

## Film Review

### North by Northwest

PG | 1959 | 136 Mins | Film

**Director:** Alfred Hitchcock

**Writer:** Ernest Lehman

**Cinematography:** Robert Burks

### Synopsis

A New York advertising executive is mistaken as 'the wrong man,' a government agent, by a group of foreign spies, and is pursued across the country while he looks for a way to survive.

### You need

Access to film Online or on DVD

We always recommend watching films on the largest screen possible with quality speakers.

DVD and BluRays tend to offer great extras such as Director commentary and featurettes about the making of the film which we always recommend..



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### Background

This is one of our favourite Hitchcock films. The pace of both the plot and the editing was far ahead of its time and perhaps for the first time, comedy was injected into a Thriller. This is film, full of Hitchcock traits such as 'blocking' and precise shot composition is perhaps his best.

### Watch out for

- Opening Title Sequence (00:20:00)  
Saul Bass designed the opening title sequence which is believed to be the first animated type used in such a way.
- The High shot (00:38:20)  
This is an amazing shot from high looking down to Roger fleeing the murder scene.
- Bus drop off (01:07:00)  
This builds up to the now iconic plane chase. But it builds tension as we are sure someone will attempt to kill him, but how?
- Man thrown from Rushmore (02:14:30)  
An amazingly 'composited' shot of its time and a common theme of 'baddies' being thrown from national monuments.

### Take from the film...

#### Setting

- ✓ Every setting has been selected to add to the suspense. The crop field and UN building to name but a few, if it weren't for some of the locations the .

#### Characters

- ✓ While only 3 characters they propel the action by virtue of the love triangle they produce.

#### Filming

- ✓ Robert Burks use of 'VistaVision' film with stunning camera angles give great clarity and depth to the visual narrative.

### Try...

Play with scale to reinforce the importance of the character or item of focus.