

# Bean Bags aren't just for kids...

We recently started a new film program at Northcliffe's Bean Bag cinema, a partnership with Northcliffe Library and Southern Forest Arts.

## Film Review – *Burning Man*. Rated MA15+

Thanks to those who helped us inaugurate the screening program last month by coming along to the screening of the Australian film, *Burning Man*.

When I was in high school I won an award in a short story prize. My story was about an old man grieving and, at the end, dying. What did my 15 year old self know about such a topic? Zero. Instead I had read a lot of books and watched a lot of TV. Somehow the judges were fooled that there was substance behind my gothically maudlin prose.

I'm not suggesting the writer / director of *Burning Man* hasn't experienced grief or death, but the *Burning Man* script does feel like it hoodwinked the film funding bodies with an overwrought story centered around death.

Just because grieving is a complex and emotional process, that doesn't automatically carry across to the script and the actors' performances.

On the brighter side, *Burning Man* featured some incredible cinematography and absurd Australia humor: A car transporting raw meat gets into an accident. The paramedics think scattered red meat chunks are human parts and prepare for the worst.

Decide for yourself by watching *Burning Man* for free online, on the Kanopy platform. Visit Northcliffe library if you don't have your Kanopy login yet.

# a little CRC

## SCREENING IN AUGUST - *His Girl Friday*, 1940

*His Girl Friday* is adapted from a 1928 play and a 1931 film about the newspaper business called *The Front Page*. In 1940 director Howard Hawks decided to use Cary Grant's skills as one of the funniest actors of all time to make the film brighter and breezier, with wisecracks and dialogue delivered with "the speed and accuracy of a Spitfire". Cary Grant had the skill to quickly turn from comedy to the poignant and dramatic and to play a cynical character who could also be noble and dramatic.

In a sign of the times a reviewer in June 1940 said "(the) picture ... flashes by you before you have had time to remember that for an hour and a half you have forgotten the war."

But *His Girl Friday* is more than war-time escapism. According to *Variety* magazine *His Girl Friday* "feels contemporary in a way that many old films don't because the humor is so organic to the characters". And the humor is dark:

Hildy Johnson: "Walter, you're wonderful, in a loathsome sort of way."

"I swear it on my mother's grave!" "Your mother's still alive." "All-right, my grandmother's grave - don't be technical"

McCue, reporter: "Pete, why can't you hang this guy at 5 o'clock instead of 7?"

Bensinger: "Sure, it won't hurt you and we can make the City Edition."

Sheriff Hartwell: "Oh, well, now that's kind of raw... I can't hang a man in his sleep just to please a newspaper."

## Northcliffe's Bean Bag Cinema presents...

# HIS GIRL FRIDAY

7pm Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August



"The next time you see me, I shall be riding in a Rolls Royce giving interviews on success."

"Perhaps the funniest, certainly the fastest talkie comedy ever made." Geoff Andrew, *Time Out*

No bookings required—  
just come along  
@ Northcliffe Library.

Free popcorn supplied.  
Doors open 7pm  
screenings start 7:15pm

Presented by Northcliffe  
Library, Northcliffe CRC  
and Southern Forest Arts.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am to 5pm | Thursday, Friday 10 am to 6pm