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Arizona Dream

FRANCE/YUGOSLAVIA 1992, 142 min.

DIR Emir Kusturica

PROD Claudie Ossard **SCR** David Atkins, Kusturica

CAM Vilko Filac **ED** Andrija Zafraovic

MUSIC Goran Bregovic **CAST** Johnny Depp, Jerry Lewis,
Faye Dunaway, Lili Taylor, Vincent Gallo

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If you thought the families in *Twister* and *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* were dysfunctional, take a gander at the two families of infantile fruitcakes in the first English-language movie by Bosnian-born Emir Kusturica (*When Father Was Away on Business*, *Time of the Gypsies*). An orphan (Johnny Depp) who works for the New York Department of Fish and Game is asked to serve as best man at the wedding of his uncle (Jerry Lewis), an Arizona Cadillac dealer who's marrying a Polish woman (Paulina Porizkova) less than half his age. A cousin (Vincent Gallo) is an aspiring actor given to performing lines and gestures in sync with such movies as *Raging Bull*, *The Godfather* and *North by Northwest*. The orphan starts an affair with a widow nearly twice his age (Faye Dunaway) who lives with her neurotic and disgruntled stepdaughter (Lili Taylor). The orphan dreams of moving to Alaska, the uncle dreams of climbing to the moon on a stack of Cadillacs, the widow dreams of flying and her stepdaughter dreams of being reincarnated as a turtle. This wild and audacious black comedy about the way we all think and dream may send shivers down your spine, but it's also full of lyrical and surreal images.

Jonathan Rosenbaum