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present

PETER VAUGHAN
JOHN CARSON YVONNE ROMAIN GERALD FLOOD
in
"SMOKESCREEN"

Featuring
GLYNN EDWARDS
SAM KYDD
JOHN GLYN-JONES
DERYCK GUYLER

Producer :
JOHN I. PHILLIPS
Written and Directed by :
JIM O’CONNOLLY
Associate Producer:
RONALD LILES

A BUTCHER’S FILM PRODUCTION
The Story:

Following a mysterious accident on the South Coast of England, in which an apparently driverless blazing car has hurtled over the cliffs, “Ropey” Roper (Peter Vaughan) an ace insurance investigator, is detailed to investigate the circumstances surrounding the “accident.”

At his hotel in Brighton, Roper is met by the Company’s local representative, Trevor Baylis (John Carson) who quickly gives Roper all the information that he has on the case. The registered owner of the car was John Dexter, a partner with a Graham Turner in an electronics firm. Dexter and Turner had recently taken out a very large joint assurance policy on their lives. Dexter’s wife, Janet (Yvonne Romain) is his beneficiary. Roper finds out from Baylis that Dexter himself has disappeared at the time of the car crash.

Roper tells Baylis that he is certain that a fraudulent claim will be brought against their company. Together they visit Janet Dexter at her country home. On arrival at the house, they find that Graham Turner is already there with Janet. Roper questions them both about Dexter’s disappearance. As they leave, Baylis tells Roper that at one time he was “very keen” on Janet.

Roper is firm in his belief that the missing John Dexter is still alive and hiding somewhere, awaiting the time when he and his wife can share the insurance money. Roper visits Inspector Wright (Glynn Edwards) of the Sussex police who politely informs him that as far as the police are concerned, no crime has been committed and that Roper is “out on his own” with the investigation.

Roper, accompanied by Baylis, surveys the site of the accident and discovers that near to the spot where the car went over the cliff is a railway branch line. Piecing together the skimped details available to him, Roper puts forward the theory that it could have been possible for Dexter to have been murdered before the car crash, his body disposed of and for the murderer to have got away by use of the railway. Roper returns to Brighton to have a further talk with Janet Dexter and Inspector Wright.

Early the following morning, Wright is called by Roper to a disused sandpit near the cliff road. With the assistance of the police frogmen, Dexter’s body is found in a sack in the sandpit. The Inspector is clearly shaken by the finding of the body and has to go along with Roper’s theory that Dexter had been murdered.

When Janet Dexter is told of the finding of her husband’s body, she immediately agrees to withdraw her claim for the insurance money. Meanwhile, Roper has tricked Turner’s secretary, Helen, into revealing that her employer is up to his eyes in gambling debts, contrary to Turner’s statement that he had been financing Dexter. Turner himself would have had a motive for getting rid of Dexter, he could have then taken control of the company, sold it and benefited from the proceeds.
Roper suddenly realises that a smokescreen has been thrown over the Dexter case by the insurance money. Without it there could be a clear-cut premeditated murder case. Both Turner and Baylis are called to the scene of the accident by Roper. Inspector Wright is also on hand. Cleverly, Roper first accuses Baylis of having had a motive for disposing of John Dexter. Baylis vindicates himself and Roper then accuses Graham Turner. He at first tries to bluff it out but is finally tricked into admitting that he killed Dexter. After a fight, he is led away by Inspector Wright.

CAST

Roper ........ PETER VAUGHAN
Trevor Baylis.. JOHN CARSON
Janet Dexter .. YVONNE ROMAIN
Turner .......... GERALD FLOOD
Inspector Wright ... Glynn Edwards
Player .......... John Glyn-Jones
Waiter .......... Sam Kydd
Railway Porter .. Deryck Guyler
Helen .......... Penny Morrell
Pete (Teenager) .. David Gregory
June (Teenager) .. Jill Curzon
Miss Breen ....... Barbara Hicks
Barman .......... Bert Palmer
Reception Clerk .. Tom Gill
Police Sergeant .. Edward Ogden
Dexter .......... Anthony Dawes
Taxi Driver ...... Romo Gorara
Maid .......... Maja Hafernik

CREDITS

Producer ........ John I. Phillips
Associate Producer ... Ronald Liles
Cameraman ....... Jack Mills
Editor ............ Henry Richardson
Art Director .... Peter Mullins
Assistant Director ... Bert Marotta
Camera Operator ... Ken Nicholson
Continuity .......... Olga Brooks
Sound Recordist ... Sid Squires
Make-up .......... Alan Brownie
Hairdressers ...... Joyce James
Wardrobe .......... Gladys Leakey

R.C.A. Recording

Made at
Brighton Film Studios
and on location in
Sussex, England

Length 5,967 feet Certificate “U” Reg. No. BR/

Written and Directed by
Jim O’Connolly

Music Composed and Directed by
Johnny Gregory
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by

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(Directors: JACK M. PHILLIPS, JOHN I. PHILLIPS)

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