



EFFIGY IN C SHARP MAJOR

DRAMATIS PERSONNAE "BLACK DEATH"

A film in Post-Production.

Adelheid: Doctor Herman's love interest.

Beatrice: Lord Satyr's housekeeper.

Doctor Herman: Jacques Morgane takes the role of this film's hero. He is a tall and handsome young actor with a most interesting haircut: a shock of hair (in pageboy style) graces the left side of his face whereas in the main he has a short, short crewcut. **Herman** (a medieval doctor) .

Male: a man has been able to cheat the scourge and has made a profit from it. He discusses this boon with Doctor Herman.

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Old Man: an interesting character.

Satyr: Lord Ainquith Satyr is a wealthy landowner who is intent upon cheating death.

Taffy: a chance-met fellow (trying to escape the plague) who plays the recorder.

Waning esq: An obsequious gentleman who produces headstones and sarcophagi for medieval graves.

Several celebrities meet in the ground floor boardroom of London's Majesty Hotel in order to walk through the script for the mooted movie "Effigy".

[It will be noted clearly in the script which of these actors also has another part (or parts) to play in the Trichide movies.]

Ann: Ann Roberts-Lylle plays the older Trichide. She is a versatile and accomplished actress: well-known and well-loved.

Cheri: Cheryl Oldfarm is a study on her own. She is intelligent, well-read and witty. Or she is vitriolic. Her brief is to portray the young Merlyn Trichide, in that she is a dead-ringer for the star in younger years. When playing Trichide, Cheri will speak with an attractive, light German accent.

Heinrich: Heinrich Fel is a large, stout gentleman with an impressive moustache. Heinrich represents at all times the voice of reason. Heinrich plays the man who discovered Trichide: Idrich von Tannenberger.

Jacques: Jacques Morgane is a tall and handsome young actor with a most interesting haircut: a shock of hair (in pageboy style) graces the left side of his face whereas in the main he has a short, short crewcut. Jacques tends to be uncertain of his worth and needs constant shoring-up. We will often delve into his role as **Herman** (a medieval doctor) in his recent movie entitled "Black Death". In "Effigy", Jacques portrays Trichide's husband and father of her daughter: Ridolphus Meyer.

Lope: Lope Cummings wants nothing better than to be the centre of attention. He pretends to be world-weary and fey but is provocative with a deadly tongue.

Manni: Manni Littlemore is an attractive actress with a waif-like appearance. She is currently suffering emotional turmoil due to a broken romance (with Flynn Maddison). Manni plays the

Steve: Steve Stephanotis is in his mid-30s. Was once dashing and handsome but has now run to seed. His face has a reddish tinge, and he often laughs immoderately. He rarely puts down his mobile phone and is often absorbed by it. Steve has been hired to portray Hollywood actor Ian Sturt.

Other characters featured in the old Trichide movies (included in “Effigy”):

“Nostra” 1928

Albrecht: Max’s companion. It is through Albrecht’s insistence that Max should develop a social life that Max falls to ruination and despair.

Kitty-Cat: a heartless yet mysterious chanteuse at the cabaret (portrayed by Trichide as advised in the script).

Max: Trichide’s quarry in the “Free As The Tide” scene from “Nostra”. Then later, the man Kitty-Cat vanquishes.

A Pastor and several congregants from the church (over the road from the cabaret).

Cabaret patrons, waiters, and orchestra.

“Pearl of the Orient”, 1932

Shanghai Mae: wanted by the enemy. She is played by Trichide (Cheri).

Enemy soldiers who invade the train.

“Morocque”, 1935

Colonel: provides voice-over only (in Part I).

Gentleman: a wealthy, smooth man who has captivated Magdeleyne (thus causing her to abandon Lieutenant Clarke).

Lieutenant Clarke: played by Hollywood actor Ian Sturt (as portrayed by Steve). He falls heavily for Magdeleyne but is ultimately betrayed by her.

Magdeleyne: Magdeleyne Croft is played by Trichide (Cheri).

Pine: Snookie Pine is a tough guy who guards and protects Gentleman.

Other characters featured in the walk-through scenes

but not acting in “Effigy”:

Charlie: C. V. Vantis is one of the UK’s top young film directors, highly acclaimed for his work. He is unflappable and thrives on input from his actors.

JanBennie: JanBennie Ramsgate (from the USA) was a child beauty queen now aged in her mid-20s. She is thickset, dresses badly, has bad hair and wears too much make-up. She is assistant to Mike but acts as if she is his dominatrix. JanBennie has a rancid attitude towards everyone, as if the world owes her.

Lucy: Lucy Alvide is Charlie’s long-suffering assistant.

Mike: Englishman Mike Morton wrote the screenplay for “Effigy”. He is perpetually uncertain, conflicted, and riddled with doubt. It was intended that his assistant JanBennie would shore him up, but in fact she plays on his neuroses to deadly effect.

Mr Gardener: The manager of the Majesty Hotel.

Sundry characters featured in the various

retrospectives and documentaries:

Albers: secret operative Jean Gerron (a male) visits Major Coodey in company with Gerron.

Major Coodey: Wynyard Coodey (a career warrior) is played by Lope.

Gerron: secret operative Eduard Gerron visits Major Coodey in company with Albers.

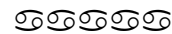
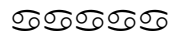
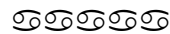
Interviewer: one man will suffice to perform any/all interviews. Sometimes he has a name: Duncan Trubshaw.

Bentham Lylle: a high-achiever Hollywood hanger-on. He is bent on blackmailing Trichide.

Amy Lylle (and her impersonator): used by Trichide to destroy Bentham.

Additional waiters of both sexes and audience extras.

ALBERT CAMUS



Albert Camus published his masterpiece "The Plague" in 1947.

This is true.

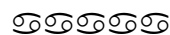
My assertion (delivered by the character Idrich von Tannenberger, as portrayed by Heinrich) is that Camus saw Trichide on the silver screen and immediately wanted to write a script for her. This assertion is 99.9% probably **untrue**. All I wanted to do was to provide a tangible link between our two films: "Black Plague" and "Effigy". For this falsehood, I apologize profusely.

Throughout this movie ("Effigy in C Sharp Major") mention is made of Albert Camus: of his enormous contribution to literature and philosophy.

As well as the Albert Camus link, there are many spiritual and ephemeral references tying together the two movies ("Black Death" and "Effigy"). Most obvious is the Jacques Morgane character.



JACQUES MORGANE



This young man is a fine actor.

He has caused much interest with his sensitive portrayal of Doctor Herman.

In "Effigy" he takes on the role of Trichide's husband.

Despite all the accolades Jacques receives, he is uncertain. It seems that (what with Cheri tearing strips off him) Jacques is in constant need of reassurance from others.



There is some interesting imagery worked into the "Art of Gastronomy" scenes (where noodles and stew echo human guts). And that theme is echoed in the "Gravestone Salesman" scene where Satyr, Beatrice and Waning Esq interact.

EFFIGY IN C SHARP MAJOR

OVERVIEW

Explanation: without warning, the scenes will move in an out of four distinct areas. The intention is that this chopping and changing will be as smooth as possible.

The Script Walk-Through For The Movie "Effigy"

The majority of scenes take place in the Majesty Hotel, London. Several well-known actors have gathered for an initial "meet-and-greet" centred upon a run-through of the script for the anticipated film: "Effigy". This movie concerns the life of acclaimed actress Merlyn Trichide, whose zenith was the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's.

For this script walk-through, a large and impressive boardroom has been hired for the day. It is approached by a roomy foyer that itself is approached by a short, sumptuous marble staircase (despite this boardroom being described as "ground floor"). Meals will be served in buffet style from this foyer. As well, we will be filming in both the Ladies and the Gents bathrooms.

Trichide Movies From Several Years Previously

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Interspersed through the walk-through will be what appears to be clips taken from some of Trichide's movies. So instead of listening to the gathered actors talking through the script, we shall see the "finished" outcome. This will include the odd newsreel coverage of Trichide's movies (if and where required).

Movie In Post-Production: "Black Death"

One of the "Effigy" actors has only just completed work on an artistic and quite remarkable film about the Black Death. Despite the grisly subject matter, we shall see clips from that film in order to progress the Trichide story (or juxtapose concepts). The author's intention is to provide a contrast: on one side we have corruption and death and on the other we have glowing, vibrant life.

Insights Into Trichide's Private Life

Interspersed through the walk-through will be what appears to be insights into Trichide's private life. Instead of following the standard format, these scenes will be in the nature of a "commentary" with actors voicing-over the action. Or else an interview technique will be employed.

Movie In Post-Production: “Black Death”

Sir Ainquith Satyr has wealth, dignity and social standing. None of this will assist him when the “great leveller” (the Plague) sweeps over the countryside. Everything changes. Doctor Herman (acted in “Black Death” by Jacques) cannot comprehend the enormous, relentless horror of the pestilence.

The character of Beatrice interests me. She is a hard-working, devoted servant to Sir Ainquith Satyr. However, she does not (and will not) indulge in any sexual activity with her employer. There is a freshness provided by Beatrice. There was no chance that I was going to let her succumb to the scourge.

Waning Esq is a gravestone salesman. Taffy is a bright, buoyant youth who meets up with Satyr and Beatrice as they escape to the hills.

The subject matter of “Black Death” is in many ways more riveting than the biography of Trichide. We cannot begin to imagine how Doctor Herman can exist in the horror, filth and degradation of the Plague. In fact (judging by his downfall after Adelheid’s death) he does not exist.

The only deception to be found in “Black Death” is the crafty creation of the stuffed “friends” to provide some comfort to Sir Ainquith Satyr.

Movie In Genesis: “Effigy”

The anticipated bio-movie “Effigy” will cover all facets of Merlyn Trichide’s movie career and private life from the mid-1920’s onwards. Every effort is made by the team to bring veracity and entertainment to the screen in this endeavour. However (as we discover in the very final scene) no-one really knew much about Trichide. The story was substantively based on gossip and hearsay.

EFFIGY IN C SHARP MAJOR

AUTHOR: SPECIAL NOTES

Obviously, the character MERLYN TRICHIDE is based on MARLENE DIETRICH.

I faced the same problem here that arose in “**Retracing His Steps**” where my aim was to investigate Charles de Gaulle. Apart from the “Albert Camus” situation (as noted above) I have no intention of bringing incorrect historical data into a story about a real person. Thus, the workaround was to give that character another name.

I could take Colonel de Chauvelle to Australia. I could allow him to come into the possession of a priceless document. That couldn’t happen with the real Charles de Gaulle. Well, it *could* – but that would be cheating.

And the same rationale applies with Dietrich. In effect, Trichide is an interesting woman who reminds us of Dietrich; but that is all. Absolutely none of the material presented in “Effigy In C Sharp Major” is or was intended to suggest anything sinister about Dietrich. The Trichide character could be bent and twisted about because she was not real: same rationale as the de Gaulle/de Chauvelle swap.

The introduction of the “plague” theme was a plot device. It gave us another layer of interest. Contrast. It allowed the character of CHERI OLDFARM to get outside of her comfort zone. It gave wide scope to JACQUES MORGANE as an actor.

The run through under CHARLIE’s direction opens up a huge opportunity for these “precious” actors to expand. The turns and twists of the Trichide story juxtapose with the “storm und drung” of the players as they try to get on (but do not!)

BACK STORY TO THE BENTHAM LYLLE DEATH

Bentham Lylle is a Hollywood hanger-on who married a rich heiress (Amy). He now desires to ditch his wife. The only way to do this AND keep the money is to murder her but make it look like someone else did it. He will use a ligature.

His plot: get a Hollywood starlet to give him an alibi.

Trichide is approached and immediately agrees to help him kill the wife.

However, she double-crosses him.

Trichide organizes for another actress to play the part of Amy. Trichide will give a speech to a civic group and the make-believe Amy is in the audience. At the end of the speech, the make-believe Amy will follow Trichide off-stage, and in front of witnesses will accuse Trichide of playing around with her husband (Bentham Lylle). Trichide calms the woman down and ensures that someone from the civic group takes her home and gets her inside.

That's when the body of Bentham Lylle is found.

Amy made the place look like there was a break-in after she murdered her husband.

Before they are called, the pretend-Amy gets rid of her deliverer so that she can make the call.

Amy and her double swap places.

Thus, Amy and Trichide have rock-solid alibis with loads of people able to confirm their stories.

The murder of Bentham Lylle is never explained. No-one is charged.

ACT I	
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Excerpts from some of the feature movies which Merlyn Trichide made are presented here.

Nostra, 1928.

Most prominent among these is "Nostra, 1928". In this movie, Trichide plays a femme fatale: a titillating chanteuse in a Berlin nightclub. Male patrons such as Albrecht took this vamp at face value. He enjoyed the lively show and had a marvellous time. His well-mannered friend Max (however) was brought to perdition by his lust for Kitty-Cat. Max showered her with gifts such that he became penniless. His obsession for this heartless performer and his constant drunkenness caused him to fall from grace. Those in his community shunned Max (once a highly-respected professional gentleman).

A positive note in this moral tale comes from the congregation of the church nearby. Their kindness to Max (even at his lowest depths) is inspirational.

Pearl of the Orient, 1932.

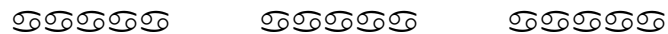
We only see a very brief snippet featuring Shanghai Mae. The heroine is threatened by soldiers on a train. The focus will be on the "chiaroscuro" technique employed by Tannenberger. This lighting technique is used to stunning effect in this movie.

Morocque, 1935.

This movie provides another instance of Trichide's character (Magdeleyne Croft) ruining the life of a man who was basically a good man. Her wardrobe for this movie is stunning: Spanish and French formal wear. In Part I, the Lieutenant is warned about Magdeleyne by a senior officer. The transient nature of the affair is revealed in Part II. By Part III, the femme fatale has abandoned her lover, who is himself executed whilst trying to murder Magdeleyne and her new partner.

1960's.

In the 1960's famed novelist Albert Camus adored Trichide's work and envisaged her starring in a film noir shot in Australia. Again, betrayal and double-cross were examined. However, Trichide (as advised by Idrich von Tannenberger) did not ever get to make this film. We shall view what might have been the outcome of such a venture.



There is also an anticipated love scene between Trichide and her husband Rudolf Meyer.

There are also some private views and interviews provided to bolster our understanding of Trichide's relationship with other characters.