

In his novel *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens introduced the world to Fagin, one of the most notorious criminal master-minds in the London underworld.



Now the real Fagin comes to life...
in an epic journey from the East End of London
to the penal colony of Tasmania

The First Fagin

A tale of love, crime and punishment

WILD FURY, ROSENTHAL FILMS AND ROAR FILM PRESENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ZDF AND ARTE, SCREEN TASMANIA, MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE FUND AND SCREEN QUEENSLAND
THE FIRST FAGIN. SCREENPLAY BY RYK GODDARD AND CARRIE MCLEAN. NARRATED BY MIRIAM MARGOLYES. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JACMS GRANT ACS. EDITED WAYNE HYETT ASE. CO-PRODUCED BY HELEN GAYNOR. PRODUCED BY VERONICA FURY, ALAN ROSENTHAL
AND STEPHEN THOMAS. BASED UPON THE FIRST FAGIN: THE TRUE STORY OF IKKY SOLOMON BY JUDITH SACKVILLE-O'DONNELL. SCREENPLAY BY ALAN ROSENTHAL AND HELEN GAYNOR. DIRECTED BY HELEN GAYNOR AND ALAN ROSENTHAL



Parental guidance
recommended
Mild coarse
language



WILDFURY



Screen Queensland

"A RIPPING YARN that commands no small measure of amazement even without the link with Dickens."

Richard Kuipers - Variety

The First Fagin

When Charles Dickens created the character of Fagin in his novel, Oliver Twist, he gave birth to one of the most infamous rogues in English literature. Few people know that Dickens' portrait of Fagin drew inspiration from the life of the Jewish receiver and fencer of stolen goods, Ikey Solomon. Much has been written about Ikey's exploits: his amazing and daring prison escapes have captured people's imaginations through the generations.

THE FIRST FAGIN recreates Ikey's journey from London's dens of vice, Newgate jail, and the notorious prison "hulks" on the Thames to a daring escape to the new world of America. Ikey then tempted fate by sailing to Tasmania in search of his wife who had been transported as a convict. In Tasmania, Ikey began a long legal battle to defy the authorities of one of Australia's most severe convict settlements.

As a rare examination of the criminal sub-culture from which Dickens drew inspiration, and of the convict system in early colonial Australia, **THE FIRST FAGIN** seamlessly blends reconstructed dramatic sequences with historical documentary. It's a colourful and lively evocation of a turbulent period and a riveting account of the dramatic swings in Ikey Solomon's fate.



The film is narrated by British actor, **Miriam Margolyes**, who toured Australia last year in her own one-woman Dickens' show.

Filmed on location in Tasmania, the film stars Tasmanian actors, **Ryk Goddard** as Ikey Solomon and **Carrie McLean** as his stoic wife, Anne.

For further information, please visit:

<http://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/7516/first-fagin.html>

**IN SELECTED CINEMAS
FROM 15 NOVEMBER 2012**

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