

August Meeting:

Waverley Film Society will meet at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley (MEL 61 E2), on **Wednesday, 13th of August**. Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426.

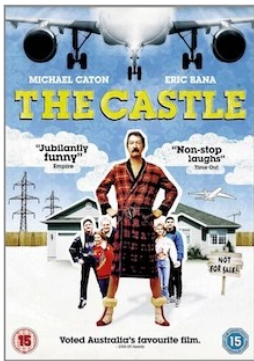
The film to be screened is *The Greatest Showman* (2017).

P T Barnham is a poor orphan who achieved fame and fortune with the birth of show business.



Last Meeting

- Nineteen members attended and there were seven apologies.
- Thanks to those who braved a cold night to attend the screening.
- Attendees awarded *The Castle* 3 stars.
- Ann discussed selecting films for the 2026 program. She suggested it may be her last year and she wishes to select the program.
- A 20 minute "Three Stooges" episode *Monkey Business* was shown to round out the night.

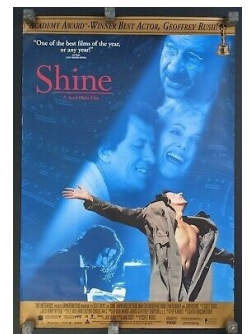


Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 10th.

The film to be screened is *Shine* (1996)

David Helfgott, a gifted pianist, struggles through childhood as his dysfunctional father abuses him and his siblings. Years later, he suffers a mental breakdown but manages to return as a legend.



Posters are available for posting in community spaces to advertise the society and the next screening.

The society's website is www.waverleyfilm.org

Our email address is contact@waverleyfilm.org

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN (2017) *(Reference: www.imdb.com)*

Director: Michael Gracey

Writers: Jenny Bicks, Bill Condon

Cinematography: Seamus McGarvey

Editing: Tom Cross & five others

Music: John Debney, Joseph Trapanese

Trivia

Cast includes:

P.T. Barnum

Hugh Jackman

Charity Barnum

Michelle Williams

Phillip Carlyle

Zac Efron

Anne Wheeler

Zendaya

Jenny Lind

Rebecca Ferguson

- Hugh Jackman read some three dozen books on P.T. Barnum to prepare for the title role.
- This film was a dream project for Hugh Jackman since 2009.
- According to Hugh Jackman, the film's nine-year development process from conception to completion was, in part, due to studios' unwillingness to take a risk on an original musical.
- Rebecca Ferguson's voice was dubbed by Loren Allred. Ferguson had studied music and admitted that she can carry a tune but since Jenny Lind, her character, is considered the best singer in the world, dubbing her voice would be in service of the movie.

Review: A Sugar Rush ([ccamp89](#) 2018)

Quite a frustrating film. The musical numbers are far and away its strongest attribute, which is obviously what any good musical should strive for. Although they aren't all showstoppers, there are some genuinely excellent sequences with tight, kinetic editing, great rhythmic camera movements, and vibrant choreography. Essentially all of the songs are pleasant, catchy, and memorable as well, if a bit vanilla.

The strength of these musical sequences is enough to save the film from being bad, and is even almost enough to outweigh the many flaws..... but not quite. The film is attractive to look at to be sure, but it is at times so incredibly glossy that it feels like you're watching a shampoo or jewellery commercial. Sure, it's going for that fairy tale feel, but at times the sheen and shimmer is a little too blinding. And that high-gloss polish is a symptom of a much deeper problem: the incredibly superficial quality of the story and its characters.

I found it extremely troubling that the film completely ignored the moral quandary of whether Barnum was helping these "unique" people, or exploiting them for his own fame and fortune. These characters never even question his intent, viewing the situation as Barnum helping to "put them out there", gain them social acceptance, and create a "family", where in reality they're quite clearly being taken advantage of in a way that is arguably more reprehensible morally than the protesters who mock them. It's a truly glaring omission from the film that saps so much potential substance from the story.

Contributing to the superficial feeling of the film is another all-too common problem: the pacing is way too fast. It's like the studios are afraid people will be bored by their films, and thus they design them to speed through plot points and character development in a way that ends up suffocating the life from it. Sure this approach makes the film feel lively and exciting, but it also robs it of actual, meaningful character interactions and development. The result is a film that feels like all dessert and no main course - a bowl of chocolate ice cream sure tastes great but it's no substitute for a satiating meal.