author and presenter: Ian Davidson.



Ian Davidson is treasurer of the FVFS, and responder of most enquiries regarding screening rights, FVFS membership, film society rules and DVD screening technology. He is the FVFS representative to ACOFS (The Australian Council of Film Societies, whose membership consists of the 6 State Federations). In ACOFS, Ian is the editor of The ACOFS Bulletin, and responsible for most of the negotiations with DVD distributors regarding screening rights.

Ian is one of the delegates from the Whitehorse Film Society to the FVFS.

13 Nov 2023
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www.fvfs.org.au

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Screening Rights



Your Image is Our Focus

Information day at Maldon, 11th November 2023.
All there is to know about DVD screening rights for
FVFS member film societies.

FVFS – Federation of Victorian Film Societies.
ACOFS – Australian Council of Film Societies
whose members are the 6 State Federations.

Presented by - Ian Davidson, Treasurer FVFS

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Screening Rights

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Topics of Discussion

We will cover the following topics-

- Why pay screening rights?
- Who has to pay screening rights?
- Who holds the screening rights?
- How do you contact them?
- Exceptions and alternatives
- A few worked examples

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Why pay screening rights?

- Copyright law. You may not screen any movie in any technology without permission.
- When you get permission is usually comes with a fee – the cost of the screening rights.
- Owning the DVD does not give you the right to screen it in public.

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What if we don't pay rights?

- Open to legal procedures.
- May get a large bill later.
- Society might be black-listed.
- All societies might be black-listed.

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Who need to get screening rights?

- Anyone who screens a DVD (or any other technology) in a public place, whether to the public, to members or your friends.
- No rights are payable if you screen to your friends in a private home.
- But, if the public is invited to come to your home, you must pay rights.

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Types of screening rights

- Theatrical (commercial) such as a cinema, where seats are available to the public – even if a free screening.
- Non-theatrical, or to members of an organisation such as a film society and no additional charge for admission.
- Broadcast TV.
- Streaming on the Internet.
- Private viewing at home.

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Screening rights owners

- Screening rights are a form of copyright. They belong to the production company, producer or director of the movie.
- Screening rights can be sold to distributors, who can then sell you the rights for specific screenings.

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Finding the rights “owners”

- Go to IMDb.com and find the year, director and any alternative title.
- Go to classification.org.au and search for the film title, using the above information.
- While this is a list of which company sought censorship clearance, the assumption is that the same company will hold the rights.
- The technology quoted in the result only indicates how the film was presented to the classification board. It is likely that the same company will hold the rights for all technologies.

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Find the distributor

- Go to ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B to determine which DVD distributor represents the relevant studio or production company. (ACOFS negotiated the rights deal with distributors on our behalf).
- Contact the distributor asking for clearance to screen the DVD (which you own), to your members.
- Email is generally better as you get a written response, usually within a day or two.

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What to ask for

- Tell the distributor your name, your society name and FVFS membership number and average audience size.
- State the name and year of the DVD you wish to screen, and when.
- State that you will use your own DVD, and be screening to members only, under the ACOFS agreement for non-theatrical screenings.

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And now for some worked examples.

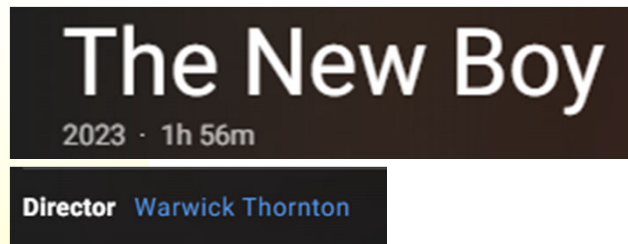
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Example : The New Boy DVD

1. Check IMDb



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Example : The New Boy DVD

2. Look up classification.gov.au

The New Boy (DCP) 02 June 2023 Public Exhibition

Classification date 2 June 2023

Director/Creator Warwick Thornton

Applicant ROADSHOW FILMS PTY LTD

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Example : The New Boy DVD

3. Go to ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B



NUMBER 03-B (Revised 17 Oct 2023)
DVD DISTRIBUTOR CONTACTS and PRICES

Roadshow:

Virginia OConnor, virginia_oconnor@roadshow.com.au or (02) 9552 8685 looks after customers in Qld, SA, WA, NT and Tasmania.
Michael_Firmani@roadshow.com.au now looks after Vic, NSW and ACT.
The manager is Dominic Malsom for DVD rights dominic_malsom@roadshow.com.au
See their catalogue at <https://PPL.roadshow.com.au>

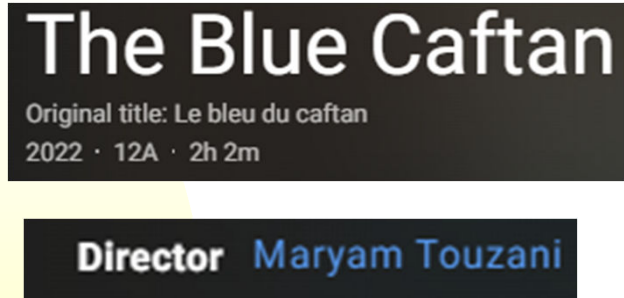
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Example: The Blue Caftan

1. Check IMDb



The Blue Caftan
Original title: Le bleu du caftan
2022 · 12A · 2h 2m

Director Maryam Touzani

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Example: The Blue Caftan

2. Look up Classification.gov.au



 **THE BLUE CAFTAN** (DVD, On Demand, DCP) 20 December 2022 Film Other

Year of production	2022
Director/Creator	Maryam Touzani
Applicant	Potential Films Pty Ltd

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Example: The Blue Caftan

3. Go to ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B

Potential Films

Lisa Farinosi, lisa@potentialfilms.com

Mark Spratt, mark@potentialfilms.com (03) 9328 5000.

PO Box 2765 Fitzroy, Vic, 3065.

L1/11a Argyle St Fitzroy, Vic, 3065.

See www.potentialfilms.com for their catalogue.

They can also provide screening rights for RKO titles such as "Top Hat", "Suspicion" etc.

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Example: Other People's Children

1. Check IMDb

Other People's Children

Original title: Les enfants des autres

2022 · 15 · 1h 43m

Director Rebecca Zlotowski

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Example: Other People's Children

2. Look up Classification.gov.au

.... But not found So we try the original title...



LES ENFANTS DES AUTRES
(Online)

14 November 2022

Film - Sale/Hire

Year of production 2021

Director/Creator REBECCA ZLOTOWSKI

Applicant PALACE FILMS P/L

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Example: Other People's Children

3. Go to ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B

Palace

1/122 Toorak Rd, S Yarra, Vic, 3141

~~Rights can be booked through Roadshow at Roadshow prices.~~

Or

Tony Zrna, tony.zrna@palacefilms.com.au

Antony Zeccola, antony.zeccola@palacefilms.com.au

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Screening Rights

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Example: This Beautiful Fantastic

1. Check IMDb

This Beautiful Fantastic

2016 · PG · 1h 32m

Director Simon Aboud

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Example: This Beautiful Fantastic

2. Look up Classification.gov.au



THIS BEAUTIFUL FANTASTIC
(DCP)

04 October 2016

Film - Public
Exhibition

Year of production 2016

Director/Creator SIMON ABOUD

Applicant MADMAN ENTERTAINMENT

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Example: This Beautiful Fantastic

3. Go to ACOFS Fact Sheet 3B

Madman

Non-theatrical rights bookings should be arranged through Amalgamated Movies.

Amalgamated handle most Madman non-theatrical rights bookings and have a non-exclusive arrangement with Limelight.

See www.amalgamatedmovies.com. Agents for Sony and Columbia Tristar.
Steven Snell, (07) 4787 1086. stevens@amalgamatedmovies.com

Exceptions to watch for

- The Classification index sometimes lists the movie under the original foreign title.
- Rights for films older than 5 – 10 years may have expired.
- If the rights have expired, they might have been picked up by another company.
- A film is not out of copyright until 70 years after the death of its creator.

More exceptions

- When rights expire they revert to the original producer of the film. Seeking rights from them can be difficult and expensive.
- Where a film was made for a streaming company the rights will probably be owned by that company, and unavailable for film societies.
- If a streaming company has purchased the rights to a commercial film title, it may also be available to you through the usual channels.

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Alternative rights holders

- The NTLC at the NFSA can lend you a DVD for \$22 (including rights and shipping).
- If you already have the DVD they can sell you the rights only for \$22.
- Park Circus in Glasgow has many DVD titles for which they can sell you the screening rights.
- FilmBankMedia apparently operate the same way as Park Circus, but this is untested.
- ACOFS is introducing an automated “Find a distributor (FaD) service to do all the above.

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Conditions

- The screening rights discussed here are for DVDs (including BluRay and HD 4K) that you supply.
- The screening must be “non-theatrical”, ie to members only, with no charges for admission to any screening.
- Rights for theatrics screenings (to the public, or there is a charge for admission) must be negotiated directly with the rights owner.
- 35mm, or DCP screenings are always theatrical.

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Remember

- Don't assume you will always get screening rights.
- If the DVD is on sale in Australia it is likely you can find the rights holder.
- It is actually illegal to screen a DVD in public without first securing the rights. If you don't have the rights, screen at your own risk.
- Be prepared to change the program if you cannot find the rights. Buying the DVD before you have rights may therefore be risky.

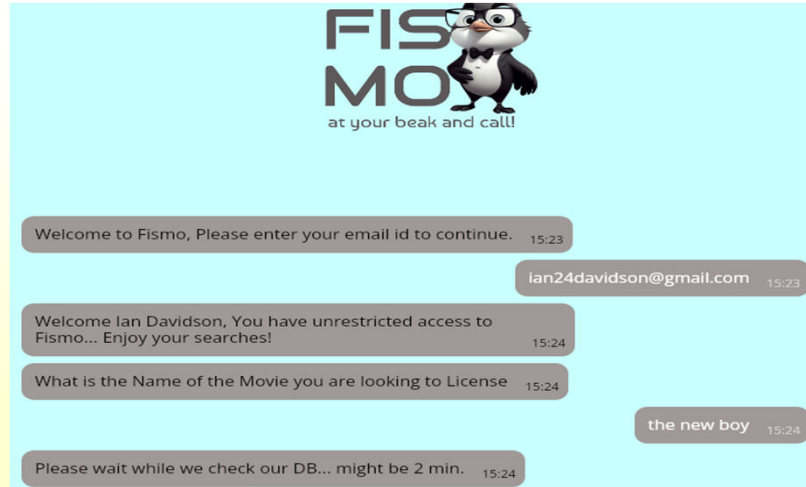
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What about FISMO or FaD?

FaD is in final stages of development. Here is an example of a test run...

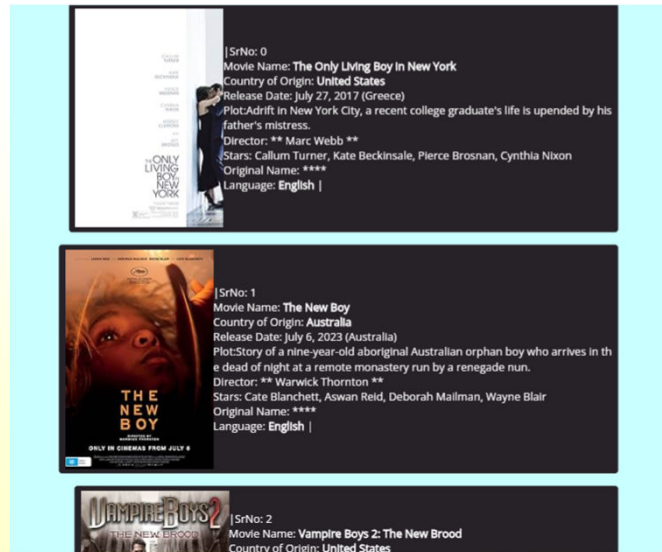


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FISMO found, for "THE NEW BOY"



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Screening Rights

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FISMO email re “THE NEW BOY”

fismo.au@gmail.com

3:29PM (5 minutes ago) ☆

to me ▾

Hi, Thank you for using FISMO, I am glad to be of service to you and help save you time. The information you requested is as follows:

Movie Name: The New Boy

Country Of Origin: Australia

Release Date: July 6, 2023 (australia)

Plot: story Of A Nine Year Old Aboriginal Australian Orphan Boy Who Arrives In Th

E Dead Of Night At A Remote Monastery Run By A Renegade Nun

Director: Warwick Thornton

Stars: Cate Blanchett, Aswan Reid, Deborah Mailman, Wayne Blair

Original Name:

Language: English |

Name of Distributor: ROADSHOW

Contact details

Virginia O'Connor

Email: virinia_oconnor@roadshow.com.au

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That's all folks enjoy your screenings!



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