

WNCC



WOKING'S NEW CINEMA CLUB

The Last Detail

Hal Ashby - 1973 - USA - 103 min.

Cert X Metrocolor

CAST LIST

Billy Buddusky	Jack Nicholson
Mule Mulhall	Otis Young
Larry Meadows	Randy Quaid
Master at Arms	Clifton James
Marine Duty Officer	Michael Moriarty
Prostitute	Carole Kane
Anna (chanter)	Luana Anders

Screenplay by Robert Towne

from a novel by Darryl Ponicsan.



Hardened US Navy petty officers Buddusky and Mulhall are assigned to escort the eighteen-year-old Meadows by stages to the navy prison where he is to begin an eight year sentence for the attempted theft of \$40. At first disposed to deliver their charge quickly so as to give more time for carousing on the return journey, the two, appalled by the severity of the sentence and won over by the naive, bumbling ways of their charge, decide to show him their version of a good time before the prison door closes on his youth. So the boozing, brawling and whoring begin. As they proceed and the diversions and encounters develop, the two older men grow aware of their own lost opportunities and the sense that they too have lost their freedom by signing over their lives to the navy.

Nicholson was already an experienced but minor Hollywood figure when his career took off in 1969 with "Easy Rider". He consolidated his success with his role in "Five Easy Pieces" (1970) and was himself the mainspring behind "The Last Detail", persuading his friend Robert Towne to write the script. The film brought the pair of them, and Randy Quaid, Academy Award nominations. Hal Ashby's previous work included the black comedy "Harold and Maude" (1971) and in 1975 he directed "Shampoo". "The Last Detail" is sterner stuff but it has its funny, even hilarious moments. Don't expect your spirits to be lightened by the photography, which is of the filtered, gray variety, but relish the acting of Jack Nicholson, here at its peak, cheesy grin and all.

Some critics thought that the story played too much on the audience's heartstrings, wringing pathos out of the two older men's gruff tenderness towards the youngster. Others praised Ashby for avoiding the pitfall. See what you think. And if you are offended by bad language, earplugs are recommended. When reviewed on BBC TV in an age when chirrupers were substituted for expletives the excerpts sounded like a conference of budgerigars.

JOHN DANCE



RANDY QUAID AND JACK NICHOLSON AS MEADOWS AND BUDDUSKY.

Obituaries

● Idolized in some quarters for rising above his B-movie limitations, director Samuel Fuller – who died on October 28 aged 86 – made his name with uncompromising films about men in war. He debuted with *I Shot Jesse James* (1949) and went on to make *The Steel Helmet* (1950), *Fixed Bayonets!* (1951), *Hell & High Water* (1954) and *Merill's Marauders* (1962). Other career highlights came with *Pick Up On South Street* (1953) and *Run of the Arrow* (1957).

● A familiar face in scores of British movies, Michael Balfour – who died on October 19 aged 79 – was one of that breed of actors who would crop up in supporting roles that spanned a literally head-spinning range. He began his screen career with *Just William's Luck* (1947), and appeared in *Johnny On The Run* (1953), *Reach For The Sky* (1956), *Fahrenheit 451* (1966) and *The Canterbury Tales* (1973) amongst many, many others.



● American actress Joyce Compton – who died on October 13 aged 90 – made her debut in the silent era, but went on to star in several top films during the '30s and '40s. These included *The Awful Truth* (1937), *Kid Galahad* (1937), *Rose of Washington Square* (1939), *Night & Day* (1946), *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946) and *Sorry, Wrong Number* (1948).

● Another delightful British character actor, Michael Ward – who died on November 8 aged 88 – was able to make the smallest of roles memorable, and popped up in several Norman Wisdom comedies in the '50s, a fistful of *Carry On...* films, and scores of others, including *Sleeping Car To Trieste* (1948), *What The Butler Saw* (1950) and *Doctor In Love* (1960).



● A well-known lady from the game show *3-2-1* and a clutch of British sitcoms, Debbie Linden – who died on October 6 aged 36 – also appeared in the films *Home Before Midnight* (1978), *The Wildcats of St Trinians* (1980) and *Eat The Rich* (1987).

● Novelist Richard Mason – who died on October 13 aged 78 – saw a couple of his books made into movies, namely *The Wind Cannot Read* (1958) and *The World of Suzie Wong* (1960). He also adapted Neville Shute's *A Town Like Alice* (1956) for the screen.

SECRETS AND LIES (11/12/97)

40 reactions, average score 7.88

Comments

Funny but depressing?!

Brenda Blethyn excellent.

Moving and effective.

What a hornets nest!

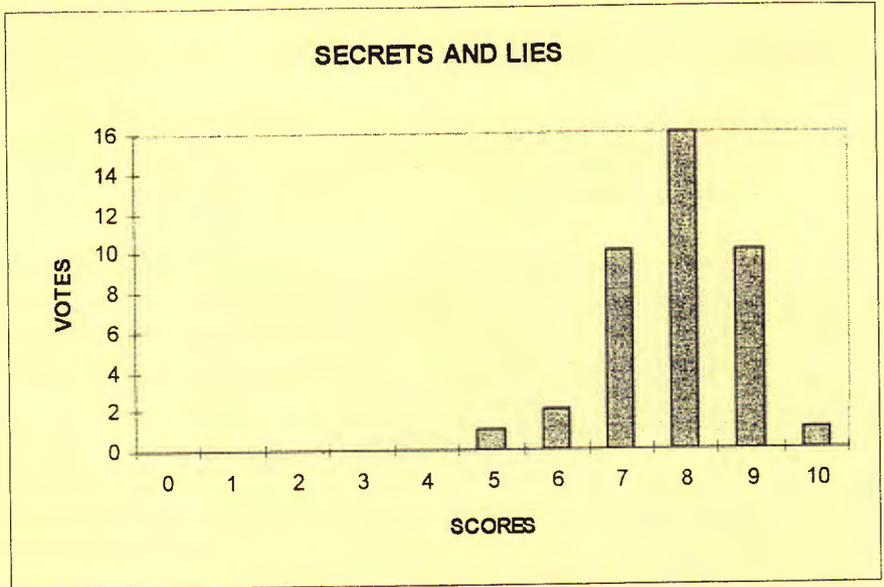
Loved the London locations.

Brilliant acting but music was too intrusive.

Far too painful to laugh at - I've spent family weekends like that unfortunately!

A shade OTT but interesting. Very subtly acted but could have done with a bit more editing.

Helen Sayers



REACTIONS: The Story So Far.....

<i>BRASSED OFF</i>	8.14%	[51 votes]
<i>SECRETS & LIES</i>	7.88%	[40 votes]
<i>STAGECOACH</i>	7.44%	[39 votes]
<i>THE PROMISE</i>	7.25%	[44 votes]
<i>CARRINGTON</i>	6.73%	[49 votes]
<i>SMOKE</i>	6.71%	[35 votes]
<i>SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA</i>	6.34%	[29 votes]

GET READY FOR THE 1998/99 SEASON !

WNCC's 1998/99 Season may seem a long way off, but it will soon be time to put forward your nominations for inclusion in our programme for September 1998 through to May 1999.

So, begin thinking about those films that you would like to see, whether they are modern or oldies, British, American or foreign language. In particular, your Committee would welcome suggestions for some "classics", perhaps tributes to famous stars, such as Robert Mitchum, James Stewart or Katherine Hepburn/Spencer Tracy.

Voting slips will be circulated during February.

IAN SOWERBY
[WNCC Film Bookings Secretary]

WELCOME TO MAYFORD VILLAGE HALL FROM THE CLUB CHAIRMAN

A very warm welcome to you all. I trust you had an enjoyable festive season.

Unfortunately your favourite film club will not be helping with your post Christmas diet, because we are delighted to confirm that we will be once again able to offer light refreshments during the interval at all our films.

I should like to thank the trustees of the Hall for agreeing to allow us to hire their venue. I confess that before viewing the building I had a preconceived idea about "Village Halls" - the words conjuring images of cold rooms with corrugated iron roofs. Obviously I am delighted that I was totally wrong in this impression with regard to this impressive hall.

The move to the new venue has resulted in an amended running order of the films and changes in dates. Although Members have been informed of the changes, starting with tonight's film *The Last Detail*, I once again ask that you check the Club Noticeboard to confirm the dates the running order.

I trust that you will enjoy both our new venue and tonight's film.

Iain McGlashan
Chairman

here at Mayford Village Hall on
Thursday February 29th at 8.00 pm

**COMING
NEXT**



Performance Ends 10.20pm (approx.)

Veronika Voss**Die Sehnsucht Der Veronika Voss**

W. Germany 1981 104 mins bw
Maura/Tango/Rialto/Trio/Maran

d **Rainer Werner Fassbinder**
sc **Peter Märthesheimer, Pea Frölich**
ph **Xaver Schwarzenberger**
m **Peer Raben**

**Rosel Zech, Hilmar Thate, Anne Marie
Düringer, Cornelia Froeboess, Doris Schade,
Armin Müller-Stahl**

In the 1950s, a journalist (Thate) becomes involved in the life of Veronika Voss (Zech), a screen idol of the previous decade but now at the end of her career and under the influence of a doctor (Düringer) who supplies her with drugs. Fassbinder's striking use of black and white evokes in different ways the atmosphere of Germany in the dour post-war years and—in dreams—the brashness of the Nazi era. One of the director's last films, it is a flamboyant tribute to the UFA Studios with a nod towards *Sunset Boulevard* by the great Billy Wilder.

Best Film Berlin 1982

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