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All I Desire

Period tear-jerker with particular appeal to femme patrons. Barbara Stanwyck, Richard Carlson and okay general market prospects.

Hollywood, June 17.

Universal release of Ross Hunter production. Stars Barbara Stanwyck, Richard Carlson, Lyle Bettger, Marcia Henderson; features Lori Nelson, Maureen O'Sullivan, Richard Long. Directed by Douglas Kirk. Screenplay, James Gunn, Robert Bloor; adaptation, Gina Kaus; based on novel, "Stopover," by Carol Brink; camera, Carl Guthrie; editor, Milton Carruth. Previewed June 17, '53. Running time, 79 MINS.

Naomi Murdoch	Barbara Stanwyck
Henry Murdoch	Richard Carlson
Dutch Heinemann	Lyle Bettger
Joyce Murdoch	Marcia Henderson
Lily Murdoch	Lori Nelson
Sara Harper	Maureen O'Sullivan
Russ Underwood	Richard Long
Ted Murdoch	Billy Gray
Lena Engstrom	Lotte Stein
Col. Underwood	Dayton Lummis
Peterson	Fred Nurney

Distaff soap opera fans should be entranced by this fullblown period tear-jerker, so generally okay business during its play-off through the regular market is indicated. Barbara Stanwyck, Richard Carlson, names heading up the cast, provide marquee assists for bookings.

Plot concerns return of a mother to the family she ran away from 10 years previously for a fling at the stage. Homecoming is to see her daughter in the high school graduation play, but, secretly, the mother hopes for a reconciliation. Things are moving to this end, until the smalltown lothario, who had figured in her previous flight, tries to renew the affair. He is accidentally shot in a scuffle with her and the old scandal is revived. However, the husband comes to realize she actually loves him and had meant no harm, so he stands by her and the reconciliation is complete.

The Ross Hunter production and Douglas Sirk's direction pull all stops to make the picture a 79-minute excursion into sentimentality. With help of Miss Stanwyck's performance, the soap-operish tear-jerking is palatable. Carlson plays the stiff-necked husband character straight to make it acceptable. Lyle Bettger is sadly misused as the former lover. Neither writing nor direction establish the character properly to make it an understandable heavy. Maureen O'Sullivan does what she can with the role of a school teacher hopelessly in love with Carlson.

Youth accent in the cast is carried by Marcia Henderson, nicely putting over the role of Miss Stanwyck's prim, older daughter who does not welcome the homecoming; Lori Nelson, interesting as the stage-struck younger daughter; Billy Gray, good as the family's young, sportsminded son, and Richard Long, capable as Miss Henderson's fiance. Supporting characters are headed up by Lotte Stein, family cook and secret support of Miss Stanwyck.

The period settings and costumes are lensed expertly by Carl Guthrie and the other technical credits are okay. A light spot in the footage is the Bunny Hug dance of the turn-of-the-century era, used during a family party sequence. The music score, directed by Joseph Gershenson, is far too obvious, particularly in its identifying theme whenever the Bettger character is brought on screen. Brog.

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