KINOKINO

THE MAN WHO KNEW TOO MUCH (1956)

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock

Wednesday 3.19 2pm 7pm Saturday 3.22 7pm



When an American doctor and his family take a leisure trip to Morocco, a mysterious Frenchman and a startling murder put their lives – and their vacation! – in danger. In a remake of his own work, in 1956 Alfred Hitchcock adapted his well-regarded 1934 British-era spy thriller **The Man Who Knew Too Much** for an American audience and new era. Almost every aspect was altered – the plot, script, music – but the story's broad strokes and Hitchcock style kept it recognizable.

The Man Who Knew Too Much was the fourth and final collaboration between Hitchcock and screenwriter John Michael Hayes, writer for Rear Window. Despite the effusive praise Hayes' scripts earned, their relationship had become increasingly strained. Writing The Man, Hayes developed the plot in conversations with Hitchcock – and screenwriter Angus McPhail. According to Hayes, McPhail was essentially a notetaker. When Hitchcock had McPhail billed equally for writing, the matter went to arbitration before the Writer's Guild, who ruled in Hayes favor – McPhail's credit was rescinded, and the partnership between Hayes and Hitchcock came to an end. Hitchcock's friends considered the division a creative loss for the director, urging him to reach out to Hayes when he ran into issues on later scripts, to no avail. The Man Who Knows Too Much is a swan song to their combined talents as director and writer, a significant bookend on an important creative period for them both.

Well-written, wonderfully scored, star-studded, and winning the Academy Award for Best Original Song for Doris Day's performance of "Que Sera, Sera", **The Man Who Knew Too Much** is just as Hitchcock described it – a demonstration of the evolution of his abilities, from talented amateur (1934 version) to skilled professional. It is a marvelous example of Hitchcock's precision and restraint (the Albert Hall scene runs a full twelve minutes with no dialogue!), and its excellent pacing and performances make for a thrilling night out.