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Outcast of the Islands (BRITISH)

Carol Reed pic, with name cast, heads for U.S. censor trouble; not top b.o.

London, Jan. 15.

British Lion release of Carol Reed production. Stars Trevor Howard, Ralph Richardson; features Robert Morley, Wendy Hiller, Kerima. Directed by Carol Reed; screenplay, W. E. C. Fairchild (from Joseph Conrad's novel); camera, John Wilcox; editor, Bert Bates; music, Brian Easdale. At Plaza, London, Jan. 15, '52. Running time, 102 MINS.

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| Captain Lingard..... | Ralph Richardson |
| Willems..... | Trevor Howard |
| Almayer..... | Robert Morley |
| Aissa..... | Kerima |
| Mrs. Almayer..... | Wendy Hiller |
| Babalatchi..... | George Coulouris |
| Vinck..... | Wilfred Hyde-White |
| Hudig..... | Frederick Valk |
| Mrs. Willems..... | Betty Ann Davies |
| All..... | Dharma Emmanuel |
| Alagappan..... | Peter Illing |
| Badavi..... | A. V. Bramble |
| Badavi..... | Annabel Morley |
| Ramsey..... | James Kenny |
| Mate..... | Marne Maitland |

"Outcast of the Islands" is one of the most ambitious and costly pictures to come from a British studio in some time. It is a big-scale production with many crowds and powerful marquee names. Another plus factor is the Carol Reed tag. He produced and directed. Nevertheless, it cannot be regarded as a top ranking b.o. attraction for the home trade and may encounter serious censor trouble in America.

Picture is based on the Joseph Conrad story, but the screenplay fails to capture the authentic atmosphere of the Far East in which the story is set. The backgrounds are genuine enough, but the plot is loosely constructed and the editing occasionally episodic.

The outcast is played by Trevor Howard. He is saved from the police, after being involved in a swindle, by the captain of a trading vessel who takes him to his island outpost. There, he double-crosses his friend, tricks his partner and falls in love with the daughter of the blind tribal chief.

Within that outline, the film concentrates on developing the shifting character of the outcast as a man without honor, without principle and without friends, yet having a devouring passion for the native girl. The love-making scenes between Howard and the girl, unless duplicate shots were taken, may offend the Breen rules. Likewise, there may be criticism of the manner in which native boys are shown naked in the river.

With a firstclass team to set the pace, the acting generally maintains a high standard. Ralph Richardson, polished and dignified as usual, gives a sterling performance as the captain of the trading boat. Howard has the lion's share, and fills his role with distinction. Robert Morley chalks up another success as the captain's partner while Wendy Hiller is nicely restrained as his wife. The native girl is played by Reed's discovery, Kerima, in a sultry key, without the trace of a smile and with barely a line of dialog throughout the entire film. Top supporting roles are competently filled by George Coulouris, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Frederick Valk and Betty Ann Davies.

Reed has not succeeded in extracting the suspense normally associated with his work. Film is somewhat overlong and shows signs of substantial scissoring in an endeavor to keep it within reasonable bounds. John Wilcox has lensed the production skillfully while Brian Easdale has contributed a satisfying musical score. *Myro.*

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