

MAGICIAN: THE ASTONISHING LIFE AND WORK OF ORSON WELLES

Directed by Chuck Workman

USA, 2014, 94 mins, Cert TBC

A BFI release

of a Calliope Films Production, presented by Cohen Media Group

With Orson Welles, Martin Scorsese, Peter Bogdanovich,
Walter Murch, Steven Spielberg, Jeanne Moreau,
Simon Callow and Richard Linklater



**Opens on 3 July 2015 at BFI Southbank, Brixton Ritzy,
Picturehouse Central, Phoenix East Finchley, Cambridge Arts
Picturehouse, QFT Belfast, IFI Dublin
and selected cinemas UK-wide**

Magician: The Astonishing Life and Work of Orson Welles is an illuminating, entertaining and ultimately moving new documentary by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Chuck Workman. It tells the fascinating story of the genius director's life and career through copious interviews with the great man himself, spanning 50 years, through clips from works both familiar and seldom seen, and through testimonies from filmmakers, critics, collaborators, friends and family. It will be released in selected cinemas UK-wide on **3 July** and screened during a major Orson Welles retrospective at BFI Southbank that marks his centenary year; *Orson Welles: The Great Disruptor* runs 1 July – 31 August.

Magician includes sections on all Welles' best-known films: **Citizen Kane**, **The Magnificent Ambersons**, **The Lady From Shanghai**, **F for Fake**, **Touch of Evil** and **Chimes at Midnight**.

Filmed in a dozen locations in the United States and Europe, **Magician** covers the controversy of Welles' fall from grace in Hollywood, and his constant attempts to continue exploring his art through making films and directing plays. Welles' infamous struggles – with money, with women (including his marriage to **Rita Hayworth**), with authority, and even with his weight, are all part of his story, as are his charm, enormous talent, and astonishing work.

Magician features over a dozen detailed interviews with Welles, always a talkative and enjoyable interviewee, with insightful comments from **Jeanne Moreau**, **Sir Peter Brook**, **Costa-Gavras**, **Steven Spielberg**, **Martin Scorsese**, **Richard Linklater** (who directed *Me and Orson Welles* in 2008), **Frank Marshall**, **Paul Mazursky**, **Wolfgang Puck**, **Norman Lloyd**, renowned film editor **Walter Murch** (who re-edited *Touch of Evil* in 1998 from Welles' extensive notes, forty years after Welles was fired), and Welles' close personal friend, film director **Peter Bogdanovich**.

Family members including Welles' oldest daughter **Christopher Welles Feder** and his longtime collaborator and companion **Oja Kodar**, and critics and authors such as **James Naremore**, **Jonathan Rosenbaum**, **Elvis Mitchell**, **Simon Callow** (whose third volume of the life story of Orson Welles is published in November) and others add to the rich legend of one of Hollywood's most iconic figures.

Director Chuck Workman, based in New York, is available for interview.

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More details on this film and venues showing it are at www.bfi.org.uk/releases

#AwesomeWelles www.bfi.org.uk/orsonwelles

Notes to editors

- *Magician: The Astonishing Life and Work of Orson Welles* is released in selected cinemas UK-wide on 3 July.
- The two-month Orson Welles retrospective season, *Orson Welles: The Great Disruptor* runs at BFI Southbank from 1 July to 31 August.
- The BFI releases *Touch of Evil* (1958/1998 version) in selected cinemas UK-wide on 10 July.

6 May 2015