

SHORT FILM REVIEWS

is only 23 minutes in length and only so much can be developed within that limited amount of time. This is a long standing problem with films that try to adhere to the story line of a book.

Without the false romance, the film would have been stronger. One deathly shot shows Celine Lomez (a wife who doesn't look very upset about the fact that her new husband may soon die) gazing out towards a lake. The film constantly tells — with a voice over narrative — rather than shows what one should feel.

The strongest moments of *Night Flight* occur during a perilous storm. A plane — a cloud ridden sky — solitude. And the most poetic moment transpires as the plane's fuel runs out, and it falls into the sky — an excellent finale — but unfortunately the film takes off again in another direction. Why? To destroy a poetic moment is certainly the worst artistic sin.

Night Flight has already played on CBS prime time. It has also been sold to NBC and ABC affiliates, and European markets are presently bidding for the film. As yet, CBC and CTV have not touched it.

The Singer Company spent as much on advertising *Night Flight* as they did

on the \$300,000 production. Marlow Pictures, Inc. headed by Howard Ryshpan and Susan A. Lewis, completed the film in two months, with 10 days of actual shooting at Cooper Airport in St. Lazare. The airplane appearing in *Night Flight* is a 50-year-old Curtiss Fledgling and was rented along with pilot Ken Bertch from Cole Palen of The Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome in Upper New York State for \$3500 and expenses.

Producer Howard Ryshpan is best known as an actor and director of theatre and for his work as first assistant director and casting director of *Lies My Father Told Me*. Susan Lewis recently worked on the film *Superman*.

Night Flight premiered in the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. It was a first class affair with dignitaries and heads of state in attendance as evidenced by the secret security guards. Their perfume company Guerlain, who originated the scent 'Vol de Nuit,' handed out elaborately enveloped samples of its product. And Howard Ryshpan thought, "They must think we live in some quaint townhouse in Montreal."

When the film was over, the \$20 used office supply furniture went back. Marlow Productions lives in a walk up

on Sherbrooke west. The only element of 'elegance' is the gold frame which circumscribes the *Night Flight* poster. So it goes with American sponsored Canadian productions.

Lois Siegel

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