

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Hitchcock veers to sheer shock with 'Psycho'</b>
Author(s)	Dick Williams
Source	<i>Los Angeles Mirror-News</i>
Date	1960 Aug 11
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Psycho, Hitchcock, Alfred, 1960

# Hitchcock Veers to Sheer Shock With 'Psycho'

BY DICK WILLIAMS, Entertainment Editor

Alfred Hitchcock is up to his armpits in gore with his newest thriller, "Psycho," which arrived Wednesday in 20 theaters and drive-ins in this area. The wily concocter of suspense has gone overboard with a sheer, out-and-out shocker this time.

It packs a surprise jolt, but two knife murders is pouring it on a bit thick, especially when the camera peers in so closely for all the lurid details. It's like a living cover photo from a true detective magazine.



WILLIAMS

"Don't give away the ending," cautions Hitchcock. "It's the only one we have." The trouble is that to avoid giving away the ending it's necessary to detail little else of this gothic thriller which starts out deceptively with a lovers' rendezvous in a Phoenix hotel room.

Janet Leigh, whose undress alternates between a well-filled white lace bra in the early sequence and a black lace one later on, is arguing with John Gavin about getting married. They have the usual problem—no money. She picks an unorthodox way to solve it. She steals \$40,000 from her real estate boss and flees town for a rendezvous with Gavin.

## Overnight Stay at Lonely Motel

Her escape route includes an overnight stay at a run-down, deserted motel operated by amateur taxidermist Anthony Perkins. "Dracula" style surroundings include a nearby moldering old mansion, headquarters for Perkins' churlish invalid mother, and a gummy swamp suitable for disposing of bodies.

The ensuing nightmare is ably plotted, directed and photographed, but occasionally there's more nausea than thrills.

Perkins expertly mixes the naivete of a lonely country boy with the eccentricities of someone acting as if he is in a dream. The rest of the cast includes Vera Miles as Janet's sister, Martin Balsam as a private investigator and John McIntyre as the local sheriff.

"Psycho" is being shown with stress laid on the fact that no one will be admitted after the feature starting time, one of Mr. Hitchcock's ideas which has helped pique the public.

\* \*

Opening matinee showings of "Psycho" found theaters packed with small fry, an audience that should be eliminated entirely for this attraction. I am speaking of youngsters in the 6 through 12 brackets, not teen-agers.

For this bluntly adult picture features horizontal love scenes in bed, violent knife murder and some strange Freudian aberrations that the kids won't understand but may puzzle over. This is one instance when I agree with exhibitors that it is the parents who are at fault for shoving their youngsters off to the show without having the slightest idea of what they are letting them see.