

Still of the Night

engrossing thriller

by Terry Dupuis

Master of suspense director Alfred Hitchcock passed away several years ago, but the type of cinema which he did so much to develop lives on and remains healthy, judging by a new suspense thriller called *Still Of The Night*. It must be admitted that murder thrillers have thrived on our screens for the past four or five years, but most of them have been of the blood and gore variety in which a group of teenagers are being menaced by a killer. Most of these movies were long on violence, and short on good acting or an intelligent script. In short, they had no class.

Hitchcock's movies usually had class, and so has *Still of the Night*. It was directed and written by Robert Benton, the man who won Academy Awards for *Kramer Vs. Kramer*. And it stars Roy Scheider and Meryl Streep, two recent Oscar nominees. And the glossy photography is by Nestor Alamedros, one of the best in the business.

This movie is very much in the Hitchcock tradition. Scheider plays a psychiatrist whose patient is murdered. The clues to the killer seem to lie in the recordings of the sessions this man had with the doctor. The psychiatrist reviews these sessions, and finds that the finger of guilt seems to point towards the man's mistress, who is played by Meryl Streep. When the psychiatrist meets her, he is torn by double emotions—suspicions that she might have been the killer, and infatuation with her.

As we can see, the role which Scheider plays is very much in the Hitchcock tradition of the hero as an innocent pawn who becomes drawn by events into a mysterious and deadly game. One thinks of Cary Grant in *North By Northwest* or James Stewart in *Rear Window*. Then there is the icy cool blondness of the heroine played by Meryl Streep which is reminiscent of such Hitchcock heroines as Grace Kelly and Eva Marie Saint.

Director Robert Benton is known as a director of comedy, for example *The Late Show*; and as a director of domestic drama, as *Kramer Vs. Kramer* exemplified. A suspense thriller is completely new territory for him, and he handles the format very well. Whether the many similarities to Hitchcock's style were intentional or subconscious influences on Benton's part, I don't really know, but most of the Hitchcockian devices work very well in this picture. Two sequences in particular which are very suggestive of Hitchcock involve a watch on a desk which the psychiatrist is trying to keep out of the view of a police investigator; the other is a sequence at an art auction.

In addition to these episodes, there are many sequences in *Still Of The Night* which manage to create and sustain a high level of tension. As for the acting, Scheider and Streep are well-cast in their respective roles, and the supporting players are equally fine. In particular, Jessica Tandy, a fine character actress who has been seen on screen more frequently these days. She plays the part of Scheider's mother, another psychologist who warns her son that he may be getting into something which is over his head.

Still Of The Night is an engrossing psychological murder thriller which relies more on character and plot and mood rather than sensationalism.



Junior B-ball champions

Midland Secondary School was the scene Saturday of the GBSSA boys basketball championships. Bayview Baby Bengals won the midget division final with a thrilling win over Innisdale Invaders. Captain and star

guard of Bayview Jim Huges, is pictured here receiving the title plaque from MSS vice-principal David Moore. For full details on the day-long championship tourney, see the Friday Times.



Lucky winner

As winner of the Midland Figure Skating club door prize at the recent skating carnival, Dan Richardson, of 90 Holgate St., Barrie, received a new children's bicycle from the Bike Shop. Seen in the photo above, Richardson, right, is presented with his prize from Doug Woods, left, new owner of the Bike Shop.

Sign up for MGC golf clinics

Midland Golf and Country Club is now taking applications for its fourth annual Spring Golf Clinic, to be held at Midland Secondary School.

There will be two sessions run on each of the following evenings: Monday, Mar. 28, and the next four Monday nights, Apr. 4, 11, 18, and 25. Session A runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., and session B runs from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

All men and women 19 years of age and over are welcome to take part, and the cost is \$15, which includes the five lessons, and a round of golf at Midland Golf and Country Club at the conclusion of the clinics. Program of the lessons includes basic instruction, films, demonstrations, golf etiquette, rules, and video taping of your own swing.

Qualified local amateurs will be doing the instructing, and

your basic golf clubs are all that is needed. If needed, some golf clubs will be available at the school. You should also bring running shoes, and a large towel for use in the clinic.

Registration forms are available from Chester Graham at

MSS, phone 526-2274 or home 526-6104, or Paul Quilty at ESPSS in Penetang, phone 549-7446 or home 526-7222.

Clinics will be restricted to 40 golfers in each session on a first come-first served basis, so don't delay! Enroll right now.

MOVIE GUIDE

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A girl weighing eight pounds one ounce was born to 14 Burke Street, Penetanguishene, residents Mr. and Mrs. Trent Emery, on March 4. reports Penetanguishene General Hospital.

Annual Firemen's Dance

Midland Firefighters' Annual Dance will be held on Saturday, Mar. 26 at the Hunters and Anglers Club.

Admission charge is \$12 per couple and includes a buffet.

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