



MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jan. 26, 2009

The Mondavi Center's Focus on Film: "Strangers on a Train"

Davis, Calif.—The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis, concludes its Hitchcock segment of the Focus on Film Series with a screening of "Strangers on a Train." Showtime is 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, in the comfortable intimacy of the Studio Theatre.

Says Don Roth, Mondavi Center executive director, "Time and again, Alfred Hitchcock built films around a hero mistaken for a criminal, usually in a very early scene, who spends the bulk of the film on the hunt for the real perpetrator (who of course framed him)." "Strangers on a Train," based on the 1950 novel by Patricia Highsmith, continues this theme, as shown in Roth's summary:

"Patricia Highsmith, the expatriate American novelist, provided some of the best material ever for films—especially the Ripley series which has inspired great films from American, British and German directors. Sociopaths are often the center of her stories, and Bruno Anthony, played with elegant creepiness by Robert Walker, is among the best of them. Suffice it to say that Anthony is behind the false accusation of murder that follows our very bland hero, tennis star Guy Haines (Farley Granger). Watch Haines try to end a tennis match in time to prevent one of Anthony's dirty deeds—this is one of those great set pieces that Hitchcock just seems to toss off. No patriotic locations this time for the finale, but a wonderful amusement park setting that turns from fun to fear in just a few moments. While 'Strangers on a Train' lacks the strong male and female leads of 'North by Northwest' and 'Spellbound,' the strength of Highsmith's story makes this one of the best told Hitchcock films before 'Psycho.'"

"Strangers on a Train," released in 1951, received an Academy Award nomination for best cinematography. Watch for Hitchcock boarding the train carrying a large musical item early in the film.

The Mondavi Center's Focus on Film Series brings timeless art-house films to the Studio Theatre on selected Monday nights throughout the 2008–09 events season. Next up in spring: four influential films selected by Academy Award-winner Paul Haggis, who'll be visiting the Mondavi Center on May 11. For details, visit MondaviArts.org/events.

Pricing for all Focus on Film events is \$10 for regular tickets and \$5 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at MondaviArts.org, through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request.

- "Strangers on a Train"
- Mon., Feb. 23, 6:30 p.m.
- Mondavi Center, Studio Theatre
- 9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)
- \$10 regular; \$5 students, children
- 530-754-2787
866-754-2787 (toll-free)
530-754-5402 (TDD)
MondaviArts.org

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