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|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Title | Touch of evil |
| Author(s) | |
| Source | <i>Swank Motion Pictures, Inc.</i> |
| Date | |
| Type | distributor materials |
| Language | English |
| Pagination | |
| No. of Pages | 2 |
| Subjects | |
| Film Subjects | Touch of evil, Welles, Orson, 1958 |

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Orsen Welles' Classic Film Noir

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"Orson Welles' dark and extravagant crime drama, ... a masterpiece what can stand alongside 'Citizen Kane' and 'The Magnificent Ambersons'."

- Andy Seiler,
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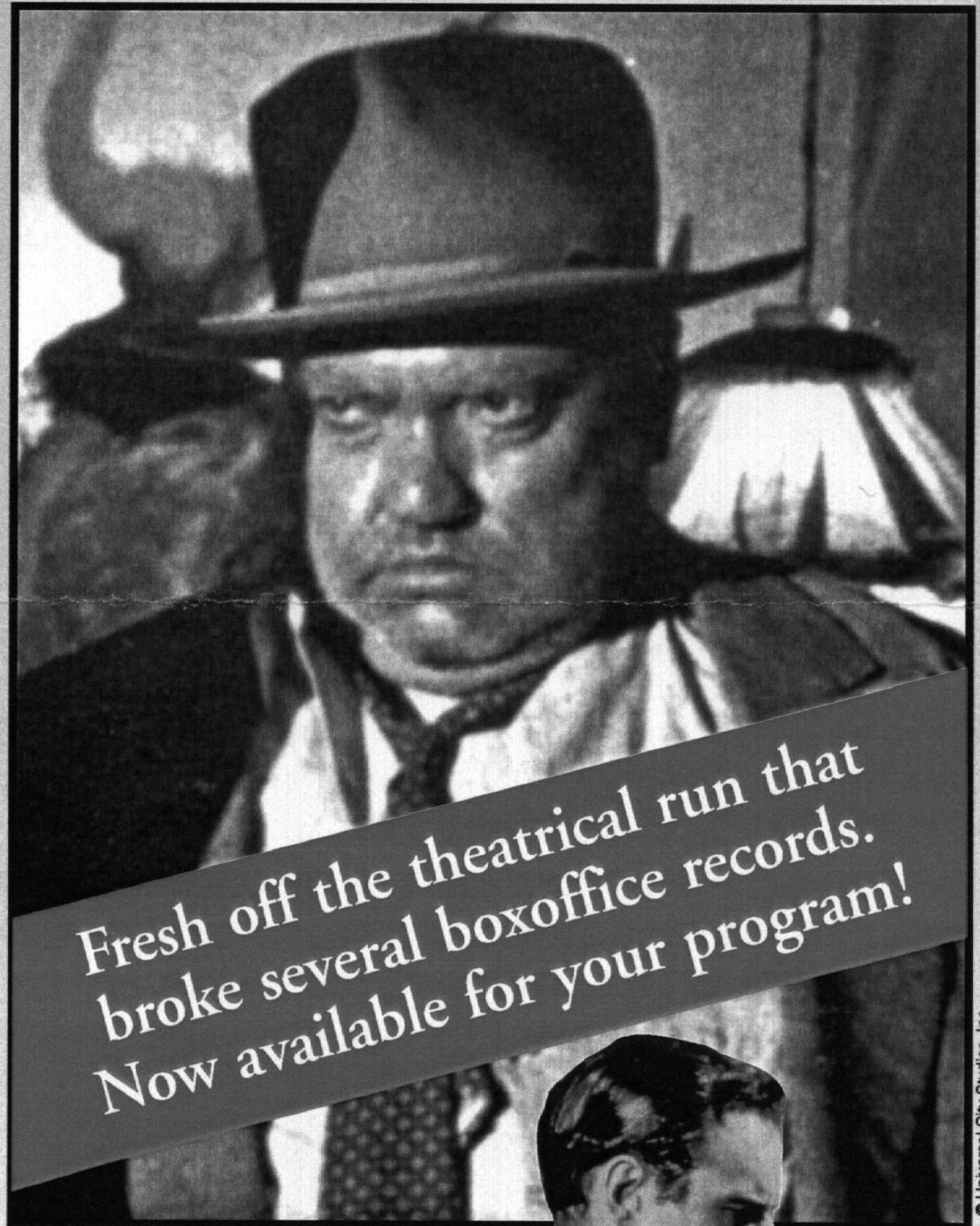
**JANET
LEIGH**

Charleston Heston, Orson Welles, Janet Leigh
Universal Pictures; Directed by Orson Welles
Black and White; Rated PG-13; 112 minutes; 1958

To this day, Orson Welles' "TOUCH OF EVIL" remains one the darkest, most intriguing and most masterful films ever made. Yet for all the acclaim since its initial release in 1958, "Touch Of Evil" has reached the public in three different versions, not one of which was precisely as the director intended. Each time, edits and insertions had altered not only the storyline of the film but its look and sound as well, so that Welles' vision for the film was, in the end, never fully realized. Now, the 58-page set of notes has at last played its pivotal role. With the notes as their guide, re-edit producer Rick Schmidlin and editor Walter Murch (Oscar winner for both editing and sound mixing on "The English Patient," and for sound on "Apocalypse Now") have resurrected Welles' intentions and reconstructed "Touch Of Evil" accordingly, delivering a fourth version. The result is a full 111 minutes of "formidable filmmaking techniques," says Murch. "Orson Welles' skill with photography, staging, cutting, use of sound - it's difficult to find the equivalent today." With the director's written and intended changes made, "Touch Of Evil" is now closest to what Orson Welles originally imagined.



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Presents

TOUCH OF EVIL

SYNOPSIS

TOUCH OF EVIL is the smoky, sleazy, and powerful story of a narcotics officer and his bride who fall under the spell of a corrupt and fascinating sheriff in a seedy Mexican-American bordertown. The conflicts of ethics and morality between the narcotics officer and the sheriff set the stage for a most perverse confrontation of good and evil, conscience and corruption: a labyrinthian journey into a nether world where the law is the criminal. The genius of Orson Welles is immediately apparent in the film's opening sequence, an uninterrupted, Three-minute-tracking shot that establishes the relationships of major characters, the perilous nature of the environment and the incident that is the catalyst of the narrative. TOUCH OF EVIL is considered by many film historians to be the end piece of the Film Noir movement.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Orson Welles conceived, wrote, directed and starred in what is widely considered one of the greatest films ever made, "Citizen Kane," sharing the Academy Award for Best Screenplay with Herman J. Mankiewicz. As a filmmaker, he went on to build a body of work that is almost unequalled for innovation, creative vision and technical mastery of the medium, including: "The Magnificent Ambersons," "Journey Into Fear," "The Stranger," "The Lady From Shanghai" and "MacBeth."



Orson Welles - Writer, Director, Star

Among the films he worked on outside of the Hollywood studio system are: "Othello," "It's All True," "Mr. Arkadin," the unfinished "Don Quixote," "The Trial," "Chimes At Midnight," "The Immortal Story" and "F For Fake."

After making his Broadway acting debut in 1932, Welles produced and directed with John Houseman for the newly formed

Federal Theatre Project in New York, where they would gain notoriety for the now famous all-Black "MacBeth." By 1937 they had formed their own company, The Mercury Theatre, which continued to produce audacious and popular stagings, most notably "Julius Caesar" which Welles directed, starred in and set in contemporary Fascist Italy.

The company branched in the Mercury Theatre on the Air, which led to what could arguably be the most famous radio non-news broadcast of all time - Welles' production of H.G. Wells' "War Of The Worlds," adapted not in play form but as a series of news-flash bulletins interrupting an inane orchestra recital. The result was a panic-stricken citizenry that honestly believed martians had landed in New Jersey.

It was this stunt that brought Orson Wells to the attention of Hollywood and R.K.O. Pictures.

As an actor, Welles was known for his extraordinary presence on stage and screen, including in "Jane Eyre," "Black Magic," "Prince Of Foxes," "The Third Man," "The Black Rose," "Moby Dick," "The Long Hot Summer," "Roots Of Heaven," "Compulsion," "Crack In The Mirror," "A Man For All Seasons," "Casino Royale," "The Kremlin Letter," "The Battle Of Neretva," "Waterloo" and "Catch 22."

AWARDS

NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE AWARDS

Won - 1998 - Special Award - (For the reworked version)

Promotion Idea: Schedule this film along with other Orson Welles Classics: CITIZEN KANE, THE LADY FROM SHANGHAI and THE MAGNIFICENT AMBERSONS.



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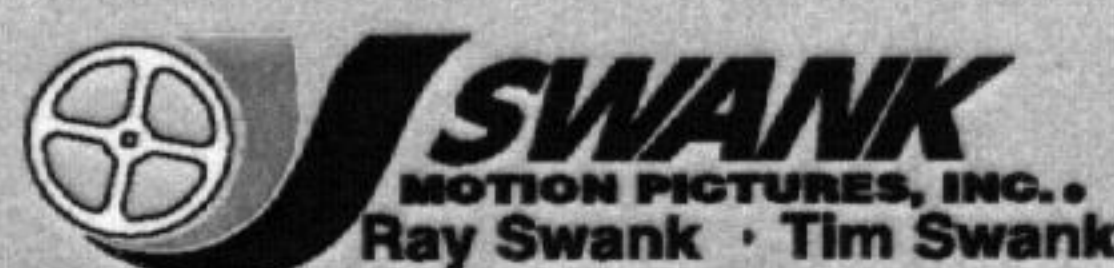
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