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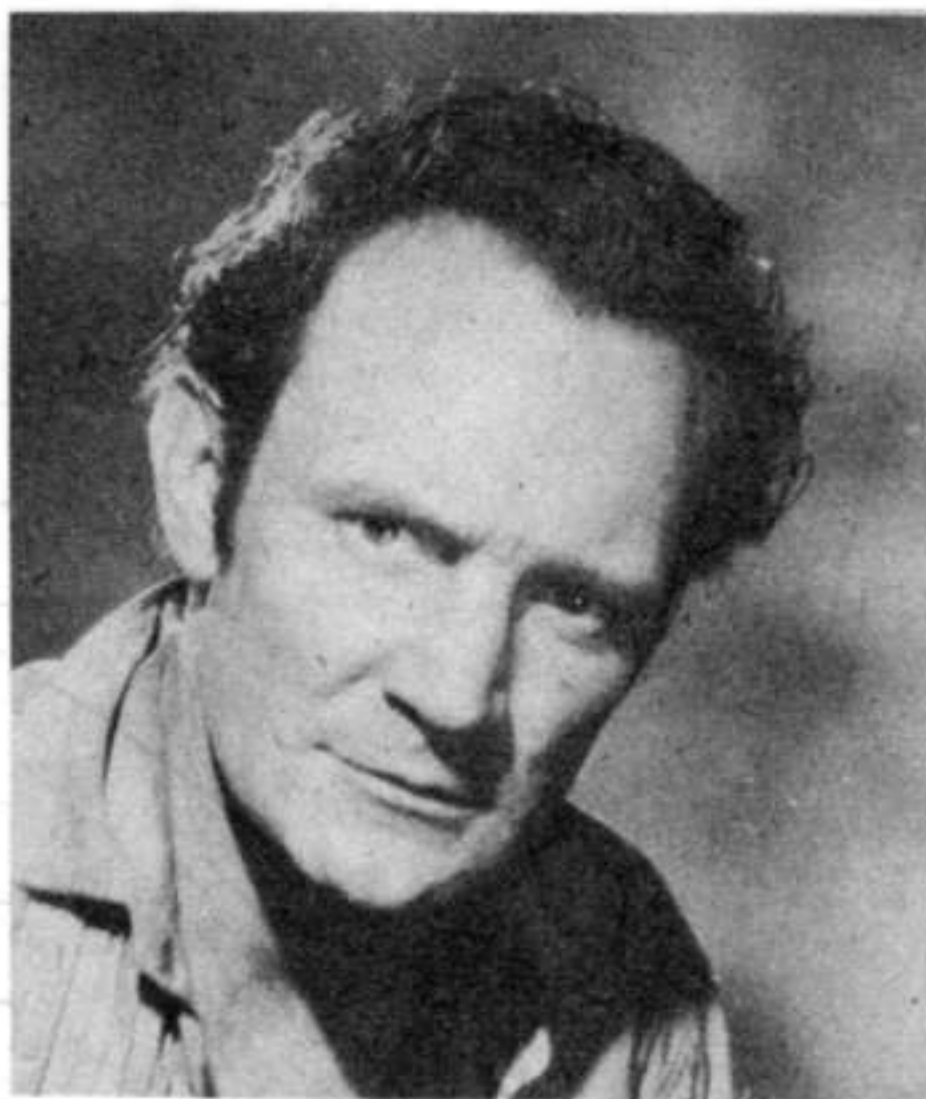
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Outcast of the Islands (London Films; Loperff) lavishes some major moviemaking talent by Carol (*The Third Man*) Reed on one of Joseph Conrad's minor works. Conrad's second (1896) novel is a study of a white man's disintegration in the Dutch East Indies. It is hothouse drama as luxuriant as its setting.

Conrad's enchanted prisoner of the tropics is Willems (Trevor Howard), a weakling fired from his job in Macassar for stealing, who goes to live at a lonely trading post run by pompous Almayer (Robert Morley) and his wife (Wendy Hiller). Willems falls in love—temporarily but passionately—with Aissa, a sinuous, savage native beauty (played by Kerima, a 22-year-old Arab girl) for whom he sells out the secret of the post's channel shipping route. Also on hand: Captain Tom Lingard (Ralph Richardson), man of the sea and lover of justice, who punishes Willems for his treachery by exiling him upriver with the merciless native girl he no longer loves.

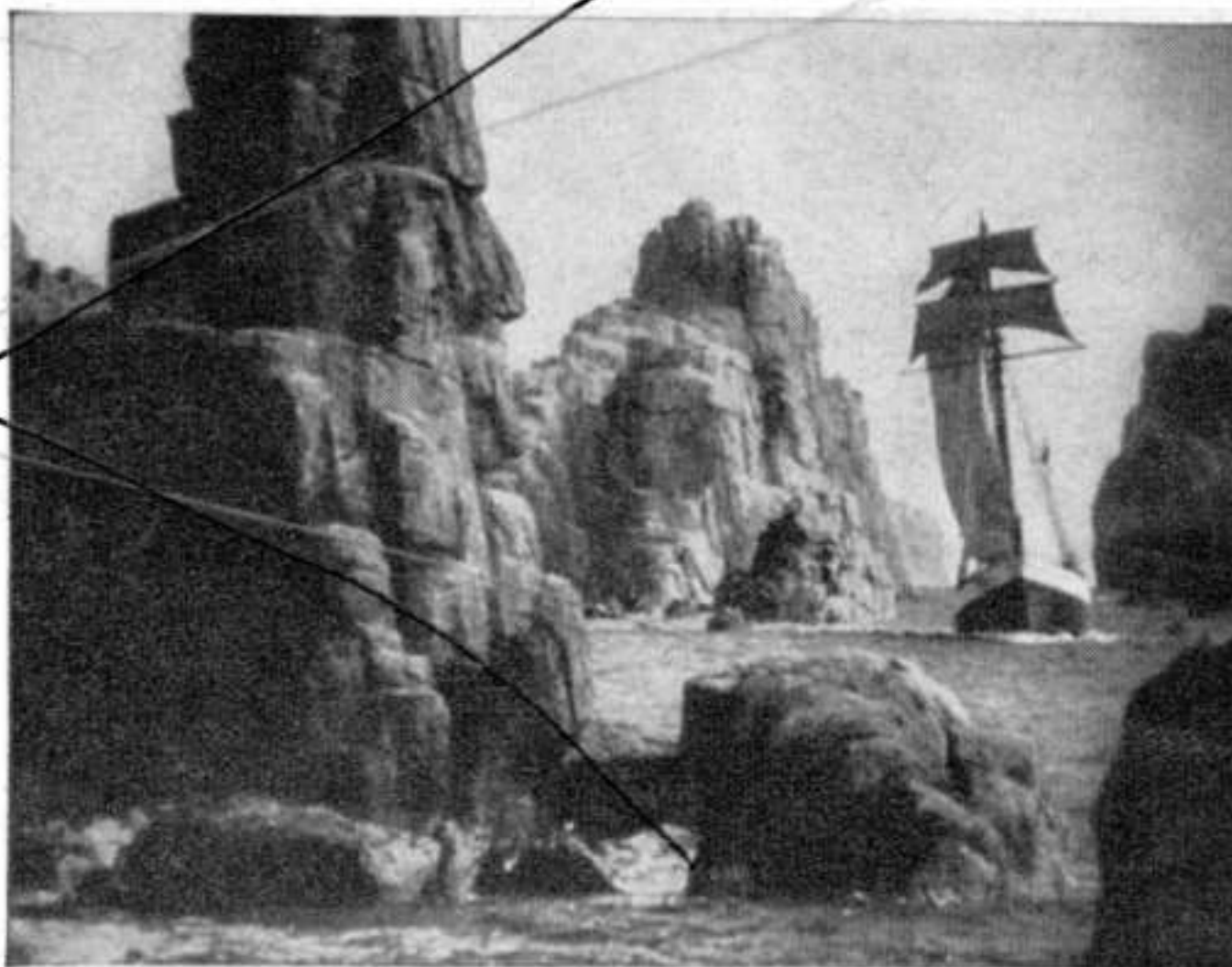
The picture lops off the last fourth of the novel (which piled melodrama on melodrama, with Aissa shooting Willems), and some of Conrad's tropical thunder reaches the screen only as a muted rumble. But by making much of his movie on location in Borneo and Ceylon, Director Reed has captured the rank, overwhelming atmosphere with which the story is saturated: the landscape of brown golds and brilliant emeralds, the oppressiveness of the jungle, the steaming sunshine, the murmuring river, the endless chattering and chanting of the natives.

The superb cast is colored with this fatal splendor, as the drama is played out among a group of characters whose violent passions spend themselves like a quick tropical downpour. Their story surges and eddies through a picture that matches the passion and profusion of Conrad's prose.



CONRAD NOVELS INSPIRE FILM

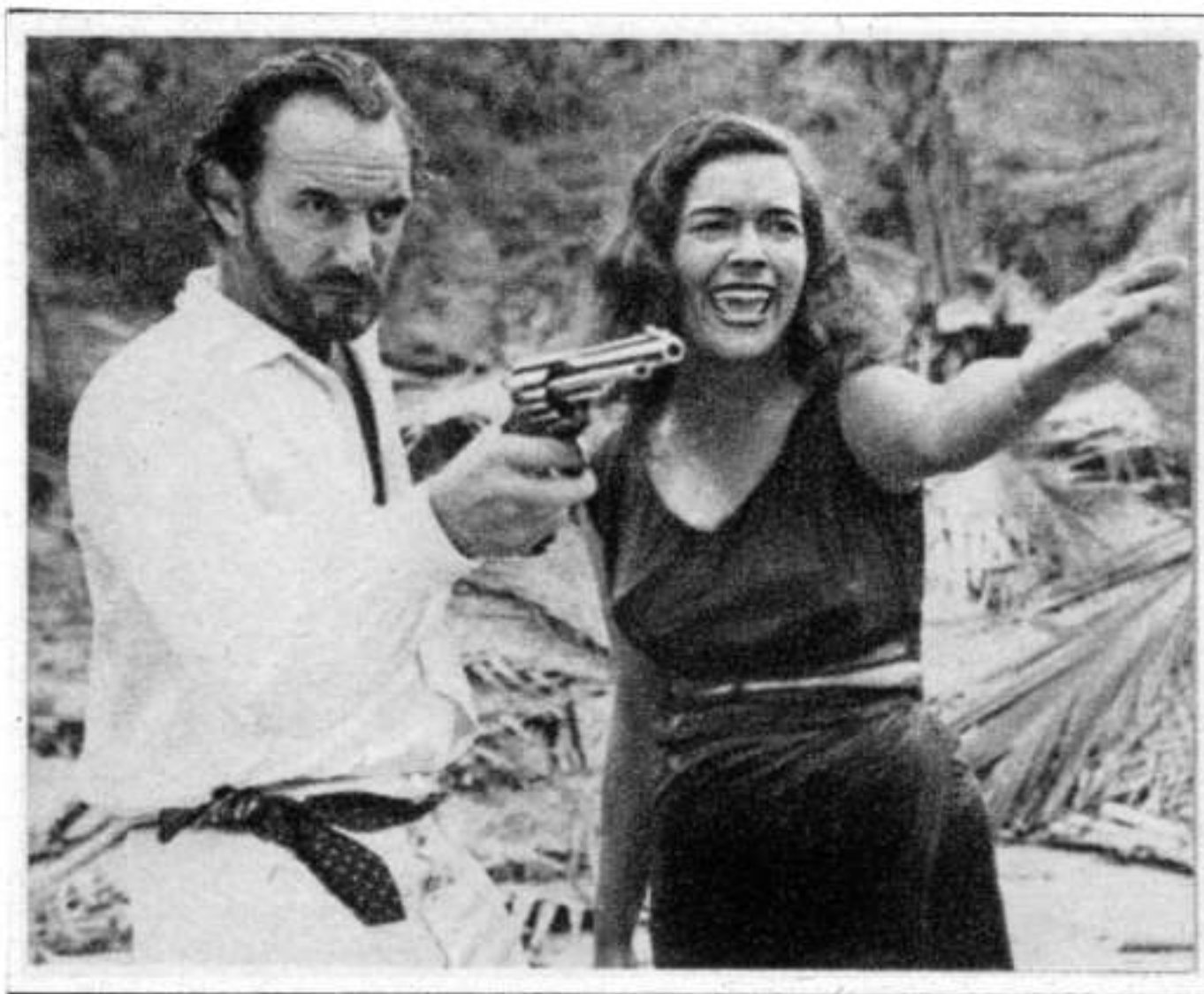
Outcasts of the Islands concerns a set of characters, many of whom were first created by Joseph Conrad in his novel, *Almayer's Folly*. The movie deals with these same people as they crop up in a later Conrad novel, *An Outcast of the Islands*. Its hero is a pretentious wastrel named Willems, who is kicked out of his merchant's job in a Far Eastern port and, thanks to the misguided charity of a sea captain, becomes an assistant overseer of a remote outpost which can be reached only by a secret river passage. Willems hastens his own ruin by falling in love with a nobly handsome native girl and betraying his benefactor. An impressive but not conventionally likable movie, *Outcast* makes use of superior acting and stunning photography—taken in Ceylon—to preserve much of the disturbing magic of Joseph Conrad's great tales.



SECRET ENTRANCE to a river between perilous rocks is navigated by a trading ship which brings white men to native village.

JUNE 4, 1952

1951



ALLURING AISSA, daughter of a chief, is glimpsed by the white man, Willems, as she does laundry in a stream.

Haunted and obsessed by her beauty, he cannot keep away from her even though warned that she is a savage warrior.