

Mango Yellow

A Film by Cláudio Assis

100 minutes, Color, 2002, Brazil
Portuguese w/English Subtitles



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DVD New Releases

Mango Yellow

(Brazil) The first film featured in the "Global Lens" series of films from around the world is set on the mean streets of the coastal town of Recife in Brazil, where a group of a group of desperate working class characters cross paths on one eventful day. "For all the grimness and desperation on view in *Mango Yellow*, the characters emerge as robust, full-dimensional people in touch with their explosive feelings," writes New York Times critic Stephen Holden." The movie's surreal flavor underscores its message: This is how the lower half lives in Brazil, and by extension, humanity at its most basic, getting along without the rose-colored protections that affluence affords." Cláudio Assis directs.

SUPPLEMENTS: An interview with film scholar Richard Pena about Brazilian Cinema, film notes, and a director bio.

DETAILS: Lbx (2.35:1), Stereo. Portuguese with English subtitles. No rating. First Run.

DVD REVIEWS THIS WEEK: APRIL 25, 2005

by/por: Eric Gonzalez



Mango Yellow (First Run Features)

Films about the harsh conditions of daily life in Latin America are very common. For that matter, most of the movies coming from that region are about this theme in one way or another. Many of them don't capture the problem with enough passion and the message somewhat fades out. On the other hand, some are either too truthful or distracting, achieving the same results. That is not the case with the colorful and delightful "Mango Yellow" (Amarelo Manga), an ingenious film by director Cláudio Assis, in which he explores the issues with wit, humor, and interesting characters.

It is said that "Mango Yellow" is a commentary of today's Brazilian society, which was supposed to benefit from an economic growth. The story follows the lives of low to middle class Brazilians in the beautiful city of Recife, which includes Ligia, the owner of a restaurant/bar; Wellington, a butcher; Wellington's wife (Kika) and lover (Daisy); Bianor and Dunga, owner and worker at the Texas Hotel; Isaac, a resident at the Texas Hotel that enjoys shooting his pistol at dead bodies; and others. The desperate lives of all these characters interact in one way or another, giving us insights of how life goes on in the tropics, despite of all its problems. The cast of this funny, sexy, and very entertaining film includes Matheus Nachtergaele, Jonas Bloch, Dira Paes, Chico Diaz, and Leona Cavalli. The DVD also features an interview about Brazil's cinema with film scholar Richard Peña, director's biography, and more. (Brazil, 2002, color, 100 min. plus additional materials time)

T.D. SCHWARTZ
"The Paul Mitchell Show," CBS Radio

MANGO YELLOW

"THREE-AND-A-HALF STARS (Out of Four). A provocative and unique Brazilian import. Part of The Global Film Initiative, which promotes cross-cultural understanding through cinema."