



Majestic City

a film by Michelle Williams Gamaker



UK/Sri Lanka - 90 mins - Colour - Drama

1990. Roaming her mother's hotel workplace over summer, 11-year-old Ruby befriends a glamorous grifter, driving a wedge between mother and daughter and sparking a surreal crimes-against-parenting trial.

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IMPERIAL HOTEL

NIGHT & DAY
BAR

RESTAURANT

HOTEL





















Majestic City is based on my summer holidays spent at the Mostyn Hotel, where my mother worked as executive housekeeper. In the absence of regular childcare, the hotel's staff were my childminders; my companions were toys, daytime television and 1980s celebrities who frequented the opulent surrounds. In the hotel that was my playground the empty corridors, luxury suites, lobbies and bars became a personal fantasy world merging books, films and my 10-year-old girl's dreams.

In the spirit of films such as *Whistle Down the Wind* (Bryan Forbes, 1961) and *Spirit of the Beehive* (Victor Erice, 1973), *Majestic City* renders childhood with imagination and vulnerability as the wonder of growing up gives way to the reality of personal and political realities. Ultimately, it is a film about the fractious relationship between a mother and daughter and the ways in which we must forgive our parents to become ourselves.

Michelle Williams Gamaker





About Michelle

Michelle Williams Gamaker (she/her) is an award-winning artist filmmaker. She is the recipient of Film London's Jarman Award and was twice awarded Best Experimental Film at Aesthetica Short Film Festival (2021, 2023). She is the recipient of the Bryan Robertson Award (2024), the Stuart Croft Moving Image Award (2020) and was received the FLAMIN Production Award for her film *Thieves* (2023), as part of a major solo exhibition tour to South London Gallery, Dundee Contemporary Arts and Bluecoat, Liverpool (2023-24). Her most recent short, *Oberon* (2023), was commissioned by the BFI as part of their 2024 Powell & Pressburger retrospective. Her films are distributed by LUX, and her entire filmography will be part of BFI's National Collection in 2025.

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