

# ARTS

## 'Eye of the Needle': good acting, but lack of direction

By GUHA SHANKAR

Donald Sutherland's portrayal of a Germany spy during World War II England is impeccable in the *Eye of the Needle* and is guaranteed to make everyone forget his role in "Ordinary People." As the coldly, murderous Henry Faber, Sutherland's performance lends new dimensions to the word calculating and transcends the uneven script.

After watching *Needle*, one has the feeling of having sat through two movies instead of one. The first hour moves rapidly as

Faber's cover is blown and he is forced into some messy murders to stay a step ahead of British intelligence. Faber is then shipwrecked on a desolate piece of rock aptly

### Cinema

named Storm Island while attempting to contact a German submarine with information about allied plans for D-Day. The story abruptly slows down here as Faber meets the only residents of the island—a crippled ex-fighter pilot (Christopher Cazenove), his

beautiful wife (Kate Nelligan) and their son. Sutherland and Nelligan discover their mutual attraction for each other as the story moves toward the final confrontation.

The story, which is adapted from Ken Follett's best-selling novel of the same name, has one problem—it tries to do too much at once. Part of the movie is a chase sequence with the British closing in on Faber who has to employ his quick knife to avoid capture. The other half of the movie is a character study of two lonely people drawn together by a need for relief from self-imposed isolation. Both ideas work well

separately but they don't work nearly as well when welded together. Stanley Mann's screenplay should have concentrated on one aspect and stuck with it, but trying to capture both ideas, it comes up wanting.

Sutherland's understated performance more than makes up for the lack of direction in the movie, however. One can never be sure what he's planning and even when he smiles his eyes convey an image of deadly watchfulness. The photography is also handled very nicely and, with Sutherland's help, manages to bring an air of sad menace to the screen.

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### 'WHY DO THE HEATHEN RAGE?'

Psalm 2:1 and Acts 4:25

Jonah ran away from God's commandment. On being brought face to face with the fact that his disobedience was the cause of a convulsion of nature, a storm at sea, and the wind and waves would destroy the ship and its cargo of human beings as well as material things, he judged himself worthy of death and asked to be thrown overboard! Judged himself worthy to die, and insisted the sentence be carried out! Is not this the experience of every soul that has been convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit? Indeed, it is! Christ said the Comforter, The Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment! — John 16:7, etc.

It doesn't take long to read the Book of Jonah, but beware lest the wisdom of men — foolishness with God — cast you out into a raging sea and wind and waves of unbelief and you are swallowed up in the belly of "That Old Serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world." Only the records of Eternity will reveal how many souls are in hell because they stumbled in unbelief, were swallowed up and landed in the belly of The Great Dragon because they could not believe God Almighty could work a small miracle like this!

God preserved Jonah and kept him alive in the belly of the fish. In his prayer of repentance when Jonah said: "I WILL PAY THAT THAT I HAVE VOWED. SALVATION IS OF THE LORD," then it was that "THE LORD SPAKE UNTO THE FISH, AND IT VOMITED OUT JONAH UPON DRY LAND." After his deliverance the first message that came to Jonah from The Lord was: Go to Nineveh and do what I told you to do." Nineveh was a great city of three days journey. Jonah made one day's journey, crying: "YET FORTY DAYS, AND NINEVEH SHALL BE OVERTHROWN!" Then things began to happen, from the King on down to the beasts!

"SO THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH BELIEVED GOD, AND PROCLAIMED A FAST, AND PUT ON SACKCLOTH, FROM THE GREATEST OF THEM EVEN UNTO THE LEAST OF THEM. FOR WORD CAME UNTO THE KING OF NINEVEH, AND HE AROSE FROM THE THRONE, AND HE LAID HIS ROBE FROM HIM, AND COVERED HIM WITH SACKCLOTH, AND SAT IN ASHES . . . AND GOD SAW THEIR WORKS, THAT THEY TURNED FROM THEIR EVIL WAY: AND GOD REPENTED OF THE EVIL THAT HE HAD SAID HE WOULD DO UNTO THEM: AND HE DID NOT." As a result of the preaching of the man who judged himself worthy of death for disobedience to God, the wickedness of Nineveh was overthrown, and they were spared the pronounced judgment of God.

The men of Nineveh have shown us the way to avoid judgments and change times. "BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD," said Joshua, 24:15.

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