

Beautiful, delicate, hedgehog

The Popcorn Festival's second film is full of charm

The Hedgehog
 Directed by Mona Achache
 Rated M
 Review by David Hallett
 ★★★★★

Mona Achache's first feature film *The Hedgehog* is a charming, sensitive and unusual film which has a number of thought-provoking layers. The story is adapted from Muriel Barbery's best-selling novel 'The Elegance of the Hedgehog', with the screenplay written by Achache and Barbery.

The *Hedgehog* is a simple story about three misfits who live in a Paris apartment building in a well-to-do neighbourhood. The film is narrated by the precocious and highly intelligent 11-year-old Paloma Josse (Garance le Guillermic). She rejects the narrow fishbowl world of her family and the adults around her, and determines to kill herself on her 12th birthday. Paloma secretly films her family and neighbours, and immerses herself in art, philosophy and her incisive commentary on life.

The apartment building's concierge Renee Michel (Josiane



The Hedgehog tells of three misfits in Paris.

Balasko) is also an intelligent and cultured female, but she hides away her love of literature and film and appears to the world only as a sagging grump, withdrawn into her tiny flat with her cat, her books and her chocolate.

The new tenant Kakuro Ozo (Togo Igawa) becomes the spark in the lives of these two intelligent and lonely females. He is the first person who actually notices and converses with Paloma and, with considerable dignity, he draws the concierge out of her prickly shell.

Josiane Balasko is a marvel in her role, such that the smallest play of emotion across her face is beautifully realised. The young Garance le Guillermic is nothing short of brilliant as the artistic, fatalistic and bird-like Paloma.

The Hedgehog is a beautiful, delicate and eccentric French movie about relationships. Not to be missed.

The Hedgehog is the second feature in Norpa's Summer Popcorn series.

It will be screened at Star Court Theatre on Sunday, February 13, at 7pm.

Wonders of the world

IF you want to learn more about the wonders of the world, the Byron Bay chapter of The Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies is looking for new members from Lismore and Ballina.

Outgoing president Shirley Nelson says it's a not-to-be-missed opportunity for anyone interested in people and places, art, history and culture.

This year's lecture topics reflect the diversity of the program: the lives and art of Bloomsbury painters, the identification of Oriental rugs and carpets, Dame Elizabeth Murdoch at Cruden Farm and the ancient and exquisite craft of Egyptian tentmaking, to name a few.

"ADFAS brings the wonders of the world to our doorstep," says Mrs Nelson. "All of the lecturers are authorities in their specialised fields and their illustrated talks are always fascinating."

The first lecture on the Byron ADFAS calendar is *The Treasures of the*

Silk Road, on March 28.

No highway in the world is as laden with romance and adventure as the Silk Road and the lecture presenter - British historian, travel writer, film producer, tour guide, and professional photographer Chris Bradley - knows it well.

Bradley began travelling in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia as a civil engineer and is now a respected lecturer, a highly regarded tour guide and the author of guidebooks to the Yemen, Abu Dhabi, Cairo, the Silk Road and the Red Sea.

ADFAS Byron & Districts will offer eight lectures this year and, if you'd like to check out the full program, it is available on the website at http://www.adfas.org.au/societies/byron-bay_index.html.

Lectures are held at the Bangalow A&I Hall, starting at 6.30pm, with wine and light supper to follow.

More info: Prue Langer on 6685 3495 or email adfas.byron@gmail.com



An intricately decorated mosque along the Silk Road.

A colourist under the trees

CLUNES artist Donna Sharam will hold a solo show at 19Karen at Mermaid Beach on the Gold Coast.

The former fashion designer

calls herself a Fauvist or a colourist and her paintings testify to her joyous use of pattern and hue.

Born in Sydney in 1967, Sha-

ram graduated from Sydney College of the Arts with a BA in Fashion & Textile Design.

While her art practice is only six years old she has now taken part in four solo exhibitions in the Brisbane and Byron Bay areas and many group shows including Art Melbourne 2009.

Her work has recently been selected as a finalist in the 2010 Caldera Art Prize and her work now hangs in residential and commercial spaces worldwide.

The idea for her show "Lying Under Trees" came about when she and her son were lying under a tree at Wategos Beach, Byron Bay. Looking up into the canopy they saw differing shapes, colours and textures.

"My work often talks about the built and natural environment co-existing in harmony," she says.

"Trees are the most important tool in nature; they keep our atmosphere clean, healthy and provide food and shelter."

Sharam's show opens on February 19 and runs until March 19.

Info: 6629 1718.



Seccession (Ficus Macrophylla - Moreton Bay Fig).

Zen sushi

authentic japanese

Open for Dinner

Modern, fashionable and delicious Tokyo style cuisine
 Fully licensed
 Eat in / Take away

LUNCH: Mon to Fri 10:30am to 3:30pm
 Sat. 10:30 to 2pm
 DINNER: Wed to Sat from 6pm to late

104 Keen St. Lismore
 Phone : 6621 3141



zensushi.com.au

I DON'T THINK THE GRASS TASTES RIGHT THIS MORNING AND I BLAME THE GOVERNMENT

Don't miss the unpredictable **Thirsty Cow**, revealing the real stories behind national events and declaring a war on spin.

Another reason to read your local newspaper every day in 2011. Every Monday in

Northern Star



NEW IN 2011

3748648aa