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Matt Dillon
INTRODUCES

Outcast of the Islands

Carol Reed

UNITED KINGDOM, 1952

102 minutes ■ Black and White/35mm

Production Company: **London Film**

Productions

Producer: **Carol Reed**

Screenplay: **William Fairchild,**

based on the novel by Joseph Conrad

Cinematographer: **John Wilcox**

Editor: **Bert Bates**

Production Designer: **Vincent Korda**

Music: **Brian Easdale**

Principal Cast: **Trevor Howard, Ralph Richardson, Wendy Hiller, Karima, Robert Morley**

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"Atmosphere, texture and attention to detail define the films of Carol Reed, a great storyteller with an inclination to explore the murkier depths of man's nature. His films are often set in exotic, frequently troubled lands, such as Northern Ireland (*Odd Man Out*), Vienna (*The Third Man*) and Cuba (*Our Man in Havana*). In *Outcast of the Islands*, adapted from Joseph Conrad's second novel, Reed combines strong characters and economic storytelling to create a film so rich that I discover something new each time I watch it.

"Set in the Malaya peninsula under colonial rule, it is the story of Willem (Trevor Howard – always good, but at his best here), a desperate fugitive wanted by the police in Singapore. After a staged suicide attempt, Willem is plucked from the harbour by his mentor, legendary sea captain Lingard (Ralph Richardson), who tells him to give himself up.

"Willem says, 'Why don't you throw me back? You helped in the beginning, you ought to have a hand in the end.' Lingard succumbs to Willem's manipulative self-pity, saying, 'I took you in as a boy. The only difference between then and now is you were barefooted then and have boots now.'

"To protect his friend, Lingard takes Willem by ship up a treacherous river that only he can navigate, to a Malayan village where he has established himself as a trader and colonial patriarch. Lingard leaves Willem behind with his sycophantic son-in-law

and business partner (Robert Morley) and his adopted daughter (Wendy Hiller). The two men despise each other.

"Willem is soon drawn across the river by Aisa (Karima), the seductive daughter of Badavi, the village chief and Lingard's rival. Obsessed, Willem falls hard: 'I know only of the despair of her presence and the agony of her departure. Her face is always before me, blinding me so I can't see my way. When I close my eyes, hers stare into my soul.' His lust drives him to betray Lingard, which results in his own undoing.

"*Outcast of the Islands* served as inspiration to Barry Gifford and myself while we were writing *City of Ghosts*. Although it's tough to top *The Third Man*, many of Carol Reed's films are my favourite Carol Reed films, but *Outcast of the Islands* really is my favourite Carol Reed film."

– Matt Dillon



Matt Dillon was born in New Rochelle, New York. He has had an extremely successful career as an actor, working with such directors as Francis Ford Coppola, Arthur Penn, Kevin Spacey, John McNaughton, Anthony Minghella and Garry Marshall. He won an Independent Spirit Best Actor Award for his performance in Gus Van Sant's *Drugstore Cowboy* (89). *City of Ghosts* (02) is his debut as a director.