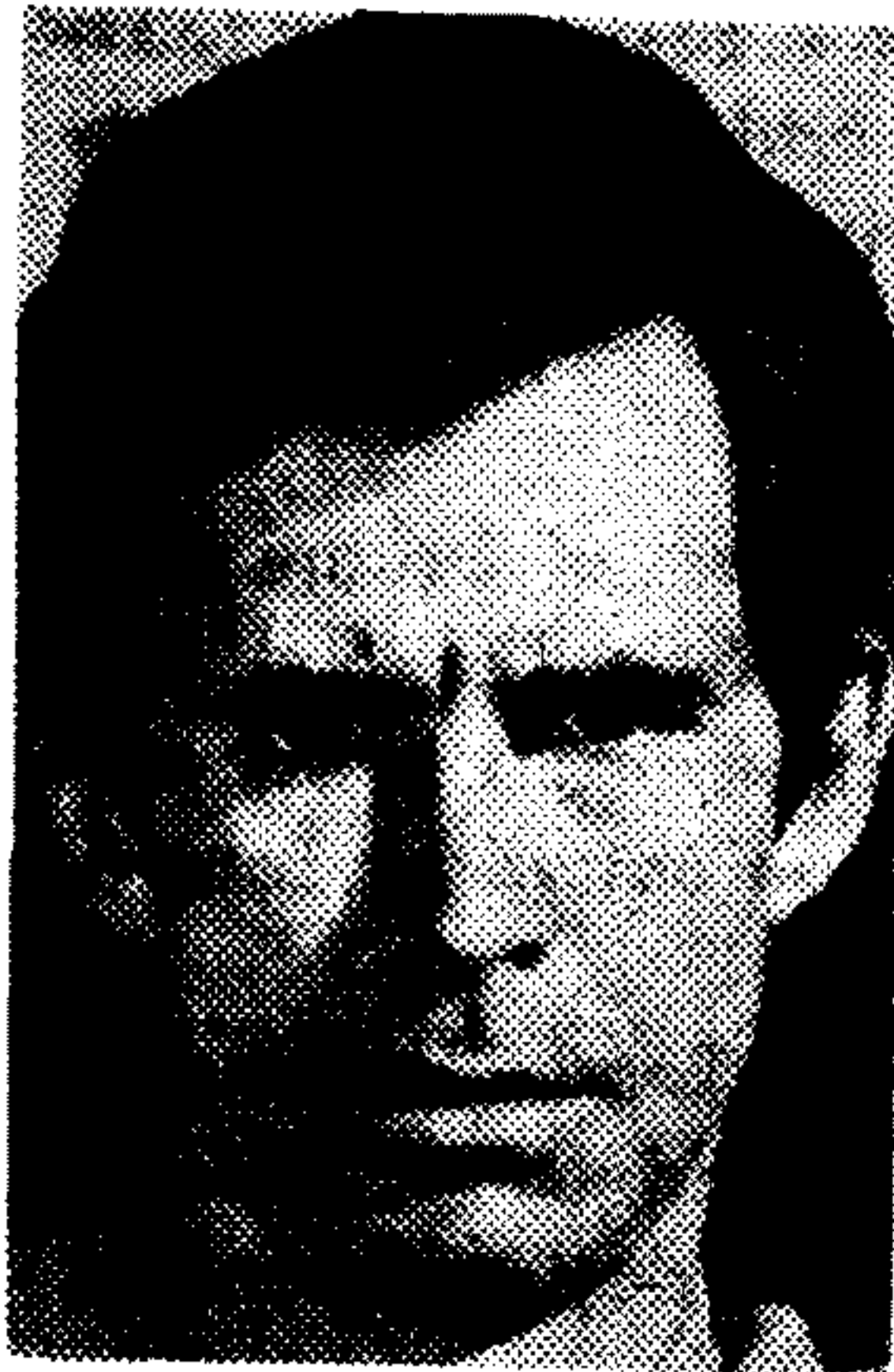


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'Wonder'—Ellery Queen, where are you?



ANTHONY PERKINS

TEN DAYS' WONDER — A Levitt-Pickman Film Corp. release, produced by Andre Genoves, directed by Claude Chabrol, screenplay by Paul Gardner and Eugene Archer, based on the novel by Ellery Queen, in color, running time 101 minutes. At the Studio 4.

THE CAST

Theo Orson Welles
Helene Marlene Jobert
Paul Michel Piccoli
Charles Anthony Perkins
Ludovic Guido Alberti

Code rating: PG (Parental guidance suggested—all ages admitted)

By A. L. McCLAIN

News Amusement Writer

Raymond Chandler in his essay, "The Simple Art of Murder," wrote in the Atlantic Monthly:

"If the mystery novel is at all realistic (which it very seldom is), it is written in a certain spirit of detachment; otherwise, nobody but a psychopath would want to write or read it . . . It has also a depressing way of minding its

own business, solving its own problems and answering its own questions."

French director Claude Chabrol in "Ten Days' Wonder" has taken an Ellery Queen mystery story and broken all the rules that Chandler laid out in a wonderful economy of words.

ELLERY QUEEN is the pseudonym and fictional creation of writers Frederic Demay and the late Manfred B. Lee. Along with the late Erle Stanley Gardner, their mysteries sold millions because readers of mysteries

are so large in number that they could be a political force if aroused.

But back — regretfully — to "Ten Days' Wonder" on the screen.

Chabrol looked past the Queen book and saw an enlarged picture of a man playing God, a story of adultery, blackmail and murder. The mystery becomes obscured by the characterizations.

Anthony Perkins plays a young Frenchman who suffers from amnesia and persuades a professor he once studied

under to accompany him home to consider the problem.

Home is not where the heart is. It's a mansion owned by an eccentric industrialist (Orson Welles) who insists his young wife dress in the fashions of 1925.

THE WIFE (Marlene Jobert) and her stepson have had an affair and are being blackmailed.

With his lack of background in criminology, the professor seems ill-suited for his role. And he is.

When the great revelation comes it is helped along by a

SENSITIVITY RATING

Violence, some nudity

child on a train reciting the Ten Commandments. The average mystery fan will have solved it before then.

Welles comes on like an aging Heathcliff breathing fire, lacking the spirit of detachment that Chandler found so necessary. But it is Chabrol's pretentious airs and lack of understanding of what makes a good mystery that spoils the Ellery Queen story.