



Movie critic Louise Snider has been on vacation. Instead of her column, a production story about a new release "Time After Time" appears here. Ms. Snider's column will return next week.

H. G. Wells, whom we all know as the author of "The War of the Worlds," "The Island of Dr. Moreau," "The Invisible Man," and "The Shape of Things to Come," was a futurist who predicted many of the developments of the 20th century, including space travel, moonlandings, socialist societies and women's emancipation.

In his novel "The Time Machine," he foresaw the day when man would be able to travel backward and forward in time. "Time After Time," a Warner Bros./Orion Pictures release through Warner Bros., starts with the premise that Wells actually constructed the time machine he wrote about.

The film is a romantic thriller in which Wells, the scientific genius, tracks Jack the Ripper, the criminal genius, from 19th century London to 20th century San Francisco in order to bring the Ripper to justice.

"TIME AFTER TIME" opens Friday at metropolitan Detroit theaters.

When he is transported in his time machine to sophisticated, modern San Francisco, Wells seems to be more of a babe in the woods than a sophisticated Victorian gentleman. What he finds is that some of his predictions have come about, while others, like a utopian society, have not.

And, some real surprises also await him — such as comic encounters with sea-throwers, escalators, TV commercials, MacDonalds and a very romantic encounter with a very liberated lady.

Some of the film's most suspenseful moments were filmed by Director Nicholas Meyer on location in San Francisco. The locations include the turn-of-the-century Palace of Fine Arts, the ultra-modern Hyatt Regency Hotel and the Muir Woods.

Meyer, who authored both the novel and screenplay for "Time After Time" on a story by Karl Alexander and Steve Hayes.

"Time After Time" stars Malcolm McDowell, David Warner and Mary Steenburgen and was produced by Herb Jaffe. The film's script was composed by Nikos Roxa whose other credits include "Spellbound," "The Thief of Bagdad" and "Quo Vadis."

HERB JAFFE, the producer of "Time After Time," became involved with the project out of a friendship with writer-director Nicholas Meyer. It is a rare script, he feels, in that it has all the necessary ingredients for a successful film: Suspense, mystery, comedy and fantasy.

"Time After Time" is Jaffe's fourth film as an independent producer and follows "The Wind and the Lion," "Demon Seed," and more recently "Who'll Stop the Rain?"

He served for eight years as worldwide vice-president in charge of production for United Artists. Before that, he owned a literary agency which he eventually sold to Ashley-Steiner, remaining to head its literary division.

A graduate of Columbia University and a native New Yorker, Jaffe also has served as vice president of Seven Arts Productions and president of Rastar Pictures.

Nicholas Meyer makes his feature directorial debut with "Time After Time," for which he wrote the screenplay. Meyer is perhaps best known as the author of the novel "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution," which spent a noteworthy 40 weeks on the best-seller lists, and the screenplay for the movie for which he received an Academy-Award nomination.

MEYER IS A GRADUATE of the University of Iowa and its highly respected writer's program. His first novel, "Target Practice," was published in 1974, followed by "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" and then "The West End Horror." His most recent novel is "Black Orchid" which he wrote in collaboration with Barry J. Kaplan.

In addition to the screenplays for the "Seven-Per-Cent Solution" and "Time After Time," Meyer's credits include two films for ABC-TV, "Judge Dee" and "The Night That Panicked America."

Production designer Edward Carfagno is a two-time Academy Award winner (for "Ben Hur" and "Julius Caesar") under whose supervision the Time Machine was built. Among Carfagno's numerous credits are "Quo Vadis," "The Hindenburg" and the forthcoming "Meteor."

Cinematographer Paul Lohmann has worked with such diverse directors as Robert Altman ("Nashville," "California Split") and Mel Brooks ("High Anxiety" and "Silent Movie"). He recently completed "Hide in Plain Sight" for first-time director James Caan.

Film editor Donn Cambern has just completed two films with Burt Reynolds, "The End" and "Hooper". He was also editor of "The Other Side of Midnight" (on which he also served as second unit director), "The Hindenburg," "Cinderella Liberty," "Blame in Love," "The Last Picture Show" and "Easy Rider."

MALCOLM McDOWELL, who stars as H. G. Wells, is a native of Leeds, England. He made his motion picture debut in a small part in "Poor Cow" in 1967, and spent a season with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London.

He is perhaps best known for his chilling portrayal of the bully-boy in Stanley Kubrick's "A Clockwork Orange." He also has to his credit "H. . . ." "Figures in a Landscape," "The Raging Moon," "O Lucky Man!" and "Royal Flash."

Canny H.G. Wells tracks the Ripper, using time travel

David Warner stars in the role of Dr. Stevenson (Jack the Ripper), one that demands the audience believe in the schizophrenic realities of the character. Warner has appeared in numerous films including "Tom Jones," "Morgan," "The Fixer," "The Ballad of Cable Hogue," "Straw Dogs" and "Nightwing."

He was nominated for an Emmy Award for his portrayal of Heinrich in the recently acclaimed TV mini-series "Holocaust."

Mary Steenburgen plays the part of Amy Robbins, the love interest of H.G. Wells. This is Steenburgen's second feature film, following Jack Nicholson's "Goin' South," in which she made her motion picture debut.

Born and raised near Little Rock, Ark., Ms. Steenburgen attended Hendricks College but left after one year to attend Sanford Meisner's Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. After graduation, she and four other young acting students formed an improvisational company group, Cracked Tokens, which became the resident company of the Manhattan Theatre Club.

It was while working with the group that she was cast in "Goin' South."



Mary Steenburgen becomes bait for Jack the Ripper, setting a trap with H.G. Wells, in "Time After Time."

Clowns screened

"The Silent Clowns" series will present Charles Chaplin in "The Gold Rush" (1925) as one of three films shown at 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, in the Detroit Institute of Arts auditorium.

Also shown will be two Buster Keaton films, "Our Hospitality" (1923) and "The Paleface" (1921), on the Detroit Film Theater program.

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Specter of Jack the Ripper looms over modern-day San Francisco, where Malcolm McDowell as H.G. Wells pursues the vicious criminal.