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Angel (IRISH-COLOR)

Cannes, May 18.

A Motion Picture Company of Ireland production in association with the Irish Film Board and Channel Four. Executive producer, John Boorman. Produced by Barry Blackmore. Directed and written by Neil Jordan. Camera (color), Chris Menges; art director, John Lucas; editor, Pat Duffner; music, Paddy Meegan. Features entire cast. Reviewed at the Cannes fest, May 18, 1982. Running time: 90 MINS.

Danny	Stephen Rea
Billy	Alan Devlin
Annie	Veronica Quilligan
Ray	Peter Caffrey
Deirdre	Honor Heffernan
Bloom	Ray McAnally

"Angel," the first all-Irish feature in many years, carries knockout power. (Not to be confused with French "L'Ange" also shown at Cannes.—Ed.)

A story of retribution set against the troubles in northern Ireland which are kept way in the background, it's an impressive pic debut for director-scripter Neil Jordan.

A saxophonist with a travelling band unwittingly observes the murder of the band's manager (involved in extortion payoffs) and that of a deaf and dumb girl witness. The musician, vigorously played by Stephen Rea, is obsessed to hunt down the murderers and does so, becoming a murderer himself several times over.

Occasionally, links between scenes are not spelled out carefully but they don't detract from the film's drive. Played out with a minimum of violence, despite its theme, "Angel" contrasts the sweetness of dance music and the dark side of daily life. The acting is strong.

Camerawork by Chris Menges (the only non-Irish native involved in the production) is striking as are other credits. Pic has playability on the art circuit and is a credit to all involved. —Adil.

Paul Winfield into Ladd Co.'s "Mike's Murder."