

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, a **MacGuffin** (sometimes **McGuffin** or **maguffin**) is a plot device in the form of some goal, name "MacGuffin" appears to originate in 20th-century filmmaking, and was popularized by 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