

In his novel Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens introduced the world to Fagin, one of the most notorious eximinal master-minds in the Condon underworld



WILD FURY, ROSENTHAL FILMS ... ROAR FILM #### 2015... ARTE, SCREEN TASMANIA. MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE FUND *** SCREEN QUEENSLAND
THE FIRST FAGIN-1200... CARRIE MCLEAN *** THE THE MIRIAM MARGOLYES **** JAEMS GRANT ACS *** WAYNE HYETT ASE **** HELEN GAYNOR **** BY VERONICA FURY, ALAN ROSENTHAL
*** STEPHEN THOMAS **** THE FIRST FAGIN: THE TRUE STORY OF IKEY SOLOMON *** JUDITH SACKVILLE-O'DONNELL**** JALAN ROSENTHAL *** HELEN GAYNOR **** HE

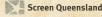
















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When Charles Dickens created the character of Fagin in his novel, Oliver Twist, he gave birth to one of the most infamous rogues in English literature. Few people know that Dickens' portrait of Fagin drew inspiration from the life of the Jewish receiver 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

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