

March Meeting:

Waverley Film Society will meet at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley (MEL 61 E2), on **Wednesday, 12th of March**. Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm, just prior to the screening, at this meeting. The agenda and annual reports will be emailed with this newsletter beforehand.

Please be seated by 7.30.

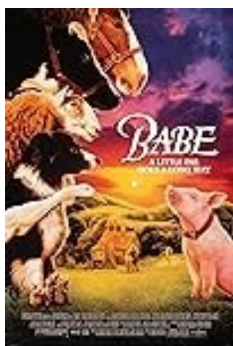
This month we will screen : *The Lavender Hill Mob* (1951)

A meek bank clerk organises the theft of gold bars for export as miniature Eiffel Towers.



Last Meeting

- Twenty people attended and there were nine apologies.
- The President welcomed all to the 2025 season.
- Attendees awarded *Babe* 3.5 stars.
- The Notice of Meeting for the AGM, including nomination forms for 2025 committee positions, was issued. The March meeting begins at 7:30pm for the AGM.
- Screenings for Sep, Oct, and Nov have been amended as we could not obtain screening rights. A revised program for 2025 has been printed.



Next Meeting

The film to be screened is: *Dial M for Murder* (1954)

A former tennis star arranges the murder of his unfaithful wife.

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 LAVENDER HILL MOB (1951) (Reference: www.imdb.com)

Director: Charles Crichton

Writers: T.E.B. Clarke

Cinematography: Douglas Slocombe

Editing: Seth Holt

Music: Georges Auric

Trivia

Cast includes:

Holland

Pendlebury

Lackery

Shorty

Chicquita

Alec Guinness

Stanley Holloway

Sidney James

Alfie Bass

Audrey Hepburn

- Many of the scenes filmed on location in London show that the city was still being rebuilt in 1951, ten years after the Blitz.
- Audrey Hepburn (Chicquita) was considered for a larger role in this movie, but stage work made her unavailable. Sir Alec Guinness was impressed with the young actress and arranged for her to appear in a bit part. This is considered to be Hepburn's first appearance in a major movie.
- Ealing Studios, planning a bank robbery movie, asked the Bank of England to devise a way in which a million pounds sterling could be stolen from the bank. A special committee was created to come up with an idea, and their plan is the one used in this movie.
- After the raid we see the maroon (dark-coloured) bullion van being driven into an abandoned warehouse to be emptied (33mins 10 secs into the movie). In the next short shot of the van parking, the van has now become a light-coloured van. After that we see the dark-coloured van again.

Review: Brilliant Ealing Comedy

Ealing studios are famous for making very dry and witty comedies. *The Lavender Hill Mob* is about a bank clerk (Alec Guinness) that, with the aid of his friend Alfred Pendlebury (Stanley Holloway), a man that makes paperweights in the shape of the Eiffel tower, has an ingenious idea of how to rob his own bank. The two realise that the bank cannot be robbed by just them, so they set a trap to catch a couple of criminals, and once they've recruited them, the Lavender Hill Mob is born.

Alec Guinness, a regular of Ealing comedies and a man that I think is worthy of the title "the greatest actor of all time" shines, as usual, in this movie. Alec Guinness manages to hit the tone of his character just right; he is suitably creepy, as he is, a criminal, and yet at the same time he's also eccentric enough to be considered an upstanding citizen and bank clerk. Guinness is, however, not the only actor who's performance in this movie is worthy of acclaim, the entire cast shine in their respective roles; Stanley Holloway is more subdued in his role, but that's also suited to his character. There are also excellent support performances from Sid James, who is mostly remembered for his work on the 'Carry on' films; Alfie Bass, whom fans of British comedy TV will remember from the series "Are You Being Served" and there's also a very small role for Audrey Hepburn, who's movie legacy is legendary.

The *Lavender Hill Mob* also features many memorable moments that will stick in the viewers' mind long after the film has ended. Parts of the film such as the chase on the Eiffel tower and the way that the two central characters manage to lose the entire police force are legendary. *The Lavender Hill Mob* is a small movie, but it's a movie that aims big and it works a treat. This movie also features a brilliant twist ending that rivals the one in the superb *Kind Hearts and Coronets*.

Overall, *The Lavender Hill Mob* is, despite its low budget and short running time, a spectacular comedy film that should not be missed by anyone.