



TCM BREAKFAST CLUB SCREENING

24-Hour Party People | 2002

Directed by Michael Winterbottom

From the late 70s to the early 90s, Manchester was, to many, Madchester, a throbbing powerhouse generating exciting new music for young people disillusioned with what was emanating from London, a city from which Manchester had long been resigned to taking its cue. At the centre of this revolution was Cambridge-educated Tony Wilson, a reporter for Granada TV, who experienced an epiphany at a Sex Pistols gig in Manchester in 1976. Blown away by the punk pioneers, he and his friends set

up Factory Records, signing first Joy Division (who went on to become New Order) and then the Happy Mondays. In the film, Steve Coogan plays Wilson against a riotous background that saw the birth of one of Britain's most famous dance clubs, the Hacienda. TCM writer David Humphrey hails a poignant comedy with a story that serves as a warts-and-all tribute to the enigmatic Wilson, who died of cancer in August this year, aged 57.

At Manchester's Lesser Free Trade Hall in June 1976, Wilson finds himself hypnotised by the Pistols as they sing Anarchy in the UK and lay into the British Establishment with trademark ferocity. The young TV journalist then features them on his Manchester TV show. Convinced that the Pistols and their contemporaries are the future of popular music, Wilson teams up with two others to form Factory Records, signing up Joy Division (renamed New Order after the suicide of its lead singer) and Happy Mondays. Others were to follow including James, A Certain Ration, Durutti Column and The Space Monkeys. Wilson becomes known as "Mr Manchester" and Factory Records becomes wildly popular. But when they open a rave club, the Hacienda it goes bust because the customers spurn the cash bars for the more dubious delights of Ecstasy. However Wilson, genuinely enthused by punk rock's anarchic message, cannot care less. When the club closes, he tells the final night's crowd: "Before you leave, I ask you to invade the offices and loot them." Later, when he meets would-be investors in Factory Records, they are astonished to learn there are no assets - no contracts, no back catalogue, nothing. By way of explanation he describes the company as "an experiment in human nature. I protected myself from the dilemma of selling out by having nothing to sell".

Manchester-born Coogan is the perfect choice for the role of Wilson in this mock-documentary account of the Madchester scene which sees director Michael Winterbottom subtly blending real newsreel footage with fictional characters. Bizarrely, Coogan had drawn inspiration for his most celebrated TV character, the

gauche broadcast journalist Alan Partridge, from Wilson. Great care was taken to produce an authentic record of the events surrounding this musical revolution: for example, a replica of the original Hacienda club - demolished two years earlier - was constructed and many of the club's fittings were acquired to be used in the movie. Meanwhile the exterior Hacienda scenes were shot at the actual location, the corner of Whitworth Street West and Albion Street in central Manchester. Throughout, Coogan portrays Wilson's weird double life as music supremo and cheesy local TV reporter to brilliant comic effect. And Frank Cottrell Boyce's screenplay fairly pops and crackles with a fusillade of memorable quotes, eg:

Tony Wilson: "Most of all, I love Manchester. The crumbling warehouses, the railway arches, the cheap abundant drugs. That's what did it in the end. Not the money, not the music, not even the guns. That is my heroic flaw: my excess of civic pride".

The final part of the film tells how gang violence led to the closure of the club, which has made way for a block of apartments but retains the iconic name. The film features cameos from real members of the Manchester music scene such as Howard Devoto and Mark E. Smith.

Further reading: *The Madchester Scene* by Richard Luck (Pocket Essentials); *From Joy Division to New Order: The True Story of Anthony H Wilson and Factory Records* by Mick Middles (Virgin).

ESCAPE TO A WORLD OF FILM THIS OCTOBER WITH TCM

TCM presents a special season entitled **Movies and Memories**, in which viewers select films that rekindle special moments in their lives - joyful, sad and even life-changing. The result is a superb line-up of 32 titles across a huge range of emotions, showing on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the month. **Meanwhile Halloween Horror Night** on 31st October brings a TCM premiere with Richard Attenborough brilliantly portraying mass-murder John Christie in **10, Rillington Place** (1971). Even more horror is guaranteed in *The Exorcist: The Version You've Never Seen* (1973/2000), and the director of *The Exorcist*, William Friedkin, gives a revealing OFF SET interview about how the film was made. Elsewhere, Mylene Klass hosts a packed edition of **CNN's The Screening Room** from the prestigious Toronto and Venice film festivals, with unmissable news, star interviews and celebrity gossip. October's must-see movies are **McCabe and Mrs Miller** (1971), **Legends of the Fall** (1994), **The Wild Geese** (1978) and **The Exorcist: The Version You've Never Seen** (1973/2000).