Come and enjoy Tasmania’s celebration of a home-grown Hollywood Icon

Program Guide

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Be ‘in like Flynn’ to 10 days of events!

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One hundred years after his birth in Tasmania, Errol Flynn reigns as the supreme swashbuckler in the history of film.

To millions during the Thirties and Forties, Flynn epitomised glamour, action and romance in cinema classics such as “Captain Blood”, “The Adventures of Robin Hood” and “The Sea Hawk”.

If Errol’s journey from the Hobart suburb of Battery Point to international stardom during Hollywood’s ‘Golden Age’ was just as action-packed as those he portrayed on-screen, it was also more improbable — and certainly more controversial.

His was a personality that was larger than life in every respect: a unique mixture of charm, urbanity, recklessness, indulgence, swagger and non-conformity that seduced and outraged many, kept courts and newspaper front pages busy, and left Flynn himself burnt-out and prematurely dead at the age of 50.

But nobody has wielded a sword, swept away a damsel or filled a pair of tights like Errol Flynn since he first commanded the world’s attention. He was, and is likely to remain, Tasmania’s most famous son.

The Errol Flynn Centenary Committee invites you to celebrate the life and achievement of this complex legend.

With movies at the State Cinema in Hobart, memorabilia at the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, swordfighting in the Elizabeth Street Mall, or partying with Errol’s daughter Rory and grandson Sean at the Heart Foundation Gala Ball on the actual night of his birthday, it’s the most fun you’ll have in a 100 years!
World famous Hollywood film star Errol Flynn was determined to make his mark on the world. In his own words he had a deadly fear of mediocrity. Rory Flynn, Errol’s daughter by his second of three marriages, has loaned objects and correspondence for Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery’s new temporary display, while other material has been borrowed from collectors and members of the Errol Flynn Society of Tasmania.

These items tell the story of an intelligent man who played with truth, sought solace in the arms of women and the sea, and searched, to no avail, for a deeper meaning to his life.

Each item in the display represents a stage in Errol’s life.

Precious items such as his birth certificate and his Hutchins School Badge tell the story of Flynn’s time in Hobart, while his Declaration of Intention marks his attainment of American citizenship.

His love of the water can be seen through a transcript written by Flynn detailing his adventures on his 118 foot schooner the Zacca, a pair of swimming trunks worn by the A-list celebrity and a letter to his yet-to-be second wife Nora during his time in Jamaica.

A number of Errol’s letters to Nora throughout the different stages of their lives are displayed, and demonstrate not only the charm of one of Hollywood’s most debonair stars, but Errol and Nora’s continuing fondness for one another following their divorce.

Rory has also loaned a prop dagger used by the swashbuckling actor in one of his many adventure films, along with photographs detailing the extent of his acting career.

Errol Flynn was a mixture of charm and roguery, a victim of his own fame. But in all his exploits, he managed to avoid succumbing to the mediocrity of everyday life.
Errol Flynn Film Festival

Tasmania’s most famous swashbuckler returns to the silver screen in his home town. Hollywood’s Golden Age will come to life in North Hobart for a week of Flynn’s most exciting action greats. Come along and be swept away as Flynn suavely swordfights and courageously conquists his way through a rousing selection of classic adventure tales!

The Adventures of Robin Hood (1938)
In Michael Curtiz’s spectacle about the infamous outlaw and his band of merry men who “robbed from the rich and gave to the poor,” Robin Hood (Flynn) fights nobly for justice against the evil Sir Guy of Gisbourne, while striving to win the hand of the beautiful Maid Marian (Olivia de Havilland). Flynn joyously embraces the role widely considered the best of his bountiful array of swashbuckling legends.

The Charge of the Light Brigade (1936)
A sweeping cinematic marvel loosely adapted from the Lord Tennyson poem of the same name, depicts the events leading up to the suicidal 1854 British cavalry attack on Russian forces at Balaklava during the Crimean War. Flynn plays Major Geoffrey Vickers, a dashing British officer who vows revenge on Surat Khan after witnessing the despotic ruler’s pitiless slaughter of British soldiers and their wives and children at a fort in India.

Sponsored by Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees
Adventures of Don Juan (1949)

Flynn seems to be winking at his own off-screen image in the role he was born to play. As the legendary lover, he returns to Spain and takes the post of fencing instructor at the royal academy. He becomes involved in court intrigue and swordplay when he hears of a plot against his adoring Queen.

Captain Blood (1935)

In the classic swashbuckling epic that catapulted him to worldwide stardom, Flynn plays Dr. Peter Blood, an English physician unjustly convicted of treason and sentenced to slavery in the West Indies. Relying on his formidable nerve and wit, he escapes and soon becomes a feared pirate known as Captain Blood, a brilliant swordsman and seaman whose fiercely loyal crew is made up of runaway slaves grateful to him for winning their freedom.

The Dawn Patrol (1938)

In 1915 France, Major Brand commands the 39th Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps. The young airmen go up in bullet-riddled ‘crates’ and the casualty rate is appalling, but Brand can’t make the ‘brass hats’ at headquarters see reason. Insubordinate air ace Captain Courtney (Flynn) is another thorn in Brand’s side... but finds the smile wiped from his face when he rises to command the squadron himself.

The Sea Hawk (1940)

Geoffrey Thorpe (Flynn), a buccaneer, is hired by Queen Elizabeth I to nag the Spanish Armada. The Armada is waiting for the attack on England and Thorpe surprises them with attacks on their galleons where he shows his skills on the sword.
“Errol Flynn Tour of Hobart” Brochure Launch

Few visitors to Tasmania would be aware that Errol Flynn was born in Hobart. The old Queen Alexandra Maternity Hospital in Battery Point is the starting point for this journey of discovery. This brochure features the various houses where the Flynn family lived, the many schools attended by Errol, together with other places where he roamed as a youngster.

Launch booking contact Nicole Spooner spoonern@hobartcity.com.au phone (03) 6238 2853
For brochure information contact Brendan Lennard lennardb@hobartcity.com.au phone (03) 6238 2883

Rory Flynn Book Signing “The Baron of Mulholland”

“The Baron of Mulholland” documents a child’s loving memory of her Father through beautiful pictures and letters owned exclusively by Rory Flynn. Errol remains one of Tasmania’s greatest stars. Purchase a personally signed edition of “The Baron of Mulholland” written by Rory Flynn for $49.95.
Unveiling of the Errol Flynn Commemorative Plaque

Acknowledging Errol Flynn’s contribution to Tasmania and the motion picture industry, the plaque celebrates the connection between Tasmania’s most famous Hollywood star and the renaissance of North Hobart’s independent cinema. Once the 2009 centenary celebrations are completed, the plaque will remain as an enduring reminder of this special Tasmanian movie star.

Heart Foundation Annual Gala Ball

The Heart Foundation’s Annual Gala Ball for 2009 will be an evening of swashbuckling adventure and mild extravaganza with a touch of fantasy. The Ball will be held on Saturday 20 June 2009 – Errol Flynn’s 100th Birthday. To help us pay tribute to this Hollywood legend and Tasmania’s most famous son, Errol’s daughter, Rory Flynn and grandson, Sean Amir-Flynn are flying from Los Angeles to attend the celebration.

Contact Events Officer Felicity Ey on (03) 6224 2722 for bookings.
Festival information

Centenary Celebration Activities
Additional Centenary Celebration activities will be announced in the lead-up to the festival launch on 12 June 2009. Stay tuned to festival station 936 ABC Radio Hobart for more information, activities and events, as well as interviews and special promotions. All changes and amendments to the program will be updated on www.flynncentenarycelebration.com.au.

Festival Guests
Errol Flynn’s daughter Rory Flynn is the patron of the Errol Flynn Centenary Celebration, and is a Festival Guest along with Errol’s grandson Sean Flynn. Rory is author of “The Baron of Mulholland”. Sean is following in the acting footsteps of his grandfather, and is one of the stars of the series “Zoey 101” on ABC TV.

Event Bookings
Bookings for all events within this program are organised by the event presenter. Please check individual event listings for information on bookings.

Centenary Subcommittee
The Errol Flynn Centenary Celebration has been organised by an inspired group of volunteers which include:

- Martin Blackwell, TasMusic;
- Charles Bracewell, Events Tasmania;
- Peta Dowell-Hentall, Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery;
- Carole Edwards and Brendan Lennard, Hobart City Council;
- Sonia Finlayson, Forest Lodge Productions;
- Amy Grubb, Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees;
- Hon. Michael Hodgman QC MP
- Christopher Lawrence, ABC Radio;
- Graeme Lynch, Heart Foundation;
- Steve Randell, Errol Flynn Society of Tasmania;
- Brian Ritchie, MONA FOMA;
Ten Days of Events:

- Errol Flynn Centenary Display
- Swashbuckling in Hobart Mall
- Tasmanian visit of Rory & Sean Flynn
- Errol Flynn Film Festival
- Errol Flynn tour of Hobart Brochure launch
- Rory Flynn Book Signings
- Errol Flynn Commemorative Plaque Unveiling
- Heart Foundation Annual Gala Ball

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