



ALL ABOUT ALFRED HITCHCOCK

There have been four major film versions of John Buchan's book. Alfred Hitchcock's original has been the most acclaimed and still is today. It is #4 in the BFI poll of British films.

A good spy/suspense thriller incites the audience to grapple with real and present dangers, even if it is fiction. Spy thrillers are not an invention of the modern times. Odysseus, for example, employed a spy weapon greater than James Bond's Q ever dreamt of — the Trojan horse. The Bible, Homer and Alexandre Dumas used priests and princes as spies creating intrigue and deception.

Alfred Hitchcock was the master of suspense. He directed more than fifty feature films* in a career spanning six decades. He remains one of the most popular and most recognized filmmakers. Many of Hitchcock's films were espionage/spy subgenre films, the idea of an innocent man on the run. He was responsible for the popularity of this kind of film. Most notable were:

“The Man Who Knew Too Much” (1934), “The 39 Steps” (1935), “Secret Agent” (1936), “Sabotage” (1936), “The Lady Vanishes” (1938), “Foreign Correspondent” (1940), “Saboteur” (1942), “Notorious” (1946), “North By Northwest” (1959)

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HITCHCOCK?

- 1) How many films did Hitchcock direct before “The 39 Steps”?
- 2) How old was he when “The 39 Steps” was released?
- 3) Which Hitchcock thriller is called his “American 39 Steps”?
- 4) What film location do *The Lady Vanishes*, *Stranger on a Train*, *Sabotage*, *North By Northwest* and *The 39 Steps* share?
- 5) Even though his wife, Alma Reville, was a red head, Hitchcock preferred blondes, insisting that the audience would be more suspicious of a brunette, and he felt they photographed better in black and white. His memorable blondes include Madeleine Carroll, Joan Fontaine, Carole Lombard, Ingrid Bergman, Doris Day, Kim Novak, Janet Leigh, Grace Kelly and Tippi Hedren. Who was the blonde heroine in his final film?



- 6) In 1940, Hitchcock purchased the 200-acre Cornwall Ranch in Northern California. He used its coastal location to substitute for the English coastline in “Suspicion,” he mentions the area as the place the disturbing phenomenon first occurred in “The Birds,” and based the design of the mansion in “Psycho” on the dilapidated Hotel McCray with its adjacent motel. Where was his beloved retreat from Hollywood?

Answers:

1) 17 2) 36 years old 3) “North by Northwest” 4) All have major scenes on moving trains. 5) Barbara Harris in “Family Plot” in 1976 6) Scotts Valley in the Santa Cruz Mountains

* Other notable Hitchcock films: *Rebecca* (1940), *Suspicion* (1941), *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* (1941), *Shadow of a Doubt* (1943), *Lifeboat* (1944), *Spellbound* (1945), *Stage Fright* (1950), *Strangers on a Train* (1951), *Dial M for Murder* (1954), *Rear Window* (1954), *To Catch a Thief* (1955), *The Trouble With Harry* (1955), *The Wrong Man* (1956), *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956), *Vertigo* (1958), *Psycho* (1960), *The Birds* (1963), *Marnie* (1964), *Torn Curtain* (1966), *Topaz* (1969), *Frenzy* (1972), *Family Plot* (1976)