

28 MAY 1972

MOVIE ABOUT CIA

Shooting a Scene
Up on Capitol HillBy KIKI LEVATHES
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A group of tourists walked down the steps of the Library of Congress yesterday toting cameras and pointing to the Capitol across the street. Between them dashed a woman in a sleeveless white linen dress, followed a few seconds later by a woman in a pink suit.

This uneventful scene was witnessed by 50 people and filmed over 12 times by British director Michael Winner for a new United Artists spy thriller called "Scorpio."

The movie stars Burt Lancaster, an aging CIA agent suspected of treason who is pursued in the film by Alain Delon, a French agent hired by the CIA to kill him, and Paul Scofield, a Russian agent.

The two women who emerged from the library on the first day of shooting were Joanne Linville (in white) and Gayle Hunnicutt (in pink), the female leads. According to the script, they had just exchanged an important bit of secret information.

"THIS IS a key scene in the movie," said Winner, "that will be projected and analyzed in the film by the agents."

It is, so to speak, a film within a film.

Before the shooting began, Winner carefully paced Miss Hunnicutt through the action and personally brushed out her well-coiffed hair. ("In the 50s, Hollywood actresses always had perfect hair," he said. "It is unnatural and I hate it.")

"Everyone move when I say the word, action," said Winner, returning to his blue director's chair.

"ACTION."

The group began to move down the steps.

Winner watched the action intensely. "Cut," he yelled.

"I'm terribly sorry, sir," said the still-life cameraman, Bob Ross, who had unknowingly gotten himself into the picture. He slunk back, cursing himself.

"STEPHEN," said Uiner to his personal assistant, "a cigar." Winner rose from his chair and took off his jacket, glancing down at his slightly protruding stomach. "That chocolate ice cream sundae I had last night didn't do any good at all, at all . . . damn, this chair is the wrong color blue. The Cambridge colors (his alma mater) are a lighter shade. This is the Oxford color. But I don't suppose anyone here will notice. . . . What lens are you using?"

"Twenty-five, Sir," replied the cameraman.

"All right, ready, everybody? Action."

Capitol police and public relations officers from the Library of Congress stood nearby smiling at the performance of actors and director. Extras waited excitedly to be called onto the set. Each received \$25 for a day of running up and down the steps—more than most of the film crew were making on English salaries.

Winner, his film crew and band of secret agents will be in Washington for the next two weeks with filming at the Lincoln Memorial, the White House, Union Station and residential areas throughout the city.

WINNER, who directed the successful comedy "The Jokers" in 1966, and more recently "The Nightcomers" and "Chato's Land," has often said, "Life is lived in real places, not film studios." Whenever possible and regardless of considerable cost, he avoids studios. For the last five weeks an office has been operating in Washington to work out the details of casting and shooting.

"Outsiders think that Washington is just white marble and monuments," Winner said. "It really has a very warm, lived-in feeling and I think it is the most beautiful city in the country."

The 36-year-old director and his entourage are staying at the Watergate in a suite overlooking the Potomac. The only

thing that has not impressed him in Washington so far is the food. "It is abominable—everywhere—and poorly and pompously." To help matters, he carries his own English marmalade.

Winner said he is surprised that young people in America think the CIA shouldn't exist. "They seem to think that it is some unfair sport of the establishment," he said. "Outside America, spying is just considered part of statehood from its beginnings."

Asked if "Scorpio" was pro or anti-CIA, Winner replied, "If you admire the CIA, I suppose you would think that it is an anti-CIA film. If you hate it, you would say it is pro-CIA. I think that the film will be a fairly accurate portrait."

"The agents themselves have been helpful and immensely cheerful."

After Washington, the remaining eight weeks of filming will take place in London, Vienna and Paris. Winner will then personally do the editing. "Scorpio" is scheduled for release sometime next year.

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