

August Meeting:

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

The film to be screened is *Now Voyager* (1942).

A frumpy spinster blossoms under therapy and becomes a glamorous independent woman.



Last Meeting

- Seventeen members attended and there were six apologies.
- *The Maltese Falcon* scored 4.0 stars.
- This was our 3rd screening of *The Maltese Falcon*. It was shown previously in November 2008 and in July 2017 when members gave it a rating of 3.9.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th.

The film to be screened is *The Commitments* (1991).

An unemployed Dublin boy puts together a soul band, consisting of Irish working class kids.

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

NOW VOYAGER (1942) (Reference: www.imdb.com)

Director: Irving Rapper	Cast includes:	
Writers: Casey Robinson (screenplay), Olive Higgins Prouty (novel)	Charlotte Vale	Bette Davis
Cinematography: Sol Polito	Jerry Durrance	Paul Henreid
Music: Max Steiner	Dr. Jaquith	Claude Rains
Editing: Warren Low	Mrs Henry Vale	Gladys Cooper
Trivia	June Vale	Bonita Granville
	Lisa Vale	Ilka Chase

- The film was the biggest box office hit of Bette Davis's career.
- Paul Henreid's act of lighting two cigarettes at once caught the public's imagination, and he couldn't go anywhere without being accosted by women begging him to light cigarettes for them.
- Bette Davis had walked out of Warner Bros. before the making of this movie and refused to play Charlotte Vale. According to Ginger Rogers, she had been given the script to read as a replacement. Davis got wind of this and came back to the studio to play the character.
- Both Paul Henreid and Claude Rains began filming *Casablanca* immediately after this film; clearly a great year for them.
- When Charlotte and Jerry are passengers in a cab in the mountains and he has difficulty communicating with the driver, she is wearing a striped jacket. In the next frame when car rounds the bend, her jacket is off and she's struggling to put it on.

Review : Ugly duckling turns into a swan (*jotix100 2004*)

At the height of WWII, Hollywood produced a lot of excellent melodramas. These were the vehicles the studios created for its stars of that era. It was either a Joan Crawford picture, or a Barbara Stanwyck, or a Bette Davis one, since their presence, bigger than life, was the only reason to bring these stories to the big screen.

Take this one, for instance, under the direction of Irving Rapper. It had all the right elements, yet it was chaste enough to pass the censor. Undoubtedly, this movie owes a lot to the fantastic score by the talented Max Steiner who was a genius. Mr. Steiner's music plays the haunting melodies with such flair, we feel we are listening to a great symphonic work.

The story, by today's standards wouldn't raise an eyebrow. At the time it came out, it was a different thing. After all, Jerry was a married man with a daughter and a situation that had no easy solution then. That makes Charlotte Vale suffer after she found her soul mate aboard the ship that served to free herself from a despotic mother.

Bette Davis plays Charlotte to perfection. Her scenes with Paul Hendried lighting the two cigarettes is something to cherish by film fans. The chemistry that Bette Davis shared with her leading men was no small accomplishment. She was an actress that knew how to pull the heart strings of the general public. She had such a charisma and power to lose herself in all those strong women she played through the years. The transformation of the plain Charlotte to the smart woman, who embarks on a tour to begin a new life, is something out of a fairy tale, but Ms. Davis pulls it with great panache.

The rest of the cast was excellent. Claude Rains, Gladys Cooper, Bonita Granville, Ilka Chase! They only come once in a lifetime. No one in present day Hollywood comes near to that. It was perfection.