



WICKED BUT VIRTUOUS MY LIFE MIRKA MORA

Few people are as unusual and have the magnetism of Mirka Mora. *Wicked But Virtuous* is about what happened when a seamstress and chicken noodle soup salesman, from Paris, hit conservative Australia in the 50's. Melbourne changed. Once regarded as a scandalous bohemian, Mirka, a much-loved artist, is now regarded as a national treasure. She knows how to love life and infectiously and vivaciously shares saucy, naughty, haunting and dynamic memories, stories and philosophical ideas.

Mirka's autobiography, *Wicked But Virtuous*, was a runaway bestseller and it's not hard to understand why. She is one of Australia's best-loved artists and continues to live an amazing and dynamic life at 80. Together with her husband Georges Mora many believe she changed the way Australia grew up.

Her life and personality has transcended her art in some ways, public appearances, articles in the print media and high rating appearances on television prove her personal charisma. She continues to appeal to a wide audience, way beyond the cultural elite.

This film features Mirka and her circle of friends including John and Sunday Reed, art patrons and founders of the Museum of Modern Art of Australia, along with John Perceval, Charles Blackman, Arthur Boyd, Joy Hester and Albert Tucker, the hungry artists who ate the French soups and culinary delights at family cafés and restaurants. The documentary explores this flourishing cultural period through exclusive interviews and previously unseen home movies, private and public recordings in all media, going back to the early 50's.

With the exclusive participation of her family *Wicked But Virtuous* allows for a personal portrait of a woman who seized new opportunities to enrich others lives, while joyfully embracing the paradoxes of her own life; as a mother, a lover, an artist, an immigrant, literary scholar, raconteur, restaurateur and teacher. Long before the feminism of the late Sixties was in the zeitgeist, Mirka and her women friends like Joy Hester, Barbara Blackman, Mary Perceval (now Lady Nolan) and Sunday Reed represented the independence of women in society by their passionate actions.

The film will follow the kaleidoscopic structure of her book to recreate her sometimes riotous, always charming, fascinating autobiography: *MY PARIS, MY MELBOURNE, MY RESTAURANTS, MY WORK, MY MEN, MY CHILDREN, MY WORKSHOPS, MY COMMISSIONS* and *LETTER TO MY WOMB*.

Immigrating to Australia from France with Georges in 1951, her life was not all fame, fun and delightfully bohemian. Mirka's dramatic escape from death in Auschwitz underlines that her legendary joie de vivre is hard earned. Her successful fight against cancer is another reminder that laughter can never be assumed.

Mirka's own vibrant, poetic art in painting, embroidery, drawing and crafts, weave a colourful tapestry of life. Early photos show her as a stunning beauty, which attracted considerable attention. The idea of a beautiful woman being a talented artist jolted fossilized thinking. Mirka Mora is unlike any other Australian woman, she is simply wicked but virtuous!

Feature Documentary
Director Philippe Mora
Producer Veronica Sive
Based on the bestselling book by Mirka Mora

Modern Pictures Pty Ltd
360c Park Street
South Melbourne
Vic 3205 Australia
+61 3 9696 3623
vsive@intprods.com
www.intprods.com