He spied on the face of death!

FACE OF FEAR

starring
MOIRA SHEARER
ANNA MASSEY
CARL BOEHM
SHIRLEY ANN FIELD
MAXINE AUDLEY

Produced and Directed by
MICHAEL POWELL

"Do you know what the most FRIGHTENING thing in the world is...?"
THE STORY

Mark Lewis (Carl Boehm) is a talented photographer who divides his time between working as a cameraman in a film studio and shooting "art" photos for the under-the-counter traffic at a news agency.

Mark's father had been a famed scientist who had devoted his life to studying the psychology of fear. Mark had been used as a "guinea pig" by his father, who would wake the child by shining a bright light in his eyes and then photograph his terrified reactions with a cine camera. Now an adult, Mark has become an insane killer with an obsession for making film record of the fear on the face of the victim he is about to murder.

He has equipped the top floor of his home as a laboratory and projection room, renting the rest of the house. Among his tenants are Helen Stephens (Anna Massey) and her blind mother (Maxine Audley).

Mark's first victim is Dora (Brenda Bruce), a street-walker whom he follows to her room and kills, recording the entire murder with his camera.

The same evening, Helen calls on Mark in his quarters. He shows her some of the pictures his father had taken of him while conducting his "fear" research. Helen is repelled yet fascinated, and unable to take any more, asks him to switch off the projector. Meanwhile, Mrs. Stephens, with the sixth sense of the blind, feels that there is something wrong with Mark, and is apprehensive about Helen's relationship with him.

At the film studio, Mark persuades Vivian (Moira Shearer), an ambitious bit player, to return to the studio at night after it has closed. On the pretext that he is giving her a screen test, he sets a terrifying mood and then kills her.

When Vivian's body is discovered, the police find a horrified expression on Vivian's face is much like the one on the murdered streetwalker's, and that the same weapon had been used in both killings.

The following day, Dr. Rosan (Martin Milner), a psychiatrist, arrives at the studio to aid police in finding Vivian's murderer. He learns from Mark that his father was the famed Doctor Lewis. The Police Inspector is most interested in what Helen feels about Mark's father, and he presses her on the matter.

That evening, Mark meets Milly (Pamela Green), a model, and kills her in the same fashion as his previous victims.

Helen, looking over Mark in his quarters, innocently switches on the projector and is terror-stricken to see Vivian's murder projected on the wall. The room is filled with the appalling screams of a frightened child, emanating from his recording equipment. He places his camera on a hook in the wall and adjusts the point of the dagger-tipped tripod towards himself. Helen collapses.

The police break into the room to find that Mark has died. The child's screaming has stopped and, frightened. becomes the voice of Mark's father telling his son he is not frightened.

RUNNING TIME: 85 MINUTES
RELEASE DATE 1963

THE CAST

Vivian ...................... Moira Shearer
Helen ........................ Anna Massey
Mark ........................ Carl Boehm
Diane Ashley ........... Shirley Ann Field
Mrs. Stephens .......... Maxine Audley

Original story and screenplay by LEO MARKS
Produced and Directed by MICHAEL POWELL

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