

HOMEVID REVIEW

Whispers

(Thriller — Color)

A Live Home Video release of an ITC Entertainment Group presentation of a Cinepix production. Executive producer, Andre Link. Produced by Don Carmody, John Dunning. Directed by Douglas Jackson. Screenplay, Anita Doohan, based on Dean R. Koontz' novel, adapted by Carmody; camera (Bellevue Pathe Quebec color), Peter Benison; editor, Jacques Jean; music, Fred Mollin; sound, Gabor Vadnay; production design, Charles Dunlop; costume design, Mary McLeod; assistant director, Mike Williams; production manager, Manon Bougie-Boyer; dead twin design, Joe Blasco, assisted by Ed French; special effects, Jacques God-

bout; 2nd unit camera, Bert Tougas; supervising producer, Irene Litinsky; associate producer, Jeffrey Barmash; casting, Andrea Kenyon & JoAnn Gregory (Montreal), Lucinda Sill (Toronto), Annelise Collins (L.A.). Reviewed on Live videocassette, N.Y., Dec. 2, 1990. MPAA Rating: R. Running time: 93 min.

Hilary Thomas	Victoria Tennant
Bruno	Jean Leclerc
Sgt. Clemenza	Chris Sarandon
Frank	Peter MacNeill
Kayla	Linda Sorensen
Jonathan Rinehart	Eric Christmas
Avril	Keith Knight
Mrs. Yancey	Jackie Burroughs
Sheriff	Vlasta Vrana
Prostitute	Linda Singer

NEW YORK — Direct-to-vid release "Whispers" is a superior thriller, with potential as a sleeper success in the homevid market. Name of novelist Dean R. Koontz could be a boost.

In a field glutted with predictable would-be chillers, Canadian-made pic delivers a truly novel storyline and a very satisfying payoff.

Steve Martin's wife Victoria Tennant is well-cast as a patrician writer who's attacked in the opening scene by Jean Leclerc, a rich guy

she met briefly. The police, led by Chris Sarandon and his sexist partner Peter MacNeill, take a lackadaisical attitude until a second attack occurs and Leclerc is killed by Tennant in self-defense.

With plenty of intriguing details and foreshadowing, film evolves into a maybe he's a vampire picture, as Leclerc returns to wreak havoc. Explanation of what's really going on is offbeat and ingenious. In fact, if this film had received a theatrical release it would probably have been advertised with a "Don't reveal the ending" warning like such classics as "Diabolique."

Often in satin lingerie, Tennant is an ideal lady in distress while Leclerc has the rugged good looks to personify her nemesis.

With old-age makeup on, Canadian actress Jackie Burroughs is terrific in a single scene as a former brothel madam recounting the story of Leclerc's boyhood.

Finale explains the film's title as the chirpings of cockroaches in an extremely gruesome scene. *Lor.*

December 18, 1990