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Film Description

FILM TITLE:

Acapulco Gold

Programme: Visions
Director: André Forcier
Country: Canada
Year: 2004
Language: English, French
Time: 84 minutes
Film Types: Colour/Digital Betacam



SCREENING TIMES:

Thursday, September 16 09:00 PM ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM
Saturday, September 18 02:30 PM ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

Production Company: Les Films du Paria/Les Films de la rue Marquette
Executive Producer: André Forcier
Producer: Michel Maillot
Screenplay: André Forcier, Michel Maillot, Mark Krasnoff
Cinematography: Daniel Jobin
Editor: Linda Pinet Forcier
Sound: Thierry Morlaas-Lurbe
Music: Luc Raymond
Principal Cast: Michel Maillot, Mark Krasnoff, Julie Maillot, Renaud Pinet Forcier, Mike McLaughlin, Dor Cartier

André Forcier has been breaking boundaries with his playful cinema of fantasy, dreams, truth, lies and sleep disorders for more than thirty years. Inspired by a true story, *Acapulco Gold* has its origins in lead actor Michel Maillot's experiences in Mexico, where he met a mysterious man who may have been Elvis Presley. Forcier continues his teasing use of conjecture by combining elements of fiction and documentary with autobiography. You could call it his personal take on Orson Welles's *F for Fake*; like Welles, Forcier conjures up an altogether new film form - one that can't easily be classified - as he takes on the problematic natures of reality and identity.

In Montreal, a zesty Bob Garrigues (the immensely talented Maillot) learns that his son is being taunted at school again. The other kids call Proutt (Renaud Forcier) the son of Elvis. Bob and his wife Mary Lou (Julie Maillot) admit to meeting Elvis, known to them as the Eternal Colonel, in 1991 - long after his supposed death - while in Acapulco. Since that meeting, Bob has been down on his luck as an actor due to the onset of narcolepsy. His fits cause him to have visions of Elvis, a father figure to him, and of three spiritual revelations he has been asked to impart to the world. Bob lures pretentious minor-league American producer, Hank Sturzberg (Mark Krasnoff), down to Acapulco to pitch him the story of a lifetime - and he has evidence in the form of an autographed picture of the Eternal Colonel to prove it. To back up his case, he enlists forensic photographic evidence, as well as bone structure and handwriting analysis courtesy of physiognomist Mike McLaughlin and chirographer Dor Cartier.

In *Acapulco Gold*, which is a model of auteur-driven cinema that was independently financed with his "brothers in dreams" (the cast and crew), Forcier returns to working with total creative freedom. His film is a wildly pleasurable comedy filled with people on the fringes of society, DNA testing, Mexican coffee and a world of confusion over what is fake and what is real.

- Stacey Donen

André Forcier was born in Montreal. Often referred to as the enfant terrible of Quebec cinema, he was awarded the 2003 Prix Albert-Tessier by the Quebec government for lifetime achievement in film. Selected filmography: *Chroniques labradoriennes* (67), *Le Retour de l'Immaculée Conception* (71), *Bar salon* (73), *Night Cap* (74), *L'Eau chaude, l'eau froide* (76), *Au Claire de la lune* (83), *Kalamazoo*(88), *Une Histoire inventée*(90), *Le Vent du Wyoming* (94), *La Comtesse de Bâton Rouge* (97) and *Acapulco Gold* (04).

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