

# The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **The 39 Steps**



ISBN: 5037115013637

Library Image



Theatrical release poster

|                    |                                                                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Directed by        | Alfred Hitchcock                                                      |
| Screenplay by      | Charles Bennett<br>Ian Hay                                            |
| Based on           | <i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i><br>1915 novel<br>by John Buchan          |
| Produced by        | Michael Balcon                                                        |
| Starring           | Robert Donat<br>Madeleine Carroll<br>Lucie Mannheim<br>Godfrey Tearle |
| Cinematography     | Bernard Knowles                                                       |
| Edited by          | Derek N. Twist                                                        |
| Music by           | Louis Levy<br>Jack Beaver<br>(uncredited) <sup>[1]</sup>              |
| Production company | Gaumont-British Picture Corporation                                   |
| Distributed by     | Gaumont British Distributors                                          |
| Release dates      | 6 June 1935 (London)<br>2 August 1935 (U.S.)                          |
| Running time       | 86 minutes                                                            |
| Country            | United Kingdom                                                        |
| Language           | English                                                               |
| Budget             | £50,000 <sup>[2]</sup>                                                |

## Information

Release Title: The 39 Steps 18<sup>th</sup> November 1935 (United Kingdom)  
 From: The Thirty-nine Steps is a 1915 novel by Scottish adventure writer John Buchan [1875-1940], the first of six novels featuring action hero Richard Hannay. The other five novels include Greenmantle (1916), Mr Standfast (1919), The Three Hostages (1924), The Courts of the Morning (1929), and The Island of Sheep (1936). The novel was loosely adapted for the movie by English screenwriter Charles Bennett, and the movie was directed by Alfred Hitchcock. There have also been three remakes of the 39 Steps—The 39 Steps (1959) (1959), The Thirty Nine Steps (1978) (1978), and The 39 Steps (2008) (2008). A fourth remake, the 39 Steps, is in 'development' with no date for release.

AKA: The Thirty-Nine Steps

Release date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 1935 USA

Origin: United Kingdom

Genres: Action, Comedy

Disc Nos. - 1

Certification: A

Duration: 1h 26m

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Glen Coe, Highland, Scotland, UK (Hannay arrives at Prof. Jordan's home)

Sound mix: DTS, Dolby Digital, SDDS

Colour: PAL + Black & White

Aspect Ratio: 1.37:1

## Storyline

At a London music hall theatre, Richard Hannay is watching "Mr. Memory" demonstrate his powers of recall when gunshots are heard. In the ensuing panic, Hannay finds himself holding a seemingly frightened woman who persuades him to take her back to his flat. She tells him her name is Annabella Smith, she is a spy and she fired the shots to create a diversion so she could elude assassins. She claims that she has uncovered a plot to steal vital British military information, masterminded by a man missing the top joint of one finger. She mentions "The 39 Steps", but does not explain the phrase.

Later that night, Smith bursts into Hannay's bedroom and warns him to flee, before dying from a knife in her back. Hannay finds a map of the Scottish Highlands clutched in her hand, showing the area around Killin, with something named "Alt-na-Shellach" circled. He sneaks out of his flat disguised as a milkman to avoid the waiting assassins. He then boards the Flying Scotsman express train to Scotland. At Waverley Station in Edinburgh, he learns that he is the target of a nationwide manhunt for Smith's murderer. When he sees police searching the train, he goes to another compartment and kisses the sole occupant, Pamela, to try to avoid capture. However, she alerts the policemen, who stop the train on the Forth Rail Bridge. Hannay escapes.

Making his way north, he stays the night with a crofter and his much younger wife, Margaret. Early the next morning, Margaret sees the headlights of a police car approaching and wakes Hannay; before he flees, she gives him her husband's coat. The police chase after him, even employing an autogyro, but he eludes them.

He eventually reaches Alt-na-Shellach, the house of Professor Jordan, where a party is going on. Jordan hides him from the police. He listens to Hannay's story. When Hannay states that the leader of the spies is missing the top joint of the little finger of his left hand, Jordan shows his right hand, which is missing that joint. He offers Hannay the opportunity to commit suicide, then shoots him and leaves him for dead. However, the bullet is stopped by a hymnary in the crofter's coat.

Hannay goes to the sheriff. The sheriff does not believe him, since Jordan is his best friend. Hannay jumps through a window. Hiding at a political meeting, he is mistaken for the introductory speaker. He gives a rousing impromptu speech, but Pamela gives him away to the police once more. He is taken away; the policemen insist Pamela accompany them. When they pass the local police station, they say they are going to Inverary, 40 miles away. Hannay realises they are agents of the conspiracy. When the men get out to disperse some sheep blocking the road, they handcuff Pamela to Hannay. Hannay escapes into the foggy night, dragging Pamela with him.

They make their way across the countryside and stay the night at an inn. While Hannay sleeps, Pamela manages to slip out of the handcuffs, but overhears one of the fake policemen on the telephone, confirming Hannay's story. She returns to the room. The next morning, she tells him that she overheard the spies saying that Jordan will be picking something up at the London Palladium. He sends her to London to alert the police; however, no secret documents have been reported missing, so they do not believe her. Instead, they tail her, hoping that she will lead them to Hannay.

She goes to the Palladium, where a show is on stage. When Mr. Memory is introduced, Hannay recognizes his theme music — a catchy tune he has been unable to forget. Hannay, upon seeing Jordan signal Mr. Memory, realises that Mr. Memory has memorized the secrets. As the police are about to take Hannay away, he shouts, "What are The 39 Steps?" Mr. Memory compulsively answers, "The 39 Steps is an organisation of spies, collecting information on behalf of the foreign office of...", at which point Jordan shoots Mr. Memory before being apprehended. The dying Mr. Memory begins reciting the design for a silent aircraft engine.

## Cast

Robert Donat as Richard Hannay

Madeleine Carroll as Pamela

Lucie Mannheim as Annabella Smith  
Godfrey Tearle as Professor Jordan  
Peggy Ashcroft as Margaret, the crofter's wife  
John Laurie as John, the crofter  
Helen Haye as Mrs. Louisa Jordan, the professor's wife  
Frank Cellier as Sheriff Watson  
Wylie Watson as Mr. Memory  
Gus McNaughton as Commercial Traveller  
Jerry Verno as Commercial Traveller  
Peggy Simpson as Maid  
Matthew Boulton as Fake Policeman  
Frederick Piper as Milkman (uncredited)  
Ivor Barnard as Political Meeting Chairman (uncredited)  
Elizabeth Inglis as Pat, Professor Jordan's daughter (uncredited)

### Parents Guide

#### Certification

Argentina:Atp (DVD rating) Argentina:13 (original rating) Australia:A (original rating) Australia:G (1984, re-rating)  
Brazil:12 (DVD rating) Finland:K-8 (1987) Finland:K-16 (1936) France:Tous publics Italy:T Japan:G Netherlands:9  
(2009 re-release) Netherlands:14 (1935, original rating) Norway:7 (recommended rating) Norway:16 (1935, cinema  
rating) Poland:12 (TV rating) Portugal:M/12 South Korea:12 (2002) Spain:16 (TV rating) Sweden:15 United  
Kingdom:U (TV rating) United Kingdom:A (original rating) United Kingdom:U (2008, re-rating, re-release) United  
Kingdom:U (2005, video rating) United States:Approved United States:Passed (National Board of Review) United  
States:TV-G (TV rating) West Germany:16 (nf)

#### Sex & Nudity

None

#### Violence & Gore

Mild

#### Profanity

None

#### Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking

Mild

#### Frightening & Intense Scenes

Mild

