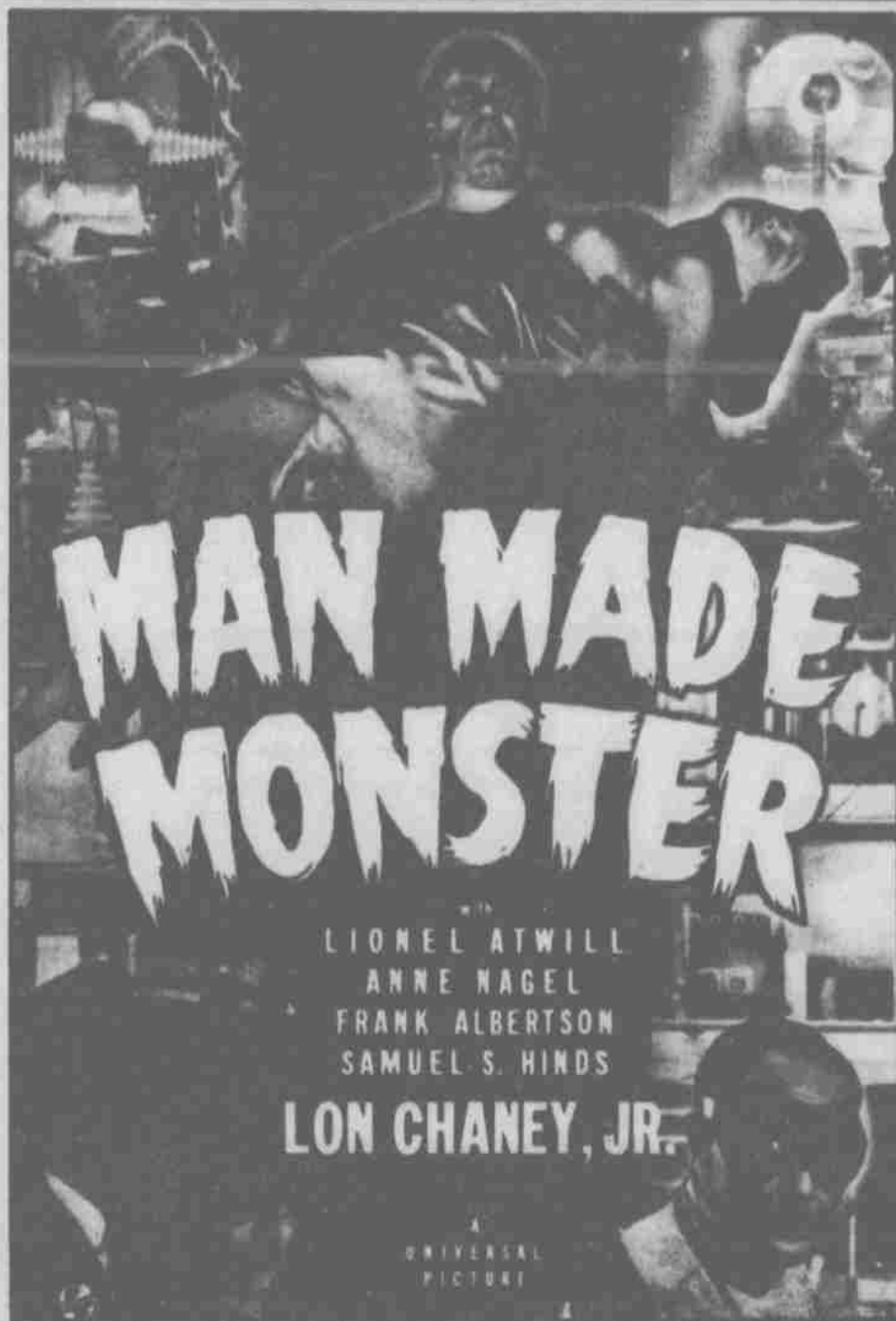


# "Sight"

## The Glassy Eye

By Dave Meile



I just talked to a really nice fellow at WOWT and grilled him about why all these great horror and sci-fi flicks are on at 4 or 5 a.m. He assured me that if enough letters were received from disgruntled ghouls like myself, they might consider showing the flicks earlier, so start writing.

**Thursday, midnight, WTBS, Ch. 4**

**"All the King's Men" (1949) Broderick Crawford**

The late hard-drinking actor Broderick Crawford won the 1949 Best Actor Oscar for his portrayal of machine politician Willie Stark. The character is allegedly based on Louisiana politician Huey Long. One time when old Brod was in Lincoln, he and my mother cracked a few cold ones and exchanged ribald stories.

**Thursday/Friday morning, 3:30 a.m. Ch. 15**

**"Detour" (1945) Tom Neal, Ann Savage**

The devotion to this film by B-movie fans borders on slavish. Tom Neal stars as a man hitchhiking across the country to meet his fiancée in L.A. He accidentally kills a man giving him a ride and in true film noir fashion, happens upon a woman who witnessed the murder. The woman (Ann Savage) proceeds to blackmail him until he accidentally kills her. The End. Savage is easily one of the most repellent characters ever to grace a B picture. In real life, Tom Neal was involved in a love triangle with actress Barbara Payton and fellow actor Franchot Tone. After making headlines for beating the crap out of Tone he was convicted later of murdering his third wife. "Detour" was made by unique Viennese director

Edgar G. Ulmer at poverty-row studio PRC. It reportedly cost about \$20,000 bucks to make! Although somewhat overrated, it is still quite interesting.

**Friday, 11:30 p.m. USA Network, Ch. 17**

**"The Invisible Ghost" (1941) Bela Lugosi**

Another fun B film, this time directed by Joseph Lewis. Cool camerawork and lighting. Bela keeps looking out the window and seeing his dead wife. This, of course, turns him into a homicidal zombie guy with arms outstretched. He stumbles on the stairs; he chokes people. Lewis later directed episodes of the "Rifleman."

**Saturday, 10:30 p.m. KPTM, Ch. 42**

**"The Postman Always Rings Twice" (1946) Lana Turner, John Garfield**

John Garfield becomes smitten (that's right, smitten) with Lana Turner, and they plot to murder her husband. Yup, another minor classic that was remade a couple years ago with Jack Nicholson and Jessica Lang.

**4 or 5 a.m. WOWT, Ch. 6**

**"Man Made Monster" (1941) Lon Chaney Jr., Lionel Atwill**

Lon Chaney is the likable circus performer Dynamo Dan McCormack whose car crashes into electrical wires. Lionel Atwill is the slimy scientist who puts on some bitchin' goggles and bombards Lon with electricity. Lon turns into a glowing murderous glowing guy in latex coveralls. He's under Lionel's power. Count how many times Lon says, "I killed him." Genuinely scary with great special effects. Directed by George Waggner, who directed one

of my all-time favorite horror movies, "The Wolfman" (1941). Later Waggner directed "Batman" episodes.

Recommendations for the next week:

Of course, in terms of biting satire and wit I always think of Gilligan. The guy makes me burst a gut. On Sunday at 1:30 a.m., WGN assaults viewers with "Castaways on Gilligan's Island" (1979). A fine TV movie in which all the crew go back to the island and start a resort hotel. The theme song is updated with new lyrics. Tom Bosley shows up and, surprisingly, isn't hocking Glad Bags! Ginger (Tina Louise) refused to appear in this one because it was too far-fetched. She says she's a serious actress (smirk, chortle, chuckle). For sheer hilarity, though, you can't beat "The Harlem Globetrotters on Gilligan's Island." Now that's cinema.

When I think of scorching, powerful acid rock I think of Bobby Vee, don't you? He also did one of the worst songs of all time, "Rubber Ball." Watch him Tuesday at 11 a.m. on WTBS in "C'mon, Let's Live a Little." (1967).

It's midweek and you're thinking, "Gee I'd like to watch a bad right-wing John Wayne movie about hunting commies." Watch "Big John McClain" (1951) Wednesday at 1:15 a.m. on WTBS. The duke says, "Look baby, I don't know the why. I've heard all the jive, this one's a commie 'cause Mama won't tuck him in at night. That one because the girls wouldn't welcome him with open arms. I don't know the why. The what I do know. Like when I was wearing a uniform. I shot at the guy on the other side of the perimeter 'cause he was the enemy." Words to live by!

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