

Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*

Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window* is one of the icons of American film making. A perfect example of Hollywood cinema at its best, it is an engaging piece of entertainment as well as a fascinating meditation on the nature of the film itself. A suspense thriller about a chair-bound observer who suspects his neighbor of murdering his wife, the narrative becomes the vehicle for Hitchcock's exploration of the basic ingredients of cinema, from voyeurism and dreamlike fantasy to the process of narration itself. This volume provides a fresh analysis of *Rear Window*, which is examined from a variety of perspectives in a series of new essays published here for the first time. Providing an account of the actual production of the film, as well as feminist and cultural readings of it, it also demonstrates the influence of *Rear Window* on a wide range of film makers, including Antonioni, De Palma, and Coppola, among others.

John Belton is professor of English and film at Rutgers University. The author of *American Cinema/American Culture* and *Widescreen Cinema*, which won the Kraszna-Krausz Award for Books on the Moving Image, he is a founding member of the National Film Preservation Board.

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Alfred Hitchcock's *Rear Window*

Edited by

JOHN BELTON



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To Vivian

Contents

	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page xi
	<i>List of Contributors</i>	xiii
	Introduction	
	Spectacle and Narrative	
	JOHN BELTON	1
1	The Making of <i>Rear Window</i>	
	SCOTT CURTIS	21
2	Voyeurism and the Postwar Crisis of Masculinity in <i>Rear Window</i>	
	ELISE LEMIRE	57
3	“The Dresses Had Told Me”	
	Fashion and Femininity in <i>Rear Window</i>	
	SARAH STREET	91
4	Alfred Hitchcock’s <i>Rear Window</i>	
	The Fourth Side	
	MICHEL CHION	110
5	Eternal Vigilance in <i>Rear Window</i>	
	ARMOND WHITE	118
	<i>Filmography</i>	141
	<i>Reviews of <i>Rear Window</i>, 1954</i>	163
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	171
	<i>Index</i>	175

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xiv CONTRIBUTORS

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