

Double Takes

A series of short video essays

By Sarah Atkinson

Double Take 003

Tippi Hedren The Birds (1963)

A woman's apprehensive face looks upward

at a shadowy staircase in front of her, with a doorway at the top

She starts to slowly ascend the stairs, using a torch to light the way

She looks apprehensive

The clip is in slow motion

She approaches the doorway, listens for a moment

And slowly reaches toward the handle

She hesitates

Listens again

And waits

She turns the handle, and very slowly, pushes the door open

She enters the room

And looks up towards a ragged hole in the roof through which a patch of sky can be seen

She holds her torch upward

And suddenly a flock of birds fly towards her

She holds her hands in arms and hands in front of her face

As the birds start to fly towards her and attack her over and over again

The birds peck and scratch at her skin

And her face starts to bleed

She tries to get out of the room and pulls on the door handle

We see her hand being pecked at and bleeding in the frenzied attack.

She finally falls to the floor, her clothes ripped, her hair dishevelled, with bleeding wounds on her face, hands, arms and legs as the birds continue to attack her.

The screen fades to black.

DOUBLE TAKE

#003

TIPPI HEDREN (b.1930)

THE BIRDS (1963, ALFRED HITCHCOCK)

Interview: SFFilmMuseum, 12 Nov 2009

FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PURPOSES

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