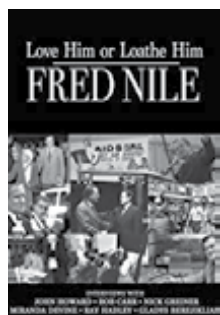




# A Modern Retelling

Reviews by Peter Bentley

Image: IMDb

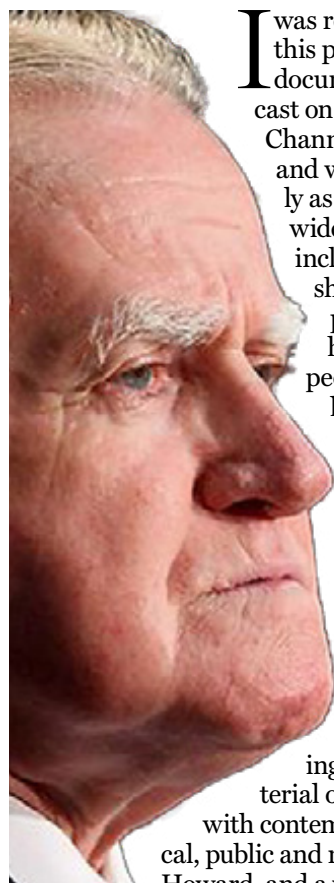


## Love Him or Loathe Him: Fred Nile (2018)

**Starring:** Fred Nile, John Howard, Bob Carr, Archbishop Glenn Davies

**Written by:** Richard Attieh

**Directed by:** Richard Attieh



I was recently provided with a copy of this professional and well-produced documentary that has been broadcast on the Australian Christian Channel. The film is illuminating and well worth viewing, particularly as it helps to illustrate Fred Nile's wider range of matters of interest, including significant relationships and support for indigenous people, and concern for public health issues. There are few people in contemporary political life that have had more written and communicated about them than The Reverend Hon. Fred Nile MLC. The documentary gives a helpful and succinct overview of Fred Nile's ministry and life, with an amazing range of commentary via short interviews with people other than Fred Nile himself. The focus is on telling his story using excerpts from television material over many years, interspersed with contemporary comments from political, public and media figures, including John Howard, and a wide range of NSW politicians.



## Little Women (2018)

**Starring:** Sarah Devonport, Lea Thompson, Allie Jennings

**From an original story by:** Louisa May Alcott

**Written by:** Clare Niederpruem

**Directed by:** Clare Niederpruem

## A gentle film for the holidays.

This *Little Women* is the latest film based on the Louisa May Alcott novel and made before the launch of a re-made traditional version. What makes this version distinct is that it has a modern setting and the four sisters are all women of the 21st century. The key question is still there though - what do you want to do in your life? I found this fascinating as marriage is still the context, rather than relationships, and today this consideration of faithful male - female marriage is a counter-cultural approach to the individualistic trend of looking to your own fulfilment.

There are some whimsical moments, including a really lovely cat, and aspects that will resonate with people in Australia, even though it is an American setting. The role of fantasy and fable are brought into a modern setting though without the usual focus on horror or desecration. It is a helpful and gentle family film in a time when the idea is developing that there is no need have a family or perhaps even be part of one. In this film there are positive models of women and men. The father is now a military doctor and is often away, and the mother and children clearly all have love and support for him and each other, and together exemplify a faithful bond of unity. I see this *Little Women* primarily as a good film for mothers and daughters to see together and talk about - it could lead to deeper conversations about what is really important in this short life we are given by God.