



Faithful look at act of love

SHE was famous in 1970 when she came to Australia as Mick Jagger's girlfriend.

Best known as a singer, she is now a star of stage and screen. In the film *Irina Palm*, Marianne Faithfull is the widow. It is an impressively honest film about a grandmother's love for her grandson and the commitments she makes to save his life.

This is only writer/director Sam Garbarski's (*The Rashevski Tango*) second feature. With years of making television advertisements, he is now a critically acclaimed European filmmaker.

With his co-writer Phillippe Blasband's story idea, *Irina Palm* is a film which, with some embarrassment will touch many hearts, especially those of women.

Maggie's (Faithfull) job is somewhat embarrassing but it's unfortunately a reality.

Not normally something discussed in English drawing

IRINA PALM (M)

Director: Sam Garbarski

Starring: Marianne Faithfull, Miki Manojlovic, Kevin Bishop and Siobhan Hewlett

Screening: Somerville, March 3-9 and Joondalup Pines, March 10-16

★★★★½

rooms, it's interesting to see the reaction. It also has a lot to say about the values and meaning of friendship and nosiness.

Maggie, a 50-year-old frumpy widow living in an English village, has a grandson Ollie, who is dying from some terrible disease, which can only be treated in Melbourne. To get him there is going to be expensive.

She and his parents, son Tom (Kevin Bishop) and his wife Sarah (Siobhan Hewlett), have all exhausted their ability to borrow any more money. After trying to get a job, Maggie finds herself in the seedy streets of London's Soho.

On seeing a poster advertising

for a hostess at "Sexy World", she goes in to inquire. Not realising what is involved she sees Miki (Miki Manojlovic), the owner.

After being told she has the smooth hands required, Miki tells her she can earn more than 800 pounds (\$1750) a week. She's interested but too embarrassed and leaves. Unable to get the 800 pounds a week out of her mind she returns and Miki offers her the job.

Taught by Luisa (Dorka Gryllus), she is soon getting to know her anonymous customers.

Under the pseudonym of Irina Palm, Maggie's gentle hands soon have customers queuing for her rather than Luisa.

The deadline for Ollie to be in Australia is urgent – Maggie needs 6000 pounds (\$12,800) now. After a deadly deal with Miki she gets the money and gives it to Tom. But Tom has a problem with how she got the money. Will Maggie's effort be able to save Ollie's life?



Maggie (Marianne Faithfull) looks to see what her first customer might look like