

## Short Review: “The Manchurian Candidate” (1962) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Manchurian Candidate, The** (1962), United Artists, black and white, 126 min. Director: John Frankenheimer. Writers: Richard Condon (novel), George Axelrod, etc. Producers: George Axelrod and John Frankenheimer. Cast: Frank Sinatra, Laurence Harvey, Janet Leigh and Angela Lansbury.

During the Korean War, communist troops ambush an American patrol, led by Captain Bennett Marco (Sinatra). A year later, the patrol escapes. Staff Sergeant Raymond Shaw (Harvey), the son of a Republican power junkie (Lansbury) and the stepson of a senator with presidential ambitions, receives the Medal of Honor for heroic action. Meanwhile, Marco has a continuing nightmare about brainwashing by the communists. He meets a lovely woman (Leigh) a bit too easily as he is investigating his imprisonment. Shaw dislikes his mother, but he is unaware that he has a hidden compulsion to act as an assassin. His controller? Well, let's just say that these were the best roles of Angela Lansbury and Frank Sinatra. Frankenheimer's complexity is intriguing.

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