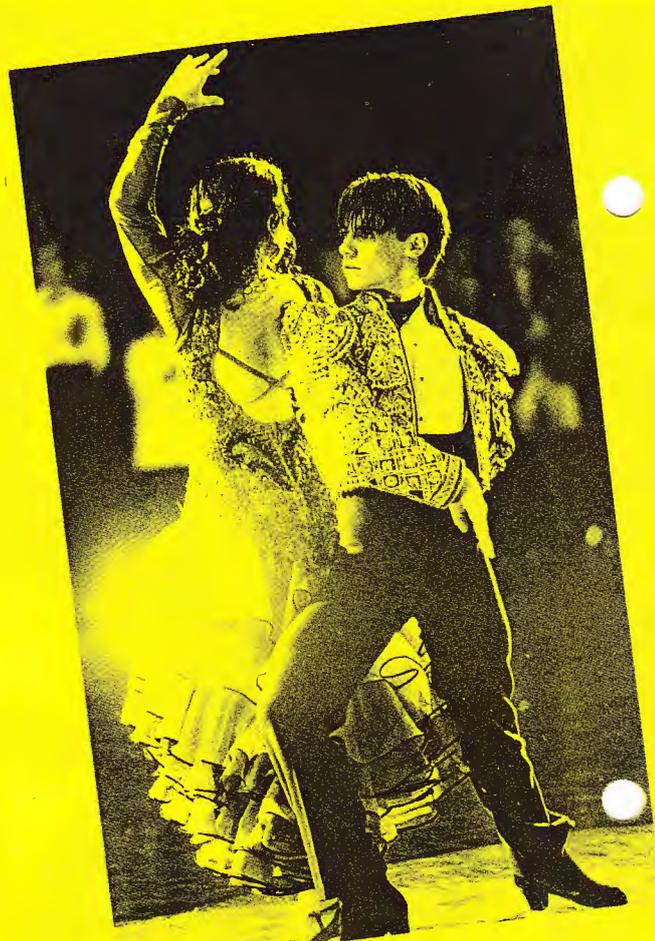


A black and white photograph of a man with dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark, sequined or beaded jacket that is open, revealing his bare chest. His right arm is raised high, with his hand open and fingers spread. The background is dark, making the man and his jacket stand out.

Strictly Ballroom

Strictly Ballroom

Director.....Baz Luhrmann
 Director of photographySteve Mason
 Music Direction and
 Original music.....David Hirschfelder
 Screenplay... ..Baz Luhrmann and
 Andrew Bovell
 Ballroom costume designer...Angus Strathie



CAST

Scott Hastings .. Paul Mercurio
 Barry Fife .. Bill Hunter
 Liz Holt .. Gia Carides
 Doug Hastings .. Barry Otto

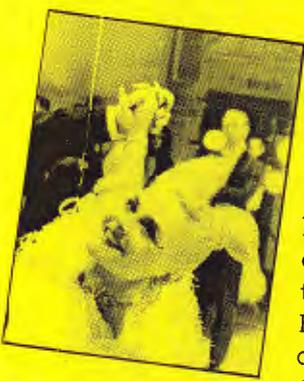
Fran .. Tara Morice
 Shirley Hastings .. Pat Thomson
 Tina Sparkle .. Sonia Kruger-Taylor
 Les Kendall .. Peter Whitford

At first thought, an Australian film about old-fashioned ballroom dancing, with an almost unknown cast, does not sound like a recipe for success. But think a little further and you realise how many successful ingredients there are in "Strictly Ballroom". It is a film full of movie clichés; we can recognise them and feel at home.

There is the rebellious young hero, Scott, striking a blow for freedom and individuality against the oppression of the Establishment. He longs to create his own dance routines which don't conform to the rules laid down by the powerful Dance Federation. There is the Cinderella story of Fran, the heroine who changes from the clumsy beginner into the star of the ballroom. Here we fondly recognise the Hollywood cliché of the talented youngster who rises from the back of the chorus to become a star and, even better, who takes off her glasses to change from the plain girl into the beautiful heroine. The couple are competing in the Pan Pacific Grand Prix dancing competition. Will these talented young dancers succeed against all the odds? Another familiar situation. The villain is Barry, the Dance Federation President, whose villainy is exposed and who is finally defeated when the hero and heroine are publicly acclaimed on the dance floor.

Paul Mercurio, who plays the lead, was trained at the Australian Ballet School, and is a leading dancer and choreographer with Sydney Dance Company. "Strictly Ballroom" was his first experience of both ballroom dancing and of filming. Flamenco dancing was also a new challenge. (Fran, who is of Spanish extraction, introduces Scott to true Latin Dancing).

It was the first major film for Baz Luhrmann, the Director. He first devised and directed "Strictly Ballroom" on stage when he was a drama student in Sydney in 1986. He revived it after graduating, for a successful



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Strictly Ballroom

professional production at Sydney's Wharf Theatre. Tara Morice, who plays Fran, was in the original stage show. This production was seen by a film corporation, who invited Baz Luhrmann to translate it into a film musical in the tradition of 1940's Hollywood. This newly-formed film corporation was headed by Ted Albert to whom the film is dedicated. Sadly, he died before the film went into production. With help from the Australian Film Finance Corporation, the \$4 million production began shooting in early 1991 and was completed in January 1992 ready for the Film Festival season - Cannes, Sydney and Melbourne.

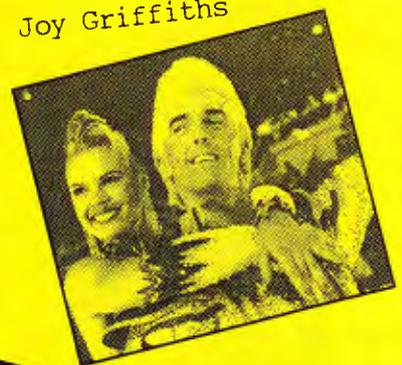
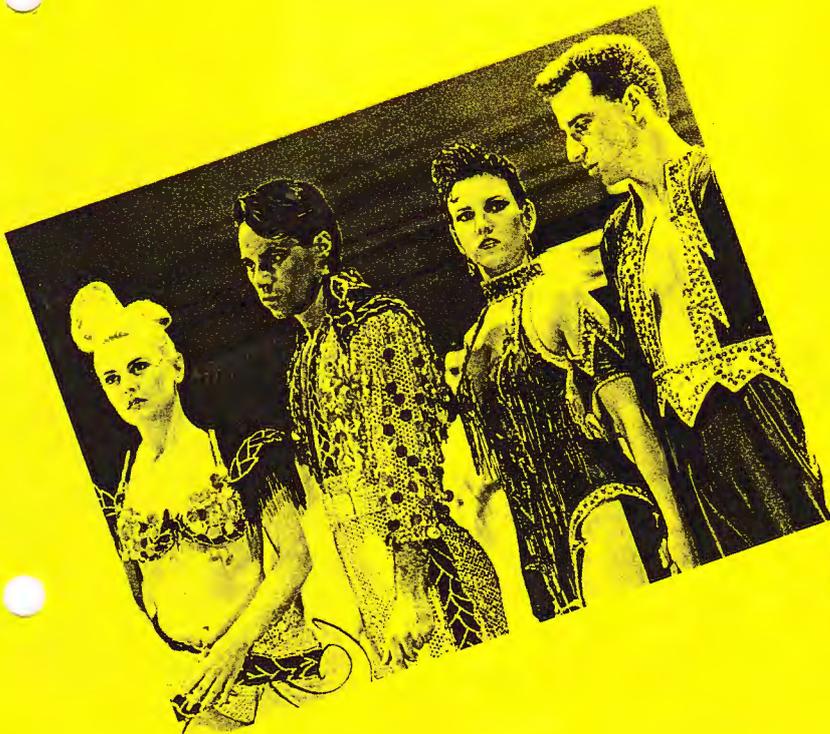
Still only 31 years old, Baz Luhrmann is well known in Australia as a stage and opera director, particularly acclaimed for a production of "La Boheme" for the Australian Opera Company in 1990. His next project is Benjamin Britten's opera "Midsummer Night's Dream."

Anyone who has watched "Come Dancing" on TV will be no stranger to the excesses of net and sequins used in ballroom dancing costumes. "Strictly Ballroom" is in this tradition: \$7000 worth of ostrich feathers were bought and dyed to match the costumes, 5000 hours of labour were spent on decorating the costumes, two people worked for four weeks to decorate Paul Mercurio's jacket worn in the championship dance; it is valued at \$6000! The climactic competition was shot at an actual dance championship in Melbourne using the real audience. Apart from this, the film was shot in Sydney.

"Strictly Ballroom" was a hit when it first appeared at the 1992 Cannes Festival and has since been a commercial success, being shown on the cinema circuit as well as at Art Cinemas.

It could be called a satire on the world of ballroom dancing but this might suggest too heavy a tone. It is tongue-in-cheek, exuberant, bizarre, glitzy and stylish. Good-o mates!

Joy Griffiths



COMING NEXT MONTH



**Rhoda McGaw
Theatre**
PEACOCKS ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
WOKING

SATURDAY, 15th JANUARY

AT 3.00pm FOR ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

The Wizard of Oz

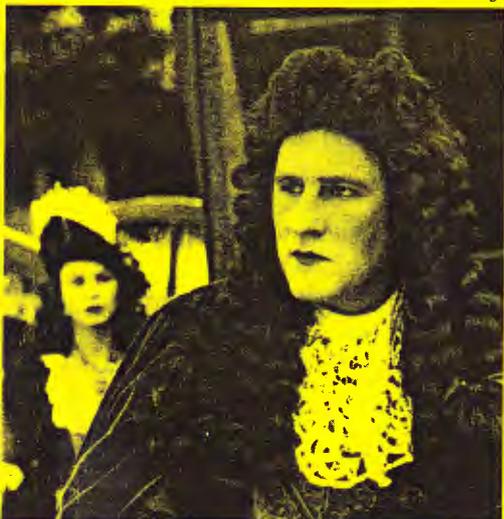
A brainless scarecrow, a cowardly lion, a heartless tin man, witches wicked and good, a wizard of waffle, winged monkeys, munchkins, horses of various colours ... all this, in richest Technicolor, when you join Judy Garland's Dorothy on her journey over the rainbow and along the yellow brick road to the Emerald City of Oz. One of the screen's great fantasy trips. USA 1939/Dir Victor Fleming. With Frank Morgan, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley.



BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
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PRESENTS
**CHAMPAGNE
PIPER-HEIDSIECK**
CLASSIC FILM
COLLECTION

AT 5.45pm and 8.30pm



Tous les
matins
du monde

Dir. Alain Corneau (France/1991/Colour/Cert 12/Subtitles/114 mins) with Gerard Depardieu, Jean-Pierre Marielle, Anne Brochet

A gorgeous, painterly meditation on the inspirations and aspirations of art, *Tous les Matins du Monde*, with its magnificent baroque score and stand-out performances, is a feast for eyes and ears. This real-life seventeenth century tale of cellist Marin Marais (Gerard Depardieu and, in flashback, his son Guillaume) and his lessons at the hands of his unwilling and eccentric teacher Sainte-Colombe (Jean-Pierre Marielle) is a consummately crafted story about the pains of creativity and bereavement. The film is bracketed by Marais as an old man lamenting that his fame and accomplishments are nothing compared to the skills of his teacher, a man who was haunted by the loss of his wife, who shunned the limelight, and who lived for music alone. It's a film of extraordinary beauty and skill. *Lisa Nesselson, Variety*

RESERVED SEATS : £3.00 per film (but ALL CHILDREN ADMITTED TO THE "WIZARD OF OZ" AT HALF PRICE!)

EARLY BOOKING ADVISED through The Peacocks Box Office (0483 761144) or Mr and Mrs S. Lock at 161 Connaught Road, Brookwood (0483 475745)

Goldwater Lodge

TUESDAY 18 JANUARY AT 8:00 pm

DELICATESSEN



Delicatessen is an inspired feature debut from Jean-Pierre Jeunet and Marc Caro and is quite the most original, imaginative and wickedly funny of recent French comedies.

"The action is set in the future in a rundown tenement house above a butcher's shop, which supplies residents with meat - any meat - including human. The short-lived occupants of the house's one spare room or any granny who has become a nuisance are promptly dispatched to the butcher's chopping block.

The newest target is a circus clown with only a musical saw to his name. Looking like a cross between Buster Keaton and Popeye, Dominique Pinon (from *Diva*) excels in this role, complete with a touching, if perilous, romance with the butcher's short-sighted daughter. She eventually saves his bacon by alerting the underground vegetarian forces" - *Screen International*.



PERFORMANCE ENDS 10.25 p.m.