

'Lord of the Flies' updated



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Entertainment
Theuron News
Service

A modern film update of *Lord of the Flies*, based on Nobel laureate Sir William Golding's classic novel, opened at theatres across Canada March 16.

It's been 17 years since the first movie version was released. Lewis Allen, who was the executive producer for the 1963 film, serves in the same capacity for the update.

Instead of a shipwreck, a plane crash launches this 1990s adaptation of the novel.

But the basic premise remains the same - how easily the thin veneer of civilization can be stripped away.

Twenty-four youths, stranded on a deserted island after the plane crash, are forced to protect themselves from one another. Two rival factions are formed - one embodying the values of the civilization they are cut off from, the other

embracing the savagery of their new surroundings.

Balthazar Getty (Young Guns II), plays Ralph, the cadet leader who strives to maintain civilized behavior. Another 15-year-old, Chris Furrh, plays Jack, the self-appointed leader of the rebels.

A made-for-pay-TV movie that explores the controversial blacklisting that took place in Hollywood during the early 1950s makes its Canadian debut in late March.

Fellow Traveller, a British-American co-production, is set in the McCarthy era of witch hunts. In the film industry (as elsewhere), a number of people believed to be Communists or Communist sympathizers had their careers and lives ruined by government-condoned persecution.

Senator Joseph McCarthy - then considered by many to be a patriot, but later discredited - and his House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) spearheaded the U.S.-wide search for people who "threatened" the United States.

As in Nazi Germany a few years earlier, people started pointing

fingers at those they suspected of holding opinions that differed from those of "right-thinking citizens."

In *Fellow Traveller*, Ron Silver portrays a Hollywood scriptwriter and Hart Bochner plays a high-profile matinee idol. Both face being blacklisted - people on such lists had difficulty finding work.

Fellow Traveller debuts March 25 on Superchannel in western Canada and March 29 on First Choice in eastern Canada.

The entertainment lineup for the 19th annual Juno Awards has an international flavor.

As well as a number of Canadian stars, Milli Vanilli - the German duo who won a Grammy Award last month - and American Rod Stewart will perform. Both Milli Vanilli and Stewart are nominated in "international" Juno categories.

Face in The Crowd

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