

ERIC BOYD-PERKINS

Eric Boyd-Perkins (EBP) is well known as a film editor, particularly for his work on the 1973 British thriller "The Wicker Man". However, for fans of "The Prisoner" he is remembered as the editor of three of the last episodes, "Do Not Forsake Me Oh My Darling", "The Girl Who Was Death" and the series' finale "Fall Out" (jointly with Noreen Ackland, who also edited "Living in Harmony"). When Patrick McGoohan went to Hollywood to star in "Ice Station Zebra", a final quartet of stories was started, although "Once Upon a Time", made months earlier, would become the penultimate episode. In the star's absence, on "Forsake", EBP had to cut footage between the 'substitute' actor Nigel Stock and a closing scene with McGoohan, when he returned from the US. A great deal of stock footage (no pun intended) was also used in the early part of the story, with the voice of McGoohan continuing to be heard as the prisoner's inner thoughts, until Stock's face finally appeared in a mirror, he now possessing the mind of Number Six. EBP didn't think that having a different actor instead of the main one worked well. He acknowledged that Stock was good in the part, but thought the 'swap' didn't quite work.

EBP served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War and later started in the film industry, taking on various roles and rising through the ranks, undertaking sound editing and being assistant or supervising editor. His first film work was in the late 1950s - including the epic war movie "The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957) - and throughout the 1960s and 1970s he worked on many productions. Television work included TV movies and an episode of "The New Avengers". In 1973 "The Wicker Man" was subjected to various trimming by the owners and much later 'full' or 'director's cut' versions appeared, when the movie's cult status grew. EBP also edited the 1977 Donald Sutherland thriller "The Disappearance", one of this writer's favourites from that time (with Peter Bowles making an appearance). There was less work in the 1980s, but in the 1990s, EBP's last TV film assignments were "Treasure Island", with Charlton Heston, Christian Bale, Oliver Reed and Christopher Lee, plus two final thrillers in 1993 and 1995, being "Detonator" (aka "Death Train") and "Detonator 2" (aka "Night Watch"), both starring Pierce Brosnan.



In 2012, EBP was interviewed for The Guild of British Film and Television Editors, referring to the camaraderie among film crews and how he had much fun in his career. He was also interviewed for the 2007 Network "Prisoner" documentary "Don't Knock Yourself Out", recalling working on "Fall Out", saying "I don't know how I knew what was going on because when you cut the sequences they were so different, but when you put them together somehow they all gelled, and how Patrick could have known that he could do that, and that they would work, I don't know." (quote and picture this page © Network). **Roger Langley**