LIKE AN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ALL YEAR

“The Mercury cinema first started screening at a pivotal time in cinema. The Sundance generation of independent filmmakers were exploding onto the scene just as world cinema started to go mainstream with cinemagoers embracing a diversity of voices and represented experiences like never before. To honour that moment and the role the Mercury Cinema had in bringing all this to the people of Adelaide, we will be screening some of the iconic “Mercury films” and seeking to explore just how much this cinema and its poster programs defined a generation of cinemagoers.” - Ryder Grindle, Program Curator

www.mercurycinema.org // 13 Morphett Street, Adelaide, 5000 // hello@mercuryxc.org // 8410 0979

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE
All films start at 7:00pm

MERCURY AT 30
Mon 21 Mar // Wings of Desire
Wed 23 Mar // Europa Europa
Mon 28 Mar // Delicatessen
Wed 30 Mar // Orlando
Mon 04 Apr // Bandit Queen
Wed 06 April // Wild Reeds
Mon 11 Apr // Antonia’s Line

GEN X RATED
Wed 13 Apr // Singles
Wed 20 Apr // Reality Bites
Wed 27 Apr // Ghost World

MARTIN SCORSESE’S IMPERIAL PHASE
Mon 02 May // Jules Et Jim
Wed 04 May // The Untouchables
Mon 09 May // Goodfellas
Wed 11 May // Cape Fear (1941)
Mon 16 May // Vertigo
Wed 18 May // Cape Fear (1991)
Mon 23 May // The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp
Wed 25 May // The Leopard
Mon 30 May // The Age of Innocence
Wed 01 Jun // 8½
Mon 06 Jun // The Sweet Smell of Success
Wed 08 Jun // Casino
Wed 15 Jun // The 400 Blows
Mon 20 Jun // The Chess Players
Wed 22 Jun // Kundun

THE AUSTRALIAN (RE)INVASION
Mon 27 Jun // Proof
Wed 29 Jun // Strictly Ballroom
Mon 04 Jul // Romper Stomper
Wed 06 Jul // The Piano

EXCLUSIVE FILMMAKER Q&As

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Barring all Acts of God, Fire, Flood or Famine as far as we know the Calendar was correct at the time of printing. We apologize in advance for any changes that may occur.

The biggest hit of Brian De Palma’s career. Its influence on crime cinema can be felt to this day. With David Mamet’s elegantly efficient script, Sean Connery’s Oscar winning turn and a spectacular canny adaptation only builds upon it. While “Singles” and “Reality Bites” gesture toward the alienation of Gen X, “Ghost World” soaks you in it. A classic.

Nothing captured the Gen X malaise quite like Daniel Clowes’ bleak comic series and Terry Zwigoff’s development hell for a couple of years. When it finally came out, it was savaged by critics. However, it has a cast of unforgettable characters. In doing so, it won festival awards and the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

If you had a Mercury program on the line for a few hours in your share house, you were probably Gen X. The 90s saw the ascendency of Gen X as a cultural force with grunge music providing much of the soundtrack (the Mercury opened the same year that Nirvana performed “Smells Like Teen Spirit”). This combination of a newly defined generation and its music made for a moment where filmmakers were keen to explore. Films that now act as a time capsule of the time when all you needed was a flannel shirt and an attitude.

MARTIN SCORSESE'S IMPERIAL PHASE

The Age of Innocence

A touching and honest film about the sexual awakening of teenagers and their passage into adulthood. Directed by Marleen Gorris

POMPEI

A cohort of actors who would soon come to dominate Hollywood. In this program, we will look at the visionary filmmaking duo who would bring us such classics as “The City of Lost Children” and “Irreversible.”

One of the most iconic films ever made and widely considered Alfred Hitchcock’s masterpiece. Although a box office disappointment upon release, this exploration of psychological obsession with a career-best James Stewart only gets better with time. Always worth revisiting.

One of the greatest ever film lists. Martin Scorsese is a true visionary filmmaker, and it is fitting that he is the only director to have his own programme as part of the Mercury’s The Age of Innocence. It is most clear.

Vertigo

A documentary on the making of the film. This film deals with a moment of incredible change in Indian history and is told from a comical view. This French New Wave coming-of-age drama film, and directorial debut by François Truffaut not only

THE LEOPARD

The very definition of a sweeping epic, “The Leopard” was a hit in Europe but underperformed in the US - perhaps as a result of changes made by Fox that led to it being restricted in New York. While such a piece might seem out of place in his body of work, all of Scorsese’s themes are still here.

THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS

This film New Wave coming-of-age drama film, and directorial debut by François Truffaut not only defines much of that movement but also the very nature of childhood as represented on screen. Loved by countless filmmakers, Kurosawa called it “one of the most beautiful films that I have ever seen.”

THE CHESS PLAYERS

A spiritual companion piece to “The Last Temptation of Christ,” this film is the extraordinary story of a child separated from his parents at birth and brought up in a monastery. Based on a spiritual comic strip by Joscelyn Moorhouse

THE ATOMIC AGE

A touching and honest film about the sexual awakening of teenagers and their passage into adulthood. Directed by Marleen Gorris

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