

Document Citation

Title	The incredible shrinking man
Author(s)	Brog.
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1957 Feb 06
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	The Incredible shrinking man, Arnold, Jack, 1957

The Incredible Shrinking Man

Science-fiction thriller for exploitation dates.

Hollywood, Feb. 1.

Universal release of Albert Zugsmith production. Stars Grant Williams, Randy Stuart, April Kent; features Paul Langton, Raymond Bailey, William Schallert, Frank Scannell. Directed by Jack Arnold. Screenplay, Richard Matheson, from his novel; camera, Ellis W. Carter; editor, Al Joseph; music supervision, Joseph Gershenson. Previewed Jan. 23, '57. Running time, 81 MINS.

Scott Carey	Grant Williams
Louise Carey	Randy Stuart
Clarice	April Kent
Charlie Carey	Paul Langton
Dr. Thomas Silver	Raymond Bailey
Dr. Arthur Bramson	William Schallert
Barker	Frank Scannell
Nurse	Helene Marshall
Nurse	Diana Darrin
Midget	Billy Curtis

The exploitation market will find "The Incredible Shrinking Man" a handy subject for ballyhoo bills. Teamed with another science-fictioner, or with a companion feature also having appeal for the younger set, returns can be good.

While its release possibilities are obvious, film isn't a thoroughly satisfactory chiller, even though there is enough on the good side to carry it. The unfoldment is inclined to slow down on occasion, resulting in flagging interest here and there, and portions of the background score are overworked, distracting from the tale of a man who shrinks into infinity after having been exposed accidentally to a radioactive fog.

The technical staff under Albert Zugsmith's production wing has done an outstanding job of the trick stuff needed to put the story on film. Art direction by Alexander Golitzen and Robert Clatworthy, and the set decorations by Russell A. Gausman and Ruby R. Levitt help to carry out the idea of a diminishing human, while the lensing by Ellis W. Carter, special photography by Clifford Stine, and optical effects by Roswell A. Hoffmann and Everett H. Broussard made the shrinking visually effective.

Richard Matheson scripted from his novel and, while most science-fiction thrillers usually contrive a happy ending, there's no compromise here. Six-footer Grant Williams and his wife, Randy Stuart, run into a fog while boating. She's below, so is untouched, but Williams gets the full force. Soon after, he finds himself shrinking and doctors decide the radioactivity in the fog has reversed his growth processes. Finale has him fading away into nothingness after strange experiences during the diminishing stages.

Director Jack Arnold works up the chills for maximum effect by the time Williams is down to two inches and the family cat takes after him. Also harrowing are his adventures in the cellar with, to him, a giant spider, which he manages to kill using a straight pin as a lance. Williams does his role quite well and Miss Stuart registers ably as his wife. April Kent is seen as a member of a circus midget troupe. Others effectively handling their parts include Paul Langton, Raymond Bailey, William Schallert and Frank Scannell.

Brog.

Feb. 6 '57

VARIETY