

September Meeting:

Waverley Film Society will meet at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mount Waverley (MEL 61 E2), on **Wednesday, 9th of September**. Apologies can be left with Brett on 9807 3426.

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

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



Last Meeting

- Fourteen members attended and there were eight apologies.
- *Now Voyager* scored 3.75 stars.
- Ann discussed and displayed DVDs that members may consider for 2027 screening.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14th.

The film to be screened is *Ladyhawke* (1985).

An escaped thief is rescued by the Knight Navarre, who is cursed.



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 COMMITMENTS (1991) (Reference: www.imdb.com)

Director: Alan Parker

Writers: Roddy Doyle, Dick Clement, Ian La Frenais

Cinematography: Gale Tattersall

Music: Wilson Pickett

Editing: Gary Hambling

Cast includes:

Jimmy Rabbitte

Steven Clifford

Imelda Staunton

Deco Cuffe

Natalie Murphy

Robert Arkins

Michael Aherne

Angeline Ball

Andrew Strong

Maria Doyle Kennedy

Trivia

- The Dublin that the film was shot in was incredibly bleak in the 1990s. When the film opened in Dublin it was a genuine phenomenon. The biggest cinema in Dublin showed the picture around the clock on it's opening weekend and it played to pretty much full houses at all shows.
- The producers wanted Andrew Strong's father to audition for one of the roles. He brought his 16-year old son along, who then landed the lead role.
- Maria Doyle Kennedy was a member of *The Black Velvet Band* before the movie was made. She was the only member of The Commitments (the band) with a notable career before the movie.
- The director, Alan Parker, plays Eejit, the record producer in the studio near the end of the film.
- Many people who did not make the initial audition for the band were given bit parts in the film.

Review : Funny, heartbreaking and true (Madam_Q 2004)

Who needs expensive movie stars when a group of unknowns can light up the screen like this lot? On paper, it sounds like a failure - a cast comprising almost entirely of untrained and untested performers, set in working class Dublin, based on the novella by Roddy Doyle. By God, does it defy expectations.

Jimmy Rabbitte is a working class Dublin lad who's been collecting unemployment benefits for two years. But he dreams of bigger things, namely making it big in the music industry. He sets out to form a soul band, and assembles a motley crew of musicians and singers, most of whom don't know each other and many of whom can't stand each other.

The look of the film is gritty and realistic - nothing is glossed over. North Dublin is presented in all it's glory. The home lives of the band members are depicted warts and all - their private lives set the scene for the inevitable personality clashes that are almost as explosive as the music. In the mix is the unique character of the Irish people. At one point Jimmy enters a tenement block and, as he waits for the lift, looks over to see a boy with a horse. "You aren't taking that in the lift, are you?" he asks. "I have to," the boy replies. "The stairs would kill him."

The real star of the show is the music - this film spawned two hugely successful soundtrack albums. The band members were cast partly due to their musical ability, and the results are superlative. The stand out is Andrew Strong as Deco - would you believe this kid was only 16 when the film was made? His amazing voice belies his tender years, and suggests that he's been smoking a packet a day since the age of about four. *At the end of the day* is a fine ensemble piece, much like the band. The acting may be a little wonky at times, but the hysterical dialogue makes up for that.

Most remarkably, this is a feel good film that does not rely on any of the conventional feel good plot devices. There are no group hugs, no plot conveniences, no trite happy endings. Just a shrewdly observed and wittily captured human story about people who dream of making it out of their dreary world.