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**EVENT
DETAILS**



(aka "Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window")

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock
(**'Director's Chair' on Alfred Hitchcock [CLICK HERE](#)**)

USA 1954

Alfred Hitchcock's greatest movie, *Rear Window*, is as fresh as it was when it came out, in part, paradoxically, because of how profoundly it belongs to its own period. It's set in Greenwich Village during a sweltering summer of open windows, and it reeks of 1954.

Peter Bogdanovich notes in *Who the Devil Made It* that Hitchcock "didn't use a score" in the movie, "only source music and local sounds," which isn't exactly true. In fact, we get quite traditional theme music from Franz Waxman behind the opening credits, and, more important, the film subtly integrates hit tunes of the mid-50s into the ambient sound track, most noticeably "*Mona Lisa*" and "*That's Amore*," which was introduced the previous year by Dean Martin in another Paramount picture, *The Caddy*. The only serious flaw in *Rear Window* is the hokey use of a song to resolve a couple of subplots—which audiences in 1954 didn't find convincing either.

When this romantic comedy-thriller was made, TV hadn't yet posed a serious threat to radio, much less to movies, and there's nary a TV set or TV screen in sight. The movie's overall narrative form of scanning past windows in a courtyard seems to anticipate channel surfing, but it reflects the way one turns a radio knob, tuning in and out of frequencies while the station indicator moves horizontally or vertically along the dial. The same pattern is apparent in the beautifully calibrated camera movements as well as the brilliantly mixed and nuanced sound recording.

Excerpt from Jonathan Rosenbaum's review at the Chicago Reader located [HERE](#)

Posters



Theatrical Release: August 1st, 1954

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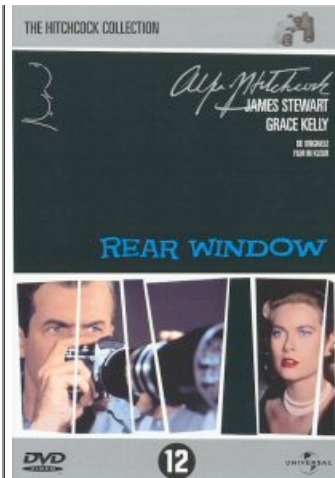
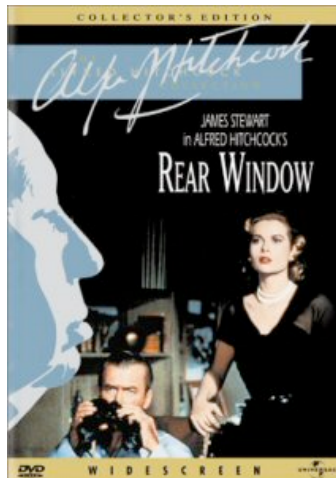
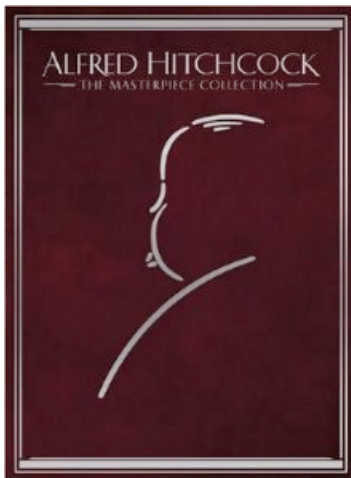
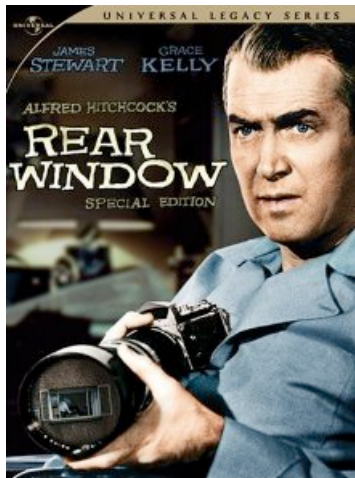
DVD Comparison:

Universal - Region 1 (2-disc Legacy Series) - NTSC vs. Universal (Alfred Hitchcock - Masterpiece Boxset) - Region 1 - NTSC vs. Universal Pictures - Region 1 - NTSC vs. Universal Pictures - Region 2,4 - PAL

Big thanks to [Martin Balson](#) and [Maarten de Haas](#) for the original Universal Pictures Screen Caps!

- 1) Universal (2-disc Legacy series) - Region 1 - NTSC - **LEFT**
- 2) Universal (Hitchcock Masterpiece Collection) - Region 1 - NTSC - **SECOND**
- 3) Universal Pictures - Region 1 - NTSC - **THIRD**
- 4) Universal Pictures - Region 2,4 - PAL - **RIGHT**

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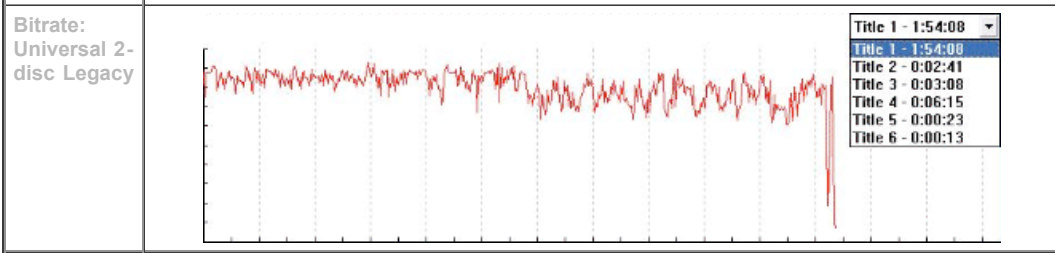
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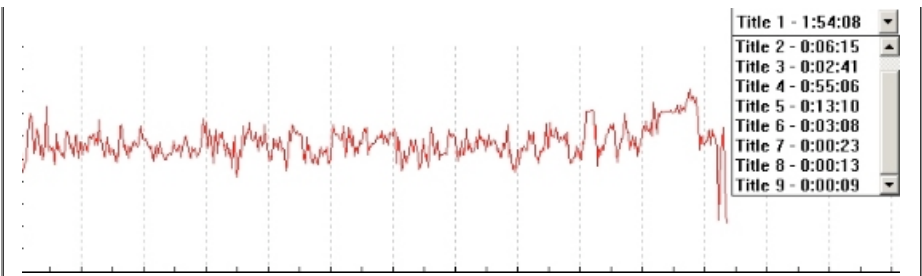
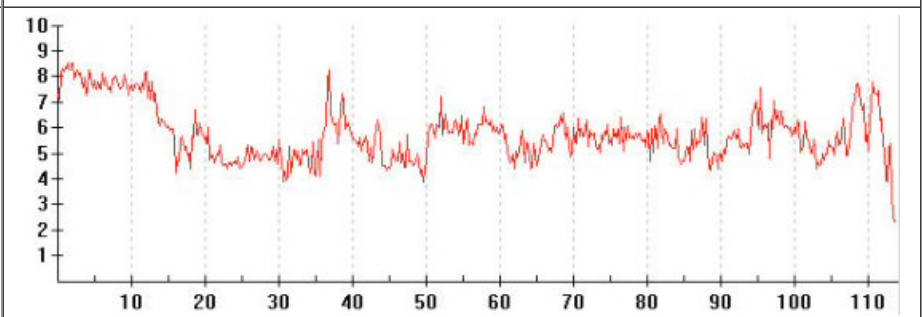
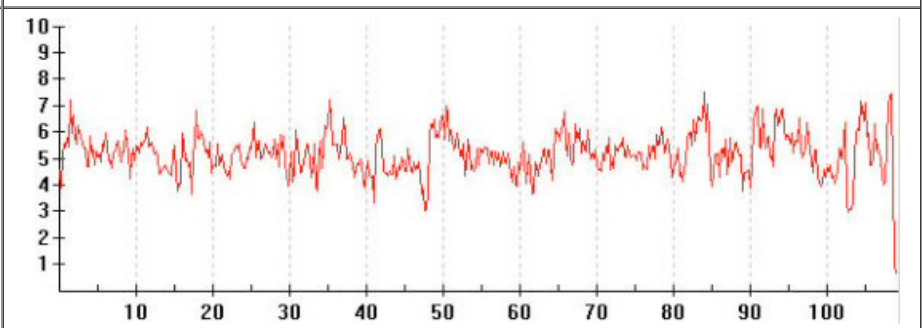




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Distribution	Universal Pictures (Legacy) Region 1 - NTSC	Universal Pictures (Masterpiece) Region 1 - NTSC	Universal Pictures Region 1 - NTSC	Universal Pictures Region 2,4 - PAL
Runtime	1:54:08	1:54:08	1:54:05	1:49:30 (4% PAL speedup)
Video	1.66:1 Original Aspect Ratio 16X9 enhanced Average Bitrate: 8.2 mb/s NTSC 720x480 29.97 f/s	1.66:1 Original Aspect Ratio 16X9 enhanced Average Bitrate: 5.77 mb/s NTSC 720x480 29.97 f/s	1.66:1 Original Aspect Ratio 16X9 enhanced Average Bitrate: 5.79 mb/s NTSC 720x480 29.97 f/s	1.66:1 Original Aspect Ratio 16X9 enhanced Average Bitrate: 5.22 mb/s PAL 720x576 25.00 f/s

NOTE: The Vertical axis represents the bits transferred per second. The Horizontal is the time in minutes.



<p>Bitrate: Universal Pictures - Masterpiece Collection</p>				
<p>Bitrate: Universal Pictures</p>				
<p>Bitrate: Universal Pictures</p>				
<p>Audio</p>	<p>English Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono, French Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono</p>	<p>English Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono, French Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono</p>	<p>English Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono, French Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono</p>	<p>English Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono, German Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono</p>
<p>Subtitles</p>	<p>English, Spanish and none</p>	<p>English, Spanish and none</p>	<p>English, Spanish and none</p>	<p>English HoH, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Norwegian and Swedish, none</p>
<p>Features</p>	<p>Release Information: Studio: Universal Pictures</p> <p>Aspect Ratio: Widescreen anamorphic - 1.66:1</p>  <p>Edition Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • audio commentary by John Fawell, author of Hitchcock's Rear Window: The Well-Made Film • Pure Cinema: Through the Eyes of the Master (25:09) • Hitchcock /Truffaut interview excerpts (16:14) • Breaking Barriers: The Sound of Hitchcock (23:30) • Alfred Hitchcock 	<p>Release Information: Studio: Universal Pictures</p> <p>Aspect Ratio: Widescreen anamorphic - 1.66:1</p>  <p>Edition Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear Window Ethics: Remembering and Restoring a Hitchcock Classic" documentary (55 min) • Conversation with Screenwriter John Michael Hayes • Production Photographs • Re-release trailer narrated by James Stewart • Production notes • Cast and Filmmakers 	<p>Release Information: Studio: Universal Pictures</p> <p>Aspect Ratio: Widescreen anamorphic - 1.66:1</p>  <p>Edition Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear Window Ethics: Remembering and Restoring a Hitchcock Classic" documentary (55 min) • Conversation with Screenwriter John Michael Hayes • Production Photographs • Re-release trailer narrated by James Stewart • Production notes 	<p>Release Information: Studio: Universal Pictures</p> <p>Aspect Ratio: Widescreen anamorphic - 1.66:1</p>  <p>Edition Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear Window Ethics: Remembering and Restoring a Hitchcock Classic (55 min) • Screenwriter John Michael Hayes on Rear Window(13 min) • Art Gallery • Theatrical Trailer • Trailer • Compilation for 5

	<p>Alfred Hitchcock Presents Mr. Blanchard's Secret (26:15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> original theatrical trailer <p>Carried over from the 2001 Collector's Edition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rear Window Ethics: An Original Documentary (55 minutes) A Conversation with Screenwriter John Michael Hayes (13 minutes on the Collector's Edition) 1983 re-release trailer for Rear Window, narrated by James Stewart production photographs production notes <p>DVD Release Date: October 7, 2008 Bookstyle case Chapters 18</p>	<p>Cast and Filmmakers bios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comes in the Alfred Hitchcock - Masterpiece Boxset reviewed HERE <p>DVD Release Date: October 4th, 2005 See review HERE Chapters 19</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cast and Filmmakers bios DVD-ROM features <p>DVD Release Date: September 2, 2003 Keepsake Chapters 19</p>	<p>Hitchcock films (narrated by James Stewart)</p> <p>DVD Release Date: April 21st, 2003 Keepsake Chapters 18</p>
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Comments

ADDITION: Legacy 2-disc - September 08': Universal has done a great job here. Is the image improved? - you betcha. With more room for the film (shoving the majority of the supplements onto a second dual-layered disc) it both seems to show more grain *and* detail. It looks fabulous and the higher bitrate is a testament to that improvement. I can't be sure but black levels may have been marginally boosted to bring up the sharpness - if so - it worked. Audio sounds to be the exact same as previous SD-DVD.

It appears that all the extras are sent over from the *Masterpiece Collection* and CE (*Rear Window Ethics: An Original Documentary* -55 minutes - and *A Conversation with Screenwriter John Michael Hayes* - 13 minutes), PLUS new: a wonderful, professional commentary by John Fawell, author of *Hitchcock's Rear Window: The Well-Made Film*. He has a gentle manner and talks on a varied number of aspects of the film, Hitch's techniques and the production. This is very much worth listening to. The additional featurette extras (disc 2) are likewise excellent. Many give input, from Scorsese to other prominent directors, in the 25 minute piece *Pure Cinema: Through the Eyes of the Master*. It is a lot of justifiable praise for the Mr. Hitchcock and most seem genuinely enthusiastic about discussing his style and and creative output. The *Hitchcock /Truffaut interview excerpts* from 1962 run 16 minutes and are shot to the backdrop of scenes and stills from the film *Rear Window*. Hitch kind of gives commentary with translations from French (Truffaut and a female translator). This is very appealing and I wished it could have been the entire interview - and most won't want the French dialogue. *Breaking Barriers: The Sound of Hitchcock* is almost 25 minutes and focuses on the manipulation of audio - orchestral bridges and how it melded with the plots. We are also given an *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* episode entitled 'Mr. Blanchard's Secret'. It's funny that after watching all the experts talk of him this 26 minute this TV episode was

the most delightful ending. Magnificent package. This comes in a nicely appointed bookstyle case (see image below).

I am so happy that it just wasn't another faux 're-issue' as some had expected. The commentary and improved image make this a must have - the definitive edition, until, of course, it comes to 1080P - which we can hope will be soon.

Recommended Pages Vertigo - James Stewart - Kim N... The Godfather Blu-ray Marlon Br...	 Privacy Get Widget The Savage Detectives: A N... \$10.20
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ADDITION: Alfred Hitchcock - Masterpiece Boxset edition - after some painstaking deliberation Beaver concludes that the new Masterpiece edition is the best - it has a color scheme similar to the PAL edition with better skin tones (less red- especially Grace) and it is as sharp (or slightly sharper) than its region 1 counterpart. I think the best overall comparison image is the third large one (L.B. sweating). The old NTSC release actually looks contrast boosted next to the new edition (see the Master's face in large capture # 5). I feel subtitles look much better on the new release. Essentially the new DVD maintains the best of both other releases plus has all the extras. We still feel that the Alfred Hitchcock - Masterpiece Boxset reviewed [HERE](#) is still the greatest deal in DVD history to date.

NOTE: Not ALL of the extras are carried over. The original R1 disc has the complete text of the screenplay as a ROM feature. If you have that disc, it's pretty easy to save that folder on your computer, if you want to get rid of the old one. (Thanks uncluhulot)

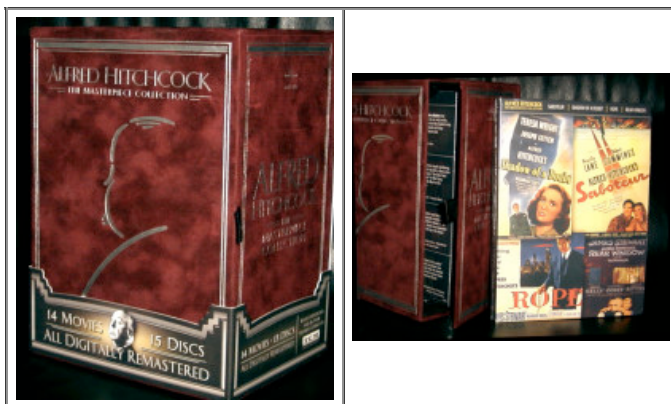
After scrutinizing quite closely I am leaning to the Region 1, although this is a tight race. Colors on the Region 1 are brighter and it is every so slightly sharper. Both edition show some film grain. I prefer the Region 2 subtitles and the Region 2 may have the better contrast. Both have some extras to offer, but again the Region 1 seems to be ahead by a neck. I don't suppose owners of either DVD edition will be too disappointed, but we feel the Region 1 is the definitive to own.

- Gary W. Tooze

Legacy package

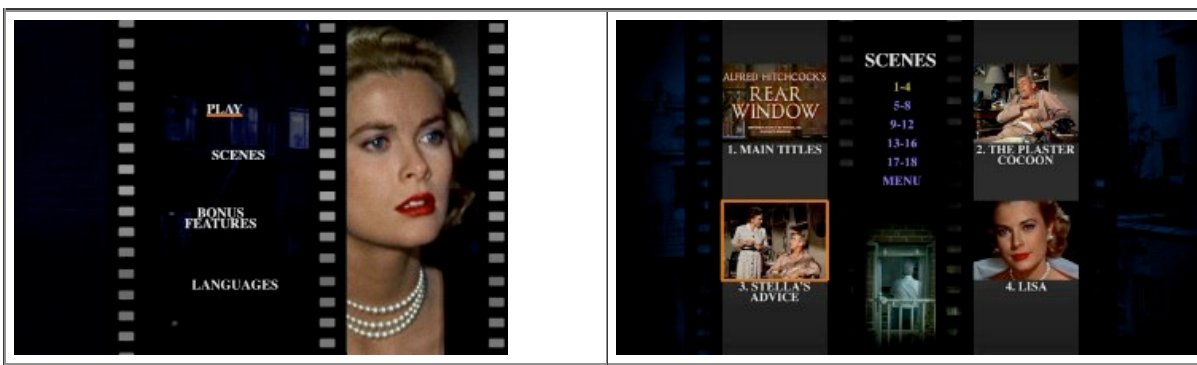


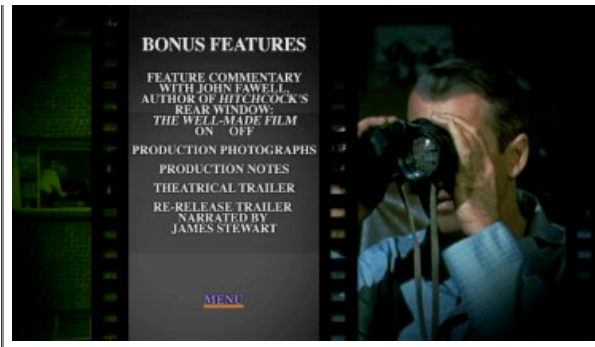
Masterpiece Collection Package images - (CLICK to enlarge)



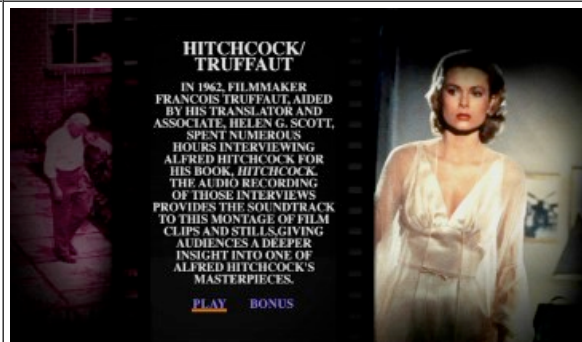
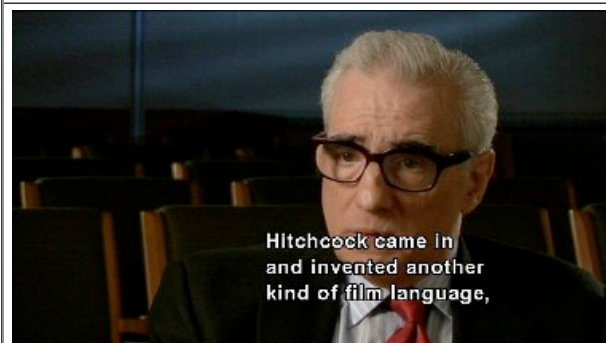
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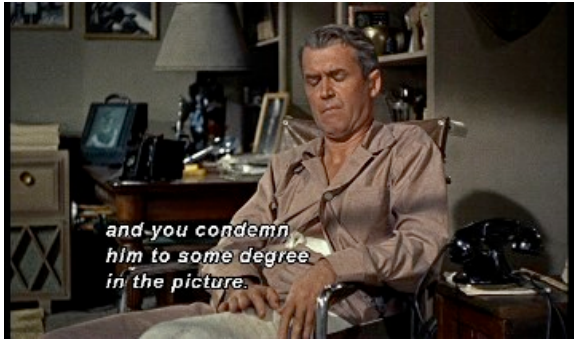
Universal - Region 1 (2-disc Legacy Series) - NTSC



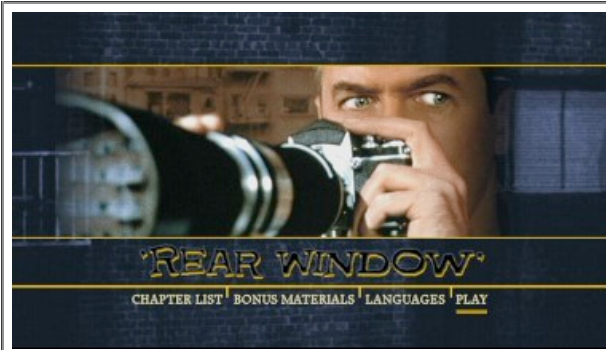


Disc 2

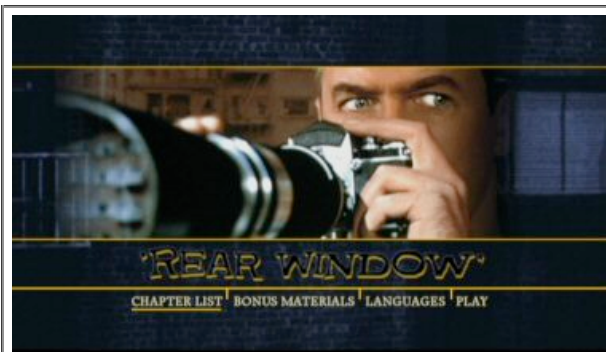


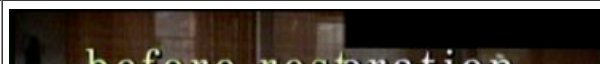
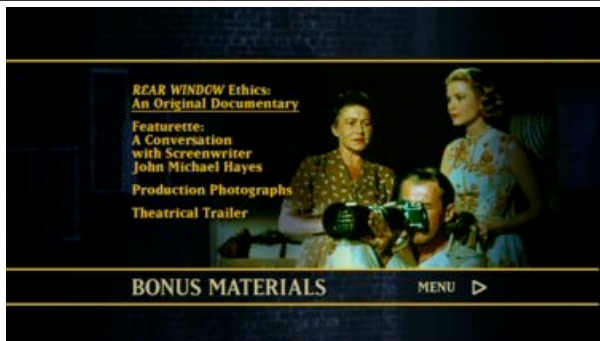
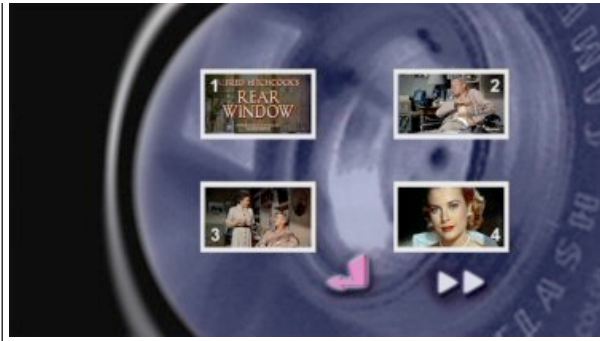


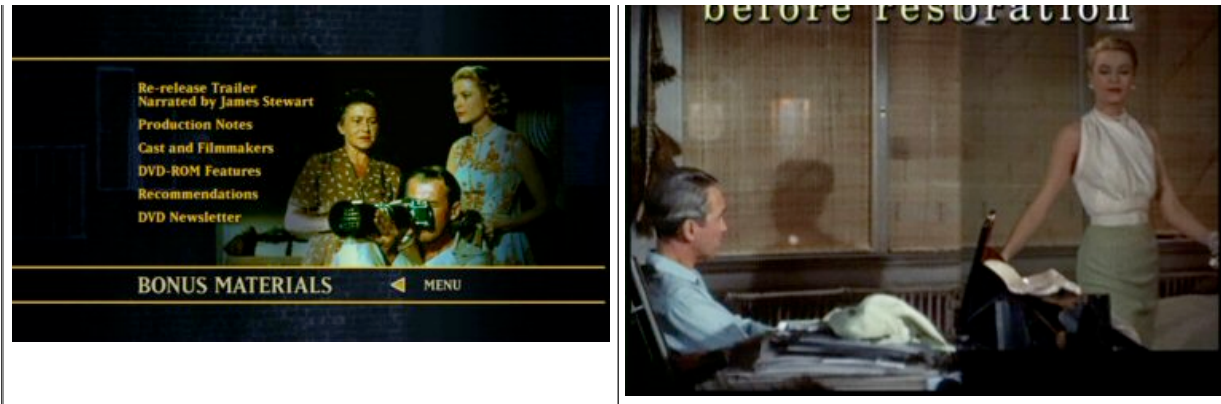
Universal (Alfred Hitchcock - Masterpiece Boxset) - Region 1 - NTSC



(Universal Pictures - Region 1 - NTSC - LEFT vs. Universal Pictures - Region 2,4 - PAL - RIGHT)







Subtitle Samples (NOT EXACT FRAME)

- 1) Universal (2-disc Legacy series) - Region 1 - NTSC - TOP
- 2) Universal (Hitchcock Masterpiece Collection) - Region 1 - NTSC - SECOND
- 3) Universal Pictures - Region 1 - NTSC - THIRD
- 4) Universal Pictures - Region 2,4 - PAL - BOTTOM







Screen Captures

- 1) Universal (2-disc Legacy series) - Region 1 - NTSC - **TOP**
- 2) Universal (Hitchcock Masterpiece Collection) - Region 1 - NTSC - **SECOND**
- 3) Universal Pictures - Region 1 - NTSC - **THIRD**
- 4) Universal Pictures - Region 2,4 - PAL - **BOTTOM**







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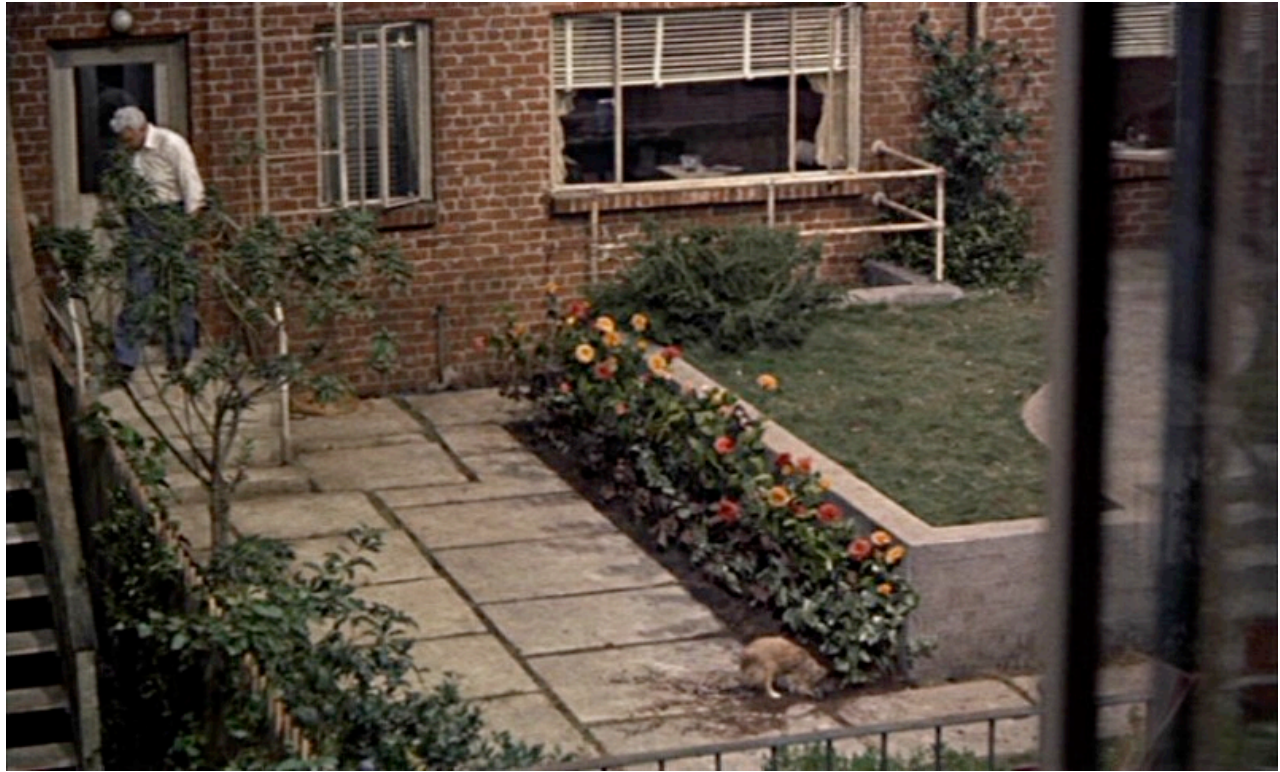






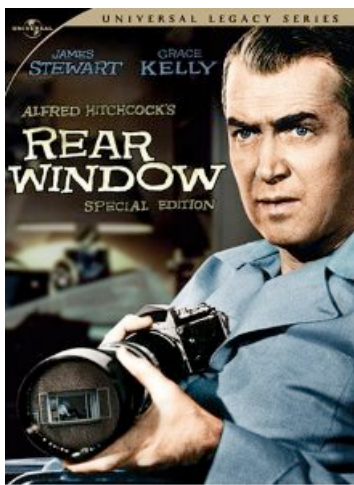
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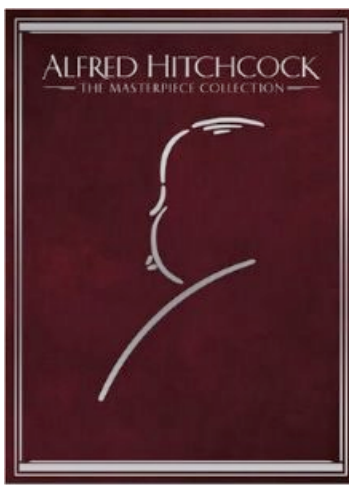
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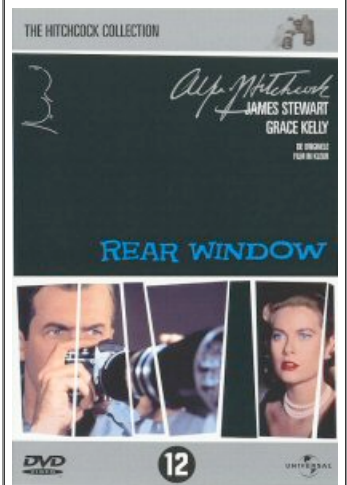
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