

Document Citation

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|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Title | Tarnished angels, The |
| Author(s) | |
| Source | <i>Monthly Film Bulletin</i> |
| Date | 1958 Jan |
| Type | review |
| Language | English |
| Pagination | |
| No. of Pages | 1 |
| Subjects | |
| Film Subjects | Tarnished angels, Sirk, Douglas, 1957 |

TARNISHED ANGELS, THE, U.S.A., 1957

Cert: A. *dist:* Rank. *p.c.:* Universal-International. *p:* Albert Zugsmith. *d:* Douglas Sirk. *sc:* George Zuckerman, from the novel "Pylon" by William Faulkner. *ph:* Irving Glassberg. CinemaScope. *ed:* Russell Schoengarth. *a.d.:* Alexander Golitzen, Al Sweeney. *m.sup.:* Joseph Gershenson. *sd:* Leslie I. Carey, Corson Jowett. *l.p.:* Rock Hudson (*Burke Devlin*), Robert Stack (*Roger Shumann*), Dorothy Malone (*Laverne Shumann*), Jack Carson (*Jiggs*), Robert Middleton (*Matt Ord*). 8,155 ft. 91 mins.

Reporter Burke Devlin recognises an unusual human interest story in the Shumann family. Roger, a first world war air ace, is (in 1932) flying air races in travelling carnivals. His act is complemented by Laverne, his beautiful wife, their young son and Jiggs, the mechanic. Devlin is particularly fascinated by Laverne, who confides in him and tells him of her unhappy life and the course of her marriage with Roger, whom she loves. When Roger is killed in a crash, she recoils from Devlin, and proposes to throw in her lot with a rich but repulsive plane-owner. For her son's sake, however, she is persuaded by Devlin to return to her childhood home.

This harsh study in tortuous psychology—a free adaptation of Faulkner's novel *Pylon*—is an unusual venture for Universal-International. Though the production is in almost every respect highly competent, the final impression is that it was all a bit too much for everyone concerned. The two air-races are excitingly staged.

Suitability: A.

II.

MFB - Jan. '58