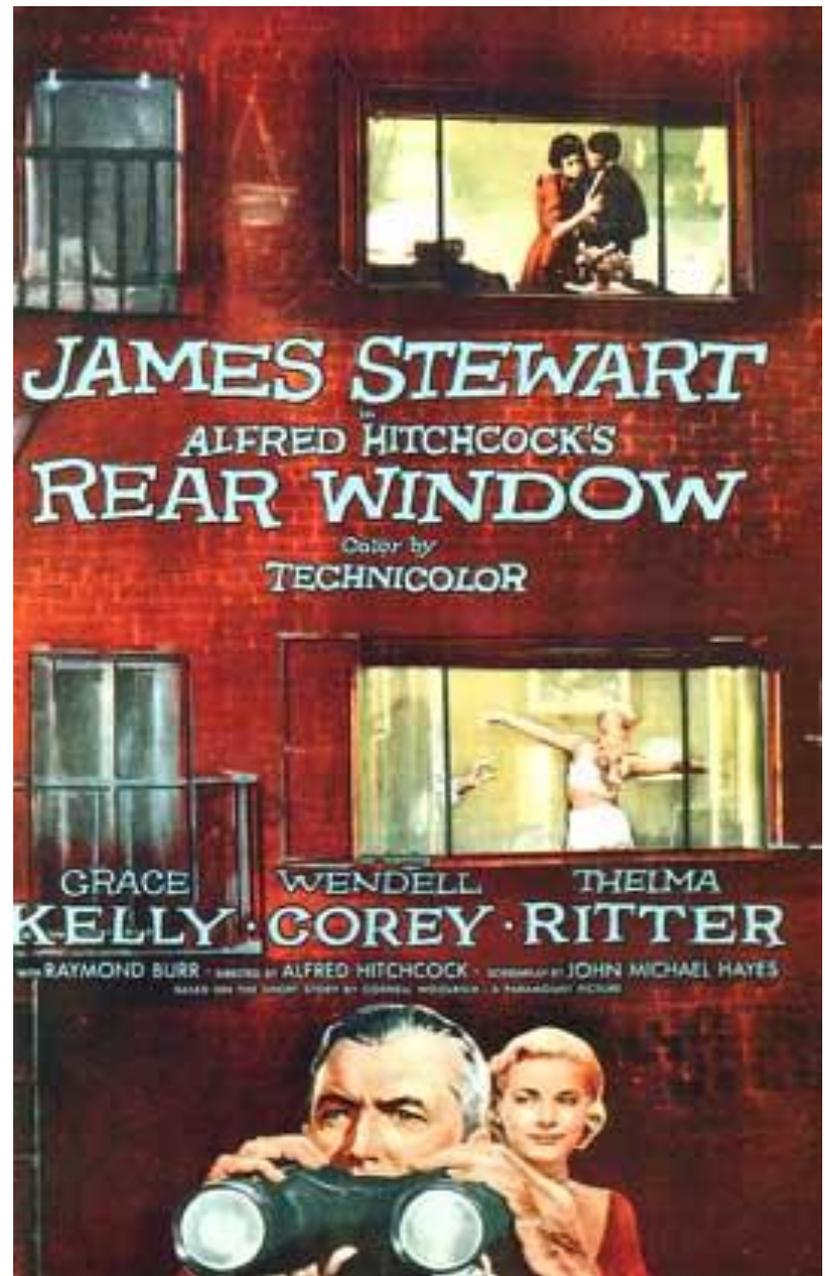


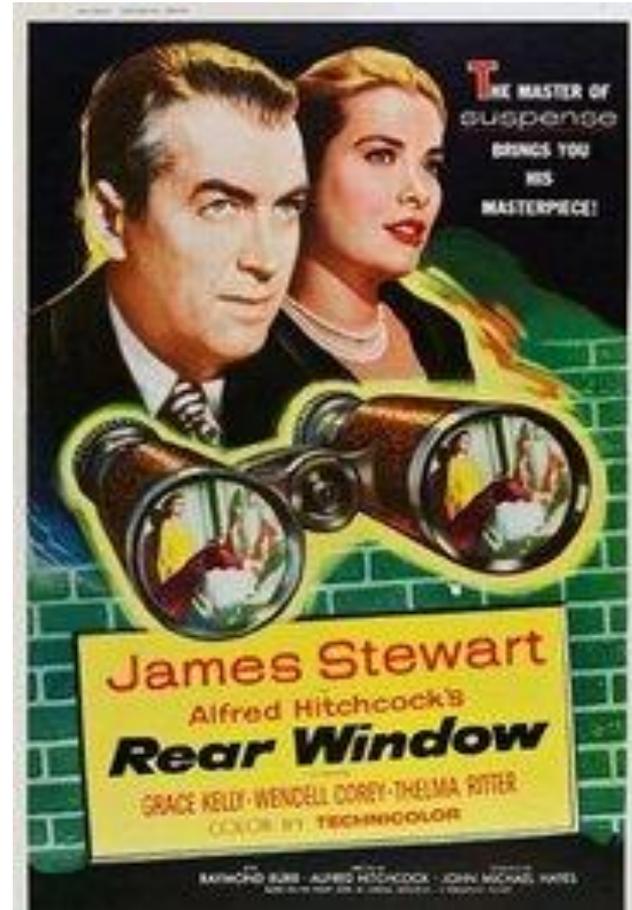
Rear Window

Directed by.
Alfred Hitchcock
Screenplay by.
John Michael
Hayes



Rear Window

- Filmed in 1954.
- Starring: James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Wendell Corey, and Thelma Ritter.
- Directed by: Alfred Hitchcock.
- Earned four Oscar nominations.



About the Director

- Alfred Hitchcock – “Master of Suspense”
- [Biography](#) (3mins) video & [Life and Times of Hitchcock](#) (4mins)
 - Born in London on August 13, 1899.
 - Created more than 50 films.
 - *Rear Window*, *Psycho*, *Birds*, and *Vertigo*
 - Television program, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (1955).
 - Combined humor and suspense.
 - Hitchcock made many cameos in his films.
 - Believed to be one of Hollywood’s most influential directors.



Rear Window – Synopsis

- Based upon Cornell Woolrich's short story, *It Had to Be Murder*.
 - The protagonist (James Stewart), a camera reporter confined to a wheelchair with a broken leg, watches tenants from adjacent apartments through his rear window.
 - Through his point of view, his voyeuristic surveillance follows a musician, a dancer, a lonely middle-aged woman, a distraught married couple, newlyweds, an older couple, and a sculptor.
 - He speculates a possible murder has occurred.

It Had to be Murder vs. Rear Window

- Short Story:
 - L.B. Jefferies' occupation is unknown.
 - Lisa is not in the story.
 - Stella is not in the story.
 - Sam is L.B.'s assistant, and is a combination of Lisa and Stella.
 - There is no dog or flowers in the story.
 - Det. Boyle (Doyle) searches Mr. Thorwald's home.
 - L.B.'s broken leg is not revealed until last line.
- Film:
 - L.B. Jefferies is a photographer.
 - Lisa is L.B.'s girlfriend.
 - Lisa and Stella are replacement characters for Sam.
 - The dog and flowers are added to increase suspicion.
 - Det. Doyle did not search Mr. Thorwald's home, because he needed a warrant.
 - L.B.'s broken leg is explained in the beginning of the film.

Rear Window Themes

- Voyeurism: spying on people.
- Marriage: gender roles, marital traditions, and marital expectations.
- Human Responsibility: responsibilities to neighbors, loved-ones, and strangers.

Point of View

- *It Had to Be Murder*: written in 1st POV.
- Rear Window: 1st person POV of Jeff through the camera lens, binoculars, and camera angles/perspective.
 - 3rd person POV: allows the audience to see what L.B. cannot see.



Cinematic Narration

- Films typically do not use the same narrative techniques that literature uses.
 - While literature uses written language to illustrate a story, film uses camera angles and diegetic and non-diegetic sound to tell its story.



Camera Angles and Shots

- Extreme Close-ups:
 - Emphasizes emotion and importance.
- Panning, titling, and zooming:
 - Follows characters in single-runs of camera.
- Long Shots or single-runs of camera:
 - Creates suspense.
 - More realistic.



Film Sound

- Diegetic sound comes from inside the story space.
 - Voices of characters.
 - Sounds made by objects in the story.
 - For example, the musician plays the piano throughout the film.
 - Music represented as coming from instruments in the story.



Film Sound

- Non-diegetic sound comes from outside the story space.
 - Narrator's commentary.
 - Sound effects which have been added (later) for dramatic effect.
 - Mood music and soundtrack.

Film Sound in *Rear Window*

- All of the sound in the film is diegetic, meaning that all the music, speech and other sounds all come from within the world of the film.
 - With the exception of non-diegetic orchestral music heard in the first three shots of the film.



The Setting, *It Had to Be Murder*

- “In that one, frontal vision came back full-depth, since it stood right angles to the rest, my own included, sealing up the inner hollow all these houses backed on. I could see into it, from the rounded projection of my bay window, as freely as into a doll house with its rear wall sliced away. And scaled down to about the same size” (Woolrich).



The Set

- *Rear Window* was filmed entirely on a man-made set at Paramount Studios. It cost \$75,000-\$100,000 to build.
- The very realistic courtyard composed of 32 apartments, which were completely furnished (running water/furniture) , at a non-existent address, 125 W. 9th Street Manhattan.



The Set

- The set was similar to New York City's Greenwich Village apartments.
- It was the largest indoor set ever built, measuring 98 feet wide, 185 feet long, and 40 feet high.
- Watch a time elapse of the [Rear Window's set](#).

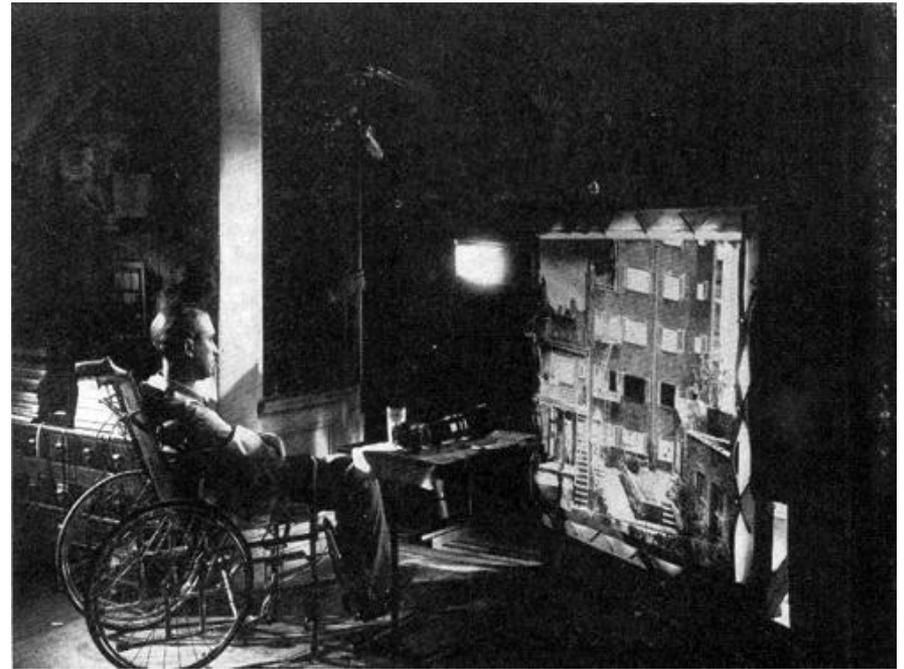


The Set - Lighting

- Over 1000 arc lights were used to create sunlight.
 - Turning day to night could be done in 45 minutes.



More Set photos



Characters

- Jeff “L.B.” Jefferies

- Lisa Fremont

- Do you recognize her?



Characters

- Songwriter



- Sculptor



- Miss Torso



Characters

- Det. Doyle



- Nurse Stella



Characters

- Mr. and Mrs. Thorwald
- Newlyweds



Characters

- Miss Lonelyhearts



- Elderly couple on Fire Escape



Credits

- Ranked #42 on the American Film Institute 100 Greatest Films.