

The Paragon Multimedia DVD, VHS

Title: **The Maltese Falcon** (1941)

1 Disc



Library Image



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Information

Release Title: **The Maltese Falcon** 19th June 1942 (United Kingdom)
(London)

From:

Origin: United Kingdom

Release Date: United States: 18th October 1941

Genres: Film Noir, Hard-boiled Detective, Crime, Mystery, Romance

Disc Nos. – 1

Certification: PG

Duration: 1h 40m (100m)

Region Code:

Region: 2

Product Code:

MPN:

EAN:

UPC:

Languages: English

Filming locations: Bush Street, San Francisco, California, USA (death of Miles Archer)

Sound mix: Mono (Western Electric Recording)

Colour: PAL B&W note: Colour (available pending)

Aspect Ratio: 1.33:1 (35mm)

The Maltese Falcon



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	John Huston
Screenplay by	John Huston
Based on	<i>The Maltese Falcon</i> by Dashiell Hammett
Starring	Humphrey Bogart Mary Astor Gladys George Peter Lorre Barton MacLane Lee Patrick Sydney Greenstreet
Cinematography	Arthur Edson ^[N 1]
Edited by	Thomas Richards
Music by	Adolph Deutsch
Production company	Warner Bros.
Distributed by	Warner Bros.
Release dates	October 3, 1941 (New York City) October 18, 1941 (United States)
Running time	101 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English
Budget	\$375,000 ^{[2][N 2]}
Box office	\$1.8 million ^[2]

Storyline

In San Francisco, private investigators Sam Spade and Miles Archer meet prospective client Ruth Wonderly. She claims to be looking for her missing sister, who ran off from their home in New York and came to the city with a man named Floyd Thursby. Archer agrees to help get her sister back. However, later that night, the police inform Spade that Archer has been killed. Spade tries calling his client at her hotel to discover she has checked out. Back at his apartment, he is grilled by police detective Tom Polhaus and Lieutenant Dundy, who tell him that Thursby was murdered the same evening. Dundy suggests that Spade had the opportunity and motive to kill Thursby, who likely killed Archer.

Later that morning, Spade meets Wonderly. Now calling herself Brigid O'Shaughnessy, she confesses that her story was made up. She convinces Spade to investigate the murders and also reveals that Thursby was her partner; she suspects he took advantage of her and killed Archer, but claims to have no idea who killed Thursby. At his office, Spade meets Joel Cairo, who offers him \$5,000 to find a "black figure of a bird". When Spade is sceptical, Cairo pulls a gun on him and searches the room for it. Spade knocks Cairo out and goes through his belongings. When Cairo comes round, he hires Spade. On his way to visit O'Shaughnessy later that evening, Spade is followed by a young man but manages to evade him. When he tells O'Shaughnessy about Cairo, her nervousness indicates she knows him. He arranges a meeting between the two at his apartment, where Cairo becomes agitated when O'Shaughnessy reveals that the "Fat Man" is in San Francisco. When Spade goes to Cairo's hotel in the morning, he spots Wilmer Cook, the young man who trailed him earlier. Wilmer works for Kasper Gutman, the "Fat Man". In his hotel suite, Gutman relates the history of the Maltese Falcon, then offers Spade his pick of either \$25,000 for the statuette and another \$25,000 after its sale, or a quarter of the proceeds from its sale.

Spade passes out because his drink is spiked. Wilmer and Cairo come in from another room and leave with Gutman. On coming round, Spade searches the suite and finds a newspaper with the arrival time of the freighter La Paloma circled. He goes to the dock, only to find the ship on fire. Later, the ship's captain Jacoby is shot several times and staggers into Spade's office before dying. The bundle he was clutching contains the Maltese Falcon. O'Shaughnessy calls the office, gives an address, then screams before the line goes dead.

Spade stashes the package at the bus terminal, then goes to the address, which turns out to be an empty lot. Spade returns home to discover O'Shaughnessy hiding in a doorway. He takes her inside and finds Gutman, Cairo, and Wilmer waiting for him, guns drawn. Gutman gives Spade \$10,000 for the Falcon, but Spade tells them that part of his price is someone he can turn over to the police for the murders of Thursby and Captain Jacoby, suggesting Wilmer. After some intense negotiation, Gutman and Cairo agree and Wilmer is knocked out and disarmed.

Just after dawn, Spade calls his secretary, Effie Perine, to bring him the bundle. However, when Gutman inspects the statuette, he finds it is a fake. Cairo lashes out at Gutman, and Wilmer escapes during the tumult. Recovering his composure, Gutman invites Cairo to return with him to Istanbul to continue their quest. After they leave, Spade calls the police and tells them where to pick up the pair. Spade then angrily confronts O'Shaughnessy, telling her he knows she killed Archer to implicate Thursby, her unwanted accomplice. She confesses, but begs Spade not to turn her over to the police. Despite his feelings for her, Spade gives O'Shaughnessy up. He submits the statuette as evidence, describing it as "the stuff that dreams are made of".

Wiki

Not only is "The Maltese Falcon" one of the first prototypical examples in what would be the subsequent 10 years of great film noir movies, it's also the first movie in the exemplary directing career of John Huston (from the screenplay he adapted from Dashiell Hammett's Sam Spade novel). And, even though Bogart had been acting throughout the '30s in mostly supporting roles opposite great actors (like Edward G. Robinson, James Cagney, etc.) and actresses (Bette Davis, Ida Lupino, Ann Sheridan, etc.), this role was to make him a bankable star & lead.

Like many films in the noir genre, the unnecessarily complicated plot devices are secondary to lighting, mood, tone, and the imperfect cast of characters. It's not as absolutely inscrutable as "The Big Sleep," but more or less tied with "Out of the Past" on the hard to follow scale. Mary Astor was an old pro by this time, and she'd said that the motion picture newbie, Sydney Greenstreet, was scared to death during his scenes, though you'd certainly never know it from the result.

Huston managed to find a little cameo appearance for his father, Walter Huston as the mysterious Captain Jacoby. And the matte black statuette of the title is perhaps the ultimate example of what Hitchcock called the "MacGuffin," and as Bogart tells his cop friend at the end: "It's what dreams are made of." Indeed. [IMDb](#)

Cast

Humphrey Bogart as Sam Spade
Mary Astor as Ruth Wonderly/Brigid O'Shaughnessy
Gladys George as Iva Archer
Peter Lorre as Joel Cairo
Barton MacLane as Lieutenant Dundy
Lee Patrick as Effie Perine
Sydney Greenstreet as Kasper Gutman

Ward Bond as Detective Tom Polhaus
Jerome Cowan as Miles Archer
Elisha Cook Jr. as Wilmer Cook
James Burke as Luke, hotel detective
Murray Alper as Frank Richman, taxi driver
John Hamilton as District Attorney Bryan
Walter Huston as Captain Jacoby (uncredited)

Parents Guide

Certification

Argentina-13, Australia-Aoriginal ratingPG1985, re-rating, Brazil-12, Canada-PGManitoba/OntarioGNova Scotia/Quebec Denmark-15, Finland-K-121987K-161946, France-Tous publics, Germany-122000s, re-rating, Iceland-L, Ireland-PGDVD rating, Italy-T, Mexico-A, Netherlands-AL, New Zealand-PG, Norway-9recommended rating16cinema rating, 1945, Philippines-PG-13, Poland-12TV rating, Portugal-M/12, Singapore-PG, South Africa-A, South Korea-122003, Spain-A Sweden-151943, re-rating (Banned)1942, United Kingdom-PGPGDVD ratingAoriginal rating, United States-PassedNational Board of ReviewApprovedcertificate #7457TV-PGTV rating, West Germany-16nf, original rating

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

