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**Welcome
to...**





FILM NOIR

A photograph of a movie theater interior. The theater is dimly lit, with the focus on a large white screen at the front. The screen displays the text "Today's Movie..." in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Above the screen, several spotlights are visible, casting a glow on the screen. The theater seats are visible in the foreground, arranged in rows. The ceiling is dark with several recessed lights. The overall atmosphere is that of a quiet movie theater ready for a film.

Today's Movie...



BURT LANCASTER

AVA GARDNER

EDMOND O'BRIEN

ALBERT DEKKER

ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S

THE

KILLERS

Presented by MARK KELLINGER

Directed by ROBERT SIOGMAN

Screenplay by BENJAMIN WALLER / Story by BENJAMIN WALLER / Produced by MARK KELLINGER
A UNIVERSAL INTERNATIONAL PICTURE

Robert Siodmak's 1946 *The Killers*, inspired by Ernest Hemingway's short story, is noir royalty, an untouchable...

The original opens with a peerless noir set piece as two gunmen... *



***Detours and Lost Highways by F. Hirsch**

**“I did something wrong -
-- once.” Burt Lancaster
(Ole “Swede” Anderson)**

Classic Noir Theme: The Burden of the Past

- Noir protagonists are often individuals who are dogged by their past, a major theme of film noir. **In Robert Siodmark’s classic *The Killers*, the main character (knows) that his past has finally caught up with him.***

***Film Noir: Top 50 Pick of Film Noir Classics from 1940-1960**



**PROBABLY THIS MONTH'S
SADDEST CHARACTER**

Comparison to Citizen Kane

- ...**The Killers**, a picture which could be called **a model of cinematic storytelling** --- if the matrix hadn't been set five years ago in another **brilliant flashback** job by the name of **Citizen Kane**.*



- Los Angeles Times, "Hit Thriller," Philip K. Scheur, Oct. 12, 1946

- **The Killers'** flashback structure and visual elan wowed the writers and directors in attendance. **The Killers** depicted a fully realized world of desperation, desire and dread. That in itself subverted the cynically upbeat Hollywood output..

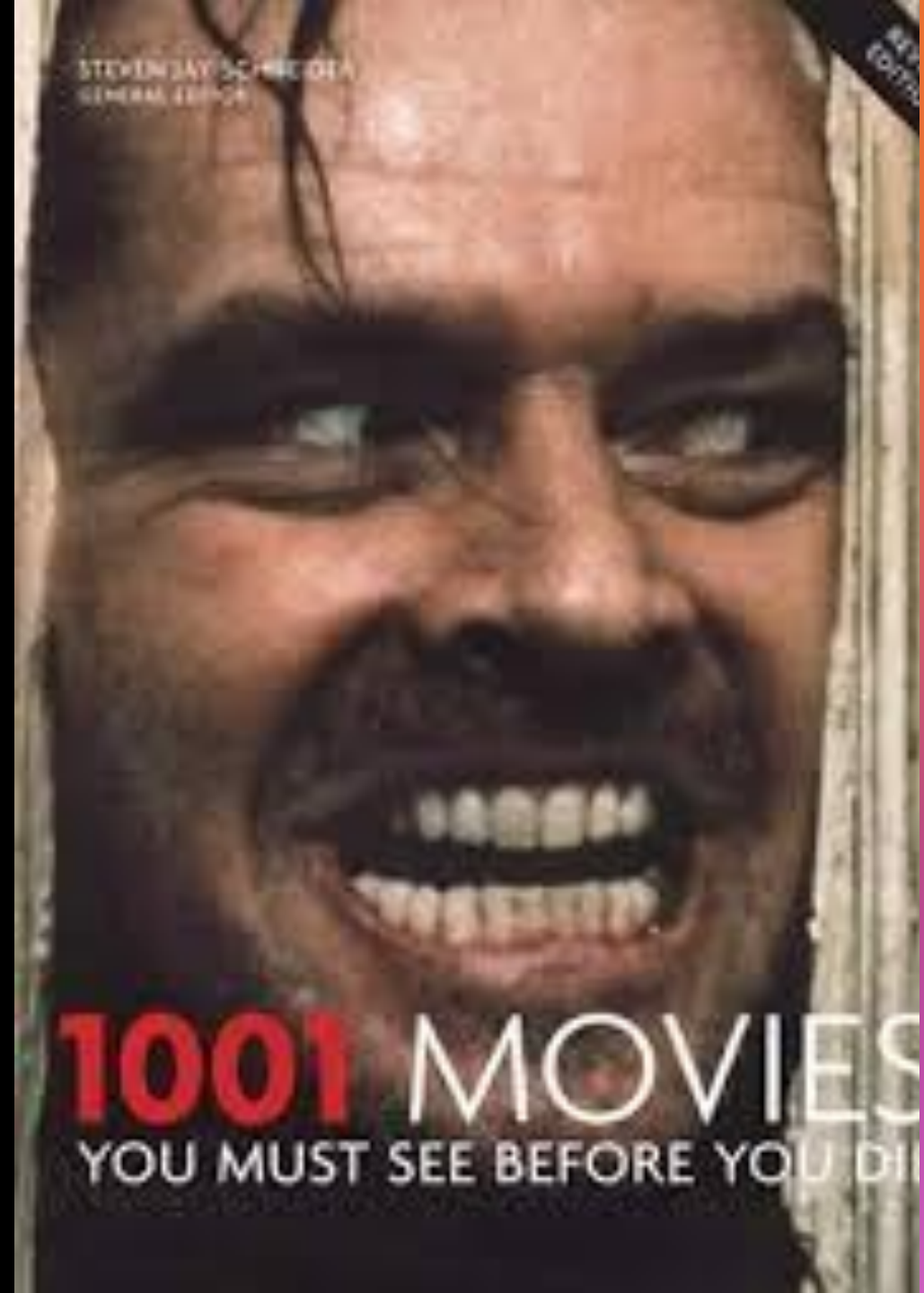
- The move introduced a sizzling pair of brand new performers, Burt Lancaster and Ava Gardner.

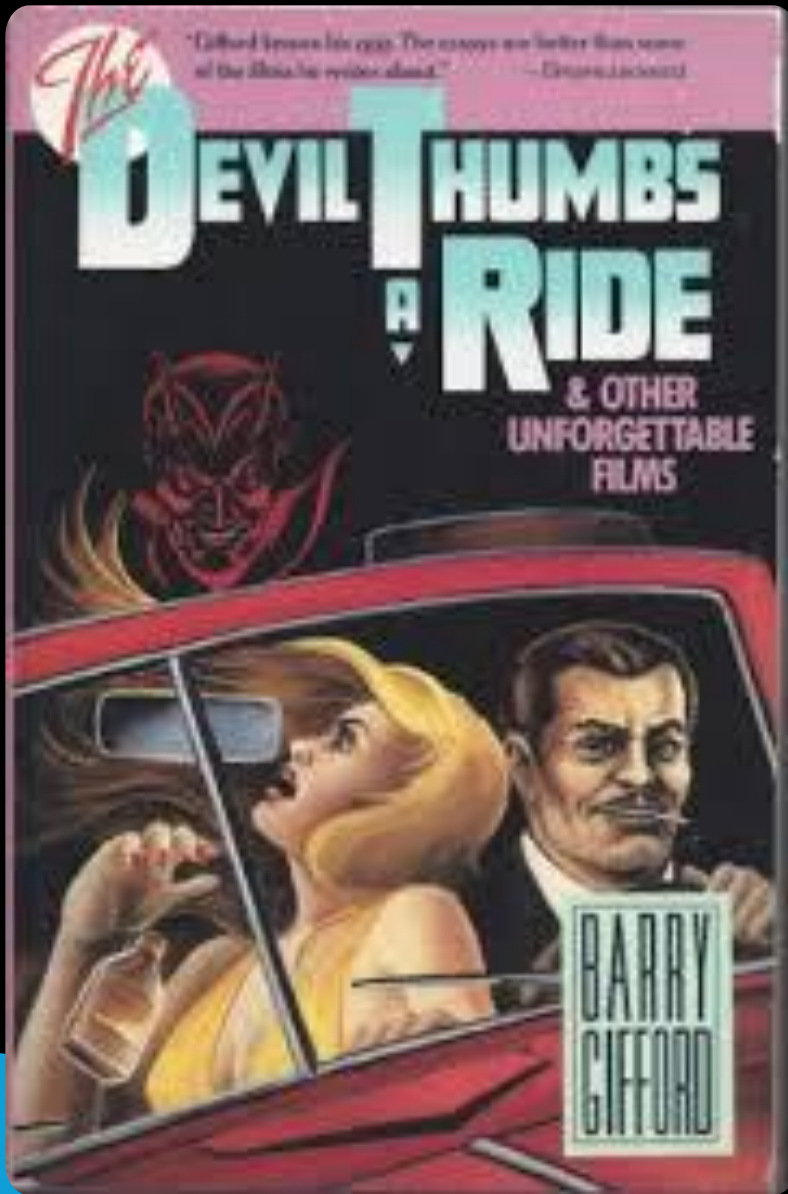
- A breathtaking premiere for all involved.*

- *Dark City Dames by E Muller



- **Citizen Kane** fractured its narrative into flashbacks related by different characters; **The Killers** takes the idea a step further by scrambling the flashbacks temporal order.
- **The Killers** is not only a superior film noir but also a commentary on why we enjoy films noir, as an escape from humdrum security into danger and doom, but only at a safe distance.





- An interesting feature of this kind of action is **all the lying that goes on. Almost nobody tells the truth, especially not to themselves.**

- **The entire movie is one big low blow, one that put the Swede on the canvas for keeps.**

Letter from Regional Theater Owner

- **“A marvelous picture.** The acting is superb and there is **never a dull moment.** My patrons liked it but the title kept some people away.”
- Ken Gorham, Town Hall Theater, Middlebury, Vermont, Motion Picture Herald, Feb. 8, 1947



Ava Gardner on Mark Hellenger, the producer

- **“Mark Hellenger trusted me from the beginning, so I trusted him. He saw me as an actress, not as a sexpot. He gave me the feeling of the responsibility of being a movie star, which I had never for a moment felt before. I knew he was a genius.”**



DIALOGUE

- **“What’s the idea?”**
- **“There isn’t any idea.”** --- Phil Brown (Nick) to Charles McGraw (killer Al)
- **“I did something wrong --- once.”** Burt Lancaster (Ole “Swede” Anderson)
- **“Will he be able to talk anymore?”**
- **“He’s dead now, except he’s breathing.”** Edmund O’Brien (insurance investigator Riordan and doctor)

- **BEFORE**
- **THE**
- **MOVIE**



**Norman Mailer's famous
(or infamous) quote
about Burt Lancaster:**

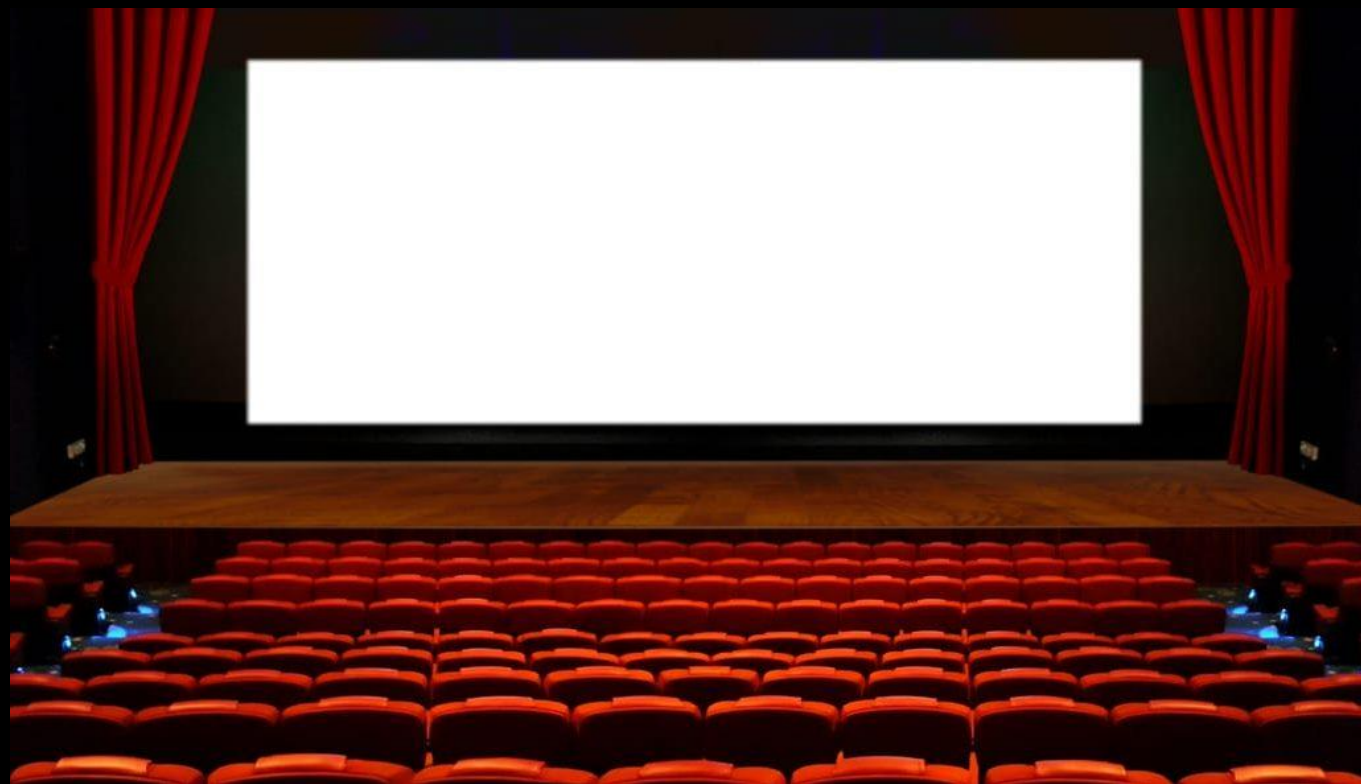
**“I’ve never
looked into eyes
as chilling as
Lancaster’s.”**



The logo features the text "TCM NOIR ALLEY" centered on a dark background. A large, semi-transparent orange and red gradient shape, resembling a spotlight or a stylized letter 'A', is positioned behind the text. The "TCM" is in white, and "NOIR ALLEY" is in black.

TCM
NOIR ALLEY

After the Movie



- **QUESTION:**

- The Opening Theme of “*The Killers*” contains the Most Famous Opening Theme in Television History!

What is the theme & the show?



The Opening Theme of “*The Killers*” & the Most Famous Opening Theme in Television History!





•And
Next
Week



