



Phillip Island Movie Club

Last month's film *A Separation* received 3.7 through the StarBox vote by the members.

This month's film on the **26th October 2016** is *The Human Cargo* a documentary by Daniele Vicari and was screened at the 69th Venice Film Festival.

On August 8, 1991, the ship Vlora, returned from Cuba and arrived at the port of Durazzo, Albania, with 10,000 tons of sugar in stowage. During the unloading process, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity presented itself to residents of Durazzo and they took advantage literally in their tens of thousands. An uncontrollable throng of men, women and children climbing aboard the boat, forcing the captain to deliver them to a new life. The passage was rough and dangerous for all 20,000 people crowded aboard. To those who saw her approaching from the port of Bari, Italy, the ship resembled a teeming ant hill, an ill-defined mass of bodies clinging to one another, yelling out in a chorus "Italia, Italia". Upon docking, mayhem ensued from the hysteria of the hordes, many of them suffering from dehydration and exhaustion – each person fighting for a chance at a new life. *The Human Cargo* is a dramatic, little-known piece of history shown through extensive actual footage of breathtaking scenes, and told from the perspectives of those who experienced it themselves.

The story is told through the footage, interviews with actual participants and the officials at the port. Because actual live footage has been used, some scenes are quite grainy on a large screen and this is juxtapositioned against the more current interviews with participants that appear stark in appearance.

The film doesn't really investigate the political situation that could force so many people to make such a snap decision to hop on the ship at such short notice. Albania was the last country in Eastern Europe to transition from a totalitarian communist regime to an incipient form of democracy. In 1991 there was political instability and dissatisfaction with the regime. They had seen the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1990 and this had increased the urge for a better life.

2017 Phillip Island Movie Club (PIMC) Membership Applications will be available at the October film night. Applications can be completed and returned at the November film night or posted to the PIMC mail box that is cited on the application. Please note

that we require a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your tickets when we process them in January.

The raffle this month is an \$80 voucher to be used at The Waterboy Cafe, 58 Chapel St, Cowes.

Doors open at 7.20pm and the event is for members only.

Any queries can be made on 0434 531 147.