

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS Collection

Title: **School for Scoundrels**



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Library Image

[2 Discs]



& Colourised Version

Information

Release Title: **School for Scoundrels** 24th March 1960
(United Kingdom)

Publication date:

Origin: United Kingdom

AKA: Also known as: School for Scoundrels or How to Win Without Actually Cheating

Release date: United States – 11th July 1960 (New York City)

Genres: Comedy

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: U

Duration: 1h 34m

Region Code:

Region:

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English, German

Filming locations: Hertford East Station, Hertford, Hertfordshire, England, UK(Yeovil station)

Sound mix: Stereo

Colour: Black & White

Aspect Ratio: 1.66:1

School for Scoundrels



Original UK poster

Directed by	Robert Hamer Cyril Frankel (uncredited), Hal E. Chester (uncredited) ^[2]
Screenplay by	Hal E. Chester Patricia Moyes Peter Ustinov (uncredited) Frank Tarloff (uncredited)
Based on	the <i>Gamesmanship</i> series by Stephen Potter
Produced by	Hal E. Chester
Starring	Ian Carmichael Terry-Thomas Janette Scott Alastair Sim
Cinematography	Erwin Hillier
Edited by	Richard Best
Music by	John Addison
Production companies	Associated British Picture Corporation (ABPC) Guardsman Films ^[2]
Distributed by	Warner-Pathé Distributors ^[3] (UK)
Release date	24 March 1960 (UK) ^[1]
Running time	97 minutes ^[3]
Country	United Kingdom
Language	English

1 - Title: School for Scoundrels

Storyline

Henry Palfrey, the head of a family firm in London, travels to Yeovil to enrol in the "School of Lifemanship", run by its principal Dr Potter. Arriving late, he overhears Potter explaining to his new intake of students that his courses focus on the science of "being one up on your opponents at all times". Palfrey is given an object lesson by Potter when he interviews them, when he loses a name-calling game without knowing it. When Potter delves in to why Palfrey has enrolled at his school, he deduces a woman is involved. Palfrey proceeds to explain the circumstances behind him travelling to Yeovil, in the form of a flashback. A few weeks prior to enrolling in the School of Lifemanship, Palfrey had an encounter with April Smith, a beautiful woman who he fell in love with after accidentally running into her while trying to catch a bus.

Despite his good fortune of arranging a dinner date with her, Palfrey arrived at work late, where he proceeded to suffer the usual problems - a lack of respect from his employees, and being patronised by the firm's senior clerk Gloatbridge, who commands more respect from the workers and thus makes all the business decisions. Later that evening, Palfrey took April out for dinner, but after finding his reservation was voided for being late, the pair managed to gain entry after encountering a causal acquaintance of Palfrey, Raymond Delauney, who swiftly proceeded to seduce April and cast his friend in a bad light. The following day, Palfrey attempted to acquire a car of his own, after noting the fancy sports car Delauney had, but was conned into buying a ramshackle 1924 car by two second-hand car dealers. The final humiliation for Palfrey came when Delauney suggested a "friendly" tennis match at their local club, which he won easily, leaving Palfrey to feel completely despondent with his life.

Back in the present, Potter recommends Palfrey to pay attention to the courses given. Over the next several weeks, Palfrey proves an apt pupil learning several ploys that can give him an upper hand. In order to complete his education, Potter assigns him a field test of his skills to evaluate him. Returning to London, Palfrey first returns to the car dealers who conned him, and convinces them that, after a tune-up, the vehicle they sold him turns out to be "valuable" and sought-after. Eager to acquire it, the pair offer to trade for it, to which Palfrey cons them into handing over an Austin-Healey sports car and 100 guineas (£105) for the car, which promptly breaks down after he leaves. Returning to his family firm, Palfrey next puts Gloatbridge in his place by pretending he will arrange a merger with a larger firm and that his clerk's bookkeeping has gotten sloppy, allowing him to also earn the respect of his employees in the process.

Finally, Palfrey challenges Delauney to a rematch, and uses various ploys to frustrate him before they even start playing, including making him damage his own car. When they eventually begin the match at the tennis club, with April watching, Palfrey proceeds to win six straight sets with ease, with Potter later graduating him for his successful application of his education. Delauney, angered by what has happened, belittles Palfrey after he departs, only to disgust April by his behaviour, who proceeds to leave and joins Palfrey for a drink. Shortly after she leaves, Delauney notices Potter surveying him before departing, and soon becomes suspicious of this. He quickly follows after him, when a staff member at the club mentions witnessing the scene between them and Palfrey.

Meanwhile, Palfrey brings April to his apartment where he proceeds to use his wooing tricks on her, including spilling her drink on her dress, and convincing her to put on his dressing gown. Eventually she winds up in his bedroom, but Palfrey finds himself unable to take advantage of her. Before he can send her home, Delauney barges in, dragging Potter with him, and reveals the truth by what happened at the tennis club. However, April realises that Palfrey's sudden decision to send her home was because he genuinely loves her, leading them to embrace. Both Delauney and Potter are disgusted by Palfrey's display of sincerity, with the latter breaking the "fourth wall" to apologise to the audience for his pupil's behaviour. The film ends with Delauney getting off the train at Yeovil station and heading in the direction of the school.

Cast

Ian Carmichael as Henry Palfrey
Terry-Thomas as Raymond Delauney
Alastair Sim as Mr. S. Potter
Janette Scott as April Smith
Dennis Price as Dunstan Dorchester
Peter Jones as Dudley Dorchester
Edward Chapman as Gloatbridge
John Le Mesurier as Head Waiter
Irene Handl as Mrs. Stringer, Palfrey's landlady
Kynaston Reeves as General
Hattie Jacques as 1st Instructress
Hugh Paddick as Instructor
Barbara Roscoe as 2nd Instructress
Gerald Campion as Proudfoot, a school student
Monte Landis as Fleetsnod, a school student
Jeremy Lloyd as Dingle, a school student
Charles Lamb as Carpenter
Anita Sharp-Bolster as Maid

Parents Guide

Certification

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Australia:G Finland:S Italy:T Netherlands:AL (1960, original rating) Norway:7 United Kingdom:U United Kingdom:U (1989, video rating) United States:Approved (mpaa rating: certificate #19566)

Sex & Nudity –None **Violence & Gore** – None, **Profanity** – None **Alcohol, Drugs & Smoking** – Mild **Frightening & Intense Scenes** – None

