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Surf Theatres

Address all correspondence to:
2302 Fillmore St., San Francisco, Ca. 94115, 415-921-9173

Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
California 94114
415-621-6120

Clay Theatre
2261 Fillmore Street
San Francisco
California 94115
415-346-1123

Lumiere Theatre
1572 California Street
San Francisco
California 94109
415-885-3200

Cannery Cinema
2801 Leavenworth Street
San Francisco
California 94133
415-441-6800

Surf Theatre
4510 Irving Street
San Francisco
California 94122
415-664-6300

Press Release

PRESS SCREENINGS

PEDRO ALMODOVAR'S

WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS!

EVENT: An exclusive Northern California premiere engagement of Pedro Almodovar's WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS! (Spain, 1984).

TIME: Wednesday evening, August 28, at 6 PM, at JWA's screening room, 582 Market Street, San Francisco.

Friday evening, August 30, at 7:30 PM, at the LUMIERE Theatre, California at Polk, San Francisco.

PLEASE RSVP - 921-9174.

OPENING DATE: Friday, September 6, at the LUMIERE Theatre, California at Polk, San Francisco.

RUNNING TIME: 100 minutes.

STORY: Pedro Almodovar's critically acclaimed black comedy, WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS!, reminiscent of Bunuel's dark comedies, is an hilarious, irreverent, absurdist farce about working class family life in modern-day Madrid.

Gloria (Carmen Maura), the heroine, lives in a small apartment in one of the low-income housing projects that ring Madrid. She is addicted to "speed" to get her through her 18-hour days. Her 14-year-old-son sells heroin so that he can take his grandmother back to the country; her 12-year-old son seems to enjoy sexual relations with older men, so Gloria sells him to a homosexual dentist; her loutish husband is an illiterate taxi driver who somehow once forged, and published, Hitler's letters to a mistress.

Gloria's impulses go every which way and there's probably never been a zanier treatment of the breakdown of the family and the decay of society.

COMMENTS: "An absolutely wonderful black comedy. It is quite simply a small masterpiece." Richard Grenier, New York Times

"A superb, absolutely mad film! This is like Bunuel doing Jack Waters, but seasoned with Woody Allen. Almodovar takes his place as one of the greatest comic filmmakers alive."
-L.A. Weekly

"...like a comic-strip version of "The Threepenny Opera."
Pauline Kael, The New Yorker

"Surpassingly funny and brave. Almodovar brings classical form to rude satire." David Denby, New York Magazine

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8/23/85

Contact: Ann Elphick - 921-9174.