**ALFRED “HITCH” HITCHCOCK**

1899 Born in London on August 13, 1899

Strict Catholic Parents

Attended the Jesuit school St. Ignatius College before going on to attend the University of London

1920 Hitchcock entered the film industry with a full-time position at the Famous Players-Lasky Company designing title cards for silent films.

1923 Hitchcock begins working as Assistant Director, Art Director and Writer

1925 Hitchcock directed his first film *The Pleasure Garden (*1925),

1927 The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog

1929 Film Blackmail is said to be the first British "talkie."

1930s, He directed such classic suspense films as The Man Who Knew Too Much (1934) and The 39 Steps (1935).

1939 Leaves for Hollywood in 1939

1940 First American film, Rebecca (1940), won an Academy Award for best picture.

1950s-60s

Bernard Herrmann is most closely associated with the director Alfred Hitchcock. He wrote the scores for seven Hitchcock films, from *The Trouble with Harry* (1955) to *Marnie* (1964), a period that included *The Man Who Knew Too Much, Vertigo, North by Northwest, and Psycho*. He also was credited as sound consultant on *The Birds (1963),* as there was no actual music in the film as such, only electronically made bird sounds.

1966 Herrmann's relationship with Hitchcock came to an abrupt end when they disagreed over the score for Torn Curtain.

Some of his most famous films include Psycho (1960), The Birds (1963) and Marnie (1964).

His cameo appearances in his own films, as well as his interviews, film trailers and the television program Alfred Hitchcock Presents (1955-65), made him a cultural icon

Hitchcock directed more than 50 feature films in a career spanning six decades.

1979 Hitchcock received the AFI's Life Achievement Award.

1980 Hitch Dies

1982 He was survived by his lifetime partner, assistant director and closest collaborator, Alma Reville, also known as "Lady Hitchcock," who dies in 1982

HITCHCOCK TRAITS/MOTIFS

Obsession with blonds

Small town secrets/darkness (North California/SF)

Innocent men found guilty

Paranoia

Sadism

Birds

Voyeurism

Obsession

MacGuffin

The likeable criminal, aka the charming Sociopath

Trains

Staircases

Violence in theaters

The “Perfect” Murder

Falling from High Places

LEGACY

**Hitchcock's Rule**. Movie director Alfred **Hitchcock** articulated the following **rule** of filmmaking: "The size of an object in the frame should equal its importance in the story at that moment."

In fiction, a **MacGuffin (**sometimes McGuffin or maguffin) is a plot device in the form of some goal, desired object, or other motivator that the protagonist pursues, often with little or no narrative explanation. The specific nature of a MacGuffin is typically unimportant to the overall plot. The most common type of MacGuffin is an object, place, or person. Other more abstract types include money, victory, glory, survival, power, love, or some unexplained driving force.

In [fiction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiction), a **MacGuffin** (sometimes **McGuffin** or **maguffin**) is a [plot device](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plot_device) in the form of some goal, name "MacGuffin" appears to originate in 20th-century filmmaking, and was popularized by [Alfred Hitchcock](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Hitchcock) in the 1930s

**FILMS that are clearly “Hitchcockian”**

*Body Double* (1984) - Brian De Palma

*Scream* (1996) - Wes Craven

*The Sixth Sense* (1999) – M. Night Shyamalan

*Mulholland Drive* (2001) – David Lynch

*Peeping Tom* (1960) - Michael Powell

*Obsession* – (1976) - De Palma

*Silence of the Lambs (1991)* De Palma

*Twelve Monkeys - (1995) Terry Gilliam*

*Basic Instinct* (1992) - Paul Verhoeven

*Halloween* (1978) – John Carpenter

*Breakdown* (1997) – Mostow

*Dressed to Kill* (1980) – Brian De Palma

*Psycho* (1998)- Gus Van Sant

*Bad Education* (2004) - Almadovar

*What Lies Beneath (2000) Robert Zemeckis*

*Se7en* (1995) – Fincher

*The Vanishing* (1988) - George Sluizer

*Blowout*  (1981) – Antonioni

*10 Cloverfield Lane* (2016) - Dan Trachtenberg

*Shutter Island* (2010) – Scorsese

*Panic Room* (2002) - Fincher

*The Ghost Writer* (2010) Roman Polanski

*The Spanish Prisoner* (1997) - David Mamet

*The Collector* (1965) - William Wyler

*The Usual Suspects* (1995) Singer

*Phone Booth* (2002) – Joel Schumacher

*Flightplan* (2005) Robert Schwentke

*Disturbia* (2007) - D.J. Caruso