

Enough Rope: Alfred Hitchcock On Screen



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Alfred Hitchcock, as much as any other director, is as famous for his on and off screen persona as he is for the extraordinary films he made over more than fifty years in the industry. The face, the voice, the silhouette, Hitchcock was as expert a promoter as he was a director of spy thrillers, romances, suspenseful dramas, comedies and horror pictures.

There is a reason why Hitchcockian has become a much bandied about word for a certain type of twisty, gleefully macabre film and, indeed, for a certain eccentric visual style. He established a reputation as not only an exceptional director (to most, he had his detractors) but an entertaining one. A serious filmmaker who saw his job as one of pleasing (and terrifying) his audiences.

He engaged with television too, when many of his peers still considered it the enemy. *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* took his storytelling obsessions, not to

mention his personality, into every home, further cementing his fame and his legacy.

A complicated legacy now, given some of what we've learned about his obsessions with and mistreatment of some of his leading ladies. Needless to say, we'll deal with that as well.

So, prepare for ten weeks of spills, chills and thrills from a unique, if terribly flawed man.

Recommended Reading

A Life in Darkness and Light

Patrick McGilligan

The Dark Side of Genius

Donald Spoto

Alfred Hitchcock

Peter Ackroyd

Hitchcock

Francois Truffaut

Psycho

Robert Bloch

The House of Dr Edwardes

Francis Beeding

Rebecca

Jamaica Inn

'The Birds'

Daphne Du Maurier

Strangers on a Train

Patricia Highsmith

The 39 Steps

John Buchan

D'entre les morts

Pierre Boileau & Thomas Narcejac

Films

Silent Era (1922–1929)

- Number 13 (1922) – Unfinished and lost
- Always Tell Your Wife (1923) – Short, co-directed uncredited
- The Pleasure Garden (1925) – Directorial debut
- The Mountain Eagle (1926) – Lost film
- The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog (1927)
- The Ring (1927)
- Downhill (1927)
- The Farmer's Wife (1928)
- Easy Virtue (1928)
- Champagne (1928)
- The Manxman (1929)

Early British Sound Era (1929–1939)

- Blackmail (1929) – First British sound film
- An Elastic Affair (1930) – Short, lost film
- Juno and the Paycock (1930)
- Murder! (1930)
- Elstree Calling (1930) – Directed sketches
- The Skin Game (1931)
- Mary (1931) – German-language version of Murder!
- Rich and Strange (1931)
- Number Seventeen (1932)
- Waltzes from Vienna (1934)
- The Man Who Knew Too Much (1934)
- The 39 Steps (1935)
- Secret Agent (1936)
- Sabotage (1936)
- Young and Innocent (1937)
- The Lady Vanishes (1938)
- Jamaica Inn (1939)

Hollywood / American Period (1940–1976)

- Rebecca (1940) – Won Best Picture at the Oscars
- Foreign Correspondent (1940)
- Mr. & Mrs. Smith (1941)
- Suspicion (1941)
- Saboteur (1942)
- Shadow of a Doubt (1943)
- Lifeboat (1944)
- Spellbound (1945)
- Notorious (1946)
- The Paradine Case (1947)
- Rope (1948)
- Under Capricorn (1949)
- Stage Fright (1950)
- Strangers on a Train (1951)
- I Confess (1953)
- Dial M for Murder (1954)
- Rear Window (1954)
- To Catch a Thief (1955)
- The Trouble with Harry (1955)
- The Man Who Knew Too Much (1956) – Remake of his 1934 film
- The Wrong Man (1956)
- Vertigo (1958)
- North by Northwest (1959)
- Psycho (1960)
- The Birds (1963)
- Marnie (1964)
- Torn Curtain (1966)
- Topaz (1969)
- Frenzy (1972)
- Family Plot (1976) – Final feature film

Television

Alfred Hitchcock Presents (1955)

Suspicion (1957)

Startime (1960)

Alcoa Premiere (1962)

The Alfred Hitchcock Hour (1962)