

The Omen

111 mins, USA, col

Dir Richard Donner

Gregory Peck, Lee Remick,

David Warner, Billie Whitelaw



Although it has been the subject of numerous comic spoofs, *The Omen* is a superbly assembled horror movie. US Senator Robert Thorn (Peck) substitutes a baby whose mother died in childbirth for his own stillborn son, without telling his wife (Remick). The boy, Damien (Harvey Stevens), is perfectly normal until his fifth birthday, when his nanny commits suicide. It transpires that little Damien is in fact the Antichrist, and Thorn must kill the boy before he destroys the world. The potentially ludicrous plot is made believable by a first-rate cast. Billie Whitelaw is chilling as the nanny from Hell who nurtures Damien's evil nature, while Patrick Troughton gives a haunting performance as the priest whose warnings are unheeded until it is too late.