

“The Scalpel”

Unreleased 1936 film, available for the first time in nearly 90 years!



Silent Horror Short Film (20 min.) with new score by Ed Hartman.

5.1 Surround available for theatrical showing.

Festivals, Awards, Screenings, Trailer, etc.:

<https://edhartmanmusic.com/the-scalpel-1936-silent-film>

IMDB:

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt24249678/>

Logline:

A mad doctor transforms into a monstrous killer and creates mayhem in a medical institute.

Background information:

In 1936, in Seattle, a nineteen-year-old budding filmmaker using his own equipment had already created over 50 stage/screenplays and was working on his seventh of nine films before he was 20. This director would go on to work for Disney Studios and direct and edit a 1950 Academy Award Documentary. Richard H. Lyford's films have developed a following among film historians since his early "amateur" films are some of the first "indie" films ever created outside of Hollywood. Lyford experimented with special effects, double-exposures, and intense makeup and was becoming an excellent director. The film features Lyford's family and friends playing a variety of nurses and doctors in an experimental medical facility. Barbara Berger, a favorite Lyford lead actress, went on to successfully work on stage and television.

"The Scalpel" is presented for the first time in nearly 90 years! To finish Lyford's vision, a professionally mixed orchestral soundtrack, by NW film composer, Ed Hartman has been added to the presentation.

Until now only a fragment of this film was known to exist. In 2024 more footage of "The Scalpel" was discovered. 8th Sense Productions, LLC has completely restored, re-edited, and added new music by Ed Hartman. This is an extraordinary project the continues to bring attention to Richard Lyford, a pioneer of independent filmmaking.

Related: "As the Earth Turns," a 45 minute silent sci-fi film from 1937 by Richard Lyford, was released by 8th Sense Productions, LLC in 2019, and is in distribution (Amazon, etc.) The film has been on Turner Classic Movies. (<https://edhartmanmusic.com/as-the-earth-turns>)



The Scalpel Trailer (*view only, downloadable trailer on request*)

<https://vimeo.com/956274593/355efc964f?share=copy>

or

<https://youtu.be/UCS5o6t14yk>

Richard H. Lyford

(Director, Editor, Producer)



Richard Lyford was born, in Seattle, in 1917. Inspired by silent films and stage plays, Richard wrote and put on 58 plays and created 9 16mm films by the time he was 20 years old. He presented his live and filmed productions, with his own acting company, in a 50 seat basement theatre in his house.

His early attempts with film, especially 16mm gained the attention of Disney. Lyford worked on Disney films, including the classics, “Dumbo”, “Pinocchio” and “Fantasia”. He pioneered hi-speed animation, special effects and models.

In WWII, he was drafted by the army, and made films for the Army Air Forces. After the war, Lyford created his own films, and co-produced and directed the 1950 Academy Award winning documentary, “The Titan” about Michelangelo.

In 1952, he went to Saudi Arabia (the first Western film crew), and produced a number of films for the Kingdom. “The Fly” was a groundbreaking documentary about the prevention of the disease by the Tsetse Fly.

Other Arab based documentaries were created, but ran into protests due to the Middle Eastern War in 1956. Lyford continued to make films, including “Boy With A Blindfold” about sight restoration, narrated by Walter Pigeon. His filmmaking led him back to Disney to work in “The Wonderful World of Color on television and many other projects.

In addition to filmmaking, Lyford was very much interested in aviation. So much, that he bought a surplus training plane for his backyard. It would “taxi” all over the yard. Richard Lyford died in 1985.

Director Statement

"So you see, it gets you! You can't get away from it, and I know that as long as I have greasepaint behind my ears and developer stain on my best shirt, I'll live a happier life."

Richard H. Lyford (American Cinematographer, 1938)



ED HARTMAN

(Composer & Producer for “The Scalpel”)

“As a composer, I have probably watched this film as much as Lyford did. I can’t help to think that he really created something very special in this era. I wonder what would have happened if he had not gone to Disney and worked behind the scenes. Would he have developed like Orson Welles, and become a big name director in Hollywood. For this film, Lyford had a seasoned crew and acting company to do this very challenging film. Welles also had the Mercury Theatre company. Both of them cut their teeth on stage productions (Lyford was born two years after Welles, and died the same year as Welles). When you watch this film, think about the abilities of a 20-year-old to create it. I work with modern independent filmmakers often. I believe Richard Lyford sets an standard for filmmaker that few have achieved.”*

Ed Hartman

Related: It Gets in Your Blood - Short documentary about Richard Lyford, 2021

<https://edhartmanmusic.com/it-gets-in-your-blood-reviews-news-pics>

Originally from Chicago, Ed Hartman is an accomplished composer, performer, and educator. He has scored features, shorts and documentaries, including **“As The Earth Turns,” “Fitz,” “The Son, The Father,” “It Gets in Your Blood,”** and **“DACA - The Story of Dreamers”**. His music has been heard in many films and television shows including, **“The Blind Side,” “The Cold Light of Day,” “Minis First Time,” “Scooby Doo, The Mystery Begins,” “Stranger Things,” “Lucifer,”** and **Brooklyn Nine-Nine**”. Ed received his Bachelor of Music from Indiana University, and has been involved with the film and music communities in the Pacific Northwest for decades. He creates music drawn from many styles, genres and cultures. Ed is at home with classical orchestral music, along with electronic and world music. As a percussionist, he can create intense rhythmic scores that can contrast with lyrical orchestral passages. Ed loves sci-fi, drama, comedy, fantasy and suspense.

MUSIC, CREDITS, BIO: <https://edhartmanmusic.com/bio-credits>

Ed Hartman: IMDB: [imdb.com/name/nm3047539/](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3047539/)





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The SCALPEL

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"The Scalpel" (1956 Unreleased Silent Film)
Written, Directed, & Produced by Richard H. Lyford
Produced by Ed Hartman (2024)
New Score by Ed Hartman
©2024 8th Sense Productions



Contact Information:

Ed Hartman (Co-Producer and Composer)

8th Sense Productions, LLC

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