THE DEVIL'S DAFFODIL

CHRISTOPHER LEE
MARIUS GORING
ALBERT LIEVEN
PENELOPE HORNER
INGRID VAN BERGEN
and WILLIAM LUCAS

Produced by
STEVEN PALLOS and DONALD TAYLOR

Directed by AKOS RATHONY

Screenplay by
BASIL DAWSON and DONALD TAYLOR

From the Story by
EDGAR WALLACE

Art Director
WILLIAM HUTCHINSON

Editor
PETER TAYLOR

Production Manager
PHILIP SHIPWAY

Camera Operator
HARRY GILLAM

Assistant Director
TOM PEVSNER

Sound
BOB JONES
BERT ROSS

Continuity
KAY MANDER

Make-Up
STEWART FREEBOURNE

Hairdresser
ANN BOX

Wardrobe
LAURA NIGHTINGALE
JULIE HARRIS

Music Composed by
KEITH PAPWORTH

Song & Lyrics "I Haven't Got a Thing to Hide" by
KEITH PAPWORTH

Dance Arranged by
PATRICIA KIRSCHNER

Processed by
TECHNICOLOR

Sound System by
WESTREX

Director of Photography
DESMOND DICKINSON
B.S.C.
THE STORY AND CAST OF

THE DEVIL'S DAFFODIL

Who is the Daffodil Killer...? Are his macabre killings linked with the smuggling of dope from Britain to Hong Kong...?

These are the puzzling questions troubling SUPERINTENDENT WHITESIDE (Walter Gotell) of Scotland Yard, and JACK TARLING (William Lucas), Airways Security man from Hong Kong.

Whiteside is convinced that the killer is a homicidal maniac—three girls, the last of them Chinese, have died by the knife thrust, and on each body daffodils have been found. Tarling believes that the killings are linked with the dope smuggling which he, and the ubiquitous, bland Hong Kong detective LING CHU (Christopher Lee), are investigating.

As though to confirm Tarling's theory, heroin is found concealed in the stalls of artificial daffodils, part of a consignment of artificial flowers addressed to merchants Lyne and Company. But the evidence is destroyed when a mysterious intruder explodes a bomb in the Customs shed.

RAYMOND LYNE (Albert Lieven), head of the firm, denies having ordered the artificial flowers. MILBURY (Marius Goring), his manager, backs the denial; but Lyne's secretary, ANNE RIDER (Penelope Horner), merely declares that she cannot remember who sent the cable ordering the consignment.

The murder victims had all been members of the classy Cosmos Club in Mayfair; and Lyne's link with the club becomes obvious when, at his command, JAN PUTEK (Peter Illing), the manager, takes Lyne's grateful protege, young PETER KEENE (Colin Jeavons), onto the club's staff.

Tarling and Whiteside question manager Putek, hostess TRUDI MAHLER (Bettyeaser) and GLORIA ROZA (Ingrid Van Bergen), but all are evasive, obviously concealing something or afraid to talk.

Trudi, scared, tries to blackmail Putek into giving her money so that she can leave town with her lover CHARLES (Ian Hendriks), Lyne's chauffeur. But Ling Chu spots KATYA (Dawn Beret), a drug addict desperate for drug and resentful because it is being refused her, and in the hope that she will talk Ling makes an appointment with her late at night on the steps of the Eros Statue in Piccadilly Circus.

As Katya walks across Piccadilly Circus toward the statue, a rifle shot is fired from an overhanging window, and Kalya falls among the daffodils in the old Flower Woman's basket. Trudi and Charles, and the policeman guarding Trudi, are the next victims of the Daffodil Killer.

When Anne learns from Tarling that the artificial flowers ordered by the missing cable had contained heroin, she is horrified, and consents to hide out at her mother's home in the country. But she is intercepted on the way by Milbun, and persuaded by him to stay in a hotel and arrange a rendezvous with the amorously Lyne at her apartment.

Gloria, jealous of Anne, stays on the apartment stairs, determined to show Lyne it is she he loves rather than Anne. But it is Lyne who arrives at the apartment; and it is the Daffodil Killer who, also waiting for Anne, strikes before he realises that the incomer is Lyne, and kills him.

Lyne's body is found next day on a bed of daffodils above the Lyne family mausoleum in Highgate cemetery.

Tarling now tries to find Anne; but when he arrives at MRS. RIDER'S (Grace Denbeigh-Russell) home, he finds Mrs. Rider dead of heart failure, brought on by fright, and Milburh standing over the body. Milburh now talks; Anne is his half-sister, and has been helping him to recover from Lyne the papers with which Lyne has been forcing Milburh to continue working in his shady racket.

As Milburh leads Tarling out of the house, Peter Keene is seen darting off, having obviously heard Milburh giving Tarling the name of the hotel where Anne has been staying. Milburh gives chase, but Keene wounds him in the shoulder with a knife, and makes his getaway. Tarling sets off for London, in a desperate bid to save Anne from the Killer.

Whiteside has questioned Gloria, and learned that Peter, a man with an obsessive affection for Lyne, had killed Anne's command—and killed Lyne in mistake for Anne. Anne is clearly in danger, and Whiteside joins with his alerted policemen in the hunt for Peter. Peter lures Anne out of the hotel, and drives her to Highgate Cemetery, closely pursued by Tarling and the Police.

Revolver in hand, and using Anne as a shield, Peter holds off his pursuers and drags Anne to the Lyne mausoleum, where he means to kill her. But Ling Chu is waiting in the vault of the Mausoleum; he grapples with Peter, and after a struggle on the steps of the vault, kills him.

Peter's uncovered arm tells the rest of the story. He was a drug addict, and Lyne, by keeping him well supplied, had earned his gratitude and blind, fanatical obedience.

LING CHU
CHRISTOPHER LEE
Oliver Milburgh
MARIUS GORING
Raymond Lyne
ALBERT LIEVEN
Jack Tarling
WILLIAM LUCAS
Anne Rider
PENELPOE HORNER
Gloria
INGRID VAN BERGEN
Peter Keene
COLIN JEAVONS
Superintendent Whiteside
WALTER GOTELL
Jan Putek
PETER ILLING
Katya
DAWN BERET
Trudi
BETTINE LE BEAU
Charles
JAN HENDRIKS
Sir Archibald
CAMPBELL SINGER
French Gendarme
LANCE PERCY
Detective
FREDERICK BARTMAN
Slutish Woman
NANCY NEVINS
Mae
MARTIN LYDER
Hotel Receptionist
GUNDER SARGENT
Muisie
IRENE PRADOR
Chinese Girl
EDWINA CARROLL
Detective Inspector
DAVID BROOMFIELD
Man on Fruit Machine
JOHN BLYTHE
Police Surgeon
PETER SWANNICK
Security Officer
PETER ZANDER
Senior Customs Officer
JOHN HERRINGTON
Junior Customs Officer
JOHN WATSON
Airport Employee
ALAN CASLEY
Police Clerk
CHARLES BRODY
Detective Sergeant
ANTHONY SHEPPARD
Osborne
MICHAEL COLLINS
Country Policeman
THOMAS GALLAGHER
Mrs. Rider
GRACE
BENBEIGH-RUSSELL
Accompanist
PIERS KEELAN
Girl in Car
PAMELA CONWAY