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The Dore Schary touch seemed to be working already. Act of Violence, one of the first completed for the new studio boss, was a little 'B' that turned out to be a big 'A' in quality, audience response and press praise. Fred Zinnemann got the bulk of the last-mentioned for his direction's fast pace and harsh realism, but there was plenty too for Van Heflin's desperate fugitive and Mary Astor's prostitute with a heart of brass. The William Wright production of a non-stop suspense story by Collier Young (original) and Robert Richards (script) also had Robert Ryan, Janet Leigh, Berry Kroeger, Connie Gilchrist, Nicholas Joy.

