FROM: MORT NATHANSON
UNITED ARTISTS CORP.
729 7TH AVE., N.Y.C.
CIRCLE 5-6000

MERCURY PRODUCTIONS
PRESENTS
ORSON WELLES
IN
"OTHELLO"

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY ORSON WELLES

BASED ON THE PLAY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS
CAST

Othello ....................... Orson Welles
Iago ......................... Michael MacLiammoir
Desdemona .................. Suzanne Cloutier
Roderigo.................... Robert Coote
Brabantio ................... Milton Edwards
Cassio ....................... Michael Lawrence
Emilia ....................... Fay Compton
Lodovico .................... Nicholas Bruce
Montano ..................... Jean Davis
Bianca ....................... Doris Dowling

CREDITS

Produced and Directed by .......... Orson Welles
Photography by .................. Archise Brizzi,
                                  G. Araldo,
                                  George Fanto, with
                                  Obaden Troani,
                                  Roberto Fusi

Film Editors by ............... Jean Sacha, with
                              Renzo Lucidi,
                              John Shebridge

Associate Director by .......... Michael Washinsky
Sets Designed by ............... Alexander Tramo
Costumes by .................. Maria de Matteis
Associate Producers .......... Giorgio Patti
                              Julien Derode, with
                              Walter Bedone,
                              Patrice Dali,
                              Rocco Facchina

Composer of Music .......... Francesco Lavagnino,
                          Alberto Barberis
Conducted by ................. Willi Ferrero

A MERCURY PRODUCTION

RELEASED THRU UNITED ARTISTS
Othello, a Moorish general of noble birth, woos and wins Desdemona, daughter of Brabantio, a Venetian Senator. Her father, learning of their secret marriage, is very angry, and accuses Othello before the Duke of stealing his daughter by means of magic spells. But Desdemona herself, in the council chamber, declares her love for the Moor, and thereupon receives her father's blessing. The Duke then commissions Othello, as the most able general in Venice, to go to the Island of Cyprus and oppose the attempts of the Turks to capture that Island from the Venetians. Desdemona accompanies her husband. In the meanwhile Othello, by promoting Cassio to be his lieutenant, has incurred the secret enmity of Iago, his adjutant.

A storm wrecks the Turkish fleet before it reaches Cyprus. Othello issues a proclamation for general rejoicing because of their deliverance from the danger of invasion and in honor of his marriage. Cassio is placed in charge, with instructions to keep the celebration within bounds. Iago plies Cassio with wine until he is drunk, and then involves him in a street fight. Othello hears the noise and, coming to the scene of the incident, reduces Cassio to the ranks. The latter, sobered by this disgrace, is anxious to be restored to his commission. Iago advises him to seek the favor of Desdemona, whose influence upon her husband is supposed to be greater than that of any one else. Iago's intention is to use Cassio to awaken Othello's suspicions regarding the faithfulness of Desdemona.

Iago helps Cassio to obtain the desired audience with Desdemona and then entices Othello to the scene. He hints that Cassio's suit with the lady is not honorable. Othello's jealousy is now fully aroused, and Iago uses every opportunity to instill more of the poison of suspicion. With the aid of his wife, Emilia, who is Desdemona's lady-in-waiting, Iago has obtained a handkerchief that (more)
Othello had given to Desdemona in the early days of their courtship, and now Iago conspires to have the handkerchief found in Cassio's home.

The green monster of jealousy has by this time taken full possession of Othello's soul, and he determines that his wife and Cassio must die. Iago undertakes the task of killing Cassio, and induces Roderigo to commit the murder. Roderigo attempts this while the officers of the garrison are relaxing in their steambath. Cassio is wounded, but stabs his would-be assassin, and in the ensuing confusion Iago runs his sword through Roderigo's chest to prevent him from informing against him.

While this is happening Othello has joined Desdemona in her chamber and - after demanding that she produce, as evidence of her innocence, the handkerchief that Iago had shown him to have been in Cassio's possession - smothers his wife to death. Emilia, arriving on the scene of the murder, breaks down and tells all she knows, revealing Iago as the villain who engineered the entire plot. Iago comes in, tries to stop her from talking and finally kills her. Othello, now convinced that the gentle Desdemona was innocent and faithful, commits suicide.

At the state funeral given to Desdemona and Othello, the tragic lovers destroyed by the demon of jealousy, Iago is arrested, and is imprisoned in a cage that is hoisted high in the air. His fate is to be slowly picked to death by the vultures that already are cruising hungrily around the cage.

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