

"Sight"

The Glassy Eye By Dave Meile



**Renior and Rabbits Dept.:
Thursday/Friday, 4 a.m. ch. 28**

"Night of the Lepus" (1972) Stuart Whitman, Janet Leigh
"Lepus, that's Latin for rabbit," says meddling scientist Stuart Whitman as he prepares to inject hormones into defenseless little bunnies. Before you can say "alfalfa pellets" gigantic killer rabbits are thundering across the Arizona prairie. In long shots, hordes of fuzzies trample train sets. In close-ups, grown men in bunny suits chew on human napes.

A Glassy Eye award goes to Janet Leigh, who consoles a visibly shaken Lepus victim: "It's all right, the rabbit is gone."

DeForest Kelly (in a bitchin' early '70s haircut) acts concerned and proves that it was tough to find good work after Star Trek was cancelled. After the latest Trek film he'll probably go back to doing dinner theaters in Walla Walla. Poor guy. Watch for the cop who goes to the drive-in: "A horde of killer rabbits is approaching the theater . . . everybody please stay calm."

The "Night of the Lepus" makers should have at least gotten a slap in the face from the folks at the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as various wabbies were lit on fire and dunked in fake blood. "Lepus" was a favorite in the mid '70s on the fantabulous "CBS Late Movie." Set those VCR timers for those pay-cable bunnies.

Friday, 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. USA, ch. 17

"The Plantom Creeps (1939) Bela Lugosi, a big metal guy

The great Bela plays evil Dr. Zorka, who has a seven-foot, scowling robot made out of old ductwork. He controls it with a big wristwatch.

Whenever agents or spies are on Zorka's trail and things threaten to get exciting, the viewer is subjected to lots of stock footage of airplanes and ships. I think Bela turns invisible when he feels like it.

Friday, 3 a.m. WGN ch. 2
"Swamp Water" (1941) Dana Andrews, Walter Huston

A not-so-famous film by the famous French director Jean Renoir. Renoir made really famous movies like "Grand Illusion" and "Rules of the Game," wherein people talk to each other and there are no zombies or werewolves or even giant rabbits. This was Renoir's first American film.

Dana Andrews tries to defend Walter Brennan, who's been accused of murder down in the semi-famous Okefenokee Swamp. Renoir's father was famous for his potato prints or something.

The "My career is over . . . or is it?" Dept.

Circle your calendar for Tuesday at midnight, WTBS is having a really nifty double feature:

Midnight
"Trog" (1970) Joan Crawford, Michael Gough

In a cave somewhere in England, some people discover a troglodyte. He's a hairy, brutish, prehistoric guy with a fake-looking ape mask. Joan puts him in a cage where people taunt him with rock 'n' roll.

Trog goes on a murder spree (butcher placed on a meathook,

etc.) Anthropologist Joan (wearing a massive bun on her head) cares deeply about the little trog and in one riveting courtroom scene fights for her own dignity and custody of the little cave dude.

At the time of the filming, Joan was married to the chairman of the Pepsi Corporation, so she made everybody on the set guzzle Pepsi all the time. Watch closely, and in one scene you'll see a Pepsi stand right by Trog's cave. Gee, clever. Mommie Dearest's last film, and a must for lovers of camp.

2 a.m.
"The Killers" (1964) Ron-
nie Reagan, Lee Marvin

Originally a TV movie, "The Killers" was deemed too violent and shown in theaters instead. It's based on Hemingway's short story of the same name.

Our president shows real depth in his role as an arrogant, callous criminal. The scholarly publication TV Guide says it was Reagan's last film before entering politics, which at least classifies it as a bad omen if not a bad film. Directed by Don Siegal ("Dirty Harry," "Invasion of the Body Snatchers").

Other stuff to watch this weekend:

"If I Were King" (1938) Ronald Colman, Frances Dee (Friday, ch. 6)

"The Panic in Needle Park" (1971) Al Pacino (Friday, ch. 3)

"Invasion Earth, 2150 A.D." (1966) Peter Cushing, Tiny Robots (Saturday, ch. 9)

"Charlie Chan in the City of Darkness" (1939) Sidney Toler (Sunday, ch. 2)



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