

The Dish

Year 2000

Country: Australia

Certificate 12

Length 101 minutes

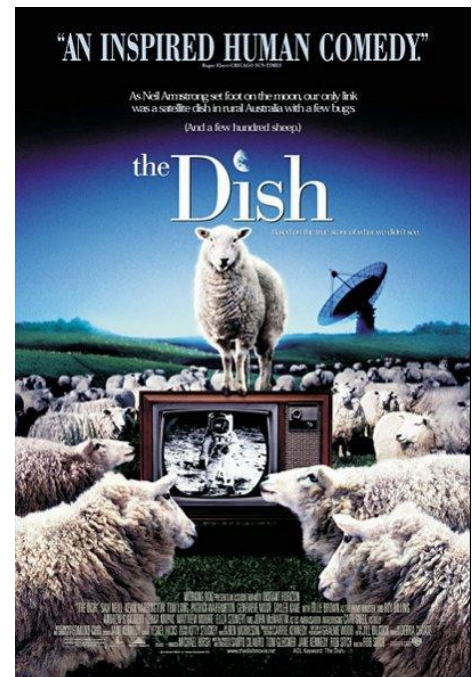
Director: Rob Sitch

Screenplay: Santo Cilauro; Tom Gleisner; Jane Kennedy and Rob Sitch

Cinematography: Graeme Wood

Cast (in credits order)

Sam Neill	Cliff Buxton
Kevin Harrington	Ross 'Mitch' Mitchell
Tom Long	Glenn Latham
Patrick Warburton	Al Burnett
Genevieve Mooy	May McIntyre
Taylor Kane	Rudi Kellerman
Bille Brown	Prime Minister
Roy Billing	Mayor Robert 'Bob' McIntyre
Andrew S. Gilbert	Len Purvis
Lenka Kripac	Marie McIntyre
Matthew Moore	Keith Morrison
Eliza Szonert	Janine Kellerman
John McMartin	U.S. Ambassador Howard



Based on a true story, The Dish follows the events behind the Apollo XI moon mission in July 1969.

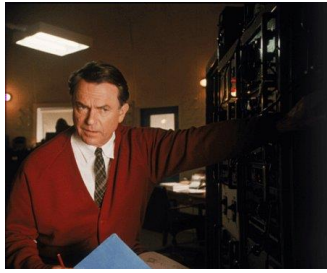


"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Everyone can quote Neil Armstrong's famous message from the surface of the moon, on 20 July 1969. That moment was viewed by millions on television, and was recently voted the most memorable moment in television history. Yet, how many people know the part Australia played in relaying those famous images back to earth? That's the inspiration behind **The Dish**, a charming period piece.

NASA had originally intended to broadcast from their facilities in California. However Armstrong, in the heat of the excitement of the adventure, overruled NASA's sleep break instruction and announced that he and Buzz were going out right away. This caused a schedule change, resulting in attention switching to Parkes, Australia.

G'day, Houston!

The film accepts that the audience knows how the story ends. It has therefore several subplots, including the reception given to the American Ambassador. None of these secondary story threads detract from the central element of the film. Indeed the film is not so much about the moon landing as it is about the gathering together of a town and the unsung courage of the behind the scenes people who are as important to any great events those in the limelight.



Amongst an outstanding cast, Sam Neill demonstrates yet again what a superb actor he is. He portrays the manager of the satellite station, rallying his team when the pressure is on. He is a man of great inner strength and integrity, who occasionally shows a hint of sadness. The reason for this is explained in the film, and it is to the credit of director and co-writer Rob Sitch that it neither dwelt upon nor allowed to become some silly melodramatic moment.

This is only the second feature film by Sitch, who after a television career “down under”, wrote and directed *The Castle*, which received good reviews in 1997, but a very limited release in the UK.

The film is lovely to watch, presented in rich tones to complement the pleasant landscape of New South Wales. It looks for all the world like a mainstream movie, but has the gentle humour and affectionate detail of the best quirky indie pictures.



The Dish successfully transports us back in time to that different era, without resorting to some of the clichéd clothing, attitudes or language of the period, used so often as sloppy identification points by other films.

That said it does have a soundtrack peppered with happy 60's tunes like “ Good Morning Sunshine” and “You Make Me So Very Happy”. Look out in particular for the rendition of a famous television theme song of the era!



The Dish is a delightful comedy with a heart – a rare thing in the movies these days. In an age when most Hollywood comedies seem only to aim to shock or are targeted at the juvenile market, this film provides a pleasant counter example. It also provides a couple of hours of wholesome fun!

The film does not try to generate large scale suspense, which would be thwarted by our knowledge of history. Instead it tells a simple story and gives us a small group of affable, believable characters.

Let yourself enjoy the feast!

Iain McGlashan