

Movie review

Eye of the Needle *Donald Sutherland at his very best*

by Terry Dupuis

Donald Sutherland gives one of the greatest performances of his career in a new suspense thriller called *The Eye Of The Needle*.

The 45-year-old Canadian born actor first came to prominence in 1970 in *Mash*, but throughout that decade he remained one of my least favourite actors, mainly because I was put off to a large extent by the kooky slightly oddball characters he seemed to specialize in playing.

Several years ago I sat up and took notice when he played the hero of the remake of *Invasion Of The Body Snatchers*.

And I was extremely impressed by his portrayal of troubled family man Calvin Jarrett in *Ordinary People* last fall. I felt that he was unjustly passed over at this

year's Oscars nominations for Best Actor.

Eye Of The Needle comes fast upon his triumphant performance in *Ordinary People*, and I am equally impressed with this new performance. His role in *Eye Of The Needle* is startlingly different from Calvin Jarrett in *Ordinary People*, demonstrating a versatility in Sutherland I would never have expected.

His role in *Eye Of The Needle* is that of Henry Faber, a cold-blooded and ruthless Nazi spy working in Britain during World War Two who went under the code name "The Needle". Faber's weapon is a sharp stilette knife which he shows no hesitation in using during the course of his work.

In the film, "The Needle" is being sharply hunted by British Intelligence, because it is believed that he has gained access to the Allied Plan to invade Nor-

mandy. While trying to navigate a small boat to a U-Boat which is waiting off the coast, the master spy is caught in a violent storm and ends up being shipwrecked on Storm Island off the coast of Scotland.

This remote island is inhabited by only a few people. Sutherland is found and nursed bath to health by a family who lives on the island. These people of course have no idea who the shipwrecked stranger is.

Here *The Eye Of The Needle* takes on the dimension of an offbeat love story as the killer spy becomes attracted to the man's repressed unhappy wife.

This latter role is superbly played by Kate Nelligan. From here on in, the suspense and action become particularly acute. The plot's many twists and turns will keep the audience off balance and on the edge of their seats.

The Eye Of The Needle is based on a best-selling novel by Ken Follett. In some ways it is reminiscent of another suspense thriller called *The Day Of The Jackal*, but I find this new movie to be superior in most ways.

I think the main difference is that in *Day Of The Jackal*, the assassin was an impersonal presence. We never really even got to know who he was.

In *The Eye Of The Needle*, much of the story is revealed from the assassin's viewpoint, and Sutherland's marvellous performance brings it to life.

We are also shown the viewpoint of the woman who falls in love with him, and the tension and relation between these two characters makes *The Eye Of The Needle* much more humanly interesting and dramatically satisfying.



Quick return

Rick Presse of Midland, left, is seen making a quick move to return the ball Saturday in Little Lake Park when the Midland-Huron Volleyball Club hosted a doubles men's and

women's tournament. Presse and Keith Duval, right, won the men's section of the tournament, defeating a pair from Oshawa 17-15 and 15-3 after being behind 10-2 in the first game.

Midland youth injured

A car-cyclist accident Friday morning in front of 385 Mildred Street resulted in minor injuries to a Third Street youth, report Midland town police.

Injured was Robert Quesnelle, 10, of Third Street in Midland who was taken by cruiser to Huronia District Hospital where he was treated and released.

According to police Quesnelle was operating his bicycle along the east sidewalk on Mildred Street when he apparently drove off the walkway and into the side of a car driven by Kenneth Cowan, 70, of Mildred Street.

Damage to the Cowan car was set at \$200 while the bicycle sustained \$50 damage. No charges were laid as a result of the collision.

Midland town police arrested a juvenile resident of the United States and charged a Hamilton youth with theft over \$200 and break, enter and theft after a series of in-

idents in Midland Sunday.

Charged was Mark Steven Naves, 16, of Hamilton.

According to police, a call was received at 7:55 a.m. Sunday that a boat and motor were being stolen by two male youths in another boat.

Later that day Smith's Camp Store on King Street was the object of a break, enter and theft involving an undetermined amount of cash.

As a result of the two incidences police arrested the two youths and charged Naves.

Tay bridges the gap

Tomorrow's a big day for members of Tay Township council. That's when the township's newest bridge is to be officially opened at 11 a.m. The new landmark spans the North River on Con. 13, northwest of Coldwater.

Tay Twp. opens its coffers

Rono Construction Limited can expect to receive a cheque from the Township of Tay in the amount of \$117,263.96 for part of the work the firm has done on improving Waubashene's water system.

A somewhat quiet week

You can mark down another quiet weekend for members of Midland Fire Department and that goes double for firefighters in Waubashene and Tay Township.

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