

ARTWORK

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MIKE FIGGIS

WORDS Eugene Costello

A ludicrously over-achieving polymath, Mike Figgis has also shot raunchy movies and stills of Kate Moss. And for that, sir, we salute you...

If you'd gone to school with Mike Figgis, you and your mates would definitely want to get him at the bus-stop and nick his lunch money.

Trouble being, he is irritatingly successful at everything he has turned his hand to. Aged 18, he pitched up in London and played keyboards for Brian Ferry's band. Then he discovered theatre, first as a director, then as an actor.

This led to a move to Hollywood, where his second movie was the dark thriller *Internal Affairs*. Disillusionment with 'the system' led to him making *Leaving Las Vegas*, and Academy Award nominations for Figgis for Best Director and Best Screenplay.

He then moved away from big films, founding the independent film-makers' forum Shooting People, saying that shooting with a small digital camera made the process intimate, more akin to painting or novel writing.

As well as a professor of film studies at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee, Figgis has also applied his cutting-edge techniques to advertising. One client was Agent Provocateur – oh my!

He shot four short movies starring La Moss, called *The 4 Dreams of Miss X*; one of the stills shot on the same night is pictured right, as you probably haven't noticed yet. Nice work if you can get it. ■

'Kate & Other Women' is exhibiting currently at *The Little Black Gallery* until 30 July; prints are also available; thelittleblackgallery.com



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