

MARGARET PRESTON

HER LIFE & ART

29 JULY – 23 OCTOBER

Cinematic Sydney

Wednesdays 2pm & 7.15pm

Sundays 2pm

Domain Theatre, FREE

At a time when Australians looked to other countries for culture, Margaret Preston's work celebrated the local. She validated the familiar, the indigenous and the everyday. Her bold landscapes of Sydney and its environs included the harbour, the beaches, native flora, domestic interiors and the suburbs where she lived. A Modernist, influenced by her extensive overseas travels, her decorative and richly coloured works demonstrated her desire to create a national artistic identity. In the early 1970s the Australian film industry was invigorated by government assistance after four virtually inactive decades. Filmmakers began asking themselves the same questions that Preston had raised, striving to create a "national cinema" and depict local cultures. This selection of feature films and documentaries is devoted to Preston's city of Sydney.

3 & 7 August

Caddie

Dir: Donald Crombie 1976
106 mins 35mm colour M
Helen Morse, Jackie Weaver
After her wealthy husband abandons her, a headstrong, independent woman must survive in the tough climate of Sydney during the 1930s depression.

10 & 14 August

Resonance

Dir: Stephen Cummings & Simon Hunt
1991 11 min 35mm B&W M
A personal response to gay bashing in Darlinghurst.

Palisade

Dir: Laurie McInnes 1987
15 mins 35mm colour G
Featuring extraordinary imagery filmed at night around inner-city Sydney, Palisade traces the movements of a night-shift worker and explores his dreams of escaping.



Caddie courtesy Anthony Buckley Films

17 & 21 August

Heatwave

Dir: Phil Noyce 1981
95 mins 35mm colour M
Judy Davis, Richard Moir, Bill Hunter
Amid a typical Sydney Christmas heatwave, an ambitious architect and an impulsive local activist are caught in a confrontation involving local residents and their homes which are about to be bulldozed to make way for a high-rise development. The story is loosely based on Juanita Nielson's disappearance.

24 & 28 August

Rocking the foundations

Dir: Pat Fiske 1985
92 mins 16mm B&W PG
Powerful documentary telling the story the NSW Builders Labourers Federation and its attempts to save historic Sydney buildings and communities. Focuses on the battles for Victoria St, Kings Cross and The Rocks and the use of union power in assisting resident action groups and environmental groups.

31 August & 4 September

Puberty blues

Dir: Bruce Beresford 1981
83 mins 35mm colour M
Nell Schofield, Jad Capelja
Two teenage girls must endure the sexual and social rites of the Greenhills' gang, an elite surfer group which occupies a particular stretch of Cronulla Beach, or be consigned to the margins of their teen society.



Puberty blues courtesy Limelight Productions

21 & 25 September

100 a day

Dir: Gillian Armstrong 1973
8 mins 16mm B&W M
Armstrong's first short film, set in 1930s Balmain, focuses on women working in a shoe factory.

Rui

Dir: Jason Ollivier 1976
14 mins 16mm colour
Documentary depicting the lives of kids from Alexandria – these bicycle riding adventurers have developed their own mechanisms for coping with the inner-city environment.

7 & 11 September

Sydney Harbour Bridge

Dir: Paul Winkler 1977
13 mins 16mm colour
Experimental film utilising an array of intricate visual cross-rhythms in its depiction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

21 & 25 September

Nice coloured girls

Dir: Tracey Moffatt 1987
17 mins 16mm colour
Moffatt's early experimental short, set in Kings Cross, suggests connections and differences in the relationship between Aboriginal women and European men in the early years of settlement and in contemporary Sydney.

31 August & 4 September

Tran the man

Dir: Rowan Woods 1994
18 mins 16mm colour M
David Wenham, Rowan Woods, Skye Wansey
Ray Moss, nicknamed Tran by his Asian workmates, is a security guard at a Cabramatta shopping centre. But the heat is on when his brother, Donny, and Uncle Jack have had their heroin business undercut.

7 & 11 September

My life without Steve

Dir: Gillian Leahy 1986
58 mins 35mm colour PG
This striking meditation on love and loss is an intimate study of one woman's year in a room with a view. Features "still life" interiors and industrial landscapes of Pymont shot by cinematographer Erica Addis.

14 & 18 September

Winter of our dreams

Dir: John Duigan 1981
89 mins 35mm colour M
Judy Davis, Bryan Brown
A trendy Balmain suburbanite, who runs an inner-city bookshop, and an uneducated Kings Cross prostitute, who longs for a better life, are drawn together following the death of a mutual friend.



Winter of our dreams courtesy Gaby Mason

28 September & 2 October

Looking for Alibrandi

Dir: Kate Woods 2000
103 mins 35mm colour M
Pia Miranda, Greta Scacchi, Anthony LaPaglia
A 17 year old teenager of Italian heritage searches for identity as she tries to balance home, family, school and relationships while doing her final year of high school. Features inner-city Sydney, Glebe, Leichhardt and Haberfield locations shot by cinematographer Toby Oliver.

5 & 9 October

Palm Beach

Dir: Albie Thoms 1979
88 mins 35mm colour M
Nat Young, Bryan Brown
48 hours in the lives of motley characters who reside in the northern beaches area. With an experimental narrative structure, long takes and documentary-style camera work, the film explores Palm Beach in the 1970s with its unique mix of rich and poor, straight and crooked.

Films are screened in the Domain Theatre. It is recommended to arrive early as seating is limited to 320 and cannot be guaranteed.

This is a specialist program designed for mature audiences and is generally not suitable for children under the age of 15. Babes in arms not permitted in screenings. We cannot admit anyone under the age of 18 years to films with an R classification. It is a condition of entry to these screenings that behaviour does not disturb other audience members.

All pagers and mobile phones must be switched off during screenings.

Tickets are issued at the Domain Theatre for Art After Hours screenings on Wednesday nights and for special screenings 1 hour prior to commencement.

The Art Gallery of New South Wales, where possible, presents films in their original distribution medium and correct screen aspect ratio. The Domain Theatre is equipped to project in 35mm as well as 16mm and various video formats.

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12 & 16 October

FJ Holden

Dir: Michael Thornhill 1977
105 mins 35mm colour M
Shot in the western suburbs with local non-professional actors, this social realist drama focuses on Kevin, his brief relationship with Anne and his ongoing relationship with his FJ Holden.

17 & 23 October

Waterloo

Dir: Tom Zubrycki 1981
48 min 16mm colour G
Influential documentary of the nine-year fight by residents of the suburb of Waterloo to stop planned demolition of their community by housing authorities. The residents won the battle and this film played a major part in their victory.

Our Park

Dir: Gillian Leahy 1998
53 min 16mm colour PG
A diverse and rapidly changing community in Leichhardt must negotiate a conflict over the use and development of a local park.

Acknowledgements for their valuable contribution to the film program:

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Tim Long – Limelight Productions
Tom Zubrycki
20th Century Fox
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Cover: All about Eve 1950.
Anne Baxter as Eve Harrington, Marilyn Monroe as Miss Caswell, Bette Davis as Margo Channing.
Courtesy 20th Century Fox