C4443 CHILDREN OF THE REVOLUTION (AUSTRALIA, 1996)

Credits: director/writer, Peter Duncan.
Cast: Judy Davis, Sam Neill, H. Murray Abraham, Richard Roxburgh.
Summary: Political comedy set in Australia from 1949 to the 1970s. In 1949
Sydney, Joan Fraser (Davis) is by far the most radical of her local circle of
Communist friends. When her ardent letters are brought to the attention of
Josef Stalin (Abraham), he arranges for Joan to visit Moscow as part of an
elaborate seduction. Stalin dies in the act, but not before impregnating Joan.
Back in Australia, Joan marries Zachary Welch, a gentle sort whose allegiance
to the cause is motivated primarily by his love for Joan. After young Joe is
born, his true parentage is kept a secret but he is raised a radical. At age 18,
he goes to jail rather than be drafted for Vietnam. There he accidentally
learns the identity of his father. After he becomes a hero in a prison fire, Joe
parlays his fame into a position as leader of the police union. To the distress
of both his mother and his policewoman wife (Griffiths) Joe cultivates his
resemblance to Stalin and develops a clandestine police state in which elected
officials are under his thumb.

[Reprinted in Film review annual 1998]
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