



AFI RESEARCH COLLECTION ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2009/2010

BACK TO THE FUTURE

It has been a really big year for us at the AFI Research Collection and we have benefited from the involvement of many people – staff, volunteers, and work placements. Special thanks and congratulations to Library Assistant/Special Projects Manager Olympia Szilagyi on the recent birth of her daughter Valentine - Enjoy the rest Olympia! All the best to all those who, after kindly giving their time to the AFIRC, have now gone on to employment in their various chosen fields.

With major industry research undertakings, contributing to academic and grant projects, providing data, research and support for publications and film industry events - amongst a myriad of other activities – it has been a very full dance card. Also anyone who visited us this year wouldn't be surprised to hear that at peak times AFIRC was receiving over 100 clients a week (during our 15hrs of public access!) and we added over 1400 items to the catalogue in the past 12 months.

We are not resting on our laurels in 2010, however we will be staying in our current location whilst continuing to work on the specifications for our new premises. We look forward to joining our colleagues in RMIT's exciting, brave new world of building 9 in the future.

Thanks to all for a great year.

AFIRC Director, A/Prof Deb Verhoeven

AFIRC Librarian, Alex Gionfriddo

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE

Information Management 'knowledge trading' is endemic at AFIRC! Clocking in for his fifth year as collection Librarian Alex Gionfriddo has been mixing it up at the reanimated SNIP (Screen Network Information Providers) meetings in Canberra and Sydney, forums on Social Media in Libraries and participating in RMIT Library's New Professionals Group. Everyone from overseas academics to film industry icons, international bloggers to institutional researchers, writers, filmmakers, cinema programmers, lecturers, school teachers and avalanches of students have made use of AFIRC and Alex's skills:

"Helping people find what they didn't realise we had - that they hadn't realised they needed - is a fun part of the job. Working with Australian stuntman Grant Page was one highlight this year but I love the detective work that each new research request brings and the surprising discoveries (of weird journals and wild film stills) that can be made."

Tertiary students across Melbourne have made enormous use of the AFIRC throughout the year but competition for desk space really heats up when assignments are due:

"One of the great by-products of a non-lending collection for me is witnessing the students exchanging research tips, sharing resources and discussing their projects with fellow students from other institutions. It can get hectic but when they're focused on the tasks at hand there can be a lot of energy and great ideas flying around the room"

In response to this demand the new AFIRC script room group-work area will now provide extra space for students and researchers.

THE RIGHT STUFF 09!

COLLECTION STAFF

Olympia Szilagyi, Amree Hewitt, Phuong Dang, Jenny Anderson, Tim Marriott, Harley MacDonald

VOLUNTEERS AND WORK PLACEMENTS

Aaron Thompson, Aaron Ngieng, Kat Cain, Lisa Joseph, Cathy Gillam, Adam Kolich, Jarrod Zlatic, Judy Wong, Danielle Johanesen, Francis Plagne, Michael Davies, Maree Vaughan, Gavin Bertram.



AFIRC Librarian Alex Gionfriddo and Collection visitor/user Australian stuntman extraordinaire Grant Page



PACKED TO THE RAFTERS

Given the enormous wealth of resources held in AFIRC the annual Collection Policy review by the Collection Development Committee is vital. Made up of RMIT and other academics, external stakeholders and interested parties the Committee identifies national and international trends in film and TV publications/journals and nominates focus areas for development.

Australian/NZ material is an ongoing priority. In addition this year acquisitions concentrated on Asian Cinema (including the Indian diasporic cinema) and collected in the areas of media convergence, audience reception, tourism and cinema, cross platform media analysis and research resources produced in formats other than print.

VISIONS OF LIGHT

AFIRC supported numerous projects via its research capabilities and access to materials, photographic stills this year and it is always gratifying to see the end result of our contribution to a world of different creative endeavours.

- 2009 saw the publication of three film books that made use of the collections resources: *SHINING A LIGHT: 50 Years of The Australia Film Institute* by Lisa French & Mark Poole (ATOM), *JANE CAMPION* by Deb Verhoeven (Routledge) – both RMIT University scholars – and *MAN ON FIRE: A Stunt of a Life* by Grant Page & Steve Wright (Allen and Unwin). Congratulations to the authors. All books are available in the collection.
- We continued to provide comprehensive weekly media coverage of the Australian film industry for the Australian Film Institute. Tracking the rise of professional Australian talent overseas, providing data and compiling an annual industry *in memoriam* for its celebration of Australian film - the AFI Awards.
- A special exhibition loan of an illustrated journal was made for ACMI's *DENNIS HOPPER AND THE NEW HOLLYWOOD* (Dec 2009-April 2010) and AFIRC continues to provide a vital research touchstone for curators and feature film/documentary filmmakers.

SWEET CHARITY

A huge thanks for all 2009 Collection Donations including: media academic Mick Counihan's government reports and personal papers focusing on journalism and radio; Roger Westcombe from a Canberra based film society for his archive of film catalogues and books; AFIRC also benefited from its relationship with RMIT library receiving a selection of de-accessioned film related titles. Thanks also to: Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS), Fran Lanigan, Cinema Nova (posters), Deb Verhoeven, Alex Gionfriddo, *Senses of Cinema*, Lisa French and many more friends and supporters.

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY

AFIRC have joined the ranks of social media metier this year. Keep up to date on AFIRC and industry news by becoming a Facebook friend via a link from our website www.afiresearch.rmit.edu.au or follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/afirc

For the traditionalists (!) who prefer to use email, join our weekly bulletin Filmfile: Just email us at afiresearch@rmit.edu.au

THE COMMITMENTS

The National Library of Australia cites the AFIRC as a 'heritage collection'. If you wish to volunteer or you are you interested in lending your expertise and becoming a member of the AFIRC Collection Development Committee contact AFIRC Librarian alexander.gionfriddo@rmit.edu.au



Three new publications that utilised AFIRC research resources now available in the collection.



THE BOURNE IDENTITY!

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE ACTORS? THE FILM OR TV PROGRAMME?

Our ongoing cataloguing of decades of production and publicity stills, both Australian and international, is a challenge to many a film/TV historian and popular culture fan! Stay posted for updates on our website as we will be inviting the public to try their hand at helping to identify our more challenging film stills.



One of the many resource rich dvds now available in the AFIRC new videotheque

IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES

AFIRC are proud to continue to support what the *London Times* calls the "best film journal in the world", supplying desk space and resources for the internationally renowned and respected online publication *Senses of Cinema* (who in turn kindly donate many monographs and items to the collection).

PROJECT X

AFIRC was excited to work on key industry, academic and collection projects this past year including: *The Business of Creativity: Understanding Australian Screen Content Producers*, a survey into producers roles and their expectations of the industry; *Mapping the Movies* a multi institutional Australian Research Council (ARC) funded project looking at patterns of film distribution and audience demographics across Australia; and our mammoth *Stills Cataloguing Project* creating information rich, individual catalogue records for every still/slide and transparency in the collection enabling greater research identification.

SHOCK OF THE NEW

New BONZA is online! Finally an online resource on Australian cinema in all its idiosyncratic glory. BONZA is a database of information on Australian and New Zealand film and TV originally compiled by RMIT students as part of their Media and Communications courses. It is available to anyone and we welcome contributions and comments. BONZA has recently been updated and features an improved user experience and expanded functionality.

<http://www.bonza.rmit.edu.au>



[About](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

bonza is an online collection of national cinema databases (to date French, Australian and New Zealand) prepared by film researchers and students.

bonza is also an educational tool that gives students the opportunity to learn film research by doing the work - investigating, evaluating, and publishing - of a film scholar and by actively connecting their own work to that of other researchers. The result is an ongoing, expanding anthology of information and learning about the film and television industries. This accumulated knowledge is available to students, teachers, researchers and the general public by viewing the online databases and the accompanying student essays.

If you have any questions and comments about the bonza databases please feel free to contact us: afiresearch@rmit.edu.au

To start using bonza in your classroom, register your interest on the "Join the Project" page.

Australia & New Zealand Database

Enter >>

French Cinema

Enter >>



RMIT University

New AFIRC *Videotheque Viewing Room* launches in 2010 with a selection of classic Australian feature films and television programs offering students and researchers moving image materials to supplement our existing text, photographic and online resources. This initiative recognises that resource rich media such as DVD are a key component in developing up-to-date research holdings.

New Crawfords Collection: Crawfords is a bedrock company of Australian radio and television that produced some iconic local programmes (*The Sullivans*, *Flying Doctors* etc). This amazing collection of Radio and Television scripts recently received by the AFIRC is our next big cataloguing challenge. Combined with our current script holdings and the film novelisation focused Levy Collection - now searchable via the AFIRC online catalogue - it will substantially add to the collections rich vein of literature and script materials.



THE VISITORS

AFIRC welcomed numerous international, national and local visitors this year from multiple disciplines and cultural sectors including: Dr. Ann-Marie Cook from the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, Kings College, London; PhD candidate Denise Naughton from Union University, Ohio, USA; and writer Andre Dias from Lisbon who was excited to find rare Portuguese language film journals in the collection not available in his country's own archives.



Cathy Robinson (Senior Project Officer, Government Record Keeping, State Records NSW) checks out our holdings.



'Not Quite Hollywood' director Mark Hartley researches his next film.



Portuguese writer Andre Dias, Monash University's Dr. Adrian Martin and AFIRC's Alex Gionfriddo perusing the stacks.

LOOKING FOR ALIBRANDI

This year AFIRC holdings data was activated as part of the Libraries Australia Catalogue. Journals, clippings folders and scripts will soon join the collections monographs in this national interlinked search engine <http://trove.nla.gov.au>

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web: www.afiresearch.rmit.edu.au

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Open: Tuesday 11 - 4
Wednesday 2 - 7
Thursday 11 - 4
other times by appointment

SPIRIT OF THE BEEHIVE



Busy, busy at the AFIRC working bee



Olympia in the script room cataloguing vortex!



Students browsing the AFIRC library.

FIND US



Enter from Russell St via lane between corner of La Trobe St and The Old Melbourne Gaol