



THE THIRD MAN

Autumn
Season
2015

Release: 1949

Cert (UK): PG

Language: English

Runtime: 104 mins

Director: Carol Reed

Writer: Graham Green (screenplay and book)

Cinematographer: Robert Krasker

Cast: Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten, Trevor Howard, Alida Valli



'The Third Man is a 1949 British film noir, directed by Carol Reed and starring Joseph Cotten, Alida Valli, Orson Welles and Trevor Howard. It is considered one of the greatest films of all time, celebrated for its acting, musical score and atmospheric cinematography. Novelist Graham Greene wrote the screenplay and subsequently published the novella of the

same name (originally written as preparation for the screenplay). Anton Karas wrote and performed the score, which used only the zither' – Wikipedia

Winning one Oscar and nominated for 2 more when it came out, it has continued to be seen as one of the great films: in 1999 the BFI voted it the best British film of the 20th Century, in 2004, 'Total Film' chose it as the 4th best film ever made.

A classic film noir, using black and white film, shadows and light and mystery to great effect, 'The Third Man' tells the story of Holly Martins who arrives in post-war Vienna to see his old friend Harry Lime who has offered him a job, only to be told Lime was killed in a road accident a few days earlier. But is he really dead? Martins sets out to seek the truth...

Some thought at the time that Orson Welles had really directed the film, but this was soon squashed; Director Carol Reed does owe much of his style to Welles, but the film is totally his work. With some famous lines, certainly some famous shots and an instantly recognizable theme tune played on the zither, the seedy atmosphere of Vienna lives forever... whether Lime does or not.

