

Steen Rasmussen, Michael Wikke, Denmark, 1998 11

88 min. | DK/Feature



The motel may remind you of Psycho on a dark and stormy night. Murder has been done here, and the corpse is in the restaurant's walk-in deep freeze, ready for collection. But we never really get the creeps, because this film is a zany comedy in which a bevy of colourful characters becomes woven into a devious, artful composition. The two police officers who try to solve the murder are named Rosenkrans and Gyldenstjerne - because the distinctive feature the characters all share is that they gradually play out their very own versions of Shakespearean tragedies including Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet.

With its tongue just remaining in its cheek and an unwavering dead-pan expression Motello alternates between moving and surrealistic scenes, all set at the mysterious motel. We recognise the tone from the Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki's laconic tragi-comedies. But Motello is thoroughly imbued with Wikke & Rasmussen's droll, naive humour, particularly when Rasmussen himself plays Rosenkrans, the forensic technician who insists on taking his one-year-old son along to the scene of the crime.

Basic information

Credits

Festivals & awards

Materials

Original title	Motello
Danish title	Motello
Director	Steen Rasmussen, Michael Wikke
Screenplay	Steen Rasmussen, Michael Wikke
Producer	Preben Seltoft
Director of Photography	Steffen Led Sørensen
Editor	Jesper Osmund
Sound	Christian H. Lund, Hans Møller
Composer	Tango Orkestret
Production designer	Søren Skjær
Appearance	Steen Rasmussen, Michael Wikke, William Tang Lærke, Helene Egelund
Production country	Denmark
Production company	PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, Græsted Film & Fjernsyn
Domestic distribution	Zentropa Entertainments
International sales	TrustNordisk
Technical info	2446 meter, 35 mm, Widescreen, color, Sound
Danish theatrical release	20.02.1998
Cinemas	Palads, Bio Lyngby, Scala, Grand, Gladsaxe Bio, BioCity (Tåstrup) samt 19 biografer i provinsen
Danish rating	Allowed for children over the age of 11

