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143 BRITISH SOUND FILMS THE THIRTIES  
- DAVID QUINLAN

**SECRET AGENT (1936)** 4

Dir *Alfred Hitchcock*. Prod *Ivor Montagu*. Scr *Charles Bennett, Ian Hay, Jesse Lasky Jr, Alma Reville*, from a play by *Campbell Dixon* and stories by *Somerset Maugham*. Ph *Bernard Knowles*. PC and Dis *Gaumont-British*. 85 mins. *Cert A*

Rather slow but atmospheric Hitchcock thriller. Ashenden (*John Gielgud*), a writer turned reluctant secret serviceman for the British, is sent to Switzerland in 1916 to kill an unknown German spy. He is given two assistants, one (*Madeleine Carroll*) posing as his wife, the other (*Peter Lorre*) an unscrupulous Mexican assassin. After a horrendous blunder when they kill the wrong man, the real spy is tracked down and dies (with the Mexican) in a massive train crash.



*Madeleine Carroll, John Gielgud, Robert Young (face-down) and Peter Lorre in Secret Agent (1936)*

**RoC** *Robert Young, Percy Marmont, Lilli Palmer, Florence Kahn, Charles Carson, Tom Helmore, Andrea Malandrinos, Michael Redgrave, Michel Saint-Denis.*