



**Blue
Shield
Australia**

MayDay 2018

Some favourite movies, sites & books

MOVIES

Blackmail (1929)

Alfred Hitchcock's first sound film is also the first of his movies to contain a climactic set-piece at a famous landmark, anticipating the finale atop the Statue of Liberty of Saboteur (1942) and the chase down Mount Rushmore in North by Northwest (1959).

It's the story of a grocer's daughter, Alice White (Anny Ondra), who kills a man in self-defence and conceals the crime, only to find herself blackmailed by a low-life criminal. The drama comes to a head with a pursuit through the British Museum, including its round reading room (relocated in 1997) and its echoing exhibition spaces, before a nail-biting ascent up onto the domed roof of the library, with the cornered blackmailer shown in silhouette against the sky. In reality, it was too dark to film these sequences in the museum, so Hitchcock shot the action in a studio with transparencies as backdrops. Further Hitchcock museum scenes occur at Washington DC's National Gallery in Strangers on a Train (1951), at San Francisco's Palace of the Legion of Honor in Vertigo (1958) and at the Alte Nationalgalerie in Berlin for Torn Curtain (1966).

One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing (1975)

One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing is a very silly, but almost wholly delightful period romp set in a fogbound London between the two wars. It's about the attempt to regain a microfilm that businessman

Lord Southmere (Derek Nimmo) has smuggled out of China, later concealing it in the bones of a dinosaur housed in the Natural History Museum. After Chinese spies led by Hnup Wan (Peter Ustinov) steal the dinosaur, an army of nannies – under the prim-and-proper yoke of Southmere's former governess Hettie (Helen Hayes) – take pursuit, considering it their patriotic duty to retain the microfilm's secret formula for king and country. While Ustinov and his cohorts' relish in 'Yellow Peril' oriental stereotypes is squirm inducing, One of Our Dinosaurs Is Missing gets by on a witty script, an eye for atmospheric period detail, and an infectious flair for nonsense.

The Destruction of Memory (2016)

This film digs deep into the issue of cultural destruction, not just the present situations in Syria and Iraq, but the machinations of the past century and the decisions of the international community that got us to 'where we are'.

Based on the book of the same name by Robert Bevan the film tells the whole story - looking not just at the ongoing actions of Daesh (ISIS) and at other contemporary situations, but revealing the decisions of the past that allowed the issue to remain hidden in the shadows for so many years.

Interviewees in the film include the Director-General of UNESCO, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, as well as diverse and distinguished international experts, whose voices combine to address this urgent issue.

Visit their website for more information
<http://destructionofmemoryfilm.com/about>



Professor Hamidovic in front of Stari Most
Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina
Image: Faris Dobraca, from 'The Destruction of Memory'
Copyright Vest Productions USA 2015

The Monuments Men

The Monuments Men is a 2014 war film directed by George Clooney, and written and produced by Clooney and Grant Heslov. The film stars an ensemble cast including Clooney, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, John Goodman, Jean Dujardin, Bob Balaban, Hugh Bonneville, and Cate Blanchett. It is loosely based on the non-fiction book *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* by Robert M. Edsel and Bret Witter. The film follows an Allied group from the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program that is given the task of finding and saving pieces of art and other culturally important items before Nazis destroy or steal them, during World War II.

SITES

ALIA

The Australian Library and Information Association is the national professional organisation for the Australian library and information services sector.

They have prepared a number of guides and templates to get you started towards disaster preparedness. Visit their disaster planning page at <https://www.alia.org.au/information-and-resources/disaster-planning>

Chasing Aphrodite

A book, a website and live tweets!

In recent years, several of America's leading art museums have voluntarily given up their finest pieces of classical art to the governments of Italy and Greece. The monetary value is estimated at over half a billion

dollars. Why would they be moved to such unheard-of generosity?

The answer lies at the Getty, one of the world's richest and most troubled museums, and scandalous revelations that it had been buying looted antiquities for decades. Drawing on a trove of confidential museum records and frank interviews, Felch and Frammolino give us a fly-on-the-wall account of the inner workings of a world-class museum and tell the story of the Getty's dealings in the illegal antiquities trade. The outlandish characters and bad behaviour could come straight from the pages of a thriller—the wealthy recluse founder, the cagey Italian art investigator, the playboy curator, the narcissist CEO—but their chilling effects on the rest of the art world have been all too real, as the authors show in novelistic detail.

Fast-paced and compelling, *Chasing Aphrodite* exposes the layer of dirt beneath the polished façade of the museum business.

<https://chasingaphrodite.com/>

Q-DIS on MA Nexus

A small but active group of museum professionals have formed the Queensland Disaster Information Network (Q-DIS). The group is for sharing information on disaster preparedness and planning for heritage and cultural collections in Queensland.

You can sign up at

<http://manexus.ning.com/group/qdis/forum/topics/2017-cyclones>

Trafficking Culture

Donna Yates is a Lecturer in Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime at the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research at the University of Glasgow.

The goal of her research is to explore the relationship between communities, governments, the law, and the operation of transnational criminal markets and to help develop regulatory mechanisms for controlling the illicit antiquities trade. She conducts field-based research to better understand the implementation of

regulation and the behaviours, norms, and values of the stakeholder communities that are governed by it.

Follow her on Twitter [@DrDonnaYates](#)

The Art Newspaper

An online and paper publication founded in 1990 and based in London and New York. It provides a news service about the art world, fed by its network of sister editions, which together have around 50 correspondents working in over 30 countries, with editorial offices in London, Turin, New York, Paris, Moscow, Beijing and Athens.

The Art Newspaper covers news and developments in law, tax, and the political and economic spheres of cultural policy. Its reviewers and commentators include: Nicholas Serota, director of Tate; RoseLee Goldberg, founder-director of Performa; Jean-Hubert Martin, former director of the Pompidou Centre; the archaeologist, Colin Renfrew; Venice Biennale curator Robert Storr, and artist Grayson Perry. Visit the website at <http://theartnewspaper.com/>

DISACT

DISACT (Disaster ACT) was established by cultural and scientific collecting institutions in Canberra to improve disaster preparedness and provide local mutual assistance in the event of emergencies affecting public collections. DISACT sponsors disaster recovery training, conducts quarterly DISACT Network meetings and has a website resource.

Participants include the Australian War Memorial, National Archives of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, National Museum of Australia, Screen Sound Australia and a range of other agencies. These agencies have signed a memorandum of understanding, a mutual aid agreement to formalise this arrangement.



More information at <https://www.anbg.gov.au/disact>

AICCM

The Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials maintains a very active set of resources and events. You can stay in touch with conservation training and workshops by signing up to their website <https://aiccm.org.au>

BOOKS

The Sixteen Pleasures

By Robert Hellenga

Part mystery, part romance, part guidebook. A lively first novel that communicates the heady peril, as well as the adventure, of Florence after the flood."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

In this highly acclaimed bestseller, 29-year-old American book conservator Margot Harrington arrives in Florence, Italy, to save the water-logged library of a Carmelite convent. In her work, she uncovers *The Sixteen Pleasures*, a curious, centuries-old volume of sixteen erotic drawings coupled with sixteen steamy sonnets that sets off a flame of controversy throughout the Catholic Church, and changes Margot's life in ways she never imagined.

Cannibals and Missionaries

By Mary McCarthy

En route to Iran, a plane is captured by Middle Eastern terrorists intent on holding hostage the committee of politicians, religious leaders, and activists on a mission to investigate alleged human rights violations by the shah. But the kidnappers soon discover that there is a greater treasure onboard. Among the passengers are prominent art collectors with access to some of the world's most valuable paintings—priceless works that could fund global terrorist activities for decades.

After the captured plane sets down in a remote Dutch farming collective by the sea, events go rapidly and frighteningly awry. As negotiations with government agencies stall, concerns over rare artwork threaten to trump the regard for human life, and both captors and captives will face bitter truths about their conflicting values, manners, and ideologies as the ticking clock races inexorably toward an explosive endgame.

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