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Nicholas Ray's **ON DANGEROUS GROUND** (1951), from a screenplay by A. I. Bezzerides, based on the George Butler novel *Mad With Much Heart*, with Robert Ryan, Ida Lupino, and Ward Bond, is one of Ray's more subtle films. Yet the movie is as hard-boiled as they come. Ryan as an obsessed avenger and grime-encrusted 11-year veteran of the New York Police Department plays the disillusioned antagonist with the interestingly ambiguous intensity that was characteristic of the troubled '50s. Ray constantly locks him into tight frames through acute editing, cutting away from expressive action, and preferring the anguished close-up. At the end of Ryan's trail of noirish redemption, Lupino brings great feeling to her portrait of a blind woman. A small film, but a precious one in the Ray oeuvre.

Monday, 9 p.m., Arts & Entertainment

—Andrew Sarris & Tom Allen