

The Third Man's Vienna

Celebrating a Film Classic



THE THIRD MAN is one of the great films of all time. Equally, it is the quintessential Vienna film. 10 chapters and hundreds of film and production stills - most of them never published before - as well as maps of locations and historic photographs accompany you through the Vienna of THE THIRD MAN, a Vienna which you have never seen like this before.

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THE THIRD MAN'S VIENNA is essential reading for film buffs and film historians, for devotees of Graham Greene, admirer's of Carol Reed's craftsmanship and for those who love a fascinating account of one of the most brilliant collaborations in the history of film.

Scripted by Graham Greene, directed by Carol Reed and shot in Cold War Vienna, the story of black market racketeer Harry Lime, his naive pulp fiction writer Holly Martins and beautiful refugee Anna Schmidt has never wanted for praise and adulation since its first showing in 1949.

THE THIRD MAN, however, is more than just a mystery thriller that happened to be shot in Vienna. It is the quintessential Vienna movie and a unique historical document of the city as a microcosm of world politics far beyond imperial splendour and the Strauss waltzes. It most accurately captures the tension, mistrust and fear so characteristic of post-war Europe - fact and fiction beautifully amalgamated, with character relationships becoming symbolic of national and political relationships. Never before and never after has Vienna been so realistically portrayed in a work of fiction nor the city's face brought alive on the silver screen more impressively. Vienna shocks as a city bereaved of its dignity and at the same time fascinates as a metaphor of a world that had physically and morally fallen into pieces.

Ten chapters, hundreds of film- and production stills (many of these now published for the first time), scores of historic photographs of post-war Vienna, posters and pamphlets issued by the Allied Occupation Authorities, official documents and private letters, cartoons and music scores as well as first-hand accounts of people involved in the making of the movie - among them film director Guy Hamilton (Goldfinger) – tell the fascinating story behind the making of the film and take the reader on a journey through a Vienna few have seen like this before. The book investigates original locations, brings to life the key protagonists and pays due tribute to Reed's 'team of excellence' and the splendid Continental cameo cast.

THE THIRD MAN'S VIENNA also offers readers a chance to linger over the key moments of the film and to follow the dizzying layering and complexity with which Graham Greene and Carol Reed wove together an amazingly rich tapestry of fact and fiction from their own lives and the lives of the city that is so accurate that you take it for real. Just below the very thin veneer of fiction, there lie deep layers of documentary facts which make the reader wonder what THE THIRD MAN would have been like without Vienna.