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Jacqueline susann's valley of the dolls 1981

Network:CBS Original Air Dates: October 19th - 20th, 1981 Although Catherine Hicks proclaimed she didn't want to do anymore television after her well-received performance as Marilyn Monroe in Marilyn: The Untold Story, the actress returned to the small screen just one year later to take on all the soapy goodness of The Valley of the Dolls. In an interview, Catherine revealed that she modeled her version of Anne Welles (originally played by the gorgeous Barbara Parkins) after Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz. You see, Hollywood is a lot like Oz with its color and dreams and drugs... or something like that. Produced by Jacqueline Susann's widower, Irving Mansfield, he called this remake a "labor of love," and it also marked his return as a producer (he'd quit the business to become his wife's press agent). Mansfield fell under the scrutiny of Reverend Donald Wildmon who ran the Coalition for Better Television and threatened a boycott of the movie. At the time the book had sold more than 27 million copies, and CBS seemed unfazed by dedicating five hours of their time to this objectionable content, er, I mean programming. As far as I know, it aired in its intended form, objectionable content and all. In the remake, Anne is now an entertainment lawyer, young, hungry and well on her way to success. Her roommate is the spunky Neely O'Hara (Lisa Hartman) who's got the pipes for a singing career but lacks confidence unless it comes out of a bottle of alcohol or pills. And there's Jennifer North (Veronica Hamel) who was 37 at the time of filming. I only mention this because Sharon Tate, who played Jennifer in the original, was just 25 and much closer to a realistic modeling age. That said, Hamel is amazing in the role, and the best part of the movie. She has a lot of problems, and has to deal with several hefty issues such as abortion and breast cancer. The trio are varied in their connections to each other. Jennifer is more on the outskirts and seems to form her own movie (the part in France is ridiculously awesome), but Neely and Anne are extremely close. And then there's Lyon Burke (David Birney) who is a successful director and a major seducer. He's also pretentious as all get out, but since I think Birney is sex-on-a-stick, I let my few quibbles go. I should mention that Bert Convy has a smaller role, but the idea of him and Birney in the same room was enough to make me squeal in delight. Convy is fantastic as Tony Polar the famous crooner who doesn't know he has a degenerative mental disease. And hunky Gary Collins shows up for awhile as well. However, the true stud of Dolls is James Coburn who plays Henry Bellamy, a big time attorney whom Anne works for. He's wonderful, charismatic and definitely the best catch in the movie (he would have been second best if Tony didn't have dementia). Someone on IMDb called this movie "Valley of the Dulls," and unfortunately, I would have to agree. While I enjoyed the movie - of course I'd enjoy it, look at the cast - it definitely lacks the camp appeal that made the first film so damn fabulous. Of course, it's been eons since I've seen the original movie, so maybe I'm remembering it wrong, but I recall O'Hara's big catfight with Helen Lawson as being much more fun (the gorgeous Jean Simmons plays Helen in the remake - with perhaps too much dignity). In the remake that scene just sort of is. Why don't you watch 'em and compare for yourself by clicking on this link. The film is most appealing for its costumes and the game cast who do their best to keep things realistically dramatic. And as I mentioned, Hamel is a knockout as Jennifer. Her story is nothing short of tragic, and the actress did a wonderful job making her ride seem so very painful. She also shares a short scene with the late, great David Hess who plays a French artist. I had to sigh when I saw him, since he passed away just a few months ago. Looking back, my general reaction was to sigh at the loss of so many wonderful actors (Coburn, Convy, Simmons), while also lamenting the missed potential of some grand absurdities. It should also be mentioned that the dolls in the title are a little lacking here as well. Neely indulges big time, but in the just-shy-of-a-four-hour-running-length, it's simply not enough. Although Dolls aired it's second night's episode against the World Series' opening game, the mini-series did alright in the ratings, scoring a spot at #6 for the first part (tying with Dukes of Hazzard!) and falling to #20 on the next night. Yes, that's a big drop, but it did still make the top twenty. And yes, that's me making excuses. I've been waiting eagerly for the release of the TV remake of JACQUELINE SUSANN'S VALLEY OF THE DOLLS on DVD, but no luck so far. And I'm not talking about the forgettable '90s late-night soap opera that starred Sally Kirkland and her hair but about the two-parter mini-series event that came our way in 1981 via the CBS affiliates. The one executively produced by Susann's hubby Irving Mansfield. I was a young teen back then. I had already seen the original on TV with my mom (I talk about it here) and I just couldn't believe I might experience that same camp appeal all over again. Because let's get this straight: VALLEY OF THE DOLLS, whether the film or the novel, is by far the guiltiest of guilty pleasures, and just the thought of settling myself in front of the TV screen for this new version gave me goosebumps all over. From the moment Dionne Warwick What Becomes of Love cues in at the start of the mini-series, I knew I was in good hands. Not only is the piece as catchy as the title song from the original but also just as syrupy; so much so that many like moi still wish the song was available somewhere (hint, hint, Ms. Warwick). But moving on, of course the whole plot is about the same: good girl gets caught up into the world of show business and suffers greatly. And orbiting around her is a whole bunch of colorful but ever-so troubled characters. The difference in this one, however, is that most appear a little less one dimensional. Take Ann, for example. She's not just a victim of her bad choices but a survivor as well. She does not retreat back where she came from to mend her broken heart or rely on drugs and alcohol as the character did in the 1967 version. She faces her problems head on, as do many others throughout the mini-series five-hour run. Like in the original, VALLEY OF THE DOLLS "1981" brings to light a big chunk of melodrama found in the Susann novel, not to mention some extra goodies since this TV presentation is also based on material omitted from the book. But all the characters you've come to know are there, from Ann to Jennifer to non-gay (!) Ted Casablanca. And if you look quick enough you'll even see a young Nathan Lane as a stage manager (reminiscent of the small role Richard Dreyfuss had in the original). The part of Helen Lawson is played by silver screen beauty Jean Simmons. She really nails down the role of the jealous fading star, from her hard facial expressions to her dismissive gestures. Susan Hayward would be proud. Wish the same could be said for Lisa Hartman Black's performance as crazy-ass Neely O'Hara. As much as she's lovable on screen, her portrayal of an insecure, pill-popping songbird is a little bland. Don't get me wrong, when she goes ape shit she does it in a big way (that includes the infamous wig throwing in the bathroom stall) but the end results are not as rewarding as they should be. The whole production is very '80s kitsch, from the cheesy song numbers (most interpreted by Hartman) to the casting choices (Bert Convy, Gary Collins, David Birney...). But at times its budget seems far less generous (though I may be wrong on this) as certain scenes look awfully restrained, in need of some pizzazz. The acting overall is quite decent, the most noteworthy being Catherine Hicks and Veronica Hamel as Ann and Jennifer respectively. Both bring a certain depth otherwise missed by Barbara Parkins and Sharon Tate in the original. As much as I wanted to dig this version, I got to say that it left me a little cold. Perhaps it was the constant comparison I made to the 1967 film every time anyone appeared onscreen. It never succeeded in making me forget the original, and that's where the faults lie mostly. That said I'd still indeed get this well-made mini-series if it officially ever came to DVD. Why shouldn't I? Fool of me to ever pass up the chance of owning part of a legacy taken from the Jacqueline Susann library. I barely think she'd have hated that version like she supposedly did the first one but she would have wanted someone else to take another shot at it, I'm sure. Until next post—Martin Nominate this object for photography. Our collection database is a work in progress. We may update this record based on further research and review. Learn more about our approach to sharing our collection online. If you would like to know how you can use content on this page, see the Smithsonian's Terms of Use. If you need to request an image for publication or other use, please visit Rights and Reproductions. Jacqueline Susann's Valley of the DollsWritten byLaurence HeathStory byJacqueline SusannDirected byWalter GraumanStarringCatherine HicksLisa HartmanVeronica HamelMusic byFred KarlinCountry of originUnited StatesOriginal languageEnglishProductionProducerRenee ValenteCinematographyRobert L. MorrisonEditorSidney KatzRunning time3h 53minProduction company20th Century Fox TelevisionDistributorColumbia Broadcasting SystemReleaseOriginal networkCBSOriginal releaseOctober 19–20, 1981 Jacqueline Susann's Valley of the Dolls is an American television drama miniseries that aired on CBS in October 1981. The first two hours were broadcast on October 19, followed by three hours on October 20 during prime time.[1] The teleplay is adapted from the 1966 novel Valley of the Dolls by Jacqueline Susann. The miniseries was directed by Walter Grauman, with Susann's husband Irving Mansfield as executive producer.[1] Plot This article needs a plot summary. Please add one in your own words. (February 2018) Cast Catherine Hicks as Ann Wells Lisa Hartman as Neely O'Hara Veronica Hamel as Jennifer North David Birney as Lyon Burke Jean Simmons as Helen Lawson James Coburn as Henry Bellamy Gary Collins as Kevin Gilmore Bert Convy as Tony Polar Britt Ekland as Francoise Denise Nicholas as Connie Steve Inwood as Teddi Casablanca Carol Lawrence as Miriam Camilla Sparv as Vivienne Moray Kathleen Nolan as Dr. Galens Tricia O'Neil as Enid Marshall Reception The Washington Post's Tom Shales reviewed the miniseries and called it a "leaden and laborious remake" and found the 1967 film to be superior.[2] References ~ a b O'Connor, John J. (October 19, 1981). "TV: 'Valley of the Dolls' Gets Facelift". The New York Times. Retrieved January 8, 2018. ~ Shales, Tom (October 19, 1981). "A Leaden Remake of 'The Dolls'". The Washington Post. Retrieved January 8, 2018. 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