

Did Alfred Hitchcock write 'Psycho'?

By Dick Kleiner

Q. Please give me a little info on Alfred Hitchcock. I know he directed, but did he also write the script for "Psycho"? Is there a book on his life and movies, and is he dead? — J.P., Swansea, Mass.

A. Alfred Hitchcock was not a film writer — he only directed. The script for "Psycho" was written by Joseph Stefano (from a novel by Robert Bloch). There have been many books about Hitchcock, who died in 1980. Francois Truffaut wrote one of the best. There is another good one called "The Art of Alfred Hitchcock," by Donald Spoto.

Q. Is it true that Alfred Hitchcock plays brief parts in all his movies? Or is this just a legend invented by a stranger? — Unsigned, Browns Mills, N.J.

A. It is very true — and it's fun to watch for him. His "walk-on" appearances lasted only a few seconds.

Q. On the TV show "The Waltons," John-Boy (Richard Thomas) wrote books. Where can I buy some of those books? — Mrs. L.J.B., Arcadia, Ind.

A. You mustn't take TV so seriously. There never was a real John-Boy Walton, so there never were any books by him, either. The closest you can get is to read some books by Earl

Hamner, who created that show and modelled John-Boy somewhat after himself. Hamner wrote books such as "Fifty Roads to Town" and "Spencer's Mountain." They are probably in your local library.

Q. One of my favorite old movies is "Rebecca" with Joan Fontaine and Laurence Olivier. Her employer referred to Joan Fontaine's character as "you." Her husband called her "dearest." The servants called her "Mrs. DeWinter." Everyone else said "my dear." Did her character not have a first name? — F.T., St. Joseph, Mo.

A. She was always nameless, from

her inception in Daphne du Maurier's novel, then in the stageplay, in the 1940 movie, in a TV adaptation and even in an opera. No first name, ever.

Q. On the TV show "Dear John," in the classroom scenes, there is a tall gentleman who sits in the back row but never speaks. Who is he? And why doesn't he ever say anything? — T., Mercer, Pa.

A. He is a character they call Tom, played by Tom Willett. It is a running gag on the show that he is silent. Once, when he was away, they joked that Tom was off on a speaking engagement.



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