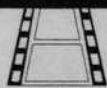


KUBRICK'S KILLER CLASSIC



FORGOTTEN FILM

'The Killing'

Starring: Sterling Hayden, Coleen Gray, Marie Windsor, Elisha Cook, Jr. and Joe Sawyer

★★★★☆

By Lisa Griffing and Rebecca Wilson
Oregon Daily Emerald

Gangsters, machine guns, pancake makeup and a hyperactive poodle contribute Mafia excitement and a nostalgic charm to this week's Forgotten Film. We decided to deviate from the usual repertoire of cheesy '80s flicks and go all the way back to Stanley Kubrick's 1956 thriller, "The Killing." It's a far cry from "Dr. Strangelove" or "Eyes Wide Shut," but Kubrick's sixth film is great entertainment nonetheless.

Rebecca — I'm glad Mason didn't get to pick this week. I like having cinematic diversity.

Lisa — Now we don't have to discuss '80s lingo or talk about movies nobody would ever dream of watching.

Rebecca — Heehee. Yeah, this movie is actually worth seeing, even if it doesn't change your life.

The story begins auspiciously with a notorious gangster's release from Alcatraz. Johnny Clay, played with sinister perfection by Sterling Hayden ("The Outsider" and the Godfather movies), returns to his hometown of Chicago and to the woman who loves him, faithful Fay. Johnny has paid his debt to society and wants to make a new life for himself and his woman.

But rather than taking the conventional route and getting a job, taking night classes or finding God, he plans an elaborate heist to rip off \$2 million from a local racetrack.



Bryan Dixon Emerald

Rebecca — Some people never change.

Unfortunately, Johnny can't pull off the heist by himself. The plot thickens when spineless bookie George Peatty (Elisha Cook Jr.) reveals the shady plan to his devious wife Sherry (Marie Windsor). Of course, Sherry immediately spills the story to her handsomely greasy boyfriend.

Rebecca — Big mistake.

Lisa — Ahhh ... how I love the stereotypical evil woman who ruins it all.

Rebecca — Now, now, Lisa. Maybe all women really were evil in 1956.

Lisa — Yes, that must be it.

A cast of bizarre plot twists and characters make this seemingly typical mob story a cinematic gem.

For example, the requisite hitman is hired to shoot a horse, not a human; a thug hired to create a diversion at the racetrack is really a Russian chess master; and in the end, it all comes down to poor ol' George Peatty and his bad aim with a machine gun.

Lisa — And don't forget the craziest thing of all: All the people working at the airport are men!

Rebecca — Umm ... I think that was normal in the 1950s.

Lisa — Oh.

Rebecca — But the poodle on the runway was definitely *not* normal.

The machinations combine with the gangster lingo and several outbursts of classic lines such as: "If people didn't have headaches, what would happen to the aspirin industry?"

Lisa — My personal favorite is, "This is a bad joke without a punchline."

The mobsters thought they would get away clean; like the Titanic, the heist was supposed to be unsinkable; an infallible plan where "no one gets hurt."

At first everything goes smoothly. Then, slowly but surely, things start to disintegrate. But don't worry, we won't give away the ending because you'll definitely want to see it for yourself.

Rebecca — Just remember, never refuse a "lucky" horseshoe.

"The Killing" is worth watching. The complicated plot line is surprisingly easy to follow, even with the nonlinear time sequences — think "Pulp Fiction." The energetic, faceless narrator adds humor and cohesiveness to the story by giving frames of reference: "Earlier that day ..."; "At 10 o'clock that morning ..."; "Half an hour earlier ..."

Most importantly, "The Killing" doesn't require mental gymnastics. The story isn't particularly intense, which allows for a full appreciation of Kubrick's innovative writing and directing techniques. And at only 85 minutes, the film won't consume your evening.

We are giving "The Killing" four well-deserved stars. So this weekend, we recommend you rent this movie and sit back and relax with your fedora, malt whiskey and favorite sawed-off shotgun.

Guarneri del Gesu sells for \$3.5 million, no strings attached

NEW YORK (AP) — Who says you can't buy anything for \$3.5 million anymore?

That's how much 15 investors spent on Monday on a rare violin —

a 1735 Guarneri del Gesu. Violinist Robert McDuffie, who found the instrument five years ago and will get to play it, organized the purchase.

"I had fallen in love," McDuffie,

42, told The New York Times in Tuesday's editions. "It was more than an extension of my body. It was an extension of my musical personality."

The violin was in perfect condition, with previous players including 19th-century virtuosos Nicolo Paganini and Ludwig Spohr. The only problem was that it was a tad pricey.

So Dietmar Machold of Machold

Rare Violins, who owned the instrument, allowed McDuffie to play it while he looked for a way to buy it.

It was difficult and it took a while, but he found 15 investors, each of whom paid shares of \$100,000. They call themselves 1735 del Gesu Partners L.P.

"As one family member said to me, 'It's going to be hard to convince business people in America that a piece of wood costs \$3.5 million,'" he said.

"And that turned out to be true."

An established violinist who has performed extensively around the world, McDuffie won't pay rent — he just has to play the violin so it can keep its tone rather than gather dust in a museum. He also must pay for its insurance and maintenance, which he estimated at \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. In 23 years, McDuffie must return the instrument to the investment group, which plans to sell it.

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