

# Clint Eastwood shows he has 'Absolute Power'

Page designed and written by Jonathan Roberts

There are very few actors in the history of the entertainment industry that have been able to bridge the gap between generations and become actors for all generations. Some of the names that come to mind are actors like James Dean, Clark Gable, Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman and Sean Connery.

Another actor that has bridged the gap incredibly well is Clint Eastwood. Eastwood is a veteran actor of over 50 films and director of 19 films. Now the list of his accomplishments can include starring in, directing and producing a big budget motion picture. In his movie "Absolute Power," which opened last Friday, Eastwood breaks new ground for even a superstar like himself.

In addition to Eastwood, "Absolute Power" stars Ed Harris, Gene Hackman, Scott Glen, E.G. Marshall, Laura Linney and Judy Davis. The movie is adapted from the best-selling novel by David Baldacci.

"Absolute Power" is the story of master thief Luther Whitney (Eastwood) who, very simply put, is the best in his line of business. But he is now too old to be in his line of work, so he has decided to retire with a bang. He has chosen one last, high-profile target to end his career: Walter Sullivan.

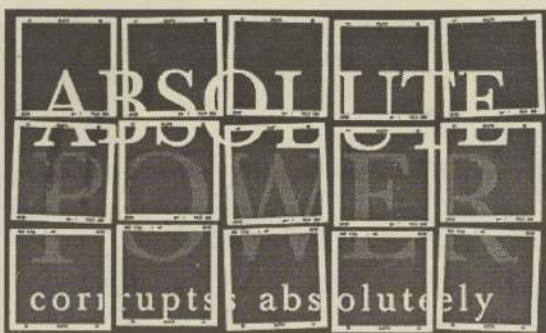
Sullivan (E.G. Marshall), one of the most wealthy men in Washington, D.C., has planned a business trip to the Bahamas with his wife Christy (Melora Hardin). This appears to be the perfect crime for Whitney, so he breaks into their huge mansion only to find Christy has stayed home.

More startling than Christy staying home is who she is with when Whitney enters the mansion. That person is Alan Richmond (Gene Hackman), Sullivan's protégé and the leader of the free

world, the current President of the United States.

Whitney watches as the President and Christy enter the bedroom. He then witnesses a bizarre murder, which involves Christy Sullivan, the President, Secret Service agents Bill Burton (Scott Glenn) and Tim Collin (Dennis Haysbert), and the President's Chief of staff, Gloria Russell (Judy Davis).

Of course, under the circumstances, Whitney is the obvious choice for a scapegoat in the murder. The perpetrators of the murder



Luther Whitney (Clint Eastwood) and Kate Whitney (Laura Linney) take a break from their busy lives to sit and chat.

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**Clint Eastwood**  
Director/Actor/Producer

initiate a cover-up that implicates Whitney.

Homicide detective Seth Frank (Ed Harris) is assigned to the case. He discovers only a master thief could have entered the mansion, so the list of suspects is short and Luther Whitney is at

the top of that list.

At first Whitney decides his best option is to go on the run, but he then realizes White House conspirators are hunting him down. Whitney not only has to worry about himself, but also his estranged daughter Kate (Laura Linney), a county prosecutor. So he decides to stay and fight the White House. Even though he tries to keep his daughter out of the situation, she irrevocably is drawn in when Seth Frank, two Secret Service agents and Whitney himself each pay her a visit.

"This is a suspenseful, character-driven story, and the actors who appear in "Absolute Power" are the best that I could find. I'm

very pleased with the result. I hope audiences will be too," said Clint Eastwood in an interview on the set.

Clint Eastwood is right, this is a great movie with great acting from every angle. This can be attributed directly to Eastwood.

"I love the way Clint runs a set. There is never any tension or yelling, which I really appreciate, because it enables you to do what you need to do, without distraction," said Gene Hackman about his experience on the "Absolute Power" set. "He trusts you as a performer and you start feeling, around the camera and around the set, that this is a family and that we are all in this together. I appreciate that, and I think it enhances everyone's effort. I enjoyed working on 'Absolute Power,' and I think the film will again reflect Clint's excellence as a director."

Both Ed Harris and Laura Linney said the same of Eastwood the director. Eastwood's passion for his films is shown by the time and care he puts in each one. "Absolute Power" is no exception.

"Absolute Power" is a little slow compared to movies like "Seven" and "The Rock." So if you like movies that blows away your senses, then don't go see "Absolute Power."

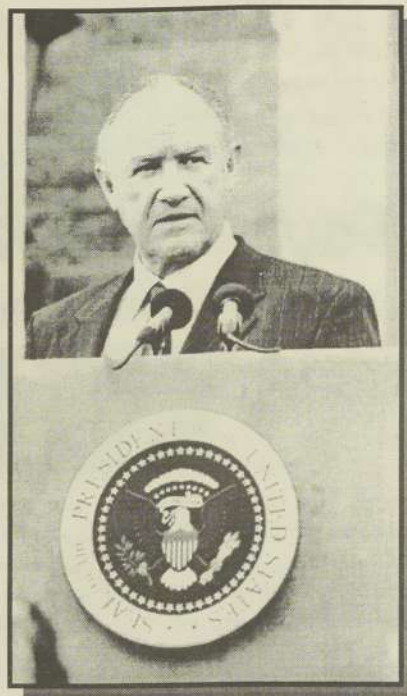
"Absolute Power" is a movie about characters not about big explosions and car chases.

There are many thrills and suspenseful situations. But this movie is a smart thriller that is yet another jewel in Clint Eastwood's awesome career. **Grade A.**



Ed Harris plays Seth Frank, the homicide detective who is investigating the murder of Christy Sullivan, played by Melora Hardin.

Pictures courtesy of Castle Rock Entertainment.



Gene Hackman plays the president of The United States of America, Alan Richmond. Richmond is somehow involved in the murder of his 'closest' friend's wife.



Cartoon by Jonathan Roberts

"The Empire Strikes Back" returns to theaters this Friday, Feb. 21. Call theaters for show times.



Here Clint Eastwood is seen checking the camera angles for a scene being filmed on a set resembling a Washington D.C. hospital.

"I love the way Clint runs a set. There is never any tension or yelling, which I really appreciate, because it enables you to do what you need to do, without distraction," said Gene Hackman on what it's like having Clint Eastwood as a director.

## Clint Eastwood Biography

Clinton Eastwood, Jr. was born on May 31, 1930 to Clinton and Ruth Eastwood. His sister Jean was born before him. Before becoming an actor in Hollywood, Clint worked many different jobs as, a haybailer, lumberjack, truck driver, furnaceman at a steel mill and an invoice filler at the Boeing plant. Clint had always been interested in the logging business and that is why he took a job at a milling operation on the Willamette River near Eugene, Oregon.

Despite starring in over 55 films since 1960, he finally won his first Academy Award in 1992 for "Unforgiven." "Unforgiven" won him best picture and best director awards.