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Surf Theatre
4510 Irving Street
San Francisco
California 94122
415-664-6300

NICOLAS ROEG'S

BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION

- OPENINGS: (1) San Francisco International Film Festival Showing:
Thursday, October 9, 8:00 p.m. at the CASTRO Theatre
- (2) West Coast Theatrical Premiere engagement starts
Friday, October 10, at the LUMIERE Theatre, California
at Polk, San Francisco.

CAST:

Dr. Alex Linden Art Garfunkel

Milena Flaherty Theresa Russell

Inspector Fredrich Netusil Harvey Keital

Stefan Vognic Denholm Elliott

Foppish Man Daniel Massey

Amy Dana Gillespie

CREDITS

Directed by Nicolas Roeg

Produced by Jeremy Thomas

Screenplay Yale Udoff

Associate Producer Tim Van Rellim

Editor Tony Lawson

Director of Music Richard Hartley

Director of Photography Anthony Richmond

A Sondra Gilman/Louise Westergaard Presentation

Running Time: 122 minutes

BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION

SYNOPSIS

Dr. Alex Linden, (Art Garfunkel) an American psychoanalyst and lecturer at the University of Vienna, sits in a local hospital awaiting news of the condition of his girlfriend, beautiful 21 year-old American Milena Flaherty, (Theresa Russell) who has been rushed there after taking a drug overdose.

Now, as Alex anxiously waits in the small hours of the morning, and later as he patiently tries to answer Police Inspector Netusil's (Harvey Keitel) questions, he closes his eyes and thinks back...back to his relationship with Milena over the last months..and back to their first meeting...

At a party in a luxurious villa on the outskirts of Vienna. Alex appreciates Milena as a highly-attractive girl, but does not wish to commit himself. She gives him her telephone number and is obviously intrigued by him.

It is Milena who rings Alex and suggests they spend a day together. They go for a drive, visit an art gallery and Freud's house, drop into a cafe or two and generally size one another up. They like what they see and what they feel, and they become lovers.

After a while of happiness, they quarrel when Milena goes out with another man. Although she loves Alex in her own way, she tenaciously guards her independence. This is why she has left her husband Stefan Vognic, a Czech in his fifties, though she still has a warm regard for him and keeps in touch. He still loves her and hopes that she will one day return.

Alex, also learns that Milena has enjoyed other affairs and does not tie herself to one lover for any great length of time. This hurts him deeply. When he meets Milena in a night-club, she is as affectionate as ever and they return to her apartment and make love.. All seems well again-for the moment...

During the course of his work on psychological reports for the American Army, Alex is given a file on Stefan Vognic, and learns that he is married to Milena. A Czech acquaintance tells Alex how Stefan had risked his career to win and marry Milena. When Alex confronts her with the information, she calmly explains that her marriage is over for good. He capitulates and they make love again.

Things continue, with Alex becoming obsessively jealous of Milena, quarrelling with her. then reconciling. They enjoy the physical side of lovemaking, but even this sometimes leads to quarrels when one wants to go to bed and the other doesn't. And so their tempestuous affair goes on, marred by Alex's possessiveness and by Milena's independence.

They go to Morocco for an idyllically happy holiday, which is eventually ruined for Milena when Alex asks her to marry him and live in New York. Again Milena feels her independence is threatened. "All I want is my own time, my own space, my own life," she tells Alex passionately. "You can be part of it, the biggest part, but not all of it..."

Back in Vienna in Alex's apartment, Milena chances upon a file that he has been compiling on her. She doesn't mention it, but from then on she never seems to be home when Alex calls. Milena has returned to other friends. Alex even goes as far as to telephone Milena's husband, Stefan, in Bratislava, but he hasn't seen her either, and coldly rebuffs Alex.

Alex meets Milena by chance at the University and they talk while her new **boyfriend** hovers nearby. Inevitably, their chat ends in yet another quarrel. As possessive as ever Alex waits outside Milena's apartment until she returns at dawn.

Soon afterwards, Alex is finding solace with an old girlfriend Amy when he receives a worrying telephone call from Milena. Fearing she might be about to make a suicide attempt, he rushes to her apartment. He finds her grotesquely made-up and drunk. When he leaves in disgust she threatens to kill herself. When he reaches the street below she seems to go berserk and throws bottles through the open window, alarming the neighbors, who summon the police.

Later, Milena telephones Alex and this time he realises that she has actually taken a drugs overdose. He leaves his apartment....

Alex has been remembering these events as he waits at the hospital and later, as he undergoes several friendly but probing interrogations by Inspector Netusil, who has suspicions about Milena's suicide and about Alex's statements. Even now she lies on the operating table with surgeons racing to save her life.

Do Netusil's suspicions have any foundation? Has Alex told the truth about everything? Does Milena live -- or die?

Are life, death, and love merely illusions? Was their relationship
BAD TIMING?

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BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION

NICOLAS ROEG

Biography

Considering the fact **that** "BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION" is only the fifth motion picture Nicolas Roeg had directed, it's amazing how much of a cult has grown up around both the man and his films.

Nicolas Roeg was born in London on August 15th, 1928. He entered the film industry in 1947, at the age of 19, as an assistant in the cutting-rooms at MCM studios, Borehamwood, near London. Later working as a clapper-boy, then assistant camera operator, and focus-puller, he became a camera operator - his films included "The Trials Of Oscar Wilde" and "The Sundowners". He then became cinematographer on many films including "The Caretaker," "The Masque Of The Red Death," "Nothing But the Best," "Fahrenheit 451," "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum," "Far From The Madding Crowd" and "Petulia."

He made his directorial debut in 1968 with "Performance" (in collaboration with Donald Cammell) and has since directed "Walkabout," "Don't Look Now" and "The Man Who Fell To Earth."

Over the past few years Nicolas Roeg has become an important and influential film-maker. But he tends to shun interviews and the bright lights. His brilliance is recognized and saluted by all who have the privilege of working with him.

"As cinematographer and director he is a supreme professional," says one producer. He is absolutely dedicated to film."

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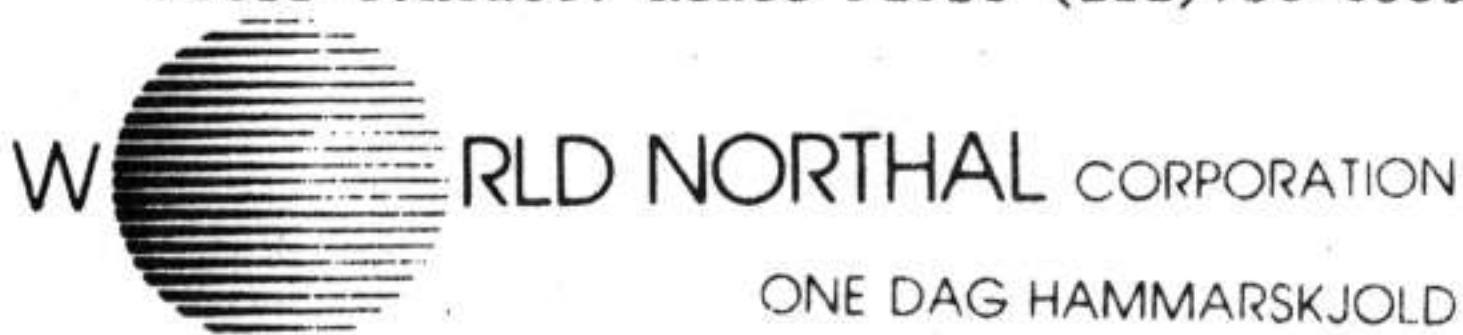
ART GARFUNKEL

Biography

Art (Arthur) Garfunkel was born in 1942 in New York City and educated at Forest Hills High School and Columbia University, New York, gaining his B.A. degree and majoring in art history. He began singing at the age of four when his father bought one of the first wire recorders. His long and successful partnership with Paul Simon began when they were 13 in grade school in Queens, and took part in school talent shows. At 15 they were calling themselves 'Tom And Jerry,' appearing on TV and making their first single hit record "Hey Schoolgirl" (in 1957). This initial success soon faded and they both continued their studies, though also still singing together and independently, on records and live. They also toured British folk clubs and enjoyed success at the Edinburgh Folk Festival. In 1965 Simon and Garfunkel, as they were known, released their first album "Wednesday Morning 3 a.m." but it made little impact. Then one of this disc's tracks "The Sound Of Silence," was issued as a single, with a new amplified rock backing, and became a sensational Number One hit in the States in early 1966. The pair devoted themselves to tours and making more records and the successes continued to come unabated. Their subsequent albums included "Sounds Of Silence," "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme," "Bookends," "The Graduate" (film soundtrack, including such hits as "Mrs Robinson" and "Scarborough Fair), "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (which sold 2 million copies in America alone and over 8 million worldwide) and "Simon and Garfunkel's Greatest Hits." At the height of their astonishing success, crowned by gold discs, honours and awards from all over the world, Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel decided to break their partnership in 1970, though still remaining the warmest of friends, which they are to this day, Garfunkel, now 36 has since appeared in leading roles in two motion pictures "Catch 22" (1969) and "Carnal Knowledge" (1971). His solo record albums have included "Angel Clare" (1973), "Breakaway" (1975) (which included his hit single "I Only Have Eyes For You"), "Watermark" (1978) and "Fate For Breakfast" (1979).

In 1978 he completed a 45-city tour of the United States with great success. Simon and Garfunkel reunited briefly to sing "My Little Town," which was included in both singers' solo albums in 1975. On almost all the tracks in their joint albums, Simon wrote the songs (with occasional assist from Garfunkel), while Garfunkel did the vocal arrangements, with both - of course! - singing in harmony, and often playing guitar as well. Their work has been described as being in the traditional but poetic folk song idiom, with rock overtones. Now, in Nicolas Roeg's film "BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION," Art Garfunkel stars in the role of Dr. Alex Linden, an American psychoanalyst and lecturer at the University of Vienna, who becomes deeply involved in a tempestuous and obsessional love affair with Milena Flaherty (Theresa Russell), a beautiful young American girl.

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THERESA RUSSELL

Biography

"Theresa Russell was born in 1957 in San Diego, U.S.A., and educated at Burbank High School, where she had her first taste of acting. She subsequently studied at Lee Strasberg's Actors' Studio in Hollywood for two years. She made her professional motion picture debut with Robert de Niro and Robert Mitchum in "The Last Tycoon," directed by Elia Kazan, and followed it with a co-starring role opposite Dustin Hoffman in "Straight Time," directed by Ulu Grosbard. She recently completed a starring role with Martin Sheen in an 8-hour mini-series for CBS Television "Blind Ambition", the story of lawyer John Dean, who was closely involved in the Watergate affair. Theresa lives on a 26-acre ranch in Ventura County, California where she raises, shows and sells horses. Regarded as one of America's most outstandingly promising young actresses. Theresa Russell now co-stars opposite Art Garfunkel in Nicolas Roeg's film "BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION," in the role of Milena Flaherty, a beautiful young American girl who becomes deeply and intensely involved in a tempestuous love affair with a psychoanalyst, Dr Alex Linden (Art Garfunkel) in Vienna.

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BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION

HARVEY KEITEL

Biography

Harvey Keitel was born in 1947, in Brooklyn, New York and joined the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation from Abraham Lincoln High School. He subsequently studied acting under Frank Corasaro, Stella Adler and Lee Strasberg, becoming a member of the Actors' Studio, in New York, where he is still active when other commitments permit. After much off-Broadway experience, he made his off-Broadway debut at the Cherry Lane Theatre in "Up To Thursday," later making his Broadway stage bow in "Death Of A Salesman," opposite George C. Scott. He also appeared in a TV production of Arthur Miller's "A Memory Of Two Mondays" in New York. He made his film debut in director Martin Scorsese's New York University thesis project "Who's That Knocking At My Door?," forerunner of "Mean Streets," the motion picture which effectively launched both their careers. His next two films, also for Scorsese, were "Taxi Driver" and "Alice Doesn't Live Here Any More" and his subsequent films have included "That's The Way Of The World," "Buffalo Bill And The Indians," "Mother Jugs And Speed," "The Duellists," "Welcome To L.A.," "Fingers," "Blue Collar," "The Eagle's Wing" and "Saturn Three." Now, in Nicolas Roeg's "BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION", he is seen as the polite but probing Austrian Police Inspector Netusil, who questions Dr. Alex Linden (Art Garfunkel) about his relationship with the beautiful young Milena (Theresa Russell) after she has been rushed to a hospital in Vienna following a drugs overdose.

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BAD TIMING/A SENSUAL OBSESSION

DENHOLM ELLIOTT

Biography

Denholm Elliott was born on May 31, 1922, in London, and educated at Malvern College. After studying at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, he served in R.A.F. Bomber Command, 1940-45. He made his professional acting debut in 1945, at the Amersham Playhouse, in "The Drunkard," going on to make his first London stage appearance in 1946, at the Criterion Theatre, in "The Guinea Pig." After more West End appearances he won the Clarence Derwent Award for the Best Supporting Performance of 1950, for his role in "Venus Observed," at the St. James's Theatre. He made his New York bow in "Ring Round The Moon," in 1950, winning the Donaldson Award. He has since appeared with consistent success in numerous stage productions in London and the United States. He made his film debut in 1949 in "Mr. Prohack" and his many motion pictures since then have included "Nothing But The Best," "King Rat," "Alfie," "Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush," "The Night They Raided Minsky's," "The Seagull," "Too Late The Hero," "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz," "Russian Roulette," "A Doll's House," "Voyage Of The Damned," "A Bridge Too Far," "Zulu Dawn," "A Game for Vultures" and "Cuba". He has also made numerous TV appearances, both in Britain and America. In "Bad Timing/A Sensual Obsession", Denholm Elliott portrays Stefan Vognic, the deserted husband of Milena, who lives in Czechoslovakia and hopes that his lovely young wife may one day return to him.

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