

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **The Birds**



Library Image

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Information

Release **Title:** The Birds 12th September 1963
From:
AKA:
 Release date: 28th March 1963 US (New York Premiere)
 Origin: United Kingdom
 Genres: Drama, Horror, Mystery, Romance
 Disc Nos. - 1
 Certification: X
 Duration: 1h 59m
 Region Code:
 Region: 2
 Product Code:
 MPN:
 EAN:
 UPC:
 Languages: English
 Filming locations: 835 Bay Hwy, Bodega Bay, California, USA(The Tides Restaurant)
 Sound mix: Dolby Stereo
 Colour: PAL
 Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 1.37:1



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Alfred Hitchcock
Screenplay by	Evan Hunter
Based on	"The Birds" by Daphne du Maurier
Produced by	Alfred Hitchcock
Starring	Rod Taylor Jessica Tandy Suzanne Pleshette Tippi Hedren
Cinematography	Robert Burks
Edited by	George Tomasini
Production company	Alfred J. Hitchcock Productions
Distributed by	Universal-International Pictures
Release date	March 28, 1963
Running time	119 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$3.3 million ^[1]
Box office	\$11.4 million ^[2]

Storyline

At a San Francisco pet store, socialite Melanie Daniels meets lawyer Mitch Brenner who is looking to buy lovebirds for his sister Cathy's 11th birthday. Recognizing Melanie from her court appearance regarding a practical joke gone awry, Mitch pretends to mistake her for a shop employee. Mitch tests Melanie's knowledge of birds, which she fails. He discloses his prior knowledge of her and that his ruse was intended to make her appreciate being on the other end of a joke. Mitch leaves without buying anything. Finding him attractive, Melanie buys the lovebirds to make amends and drives to Bodega Bay after she learns Mitch has gone to his family's farm for the weekend. Melanie is directed to the local teacher at Bodega named Annie Hayworth, to learn Cathy's name. Annie previously dated Mitch but ended it due to Mitch's cold, overbearing mother, Lydia, who dislikes any woman in Mitch's life.

Melanie rents a boat in town and crosses the bay to leave the lovebirds at the Brenner farm discreetly. Mitch spots Melanie during her retreat and drives into town to meet her at the dock. As Melanie approaches the wharf, a gull attacks her. Mitch tends to her head wound inside a diner. Lydia arrives, meets Melanie, and Mitch announces to Lydia that he is inviting Melanie to dinner. Melanie returns to Annie's house and asks to spend the night. At the farm, Lydia's hens are suddenly refusing to eat. Lydia expresses her disapproval of Melanie to Mitch due to her exaggerated reputation, as reported in gossip columns. Mitch calls Melanie and invites her to Cathy's birthday party being held the next day. Shortly after, there is a violent thud at Annie's front door. A dead gull is found at the threshold.

At Cathy's party, Melanie privately tells Mitch about her troubled past and her mother running off with another man when Melanie was Cathy's age. During a game, the children are attacked and some injured by gulls. Later that evening, as Melanie dines with the Brenners, sparrows swarm the house through the chimney. Later, Mitch insists she delay driving back to San Francisco and stay the night. The next morning, Lydia visits her neighbour to discuss why their chickens will not eat. She discovers his eyeless corpse, pecked lifeless by birds, and flees in horror. As Lydia recovers at home, she fears for Cathy's safety, and Melanie offers to pick her up at school. As Melanie waits outside the schoolhouse, a large flock of crows slowly engulfs the jungle gym behind her. Anticipating an attack, she warns Annie. As they evacuate the children, the crows attack, injuring several children. Mitch finds Melanie at the diner. When gulls attack a gas station attendant, Mitch and several other men assist him outside. Spilled gasoline ignites everywhere, causing an explosion. During the escalating fire, Melanie and others rush out but more gulls attack, and Melanie takes refuge in a telephone booth. Mitch saves her, and they get back inside the diner. A distraught woman blames Melanie for the attacks, claiming they began with her arrival.

Mitch and Melanie go to Annie's house to fetch Cathy. They find Annie's body outside, killed by the crows while protecting Cathy. They pick up Cathy and take her home. That night, Melanie and the Brenners barricade themselves in the family home, which is attacked by waves of birds that nearly breach the boarded-up doors and windows. During a lull, Melanie investigates a fluttering sound in the attic bedroom. After discovering that the birds have pecked their way in through the roof, Melanie is violently attacked, trapping her until Mitch pulls her out. Melanie is badly injured and traumatized; Mitch insists they all drive to San Francisco to take Melanie to a hospital. As Mitch readies Melanie's car for their escape, a menacing sea of birds has quietly gathered around the Brenner house. Mitch quietly moves the car out. The car radio reports bird attacks on nearby communities such as Santa Rosa, and the military may intervene. Cathy retrieves her lovebirds (the only birds who do not attack) from the house and joins Mitch and Lydia as they carefully escort Melanie past a mass of birds and into the car. The car slowly drives away as thousands of birds watch ominously.

Cast

Rod Taylor as Mitch Brenner

Jessica Tandy as Lydia Brenner

Suzanne Pleshette as Annie Hayworth

Tippi Hedren as Melanie Daniels

Veronica Cartwright as Cathy Brenner

Ethel Griffies as Mrs. Bundy, ornithologist

Charles McGraw as Sebastian Sholes, fisherman

Ruth McDevitt as Mrs. MacGruder, owner of the bird shop
 Lonny Chapman as Deke Carter, innkeeper
 Joe Mantell as cynical businessman
 Doodles Weaver as fisherman helping with rental boat
 Malcolm Atterbury as Deputy Al Malone
 John McGovern as postal clerk
 Karl Swenson as drunken doomsayer in diner
 Richard Deacon as Mitch's neighbor in San Francisco
 Elizabeth Wilson as Helen Carter, Deke's wife
 William Quinn as Sam
 Alfred Hitchcock makes his signature cameo as a man walking dogs out of the pet shop at the beginning of the film. They were two of his own Sealyham Terriers, Geoffrey and Stanley.

Parents Guide

Certification

Argentina:13 Australia:SOA (original rating) Australia:PG (1984, re-rating) Brazil:14 Canada:PG (Manitoba) Canada:13+ (Quebec) Canada:PG (tv rating) Ecuador:15 (self-applied) Finland:K-15 (2002, DVD, uncut) Finland:K-16 (1963, cut) France:13 (original rating) France:12 (re-rating) Iceland:16 India:UA (re-rating) India:A (1963, original rating) Ireland:15 Israel:16 (self-applied) Italy:VM14 (original rating) Italy:T (1991, re-rating) Japan:All Ages (self-applied) Mexico:B Netherlands:12 Netherlands:16 (DVD) New Zealand:M Norway:15 (TV rating) Norway:16 (original rating) Peru:14 Philippines:PG-13 (MTRCB, video rating) Poland:16 Portugal:M/12 Russia:16+ (original rating) Russia:12+ (re-rating) Russia:16+ (2018, video rating) Singapore:PG South Korea:15 (1995) Spain:A Sweden:15 Turkey:G (self-applied) United Kingdom:X (original rating) United Kingdom:15 (1987, re-rating) United States:TV-PG (TV rating) United States:PG-13 (1984, certificate #27603) United States:Approved (1963, pca #20385) West Germany:16

Sex & Nudity

None

Violence & Gore

Moderate

Profanity

None

Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

Mild

Frightening & Intense Scenes

Moderate

Classic Menu



Main Menu

