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The Tarnished Angels

(C-SCOPE)

Poorly written and produced. Names of Rock Hudson, Robert Stack, Dorothy Malone and Jack Carson to spark its chances.

Hollywood, Nov. 8.

Universal release of Albert Zugsmith production. Stars Rock Hudson, Robert Stack, Dorothy Malone, Jack Carson; co-stars Robert Middleton; features Alan Reed, Alexander Lockwood, Chris Olsen, Robert J. Wilke, Troy Donahue, William Schallert. Directed by Douglas Sirk. Screenplay, George Zuckerman, based on novel, "Pylon," by William Faulkner; camera, Irving Glassberg; editor, Russell F. Schoengarth; music, Frank Skinner. Previewed October 29, '57. Running time, 87 MINS.

Burke Devlin	Rock Hudson
Roger Shumann	Robert Stack
LaVerne Shumann	Dorothy Malone
Jiggs	Jack Carson
Matt Ord	Robert Middleton
Colonel Fineman	Alan Reed
Sam Hagood	Alexander Lockwood
Jack Shumann	Chris Olsen
Hank	Robert J. Wilke
Frank Burnham	Troy Donahue
Ted Baker	William Schallert
Dancing Girl	Betty Utey
Telegraph Editor	Phil Harvey
Young Man	Steve Drexel
Claude Mollet	Eugene Borden
Mechanic	Stephen Ellis

"The Tarnished Angels" is a stumbling entry, loosely produced and in need of all the draw its star power can muster. Characters are mostly colorless, given static reading in drawn-out situations, and story line is lacking in punch.

Film is designed as a follow-up to studio's last year hit, "Written On the Wind," to take advantage of the principals both before and behind the camera in that venture. Rock Hudson, Robert Stack and Dorothy Malone again co-star—this time with Jack Carson—and film is turned out by the same producer-director-scripter team. Difference, however, lies in a generally inconsequential plot reaching no particular climax, the direction by Douglas Sirk doing little to lift it above a monotone.

The Albert Zugsmith production is based on William Faulkner's novel, "Pylon," and screenplay by George Zuckerman carries an air circus setting. Hudson is intro'd as a seedy, but idealistic, New Orleans reporter covering a barnstorming show in that city. He falls for Miss Malone, trick parachutist-wife of Stack, speed flyer and World War I ace, still living in his past glory as he and his small unit cruises about the country participating in air events. Carson is third member of this combine, a hero-worshipping master mechanic in love with the wife.

Hudson appears in an unrealistic role to which he can add nothing and Stack spends most of the time with eagles in his eyes. Miss Malone devotes most of her attention to long passages of dialog, Carson to bitter reflection about Stack's treatment of his wife. Middleton comes through with an okay performance, Chris Olsen is good as the young son and Alan Reed competent as the airport manager.

Technical credits are capably undertaken, leading off with Irving Glassberg's photography. Whit.

Var - Nov. 20, '57