



Leonie (Leonie Stepp), Gregor (Josef Ostendorf) and Eden (Charlotte Roche) in a scene from *Eden*.

Food for romance



PIAF film festival

by Michael Perrot

THE way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

In *Eden* it is inverted – an overweight master chef seduces a woman with his cooking.

More than just delicious food, it's a story about the power of love based on a recipe of jealousy, rage, destruction, bad luck and a flawed business model.

This is German writer/director Michael Hofmann's third feature and while not so daring as his 2002 feature *Sophiiiiie!*, it shows what an interesting film-maker he can be.

With its fairytale similarity to *Beauty and the Beast*, *Eden* is a mix of personality, love and greed laced with unhappiness, disgruntlement and the pressures of having a disabled child.

Gregor (Josef Ostendorf) is overweight, lonely but perceptive. A gourmet chef, he runs a restaurant in a small German town.

He believes food can awaken the erotic impulses and revels in the pleasures of his cooking.

Because of his size, he hasn't found anyone to share his love of cooking with him.

One afternoon he has coffee at a resort hotel where he meets Eden (Charlotte Roche), a waitress.

She takes an instant dislike to him, but days later in a park, Gregor rescues Eden's little girl Leonie (Leonie Stepp) from drowning while Eden is asleep.

Invited to Leonie's birthday party, Gregor arrives with a chocolate cake he has baked for the occasion.

After Eden eats a piece of the cake, she's smitten and goes to his restaurant for more of his cooking.

They then make a date for Gregor to cook for Eden, which leads to life-changing events.

EDEN (M)

Directed by: Michael Hofmann

Starring: Josef Ostendorf, Charlotte Roche, Devid Striesow

Screening: Joondalup Pines, February 18-24 (98 minutes)

★★★★