The Synopsis

Everett P. Digberry, a timid little man, is taken into custody by the police when caught prowling at midnight in a gloomy cemetery. Thatcher Colt, Police Commissioner, is investigating mysterious notes received by members of an opera troupe, and gets an important clue from Digberry who states that he also received one of these notes, all of which are signed with the imprint of a Panther's Claw. But the note to Digberry demanded a thousand dollars, and Digberry had followed instructions and left the money in the cemetery. It develops that he is a wig-maker, and supplies the opera company with their wigs. Lombard, an Italian baritone formerly connected with the troupe, and whose ardent attentions had been resisted by Nina, another singer, is questioned by the Commissioner. Released, he later creates a scene in Nina's apartment, when Digberry arrives. He storms out, treating Nina that if he can't have her, no other man will.

Detective Murphy, who brought Digberry in as suspect, is sent to the wigmaker's home to get his handwriting and check on his story that he withdrew a thousand dollars to give to the "Panther Man." He gets Digberry to type out a receipt on his typewriter, and to his amazement both the paper and the type correspond with the Panther notes. Suddenly a white maltese cat walks across the carpet, leaving black marks resembling those on the letters. Colt tells his secretary, Abbott, that it looks as if Digberry made himself appear a victim of an extortion so that he could later extort money from the others. Then a more sinister aspect is placed on the case with the murder of Nina in an apartment, in the same building where Digberry lives. A puzzling fact is that Nina was supposed to have sailed for South America, and when killed is wearing a gray wig which disguises her as an old woman.

Certain clues now convince Colt that Digberry is innocent, and that the killer has carefully contrived every move to pin the murder on him. As Colt goes to work to discover the real identity of the killer, his life is threatened, but after a series of startling adventures he proves his deductions correct, and in a suspenseful climax unmasks the real killer. Who is the Panther?
Big with stars—tops in suspense and spine-tingling chills! It's a nightmare of murder and fear as the police swing into action with the biggest man-hunt in history!

Here's dynamite, waiting to blow up—thrills you never dreamed possible—excitement you'll never forget—the gasp and shudder thriller of the year!

Review

Breath-taking suspense, and gripping thrills are well to the fore in the unique mystery thriller *The Panther's Claw*, opening next........ at the ............. theatre. Said to be entirely novel in plot, and to contain many unique twists in its cleverly constructed story, it is recommended as sure-fire entertainment of all lovers of good deception drama.

Thatcher Holt, popular detective hero of Anthony Abbott's famous crime stories, is investigating three exciting notes sent to members of an opera troupe, when his men pick up a timid little wigmaker. As the case unfolds the evidence all points to this apparently harmless little man as being a ruthless and cunning killer. Whether he is the victim of a carefully laid plot to divert suspicion to him, or whether he is indeed the fiendish murderer and blackmailer he appears to be, is a point that is left in doubt until the final shock-packed reels bring the thrilling story to a close.

Exciting thrills, clever character drawing and an unusually fine script have combined in *The Panther's Claw* to produce a mystery drama well above the average run of such pictures; indeed, it is safe to say that it is one of the most enthralling pictures of this type that we have seen for some time. The strong cast is headed by Sidney Blackmer, giving one of his finest performances as the intrepid investigator, veteran actor of the silent days. Herbert Rawlinson, proving that he's still up top with the best of them, breezy, likeable Rick Vallin, and Byron Foulger, the latter turning in a particularly arresting characterisation as the little man who is involved so deeply in the sinister proceedings. *The Panther's Claw* is released through Renown Pictures.

Advance Story

The most exciting part she ever played was reciting the Bill of Rights to the examiner when she applied for her first citizenship papers in Los Angeles, says Gerta Rozan, currently appearing in Renown's startling thriller, *The Panther's Claw*, now at the ........ theatre. The examiner asked the talented Austrian actress if she had heard of the Bill of Rights. To his amazement she started to recite it, and finished the whole thing without a slip-up. "I just love America!" explained Miss Rozan, who lists actimg, going to baseball games and reading American History as her main interests. She is obviously destined for stardom, if her performance in this, her first picture, is any criterion. Sidney Blackmer, Herbert Rawlinson and Byron Foulger also contribute sterling performances to this unusual mystery-drama about which the critics have been so lavish in their praise.

CAST

Thatcher Colt ............ Sidney Blackmer
D. A. Dougherty ........ Herbert Rawlinson
Everest Diherry ........ Byron Foulger
Anthony Abbott .......... Rick Vallin
Nina Poliza .............. Gerta Rozan
Miss Spencer ............ Lyn Starr
Edgar Walters ........... Barry Bernard

Cap. Flynn ............... John Ince
Officer Murphy ........... Martin Ashe
Eddie Lombardi .......... Joaquin Edwards
Capt. Henry .............. Walter James

The Credits

Produced by ............... LESTER CUTLER
Directed by ............... WILLIAM BEAUDINE
Original Story .......... ANTHONY ABBOTT
Screenplay by ............ MARTIN MOONEY
George R. BATELLIER in charge of Production.

Publicity Available

Set of stills 10 x 8 ... 66d.
Quad Crown 30 x 40 ... 36d.
Trailer—An excellent trailer can be obtained from National Screen Services Ltd., Wallace House, 113 Wardour St., London, W.1.

Note—Special exploitation accessories available when booked as a programme with "The Devil Bat"

BRANCHES

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