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DEMENTIA 13

A FILMGROUP PRESENTATION. Released by AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL. Producer: ROGER CORMAN. Directed and Written by FRANCIS COPPOLA. Photography: CHARLES HANNAWALT. Music: RONALD STEIN. Art Direction: ALBERT LOCATELLI. Editor: STEWART O'BRIEN. Assoc. Producer: MARIANNE WOOD. Asst. Director: RICHARD DALTON. Filmed at Ardmore Studios, Ireland. 81 Mins.

Richard Haloran WILLIAM CAMPBELL
Louise Haloran LUANA ANDERS
Billy Haloran BART PATTON
Kane MARY MITCHEL
Justin Caleb ... PATRICK MaGEE
Lady Haloran ETHNE DUNN
John Haloran ETHNE DUNN
John Haloran PETER READ
Simon KARL SCHANZER
Arthur RON PERRY
Lilian DERRY O'DONOVAN
Kathleen BARBARA DOWLING

Synopsis

In Ireland at Castlehalora, John Haloran and his wife Louise are arguing over the will of John's mother, Lady Haloran, while rowing on a lake adjoining the castle. In the heat of the discussion John has a heart attack and dies. Louise, whose only concem is to see she is well provided for in the will, pushes her husband's body overboard, fearing his death will cut her off from all inheritances. The next moming Billy, the youngest Haloran son, meets Kane at the airport. She has come to marry Richard, Billy's older, brooding artist brother. Meanwhile the scheming Louise plots to completely unhinge the half-mad Lady Haloran but is brutally axed to death during her preparations. Everyone becomes suspect and the family doctor, Justin Caleb, narrows the field but not before another murder has been comitted. During Richard and Kane's marriage ceremony, Caleb sets a trap and it is revealed that the killer is young Billy, who had, years before also done away with his little sister. He is swarmed over by the men and killed.

Critique

THE N.Y. TIMES. "Don't ask what Dementia 13 means — or whatever happened to the first 12 dementias. One is enough... Under the stolid direction of Francis Cuppola, who also wrote the script, the picture stresses gore rather than atmosphere, and all but buries a fairly workable plot. William Campbell and Luana Anders head the unlucky cast." Howard Thompson (10/24/63).

THE N.Y. HERALD TRIBUNE. "Dementia 13 is a gory little mystery shocker that horror-and-whodunit fans won't mind. It was filmed in Ireland at a huge foreboding castle with the whole scary bit thrown in — strange passageways, dark hall-ways, secret rooms, surrounding glades and marshes...One of the characters has a fantastic ax to grind, and zok; we mean that literally. You'll be happy to know that when that deadly thing comes crashing down, blood spurts and heads actually roll." Robert Salmaggi (10/24/63).