



At the Supper Room, Town Hall, Ferguson St St Williamstown,  
at 7.30 pm, last Wednesday of the month. Lift near door to Library

**2021 Program**

**Return Home**

It's 1990 and Noel McKenzie (Dennis Coard) has wandered back to his Adelaide stomping ground after years in Melbourne as a corporate high-flyer; a pending divorce and job pressures see him at a crossroads and yearning for the simpler life.

He reunites with older brother Steve (Frankie J Holden), who along with wife Judy (Micki Camilleri) has inherited the running of the struggling small-time family servo. Steve too is at a crossroads in life; stressed but not keen on change, his comfortable hometown existence is threatened by shifting industry focus and looming big-business saturation.

Mixed in is a sub-plot concerning Gary (Ben Mendelsohn), Steve's apprentice, a hot-head generally at odds with the world who Noel takes under his wing.

Through this pair director Ray Argall, who also wrote the screenplay, paints an empathetic picture of a disappearing Australia as the burgeoning profit-driven dictates of economic rationalism sweeps aside paper boys on bikes, local shops and neighbourly values.

Whilst the simplicity of the story is ipart of the film's charm, it also is an elegy for a past way of living, of becoming a man and a changing townscape.

Return Home is an absolute gem of a local production that treats us to a snapshot of suburban Australian life from a sorely missed time. Okay, it was filmed in my childhood beachside home suburb of Glenelg in Adelaide, which makes me instantly biased, but the sounds, sights and language of old-school Australiana are hard to beat

Melbourne filmmaker Ray Argall (Midnight Oil: 1984) won the Australian Film Institute Award for best director – and five stars each from David Stratton and Margaret Pomeranz – for Return Home, his feature debut after cutting his teeth in music videos and as a cinematographer (including on MIFF 2017's Tender Hooks). Music is by Split Enz' Phillip Judd (Death in Brunswick, The Big Steal, Starstruck) and the cinematographer is Mandy Walker (Australia, Hidden Figures, Mulan)

See the trailer at : [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_3CL12eNaE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_3CL12eNaE)

Colour Running time: 87 mins

**Starbox Results**

Score	5	4	3	2	1	RATING
ROSALIE BLUM	22	14	2	0	0	4.5