

Document Citation

Title	Amadeus
Author(s)	
Source	<i>New Yorker Films</i>
Date	1989
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Amadeus, Forman, Milos, 1984

AMADEUS

Directed by Milos Forman

Cast: F. Murray Abraham, Tom Hulce, Elizabeth Berridge.

United States, 1984.

158 mins. Color, Cinemascope.
Scope and flat prints available.

Rental: 400.



Winner of eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Actor, Director, and Screenplay, **Amadeus** achieves a rare combination of sweeping spectacle, bravura theatricality, and art film intelligence. Based on Peter Shaffer's hit play, the story centers on the once-respected hack composer Antonio Salieri, a tragic figure trapped in an absurdist comedy where the biggest, most unbearable joke is that God has endowed the worthy Salieri with insurmountable mediocrity while bestowing immortal genius on a twittering buffoon, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Refusing to accept this evident injustice, Salieri vows to thwart the Divine Will by destroying His chosen instrument, and so he stealthily sets out to undermine the aging prodigy's career. Director Milos Forman grounds the story in a palpably realistic atmosphere of court intrigue and decadence, and masterfully creates a dazzling tapestry of 18th-century Vienna, splashy and sinister, filled with elegance and squalor. A far cry from the ponderous Great Composer biopics of the past, **Amadeus** is joyous, nimble entertainment, as well as a powerful, thought-provoking examination of the nature of artistic genius—and mediocrity.

"Exhilarating... A major achievement."—Vincent Canby, *The New York Times*.

"A magnificent film, full and tender and funny and charming."—Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times*.