



Alex Film Society
presents
ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S



Harrison hand-picking Hitchcock's episodes he would direct personally (17 in all) and a cadre of technicians made sure the shooting schedule for each episode was a quick and dirty affair: one day for rehearsal, two for shooting.

The show gave career momentum to young actors of the day, including Robert Redford, Joanne Woodward, and Steve McQueen. And, in turn, gave seasoned veterans like Claude Rains, Bette Davis and Mary Astor a chance to shine on television.

The list of directors is also a distinguished one: Robert Altman, Sydney Pollack, and Arthur Hiller to name a few.

Hitchcock contractually owed Paramount Studios one more film, fascinated by the growing success of American International Pictures, the studio that churned-out cheaply made campy horror films, he proposed *Psycho* as his next project.

"Paramount didn't want to make it – they didn't like the title, the story or anything about it," related Herbert Coleman, Hitchcock associate-producer, in author Stephen Rebello's book ALFRED HITCHCOCK AND THE MAKING OF PSYCHO. Hitchcock offered to finance *Psycho* personally and

shoot at Universal-International if Paramount agreed to distribute the picture. As the sole producer, Hitchcock would defer his director's fee of \$250,000 in exchange for 60% ownership of the negative.

Hitchcock took most of the crew from his television series including the cinematographer, set designer, script supervisor, and first assistant director. He hired regular collaborators Bernard Herrmann as music composer, George Tomasini as editor, and Saul Bass for the title design and storyboarding of the shower scene.

Hitch would shoot the film just like an expanded episode of his TV series in black and white. Hitchcock associates, Coleman and Peggy Robertson, budgeted *Psycho* at \$800,000.

Oscar® nominee Anthony Perkins (*Friendly Persuasion* 1956), then twenty-seven, happened to owe Paramount a film under an old contract and was hired to play Norman Bates for \$40,000.

He signed MCA (parent company of Universal) client Janet Leigh for \$25,000– in her book about *Psycho*, she wrote, "I would have made it for nothing." (cont'd on page 2)

Journal of the Alex Film Society
VOICE of the THEATRE

Ed Gein



Robert Bloch's
Model for
Norman Bates



In November of 1957, police in Plainfield, Wisconsin searched the ramshackle home of handyman Ed Gein. Among the unspeakable filth and debris, they discovered the mutilated bodies of several missing local women. Unable at first to focus on the mess, they uncovered a crime scene littered with body parts and bizarre preserved human remains. Gein went to trial in 1957 and was ruled mentally incompetent. Finally ruled competent to stand trial in 1968, he was convicted of one count of murder, judged insane and committed to a mental institution where he died in 1984. 🌸

Mail this application with a check to: **Alex Film Society**

P.O. Box 4807, Glendale, CA 91222-0807

Name(s) please print _____
Org/Business _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
Home Phone _____ Cell _____
E-mail _____

☐ I (WE) CAN VOLUNTEER. Please call.

☐ Enclosed is my (our) donation of \$ _____

☐ Sustaining Member - \$500
10 discounted tickets per show
10 free tickets per year
Program acknowledgement

☐ Dual/Family - \$50
4 discounted tickets per show
4 free tickets per year

☐ Supporting Member - \$250
8 discounted tickets per show
8 free tickets per year
Program acknowledgement

☐ Individual - \$35
2 discounted tickets per show
2 free tickets per year

☐ Patron - \$100
6 discounted tickets per show
6 free tickets per year

☐ Senior/Student - \$25
1 discounted ticket per show
(full time student or senior 65+)

Please list your two favorite films:



A horse doctor (Groucho) posing as a regular doctor—along with Chico and Harpo—help a young woman (Maureen O'Sullivan) keep a private sanitarium from foreclosure with the help of a misfit racehorse. Perennial foil Margaret Dumont is on hand as a rich, fussy sanitarium patient. (M-G-M 1937)

matrx bros : **A Day at the Races**

Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 2 pm & 8 pm only

The Year's BIG Laugh,
Music and Girl Show!

Film Calendar

PSYCHO Feb 13, 2010

ALEX FILM SOCIETY
P. O. Box 4807,
Glendale, CA 91222-0807

Short films are underwritten by
David & Catherine STROHMAIER

Tickets: 818.243.2539



PSYCHO 1960

109 minutes
Paramount Pictures
Print Courtesy of
Universal Pictures

PRODUCED and DIRECTED by

Alfred Hitchcock

BASED on a NOVEL by

Robert Bloch

SCREENPLAY

Joseph Stefano

CAST

Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh,
Vera Miles, John Gavin,
Martin Balsam, John McIntire,
Simon Oakland

ORIGINAL MUSIC by

Bernard Herrmann

DIRECTOR of PHOTOGRAPHY

John L. Russell

ART DIRECTION

Robert Clatworthy, Joseph Hurley

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Hilton Green

EDITOR

George Tomasini

TITLE DESIGN

Saul Bass

JANET LEIGH A Profile

By Joe Furey

Janet Leigh was one of those actual “discovery stories” you always hear about. Her father was working the desk at a ski resort in Northern California and her mother worked as a maid. Retired MGM actress Norma Shearer saw a picture of Janet (then a student, studying music and psychology, at the University of the Pacific) on the front desk and asked if she could borrow it. This led to a screen test at MGM and a starring role in *The Romance of Rosy Ridge* (1947). As an MGM contract player she was featured in *Little Women* (1949), *Scaramouche* (1952) and *The Naked Spur* (1953).

Her decade long marriage to heartthrob Tony Curtis would provide covers for dozens of fan magazines. Of her more than 50 movies, she would be remembered for the 45 minutes that she was on the screen in *Psycho* (1960). Even though her character is killed off early in the picture, she would be nominated for an Academy Award and receive a Golden Globe. On working with Alfred Hitchcock she commented, “Hitch relished scaring me. When we were making “Psycho,” he experimented with the mother’s corpse, using me as his



The Perfect Screen Couple: Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh made several films together including The Black Sheild of Falworth (1955), The Perfect Furlough (1958) and The Vikings (1958).

gauge. I would return from lunch, open the door to the dressing room and propped up in my chair would be this hideous monstrosity. The horror in my scream, registered on his Richter scale, decided which dummy he’d use as the Madame.”

Her next films would be *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962), in which she starred with Frank Sinatra and *Bye Bye Birdie* (1963) opposite Dick Van Dyke. For the rest of the decade, her appearances in features would be rare. In the 1970s she appeared on the small screen in a number of made-for-TV movies and joined her daughter Jamie Lee Curtis in John Carpenter’s *The Fog* in 1980. Miss Leigh passed away in 2004 at the age of 77. 🌹

By Daryl Maxwell

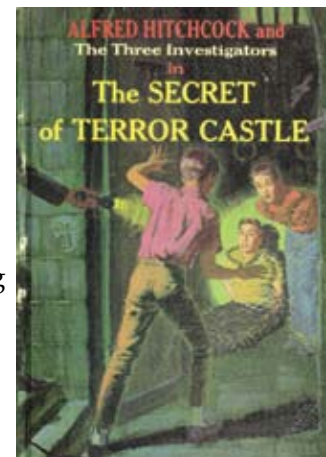
In the early 1960s, mystery writer Robert Arthur, Jr., whose work had been published in *Amazing Stories*, *Argosy* and *Detective Fiction Weekly*, was working on “Alfred Hitchcock Presents” and had an idea for a series of mystery

novels for younger readers. Arthur envisioned a series that would be similar to other juvenile mystery fiction (*THE HARDY BOYS* and *NANCY DREW*) but with a higher quality of writing and more perplexing mysteries. He also thought that featuring a prominent and popular personality as a recurring character would attract both attention and readers to the series. Alfred Hitchcock agreed to be featured and Random House began publishing the *ALFRED HITCHCOCK and the THREE INVESTIGATORS* series in 1964.

The series featured the investigations of detectives Jupiter Jones, Pete Crenshaw and Bob Andrews. While

HITCH IN PRINT A Novel Idea

their ages are never specified, context suggests that they are 13-14 years old. The boys live in the fictional town of Rocky Beach, California, an ocean side community a few miles from Hollywood. Each book follows



the investigators as they work to solve a mystery they have stumbled into or have been hired by a client to solve. Unlike other juvenile mystery series of the time, the investigators had to work to find and make sense of the clues, which was a sharp contrast to

other juvenile mystery series where the protagonists were often relied on serendipity / coincidence / fate to solve their cases. Hitchcock provided a (ghost written) introduction to each book and his character met with the young detectives at the end of case to review the details and solution.

Forty-three *ALFRED HITCHCOCK and the THREE INVESTIGATORS* books were published between 1964 and 1987. When Alfred Hitchcock died in 1980, the fictional Hitchcock was replaced in the series by retired detective Hector Sebastian and the series was renamed *THE THREE INVESTIGATORS MYSTERY SERIES*. In 1989 Random House attempted to update the series and make it appealing to an older audience. The series was renamed *THE 3 INVESTIGATORS – CRIMEBUSTER SERIES*. The investigators were now 17 years old, and far more independent, and the stories contained more action. Eleven volumes of the *CRIMEBUSTER* series were released before it ended in the early 1990s. 🌹

Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine is a monthly digest size fiction magazine specializing in crime and detective fiction. Founded in 1956 by HSD Publications, which licensed the use of the director’s name, there was no formal connection with the television show, although stories published in the magazine were sometimes adapted by the producers of “Alfred Hitchcock Presents” (and later, “The Alfred Hitchcock Hour”).

Since 1992 it has been published by Dell Magazines (which also produces its sister publication, *Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine*).

(cont’d from page 1)

PSYCHO: An EXPERIMENT in Television

Standing sets on the Universal lot, including the menacing house, had already appeared in a number of episodes of the TV series.

Shooting wrapped February 1, 1960, nine days over schedule. A rough cut was finished by April, at which point Hitchcock was convinced his “experiment” had failed. He was ready to cut *Psycho* down to a TV episode, but handed it to Herrmann to score. After he saw the completed film with the music, he was very pleased.

According to IMDB, *Psycho*’s world wide gross profit by January 2004 was \$50,000,000.

Psycho was Alfred Hitchcock’s last Academy Award nomination for Best Director. He was nominated four times previously, but never won. In 1968, he was given the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, presented to producers, not directors, for their consistent high quality of motion picture production. 🌹



Hitchcock tried something a little different when he killed leading lady Janet Leigh after just 45 Minutes of Psycho.



The Nice Quaker Boy: Anthony Perkins was nominated for Best Supporting Actor in William Wyler’s Friendly Persuasion (1956) opposite Gary Cooper and Dorothy McGuire.