



PIAF FILM SEASON

Lemon Tree ★★★

Israeli director Eran Riklis manages to bring a complex, intractable political situation down to human level with this sweet, insightful tale of a Palestinian woman (Hiam Abbass) who sets out to save her family's ancient lemon grove when it is deemed a security threat. Abbass, who was so wonderful as Richard Jenkins' love interest in *The Visitor*, gives a touching performance as the stoic widow Salma Zidane who challenges the might of the Israeli military forces. But this gentle examination of the impact of Arab-Israeli conflict on ordinary lives does evolve and deepen to push Lemon

Tree into must-see territory. At the Joondalup Pines tonight and tomorrow night at 8.30. Rated G. (Mark Naglazas)

Buddha Collapsed Out of Shame ★★★

In post-Taliban Afghanistan a girl is determined to get an education in the face of economic privation and prejudice. It's a wholly entrancing quest of Homeric proportions in which the engaging central performance from Nikbakht Noruz pushes the film through its somewhat heavy-handed middle section to give us an affecting, thought-provoking insight into a part of the world we are never likely to visit. At the Somerville Auditorium tonight and tomorrow night at 8.30. Rated PG. (Pier Leach)



A Pain in the Ass ★★★

Fans of master French farceur Francis Veber (*The Closet*, *The Dinner Game*) will have a good time at this typically convoluted tale involving a cold-blooded hitman (Al Pacino-ish Richard Berry) and his perennial dimwit Pignon, this time played by Patrick Timsit. The mismatched pair cross paths when Berry's professional killer has his latest job interrupted when he stumbles across a heartbroken Pignon attempting to kill himself, kicking off the beginning of a not-so-beautiful friendship. *A Pain in the Ass* is on at the Somerville Auditorium from Monday until March 15. Rated M. (Mark Naglazas)

French Film

Hugh Bonneville plays a British writer who interviews a French film filmmaker (Eric Cantona) who he regards as "a bit of a tosser". However, the Frenchman's discourses on love and life come in handy with the cynical Londoner's troubled romance. At the Joondalup Pines from Monday to March 15. Rated M. (not previewed)